

HOW DOES THE PULL FACTORS IN THE RURAL-URBAN MIGRATION PATTERNS

have an Impact on Service Delivery in African Cities?

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Abstract: The pull factors in rural-urban migration patterns refer to the urban attractions that draws rural migrants from their area of origin to urban areas in search of better opportunities in urban areas, this occurs because there is little to no development in rural areas which end up creating high levels of unemployment in rural areas which then lead to crime and poverty .The purpose of this paper is to examine the relationship between rural to urban migration pull factors and service delivery in African cities , with reference to the Umlazi township area “Silver city” in the eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality. The paper argues that there are pull factors in the rural to urban migration patterns, which results to overcrowding, and lack of service delivery. The study was quantitative approach and used 5 Likert scale questionnaires which were distributed in the selected areas of eThekweni city. A total of 350 from silver city. Whereas qualitative aspects of the study were secondary data through extensive literature review, the study has found that indeed rural-urban migration has a negative impact on service delivery. The study argue that service delivery and rural-urban migration patterns need to be part of the government agenda holistically to improve service delivery and capacity of local authorities. This study recommends proactive urban planning and community involvement through public participation channels. The generalization of the findings of this study should be done with care.

INTRODUCTION

The imperialist and apartheid eras were focused on racial divide with development focused on minorities and the new government is facing a major challenge of addressing the challenges that emanate from the past. Thus, it is impossible to ignore the fact that the government of the past was fixated on developing areas for minorities and the minorities were mostly based in urban areas and African people were relegated to the rural areas. Hence, we now have a problem of the influx of rural migrants to cities through rural to urban migration patterns. The end of apartheid meant the end of separatist's laws and the dawn of democracy allowed mostly African were offered an opportunity to now migrate to urban areas and that comes with its own problems with rural migration failing to afford urban housing that gives rise to informal settlements and crowding in cities create other problems related to health and demand for service delivery. There have been state initiatives to redress inequalities that comes as result of the past. By providing housing but that is not enough as there is high prevalence of informal settlement in cities. Moreover, it is important to note that people migrate from rural areas in search of better economic opportunities in cities. There are problems of capacity in municipalities when it comes to dealing with service delivery demand because of rural to urban migration patterns to cities. Hence, there a need for decisive planning to create and maintain sustainable cities.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

As per a latest study into municipal urban growth, the eThekweni Municipality 2016/17 Spatial Development Framework reported 276 988 in-migrants in 2001 and 2011, showing marked growth (Govender 2017). According to the municipality, this figure grew to 3 414 197 for 2011, yet was expected to rise 3 818 499 for 2021, amid estimates reaching 4,47 million by the year 2030, which indicates an unsettling trend (Musvoto, Lincoln & Hansmann 2016). Urbanisation usually impacts resource allocation and the management of public amenities (Hellberg 2014). Hence, the research aims to demonstrate a link across rural-urban migration trends and service delivery (Fleischmann & Phalet 2018). Poor service provision protests are found to occur because of the rising populace's constriction over municipalities (Haslam 2016).

RESEARCH AIM AND OBJECTIVES

This research aims at studying the pull factors in the rural-urban migration patterns impact on service delivery in African cities in the eThekweni municipality, in the KZN province, where the study objectives will be:

- To identify and explain migration patterns to enhance service delivery in eThekweni Municipality.
- To investigate the pull factors in the patterns of migration and its influence on service delivery.
- To examine to what extent rural-urban migration can be used to deal with the current service delivery state.
- To suggest and recommend strategies that should be employed to improve the current state of service delivery in the eThekweni municipality local government, related to service delivery.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The following research questions will be asked to address the above objectives:

- How can rural-urban migration be used to enhance service delivery in local government?
- How are the pull factors influencing the current rate of rural-urban migration?
- How can rural-urban migration be utilised in a manner that will benefit local economic development (LED)?
- What are the perceptions behind rural-urban migration, and can they help in understanding the phenomenon?
- What are the strategies to be used by eThekweni Municipality in improving rural-urban migration that affect service delivery?
- What will the study recommend towards improving current rural-urban migration strategies to enhance service delivery in eThekweni Municipality?

RURAL-URBAN MIGRATION GLOBAL PATTERNS AND THEIR IMPACT ON SERVICE DELIVERY IN URBAN AREAS

Evidence exists that people migrate with economic intentions in mind, such as the pursuit of a job opportunity or entrepreneurial opportunities available in urban spaces (Carson, Carson & Eimermann 2018). Hence, the costs associated with migrating place a monetary value on the process of relocating (Huang, Dijst & Van Weesep 2017). Government ought to focus all development efforts on rural economies to strike a balance between rural-urban and service delivery demands (Bryan & Morten 2019; Rhoads 2018). Most governments focus on developing urban economies, turning them into economic hubs but research shows this slows down economic growth (Morten & Oliveira 2016; Yang &

Dunford 2018). Development of rural areas reduces overcrowding of urban areas (Fafchamps & Shilpi 2013).

THE STATE OF RURAL-URBAN MIGRATION AND ITS IMPACT ON SERVICE DELIVERY IN SA

The increase of rural-urban migration brings challenges to the government, with most municipalities lacking clean water and electricity, which causes delays in service delivery to the community in SA (Weiberg et al. 2019). There is a need to develop rural areas to help municipalities build and create job opportunities in rural areas to provide the municipality responsible in that area an opportunity to render services and curb rural-urban migration (Weimann & Oni 2019). Rural-urban migration is responsible for the increase in informal settlements in urban areas, with these settlements having long been an issue requiring government attention to ensure the safety of the community (Prior & Eriksen 2013).

ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION OF RURAL-URBAN MIGRATION IN KZN

The economic impact of rural-urban migration is a phenomenon that needs to be explored in its entirety due to its significance in productivity and growth in the entire economic spectrum in KZN (Tanrikulu 2021; Day, Cornell & Malherbe 2021). This includes positive aspects in terms of entrepreneurial migrants from rural areas who bring business to urban areas that contributes to LED and creates jobs within eThekweni Municipality (Henderson & Kriticos 2018; Lekhanya 2018).

The need for structural transformation is obvious in urban areas because rural-urban migration provides the necessary labour in all sectors including agriculture (Henderson, Nigmatulina & Kriticos 2019; Ngcamu 2019). Within eThekweni municipality, educated migrants are prominent in creating job competition and other urban migrants are entrepreneurs (Henderson & Kriticos 2018; Breakfast, Nomarwayi & Bradshaw 2020). The rural municipalities are short-changed in the process because they find it difficult to sustain development in rural areas with limited labour (Henderson & Turner 2020; Masuku & Jili 2019).

INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE ON RURAL-URBAN MIGRATION

The urban population upsurge is a global factor that is becoming a burden on local government and municipalities with restricted resources (Cheng, Jia & Meng 2022). For example, in SA, the increase of migrant settlements among the poor and African people with a marginal income, living in shanty towns distant from jobs and public service stations (Eckert, Turner & Sallah 2019).

The World Bank (2013) raised ecological concerns regarding urbanisation, which exposes the timeless unsustainability of these settlements in SA (Dame et al. 2019; Munshi & Rosenzweig 2016). Nevertheless, to avoid wasteful competition amongst South African cities, partnerships with civil societies are necessary (Chen, J & Wang 2019). However, the increase in metropolitan land ownership includes former farming land, tribal land, and other urban zones, which increased the population under municipal authority as a result of rural-urban migration (Najera et al. 2019).

PULL FACTORS INFLUENCING RURAL-URBAN MIGRATION IN KWAZULU-NATAL WATER SUPPLY AS A PULL FACTOR

Rural migrants are attracted by better water supply in urban areas (Biljohn & Lues 2019). Civil society institutions are often seen as mediators between the community and the government (Khambule, Nomdo & Siswana 2019), which is why government has a key role to play in the realisation of the rural-urban migration impact on service delivery (Msenge & Nzewi 2021). However, there is less focus on the effects rural-urban migration has on the service delivery legislative framework, including the country's constitution (Klug 2010). In addition, the canopy of informal settlements places more demand on the water supply in the urban areas (Mamokhere 2020).

ELECTRICITY SUPPLY AS A PULL FACTOR

Developing economies face a major challenge of rapid urbanisation caused by high volumes of rural-urban migrants (Iderawumi & Abiodun 2019). In SA, the rural electrification programme has not progressed significantly to be able to curb rural-urban migration (Nathaniel et al. 2019). Hence, there is little to no electricity supply in rural areas and this motivates migrants to look for better places in urban areas (Détang-Dessendre et al. 2016). Although high population numbers may be good for the economy, there is also an increase in electricity demand that increases the odds of loadshedding (Liu et al. 2021). Loadshedding is created by the breakdowns in power stations due to the demand created by the growing population in urban areas, in addition to cable thefts, which affect generation capacity (Bairoliya & Miller 2020).

CRIME AND POLICING AS A PULL FACTOR

The investigation of the relationship between rural-urban migration and increasing crime rates in urban areas has gained traction around the world (Kollamparambil 2020). The rural migrant population in urban areas is shown to be made up of youths, often with skills and qualifications, who migrate with the aim of gaining better opportunities in urban areas (Singh 2019). Thus, rural-urban migration increases the crime statistics in urban areas. This increase is

coupled with little to no law enforcement response (Anderson & Silva 2020), while there is better response from law enforcement in urban than in rural areas (Lagakos 2020).

SCHOOLING AND EDUCATION AS A PULL FACTOR

Rural-urban migrants are mostly motivated by education and schooling pulling migrants from rural areas to urban areas (Yu et al. 2019). Hence, the urbanisation is 33.6 percent driven by rapid population, with rural-urban migration at 55.3 percent in the year 2020, which was expected to grow fast over the years, with rural migrants choosing urban schools over rural schools (Ratha et al. 2019). Thus, there is more overcrowding in urban than in rural area schools (Bakker, Parsons & Rauch 2020). Furthermore, there is an alarming prediction of 68 percent growth in the year 2050 (Boluk, Cavaliere & Higgins-Desbiolles 2019). Nonetheless, although migrant numbers for the period 2000-2010 increased around the world, it is important to note education has always been part of rural-urban migration patterns and a major element of urban new populations (Zanker & Moyo 2020).

ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION PULL FACTOR

Rapid urbanisation in developing economies in the 21st century is characterised by rural-urban migration, which increases the need for urban planning (Jedwab & Storeygard 2022; Williams et al. 2019) to cope with the overcrowding in urban areas. As a result of natural increases and rural-urban migration, there is increased demand for proper infrastructure, in terms of the development of roads (Alarima 2018; Nikuze et al. 2019).

GOVERNMENT GRANTS AS A PULL FACTOR

Most migrants living in informal settlements do not practice family planning. Hence, they bear many children and survive on government grants. The apparent effects of rural-urban migrants on grants have been evident through the increasing demand for grants in urban areas (Sun 2018). This increased demand over the years has slowed down the service pace, Queues are longer and staff members working with grants are subjected to fatigue (Geyer, Ngidi & Mans 2018).

Although uncontrolled child-bearing increases population and the grants budget, it boosts business from an entrepreneurial perspective, because some individuals re-invest their grant money into small businesses (Gollin, Lagakos, & Waugh 2014). However, the increased demand in urban areas escalates the number of cash-in-transit vehicles, which heightens the risk of heists of the vehicles in urban areas (Seekings 2020). In addition, cash in-transit heists and the robbery of post offices in urban areas have also intensified, due to more

cash in circulation, because of the social distress grants distributed from postal offices (Parnell & Robinson 2012; Zikhali 2021).

JOB OPPORTUNITIES AS A PULL FACTOR

The rural-urban migration trend has both a negative and a positive impact on unemployment in urban areas (Patel 2016). On the negative side, it creates fierce competition in urban areas for jobs (Agergaard & Broegger 2016; Zizzamia 2020). On the positive side, the influx of rural migrants in urban areas creates a bigger labour pool, with some rural area migrants educated and skilled, which helps the urban economy (Anderson & Silva 2020). Another detrimental result of the urban overpopulation is that some migrants tend to commit crime in urban areas due to lack of economic opportunities (Mueller, Gray & Hopping 2020). Likewise, lack of opportunities increases homelessness, fuels the scourge of drug abuse and other types of crime such as street muggings; these situations increase crime in urban areas (Gwanshak, Yusoff & Shafie 2021).

HOUSING PROVISION AS A PULL FACTOR

Receivers of government-subsidised houses are taken from the human settlement lists (Phiri 2020). While possession of a new formal house is an enhancement in living conditions (Igarashi 2019), the housing backlog in urban areas is severe, and the government is struggling to meet community needs (Olojede, Agbola & Samuel 2019). Most migrants live in informal settlements, because the government is unable to meet migrant housing and service needs (Osunsanmi et al. 2018). With the government's image painted negatively, disgruntled community members go as far as starting strikes in their impatience for feedback of their needs being met (Mamokhere 2019). While there are procedures to be followed for rendering service to the community, as well as record-keeping, and feedback to communities and stakeholders (Maluleke, Dlamini & Rakololo 2019), proper housing promotes access to economic opportunities for rural-urban migrants (Marutlulle 2019).

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research design is a framework that needs to be adhered to when conducting research, since it provides the researcher with relevant procedures needed in attaining information to solve challenges (Muzari, Shava & Shonhiwa 2022). A quantitative technique was employed for this investigation with the use of a closed-ended questionnaire, developed from the literature reviewed, in line with the study objectives. This method was useful in assisting the researcher to obtain relevant information regarding the research topic and using the information with the intention of solving problems (Creswell 2014).

Primary data were collected from Silver City informal settlement residents; the settlement is located in the eThekweni City Municipal area. The questionnaire was distributed to 350 participants, with data collected from the responses analysed with SPSS version 28.0.

TARGET POPULATION

The term population means all members that meet a set of specifications or a specified criterion. A single member of any given population is an element. When only some elements are selected from a population, they are referred to as a sample (Patel & Patel 2019). Therefore, this research made use of a sample population from one of the eThekweni Municipality areas, named Silver City informal settlement. This area was developed not more than five years ago, through an accumulation of numerous shacks and is located under Umlazi Township (Langdon 2022). The reason for choosing this area is the sudden movement of people from poor areas within SA and abroad (Hove & Dube 2022).

RESEARCH FINDINGS

Factor analysis is a statistical technique whose main goal is data reduction (Steenkamp & Maydeu-Olivares 2023). In a number of hypothetical factors, research can use the factors analysis to represent and test different variables (Bivand 2022). Thus, the factor analysis is used to check whether a variable is significant or determine whether two variables can be combined into one and can be useful in checking reliability and validity of different variables in the measurement instrument it is important to note that a factor analysis is applicable in a number of situations (Saunders et al. 2012).

Factors that exist requires a factor analysis in order to interpret and give names to different variables and be reflected as real things. Therefore, the Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) and Bartlett's test requirement is that the KMO Measure of Sampling Adequacy should be > 0.50 and Bartlett's Test of Sphericity < 0.05 (McNeish and Wolf 2023: 61). These tests are important for a successful factor analysis. It is also important to note a factor analysis can only be performed on a Likert scaled questionnaire, where some components are divided into finer components. The rotated component matrix will elaborate on this, with a KMO and Bartlett's test was conducted as the following;

The reliability test was performed on all statements in the questionnaire. The questionnaire was designed and divided into research themes based on the research aims. Table 1 below indicates the reliability scores for all sections exceeded the recommended Cronbach's alpha value for a newly constructed construct. This indicates a degree of acceptable, consistent scoring for all these sections of the research.

Therefore, this section is based on the results and findings using the information obtained from the questionnaire. As mentioned in the methodology

section, the questionnaire was distributed to 350 participants, with data collected from the responses analysed with SPSS version 28.0.

The results were presented in the form of descriptive statistics using a table, illustrative of the quantitative data collected. Inferential techniques include the use of correlations and Chi-square test values, interpreted using p-values. The literature review was used as the grounds for the rural-urban migration to enhance service delivery. The following Table will be indicating all tests conducted for significance and acceptability.

Table 1

variables	Frequencies	KMO	Factor analysis	Cronbach alpha test
Illegal water connection	258(74%)	<0.001	0.691	0.964
More electricity demand	275(78%)	<0.001	0.685	0.953
Crime increases	300(86%)	<0.001	0.902	0.974
Student population	270(77%)	<0.001	0.690	0.963
Rural drivers working in the city	230(66%)	<0.001	0.771	0.962
Job Market	290(83%)	<0.001	0.881	0.975
Rural Migrants start business in the city	279(79%)	<0.001	0.823	0.975
Migrants attracted by access to social grants	279(79%)	<0.001	0.774	0.958
Access to urban housing	271(77%)	<0.001	0.704	0.958

DISCUSSION BASED ON THE TABLE ABOVE

WATER; Frequency test reflects 258 (74%) of respondents that agree with the statement on whether more illegal water connections are in the urban areas due to rural-urban migration. With KMO Bartlett's Test at (<0.001), factor analysis at (0.691) and reliability score Cronbach alpha test at (0.964) all tests conducted showed significance and acceptability. to support this, a Chi-square

test was conducted results were (X^2 629.491; $df= 8$; $P<0.001$), which is highly significant. Thus, the study suggests a strong connection between rural-urban migration and illegal water connection. The Illegal water connections in urban areas create more demand for water not accounted for in urban area municipalities (Nyambe, Agestika & Yamauchi 2020). Therefore, the burden of paying for water services is only with urban dwellers that are legally connected (Adeyeye, Gibberd & Chakwizira 2020).

MORE ELECTRICITY; Frequency reflects 275(78%) of respondents agreed with the statement on whether Rural-urban migration leads to more migrants demanding more electricity, which results in loadshedding. with KMO Bartlett's Test at (<0.001), factor analysis (0.685) and Cronbach alpha at (0.953) all test conducted showed significance and acceptability. To support this, a Chi-square test showed (X^2 555.492; $df= 8$; $P=<0.001$), which is highly significant. Therefore, the study suggests a strong connection between rural-urban migration and migrants demanding more electricity, which then leads to loadshedding. The South African government is dealing with power cuts, using loadshedding to try and alleviate the demand for more electricity in urban areas (Reuters 2023).

CRIME: Frequences reflects 300(86%) of respondents agree with the statement on whether Rural-urban migration leads to an increase in crime in urban areas. with KMO Bartlett's Test at (<0.001) factor analysis at (0.902) with Cronbach alpha at (0.974) tests conducted showed significance and acceptability. To support this, a Chi-square test was conducted the results showed (X^2 344.949; $df= 8$; $P<0.001$), which is highly significant. Moreover, the study suggests a connection between the flow of rural-urban migrants and crime in urban areas, to an extent. Unemployed rural-urban migrants are the most likely to commit crime in urban areas (Lagakos 2020). Hence, crimes mostly happen in urban areas and urban prisons are always full to capacity (Cui & To 2021).

STUDENT POPULATION; Frequency reflects 270(77%) respondents Agree with the statement on whether there is an increase in the student population due to rural-urban migration. With KMO Bartlett's Test at (<0.001), factor analysis at (0.690), and Cronbach alpha test (0.963). all tests conducted showed significance and acceptability. In support, a Chi-square test was conducted the results showed (X^2 479.447; $df= 8$; $P<0,001$), which is highly significant. Thus, the empirical study suggests a high number of students in urban areas are rural-urban migrants. This concurs with Guo, Huang & Zhang (2019), who found a number of rural-urban migrants that migrate from rural areas in search of a better life, which they seek by enrolling in a number of universities in urban areas. This increases the number of young migrants with qualifications in urban areas and while some are absorbed by the labour markets, others are not, due to fierce job competition and lack of opportunities (Biswas et al. 2019).

DRIVERS: Frequences reflects 230(66%) of respondents that agree with the statement on whether migrants that work as drivers often work on long

distance routes that connect small towns and big cities. With KMO Bartlett's Test at (<0.001), factor analysis at (0.771), and Cronbach alpha test at (0.962), all test conducted showed significance and acceptability. This was supported by a Chi-square test, which showed (X^2 428.949; $df= 8$; $P<0.001$), suggesting 40 percent migrants work in the transport sector. Hence, migrants that work as drivers often work on long distance routes that connect small towns and big cities (Viljoen et al. 2021). There is a need to grow rural economies to reduce rural poverty (Ramaano 2022)

JOB MARKET; Frequency reflects 290(83) of respondents that agree with the statement on whether the influx of rural-urban migrants creates more competition in the job market in urban areas. With KMO Bartlett's Test at (<0.001), factor analysis at (0.881) Cronbach alpha test at (0.975). To support this, a Chi-square test was conducted with results showing (X^2 287.884; $df= 8$; $P<0.001$), which is highly significant. Thus, the study suggests a connection between working migrants and more competition for jobs in urban areas. Rural-urban migrants migrate to urban areas pulled or attracted by the economic opportunities such as jobs and education in the urban areas, which then creates competition for better jobs in urban areas (Addaney & Cobbinah 2019).

RURAL MIGRANTS START BUSINESS IN THE CITY; Frequency reflects 279(79%) respondents that agree with the statement on whether There are entrepreneurs that come from rural areas to urban areas to start businesses and create jobs. With KMO Bartlett's Test at (<0.001), Factor analysis at (0.823) and Cronbach alpha at (0.975) all test conducted showed significant and acceptability. To support this, a Chi-square test was conducted with results showing (X^2 272.988; $df= 8$; $P<0.001$), which is highly significant. Therefore, The study suggests a strong connection between rural migrant entrepreneurs and job creation in urban areas. Some rural-urban migrants create employment in urban areas by starting business and hiring migrants in cities to work for them (Beresford 2020).

MIGRANTS ATTRACTED BY ACCESS TO SOCIAL GRANTS; Frequency reflects 279(79%) respondents agree with the statement on whether There is more demand for social grants in urban areas because of rural-urban migration. with KMO Bartlett's Test AT (<0.001), FACTOR Analysis at (0.774), and Cronbach alpha test at (0.958) all test conducted showed significance and reliability. To support this, a Chi-square test was conducted with results showing (X^2 575.115; $df= 8$; $P<0.001$), which is highly significant. Thus, The study suggests a strong connection between rural-urban migration and demand for grants in urban areas, as people migrate from rural to urban areas and end up staying there permanently (Winchester, King & Rishworth 2021). Hence, there are more migrants receiving grants in urban areas than in rural areas; this is because everyone wishes to live in the city, with migrants living there already, which only doubles the numbers (Visagie & Turok 2021).

ACCESS TO URBAN HOUSING; Frequency reflects 271(77%) respondents that agree with the statement on whether There is more demand for housing in urban areas because of rural-urban migration. With KMO Bartlett's Test at

(<0.001), Factor analysis at (0.704), and Cronbach alpha test at (0.958) all test conducted showed significance and acceptability. To support this, a Chi-square test was conducted with results showing (χ^2 612.945; df= 8; $P < 0.001$), which is highly significant. Therefore, the study suggests a strong relationship between rural-urban migration and the demand for housing. Rural-urban migrants end up demanding housing in urban areas, which then affects the government housing allocation programme (Walker & Mathebula 2020). Moreover, the housing backlogs continue to be a problem in urban areas, with a number of migrants waiting for housing, while there is a constant flow of new rural migrants joining lists for housing allocation in urban areas (Bodo 2019).

LIMITATIONS

The study did not include all townships in the KZN province, with only one township covered in the survey with special focus to silver city informal settlement. It is, therefore, not appropriate to generalise the findings to other townships in the province and municipalities. Since the study is exploratory, quantitative in nature and makes use of a small sample, generalization of the results should be done with care and further research, with a large sample, is encouraged.

IMPLICATIONS

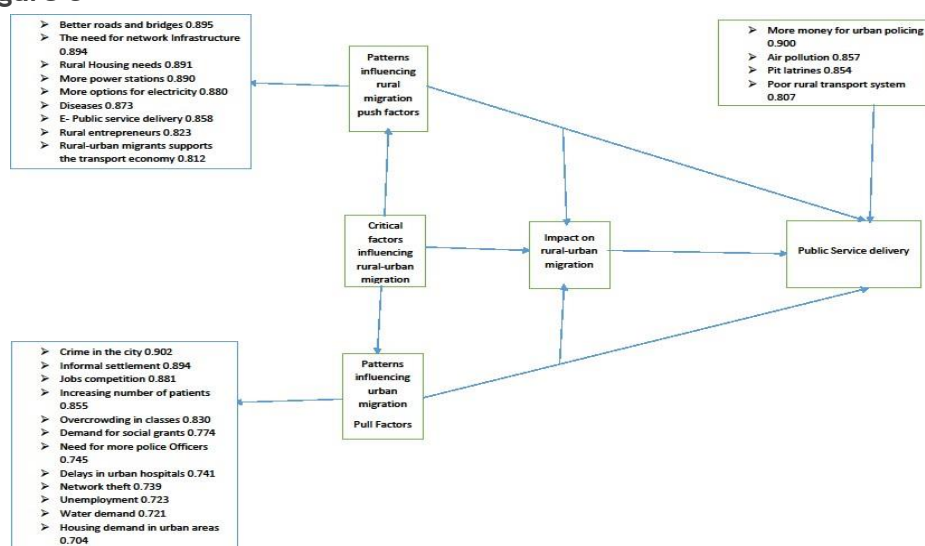
The outcomes include implications for rural-urban migration on service delivery in the eThekweni Municipality's Silver City informal settlement.

THEORETICAL IMPLICATIONS

The primary focus was to contribute to the body of knowledge by proposing an integrated model consisting of the critical factors affecting rural-urban migration, with specific reference to South African municipalities. This also accounts for the international perspective on rural-urban migration, as documented in the literature and through the empirical findings; rural-urban migration leads to overcrowding in cities.

The conceptual framework developed (figure 3) depicts different theories of migration as the foundation in understanding the phenomenon, together with indirect and direct impact of migration patterns in service delivery. It is important to note variables that have a critical effect impact both rural and urban areas. There is thus a need for a greater understanding of rural-urban migration to enhance urban service delivery and economic growth. The development of a new conceptual framework indicates the need for urban planning and adoption of new theories developed from the study to enhance service delivery.

Figure 3



Implications for rural to urban migration and service delivery Practice

Rural-urban migration is able to either make or break the South African local government economy, which can only enhance and create more jobs in cities, with rural-urban entrepreneurs starting businesses in cities, creating more jobs. The study saw the need the analyse elements of service delivery, such as housing, education, instruction and job creation, against rural-urban migration; thus, reflecting the need for training in the public sector. Local government officials specifically require an understanding of the need and agency for urban planning.

The study suggests more money needs to be set aside do deal with crime in urban areas, as it is suggested rural-urban migrants end up demanding housing in cities such as eThekweni municipality. The study found overcrowding in schools and the demand for more water and electricity, hence, there is loadshedding and the study suggests there is a need for more options in electricity supply, meaning energy diversification in order to enhance service delivery. There is a need for development of economic hubs in cities to enhance economic activities.

CONCLUSIONS ON VARIABLES MATCHED WITH THEORIES

This section explores relevant theories relating to rural-urban migration to enhance service delivery. These theories are also integrated with the empirical findings.

The study focus is on reasons motivating people to move, as well as costs from rural-urban migration (Bryan & Morten 2019), which affect urban planning in municipalities in cities when accommodation for the additional population has to be provided (Wise et al. 2019). This then leads to service delivery backlogs, coupled with violent protests (Munshi & Rosenzweig 2016). We also examined corruption by the municipality in terms of accommodation being sold to unqualifying migrants, instead of providing this to qualifying migrants, which results in violence and strikes (Monras 2019). Hence, the empirical findings found 79 percent respondents agreed with the statement whether there is a need to access social grants.

It is important to understand that challenges accompanying rural-urban migration affect individuals and communities (Monras 2020). Hence, proper plans must be in place in municipalities to deal with urban planning and avoid the problems that come with poor urban plans, such as, overcrowding and unemployment (Tombe & Zhu 2019). The study found 66 percent agreed they migrated due to working in transport. Noteworthy, is acknowledgement by the international community of the significant occurrence where the rural populace is comparable to that of the urban populace (Greenwood-Ericksen & Kocher 2019). This shows a change in the environmental, social, cultural, and economic spheres of internal migration, in terms of rural-urban migration, as well as urban-rural migration but largely, rural-rural and urban-urban migration (Bakker et al. 2020). The study suggests 77 percent respondents disagreed having migrated to gain access housing.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The study recommends urban planning to harness the good aspects of rural-urban migration, providing key pointers for sustainable growth in local government, as well as curbing the high urban crime rate, unemployment, delays in hospitals, and the importance of creating a conducive environment for rural entrepreneurs to start businesses in cities for economic growth. There is also a need for more power stations in terms of energy generation and the adoption of other energy options such as solar, wind and hydro power. A high demand exists for housing in urban areas as a result of rural-urban migration patterns, as well as more demand for social grants, while overcrowding in classes happens in urban areas as a result of rural-urban migration, with rural areas suffering directly and indirectly as a result of rural-urban migration. There is thus a need for the development of policies and control mechanisms to manage rural-migration patterns.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

This study was aimed at establishing critical pull factors in the rural to urban migration patterns as a tool for sustainable development and service

delivery in the townships of the KZN province, as well as what needs to be done to improve their contribution. Based on the findings and limitations of this study, further research could include a larger sample size and research in other townships in KZN, as well as other provinces in South Africa. An in-depth, qualitative research could also help to better understand the nature of the challenges affecting pull factors in rural to urban migration patterns as a tool for sustainable development in the townships. With the review of strategic plans for municipalities advisable to put more focus in urban planning.

COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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