

Socio-economic Profiles of Migrant Household's and Salient Features of Migration Process: A Study on Some Selected Villages

M. Zobayer Enamul Karim, PhD*

Abstract: This article is an attempt to focus on socio-economic profiles of migrant household's and migration related process. The article is an outcome of a case study conducted* by the author. Data was collected through household's survey. Households were selected from the six administrative divisions of the country, two districts from each division that had higher rated migrants' were chosen, and one upazila (sub-district) was randomly selected from each of the 12 districts. Following multi-stage sampling from 12 union parishad, twelve villages those had the highest migrant was selected. The sample size was 208 comprising 192 head of the household of current migrants and 68 returned migrants households.

About 39 percent of the total migrants are concentrated in KSA followed by 22.1, 14.4 and 10.1 percent in UAE, Malaysia and Kuwait respectively. The mean ages of current, returned and non-migrant are 33, 41 and 37 years respectively. 72.80 percent of the current migrants are aged between 25 and 39 years; while 70.6 percent of returned migrants are aged between 30 and 49 years. The average duration of stay overseas of current and returned migrants is about 8 and 12 years respectively. Average years of schooling for current and returned migrants and non-migrants are 8, 7 and 7 years respectively. Mean number of household members of current migrants is 5.26 excluding migrant himself. For returned and non-migrants the average number of household members are 5.44 and 4.98 respectively indicating current migrants belong to relatively larger families. Among the current migrants 50.72 percent are unskilled workers followed by 27.14 percent skilled and 13.57 percent semi-skilled workers. Non-government recruiting agencies handled about 69 percent migration related works. About 75 percent of migrants had access to borrow from family members and other relatives with or without interest. Commercial banks and other financial institutions provided only 1.44 percent of the total fund required for migration.

Introduction

Bangladesh became an independent nation in 1971 with a small territory, low per capita income and huge number of un-skilled labour. From early 1972 labour migration has become an important way for the survival of many households in Bangladesh. To avail the means of subsistence, a good number of Bangladeshi workers are migrating abroad every year. In the 1970s and the 1980s Bangladeshi workers migrated to a small number of countries. Each year thousands of Bangladeshi workers migrate to

* Director, Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre, Savar, Dhaka.

work in the Middle East and since the 1990s many Bangladeshi workers found their new destination in South East Asia such as Malaysia and Singapore and some other newly developed Asian countries and a few industrialized countries. Among the Middle East countries, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) absorbs the largest number of labour force from Bangladesh. Besides, new employment opportunities have also been created for Bangladeshi workers in South Korea, Libya, Brunei, Lebanon, Mauritius, Jordan and other countries of the world (Hossain 2007).

The flow of migration has been increasing over the years. According to data provided by Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET) about 7.04 million workers from Bangladesh were employed overseas up to December 2010. Details of country-wise manpower export from Bangladesh since 1976 is shown in Annex (Table A.1). About 2578 thousand (37 percent of the total) workers were employed in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia followed by 1772 thousand (25 percent) in the United Arab Emirates, 849 thousand (12 percent) in Malaysia, 477 thousand (7 percent) in Kuwait and 395 thousand (6 percent) in Oman during the same period. Considerable number of workers have begun to migrate to Malaysia since 1990; the number of migrant workers in Malaysia was only 502 before 1990. However, volume of manpower export to Malaysia drastically fell in 2009 and 2010 due to restriction imposed by the Malaysian government; the same experience is faced in the case of KSA. Manpower export, however, significantly increased in the UAE during the period from 2005 to 2010 compared to other countries. Manpower export from Bangladesh declined in 2010 compared to the previous year irrespective of the countries (Table A.1 of Annex).

Low level or lack of education and skills are the key features of Bangladeshi human resource. International pull factors, viz., work opportunities for the illiterate un-skilled and semi-skilled workers in the Middle East and other regions of the world, the attraction of modern life styles motivated people to migrate to other countries. This migration is helping the country in two ways- by reducing pressure on unemployment situation and by sending remittances to home country. Remittances have been an increasingly important mechanism for transferring resources from overseas to developing economies such as Bangladesh. Migration, overseas remittances and the related micro-variables have become the new area of research in the last decade, as there is a strong linkage among them.

In this aspect socio-economic profiles of the migrants and surveyed households are discussed through this paper. Besides, the migration process and other related aspects are also addressed. The objective of the study is to find out socio-economic conditions of the migrants and their households. Methodology of the study is discussed below.

Data Collection

To address the study objectives, it was necessary to use nationally representative sample of migrants including returned migrant households. But due to budget constraints, several regions of Bangladesh that had higher than average rates of migration were selected and a sample of households from these regions were chosen. Thus selected regions of this study were chosen purposively on the basis of administrative divisions of the country. However, for analytical purpose, these regions are grouped as Central Region (Dhaka and Tangail), East Region (Chittagong and Comilla), North-East Region (Sylhet and Moulavibazar), North-West Region (Bogra, Capainawabganj and Kushtia), South-West Region (Jessore, Barisal and Bhola). It may be mentioned that to follow the concept of proportionate sample size based on number of migrants; Jessore and Kushtia districts were adjusted into other regions. Details of the survey design are explained below.

Sample Areas and Sample Selection Techniques

The target group of this survey is the households currently receiving remittance from migrated members. In Bangladesh there is no proper registration system for the migrant which helps to find out actual physical existence of the migrants' households. We therefore, adopted alternative technique to trace the sample respondents. Data were collected from the villages by a migration-focused survey. Villages were selected applying multi-stage sampling. To identify districts that have higher than average rates of migration, Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET) was consulted. First, among the six divisions of the country, two districts from each division that had higher number of migrants were chosen, and one upazila (sub-district) was randomly selected from each of the 12 districts. Next one union in each upazila that had the highest number of migrants was chosen. Similarly, from each union, one village that had the highest number of migrants was selected. It may be mentioned that in selecting higher than average rate of migrant's upazila, union and villages with higher number of migrants officials and local representatives of district council, upazila parishad and union council and

local elites were consulted. Among the officials, the desk in charge of 'overseas welfare' in the Deputy Commissioner's office was consulted to have an idea about the migrants' concentration within the district, upazila, union and villages.

In consultation with the Upazila Chairman/Vice Chairman, Upazila Nirbahi Officer, Union Parishad (UP) Chairman and members, the researcher and the survey team members visited every selected village and collected background information about the migrants household. On the basis of the collected information, the respondent households were selected following the principle of purposive and simple random sampling.

Principles of Selecting Households for Interview

To examine the determinants of remittances, primary data were collected by field level survey. Sample respondents were divided into two categories-current migrants and returned migrant households. Households currently having member overseas and receiving remittances from the member working abroad at least in the last 4 years were classified as "current migrant" households. It may be noted that only those migrant households were selected for the study that had only one migrant working abroad and whose major source of income was remittances. Households whose members have returned from host countries within one year from the date of the survey were classified as "returned migrant" household. The study considers only worker type of migrants, professional and highly educated persons are beyond the purview of this study. Some salient features of respondents are presented Table 1.

¹ Returned migrant is defined as one who has returned to country of origin from overseas within a year of the survey, after spending at least four years abroad.

Table 1 Summary Statistics of the Respondents

Socio-economic features	Results	
	Mean	Std. Dev.
Age of Migrant (in years)	35.57	8.57
Number of family members	5.32	1.96
Dependent family members	4.33	1.62
Years of Schooling	7.92	2.96
Number of children currently going to school	1.73	.76
Monthly household income (in Tk.)	6454 [BM] 21053 [AM]	2555 9244
Per capita income (in Tk.)	1291 [BM] 4211 [AM]	

Source: Field survey, June-August 2010.

Note: BM indicates before migration and AM indicates after migration.

Distribution of Sample Respondents

The respondents were selected from each village in proportion to number of migrants abroad of the districts and thus the sample size was 208 including selected household members such as migrant head of household etc. Distribution of sample respondents is presented in Table-2.

Table 2 Distribution of Sample Respondents

Name of Division	Name of District	No. of Village	No. of Respondents		
			Current migrants	Returned migrants	Total Respondents
Dhaka	Tangail	1	13	7	20
	Dhaka	1	13	7	20
Chittagong	Comilla	1	16	9	25
	Chittagong	1	16	9	25
Rajshahi	Bogra	1	9	4	13
	Chapainwabganj	1	9	4	13
Khulna	Jessore	1	9	4	13
	Kushtia	1	9	4	13
Barisal	Barisal	1	9	4	13
	Bhola	1	9	4	13
Sylhet	Sylhet	1	14	6	20
	Moulavibazar	1	14	6	20
Total (Percent)		12	140 (67.30)	68 (32.70)	208 (100.00)

Data Collection Period

Data were collected from the respondents by the researcher and selected data collectors. Four persons were trained in objectives, scope and methodology of the study. They collected data from twelve sample villages under close supervision of the researcher. The researchers came to direct contact of the respondents, talked to them and observed their socio-economic conditions. The survey was conducted during the period from early May to mid August 2010.

Tools of Data Collection

A set of structured questionnaire was administered to collect required primary data. Questionnaire was used to gather information from current and returned migrant households.

Empirical Result

Demographic Profile of the Migrants Households

The demographic characteristics of the migrant households are presented in terms of age, education, marital status, occupation, family size and workers by countries of destination.

Migrants by Age

The mean age of current and returned migrants is 33 and 41 years respectively as can be seen from Table 3. In the case of current migrant, highest percentage (27.10) belongs to the age group of 30-34 years followed by that of 35-39 years. It is noticed that most of the current migrants (72.80 percent) are aged between 25 and 39 years, whereas 70.6 percent of returned migrants are aged between 30 and 49 years. It is observed that 36.8 percent of returned migrants belong to the age group of 40-49 years; which is the highest followed by that of 35-39 years having 23.5 percent of the respondents. Murshid et. al (2002) found the mean ages of current and returned migrants was 33.73 and 40.49 years respectively which are very close to the findings of this study. Nair (1993) found the median age of the migrant was 34 years. In this study the average age of the migrants was found to be 36 years. Thus, migrant workers generally initiate emigration in the late teens and return after working up to fifteen years (Eki 2002). Some repeat emigration several times to the same work place until they reach their sixties.

Table 3 Distribution of Current and Returned Migrants by Age

(Percentage)

Age Groups (Years)	Migrants	
	Current	Returned
20-24	11.4	0.0
25-29	22.1	8.8
30-34	27.1	10.3
35-39	23.6	23.5
40-49	12.9	36.8
50 and above	2.9	20.6
Total	100	100
Mean Age	33	41
Number of Observations	140	68

Source: Field survey, May-August 2010.

Migrants by Education

In terms of years of schooling, it was observed that current, returned and non-migrants have very similar educational attainment, the percentage for 6-8 and 11-12 years of schooling are almost the same for the two groups. In most cases, more than 83 percent of the migrants have up to 10 years of schooling. The percentage of respondents, having more than twelve years of education is small in all cases. The information of educational attainment indicates that higher educated people may not feel interested to be migrant; rather they try to work in their own country. It may be noted that average years of schooling for current and returned migrants are 8 and 7 years respectively (Table 4), which are very close to the findings of the study of Murshid et al. (2002). The results indicate that the percentage of population having higher education is small. The possible explanation lies in the focus of the study. Only workers from the villages are focused, professional and highly educated migrants who usually live in urban areas are beyond the purview of this study.

Table 4 Distribution of Current and Returned Migrants and Non-Migrants by Education

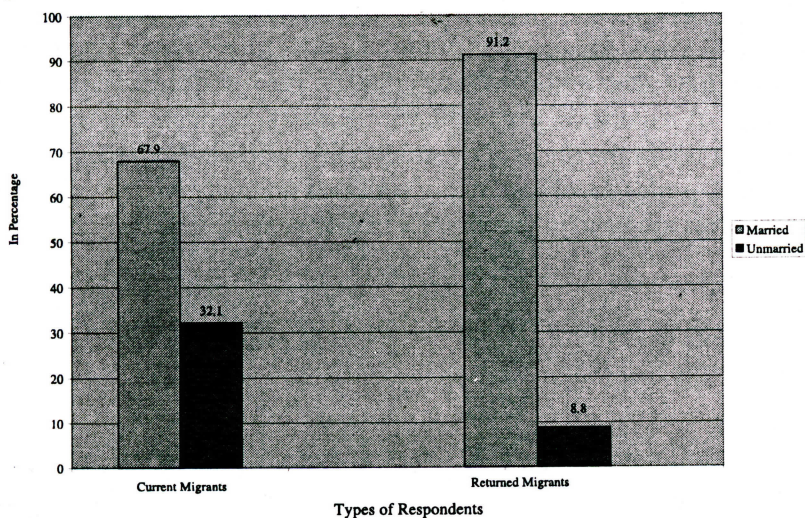
Years of Schooling	Migrants by level of Education in %	
	Current Migrants	Returned Migrants
0 (None)	2.1	2.9
1 -5	18.6	36.8
6-8	26.4	25.0
9-10	39.3	22.1
11-12	9.3	10.3
13 and above	4.3	2.9
Total	100.00	100.00
Mean Years of Schooling	8	7
Number of Observations	140	68

Source: Field survey, May-August 2010.

Migrants by Marital Status

In respect of marital status it was found that 68 percent of current migrants were married compared with 91 percent for returned migrants. Details may be observed in Figure 1. The difference in marital status is a reflection of the age structure of the two groups of respondents. The current migrants are of lower average age and hence the proportion of married is lower compared with the other group.

Figure 1 Marital Status of the Respondents



Source: Field survey, May-August 2010.

Migrants by Household Size

It was observed that the average number of members of current migrant households is 5.26 excluding migrant himself. The highest percentage of migrant households has 5 to 6 members and this holds also for other category of respondents. 70 percent of the current migrant households have 3 to 6 family members and for returned migrants the relevant figure was 72.01 percent (Table 5). The average size of households of migrant is somewhat higher than that of national average. This indicates that migrant workers come from larger families. Larger households can support migration of one or more of their members as an income diversification strategy.

Table 5 Distribution of Current and Returned Migrants by Household Size

Number of Members of a Household excluding migrant	Percentage of Households *	
	Current Migrants	Returned Migrants
1-2	5.7	1.5
3-4	31.4	30.9
5-6	38.6	41.2
7-8	17.9	16.2
9 and above	6.3	10.3
Total	100.00	100.00
Mean Members	5.26	5.44
Number of Observations	140	68

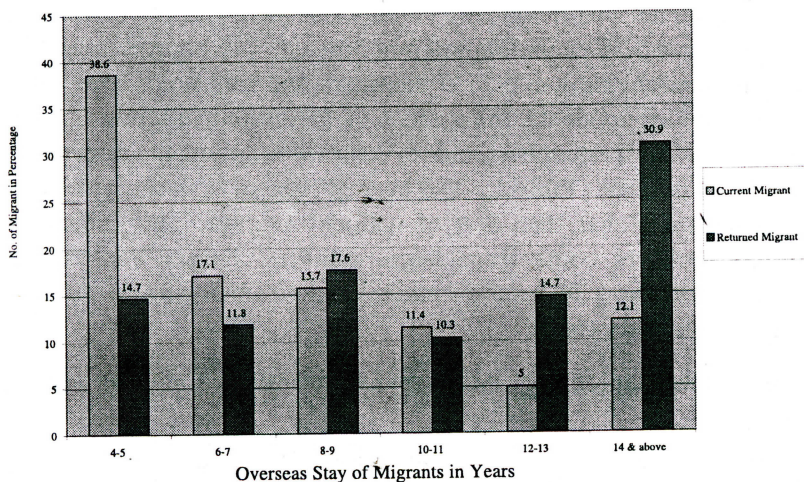
Source: Field survey, May-August 2010.

*In case of current migrant households, migrant is excluded to count the size of member.

Migrants by Duration of Overseas Stay

Distribution of migrants by duration of overseas stay is presented in Figure 2. About thirty-nine percent of current migrants are staying overseas for a period of 4 to 5 years followed by 17.1 percent for 6 -7 years. About 72 percent of current migrant have been staying for a period of 4 to 9 years while 44 percent of returned migrants stayed for similar period. On the other hand, more than 12 percent of current migrants have been staying for more than 14 years; and for returned migrant this figure was about 31 percent.

Figure 2 Distribution of Migrants by Duration of Overseas Stay



Source: Field survey, May-August 2010.

Selected Characteristics of Migrants by Categories and Regions

Table 6 highlights the salient features of migrants and heads of households. The mean age of household heads is little higher for current migrants than that of returned migrants. In terms of time spent abroad, it was about 12 years for returned migrants and for current migrants this is about 8 years. According to Murshid et al. (2002) average years of stay of both current and returned migrants was around 6.5 years indicating an increase in the average years of overseas stay over the years.

Table 6 Selected Characteristics of Migrants and Non-migrants and Migrant Heads of Households

Category	Age	Education	Duration of stay abroad	Age of HH*
	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean
Current migrant	33	8	7.91	57
Returned migrant	41	7	11.68	55
Average	37	7.50	9.80	56

Source: Field survey, May-August 2010.

* Age of heads of household include age of father, mother, elder brother and wife of migrant who looks after the family in absence of migrant.

The average age, educational attainment, years abroad of migrants and age of heads of households by regions are presented in Table 7. The migrants of north-east region (Sylhet and Moulavibazar) are slightly older than that of central region (Dhaka and Tangail); while the migrants of north-west region (Bogra, Kushtia and Chapainawabganj) are youngest compared to those of other regions. Compared to other regions, the household heads of east region are slightly older (60.54 years) followed by north-east region (58.88 years). It may be mentioned that household heads of north-west region are younger (52.05 years) than others. The migrants of north-east (Sylhet and Moulavibazar) region stayed abroad for maximum of 12.20 years while those of north-west (Bogra, Kushtia and Chapainawabganj) region stayed for 5.49 years.

Table 7 Selected Characteristics of Migrant and Heads of Households of Migrant by Regions

Regions	Age of migrant	Education	Duration of stay abroad	Age of migrant HHs*
	Mean	Mean	Mean	Mean
Central (Dhaka and Tangail)	36.50	8.98	9.17	54.60
East (Chittagong and Comilla)	35.76	7.86	10.40	60.54
North-East (Sylhet and Moulavibazar)	37.85	8.25	12.20	58.88
South-West (Barisal, Bhola and Jessore)	35.90	7.74	8.00	54.90
North-West (Bogra, Kushtia and Chapainawabganj)	31.69	6.77	5.49	52.05
Average	35.54	7.92	9.05	56.19

Source: Field survey, May-August 2010.

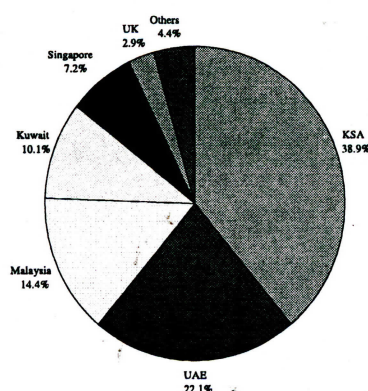
* HHs denotes head of households.

Countries of Work of Migrants

Distribution of migrants by working countries is presented in Figure 3 which shows about 39 percent of the current migrants are working in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia followed by 22.1, 14.4 and 10.1 percent in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Malaysia and Kuwait respectively. It should be noted that BMET time series data shows the number of migrant workers varies from country to country. The migrant workers are

concentrated mostly in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain, Malaysia and Singapore². Data also show that from 1976 to 2010, 36.15 percent migrants were working in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia followed by 24.85 percent in United Arab Emirates (UAE) and 11.91 percent in Malaysia; this distribution is close to the sample percentages of the present study. Thus migrants from the rural areas have been working mostly in the Middle East.

Figure 3 Migrant Workers by Countries of Destination



Source: Field survey, May-August 2010.

Migrants by Major Occupations

BMET³ classifies migrants to Middle East and South East Asia into four categories. These are professionals, skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled. Doctors, engineers, university teachers, cost and chartered accountants, computer experts, administrators and nurses are included in professional group. Skilled workers include persons who have special qualities to carry out technical works such as machine operators, garment workers, driver and electricians. Workers who can perform the work as tailors, masons, carpenters and plumbers through on the-job training are considered as semi-skilled. Persons without any technical and professional skills are categorized as unskilled workers. Housemaids, agriculture labourers, hotel boys, salesman, security guards and manual labourers such as general/construction labourers, cleaners and gardeners are considered unskilled workers. Occupational distribution of migrants by major categories are presented in Table 8. More than 27 percent of

³ BMET is the executing agency of the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment (MEWOE) and maintains record of migrants.

current migrants are skilled workers while for returned migrants this figure is 25 percent. On the other hand, 13.57 percent current and 25 percent returned migrants are semi-skilled labour. About 51 percent current migrants and 38.23 percent returned migrants are unskilled workers. Thus, a larger proportion of current migrants are unskilled workers who are likely to send their savings to Bangladesh. It should be noted that the sample does not have any professional migrants as this group live in the urban areas as mentioned before, while the survey is conducted in the rural areas.

The findings of this study are almost similar to those of Raihan et al. (2009), where it was found that 53.9, 15.2 and 29.3 percent of the migrants are unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled respectively. The Middle East labour market has been employing a larger proportion of unskilled labour from Bangladesh.

Table 8 Migrants and Non-Migrants by Major Occupations

Occupation	Current Migrant		Returned Migrant	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Skilled	38	27.14	17	24.99
Manufacturing or garment /factory workers	12	8.57	7	10.29
Driving	4	2.86	2	2.94
Electrician	8	5.71	2	2.94
Computer operator /Service	13	9.29	6	8.82
Hair Cutting	1	0.71	0	0
Semi-skilled	19	13.57	17	24.99
Masonry	8	5.71	8	11.76
Tailoring	2	1.43	1	1.47
Carpentry	3	2.14	4	5.88
Plumbing	2	1.43	1	1.47
Welding labour	4	2.86	3	4.41
Unskilled	71	50.72	26	38.23
General/Construction worker	49	35	14	20.59
Agriculture labour/ Agriculture farming	5	3.57	2	2.94
Van/ Rickshaw pulling	0	0	0	0
Security guard	3	2.14	0	0
Salesman	4	2.86	3	4.41
Hotel boy	6	4.29	1	1.47
Gardening	2	1.43	1	1.47
Cleaning	2	1.43	5	7.35
Others	12	8.57	8	11.76
Hotel business	8	5.71	5	7.35
Grocery shop/Small business*	4	2.86	3	4.41
Total	140	100	68	100

Source: Field Survey, May-August 2010.

* These refer to groceries/stationery, phone/fax, shop, fisheries/poultry and livestock

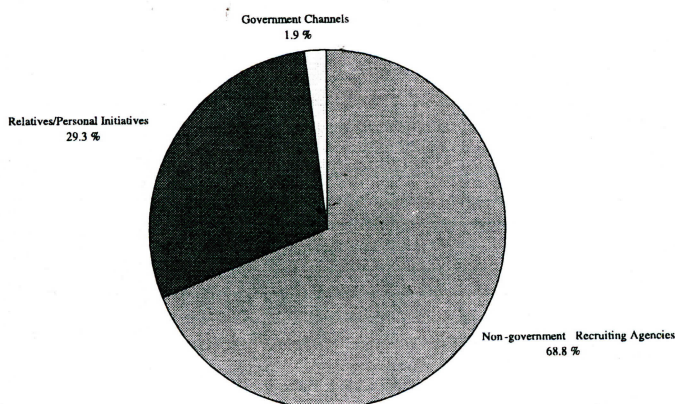
Migration Process and Related Entities of Remittances

In Bangladesh most of the migrant workers are less equipped with knowledge and education to communicate to the counterpart employers in overseas. Hence, in most cases they depend on intermediaries to accomplish most of the migration related tasks. This has implications for transparency in the migration process, cost and financing of migration as well as remittances. The private agents charge much higher amount and are less transparent. The high costs force the households to borrow in many cases which is repaid later on by remittances.

Migration Facilitating Channels

It has been found that about 69 percent of migration related works were handled by non-government recruiting agencies followed by 29.3 percent by relatives and others. Only about 2 percent of migration was facilitated by government agencies. This shows migration is mostly a private sector activity with government channels playing a minor role (Figure 4).

Figure 4 Share of Different Channels Facilitating Migration



Source: Field survey, May-August 2010.

Methods of Financing Migration

In case of source of financing for migration, different financial arrangements are made. About 75 percent migration was arranged by borrowing from brothers, sisters, neighbours, relatives and friends. This is followed sequentially by funding through own/family fund (43 percent) and mortgaging/selling land and other assets (39 percent). Only 1.44

percent migration took place through borrowing from formal sources- i.e., commercial banks and financial institutions (Table 9).

Table 9 Sources of Financing International Migration

Major Sources	Percentage of migrants
Own / Family Fund	42.79
Borrowing (from neighbours, brothers, sisters, friends & relatives, father- in- law, uncle, agents-employer and others) against interest / without interest payment	74.52
Mortgaging/selling land and other assets (livestock etc.)	39.42
Borrowing money from financial institutions/Commercial Banks	1.44
Others	3.37
Number of Observations	208

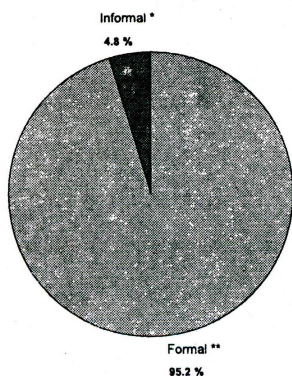
Source: Field Survey, May-August 2010.

Note: Multiple answers were recorded.

Channels of Remittances

Remittance sending is a natural outcome of migration for temporary migrants and some time for permanent migrants as well. Most of the migrants tried to send money to their family members. More than 95 percent remittances are sent through formal channels and only about 5 percent remittance came through informal channels, i.e., hundi, departing friends and relatives (Figure 5). Siddiqui (2004) found that 39.45 percent of the total volume of remittances came through hundi, 46.28 percent through official channels, 4.62 percent through friends and relatives and about 8 percent carried by migrant workers themselves. Thus noticeable changes have taken place in the pattern of remittance sending in recent years. Hundi which was a very popular channel of remittance in the past has declined in popularity. Currently formal institutions such as banks and western unions have gained popularity. Various steps adopted by the government to make access to formal channels easier in the host countries as well as in Bangladesh supplemented by initiatives by money transfer companies have contributed to this change.

Figure 5 Channels of Sending Remittances



Source: Field survey, May-August 2010.

** Formal includes own accounts, third person's accounts/ cheque /Bank draft/Western Union etc.

* Informal includes hundi / friends / relatives and others.

Factors Considered by Remittances Recipients

The choice of remittances channel from the perspective of the receivers is influenced by several factors. It is observed that more than sixty-eight percent recipients considered reliability of the channels followed by speed of transferring money, low charges and nearest distance of delivery point.

Table 10 Factors Considered by Remittances Recipients

Factors	Response in percentage
Speedy transfer of money	45.67
Reliability of the channels	68.26
Low charge	20.68
Nearest distance of delivery point	13.46
Number of Observations	208

Source: Field survey, May-August 2010.

Note: Multiple answers were recorded.

Monthly Income of Migrants

Migrant workers send a proportion of their wages/salary income to home. Average income and remittances of migrants are presented in Table 11. Average monthly income and remittances of migrants including returned migrants are Tk. 27,903 and Tk. 21,281 respectively. Remittances constitute 76 percent of their income. Average monthly income of current and returned migrants are Tk. 27,439 and Tk. 28,368 respectively with remittances constituting 75 and 77 percent of their incomes respectively. Thus there has been a decline in average remittances earned by migrants¹. In recent years the earning of the migrants has declined compared to the

past when the returned migrants were in work; it is opined by the respondents that this is due to the economic crisis of the Middle-East and the East Asia as well as the adverse global economic situations.

The migrants of east region earned the highest; Tk. 32,010 followed by Tk. 31,325 and Tk. 27,280 by those of north-east and south-west regions respectively. The income of the migrants of north-west region is the lowest, Tk. 20,718 per month. It may be mentioned that positive correlation exists between income and duration of stay in overseas. Because, the corresponding duration of stay for Tk. 20,718 per month is 5.49 years against 10.40 years for Tk. 32,010. The study of Murshid et al. (2002) found that average monthly remittances of migrant was Tk. 6,000 i.e., within nine years, the remittances increased by three and half times .

Table 11 Monthly Income* and Remittances of Migrants

Migration Status/Regions	Average Monthly Income and Remittance Per Migrant (Tk.)		
Status	Income	Remittances	Remittances as % of Income
Current Migrants	27439.29	20621.43	75
Returned Migrants	28367.65	21941.18	77
Average	27903.47	21281.30	76
Regions	Income	Remittances	Remittances as % of Income
Central (Dhaka and Tangail)	26125.00	19338.50	74
East(Chittagong and Comilla)	32010.00	24540.00	77
North-East (Sylhet and Moulavibazar)	31325.00	24100.00	77
South-West (Barisal, Bhola and Jessore)	27282.05	21064.10	77
North-West (Bogra, Kushtia and Chapainawabganj)	20717.95	15205.13	73
Average	27492.00	20849.55	76

Source: Field Survey, May-August 2010.

* Income denotes only cash.

⁴ Now with a lower rate of wage the workers are willing to work overseas especially in KSA. I learned from the Bangladeshi workers while I was in KSA in November 2011 that employers are offering lower wages as they understand they will get workers even at lower rate. Workers in most cases earn beyond their contracts in informal sector.

Conclusion:

The following conclusions can be drawn from the examination of the findings of the study:

The findings reveal that average years of schooling of migrants are very low, only 8 years; this situation should be improved to compete with the rest of the countries of the world. Evidences show that the proportion of skilled workers among the migrants is low, more than two-thirds of the total workforce are unskilled or semi-skilled. To increase the number of skilled workforce integrated efforts should be taken. Efforts should be made to expand the technical and vocational education. Pre-departure training for labour migrants may be a powerful tool in raising awareness about positive aspects of skilled workforce for migrant's sending country such as Bangladesh.

It is found that most of the migration related tasks were performed by non-government agencies. In this aspect government should come forward to take the role more effectively.

Reference:

- Eki, A.T. (2002) International Labor Emigration from Eastern Flores Indonesia to Sabah Malaysia: A Study of Patterns, Causes and Consequences. Department of Geographical and Environmental Studies, Faculty of Humanity and Social sciences, University of Adelaide, Australia (mimeo)
- Murshid, K.A.S. et al. (2002) A Study on Remittance Inflows and Utilization. This Report Prepared for International Organization for Migration (IOM), Regional Office for South Asia, Dhaka
- Nair, P.S. (1993) Migrant Labourers from Kerala and the Impact on Household Economy. pp. 71 (Available online: [http:// www.edind.nic.in/jah/t05/i1/jaht05il](http://www.edind.nic.in/jah/t05/i1/jaht05il), retrieved on 28 September 2008 at 9:50 pm)
- Raihan, S. et al. (2009) Remittances and Household Welfare: A Case Study of Bangladesh. ADB Economics Working Paper Series No. 189:15, ISSN 1655-5252, Publication Stock No. WPS101581
- Siddique, T. (2004) Efficiency of Migrant Workers' Remittance: The Bangladesh Case. This Report Prepared for Asian Development Bank, Manila, August 2004

ANNEX

Table A.1 Country- wise Migration of Bangladeshi Workers to Overseas, 1976 - 2010

Year	Saudi Arabia	Kuwait	UAE	Bahrain	Oman	Malaysia	Singapore	Others	Total
1976	217	643	1,989	335	113	0	0	809	6,082
1977	1,379	1,315	5,819	870	1,492	0	0	632	13,484
1978	3,212	2,243	7,512	762	2,877	23	0	1,029	19,636
1979	6,496	2,298	5,069	827	3,777	0	110	223	20,779
1980	8,695	3,687	4,847	1,351	4,775	3	383	84	25,805
1981	13,384	5,464	6,418	1,392	7,351	0	1,083	1,029	38,102
1982	16,294	7,244	6,863	2,037	8,248	0	331	182	43,181
1983	12,928	10,283	6,615	2,473	11,110	23	178	2,279	47,872
1984	20,399	5,627	5,225	2,300	10,048	0	718	638	46,939
1985	39,133	7,384	8,336	2,965	3,218	0	792	428	64,241
1986	27,235	10,286	8,790	2,597	6,255	53	25	1,159	58,386
1987	39,133	7,384	8,336	2,965	3,218	0	792	428	64,241
1988	27,622	6,524	13,437	3,268	2,213	2	0	1,409	56,463
1989	39,049	12,402	15,184	4,870	15,429	401	229	1,286	90,839
1990	57,086	5,957	8,307	4,563	13,980	1,385	776	2,678	96,722
1991	75,656	28,574	8,583	3,480	23,087	1,628	642	3,032	1,46,673
1992	93,132	34,377	12,975	5,804	25,825	10,537	313	3,569	1,88,524
1993	106,387	26,407	15,810	5,396	15,866	67,938	1,739	4,930	2,46,466
1994	91,385	14,912	15,051	4,233	6,470	47,826	391	5,896	1,88,158
1995	84,009	17,492	14,686	3,004	20,949	35,154	3,762	6,589	1,87,640
1996	70,734	21,042	23,812	3,759	8,691	66,631	5,304	7,236	2,09,205
1997	106,534	21,126	54,719	5,010	5,985	152,844	27,401	7,458	3,83,074
1998	158,715	25,444	38,796	7,014	4,779	551	21,728	10,640	2,69,665
1999	185,739	22,400	32,344	4,639	4,045	0	9,596	9,419	2,70,181
2000	144,618	594	34,034	4,637	5,258	17,237	11,095	5,213	2,24,686
2001	137,248	5,341	16,252	4,371	4,561	4,921	9,615	6,656	1,90,966
2002	163,254	15,767	25,438	5,370	3,927	85	6,870	4,545	2,27,258
2003	162,131	26,722	37,346	7,482	4,029	28	5,304	11,148	2,56,193
2004	139,031	41,108	47,012	9,194	4,435	224	6,948	25,006	2,74,962
2005	80,425	47,029	61,978	10,716	4,827	2,911	9,651	35,165	2,54,707
2006	109,513	35,775	1,30,204	16,355	8,082	20,496	20,139	19,717	3,81,516
2007	204,112	4,212	2,26,392	16,433	17,478	2,73,201	38,324	42,457	8,32,609
2008	132,124	319	4,19,355	13,182	52,896	1,31,762	56,581	68,836	8,75,055
2009	14,666	10	2,58,348	28,426	41,704	12,402	39,581	80,141	4,75,278
2010	6,541	39	1,86,127	20,313	37,905	806	35,491	68,880	3,56,102
Total	25,7,826	4,77,431	17,72,009	2,12,393	3,94,903	8,49,072	3,15,892	4,40,826	71,31,690
Percent	36.15	6.69	24.85	2.98	5.54	11.91	4.43	6.18	100.00

Sources:

1. Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training, Overseas employment and Remittances from 1976 to 2010 (mimeo).
2. Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training, Flow of Migration by Country of Employment-2010(available at: www.bmet.org.bd/Reports/Flow_Migration.htm, downloaded on 15 December 2011).
3. Bangladesh Bank, Monthly Economic Trends, Various issues.
4. Ministry of Finance, Bangladesh Economic Review-2010.