

Factors of Migration on Urban Bangladesh: An Empirical Study of Poor Migrants in Rajshahi City

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Abstract

The paper examines the rural-urban migration patterns of poor migrants who move to Rajshahi city, Bangladesh, either on their own or with their families. It explores the consequences that the migration process driven by economic and social reasons has on unemployment and due to poverty. The findings of this work show that the factors and impact of migration on their livelihood. It was also finding out the fulfillment status about their dreams which they were shown before migration. The underlying efforts to improve economic status in urban Bangladesh, thus, is that of urban poor, particularly the urban migrants, who are growing more rapidly than the rural poor due to heavy rural-urban migration. Urban planners should be concerned about the rapidly expanding cities and the concentration of perhaps disaffected migrants in urban areas. The study results highlight the need to target migrant groups and urban poor within urban areas in the provision of availability of work care services.

Keywords: Migration; Rural Poor; Factors of Migration; Monga; Rajshahi City

I. Introduction

An unprecedented urban growth had been occurring on the peripheries of cities, in squatter settlements and illegal colonies of all sorts, and has fostered an equally unprecedented rise in urban poverty. Nearly one billion residents in cities of the developing world are estimated to be poor, with both urban and poverty trends increasing alarmingly (Mehta, 2000). The number of people living in urban slums is expected to double within the next 25 years, and by 2025. This situation calls for some radical adjustments in our ways of thinking and operating if we are to cope effectively with the programming problems and opportunities of urban life, as compared with rural life. Like other developing countries, the number of migrant dwellers thus is increasing very rapidly in urban society of Bangladesh. Urban population has been increasing mainly due to rural migration. Most of the migrants were sometimes the rural poor who took shelter in slums, squatters, footpaths, rail station and many other scattered places.

Bangladesh at the present is 7th most populous country in the globe. Based on the current rate of growth of population, the country's population (currently at 126 million) is expected to reach 190 million in 2025 (ESCAP, 2006). Like many countries, the rate of urban poor people in Bangladesh is increasing. Migration has long been an important livelihood strategy for the people in Bangladesh. Every year, thousands of destitute victims of natural disasters pour into the cities from rural areas. Others come in the hope of better life whenever the population rose to such an extent that peoples could no longer

secure a livelihood, they migrated elsewhere. Even today, both poor and better off people pursue migration as a livelihood strategy in Bangladesh. Choice of destination and levels of benefits and risks, however, vary significantly, according to the economic and social power of the migrants (Siddiqui, 2003).

In recent years, most of the cities in Bangladesh are experiencing rapid, but unplanned urbanization. While the annual population growth rate is 1.7 per cent at national level, the percentage of urban growth is increasing very faster and it is expected that more than 50 per cent of the population in Bangladesh will live in urban areas by the year 2025 (ESCAP, 2007). The rapid growth of population and consequent landlessness along with other factors of population displacement in the rural areas lead to rural unemployment, which generates a growing flow of potential migrants. It seems to be an inevitable process where the urban sector absorbs the surplus rural populace. In fact, population growth in the urban sector in Bangladesh, particularly in Rajshahi is predominantly recurred due to migration of people from its peripheral rural areas. Most of the migrants coming from rural areas are poor, and hence the urban areas remain numerically dominated by the poor. The migrants have originated largely from the economically depressed areas of the country (Sarwar and Rahman, 2004)

Thus , it can said that people of Rajshahi are very much well acquainted with the process of migration. The poor settlers in Rajshahi city have shelter in many urban areas. They live scatteredely in different urban areas like railway lines slums, municipal roadside areas, in riversides, and also often live on other vacant lands. In order to understand the real situation of their settlement trend, it is therefore necessary to explore sociologically the migrants' settlement and adaptation. In this research, it is expected that we would find out the principal causes of their migration and the mechanisms that the migrants have been improve their poverty in their new living environment.

This paper seeks to describe and discuss the factors of internal migration patterns of poor migrants in Northern Bangladesh where poor migrate rural areas to the city of Rajshahi. In Bangladesh internal migration from rural to urban areas has become a livelihood strategy adopted by an increasing number of families who migrate to the city in search of better employment opportunities. Several studies (Deshingkar and Grimm, 2005; Narayan et al, 2002) also suggest that an increasing number of poor migrant every year migrate either permanently or seasonally to Rajshahi city. They move on their own, in groups or with sibling in search of job opportunities available in the city or to escape from unemployment and poverty situations at rural areas. The poverty argument is strong in Bangladesh, where many poor and land less migrants are forced to migration to support themselves or their families (Ahmad, 2004). Here we try to find out the root causes of their migration which of their migration which were pushed them to urban society left behind their origin.

II. Materials and Methods

The main objective of the study is to explore the root causes of migration among the poor migrants. And also try to identify the impact of urban migration to reduced poverty. Ramchandrowpur and Bhadra mohollas was selected as a study area, which is situated in Rajshahi city Corporation, Rajshahi of north Bangladesah. Primary data have been collected from those two localities of 250 family's head of each household.

This is a socio-anthropological study, so survey, participant observation and case study method is used to conduct this research. In –depth interview through structured questionnaire is also used to collect data.. Other data was gathered by way of interviews with key informants. Data was collected from July 2008 to June 2009. The secondary data used from statistical yearbooks, local administrative and various related sources. For many elements of the study, qualitative and semi-quantitative analyses, guided by the research objectives, were carried out.

III. Migration

In the past, and so of today, migration has been an important demographic, social, economic and cultural process linking communities, regions and nations. It was an important element in social and economic change, but could sometimes have a conservative aspect, helping to maintain a traditional economy and a conservative society. “Yet its significance is easily underestimated. Migration has been defined as residential change of a permanent or semi-permanent nature.

Migration is a broad term, which incorporates all kinds of the movement of people from one to another. Migration may take place within a particular geographical boundary of a country and then beyond its boundaries. Migration may be permanent in nature, or it may be temporary. People may choose to migrate voluntarily or they may be forced into it.

Migration is defined as a movement of people from one country to another in order to take up employment, or establish residence or to seek refuge from persecution. Mahmood (1992) defined migration as an act of people’s movement to a foreign country for a particular period of time, and with a definite purpose in mind. The concept of migration, however, should be clearly understood. Meyer and Clyed (1970) has distinguished between mobility, represent movement within boundaries, and migration, in which persons cross their boundaries. Such boundaries may be geographical, structural, ethnic or some other divisions, which is recognized by the actor as setting him apart to it. When a person migrates to the city he is facing a challenge of mobility within the new setting and new environment. This mobility may require a new life style, new attitudes, and new behavioral forms. Just as the migrant has been socialized into his rural life ways, of life, so after moving from different place, he now must learn the new social structure of the city. Most of the writers who define migration tend to speak only of the physical transition from one geographical area to another. Thus Beijer (1969) distinguished between migrations which are based on choice and those which are involuntary, but accepts for his definition simply indicates that the movement of a persons involving a permanent change of radiance. For the theme of discussion Mangalam’s (1968) definitions can be accepted here he explained a relatively permanent moving away of a collectivity, called migrants, from one geographical location to another, preceded by decision-making on the part of the migrants on the basis of a hierarchically ordered set of values or valued ends and resulting in the international system of the migrants.

Saint and William (1980) mentioned in his study that migration is a social process conditioned by changes in the structure of the economy and that of the society. His arguments direct us to conclude that:

- i Migration is a kind of movement that can make a change in technology and the organization of production may reduce rural labour requirements;
- ii It may bring changes in the structure and organization of marketing systems may diminish small farm income ; and
- iii It may also provide change in the land tenure system and may limit small farmer's access to land. Ultimately, the individual make rationale of it for enjoying better lives and reflections of the society.

In this study, migration is defined as a purposeful geographical movement of workers toward districts/region/states where industry and employment are available. This is an equilibrating adjustment mechanism that shifts underemployed and unemployed laborers from local labour market to areas where they could be fully employed. Therefore, migration is an activity, which requires resources. Migration is defined as an inflow or outflow of population from a region (defined by a boundary) to another region for a permanent or semi-permanent settlement or habitation. As such migration is a significant factor in influencing the size and structure of the population of given region. The movements of people may occur in different ways like having a life and by making nomadic and by making temporary shifting, etc; but every movement is not considered migration. The migration may be inter-country, inter-state, from urban to urban, from rural to rural or from rural to urban. The authors of various studies explained the term, 'migration' on the basis of different backgrounds. Migration is a permanent or semi permanent change of residence. They did not place any restriction upon the distance of move or upon the voluntary or involuntary nature of work, nor did they make any distinction between the internal and external migration.

From the above discussion here, we may understand that migrations are of different types and the reason, for migration for the people also varies from individual to individual. In this study, we have considered the people as migrants who are living in the place other than their place of birth.

The word migration simply indicates in this study as a kind of individual of family movement, which seems to depend on three major factors:

- i. Distance between the origin and possible destination of the people moving in for their livelihood. The effect of distance as a barrier to migration changes over time, primarily with improvement in transportation and communication.
- ii. The differential attractiveness of areas, both that of present residence and that of possible destinations.
- iii. Frequently people to an area to which their friends and had recently moved.

IV. Results

A) Factors of Migration

According to available empirical studies and evidences, the migration is always a selective process in which , the community, family or individuals fall into a certain or characteristics and it varies extensively from culture to culture several studies reported that migration varies depending on socio-economic, demographic and cultural factors. Any generalizations about the nature of migrants are misleading.(Akand,2005). That is

lack of work availabilities, unemployment, poverty, natural disaster i.e, and flood. Draught, river erosion etc, and others socio-cultural factors like, marriage, family conflict, better life living, better education facilities, social discrimination, social problems prejudice, fanaticism, political chaos, dominating village elders etc are also act as motivate form of migration. The responses reveal that the process of rural-urban, semi urban-urban, urban-urban migration is strongly influenced by the incidence of push factor, or which the most important one is the absence of jobs in the villages, and pull factors like the prospect for rearing higher income in the cities.

Every man wants to improve the equality of his and desires lead a life of comfort. When this desire remains unfulfilled in his own native land he wants to migrate to another city to fulfill the desire. Motivational factors of migration are complex and intertwined. Motives for migration are frequently multiple. People move for a several reasons, and they are not always aware of all the factors motivating their moves. Migration, any type, whether documented or undocumented, forced or voluntary can be explained in term of push-pull factors (Datta, 1998). Push factors attribute to the negative characteristics operating at the centre of origin whereas pull factors identify the positive characteristics (Datta, 2002) at the centre of destination.

The rapid growth of population and consequent landlessness along with other factors of population displacement in the rural areas lead to rural unemployment, which generates a growing flow of potential migrants. It seems to be an inevitable process where the urban sector absorbs the surplus rural populace. In fact, population growth in the urban sector in Bangladesh, particularly in Rajshahi is predominately recurred due to migration of people from its peripheral rural areas. Most of the migrants coming from rural areas are poor, and hence the urban areas remain numerically dominated by the poor. The migrants have originated largely from the economic depressed areas of the country (Sarwar and Rahman, 2004).

In order to examine reason, this facilitates or constrains poor migration, the present study 'factors for migration' as a main indicator. The findings were supplemented by relevant characteristics of migration and conditions of their households at the time of migration, which often mediate the process of migration decision-making significantly. Factors include age, level of education, occupation, and size of cultivable land at the time of migration. Like male counterparts in factories and other manufacturing units, female migrants in urban areas came predominately in search of employment.

In this research we find various factors of migration in urban areas. These are:

i. Natural Factors:

Manga (lean economic), Riverbank Erosion, and Storm

(a). Monga (lean economic condition/ seasonal food insecurity) : Natural disasters is a common feature of Bangladesh. *Monga* is one of them. *Monga* is the classic 'push' affecting millions of people especially in Northern part of Bangladesh. In Northern region the movement of people in a fragile and challenging environment can be seen as one of the main characteristics and drivers of history. Poor people mobility in *Monga* affected areas notes that migratory people is likely to play an increasingly important role as a coping mechanism for food-insecure rural households.

Every summer Bangladesh the newspapers carry of porters stories from all over the country of the growing tide of people who have been driven out of their homes by *Monga*. It is a kind of food and work shortage in a season especially in the northern part of Bangladesh. The manifestation of the phenomenon called *monga* is food and nutrition insecurity. To understand the causes of *monga*, a conceptual framework of food and nutrition security can give a guideline.

The achievement of sufficient nutritional status depends on the three factors availability, accessibility, and utilization of food. Availability is the physical existence of food. In this framework availability refers to the regional or national level and is a combination of food production, commercial food imports food aid, and domestic food stocks. *Monga* is a cyclical food insecurity which occurs during the lean season and it directly affects those who are involved in agricultural activities. The agriculture in ‘the *monga* regions ‘ is mainly based on paddy cultivation. The employment opportunities for agriculture day –laborers therefore mainly depend on seasonal labor requirements for this crop. In-between transplantation and harvest only little labor is needed and as a result the income of day-laborers is low. Like the agricultural laborers marginal farmers face *monga*, too. Their financial assets reduce towards the harvest. The financial resources of many marginal farmers are not enough to ensure the inputs for their crops and sufficient food for their families in the same time. Some groups or individuals are indirectly affected by the agricultural lean season. This is the case for all those who depend on the income of people affected by the agricultural lean season, like small traders and beggars. Due to the weak purchasing power they have no access to the market, i.e. they cannot buy enough food to fulfill their requirements. The access is sometimes further limited because the prices for basic foods often increase during *monga* (Zug, 2006). Rangpur is a striking example. The poor people scarcity of work in region of Rangpur, Nelphamary, Kurigram and Dinajpur especially in the month of *Ashsin and Kartik* (October- November) in their language, “We no work, no food, how can we live? “ So in order to Survive they have migrated to Rajshahi city in quest of living. It is mentionable that migration takes places extensively from these regions. Another important reason for their migration in Rajshahi city is that they know this city well or they have their neighbors or relatives in this city. Basically they prefer this known, and nearer city to other like Dhaka, Chittagong, Barishal, Sylhet etc. For this reason we find higher rate of migration in this city. Although they all try heart and soul to remaining their respective native place, but sometimes they face a situation in which they have no alternative without migration.

b) Flood and Riverbank Erosion: After *Monga* the second causes which is responsible behind migration in the city is the flood and river bank erosion. In our country every year many families have lost all their belonging owing to flood and riverbank erosion. Lost of cropland, trees and plant, animals and human life. So the people living especially beside the river banks migrate to the city only for floods and bank erosion. From our study we have seen that 22 percent poor migrant people have come to the city for these reasons. Floods and riverbank erosion made them lose everything and they had to starve for days together and at once point they migrated to the city in search of living.

c) Others factors: There it is also found that 3 percent of the poor migrants come for the reason of natural storm and other natural factors.

ii. Economic Factors:

In explaining the economic condition of a poor family, the monthly income of head of the family, owned cultivable land profession are the important factors for migration. Economic activities and income in a rural society mainly revolves round land or cultivable land. Because in rural Bangladesh industry is still a distant cry. So the main factor of production here is land or cultivable land. In this study we found that poverty and unemployment are very important factors for pursuing to the city.

- a) **Poverty:** Poverty is another major cause of migration. Mainly poverty works as the main factors of every steps of it. When there is no work and the stomach is empty, men tries his best to survive. Similarly when the poor people fail to feed their family in their native villages have to see the hungry faces of their beloved children and get opportunities, even after trying heart and soul, to get rid of poverty, they are compelled to migrate to another place. Because of this poverty they are now the inhabitants of towns. That is to say 15 percent people migrate to the city for poverty.
- b) **Unemployment:** The agricultural sector does not have enough scope to absorb large numbers of laborer. Rural areas are still legged behind of industrialization and thus unemployment is the general feature of this country. The adult, young, adolescent and others children in rural areas did not find satisfactory employment. So people move to city area for looking employment. 9 percent respondents were found to migrate for this reason.

iii. Social Factors:

In addition the extreme poverty pressure of population works as serious burden. In the study area 4.8 percent of the poor migration has occurred only in big families and their family member's ranges 5 to 8. So for that case 5 percent of poor migrant come to city. And it is interesting that the number of female children is higher than the male child inn the poor families. For socially or naturally, it is additional burden for them. So the poor families remain very much anxious for the marriage of their daughters and want to reduce the number of family members through marriage. It is found through participant observation and case study that some poor migrants became victim of social inequality and torture and lost everything in life. 3 percent respondent replied they came for social inequality and oppression, religious harassment etc. In their word "there (native village) was not any opportunity for the poor people, all opportunity and benefit go to the elite of the village". So they changed their places and migrated to Rajshahi City. A few numbers of poor migrants were found to left their villages for religious causes, e.g. religious minority, religious conflict, religious *fatowa* (religious biased activities) etc. The other major social factors like living with husband/wife or parents, family feud, living luxurious life etc, were found to be pushing them to migratd in Rajshahi City. The data also found that the women and husband migrated alone in the city areas for searching employment opportunities. After migration they brought their wife/husband and children either to join the informal sectors jobs as worker in factories and restaurants, maid servants, daily laborers, etc, for increasing family income. Besides this, husband brought wife and children to accompany him. In some cases, the household head himself is a cause of family conflict. The family members are engaged into quarrels with other as a result chose in to migrate. For that reason some poor migrants have migrated to the city areas.

iv. Political Factors

a) Crossing border: During the time of data collection we came to know that migrant families came to Rajshahi in 1947, some some in 1971 and some after 1971. Generally some communities of different religion of the west bengale were living in India as Bangladeshis have migrated (illegally crossing the river and by land route) to Bangladesh. Because they were the victims of different of political torture, disparity etc, and now they are living in Rajshahi city. In our research we found that 4 percent poor migrants have come from India by crossing the border.

b) Involvement of politics: In this regard we come to know that political clash, politics and political debate also compel people to migrate to the city. We find the 2 percent of the migrate of this category. Among them some have migrated to the town because they were minority groups, some have migrated to the town because their supported political party has been debated in the election and they feared the torture of rival party, some feared the case which might be filed against them and some faced the treat of life. Here we can mention the case of Amzad Hossain.

Amzad Hossain (vill Sanbhag, P.O. Zhalmalia, UP. Puthia, Zila: Rajshahi) 28 years old man, was an active supporter of BNP. He used to take part in different meeting, processions and all other party activities. For this reason he had a lot of influence in the village. In that clash many villagers were injured. He himself was also injured. Became Awamileague had much more influence, Amzad fled to Rajshahi city for the fear of the police. Then he was 19 years old. Since them Amzad has been living here. In this ward, “ If the police didn’t come to my home, if I didn’t do politics, it would not to the town. I would do something to maintain my family in the village. After my arrival in the town the police and the leader of the opposite party would ofien come to my house and look for me. As a result one day I went home and took all my family members in the town.

v. Other Factors

Among other major factors, land mortgage of loan, changing hereditarily profession, trafficking, simple or scolded by family members etc. For these factors 9 percent poor people migrated due to above causes in Rajshahi City.

Some migrated families left their villages because they mortgaged their land and took money form moneylenders of from the influential people of the rural areas but could not pay it back and thus lost the mortgaged land or property. Some other people have migrated due to the torture unleashed on them by the influential quarters of the villages.

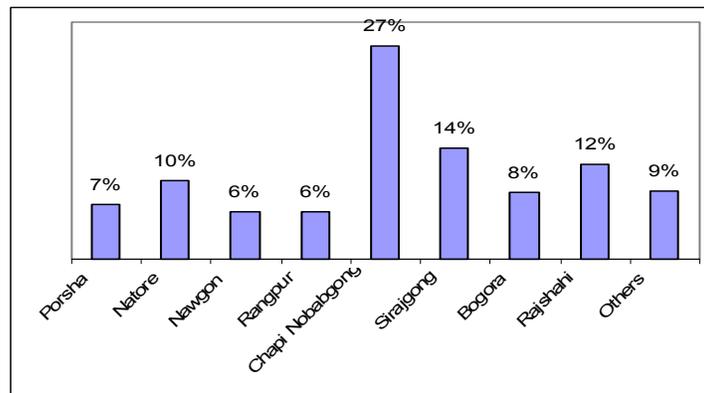
Some migrant families said that they got credit from NGOs and they could not use this money for appropriate purpose. Thet spent all credit loans for their own family consumption or repairing houses. This default of credit pushed them to migrate to Rajshahi city. In Rajshahi city they are engaged in informal working profession and earn money. For returning instilment they went to villages and after payment they came back to city. For this system a lot of poor migrants stay city areas for permanently (Table1).

Table-1 Factors of Migration in Rajshahi City

Factors	Reasons	Percent	Number of case
Natural	Manga	60	24.0
	Flood and River bank erosion	53	22.0
	Storm	7	3.0
	Total	120	49.0
Economic	Poverty	37	15.0
	Unemployment	23	9.0
	Total	60	24.0
Social	Population explosion	12	5.0
	Marriage	11	4.0
	Social inequality/ religious violence	9	3.0
	Total	32	12.0
Political	Crossing boarder	11	4.0
	Involvement	5	2.0
	Total	16	6.0
Others		22	9.0
Total		250	100

B) Place of Origin of the Migrants

There are two major stands in migration theory. One is concerned with the transfer of labour from rural to urban areas and another is concerned with the effects of distance and choice of destination of the migration. It was found that migrants try to minimize distance, though they proceed long distances and generally go by preference to one of the grate centers of commerce and industry. When social organization is concerned, migrants prefer to go to a place, which is as similar as possible to their place of origin (Connel et. al., 1976). The choice of place by the migrants generally depend on the ability of bearing cost, extent of risk, availability of job, and various amenities, improved transport and communication facilities etc.

Graph-1 Place of Origin of the Poor Migrants

We have already mentioned the causes of the migration of the poor people from the district of Rangpur, Gaibandha and Dinajpur. Here we also see that from those

regions the poor people have settled in Rajshahi through migrations. As we know that the main problems of the people of those regions are lack of work and poverty. For this reason the poor people from these regions migrate to town in large number. As place of origin in migration Sirajgonj and its adjoining regions (Pabna, Bogra, Natore etc.) occupy the 2nd highest position. As the reason of this we can mention flood that visits these regions every year. For floods the poor people migrated to the town in groups. So these people are town bound.

In there the other origin places are not so much significant. But we have also found some families who have migrated from other (8.6 percent) district are Rajbari, Faridpur and Comilla. It is mentionable here that there is also a family where the husband whose place of origin is Comilla came to Rajshahi in search of work but he got married and settled here.

So in respect of place of origin we see that people migrate in large number from the regions, which are affected by natural calamities and economic crisis.

C) Reasons for Choosing Rajshahi City

In our above discussion we found that the poor migrants choosing the places before migration for various factors. We know our villages have not any scope of working or earning opportunities. So for this reason a lot of poor people migrated their native land for surcharging earning sources. In respect of choosing Rajshahi city, people who came here for work available are 29.2 percent, 26 percent choose this city area for migration because it is nearer from their native lands. For this they could easily move from their places of origin to Rajshahi city and also the traveling cost is reasonable for poor migrants 25.2 percent poor migrants choose Rajshahi city for strong kin network in Rajshahi city. And also in our findings we found that 10.4 percent came for other reasons e.g., safety, better education opportunity for child, unknown locality, health and treatment opportunities, more and better recreational opportunities and easy transportation, better roads etc, and 9.2 percent poor migrants choose this city for other reasons such as better living opportunities, available and transferable or changeable working opportunities, scope for earning more money, better living condition, improvement or opportunities to poverty reductions etc.

Table- 2 Reasons for Choosing Rajshahi City

Reasons	Frequency	Percent
Work availability	73	29.2
Short distance from origin of place	65	26.0
Kin Network	63	25.2
Better life	26	10.4
Others	23	9.2
Total	250	100

The kinship network is a very important issue for choosing places or cities. During our field exploration we observed that kin networks played a crucial role of choosing places to the poor migrants. In any crisis period the kin interaction process like reciprocal obligations plays a strong role in making it easier to protect people against calamities. From the fieldwork it has been found that any crisis period the poorer migrants are bound to go to the rich for some sort of assistance through references of their kins. For this

causes majority of poor people choose those places where their natives lived. Relevant examples are given below:

Kamal (vill: Catlamari, PO. Murshedada, UP. Murshedabad, Zila . Murshedabad) ,¹ a – 25- year young man, lost his during his childhood. In this family, there was no evening member. So when he was 10 years old he migrated to Rajshahi with the help of his uncle and now he is working as a waiter in a hotel. Now he is the only earning member in his family.

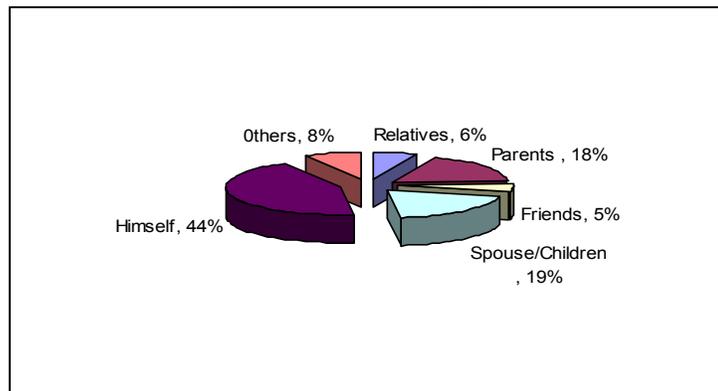
Rezia Begum (Vill.Kismatpur, Po. Damuddapur, UP, Sadlapur, Zila. Gaibandha), a 38- year old woman, lives ar Ramchandrowpur Slum, in Rajshahi City. She migrated here from shirajgonj when the devastating flood of 1998 destroyed their crops property. She migrated to Rajshahi because her sister’s family was living there for a long time. They helped her to settle there.

D) Decision for Migration

Migration in some circumstances is planned and decided upon wholly within the context of family needs. The decision of the household head and migrants himself often-linked migration jointly. To make economic decision and to determine destiny of the family by the males is the general custom of almost all households in Bangladesh. The male members of the family decide which member or members will continue farming and which members will seek off-farm employment.

Decision for migration to urban centers in Rajshahi or other cities was taken by individual’s themselves. The Graph- 2 in this respect 44 percent migrants take decision by himself to migration city area, 19 percent influenced by spouse / Children, 18 percent influenced by their parents, 8 percent by other people in their society e.g. neighbors, local official etc, 6 percent by relatives and 5 percent by friends. In other words, relatives as well as friends of the migrants took part in decision-making process for migration. Neighbors also took part in decision-making process when a household desired to involved neighbors. It also depends on the extent of social as well as personal relations between the household members and their neighbors.

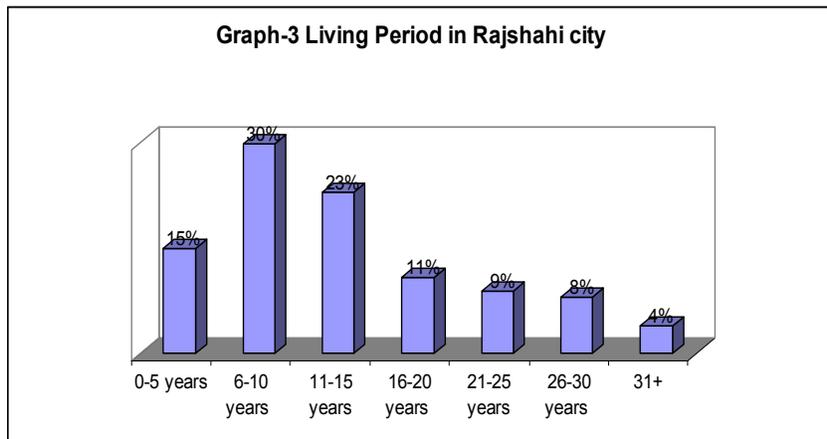
Graph – 2 Decision for Migration



¹ P.O (post office) UP (Union Parisahad ,local governerment unit)

E) Living period in Urban Area

From this study we have seen that in Rajshahi some migrant families have been living before the liberation period, some have been living after the liberation war and some have been living for 0-5 years. About the information of living period in Rajshahi city (Graph-3) we can see that the highest percentage (30 percent) of migrant families have been living in urban areas for 06-10 years. That is to say, they have become urban bound in a certain period of time for a particular reason. Generally we know that the main cause of it is the devastating flood that took place in 1998. The some part of northern region of the country faced serious losses. The people of that time migrated in different places. For this reason people in the largest number migrated in Rajshahi city, 23 percent living for here since 11-15 years, 15 percent respondent was found to have been living here for 0-5 years, 11 percent living for 20 years, 9 percent living for 21-25 years, 8 percent living for 26-30 years, and 4 percent living for more than 3 years.



F) Role of Social Capital in Migration Decision

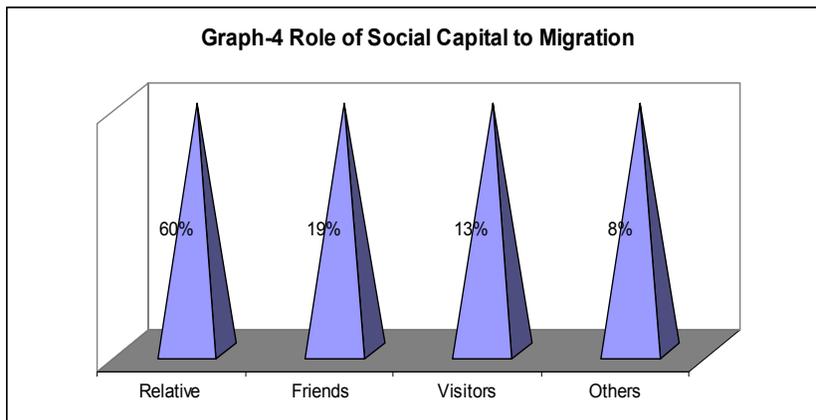
Social capital refers to a range of sociological factors that promote or inhibit the well being of groups and individuals. Poor urban residents have experienced the degradation of some positive types of social capital (supportive social networks, for examples) at the same time they experienced enhancing access to the form of social capital that they could not have access in rural areas.

De Haan (2000) suggests that, much migration research has emphasized the importance of the sturcturation of migration streams, how people migrate using their networks, and how their migration movements are determined by rules of their 'home society'. Migration is not an atomistic reaction to economic or environmental pressure, but it is embedded in societal rules and norms.

It is suggested here that the concept of social capital or network provides is a useful framework that can capture the range of economic and non-economic processes which inhibit or allow the movement of people and enables an understanding of the implications of migration in sustaining or overcoming exclusionary processes. Kabeer (2000) suggests that the concept of social capital or network 'captures an important dimension of the experience of certain groups of being somehow 'set apart' or 'locked

out’ of participation in social life’ and that a focus on processes of exclusive ‘draws attention to the production of disadvantage through the active dynamic of social interaction, rather than through anonymous processes of impoverishment and marginalization.

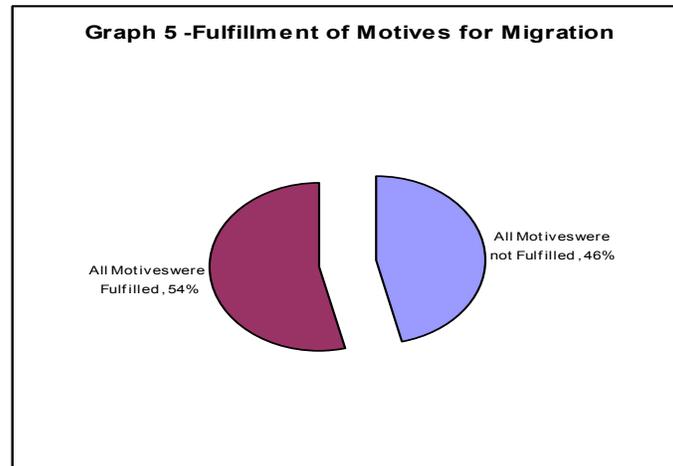
Social network in our study in migration process is found positive for any reasons. Because it ties households together and provides support when illness strikes or money runs out. Urban residence often maintain linkages with their extended families in rural villages, supporting them through remittances and in return preserving access to permanent social supports. It is also found that workers from the same villages tend to live near each other in the city, and re-create the sense of village community.



In this research 60 percent migrants were found socially active who influenced by their relatives to migrate in Rajshahi city, 19 percent influenced by their friends and neighbours, 13 percent influenced by visitors and 8 percent influenced by others such as by religious, political shelter, by hearing media, by news paper etc. So it is clear that social network play an important role in migration process. To share the benefit with others and obligation to relatives and fellow villagers led some of the earlier migration in Rajshahi city.

G) Motives of Migration

To identify motives of migration it is found that move from one location to another for diverse reasons, such as economic and social advancement, establishing new settlements, escape from persecution and environmental threats etc. In recent times, it appears that increasingly the choice of destination and level of benefits and risks vary significantly according to the economic and social power of the migrant.



It is found that 54 percent migrants could fulfill all of their needs by migration. But 46 percent migrants said that their economic, social, political and other needs are not fulfilled by migration. They said that their economic status and social life have not changed after migration. But if they would not migrate it was really difficult to be survived. Various type of employment opportunity helps them to lead lower level livelihood in city.

H) Impact of Migration on poverty Reduction

Migration has grater potential to poverty reduction, meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and contributing to economic growth in developing countries. This is because of four things-first, internal migrations stem from a broader base where smaller sums money are evenly distributed to specific areas and poor families through internal remittances (rather than international remittances, which reach fewer people). Second, it is likely that internal migration will continue to increase at a faster rate than international migration. Third, internal migration involves poorer people from poorer regions and has a strong role to play in achieving the MDGs. Fourth if is important driver of growth in many sectors including agriculture, manufacturing, construction, coastal economic and services.

Migration can both cause and be caused by poverty. Similarly, poverty can be alleviated as well as exacerbated by population movement. Easy generalizations are impossible to make but it is likely that the relative impact of migration on poverty, varies by level of development of the area under consideration. The effects of migration on individuals, households and regions add up to significant impact on the national economy and society. In this respect we could consider a case study.

Monnaf, aged 34, lived in a village of Niamatpur under Nawgoan District. He started his work at the age of four due to the suffering from poverty in the Chowdury's (a landowner belongs to the 'rich') house for meals only. At the age of 12, he migrated in Nawgoan city and stayed six months as a hotel boy. Once, his friend Sirajul told him to go to Rajshahi city.

Because he heard that Rajshahi has many opportunities to earn money. So Monnaf decided to go to Rajshahi city with his friend Sirajul. It was mid July 1987 when they migrated in Rajshahi city without any capital in their hands. At first they were slept in the footpath at night, and doing several works in the city area. Few days later they found a job in motor garage and able to rent a room in the slum of Bhadra area. In the mean time Monnaf visited his village several times and was able to send money to his family. After passing three years in Rajshahi, his younger brothers are migrated in Rajshahi influenced by him. Now his parents are living in Niamotpur village but he and his brother still living in Rajshahi city, His main profession is Rickshaw pulling and small shop keeping as a secondary occupation. His monthly income is around tk.6000 ²and satisfied with his life after migration.

V. Conclusion

Migration is a natural process where normally surplus manpower released from the rural sector is needed for urban industrial growth. Rural-urban migration can be considered socially and economically beneficial because it enables human resources to shift from locations where these are high and also growing. In general, the decision of migration comes to be the function of variables like the income differential between the countryside and the town, the chance of getting a job, the risk attitude of the migrant, and information on availability of jobs in urban locations. Thus a migrant may often fail to find an appropriate job in the city. Before migration one might have had a rural sector job which may be very low productivity, but after migration it often happens that he ends up getting no job whatsoever, thus becoming unemployed.

The present study reveals that rural-urban migration and hence urbanization in Bangladesh is poverty driven, caused by extreme entitlement contraction among a sizeable segment of the rural population, who happen to be among the marginalized peasantry and the landless poor. The migration of the rural poor to the urban centers has caused a direct transmission of rural poverty and backwardness to the towns, engendering the process of 'ruralization' of the urban areas. The pull factors, which attract the rural people and induce them to migration to urban location, are in a large measure the direct or indirect results of government's development policy and effort, that always been biased towards the urban areas. Thus, allocation of public funds in the successive five year plans has been consistently biased towards the urban, and against the rural sectors.

It may be mentioned here that, apart from enhanced job prospects, better educational and health care facilities and other social amenities that are necessary for better living conditions are added attractions of the migrants towards the city life. In our study, a number of respondents indicated that they had migrated to the city with a view to giving their children a better education. They feel that there is a wide gap between the urban and rural areas in terms of both the quality of education and the type of educational institutions providing a wide range of facilities, which encouraged them to migrate. In order to stop poor people from migration, therefore, the essential pre-conditions seem to be expansion of employment opportunities, as mentioned above, and also the creation of better living conditions through improved availability of essential health care and occupational services. Unless the like of the amenities enjoyed by migrants in the cities can be made available in the rural areas, at least partly, if not to the fullest extent, the idea

² Tk. Bangladeshi currency

of alleviation of poverty through inducing and sustaining the process of reverse migration will hardly be translated into reality.

It is admitted on all hands, however, that alleviation of poverty in Bangladesh has been at the heart of the Government's development strategy, particularly since independence of the country. Implicitly, one objective of such strategy has also been to slow down the pace of rural-urban migration, and for that matter to reduce the problems associated with excessive urbanization.

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