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The Effect of Rural-Urban Migration on Socioeconomic Status. A Case of Sunyani Municipal Area of Ghana

Alphonse Badolo

Post Graduate Student: National Research University Higher School of Economics

abadolo@edu.hse.ru

Abstract

The study examined the effects of rural-urban migration on socioeconomic status of migrants using the case study of Sunyani municipal area of Ghana. Data were obtained from the migrants using a survey questionnaire. The study also employed Statistical Packages for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 25.0 and regression analysis tool for data processing. The hypotheses testing of the study revealed that income is an important factor in the socioeconomic status of migrants. Also, the employment status of migrants in urban centers play an important role in socioeconomic status. Further, the education level of migrants is an important factor for enhancing socioeconomic status. The results also showed that the prime cause of rural-urban migration is as a result of the availability of job opportunities in the study area (36%). The findings also indicated that the main expectation of migrants is to maximize income and establish their own business. More so, the basic challenge faced by most migrants is the high cost of rent which is leading to the emergence of slums in the study area, hence the researcher calls for government interventions through the creation of job and provision of infrastructural facilities in both the rural and the urban areas.

Keywords: rural-urban migration, socioeconomic status, Ghana, rural area, migrants.

1. Introduction

Migration is defined as the movement from one geographical area to another geographical zone on the basis of temporal or permanent stay. Depending on the situation at hand, the decisions to migrate vary from one person to another and it is mostly influenced by some prevailing conditions. Migration is classified as a selective mechanism which affects individuals and families in terms of economic, social,

education and demographic characteristics (Adewale, 2005). Migration is a complicated issue that has called the attention of many governments and policy analysts. In many rural households, migration has been adopted as one of the key components of livelihood approach to overcome risks and increase household incomes. Migration is caused by many factors and they are interconnected at various stages. Thus, the national, local household and individual level. Among those factors responsible for influencing people decision to migrate are war, ethnic conflict, civil unrest, human right violations, but others may also engage in migration elsewhere largely due to economic and socio-cultural reasons (FAO, 2016).

Migration is continuously being recognised as an issue that requires a global approach and harmonized responses. At the bilateral level, states are not only deliberating on the issues of migration, but also at the regional context and most recently in the global arenas. The most significant expectation is to witness a successful outcome for such coordination and international cooperation (IOM, 2011). Globally, the phenomenon has remained that the engagement in spatial mobility, mainly from the rural to urban areas is motivated by the expectation of high certainty of employment and high earning opportunities in the cities (Tiwari, 1996).

In most developing countries including Ghana, rural households face several forms of uncertainty which threaten their livelihood and among these uncertain situations or events are natural phenomena like drought or floods and economic shocks such as inflation and recessions. However, migration has been tamed as an important strategy by many rural poor and communities to deal with the adverse effect of these shocks in terms of economic, social and institutional constraints in the native places of these vulnerable migrants (Nguyen et al., 2015). Many factors including economic development, cultural, environmental, social and political factors have been tied to the reasons why people migrate. People decision to move is mostly ignited by the prevailing condition (s) occurring at that period and they include; escaping from violence, political unrest, drought, suspicion of being arrested for any form of crime committed. Again, people may leave their environment to another due to the adverse physical natural phenomena like floods, earthquake, famine, insects and pets invasion on farms of the migrants, poor soil quality and bush fires (Adewale, 2005).

In Ghana, the absolute population that was living in urban settlement were only 9.4 per cent in 1931; the total number of urban populations, therefore, increase to 13.9 per cent in 1948; again the total number of urban population doubled to 23 per cent in 1960; the proxy of the number of urban population in 1970 was 28.9 per cent; also, the total number of absolute urban inhabitants in 1948 and 2000 were 31.3 per cent and 43.9 per cent respectively (GSS, 2014). The continuous increase in the

absolute number of urban population growth in Ghana has been attached to rural-urban migration, the natural increase in the population growth, particularly in cities and towns, and the agglomeration of villages into towns also known as the re-classification of towns. Based on the facts painted above, the two most dominant chief contributors to rapid urbanization growth in Ghana are associated with rural-urban migration and the rate of natural increase within the cities (GSS, 2014). Teye et al. (2018), also argued that in the urban areas of Ghana, over 60 per cent of households had at least one migrant member while most of these migrants recurrently send remittances to some members of the family at the rural areas.

Like any other developing countries, in Ghana, there is the problem of uneven distribution of resources and development of basic social amenities between the rural and urban areas. Many vital facilities including; quality higher education, quality health care service, sports and entertainment, telecommunication, good road network, decent housing, and enlighten economy are all concentrated in the national and regional capital cities of Ghana (Twumasi-Ankrah, 1996). The disparities in the distribution of the national cake through lack of developmental social amenities in the rural areas have accumulated to influence the mobility of people from rural areas to the urban centres. Enu (2015) found that the main driving force why people migrate from the rural areas to the urban areas in Ghana are attributed to the following; poverty, unemployment, the search for basic social amenities like safe drinking water, schools, hospitals, accessible roads, electricity, sports and entertainment facilities, telecommunication, and opportunities in terms of higher wages and financial breakthrough.

2. Theories of Migration

2.1 The Gravity Model

In understanding the aggregate flows of migrants between regions, the gravity model according to Poot et al. (2016) is the most dominant use standard model to explain migration interrelationship. According to Poot and others, firstly, the gravity model is highly indebted to the innate consistency and migration theories; the second part is related the convenient estimation down to the basic form, and the last one is linked to the goodness of fit in several models. In the past years (the 1980s) as gravity models were largely applied in microdata analysis to assess the fitting gross of migration flows, they have also found their root extensively in their application to the modern international migration.

Gallup (1997) on the other hand, made a reference to Henry Charles Carey (1858-89) who put forth that the gravity theory of migration follows the concept of Newton's law of physics which equated "Man" as a molecule of the society as being dependent on the social sciences. To the premise of H. C. Carey, the gravity model, therefore, follows this formula:

$$M_{ij} \propto \frac{P_i P_j}{{D_{ij}}^2}$$

Where M_{ij} = migration from region *i* to region *j*

P_i, P_j = population of region *i* and region *j*

D_{ij} = distance between region *i* and region *j*

2.2 Neoclassical Theory

This theory of migration is regarded as one of the first models in understanding the relationship between labour flows and wages. The neoclassical theory of migration is credited to the names of Smith (1776) and Ravenstein (1889) which make an emphasis on the economic equilibrium theory concept. This theory, therefore, postulates that migration processes are spearheaded by the level of distribution between labour and capital investment. The theory further put forth that the differentials in wages are the main reasons for migration. To continue, the theory expatiates that regions with excess or surplus-labour are predominantly characterized with low wages and less circulation of capital while regions dominated by the scarcity of labour are characterized by high wages due to the increase injection of capital into the economy. In that case, workers in low wages regions migrate to high wages regions. However, it is asserted that material capital is invested in areas with cheap labour force (Kumpikaitė & Žičkutė, 2012). From the perspective of the neoclassical theory, it assumes that decisions to migrate are conceived and acted at the individual level while taking into account that higher earnings, in the long run, will recompense for the cost incurred as well as the risk of relocating (Massey et al., 1993). Again, Massey and others according to the theory presume that migrants' decisions are based in accordance to a reason or logic which influence the labour market and the economies towards an equilibrium.

2.3 The New Economics Migration Theory

This theory slightly differs from the neoclassical theory, while the decision is taken at the individual level as in the case of the neoclassical theory, the new economics migration theory integrates societal perspectives in the decision to migrate. In many households, in particular, the decision to migrate is mutually taken by the members of the family. As a strategy and a means to overcome risks and diversify income resources for the whole family, the family, however, may select some members within the household, sponsor them to realize the intended purpose (Massey et al., 1993).

According to Porumbescu (2015), the new economics theory of migration questions some of the preconceptions and principles behind the formulation of the neoclassical theory, instead it gives a

dimension that seeks to argue against or simply complete the work of the neoclassical theory. The new economic migration theory assumes that members within the household represent a unit which acts in common with the idea of not only maximizing their incomes but also to minimize their risks and to repress limitations.

2.4 Migration Systems and Network Theories

This theory, therefore, establishes that migration gets better when there is interpersonal interaction between the origin and host countries. Migration processes are facilitated through migrants' communication with the network of relatives, friends, and other known people. The expected outcome of the migration could be maximized judging it from the point of view that with the migration network, migrants' cost and risk are reduced collectively. Migration networks could also be advantageous to potential migrants in diverse ways as they provide information about the destination, customs and language, arrange jobs and living places, provision of food and social security (Kumpikaitė & Žičkutė, 2012). The theory assumes that the trend of migration processes is cumulative and therefore does not turn to reflect the equilibrium concept, but rather argues that the more the family network expands, the more it will attract new migrants (Massey et al., 1993).

A typical illustration of the migration system network is provided by Gurak and Caces (2010), migration between the tribe of Hayriyens in Turkey and Germany. According to the study, intercontinental migration from Turkey through mountains and forest village of Georgia to Germany had its roots in 1964, as 35 energetic men between the ages of 20 to 39 benefited from the Germain government recruitment scheme and emigrated. After some years back in 1973, Germany ended the recruitment process and formally closed its borders to incoming migrant workers, meanwhile the absolute number of Hayriyens were just 150. In an account to just two years, the population of Hayriyens had doubled again. The overwhelmed increase in the numbers was questioned and later found out that this phenomenon was due to the network of migrants in the destination and that of the migrants in the origin.

Similarly, a study conducted in Burkina Faso by F. S. Wouterse (2006) revealed that migration constraints are lower among households with continental migrants. Through remittances and information sharing from intercontinental migrants, migration entry constraints are overcome by both local and potential migrants.

Mckenzie and Rapoport (2007), also took the understanding of the theory to a different dimension by arguing that at the early stages of international migration, only the middle class in the society could have the means and incentives to migrate which gave rise to inequality in the sending community.

However, to minimize the cost for potential migrants in the future and to reduce the level of inequality, the formation of migration network system was very important.

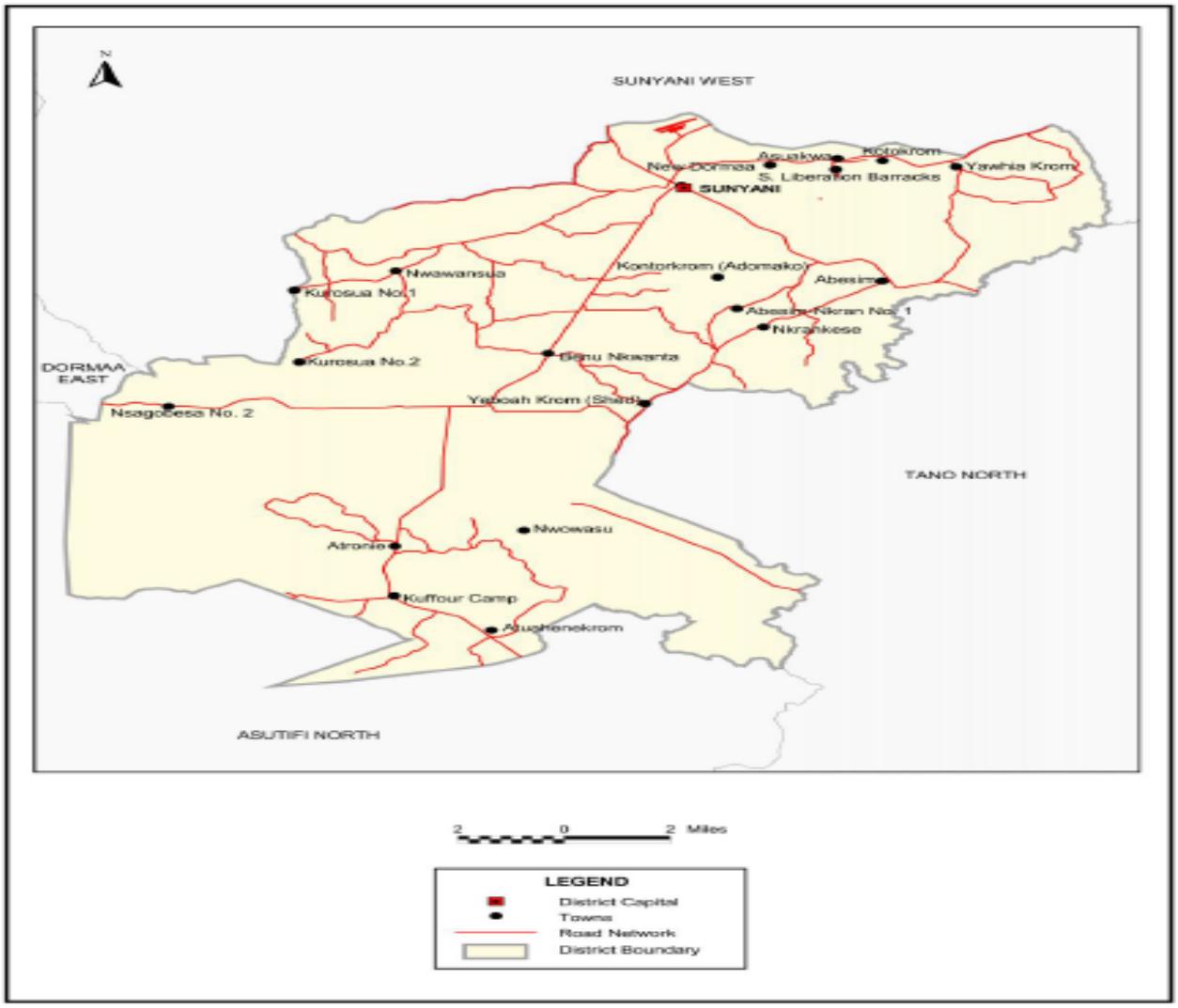
3. Materials and Methods

3.1 Size and location

On the 10th of March 1989, through the legislative instrument (LI) 1473 (2008), the Sunyani municipality was established with the goal of accelerating growth and development in the municipality. The municipality, therefore, constitutes one of the twenty-seven (27) districts in the Brong Ahafo region of Ghana. The creation of the municipality was inspired by the era when Ghana adopted the district assembly concept. In November 2007, the Sunyani west district was carved from the municipality to expand development to all areas of the region (GSS, 2014b).

The municipality extends over a total area of 829.3 Km^2 (518.3 square miles) and lies between latitudes 70 20°N and 70 05°N and longitudes 20 30°W and 20 10°W. It shares a border with four districts and one municipality. To the north is Sunyani west district, to the west is Dormaa Municipality and Dormaa East District, to the south is Asutifi District and to the east is Tano North District (Sunyani Municipal Assembly, 2014). Also, the location of the municipality positions it at the middle belt of Ghana between 750 (229 metres) to 1235 feet (376 metres) above the sea level. Approximately, the distance between the municipality and the national capital (Accra) is 432 kilometers (Asuah et al., 2016).

Figure 1: District Map of Sunyani Municipal



Source: (GSS, 2014a)

3.2 Research Design

The researcher purely based on quantitative research method data collection technique and analysis for the study. According to Apuke (2017), a quantitative research method has to do with the process of measuring and analyzing variables to achieve results. It, therefore, involves the application and examination of numerical data using specific statistical tools to answer questions such as what, where, who, how much, when, how many and how. For this reason, the study used both the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) and Stata for the analysis of the data.

3.3 Research Instrument

As a means of obtaining primary data for the study, the researcher adopted a single research instrument known as a survey questionnaire. Questionnaires are probably the most commonly used instrument to obtain data, especially when researching into attitudes, beliefs and opinions, from individuals and

groups. This was made up of both open and closed-ended questions administered to the target population in selected households in the municipality. Areas that were covered included respondents' demographic characteristics, the impact of rural-urban migration on the livelihood of migrants, and urban challenges and strategies for coping with them.

3.4 Population and Study Sample

In this study, the researcher used a sample size of 100 respondents using simple random sampling and purposive sampling technique. However, care was taken into account to ensure that the demographics of the sample are nearly similar to the general population.

Simple random and purposive sampling technique was employed in carrying out the study. Sampling is a data collection tool which gives each of the units in the population targeted a calculable probability of being selected (Bowling, 2005). Base on this technique, out of the many compounds in the study area, the research considered one hundred (100) households, involving one hundred (100) respondents who were selected randomly. A purposive sampling also referred to as judgmental or selective sampling, is a sampling method where members of the population chose to participate in the study is based on the researcher's own judgement (Sharma, 2017).

3.5 Collection of Data

Out of the absolute universe of inhabitants in the study area (Sunyani), the study considered respondents who have migrated from their rural settings to the study area. Collection of data always create the path for which the search for answers to research questions are obtained. For this purpose, data were collected from both primary and secondary sources. However, the researcher used a self-administered survey questionnaire to obtain data from the respondents as a primary source of data.

Further, using secondary data sources, information was collected from the Ghana Statistical Services (GSS). Besides, articles, journals, reports, textbook and important information from the internet were used.

3.6 Data Analysis Strategies

To establish conclusions based on the empirical research findings, the following statistical analysis was employed. Statistics based on descriptive and inferential analysis were used. In detail, the composition of the sample was assessed using descriptive statistics and inferential statistics to make inferences about the population. To meet the demands of these statistical analyses, Statistical Packages for Social Sciences (SPSS) software version 25.0 was used to analyze the data. Also, a statistical tool such as regression analysis using Stata was used to analyze the results and these were presented by way of bar charts and tables.

4. Results and Discussions

4.1 Socio-demographic Characteristics of Migrants

Table 1 showed that 46 % of the migrants were females while 54 % were males. This result is in line with the analysis of Awumbila et al. (2015) which says due to the reproductive upkeep responsibilities along with monetary and decision-making limitations, women are less likely to migrate as compared to their male counterparts who are more or less restricted from these factors. In that case, it could be argued that there are more male migrants than female migrants in the study area.

The results revealed that most of the migrants were in their youthful ages of 21 – 30 years which signifies 44%, followed by age 20 years and below (15%), migrants between the age bracket of 31 – 40 years also represents 15%, migrants within the age bracket of 41 – 50 years signifies 12%, those within the ages of 51 – 60 years represents 6% whereas migrants within the age bracket of 61 – 70 years and above represents both 3% and 5% respectively. The demographic implication of the results showed that the majority of the migrants belong to the working-age population. Further, the results demonstrated that the mean age of a migrant is 32 years while the minimum and maximum age are 17 and 79 years respectively.

With respect to education, the results revealed that the majority of the migrants were literate. For example, migrants with tertiary education qualification constitute 33%. Also, migrants with senior high school education certificate represent 27%. Again, migrants with junior high school education qualification represent 12% while migrants who schooled to at least primary school and vocational or technical school qualification represent both 11 and 6 per cent. However, migrants with no formal education constitute only 11%. The high level of literacy among the majority of the migrants could be linked to the analysis of Deotti and Estruch, (2016) which explicate that individuals with education tend to be more mobile than those with no education. According to their argument, those migrants embark on the movement in search of jobs that matches their expectations and skills and at the same time compensate for the costs that were incurred during the period of their education. Similarly, Duplantier et al. (2017) argued that for the reason of lack of jobs in the rural areas, many youths in the rural settings often migrate in search of job opportunities in the urban centres. Another factor for this phenomenon could be the lack of quality secondary and higher education in rural areas.

Finally, incomes of migrants as revealed by the results showed that the majority of them earn income between GHS 601 – 800 (29%). Also, a vibrant sub-group of migrants earn income between GHS 801 – 1000 (26%). Again, 16% of the migrants earn income above GHS 1000. Other section of the migrants earn income between GHS 201-400 and GHS 401- 600 which represent 9% each whereas migrants

who earn below GHS 200 constitute 11%. The income earnings of the migrants according to the findings showed that most migrants are meeting their expectations in terms of their financial needs.

Table 1: Socio-demographic Characteristics of Migrants

Variable	Frequency	Per cent
Gender		
Female	46	46%
Male	54	54%
Age		
20 years and below	15	15%
21 – 30 Years	44	44%
31 – 40 Years	15	15%
41 – 50 Years	12	12%
51 – 60 Years	6	6%
61 – 70 Years	3	3%
Above 70 Years	5	5%
Education		
No formal education	11	11%
Primary school	11	11%
Junior High School	12	12%
Senior High School	27	27%
Vocational / Technical School	6	6%
Tertiary level education	33	33%
Income		
Below GHS 200	11	11%
GHS 200 – 400	9	9%
GHS 401 – 600	9	9%
GHS 601 – 800	29	29%
GHS 801 – 1000	26	26%
Above GHS 1000	16	16%

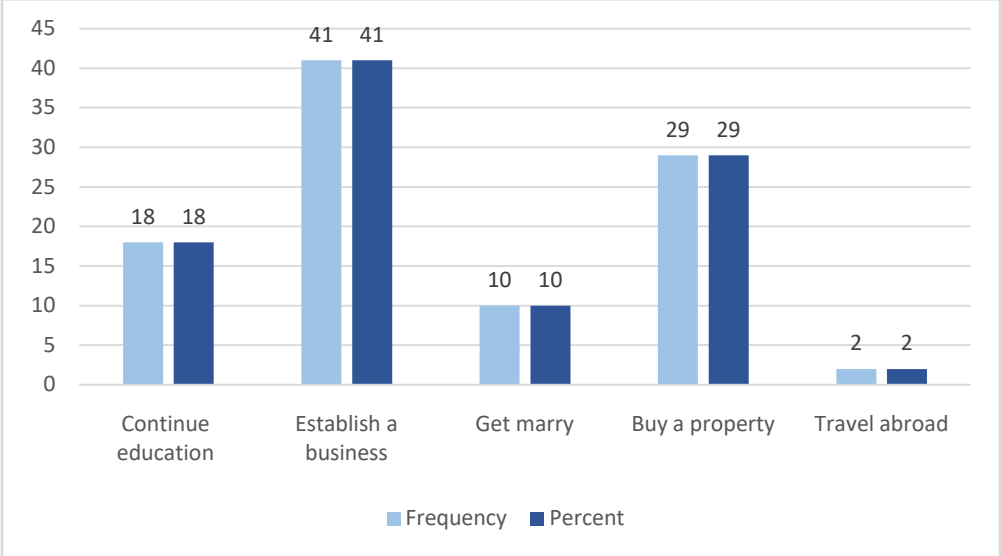
Source: Field Survey, 2020.

4.2 The Expectations of Migrants

In figure 1 below, the findings revealed that the majority of the migrants wish to maximize their incomes and establish their own business (41%). In most cases, both young men and women migrants suffer exploitation from some business entities as they utilize the services of these rural migrants without the due recognition of the standard average wage, most of these migrants wish come out from these manipulations by holding the key to their financial freedoms through the creation of their own business. Another expectation of migrants according to the results, is to own properties in the form of

land and automobiles (29%). Further, 18% of the migrants had moved to the study areas to save money to continue their education. It could be said that the majority of migrants within this category are seasonal migrants, mostly from the Northern part of Ghana. Due to the lack of development and financial constraints of many rural households in the Northern regions of Ghana, they usually migrate to the Southern sector for a specific period to mobilize money to further their education.

Figure 2: Expectations of Migrants



Source: Field Survey, 2020.

4.3 Causes of Rural-urban among Migrants in the study area

One of the main objectives of this study was to assess the underlying causes of rural-urban migration among migrants in the study area. In this regard, the findings in table 2, revealed that the main reason why many individuals migrate from rural areas is as a result of the availability of job opportunities in the study area (36%). The results affirm the reasoning of Tiwari (1996) which holds that globally, the phenomenon has remained that the engagement in spatial mobility, mainly from the rural to urban areas is motivated by the expectation of high certainty of employment and high earning opportunities in the cities.

Another factor based on the findings which serve as a motivation for attracting most migrants is the availability of social amenities like quality secondary and higher education institutions, good transport networks, portable water, electricity, quality health care systems, telecommunication, sports facilities and entertainment, among others drive migrants to the study area (21%). A similar study conducted by Enu (2015), on the effect of rural-urban migration in Ghana, found that due to the lack of basic social amenities in the villages of the country, most people, especially the youth migrate from the rural areas to the urban centres to access better social amenities such as good pipe borne water, quality health facilities, electricity, and quality education systems.

Again, according to the findings, family influence also accounted for the reasons why migrants move to urban areas (8%). Logically, this finding follows the exposition of Taylor (2001), which states that individuals, especially the youth with larger household members tend to migrate due to the prevailing influence from the elderly members in the family. Such influence comes with the motivation that the youth has higher earning potential and therefore they may tend to remit. Drought and famine, peer influence and marriage also tend to account for the many reasons why most migrants move to the study area.

Table 2: The causes of Rural-urban Migration

Reasons	Frequency	Per cent
Lack of job opportunities in the previous settings	13	13.0
Family influence	8	8.0
Availability of social amenities in the urban areas	21	21.0
Availability of job opportunities in the urban areas	36	36.0
Marriage	3	3.0
Peer influence	6	6.0
Drought and famine	6	6.0
Lack of basic social amenities in the previous settings	4	4.0
Escape from conflict	3	3.0
Total	100	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2020.

4.4 Challenges Faced by Migrants

Table 3 below revealed that migrants faced several challenges in the study area. However, migrants major challenge has to with the high cost of rent (17%). Even though, the findings show that the majority of migrants are educated, but most of them are either underemployed or unemployed. In that case, their financial capabilities cannot match with the prevailing life cost situations in the urban area, hence they faced the high cost of rent. A similar study conducted in Ghana by Enu (2015) on the effect of rural-urban migration showed that 33% of the migrants faced accommodation challenges, therefore most of them end up sleeping on the streets with others in slum areas creating congestion, poor drainage, floods and filths.

Also, 16% of the migrants face the problem of poor sanitation in the study area. As I have expatiated above that due to the financial limitations of most migrants, the end product is the emergence of slums and informal settlements which put migrants in the condition of poor sanitation.

Further, 10% of the migrants face the problem of unemployment or underemployment. A similar study conducted by Alhassan (2017), found that migrants hope of getting better jobs in the urban areas sometimes becomes out the of blown and therefore they engaged in multiple income-generating activities by creating their own jobs in the informal sector. The search highlighted that through the process of engaging in their employment activities, they become susceptible of being victimized, stigmatized, and criminalized and they are defied with physical injuries, indebtedness, and cheating from their so-called customers.

Table 3: Challenges faced by Migrants

	Frequency	Per cent
High cost of rent	17	17.0
High levels of crime rate	6	6.0
High living cost	5	5.0
Poor sanitation	16	16.0
Unemployment and underemployment	10	10.0
Congestion and pollution	6	6.0
Corruption	6	6.0
High cost of utilities	5	5.0
Erratic power and water supply	5	5.0
High transport fares	3	3.0
Low wages	7	7.0
Slums	5	5.0
Land litigation problems	5	5.0
Insecurity	4	4.0
Total	100	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2020.

4.5 The Effect of Rural-Urban Migration on the Socioeconomic Status of Migrants

In order to give a clear explanation of how rural-urban migration affect the socioeconomic status of migrants and also to test the hypotheses of the study, the researcher developed three models to give an account to the objective as well as the hypothetical analysis (see table 4 below). However, to ensure the validity of the models, the researcher applied two tests. First, a Breusch-Pagan / Cook-Weisberg test for

heteroskedasticity was enhanced and found that the models were suffering from the problem of heteroskedasticity, hence robust test was applied to correct the problem.

Secondly, the Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin measure of sampling adequacy and Bartletts Test of Sphericity was adopted to measure the adequacy of the sample for factor analysis. The results indicated a Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin value of 0.52 and Bartlett's Test of Sphericity significance at 0.000 level. It has been emphasized by Hair (2014) that factor analysis with Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin statistic of less than 0.50 and a statistically insignificant Bartlett's test of sphericity with significance level greater than 0.50 should not be conducted on samples. However, in the case of this test, the KMO value of 0.52 is greater than the standard level of 0.50. Hence, the sample is acceptable or appropriate for factor analysis.

Besides, looking at the specifications of both models, the researcher chose model 3 as the best fit to test the hypotheses of the study, especially taking into an account the R-square of all the models. An r-squared of 27.3% for model 3 which is greater than an r-squared of 10.1% and 19.3% of model 1 and 2 respectively.

Hypothesis 1: In the rural areas, the socioeconomic livelihood of people is considered to be truncated due to low income earnings, however, through rural-urban migration, income is expected to increase the socioeconomic status of migrants. The results revealed that income has a t-statistic value of (-2.67). Hence, based on the critical value approach, -2.67 is bigger than -.1.96. Also, using the p-value approach, the corresponding value is 0.009 which is smaller than 0.05, therefore, the null hypothesis cannot be rejected, henceforth it can be concluded that income plays a significant role in the socioeconomic status of migrants. The outcome also indicates that a unit increase in income will decrease the socioeconomic status of migrants by -0.22 units. Whereas an extra income will increase the socioeconomic status of migrants by 0.043 units and this is statically significant at all levels of 1%, 5% and 10%.

Income is evidence of enhancing the socioeconomic status of any individual. Access to income improves the capability to invest in various areas of human life such as education, health, business areas and other important avenues alike. Seid et al. (2018) emphasized that individual with low incomes turn to have poor health as compared to those with high incomes. According to Seid and others, socioeconomic status is considered as comprising of income, education and employment.

Hypothesis 2: Education level of migrants is an important factor for enhancing socioeconomic status. According to the results, education has a t-statistic value of (0.85) and a p-value of (0.397) showing a statistically insignificant relationship between education and socioeconomic status of migrants. Using the decision rule of both critical and p-value approach, the t-statistic value of 0.85 is far smaller than 1.96 whereas 0.40 is also greater than 0.05. Hence, the null hypothesis cannot be

rejected, therefore, the level of education of migrants is an important factor for increasing the socioeconomic status of migrants. However, a unit increase in education will increase socioeconomic status by 0.073 units. At the same time, a year increase in education will decrease the socioeconomic status of migrants by -0.017, both influences are statistically insignificant.

Education turns to increase the socioeconomic status of every individual in different dimensions. In the context of this study, the higher the educational level of a migrant, the higher the possibility to make choices which in turn to influence the socioeconomic status positively. For instance, Seid et al. (2018), argued that education is regarded as the key component of socioeconomic status especially in relation to health, investment prospects, and job opportunities. It is perceived that migrants with high education status will have access to vital information that relates to their health, job acquisition and investment which will turn to enhance their socioeconomic status.

Hypothesis 3: The employment status of migrants in urban centres plays an important role in socioeconomic status. Employment status came with a result of a p-value of 0.73 and a t-value of 0.35. Applying both the critical value and p-value approach's, the t-statistic value of 0.35 is lesser than 1.95 while the p-value of 0.73 is also greater than 0.05. Hence, the null hypothesis cannot be objected, therefore, it is concluded that migrant's access to job opportunities in the urban areas tends to increase the socioeconomic status. In addition, a year increase in the employment status will increase the socioeconomic status of migrants by 0.04 units, this is statistically insignificant.

With emphasis to household, a unit increase in a household size will increase the socioeconomic status of migrants by 0.03 units and this is statistically significant at the 10% level. From a personal point of view, it could be argued that the lower the household size, the higher the socioeconomic status and vice versa. This can further be explained that the greater the number of household size, the more mouths to feed and the higher the expenditure in terms of cost on education, health and other basic social needs.

With regard to region, being a rural migrant of the Brong-Ahafo region increase the socioeconomic status by 0.28 units. The effect of this influence is statistically significant at any conventional level of 1%, 5% and 10%. In effect, the results showed that rural migrants within the confines of the study region have a high socioeconomic status than those from different regions. This outcome could also be linked to the proximity of migrants' locations to the study area. Thus, the closer the proximity, the higher the socioeconomic status of a migrant, hence rural migrants from Brong-Ahafo region turn to have high socioeconomic status than migrants of the non-Brong-Ahafo region.

Besides, the employment status of a migrant increases the socioeconomic status by 0.037 units, this is statistically insignificant. Employment opportunities in the urban centres serve as a key driver for attracting most migrants from the rural areas. This means that individual migrant access to employment

in the urban area will have a greater prestige on the person in terms of income maximization and social recognition which will subsequently increase the socioeconomic status. On the other hand, a migrant with no employment status will decrease the socioeconomic status due to the person's inability to meet the demands of income maximization and social respect. For example, Fujishiro et al. (2010) expressed that an indicator of the social status afforded by one's occupation is an explicit measure of his/her employment status.

With respect to job duration, a unit increase in job duration will increase the socioeconomic status of migrants by 0.13 units and this is statistically significant at the 10% level. The results revealed that migrants with temporal job duration account for 58% while migrants with permanent job duration constitute 42%.

Again, taking into account the ethnicity of migrants, being a non-native Akan will reduce the socioeconomic status by -0.06 units. This is statistically significant. The study area, considered for this research forms part of the Akan tribes in Ghana. The Akan community is considered as the most vibrant and dominate tribe than any other tribes in the country. The decrease in the socioeconomic status of migrants that do not belong to the Akan tribe could be argued that most of those migrants have the problem a language barrier which limits their opportunities in terms of jobs acquisition and a subsequent increase income prospect.

Concerning age, the outcomes also showed that a unit increase in age will increase the socioeconomic status of migrants by .005 units, this is statistically insignificant looking at its p-value. However, the researcher took the transformation of age and found that an extra increase in age will decrease the socioeconomic status of migrants by -.000 units. These results complete the findings of a study conducted in Ghana by Ackah and Medvedev (2010) which revealed that migrants probability to migrate rises to a point where the person turns 36 years old and thereafter begins to decrease again.

Further, being a female migrant decreases the socioeconomic by -0.09 units. The effect between male migrants and the socioeconomic status showed a statistically insignificant.

More so, concerning marital status, migrants with marital status increase the socioeconomic status by 0.09 units and this shows a statistical significance of 10% level. The socio-demographic status result showed that migrants with marital status accounted for 31%. However, marital status turns to relate with childbearing and parenthood. In the context of African customs and values, parenthood and childbearing are considered as the most valuable assets than any other thing else. Silke J. (2007), compared African communities to industrialized countries and concluded that parenthood has a deeper root in Africa. According to Silke's analysis, children are preferred in African communities because they secure marital ties, offer social security, confer social status, contribute to labour, provide

continuity through reincarnation and maintaining the family lineage, sustain rights of property and inheritance, and satisfy emotional needs. Based on these reasons, migrants with marital status turn to increase their socioeconomic status as compared to non-married ones.

Nature of contracts between migrants and their employers increase the socioeconomic status by 0.045 units. However, this influence is statistically insignificant. Also, migrants with an informal job contract account for 35%, those with semi-formal job contract constitute 42% while migrants with formal job contract account for 23%.

Lastly, holding all other factors constant, the socioeconomic status of migrants increases by 0.817 units and the p-value shows that constant is statistically significant at the 5% and 10% level.

Table 4: Regression Models

	(1) Socioeconomic status	(2) Socioeconomic status	(3) Socioeconomic status
Household size	0.0148**	0.0130*	0.0131*
	(0.025)	(0.064)	(0.069)
Region	0.210***	0.212***	0.284***
	(0.002)	(0.006)	(0.000)
Employment status	0.0367		
	(0.729)		
Job duration		0.164**	0.133*
		(0.044)	(0.090)
Ethnicity		-0.0553**	
		(0.050)	
Age		-0.00396	0.00572
		(0.283)	(0.746)
Income		0.0108	-0.215***
		(0.611)	(0.009)
Education		-0.0112	0.0728
		(0.622)	(0.397)
Gender		-0.0670	-0.0923
		(0.388)	(0.227)
Marital status			0.0865*
			(0.061)
Nature of contract			0.0454
			(0.350)

educ2			-0.0168
			(0.269)
age2			-0.000109
			(0.633)
inc2			0.0434***
			(0.006)
Constant	0.637***	0.872***	0.817*
	(0.000)	(0.000)	(0.014)
N	100	100	100
R^2	0.101	0.193	0.273
adj. R^2	0.073	0.122	0.172
rmse	0.372	0.362	0.351

p-values in parentheses

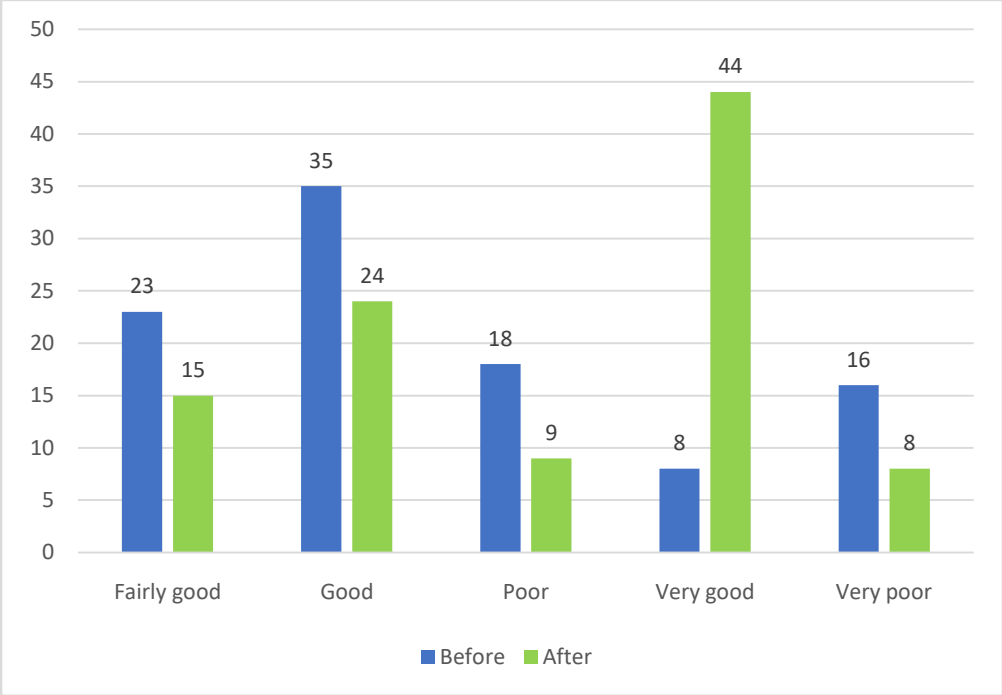
** $p < 0.05$, * $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$

4.6 Socioeconomic Livelihoods of Migrants Before and After Migration

Here in figure 4 below, the study generally revealed that the socioeconomic livelihood of migrants had significantly improved after moving to the study area. For instance, the findings revealed that only 8% of the migrants had a very good livelihood in the rural areas, however, this proxy shoot up to 44% after the migration. The high increase in the livelihoods of migrants could be associated with the availability of job opportunities in the Sunyani municipality as opposed to the rural areas.

Also, the results revealed that 18% of the migrants lived under poor livelihood conditions before the migration, but this percentage reduced drastically to half (9%). Again, migrants with very poor socioeconomic livelihoods constituted 16%, but the situation improved more significantly, to half (8%). As I have highlighted already, the availability in terms of job opportunities, infrastructural facilities such as good and quality health care systems, quality education, good water, good road network, coupled with other social amenities have contributed largely in the socioeconomic livelihoods of migrants.

Figure 3: Socioeconomic livelihoods of migrants before and after migration



Source: Field Survey, 2020.

5. Summary of Key Findings

The study purely based on quantitative research method in achieving the aim of the research. The study recruited 100 migrants in the study area using both simple random and purposive sampling technique as a selection procedure through a survey questionnaire for obtaining primary data for the study. The findings revealed that there were more males' migrants than female ones, 54% and 46% respectively. Also, the findings revealed that the majority of the migrants were educated (89%) while only 11% had no formal education. Further, it was revealed according to findings that the majority of the migrants earn incomes between 601 – 800 Ghana cedis.

Concerning the objectives of the study, it was revealed that the prime expectation of migrants is to make money and create their own business. This expectation was as a result of the exploitation of some employers failing to meet the demands of the standard average wage. Most of the migrants want to hold the key to financial freedom without any form of manipulations, hence their anticipation of creating their own jobs.

The second objective of the study was to look at the causes of rural-urban migration among migrants in the study area. The study, therefore, revealed that the main cause of rural-urban in the study area is due to the availability of job opportunities. This phenomenon is motivated by the high expectation of maximum certainty of employment along with high earning opportunities in the urban centres.

The third objective was also to look at the challenges and opportunities associated with migrants' flow in the study area. However, according to the findings, the main challenge faced by most migrants is the high cost of rent (17%). A strategic view proposed by migrants to deal with this challenge is through government intervention focused on equipping the rent control department to work effectively by ensuring that migrants pay the required rent fees. Besides, the main opportunity that exists for migrants is the availability of job opportunities in the study area.

Finally, the last objective was to look at how rural-urban migration affects the socioeconomic status of migrants. This aim created the path to the built-up of regression models to explain this phenomenon. The findings revealed that the employment status of migrants' increases the socioeconomic status by 0.04 units (not statistically significant). In practical terms, the value of 0.04 units depicts that the socioeconomic status of migrants' turns to increase along with the access to employment.

Again, age increases the socioeconomic status of migrants by 0.006 units, but a year increase in age decreases the socioeconomic status by -0.012 units. Relating this result to income and socioeconomic status, it could be argued that age has a significant relation to income maximization and a subsequent increase in the socioeconomic status. Thus, young migrants' output and income growth could be higher than migrants with old age. For this reason, it could be seen from the results that at the initial stage, age had an important increase on the socioeconomic status, but decreases with time

Further, the education level of migrants' increases the socioeconomic status by 0.073 units. This is particularly true because, in the social ladder, individuals with a high level of education turn to have high social status and a subsequent economic return through access to job opportunities. In view of this analysis, education is an important factor for increasing the socioeconomic status of migrants.

More so, income decreases the socioeconomic status of migrants by -0.22 units, however, an extra income increases the socioeconomic status of migrants by 0.044 units and this was statistically significant. These results showed that at the initial stage, income was not a sufficient measure or indicator for increasing the socioeconomic status of the migrants rather requires an extra output in income maximization to raise the level of the socioeconomic status. It showed that a meagre income is not enough to increase the socioeconomic status, hence entails extra income.

6. Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, the following conclusions are made:

- It was gathered that rural-urban migration has a socio-demographic characteristic on migrants in terms of job opportunities, incomes, and education.

- Even though there are varied reasons for migration among the migrants, it was, therefore, gathered that the main motive for the flows was mainly due to the availability of job opportunities in the destination.
- Comparing the state of employment status of migrants before and after the migration, it is concluded that the level of employment increased significantly among the migrants.
- Migrants also go through several challenges which directly or indirectly affect their socioeconomic livelihoods. Some of these challenges included the high cost of rent, poor sanitation, unemployment and underemployment, low wages, corruption, among others.
- Income plays a significant role in the socioeconomic status of migrants.
- The level of education of migrants is an important factor for increasing socioeconomic status of migrants.

Recommendations

The study has revealed several fascinating results from which suitable recommendations could be developed. However, in line with the main findings of the research, the following policy recommendations are made:

- The study has helped to reveal that rural-urban migration has a comparative high socioeconomic status on migrants living in urban areas in terms of education, income and job opportunities. It is, therefore, recommended that the government will provide and strengthen infrastructural development such as education, health facilities, among others in the rural areas. Also, to enhance the real incomes of the people living in the rural areas, there is the need for the government to intensified rural industrialization through investment package in labour-intensive employment prospects in agricultural-based and livestock farming like animal husbandry, poultry, fisheries, dairy, horticulture, piggery, floriculture, silviculture and apiculture.
- The study has also helped to reveal that migrants are better off in urban centres than when they were living in the rural area. However, it is, therefore, recommended that efforts are kept in place by the government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to ensure local capacity development through programmes aimed at training rural people to enhance their human resource progress which will consequently improve their socioeconomic livelihoods.
- The study has revealed numerous challenges faced by migrants in the study area. These challenges require immediate government and city authority's attention to seek for prudent ways to solves these problems particularly with the issues of the high cost of rent, poor sanitation, the emergence of slums, unemployment and underemployment, crime and insecurity, and the problem of erratic power supply. In the process of tackling these problems, the

government may integrate development agencies and private firms to fast-track development interventions.

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