



Assessing the Factors Contributing to Rural-Urban Migration of Youths in South Africa: The Case of Sekhukhune in Limpopo Province

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ABSTRACT

Rural-urban migration of youths in Sekhukhune in Limpopo province of South Africa is primarily driven by many factors. This study examined factors contributing to the rural-urban migration of youths in South Africa, focusing on Sekhukhune in Limpopo province of South Africa. The data was sourced from both primary and secondary materials. Though primary data sources, both personal and telephonic interviews were held with participants, especially the youths in some areas in Sekhukhune, while secondary data sources utilized academic materials such as journal articles, review papers, books, dissertations/theses, conference papers as well as newspapers. The findings revealed that Sekhukhune youths are migrating into urban centres in search of a better life due to the inadequacy of social infrastructures and amenities in their rural areas. The study concluded that the lack of social and physical infrastructure is the main cause of the rural-urban migration of youths in Sekhukhune. The study recommends that the South African government and the Limpopo Provincial government, in particular, should develop rural areas such as Sekhukhune in order to minimise the inflow of youths into the urban centres. This study is original. It has not been researched before, especially on the rural-urban migration of youths in Sekhukhune. Thus this study seeks to make a contribution to the existing body of knowledge on rural-urban migration. The study provides data that will help policymakers, government officials and researchers to develop feasible strategies to curb rural-urban migration. It will also provide data for tertiary students, especially those who specialize in migration studies.

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INTRODUCTION

According to Mulibana, migration can be defined as “the movement of persons, households or crowd of people from one place to another.”¹ Mulibana further adds that the movement of people sometimes can be permanent, temporary, voluntary, involuntary internal, or external.² Thobejane also defines migration as geographical mobility between one unit to another and this includes a change of residence from the place

¹ Pinki Lorraine Mulibana, “Characteristics and Patterns of Migration to and from Mpumalanga Province, 2011-2016” (Stellenbosch University, 2019), <https://scholar.sun.ac.za/items/dcdcf86f-25ec-432d-b02c-2e75cfc2d37d>.

² Mulibana, “Characteristics and Patterns of Migration to and from Mpumalanga Province, 2011-2016.”

of origin to the destination.³ Young people around the globe continue to migrate internally and internationally because of different factors such as push and pull. Young people are either being pushed out of their places into their destinations or being pulled towards their destinations.⁴ The search for employment became the main factor for youth migration in both developed and developing nations.⁵ An estimated 10% of people migrating are young people.⁶ Meanwhile, more than 10% of the South African population migrates nationally every year.⁷ Rural-urban migration is not a South African thing only, it is happening throughout the world and it has been developing economies and societies.⁸ Post-apartheid South Africa has contributed much to the increase in rural-urban migration due to the fact that previously certain race groups, especially blacks were prevented from travelling to certain areas and since the attainment of democracy in the country, this has meant people are free to travel freely. In South Africa, as in many countries of the world, there is much movement of people, especially from underdeveloped areas to developed ones. It continues to experience high rates of rural-urban migration due to the inequalities between the former and the latter.

Migration is characterized by both push and pull factors.⁹ Pull factors are responsible for pulling people to the place of destination which may include better employment opportunities, a better political climate, and better healthcare facilities, among others and push factors are responsible for pushing one out of his or her original place such as political uncertainty, limited economic opportunities, poor health and educational facilities.

Sekhukhune is one of the districts in Limpopo province which experiences migration of people, especially the youths due to poverty. In the case of Sekhukhune, the district experiences Lee's theory of migration which is the push and pull factors. People are migrating from rural to urban centres in search of a better life. Lack of social infrastructure and amenities such as employment, water and sanitation, housing, healthcare services, education, wages, entertainment and recreational facilities are either pushing or pulling youths in Sekhukhune to the industrialised centres of South Africa. Most of these youths who migrate into the urban areas are those who have matric/grade 12, diplomas and degrees, and these qualifications have been earned at rural schools and colleges/universities. Since there are no opportunities for them, especially in the area of employment in rural areas, they end up leaving their villages for developed places such as urban areas where they can better their lives. Youths migrate for different reasons. While many youths migrate for better employment opportunities and education, others migrate for other reasons such as adequate water and sanitation, adequate housing, better healthcare services, better wages, better entertainment and adequate recreational facilities because these are either unavailable or minimal in their rural areas. The slow pace of the South African government and particularly Sekhukhune District Municipality in the provision of some of this social infrastructure and amenities has led to a significant movement of people, especially the youths from rural into the industrialised centres of the country, depriving rural areas of skills and innovations.

The study attempts to fill the gap in the literature by coming up with recommendations on the problem of rural-urban migration. This study thus examines factors contributing to rural-urban migration in South Africa, focusing on Sekhukhune in Limpopo province of South Africa. Since the dawn of democracy, the migration of youths from rural to urban areas in South Africa has increased at an alarming rate. This migration is caused by inadequate social infrastructure and amenities which include

³ Modipadi Poincettia Thobejane, "Factors That Influence In-Migration in the Gauteng Province.," *Educator Multidisciplinary Journal* 4, no. 1 (2020).

⁴ SIHMA, "Youth and Migration," Scalabrini Institute for human Mobility in Africa, June 27, 2023, <https://sihma.org.za/Blog-on-the-move/youth-and-migration>.

⁵ SIHMA, "Youth and Migration."

⁶ SIHMA, "Youth and Migration."

⁷ Thulisile Nomthandazo Sithole, "The Influence of Youth Rural-Urban Migration on Architecture and Urbanism: Towards an Employment Indigenous Skill Centre in Durban" (University of Kwazulu-Natal, 2022), <https://researchspace.ukzn.ac.za/items/b5c4536c-ada8-43e8-809f-ce77a783ea97>.

⁸ Thama Cindy Ramuhulu, "The Prospectus and Challenges of Rural Urban Migration in South African Cities: Perceptions from Integrated Development Plans" (University of Kwazulu-Natal, 2021), <https://researchspace.ukzn.ac.za/items/3d251676-ef72-4f96-b590-70214965fba3>.

⁹ Ramuhulu, "The Prospectus and Challenges of Rural Urban Migration in South African Cities: Perceptions from Integrated Development Plans."

employment opportunities, water and sanitation, housing, education, healthcare services, wages, entertainment and recreational facilities. The study is organised around one main question:

- What are the factors which contribute to the rural-urban migration of youths in Sekhukhune?

LITERATURE REVIEW

From the existing literature, it is evident that there are differing views on what causes rural-urban migration and therefore there is plentiful literature regarding the subject. Mubangizi argues that challenges faced by rural municipalities in the provision of service delivery in rural areas have become a factor behind rural-urban migration.¹⁰ If the municipalities, especially rural municipalities fail in their duties to deliver basic services to the people, they will be forced to migrate to where they can get better basic services and there is no other place than the urban areas. Mlambo in his study, mentions the causes of rural-urban migration that include, employment opportunities, educational and health services and wage differences.¹¹ In other words, lack of employment, inadequate educational and health services and low wages motivate people to leave their areas to where they can find better opportunities. Lee as cited in Mulibana argues that the causes of migration differ from each other, what causes one to migrate may not be the same cause for another person to leave his or her place of birth.¹² Booyesen postulates that rural-urban migration sometimes is caused by inequalities in access to healthcare services.¹³ He further says that these disparities in healthcare services between rural and urban discriminate against the poor. Remi et al., in their study, discuss inadequate social infrastructure and social amenities such as employment, education, health, wages, piped water, electricity, good shelter, and recreational facilities as the cause of rural-urban migration.¹⁴ Sithole argues that the reason people, especially young adults migrate from rural to urban areas is because they consider the latter as having better living and working conditions.¹⁵ These young adults leave their place of origin in search of better opportunities for education and employment.¹⁶ Eghweree and Imuetinyan postulate that the reason for the movement of people from rural into urban centres is the disparity between the former and the latter.¹⁷ They further add that infrastructural facilities are the ones that attract youths to the cities.¹⁸ Mthiyane et al., like many scholars, in their study mention factors that motivate people to leave their rural places for urban areas and these factors include housing, water and sanitation and other basic services.¹⁹ These authors assert that apart from employment opportunities, demand for better salaries can also make people leave their rural places into urban areas.²⁰

METHODOLOGY

The study relied on both primary and secondary data as a means of collecting relevant and required information. Primary data sources were obtained through interviews with the youths in different Sekhukhune District Municipalities. Two methods of interviews were utilised, and this included both personal and telephone interviews. Through secondary data, textual analysis of the available literature relating to rural-urban migration in South Africa was employed. The purpose of these two methods of

¹⁰ Betty C. Mubangizi, "Rural-Urban Migration and Smart Cities : Implications for Service Delivery in South Africa," *African Renaissance* 18, no. 1 (March 1, 2021): 181–201, <https://doi.org/10.31920/2516-5305/2021/18n1a9>.

¹¹ Victor Mlambo, "An Overview of Rural-Urban Migration in South Africa: Its Causes and Implications," *Archives of Business Research* 6, no. 4 (April 30, 2018), <https://doi.org/10.14738/abr.64.4407>.

¹² Mulibana, "Characteristics and Patterns of Migration to and from Mpumalanga Province, 2011-2016."

¹³ Frikkie le R Booyesen, "Urban–Rural Inequalities in Health Care Delivery in South Africa," *Development Southern Africa* 20, no. 5 (December 2003): 659–73, <https://doi.org/10.1080/0376835032000149298>.

¹⁴ Joshua Remi Aworemi, Ibraheem Adegoke Abdul-Azeez, and Nurain Opoola, "An Appraisal of the Factors Influencing Rural-Urban Migration in Some Selected Local Government Areas of Lagos State Nigeria," *Journal of Sustainable Development* 4, no. 3 (June 2, 2011), <https://doi.org/10.5539/jsd.v4n3p136>.

¹⁵ Sithole, "The Influence of Youth Rural-Urban Migration on Architecture and Urbanism: Towards an Employment Indigenous Skill Centre in Durban."

¹⁶ Sithole, "The Influence of Youth Rural-Urban Migration on Architecture and Urbanism: Towards an Employment Indigenous Skill Centre in Durban."

¹⁷ Charles Ogheneruonah Eghweree and Festus Imuetinyan, "Rural-Urban Migration and Youth Unemployment in Nigeria: Why Public Programmes Fail," *Urbanet*, February 6, 2019, <https://www.urbanet.info/nigeria-youth-unemployment/>.

¹⁸ Eghweree and Imuetinyan, "Rural-Urban Migration and Youth Unemployment in Nigeria: Why Public Programmes Fail."

¹⁹ Douglas B. Mthiyane, Henry Wissink, and Nyashadzashé Chiwawa, "The Impact of Rural–Urban Migration in South Africa: A Case of KwaDukuza Municipality," *Journal of Local Government Research and Innovation* 3 (December 15, 2022), <https://doi.org/10.4102/jolgr.v3i0.56>.

²⁰ Mthiyane, Wissink, and Chiwawa, "The Impact of Rural–Urban Migration in South Africa: A Case of KwaDukuza Municipality."

research is to put into the context of understanding the factors contributing to the rural-urban migration of youths in South Africa, particularly in Sekhukhune district in Limpopo province. In this regard, academic materials such as journal articles, books, review papers, conference papers, dissertations/theses as well as newspapers were used to gather information regarding the study. Approximately 8 participants, mostly youths between 21 and 35, both males and females were interviewed regarding the migration of youths in Sekhukhune. Most youths who were interviewed are from FTLM and few are from EMLM. All ethical issues were duly considered in the collection of data from the participants.

Brief Historical Background of Migration in Sekhukhune

Migration is not a new phenomenon in Sekhukhune. Adult people from Sekhukhune have been migrating to the industrialised cities in search of a better life, especially employment opportunities. The older generation differed from the younger generation in that, the former generation for economic, social, and political reasons. Today's youths migrate for two reasons, economic and social such as employment, wages, education, housing, water and sanitation, health care facilities, entertainment and recreational facilities.

When men from Sekhukhune were migrating in the 1930s, their migration was initially for economic reasons because their main reason was to get employment.²¹ These migrants were either employed in the gold mines on the former East Rand or as domestic workers around Johannesburg and Pretoria.²² However, most Sekhukhune men worked in the mines rather than being domestic workers. They were later recruited into politics. Some men joined the African National Congress (ANC) while others joined the South African Communist Party (SACP) as well as the trade unions.²³ Unlike some of the youth migrants today, the older generation of migrants did not consider cities as their permanent homes. They would frequently visit their rural homes to see their families. Their accommodation was mainly in the hostels because most of them did not have relatives with whom they could stay within the cities/towns. Hostels became a place where migrants could seek accommodation while they were in the urban areas to look for employment.²⁴

According to Josephy as cited in Ubisi the hostel system was considered to be the cornerstone of the apartheid economy.²⁵ When they were in the cities, they usually visited home monthly or weekly once, provided they had been employed and had money to do that. Sometimes they could send goods or money home, either through the post office or through their homeboys. During those years, women were not allowed to migrate as they were not allowed to work in the mines. Mining was considered a man's place.²⁶ Women's main duties were to produce agricultural products as well as take care of children.²⁷ However, democratic South Africa is witnessing the migration of women into the urban areas in larger numbers.²⁸ Some of these women are well-educated but have no better job opportunities in their place of origin.

Migrants, apart from being members of various political parties, joined or started their own social clubs such as burial societies which still exist today. Through burial societies, they were able to communicate the concerns of the migrants to the ANC and SACP. Through burial societies, they were also able to finance the deceased member so that he could be taken to his home village for the burial. As

²¹ Peter Delius, "Migrants, Comrades and Rural Revolt. Sekhukhuneland 1950-1987," *Transformation*, no. 13 (1990), 2.

²² Delius, "Migrants, Comrades and Rural Revolt. Sekhukhuneland 1950-1987," 2.

²³ Delius, "Migrants, Comrades and Rural Revolt. Sekhukhuneland 1950-1987," 7.

²⁴ S. V. Ubisi, "The Impact of Migration on Providing Adequate Housing in South Africa," in *The 4th Annual International Conference on Public Administration and Development Alternative, 03-05 July 2019* (Southern Sun Hotel, OR Tambo International Airport, Johannesburg, South Africa: IPADA, 2019), https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Kambidima-Wotela/publication/336798705_Design_and_implementation_of_the_'Separation_of_Powers_Governance_Model'_at_the_local_sphere_of_government_The_case_of_the_City_of_Johannesburg_Metropolitan_Municipality/links/5db2aec0299bf111d4c82104/Design-and-implementation-of-the-Separation-of-Powers-Governance-Model-at-the-local-sphere-of-government-The-case-of-the-City-of-Johannesburg-Metropolitan-Municipality.pdf.

²⁵ Ubisi, "The Impact of Migration on Providing Adequate Housing in South Africa."

²⁶ Sithole, "The Influence of Youth Rural-Urban Migration on Architecture and Urbanism: Towards an Employment Indigenous Skill Centre in Durban."

²⁷ Sithole, "The Influence of Youth Rural-Urban Migration on Architecture and Urbanism: Towards an Employment Indigenous Skill Centre in Durban."

²⁸ Avela Njwambe, Michelle Cocks, and Susanne Vetter, "Ekhayeni: Rural-Urban Migration, Belonging and Landscapes of Home in South Africa," *Journal of Southern African Studies* 45, no. 2 (March 4, 2019): 413-31, <https://doi.org/10.1080/03057070.2019.1631007>.

the older generation of migrants did not have formal education, when they were in the urban areas, they pursued their education and attended night schools either to upgrade their education or acquire basic skills.²⁹ Those who couldn't read and write before were able to do so through night schools and they made sure that when they left cities for home, they had basic literacy skills. Most Sekhukhune youths today migrate having minimal education, some with matric, diplomas, or degrees so that they can be employable when they reach their destinations.

Later the Sekhukhune migrants decided to establish their own organization called Sebatakomo while they were members of both the Communist and the ANC under the leadership of Flag Boshielo and John Nkadimeng.³⁰ According to Delius, this organisation was responsible for curling cattle as well as the curtailment of land.³¹

PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Through both primary and secondary data sources in the form of interviews with Sekhukhune youths and secondary data sources through academic materials such as journal articles, review papers, dissertations/theses, newspapers, and conference papers. It was found that Sekhukhune youths are migrating from rural to urban areas in large numbers due to inadequate social infrastructure and amenities such as better employment opportunities, better educational services, adequate water and sanitation, adequate housing, better wages, better entertainment and better recreational facilities. It was found that the majority of Sekhukhune youths migrate for better employment opportunities and better educational services than other social infrastructure and amenities.

Employment Opportunities

According to Stats SA, "The South African working-age population increased by 153, 000 or 0.4 percent in the first quarter of 2018 compared to the fourth quarter of 2017".³² In South Africa, the unemployment rate is high for both youth and adults, with the youth being the hardest hit with 38.2 percent.³³ According to the Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) for 2022, the unemployment in Sekhukhune was at 63.9%.³⁴ In the entire Limpopo province, unemployed people were at 70% for those who are between 15 and 24.³⁵ All these statistics revealed that most youths in Limpopo province, especially youths in Sekhukhune are not working.

While push factors are responsible for pushing people out of their place of origin such as political uncertainty, limited economic opportunities, and poor health and educational facilities, since Sekhukhune doesn't have industries and companies, pull factors are responsible for pulling youths to the destination where they can get better employment. Many youths in Sekhukhune are leaving the area for better employment opportunities, rather than better political climates. The concern of many Sekhukhune youths is better employment opportunities.

Although Sekhukhune has few towns, mines, and shopping malls, these cannot offer employment to the majority of people in the area and that is the reason why there is much inflow of youths into industrial centres of the country, particularly in Gauteng and Western Cape. Developing provinces such as the Gauteng and Western Cape witness a large number of migrants across the country who are in search of employment opportunities because industries, businesses, and service sectors are concentrated in the urban areas than in the rural areas.³⁶ The reason why there is a huge inflow of migrants to these cities is characterized by better economies and mass industrialization. According to Mlambo, rural-urban

²⁹ Delius, "Migrants, Comrades and Rural Revolt. Sekhukhuneland 1950-1987," 6.

³⁰ Delius, "Migrants, Comrades and Rural Revolt. Sekhukhuneland 1950-1987," 9.

³¹ Delius, "Migrants, Comrades and Rural Revolt. Sekhukhuneland 1950-1987," 9.

³² Stats SA, "Youth Unemployment Still High in Q1: 2018," Data Stories - Department of Statistics South Africa, July 15, 2018, <https://www.statssa.gov.za/?p=11129>.

³³ Stats SA, "Youth Unemployment Still High in Q1: 2018."

³⁴ Julian Tsoka, "Unemployment in Sekhukhune Area," Tunatazama - Community Monitors, November 16, 2022,

<https://communitymonitors.net/2022/11/unemployment-in-sekhukhune-area/>; Stats SA, "Youth Unemployment Still High in Q1: 2018."

³⁵ A. Ramushwana, "Ahead of Polls, Unemployment a Major Concern for Jane Furse Residents," Eyewitness News, February 3, 2024.

³⁶ Mahlatji Engelinah Mmalebati and Malatji Thabiso Lucky, "An Overview of Factors Contributing to Rural-Urban Migration, a Case of Mentz Village," *EUREKA: Social and Humanities*, no. 3 (May 31, 2024): 83–94, <https://doi.org/10.21303/2504-5571.2024.003333>; S. Mbebe, *The Impact of Rural-Urban Migration on the Provision of Sustainable and Integrated Human Settlement in Atteridgeville*, 2019, <https://uir.unisa.ac.za>.

migration in South Africa is mainly motivated by economic reasons as rural areas cannot offer sufficient employment.³⁷ Most of the time, migration is motivated by a desire to grow and develop economically through the pursuit of new possibilities and employment.³⁸ Young professionals such as teachers and nurses, among others, migrate to urban areas because there are limited opportunities for them in rural areas.³⁹ Chakanika et al., further argue that the lack of opportunities for professional advancement in rural areas encourages rural professionals to migrate to urban areas.⁴⁰ In Sekhukhune, those youths who are migrating into the urban areas are mostly those who have qualifications such as grade 12, diplomas and degrees. These qualifications were completed in rural schools and universities and therefore they migrated into the cities and towns in search of better employment opportunities. Young professionals such as teachers, nurses, police, and soldiers, among others, tend to migrate to developed places such as Gauteng due to better conditions of employment and better salaries than in rural areas. Brown and Swannson as cited in du Plessis and Mestry argue that lack of career advancement and opportunities for continuing studies are usually unavailable in rural areas, and therefore professional teachers tend to leave rural areas for urban areas so they can have those opportunities.⁴¹ Most skilled and unskilled youths in Sekhukhune migrate to Gauteng metropolitan areas such as Tshwane, Johannesburg and Ekurhuleni. Only a few migrants migrate into neighbouring towns such as Polokwane, Mokopane, and Burgersfort, among others because they believe that there are no better opportunities than cities and towns in Gauteng. These youths believe that Gauteng offers better employment opportunities because it has huge mines, industries, companies as well as government institutions.

Ramphela, is a 35 years old male, from Fetakgomo-Tubatse Local Municipality (FTLM) in Sekhukhune. He and his siblings migrated to Tshwane to continue with their schooling. They came to stay with their father who had migrated ages ago, leaving their mother in the rural area. They came to stay in Atteridgeville in Tshwane. His father took them after seeing the poor quality of education in Limpopo province, especially in Sekhukhune. After completing his grade 12, he was recruited into the South African Defence Force (SADF) as a soldier. After training, he was stationed in Tshwane. He is now living permanently in Soshanguve, Tshwane and he only goes to his birth place if there is either a funeral or a wedding ceremony of a family member or a relative. When he was asked why he couldn't go back to his home village after he had been trained as an SADF he said:

I don't want to go back to the rural areas because Sekhukhune doesn't have much to offer in terms of employment. There are inadequate basic services in Sekhukhune. And now that I have married and have children, I want my children to attend schools here in Tshwane because education is better here than in rural Sekhukhune.

Telma is a female migrant. She is 35 years old. She migrated from FTLM. She is currently staying in Atteridgeville, Tshwane. She worked for the Human Science Research Council (HSRC) as an assistant administrator and contractor. She worked for 12 months and her contract expired. When she was asked why she decided to leave her rural area into urban area, she had this to say:

I came to the urban area in search of employment because there are no better opportunities for employment in my rural area. Another thing which motivated me to migrate is that basic services such as health care services, transport and water and sanitation are better here than in my rural village.

Educational Services

Educational service is the second factor in the rural-urban migration of youths in Sekhukhune. The Constitution, and the South African Schools Act, and various policy documents say that all South African learners should have access to the same quality of learning and teaching, similar facilities and equal

³⁷ Mlambo, "An Overview of Rural-Urban Migration in South Africa: Its Causes and Implications."

³⁸ Mthiyane, Wissink, and Chiwawa, "The Impact of Rural-Urban Migration in South Africa: A Case of KwaDukuza Municipality."

³⁹ Wanga Chakanika et al., "The Challenges of Rural Education in Africa," December 1, 2012.

⁴⁰ Chakanika et al., "The Challenges of Rural Education in Africa."

⁴¹ Pierre du Plessis and Raj Mestry, "Teachers for Rural Schools – a Challenge for South Africa," *South African Journal of Education* 39, no. Supplement 1 (September 30, 2019): S1–9, <https://doi.org/10.15700/saje.v39ns1a1774>.

educational opportunities.⁴² However, this is not the case with rural South Africa and in particular rural Sekhukhune. There is still an inequality of education between rural and urban areas in terms of services. Due to the inferior education offered in most rural areas, some families migrated to the urban areas so that their children could receive superior education because the latter had adequate resources and qualified teachers.⁴³ Thobejane argues that education is considered to be a tool to motivate people to move from their rural areas.⁴⁴ Rural students have been disadvantaged by the apartheid government and now they are being disadvantaged by democratic government. Some of the disadvantages include lack of information, socio-economic barriers, geographical locations and endemic poverty.⁴⁵ “During apartheid in South Africa, education was compromised in traditional black higher education (HEIS), as they were generally very poor resourced.”⁴⁶ According to Chakanika et al., poor quality of educational service in rural areas makes education in Africa to be unattractive.⁴⁷ Student migration is motivated by factors such as underdevelopment, inequalities, and unemployment.⁴⁸ A recent World Bank Report confirmed that South Africa continues to be seriously unequal with regard to income, as well as wealth and intergenerational endowment; poverty is high for a middle-income country and mobility is low.⁴⁹

Cities and towns are considered to be having better educational facilities. While some youths in Sekhukhune migrate for better employment opportunities, others migrate for better educational facilities. Since Sekhukhune does not have many educational services, especially institutions of higher learning, those who are matric and eager to continue with their studies tend to migrate to cities where they can find better educational facilities. Mlambo says that most people tend to migrate to developing towns which are characterised by adequate provision of services.⁵⁰ Rural students have a lot of challenges to overcome. According to Rautenbach et al., many students experience shortages of infrastructure and basic amenities such as running water, transport and technology in the era of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR).⁵¹ They are also challenged by financial problems.⁵² All these challenges motivate rural students to migrate to the cities so that they can access better educational facilities that are not available in their home villages.

Rural areas are often deprived of better educational facilities. Institutions of higher learning in these areas are few and located far from the people and therefore are difficult to access. Rural areas such as Sekhukhune are characterised by the insufficient provision of educational facilities. The only available higher institution in Sekhukhune is Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET). The institution doesn't have many courses and that is why many youths are migrating to higher institutions in the cities which have better courses.

Ofentse is an 18-year-old male youth also from FTLM. He migrated to Johannesburg in Gauteng Province after completing his matric in rural Sekhukhune. He used to stay with his grandmother in the village. He came to live with his mother who migrated a long time ago. Her mother who is a professional nurse also got her qualifications in the urban area. Ofentse is attending Rosebank College where he is taking a course in Digital Marketing. When Ofentse was asked why he decided to leave his rural village for the ‘City of Gold,’ he had this to say:

My rural village doesn't have many educational facilities, the only available higher educational institution is Sekhukhune TVET and it doesn't have his dream career. He also said that his village

⁴² Republic of South Africa (RSA), *Bill of Rights* (Juta.: Cape Town, 1996); Pierre Du Plessis, “Problems and Complexities in Rural Schools: Challenges of Education and Social Development,” *Mediterranean Journal of Social Sciences* 5, no. 20 (2014): 1109–17.

⁴³ Njwambe, Cocks, and Vetter, “*Ekhayeni*: Rural–Urban Migration, Belonging and Landscapes of Home in South Africa.”

⁴⁴ Thobejane, “Factors That Influence In-Migration in the Gauteng Province.”

⁴⁵ John Victor Rautenbach, Ntobeko Shoji, and Angelo Nicolaides, “The Implication of ‘Rurality’ in Terms of Higher Education in a Rural South African Context,” *Athens Journal of Education* 10, no. 4 (October 16, 2023): 717–38, <https://doi.org/10.30958/aje.10-4-9>.

⁴⁶ Rautenbach, Shoji, and Nicolaides, “The Implication of ‘Rurality’ in Terms of Higher Education in a Rural South African Context.”

⁴⁷ Chakanika et al., “The Challenges of Rural Education in Africa.”

⁴⁸ Melanie Walker and Mathebula Mikatelo, “Low-Income Rural Youth Migration to Urban Universities in South Africa,” 2019.

⁴⁹ Walker and Mikatelo, “Low-Income Rural Youth Migration to Urban Universities in South Africa.”

⁵⁰ Mlambo, “An Overview of Rural-Urban Migration in South Africa: Its Causes and Implications.”

⁵¹ Rautenbach, Shoji, and Nicolaides, “The Implication of ‘Rurality’ in Terms of Higher Education in a Rural South African Context.”

⁵² Janette Graetz Simmonds and Jane E. Southcott, “Stage Fright and Joy: Performers in Relation to the Troupe, Audience, and Beyond,” *International Journal of Applied Psychoanalytic Studies* 9, no. 4 (December 11, 2012): 318–29, <https://doi.org/10.1002/aps.327>; Álvaro Cuervo, Domingo Ribeiro, and Salvador Roig, “Entrepreneurship: Concepts, Theory and Perspective. Introduction,” in *Entrepreneurship: Concepts, Theory and Perspective* (Springer, 2007), 1–20; Rautenbach, Shoji, and Nicolaides, “The Implication of ‘Rurality’ in Terms of Higher Education in a Rural South African Context.”

doesn't have entertainment facilities as well as recreational facilities. He said it is nice here in Johannesburg as there are a lot of social infrastructure and amenities such as sports and recreational facilities, libraries, internet café, transport, tap water, and sanitation, unlike in his home village.

He is also intending to work in the urban areas as there is unavailability of work in his rural village. Another participant, Morris is a 34-year-old male youth from a nearby village in Groblersdal in Elias Motswaledi Local Municipality (LMLM). He initially migrated for educational purposes. He attended the University of Pretoria (UP) where he studied BCOM in Accounting. He is now working in Sandton, Johannesburg. When he was asked why he didn't further his qualifications in his village, he responded by saying:

My village doesn't have many institutions of higher learning such as UP. The only available institutions of higher learning are the University of Limpopo (UL) and the University of Venda (UNIVEN) and I believe these two institutions do not offer better services than the urban institutions and that is the reason I came to further my studies in Tshwane.

When asked why didn't he go back to his rural village after qualifying to work there, he responded by saying:

There are no work opportunities in my home village and basic services are inadequate. He is also planning to stay permanently in Johannesburg.

Lehlogonolo, a 30-year-old male, also from FTLM migrated to Gauteng. He initially migrated for education. He attended one of the private colleges in Tshwane. After he completed his course, he was not lucky to get employed. He is currently living in Atteridgeville. He is different from Ramphela because he is not staying permanently in the city and he is not yet married and therefore he often goes home to see his parents once a month. He is currently an intern at Kalafong Hospital in Atteridgeville, Tshwane. When he was asked why didn't he attend studies and work in neighbouring town of Burgersfort or Polokwane, he responded by saying:

This town is very small and far from my home and there are few colleges with few careers and therefore I migrated to the city of Tshwane where I can study my choice of career. Regarding employment, there are not many opportunities for employment in that area. Also staying in the city is very interesting because here you can get many things which are not available in the village.

Another participant, Kamo, a 23-year-old female migrant came to further her studies at Tshwane University of Technology (TUT), Soshanguve campus in Tshwane. She is renting a room because she couldn't afford campus accommodation as it is too costly for her. She is also from FTLM. When she was asked why she didn't further her studies in her hometown, Polokwane, because it has a TUT campus, she responded by saying:

TUT in Polokwane doesn't have opportunities for bursaries as here in Tshwane and the institution is far from my village. I'll have to travel a long distance to the campus and transport is not always available and it is costly too. She also said she is planning to stay permanently after the completion of her studies because the opportunities for better employment in her home village are very slim.

Adequate Water and Sanitation

While water is important for life, hygiene and sanitation, however, accessing water in rural areas such as Sekhukhune is a battle people are facing every day. Water and sanitation are basic human rights but are luxuries to those who need them most.⁵³ Bazaanah and Mothapo also argue that water and sanitation are

⁵³ Development Bank of Southern Africa, "Water and Sanitation: Every Drop, Every Bit Counts," 2023.

important in the growth and development of communities.⁵⁴ Water is a basic need and therefore it should be delivered to all South African communities, irrespective of their geographical areas.⁵⁵ The Water Service Act 108 of 1997's objective is "to provide the right to access the supply of basic water services and sanitation facilities necessary to secure clean water and environment that is not harmful to human health and well-being."⁵⁶ Municipalities are mandated by the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Act 108 of 1996 to provide safe and clean water to their communities, and it further stipulates that the primary responsibility for the provision of water services lies with the local government.⁵⁷

However, the failure of the local municipalities, especially rural municipalities in the provision of these services is forcing people to relocate to where they can get adequate water and sanitation and the only place where people can get better service is the urban areas. In this case, inadequate water and sanitation in rural Sekhukhune motivate people, especially the youth to migrate to the developed areas such as urban areas. Sometimes youths become discontent with public service delivery, especially in the delivery of water and sanitation in their rural municipal areas and they end up migrating to a place where there is adequate water and sanitation. These youths became tired of fetching water from the river and using either pit latrines or bushes to relieve themselves and they went to where they can be able to drink clean tap water and make use of flushing toilets, instead of drinking contaminated water and relieving themselves in pit latrines. Lack of basic service is forcing adult youths, especially those who are married to migrate to the urban areas with their families where they can stay comfortably without being bordered by poor service delivery in the rural homes. They want to see their children get a better education than in their rural homes where there is a lack of better educational services. Interviewing Ramphela regarding water and sanitation in his rural home, he had this to say:

The lack of drinking water in my rural home of FTLM is one of the reasons to stay permanently in the city. I do not want to see my children drinking contaminated water, the way I did when I was still young and staying in the village. I want my children to enjoy a better life in the city. Although I am planning to build a house in my rural village in future, I am not thinking of staying permanently in the area. My family will relocate to the village when I retire.

Another participant, Morris, who is working in Sandton, Johannesburg also said that he is not planning to stay in his rural village in the future due to poor service delivery, especially water and sanitation because these are the most basic needs. He said that he was now used to city life with better service delivery than in his home village. Kamo, a student at TUT, is also planning to stay permanently in Tshwane because she believes that the area has better public services than her home village.

Adequate Housing

Sometimes people migrate for better housing facilities, especially the so-called Reconstruction and Development and Program (RDP) houses. Rural RDPs differ from urban RDPs in that the latter RDPs are bigger with clean tap water and adequate sanitation. All these motivate rural people to migrate to the urban areas so that they can apply for those types of RDPs. RDPs in South Africa were introduced by the African National Congress (ANC) following the unseating of the apartheid government in 1994 and its purpose was to redress the imbalances of the past.⁵⁸ Chapter Two of the South African Bill of Rights states that everyone has the right to have access to adequate housing.⁵⁹ However, in rural Sekhukhune

⁵⁴ Prosper Bazaanah and Raesibe A. Mothapo, "Sustainability of Drinking Water and Sanitation Delivery Systems in Rural Communities of the Lepelle Nkumpi Local Municipality, South Africa," *Environment, Development and Sustainability* 26, no. 6 (April 11, 2023): 14223–55, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10668-023-03190-4>.

⁵⁵ Hlengiwe Mabizela and Noluthando S. Matsiliza, "Uncovering the Gaps in the Provision of Services in the Rural Okhahlamba Municipality of KwaZulu-Natal Province," *Africa's Public Service Delivery and Performance Review* 8, no. 1 (December 21, 2020), <https://doi.org/10.4102/apsdpr.v8i1.390>.

⁵⁶ Mabizela and Matsiliza, "Uncovering the Gaps in the Provision of Services in the Rural Okhahlamba Municipality of KwaZulu-Natal Province."

⁵⁷ Mabizela and Matsiliza, "Uncovering the Gaps in the Provision of Services in the Rural Okhahlamba Municipality of KwaZulu-Natal Province."

⁵⁸ Nokulunga Mashwama, Didi Thwala, and Clinton Aigbavboa, "Challenges of Reconstruction and Development Program (RDP) Houses in South Africa," in *International Conference on Industrial Engineering and Operations Management Washington* (Washington, DC: IEOM Society International, 2018), 1695–1702, <https://ieomsociety.org/dc2018/papers/450.pdf>.

⁵⁹ Republic of South Africa (RSA), *Bill of Rights (Chapter 2 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa)*.

there is inadequate housing. The houses which are being built by the government in rural areas are not in good condition. They are very small and do not have basic services such as running water and better sanitation and all these motivate people, especially the youth to migrate into urban areas. Another thing that attracts youths to live in the cities is the bank bonds. Most financial institutions do not agree to give people housing loans, to build houses in the village.

Kamo is not like other youths who are earmarking RDP houses. She is very much ambitious. She wants to qualify and get employed so that she can buy her own house and that is why she wants to stay permanently in the urban areas. Kamo intends to purchase a bond house after getting employment because it is not likely that the bank will agree to give her a housing bond to build in the village. When she was asked what if she got employment in her hometown, Burgersfort, she responded by saying:

Burgersfort town is so small and its basic facilities such as running water and sanitation are very poor and she is not dreaming of getting employment in her area. She said she doesn't want to see herself using a dish to bath and relieving herself in a pit latrine anymore. She said she is comfortable with city life. She said she is still very young and she wants to enjoy life to the fullest.

Health Care Services

The lack of adequate infrastructure such as health care services forces people to leave their non-existent basic service to where they can find adequate basic services.⁶⁰ Healthcare facilities are another factor that is driving rural people, especially youths into the urban areas. Chapter Two of the South African Bill of Rights states that everyone has the right to health care services.⁶¹ Furthermore, Section 27 (3) states that no one should be refused emergency medical treatment.⁶² However, most South Africans do not have equal access to health care, and the ongoing disparities in access exacerbate poverty and inequality in the country.⁶³ However, this Act seems to be contravened as it is not being practiced by most health facilities in Limpopo province, and Sekhukhune in particular. Even if healthcare facilities are available to the communities, travel costs and distance often affect communities. Most people in Sekhukhune are unemployed and therefore they cannot be able to afford traveling transport fares to health care facilities. Health care in Limpopo province is characterised by a lack of medicine, scarcity of qualified professionals, long waiting hours, and poor infrastructure.⁶⁴ Patients spent an average of 5.58% waiting to be helped at the facilities.⁶⁵ Booysen also says that South Africa experiences disparity between urban and rural areas with the latter most likely to have scarce resources in health care services.⁶⁶ Most hospitals in Sekhukhune have staff shortages. All these factors motivate people, especially the youths of Sekhukhune to migrate to the urban areas where they can get better health care services. They migrate to places where they can have better infrastructure such as transport because health facilities in their village areas are far from the people and transport is very scarce and costly. According to Du Plessis and Mestry, professional teachers tend to migrate to urban areas because of poor health in their home villages.⁶⁷ They want to be where there are better healthcare facilities, where they will not struggle with transport if they and their families want to access these facilities.

Ramphele, from FTLM, was further interviewed regarding healthcare facilities and he said that healthcare facilities were one of the factors that made him stay permanently in the city because healthcare facilities in rural areas and Sekhukhune in particular are in a poor state and are far from the communities and transport is not always accessible. He also said there is a shortage of medicine and professional staff such as doctors and nurses in hospitals and clinics in the rural areas than in the city.

⁶⁰ Mbebe, *The Impact of Rural-Urban Migration on the Provision of Sustainable and Integrated Human Settlement in Atteridgeville*.

⁶¹ Republic of South Africa (RSA), *Bill of Rights (Chapter 2 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa)*.

⁶² Republic of South Africa (RSA), *Bill of Rights (Chapter 2 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa)*.

⁶³ Angela A. Morris-Paxton, Stephen Reid, and Rose-Marie G. Ewing, "Primary Healthcare Services in the Rural Eastern Cape, South Africa: Evaluating a Service-Support Project," *African Journal of Primary Health Care & Family Medicine* 12, no. 1 (April 2, 2020), <https://doi.org/10.4102/phcfm.v12i1.2207>.

⁶⁴ Engelinah Mmalebati and Thabiso Lucky, "An Overview of Factors Contributing to Rural-Urban Migration, a Case of Mentz Village."

⁶⁵ Nnabuike C Ngene, Olive P Khaliq, and Jagidesa Moodley, "Inequality in Health Care Services in Urban and Rural Settings in South Africa," *African Journal of Reproductive Health* 27, no. 5 (2023): 87–95.

⁶⁶ Booysen, "Urban–Rural Inequalities in Health Care Delivery in South Africa." Ndivhuwo Mukwevho, "Limpopo Public Health Facilities: Report Paints Grim Picture," *Health-E-News*, August 30, 2021, <https://health-e.org.za/2021/08/30/limpopo-public-health-facilities-report-paints-grim-picture/>.

⁶⁷ du Plessis and Mestry, "Teachers for Rural Schools – a Challenge for South Africa."

Wages

Differences in wages between rural and urban employees are also a factor which motivates people, especially youths and young professionals in particular such as teachers, among others, to leave rural areas and work in the urban areas. According to Mbebe working in the urban area increases someone's chance to earn a higher salary than the one who works in the rural area.⁶⁸ Working in an urban area is advantageous because people who work in the urban location earn more than those who work in the rural area which became a reason for people to migrate to an urban area.⁶⁹ Many people from rural Sekhukhune, for example, go to Gauteng to seek higher wages since Limpopo Province is classified as a rural province and therefore cannot compete in terms of wages with Metropolitan regions in Gauteng. Most of the time, people from rural provinces such as Limpopo, among other provinces are motivated by inequalities between urban and rural regions to relocate.⁷⁰

According to Selod and Shilpi, better income is the factor that pulls rural people into the urban areas.⁷¹ Sithole also argues that the reason why rural people leave their areas in the cities is that the latter improves the possibility of earning more than the former.⁷² Du Plessis and Mestry state that poor salaries are one of the challenges which motivate rural youths, especially teachers to leave rural areas for urban areas.⁷³ Mlambo also argues that working in urban areas is far better than working in rural areas because the former offers better salaries than the latter.⁷⁴ Mthiyane et al., point out that the availability of higher salaries and working conditions motivate people to migrate to urban areas.⁷⁵ Some working rural youths tend to migrate to urban areas because sometimes provinces differ in the payment of employees, especially within government sectors. Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo and Mpumalanga are considered rural provinces in South Africa and there is a big difference in salaries between urban and rural and therefore this influences people to migrate. In Limpopo province, some government employees earn lower wages than other provinces. Gauteng and Western Cape provinces are believed to be paying better salaries than other South African provinces. Most youths from Sekhukhune are migrating to the industrialised cities of Gauteng Province such as Tshwane, Johannesburg, and Ekurhuleni because they believe that these places offer better wages than other provinces in the country. Professional government employees such as teachers and medical practitioners, among other groups, prefer to work in metropolitan regions.⁷⁶ Gauteng and Western Cape are believed to be paying better salaries to their public servants such as nurses and teachers and that is the reason why people from rural areas such as Sekhukhune tend to migrate to the former and the latter.

Hunadi, a 35 years old female is from FTLM, in Sekhukhune. She is a professional teacher. She migrated with her children to Mamelodi in Tshwane. Before her migration, she used to work for the former Adult Education and Training (AET) in Limpopo Provinces. She is now working at a Primary school under basic education. When she was asked what motivated her to migrate from a rural into an urban area, she responded by saying:

At AET, I was not permanently employed and I always wanted a permanent job and therefore I landed a full-time job at one of the primary schools in Mamelodi and decided to migrate with my children. The salary I was earning as a contractor was very little and that is why I decided to look for another position. The salary I am earning as a primary teacher is far better than the salary a primary school teacher earns in Limpopo Province. When I started staying in Mamelodi, I rented an RDP house and now that I am earning a better salary, I managed to purchase a house. Although I have a house in my rural village, I cannot live there now because I also want my

⁶⁸ Mbebe, *The Impact of Rural-Urban Migration on the Provision of Sustainable and Integrated Human Settlement in Atteridgeville.*

⁶⁹ Sithole, "The Influence of Youth Rural-Urban Migration on Architecture and Urbanism: Towards an Employment Indigenous Skill Centre in Durban."

⁷⁰ Sithole, "The Influence of Youth Rural-Urban Migration on Architecture and Urbanism: Towards an Employment Indigenous Skill Centre in Durban."

⁷¹ Harris Selod and Forhad Shilpi, "Rural-Urban Migration in Developing Countries: Lessons from the Literature," *Regional Science and Urban Economics* 91 (November 2021): 103713, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.regsciurbeco.2021.103713>.

⁷² Sithole, "The Influence of Youth Rural-Urban Migration on Architecture and Urbanism: Towards an Employment Indigenous Skill Centre in Durban."

⁷³ du Plessis and Mestry, "Teachers for Rural Schools – a Challenge for South Africa."

⁷⁴ Mlambo, "An Overview of Rural-Urban Migration in South Africa: Its Causes and Implications."

⁷⁵ Mthiyane, Wissink, and Chiwawa, "The Impact of Rural-Urban Migration in South Africa: A Case of KwaDukuza Municipality."

⁷⁶ Mthiyane, Wissink, and Chiwawa, "The Impact of Rural-Urban Migration in South Africa: A Case of KwaDukuza Municipality."

children to have a better education so that they will not struggle to get employment as it happened to me.

Entertainment

Some people, especially youths, can be pulled towards the urban areas for better entertainment. Most rural areas in South Africa are underdeveloped and therefore there is not much entertainment. In Sekhukhune, for example, there is not much entertainment, except when there is a soccer match between two or more local villages. There are no nightclubs where youths can go and entertain themselves after work. Music concerts are very rare in rural Sekhukhune because there are no proper facilities where such events can be hosted. National sports are not being hosted in the district because there is an unavailability of stadiums where these sports can be hosted. Lack of entertainment in rural areas would lead youths into crime. Due to a lack of entertainment in Sekhukhune, most youths indulge themselves in drugs and alcohol.

To avoid children indulging themselves in drugs and alcohol, some families relocate to urban areas where there is a lot of entertainment for the youths. Lack of entertainment leads to the migration of youths to where they can entertain themselves such as in the urban areas. Sebusiso, a 21-year-old male, migrated to Tshwane so that he could enjoy his youthfulness in the city. He, too is from FTLM. He is currently upgrading his grade 12 certificate, and attending classes at the nearest Community Learning Centre (CLC). He is renting a room in Mamelodi township. He, like other participants, is not willing to go back after completing his grade 12. He wants to seek employment in the city and if possible purchase a house here in the city. When he was asked why he couldn't upgrade his grade 12 in his home village, he had this to say:

I am still very young and I want to experience life. There is a better life in the city than in the rural area. I am still young and I want to enjoy my youth. Another thing that brought me to the city is the entertainment and recreational facilities which are inadequate in my home village. There are a lot of entertainment and recreational facilities in the urban areas than in the rural areas. Life in the rural area is boring because except looking into books, there is nothing you can do. Here in Mamelodi, if I am tired of studying, I can take a stroll to the shopping malls or to the Central Business Development (CBD) or go to cinemas and these facilities are near, unlike in the rural areas where you will need transport to go to the shopping complexes and transport is not always accessible and it is costly. Here in Mamelodi, you can walk to the malls because are near the people.

Recreational Facilities

South African urban areas have more abundant recreational facilities than their rural counterparts. Recreational facilities can sometimes motivate youths to migrate to places where there are adequate recreational facilities. Most rural areas lack these facilities. Recreational facilities include sports grounds, community halls, libraries, and stadiums, among others. All these are unavailable in most rural areas. Lack of recreational facilities can result in youths abusing substances such as drugs and alcohol and they can even engage in unprotected sex.⁷⁷ The lack of recreational facilities, especially sports grounds limits talented youth to be discovered and groomed for particular sports activities. Mfeku argues that the lack of sporting facilities in rural areas hampers Cricket South Africa (CSA) from uplifting rural communities, especially youths regarding sports.⁷⁸ Inadequate infrastructure such as transport and long distances to and from school inhibit youths from participating in sports activities.⁷⁹ A lack of sporting facilities means that schools in rural areas are being sidelined when it comes to sporting activity.⁸⁰ Ndlovu argues that recreational facilities such as fitness centre, community halls, parks, and libraries, among others can keep young people out of danger and can also reduce crime.⁸¹ In Sekhukhune, these types of facilities are

⁷⁷ S. Mfeku, "Lack of Proper Sports Facilities in Rural Areas Hindering CSA," January 21, 2024; M. Levine, "Lack of Sport Facilities in Rural Areas Holding Children Back," 2021.

⁷⁸ Mfeku, "Lack of Proper Sports Facilities in Rural Areas Hindering CSA."

⁷⁹ Sibembe, 16 October 2019.

⁸⁰ Sibembe, 16 October 2019.

⁸¹ Ndlovu, 01 March 2022.

nonexistent and therefore youth in this district can fall into danger and can easily involve themselves in criminal activities. The only sporting facilities available in most rural areas are open soccer grounds with natural grass and these facilities are being shared with grazing domestic animals such as cattle, sheep, goats, and pigs.⁸² Levine further says that sports must not be seen as a business where individuals can make a profit out of it but sports should benefit local communities, especially youths.⁸³ Another neglected sports facility is in Moroke villages in FTLM.⁸⁴ According to Suzan Phala, Limpopo DA spokesperson on Sports, Arts and Culture, the sports centre was initially upgraded at a cost of R3 million after it was vandalized and it is no longer being used after having vandalized for the second time.⁸⁵

In Apel in FTLM, there are non-functional recreational parks and sports complexes, and unfortunately, these recreational facilities have been turned into white elephants.⁸⁶ This means that the community of Apel and surrounding areas are without recreational facilities. The multi-million rand facilities were initiated in 2015 and were never used as the project was never completed.⁸⁷ According to Motseo, the facilities are in bad condition without water and a toilet system.⁸⁸ All these dysfunctional recreation facilities motivate Sekhukhune youths, especially those who like have chosen sport as their future career to migrate to urban areas where they can find better sports facilities in order to pursue their chosen career. Another thing is that if these youths migrate to urban areas, they will be easily discovered and groomed into their chosen careers.

Sibusiso, who is a migrant in Mamelodi, likes sports, especially soccer but because his home village does not have adequate sports facilities, he was unable to showcase his talent in soccer playing. He said that now that he is in the urban area, full of recreational facilities including stadiums, he will resume going to the sports ground so that he can start practicing soccer again. He is hoping to play for the famous teams one day. The lack of recreational facilities in Sekhukhune motivates Sibusiso to stay longer in the urban area.

Table 1: Summary of interviews with participants

Name of participants	Age	Gender	Reasons for Migration	Place of origin	Destinations
1. Ramphele	35	Male	Education and Employment	FTLM	Attridgeville and Soshanguve in Tshwane
2. Telma	35	Female	Employment	FTLM	Attridgeville in Tshwane
3. Ofentse	18	Male	Education	FTLM	Soweto in Johannesburg
4. Lehlogonolo	30	Male	Education	FTML	Attridgeville in Tshwane
5. Kamo	23	Female	Education	FTLM	Soshanguve in Tshwane
6. Morris	35	Male	Education and Employment	LMLM	Sandton in Johannesburg
7. Hunadi	35	Female	Employment and other social amenities	FTML	Mamelodi in Tshwane
8. Sebusiso	21	Male	Education and other social amenities	FTLM	Mamelodi in Tshwane

The study shows most males migrate to the cities for work opportunities and better educational facilities than their female counterparts. The study also shows that more Sekhukhune youths migrate to

⁸² Levine, “Lack of Sport Facilities in Rural Areas Holding Children Back.”

⁸³ Levine, “Lack of Sport Facilities in Rural Areas Holding Children Back.”

⁸⁴ Thapelo Motseo, “Neglected and Dilapidated Sports Facilities a Cause for Concern,” Sekhukhune Times, June 20, 2022, <https://sekhukhunetimes.co.za/2022/06/20/neglected-and-dilapidated-sports-facilities-a-cause-for-concern/>.

⁸⁵ Motseo, “Neglected and Dilapidated Sports Facilities a Cause for Concern.”

⁸⁶ Thapelo Motseo, “Apel Residents Demand Functional Recreation Facilities,” Sekhukhune Times, 2024, <https://sekhukhunetimes.co.za/2024/09/04/apel-residents-demand-functional-recreation-facilities/>.

⁸⁷ Motseo, “Apel Residents Demand Functional Recreation Facilities.”

⁸⁸ Motseo, “Apel Residents Demand Functional Recreation Facilities.”

Tshwane city than other cities in the country. Most migrants have grade 12 certificates and some of them have migrated to the cities to further their education because they believe that cities have better educational facilities than in their rural areas. The study also shows that only a few Sekhukhune youths migrate for entertainment or recreational facilities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the discussion, this study recommends that the South African government should start developing rural areas through the provision of social infrastructure and amenities as this will reduce the rural-urban migration of rural people, particularly the rural-urban migration of youths. The government should further ensure that it provides services such as employment opportunities, good educational services, better health facilities, adequate water and sanitation, adequate housing, better wages to employees, especially public servants, entertainment and better recreational facilities. This will also ensure that citizens stay in their localities, do not miss out on the essentials of life, and then develop their communities.

CONCLUSION

This study has examined factors contributing to the rural-urban migration of youths in South Africa, particularly Sekhukhune youths. Through both primary and secondary data sources, it was found that rural-urban migration of South African youths, especially Sekhukhune youths are being motivated by both pull and push factors of migration. Most rural youths are pushed and pulled from their rural villages by social infrastructure and amenities such as better employment opportunities, better educational service, better health care services, adequate water and sanitation, adequate housing, better wages, better entertainment and adequate recreational facilities. However, through interviews with the participants, it was found that most Sekhukhune youths migrate for two main reasons, namely better employment opportunities and better educational services, than other basic services. Sometimes, rural-urban migration may undermine rural development through loss of skills and innovation. The study concluded that the lack of social and physical infrastructure is the main cause of the rural-urban migration of youths in Sekhukhune. The study recommends that the South African government and the Limpopo Provincial government, in particular, should develop rural areas such as Sekhukhune in order to minimise the inflow of youths into the urban centres. This will ensure sustainable growth and development.

STUDY LIMITATIONS

The researcher was unable to conduct personal interviews with the participants due to limited time, distance, and financial constraints. The participants were only interviewed through telephone calls. The researcher was also unable to reach other youths from other municipalities and therefore the findings were generalised. A further limitation was that Sekhukhune does not have literature regarding the study, especially on the rural-urban migration of its youths, and as a result, the study relied extensively on telephonic interviews with the participants to get reliable information.

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