

Rural Migration Governance: A Comparison of Desmigratif and Desbumi Approaches in Empowering and Protecting Indonesian Migrant Workers

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to compare the approaches of the Productive Migrant Village or Desa Migrant Produktif (Desmigratif) and Migrant Worker Care Village or Desa Peduli Buruh Migran (Desbumi) programs in the protecting and empowering Indonesian Migrant Workers (PMI), while simultaneously formulating migration governance framework at the rural level. Utilizing a Systematic Literature Review (SLR) method on 16 articles, it was found that Desmigratif emphasizes the economic strengthening and entrepreneurship while Desbumi focuses on the rights literacy and legal advocacy. Academically, the research contributes to the literature on sociology of development by synthesizing the technocratic-top-down approach of Desmigratif with the emancipatory-bottom-up approach of Desbumi through the lens of Giddens' Structuration Theory. This integration offers a new conceptual framework called 'Rural Migration Governance', which explains how formal state structures and community agency can be synchronized to create a holistic protection model for migrant workers. The results conclude that the synergy of the two models is crucial to create a holistic and sustainable protection model. The research suggests policy makers integrate both interventions into a comprehensive village regulatory framework.

Keywords: Desbumi, Desmigratif, Migrant Workers, Rural Empowerment, Systematic Literature Review

INTRODUCTION

Migration abroad remains a key career path for many job seekers in Indonesia. This is confirmed by the latest data from the Indonesian Migrant Workers Protection Agency (BP2MI), which revealed that monthly placements from the top five provinces averaged 22,229 people between February and August 2025 (BP2MI, 2025). Although global disruptions, particularly the COVID-19 pandemic, caused a sharp decline in 2020 and 2021, the sector has shown a strong recovery. By 2024, Indonesian Migrant Worker Placement Agency or *Badan Penempatan Pekerja Migran Indonesia* (BP2MI) were expected to reach nearly 300,000 workers (BP2MI, 2024). The trend demonstrates that, despite economic fluctuations, labor migration remains a highly desirable option. The reason it can happen is because working abroad could bring socio-economic opportunities.

These socio-economic opportunities do not come for the migrant workers themselves, but they also become an important pillar for the nation's economy. Based on the Next Indonesia (2025) report, in 2024, remittances from these workers reached approximately IDR 248.8 trillion, marking a substantial 66.2% increase since 2015. These financial contributions have cemented their reputation as foreign exchange heroes or in Bahasa Indonesia it is called *pahlawan devisa*, highlighting their dual role as economic drivers and social stabilizers in their home communities (Kusumawati, 2017).

However, behind the label of *pahlawan devisa*, Indonesian migrant workers face diverse and systemic challenges and obstacles to reach their success. These challenges and obstacles injure every stage of the migration cycle, from preparing for departure and employment abroad to reintegration back into their home regions. For example, prospective migrant workers often face detrimental employment contracts

and significant financial burdens, especially for those forced to migrate due to debt (Anggara et al., 2024). Therefore, the challenges and obstacles such as legal documentation issues, limited access to information, and lack of critical technical skills continue to threaten the safety and well-being of prospective workers (Anggara et al., 2024; Hartono & Samsuria, 2021).

The challenges and obstacles in the departure then persist at their destinations, where migrant workers remain vulnerable to various forms of abuse, including exploitation, systemic discrimination, and wage theft (Fitria, 2023; Nasir & Muhidin, 2025). Female migrant workers, in particular, face a higher risk of sexual harassment and contract violations, and bear the burden of the family left behind (Fitria, 2023; Sumarti et al., 2022). Furthermore, the suffering often continues after their return. When they return to the hometown, reintegration poses significant social, psychological, and economic barriers (Ladegaard, 2023). For many women, the return is often accompanied by increased financial and moral stress, and in some cases, a recurrence of domestic violence (Chan & Piper, 2024).

The multitude of challenges faced by migrant workers at the different phases of pre-departure, employment and reintegration highlight that villages are much more than just geographic locations. Instead, they serve as structural nodes which are currently reconstructing the landscape of village-level migrant protection. In many rural environments, the lack of job opportunities, reduced access to land and low prices for agricultural products compel residents to make migration their main survival strategy. Villages, thus, act as a catalyst for more labor-intensive outflows at both the level of domestic employment and employment abroad (Basrowi, 2019; Sihaloho et al., 2016)

Weak regulations and administrative services, legal assistance, data collection and safe migration education at the village level led to prospective migrants being dependent on informal networks such as brokers and sponsors which leads to debt bondage, undocumented status and low skills readiness. Upon return, however, fragile local economic structures and weak productive remittance management undermine household and community level vulnerabilities (Bastaman et al., 2020). Under these conditions, the villages themselves become a factor encouraging circular migration or recurrent migration by migrant workers.

Interventions addressing the challenges faced by Indonesian Migrant Workers (PMI) are now shifting to rural loci as the primary basis for protection. In this dynamic, two main initiatives have emerged with different paradigms yet operating in the same geographic space. The Indonesian government implements the *Desa Migran Produktif* (Desmigratif) program, which emphasizes formal-economic integration through entrepreneurship and the institutionalization of village-level administrative role (Nuzula et al., 2024; Sutrisno & Zuhri, 2024). On the other hand, the non-governmental sector through *Desa Peduli Buruh Migran* (Desbumi) which focuses more on rights-based approach, focusing on political advocacy, community-led protection, and the empowerment of migrant women's collectives (Rohimi, 2021; Wafiroh & Septiarti, 2024).

However, previous studies generally still view these two programs separately or merely as technical-administrative evaluations. There is a gap in the literature in understanding how these two approaches interact. Furthermore, while previous research has broadly described migration challenges, the existing literature tends to cover protection programs partially. For example, Sutrisno & Zuhri's (2024) study focuses more on the bureaucratic aspects of village law but overlooks the informal community power, while Wafiroh & Septiarti (2024) study focuses on community agency in former migrant worker education without linking it to formal state structures. Consequently, the existing literature fails to provide a synergistic model that integrates these two paradigms.

This study argues that migration management at the grassroots level, a part of the study of rural sociology, is not merely a matter of bureaucratic procedure, but a complex result of power relations, social capital, and local institutional capacity (Lavenex & Piper, 2019; Sumarti et al., 2022). Therefore, this research introduces the framework of 'Rural Migration' Governance as a conceptual lens to bridge the gap between state-led and community-based protection models.

To provide a strong analytical position, this study adopts Anthony Giddens' Structuration Theory as its theoretical framework. Anthony Giddens' Structuration Theory addresses classical sociology through the idea of the duality of structure, which states that structure in the form of rules and resources and agency cannot be understood as two separate or mutually negating entities (Ritzer, 2004). In this perspective, structure is not rigidly constraining, but also empowering and it only becomes manifest when it is repeatedly practiced by actors through concrete actions (Giddens, 1984). Conversely, human agency never operates in a vacuum completely free from social determination. Instead, it is always

guided by existing structures while also influencing them through reflexive social practices. This simultaneous reciprocal relationship is referred to as the process of structuration, where structure produces human actions, and these actions continuously reproduce, modify, or transform structures continuously.

Through the lens of Anthony Giddens's structuration theory, this article does not pit the Desmigratif and Desbumi approaches against a rigid dichotomy of structure versus agency. Instead, both programs are viewed as dynamic arenas of structuration at the local level. Both the state-initiated Desmigratif and the community-driven Desbumi essentially presuppose and reproduce each other, where formal institutional rules and citizens' emancipatory actions intertwine within the village bureaucracy.

The novelty offered in this research is a comparative-synthetic analysis to dissect the meeting points between the state's top-down approach and civil society's bottom-up approach. By using the Systematic Literature Review (SLR) method that follows systematic procedures (Snyder, 2019), this study aims to compare the approaches of Desmigratif and Desbumi in empowering and protecting migrant workers and to develop a village-based migration governance framework to formulate an integrated model that the author defines as 'Rural Migration Governance'. This term is proposed to encapsulate the intersection between formal state administration and informal community-based advocacy at the village level, a dimension that has been under-theorized in current migration studies.

METHODS

Systematic Literature Review

This study employed the Systematic Literature Review (SLR) method to collect and critically evaluate articles related to village-level migration interventions. The SLR method was chosen based on its ability to provide a comprehensive, transparent, and objective review of the existing literature (Snyder, 2019). The use of this method is crucial in comparative studies because it allows researchers to identify inconsistencies and research gaps, and provides a valid database (Kraus et al., 2022) for systematically comparing the effectiveness of the Desmigratif and Desbumi programs. With the SLR, the analysis is not merely descriptive but also synthesizes findings from various previous studies into a new governance framework.

Analysis Processes of Literature Review

The SLR method in this research uses PRISMA 2009 (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis) (Moher et al., 2010) to ensure validity and replication regarding research procedures. The analysis process started with an identification stage through the Google Scholar database from 2010 to 2025 using specific keywords related to Desmigratif and Desbumi, which resulted in an initial finding of 595 articles. This number was then filtered through a screening stage based on the relevance of the sociological title and abstract, and narrowed down with additional keywords such as 'role' (*peran*), 'empowerment' (*pemberdayaan*), and advocacy (*advokasi*) to leave 109 potential articles.

Subsequently, the 109 selected articles are assessed with the inclusion and exclusion criteria based on Table 1. The main criteria in this process are to ensure that only peer review articles bringing deep analysis about the dynamic of migration in rural areas. From the previous process, 16 articles consisting of 8 articles related to Desmigratif program, and 8 articles related to Desbumi program were selected to be compared and synthesized. The articles have been selected using Zotero reference management software to facilitate the organization, duplication, and consistent citation formatting throughout the process. The collected data were then processed using comparative thematic analysis techniques to systematically dissect the sustainability dimensions, impacts, and implementation challenges of both programs (Snyder, 2019).

Table 1. Determination of criteria in literature studies

Types of Criteria	Inclusion criteria	Exclusion criteria
Research Fields	Social Sciences and Humanities	Beyond Social Sciences and Humanities
Topic	Empowerment and advocacy	Not related to empowerment and advocacy
Publication Year	2010-2025	Outside the specified range
Publication Source	Peer-reviewed academic journal	Types of external sources
Publication type	Journal articles	Beyond journal articles

Through the application of inclusion and exclusion as shown in Table 1, this research seeks to ensure that only relevant articles are synthesized. To maintain transparency in the article selection process, a systematic flow image was strengthened from the initial identification of 595 to 16 articles. The detailed procedure of this literature screening is visually presented in the PRISMA 2009 flow diagram in Figure 1.

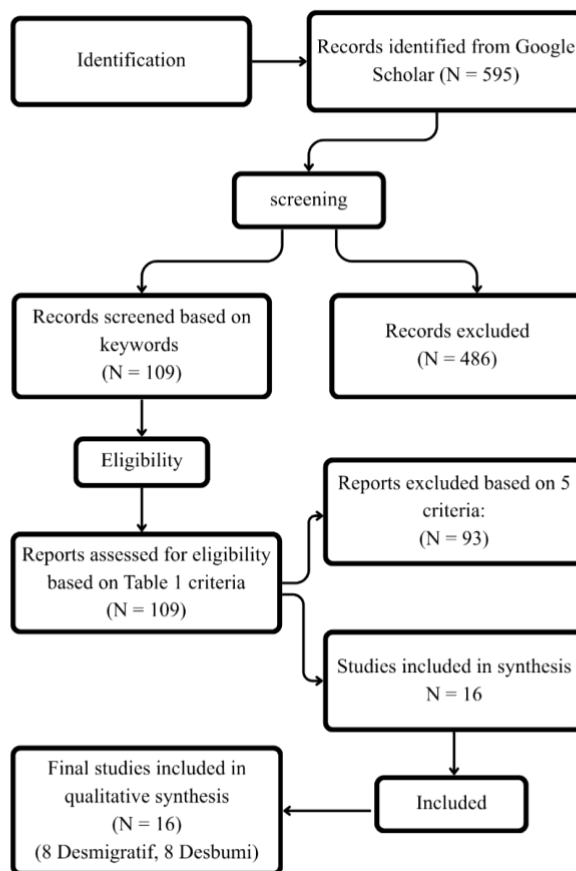


Figure 1. Library Research Flowchart (adapted from Snyder, 2019)

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Characteristics of the Programs

Studies on Desmigratif (Table 2) show that this program formalizes the protection of migrant workers by strengthening the role of village government institutions (Rahmayanti, 2021). The main focus of this literature is the economic transformation of post-migrants through the pillars of entrepreneurship and family productivity to reduce dependence on working abroad (Ikrimah et al., 2020; Karyati & Adiwirahayu, 2018; Rahmayanti, 2021). Furthermore, the use of migration service information centers is a key national strategy in reducing the rate of unprocedural migration at the village level (Sitamala, 2023). However, the effectiveness of this program depends heavily on the readiness of local human resources to carry out these bureaucratic functions.

In contrast to the government's approach, the literature on Desbumi (Table 3) places greater emphasis on grassroots-based political empowerment and rights protection. The main focus of Desbumi program is the establishment of migrant worker community organizations that serve as support systems and advocacy spaces (Afwā & Hartini, 2023; Rohimi, 2021). Previous studies have highlighted the importance of leadership and gender mainstreaming in addressing migrant vulnerabilities in rural areas. Desbumi is considered to have more flexibility in responding to protect cases because of its strong social capital at the community level (Arohmi, 2020; Darnela & Sugitanata, 2024; Sutrisno & Zuhri, 2024). However, a key challenge identified is the sustainability of the program, which often relies on external funding from non-governmental organizations (Wijaya & Setiyono, 2020).

Table 2. Literature review related to Desmigratif

Title	Writer	Year	Objective	Method	Key Findings	Research Deficiencies
Design of Assistance Program for Optimization of Indonesian Labor Household Remittance in Mojorejo Migrant Productive Village	Ikrimah et al.	2020	Identifying alternative ways to increase the productivity of migrant worker households through optimizing remittances and designing financial management programs.	Descriptive qualitative research and systematic review, interviews, field surveys, and secondary data analysis.	This study identifies poor remittance management as a challenge and proposes training programs on financial planning, entrepreneurship, and business development.	Gaps in understanding about the long-term impact of optimizing remittances on local community growth.
Pelaksanaan Program Desmigratif sebagai Upaya Pengurangan Jumlah Pekerja Migran Indonesia Non Prosedural	Putri	2020	Analysis of Desmigratif implementation to reduce Indonesian migrant workers who do not follow official procedures.	Empirical legal research, interviews, and case studies.	Desmigratif has successfully provided migration services and information centers to help reduce non-procedural migration.	Lack of full implementation across all regions and coordination gaps.
The Empowerment of Post Indonesian Migrant Workers' Families Through a Productive Migrant Village Program	Mindarti & Anggraeni	2020	Exploring the empowerment of post-migration migrant worker families through Desmigratif in Bedali Village.	Qualitative research, observation, and interviews with stakeholders.	This program helps improve the entrepreneurial skills of migrant worker families, but faces challenges such as limited capital and lack of marketing knowledge.	More structured training programs and financial support are needed for migrant workers' families.
Optimalisasi Pusat Layanan Migrasi di Masa Pandemi Covid-19	Rahmayanti	2021	Research on optimizing the Desmigratif information service center during the Covid-19 pandemic.	Qualitative research focusing on government communication strategies and adjustments during the pandemic.	The Services of the program have adapted well to the pandemic by using technology. Staff training has been enhanced to improve communication with migrants and stakeholders.	It is important to evaluate the sustainability of technology adaptation beyond the pandemic period.
Strategi Pelaksanaan Program Desa Migran Produktif di Desa Kuripan	Karyati & Adiwirahayu	2022	Explaining the implementation strategy of the Desmigratif program in Kuripan Village along with supporting and inhibiting factors.	Descriptive qualitative research with observation, interviews, and documentation.	The program has been successful by the progresses of strong community involvement, despite facing challenges such as budget constraints and resistance from local communities.	The challenges faced include limited resources and knowledge gaps in society.
Pemberdayaan Calon Pekerja Migran (CPMI) Melalui Program Desa Migran Produktif (Desmigratif)	Sitamala	2023	Exploring the empowerment of prospective migrant workers through the Productive Migrant Village Program in villages.	Mixed methods, field surveys, and interviews.	The empowerment program has increased community understanding and knowledge about the migration process.	Greater financial support and marketing knowledge are required to grow the business.
Strategi Preventif Pemerintah Nusa Tenggara Barat dalam Mewujudkan Zero Unprocedural PMI	Hariani & Rijal	2023	Analyzing prevention efforts in NTB to reduce non-procedural migrant workers by optimizing Desmigratif.	Descriptive research with interviews and secondary data.	These efforts have successfully reduced illegal migration by providing better information and access to services through Desmigratif.	Further research is needed on the effectiveness of prevention programs in various regions in Indonesia.
Strategi Peningkatan Kesejahteraan Pekerja Migran Indonesia (PMI) Purna Wanita Melalui Program Desmigratif	Dwiningwarni	2025	Examining strategies to improve the welfare of female migrant workers after returning through the Desmigratif program.	Combined research with SWOT analysis and interviews.	This program has had a positive impact in empowering female migrant workers by providing business opportunities and community-based support.	Further research is needed on the long-term economic sustainability of these empowerment efforts.

Table 3. Literature review related to Desbumi

Title	Writer	Year	Objective	Method	Key Findings	Research Deficiencies
Perlindungan Pekerja Migran dari perspektif Community Development (Studi Kasus Desa Nyerot Kec. Jonggat Kab. Lombok Tengah Prov. Nusa Tenggara Barat)	Wijaya & Setiyono	2020	Exploring the role of migrant worker care programs in strengthening community development in Nyerot Village.	Qualitative case study.	The Desbumi program in Nyerot Village strengthens community awareness and empowers migrant workers.	Further studies are needed on the sustainability and scalability of such community-based initiatives.
The Legal Protection of Illegal Indonesian Workers in Malaysia	Arohmi	2020	Analyzing legal protection for illegal Indonesian migrant workers in Malaysia.	Normative-empirical legal research with interviews and secondary data analysis.	Law Number 18 of 2017 does not differentiate between the protection of legal and illegal migrant workers.	Research on the effectiveness of the international legal framework for illegal migrant workers.
Assistance for Female Migrant Workers (Case Study of the Migrant Worker Care Village Program (Desbumi) in Darek Village, Praya Barat Daya District, Central Lombok Regency)	Rohimi	2021	Analyzing the role of the Desbumi Program in guiding female migrant workers in Darek Village.	Field research with interviews, documentation, and observation.	The Desbumi program has three roles: information center, mobility data center, and case advocacy center.	Further research is needed on the long-term effectiveness of the Desbumi program.
The Role of NGOs in Empowering Women Returned Indonesian Migrant Workers in Central Lombok, West Nusa Tenggara	Widyastuti	2022	Evaluating the reach and implementation model of the Desbumi program in various regions of Indonesia.	Qualitative descriptive research with program data review and field reports.	The Desbumi program has covered 41 villages in 5 provinces and has succeeded in building a protection system through village regulations (Perdes).	A more in-depth analysis is needed regarding the challenges in regenerating community managers.
Strengthening migrant CARE: A comprehensive approach to ensure worker protection and safeguard the rights of Indonesian migrants	Afwa & Hartini	2023	Analyzing the role of Migrant Care as an NGO in protecting PMI, focusing on legal protection and advocacy.	Qualitative methodology (normative legal research).	Focuses on direct protection rights, policy advocacy, and public education for migrant protection rights.	Less field data; less dissecting of specific operational variations in each region.
Tackling for Human Trafficking: Village based Movement of Migrant Workers in Lembata, Indonesia	Darnela & Kharlie	2023	Examining village efforts to combat human trafficking through community development programs.	Qualitative research with observation, interviews, and discussions.	Village communities in Lembata have successfully provided alternative livelihoods and support.	Further research is needed on how community-led initiatives can reduce trafficking risks.
Perempuan Pekerja: Kesejahteraan dalam Larangan Menjadi Buruh Migran di Dusun Sade, NTB	Darnela & Sugitanata	2024	Analyzing the cultural arguments of the Sasak people in implementing the ban on female migrant workers.	Qualitative research, interviews with local leaders and community members.	Cultural and legal basis for the ban on female migrant workers in Sade.	Research is needed on the impact of this ban on the socio-economic development of the community.
Protecting Migrant Workers: The Legal Role of Village Governments	Sutrisno & Zuhri	2024	Analyzing the role of village governments in protecting migrant workers through local policies.	Descriptive qualitative research, case studies of villages.	Villages have an important role in documenting, assisting, and fighting for the rights of migrant workers.	Legal gaps in the protection of migrant workers at the local level require further analysis.

The literature summary presented in Table 2 focuses on government-led immigration programs, highlighting their structural and administrative achievements. However, to provide the comprehensive comparison required by this study, it is important to examine how non-governmental initiatives fill the gaps left by state intervention. Therefore, Table 3 presents a group of secondary literature focusing on the Desbumi program and community-led advocacy. These two tables collectively provide the raw data that will be further analyzed and synthesized in the next section to formulate an integrated governance model.

Comparison of the Two Programs

Similarities of the Two Programs. The first fundamental similarity between Desmigratif and Desbumi is the placement of villages as the primary locus in the migrant worker protection system. Both programs are based on the recognition that migrant vulnerability begins at the grassroots level, making village-level interventions crucial for mitigating the risk of future exploitation (Ikrimah et al., 2020; Rohimi, 2021). Both the government, through the Ministry of Manpower, and civil society, through NGO networks, recognize that strengthening local institutions is key to creating a safer and more integrated migration ecosystem (Arohmi, 2020; Mindarti & Anggraeni, 2020).

Furthermore, both programs share a common target group that are vulnerable migrants, former migrants, and family members left behind in their villages of origin. A focus on economic empowerment and social protection is a shared agenda to improve the welfare of migrant communities and enhance their bargaining power (Darnela & Kharlie, 2023; Dwiningwarni et al., 2025; Hariani & Rijal, 2023). Although using different instruments, these two initiatives seek to address the challenge of rural poverty, which is often the main driving factor behind unprocedural migration in various regions in Indonesia (Karyati & Adiwirahayu, 2018; Sitamala, 2023; Sutrisno & Zuhri, 2024).

Differences of the Two Programs. Sharp differences begin to emerge in the authority and its primary driving mechanisms. Desmigratif is top-down and based on state bureaucracy. Desmigratif relies heavily on formal instructions, village government structures, and rigid state budget allocations to implement its pillars (Putri, 2020; Rahmayanti, 2021). In contrast, Desbumi operates with a bottom-up logic that relies on social capital, voluntary citizen participation, and the flexibility of civil society movements that are not bound by complicated bureaucratic procedures (Afwā & Hartini, 2023; Rohimi, 2021). This creates a difference in the speed of response to emergencies in the field.

In terms of protection, Desmigratif places greater emphasis on administrative-legal aspects by providing integrated migration information services at village offices. The goal is to ensure all departure documents comply with applicable regulations to minimize human trafficking practices (Sutrisno & Zuhri, 2024). On the other hand, Desbumi goes further by directly addressing rights advocacy and legal aid through the formation of community paralegals (Afwā & Hartini, 2023; Wijaya & Setiyono, 2020). Desbumi goes beyond simply completing documents, but also ensures migrants have a critical awareness of their rights as workers abroad.

In terms of economic empowerment, Desmigratif excels in access to capital and structured entrepreneurship training through the pillar of productive businesses. This program seeks to foster independence among post-migrants through the formation of village business groups technically supported by professional instructors (Karyati & Adiwirahayu, 2018; Rahmayanti, 2021). In the other side, Desbumi chose other path that economic empowerment run fluidly based on community approach (Rohimi, 2021). Desbumi's focus is more on long-term family economic resilience than simply creating formal, institutionalized business units if it is compared with Desmigratif.

Psychosocial support and popularizing or mainstreaming gender related issues are also significant differentiators between these two initiatives in practice. Desbumi is specifically strong in creating a safe space for migrant women to share experiences and receive emotional support from fellow former migrants (Darnela & Kharlie, 2023; Rohimi, 2021). Despite its community parenting pillar, Desmigratif often focuses on the technical and administrative aspects of childcare rather than building in-depth gender awareness that can be seen from the research finding of Dwiningwarni et al. (2025) and Putri (2020). As a result, the emotional and traumatic dimensions of migration are more effectively addressed through the community approach offered by Desbumi.

Result of the Comparison. Based on the evident of this research shows that Desmigratif program has succeeded in building the infrastructure of migration data. The existence of migration service units in rural areas helps the government map the distribution of migrant workers while facilitating the monitoring process. (Putri, 2020; Rahmayanti, 2021). Moreover, the program acts as a bridge for the migrant worker and the families to manage the remittances through small and medium enterprises, ensuring that the migration activities in some rural areas can foster local economic growth. In the context of Giddens' Theory, this infrastructure has been made by Desmigratif Program does not merely operate as a rigid, passive structure of state control. Rather, it functions as an enabling structure that only develops through the active agency of village officials and local facilitators who operationalize the technical frameworks into daily administrative practices.

On the other side, Desbumi focuses on rural migration issues advocacy by establishing community-based information centers. The Desbumi program makes more effective the fostering movement sustainability due to a growing sense of ownership among residents (Rohimi, 2021; Wijaya & Setiyono, 2020). The program's success is not measured just by budget absorption, but rather by how well the community is able to defend its members in legal cases. In Giddens' terms, this resilience exemplifies collective agency in navigating local migration challenges. However, the agency does not operate in a structural reinforcement, such as local village regulations or *Peraturan Desa (Perdes)* and formal legal decrees, to gain institutional legitimacy within the village bureaucracy.

Based on the discussion above, although the two programs sometimes overlap, for example in the dualism of data service centers, this situation actually holds significant potential for complementarity through the structuring process. Desmigratif provides the formal legal framework and financial support, but these structural elements are continuously animated and monitored on the ground by the social energy of Desbumi (Rohimi, 2021; Sutrisno & Zuhri, 2024). In Giddens' logic, Desmigratif's institutional capacity acts as an enabling structure, while Desbumi's flexibility reflects reflexive agency capable of dynamic movement when the formal bureaucracy faces limitations. This reciprocal relationship is a key to a more humane future for rural migration governance in Indonesia. To see how this integration works, the following comparison table maps how the dimensions of structure and agency complement each other within the two approaches.

Table 4. Comparative matrix of the two programs

Comparison Aspect	Desmigratif	Desbumi
Institutional Orientation	Technocratic-Administrative	Emancipatory-Advocacy
Leading Sector	State-driven (Ministry of Manpower)	Civil Society (NGOs like Migrant Care)
Implementation Model	Top-Down (State-led regulations)	Bottom-up (Community-based movement)
Structural Dimension	Formal state budget, official bureaucratic networks, legal-rational legitimacy, and standardized infrastructure.	Institutionalization through Village Regulations (<i>Perdes</i>), formal community decrees, and local legal aid structures.
Agency Dimension (Human Action)	Active adaptation, mobilization, and field operationalization by village officials and local facilitators.	Grassroots solidarity, collective consciousness, volunteerism, and paralegal advocacy by former migrant workers
Primary Challenge	High dependency on state budget and bureaucratic continuity	Sustainability of volunteerism issues and limited formal authority

The comparison presented in Table 4 shows that, rather than being in conflicting paradigmatic tensions, Desmigratif and Desbumi actually reflect two complementary sociological dimensions within the rural space. Desmigratif operates with a technocratic-bureaucratic structure, where the state provides formal systems and structured economic incentives. In contrast, Desbumi mobilizes the emancipatory agency of civil society, emphasizing the importance of community institutionalization and rights-based advocacy. The dialogue between these two approaches demonstrates that Desmigratif's success in strengthening the economy will be far more robust if integrated with efforts to dismantle legal vulnerabilities championed by Desbumi. Therefore, the synthesis proposed in this study is not simply a technical merger, but rather a form of reconciliation that brings together the state's regulatory capacity with the community's reflexive action within a unified structuration ecosystem.

Model Synthesis: Four-Pillar Rural Migration Governance

After comparing both programs, this study proposes a synthetic model that combines the strengths of Desmigratif and Desbumi programs. This model is operationalized through four pillars as summarized in Table 5, which together create a comprehensive migrant worker protection ecosystem at the village level. The detailed elaboration of these pillars is as follows:

Table 5. Matrix of the Four-Pillar Rural Migration Governance Framework

Governance Dimension	Integrated Components (Desmigratif + Desbumi)	Strategic Function in the Framework
Legal-Administrative	One Village Data & Integrated Service Center	Combining formal documentation with real-time field monitoring to ensure early detection of unprocedural migration
Economic-Productive	Synergistic Remittance & Entrepreneurship	Linking state-funded productive business models with community mentoring to build sustainable economic resilience for migrant families
Right-Based Advocacy	Inclusive Village Regulation	Providing a legal umbrella that legitimizes both bureaucratic procedures and grassroots advocacy for right-based protection
Psychosocial & Gender Awareness	Village Coordination Forum & Safe Spaces	Facilitating cultural negotiations and community leadership to ensure migration protection respects local norms and gender sensitivity

The first pillar is Legal-Administrative Protection. This pillar integrates Desmigratif's technology-based migration service center (Rahmayanti, 2021) with Desbumi's function as a data center and citizen advocacy (Rohimi, 2021). This synergy is realized through the "One Village Data" initiative, which facilitates integrated information services for Prospective Indonesian Migrant Workers (CPMI) (Sitamala, 2023) and serves as an early detection system for non-procedural migration practices (Putri, 2020) to ensure the safety of citizens' migration.

The second pillar focuses on Economic-Productive Empowerment. This pillar aims to mitigate the risk of Human Trafficking (TPPO) by providing alternative livelihoods in villages of origin (Darnela & Kharlie, 2023). Entrepreneurship and marketing training from the Desmigratif program (Mindarti & Anggraeni, 2020) serves as an instrument for Desbumi to strengthen residents' economic resilience. This collaboration also includes productive remittance management (Ikrimah et al., 2020), particularly for vulnerable female migrant families, to ensure long-term economic sustainability at the domestic level (Dwiningwarnia et al., 2025).

The third pillar encompasses Rights-Based Advocacy and Literacy. This effort aims to fill the legal vacuum at the village level through regulatory synchronization. Village governments can adopt the Desbumi protection framework into inclusive Village Regulations (Perdes) (Sutrisno & Zuhri, 2024; Wijaya & Setiyono, 2020). The essence of this pillar is to ensure legal protection remains in place for all residents, including those with non-procedural status, in line with universal human rights principles (Arohmi, 2020) and to strengthen workers' bargaining power under the law through collaboration with non-governmental organizations (Afwa & Hartini, 2023).

The fourth pillar is Psychosocial and Gender Support. As a balancing pillar, this approach emphasizes cultural negotiation and community leadership to overcome social resistance or clashes with customary norms in government programs (Darnela & Kharlie, 2023; Karyati & Adiwirahayu, 2018). By strengthening local leadership and creating "safe spaces" for women (Wijaya & Setiyono, 2020), this model ensures that empowerment continues to respect the socio-rural context. If local norms limit women's mobility, the collaboration between the two programs focuses on strengthening the local economy so that financial needs are met without harming the local social order.

The formulation of this Rural Migration Governance model is conceptually validated through the lens of Anthony Giddens' Structuration Theory and triangulation of sixteen reviewed literature articles. Theoretically, this four-pillar framework does not emerge in a vacuum but rather represents a structural duality in which the formal bureaucratic rules of Desmigratif and the concrete community actions of Desbumi continuously reinforce each other. This model aligns with the decentering migration governance perspective proposed by Triandafyllidou (2022) and Chetail (2025), which argues that the

effectiveness of protection is determined by the synergy between state and non-state actors at the local level.

By synthesizing findings from various studies covering the legal role of village government and community-based empowerment, this model ensures that the rural migration protection approach has a strong theoretical foundation and empirical evidence. This validation confirms that the integration of technocratic forces and emancipatory agencies can overcome bureaucratic limitations while ensuring the sustainability of advocacy movements at the grassroots level. A visual representation of this systemic integration flow is depicted in Figure 2.

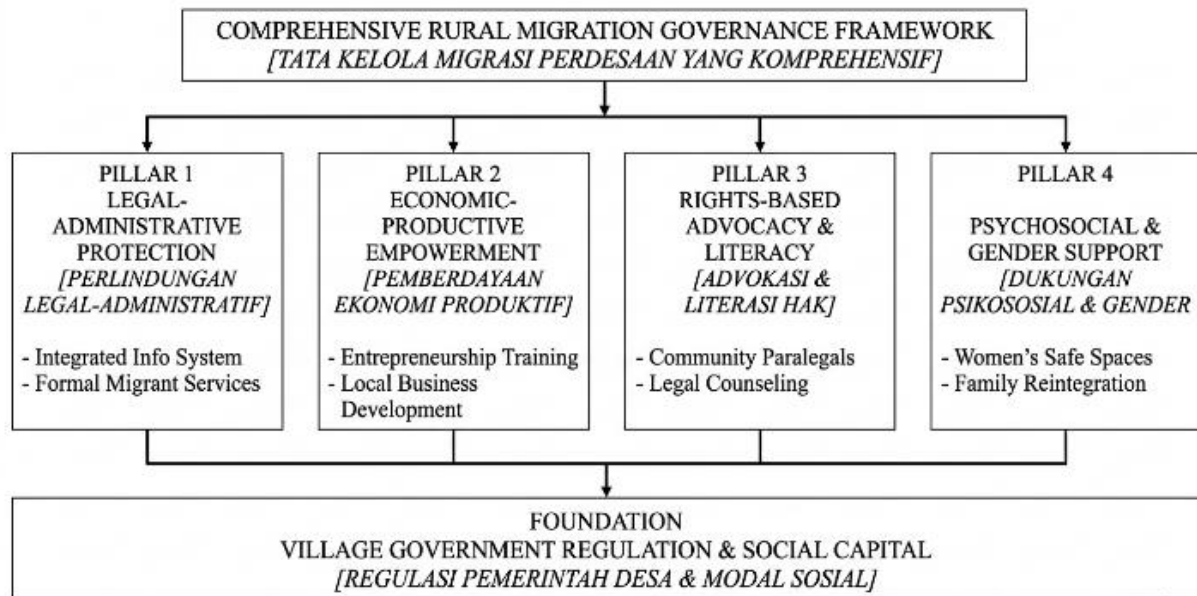


Figure 2. Proposed Synthesis Model: 4-Pillar Rural Migration Governance Framework.

Theoretical and Policy Implication

Theoretical Implication. The findings of this study significantly contribute to the development of the concept of Rural Migration Governance, which integrates rural sociology with migration governance mechanisms. Theoretically, the results of this study demonstrate that migration in rural areas has multidirectional dynamics influenced by socio-economic factors such as livelihoods and local labor markets. This supports the argument that rural migration governance must go beyond traditional categories such as "economic migrants" or "refugees" to consider the unique labor market segmentation in diverse rural spaces (Medland, 2021).

The synthesis of the four-pillar model in this study also broadens understanding of governance structures in rural areas, which are synchronizing formal state authority with participatory collaborative arrangements. The theoretical implication is the need for the involvement of non-state actors, including civil society and local organizations, in managing migration issues at the grassroots level. As Arora-Jonsson & Larsson (2021) argue, this collaborative governance model is crucial for addressing the "double isolation" phenomenon often experienced by migrants in rural areas, where they are disconnected from both ethnic networks and local communities.

Furthermore, this study provides a foundation for a pluralistic and decentralized governance approach by incorporating a rural perspective as a core analysis. Theoretically, the integration of migration governance principles into rural sociology helps explain demographic transitions and resource management influenced by both in- and out-migration patterns. Therefore, decentering migration governance is crucial to addressing the unique challenges of rural areas that are often overlooked by urban-centric policies (Triandafyllidou, 2022).

Finally, the theoretical implications of this study emphasize that governance failures at the local level can perpetuate unsustainable migration patterns and hinder social integration. These findings confirm the findings of Nurlinah et al. (2020) that rural development that fails to address fundamental socio-

economic challenges will actually complicate migration dynamics at the village level. Therefore, the integration of migration governance and rural sociology offers a new framework for promoting sustainable rural development through multi-actor and multi-level governance mechanisms.

Policy Implication. To operationalize these findings, this study proposes several concrete policy steps. First and foremost, the government should mandate the establishment of a Village Migration Coordination Forum (*Forum Koordinasi Desa*). This forum will serve as a formal institutional bridge that synchronizes the technocratic functions of Desmigratif (state-based) with the social energy of Desbumi (community-based).

Second, this coordination forum must be supported by a strong legal framework in the form of a Village Regulation (*Perdes*). This legal basis is crucial for providing a clear mandate for allocating Village Funds for migrant worker protection programs. As suggested by Shi et al. (2025), such inclusive policies are vital for managing the impacts of migration on public space governance and ensuring the sustainability of rural communities amidst strong migration flows.

Second, migration policy in Indonesia must shift from a top-down approach to a more inclusive governance model that prioritizes local perspectives. Strengthening village institutional capacity, as reflected in the integration of Desmigratif and Desbumi functions, is essential to prevent unskilled migration patterns and exploitation. The government needs to ensure that every migration policy is based on a thorough understanding of the specific challenges in rural areas so that migrant integration and community development can proceed harmoniously and sustainably.

Finally, the integration of multi-actor governance mechanisms involving the private sector, the state, and civil society actors must become the new standard. By institutionalizing these locally specific mechanisms, migration governance can shift from a fragmented, top-down approach to a sustainable, equitable, and transparent multi-level protection ecosystem (Chetail, 2025).

CONCLUSION

This study concludes that Desmigratif and Desbumi have distinct yet complementary characteristics within the spectrum of migrant worker protection. Desmigratif, as a government initiative, focuses on strengthening technocratic-economic aspects through migration service centers and productive empowerment. In contrast, Desbumi, driven by civil society, emphasizes emancipatory legal aspects through human rights advocacy and strengthening social capital at the village level. The current inconsistency can be resolved by integrating the two programs into a single, integrated framework.

The main contribution of this research is a proposal related to the rural migration governance framework as a synthesis of rural sociology and migration governance. This framework emphasizes that migration governance in villages must not only be limited to administrative bureaucracy, but must also emphasize the sociological reality aspects of local communities, which in the context of this research are village communities. By combining the economic pillar of Desmigratif and the advocacy pillar of Desbumi, villages can build a hybrid protection system, that not only manages data and capital, but also protects human rights and provides early detection of unprocedural migration risks.

Based on the research findings, it is recommended that governments codify policies that integrate the intervention services implemented by Desmigratif and Desbumi. Governments, especially village governments, are encouraged not to rely solely on funding from the central government but also to contextualize the role of social services and their legitimacy within the village government structure through village regulations or *Peraturan Desa* (*Perdes*). This is crucial to ensure the sustainability of migrant worker and family protection in the absence of central government funding.

This study has limitations because it relies entirely on a systematic literature review, which therefore fails to capture variations in implementation across Indonesia's diverse cultural regions. Future research needs to conduct empirical field verification to test the extent to which the four-pillar model of Rural Migration Governance can be effectively operationalized. Furthermore, further research is needed on the role of local leadership in bridging conflicts between formal state regulations and customary norms regarding citizen mobility.

Conflict of Interest. The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Declaration of Generative AI Use. During the preparation of this work, the author(s) used GEMINI AI in order to improve academic writing and to make the article easier to be read. After using this tool, the author(s) reviewed and edited the content as needed and take full responsibility for the content of the published article.

Credit Contribution. **AK** conceptualization, methodology, data curation related to DESBUMI, and conducting analysis, especially the parts related to DESBUMI, as well as writing the initial draft; **MNR** data curation especially in the DESMIGRATIF section, reviewing and editing articles, and helping to conduct analysis related to DESMIGRATIF

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