Effects of Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Rural-urban Migrants in Plateau State: Path Model Approach

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Abstract

Migration is a complex phenomenon with the multiplicity of economic, social and security affecting migrants in their place of relocation. This shift has effects on migrants' socio-demographic feature about the reason for rural to urban migration. The purpose of this study is to evaluate the direct effects of the socio-demographic status of migrants in Plateau State using variables of socio-demographic information and deriving factors of demography variable. The study uses stratified and purposive sampling techniques to administered 400 questionnaires to six (6) selected Local Government Area in the study area, of which 385 were retrieved successfully. A path model analysis was utilized to evaluate the direct effects of the socio-demographic features of migrants and the result revealed a strong significance among the ten variables against reasons for migrants' movement at both 95% and 99% confidence level. Job secured and occasional movement has direct effects on migrants of the socio-demography of migrants.

Keywords: Migrants, Migration, Path model analysis, Socio-demographic variables,

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Migration is a complex phenomenon with multiplicity of economic, environmental, social and security aspects affecting daily lives of people in an increasingly interconnectivity of the world. This encompasses wide diversity of people's movements of all walks of life from different location to another location or residential (World Migration Report [WMR], 2018). The relocation of residence varies with the interval of time for which the change occurs. On the other hand, Shamshad(2012) stated that migration is not merely the shift of people from one place to another, but its dynamic of assisting individual to understand the ever-changing ' space-content' and 'space-relations' of a region. The WMR (2018) noted that migration is increasing in its nature than ever before, impacting nations and people in this era of globalization, intertwined with geopolitics, trade and cultural exchange.

Migration is develop base on the intention of people to move or change location within two geographical places for several purposes desiring to achieve. Nigeria is known to be an agrarian nation with high rate of poverty experience among its citizenry. Being one of

the fastest growing population in the African continent, engulf with challenges of poverty, spatial development, unemployment, high mortality rate, neglect of rural development and poor social services. A remarkable ratio of the populace attempted to secure employment out of their original locations in critical conditions but prove to be difficult. Internal Migration that have to deal with rural to urban movement has generated a lot of unease as people search of better livelihood, seek opportunities outside their initial place of residents believing that better opportunities are available in places with developed economic and industrialization that is more preferable than residing in the rural areas. The symbolic roles of socio-demographic characteristics to rural to urban migration is to ascertain the effect each of the feature have to influence the decision to migrate

. A recent study (Islam, Rokib, Alam, Mondal and Rahman, 2015) discovered that, the study of migration has been carried out on socio-demographic characteristics of migrants. Added to the recent studies indicated rural-urban migration differs from continent to continent, country to country and even within a country, its diversity is dependent on the socio-demographic and socio-economic factors. Factors such as high population growth, low income, high rate unemployment rate, spatial distribution on land issues, desire of obtaining higher educational qualifications, nature and pattern of accommodations were noticeable determinants of people moving from rural areas to urban developed cities.

This paper focuses on internal migration drifting of rural migrants to urban cities in Nigeria, being one of the developing countries of the world with an estimated population of 198 million, at growth rate of 3.3 percent, spanning from 2006 to 2018, according to National Population Commission (NPC), Chairman; Duruiheoma (News Agency of Nigeria, 2018). Nigeria has big cities with aggregated urban population higher than countries in sub-Saharan African. subsequently, migration particularly rural-urban migration is a livelihood strategy of sustainability (Ajaero and Mozie, 2011; Nwajiuba, 2005). Evidence of this incidence of such shifts has numerous effects on the people, society and its nature of population at large. The rural inhabitants move out in masses temporarily or permanently to towns and cities in search of fresh breaks, better quality livelihoods and improved standard of living. The report (National Population Commission [NPC], 2010) confirms that the inflow of people from within and without continues to proliferate, such that internal migration assessment piloted in 2010 showed a projected number of migrants of 11,209 in few sample area.

Aside of religious conflict, multiple ethnicity crises, herders and farmers' attacks and other disaster Plateau State has experienced in past, people are compelled people to relocate their place of residents for other places. Not just that, lack of jobs to improve their lives, health service and social amenities as well as better job opportunities, improved education, enhanced standard of living, decent physical facilities are reassurance for people to move to the cities which seems to be most prefers all over the world. These made migrants to have the probability of having comfortable lives, with the demand for labour in the urban centres. Different perspective of rural-urban migration studies had different dimensions of glancing on rural-urban migration but this paper focused on the socio-demographic characteristics of migrants coming to urban cities of Plateau State in relation to their demographic status. Hence this study seeks to evaluate the socio-demographic characteristics of rural migrants in Plateau State using path model analysis.

1.2 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK AND LITERATURE REVIEW

Theoretical Frame Work

The theoretical framework evaluates migration theories to give a clear explanation to rural-urban migration and the theory was selected based on its applicability to Nigeria and the analytical approach to the research. The theories are crucial to the discussion, interpretation and analysis of the primary data from the field. Universally, theories of migration usually regard the reason for human migration as any of both results: subjective individual action (agency) (DeHaas, 2010; Lewis, 1954; Ravenstein, 1889; Todaro, 1969) or structural influences or imbalances (imbalances) (Abreu, 2012; Lee, 1996; Mafukidze, 2006; Massey, 1990; Stark &Bloom, 1985). Consequently, discussion on rural-urban migration is established on Rational Choice Theory.

The Rational Choice theories (De Haas, 2010) revealed that the decision to migrate is greatly influenced by individuals' reaction. In these theories, migration is envisioned as the decision to migrate due to the individual migrants' judgement after they have considered the advantage and cost. According to Ravenstein (1885) in relation to the rational choice theory, the main reasons for migration was the need for labour in commerce and industry, this infers migrants choose places with high industrial activities in order to get better earnings. Furthermore, Ravenstein (1885) insisted that the pattern of movement seen more often is chainlike whereby migrants leave the rural areas to nearby small towns after which they move to large towns. He maintains that the movement of people who travel far, heading to commercial or industrial centre is at a continuous reduced rate as the distance increases, and that though migration movement both ways nevertheless, the rural population express more eagerness to migrate than the urban population (Ravenstein, 1889). To summarize it, individuals migrate for economic purposes to industrialized areas to earn better income.

Though Ravenstein's laws were condemned as being simple, it provided a foundation for Migration theories. Ravenstein's laws of migration paved way for distinction of the push-pull framework of migration by Lee (1966). Todaro's representation of rural-urban migration sheds more light on migration in relation to the rationale choice approach and this paper is built on all the rational choice theory.

1.3 Literature Review.

Generally, demographic characteristics of rural migrants differs from place to place as well as continental differences such that rurality of place in Europe could be difficult to be compared with African rural area in times of economical development, cultural beliefs, nature of population dependency and educational wise. These differences have effects rural to urban migration and therefore, the socio-demographic characteristics influence rural migrants opportunities in the urban city centes. (Islam et al, 2015).

A study (Faruk et al (2007) shown the range of age of rural migrants was between the ages of 20-34 years with less educational attainment, poor income and relies on their relation for livelihood. Educational qualification has great significant effect on rural migrants because it create opportunities in securing jobs and advancing studies. Therefore, it is seen to direct impact of rural migrant that moved to urban city centres. Usually, in Africa, gender sentiment or bias is part of the African culture and affected gender to discover most rural migrants were male migrants. Ethnographic study from the fieldwork had shown dominance of male

migrants that in due time relocate their family member to urban cities while other on accessional bases visit them in rural areas. Further studies shown migrating age lies between 20 to 59 years even though, there are certain level of variation from location to location and demographically between the different age brackets. The marital status of rural migrants is other socio-demographic features to have effect on reasons for any migration streams as particular marital status usually point to migration-driving factor. Instances,(Ajaero and Onokala, 2011) of single persons usually point to movement for education or married migrants, it usually mean, getting married and joining spouses as the reasons for migration. In the way, singles have great opportunities in urban centre than married individuals.

Weeks, Davis, & Lopez-Carr, (2010) posit that rural-urban migration is gender selective in South Africa during the Apartheid era, males were the predominant migrants due to the high demand of mining labour systems. The female internal migration rate was low because females were considered perpetual minors in the African tradition social systems. They were expected to seek permission from their husbands to migrate (Collinson, Kok, and Mark, 2006). However, the position has shifted as females can now migrate to urban areas in pursuit of educational opportunities or to advance their careers (Agensa, 2011). Gender selective internal migration often results in the imbalanced gender ratio which affects marriages, family dislocations and reproductive behaviour in rural areas (Boure, 2001).

Alarima, (2018) made a study of youth migration in Osun state, discovered mean age was between 16-25 years and agreed that the finding of Mutandwa, Kanuma-Taremwa, Uwimana, Gakwandi and Mugisha (2011) that youths are likely to migrate at predominantly aged between 17 to 22 years. Majority of young people migrate to avoid conflict, religious crisis, persecution, or environmental threats. The decision to migrate is often related to important life transitions, such as pursuing higher education, securing employment or getting married. According to the United Nation [UN], (2013) rural-urban migration is a phenomenon has led to social, cultural and demographic transformation of the communities of origin and destination.

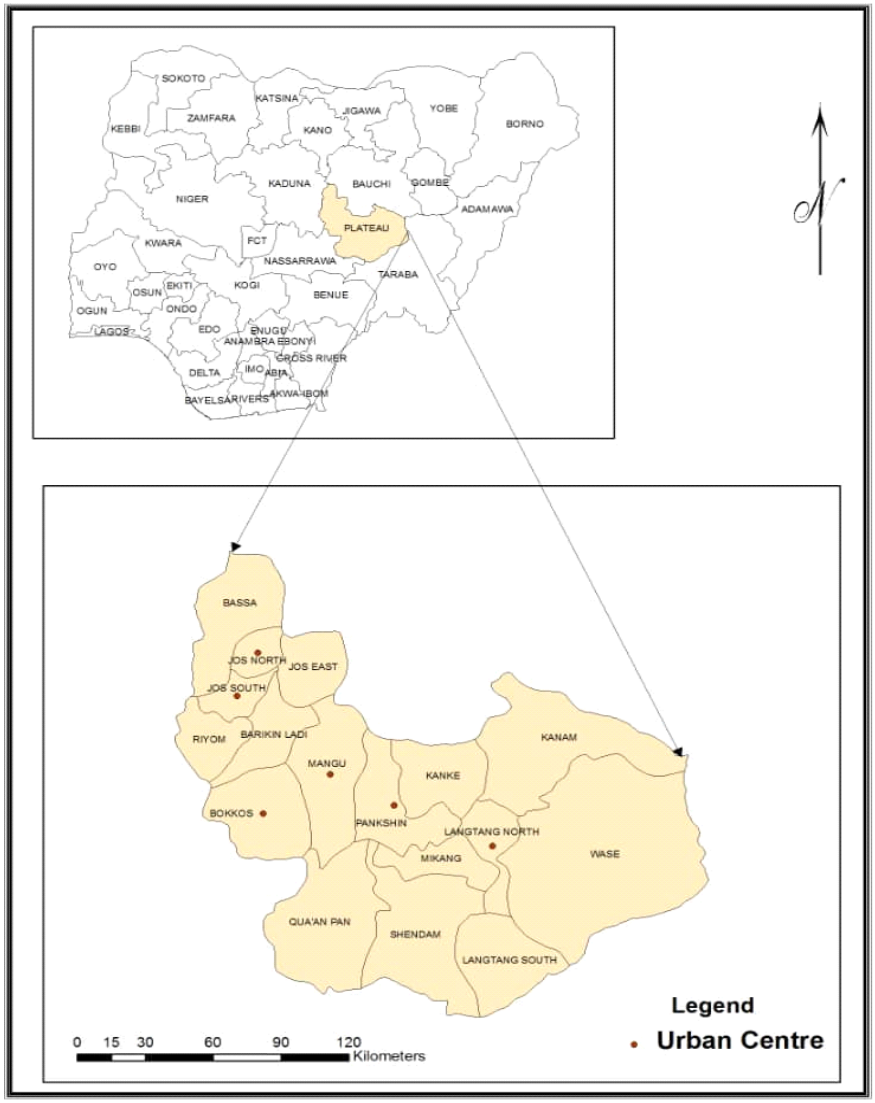
Migrants are selected based on their background characteristics such as age, education, marital status and employment status or behavioural intentions that are different from the population left at their place of origin (Kulu and Milewski, 2007; Lindstrom and Saucedo, 2007; Landale, Gorman and Oropesa, 2006). Ethnicity and ethnic groups particularly as socio-cultural characteristics of migrants have level of influencing rural migrants in urban centre. It serve as pull factor of concentration either ethnicity or religion (Amin, 1994;Mberu, 2005) independent predictors of internal migration in Nigeria.

1.3 METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

Plateau State located in the North Central Region of Nigeria within latitudes $8^{0}37^{1}$ N and $10^{0}\,30^{1}$ N and longitudes $7^{\,0}\,40^{1}$E and $8^{\,0}37^{1}$ E as seen in Figure 1.Plateau State was carved out from Benue-Plateau State in 1979. There was a further split in l996 when Nassarawa state was carved out, following the creation of additional states in Nigeria. It shares common boundaries with Bauchi State from the northern side, Taraba State eastern, Nassarawa State southern and Kaduna State from western, with an area of land covering 26,901 square kilometres (Timothy, 2006). Plateau State is located in the highlands of Central Nigeria. It has a lot of features, which attracts large population and economic

variability from agricultural products in the environment. Plateau State inhabited people from different part of the world but local and international.

For the purpose of fulfilling the aim of this paper, data were collected from Plateau State with a total population of 3,572,229 (National Bureau of Statistics, [NBC], 2011), with the stratified sampling, six (LGAs) location were selected with a population 1, 472,101 persons of which 400 respondents were administered questionnaire through purposive sampling technique of the following LGAs: Jos-north, Bokkos, Mangu, Jos-south, Shendam and Langtang (see figure 1). Out of 400 questionnaires administered within the period May 7th to June 30th 2019. 385 were retrieved for analysis.



Source: National Remote Sensing Centre, Jos. 2020

Figure 4.1: Map of Nigeria showing Plateau State and Urban Centres in Plateau State

Path model analysis was used in carrying out the analysis developed by Alwinand Hauser,(1975)as a standardized multiple regression analysis. Sequence relationship was observed of the variables that were arranged in a logical approach and went into was thoroughly studied in a series of regression equations. It gives detail information compare to normal

regression analysis despite of the fact that there are of the same estimated coefficient value. The method requires endogenous variables and exogenous variables. Firstly, regress the endogenous variables on the exogenous variables and the intervening endogenous variables that come in sequence from cause to effect. While the first reduced form of equation of a particular endogenous variable gives the total effects, the last equation provides the direct effects. Mean and standard deviation were observed on all the exogenous and endogenous variables

Model specification of Migrants

Table1. Variable category used in the path model

Exogenous variables	Gender of respondents (X1) Age of respondents (X2) Ethnicity of respondents (X3) Religion of respondents (X4) Education of respondents (X5) Occupation of respondents (X6)
Endogenous variables	Job Secured (X7) Place of Birth (X8) Weather influence (X9) Occasional movement (X10)
Dependent variable	Reasons for Migration

The method of the path model asses' variables that have direct effect on the observation in the study. It is not a medium of finding causes, but a mean applies to a causal relation on the basis of prior knowledge and theoretical deliberation. According to the causal ordering of variables, the set of selected variables are designated into three categories (exogenous, endogenous and dependent) as seen on table 1 presented above. These selected variables provide estimates of path coefficients and facilitate to understand the important relationship between several variables measured in the causal model.

1.4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table2. Presents the results of socio-demographic variables of the respondents in the study area, 61.3% of the gender were male which was in the same line with Ajaero and Onokala,(2011) that stated most migrants found out to be male and so also with Weeks, et al (2010). The study discovered that 40% of the migrants that dominant Plateau State were young people ranging from age 21-30. Alarima, (2018); Faruk, Islam and Rahman, (2007) and Mutandwa et al, (2011) tend to agree to the fact that majority of young people are involved in migration. 78.7% of the people migrating to Plateau State were Christians by

religion and over 30.1% were Yoruba ethnic group from the western Nigeria. Singles have 54.3% with a level of secondary school education background while main occupation of migrant were found to be entrepreneurs/self-employed person with 40.3% (see table.2) in the same view with UN, (2014) that migration is in the pursuing of higher education, secure employment or getting married.

Table2. Socio-demographic Data of Respondents in the Study Area

Description	Frequency	Percentage %	Mean	SD	Result
Gender					
Male	236	61.3			
Female	149	38.7	1.58	0.48	-
Total	385	100	1.58	0.48	
Age					
11-20	53	13.8			
21-30	157	40.8			
31-40	105	27.3			
41-50	46	11.9			
51-60	18	4.7	2.58	1.11	-
61->	6	1.6			
Total	385	100	2.58	1.11	
Religion					
Christianity	303	78.7			
Muslim	79	20.5	2.20	0.42	
Traditionalist	3	0.8			-
Others	0	0			
Total	385	100	2.20	0.42	
Ethnicity					
Hausa	77	20			
Igbo	79	20.5			
Yoruba	43	11.2	3.24	3.24	+
Plateau	116	30.1			
Others	70	18.2			
Total	385	100	3.24	3.24	
Marital Status					
Singled	209	54.3			
Married	167	43.4			
Divorced	2	0.5	1.50	0.62	-
Widow/Widower	7	1.8			
Total	385	100	1.50	0.62	
Educational Status					
Qu'aranic	22	5.7			
informal	10	2.6			
Primary	42	10.9			
Secondary	159	41.3			
Tertiary	152	39.5	4.03	1.18	-
Total	385	100	4.03	1.18	
Occupation					
Entrepreneurs/Self-Employed	155	40.3			
Employed	32	8.9			
Unemployed	27	7.0			
Students	48	12.5			
Child (under 15)	18	4.7			
Labourers	66	17.1			
Civil Servant	39	10.1	3.71	2.02	+
Total	385	100	3.71	2.02	

Source: Author, 2020

Table3 reveals 43.4% respondents moved from the village against those from small town, large town and urban cities as a factor influencing the socio-demographic status in the study area. 24.7% of respondents were getting minimal jobs as a result of unemployment rate in the villages which are a trigger to rural-urban movement while 43% of the respondents disagreed with weather influencing their movement to urban cities. The occasional movement of migrants from their place of birth to relocated resident affects their status with 32.7% (see.table.3) However, job secured in the urban cities of Plateau State shows high significant with a standard deviation of 2.6. Migrants leverage on the issue of acquire minimal jobs encourages them to move to urban centre regardless with the kind of job acquired.

Table3. Influencing Factors on Socio-Demographic Data of Respondents

Factors for Migration	Frequency	Percentage %	Mean	SD	Result
Place of birth					
Village	167	43.4			
Small Town	86	22.3			
Large Town	63	16.4			
Urban City	69	18.0	2.09	1.15	-
Total	385	100	2.09	1.15	
Job Secured					
Government	64	16.6			
Private Company	52	13.5			
Artisan	40	10.4			
Labourer	27	7.0			
Farmers	37	9.6			
Teaching (Teachers)	56	14.5			
Technicians	14	3.6	4.61	2.6	+
Others	95	24.7			
Total	385	100	4.61	2.6	
Weather Influence					
Strongly Agree	55	14.3			
Agree	98	25.5			
Undecided	47	12.2	3.08	1.31	-
Disagree	131	34.0			
Strongly Disagree	54	14.0			
Total	385	100	3.08	1.31	
Occasional Movement					
Strongly Agree	69	17.9			
Agree	126	32.7	2.83	1.33	-
Undecided	40	10.4			
Disagree	103	26.8			
Strongly Disagree	47	12.2			
Total	385	100	2.83	1.33	

Source: Researcher's work, 2019

Table 4. Zero order correlation coefficient among selected variables

Variable	X1	X2	X3	X4	X5	X6	X7	X8	X9	X10	X11
X1	1.00	.119*	-.040	.019	-.072	-.042	-.243**	-.286**	-.044	-.112*	.114*
X2		1.00	-..384**	-.218**	-.293**	-.059	-.146**	.060	-.011	.038	-.043
X3			1.00	.116*	.179**	.202**	.161**	.023	.127*	-.128*	.115*
X4				1.00	.264**	-.001	.137**	.006	.050	.044	.024
X5					1.00	.030	.100	-.033	.001	-.022	.078
X6						1.00	.068	.060	.104*	-.189**	.041
X7							1.00	.146**	.089	.016	.037
X8								1.00	.108*	.117*	-.065
X9									1.00	-.049	.158**
X10										1.00	.003
X11											1.00

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).
**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Figure2. Interrelationship between socio-demographic characteristics and factors influence demographic variable

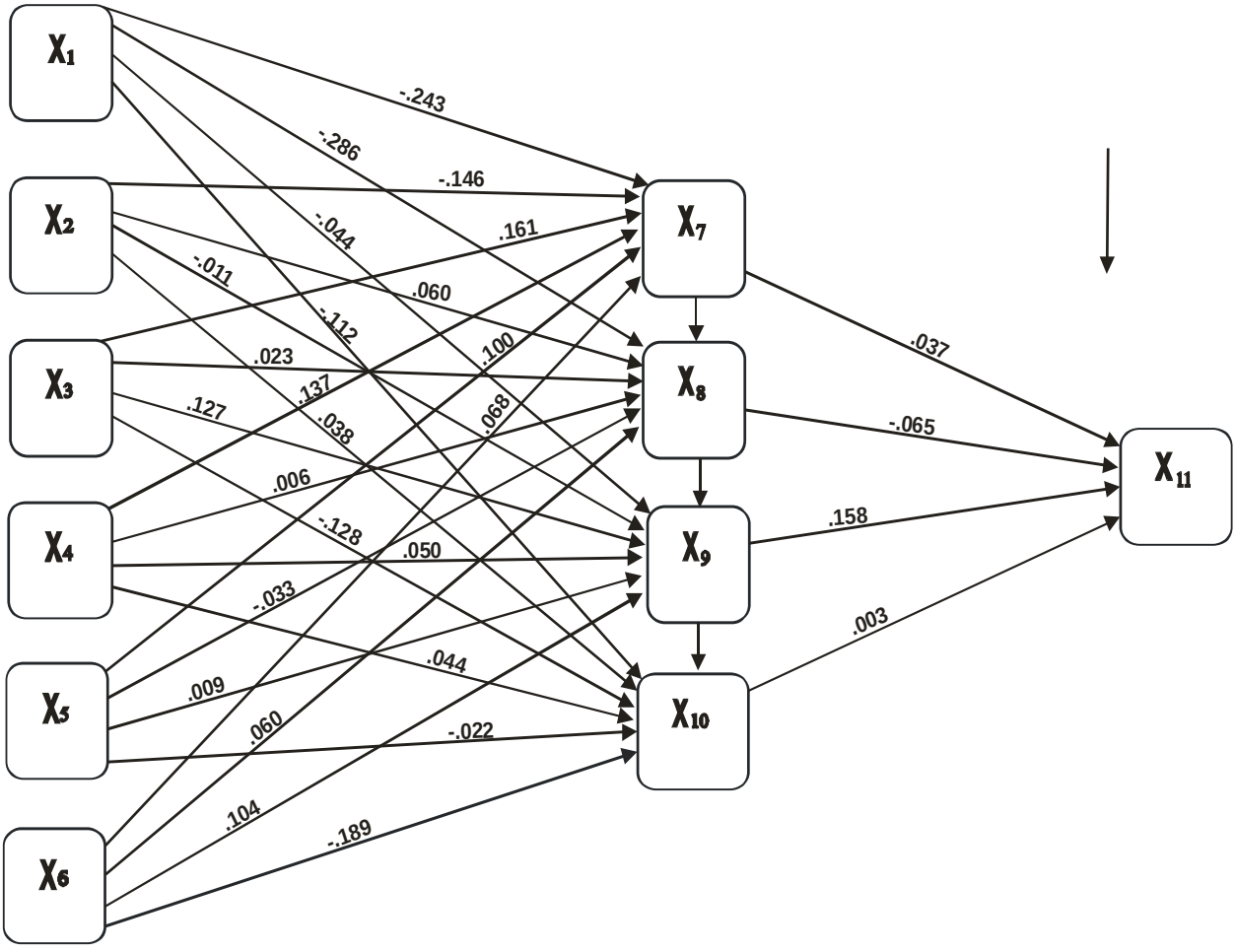


Table4 reveals the results of zero order correlation coefficients of several socio-demographic and factors affecting demographic variables measured in the study. Path coefficients are exposed in figure 2 and the diverse effects seen on table 4. In path analysis, Positive and negative significance were considered at 99% and 95% confidence levels (0.001 and 0.05) respectively, and the effects of the selected explanatory variables obtained. From Table4 it is observed that four variables are statistically significant out of eleven variables.

In this model, 4 variables, out of10variables, religion of respondents (X_4), Occupation of respondents (X_6), Job Secured (X_7) and Occasional movement (X_{10}) have positive significance for both exogenous and endogenous variables and age of respondents (X_2) has negative significance for the reasons for migration (X_{11}). Gender of respondents (X_1), ethnicity of respondents (X_3), educational qualification of respondents and Place of birth (X_8) and weather influence (X_9) shows no reason for migration. However, interrelationship between exogenous, endogenous and dependent variables showed in figure 3 and figure 4 show both positive and negative significant variables, where Gender (X_1) correlate positively with Religion (X_4) at 0.019 while with Ethnicity (X_3) at -0.040, Occupation(X_6) at -0.042 and Weather influence (X_9) at -0.044 revealed a negative correlation. Age (X_2) indicated a positive significance with Occasional Movement (X_{10}) at 0.038 and then showed negative relation with Weather influence (X_9) at -0.011 and Reasons for migration (X_{11}) at -0.043, Ethnicity (X_3) indicated a positive significance for Job secured (X_8) at 0.023, Religion (X_4) correlated positively with Job secured(X_8) at 0.006, Weather Influence (X_9)at 0.050, occasional movement (X_{10}) at 0.044 and Reasons for migration (X_{11}) at 0.024and negatively with occupation (X_6) at -0.001while Education (X_5) showed positive significance with occupation (X_6) at 0.030, Weather Influence (X_9) at 0.001 and negative significance with Place of birth (X_8) at -.033. Job Secured (X_7) related with occasional movement (X_{10}) at 0.16 and reasons for migration (X_{11}) at 0.037 positively and weather influence (X9) correlated with occasional movement (X10) negatively at -0.49, occasional movement (X10) showed positive significance with Reasons for migration (X11) at 0.003(seefigure4).

The socio-demographic characteristics revealed a positive effects that gender has on religion as age of migrants influences the nature of movement and religion have effects on job secured, place of birth, weather influence as well as seasonal movement of migrants. The occasional movement of migrants have effects on job secured and reason for migration. It is also discovered that there exist a negative effect of exogenous, endogenous and dependent variables like gender on ethnicity, occupation and weather. Age affects weather, reasons for migration and religion has effects on occupation while education affects place of birth and occasional movement. However by implication, it shows a negative significant.

Figure3. Positive Interrelationship among the Socio-Demographic Variables

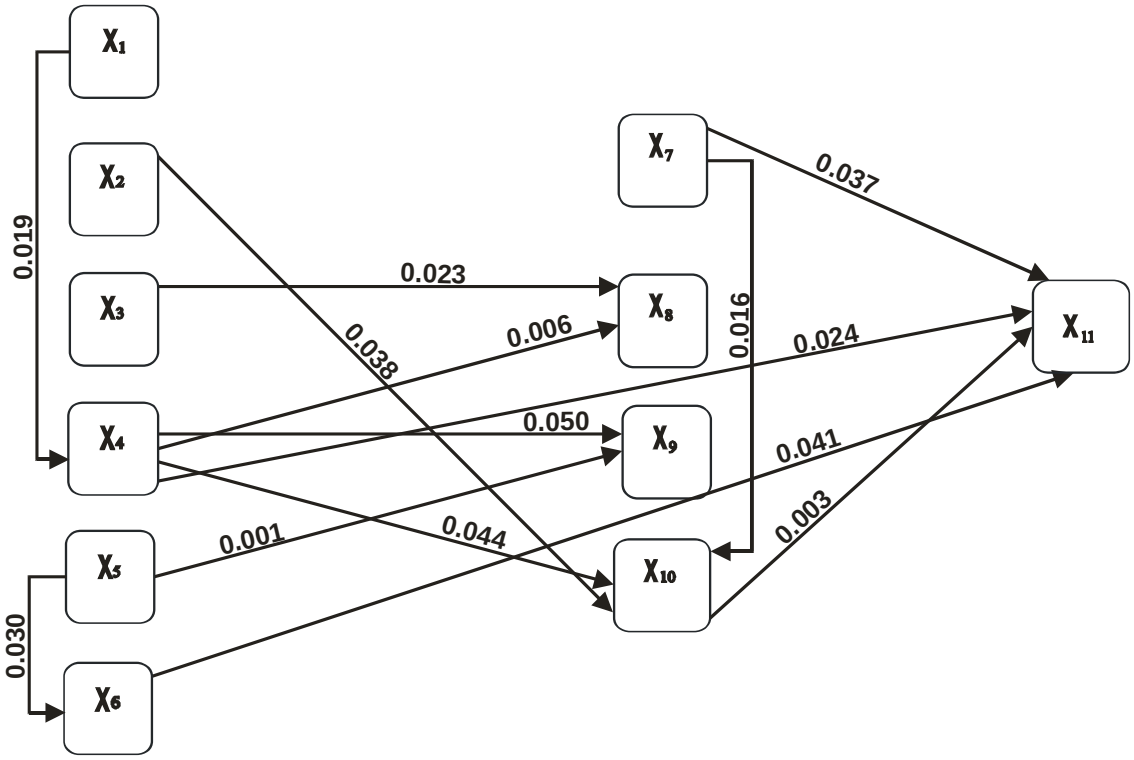
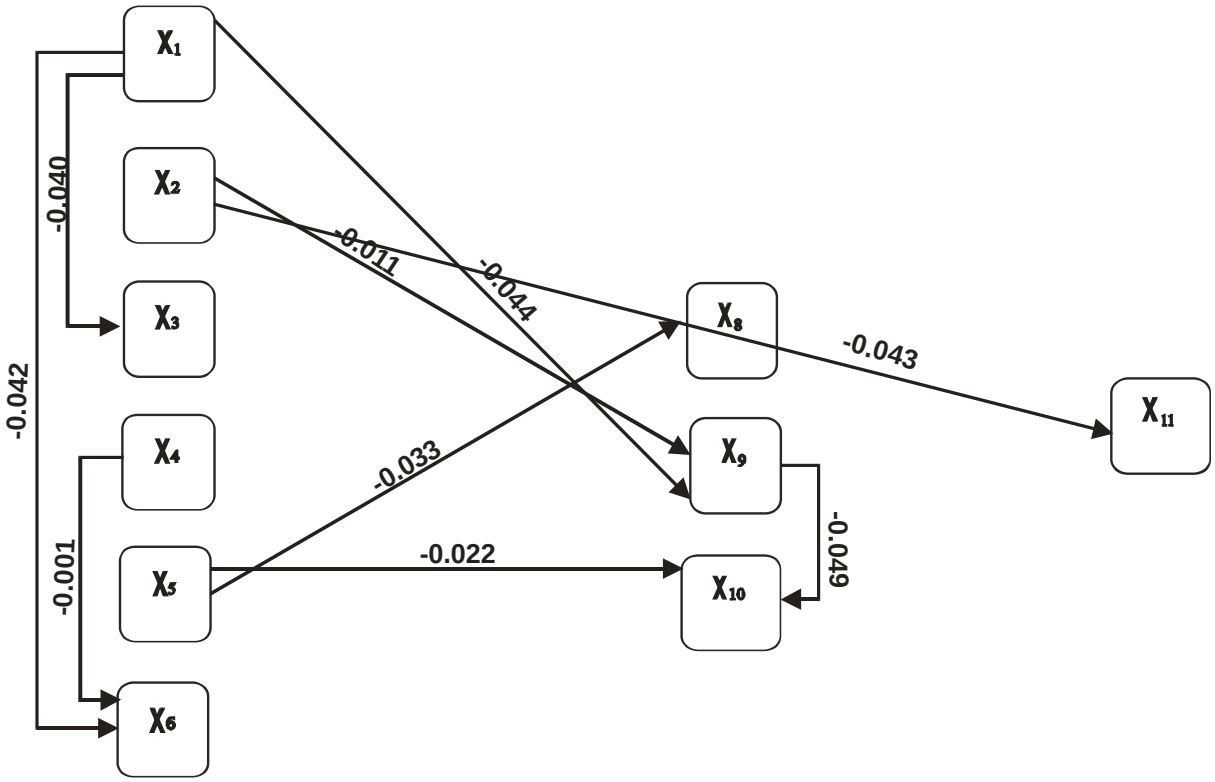


Figure4. Negative Interrelationship among the Socio-Demographic Variables



1.5 CONCLUSION

The study suggested that socio-demographic characteristics have effects on the rural-urban migration in the study area with decision to migrate being directly influenced by job secured and occasional movement of migrants. Educational status, age and occupation all contribute significantly to migration though negatively. Religion shows a strong influence on socio-demographic characteristic of migrants, even with the purpose of movement of having change on environment, social and financial status. Therefore, it is recommended to ensure that status of migrants is evaluated to give detail information of migrants in the urban centres for fair opportunities and distribution of resources.

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