

African Journal of History and Geography

ajhg.eanso.org

Volume 2, Issue 1, 2023

Print ISSN: 2790-7589 | Online ISSN: 2790-7597

Title DOI: <https://doi.org/10.37284/2790-7597>



EAST AFRICAN
NATURE &
SCIENCE
ORGANIZATION

Original Article

Assessment of the Socioeconomic Challenges Facing Wapemba Out-Migrants in Tanzania

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Article DOI: <https://doi.org/10.37284/ajhg.2.1.1335>

Date Published: ABSTRACT

27 July 2023 This study investigated the socioeconomic challenges facing Wapemba out-migrants in their new destinations and places of origin. Four wards at the place of origin and three streets in the destination areas were selected as the study area. Further, 74 respondents in the places of destination and 200 heads of households in the areas of origin were selected as a study sample. The study adopted both qualitative and quantitative research techniques for data collection and analyses. The findings show low income, unemployment, and high dependency as some of the economic challenges encountered by Wapemba migrants at both their places of origin and destination. In addition, the breaking of marriages, accommodation problems, and collapse of families were revealed to be the social challenges facing Wapemba migrants. Additionally, some measures which could facilitate the reduction of the socioeconomic challenges facing Wapemba migrants include joining the Vikoba and SACCOS to accumulate funds. Others were strictly focusing on the expansion of economic investments to employ their relatives and help those remaining behind in their places of origin. This research supplements an understanding of the socioeconomic demographic challenges facing Tanzanians in both rural areas and in the destinations.

Keywords:

Migration,
Wapemba,
Out-Migrants,
Social Challenge,
And Economic
Challenge

APA CITATION

Hamad, A. S. (2023). Assessment of the Socioeconomic Challenges Facing Wapemba Out-Migrants in Tanzania. *African Journal of History and Geography*, 2(1), 32-42. <https://doi.org/10.37284/ajhg.2.1.1335>.

CHICAGO CITATION

Hamad, Abubakar Salum. "Assessment of the Socioeconomic Challenges Facing Wapemba Out-Migrants in Tanzania". *African Journal of History and Geography* 2 (1), 32-42. <https://doi.org/10.37284/ajhg.2.1.1335>

HARVARD CITATION

Hamad, A. S. (2023) "Assessment of the Socioeconomic Challenges Facing Wapemba Out-Migrants in Tanzania", *African Journal of History and Geography*, 2 (1), pp. 32-42. doi: 10.37284/ ajhg.2.1.1335.

IEEE CITATION

A. S. Hamad, "Assessment of the Socioeconomic Challenges Facing Wapemba Out-Migrants in Tanzania", *AJHG*, vol. 2, no. 1, pp. 32-42, Jul. 2023.

MLA CITATION

Hamad, Abubakar Salum "Assessment of the Socioeconomic Challenges Facing Wapemba Out-Migrants in Tanzania". *African Journal of History and Geography*, Vol. 2, no. 1, Jul. 2023, pp. 32-42, doi:10.37284/ajhg.2.1.1335.

INTRODUCTION

Migration is a movement of people from one location to another driven by socioeconomic disparities. Despite the fact that migrants move out of their areas of origin to their destinations with the aim of improving their socioeconomic prosperity, they not only do this for themselves alone but also for their relatives in both their places of origin and destination (Yahya and Mbonile, 2017). It should be noted that in many parts of the world, migration acts as a means of coping with some hardships as it enables the migrants to change their life through daily earnings in their area of destination (IOM, 2020). However, some scholars such as (Ezeoha, 2013; Shishehgar *et al.*, 2015; Hough, 2015; and Bhandari *et al.*, 2021) report that increases in emigrants in some developed cities are among the reasons behind the intensification of some socioeconomic challenges facing migrants from developing countries.

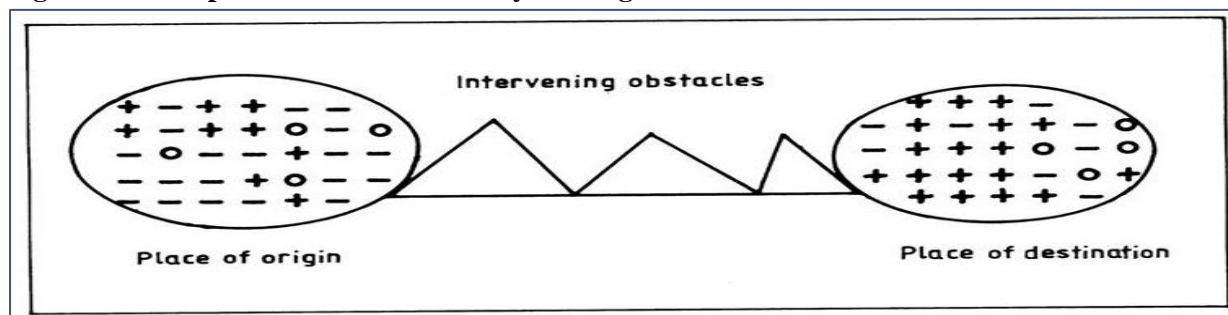
In Tanzania, rural-urban migration can be traced back to the early colonial period and after independence. Currently, this kind of migration has largely attracted several migrants from different regions of Tanzania, a major reason behind the rapid urban population growth and urbanisation (Lawi, 2013). According to 2022 United Republic of Tanzania census reports, Pemba is among the leading regions for out-migration, where large numbers of people have been moving out every day due to socioeconomic imbalance between Pemba and the rest of the parties of Zanzibar and Tanzania (URT, 2022). The increase in the number of immigrants in many urban areas has been noted to be the major reason for the increase in the number of socioeconomic challenges in the migrants' destinations. These challenges have been facing both the migrants and the natives in the places of destination and they form the major hindrance which has been

depriving the migrants of socioeconomic expectations.

A few decades ago, some writers such as Ouch *et al.* (2014) and Mendy and Polay (2018) noted various challenges facing migrants in developing countries in the places of destination. These included unemployment, low income, poor living standards, poor housing conditions and high dependency. Currently, it is noted that a number of challenges facing migrants, not only in the destination areas but also in their places of origin, undermine their socioeconomic anticipations. Nevertheless, little is known about the challenges facing Wapemba migrants in Tanzania. Therefore, this study was conducted to fill this information gap in the socioeconomic challenges facing Wapemba migrants in Tanzania at both their places of origin and destination from 1999-2022.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Migration is the process of people moving from one location to another. This movement consists of where a person comes from or the place of origin, where s/he is going, and where s/he ends up, that is, the place of destination (IMO, 2018; Suttie, 2018). The conceptual framework of this study is modified from the Push-Pull theory postulated by Lee in 1966. Based on this Push-Pull theory (1966), the conceptual framework indicates that people migrate because of push or pull factors. The push factors are associated with the migrants' places of origin, and the pull factors are those attractive factors operating in the places of destination. Lee (1966) identifies four factors for an individual's decision to migrate. These factors that are shaping human migration include unequal outcomes, climate change, urbanisation, and demographic transformation (Marchiori *et al.*, 2017; Adugna, 2019).

Figure 1: Conceptual framework to study out-migration at Pemba Island

+ = Pulling factors, - = Pushing factors, o = Challenges

Source: Modified from Push-pull by Lee, 1966

Additionally, the framework shows that migrants face intervening obstacles that can be regarded as challenges to their intention. These are socioeconomic and physical challenges that migrants might face at various places, including the places of origin, along the routes, and in the places of destination. These challenges affect the migrants economically, socially, and psychologically.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study Areas

The study was conducted on Pemba Island, the place of the migrants' origin. Pemba Island forms part of Zanzibar, which is situated on the coast of Tanzania, East Africa, along the Indian Ocean. Pemba Island is located about 50 km to the north of Unguja Island. Pemba stretches along 4° 45'–5° 30' South and 39° 35'–39° 49' East. Its size is 67 km long and 23 km wide, and its total area is 988 sq.km (Kaku *et al.*, 2019; Said *et al.*, 2020). The climate of Pemba is characterised by a tropical climate dominated by hot weather all year round. The total annual rainfall is about 1,600 millimetres (63 inches) in Zanzibar and 1,900 mm (75 inches) in Pemba. Currently, climate changes affect the trend (Kaku *et al.*, 2019). For the linkages of information, three migrants' destinations that include Ilala Dar Salaam, Malindi in Zanzibar urban and Sahare in Tanga were involved in the study area. These destinations have been selected because of being proximity to Pemba Island and having a high number of Wapemba emigrants.

Research Design, Data Collection Methods, and Analysis

This study used mixed-method research whereby both quantitative and qualitative methods were integrated to collect and analyse the data. The sample frame used in this study was composed of the heads of households of non-migrants in selected areas of origin and migrants in nominated areas of destination. Then, the sample size of this study was calculated using the formula proposed by Israel (1992), where a 95% confidence level and margin error of 5% are assumed for the equation.

$$n = \frac{N}{1+N(e^2)}$$

A total of 274 respondents were included in the sample size covering both places of origin and destinations. Further, purposive and simple random sampling procedures were used to draw the samples. Therefore, 200 samples were carefully selected at places of origin, and 74 samples were selected from the places of destination. The areas of origin comprised four wards, including Michenzani, Mkoroshoni, Jadida and Wingwi Mapofu. The primary data were collected through questionnaires and interviews. The questionnaires were directed to the respondents to collect information concerning demographic features and the challenges that migrants were encountering. Then the quantitative data were assigned to SPSS version 20 and MS Excel for analysing the descriptive statistics to give percentages and frequencies. Further, the chi-square and paired sample t-test techniques were used to determine either the significant

differences or correspondences between the variables.

RESULTS

Characteristics of the Respondents

Table 1 presents the result of the demographic attributes of the respondents. The education levels indicate at the places of origin, about 16% of the respondents had no formal education, while

44.5% of the respondents had secondary education. In the places of destination, a high percentage of the respondents (51.35%) who had completed their secondary education levels were noted. Moreover, it was found that 9.45% of the respondents had higher education levels ranging from undergraduate to postgraduate degrees. This education difference and education opportunities are perhaps among the major factors which propel out-migration in Pemba.

Table 1: Demographic characteristics

		Places of Origin (N=200)		Places of Destination (N=74)	
		Frequency s	Percentages	Frequency s	Percentages
Education Level	Informal	32	16.0	10	13.51
	Primary	63	31.5	14	18.91
	Secondary	89	44.5	38	51.35
	Diploma	4	2.0	5	6.75
	Degree +	12	6.0	7	9.45
Marital status	Married	122	61.0	42	56.75
	Single	16	8.0	16	21.62
	Widow	28	14.0	10	13.51
	Divorced	34	17.0	6	8.10
Occupation	Agriculture	126	63.0	2	2.7
	Fishing	21	10.5	11	14.9
	Business	22	11.0	45	60.81
	Employment	17	8.5	12	16.21
	Other	14	7.0	4	5.40
Sex	Male	124	62	48	64.86
	Female	76	38	26	35.13

Source: Field data, 2022

As it can be noted, in the place of origin, male respondents were 62%, and female respondents were 38%. In the places of the destination, the male respondents were found in a big number (64.86%), but the female respondents were few (35.13%). The marital status indicates the majority of the respondents were married (61.0%), 17.0% were divorced, and 14.0% were widows at their places of origin. In the places of destination, 56.75% of the respondents were married, and the number of singles was 21.6% which was thought to be higher. The study found that once women were divorced in their places of destination, they would decide to counter-migrate as a way of dealing with the urban challenges.

Table 1 shows the nature of the occupation of the respondents varies from rural areas to urban areas. At places of origin (rural areas), the majority of

the respondents were found to engage in agricultural activities (63.0%), while in urban areas, many of the Wapemba migrants were engaged in business activities (60.81%). It was found that the seaweed plantation was a major strategic cash crop conducted by the majority of Wapemba living along the Coast of Pemba Island.

Further, the income difference between respondents at their places of origin and those migrants in their places of destination is summarised in *Table 2*. In the places of destination, about 8.10% of the respondents had an income between 200000-400000 Tshs whereas, in the places of origin, 53.5% of the respondents had 200000-400000 Tshs per month. Then, the chi-square was done to test the statistical income difference between the respondents at their places of origin and those in the destinations.

The results of the chi-square were 13.152, 5df and $p < 0.002$ (Table 2). This result indicates that there is a significant statistical difference in the income

levels between migrants' places of origin and their destination.

Table 2: Income differences between places of origin and destination

Income levels	Origin (N=200)		Destination (N=74)	
	Frequency s	Percentages	Frequency s	Percentages
200000-400000	107	35.5	6	8.10
410000-600000	53	26.5	11	14.86
610000-800000	23	11.5	26	35.0
810000-1,000,000	9	4.5	21	28.0
1,100,000+	7	3.5	10	13.5

Chi-square 13.152; 5 df; $P = 0.002$

Source: Field data, 2022

Push-pull Factors

Migration is driven by either social or economic factors that operate both at places of origin and destination. Various pushing factors were investigated as key reasons influencing the Wapemba to out-migrate to other destinations. In

this situation, about 40% of the respondents had out-migrated due to unemployment, and 30.50% had left their homes due to low income (Table 3). In the places of destination, the number of pulling factors were revealed as the reasons for the respondents to enter the places of destination and escape their homes.

Table 3: Push-pull factors

Origin (N=200)		Destination (N=74)	
Pushing Factors	%	Pulling factors	%
Political problems	7.00	Trade & business	48.60
Low income	30.50	Employment opportunities	27.00
Low agricultural production	13.50	High education facilities	9.50
Unemployment	40.00	Presence of relatives	10.80
Other factors	9.00	Other factors	4.10

Source: Field data, 2022

Moreover, it was revealed that about 48.60% of the respondents were attracted to the places of destination because of trade and business opportunities, while 27% mentioned the presence of employment opportunities. With congruencies to this study, Adugna (2019) identified some other reasons for out-migration, such as subsistence economy at the place of origin, unemployment, and employment opportunities at the places of destination.

Socioeconomic Challenges Facing Wapemba Migrants in Tanzania

Economic Challenges

The major driving force of migration is an economic motive where some migrants face several challenges that make them not meet their targets. Table 4 shows the challenges facing the migrants both at their places of origin and destination. At the places of destination, about 58.10% of the migrants indicated low income as a hindrance to their economic development. The study found those with fishing activities, employment and some that were engaged in petty trade confirmed the existence of this problem.

Table 4: Economic challenges

Origin (N=200)		Destination (N=74)	
Challenges	%	Challenges	%
Low income	81.8	Low income	58.10
Living costs	47.00	High living costs	67.6
Unemployment	81.6	Unemployment	56.8
High dependency	62.6	Unreliable market	43.53
Unreliable trade and market	75.8	High tax	47.3

*Data based on Multiple Responses***Source:** Field data, 2022

About 56.8% supported the presence of unemployment problems in their new destinations. This problem, as it was noted, was leading to the number of young, educated Wapemba who stayed in the urban areas without any special job to do. This situation is among the reasons for a number of the youth to be disappointed while others decided to counter-migrate to their home. In addition, 67.6% of the respondents pointed out that the problem of high living costs was facing the majority of the migrants dwelling in urban areas. The study found that the number of costs, including food, housing, transport, water, and education, required a lot of money, thus, hindering the migrants' economic success.

Moreover, 47.3% of the respondents mentioned the high tax and rent as problems facing the majority of the migrants in their places of destination. These problems were mentioned as a hindrance to the migrants' economic expansion as well as appearing as a big block to migrants in remitting much money to their places of origin. The study noted a fall in the number of remittances sent in the two months of January and July. This was because the migrants had concentrated on paying the tax and rents for houses and the sites of their business investment. In addition, the chi-square was calculated to test the difference in significance of the remittances sent in January and July and the total months remaining. The results are 108.45 for the chi-

square and the $p < 0.0005$ (Table 5). These results signify that there is a statistically significant difference in the number of remittances sent between January, July, and other remaining months. In addition, paired sample t-test was computed to compare the amount of remittance generated from the month of January, June with other remaining months. The finding are: $t = -.33$, $DF=73$, $p = .0005$ (Table 5). This showed there was a significant variation in the number of remittances between these months.

Turning to the places of origin, about 62.6% of the respondents pointed out the presence of higher dependency on migrants. This challenge was tied to the large numbers of people depending on a single migrant. This situation was found to impact the migrants' economic progress negatively. Moreover, unemployment contributed to (81.6%) of the migrants' relatives at their places of origin is among the challenges that were found to have faced by the migrants' relatives and migrants themselves. The study found that the absence of employment for the migrants' relatives was posing an economic burden to the migrants. In addition, high living costs (47%) at the places of origin were listed as a challenge facing migrants' relatives and migrants at the places of origin (Table 4). This challenge faced migrants because they were among the prominent members who donated to the basic needs requirement of their relatives at places of origin.

Table 5: The chi-square and paired sample t-test-difference on the number of remittances

Chi-square Test	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2 -sided)
Pearson Chi-square	108.451 ^a	12	.000
Linear-by Linear Association	14.83		.000
N of valid cases	74	1	
Paired sample t-test			
Mean -0.67	<i>t</i> value -.33	df 73	Sig (2-sided) .000

Source: Field data, 2022

Social Challenges

The social challenges were observed by the majority of the respondents. It was noted that, at times, these challenges were influencing the majority of migrants to be in a dilemma in their

new living destinations. *Table 6* shows the social challenges experienced at both places of origin and destination.

Table 6: Social challenges

Origin (N=200)		Destination (N=74)	
Challenges	%	Challenges	%
Breaking of the family	43.2	Accommodation problems	61.6
Marriage problems	31.8	Cultural problems	74.2
Poverty of the relatives	72.7	Cost of social services	52.8
Bad traditions events	48.5	Bring up the children	43.4

Data based on Multiple Responses

Source: Field data, 2022

In the places of the destination, about 61.6% of the respondents indicated accommodation problems. These problems included high costs and highly congested accommodations, which were very new to Wapemba migrants. These were noted to be socially and psychologically obstructing. In addition, 74.2% of the respondents mentioned cultural problems. The study found this problem to have been occurring due to contamination with cultural differences from other people of different races. About 52.8% of the respondents indicated the presence of high costs on available services, including education, water, and health. It was noted that acquiring these services was to some of the migrants a serious challenge facing them which in turn was affecting their social and economic development.

Concerning the places of origin, various challenges impacting the migrants and non-migrants both directly and indirectly were revealed. About 43.2% of the respondents at places of origin reported the breaking of the migrants' families as among the major social challenges of out-migration in Pemba (*Table 6*).

This problem occurs when the migrants fail to give services to their families left behind. This was found to make some members of the migrants' families be cared for and taken by migrants' relatives to give them the necessary support, including food and other daily needs. Marriage problem was also found to be a big challenge facing the migrants at their places of origin as about 31.8% of the respondents reported this problem to exist. Marriage problems were associated with an increase in the number of divorces because of prolonged separation between husbands and wives and when migrants failed to produce obligatory services for their families left behind.

Moreover, poverty among the migrants' relatives (62.7%) was among the social challenges which turn to affect the majority of the migrants in every aspect of their life in places of destination. This was reported to make the majority of the non-migrants depend on assistance from their relatives that had out-migrated. This challenge was affecting the migrants socially, economically, and even psychologically. In this regard, one Wingwi

Mapofu' old woman said the following during interviews:

"We are poor; we have nothing. For me, I depend on my children who live in Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar urban west. I know I am a burden to them as you see the living cost here and where they live, but what can I do?"

Coping Strategies

Although migrants were migrating with the hope of changing their living standards, some challenges were encountered toward their

expectations. Due to these challenges, migrants were making them resort to some coping mechanisms to rectify the situation. Table 7 shows the summary of the coping strategies both at places of origin and destination. As it is revealed, at places of origin, 29.10% of the non-migrants were conducting intensive agriculture farming. In these places of origin, the study found that the majority of migrants' relatives were performing intensive seaweed farming as a means of generating income for their households, thus reducing over-reliance on urban remittances.

Table 7: Coping strategies

Origin (N=200)		Destination (N=74)	
Coping Strategies	%	Coping Strategies	%
Intensive agriculture	29.10	Join in VIKOBA and Saccos	41.34%
Groups Organisation	16.7	Initiating investment	17.00
Petty trade	17.5	Multiple economic activities	20.00
Non	36.7	Reducing the number of children	22.60

Source: Field data, 2022

In addition, about 16.7% of the respondents were forming group associations and asking for financial assistance to be able to perform economic activities for income generation. Concerning the places of destination, the study revealed about 41.34% of the respondents had joined Vicoba and SACCOSS as means of meeting their needs. It was noted that, in these associations, the migrants were able to deposit and create business capital. Moreover, it was found that 20% of the migrants were engaged in multiple economic activities to earn income for themselves and some amount for their relatives in their homeland. In addition, about 22.60% of the respondents confirmed they have been minimising the number of children. In this situation, some migrants send some of their children to their places of origin to be brought up by their relatives. Others were reducing the number of children bearing so as to minimise the costs.

DISCUSSION

Migration is driven by socioeconomic factors, where people are influenced to migrate from their places of origin to their destination. The majority

of people were pushed away from their homelands because of weak income, unemployment, and weak social amenities (Joshi and Khanal, 2020; David and Marouani, 2017). Others were attracted to the new destinations for the reason of better employment opportunities and the possibility of earning a high income (Bazillier *et al.*, 2017). In East Africa, some of the authors such as Njela (2013), Oucho *et al.* (2014), and Yahya and Mbonile (2017), found that a number of people left their places of origin due to poor economic development. These migrants were attracted to the destinations because of socioeconomic improvement, hoping to change their living standards. This tally with the study by Chen and Wang (2019) pointed out that better income, employment prospects and better social services form important attractive factors for emigration to urban areas.

Currently, the study found that the challenges that migrants were facing in the new destinations include low income, unemployment, accommodation problems and high dependency. These challenges were hindering their socioeconomic development. The study by Oucho *et al.* (2014) conducted in Nairobi revealed similar

results that the majority of the migrants had migrated to urban areas in search of jobs in the formal sector but found themselves jobless. Also, the same findings were noted in the study by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) (2016) conducted in Greece, which showed an increase in the unemployment problem where the migrants were 26% between 2008 and 2015, reaching 33%, against a 17% increase for natives. Other writers such as Menjívar and Lakhani (2016) noted job restrictions for the migrants and that they were usually not permitted to work with their visitors' visas in many countries, which is a reason for migrants being jobless. It was noted that the migrants were facing a lot of challenges and segregation that the native workers were not (Singapur and Sreenivasa, 2014).

Other writers revealed the challenges in social services that migrants were facing in various destinations. For example, Bhandari *et al.* (2021) found that Nepalese migrants in Japan were being discriminated against and segregated in accessing health treatments and care like the natives' something which resulted in stress and disappointment. In Kenya, the migrants were often financially constrained, thus, being forced to seek informal accommodation in congested areas such as slums, which were mostly affordable (Ouch, 2014). According to NYS-IA (2020), migrants possibly become the most vulnerable group when it comes to housing. That is because they face Spartan challenges in finding safe, decent, and reasonable housing. According to Oucho *et al.* (2014) and IOM (2018), migrants face practical obstacles in the receiving country. These challenges were related to access to shelter, health, education, fair income, and justice.

Moreover, the study by Shishehgar *et al.* (2015) conducted in Europe found that social problems such as limited knowledge of healthcare services and a sense of segregation in social issues were obstacles that the Iranian immigrants were experiencing in various European destinations. In India, it was found that the migrants were living in precarious conditions and were facing numerous difficulties in their destination state. It

was reported that they often had unsafe and unsanitary working and living conditions, limited access to health and social services, and non-familiarity (Aggarwa *et al.*, 2020).

Likewise, the study revealed the problem of low income as the challenge facing many migrants in various places of destinations that made some of them frustrated. The study by Parrenas *et al.* (2018) found that low income among migrants was associated with low-wage employment across various destinations and various stages of the migration cycle in the Philippines and Indonesia. According to Marandi and Main (2021), a sudden influx of new migrants in the US major cities has been exacerbated by existing stressors such as low income, housing shortages, or inadequate transportation plans.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This study first focused on analysing the push and pull factors accelerating the outgoing of the Wapemba from their areas of origin to various destinations both internally and externally. In Pemba Island, out-migration is taken as an important surviving strategy for the poor group though migrants were facing social-economic challenges which deprived their expectations. Moreover, the assessment of the socioeconomic challenges facing migrants both in the places of origin and destination was done in this study. The results show that migrants have been experiencing many challenges, which include low income, unemployment, high dependency, and accommodation problems. These challenges have been negatively impacting the migrants in their efforts to change their living conditions for themselves and their relatives left behind. Some migrants are totally cut-off from the socioeconomic linkages with their communities at their places of origin because of the serious economic problems they encounter in their destinations. These situations influence the collapse of some marriages and families of migrants at their places of origin and also in destinations.

Out-migration in Pemba is regarded as a means of bringing certain positive changes to migrants, although at times, some of these migrants have been facing serious socioeconomic challenges in the destination's areas. Based on the findings, the study recommends that the government should put stress on the equal distribution of resources available between Pemba and Unguja. This will help in increasing the number of employment opportunities on Pemba Island. Also, the Wapemba rich men should strictly encourage investing in large enterprises to open up more employment chances that will cut down reliance on government employment for their relatives at both places of origin and destination. More significantly, the government and private institutions should initiate higher education centres in Pemba Island to deal with out-migration in Pemba Island as one of their focal issues. Finally, households should transform the remittances that they receive into business investments. This may reduce high dependence on their relatives who have migrated to urban areas.

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