

Abstract

**Who and How to Get a Job faster?
Job Access of Migrants in Vietnam**

Liem Thanh NGUYEN

Institute of Sociology, Vietnamese Academy of Social Sciences, Vietnam

It has been well recognized that economic and job opportunities are the most important factors motivating migration in Vietnam. Nevertheless, little is known about the variations of job-related difficulties of migrants as well as the determinants of these difficulties. This paper is an attempt: 1) to describe job-related difficulties of migrants in relation to non-job-related difficulties; and 2) to identify determinants of duration to the first job since arrival of migrants.

This study uses data from the Vietnam Migration Survey 2004 which was carried out in five selected areas that are major destinations of internal migration in Vietnam. The survey focuses on migration within the context of new economic and social conditions. Although the survey cannot provide the same level of information on migration levels as is available from the 1999 Census, it provides much more detailed information on migration determinants and outcomes than the Census. Techniques of bivariate, multivariate and survival analyses are employed.

The findings showed that almost half of the migrants had to face some difficulties after their arrival. Besides poor living conditions, job and income are the major concerns of migrants.

Since obtaining a job is the reason why most migrants move and is also a major concern or difficulty of migrants after their arrival, a critical question that concerns not only most migrants but also policy makers is the length of time needed for migrants to find a job after their arrival. To answer this question, we look at the duration between their arrivals to obtaining their first job, which is measured by the number of weeks since arrival to the current place of residence (i.e. last move) till the time migrants found their first job. Those who had not gotten their jobs at the time of interview are classified as censors.

Results from this study show that most migrants (90 percent) found their first job within a month; and almost a quarter of those who moved for job-related reasons have their first job during their first week after their arrival. Results from multivariate analyses show that female migrants tend to get a job quicker than male migrants. The Job market is getting better over time as more recent migrants spend less time finding a job. Not as expected, more educated people have to spend more time looking for a job. Although the type of the place of birth (i.e. rural or urban) does not have any significant effect on duration since arrival till first job, place of residence does: it takes more time for those who go to urban areas to find a job. It is probably because migrants to rural areas are more likely to have a secured job before they move. Social network of migration also play a key role in mitigating the difficulties of migrants by reducing job hunting period.

Ironically, those who knew of employment agencies have longer duration of job searching. It is probably that only those who need good jobs that take a longer time to find are interested in, and hence heard of, employment agencies. In the worse scenario, the available employment agencies are not helpful, costly and time consuming. The use of employment agencies is also very limited. It would be timely to seriously evaluate the roles and activities of employment agencies. Discussions and policy implications are provided as the conclusion for this study.