



Analysis of Determinants of Youth Migration Intentions in Nepal

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Abstract

Purpose: This study examines the factors that impact Nepalese youth's tendency to migrate, explicitly focusing on economic conditions, educational achievements, the allure of foreign locations, and familial ties overseas.

Method: This study used a descriptive and causal research design. The study gathered responses from 235 Nepalese youth using a convenience-based sampling technique and an organised survey questionnaire. It employed a linear regression analysis.

Findings: The study showed that economic conditions, educational achievement, and family networks abroad primarily influence migrational intentions. These factors exhibit strong positive correlations and possess high predictive capability. Although the attraction to abroad does play a role in migration, its effect is relatively minor. These findings show the importance of executing broad strategies that tackle economic possibilities, educational prospects, and social support systems to manage youth migration effectively.

Suggestion: Policymakers can carefully implement major determining factors to control out handled migration rates. This research is helpful for policymakers trying to figure out how to deal with the issues and repercussions caused by migration.

Paper Types: Research Paper

Keywords: Cross-border mobility, Intergenerational tensions, Sustainable development

JEL Classification: F22, J61, O15



Open Access

1. Introduction

Migration has exerted a significant influence on the formation and development of societies. Relocation can occur for diverse motives, such as seeking new social connections or enhancing career prospects. Mountainous places provide lower levels of security for habitation, making them a prominent catalyst in the worldwide phenomenon of people relocating to enhance or safeguard their living conditions (Khanal et al., 2019). South Asian civilisation and economy have historically relied heavily on migration, with people and communities scattered worldwide (Rajan, 2023). The phenomenon of migration is worldwide and involves many challenges for both the countries of origin and destination (Mikac & Wahdyudin, 2021). According to Shrestha (2024), migration has made the world a more interconnected global village because people are moving within or outside of their birth, opening up opportunities for education, better jobs, and acquiring new cultures and languages, among other things. So, youth migration is a significant subject right now since it affects both nations of origin and destination.

Thousands of Nepalese youths leave the nation each year seeking work opportunities, particularly in Malaysia and the Gulf countries (Paudel & Pyakurel, 2018). Young people are obligated by social and cultural norms to help their families financially (Chen 2018, as cited in Basnet et al., 2023), which may lead them to look for work opportunities abroad. Prior studies on youth employment in Nepal have shown that social ties and educational achievement influence youth employment trajectories (Basnet et al., 2023; Dahal et al., 2023; Dhungel, 2019). Nepal's net migration rate as of 2024 is 4.144 per 1000 people, a decrease of 18.26% from 2023. Nepal's net migration rate increased by 16.47% from 2022 to 5.070 per 1000 people in 2023. Nepal's net migration rate increased by 19.72% from 2021 to 4.353 per 1000 people in 2022 (Macrotrends, 2024).

Struggling agriculture is one of the leading causes of Nepal's significant increase in outmigration over the past three decades; however, there are other contributing reasons as well (Karki et al., 2024b; Kharel et al., 2023). According to Tharu (2023), the main driving force behind migration is the ongoing pursuit of better employment prospects. This study examines migration and explains why some internal and international migration stocks comprise migrants. People's urge to relocate has been progressively influenced by moving to other nations as globalisation has increased. Since the beginning of time, more and more people are leaving their home countries for better opportunities or safer havens from injustice (Kebu et al., 2023). The Nepalese nurses' migration is also distinct in that it is unrelated to their past colonial, historical, or religious links to the USA, UK, Australia, or other nations they often travel to (Aryal & Guveli, 2024).

Young people leaving their homes and communities for better opportunities abroad is a significant cause for concern regarding international youth migration. Deko-Gyeke (2016) stated that migrants may experience both advantages and disadvantages due to migration. According to Karki et al. (2024a) and Rai et al. (2023), migrant remittances enable families to invest money into their kids' schooling. According to Kandel and Massey (2002), migration is a component of Nepal's well-established "culture of migration," regardless of whether it is done for employment or education. Expert migration has long been a concern for developing nations, as Bhardwaj and Sharma (2023) demonstrated. It contributes to the global social exclusion of youth and young adults from engaging in productive activities. Significant human potential is lost due to challenges transitioning to maturity, and this is not the sole consequence but also exacerbates gender, intergenerational, and social tensions, especially in light of the global trends toward population ageing (Bhattarai et al., 2020; Yeung & Yang, 2020).

Different people have interpreted migration's impact on development differently over time; depending on the historical context and conditions, some have seen it as positive, while others have seen it as destructive (Jeelani et al., 2023; Manning, 2012). As more and more Nepalese leave rural areas for metropolitan centres and even other countries, the forest industry is experiencing. Fewer people are involved in activities like ecotourism and the production of non-timber forest products (Poudel, 2021).

Migration is closely linked to economic, social, educational, and environmental factors that impact people's choices. Climate-related migration is defined as forced migration brought on by frequent and dangerous ecological changes, which can be impermanent or permanent. Inter- or intra-national transmission is possible, and it often occurs across porous boundaries as people seek better adaptation and mitigation strategies or can afford to relocate permanently (Nagdev, 2024). Rivero Fuentes (2024) showed an association between economic need, contextual violence, higher resilience, and higher levels of migration intention among employed individuals. An improved capacity to find one's way around or negotiate one's way into resources is the end consequence of this association, including social, psychological, and economic ones that enable contemplation of migration. Since migration and remittances perpetuate migration, traditional labour migration theories focused on wage differences need to be reevaluated. Nepal has a high long-term contract work migration rate, mainly to Malaysia and the Gulf countries. Movement and remittances fuel more movement, making local farming risky due to political-economic variables, including war, climate change, catastrophes, and global pressures (Adhikari et al., 2023).

According to Wang and Fan (2006), the family policy perspective highlights how the family plays a significant role in migration decisions, including return migration. As individuals grow older, schooling and labour mobility become increasingly prevalent. Youth born outside the capital and starting school on time are more likely to migrate for educational purposes. On the other hand, labour migration is not significantly influenced by the region of birth but is linked to delayed school enrollment (Heckert, 2015). Biswas et al. (2019) emphasised that factors such as education, the economic position of families, religion, and place of prior residence played significant roles in influencing migration. Furthermore, Poppe et al. (2014) analysed the factors that drive migration, including educational opportunities, political uncertainty or insecurity in the nation of origin, and the desire for family reunion. Therefore, individual migration is influenced by cognitive processes in which humans make choices either willingly or under duress, which impacts the whole economy and labour market.

It is essential to analyse the elements that affect young people's intention to migrate to create successful policies and methods to deal with this situation. Although this topic is necessary, more extensive studies must be conducted on the aspects that influence the intention of youth migration from Nepal. What is the relationship between people's intention to relocate and economic and individual characteristics, and to what extent do these determinants affect and connect to migration intentions? This study aims to assess the impact of factors on youth's migration intention. The study analyses and identifies the elements associated with individuals' migration intentions.

This study identifies factors influencing young migration intention, improves theoretical frameworks in migration studies, and gives knowledge to policymakers, educational institutions, and community organisations. The findings are significant for shaping targeted strategies to regulate migration flows, promote local economic development, and develop effective interventions for young migrants. The present study is structured into six sections. The first section is the introduction section. The second section includes a literature review with theoretical and empirical guidance. In the third section, the methodology is described, including research design, sampling method, and data nature sources, which are structured in the methodology section. The results section shows the validity test descriptive results and regression analysis with the relationship test. The fifth section is the discussion section, which shows the overall analysed outcome from the calculations. The conclusion shows the study's thoughts regarding the objectives and findings, and study implications were mentioned. The study listed used references in the last part.

2. Literature Review

Many factors affect a person's choice of living in their home or host country. High unemployment in the labour market, happiness, safety, and rights can lead to the "*Desh chhodne*" attitude. Based on past research on why people move, it is clear that economic factors like high unemployment and low pay in home countries and better job opportunities in target countries cause people to move. On the other hand, getting a good education makes people more aware of chances around the world, which makes educated young people want to look for better opportunities abroad. Young people also want to move to countries with better living standards, stable governments, and policies that welcome everyone.

According to neoclassical economic theory, economic considerations significantly impact migration (Constant & Massey, 2002; Jończy, 2021; O'Reilly, 2022; Porumbescu, 2018; Radu & Straubhaar, 2012). Young people are encouraged to travel to southern cities because of the low number of formal jobs available (Edwin & Glover, 2016). Economic activity in the area influences the decision to stay at home to profit financially in old age. With this idea, people migrate to maximise their financial well-being, and this motivation stems from differences in earnings and job prospects between their home and host nations.

Human capital theory also sheds light on the relationship between migration and educational attainment; this theoretical view holds that people spend money on education to increase their economic chances (Bodvarsson, 2015; Karki et al., 2023; Yezer & Thurston, 1976). Youth with education and skills are better able to take advantage of global chances and are, therefore, more likely to look overseas for better employment options and career progression (Dustmann, 2011; Faggian et al., 2018; Ghimire et al., 2023a). In this framework, migration is viewed as an extension of their educational investment to maximise the return on their degree. Human capital theory shows the economic benefits of youthful migration; people want to maximise the returns on their educational expenditures. Non-economic reasons, such as the availability of networks and support networks in the destination countries, influence migration decisions. The change from an economic to a social network-based perspective is congruent with the push-pull theory, which focuses on how social networks and contextual factors, such as community support or familial ties, impact young people's migration intentions.

One explanation for people migrating abroad is the push-pull theory, which states that individuals are driven to leave their native nations in quest of more favourable living conditions, more stable governments, and more inclusive policies (Urbański, 2022; Niu, 2022; Khalid & Urbański, 2022; Van Hear, 2020). Social connections like family and friends who already live in the destination country offer vital support, information, and resources that lower the risks and expenses associated with migration (Deléchat, 2001; Munshi, 2020). Social network theory also emphasises the significance of family networks abroad in influencing migration intent. According to Blumenstock et al. (2023) and Haug (2008), networks can provide young people with financial aid, emotional support, and guidance on adjusting to new surroundings, increasing the feasibility and appeal of migration. Every theory emphasises a distinct aspect of the migration experience, offering insightful information that can guide the creation of interventions and policies that efficiently regulate migratory flows and assist young migrants. These theoretical frameworks guide the investigation.

Economic Condition

An individual's employment status and income level within their nation determines their economic situation (Ghimire et al., 2023b). Individuals want to improve their living standards with the money they possess, but their primary needs are food, shelter, and healthcare. Income is undoubtedly a factor in determining migration aspirations (Aslany et al., 2021). According to Begović et al. (2020), individuals under 30 are more prone to contemplating leaving the nation compared to those over 30. They also found that high levels of corruption and dissatisfaction with public services significantly affect the

tendency to leave the country, indicating that corruption significantly lowers the subjective well-being of our country's population (Yan & Wen, 2020). Positivity (happiness), contentment with one's life (cognitive dimension), and lack of negativity (affective state) are the three factors that comprise subjective well-being. Thus, the domain of economic satisfaction pertains to people's subjective well-being. For more, political corruption impedes economic expansion (Diener et al., 2002; Basavarajappa, 2020). Therefore, the country's economic growth reflects the general financial health of its citizens (Gurung et al., 2024). Simpson (2022) noted that workers in developing nations frequently seek better employment opportunities and higher wages, typically found in wealthier countries. Thus, income variability may affect an individual's decision to migrate. When earnings are highly unpredictable, employees might be motivated to look for more reliable sources of income.

Youth migration is called brain drain because it involves the movement of skilled human resources. Kousar et al. (2020) discovered that long-term governance, financial stability, standard of living, and infrastructure all negatively and significantly impact brain drain. Yu (2021) found that compared to high-income nations, middle-income countries have a greater brain drain. Milasi (2020) found that among young people, those with a bachelor's degree or above, those who are unemployed or working part-time involuntarily, and those who have pessimistic views of the future of the economy, the availability of jobs, and their chances of climbing the corporate ladder are more likely to want to leave their home country. Thapaliya et al. (2023) discovered that low individual income, a lack of employment prospects, poor economic conditions of migrants, the absence of social assistance, child education, social prestige, and a desire for property accumulation were the causes of migration in the study area. According to Khatiwada (2023), Nepalis leave their homeland for better jobs and economic possibilities. Based on the notion of '*kamaune/kamauna*' (to earn), (out) migration has long been an important livelihood strategy in Nepal (KC, 2014, as cited in Limbu, 2023). Thus, it is clear that youth migration intent is influenced by their economic situation and perception of financial well-being. The following hypothesis is formulated for the study:

H1: Economic conditions have a significant relationship and effect on youth's intent to migrate.

Education Achievement

Youth life is full of hopes and opportunities, and people want a better education with access to global resources. According to Crivello (2011), young people and their parents associate migration with 'becoming somebody in life' and having high educational goals. Unterhalter (2003) pointed out that obtaining a higher academic qualification may result in new migration opportunities and aspirations due to increased perceived competitiveness for employment abroad. Education influences migration in various ways (Samela & Cochrane, 2019). According to Hagelskamp (2010), this culturally diversified group of families migrated for job possibilities rather than educational ones. Heckert (2015) found that education and labour migration becomes more common as people age. Education migration is more common among young people born outside the capital and those who started school on time. According to Hall et al. (2015) and Joshi et al. (2023), education (including further education) is the primary driver of temporary youth migration. Wang et al. (2023) provided evidence that migration is motivated by family reasons (family reunification) and personal development (better education and occupational opportunities). According to Weber and Van Mol (2023), one crucial kind of instrumental ambition for migration is the availability of better education. Not all countries can provide a high-value degree to all students due to low-quality institutions or a lack of capacity in domestic higher education systems. According to Celi and Sica (2023), migration is more strongly associated with young people and postsecondary education. So, clearly, these findings show that people may choose a host country for better educational achievements, so the study hypothesised the following statement.

H2: Education achievement and youth's migration intent have a significant relationship and effect.

Attraction Abroad

Globalisation and technological progress have increased young people's awareness of opportunities outside their home countries. Individuals are becoming more mobile; they reside in different places, travel more often, and commute over greater distances (Wikhall 2002). Rai and Dahal (2024) and Silvanto and Ryan (2014) suggest using national branding strategies to attract talent. According to Nye (2004), as cited in Yun and Kim (2008), a nation's capacity to accomplish its objectives by appeal as opposed to force is known as soft power. As a result, the attraction of a country can entice more people to migrate there. International student flow occurs not only through subject actor logic, as a student or tourist, but also to contextualise city dynamics (Moreira & Gomes, 2019). Urbanski (2022) presented that migration results from being drawn to a foreign country. The city branding that the city offers interprets the city's image. It is also strongly linked to a town's identity (Chan et al., 2021). Oliinyk et al. (2021) state that highly qualified people are more likely to possess relevant and in-demand skills and to integrate into society more readily because of their better foreign language and cultural understanding. The countries' ethnic factors attract international migrants, and migration flows respond to economic incentives, primarily in the labour market and cultural and colonial ties (Hooghe et al., 2008). The influence of an individual's ethnic group and family support—both economic and societal—is critical in determining whether to migrate or stay (Castelli, 2018). Vakili and Mobini (2023) found that elite migration was significantly influenced by several variables, including increased wealth and the pull and push factors of destination nations, the country of origin's repellent forces, global trends, and individual and family considerations. Thus, it is critical to make the following hypothesis based on the empirical findings:

H3: Attraction abroad has a significant relationship and effect with youth's migration intent.

Family Network Abroad

People are motivated by success stories, and shared experiences of improved living conditions can inspire and encourage youths to follow similar paths, which is relevant to the migration phenomenon. Shrestha et al. (2023) and Shrestha and Rana (2023) claim that educated youngsters are influenced to study overseas by a lack of better prospects, social structure, and networking with peer migrants. Migrants and nonmigrants alike are influenced by life events and cross-border family configurations when it comes to the need for support, which motivates migrants to either return to aid relatives or receive assistance from them (Haddad & Caron, 2023). The family has played an essential role in making migration decisions and answering questions such as why and how to migrate, when and where to migrate, who to ask for help, and how to invest remittances (Kopliku & Drishti, 2023). Family networking can significantly impact an individual's or a family's migration experience. Compared to student migrants, those migrating for jobs or ties are likelier to have relatives living overseas (Weber and Saarela, 2023). According to research by Heering et al. (2004), emigration intentions are somewhat and negatively affected by the existence of family networks overseas. Manchin and Orazbayey (2018) revealed international friendships and families. In current places and broad social networks (consisting of same-country individuals looking to migrate, both internationally or locally), the study found that social connections internationally are the main drivers for worldwide migration intentions, with close and wide networks explaining 37% of the variation in international migration probability. Social networks influence migration intentions more than employment or fortune (wealth comprises less than 3% of the variance). Clearly, the role of family networks emphasises the value of social ties in migration decisions, highlighting the connection between young people's aspirations to migrate and their relationships, so the following hypothesis is developed:

H4: Family networks abroad have a significant relationship and effect on youth's intent to migrate.

3. Methodology

The study employed descriptive and causal-comparative approaches to examine the factors influencing youth’s intention to migrate from Nepal. The study design enables the analysis of associations across variables such as economic situations, educational achievements, attraction overseas, and family networks abroad to find probable factors impacting migration intention. All the young Nepalese individuals aged 21 to 40 who intend to migrate from Nepal represent the study’s population. The study aimed to gather the required information from 500 intended respondents based on a purposive and convenience sampling technique. Purposive sampling was utilised to guarantee that the participants conformed to the criteria of being young individuals (21-40 years) with a migration intention closely aligning with the research aims. Due to the geographic and logistical difficulties in accessing this particular population, convenience sampling was employed to identify readily available individuals. This integrated methodology guaranteed that the research was concentrated on the pertinent population and adequate in data acquisition.

The study employed an organised survey questionnaire disseminated through various channels, including community centres, language schools, and career stations, to contact 500 potential migrants in diverse areas from March to June 2024. Accordingly, 235 survey responses were collected and documented since Hair et al. (2018) indicated that a minimum of 200 responses is suitable for hypothesis testing in social science research.

A self-administered survey questionnaire was designed based on a literature review to collect necessary information on the intended respondents’ migration intentions. Table 1 shows details of the statement variable and the number of statements.

Table 1

The Survey Instrument

Construct	S.N.	Statement
Economic Condition [EC = 7]	1.	I plan to move so that I can be nearer to my already-abroad family.
	2.	I am actively considering migrating to another country.
	3.	I have already taken steps towards preparing for migration (e.g., researching visa requirements and language courses).
	4.	I am motivated to explore opportunities to live and work abroad.
	5.	I have discussed my intention to migrate with family or friends.
	6.	I have become attracted to the superior quality of life in countries I wish to visit.
	7.	I believe that countries where individuals migrate to provide superior healthcare and social services.

Education Achievement [EA = 7]	8.	I consider destination countries to be more politically stable than my home country.
	9.	I am attracted to the cultural variety and chances for individual development overseas.
	10.	I am drawn to the comprehensive immigration policies of countries that are popular destinations.
	11.	I think it's good to live in a destination country with family or relatives.
	12.	I depend on my family network abroad for information and support regarding migration.
	13.	Having family overseas gives me more confidence to move from my home country.
	14.	I feel familiar and like I belong in the countries where my family lives.
Attraction Abroad [AA = 5]	15.	I see few job options back home.
	16.	It's hard to get financial stability in my home country right now.
	17.	I think moving to a different country will give me better job chances.
	18.	My home country is too expensive for me to afford to live in.
	19.	I feel that my low pay in my home country financially restricts me.
Family Network Abroad [FNA = 5]	20.	I have finished a higher education degree and am planning to go abroad for a better education after this.
	21.	I think my degree will improve my chances of getting a job overseas.
	22.	I am sure that my academic accomplishments set me apart in the worldwide labour market.
	23.	I am considering moving for a chance to continue my studies or advance my career.
	24.	I see few chances in my home country for academic or professional growth.
Migration Intention [MI = 6]	25.	I am actively considering migrating to another country.
	26.	I have already taken steps towards preparing for migration (e.g., researching visa requirements and language courses).
	27.	I feel motivated to explore opportunities to live and work abroad.
	28.	I have discussed my intention to migrate with family or friends.
	29.	I am confident in my decision to migrate and believe it will lead to a better future.
	30.	I am willing to overcome challenges and obstacles to fulfil my migration plans.

As shown in Table 1, thirty study variable statements were rated on a five-point Likert-type scale (1 = strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agree), with respondents indicating agreement or disagreement with statements about various factors impacting their migration intention. This quantitative technique enables the systematic collection of data that can be statistically analysed to reveal patterns, trends, and associations between variables.

Statistical methods were employed for analysis to guarantee the authenticity and trustworthiness of the data obtained in this study. The validity test assessed whether the questionnaire items effectively measured the intended constructs, ensuring the survey captured participants' migration intentions

properly. The reliability evaluations determined the degree of consistency in responses across different periods and sections of the questionnaire. The research also used descriptive analysis to summarise and explain data responses, correlation tests to explore the relationships between different variables, and regression analysis to assess the predictive capacity of various factors on migration intention. IBM SPSS V26 was used for the data analysis.

The econometric model of this study was specified as follows:

$$MI (Y) = \beta_0 + \beta_1. X_1 + \beta_2. X_2 + \beta_3. X_3 + \beta_4. X_4 + e$$

MI = Migration Intention

X1 = Economic Condition (EC)

X2 = Education Achievement (EA)

X3 = attraction Abroad (AA)

X4 = Family Network Abroad (FNA)

e = error term.

4. Presentation and Analysis

Table 2 presents the demographic results of the study respondents. The study’s main concerns are the participants’ age, gender, marital status, and education level.

Table 2

Demographic Profile

<i>Gender:</i>			<i>Age:</i>		
	Nos	%		Nos	%
Male	149	63.4	20 - 30 Years	135	57.4
Female	86	36.6	30 - 40 Years	100	42.6
<i>Education Level:</i>			<i>Marital Status:</i>		
Undergraduates	141	60.0	Married	123	52.3
Graduates	94	40.0	Unmarried	112	47.7
Total	235	100		235	100

Table 2 shows a higher proportion of males (63.4%) than females (36.6%), and the majority of participants were between the ages of 20 and 30 (57.4%), with the remainder being between the ages of 30 and 40 (42.6%). Regarding educational levels, 60.0 % of the participants were undergraduates, followed by 40.0% with graduates. Regarding marital status, more than half of the participants were married (52.3%), while 47.7% were unmarried. The results indicate the diversity of gender, age, education level, and marital status among youngsters considering migration.

The respondents’ data were analysed using various statistical techniques to determine the variables that impact young people’s intention to migrate. Descriptive statistics, which give a general picture of the answers’ primary tendency (mean, median) and variability (standard deviation), are used to condense the fundamental characteristics of the collection, as shown in Table 3.

Table 3

Descriptive Analysis

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	SD.
Economic Condition [EC]	235	2.71	4.57	3.8280	.50418
Education Achievement [EA]	235	2.29	4.57	3.7682	.55761
Attraction Abroad [AA]	235	1.20	5.00	3.5464	.88290
Family Network Abroad [FNA]	235	2.20	4.80	3.8655	.56383
Migration Intention [MI]	235	2.67	4.83	3.8551	.52737

Based on the outcome presented in Table 4, the mean of the economic condition (= 3.8280) suggests individuals’ general view toward their financial situation. The high mean of educational achievement (= 7.7682) indicates that the respondents feel generally secure in their academic credentials. A slightly lower mean (= 3.5464) for the appeal overseas variable suggests different opinions about the attraction of target countries. Strong familial support networks among participants (= 3.8655) reflect the high mean of family networks overseas. The high mean of migration intention (= 3.8551) suggests that the individuals strongly desired to relocate.

A reliability test for each latent variable was conducted using Cronbach’s alpha (α). At the same time, this study used Harman’s one-factor variance to check for common method bias (CMB) in every variable. The research results and the suggested threshold scales are presented in Table 4.

Table 4

Reliability and CMB Insights

S . N.	Latent Variables	Observed variables	Cronbach’s Alpha (α)	Harman one-factor variance
1	Economic Condition [EC]	7	0.781	35.010 %
2	Education Achievement [EA]	7	0.828	
3	Attraction Abroad [AA]	5	0.816	
4	Family Network Abroad [FNA]	5	0.783	
5	Migration Intention [MI]	6	0.755	
Suggested threshold values			≥ 0.70 (Taber, 2018)	$\leq 50.0\%$ (Cho & Lee, 2012)

The reliability statistics presented in Table 4 demonstrate that all of Cronbach’s alpha values surpass the prescribed level of 0.70, as specified by Taber (2018). Moreover, all 30 study variables exhibited a reported variation of 35.010%, lower than the recommended threshold of 50% proposed by Cho and Lee (2012). Thus, 30 quantifiable items covering five fundamental aspects were selected for further analysis.

Sphericity and Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) tests were employed to evaluate the study’s external validity. The KMO sample test of adequacy yielded a test statistic of 0.852, above the recommended threshold value of 0.8, as proposed by Hair et al. (2018). The Bartlett sphericity test demonstrated that every association in the correlation matrix had a significant impact. Based on a significance level (Sig.) of 0.000 and 423 degrees of freedom (df), the test produced an estimated Chi-square value of 4082.618.

An investigation identified twenty of the observed variables as appropriate for regression analysis. Furthermore, the study revealed significant associations among the study variables, as presented in Table 5.

Table 5

Correlations Insights

		EC	EA	AA	FNA	MI
Pearson's Correlation	EC	1				
	EA	0.807**	1			
	AA	0.045	0.015	1		
	FNA	0.762**	0.867**	0.016	1	
	MI	0.847**	0.862**	0.079	0.859**	1

***. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).*

Table 5 presents the statistically significant and favorable associations between migration intention and economic condition, education achievement, and attraction abroad, family network abroad. The significant relationship between economic conditions and migration intention implies that better economic conditions are closely connected to higher intentions to migrate. The positive and significant relationship between educational success and the intention to migrate indicates that greater levels of education significantly impact the desire to move to another location. The strong and meaningful correlation between having family networks abroad and the inclination to migrate implies that the presence of family members in a foreign place enhances the intention to migrate. However, the correlation between being attracted to foreign nations and the need to migrate is less intense and does not have statistical significance.

A regression analysis was conducted to assess the independent variables' predictive power about migration intentions to determine which factors impact migration decisions.

Table 6

Analysis of Variance

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Change Statistics				
					R Square Change	F Change	df1	df2	Sig. F Change
1	.917 ^a	.842	.839	.21166	.842	305.677	4	230	.000

Table 6 shows the regression model's strong predictive abilities in understanding young migration intentions. The high correlation value (R = .917) indicates a significant and positive association between the independent variables (economic conditions, educational success, attraction overseas, and family networks abroad) and the dependent variable (migration intention). The R Square value of .842 indicates that the predictors can account for 84.2% of the variation in migration intention. This is further confirmed by the modified R Square value of .839, which confirms the model's strength. The model's standard error of the estimate, equal to 0.21166, suggests that the model fits well. The F Change statistic (305.677) and its significance level (.000) indicate that the model is statistically significant, with the predictors accurately predicting migration intention. Such findings lead to the crucial roles that economic situations, educational achievement, appeal overseas, and family networks play in shaping the intention to leave the home country.

Table 7

Regression Results

Coefficients ^a										
Model B		Unstandardised Coefficients		Standardised Coefficients	t	Sig. Zero-order	Correlations			Collinearity Statistics
		St. Error	Beta				Partial	Part	Tolerance	VIF
1	(Constant)	.075	.120		.624	.533				
	EC	.380	.048	.363	7.965	.000	.847	.465	.209	.332 3.015
	EA	.245	.056	.259	4.373	.000	.862	.277	.115	.197 5.079
	AA	.032	.016	.053	2.028	.044	.079	.133	.053	.997 1.003
	FNA	.334	.050	.358	6.635	.000	.859	.401	.174	.237 4.220

a. Dependent Variable: Migration Intention

Table 7 shows that several important factors exert a significant influence on the intention of young individuals to migrate to Nepal. The substantial and positive association between economic conditions and migration intention indicates that improving economic situations influences the desire to migrate to potential destination countries. Improved educational credentials significantly enhance the motivation of young Nepalese individuals to seek opportunities overseas, underscoring the pivotal impact of academic achievement. Extensive family networks abroad strongly indicate migration since they have a considerable beneficial influence. This underscores the significance of having family or established connections in the host country, as they can assist in streamlining the migration process. Although the statistical validity of attraction abroad is apparent, its influence is less significant than the other variables. These findings suggest that while the appeal of foreign countries does have a specific impact, it is less important than the economic status, educational achievements, and family ties.

The multicollinearity statistics of the model fall within the recommended threshold of 4, as proposed by Hair et al. (2018), ensuring that the predictors are not highly correlated with one another and that the model’s estimates are reliable and unbiased. The results indicate that economic conditions strongly drive young individuals to pursue improved financial opportunities overseas. Furthermore, educational attainment significantly influences the choice of young individuals to migrate as a means to advance in their careers. The profound influence of transnational family networks highlights the essential function of social ties in facilitating choices about migration. Although the allure of foreign countries is considerable, its impact is comparatively weaker, underscoring the significance of economic, educational, and familial factors.

Hypotheses Testing and Decisions

The study’s independent variables were economic condition, education achievement, and attraction to and family network abroad. Table 8 displays the analysis’s findings, including the standardised regression coefficients, significance thresholds, and conclusions about the acceptability of the hypothesis.

Table 8

Hypothesis Testing

S. N.	Hypotheses	Standardised Coefficient (β)	p-value	Decision
H1	<i>Economic conditions have a significant relationship and effect on youth’s intent to migrate.</i>	0.363	0.000	Accepted
H2	<i>Education achievement and youth’s intent to migrate have a significant relationship and effect.</i>	0.259	0.001	Accepted

H3	<i>Attraction abroad has a significant relationship and effect on youth's intent to migrate.</i>	0.358	0.000	Accepted
H4	<i>Family networks abroad have a significant relationship and effect on youth's intent to migrate.</i>	0.053	0.043	Accepted

5. Discussion

The aim of this study was to analyze the major factors influencing young people's intentions to migrate to Nepal. The study specifically looks at how these intentions were shaped. Gaining knowledge of these elements helps one better understand the reasons behind and how young Nepalese people make migratory decisions. As findings from the demographic profile, a number of migrants were young individuals, primarily between 20 and 30, with an impressive educational background. The study's sample size was consistent with the empirical data indicating that younger people—especially those with higher education—are more inclined to travel for better chances (Begović et al., 2020; Yu, 2021).

As evidenced by an association between economic conditions and migration intentions, economic conditions significantly impact these intentions. This research reinforces the findings of Aslany et al. (2021), who highlight the importance of income in influencing migration ambitions. Furthermore, as Begović et al. (2020) mentioned, the urge to move is made worse by discontent with public services and high levels of corruption. This is corroborated by the regression analysis, which demonstrates that the state of the economy has a considerable impact on migration intention and confirms that youth migration is primarily motivated by better job opportunities. Another essential aspect influencing migration that comes to light is education. The positive relationship between migration intention and educational achievement shows that youngsters migrate for better educational options overseas and higher educational aspirations. This is consistent with the findings of Crivello (2011) and Unterhalter (2003), who discovered that migration is frequently associated with the pursuit of improved educational results and the advantage acquired through global education. The regression findings demonstrate the importance of education achievement in influencing youth migration by showing that it significantly predicts migration intention.

Strong association with migration intention indicates that family networks overseas also play an essential role in influencing migration intentions. The present study supports the findings of Heering et al. (2004) and Manchin and Orazbayev (2018), which emphasise the role of social networks in enabling migration. A family member's presence overseas is a pull factor to encourage migration and offer social and economic support. In line with this, the regression analysis demonstrates that having family abroad is a strong predictor of migration, highlighting the importance of family relationships in the decision to migrate. The allure of overseas locations, albeit a weaker association, continues to influence the desire to migrate, especially when it comes to the desire to live in a country with better living standards and a higher social standing.

The perception of destination countries' attractiveness, which includes more chances for education and employment, influences migration decisions, as observed by Urbanski (2022) and Weber and Van Mol (2023), which corroborate this finding. The findings show that, while considerable, appeal abroad has a relatively more minor impact when compared to other factors, indicating that, although essential, attractive places are not the main reason driving migration because of Nepal's abundance of wildlife and natural beauty, people less attracted to the host countries. The analysis demonstrates that, although the allure of overseas locations also contributes, the main factors influencing young people's intention to migrate are economic conditions, educational goals, and familial ties. To control and optimise young migration, these findings are consistent with a larger body of literature emphasising the complex interplay between social support networks, educational chances, and economic opportunities regarding

migration decisions.

The study's conclusions are consistent with essential migration theories, including the push-pull paradigm, human capital theory, and neoclassical economic theory. Neoclassical economic theory states that economic factors significantly influence migration decisions as people relocate to areas with higher wages and employment opportunities to optimise their financial well-being (Constant & Massey, 2002; Radu & Straubhaar, 2012). Economic conditions were shown to have the most considerable effect on migration intention ($\beta = 0.363$, $p < 0.01$), which supports the study's findings. In line with earlier studies, this result emphasises how economic differences between the home and host countries might be a significant factor in migration (Jończy, 2021; Porumbescu, 2018).

Human capital theory further explains the significant correlation between educational achievement and migratory aspirations. The findings support the notion that migration is frequently an extension of educational investment to enhance economic possibilities by demonstrating that academic qualifications strongly encourage young people to migrate ($\beta = 0.259$, $p < 0.01$). This result is consistent with research that highlights how education can provide young people with the tools they need to take advantage of opportunities worldwide (Bodvarsson, 2015; Faggian et al., 2018). Thus, migration may be viewed as a tactic to optimise educational returns, especially when domestic professional advancement possibilities are few.

The push-pull theory's emphasis on the importance of social networks is demonstrated by the significant impact of family networks overseas ($\beta = 0.358$, $p < 0.01$). This highlights how crucial transnational relationships are to expedite migration by offering financial, logistical, and emotional assistance. Regarding migration decisions, the smaller but significant effect of attractiveness overseas ($\beta = 0.053$, $p < 0.05$) further implies that social and contextual elements, such as family ties, are more critical than just opinions about how appealing the host nation is.

6. Conclusion

Young people's migration has been explained by an accurate assessment of economic conditions, educational achievement, attraction abroad, and family networks. According to the study's findings, economic prospects are the main factor influencing migration intention. The prospect of more excellent financial stability is the primary motivator for young people, consistent with neoclassical economic theory, which holds that economic considerations like salary differences and employment prospects between home and host countries play a significant role in determining migration decisions. This research reaffirms the necessity of policies that address the underlying reasons for migration by enhancing the economic conditions in the nation of origin.

Apart from economic circumstances, migration is significantly influenced by increasing levels of educational attainment. Human capital theory, which contends that people invest in education to optimise their economic returns, is supported by the study's findings, which show that persons with greater educational attainment are more inclined to look for chances overseas. To either lessen the pressure for migration or make sure that migrants are ready to prosper abroad and contribute to their home and host nations, it is crucial to invest in education and skill development.

Migration is also strongly influenced by family networks overseas. According to the study, young people with relatives in their new country are more inclined to move, underscoring social networks' role in influencing migration choices. This is consistent with the push-pull hypothesis of migration, which holds that family relationships serve as a motivating pull force. The function of family networks gives knowledge of the value of social ties in mitigating the difficulties associated with migration, and it implies that policies that promote family reunion or facilitate transnational networks may facilitate youth migration and integration.

Economic, educational, and social considerations seem to be more potent drivers of migration than the

attraction of foreign nations, even if the latter is statistically significant. This suggests that although a country's level of appeal is a determining factor, it is only as important as the pragmatic factors of employment options, educational chances, and family support. The results imply that migration is motivated by the real advantages that a foreign nation provides in terms of social and economic progress rather than just the perceived allure of that nation. These results highlight the need for policies and initiatives that address youth migration's social, educational, and economic aspects by offering opportunities and support systems that enable young migrants to thrive in their new settings.

7. Implications

This study's results have significant implications for policymakers, as they can leverage the insights gained from this research to develop policies specifically tailored to the economic, educational, and social requirements of youthful migrants. Through promoting academic achievement, fortifying family support networks, and enhancing economic opportunities, policymakers can establish an environment that facilitates the informed migration decisions of adolescents. Intervention strategies can be developed by practitioners dealing with adolescent populations to support and guide individuals considering migration. Improving the prospects of expatriates abroad may involve providing career counselling services, vocational training programs, and networking opportunities. Young migrants can receive invaluable assistance from their local communities as they encounter relocation obstacles. To guarantee migrants feel appreciated and accepted in their new communities, grassroots initiatives and community-based organisations can offer social support, cultural integration services, and advocacy initiatives. In conclusion, there is the necessity for additional research for more substantial results in migration decisions. Future research could explore the long-term consequences of youth migration evaluate the efficacy of policy interventions in promoting the well-being and integration of young migrants, with the foundation of other factors that influence migration intention.

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