

Impact of Gender on Remittances Patterns and Length of Stay in Foreign Employment in Dharan

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Paper: Submitted: 2025-12-07, Accepted: 2026-05-16 & Published: 2026-05-29

Abstract

In countries like Nepal, where remittances account for more than 25% of GDP, gender disparities in remittance flows remain significant. Female migrants, although often earning less, tend to send a higher proportion of their income back, prioritising investments in education and health, and male migration is often focused on immediate poverty reduction. The main objective of this study is to examine the effect of expatriates' gender on the timing of departure and remittance receipt in Dharan. Data were collected through direct personal interviews with 396 individuals using simple random sampling. The collected data were analysed through descriptive statistics using SPSS. The ANOVA test shows the relationship between the dependent and independent variables. In this finding, there is no significant relationship between gender, time spent abroad, and receipt of remittances. Similarly, the planners and policymakers of the Dharan sub-metropolitan city should formulate a suitable policy and invest remittance income in human capital to prevent future brain drain and create a policy to use the country's wealth for sustainable development.

Keywords: development, income, remittance, abroad, employment, migrants

Introduction

Globalization has added a new dimension to the international migration of people. Developed countries have made significant advances in communication infrastructure, transportation, and technology. As a result, migration has gained new momentum (United Nations, 2006). Immigration has increased mainly from developing countries to developed countries. Such mobility of people has contributed to the social reform and economic progress of both the country of origin and the country of destination (SAARC, 2006). A careful analysis of migration shows both positive and negative aspects. If international migration supports economic growth or development, it is beneficial; conversely, if economic growth or

development is neglected, it is harmful. Migration can also be analyzed from two angles: joint migration where the entire family moves to the destination country and divided migration where family members stay in the country (Pfeiffer, Richter, Fletcher, & Taylor, 2007). Remittance is the result of international migration. Which is mostly used for family maintenance, insurance, and investment (Lucas & Stark, 1985). Remittance plays an important role in the social and economic improvement of family, community, society, and state. Despite the importance of foreign migration, debates are going on about the relationship between migration and development and conflicting opinions have also been born. The most worrying issue is the problem of brain drain. The statement of Adepoju, and Abdellatif (2010) has also confirmed the fact that brain drain is not only a problem but also an achievement for development, such as educational migration achieving appreciable achievements in production, specialization, and education. After acquiring these skills and returning to the country, there is a multiplier effect on economic development. According to Mareno (2005) the increase in the number of female migrants for work is the feminization of poverty. In Nepal, women's access or right to property is still only theoretical. In practice, most of the women are still without property. Therefore, to reduce poverty at home and to earn a living like men, those who are financially strong go abroad for employment.

Statement of the Problems

Especially after the 1990s, the wave of globalization and liberalized socio-economic and political forces also appeared in the Nepalese economy. This has affected Nepali women workers as well as a result, a large number of Nepali women are moving to third countries for employment. Most Nepali female migrant workers have worked in the "care economy", where people are cared for. There is a growing demand for care work for Nepali women migrants in the Gulf countries (D'Cunha, 2005). In this way, the empowerment of Nepali women through going abroad to earn money has also increased, and this has helped alleviate poverty. The situation of women going abroad for work has created a problem of brain drain as well as the fear of ruining their families and society. However, since there are few studies on the effects of gender on remittance and migration, I have studied this topic. This study aims to explore the following questions.

Research Questions

- What is the effect of gender on the duration of stay for employment abroad in Dharan?
- What is the effect of gender on remittance flow in Dharan?
- **Research Objectives**
- The objectives of this study are as follows
- To study the effect of gender on the duration of stay for employment abroad in Dharan.
- To study the effect of gender on remittances flow in Dharan.

Hypothesis

Based on the research problem, I have formulated the following hypotheses:

H₁: There is a significant relationship between gender and foreign migration.

H₂: There is a significant relationship between gender and remittance flow in Dharan.

Significance of the Study

This research has tried to analyze the impact of remittance and foreign migration in the Dharan sub-metropolitan city. There is not much research about the effects of gender on remittance and foreign migration, but the reality is that gender plays an important role in sending remittances from abroad to work abroad. This study will, to some extent, help understand the effects of gender on remittances and migration. Even in the field of study, there was no adequate research on this topic, so I tried to study this topic. This is the importance of this study.

Literature Review

The thinking of African migrants living in other developing countries is not to stay in a foreign land for an indefinite period; remittances are a source of meeting their domestic needs, adding land and other resources (Ocho & Rath, 2010). Therefore, remittance is an important economic driver for migrants. Ocho, (2010) stated that remittances are effective in bridging the gap between the rich and the poor, reducing poverty, controlling economic instability, acting as insurance against risk, making family members healthy, and spending on education, training, health care, investment, and production. plays a role. Now, if we look at the migration gender-wise, along with men, women are also going to neighbouring countries, India, as well as third countries in search of work, which is called "feminization of migration". In some cases, there are more female immigrants than male immigrants (D'Cunha, 2005). Similarly, as pointed out by Mareno (2005), 70 to 80 per cent of total migrants in some destination countries are women, and the reasons for this are poverty and women's empowerment. In the current situation, many women workers have migrated from developing countries, which has helped them to alleviate poverty (ESCAP, 2005).

In recent years, many Nepalese women have migrated abroad due to poverty. But because of being a woman in the labor market, women have to face many risks, discrimination, and insecurity. (D'Cunha, 2005) Nepali women also experience this kind of problem in foreign employment. In 1997, Alejandro Portes studied the effect of remittances on gender bias. In this context, Lucas and Stark (1985) have found that the number of women sending remittances is high. Significant research has shown that men send remittances to their wives, whereas women send remittances to their children's caregivers (Orozco & Pionsky, 2007). After a single-gender household for a long time, there is now a shift in the household's gender roles (Ramirez, 2005). According to the study done by Holst, Schäfer & Schrooten (2011), although foreigners have

decreased in the last decade, the number of female immigrants has increased. It would not be an exaggeration to call the S situation the feminization of immigration. Overall, remittance is the result of foreign migration. Both male and female migrants send money back home to support family life (Guarnizo, 2003; The World Bank, 2005). In Nepal, both women and men send remittances to their home country to make their families' lives easier. Thus, remittances are based on the theory of altruism. Lucas (1985) also states that remittances are based on the theory of altruism.

Since 1960, the number of women going to work abroad has been lower than that of men, but today the numbers seem to be equal. Women who have worked in foreign countries send remittances to their home country with the wages they have earned. In addition to increasing women's economic importance, it also provides them with a high level of social freedom (Orozco, Lowell, & Snyder, 2006). In this way, not only men but also women migrate internationally for work and income. Most women from developing countries with low job skills go to work caring for the elderly and children. Due to female sexuality, they have to face many insecurities and risks. (D'Cunha, 2005). Nowadays, Nepali women have also migrated abroad due to poverty and lack of finances. The increase in income gives them greater independence and makes them important economic players in the international network; the decisions of women and men to send remittances are equally empowered. However, social and religious norms prevent women from free migration. According to the study done by Merkel and Zimmermann (1992), Germany is the country that sends remittances. Where fifty per cent are female immigrants. Remittances are mostly sent by male migrants. On the other hand, Lucas and Stark (1985) found that women's contribution to the study of remittances is greater. This finding was slightly different from the results of other studies. Likewise, men send remittances to their wives, while women send remittances to their sons and daughters, relatives, and friends; however, most remittances are sent by men (Lowell & Schneider, 2006). Although there is a system in which women and men work and live together in the household, the household is led by the male. Due to the male ego, the household can also become a place of conflict, and the goals, desires, and strategies of women and men differ. Women have also gone to many foreign countries for employment (Gabaccia et al., 2006). They called this situation feminization. The number of female immigrants in Germany has increased to about 48.6 per cent. Both men and women send remittances home (Ramirez, 2005). This situation is also a result of globalization and this study explores the extent to which gender influences the flow of remittances. Nowadays, instead of following their male relatives for money, women have migrated abroad for employment (UNDP, 2005). This situation is also an example of women's empowerment. In this context, it is appropriate to include Jolly's (2005) statement that the relationship between gender and remittance is not clear or that gender has no significant effect on remittance. In western Kenya, due to patrimonial property rights, parents show remittances

to sons but not to daughters (Briere et al., 2002). Reasons for sending remittances are altruism, investment, and self-interest (Lucas & Stark, 1985). Cruz (1995) conducted a case study in Mexico and found that male migrants were more likely than female migrants to return to Mexico rather than stay permanently. Men used to send remittances to invest in houses, land, cattle, and businesses, while women used to send remittances for children's education, health, furniture, debt repayment, and household expenses such as food, clothing, and household appliances.

While studying the empirical literature, it was found that there has been little research on the gender distribution of remittance flows in the study area, but in reality, women and men are almost equally represented among total remitters. Therefore, it is necessary to study who among women and men sends more remittances or how gender affects remittances; therefore, I have researched this topic.

Theoretical Framework

The process of sending income earned abroad is called remittance. According to Lucas and Stark (1985), expatriates send remittances not only for household consumption but also for charitable and utilitarian purposes. So, the remittance depends on the family's charity and utility. As stated by the United Nations (2006), human services have emerged as a new dimension due to globalisation, transportation, technology, communication facilities, and the modernisation of living, and a large number of people are moving to different countries as immigrants. That's why the current age is called the "new age of mobility". International humanitarian trade depends on the social and economic well-being of destination countries and origin countries. Therefore, international migration is both a boon and a loss; if international migration leads to economic growth or development, it is a boon, while its opposite is a loss (Sark, 2006).

Research Methods and Materials

The main purpose of this research is to examine the effects of gender on foreign employment and migration. Gender, Migration, Remittances: Evidence from Germany by (Holst, Schäfe & Schrooten, 2008) studied in Germany based on this methodology. The topic of my research is similar to this one, so I researched it using this method. This study used a quantitative research design. This study used a quantitative research design. Descriptive studies have explained the effects of gender on remittance and migration. The data required for this has been collected from primary sources. Data were collected through interviews with structured questionnaires prepared by the researcher with families who went abroad for employment. 400 households were then interviewed to collect data. In this study, simple random sampling techniques were used to collect a representative sample from small households. Data have been collected from those willing to be prepared to answer the researcher's questionnaires. Data was

collected from both male and female sexes. With this process, the researcher managed to collect data from small traders including both men and women. According to Bailey (1994), data is collected for a sample study from 400 informants irrespective of population size. In order to analyse the statistical data for the study. In research, data collection begins after the number of samples has been counted. It is appropriate to quote Gubba and Lincoln (1994) here; according to them, data analysis is a well-ordered process in which collected data is worked with, organised, and divided into small, appropriate parts. There are two types of variables here, the independent variable and the dependent variable. While gender is the independent variable, remittance and migration are the dependent variables. A literature review shows that gender affects remittance and migration. In this study, gender is a categorical independent variable while migration and remittance are continuous dependent variables. So, one-way ANOVA is used to test the hypothesis.

Mean, standard deviation, skewness, and Kurtosis were calculated using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 26, and the data were analysed to describe them.

Results and Discussion

The main objective of this study is to investigate the effect of gender on the flow of remittances and the duration of stay abroad. Therefore, this study primarily analysed remittance flows and the duration of foreign employment in Dharan by gender. This is because gender also plays an important role in influencing the flow of remittances and the duration of stay abroad. The table below presents descriptive statistics on remitter gender, remittance inflow, and duration of stay abroad.

Table 1

Average of Dependent and Independent Variables

Variables	N	Min.	Max.	Mean	Std. Deviation	Skewness	Kurtosis
Gender of Remitter	394	1	2	1.09	.28	2.96	6.78
Time went to foreign employment	396	1998	2017	2018.50	45.42	19.69	390.64
Remittances	396	25000	3300000	304505.05	524625.44	3.59	13.73
Valid N (listwise)	394						

Note. Field Survey (2023).

Table 1 shows the mean values of the gender of remitter, duration of stay abroad, and remittances of 2023 AD as 1.09, 2018.5 and 304505.05 respectively. It shows the lowest mean value of gender of remitter (1.09) and the highest mean value of remittance (304505.05).

Similarly, the standard deviation of gender of the remitter, time spent in employment, and remittance are 0.28, 45.42, and 524625.44 respectively. The standard deviation of the gender of remitter is the lowest (0.28) and the standard deviation of remittance is the highest (524625.44). It shows that the gender of the remitter is more consistent with the lowest standard deviation and the remittances are less consistent as it has the highest standard deviation. Similarly, the value of skewness for the gender of remitter, time went to employment, and remittances are found to be 2.96, 19.69, and 3.59 respectively. The value of skewness for the gender of remitter, time went to employment, and remittances are more positive. So, the distribution of data is not symmetrical and highly skewed.

The value of kurtosis for the gender of remitter, time went to foreign employment, and remittances are 6.78, 390.64, and 13.73 respectively, indicating the distribution is leptokurtic and extremely positive kurtosis.

Table 2
Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)

Variables		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F
Remittances	Between Groups	365828962944.16	1	365828962944.16	1.325
	Within Groups	108210115899999.95	392	276046214030.61	
	Total	108575944862944.11	393		
Time went to foreign employment	Between Groups	212.99	1	212.99	.102
	Within Groups	814615.46	392	2078.10	
	Total	814828.46	393		

Note. Field Survey (2023).

This table explains the output of the ANOVA analysis and analyzes whether there is a statistically significant difference between the group means of our data. Here, the significance value is 0.250 (i.e., $p = .250$), which is greater than 0.05. Therefore, it confirms that there is no significant difference between genders among remittance recipients. Similarly, we can see that the significance value for gender and time going to foreign employment is 0.749 (i.e., $p = .749$), which is greater than 0.05. And, therefore, it confirms that there is no significant difference between gender and the time spent in foreign employment. However, in a study conducted by Bhadra in 2007, the foreign employment of Nepalese women and, their remittances have been found to have a significant impact on households and overall poverty reduction.

Conclusion

This research examines how expatriates' gender in Dharan affects the timing of expatriation and the inflow of remittances. For this study, the researcher collected primary data

from 396 people through direct personal interviews using a structured questionnaire. Mean value has been extracted from the collected data, and the ANOVA test has been done, so that the findings of the study cannot be generalised.

Finally, as a researcher, I would like to suggest that the income received as the first remittance in Dharana should be invested in building human resources for sustainable development, and that the local government should take important steps to stop the growing brain drain. If pressed to think, it would be suitable for the country. As a researcher, I was unable to study how gender might affect the length of stay abroad. Therefore, I suggest that future researchers pursue this line of research. To answer the question of how gender affects the timing of going to foreign employment and the receipt of remittance, this research concluded that there is no significant relationship between the timing of going to foreign employment and the receipt of remittance when testing the hypothesis.

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