

# MIGRATION IN THE RED RIVER DELTA IN VIETNAM DURING THE PROCESS OF MODERN RURAL CONSTRUCTION

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## Summary

*Migration is a socio-economic phenomenon that often occurs along with the process of social labor redistribution in each period between regions throughout the country. In the Red River Delta region in recent years, in addition to the achievements of organizing population arrangement according to planning, there has been a free flow of immigration, causing many difficulties in demographic and labor management. movement, national security and defense, creating changes in the region's social and professional structure. In the article, the author mentions the current situation of the migration process in the period 1999-2019, on that basis leading to changes in the rural labor force, changes in employment structure in rural areas. villages in the Red River Delta. Provide causes, challenges and some solutions to limit the impact of the migration process in the Red River Delta region in Vietnam in the process of building modern rural areas.*

**Keywords:** *Immigration; Red River Delta, modern countryside*

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## Content

### 1. Introduction

Like many other countries undergoing rapid socio-economic development, over the past 20 years Vietnam has witnessed an exponential increase in the flow of domestic and international migrants. More and more people realize that development and migration go hand in hand. Migration is both a driving force and a result of a country's socio-economic development. Domestic migration has contributed to socio-economic development through the movement of workers to meet labor needs in industrial parks and in foreign-invested areas at the same time. thereby contributing to the family economic development of a large number of migrant families.

In order to thoroughly understand the role of domestic migration in the socio-economic development of Vietnam in general and the Red River Delta region in particular, it is necessary to first pay attention to the legal frameworks and institutions, policy mechanisms and administrative regulations in Vietnam's internal migration issue. The Vietnamese Constitution stipulates a number of rights for migrants (and for all Vietnamese citizens) and many international human rights documents to which Vietnam has committed. It is unfortunate that the Government's policies do not pay enough attention to ensuring the rights of internal migrants in Vietnam. This is partly reflected in legal documents and policies of the Government and ministries. To date, no ministry has been assigned specific responsibility for protecting this group of citizens, which is why migrants' concerns are often not fully reflected in national policies. A specific policy that is not favorable for internal migrants and does not ensure their rights is the issue of household registration or specifically the household registration system classified according to different types of residence. of people create different requirements when they access social services.

In the Red River Delta region - Vietnam, many people who migrated domestically with the purpose of finding work in the place of migration have found well-paid jobs with a safe working environment and they said that that they are satisfied with life after migration. Evidence shows that migrants often start looking for work in their destination immediately after arriving or they apply for a job before migrating. They often work harder and keep more stable jobs than non-immigrants. However, migrants often find themselves weaker than the host population,

especially in the labor market. These people are often concentrated in certain occupations and often have less job security or have to work in low-wage jobs and often do not receive social benefits, health insurance or unemployment insurance. if they do not sign a labor contract. Compared to non-migrants, migrants have many difficulties accessing social services because of their household registration status (they are temporary residents or not). Migrants must pay for these services directly in cash without reimbursement (for example, because migrants do not have health insurance). The reality is that migrants have to rely on much more expensive private social services such as health care, which exacerbates existing inequalities and increases urban poverty. . This situation is especially acute for some particularly vulnerable migrant groups, such as migrant children, female migrants or migrant families with accompanying children because they have little or no access to official support organizations and they often do not have access to necessary social networks. Because migrants often try to save money to send home, they often reduce the costs of their basic needs, for example, they prescribe their own medicine instead of going to the doctor, and they often live in rural areas. Poor quality and unsanitary houses. The combination of these factors combined with limited access to information provided by the Government, lack of access to mass organizations and government support has increased the vulnerability of migrants. and this requires more solutions and attention.

## 2. Overview of research

Some research projects related to immigration:

- ActionAid Viet Nam and Oxfam (2009), Participatory Monitoring of Urban Poverty in Vietnam.
- Deshingkar, Priya and Grimm Sven (2009), 'Internal Migration and Development: A Global Perspective', IOM Migration Research Series No.19. Dun Olivia (2009) "Linkages between Flooding, Migration and Resettlement" Vietnam Case Study Report for Environmental Change and Forced Migration Scenarios (EACH-FOR).
- Central Population and Housing Census Steering Committee (2019), Results of the Population and Housing Census at 0:00 on April 1, 2019, Hanoi: Statistics Publishing House

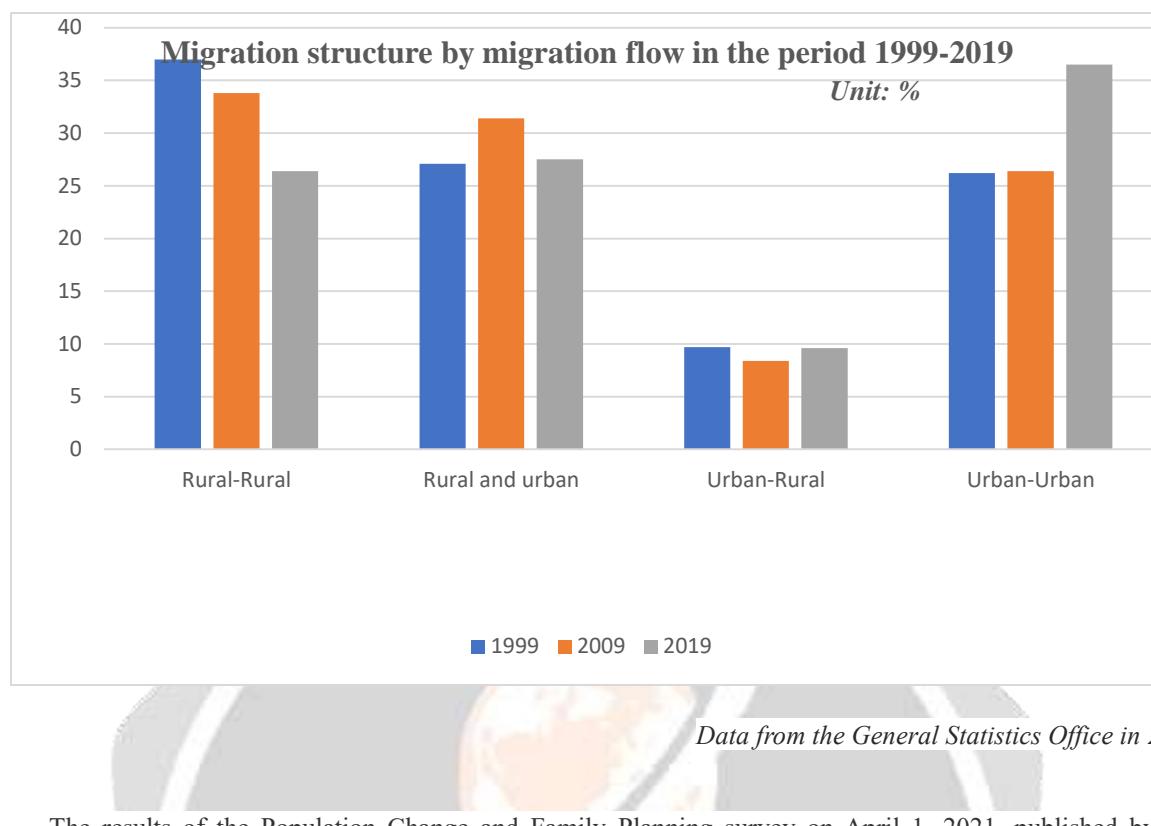
## 3. Research overview

- The article uses a system of methods: Theoretical research, interdisciplinary research, history - logic; abstract
- Secondary data: The research team collected from sources: Statistical yearbooks of the provinces in the Red River Delta region, reports on population and labor of the provinces and a number of studies related to migration problem.4. Research findings

### 4.1. Current status of the migration process in the Red River Delta region of Vietnam during the process of building modern rural areas

#### 4.1.1. Migration process in the period 1999-2019

Between 1999 and 2009, a significant increase in rural-to-urban migration flows was observed. This percentage has increased from 27.1% to 31.4%. However, between 2009 and 2019, we saw a decrease in the share of this migration flow, dropping to 27.5%. It can be seen that during this period, fluctuations in rural-urban migration flows were not large. In contrast, urban-to-rural migration maintains the lowest share in both periods, consistently below 10%. This stability has not changed much over the three censuses.



The results of the Population Change and Family Planning survey on April 1, 2021, published by the General Statistics Office, show that there are significant fluctuations in population migration in Vietnam. Male. Among the different types of migration flows, urban-to-urban migration flows account for the largest proportion, accounting for 33.8% of the total, followed by rural-to-rural migration flows at 32.5%. The migration flow from rural to urban areas reached a rate of 24.6%, while the migration flow from urban to rural areas only accounted for 9.6%.

The strong development of urban areas, along with the improvement of traffic and transportation infrastructure, has created significant changes in the movement of labor between urban areas and different regions in Vietnam. Male. In 2021, out of the country's total 6 socio-economic regions, 2 regions recorded a positive net migration rate, which are the Red River Delta and the Southeast. In 2021, among the 6 socio-economic regions, there are 2 regions with positive net migration rates: the Red River Delta and the Southeast. Due to its great attraction for jobs, the Southeast is the region with the highest number of net positive migrants in the country, more than 290.1 thousand people; The Red River Delta has a net positive number of migrants of nearly 81.0 thousand people; The Mekong Delta continues to be the leading region in the country in terms of the number of migrants, more than 214.2 thousand people. Urban areas, thanks to their attraction of jobs, development opportunities, and better living conditions, continue to attract migrants. Conversely, migration flows also have the effect of promoting urban development and expansion.

#### 4.1.2. Changes in the rural labor force in the Red River Delta region

According to the Ministry of Labor, War Invalids and Social Affairs, the Red River Delta region has the largest labor force among the six economic regions of the country, with a total number of workers of about 11.44 million people, accounting for 22.64% of the workforce nationwide. Vocational training for workers is also emphasized, especially in association with businesses and vocational education establishments. Although the region's professional and technical labor levels are the highest in any region of the country, only 15% of the rural workforce and 21.3% of female workers have been trained.

In recent years, along with the national trend, the labor force in the Red River Delta region is strongly withdrawing from the agricultural sector. Agricultural labor in the Red River Delta decreased from 4.3 million workers in 2011 to 2.4 million workers in 2020 and 1.78 million workers in 2022 (Provincial Statistics Department, 2022). The proportion of agricultural workers in the region's total labor force decreases from 37.9% in 2011 to 19.9% in 2020 and 15% in 2022 (while this ratio nationwide decreases from 48.6% to 33%, 1% and 27.5%) (General Statistics Office, 2023). Economic and labor restructuring, especially agricultural labor, is an inevitable

trend in the process of developing Vietnam's rural agriculture towards industrialization and modernization, aiming to increase production value. products and goods based on promoting the strengths of each locality, region and region. In recent years, the region's employment structure has shifted quite rapidly but is still unsustainable and the quality of labor is low. Regarding the economy, the strengths of each locality in the region in terms of human resources, natural resources and ecological characteristics, key economic regions have not been planned for synchronous development to create motivation for development. The labor market is still seriously unbalanced in terms of labor supply and demand, with many localities having a local surplus and shortage of labor, wasting the country's human resources. The region's labor transition process is not sustainable in terms of employment, income, status, working conditions and social security. In particular, agricultural and rural workers still belong to the informal sector and are exposed to many risks and vulnerabilities. Migrant workers, in particular, face many difficulties in accessing basic social services and association. integrate with the indigenous population in the process of rural-urban migration. In the provinces of the Red River Delta, vocational training for rural workers has not really made a breakthrough in both quantity and quality, and is not suitable for learners' conditions and needs. enterprise's labor demand. Therefore, there are currently many difficult and challenging issues in regulating and arranging the labor force in the Red River Delta to work, especially agricultural labor shifting in a reasonable and appropriate direction. with the current state of development and economic transformation of the region. One of the big challenges is labor productivity and workers' income.

#### **4.1.3. Changes in employment structure in rural areas of the Red River Delta**

The Red River Delta region plays an important role in Vietnam's economy, home to many large cities and diverse industrial and service activities. The specialness of this region is also reflected in the way rural workers operate in different occupations. In particular, service occupations tend to dominate, and the number of workers in professional occupations (with medium and high qualifications) is significantly higher than the national average. On the other hand, workers engaged in simple jobs in this area, although their income is still quite high, is lower than the national rate.

In particular, before the Covid-19 pandemic appeared, the proportion of workers participating in agriculture and forestry and fishery occupations in the Red River Delta was only 1.4%. This shows a significant transformation in the economic structure of this region, from a strong agricultural model to a developed form of industrialization. In the period from 2015 to 2021, we can see some main trends in this region's occupations as follows: Simple occupations have decreased sharply and continuously (down 36.5%), in as equipment-related occupations have increased significantly (from 9.7% in 2015 to 22.5% in 2021).Service occupations 2015 to 22.5% in 2021), while the assemblers and machine operators and craftsmen do not have much change and account for a stable proportion around the upper level but tend to decrease (high level decreased from 6.5% to 4.7% and lower level 20% of the total labor structure. In addition, during this period, the proportion of professional occupations at intermediate and intermediate levels decreased from 3.9% to 2.8%. Changes in the structure Such occupations demonstrate that the Red River Delta region is witnessing significant growth in the light industry and information technology sectors. This may be a result of the strong development of industrial parks. businesses due to foreign investment, especially in rural areas. This development has created great demand and attracted a large number of workers to this area. The stable rate of occupations such as clerks, services, sales and craftsmen also partly reflects the stability in economic activities related to these types of labor. Comparing data between 2020 and 2021 does not show significant changes, except for a sudden growth in the agriculture, forestry and fishery sector. This once again highlights the important role of the agriculture, forestry and fishery sector in ensuring economic stability and security amid the pandemic crisis.

**Table 2: Employment structure of workers 15 years and older in rural areas of the Red River Delta (%)**

<b>Profession</b>	<b>Year</b>						
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Leaders	0,6	0,6	0,7	0,6	0,6	0,8	0,6
High level technical expertise	6,5	3,8	3,9	4,0	5,4	5,8	4,7
Mid level technical expertise	3,9	2,9	3,3	3,2	3,1	2,9	2,8
Staff	1,5	1,4	1,4	1,7	1,6	1,6	1,9

Personal service, protection and sales	18,6	13,4	13,7	13,7	15,0	15,8	17,0
Occupation in agriculture, forestry and fishery	0,2	2,8	2,5	1,9	1,4	1,4	3,8
Craftsmen and other related tradesmen	22,5	19,7	19,7	19,8	20,7	19,2	23,6
Assemblers and operators of machinery and equipment	9,7	13,9	15,6	17,0	20,2	22,2	22,5
Simple labor	36,5	41,3	39,1	38,0	31,8	30,2	22,5
Other	0,0	0,2	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,2	0,5
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

*Source: Results of labor and employment survey 2015-2021*

During the Covid 19 pandemic, there is a trend of shifting labor and occupations from big cities to rural areas. This is the number of workers moving from the city to the countryside, mainly freelance workers, without a stable job, unstable income, without a house, high living expenses, leading to not being able to survive in the country. big cities, forced to find a way to return home.

#### **4.1.4. Causes, challenges and some solutions**

##### **\*Reason**

Firstly, overcrowded land leads to a lack of productive land, while input prices for agricultural production are high, agricultural product prices increase slowly or have a good harvest but lose value; Crop failures, natural disasters, and epidemics cause many difficulties for agricultural workers;

Second, the attraction of urban life, industrial parks, and commercial centers (working conditions, salaries, benefits, insurance are all better than in the agricultural area);

Third, socio-economic development policies favoring urban areas increase migration, creating giant cities with a series of problems.

Fourth, the difference in level and speed of socio-economic development between urban and rural areas, between regions, sub-regions, and economic zones;

Fifth, the situation of unemployed and underemployed agricultural workers is still quite common in rural areas...

##### **\*Challenges posed**

In the context of Vietnam's population reaching 100 million by 2023, migration and urbanization continue to accelerate at the same time as the growth rate of the local economy and in regions across the country. This is a driving force for development but also poses some economic and social challenges. Currently, the immigration pressure on special urban areas in Vietnam is huge, when in 2019 for every 1,000 people living in these areas, nearly 200 were immigrants, 2.7 times higher than the national level and 5.3 times that of rural areas. At the same time, the immigration pressure into class III cities is also relatively large, just behind special urban areas at 152.4 people/1,000 people, 2 times higher than class II cities. Explaining this, experts say that because many areas in class III urban areas in recent years have been invested in developing infrastructure with many industrial parks and export processing zones, they should attract a large number of migrant workers to these areas. Meanwhile, class IV and V urban areas are mainly small towns and cities, the level of socio-economic development is still limited, so the pressure on immigration is almost similar to the region countryside.

It is undeniable that migrant workers are a human resource that plays a major role in supplementing the labor source, promoting the development of diverse economic fields, industries and the overall growth of urban areas. However, rapid migration and urbanization also create great pressure on the urban infrastructure system, especially in terms of infrastructure such as housing, schools, hospitals, electricity, water, and roads. Streets, environmental sanitation and other conditions do not keep up with people's needs.

The phenomenon of urbanization is uneven across regions and regions; The urbanization rate is still low compared to the average level of countries in the region and the world, and has not met the requirements of industrialization and modernization. This is also one of the causes contributing to traffic congestion and urban environmental problems. In many large cities, dust, exhaust gas, noise, trash, waste of all kinds... from large-scale construction projects; Motorized vehicles have increased sharply, from people's activities... polluting the atmosphere, affecting people's health, and is the main factor causing environmental pollution.

Not only are there challenges in infrastructure and living environment in urban areas, but migrant workers also face difficulties in social security, education, medical care... Migrant workers are a target group. the most vulnerable,

especially migrant women. In addition to gender inequality, the issue of ensuring urban security and safety, improving the ability of migrants to access services, social security and protection in urban areas is still limited, causing the gap between rich and poor and income to increase. Poor and low-income people face many difficulties in accessing services and social security such as education and health care. Migrants to urban areas have difficulty even with housing when the average housing area per capita of migrants is lower than that of non-migrants (respectively 21.9m<sup>2</sup>/person and 25,000 square meters/person, respectively). 4m<sup>2</sup>/person). In particular, nearly half of migrants still have to rent/borrow houses to live in, mainly renting/borrowing from the private sector. Migrant children are more disadvantaged than non-migrant children in accessing education, especially at the lower and high school levels. Surveyed over many years, the proportion of migrant children aged 11-18 years attending school is always lower than the proportion of non-migrant children aged 11-18; Typically, in 2019, while up to 83.9% of non-migrant children aged 11-18 years old were currently attending school, only 55.7% of inter-provincial migrants in this age group were attending school. In addition, the negative impacts of climate change globally are also exacerbating urban challenges and directly affecting people, including vulnerable migrant groups.

#### \*Some solutions

Migration is an important and inseparable part of Vietnam's socio-economic development. By meeting most of the labor demand in industrial development and foreign investment after the implementation of Doi Moi and by sending a portion of their earnings to poorer areas of Vietnam, emigration plays an important role in Vietnam's economy and can contribute to poverty reduction. The impacts of migration are not limited to those who move. The evidence presented above shows that migration affects a significant number of households in all regions in Vietnam, with the majority of migrants believing that they have become rich thanks to migration. Therefore, migration creates direct opportunities for more widespread and equitable development through which regional differences will be reduced.

Migration in the Red River Delta region is very diverse, including people moving very long distances and people moving short distances; people who migrate alone or with their whole family; permanent migrants and those who leave and return frequently. Some migrants move to increase their income during the harvest season, others move to big cities and send money back home so their children can go to school or have people to hone their careers. by working for foreign-invested enterprises. Some people move due to the impacts of environmental change such as floods, crop failures and continuous rising tides. There is one thing in common between different forms of migration: the resourcefulness and adaptability of individuals and households when moving.

Under the impact of industrialization, modernization and international economic integration, the migration process has created a driving force for economic development for rural households; Create conditions to help rural residents start businesses and develop agricultural and people's cooperatives to help rural residents access the urbanization process, opening up opportunities to learn new knowledge and experiences for themselves. self in career development. However, the migration process will cause loss of agricultural human resources and labor shortages during the crop season; hindering the change in occupational structure and reducing the quality of labor in agriculture and increasing inequality and gaps among social classes in rural areas.

To continue to develop and improve the efficiency of the labor and employment structure in rural areas and limit spontaneous migration, it is necessary to focus on implementing the following solutions:

Facing social issues that directly impact the economy requires fundamental solutions and reasonable, adjusted policies for both the urbanization and migration processes, especially in Vietnam officially becomes a populous country with a threshold of 100 million people today.

- Strengthen the management of the number of migrants through completing policies on demographic management, temporary residence and residence declaration. Developing satellite urban areas to reduce pressure on excessive population growth in inner city areas; attract and manage the flow of immigrants into suitable occupations; At the same time, it creates advantages in human resources development for neighboring areas.

- Along with national socio-economic development, it is necessary to develop local socio-economics, focusing on underdeveloped socio-economic areas, thereby creating conditions for people to have jobs. do, improve life. Households that do not migrate are mostly poor but cannot work far away because they have elderly people and children to take care of. To help these households earn more income and take care of their relatives, local authorities need to develop more non-agricultural occupations. A typical example is the development of traditional craft villages, especially craft villages with local advantages

- Develop and implement social, welfare, and employment support policies, along with education and propaganda to raise community awareness and build a civilized urban lifestyle for migrants.

In short, solving the problem of spontaneous migration requires many synchronous solutions. It is the smooth coordination of many levels and sectors, from building legal institutions, directing and operating, coordinating implementation, evaluating policy results, adjusting policies promptly, and replicating the model. good, especially

the attention of local government committees, encouraging people, educating people not to leave their villages and homeland, abandon backward customs and habits, and migrate freely to other areas. The area has many advantages...

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