

## **Extended Abstract**

### **1.0 Introduction**

There are two major components of population growth, namely, natural increase and migration. Natural increase is the difference between births and deaths. Migration is defined as the movement of persons that leads to a permanent change in place of usual residence. This definition entails that such movements as shopping and commuting that do not involve change of usual place of residence are not considered as migration. Movements across internal administrative boundaries are called internal migration while movements across national boundaries are referred to as international migration. Both types of migration have been substantial in Malawi as such they have generated some interesting research discussions (). However, no study has examined recent trends in internal migration patterns. Most of the available studies have used data obtained from the 1996 and 1977 population censuses (). To address this anomaly, this paper examines the nature and patterns of internal migration in Malawi.

The study of internal migration in Malawi is important for a couple of reasons. First, migration can either depopulate or overpopulate an area depending upon the level of economic activities. In addition, migration is an important process of urbanization. Second, knowledge of nature and patterns of migration is necessary before one prepares national and sub national population projections. Third, migration is a process of cultural evolution and social change. Migrants bring new ideas, skills and host of cultural practices related to food, dance, music and other life styles as well. Sometimes, migrants are easily absorbed in the host culture, but in several times they are thought to be a source of conflict, and the cultural differences are exploited to increase the tension between the migrant and host communities. However, the conflict between the migrant and host communities is rooted in the competition for jobs between these two groups of people.

Unfortunately, despite the importance of internal migration no reliable data on the number and characteristics of in-migrants and out-migrants exist in the country. In the absence of reliable registration of births, deaths and migration in the country, population censuses and surveys remain the only sources that provide data for the study of migration. In this paper, the 1996, 1977, 1987, 1998 and 2008 Malawi population census data are used to study the magnitude and pattern of net internal migration in the country.

**Data Sources and methods**

Population censuses are the main source of data for a comprehensive study of human migration across administrative boundaries in Malawi. As such, this study is based on data obtained from the published reports of the 1966, 1977, 1987, 1998 and 2008 Malawi Population Censuses (Malawi Government, 1969, 1980, 1994, 1998). Use will be made of the reported total populations for Malawi, Regions and Districts. It should be noted, though, that population censuses may not be the most appropriate source of migration data, depending on the migration issue being investigated.

**Method of estimating net migration**

The basic formulae for estimating net-migration is given by

$$M_{x+t} = {}_n P_x^t - {}_n S_x \cdot {}_n P_x^0 \dots\dots\dots (3)$$

Where x is the age or age group, t is the interval between censuses,  $P_x^0$  is the population aged x at the first census and  $P_x^t$  is the population aged x+t at the second census and  ${}_n S_x$  is the survival ratio.

Estimates of migration among children born during the intercensal period (aged 0-10 years) can be approximated by assuming that young children migrate with their mothers. Using Child Women Ratios and net migrant women Shryock and Siegel (1976) suggested that net migration of children can be estimated as follows:

$${}_5 M_{i,0} = (1/4) \cdot CWR_{0-4} \cdot {}_{30} M_{i,15}^f \dots\dots\dots (4)$$

where  ${}_5 M_{i,0}$  is the net migration for the population aged between 0 and 5,  $CWR_{0-4}$  is the child woman ratio calculated based on children aged 0-4 and women aged 15-49 and  ${}_{30} M_{i,15}^f$  is the net migration for women aged 15-49.

$${}_5M_{i,5} = (3/4) \cdot CWR_{5-9} \cdot {}_{30}M_{i,20}^f \dots\dots\dots(5)$$

where  ${}_5M_{i,5}$  is the net migration for the population aged between 5 and 10,  $CWR_{5-9}$  is the child woman ratio calculated based on children aged 5-9 and women aged 20-54 and  ${}_{30}M_{i,20}^f$  is the net migration for women aged 20-54.  ${}_5M_{i,5}$  and  ${}_5M_{i,5}$  we split into male and female components as follows

$${}_5M_{i,5}^f = {}_5M_{i,5} \times \text{proportion female}$$

$${}_5M_{i,5}^m = {}_5M_{i,5} \times \text{proportion male}$$

## Results

The results indicate that during both 1966-77 and 1977-87 inter-censal intervals, the Northern and Southern Regions had net out-migration whereas Central Region had net in-migration. The situation has changed in 1987-98 inter-censal period in that the Southern Region shows net out-migration whereas both Northern and Central Regions show net in-migration. The same pattern is observed during the 1998-2008 intercensal period. Three issues are worth emphasizing. First, during the period under review the Central Region has been a net-in-migration area. Second, Northern Region has moved from being a net out-migration area to a net in-migration area. Third, Southern Region has remained a net out-migration region.

Generally speaking, this pattern is expected given the nature of social and economic development in the country. Historically, the establishment of agricultural estates and light industries in the Southern Region especially the Shire Highlands area and the colonial administration in Zomba combined with the early education by the Scottish missionaries, resulted into large influx of people from the other regions into the Southern Region. With the introduction of African Tobacco in the Central Region in the 1920s, the in-flow of people into the Southern Region was slightly abated. A major swing in the pattern of population movement in Malawi occurred after independence following the setting up of Lilongwe as the seat of the government and development of large-scale tobacco estates in the Central Region.

With the advent of multiparty politics in 1994, there has been some major

developments taking place in the Northern Region in general and City of Mzuzu in particular. These include the establishment of Mzuzu Auction floors, University of Mzuzu and the building of a referral hospital, just to mention a few. The relative attractiveness of the Northern Region can in part be attributed to these development projects. It can be argued that projects like these have not only attracted a number of people from the other regions especially from the Southern Region to go and work in Northern Region but also prevented people from leaving the region. It is further expected that as these projects “matures” more and more people will migrate to this region thereby giving rise to a more evenly spread population.

## **Conclusion**

In this study, pattern and extent of migration by regions and district in Malawi are studied using the data from the available population censuses.

## **References**

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