

Migrating out of Poverty

Research Consortium

Focus

- The relationship between internal and regional migration and poverty
- Africa and Asia – mostly developing countries
- Funded by UK – DFID (Department for International Development)
- University of Sussex – coordinated out of the university

Goal

- Maximise poverty reducing forms and trends of migration
- Maximize the developmental impacts of migration
- Reduce costs and risks associated with migration
- Research that give insight on conditions where migration can benefit both ways – sending and receiving countries – reducing poverty

Themes

- Gender and generation (on the complexities surrounding norms and practices guiding the responsibilities of different household members, dependencies and interdependencies within families, and migration)
- Income and remittances (whether migration improves consumption expenditure of migrant-sending households)
- Migration industry (on the networks, organisations and individuals that facilitate migration, collectively known as the migration industry, with a focus on brokerage)
- Migration data

Issues

- Who is migrating and why?
- Are migrants better off than stayers?
- Are there families better off?
- How does migration affect gender roles within the family?
- Is debt migration a solution?
- Do the remittances outweigh the risks?

What kind of research and where

- Mixed method research – for consolidated results
- Sharing evidence and findings between global partners
- Comparing evidence between global partners
- Eg. With Amadpoc (African Migration and Development Policy Center)
- So far Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Nepal, Singapore, and South Africa

Ethiopia research

- Adaptive social protection and migration: The Case of Cash Transfers in Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Malawi
- Poverty linkages in studying migrant construction and domestic workers from South gondar zone to Bahirdar and Addis Ababa
- Working paper: Poverty, youth and rural-urban migration in Ethiopia
- Does Migration Improve Living Standards of Migrant-Sending Households? Evidence from Rural Ethiopia

Gendered experiences of migration

- Why do women and girls from poor households migrate internally or regionally? (emp't, early marriage, with their partners, to support families)
- What sectors do they work in? (domestic work, construction work, food industries, informal sectors)
- What are the benefits? (autonomy, educations, changed gender norms)
- What are the risks? (inconvenient working environment, sexual exploitation, powerlessness)

Introduction – gendered and generational research Ethiopia

- Migration experiences vary across genders and generations
- Significant changes in gendered and generational relations and norms
- Little is known on the impact of migration on the intra-household dynamics, the impact of migration on the household and the dynamics of the household on migration processes and decision

Aim

- Examine how economic, social and cultural transformations impact generational and gendered relationships among migrant households
- How social and cultural changes have affected migration, and how migration, in turn, affects the outcome of such changes within the household
- How different members of the household are affected by resource changes resulting from migration
- Examine the extent to which this is linked to the bargaining power of women within the household

Aim cont'd

- Investigate the influence of all resource changes other than those resulting from migration within a household
- Explore the bargaining power of men and women, adults and youth at the household level to unpick gendered and generational relationships.
- Study if and how the position of a migrant within the household affects children and youths' life paths as household power relations fluctuate as a result of migration.

Results in other countries

- Bangladesh, Ghana and Indonesia findings:
- Economic, social and cultural transformations in migrant sending areas lead to the migration of specific categories of people (Darkwah et al., 2016), as do specific demands in the global labour market (Platt et al., 2016).
- In all three countries, the studies demonstrated that relationships within families, aspirations for certain types of futures, opportunities open to female and male youths, and mothers' and fathers' power to influence their children's life paths are unsettled and transformed, for better or worse, as a result of migration.

Results cont'd

- They documented more intimate changes in individuals' positions as migrants and as relatives of migrants, which ultimately affected power hierarchies and empowered some women to participate more in decision-making (Rashid, 2016; Teye et al. 2017).
- Even if remittances were invested in the next generation, gendered norms and expectations shaped and differentiated the impact on young men and women considerably, especially when remittances were limited or about to dry up (Rashid and Sikder, 2016).

Ethiopia – migration

- Facilitated the out flux of Ethiopians include famine, civil war, violent conflict, and political instability
- How about life style other than economic and political factors?
- Internal migration in Ethiopia consists primarily of rural-rural and/or rural-urban moves – international to gulf states, western countries and some african countries
- Remittance - most migrants have such low earnings that little is left to send home once they have covered their own living expenses. The little money sent back to the rural families is spent on daily consumption

The research

- Focusing on understanding migration from intra-household dynamics perspectives
- Our analysis of household relations will shed light on the relationships between men and women, parents and children, and siblings in a household, and how these relationships influence decision making.

Research questions

- How does migration affect the concept of a household? (conceptualization and decision making)
- How do migration, changing gender relations, and changing subject positions intersect? (effect on power balance, intergenerational relation, what are negotiations, obligations and expectations, changing roles)

Questions

- What gendered patterns of remitting and remittance use can we observe among households in migrant communities? (sex of the remitter, position and receiving and expenditure, role of social structures) amount and frequency, behaviour
- Its effect on gendered and generational relationship

Questions cont'd

- What long term investment plans do households have and are they linked to remittances? (determinants of remittance allocation, plans, decisions –what is the place of gender and generations)
- How does migration affect the life choices in migrant families? (effect on social and economic status on the family, livelihood choices) for eg. Does it encourage for migration of other members

Steps

- Models of intra-household dynamics will be thoroughly reviewed to identify theories applicable or suggest inapplicability in relation to migration.
- This conceptualisation of households as sites of negotiation, affection, compliance, and conflict is fundamental to the studies. The focus on household dynamics rather than on the problems of specific groups such as youth or women can generate revelatory findings of differentiation within such groups but also similarities across groups – inner workings, priviledges and responsibilities
- Moreover, relevant socio-economic policies, employment policies, migration policies, and care policies will be reviewed where necessary.
- Primary data collection

Methodology

- Qualitative – 34 households
- Indepth interviews
- FGDs
- Mock Money
- River of life
- KII

Design

- Phenomenological approach, the researchers seek to understand meaning in events and in human interactions
- To uncover the essence of how migration influences gender roles and behaviors and generational relations by changing the intra-household dynamics.
- To increase our understanding of the lived experiences of migrant households regarding the gendered and generational relations and dynamics.
- Phenomenology is therefore chosen to investigate the everyday experience and life world of households through the lens of migration.

Sampling

- As qualitative research is the design, a strict randomized sample selection is not necessary.
- The aim of including research participants in this study is not to make a generalized statement for the general population.
- Rather, it is to obtain an in-depth and rich knowledge on generational and gendered understanding of intra-household dynamics in relation to migration.

Sampling cont'd

- 34 households but 68 participants – both adults and youth
- Site – Kombolcha woreda – South Wollo
- Ten (10) with no migrants, ten (10) with one or more internal migrants, ten (10) with one or more international migrants and four (4) with both internal and international migrants.
- Careful attention will be given not to miss both the gendered and generational aspects in terms of exploring ideas by women and men, youth and adults and analysing it
- The data will be collected in three rounds of fieldwork from the households in a total of 38 field days of stay. The respondents will be selected reflecting heterogeneity in terms of living condition, gender, family structure, parental economic status, and other markers.

Analysis

- By exploring the nature of the participants' experiences, areas and their perceptions as well as attitudes, on gendered and generational relations through the lens of migration, it will be possible to understand intra-household dynamics for analysis to help researchers and policy makers understand concerns thereby prescribing suitable solutions, including migration-gender/generation interrelations.

How do the 3 theme research feed each other

- The research on generational and gendered understandings of intra-household dynamics will inform:
- The quantitative research on Income and remittances by providing insights into social changes leading to migration, the impacts of migration and remittances on the division of labour and resource allocation within the household and how shifts in endowment and responsibilities shape decision-making processes.
- The research on migration industries by exploring shifts in mobilities and immobilities, in mixed flows of documented and undocumented migrants, and the fluidity that many migrants experience in their status over time.