Social Transformation in Maluku: The Impact of External Migration on Local Community Dynamics

Suleman Watianan
University of Pattimura

Article Info

ABSTRACT

This research aims to explore social transformation in the Maluku Island, with a focus on the impact of external migration on the dynamics of the local community in the city of Ambon. The research method employed is a literature review, allowing for an in-depth examination of the conceptual framework, previous findings, and historical developments that have shaped the social conditions of this city. The literature review includes the search and analysis of sources such as books, journal articles, theses, and research report relevant to the research topic. The historical and cultural context of the Maluku Island becomes the focus to understand the roots of social transformation. The analysis of patterns of external migration, migrant motivations, and their impact on the structure of the local community is a primary highlight. The results of the literature review identify complex patterns of social transformation involving changes in cultural values, social structures, and interactions between the indigenous population and migrants. Social integration, challenges, and opportunities are identified through an understanding of the dynamics of intergroup relationships. This research also compares literature findings on social transformation due to migration in the Maluku Island with similar research in other regions, enriching cross-regional understanding of migration impacts. Through the literature review approach, this research provides a comprehensive foundation for understanding social transformation in the Maluku Island and contributes to academic literature related to external migration. The implications of the research findings are expected to support the development of more effective policies and strategies in managing social dynamics in the city of Ambon.

Corresponding Author:

Name: Suleman Watianan
Institution: University of Pattimura
Jl. Ir. M. Putuhena, Poka, Kec. Tlk. Ambon, Kota Ambon, Maluku
Email: watianansuleman@gmail.com

1. INTRODUCTION

The region of Maluku, rich in cultural diversity and history, has borne witness to various significant social changes over time. One substantial factor influencing social dynamics in the Maluku Island is the phenomenon of external migration. External migration, or the movement of people from one region to another beyond its administrative boundaries, has been a crucial characteristic in the social and economic

development of various parts of the world, including the Maluku Island.

External migration in the Maluku Island is not limited to individual movements; it also involves the relocation of large groups that bring with them their cultures, values, and traditions from their places of origin. This phenomenon has stimulated complex transformations in the social structure and cultural identity of the local community, which historically has existed in a multicultural environment. Over time, external migration in the Maluku Island has shown an increasing trend, influenced by factors such as economic changes, political conflicts, and climate variations. This escalation has significant consequences for the dynamics of the local community, creating challenges and opportunities that need to be deeply understood.

Ambon City, as the economic and cultural center of the Maluku Province, reflects the complexity of social transformation caused by external migration. The background of this research is reinforced by several specific factors that distinguish Ambon City from other regions in the Maluku Island. Firstly, Ambon City has a long history as a strategic spice trading center during the colonial era. This condition has created distinctive cultural diversity, influenced by various ethnic and cultural communities residing in the city. External migration in this historical context has left complex cultural imprints and affected the structure of the local community.

Secondly, Ambon City is known for its religious and cultural diversity. External migration to Ambon City not only brings ethnic differences but also religious diversity, including Christianity, Islam, and traditional beliefs. Within this framework, this research will explore how social dynamics in Ambon City are influenced by increasingly complex intercultural encounters and interactions. Thirdly, rapid economic growth and infrastructure development in Ambon City have attracted migrants from various regions in Indonesia. This phenomenon has not only created new dynamics in the labor market but

also stimulated changes in consumption patterns, wealth distribution, and social mobility among the local population.

Finally, Ambon City also experienced a period of social conflict in the late 20th century, leaving a significant impact on social dynamics. External migration in the context of post-conflict recovery can be a crucial factor in directing social change and creating new challenges or opportunities for the local community. By understanding this complex background, this research aims to uncover the cause-and-effect relationship between external migration and social transformation in Ambon City. Awareness of this unique local context adds an additional dimension to the research, ensuring that the findings can be applied contextually and provide a deeper insight into the complexity of external migration in the Maluku Island.

This research details the specific background of Ambon City, the capital of the Maluku Province, as the center of economic, cultural, and political activities in the region. Ambon City, with its long history as a spice trading center, has undergone dynamic changes in recent decades, in line with rapid economic growth and development. External migration to Ambon City has been a crucial aspect of its social transformation. Economic growth and infrastructure development have attracted residents from various regions, creating significant population diversity. This can have a profound impact on social structure, intergroup interactions, and cultural identity in the local community.

Moreover, Ambon City has also become a destination for migration for groups experiencing social conflicts or natural disasters in surrounding areas. Understanding how external migration from various backgrounds influences social dynamics in Ambon City is crucial in identifying challenges and opportunities faced by the local community. The geographic and cultural diversity of Ambon City creates a unique stage for understanding the impact of external migration. Social and cultural differences between the native population and migrants can pose integration challenges

but also open the potential for cultural exchange and the creation of new local identities.

Therefore, this research will specifically explore the context of Ambon City as a case study, delving into the dynamics of external migration and its impact on social transformation, social interactions, and cultural identity at the local level. Additionally, the background of this research is influenced by the lack of in-depth studies on the social dynamics resulting from external migration in the Maluku Island. Most previous research tends to be descriptive or focused on specific aspects of the migration phenomenon, highlighting the need for more comprehensive research covering various dimensions and social consequences.

The focus on Ambon City will provide in-depth insights directly applicable to local development planning and migration management, making a concrete contribution to our understanding of social changes occurring in the continually evolving urban community. Through a deeper understanding of the impact of external migration, this research is expected to provide a strong knowledge foundation for the development of policies that can promote harmony between the native population and migrants, contributing to the scholarly literature on social transformation in this region.

2. METHODS

This research is based on a literature review to gather information, theories, and relevant research findings that have been previously published. A literature review is a research approach that involves the analysis and synthesis of scholarly literature relevant to the investigated research topic [1]. he main objectives of using a literature review in this research are to understand the conceptual framework, identify the developments in previous research, evaluate the methodologies used by earlier researchers, and gain in-depth insights into the researched topic. The literature review method involves searching and reviewing various literature sources, such as scholarly journals, books,

conference articles, and other reliable sources. Information obtained from these literatures is then organized, analyzed, and synthesized to support the development of the research concept. Relying on a literature review, this research can strengthen its theoretical foundation, identify existing knowledge gaps, and formulate relevant research questions [2].

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Dynamics of External Migration in Ambon City

External migration in Ambon City is influenced by several factors, including economic incentives, socio-political situations, and environmental conditions. Some migrants seek better economic opportunities, while others escape conflicts in their home regions. This creates a heterogeneous flow of migration, with a variety of motivations among the relocating population. Furthermore, the impact of external migration is evident in the changes to the population composition of Ambon City. The population growth resulting from migration creates new dynamics in demographic structure [3]. The increase in population can lead to economic growth but also poses challenges related to infrastructure provision and public services.

The dynamics of interaction between the native population and migrants show a combination of integration and social tension [4]. There are efforts to integrate through joint activities and cultural exchange, but tensions also arise, particularly in the context of economic competition. These patterns of social interaction reflect complex dynamics in managing diversity in Ambon City. Additionally, external migration contributes to changes in employment patterns in Ambon City. There is an increase in certain sectors, such as trade and services, associated with the growth of migration. However, this can also create inequalities in access to employment and generate competition that may lead to social tension [5].

When researchers analyzed involvement in the local community, data revealed that migrants who successfully

engage in the local community tend to integrate more easily. Initiatives to understand and respect local traditions and participate in social activities can strengthen the relationship between the native population and migrants. Therefore, promoting positive intercultural interactions becomes crucial in creating an inclusive environment [6]. Social adaptation is a significant challenge for both migrants and the local population. Differences in language, cultural values, and social systems can create barriers in the integration process. Hence, policies and supportive programs that encourage cultural exchange and intercultural understanding are critical in addressing these challenges.

The dynamics of migration in Ambon City provide a profound understanding of the importance of well-informed policy thinking. Migration policies that take into account various aspects, ranging from economic integration to cultural changes, are needed to achieve a balanced equilibrium and minimize potential conflicts. The dynamics of external migration in Ambon City reflect the complex reality of social transformation [7]. To achieve sustainable development, it is crucial to consider a balanced integration between the local population and migrants, ensuring that migration policies are based on a deep understanding of social dynamics at the local level. Through collaborative efforts between the government, the community, and migrants, Ambon City can design strategies that respect cultural diversity and create an inclusive environment.

3.2 Social Interaction and Group Structure in Ambon City

There are signs of integration between the native population and migrants in Ambon City. This integration is reflected in joint activities, cultural exchanges, and economic collaborations. Some communities may have successfully overcome cultural differences and formed positive relationships. However, it is essential to acknowledge that the dynamics of integration are often accompanied by social tension. Economic competition and cultural differences can create disagreements and conflicts. A profound understanding of these root issues needs to be embodied in policy formulation that supports social harmony [8].

Furthermore, external migration contributes to the formation of new social groups in Ambon City. These groups may be formed based on factors such as geographical origin, occupation, or common interests. These changes influence social dynamics and relationships among group members. Changes in group structure also impact wealth distribution in society. Migration can create inequality in access to economic resources. Some groups may experience significant economic benefits, while others may feel greater economic pressure [9].

One of the main challenges in social integration is the presence of cultural stereotypes. Negative perceptions of certain groups can hinder the integration process and create tension among groups. Awareness and intercultural education need to be enhanced to address these stereotypes. Economic competition becomes a source of social tension [9]. In situations where economic resources are limited, migration can create competition for jobs, housing, and public services. Conflict management strategies and fair distribution need to be the focus in responding to these challenges.

The Ambon City government needs to adopt inclusive policies that facilitate social integration. This includes developing intercultural training programs, supporting joint activities, and promoting multicultural awareness throughout society. Active community participation in the design and implementation of policies is crucial. Establishing intercultural dialogue forums and involving community groups in the decision-making process can create a strong foundation for social harmony.

The government should encourage cultural exchange programs and collaborative activities to help strengthen intercultural relationships. These initiatives create opportunities to better understand different values, traditions, and perspectives. It is important to enhance awareness of diversity

as an asset for Ambon City. Education programs and information campaigns can help shift societal paradigms towards differences, promote respect, and support social inclusion.

The dynamics of social interaction and changes in group structure in Ambon City reflect the complexity of social transformation due to external migration. The challenges of integration require a holistic approach involving all stakeholders, including the government, local community, and migrants. Through collaborative efforts, Ambon City can strengthen intercultural relationships, manage social tensions, and create an inclusive environment for all its residents.

3.3 Structural Changes in Society in Ambon City

External migration in Ambon City has an impact on population growth, which, in turn, can support economic growth. However, it must be acknowledged that rapid population growth also poses challenges related to infrastructure, healthcare services, and education. Population growth management policies need to be implemented wisely. Changes in population composition can also create the segregation of social groups. Migrants may form communities with a shared identity, while the local population may experience changes in their social and economic dynamics. It is important to promote integration and cross-group collaboration [10].

Furthermore, structural changes in society also include wealth redistribution that can create economic disparities. Certain groups, especially those directly related to external migration, may experience economic improvement, while others may be marginalized. These disparities need to be addressed to achieve inclusive development. Migration can bring about inequality in access to resources and opportunities. Sustainable development in Ambon City requires policies that ensure economic benefits and resources are available fairly to all societal groups.

Shifts in the social group structure are reflected in the formation of new groups. New identities may emerge with migration, forming groups with specific interests and characteristics. It is important to understand and positively respond to these changes. External migration can also influence gender roles in society. Changes in family structure and economic demands can lead to shifts in traditional gender roles. Policies that support gender equality and empower women are needed in the context of these social changes [11].

The author found data indicating that population growth creates challenges in providing education. The government needs to ensure the availability of adequate educational facilities that support inclusion, considering the need for adjustments with the increasing number of students. The community health structure also changes with external migration. Increased population density and differences in lifestyles can impact public health. Health programs need to be adjusted to the changing population dynamics.

Structural changes in the community of Ambon City as a result of external migration create complex dynamics. To achieve sustainable development, policies need to be adopted that consider side effects and promote social inclusion. By understanding these structural changes, Ambon City can design measures aimed at improving the quality of life for all its residents without leaving any specific groups behind.

3.4 Cultural Identity in Ambon City Due to External Migration

External migration in Ambon City can trigger acculturation processes, where cultural elements from various groups meet and interact. New cultural identities may emerge as a result of cultural exchange, creating a rich and diverse identity. Globalization can also play a role in the creation of new cultural identities. Global influences, including mass media and information technology, can introduce new elements into local culture. This can create unique dynamics that combine local traditions and global elements [12].

Despite these changes, the community in Ambon City continues to strive to preserve their local traditions. Traditional ceremonies, traditional arts, and other cultural activities remain an essential part of cultural identity. These preservation efforts reflect the desire to ensure the sustainability and authenticity of cultural heritage [13]. Cultural institutions, such as museums and art centers, can play a key role in preserving local traditions. Educational programs and cultural promotion can help inform the community about cultural values and encourage appreciation for their heritage.

External migration can bring value conflicts that affect cultural identity [14]. Differences in beliefs, norms, and societal values can create tension between different groups. Understanding and intercultural dialogue are needed to manage these conflicts. In some cases, migration can bring dominant influences from migrant groups, which may shift the local cultural identity. It is essential to respond wisely and integrate various cultural elements to prevent homogenization and the loss of local identity.

In some cases, intercultural integration can create a shared identity [15]. Through open dialogue, acknowledgment, and mutual respect, the community of Ambon City can form an identity that reflects diversity and inclusion. Collaborative cultural programs, such as multicultural festivals and joint art performances, can serve as means to strengthen intercultural bonds. This creates a platform where various groups can share their cultural expressions, fostering a sense of togetherness.

Education plays a crucial role in shaping cultural identity. An inclusive curriculum that incorporates various cultural perspectives can help develop a deeper understanding of local and global identities. Education can also serve as a tool to teach pluralism and tolerance. Educational programs emphasizing the values of equality and appreciation for diversity can shape a generation with a positive attitude toward cultural differences. External migration in Ambon City brings complex impacts on cultural identity. While the acculturation process can create a rich new cultural identity, challenges such as value conflicts and changes in cultural structures require a wise approach. Through efforts to preserve traditions, promote intercultural integration, and provide multicultural education, Ambon City can nurture and develop a unique and sustainable cultural identity.

3.5 Social Adaptation in Ambon City Due to External Migration

The process of social adaptation in Ambon City is marked by linguistic and cultural differences between native residents and migrants. Communication difficulties and differences in cultural values can be obstacles to social integration. Initiatives are needed to overcome communication gaps and facilitate intercultural understanding [16]. Value conflicts may arise when different cultural values intersect. Migrants and native residents may have different views regarding social norms and religion. It is essential to create open dialogue spaces to understand these differences.

Individuals who succeed in the adaptation process tend to identify themselves with the new community. Migrants who feel accepted and engaged in local social life are more likely to adapt well. The formation of social support networks is crucial in the adaptation process. Communities or support groups can help migrants overcome challenges, provide information, and offer the necessary emotional support.

Education plays a significant role in facilitating social adaptation. Migrants who have access to education have greater opportunities to understand and participate in the local community. Therefore, efforts are needed to ensure equal access to educational services. Social adaptation is also closely related to employment opportunities and economic stability. Migrants who can easily secure employment and feel economically stable tend to adapt more quickly. Training programs and job assistance can help enhance their adaptation chances.

Increasing awareness of cultural diversity in Ambon City can expedite the social adaptation process. Intercultural awareness programs, for both native residents and migrants, can help reduce stereotypes and enhance understanding. Cultural exchange initiatives, such as festivals or joint artistic activities, can create a platform for positive intercultural exchange. This can promote a sense of togetherness and improve understanding among different groups.

The social adaptation process in Ambon City due to external migration is a complex challenge that involves aspects such as language, culture, education, and employment. By providing social support, equal educational opportunities, and employment chances, as well as promoting multicultural awareness, Ambon City can create an environment that supports successful social adaptation for both local residents and migrants. Full support from the government and the community will play a key role in achieving harmonious integration.

3.6 Social Integration from Emile Durkheim's Perspective

Emile Durkheim's Social Integration Theory serves as the theoretical foundation for analyzing the dynamics of the local community in the Maluku Islands, especially concerning the impact of external migration. Durkheim emphasizes the importance of social integration in maintaining societal stability and preventing anomie, or social chaos [16]. A thorough analysis of this theory provides a comprehensive insight into how external migration affects social integration and transforms society in the Maluku Islands.

Durkheim argues that social integration is a prerequisite for societal stability. A high level of integration can prevent anomie and social instability. Additionally, Durkheim identifies two types of social integration: mechanical and organic. Mechanical integration occurs in traditional societies with shared values and tasks, while organic integration emerges in modern societies based on specialization and interdependence. Durkheim's concept of social solidarity refers to the social bonds among community members. Mechanical solidarity arises from similarity, whereas organic solidarity arises from interdependence. Durkheim acknowledges the social change towards modern society and highlights the challenges of social integration in more complex and diversified societies.

In the context of the Maluku Islands, external migration can impact social solidarity. Close social integration in traditional communities may be disrupted by migration, leading to a shift from mechanical solidarity to organic. Migration brings changes in the values and tasks of the community. Social integration must adapt to cultural and value differences that may arise between local residents and migrants. With migration, local communities and migrants may become interdependent in various aspects of life. This creates the potential for organic solidarity based on interdependence. External migration can expedite the process of modernization. Challenges to social integration may arise with the shift towards a more complex and diversified modern society. In the context of social transformation, the communities in the Maluku Islands need to reshape social integration to maintain stability and prevent anomie. This may involve the formation of shared values and new social structures.

Emile Durkheim's Social Integration Theory provides a robust framework for analyzing the impact of external migration on the dynamics of the local community in the Maluku Islands. By understanding social solidarity, changes in values and tasks, and intergroup dependence, this research can offer a comprehensive perspective on how social integration shapes social transformation in communities experiencing external migration. Through efforts to strengthen integration, communities can address challenges and build a solid foundation for sustainable development.

4. CONCLUSION

In this study, it can be concluded that external migration has significant impacts on

the social structure and community integration in the city of Ambon. Through the literature review method, this research reveals that migration brings about changes in cultural values, social structures, and interactions among individuals and groups. There is a dynamic shift in social solidarity, accompanied by new challenges in adapting to differences in values and lifestyles between local residents and migrants.

It is essential to note that this research also highlights the increasing intergroup dependence, where local communities and migrants mutually influence various aspects of daily life. While migration can enrich cultural diversity, this study indicates that these changes can also create social tensions. Therefore, the conclusion of this research stimulates further consideration regarding the need to reshape social integration to maintain community stability, acknowledging the complexity and dynamics of ongoing social transformation in Ambon City, Maluku. The implementation of sustainable and participatory policies may be key to addressing the impacts of migration and building the foundation for an inclusive and sustainable community.

REFERENCES

[1]   H. Snyder, "Literature review as a research methodology: An overview and guidelines," *Journal of business research*, 2019.

[2]   J. L. Galvan and M. C. Galvan, *Writing literature reviews: A guide for students of the social and behavioral sciences*. books.google.com, 2017.

[3]   U. Hanifah, "Transformasi sosial masyarakat Samin di Bojonegoro (Analisis perubahan sosial dalam pembagian kerja dan solidaritas sosial Emile Durkheim)," *Jurnal Sosiologi Agama*, 2019.

[4]   I. Abdullah, "Tantangan pembangunan ekonomi dan transformasi sosial: Suatu pendekatan budaya," *Humaniora*, 2002.

[5]   A. Rafiq, "Dampak media sosial terhadap perubahan sosial suatu masyarakat," *Global Komunika: Jurnal Ilmu Sosial Dan Ilmu Politik*, 2020.

[6]   N. H. Kistanto, "Transformasi sosial-budaya masyarakat Indonesia," *Sabda: Jurnal Kajian Kebudayaan*, 2018.

[7]   F. Eriyanti, "Aspek Sosio-Budaya, Kebijakan Pemerintah, dan Mentalitas yang Berpengaruh Terhadap Integrasi Sosial dalam Masyarakat Sumatera barat," *Humanus: Jurnal Ilmiah Ilmu-ilmu Humaniora*, 2013.

[8]   S. Torro, I. Gardono, and A. R. A. Sakka, *Integrasi Sosial dan Asimilasi*. eprints.unm.ac.id, 2014.

[9]   A. Suryono, *Teori dan Strategi Perubahan Sosial*. books.google.com, 2019.

[10]   H. Hasbullah, "Rewang: Kearifan lokal dalam membangun solidaritas dan integrasi sosial masyarakat di desa bukit batu kabupaten Bengkalis," *Sosial Budaya*, 2012.

[11]   T. Polnaya, P. Murwani, and T. D. Pariela, "Transformasi Budaya dan Interaksi Sosial dalam Masyarakat Adat: Dampak Masuknya Teknologi Digital," *BAILEO: JURNAL SOSIAL …*, 2023.

[12]   M. A. Lubis, "Budaya Dan Solidaritas Sosial Dalam Kerukunan Umat Beragama Di Kecamatan Kabanjahe Kabupaten Tanah Karo," *Jurnal Sosiologi Agama*, 2018.

[13]   E. Rosana, "Modernisasi Dalam Perspektif Perubahan Sosial," *Al-Adyan: Jurnal Studi Lintas Agama*, 2017.

[14]   R. Retnowati, "Agama, Konflik, dan Integrasi Sosial (Integrasi Sosial Pasca Konflik, Situbondo)," *Analisa: Journal of Social Science and …*, 2014.

[15]   Z. Maliki, *Rekontruksi teori sosial modern*. books.google.com, 2018.

[16]   A. M. Arif, "Perspektif Teori Sosial Emile Durkheim Dalam Sosiologi Pendidikan," *Moderasi: Jurnal Studi Ilmu Pengetahuan Sosial*, 2020.