

EFFECTS OF LABOR MIGRATION ON THE HEALTH OF CHILDREN LEFT BEHIND

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STUDY OBJECTIVE

Determine the impact of out-labor migration on children left behind in terms of health in Cagayan de Oro City

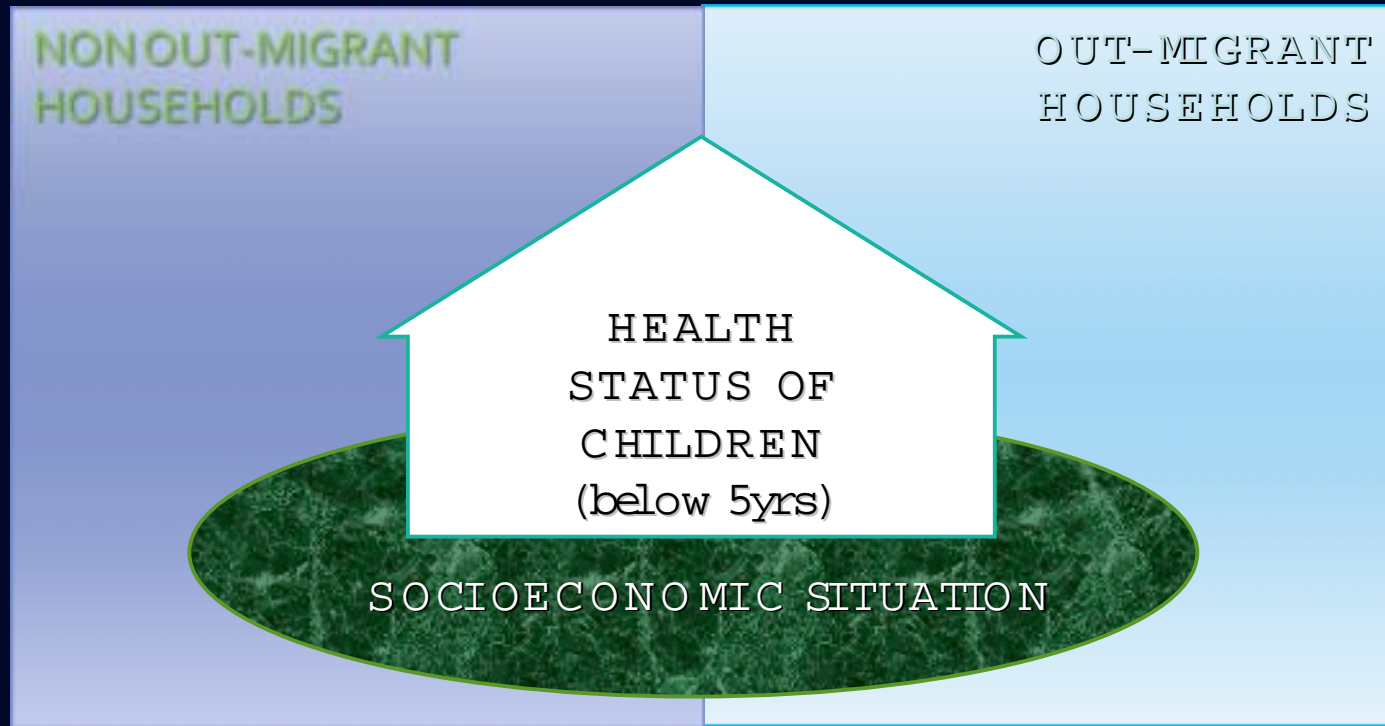
Specifically, it will attempt to:

- Determine the extent of labor migrants in terms of remittances;
- Determine if the remittances of labor migrants are spent for the health of the children below five years old who are left behind;
- Determine if children below five years old of migrant parent/s are suffering from signs and symptoms and/or diseases;
- Identify the specific signs and symptoms and/or illnesses of the children below five years old;
- Determine if children suffering from signs and symptoms and/or disease/s identified in Problem 4 are properly treated and if they are treated by professional health care provider/s;

...continuation

- Determine if children below five years old are given the required vaccinations;
- Determine if children below five years old who are left behind by their migrant parent/s are brought to a medical doctor for check up or consultation, if this done frequently by the guardian/s, and in what clinic are they brought by same guardian/s:
- Identify the medicines including vitamins that children below five years old of migrant parent/s, the reason/s for giving the medicines that these children are taking, and if these medicines are prescribed by a physician:
- Identify measure/s or policies that can be recommended based on the results of the study.

Conceptual Framework



Labor migration and health of 5yrs old & below children left behind

ASSUMPTION

- ❖ migration may have both positive or negative effects on the health of children
- ❖ positive effects on child or children's health may result if remittances coming from labor migrants are used to pay medical bills or expenses
- ❖ negative effects may result if the remittances are not spent to ensure the health of the child or children left behind by their respective migrant parent/s.

METHODOLOGY

- ❖ quasi-experimental research design was utilized.
- ❖ families with no out-migrant served as the control group while the families with out-migrant comprised the experimental group.
- ❖ setting of the study is Cagayan de Oro City situated in the upper central northern portion of Mindanao.

METHODOLOGY

- ❖ interviews were conducted that focused on households with no and with out - migrant workers.
- ❖ structured survey instrument was used which included questions on the health condition and other health related matters concerning the children left behind by their migrant working parents using proxy respondents.

METHODOLOGY

- ❖ random sample of thirteen (13) urban barangays of Cagayan de Oro City.
- ❖ snowballing technique using information concerning household/s with no and without – migrant workers starting from barangay and/or purok leaders.
- ❖ sample size of 60 households, half (or 30 households) of which included households with no out – migrant members and the other 30 households with out – migrant working members.

Table 1. Relationship of Respondents to the Household Head

Relationship of Respondents to Household Head	Residence Status			
	With out-migrant		With no out-migrant	
	<i>f</i>	%	<i>f</i>	%
Daughter	0	0	3	10.00
Husband	9	30.00	1	3.33
Mother	2	6.67	9	30.00
Mother-in-law	1	3.33	0	0
Relative	1	3.33	0	0
Sister	1	3.33	0	0
Wife	16	53.34	16	53.34
Yaya	0	0	1	3.33
Total	30	100.00	30	100.00

Table 2. Gender of the Respondents

Gender	Residence Status			
	With out-migrant		With no out-migrant	
	<i>f</i>	%	<i>f</i>	%
Female	21	60.00	28	93.33
Male	9	30.00	2	6.67
Total	30	100.00	30	100.00

Table 3. Civil Status of the Respondents

Civil Status	Residence Status			
	With out-migrant		With no out-migrant	
	<i>f</i>	%	<i>f</i>	%
Married	27	90.00	26	86.67
Single	3	10.00	4	13.33
Total	30	100.00	30	100.00

Table 4. Number of Children

Number of children	Residence Status			
	With Out-migrant		With no out-migrant	
	<i>f</i>	%	<i>f</i>	%
One	9	30.00	8	26.67
Two	14	46.67	13	43.33
Three	6	20.00	4	13.33
Four	1	3.33	5	16.67
Total	30	100.00	30	100.00

Table 5. Reasons for Working Abroad

Reasons for working abroad	<i>f</i>	%
To augment family income	6	20.00
To pay debts	4	13.33
To support the family	20	66.67
Total	30	100.00

Table 6. Length of Time Away from the Family

Length of Time Away from the Family	<i>f</i>	%
4 months	1	3.33
5 months	1	3.33
7 months	1	3.33
8 months	1	3.33
9 months	2	6.67
12 months	18	60.00
24 months	5	16.67
60 months	1	3.33
Total	30	100.00

Table 7. Presence of Absence of Money Sent to the Family

Is money being sent to the family?	<i>f</i>	%
Yes	29	96.67
No	1	3.33
Total	30	100.00

Table 8. Frequency of Remittance

Frequency	<i>f</i>	%
Monthly	26	89.65
Twice a month	3	10.35
Total	29	100.00

Table 9. Average Amount Sent Regularly

Average Amount	<i>f</i>	%
Php 5,000	2	6.90
Php 10,000	9	31.03
Php 15,000	6	20.69
Php 20,000	9	31.03
Php 28,000	3	10.35
Total	29	100.00

Table 10. Other Things Sent to the Family

Other things sent to the family	<i>f</i>	%
None	13	43.33
Packages	7	23.34
No Response	10	33.33
Total	30	100.00

Table 11. Frequency of Other Things Sent to the Family

Frequency of Other Things Sent to the Family	<i>f</i>	%
Once a year	4	57.14
Twice a year	3	42.86
Total	7	100.00

Table 12. Amount of the Remittances Spent for the Health of Children below Five Years Old

Amount of the remittances spent for the health of children below five years old	<i>f</i>	%
Php 1,000	1	3.33
Php 2,000	14	46.67
Php 3,000	9	30.00
Php 10,000	3	10.00
None	3	10.00
Total	30	100.00

Table 13. Amount of Remittance Spent for the Health of Other Members of the Family

Amount of remittance spent for the health of other members of the family	<i>f</i>	%
Php 1,000	6	20.00
Php 2,000	1	3.33
Php 5,000	3	10.00
Php 7,000	1	3.33
None	19	63.34
Total	30	100.00

Table 14. Age of Children Below Five Years Old when Out-migrant Left

Age when parents left	<i>f</i>	%
4 months	1	3.33
5 months	1	3.33
6 months	1	3.33
12 months	4	13.34
24 months	13	43.33
36 months	4	13.34
48 months	6	20.00
Total	30	100.00

Table 15. Age of Children Below Five Years Old at Present

Age at present	<i>f</i>	%
1 year	2	6.67
2 years	5	16.67
3 years	13	43.33
4 years	8	26.66
5 years	2	6.67
Total	30	100.00

Table 16. Vaccinations Received by Children below Five Years Old

Age now (year)	Residence Status			
	With Out-migrant		With no out-migrant	
	<i>f</i>	%	<i>f</i>	%
HB only	0	0	1	3.33
Measles only	0	0	1	3.33
Complete	30	100.00	28	93.34
Total	30	100.00	30	100.00

Table 17. Response to “Has the child been sick lately?”

Has the child been sick lately?	Residence Status			
	With Out-migrant		With no out-migrant	
	<i>f</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>f</i>	<i>%</i>
Yes	9	30.00	14	46.66
No	21	70.00	16	53.34
Total	30	100.00	30	100.00

Table 18. Signs & Symptoms and/or Diseases Experienced by Children below Five Years Old

Signs & Symptoms and/or Diseases	Residence Status			
	With out-migrant		With no out-migrant	
	<i>f</i>	%	<i>f</i>	%
Amoeba	0	0	2	14.29
Bronchitis	1	11.11	0	0
Cold and fever	0	0	2	14.29
Cough	2	22.22	2	14.29
Cough and cold	1	11.11	2	14.29
Diarrhea	0	0	1	7.14
Fever	4	44.45	3	21.42
Fever and cough	1	11.11	0	0
Fever, cough and cold	0	0	1	7.14
Flu	0	0	1	7.14
Total	9	100.00	14	100.00

**Table 19. Response to
“Was the sick child treated?”**

Was the sick child treated?	Residence Status			
	With out-migrant		With no out-migrant	
	<i>f</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>f</i>	<i>%</i>
Yes	8	88.88	14	100.00
No	1	11.12	0	0
Total	9	100.00	14	100.00

Table 20. Medicine Used in Treating the Sickness of Children below Five Years Old

What medicine?	Residence Status			
	With out-migrant		With no out-migrant	
	<i>f</i>	%	<i>f</i>	%
Ambroxol	0	0	1	7.14
Metronidazole	0	0	2	14.27
Carbocisteine	3	37.50	1	7.14
Domperidone	0	0	1	7.14
Paracetamol	4	50.00	6	42.86
Salbutamol	1	12.50	1	7.14
Paracetamol taken together with antibiotic	0	0	3	21.43
Total	8	100.00	14	100.00

Table 21. Responses to “Who treated the sickness of the child below five years old?”

“Who treated the sickness of the child below five years old?”	Residence Status			
	With out-migrant		With no out-migrant	
	<i>f</i>	%	<i>f</i>	%
Doctor	4	50.00	6	42.85
Mother	4	50.00	8	57.15
Total	8	100.00	14	100.00

Table 22. Responses to “Is the child below five years old regularly brought to the doctor for medical checkup?”

Is the child regularly brought to the doctor for check-up?	Residence Status			
	With out-migrant		With no out-migrant	
	<i>f</i>	%	<i>f</i>	%
Yes	7	23.33	9	30.00
No	23	76.67	21	70.00
Total	30	100.00	30	100.00

Table 23. Frequency of Medical Checkups for Children below Five Years Old

How frequent is the child checked by the doctor?	Residence Status			
	With out-migrant		With no out-migrant	
	<i>f</i>	%	<i>f</i>	%
Every two months	1	14.28	0	0
If ill	0	0	1	11.11
Once a month	4	57.15	4	44.45
Seldom	0	0	3	33.33
Sometimes	0	0	1	11.11
Twice a month	2	28.57	0	0
Total	7	100.00	9	100.00

Table 24. Responses to “Where is the child brought for medical checkup?”

Where is the child brought?	Residence Status			
	With out-migrant		With no out-migrant	
	<i>f</i>	%	<i>f</i>	%
Free clinics	3	42.86	1	11.11
Health center	1	14.28	7	77.78
Private Hospital	3	42.86	1	11.11
Total	7	100.00	9	100.00

Table 25. Reasons why the child is not brought to a medical doctor for checkup

Reasons why the child is not brought to a medical doctor for checkup	Residence Status			
	With out-migrant		With no out-migrant	
	<i>f</i>	%	<i>f</i>	%
No sickness/Normal	17	73.92	15	71.42
No money for checkup	3	13.05	1	4.77
No time for check-up	1	4.34	2	9.52
No response	2	8.69	3	14.29
Total	23	100.00	21	100.00

Table 26. Responses to “When was the last time that the child was brought for medical checkup?”

When was the last time that the child was brought for medical check-up?	Residence Status			
	With out-migrant		With no out-migrant	
	<i>f</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>f</i>	<i>%</i>
2007	0	0	1	3.33
2008	5	16.66	10	33.33
No Response	25	83.34	19	63.34
Total	30	100.00	30	100.00

Table 27. Is the child taking vitamins?

Is the child taking vitamins?	Residence Status				Total
	With out-migrant		With no out-migrant		
	<i>f</i>	%	<i>f</i>	%	
Yes	28	93.33	24	80.00	52
No	2	6.67	6	20.00	8
Total	30	100.00	30	100.00	60

Table 28. Vitamins Taken by Children below Five Years Old

Type of Vitamins	Residence Status			
	With out-migrant		With no out-migrant	
	<i>f</i>	%	<i>f</i>	%
Vitamin C	10	35.71	6	25.00
Vitamin C taken together with Multivitamins	6	21.43	4	16.67
Multivitamins	12	42.86	14	58.33
Total	28	100.00	24	100.00

CONCLUSION

- ❖ the results of the study proved to be inconclusive as to whether labor migration has a positive or negative effect of the children under five left behind.
- ❖ could be brought about by the sample size of the study, which serves as a limitation of the study and which calls for a bigger sample for the study.

CONCLUSION

In this study, children from families with out-migrant have had complete vaccinations as well as taking branded vitamins to supplement the food intake. Given this, families with out-migrant have a higher tendency to not bring their children to the doctor for regular checkups. In spite of this, most of the families with out-migrant included in this study indicated the presence of a clear budget for the health of children below five years old.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ❖ Mainly, this study pushes for the government to take measures to protect the health of children below five years old. Concretely, this could be realized with an agreement between labor migrants and the government to ensure the welfare of the children left behind, particularly those below five years old.
- ❖ Perhaps, a regulation could be strictly enforced requiring labor migrants to provide a certain percentage of their remittance for the provision of the health needs of the children below five years old who are left behind.
- ❖ This study could be further expanded taking a larger sample to more accurately capture the health status of children below five years old who are left behind by labor migrants.