

TITLE

**MIGRATION OF YOUTH TO HO CHI MINH CITY,
VIETNAM**

Determinants of Mobility and Adjustment Experiences

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ABSTRACT

As a result of the economic reforms that were introduced in Vietnam in 1986, the country has grown economically. However, due to a bias toward development policies which have been mainly concentrated in urban areas, the economic gap between rural and urban areas has rapidly widened over time. More job opportunities and better living conditions in the city, as well as low productivity in agriculture, have caused people to move to the major cities. Consequently, rural to urban migration has become one of the dominant flows of internal migration in the country in recent years. This migration stream not only has increased in scale but also in its complexity. Particularly, the age of the migrants has become younger as many young people, especially females, become involved in this flow. Moreover, this migration flow has become less selective in terms of education as both more and less educated people migrate. Also, not only the rich but the poor take part in this movement. This thesis considers the determinants of moving and the experiences of young migrants to Ho Chi Minh City in terms of their economic, social and cultural adjustment in order to provide deep insights into the lives of young people when they migrate.

This thesis has used the migration model of Scharping (1997) as the theoretical framework to investigate the decision to move as well as their living experiences in the city. A multiple method approach has been used to the study as both quantitative and qualitative data were analysed. Quantitative data such as secondary data from censuses and data from large-scale surveys at the national and the city levels and primary data from the author's survey with 300 young migrants were applied. Qualitative data from 25 in-depth interviews with young migrants, 5 with authorities and 5 with migrant returnees were used in this study, to provide detailed information on migrants' lives.

While the city has attracted a large number of youth from rural areas because of its development advantages, the city's government has applied policies to limit this flow. Yet, this migration control policy has proved costly and ineffective in restricting the flows of people to the major cities. This policy has created many difficulties for migrants in the city. In addition, low levels of education and limited work skills force many young migrants to work in the informal sector where their human rights are heavily violated. Other young migrants work in cheap intensive-labour factories. Low pay and hard work, but without labour and medical insurance, lead these young migrants to live on the margins of urban society. These findings suggest that if the local people do not accept these migrants, and urban policies make no effort to assistance them, it is impossible for young migrants in the city to be successful in building new lives and careers. Instead of trying to limit rural to urban migration, the national government should put more effort into narrowing the rural-urban gap by improving development in rural areas. More jobs with better pay in rural areas may be the most effective and sustainable way of reducing rural to urban migration flows.

DECLARATION

The candidate confirms that the work submitted here is her own and contains no material which has been accepted for any other degree in any university and that appropriate credit has been provided where reference has been made in the text.

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Hong Xoan Nguyen Thi

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GLOSSARY

ASFR	Age-Specific Fertility Rate
CBR	Crude Birth Rate
CDR	Crude Death Rate
CIA	Central Intelligence Agency
CNSA	Canada's National Statistical Agency
DIS	Department of Investment Services, Taiwan
DNRE	Department of Natural Resource and Environment, Ho Chi Minh City
ECERFSD	Enhancing Capacity to Engender Research for Sustainable Development, Vietnam 2003-2005
EIU	Economic Intelligence Unit, London
EFILWC	European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Condition
EWCP	East-West Centre on Population
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GSO	General Statistical Office, Vietnam
HIV/AIDS	Human immunodeficiency virus/ immunodeficiency syndrome
HCMC	Ho Chi Minh City
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
IER	Institute for Economic Research
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMO	International Organisation for Migration
ISPST	Institute of Sociology and Population Studies and Training
MIA	Ministry of Interior Affairs, Vietnam
MOET	Ministry of Education and Training, Vietnam
MOFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MPW	Ministry of Public Works, Sai Gon
NACSA	National Assembly's Committee for Social Affairs
NEZs	New Economic Zones

NSI	National Statistic Institute, Sai Gon
PC- HCMC	People' Committee of Ho Chi Minh City
PPP	Purchasing Power Parity
SAVY	Survey and Assessment of Vietnamese Youth
SCUK	UK Save the Children
SMAM	Singulate mean age at first marriage
SO	Statistical Office, Ho Chi Minh city
STDs	Sexually Transmitted Diseases
TFR	Total Fertility Rate
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNAV	United Nations Agencies in Vietnam
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
VA	Voice of America
VDIC	Vietnam Development Information Centre
VP	Vietnamese Parliament
VWU	Vietnam Women Union
WB	World Bank
WHO	World Health Organisation
<i>Hukou</i>	Household Registration System in Chinese
In Vietnamese	
<i>Chi Cuc Di Dan</i>	Department of Migration, Ho Chi Minh City
<i>Doi Moi</i>	The economic reforms
<i>KT1</i>	Permanent registration- non-migrant with household registration residing in the same district of registration

<i>KT2</i>	Permanent registration- non-migrant with household registration but residing in a different district of registration
<i>KT3</i>	Temporary registration- migrant residing independently or with relatives without registration book, working in formal factories or organisations, 6-12 months with extension.
<i>KT4</i>	Floating migrant, residing in a guest house or temporary dwelling, without registration book, 1-3 months or no registration, usually working in the informal sector.
<i>Ho Khau</i>	Household Registration System
<i>Ho Tich</i>	Birth Registration
<i>VND</i>	Vietnam Dong (Vietnam Currency, 1USD = 16,000VND in 2007)

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