

RESEARCH ARTICLE

ROLE OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS IN RURAL-URBAN MIGRATION: A CASE STUDY ON MAHESWARPARA VILLAGE IN KHULNA DISTRICT, BANGLADESH

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ABSTRACT

This article examined the role of socio-economic factors that acts as a centrifugal and centripetal force of migration in Maheswarpara village of Khulna district. Therefore, net migration rate are computed based on data from Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics. Data are also collected from Focus Group Discussion and Participatory Rural Appraisal to determine the score of push and pull factors of migration. The rank of the combined score shows that unemployment and job opportunity in the surrounding magnet city is the main driving force of migration that affects rural economy. Effective urban management policy, agro-based industry, decentralization of urban economy etc. are recommended for planned urbanization and sustainable rural development.

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INTRODUCTION

The movement of people from rural to urban areas is a common occurrence in Bangladesh. Spatial distribution of population through rural-urban migration is considered an important aspect in the process of economic growth and development. Its impact is wide-ranging and changes the trends of economic activity in regions, affects employment, income distribution and poverty. In most rural areas, the impact of rural-urban migration is a rapid deterioration of the rural economy leading to chronic poverty and food insecurity (Jahan, 2012). Migration is usually considered a selective process and resulting from the interaction of many forces-social, economic, cultural and demographic(Mohit, 1990). Recent rural-urban migration studies have identified that majority of the migrants concentrate in the main urban centers of Bangladesh. One study (Chaudhury, Ahmed and Huda, 1976) has observed that in 1974,56.4,42.4 and 58.9 percentage of urban dwellers of Dhaka,Chittagong and Khulna cities were in-migrants.

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The same study also found that rural migrants usually move to the closest urban areas and they mainly originated from densely populated areas. While most migrants are destined to the big cities, they however, originate from different districts. From some studies (Sharma, 1992) it can be gathered that majority of the migrants of Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi have come from the districts of Dhaka, Comilla, Faridpur, Barisal, Noakhali and Mymensingh. Rural-urban migration is usually compound by environmental, social, economic, political and other factors. Much of the literature on migration focuses on rural-urban migration as a result of environmental or economic crises. The factors of migration are characterized by two major categories - one is Pull and the other is Push. People tend to be pulled to the areas of prosperity and pushed from the areas of decline (Van, 2004). Push factors attribute to the negative characteristics operating at the center of origin whereas pull factors identify the positive characteristics at the center of destination. Actually, migration is the combined effect of both push and pulls factors. Push factors push people toward the cities and pull factors attract them. On the other hand Urban bias is held responsible for rural-urban migration (Haan, 1999). This study is a key to find the socio-economic factors affecting rural urban migration of the study area.

By this study, the causes of migration and its impacts can be identified as well as a trend of migration or rate of migration can be identified.

METHODOLOGY

Maheswarpara village of Digholia Union in Khulna is selected as a study area. It is located on the northern side of the Digholia union. It is surrounded by Barakpur Union on the north, Goalpara village on the east, Bhairab river on the west and Digholia village on the south. It is under 8 no. Ward having population of 1,276, where male population is 655 and female population is 621. It covers about 9,04,356sq.m. Area. The location of the study area is illustrated in Figure 1.

Where,

M_R = Net migration of rural area

$R_{r(t+n)}$ = Rural population of present census

$U_{r(t+n)}$ = Urban population of present census

R_{rt} = Rural population of 10 years past census

U_{rt} = Urban population of 10 years past census

r = Age groups

The scoring of socio-economic factors is based on the factors found in the study (Jahan, 2012) i.e. push factors and pull factors. The following summarizes factors that are responsible for rural-urban migration in Bangladesh (Jahan, 2012) is selected as a push and pull factors for this study.

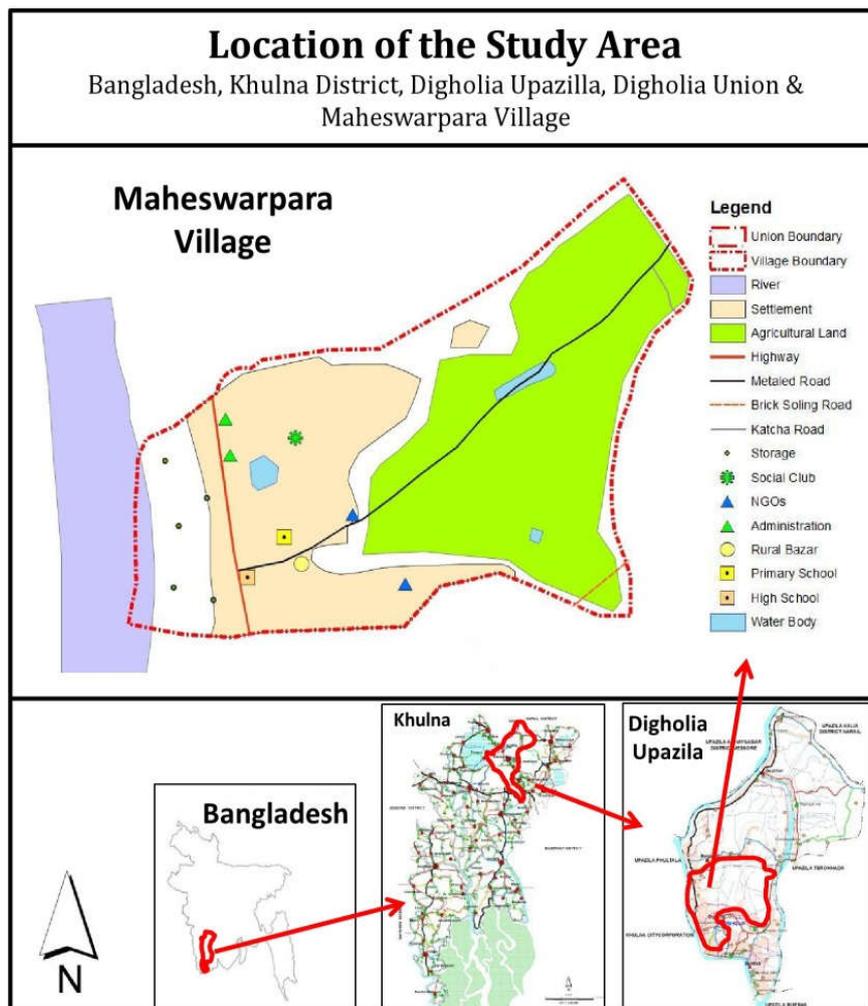


Figure 1. Study Area

The formula for determining net migration of the study area requires four (4) data i.e. rural population of previous ten years, rural population of present year, urban population of previous ten years, urban population of present year. The urban area is selected on the basis of magnet city i.e. where the migrants migrate. All the data are collected from the Member of Ward no. 8 of Digholia Union Parishad and Population Census 2001 & 2011 of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS). Then the net migration of that area is calculated by using the formula (Podyachykh, 1965):

$$\text{Net } M_R = \Sigma [R_{r(t+n)} - (U_{r(t+n)} + U_{rt}) \times R_{rt}]$$

Push Factors

- Landlessness.
- Adverse person to land ratio.
- Frequent and severe natural disasters (drought, flood, monga, river bank erosion).
- Homelessness.
- Loss of income sources.
- Unemployment and poverty.
- Absence of industries.
- Law and order situation.
- Village politics.

- Lack of social and cultural opportunities (education, health care, recreational facilities).
- Do not like village (particularly rural rich).

Pull Factors

- Job/Earning opportunities.
- Easy access to informal sector.
- Higher incomes/Rural-urban wage differentials.
- Rural urban disparities in social amenities and services (education, health care, recreation).
- Positive information about the city (garments factory jobs).
- Better livelihood.
- Fast and colorful life in city.
- Joining families/relatives.
- Willingness to change and see new places.

Then the factors are illustrated in a form of checklist and two surveys have done to find score against the factors. A Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) and a Focused Group Discussion (FGD) has done to determine the hierarchy of the socio-economic factors. Then the two scores have been averaged to find out a single score for each factor.

Data Analysis and Findings

Net Migration of Maheswarpara Village

To measure the net migration of Maheswarpara village, population of 2001 and 2011 with respect to age groups is needed. Population census 2001 provides the direct population of each age group which is provided in Table 1. Population census of 2011 provides the percentage of population with respect to each age group which is then multiplied with total population of 2011 and found the population of each age group that is provided in Table 2. In this section, each age group is added with 10 as the difference of two years is 10.

Table 1. Population of 2001 with respect to each age group

Age Group	Population of 2001
0 to 4	155
5 to 9	157
10 to 14	133
15 to 19	132
20 to 24	337
25 to 29	76
30 to 39	37
50 to 59	66
60 to 64	54
64+	42
Total	1189

Table 2. Population of 2011 with respect to each age group

Age Group	Percentage	Total Population	Population per Age Group
10 to 14	8.6		110
15 to 19	10.9		139
20 to 24	11.4		145
25 to 29	11.6		148
30 to 34	9.8		125
35 to 39	9.7	1276	124
40 to 49	24.8		316
60 to 69	5.6		71
70 to 74	2.7		34
74+	4.9		63
Total	100		1276

As it is known from PRA survey that maximum migrants go to Khulna City for comparative advantages, the urban population of 2001 and 2011 is collected from population census with respect to each age group. From the net migration determination technique, data of each variable with respect to age groups, net migration is found. It is shown in Table 3. So it is found that, the net migration of Maheswarpara village is -450.14 or 451. It means that after 10 years from 2001, in 2011 approximately 451 people are migrated from Maheswarpara village.

Table 3. Estimation of net migration for Maheswarpara village with respect to age groups

Age Group		Rural Population		Urban Population		Net Migration
		2001	2011	2001	2011	
0 to 4	10 to 14	155	110	84031	122011	-115.06
5 to 9	15 to 19	157	139	102814	149284	-88.88
10 to 14	20 to 24	133	145	107757	156461	-47.65
15 to 19	25 to 29	132	148	87985	127753	-43.65
20 to 24	30 to 34	337	125	95894	139236	-364.27
25 to 29	35 to 39	76	124	94905	137801	13.42
30 to 39	40 to 49	37	316	265933	386129	262.72
50 to 59	60 to 69	66	71	69202	100480	-24.37
60 to 64	70 to 74	54	34	27681	40192	-43.95
64+	74+	42	63	52396	76077	1.54
Net Migration (M _R)						-450.14

Rank of Influencing Factors affecting Migration

From PRA and FGD, a score is found for each Push and Pull Factor. For push factors the highest influencing factor would be assigned 11 and the lowest is 1; on the other hand. For pull factors the highest influencing factor would be assigned 9 and the lowest 1. Then the two scores are averaged and illustrated as their score. By this method a rank is formed. Table 4, Table 5, Table 6 and Table 7. are showing the mathematical process respectively. From, Table 6. and Table 7. It is found that the main push factor for rural-urban migration is Unemployment and Poverty and he main pull factor for rural-urban migration is Job/Earning opportunities. To reduce rural-urban migration of the study area i.e. Maheswarpara village, it is very important to smooth coordination of every responsible sector, i.e. government sector, private sector, policy maker; civil society and general people itself should perform their role appropriately for the sustainable development of the rural area as well as urban development and management. The following initiatives should be implemented by ensure the proper role of each and every relevant department of the country of Bangladesh:

- The role of Government should be ensured infrastructure development in rural area, coordinated and effective urban management system, establish agro-based industries and introduce modern tech. in agriculture through encouraging young adults;
- Ensure the role of non-government organizations to establish different cottage industries and create employment opportunities in the rural areas;
- Introducing modern technology in rural area and give training on young adult and in the same time creates technology bases employment opportunity especially for the young people;
- A national human settlements policy is needed for guiding the progress of the country, which will include

Table 4. Score for push factors

No.	Factors	From PRA	From FGD	Average
1	Landlessness.	4	4	4
2	Adverse person to land ratio.	5	5	5
3	Frequent and severe natural disasters (drought, flood, monga, river bank erosion).	2	3	2.5
4	Homelessness.	9	8	8.5
5	Loss of income sources.	10	10	10
6	Unemployment and poverty.	11	11	11
7	Absence of industries.	8	9	8.5
8	Law and order situation.	7	7	7
9	Village politics.	6	6	6
10	Lack of social and cultural opportunities (education, health care, recreational facilities).	3	2	2.5
11	Do not like village (particularly rural rich).	1	1	1
11	Do not like village (particularly rural poor).	1	1	1

Table 5. Score for pull factors

No.	Factors	From PRA	From FGD	Average
1	Job/Earning opportunities.	9	8	8.5
2	Easy access to informal sector.	3	3	3
3	Higher incomes/Rural-urban wage differentials.	8	9	8.5
4	Rural urban disparities in social amenities and services (education, health care, recreation).	4	5	4.5
5	Positive information about the city (garments factory jobs).	7	6	6.5
6	Better livelihood.	6	7	6.5
7	Fast and colorful life in city.	5	4	4.5
8	Joining families/relatives.	2	2	2
9	Willingness to change and see new places.	1	1	1

Table 6. Rank of push factors

Factors	Score	Rank
Unemployment and poverty.	11	1 st
Loss of income sources.	10	2 nd
Homelessness.	8.5	3 rd
Absence of industries.	8.5	4 th
Law and order situation.	7	5 th
Village politics.	6	6 th
Adverse person to land ratio.	5	7 th
Landlessness.	4	8 th
Frequent and severe natural disasters (drought, flood, monga, river bank erosion).	2.5	9 th
Lack of social and cultural opportunities (education, health care, recreational facilities).	2.5	10 th
Do not like village (particularly rural rich).	1	11 th

Table 7. Rank of pull factors

Factors	Score	Rank
Job/Earning opportunities.	8.5	1 st
Higher incomes/Rural-urban wage differentials.	8.5	2 nd
Positive information about the city (garments factory jobs).	6.5	3 rd
Better livelihood.	6.5	4 th
Rural urban disparities in social amenities and services (education, health care, recreation).	4.5	5 th
Fast and colorful life in city.	4.5	6 th
Easy access to informal sector.	3	7 th
Joining families/relatives.	2	8 th
Willingness to change and see new places.	1	9 th

policy on urbanization, migration to urban areas and urban development;

- Ensure urban development in a planned way. For this, establish planning departments/cells by recruiting planner in each city and municipality even Upazila/Thana even union level, and ensure participatory urban planning for inclusive development of urban area and integrated development of rural area;
- Provide potential market participants, especially marginalized and vulnerable groups, with the mechanisms, knowledge, and right to participate in markets; and pay special attention to areas where

markets are missing or not competitive and may need regulation or assistance to overcome institutional barriers;

Policy makers must start planning now to solve this problem with participatory research action in bottom-up approach

Conclusion

Migration is one of the vital forces that contribute to fast urbanization generally associated with higher levels of efficiency and expansion. Migration is a root and outcome of socio-economic alteration. It is considered as a behavioral

attribute that reflects the dedication of the people of origin and destination to reach. Rural-urban migration currently becomes a common fact and the situation is not in control. Strong urban pull factors kept the migrants from leaving the city while weak pull factors of the country's rural area failed to bring the migrants back to village. Therefore, reducing disparities between rural and urban areas would appear to be good tool to discourage rural-urban migration. Rural development with creating adequate facilities and services and enhancing income earning opportunities should receive urgent attention. A balanced development strategy to encourage growth of secondary cities and small townships are of utmost importance to reduce rural-urban migration. And overall the government has to play an effective role in adopting and implementing a comprehensive urban policy accommodating the existing urban population to facilitate their improved life and livelihood. Improvement of urban management is essential for a sustainable future of the city.

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