Rural-Urban Migration in Indonesia: OCCUPATIONAL CHOICES AND MOBILITY OF MIGRANTS IN FOUR CITIES

Sherry Tao Kong (ANU) and Tadjuddin Noer Effendi (UGM)
Size of rural-urban migrant population

![Graph showing the size of rural-urban migrant population from 1980 to 2005.](chart)
Background

- **Pre-1986**
  - Shift in voluntary migration from rural-to-rural migration to rural-to-urban migration
  - Increase in population pressure and landlessness in rural areas
  - Urban development and higher wages in cities

- **1986 -1998**
  - Increase in urbanisation and rural-urban migration
  - Driven by economic growth and social development
  - Facilitated by infrastructural development

- **1999 - Present**
  - Sluggish recovery from the AFC
  - A trend of international migration
  - Downturn due to GFC
The aims

- To examine the patterns of migrants’ occupational choices and mobility in four Indonesian cities.

- To investigate the underlying determinants of migrants’ first occupations in cities and the factors that contribute to their subsequent occupational mobility.
Data

- Rural-Urban Migration in China and Indonesia (RUMiCI) (http://rumici.anu.edu.au)
  - Collaboration of ANU and Gadjah Mada University
  - Longitudinal survey (2008 -2011)
  - Cross-sectional information of 2008-2009
  - Recalled information of early occupational status in both years

- Sample size: 2080 households:
  - 1224 (60%) migrant households
  - 856 local urban resident households
Four survey cities location and setting
Literature

- Internal migration and occupational choice and mobility
  - Occupational segregation: formal vs. informal
  - Labour market fragmentation

- Human capital theory
  - Maximising return to human capital
  - Occupational choice
  - Parental influence of occupational choice and mobility

- International migration literature on occupational choice and mobility
Basic characteristics of migrants

- Increase in age and education in first migrants:
  - Age: 18.5 yrs → 23.3 yrs
  - Education: 9.6 yrs → 11.9 yrs

- Changes in migration purposes
Pre-migration main activities

![Bar chart showing pre-migration main activities by time periods and categories]

Categories include:
- Farmer/Ag worker
- Non-ag worker/self-emp
- Student
- Not working

Time periods:
- Before 1986
- 1986-1998
- 1999-2009

Quantities:
- Before 1986: 39.4 (Farmer/Ag), 7.5 (Non-ag), 16.1 (Student), 21.0 (Not working)
- 1986-1998: 38.3 (Farmer/Ag), 12.4 (Non-ag), 27.1 (Student), 21.0 (Not working)
- 1999-2009: 45.9 (Farmer/Ag), 12.3 (Non-ag), 22.1 (Student), 20.8 (Not working)
Migrants’ first occupations in cities

![Bar chart showing changes in migrants' first occupations from 1986 to 1999-2009.](chart)

- **Before 1986**:
  - Professional & managers: 17.9%
  - Clerical workers: 19.1%
  - Unskilled labourer: 63.0%

- **1986-1998**:
  - Professional & managers: 9.8%
  - Clerical workers: 16.7%
  - Unskilled labourer: 73.5%

- **1999-2009**:
  - Professional & managers: 7.6%
  - Clerical workers: 19.5%
  - Unskilled labourer: 72.9%
Occupational mobility
(First occupation → current occupation)

% of Moving up | % of Remaining equal | % of Shifting down
---|---|---
Before 1986: 20.4 | 17.1 | 12.8
1986-1998: 66.8 | 69.2 | 13.7
1999-2009: 73.6 | 15.2 | 11.2
Urban residents: 67.4 | 17.2 | 15.4
## Occupational mobility
(First occupation → current occupation)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation category of first occupation</th>
<th>Professional &amp; managers</th>
<th>Clerical workers</th>
<th>Unskilled labours</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professional &amp; managers managers</td>
<td>72 (65%)</td>
<td>22 (12%)</td>
<td>19 (3%)</td>
<td>113 (12%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clerical workers</td>
<td>19 (17%)</td>
<td>71 (40%)</td>
<td>131 (19%)</td>
<td>221 (23%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unskilled labourer</td>
<td>19 (17%)</td>
<td>85 (48%)</td>
<td>542 (78%)</td>
<td>646 (66%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>692</td>
<td>980</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 11% 18% 71%
Investigating the predictors of first occupation and occupational mobility

- Individual demographic characteristics
- City and cohort effects
- Individual human capital variables
  - Education (formal schooling years)
  - Urban education experience
  - Previous occupational background
- Parents’ background variables
  - Parents’ education
  - Parents’ primary background
- Migration duration
Preliminary findings

- Limited occupational mobility of migrants’
- Central role of human capital in explaining migrants’ occupational choice and mobility:
  - Occupational Choice:
    - Factors that impact migrants’ chances of obtaining semi-skilled or skilled occupations:
      - Gender, age, education level, local education experience and father’s education level
  - For those who did experience mobility
    - Education is a strong predictor of occupational choice and mobility