Life Course Stages and Migration Behavior of Indonesian Population: Evidence from the IFLS data[1]

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1. Background

Most of the studies on population mobility have revealed that migration is closely linked to many events in the life cycle stages. A people may change his/her residence due to attending higher education, entering or changing job, moving to a bigger house, or changing marital status. In other words, migration indeed intertwines with individual's actions over life course. Changes in the life cycle events of schooling, employment, and marriage could lead to a migration (residential move) when the individual require change in the daily activity space. Therefore, it is sensible to see the link between migration and the life cycle stages of population.

In the context of Indonesia, while research does exist on migration and some live events as separate phenomena, little has been done on the way that migration and the life cycle stages are interlinked. Limitation on data sources is often mentioned as its main obstacles. Recently, the availability of data sets on population-related features has increased. The nationally representative data entitled "Indonesia Family Life Survey (IFLS)" is one such example. The data contains extensive histories of respondents' life course including residence, activity, marital status, and birth histories. From such a survey offers the opportunity to examine migration behavior and the life cycle stages. For that reason, the present study attempts to contribute to a better understanding the link between migration and life cycle stages in a life course framework and in the context of a developing setting such as Indonesia.

2. Objectives

The main objectives of this study are: (1) to examine the extent to which the major life cycle events are accompanied by migration (changes in place of residence), (2) to analyze the probability of migration in different life cycle stages, and (3) to investigate how

[1] Paper is submitted to the session organizers of the 2006 Annual Meeting of the Population Association of American (PAA) that will be held in Los Angeles, California, March 30 – April 1, 2006.

probability of migration in a specific life cycle stage varies by socioeconomic and demographic characteristics of the individuals.

3. Hypotheses

Overall, it is assumed that the majority of migration takes place in relation to the particular life event of schooling, marriage and marriage dissolution. Specifically, the present study would like to address the following hypotheses:

(1) Schooling stage:
   a. Rural children are more likely to migrate than urban children, due to lacking facilities of schooling in rural areas.
   b. Parent with higher socioeconomic status will have a positive impact on this schooling–migration.

(2) Employment stage before marriage:
   a. Higher levels of education and urban exposure are expected to have a positive impact on the migration.
   b. Due to job market systems and economic responsibility, males are more likely to migrate than females.

(3) Married stage:
   a. Higher socioeconomic individuals as well as of parents are more likely to have a positive impact on migration, which highly associated with first marriage.
   b. Married individuals without children are more likely to migrate than married individuals with children.
   c. It implies, the higher number of family members (children) the lower probability of migration.

(4) Marital dissolution:
   a. Following marital dissolution, males are more migratory than females.
   b. Single ever married who were still young are expected to have a bigger opportunity to migrate (due to remarry or job orientation). It may also links to the social norm context that single ever married males are more socially accepted to move around than single females ever married.

4. Theoretical Framework

Migration decision-making can be distinguished into the decision to move and the choice of place. The migration decision is assumed as a bounded rational decision-making based on the contextual information gathered and the ability to process this information (De Bruijn 1999). This decision is driven by motivations, which are goals/values (preferences) and the expectation of meeting these goals (resources, opportunities, and constraints) (De Jong and Gardner 1981, Mulder 1993). The choice of place in terms of distance or scale is

made based on the probable range of destination or the action space considered by individuals by taking into consideration the daily activity space and the motivations components (Wolpert 1965 cf. Boyle et al. 1998, Mulder 1993). The choice of place in terms of direction is influenced by the push-pull factors or place related macro factors (Gardner 1981, Boyle et al 1998). They enter individual decision-making as they influence the components of motivations.

In a dynamic context, differences across stages of life course, which is marked by age, are viewed as driven by differences in motivations according to the temporal dimensions and locational properties of age (Elder 1975, Mulder 1993). Different migration behaviors across cohorts are also perceived as resulted from differences in motivations' components that are shaped by the social change. The context influences individuals' migration behavior through the components of motivations directly on the individuals or through the family structure. Differences in sex roles within a family influence the motivations for migration, which is viewed as the reflection of patriarchy structure in the society (Harbison 1981, Chant and Radcliff 1992). The forms of institution that influences migration behaviour are the community ties, village norms, and village ethnic and social networks (Hugo 1981, De Bruijn 1999). They influence individuals' migration behavior through the components of motivation.

The basic features of conceptual model that will be used for this study are limited into the motivations (values and expectancy), the ability and information, the action space and daily activity space, birth cohorts, place related (push-pull) factors, sex roles, and the community ties. They are working in the model for decisions to move and making choice of place. Thus, an individual decides to migrate by evaluating the motivations to migrate within the context of the community ties and sex roles. This decision depends on the ability and information that further form the action space considered by taking into account whether daily activity space needs to be changed or to be maintained. This process is ongoing in a dynamic context and considering change across cohort that shapes the process.

5. Data and Method

The data used for this study is secondary data: the 1993, 1997 and 2000 Indonesian Family Life Survey (IFLS). This data was collected retrospectively to represent 83 percent of Indonesian population in 13 provinces of Indonesia. It contains migration history since the respondents were 12 years old. The sample is selected from the adult respondents among the household members. It records the migration timing since the respondents were 12 years old, the destination specified from village level up to province level, and the main reason for migration. There are 12,695 adult respondents from migration section available in the first wave of the survey, which consists of 6,647 ever migrated respondents and 6,048 never migrated respondents.

In the life history analysis, each event is viewed as a part of a dynamic process in a respondent life cycle (represent by life history). In order to analyze this dynamic process, we need dynamic models. There are two broad groups of a dynamic model know as

continuous-time stochastic model and discrete-time stochastic model (Blossfeld and Rohwer, 2002). Given the nature of the data source (IFLS), in which the time of event occurrence was recorded at exact date, it allows us to measure time variable in a continuous scale as well as in a discrete scale. We will see which once of those methods is appropriate with our analysis.

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