

## Survey of HIV (AIDS) and Sexually Transmitted Disease in Indonesian Migrant Workers Arrived at Juanda International Airport Surabaya

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### ABSTRACT

Recently in the world, globalization provokes people to migrate to other countries. Migration can be the entry point for HIV/AIDS to spread to many countries. East Java Province is one of the provinces in Indonesia with the biggest number of people working abroad each year. Surveillance data for HIV/AIDS puts East Java Province as the second big province with HIV/AIDS in Indonesia. Patients with HIV/AIDS from the migrant workers working abroad is gradually increased every year. The aims of this study are early detection of HIV/AIDS incidence, prevention for spreading and treatment for HIV/AIDS and sexual transmitted disease (STD) for Indonesian migrant workers. Sample from this study is Indonesian migrant workers originally from East Java Province who has just arrived in Juanda International Airport Surabaya. Sero survey method is used in this study to detect HIV/AIDS and STD using Blood serum Rapid Test for HIV/AIDS and Rapid Test for Syphilis to examine the risk factor for STD. Result from this study is all sample is for spreading and treatment for HIV/AIDS and sexual transmitted disease (STD) for Indonesian migrant workers. Sample from this study is Indonesian migrant workers originally from East Java Province who has just arrived in Juanda International Airport Surabaya. Sero survey method is used in this study to detect HIV/AIDS and STD using Blood serum Rapid Test for HIV/AIDS and Rapid Test for Syphilis to examine the risk factor for STD. Result from this study is all sample is migrant workers, which is legal or illegal, at the airport or at sea port.

**Keywords:** HIV/AIDS, Indonesian migrant workers

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### INTRODUCTION

The amount of Indonesian working abroad is increasing gradually every year. Ponorogo Sub District of East Java Health Office in 2008 has found that majority of Indonesian people suffering HIV (*Human Immunodeficiency Virus*)/AIDS (*Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome*) is Indonesian working or ever been working abroad [1]. This condition is similar with Blitar sub district health office. The data from January-June 2008 shows that 14 women identified HIV/AIDS, 60% are Indonesian migrant workers [2].

This condition proved that Indonesian worker group has higher risk on transmitting HIV/AIDS. Tight health screening before departure should have negative result on HIV/AIDS and VDRL (*Venereal Disease Research Laboratory*) test. If one has positive result on Rapid test on Syphilis and HIV/AIDS is possibly received when they work abroad. It is necessary to pay attention to these migrant workers on transmitted disease. Therefore, for every Indonesian worker who has just arrived in arrival terminal should check for *Rapid Test* HIV/AIDS and *Rapid Test* Syphilis. the goal of this intervention is to prevent the disease spread widely and uncontrollable.

Eventhough every year the HIV/AIDS incidences increase rapidly, the cure is still not found. HIV/AIDS is the major concern in the world nowadays due to some reasons [3]. First of all, HIV is transmitted sexually and not many people want to open a discussion about sex. As a result, HIV/AIDS is difficult to be discussed and controlled [4]. Second, in human body, HIV lives in CD4 Lymphocyte cells which controls the body defence mechanism and this virus can not be killed by any medicine. It is difficult to find vaccine because the mutation is very fast. Third, incubation period of HIV is predicted around 10 years. In this period, an affected person still looks healthy but infectious [5][6]. Four, many young adults (age 20-40) are mainly affected and killed by HIV [7][8]. Because of this fact, community loss many productive migrant workers and the economy level is decreased [9].

The aim of this research is to collect prevalences data on HIV/AIDS and STD in Indonesian migrant workers abroad. The reason is none pays attention on the health condition of these migrant workers especially HIV/AIDS and STD. Their migration activities from one country to the other country can be a risk of spreading the disease.

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## MATERIALS AND METHODS

*Surveillans sentinel* method or sero survey is applied in this research. Sero Survey is an epidemiology observation on HIV/AIDS. The data is collected by drawing and examining blood serum using Rapid Test. The unlinked anonymous method is used where blood sample is without name and not related the owner of the blood. An in-depth-interview is done to female migrant workers of special cases, for example, pregnant but unmarried, HIV/AIDS, STD, sick, Harassment, and many other cases. The examination is done in Juanda International Airport Surabaya. Map of location is as in Figure 1 below. The sample is 418 female Indonesian migrant workers arrive from other countries in International Airport. The survey was done in 1 month, every Tuesday, Saturday and Sunday with inclusion criteria: Indonesian female who works in Middle East, Taiwan, Taiwan, Hongkong, Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei Darussalam, who is involuntarily available to be a sample.



Figure 1 Map of location

The measurement tool used in this research was rapid test HIV and syphilis. Regarding the examination result interpretation, If the rapid test shows positif result, the sample is HIV positive or vice versa. Thus, the same interpretation on sero survei on sexually transmitted disease using rapid test on Syphillys, the sample is positive Syphilliss if the rapid test shows positive result, The result of this examination is presented in illustrative explanation using pictures, graphics, tables and qualitative data in descriptive explanation. Documentation studies conducted at Department of Labour East Java Province.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The result from rapid test HIV and Syphilis of 418 respondents, all are negative. However, we found 7 female migrant workers who pregnant without husband. There are 80% female migrant workers or 334 respondent are 20 – 35 years old, 17% or 17 respondents are 36 – 40 years old. This condition shows that these migrant workers are in productive age. The marital status shows that 228 migrant workers (55%) are unmarried and 190 (45%) are married. All of the migrant workers going home throuh Juanda International airport 90 % are coming from East java Province. In the matter of free time, some of the migrant workers using it to go to the beach, praying, shopping, disco and free sex. The event of pregnancy without a husband, in sociocultural aspect, is considered an unrespected situation in East Java community and in Indonesia in general. This condition needs

more attention to be handled. Besides, the sex before married condition to Indonesian migrant workers is highly risk to get HIV/AIDS.

The Indonesian works abroad is mainly in productive age, appropriate with the development task of people in young age according to Havighurst (Hurlock, 1999) that young age is related to working age. The government applies the minimum and maximum of working age as prerequisites for Indonesian migrant workers. The Government is also determined that someone who applies for a passport is the minimal age 18 years old. The ground rules of people working in other countries like Singapore, Hongkong, Taiwan, and Korea with maximum age is 30 years old. Many migrant workers are above 30 years old because the payer extends the contract for the workers to work for them again and it is allowed. This type of workers can work up to 35 years old. Middle East country has different rules, the migrant workers are able to work up to 45 years old [4]. Productive age is related to high sexual interest. However, sometimes, this high sexual interest is not accompanied by free sex knowledge.

Almost 45% of Indonesian migrant workers are married. They have to live far away from home because they should sign minimum work contract for two years to be able to work abroad. Because of this condition, they are interested to find their new couple in the new place. The choices are with the other Indonesian migrant workers or migrant workers from the other countries. Sometimes they have sex with their couples because they can not bear any longer the sexual wishes [10]. Marital status also plays important role in their working status. Both married and single migrant workers mostly works harder. Married migrant workers usually work in the house holds while single migrant workers can work in any places. Single migrant workers try to get as many as possible the working experiences [4]. The married Indonesian female migrant workers have to leave their husband at home to work abroad [10].

Negative result test means that no HIV antibody found in the blood but still have possibility that this person is infected. This is because the body needs longer time up to 3 months to produce this antibody to indicate positive result. Country like Brunei Darussalam start to do HIV screening test every six months to their migrant workers [11]. Most of the samples work as legal migrant workers. They have small chances to get infected than illegal migrant workers. They work as house maid in households, career in nursing home or geriatric place, waitress or cooking assistant in the restaurant.

## CONCLUSION

Negative HIV/AIDS and Syphilis rapid test result female migrant workers arrive in Juanda International Airport. There are 7 cases pregnancy without married. Medical treatment is not needed in this research because no indication of HIV/AIDS infection. The case of pregnancy without marriage, in sociocultural context, is still not acceptable in East java culture and in Indonesian culture as general. Because of this fact, this condition needs more attention from the government. In addition, sex before marriage in migrant workers is high risk exposure to HIV/AIDS.

## SUGGESTION

Government should conduct rules on HIV/AIDS health education, prevention, transmission methods to all newly departure or arriving Indonesian migrant workers in simple and understandable way. Repeated negative test result after 3 months is needed due to the body immune system requires time to produce adequate antibody that indicates infection in blood test. Other similar research in legal or illegal male migrant workers is needed, particularly on male migrant workers who are legal or illegally arrive in Indonesia through airport or harbor.

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