

Profile of the Migrants from Bangladesh: A Comparative Analysis between Current and Returnee Migrants

Md. Riad Hassan^{*}
Mohammad Amzad Hossain^{**}

Abstract: This paper explores and compares the profile of the current and returnee migrants who migrated from Bangladesh. The analysis is based on cross-sectional primary data collected from a nationally representative field survey conducted among 303 number of respondents of whom 194 were current migrants and 109 were returnee migrants. The findings reveal that the current Bangladeshi migrants are migrating at an earlier age than the returnee Bangladeshi migrants. Current migrants are migrating with lesser years of schooling than that of returnee migrants. The mean duration of active employment abroad is 9.06 years for current migrants and that of returnee migrants is 9.34 years. On an average, current migrants have to work longer hours daily than the returnee migrants. The dependency of rural families of Bangladesh on international migration is increasing with the passage of time. The unemployment rate among the household-heads of Bangladeshi migrants increases by 10 percentage point when one of the members of that family migrates abroad.

Keywords: Current migrant, Returnee migrant, Comparison of Profile, Bangladesh.

1. Introduction

1.1 Background and Context

International labor migration has long been a livelihood strategy throughout the globe. Bangladesh is not an exception either. Labor migration from Bangladesh has started way back in the year 1976, only within 5 years of its emergence as an independent country. Initially it was all about male-migration in some very limited middle-eastern countries. But since 1991, Bangladeshi females also started to cross the border for their livelihood. According to (Romano & Traverso, 2019), in 2011, almost one out of nine Bangladeshi households had some direct experience of international migration. Gardner (2009) argued that the impact of international migration on Bangladesh society is not only confined to economic dimension, but also contributing to shape the ideals of personal growth and self-realization of an entire generation of Bangladeshis. Historically, migration from Bangladesh has been dominated by short-term low-skilled migrants majority of whom came from the rural areas of the country. Das, de Janvry, Mahmood, and Sadoulet (2014) stated that most migrants of Bangladesh are poor rural persons who are low-skilled individuals who work on short-term contracts, and what makes potential migrants vulnerable is that they are mostly unskilled and poorly educated workers. Hossain (2001) argued that, generally, the differentials in migration (selectivity of certain person or group to be more mobile than others) have been studied mainly by age, sex, marital status, education and occupation. Several studies reported that determinants of migration vary from country to country and even within a country and it varies depending on the socio-economic, demographic and cultural factors.

^{*} Associate Professor, Department of Accounting & Information Systems, Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University, Trishal, Mymensingh, and UGC Ph.D Fellow, Department of Economics, Jahangirnagar University, Savar, Dhaka, E-mail: mddipto@gmail.com

^{**} Professor, Department of Economics, Jahangirnagar University, Savar, Dhaka
E-mail: amzad104@juniv.edu

Bangladesh has been sending labor abroad for more than 43 years. Over the period, the structure, and complexion of labor migration from Bangladesh has changed and it still is changing. In the backdrop of intense global competition in the overseas labor-markets, sending the right person at the right age to the right country with appropriate level of education and technical know-how has become a strategic policy-issue. Sarker (2017) doubted that the migration flows are likely to become more complex, ambiguous and competitive in the years to come. Merely sending anybody and everybody beyond the boundary can neither be an indicator of success nor a sign of sustainable development solution any more. But most of the existing literature concentrated on macro-level issues of migration from Bangladesh with special focus on remittance. Researchers have preferred on calculating ratios and trends of migration from and remittance inflow into the country. But unfortunately, the ultimate success of this sector thoroughly depends on knowing the macro-level demographic conditions of our migrants and devising the country's migration-policies accordingly. With this end in view, this research article has been conducted to shed light on the demographic conditions of the Bangladeshi migrants and also their left-behind families, and also to compare those between current and returnee Bangladeshi migrants.

1.2 Objectives

1. To explore the profiles of current and returnee migrants of Bangladesh
2. To identify the profiles of the households of Bangladeshi migrants
3. To compare the profiles between current and returnee Bangladeshi migrants
4. To propose some policy recommendations.

2. Literature Review

Mallick (2019) argues that the decision to migrate or not to migrate can be either deliberate or involuntary, and hence, a generalized reasoning is difficult to reach. Zeitlyn (2007) stated that migration from Bangladesh to the Middle East and Asia is mostly tied to unemployment and poverty. Ryan, Sales, Tilki, and Siara (2008) stated that social networks also dictates the course of migration decisions.

Hassan and Jebin (2018) mentioned that the average age of past Bangladeshi migrants is 30.9 years and that of current migrants is 32.13 years. Kuhn, Barham, Razzaque, and Turner (2020) in a cross-sectional study conducted in Bangladesh, found that current international migrants were younger (mean 32.9 years versus 35.8 years), had more schooling (7.6 years versus 5.8 years), and were more likely to have an international migrant father (9.7% versus 4.0%) or brother (49.1% versus 30.3%). Rahman (2018) mentioned that among the surveyed Bangladeshi migrants entrepreneurs in Saudi Arabia, 36% were in their thirties and 58% were in their forties. Morad and Gombač (2018) surveyed 100 Bangladeshi migrants in 2 Italian cities namely Padova and Cadoneghe and found that over 50 percent of the respondents were young, most of them between the ages of 18 and 35. Only eight percent of the respondents were over 50 years old. The mean age was 35, the youngest being 20 and the oldest being 58 years of age.

In the case of migration to the Middle East, (Osmani, 1986) reveals that 83 percent of Bangladeshi migrants had not finished secondary school. Gardner (1995) mentioned that the first-generation migrants from Bangladesh to the UK were mostly illiterate, and those who migrated later also had no or lower levels of formal education. Rahman (2010) found that only 7 percent of Bangladeshi workers in Singapore had university degrees. Morad and Gombač (2018) found that 25 of their respondents had graduated or held postgraduate degrees even before migrating to Italy and 54 percent of had secondary-level education (college or high school certificates). Rahman (2018) in his survey among the Bangladeshi migrants entrepreneurs in Saudi Arabia found that they had different levels of educational qualifications: 66% had from 6 to 12 years of schooling in Bangladesh, and 18% had from 13 to 16 years of schooling. Das, de Janvry, and Sadoulet (2015) found that migrants from Bangladesh had, on an average, 6 years of education. On the other hand, (Hassan & Jebin, 2018) stated that the average years of schooling of past Bangladeshi migrants is 5.32 years and that of current migrants is 6.67 years. Kuhn et al. (2020) mentioned that current international migrants had higher levels of schooling than non-migrants (mean 7.6 versus 5.8 years), but they were similar to internal migrants (mean 7.9 years). They also found that international migrants had significantly higher levels of mother's and father's schooling relative to non-migrants, though significantly lower than those of internal migrants. International migrants were much more likely to have a father who had lived abroad or a brother who had lived abroad.

Morad and Gombač (2018) found that most of the Bangladeshi migrants who came to Italy in the 1990s were from the upper middle class. Della Puppa (2013) mentioned, on the other hand, that they mostly came from families of landowners, entrepreneurs, lawyers, teachers, civil servants, military officers, and managers. Romano and Traverso (2019) found that only a tiny share of international migrants originates from households belonging to the lowest expenditure quintile. Kuhn et al. (2020) also found that both current and returned international migrants came from households whose 1996–1997 household assets were about 30% higher than those of both non-migrant and internal migrant households. Zeitlyn (2006) found that in the case of the first generation of Bangladeshi migrants in the UK, the majority of them had rural agricultural backgrounds. However, they found 'stepping down' in the occupations and activities of Bangladeshi migrants in Madrid compared to their situation in Bangladesh. They stated that they "were running their own business in their country of origin, but they are working now for someone else as manual laborers". International migration helped rural households to innovate farming technology (Mendola, 2008) and enhance household resilience to shocks (Sikder & Higgins, 2017).

According to (Abusharaf, 1997; Singh & Yadava, 1981), adult males are more inclined to migrate than other people of the community. Coleman, Compton, and Salt (2002) mentioned that almost all Bangladeshis and Pakistanis are Muslim, most Indians are Hindu or Sikh, a few are Christians, and unlike the indigenous population, men still outnumber women among Bangladeshis. They also found that immigrant women from Bangladesh and Pakistan have the lowest levels of literacy among the UK immigrants. Morad and Gombač (2018) mentioned that the majority of the respondents in their survey were male (89 respondents) and married (83 respondents). However, (Joarder & Miller, 2013) found that females are more inclined to migrate temporarily. Hassan and Jebin (2018) found that the average duration of migration of Bangladeshi migrants abroad is 4.84 years.

Islam (2007) found that 50% of migrants from Bangladesh were unskilled, 16% semi-skilled, and the rest were skilled or professionals. Das et al. (2015) found that among migrants from Bangladesh, 67% had no experience in skilled work, and 22% were unemployed in their home country. Rajan (2018) found it evident that majority of non-nationals in GCC countries were confined to blue-collar jobs, but this is now changing, leading to brain drain from those countries. Wang (2018) argued that low-skilled migrant workers are often directed into foreign labor markets through middleman facilitated trade.

Rahman (2015) reports that Bangladeshi migration to the GCC countries is basically debt-driven, and the lenders of the funds for migration actually siphon off a significant chunk of migration (economic) returns. Migrant families are forced to exploit valuable family resources in order to provide for the economic cost of migration, which, in turn, transfers labor migration into debt migration. Hassan and Jebin (2018) found that migrant households had significantly high level of outstanding debt, of which 35% is directly caused by the international migration. However, (Sharma & Zaman, 2009) have reiterated that remittance-receiving households are more creditworthy. Hadi (2001) finds that household capabilities and functionings are improving with the prevalence of migrant member(s).

Joarder and Hasanuzzaman (2008) found that compared with the permanent migrants, temporary migrants' educational status, per capita income allocation to family members, work experience before migration, source of income and income range are much lower. But, the dependency ratio, contribution to the family, remittances, risk etc. are higher for the permanent migrants than the temporary migrants. Cost of migration and the migration decision are inversely related. Migration costs determine individual's decision to migrate permanently or temporarily. Using multivariate models, (Graham & Jordan, 2011) showed that children of migrant fathers in Indonesia and Thailand are more likely to have poor psychological well-being, compared to children in non-migrant households. This finding was not replicated for the Philippines or Vietnam though.

According to (BMET, 2019), at present, the number of destination countries for Bangladeshi migrants has touched 168 globally. But most of the previous studies focused on Bangladeshi migrants in some specific countries and tried to explore their socio-economic and demographic profiles. Zeitlyn (2006) found that most of the Bangladeshi migrants in the UK originated from the Sylhet region with similar background. So, studying Bangladeshi migrants in a single foreign country is expected to produce results that may be similar among those migrants which may very much be in divergence with the profile of the migrants of entire Bangladesh. What it does suggest is that studying Bangladeshi migrants in a single country can only give a partial finding regarding the profile of migrants and hence cannot be generalized for the migrants of the entire country. Thus, most of the similar previous studies failed to address the diversity of migrants' profile of Bangladesh. This article has been devised to address this research gap.

3. Methodology

3.1 Data Collection

This is thoroughly a primary data-based micro-level study. To fulfill the objectives, cross-sectional data have been resorted to. Relevant data have been collected from a

field-survey conducted through personal interview. For this, a well-formulated questionnaire was developed. The data collection period was from December 2018 to February 2019. Data have been collected by the author and 5 trained interviewers.

3.2 Sampling Design

In order to fulfill the objectives, nationally representative data were required. And in order to fill the research gap, the survey was needed to be conducted among Bangladeshi migrants in different countries of the world. Morad and Gombač (2018) surveyed 100 Bangladeshi migrants and found that among the 100 participants in their survey, only 20 migrants originated from urban areas of the country. It implies that most of the Bangladeshi migrants originate from rural areas of Bangladesh. Hence, the sample for this study was chosen predominantly from union level of Bangladesh. The survey was conducted in four divisions namely Chattogram, Dhaka, Mymensingh and Khulna. At first, 2 districts of Chattogram, 2 districts of Dhaka, 1 district of Mymensingh and 1 district of Khulna division with the highest migrant concentration were chosen according to (BMET, 2019). Then 15 unions were selected under 7 upazilas of those 6 districts. Since the highest migrant concentration of the country is found in Chattogram division, 10 unions from the selected 2 districts were covered from this division for the survey. Apart from that, 2 unions were covered from the selected 2 districts of Dhaka division, 1 union was covered from the selected 1 district of Mymensingh division and 1 union was covered from the selected 1 district of Khulna division. The unions were selected based on convenience. Then snow-ball sampling technique was resorted since official database of Bangladeshi migrants is still unavailable.

3.3 Sample-size Selection

Since our population is a infinite one, sample size calculation formula for infinite population was used. According to that calculation, our sample size came out as 196. But due to availability of the respondents, we conducted the survey based on a sample size of 303. Among them, 194 were current migrants and 109 were returnee migrants, and they migrated in 21 different countries of the world.

3.4 Criteria of Selecting Sampling Respondents

Our sample respondents were either the returnee migrant or the household-head of the current migrant. Migrants who have been residing abroad for at least 1 year for the sole purpose of earning incomes and household-heads of such migrants were chosen for the survey. A returnee migrant meant a Bangladeshi migrant who resided abroad for at least 1 year for the purpose of earning incomes and then returned to Bangladesh and is currently residing here. A current migrant meant a Bangladeshi migrant who is currently residing abroad for at least 1 year for the purpose of earning incomes or is currently residing in Bangladesh due to vacation purpose, and have spent at least 1 year abroad for the purpose of earning incomes.

4. Findings

4.1 Profiles of the Migrants

4.1.1 Current and Returnee Migrants by Actual Age during First Migration

The actual age of the migrants plays a vital role in getting jobs abroad. Though any of the working-age population can be accepted by destination country as a foreign worker, countries may have preferences about workers falling in some specific age categories. Similarly younger workers may have higher desire to migrate than the older ones. However, the actual age of migrants during their first migration may be guided both by the socio-economic conditions of the migrants and also by the nature of jobs for which foreign employers are looking for migrant workers. Following table 4.1 and figure 4.1 show the actual scenario for Bangladeshi migrants in terms of their actual age during first migration based on the survey result:

Table 4.1: Actual Age of the Migrants during First Migration

Actual Age of the Migrants During First Migration (in years)	Types of Migrants (%)	
	Current Migrants ¹	Returnee Migrants ²
Less than 15	0.5	0
15-24	60.8	49.5
25-34	28.8	35.9
35-44	7.6	9.1
45-49	0.5	3.7
50 and above	1.5	1.8
Total	100%	100%
Total Number of Observations	194	109
Mean Age of Migrants During First Migration (in years)	25.12 years	26.84 years
Standard Deviation	7.19781	7.99794
Minimum value	14 years	15 years
Maximum value	54 years	54 years

Source: Field Survey, December 2018-February 2019

¹ A current migrant meant a Bangladeshi migrant who is currently residing abroad for at least 1 year for the purpose of earning incomes or is currently residing in Bangladesh due to vacation purpose, and have spent at least 1 year abroad for the purpose of earning incomes.

² A returnee migrant meant a Bangladeshi migrant who resided abroad for at least 1 year for the purpose of earning incomes and then returned to Bangladesh and is currently residing here.

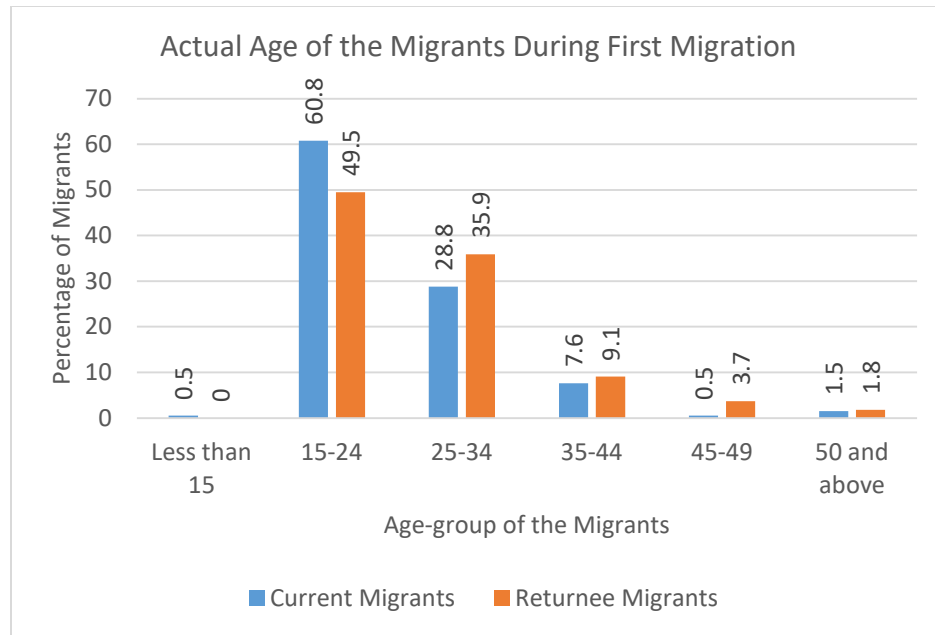


Figure 4.1: Actual Age of the Migrants during First Migration

Source: Field Survey, December 2018-February 2019

Table 4.1 and figure 4.1 reveal that almost 61 percent of the current Bangladeshi migrants first migrate during the ages between 15 to 24 years followed by almost 29 percent during the ages between 25 to 34 years. It is also found that 0.5 percent of the current Bangladeshi migrants migrate even before the age of 15 years. However, the rate of migration above the age level of 34 years gradually decreases and it becomes very small after 44 years.

For returnee Bangladeshi migrants, the scenario is similar. Almost 50 percent of them first migrate during the ages between 15 to 24 years followed by almost 36 percent during the ages between 25 to 34 years. The percentage decreases above the age level of 34 years gradually decreases and it becomes miniscule after 44 years.

The mean age during first migration for returnee Bangladeshi migrants is almost 27 years which is 25 years in case of current Bangladeshi migrants. It reveals that with the passage of time, younger people have the tendency to migrate from Bangladesh. However, the minimum age of first migration for current migrant is 14 years and that of returnee migrant is 15 years.

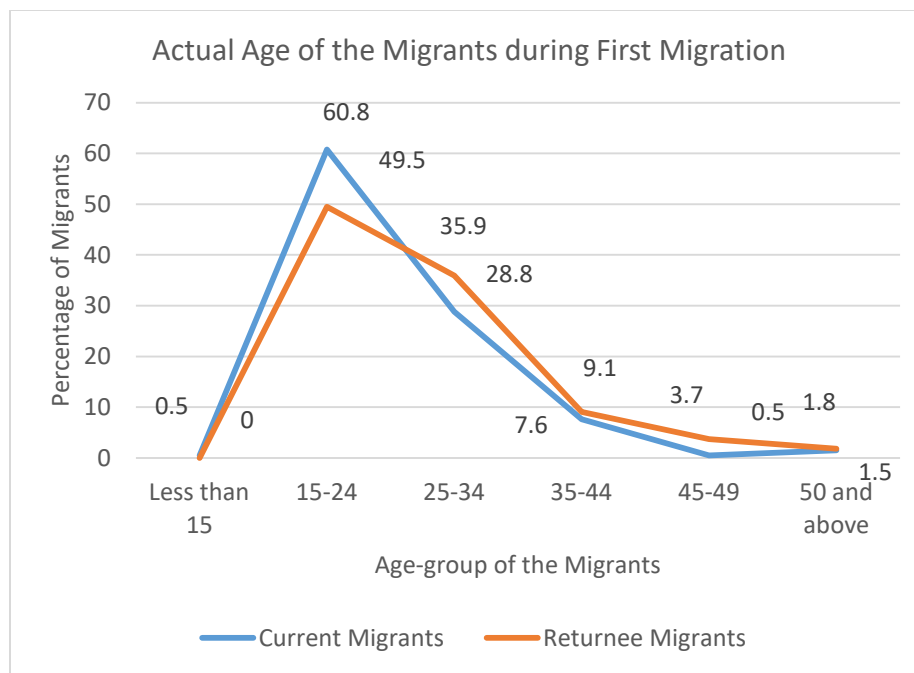


Figure 4.2: Comparison of Actual Age during First Migration of Current and Returnee Migrants

Source: Field Survey, December 2018-February 2019

Figure 4.2 shows that the tendency to migrate at earlier ages is higher among current Bangladeshi migrants than among returnee Bangladeshi migrants. Almost 61 percent of current migrants compared to almost 50 percent of returnee migrants migrate during the ages between 15 to 24 years. However, for the age group of 25-34 years, the scenario reverses. Almost 36 percent of returnee migrants compared to almost 29 percent of current migrants migrate during this age group.

4.1.2 Current and Returnee Migrants by Education Level

Educational background of the migrants plays a key role in fetching unskilled or skilled jobs abroad. Generally speaking, the higher the years of schooling, the higher is the possibility of getting better paid jobs and vice versa. However, the quality of education in the home country also matters for the foreign employers. If it fails to match their requirements, educational background may become irrelevant in getting better jobs abroad. At the same time, if the migrants find that the quality of education in their home country does not matter much to the foreign employers, they may opt for leaving their education incomplete in the home country and go for migration at an earlier age than preferred. Following table 4.2 and figure 4.3 show the actual scenario for Bangladeshi migrants in terms of their years of schooling in Bangladesh before migrating abroad based on the survey result:

Table 4.2: Educational Background of the Migrants

Educational Background (Years of Schooling)	Migrants by Levels of Education (%)	
	Current Migrants	Returnee Migrants
0	3.6	4.6
1-5	26.3	22.9
6-8	29.4	34
9-10	28.4	22
11-12	8.7	10.1
13-16	3.5	4.5
17 and above	0	1.8
Total	100%	100%
Total Number of Observations	194	109
Mean Years of Schooling	7.72 years	7.86 years
Standard Deviation	3.12553	3.52890
Minimum value	0 year	0 year
Maximum value	16 years	17 years

Source: Field Survey, December 2018-February 2019

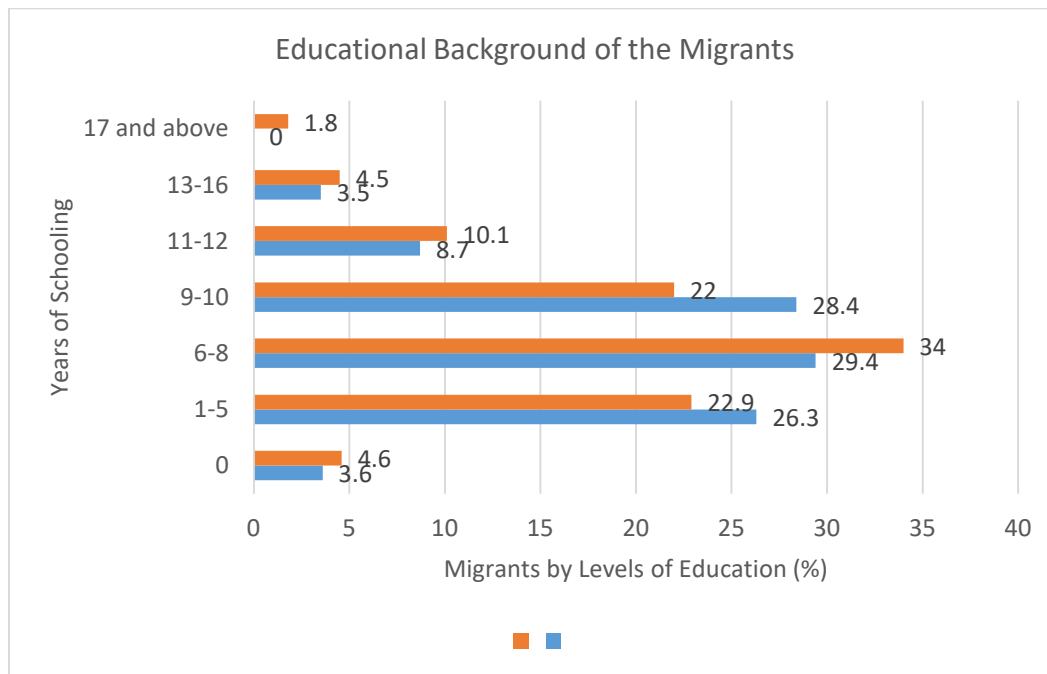


Figure 4.3: Educational Background of the Migrants

Source: Field Survey, December 2018-February 2019

Regarding the educational background of the migrants as computed by their years of schooling in Bangladesh before migration, similar scenario has been observed among current and returnee migrants. The survey result reveals that 34 percent of the returnee Bangladeshi migrants migrate with 6-8 years of schooling. Figure 4.3 demonstrates that the maximum portion of the returnee migrants leave the country without even completing their Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examination. Similarly, it has been observed that almost 30 percent of the current Bangladeshi migrants migrate with 6-8 years of schooling implying that the maximum portion of the current migrants leave the country without completing their Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examination. Almost 23 percent of returnee migrants and more than 26 percent of current migrants leave the country only with primary-level education. In total, around 84 percent of the returnee migrants and 88 percent of the current migrants of Bangladesh migrate without completing their tertiary-level education. The scenario seems ominous as higher percentage of current migrants are leaving the country with incomplete tertiary-level education. This is one of the reasons why most of the Bangladeshi migrants get lower wages compared to their foreign counterparts abroad for the same job. Another startling finding is that around 5 percent of returnee migrants and 4 percent of current migrants migrate with barely any education. Only 6 percent of returnee migrants and 3.5 percent of current migrants get university-level education before they move abroad. The mean years of schooling for returnee Bangladeshi migrants is 7.86 years whereas it is 7.72 years in case of current Bangladeshi migrants. The highest years of schooling is 17 years in case of returnee migrants and 16 years for current migrants. The lowest years of schooling is 0 year for both types of migrants. It implies that there are Bangladeshi migrants who migrate with hardly any education what so ever.

4.1.3 Current and Returnee Migrants by Number of Times Migrated

Many migrant workers migrate for more than once with new job contracts. It has significant implication especially on their cost of migration. Cost of migration increases when people migrate to perform a new job in a new country or in the same country but in a new organization. Apart from that, those who migrate in different countries have to face the extra challenge of coping with new language, culture, working condition, after all, new environment. Most of the Bangladeshi migrants perform contractual jobs abroad in which their wages remain fixed for the entire contract period and their designations do not change. If they migrate for a second or third time with new job in a new organization of the same country or in a different country, they have to start afresh as a contractual worker and again their wages and designation remain fixed for a stipulated contract period. In the process, they may encounter lack of growth in their foreign career. Following table 4.3 and figure 4.4 show the actual scenario for Bangladeshi migrants regarding the number of times they migrated abroad with independent job-contract based on the survey result:

Table 4.3: Number of Times Migrated with Independent Job-contract

Number of Times Migrated with Independent Job-contract	Types of Migrants (%)	
	Current Migrants	Returnee Migrants
1 time	77.3	76.1
2 times	14.4	18.3
3 times	5.7	3.7
More than 3 times	2.5	1.8
Total	100%	100%
Total Number of Observations	194	109
Mean Number of Times Migrated	1.43	1.33
Standard Deviation	1.23735	0.72079
Minimum value	1 time	1 time
Maximum value	12 times	5 times

Source: Field Survey, December 2018-February 2019

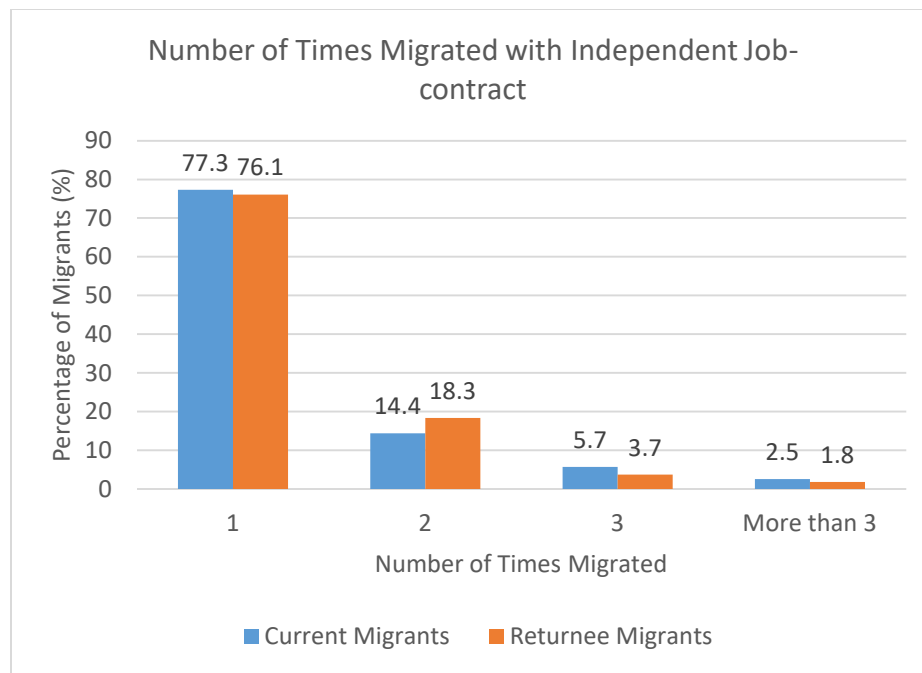


Figure 4.4: Number of Times Migrated with Independent Job-contract

Source: Field Survey, December 2018-February 2019

Total number of times a migrant migrates with independent job-contract changes the cost of migration. According to the survey result, table 4.3 and figure 4.4 show that 77 percent of current Bangladeshi migrants and 76 percent of returnee Bangladeshi migrants have

migrated for only one time. However, a little more than 14 percent of the current migrants and 18 percent of the returnee migrants have migrated for two times with separate jobs abroad. The mean number of times a migrant migrate abroad with independent job contract is 1.43 times for current migrants and 1.33 times for returnee migrants. The maximum number of times of migration is 12 times for current migrants and 5 times for returnee migrants. Minimum number of times of migration is 1 time for both types of migrants.

4.1.4 Current and Returnee Migrants by Total Duration of Active Employment

Migrants' earnings abroad do not depend on their total duration of overseas stay, rather depend on total duration of their active employment in the host-countries. Hence it is important to focus on the total duration of active employment of Bangladeshi migrants abroad. It is important for another reason as well. Most of the Bangladeshi migrants perform contractual jobs abroad during which their wages and fringe benefits remain unchanged, and usually the contract period is between 3 to 5 years. Following table 4.4 and figure 4.5 show the actual scenario for Bangladeshi migrants in terms of their total duration of active employment abroad based on the survey result:

Table 4.4: Total Duration of Active Employment

Total Duration of Active Employment (in years)	Types of Migrants (%)	
	Current Migrants	Returnee Migrants
0	0	2.8
1-5	36.6	33.9
6-10	31.4	26.6
11-15	15.4	17.3
16-20	8.8	12.8
More than 20	7.7	6.4
Total	100%	100%
Total Number of Observations	194	109
Mean Duration of Active Employment (in years)	9.06	9.34
Standard Deviation	7.36120	7.74707
Minimum value	1 year	0 year
Maximum value	40 years	38 years

Source: Field Survey, December 2018-February 2019

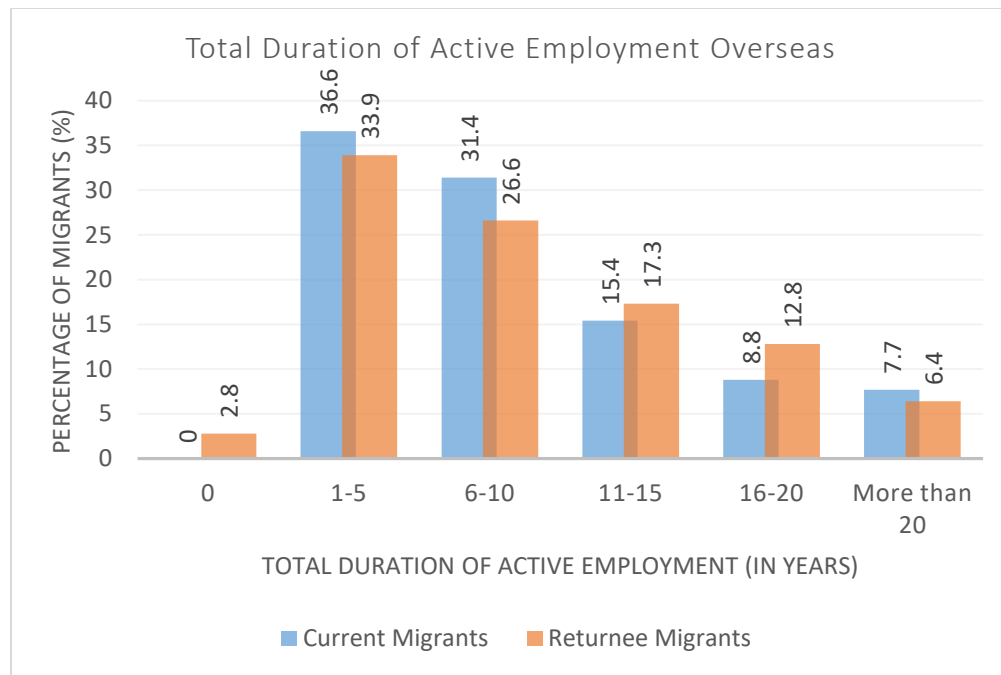


Figure 4.5: Comparison of Duration of Active Overseas Employment of Current and Returnee Migrants

Source: Field Survey, December 2018-February 2019

According to the survey results, table 4.4 and figure 4.5 reveal that around 37 percent of current Bangladeshi migrants and 34 percent of returnee Bangladeshi migrants get 1-5 years of active overseas employment. These figures are the highest among respective groups of migrants. In case of returnee migrants, it has been observed that around 3 percent of them get less than 1 year of active employment abroad. The mean duration of active overseas employment for current migrants is 9.06 years and for returnee migrants is 9.34 years. The maximum number of years is 40 for current migrants and 38 for returnee migrants. The minimum value is 1 year for current migrants and 0 year for returnee migrants. It implies that some Bangladeshi migrants remain unemployed even in foreign countries though their prime reason for migration abroad is their unemployment within Bangladesh.

4.1.5 Current and Returnee Migrants by Working Hours of the Migrants

Wage-earnings may depend on the working-hours of the migrants in overseas jobs. It is especially true in case of part-time or contractual jobs. Since most of the Bangladeshi migrants perform such kinds of jobs abroad, focusing on their average daily working hours there is of great importance to learn the pros and cons of their earnings abroad. Following table 4.5 and figure 4.6 show the actual scenario for Bangladeshi migrants in terms of their average daily working hours abroad based on the survey result:

Table 4.5: Average Daily Working Hours of the Migrants

Range of Working Hours of the Migrants	Types of Migrants (%)	
	Current Migrants	Returnee Migrants
0	0	2.8
8	20.6	20.2
9-11	26.3	27.5
12-15	46.3	43.1
16 and above	6.6	6.4
Total	100%	100%
Total Number of Observations	194	109
Mean Average Daily Working Hour	11.11 Hours	10.81 Hours
Standard Deviation	2.31941	2.98814
Minimum value	8 Hours	0 Hour
Maximum value	18 Hours	18 Hours

Source: Field Survey, December 2018-February 2019

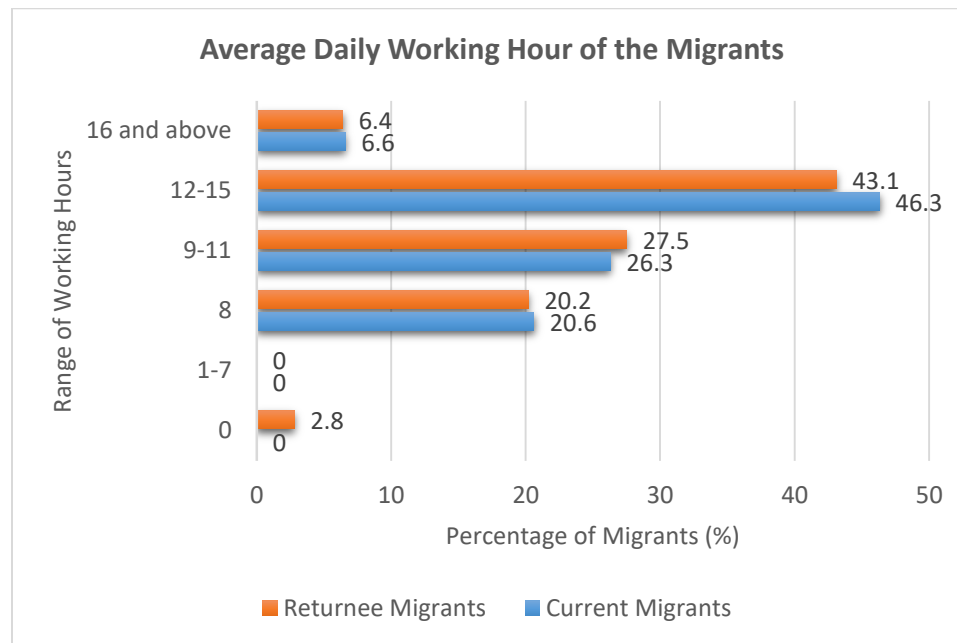


Figure 4.6: Comparison of Average Daily Working Hour of Current and Returnee Migrants

Source: Field Survey, December 2018-February 2019

Table 4.5 and figure 4.6 show that the highest chunk of returnee migrants (43.1 percent) and current migrants (46.3 percent), on an average, work for 12 to 15 hours daily in their overseas jobs. Moreover, approximately 7 percent of returnee migrants and current migrants work for 16 hours and more every day. On the other hand, almost none is found to work for less than 8 hours daily. It implies that, every Bangladeshi migrant in overseas job must have to work for at least 8 hours daily.

The mean average daily working hour for current and returnee Bangladeshi migrants are 11.11 hours and 10.81 hours respectively. The minimum value is 8 hours for current migrants and zero hour for returnee migrants. However, the maximum average daily working hours for both current and returnee migrants is 18 hours.

4.2 Profiles of the Households of the Migrants

4.2.1 Number of Family-members in the Households of the Migrants

As the number of family-members in the migrant's household increases, there is the possibility of increase of number of dependents on the migrants. Hence, the number of family-members in the household acts as a determinant of migration decision for a migrant, at least indirectly. Following table 4.6 and figure 4.7 show the actual scenario for Bangladeshi migrants in terms of their average daily working hours abroad based on the survey result:

Table 4.6: Number of Family-members in the Household

Number of Family-members in the Household	Types of Migrants (%)	
	Current Migrants	Returnee Migrants
0	0	0
1-5	79.4	78
6-10	17	20.2
11 and above	3.5	1.8
Total	100%	100%
Total Number of Observations	194	109
Mean Number of Family-members	4.6134	4.3486
Standard Deviation	2.34356	2.16614
Minimum value	1 person	1 person
Maximum value	15 persons	13 persons

Source: Field Survey, December 2018-February 2019

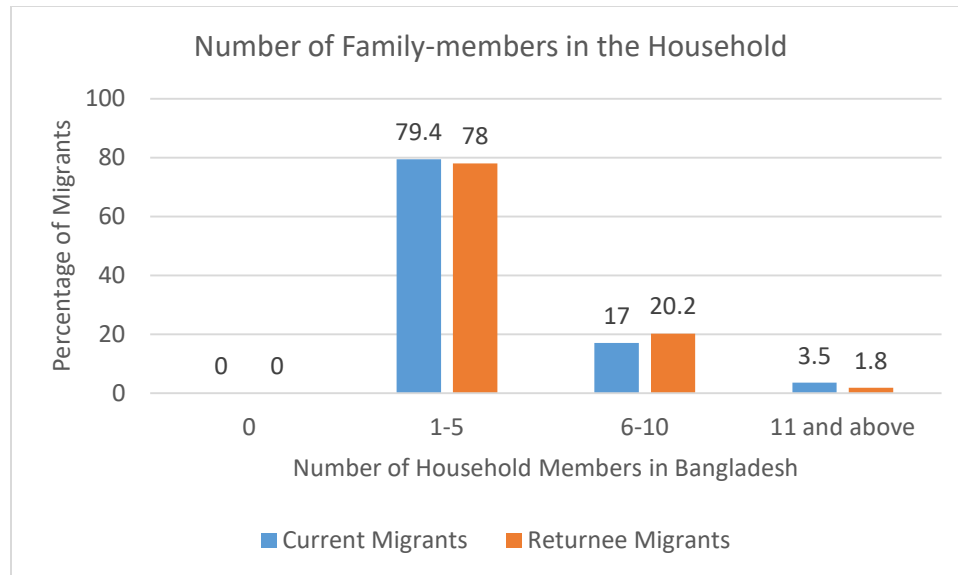


Figure 4.7: Comparison of Number of Family-members in the Household of Current and Returnee Migrants

Source: Field Survey, December 2018-February 2019

Table 4.6 and figure 4.7 show that almost 80 percent of current migrants and 78 percent of returnee migrants have number of family-members between 1 to 5. 17 percent of current and 20.2 percent of returnee migrants have number of family-members between 6 to 10. Even 11 and more number of family-members are found in 3.5 percent of current and 1.8 percent of returnee migrants' families. However, in no case zero family-member has been found implying that member of a single-member family seldom migrates. Here, family included the extended family who reside in the same household.

4.2.2 Number of Dependents in the Households of the Migrants

Number of dependents on the migrant can directly influence the migration decision. It is particularly true for those migrants who are left with no option in the home country to manage ends meet. It is expected that as the number of dependents in the migrant's family increases, the impetus of the migrant to migrate also increases. Hence, number of dependents in the family of the migrant can be considered as a strong determinant of migration. Following table 4.7 and figure 4.8 show the actual scenario for the households of Bangladeshi migrants in terms of their number of dependent members based on the survey result:

Table 4.7: Number of Dependents in the Household of the Migrants

Number of Dependents in the Household	Types of Migrants (%)	
	Current Migrants	Returnee Migrants
0	2.1	0.9
1-5	85	79.8
6-10	9.8	19.2
11 and above	3	0
Total	100%	100%
Total Number of Observations	194	109
Mean Number of Dependents	4.0464	3.9358
Standard Deviation	2.19111	1.82714
Minimum value	0 person	0 person
Maximum value	15 persons	10 persons

Source: Field Survey, December 2018-February 2019

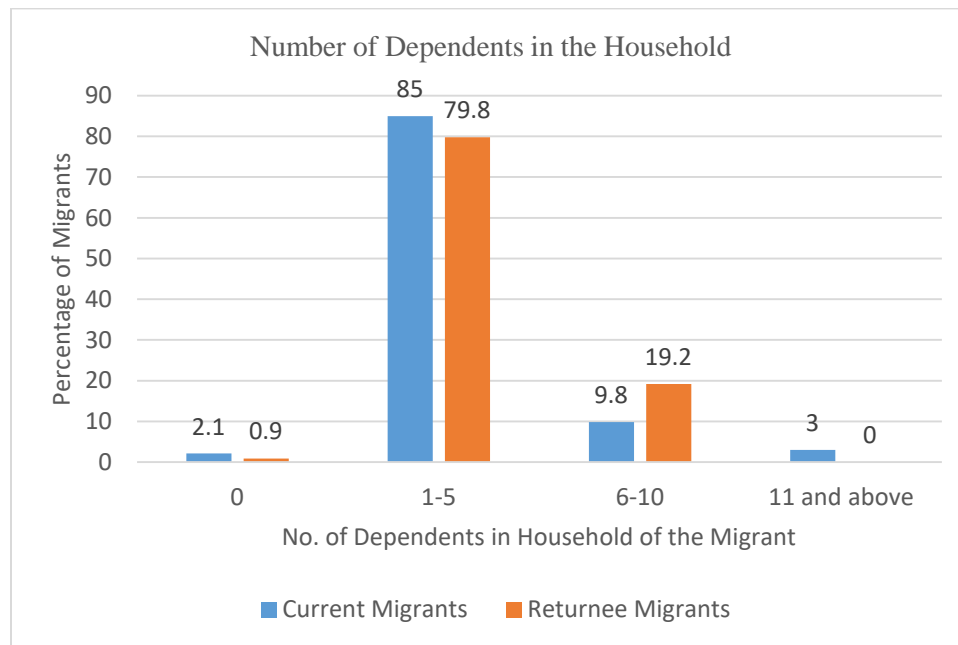


Figure 4.8: Comparison of Number of Dependents in the Household of Current and Returnee Migrants

Source: Field Survey, December 2018-February 2019

The survey results reveal that in 85 percent cases, number of dependents in the household of current migrant were between 1 and 5. And for returnee migrants, it is true for almost 80 percent households. However, in 2.1 percent households of current migrants, there

was no dependent member and in almost 1 percent household of returnee migrants, there was no dependent member. It can also be observed that in almost 10 percent household of current migrants and a little more than 19 percent household of returnee migrants have 6 to 10 number of dependent members.

4.2.3 Number of Family-members of the Migrants Working Abroad

The number of family-members of a migrant's family working abroad can have direct positive impact on the household income of the migrant. It also can show the fascination of the members of a migrant's family towards migration. Moreover, this study can also answer the question as to whether migration of the first migrant member of a family motivates the other members to migrate as well. Following figure 4.9 shows the actual scenario for the households of Bangladeshi migrants regarding their number of family-members migrating to work abroad based on the survey result:

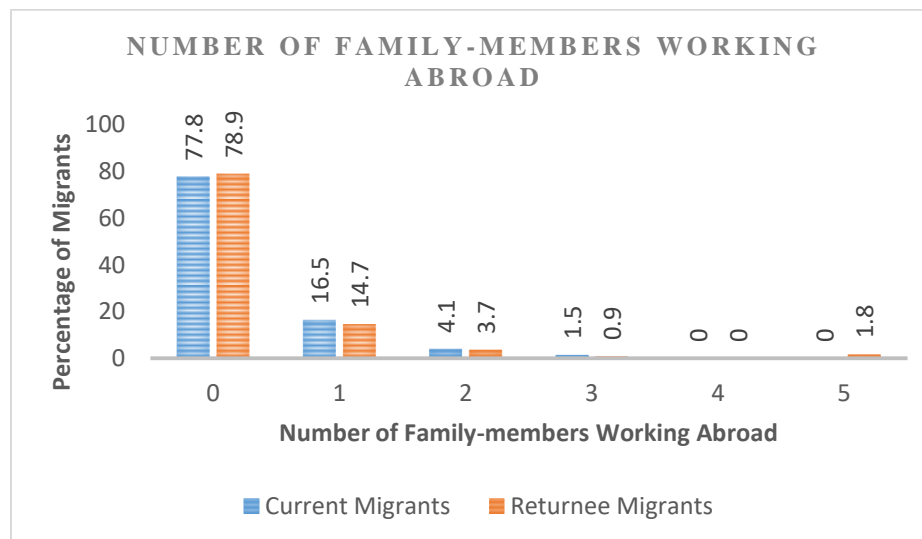


Figure 4.9: Number of Family-members of the Migrants Working Abroad

Source: Field Survey, December 2018-February 2019

According to the survey, figure 4.9 shows that the first migrant-member is the only migrant family-member in almost 78 percent of current migrant families and 79 percent of returnee migrant families. No other member migrates after the migration of the first migrant-member of the family in such cases. Though there is a wide-spread belief that an already-migrant family-member motivates subsequent migration of other members of the same family, empirical evidence in Bangladesh indicates on the contrary to this popular belief. Only 16 percent of current migrant families and 15 percent of returnee migrant families have 2 migrant-members. More than 2 migrant family-members are seldom found. What it also suggests is that previous migration of a family-member hardly can motivate subsequent migration of any other family-member of the same family. However, exception may be found in some specific areas of the country such as Sylhet. But it may not be generalized in other parts of the country as documented by the survey findings.

4.2.4 Employment Status of the Household-heads of the Migrants

Previous literature indicate that there is a tendency of the working household-heads of the migrants to leave their job/work once someone of the family migrates abroad. One possible reason is that once a family-member starts working abroad, leisure becomes more preferable for the household-heads back home. Another reason is the reluctance on the part of the household-heads of the migrant to work anymore since one family-member has already started working abroad and earning for the family. Following figure 4.10 and figure 4.11 show the actual scenario for the household-heads of Bangladeshi migrants regarding their employment status before and after migration of any family-member abroad based on the survey result:

Was the left-behind household-head employed before migration?

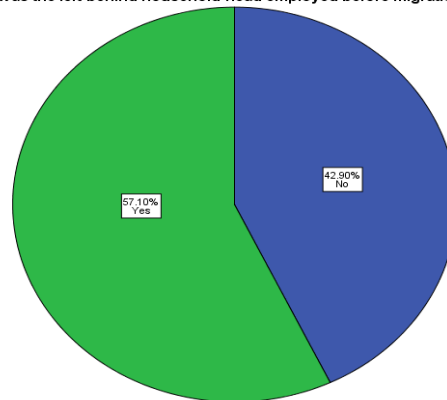


Figure 4.10: Employment Status of the Household-heads of the Migrants before Migration

Source: Field Survey, December 2018-February 2019

Is/Was the left-behind household-head employed during migration?

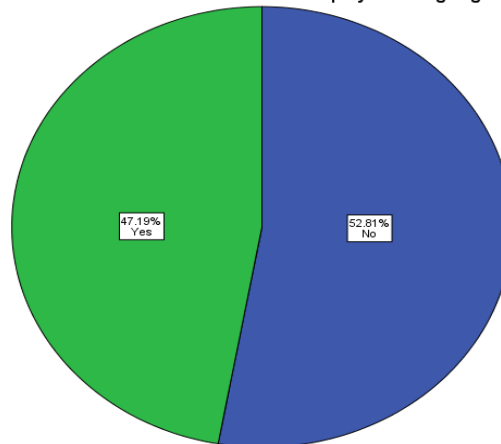


Figure 4.11: Employment Status of the Household-heads of the Migrants after Migration

Source: Field Survey, December 2018-February 2019

According to figure 4.10 and 4.11, the survey findings justify such tendency in Bangladesh as well. The figures show that before migration of a family-member, more than 57 percent of the household-heads were employed and were earning for the family. But once a family-member migrates abroad, only 47 percent of the household-heads remain employed. So, there is a 10 percentage point decrease in the employment status of the household-heads due to migration of the family-members. Though more than 50 percent household-heads remain employed before migration of a family-member, more than 50 percent household-heads become unemployed after migration of a family-member. They start depending on the earnings of the migrant-member then.

5. Conclusion and Policy Recommendations

For a lower middle-income and soon to graduate Least Developed Country (LDC) country like Bangladesh, international labor migration remain a strategic policy issue. With the ever-increasing competitiveness in the global labor market, sending the right person at the right age in the right country with appropriate education and technical know-how is the key to success. As the findings suggest, current Bangladeshi migrants are migrating even at a lower age than the previous ones. They are very often migrating with lesser years of schooling as well. Consequently they have to work longer hours abroad at lower wage rates. In most of the migrant-families, only one family-member migrates abroad. At the same time, more number of family-members depend on current migrants than that of returnee migrants. It implies that the dependency of rural families of Bangladesh on international migration is increasing with the passage of time. Another interesting finding is that more number of household-heads of the migrants want to remain unemployed when a member of the family migrates abroad. In the backdrop of these findings, the following points can be recommended:

1. Bangladeshi migrants should be permitted to migrate at least after completion of their 12 years schooling.
2. Stepping into shoes of the foreign employers, our migrants should be trained well according to their requirements before permitting them to migrate.
3. In order to decrease the dependency ratio of family-members on the migrants, they should be motivated to do their own job within Bangladesh that they are eligible to perform.
4. In order to stop the tendency of the household-heads to become unemployed when someone migrates from the family, they should be incentivized to invest the remittance they receive from their migrant family-member within Bangladesh.
5. Appropriate policy support should be provided both for the migrants and also for their family-members in the country to achieve the best out of the migration process.

Due to time and budget constraints, the migrants of the remaining 4 divisions of Bangladesh namely Rajshahi, Sylhet, Barisal and Rangpur could not be covered in the study. The future researchers in this field can conduct similar studies covering these divisions and also including other relevant variables to have more inclusive, representative and comprehensive results.

References

- Abusharaf, R. M. (1997). Sudanese migration to the new world: Socio-economic characteristics. *International Migration*, 35(4), 513-536.
- BMET. (2019). Retrieved 29 April, 2019, from www.bmet.org.bd
- Coleman, D., Compton, P., & Salt, J. (2002). Demography of migrant populations: The case of the United Kingdom. *The demographic characteristics of immigrant populations. Population Studies*(38), 497-552.
- Das, N., de Janvry, A., Mahmood, S., & Sadoulet, E. (2014). Migration as a risky enterprise: A diagnostic for Bangladesh.
- Das, N., de Janvry, A., & Sadoulet, E. (2015). Selection into International Labor Migration: Findings from the Baseline Survey of BRAC's Safe Migration Project: Working paper, University of California, Berkeley.
- Della Puppa, F. (2013). A bidesh1 in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea: Biographical trajectories and migration patterns in the Bangladeshi Diaspora in Italy2. *Ars & Humanitas*, 7, 99.
- Gardner, K. (1995). *Global migrants, local lives: Travel and transformation in rural Bangladesh: Travel and transformation in rural Bangladesh*: Clarendon Press.
- Gardner, K. (2009). Lives in motion: the life-course, movement and migration in Bangladesh. *Journal of south Asian development*, 4(2), 229-251.
- Graham, E., & Jordan, L. P. (2011). Migrant parents and the psychological well-being of left-behind children in Southeast Asia. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 73(4), 763-787.
- Hadi, A. (2001). International migration and the change of women's position among the left-behind in rural Bangladesh. *International Journal of Population Geography*, 7(1), 53-61.
- Hassan, M., & Jebin, L. (2018). Comparative 'Capability' of Migrant and Non-Migrant Households: Evidence from Rural Bangladesh. *Asian Economic and Financial Review*, 8(5), 618-640.
- Hossain, M. Z. (2001). *Rural-urban migration in Bangladesh: a micro-level study*. Paper presented at the Brazil IUSSP conference. August.
- Islam, M. N. (2007). Migration scenario: Nature, patterns and trends. *Country Paper Migration*.
- Joarder, M. A. M., & Hasanuzzaman, S. (2008). Migration decision from Bangladesh: permanent versus temporary. *Asia Europe Journal*, 6(3-4), 531-545.
- Joarder, M. A. M., & Miller, P. W. (2013). Factors affecting whether environmental migration is temporary or permanent: Evidence from Bangladesh. *Global Environmental Change*, 23(6), 1511-1524.
- Kuhn, R., Barham, T., Razzaque, A., & Turner, P. (2020). Health and well-being of male international migrants and non-migrants in Bangladesh: A cross-sectional follow-up study. *PLoS medicine*, 17(3), e1003081.
- Mallick, B. (2019). The nexus between socio-ecological system, livelihood resilience, and migration decisions: Empirical evidence from Bangladesh. *Sustainability*, 11(12), 3332.
- Mendola, M. (2008). Migration and technological change in rural households: Complements or substitutes? *Journal of Development Economics*, 85(1-2), 150-175.
- Morad, M., & Gombač, J. (2018). "PROBASHI" IN ITALY. NEW DESTINATIONS: TRENDS, ORIGINS AND PROFILES OF BANGLADESHI MIGRANTS IN PADOVA AND CADONEGHE. *Dve Domovini/Two Homelands*, 47(1), 37-52.

- Osmani, S. R. (1986). Bangladesh. Migration of Asian workers to the Arab world: Tokyo: United Nations University Press.
- Rahman, M. M. (2010). Remittances as a social process: the Singapore-Bangladesh remittance corridor. *Asian and Pacific migration journal*, 19(2), 265-294.
- Rahman, M. M. (2015). Migrant indebtedness: Bangladeshis in the GCC countries. *International Migration*, 53(6), 205-219.
- Rahman, M. M. (2018). Beyond labour migration: The making of migrant enterprises in Saudi Arabia. *International Sociology*, 33(1), 86-106.
- Rajan, S. I. (2018). Demography of the Gulf Region *South Asian Migration in the Gulf* (pp. 35-59): Springer.
- Romano, D., & Traverso, S. (2019). The Heterogeneous Impact of International Migration on Left-behind Households: Evidence from Bangladesh. *International Migration*, 57(5), 121-141.
- Ryan, L., Sales, R., Tilki, M., & Siara, B. (2008). Social networks, social support and social capital: The experiences of recent Polish migrants in London. *Sociology*, 42(4), 672-690.
- Sarker, M. M. R. (2017). Migration Flows in South Asia *Regional Cooperation in South Asia* (pp. 47-68): Springer.
- Sharma, M., & Zaman, H. (2009). *Who migrates overseas and is it worth their while? An assessment of household survey data from Bangladesh*: The World Bank.
- Sikder, M. J. U., & Higgins, V. (2017). Remittances and social resilience of migrant households in rural Bangladesh. *Migration and Development*, 6(2), 253-275.
- Singh, S., & Yadava, K. (1981). On some characteristics of rural out-migration in Eastern Uttar Pradesh. *Society and Culture*, 12(1), 33-46.
- Wang, X. (2018). Explaining Heterogeneity in Selection of Bangladeshi Migrant Laborers.
- Zeitlyn, B. (2006). *Migration from Bangladesh to Italy and Spain*: Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit.
- Zeitlyn, B. (2007). Senders turned into receivers: Spain, Italy and Bangladeshi migration.