

Impacts of Migration on Livelihood

A case study of Sindhupalchok District

Madan Gopal Shrestha

Associate Professor

Padmakanya Multiple Campus

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Abstract

The central objective of the study was impacts of migrants on livelihoods in the study district. This study was conducted in two communities of the Sindhupalchok districts - Talamarang¹ and Melamchi² of the Melamchi Nagarpalika³. The study was based on primary and secondary data using both qualitative and quantitative information, SPSS pc+ was used to analyze the data. Findings reveal that spatial economic inequality in the studied district and its peripheral highlands is challenging; resource access and employment opportunities are the founding factors of migration, showing the linkages between migration and poverty.

In the study area similar to other studies migration is cost-sensitive, poorer are short-distance migrants and richer are long distant migrants as the cost for migration for longer distance involves low costs. Migrants seek change in livelihood patterns, showing that youths are high migratory than others and the trend of female migration is increasing. However, only some are economically benefitted while others are placed in vulnerable conditions, manifesting the problem of selectivity and reverse causality. Remittances are the secondary source of income in the study area. Higher than remittances richer in personal assets and reduces the vulnerability of being poverty. Economic inequalities are seen in the community that has no relation to the remittances. Remittances directly proportional to the economic strengths, it was found that the strength has decreased the risk, seasonality, and vulnerability that has been faced by migrant workers. Both have combined effects on improving livelihood. The situation resembles the sketch diagram as explained by Frank Ellis (2003).

Keywords: Migration, Poverty, and Livelihoods

Introduction

The word poverty is derived from the word French word '*Pauvre*' meaning 'poor' and is a state of lacking materials possessions, housing, or no means to support oneself (Oxford dictionary). Skeldon argues that migration may be the root cause of poverty as well as poverty is the result of migration. Similarly, here in our study, I have considered poverty may be the root cause of migration or the result of it. Nepal has an exceedingly high unemployment and underemployment rate and that this is more prevalent in rural mountains and hills and among females. Low amount of land holding, unproductive land, low yield, and unequal distribution of income, low level of

¹ Talamarang = Melamchi Nagarpalika ward number 6

² Melamchi = Melamchi ward number 11

³ Melamchi and Talamarang Communities are respectively ward number 11 and 6 of the Melamchi Nagarpalika at present. By October, 2014, all these Village Development Committees were converted to Nagarpalika politically, these communities were politically called Nagarpalika

literacy especially among women, low human development, and very poor access to basic services are considered as a root cause of migration in the study area.

This study tries to explore the real cause of migration concerning deprivation. The worst form of migration is called unsafe migration - trafficking of girls' which was historical in the study area. Migration is the coping strategy of migrants such as rural to rural, rural to urban migration in the study area. Likewise, urban to international also common in the study area. Migration in common is the cause and consequence of poverty in the study area. (Ajaero & Onokala, 2013).

The fundamental issues of livelihoods the capabilities, assets and a means of living are directly related to the availability of resources, services, facilities and institutions (Paudyal, 2017). This definition end for and means to sustainable livelihood interlinks three fundamental facts- capability, equity, and sustainability.

It can also include culture and religion and the result that these can have on people's lives. Livelihood resources are often seen, as the foundation of people's lives. The structures of livelihood are to direct consideration to the link between assets and the choice people have in practice to hunt other activities that can generate the income level essential for survival.

The primary resource, the land it means - wealth, social status and political power. It is the prime element of livelihood and poverty. Those who are landless or have little land are generally poor and vulnerable to make their livelihood. Livelihood is alive, capabilities, assets, and activities these are vital for making an existing (Krantz, 2001).

The term livelihood attempts to capture not just what people do to make a living, but the resources that provide them with the capability to build a satisfactory living, management of resources, institutional policy context, and their support fill a gap for improving decent living. (Scoones, 1998; Ellis, 2003:3)

These asset categories are certainly a little forced and not all resources that people draw upon in constructing livelihoods fit neatly within them. However, they serve a valuable purpose in unique asset types that tend to have different connections to the policy environment (Ellis & Allison, 2004)

The search for a living is livelihood activity, migration is one activity and the risks surrounding the living activity are vulnerability situation and the structures associated with government authority, laws and rights, democracy and participation are summarized as the 'policy and institutional context'. The livelihood struggle, in struggle context, affect life welfare, ups, and downs of vulnerabilities of - food sufficiency problems, environment effects, resources so on the livelihoods approach sets out to be people-centered and holistic, and to provide an integrated view of how people make a living within evolving social, institutional, political, economic and environmental contexts (Ellis, 2014).

Migration is all kind of mobility can be specified as the process of changing the usual place of residence, which has been started with the beginning of the history of humankind. Humankind history reveals migration takes place basically in search of food and shelter latter on widened the people expectation to migrate or the purpose of migration differentiated latter on and focus was mainly on economic opportunities and prospects.

Nowadays, migration has become a vital phenomenon within the country and outside the country for a better life. It is a vital event and a prominent field of research in the academic discourse, various studies regarding the topics have been carried out. Mobility is for the existence of

humankind, the purpose of mobility extended at the present, people move from one place to the next or for better livelihoods with several means. Here researcher tries to drag the gap of investigation on to depict migration and deprivation through socio-demographic analysis linking to poor and livelihood analysis. In other words, it is considered as the most important phenomenon of human life, for the further development of their socio-economic capability.

Deprivation is also a practicing the process of social exclusion. According to tradition, there are so many practices in Nepal can say taboos, which belongs to caste, social structures, and culture. Due to the practices from time immemorial, the deprivation is ultimately forced people to leave their place of origin. Migration is a very prominent field of research in the academic discourse and is considered as the most important in human life. Migration is vital for further development of humans and their socio-economic capability and economic growth. One of the aspects of recent demographic changes in the developing countries is the rapid growth of urbanization due to unprecedented rural to urban migration (Ghimire, 2006).

Livelihood associated contexts such as extreme poverty, illiteracy, the low literacy rate among women, domination among women and girls, conventional social norms, polygamy and domestic violence, high pressure of household chore, lack of various components are the contributory factors of girls trafficking and female migration. The controlling factors for it are: awareness, strict administrative policies, employment opportunities, equal property right to women, employment independence, enforcement of existing laws and political commitment against girls trafficking. (ADB, 2008).

Objective:

The objective of this study was to impacts of migrants on livelihoods in the study district.

Research methods and materials

In these contexts, a household survey in the Sindhupalchok districts - Talamarang⁴ and Melamchi⁵ of the Melamchi Nagarpalika⁶ these communities was conducted to identify livelihood patterns of the migrants concerning socio-demographic conditions of the migrants' household. The Research Questions of the study are: What is the demographic condition of the migrant's community? What is the socio-economic condition of the migrants and migrants' families? What is the knowledge and situation of safe migration according to the destination? How livelihoods are related to economy and vulnerability? How the remittance economy is protecting livelihood in the village?

Migration was treated as a dependent variable. Income, caste/ethnicity, occupation, education, gender housing, and basic amenities were chosen as independent variables. Most of the variables in this study were categorical so that the concept of dummy variable was appropriate for data analysis.

Study Area and Study design

Sindhupalchok district, located in the northeastern part of the Kathmandu valley covers 2542 area in a square kilometer. The land surface ranges from 850 meters above sea level to 7080 meters. Its

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border ranges from the Himalayas (bordering with Tibet) to the Kathmandu Valley, Rasuwa, Nuwakot, and Kavrepalanchowk districts.

Sindhupalchok district has 79 Village Development Committees (communities). According to the 2001 census, in Sindhupalchok district, the total population was 305,857 with 120-population density. The latest census (2011) calculated the total population at 287,798. This latest data proves the population of the district is prone to migrate outside for alternative sources of income to survive. Unsafe conditional migration is resulting in trafficking (i.e. parents selling their children because of extreme poverty) of especially uneducated and poor young girls and also boys who are brought to work in carpet factories and/ or stone quarries and eventually end up in prostitution or on the streets of big cities in Nepal and India. Besides, Sindhupalchok is also the most vulnerable district for child trafficking.

This study was conducted in Melamchi ward number 11 and 6 (Talamarang). These communities are not away from the above-mentioned poor conditions while making a living of local people. The majority of the population from the communities either migrated in the country or outside the country. Both communities are located in the Southwestern part of Sindhupalchok district. Their bordering communities are Dubachour, Jyamire in North, Shikharpur in the west, Bansbari, Sindhukot, Thakani in South and Mahangkal in North.

This study was based on analytical research design together with comparative analysis. The historical evolution of the poverty and migration process was analyzed in this study. This study was also based on social fact collection, analysis and mathematical analysis in both qualitative and quantitative aspects. A structured questionnaire was used as a quantitative research tool. It was divided into two parts. The first part was used to collect information on the entire population of two communities, and the second part was used to collect information on selected households based on two-stage cluster sampling. The findings obtained from the field were treated with available literature.

The descriptive methods of data analysis are used for the best explanation of this study. SPSS PC plus has been used to analyze the data. Cross tables, frequency tables are presented in the data analysis section.

Results and Discussions

Household Population: Distribution of the households and population by sex according to the communities. The total population of the study area was 7982 in 1531 households in two communities (Annex II Table 2). In Talamarang total number of households is 679 with a population of 3210. Similarly, Melamchi ward number 11 has a population of 4,772 in 852 households. The average family size is 5.2. The information shows that 63.7 percent are married, while, a considerable proportion of the population is unmarried (31.6%). Similarly, widow/widowers are also in a significant position (4.3%) and separate/divorced is less than half percentage (0.4 %) but the proportion of females in this category is more than double of the males (Annex III, Table 3). Study communities have mixed populations of caste groups, Brahmin and Chhetri and, Tamang, Danuwar, Majhi, Gurung, Magar, and Newar from Janajatis and Dalit's. The largest group is of Tamang, (32%) followed by Brahmin (26%), Chhetri (23%), Dalit's (7 %), Newar (6. %) and Danuwar (3%). The smallest groups are of Bhujel (1 %), Gurung (1 %), and Magar (0.3%), Majhi (0.1%) (Annex IV, Table 4).

Educational Status: Education is the key factor to change society. There are altogether 14 primary, 1 lower secondary, 3 secondary and 2 higher secondary schools for educational development in these two communities. Schools established under the government education program started only after the 1950s. Before those children (usually boys only) were taught informally in the houses of eminent locals in this study area using the same networking centers for their children's education. Although, they prefer to send their children to Kathmandu for good education and it depends on their affordability. Nowadays, most of the children from these communities go to the local school. The literacy rate of these areas is considerably lower (39.12%) than the national average rate of 53.7 % (CBS, 2001). Melamchi ward number 6 COMMUNITY has a 33 percent literacy rate while, Melamchi ward number 11 has a 42 percent rate of literacy (Annex V, Table 5). **Main Activities:** Occupation determines the level of income and economic activities in the family and society. Economic growth, progress, and prosperity are the functions of economic activities. The study area of these two communities' populations mainly depends on four sectors of economic activities including agriculture, service, labor, and foreign employment. The following table (Annex VI, Table 6) shows the economic activities in this study. According to the survey information, majority of the population depend on agriculture (48.2% in Melamchi 6-Talamarang and 32.2% in Melamchi 11), similarly service (5.2% in Melamchi 6 -Talamarang) and 4.4% in Melamchi), farm labor (2.6% in Melamchi 6 -Talamarang) and 3.4% in Melamchi), non-farm labour (5.2% in Melamchi 6 -Talamarang) and 1.5% in Melamchi), business (3.9% in Melamchi 6 -Talamarang) and 3.7% in Melamchi 11) foreign employee (0.8 % in Melamchi 6 -Talamarang) and 1.7% in Melamchi) and the least population are engaged in traditional occupations (1.3% in Melamchi 6 -Talamarang) and 1% in Melamchi 11).

Household Ownership and Assets: Control over the households' assets determines the command and freedom exercise various activities and the following table (Annex VI, Table 6) shows the status of ownership of houses in two communities. Dominant numbers of household's ownership are male (93.67% in Melamchi ward number 6 and 88.38 percent in Melamchi ward number 11), female ownership is very low, 4.57 percent in Melamchi ward number 6 and 6.57 percent in Melamchi ward number 11. Similarly, very minimal households stayed in rented houses or stayed free of cost. In total, more than 90 percent of households are dominated by male ownership in this study area.

Social Relationship: Social relationships among the community people here are seen as exploiter and exploited before 1950. After the establishment of democracy in 1950, this relationship transferred into the conflict of personal political interest. From 1972, people of these areas felt some relief from the exploitative relationship. In the aftermath of the restoration of democracy, a new and very strong conflict emerged along with two political parties, Congress and Communist. Community people were converted into political people and divided into two political streams. As the conflict between two political parties reached the climax, the conflict among community people also reached a peak. Cooperation in the community was collapsed. After B.S. 2052 (1996), the extension of the conflict started to reduce and relationships among the community people become somehow smooth (DDC, Sindhupalchok, 2003).

However, the relationship of community people of study areas with people outside communities remains constant for a long time. There is smooth mobility of people, and have close relationships with outsiders mainly for marketing/ business, marriage, and education. For business and exchange of goods, study areas people have a close relationship with people of Mahankal, a neighboring community. Through the route of Sipaghat, there is a relation to Dhulikhel, Banepa, and up to Kathmandu. They bring their products to sell in these market centers and they buy goods as required for their livelihood. Study areas people have a good relationship, in addition to local people, with people of Mahankal, Bansbari, Deupur (Kavre), Nagarkot and Nangebhare (Kathmandu) for marriage relation.

Migration in the study area: One of the serious population problems emerging during the last few decades is the migration of people from rural to urban areas. Most metropolitan and large cities in developing countries have experienced a heavy migration of people from rural areas that warrant national strategic planning to manage or to reverse the trends. The sending areas are facing various problems like the exodus of the energetic and educated workforce. Migration is universal and inevitable. The urban fabric is fragile due to the shift of rural poor to urban centers. Rural to urban migration is emerging as a more serious problem. Almost all rural settlements in Nepal have experienced a heavy out-migration. The influxes of migrants have created serious problems of overall integration, which affected both the place of origin and destination. The surge of internal and international migration makes it increasingly imperative to look beyond humanitarian measures towards addressing the root causes of migration namely, economic instability as well as human rights violations.

It has been found that out of the total population 856 (age of 10 years or above) and 239 (28 %) (16 % from Melamchi ward number 11 and 12 % from Melamchi ward number 6) have been migrating to different destinations in the surveyed population from both wards of Melamchi. (Annex I. Table 1). In the migration theory, there are two types of migration being practiced, safe and unsafe. The economic migration is safe migration and girls' and child trafficking is unsafe migration. People in both wards of the Melamchi Nagarpalika are suffering from both types of migration. Although the target area represents a low number in the national population, the problem is very sensitive and society is suffering from the trafficking problem.

Findings and conclusion

There is spatial economic inequality in Sindhupalchok district and its peripheral highlands; migration tends generally to be from the poorer to the richer areas. The villages also miss the potential gains from migration, the theoretical belief was Migration reduce income inequality. Its influence is more complicated. As migrants are not always from the poorest families or the poorest areas, they have no significant impact on the reduction of economic inequalities in studied communities and their peripheral hinterlands. Successful migration requires contacts, knowledge and some capital or at least the ability to borrow. In many villages of highlands, the poorest families lack these resources; indeed, only a few elite families have command over them. The distance of migration and costs to migrate is correlated, therefore, poorer families likely to migrate to the nearest places because the cost of shorter distance is lower. Therefore, the migrants from the poor families tend to yield less income and remittances to reduce economic inequalities and poverty in Melamchi ward number 11, Melamchi ward number 6 and its peripheral areas.

Labor migration is one of the most important sources of export from the Sindhupalchok District. These changes can result from new skills learned during the migration or maybe an influence on

the productive use of savings to develop new economic activities by the returned migrants. It is clear that the vast majority of migrants in Melamchi ward number 11 and 6, these communities are economically benefited from their moves. More or less, they used their saving for their economic welfare. Various studies on internal migration show that migrants have higher levels of labor force participation and higher levels of economic status than non-migrants. The migrants usually have a job arranged before they move or, if not, spend little time looking for a job, and earn much more than they would be able to earn undertaking equivalent work at the place of origin.

The volume of female migration is a matter of research in the Sindhupalchok District at present. The females and their families might have benefited economically from migration, although many women are placed in vulnerable positions because of their migration. Women are generally empowered by migration if they have white-collar jobs, however, some are restricted in their movements and thus unable to migrate. It has seemed that in the study district the traffickers' shows happy dreams to acquitted rural women and sell them to brothels of the cities which also a cause of expanding HIV/AIDS in this study area.

Limited resources and employment opportunities in the study area ultimately have forced and pushed the poor people into migration within and outside the country for employment in different destinations. The above facts indicate that there is a strong relationship between poverty and migration and has brought changes in livelihoods due to migration in this study area.

However, the findings of the research may be under representative as it covers only small portion of the country. The implication of this study might be; a guide and support to further researchers concerning this study topic in the relevant areas and to study in other districts. As well as the findings of the study may equally important for districts with similar socioeconomic characteristics.

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Annexes**Annex I** Table 1 Migration statuses of the communities

Municipality	Sex	In-house		Migrated		Total	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Melamchi ward number 11	Male	149	17	72	8	221	26
	Female	179	21	63	7	242	28
	Sub-Total	328	38	135	16	463	54
Melamchi ward number 6	Male	134	16	68	8	202	24
	Female	155	18	36	4	191	22
	Sub-Total	289	34	104	12	393	46
	Total	617	72	239	28	856	100

Source: Field Survey, Jun 2017,

Annex II Table 2 Distribution of household's population by sex

Municipality	Ward no.	Total HHs	Male		Female		Total	
			N	%	N	%	N	%
Melamchi ward number 11	6	679	1661	51.74	1549	48.26	3210	100
Melamchi ward number 6	11	852	2431	50.9%	2341	49.06	4772	100
Total		1531	4092	51.27	3890	48.73	7982	100

Source: Field Survey, Jun 2017

Annex III. Table 3 Marital status of the population (aged 10+ years)

Marital status	Melamchi ward number 6		Melamchi ward number 11		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Single	694	28.9	1161	33.4	1855	31.6
Married	1570	65.4	2172	62.6	3742	63.7
Separate/Divorced	14	0.6	8	0.2	22	0.4
Widow	122	5.1	131	3.8	253	4.3
Total	2400	100	3472	100	5872	100.0

Source: Field Survey, Jun 2017

Annex IV. Table 4 Distributions of the households by caste/ethnicity

Caste/ethnic	Melamchi ward number 6		Melamchi ward number 11		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Brahmin	97	14	304	36	401	26
Chhetri	270	40	78	9	348	23

Tamang	240	35	247	29	487	32
Majhi			1	0.1	1	0.1
Danuwar			42	5	42	3
Newar	11	2	76	9	87	6
Dalit	48	7	52	6	100	7
Gharti/Bhujel			11	1	11	1
Gurung			13	2	13	1
Magar	4	1	1	0.1	5	0.3
Others	9	1	27	3	36	2
Total	679	100	852	100	1531	100

Source: Field Survey, Jun 2017

Annex V. Table 5 Literacy by age (age 6 years and above)

COMMUNITIES	Literate		Illiterate		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Melamchi ward number 6	811	33.03	1640	66.91	2451	100
Melamchi ward number 11	1870	42.48	2532	57.52	4402	100
Total	4172	39.12	2681	60.88	6853	100

Source: Field Survey, Jun 2017

Annex VI Table 6 Distribution of occupational statuses (age 10+years)

Occupation	Melamchi ward number 6 (%)	Melamchi ward number 11 (%)
Agriculture	48.2	32.2
Student	26.8	30.8
Business	3.9	3.7
Housewife	2.2	12.8
Service	5.2	4.4
Others	2.0	4.9
Disable	1.8	3.7
Farm Labour	2.6	3.4
Non-farm Labour	5.2	1.5
Foreign employment	0.8	1.7
Traditional	1.3	1.0
Total %	100.	100.
Total Number	2837	4205

Source: Field Survey, Jun 2017

Annex VII Table 7 Distribution of the ownership of house

COMMUNITY	Own-Male		Own-Female		Rented		Free of cost		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Melamchi ward number 6	636	93.67	31	4.57	5	0.74	7	1.03	679	100

Melamchi ward number 11	753	88.38	56	6.57	39	4.58	4	0.47	852	100
Total	1389	90.73	87	5.68	44	2.87	11	0.72	1531	100

Source: Field Survey, Jun 2017