# INFLUENCING FACTORS ON MIGRTION AND ITS IMPACTS OF THABAWA NATURE CENTRE IN THANLYIN

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#### **Abstract**

Migration has become an important livelihood strategy for many poor groups across the world. As a type of migration, internal migration can take place in almost every society. This study aims to examine factors influencing on migration in Thabawa Nature Center and positive and negative consequences of migration. This study find out the factors influencing on migration to Thabawa Nature Center and its impacts. The study is based on descriptive method and Primary survey method using descriptive statistics. The study found that migrants in Thabawa Nature Center migrated mainly from Thonegwa, Khayan, Bokalay and Phyarpone for seeking job, more income generation, to improve living standard, religious worship and natural disaster. Positive impacts for migrants include obtaining better job opportunities, increased income, better education and health care system; more improved living standards. However, most of the respondents face negative impacts having no sufficient electricity and poor water supply system and environmental problem but with roads availability.

Key words: Migration, Factors influencing, Positive impacts, Negative impacts

#### Introduction

Migration has become an important livelihood strategy for many poor groups across the world. As a type of migration, internal migration can take place in almost every society. The internal migration can take place as a result of change in the structure of society as well as being the cause of some changes by itself. Internal migration is human migration within one geopolitical entity, usually in a nation-state. International migration tends to travel for education and for economic improvement or because of a natural disaster or civil disturbance. Cross-border migration often occurs for political or economic reasons.

Internal migration has an important part of socioeconomic transformation within a country. Managed internal migration can get benefits for countries as well as individuals. However, poorly managed internal migration can result in various difficulties including reproductive and other problems. Internal migration has both

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direct and indirect impact on population dynamics. Changes in population structure and distribution are direct impacts of migration, whereas behavioral changes among migrants are indirect impacts. When people migrate, they may face new social, cultural and economic environments that could offer them different opportunities.

Internal migration can be classified into four groups; rural to rural migration, urban to urban migration, rural to urban migration and urban to rural migration. In Myanmar, Rural to Rural migration was about 26% in 2007. Urban to Urban migration was 65% in 2007. The proportion of Rural to Urban migration was about 25% in 2007. (Levels, Trends and Patterns of Internal Migration in Myanmar, 2013). Urban to Rural movement in Myanmar was about 9% in 2007. Like in other South-East Asian countries, it is the least significant movement within four groups. Of these, rural to rural migration and urban to urban migration are the most prominent migration streams in Myanmar.

Thanlyin Township is located in Yangon South District. Yangon South District consists of eleven Townships including Thanlyin Township which is the most populated area and has total population over of 260,000. The migration of Thanlyin Twonship increased after 2008. Thabawa Nature Center is situated in Thinlyin Township. This study focuses on migration in Thabawa Nature Center in Thanlyin Township and the main purpose is to find out the factors of influencing on migration.

### **Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of the study are

- To examine factors influencing on migration in Thabawa Nature Center
- To describe the current situation of migration in Thabawa Nature Center
- To explore the negative and positive impacts of the migration

### Methods of the Study

The study is based on descriptive method and Primary survey method. Survey is carried out by using simple random sampling method. Open-ended and close-ended questions are used to explore the factors influencing on migration and its impacts on households. 400 households are selected to conduct survey from the center. The information of the background data is taken from secondary sources from the center.

### **Literature Review**

Factors affecting migration have the positive impacts and negative characteristics of both the origin and destination. Push factors could involve expensive housing costs, growing gridlock, rising crime rate, poor climate or lack of sufficient income. Pull factors could include higher paying job, good infrastructure, a pleasant physical setting, availability of suitable housing, and a good climate. However, it was also observed that a push factor for some people could be a pull factor for others (Kuby et al., 2003).

People move for different reasons. These differences affect the overall migration process. Theories of migration are important because they can help us understand population movements within their wider political and economic contexts. Ernest Ravenstein is widely regarded as the earliest migration theorist. Ravenstein used census data from England and Wales to develop his "Law of Migration" (1889). He concluded that migration was governed by a "push-pull" process; that is, unfavorable conditions in one place (oppressive laws, heavy taxation, etc.) "Push" people out, and favorable conditions in an external location "pull" them out. Ravenstein's law started that the primary cause for migration was better external economic opportunities; the volume of migration decreases as distance increases; migration occurs in stages instead of one long move; population movements are bilateral; and migration differentials (e.g., gender, social class, age) influence a person's mobility.

Everett Lee (1996) reformulated Ravenstein's theory to give more emphasis to internal (or push) factors. Lee also outlined the impact that intervening obstacles have on the migration process. He argued that variables such as distance, physical and political barriers, and having dependents can impede or even prevent migration. Lee pointed out that the migration process is selective because differentials such as age, gender, and social class affect how persons respond to push-pull factors, and these conditions also shape their ability to overcome intervening obstacles. Furthermore, personal factors such as a person's education, knowledge of a potential receiver population, family ties and the like can facilitate or retard migration.

Lee's Theory of migration mainly emphasizes on the push-pull factors. Push and Pull factors are forced that can either induce people to move a new location or oblige them to leave old residences. People migrate for a number of reasons. These

reasons may fall under these four areas; Environment, Economic, Cultural and Sociopolitical. Within that, the reasons may also be 'push' or 'pull' factors.

Push factors are those that force the individual to move voluntarily, and in many cases, they are forced because of the individual risk for their lives. Push factors are the reasons why people leave an area, which compose of lack of the services, lack of safety, high crime, flooding, poverty and war. Economic push factors include overpopulation, lack of job opportunities, low wages etc. These factors tend to push people to look for their futures outside the area of their origin. Civil wars and insurgencies are the political push factors. Socially, push factors affecting on migration are intolerance towards a certain cultural group and active religious persecute. Poor economic activity and lack of job opportunities are also strong push factors for migration. Finally, physical push factor include natural disaster and the impact of climate change that affect rural livelihoods.

In contrast, Pull factors are those factors in the destination country that attract the individual or group to leave their home. Those factors are known as place utility, which is the desirability of a place that attracts people. Pull factors may include better economic opportunities, more job, better living conditions, political and/ or religious freedom, enjoyment, education opportunities, better medical care and security. Migration usually happens as a result of a combination of those push and pull factors. Physical pull factors include delightful environments, such as mountains, seaside and pleasant climate that affect the migration. Political conditions can also operate as pull factors, especially freedom. People are attracted to live in democratic countries that encourage individual choice in education, employment and residence. Migration usually happens as a result of a combination of these push and pull factors.

People migrate when the current value of expected benefits exceed the expected costs of moving. People have been migrating to another place due to religious, political and economic factors and the outmigration or emigration has also taken place. Mosse et al., (2002) concluded that migration is affected by the social structure of the society. Seasonal migration is also often caused by inter-regional disparities and differences between socio-economic classes of the society and development policies. The literature available on migration distinguishes between push and pull factors of migration which are often integrated together and not in isolation. People migrate from one area to another when they do not find suitable

means of livelihood or employment or might think of fruitful expectations of making such a movement.

### **Background Information of ThaBaWa Nature Center**

Thabawa Nature Center is located in Thanlyin Township of Yangon South District in Yangon region of Myanmar. It was established by Ashin Ottamasara, the abbot of the Center, in 2008 with 3 acres initially at Thanlyin donated by a retired military officer. By now, the total area of Thabawa nature center in Thanlyin is about 85 acres, home to over 10,000 people.

In 2012, Satanar village, one of a series of communities was established by U Ottanasara to provide land, food and shelter to those lacks of adequate housing in free of charge. The Sayardaw agreed to provide plots measuring 225 square feet to the homeless and poor families who came to Sayardaw. The village has 28 acres and most of the residents are casual laborers. The village has been full but homeless people continue to register for meditation courses and the Sayardaw is planning to set up another Saytanar village on a 180- acre site at Yangon Region's Hlegu Township. Half of the land was used to provide housing for the poor people and the other half for a meditation center.

Thabawa Nature Center in Thanlyin, is a non-profit humanitarian organization working for a noble cause. Thabawa Center was established with unlimited access for general benefit and is fulfilling the most crucial needs continually and persistently step by step. Thabawa Nature Center is opened full-time, 24 hours a day, seven days a week without recess. It is the sanctuary for persons from all regions of Myanmar who seek refuges for care and attention and desire to practice meditation. The center provides sanctuary for more than 2,400 Yogis (as of February 2014) including aged persons, sick persons, the infirm, the blind, the deaf, the disabled, people with mental cases, homeless and helpless ones. Sanctuary provides without discrimination or restriction as to number, time, age, health condition, nationality, social status, religion, etc. Food, lodging and teaching are provided free of charge.

The Center is trying to help the people in need, the old aged, the patients, and the homeless people. This place is now well-known for offering help to anyone in need. The center provide food, offer shelter to the people and educate children apart from helping others. This is a home for all, for the whole family. People can participate in the center's activities according to their own wish, for right

understanding and good benefits. In this way, everybody can learn about meditation and doing good deeds by direct practice and experience.

Table (1) Population of Thabawa Nature Centre in Thanlyin

Sr. No.	Particular	Ov	er 18 Y	ears	Under 18 Years		Total			
NO.	Particulai	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
1	Centre	1376	1589	2965	23	61	84	1399	1650	3049
2	Village	3464	3819	7283	503	837	1340	3967	4656	8623
Total	population	5195	5053	10248	526	898	1424	5366	6306	11672

Source: Thabawa Nature Center, Thanlyin (2019)

According to table (1) Thabawa Nature Centre's total population is (11672). The number of male population is 5366 and the number of female population is 6306. As mentioned above, the number of female is more than the number of male. Among them, there are 518 monks and 394 nuns, number of male yogis is (843), number of female yogis is (1140) and the number of volunteers is (70).

The following table (2) shows total number of over 60 aged yogis is in centre. Most of the yogis are between 60 and 70 years of age, amounting to (46%) and the second largest number of yogis is between 70 and 80 years (36%), between 80 and 90 is (16%) and over 90 years of age is (2%).

Table (2) Number of over 60 Year-Age Yogis in Centre

Sr. No.	Age	Male	Female	Total population	Percent
1	Over 90	6	17	23	2
2	80-90	46	103	149	16
3	70-80	117	222	339	36
4	60-70	195	236	431	46
	Total	364	578	942	100

Source: Thabawa Nature Center, Thanlyin (2019)

### **Empirical Analysis**

400 households were surveyed among 2400 households in Thabawa Nature Center in Thanlyin Township, Yangon Region. Survey was carried out in selected area by using simple random sampling method and face to face interview. In the

interview, some respondents are household heads as well as others are household members. Structured questionnaire is used to discover the demographic condition, economic condition, history of migration, job and income condition, influencing factors of migration and its impacts.

# **Background of the Respondents**

To explore the demographic condition of the respondents, questions relating to migrants' gender, age, educational qualification, marital status, family size are asked to respondents. Table (3) shows the demographic conditions of the migrants in Thabawa Nature Center.

Table (3) Demographic condition of Migrants

Sr.No.	Indicators	Frequency	Percent
1	Gender		
	Male	179	44.7
	Female	221	55.3
	Total	400	100
2	Age(Year)		
	18-28	39	9.7
	29-39	106	26.5
	40-50	74	18.5
	Above 50	181	45.3
	Total	400	100
3	Race		
	Kachin	4	1
	Kayin	2	0.5
	Myanmar	369	92.2
	Mon	3	0.8
	Rakhine	8	2
	India	14	3.5
	Total	400	100
4	Religion		
	Buddish	395	98.7
	Christian	1	0.3
	Hindu	4	1
	Total	400	100
5	Marital status		
	Married	345	86.3
	Single	54	13.5
	Total	400	100
6	Educational qualification		
	Primary	155	38.7
	Middle school	150	37.5
	High School	58	14.5
	University Graduate	14	3.5
	Other	23	5.8
	Total	400	100
7	Family size		
	1-3	187	46.7
	4-6	123	30.8
	Above 6	90	22.5
	Total	400	100

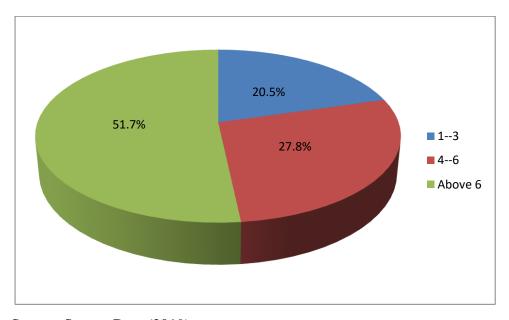
Source: Survey Data (2019)

According to the survey, majority of the migrants from Thabawa Nature Center in Thanlyin Township are female covering (55.3%) of the total while mostly ages are above 50 years (45.3%) and second largest group is between 29 and 39 years (26.5%). The least percent of the migrants are age between 18 and 28 years (9.7%). Most respondents are Myanmar (92.2%) followed by India (3.5%), Rakhine (2%), Kachin (1%), Mon (0.8%) and Kayin (0.5%). Among migrants, (86.3%) married followed by (13.5%) of single. 38.7% of the migrants have primary education whereas middle education accounting for (37.5%). The percentage of high school and university graduates is very few ,amounting to (14.5%) and (3.5%) respectively , and other qualifications , (5.8%) which are included monastery education etc. The family size of most migrants are between 1 and 3 (46.7%), 4 and 6 (30.8%) and above 6, (22.5%) respectively.

### Years of the Migrants' Settlement

The following chart (1) shows the year of the migrants' settlement. According to the responses of the families, most migrants have moved to Thabawa Nature Center for over 6 years. This covers (51.7%) of the total followed by between 4 and 6 years is (27.8%) and between 1 and 3 years is (20.5%) respectively.

Chart (1) Years of Migrats' Settlement at Thabawa Nature Center



Source: Survey Data (2019)

# **Major Connection of Migration**

The following table (4) shows the main networks of migrants.

**Table (4) Major Connection of Migration** 

Sr. No.	Connection of migration	Frequency	Percentage
1	Relatives	212	53.0
2	Friends	184	46.0
3	Brokers	4	1.0
	Total	400	100

Source: Survey Data (2019)

Owing to the Survey, most migrants moved to urban areas through the links of relatives (53%) followed by friends (46%) and brokers (1%) respectively. It is found that quite number of the migrants follow their relatives who have migrated to Yangon Region previously as their family thought that linking with relatives are more secure in migrating to Yangon. Those who contacted with brokers are generally the poor and they have low level of education.

### **Job Categories of the Migrants**

Table (5) indicates that major jobs of migrants before they moved to Thabawa Nature Centre. People from Thanlyin are agricultural workers with (38.3%), casual laborers with (14.8%), trading (14.5%) and fishing (7%). After moving to Thabawa Nature Center, Thanlyin, agricultural and fishery workers decreased to (1.5%) and (0.2%) respectively. Factory workers, casual workers and traders increased by (11.2%), (23.2%) and (20.3%) respectively. Most of the migrants are working agricultural field before moving present place especially Thonegwa and Bokalay. Factory worker, trader, casual and carry increased nearly double. Other job categories of the migrants encompasses retail-sellers, construction worker, restaurant employees and brokers etc.

**Table (5) Job Categories of the Migrant People** 

Sr. No.	Types of Jobs	Bef	ore	After	
		Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
1	Agriculture	153	38.3	6	1.5
2	Fishery	31	7.8	1	0.2
3	Factory Workers	12	3.0	45	11.2
4	Trader	58	14.5	93	23.2
5	Own Business	11	2.8	29	7.2
6	Government Staff	23	5.8	16	4.0
7	Company Staff	18	4.5	24	6.0
8	Non-worker	17	4.3	63	15.8
9	Casual	59	14.8	81	20.3
10	Carry	4	1.0	31	7.8
11	Other	14	3.5	11	2.8
	Total	400	100	400	100

Source: Survey Data (2019)

# **Income Conditions of the Respondents**

As presented in Table (6), income of most migrants before migration is fewer than 50000 and between 100000 and 200000, (27.7%) and (25.7%) respectively. After migration, most of the villagers' incomes have increased between 200000 and 300000 (24.8%). Most of them have changed their fields from agricultural to factory workers and carry. This is one of the positive effects due to migration.

**Table (6) Income Conditions of Respondents** 

Sr.		В	efore	After	
No.	Income(Kyats)	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
1	Under 50,000	111	27.7	58	14.5
2	50,000-100,000	86	21.5	55	13.7
3	100,000-200,000	103	25.7	98	24.5
4	200,000-300,000	55	13.8	99	24.8

5	Above 300,000	45	11.3	90	22.5
	Total	400	100	400	100

Source: Survey Data (2019)

# **Influencing Factors of Migration**

In this survey, influencing factors of migration are classified as social factors and economic factors. All of these factors can be regarded as push and pull factors that causes migration internally. Under economic factors, there include job opportunity, better income, doing own business. Seeking for a job or jobs is a push factor and getting increase income and doing own business are pull factors. Social factors include religious worship, abnegation, living standard, natural disaster, health, education and other factors. Religious worship, getting physically and mentally safe, better healthcare and better education are pull factors. Abnegation and natural disaster are push factors.

According to the table (7), it is found that respondents highly agree all economic factors, which include job, income, to do own business. Among these reasons, the main reason for internal migration is seeking for jobs, (56.2%) followed by gaining more income generation, (16%) and to do own business, (14.8%). To achieve more income was the second major factor for those who had moved locally. Other factors include getting free land from Sayardaw, to get own house for expensive housing price in downtown Yangon etc.

**Table (7) Economic Factors for Migration** 

Economic Factors	Frequency	Percent
Seeking Job	225	56.2
Income	64	16
Doing own-business	59	14.8
Other	52	13
Total	400	100

Source: Survey Data (2019)

Owing to the study, the social reasons for internal migration are religious worship, abnegation, physically and mentally safe, natural disaster, health, education and other factors. Most common reasons for migration are to improve physically and mentally safe, to avoid natural disaster and to get religious worship. In table (8), the

major influencing factor is to improve physically and mentally safe with (35.7%) followed by natural disaster, (19.5%) and religious worship, (12.7%). In 2008, Cyclone Nagis affected Phyapon and Bokalay in Ayeyarwaddy Region and many people were displaced to Yangon region. Moreover, many people moved to improve their family health and education. At the same time, it is found that other influencing factors for internal migration include expensive housing price, marriage in that area, physical and mental relaxation etc.

**Table (8) Social Factors for Migration** 

Social Factors	Frequency	Percent
Religious worship	51	12.7
Abnegation	1	0.3
Physically and mentally safe	143	35.7
Natural disaster	78	19.5
Better health care	42	10.5
Education opportunities	26	6.5
Other	59	14.8
Total	400	100

Source: Survey Data (2019)

# **Negative Impacts of Migration**

Majority of the respondents highly agree on negative impacts such as insufficient electricity and water supply system, and environmental problems. This means that they have no access to have clean environment and safe environment and do not have good infrastructures and job discrimination. Among the impacts, the main impacts of migration for both sex are not able to have electricity, (59.5%) followed by environmental problem, (18.7%) and water system problem, (8.2%), no availability of good infrastructure, (0.5%) and job discrimination due to migration, (0.3%) respectively.

**Table (9) Negative Impacts of Migration** 

Negative Impacts Causes Migration	Frequency	Percent
Insufficient electricity	238	59.5
Water system	33	8.2
Environmental Problem	75	18.7
Infrastructure	2	0.5
Job discrimination	1	0.3
Other	51	12.8

Total	400	100

Source: Survey Data (2019)

# **Positive Impacts of Migration**

According to the survey data, the main positive impacts of migration are classified as increasing income, better job opportunities, better education and health care system, and more improve physically and mentally safe. Increasing income and better job opportunities play as significant positive impacts in internal migration for respondents, amounting to (25.7%). The second largest positive impacts of migration are better health care system and improved living standard, amounting to (15.3%) and (17.3%) respectively. Other positive impacts include getting free land, living at own houses, near Yangon city etc.

**Table (10) Positive Impacts of Migration** 

Positive Impacts Causes Migration	Frequency	Percent
Increase income	103	25.7
Better job opportunities	103	25.7
Better education	20	5
Better healthcare system	61	15.3
Physically and mentally safe	69	17.3
Others	44	11
Total	400	100

Source: Survey Data (2019)

### **Findings and Suggestions**

Most of the migrants are females and Buddhists with over 50 years of age. A number of people have finished their primary school and high school level education. Most of the migrants are families with between 1 and 3 members. Most of the respondents have migrated to Thabawa Nature Center for 4 to 6 years. Majority of the respondents face negative impacts that have no sufficient electricity and water supply system and environmental problem but with roads availability.

Majority of migrants are working in agricultural sector before moving in Thabawa Nature Centre. However, after moving to that area, they are working in private factories and in public sectors. This reduces workforce and production in agricultural sector. Majority of the migrants are engaging as traders, casual laborers, retirees and factory workers in private factories. It was also observed that most of the migrants in this Thabawa Nature Centre are willing to get better education and health care system for their children. Therefore, they migrated to place near urban area.

Positive effects include better job opportunities, increased income, better education and health care system; more improved living standard. Negative impacts consist of insufficient electricity, water supply system and environmental problem that are core negative effect due to migration in that area. Current migration of skilled and unskilled workforce from Thabawa Nature Center is due to the main reason of seeking job, income and natural disaster. Among these factors, seeking job is the largest factor, while central government should create to get better job opportunities throughout the country, local government should provide needed support for Thabawa Nature Centre in Thanlyin to improve their living standard and life.

### **Needs for Further Research**

This study provides only some information influencing factors on migration and its impacts in Thabawa Nature Center in Thanlyin. This study cannot provide conclusive evidence regarding all migration issues, reasons and impacts in Myanmar. Therefore, further research should be conducted the below scope;

- 1. The impact of migration on gender equality and women's empowerment
- 2. The effect of internal migration on the use of reproductive and maternal health service
- 3. The impact of rural and urban migration on urban employment, incomes, housing and so on
- 4. The relationship between migration and development

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