

Factors Affecting Migration and its Perceived Impact on Selected Rural Barangays of Valencia City, Bukidnon, Philippines

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ABSTRACT. This study explored migration to rural areas in Valencia City, Bukidnon with the objective of determining migrant characteristics, factors influencing migration, and perceived impact of migration on the destination communities. Survey, focus group discussions (FGDs), and key informant interviews (KIIs) were used to collect data from migrants in the *barangays* of *Barobo*, *Lourdes*, *Pinatilan*, and *Tugaya*. The survey showed that 68% of the respondents migrated from areas within the province, which provided them with a relatively easy access to their hometowns and families therein. They were earning an average income of PhP 3,358 per month in their hometown and PhP 3,606 in their destination or current location. Family, safety, location, job opportunity, marriage, and lifestyle were found to be the most influential pull factors. On the other hand, lifestyle, family, marriage, and job opportunity were identified as the most influential push factors. As a whole, the pull factors were found to be more influential than the push factors. The FGDs and KIIs with residents and *barangay* officials revealed that migration had a positive perceived social and economic impacts on the rural *barangays*, foremost is the increase in the *barangay's* internal revenue allotment. Other positive effects were the availability of agricultural labor, utilization of *barangay* social services, and increased number of entrepreneurial activities brought about by migrants. Community development in the area can encourage migration through better infrastructure, housing and business development while mitigating problems brought by migration.

Keywords: *pull factors, push factors, rural migration*

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INTRODUCTION

The International Organization for Migration (2019) described a migrant as a person who moves away from his or her place of usual residence, whether within a country or across an international border, temporarily or permanently, and for a variety of reasons. In modern times, it is generally classified into two types, namely: internal and international. The former is the movement of people within a country's borders, while the latter is the movement of people between two countries' borders. More people have, in fact, migrated internally than internationally, with more than one billion in developing countries alone, and 80% of internal moves can be categorized as rural migration, which is migration to, from, and between rural areas (Food and Agriculture Organization [FAO], 2018a). For this study, rural migration is defined as the movement of people into rural areas. This may be migration from urban to rural areas or from rural areas to other rural areas.

As cities grow, more resources supporting growth and development are funneled into them compared with those allotted to rural areas, leaving the latter lagging further behind in terms of development. Cities offer individuals the opportunity to find stable jobs that often provide higher wages compared to rural areas. In the Philippines, the wages of non-agricultural workers are generally higher than those of farm workers (Department of Labor and Employment, 2020). With farming perceived to be a lesser profession by many people in rural areas, young workers are leaving the countryside to try their luck in the cities (Williams & Farrington, 2006; Morales et al., 2022; Mialhe et al., 2014).

With the growing congestion in the cities, policymakers want to convince individuals to go back and stay in the provinces. An example is Executive Order No. 114, also known as the Balik Probinsya Program (Return to the Province Program) of the Philippines, which encourages those who migrated to urban areas to return to their rural hometowns. More research on rural migration is needed to better understand this phenomenon and devise ways to resolve issues that will benefit the migrants and their families, the communities involved, and the country as a whole.

Before policymakers can draft plans that address the migration issue, it is important to know who are the people who migrate, their motivations for migrating, and the impact of migration on hometown and destination communities.

The need to profile the people who migrate and their impact on their destinations is the motivation for the conduct of this study. The objectives of the study are to characterize the migrants who moved to four rural *barangays*¹ in Valencia City, Bukidnon, Philippines; identify factors that influenced migrants to migrate; and assess the perceived impacts of migration on both the destinations and host communities. The study focused on two groups of people, the first being the migrants and why they moved to a rural community in Valencia City, and the second group includes the existing residents of the destination community and their perceptions on the effect of migration on their community.

Factors Affecting Migration

The theories of migration have one thing in common: people migrate to improve their well being (de Haas, 2010). They may all differ on the ways people migrate, the utility provided by migration, the capability of the person to migrate, and on their methods of determining migration flow, but all theories can agree that people migrate for greener pastures (Kumpikaite & Zickute, 2012).

In a landmark study, Lee (1966) grouped the factors that cause people to migrate. First are the factors associated with the original location or hometown of the migrant such as number of relatives left behind, number of friends left behind, earnings in the hometown, lack of job opportunities, poor health and safety, and ongoing tensions and violence. These are the push factors that force a resident to leave his or her hometown. Second are the factors associated with the intended destination of the migrant or the place where the migrant wants to move into. These are the pull factors as they entice the migrant to move to a particular place and might include job opportunities, marriage, and a good political climate. Third are the personal factors that are inherent to the migrant, such as kinships and friendships in hometown or destination, ease of going home, or being visited by relatives or friends. Lee noted that the three factors are subject to the perception of the fourth factor, migrant perception, which states that migrants will perceive the situations at their hometown and destination, as well as the various interventions to migration differently, depending on their age, knowledge, and experiences, among others.

In the context of a developing country, there are two major reasons for migration - as risk-coping strategy and as investment strategy.

¹A *barangay* or village is the smallest unit of the Philippine government.

If households are experiencing negative shock (e.g., agricultural shock due to drought) and price fluctuations, they might send a household member to a different location to gain extra income. Likewise, migration has been an used as a strategy to increase and diversify expected income in the future and obtain benefits from a higher wage in another place (Taylor, 1999). Remittances act as buffer for households, encouraging them to spend their income at home and subsequently increase economic growth (Martha et al., 2020).

Building on Lee's study, Stark and Bloom (1985) determined that migration occurs not only due to an individual's own goals and aspirations but also due to the influence of their neighbors and family. According to them, migration is compounded by a perceived relative deprivation in comparison to their neighbors. The family then shares in the decision to migrate, as well as in the cost and rewards of migration. The researchers added that the perception of the opportunities associated with migration is also a factor in migration, in that those with less deprivation (in other words, more financially stable) are less likely to migrate compared to those who are more deprived. This also extends to their neighbors; if they perceive their neighbors to be richer than them, they are relatively more deprived, and thus, may migrate to counter the deprivation.

Etzo (2008) then added several other factors that motivate migration, namely: gravity and distance, economic activities, and environmental variables. Gravity and distance consider migration as directly correlated with population size and inversely correlated with the distance between the origin and the destination region. That is, bigger cities attract migrants, while a longer distance between the origin and destination deters migration. Distance represents a proxy for all the migration costs, both psychological (homesickness) and monetary, that are spatially related to the hometown and destination regions. Better access to cities in the form of improved road network, lower transportation cost, and more available public transport services also encourage migration (Rhoda, 1983).

Environmental variables are broad and relate to the quality of life. Among the determinants are public safety, social services, environmental quality, climate, political conditions, and attitude of locals. Yu et al. (2019) identified amenities, job opportunities, and earnings as contributory to the uneven pattern of migration in China. Migrants in their study favored locations with mild winters, less humid summers, clean urban settings, and welcoming and open social climates. Other amenities, such as social services, educational, recreational, and transportation facilities, also had an impact on migration. This relates to Lee's idea on pull factors, since

the presence of such amenities can only help to inspire people to move in that place.

The entrance of industry changes the dynamics of rural migration as workers from other areas are drawn toward the promise of a nearby place of opportunity (Wijaya et al., 2018). Shirai et al. (2019) compared two villages in Thailand and identified the major difference being the number of nonfarm employment opportunities in each of the two villages. Those with plenty of nonfarm jobs available tended to have fewer out-migrants compared to the village with fewer nonfarm jobs available. Quisumbing and McNiven (2006) attributed migration to rural areas in the Philippines primarily to farming and marriage. Other researchers cited rising population that puts a strain on the job market and utilities of cities, and city dwellers looking for changes to their lifestyle as reasons for migration to rural areas (Brown & Wardwell, 2013; Barcus, 2004; Mitchell, 2004; Costello, 2007; Costello, 2009; Stockdale, 2016). For migrants, migration can mean higher incomes, access to better social services, and improved livelihoods, education, and nutrition.

Impact of Rural Migration

Migration can have broad impacts on both hometown and destination communities. This includes higher wages, technological improvements especially in agriculture, increased demand for goods and services, and increased funding for investment in both places (FAO, 2018b). However, the same can also have adverse consequences such as putting a strain on a destination community's social services, competition for jobs that results in lower wages, congestion and pollution, environmental degradation, and the occasional violence that comes when different cultures interact with each other. The influx of migrants also raises housing and land prices and potentially drives away the original settlers due to the increased rent (Costello, 2007).

While migrants to rural areas improve the collective entrepreneurship and skills within a community, their presence in the destinations and the resulting "brain drain" deprive the hometowns of their capabilities and possible contributions (Artz, 2003). In the hometown community, the loss of workers can adversely affect the productivity of agricultural lands. Migration can also create a bandwagon effect in which the remaining family members also aspire to migrate given that a relative has already been successful in doing so (Popoff, 2005; Ayeni & Parumasur, 2016); this can exacerbate the labor loss and eventually lead to the decline of agriculture in an area unless innovative measures

are undertaken by the remaining family members and the hometown government.

Migration generally has a positive impact on the destination and on the hometown (World Economic Forum, 2017). The destination benefits from the increased availability of workers and the market that it generates for local businesses, and the hometown benefits from the remittances sent by the migrants back to their families (Taylor & Martin, 2001). The increase in wealth generated in both origin and destination will then have a multiplier effect that will redound to an even greater economic benefit to both places.

METHODOLOGY

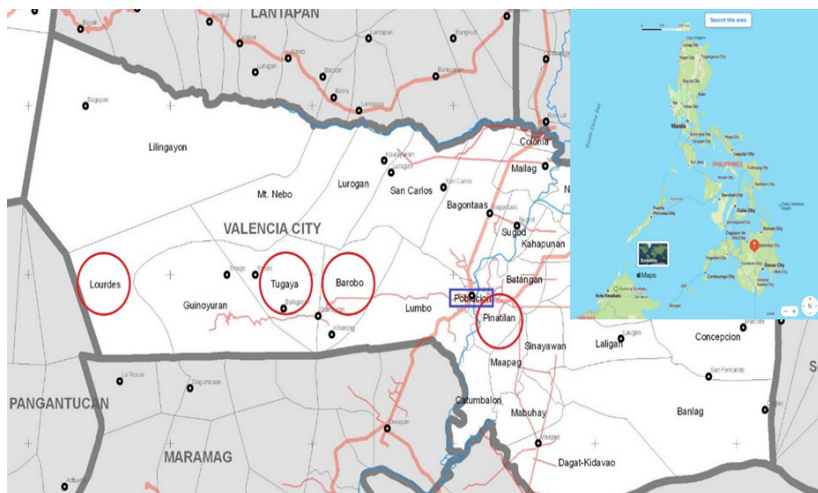
Study Area

The study was conducted in Valencia City, a second-class component city of Bukidnon province, Philippines. Out of its 31 *barangays*, 17 can be considered as rural areas. As defined by Philippines Statistics Authority (PSA, 2018), an urban *barangay* has either of the following: a population of 4,000 or more, one establishment with a minimum of 100 employees, and five or more establishments with 10 to 99 employees that are within 2 km of the *barangay* hall. A rural *barangay*, on the other hand, does not meet these criteria.

According to the 2018 PSA population report, some of the rural *barangays* in Valencia City have experienced a high growth in their population. The increase in population could be traced to a relatively high birth rate, but for some *barangays*, particularly *Barobo*, *Lourdes*, *Pinatilan*, and *Tugaya*, part of the increase was attributed by government officials to the influx of people from other places. *Pinatilan* is right next to the city *poblacion*² (Figure 1). *Tugaya* and *Barobo* are adjacent to each other, with *Barobo* separated from the City *poblacion* by another *barangay*. Further away is *Lourdes*, which shares a boundary with the municipalities of *Pangantucan* and *Maramag*, and is located in a mountainous area. In 2018, the four *barangays* hosted a total of 700 migrants per estimate by *barangay* officials. All the *barangays* had population growth rates higher than that of Valencia City as a whole.

²*Poblacion* is the central, downtown, or central business district area of a Philippine city, municipality, or *barangay*.

Figure 1
Location of the study areas in Valencia City
(MapAction, 2018; Google Maps, n.d.)



Some of the rural *barangays* of Valencia City experienced a high level of increase in population growth between the census years 2010 and 2015. Part of the reason for this increase was the entrance of Sumifru Philippines Corporation (SPC), an agriculture-based corporation that attracted workers from other places. The need for affordable housing also led to the migration of workers from other, mostly urban parts of the Valencia City and Bukidnon, into these *barangays*, where housing rentals and prices of real estate were lower compared with those in the urban areas. Providing impetus for this was the improvement of the road network in Bukidnon that made it convenient and affordable for workers to be employed in one *barangay* and reside in another.

Data were collected in the four rural *barangays* (i.e., *Barobo*, *Lourdes*, *Pinatilan*, and *Tugaya*), which had the highest population growth rates in Valencia between 2010 and 2015, and had comparatively large numbers of migrants. Prior to the actual conduct of the research, the main researcher made an ocular inspection of the *barangays*, introduced himself to *barangay* officials, and coordinated with officials in Valencia City's Social Welfare and Development Office, and its Planning and Development Office.

The identified *barangays* are accessible through concrete and mostly unpaved but all-weather roads. The roads within *barangay* centers are mainly concrete and those between *barangays* comprise mostly rough roads. National and provincial roads that traverse the *barangays* are paved with concrete. The *barangays* are agriculture-based and host to banana plantations except for *Pinatilan*, which has a flat terrain suitable for rice cultivation.

The four *barangays* in this study had an annual population growth rates ranging from 3.5% in 2010 to 8.3% in 2015, or an average of 5.2%, compared with 1.3% for the rest of the *barangays* (Table 1).

Table 1

Population and annual growth rate of the rural barangays of Valencia City, Bukidnon from 2010 to 2015

(City Planning and Development Coordinator's Office, 2015)

Barangay	2010	2015	Annual growth rate (%)	Growth between 2010 and 2015 (%)
Barobo	2,764	4,123	8.3	49.2
Catumbalon	2,128	2,291	1.5	7.7
Colonia	2,885	3,065	1.2	6.2
Concepcion	3,490	4,193	3.7	20.1
Dagat-Kidavao	4,703	5,164	1.9	9.8
Lourdes	1,572	1,870	3.5	19.0
Lumbayao	3,252	3,364	0.7	3.4
Maapag	1,661	1,650	-0.1	-0.7
Mabuhay	3,596	3,723	0.7	3.5
Nabag-o	2,211	2,225	0.1	0.6
Pinatilan	3,007	3,613	3.7	20.2
San Carlos	3,667	3,959	1.5	8.0
San Isidro	2,510	2,767	2	10.2
Sinabuagan	2,040	2,121	0.8	4.0
Sugod	3,766	4,306	2.7	14.3
Tugaya	1,991	2,556	5.1	28.4
Vintar	1,906	1,966	0.6	3.1
Mean for Barobo, Lourdes, Pinatilan, and Tugaya			5.2	29.2
Mean for the rest of the barangays			1.3	5.5

Between 2010 and 2015, the population of *Barobo* increased by 49.2%. The main crops grown are banana and corn. The *barangay* is located about 5 km from the City. Its fully-paved main road allows the passing of the large trucks that carry bananas, though much of the side roads are not paved. Most of the buildings along the *barangay's* main road are wooden structures although several business establishments and houses are made of concrete. The area around the *barangay* hall is mostly farmland with scattered clumps of houses and homesteads. Migration is often informal and temporary, with many migrants not being registered in the official list of residents of the *barangay*. As of 2020, *Barobo* had an estimated 150 migrants.

Unlike *Barobo*, *Tugaya*, and *Lourdes*, which are located on the mountainous side of the City, *Pinatilan* is a flatland and located adjacent to the City *poblacion*. Its proximity is a factor for its urban development. Its main road is paved, with the rest remaining as gravel roads. Between 2010 and 2015, the *barangay's* population rose from 3,007 to 3,613, or a growth of 20.2%. In 2020, the time of the main researcher's visit, the officials of the *barangay* were having a meeting to discuss the establishment of a new *purok*³. As of 2020, there were about 200 migrants living in the *barangay*.

Among the four *barangays*, *Lourdes* is the farthest at about 20 km from the City *poblacion*. Between 2010 and 2015, the *barangay's* population grew by 19.0%. The main road of the *barangay* is paved and wide enough to accommodate large trucks; the rest of the roads are unpaved. Although the *barangay* hall is made of concrete, most of the buildings are a mix of wood and concrete.

According to the *barangay* officials, the residents of *Lourdes* faced peace and order problems in the 1990s due to the presence of insurgents. To more closely monitor residents, the houses were relocated into tighter communities. A military outpost was established to help with the security of the communities. As of 2020, there were an estimated 150 migrants living in the *barangay*.

Barangay Tugaya is located right next to *Barobo* and 6 km from the heart of the City. Between 2010 and 2015, the *barangay's* population grew from 1,991 to 2,556, or an increase of 28.4%. The roads inside and outside the *barangay* are a mixture of dirt roads and concrete. Only the roads next to the *barangay poblacion* are paved with concrete. Most of

³A *purok* or zone is a political subdivision of a *barangay*.

the buildings in the *barangay* are either wooden or a mix of wood and concrete. As of 2020, there were an estimated 200 migrants living in the *barangay*.

According to the *Barangay* Population Volunteers who participated in the KII, an estimated 700 migrants were living in the four *barangays* as of 2020. This did not include informal migrants who were not recognized by the *barangay*, migrants who have moved to the *barangay* before 2010, and migrants below 15 years of age. In other words, the actual number of migrants is likely to be much more than the estimate.

The migrants are required to register at the *barangay* hall before they are considered eligible for residency, which is six months after registration. During the interval period, they need to attend regular *barangay* meetings. This is necessary to obtain work because agribusiness firms are required to hire only those coming from the local population or recognized by the *barangay* as its official residents.

Research Design and Sample

The study used qualitative and descriptive research methods to collect and analyze data. Data were collected through a survey, key informant interviews (KIIs), and focus group discussions (FGDs). Migrants who moved to the rural *barangays* after 2010 served as the respondents of the survey, as 2010 was the year when the SPC, a firm that produced export-quality bananas, was established in Valencia City. A total of 176 migrants were chosen through convenience sampling as respondents for the survey. The KIIs and FGDs, on the other hand, were administered among 20 *barangay* officials and workers, and residents of the selected *barangays*.

Instrumentation

Questions for the survey consisted of the demographic and household characteristics of the respondents, the factors that influenced their decision to migrate, and the migrants' perceived contributions to the *barangay*. A five-point Likert Scale was used to determine how much influence each factor had on the respondents' migration decision. The FGDs and KIIs focused on the history of the *barangays*, the changes that the participants have observed during their time in the *barangay*, the impact of migration observed on the *barangay* during their time as residents, and the impact of migration on themselves.

The KIIs and FGDs, on the other hand, were administered among *barangay* officials and workers, and residents of the *barangay* to determine the perceived impact of migration on rural areas in Valencia. Six to 14 participants were chosen from each *barangay* for the FGDs. At least two *Barangay* Population Volunteers from each *barangay* were chosen for the KIIs.

Data Analysis

Descriptive statistics, particularly frequency and percentages, was used to summarize the characteristics of the respondents and the influence of factors on their migration. Personal characteristics refers to a respondents' age and income. Household characteristics refers to the migrants' number of relatives and friends in the destination *barangay*. The median of certain factors such as income, age, and household characteristics were also calculated to enhance discussion. Descriptive statistics was also used to list down the participation of the respondents in *barangay* events and other activities, as a way of determining the perceived impact of their migration on the *barangay*.

For the factors affecting migration, the weighted mean was computed after categorizing the variables to determine which factor had the most influence on the decision to migrate.

Thematic analysis was used on the results of the FGDs and KIIs. The answers of the participants and interviewees on their perceived impact of migration to the *barangay* were classified into positive and negative impacts.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Characteristics of the Migrants

Respondents' Characteristics. There were a relatively equal number of male and female respondents, with 48.3% being male and 51.7% being female. Fifty-five percent were aged 15 to 30 years old, with 33.5% being 31 to 45 years old. Majority (54.5%) were married, followed by singles (38.1%). The educational level of the respondents was skewed toward the high school level (48.3%). Only 22.7% were college graduates (Table 2).

Table 2
Profile of respondents in selected barangays in Valencia City,
Bukidnon, 2020

Characteristics	No. (n=176)	%
Sex		
Male	85	48.3
Female	91	51.7
Age (years)		
Less than 15	2	1.1
15-30	97	55.1
31-45	59	33.5
46-60	14	8.0
More than 60	4	2.3
Median range	15-30 years old	
Marital status		
Single	67	38.1
Married	96	54.5
Separated	8	4.5
Widowed	5	2.8
Educational level		
No formal education	5	2.8
Elementary	32	18.2
High School	85	48.3
Vocational	10	5.7
College	40	22.7
Masters	2	1.1
Doctorate	2	1.1
Hometown location		
Within Valencia	59	33.5
Within Bukidnon	61	34.7
Within Mindanao	39	22.2
Outside Mindanao	12	6.8
No Answer	5	2.8

Table 2
Continued

Characteristics	No. (n=176)	%
Years living in destination barangay		
Less than one year	27	15.3
1-5	104	59.1
6-10	45	25.6
Median range	1-5 year(s)	
Decision maker for migration		
Themselves	80	45.5
Family	86	48.9
Friends	2	1.1
Work supervisor	2	1.1
Others	6	3.4

Majority of migration that took place in Valencia City's rural *barangays* was found to be local, with 33.5% of respondents coming from other parts of Valencia City itself and 34.7% coming from the rest of Bukidnon province. Intra-province migration, therefore, accounted for 68.2% of the respondents. The median number of years living in the destination *barangay* was 1-5, although 25.6% or more than a quarter claimed to have been in the *barangay* for 6-10 years. A total of 94.4% of the respondents migrated as a result of their own or their family's decision. This comprised 45.5% who decided on their own to migrate and 48.9% who were influenced by their families to migrate.

Income and Occupation Before and After Migration. The median income increased from PhP 3,358 in the respondents' hometowns or origins to PhP 3,606 per month in the destination *barangays* (Table 3), or an increase of 7.4%. The number of respondents whose monthly income was PhP 5,000 and below decreased from 74.4% to 69.3%. The number of respondents earning PhP 5,001 to PhP 10,000 increased from 15.9% to 21.6%. However, three of the higher paid migrants earning PhP 10,001/month or more, and one earning more than P25,000 monthly, have reduced income after migration.

Table 3
Respondents' monthly incomes (PhP) in hometown and in destination

Barangay	Hometown		Destination	
	No. (n=176)	%	No. (n=176)	%
Less than 5,000	131	74.4	122	69.3
5,001 - 10,000	28	15.9	38	21.6
10,001 - 15,000	10	5.7	8	4.5
15,001 - 20,000	2	1.1	2	1.1
20,001 - 25,000	3	1.7	5	2.8
Above 25,000	2	1.1	1	0.6
Median monthly income	3,358		3,606	

The increase in income, though modest, corroborated the positive effect of migration on the migrants' income as reported in the study of Bosworth (2010). While there was a reduction of income among the higher income earners, the lower-income migrants increased their monthly earnings.

Despite the existence of SPC, the number of migrants who were unemployed increased from 26.1% to 29% (Table 4). The increase in unemployment could be attributed to migrants who left their work at their hometowns to follow their spouses (or yet-to-be spouses) and were still looking for jobs. This was consistent with the findings of Quisumbing and McNiven (2006) that marriage is one of the major factors in migration. On the other hand, the number of farmers, construction workers, and office workers decreased. However, this was offset by the increase in the number of government workers, farm laborers, teachers, and business owners. This is probably a result of the establishment of the SPC in the *barangays* wherein workers were offered higher compensations. Given the proximity of *Barobo* and *Pinatilan* to the commercial center of the City, some respondents were likely getting jobs in the City *poblacion*, but they preferred to reside in a rural *barangay* because of the lower rent or more affordable housing, and/or the ambiance provided by a rural environment.

Table 4
Occupation of respondents in hometown and in destination

Occupation	Hometown		Destination	
	No. (n=176)	%	No. (n=176)	%
None	46	26.1	51	29.0
Private employee	38	21.6	31	17.6
Farm laborer	17	9.7	23	13.1
Farmer	25	14.2	17	9.7
Construction worker	15	8.5	13	7.4
Teacher	7	4.0	12	6.8
Business owner	9	5.1	11	6.3
Government employee	0	0	6	3.4
Office worker	2	1.1	1	0.6
Military	1	0.6	0	0.0
Others	16	9.1	11	6.3

Characteristics of the Respondents’ Households. The household characteristics of the respondents were based on the factors of migration that are outside of the individual, including having relatives in the destination and origin *barangays*. Household factors considered were the respondents’ relatives, friends, and children or three groups of people who were most likely to influence an individual’s decision to migrate (Table 5).

The median number of family members in the respondents’ hometown was 8-10 and 1-3 in the destination *barangay*. In their hometowns, 9.7% of respondents did not have relatives compared to 37.5% in their destinations. Majority (73.3%) did not have any friends in their hometowns, compared with 36.4% in their destinations. The lack of friends in their hometowns could be attributed to the presence of family members who provided the companionship that friends usually provide. For migrants who had only a few relatives in the destination *barangay*, it can be surmised that more friends became substitutes for family. For instance, 23.3% of the respondents had more than 10 friends in the destination, compared with 1.1% in the hometown, which indicated that almost a quarter of respondents had become adept at making friends in their new environment.

Table 5
Number of relatives, friends, and children of migrants in their hometowns and destinations

Characteristics	Hometown		Destination	
	No. (n=176)	%	No. (n=176)	%
Number of Relatives				
None	17	9.7	66	37.5
1-3	34	19.3	58	33.0
4-7	17	9.7	12	6.8
8-10	21	11.9	12	6.8
More than 10	87	49.4	28	15.9
Median range	8-10		1-3	
Number of Friends				
None	129	73.3	64	36.4
1-3	40	22.7	44	25.0
4-7	5	2.8	19	10.8
8-10	0	0	8	4.5
More than 10	2	1.1	41	23.3
Median range	0		1-3	
Number of Children				
0	134	76.1	52	29.5
1-3	36	20.5	103	58.6
4-7	4	2.3	20	11.4
8-10	2	1.1	1	0.6
Median range	0		1-3	

Majority (76.1%) of the respondents had no children left at their hometown, signifying that many managed to have children at their destination. Conversely, the number of respondents who had children increased from 23.9% in their hometown to 70.6% in their destination. This is understandable considering that majority of them have been in their current place for one to five years, enough time to marry and have children. This also indicated that jobs have become relatively stable for many respondents giving them confidence to raise their families and/or to bring their families from their hometown into their destination.

Participation in Barangay Activities. A total of 260 contributions were recorded from the survey, as some of the respondents listed multiple contributions to the *barangay*. Nearly half (47.7%) of the respondents reported that they attended *barangay* meetings. This could reflect their desire to be accepted in their new communities and make it easier for them to be considered as legitimate residents of the *barangay*. However, nearly a quarter of them (25.6%) had no participation at all in *barangay* activities, while about a fifth (21.6%) participated in *fiestas* and other *barangay* events. A combined 27.2% reported participating in cleanup drives and volunteer works, while about a tenth (10.2%) gave cash as contribution to *barangay* activities (Table 6).

Table 6
Participation of migrants to barangay activities

Events participated in	No. (n=176)	%
Barangay meetings	84	47.7
None	45	25.6
Fiestas/Barangay events	38	21.6
Cleanup drives	24	13.6
Volunteer work	24	13.6
Cash contribution	18	10.2
Sports	15	8.5
Training/Seminars	7	4.0
Security	3	1.7
Others	2	1.1

Note: Multiple response

The frequency of participation in *barangay* activities in a year is shown in Table 7. More than half of the respondents (52.8%) mentioned that they attended *barangay* events one to three times a year. However, 21.0% mentioned that they have never participated in *barangay* activities in a year. Slightly more than a quarter (26.1%) mentioned that they attended activities more than three times in a year.

Despite many of the respondents having little to no participation in *barangay* activities, those who participated joined multiple times in such events, improving migration’s perceived impact on the community.

Table 7
Frequency of participation in barangay activities per year

Number of times in a year	No. (n=176)	%
Never	37	21.0
1-3	93	52.8
4-6	30	17.0
7-10	3	1.7
More than 10	13	7.4
Median range	1-3 times	

Factors Influencing Decision to Migrate

Several factors were evaluated to find out their importance on the respondents’ decision to migrate. As factors of migration can be both push and pull factors, each factor was rated by the respondents on its influence twice, first as a pull factor and second as a push factor. The frequency weighted averages or means are summarized in Tables 8 and 9.

Among the pull factors, six achieved a descriptive rating equivalent to “Had some influence” based on their weighted averages. These included family, safety, location, job opportunity, marriage, and lifestyle. The importance of family as a pull factor in migration implied that family members already in the destinations influenced the migrants in their decision to migrate. Safety as a pull factor showed that the destination *barangays* have managed to create a peaceful environment where migrants felt secure enough to engage in gainful employment. Location refers to the physical and socio-economic characteristics of a place. This means that migrants were attracted to the place itself, its environment, its accessibility, and the attitude of its residents.

Job opportunity was a primary factor cited in many literatures on migration. In this study, it ranked only fourth, signifying that the migrants had some other more important reasons for migration. This was supported by the fact that the mean income of migrants did not increase much as a result of migration, and yet they still came. Marriage was already cited by literature as a major reason for migration in Mindanao (Quisumbing & McNiven, 2006), and it probably also applied in this

Table 8
Influence of factors of migration as pull factors in selected rural barangays in Valencia City, Bukidnon, 2020 (n=176)

Pull factor	Descriptive rating				Weighted mean ^a	Adjectival rating
	No influence (0)	Not a lot of influence (1)	Had some influence (2)	Had some influence (3)	Had a lot of influence (4)	
Family	73	23	20	58	42	Had some influence
Safety	34	17	40	35	50	Had some influence
Location	46	20	26	42	42	Had some influence
Job opportunity	54	16	24	33	49	Had some influence
Marriage	71	8	20	15	62	Had some influence
Lifestyle	54	24	22	42	34	Had some influence
Health	6	17	34	41	18	Not a lot of influence
Existing work	80	15	21	25	35	Not a lot of influence
Farm	89	14	30	25	18	Not a lot of influence
Politics	77	38	35	13	13	Not a lot of influence
Resettlement	109	17	22	15	13	Not a lot of influence
School	117	17	20	8	14	No influence

Interval and descriptive rating:
0-0.80: No influence
0.81-1.60: Not a lot of influence
1.61-2.40: Had some influence
2.41- 3.20: Had influence
3.21- 4.00: Had a lot of influence

Table 9
Influence of factors of migration as push factors in selected rural barangays in Valencia City, Bukidnon, 2020 (n=176)

Push factor	Descriptive rating					Weighted mean ^a	Adjectival rating
	No influence (0)	Not a lot of influence (1)	Had some influence (2)	Had some influence (3)	Had a lot of influence (4)		
Lifestyle	66	18	29	37	26	1.65	Some influence
Family	77	18	22	26	33	1.55	Not a lot of influence
Marriage	92	9	17	12	46	1.49	Not a lot of influence
Job opportunity	80	19	25	29	23	1.41	Not a lot of influence
Existing work	85	28	32	13	18	1.15	Not a lot of influence
Location	85	28	32	13	18	1.15	Not a lot of influence
School	103	12	25	18	18	1.07	Not a lot of influence
Politics	107	16	41	9	3	0.78	No influence
Farm	125	6	25	13	7	0.7	No influence
Safety	107	36	22	6	5	0.67	No influence
Health	131	11	19	9	6	0.57	No influence
Resettlement	126	17	20	10	3	0.56	No influence

Interval and descriptive rating:
0-0.80: No influence
0.81-1.60: Not a lot of influence
1.61-2.40: Had some influence
2.41- 3.20: Had influence
3.21- 4.00: Had a lot of influence

study. Lifestyle as a pull factor indicated that migrants were attracted by the prospect of having a new lifestyle in the destinations, which could be in terms of becoming more independent, starting out in a new location, or raising a new family, in which case it could be related to marriage.

The top four push factors were lifestyle, family, marriage, and job opportunity (Table 9). Of these, only lifestyle attained the rating equivalent to “Had some influence,” while the rest obtained a rating equivalent to “Not a lot of influence.” Something about the lifestyle in their hometowns, possibly poverty or the lack of means to achieve a better life, pushed migrants to leave. The rest of the factors only had limited influence.

Perceived Impacts to the Community

Positive Impacts. Table 10 summarizes the respondents’ perceived impacts of migration based on the FGDs and KIIs. The primary contributions of migrants to the destination communities were the increase in the local revenue and a higher internal revenue allotment (IRA), which was the annual allotment that a *barangay* gets from the local government to pay for their day-to-day services. Many of the *barangay* workers and residents also thought that the migrants contributed to the *barangay* income by applying for services at the *barangay* (e.g., construction permits, vehicle permits, clearances) and paying the required fees.

As the IRA was mostly based on the population, having a higher population means a higher allotment. This higher budget has helped the communities build better infrastructure projects and services. They did not have any notable non-infrastructure related projects, but regular training and seminars on agriculture and disaster risk reduction management were scheduled each year.

Migration has helped introduce more businesses, generate higher income, and develop more services to rural communities, as well as bring families together, thereby improving the quality of life in destination areas. Participation in *barangay* events has also increased, partially as a requirement to gain residency in the *barangay*. These activities also help migrants integrate more fully into community life.

Labor availability was the second biggest impact of migration. The number of farm laborers increased in the destination *barangays*.

Table 10
Participants' perceived impacts that could be partially attributed to migration

Impact areas	Impacts partly attributed to migration	
	Positive	Negative
Health and pollution	Improved cleanliness and sanitation	Pesticides and fertilizers from banana plantations, more work for healthcare, overworked healthcare workers
Safety and security	Improved due to more population and better security arrangement	More work for barangay patrols
Income and employment	Higher income and employment	Fewer farmers, hence forced to raise wages of agricultural laborers
Housing and rent	Construction of boarding houses, building of more new houses	Higher rents for housing, increased cost of real estate
Social behavior and lifestyle	More people participating in barangay activities, livelier fiestas	Migrants too busy or unconcerned to socialize
Administration	Higher IRA	More work for barangay workers
Services	More people applying for services resulting in more fees collected	More work for barangay workers
Infrastructure	Better roads and buildings	Smoke and dirt from large trucks
Agriculture	More farm workers	Less jobs for locals
Education	More teachers who are migrants, better quality education	More stress for existing teachers
Business	More businesses and startups	Less profit and even closure for existing businesses that could not compete

A portion of the migrants' earnings were spent locally, thus contributing to the growth of businesses in the community. Migrants may also establish their own businesses and further enrich the community with their products.

The number of workers that wanted to work for SPC has created a business of boarding houses for *Barobo*, *Lourdes*, and *Tugaya*. Boarding houses in these *barangays* ranged from wooden structures to concrete buildings.

Most migrants were too poor to buy land, having moved to rural areas looking for work. Due to this, migration did not have any major perceived impact on land prices in the destination *barangays*. The increase in land prices was due to the ongoing development in rural areas, which happened alongside rural migration, not because of it. The exception was in *Pinatilan*, whose location near the City center makes it ideal for new homeowners looking for more affordable houses or pieces of real estate compared to those available within the urbanized areas of the City.

The high population growth has also encouraged *barangays* *Pinatilan* and *Lourdes* to establish new communities for the new residents. *Lourdes* has a new relocation site that was established after 2010 to accommodate new residents, while *Pinatilan* established a new purok. In terms of services, the migrants have helped increase revenues of the *barangays* by applying for permits and clearances and paying the required fees. Table 11 summarizes the social and economic impacts of migration.

Negative Impacts. Basically, the entry of migrants has strained the resources of the host communities. The FGD and KII participants reported increases in the workload of *barangay* workers like those assigned to healthcare, administration, and security. However, with the increase in IRA, the *barangays* were able to partly relieve this by hiring additional workers and enlisting volunteers.

Another negative impact was on wages. Local farmers have been forced to raise the wages of farm laborers to match that being offered by SPC. The entry of new businesses have also forced existing businesses to upgrade their products, prices, and services in order to compete with new ones that have sprouted in the wake of the increased spending power of the residents.

Table 11

Participants' answers to questions pertaining to social and economic impacts of migration

Barangay	Questions		
	Reasons for migration aside from work	Profile of migrants	Contributions of migrants to the <i>barangay</i>
Barobo	Business	Families	Internal revenue allotment (IRA) will not increase without an increase in population.
	Marriage	Single males who marry a resident	
		In their 20s	Requests for clearances and permits have increased.
			They have to pay monthly dues and sometimes penalties. (i.e., they have penalties if they do not have bathrooms)
Lourdes			Migrants participate in assemblies and <i>fiestas</i> .
	Safety/ Security	Mostly came from remote places and areas affected by insurgency and landslides	Cleanliness through clean-up drive (mostly because it is required).
	Marriage	Single individuals who get married and decided to raise their family in the <i>barangay</i>	Manpower for <i>barangay</i> projects like <i>Brigada Eskwela</i> (a community initiative where residents clean up schools before start of class)
		Families	Livelier <i>barangay</i>
		Workers and farmers	Higher IRA: PhP 1 million in 2007 and PhP 2 million in 2020.
		Senior high school students because of the nearby school	Workers have higher income to spend.

Table 11
Continued

Barangay	Questions		
	Reasons for migration aside from work	Profile of migrants	Contributions of migrants in the barangay
		Young ladies Some are not registered voters	Payments for clearances and permits
Pinatilan	Marriage	A mix of single males and females, but mostly families Individuals who are looking for a spouse and have a family of their own at the barangay	They buy house and lot.
Tugaya	It is usually because of job opportunity at Sumifru and a land property was purchased	Workers, mostly, males (after one year, they need to be registered in the <i>barangay</i>) Workers are usually only temporary migrants, but those who get married settle down permanently.	They attend assemblies, which are required for transferring. They are also required to get <i>barangay</i> clearances and participate in <i>barangay</i> services. There is higher tax collection.

As in many agribusiness areas, the *barangays* experienced increased pollution from the pesticides and other farm inputs applied on the crops. At present, the long-term impact of this is yet to be assessed. Nevertheless, similar communities in other places in Bukidnon with decades-old plantations have not reported any adverse consequences from the use of farm chemicals. Of more immediate concern and

cause for inconvenience are the smoke and dust caused by huge cargo vehicles that pass through the residential and commercial areas of the *barangays*. However, this could be remedied by rerouting and enactment of appropriate *barangay* ordinances.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This study dealt with the potential role of internal migration in helping foster development not only in the specific destinations but just as importantly, in the province itself considering that this type of migration is basically intra-provincial in scope. As the urban areas of the country struggle with the influx of often destitute migrants from the countryside, intra-provincial migration provides a possible solution to the congestion that often accompanies migration to the cities, particularly in Metro Manila, by enhancing provincial development and diverting migrants enroute to the cities toward another place within their own provinces.

In this study, a major factor that spurred migration to the *barangays* studied was the establishment of a corporate farm within or in the vicinity of the study areas. Large enterprises, however, will arise only if the destination communities and the province itself offer a set of conditions that favor the successful establishment of such enterprises. These include local government units at the city, provincial, and *barangay* levels that promote business and entrepreneurship, adequate road infrastructure and transport system, available housing, adequate social services (e.g., education, health, sanitation), and a peaceful environment. If these conditions are met, then chances are that businesses will follow, and with them workers, some of them will be migrants.

Furthermore, for migration to succeed, it should be sustainable and supportive of the government program to decongest the cities. Based on the findings, this study recommends the following:

1. Local governments should endeavor to attract large companies that will put up medium- and large-scale projects in their areas, which would employ a relatively large number of people. This could be done with appropriate incentives and infrastructure (e.g., good roads, security, access to utilities, interconnectivity, etc.) that will support these new businesses. While agriculture can thrive in many places in Valencia City, ecotourism is also suitable for other *barangays* such as *Lourdes* with its high elevation and mild climate. Ecotourism can attract tourists and migrants.

2. The local government of Valencia City should help provide affordable housing facilities to migrants by facilitating the establishment of housing projects and construction of new boarding houses. This will address the need of those who will either bring in their families or start new ones and give their stay in the destination a sense of permanence.

3. Training activities on livelihood and business management should be provided to help existing businesses and those who would like to start new ones. The local government of Valencia City can tap the numerous government and non-government agencies that provide such transfer of technology. Notable among these are the higher education institutions, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Trade and Industry, and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority. The academic institutions can also help by establishing extension campuses in migrant-concentrated areas and offering scholarships to deserving children.

4. Local governments should anticipate and address environmental consequences of development. Chemical pollution from plantations and increased pollution are only two of them. Others may come in the form of land degradation and erosion as hilly areas are converted into plantations and agricultural areas into housing projects. Not to mention river pollution, and increased waste volume and its proper disposal.

Further research into the topic of rural migration is recommended, for instance, on what is happening to those family members left at the hometowns. Have their lives improved with the remittances or deteriorated with the departure of someone who could have helped in the farm and other chores? A comparative study on the impact of large business projects in many other places should also be made. The lessons learned from the successful ones would be valuable guides to policymakers. Limitations of this study are that it is mostly descriptive and that it looked at the perceived impact of migration based only on the experiences of the residents.

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