# DOES MIGRATION LEAD TO IMPROVEMENT IN INDIVIDUAL HUMAN CAPITAL?: A CASE OF KANCHANABURI DEMOGRAPHIC SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM (DSS) , THAILAND

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Both the decision to move and the choice of destination are often determined by the perceived availability of better socioeconomic opportunities (Todaro, 1997). Within this process, migration is primarily considered a way for people to improve their occupational status, either by obtaining employment for those who had no jobs in places of origin, or by obtaining better jobs for those with previous work experience, or by investing in education. Migration occurs after individual make a decision based on their expected returns from migration. If the net return in some other place is positive migration occurs. If it is negative they stay and if it is zero, migration is uncertain. Employment and education opportunities, that would lead to highly expected returns from migration, and it could be treated as an investment in migration. Moreover, it is argued that gender role play an importance factor to male's occupations, men have more access to formal education and other job related training and experience than women. It is likely that migrant males have better employment and education opportunities than migrant females, and it appears that migration is more beneficial to males than to females (Findley and Williams, 1991; Maxwell, 1988; Shihadeh, 1991).

This paper aims to answer two questions. Firstly, what are changes in migration patterns over three consecutive years of the study, which is due to individual characteristics. Secondly, does migration lead to improvement in individual human capital. The impact of migration on employment and education is examined. It is hypothesized that migration will be associated with higher occupational and educational status. In this study, the magnitude of the change depends on two important factors, which are types of migration, and sex of migrants.

The data from longitudinal survey of Kanchanaburi Demographic Surveillance System (DSS) allows for the examination of in-migration and out-migration rates as well as various factors related to migration. Descriptive analysis as well as multivariate analysis is employed in this study.

For the first round, Round 1 (2000), the villages for the Kanchanaburi province was selected using a stratified systematic design. The primary selection units for rural areas were villages and for urban areas were census blocks. The data for selection were collected from the Kanchanaburi provincial offices of various ministries concerning the amount of agricultural land in each village. The amount of wet rice crops grown, the amount of plantation crops grown (cassava and sugar cane), and the number of adult workers employed in industry and the population. The study area of 100 villages/census blocks was divided into five strata, which were categorised according to the main occupation of the population and land use patterns. These strata are: 1) urban/semi-urban (industrialised), 2) rice producing, 3) plantations, 4) uplands areas, and 5) mixed economy.

Migration is defined as a movement in or out of the village of current residence during the 12 months prior to the census. It is important to note that this analysis includes migration within and out of field site communities and also the movement of entire households. A minimum of one month of residence is required for a person to be defined as a usual resident of the household. The period of migration is between July 1$^{st}$, 2003 and June 30$^{th}$, 2004. Migration information is obtained from the household questionnaire. In Round 5 (2004) the list of family members from Round 4 (2003) was updated. Therefore if a family member who was listed in Round 4 (2003) had moved out from the household, he/she is defined as an out-migrant. On the other hand, if a new family member moved into the current household, he/she will be defined as an in-migrant. Those who remained in the household for both censuses are non-migrants. Persons belonging to new households and who had not been enumerated as usual residents in Round 4 (2003) but who are usual residents in Round 5 (2004) were defined as in-migrants during 2003-2004.

In-migration and out-migration rates were calculated from the number of in-migrants or out-migrants per 100 population at the time of census. As Round 1 (2000) could only identify in-migration, this paper includes a comparison of in-migration from Round 1 (2001) to Round 5 (2004), and out-migration from Round 2 (2001) to Round 4 (2003).

It is found that the out-migration rate was higher than the in-migration rate. The overall net out-migration rate was 5 per hundred population. Both the in-migration and out-migration rates in Round 5 (2004) were higher than those of the previous Rounds in every study area. About three in four of the population (75 percent) in the field site study did not migrate during the period July 1st, 2003 - June 30th, 2004.

Both the in-migration and out-migration rates were the highest in the uplands stratum (12 percent and 18 percent respectively). In the rice stratum, there was little population change from migration, with the net out-migration of one percent the lowest rate of the five study strata.

The out-migration rate has increased more rapidly than the in-migration rate. The mixed economy and the plantation strata had the highest levels of net out-migration, while the lowest levels of net out-migration were recorded for the urban/semi-urban and rice strata. It appears that improved economic conditions in Thailand after 2001 have stimulated migration in Kanchanaburi DSS. For field site communities this has resulted in large increases in out-migration but smaller increases in in-migration.

Males were more migratory than females, and the proportion of migrants at ages 15-29 was the highest compared with those of other age groups. This probably is related to migration for education and work. The concentration of migrants at young adult ages is more pronounced among out-migrants than in-migrants. Out-migrants also tend to be somewhat younger than in-migrants. The high levels of out-migration of young persons

and the much lower rates of in-migration at the same ages means that many areas are being depleted of their younger populations.

In the field site study, both in-migration and out-migration was mainly short-distance migration, particularly within Kanchanaburi province, and between Kanchanaburi and other provinces in the Central region and Bangkok. Kanchanaburi is a province in the Central region, and the travel between some districts of Kanchanaburi and some provinces in the Central region or Bangkok can be undertaken within a few hours. Migration between Kanchanaburi province and the Northeast, North and South regions seems to mainly be a result of the in-migration and out - migration (probably return migration) of migrant workers. Moreover, it is likely that the international migration is also short-distance migration between uplands area of Kanchanaburi province and the country on the other side of the border, Myanmar.

It indicates that the migration has improved human capital. The young were more likely to migrate compare with the older, while males were more migratory than female. The migrants had higher level of education than the non-migrants. However, those who were in-migrants of rural area of the study villages involved in agricultural activities, while majority of those who moved out of the study villages participated in non-agricultural employment or study at the destination. Particularly, the young adults were students and many of them studied and worked part times at the same time.
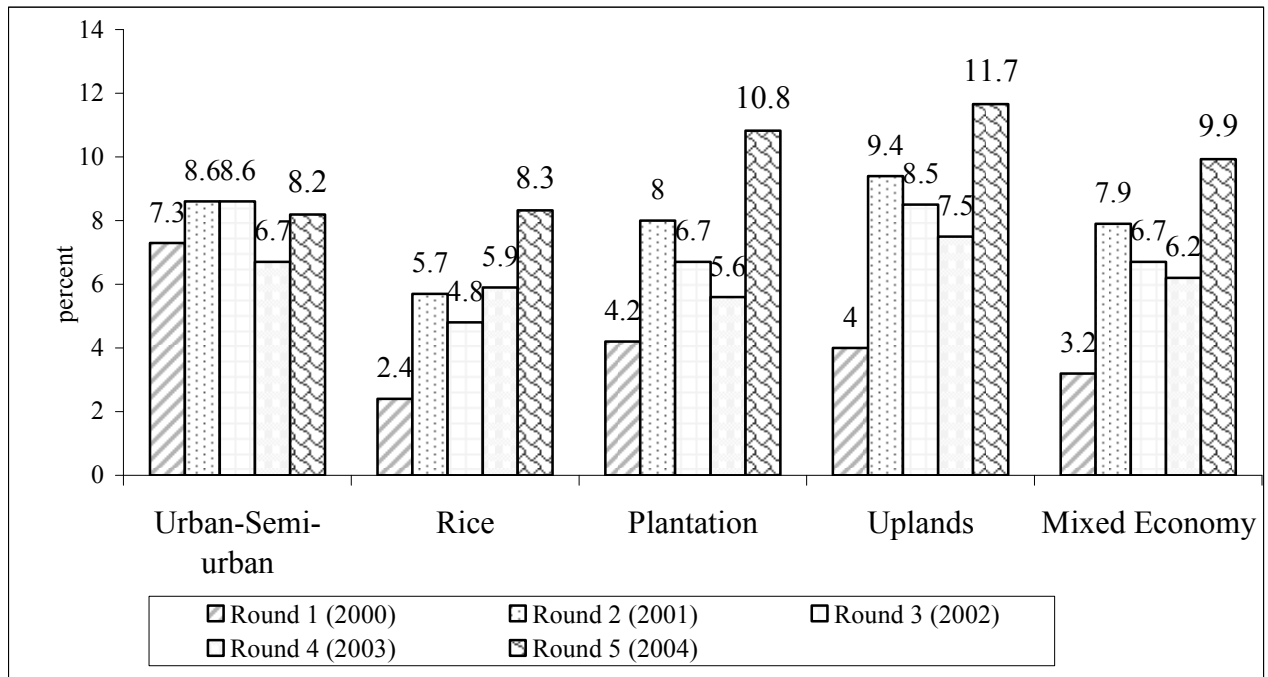
**Figure 1: In-migration rate: Round 1 (2000) - Round 5 (2004)**

**Figure 2: Out-migration rate: Round 2 (2001) -  Round 5 (2004)**