Abstract: Circular migration has been practiced and become significant phenomenon of social, demographic, and economic in Indonesia, especially in the Java Island. The ‘temporary movement pattern’ between rural and urban which has been practiced since long time ago, shows a quite unique pattern of the livelihood of rural people in which could provide benefits for the migrants’ family in rural area, as well as fulfilling labour demand in the city and in the rural area. Sadly, in Indonesia, there is no data or adequate tools to predict or respond to the existence of circular migrants in the city (Hugo, 1982). The absence of data about this phenomenon makes this temporary movement, which often shape a large proportion of rural-urban migrants, keep unrecorded and have not been taken into account into city planning. As a consequence, they still often have seen as a problem rather than an essential part in city’s development.

There has been much academic thought dedicated to circular migration. But the patterns as well as social and economic consequences of this working pattern need to be further investigated due to the lack actual data in practical level about the phenomenon. Thus, this research aims to analyse the patterns and characteristic of circular migration in the City of Surakarta and the use of remittance in origin area as one way to measure the impact of circular migration to rural area.

This research using quantitative approach, using questionnaire to gather the data about who the circular migrants are, how is the circulation pattern, how is their living pattern in the city, as well as the use of remittance in rural area. The research use simple random sampling in choosing the circular migrants respondents with the total 105 sample in total. For the analysis, this research using quantitative descriptive method for most part of the analysis, as well as spatial distribution analysis, and scoring for one part of analysis on the priority use of remittance.

The result of this research suggest that there are several pattern of circular migration, based on the migrant’s livelihood profile in urban and rural, as well as the repetition of move and the directionality. It has implication on the time that the migrants’ spent in the city and the village as well as the income proportion gained in both location. In terms of the life in the city, circular migrants are closely linked to urban informality both in the economic activities they do as well as access to housing and basic services. 24.7% of the circular migrants surveyed in this research live in the area designated as slums, while 18% of the respondents live in an non-permanent structure or informal situation like in a non-permanent building, pedicab, inside a market, or storefront. In terms of the use of remittance, circular migration provide a means for the rural household, by which 56,3% are spent for to fulfil the daily needs of the family and other consumptive use (food, goods, medical expenses, deb payment and house improvements), while 34,8% used for productive use like education cost, saving and investment. Yet, the impacts to rural development in broader sense is still limited shaped only 8,8% of the total remittance, mostly in the form of contributions to infrastructure development and loan to rural community. However, this pattern of work remain an important strategy that will continue to be implemented by most of the rural migrants surveyed, while there is also indication of permanent shifting, particularly for younger migrants.

Keywords: Circular migration, circular migrants, circularity, patterns