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RURAL-URBAN MIGRATION – CAUSES AND ECONOMIC IMPACT

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ABSTRACT

Purpose: This study aims at adding value to already existing literature on migration patterns by looking at other possible factors that may cause rural-urban migration like social ties and relationships among other traditional factors like age, sex, marital status, income expectations and family size.

Methodology: This survey utilized National Sample Survey and Evaluation Programme (NASSEP III) framework with 12,814 randomly selected households from 1139 clusters in the urban areas, and there was 80.7 percent response rate, that is 1938 households out of a total 2401 of the selected urban participants. Conducted using secondary data collected in 1998-99 (integrated rural urban labour force survey).Descriptive statistics was used mainly to summarize the data. SPSS was used for analysing complex data. Data presentation was through the use of pie charts, bar charts, graphs and frequency tables. Regression analysis was used to establish the relationship between the independent and dependent variables

Results: This research critically examines the effects of education on migration decision by analyzing data on level of education attained and found out that most of the migrants to the urban areas have attained no education at all while majority are only educated to primary level. The study also examines the socio-economic concepts which are attributed to rural-urban migration such as mushrooming of slum dwellings, urban unemployment, crime, environmental degradation and other social vices like drug peddling.

Unique Contribution to Theory Practice and policy: This study aims at making policy recommendations based on the findings which can be of use to policy analysts as they try to cope with this phenomenon and found that the solution lies in creating employment in rural areas and controlling the expansion of urban informal sector. Finally, this study proposes areas that require further research such as the effect of technology in influencing future migration patterns from rural to urban areas.

Keywords: **Rural, urban and migration**

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Rural-Urban Migration represents the relocation of rural population to urban areas where probability of landing better paying jobs is higher and access to social amenities like schooling, healthcare and entertainment is more likely. An urban centre in this study is defined as per the 1979 census and Labor force survey of 1988 to 89 where population density of an urban area is 2000 people and above .Urban areas are associated with better infrastructure in terms of communication, electrification, transportation, information technology and social amenities. Rural-urban migration represents one of the topical issues most studied by scholars yet the phenomenon is on the increase not just for the developing countries but also for developed nations. By the 1950s less than 30% of the world population resided in cities, this increased by 47% by 2000 and by year 2050, its expected that 60% of world population will reside in cities (Urbanization and Global Change; Contemporary perspective, Philadelphia University).

This poses a great challenge to the planning authorities particularly in the less developed nations and has led to emergence of slums, rising crime rates, environmental degradation and global warming, urban unemployment, vices like drug peddling, prostitution, street families among others. In Nairobi one of the major challenges has been hawking which has caused disruption of normal business, destruction of property and social unrest in the city. Most of the studies agree on the major variables leading to migration, the major ones being age, education, marital status, number of children (family size). Zelinsky (1971) in his mobility transition theory asserts that future population cohorts are more likely to migrate than the previous ones, while Chattopadhyay (2006) research in Ghana found out that migrants had fewer children than non migrants. Rural-urban migration can be looked at in 3 dimensions. Push factors comprise those that make migrants decide to move from their areas of origin and include such factors like poverty and land scarcity. Pull factors are those incentives that attract migrants like education opportunities, better wages and income and expectation of better lifestyles. There are also trigger factors in which case migrants are faced with circumstances like drought, war, tribal clashes and hostile climate conditions leading to migration.

This research paper intends to contribute further to this topical issue by analyzing other possible variables that may cause rural-urban migration like social network and linkages, parental background e.g level of education for both father and mother as well as scrutinize future determinants of migration like effect of change in communication and technology. A sizeable number of migrants are relocated by their family members to more accessible areas either in cities or other rural areas. With the continued change in technology like mobile phones, internet and Mpesa services (a cash transfer technology by use of phones) its worthwhile exploring whether they will have impact on future migration patterns. The rate of rural-urban migration is higher for developing countries compared to the developed countries at the same stage of economic growth implying the rate of urbanization is also higher. Rural-urban migration and urbanization are closely related and both are associated with economic growth.Migration patterns are complex with the most notable being rural-urban but there can also be rural-rural, urban-rural or even urban to urban migration. These patterns of migration are affected by policy decisions, political and social factors e.g. civil strive, political instability, patterns and rates of growth between rural and urban areas. This study will however concentrate on rural-urban migration.

1.2 Research Problem

Despite the fact that many studies have been undertaken in an attempt to find the causes of rural-urban migration, the problem still poses a socio-economic challenge of great concern indicating that a gap in knowledge still exists and this calls for an all inclusive study and further research of the problem. Rural and urban areas are highly interlinked and a mutually beneficial relationship should exist between the two. The problem is that activities being carried out in the rural areas like food and raw materials supply to the urban centres have had very low returns in terms of income generation. This is as a result of poor policies and at times political pressure leading to a situation where governments want to maintain low food prices to ensure popularity, political security and even win votes. These poor policies and poor infrastructure have led to a gap in income generation from activities being carried out in rural and urban centres causing rural urban migration as economic agents struggle to maximize their utilities.

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

Richard U. Agesa (2001) in his paper, "Migration and the urban to rural earnings difference: A Sample Selection Approach," used data from Kenya RLFS (Rural Labor Force Survey 1988-1989) and ULFS (Urban Labor Force Survey, 1986) in his study. He modeled migration as a discrete choice made by workers to migrate from rural to an urban area which he specified as below,

$$\Pr ob(M_i g_i) = \phi[\, a + bMale + dZ + \omega(LnW_{iu} - LnW_{ir}) + \varepsilon_i \,]$$

Where ϕ is the normal probability density function, $M_i g_i$ is a binary variable taking the value of one if a migrant is in urban area and zero if in rural area. (i) Indexes an individual while Z is a vector of variables determining rural urban migration like age, number of children, size of rural land, distance from rural to urban area, human capital characteristics and urban unemployment rate. Variable ($\ln W_{iu}$- $\ln W_{ir}$) represents the wage difference between a migrant worker in an urban area and a non-migrant worker in a rural area (u indexes urban area and r indexes rural area) .The coefficient ω on wage differential explains whether a migrant will make a migration decision based on this difference.

The findings of the study got coefficient (ω) to be very significant meaning that wage difference between rural and urban areas is a major determinant of migration decision and it's the expected rather than actual salary which increases probability of migration. Richard Agesa found the coefficient for urban unemployment to be insignificant explaining why migration continues despite high unemployment rate in urban areas. This study found a positive and highly significant coefficient on human capital variables, that is, the higher the level of education the higher the probability of migration. This study however does not explain why unskilled workers migrate, a major handicap but other studies emphasize non economic factors which influence migration decision like "city bright lights" may attract unskilled labor. According to Agnes R. Quisumbing and Scott McNiven in their paper "Migration and the rural-urban continuum, evidence from rural Philippines", social networks are important for migrants particularly for the first-time migrants and that initial financing is by guardians or parents. They however wondered whether migration comprised a brain drain from rural areas or whether it leads to welfare improvement through remittances.

Coming from the background of low income in urban informal sector, women provide the bulk of labour to the informal sector. Women migration has led to increase in female led household which is one of the factors cited for increased black poverty in the paper by Steven Schulman, "The causes of black poverty" Journal of Economic Issues, Dec 1990. Women also seem to suit this sector in that they're able to run small or micro enterprises that require very little start-up capital e.g. homemade food stuffs and handicraft like Kenyan 'Kiondo', Baskets, Bungles etc.Studies done in Latin America and Asia have shown that women have better repayment discipline on advanced credit than their male counterparts (Todaro, Michael p. Economic development chapter 7).In Kenya, women have formed successful business groups called "Chama" or merry-go-rounds which have elicited the interests of international donors like the World Bank and they are able to access finances through banks and other upcoming gender sensitive institutions.

The likely success of women in the informal sector means that there's also a bigger likelihood for more and more to migrate to urban areas in search for better livelihood.The success of women in business is however greatly curtailed by unfavorable cultural and social practices which for example prohibit women inheritance to property, right to education, inaccessibility to family planning services increasing fertility rates and overburdening the women with the role of child rearing and reducing their time to engage in business ventures.

3.0 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This survey utilized National Sample Survey and Evaluation Programme (NASSEP III) framework with 12,814 randomly selected households from 1139 clusters in the urban areas, and there was 80.7 percent response rate, that is 1938 households out of a total 2401 of the selected urban participants. Conducted using secondary data collected in 1998-99 (integrated rural urban labour force survey).Descriptive statistics was used mainly to summarize the data. SPSS was used for analysing complex data. Data presentation was through the use of pie charts, bar charts, graphs and frequency tables. Regression analysis was used to establish the relationship between the independent and dependent variables

4.0 RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Demographic Data

4.1.1 Age of the Respondents

From the findings on Table 1, of the 29,603,500 people 69.3% was population aged below 30 years a fairly youthful population and 81.4% were aged below 40 years. This information clearly shows that this is the age bracket likely to produce majority of migrants.

Table 1: Age of Persons

	Frequencies	Percent
0 to 9 years	8106088	27.4
10 to 19 years	7871969	26.6
21 to 29 years	4495742	15.3
30 to 39 years	3588920	12.1
40 to 49 years	2459371	8.3
50 to 59 years	1415787	4.8
60 to 69 years	927975	3.1
70 to 79 years	451991	1.5
80 to 89 years	153916	0.4
90 to 99 years	48167	0.1
Missing systems	83572	.3
Total	29603500	100.0

Source: Author (2009), compilation from ILFS 1998-99 data

4.1.2 Sex of the Respondents

From Table 2 the study found that there is almost sex parity between males and females with only a 0.1% difference. This means that though there might be differences in migration patterns between males and females, these could be insignificant.

Table 2: Sex

	Frequency	Percent
Male	14777230	49.9
Female	14826270	50.1
Total	29603500	100.0

Source: Author (2009), compilation from ILFS 1998-99 data

4.1.3 Marital Status of the Respondents

NM –never married

MM- married monogamy

MP-married polygamy

S- Separated

D-Divorced

W-Widowed

From the findings in the Figure 1, majority of the population (61.6%) is never married. This category is most likely to produce majority of the migrants.

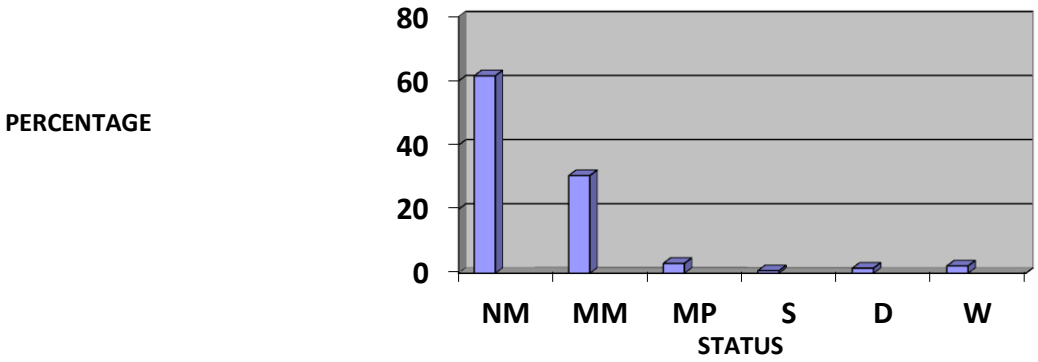

Figure 1: Marital Status

Source: Author (2009), compilation from ILFS 1998-99 data

4.1.4 Academic level of the Respondents

From Figure 2, the study found amazing statistics in academic levels attained with 26.6% with no education level at all, majority of the population (51.3%) only had primary level education, 17.1% had attained secondary school level of education, only 0.5% had attained undergraduate level of education while 0.4% attained post graduate level with 0.4% unstated. From these finding it's most likely that majority of migrants will come from the category of those with only none or primary level of education.

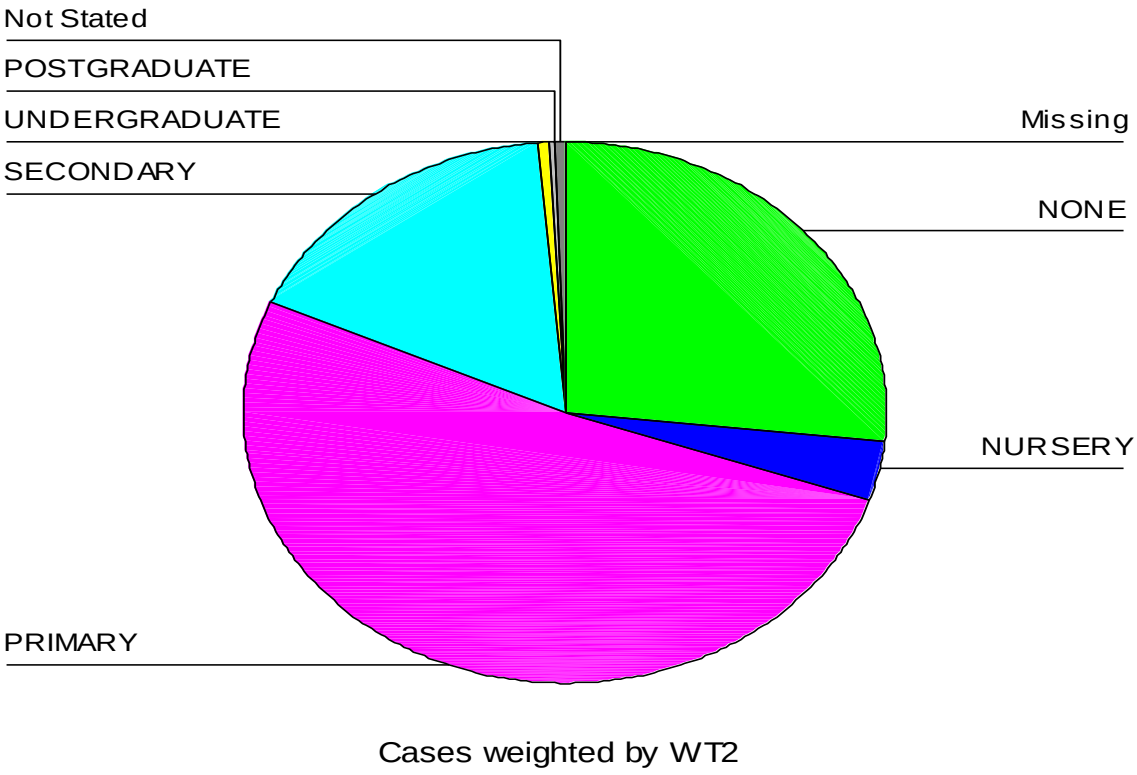

Figure 2: Highest academic level attained as a percent of total population

Source: Author (2009), compilation from ILFS 1998-99 data

4.1.4 Ownership of self-employed business

From the above Table, the study found that out of the total businesses started in the informal sector, 87.8 are sole proprietorships. These findings have a great implication on migration decision since many people are likely to migrate with the hope of starting self employment as evidenced in most urban centres where there is presence of hawkers, jua kali artisans and small scale traders dealing in clothing, retail in food, shops etc.

Table 4: Ownership of self-employed business

	Frequency	Percent
Sole proprietor	2544770	87.8
Partnership	124501	4.0
Cooperative	4171	.0
Family	35010	1.0
Not Stated	206372	7.2
Total	2914823	100

Source: Author (2009), compilation from ILFS 1998-99 data

4.2 Inferential Statistical Analysis

Table 5 indicates the results obtained after the explanatory variables were regressed against migration as the dependant variable .From the above findings, the study found that sex is significant in migration decision as indicated by R squared of 54.9% and the co-efficient of -1.65 implies that migration would decline as age limits approach upper limits and just as would be expected, few people would migrate to urban areas at advanced ages of over 60 years and according to the study's analysis this category comprise only 5.4% of the total population.

The study found sex to be statistically significant (t >2) in migration decisions. However, the statistical significance as indicated by R squared of 0.04 indicate that change in sex, that is, whether male or female has a small impact on migration decision and as earlier indicated, there is almost sex parity between males and females with a difference of only 0.1%. It was however found that more males migrate than females (see table 10 below) .This table indicates that, of the total in-migrants, males constituted 37.6% whereas women constituted 32.3% in the urban areas.

Table 5: Results of Regression Analysis

Model	Constant	Coefficient	Standard error	T	Adjusted R squared
Age	75.259	-1.65	0.013	-43.38	0.549
Sex	29.354	0.371	0.034	16.867	0.04
Marital status	62.424	-18.06	0.019	-1962.8	0.199
Level of education	78.688	-19.688	0.020	-2737.07	0.326
Wage expectation	1.58	0.762	0.05	152.795	0.115
Self employment	3.45	-0.15	0.02	-70.755	0.02
Social ties	23.097	6.818	0.048	141.32	0.021
Number of urban areas	19.340	0.002	0.43	450.98	0.013

Marital status was found to be significant in migration decision, meaning that change of marital status from being single to say marrying reduces chances of migrating as indicated by a negative coefficient of - 18.06. This is further supported by the R squared statistics of 19.9 % indicating the level of migration explained by a change in marital status .

Findings from the level of education indicate that the number of persons migrating is of no statistical significance with their level of education. The negative coefficient (-19.688) indicates that as the level of education increase the smaller is the number of migrants whereas the reverse is true as the level of education decreases the higher is the number of migrants. This is further supported by the findings of our study which indicate that 26.6% of the population had attained zero level of education, while 51.3% only had primary level of education. This total combined indicate that 77.9% only had primary education and below and only 22.1% had secondary and above level of education. Graduate and post graduate level comprised only 0.9% and therefore the negative coefficient makes sense in that as the level of education increases, there are fewer migrants. These findings also explain the fact that non-skilled persons migrate in large numbers worsening the problem of urban unemployment since majority don't have skills to enable them acquire jobs. This leads to problems being evidenced in the urban areas such as hawking, slum dwellings, crime, prostitution, drug peddling and environmental degradation.

Social ties were found to be very significant in making a rural to urban migration decision. This variable in this study was proxied by the main method used by job seekers while looking for employment as shown in the table below.

Table 6: Main method for seeking work

		Frequency	Percent
	Wrote to employer	78821	.3
	Applied to private employment bureau	15391	.1
	Answered employment advert	24474	.1
	Asked relatives/friends	1196571	4.0
	Direct approach to employer	287477	1.0
	Arranged for resources to start self employment activities	76003	.3
	Other	17239	.1
	Total	1710545	5.8
Missing	System	27892955	94.2
Total		29603500	100.0

Source: Author (2009), compilation from ILFS 1998-99 data

In Table 7 the study found a small positive correlation coefficient (0.002) between the number of towns and probability of migrating as indicated by the variable (number of urban areas). This could be true in that as the existing urban areas expand and new ones are created for example through creation of new districts, more people are likely to migrate to the urban areas.

Table 7: Distribution of informal sector enterprises by Area, Gender and Type of work site

Work site	Male	Female	Total
Rural			
Open market	59,476	117,702	177,177
Market stall	82,428	107,496	189,924
Residential	203,308	167,281	370,590
Commercial	486,716	397,200	883,916
Roadside/open ground	96,468	53,773	150,261
Road side kiosk	33,885	25,011	58,896
Other	24,839	5,804	20,643
Not stated	630	481	1,111
Total	987,751	874,769	1,862,519
Urban			
Open market	48,112	113,589	161,701
Market stall	16,135	42,163	58,298
Residential	52,330	49,952	102,282
Commercial	86,637	68,127	154,764
Roadside/open ground	84,735	83,356	168,091
Road side kiosk	43,214	64,881	108,095
Other	10,401	1,196	11,597
Not stated	0	0	0
Total	341,563	423,265	764,828

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics (March, 2003)

5.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 CONCLUSIONS

From the findings of the study, sex, social ties, expected wage were found to have positive relationships with the decision to migrate whereas level of education attained, self employment and marital status were found to have negative correlation coefficients. These are important findings in that they can help in decision making and policy purpose. Social ties as a variable can attest to the level of nepotism and bureaucracy in as far as job seeking is concerned. Measures can therefore be put in place by implementing systems aimed at ensuring appointments are done on merit particularly in the civil service recruitments. It's also clear that people migrate due to expectations as portrayed by the positive correlation between migration and wage expectations. It's important to make unemployment statistics in urban areas clear and publicize them to rural potential migrants' inorder to motivate them look for alternative employment and opportunities available without necessarily migrating. This can further be supported by improving infrastructure in rural areas to make it viable for starting income generating activities.

5.2 Recommendations

Due to the fast rate of change in information and technology, this study recommends that further research to be conducted in this area to find the implication of such technologies like the internet, mobile phones and cash transfer technology by use of mobile phones e.g. mpesa in migration. The trend of urban people moving their dependants to urban areas could easily

be influenced by the fact that its now much easy to communicate and even transfer finances from urban to rural areas with the introduction of the new technologies though this will depend on the rate at which they are adopted in the rural areas.

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