

SOCIO-CULTURAL DYNAMICS DUE TO MIGRATION FLOWS IN BATAM CITY BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Abstract

Batam City has emerged as one of Indonesia's fastest-growing urban centers and a major destination for internal migration since its designation as a Free Trade Zone and Free Port. This study analyzes the factors driving migration flows to Batam and examines the resulting socio-cultural transformations using Everett S. Lee's Theory of Migration as the primary analytical framework. The theory posits that migration decisions are shaped by four interrelated components: push factors at the origin, pull factors at the destination, intervening obstacles, and personal characteristics. Data were collected through literature review and synthesis of empirical studies related to migration dynamics in Batam. The report says that there are five reasons why people migrate. These are because of reasons, cultural reasons, environmental reasons, educational reasons and economic reasons.

Keywords: Everett S. Lee Theory, Migration, Push-Pull Factors, Socio-Cultural Effects, Batam City

INTRODUCTION

Throughout history people moving from one place to another has changed the way societies look their money and their culture. According to Lee migration is not about people moving; it is a hard choice that depends on many things. In Indonesia people are moving within the country because of differences in roads, jobs and growth. Batam is not like tourist spots. This is because Batam is located between Singapore and Malaysia. It is a place where businesses can invest and grow. Batam was a fishing town before.. Things changed in the 1970s. Now Batam is a place with many industries and services. Because of this change many people have moved to islands like Java, Sumatra and East Nusa Tenggara. Batam has really. This is why people are moving to other places, like Java, Sumatra and East Nusa Tenggara. As new people keep coming the citys buildings and roads are changing fast which brings both bad things. When people move it helps the economy. Adds more workers but it also brings up problems, about getting along with others adopting new customs and keeping old traditions. The majority of past research on migration in Batam has concentrated on its economic components, with less attention paid to the wide range of variables affecting migration and its long-term socio-cultural repercussions. The purpose of this research is to close that vacuum by systematically examining migration's positive and negative impacts after analyzing the push and pull variables in line with Lee's theory. Policymakers, urban planners, and community leaders must comprehend these dynamics in order to formulate plans that promote equitable and long-term development. The theoretical framework and research methodology are followed by the results and discussion, which are split into two major sections: the socio-cultural repercussions and the elements impacting migration. In conclusion, findings are summarized, and recommendations for future research and policy execution are offered.

METHOD

This study uses a literature review strategy in conjunction with a qualitative descriptive methodology. When examining intricate social phenomena like migration, which encompass a variety of aspects of human behavior, culture, and interaction, qualitative research is a suitable method. Scientific journals, research reports, official records, and theoretical writings pertaining to migration theory and socio-cultural transformation were among the secondary sources from which the data were gathered. Everett S. Lee's Theory of Migration, which explains migration as

the outcome of interactions between four variables factors at the origin, characteristics at the destination, intervening impediments, and personal factors is the primary theoretical framework employed (Lee, 1966). This theory offers a thorough framework for classifying and examining the different motivations behind people's migration decisions. In addition, supporting theories such as the theory of acculturation by Berry (2005) and concepts of social network theory are used to explain the impacts of migration on society. Data analysis was conducted through three stages: data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing. First, relevant information was selected and grouped according to the categories of push-pull factors and types of impacts. Second, the data were organized into coherent descriptions and supported by citations from previous studies. Finally, the findings were interpreted and linked back to the theoretical framework to produce a systematic and logical discussion. The validity of the analysis is ensured by cross-referencing multiple sources and comparing findings from different studies. This method allows the research to provide a comprehensive and evidence-based overview of migration dynamics in Batam City.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

FACTORS TRIGGERING MIGRATION TO BATAM CITY

According to Lee (1966), migration occurs when positive factors at the destination outweigh negative factors at the origin, while obstacles are considered manageable. This study identifies five key dimensions that explain migration flows to Batam: economic, educational, cultural, environmental, and social factors.

1. Economic Factors

People generally agree that the main reason people move to a place in Indonesia is because of money problems. In some areas like Sumatra, Java and East Nusa Tenggara farming is really tough because of some issues. A lot of towns have a problem. Farming does not get better even when people work harder. This means many people still live in poverty. It is hard for them to find work. Young people want to leave their villages. They want a life. Their towns economy is not strong. It can't give them jobs. Batam is very different from these places. After it became a Free Trade Zone in 1989 the city started to grow fast and became a big place for industry and services. Batam has companies, from Indonesia and other countries that make things put together electronics build ships and do international trade. These industries create a large number of formal and informal job opportunities for workers with various skill levels. The City Minimum Wage (UMK) in Batam is consistently among the highest in the Riau Islands Province, making it a major financial attraction. For migrants, working in Batam is a rational choice to maximize their income and improve their family's economic status. Many also send remittances back home, which play a vital role in supporting household consumption and small investments in their regions of origin (Annisatul, 2019).

This economic push-pull mechanism aligns with Lee's theory, which states that differences in economic opportunities are the most influential drivers of migration. When the gap between income and employment prospects widens, the likelihood of people moving to more prosperous areas increases significantly.

2 Educational factors

Migration patterns are significantly influenced by educational goals in addition to economic needs. In addition to migrating for financial gain, many young people do so in order to further their education and build their human capital. This incentive is prevalent in areas with little educational resources or programs that don't meet the demands of contemporary industry. Access to recognized universities, technical institutions, and advanced training facilities is still limited in rural and smaller regencies. Disciplines pertaining to technology, engineering, and business management are seldom offered, and study programs are frequently restricted to general topics. Because of this, students who want to continue their education have to go to bigger

cities in order to earn the necessary credentials (Armansyah et al., 2022). Batam has reacted to this Higher education is seen as a pathway to secure better positions and higher income levels in the future (Annisatul, 2019). Lee's theory highlights that non-economic factors such as access to services also influence migration decisions.

In this instance, the availability of highquality education serves as a powerful pull force, while its lack in the area of origin serves as a push element that motivates people to look for better chances elsewhere.

3. Cultural factors

Migration decisions are also affected by the social values that people grow up with especially for young people. In communities there are a lot of rules and norms that people have to follow every day. These rules are in place to keep everything in order. Sometimes people who learn about new ideas and ways of thinking can see these rules as too restrictive. In rural areas young people are expected to do what their parents want them to do. They have to get married to the person their parents choose do the job as their parents and always follow the customs of their community. When they see how people live in cities and get information, from the internet and television they often want to be able to make their choices and be their own person. People want to be free to express themselves in any way they like and do what makes people happy. Old rules that used to guide the behavior of people are now seen as limiting the ability of people to achieve the goals of people. According to Armansyah in 2022 people have this desire to be free. Batam is a city with people, from all walks of life. This mix of cultures creates a social environment. Here people from ethnic groups interact freely with each other. The city follows laws and rules not traditions so people have more freedom to create their own identities and life paths. Batam is a place where people can be independent. People are free to live their own lives in Batam. They are able to establish relationships with individuals from diverse backgrounds. In Batam, people can live the way they want. They are allowed to live and act however they see proper. Batam is great for people who want to be independent and make their own choices. This freedom from rigid social control is a significant pull factor that complements economic and educational motivations. Lee's theory includes personal preferences and social environment as part of the decision-making process. Cultural push and pull factors explain why migration is not only about material needs but also about the desire for social and personal development.

4. Environmental Factors

The environment and the things we need to live, like roads and water also affect where people move to. In some places where people start their journey it is hard to live because of where they're bad roads and not having basic things like food and water. Places that are away often have bad roads the electricity does not always work and it is hard to talk to people outside of the community. Some areas are also in danger from disasters like floods, landslides and not having rain for a long time. These disasters hurt the land reduce the amount of food that can be grown and destroy things that people own. When the environment is always at risk it becomes hard for families to feel safe so they think about moving to a place. Migration patterns and environmental conditions are what influence people to move to places like Batam because environmental conditions and migration patterns are closely related. On the hand Batam was built to be a modern city with everything people need. The island has roads, electricity and water that always work and fast internet. This helps people with their lives, businesses and getting to important services all around the city. Batam has many modern things, like hospitals, stores places to have fun and nice areas to live. These things make life better. Are hard to find in rural areas. For people who move to Batam it means they can live in a more comfortable and easier place and that is because of migration patterns and environmental conditions.

According to Lee's theory, the physical environment and infrastructure are key elements in both origin and destination factors. When environmental conditions are unfavorable and

infrastructure is inadequate, people are motivated to migrate to areas with better physical and ecological conditions.

5. Social Factors

Migration decisions are heavily influenced by social networks and family arrangements. Social networks are often the most important source of information and support for potential migrants. Relocation stress might be reduced by family members or friends who have successfully relocated to a city. Sometimes a push component is societal pressure or conflict in the origin location. People may travel in order to start over due to family conflicts, social stigma, or challenges acclimating to communal life. Migration becomes a strategy to escape difficult situations and build a new social identity far from previous problems (Qomariya et al., 2021).

The chain migration thing is really clear in Batam. When new people come to Batam they usually stay with their friends or family at first. This helps them save money and feel safer. Their friends and family can tell them about places to live jobs they can get and what people do there. This makes it a lot easier for them to move to Batam. Chain migration is important, in Batam because people help each other when they move to a place. Strong social pull variables include marriage and family reunion. Many immigrants go to Batam to work alongside their wives or relatives. This kind of migration guarantees social support in the new setting and improves family ties. According to Lee's thesis, social relationships and individual circumstances have an impact on migration in addition to objective factors. Social factors explain why migration is often a collective process shaped by existing community connections.

MIGRATION'S SOCIO-CULTURAL IMPACT IN BATAM CITY

Batam used to be a homogeneous Malay society, but the constant influx of migrants has made it a multicultural metropolis. As will be covered below, this change has both advantages and disadvantages.

Positive Impacts

a. **Emergence of Diversity in Language, Speech Style, and Clothing** The island of Batam has a lot of languages and cultures because of the people who live there. Native Malay people and immigrants from places have been talking to each other for a very long time. Native Malay people and immigrants from places have been doing this for so long that many languages and cultures have mixed together now. To talk to each other every day people, in a group need to speak the language. This is how Batam Malay was developed. The need for people to interact with each other is what made Batam Malay happen it is a language that people use in that area. Batam Malay is made up of Javanese and Minangkabau and Batak and Standard Indonesian. There are also a few Malay and Malaysian Malay words and expressions. The Batam dialect has some features. Batam Malay uses shortened words. Batam Malay also has intonation. The syntax of Batam Malay is simpler. These are the things that make Batam Malay unique. This dialect serves as a unifying communication tool that bridges cultural differences across the city (Permata & Abidin, n.d.). In terms of clothing and lifestyle, there is a process of mutual adaptation. Traditional Malay attire, which is modest and polite, remains visible in formal and cultural events. In the meantime, workplaces and everyday activities have embraced the contemporary and useful styles brought by migrants. Local customs are enhanced rather than erased by this cultural interchange. While preserving their individual identities, residents learn to respect other manifestations. Batam's personality as an open and welcoming city has come to be defined by its linguistic and attire diversity (Dailami et al., 2022).

b. **Creating More Jobs and Boosting the Informal Economy**

The migration process is crucial for Batam's economic progress. In addition to providing work, incoming migrants bring fresh perspectives, abilities, and a business-minded mindset. They boost the city's capacity to compete globally and are essential to the operations of large enterprises. Many immigrants develop small firms and become self-employed in order to adapt to changing

economic conditions. The informal economy has seen significant growth thanks to the arrival of migrants. They create food stalls, transport businesses, retail shops, and handmade goods sectors. These operations supply low-cost products and services to the community while also creating more job openings for local residents (Saputra & Pierewan, n.d.).

The diverse culinary practices and trade methods brought by migrants enrich the local marketplace. Customers have more options thanks to this variety, which also stimulates the economy. As a result, the city's overall wealth increases and poverty rates decrease.

c. Appreciation, Adaptation, and Hybridization of Cultural Architectural Symbols

The interaction between migrants and local communities also appears in the field of architecture and building design. According to Berry's (2005) acculturation theory, integration allows different cultures to coexist while retaining their own characteristics. This process is clearly visible in commercial and public buildings across Batam. Architectural emblems from their home regions are frequently preserved by immigrant populations. For instance, eateries run by Minangkabau immigrants continue to utilize gonjong, a characteristic curving roof. This trait serves as a defining feature of their cultural identity in their new environment. In order to fit in with the local environment, they simultaneously include Malay architectural features. Facades, pillars, and decorations often include traditional motifs such as selembayung and awan larat. This combination creates a unique style that reflects mutual respect and cultural exchange (Idedhyana & Rai, 2011).

Migration does not hurt the heritage of a place. Instead it creates ways for people to express themselves. A city's buildings serve as symbols of its various civilizations. They serve as a reminder to the locals of the value of getting along with one another and accepting one another's differences. A city's cultural legacy is crucial. Migration helps to create new forms of cultural heritage. Migration and cultural heritage are connected in a city's buildings.

Negative impacts

a. Misconceptions and Intercultural Communication's Buried Social Conflict

Each civilization has its way of expressing themselves. When you are in one place and then you go to another place things can be really different. People can talk loudly or they can talk very softly they can talk straight to the point or they can talk around the point and they can sound very nice or they can sound very mean. What people think is polite in Java and Sumatra and other places can be very different from what people think is polite in places.

People from Java and Sumatra often say what they think loudly and they say it when they want to. People, from Java and Sumatra do not wait to express their opinions they just say them. Java and Sumatra people are known for talking freely. On the hand Malay people think it is very important to speak softly and not say too much. These differences can cause problems when people meet each other in markets at work or in their communities. Najwan said this in 2009.

If we do not understand each other well we might start to think things about other groups of people. Sometimes, people might believe that other groups are negative. This can happen if we are careless and make no effort to comprehend one another. In some circumstances, negative perceptions of other groups may surface.

b. Structural Dangers to Traditional Malay Architecture's Survival

Fast development brought on by migration has also put strain on cultural resources and the environment. As more people move in, there is an increasing need for property to build homes, businesses, roads, and factories. Historic village grounds are thus converted into modern metropolis districts. The stilt-built, coastal-adapted traditional Malay homes are becoming more and more rare. These buildings serve as both residential areas and emblems of identity and cultural thought. People are tearing down a lot of buildings to make room, for new construction. This is what is happening to old buildings. They are either being demolished or just left empty. In cases the old style of building is only being kept as a pretty thing to look at in government offices or hotels and it is losing what it was really meant for which is the historic architecture.

c. Local Custom Erosion, Spatial Segregation, and Land Reduction

The demographic and spatial structure of Batam has also been altered by migration. Even though there was a predominance of indigenous Malays, they are now a minority. Immigrants settle in various areas according to their ethnicity as a result of this modification, which causes spatial segregation. Minangkabau settlements, Kampung Jawa, and Kampung Sunda are increasingly prevalent. While newcomers find support and solace in this, it also lowers the amount of regular contact between residents and migrants. The integration of cultures is slowed by this separation. Additionally, traditional customs and ceremonies are gradually evolving or being replaced. For instance, the tepak sirih ceremony, which holds deep philosophical significance in Malay culture, is becoming rare in contemporary weddings. Nevertheless, other locations' wedding customs are more often embraced (Nazari, 2025). As younger generations grow up in a diversified environment and encounter numerous customs, traditions fade away. Over time, these activities run the risk of being forgotten if elders don't actively pass them on, which will decrease the variety of cultural heritage.

d. Demographic structure changes and socio-spatial conflict sensitivity.

The biggest problem that results from migration is the prospect of land and resource conflicts. As the city expands, there is a greater need for land, which often encroaches on areas that have long been inhabited by native populations. The 2023 Rempang Island issue is a great example. The dispute on Rempang Island in 2023 serves as a prime illustration. Thousands of Malay residents needed to be relocated in accordance with the government's proposal to build the Rempang Eco-City project. According to Fuzain (2023), land and water have a profound cultural and spiritual significance for the community in addition to being economic resources. When economic expansion is given precedence over cultural rights in development policies, conflicts arise. Ignoring local interests can cause social unrest and opposition, as the incident demonstrated. It emphasizes the importance of inclusive planning that takes into consideration cultural and historical claims. Careful management of migration and development is essential, as this case illustrates. If not addressed, the marginalization of indigenous populations might lead to extended social unrest and endanger the sustainability of development itself.

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis using Everett S. Lee's Theory of Migration, this study concludes that migration to Batam City is driven by a combination of economic, educational, cultural, environmental, and social factors. Each dimension acts as a push factor in the region of origin and a pull factor in Batam, creating a continuous flow of population movement. Migration affects people in both bad ways. It helps people meet each other and makes our communities more interesting with cultures, customs and languages. It also helps our economy grow. Migration can also cause problems like unfair treatment of native groups, the loss of old traditions, and the inability of people to get along or speak with one another. It could even spark disputes and disagreements. For Batam to stay an successful city we need to find a balance between making progress and keeping the old ways of the people who lived there first. We should try to help people from backgrounds understand each other protect the old customs and traditions make sure everyone has the same chances and include the native communities in our plans, for the city. We should do studies to see what happens over time and to check if what we are doing now is really working.

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