# Causes and Consequences of Internal Migration in Bhaktapur District, Nepal

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*Abstract*
*This field-based study, titled "Causes and Consequences of Internal Migration in Madhyapurthimi municipality ward 5, Bhaktapur," aimed to assess the demographic profile of in-migrants, understand the reasons for internal migration in the study area, and explore the outcomes of internal migration. The research relied on both primary and secondary data sources, with information gathered from 110 households through structured and semi-structured interviews. Upon collecting and thoroughly reviewing the data, the study revealed several key findings. It was observed that a significant proportion of in-migrants were students and job seekers, primarily falling within the age group of 20 years, which constitutes the economically active population. The analysis of respondents' income sources in their places of origin indicated that 50% relied on agriculture, 26.4% on business, 19.1% on services, and 4.5% on labor for their income. Regarding the demographic composition of the surveyed population, out of a total of 427 individuals across the 110 selected households, 49.18% were male, and 50.82% were female. The predominant religious affiliations were Hinduism (84.3%), followed by Buddhism (7.5%), Christianity (4.7%), and Kirat (3.7%), with the lowest percentage belonging to the Kirat faith. Education-wise, 56.52% of the population was found to have received formal education. The study highlighted that the primary drivers of in-migration were a lack of access to quality education and healthcare services, limited employment opportunities, and challenges in meeting the household's basic needs.*

*Keyword: Migration, Household, Place of origin, Cause, Internal Consequences*

## Introduction

Migration involves the movement of people from one geographical area to another, often driven by the search for better opportunities such as employment, education, and an improved quality of life. Internal migration, especially from rural to urban areas, is a common trend. However, this migration can lead to various challenges, including poverty and underdevelopment in rural regions. Despite significant investments in rural development, rural areas continue to lag behind. The study of migration is essential not only for demographers but also for economists, sociologists, geographers, political scientists, policymakers, planners, public administrators, social pathologists, and social psychologists. Nepal, a developing country with three ecological regions (Hill, Mountain, and Terai), is divided into seven provinces, 77 administrative districts, 753 local governments (460 rural municipalities and 293 municipalities). The population is growing at a rate of 0.93 percent, with a population density of 198 people per square kilometer. Internal migration, particularly from remote upland areas to valley floors and urban centers, is common in Nepal. However, its effects on natural resource management have not been extensively studied. Madhyapur, a newly established municipality in the western part of

Bhaktapur district, is experiencing a rapid increase in migration, especially in Ward No. 5. This study focuses on exploring the causes and consequences of internal migration in Madhyapur Municipality, as many people from different districts have relocated to this area, and the specific impacts of this migration are not well-documented.

**Result and Discussion**

This chapter deals with the analysis and interpretation of the data which were collected from the field by using interview schedule. This study was conducted with the objectives to find out causes and consequences of internal migration. According to objective of the study the collected data was categorized into differed heading and sub-heading in terms of objective of the study.

**Age-Sex Composition**
In 2011, the 10-14 age group had the highest population at 13.12%, with the 5-9 age group at 12.10%, 15-19 age group at 11.07%, and the lowest at 1.7% for those 75 and older (Population Monograph, 2014). In Madhyapur Municipality, the largest group is aged 5-9 at 13.81%, followed by 25-29 at 10.30%. The 15-19 and 45-49 age groups make up 11.07% and 10.07%, respectively. The proportion is the same, 9.37%, for the 15-19 and 35-39 age groups. Population decreases with age, with the lowest at 4.45% for those below 4 years.

Table 1. *Distribution of Migration by Age and Sex Composition*

| Age Group | Male | | Female | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| 0-4 | 8 | 3.81 | 11 | 5.07 | 19 | 4.45 |
| 5-9 | 12 | 5.71 | 17 | 8.10 | 29 | 13.81 |
| 10-14 | 16 | 7.62 | 13 | 5.99 | 29 | 6.79 |
| 15-19 | 20 | 9.52 | 20 | 9.22 | 40 | 9.37 |
| 20-24 | 18 | 8.57 | 23 | 10.60 | 41 | 9.60 |
| 25-29 | 21 | 10.00 | 23 | 10.60 | 44 | 10.30 |
| 30-34 | 15 | 7.14 | 23 | 10.60 | 38 | 8.90 |
| 35-39 | 23 | 10.95 | 17 | 7.83 | 40 | 9.37 |
| 40-44 | 16 | 7.62 | 21 | 9.68 | 37 | 8.67 |
| 45-49 | 26 | 12.38 | 17 | 7.83 | 43 | 10.07 |
| 50-54 | 10 | 4.76 | 11 | 5.07 | 21 | 4.92 |
| 55-59 | 12 | 5.71 | 11 | 5.07 | 23 | 5.39 |
| 60 and over | 13 | 6.19 | 10 | 4.61 | 23 | 5.39 |
| Total | 210 | 100.00 | 217 | 100.00 | 427 | 100.00 |

**Caste /Ethnicity**

Caste plays a significant role in understanding the social characteristics of migrants in Nepal. The country is home to a diverse population, with 125 different castes as per the 2068 B.S. census. People of various castes and ethnic groups coexist, sharing cultural traditions, festivals, and languages. According to the 2068 census, the largest percentage of the population consists of Chhetri (16.59%), followed by Brahmin (12.2%), Magar (7.2%), Tharu (6.6%), and Tamang

(5.81%) (Population Monograph, 2014). In Madhyapur , the composition of ethnic migrants varies, with the highest percentage coming from Brahmin (44.5%) and Chhetri (22.2%). Newar (11.7%) and Dalit (6.8%) also represent significant percentages of ethnic migrants, along with other groups such as Magar, Limbu, Majhi, Madhesi, and Tharu. The lowest percentage of ethnic migrants is from Gurung (0.2%). Chhetri and Brahmin are the major ethnic groups in Nepal, and the analysis suggests that individuals from higher castes are the predominant migrant population in Madhyapur . This indicates a higher migration rate among Brahmins and Chhetris compared to other castes.

Table 2. *Distribution of Individual Respondents by Ethnicity*

| Cast | Number | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| Chhetri | 95 | 22.2 |
| Brahmin | 190 | 44.5 |
| Magar | 22 | 5.2 |
| Gurung | 1 | .2 |
| Tamang | 11 | 2.6 |
| Limbu | 11 | 2.6 |
| Newar | 50 | 11.7 |
| Majhi | 4 | .9 |
| Madhesi | 9 | 2.1 |
| Dalit | 29 | 6.8 |
| Tharu | 5 | 1.2 |
| Total | 427 | 100.0 |

**Education Status and Attainment**

In general education is the ability to read and write. Education is the most important factor of attaining social and economic development. It is enhancing access to information that may be necessary to conduct various essential activities in daily life and work. The responses of the respondents are presented in following Table 4.

Table 3. *Education status in the destine place*

| Education status | Male | | Female | | Total | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1-12 | 97 | 48.02 | 133 | 64.87 | 230 | 56.52 |
| Bachelor | 62 | 30.69 | 51 | 24.87 | 113 | 27.76 |
| Master/Ph.D. | 43 | 21.28 | 21 | 10.24 | 64 | 15.72 |
| Total | 202 | 100.0 | 205 | 100.0 | 407 | 100.0 |

According to UNESCO's 2018 publication, Nepal had an adult literacy rate of 67.91%, with males at 78.59% and females at 59.72% (UNESCO, 2018). In Madhyapur Municipality, Table 3 reveals that 56.52% of residents had education up to the 1-12 grade level, 27.76% had education up to a Bachelor's degree, and 15.72% had education up to the Master's or Ph.D. level. Notably, all the individuals who migrated to Madhyapur were 100% literate.

**Origin of Internal Migrant's**
Migrants come from all corner of the country, each with their own unique story of how and why they chose to leave their homeland and seek out a new life elsewhere. Many migrants come from impoverished regions that lack basic resources, resulting in extreme poverty, better education and high unemployment.

Table 4. *Distribution of Migrants by Origin Province*

| **Origin Province** | **No. of respondents** | **Percent** |
|---|---|---|
| Province 1 | 21 | 19.1 |
| Madesha Province | 7 | 6.4 |
| Bagmati Province | 36 | 32.7 |
| Gandaki Province | 14 | 12.7 |
| Lumbini Province | 22 | 20.0 |
| Karnali Province | 7 | 6.4 |
| Sudur paschim Province | 3 | 2.7 |
| **Total** | **110** | **100.0** |

Table 4 indicates that the majority of migrants, 32.7%, came from Bagmati province, followed by 20.0% from Lumbini province, and 19.4% from Province-1. Additionally, 12.7% of migrants were from Gandaki province, while 6.4% originated from Madhes and Karnali provinces. Sudur Paschim province had the lowest percentage of migrants, accounting for 2.7% of the total.

**Migration Stream in Different Geographical Arecas**
A migration stream refers to the migration pattern followed by an ethnic group as they move from one area to another. These streams are influenced by the socio-economic conditions of the local areas. When a significant number of people from a particular ethnic group relocate from one place to another in pursuit of improved job opportunities, quality education, better healthcare, increased opportunities, or a safer living environment, it gives rise to a migration pattern called a migration stream. Different geographical areas have their own distinct migration streams.

Table 5. *Distribution of Migration by Geographical Region*

| Geographical Region | No. of respondents | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| Mountain | 21 | 19.1 |
| Hill | 56 | 50.9 |
| Tarai | 33 | 30.0 |
| Total | 110 | 100.0 |

Table 5 displays the distribution of migrants in Madhyapur Municipality by geographical region. Out of the total 110 respondents, 19.1% (21 respondents) are from the mountain region, 50.9% (56 respondents) are from the hill region, and 30.0% (33 respondents) are from the Tarai region. This data indicates that the majority of respondents, 50.9%, come from the hill region, while the mountain region has a lower percentage of migrants, at 19.1%.

**Causes of Internal Migration and Decision**

Various theoretical frameworks have been developed to analyze the reasons for migration. Classical migration models focused on push and pull factors, while modern frameworks consider vital economic and survival factors. In Nepal, both push and pull factors play a significant role in migration. According to the 2011 census, key reasons for migration included trade, agriculture, employment, education, and marriage. People's decisions to migrate can be influenced by various factors, including personal choices, parental decisions, or recommendations from friends and other sources. In the case of internal migration in Madhyapur Municipality, individuals from different districts made the decision to migrate based on a variety of influences, including self-choice, parental decisions, peer circles, and other factors.

Table 6. *Distribution of Decision Maker*

| Variables | No. of respondents | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| Self | 69 | 62.7 |
| Parents | 20 | 18.2 |
| Friends | 20 | 18.2 |
| Others | 1 | .9 |
| Total | 110 | 100.0 |

Table 6 clearly shows that 69 household 62.7% percent self-decided to migrate at Madhyapur municipality. Similarly, the decision of their parents' which percent is 18.2% household. Similarly, those who migrate at Madhyapur by the decision of their friend's circle which is 18.2% in percent. Finally, 0.9% percent answered that they migrate by other decision.

**Number of Internal Migrants Reporting Different Pull Factors**

A pull factor is an appealing aspect of a destination that attracts migrants. In Madhyapur Municipality, Bhaktapur, these factors include better access to transportation, facilities, job

opportunities, business prospects, communication, health services, and education, making it an attractive destination for migrants. Pull factors entice people to move to a new location, offering advantages in culture, politics, climate, and facilities. Table 7 highlights that 48.2% of households migrated to Madhyapur for better education and healthcare, representing 53 households. Additionally, 19.1% (21 households) migrated for business opportunities, and 30.0% (33 households) sought better job opportunities. A few households mentioned security and communication as other pull factors. It's evident that the main pull factor for migration to Madhyapur is better education and healthcare, given its location in the capital city of Bhaktapur, which offers superior opportunities compared to other districts. Furthermore, 33 households migrated for job opportunities, while 21 did so for business prospects and transportation access.

Table 7. *Number of Internal Migrations Responding Different Pull Factors*

| Variables | Frequency | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| Better facility of education, health | 53 | 48.2 |
| Business, Transportation | 21 | 19.1 |
| Better opportunity for job | 33 | 30.0 |
| Others | 3 | 2.7 |
| Total | 110 | 100.0 |

**Number of Internal Migration Reporting Different Push Factors**

Push factors are negative aspects or conditions that compel people to leave their home region, organization, religion, or country. They are forcing that drive people away from a particular place. Poor economic opportunities and a lack of jobs are strong push factors for migration. Internal migration often seeks to improve life from various perspectives, involving both push and pull factors. People in rural areas lacking access to modern amenities like communication, health services, and a better lifestyle often migrate to destinations where they can find these facilities. Human intentions are vast, which is the driving force behind migration, enabling the rapid progress in science and technology. The presence of anti-social activities, societal trends, and cultural norms can act as pull factors, attracting individuals to their destination.

*Table 8.* Number of Internal Migrations Reporting Different Puss Factors

| Different puss factors | No. of respondents | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| Lack of Facility health, education, transportation | 33 | 30.0 |
| Lack of employment, communication | 35 | 31.8 |
| Natural calamities | 12 | 10.9 |
| Lack of facilities of food shelter and cloth | 7 | 6.4 |
| Business failure | 20 | 18.2 |
| Low productivity | 3 | 2.7 |
| **Total** | **110** | **100.0** |

Table 8 highlights the reasons for internal migration to Madhyapur Municipality. The most common factors were a lack of employment and communication in the place of origin (31.8%) and a lack of health, education, and transportation facilities (30%). Business failure motivated 18.2% of migrant households, while 10.9% cited natural calamities as their reason. Additionally, a lack of food, shelter, and clothing (6.4%) and low productivity (2.7%) played a role in migration. Migration in Nepal is a significant demographic phenomenon, impacting social, economic, and cultural conditions. It results in population pressure, increased resource utilization, and a more diverse population composition in the destination areas.

**Consequences of Internal Migration**

In the migration process, various changes occur in the society, including social, economic, environmental, and other consequences. Table 9 illustrates these consequences of internal migration in Madhyapur Municipality. Out of 110 households, 33.6% (37 households) experienced social changes, 23.6% (26 households) reported economic consequences, 37.3% (41 households) identified environmental effects, and 5.5% (6 households) noted other consequences.

Table 9 *Consequences of Internal Migration*

| Factors | No. of respondents | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| Social | 37 | 33.6 |
| Economic | 26 | 23.6 |
| Environment | 41 | 37.3 |
| Others | 6 | 5.5 |
| Total | 110 | 100.0 |

**Problems of the destination**

Migrants often encounter challenges when adjusting to a new location. These issues can stem from geographic unfamiliarity and social adjustment difficulties, particularly in culturally diverse destinations. Overcrowding, resource overutilization, and environmental strain are common problems in areas with high migration inflows. These challenges in the destination place are detailed in the following table.

Table 10. *Distributions of internal migration by consequences of destination place*

| Consequences of destination place | No. of respondents | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| Over population | 34 | 30.9 |
| Over utilization of natural resources | 27 | 24.5 |
| Antisocial acts and crimes | 16 | 14.5 |
| Pollution | 33 | 30.0 |
| Total | 110 | 100.0 |

Table-10 displays the issues faced by internal migrants in Madhyapur. Overpopulation was reported by 30.9% (34 households) of respondents, while 24.5% (27 households) faced problems related to the overutilization of natural resources. Antisocial acts and crimes were a concern for 14.5% (16 respondents), and 30.0% (33 respondents) experienced pollution issues at their destination.

**Satisfaction of internal migration at the destination place**

While people have infinite needs, obtaining all of them can be challenging because they often exceed individual satisfaction levels. Satisfaction is achieved when one can obtain what they need. In the context of internal migrants in their residential place, their satisfaction levels are assessed, and this is presented in the following table. The table also examines the migrants' origins and their current places of residence based on the questionnaire responses.

Table 11. *Distribution of Internal Migrants by Satisfaction Level*

| Satisfaction level | No. of respondents | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | 83 | 75.5 |
| No | 27 | 24.5 |
| Total | 110 | 100.0 |

Table 11 outlines the distribution of internal migrants based on their satisfaction levels in the destination place. The majority, 75.5% (83 respondents), answered 'Yes,' indicating satisfaction with their destination. However, 24.5% (27 respondents) answered 'No,' signifying dissatisfaction.

In this chapter, the researchers have presented tables derived from the analysis of collected information. A brief summary of the research conducted is provided, along with conclusions drawn from the findings. Recommendations are also outlined for respondents and further research in the field.

**Conclusion**

The study's findings offer valuable insights into the trends and reasons for in-migration, shedding light on various aspects of the population in Madhyapur Municipality, Bhaktapur district. The research revealed that a significant portion of in-migrants came seeking improved education, healthcare, and job opportunities, with a notable presence of students from Province No. 3. This aligns with Ravenstein's theory of migration, which suggests that many migrants move shorter distances. The study also noted a higher migration rate among females, especially over shorter distances, compared to males. The majority of in-migrants hailed from hilly regions and relied on various job opportunities as their primary income source. Most in-migrants fell within the 20-40 age group. Importantly, the research highlighted the harmonious coexistence of in-migrants from diverse ethnic backgrounds, cultures, traditions, and economic strata. While many in-migrants reported migrating for a better life, motivated by their personal aspirations, they generally found the improvements they were seeking. However, the soaring land prices posed a significant challenge for in-migrants, affecting their access to essential resources like food, housing, drinking water, and transportation. Addressing these issues requires a collaborative effort and harmonious coexistence among the in-migrant population.

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