

Reasons for Leaving, Attraction to New Destination, and Intervening Obstacles in the Migration Process: Viewpoints and Standpoints of Davao City's Local Migrants

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Abstract

Local migration is intensifying. In this study, I explored the viewpoints and standpoints of local migrants in Davao City on their reasons for leaving, attraction, and the intervening obstacles. Using a descriptive-qualitative design, interviewing 7 participants selected through convenient sampling, and using thematic analysis, I found that adjustment difficulties of migrants were mitigated through local ties and acquaintances. I propose that people considering migration ensure they have established contacts with families, relatives, and peers for potential support, and that a government agency be established to support local migrants. Mediation analysis using acculturation and enculturation struggles, as well as local ties and acquaintances, as mediators between economic and career aspirations and urban promises and opportunities, with subthemes serving as variable indicators.

Keywords: Reasons for leaving, attraction to new destination, intervening obstacles in the migration process, viewpoints and standpoints of Davao City's local migrants

1. Introduction

I have observed that internal movement patterns are rising across numerous regions worldwide, reflecting shifting demographic landscapes and the spatial redistribution of people within countries (Hoffmann et al., 2024). From what I have gathered in the literature, internal migration is becoming more visible across the world, and it should not be seen only as a matter of personal choice. Instead, it is shaped by broader factors, it includes and environmental limitations and economic policies (Hoffmann et al., 2024). This perspective helped me understand migration as something influenced by broader structural forces rather than just individual decisions.

In some countries, internal migration is commonly equated to a complex social issue. Several studies show that patterns of migration significantly vary. In some first world countries, people opted to stay where they are situated yet in other low-income countries, internal migration continues to increase in percentage (Diez et al., 2023). These variations suggest that the country's level of urbanization affects the migration of its citizens due to regional inequalities and even social structures. Thus, both the process and the reason why people move or migrate significantly depends on the country's conditions.

In the Philippine context, the movement of people within the country's regions still not new. While most of the people stay in the area where they were born and raised, still statistics show that 30.6% of Filipinos are labelled as internal migrants or moving from one place to another within one country (Philippine Statistics Authority, 2023). Most of the internal relocations took place on concentrated regions such as the CALABARZON (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, and Quezon), the Central Luzon, and the NCR (National Capital Regions), which shows that people are eyeing a highly urbanized place to settle.

As more people move in some urbanized cities, urban areas experienced seemed to overwhelm in public services and infrastructure, while rural towns may face the declining number of population and challenges to maintain local services and manpower (Hoffman et. al., 2024). These phenomena highlight the need to dig more the issue of local

migration and understand more of its patterns, causes and effects. For this reason, I was challenged to conduct this study and explore to unveil the realities behind these movements.

1.1. Significance of the Study

My study aims to examine and explore the differences between migrants and non-migrants in terms of economic and social aspects. Through this, my study hopes to contribute to a fair and more inclusive approach to migration and development. This research reflects to the Vision and Mission of the Holy Cross of Davao College, particularly its emphasis on offering service to the marginalized groups by understanding the phenomenon and to the very nature of its cause. It is connected also to the Sustainable and Development Goal 10, which highlights on reducing inequalities. Through this study, I seek to contribute to a deeper understanding of inequality and support efforts that promote fairness, dignity, and community development.

1.2. Research Questions

In this study, I explored the viewpoints and standpoints of local migrants in Davao City on their reasons for leaving their place of origin, attraction with Davao City as an area of destination, and the intervening obstacles that emerged in their moment of migration. Specifically, I sought answers to the following questions:

1. Can you walk me through what life was like in your place of origin before you decided to move?
2. When you decided to move, why did you choose Davao City? What drew you here specifically?
3. What were some of the biggest challenges or problems you faced during the journey itself or after you first arrived in Davao City?

1.3. Assumptions

I assumed that the experiences of local migrants in Davao City can be meaningfully understood through the Push and Pull Migration Theory, which posits that migration decisions are shaped by conditions associated with places of origin and destination. I assumed that push factors are closely related to limited economic and career opportunities, to the extent that they need to leave the place where they have found comfort since birth. I also think that pull factors are identifiable by the attraction of new opportunities in terms of education, personal growth, and social networks that Davao City could offer. I perceived the intervening obstacle as a difficulty or struggle that migrants faced during their transition period, such as social adjustment and financial struggles from leaving their place of origin to their destination, Davao City.

1.4. Conceptual Framework

My study is anchored on the Push and Pull Migration Theory, a theory crafted by Everett S. Lee in 1996. Following its original framework, it shows two main drivers which is the push and pull. “Push” factors refer to an instance that drive people away from their place of origin while “Pull” factors refer to an instance that attracts people to move to their new destination. Moreover, there is an “intervening obstacle” that represents a barrier or hindrances that the migrants experience during their transition phase from their place of origin to their area of destination.



2. Method

2.1 Research Design

I employed a qualitative-descriptive research design for this study. This design is a flexible qualitative approach that aims to produce comprehensive summaries of participants' perceptions and experiences in everyday language, closely reflecting their own descriptions without heavy theoretical interpretation (Villamin, Lopez, Thapa, & Cleary, 2025). Qualitative-descriptive design is widely used in social and health sciences because it allows researchers to describe and clarify how phenomena are encountered by participants, prioritizing *what* participants say and *how* they describe their views of a situation (Villamin et al., 2025).

2.2 Locale of the Study

I conducted this study in Davao City, a highly urbanized city in the southeastern part of Mindanao, Philippines, serving as the regional capital and a major economic hub. I chose this city for its large population, dense urban environment, diverse economy, natural beauty, and role as a gateway to local and international tourism. Covering approximately 2,444 square kilometers with an estimated population of 2,033,990.

2.3 Sample and Sampling Technique

My participants in this study were individual migrants who are male and female from neighboring provinces of Davao City. They have been residing in this city for at least 5 years at the time I did this study. Four (4) of them are 23-30 years old, 2 of them are 31-40 years old, and 1 of them is 41 years old and above. They have stable jobs and are eyeing to stay for good. They came from low-income families in their province to middle-income families.

I employed purposive sampling to select seven local migrants through personal knowledge, as a former board mate, two teachers, two classmates, my landlady, and a former colleague. I personally approached them and politely asked them to be my participants. I learned from Ahmad & Wilkins (2025) that purposive sampling is a non-probability technique in qualitative research that enables me, as a researcher, to intentionally select participants based on characteristics or knowledge relevant to the research question rather than through random selection.

2.4 Data Gathering Procedures

In this study, I interviewed my study participants individually. I dialogued with them to collect detailed, personal accounts of viewpoints, perceptions, and meanings using interview-guide questions (Panyasai and Ambele, 2025). Such dialogue was unstructured. It allowed us to be flexible in expressing views in depth. My interviews were useful because we explored *individual viewpoints and standpoints* (Chand, 2025).

2.5 Data Analysis

I employed a qualitative data-gathering technique using in-depth, semi-structured interviews, in which I personally engage participants in open-ended conversations to explore their perceptions and meanings related to the phenomenon under study, while allowing flexibility to probe emerging insights. I audio-recorded and transcribed the interviews verbatim to preserve participants' voices and ensure analytic rigor. To analyze the data, I used thematic analysis, which works by systematically familiarizing myself with the data, generating initial codes, identifying recurring patterns of meaning, and organizing these patterns into coherent themes that capture shared and divergent experiences across participants, followed by reviewing, defining, and interpreting the themes in relation to the research question. In this process, I emphasized reflexivity, acknowledging my role as the researcher in meaning-making, and focused on depth rather than quantification, making it well-suited for qualitative inquiry (Braun & Clarke, 2023).

2.5 Trustworthiness of the Study

In ensuring the trustworthiness of my study, I see to it that it meets the standard procedure in conducting qualitative study by following the four key criteria namely: credibility, transferability, dependability and confirmability. I strengthened credibility ensuring I followed through triangulation and member checking by making sure the participants agree and affirm their statements. I do transferability through thick description by detailing if their sentiments fit to some situations. Dependability, on the other hand, is strengthened through inquiry audit and audit trail to ensure that everything on the data gathering process is properly documented. Lastly, confirmability is highlighted reflexive journal by ensuring that the data is not influenced by the researcher's biases and self-interest.

3. Results

This chapter highlights the findings of my study and discusses the themes that from the participants' narratives. It ensures that the patterns within the participants' narratives are examined to better understand their perspectives.

Through rigorous analysis in interpreting the data, I was able to identify the key themes and sub-themes that summarizes the participants' perspectives. These were originally extracted from codes stated upon the in-depth interviews where I examined their stories and responses. This chapter a detailed presentation of the findings and its interpretation as I work on several key meanings in various aspects found in the data.

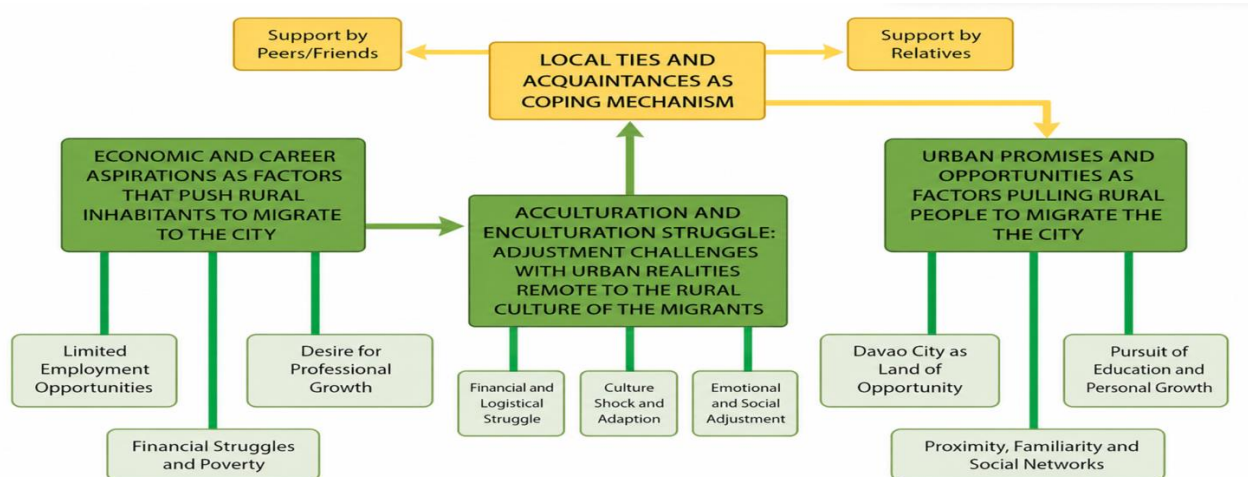


Figure 2. *Modified Paradigm* based on the findings of the data pertaining to the viewpoints and standpoints of local migrants in Davao City anchored on Everett S. Lee's Push and Pull Migration Theory (1996).

Economic and career aspirations as factors that push rural inhabitants to migrate to the city

In analyzing the data, I found that economic and career aspirations play a vital part in deciding whether to migrate to the city or not. Several participants highlighted that opportunities were limited in their province particularly in the aspect of stability and career advancement. Low salary and uncertain income made it even more difficult to achieve financial stability. Thus, it made me realize that migration is not just simply a personal choice but an answer to these constraints. For most of the participants, migrating to the city represented on the opportunity to earn more, support their families and have a more secure future. Moreover, it comes to show that the pursuit of financial security significantly influenced their decision to vacate their hometown.

Limited Employment Opportunities. Many of the participants stated that even though they are qualified for a professional job, remain unemployed because due to the absence of some giant private companies, only government offices remain the sole option. One of the reasons why they have a hard time building their career. I also noticed that some are depending on the usual and primary livelihood in the province such as farming, fishing and other types of

work that will not offer a competitive and stable income. Even if there are professionals who obtained degrees on some field like Customs Administration, Accountancy or Engineering, it becomes useless if they will prefer to stay in their province. Thus, it made me realize that the lack of job opportunities is one of the primary reasons why people opted to look for work elsewhere.

“Limited employment options. Beyond agriculture and fishing, there are few formal jobs in the barangay. Youth who finish high school often look elsewhere.” (IDI-P2; L3)

“Since I'm in the province, and our place is still developing, there are few opportunities here, so I decided to move.” (IDI-P3; L7)

Financial Struggles and Poverty. In examining the participants' response, I noticed that money remains the primary reason of leaving. A limited income made it difficult for them to provide their basic needs for their day to day living. Many stated that they always worry where to get the resources in paying the bills which caused stress somehow and affected their mental health. Being less fortunate change the way they see the world and the future of their loved ones. Nevertheless, even with money problems, I noticed that they are still thriving and even persevered to make things better.

“My father was sick, and my mother could not do her job since she needed to take good care of my father. Then, I decided to move here to find a job and help them sustain their daily needs.” (IDI-P1; L3)

“Due to poverty, after I graduated from college. I really strive hard to look for work here in Davao City because of the lack of opportunity in the province. If I stay in my place of origin, nothing will happen to me, I will just end up unemployed despite my degree.” (IDI-P7; L35)

Desire for Professional Growth. I also noticed that the pursuit of professional growth is also a reason why participants vacate their place of origin. Many stated that what they want is to develop their skills and find a better job which are not accessible in their hometown. My analysis show that staying in their local communities often brought a minimal growth. On the other hand, the said growth and development are possible in the cities as a central place of civilization. Thus, I saw migration as a last resort of participants to improve their economic and professional life brought by the satisfaction of their fruitful careers.

“The feeling of being stuck in town without growth and development. If you want to learn new skills and experience, you have to move forward and look for better opportunities that will lead you to a better future.” (P5-IDI; L21)

“One of the biggest challenges was the limited opportunities for career growth. In my hometown, jobs related to my profession were scarce, and even when available, the resources and facilities weren't sufficient to support meaningful professional development. I felt that staying there would limit my potential and prevent me from reaching my goals, and the salary was also not fairly compensated for my job; it was really low.” (P5-IDI; L24)

With these findings, the involvement of limited employment opportunities, financial instability, and wanting professional growth are the three top reasons why the participants leave their hometown. Their narratives are consistent with the Push Factors by Lee who viewed departure as a move to better themselves and a progression towards a secure and fulfilling future.

Urban promises and opportunities as factors pulling rural people to migrate to the city

As I read through the stories of the participants, I realized that the appeal of living in the city played a major role in their decision to move. There was a belief that cities offered better jobs, high wages, accessibility to education, and standards of living as compared to rural places. I observed that they frequently associated urban areas with development, autonomy, and an opportunity to climb the ladder. Such opinions made a city extremely attractive and assisted them in deciding to relocate.

Davao City as a Land of Opportunity. I observed that Davao City was frequently referred to as a place where there were numerous opportunities. The participants perceived it as providing quality of life, education and better jobs. Some of them called the city contemporary, secure, and bustling with business. Davao City in their perspective was one place where they could establish their careers, open businesses and develop as individuals. This demonstrates that people may be strongly attracted by good social and economic conditions, in the search of a stable and better life.

“Well, as their slogan says, “Life is Here”. There are many opportunities here in Davao City. I like that everything is here and is available and accessible. Quality education, top-notch facilities, diverse opportunities for diverse individuals, name what you want, almost everything is here.” (P1-IDI; L5)

“Since I am a commerce graduate, I was looking forward to landing a better job in a big company here in the city. Bigger and more opportunities await here.” (P7-IDI; L31)

Proximity, Familiarity, and Social Networks. Another key fact of my discovery was the importance of social connections. I noticed that the participants were more willing to move when they had family, friends, and people they already knew there. These connections provided emotional as well as actual assistance, such as teaching them how to get jobs or acclimate themselves. In my perspective, this implies that migration is not just about money. Being familiar and connected also makes the process of moving less stressful and easy.

“I have a lot of family, relatives, and friends living and working here in Davao City. This also influenced me to work here because I always think that I have someone I can talk to or I have someone who can help me here.” (P1-IDI; L4)

“My auntie and uncle, who are living in Davao City have influenced my decision to relocate, telling me that there is more opportunity that awaits when I try to go out of my comfort zone and choose to live and work in a city like Davao.” (P2-IDI; L9)

Pursuit of Education and Personal Growth. I also observed that most of the participants were interested in receiving a higher level of education and developing as individuals. They preferred areas with good schools, and safer neighborhoods, as well as work and personal development. Having read their stories it became apparent that migration was not only about getting more money. It was also about the future, a richer and satisfying one, to many and about getting a better health.

“I really wanted to build a better future for myself. Davao offered more chances to grow professionally, and I felt like I could become more independent here.” (P4-IDI; L17)

“Career opportunities, even for professionals, it is hard for them to find stable jobs because of limited opportunities. But through dedication and perseverance abroad I can land a better career.” (P5-IDI; L25)

Based on the responses given by participants, most of them were drawn to Davao City since they believed that it would provide them with more opportunities, particularly in employment, education and security. They did not look at the city as a place to pass by, but as a symbol of hope and opportunity. To them Davao City was a place of better living and pursuing their dreams that they could not achieve in their native towns. This emotion demonstrates the association of cities with hope and rising upwards.

Upon analyzing their experiences, it became clear to me that for many participants, adapting to urban life was not easy. There were lots of challenges that they encountered, namely, the high cost of urban living, difficulty in finding stable housing, and meeting the demands from a more competitive work environment. Moreover, several participants also revealed that they felt homesick and lonely in their initial migration periods. These experiences reinforced the observable gap between rural and urban living. However, in front of all these are strong and resilient participants who continue to adjust and find ways to cope with their new environment.

Financial and Logistical Struggles. In this study, I found out that migrants are often driven by the limited resources in their hometowns that lead them to seek more opportunities and better financial resources. The participants described this as a practical step for better living conditions. They sought places with more available job opportunities, better infrastructure, and manageable daily living conditions. However, these challenges remained part of their lives even after migration and still required constant adjustment and careful decision-making.

“Although that phase of my life was difficult, I can’t deny that insufficient funds made that worse. Everything here in the city needs money from food, fare, printing of necessary documents for application, rents, and the likes. The environment is not that hard to adjust to, it only takes weeks for me”. (P7-IDI; L33)

“The actual journey from Bansalan to Davao wasn’t very long or difficult, but starting a new life here came with its own set of challenges. At first, money was tight. Relocating meant spending on transportation, rent, and daily needs even before receiving my first salary. That financial strain was tough.” (P3; L11)

Culture Shock and Urban Adaptation. In my critical examination, I observed a common trend amongst the participants with the prospect of cultural change and acclimatization to urban culture. The latter provides the rapid and dynamic lifestyle, contemporary social standards, and new habits which were admittedly overwhelming. Growth and adaptation are behind these challenges. The participants were quite candid to admit they acquired new skills and learned more on how to cope with life in the city efficiently and on their own. This is a conclusion that migration is not a mere economic development but also a personal and transformative experience.

“I had a culture shock. I never knew that Davao City is very different from the province. Everything here is fast paced. Everyone doesn’t care. They are too busy with their own life. In terms of transportation, I had difficulties commuting since the PUJ’s signboards are sometimes confusing. And it’s costly to live here. You have to have money to access everything.” (P1-IDI; L1)

“Adapting to the fast pace and noise of city life can be stressful. I also miss my family and the slower, familiar way of life in San Victor. Social networks take time to rebuild.” (P2-IDI; 10)

Emotional and Social Adjustment. Emotional and social support became one of the critical themes in the process of migration of people living in rural areas to urban ones. I learned that participants appreciated the contexts in which they felt accepted and related with others. Good positive relationship with relatives, friends and even strangers served to alleviate their homesickness. It was easier to adapt with a better sense of well-being and increased stability. This demonstrates that people make migration decisions not only on practical grounds but also based on the necessity to feel a sense of belonging and a high level of emotional support.

“What made it hardest was the loneliness. After work or interviews, I’d come home tired, missing my family, wondering if I had made the right choice. But slowly, as I learned how things worked and built connections, I began to feel like I could stand on my own here.” (P5-IDI; L23)

“Adapting to the fast pace and noise of city life can be stressful. I also miss my family and the slower, familiar way of life in San Victor. Social networks take time to rebuild.” (P2-IDI; L9)

Lastly, this research enabled me to unravel how the situation of adapting to life in the city entails the struggle of not only financial but also emotional suffering. This group of difficulties was usually what caused difficulty in settling in cities among the participants. I also discovered how the resiliency of migrants was strengthened, strategy of coping

was developed, and an enhanced feeling of independence had been established. This implies that although a migration journey is a difficult process, it also causes personal development and acclimatization in the long term.

Local ties and acquaintances residing in Davao City as a coping mechanism

In my analysis, I was able to determine that local ties and the established social contact were important in the way in which the participants were able to manage the difficulties of the migration process. These bonds were significant sources of support because they were going through the strains that drove them out of their hometowns and the stresses that faced them in the new land. Participants stated that they used the support of family members, friends, and people they knew as the guiding force, emotional, and practical assistance. They also worked out their individual coping mechanisms, including problem-solving and emotional resilience, along with these social networks. All these worked together to enable them to cope with financial hardships, culture shock, and the general requirements of the life in the city and eventually gain some stability and sense of belonging in their new environment.

Relatives. In the analysis of the experiences of the participants, I discovered that their relatives residing in the destination region were very instrumental in facilitating the process of their integration. Their presence offered the participants a feeling of comfort and security in a situation that would otherwise have been overwhelming. Most of the respondents said that their family members were not only supportive but also offered them some practical help, including assisting them in locating housing, adapting to the everyday life, and familiarizing themselves with the local surroundings. In my view, such support provided helped to make the settling-in process less stressful and manageable among the participants.

"I studied here in Davao City because my elder sister is working here. She has her boardinghouse in Matina, that's why I stayed there to have our expenses as one. She helped me with a few of my needs, but my parents are still the ones who provided my tuition fee, fare and food." P1-IDI; L5

"I stayed at my aunt's house for my first two months here. But my parents' plan is to rent my own boardinghouse. So, for those two months, I was able to adjust to the system here in Davao City because I stayed with my relatives but when I transferred to my own boardinghouse, it's not that difficult." P2-IDI; L8

Peers or Acquaintances. I also observed that peers and acquaintances became an important source of support as participants adjusted to their new surroundings. Connecting with people with whom they shared the experiences made them feel less alone. These relationships usually served as a source of advice, companionship and encouragement, particularly in times of doubt or cultural acclimatization. In such interactions, they could better address the issues of migration and slowly learn to belong to the community.

"My sister has a friend who has an apartment business and I stayed there because they trust the owner of the apartment because they were my sister's classmates in college." P3-IDI; L14

"I stayed in my own boarding house but I have acquaintances that live here whom I can easily call or approach." P3-IDI; L1

4. Discussions

This section will involve my reflection on the results of my research by analyzing the real life experience of local migrants in Davao City and comparing it with the available literature. In that way, I tried to comprehend how their personal narratives are related to larger migration trends and theories. When I started to read their stories, I realized their trips as not just the reaction to the economic circumstances but also as the process influenced by the resilience, adaptation, and personal development.

In this section, I carefully reflect on the findings of my study by giving insights and discussion of the viewpoints and standpoints of local migrants in Davao City and relates them to an existing literature of a certain study. Thus, I will be able to better understand the several aspects of migration including its pattern and movement. As I examined the data based on their response, I eventually happened to see its cause not merely a reaction to an existing economic

limitation but also as experiences and aspirations shaped by dreams, resilience and growth.

Struggles in the process of being pushed and pulled by circumstances

Based on my findings, I observed that economic and career aspirations played a vital part in the participants' decision to move from rural to urban area specifically in a city. A limited career opportunity and a lack of path to a career growth in their province play as push factor for them to leave. At the same time, a city is seen as a place where various opportunities await like better employment with a competitive salary rate and a more convenient living condition (Martin, 2020).

There is an supports with an existing studies on rural-urban migration, which suggests that for most of the time, unemployment, low salary rate and limited opportunities in the province often push individuals to leave and move to a more prosperous and urbanized city that can offer the benefits and advantages that their place of origin can't (Uddin, 2022). As I analyzed these findings, I found a relevance and a similar interpretation of Lee's Push and Pull Migration Theory, particularly the thought that migration is driven by unfavorable condition of the place of origin, the attraction of opportunities of the destination and the unfortunate circumstance being experienced during the transition phase from rural to the city (Carling & Collins, 2018; Skeldon, 2019).

However, what stood out in my study is that migration was not driven by economic reasons alone. Participants also experienced difficulties in adjusting to urban life, especially in terms of adapting to new cultural norms while trying to maintain their rural identity. This highlights the role of acculturation and enculturation in the migration process. In line with recent scholarship, I came to understand that migration is shaped not only by structural factors but also by the social and cultural adjustments that migrants must navigate in their new environment (de Haas, 2021).

Adjustment Difficulties Overcome through Local Ties and Acquaintances

Support by Peers. One of the insights that emerged from my study is the importance of peer support in helping the migrants cope to their new environment. I noticed that peers offer guidance, emotional support and even a sense of belonging which reminds the migrant that they have someone to look to when they are in need, confused or hesitated during their early stage of transition in their area of destination. These findings support existing research suggesting that strong peer networks contribute to greater life satisfaction and a stronger sense of inclusion among migrants (Etxebarria et al., 2024).

I also noticed that shared moments and experiences from their peers give a sense of comfort to the migrants that they are understood and such difficulty I normal because someone already experienced it before. This aligns with studies showing that peer-based support systems can strengthen resilience and improve psychosocial well-being especially among individuals experiencing significant life changes due to new surroundings (Spaas et al., 2023). At the same time, while some literature points out the limitations of peer support such as lack of expertise or sustainability (Bertelsen et al., 2023), my findings suggest otherwise. Based on the participants' experiences, peer relationships were largely positive and played a meaningful role in their adjustment. In this context, I did not observe these limitations as significantly affecting their ability to cope.

Support from Relatives. Aside from peer relationship, I also found that support from relatives and family members are important in helping the migrants in their adjusting phase. Participants responded that having relatives in Davao City made it easier for them to adjust in a new environment even though the future is uncertain but because there is a familiar individual beside them, it made their feeling less worry and not so difficult to deal. These relatives often offer emotional support that made them feel a sense of security that there is someone they can lean on whenever they encounter difficulty in an unfamiliar world. This assertion supports the previous findings, which state that adapting belief systems, reorganizing roles, and maintaining family communication play a vital role in supporting migrants' psychological stability (Botor, 2023). Similarly, this idea supports the finding that social support mediates the relationship between integration and loneliness, suggesting that family presence and support can alleviate emotional distress associated with migration transitions (Xu et al. 2024). Furthermore, this idea aligns with the notion that transnational family support, including emotional, financial, and practical assistance, has been identified as an important resource that provides psychosocial and material support to migrants in their destination areas, bolstering their sense of connectedness and motivation despite systemic resettlement challenges (Odhiambo et al., 2025).

However, using this finding that family and kinship support helped migrants cope more effectively with the difficulties of adjusting to a new environment, I disagree with Odhiambo et al. (2025) that family support is not universally beneficial or straightforwardly positive for all migrants. Other studies indicate that family relations between places are not necessarily direct. On the one hand, these relationships can be supportive and strong; however, on the other hand, these relationships can be accompanied by misunderstandings and expectations, as well as emotional tension.

As I reflected on this, I recognized that relationships with relatives can both ease and complicate the migration experience, rather than simply reducing the difficulties associated with relocation.

Implication of the Study

Based on the findings, I highly suggest that those who have plans to migrate to the city either for good or not will consider first if there are relatives or trusted acquaintances before moving. From what I have observed on the participants' response, those who have relatives or peers on the place of destination will help the migrant make its first months of stay manageable and less pressure because although the environment is new but familiar faces will help ease the overwhelming feeling of the migrant. It is also an important coping mechanism against struggles of adjusting to a new phase, colleagues, or even a new chapter of a migrant's life. Moreover, I recommend that each local government establish a sole agency dedicated to addressing migrants' needs in its area. This agency may provide support, guidance, and care during the migrants' initial months of stay to help them adapt more effectively and ensure their well-being as they integrate into their new community.

Future Directions

Future researchers may consider a mediation analysis using the Acculturation and Enculturation Struggle of the Migrants variable as a mediator of the correlation between Economic and Career Aspirations and Urban Promises and Opportunities, with the latter as independent and dependent variables, respectively. Likewise, Local Ties and Acquaintances may be used to mediate the relationships between Acculturation and Enculturation Struggle and Urban Promises and Opportunities. The subthemes may be utilized as indicators of the variables mentioned.

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