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NGUYEN THI HAI : INCOME DIFFERENTIALS AMONG DIFFERENT TYPES OF MIGRANTS AND NON-MIGRANTS IN HO CHI MINH CITY, VIETNAM. THESIS ADVISOR: PIMONPAN ISARABHAKDI Ph.D, KUSOL SOONTHORNDHADA, Ph.D, 84 p. ISBN-974-661-487-8

This study examines the effects of factors including migration status, qualifications, sector of occupation, age, sex, work status and working hours per week on income differentials among different types of migrants and non-migrants. Data used for the analysis are from the 1996 survey of spontaneous migration in Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam) with a sample of 1,800 respondents including 500 non-migrants and 1,300 migrants. Of the respondents, 1245 were economically active. The data about the economically active individuals were analysed in the study. Analysis of Variance (ANOVA), Multiple Classification Analysis (MCA) and Multiple Regression techniques were used to analyse data. Before estimating regression, ANOVA and MCA models, income was transformed into log-income to create a normal distribution since income data had a skewed distribution.

The results confirm findings from previous studies and are consistent with some parts of the theories of adaptation, human capital and labour market segmentation. Results of the study revealed that qualifications, sex, sector of occupation, work status and migration status, specifically short term spontaneous migrant status were statistically related to income levels after controlling for all other variables. However, when work status was not controlled, short term spontaneous migrants were not statistically significantly different from non-migrants in their income. Therefore work status was found to be an important factor in determining income. Employment levels of short term spontaneous migrants are higher than non-migrants and therefore influence the effect of migration status on income. The study found that short term spontaneous migrants received lower income than non-migrants; those who were skilled had higher income than those who were unskilled; females obtained less income than males and those working in the informal sector had lower income compared to those working in the formal sector.

Based on the results of the study, the following recommendations are made:

i) policies to restrict migration should be reconsidered so as to ensure that migrants have the same rights as non-migrants in order to alleviate poverty and improve quality of life of migrants and in particular for short term spontaneous migrants, ii) education programmes, especially vocational training, should be promoted iii) and plan for receiving migrants should be made in combination with rural development programmes to encourage unsuccessful migrants to return to their home.