

Youth rural-urban migration and change in livelihoods: a case of information traders in Njombe town, Tanzania

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Master of Art, (Geography and Environmental Management)

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This study investigated the youth rural-urban migration and change in livelihoods in Njombe Town. Specifically the study aimed at identifying the factors causing the migration of youths from rural to urban areas and investigated the livelihoods of the youths after migrating to Njombe Town. Furthermore, the study employed snowball sampling technique which enable to get a sample size of 99 respondents. Purposive sampling technique was also used to get the key informants who provided the important information about youth rural-urban migration and change in livelihoods. The study collected its data through interviews, focus group discussion, observation, documentary sources and questionnaires. The study observed that lack of social services; employment opportunities and poor per capita income in rural areas were the major factors that pushed the youths out of rural areas while the possibilities of getting employment and conducive environment for business activities were the pull factors of youths to Njombe Town. The study findings further showed that although most of the youths had an idea of getting jobs in Njombe Town, only few managed to get formal employment due to lack of education and important skills necessary for urban labour market. Therefore, this forced the youths to be employment in marginal jobs like being barmaids, domestic servants, security guards services, assistant`s hostesses and most of them improved their livelihoods and resulted to urban unemployment and housing problems. The study recommended that Youths rural-urban migration can be discourage the youth to remain in rural areas. The study further recommended that Youth should have access to financial capital and credits at reasonable interest rates.