

# Migrant Livelihood Challenges in Peri-Urban Area

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**Abstract.** The demographic transition from rural to urban areas in developing countries, particularly Indonesia, has been an urbanization phenomenon for the past two decades. This phenomenon led to a rapid increase in the urban population. The insufficient carrying capacity of the city, particularly the availability of land, urges the spread of urban space and activities into peri-urban areas. This study looks at the problems with making a living that migrants from peri-urban areas in Denpasar City face now and how they deal with them. Through a qualitative research design, data is collected through in-depth interviews, then analyzed using a descriptive method. The results of the study show that the main challenges faced by migrants are related to socioeconomic, sociocultural and safety factors. The rise of small-scale trading creates unhealthy competition that hurts the sales and profits of peri-urban migrants. Moreover, peri-urban migrants have had problems like not speaking the same language and having different religious and cultural traditions. Mapping the challenges of migrants' livelihoods in peri-urban areas is the initial foundation for determining policy strategies for dealing with poverty, slum settlements, and socioeconomic and population problems.

**Keywords:** Livelihood Challenges; Livelihood Strategies; Migrant; Peri-Urban Areas

## 1. Introduction

The demographic transition from rural to urban areas in developing countries, particularly Indonesia, has been an urbanization phenomenon for the past two decades. This phenomenon led to a rapid increase in the urban population. BPS (2021) noted that in 2020, 56.7% of the population lived in big cities in Indonesia, and in 2035 it is predicted to increase to 66.6% [1]. As one of the largest cities in Indonesia and the capital of Bali Province, Denpasar City not only serves as the civic center, but also as the business and economic center, historic site, and primary tourism hub on the island of Bali. This appeal is a major factor in attracting new residents to Denpasar City. In 2010, the number of migrants in Denpasar City reached 415,417, or approximately 52.68 percent of the city's total population. In other words, the percentage of migrants in Denpasar City is higher than the number of locals. As predicted by migration, urban population growth exerts enormous pressure on the carrying capacity of the city [2]. The city's limited carrying capacity, primarily because of the lack of land, urges the development of urban space and activities into peri-urban areas.

The peri-urban area is a convergent boundary between urban and rural characteristics, which include land use transformation, demographic shifts, and socioeconomic transitions [3]. The degree of transformation in the peri-urban area's character can be observed in the way space is utilized and in the activities of the people. Assume that more than 75 percent of land use and community activities in peri-urban areas are focused on the agricultural sector. In such a particular instance, the peri-urban area retains rural features. In contrast, if land use and community activities do not result in an agricultural sector comprising less than 25 percent, the peri-urban area becomes urban. In contrast, if the percentage ranges from 25 to 75%, this indicates that urban and rural aspects influence one another in peri-urban areas. This process is referred to as peri-urbanization [4]. As a result of the expansion of urban activities, peri-urbanization alters the physical, economic, and social characteristics of rural areas surrounding cities, causing them to become increasingly urban [5].

Some other complex issue that arises as a result of the lack of regulatory standards in peri-urban areas is one that concerns the economic sector and the settlements that exist there. In peri-urban areas, property ownership and economic standing are the primary factors that determine the construction of settlements by settlers. Those who are able to legitimately own property and have income levels are in a position to construct magnificent homes, whereas those who are not able to do so are limited to constructing homes that adhere to even lower standards, which are known as slums.

In the meantime, individuals who do not own land but are wealthy can lease high rises, while those who are poor can only pay for simple residences, and some of them are even eager to live on illegal land, which is referred to as a squatter settlement. People living in peri-urban areas who lack financial resources and have a low level of education or skills will be unable to contend for employment in the formal sector. There will be an increase in the number of unemployed poor people, while others will find opportunities for work in the informal sector [6].

Migrants are the most susceptible population to the myriad of issues that plague the peri-urban area. Migrants are people who move to a new location with the intention of settling there permanently in order to improve their quality of life in some way, whether it be in regards to their income (economic factors) in order to become more prosperous, or in terms of the comfort of living by liking educational, wellness, and recreational places (non-economic factors.) safe and comfortable. According to Ravenstein (1885), the difficulty of earning a living in the places of origin and the likelihood of obtaining a higher salary in the area of destination are the two primary factors that most strongly influence an individual's decision to migrate. It was also stated by Ravenstein (1885) that the region that migrants strive to select as a desired location is the region that is closest to the region from which they migrated. According to this theory, migrants from peri-urban areas can originate from cities or villages that are immediately adjacent to peri-urban areas [7].

Researchers have only focused their studies on transformations that occur in peri-urban areas regarding land use changes [8], [9] and socio-economic changes [10], [11]. Others discuss more aspects of governance [12], [13]. There is little or no mention of peri-urban communities, especially those targeting migrants. This research will uncover the contemporary livelihood challenges faced by peri-urban migrants.

## 2. Methods

This research used qualitative methods of research [14]. Qualitative methods research was used to understand the challenges of peri-urban livelihoods in the study area. Qualitative data (text data) were collected through in-depth interviews with several participants deliberately selected from those who had filled out the survey and analyzed using thematic analysis to create a thematic matrix—this study's purpose of gaining a deeper understanding of the challenges of peri-urban livelihoods.

The population in this study were all heads of families who live in the peri-urban area of Denpasar City. A household is defined as a group of people living together and making decisions, individually and collectively, in a domestic context [15], [16]. The sample size for qualitative methods is determined by data saturation that can produce adequate patterns, categories, and dimensions of the phenomenon under study [17]. There is no standard sample size for qualitative methods. The research question generally determines the sample size..

## 3. Results and Discussion

Physical development in peri-urban areas alters peri-urban communities' livelihood patterns [18]–[21]. According to Abass et al. (2013), peri-urban communities face a variety of livelihood options as a result of the interaction of rural and urban systems. The results show that migrants face three main challenges: safety, socio-economic, and socio-cultural. The challenges faced by migrants in the peri-urban of Denpasar City are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Migrants livelihood challenges in the peri-urban area of Denpasar City

Challenges	Percentage	Category	Percentage
Safety	15%	Decrease in physical condition	15%
		Work accident	2%
		Working pressure	80%
		Crime victim	6%
		Stressed	2%
Socio-economic	55%	Unhealthy competition	65%
		Limited financial assistance	15%
		Unstable salary	5%
		Daily income is not sufficient for daily needs	5%
		More capital intensive	10%
Socio-cultural	30%	Language difference	10%
		Cultural jealousy	15%
		Ethnic differences	45%
		Women's job opportunities	5%
		Limited participation in traditional activities	25%

Table 1 shows that the main livelihood challenges faced by migrants in the peri-urban areas of Denpasar City are socio-economic. In particular, the socio-economic challenges faced by migrants include unhealthy competition (65%), limited financial assistance (15%), being more capital intensive (10%), and unstable salaries and low daily income (each by 5%). The second-biggest challenge faced is socio-cultural. The majority of migrants feel that ethnic differences are an obstacle to running their business (45%), the rest are obstacles to decreasing participation in traditional activities (25%), cultural jealousy (15%), language differences (10%), and women's job opportunities (5%). Finally, the most extensive safety challenges faced by migrants are high work pressure at work (80%), decreased physical condition (15%), being victims of crime (5%), and work accidents and mental stress (2% respectively).

Changing the livelihood does not mean without challenges. Several studies documented the challenges encountered by the peri-urban community when they changed their method of livelihood, most notably safety, socioeconomic, and sociocultural challenges. According to Abdulai et al. (2021), safety is a significant barrier to livelihood changes in Ghana [22]. Residents of the peri-urban area who switched from agriculture to stone mining reported injuries and physical exhaustion. These challenges are exacerbated by the relatively long distances and rugged terrain required to reach the mining site.

Moreover, socioeconomic challenges are a significant component of peri-urban livelihood challenges. According to Afriyie et al. (2013), unhealthy competition from the proliferation of petty trading undermines the sales and profits of peri-urban residents who have transformed their livelihood into a trader. Furthermore, he asserts that insufficient start-up capital and the inability of the majority of peri-urban residents to obtain credit facilities due to a lack of guarantee are significant economic challenges [15]. Due to a lack of access to substantial working capital, petty trading is not very financially viable.

Socio-cultural challenges constrain the peri-urban community's ability to benefit from new livelihood activities. Language barriers [23], [24] as well as religious and cultural traditions [22], [25], are some of the common but significant socio-cultural challenges that peri-urban dwellers face. Inability to overcome multiple obstacles results in a loss of dignity, self-esteem, and social equity, most notably for farmers who have lost agricultural land, women, the poor, and unskilled local people. However, peri-urban livelihoods must change due to the rural-urban transition. As a consequence, livelihood challenges limit their ability to earn a living from available resources.

Existing literature about livelihood change challenges does not rely solely on the dynamics of peri-urban itself; for example, some people change jobs and find themselves living farther from their workplace [26], [27], and a significant number of the house transformed for retailing (Scholdra et al, 2022), and permanent loss of natural resources [8]. For this reason, it requires more specific indicators to comprehend the complexities of the challenges faced by peri-urban populations when they change their livelihood. For instance, peri-urban transport challenges include traffic congestion, parking issues, accidents, environmental pollution [2], [28], and the increased cost of locating, storing, and buying food [29], [30].

## 4. Conclusions

Development in peri-urban areas transforms spatial transformations and has a corresponding effect on the livelihood patterns of migrants. The transformation of peri-urban areas has consequences for the challenges to the livelihoods of migrants, especially on socio-economic challenges. The inclusion of this study, as agricultural land continues to be allocated for physical development, the pressures of rapid urban growth have changed the livelihoods of migrants in the peri-urban area of Denpasar City. The implications of this change in livelihood strategies are changes in livelihood outcomes.

## 5. References

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