

# Causes and consequences of rural-urban migration: The case of Juba Metropolitan, Republic of South Sudan

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**Abstract**— Migration is the movement of people from one ecological region to another; it may be on temporary or permanent basis. This research studies focused on the causes and consequences of rural-urban migration in Juba Metropolitan, Republic of South Sudan as a case study. The stratified random sampling method on the basis of existing payam (districts) was used to divide the study area into three zones of Juba, Kator and Munuku. Data were generated through primary and secondary sources. The data generated were analyzed using SPSS. The findings of the study show that Munuki payam covers most of the migrants. The study also reveals that males migrate more than the females in Juba and migration is high within the age cohorts of 30-39 years and 40-49 years old. Furthermore, the study revealed that the propensity to migrate is directly related to educational attainment. It can be inferred from the findings of the study that the majority of migrants in Juba Metropolitan migrated in search of employment while others migrated to continue their education while others migrated in search for basic amenities, to join relatives and get married. This means, until the imbalance or disparity in socio-economic development between the rural and urban areas are removed, no amount of persuasion or force can put a stop to rural-urban migration and its' multiplying effects in Juba Metropolitan, Republic of South Sudan.

## 1. Introduction

Migration is regarded as the movement of person(s) from one ecological region to another region, which might be on temporary or permanent origin [1].

A group of persons migrate based on the existing conditions and the motives for it differs from one person to another depending on the circumstances that brought about the decision to migrate. Migration is a selective process affecting individuals or families/households with certain economic, social, educational and demographic characteristics.

The movement of people from rural to urban areas is a common episode in South Sudan. The movement sometimes poses some calamities in the rural as well as in the urban areas even though; there are benefits derivable from it. In most rural areas, the impact of rural-urban migration was a rapid deterioration of the rural economy leading to chronic poverty and food insecurity [2].

These arise mainly due to excessive drain of youth from the rural population hence leaving only the older, women and aged members to constitute the labour force of the rural area. Migration to urban areas is placing increasing pressure on local government's ability to respond to social service needs of urban populations. This is a worldwide challenge; in 2008 over half of the world's population will be urban, and in Africa the urban

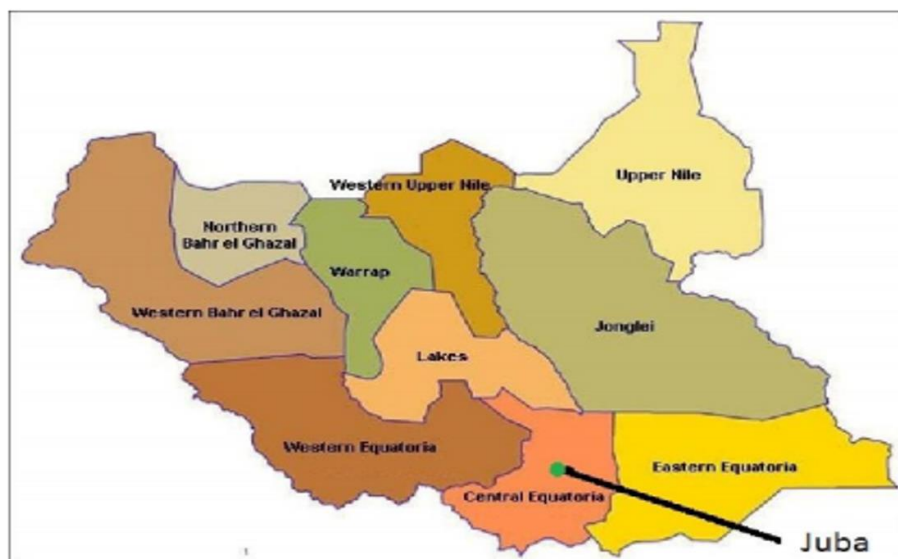


Population is set to double between 2000 and 2030 [3]. On-going migration to urban areas is placing pressure on limited appropriate housing, resulting in increases in the numbers of urban residents now found to reside in informal housing.

In cities and the number of people living in urban areas has risen steadily by around 1 million every year [4]. According to a report from the United Nations Population Division, the urban population is estimated to grow at 1.8 per cent per annum, while Rural-urban migration has played significant role in the urbanization process of many countries and it still continues to be an important factor, even though migration rates have slowed down in some countries [4]. This research studies focused on the causes and consequences of rural-urban migration in Juba Metropolitan, Republic of South Sudan as a case study.

## 2. Study area

Juba Metropolitan is located within the southern part of South Sudan in Central Equatoria State along the western bank of the River Nile. Its geographical coordinates are  $4^{\circ} 51' 0''$  North and  $31^{\circ} 37' 0''$  East. Juba is a county made up of three districts (payams) which include Juba, Kator and Munuki and is directly administered by the city mayor. Juba is situated in the midst of vast expanses of open space, including swamplands and agrarian landscapes. It was reported that Juba is perhaps currently among the fastest developing places in the world [7]. In 2011; Juba's population was estimated at approximately more than 500,000 inhabitants [8]. The city is characterized by rapid development, urban sprawl and inadequate services provision.



**Fig: 1** Map of south Sudan showing location of Juba Metropolitan

## 3. Material and Methods

### 3.1 Data collection

Since the overall objective of this research study is to investigate the causes and consequences of rural-urban migration in Juba Metropolitan, Republic of South Sudan as a case study. The researcher used both the primary and secondary data sources with the aid of personal interviews and a structured questionnaire. The primary data were acquired from field generated data through the administration of questionnaires and personal observations. The secondary data include journal/publications and other published materials from textbooks and official gazette, etc. The study area was stratified into three (3) zones (districts) based on the existing demarcation and these are: Juba, Kator and Munuki payam (districts). The questionnaire consisted of two sections, A and B. Section A was based on personal bio-data about the respondents,

while section B comprised of questions drawn from respondents to investigate the causes and examine the consequence of rural-urban migration on Juba Metropolitan, Republic of South Sudan. Copies of the questionnaires were administered on a face-to-face basis. The response rate was 100%. The sample size used for this research paper was 322 households. Data for this research study were analyzed using descriptive statistics. Data gathered were edited, coded and analyzed using SPSS. Generated from the field were presented and analyzed. The response to question on the location of the respondents, the questionnaire revealed that most of the respondents were widely dispersed over the study area. However, the number of respondents in one of the areas out of the three payams (district) namely: Juba, Kator and Munuki, are mainly located in Munuki payam, higher than those in other locations, with 41.0%, followed by Kator 32.6% and Juba 26.4% respectively (table 1). From the questionnaire administered, 197 (59.3%) of respondents were male, while the remaining 135(40.7%) were female. Majority of the respondents, 35(11%) had their ages between 50-59 years, 72(22.3%) between 40-49 years, 9(6.3%) between 30-39 years, 94(29.1%) between 20-29 years and 68(21.1%) were 60 years and above. From the results obtained through questionnaire, 195(58.7%) of respondents were married, and 93(28%) respondents were single and another 12(3.6%) of the respondents were divorced while 32(9.6%) were widowed. Also 146(44%) of the respondents did not attend any formal school, 95(28.6%) attended primary school, 67(20.2%) attended secondary School and another 24(7.2%) were the university graduates.

#### 4. Results and Discussion

##### 4.1 The Flow Pattern and Characteristics of Migrants to Juba Town

In south Sudan, the urban population has been growing in recent years at an annual rate of 10 percent mainly because of rural-urban migration [9]. In migration accounted for 4.5 percent [10]. Following the same trend of urbanization, most of the in migrants to Juba town were of rural origin. According to the 2008 census reports, of the total migrants (492,970) about 60 percent were from rural origin as reveals from the finding of this study that out of the total sample, in migrants account to about 74.8 percent from rural areas while about 25.2 percent were from other urban area.

**Table 1.** Household address of the Migrants

Name of Payams	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Juba Payam	85	26.4	26.4
Kator Payam	105	32.6	59.0
Munuki Payam	132	41.0	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

Sources: (survey field September 2016)

##### 4.2 Education attainment before migrating

The survey result of this research also shows that the propensity to migrate is directly related to educational attainment. As illustrated in Table 2, majority of the respondents (about 53.4 percent) were illiterate while 32.4% had primary and above educational level when they migrated to Juba. However, 23% percent of the sample in-migrants had secondary education and above. In the rural areas were less available parents may not willing to send their children to attend education rather than they keep their children at home to help them in forming and other related activities. More over school dropout is also one factor for low educational attainment of migrants of rural origin.

**Table 2.** Education attainment before migrating

<b>Educational level</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Cumulative Percent</b>
Illiterate	172	53.4	53.4
Primary Level	98	32.4	72
Secondary level	42	13.0	87
University graduate	10	3.1	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

Sources: (survey field September 2016)

#### *4.3 Education attainment after migrating*

Education is one of the significant characteristics inducing rural-urban migration. The decision to migrate is also more likely influenced by educational attainment. The survey result shows that most of the migrants are illiterate accounting to 44%, 29% primary level, 20% and 7% are the secondary and university graduate. This means that those who are educated are relatively more involved in different migration streams than those who are not; this is mainly because of the fact that educational attainment increases the chance to get employment and other opportunities. However, an increase in the migration of illiterate persons to the urban informal sectors of African and other developing regions may reduce the generality of education as a factor of selection [11].

**Table 3.** Educational attainment after migrating

<b>Educational Level</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Cumulative Percent</b>
Illiterate	142	44.1	44.1
Primary level	93	28.9	73.0
Secondary level	65	20.2	93.2
University graduate	22	6.8	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

Sources: (survey field September 2016)

#### *4.4 Reason for Migrating*

Table 1 shows that while 98(30.4%) of the migrants migrated to seek employment opportunity, 86(26.7%) migrated in search of Education, 78(24.2%) migrated due to poverty, famine, crop failure, land shortage, lack of cattle and poor facilities, 12(3.7%) migrated as a result of job transfer, and 48(14.9%) migrated seeking good climate.

This showed that the socio-economic facilities within the sampled area is grossly inadequate for the citizen and therefore the inhabitants, especially the youths between the ages of 18 - 29 years migrate in large number in search of these facilities especially employment opportunities and educational facilities in the towns and cities. This finding is in agreement with the studies carried out by [12], [13], amongst others. However the only difference between this study, and those carried out by the scholars above, is that search for education supersedes search for employment in the case of Juba Metropolitan.

**Table 4.** Reasons for migrating

Status of Migrants	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative percent
Seek for Employment	98	30.4	30.4
Education	26.7	26.7	57.1
Poverty, Famine crop	78	24.2	81.4
Failure, land shortage, lack Of cattle and poor facilities			
Job transfer	12	3.7	85.1
Seeking for good climate	48	14.9	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

Sources: (survey field September 2016)

#### 4.5 Status of migrant before migrating

Occupational status of migrants before migration to Juba is the one of the significant factor for the migrant decision making which play role for the migrant to migrate from the place of origin to the destination. Therefore formers as a result of crop failure and lack of employment opportunities and for the student, sick/disable the need as a result of less opportunity and other social service which may force the migrant to move to urban areas.

In the figure 6 illustrate that about 6% of migrant were employed before migrate to Juba whereas the calculate figure for unemployed survey migrant was found to be about (85)26.4% and on the other hand (73) 23.5% for sick/disable (43) 13% housewives and (41) 12.3% students were before they migrated to Juba. Therefore, the survey shows that a higher proportion of surveyed migrant populations of Juba town are either unemployed, or students who came to Juba metropolitan for employment and other better opportunities.

**Table 5.** Status of migrant before migrating to Juba

Status of Migrants	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Students	41	12.3	12.3
Unemployed	85	26.4	41.0
Sick/disable	78	23.5	64.5
House wife	43	13.0	77.4
Self employed	48	14.5	91.9
Government employed	20	6.0	97.9
Pensioner	4	1.2	99.1
Private organization	3	.9	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

Sources: (survey field September 2016)

#### 4.6 Status of migrants after migration

To examine the current status of migrants after migrating to Juba is very important for assessing the impacts of migration on individual migrants as well at destination area. The data reveals that greater numbers of migrants were self-employees accounting to 25.3%, 24.7% were government employed, 9.3% were students with private organization and only 18.4%and 5.4% remained unemployed. The employment rate is higher than non-employment rate indicating improvement in the status of the migrants after they migrated to Juba.

**Table 6.** Status of migrant after migrating to Juba

Status of Migrants	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Students	31	9.3	9.3
Unemployed	18	5.4	14.8
Sick/disable	2	.6	15.4
Housewife	6	1.8	17.2
Self employed	84	25.3	42.5
Government employed	72	22.3	67.2
Pensioner	48	14.5	81.6
Private organization	61	18.4	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

Sources: (survey field September 2016)

#### 4.7 Income level of migrant before migrating

One of the economic characteristics of a migrant is income. Before migrate to Juba although there was problem of getting correct income data of individuals. According to Table 7, most migrants (93) 28% earn an average income level of less than 100 birr per-month. Similarly, about (176) 54.7% earn 100-500 and (50) 15.1% of migrants earn monthly income of 500-1000 SSP birr respectively. while only (03) 0.9% respondent were earning more than 1000SSP per month This could be because the migrant in rural area before their migration to Juba many of them depend on agricultural activities and with the crop failure most the migrant are all unemployed.

**Table 7.** Monthly income of migrant before migrating to Juba in South Sudanese Pound (SSP)

Level of Income	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
<100	93	28.0	28.0
100-500	176	54.7	84.0
500-100	50	15.1	99.1
>1000	3	.9	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

Sources: (survey field September 2016)

#### 4.8 Income level of migrant after migrating

During the focal group discussion (FGD) and personal interviews, participants stated that though the amount of money they receive is very low, they are in a position to remit certain amount of money to their places of origin compared to when they have not migrated to Juba. They reported that their remitted money was used as an ingredient in agriculture, purchasing of consumption items and other livelihood activities. In fact, most of the migrants live hand to mouth situation indeed. Because of high costs of living in Juba, they have no sufficient amount of money to sustain themselves. This is due to economic crisis in the country. The results revealed that, 47.5% of the respondent attained monthly income of 500 – 1000 SSP, 43.2% gets monthly income greater than 1000 SSP and only 9.3% receives monthly income of 100 – 500 SSP.

**Table 8.** Monthly income of migrant after migrating to Juba in South Sudanese Pounds (SSP)

Level of Income	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
100-500	30	9.3	9.3
500-1000	153	47.5	56.8
>1000	139	43.2	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

Sources: (survey field September 2016)



#### 4.9 Access to Housing and Urban Facilities

One among many problems that are associated with urbanization is the inadequacy of urban housing. That means, the rate of supply of housing did not go with pace of the growing minimum potential demand for housing in different urban areas. During the discussions, the migrants reported that housing has been chronic problem in Juba and shortage of other urban facilities like distribution of electricity and water due to the informal settlement in area are among the problem. From the study, 309(93.1 %) of the respondents said housing issues are the major problems. 238 (73.9%) said had problems in urban transport and 198(61.4%) said health care problems and 286(88%) said problem in electricity, while 314(97.5%) said they problem in water and sanitation.

### 5 Conclusion

Rural urban migration has a distinct character. Juba Metropolitan has become one of the South Sudanese's leading cities in terms of its level of primacy, that is, its overwhelming demographic dominance with respect to its urban centers. Juba Metropolitan attracts many migrants yearly from the rural areas in surrounding regions. It can be inferred from the findings of the study that the majority of migrants in Juba Metropolitan migrated in search of employment while others migrated to continue their education while others migrated in search for basic amenities, to join relatives and get married. This means, until the imbalance or disparity in socio-economic development between the rural and urban areas are removed, no amount of persuasion or force can put a stop to rural-urban migration and its' multiplying effects in Juba Metropolitan, Republic of South Sudan. As long as there are gaps in rural-urban employment opportunities as well as shortages in education caused by urban bias, there will be migration, and it is the responsibility of governments to reduce this disequilibrium. Policymakers must take into consideration that programs initiated in urban areas will also affect rural residents.

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