Population Mobility and Dynamics of Street Vendors in Dar es Salaam and Coast Regions of Tanzania

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Abstract:-Population mobility, particularly among street vendors, is experienced in all urban centres world over. Some of the movements include those from city centres outwards to the *periurban* and the adjacent rural areas. The reverse human movements are sometimes also vastly experienced but they are not a focus of this paper.

In the quest for knowledge about *population migration* and *population mobility* of street vendors from other regions of Tanzania to Dar es Salaam and Coast regions necessitated for an analysis to be done on the *sources* of migrations, i.e. regions from which they originated, through which they settled for the first time, call it *transitional regions*; to the permanent settlement areas, i.e. *destination*. The analysis was done by levels of education and types of business they engaged in.

A survey was conducted in Dar es Salaam and the Coast regions among 100 street vendors in 10 centres located along the Morogoro road; whereby 10 respondents were interviewed at each centre. Data were processed using the Statistical Package for Social Scientists (SPSS) deploying descriptive statistics.

The paper, therefore, seeks to identify the existing *patterns of population mobility*; and based on the characteristics of the migrants, who are street vendors, uncover the existing relationship between human *population mobility* and the *pace of urbanization*.

The main findings of the study indicated that mobility of street vendors was highly influenced by presence of business opportunities which enhanced urban growth denoted by emergence of *urbanism*. The mobility demonstrated a three stage process, i.e. moving away from the *source*, living in *transitional* centre (regional town) prior to moving to Dar es Salaam and Coast Region, i.e. *destination*. Dar es Salaam had the highest levels of street vendors' *internal mobility* with dominance of *intraurbanmobility*. Men and women aged 30 years and above constituted the majority of the street vendors migrants in Tanzania.

Key Words: Population migration, mobility, street vending, urbanization

I. INTRODUCTION

Population migration and mobility of people are fundamental issues of human freedom (Global Human Development Report, 2009). People have been naturally moving from one place to another for different reasons[1]. Such movements are classified as mobility and other times migrations. The fact is that any movement of people; be it permanent or temporal have motive behind.

While population migration is defined as wide range of different types of mobility caused by different specific criteria[2]; population mobility refers to freedom to seek for opportunities to improve living standard, health and education outcomes. Sometimes it includes movement to safer and more responsive communities[1]. In practice, population mobility covers all types of migration and involves not only movements of people but also their non-material things such as ideas, values and the like[2]. The two definitions inform us that movements of people are inherent within the social and economic realms of people's lives. Therefore, we are, hereby, made to understand that population mobility comes in many forms. According to Fielding[3], population mobility refers to the movement of people to a distance of 50 miles or one hour travelling; and involves a stay in a new location for longer than 6 months. The definition, thus, qualifies mobility as semi-permanent phenomenon.

An interesting fact is that *internal population mobility*, which mostly refers to movements of people within the country, be it within one locality such as an urban centre; from urban to another urban centre and/or from rural to urban. Mobility of humankind is generally accepted to be a complex process in terms of the demographic characteristics of the migrants and motive behind their movements[1][2][3]. This complexity demands for detailed explanations this paper resolves to address.

Various literatures concede to the fact that population mobility has socio-economic implications to both *source* and *destination* areas[1][2][3]. This is partly because of the fact that those who actually move bear knowledge and skills; socio-cultural capital and courage for carrying out some development endeavours. They are more likely to be flexible and adaptive young adults, with a potential for economic development[3]. Therefore, population mobility moves labour and influences market size at *source* and *destination*; positively or negatively depending on nature and character of the *flows*.

The analysis of *patterns of internal migration* of street vendors, being conducted to determine their place of origin, their first time location within the regional towns which stand as *transitional urban setting* and their current location would play role in understanding their *mobility-traces*; and thus attracting knowability of reasons for establishing their current types of business activities by nature of products they sale.

Low levels of education have generally been associated with characteristics of street vendors and other migrants to urban centres of Africa and elsewhere forced the migrants to resort into low income activities, i.e. street vending[4]. Whether this factor holds truth for the migrants, in the case of Dar es Salaam and Coast regions of Tanzania, was one of the issues which this paper partly tried to validate.

Due to changes in the composition of rural economies and approaches in recent decades, as observed by Bosworth[5], there was need to identify importance of education and work experiences among small business practitioners particularly the street vendors. Literature, overtly demonstrates presence of a critical need to uncover the processes underlying the phenomenon *population mobility* in impacting on small business undertakings, on street vending business in particular.

Establishing the in-ward and out-ward directions of street vendors' movements, in respect of the city centre, in each of the ten centres, is another aspect that discerns the basic fact about the characteristic of both *street vending* and *urbanization*. A survey conducted in North East England by Bosworth[6] observed that in-migrant micro-business owners tended to be more growth-oriented than their local counterparts, as they demonstrated to have more extensive business networks, therefore making them capable of managing supply and demand. What role *population mobility* had in reinforcing expansion of both street vending and urban growth in Dar es Salaam and Coast regions is another important part covered by this paper.

Therefore, the paper is set to identify the patterns of mobility of street vendors within the city of Dar es Salaam and Coast regions of Tanzania, while linking the same with basic reasons for their mobility by their levels of education, types of goods they sell and in respect to levels of urbanization. This type of linkage is considered to be the gist of population mobility-urbanization inter-play. The knowledge generated and presented in this paper remains useful and critical for the addressing various inert issues of rural-urban migration, which poses challenges to the bourgeoning urban centres of the developing world, Tanzania inclusive; where street vendors are considered as problem causers and illegal. Such knowledge also provide important inputs for the formulation of policies on urban planning with specific reference to spatial organization for both formal and informal economic activities in Tanzania and elsewhere in the world..

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

A street vendor can be broadly defined as a person who offers goods for sale to the public without having a permanent built up structure from which to sell[7]. The general typology of street vending classifies the business into two, i.e. *stationary* and *mobile*. While the first category covers those vendors who occupy space on the pavement or other public spaces, mobile vendors are the ones who move from one place to another

carrying their goods in push cars and/or on their heads[7]. Street vendors are also termed as street hawkers.

World-wide the rising numbers of street vendors has been experienced and mainly attributed to lack of formal employment; hence the same phenomenon is linked to the expansion of informal sector[7]. As rural economies tend to increasingly transform due to introduction and expansion of micro businesses, the newly introduced economic sub-sector (microbusiness) helps in off-setting declining farm income and growth of agricultural related employment[6].

In all countries of Asia, street vendors have no legal status; hence considered as illegal and, thus, constantly harassed by local authorities; though they are popular as they provide urban population with much needed services which could not be provided by their municipalities nor larger retailing outlets can provide[7]. The emphasis put forward, at this point, is that importance of street vending is not merely because of provision of employment, rather the services it provides to the urban population, particularly the urban poor and middle class, who afford cheap products. To some, street vending is a subsidiary economic activity which enhances income of employed people but with meagre income[8].

In India, the National Policy for Urban Street Vendors noted that street vendors constitute approximately 2% of the population of the metropolis. Now that there are around 10 million street vendors; and that the number is likely to increase[7]. Having the specific policy on street vendors indicates recognition of its role in the national economy. We hereby, note that Tanzania does not have any policy on street vendors. Bangladesh has a larger number of street vendors particularly at Dhaka, whereby 90,000 people are involved in street vending. In Dhaka, like the case is for Tanzania, street vending is also illegal; with food vendors constituting an important feature.

There are several theories that explain the emergence of street vending business. Lack of gainful employment, coupled with rural poverty, is an aspect that result people to move away from rural to urban areas seeking for better life[2][7][9]. As the migrants lack requisite skills and knowledge, they fail to secure formal employment, hence forced to join the informal sector, street vending in particular. This is a section of the population forced to join the informal sector that include previously employed workers in other sectors of the economy, retired and those who lost their jobs for different reasons[7]. Lima and Martins[9] explain the same in terms of profound ideological crisis and failure of development projects, in developing countries, to generate employment"[10][11]. The paper adopts the very reasons as being the genesis of street vending business in Tanzania.

Vast literatures such as van Dijk and others[2], Mithullah[4] and Malefakis[12] tend to agree indicating that street vendors result from *rural-urban migration*, which refers to mobility of human beings mainly young men and young women from villages to towns. Such studies analyse mobility basing on

their *source* and *destination*. The world is marked by unprecedented mobility capital, labour, goods and images[9]. However, other types of migrations such as *rural-rural*, *urban-rural* and *urban-urban* migrations are scantly covered by studies[2]. We reiterate that the neglected types need to be highlighted by studies for better understanding of the related socio-economic and demographic phenomena.

Literature has recorded increased intra-regional migrations[13]. According to Castles and Miller[14], the age of migration is characterized by social complexities and changes in spatial reference, where flow circulates with greater intensity across national borders. Brazilians migrate to the industrialized world to seek for better living and working conditions; while sometimes they do so to maintain their class positions [15][16].

In the host societies, the migrants tend to perform jobs considered to be low skilled[17]. Lima and Martins[9] suggest that economic and political changes within the framework of globalization have enhanced the processes of capital mobility and labour exchange. This same phenomenon is, in 21stcentury, characterized by the rise of mobility according to profitability needs of capital. The mobility of labour was observed to be the product of disenchantment caused by improvement of standard of living in the *destination* areas. Msoka[8] appreciates the big role of street vending in Dar es Salaam particularly during this era of globalization characterized by high rate of unemployment and job uncertainties.

Lack of formal employment resulted into the rise of entrepreneurial minds that dominated informal sector, the brainchild of capitalist development[18][9]. "Informality" should not be considered a problem, rather the opposite of over regulation of the sector, a factor that limits development of entrepreneurial skills among workers.

The growth of businesses, in areas that were traditionally classified as rural, is considered to be *counter-urbanization*, a process conceptualized to be negative as it is accused of increasing property prices to the disadvantages of indigenous residents[19][20]. The same process is said to diminish the sense of community[21]. *Counter-urbanization* is seen as an inversion of the traditionally positive relationship between migration and settlement size[22]. Bosworth[6]defines *counter-urbanization* as the *net migration* of population from larger urban centres to smaller towns and rural areas. Testing the applicability of such a concept remain of critical importance in the planning and implementation of rural and/or *peri-urban* development activities, particularly in the sprawling cities of the developing part of the world.

Bosworth[5]analysed mobility and rural business development being, as important ingredients for emergence of new economic opportunities; coupled with essential components for economic change, knowledge and skills transfers. This work had to depict evidence of the impact of educated in migrants in establishing new business activities in rural areas. One would ask as to whether, for the case of Tanzania, migrants' levels of education have any impact to the type of engagement in business undertakings in the *destination* areas.

Flows of the population are noted to help in stimulating rural economies by creating new business and additional employment. In-migrants are, however, mentioned to be more growth-oriented and engage in diverse range of business sector[5]. Other studies found "new arrivals" being relatively affluent, often equipped with distinct attributes and networks of contracts and much more successful in penetrating international markets[23]. How new arrivals of Dar es Salaam and Coast regions influence development of their respective areas of settlement is an aspect the paper tries to cover.

The findings by Bosworth[5]indicate that adult rural inmigrants arrive with significantly higher education qualifications than their local business-owning counterparts. Theoretically, those with higher levels of education are more likely to engage in networking groups and business advice position. Therefore, it is important verifying whether this is holds water for the case of Tanzania. How to integrate inmigrants into levels of human capital and social capital is another challenge facing human mobility analysis across rural economies of developing countries.

Generally speaking, population mobility has the potential role to play in offsetting some socio-economic problems and restore human and social capital in rural economies. How population migration and mobility have contributed to urbanization in Dar es Salaam and Coast regions of Tanzania is a critical issue that need to be thoroughly investigated. Street vending, previously thought to be meant for the marginalized, is nowadays taken to be an option for a number of entrepreneurs which include young men, retrenche's and retirees[2].

Policies of retaining both young men and young women in some locations need to be informed and should draw from the academic and skills qualifications of the migrant population in question so as to enhance entrepreneurial development; this is an aspect highly needed for national economic progress.

III. CONCEPTUAL FRAME WORK AND CONCEPTUAL MODEL

Conceptual Framework

The paper conceptualizes *population mobility* as the incoming and out-going numbers of people from a particular centre; and the reasons attached to the movement assumes a critical driving role for the weight and direction of the person who moves.

Each one of the 10 centre shall have the factors affecting both in-ward and out-ward *population mobility* of the street vendors as determined and weighed. Such factors may include a combination of the following:

1. Site of the area 2. Infrastructure status 3. Market size 4. Types of products/goods available 5. Availability of

social services. But the basic question is as to how these factors are actually related to urban growth. This is

another aspect that needs to be unveiled.

Policy Issues

Policy Issues

Policy Issues

Urban Centre A
Potential to Move or Stay

Outward Mobility

Outward Mobility

(Opposite Rays)

Source: Researcher's Own Construct, 2017

IV. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Population Mobility among Street Vendors

Street Vendors' Place of Origin by Region

Survey data indicate that the street vendors of the ten centres covered by the study originated from 22 different regions of Tanzania. It demonstrates existence high mobility of street vendors countrywide. The regions which remitted larger numbers of street vendors were Kilimanjaro (16), Lindi (7), Morogoro (7)Mbeya (7) and Coast (6).

The noted *areas of origin* tended to remit people, i.e. young men and women for different basic reasons. Those people who migrated from Kilimanjaro and other northern regions of Tanzania, such as Arusha and Tanga, did so mainly due to their entrepreneurial nature, an aspect which culminated into high competition within small business activities; as in their home regions, street vendors were highly crowded. In this way, the chances for making profit for a living were said to be limited. For example, the Kilimanjaro region had the highest number of both street vendors and those who dealt with other forms of small scale businesses, hence resulting the tendency of the rate of profit to fall among petty businesses. This is mentioned to be the basic source of *out-migration*.

The *contra* situation could be observed among young men and women who moved away from Southern regions of Tanzania, such as Lindi and Mtwara who did so as a result of "harsh" environment explained in terms of lack of varieties of goods, poor social services such as transport, water and electricity. Generally, the Southern regions of Tanzania had less attractive business environment as compared to their counterparts in the North. The causes of such broad disparity

are mainly historical and not part of this paper. However, one can note that in both cases factors that operated at the place of origin, i.e. "push factors" were, in this case, the ones responsible for young-men and women to seek for "better" and may be "more prosperous" areas elsewhere.

New Policy

Regions in other locations of Tanzania, such as Shinyanga, Mwanza, Tabora and others had fewer street vendors who moved to Dar es Salaam and Coast regions mainly due to the observed less spatial interaction between their places of origin and Dar es Salaam city. This may partly be attributed to the long distance involved and possibly the existence of Mwanza city to the North West and the Dodoma Municipality (new capital of Tanzania) located in central Tanzania. Currently, there is greater possibility for the young-men and women of such regions to now tend to move towards the two newly growing cities, i.e. Mwanza and Dodoma. The city of Dar es Salaam historically attracted people with academic and professional qualifications aiming and formal employment in offices and industries; that trend might have now changed and that the minds of the migrant population for the newly emerging "centres of prosperity".

The survey data in Table 1 indicate high mobility among people of Tanzania, as proved by the fact that the 100 respondents involved in the study happened to hail from 20 out of 32 regions of Tanzania, thus, conspicuously demonstrating high rate of mobility within the country.

Street Vendors by Original Place and Previous Location

Accounting for the population mobility as it occurred in the study area, it was thought critical to follow up on the stages which the migrants followed when moving from the time when they left their *places of origin* to when they reached

their *current destination*, in this case, the Dar es Salaam and Coast regions. This task involved studying the survey data for their *source areas*; identifying the regions where they settled for the first time, call them *transitional regions*, i.e. the regions they settled prior to actually moving to their *current destination*, meaning where they now carry out their street vending businesses; hence captured by the study.

As the analysis in this paper is done basing on *regions of settlement*, the data presented in figure 1 below leads us towards categorically stating on the trends of *flow* of the migrants, in the study area, restricting our sampling to only to those who happened to be the street vendors.

The comparison of the *flows* of migrants by numbers and *places of origin*, by regions, demonstrate that Kigoma, Katavi, Shinyanga, Songwe and Rukwa regions had far less or no *out migrants* at all. This may partly be explained by existence of stable agricultural sector, complemented by the far location of the same regions from Dar es Salaam. In this case, those few migrants hailing from these regions may rather opt to move to Mwanza, Dodoma or to the respective regional towns. However, the scenario was observed to be a bit different for the case of Mtwara region, which is about 600 km away from Dar es Salaam, which is generally said to remit a significant

number of young men and women to Dar es Salaam. In fact, most of them could not be captured by this study as they do prefer inhabiting in the urban sector located along the Kilwa Road, the direction towards their home region. Establishing why such people prefer living in that section of the city of Dar es Salaam is another area of study.

Regarding the previous locations of the street vendors, i.e. the regions they inhabited prior to moving to Dar es Salaam and Coast, the same graph figure 1 indicates that the vast majority of street vending migrants moved directly from their places of origin to Dar es Salaam. Moreover, the regions observed being the most preferred as transitionary locations for the migrating street vendors were Dodoma, Kigoma, Coast, Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Morogoro. One of the interesting phenomena observed was that regional headquarters towns were, for the most part, the first settlements for young-men and women from both respective rural areas and/or district centres. Such locations equipped them with basic practical small business skills and a level of confidence to enter into larger urban centres like Dar es Salaam city. The graph Fig.2 evidences that population mobility; particularly that of street vendors, is a predominantly step-by-step, hence not always involving a direct movement from source to destination. It is a movement from rural to smaller cities; then to larger cities.

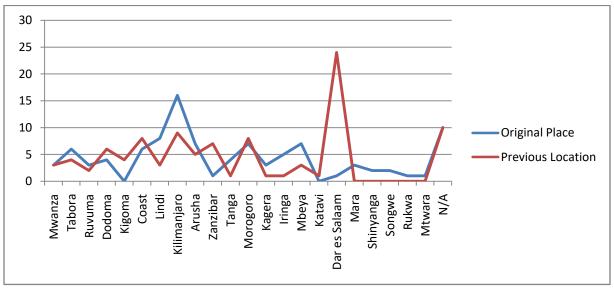


Figure 2. Population Mobility by Place Origin and Previous Location

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Street Vendors by Previous and Current Locations by Urban and Rural Dichotomy

The analysis of survey data on *internal migration flows* of street vendors is hereby presented on the basis of *rural-urban dichotomy*. While all the 5 centres located in Dar es Salaam region were *Kimara Mwisho*, *Kimara Temboni*, *Mbezi Mwisho*, *Kibamba* and *Kiluvya* observed to be urban, all those in the Coast region, with exception to *Kibaha*, were basically characterized as rural, since they were located further away

from the city centre of Dar es Salaam and had less advanced social and technical infrastructure.

Figure 3 below demonstrates that Dar es Salaam is a primate city; in terms of issues related to *population mobility*, mobility of street vendors in particular. The graph impressively demonstrates that Dar es Salaamcity posing as the most active urban centre in reference to small business, particularly street vending in particular. Mobility, as a socio-economic and geographic phenomenon is, hereby, noted to reach its

maximum in terms of its being the largest *first step centre*, meaning that it is the largest centre for the migrants coming directly into it. This can be visualized and inferred by the fact that for most of the street vendors had Dar es Salaam as their "previous location." Practically, this implies that various parts of Dar es Salaam city have been receiving in-migrants from other parts of the same city. Understanding the volume of migration in Dar es Salaam region remains to be of great importance but constitutes another area of enquiry.

Of those who move from one region to another within the country, Dar es Salaam region constitutes the majority (see the brown line graph), while for those staying or inhabiting in rural areas, mostly in the Coast region, are the same as those previously inhabited in some other regions such as Kilimanjaro and Morogoro.

Mobility of street vendors originating from the rest of the regions of Tanzania was mainly dominated by "previous locations", i.e. *step one*, referring to passing-by the stepping stone regional towns; in their movement towards the Dar es

Salaam and Coast regions. From those regions, the street vendors moved mainly to Dar es Salaam (urban); while their significant proportion moved to the Coast region (rural). With exception to those from Mara, Shinyanga, Songwe and Mtwara, which were, in this case, not partof "previous locations". Only Songwe region sent street vendor-migrants to Dar es Salaam (urban); with the rest mostly contributing to the growth of migrants' population to the rural setting, i.e. Coast region.

Generally, it may be noted that the survey data indicated that the city of Dar es Salaam assumed primacy in terms of population mobility by being both the "previous location" and the "major recipient of the existing street vendor population", i.e. the destination area for migrants who came through other regions of the country. The observed trends in population mobility demonstrate predominant character of the street vendors having more preferenceon inhabiting in urban areas (Dar es Salaam region) than rural area, i.e. most of the Coast region.

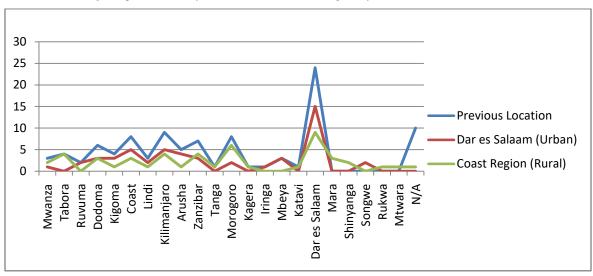


Fig 3: Population Mobility in Dar es Salaam and Coast Regions by Current and Previous Locations

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Reasons for Moving to the Current Location by Current Location

Survey data in Table 2, indicate that 43% of the respondents moved to their *current location* for business opportunities. Thirteen percent of the respondents had moved from other sections of Dar es Salaam to new locations within the same city. Family decisions influenced 12% of the respondents to move to their *current locations*, while good weather attracted 8%. Seven percent of the respondents came to their *current locations* as they were attracted by employment, whereby after missing it, they resorted into street vending; and another 7% come as they followed their relatives.

A smaller proportion, i.e. 4% of the respondents indicated that they moved to their current locations as efforts towards following their spouses. This category mainly consisted of women and girls.

Generally, the summary of the above paragraphs tends to underline the fact that both economic and social factors play equal role in influencing *street vendors' mobility*, specifically the choice of *semi-permanent* and *permanent places*to stay. In this case, the survey data supports that while economic factors account for 43%, socio-cultural factors contribute to 44%.

V. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusions

The pattern of mobility of street vendors indicates existence of three stages, i.e. place of origin, transitional regional town and current location. The larger proportion of migrants moved

from place of originmainly Kilimanjaro, Morogoro, Mbeya and Coast regions; directly to Dar es Salaam city, though a significant proportion of them had to go through "transitional" stage, i.e. their respective regional towns, where they were "urbanized" and set for further movement to Dar es Salaam.

Migrants characteristics and nature of their mobility indicated that young men aged 30 and above constituted the majority of street vendors. The same migrants were mainly attracted by existing business opportunities in destination areas, family decision and good weather.

Internal population mobility of street vendor population within Dar es salaam region was observed to be more pronounced than those who moved between other regions; other than Dar es Salaam. The city of Dar es Salaam tended to lead in terms of being the *prime setting* for both "previous location" and destination for *urban dwelling* and *rural dwelling* Street vending categories.

Recommendations

The requisite regional authorities need to improve social services in regional towns so as to retain young men and women in home towns and be much more productive. Street vending business can be conducted by people from respective districts and/or regions. In case this could be realized, it would surely bring about equitable and sustainable urban development countrywide.

Young men and young women, who are the majority of the "movers," need to be well educated and trained appropriately; so that they become more productive. The business opportunities, at hand, may be better seized made to become more generative in case the practitioners have attained certain levels of knowledge and competency. Since education and training is in essence provided equally between males and females, gender gap between the two shall automatically be bridged.

Further studies are recommended on *internal population mobility* of street vendors within Dar es Salaam city so as to uncover the dynamics of such movements for obtaining inputs needed for better planning of effective utilization of human resource and land use country wide for rapid national economic growth. Such information would enable for more sustainable urban development.

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Tables Used in the Analysis

Table 1: Distribution of Respondents by original and Current Locations Kimara Kimara Mbezi Kibamb Kibah Kwa Mlandi Kongowe Visiga Mwisho Tembo Mwisho Matia zi ya ni Mwanza Tabora Ruvuma Dodoma Coast Lindi Kilimanjar Arusha Arusha Zanzibar Tanga Morogoro Kagera Iringa Mara Shinyanga Mbeya Songwe Rukwa Mtwara Dar es Salaam Mara N/Applicab TOTAL

Source: Field Survey, 2017

Table 2 Distribution of Respondents by Factors that Attracted them to the Location

Factors	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Business Opportunities	43	43	43
Good Weather	8	8	51
Visit relatives	7	7	58
Family Decision	12	12	70
Location is interesting	6	6	76
To follow spouse	4	4	80
Seeking for a job	7	7	87
Not Applicable	13	13	100
Total	100	100	