Socio-Economic Characteristics of In-Migrants: A Study of Pokhara Metropolitan City -17

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Abstract

People wants to migrate, where there are facilities of education, jobs, health, good facilities of food and so on. So, in Nepal people migrate from rural village areas to urban cities. Pokhara is a city of Gandaki Province situated in the western region of Nepal and it is situated on the broad valley of Seti river. The trend of in-migration in ward -17 (Birauta) of Pokhara Metropolitan City is very high. The rate of influx increases in this area is just after the construction of Phewa dam. The study utilizes a combination of qualitative and quantitative data collection methods. The study is based on the field survey of 2019 A.D. and population migration data of Nepal of 2011 published in the Population Monograph of Nepal, NPC secretariat, CBS, 2011 A.D. The available data are calculated (in percent) and are analyzed systematically. Pokhara is a second largest city of hilly region. It has good network system of roads and communication. In-migrant from its surrounding hill villages and districts have migrated to ward-17 of Pokhara. People from their origin are leaving their native place due to the availability of different modern urban facilities. Besides this, in-migrants who are employed in Foreign Service also prefer this place to settle instead of their village, because of education, health, transportation, recreation facilities, etc.

Keywords: *Migration, ecological regions, internal migration, population, rural and urban, demography.*

Introduction

Migration involves the movement of individuals from one location to another, often resulting in a change of residence. This process can occur between villages,

towns, districts, within a country, or across international borders (Poudel, 2008). Typically, migration is considered a long-term or permanent relocation of individuals or groups from one area or political boundary to another, either temporarily or permanently, with the intent to settle in a new location. Unlike fertility and mortality, which are biological factors affecting population dynamics, migration is driven by socio-economic influences. It significantly impacts population size and structure, potentially causing notable increases or decreases based on the type of migration involved (Rijal et al., 2020).

According to the *concise oxford Dictionary*, "Migration means the movement of large numbers of people from one place to another." *The United Nation's Multilingual Dictionary* defines, "Migration as a form of spatial mobility between one geographical unit to other, generally involving a change in residence from the place of origin or place of departure to the place of destination or place of arrival." "Such migration is called permanent migration and it should be distinguished from the movement which does not involve a permanent change of residence (UN 2000)".

Migration is a form of spatial or geographical mobility in which an individual move from one unique geographical location to another for their customary place of residence. Someone is regarded as an out-migrant when they travel outside of their own nation or between different regions of the nation. Moving out of a specific territory as part of a national or international migration is referred to as emigration, or relocation (Bhende and Karnitkar, 1998). Based on the underlying causes, international migration is typically divided into two categories: voluntary and involuntary (Peterson, 1978). The study of migration began with the publication of "The Laws of Migration," a significant article by Ravenstein in the late 1800s. Since then, economists have researched migration in great detail, primarily concentrating on its causes and effects, in collaboration with other social scientists like geographers, demographers, and sociologists. The focus is on the causes of migration rather than its outcomes because the model employed in this study addresses the former. The notion of utility maximization serves as a foundation for several theories explaining the reasons behind either net or gross migration within a nation (Greenwood, 1968). The migration of individuals from rural to urban areas, motivated by a variety of circumstances, is highlighted in this article (David, 1970).

Nepal is not an exception to the global phenomena of migration. Nepal's movement patterns are so evident in this little Himalayan nation that Toni Hagen (1960) called it a "Migratory Nation." There have long been recognized tendencies of both in- and out-migration from Nepal, especially in the Terai region. Though the Terai has historically been portrayed in Nepalese literature as a migratory destination, there is currently a discernible trend of labor outmigration from this area, which has

had a substantial impact on socio-cultural changes. The view of migration, which was formerly considered a "last resort" for survival-an option chosen by disadvantaged households looking for better prospects elsewhere-has changed (Hutt 1998; Golay 2006). Many variables, including poverty, destitution, unequal resource distribution, and regional variations in labor demand, are to blame for this shift in Nepal's migration patterns (KC. & B.K., 2003). But over time, the patterns, causes, effects, drivers, and trends are shifting. Migration into and out of Nepal and the Terai is not a recent development. Most people believe that poverty, destitution, unfair resource distribution and allocation, spatial variations in labor demand, and other factors are the causes of Nepalese migration (K.C., 2003). Migration is defined by Chhetry (1987) as the movement of people into new places, usually far from their original place of residence. According to Shrestha (1989), migration is the movement of people geographically between places, usually entailing a shift in residency over a predetermined length of time. Since migration is essential to the comprehension of constantly changing environments, it cannot be regarded as merely the act of people moving from one place of residence to another (Subedi, 1991).

In Nepal, migration has a far longer history. Migration as a process began in antiquity. The Mongolians from the east and north, as well as the Kakesiali people from the west and south, contributed to the growth of the population of Nepal. The process of both internal and foreign migration is intricately linked to Nepal's political and socioeconomic issues (KC, 1998). As per the 2011 census, there are 2.6 million people living in Nepal. Three ecological zones—mountain, hill, and terai—make up the nation. Nepal has seen migration from both within and outside the country. Nepal has an internal migration trend that is generally as follows.

- From Mountain to Terai
- From Hill to Terai
- From Rural to Urban

People wants to migrate, where there are facilities of education, jobs, health, good facilities of food and so on. So, in Nepal people migrate from rural village areas to urban city. Pokhara is a city of Gandaki province situated in the western region of Nepal and it is situated on the broad valley of Seti river. The trend of migration in ward -17 (Birauta) of Pokhara Metropolitan City is very high. The rate of migration increases in this area is just after the construction of Phewa dam.
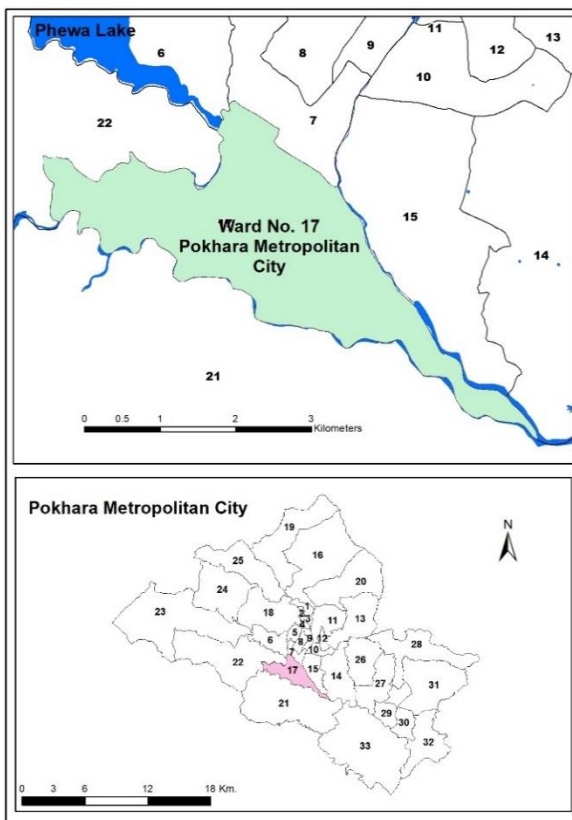
Study Area

Pokhara Metropolitan City, Ward:17, Birauta has been taken as the study area. The Pokhara valley is located between 27º 55' to 28º30' N and 83º 48' to 84º 11' E.

The study areas lies between 28⁰ 12'29" N to 28⁰ 16' 22" N and the between 83⁰ 46' 52" E to 84⁰ 15' 12" E. (Figure 1)

Figure 1

Location Map of The Study Area

The study has covered the area of Damside in the east to Chhorepatan to the west and Mustang chowk in the North and South in Phurse Khola of Pokhara Metropolitan City. It is the heart of tourism and business periphery of Pokhara where domestic trade takes place.

Methods and Materials

The study is based on both qualitative and quantitative methods of data collection. The study is based on the field survey of 2019 A.D. and population migration data of Nepal of 2011 published in the Population Monograph of Nepal, NPC secretariat, CBS, 2011 A.D. The available data are calculated (in percent) and are analyzed systematically.

Demographic Characteristics of Sample population

The sub-section deals with the demographic characteristics of sample populations. They are age-sex composition, their family size, marital status by their sex and fertility pattern which are described below in details.

Age and Sex Composition

Age and sex are the important demographic characteristics. It shows the number of persons of different age group of both the sexes. So, in this study, the total sample populations are 968. Out of which 470 (48.55%) are male and 498 (51.45%) are female. The ratio of male\female in national context is 48.44 % male and 51.56 % female which is nearly matched with this area (Table 2). The number of people below 20 years is 226 (23.34%) and the number of people over 60 years is 88 (9.09%). It

shows that the number of dependent people is 314 (32.43%) and economically active number is 654 (67.56%). It shows that dependent population of ward 17 of Pokhara Metropolitan City is lower in number than the economically active population.

The field study shows that the highest number of people has in-migrated at the age of 21 to 45 which is considered natural because this age is the most independent age period. Thus, from the analysis, it is clear that adult population is more in-migration than the older one.

Family size

Family size is one of the important demographic aspects for analyzing characteristics of migrants. Migrants household are categorized into three types as small family(less than 4 persons) medium family (from 4 to 6 persons) and large family (more than 6 persons) size. Medium family is determined in this area which is about of 4 percent of total population as shown in the table 1.

Table 1

Family size among in-migrants of Ward-17

Persons	HH of in-migrants	Percent
Less than 4	51	22.17
From 4-6	170	73.92
More than 6	9	3.91
Total	230	100.00

Source: *Field Survey, 2019.*

Martials Status by Sex

Marriage is the legal union of persons of opposite sex. The legality of union may be established by civil religious of other means as recognized by the law of each country. Table 2 shows that out of 968 (above 10 yrs. of age) sample population 38.26 % are unmarried, 54.46% are married, 4.93 % are widow, 0.94 % are separated and 1.40 % is found divorced. Table 2 also shows that male single are more than female single and the percentage of female married are greater than male married one. The percentage of widow, separated and divorced among females are higher than that of males.

Table 2

Distribution of Sample Population by Marital Status (Above 10 years age)

| Marital | Male | | Female | | Total | |
Status	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Unmarried	203	43.19	160	32.12	363	38.26
Married	236	50.21	296	59.59	532	54.46
Widowed	20	4.25	28	5.7	48	4.93
Separated	4	0.85	6	1.03	10	0.94
Divorced	7	1.55	8	1.55	15	1.40
Total	470	100.00	498	100.00	968	100.00

Source: *Field Survey, 2019.*

Fertility Pattern

Actual performance of women to give live birth in her reproduction life period is called fertility. The fertility level of population of ward-17 is shown in the table 3.

Table 3

The Fertility level of sample population of ward-17

Age Group	Female Population	Population under 1 year	ASFR per 100
15-19	32	1	31.25
20-24	38	3	78.94
25-29	22	5	222.27
30-34	19	3	157.89
35-39	14	2	86.89
40-44	11	0	0
45-49	8	0	0
Total	144	14	638.2

Source: *Field Survey, 2019.*

The level of fertility of this area is higher in the age-group 25-29. Likewise, the rate of fertility is less in the age group between 15-19. It shows that the age at marriage is between 25-29, so the fertility is high in this age group.

Socio-economic Characteristics of Sample Population

Socio-economic characteristics are major components of quality of life. This sub-section deals with the socio-economic characteristics of population such as caste & ethnic composition, religious composition, educational status and occupation status of the population.

Caste/Ethnic Composition

Social characteristics of in-migrant and non-migrant in ward-17 are analyzed according to caste and ethnic composition of head of the household. Migration has greatly affected by ethnic composition of people. Table 4 shows that in-migrated population of ward-17 is mainly composed of 8 ethnic groups. Brahmin and Chhetri are the major caste groups of migrants.

Table 4

Distribution of sample population by caste/ethnicity

Caste/Ethnicity	No. of H.H.	Percent
Brahmin	85	85
Chhetri	64	64
Gurung	35	35
Magar	21	21
Thakuri	7	7
Thakali	5	5
Giri	4	4
Lower Caste	9	9
Total	230	100.00

Source: *Field Survey, 2019.*

Religious Composition of In-migrants

Religious composition is one of the important social characteristics of population. Table 5 shows that the people who migrated to Pokhara-17 found following Hindu religion. The second highest religion of this area are Buddhist. The third position takes place by Christian.

Table 5

Religious Composition of in-migrants Household of Sample Population

Religious Group	No. of H.H	Percent
Hindu	177	77.00
Buddhist	35	15.00
Christian	14	6.00
Others	4	1.00
Total	230	100.00

Source: *Field Survey, 2019.*

a. Literacy status of In-migrants of ward-17

Education compositions of migrants are analyzed on the basis of literacy status of ward-17 with comparing to literacy status of Nepal. From the field survey it is found that out of male in-migrants, 24.68 % are found illiterate and 75.32 % are found literate whereas out of female migrants' 22.08 percent is found illiterate and 77.92 percent found literate. In general Literacy situation of this area is satisfactory.

b. Occupation Status of In-migrants

Occupation status is one of the most important economical characteristics of the people. Occupation of the people influences their lives, customs and living standard. The study shows that major occupation of both of origin and destination of migrants is farming which includes both plant farming and livestock farming. At origin, 49% of households were engaged in farming, and 28% of households are engaged in farming at the destination. This shows that farming occupation is decreased in destination as comparison to the origin. A significant change in occupation on trade and service is found in ward-17 in comparing at place of origin and place of destination.

Trend of In-migration

Nepal has designated 58 urban centers with a total population of 3226879 out of this total, 95.6 % are native born and 4.4% are foreign born, out of the total native born 73.2% are internal migrants from other districts in rural areas and 24.2% migrates from other districts in urban area. Pokhara has 326.4% of all rural in migrants and 24.6 % of all urban in-migrants (CBS, 2011). Table 6 shows that the trends of in-migration to urban area, is in increasing order. Before 60 years ago, due to natural hazards, malaria and unproductive agriculture land, People did not like to stay ward-17. After eradication of malaria and constructive of Phewa Dam, People from surrounding area started moving towards this area.

Table 6

Growth in Urban Population in Nepal by Census years

Census Year	Percent of Urban Population
1952/54	2.9
1961	3.6
1971	4.0
1981	6.4
1991	9.2
2001	13.9
2011	31.16

Source: *CBS, 2011.*

Migration in ward-17 has been increased rapidly after 2055 B.S. The trend of in-migration to ward-17 has given in table 7. The cause of increasing in-migrants after the period of 2055 is political conflict and instable political system of Nepal because of conflict between Nepal Government and the then Maoist. People were migrated to ward-17 for security due to Political conflict. The hypothesis is that the trend of in-migration in ward-17 has been rapidly increases since 2055 B.S. The rate of in-migrants decrease in year between 2062/064, during this time decade long political conflicts come to an end.

Table 7
Trend of in-migration in ward-17 by Year

Arrival Year (BS)	No. of HH	Per cent
2055-2057	11	4.78
2058-2060	23	10.00
2061-2063	30	13.04
2062-2064	18	7.82
2065-2067	28	12.17
2068-2070	25	10.86
2071-2073	46	20.00
2074-2076	49	21.33
Total	230	100.00

Source: *Field Survey, 2019.*

Pattern of In-migration

According to census 2068 of Nepal, Pokhara has 36.4 % rural in-migrants and 24.6% urban in-migrants. The pattern of migration towards ward-17 consists of migrants from three ecological zones. Among them 1%, 97%, 2% of migrants have migrated from the Mountain, Hill and the Terai respectively. The general pattern of migration in ward-17 is given in table 8. This table shows out of 230 households, in-migrated household are ranked by assigning 1 to the first lowest value, 2 to the second lowest value and so on. The largest volume of in-migrants come from Syangja (45%), has ranked in first. The second largest volume of migrants come from Parbat (23%), has ranked in Second. The lowest volume of in-migrants has ranked in first and second respectively. Table 8 shows the in-migrants are found from surrounding districts are compared with far districts. This shows the number of in-migrants to place decreases as the distance increases.

Table 8

In-migration to ward-17 from different districts.

Districts	No. of HH	Rank	Percentage
Palpa	1	6	3.04
Syangja	105	1	45.65
Parbat	54	2	23.47
Baglung	30	3	13.04
Lamjung	10	4	4.34
Tanahun	9	5	3.91
Chitwan	4	9	1.73
Gulmi	6	7	2.6
Mustang	5	8	2.22
Total	230		100.00

Source: *Field Survey, 2019*

Causes of In-migration

There are various factors that plays an important role for people who move from one place to another place which are called push and pull factors. The causes of migration are conditional. Sometimes people migrate because of poor economic condition and sometimes because of demographic or social or cultural condition. Similarly psychological, political, institutional, environmental or other factors also plays an important role for people to move from one place to another.

Eradication of malaria, construction of Phewa Dam, construction of Siddhartha Highway in ward-17 are the main causes of migration in this ward, which are "Push" factors and "Pull factors". The 2068 census explained five main reasons for migration such as trading, agriculture, employment, study-trading and marriage. At present most of rural areas of Kaski districts have more out migrants than in migrants. These areas were hard hit by Maoist insurgency during last 10 years. Internal migration to urban areas has increased. Rural to urban migration is gaining more visibility with large urban areas. The various factors influencing on people's movement may be economic factors, demographic factors, socio-cultural factors, political factors, institutional factors, etc.

Push Factors (on the origin place)

There are various factors influencing on people's movement. The major influencing reasons for living their origin of in-migrant respondents of ward-17 is shown in the table 9.

a. Lack of Physical Facilities

Physical facilities indicate the resource of communication, transportation, electricity connection, piped drinking water, sanitation, adequate management of housing etc. In the field survey-2076, it is found that out of 230 respondents reported 92 (40%) households have no physical facilities in the place of origin.

b. Lack of Educational Facilities

The second major push factor is lack of educational facilities in origin. The development policy of Nepal is less centered to rural area. So, there are lack of schools, colleges and educational institutions to educate their children. It is found that 54 households (23.47%) have migrated from origin due to lack of educational facilities.

c. Political Conflict

The third major push factor is political conflict in origin. Many rural areas of present Gandaki Province (Western Development Region) were attacked by the than Maoist insurgency during the last decade. So people of rural areas had to migrate to ward-17 for security. It is found that 31 households (13.42%) have migrated from origin due to political conflict.

d. Unemployment

The fourth major push factor is unemployment in origin. Nepal is a developing country. There are lacks of industries, factories, schools and government offices in rural areas. So, there is a lack of employment opportunities in rural areas. This study has found that 23 households (10%) have migrated from origin because of unemployment.

e. Natural Disasters

Nepal is a country of hills and mountains. Natural disasters such as landslide and soil erosion are ensuing many times in rural areas. These natural calamities have played great role for out migration in the place of departure. It is found that 15 households (65.52%) have in-migrated from origin due to natural disasters.

f. Lack of Health Services

The next push factor of migration is lack of health services 6.52 (Table 9) migrant households from rural areas have migrated in search of better health facilities. There are lacks of hospital and health clinic in rural areas. Health workers do not give good service in health post and there is no sufficient available medicines.

Table 9

Major Push factors in the place of origin

Push Factors	No. of HH	Percentage
Lack of Physical facilities	92	40.00
Lack of Education	54	23.47
Political Conflict	31	13.48
Unemployment	23	10.00
Natural disasters	15	6.52
Lack of Health Service	15	6.52
Total	230	100.00

Source: *Field Survey, 2019*

Pull Factors (On the destination place)

Pull factors are those that attract migrants to the destination such as education facilities, expansions of business, better opportunities for job physical infrastructural facilities and presence of relatives etc. The major pull factors of ward-17 are shown in table 10.

a. Educational

The first major pull factor is educational facilities in ward-17. There is only two Community Secondary School, six Secondary schools run by private sectors, two Basic Level Schools, one Pre-Primary Schools and one College run by community affiliated to Tribhuvan University in ward-17. It is found that 79 households (34.34%) have in-migrated to ward-17 due to education facilities.

Table 10

Major Pull factors at the destination.

Pull Factors	No. of HH	Percentage
Educational Facilities	79	34.34
Expansion of Business	46	20
Better opportunity of job	33	14.34
Physical infrastructures	26	11.30
Presence of relatives	23	10
Health Facilities	23	10.02
Total	230	100.00

Source: *Field Survey, 2019*

b. Expansion of Business

Ward-17 is a tourism area. There is great scope of tourism trade. Tourists are attracted by David's fall, Gupteshor cave and Bishow Shanti Stupa. In the field

survey, it is found that the second major pull factor is expansion of business, 46 households (20%) have in-migrated to ward 17 due to expansion of business.

c. Better Opportunities for job

The third major pull factor is better opportunity for job, 14.34 per cent households are attracted to this area due to opportunity for job. People are employing in government offices, schools, small-scale industries, bus services, tourist guide, etc. in ward-17.

d. Physical Infrastructure Facilities

The fourth major pull factor is physical infrastructure facilities, 11.30 per cent households are attracted to ward-17 due to this facility. Physical infrastructure facilities indicate the resources of communication, transportation, electricity connection, piped drinking water, etc.

e. Presence of Relatives

The next pull factor of migration to ward-17 is presence of relatives. 10 per cent households are in-migrated there because of presence of relatives.

f. Health Facilities

Another pull factor of migration is health facilities. There are health post, medical clinic, medical shops and pathological services in ward-17, 10.02 per cent households are in migrated there because of health service.

Satisfaction with Current Place of Residence

Human being has various expectations. Migrants leave their origin with different expectation. Fulfillment of their expectation make them to satisfy. Table 11 shows that 15.22 per cent are reported highly satisfied due to the availability of various facilities in the destination than that of origin.

Table 11

Distribution of in-migrants respondents by level of satisfaction

Response	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Highly satisfied	35	15.22
Satisfied	156	67.82
Low Satisfied	30	13.04
Not Satisfied	9	3.92
Total	230	100.00

Source: *Field Survey, 2019*

67.82 per cent respondents recorded that they are satisfied in this place of residence. Similarly, 8 per cent respondents are not satisfied in their place of

residence. Various factors influenced that they are not satisfied in current place of residence such as unemployment, lack of agricultural land, environmental pollution ad heterogeneous imbalances.

Conclusion

In Nepal, in-migration is a regular phenomenon which has been occurring from ancient time. It has been taking place since many years ago from rural to rural, rural to urban, ridge to valley, and hill to terai. In migration has been occurring in different periods of time. Because of this process, population convergence and divergence occur in different parts of the country. Due to this the change in socio-economic development of the country has occurred at different times. From a few decades ago, scholars are trying to investigate the migration pattern of population in the nation.

Pokhara is a second largest city of hilly region. It has good network system of roads and communication. It has many kinds of modern facilities. Different types of opportunities have been made available to the people. Due to this in-migrant from its surrounding hill villages and districts have migrated to ward-17 of Pokhara.

People from their origin are leaving their native place due to the availability of different modern urban facilities. Besides this, in-migrants who are employed in Foreign Service also prefer this place to settle instead of their village, because of education, health, transportation, recreation facilities, etc. These facilities have been obtained easily which are not possible to obtain in their native place. Besides these availability of job opportunities, some migrants engage in different jobs. They say that they are able to do different services after in-migrating in ward-17, Pokhara.

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