



STEPPING THROUGH EDUCATION: EDUCATION TRANSFORMATION OF CHILDREN OF IMMIGRANT WORKERS (ILLEGAL) KOTA KINABALU WITH THE SUPPORT OF SIKK IN COLLABORATION WITH UIN SALATIGA

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Abstract

This research employs a qualitative research method, specifically a (Case Study) to depict the life transformation of children of illegal immigrant workers in Kota Kinabalu through educational access. The primary focus is on the support provided by SIKK and UIN Salatiga. Through the case study approach, the research delves deep into the specific context, dynamics of relationships, and the comprehensive impact of education on the lives of these children. The findings offer profound insights into how education can be a key to overcoming their life challenges, highlighting the positive potential of cross-institutional collaboration between SIKK and UIN Salatiga in supporting this transformative process. The education of children of Indonesian Migrant Workers is an important issue in Sabah, therefore it is an important effort of UIN Salatiga in handling education Children of Indonesian Migrant Workers in Sabah. Efforts made between UIN Salatiga which will cooperate with SIKK. Result between the two parties, Sekolah Kota Kinabalu (SIKK) and UIN Salatiga held scholarships for children attending SIKK.

Keywords : child education, indonesian migrant worker, uin salatiga efforts

Introduction

Ki Hajar Dewantara as the founder of Indonesian National Education defines education as a need that must be met during the child's growth and development. This aims to guide their natural talents in order to achieve maximum results as humans and members of society. Education must be understood as the process of shaping humans to be independent, think critically, and have noble character. Then it was also emphasized that education is not only a physical need but also helps the younger generation to reach maturity. Until now education has been considered as a tool to overcome ignorance, poverty, and can be used to improve the standard of living of the community itself (Pristiwanti, Badariah, Hidayat, & Dewi, 2022).

Education is considered as a public good that must be accessible to all levels of society to support the achievement of quality education. The law will guarantee the right to education for all citizens, even citizens who are abroad, especially Malaysia. Malaysia is a migration destination country with 2.7 million people which of course new challenges arise related to the legal and illegal status of Indonesian citizens working there (Sulistya & Triarda, 2020).

The main focus of the study is to understand the state of students in the environment, which illustrates the challenges and opportunities faced by them in acquiring a population identity. As an effort to provide solutions, SIKK (Sekolah Indonesia Kota Kinabalu) collaborates with UIN Salatiga to pioneer the transformation of children's lives.

Children of illegal immigrant workers often face complex situations, including economic, social, and legal constraints. In this context, this study focuses on the condition of students in Kota Kinabalu, exploring aspects of their lives that require special attention in the context of education.

The support provided by SIKK and UIN Salatiga is a crucial factor in facilitating access to education for these children. SIKK acts as a bridge to overcome various obstacles, including hard work in seeking Indonesian citizenship for students who may have complex legal status.

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This research adopts qualitative methods, especially Case Studies, to dive deeply into the changes in the lives of children of illegal immigrant workers through education. Through this approach, research will explore specific contexts, the dynamics of relationships between the various parties involved, as well as the far-reaching impact of education on their lives.

By highlighting the hard efforts of SIKK and cross-institutional collaboration with UIN Salatiga, this research seeks to provide an in-depth understanding of how education is not just access to knowledge, but also the key to overcoming life's complex challenges. The results of the study are expected to provide insight into the positive potential of cross-agency cooperation in supporting the life transformation of children of illegal immigrant workers, providing them with opportunities to develop and contribute to society.

Methods

The research method used in this study is qualitative method. Qualitative method as a research procedure that produces descriptive data, namely a writing that describes the actual state of the object under study, according to the actual situation at the time of direct research, the data collected comes from manuscripts, interviews, field notes, personal documents, and other documents. Creswell (2016:3) Explain that the research method is a research plan and procedure that includes steps in the

form of broad assumptions to detailed methods in collecting, analyzing and interpreting data.

This research uses qualitative methods because it can adjust to double reality, build direct relationships between researchers and respondents, and allow in-depth analysis of facts found in the field, especially related to SIKK support and collaboration with UIN Salatiga. This method allowed researchers to gain an in-depth understanding of the effect of education transformation on children of illegal immigrant workers in Kota Kinabalu. With a qualitative approach, research can be more responsive to complex realities and allow in-depth analysis of changing values and patterns facing children of immigrant workers.

Result And Discussion

At a normative level, to ensure that society's needs are met adequate education, the state has an obligation to ensure the provision of the system adequate education and curriculum, provision of scholarships, provision of facilities and adequate infrastructure, improving the quality of teaching staff, both teachers and lecturers in higher education (Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights General Comment 13;2002).

Based on the above expression, to overcome education problems seen from the condition of the children of Indonesian workers in Sabah, UIN SALATIGA made efforts in handling the education of TKI children. The efforts made by UIN SALATIGA are divided, namely to handle the education of TKI children in Sabah, it is necessary to hold cooperation between the governments of Indonesia and Malaysia and NGO because the Indonesian government alone cannot carry out independent handling if the country where migrant workers struggle for life does not give permission and participate in efforts to handle the provision of education services. Then the efforts of UIN SALATIGA are by providing educational guarantees or commonly referred to as scholarships given to children who attend school in SIKK.

Education in general is a life process in each individual to be able to carry out life. Education is an important thing in life, this means that every human being deserves it. In Chapter XIII Article 31 of the 1945 Constitution states:

1. Every citizen has the right to education;
2. Every citizen is obliged to attend basic education and the government is obliged to finance it;
3. The government seeks and organizes a national education system, which increases faith and piety and noble morals in order to educate the life of the nation which is regulated by law.

This is the basis for Indonesia to cooperate with the Malaysian government more intensely regarding the education of the children of Indonesian workers in the country. The Malaysian government issued a policy that TKI children are legal and illegal, unable to attend Sekolah Kebangsaan because the school is subsidized. Humana schools were only opened in cities and had not yet been established on plantations. In fact, the education system established by the government must reach

all citizens so that all of this can be accessed freely without discrimination and economically and psychologically acceptable, and its nature can adapt to the development era (Itasari, 2018).

For this reason, cooperation is established between three parties who strive to provide educational services, namely the Indonesian Consulate General in Sabah, SIKK, UIN SALATIGA. UIN Salatiga does not stop trying, through SIKK seeks to expand the reach of alternative education intended for legal and illegal TKI children in SIKK. Therefore, the collaboration between the three parties (SIKK, the Indonesian Consulate General in Sabah, and UIN Salatiga) is something that should be appreciated, because apart from establishing international relations, it also plays an important role in ensuring that their education continues to the next level. By returning SIKK children to Indonesia, they will have official citizenship, as Indonesian citizens.

Conclusion

Based on the analysis and discussion that has been done, this study can conclude:

The results and discussions show the efforts of UIN Salatiga in addressing the education problems of TKI children in Sabah, in collaboration between the governments of Indonesia, Malaysia, and NGO. These efforts include education guarantees in the form of scholarships for children attending SIKK. The conclusion also highlights the importance of intensive cooperation between Indonesia and Malaysia in overcoming educational constraints for the children of Indonesian workers in Malaysia.

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