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SHORT COMMUNICATION

Dimension of youth migration and its impact on agriculture production in Lamjung district of Nepal

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted in twelve wards of Madhya Nepal Municipality, Lamjung; western part of Nepal with primary objective of studying socio-economic trend of the remittance-receiving households and the effect of international labour migration in agricultural activities management. For the study, 123 households where at least one of the members was international labour migrant for more than a year; 40 each from Brahmin/Chhetri, 57 Janajati/Aadibasi and 26 Dalit community were selected purposively. Purposive snow-ball sampling technique and semi-structured questionnaires was used. The study showed that majority of household heads were male (61%) and female (39%), were involved in agriculture occupation. migration is the major source of income followed by agriculture. The main destination of migrant were gulf country i.e (81%) followed by India (16%) and 3 % were in developed countries like UK, USA etc. Major affected factor by migration was found to be agriculture labour shortage (32%). To solve the labor problem hiring and working with Neighbor is major solution method (44.5%) followed by hiring of labour (22.5%), reducing area of cultivation (20 %) and so on.

Keywords: Agriculture, Remittance, Youth migration, Lamjung district

1. INTRODUCTION

An increasing number of people worldwide are migrating to improve or secure their livelihoods, and mountain regions play an important role in this trend. Migration is often the result of a combination of push factors (e.g. conflict, poverty, disaster) and pull factors (e.g. job opportunities [1, 2]. Migration is the continuous process. Whether migration will improve or worsen the condition in these farm household and their community in the long run is a debate. As, migration in one hand can have a positive impact on young people by opening up new opportunities, a path to participate in higher education, a better and decent job and thus solve a crucial problem of unemployment. In other hand, it can reduce farm labor and subsequently lowered down the agricultural production. In Nepal's case, Presently, remittance is becoming the backbone of Nepalese economy and it is widely believed that 22% of GDP is contributed by remittance resulting from the involvement of almost 2 million of Nepalese youths in foreign employment [3]. the unemployment rate of male was 6.6 and female was 4.0 and average was 5.3 percentage [3] Considering that much of Nepali society is still agrarian and most of its labour force is in the agriculture sector, the dismal economic scenario has influenced many individuals to look at foreign employment as an alternative livelihood strategy.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was carried out in Madhya Nepal municipality of Lamjung district mid hills of Nepal during 2015/16, which lies in the geographical coordinates of 28°12'0"North 84°22'0"East. Randomly selected 123 households; of which 40 were from Bhramin ethnic group while 57 were from janajati community and 26 from dalit community. Firsthand information was obtained by face to face interview based on pre-structured questionnaire. Snowball smapling design was done for survey and key informant interview was carried out. Secondary data was taken from DADO Lamjung, books, internet along with reports of different INGO/NGOs. The pre-testing of questionnaire was done on 5 households of Sunndarbazar municipality and correction was made in finalized questionnaire. After, collection of primary data from the field survey was entered in MS-Excel version 2010. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics such as frequency counts, percentages, mean, median while Pearson's Correlation analysis etc. by SPSS version 16.0. The analyzed data was presented by using text, table, graph and pie-charts with the help of MS-Excel.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3. 1. Socio-demographic status of respondents and their households

The Table 1 represents the socio-demographic characteristic of the respondents, there are 61% were male while 48% were female. It was found that most of the responded/farmers were Janajati which was 46.6%, the number of Brhamin/Chhetri was 32.5 and the number of Dalit was 21.1 % respectively. Among the total number of respondents illiterate respondents were 52, literate respondents (read/write) were 13.8%, respondents with primary, secondary and intermediate level of education were 13 %, 18.7% and 2.4 % respectively. Most of respondent children enrollment in Government school i.e. 73.2 % followed by 16.3 5 in Private school

where as 10.6 % children's still not involved in school. It was found that 67.5 % responded family were nuclear family type, where as 32.5 % were lived in joint family.

Table 1. Socio-demographic youth migrant at Madhya Nepal municipality of Lamung during 2018.

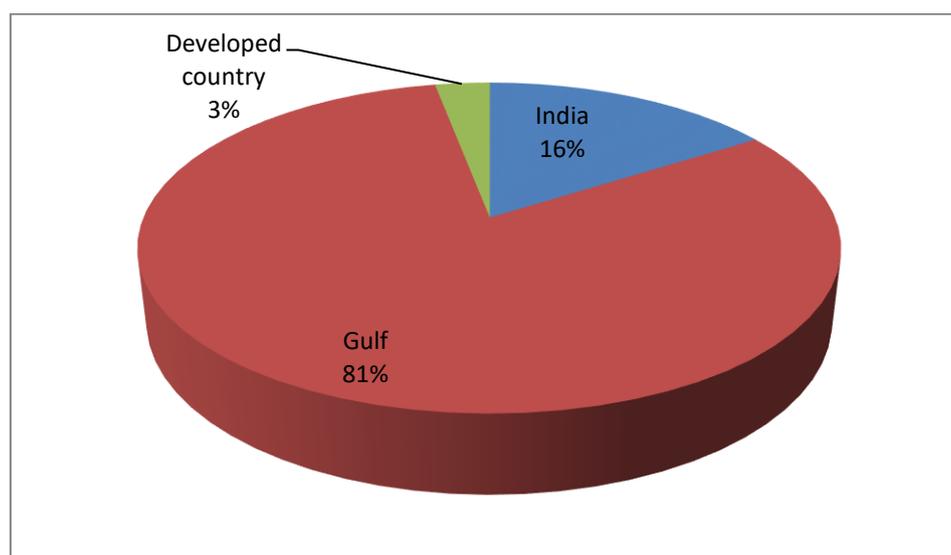
Parameter	Total	Percentage
Gender		
Male	75	61
Female	48	39
Total	123	100
Ethnicity		
Brhamin/Chhetri	40	32.5
Janajati	57	46.3
Dalit	26	21.2
Total	123	100
Education Status		
Illiterate	64	52
Read and write	17	13.8
Primary	16	13
Secondary	23	18.7
Intermidate	3	2.4
Total		100
Type of School		
Private	20	16.2
Goverment	90	73.3

Do not go school	13	10.6
Toatal	123	100
Family Type		
Joint family	83	67.5
Nuclear family	40	23.5
Total	123	100

Source: Field Survey, 2018

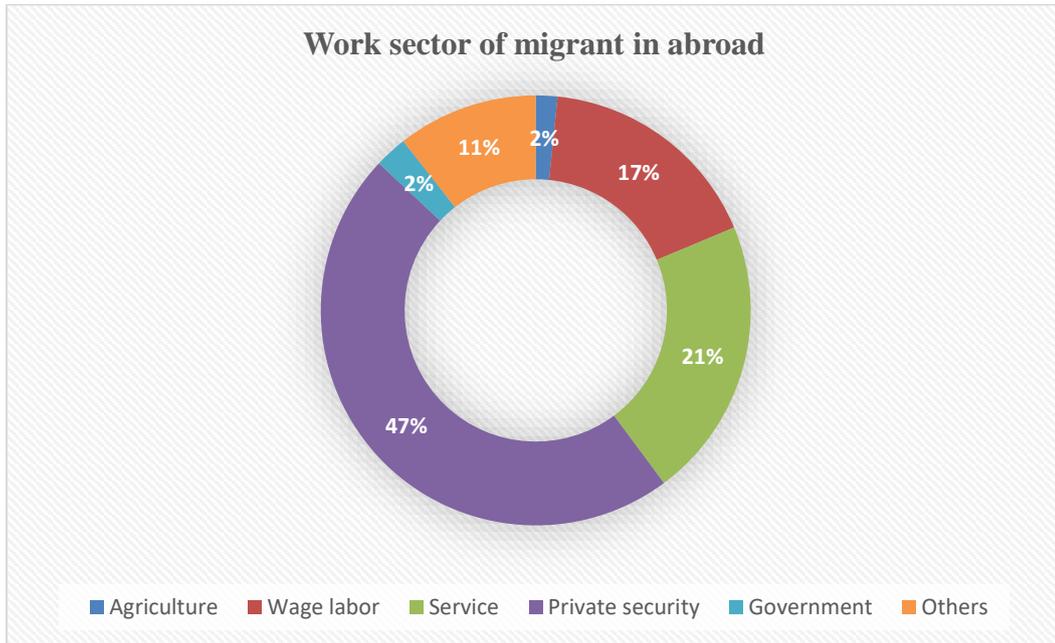
3. 2. Migration status in foreign (abroad)

Majority of youth migrate to gulf country i.e. 81 % followed by India (16%), developed country (3 %) like Japan and USA. Until 1981, India was the only destination for Nepalese workers, except for a few joining the British army and some movement to other countries. But now, migration to the Gulf States and Malaysia has dramatically increased [3]. In our study (Figure 2) 41 % migrant involve in wage labour followed by 21 % in service, 17 % in private security, 2 % in agriculture and government services where as 11 % were involved in other serviced (Undefined). As per a joint national report of GIZ and ILO, 74 % of migrant workers are unskilled in Nepal during the FY2014/15. The proportion of the skilled migrants at Sundarbazar was found to be quite high than the national average. The number of the skilled migrants was almost proportionate to the status of the training received by them.



Source: Field Survey, 2018

Figure 1. Destination of migrants in abroad at Madhya Nepal municipality of Lamjung during, 2018.



Source: Field Survey, 2018

Figure 2. Work sector of migrant in abroad at Madhya Nepal municipality of Lamjung district during 2018.

3. 3. Effect of migration on agricultural labour

Table 2. Problem of agricultural labor due to migration at Madhya Nepal municipality of Lamjung during 2018.

Labor problem due to migration				
	Observed N	Expected N	Test value	
yes	85	61.5	Chi-Square	17.959**
no	38	61.5	Sig.	.000
Total	123			

** = Data are significant at p value 0.01.

Source: Field survey, 2018

Significant result were found between labor problems and migration. It's means that migration leads to problems in labor force. The study done in Portugal on migration and agricultural development showed that the lost labour was not replaced by remittances; in fact remittances are seldom invested in land or other capital inputs needed to improve the agricultural sector [4], which is accordance to our finding. Majority of household who were depended upon family labour for major agricultural activities have now turned to hired labour

with the increased agriculture work load by the remaining family members. Study conducted in Syanjha district during 2013 showed that migrant HHS used significantly more hired labour and less family labour than non-migrant households [5]. Rozelle et al. [6] found that, in China, even though overall remittance had a positive impact the loss of labour had negative impacts on maize yields. The negative impact through labour loss was not sufficiently replaced by remittance investment in farming, thereby leading to an overall negative impact on maize yield. In contrary to that, there are other studies that have found that migration leads to an improvement in agricultural production. In one such study, reported that migration and remittance positively influenced smallholder agriculture in the Southern Ecuadorian Andes. The study reported that ‘outmigration has lost-labour effects but international remittances have investment-promotion effects that result in increased maize production.

3. 4. Solution of problem of agricultural labor

For addressing the labour problems in agriculture farmers adopt the different technique such as labour hiring, help of childer and old etc. In our study table no 4 showed that farmers of Lamjung district purchase of hire the nighbour laour which account 45.5 % followed by hiring the labour from outside which account 16.3 % . Only 7% farmers involved their children in agriculture cultivation activities. Seasonal unabaility of labour reduced the cultivation area. Farming was also not disrupted due to absence of male laborers from out migrant households because of the growing land renting practices. Unproductive and distant land was converted to plantation, thus playing a positive role in the conservation of resources [7]. Reduction of cultivation area is not effective solution for labour problems.

Table 3. Solution of problem of agricultural labor due to migration at Madhya Nepal Municipality of Lamjung district during, 2018.

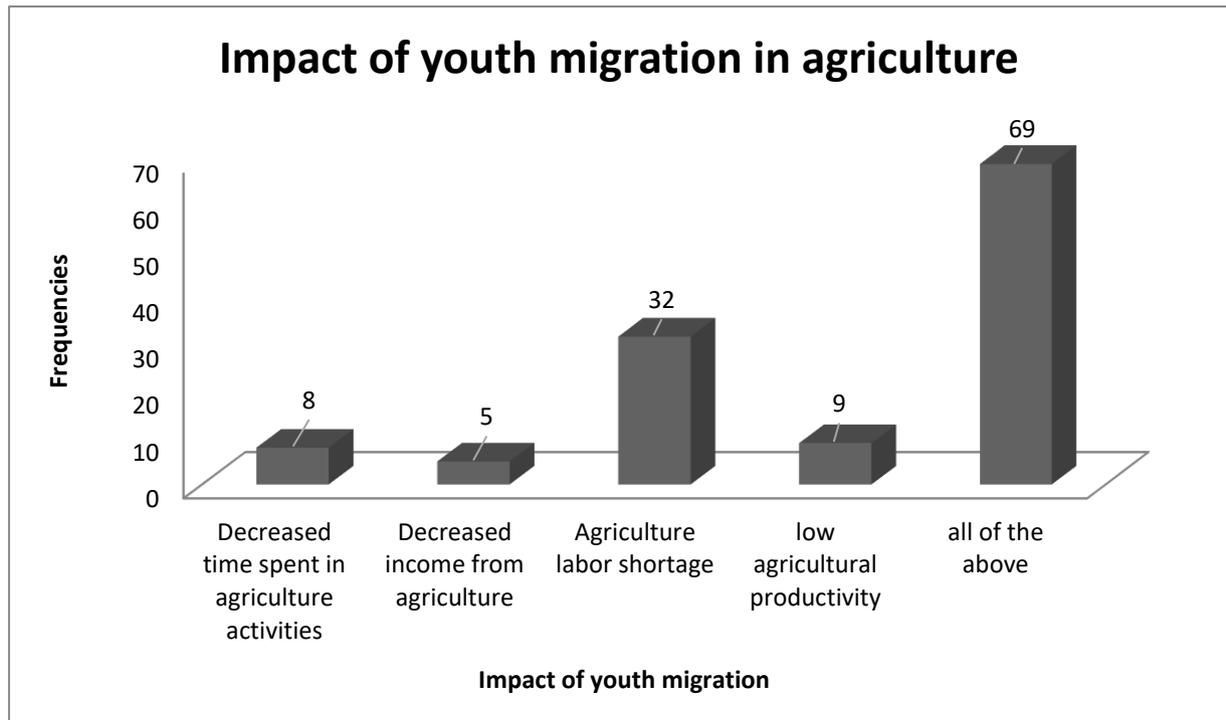
Solution of labor problem	Frequency
Hiring of labor	20(16.3)
By working with nighbour	18(14.6)
With the help of children	7(5.7)
Reducing area of cultivation	22(17.9)
Hiring and working with Neighbor	56(45.5)
Total	123

Source: Household Survey, 2018

3. 5. Effect of migration on agricultural production, food and income

Major impact of migration in agriculture production were found to be low income, low agriculture productivity, low labor shortage. We argue that migrate have negative impact on angriculture production. Figure 4 showed that agriculture labor shortage is the main impact of migration i.e. 32 % which ultimately lower the productivity of agriculture. Germenji and

Swinnen [8] reported that the major reason for the lower crop output can be attributed to changes in the type of labor involved in farming, with less family labor and more hired labor, leading to a reduction in labor efforts. In contrary to that, there are other studies that have found that migration leads to an improvement in agricultural production. In one such study, Gray [9] reported that migration and remittance positively influenced smallholder agriculture in the Southern Ecuadorian Andes.



Source: Field survey, 2018

Figure 3. Impact of youth migration in agriculture at Madhya Nepal municipality of Lamjung during, 2018.

4. CONCLUSIONS

The effects of youth migration on rural farming communities had been a contending issue in literature and based on the economic theory of migration, people migrate because it is for their benefit. However, the study revealed that youth migration has some negative consequences on the rural areas where the migrants left. Migration of these active and agile people may resulted in leaving farming activities in the hands of the women and aged people, thereby causing a drastic reduction in the level of food production in the state. From the study it has been revealed that, agriculture and remittance is the major income activities. The root causes of out-migration include but not limited to rural poverty, food insecurity, increased competition for natural resources and environmental degradation, limited income generating activities, poor infrastructure and social services. Gulf countries were main destination of migration and chiefly migrants were involved in private security and service sector employment. After migration of youth majority of the agriculture activities were managed through hired labor after the

migration which were before managed through family labor. The major effect of Youth foreign migration was labor scarcity which effected in the agricultural production, food and income of the households.

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