

Effects of Foreign Labour Migration on Emigrants Households

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Abstract

Migration is a never ending issue in the world. This change of thinking about migration is drawn from the understanding that migration, if well managed, may generate important gains for both the host countries and the migrants' countries of origin. Indeed, there is by now a growing consensus in policy circles that the management of the accelerating globalization process – including effective domestic adjustment posed by it necessitates a coherent approach to policymaking as well as increased co-operation with global partners. Gains tend to become more diffused within sending countries when labour markets are integrated; segmentation, either due to inadequate infrastructure or cultural and ethnic barriers, can restrict gains within migrant communities and might increase relative deprivation of non-migrant ones.

However, there exist cases where inequality – depending on which group the migrants are – leads to labour depletion. Moreover, migration may have both positive and negative social effects in terms of children's education and health depending on changes in family composition and the role of women within the family and society. Remittance flows do benefit both the migrants' households and the non-recipient ones through multiplier effects of spending.

Key words: Emigrant Household, Foreign Labour Migration and Remittance and Impact

1. Introduction

Migration is a process of changing the usual place of residence and an important component of demographic change. Migration is being common along with socio-economic and technological advancement. People move from one place to another place for the betterment of their life and for improving the standard of living as well as other reasons. People migrate from place to place for economic betterment, business and trade, education, work as well as other different activities.

It is estimated that 214 million people are internationally migrated worldwide and it is increased tremendously in last decades from 150 million in 2002 to 214 million in present

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day. It consists 3.1 percent of global population, which indicates that one out of 33 persons in the world is a migrant. It is estimated USD 3,951 million remittances is circled worldwide (IOM, 2012).

Migration is one of the most important components of population change. It may increase or decrease the size and change the structure of population. Migration, a process of changing the usual place of residence, started with the beginning of the humankind. It is one of the major factors to make changes in overall development of a country. It can bring both positive as well as negative changes to a person, family, society or the whole nation (IOM, 2009). Migration is the movement of people from one place in the world to another for the purpose of taking up permanent or semi-permanent residence, usually across a political boundary (KC, 2002).

International Organization of Migration (2009), labour migration is generally defined as a cross-border movement for purpose of employment in a foreign country. Census conducted in Nepal also reveals that the foreign labour migration, indicated as ‘absentee population’, includes people living in foreign countries for more than six months at the time of enumeration (Adhikari, 2010). In the context of the 21st century, migration has been the ‘pivotal issue’ for study on human rights, development, globalization and so many other cross-cutting issues. People have been migrating from rural to urban areas in search of employment and educational opportunities.

Both the migrant and the family members have to adjust to and cope with the prolonged separation and changing family dynamics (Bhadra, 2007; De Dios, 2011). While the migrants face various hardships in their destination countries, the families left behind also pay a social price. Children may suffer from a care deficit, potentially placing them at risk of emotional disturbance, displacement, exploitation, drug abuse, sexual abuse including incest, poor performance in school, teen pregnancy and other psycho-social shocks. Spouses have to adjust to new roles within the family and home, taking on more childcare and household duties.

The emotional upheaval that is the result of migration can cause marital issues and accusations of adultery. Mainly women are vulnerable to abuse and exploitation following such accusations. Migrant workers are also reported to be at risk for mental disturbance and illness. Moreover, if the migrant is successful in securing foreign employment, even a sudden increase in economic status for the family can come with its own set of challenges and adjustments. Whereas migration risks including trafficking have been recognized, very little attention has been paid to other social costs involved for migrants and their families.

DOFE, 2014 reported that 636120 numbers of Nepalese migrants are stayed in Malaysia, 589,395 numbers are stayed in Qatar, 442,388 are Saudi Arabia, 292,783 are U.A.E, 71,989 are Kuwait, 31,623 are Bahrain, 20,245 are Oman, 20,147 are South Korea, 10,713 are Lebanon, 6,624 are Japan, 5,689 are Afghanistan, 5,196 are Israel, 27,655 are Others countries and in total 2,160,567 numbers of foreign migrants (DOFE, 2014).

According to 2011 census, more than 19 lakh populations are migrated in different purpose. They are still absence in Nepal and settled abroad. Only 762181 were absent in 2001 census. Absentee population is increasing day by day. The latest two censuses show that absentee population increases nearly by three times in 2011 than 2001 (CBS, 2011).

This research is mainly focused to answer the queries related to social costs of foreign labour migration in origin and how the people cope with the situations and circumstances after the migration of family members in individual, family and community level and how they adopt in individual and social life. The following Objectives are here:

1. To find out the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of international labour migrant households.
2. To examine the causes of international labour migration and use of remittance.

2. Methodology

The study is based on Gauradaha Municipality, Ward No. 4 and 5, descriptive and explorative social science research design. On the other hand socio-economic and demographic status of family as well as view and feeling related information was collected by face to face interview with respondents. In-depth interview and focus group discussion and Key Informant interview were conducted to collect quantitative and qualitative data along with obtaining the required data to answer the research questions to meet the objectives. The sample size was taken only 106 by the purposive method and due to the lack of proper information of foreign labor migrants of district at municipality level information were collected with the help of secretary than purposively selected the sample and interviewed for data collection. Quantitative data were collected by structured self administered questionnaire with interview and qualitative data were collected using a semi structured interview schedule by two Key informants and one focus group discussion were conducted to collect information migrants' family, relatives and other persons. Two sets of questionnaire are prepared: household and individual. Household questionnaire are used to collect some socio-economic and demographic information of household population and an individual questionnaire is used to collect other required information. Another set of

questionnaire is prepared to collect information about migration and remittance for key informants as well as check list of focus group discussion.

In this research Quantitative data were analyzed by using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). Data coding, checking and cleaning were done before entry into the computer. Frequencies distribution percentage and Cross tabulation statistics are used in data analysis and interpretation. The qualitative data, the key themes and concepts were identified and grouped together and the main themes and sub-themes presented for results to draw the conclusions.

3. Results and Discussions

3.1 Household Characteristics

In this study total 106 households were studied for the purpose of data collection. In those households; total population is 916 and among them 456 are males and 460 are females. In terms of HH size there is highest in 5 and above people in a household. More than two-third households are belonged joint family. More than half of the households are pakki (55 %). Around three-fifth household heads are above the aged 45 years (58.5 %). Two-third people are Slc Level (37.7 %) followed by literate people as 22.6 percent. More than two-third people are engaged in agriculture (71 %). There are 125 caste/ethnic groups reported in the census 2011. Chhetri is the largest caste/ethnic groups having 16.6 percent (CBS 2011). Two-third population is Khas (66 %). Nearly 85 percent people have food sufficiently food in a year. Availability of these facilities determines the level of development and prosperity of public life. There is higher proportion of people with telephone facilities which is due to telephone and mobile services in area.

Around one-third people are migrated to Malaysia (35.9 %) which is followed by Qatar (23.6 %). 19.8 percent people are migrated for better jobs and more earning in UAE while 15.1 percent to Saudi Arab. 5.7 percent are migrated in Korea which is considered higher in status in Nepal.

3.2 Cause of Foreign Labour Migration

The main cause of migration is poverty which constitutes 58.5 percent while 30.2 percent people are migrated due to lack of jobs in home country. 5.7 percent people are migrated for more income and 3.8 percent due to family pressure to earn more or being unemployment. 1.9 percent people are for children education and they want to improve their children's education with more income. It is fact that one-fourth population (25.16 %) below the poverty line where this is about 45.61 percent in Far Western Development Region and 27.43 percent in rural area of Nepal (NLSS, 2010/2011, CBS). The unemployment rate is

also high in Nepal so people migrate for getting jobs with more earning in Arab countries being difficult to work and live.

We always discussed lack and scarcity are the cause of migration but one participant shared her experience quite differently as

'Before long time, we were suffering from low economic status. We had scarcity for livelihood. I am not satisfied with my family and livelihood. I have three children 1 son and 2daughters. My husband is serviceholder, works in private company and earning not well. He works in shop. Sometimes he drinks and drinks for a long time. It is due to his friends, so I advised him to go foreign labour migration.

'There is verydifficult to find my jobs here. I can't manage my family economy and we are difficult to sustain as I have some land and property for his livelihood. But I am not satisfied with the surrounding environments, so we were discussion about it very long time and finally we decided to go Dubai or Gulf countries for labour migration. So, I suggested him.'

3.3 Communication of Migrant Family

People are connected to each other by cellophane, email and internet as well as different social media network as Gmail, Facebook, twitter etc. The following table shows the communication details about migrant family as:

Table 1: Communication of Migrant Family

| Communication Time | N | Percent |
|-------------------------------|------------|----------------|
| Daily | 64 | 60.4 |
| Weekly | 42 | 39.6 |
| Total | 106 | 100.0 |
| Frequently communicate | | |
| Father | 24 | 22.6 |
| Mother | 12 | 11.3 |
| Wife | 48 | 45.3 |
| Son/Daughter | 12 | 11.3 |
| Brothers | 10 | 9.4 |
| Total | 106 | 100.0 |

Source: Field Survey, 2018.

Migrants communicate with family and partner due to facility of mobile and telephone facilities. Three-fifths migrants communicate to their family and partner (60.4 %) weekly

and more than two-third (37.7 %) people called to home monthly and only 1.9 percent people contact to their home daily.

Nearly half of the migrant frequently call to his partner mostly (48 %) after that to father 22.6 percent and mother 11.3 percent. 11.3 percent also called to their children s 9.4 percent others.

3.4 Remittance

People those who have difficulties and low inccome are more likely to foreign labour migration due to lack of income and low production in agriculture. Those people were in crisis and having low income are more sincere to send money home. Very few of the respondents (1.9 %) said that they did not still receive any remittances and others have received remittances. Third-fifth of the respondents sais that they are recived remittances more than Rs. 1,00,000 per year and nearaly 40 percent respondents reveived less than Rs. 1,00,000 per year, respectively.

Table 2: Distribution of Occupation, Remittance and Landholding of Migrant's Households

| Remittance | N | Percent |
|--------------------------|------------|----------------|
| Received | 104 | 98.1 |
| Non-received | 3 | 1.9 |
| Total | 106 | 100.0 |
| Yearly Remittance | | |
| Less than 100000 | 42 | 39.6 |
| More than 100000 | 62 | 60.4 |
| Total | 104 | 100.0 |

Source: Field Survey, 2018.

3.5 Use of Remittances

Table 3 shows that the the majority of the respondents said that use of remittance in the study area is to pay debt of their families and to maintain livelihood. In the interview with the returnees and migrant households, people expressed that the money which they landed from others while going abroad and for the family purposes are paid after they start sending the remittances to their Families. Among 132 households, 82 households responded that they used some amount of their remittances to pay their debt. Similarly, most of households of foreign migrants have used the remittance to meet the daily essential things and expenses like food, clothing, education and health. Majority of the households numbering 81 among 132 households expressed their views that they have used some amount of the remittances for buying food and clothes, 67, 74 households each for children's education and children's

health purpose respectively. After the house expenses and the basic needs they have needs they have used the remittances in the long term purposes like building house, buying land and saving/providing loan. Likewise, 71 households stated that they have used the remittances for building a new house while 56 households expressed that they have invested the remittances for buying land. Only 27 households stated that they have their deposited the money in the banks or have provided loads to other. The number is low because most of the households hesitated to express that they have saved or provided loans because of security reasons during the field survey. Few households numbering 56 stated other reasons for using the remittances with include buying vehicles, investing on cultivation productive works and business and for marriage purposes.

Table 3: Distribution of the Migrants households by use of Remittances

| Remittance used Areas | No. | % |
|---------------------------|-----|------|
| Buying land | 89 | 84.0 |
| House build | 71 | 67.0 |
| Education | 67 | 63.2 |
| Health | 74 | 69.8 |
| Buying foods clothes | 81 | 76.4 |
| Payment of debt | 82 | 77.1 |
| Saving /providing loan | 27 | 25.5 |
| Marriage/ buying Vehicles | 56 | 52.8 |

Source: Field survey, 2018.

Note: Percent total may exceed 100 due to multiple responses.

3.6 Effect of Migrants' Couple

The foreign labour migration is heavily weighted in our society as we are considering the incoming remittance without considering the social cost and uncounted and invisible consequences. We are not aware of feeling and happiness of migrant's counterpart. The following table shows the feeling and happiness of migrant's couple as:

Table 4: Effect of Migrants' Couple

| Responses | Yes | No | Total |
|-------------------------|------|------|-------|
| Happiness | 18.9 | 81.1 | 100.0 |
| Feeling bad/ loneliness | 52.8 | 45.3 | 100.0 |

Source: Field Survey, 2018.

In terms of happiness of husband's migration for foreign labor, only 18.9 percent reply positively as they are happy while 81.1 percent are unhappy while more than half (52.8 %) of the respondents are feeling alone due to absence of their partner while 45.3 percent replied they are not feeling along.

The following saying of a focus group discussion participant emphasizes the feeling of migrant's partner clearly as:

'At the starting time, I felt very loneliness because I never manage family economy and also afraid how can do such things family and children. Whatever may be the situation and difficulties due to absence of my husband, I had managed it. When children ask about father and urge for returning. Now, I feel very sad and think that let we have less food but not separation.'

3.7 Economic and social problem absence of Partner

In terms of feeling difference due to presence and absence of husband, more females are feeling difference at time of worrisome, loneliness, torture and pain i.e. 26.9 percent which is followed by HH activities and expenditure (23.1 %). At the time of festival and program 17.3 percent feel lack of partner's presence while lack of relax and enjoyment as well as work burden, decision and responsibility are equally distributed to 11.5 percent. The level of confidence of female differs due to presence or absence of husband in home as mentioned confidence and child care is 9.6 percent. The detail of feeling difference due to absence of partner is mentioned as below:

Table 5: Economic and social problem absence of Partner

| Activities | N | Percent |
|--|------------|----------------|
| At the Time of Festival and Program | 85 | 17.3 |
| Child Care | 95 | 9.6 |
| Feel Worrisome, Loneliness, Torture and Pain | 77 | 26.9 |
| HH Activities and Expenditure | 67 | 23.1 |
| Lack of Relax and Enjoyment | 88 | 11.5 |
| Work Burden, Decision and Responsibility | 98 | 11.5 |
| Total | 106 | 100 |

Source: Field Survey, 2018.

4. Conclusion

Effects of migration have been extensively mentioned, the socio-economic effects have more focused on this paper. However, they are very important and often closely linked with the much more studied economic effects of migration. Migration may impact on social life in several ways and the impact will be different for different types of migration as well as different stages of the migration cycle. For instance, the selection of family members into migration, at early stages, will have an impact on family roles. At later stages, the impact may change since family reunion takes place or new members of the family may have the chance to migrate independently. The social effects of migration consist of changes in family composition, in gender roles, child outcomes in terms of labour, health and education. One may identify two main possible effects of migration on outcomes for children. First, through remittances, increases household income which may lead to reduced childwork/labour and increased educational attainment. Another, migration also alters family composition and roles within the family which may have adverse effects on educational success and educational outcomes for children in migrants' households. These could have direct, positive, impacts on schooling outcomes and educational attainment.

The global income gains, even from small expansions to international migration, are estimated to be extremely large. Remittances are the key mechanism through which migrants transfer a part of these net gains to those remaining at home. In broad terms, remittances comprise money transfers from abroad, goods are sent by migrants. The money transferred channel is mostly used Hundi/ IME and Bank from foreign. Consider first the issue of which types of families receive the most remittances. Duration of absence is a major determinant of remittances.

The foreign employment profession should also be accepted as a dignified occupation as because of its importance to strengthen the national economy and it also making our young people engage in some sorts of income generating activities even in the difficult period of the country. It shows that foreign labor migration contributes to increase some rational aspects of family but they depend on their emigrants. Remittance is less use in productive sectors.

Foreign labor migration is being a common source of discourse along with socio-economic consequence on the place of local, federal, state, region and the world. This paper tries to examine the socio-economic and demographic situation of the foreign labor migrants' household and consequence on society. Socio-economic impact of foreign labor migration is challenging issues in the world because of lack of manpower in developed countries and lack of employment in developing countries. Now a day's world facing two types of

migration problem one is immigrant's problem for developed countries and other one is emigrant's problem for developing countries. Foreign labor migrant's family member brings prosperity with adding land, bought land, buying house, change behavior hard to work, improved economic condition, Increase the bank balance after the foreign labor migration period. To invest fees for brother and sisters, buying for address tuition fee and stationeries, improved children education, Buying clothes after per choice managing for footing by own agricultural, production.

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