

Rural-urban migrants' contribution to the livelihoods of rural communities in Makete district, Tanzania

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The study discusses the influence of rural-urban migrants to the socio-economic development of rural communities in Makete district, Tanzania. The objectives of the study were as follows: to determine the extent of rural urban migration in Makete district, to examine the contribution of individual rural-urban migrants to the wellbeing of the people in their rural homes, to assess the contribution of rural-urban migrants' home associations to the development of their rural communities; and to identify the limitations that rural-urban migrants encounter in making contributions to their home areas. Data were collected by the use of interview, direct observation and documentary review. Both rural and urban respondents provided information. Questionnaires, interview; and observation check lists guided data collection process. The collected information were analysed by the use of Microsoft excel and Microsoft Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). Data analysed were presented in statements, frequency distribution tables, charts and pictures. Findings from the study revealed that males dominate the migration process. The study observed that individual migrants send consumer goods like clothes and food stuffs as well as money to their rural households. Migrants' groups contribute in improving buildings and other infrastructures like schools, churches, offices, health centres, bridges and roads. On the other hand the study indicated that poor infrastructure, individualism and lack of trust constrain migrants' process of making contribution to their rural home areas. However, the study recommended that the central government should improve rural infrastructures such as roads. Also, local government leaders should be devoted to the development of rural communities. Again, rural people, individual migrants and groups of migrants should be patriotic to the development of their rural homes.