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The Impact of International Women Labour Migration on Household Socio-Economic Status in the Post-COVID-19 Pandemic

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Abstract

The migration of female workers internationally influences the dynamics of their households of origin; however, the transformation of remittances into social prestige remains a complex issue. This study analyses the impact of international migration by female migrant workers on the socio-economic status of households in the post-pandemic era. Using a quantitative SEM-PLS approach, data were collected from 100 former female migrant workers in East Lombok. The results show that family social support (β=0.248, p=0.014) and working conditions in the destination country (β=0.464, p<0.001) significantly improve household economic status, whereas the economic motivation for migration does not (β=0.244, p=0.052). Furthermore, family social support (β=0.458, p<0.001) and economic status (β=0.332, p=0.006) significantly improved social status. Crucially, economic status played a significant mediating role only in the relationship between working conditions and social status (β=0.154, p=0.014); however, it failed to mediate the economic motivation pathway (β=0.081, p=0.146) due to the post-pandemic debt trap and local patriarchal barriers. Theoretically, this study expands the framework of the New Economics of Labour Migration. In practice, this implies that local governments must implement robust debt-mitigation programs to optimize household welfare.

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1. Introduction

The migration of Indonesian Women has generated diverse socio-economic implications for both migrants and their households. According to International Labour Organization (ILO), women account for approximately 48% of the global migrant population, with many engaged in informal sectors such domestic work, elderly care, and other service related occupations (ILO, 2020). Women migration worker, however, presents a dual impact. Economically, remittances from women migrant workers serve as a crucial source of household income in their home countries. These transfers are typically allocated to essential needs, including food, healthcare, children's education, housing, and, in some cases, small-scale business investments (Adams, 2006). Socially, however, prolonged physical absence often disrupts household dynamics, affecting childcare arrangements, family cohesion, and emotional bonds (Cooray, 2017)

Economic motives remain the primary driver for Indonesian women seeking employment overseas (Ibnu et al., 2021). In fact, women constitute the majority of Indonesia's migrant workforce. Data from the Indonesian Migrant Workers Protection Agency (BP2MI) indicates that prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 70% of Indonesian migrant workers were women, predominantly employed in informal sectors such as domestic work, caregiving, and related services in countries including Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, and the Middle East (BP2MI, 2022)**.** While their economic contributions are substantial, women migrants face heightened risks of exploitation, discrimination, and precarious working conditions in destination countries. The COVID-19 pandemic further exacerbated these vulnerabilities. Many women migrant workers faced job insecurity, reduced access to healthcare, and heightened exposure to gender-based violence (IOM, 2022). Moreover, job losses during the pandemic hindered their ability to send remittances, directly reducing household welfare in their home communities (Zhang et al., 2021). These circumstances underscore the paradox of women's migration, while it provides economic resilience through remittances, it simultaneously creates new vulnerabilities for both the migrants and their families.

In the post-pandemic era, migrant women face new challenges in social and economic reintegration in their countries of origin. Those who return to their home countries often face stigma, job uncertainty, and limited access to comprehensive reintegration services (IOM, 2020). However, some migrant women who have successfully brought positive changes to their households show that migration can be a tool for social and economic empowerment, depending on the support of state policies and the readiness of households to manage these changes (Bachan, 2018). In addition, after the pandemic, many migrant women workers returned to work abroad, hoping to get more income to support their families.

West Nusa Tenggara Province (NTB) is one of the main pockets of Indonesian Migrant Workers (PMI) senders, predominantly women migrant workers. Based on data from the Indonesian Migrant Workers Protection Agency (BP2MI), before the COVID-19 pandemic,

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NTB was ranked second as the province with the highest number of migrant workers in Indonesia, with the proportion of women migrant workers reaching more than 75% of the total migrant workers from NTB (BP2MI, 2022).

East Lombok Regency is one of the main sending areas of Indonesian Migrant Workers (PMI), predominantly women migrant workers, to various destination countries such as Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Hong Kong, and Singapore (BP2MI, 2022). BP2MI data shows that more than 50% of migrant workers from NTB come from East Lombok, with the proportion of women reaching 80% of the total migrant workforce in this district (BP2MI, 2022). The study by Sulistiyo & Wahyuni (2014) found that remittances of migrant women from East Lombok directly contribute to poverty reduction and improvement of the standard of living of migrant households. The study conducted by Herwanti (2017) showed that remittances from migrant workers in West Nusa Tenggara contributed to increased household income and sustainable development in the region. The main factors driving women's migration in East Lombok are the economic conditions of households, which are still dominated by the subsistence agricultural sector with low incomes, limited formal employment, and high poverty rates. BPS (2022**)** noted that the poverty rate in East Lombok in 2021 reached 18.12%, far above the national average. This condition encourages many households to make international migration a family economic strategy, where women lead as breadwinners through work abroad (Hamdi et al., 2022).

However, the social impact of women's migration also presents challenges that cannot be ignored. Migrant women who leave their families for long periods trigger disruption of traditional gender roles in the household. Childcare duties, which the mother usually carries out, are transferred to the husband or other relatives. The study by Graham (2015) found that children in NTB who were abandoned by their mothers, who worked as migrant workers, experienced emotional and psychosocial difficulties, such as a sense of loss, low academic achievement, and deviant behavior. In addition, changes in gender roles due to women's migration also impact power relations in the household. On the one hand, remittances increase women's bargaining position as the main breadwinners. When migrant women return home, they often face conflicts Piper & Lee, 2022. This tension is often triggered by social jealousy, unequal distribution of domestic roles, and differences in expectations regarding the allocation of remittances (Avila & Parrenas, 2002)

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the impact on migrant women who have lost their jobs suddenly and drastically reduced remittances. World Bank (2021) reported a decline in remittances to Indonesia of around 17% in 2020, which significantly impacted households in areas such as NTB that are heavily dependent on such remittances. At the local level, Hamdi (2022) researches how many migrant families in NTB are forced to sell productive assets or go into debt to make ends meet during the pandemic. Many families are forced into debt or sell their assets to meet basic needs, exacerbating pre-existing economic vulnerabilities (Raharto, 2021). The pandemic has also posed social challenges for migrant women returning

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to NTB. They often face stigma as carriers of the COVID-19 virus, which exacerbates their social marginalization. On the other hand, post-migration social and economic reintegration in NTB still faces various obstacles, ranging from limited access to skills training to a lack of business capital support for returning migrant women (Andriani et al., 2023).

The innovation of this research lies in its empirical focus on female former migrant workers in East Lombok one of Indonesia's main labour-sending regions in the post-COVID-19 era, analysed structurally using Structural Equation Modelling–Partial Least Squares (SEM-PLS). By utilising SEM-PLS, this study goes beyond descriptive reporting to uncover the complex, non-linear structural pathways and hidden statistical mechanisms that govern how material and social capital is transferred, blocked or renegotiated within rural communities facing post-crisis debt traps. Consequently, this study offers significant multidimensional value. Its main contributions are to enrich the academic literature on gendered migration, the allocation of remittances under economic pressure, and broader socio-economic transformations within migrant households. Theoretically, this study expands the frameworks of the New Economics of Labour Migration (NELM) and Social Support Theory by explaining how structural patriarchal barriers and post-pandemic shocks alter the conversion of economic gains into cultural capital and local social recognition. In practical terms, this research provides an empirical basis for policymakers to design targeted institutional protections and debt mitigation frameworks for female migrant workers returning to their home villages.

2. Literature Review

Female Labour Migration and Household Welfare

Within contemporary global migration patterns, the migration of female workers is a crucial structural mechanism in promoting the well-being of their households of origin. From a sociological stratification perspective, international migration functions as an instrument of resource accumulation, whereby remittances sent by female migrant workers serve as a key injection of capital to improve material living standards (Bourdieu, 1986; Hugo, 2006). Although this flow of capital directly increases household liquidity, thereby enabling families to finance conspicuous consumption, build modern housing, and access better healthcare services (Taylor, 1999), the physical absence of mothers often creates a structural paradox. The institutional displacement of female carers disrupts traditional domestic cohesion and childcare arrangements, thereby generating local socio-cultural friction that may offset short-term material gains (Avila & Parreñas, 2002; Graham et al., 2015). Consequently, the conversion of transnational physical labour into long-term household well-being is heavily influenced by the intersection between financial inflows and the ever-changing internal dynamics of the family.

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Family Social Support and Migrant Household Resilience

Grounded in Social Support Theory, relational assets within the family function as informal safety nets that stabilize a household's financial and social foundation during crisis periods (Cobb, 1976). Rather than acting merely as emotional comfort, family social support combines functional assistance with strategic resource allocation, directly mitigating severe economic strain and maintaining capital-generating capacities (Čvorović, 2024; Stevenson et al., 2020). Cohesive family networks optimize the management of remittances, ensuring that financial resources are channeled into productive investments rather than non-essential leakages (Ratcliffe, 2015). Furthermore, strong family functioning, structural parenting support, and intergenerational stability project an image of domestic order to the wider community, which directly yields external social acceptance and shields the household from communal stigma during the mother's absence (Chu et al., 2010; Kohl et al., 2018).

H1: Family social support positively affects household economic status.

H2: Family social support positively affects household social status.

Destination-Country Working Conditions and Remittance Outcomes

The conversion of migrant labour into household economic mobility is heavily influenced by the structural and institutional environment of the host country (Castles et al., 2014). According to the New Economics of Labour Migration (NELM), the host country's institutional framework in particular minimum wage legislation, legal pathways to the formal sector, and a robust labour protection framework determines the net volume, frequency, and stability of remittance inflows (de Haas et al., 2015). Destination countries that enforce fair working hours and a safe working environment enable female migrant workers to maximise their surplus income, which can be spent sustainably. Conversely, institutional shortcomings, precarious legal status, and limited access to inclusive social and health services leave workers vulnerable to exploitation and unexpected out-of-pocket medical expenses, which significantly reduce their ability to send stable remittances home and limit the prestige of their employment (Ferrant & Tuccio, 2015; Wickramage et al., 2019).

H3: Destination-country working conditions positively affect household economic status.

H4: Destination-country working conditions positively affect household social status.

Migration Motivation and Socio-Economic Mobility

From the NELM perspective, migration is a planned and collective family strategy, designed to diversify income, address failures in local credit markets, and promote upward socio-economic mobility (Stark & Lucas, 1988). In female-led migration patterns, strong economic motivations act as the primary catalyst for transforming household financial trajectories through regular capital injections, as women consistently demonstrate a greater tendency to remit a larger proportion of their earnings than men (Adams & Page, 2005; García & Cox, 2024). These capital flows directly increase total household income and strengthen women's

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fiscal autonomy in domestic decision-making (Sulistiyo & Wahyuni, 2014). However, this conversion pathway from the economic to the social sphere is non-linear; if the accumulation of financial capital fundamentally alters traditional patriarchal norms (such as Sasak cultural expectations in rural areas), this may give rise to severe local social tensions and defensive resistance from the community, meaning that subcultural perceptions of role reversal may hinder full social validation (Àkànle, 2019; Parreñas, 2015; Toyota et al., 2007).

H5: Migration economic motivation positively affects household economic status.

H6: Migration economic motivation affects household social status.

H7: Household economic status positively affects household social status.

Household Economic Status as Mediator

According to structural integration models, household economic status serves as a critical structural conduit through which informal relational support, macro-institutional conditions, and individual behavioral drivers are converted into formal community prestige. Emotional and operational support within the household optimizes remittance outputs by giving female migrants the requisite stability to perform productively abroad, thereby escalating the family's broader wealth and social positioning through active participation in community activities (Hasanah et al., 2021; Rosiana et al., 2023). Similarly, positive host working conditions generate stable capital inflows that fund status-enhancing investments like higher education and land asset accumulation (Rahman, 2012; Asis, 2006). However, the economic mediation path is highly contingent upon the surrounding cultural matrix; if community-level gender norms strongly penalize female financial autonomy or if post-pandemic shocks trap the family in severe informal debt servicing, the translation of material gains into overt social recognition becomes structurally blocked, disrupting the indirect pathways to social status validation (Abrego, 2014; Ang, 2016; Graham et al., 2015).

H8: Household economic status mediates the effect of family social support on household social status.

H9: Household economic status mediates the effect of destination-country working conditions on household social status.

H10: Household economic status mediates the effect of migration economic motivation on household social status.

3. Research Methods

Research Design and Settings

This study employs a quantitative cross-sectional survey design to systematically analyse the structural relationships between migration drivers, institutional conditions and the socio-economic status of migrant households. The field survey was conducted in East Lombok Regency, West Nusa Tenggara Province, focusing primarily on the main migrant-sending

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sub-districts (such as Suralaga and the surrounding areas with high migration density) which are known to have the highest concentration of female labour migration in the region.

Sampling Technique and Sample Size Justification

A purposive sampling technique was utilized to select respondents based on strict predefined inclusion criteria:

1. The respondent must be a female former international migrant worker who returned to East Lombok after the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. The respondent must have experienced working abroad within informal sectors.

Based on these criteria, a sample of 100 respondents was obtained. A sample size of 100 is methodologically justified for Structural Equation Modelling–Partial Least Squares (SEM-PLS) in accordance with the 'rule of 10' (Hair et al., 2021). This rule stipulates that the minimum sample size must be at least 10 times the maximum number of structural paths (arrowheads) leading to any latent variable in the model. Within the framework of this study, the maximum number of paths leading to a single construct (Household Economic Status and Household Social Status) is 3, resulting in a minimum requirement of 30 respondents. Consequently, a sample size of 100 far exceeds this threshold, thereby ensuring robust parameter estimates and adequate statistical power.

Characteristics of Respondents

The demographic and occupational profile of the 100 sampled respondents indicates that all participants are between 30 and 50 years old. In terms of educational background, the highest levels attained by the respondents are junior high school and senior high school. Regarding migration trajectories, the primary destination countries were Malaysia and Saudi Arabia, with occupational roles heavily concentrated in informal care sectors, specifically as domestic helpers, elderly caregivers, and childminders.

Measurement Scale and Source of Indicators

The conceptual model comprises five latent variables: Family Social Support (DSK), Migration Economic Motivation (MEM), Working Conditions in the Destination Country (KNT), Household Economic Status (SER), and Household Social Status (SSR). All items were operationalized using a 5-point Likert scale, ranging from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). The indicators were adapted from established literature to suit the post-pandemic migration context:

1. Family Social Support (DSK): Adapted from Cobb's (1976) social support dimensions and Rosiana et al. (2023).
2. Migration Economic Motivation (MEM): Developed based on the New Economics of Labor Migration (NELM) framework by Stark & Lucas (1988).

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3. Working Conditions (KNT): Adapted from the International Labour Organization (ILO) decent work indicators and de Haas et al. (2015).
4. Household Economic and Social Status (SER & SSR): Operationalized using household welfare frameworks from Bourdieu (1986) and Graham et al. (2015).

Validity and Reliability Test Procedures

Data analysis was conducted using Structural Equation Modeling-Partial Least Squares (SEM-PLS) through a two-stage evaluation framework: the measurement model (outer model) and the structural model (inner model).

1. Convergent Validity: Evaluated using indicator Outer Loadings (retention threshold > 0.70) and the Average Variance Extracted (AVE), which must exceed 0.50, proving that the construct explains more than 50% of its indicators' variance.
2. Reliability: Assessed via Cronbach's Alpha and Composite Reliability, where values > 0.70 demonstrate high internal consistency.
3. Discriminant Validity: Verified via the Fornell-Larcker Criterion, ensuring that the square root of the AVE for each construct is strictly greater than its correlation coefficients with any other latent variables in the model.

Research Ethics and Informed Consent

To uphold the highest standards of academic research ethics, formal administrative authorisation was obtained prior to the commencement of fieldwork. All respondents participated voluntarily and were provided with an informed consent form following a briefing detailing the scope, objectives and risks of the research. Informed consent forms, signed or thumb-printed, were obtained from each participant before the questionnaires were distributed. To protect the vulnerable status of former female migrant workers, absolute anonymity and strict data confidentiality were guaranteed, thereby ensuring that no personally identifiable information was disclosed or reported in a traceable manner.

4. Results

Measurement Model Evaluation (Outer Model)

The results of the data processing show that the value of Outer Loading with the Calculate – PLS Algorithm is as follows:

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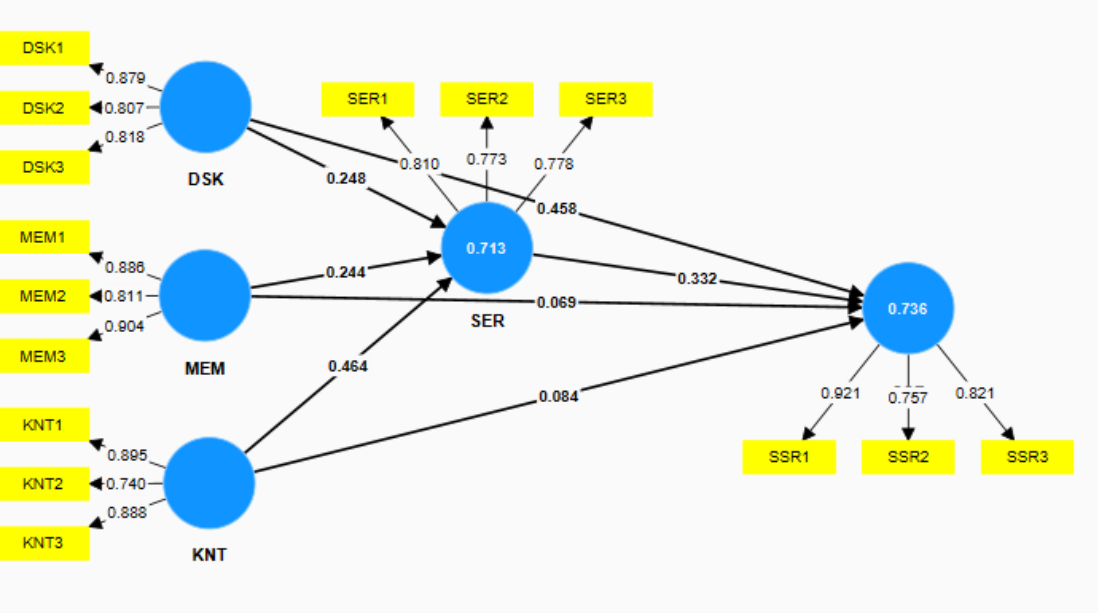

Figure 1. Outer Model After Estimation
Source: PLS Algorithm Results, 2025

Table 1. The Result of Outer Loading, Cronbach's Alpha, Composite Reliability, and Average Variance Extracted

Variables	Indicator	Measurement Items	Outer Loading	Cronbachs Alpha	Composite Reliability	AVE
Family Social Support (DSK)	Moral Support	DSK1	0.879	0.785	0.874	0.698
	Financial Support	DSK2	0.807			
	Parenting Support	DSK3	0.818			
Economic motivation Migration (MEM)	Income Needs	MEM1	0.895	0.793	0.881	0.712
	The Desire to Improve the Standard of Living	MEM2	0.740			
	Helping the Family Economy	MEM3	0.888			
Working Conditions in the Destination Country (KNT)	Reasonable Working Hours	KNT1	0.886	0.835	0.901	0.753
	Work Environment Safety	KNT2	0.811			
	Salary According to the Contract	KNT3	0.904			
Household Economic	Increase in Household Income	SER1	0.810	0.700	0.830	0.620

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Status (SER)	New Investments/ Assets	SER2	0.773			
	Fulfillment of Basic Needs	SER3	0.778			
Household Social Status (SSR)	Community Recognition	SSR1	0.921	0.780	0.874	0.699
	Role in Household Decision Making	SSR2	0.757			
	Post-Pandemic Social Acceptance	SSR3	0.821			

Source: 2025 Analysis Results, Processed

The variables of Household Social Support, Economic Motivation of Migration, Working Conditions Abroad, Household Economic Status, and Household Social Status were measured with 4 valid measurement items with an outer loading between 0.704 and 0.904, which means that the four measurements of the variables are valid, reflecting the measurements of the five variables. The variable reliability level can be indicated by Cronbach's Alpha and Composite Reliability > 0.70. The degree of convergent validity indicated by the AVE value of the whole variable is above 0.50, which indicates the latent variable explains more than 50% of the variance of the indicator.

After that, the criteria for discriminant validity are carried out in the following table, which has been met, namely at the square root of AVE, which is greater than the correlation coefficient between constructs in each indicator on each variable, which can be seen based on the Fornell-Larcker Criterion. The following compares the square root value of AVE and the correlation between constructs.

Table 2. Validity Discriminant Based on the Fornell-Larcker Criterion

	DSK	KNT	MEM	BE	SSR
Family Social Support (DSK)	**0.835**				
Economic motivation Migration (MEM)	0.609	**0.844**			
Working Conditions in the Destination Country (KNT)	0.809	0.610	**0.868**		
Household Economic Status (SER)	0.728	0.764	0.728	**0.787**	
Household Social Status (SSR)	0.807	0.659	0.733	0.781	**0.836**

Source: Results of the 2025 analysis, processed

Based on the discriminant validity test results with the Fornell-Larcker Criterion, all constructs in the model have a larger AVE square root value (diagonal value) compared to the correlation between other constructs (values outside the diagonal). This indicates that each construct in the model has good discriminant validity, as each construct can distinguish

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itself from the others adequately. Furthermore, the results of the R-squared value analysis are as follows:

Structural Model Evaluation (Inner Model)

The structural model evaluation consists of explanatory power analysis (R-Square), a multicollinearity test (Inner VIF), and hypothesis testing (Path Coefficients).

Table 3. R-Square Value

Construct	R-Square	R-Square Adjust
Household Economic Status (SER)	0.713	0.705
Household Social Status (SSR)	0.736	0.726

Source: Analysis Results 2025, processed

The following table shows that the value of R, the square Adjusted for the Household Social Status (SSR) variable, is 0.726, meaning that 72.6% is influenced by family social support, economic motivation, and working conditions in the destination country. Meanwhile, the Household Economic Status (SER) variable, which is the intervening variable, is 0.705, which means that 70.5% of the Household Economic Status (SER) variable is influenced by family social support, economic motivation, and working conditions in the destination country. Based on this, it can be seen that the direct relationship of Household Social Status (SSR) to family social support, economic motivation, and working conditions in the destination country is greater than the indirect relationship through the intervening variable of household economic status (SER).

Structural Model Evaluation

The hypothesis test results are related to the evaluation of the structural model, which is carried out in 3 stages. First, conduct a Multicollinearity test (Inner VIF < 5) whose results are as follows:

Table 4. Multicollinearity test using inner VIF (Variance Inflation Factor)

Construct	BE	SSR
Family Social Support	3.080	3.295
Destination Country Conditions	1.698	2.447
Migration Economics Motivation	3.084	3.292
Household Economic Status		3.482
Social Status of Households		

Source: Results of the 2025 analysis, processed

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The estimation results showed that the inner value of VIF < 5, and the level of multicollinearity between variables was low. These results corroborate the estimation of robust parameters. Furthermore, the results of the hypothesis testing bootstrapping are as follows:

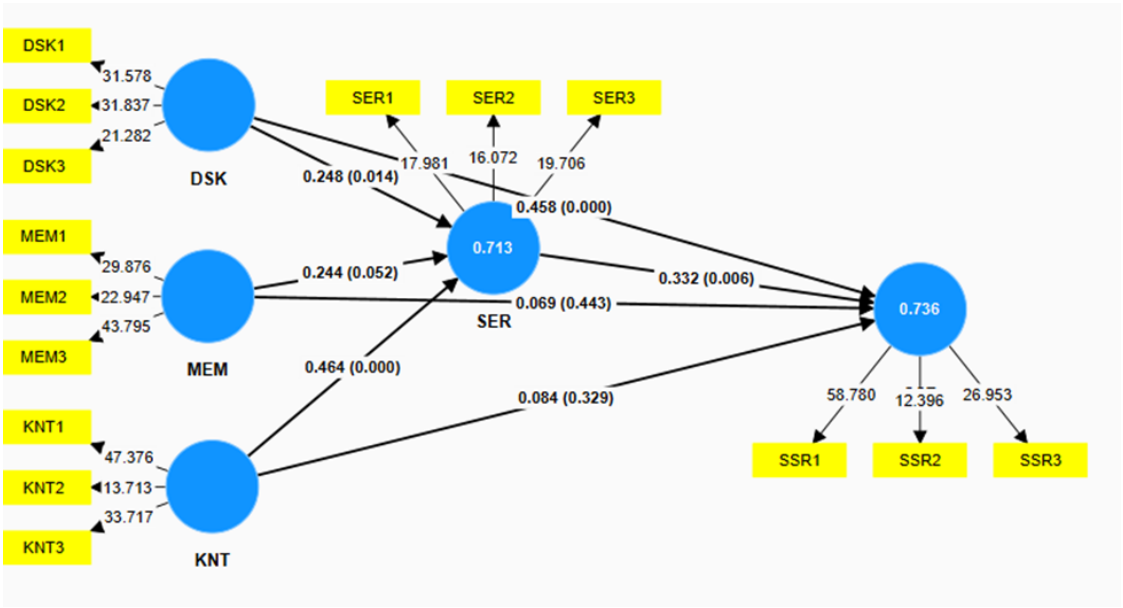

Figure 2. Results of The Hypothesis Testing Bootstrapping

Source: PLS Algorithm Results, 2025

Table 5. Path Coefficient (Direct Effect and Specific Indirect Effect)

Variables	Path Coefficient	p- values	95% Interval Path Confidence Level Coefficient		f-Square/ Upsilion (v)
			Lower Limit	Upper Limit	
Family Social Support (DSK) -> Household Economic Status (SER)	0.248	**0.014**	0.057	0.454	0.070
Family Social Support (DSK) -> Household Social Status (SSR)	0.458	**0.000**	0.245	0.677	0.241
Working Conditions in the Destination Country (KNT) -> Household Economic Status (SER)	0.464	**0.000**	0.308	0.614	0.441
Working Conditions in the Destination Country (KNT) -> Household Social Status (SSR)	0.084	0.329	-0.089	0.252	0.011

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Economic Motivation Migration (MEM) -> Household Economic Status (SER)	0.244	**0.052**	-0.002	0.493	0.067
Economic Motivation Migration (MEM) -> Household Social Status (SSR)	0.069	0.443	-0.112	0.247	0.006
Household Economic Status (SER) -> Household Social Status (SSR)	0.332	**0.006**	0.111	0.598	0.120
Household Social Support (DSK) -> Household Economic Status (SER) -> Household Social Status (SSR)	0.083	0.086	0.012	0.196	0.153
Destination Country Condition (KNT) ->Household Economic Status (SER) -> Household Social Status (SSR)	0.154	**0.014**	0.049	0.296	0.647
Migration Economic Motivation (MEM) -> Household Economic Status (SER) -> Household Social Status (SSR)	0.081	0.146	-0.001	0.214	0.540

Source: 2025 Analysis Results, processed

Hypothesis Testing Summary

The summary of the structural model decisions, indicating whether each hypothesis is accepted or rejected at the 5% significance level, is as follows:

Table 6. Summary of Hypothesis Testing Decisions

Hypothesis	Structural Pathway	Path Coeff. (β)	p-value	Decision
H1	Family Social Support (DSK) → Household Economic Status (SER)	0.248	0.014	Accepted
H2	Family Social Support (DSK) → Household Social Status (SSR)	0.458	0.000	Accepted
H3	Destination Country Conditions (KNT) → Household Economic Status (SER)	0.464	0.000	Accepted
H4	Destination Country Conditions (KNT) → Household Social Status (SSR)	0.084	0.329	Rejected
H5	Migration Economic Motivation (MEM) → Household Economic Status (SER)	0.244	0.052	Rejected

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H6	Migration Economic Motivation (MEM) → Household Social Status (SSR)	0.069	0.443	Rejected
H7	Household Economic Status (SER) → Household Social Status (SSR)	0.332	0.006	Accepted
H8	DSK → SER → SSR *(Specific Indirect Effect)*	0.083	0.086	Rejected
H9	KNT → SER → SSR *(Specific Indirect Effect)*	0.154	0.014	Accepted
H10	MEM → SER → SSR *(Specific Indirect Effect)*	0.081	0.146	Rejected

Source: 2025 Analysis Results

5. Discussion

The Effect of Family Social Support on Household Economic Status

Hypothesis 1 is accepted, namely the significant influence of Family Social Support on Household Economic Status, with a path coefficient of 0.248 and a p-value of 0.014 (significant < 0.05). Any change in household social support will increase the Household Economic Status with a 95% confidence level; the magnitude of the influence of Household Economic Status on increasing household social support is between 0.057 and 0.454. The existence of social support in improving the economic status of households has a low influence at the structural level (F-squared = 0.070).

This study found that family social support contributes significantly to improving the economic status of migrant women's households. Family social support in the form of financial, emotional, and childcare assistance is able to create stability and increase family income through remittances. These findings are supported by Saefullah et al. (2018), previous research conducted by Indania et al. (2024), who showed that families with strong social support are better able to cope with financial stress. Similarly, Ratcliffe (2015), research found that family support is essential in managing household finances effectively, harmonious and strong family relationships have been proven to increase economic capacity through social support and more effective resource management

In addition, family social support also has an important role in improving the economic status of households, both in the form of emotional and financial assistance, helping to reduce economic pressure and strengthening family economic stability (Čvorović, 2024). Family involvement in children's education is a long-term investment that indirectly improves household economic well-being. The results of this study also show that family support significantly reduces the negative impact of economic hardship on the mental health of family members, which in turn helps maintain economic stability (Stevenson et al., 2020).

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The Effect of Family Social Support on Household Social Status

Hypothesis 2 is accepted, namely the significant influence of Household Social Support on Household Social Status with a path coefficient of 0.458 and a p-value of 0.000 (Significant < 0.05). Any change in household social support will increase the Household Social Status with a 95% confidence level; the magnitude of the influence of Household Social Status on increasing household social support is between 0.245 and 0.677. The existence of Household Social Support in improving the Social Status of Households has a moderate influence at the structural level (f-square = 0.241).

The results of the study show that family social support also has a significant influence on the social status of households. This social support helps migrant families build strong social networks and gain better social recognition in the community. Research by Kohl et al. (2018) supports these results, stating that families with high social support are more socially acceptable. It is also corroborated by Chu et al (2010) that individuals who receive support from family tend to have higher levels of happiness and better social relationships, directly affecting their social status. Good family functioning and adequate social support are associated with higher parenting competence in parents, which has implications for children's positive social development and improves the family's overall social image (Kohl et al., 2018). Therefore, family social support plays a crucial role in improving the social status of households through improving individual welfare and family functioning.

The Effect of Destination Country Working Conditions on Household

Hypothesis 3 is accepted, namely that there is a significant influence between Working Conditions in the Destination Country on Household Economic Status with a path coefficient of 0.464 and a p-value of 0.000 (Significant < 0.05). Any change in the working conditions in the destination country will increase the social status of households by a degree of 95% confidence level, and the magnitude of the influence of household social status in increasing household social support is between 0.308 and 0.614. Working conditions in the destination country, to improve the economic status of households, significantly influence the structural level (f square = 0.443).

The results of the analysis show that the condition of the destination country influences the household economic status of migrant women. This study shows that working conditions in the destination country greatly determine the level of household economic status. Good working conditions, including a decent salary and a safe working environment, allow migrant women to send larger remittances to their families. The results of this study are supported by Dee Hass & Netter (2015), who say that decent working conditions can significantly improve the economic ability of migrants to help their families through remittance. Conditions in the destination countries of women's labour, such as labour protection policies, wage rates, and access to social services, strongly determine the economic well-being of households in the country of origin. Destination countries with strong legal protections, good working

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conditions, and wider access to the formal sector allow migrant women to send more stable remittances to their families (de Haas et al., 2015). The results of this analysis are also supported by Wickramage et al. (2019), who found that access to adequate social and health services in the destination country contributes positively to the health and well-being of the women workforce. Therefore, conditions in the destination country play an important role in determining the economic status of women workers' households through the remittance contribution they send to the country of origin.

The Effect of Destination Country Working Conditions on Household Social Status

Hypothesis 4 was rejected, namely that there was no significant influence between Working Conditions in the Destination Country on Household Social Status, with a path coefficient of 0.084 and a p-value of 0.329 (Significant < 0.05). The results of the analysis show that working conditions in the destination country do not have a significant direct effect on the improvement of household social status. This indicates that an automatic improvement does not necessarily follow economic improvement in social status from remittances. This phenomenon is explained by Parreñas (2015), who states that changes in women's roles due to migration often cause social tensions, thus hindering the improvement of social status, even though economic conditions improve.

The Effect of Migration Economic Motivation on Household Economic Status

Hypothesis 5 is rejected, namely that there was no significant influence of Migration Economic Motivation on Household Economic Status, with a path coefficient of 0.244 and a p-value of 0.052 (Significant < 0.05). The results of the analysis show that the economic motivation of migration directly and significantly affects the improvement of household economic status. Economic motivation is the main driving factor in women's migration, improving the economic status of households through remittances and direct financial contributions. In line with research conducted by Sulistiyo & Wahyuni (2014), those who stated that the economic motivation of migration not only increases family income but also strengthens the position of women in economic decision-making in households. Migrant women derive significant financial benefits through migration, primarily through increased economic resources that support improving their overall family well-being (García & Cox, 2024). Therefore, economic motivation has an important role as a driver of women's migration in sustainably improving the economic condition of their households.

The Effect of Migration Economic Motivation on Household Social Status

Hypothesis 6 was rejected, namely the absence of a significant influence between Migration Economic Motivation on Household Social Status, with a path coefficient of 0.069 and a p-value of 0.443 (Significant < 0.05). These findings show that the economic motivation of migration does not significantly influence the improvement of households' social status.

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According to research by Graham et al. (2015), social perceptions of migration that focus on economics often limit full social recognition of migrant families.

The Effect of Household Economic Status on Household Social Status

Hypothesis 7 is accepted, namely that there is a significant influence between Household Economic Status on Household Social Status with a path coefficient of 0.032 and p-value of 0.006 (Significant < 0.05). Any change in the Household Economic Status will increase the Household Social Status with a degree of 95% confidence; the magnitude of the influence of the Household Social Status in increasing household social support is between 0.111 and 0.598. Household Economic Status in improving Household Social Status has a moderate influence at the structural level (F-squared = 0.120)

The analysis results show that the increase in the economic status of households significantly improves the social status of migrant families in the area of origin. This happens because the remittances received help families improve social welfare in real terms, such as through children's education and health. This analysis's results align with Àkànle (2019), who says that remittances are a key factor in improving social status in society. Research shows that improving the economic status of households through remittances from migrant women workers can affect the social status of their households in the area of origin. In line with research by Hugo (2006), which states that remittances sent by migrant workers are often used to improve family welfare, such as children's education, home improvements, and other investments, which can improve the social position of families in society. Nevertheless, the study conducted by Parreñas (2015) explains that despite economic improvements, migrant families may face challenges in gaining equal social recognition, especially if traditional gender roles are disrupted by migration. Changes in household roles, such as women becoming the main breadwinners, can create social tensions and affect people's perceptions of the family's social status.

In addition, research by Graham et al. (2015) confirms that social recognition of migrant families is determined not only by economic improvement but also by people's perceptions of sources of income and changes in family roles. In some cases, despite economic improvements, migrant families still face barriers to gaining equal social recognition.

The Effect of Social Support Through Economic Status on Household Social Status

Hypothesis 8 (H8) was rejected, namely Household Social Support for Household Social Status mediated by Household Economic Status had no significant effect, with a path coefficient of 0.083 and p-value of 0.086 (Significant < 0.05). The results of the analysis showed that family social support improved the economic status of households, but its role as a mediator in improving social status was not significant. This means that family social

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support is more dominant in influencing social status directly without going through economic improvement first.

The Effect of Destination Country Conditions Through Economic Status on Household Social Status

Hypothesis 9 was accepted, namely that Household Economic Status mediated a significant influence between Household Economic Motivation on Household Social Status with a path coefficient of 0.154 and a p-value of 0.014 (Significant < 0.05). Any change in household economic motivation will increase the social status of households through the mediation of household economic status, with a degree of 95% confidence level, and the magnitude of the influence lies between 0.049 and 0.296. Furthermore, it highly influences the structural level (Upsilon v= 0.647).

The analysis results showed that household economic status plays an important role in mediating the relationship between working conditions in the migration destination country and household social status. This shows that economic improvement due to good working conditions significantly increases social respect for migrant families. The results of this analysis are supported by Hugo (2007), who sees the importance of good working conditions in increasing the social benefits of remittances. The conditions of the migration destination countries, such as employment policies, legal protection, and access to social services, play an important role. Positive work experience in the destination country can increase the income and economic well-being of migrant workers' households, which in turn can affect the social status of their families in the country of origin. The results of this analysis are reinforced by Rahman (2012), who shows that the women workforce working in countries with strong legal protections and good working conditions tends to send larger and more stable remittances to their families. This remittance is used to improve family welfare, which can improve families' social position in the community of origin.

However, in contrast to the results of the study by Parreñas (2015), which revealed that despite economic improvements, migrant families face challenges in obtaining equal social recognition, especially if traditional gender roles are disrupted by migration. Changing roles, such as women becoming the main breadwinners, can create social tensions and affect people's perceptions of the family's social status. In addition, the research conducted by Graham et al (2015) highlights that social recognition of migrant families is determined not only by economic improvement but also by public perception of sources of income and changes in family roles. In some cases, despite economic improvements, migrant families still face barriers to gaining equal social recognition.

In the case of the East Lombok district, women workers are more likely to choose Middle Eastern destination countries to migrate. This is because the number of remittances received tends to be larger than that in Asian countries. Remittances sent to the women migrant

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workers force's families will undoubtedly have an impact on improving the family's economic status. They will subsequently have an impact on improving the family's social status in the community. Thus, the economic status of households plays a mediating role in the relationship between the conditions of the destination country of migration and the social status of households. Improving economic well-being through positive work experience in the destination country can improve the social status of migrant families in the country of origin.

The Effect of Economic Motivation Through Economic Status on Household Social Status

Hypothesis 10 **was rejected**, namely, the Destination State Condition of the Household Social Status mediated by the Household Economic Status had no significant effect, with a path coefficient of 0.081 and a p-value of 0.146 (Significant < 0.05). The study's results show that the economic motivation of migration through the improvement of economic status is not significant in improving the social status of households. Parreñas (2015) explained that the economic increase due to women's migration is not always followed by social recognition because of the social stigma against migrant women who are the primary breadwinners.

5. Conclusion and Suggestion

Conclusion

In conclusion, this study demonstrates a distinct decoupling between migration drivers and actual socio-economic mobility among female migrant workers in post-pandemic East Lombok, where family social support ($\beta = 0.248, p = 0.014$) and destination-country working conditions ($\beta = 0.464, p < 0.001$) significantly improve household economic status, while migration economic motivation fails to do so ($\beta = 0.244, p = 0.052$). Furthermore, while family social support ($\beta = 0.458, p < 0.001$) and economic status ($\beta = 0.332, p = 0.006$) significantly enhance social status, specific indirect effect testing confirms that household economic status operates as a significant mediator exclusively for destination-country working conditions ($\beta = 0.154, p = 0.014$) and completely fails to mediate the migration economic motivation pathway ($\beta = 0.081, p = 0.146$) due to severe post-pandemic debt traps and local patriarchal Sasak barriers. Theoretically, these findings extend the New Economics of Labor Migration (NELM) framework by challenging the assumption that financially driven migration automatically upgrades welfare under economic duress, while expanding Social Support Theory by illustrating how internal familial solidarity acts as a social shield to generate external social prestige. Although this research is methodologically constrained by its cross-sectional survey design and a geographical scope limited to 100 informal-sector respondents in East Lombok, it provides an essential structural baseline for understanding post-crisis household resilience. As supported by Hugo (2007) and Rahman (2012), this stable capital influx is systematically channeled back home to fund status-enhancing investments, such as higher education and land asset procurement. In the

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context of rural East Lombok, these tangible economic upgrades serve as concrete validation of upward mobility, effectively granting the migrant family elevated social recognition and mitigating the risk of community marginalization despite the mother's physical absence.

Suggestion

Based on the empirical findings, the following suggestions are offered for practical implementation and future scholarly integration:

1. Policy Implications: Local governments and financial institutions must design robust debt mitigation programmes and targeted financial literacy training to protect remittance flows from misuse in the informal sector. At the same time, national agencies such as BP2MI must strengthen institutional safeguards and bilateral cooperation to ensure a safe and fair working environment in destination countries, as good working conditions act as a key driver for the long-term socio-economic improvement of households.
2. Further Research Agenda: Scholarship research on future migration should adopt a longitudinal research design to monitor the process of debt repayment and pathways to economic reintegration over several years amongst female migrant workers returning to their home country. Furthermore, researchers should broaden the geographical scope and include a wider range of variables, such as changes in gender dynamics within households, the educational attainment of children left behind, and community perceptions across various cultural contexts in Indonesia.

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