

ORIGINS AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS
OF MIGRANTS
IN MOMBASA

by



NGIRIRI S. NJUE

This project is submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of the post-graduate diploma in population Studies of the University of Nairobi.

September 1988

DECLARATION

This project is my original work and has not been presented for a degree in any other university.

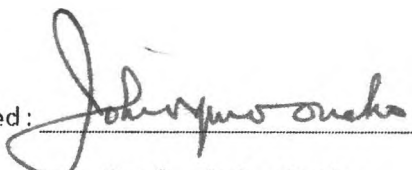


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This project has been submitted for examination with my approval as a University Supervisor.

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Date: September 29, 1988.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This work was seen to its completion by several people to whom I wish to express my gratitude. First I wish to thank the Ford Foundation in awarding me a scholarship to study at the Institute of Population Studies of the University of Nairobi. Secondly, my most sincere gratitude goes to my two supervisors Prof. J.O. Oucho and Dr. S. Khasiani whose invaluable support steered this work to its completion.

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ABSTRACT

Using the 1979 Kenya census data, this study examines and analyses some demographic and origin characteristics of the one-year migrants to Mombasa Town.

The analytical techniques used include percentages, bar graphs and line charts which are used to portray the most migratory age groups, sex by age groups, and the district of origin. The study found that the male migrants constitute 52 percent of the total migrants to Mombasa town, while the females constitute 48 percent. It was further noted that it is the young people who had migrated to Mombasa in the one year particularly those between ages 15-29. As for the district of origin, Kitui was found to have the highest one year migrants to Mombasa.

In view of these findings, the study concludes that the concentration of migrants into Mombasa in the young population cripples employment, educational and training opportunities in the town.

One major recommendation arising from this study is that since migrants will continue moving to the town as long as prospects appear brighter than in other towns, employment and training opportunities should be diversified in those other towns throughout the country for the purpose of attracting some of the migrants.

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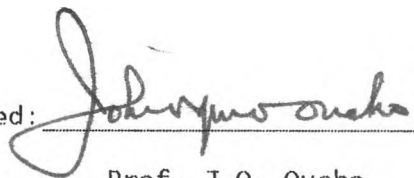


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In view of these findings, the study concludes that the concentration of migrants into Mombasa in the young population cripples employment, educational and training opportunities in the town.

One major recommendation arising from this study is that since migrants will continue moving to the town as long as prospects appear brighter than in other towns, employment and training opportunities should be diversified in those other towns throughout the country for the purpose of attracting some of the migrants.

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INTRODUCTION

In a pioneering work in Kenya, Ominde (1968) identified four types of internal migration namely, rural-rural, rural-urban, and urban-rural. In Kenya as in most less developed countries, studies indicate that the dominant migration pattern is toward the urban centres. Sly (1984), using the 1969 census data noted the dominant role of rural-to-rural migration among the observed migration streams in Kenya. He also noted that the potential impact of these migration streams is relatively small except for the rural-to-urban flow. The figures he gave postulated that rural to urban migrants make up nearly 30 percent of the urban population, whereas urban-to-rural migrants make up only 3 percent of the rural population. His other observation was that nearly one-third of the 1969 urban population had been rural-to-urban migrants. From the above, we can see that the most important factor contributing to the rapid rates of growth of urban populations is the tremendous increase in the number of migrants from surrounding rural areas.

This study will attempt to analyse the origin, age and sex characteristics of recent migrants in Mombasa town using data from the 1979 Kenya population census.

BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY AREA

Mombasa is the second largest industrial and commercial town in Kenya, next only to Nairobi city. But of major importance is the fact that it is the major port of national and international significance in Kenya. These factors may explain why large numbers of people have continued flocking to Mombasa in search of employment, education and training and in some cases illicit business.

Covering an area of 275 sq. km., Mombasa town is situated along the Kenyan coast and bordered to the North by Kilifi District, to the South and West by Kwale District, and to the East by the Indian Ocean. The latter two districts are among the five districts in Coast Province that account for a significant proportion of the rural-urban migrants in Mombasa.

According to the Mombasa District Development Plan of 1983, the population of the town by 1970 was about 341,000 people and increased at an annual growth rate of 3.86 percent. Sex ratio was shown to be 125 and the age structure indicated that 59 percent of Mombasa population was between 15 and 59 years of age. The same source showed that the 1983 population density was 1,950 persons per sq.km.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The background to the study area shows that more people are migrating to Mombasa than are moving out. High net in-migration rates coupled with the natural increase of population in Mombasa, results in rapid urbanisation and a high rate of population growth, which in 1979 was close to 4 percent per annum.

The problem of high rates of in-migration in Mombasa is further compounded by the composition of migrants. The socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the migrants as shown by Rempel (1976), Ominde (1972), and Wakajumah (1986) reveal that there is some form of imbalance in terms of their sex, age and education. For example Todaro and Rempel (1972) showed that Mombasa receives more male than female migrants, and more migrants in the ages 15-24 than in any other age groups. These facts then make it clear to us that migration to Mombasa affects the age and sex structure of the town. The composition of the migrants as well as the high in-migration rates would thus seem to have affected the sex ratio in Mombasa, suggesting male dominance.

JUSTIFICATION OF THE STUDY

A description and analysis of the origins and demographic characteristics of those who migrate is important in understanding socio-economic implications of migration on the receiving areas. Such information can be used by policy makers for better planning in the town.

In the receiving end, migration affects the age and sex structure, population density and population size. These factors have socio-economic implications in that more houses, schools, training institutions and employment opportunities will be needed in order to accommodate the in-migrants.

A study on the characteristics of migrants would reveal the common features of the migrants. If these features can be identified, future town growth, and the impact of various social and economic changes on the volume of rural-urban migrants can be more easily predicted. Failure to identify these common features would mean that future plans aimed at rural-urban migrants would be haphazard and made without any rationale.

Personal characteristics of migrants are important in aiding researchers to understand the determinants of migration.

Considerable increases in the size of the urban population, especially in the case of Mombasa and Nairobi in Kenya, has demanded increased attention to population movements as a key component in population dynamics and in urban and rural development. Lastly, census data does not analyse the characteristics of migrants.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

An immediate objective of this study is to investigate and analyse the sex, age, and origin characteristics of the recent migrants to Mombasa.

An ultimate objective of the study is to provide information on origins and demographic characteristics of migrants to the planners and policy makers for the better planning in Mombasa.

Besides, the study will suggest policy prescriptions for influencing the influx of the rural population into Mombasa in an attempt to avoid high rates of in-migration to the town.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Literature on migration from the developed and the developing countries varies. This is so because the former currently experiences mostly urban-urban migration while the latter mostly experience rural-urban migration. For that reason, much of the literature review in this study will focus on Africa and Kenya in particular.

Much of migration literature is focused on determinants and consequences of migration. However, a focus on the characteristics of rural-urban migrants has also been on the rise. Studies on characteristics of migrants have supplemented those on determinants and

consequences. There is an overwhelming evidence that the basic motivation for migration is economic, search for employment and security. The characteristics of migrants reflect this. According to Simmons (1977:12), those who move out are typically the young adults who are searching for an entry point into the employment market, and the better educated whose relative opportunities, no matter how poor, are better in the city.

Generally, rural-urban migration is a selective process. Migrants tend to have demographic, social, and economic characteristics that distinguish them from the non-migrants. Although this study does not show how the selective process is done and neither looks at non-migrants, it will nevertheless have to utilise literature on selectivity of migrants in order to describe demographic characteristics and origins of migrants in Mombasa. The argument here is that the process in which migrants are selected in the rural areas forms the basis on which to understand the composition of migrants in the urban areas.

According to Thomas (1938) and Bogue (1969), the single consistent characteristic of migrants is age, whether in developed or developing countries. These are the young adults years of 15-29. This is a general configuration but the distribution may be more peaked according to a given country.

In studying Latin American migration, Browning (1971), argued that it is only age and education that portray themselves as the major elements of migrant characteristics.

More authoritative studies in the developed world abounds in the work of Ravenstein (1885, 1889), who formulated the "Laws of Migration". In his works which were based on studies he conducted in Great Britain and in twenty more countries in Europe, he postulated that females were more predominant in short distance migration; that the rate of migration between two points is inversely related to the distance between these points, and that the inhabitants of the country immediately surrounding a town of rapid growth flock into it. These laws may particularly be useful to this study in understanding why migrants from certain districts have higher propensity to migrate to Mombasa than from others. The laws will also help find out whether Ravenstein's hypothesis on abundance of females in short distance migration works.

Shaw (1975) also made several generalizations on characteristics of migrants with respect to age, sex, education, occupation, marital status, and ethnic origin. Since his work was based on selectivity of migrants from the non-migrants, it may not be so much useful in the line of this paper but it nevertheless gives hints on sex and age characteristics of migrants. His proposition was that migration varies inversely with age and that the greatest propensity to migrate is in the age group 20-29 years. Although this was an observation from the developed countries, it also helps us discern the kind of migrants we expect to get in Mombasa town. On sex, he acknowledged the predominance of males to females in migration but also argued that current research indicated that sex was less uniform over time and place.

In Africa, Caldwell (1969) observed that the typical migrant is a young adult. In Ghana for example, he noted a concentration of migrants in the 15-19 age group (1969, 59), and a disproportionately more 15-32 year olds in the town than in the country. On sex, Caldwell (1968, 368) noted that in Accra there were in 1960 over 20 percent more males than females who were born elsewhere in Ghana. A warning is here sounded on sex composition of migrants. That male predominance among rural-urban migrants is not universal. Cultural factors can and do have a significant influence on the sex composition of migratory groups. For example, Podlewski (1975) noted that in Cameroon, female mobility was everywhere more important than male mobility. He attributed this pattern to the practice of exogamy by most clans in order to avoid consanguineous marriages.

In Kenya, Ominde (1968) noted that it is the economically active age-groups that have high migratory behaviour — 15-44 years. These are the persons he terms young adults and those in their early maturity. If internal migration in Kenya manifests itself as thus shown, then migrants to Mombasa would also tend to reveal these characteristics.

Rempel (1970), found that most of the rural-urban migrants were in ages 20-25 in his sample of eight largest urban centres in Kenya. He further observed that age was the most consistent migrant characteristic. A relationship between education and occupation among Kenyan migrants was also noted. Rempel (1969) had also observed a tendency for a disproportionate number of the rural young adults to move to the towns. This he argued, reflected a correlation between age and education. The median age of migrants was found to be 22 and 23 years.

Oucho (1974), did a migration survey in Kisumu Town. His findings echos those of other scholars in the age and sex characteristics of migrants. In this survey, he observed that about 63 percent of repondents were aged between 20-24 years, and the real peak of migrants by age group was 20-29 years. In terms of sex characteristic, the survey noted that 75 percent of respondents were males and only 25 percent were females. These figures appear exceptionally high but this could be so due to bias and the fact that this was a sample survey.

Otieno (1985), studied migrant selectivity in Nairobi city. This study observed some of the characteristics of migrants we are most likely to witness in the case of Mombasa town. Her study showed that 52.4 percent of total recent migrants to Nairobi (using the 1979 census data), were males while females constituted 47.6 percent. On the age of migrants in Nairobi, her observation was that migrants were concentrated in age groups 15-19 to 25-29. The study was quite comprehensive in that characteristics of migrants in Nairobi by sex, age, education ethnicity and marital status were all shown. The observations made in Nairobi would form a good basis for comparing with those to be observed in the case of Mombasa town.

Wakajumah (1986), while estimating the intercensal net migration in Kenya, also came up with interesting observations. He found that Mombasa had a net gain in the population of young adults aged 15-24 years. These migrants were the job-seekers and those looking for education and training opportunities. Ethnically, he found that most migrants to Mombasa came from Kitui, Siaya and Machakos districts.

This literature review is not exhaustive but it shows what has generally been written on characteristics of migrants either generally or for particular places. However, very little has been carried out in Kenya on the characteristics of migrants in Mombasa town.

SOURCE, NATURE AND LIMITATIONS OF DATA

The main source of data is the 1979 Kenya population census (Tables 7 and 9 respectively). In its crude form, the tables showed migrants from within the province and from beyond it separately. Besides, only absolute figures of migrants were given either by sex or age groups. As such, some calculations had to be made in order to come up with proportions, percentages, mean and median of migrants into Mombasa town.

Secondary data will thus be used and the population to be studied will be those who migrated to Mombasa in 1978 and were enumerated in the town during 1979 census. Analysis of these recent migrants will be made and explained in terms of their age-groups, sex, and origin. Therefore, the study will be done at the macro level.

Since the study covers recent migrants only, life time migrants are excluded. It is undoubtedly better to study one-year migrants than it is to study old town residents who represent only a residue of the original flow, and who have long since undergone some major changes since their time of migration. However, one year migration data in Kenya are generally unreliable.

Due to limitation of time for writing this paper, and unreliability of data on marital status, education, and ethnicity, only three characteristics will be analysed, namely, district of origin, sex, and age. The unavailability of data on the stated variables obviously limits the analysis of migrants in terms of their social-economic characteristics.

METHODS OF DATA ANALYSIS

Descriptive methods will be used mainly to portray the district of origin, sex, and age characteristics of migrants in Mombasa. The mean, and median values will be calculated for the age of migrants in order to give us the average age of the migrants and the most migrating age group.

Sex-ratios will be calculated for the migrants to Mombasa for all the districts and this would also be shown graphically by bar graphs.

Percentages of certain age-groups, and by sex, of the total one year migrant population will also be calculated. Such age and sex comparisons will be supplemented with bar graphs and line charts. These graphical presentations will reduce descriptions and help in fast interpretation.

OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS

- Migration: In this study it will be defined as a form of spatial or geographical mobility involving movement from the area of origin to Mombasa town within the last 12 months prior to the 1979 census.
- Origin: Is defined as the area outside Mombasa from which a move is made.
- Destination: Is defined as the area in which the move terminates. In our case, it is Mombasa town.
- Migrant: Is defined as one who has moved from his/her area of origin to Mombasa within the last 12 months before 1979 census.
- Sex: Is defined as males or females.
- Age: Refers to migrants grouped into 5 year categories, for example 0-4, 5-9, etc.

CHAPTER THREE

FINDINGS •

AGE OF MIGRANTS

Bogue (1969), and Thomas (1938), postulated that for those migrating to urban centres, the single consistent index is age whether in developing or developed countries. The dominance of migrants in 15-29 years showed that there was an excess of adolescents and young adults among migrants. This is a true observation for migrants to Mombasa town. According to the 1979 Kenya population census, the recent migrants in Mombasa numbered 56,090 in total, males being 29,061 thus 51.79 percent of the total migrant population, while females were 27,029 in total or 48.18 percent of the total migrant population.

Table 1.1 shows that the proportions begin to rise from age 15-19 up to age group 25-29, after which they begin to fall. In this discussion, we are considering age groups 0-4 to 10-14 as children and not migrants as such. This is so decided because those aged 0-14 can only be considered as children of migrants but not migrants as such since they do not move out of their own volition but those of their parents. The analysis thus concentrates on those aged 15 and above.

Table 1.1 indicates that males in the age group 15-19 constitutes 7.37 percent of the total recent migrants to Mombasa. The females in the same age group however tend to be more as they constitute 7.91 percent of the total recent migrants. Otieno (1985, 39) observed the same trend in the case of Nairobi. This could be explained by the tendency of the young girls to migrate to the urban centres as maids and babysitters.

At the age-group 20-24, males exceed females by 1.94 percent. This difference could be attributed to the fact that most women enter marriage at ages 20-24, and this reduces their chances of migration as they are forced to stick to their home areas. On the other hand, males in the same age-group tend to move out to find the means in which to feed for themselves or their families.

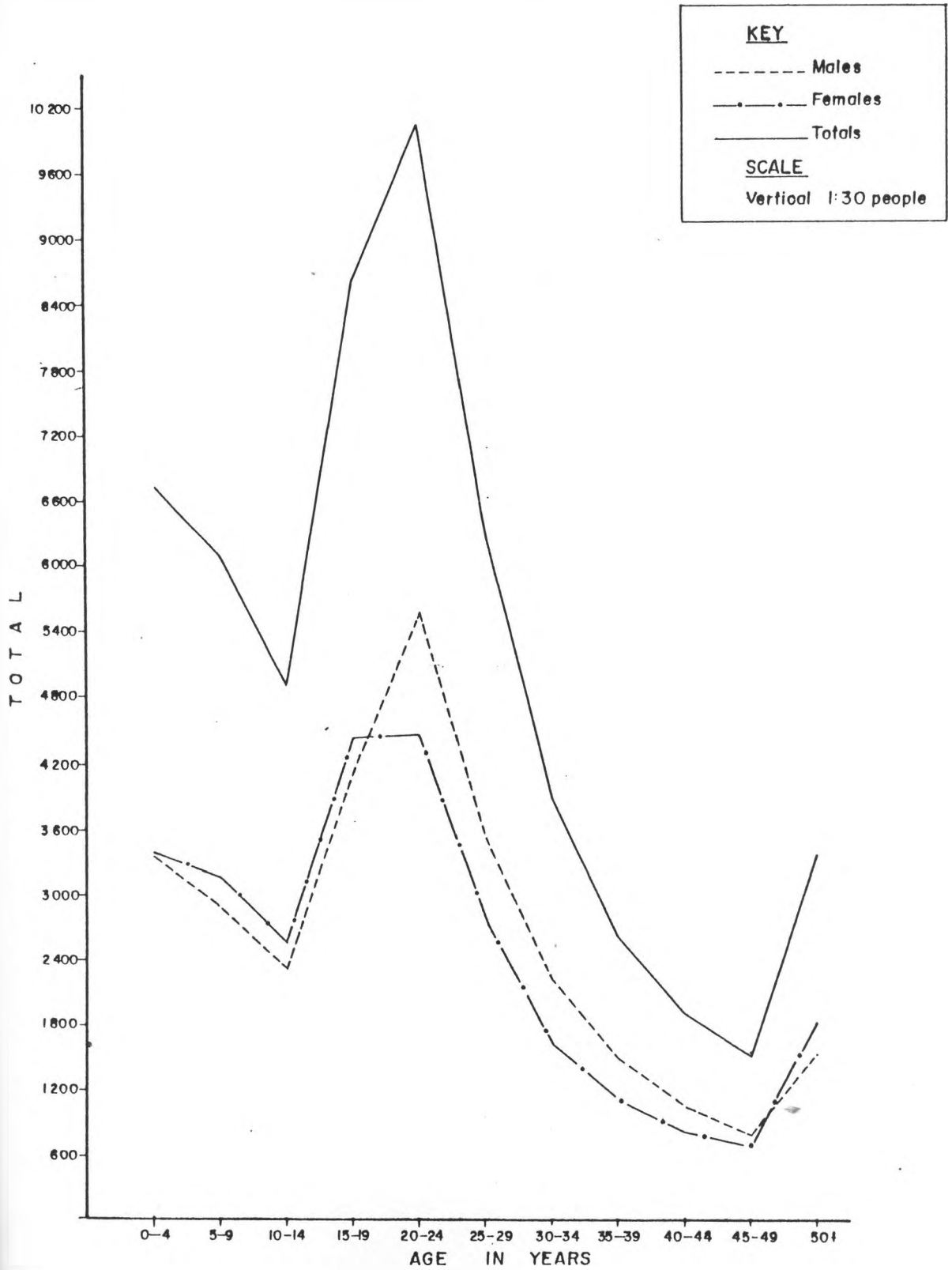
From age-group 25-29 for both males and females, we experience a decline in migration, and as we go further down the age-groups, a further decline in migration to Mombasa town is registered.

It is the age groups 15-19 up to 25-29 that have the highest number of migrants in Mombasa. In computing the mean and median ages of migrants, we too find they lie in these age brackets. The mean age of migrants above fourteen years old is 28.1 years, while the median age of all the migrants is 20.85 years. Putting all the migrants together, the average age of migrants is 21.23 years.

Figure 1.1 shows the distribution of recent migrants by age and sex. The graph is peaked in shape, at age-groups 15-19 and 20-24 after which it tapers off. The graph indicates that the majority of the migrants are aged between 20-24 years followed by 15-19. The peak of migration to Mombasa town for females is not as vivid as that of males. In fact the peak shows itself to be in both age-groups 15-19, and 20-24. However, for males the peak comes clearly at age group 20-24. From this graph, we can observe that females migrate at an earlier age than males though both sexes tend to migrate to Mombasa in their teenage and mid-twenties.

Although we lack data of migrants by age groups to Mombasa, Otieno's (1985, 44), findings corroborate the point mentioned above that the peak of migration for males is different from that one for females. An argument that can be advanced here is that males spend more years in school than females and that is why they migrate at an older age. On the other hand, the females drop out of school at an earlier age than males and have to migrate to Mombasa town or to the city to look for employment as babysitters and maids (Otieno 1985).

FIG. II: DISTRIBUTION OF RECENT MIGRANT BY AGE AND SEX



SEX OF MIGRANTS

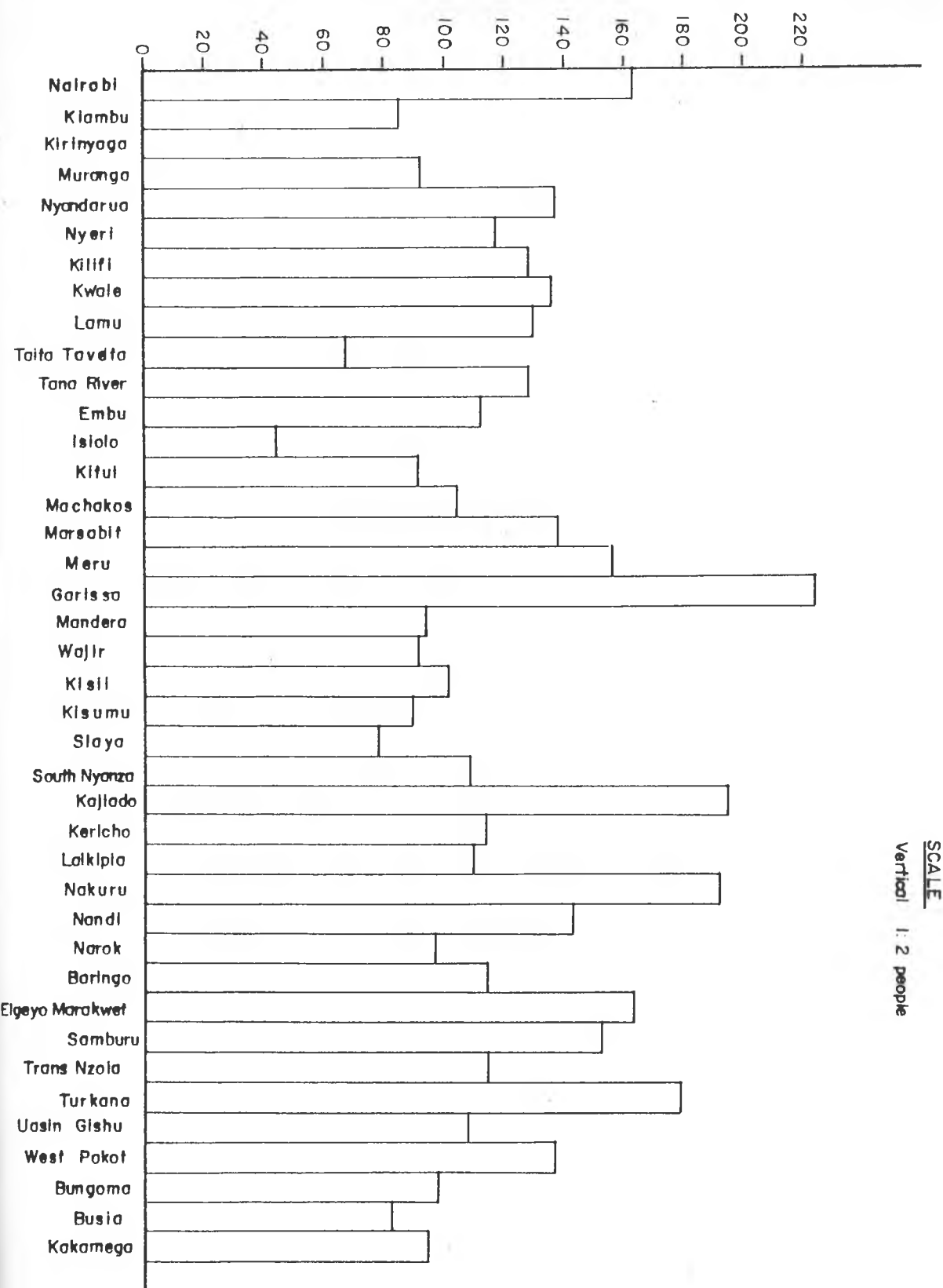
Sex variable has already been discussed in relation to age, and the same will be done in the case of origin of migrants. Thus in this section we examine the sex ratios of in-migrants to Mombasa by districts of origin. This will help us find the districts that send more males than females and vice versa.

The sex ratios of the migrants from all the districts of Kenya to Mombasa town are shown in figure 2.1. This figure shows that the lowest sex ratio is from Isiolo district while Garissa has the highest sex ratio. Of the 40 districts only 14 have more females migrating to Mombasa town than males within the one year migration period. The rest of the 36 districts show a high sex ratio. In view of this fact and what has already been stated - that males constitute 51.79 percent and females 48.18 percent of the total migrants to Mombasa - we conclude that males show a higher propensity to migrate than females.

One observation that can be made from figure 2.1 is that, on average, it is the districts with the least migrants to Mombasa that have some of the very high sex ratios. For example, Garissa has the highest sex ratio of 203 while its migrants to Mombasa numbers to only 100. Turkana districts has a mere 25 migrants to Mombasa and its sex ratio is 177.8 percent. Kajiado only contributes 53 migrants yet its sex ratio is the second highest. Others include Elgeyo Marakwet and Samburu. What is peculiar with these districts is that they are situated in semi-arid regions of the country, and that they are pastrolists. Such a cultural

SEX RATIO

FIG. 2.1: SEX RATIOS OF MIGRANTS BY DISTRICTS IN MOMBASA



SCALE
Vertical 1: 2 people

behaviour necessitates males to be always on the move while females remain behind among the pastoral tribes. This then explains why high sex ratio is prevalent in these areas.

Economic factors and motivations reveal themselves as the more important reasons for male migration (Caldwell 1969, 117). Mombasa's attraction is a response to the unequal pattern of economic development that has taken place in Kenya since the colonial era. For example, higher educational as well as employment opportunities has led to migration. It is probable that males are migrating to Mombasa in order to exploit the booming tourist trade as well as look for employment opportunities related to tourism, marine and shipping.

As for the young females, many are known to flock to Mombasa either as job-seekers or for training purpose; Wakajumah (1986). Other female migrants may be coming as maids, to stay with relatives, or to join spouses.

One last observation we can make as regards sex of migrants results is that we are likely to experience migration to Mombasa at equal levels for both males and females who are looking for employment and other socio-economic opportunities.

ORIGINS OF MIGRANTS

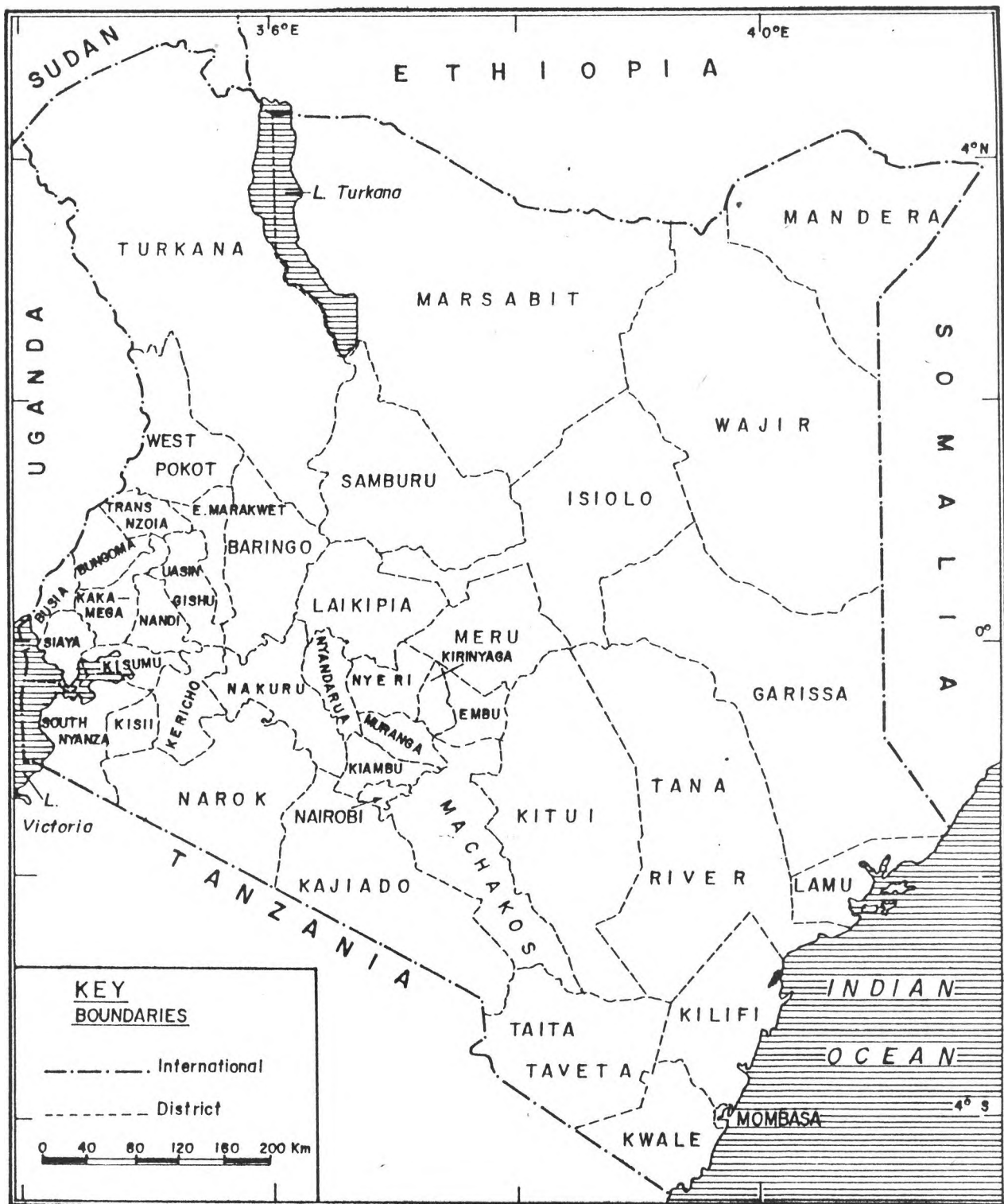
By origin we mean the districts from which the one year migrants have come. Table 2.1 indicates that the highest number of one-year migrants come from Nairobi city. But since the whole of Nairobi is an urban area and our interest is rural-urban migration not urban-urban, we shall ignore the case of Nairobi. Kitui had the highest number of one-year migrants to Mombasa town - 11.7 percent of the total migrant population. Other districts which recorded high percentages of over 5 percent of the total migrant population were Kilifi (10.15 percent); Kwale (5.94 percent); Taita Taveta (9 percent); Machakos (5.54 percent) and Kakamega (5.01 percent). Siaya and Kisumu, the two districts which signify long distance migration from Western Kenya, also portrayed percentages well over 4 percent.

Within the Coast Province, most migrants to Mombasa originate from Kilifi, Taita Taveta and Kwale districts, while from outside the province, Kitui, Siaya, Machakos and Kisumu are the major contributors of migrants to the town.

Ravenstein (1885: 199), postulated that "the inhabitants of the country immediately surrounding a town of rapid growth flock into it", and that "the great body of our migrants only proceed a short distance and migrants enumerated in a certain centre of absorption will grow less as distance from the centre increases". These Ravenstein's laws helps to explain why most migrants in the one year come from the districts bordering or nearest to Mombasa town. It would appear that shorter distance and proximity to the town is what has determined the high rates of migration.

TABLE 2:1
Population by Sex, District of Residence 12 Months before
Census and District of Enumeration (Mombasa)

District of Previous Residence	Male	Female	Total
Nairobi	4362	2683	7045
Kiambu	484	573	1057
Kirinyaga	317	402	719
Muranga	326	353	679
Nyandarua	112	82	194
Nyeri	291	248	539
Central N/S	5	6	11
Kilifi	3197	2498	5695
Kwale	1916	1414	3330
Lamu	398	307	705
Mombasa			
Taita/Taveta	2022	3025	5047
Tana River	427	339	766
Coast N/S	22	9	31
Embu	191	170	361
Isiolo	49	111	160
Kitui	2990	3275	6265
Machakos	1585	1522	3107
Marsabit	22	16	38
Meru	296	190	486
Eastern N/s	2	1	3
Garissa	67	33	100
Mandera	30	32	62
Wajir	48	53	101
North Eastern N/S	17	12	29
Kisii	228	226	454
Kisumu	1136	1271	2407
Siaya	1212	1559	2771
South Nyanza	857	791	1648
Nyanza N/S	7	21	28
Kajiado	35	18	53
Kericho	94	83	177
Laikipia	35	32	67
Nakuru	561	294	855
Nandi	64	45	109
Narok	25	26	51
Baringo	32	28	60
Elgeyo/Marakwet	21	13	34
Samburu	32	21	53
Trans Nzoia	89	78	167
Turkana	16	9	25
Uasin Gishu	105	98	203
West Pokot	15	11	26
Rift Valley N/S	7	11	18
Bungoma	243	249	492
Busia	582	708	1291
Kakamega	1364	1445	2809
Western N/s	3	5	8
Kenya N/S	47	41	88
Tanzania	279	232	511
Uganda	211	181	393
Resident Outside Kenya	2563	2156	4719
Not Stated	21	22	43
TOTAL	29061	27029	56090



Proximity to Mombasa alone cannot fully explain the large numbers of migrants to Mombasa from Kitui and Machakos. A factor cited by Otieno (1985, 47) is the inter-relationship between environment and development. Otieno attributes the high migration rates from the two districts to eco-demographic marginalization of the Kamba. Once this marginalization was under way, the economic, social and ecological linkages of the Kamba people broke down leading to soil erosion, overstocking, and persistence of famine since 1954. A combination of these factors inevitably led to out-migration principally to Nairobi and Mombasa, which has hence forth become part and parcel of the Kamba way of life (Okoth Ogendo 1975: 154).

Out of the seven main sending districts, three - Kakamega, Siaya and Kisumu - are not in proximity to Mombasa. Several reasons could explain why rates of migration to Mombasa from these districts are relatively high. In the case of Siaya district, the education factor may explain this trend. Siaya district is one of the poorest districts in terms of schools. It has very few schools to cater for the youth of school age, and very few employment oriented activities to discourage the youth from moving out. As for Kakamega and Kisumu, besides environmental hazards, Ocho (1981), population densities are known to be some of the highest. Thus, population concentration acting as a push factor may explain the process of migration and human adjustment from these areas.

The lowest percentages of migrants to Mombasa within the one year have been recorded in the whole of Rift Valley Province except for Nakuru as both figures 3:3 and 3:4 show. The same case applies to

FIG. 3-3: DISTRIBUTION OF RECENT MIGRANTS BY SEX AND DISTRICT OF RESIDENCE A YEAR AGO — FEMALES

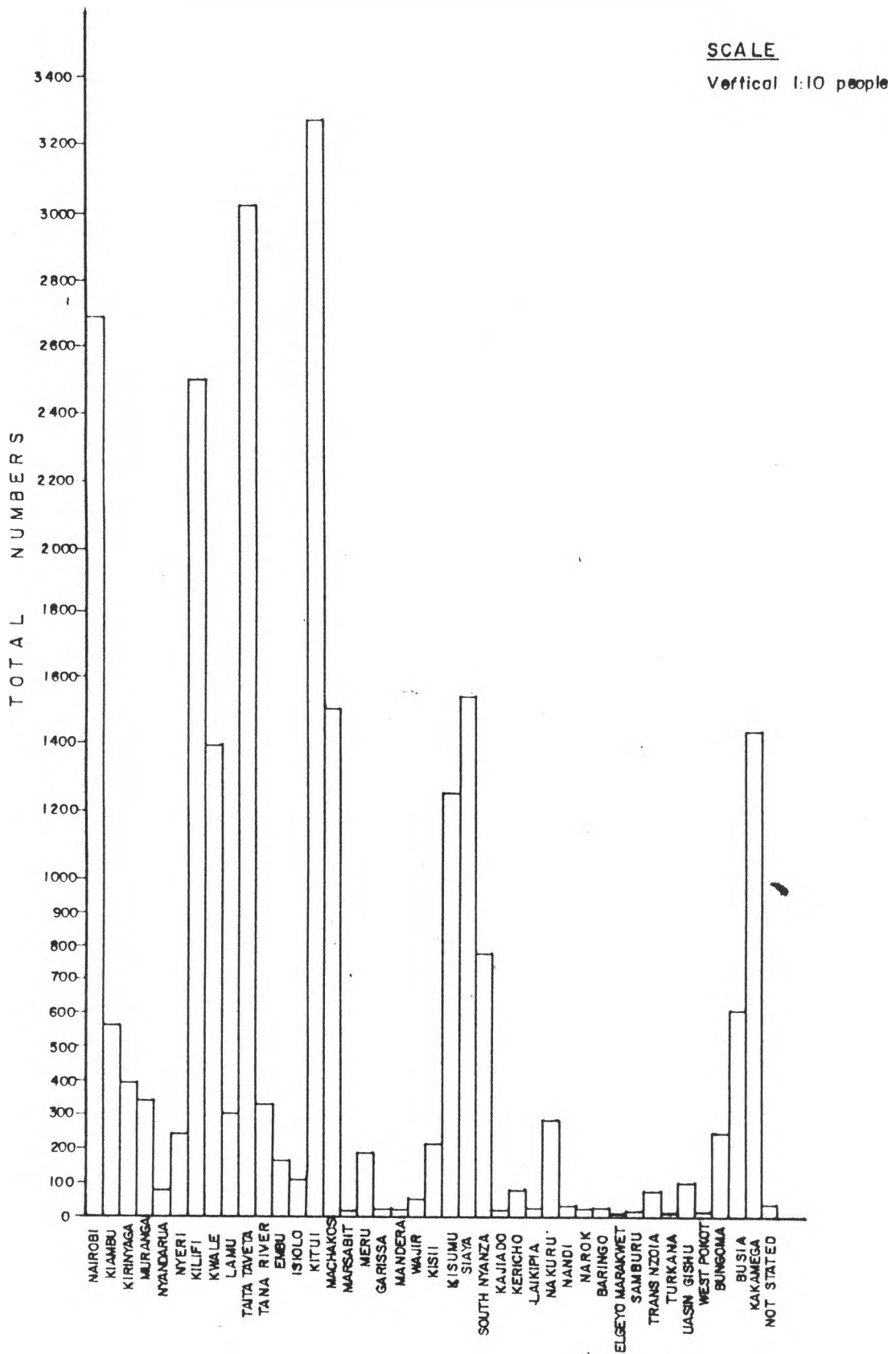
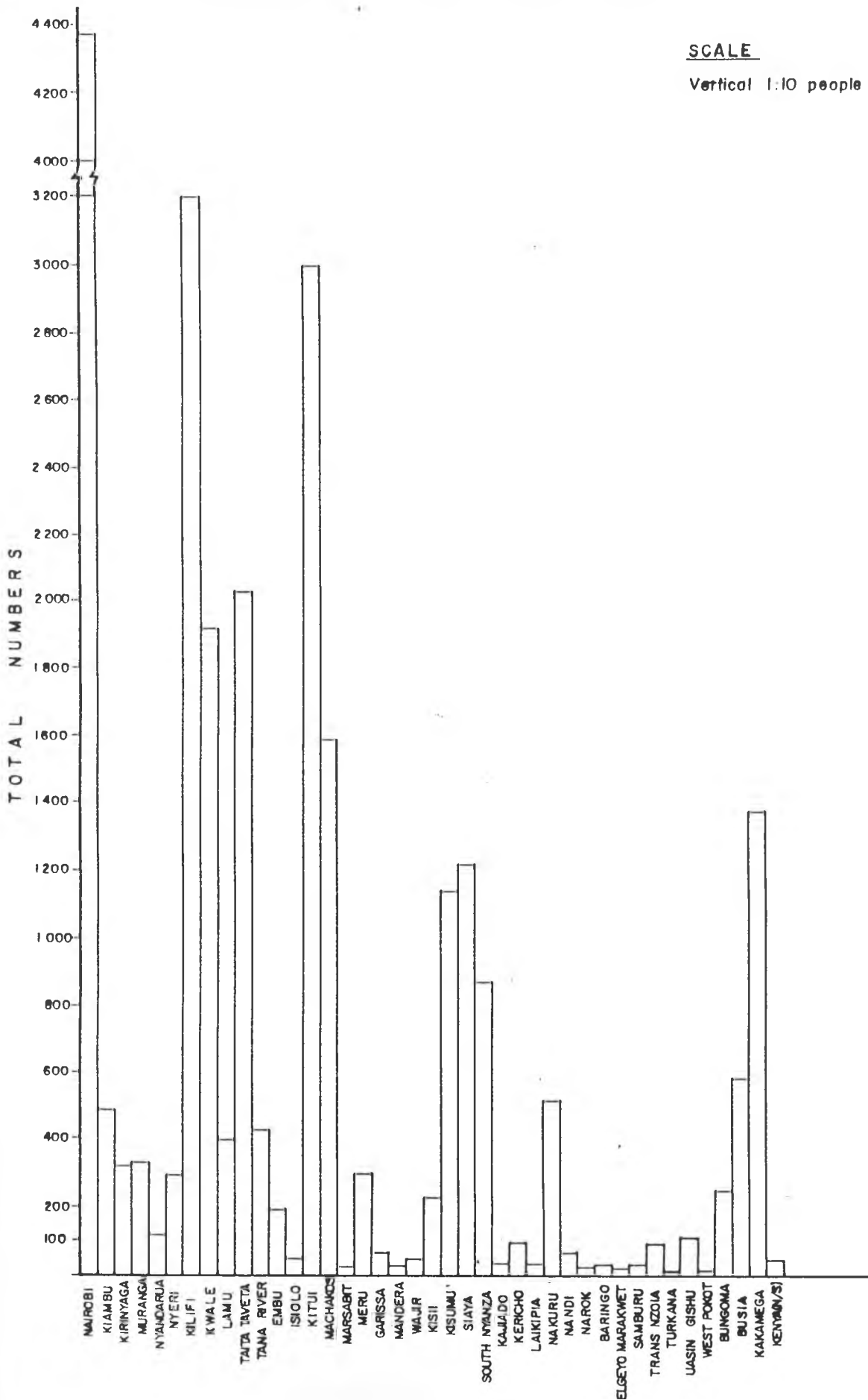


FIG. 3.4: DISTRIBUTION OF RECENT MIGRANTS BY SEX AND DISTRICT OF RESIDENCE AY YEAR AGO — MALES



Eastern Province except for Machakos and Kitui districts. One possible reason that may explain this trend is that most of these districts are made up of minority tribes, with little or no education and are mostly pastoralists. So migration to Mombasa town or even to the city as Otieno (1985: 58) found out cannot benefit them since they are occupied with their cattle and hardly settle in one place. Moreover, transportation to and from these areas is very poor and this may hinder their mobility process.

In looking at the origin of migrants by sex, a striking feature of the most migrant sending districts beyond the Coast Province is that females form a higher percentage of migrants for each one of these districts than males. These districts are Kitui, Kisumu, Siaya, Kakamega, Busia and Kiambu. Figure 3:3 clearly shows this. This observation confirms two things. One, females get more attracted to migrate to Mombasa because of the lucrative tourist oriented business inherent there. In many instances, teenage girls have flocked there whenever American or British warships have docked there for one or two weeks rest. Two, as earlier observed, we are likely to experience migration to Mombasa at equal levels for both males and females who are looking for better socio-economic and employment opportunities.

Ravenstein's (1885), hypothesis that females are more predominant in short distance migration has not fully worked in the case of Mombasa. Among the nearest districts to Mombasa, Lamu, Kilifi, Kwale, Tana River, Kitui and Machakos, only two districts Taita Taveta and Kitui were found to confirm Ravensteins's hypothesis. However, we should note that his assertions were based on observations made in Great Britain and Europe and therefore may not wholly apply in Kenya.

CHAPTER FOUR

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The main objective of this study has been to ascertain and discuss the origins and demographic characteristics of the one-year migrants to Mombasa town using the 1979 Kenya population census data. The age, sex and origin characteristics of the migrants have been shown and discussed. Migration rates by district of origin and sex, sex ratios for every district, percentages by age group and sex have all been calculated and shown using appropriate illustrations.

This chapter discusses two main issues. First, it seeks to echo the major findings of the study by summarising salient migration features discussed in the preceding chapters, and makes general conclusions to the study. Second, it makes some fundamental recommendations that are pertinent to policy making on either regional or national basis.

Mombasa has been identified by this study as an area of in-migration involving both external and internal sources. The attraction of the town cannot be explained merely in terms of its unique role in the Province but also as major premier port of East African Coast.

This study has shown that sex and age are vital characteristics of migrants in Mombasa. Our literature review pointed out that in most developing countries, the young males are by far the most migratory.

Migrants to Mombasa as shown by this study have confirmed this. However, it is interesting to note that given time, this trend is likely to change because in a number of cases, females have shown more preponderance to migrate than males.

This study found that the male migrants constitute 52 percent of the total migrants in one year while the females constitutes 48 percent.

The young people between ages 15 and 29 are predominantly the ones migrating to Mombasa. Seen thus, town populations having a disproportionate number of young adults could be seen as a direct result of accelerated migration.

As for the origin of migrants, the study found that the largest number of migrants come from Kitui, Kilifi, Taita taveta, Machakos, Siaya and Kakamega districts. Nairobi in this case is exempted since it is wholly an urban centre.

Population net gains in Mombasa are experienced in the age groups 15-19. These are mainly school dropouts, school leavers, the unemployed and those seeking for education and training who move to major urban centres in response to the prevailing opinion that such centres offer the best stepping stone to one's social and economic solutions. Thus, these young people tend to move into major urban centres to flee from rural poverty, to look for jobs and to lead a better life that such centres are expected to offer.

This study has revealed a number of factors influencing migration to Mombasa. These include harsh environmental conditions, distance and population pressure.

Apparently, the migration process depicted has adverse effects at the destination area since the out-migrating young adults require expansion of training and employment opportunities and housing.

A major limitation in this study is the failure to analyse the socio-economic characteristics of migrants. This has not been possible for two reasons. First, too short a time allocated to undertake this research paper and, second, the data retrieved from C.B.S. on marital status, education and ethnic characteristics of migrants were unreliable. These shortcomings partly account for our inability to make a more analytical comparison of migrants and formulate an elaborate theoretical framework.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Any policy recommendation should first bear in mind that migrants have already arrived in their destination. As such, the issue is first to see how to contain and accommodate them since they are already grappling with settling. Policies can be made later on how to curb and minimise future movement into the town.

The town planning department is here shouldered with a heavy burden. The simple technique of containing migrants would be to build more houses to accommodate them and expand training and employment opportunities. But this is not a simple task as it would entail the planning department to know the annual growth rate of the town's population and, more importantly, the contribution of migration to that growth. Although natural increase of the town is easy to estimate, it is imperative to know the annual rate of migration and project it in the future. This would permit planners to know how many social amenities, services and public facilities need to be provided for the in-migrating population.

Projections and planning would not solve the problem since funds to build and increase the facilities might be meagre. It is for this reason that measures have to be taken to stem the influx of migrants into the town.

Nationally, to reduce population concentration and movement in the two economically favoured urban centres — Nairobi and Mombasa — less emphasis should be given to the establishment of capital-intensive

industries. Emphasis on resource-based industries will stimulate geographical dispersion of industries to the small and medium sized towns which are closely alligned with the rural areas.

Disparity in socio-economic development between urban and rural sectors is known to be a major cause of rural-urban exodus. To cope with this problem, resource-based, development-inducing industries, water supply, and electricity to the less favoured rural areas should be extended. Recurrent unemployment, underemployment, lack of schools, economic insecurity and disillusionment will only be minimised with the improvement of rural access roads, health centres, good schools, loan systems and other essential services. This will also make the rural areas attractive to the urban entrepreneurs and thereby discourage rural-urban population exodus.

A major finding of this study was that the districts sending large numbers of migrants to Mombasa tend to lose more females than males in the process. However, female migration in Kenya is an unknown quantity in demographic studies and so it needs immediate investigation given the increasing volume of female migration in the country.

Finally, employment and training opportunities should be diversified such that other towns attract some of the migrating population.

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