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e-Proceedings

V-GO GREEN 2021 29-30 SEPT

VIRTUAL GO GREEN: CONFERENCE AND PUBLICATION
“Rethinking Built Environment: Towards a Sustainable Future”

Organiser:
**Research, Industrial Linkages, Community
& Alumni Network (PJIM&A)**

Co-organiser:
**Department of Built Environment Studies & Technology (JABT),
Faculty of Architecture, Planning & Surveying (FSPU)**

PUBLICATION DATE: 1st JUNE 2022

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Migration Intentions in Selangor, Malaysia: A Descriptive Analysis

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Abstract

The present study attempts to examine the current migration intentions of the urban migrants in Selangor, Malaysia using data from the Department of Statistics Malaysia 2018. Migration is crucial to population redistribution and development in Malaysia. It is instrumental in the redistribution of human resources and productivity improvements. In particular, this paper identifies the respondents' background including gender, employment, occupation, ethnic group, marital status, education profiles, and migrations' intention. By using 425 sample size data from the Department of Statistics Malaysia, these data are analyzed using a descriptive analysis method. The descriptive analysis described the data between the internal migrants as the dependent variable with the migration intention factors. Therefore, this paper presents the significant factors that contribute and play essential roles in the migration intention of the urban migrants in Selangor, Malaysia. Consequently, the findings have revealed career reasons and following family driving factors for people to migrate from urban to rural migration. Career and environment reasons for people from urban to rural migration in Selangor, Malaysia. This research is significant for predicting future trends and needs in population migration in Selangor, Malaysia.

Keywords: *migration intentions, descriptive analysis, Malaysia*

1.0 Introduction

Migration is crucial to population redistribution and development in Malaysia. It is instrumental in the redistribution of human resources and productivity improvements. Internal migration can be defined as a transition in residence within a country from one community or geographical unit to another. The movement of people within the country can be defined as migration among the thirteen states, known as interstate migration (Swa, 2015). Migration among the various districts within a particular state, known as intrastate migration at the district level. Migration among different urban and rural areas can be classified into urban-urban, urban-rural, rural-urban, and rural-rural (Swa, 2015). Thus, this paper seeks to examine the current migration intentions of the urban migrants in Selangor, Malaysia using data from the Department of Statistics Malaysia 2018. There are two types of migrations discussed in this paper. The first is migration from urban to rural, and the second is migration within the urban area (urban to urban). Research showed that there is a significant difference in driver migration intention in these two types of migrations. This paper is structured as follows: Section 1 introduces the background and urban migrant in Selangor, Malaysia, Section 2 about literature review, Section 3 data sampling and study area, Section 4 research finding, Section 5 discussion, and Section 6 conclusions from this paper.

2.0 Literature Review

Migration is a generator (driver) of urban development by creating a high demand for jobs, urban infrastructures and services, new affordable housing, and other physical developments. The contribution of urban migrants and migration on urban growth and urbanization has been proven for a long time (Rashid, M.F.A, 2017 ; Rashid, M.F.A, 2010; Tacoli, 2015; Zhang, 2015). Most of the urban migrants are educated, highly motivated, and having entrepreneurial skills and knowledge have directly or indirectly affected the socio-spatial and economic development of urban as well as connecting communities across borders to create new kinds of global cities (Rashid, M.F.A, 2017 ; Benea et al. 2016). Therefore this paper will discover the reason for migration factors in the Selangor area.

3.0 Methodology

By using 263 sample size data from the Department of Statistics Malaysia, these data are analyzed using a descriptive analysis method. This paper descriptively identifies the education, ethnic and marital status of individuals who intend to migrate from urban to urban and urban to rural migration Selangor, Malaysia.

3.1 Study Area/Data Sampling

Data of this paper was obtained from the migration in and out the survey in Selangor, Malaysia from Department Statistic of Malaysia 2018. Selangor is on the west coast of Peninsular Malaysia, overlooking the Malacca Straits. Selangor stretches from the west coast of Peninsular Malaysia to the north coast of Melaka, covering an area of about 8,000 kilometers. It surrounds the Federal Territories of Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya. Sabak Bernam, Kuala Selangor, Hulu Selangor, Petaling Jaya, Klang, Kuala Langat, Hulu Langat, and Sepang are the nine districts of Selangor (**Figure 1**). Throughout the regions, approximately 263 samples of data were obtained from the Department of Statistics Malaysia.



(Sources: Google Map (2021))

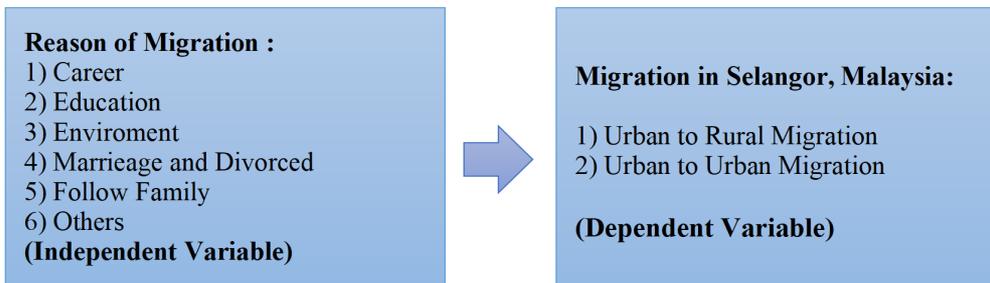
Figure 1. The Subdivisions of Selangor District

Specifically, this paper uses migration data from the Department of Statistics Malaysia in 2018, which covers all the Selangor districts, to study the migration intentions in Selangor, Malaysia. According to the Department of Statistic Malaysia (2018) ,Malaysia's highest proportion of

migration was Selangor during 2018. Throughout the regions, approximately 263 samples of data were obtained from the Department of Statistic Malaysia 2018. Thus, this paper focuses on migration data in Selangor.

3.2 The Research Independent Variable and Dependent Variable

Figure 2. represents the independent variables and dependent variables for this research/ study. The data presented are internal migrants in Selangor, Malaysia, migration flow, reasons for migration, and demographic and socioeconomic characteristics such as sex, ethnic group, marital status, educational attainment, occupation, and employment. The data was divided into two: urban to rural migration and urban to urban migration in Selangor, Malaysia.



(Sources: Department of Statistic Malaysia (2018))

Figure 2 .Reason of Migration in Selangor, Malaysia

The independent variables are representing the reasons for migration for both types of migration.

4.0 Research Finding

This paper presents statistics of population migration in Selangor from the Department of Statistic Malaysia 2018.

Table 1 shows the number of male migrants was higher than female in both types of migrations. The number of migrants from urban to urban is higher than urban to rural. The total number of sample size was 263 for both types of migrations.

Table 1. Samples of Data Migration in Selangor, Malaysia

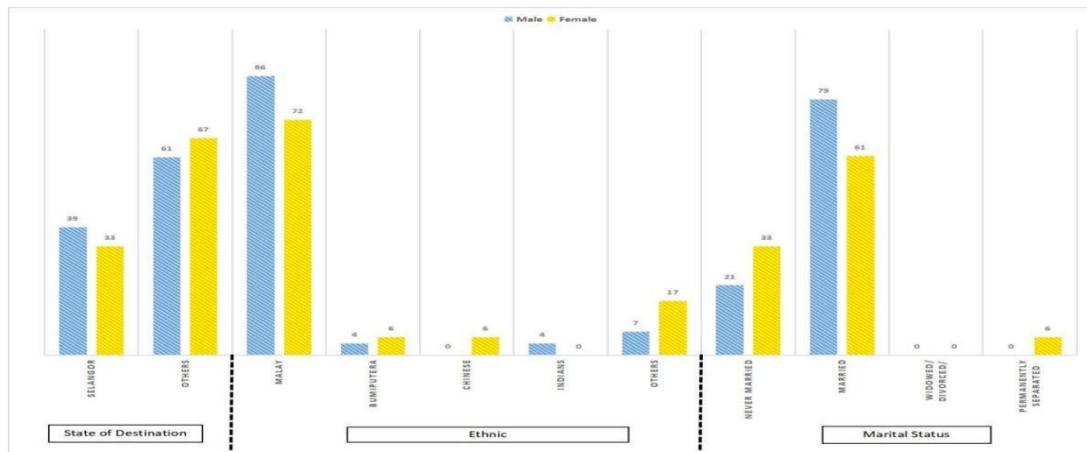
Gender	Urban to Rural Migration	Urban to Urban Migration
Male	28	120
Female	18	97
Total	46	217
Total of sample size	(n=263)	

(Sources: Department of Statistic Malaysia (2018))

4.1 Urban to Rural Migration Intention in Selangor, Malaysia

4.1.1 States of Destination, Ethnic and Marital Status in Urban to Rural Migration

Figure 3 presents the number of males and females in relation to states of destination, ethnic and marital status.



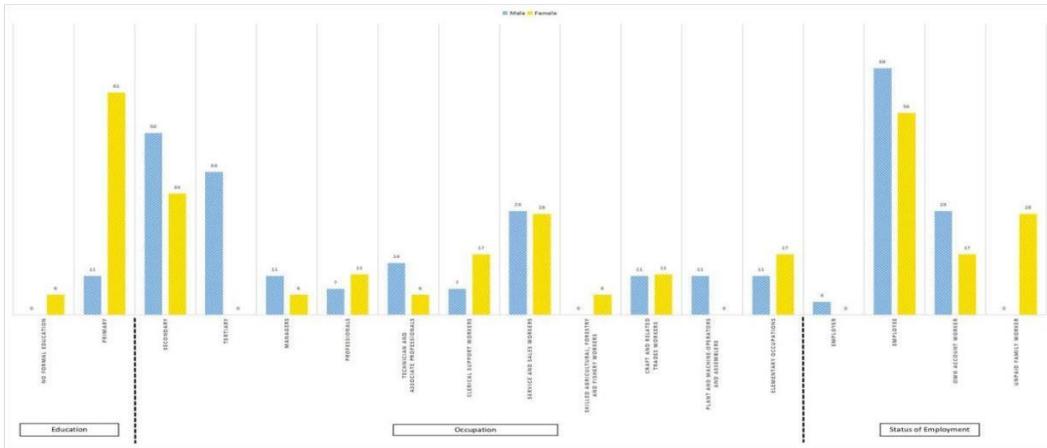
(Sources :Department of Statistic Malaysia (2018))

Figure 3. States of Destination, Ethnic and Marital Status in Urban to Rural Migration

The results in Figure 4 show that the migration rate from urban to rural was highest for both genders. Regardless of gender, most migrants from urban to rural were moved from Selangor to other states(67% of females and 61% of males). In the case of migration within the Selangor area, male numbers were slightly higher than females. Looking at the marital status, most of the migrants were married, indicating that they were following their husband/wife to migrate to the rural area and within the Selangor area. The number of single migrants was very low compared to married migrants. Looking at ethnicity, the higher is Malay ethnic (86% of males and 72% female) compared to other ethnicities, which may indicate that most migrants in both genders are from Malay ethnic.

4.1.2 Participant Characteristics Including Education, Occupation and Status of Employment in Urban to Rural Migration

Figure 4 presents the number of males and females in relation to education, occupation and status of employment in urban to rural migration in Selangor. Education attainment is defined as the highest level in which a person has completed schooling or is currently attending school in a public or private educational institution that provides formal education. It can be categorized into no formal education, primary, secondary and tertiary (Department of Statistic Malaysia, 2018). The definition of no formal education can be referred to persons who have never attended school in any of the educational institutions that provide formal education. Primary refers to those whose highest level of education attained is from Standard 1 to 6 or equivalent. Meanwhile, secondary refers to those whose highest level of education achieved is from Form 1 to 5, General Certificate of Education (GCE) O Level. This includes basic skill programs in specific trades and technical skills institutions with a training period of at least six months. Tertiary refers to those whose highest level of education is above Form 5 (Department of Statistic Malaysia, 2018).



(Sources :Department of Statistic Malaysia (2018))

Figure 4 . Participant characteristics including Education, Occupation and Status of Employment in Urban to Rural Migration

Figure 4 shows the educational attainment in Selangor migrant urban to rural migration. Secondary education attainment shows that male 50% is the highest, followed by tertiary 39%, primary 11%. Meanwhile, the highest urban to urban migration in female education attainment is primary at 61%, followed by secondary 33%, and no formal education 6%. As a result, the highest educational attainment in Selangor's urban-rural migration is Secondary for males and primary for female migrants.

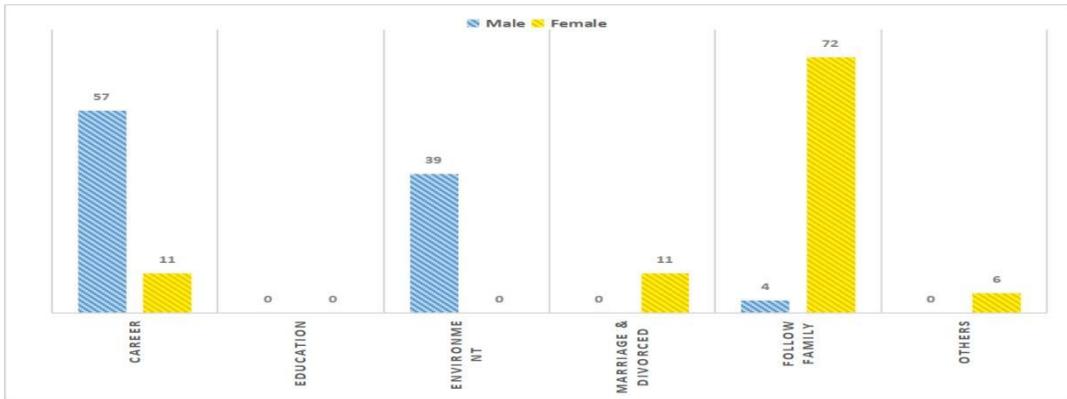
Figure 4 shows the characteristics of employment and urban economic activities of migrants in the Selangor. Service and sales are the highest numbers of occupations in male migrant urban to rural migration at 29%, followed by technician and associate professionals at 14% and manager 11%.

Meanwhile, the highest urban migration in female occupations is service and sales workers at 28%, followed by elementary at 17% and clerical support workers at 17%. Therefore, the highest number of occupations in Selangor's urban-rural migrants are service and sales among males and female migrants in Selangor.

Figure 4 refers to the status of employment of urban migrants to a rural area in Selangor, Malaysia. Employment status defines the position or status of an employed person within the establishment or organization for which the urban migrant worked (Department of Statistic Malaysia, 2018). Employment status consists of four status: employer, employee, own-account worker, and unpaid family worker. The highest represented in figure 6 for male at employment status is a male employee at 68%, followed by own-account worker 29% and employer at 4%. Next, the highest female employment status is an employee at 56%, followed by unpaid family worker 28% and own account worker 17%. As a result, the highest employment status in Selangor's urban-rural migration is the same for both gender migrants, with an employee at the highest percentage.

4.1.3 Reason Migration for Urban to Rural Migration

The percentage of migrants that influence people's urban to rural migration is represented in Figure 5.



(Sources :Department of Statistic Malaysia (2018))

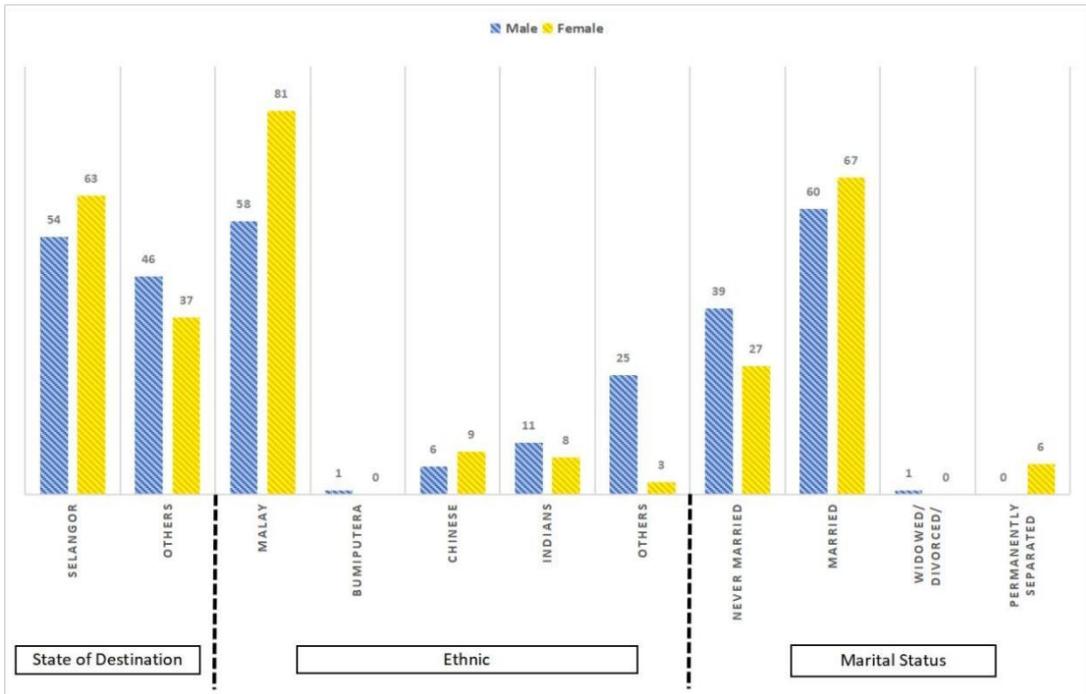
Figure 5 . Reason for Migration in Urban to Rural Migration

Figure 5 shows that the main reason for male migrants in urban to rural migration is career (57%). Environment is the second factor (39%) while only (4%) of them choose family as the main reason. On the other hand, following family has been the major reason for female migrants in urban areas to embark in rural migration (72%). Career and marriage/divorce have been a minor reason (11%) for them, together with other factors (6%).

4.2 Urban to Urban Migration Intention in Selangor, Malaysia

4.2.1 States of Destination, Ethnic and Marital Status in Urban to Urban Migration

Figure 6 presents the number of males and females in relation to states of destination, ethnic and marital status



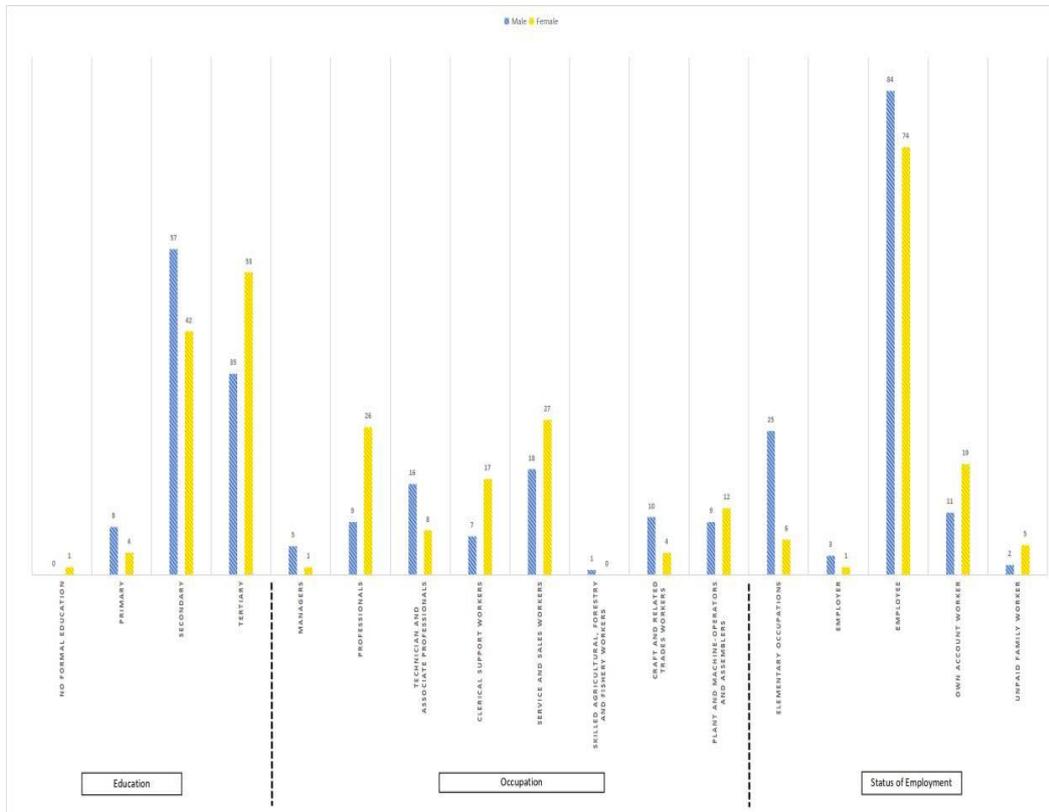
(Sources :Department of Statistic Malaysia (2018))

Figure 6. States of Destination, Ethnic and Marital Status in Urban to Urban Migration

The results in Figure 6 show that the migration rate from urban to urban was highest for both genders. Regardless of gender, most migrants from urban to urban were moved within Selangor area. (63% of females and 54% of males). In the case of migration to other states, male numbers were slightly higher than females. Looking at the marital status, most of the migrants were married, indicating that they were following their husband/wife to migrate within the Selangor area and to other states. Looking at ethnicity, the higher is Malay ethnic (58% of males and 81% female) compared to other ethnicities, which may indicate that most migrants in both genders are Malay ethnic.

4.2.2 Participant Characteristics Including Education, Occupation and Status of Employment in Urban to Urban Migration

Figure 7 shows the educational attainment in Selangor migrant urban to urban migration.



(Sources :Department of Statistic Malaysia (2018))

Figure 7. Participant characteristics including Education, Occupation and Status of Employment in Urban to Urban Migration

Secondary education attainment shows that male 57% is the highest, followed by tertiary 35%, primary 8%. Meanwhile, the highest urban to urban migration in female education attainment is tertiary at 53%, followed by secondary 42%, primary 4%, and no formal education 1%. As a result, the highest educational attainment in Selangor's urban-rural migration is Secondary for males and tertiary for female migrants.

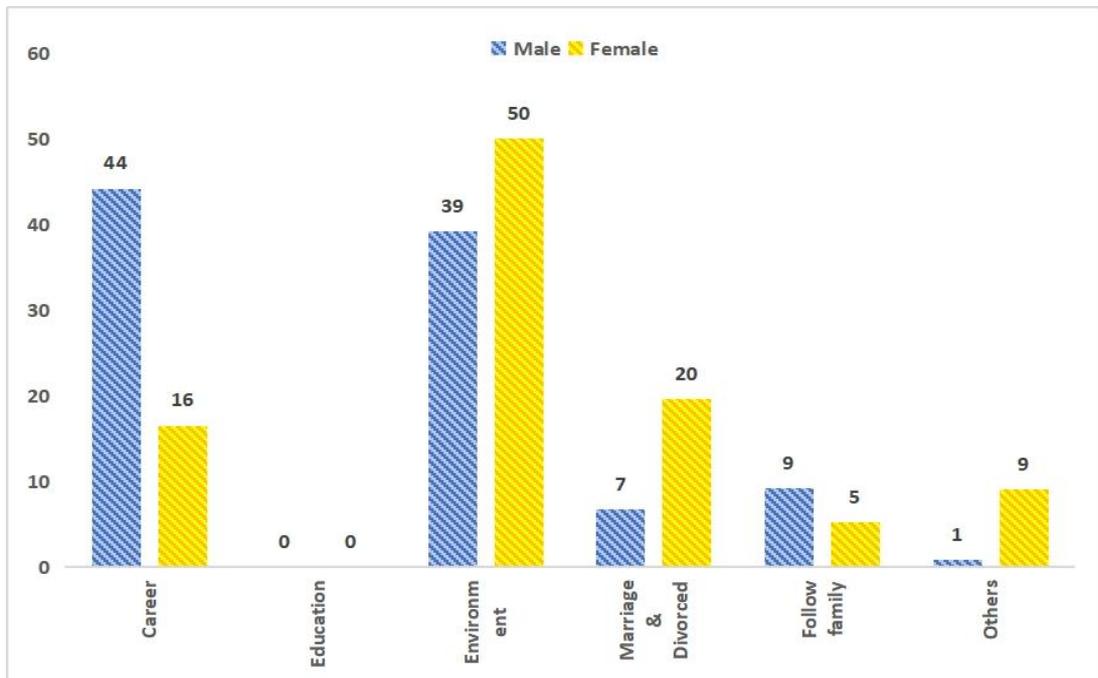
The occupation characteristic can be referred to in Figure 8. Elementary occupation is the highest number of occupations in male migrants from urban to urban migration at 25%, followed by service and sales at 18% and technician and associate professionals at 16%. Meanwhile, the highest urban migration in female occupations is service and sales workers at 27%, followed by

professionals at 26% and clerical support workers at 17%. Therefore, the highest occupation in Selangor's urban-urban migrants is an elementary occupation for males and service and sales workers for female migrants.

Figure 8 also shows the employment status in Selangor of migrants from urban to urban migration. Consist of four employment status is employer, employee, own-account worker, and unpaid family worker. The highest represented in figure 6 for male at employment status is a male employee at 84%, followed by employer 2%, own-account worker 11% and unpaid family worker 2%. Next, the highest female employment status is an employee at 74%, followed by own-account worker 19%, unpaid family worker 5% and employer 1%. As a result, the highest employment status in Selangor's urban-urban migration is the same for both gender migrants, with an employee at the highest percentage.

4.2.3 Reason Migration for Urban to Urban Migration

The percentage of migrants that influence people's urban to urban migration is represented in figure 8.



(Sources :Department of Statistic Malaysia (2018))

Figure 8. Participant characteristics including Education, Occupation and Status of Employment in Urban to Urban Migration

Figure 8 shows that the main reason for male migrants in urban to urban migration is career (44%). Environment is the second factor (39%) , followed by family (9%) while only (7%) of them choose marriage as the main reason to migrate.

On the other hand, the environment has been the major reason for female migrants in urban areas to do rural migration (50%). Marriage at (20%), career (16%), others (9%) and following family (5%) have been a minor reason for them to migrate.

5.0 Discussion of Findings

Based on data, this research/study discovered that career is the main reason for males to migrate while females were more concerned with family matters that forced them to follow their husband in urban to rural migration in Selangor, Malaysia. Meanwhile, male migrants also have the same reason to migrate which is due to career and environmental reasons as females in urban to rural migration in Selangor, Malaysia. This is also supported by Mulder & Lundholm (2020) for career reasons that are due to difficult conditions such as poor salaries or unemployment in urban areas that have forced people to migrate back to the rural area again. According to Crow (2010), local employment opportunities encourage and influence people to move into rural areas. This is supported by Hussain et al. (2017), in which people decide to return to the rural area due to the economic potential offered by owning or inheriting properties in rural areas. Urban migrants still own their land and houses in rural areas even though they have migrated to urban areas. They have the chance to return to their villages or kampungs once again and survive for their own life (Hussain et al., 2017).

Next, the reason why people choose to migrate is due because of the environment. Based on the data, it shows that 11% prefer the environment to migrate to the rural area. According to Mohapatra & Jha (2019), migrants choose the environment because it is necessary to live in an environment where appreciation, respect, and self-fulfillment still exist. The natural environment quality offered in the rural area encourages people to move back to a rural area (Crow, 2010). They enjoyed rural life for the following reasons, such as a comfortable lifestyle and rich natural surroundings (Ikegami & Tsuruta, 2017). The concept of peace and calm influenced returnees' motivation to return, as did their decisions to leave to their friends and families (Farrell et al., 2012).

The data collected from the Department of Statistics Malaysia 2018 shows that family reasons also became the reason for people to migrate. This is also supported by Mulder & Lundholm (2020), where the return migrants listed their parents as the focal point of the return to move. The family reason was indicated as the primary motivation in returning to the rural areas due to the responsibility factor (Hussain et al., 2017). Stepping into the last phase of life, parents want their children to have physical, financial, and emotional support. It has been found that parents whose children have migrated face a loss in enjoyment and an increase in loneliness level, resulting in depressive symptoms at mental health levels (Scheffe & Zhang, 2019). Migrant workers working in urban areas are conscious and aware of looking after their parents in depressing situations. Migrants born and raised in rural areas still have their parents living in rural areas, which has become the critical factor that pulled them back to rural areas (Kanai, 2016). Therefore, many migrants leave urban areas to be with their parents in rural areas (Mohapatra & Jha, 2019).

Last, marriage also becomes the reason for people to migrate in urban to urban migration and rural to rural migration. This is also mentioned by Mohapatra & Jha (2019), where the community provides them with a sense of trust, faith, and belonging, and it is essential in determining their marriage options. If villagers move to a city to make a living, the community's values attract and bind them to their native places. A married woman from a rural area who works in the urban is forced to leave her job and return home. Due to the high cost of living in cities, many females return to their villages to be with their spouses as part of their traditional family obligations (Mohapatra & Jha, 2019).

Table 2. Discussion of Findings

	Urban to Rural Migration	Urban to Urban Migration
Reason for Migration	1 Males: Career Reason (57%) Female: Following Family (72%)	Males : Career Reason (44%) Female : Environment (50%)

	2	Males: Environment (39%) Female: Career (11%)	Males: Environment (39%) Female: Marriage and Divorced (20%)
	3	Males: Follow Family (4%) Female : Marriage and Divorced (11%)	Males: Follow Family (9%) Female: Careers (16%)

(Sources :Department of Statistic Malaysia (2018))

6.0 Conclusion

This paper has discussed the migration intentions and the characteristics of migration distribution between urban to urban migration and urban to rural migration in Selangor, Malaysia. It includes the characteristics of urban migrants in demographics such as gender in status, destination, ethnicity, marital status, and other participant factors of migrants education, employment status, and occupation. For the urban to rural migration, it has been discovered that career was the common intention among the male migrants while family was the main reason for the female migrants. Similar cases can be seen in the urban to urban migration for the male migrants but the females have placed environment as their main priority.

As for the recommendation, future research should explore additional motivations, issues, and reasons for migration that may influence urban to rural migration and urban to urban migration in Selangor, Malaysia. This study's findings must be seen together in light of some limitations. The sample size is limited to the availability of data provided from the Department of Statistics of Malaysia during 2018 only. Further research would help create a deeper understanding of urban to rural migration and urban to urban migration and forecast future trends of population migration to the current year 2021 in Selangor Malaysia. The return of migrants to rural areas provides an opportunity to transform land systems to become more resilient and sustainable.

7.0 Contribution Paper to Related Field of Study

The findings reported in this paper can be useful for human resources development as migration analysis conducted in this study is significant for urban planning and development policies. Its relevance is generally defined as the contribution of migration to urban growth and the level of urbanization, and the harmful effects of migration on urban areas such as urban sprawl, squatters and slum areas, poverty, traffic congestion, and pollution. This paper is necessary for predicting future trends and needs in population migration in Selangor, Malaysia.

Acknowledgment

The authors would like to express their gratitude to the Ministry of Higher education Malaysia and Universiti Teknologi MARA for the full support of this study that was funded under FRGS grant number (FRGS/1/2019/SS06/UITM/02/16).

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Tarikh : 20 Januari 2023

Prof. Madya Dr. Nur Hisham Ibrahim
Rektor
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Cawangan Perak



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