

Internal Migration to the Southeast Region of Vietnam: Trend and Motivations

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Abstract

Internal migration in Vietnam following the "Reform" are identified by a set of "push" factors and "pull" factors. The Southeast region of Vietnam has the most rapid industrialization, urbanization and population concentration in Vietnam. Focusing on the last ten years, this study aims to show the factors motivating migration into the Southeast region. It employed a factorial analysis model to examine data collected from a sampling survey and revealed the pull factors of immigration are: 1) Abundant information on jobs and employment opportunities; 2) Ease of finding jobs; 3) Availability of better salaries; 4) Better health systems, education, entertainment, and living environment; 5) Wishing to become urban citizens; 6) Availability of social networking; 7) Ease of residence registration. The push factors, on the other hand are: 1) Lack of employment in departure area; 2) Pressures of family's debts, health care and personal education; 3) Poor hospital system and schools; 4) Desire to leave from agriculture and the homeland; 5) Challenges of living and production conditions under the impact of natural disasters.

Keywords

Migration; migration motivation; "push" and "pull" factors; industrialization – urbanization; population concentration

Introduction

Following the Renovation policy in Vietnam, investment flowed to the Southeast region - a part of the country making it the fastest industrializing and urbanizing region since the 1990s. Thus while the national urbanization in 2014 reached 33.9%, the rate for this region reached 64.95%. According to the Census on Population and Housing in 1st April, 2009, population of this region was 14,025,387, accounting for 16.34% of Vietnam's population, and contributes more than 2/3 of the total annual state budget revenue (General Statistics Office, 2015).

"Population concentration" is understood as the process that population is highly concentrated in a geographical area. Under condition of low natural population growth, nature of "population concentration" is immigration to this area. Factors influencing migration can be defined as either "push" or "pull". The net immigration rate for the Southeast

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region in 2004-2009 was 127% or four times higher than that for the Highland region in the same period. In the 5-year period 2004-2009, the Southeast region has welcomed 1,635 thousand immigrants, while in the period 1994-1999, it had welcomed only 580 thousand people (General Statistics Office, 2010:80). This study aimed at measuring the motivations behind migration to the Southeast region of Vietnam in the last ten years using a factorial analysis model on original data collected from a sampling survey.

Literature Review on Migration Motivations: Theories and Experiences

In countries around the world today as well as in Vietnam, internal migration flow is formed mostly by rural – urban migration and this is not a new topic. Since 19th century and 20th century, in the world, there were many models, streams of migration based on factors such as economic, political, social and cultural as well were studies that built from both theoretical and practical approach.

Ravestein (1885) classified migration based on distance and time of movement, and proposed the laws of migration based on distance, pull of industrialization and urbanization. Developing Ravenstein's laws of migration, Lee (1966) proposed a theoretical frame to describe the diversity of migration and return migration flows. He analyzed four factors: (1) Factors related to departure places, (2) Factors related to destination places, (3) The barrier of migration decisions, and (4) Characteristics of migrants. This model was further developed by including: (1) rapid population growth in rural areas leading to pressure on natural resources and food as a "push" factor; (2) better economic circumstances in urban (higher income, good job opportunity) areas as a "pull" factor.

According to Todaro (1969), Harris & Todaro (1970), the decision to migrate depends on income gap between regions. Thus, probability of finding a job was low but migration rate was still high. And migration affects to labor force and unemployment rate in urban areas. Harris-Todaro model also developed an explanation for this event seems to be the confliction of rural-urban migration flow, even though, unemployment rate of urban areas was increasing.

The Harris-Todaro model was further developed by Espíndola et al. (2006) who then affirmed that wages were still the main reason prompting migration trends. In addition, the rural-urban migration flow's rapid increase also brings the disadvantages for development of urban areas (increase in unemployment rate). Pressures on urban infrastructure could be thrust the "push" factor against migrants at the place where they have arrived.

In conditions similar to those found in Vietnam, Zhu (2002) used a mathematical model to analyze the factors that affect rural-urban migration in China, citing: (1) increase in marginal wage (2) job opportunities in urban areas (3) migration costs (4) and regional development, as reasons. Laing et al. (2005) affirmed these findings. Early studies of this phenomenon in Vietnam tended to focus on demographical characteristics of migrants, the main reasons of migration decisions, and the disadvantages facing migrants in destination places (Dang N.A., 1997; 1998; 1999; 2005; Luu B.N. & Nguyen T.T., 2011). They found family reunion and education were the main reasons behind migration in the past (HIDS, 1996), while income, job, better living standard in urban areas stand out as defining present trends (General Statistic Office, 2005; Dang N.A. 2005; UN Vietnam, 2010).

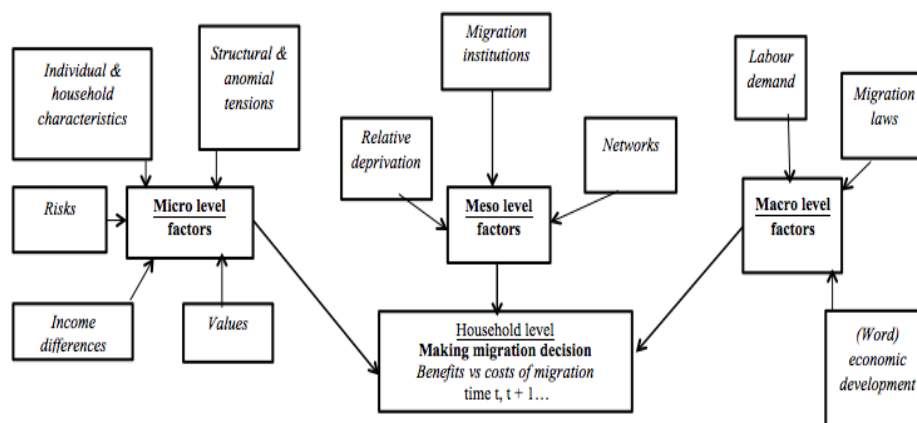
It should be emphasized that internal migration in Vietnam is closely associated with socio-economic inequality. Unemployment and underemployment remain widespread in rural

areas - where surplus labor accounts for 1/5 of the population (Le B.D. et al., 2006: 99). The group of "push" factors in present day rural-urban migration in Vietnam might include: 1) Change the structure of agricultural production; rural industrialization thoroughly; 2) Unemployment, underemployment in rural areas; 3) Living conditions such as housing, access to education and health care were not guaranteed; 4) Famine, drought and other natural disasters. "Pull" factors on the other hand might be: 1) Employment opportunities; 2) Higher income and additional income; 3) The desire to enjoy higher quality of education, better health care services; 4) New opportunities for urban living.

Research Methodology

Approach and analytical framework

Micro-level migration theories focus on individual migration decisions, whereas macro-level theories look at aggregate migration trends and explain these trends by macro-level explanations. The meso-level focuses on the household or community level, thus migration motivations can be analyzed at all three levels.



Sources: Hangen-Zanker, 2008

Figure 1: Framework of migration decision making

Variables that attract migrants are considered "pull" factors and on the other hand, variables that are barriers to settlement are considered as "push factors". At the departure, variables that prevent people from leaving are considered to be the "pull factor" while variables that drive people away are considered "push factors". The combination of such "pull" s and "push factor" form the motivations for migration.

In the context of rural - urban migration in Vietnam, the macro factors, meso factors and micro factors are shown in Table 1.

The macro factors: (1) the labor demand is considered at both the departure and destination areas, both in terms of number of jobs, quality of work (including the relevance of expertise and income); (2) Policy and laws on migration registration policy; (3) Economic development,

development of industrial parks, infrastructure, differences in prices and living standards between rural and urban areas.

Meso factors: (1) Organization for migration as the agencies or companies on employment introduction, recruitment of migrant labors; (2) Vulnerability community in the departure areas including remote areas, poor resource areas, coastal zones, being affected by natural disasters, loss of land due to natural and social causes; (3) Social networks of migrants.

The micro factors: (1) Social and demographical characteristics; (2) individual values such as wish to leave an agricultural village and become a worker or an urban citizen; (3) income difference between departure and destination places; (4) Self-perceived risks such as family separation, children's drop out of school or social disease infection; (5) pressure on individual migrant such as the employment pressure, need in income, debt, improvement of living conditions, education, medical treatment ...

Table 1: Factors of migration motivation and its description

Level	Factors	Description
MACRO FACTORS	Labor demand (in both departure and destination areas)	<i>Destination area:</i> Labor demand increased in all sectors at destination; for all professional levels; both formal and informal; sector and suitable jobs; <i>Departure area:</i> Lack of cultivation land; employments; no jobs suitable with professional skills trained labors; employment with a low salary
	Policy and laws relating to migration	<i>Destination area:</i> Residence management more opened; easier temporary residence and household registration; <i>Departure area:</i> Easier in-residence management: no need to declare to the authorities when being short-term absence (less than 3 months, no need to cut household registration as having long-term work away from home)
	Economic development (both at departure and destination: many industrial parks, developed infrastructure, many enterprises)	<i>Destination area:</i> There are many industrial zones; the demand for services increased; diversified, developed infrastructure (water, electricity, health care, school for children and training opportunities for migrants), price, high living standards; <i>Departure area:</i> Few industrial zones, mainly agricultural sector; poor health, poorly educational opportunities for children; no own good opportunity for development; lower prices and living standards; transportation between provinces became favorable.
MESO FACTORS	Agencies for migration (Consulting agencies for labor recruitment, Departments who are in charge of immigration) chances for out-migration	Consulting agencies for employment are available in local; enterprises came to hometown for labor recruitment; getting information from internet; provincial labor department informed the employment recruitment, associations (women union, farmers union, veterans union provided information on employment); state's policy on migration, work assignment by order.
	"Relative movement rights" (as the vulnerability of community: remote areas, poor resources, coastal areas, being suffered from many natural disasters, loss of land due to natural causes and social causes)	The homeland is under poor resource condition; the departure homeland is in remote and poor areas; landslide disasters, typhoons and inundation in homeland; cultivation land was acquired and no work at all; some personal issues wishing to leave home to avoid discrimination.
	Migrant network (social capital of migrants)	Small business owners came back hometown for labor recruitment; moving with friends or family members; there is an acquaintance introducing the job; family reunion: going with spouses, parents and siblings.
MICRO FACTORS	Demographic characteristics of migrant and his/her household (education level, marital status...)	Age; sex; current marital status and marital status before moving; current educational level, educational level before moving; professional qualification at present, professional qualifications before moving; number of children, family size before movement, the current family size (if living with family at the destination).

Level	Factors	Description
	Individual values (wish to leave an agricultural village to become a worker or an urban citizen)	Wishing to go to other places to expand knowledge; Wishing to escape the control of parents and families; want to live independently, want not be a countryside person; wants to be an urban citizen, not a farmer.
	Income gap between the departure and destination	Very low income in homeland was not enough to live on; income much higher in destination place.
	Self-perceived risks might be occurred in the moving process	The family is separated; the couple would divorce due to long separation; education of the children might be affected; children at risk of being damaged (lazy to learn, not good at school, racketeering, drug addiction); risks for singles (reproductive health: sexually transmitted infection, HIV/AIDS, unwanted pregnancies). High transportation costs but did not get a job at the destination place; loss of the opportunity to work at departure place, loss of land at departure place; getting accidents and risks at destination place; no carer for severe illness at destination place.
	Types of pressure on individual migrant (employment pressure, need in income, debt, improvement of living conditions, education, medical treatment)	Pressure in finding a job; pressure in income improvement; pressure of debt payment; pressure of health treatment for family's members; pressure to earn money for children's schooling; pressure to earn money to build a house; pressure to earn money for own schooling.

Data collection and analysis

The Vietnam Census on Population and Housing in 1989, 1999, 2009 and Inter-Census were used to analyze population concentration in the Southeast region. Factors driving migration to this region were analyzed using data obtained from a sampling survey conducted by the Institute of Population and Social Studies, National Economics University in December 2014.

In the sampling survey, Dong Nai and Binh Duong were chosen as the study area. In 2013 the urbanization rate of the country was 32.19%, while that rate for the Southeast region was 60.68%. The rate in Binh Duong and Dong Nai were 64.50% and 34.19%. From 2000-2013 the urbanization rate for the country increased by 8.07% percentage points, and that of Binh Duong increased to 34.23% percentage points (GSO, 2014). From 1994 to 1999 the migration rate of Binh Duong was 98.25% and ranked the fourth in the country while Dong Nai ranked eighth with 72.47%. In the period from 2004-2009, Binh Duong had become the province having the highest immigration rate in the country - 365% while Dong Nai with 104.4% ranked fourth.

Semi-structured questionnaires were conducted among migrants from 15-60 years old who had been in the study area for 10 years and working in either the formal or informal sector. The sample size was determined by the sample calculating formula based on the known sample total (total number of immigrants to the study area according to the results of the Population and Housing Census 2009), with 95% statistical significance. In each province, 350 respondents were chosen to be interviewed, approximately 70% of respondents were employed in the formal sector and the remaining in the informal sector. Stratified sampling method was applied. In each province, two districts having many industrial zones were randomly selected. In each district 5 wards/communes were selected randomly and in each ward/commune, 35 respondents who had moved the last ten years were selected randomly to be interviewed. Of the respondents selected, 46.3% were male and 53.7% female, of which those aged between 21-30 accounted for 52.2%, 31-40 age group accounted for 26.7%, and 41-50 age group accounted for 11.2%. The number of respondents under 20 and over 50 was 6.6% and 3.3%, respectively. Those who migrated the last 5 years amounted to 62.4% of respondents of whom majority were young, female, and with higher levels of education compared with those who had arrived earlier and accounted to the balance 37.6% of

respondents. Respondents come from all six regions of the country. Of these, the proportion of respondent coming from the North and South Central Coast region and from the Mekong River Delta region was highest (39.8% and 34.6%, respectively). 9.1% of respondents came from the Red River Delta while those from the Northern Midlands and Mountains, the Central Highlands and the provinces of the Southeast amounted to 4-6%. The proportion of trained interviewees was 25.8% (primary: 4.6%, middle level: 7.2%, colleges: 3.7%; universities: 2.2%; and being trained in the enterprises: 8.2%).

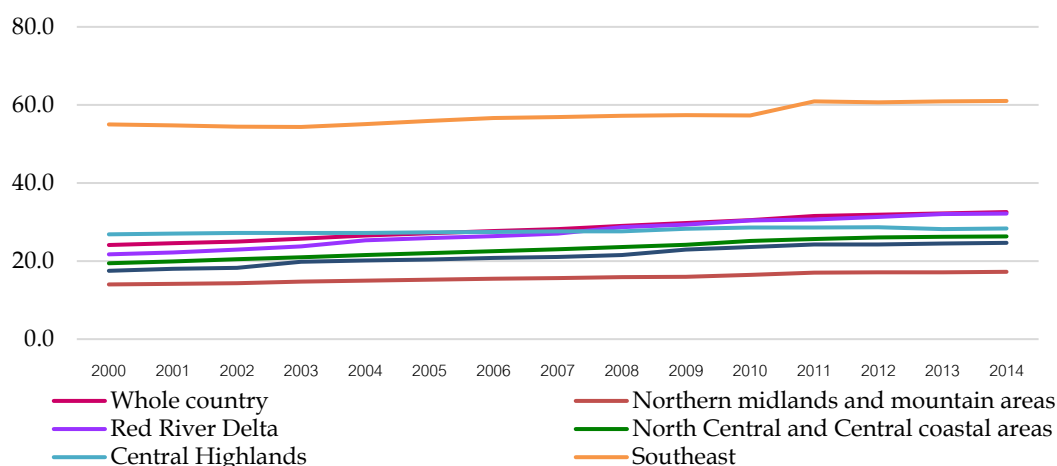
Reasons for migration are complex, multi-dimensional (economic, psychological, social, environmental, etc.), hence the factorial analysis model is used to show interrelations and the nature of the "pull" or "push" factors instead of frequency analysis. Using only frequency analysis would not show a combination of factors that formed a group. For each factor, the impact degree on the migration's decision is different, it is not simply the presence or absence (binary variable) of this factor in the model. Therefore, the Likert scale is used to show more clearly the impact degree of the factors.

Factorial analysis model was applied on three dependent variables to measure the motivations for migration. The independent variables were the factors related to migration motivations mentioned above.

Research Results

Population concentration trends in the Southeast region in the period 1989-2014

As mentioned above, Southeast region experienced rapid industrialization and urbanization from 1989 (Figure 2). The results of the Vietnam Population and Housing Census of 1979, 1989, 1999, 2009 and Inter Census 2014 showed during the period from 1979 to 1989, the Southeast was the region with the second highest population growth, 2.7% per year, only behind the Central Highland.



Source: General Statistics Office of Vietnam, 2000; 2010; 2015

Figure 2: Urbanization rate of regions in Vietnam from 2000-2014

Table 2: Population size of regions in Vietnam from 1979 to 2014

No	Socio-economic regions	Unit: Thousand people				
		1979	1989	1999	2009	2014
1	Northern midlands and mountain areas	8,069	10,242	11,053	11,065	11,633
2	Red River Delta	11,445	13,784	16,834	19,578	20,649
3	North Central and Central coastal areas	13,080	15,459	16,536	18,836	19,482
4	Central Highlands	1,529	2,512	4,060	5,107	5,504
5	Southeast	6,276	7,987	11,710	14,025	15,721
6	Mekong River Delta	12,341	14,428	16,131	17,179	17,501
	Whole country	52,742	64,412	76,323	85,789	90,493

Source: General Statistics Office of Vietnam, 2000; 2010; 2015

Table 2 shows that population in the Southeast began to grow since 1989, after Vietnam's Reform policy when industrial zones were established and foreign investments started to flow. From 1989 to 1999, the population of the Southeast region had increased from 7,987 to 11,710 people, the average growth rate during this period amounted to 4.7% per year; and the period of highest population growth. By the end of the 1999-2009 period, population of the region had risen to 14,025 people, with the average growth rate of 2.0% per year. Right up to 1st April 2014, population of this region was 15,721 with the average growth rate in the 2009-2014 period was 2.23%.

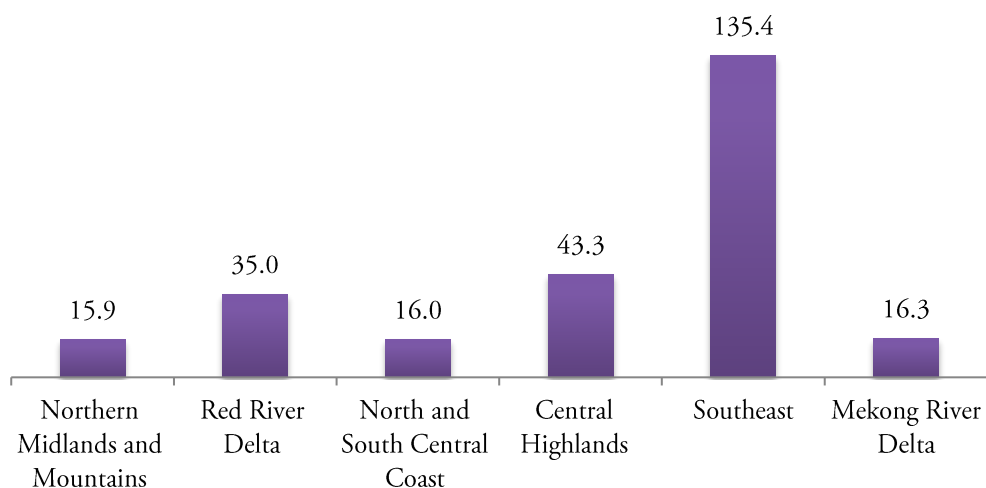
Although the Central Highland region had a high population growth it only accounted for 2.9% in 1979; 3.9% in 1989; 5.3% in 1999 and 5.9% in 2009 of the nation-wide total. The population density of the Southeast in the total population of the country continued to increase from 11.9% in 1979 to 12.4% in 1989, 15.3% in 1999 and 16.4% in 2009. This is from 265 people per km² in 1979 to 333 people per km² in 1989, 434 people per km² in 1999, 594 people per km² in 2009 and 666 people per km² in 2014. Thus, the degree of concentration of population per unit area of the territory in this region had increased 2.3 times in 30 years, while the average increase for the Vietnam as a whole was 1.6 times and 1.5 times for the Red River Delta and 1.4 times and of Mekong Delta (Table 3).

Table 3: Population density of regions in Vietnam from 1979 to 2014

No	Socio-economic Regions	Unit: person/km ²				
		1979	1989	1999	2009	2014
1	Northern midlands and mountain areas	79	103	126	116	122
2	Red River Delta	633	784	898	930	981
3	North Central and Central coastal areas	136	167	195	196	203
4	Central Highlands	26	45	73	93	101
5	Southeast	265	333	434	594	666
6	Mekong River Delta	299	359	408	423	432
	Whole country	160	195	234	259	273

Source: General Statistics Office of Vietnam 2000; 2010; 2015

Population concentration in the Southeast was mainly the result of immigration. In the period 2004-2009, the immigration rate (number of immigrants averaged over 1000 people of the region) was nine times higher than the rate of immigrants to the Northern midlands and mountain areas, the Northern Central and Central Coastal areas and the Mekong River Delta, four times higher than immigration rate to the Red River Delta and three times higher than that of the Central Highland (Figure 3).



Source: General Statistics Office of Vietnam, 2010

Figure 3: Immigration rate of regions in Vietnam, 2004-2009

For the 2010-2014 period the immigration rate to the Southeast region was 70.8%, and considering the net migration rate (the number of immigrants minus number of out-migrants, over 1,000 population on average) for the period 2004-2009 Southeast recorded 107.7% suggesting that the Southeast region attracted the largest number of migrants in the country. Observations also showed that, in recent years the rate of net migration to this region tended to decrease, from 19.9% in 2010 to 14.8% in 2011, 11.7% in 2012 and 8.3% in 2013. This rate was 56.9% in 2009 till 2014 (Table 4) indicating it has become less attractive for migrants.

Table 4: Net migration rate of regions, periods of 2004-2009 and 2009-2014

No	Socio-economic Regions	2004-2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2009-2014	Unit: ‰
1	Northern midlands and mountain areas	-17.5	-3.9	-3.3	-2.6	-2.3	-8.1	
2	Red River Delta	-1.7	0.5	0.9	0.2	-0.3	0.3	
3	North Central and Central coastal areas	-34.6	-5.7	-4.0	-4.4	-1.7	-15.0	
4	Central Highlands	11.2	-0.3	-2.4	3.7	2.1	1.0	
5	South East	107.7	19.9	14.8	11.7	8.3	56.9	
6	Mekong River Delta	-40.4	-8.4	-6.5	-5.0	-4.3	-29.7	
*	Binh Duong	314.4	74.6	42.7	48.9	34.5	205.3	
*	Dong Nai	60.8	16.3	22.1	12.5	6.7	30.4	

Source: General Statistics Office of Vietnam, 2011; 2012; 2013; 2014; 2015

Migration motivations to the Southeast in the period 2005-2014

Factorial analysis model has allowed us to identify 48 variables with major impact on migration to the Southeast. 48 variables are formed into 10 groups of key motivation factors affecting immigrants in the Southeast. In this 10 groups, 8 groups were homogeneous between factors (push factors or pull factors), and 2 groups included interacting factors (push factors and pull factors) (Table 5).

The factors could be either micro level meso level or macro level. The results of factorial analysis model showed that 7 groups of factors were considered to be the “pull” factors and 5 groups be the “push” factors. Specifically:

- Groups of “pull” factors to a particular destination include: PL1) Plentiful of information on jobs and recruitment opportunities; PL2) Having better health systems, education, training, entertainment and living environment than at departure; PL3) Easy to find jobs that are diversity, abundant and consistent with the aspiration; PL4) Employed, higher income than that in home-land; PL5) Desire to become urban citizens; PL6) Availability of social network in destination place PL7) Regulations favorable for migration and residence.

These factors are fully compatible with the characteristics of industrialization, urbanization and development in the Southeast of Vietnam. Industrialization, increased investment capital helps create more employment opportunities. Urbanization helps improve living conditions, especially the availability of quality health and education services. For a country characterized by long-term agricultural production, the desire to become an urban citizen has psychological effects on rural youth. In this regard social capital plays an important role in helping migrants integrate rapidly and thereby overcome the restrictions of the country’s “Household Registration” regime.

- Groups of “push” factors identified are: PH1) There is no good system of hospitals, schools at departure; PH2) Lack of employments in home-land; PH3) under pressure of earning money to pay debts, health treatment, studying; PH4) Natural disasters in the homeland making life increasingly difficult; PH5) Desire to move away from agricultural labor. These are among the reasons cited by the surveyed immigrant population for their migration to the Southeast region of the country.

Table 5: Results of factor analysis model on migration motivation to Dong Nai and Binh Duong, 2004-2014

Code	Migration reasons:	Factor groups established											
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
PL	State company on job introduction conducts recruitments in hometown	0.752	Plentiful of information on jobs and recruitment opportunities										
PL	Private company on job introduction conducts recruitments in hometown	0.719											
PL	Companies, enterprises conduct recruitments in hometown	0.701											
PL	Local government assist introducing new jobs	0.681											
PL	Migration program of organizations and projects	0.657											
PL	Migration program of the organization, projects	0.650											
PL	Many state companies on job introduction in destination region	0.631											
PL	The socio-political organizations introduce employment	0.621											
PH	Assigning work of employer agency	0.597											
PL	Having good hospital system here		0.720	Having better health systems, education, training, entertainment and living environment than at departure									
PL	Many universities/colleges, training opportunities here		0.718										
PL	Many vocational training centers here		0.684										
PL	The better commune/ward health care system here		0.670										
PL	There are many schools fit with the needs of children		0.632										
PL	There are many tourist resorts, amusement parks here		0.569										
PL	There is a good living environment here		0.562										
PL	Easy to find jobs in many industries here			0.703	Easy to find jobs that are diversity, abundant and consistent with the aspiration								
PL	Easy to find work at all levels of expertise			0.697									
PL	Easy to find jobs matching their professional training			0.664									
PL	Easy to find jobs both in formal sector and informal sector			0.645									
PL	There are many jobs in the private establishments			0.638									
PL	There are jobs matching aspirations			0.622									
PH	Commune/ward health care center in departure place is in poor quality				0.788	<i>There is no good system of hospitals, schools at departure</i>							
PH	No universities/colleges in original place				0.774								
PH	Primary and secondary schools in the original place are not good				0.766								
PL	No vocational training centers in the original place				0.754								
PL	There are many industrial zones, factories, construction sites here					0.798	<i>Lack of employments in home-land</i>	Employed, higher income than that in home-land					
PL	There are many foreign companies here					0.761							
PL	The income level here is higher than in departure place					0.702							
PH	Lack of employment in departure place					0.541							
PL	Here getting the government concerns and investments					0.521							

Code	Migration reasons:	Factor groups established												
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
PH	Under pressure of earning money to pay debts to family						0.795	<i>Under pressure of earning money to pay debts, health treatment, studying</i>						
PH	Under pressure of earning money to pay own debts						0.779							
PH	Earning money for health treatment of beloved ones						0.734							
PH	Earning money for tuition fees						0.55							
PH	Many typhoons and floodings in the home land							0.797	<i>Natural disasters induced climate change</i>					
PH	Sea level rise, salt intrusion, loss of cultivation land							0.712						
PH	Hard climate, difficult to develop							0.642						
PH	Land were slided or loosen							0.601						
PL	Like becoming a city citizen								0.767	<i>Decide to leaving agriculture homeland</i>		Desire to become a city citizen		
PH	Dislike being a farmer								0.745					
PH	Do not want to live at home again, only want to leave away								0.608					
PL	Want to become civil servants, officials, workers								0.51					
PL	Had friends or people who live in same village going ahead									0.762	Availability of social network in des. place			
PL	Having friends here									0.715				
PL	Have relatives going ahead and arrived here									0.557				
PH	Leaving home in 5 years without being cut household registration										0.824	Easy Resident		
PH	Leaving home in 5 years without being land acquisition										0.818	Regulation		

Difference in migration motivations to the Southeast region in the period 2004-2009 and 2009-2014

Comparing the factors in the period 2004-2009 and 2009-2014, there were different motivations for migration (Table 6).

In the period 2004-2009, the pull factor “Better health system, education, training, entertainment, and a better living environment in the destination area” was the most important, and then that is “Information on jobs and redundant employment opportunities” and “Easy to find jobs, employment diversity, abundance, matching personal aspirations”. In the period 2009-2014, the migrants were more concerned with firstly, “Information on jobs and redundant employment opportunities”, secondly, “Better health system, education, training, entertainment, a better living environment in the destination area” and thirdly, “availability of high paying jobs”.

In the period 2004-2009, immigration in the Southeast region was affected by the following push factor “Like leaving agriculture and leaving homeland” (PH4*) and attendant pull factor “Desire to become urban citizens” (PL7*). These factors did not exist in the period 2009-2014. Besides, some of factors affecting to immigration in the period 2004-2009 were not presented in the analysis model in the period 2009-2014 as: “being mobilized and assigned work”; “pressure on pay for own schooling”; “migration program of some projects”.

Table 6: Migration motivations in the period 2004-2009 and 2009-2014

No	Factor group	2004-2009	2009-2014
<i>PULL factors</i>			
1	Better health system, education, training, entertainment, a better living environment in the destination area	PL1	PL2
2	Information on jobs and redundant employment opportunities	PL2	PL1
3	Easy to find jobs, employment diversity, abundance, matching personal aspirations	PL3	PL4
4	Easy regulations for migration and residence	PL4	PL7
5	Many jobs and jobs with high salary	PL5	PL3
6	Difference in income between departure and destination	PL6	PL5
7	Available social networking at destination	PL8	PL6
8	Want to become urban citizens	PL7*	-
<i>PUSH factors</i>			
1	Lack of employments in homeland and there were only jobs with low salary	PH1	PH1
2	In the home land, no good hospital system, no good school system	PH2	PH2
3	Natural disasters induced by climate changes increased in the homeland	PH3	PH4
4	Pressure on earning money to pay debts and health treatment for relatives, personal study	PH5	PH3
5	Like leaving agriculture and leaving homeland	PH4*	-
6	Being mobilized and assigned work	X	-
7	Pressure on pay for own schooling	X	-
8	Migration program of some projects	X	-

* PL: Pull factor; PH: Push factor

Source: 2015 IPSS survey data analysis

Conclusion and Policy Implications

Reform policy has turned the Southeast region of Vietnam into a rapidly industrializing and urbanizing region. This has led to population concentration from the 90s onwards. As a result of greater industrialization and urbanization in other regions of the country, the attraction to migrate to the Southeast has decreased. As a result, the Southeast could probably face a shortage of labor. The “pull” factors of migration to the Southeast during 2004-2014 included: 1) Plentiful of information on jobs and recruitment opportunities; 2) Having better health systems, education, training, entertainment and living environment than at departure; 3) Easy to find jobs that are diversity, abundant and consistent with the aspiration; 4) Employed, higher income than that in home-land; 5) Desire to become urban citizens; 6) Availability of social network in destination place; 7) Regulations favorable for migration and residence.

The “push” factors of migration to the Southeast, on the other hand, are: 1) There is no good system of hospitals, schools at departure; 2) Lack of employments in home-land; 3) Under pressure of earning money to pay debts, health treatment, studying; 4) natural disasters in the homeland making life increasingly difficult; 5) Desire to move away from agricultural labor.

Comparing the factors in the period 2004-2009 and 2009-2014 found that in the former factors such as “Better health system, education, training, entertainment, better living environment in the destination area” and job availability were important. In the period 2009-2014, migrants were more interested in “Information on jobs and redundant employment opportunities” and “availability of high paying jobs in the destination area”. The push factor “Want to leave agriculture and leaving homeland” and pull factor as “Want to become urban citizens” were more significant in the period 2004-2009.

In order to take advantage of internal migration for economic development, the Government of Vietnam should:

- Develop and implement policies to achieve both social equality and environmental sustainability goals in the areas of rapid industrialization and urbanization, population concentration.
- Respond to the health care and education infrastructure situation
- Take into account the trend and the concentration of population in the light of the declining situation of migrant workers in Southeast as other regions too experience growth. Local government too should have plans to deploy “the program of education to become urban citizens”

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