

Rural-Urban Migration and Its Effects on Livelihood: A Case of Urlabari Municipality, Morang.

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Abstract

This research work mainly concerns with the rural-urban migration and its effects on livelihood. The main problem of the study was to find out the rural-urban migration and its effects in Urlabari Municipality, ward no. 7. The objectives of the study were to find out the rural- urban migration ratio in Urlabari Municipality, ward no.7 and to analyse the effects of rural urban migration. This research study is quantitative in its nature. Primary resources of data were collected from 130 households who were selected purposively using questionnaire and interview. Similarly the secondary resources of data were collected from journals, articles, books, websites and other concerned organizations. The collected data were analysed with the help of computer using simple statistical tools such as percentage. It was found through the analysed data that the major causes of rural- urban migration are job/service opportunities. 23 per cent of the respondents migrated to the study area for the sake of job/ services. It was concluded that the job/services, education are the major pull factors for the rural people for their migration.

Keywords: Employment, Facilities, pull factors, push factors, rural-urban migration

Introduction

Migration refers to the physical movement of people from one place to another place. Rural urban migration refers to the movement of people from a less populated to the more densely populated area. People migrate from rural areas to towns for different reasons. Employment opportunities, Education, Health and other facilities in the town areas are the major pull factors for people in the rural areas.

Rural to urban migration is one cause of urbanization, or the process of a large amount of people settling in a relatively small and concentrated area.

In Nepal, there is another major reason for the rural to urban migration which compelled the people to leave their village. Such people are conflict affected people, who have migrated to urban centers for safe living and secure subsistence livelihoods. Studies have shown that the low skilled rural migrants live in all countries of Asia, but they are more prevalent in the poorer countries (Bhowmik, 2005:2256) such as Nepal, India, Bangladesh, Cambodia and Vietnam.

The migrated people in the urban areas are involved in different informal sectors which encompass largely unrecognized, unrecorded and unregulated small-scale activities including; small enterprises, household enterprises, self-employed sectors such as street vendors, cleaners, shoe-shiners, hawkers etc. ILO (2004), Shrinivas (2004) and Sethuraman (1997) have defined the informal sector, as essentially covering the unorganized spectrum of economic activities in commerce, agriculture, construction, manufacturing, transportation and services, which absorbs as much as 60 percent of the labour force in urban areas of developing countries.

Urlabari is a small town in Morang district. It lies in the mid- eastern part of Morang district. The population of Urlabari is being increasing.

The case of rural urban migration in Urlabari Municipality, Ward no. 7 is the major concern of the research study.

Statement of the problem

Most poor people in developing countries live in rural areas. But urban poverty is wide-spread, and it is growing. People continue to leave rural areas and move to urban areas to escape from adverse rural condition (push factors). At the same time, many urban areas continue to attract people from the countryside because they generally offer more opportunities (pull factors). Factors that push people out of the countryside include the deteriorating quantity and quality of agricultural lands, poor market infrastructures, and lack

Rural-Urban Migration and Its Effects on Livelihood: A Case of Urlabari Municipality, Morang. of supporting institutions, such as sources of credit for small-scale farmers. In this scenario, the main problem of this research study is to find out the rural-urban migration and its effects in Urlabari Municipality, ward no. 7.

Objectives of the Study

The major objectives of the research are as follows:

- i. To find out the rural- urban migration ratio in Urlabari Municipality, ward no. 7.
- ii. To analyze the effects of rural urban migration.

Methodology

This research study is quantitative in its nature. To give the research study complete shape, both primary and secondary sources of data were collected. Primary resources of data were collected using questionnaire and interview. Similarly the secondary resources of data were collected from journals, articles, books, websites and other concerned organizations.

The study area for the research study is the ward no. 7 of Urlabari Municipality, Morang. Moreover the samples were purposively selected from the study area. Out of the 256 households, 130 households were selected and the necessary data were taken through the data collection tools: Questionnaire and interview. The collected data were analyzed with the help of computer using simple statistical tools such as percentage.

Interpretation and Analysis of the Data

As the main purpose of the study was to find out the demographic and socio-economic situation of the study area and to analyse the causes of migration from rural to urban area, the focus of the study was given to the causes of migration from rural area to urban area.

During the course of the field visit, respondents were asked why they choose the present place as their residence when they could go to any part of the country, what things attracted the study area so much that they did the decision of migrating to the present place of residence. In the following table reasons of selecting the present place as the residence were given of the study area.

Table 1: Distribution of the Respondent by Reasons of Selecting the Present Place

Reasons to Migrate to the Destination Place (pull factor)	Respondents	
	Number	Percentage
Job/Services	32	23
Education	15	12
Difficult rural life	28	22
Urban facilities	25	20
Security and comfort life	16	13
Closer relatives and villager	5	4
Other Reasons	9	7
Total	130	100

Source: Field Study, 2019

From the above table it is clear that most (23%) of the respondents were migrate to the study area because of Job and services. Similarly, 22 percent respondents said due to lack of favorable environment for business, 13 percent respondents re plied for security and comfort life and 12 percent said for education. Furthermore, 20 percent respondents said for urban facilities and 4 percent replied due to Closer relatives and villager.

Regarding the reasons for leaving the place of origin, the following table clarifies in details:

Table 2: Distribution of the Respondents by Reasons for Leaving the Origin

Reasons to leave the origin place (Push Factor)	Respondents	
	Number	Percentage
Lack of physical facilities	20	16
Conflict	13	10
Natural calamities	7	5
Very hard life in origin	10	8
Job	15	12
Trade	22	16
Education	12	12
Other Reasons	28	22
Total	130	100

Source: Field Study, 2019

The above table shows reasons of migration. Above table clearly shows that most of the respondents left their origin due to lack of good job at the origin. Similarly, 12 percent respondents said that they left their origin due to job, 16 percent respondents replied that they left due to lack of physical facilities followed by education (12%) and few respondents said that they were forced to leave their origin due to natural calamities at the origin.

Causes of Migration (Destination place/pull factors)

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Table 3: Distribution of the Respondents in the designated place

Reasons of Destination Place (Pull Factor)	Respondents	
	Number	Percentage
Job/Services	32	23
Education	15	12
Difficult rural life	28	22
Urban facilities	25	20
Security and comfort life	16	13
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Further Plan of the Respondents

Table 4: Distribution of the Respondents by Their Future Plan

Where They Want to Go?	Respondents	
	Number	Percentage
Stay in the same place	14	9
Previous	30	23
Country Capital	20	16
Elsewhere in the country	48	38
Outside the country	18	14
Total	130	100

Source: field Survey, 2019

Respondents were also asked where they want to go in the future. Sixty nine percent of respondents said they want to stay in same place followed by country capital place(11.4%), outside the country(10.3%), previous place and elsewhere country same (4.6%)

Migration Scenario of the Respondents

One of the serious population problems emerging during the last decade 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, which warrants national strategic planning to manage, to reduce or to reverse the trends.

Rural to Urban Migration as Improving Livelihoods

Migration interfaces various positive dimensions of people's livelihoods. In the case of Nepal, rural-urban migration is important for improving people's livelihoods. As discussed in the previous section, poor and landless people migrate to urban centers for subsistence livelihoods, and some better-off people migrate to gain and take monetary advantages in the cities. All the migrants do this for the betterment of life as compared to their origin. The following sub-section deals with rural-urban migration and their involvement in the informal sector (street vending) in terms of improving livelihoods.

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Table 5: Distribution of Respondents by Employment/Occupation and Their Sex.

Employment/ Occupation	Respondents(Male)		Respondents (Female)		Total	
	Number	Number	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Education	12	13	13	18	23	18
Trade	15	23	23	34	38	30
Thikdari	13	5	5	7	18	14
Private Service	10	5	5	7	15	12
Daily Wage	11	15	15	22	26	20
House work/House wife	0	8	8	12	8	5
Total	61	69	69	100	130	100

Source: Field Survey, 2019

Employment and occupation is one of the measures of the socio-economic status. Data shows the occupation was highest in daily wage 20 percent followed by trade (30%), Thikdari(14%), education (18%), house wife/work(5%), and private service(12%). In this study area, none was employed in governmental sector. Further the male working population was higher than female working population in every sector except house work/wife.

Consequences/impact of Rural -Urban Migration

Migration in Nepal is an important demographic phenomenon. It has great impact on the social, economic as well as cultural in both the place of origin and destination. When migration from one place to another occurs then the destination place gets population pressure, more productive population, excessive utilization of resources and more heterogeneous composition of population.

Table 6: Distribution of Respondents by Consequences of Migration

Consequences	Respondents	
	Number	Percentage
Employment	14	9
Increasing income	30	23
Good Education	20	16
Changing in Lifestyle	48	38
Small family	12	11
Change in Culture	23	17
Increasing business	13	9
Total	130	100

Source: Filed Survey, 2019

Migrant's respondents cited a number of consequences in destination place. These include employment, increasing income, and good education, changing in living style, increasing business, small family and changing culture. The study revealed that the majority of the respondents said change living style as their main consequences of destination place. 14 percent said increasing income. Just over 13 percent said they were employment while 20 percent said good education.

Economic Status of Respondent in Destination

To know the consequences of migration to the people another question was asked to them: whether their economic situation has been improved or worsened after migration. In the following table present economic condition of the migrants is compared with their previous condition.

Table 7: Distribution of Respondents by Present Economic Status

Economic Condition after Migration	Respondents	
	Number	Percentage
Improved	81	63
Not changed	49	37
Total	130	100

Source: Field Survey, 2019

Street vending As an Urban Livelihood After Migration

The livelihoods of the poor are determined predominantly by the context in which they live and economic, environmental, social and political - largely determines the assets accessible to the constraints and opportunities this location presents. This is because context - people, how they can use these (Meikle, 2002:38), and thus their ability to obtain secure livelihoods. As already described, rural people see new opportunities in the urban areas in s of employment, physical facilities and others. As a result, rural landless agricultural workers had little incentive to remain in agriculture. Instead they choose to migrate to nearby towns or cities in search of more remunerative non-agricultural jobs. It is important to examine whether they get more remunerative jobs after migration or end up swelling the ranks of unemployed in the urban labour market as predicted by Todaro (1976). But those migrants, who e working in the rural vulnerable situation, see themselves more beneficial working in the urban informal sector. Migrants' livelihoods vary according to their level of education and the skills they have. Competent and skilled migrants may find urban formal jobs either in the government.

Types of Vending on Different Location in Urlabari City

Table 8: Types of Vending Types of Vending Commodities

Types of Vending Commodities	
Fruits and Vegetables	Bhelpuri/ Chana Chatpate
Herbs/Leaves	Clothes
Fast foods	Plastic wares
Tea shop	Cosmetics
Corn	Electronics
Cut fruits	Newspaper

Field survey 2019

Table (no. 4.18) shows that street vendors are found everywhere in Urlabari Municipality ward no. 7 with high concentration in the core city nearby the marketing centres. Types of vending are vary with location. Most of the vending types are located at ithara road. These locations cover main types

of street vending activities such as cloth vending, vegetable vending, electronic goods, cosmetics, kitchen utensils, spices, fast foods vending etc.

Street Vending as an Opportunity to Rural Poor

Street vending as a profession, which has been in existence in the,Urlabari since time immemorial. Urban Street vending is not only a source of employment but it provides affordable services to the majority of the urban poor. Vendors constitute an integral part of the urban economy, provide an essential service, create their own employment and contribute to economic growth. The role played by the street traders in the economy therefore is as important as it provides services and goods to the urban poor.

Findings and Conclusion

The study provides a clear view regarding existing migration situation of the study area. Out of total 130 respondents, most of the respondents migrated during the 2060s and 2070s. In both decades, 26 percent respondents were migrated to the study area. Only 15 percent respondents were migrated before 2050 BS. Out of the 130 respondents, 20 percent replied that they had expected to do job/service after migration to the present place. Employment and occupation were the major sources of the socio-economic status in the study area. The respondents were found engaged in mixed occupations. Some were involved agriculture and others were involved in Trade/Business. Similarly, some were involved in daily wages, and even some were involved in teaching field and some were vendors. No one was found to be involved in government services.

It was found that those vendors among the higher economic background and those who have been putting up their mats and stalls nearby marketing centres and super markets such as and have progressed much than others. Therefore, it can be concluded that location and vendors' economic background play crucial role for earning livelihoods in Urlabari ward no 7. It was also found that the lack of jobs in rural areas because of the labour saving devices and bad weather conditions forced many young people to migrate to the urban areas.

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