Trends and Causes of Internal Migration: A Case Study of Ilam Municipality,Nepal

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Abstract

This research work attempts to portray the increasing rate of migration in a particular area of Ilam Municipality. It focuses on the trends and causes of the internal migration in Ilam Municipality of Nepal from different parts of the country which is growing rapidly. It has faced so many challenges of overpopulation. It is considered as the civic duty to solve the existing problem of migration on time otherwise it results into a worsening condition. The appropriate ways for analyzing the causes of migration can be discussed in references with push and pull factors. The main push factor for migration is lack of employment opportunities, education, health and transportation facilities, low agricultural productivity, natural calamities, business failure, transfer of service, and land sold in the place of origin. Similarly, educational facilities, physical facilities, business opportunities, purchase of land, security, presence of relatives, and marriage are the main attractive factors for Internal Migration within Ilam municipality. The major consequences of Internal Migration appear as both in positive and negative aspects in the destination, origin as well. Some of the positive aspects of migration in the Ilam municipality have a good income from the agricultural product, an increase in business activities, sharing of culture, and feelings of cooperation. In terms of negative aspects of migration in the municipality are deforestation, over consumption of resources, pollution, fragmentation of land, and an increase in criminal or immoral activities.

Keywords: -agricultural productivity -fragmentation of land - natural calamities -consequences of migration, Ilam Municipality

Introduction

Migration is one of the major demographic factors to bring changes in population size, structure, and distribution. It is generally defined as a geographical form of population movement involving a change of usual place of residence. Internal migration is associated with a change in the usual place of residence within the national boundary. (Suwal, 2014)

Migration is the spatial mobility of people by changing the usual place of residence to a well-defined destination. A migrant is a person who moves either from his/her birthplace to another area or keeps on moving stepwise or circularly by changing his/her residence more or less frequently. It depends on seasonal, temporary, semi-permanent or permanent migration with the duration of and reasons to the determined geographical area. (CBS, 2002)

Migration is an international phenomenon, people used to migrate in different parts of the world from past to present days. This trend is increasing from under-developed countries to developed countries. Usually qualified, competent and healthy people migrate in search of jobs and improve their life, their career in the migrated country. (Subedi, 1997).

People have been migrating rural to rural and rural to urban areas in search of employment and educational opportunities. Occasional natural calamities like floods and landslides have also forced people to flee their birthplace to other potential areas for their livelihood. Internally displaced people have remained in vulnerable situations expecting urgent rescue and help. (KC, 2003)

Migration is one of the three components of population change. Any change in the volume and flow of migration will change the size, growth, and other characteristics of the population both in origin and destination areas. Migration within the country does not affect the size of the population and growth rate but it affects regional and sub-regional population and growth rate within the country.

Internal migration unlike fertility and mortality is the least researched and understood component of demographic dynamics in Nepal despite the fact that many of Nepal's socio-economic, and political problems are interwoven with the process of both internal and international migration. (KC, 1998)

Historically, Nepal has witnessed three distinct waves of internal migration. The first wave of internal migration came during the unification of Nepal by King Prithivi Narayan Shah and his successors until the early eighteenth century. Internal migration in this period was mainly under the compulsory labor services imposed by the then rulers, called Jhara labour, in which youths were used for different purposes such as transport of military and other supplies, construction of temples, palaces, bridges, forts, etc. (Suwal, 2014)

The second wave of internal migration emerged in the mid-50s with the implementation of the state-sponsored settlement programme of hilli people to Tarai. The main objective of the resettlement programme was land colonization of Tarai and increased agricultural production. Launched by Rapti Valley Development Project (RVDP) and Nepal Resettlement Company (NRC), the resettlement programme continued until the late 80s in Chitwan and Nawalparasi. Many hill migrants who could not receive land under the project also encroached upon the forest land of Chitwan, Nawalparasi, and Rupendehi (Shrestha, 1990). Under the RVDP, 5,233 households were settled in the Rapti Valley of Chitwan. In addition, an estimated 7,000 families settled spontaneously each year in the Tarai region (World Bank, 1978, cited by Shrestha, 1990). NRC settled 1,504 families in Nawalparasi and there were more than 10,000 spontaneous settlements (Shrestha, 1990).

The data was collected on internal migration for the first time in the 1961 census of Nepal, There were 422,402 inter-district lifetime migrants in 1961, which increased to 3,788,049 in 2011. This shows nearly a nine-fold increase in the number of inter-district migrants from 1961 to2011 in Nepal. The 1971 census counted a total of 506,925 inter-regional migrants increasing to 5.2 fold reaching 2,654,047 in 2011. During the same period, the number of inter-zonal lifetime migrants increased by 4.7% from 445,128 in 1971 to 2,088,170 in 2011. The inter-district lifetime migration line rises slowly until 1991 and then gets steeper thereafter, implying a more rapid increase in the number of lifetime migrants after 1991 (Suwal, 2014).

In general, internal migration refers to the movement of individuals or populations within a social system. More specifically, following the United Nations definition, internal migration is a permanent change in residence from one geographical unit to another within a particular country. For example, internal migration may involve a change in residence from a rural area to a city, from one city to another, or from one region of a country to another.

Statement of the problem

Since migration is the movement of people from the point of origin to the other place intending to settle or spend the rest of the time, it has created many socio-economic and environmental problems. The problem is much more difficult to solve in developing countries like ours. Such a rapid rate of movement of people not only affects the demographic feature but also to all sectors of socio-cultural and economy including agriculture, forestry, and the industry. The migration pattern in Nepal is mostly either from hill to Tarai or rural to urban or highland to lowland areas in large volume intensively taking place.

The migration pattern in Nepal is mostly from hill to Tarai area in large volume intensively taking place. Recently migration has revealed that it is taking place from rural areas to rural-urban areas which are recently built-up areas because of the development activities carried out. Because of this

opportunity, people from the adjoining places have started migration on such small places, generally placed at the Centre for other rural areas.

Such a rapid rate of in-migration in rural-urban areas has created many demographic, socio-economic, and environmental problems. One attempts to develop strategies to solve those problems. It is necessary to understand the different processes of migration and its consequences. In this context, this research work aims to answer the following research questions:

> ➢ How many people in-migrated to the study area?
> ➢ What are the socio-economic difficulties of the migrants?
> ➢ What are the causes of in-migration?
> ➢ What are the consequences of in-migration?

The objective of the study

The general objective of the present study is to analyze the various aspects of internal migration in Ilam Municipality ward number 6. The specific objectives are as follows:

1. To examine in-migration and its trend in the study area.
2. To find out the causes of in-migration in Ilam Municipality.

Limitation of the study

This study mainly covers the in-migration of Ilam Municipality ward number 6 from different adjoining rural areas and other places. The study is limited in terms of magnitude and trends, causes, and consequences.
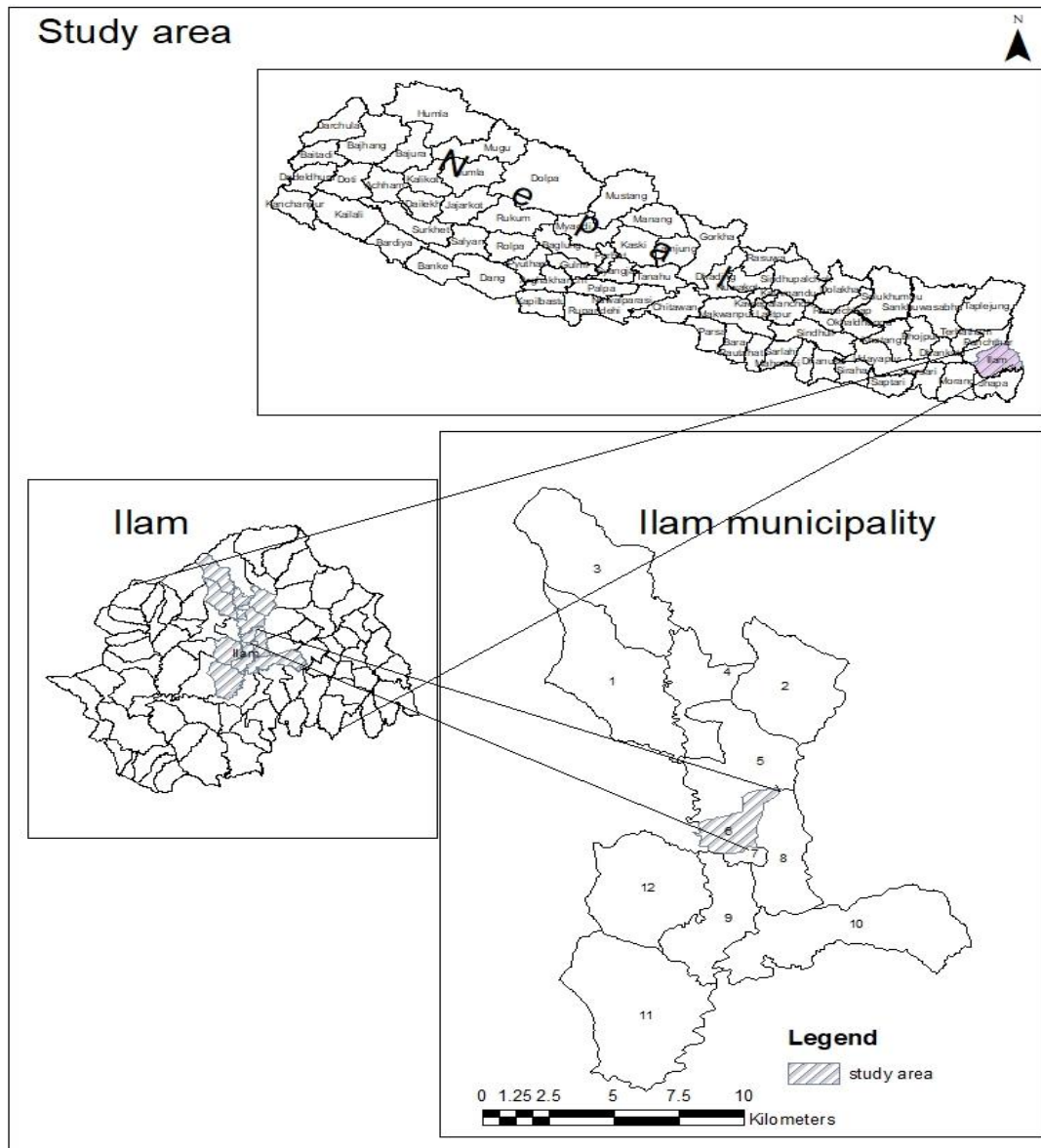
This study has the following limitations:

1. This research has been based on the study of a small sample.
2. It has covered only one ward of the municipality.
3. It has not covered the out-migration population.

Study area

Ilam municipality is one of four urban municipalities in the Ilam District, which is in the hilly region of province 1 no. It also acts as the headquarters of the Ilam District. It is also one of the important towns in province 1 no. and one of the major places in Nepal for tea production. It is famous for its natural scenery and landscapes, tea production, and diverse agricultural economy. It is one of the major horticultural crop production districts of Nepal. The total area of the municipality is 173.32 square kilometers and the total population is 48536(2011 Nepal census). This municipality is located at 26°54′30″N latitude and 87°55′35″E longitude. In 2015, with the new Constitution of Nepal, Godak, Soyak, Barbote, part of Maipokhari Sumbek, Puwamajhuwa, part of Sangrumba, part of Siddhithumka and Sakhejung Village Development Committee are incorporated to it. The municipality is divided into 12 wards and ward no 6 was chosen for this study.

Map 1

Methodology

Both quantitative and qualitative data were collected for this study. The quantitative data is collected in order to figure out the age, sex, and caste/ethnicity composition of migrants. The qualitative data will explore the overall issues of migrants from rural areas, the implication of migration including problems of social inclusion of migrants. The study is based on primary and secondary data. In order to gather primary data and other information, household survey, key informants' interview, and observation methods were adapted. A structured questionnaire was prepared for the household survey. It constructs questions related to push and pull factors, linkage to origin after migration, and linkage to destination after migration. Interviews with the key informants who have broader ideas, in general, were undertaken to gain an overview of the local perceptions regarding in-migrants and their activities. This method was however, conducted to know the overall condition of changing living standard of in-migrants. Observation method was applied to confirm the socio-economic characteristics, and

cause and consequences of the in-migrants. Some important secondary data are collected from various agencies to complete the research report. Some major sources were: Municipality records, District profile, Census Report of CBS, Books, Journals, etc.

Sample size and selection

For the collection of field data, by simple random sampling, only one ward was taken out of total 12 wards in Ilam municipality. The cluster of Households within a ward was made by taking secondary data from the municipality office and ward office. The sample size represents the characteristics of the total population. The reliability and validity of findings depend upon its sample size. To collect the primary data, the sample has been designed based on the listing of total in-migrants households and total population. The number of total households and the total population were determined based on municipal vital record documents available from the office. From the available document, the total in-migrants household of a municipality was 67 from 2070 to 2076 kartik. Of the total household, only 20 households were taken for sampling from different clusters of this ward.
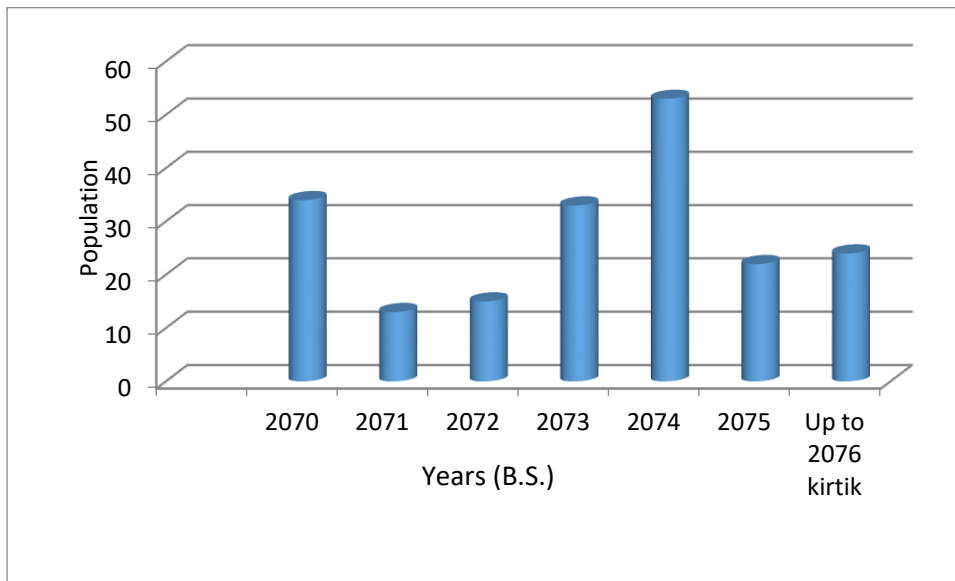
Internal Migration

Internal Migration in Ilam municipality is as old as the migration of Nepal. It goes back to four decades and before. This means the migration started after the establishment of democracy in 1950 A.D. After the conflict between Government and Maoist started in 1996, Ilam municipality became the focus area of migrants from other parts of the district and neighboring districts. After 2005, the trend of migration increased in this municipality is high. The trend of migration of Ilam municipality in latest years is given in the following table.

Table 1: Trends of Internal Migration in Ilam municipality 6

Period in (B.S.)	No. of House Holds	Population
2070	12	34
2071	5	13
2072	4	15
2073	11	33
2074	21	53
2075	8	22
Up to 2076 kartik	6	24
Total	67	194

Source: Ilam municipal Vital Registration Record, 2020

Figure1: Trends of Internal Migration from 2070 to 2076 Kartik

The above table shows that the largest number of households migrated to Ilam municipality between the years 2073 to 074 i.e. 47.76% of households. If the trend remains the same, the Ilam municipality will be highly congested and create different socio-economic and environmental problems. Now from 2070 to 2076 Kartik, 67 numbers of households have been migrated. So we can say that the trend of internal migration in Ilam municipality is increasing day after day but restructure of the in-migration trend is decreasing. The Rapid growth of internal migration shows that Ilam municipality is developing rapidly.

Patterns of Internal Migration

Origin place means the place where the migrants are born. People do not like to leave their place of origin for their own desires. The push factors of migration are responsible to force them to leave their birthplace. People like to migrate from resource-poor to resource-rich areas. Literature shows that the lower the distance higher the migration volume, the higher the distance lowers the volume of migration. Ilam municipality migration study also follows these principles.

Cause of Internal Migration

There are various causes for migration in Nepal, which can be explained from different angles. The best and simple way for analyzing the causes of migration can be discussed in references to push and pull factors. All types of migration can be explained under the push and pull factor hypothesis. This hypothesis can explain the type of movement in a simple manner. Rural-Rural migration is caused by several push and pull factors. Push factors involved in rural areas that include rural poverty, unemployment, low wages, and disparity of landholding and land fragmentation, poor educational facilities, and other services. On the other hand, pull factors involved in rural-rural migration which include productive land, physical facilities, better employment opportunities, business opportunities, income and wages, fixed working hours resulting in good economic return, good education facilities as well as social, cultural, and recreational facilities.

Major push factor at the place of origin

No one usually likes to leave their birthplace, friends, and relatives. The causes of leaving the original home or village are migratory movements that are deliberately made for several reasons. Those factors are taken into consideration and accountable for such movement of people. Following are the main push factors which had discouraged people to live their original home village that is presented in the following table:

Table 2: Push factors reported by sample households.

SN	Factors	Households	Percentage
1	Lack of education, health and transportation Facilities	12	60
2	Poverty	2	10
3	Lack of employment opportunities	2	10
4	Natural calamities	1	5
5	Low agricultural productivity	1	5
6	No any specific reason	2	10
	Total	20	100

Source:-Field Survey, 2020

The above table shows the major push factors, which cause the migrants to leave their place of origin. Out of total migrants, 60 percent of households migrated due to lack of education, health, and transportation facilities. Their main push factor of migration was lack of better schools and campuses to educate children, hospitals for health, and difficulties in transportation. This reason came out to be the main factor among the migrants coming from various parts of Nepal. Poverty was another main cause of migration for the 10 percent of the migrant households to Ilam municipality; similarly, 10 percent of households had migrated due to lack of employment opportunities. 5 percent of households had migrated due to low agricultural productivity. The main reason for low productivity is due to infertile soil and 10 percent of households had migrated without any specific reason.

Major pull factors

The pull factor is an important factor that plays a vital role in attracting migration. Pull factors encourage migrants or populations to displace from their place of origin to a particular area. The condition of the economic prosperity of an area attracts people whereas depressed economic conditions in an area compel to out-migration. The most important pull factors which attracted migrants in the study area are given in table 3:

Table 3: Pull factor reported by sample households.

S.N	Factors	Households	Percentage
1	Physical facilities	7	35
2	Employment opportunities	3	15
3	Security	3	15
5	Purchase of land	1	5
6	Education	3	15
7	Business opportunities	3	15
	Total	20	100

Source: Field Survey 2020

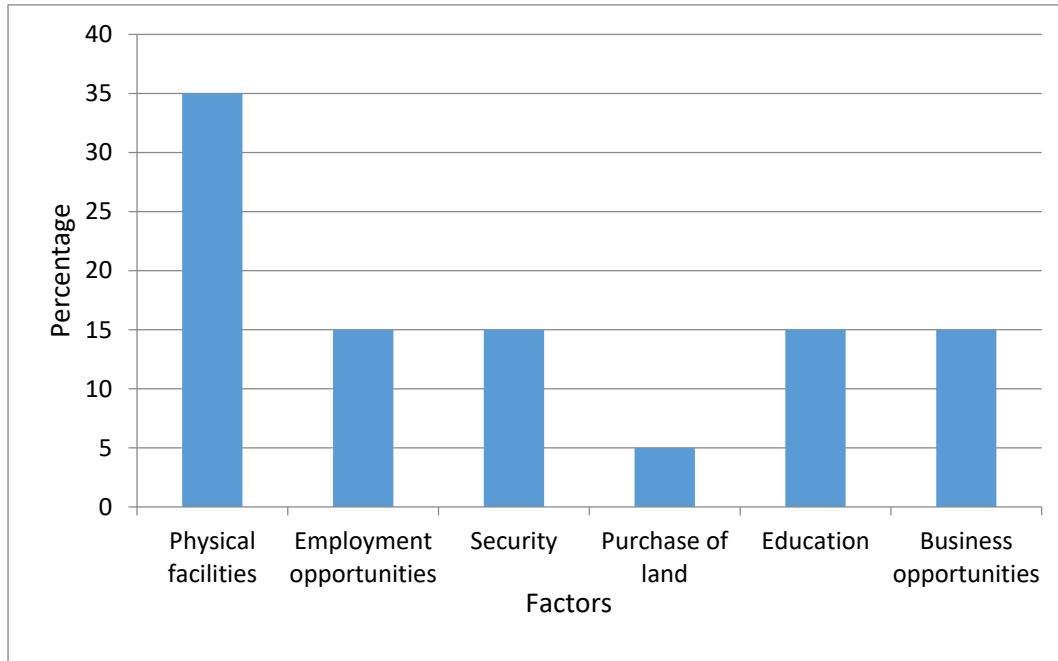Figure 2: Pull factor reported by sample households

Table 3 shows all pull factors responsible for migrating people from various places to Ilam municipality. Out of the total 20 sample households surveyed, 35% (7 households) migrated for physical facilities.15 percent migrated for employment opportunities. 15 percent of migrants are migrated for security. Among all pull factors, employment opportunity, educational facilities, business opportunity, physical facilities, and agriculture production (fertile land) are most important in attracting a large number of migrants from various part of the country.

Conclusion

This study attempts to find out trends, causes of internal migration of Ilam municipality. The population of the municipality has been growing rapidly. As a result, fertile agricultural land has been converted into settlement area. The impact of migration can be observed clearly. Ilam municipality now is being changed from its previous situation. Today, it appears as cluster settlement.
Currently, Ilam municipality ward no.6 has a total population of 3821, from the record book of Ilam municipality 2076. The total in-migrated household of Ilam municipality which was available from the vital registration book of the municipality was 67 from 2070 to 2076 Kartik. From the total migrated household (20), only 29.85% of households were taken for the study. The main causes for the Internal Migration of people at Ilam municipality are physical facilities, education, health service, and peaceful environment than the place of origin.
The main push factor for migration in Ilam municipality are lack of education, health and transportation facilities, low agricultural productivity, Small size of land holding, natural calamities, no good relation, business failure, transfer of service, and land sold. Similarly, education facilities, physical facilities such as (transportation, health, communication) business opportunities, purchase of land, security, presence of relatives, and marriage are the main attractive factors for Internal Migration in Ilam municipality.
The major consequences of internal migration are positive and negative impacts in the place of destination and even in the place of origin. Some of the positive aspects of migration in the municipality are various fields of job opportunities, increase in business activities, sharing of culture, feelings of cooperation, and fulfillment of general facilities. Development of facilities, like road, electricity,

communication and educational facilities. Some of the negative aspects of migration in the Ilam municipality are an environmental problem, forest encroachment, fragmentation of land, and an increase in criminal immoral activities.

Finally, the use of land has been changed from agricultural to settlement area because of the continuous inflow of in-migrants. Lack of agricultural land along with occupation has also influenced and shifted from agriculture to others. There are some positive impacts on developmental work with a continuously increasing number of human settlements. Some of the important infrastructures such as schools, specifically private schools, health posts, and police stations, and road networks have led to trends of internal migration in this municipality increasing day after day.

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