

Case Study

Factors affecting population stability in rural settlements
(Case study: Chenaran, Iran)

Authors:

Hashem Jangi¹,
Hamid Jafari² and
Mohammad Ali
Ahmadian³

Institution:

1. Ph.D Student, Department of Geography and Rural Planning, Mashhad Branch, Islamic Azad University, Mashhad, Iran.

2. Assistant Professor, Department of Geography and Rural Planning, Mashhad Branch, Islamic Azad University, Mashhad, Iran.

3. Associate Professor, Department of Geography and Rural Planning, Faculty Member of Geography, Mashhad Branch, Islamic Azad University, Mashhad, Iran.

Corresponding author:
Hamid Jafari

Email ID:

Jafari1421@mshdiau.ir

ABSTRACT:

Living in today's world require production of thought. Trying to create welfare, improving livelihood, and accessing to a better life are some of the social goals in order to reach stability in all settlements. Urban-rural migration has always attracted scientists in different fields. Migration in developing countries has deteriorated the conditions in origin, on one hand, and, on the other hand, it created economic, social, and cultural problems in destination due to the lack of facilities in accordance with migration. Migration is one of the most effective factors in the formation of new developments in rural affairs. If this phenomenon is not well managed, it brings about adversely economic, social, and political effects. Evacuated villages from human resources, the accumulation of population in cities, and economic dependence of countries are some of the consequences of migration from rural areas to cities. Over the past decades, numerous efforts have been made to identify the consequences of migration and find solutions for reducing the dilemma. The efforts have not been much of success due to the lack of strategic and integrated vision. Stabilizing the quality of life of villagers and changing the economic activities are two important ways for population stability in rural settlements which improve and enhance the quality of life. This is an applied descriptive-analytical study. Data were collected using the field (questionnaire) and documentary methods. The statistical population consisted of 10 villages of Chenaran with 1152 families. A total of 288 families were enrolled as the sample using Cochran's formula. The results showed that job, adequate income, and state aid are the most effective factors in population stability in rural settlements at Chenaran.

Keywords:

Population stability, rural settlements, migration motivations, Chenaran, Iran.

Article Citation:

Hashem Jangi, Hamid Jafari and Mohammad Ali Ahmadian

Factors affecting population stability in rural settlements (Case study: Chenaran, Iran)
Journal of Research in Ecology (2017) 5(2): 1026-1032

Dates:

Received: 12 April 2017 Accepted: 06 May 2017 Published: 30 Aug 2017

Web Address:

<http://ecologyresearch.info/documents/EC0355.pdf>

This article is governed by the Creative Commons Attribution License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0>), which gives permission for unrestricted use, non-commercial, distribution and reproduction in all medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

INTRODUCTION

Migration has traditionally been one of the human's common reactions for living conditions and efforts to improve living places. Migration is considered as one of population change factors with short-term and long-run positive and negative effects. These effects change the social and economic structure of migrants and destination (Zaki, 2012). Migration is, in fact, individual or family's reaction and decision to change the situations. It is considered as one of the biggest life's experiences and decisions. Migration is caused by environmental and individual attraction and repellent factors of lands. This has always been the center of attention for geographers and some sociologists (Mohammadi *et al.*, 2003). Uncontrolled rural migration, which is one of the main problems, has adverse effects on the origin and destination. Today, controlling migration, solving urban problems, and reducing the adverse effects of migration are some of the main concerns of the Iranian government in rural areas (Asheri, 2004).

Iranian villages are exposed to lose their population. They mainly have an old and inactive population which cannot guarantee the rural development. Intensified rural-urban migration and its related problems can be seen in economic, social, and cultural dimensions at

local, regional, and national levels. This has made rural development problematic. Accordingly, development is faced with some challenges. A regressive relationship is found between increased migration and lack of development in rural settlements so, that intensified migration has delayed development, which in and of itself intensified migration willingness. Many villagers are faced with different shortcomings, including job opportunities, reduced income, dramatic population growth, high unemployment rate, and poverty. In order to overcome these problems and be in line with rural development, new and efficient ideas, attitudes, and solutions are required (Langaroudi and Bakhshi, 2010). Therefore, this article aimed to study the most effective factors in population stability at rural settlements.

With an area of 3078.5 km², Chenaran has about 45 kilometer distance from west of Mashhad, Khorasan Razavi, Iran. It stretches between latitudes of 36°19' and 37°12' and longitudes between 58°44' and 59°22'. Chenaran borders with Dargaz and Quchan to north and northwest, Kalat to east, Mashhad to south, and Mashhad to southwest and west. Chenaran has more rural population than urban one (Year Book of Khorasan Razavi Province, 2005).



Figure 1. Perspective of Chenaran city (<http://www.citypedia.ir/city/>)

Table 1. Frequency distribution of demographic characteristics

Variables	Item	Frequency	Percentage
Level of education	Illiterate	25	8.7
	Lower than high school	129	44.8
	Diploma	97	33.7
	Diploma	15	5.2
	Associate degree	18	6.3
	Bachelor	4	1.3
	Master degree and higher	233	80.9
Employment status	Employed	44	15.3
	Unemployed	11	3.8
	No response	237	82.3
Willingness for migration	Yes	51	17.7
	No		

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This is an applied descriptive-analytical study. Data were collected using a researcher-designed questionnaire. The information was collected through the documentary research method. The statistical population consisted of all villages with more than 100 residents from 2010 to 2016. All these villages experienced population reduction. A total of 78 villages experienced population reduction from 20% to 80%. Considering the statistical population, stratified sampling was employed. Each head of the family was considered a unit. According to the Morgan table, a total of 288 heads of families were enrolled as the sample. The number of questionnaires was clarified according to the population of each village. Reliability was greater than 0.89 in a pilot study. Descriptive and inferential statistics were employed to analyze the data. The data analysis method by

using descriptive statistics (Frequency table, mean, median, standard deviation, etc.) were employed. Kolmogorov-Smirnov test was used in the inferential section.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Descriptive findings

As shown in Tables 1 and 2 variables, are considered as our demographic characteristics. In level of education as the first variable, “Lower than High School Diploma” and “Master Degree and Higher” have respectively the most and the least frequency. In Employment Status 80.9 percentage of the questioned people are Employed whereas 15.3 of them are Unemployed. In willingness for migration as the third variable, 82.3 percentage of the questioned people gave positive answer to this variable while 17.7 of them gave negative answer to this variable.

Table 2. One-sample sign test for factors affecting the population stability of rural settlements of Chenaran

S. No	Factor	Mean	St. Deviation	Average	Median	Number fewer than median	Number equal to median	Number more than median	Sig. level	Result
1	Proper Job	4.76	0.64	94	5	8	11	269	0.0001	Verified
2	Adequate Income	4.71	0.59	92	5	15	33	240	0.0001	Verified
3	High Cost of Urban Living	3.44	0.99	61	3	37	113	138	0.0001	Verified
4	Urban Life Problems	3.66	1.02	66	4	35	71	182	0.0001	Verified
5	State Aids	4031	1	83	4	31	44	213	0.0001	Verified



Figure 2. Eid al-Fitr prayer in Chenaran city (<http://www.fna.ir/imgrep.php?nn=13940427000367>)

Analytical analysis

A total of 5 items were investigated in the questionnaire as the factors affecting the population stability in rural settlements of Chenaran, Iran. Now, we want to find the most effective factors.

As shown in table 2 all factors are effective in the population stability of rural settlements of Chenaran. Friedman test results showed that income and employment are the most important factors affecting the population stability ($P=0.0001$ and $\text{Chi-Square}=445.99$)

Rural-urban migration is one of the most notable examples of population movement. This is the oldest and most stable phenomenon in the history and human civilization, expanded after the industrial revolution in the modern era. Rural-urban migration is one of the most important and common types of migration. Migration from villages to cities has always existed in the history worldwide. The phenomenon was raised by scientists as an integral part of the economic development process (Akbar *et al.*, 2004). Over the past few decades, numerous efforts have been made in identifying the consequences of migration and solutions to reduce it. They were not, however, successful due to lack of strategic and integrated vision. In the strategic approach with an emphasis on sustainable development, stabiliz-

ing the quality of life of villagers is one of the methods to stabilize the rural population including the maintenance of cultural diversity and equality, increased sense of community and citizenship, achievement of quality of life, change in economic activities which promote and improve the quality of life (Motee Langaroudi *et al.*, 2013). Many studies have been conducted regarding the population stability in villages.

Jahan (2012), stated that migration is the main cause of the fast and undersigned growth of large cities in developing countries. This uneven growth of rural-urban migration would lead to the inequality of opportunities. Mechaniki and Qalibafan (2003) concluded that rural migration has accelerated the village's evacuation process, especially the vulnerable ones. This non-resistance of the population against migration has evacuated villages and disturbed the age structure and pyramid.

Herzog believes that two factors are more important in rural migration: income and employment. In his studies, migration is raised as the factor for finding a job (Sa'adi and Bahrami, 2013). Yang Du *et al.* (2005) stated that migration is the gift of poverty in rural areas. Aging and femalizing are two consequences of migration from villages to cities. Harrison (1999) investigated

the dimensions and causes of migration of poor villagers to cities in order to find jobs and have income, employment problems, and the inability of industries to deal with problems. He stated that migration shows the lack of facilities in villages and excessive facilities in cities. A study by Zadeh and Qasemi (2013) showed that employment, education, type of job, and income are effective in staying in villages. Shayan *et al.* (2011) studied rural development in Komijan, Markazi Province, Iran. They concluded that the promotion of participation of people in local decision making, facilitated access to health, educational, and economic services, housing strengthening, increased manufacturing efficiency, and employment are essential factors. Qasemi (2011) analyzed the causes of rural-urban migration of rural settlements in Mashhad, Iran. The results showed that economic factors play the key role of migration. Therefore, the diversification of economic activities is recommended in order to stabilize rural economy for population stability in the rural areas of Mashhad, Iran.

CONCLUSION

The purpose of this study was to investigate the factors that are effective in the population stability of rural settlements of Chenaran. The results of field investigations and surveys indicate that the withdrawal of the workforce is one of the main problems of rural communities besides rules and regulations are inefficient to stop such migration. Also, it can be shown that inadequate income (lack of job opportunities) and lack of service facilities are the most important instability factors in villages. Furthermore, 48.3% of the population believed that low income was the main cause of migration, while 35.5% believed that unemployment and lack of job were the main reason of migration. The following reasons were stated as the factors affecting the population stability in rural settlements:

1. Adequate job (95.3%)
2. Sufficient income (94.7%)

3. Better carrier prospects (80.3%)
4. State aids (83.2%)
5. Awareness of urban problems (58.6%)

The results from the field study showed that economic incentives are the most important cause of migration and population instability. Therefore, granting loans, increasing greenhouse cultivation, building small-sized workshops and industries, purchasing farmers' products, and providing banking facilities are the most important solutions in this regard.

According to the results, the most important factors of population stability in rural settlements are adequate job, adequate income, state aids, awareness of social problems and high cost of living in cities.

REFERENCES

- Akbar Pour M, Motee Langaroudi SH and Rezvani MR. (2004).** Proper strategy of population stability in rural settlements of Hashrod, Iran. *Journal of Rural Studies*, 4: 64.
- Asheri E. (2004).** The effect of development activities on rural population stability from 1976 to 1996. *Journal of Geographical Studies*, 70: 123.
- Beik Mohammadi H and Mokhtar Abadi R. (2003).** Geographical analysis of migration in Khuzestan province. *Journal of Geography and Development*, 21: 237.
- Harrison AP. (1999).** Inside the third world: the anatomy of poverty, trans: Shahryar Ajagh. 11: 245. Itpedia [Internet]. <http://www.citypedia.ir/city/>
- Mechaniki J and Qalibafan SH. (2003).** The effects of rural migration on population structure and instability of rural settlements in Birjand, Iran. *Journal of Geography and Development*, 2: 128.
- Momtaz Jahan. (2012).** Impact of rural-urban migration on physical and social environment the case of Dhak city. *International Journal of Development and*

Sustainability, 18: 12.

Motee Langaroudi SH and Bakhshi Z. (2010). The role of improvement facilities in population stability and empowerment of Beihagh, Sabzevar, Iran. *Journal of Geographical Studies*, 72 p.

Motee Langaroudi SH, Rezvani MR and Akbar Pour M. (2013). Determining proper strategies for population stability in rural settlements of Hashtroud, Iran. *Journal of Housing and Environment in Villages*, 142: 32.

Qasemi M. (2011). Rural-urban migration in rural settlements of Mashhad villages. National Conference of Geography and Rural Development Planning, Ferdowsi University, 15- 24p.

Rostamali Zadeh V and Qasemi A. (2013). Factors affecting youth stability of Ahar, Iran. *Journal of Rural Studies*, 3: 9.

Sa'adi H and Bahrami L. (2013). Reasons of rural migration in Hamedan province, Iran. *Journal of Faculty of Literature and Humanities*, 2: 14.

Shayan H, Hussein Zadeh Sr and Khosro Beigi R. (2011). Rural development stability assessment of Komijan, Iran. *Journal of Geography and Development*, 24: 16.

Statistical Year Book of Khorasan Razavi (2015). Department of statistics and information. Khorasan Razavi management and planning organization, Negah publication, 312p.

Yang Du, Albert Park I and Sangui Wang. (2005). Migration and rural poverty in China. *Journal of Comparative Economics*, 33: 688-709.

Zaki MA. (2012). The effect of migration on social and economic structure of urban communities. *Quarterly Journal of Urban Studies*, 2: 19.

APPENDIX

Questionnaire

Section I: Background information

1. How old are you now?
2. What is your current marital status?
3. What is the highest level of schooling which you successfully completed?
4. Do you have an occupation or you are an ordinary labourer?
5. What is your occupation?
6. Do you like to stay in Chenaran or migrate to other places?

Section II: Information about work conditions

7. Do you have long-term contract with a company or do you work on daily basis?
8. How long is your current contract?
9. Number of working hours per day? (Reference to the last week)
10. Number of working days per week? (Reference to the last week)
11. How often do you receive your wages?
12. What is your current wage per day on average?

Section III: Information about living conditions

13. Where does your family live?
14. Do you own a house or an apartment?
15. Do you own agricultural land?

Submit your articles online at ecologyresearch.info

Advantages

- Easy online submission
- Complete Peer review
- Affordable Charges
- Quick processing
- Extensive indexing
- You retain your copyright

submit@ecologyresearch.info
www.ecologyresearch.info/Submit.php