

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FACTORS OF RURAL MIGRATION IN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT. THE CASE OF ALBANIA

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Abstract

Migration is a present phenomenon in Albania has been fluctuating over the last two decades, overall performance tends to increase over time. This paper describes the movement from rural areas to urban areas, developing countries in developed countries and societies with difficult economic conditions in societies with better economic conditions to achieve their higher economic and social needs. A sample survey was conducted randomly, the three most important cities where the population was displaced were selected. The purpose of this study is designed to explore the social and economic determinants of rural migration in urban environments. The literature review has served us to provide the theoretical background in this study.

Descriptive analysis shows that there are a number of reasons that push individuals to migrate from rural to urban areas. Restriction of economic opportunities is the main factor motivating individuals and families to migrate to urban areas.

Deviating massive migration of individuals from rural areas to urban areas can be made by creating better economic opportunities.

Keywords: Rural and Urban Areas, Migration, Social and Economic Factors, Inciting and Attractive Factors

JEL classification: R51, O15

1 Introduction

Emigration has been one of the most dynamic features of transition in a country and one of the most important social and economic phenomena (King and Volunteer 2003). In particular, internal migration brought about a large urbanization

of some areas and a drastic depopulation of some others. Economic development leads to structural transformation, and as a result, the agricultural sector is declining while the industrial sector is increasing at the country's GDP. Based on the increase of the industrial production, the employment opportunities in urban centers also have been increasing and people start moving from the agricultural sector at the rural areas to urban areas in search of better employment opportunities and better living conditions (INSTAT, 2010). The phenomenon of urban population growth as a result of the massive movement of people in urban centers is referred to as urbanization. However, the movement of people from the agricultural sector into rural areas is not the only cause of urbanization. Another strong reason for the growing urbanization trend, particularly in developing countries, is the increase of the population. On the one hand, the urbanization process offers opportunities to develop a standard of living but on the other hand this process has also had some negative effects such as overcrowding, environmental pollution, as well as rise in crime and so on. Urbanization is a phenomenon that involves many developing countries and Albania is part of it. In recent years, the population of Albania and of different cities of Albania has increased significantly (INSTAT, 2015). The term of internal migration is used to describe the process of people moving from one area (a province, district or municipality) to another within the United Nations (Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization of the United Nations, UNESCO). Another definition of internal migration is provided by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in the Dictionary of Migration, a publication of key terms and concepts commonly used in the 2007 migration literature. According to this document, domestic migration is viewed as "movement of people from one region to another with the intention of living in a new location. Internal migration can be temporary or permanent. Domestic migrants can move within the borders of their country of origin (eg rural-urban migration)." (IOM, 2007, p. 35). Internal migration can be expressed in two dimensions: spatial and time dimensions. Spatial dimension refers to migration between two counties, two districts of the same district or two towns or villages. The time dimension describes whether this movement occurred at a certain point in the period between 2001 and 2016, as well as the exact year of the last movement, before arriving at the current residence. For the internal migration analysis we mainly rely on flow data, but there are times when considering the absolute change of the population. Specifically, the population change between 2001 and 2016 or the change from 1989 to 2016 can be considered as a reflection of migration.

Studies on internal migration have shown that most of the population is young, 46% of internal migrants are under the age of 30 and 6% of internal migrants

represent the retirement age (INSTAT, 2004). In terms of gender, 54% of the people who have migrated domestically are women, though this statistic varies with age (more women than men migrate at an early age). Some of the reasons that explain this trend are related to job opportunities in the market for young women in urban areas, gender-based traditions such as the lack of a future in relation to inheritance of family property in rural areas. (INSTAT, 2004). However, gender mainstreaming in internal migration can occur due to the fact that women tend to prefer short-term domestic migration while men choose long-term and multiple migration, from domestic to international migration. This recent trend makes it more difficult to identify the distribution of the male population in studies that examine domestic migration in Albania.

During the study of domestic migration in Albania it is important to consider the many factors such as the demographic elements and the employment situation of those involved in this process. Despite the fact that most internal migrants (84%) are relatively young (15 years-64 years), only 60% of this population works (INSTAT, 2004). In addition, the level of unemployment is higher among women (41%) than among males (23%). Women who find work after migration to another area within the country belong to two age groups: (15-19 years) and (40-49 yr) where the first group finds jobs that do not require training and skills while the second group is consisting of women who have advanced training.

By trying to understand the demographic dimensions of Albanian domestic migration, many conclusions can be reached. First, the majority of the population is young and this trend has an impact on the labor market 21 which has increased in host communities and has diminished in the communities of origin. Secondly, the male / female ratio in domestic migration is more balanced than the gender ratio in international migration (ie 1: 1 compared to 3: 1). In addition, coastal and central prefectures are often seen as the destination prefecture, while northern and northeastern prefectures are often the prefecture of origin.

The migration in Albania has always been an important phenomenon which is characterized by three phases. 1. The first phase (1950-1960), characterized by the communist strategy of accelerating the development of a secondary sector (industry and construction) more than the tertiary sector, domestic migration from rural to urban areas was controlled and oriented, but not totally prohibited. 2. The second phase (1961-1990) was characterized by a strategy of internal migration restrictions from rural to urban areas, proving, but without success, moving the population from rural to urban areas.

On the one hand this policy deepened the self-isolation from the outside world but on the other hand, the investment resources dropped drastically, for example, the process of economic and social development. 3. The third phase started in

1990, coincided with the transition period and was characterized by a lack of policies in terms of internal and international migration. During this period, as a result of changes in the country, control of the free movement of the population was abolished and urban areas, especially Tirana and Durres, compared to rural ones, were disproportionate. Out of rural areas, approximately 900,000 people migrated to urban areas inland to other countries as well. (INSTAT, 2001). People tend to move from rural to urban areas, from developing countries to developed countries, taking into account the multi-dimensional aspects, motives, or causes. The decision to migrate is due to certain factors such as certain deprivations, stress, restrictions, aspirations, motivation in the country of origin. Privileges have emerged collectively or by individuals when their needs are not met by existing conditions within a community. There are many economic, social and political and environmental factors that have caused migration, and they can usually be classified as “Supply Chain Management”. The driving factors are those related to the field of origin (rural areas), while attractive factors are those related to the area of destination (urban areas) (Riley, 2011).

Push and Pull Factors of Migration

Push	Pull
Social Discrimination, Family Extension, Criminality	Family reunion, Commitments, Educational and Cultural Opportunities, Health Services
Political instability	Access to Public Services
Poverty, unemployment, sluggish economic growth, low wages	Employment and business opportunities, higher salaries, potential for better living standards
Degradation of the environment	Lack or high number of people, the quality of the environment

2 Methodology

This study was based on a specific purpose to describe the characteristics of internal migration in Albania and to identify the areas most affected by this phenomenon. Further, the study aims to identify the push and pull factors that led the interviewed people to the decision to migrate. The discussion was mainly focused on various aspects such as the scholastic study, the selection criteria for respondents, the construction of measuring instruments, the pilot or pre-testing study and the measures taken during the questionnaire development and the time to gather the corresponding responses during the survey. This study was planned to

explore the social and economic determinants of rural migration in the urban environment in Tirana, Durrës and Vlorë. The interviewing for each city was done through the targeted sampling methods, after the identification of the primary selection units, the study continued with the identification of families within these units. This process was based on random selection of households representing each primary selection unit. The inclusion criterion for this study was related to the selection of families migrating from rural to urban areas. Pre-testing is performed at twenty men to ensure the validity and accuracy of the interview program. After the pre-testing and the finalization of the interview program and the research activities in the field, then started the process of collecting data.

3 Results and discussion

Four trends in the population movement within the regions can be identified:

(1) people leaving the northern and northeastern regions (prefectures of Kukës and Dibër) and relocate to central regions;

(2) people from different parts of the country (prefectures of Berat, Korça, Elbasan, Gjirokastra, Shkodra) relocate to the center of the country;

(3) people from the coastal regions (prefectures of Fier, Vlorë, Lezhë) relocate to central regions;

and

(4) people from different parts of the country relocate to secondary coastline regions (INSTAT: 2004).

Part of the phenomenon of internal migration can be linked to poverty and lack of opportunities for economic growth in the areas of origin. For example, 40% of households in Kukës (Northeast Region) receive social support, while the national average of living standards was 12% (INSTAT, 2000).

As for the welcoming prefectures for migrants, Tirana ranks first, followed by Durrës, Fier and Vlora. According to the 2001 population census, 72% of the people who migrated internally live in Tirana and Durrës (INSTAT, 2004). The population in these two prefectures increased by 41% and 12%, respectively. In addition, in 2001, 30% of the total population lived in these two areas, compared to 23% in 1989.

This complex and often irregular and chaotic internal migration is characterized by low levels of integration between host communities and newcomers, imbalance in infrastructure (water, electricity, roads) and the education and health system.

Characteristics of the population study

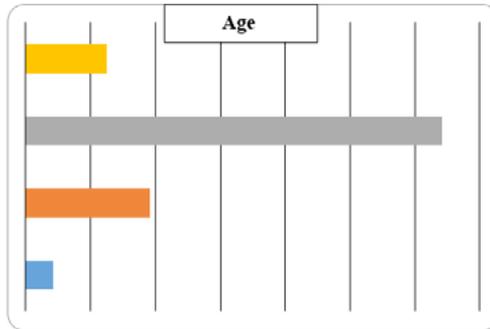
Before Migration

- Age group: 21-29 years
- Patriarchal Family
- 9-year education
- Household income: Less than 15,000 ALL
- Occupation: Engaged with agriculture

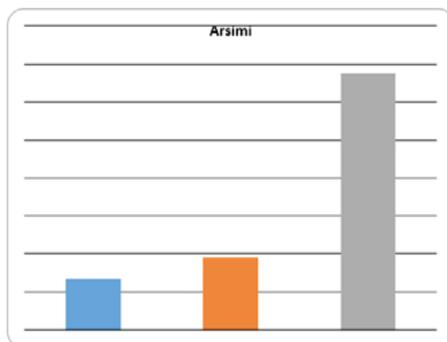
After Migration

- Age group: 21-29 years
- The Modern Family
- University education
- Household income: 20,000 ALL
- They do not deal with agriculture

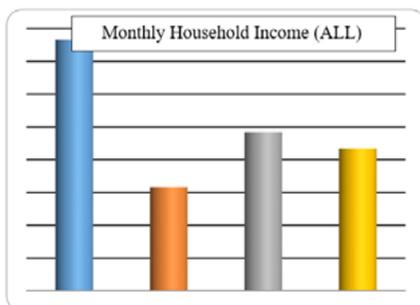
Social and demographic economic characteristics of the respondents



- Interview data regarding the average age of respondents indicate that 64.2 percent of them were around the age of 27-35.
- Most migrant families belong to the young age group.

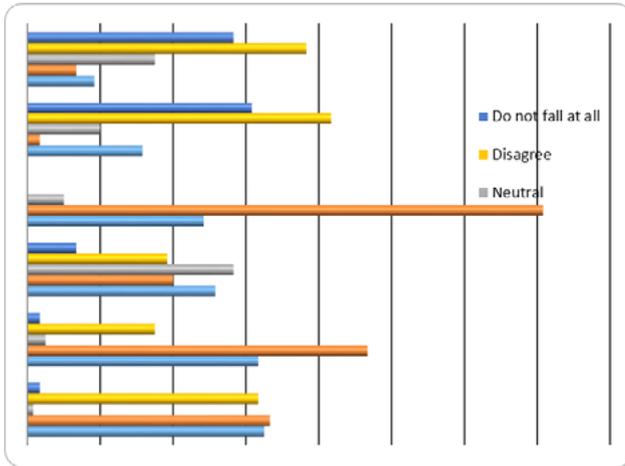


Now migration is a fact for qualified people, but also for those in qualification process. Low-skilled migrants are few among young migrants.



According to most interview data, respondents belong to the poorest class. This shows that most respondents migrate from rural to urban areas to meet their basic needs ie 70.0 percent of respondents reported that they had migrated from rural areas to urban areas due to the availability of basic elements such as work, education and good standard of living, which was not available in the village, while 30.0 percent had responded negatively.

The economic and social determinants of rural migration in the urban environment



Most of the respondents were young people over the age of 18, not very educated, with little work experience and with large families. As far as their economic status is concerned, most of them fall into the low income group. Most of the respondents have migrated to have higher incomes, get better education, and achieve a better standard of living.

Data shows that the majority of respondents, 60.8 percent of them, think that their financial situation has improved due to migration in cities and 39.2 percent of respondents were of the opinion that their financial situation is the same as the previous financial resources situation in the rural areas. When respondents were asked in the relevant interview to achieve the purpose or the cause of the migration, almost one third of the respondents about 73.3 percent gave positive answers regarding this statement and 26.7 percent of the respondents were not happy about their intentions to emigrate in relation to their achievement in different aspects of life.

4 Conclusion

Domestic migration can lead to the diminution of human resources and spark a sense of chaos in infrastructure. Key systems such as health, education and development sectors are highly affected, and government interventions should focus on on-going monitoring of the internal migration process to prevent the negative effects of these processes.

The descriptive analysis shows that inadequate education, low health, poor infrastructure and limited economic opportunities in rural areas were the main factors that motivate individuals and families to migrate to urban areas.

By the increase of migration from rural to urban areas, various problems such as environmental pollution, road traffic, overcrowding, road accidents and crime are increasing. The government should provide better economic opportunities, better sanitation institutions, better health institutions, better education institutions, better infrastructure, better public transport, the promotion of the farming industry and the creation of industry in small villages near the villages to divert the massive displacement of individuals from rural areas to urban areas.

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