

Opponent's Assessment of Doctoral Thesis

Tsogtsaikhan Bolormaa: Migration Gravity of Ulaanbaatar and its Consequences

In her work, the author is mainly dealing with the issues of migration gravity in Mongolia, because in the past less attention was paid to this demographic process, as compared to studies of fertility and mortality for example. The work mainly focuses on internal migration, because similarly as in other developing countries, even Mongolia has experienced significant growth of internal migration in the last few years. It has been mostly visible on migration from the villages to cities, mainly to the capital city of Ulaanbaatar.

The work is divided into seven chapters. In the first chapter, the author is talking about the significance of internal migration, about the reasons why she has selected particularly this kind of theme for her work and about the purpose of her effort. She also describes the sources of information she used for her work. The second chapter is dedicated to basic realities of Mongolia from the point of view of its history, geography, demography and economy. Special attention has been paid to the capital city of Ulaanbaatar. What is interesting about Mongolia is the fact that for nearly 70 years it has existed under socialist regime. On one hand, the consequence of this fact was evident in certain slowdown of economic development; on the other hand it has brought relatively good level of basic education and basic health-care. This reality is supported by the values of individual components within the index of human development. The third chapter is dealing with the phenomenon of migration in greater detail. The author describes basic types of migration and some examples of internal migration known from the literature.

The main results of the work are in the following chapters. The fourth chapter is dedicated to the specific characteristics of migration in Asian countries and primarily in Mongolia, where the migration during the times of socialist regime and especially in the second half of the 20th century was controlled on purpose, the spontaneous migration was significantly restricted. The easing of migration occurred only in the beginning of the 90's, it coincided with the fall of socialist regime and transition to democratic and market oriented society. The fifth chapter is dealing with the determinants of migration, in the sixth chapter the consequences of migration on overall and local level are discussed in greater detail. The last chapter summarizes main conclusions of the analysis of migration. All chapters mainly focus on migration to Ulaanbaatar.

Comparing to some other previous studies dealing with the migration in Mongolia the author of this work has prepared very extensive and detailed analysis. She has studied great deal of literature and used the data not only from the population census but also from the regular documentation of migration, as well as from the selective investigation concerning migration. The migration in this work has been analyzed not as an isolated fact, but in very extensive relevancies. The author brings-up a number of reasons and consequences of migration related not only to demographic but also to economic, social, geographic and ecological reasons and even mentions some ideas on how to implement appropriate migration policies.

Numerical results of migration analysis are presented in a number of tables, colored graphs and charts. However the author does not restrict herself only to descriptive characteristics. It makes analysis of statistic dependency with the help of correlation coefficients, even uses the method of factor analysis. The results presented here are accompanied by rich verbal commentary.

The work has been written in very understandable manner, it is organized and it has noticeably good graphic arrangement.

The work satisfies the requirements for doctoral thesis. Therefore I recommend that it is accepted in order that it is defended in the form as it has been presented.

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