

# **Social Attitudes toward Indonesian Care Workers:**

## **News Reporting on EPA and Examinations in Indonesia**

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### **1. Aim**

Trade agreements and economic policies have been facilitating nurse migration for many years (Kingma, 2006). One of them is between Indonesia and Japan through Indonesia-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (IJEPA). The aim of this report is to investigate social attitudes toward IJEPA, especially the Indonesian care-workers and related examinations in Japan in Indonesian newspapers from 2008 to 2012.

### **2. Data & Methods**

I conducted the research mainly by observing three major Indonesian newspapers from 2008 to 2012, by using qualitative content analysis. Data collection was executed by clustering of keywords yielding of 90 news reports about IJEPA. Then the data was analyzed by using 7 (seven) categories of reporting, including examination.

### **3. Results**

The results indicate that most issues reported are about trading and economic sectors and the care-workers issues and the examination. Some criticisms related to trading and economic sectors are addressed to the Government of Indonesia of not preparing the treaties profoundly. On the other hand, reporting about care-worker dispatch was reported as a breakthrough as finally Japan opens professional opportunity for foreign care-workers. Related to the examination, there is repetitive reporting about Indonesian care-workers beating the score of Filipinos care-workers in the national exams in 2012. Another finding is that the increase of elderly people in Japan becomes the most frequent topic reported in the news reports related to this care-workers dispatch.

### **4. Conclusion**

The Indonesia-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (IJEPA) has invited the major newspapers in Indonesia to report about trading and economic sectors and care-workers dispatch. The issue of aging society in Japan is corroborated in the media, as the reason of why Japan needs more foreign care-workers. Although only limited Indonesian care-workers passed the language examination, it is still seen as a part of work challenges in Japan.

### **References**

Kingma, M. 2006. *Nurses on the move: Migration and the global health care economy*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.