
**RURAL-URBAN MIGRATION AND SOCIAL-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN UGANDA. A CASE
STUDY OF KAYUNGA DISTRICT****1 Kamoga Faruku, 2 Kabanda Richard****1, 2 Metropolitan International University****ABSTRACT**

This research report study aimed to investigate the “impact of rural-urban migration on social and economic development in Uganda. A case study of Kayunga district”. Questionnaires were used to collect data under a case study research design. Qualitative and quantitative means were used to analyze the data. The objectives of the study used were; To understand the driving forces behind rural urban migration in Uganda, to examine the effects of rural urban migration on social-economic development in Uganda, to identify the benefits of rural urban migration on social and economic development in Uganda. To achieve this objective, the study sampled 40 respondents because it is large enough compared to the study population, the respondents were selected using simple purposive sampling method, it was important because it gave the researcher freedom to select certain respondents with in-depth knowledge regarding the issue under investigation. In their response as to whether employment opportunities were a driving force behind rural-urban migration, 50 % of the respondents strongly agreed to the statement, 25% agreed, 7.5% remained undecided, while 12.5% disagreed and 5% strongly disagree. This was an indication that most respondents in in Kayunga district were in agreement that search for employment opportunities had pushed people to move from rural to urban areas in search of jobs since many people have the perception that better jobs are in urban centers thus rural-urban migration. From the recommendations, the poverty reduction strategy paper of the country should incorporate the conditions where rural-urban migration can enhance rural development and reduce poverty. In the poverty reduction strategy paper of the country, rural-urban migration is considered an undesirable incidence.

Key words: rural-urban migration, social and economic development**Background of the Study**

The World Bank estimates that Uganda’s urban population will grow from 6 million in 2013 to 20 million in 2040 (Ronald & Kazaara, 2023).¹ As part of the East African Community, Uganda is home to 1.7 million foreign nationals and known for hosting Africa’s largest refugee population: 1 441 098 people at the time of writing (Mark et al., 2023). One of the few studies to track internal migration in Uganda

suggests that 65.9% of the internal migrants documented in the survey were found in urban areas, while women were the dominant social group. Currently, Kampala has a population of 1.5 million, with Uganda’s highest rate of urbanization (5%) and an estimated annual population growth rate of 3.9% (Jackline et al., 2023). The Uganda National Household Survey 2016/2017 shows Kampala has

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the highest percentage of people who had lived in another place (31%), suggesting that migration plays a major role in the city's rapid growth (District et al., 2023). Yet rural-urban migration (the movement from rural to urban areas) is largely overlooked in other migration trends.⁷ People migrate from rural areas to Kampala for many reasons, chiefly economic opportunities in the country's economic hub. Evidence suggests that the stresses of climate change are also featuring increasingly as a key driver in this rural-urban migration (Ntirandekura & Christopher, 2022b).

Rural-urban migration has been historically connected with industrialization, urbanization and economic growth (Bhattacharya, 1993). Rural-urban migration eases inter-sectoral factor mobility and plays a vital role for structural changes. Moreover, migration has also been a key livelihood and survival strategy for many poor groups across the developing world, particularly in Africa. In Africa, migration has been considered as a way of life where the people migrate from place to place due to political, socio-economic and demographic reasons (Christopher et al., 2022).

Problem statement

Rural-urban is considered as the movement of people from one geographical region to another, which may be on temporary or permanent basis (Niyonzima, 2023). People migrate based on the prevailing conditions and the reasons for it vary from one

person to another depending on the situation that brought about the decision. Rural-urban is a selective process affecting individuals or families with certain economic, social, educational and demographic characteristics (Sub-county et al., 2023). The movement of people from rural to urban areas is a common occurrence in Uganda. The movement poses some problems in the rural as well as in the urban center even though; there are benefits derivable from it. In most rural areas, the impact of rural-urban migration was a rapid deterioration of the rural economy leading to chronic poverty and food insecurity (Christopher & Micheal, 2022). These arise mainly due to excessive drain of youth from the rural populace thus leaving only the older and aged members to constitute the labor force of the rural area. The problem is that activities being carried out in the rural areas like food and raw materials supply to the urban centers have had very low returns in terms of income generation (Oromo et al., 2023). This is as a result of poor policies and at times political pressure leading to a situation where governments want to maintain low food prices to ensure popularity, political security and even win votes (Sharon et al., 2023). Despite the fact that many studies have been undertaken in an attempt to find the causes of rural-urban migration, the problem still poses a socio-economic challenge of great concern indicating that a gap in knowledge still exists and this calls for an all-inclusive study and further research of the problem.

Specific objectives

- To understand the driving forces behind rural urban migration in Uganda
- To examine the effects of rural urban migration on social-economic development in Uganda
- To identify the benefits of rural urban migration on social and economic development in Uganda.

Methodology

Research design

The study used a descriptive cross-sectional design that was conducted at a single place in time and focused to the research under study (Amin 2005). The descriptive cross-sectional design was used to establish whether there was a significant relationship between e-commerce and business performance. The ex-post facto design was to be used because respondents were asked things that had already happened. The cross-sectional design was employed because a cross-section of respondents may be selected to participate in the study all at once.

Target population

The study was conducted around the area of Kayunga district. The research targeted 100 people living around the Kayunga district including local community and migrants.

Sample Size and Selection Method

A total sample of 40 respondents was purposively selected from the community and migrants in Kayunga district.

Sample size

The sample size was determined using the framework of Krejcie and Morgan 1970. To select the respondent's, Purposive sampling method was used to help the researcher get detailed information for the evaluation of the study and for the inclusion of only those respondents who hold vital information that the researcher needs. It was important because it gave the researcher freedom to select certain respondents with in-depth knowledge regarding the issue under investigation

Methods of data collection

Instruments of data collection.

Both primary and secondary data collection was used to collect data for example questionnaire which means a set of questions were organized in order to obtain information from the respondents. Alternatively, the researcher used questionnaires in the personal interviews as guide to the questions relevant to the study.

Questionnaires

This researcher used self-administered questionnaires for the respondents. These will be distributed among the staff in their respective departments. The justification for using this instrument was that questionnaires were easy to quantify and analyze. In addition, the questionnaire was used because the study focused on opinions, attitudes, feelings and perceptions of the respondents. Top managers also preferred questionnaires which they can respond to instead of interviews

Data analysis

The data was transcribed, checked for mistakes, word processed and edited for accuracy using SPSS (Nelson et al., 2022). After processing the data, it was compared and contrasted for verification and then compiled. It was analyzed using a thematic analysis. A thematic analysis is a method of identifying, analyzing and reporting patterns of data collected. It helped the researcher to move from a broad reading of the data towards discovering patterns and themes that emerge from the data collected from the research questions (Howitt, 2007).

RESULTS

Table 1: Driving forces behind rural-urban migration.

Statement	F	SA	F	A	F	NS	F	D	F	SD
Employment opportunities	20	50%	10	25%	3	7.5%	5	12.5%	2	5%
Community crisis	10	25%	5	12.5%	6	15%	15	37.5%	4	10%
Better Education and health	20	50%	8	20%	4	10%	5	12.5%	6	15%
Inadequate social amenities	16	40%	12	30%	3	7.5%	4	10%	5	12.5%

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in rural areas										
Poverty	15	37.5%	18	45%	1	2.5%	4	10%	2	5%

Source; Primary data; 2022

In their response as to whether employment opportunities is a driving force behind rural-urban migration, 50 % of the respondents strongly agreed to the statement, 25% agreed, 7.5% remained undecided, while 12.5% disagreed and 5% strongly disagree. This is an indication that most respondents in Kayunga district are in agreement that search for employment opportunities has pushed people to move from rural to urban areas in search of jobs since many people have the perception that better jobs are in urban centers thus rural-urban migration (Anthony et al., 2023).

On community crisis, 25% strongly agreed that community crisis which occur following natural disaster like bush fires, flood or traumatic events like local tragedy, disease breakout have forced people to move from rural areas to urban centers for a better life, 12.5% to agreed, while 15 % were undecided and 37.5% disagreed and 10% strongly disagreed. This shows that many of the respondents are not in agreement that community crisis is a leading factor of rural urban migration in Kayunga district (Ntirandekura & Christopher, 2022a).

Better education and health, 50% of the respondents strongly agreed, 20% agreed, 10% were undecided while 12.5% disagreed and 15% strongly disagreed that better education and health is also another cause of rural urban migration in Kayunga district thus through better education and good health many people are able to get better opportunities thus improving on their lives (Brighton et al., 2023).

40% strongly agreed that inadequate social amenities in rural areas is a driving force to rural urban migration in Kayunga district, 30% agreed, 7.5% were indecisive, 10% disagreed and 12.5% strongly disagreed thus majority of the respondents (70%) were in agreement that inadequate social amenities such as good roads, portable and safe-drinking water, recreational facilities, functional electricity have pushed migrants to move from rural areas to urban centers for better living conditions (Brighton et al., 2023).

Benefits of rural urban migration on social and economic development

Table 2: Leads to economic growth and development inform of education, health

Leads to economic growth and development inform of education, health	Frequency	Percent (%)
Strongly positive	20	50

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Agree	15	37.5
Not sure	1	2.5
Disagree	3	7.5
Strongly disagree	2	5
Total	40	100

Source; Primary data; 2022

According to the table above; many of the respondents (87.5%) were in agreement that rural urban migration leads to economic growth and development inform of education, health whereby they believe that with migrating people are able to attain better education, good health care which in turn lads to better living conditions because with good education and health someone is able to sustain him/herself. However, 2.5% were not sure, 7.5% disagreed and 5% strongly disagreed with the statement above.

Conclusion

First, rapid urban population growth comes from urban-rural migration is the main cause of rapid urbanization. As a result, to fulfill the needs of urban people, expanded infrastructure, resident houses and manufacturing sector built on fertile agricultural land. These processes affect the economic growth Ethiopian rural area. So, the model indicated that the growth of urban population and agricultural share for GDP has a negative relationship (Frank et al., 2023). Second, in a rural area, there is low fertile or agricultural land per head because of the high birth rate that creates low productivity or high rural unemployment (Oliver et al., 2023). Due to rural urban migration, rural unemployment is observed as a result of the productivity of the agricultural sector can show increment. So, the model indicates that rural unemployment and agricultural share for GDP has a positive relationship

Recommendation

The government must make a policy to prevent the horizontal expansion of urbanization. In addition, the increase in the flow of population to urban areas has created inequalities between rural and urban areas. As a result, some governments have adopted policies to restrict rural-urban migration.

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The poverty reduction strategy paper of the country should incorporate the conditions where rural-urban migration can enhance rural development and reduce poverty. In the poverty reduction strategy paper of the country, rural-urban migration is considered an undesirable incidence (Vincent & Peter, 2023). However, rural urban migration can be a desirable phenomenon and should be part and parcel of the poverty reduction strategy paper. The strategy paper should be designed in the ways of maximizing the benefits of migration and minimizing the negative outcomes.

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