Education and Women’s Job Transition During the Pandemic Covid-19

Pendidikan dan Transisi Pekerja Perempuan Selama Masa Pandemi Covid-19

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Introduction

The Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 significantly impacted the global labor market and is estimated to have had an impact four times greater than the global financial crisis in 2009 (ILO, 2021, p. 2). Government intervention in dealing with the spread of Covid-19 impacts the economy and employment. Companies carry out efficiency to minimize losses so that many workers experience a decrease in working hours, even losing their jobs and becoming unemployed (Brodeur et al., 2020, p. 28; Lemieux et al., 2020, p. 57; Prates & Barbosa, 2020, p. 2).

In Indonesia, the Covid-19 pandemic caused the open unemployment rate to increase by 1.84 percent in August 2020 compared to August 2019. However, the Labor Force Participation Rate (TPAK) for women has increased. Meanwhile, men’s TPAK decreased in the same period. The increase in women’s TPAK was accompanied by the absorption of women workers in the informal sector, which increased from 60.81 percent in 2019 to 65.35 percent in 2020 (Figure 1). On the other hand, both men and women experienced a decline in the percentage of formal workers due to layoffs during the Covid-19 pandemic.

![Figure 1. Percentage of Formal and Informal Employment Based on Gender, 2019–2020](source: Sakernas August 2019–2020 (BPS, 2020)).

The increase in the proportion of women in the informal sector during...
the Covid-19 pandemic occurred for two reasons. First, many women work to supplement their family income (Albertini et al., 2020, p. 12). The pressure to fulfill family needs, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic, encourages women to enter the labor market. The informal sector is women’s choice because it is easy to enter and does not require special skills. Second, to survive, many female formal workers transitioned from the formal sector to the informal sector due to layoffs during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The women’s informal sector increase at the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic must be mitigated. Informality harms workers’ rights and business sustainability because of low productivity and limited access to capital (Porta & Shleifer, 2014, p. 110). Preventing the informal sector increase is necessary to improve the welfare of Indonesian workers. Working in the informal sector will reduce a household’s chances of prosperity. On the other hand, working in the formal sector will increase the opportunity for families to improve their welfare (Dartanto et al., 2019, p. 38). That is because formal sector jobs offer better income than informal ones (Dartanto et al., 2019, p. 34). The increase in the informal sector can be prevented by keeping female workers working in the formal sector (not experiencing a transition to the informal sector or becoming unemployed). It also increases women’s employment from informal to formal sectors.

Education is a crucial factor in women’s employment transition. The higher a woman’s education, the greater her chances of being able to experience the change from the informal sector to the formal sector (Taufiq & Dartanto, 2020, p. 166). In times of crisis, education is also crucial for women to maintain their jobs (Thiede & Monnat, 2016, p. 897). Apart from education, the decision to make a job transition is also influenced by the age of female workers. Badan Pusat Statistik (2006, p. 7) categorizes residents aged 15–24 as young, while adult residents are defined as residents aged at least 25. The Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) explains that young people tend to work in the formal sector and prefer to be unemployed rather than in the informal sector (KPPPA & BPS, 2018, p. 84). That is also reinforced by the findings of Taufiq and Dartanto (2020, p. 166), who reported that the younger the woman, the higher the opportunity for the woman to make a job transition from the informal sector to the formal sector.

Taufiq and Dartanto (2020, p. 166) researched job transitions in Indonesia. This research shows that education and age variables significantly impact job transitions from informal to formal sectors. However, this research needs to discuss job transitions during an economic crisis. One study that examines worker transition during a financial crisis is Thomas et al. (2020) during the 1998 monetary crisis. The research results of Thomas et al. (2020, p. 19) found that many male workers left the labor market during the 1998 crisis. However, many women entered the labor market, especially working alone and becoming family workers. Women play a crucial role in supporting family income when a problem results in a decrease in revenue.

Some of this research was carried out during periods outside the Covid-19 pandemic, which just occurred in 2020. A study during the Covid-19 pandemic that was carried out included Ngadi et al. (2020, p. 46), who found that the Covid-19 pandemic caused 15.6 percent of workers to experience layoffs and 37.6 percent of workers to experience a decrease in wages. Then, research by Indayani and Hartono (2020, p. 206) linked the Covid-19 pandemic to a decline in economic growth and an increase in the unemployment rate in Indonesia. There is still
a research gap related to employment during the Covid-19 pandemic. Existing research has yet to discuss job transitions, especially for women, and what factors can influence women’s job transitions when economic shocks occur due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The transition to work for women during Covid-19 in the labor market encourages women’s empowerment. That supports the Indonesian House of Representatives’ idea of emphasizing the importance of gender equality through empowering women to achieve the fifth goal of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation Commission (BKSAP) explained that women’s education is the gateway to gender equality. Therefore, this research aims to determine the influence of education on women’s economic reactions in facing the Covid-19 pandemic by looking at women’s employment transitions and how these influence young and adult women. Thus, this research will answer the following two research questions: (1) how does education influence women’s employment transition during the Covid-19 pandemic? and (2) what is the influence of education on the employment transition of young and adult women?

This research contributes to knowledge by estimating the influence of education on the types of women’s job transitions. Apart from that, this research also compares the differences in the effect of education on young and adult female populations in making job transitions during the Covid-19 pandemic. This research focuses on the change of female workers because the group most affected during the Covid-19 pandemic is women, especially those with less education (Adams-Prassl et al., 2020, p. 9; Kikuchi et al., 2021, p. 14; Kristal & Yaish, 2020, p. 5). This research hypothesizes that highly educated women have a greater chance of transitioning to formal work than informal work or becoming unemployed during the Covid-19 pandemic, where the opportunity to enter formal work is higher for highly educated women at a young age than at an adult age.

![Figure 2. Selection of Research Analysis Units](source: Sakernas August 2020 (BPS, 2020).)
This research uses data from the August 2020 National Labor Force Survey (Sakernas). The unit of analysis used is the female workforce who transitioned to work during the Covid-19 pandemic. The dependent variable used is women’s employment transition, which is categorized into three groups shown in the Figure 2.

Based on Figure 2, category 1 is formal inmovers, namely women who started working in the formal sector at least March 2020 or later. Category 2 is informal inmovers, namely women who began working in the informal sector in at least March 2020. Category 3 (outmover) is women currently unemployed and quitting their jobs from March to August 2020. This categorization refers to the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic in Indonesia. Meanwhile, the primary independent variable used is women’s education, categorized as 1 if the woman has a college education and 0 if the woman has a high school education or less. The control variable used is marital status, with category 1 if the woman is married and category 0 if the woman is unmarried/divorced. The residence variable is categorized as 1 if the woman lives in an urban area and 0 if the woman lives in a rural area. The relationship variable with the Household Head is categorized as 1 if the woman is the head of household and 0 if the woman is not. Meanwhile, the migrant status variable is classified as 1 if the woman has migrant status and 0 if the woman has non-migrant status.

The analytical methods used in this research are descriptive analysis and inference. Descriptive analysis was used to determine the general picture and characteristics of women’s work transitions during the Covid-19 pandemic. The inferential analysis used is multinomial logistic regression to estimate the relationship between the dependent variable of more than two categories and one or more explanatory variables (Hosmer & Lemeshow, 2000, p. 260). A multinomial logistic model with k independent variables and j categories, as follows:

$$
\left( \frac{P(x)}{P(x_0)} \right) = \ln \left( \frac{\pi_j}{\pi_0} \right) = \beta_j + \sum_{K=1}^{K} \beta_j x_k + \epsilon \quad \text{.... (1)}
$$

The model significance test is carried out in stages to ensure that the model formed is meaningful: (1) Testing the overall significance of the independent variables using the likelihood ratio test (Hosmer & Lemeshow, 2000, p.270). The test compares a model without independent variables (model B) with one using all independent variables (model A). The null hypothesis used is that the coefficient is zero, with test statistics that follow a chi-square distribution with k degrees of freedom. The null hypothesis is rejected if the value of the test statistic > $X^2_{a,k}$ or p-value < $\alpha$ means that at least one independent variable influences the dependent variable or model A, which is significant at the significance level $\alpha$. (2) Testing the education variable uses the Wald test with equations if the null hypothesis is rejected, then the education level significantly affects women’s job transition. Interpretation in the logistic regression model is carried out using the odds ratio, which shows how much the tendency of a particular dependent variable is towards the reference category compared between categories on the primary independent variable (Hosmer & Lemeshow, 2000, p.265).

Thus, the model formed to describe the influence of education on women’s employment transition is as follows:

$$
g_1 = \ln \ln \left( \frac{P(x_1)}{P(x_0)} \right) = \beta_{11} \times PT + \beta_{12} \times Kawin + \beta_{13} \times Kota + \beta_{14} \times KRT + \beta_{15} \times Migran \quad \text{.... (2)}
$$

$$
g_2 = \ln \ln \left( \frac{P(x_2)}{P(x)} \right) = \beta_{21} \times PT + \beta_{22} \times Kawin + \beta_{23} \times Kota + \beta_{24} \times KRT + \beta_{25} \times Migran \quad \text{.... (3)}
$$
where, $g_1$: formal inmover, $g_2$: informal inmover, PT: woman’s education, married: woman’s marital status, city: woman’s place of residence, KRT: relationship with household head, migrant: woman’s migrant status.

This study divides the analysis into subpopulations based on women’s age into young (15–24 years) and adults (over 25 years) to deepen the research regarding the effect of education on women’s employment transitions. So, the $g_1$ and $g_2$ models are also applied to the subpopulation of young and adult women.

**Job Transition**

Decisions of workers, companies, or joint decisions between workers and companies cause job transitions. Workers transition jobs if job transition benefits are higher than the costs incurred. Workers will maximize the utility obtained by fulfilling the following conditions (Anderson et al., 1994, p. 180):

$$\sum N_t(1+r)^t - \sum O_t(1+r)^t > C \quad \ldots \ldots \quad (4)$$

where $t$ is the time index, $N_t$ is satisfaction with the new job, $O_t$ is satisfaction overtime at the old job, $C$ is the cost of job transition, and $r$ is the interest rate.

Job transitions can occur because of the worker’s desire to look for a better job or because the worker is laid off by the employer (Bartel & Borjas, 1978, p. 7). Employment transition also includes moving from being employed to unemployed and not in the labor force. The dominant factor determining women’s job transition is earning a higher income (Mwangangi, 2014, p. 2).

Time allocation theory explains that people will decide how much time to work and leisure time to get maximum utility. A woman’s consumption and free time are limited by budget constraints, including time and income (Borjas, 2016, p. 33). Figure 3 shows women’s employment decisions where $wT$ is hourly wages, and $V$ is non-labor income. If someone decides to work, they can consume $wT+V$, but if they choose not to enter the labor market (point E), they can only consume $V$.

Human capital theory explains that education will increase individual skills and productivity (Becker, 1994, p. 6). A person’s high level of human capital can reduce the person’s risk of being unemployed (Mincer, 1991, p. 1). Even when a crisis occurs, higher education plays an essential role in maintaining employment so that it can reduce the risk of becoming unemployed (López-Bazo & Motellón, 2013, p. 397; Thiede & Monnat, 2016, p. 897). That is because educated workers have essential advantages compared to less educated workers in the labor market, including more excellent job stability (Mincer, 1991, p. 2). Education negatively affects a person’s chances of losing their job. Educated workers are less likely to lose their jobs than less knowledgeable workers (Kletzer, 1998, p. 118).

**Women’s Job Transition and Influencing Factors**

Women have a lower propensity to participate in the labor market and are more likely to be unemployed than men (ILO, 2018). Women have a double
burden, such as caring for children, so many choose not to work. Sometimes, women are forced to leave work during the Covid-19 pandemic because the share of female workers is more significant in sectors with a higher risk of Covid-19 transmission and are vulnerable to being affected by lockdowns (Bonacini et al., 2021, p. 2). If viewed based on the employment sector, women's involvement in the labor market is still dominated by the informal sector (Dalilah, 2020, p. 3). Women also have more jobs in the informal sector than men (Lee et al., 2017, pp. 7–8).

The phenomenon of job transition is influenced by individual factors, which show that women can stay in formal work when they have superior skills (Maciel & Oliveira, 2018, p.37). Education is a crucial factor in explaining transition patterns in the labor market. The higher a worker's education, the less likely they are to transition into the informal sector (Tansel & Acar, 2017, p. 632; Wandaweka & Purwanti, 2021, p. 660) or become unemployed (Maciel & Oliveira, 2018, p. 48; Mincer, 1991, p. 1). The role of higher education encourages women to enter the formal sector to earn lifetime earnings that exceed the costs of education. Therefore, higher-educated women have more opportunities for formal employment (Dartanto et al., 2019, p. 34; Lee et al., 2017, p. 8). Higher education can signal women's productivity (Mincer, 1991, p.10). Workers with high productivity have incentives to be hired by companies through signals from education (Borjas, 2016, p. 257). In addition, higher education is associated with training that signals high abilities and skills and information or networks. These abilities can help someone obtain alternative work opportunities when making a job transition, reducing the risk of unemployment (Borjas, 2016, p. 257). Therefore, as the level of education increases, the tendency to become unemployed will decrease (Balde et al., 2020, p. 21; Rivera & Castro, 2021, p. 14).

Based on other socio-demographic factors, marital status negatively influences job transitions. Married workers are less likely to lose their jobs than never-married workers. That is because unmarried workers are usually young and do not have experience (Balde et al., 2020, p. 17). However, family factors can also cause married women not to work because their partners do not allow it (Schaner & Das, 2016, p. 21).

Women who are the household heads are more likely to enter the informal sector because of the ease of entering it. The informal sector is associated with independent businesses, using simple technology and small capital (Wandaweka & Purwanti, 2021, p. 653). This employment sector generally does not have special requirements for hiring workers, so with their limitations, married women can increase their income during the Covid-19 pandemic (Isti'any & Pitoyo, 2016, p. 1).

The region of residence also influences job transitions. Workers in rural areas find it difficult to find work, so many are absorbed into the informal sector and even become unpaid workers (Rivera & Castro, 2021, p. 15). However, people living in urban areas also have a higher chance of becoming unemployed than those living in rural areas because of the structural mismatch between the skills possessed by workers and the skills required by companies (Qayyum, 2007, p. 616). The probability of engaging in job search activities is higher for those living in urban areas (Schaner & Das, 2016, p. 33).

The migration status of workers also influences job transitions. Migrant workers are less likely to be unemployed than
non-migrants (Gebeyaw, 2011, p. 98). However, Shita and Dereje (2018, p. 260) mentioned that worker migration status positively affects youth unemployment. Migrant workers tend to be unemployed compared to non-migrants.

**Job Transition Characteristics of Women Employment**

The results of the August 2020 Sakernas show that 50.4 percent of the working-age population are women. The female working-age population comprises 55.1 percent of the workforce and 44.9 percent of the non-labor force, including those still attending school, taking care of the household, and other activities. Of the female workforce, 12 percent of the female population experienced a job transition, while 88 percent did not make a job transition during the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic. Women’s employment transition at the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic consisted of 26.5 percent transitioning to formal sector work, 63.1 percent transitioning to informal sector work, and 10.4 percent becoming unemployed from March to August 2020 (Figure 4).

**Figure 4. Percentage of Women’s Job Transition, 2020**


Job transitions carried out by the female workforce have different patterns based on their characteristics (Figure 5). More highly educated women transition to the formal sector (52 percent) than the informal sector and become unemployed. On the other hand, 66 percent or the majority of low-educated female workers transitioned to the informal sector. Yunianti and Mataram (2019, p. 1860) explain that highly educated female workers have more significant opportunities to compete in the formal labor market, and women with lower levels of education tend to choose jobs in the informal sector that do not require a high education. That is because work in the formal sector generally requires higher education, skills, training, and experience than in the informal sector (ILO, 2004, p. 31). More educated workers enter the formal sector following human capital theory regarding the age-earning profile in the schooling model, which explains that workers focus on the monetary rewards from their education (Borjas, 2016, p. 232). Highly educated workers can earn high incomes because they have incurred the costs of pursuing education and the opportunity costs of earning income when they do not continue their education. Therefore, the sacrifices made by a

| College | Inmover | 52 |
| High School/below | Inmover | 24 |
| Married | Outmover | 19 |
| Single/Divorced | Inmover | 36 |
| Urban | Inmover | 33 |
| Rural | Inmover | 21 |
| Head of Household | Inmover | 24 |
| Others | Inmover | 27 |
| Migrant | Inmover | 33 |
| Not Migrant | Inmover | 26 |
| Young | Inmover | 37 |
| Adult | Inmover | 21 |

*Inmover informal*  
*Inmover formal*  
*Outmover*

**Figure 5. Percentage of Characteristics of Women’s Job Transition During the Covid-19 Pandemic**

highly educated workforce will be paid for with high-income levels. Meanwhile, low-educated workers will earn lower incomes because the time, energy, and costs spent on pursuing education are also low (Yuniati & Mataram, 2019, p. 1859). Based on marital status, married women have a transition percentage to the informal sector of 72 percent, more significant than women who are never married/divorced. On the other hand, a higher percentage of unmarried/divorced women transition to the formal sector than married women. Most women in rural areas transition to the informal sector, amounting to 72 percent. However, only 7 percent of women who live in rural areas are outmovers, lower than the outmovers of women who live in urban areas. Whether women are household heads, informal movers still dominate compared to formal movers and outmovers. Even though the percentage is relatively low, more women who are not household heads (27 percent) experience a transition to the formal sector than women who are household heads (24 percent).

Based on migration status, more migrant women transition to the formal sector and fewer transition to the informal sector than non-migrant women. According to age, young women do more formal moving than adult women. On the other hand, more adult women make informal moves than young women (15–24 years). Apart from that, the percentage of outmovers is higher among young women than adults.

Table 1 shows the estimation results using multinomial logit regression. Testing the overall significance of the independent variables using the likelihood ratio test. The null hypothesis is that no independent variables influence women’s job transition. Meanwhile, the alternative hypothesis is that at least one independent variable influences women’s job transition. The likelihood ratio test results in Table 1 show that the model

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<th>Table 1. Results of Multinomial Logistic Regression Analysis of Women’s Job Transition, Relative Risk Ratio (standard error)</th>
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<td><strong>Variable</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
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<td>High Educated (College)</td>
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<td>Marital Status</td>
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Reference Category: Outmover, p < 0.01***, p < 0.05**, p < 0.10*

formed has a p-value <0.001. Therefore, it is inevitable that the null hypothesis is rejected, meaning that at least one independent variable influences women’s job transition at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. Thus, the logit model used in this research is appropriate to use.

A partial test was carried out to see the effect of education on women’s job transitions. The null hypothesis is that education does not affect women’s job transitions. The alternative hypothesis is that there is an influence of education on women’s job transition. Based on significance testing on the education variable, it shows a significance value of less than 0.001. Therefore, it is inevitable that the null hypothesis is rejected, meaning that education significantly influences women’s job transition at the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The magnitude of the influence of education on women’s employment transitions in all samples is shown in columns 1 and 2 (Table 1). There is a different pattern of highly educated women transitioning to work in the formal and informal sectors compared to unemployment at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. The relative probability of transitioning to the formal sector versus becoming unemployed is 1.9 times higher for women with higher education than those with low education. In addition, the relative probability of women transitioning to the informal sector versus becoming unemployed is 0.6 times lower for women with higher education than those with low education. Thus, highly educated women are more likely to transition to work in the formal sector than become unemployed.

On the other hand, highly educated women have a lower chance of transitioning to work in the informal sector than becoming unemployed. That follows human capital theory, especially the schooling model, which explains that workers with higher education will get higher incomes (Borjas, 2016). The formal sector is generally associated with higher incomes than the informal sector. Glick and Sahn (1997) explained that women with a higher level of education have higher incomes than those with a lower level of education. Women with higher levels of education are also more likely to work in the formal sector. Meanwhile, the informal sector is characterized by low income and benefits levels and high exposure to danger (Gutierrez et al., 2019).

Based on the results of the analysis in terms of age, a higher level of education can increase young women’s opportunities to transition to work in the formal sector (column 3). The relative probability of transitioning to formal sector work compared to unemployment is 2.3 times higher for young women with higher education than those with low education. On the other hand, the relative probability of transitioning to informal sector work compared to becoming unemployed is 0.7 times lower for young women with higher education than those with low education. For adult women, the relative probability of transitioning to formal sector work compared to becoming unemployed is 1.9 times higher for adult women with higher education than those with low education (column 5). Furthermore, the relative probability of transitioning to informal sector work compared to becoming unemployed is 0.6 times lower for adult women with higher education than those with low education (column 6).

The odds ratios in column 3 and column 5 can be used to see the tendency to transition to formal work among young and adult women. The regression coefficient results show that education’s impact on the transition to the formal sector for mature women is smaller than for young women. In other words, the opportunity to transition to the formal sector is higher for young women than
adults. That is in line with the KPPPA & BPS report (2018, p.84), which reports that young people prefer to work in the formal sector or be unemployed rather than in the informal sector. Adult women experience a double burden, namely the responsibility of caring for children, domestic work at home, and working outside the home, which can result in conflict between work and family for women during the Covid-19 pandemic (Alon et al., 2020; Costoya et al., 2020; Power, 2020). That is likely to cause a decrease in the involvement of adult women in paid employment (Augustus, 2021).

Based on marital status, the data processing results show that the relative probability of transitioning to the formal sector compared to unemployment is 0.8 times lower for married women than unmarried women. In addition, the relative probability of transitioning to informal sector work compared to unemployment is 2.1 times higher for married women compared to unmarried women. Compared to age, the relative probability of young women transitioning to formal sector work is 0.8 times lower for married women than never/not married women. In addition, the relative probability of young women transitioning to informal sector work compared to becoming unemployed is 1.6 times higher for married women than never/unmarried women. Compared to area of residence, the relative odds of transitioning to the formal and informal sectors versus being unemployed are 0.7 times and 0.4 times lower for women living in urban areas than those in rural areas. Meanwhile, for adult women, the relative odds of transitioning to formal and informal work compared to being unemployed is 0.8 times and 0.4 times lower for women living in urban areas than those living in rural areas. This result shows that women living in urban areas have a higher chance of becoming unemployed than transitioning to formal or informal sector jobs. Ham et al. (2021, p. 16) explain that unemployment is higher in urban areas. However, jobs in rural areas are worse or less feasible due to the lack of facilities and accessibility in rural areas. In addition, more unemployment in urban areas is caused by a structural mismatch between the skills possessed by workers and the skills required by companies (Qayyum, 2007, p. 616).

Based on household head status, the relative probability of transitioning to formal employment versus being unemployed is 0.9 times lower for women with household head status than those without that status. However, the relative probability of transitioning to informal work compared to unemployment is 2.5 times higher for married women than for never–married women. This result shows that married women try to get work, even in informal jobs and avoid unemployment for their family’s survival, in line with Rivera and Castro (2021, p. 15) and Tansel and Acar (2017, p. 627), who explain that family factors (ownership of children and a partner) influence a person’s employment decisions. The influence of obligations in taking care of the household can increase the chances of married women entering informal sector work.
relative probability of transitioning to informal work versus being unemployed is 0.6 times lower for women with household head status than those without that status. Meanwhile, the relative probability of adult women transitioning to formal and informal work compared to being unemployed is 1.2 and 1.7 times higher for married women than never/unmarried women. This result shows that women with household head status are more likely to enter informal work because of the ease of entering the informal sector. Informal sector work is associated with independent business, using simple technology and little capital (Wandaweka & Purwanti, 2021, p.653).

According to migration status, the relative chance of making a transition to formal work compared to being unemployed is higher for migrant women than for non-migrants, and the relative chance of making a transition to informal work is lower than for being unemployed. However, these results were not statistically significant either in the analysis unit of all women or young and adult women.

**Conclusion**

During the Covid-19 pandemic, 12 percent of the female population experienced a job transition consisting of 26.5 percent transitioning to formal sector jobs, 63.1 percent transitioning to informal sector jobs, and 10.4 percent becoming unemployed at the beginning of the period. Covid-19 pandemic. Women’s education level significantly affects women’s opportunities to transition to work at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. Highly educated women are more likely to transition to the formal sector than unemployment. In addition, highly educated women have a lower chance of transitioning to informal employment than becoming unemployed.

The influence of education level on women’s opportunities to make a job transition to the formal sector is higher for young women than adults. That is closely related to most married adult women with childcare responsibilities and housework, reducing their chances of entering formal work. On the other hand, for women who are married and become household heads, the opportunity to transition to informal sector work is higher because of the ease of entering work with the constraints they have to increase their income during the Covid-19 pandemic.

To improve women’s welfare, one thing that can be done is to increase the proportion of the formal sector and reduce the proportion of women in the informal sector. Based on research results, it has been identified that higher education can increase women’s opportunities to transition to the formal sector. In addition, higher education can also reduce women’s opportunities to transition to the informal sector. Therefore, the policy recommendations suggested by researchers are as follows. First, the Indonesian House of Representatives can develop policies to overcome the main obstacles preventing women from having a career, such as lack of education and inadequate childcare facilities.

Regarding access to education, the Indonesian House of Representatives can encourage the Government to focus on improving the quality of education and training accompanied by equal distribution of education in each region to increase women’s human capital. By encouraging women to increase their education to higher education levels, women will have more competitiveness, increasing their chances of getting decent work in the formal sector. Regarding childcare facilities, the Indonesian House of Representatives needs to encourage government cooperation with related sectors to increase the number of subsidized childcare facilities for working women. That is one way to encourage women to enter the formal sector.
Second, the Indonesian House of Representatives can work together with the Government to encourage the availability of more jobs in the formal sector so that the population’s human capital is balanced by employment in the formal sector, which will improve the welfare of Indonesian women.

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