

Rural-Urban Migration and fertility in Bangladesh

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Abstract

In recent years most of the cities in Bangladesh have experienced rapid, but unplanned urbanization. Rural to urban migration has been a major explanation for the dramatic increase in the urban population. Although, the implications of rural-urban migration for socio-economic development are of long-standing interest to social scientist, very little is known about its demographic impact in Bangladesh, while the country is experiencing a demographic transition. This study will examine the impact of rural-urban migration on demographic behaviour of the migrant in Bangladesh, posing question: what effect does migrating from the high fertility and high mortality regimes of rural areas to the relatively low mortality of urban areas have on the fertility. The data for the study come from the 1999-2000 Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey (BDHS). Differentials in fertility levels between migrants and non-migrants are examined to test theories in the demographic literature explaining the mechanisms by which migration can affect fertility. The paper begins with an outline of the theoretical framework and relevant findings from other studies, and provides background information on Senegal. Multivariate analysis was done to identify the factors affecting fertility among migrants and non-migrants.

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