Abstract

Population Diversity and Rural Out-Migration: Testing the Lee Theory in the Context of Bangladesh

M.Z. Hossain
K.N.S. Yadava

The Lee's general theory of migration, which states that there is a direct relationship between volume of migration and population heterogeneity, has been tested by using micro-level village data. The data for this study were collected from rural areas of Comilla district of Bangladesh. The population heterogeneity has been measured using four factors, viz., socio-economic status, education, occupation and religion. The simple and multiple regression analysis techniques have been applied to examine the Lee's theory. Lieberson's formula has been used to compute the index of diversity. It is found that the migration rate varies from 2.88 to 10.11, yielding 6.5 percent as the average migration rate for the villages under study. The study showed a negative relationship between volume of out-migration and diversity of socio-economic status. The coefficient of occupational diversity has been found to be significantly related with the volume of migration. The maximum percentage of variation in migration was accounted for by occupation (45 percent), followed by education (27 percent) as single independent variable. Following multiple regression analysis, the coefficient of educational diversity was found significantly related with the volume of out-migration. All the four variables combined together accounted for about 70 percent variation in migration, which demonstrates that Lee's theory is, by and large, acceptable for Bangladesh.