

The Determinants And Aspirations On Migration Plans Of Selected Graduating Civil Engineering Students At Batangas State University

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Abstract. The purpose of this study is to determine the determinants and aspirations on the migration plans of selected graduating civil engineering students at Batangas State University. The data gathering instrument used were questionnaires that are distributed online. The data analyzed were from surveying a hundred and forty-seven (147) out of two hundred and thirty-two (232) graduating civil engineering students from A.Y. 2021-2022. The researchers analyzed the students’ factors and aspirations as they aspire to migrate after graduation for the pursuance of their career. The study revealed that there is no significant difference between the determinants and the profile variables of the respondents perhaps, there is a significant relationship between the students’ determinants and aspirations on their potential migration.

Keyword. Aspiration, Determinants, Global North, Global South, Globalization, Migration, Migrants

1. Introduction

It is normal now that the Filipinos were hoping to migrate or either work abroad to try their luck of finding a stable job than wait here in the Philippines. According to ILO, “There are 10 million Filipinos live abroad and more than 1 million Filipino leave the country each year to work abroad.” This migration helps to improve the remittances to the Philippines from around the world. The job opportunities for the Filipinos who are fresh graduate are limited here in the Philippines. According to an article of Manila Times, “In June 2021, joblessness rose among non-elementary graduates, from 11.7 percent in May 2021 to 15.9 percent. It also rose among elementary graduates, from 21.6 percent in May to 31.5 percent this June, but it hardly changed among junior high school graduates, from 30 percent to 28.7 percent. It also fell among college graduates from 29.7 percent in May 2021 to 23.8 percent in June 2021.” Most likely the job workers that a company are willing to invest are the one who have a lot more experience. The fresh graduates now are willing to leave the country and try their luck on the other side of the world. According to Liyana Hasnan, “Most Filipinos go abroad to get a higher salary. But the young are also motivated to leave their country to acquire new skills, pursue a career and experience other cultures. Some seek this opportunity to reunite with families that are already living abroad.” Thus, it is not only the individual itself gain from it but the country gained something from this. Over 2 million Filipinos who leave for work overseas each year brought home a remittance total of more than US\$25 billion (Hasnan, 2019). The sole purpose of this study is to determine the determinants and aspirations that drive graduating civil engineering students at Batangas State University to have migration plans. The findings of this study will determine the students' aspirations, whether for their future or for their family. This will also identify the factors that influence them, whether it is through job opportunities, family migration, the environment, or lifestyle.

2. Method

This study used correlational research design. A total of one hundred and forty-seven (147) students from 4th year level of Batangas State University under Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering enrolled in School Year 2021-2022 are chosen to be the respondents of the study. They are the ones who participated in completing the questionnaire given by the researchers. The students are the respondents to meet the objectives of the study as well as to complete the given questionnaire

3. Results and Discussions

Table 1 Influence on Potential Migration of the Respondents in Terms of Job Opportunities

Job Opportunities	Weighted Mean	Verbal Interpretation	Rank
1. I would like to migrate because jobs outside the country pays better.	3.67	Strongly Agree	1
2. I would like to migrate because workplaces abroad are healthy and competitive.	3.29	Strongly Agree	5
3. I would like to migrate because jobs outside the country develop and enhance the skills needed for my career vastly.	3.47	Strongly Agree	3
4. I would like to migrate because jobs outside the country come with more working benefits in addition to salary.	3.62	Strongly Agree	2
5. I would like to migrate because there are more job openings related to my career abroad.	3.38	Strongly Agree	4
Composite Mean	3.49	Strongly Agree	

Table 2.1 shows the influence on potential migration of the respondents in terms of job opportunities. From the table, “I would like to migrate because jobs outside the country pays better” ranked first with the highest weighted mean of 3.67 which is interpreted as strongly agree. According to Cosalan (2010), many Filipinos who emigrate for employment abroad are not unemployed; rather, they were previously working at home and are leaving to seek higher income abroad. This implies that Filipinos tend to emigrate majorly due to the economic status of the country and the lower salary rate of jobs in the country. Moreover, results of the survey presented that the second most influential determinant is the additional benefits to the salary of workers outside the country which gathered a weighted mean of 3.62 and a verbal interpretation as strongly agree. In addition to that, “I would like to migrate because jobs outside the country develop and enhance the skills needed for my career vastly” ranked third and next to it is the influence of employment rate and more job openings abroad with a weighted mean of 3.47 and 3.38 respectively and both are interpreted as strongly agree. Lastly, the respondents ranked the determinant for the quality of workplaces abroad in terms of health and competitiveness, as last in accordance with its influence on their migration plans. Based on the results shown in the table, it can be inferred that the respondents are most likely influenced by the job opportunities to emigrate as it can be seen from the composite mean which is 3.49 and is interpreted as strongly agree. This implies that job opportunities outside the Philippines influence them greatly on their migration plans and could be a deciding factor in choosing to move out of the country to seek for better career advantages.

Table 2 Influence on Potential Migration of the Respondents in Terms of Family Migration

Family Migration	Weighted Mean	Verbal Interpretation	Rank
1. I would like to migrate because I have family members who live abroad.	2.32	Disagree	5
2. I would like to migrate because I have relatives who work in other countries.	2.93	Agree	3
3. I would like to migrate because I also prefer to work abroad.	3.24	Agree	2
4. I would like to migrate because I also like to experience living in another country.	3.47	Strongly Agree	1
5. I would like to migrate because the influence of my family abroad who wants to be visited.	2.50	Agree	4
Composite Mean	2.89	Agree	

Table 2.2 shows the influence on potential migration of the respondents in terms of family migration. The table

presented that the determinant “I would like to migrate because I also like to experience living in another country” ranked first with a weighted mean of 3.47 and verbal interpretation as strongly agree. According to the findings of Tabuga (2018), migration culture has grown more complex through the years, Filipinos now tend to acknowledge the physical aspect of the country down to its culture as deciding factors for migrating. Moreover, based on his study his reflects the potential that households may be unable to maintain their way of living once they return from an overseas employment; they are therefore urged to travel overseas to maintain their lifestyle after trying to live there. In addition to that, table 2.2 shows that self-preference in working abroad influences the respondents in migrating and influences from relatives who work abroad tend to convince some of them too, these determinants gathered a weighted mean of 3.24 and 2.93 respectively which are both marked “agree” in the verbal interpretation. Also, influences from family abroad of the respondents have a weighted mean of 2.50 and lastly those who have family members who already migrated there also encourages their relatives to join them. Generally, potential migration is influenced by family migration as it can be seen from the table that it has a composite mean of 2.89 which is translated as “Agree”.

Table 3 Influence on Potential Migration of the Respondents in Terms of Environment

Environment	Weighted Mean	Verbal Interpretation	Rank
1. I would like to migrate because other countries have a comfortable working environment.	3.29	Strongly Agree	1
2. I would like to migrate because colleagues abroad have kind traits.	2.80	Agree	5
3. I would like to migrate because the climate is complimenting my job.	2.97	Agree	4
4. I would like to migrate because more housing projects are given to workers.	3.09	Agree	3
5. I would like to migrate because the society is eco-friendly, and it greatly affects my field of work.	3.20	Agree	2
Composite Mean	3.07	Agree	

Table 2.3 shows the influence on potential migration of the respondents in term of environment. The table shows that the determinant “I would like to migrate because other countries have a comfortable working environment” has the highest mean of 3.29 which means the majority of the respondents strongly agreed to it. As stated by Hannan (2019), Choosing to move to a foreign country is an excellent way to propel your career forward. Economic potential in emerging markets has contributed to a significant increase in the need for companies to move

people and source talent from all around the world. Next to it, respondents also agreed that the society abroad is Eco-friendly, which can greatly affect their field of work. This determinant attained a weighted mean of 3.20. Next is the fourth determinant which states that the respondents want to migrate due to most housing projects were given to workers abroad. This left a weighted mean of 3.09 being the third on the ranking. Table 2.3 also shows that respondents agreed that the climate overseas compliment their job and lastly, colleagues abroad definitely have kind traits. Overall, all the determinants under the environment being one of the influences on potential migrated left a positive remark of agree and that its composite mean reached up to 3.07.

Table 4 Influence on Potential Migration of the Respondents in Terms of Lifestyle

Lifestyle	Weighted Mean	Verbal Interpretation	Rank
1. I would like to migrate because I get to work with people from different countries.	3.3	Strongly Agree	4
2. I would like to migrate because life abroad is more fun and interesting.	3.19	Agree	5
3. I would like to migrate because life abroad can bring me out of my comfort zone.	3.45	Strongly Agree	3
4. I would like to migrate because other countries offer a better quality of living.	3.48	Strongly Agree	2
5. I would like to migrate because other countries can expand professional connections.	3.57	Strongly Agree	1
Composite Mean	3.07	Agree	

Table 2.4 shows the influence of potential migration of the respondents in terms of lifestyle. The table presented that the determinant “I would like to migrate because other countries can expand professional connections.” ranked first with a weighted mean of 3.57 and verbal interpretation as strongly agree. Based on the news article of European Commission (2021), Living abroad makes us learn new skills out of necessity, which helps us be more independent. Whether you are from a small town or big city, moving abroad will give you an invaluable new perspective on life. Seeing other cultures’ mentality and approach to life can help you expand and enrich your own worldview and establish your personal values. Also, the power of a well-developed professional network should not be underestimated. Many job openings are not advertised publicly; instead, they are filled through referrals and professional networking. Second most influential determinant is noted as the likelihood to migrate because other countries offer a better quality of

living” which gathered a weighted mean of 3.48 leaving a mark of strongly agree. Third is the likelihood to migrate because life abroad can bring the respondents out of their comfort zones which had a weighted mean of 3.45 with a remark of strongly agree as well. The two lasts on the ranking is the likelihood to migrate due to the opportunity to work with people from different countries and a more fun and interesting life abroad leaving a weighted mean of 3.30 and 3.19 respectively with a remark of strongly agree and agree. For the result, determinants under the environment variable gathered a composite mean of 3.07 with a verbal interpretation of agree.

Table 4 Migration Aspirations of the Respondents

Aspirations	Weighted Mean	Verbal Interpretation	Rank
1. I will be able to secure my future with my children.	3.22	Agree	9.5
2. I will be successful in my chosen career.	3.22	Agree	9.5
3. I will be granted a higher salary compared to here.	3.56	Strongly Agree	4.5
4. I will be able to improve my skills that are needed in my job.	3.56	Strongly Agree	4.5
5. I will be able to help others who want to migrate too.	3.24	Agree	8
6. I will be able to expand my professional network.	3.61	Strongly Agree	3
7. I will enjoy higher living standards.	3.40	Strongly Agree	7
8. I will experience personal and professional growth.	3.69	Strongly Agree	1
9. I will be able to enjoy my dream lifestyle.	3.48	Strongly Agree	6
10. I will be able to support my family’s needs.	3.66	Strongly Agree	2
Composite Mean	3.46	Strongly Agree	

Table 3.1 shows the migration aspirations of the respondents as they are planning to migrate for the pursuance of their career. Upon seeing the table, it is clear that the respondents mostly aspire to experience personal and professional growth. It attained a weighted mean of 3.69 and a verbal interpretation of strongly agree. The following orders respectively are the aspiration to be able to support family needs with weighted mean of 3.66, ability to expand professional network with 3.61, being granted a higher salary and ability to improve skills needed for the job with both 3.56, ability to enjoy the dream lifestyle with 3.48, and enjoy higher living standards with 3.40. All of the latter have a verbal

interpretation of strongly agree. The eighth up on the ranking is the ability to help others to migrate as well with a weighted mean of 3.24 and a verbal interpretation of agree. Lastly, the ability to secure the future with their children and being successful in their chosen career both have a weighted mean of 3.22 and a verbal interpretation of agree. All in all, all the respondents' aspirations towards their likelihood to migrate gathered a composite mean of 3.46 and a verbal interpretation of strongly agree. One aspect of the social grounding of aspiration and desire is that individual attitudes towards migration cannot be amicably divorced from those that are manifest in the social context. An aspiration to migrate reflects the transformative potential of migration and implies that this imagined transformation is not only viewed positively by the prospective migrant, but is also institutionally embedded. Though analytical vocabularies differ, this observation is well established in analyses of so-called cultures of migration (Horváth 2008; Timmerman, Hemmerchts, and Marie-Lou DeClerck 2014).

Table 5 Difference on Determinants on Potential Migration Employed by the Respondents When Grouped According to Sex

Teaching Strategy	t	p-value	Decision Ho	Interpretation
Job Opportunities	0.2357	0.8140	Accept	Not Significant
Family Migration	-0.4318	0.6665	Accept	Not Significant
Environment	0.1101	0.9125	Accept	Not Significant
Lifestyle	-0.0845	0.9328	Accept	Not Significant

*Significance Level (α): 0.05

*Reject Ho if p value is less than significance level

*Accept Ho if p value is greater than significance level

Table 4.1 above shows the significant difference on potential migration and respondents' demographic profile in terms of sex. For job opportunities, it is shown that the p-value which is 0.9750 is greater than the level of significance of 0.05. Therefore, the null hypothesis is accepted. Moreover, there is the same case within the rest of the variables. Family migration has a p-value of 0.1089, environment has a p-value of 0.2972, and lastly, lifestyle has a p-value of 0.5894. All p-values in table 4.1 is greater than the level of significance making them all not significant as we accept the null hypothesis. Therefore, there is no significant difference between the respondents' determinants of potential migration and demographic profile in terms of the sex.

Table 6 Difference on Determinants on Potential Migration Employed by the Respondents When Grouped According to Type of Residence

Teaching Strategy	t	p-value	Decision Ho	Interpretation
Job Opportunities	-0.0314	0.9750	Accept	Not Significant
Family Migration	1.6135	0.1089	Accept	Not Significant
Environment	1.0463	0.2972	Accept	Not Significant
Lifestyle	0.5409	0.5894	Accept	Not Significant

*Significance Level (α): 0.05

*Reject Ho if p value is less than significance level

*Accept Ho if p value is greater than significance level

Table 4.2 above shows the significant difference on potential migration and respondents' demographic profile in terms of the type of residence. It is shown that the p-value of job opportunities which is 0.8140 is greater than the 0.05 level of significance. Additionally, family migration has a p-value of 0.6665, environment has a p-value of 0.9125, and lastly, lifestyle has a p-value of 0.9328. All p-values in table 4.1 is still greater than the level of significance. In this case, the null hypothesis is accepted and all interpretations are not significant. Therefore, there is no significant difference between the respondents' determinants of potential migration and demographic profile in terms of the type of residence.

4. Conclusions

The result of the study regarding the demographic profile of the participants shows that majority of the participants in the study are female. Most of the respondents live in rural areas. Moreover, majority of the respondents have a family income ranging from twenty thousand to sixty thousand pesos. The majority of the participants strongly agreed that the determinant job opportunities have most influenced the participants to migrate to other countries. This was followed by both determinants of environment and lifestyle and family migration. The result also shows that the most migration aspiration of the participants is to develop personal and professional growth, followed by supporting the family's income, expanding professional network, being granted a higher salary, and to improve skills that are needed in the job. The difference in the determinants of potential migration (job opportunities, family migration, environment, lifestyle) and demographic profile of the participants resulted in negligible difference and it is not significant. The correlation between the determinants of potential migration (job opportunities, family migration, environment, lifestyle) and respondents' aspirations resulted to a significant relationship between the two variables.

5. Recommendations

The researchers' recommendations are based on the results of the findings of the study. From the results, the job opportunities most influence the participants to emigrate. This implies that participants are likely to emigrate majorly due to the economic status and lower salary rate of jobs in the country. These reasons should be

taken as major concerns by the government and other development agencies/plan. The national development plan must recognize these and take actions to address issues regarding high skilled laborer migration. In terms of the participants' migration aspirations, a long-term approach to reducing the likelihood of skilled laborer migration is to discourage citizens from leaving the country in the first place. This means, giving enough reasons to stay. This includes providing better jobs, more opportunities, and a higher standard of living. By providing financial benefits, freedom, and adequate infrastructure facilities, it is feasible to lessen the likelihood of skilled laborer migration and/or potential migration of students in the future and use their talent, expertise, and experiences to develop the country. Furthermore, interventions need to be implemented to reduce the likelihood of skilled migration. This could be done through assessing the main reasons as to why students want to migrate, cooperating with the university and other institutions to develop policies that enable equal exchange programs with other universities in the country. The University should also engage with professors, students, and staff on how to discuss the role of the highly skilled individual in development, including the possibility of studying abroad, migrating, and returning. On the other hand, the researchers recommend that future migration research should pay more attention to students because aspiration is only a one step of migration, leaving other determinants unmapped. However, this study is only limited to the graduating civil engineering students at Batangas State University. Future researchers can expand the scope and limitation of this study to include other universities. Furthermore, this study could be used by future researchers who would also like to conduct studies regarding the potential migration of engineering students that is not included in this study.

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