INTRODUCTION

International migration began ever since the colonial period in Malaysia. As Malaysia advance towards being a developing country, statistics show that the number of non-Malaysian has increased from 1.3 million in the year 2000 to 2.3 million in the year 2010. Among all the states in Malaysia, Sabah recorded the highest number of non-Malaysian residents with about 28 percent of its total population being non-Malaysian in the year 2010 (Department of Statistics, 2001 and 2011). Most of the migrants come to Malaysia to seek employment. The number of migrant workers in Sabah was at a total of 2.0 million in year 2008 compared to only 400 thousand in year 1999, and majority of them are from Indonesia (Economic Manning Unit, 2011). This number of migrant workers has brought about positive as well as negative impacts in various aspects to Sabah.

OBJECTIVE

To determine whether gender, age, ethnicity, religion, marital status, educational level, work sector, job industry and monthly income make a difference in the locals’ perception on the impact of Indonesian migrants.

METHODOLOGY

Data was used were obtained from the Study of Indonesian Migrant Workers in Tawau, Sabah conducted by the National Population and Family Development Board (LPPKN) in 2012. Data was analysed using the SPSS with descriptive analysis, independent t-test and analysis of variance (ANOVA).

The independent variables are gender, age, ethnicity, religion, marital status, educational level, work sector, job industry and monthly income. The dependent variable is the overall perception of the locals on the impact of the Indonesian migrants, which were determined by six different domains. The number of items in all the six domains differs from one another. Domains health, safety and culture consist of 3 items, education has 4 items, housing and neighbourhood has 5 items, and economy has 6 items. Each item was measured using Likert scale with 5 choices of answer: 1 (Strongly disagree), 2 (Disagree), 3 (Neutral), 4 (Agree) and 5 (Strongly Agree). The reliability of the instrument, which was measured using the SPSS Cronbach alpha test, attained a value of 0.912.

RESULT

For the purpose of this study, a total of 732 locals who answered completely all variables used in this analysis were considered. The distribution of respondents based on their sociodemographic and socio-economic characteristics is shown in Table 1.

PERCEPTION ON THE IMPACT OF INDONESIAN MIGRANTS:

Table 2 shows the minimum, maximum, mean score and standard deviation of all the domains used in this study.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The overall perception of the locals on the impact of the Indonesian migrants obtained a mean score of 95.6120 out of a total of 135. This score can be considered as quite a high score. This indicates that overall, the locals in Tawau, Sabah feel that the presence of the Indonesian migrants does have an effect on them. This study also found that age, ethnicity, marital status, education level, job industry, and monthly income contributed to the differences in the locals’ perception on the impact of Indonesian migrants.

There is a need to monitor the entrance of Indonesian migrants as workers to Malaysia particularly in Tawau, Sabah, as the increasing number of migrant workers is affecting the locals. The locals who are much more affected by these migrants might need to be given appropriate attention. However, further studies need to be conducted to explore the characteristics of these concerned locals.

REFERENCES