



TRANSLATION OF SUARA NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

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Pregnant Indonesian Migrant Workers: Don't be afraid to return back home

By Veby Mega

Since 2015 PathFinders has gradually built a network in Indonesia to support Indonesian Migrant Workers who experiencing unplanned pregnancy. At the end of September until beginning of October 2014 PathFinders has visited several institutions and organizations of Indonesian government in Indonesia in order to build that network.

“The purpose of PathFinders visited Indonesia for 2 weeks was to find potential partners who can continue the support that we have provided here (in Hong Kong) to our clients (Indonesian migrant workers who experiencing unplanned pregnancy).” according to Luna Chan, Chief Operations Officer of PathFinders on Friday (5/12/2014).

It cannot be denied that those Indonesian migrant workers who experiencing unplanned pregnancy often feels afraid to return back home. This happens because they feel worry that they will not be accepted by their family and they also feel worry that they will not be able to raise the child.

Stayed for 2 weeks in Indonesia, PathFinders's team visited BP3TKI and various organizations in Jakarta and also social organizations which provide shelter, school and orphanage in East Java and West Java. The purpose of this visit was to build a network to support those Indonesian migrant workers so that they will not feel afraid anymore to return back home.

Luna mentioned that especially when they visited BP3TKI in Jakarta, PathFinders has intention to work together to provide counseling information about cultural differences between Hong Kong people and Indonesian people to the candidates of Indonesian migrant workers. “We think for long term program the result will be better if those Indonesian migrant workers who will go to Hong Kong firstly they know about what they will encounter here so that they will be more careful,” Luna said.

According to Luna the counseling information to Indonesian migrant workers is about the cultural differences on how a man and woman are dating. The cultural differences between Hong Kong and the hometown of Indonesian migrant workers often cause a problem.

“In Indonesia when you start a relationship with a man, you hope that the man will marry you but for Hong Kong men they do not always think like that,” Luna said.

Luna said that Hong Kong men will not automatically marry his pregnant girlfriend. It is unlike in Indonesia, Hong Kong people do not care as well. “So people will not come to arrest that man like in Indonesia,” Luna said.

In Brawijaya University Malang, PathFinders team has joined a seminar about the risks faced by Indonesian migrant workers. According to Luna those university students were shocked when they heard about the condition of Indonesian migrant workers who experiencing unplanned pregnancy in Hong Kong.

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BMI hamil jangan takut pulang

Oleh Yeby Mega

Akhir September hingga awal Oktober 2014, PathFinders mengunjungi beberapa lembaga Pemerintah Indonesia dan organisasi di Tanah Air, untuk membangun jaringan tersebut.

“Tujuan dari kunjungan PathFinders ke Indonesia selama 2 minggu itu adalah untuk menemukan partner potensial yang dapat melanjutkan dukungan yang telah kami lakukan di sini (Hong Kong) kepada para klien kami (BMI yang mengalami kehamilan tak direncanakan),” kata Luna Chan, Kepala Operasi Kantor PathFinders, Jumat, (5/12/2014).

Tak dapat disangkal, para BMI yang hamil tak direncanakan kerap takut pulang. Mulai karena khawatir tak diterima keluarga hingga karena tak mampu membesarkan anak tersebut.

Selama 2 minggu di Indonesia, tim PathFinders pun mengunjungi BP3TKI dan berbagai organisasi di Jakarta, hingga ke organisasi-organisasi sosial yang menyediakan shelter, sekolah dan panti asuhan di Jawa Timur dan Jawa Barat. Tujuannya, untuk membangun jaringan yang mendukung para BMI tersebut, sehingga mereka tak lagi harus takut pulang.

Khusus dalam kunjungan ke BP3TKI di Jakarta, Luna menyatakan, PathFinders berniat bekerja sama memberikan penyuluhan informasi tentang perbedaan budaya masyarakat Hong Kong dan Indonesia kepada calon BMI. “Kami pikir, untuk program jangka panjang, akan lebih baik hasilnya jika para BMI yang akan ke Hong Kong lebih dahulu mengetahui apa yang akan mereka hadapi di sini, sehingga bisa lebih hati-hati,” kata Luna.

Menurut Luna, penyuluhan informasi kepada para BMI ini terutama berupa perbedaan budaya cara pria dan wanita berkenaan. Perbedaan budaya Hong Kong dengan kampung halaman BMI ini kerap berbuntut masalah.

“Di Indonesia, kalau kamu memulai berhubungan dengan pria, kamu berharap pria itu akan menikahimu, tapi pria di Hong Kong tidak selalu berpikir seperti itu,” kata Luna.

Pria-pria di Hong Kong, kata Luna, tidak akan otomatis menikahi kekasihnya yang hamil. Tidak seperti di Indonesia, masyarakat Hong Kong juga tidak akan ambil peduli. “Jadi tidak akan ada masyarakat datang menggerebek pria itu seperti di Indonesia,” kata Luna.

Di Universitas Brawijaya, Malang, tim PathFinders mengikuti seminar tentang resiko yang dihadapi para BMI. Para akademika, menurut Luna, terkejut saat mendengar kondisi para BMI yang mengalami kehamilan tak direncanakan di Hong Kong.

