American Research Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences

Volume 10, Issue 1, 66-71 Pages Research Article | Open Access ISSN (Online)- 2379-1047

DOI: 10.21694/2378-7031.24010



Labor Migration from Nepal and Effect on Socio-Economical Status

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ABSTRACT

The labor migration is defined as the movement of persons from their home country to another country for purpose of employment. "Today, estimated of 170 millions people live outside from their home countries and send back more than 80 billion Dollar in their home countries which is supported to increased remittance at higher rates in developing countries. Therefore, migration is becoming an essential feature of low-income families in developing countries' (Sapkota, 2021). Nepal is facing the problem of unemployment which created by political instability, effect of globalization and privatization, corruption, global economy crises and COVID -19 pandemic. In Nepal, Unemployment is creating the economic and social problems resulted that the increased the labor migration. Every day, more than 2000 people leaving the country for employment to full-fill their basic needs. Approximately 3.5 Million Nepalese (14% of total population) are working abroad, primarily in Malaysia along with other the six countries of Gulf-cooperation Council (GCC), and India. The Department of Foreign Employment (DoFE) has approved labor migration authority to 110 countries and has given the work permit 750000 Nepali youth for labor work in aboard last fiscal year 2022/2023. The increasing migrant labor in Nepal, created the problem of separation family, divorce, imbalance of population distribution , careless to children and elderly family member, cultural clash, decreased the agriculture production, and human trafficking .Lack of job opportunities, sufficient resources for business, an unsure of the investment, low wages, social discrimination, in unfair hiring process are the main reasons for labors migration of Nepal. The purpose of this research article provides the information on socioeconomic status of Migrant workers in Nepal, present the problem of migrant labor and recommends to likeminded agencies for improvements. I used the data from Government of Nepal, development agencies and other likeminded organizations for complete the research paper.

KEYWORDS: Migration, remittance, poverty, migrant worker,

INTRODUCTION

Movement of people from one country to another for purpose of employment called labor migration 'According to National living Standard Survey conducted by Central Bureau of statistic (CBS) 2011, 56% of Nepali households have at least one member of their family working or living abroad" (Bajracharya, 2022). Mainly Nepal is migrant worker went to Gulf Countries and less /medium develop counties because they from middle class who are lives in rural areas of Nepal and they are unable to bear large amount for foreign employment in develop countries. '170 million people live outside from their home countries and send back more than \$80 billion in their home countries which is supported to increased remittance at higher rates in developing countries. Therefore, migration is becoming an essential feature of low-income families in Nepal' (Sapkota, 2021) Everyday about 2000 Nepal is youth leave Nepal for employment and better opportunity of employment. Lack of the employment opportunity, sufficient wages, political instability, poor economic status, exploitation and genderbased violation, social pressure and imitation sense of competition in community, social discrimination and natural disaster are the main reasons for labor migration of Nepal. The main destination for employment is India, Qatar, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and other Gulf Corporation council countries (GCC) and southeast Asian counties like Malaysia, South Korea, and Japan. In the fiscal year 2013/2014 Government of Nepal issued highest work permit 519638 and it is gradually decreasing that number due to the free visa and free ticket provision of Nepal Government. Employer from the destination countries feel large amount liability included air ticket, visa, selection process, therefore, the demand of labors from destination countries had been decreased from the year 2015/16. It is also effects from the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent restrictions imposed on the movement of people. In fiscal year 2020/20 only 72081 work permits issued by Nepal 's Government division of foreign Employment. Similarly, the restriction of women going aboard as domestic worker support to decrease the number of labors outgoing. Migrant labors sent money as remittance 25% of Gross Domestic product (GDP). That

Remittance has been supporting to reduce rural poverty, increase the investment in small industries, investment in their children education and generate the human capital. It is also seen the positive impacts of remittance on the household's expenditure. Remittance recipient households tend to be spent more on consumption, health and education as compared to remittance -non receiving households" (Rohan Byanjankar, 2021). Families of migrant labor has got better lifestyle, increase social status in the community. They have increased the capacity to expenditure for fulfilled their needs.

"It is assumption of neo - classical theorist that the wage difference between the countries motivates labor to shift from low-wage countries to high- wage countries or where labors gets high price they want to go in those country" (Britto, 1968). The number of migrant labor from Nepal has been increased because the worse economic condition of Nepal. After the of COVID-19 pandemic, unemployment problems have been increased in Nepal because the returnees of migrant worker from their destination countries. Millions of workers are faced the vulnerable impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has controlled both their ability to accesses their places of work in the countries of destination as well as their ability to return to their countries of origin.

According to Fedrick Taylor the migration flow depends on the economic condition of destination countries. Labor migration affects to the market economy of destination countries and sending countries like production system, consumption of foods, expenditure on health and investment on education. Likewise, philosopher Sugiya to explained that the remittance, it is increasing the household consumption and investment and thereby their potential for rebalancing economic growth and creating long term human and capital investment. He added that the remittance supports to improve education, health and capital formation. It is a significant impact in advancing the family's education, financial entrepreneurial of people's life. Nepal depends on the remittance of migrant workers which contributing to social and economic development but during the covid pandemic thousands of thousand Nepalese workers returned in Nepal and remittance inflow decreased. 'In the current fiscal year 2022/23 a staggering number of 771000 youth individual ventured aboard for foreign employment. The Department of Foreign Employment (DOFE) it is higher number of migrant labor than last 5 year' (Khadka, 2022). Political instability and economic crisis every day workforce population leave the country for employment, business and educational opportunities. On November 2022, a total 78,370 people securing the foreign employment which approved from the Department of Foreign Employment. Likewise, in last March 2023 total 59422 people had been taken the approval from DOFE. The lack of the clear resolution for domestic worker in abroad has resulted in many youth women seeking employment through illegal channels than women workers are compelled to work in precarious conditions, making their journey abroad even unsafe. 'Nepal government unable arrangements for acquiring work permits for heading to India

further contributes to the exclusion of a significant portion of migrant workers form official data' (Khadka, 2022). As a closed neighbors countries India and Nepal no provision to visa to cross the border. There for people crossed border for employment any time without visa and work permit.

According to Sujit Kumar Shrestha, General secretary of the Nepal Association of Foreign Employment Agencies (NAFEA), "Nepal received around \$8.3 billion equivalent to about 30% of GDP - remittance in 2018/19 and \$8.1 billions remittances in Nepal in 2020" (Adhikari, 2023). It is part of 25-30 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Nepal. Other hand 3 million Nepali workers from abroad were to returned home from Jan 2020 to August because the COVID-19 pandemic. "In fiscal year 1995/96 23.4% households received remittances, which increased to 55.8% in 2010/11, the volume of remittances received by remittance-recipient households also increased significantly in the last two decades; this increased from Rs 15,160 (per recipient household per year) in 1995/96 to Rs 204,782 in 2016/17 increased by almost 14 times. Remittance contributed 26.6% of household income of remittance-recipient households in 1995/96, which increased to 62% in 2016' (Jagannath Adhikari, 2023). Labor migration depends on the political situation country. When political situation is smoothly established, increased the employment opportunities and decreased the number of migrant workers. And is also depends the pandemic and natural disaster. The Covid -19 pandemic general migration practice of Nepal had been totally affected which forced many migrants working in India and Gulf countries/Malaysia returned to Nepal because many jobs providers had closed, unsecure health facilities, discrimination in their workplace, the international travels had been closedduring the lock down.

OBJECTIVE OF THE PAPER

Main objective of this paper is present the socio-economic condition situation of migrant laborsin Nepal. The specific objectives as describe the effect problems of migrant labor in origin country and destination country, present the reasons of increasing of migrant labors, recommend to Nepal's government to utilize the workforce population by establishing the employment opportunities.

METHODS

This qualitative study approached to analysis the report of Government of Nepal Ministry of Labor, Employment and social security, Department of Foreign Employment and data from research article on transnational migrants. Additional secondary data has taken from report on policy advocacy efforts and outcomes for rights of migrant workers impacted by COVID-19 published by people forum for Human Rights and analysis a report of IOM on impact of COVID-19.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Labors Migration Situation of Nepal

'Poorest and lower-class people go for work in India, and they dominated as lower class of labor in migration flow and lowest number of people go for study and business in India from the middle class. Lower middle-class people go for work in Malaysia and gulf countries and upper middle class and upper class go to developed countries like USA, Europe and Australia' (Jagannath Adhikari, 2023). Geographically seen that the large number of labors go to India from far western

and Karnali province. Higher-class people easily make access for developed countries because they have approaches and financial ability to bear expenses for air ticket, visa and miscellaneous cost. Latest date of labor migration from fiscal year 2017/18 to 2021/22 from Nepal to deferent countries as below.

Table 1. Status of labor migration from 2017/18-2021/22 in deferent destination countries

2017/18		2018/19		2019/20		2020/21		2021/22	
Poland	1,662	Maldives	1,817	Malta	1,503	Croatia	1,073	Croatia	3,723
Maldives	1,643	Malta	1,150	Qatar	1,106	Maldives	971	UAE	3,081
Qatar	1,038	Qatar	1,149	UAE	1,028	Romania	522	Qatar	3,053
UAE	740	UAE	888	Maldives	828	Japan	444	United Kingdom	2,666
Malta	466	Kuwait	566	Croatia	639	Poland	424	Maldives	2,657
Czech Republic	379	Japan	399	Japan	597	Turkey	377	Japan	1,860
Japan	350	Czech Republic	375	Portugal	519	United Kingdom	248	Poland	1,491
Republic of Seychelles	347	Republic of Seychelles	329	Romania	486	Qatar	164	Romania	1,245
Germany	290	Oman	322	Turkey	482	UAE	154	Malta	1,229
Kuwait	277	Macau Sar, China	269	Kuwait	462	Oman	144	Turkey	758
Others	1,714	Others	1,887	Others	2,021	Others	796	Others	4,977
Total	8,906		9,151		9,671		5,317		26,740

Source: Data for 2017/18 and 2018/19 from MoLESS, *Nepal Labour Migration Report* 2020: 124-31; Data for 2019/20 to 2021/22 from FEIMS.

In the fiscal year 2017/18 the total number of migrant labors from Nepal seen 8906 and continues increased till the fiscal year 2019/20. But in the effect of corona virus (COVID-19) pandemic the number is decreased as 5317 in the fiscal year 2020/21. After COVID -19 pandemic the number of increased as 26740 in fiscal year 2021/22.

The migration streams by caste/ethnicity in Nepal yields unique feature. "Brahmins and Newar have the lowest poverty rates 10.5% and are considered to be wealthiest in general, even though there is some diversity within each group. The Chhetri's about 23.4%, Janajatis 27%, and Dalits about 42% are below the poverty line. The highest proportion represented in foreign labor by Brahmin/Chhetri 35.6%, Janajati/Indigenous Nationalities 29.2%. Whereas Dalit 5.2% and Muslim 2.1% represented the lowest proportion of respondents and respectively" (Blitz media Private LTD and Humanity united, 2022). Dalits community are the groups considered to be most disadvantaged socially and economically. They are behanded in all development indicators. Therefore, they get less opportunity to joint foreign labors. The geographically labor migration from less develops region (far-west) 65.2 % and Karnali 64%. People from far western region go for work in India like sessional work because the nearest destination or low expenditure to reach the destination. Therefore, India is the single largest destination country of Nepalese migrant workers. Nepal government mentioned Malaysia, Qatar, UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait as the top five overseas destinations of documented Nepalese migrant workers. '92% of migrants

have returned to Nepal from their respective destination countries after the outbreak of the pandemic in March 2020. About 200000 Nepali migrant workers in India were reported to have returned to Nepal just before the national lockdown in March 2020' (Blitz media Private LTD and Humanity united, 2022).

According to the 'push and pull' theory is largely used to explain why Nepalis migrate for work in foreign countries. Generally, push factors are considered the poor economic condition responsible for migration to India, as poorer migrants they faced the scarcity of food, clothes and other necessaries as a human being. Therefore, they generally, go to India for work as long-term migrant as well as temporary and seasonal migrants to earn some income to supplement food and livelihood necessaries in their home. Two provinces (Karnali and Sudur Paschim) located in mid-west and farwest, respectively, are the most food insecure and poverty ridden provinces. Even though, it creates a push factor for migration, a minimum income or economic status is also required for the households/people to initiate migration. 'Below that critical income, people cannot migrate. For example, a large study conducted in early 2000s revealed that poorest of the poor (bottom 20%) couldn't migrate to foreign countries including India' (Adhikari, 2023). Poorest people unable to bear other expenses like agent fees and cost of travel documents. Therefore, poorest people unable to migrate in India. Political conflict one of the main push factors of labor migration in Nepal. Political instability creates poverty, increase the conflict, income loss, and amenity loss

than increase the migration aboard specially from urban areas. In concurrent situation of Nepal the major push factors of labour migration are as a) low economic growth b) poverty c) political instability d) corruption e)Lack of employment opportunity f)low wages for skillful labors g) caste-based discrimination and other social discrimination h)geographical structure

The full factors can be anything that would make an attraction to move the destination countries. The strong economic condition of destination one of the main factors of labor migrant in destination countries. The increase the opportunities in construction and manufacturing sectors in the destination countries, particularly Malaysia and the Gulf countries are main destination of Nepali labors since last decade. Those destinations migrant labors paid low caste for the migration process and they earn comparatively more than their investment. Other some major destination countries are as Malaysia, South Korea, Japan, Portugal, Malta, Croatia. Major pull factors are as: - a) the environment of destination countries b) political stability of destination countries c) Social structure of destination countries.

The migration for developed countries has been very small volume because migrant labors unable to make approaches, bear the expenditure and lack of required professional skill and education. They have a demand of high skillful labor and ready to pay high cost for higher professional like nurse, Doctor, engineer. Those Migrant labor can get higher income than Gulf and Malaysia. In case of India, the income is not that different than in Nepal in case people get a work. "In other cases, a foreign migrant (Gulf and Malaysia) was found to earn Rs 34,871 per month (equivalent to \$328) in 2016, whereas per capita GDP in that year was Rs 86,000" (International Monitory Fund , 2020). Therefore, Gulf and other East-Asian country highly pulling the Nepali worker for construction labors, electrician, plumber, driver, sale man, assistance and manager. "A report publishes by Nepal Rastra Bank and calculate the average income of a youth in Nepal was found to be Rs 90,521 and that of a youth working in foreign country, as reported by his/her family members, was Rs.532,000. This shows that the annual income of someone working overseas was more than five times that of someone working in Nepal" (Adhikari j., 2017). Even though push factors are primary cause of migration to India of people from 'lower' economic background and marginal regions, there are also proximate factors facilitating these migrations. Because of these facilitating circumstances like open border (political relation) and historical-cultural ties.

Social Impact of Labor Migration

Separation from Family and Children

According to the supreme court report the total 27425 divorce cases has field in district court, high court and supreme court. The foreign employment support to increase the divorce cases because husband and wife separating lives separately. Mast of the rural area wife of migrant labor

migrate in city for fulfill her increasing needs and education of children.

Imbalance Population Distribution

It is also affected in size of population of cities and rural aria-According to the population of 2011 the rural population was 82.18 % but in 2021 it is decreased by 78.55%. The lack of workforce population in rural area directly affected on agriculture production of Nepal. Families of migrant labor migrate in city for fell field their increasing demand.

Lack of the Care of Children and Elderly of Family Member

"In Nepal two-thirds of the children are still deprived of at least one of seven basic needs" (UNICEF, 2015). The mother is important role to care their children but female migration is affecting the care. In the fiscal year 2018 /19 the share female migrants stood at around 8.5%. And also effect to elderly population in rural area many elderly are living without caring because their son/daughter working in oversees.

Cultural Clash

It is one of the most important effects of labor migration. Foreign labor import not only remittance also import the culture/language religion (Nominal) from his destination country when he/she return in Nepal. Therefore, Nepali culture is dismissing in this era and entering the western culture like birthday, marriage, festival celebration, clothes and their daily life activities.

Increase the STD and other Health Related Issues

Increasing the STD and HIV and other communicable diseases one of cause of return labor from the India and other destination countries. About 7000 HIV infected individuals returning from India by 2015 and same year about 12000 labor- migrants living with HIV in India. The high rate of mobility and high rate of HIV infection. According to data of an NGO (Pourakhi) among 1010 female migrant who return to Nepal between 2009 and 2014 , 3.1 % had gotten pregnant in the workplace. Among them, 50.1 percent reported pregnancies from consensual sexual relationship.

Labor Migration and Economic Impact

"Mahalaxmi MunicipalityLalitpur find that "the average income of the migrants is Rs. 5,50,000, business/tradesman earn Rs.2,20,000, agricultural earning Rs.1,00000 and service holders earn Rs.1,90,000 annually. It reveals that the foreign employment has increased the income level of people in sample area" (Dahal, 2019). It just information of a municipality where most of the people involved in business than agricultural occupation. In out of Kathmandu valley 66% people are dependence in agriculture in Nepal with facing the problem of in adequate infrastructure development, land fragmentation, traditional farming, limited access of skill and technology on farming. Therefore, the agriculture is not

sufficient income for people's live. Therefore, people should go out of country as migrant labor.

According to the senses of 2021 there are 2.2 million Nepal is living abroad, with 81.28% being male and 18.72% being female. Worker remittances increased by 12.1 percent in fiscal year 2023 to 9.3 billion, or 22.7% of GDP.Nepal agree sthe Global Compact for Migration (GMC) as UN member state and also commitment to the SDGs has been reaffirmed in key policy documents, such as the current Fifteenth Periodic Plan. "Nepal is also a champion country of Objective 6 of the GCM to 'facilitate fair and ethical recruitment and safeguard conditions that ensure decent work. Nepal has committed to achieving Target 8.7 of the SDGs which is to promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all" (Ministry of Labour, employment and social security, 2022). Nepal committed to take action against child labor including

force labour which using as the modern slavery, human trafficking. Nepal preparation a national strategy Paper for implementation of the commitments made by Nepal on labor migration in UN and International forums. Nepal has s seventh rank in globally among the top remittance recipients relative to national Gross Domestic Product. Nepal has seen an exponential growth in remittances received from NPR 2.1 billions in 1990/91 and NPR 961 billions in 2020/21" (Ministry of Labour, employment and social security, 2022). Remittances contributed to an in-crease in consumption levels of people, supporting to obtain better health care, nutrition, education and housing. According to the National Statistics Office (NSO), remittances contributed significantly to reducing poverty headcount from 42 per cent to 25 per cent during the period of 1995 to 2010. Besides consumption, remittances have also enabled some capital creation for investment insmall business and industries.

Table 2. Remittance Inflow from 2019/20-2021/22

Mande	Remittance Received (in billions NPR)					
Month	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22			
Mid-July to mid-August (Saun)	75.4	92.7	76			
Mid-August to mid-September (Bhadau)	78.3	73.0	79.4			
Mid-September to mid-October (Asoj)	76.5	93.1	83.9			
Mid-October to mid-November (Kartik)	74.7	78.9	73.1			
Mid-November to mid-December (Mangsir)	72.0	79.1	76.2			
Mid-December to mid-January (Push)	70.3	78.5	79.9			
Mid-January to mid-February (Magh)	65.9	72.4	71.7			
Mid-February to mid-March (Fagun)	79.2	74.4	91.1			
Mid-March to mid-April (Chait)	34.5	86.9	93.5			
Mid-April to mid-May (Baisakh)	53.9	80.9	87.05			
Mid-May to mid-June (Jeth)	94.0	61.1	92.39			
Mid-June to mid-July (Asar)	100.2	90.2	103.13			
Total	874.9	961.2	1,007.31			

Source: Nepal Ristra Bank accessed 7 June 2022, https://www.nrb.org.np/category/current-macroeconomic-situation/?department=red.

Nepal had received remittance 874.9 billions NRP in the fiscal year 2019/20 and it is increased 961.2 in fiscal year 2020/21 even the period of COVID-19 pandemic and fiscal year 2021/22 received 1007,31 billions remittance from the migrant labor.

CONCLUSION

Nepal is faced the crucial period of economic development social transformation and political stability. It had a targeted of poverty reduction according to the national target in last 10 years but it not reached in that target. According to the Economic survey done in 2023 still 15.1 percent Nepalese population is under the poverty line. International labor organization (ILO) reported in 2018 that 11.4 percent population still unemployment in Nepal. Approximately 80% are engaged in agriculture sector, 3% in manufacturing

industries and 17% are engages in service industries. Lack of opportunity of employment Nepalese youth migrated as labor work Mainly in Golf counties. In the poor economic status, lack of opportunities, exploitation and gender-based violation, social discrimination, imitation and sense of competition in community, political instability, natural disaster are the main factors for migrant labor. In fiscal year 2019//20 Nepal received remittance amounting Rs. 875 billion from migrant labor which is 23.23 percent of GDP ratio. In micro level impact from the migrant labor seen in community that the returnee's labors pay back their loan with interest even somewhere they are paying more than principle amount. The purchasing power has been increased of migrant labor. They invest in education, agriculture related farming, small business. It is supports to increase the consumer power of their family. Some Migrant labor's family are happy but some

suffering psychosocial distress. Female migrant labor faced the problem of domestic violation, verbal abuse, physical attack, rape and sexual harassment in destination countries. They areal so facing the psychological effect concerted on their family child/parents who are leaving in Nepal.

Migrant labors are facing the problem of false documentation from their agents, and they will not get proper job and salary in destination countries. Migrant labor had blindly trust to local agents and relatives as agent for facilitation because of lack of knowledge and information on governmental process and policies on labor migration. The improvement of socio eco condition of migrant labor the government and related stakeholders' fellow some action as following

- 1. Government of Nepal provides the orientation on laguages, cultures, and environment of destination country to interested individuals.
- 2. Conduct the proper orientation and capacity building program to migrant labor to prepare the manpower on related field.
- 3. Provides free financial support to migrant labor to migrant labors to prepare the migration and care their family members.
- 4. Revise and amend the proper policies, provisions and program for migrant youth women labor who are fellows illegal process.
- 5. Establish facilitation offices in destination countries for support migrant labors.
- 6. Establish employment opportunities within the country for minimize the migration of labors.
- 7. Establish care central in local level for care the elderly people who are left their family member.
- 8. provide proper guideline to them, orientation on departure and arrival, enhance the capacity of government officers, decentralization of government service, strong and proper monitoring system, formulate the strategy for reintegration of return labors, provide the skill certificate and license, guarantee the justice to all.

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Citation: Tirtha Biswokarma, "Labor Migration from Nepal and Effect on Socio-Economical Status", American Research Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences, Vol 10, no. 1, 2024, pp. 66-71.

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