



PATTERN OF MIGRATION STREAMS IN MYANMAR

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Abstract

- Migration streams are crucial in shaping societies, economies, and cultures around the world. Nearly 39% of migrants move from urban to urban, 15% of migrants move from rural to urban, 19% of migrant move from urban to rural, and 27% of migrants from rural to rural.
- Gender, age, household size, states and regions, education, occupation and reasons for migration (search for employment, followed family, conflict and medical and health services) are the main determinants of migration streams in Myanmar.
- The government of Myanmar should always pay attention to the regional cooperation, social integration, economic opportunities, humanitarian assistance, migration dynamics and policy development.



Introduction

Migration is a key driver of urbanization, affecting economic development and the demand for infrastructure and services (UN-Habitat, 2016). A migration stream is used to describe patterns and trends in migration and understand the reasons behind migration, the demographics of migrants, and the impacts on both the origin and destination locations. The pattern of migration streams, whether internal or international, significantly impacts social, economic, and demographic aspects of societies.

In Myanmar, the internal migration streams are mainly driven by a combination of economic, social, and environmental factors. Urban areas like Yangon and Mandalay attract migrants from rural regions due to better economic opportunities. Additionally, internal displacement due to conflict and environmental factors also contributes to the pattern of migration streams. In this study, the emphasis is only on migration stream patterns that are moving from the previous residence to the current residence, like urban to urban, rural to urban, urban to rural, and rural to rural migration. It also helps in understanding and addressing demographic imbalances. The situation of migration streams in Myanmar is complex and multifaceted by the various challenges, including conflict and displacement, human trafficking, limited economic opportunities, and health and well-being. To overcome these various challenges, the pattern of migration streams in Myanmar and its determinants are explored.

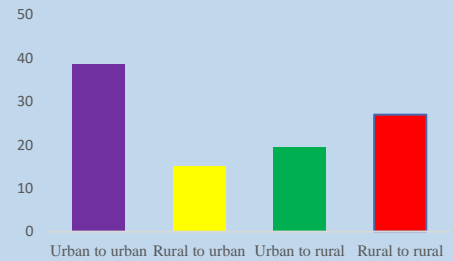
Data and Methods

The dependent variable is migration streams, which is categorized as urban to urban migration, rural to urban migration, urban to rural migration, and rural to rural migration. The independent variables are the socioeconomic and demographic factors such as gender, marital status, age, education, occupation, household size, and location and migration factors such as search for employment, search for education, marriage, followed family, medical and health services and conflict. The secondary data are obtained from the 2019 Myanmar Inter-Censal Survey. A sample of 85489 migrants participated in the study. Descriptive statistics are used to investigate the migration streams pattern in Myanmar and the migrants' socioeconomic and demographic factors and reasons behind migration. Furthermore, multinomial logistic regression is also employed to analyze the determinants of migration streams pattern in Myanmar.

Findings

Migration Streams Pattern in Myanmar

Migration Streams	Number	Percent
Urban to urban	32989	39
Rural to urban	12859	15
Urban to rural	16616	19
Rural to rural	23025	27
Total	85489	100



Socioeconomic and Demographic Factors and Reasons behind Migration in Myanmar

The majority of migrants (77%) are married, 29% are living in Yangon, and 27% are aged below 30 years. Thirty five percent of migrants have mostly attained the primary school, followed by 33% who have attained the high school and above. Most of them are employed. In regard to the reasons for movement, 33% of migrants are moving due to search for employment, 3% are moving due to search for education, 27% of migrants are moving due to marriage, 34% are moving due to following family, 1% of migrants are moving due to access to medical and health services, and conflict. In fact, those trends reflect the significant economic opportunities available in urban centers, which attract individuals seeking better job prospects.

Multinomial Logistic Regression Model for Migration Streams in Myanmar

The value of likelihood Chi-square ratio indicates that the estimated model significantly predicts the migration stream patterns in Myanmar better than the null model. The value of Pseudo R-square indicates that 14.32% of variation in migration streams can be explained by the independent variables. The movement from "rural to urban" migration is chosen as reference level. According to the comparison of urban to urban migration and rural to urban migration, it has been found that sex, age, education, employment status, marital status, household size, location, search for employment, followed family, conflict, and medical and health services are significant predictors of the urban to urban migration. Regarding the comparison of urban to rural migration and rural to urban migration, it has been found that sex, age, education, employment status, marital status, household size, location, search for employment, followed family, conflict, and medical and health services are significant predictors of the urban to rural migration. Concerning the comparison of rural to rural migration and rural to urban migration, it has been found that age, education, employment status, household size, location, search for employment, search for education, followed family, conflict, and medical and health services are significant predictors of the rural to rural migration. Hence, the government of Myanmar should always pay attention to the regional cooperation, social integration, economic opportunities, humanitarian assistance, migration dynamics and policy development.

Conclusion and Suggestions

The government of Myanmar should always emphasize on the underlying causes and effects of migration, ensuring that migrant rights and needs are satisfied, and making sure that both urban and rural areas develop harmoniously in order to solve the complex patterns of migration streams in Myanmar. This study not only helps in managing current migration challenges but also in building a more resilient and inclusive society. Research on migration streams in Myanmar could benefit from several key areas of focus, especially given the country's complex sociopolitical landscape. In fact, those precise estimates could provide valuable insights into a more nuanced understanding of migration dynamics in Myanmar and inform more effective policies and interventions to support affected populations. If it was able to be better managed the internal migration streams in Myanmar, it would be more deeply affected by the policies that support inclusive development, infrastructure investment, social services provision, and equitable economic opportunities for all migrants within the country.