

Migration of Pattan Village, Taungoo Township and Socio-economic Opportunities

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Abstract

This paper analyzed the migration of Pattan Village, Taungoo Township. The study focused on four points: categories of migrant, trends of migrant, controlling factor for migration and sophisticated choice of migration. Data used in this paper were derived from interviews to all household heads of Pattan Village. The analysis results showed that there are many toddy palms, near Taungoo University and suitable location for poultry husbandry. The benefits from migrants are annual profit from the products of toddy palm, security of Taungoo University and introduce poultry husbandry.

Keywords: Toddy Palm, Security of Taungoo University, Poultry Husbandry

Introduction

The phenomenon of human migration represents a complex process of population flows over geographical space. Among these flows are those that occur within the borders of a country's territory, a process defined as *internal migration* (Muniz, 2010). People who have been experienced migration in the whole life. Imagine the feelings of people migration from another place when they arrive in a new place with job, friends. Most people migrate in search of three objectives: economic opportunity, cultural freedom, and environmental comfort. Therefore the study focuses on the controlling factors of migration. Consequently why and which people move to Pattan Village.

Research Problem

Most migration is rural to urban. Urban areas attract some migrants by opportunities of economy, education, health and higher living standard. However there are some migrants in Pattan Village. "How migrants move on to?"; "Why do people migrate to Pattan Village?"

Data and Methods

"Why" and "How" they migrate to Pattan Village by using the data derived from the structured interview conducted to the 31 villagers (all household in the village) and open interviews with 6 migrants. Three persons of them are toddy workers, two persons withdraw their troops from military and the rest is emigrant.

Location and Economy

Pattan Village is located near the Taungoo University in Sinneik Village Tract within Taungoo Township, Bago Region (Figure 1). There are 31 households in Pattan Village. Majority of households (55%) are engaged in farming. Some people are engaged as daily wage earners (25.8%) since they do not own farmland. They are also worked as daily wage earners on the land of large farmers. Toddy worker occupied 6.5% of households who migrant from Natogyi Township. Then, each of the government servants and service men occupied 3.2% of households, one of them moves from Sinneik Village, Taungoo Township. The rest 9.5% of the households falls into other occupational groups in which poultry husbandry included. One of these activities is work by withdrawer from military.

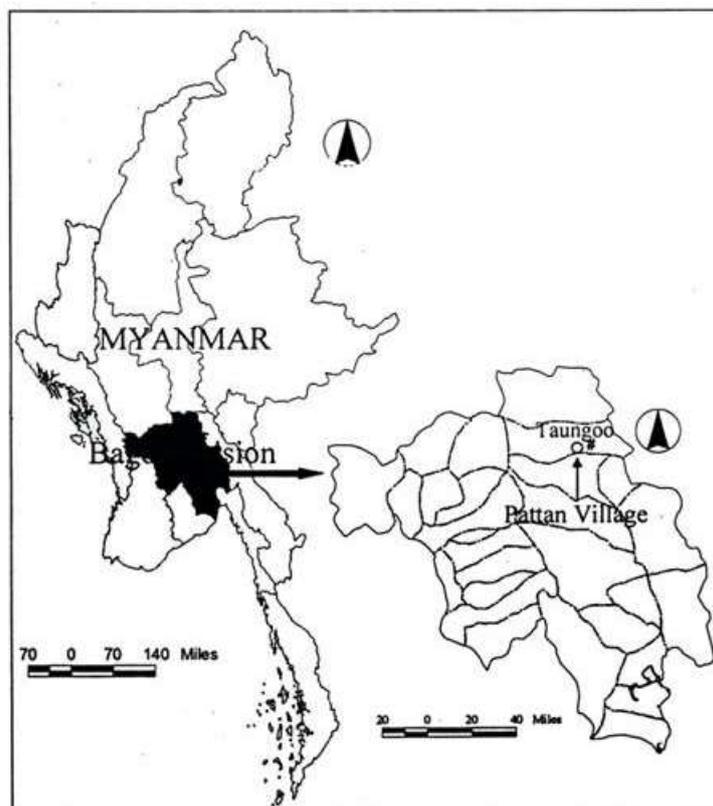


Figure (1) Location of study area

Source: Department of Geography, Yangon University.

Types of Migration

Migration can be mainly divided into two types: in-migration and out-migration. There has also long-term and short-term migration. Under these migrations include voluntary, forced, reluctant, step or hierarchy, chain or channelized, cyclical and counter or return migrations. Based on their economy, migration in Pattan Village was examined in three case studies.

A Case Study (1)

The history of toddy workers was temporary movement in space in which return home was an indisputable part of the plan that is ready to start toddy work in Natogyi Township. As a result, their migration has a circular pattern. In Pattan Village, there are three toddy workers. They move with some of family's members from October to February, the school children and working adult may still retain toddy palm in their origins. On-going relocation of employment from the "dry area" to the "rainy area" is a stimulus between Natogyi Township and Pattan Village.

In this case study, the nature of toddy worker in Dry Zone is seasonally stopped a time from October to February is one of the push factors. At that time the works have in Pattan Village is pull factor. This process defined as cyclical migration. Chain migration is found in Pattan Village, other two toddy workers come from Natogyi Township is followed by pioneer and subsequent migrations originating in the same home district and frequently united by kinship or friendship ties.

A Cases Study 2

Migrant moves Pattan Village for poultry husbandry because the village is suitable for poultry husbandry: having wide land to unhampered for people, obtain fresh air, near the road for carrying feed, cheap bamboo and get- free toddy stem for construction of building (Figure - 2). He contacts to villager who is skillful in poultry husbandry.



Figure (2) Place of poultry husbandry
(Source: Photo taken by author in 23 October, 2012)

A Cases Study 3

Most people migrate for economic opportunity. Within village tract and at the narrowest scale, localized residential shift is found in Taungoo Township. Such movements reflect individual changes in life cycle, income level, job location, and other personal circumstances. According to information may be derived from his experience when he served as secretary of Sinseik Village Tract, a retiree of military has settle down in Pattan Village.

A Case Study 4

People seem emigrating from places where less economic opportunities have, and they immigrate to places where more jobs have. Because of economic condition often differ from one country to another and within region of the same country. According to "laws of migration" by Ravestein (1834-1913) that most international migrants are young males, only one of emigrant in Pattan Village is 25 years, middle son of family went to Malaysia for job opportunity. Chain migration also takes place due to reliable communication systems. The relatives tend to follow the pioneer, when he stays for a long time in Malaysia. If he is worth his while, two of his cousin in Pattan Village will followed as guest workers in Malaysia by former person contact. This process takes some years, during which the former' family is in a good quality of life.

Tendency

Migrant trend of Pattan Village are further divided into two types: *regular trend* implies that the migrant has chosen to move for economic improvement at unchangeable place, time and person; *irregular trend* means that the migrant has been unpredictably moved by force.

Mobility Trend - 1

First, there is a steady trend of labour migration to Pattan Village, Taungoo Township. This trend has been a typical characteristic of internal migration, where toddy palms in Pattan Village exert a pull action due to contiguous region of climate transition zone of A and B climates. Toddy workers have "regular routes" of migration that involve movement in response to the free-time of toddy work in their origins, Natogyi Township. Their movements are always temporary, only one-way flow.

Mobility Trend - 2

The migrant has been compelled to move by civil savant. Before migrant has settled down Pattan Village, he had served as military. His first appointment was Mogaung, Kachin State for 2½ years. Thirdly he served in Mong Hsat for 3 years, Kyonodo, Mudon. Finally he transferred to, Kyaukayeik, Kayin State for 3 years and withdraws from military. Then he migrated to Mong Hpayak, migrated again Taungoo and finally moves to Pattan Village. Another person like him, he transferred to Bago Yoma, Daik-U, Pyay, Hlaing Bwe and Methawal while he served in military. He is also withdrawer from military and went back home (Sinseik Village). Then he migrate Pattan Village for his daughter education and job in Taungoo University. Pattan Village is located on the east of Taungoo University. The forced migration is complex and unstable before settle down in Pattan Village (Figure - 3).

Mobility Trend - 3

A third, opposing trend is represented by the study area which is affected by push factors. In Pattan Village has experienced losses of worker to Malaysia. It is attractive to workers from several regions where both urban and rural populations have lower income and lower quality of *life*. Migrant workers who are part of these migration trends are willing to endure isolation to be compensated with higher salaries. However, it is also important to verify in the future whether or not the worker's income will impact positively on family.

Complicated Decision Making Process

People decide to migration not for one reason, they have complicated reason for their decision for their decisions. The main reasons include climatic, economic, social and political conditions. Some people have to migrate one time and others are more than one because they did not found their satisfy choices of migratory route correctly. If people will settle a place, they find out their destination depending on their needs.

Connection: origin and destination sources

Toddy palms are mainly economy in the Dry Zone. The toddy palm could not produce toddy-sap for jaggery production and alcoholic toddy juice (ATJ) for direct consumption in Central Myanmar in the whole year. The tapping-season in the study area is relatively earlier than Dry Zone; they tap toddy-sap during October to February in study area on half and half basis. For the rest of month, they moved back to Natogyi Township to be engaged in their own toddy work. Such toddy worker can be divided into two groups: returning origin and non-returning origin. There are three toddy workers in Pattan Village, among two of them are seasonal migrants. They come regularly fixed period for their toddy work in Pattan Village (leisure time in Natogyi Township) and return home. Natogyi Township and Pattan Village are dissimilar in benefit that Natogyi Township has more income from toddy palms than Pattan Village (Aung Kyaw et al., 2007). They have engaged in their *own work* in Natogyi Township though they rented in study area on *fifty-fifty* for yearly income.

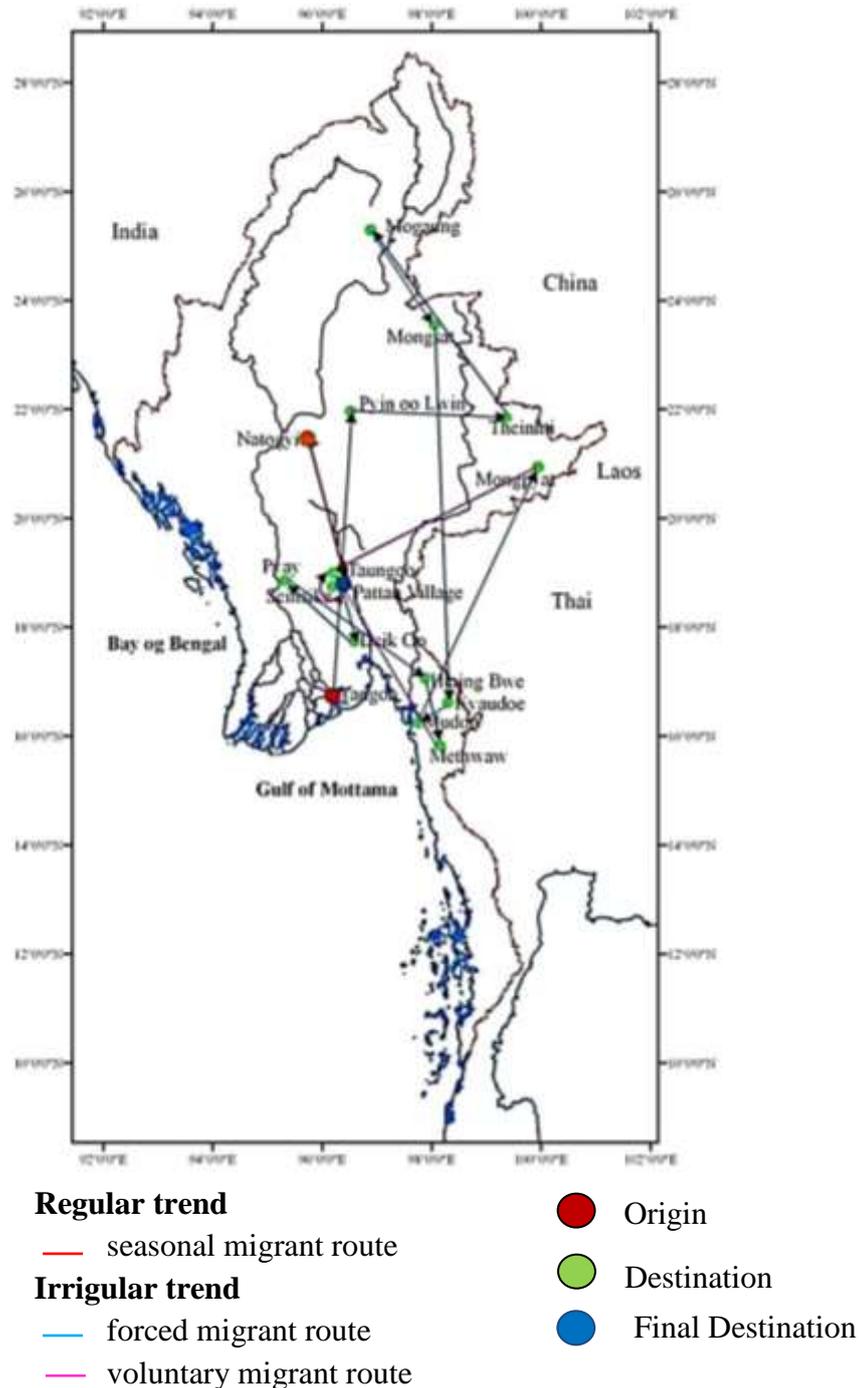


Figure (3) Migrant Routes of Pattan Village
 (Source: Open interview)

Apart from them the rest one now is settled down for 11 years after his seasonal migration prolonged 5 years. But he has intention of returning home when fulfill of his ambition. Moreover now for his reason includes all the positive attributes perceived to exist at new location - job opportunities, better climate and environmental comfort. On-going relocation of employment from the "dry area" to the "rain area" is a stimulus between Natogyi Township and Pattan Village. One reason is that he was about to be advantage would be difficult in origin, if not impossible having comparisons, low price and less amount of alcoholic toddy juice in Natogyi Township. On the other hand jaggery production is lesser

than alcoholic toddy juice (ATJ) for him. There is more profit in ATJ, a toddy palm could profit about 35,205 Kyats per year whereas jaggery production from toddy -sap could only earn 24,805 kyats per year. The average number of toddy palm that one worker could handle is 50 trees (Aung Kyaw, et al., 2007). He and other toddy workers are dissimilar chance whereas he has obtained to contact with seller of ATJ in Taungoo Town. So he has more benefit than other toddy workers in Pattan Village.

Choice in place preference

One of migrants in Pattan Village is a soldier so he migrated with his family through serving in military. He migrated on place to another by force. Sometime people can change their idea he withdrew from military and he tried to become businessman. Among the places of his life Kayin State is to be preferable place for him where local people are very simple. But he can no longer live there for language barrier and other factors and he moved to Mongpyat. This place is second preferable place, he likes bordering region. He had no difficulty finding work there because he got the help from close relative. He had migrated again to Taungoo for his children's education. He engaged in his relative job but he faced to failure. The Pattan village has been especially prominent destination for his poultry husbandry. Now he is successfully making his economy.

Impacts of Migrant

Migrant families of toddy worker move to Pattan Village usually involve a skillful climbing toddy palm within family. If he will be marriage or will go abroad, this only one son family cannot come. This family would have to rent relative climber or join another family. The migration trend will expand to Malaysia (Figure - 4).

Like former toddy worker, toddy owner of Pattan Village does not need to pay the cost for building hut for toddy worker. They can traditionally build their hut by themselves (Figure - 6).The Central Myanmar culture flows together with them (Figure - 5).

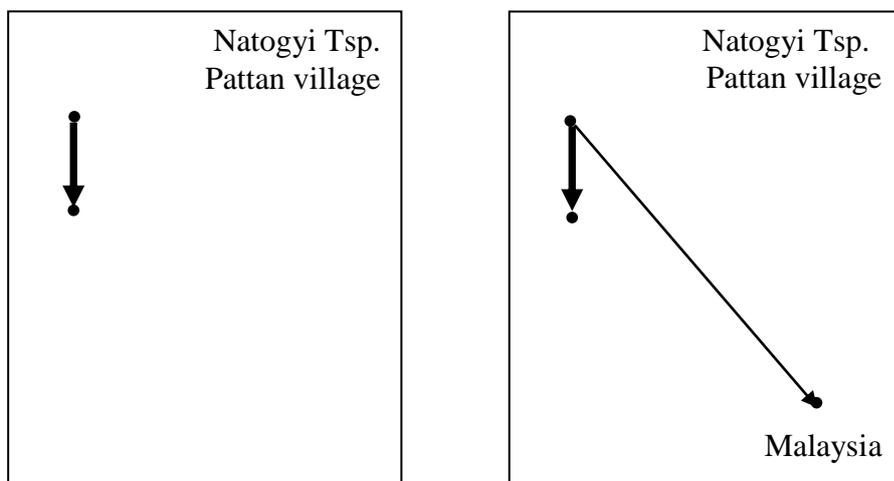


Figure (4) Expansion of Migration Trend
(Source: Open Interview)



Figure (5) Toddy Worker's hut is showing the culture of Central Myanmar. It can destroy after 3 years.

(Source: Photo taken by author in 11th October, 2012)



Figure (6) New Toddy Workers' hut are constructed by themselves

(Source: Photo taken by author in 11th October, 2012)

The production of jaggery is depended upon these toddy workers. They also participate in social affair in Pattan Village. The migrants who work in Taungoo University can give their workforce to this University. Poultry husbandary can support local food supply.

Conclusion and Discussion

At the beginning of this paper we raised two major questions to be answered through this study. The first problem is "How migrants move on to?" Migrants in Pattan Village were divided into 3 case studies. The first type is seasonal migration. This type of migration is found as toddy workers, from Natogyi Towship to Pattan Village. There are many toddy

palms in in Pattan Village. The villagers are afraid to climb the toddy palm and not skillful in this job. So they have rented toddy workers from Natogyi Township by kinship or friendship since very long time. The second type involves job-related movement. The key functions for migration to Pattan Village are location and environmental condition. The final type is out-migration. He has left from his origin to Malaysia for 2 years by his father's help. He is still working in Malaysia. He can support to his parent about 200,000 kyats per month.

The second question is that "Why do people migrate?". The reasons for migrating vary considerably. The nature of toddy work is unlike between Natogyi Township and Pattan Village. The main difference between Natogyi Township and Pattan Village is that Natogyi Township is lesser amount of toddy-sap and more cost for making jaggery than Pattan Village. It should be a key concern for one of toddy workers who settle or reside there. The distance is one of the most important factors for migration. Pattan Village would be chosen for migrant who serving in Taungoo University because it is near the university and familiar with him. The spatial form of Pattan Village is a chance for poultry husbandry which attracts a migrant.

According to above reasons Pattan Village has attracted some migrants. If more reasons will have there, more migrants find in Pattan Village inevitably. Pattan Village will transform rural economies and communities often triggering major changes in social structure and human-environment relations.

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