

## Labor migration and its impact on economic status

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### Abstracts

*The present study entitled Labor Migration and its Impact in Bhaktapur has been carried out with the main objective to identify the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of international labor migrants' households, This study was conducted by applying descriptive type of research by using survey based research design. International labour migration is a process which is very significant. Remittance from abroad is supporting the national economy to a great extent. Unemployment is a burning issue and foreign employment is providing employment to many from across Nepal. Foreign currency has weight and with the high exchange rate it can really be rewarding Work and Wage is mostly determined by skill, education and fluency. People are surviving and at the same time hoping that sooner or later foreign employment will be a blessing. It is just a matter of years spend abroad by the migrants that will improve the economic condition of the respective households. Level of income for migrant households has increased but expenditure also increased respectively. Standard of living and quality of food are raised of their family. Unemployment lack of agricultural land and poverty are important factors for emigration associated with origin. Likewise, high wage rate, easy availability of unskilled works and no need of higher education other important factors associated destination. Some positive and negative impacts also seem in foreign employment.*

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### Introduction

Migration is the powerful component to change the population size of a place or a country. In the study of demography, it is the most important component. It influences the growth, composition and distribution of population of a place or a country. The other two determinants of population change are birth and death. Biological, social and cultural elements affect the process of birth, death and migration. Among these three factors of population change, migration is studied, analyzed and discussed under this aspect. Malnutrition, lack of health services unemployment and poverty are the other factors that affect changes in population. Migration is not a biological process as fertility and mortality but is an artificial one which depends on individual will or psychology (Subedi, 2010).

Occasional natural calamities like floods and landslides have also forced people to flee from their birthplace to other potential areas for their livelihood. Internally displaced people have remained in vulnerable situations expecting urgent rescue and help (K.C, 2003).

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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 (Acharya, 2003).

The migration of people from one place to another in search of better opportunities in employment, education and higher living standard has started since time immemorial. But some people may have been pressurized to leave the original place of residence. Factors like war, inter-conflicts, famine, poverty for survival and ultimately comfortable and peaceful living are some of the push reasons for the people to migrate. Before the World War-II, the major migration distance used to be limited within a country or region unless they were arranged for labor transfer to cater need of the colonial power countries. Now, 'People from developing countries are moving towards the developed countries as migrant workers. The flow of information, skills, and remittances has dramatically changed the nature and scope of international migration today. International labor migration has become a survival strategy for men and women of many least developed and developing countries (NIDA, 2016).

Migration is equally important to government planners and policy makers, because the aggregate movement of migrants often cause important shift in the policy, power and economic fortunes of the places they leave and the places to which they go (De Vanzo, 1981). The international labor migration is one of the main sources of employment to the young Nepali work force. The migration is growing in various forms. The populations who can afford to stand for education fee of colleges in the developed countries, at least to show their financial strengths, directly go the selected country as students. Majority of students who are with academic excellence are also in moving trend in the developed countries on their academic strengths having full or partial scholarship. The youths in mass who are in prime working age are seeking employment opportunities in Middle East and Far East region. Though, their priority remains or dream to be in the countries like the USA, European countries, Japan and Australia. Recently, Afghanistan and Iraq are also countries of attraction to young and professionals via other countries because of lack of permission/restrictions mechanism from the government system (Sharma, 2008).

### **Objectives of the Study**

The Specific objectives of this study were as follows:

- To identify the demographic socio-economic characteristics of international labor migrants' households.

### **Review of related literature and conceptual framework**

There are so many studies carried out in the past and at present as well. It is very difficult to apply universal law to human behavior. The literature dealing with migration is extensive since it became a subject of inquiry for many social science disciplines. These studies range from purely descriptive

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and statistical to study of varying degree of complexities. Some of these have been explained widely to take account of international migration in the following sections.

### **Review of Theoretical Literature**

Theoretical aspect of migration had begun about more than a century ago which is different at different part of the world. In recent years, geographers, economists, sociologists have developed many theories and models for the studies related to the classical migration studies. The phenomenon of population migration is as old as the history of mankind. It is a multi-dimensional phenomenon, just as demographic, economic, social and cultural phenomena are, and each of them is the subject of inquiry about social science. Migration studies range from purely descriptive and statistical aspects to the rule of operation. Within this lies the economic, social and technological and policy components.

Ravenstein (1885-1889), enunciated "the law of migration." His paper on the law of migration was published in 1885 which was based upon the British census of 1881. Later in 1889, He reviewed the subject with data from more than twenty countries. His first article referred to domestic migration and second concentrated to international migration. He articulated the push and pull forces that lead to migration.

Migration is an event that occurs in a time interval and hence the temporal aspect is also important, as is the spatial when such movements occur within a country they are referred to as internal migration while if they involve crossing national boundaries they are referred to as international migration and emigration refers to migration outside the country and immigration inside the country from the other countries (UN, 1956).

Todaro (1976), has given the most significant contribution to the large number of migration literature. He concluded that migration mechanism could be explained by the difference in expected rather than actual earnings between two places (origin and destination). Migration is estimated primarily by national income considerations of relatives benefited, which are mostly financial and psychological.

Migration is often analyzed as responses to 'push and pull' factors characterizing the zones of departure and arrival. This kind of analysis has been particularly applied to migration from the country to the city which have been the centre of attention for some time. On the one hand, under employment and poverty in the rural areas as the lack of facilities and services, population pressure on the land and so on have been cited as push factors, on the other the greater opportunities for employment in the city, the better chance for the presences of facilities and services, the more varied social life, greater liberty of individual behaviour, and soon have cited as pull factors. Little attention has been given to the role of taxation savings and investment in the rural areas and in small and medium sized towns (Acharya, 1978).

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Nepal has a long history of international labour migration. The scarcity of non-farm employment opportunities in the hills was the drawing force for labour migration. In many areas of north and northeast India a big number of Nepali labour were employed in tea plantation, border security, oil fields and timber work and road construction. Employment in the British and the Indian Army acted as an incentive for Nepali emigrants, from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, the British government in India recruited the “Gurkhas” in their army. This avenue for employment encouraged many young adults from the hills to join the British or Indian army (Sharma, 1985).

Pradhan (1974) had conducted studies in both the developing and developed countries in order to find out the basic reasons behind the decision of a man to migrate. He concluded in this study that in developing countries a large proportion of migrants have lower socio-economic status than non-migrants at both place of origin and destination, whereas in the developed countries and southern US migrants are younger, more educated and of higher socio-economic status than non-migrants of the place of origin and destination.

Subedi (2003) has stated that Nepal in 21<sup>st</sup> century is growing its self as labour producing country. The current population size of Nepal is 23.12 million and it is growing with the growth rate of 2.2 percent per annual. More than 2 hundred thousand unskilled manpower every year is entering into the labour market. Majority of these labours are mainly from rural area. Because of poverty and lack of employment opportunities, out migration as a labour from in Nepal is being compelled. He further stated that the Nepalese government has been considering labour migration as a means of benefiting both its citizens and the state he explained that out migration from Nepal as labour has rapidly increased in recent year than before. More than 160 foreign employment agencies have been actively working to send the Nepalese employee in foreign market. But those labour are not free from being a victim of local agencies and its their destination too. India, in majority, and West Asian and east and south Asian countries are the main destination of Nepalese labour migration. He argued that recent political condition of the nation also is forcing youth to take a walk to overseas for employment. But qualifying the supply and security of both life and job permanency of Malaysia and Saudi Arabian industry worker are the main issue to be stated.

Bhattarai (2015), carried a study of internal and international migration in Nepal. This study was sponsored by National commission of population. The objectives of the study were to analyze the nature, magnitude, causes and consequences of internal and international migration as well as to suggest policy measure and direction for programmed with regards to migration. This study was conducted on the basis of grid sampling and 2411 households were interviewed. In order to determine the nature and cause for employing foreign workers, 66 industries establishment were surveyed. To study out migration and emigration 404 household heads were interviewed, the study also concluded that approximately 94 percent of the sampled in-migration family heads in Kathmandu valley were male. A large scale majority of in migration family head belongs to the 20-44 age category and majority of the sample household heads were married during 15-19 years with the 17.3 percentage average years of marriage.

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Nepal has also long history of International Labor migration. Around 200 years ago, Nepalese started to seek work abroad and send remittances back to their families in Nepal. In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, for instance, the first men migrated to Lahore (in today's Pakistan) to join the army of the Sikh ruler, Ranjit Singh. They earned the nickname "*Lahure*" which is still used today for Nepalese employed in foreign armies abroad. In 1815/1816, the first British army of India and were then, and still are called "*Gurkhas*". Since then, international labor migration of Nepalese has never ceased. Especially in the recent decades, it has greatly increased and diversified in pattern (MoF, 2016).

### **Methods and procedure of the study**

Quantitative research design was used in this study. It was based on primary data of quantitative description..

**Research Design:** A survey based descriptive research design on quantitative nature was applied for the study to obtain the objectives.

**Sources of Data :** Both primary and secondary data were collected, collated and analyzed for the research. Primary data for this study were collected from interview schedule as per the convenience to aid to my study from the area under consideration. The secondary data were collected from published and unpublished literature such as books; journals, articles, research reports and other official documents.

**Population of the Study:** This study was conducted in Changunarayan Municipality-8, of Bhaktapur district. There are 1887 households and 8295 (4189 male, 4104 female and 20 others) population in the ward (CBS, 2011). This study had covered only those households from where people are internationally migrated for labor work in the ward no. 8, which consists 225 (As per the Record of Ward office-2075). Therefore the population for this study were 225 from the ward no. 8 of Changunarayan Municipality of Bhaktapur district.

**Sampling Procedure and Sample Size:** To cover all the entire population in the study is more difficult and time consuming. To conduct a research in a scientific way it requires adopting certain number of samples and procedure. The main research areas for the study were selected by using purposive sampling procedure. The required data for the study were collected from those households who were involve in migration process. Firstly, the sample households were selected by purposive sampling method with replacement. The sample size were 115 households throughout the population of the study.

**Tools of Data Collection :** Interview Schedule was used to collect the required information for the study. To collect information through the direct interview with respondents the researcher visited door-to-door their households.

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**Data Collection Procedure :** After getting formal permission from the campus the researcher went to the study area and submitted the request letter from the Sanothimi Campus to ward official authority, after getting authority form the ward office administration the researcher herself visited by door to door of the selected respondents for the collection of primary data for the study. Before conducting the interview with the respondents, some guidelines and clarification were given by the researcher to the respondents.

**Analysis and Interpretation of Data :** Data were analyzed and presented by adopting different techniques to fulfill the objectives. The raw data were collected from field survey. Some statistical tools like percentage, average, etc. were used to analyze the data. To illustrate the research work, necessary tables, charts, diagrams were used to analyze the calculate data.

### **Analysis and interpretation of the results**

The purpose of this chapter is to analysis the data collected from the field survey and discussion them. The chapter is organized into four different sections: The first section deals with socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the migrant households, the second section deals with the causes of international labor migration in the study area; the third section deals with the impacts of foreign employment in the study area and the fourth section of this study is drawn with the major findings of the study.

### **Demographic and Socio-economic Characteristics**

This sub chapter deals with the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the migrant households, with family size of the migrants households. Age and sex composition of the migrants, caste/ethnicity, religion, types of family, educational attainment of the migrants, marital status etc.

### **Family Size of Migrant Households**

Family is an asset. Bigger family size means bigger demands of wants and resources. It is to provide an economic security and also to meet the growing family requirements that migrants go for foreign employment. Foreign currency has weight and it is rewarding. It is basically to meet the household needs that the migrants had to migrate to foreign land. The migrants' family varies from joint to single. However the family size is very diverse. The table below shows the family size of the migrants' households.

**Table 1 Family Size of the Migrant Households**

Family size in persons	Number of Households	Population			Percent of total to sample households
		Male	Female	Total	

1 – 4	69	121	123	244	60
5 – 6	31	90	79	169	26.96
7 – 8	10	5	6	11	8.7
9 and above	5	16	14	30	4.35
Total	115	232	222	454	100

The total population of the 115 surveyed households were 454 members, out of which 232 were males and 222 were females. It clearly shows the family size ranging from 1-4 members occupies the largest share 60 % out of sampled population, where 121 were male and 123 were female. Similarly, family size ranging from 5-6 members occupies the 29.96 %, where 90 were male and 79 were female. Likewise, family size ranging from 7-8 members occupies the 8.7 %, where 5 were male and 6 were female and the family size ranging from 9 and above members occupies the 4.35 %, where 16 were male and 14 were female. The family size ranging from 1 to 4 members comprise the highest proportion.

### Age and Sex Composition of Labour Migrants

There is a vast difference in the sex ratio of the labour migrants. The proportion of male emigrant is high than female labour migrants. Strength and efficiency is associated with age. Foreign employment is favourable for the young and the energetic, rather than for the old and aged. To be eligible for foreign employment one has to attain the age of 18 years. For Saudi Arabia in order to be eligible one has to attain the age of 22 years. Moreover manpower companies also tend to encourage the active population to go for foreign employment. The table below shows the age and sex ratio of migrants. Age and sex structure of the population is the major explanatory variable in demographic analysis. If age distribution is distorted, all age -specific patterns of the vital events are eventually distorted. Importance of age and sex - composition is not only limited to demographic analysis but also too different socio-economic and development planning of a country. The population composition of the study area is shown in table below.

**Table 2 Age and Sex Structure of Labour Migrants**

Age group In Years	Male		Female		Total Number	Percent of Total
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
18-25	29	87.88	4	12.12	33	28.7
26-35	56	90.32	6	9.68	62	53.91
36-45	12	80	3	20	15	13.04

45 and above	5	100	0	0	5	4.35
Total	102	88.70	13	11.30	115	100

The proportion of male is 88.70 percent and of female is 11.30 percent. The age group 18-25 years consist of 33 migrants, which accounts to 28.7 % of total sampled population where, 87.88 % were male and 12.12 % were female. Similarly, the age group 26-35 years consist of 62 migrants, which accounts to 53.91 % of total sampled population where, 90.32 % were male and 9.68 % were female. Likewise, the age group 36-45 years consist of 15 migrants, which accounts to 13.04 % of total sampled population where, 80 % were male and 20 % were female. And the age group 45 and above years consist of 5 migrants, which accounts to 4.35 % of total sampled population where, 100 % were male.

### **Caste and ethnic composition of migrants**

There are various caste/ethnic groups in the study area but most of the people are from Brahmin and Chhetri have predominance over other ethnic/caste groups. The caste/ethnic compositions of the migrants are presented in the table below.

**Table 3 Caste and ethnic composition of migrants**

Caste/ethnic groups	Number of migrants households	Percent of total
Brahmin	60	52.17
Chhetri	22	19.13
Newar	20	17.39
Tamang	13	11.3
Total	115	100

Table 3 shows that about different caste/ethnicity of study area where largest ethnic group is Brahmin, which is 52.17 % . It was found that Chhetri were 19.13%, Newar were 17.39 and 11.3 % were Tamangs.

### **Educational attainment of the labour migrants**

Education is a vital and key factor for foreign employment. The quality of work and wage depends upon the migrant's skill and education. But unfortunately still most of the migrants are unskilled and lowly education in this study area. In the context of education level among the people of the study are relatively developed. Education is related directly to the quality of work. Educated and qualified migrants are entitled to easy and rewarding jobs or else they have to toil in harsh conditions.



Education is a key ingredient for foreign employment. The quality of work and wage depends upon the migrants' skill and education. The table below shows the educational attainment of the migrants.

**Table 4 Educational Attainments of the migrants**

Level	Number of migrants	Percent of Total
Illiterate	5	4.35
Literate	5	4.35
Primary level	15	13.04
Secondary level	20	17.39
University level	70	60.87
Total	115	100

The table shows the educational attainment of the migrants. Of the total, 4.35 % were illiterate and in the same number 4.35% were literate without school. Among the literate migrants 13.04 % had attained primary level, 17.39 % had attained secondary level and 60.87 % had attained university level.

#### **Marital status of the labour migrants**

Marriage is a universal phenomenon. It is a union between a man and a woman. Moreover with marriage numerous responsibilities are being attached. The Marital status of the labour migrants is shown in table below.

**Table 5 Marital Status of the labour migrants**

Marital status	Total	Percent
Unmarried	35	30.43
Married	80	69.57
Total	115	100

The number of married migrants is higher than the single or unmarried migrants. Out of total 30.43 % were unmarried and 69.57 % were married respectively. Figure 5 shows the marital status of the laobur migrants.

#### **Types of Family**

Family is a fundamental unit of society. Family means a group of people where relationship to one another is based upon consplicity and who are therefore kin to one another. Family is regarded as the primary stage of social institution, where every child enters into the process of socialization of the community. Mainly there are two types of nature of family is practiced in our country. These two are nuclear and joint. In Nepal, joint family in the past time was more popular than nuclear. But now a day's nuclear family has become common and is being practiced to a great extent. Table given below shows the nature of family of respondents.

**Table-6: Distribution of migrants by their types of Family**

<b>Types of family</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Nuclear	81	70.43
Joint	34	29.57
<b>Total</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 6 shows the distribution of migrants by types of family. It shows that 70.43 % belongs to Nuclear and 29.57 % belongs to the Joint family. In the study area mainly two types of family, nuclear and joint were found.

#### **Impact of labour migration to their family**

Labour migration is a continuous phenomenon. With the passage of time it is gaining momentum and will continue to do so. Nothing is perfectly fine. Everything has its pros and cons. So does international labour migration.

**Table 12: Impact of labour migration to their family**

<b>Duration</b>	<b>Number of Migrants</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Positive	79	68.7
Negative	29	25.22
Neutral	7	6.09
<b>Total</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>100</b>

The table shows the impact of labour migration in their family. It shows that 68.7 % had positive impact, 25.22 % had negative impact and the remaining 6.09 % had no impact feeling to their family.

### **Positive Impacts of labour migration to their family**

Foreign employment has enabled the labour migrants to increase their income level. Income level at the foreign land is higher than the origin, so the migrants earn well. It is solving the unemployment scenario. Moreover with the earning from abroad households requirements are being managed. Foreign employment has also enriched the quality of life. There is a rise in the standard of living, better food, clothing, shelter and education. It also broadens knowledge and attitudes. It enables migrants to come across people from different cultural setting. At the same time it provide on opportunity to develop skill. The skills developed abroad can be an added advantage within the country of origin moreover remittance play a vital role in the national as well as the village economy.

**Table 13: Positive Impacts of labour migration to their family**

Positive Impacts	Number of Migrants	Percentage
Clearing debt	16	20.25
Good education for children	29	36.71
Purchasing property	22	27.85
Gain skills	12	15.19
Total	79	100

The table shows the positive impacts of labour migration in their family. It shows that 20.25 % had cleared debt, 36.71 % had maintained good education for children, 27.85 % had purchased property and 15.19 % had gained as the positive impacts of foreign employment.

### **Negative Impact**

The biggest negative impact of foreign employment is the acute shortage of active labour force in the nation. The village mostly comprise of the children, women and the aged. The negative impacts of labour migration to to the migrants' family is presented as below.

**Table 14: Negative Impacts of labour migration to their family**

Positive Impacts	Number of Migrants	Percentage
Not get good work in foreign	10	34.48
Imprisoned in foreign	2	6.9

Handicapped in foreign while working	8	27.59
Death in foreign	9	31.03
Total	29	100

The table shows the negative impacts of labour migration in their family. It shows that 34.48 % had not get good work in foreign, 6.9 % had imprisoned in foreign, 27.59 % were handicapped in foreign while working and 31.03 % were death in foreign were the negative impacts of foreign employment.

### Area of utilizing remittances

Remittance is used in the purchasing of assets. Like agricultural land and Ghaderi remittance is providing financial assistance for various households needs. Majority of the migrants' household first priority is to clear the debt and purchasing property. Some of the households have more than one member abroad and this result in greater remittance. The area where foreign employment is aiding the family is shown in the table below.

**Table 15 Area of Utilizing Remittances**

Areas	Number of Household	Percentage
Buying Land/House	40	34.78
Education	30	26.09
Health	25	21.74
Payment of debt	15	13.04
Savings	5	4.35
Total	115	100

The table shows the area of utilizing the remittances of by the migrants. It shows that 34.78 % of them buy land/house, 26.09 % utilized remittance for education, 21.74 % utilized remittance for health, 13.04 % utilized remittance for clearing debt and 4.35 % utilized remittance as savings for future expenses.

### Skills Gained after Getting Back from Foreign Employment

If people have zero knowledge, he/she must start from basic level and then become an expert. People learnt from a senior who is an expert or learnt by doing. The skills gained by the migrants in abroad, with a focus on the jobs in which migrants learnt the most, the improvements made. Generally, in this study area the skills of the migrant workers have not well developed even after going abroad. During the period of interview with the returnees, it was revealed that most of labour migrants do not

get work as per their qualification; therefore, they do not get the any chance to develop their career skill. As studied earlier most of the migrant workers of the study area had low or medium level of education status are unskilled, therefore, they don't have the capacity of learning new technology or any new skills. So, they have brought no new skills from abroad. Table below shows that the skills of the migrant workers who have learnt abroad and returned to their home country.

**Table 16 Area of Utilizing Remittances**

Skills gained	Number of Household	Percentage
Not gained/unknown	61	53.04
Cook/waiter	10	8.7
Driving	25	21.74
Mason	12	10.43
Salesman	7	6.09
Total	115	100

The table shows the skills gained by the migrants while was in foreign employment. It shows that 53.04 % of them did not gained any skills or they were unknown about it, 8.7 % gained skills in hospitality sector i.e cook/waiter, 21.74 % get skilled in driving, 10.43 became skilled mason and 6.09 % get skilled as salesman.

### Conclusions

During the study, it was found that the population of 115 surveyed households were 454 members, out of which 232 were males and 222 were females. The family size ranging from 1-4 members occupies the largest share 60 % and the proportion of male is 88.70 percent and of female is 11.30 %, the age group 18-25 years consist to 28.7 % of total sampled population where, 87.88 % were male and 12.12 % were female. The largest ethnic group in the study population is Brahmin and the married migrants is higher than the single. Out of total 30.43 % were unmarried and 69.57 % were married. In the study area mainly two types of family, nuclear and joint were found. Unemployment is the major push factor for labour migration in the study area, where high wage rate is the major pull factor for labour migration. Around 45.22 % of the migrants has taken loan and 42.61 % spent 2 years in foreign employment. Among the migrants' population, 68.7 % had positive impact, 25.22 % had negative impact and the remaining 6.09 % had no impact feeling to their family. About 20.25 % of the study population had cleared debt and 34.48 % had not get good work in foreign and 53.04 % of them did not gained any skills from foreign employment.

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