

THE EFFECT OF INITIAL MIGRATION ON SUBSEQUENT MIGRATION:
EVIDENCE FROM KANCHANABURI DEMOGRAPHIC SURVEILLANCE
SYSTEM, THAILAND

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ABSTRACT

Many of the compelling results from recent migration literature highlight the role of social networks in migration, especially the effect of previous migration on subsequent migration. It is also well-known from previous research that the more accumulated migration experience there is within a family and a community, the more migration is encouraged. Social network theory posits that an initial migration increases the possibility of subsequent migration by other family members. Cumulative causation theory argues that causes of migration are cumulative in that each act of migration alters the social context within which subsequent migration decisions are taken. The objective of this research is to study the effect of initial migration on subsequent migration behaviour. The research is informed by social network and cumulative causation theories and was tested in the context of Kanchanaburi Demographic Surveillance System (KDSS) in Thailand.

In this study, 3,767 persons were identified as initial migrants and 1,206 persons were found to be subsequent migrants. Among the subsequent migrants, 32 percent followed the initial migrants to the same provinces. Of these, less than half of the subsequent migrants made a move less than one year after the initial migration from the family.

Multivariate analysis indicated that the factors most likely to predict a subsequent move through initial migration consisted of the number of male and female initial migrants, duration of initial migration, and relationship to the initial migrant. Results showed that the individual and household characteristics were important as well. The number of migrants in the village was also an important predictor for subsequent migration. It was also found that the initial migration had a significant effect on a subsequent move to the same destination as the initial migrant. As for the duration, no initial migration variables showed a significant association with the time period elapsed between initial and subsequent migration.

Generally, it can be concluded that the effect of an initial migration on a subsequent migration of a family member who is left behind can be viewed as a mutual interplay of individual, household, and community characteristics.

KEY WORDS: INTERNAL MIGRATION/ INITIAL MIGRATION/ SUBSEQUENT
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