THE CAUSES AND ECONOMIC IMPACT OF HUMAN MIGRATION:

CASE STUDIES OF MIGRATION FROM THE EASTERN CAPE, NORTHERN CAPE AND LIMPOPO TO THE NINE MAJOR CITIES IN SOUTH AFRICA

HSRC RESEARCH OUTPUTS
3652

by

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Kok, P. 2005. *The causes and economic impact of human migration: case studies of migration from the Eastern Cape, Northern Cape and Limpopo to the nine major cities in South Africa*. Final report to *the dti*. Paper delivered at a dti migration stakeholders' workshop, Pretoria, Department of Trade and Industry, 16 May.

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To be covered in this presentation

- A brief introduction
- Migration processes and trends
- Migration causes and characteristics
- Implications of migration
- A few conclusions

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Introduction (1)

- The three provinces (case studies) of origin are:
  - Eastern Cape
  - Northern Cape
  - Limpopo
- The nine destination cities are:
  - Buffalo City
  - eThekwini
  - Msunduzi
  - Cape Town
  - Johannesburg
  - Nelson Mandela
  - Ekurhuleni
  - Mangaung
  - Tshwane

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Introduction (2)

- Reminder: Only the migration of *people* is covered in this study – <u>not</u> *business/capital*
- Migration is a highly complex process that takes place:
  - not only in response to factors operating at all levels:
    - Micro (household/individual) level
    - Meso (district/community) level
    - Macro (global/national/provincial) level
  - but also in both a *spatial* and *temporal* context

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Migration processes and trends (1)

- Migration data from two censuses (1996 and 2001) were analysed for two periods (1992-1996 and 1996-2001)
- The data used were based mainly on the full censuses (Stats SA's 'Community Profiles' for the two censuses)
- Data from the 10% sample of Census 2001 were also used

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Migration processes and trends (2)

- **Main findings (1):**
  - **Migration is a *selective* process:**
    - **Migrants are mainly young adults (in their 20s)**
    - **Migrants are better educated than the populations of not only the provinces from where the moved but also the cities to which they moved**

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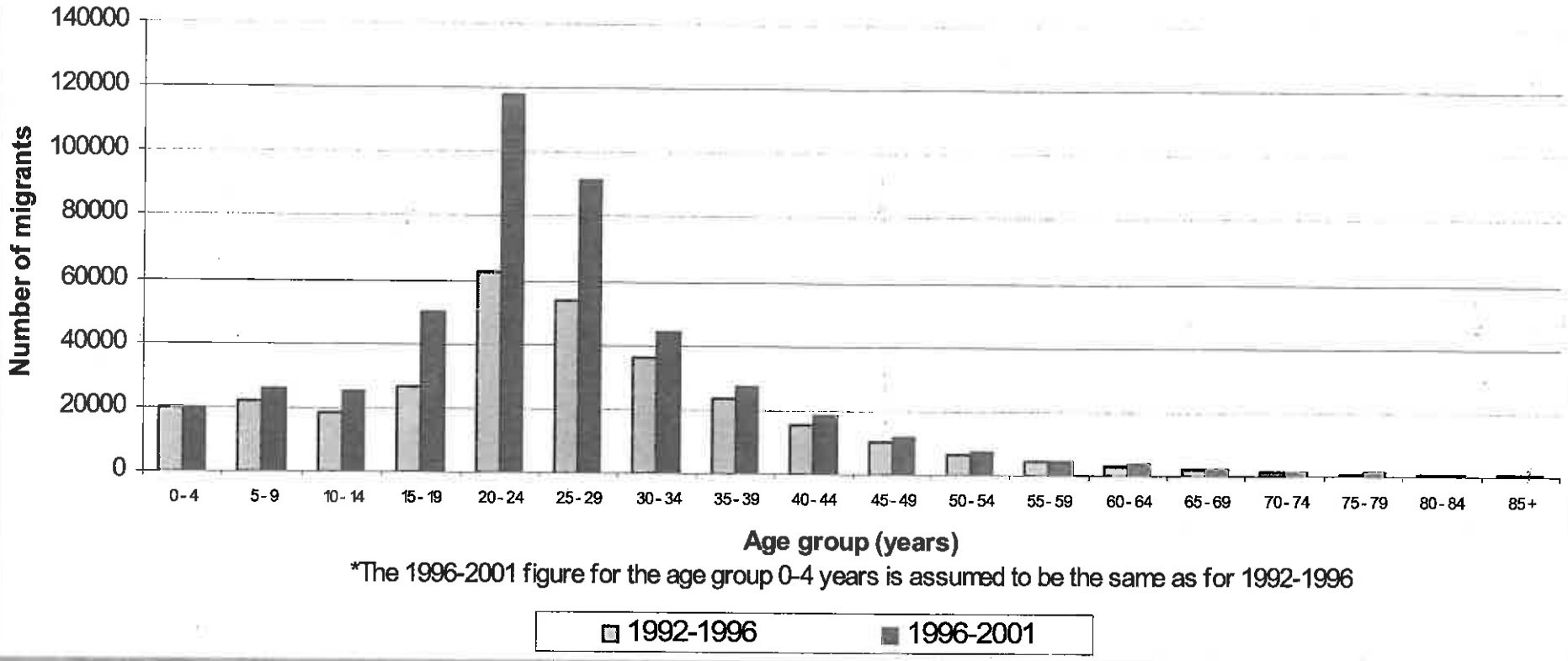
Migration from Eastern Cape, Northern Cape and Limpopo to the nine major cities during the periods 1992-1996 and 1996-2001, by age



*The 1996-2001 figure for the age group 0-4 years is assumed to be the same as for 1992-1996

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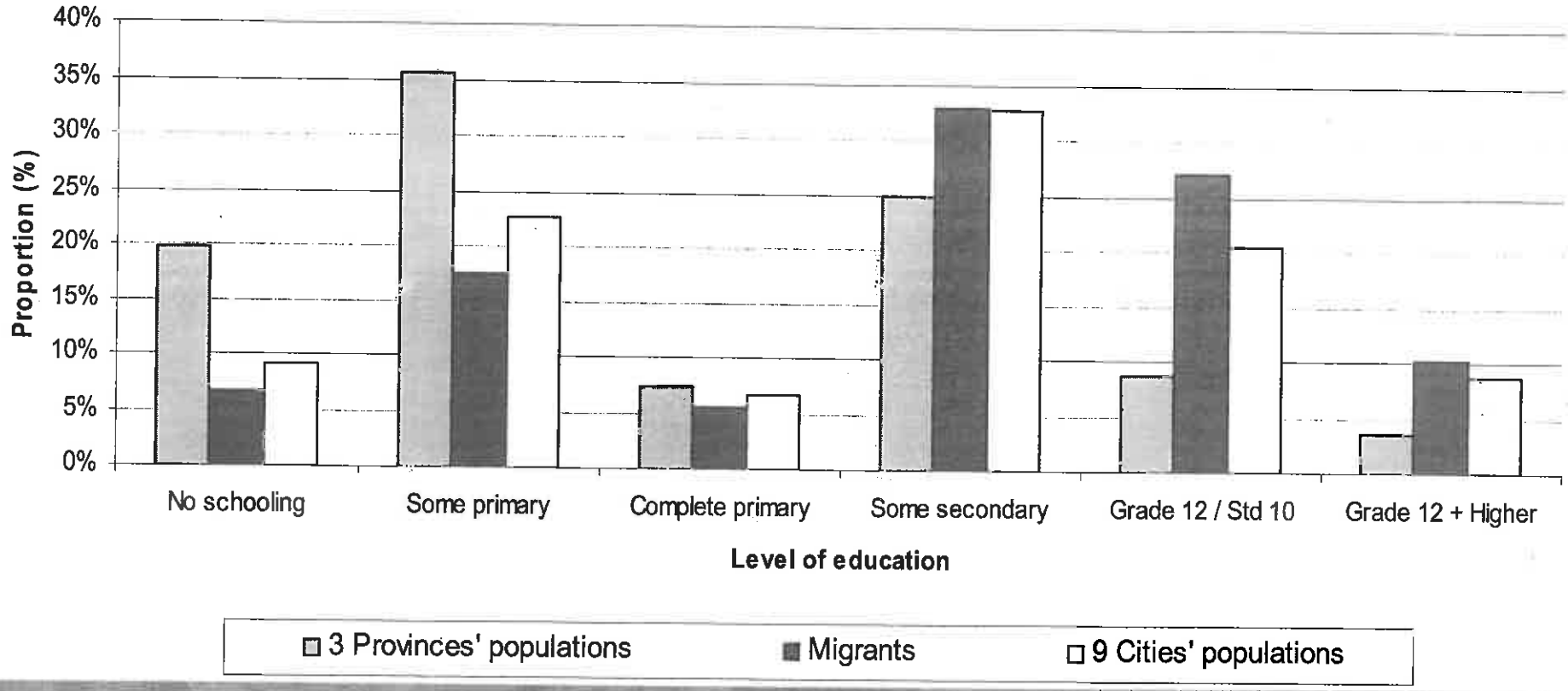
Educational attainment of migrants, as compared to the educational attainment of the populations of the three provinces and the nine cities (in 2001)



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Migration processes and trends (2)

- **Main findings (2):**
  - **Migration from the three provinces *increased* notably over the two periods (especially in the age group 20-24 years) – see first graph**
  - **Migration from Eastern Cape and Northern Cape is centred largely on *Cape Town*, while most migrants from Limpopo tend to end up in *Gauteng* (Ekurhuleni, Johannesburg or Tshwane)**

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Migration causes and characteristics (1)

- Migration is usually caused by a variety of factors (i.e. hardly ever only one cause)
- Special-purpose surveys are needed to determine the causes of migration
- The data used to analyse migration causes were obtained from the 2001-02 HSRC Migration Survey, which covered 3 618 households/respondents nationally

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Migration causes and characteristics (2)

- Migration causes can be modelled by studying the factors underlying migration/non-migration *intentions* (as had to be done in this study):
  - to move to another area (migrants)
  - to stay in the same area (non-migrants), but then
    - *in situ* adjustments might have to be made (e.g. by improving or enlarging the current home)
    - expectations might need to be trimmed down (e.g. by having to accept that my children's education will be of a lower quality)

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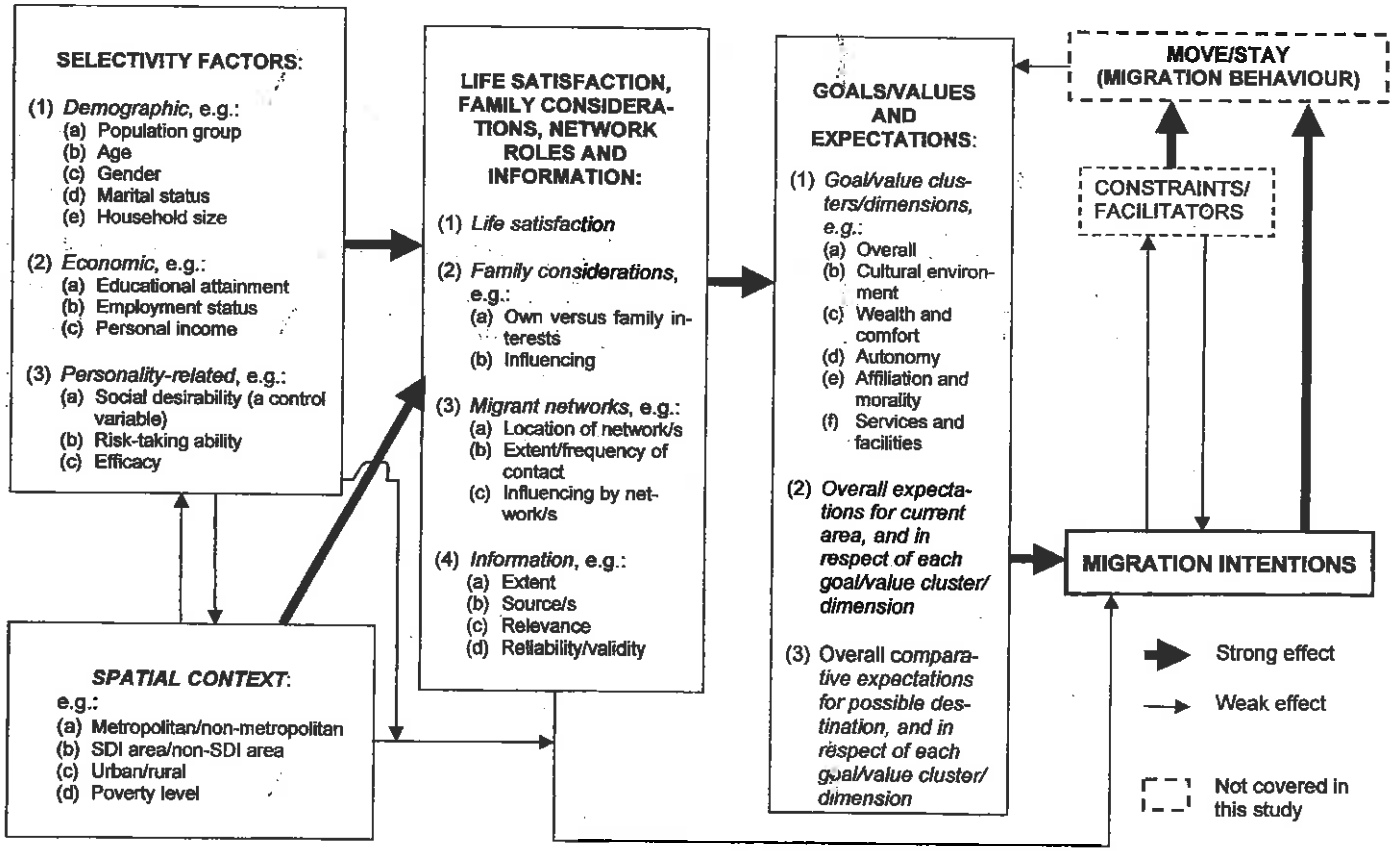
CONFIRMED STRUCTURAL FRAMEWORK FOR AN EXPECTANCY-BASED MODEL OF MIGRATION DECISION MAKING



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Migration causes and characteristics (3)

- Modelling results (1)
  - Persons who plan to migrate expect the area of destination to better meet their expectations than the place where they currently live (and this was empirically confirmed in this study)

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Migration causes and characteristics (4)

- Modelling results (2)
  - Would-be migrants usually have access to social networks in the destination
  - Potential migrants often have more and better information about possible destinations than non-migrants

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Migration causes and characteristics (5)

- Modelling results (3)
  - Would-be migrants are usually dissatisfied with their current circumstances
  - People living in the poorest areas are less able to move away than persons in higher-income areas
  - Migrants are often people who have migrated before

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Migration causes and characteristics (6)

- Modelling results (4)
  - Migrants are usually people with (a) higher *risk-taking* abilities and (b) sometimes also higher levels of *self-efficacy* (i.e. ability to 'get things done')

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Migration causes and characteristics (7)

- Modelling results (5)
  - Migrants are usually the individuals in the family with the best (perceived) ability to make a success of the move to benefit the family (but, interestingly enough, most migration decisions are taken in the migrant's own interest – not necessarily in the family's interests)

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Implications of migration (1)

Literature review linked to the study

- **Consequences of migration should be viewed from three perspectives:**
  - The migrant/family (the person/family that moves; micro level)
  - The area of origin (from where the move takes place; meso level)
  - The area of destination (where the move ends; also meso level)

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Implications of migration (2)
Migrants and their families (1)

- Migrants are usually satisfied with their decision
- Migrants believe that their living conditions have improved
- Rural-to-urban migrants' children have more opportunities to better themselves

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Implications of migration (3)
Migrants and their families (2)

- Although recent urban in-migrants often succeed in finding jobs quickly, the employment that they are willing to accept typically has a high rate of turnover and is easier to get, because such jobs are often:
  - poorly paid and physically demanding or
  - in the informal sector with a less secure income

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Implications of migration (4)
The areas of origin (1)

- Migrant labour that involves men migrating alone has many negative consequences, including women having to take over their husbands' farm work in addition to their own
- However, migrants' remittances often constitute a large proportion of rural incomes

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Implications of migration (5)
The areas of origin (2)

- With migrants being mostly young adults, rural out-migration *shrinks the labour force* and *increases the dependency ratio* (i.e. the number of economically unproductive people for every productive person)

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Implications of migration (6)
The areas of destination (1)

- With migrants being mostly *young* adults, the cities gain people who are active in the labour force
- A decrease in the dependency ratio of the city is often the result

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Implications of migration (7)
The areas of destination (2)

- **Housing, infrastructure and service bottlenecks are visible problems of *urbanisation*,**
  - **which is the product of *urban natural increase* (urban births minus urban deaths)**

    to <u>at least the same extent</u> as
  - ***urban net migration* (number of urban in-migrants minus urban out-migrants)**

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In conclusion (1)

- Migration is a complex process that does not lend itself to simple formulations
- In the study for *the dti* migration has been described and analysed:
  - from the perspective of the three provinces
  - with a view to reporting and understanding:
    - changes in migration volumes and patterns
    - causes of migration/non-migration intentions
    - the impact of spatial development initiatives

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In conclusion (2)

- This study was concerned only with the migration of *people*
- *The dti* clearly needs research on the spatial distribution and redistribution of *business/capital* to complement the HSRC's migration research

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Thank you!

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