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Effects of Basic Social Services on the Personal Migration of Labor in Vietnam

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Abstract

On December 31st, 2022, the population of Vietnam was estimated at 99,329,145 people, an increase of 784,706 people compared to the population of 98,564,407 people the previous year. In 2022, the natural population growth rate will be positive because the birth rate will exceed the death rate by 879,634 people. Social services are a range of public services intended to provide support and assistance to specific groups, often including people from disadvantaged backgrounds. These services are provided by organizations and individuals, which may be private or public. Basic social service is a system of providing services to meet basic human needs and be recognized by society. The article uses the results of the 2020 Vietnam Population Living Standards

Survey of the General Statistics Office with 26,790 observations of migrant workers in households to analyze the influence of basic social services on the migration of workers in Vietnam. Based on the estimation of the logit model with the dependent variable, there is or is not an influence of basic social services on labor migration. Model estimation results show that the influence of basic social services on labor migration is different between male and female workers and between married and unmarried people. Basic social services influence the impact of such benefits on migration decisions, especially for low-income households and female-headed households.

Keywords: Social Services, Migration, Labor, Human Resources, Labor

JEL Classifications: M12, M54, O15, R23

1. Introduction

On December 31st, 2022, the population of Vietnam was estimated at 99,329,145 people, an increase of 784,706 people compared to the population of 98,564,407 people the previous year. In 2022, the natural population growth rate will be positive because the birth rate will exceed the death rate by 879,634 people.

According to the 2019 Census of Population, the proportion of the labor force who are migrants accounts for 8.6% of the national labor force, of which the Southeast is the region with the highest proportion of the labor force who are migrants (20.3%) and the lowest in the Northern Midlands and Northern Mountains areas (4.3%). Up to 91.4% of migrant workers work in the service, industry, and construction sectors. In particular, the proportion of migrant workers working in industry and construction is nearly twice as high as the proportion of non-migrants working in the same region (44.9% versus 27.7%). The proportion of women in the migrant labor force is higher than that of men (53.4% versus 46.6%). Nearly half of migrants have to rent or borrow houses to live; the average housing area per capita of migrants is lower than that of non-migrants (Summary Information of the 2019 Population and Housing Census). Migration creates advantages for the socio-economic development of the country but also poses problems in accessing basic social services in the destination of migrants.

The article studies the influence of basic social services (social services) on labor migration through estimating quantitative models using GSO's 2020 household living standard survey data.

2. Research Overview

Basic social services are service activities that meet the needs of the subjects to meet the minimum needs of life (UN: Africa Spending Less on Basic Social Services). Santosh Mehrotra *et al.* (1998) ^[13] argue that basic social services include basic health services, water and sanitation, family planning, and basic education.

Social services are a range of public services intended to provide support and assistance to specific groups, often including people from disadvantaged backgrounds. These services are provided by organizations and individuals, which may be private or public. Basic social service is a system of providing services to meet basic human needs and be recognized by society. Basic social services usually include services to meet basic physical needs, health services, educational services, entertainment

services, and information services. Basic social services are the minimum types and levels of social services necessary for human development, corresponding to the level of socio-economic development at each stage of development. Basic social service is defined as a service delivery system that meets basic human needs and is recognized by society.

Although the views and approaches are different, they all define basic social services as social services to meet basic human needs in specific socio-economic conditions. Services include basic education, basic health care, clean water, sanitation, and information.

Along with the development of the labor market and employment, migration is an integral part of the study of socio-economic policies. According to the provisions of Clause 7, Article 3 of the Population Ordinance 2003 clearly stipulates that migration is the movement of population from one country to reside in another country, from one administrative unit to another administrative authority. Thus, migration from one administrative area to another of a country is one of the most common types of migration, known as "internal migration". Migration from one country to another is known as international migration and is often complex.

Having a view on migration relates to the change that migrants most want to receive, especially the economic one. Representing this group of views is Lee (1996), where migration is defined as "a temporary or permanent change of residence". According to Smith (2000) [14], "the term migration is often used to refer to any physical movement in space, with the implication being a change of residence or place of residence" (Government of Vietnam and United Nations). Quoc in Vietnam, 2012 (quoting Smith, 2000). King argues that "migration is generally understood as moving to another place of residence that is a large enough distance from the old place of residence to force the migrant to change his or her permanent residence, i.e., the migrant has to move to a new city, another province, or another country" (Tran Thi Thanh Phuong, 2018 quoted by King) [15]. According to the authors, migration is the movement of people from one locality to another over a prescribed distance, or the required minimum distance of travel. This movement takes place during a definite period of migration and is characterized by frequent changes of residence. The change of place of residence is reflected in two characteristics: the place of origin and the place of migration. The place of origin (or place of departure) is the place where the migrants move from, and the place of immigration (or place of arrival) is the place where the migrants move to.

Black *et al.* (2011) [1] again put three groups of factors affecting migration, with specific factors, including: (i) Impact of environmental change on drivers: including driving forces economic (is a matter of income, wages, benefits, and prices); social dynamics (educational, family issues); demographics (population size, density, and structure; disease rates); environmental drivers (such as disasters, ecological services, living conditions, food security, energy, and water); and political motivations (policies that encourage, coerce, etc.). (ii) Personal or family characteristics: including factors such as age, education, economic conditions, marital status, ethnicity, religion, interests, etc. (iii) Factors becoming concerns and support: including policy or legal frameworks, social networks, interpersonal relationships, family lines, friends, recruitment

agencies, or technology issues.

According to Le and Nguyen (2011) [8], more than half of migrants leave their homeland for the city because they are dissatisfied with their jobs and income levels in the countryside and hope to have better job opportunities in the country. city. One out of every four people migrated due to a lack of arable land, a lack of employment, or long-term unemployment. The migration motivation of individuals and households is determined by a combination of many factors, but mainly due to economic reasons (GSO and United Nations Population Fund, 2006) [17].

The important factors of economy and education are also important motivations for the decision to migrate, promoting the pursuit of a better life. De Brauw *et al.* (2013) [3] find that education level and age are particularly important determinants of internal migration. Education affects the attitudes, aspirations, and beliefs of migrants, as well as the extent to which they are able to integrate into the community at their destination.

Bui (2019) [2] and Pham (2017) [9] are of the opinion that the age of migrants is mainly in the reproductive age, while the maternity regime in Vietnam has not yet been integrated into voluntary social insurance, so female migrants are less interested in this type of service, and the children of migrant workers are also more disadvantaged. In addition, many cases of migrants with their spouses and children create a need for services for children of migrants, such as birth registration, school registration, babysitting, etc. Meanwhile, also due to the problem of household registration, this group of migrant children often have to attend private schools or follow the opposite route at public schools and have to pay high costs. The children of migrant workers often face difficulties in accessing health insurance. The time and hard working conditions make the workers have no time to take care of their children, not have enough income to ensure their nutrition and education, and have to send them back to their hometown. Prolonged weakness and occupational diseases in female workers may affect reproductive health and cause birth defects in children.

According to the United Nations in Vietnam (2010) [16], migrant workers have to pay higher costs for basic social services such as health care, education, housing, electricity, and water than local residents. direction. Mainly because they cannot buy electricity and water directly from public suppliers but have to buy them from the landlord at a higher price. Compared to locals, migrants live in households with fewer household appliances (General Statistics Office of Vietnam and United Nations Population Fund, 2016b) [6]. With the fees for those basic public services that migrants have to pay, it has a significant impact on their ability to access public services, affecting the health and resilience of migrant workers, especially migrant workers. mental health, safety, and hygiene of female migrants.

General Statistics Office and United Nations Population Fund (2016b) [6] The work of migrant workers is more unstable or vulnerable than that of local people. The proportion of migrants with indefinite-term labor contracts is much lower than that of locals. These are huge potential risks for migrants, especially female migrants (General Statistics Office of Vietnam and United Nations Population Fund, 2016a) [5]. Migrants often get married later than local people, so the proportion of married female migrants is higher than that of men, while the proportion of married non-migrant men is higher than that of women. During the

survey, surveys in some localities showed that the late marriage rate of migrants is also due to the migrant's economic factors not being able to meet the basic needs of a family. In addition, local women also find it difficult to get married, especially breaking the tradition of marrying locals in areas where many industrial zones are mainly female migrants and where there is a very large imbalance in terms of income and gender. It means that local women and female migrants are tending to marry far away from home.

3. Research Methods

Data Source

The article uses the results of the 2020 Vietnam population living standard survey of the General Statistics Office, which uses information on the characteristics of migrant workers and statistics on the use of social services. basic opportunity. Therefore, the scope of the research in the article only analyzes the internal migration of Vietnamese workers.

The dependent variable is the migration of workers; the study will create a binary variable that takes a value of 1 if workers have migrated due to the influence of basic social services and 0 if they have not been affected.

The independent variables include three groups of variables: i) individual characteristics of employees, including gender (1: female; 0: male), age group (10 age groups: from 15–19, from 20–24, from 60 or older), marital status (unmarried, married, widowed, divorced), training level; ii) basic social services (medical care, health insurance, hygienic water, standard toilets, internet access, and paid work); iii) geographical characteristics (regions).

Analytical Model

The article uses a logit regression model to assess the influence of basic social services on labor migration. The dependent variable is a binary variable, taking a value of 1 if the worker answers yes when asked about the impact of social services on migration. The Logit model can be described in its basic form as follows:

$$\ln(P_i/(1-P_i)) = Z_i$$

In which, *i* is the index reflecting the *i*th employee.

$$Z_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1sex_i + \beta_2agegroup_i + \beta_3status_i + \beta_4skil_i + \beta_5dikcb_i + \beta_6thebh_i + \beta_7nuovsi + \beta_8hoxivsi + \beta_9internet_i + \beta_{10}working_wage_i + \beta_{11}vungi+e_i$$

The variables *sex*, *age group*, *status*, *skill*, *dikcb*, *thebh*, *nuovs*, *hoxivs*, *internet*, *working_wage*, and *vu* are dummy variables of *sex*, *age group*, *marital status*, *training level*, and *health insurance card*, respectively. Details can be found in Table 2 below.

Estimate the β coefficients of the logit model using maximum likelihood estimation (ML). The marginal effect of the independent variable *X* on the dependent variable's probability of receiving a value equal to 1 is as follows:

$$\delta P/\delta x = p(1-p)\beta$$

From the above formula, it can be seen that the marginal effect of the variable *X* depends on the estimator β and the probability *p* value for given conditions, usually at the mean value of the independent variables.

4. Research Results and Discussion

In the results of running a logit regression model with 26,790 observations (the number of obs) of migrant workers in the Vietnam population living standard survey in 2020, we get the following results:

All variables included in the model are statistically significant.

In Table 2 results, there are coefficients, standard errors, the z-statistics test, p-values, and the 95% confidence interval of the coefficients. The resulting p-values, which is the column $P > |z|$, are all equal to 0.000; this value is less than 0.05, so the variables included in the logit model are statistically significant, including the indicators of other variables. variables on individual characteristics of migrant workers, basic social service variables, and regional indicators of geographic regions.

Model Fit

Table 1 shows the fit of the logit model; the value of $Prob > \chi^2 = 0.0000$ is less than 0.05 statistically significant, concluding the current logit model is suitable. The pseudo-R² value of 0.1779 means that the independent variables in the model explain 17.79% of the log change (probability of migrant workers over non-migrant workers) of the dependent variable.

Table 1: The fit of the logit model

Logistic regression	Number of obs	26,790
	LR chi2(27)	1,564,532
	Prob > chi2	0.000
Log likelihood = -3615024,9	Pseudo R2	0.1779

Estimated Results of the Model

The estimated results of the logit model are shown in the regression coefficients (column Coef.) for the variable: the change of the LOG ODDS of the dependent variable when the independent variable increases by 1 unit. That is to say, when the independent variable increases by 1 unit, the probability of worker migration increases (if it has a positive sign) or decreases (if it has a negative sign) by how many units (corresponding to the Coef regression coefficient).

Table 2: Results of logit model estimation

Migration of labor	Explain the observed variable.	Coef.	Std. Err.	z	P>z	[95% Conf.	Interval]
Female	Female	0.1136	0.0024	47.1900	0.0000	0.1089	0.1183
Age group	Age group						
Tu 15-19	From 15-19	0.8165	0.0106	77.3800	0.0000	0.7958	0.8372
Tu 20-24	From 20-24	1.3490	0.0103	130.4100	0.0000	1.3287	1.3693
Tu 25-29	From 25-29	1.2952	0.0106	122.6400	0.0000	1.2745	1.3159
Tu 30-34	From 30-34	0.5484	0.0109	50.4800	0.0000	0.5271	0.5697
Tu 35-39	From 35-39	-0.2762	0.0112	-24.5500	0.0000	-0.2983	-0.2542
Tu 40-44	From 40-44	-0.2303	0.0113	-20.3700	0.0000	-0.2524	-0.2081
Tu 45-49	From 45-49	-0.1962	0.0113	-17.3500	0.0000	-0.2184	-0.1741
Tu 50-54	From 50-54	-1.3428	0.0134	-99.9900	0.0000	-1.3691	-1.3165
Tu 55-59	From 55-59	-0.8603	0.0127	-67.9700	0.0000	-0.8851	-0.8355
Tu 60 tro len	From 60 tro len	-0.3209	0.0115	-28.0100	0.0000	-0.3433	-0.2984
Status	Marital status						
Status1	Not married (comparison group)						
Status2	Married	0.4755	0.0034	138.0000	0.0000	0.4687	0.4822
Status3	Relict	0.6533	0.0080	81.9800	0.0000	0.6376	0.6689
Status4	Divorce	-0.1259	0.0093	-13.5600	0.0000	-0.1441	-0.1077
Skill	Academic level						
Skill1	Untrained (comparison group)						
Skill2	vocational training	-0.0632	0.0036	-17.3700	0.0000	-0.0704	-0.0561
Skill3	College, bachelor	-0.5182	0.0039	-132.5800	0.0000	-0.5259	-0.5105
Dvxhcb	Basic social services						
Dikcb	Allowed to go hospital	-0.0473	0.0068	-6.9200	0.0000	-0.0607	-0.0339
Thebh	Health Insurance	-0.7630	0.0028	-277.1800	0.0000	-0.7684	-0.7576
Nuovs	Have access to hygienic water	-0.4873	0.0026	-184.8500	0.0000	-0.4925	-0.4821
Hoxivs	Using standard toilets	-0.1570	0.0037	-42.0600	0.0000	-0.1643	-0.1497
Internet	Using internet	0.1272	0.0044	29.1900	0.0000	0.1186	0.1357
Working_wage	Work paid	-0.6841	0.0027	-251.4400	0.0000	-0.6894	-0.6788
Vung	Region						
Dong bang song Hong	Red river delta (comparison group)						
Mien nui phia bac	The north of mountainous area	-2.2352	0.0107	-209.3000	0.0000	-2.2561	-2.2143
Mien trung	Central region	-1.4476	0.0056	-257.8900	0.0000	-1.4586	-1.4366
Tay Nguyen	Highlands	-1.2524	0.0094	-132.7600	0.0000	-1.2709	-1.2339
Dong Nam Bo	South East	1.2546	0.0028	453.4300	0.0000	1.2492	1.2600
Dong bang SCL	Cuulong river delta	-0.8970	0.0049	-183.1500	0.0000	-0.9066	-0.8874
_cons	Coefficient	-3.2729	0.0144	-228.0600	0.0000	-3.3010	-3.2448

For the Gender Variable

The regression coefficient for the sex variable = 0.1136 means that when the sex is female (male = 0; female = 1), then LnOdds (migration) = ln (probability to migrate = 1/probability to migrate = 0) will increase by 0.1136 units, or it can be understood that the log probability of migrant workers over non-migrant workers of the variable "employee migration" will increase by 0.1136 units.

For the Age Group Variable

The coefficients of the age group from 15–19 to the age group 30-34 (these are the age groups of the youth) have an increasing influence on the migration of workers, while the age groups from 35–39 to the age of 60 and older have a reduced effect on worker migration. Specifically:

The coefficient of the age group 15–19 is 0.8165, which means that for workers aged 15–19, the log odds ratio of migration will increase by 0.8165 units. The coefficient of the age group 20–24 is 1,349, which means that for workers between the ages of 20–24, the log odds ratio of migration will increase by 1,349 units. If the coefficient of the age group 25–29 is 1.2952, the log odds ratio of migration will increase by 1.2952 units. If the coefficient of the age group from 30-34 is 0.5484, then the log of the odds ratio of migration will increase by 0.5484 units. We see that the age group from 20–24 has the highest increase in the age group of workers, followed by the age group from 25–29, the age

group from 15–19, and the age group from 30-34.

For age groups with negative coefficients, if the coefficient of age group 50–54 is -1.3428, then the log of the odds ratio of migration will decrease by 1.3428 units. And this is the age group with the greatest decrease in influence, followed by the 55–59 age group. If the coefficient of the age group 55–59 is -0.8603, then the log odds ratio of migration will decrease by 0.8603 units.

For marital status, the comparison group is unmarried (unmarried).

The coefficient of the currently married group is 0.4755, which means that when married, the log odds ratio of migration will increase by 0.4755 units compared to the group with no spouse. The widow group coefficient is 0.6533, which means that when widowed, the log odds ratio of emigration will increase by 0.6533 units compared to the group with no spouse, and the divorce group coefficient is -0.1259. That is, when widowed, the log odds ratio of migrants will decrease by 0.1259 units compared to the group with no spouse.

For the qualification variable, the comparison group is untrained.

The coefficient of vocational training is (-0.0632), which means that when receiving vocational training, the log of the odds ratio of migrants will decrease by 0.0632 units compared to the group without qualification. The coefficient of the group of colleges and universities is (-0.5182), which

means that when having a high degree after university, the log of the odds ratio of migration will decrease by 0.5182 units compared to the group with no education.

For basic social service variables

The coefficient of the variable having medical examination and treatment is (-0.0473), which means that if workers have a medical examination, the log odds ratio of migration will decrease by 0.0473 units. The coefficient of the variable having health insurance is (-0.763), which means that the employee with the health insurance card's probability of migrating will decrease by 0.763 units. If the coefficient of the variable having hygienic water is -0.4873, the probability of migration will decrease by 0.4873 units. If the coefficient of the variable that can use a standard toilet is -0.157, the probability of labor migration will decrease by 0.157 units. Having a paying job also reduces the probability of labor migration by 0.6841. With only internet access, the migration probability of workers increases by 0.1227 units.

For geographical variables, the comparison group is the Red River Delta group.

The coefficient of the geographical region variable, when compared with the Red River Delta, is negative for most regions except for the Southeast region. The region with the highest probability of reduction in labor migration is the northern mountainous region; the coefficient is (-2.2352), i.e., workers in this region have a log odds ratio of migration that will decrease by 2.2352 units. The probability of migrant workers decreasing is followed by the central region with 1.4476 units, the Central Highlands with 1.2524 units, and the Mekong Delta with 0.897 units. The coefficient of the Southeast region is 1.2546, which means that workers in the region have an increased probability of emigrating by 1.2546 units.

5. Conclusion

Basic social services include health care, education, social security, and social insurance. When a country has a reliable and widespread health insurance system, people with health insurance cards can access basic and specialized medical services without financial difficulties. This can reduce the incentive to migrate within the country, as people do not need to move to other areas to seek better medical care. Ease and quality of access to medical services are important factors influencing internal migration. When people can receive accurate and timely medical diagnosis and treatment in their own locality, they do not need to migrate to seek better medical care elsewhere. Access to safe and clean water is an important factor. When safe and clean water is guaranteed, people will have better living conditions, and there is no need to migrate for this purpose. Internet access plays an important role in information, education, employment, and social connections. When an area has widespread and stable access to the internet, people can enjoy the benefits of information technology and do not need to migrate in search of better internet access.

In short, when basic social services are fully and reliably provided, workers can enjoy health and social security benefits in their own locality. This can reduce leverage for migration, as workers no longer need to seek new cultures or better living environments elsewhere. However, it should also be noted that basic social services are not always sufficient to prevent migration. There are many other factors, such as the economic, political, and social status of a country, that can contribute to pushing workers to migrate in

search of other factors that make their lives better. This is suggestive of the next research direction of the research group.

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