Effects of rural-urban temporary migration in the Red River Delta, Vietnam

Nguyen Thi Thuy

URL: http://hdl.handle.net/10232/21295
Effects of rural-urban temporary migration in the Red River Delta, Vietnam
(ベトナム紅河デルタにおける出稼ぎが農村家庭に与える影響)

After the 1986 policy renovation lead to rapid economic growth in Vietnam, a great number of medium and small enterprises has been launching as a result of national industrialization which contributed more than 21% for labour rose for the country. In such area, there is a shortage in labour resource. This required a big supplement from rural area known as rural-urban temporary migration [Dekasegi]. The temporary migration has drawn the interest of both policy makers and researches in recent debates. However, most of the researches just carry out to analyze migration in general including permanent and temporary migration.

This study aimed at investigating the effects of temporary migration on migrants, agricultural production and migrant households in Red River Delta. A face-to-face direct interview method was applied to a sample 80 migrants and 200 migrant households from Hai Duong and Thai Binh provinces. We found the results as follows:

First, most migrants were males and over 40 years old with low education levels. They worked temporary jobs as daily worker, housemaid, street vendor and industrial worker in cities. Young migrants worked as industrial workers, while older migrants worked as daily labourers. Those who migrated for fewer years worked as industrial workers in cities near their hometowns. Those who migrated for many years worked as daily labourers and housemaids in cities farther their hometowns.

Second, the disadvantages of geographic conditions, natural environment and socio-economic factors are main cause of earlier and higher rate of temporary migration. Also depending on different purpose of migrant, better occupations bring better income and remittance even though, brings better finance recourse in increasing life conditions, it comes with heavier risks and difficulties in household welfare.

Third, the remittance helped to increase the amount of income of households but the share of agricultural income declined significantly. The transfer of family labour from agriculture to migrant is the main cause of the decrease in agricultural income. Young migrants had more negative effects on agricultural production than those old migrants. The longer migration was the slighter negative effects on agricultural income. Agricultural production among migrants who worked as industrial workers and housemaids decreased rapidly, whereas it decreased slightly among migrants who worked as daily labourers, street vendors, or so on. The farther the distance of migrants from their households, the greater the more negative effects on agricultural production. Agricultural income decreased dramatically among households with young migrants, industrial workers and those who had short migratory years and had the further destination. However older individuals who migrated for a longer duration and worked as daily labourers has a slightly decrease in agricultural income.

Fourth, the study found that it is easy to realize positive effects on household livelihood such as income, expenditure and investment. For migrants, it seems to be an opportunity for employment with higher salary and working skills. However, negative effects should be concerned in terms of low job security such as lack of health and employment insurance, difficulties and risks in family and society during and after migration.