



THE 2015 NATIONAL INTERNAL MIGRATION SURVEY

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Factsheet 2: Migration and household registration issues in Viet Nam

This factsheet provides key information on migration and issues associated to household registration in Viet Nam, based on data analysis from the 2015 National Internal Migration Survey. The factsheet also presents some policy recommendations in conformity with migration status in Viet Nam.

The Law on Residence that was issued in 2006 and revised in 2013 in Viet Nam shows new progress in ensuring the right to freedom of residence of citizens as stipulated by the law, and confirms that the State has comprehensive policies and measures to better ensure its citizens' right to freedom of residence, and simplify administrative requirements for citizens to be issued/re-issued household registration or change their residence status and to receive other residence-related documents.

In the last many decades, household registration has been one of the essential issues of state management for inhabitants. The household registration book (So ho khau) has been used by inhabitants as a compulsory requirement by government authorities when accessing social services such as education, housing, loans, etc. Although recently, there have been

policies such as the Health Insurance Law 2014 and Social Insurance Law 2014 that tend to protect migrants' interests, some studies on migration show that household registration is still one of factors hindering migrants from having equal access to social services when most migrants, especially short-term migrants, do not have permanent household registration or only have temporary household registration in their places of destination. The 2015 Internal Migration Survey provided information on the household registration of migrants as well as the impact of this current status on migrants' lives in destination areas, which can be used as a basis for policy makers to formulate socio-economic development policies in general and policies on migration in particular, in order to ensure migrants' equal access to social services regardless of their household registration status in destination areas.

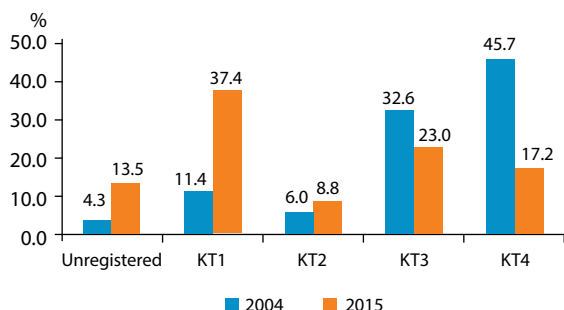
MAJOR FINDINGS

1. Majority of migrants having either permanent or temporary household registration

The survey results show that the percentage of migrants with permanent or temporary household registration is relatively high (86.5 per cent). In particular, the percentage of in-migrants, with permanent household registration as KT1 in 2015, is much higher than the findings of the 2004 Internal Migration Survey. The percentage of migrants with a permanent/temporary household registration in rural areas is higher than that of urban areas, with 90.1 per cent and 84.7 per cent, respectively.

In 2015, 46.2 per cent of migrants reported that they had permanent household registration in the province or city where they live (as KT1 and KT2), about three times higher than the findings of the 2004 survey. There is insignificant difference in the percentage of household registration between male and female migrants. However, migrants without registration show an upward trend, 10 percentage points higher than that found in the 2004 survey (Figure 1).

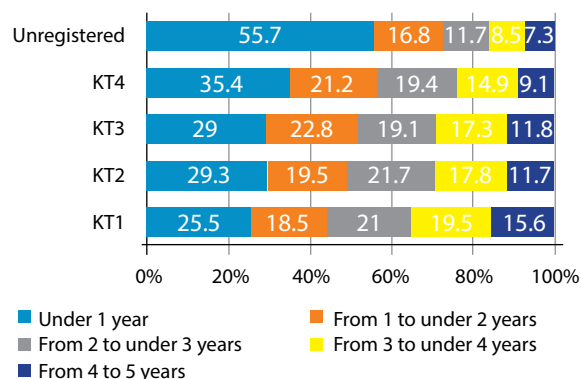
Figure 1: The percentage of migrants by household registration status



Ha Noi has the highest proportion of migrants without household registration (31.7 per cent), 2.5 times higher than that in Ho Chi Minh City (12 per cent). Although the share of migrants with household registration in Ho Chi Minh City is higher than that in Ha Noi, most of them have temporary registration, accounting for 62 per cent (KT4 and KT3). The high per cent of migrants without household registration is a big challenge for the city planning in Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh City.

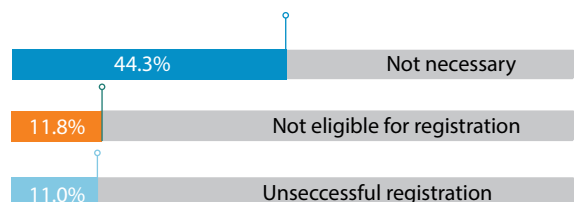
The survey data also shows that over half (55.7 per cent) of migrants without temporary registration are newly arrived migrants in current localities, and frequently living there for less than one year. (Figure 2)

Figure 2: Duration of residence and household registration status



When being asked about reasons for not having household registration, 44.3 per cent of migrants without household registration think that it is “not necessary”, 11.8 per cent believe they are “not eligible for registration” and 11 per cent report that they tried to register but were “unsuccessful” (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Reasons not having household registration



In-depth interviews show that for many migrants, administrative procedures for permanent household registration are much more complicated than temporary registration. However, even long-term temporary registration takes a great deal of time and effort.

“I do not know if it was because of weak administrative management in my area or due to another reason, but I have been here for 4 years, if applying for a temporary residence permit, it is not too difficult. However, when I apply for long-term residence permit, it is difficult. I followed all the procedures and the commune (Commune People’s Committee) said that it would be available in about 1 week, but it took 3 months until I finally got it”.

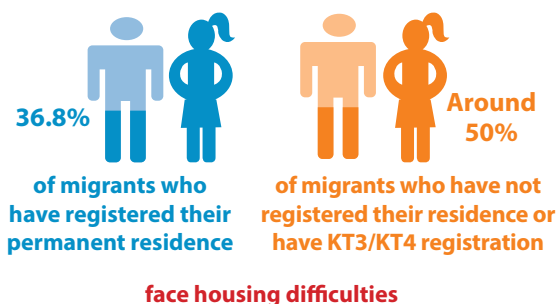
(Male in-migrant, rural, Dak Lak province.)

2. Not having household registration, migrants have been faced difficulties in accessing social services

The quantitative analysis shows that a majority (90 per cent) of migrants without

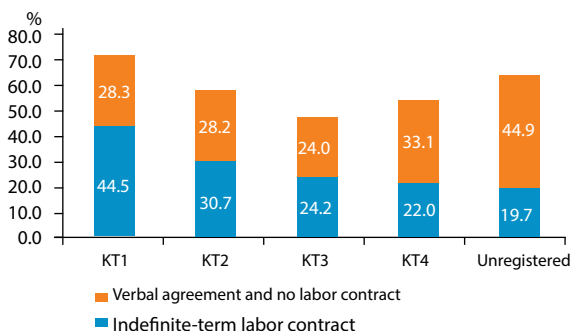
household registration state that they “face no difficulties” resulting from not having household registration. However, the results of an analysis of migrants who faced housing problems show a clear connection with their household registration status. Specifically, only around one third of migrants who have a permanent household registration faced housing difficulties, while nearly 50 per cent of migrants who are classified as KT3/KT4 or do not have household registration, face these problems (Figure 4).

Figure 4: Percentage of migrants who face housing difficulties by household registration status



Household registration status seems to have an effect on migrants’ employment. Approximately 74.1 per cent of migrants are employed and most of them are paid employees (73.3 per cent). Generally, migrants who are paid employees with permanent household registration (KT1) have more advantages than those who have other types of household registration (KT3 or KT4) in signing labour contracts, especially long-term labour contracts (indefinite duration). The percentage of migrants with household registration KT1 signed long-term labour contracts is 44.5 per cent while this proportion for migrants with temporary registration (KT4) and no household registration is only around 20 per cent. Approximately half (44.9 per cent) of migrants who do not yet have household registration at their destination, also do not have a labour contract or only have a verbal agreement. This percentage for migrants with permanent household registration is only 28.3 per cent (Figure 5).

Figure 5: Household registration status and the type of labor contract



The in-depth interviews provide further details about the difficulties faced by migrants who are not registered or who do not

“I can’t apply for my kids to study here because I don’t have household registration”
(Male return migrant, Bà Rịa – Vũng Tàu province)

have permanent registration in their place of destination. These difficulties include access to public schools for their children. In some areas, if the number of children applying to enter public schools is higher than the number of vacancies in those schools, the children of parents with permanent residence will be prioritized for admission. Although children can attend private schools, tuition fees are much higher than those in public schools. This can create significant difficulties for migrants with school-aged children.

Other problems migrants face include difficulties obtaining access to health services and loans. In order to get full benefits of health insurance when they make visits to health centers/hospitals, they are required to use the services where they have their permanent registration. If they have a transfer permit, which is not easy to obtain, they will only receive a reimbursement for their health costs at a much lower level than actual costs. This results in many migrants using private medical services which they pay for themselves.

“Here, I registered for temporary residence and absence from my place of departure but it is unlikely that I can borrow money. I will be able to borrow only if I have a permanent residence permit in the city but mine is at home. So I won’t be able to borrow money here.”
(Male in-migrant, urban, Ho Chi Minh City)

“I have difficulty when visiting health facilities for health check-ups. At home, I have got health insurance for poor household and poor commune. When I want a referral to the provincial hospital, the referral must be made at the commune level, then passed to the regional general hospital, then the district hospital and finally here, to the provincial hospital. It takes several days to prepare enough documents. If I directly get a service check, then I pay money and get it done immediately”.
(Male in-migrants, urban, Quang Binh province)

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

1 Internal migration must be considered a driving force for development rather than an issue that needs to be controlled

Although migration can lead to certain social consequences (such as overloaded urban infrastructure and social services in the destination areas), it is clearly evident that internal migration has made great contributions to socio-economic development in both rural and urban areas in Viet Nam. Therefore, negative opinions of migration, migration control and restraint, and even discrimination against migrants must be changed. Especially in the formulation of socio-economic development plans and policies, they must take migration into account with the aim of directing and adjusting migration flows in order to ensure the best contribution of migration to socio-economic development.

2 Administrative procedures need to be improved and management and support for migrants need to be strengthened

The State needs to simplify current complicated procedures and regulations regarding household registration, especially for permanent household registration. It must move towards eliminating household registration altogether and replace the current inhabitant management system with a government-issued ID or some other easy to access document in order to support migrants in destination areas by increasing access to public services and reducing inequality in access to decent jobs.

3 Social protection for migrant labour must be ensured

Ensuring social protection is a key issue for migrant labour and essential for the poor and other vulnerable groups irrespective of residence position. Labour policies and law need to go forward to protect the rights of migrants working in current localities and ensuring that they have access to social services such as health, education, housing, loans, etc., without having household registration.



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Note:

1. In this survey migrants are defined as people who have moved from one district to another district in the five years prior to the survey and who meet one of the following three conditions:

- Have resided in their current place of residence one month or more;
- Have resided in their current place of residence for less than one month but intend to stay for one month or more;
- Have resided in the current place for less than one month but within the past one year have moved from their usual place of residence to another district with the accumulated period of time of one month or more to earn a living.

The survey focuses on migrants and non-migrants aged 15-59

2. A person can only register their place residence in either of the four following types of residence:

- *KT1: A citizen's permanent household registration book. KT1 registration means long-term residence with place of permanent residence registration clearly recorded on citizens' identification cards.*
- *KT2: A long-term temporary residence registration book. This residential status applies to the citizens who have permanent residence registration in one district but also have long-term temporary residence registration in another district within the same province or municipalities.*
- *KT3: A long-term temporary residence registration book in provinces and municipalities other than the place of permanent residence registration. This residential status applies to the citizens who have long-term temporary residence registration in one province but have their permanent residence registration in a different province.*
- *KT4: A short-term temporary residence registration book in provinces and municipalities other than the place of permanent residence registration. This residential status is similar to KT3 registration but with shorter time limit of residence registration (with expiry date).*

Note: According to the 2013 Amended Law on Residence, temporary residence registration books are valid for a maximum 24 months. Circular No. 35/2014/TT-BCA regulating the registration of permanent residence; registration of temporary residence took effect on October 28, 2014. Thus, long-term temporary residence registration books are also valid for 24 months, at most.



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