

Socio-Economic Impact of Rural-Urban Migration A Case Study of Phiro Village, Wokha District

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Publication Info:

Article history

Received: 15.07.21

Reviewed: 09.08.21

Accepted: 11.08.21

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Abstract

Migration is the movement of people from one ecological region to another; it may be on temporary or permanent bases. The movement from rural to urban area constitutes one of the main categories of migration and it is an important phenomenon of demographic structure which has led to population redistribution. This study is focused on the reason that has driven the rural-urban migration and also to examine its effects on the socio-economic condition of rural population. It is revealed that poor educational facilities and lack of employment avenues in the rural areas are the main factors behind rural-urban migration. The study also reveals that the strong community spirit and the socio-moral aspects of the villagers have been challenged due to rural-urban migration. However, on the other hand, it is also seen that the standard of living in terms of economy, health and education have been advanced to a great extent with the rise in the rural-urban migration.

Keywords: Rural-Urban, Migration, Education, Employment, Health

I. Introduction

Migration has become a global phenomenon with the movement of population within districts, states, nations and across borders. It has become an important aspect in the history of human progress. Migration is known as the movement of people from one permanent residence to another either permanent or temporary residence for a substantial period of time by breaking social and cultural ties.

More than half of the world's population resides in urban areas and the cities continue to attract more people in search of a better life and greater job prospects and services. The movement of people from rural to urban areas constitutes one of the main categories of migration and is an important phenomenon of demographic structures leading to population redistribution. The migration from rural to urban area can be "voluntary migration" or "involuntary migration" basis. It is observed that migration from rural to urban areas mainly take place due to factors like lack of educational institutions, marriage, employment opportunities, and health issues, etc. Migration is not a biological factor like birth and death rates, but is influenced by the social, cultural, economic and political factors. Globally, migration is the third factor that changes the demography, the other being birth rate and death rate.

Humtsoe and Ovung (2020) in their study revealed that the

major causes of rural to urban migration are mainly because of lack of employment, poor educational facilities and poor transport and communication facilities in rural areas. Also, Yadav and Shine (2015) found in their study on understanding rural to urban migration that unemployment pushes migrants towards areas with greater employment opportunities. Similarly, a study on “causes and consequences of rural-urban migration in Bangladesh: an empirical study in Chittagong city” finds that poverty, job search, landless, various natural disasters are the main push factor for rural out migration, while easy access to informal sectors and slum area, higher income probability, better service facilities are the main pull factor behind migration (Uddin and Firoj, 2013).

Studies have revealed that migration is affecting the social set-up of the family and the community. For instance, Hermalin and Myers (2002) in their study “Aging in Asia: Facing the Crossword”, mention that migration estrangers parents and children. Also Becker (1965) in his study on “a theory of the allocation of time” stated that the emigrated children have less time to take care of their parents. Further, Antman (2013) finds that a migrated child does not necessarily improve the financial condition of the parents. Yet, another study in China reveals that there is probability that children migration is determined by elderly parents’ health. This is shown by Giles and Mu (2017) that elderly parents’ health restraints children to migrate from their parents’ residence as the children have to take care of their ill parents. However, on the other hand, Kuhn et.al (2011) on their study on the effect of children’s migration on elderly kin’s health had shown that the children’s migration has a positive effect on their parents’ health in Indonesia.

Objectives and Hypothesis

Against the above backdrop, the objective of the present paper attempts to examine factors causing migration rural-urban migration and its impact on socio-economic conditions of Phiro villagers. The study attempts to provide insightful strategies that can help the increasing rate of rural-urban migration for rural community development. The study has been undertaken on the assumption that the rural-urban migration has positive collision on the Phiro villagers.

Methodology

The study is based on both primary and secondary data. Primary data are collected through personal interviews and questionnaires, while secondary data has been collected from sources like magazines, journals, Census of India and official records of the village authority. Simple random sampling was used to select the samples in the study. The approach of the paper is both quantitative and qualitative in nature.

Study Area

The paper is a case study of Phiro village under Wokha district, Nagaland. Phiro is one of the oldest villages under Wokha district and is considered as the epicenter of Lotha-Naga culture and traditions. Phiro village falls under administrative jurisdiction of Wokha district, Nagaland. Wokha district is predominantly inhabited by the tribe of Lotha Nagas. It has an area of 1,628 km. sq. with a population of around 1.66 lakhs (2011 Census). The district has four assembly Constituencies and 125 recognized villages. It is further divided into 13 administrative unit and 7 rural development blocks. It has mainly three ranges namely, upper range, middle range and lower range.

Phiro village lies in the south-western part of Wokha district and situated at an altitude of approximately about 1400 metres above mean sea level. It is 60 kms. away from the state capital, Kohima. The present Phiro population in the village is 925 at present (2020) including 469 males and 456 females. The village has 4 (four) schools and there are 597 MGNREGA card holders. The adult literacy rate in 2011 stood at 73 percent. The road to Phiro is connected by Kutcha road.

Sample Size

A total of 85 *respondents* were taken including 35 from currently living in the village and 50 from migrated villagers. Three destinations namely; Wokha, Kohima and Dimapur are selected to study the migrated Phiro villagers.

In the next Section II, the overall picture of rural-urban migration in Nagaland has been highlighted, while population scenario of Phiro village is shown in Section III. Factors causing rural-urban migration of Phiro villagers and its impact on the village have been discussed in Section IV and V respectively. The probable of future migration basing on the desire of the migration has been highlighted in Section VI and findings and suggestions have been summarized in concluding Section VII.

II. Rural-Urban Migrations in Nagaland

In Nagaland, urbanization begins to accentuate with the introduction of the national policy for tribal development in the post-independence period. The state since its inception in 1963 has seen an increased in urban population by 11 times in the last 5 decades. Since then, the small administrative blocks and headquarters have been steadily growing over the years. With the increasing migration, it is becoming a common

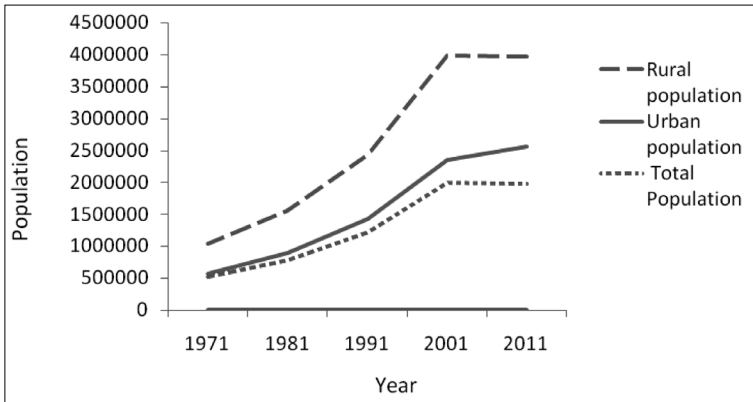
observation that the villages are mostly inhabited by the children and the aged people. The reason is due to the young adult and workable youths migrating to urban towns for education and in search of job. This also results in shortages of agriculture laborer in many rural areas which in turn lead to low agriculture production.

Table 1: Rural and Urban Population in Nagaland

Year	Population	Urban population	Rural population
1971	516449	51394	465055
1981	774930	120234	654696
1991	1209546	208223	1001323
2001	1990036	342787	1647249
2011	1978502	570966	1407536

Source: Statistical Handbook of Nagaland 2012.

Chart 1: Growth of Urban and Rural Population in Nagaland



Source: Table 1.

III. Population Status of Phiro Village

It is observed that the population of Phiro villagers residing in the village has been rapidly decreasing over the years. The statistics, according to Village Council Chairman (VCC) of Phiro, shows that population in 1991 was 2280, but this has been reduced to 925 in 2020. This means that population

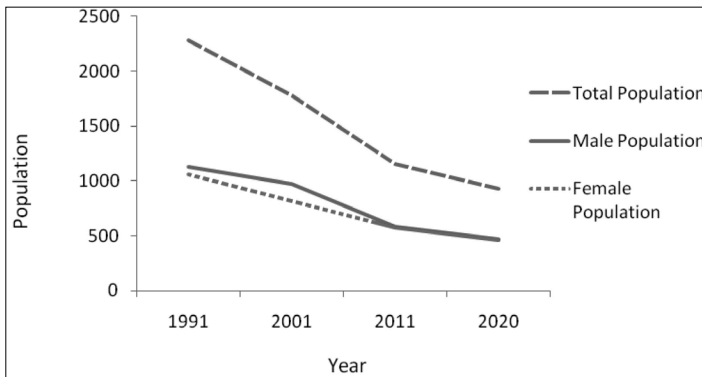
has decreased by more than double in the last 30 years. It is also seen that there is a positive gender parity between male and female population of Phiro village as the sex ratio has increased from 938 in 1991 to 972 in 2020 female per 1000 male population (Table 2). However, the rapid migration from rural to urban centers for different purposes like employment, children education facilities has led to a sharp decline in the population of Phiro village. Hence, it is found that the people left behind are mostly the illiterate and elderly people, and children who have not yet attended the age to be able go to schools and colleges.

Table 2: Population of Phiro Village

Year	Total	Male	Female	Sex ratio
1991	2280	1125	1055	938
2001	1780	970	810	835
2011	1150	585	565	966
2020	925	469	456	972

Source: VCC, Phiro Village.

Chart 2: Population Growth Pattern of Phiro Village



Source: Table 2.

Major destinations of Phiro village migration

It is observed from the study that the migrations of Phiro villagers had mainly migrated to three major destinations

namely; Wokha, Kohima and Dimapur. Wokha is the district headquarters of Phiro village, Kohima is the state capital of Nagaland and Dimapur is the commercial hub of the State. The study is therefore basically focused on the effect of Phiro people in these three towns on the lives of Phiro villagers. It is seen from the survey that Wokha is the main destination of Phiro migrants with 170 households, followed by Dimapur (158), Kohima (120) and other places (52). The aforementioned three districts accounted for 89.6 percent of the total migrated households of the Phiro village migrants. According to Phiro village official record (VCC), the total number of migrated people in these three districts is 2009 out of 2175 migrated population (Table 3).

Table 3: Migration Statistics of Phiro Village

	No. of household	Population	
Wokha	170 (34)	870 (40)	2009 (92)
Dimapur	158 (32)	639 (29)	
Kohima	120 (24)	500 (23)	
Others	52 (52)	166 (8)	
Total	500 (100)	2175 (100)	

Source: Phiro VCC Record.

Note: The figure in the brackets indicates percentage.

IV. Factors Causing Rural-Urban Migration of Phiro Villagers

The factors causing the rural-urban migration are broadly categorized into two main factors such as push factors and pull factors. Push factors of migration are also called as the involuntary forces or factors that forces people to migrate without any choice. On the other hand, pull factors are the voluntary forces which motivate people from rural areas to make a shift towards town and cities in search of better choices. Such factors are like advanced technology, modern urban

facilities and services, better transport and communication facilities, etc. These factors incite people to voluntarily decide to move to urban areas. The following sections discuss the push and pull factors that cause migration of Phiro villagers from rural to urban areas.

a) Push Factors

It is observed that there are many involuntary forces that drive the rural families to migrate villagers to the urban areas. In the present study, factors such as employment, education, agriculture and infrastructure are taken into consideration.

The study reveals that out of 85 respondents, 88.57 percent of the respondents are of the view that “poor educational facilities” is the most prominent causes of push factors of migration (Table 4). Also, 77.13 percent are of the view that lack of employment and 45.72 percent of the respondents agreed on failure in agriculture, while 22.86 percent are of the view that poor infrastructural facilities like transportation and communication are the forces that led the villagers to move to town and cities.

Table 4: Push Factors of Rural-Urban Migration

Sl. No.	Push Factors	Opinion scale in percentage		
		Yes	No	Total
1	Poor educational facilities	88.58	11.42	100
2	Lack of employment	77.13	22.88	100
3	Failure in agriculture	45.72	54.28	100
4	Poor transportation and communication facilities	22.86	77.14	100

Source: Field work, 2020.

b) Pull Factors

Factors such as employment, education, modern urban amenities and social tie-up are taken into study under pull factors of rural-urban migration. Like the push factors,

these factors are also pulling the villagers from the village towards towns and cities in Phiro village. From the study, it is observed that out of 85 respondents, 80 percent of the respondents are of the view that children's education and career development has pulled them out to towns and cities (Table 5). Also, 74.28 percent have stated that they migrated in search of employment avenues in towns. The development of modern amenities in urban towns have also attracted the villagers to migrate and 42.85 percent opines that this is one of the reasons for migration among the Phiro villagers, while 51.42 percent migrated from the village on social factors such as joining their relatives and friends in urban areas.

Table 5: Pull Factors of Rural-Urban Migration in Phiro Village

Sl. No	Pull Factors	Opinion scale in percentage		
		Yes	No	Total
1	Children's education and career	80.00	20.00	100
2	To seek employment	74.28	25.72	100
3	Training and other professional courses	60.00	40.00	100
4	To join relatives and friends	51.42	48.58	100
5	Modern urban amenities	42.85	58.15	100

Source: Field work, 2020.

Hence, from the above discussion it is observed that the push and pull factors are not independent of each other. For instance, lack educational facility in rural area has been forcing students to migrate to urban areas; while at the same time better educational facility in urban areas opens opportunity for students to migrate in search of better education. Similar cases like employment have been observed in other push and pull factors. However, according to the study, lack of employment avenues and poor educational facilities in rural areas are the major factors for both push and pull factors of rural-urban migration of Phiro villagers.

V. Socio-economic Impact of Rural-Urban Migration on Phiro Village

From the qualitative analysis in the present study, it is observed that migration has both positive and negative impact on the socio-cultural and economic aspects of Phiro village. The impacts are discussed under two main heads such as positive and negative impact.

Positive Impact

a) Education: It has been obvious from the above discussion that migration from rural to urban in search of better education and career development has been one of the main factors behind rural-urban migration. Therefore, rural-urban migration has been a great window for the children's education and career development of the Phiro villagers.

b) Improves economy of the village: Rural-urban migration improves the village economy in two ways. Firstly, the number of people in the village decreasing due to migration left more resources like land, forest for economic purposes such as yielding surplus agricultural produce for commercial purpose besides planting more commercial trees such as beetle nut, rubber producing plants and different other trees for commercial purpose. Secondly, the trickledown effect of the earning of the migrated villagers from the urban areas has helped the village economy.

c) Improvement in the well-being of the villagers: It is observed that the elderly people above the age of 70 years comprises of 8 percent of the village total population. This high percentage of elderly people in the village is highly attributed to the family members and villagers living in the towns for helping the sick persons of the villagers in taking medical treatment in towns and cities. Hence, in general the

rural-urban migration has positive impact on the well-being of the villagers.

d) Broaden the outlook of the Villagers: Migration also broadened the outlook of the villagers. When the villagers visit their migrated families in urban areas, they get a chance to widen their outlook on different scales. They become more socially responsible, learn to adjust with the society towards progress of the society and also received an idea on how to improve their standards of living through the ideas, skills and social patterns gain from the people in urban areas.

e) Benefits from Remittance: Remittances sent by migrants back to their households of origin allow for increased household consumption or investments. Increased demand for locally produced goods and services as a result of remittances are boosting the local economy.

Negative Impact

a) Decreasing population of youth: Rural-urban migration has led to a decrease in the population drastically over the period. Accordingly, the population of youth in the village has declined to a great extent. This has huge adverse affect on the organizational pattern of the society.

b) Affects on community development programmes: One of the major negative impacts of rural-urban migration on Phiro Village is that due to rapid declining in the number of youths in the village, the community development programmes have been affected to a great extent. The present study shows that people of 0-23 years migrates the most in view of attaining education in urban areas. Hence, decreasing number of youths hampers in organizing community development activities as well as in preserving the culture and traditional systems of the

village.

c) Affects the unity of the village: Present study suggests that migration have been affecting the unity of the village. According to the survey, as much as 33.33 percent of the respondents are of the view that migration affects the unity of the village. This has been due to diverse mind conceptions of the people living in different localities of the urban areas.

d) Reduction in agricultural production: In the recent past years, it is observed that there is a tremendous decrease in agricultural production. This is due to the fact that the people especially youths who are capable of agricultural labour force migrates to urban areas and thus the capacity of the workforce in the village has been lowered.

e) Poor community participation in festivity: Festivals of the Nagas is not only eating and merry making but it is also a platform to pass down the rich cultural heritage of the forefathers. However with the reallocation of population through rural-urban migration, participation in various festivals in the village has been declining due to migration. Festive atmosphere is not overwhelmed like in the olden times. Hence, it is observed that the interest of the community festivity is declining over the years.

f) Moral and spiritual challenges: It is observed from the study that the elders and parents have much concern about the spiritual and moral aspects of the youngsters migrating to urban areas. It is found that after migrating, and experiencing the mixed community life in urban areas, the youngsters have developed the tendency to be attracted by variety of culture and lifestyles and thus their moral and spiritual values are distorted. Hence, moral and spiritual development has been a challenge for the youngsters amongst the migrant villagers.

VI. Desiring to Migrate to Urban Areas in Future

In an attempt to study the rural-urban migration situation in near future from these villagers currently residing in the village, it has been observed that many youngsters are looking forward to migrate to urban areas. It is depicted in the table 6 that 42.86 percent out of the 35 respondents whose ages are below 50 years desires to migrate to urban areas, while 11.43 percent of the villagers whose ages are above 50 years are also looking for opportunity to migrate from the village. On the other hand, only 14.28 percent whose ages are below 50 years are not planning to migrate to urban areas in the near future.

Table 6: Desiring to migrate to urban areas in future

Desiring to migrate to urban areas	Opinion in percentage scale	
	Age below 50	Age 50 & above
YES	15 (42.86)	4 (11.43)
NO	5 (14.28)	11 (31.43)
Total	20 (57.14)	15 (42.86)

Source: Field Work, 2020.

Note: The figures in the bracket indicates percentage.

VII. Conclusion

The present scenario of migration from rural to urban areas is taking place at a rapid pace in Phiro village. The study revealed that population has decreased by more than double in the last 30 years. The major destinations of rural-urban migration for Phiro villagers are Wokha, Dimapur and Kohima. The present study also found that migration has both positive and negative impact on the village.

The study found that factors such as lack of educational facilities and employment opportunities as the main reasons behind rural-urban migration. Improving and upgrading the existing schools, establishment of agro-based, handicraft and

handloom industries will reduce migration to a great extent as these will create earning avenues for the villagers. Hence, efforts need be made to create employment opportunities and equip the youngsters the entrepreneurial skills in the rural areas. This will create not only employment opportunities in the rural areas but it will also reduce the congestion in the urban cities. Also, infrastructural development like health care center, improve educational system, better transport and communication facilities, roads connectivity, etc. are much needed facilities that requires to be upgraded as such facilities will enhance not only the decent standard of living of the rural people but it will also enhance capabilities of the rural masses.

Focus is also needed to be shifted from traditional agriculture system to modern commercial cropping methods which will boost up the economy of the village. Also, while urbanization is inevitable in the present global context, effort should be made within families and concerned societies that the social, moral and spiritual values are maintained by teaching such values at homes, organize workshop and seminars at society levels so that the human values that has been inherited by the forefathers shall be restored and preserved. Such human values will definitely create a better family and society in future.

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