

Internal Migration and Socio-Economic Status of Migrants: A Study in Sylhet City, Bangladesh

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Migration is considered to be one of the important strategies for the progress and development of rural poor. People migrate from one place to another for the development of their overall living standard and to enhance their social position. This study tries to determine the factors of internal migration and assesses its impact on socio-economic status of migrants. Descriptive research design has been followed in this study. Social survey technique and Focused Group Discussion (FGD) have been applied to collect pertinent data. To analyze the collected data Economic Status Index (ESI), Social Status Index (SSI), Head Count Ratio (HCR) and Poverty Gap Ratio (PGR) were calculated. Area under Sylhet City Corporation, Bangladesh, where people have been migrating from different district of Bangladesh, has been considered as the area of this study. The study reveals that, people were pushed in Sylhet city because of their poor socio-economic conditions, mainly poverty condition. Besides, many pull factors also attract them to migrate in this city. It is found from the study that, internal migration is positively contributed to the development of poor people. There social and economic condition as household income, saving, land possession, expenditure, non-productive assets, housing status, water & sanitation facilities, treatment aptitudes, social participation etc. especially their poverty condition is improved in comparison to the same factors before migration. In a word, internal migration (rural to urban) contributes to the improvement of the socio-economic status of the migrants.

Keywords: internal migration, socio-economic condition, livelihood, poverty, social index, economic index, poverty gap

Introduction

Migration is a natural process and practice of humankind. It is an important factor in the advancement of progressive livelihood and overall development of the society (Raj, 1998, p. 215). People migrate from one area to other for their self need and to protect their existence since the ancient period. It is such a process, in which leaving permanent area people shift another place for long time (Chakravarty & Chakravarty 2012 p.14; Singh et al. 2001 cited in Singh, et al., 2007, p. 57).

Bangladesh is a developing country and most of its people live in rural areas. Day by day unemployment as well as scarcity of land and other resources are increasing rapidly in rural Bangladesh. As a result, the socio-economic condition of rural Bangladesh goes worsen and poverty is prevailed. Due to such situation, an overwhelming number of people seek greater opportunities for their livelihood.

Especially migration has occurred for better opportunity and for better job (Haider 2010, p.307; Farhana et al. 2012, p.105). The rate of migration is increasing gradually all over the world. In developing or poor countries, people migrate from one to another area due to facilities of employment and to fulfill the subsistence need. Rural poor consider migration as a process to be free from the vicious cycle of poverty (Islam et al. 2009, p.23). Poverty is a social curse which resists the development of a society. Yet, by migration strategy, poor people can get better opportunities to remove their poverty and enhance their socio-economic condition (Siddique 2003, p.2). Thus, migration plays a greater role to poverty reduction. Their socio-economic mobility is considered as a necessary condition for sustainable development and poverty alleviation (Rakib et al. 2009, p.10).

Various push and pull factors are responsible for migration. 'Push' factors are associated with a range of limitations and difficulties by which people migrate for their better livelihood (Begum 2005, p.54; Farid et al. 2009, p. 76). In aspect of 'push' factors, poverty, unemployment, low level of livelihood, discrimination

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by politics and religion, individual development of particular party and lack of employment etc. are important. In addition, employment facilities in new area, possibilities of economic structure, standard livelihood and standard geographical condition of migrated area are considered as important 'pull' factors. (Parkins 2010, p.8; Ghosh, 1988, pp. 147-150; Parkins 2009, p.105).

Therefore, in the context of rural Bangladesh, people migrate from rural to urban area because of professional advantage and financial progress in the urban area especially, for the proper wage by work, health facilities, education facilities and recreation facilities etc. (Afsar 2003, p.3; Begum 2005 p.23; Siddique 2003, p.3; Kainth 2009, p.85). The rate of internal migration may vary by area due to extent of informal sector, working facilities, suitable weather, social security, rapid urbanization etc (Tamang, 2009, p.3).

Generally, rate of migration in a district town is comparatively less than a divisional city or city corporation. From the study, it reveals that, people migrate to reduce their poverty condition by availing different opportunities present in the area of destination.

It is also found that, migration is greater prospective to poverty alleviation. This study is conducted on different aspects related to internal migration. A limited number of studies are conducted concerning what happens to the socio-economic status of migrants after migrating to a new place unknown previously, what happens to the aspect of poverty gap of migrants. This study concerns these issues and seeks to identify the socio-economic status of migrants after migration. By comparing between the before and after situation of migrants, it is found that, most of the migrant's social and economic status enhances after migration. So, it can be concluded that, internal or rural to urban migration plays a dominant role for the upliftment of the socio-economic status of the migrants and poverty reduction in Bangladesh.

Objectives of the study

The broad and general objective of this study is the impact of internal migration on migrant's socio-economic status. This broad objective has been split into several specific objectives. These are:- i) To analyze the factors involving in internal migration to Sylhet city; ii) To assess the social status of migrant people; iii) To assess the economic status of migrant people; and iv) To measure the poverty status of the migrants before and after migration.

Significance of the Study

Migration is a socio-demographic process. From the ancient period people deliberately or involuntarily migrate from one place to another. Sometimes they migrate for natural causes and sometimes for different man made causes (Ma et al. 2011, p.141). People can migrate within a same socio-political area or to the outside of the area. In recent time, internal migration has increased. Therefore, it is crucial to know why people migrate from one place to another and how they migrate. It is also necessary to know the condition of socio-economic and poverty status of migrants. Through this any kind of development initiatives can be taken properly.

In the present time, people migrate in *Sylhet* city from different district of Bangladesh to develop their socio-economic condition. After migration, they engage themselves with various income generating activities in *Sylhet* city. Can they fulfill their desire basing on which they migrated here? Can they develop their socio-economic status through developing socio-economic condition? Can they reduce their poverty generally? Consequently, it is important and more rational to conduct a research work about the socio-economic condition and other matters related to the migrants who have migrated in Sylhet city.

As a developing country, poverty is a social curse for Bangladesh. For migration, it plays the vital role of development (Hossain 2003, p.3). Usually, people migrates from rural to urban and one district to another for their economic development and to relieve from poverty (Siddique 2003, p.2). Thus, on a whole people migrate for reduction of their poverty level. As a result, it is needed to explore the effects of migration to the poverty status of migrated people. Yet again, Migration is a livelihood strategy and always considered as an indispensable elements in economic and social development of the poor people. Therefore, if the effects of migration on poverty can be explored, government can take proper policy to the internal migration for reduction of the poverty condition. In that sense, this study is considerably significant.

Literature Review

Migration

Migration is a broad term which incorporates all kinds of the movement of people from one place to another (Haider 2010, p. 309). Migration is a permanent or semi-permanent change of the place of origin to the place of destination. It incorporates all kinds of permanent or temporary movement of the

people. Migration can take place within or beyond a particular geographical boundary of a country or political territory. Migration can also be defined as the people's movement from one territory to another for job or establishment. According to Mahmood (1992), migration is an act of people's movement to an overseas country for a certain period of time and with explicit purpose. Meyer and Clyed (1970) made distinction between mobility and migration. For them, mobility is the movement within boundaries and on the other hand, migration is the movement beyond boundaries. Such boundaries may be geographical, structural, ethnic or some other divisions (Haider, 2010, p.309). According to Beijeer (1969), migration is the movement of a person involving a permanent change of residence. Saint and William (1980) mentioned that, migration is a social process conditioned by changes in the structure of the economy and that of the society. In the study of Haider (2010), migration is defined as a purposeful geographical movement of workers towards districts/region/states where industry and employment are available. Different sorts of migration can be observed in a society. These are: 1) internal (rural-urban, rural-rural, urban-rural and urban-urban). 2) international (from one geographical area to another geographical area). Both, again, can be forced and general in nature.

Factors related to migration

Migration is a natural process that often happens depending on the socio-economic, demographic, cultural, political and environmental factors related to the migrant people. All of the factors of migration are included in two broad classifications as Push and Pull factors. Push factors are those that compel a person, due to different reasons, to leave place of origin and to go to some other place (Kainth 2009:84). For instance, lack of work opportunities, unemployment and underdevelopment, poor economic condition, lack of opportunities, exhaustion of natural resources and natural calamities. On the other hand, pull factors indicate the factors which attract migrant to an area (area of destination), like, employment and higher education opportunities, higher wages facilities, better working condition etc (Haider 2010, p. 311, Kainth 2009, p.84, Farhana et al. 2012:107, Jaman 2001 p.68, Afsar 2003, p.3, Rokib et al. 2009, p.11). In aspect of Bangladesh, factors such as, poverty, natural calamities e.g. flood, draught, soil erosion, river erosion, etc and socio-cultural factors like marriage, family conflict, social discrimination, social problems, political chaos, dominating village elders, better employment, better life living, better education facilities etc. are considered to be the determinant of internal migration (Haider, 2010, p.311). Haider also

mentioned that, better job opportunity, better educational and health care faculties and other social amenities are responsible for better living conditions which attract the migrants towards the city life.

Migration and poverty

Migration is a complex phenomenon occurring over a wide variety of spatial and temporal contents and for various reasons (material or non-material). Economic theorists view migration as a choice of people who wish to improve their economic condition. Waddington H. and Sabates-Wheeler R. in their working paper examine the links between poverty and migration. Particularly they investigate poverty and vulnerability as determinants of migration. De Haan (1999) explored that, migration is a last resort of the poor in response to their economic growth. De Haan and Rogaly (2002) said that, migration is the sustainable livelihood strategy. It occurs in response to crisis of people face of physical, economic, social and political difficulty. Chambers (1989, cited in Ellis 2000) found that, undesirable situation make the poor highly vulnerable to food uncertainty. As a product of such vulnerability poor are most likely to necessitate migration. In the working paper, Pantiru, Black and Sabates-Wheeler (2007) provided an overview of migration and poverty reduction in Moldova. They included available in literature review and field level discussions with policy makers in Chisinau. They conclude that, substantial international migration in Moldova is still increasing in volume. It led to substantial flows of remittances, stimulating a degree of domestic demand and positively affects poverty alleviation and small business creation (Islam 2007, p.20-21).

Migration is the key livelihood diversification and survival strategy for rural poor in many parts of the developing worlds. In Latin America and countries like Philippines, majority of the migrants are women, because daughters can send more remittances than the son does (Lauby & Stark 1988). In many poor areas of Bangladesh, outmigration is the main source of the development of livelihood and well-being (Haider 2010, p.11). De Haan et al. (2000) found that, migrants from two sites in Bangladesh were less likely to be landless households and on average owned more land than that of household without migrants owned. Farhan et al. (2012) in their research examines the factors of internal migration. Using survey, observation and case study they found that, migration is mainly caused by economic and social factors such as, unemployment, poverty, political and ethnical conflict, religious etc. they also found that, in case of migration, poverty and unemployment always push the poor villagers to

change their residence to the cities. After migration, majority of the migrants comparatively improved their livelihood in the city. That is, they found positive impacts of migration on alleviation of poverty of the poor people in Bangladesh. Migration does play a significant role in poor people's livelihood strategies throughout the developing world, but may not be an option to the most destitute amongst the poor people; i.e., the severely poor. It evidenced that, migration welfare determines by the initial level of destitution of the household, which determines whether migration occurs out of choice rather than representing an attractive alternative livelihood, migration is a last choice for households with poverty and vulnerability. Zug (2006) said that, the prices for basic foods often increase during *Monga*. So in order to survive, people migrate to the city region like, Rajshahi, Dhaka, Chittagong, Barisal, Sylhet etc.

From the aforementioned literature review it is evident that, migration can define from different perspectives where as there are so many factors that are responsible for migration, yet again it contributes to the development of poor people. However, most of the literature discussed only about the economic condition of migrant or factors related to their family. Hence, internal migration especially rural to urban migration also effect on the socio-economic and poverty status of migrants. Consequently, there is a knowledge gap existing between internal migration and socio-economic and poverty status. Again, most of the studies were analyzed socio-economic condition of respondents through various statistical tools. But this study measures the social and economical situation of internal migrants by social and economic index. There for it can be argued, that this study is contributed to spread out the idea about the impact of internal migration on the socio-economic status of migrants.

Materials and Methods

Research area and location

The research was conducted in *Amberkhana, Medina market and Pathantula* areas under *Sylhet City Corporation* of Bangladesh. There are three points in these three areas where migrated construction workers are congested every morning in a huge volume to be hired by the constructor to different construction sides in daily basis. For this reason, these areas were selected to collect necessary data. *Sylhet* is one of the city corporations located in the north-eastern side of Bangladesh and its total land area is nearly 4784 square miles (BBS, 1992). Since the post liberation period, population of *Sylhet* is

gradually increasing. People migrate in *Sylhet* city from different area of Bangladesh to improve their economic foundation and they emphasize the fulfillment of their material objectives (Hussain, 2007, pp. 67-69). Before selecting the above mentioned areas as research area, a pilot survey was carried out in January, 2006 to be sure about the nature of migrants who congested there to be hired for construction work.

Population and sampling of the study

Migrated construction workers who gather in the *Ambarkahana, Medina market and Pathantula points* every morning to be hired by constructors have been considered as population of the study. From the study area, the samples were selected purposively. Because, it is impossible to limit the number of construction workers as they move from one place to another regularly. In such a case, 20 workers (irrespective to age, sex and religious affiliation) have been selected from each of three areas, thus the sample size of the study is 60.

Research design and data collection technique

To accomplish the research descriptive research design has been followed and methodological triangulation (social survey and Focused Group Discussion-FGD) has been used to collect relevant data. In aspect of social survey, semi-structured questionnaire and in case of FGD, guide questionnaire have been used. For social survey, face-to-face interview procedure has been followed. Data were carried out in to terms, first, in 2006 and second, in 2012 to observe the change in socioeconomic indicators considered in this study.

Research instrument and analysis techniques

To collect quantitative data, semi-structured and guide questionnaires have been designed for social survey and FGD respectively. So, the research instruments of this study were questionnaires. SPSS and several statistical tools were used to analyze the data. Statistical techniques such as Head Count Ratio, Poverty Gap, Economic Status Index, and Social Status Index were used according to the following formula to test the variables of the study.

Social status Index (SSI) = $\sum \frac{wif_i}{m} \times 100$ (Islam et al. 2009, p.416)

Economic status Index (ESI) = $\sum \frac{wif_i}{m} \times 100$ (Islam et al. 2009, p.416)

Head Count Ratio (H) = $\frac{a}{n} \times 100$ (Bias & Hussain 2008, p.93)

$$\text{Poverty Gap Ratio (PG)} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^H (y_p - Y_i)}{N \cdot Y_p} \quad (\text{Bias \& Hussain 2008, p.93})$$

Result and Discussion

Socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents

In the study, socio-demographic conditions are measured through respondent’s age, marital status, family types, family members, education, dependency ratio and male-female ratio.

Age is a vital component for the decision making of migration as young people who are twenty to forty years old move more in comparison to people of other ages (Kainth 2009, p.94). In the study, age of fifty percent respondents’ was twenty to thirty four years. About twenty-five percent and seventeen percent were fifteen to twenty four and thirty-five to forty-four years old respectively. Only eight percent people belonging in forty-five to fifty-four years old category. Marital status is an important factor of migration (Haider 2010, p.312).

The marital status of the migrated construction workers aged sixteen years or more refers that sixty-three percent were married and rest of all were unmarried. Usually, family size of migrants is larger than others (Kainth 2009, p.96). It is found from the study that, more than half of the respondents’ family members are seven to nine. Ten percent have one to three and seventeen percent have seven to nine members in their family. Again, eight percent of the respondents belonged to families whose size was nine and above.

Education is another important variable which influence decision making process in migration (Kainth 2009, p.96). It is shown from the study that, fifty percent of the construction workers are illiterate whereas forty five percent, four percent and only one percent of the respondents can sign and have primary and secondary level of education respectively.

Factors associated to internal migration

Causes of migration

Two principle factors- push and pull- influenced people for migration. In the study, push factors are poverty, unemployment and natural calamity, while better opportunity, high wage, relatives or friends stay since long time are the indicators of pull factors. It is found that, about 72 percent respondents migrated because of different push factors, among them, 42 percent for poverty, 23 percent for unemployment and 7 percent for natural calamity. On

the contrary, 28 percent migrated being attracted by various pull factors among them about 17, 10 and 1 percent of the respondents migrated for better opportunity, high wage and presence of relatives or friends since long time respectively.

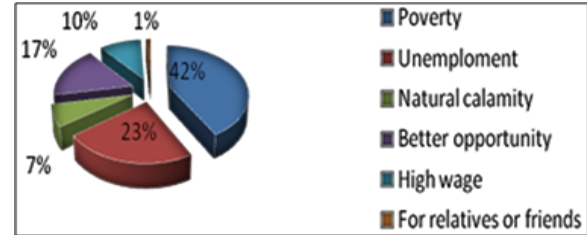


Figure 1. The causes of migration.

Reasons for choosing Sylhet City

From the study it reveals that, the poor migrants choose the places before migration considering various factors. In the villages, various push factors always shove the villagers to the cities for better working or earning opportunities. For this reason, many poor people leave their inhabitant land for searching sources of earning. People choose Sylhet city for various opportunities. In reverence of choosing Sylhet city, 29.2 percent people consider availability of work opportunity, 26 percent prefer this city area as it is nearer from their native lands. For this, they could easily travel from their places of origin to the city and the living and transportation cost is reasonable for poor migrants. 25.2 percent of the migrants selected Sylhet city because of the presence of strong kin network.

Duration of migration

Duration of migration is significant to measure the impact of migration. Majority (42 percent) of the migrants’ duration of living is four to six years. About 38 percent migrants have been living Sylhet city since seven or more years. Again, 17 and 3.3 percent of respondents’ duration of living are 1 to 3 and less than 1 year respectively.

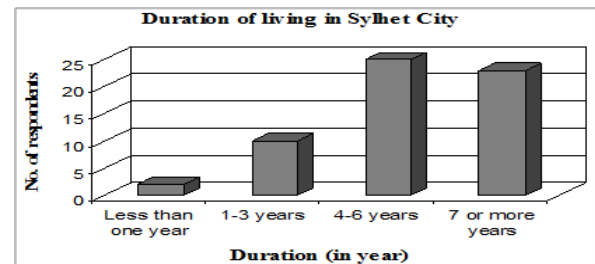


Figure 2. Duration of living in Sylhet city

Economic status index of the respondents

Economic status index of respondents is a modern approach to translate qualitative change in quantitative terms (Islam et al. 2008:419). This index is calculated by the total change of five economic indicators. These are household income, expenditure, savings, land possession, non-productive assets of migrants. Income is central variable to determine the economic status. From the study, it is found that about seventy percent, twenty-eight percent, and two percent respondents received Tk. 1000-3000, 3001-5000 and above respectively before the migration. On the contrary, after migration 1000-3000, 3001-5000 and above 5000 Tk earned about five percent, thirty-five percent and sixty percent respondents respectively.

Family expenditure is an important indicator to identify poverty condition (Islam 2007, p.68). Before migration, the half of the respondents (50%) and more than one-fourth of respondents' (43.33%), monthly expenditure were taka 4001-7001 and 1001-

4000 respectively. Alternatively, after migration, above half of the respondents (65%) expend taka 40001-7000 in a month; where about 15 percent respondents' monthly expenditure is more than taka 7000 and 20 percent migrants have Tk 10001-4000 per month for expenditure purpose.

Savings give strength to the households and increase their capacity of coping with crisis (Islam 2007:69). It is found from the table that, the average annual savings of taka 1923.6 and Taka 4512.36 before and after migration respectively. Table 1 shows change in the possession of the prestigious goods before and after migration. Some prestigious goods were listed which contribute to the flow of income of migrants. The highest 58.33 percent of the migrants possessed prestigious goods like mobile phone after migration. The second highest percent respondents possessed watch as prestigious goods. The percentage possession of prestigious goods like radio, TV, showcase and almira is 42, 20, 15 and 17 respectively.

Table 1. Amount of possession of prestigious goods.

| Possession of prestigious goods | Before migration | | After migration | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|------------|---------------------|------------|
| | Number of household | Percentage | Number of household | Percentage |
| Radio | 5 | 8.33 | 25 | 41.66 |
| T.V. | 1 | 1.66 | 12 | 20 |
| Mobile phone | 1 | 1.66 | 35 | 58.33 |
| Watch | 2 | 3.33 | 28 | 46.66 |
| Showcase | 0 | 0 | 9 | 15 |
| <i>Almira</i> | 3 | 5 | 10 | 16.66 |

Land is an important indicator of livelihood (Kazal et al. 2010, p.27). In this study the land holding of the household has been estimated by taking only homestead, agricultural land and cultivated land. Ownership of land by the respondents' households consisted of owned land mortgaged land and land for share cropping which has been shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Amount of land of the respondents' household.

| Land categories | Decimal | Percentage |
|-----------------------|---------|------------|
| Homestead area | 05.87 | 6.30 |
| Owned cultivated | 49.32 | 52.9 |
| Land taken from other | 19.43 | 20.8 |
| Land given to other | 06.46 | 6.94 |
| Others (pond, garden) | 12.07 | 12.9 |
| Total land | 93.15 | 100 |

Table 2 shows that seventy-two percent owned land, which included six percent homestead, fifty-three percent cultivated land and thirty percent others as pond, garden etc. the table also reveals that the households possess on an average 20.86 percent of land taken from others and 6.94 percent land given to others.

Extent of changes are assigned through like, no change score is 0, little change score value is 1, medium, high and very high change score value are 2, 3 and 4 respectively. Only one indicator of the respondents is considered as no change, Change of the two indicators is considered as little change. If three indicators of the respondents are changed, considered as high change and change in all of the indicators is considered as very high change. The extent of the change of these indicators is expressed in percentage in Table 3.

Table 3. Economic status of the migrants.

| Types of economic status | Weight (wi) | Number of respondents | Percentage of respondents |
|--------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| No change | 0 | 4 | 6.67% |
| Little change | 1 | 11 | 18.33% |
| Medium change | 2 | 24 | 36.66% |
| High change | 3 | 15 | 25% |
| Very high change | 4 | 6 | 10% |
| Total | - | 60 | 100% |

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Economic Status Index (ESI)} &= \sum \frac{w_i f_i}{m} \times 100 \\
 &= \frac{(0 \times 4) + (1 \times 11) + (2 \times 24) + (3 \times 15) + (4 \times 6)}{(60 \times 4)} \times 100 \\
 &= \frac{0 + 11 + 48 + 45 + 24}{240} \times 100 \\
 &= \frac{126}{240} \times 100 \\
 &= 53.3\%
 \end{aligned}$$

Aforementioned table reveal that, 10 percent, 25 percent respondent’s economic status rise “very highly” and “high” respectively. A big amount, about 37 percent have “medium change” of their economic status. Again, about 18.33 percent of respondents are “little change” and only 7 percent of the respondents

have “no change” in their economic status. The value of the index of economic status is 53.33 percent.

Social status index of migrants

There are five variables as housing status, water and sanitation facilities, treatment aptitudes and the patterns of occupation were used to measure the social status index of the migrants. Types of housing primarily demonstrate the social status of a family (Islam 2007, p.77). Types of housing conditions according to length of membership of the respondents are shown in Table 4.

Table 4. Changes on housing status of the respondents.

| Types of houses | Before migration | | After migration | | Percentage change |
|-------------------|-----------------------|------------|-----------------------|------------|-------------------|
| | Number of respondents | Percentage | Number of respondents | Percentage | |
| Semi-pacca | 1 | 1.66 | 30 | 50 | 48.34 |
| Tin-shed | 10 | 16.66 | 57 | 95 | 78.34 |
| One side tin-shed | 30 | 50 | 35 | 58.33 | 8.33 |
| Straw house | 45 | 75 | 10 | 16.66 | -58.33 |

Table 4 reveals the houses were of five types as tin-shed, one side tin-shed, straw house and semi-pacca house. It is evident from Table 1 that, the housing status has been increased considerably. The housing status of semi-pacca increased to 50 percent from 1.66 percent after migration. Again, the housing status of one sided tin-shed increased to 50 percent from 58.33 percent. On the other hand, straw house was decreased to 16.66 percent from 75 percent, which is indicating the decrease by 58.33 percent due to internal migration.

Water is an essential element for living beings. This is particularly related to sound health condition of the respondents’ family and respective residential areas as well (Islam 2008, p.78). The study found 98.33 percent respondents use tube-well water for cooking and other purposes after migration. However, the percentage of the use of tube-well water was only 16.66 before migration. On the other hand, only 1.6 percent uses water from pond, river or other sources for cooking and other purposes after migration, which was 83.33 percent before migration (Table-5).

Table -5. Sources of water of the respondents.

| Sources of water | Before migration | | After migration | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------|-----------------------|------------|
| | Number of respondents | Percentage | Number of respondents | Percentage |
| Pond, river or others | 50 | 83.33 | 1 | 1.66 |
| Tube well | 10 | 16.66 | 59 | 98.33 |

Level of sanitation facilities determines the social status of a family. It shows that, after migration about 83 percent use sanitary and Pit latrine, which was only 22 percent before migration. About 58 percent and 20 percent used *kacha* (latrine which is made of

local materials and not sanitary type) and open latrine before migration. However, it has been changed after migration. Only 17 percent use *kacha* latrine and there were no respondent who use open toilet after migration (Table-6).

Table- 6. Sanitation facilities of respondents' household.

| Types of toilet | Before migration | | After migration | |
|-----------------|---------------------|------------|---------------------|------------|
| | Number of household | Percentage | Number of household | Percentage |
| Sanitary | 3 | 5 | 20 | 33.33 |
| Pit | 10 | 16.66 | 30 | 50 |
| <i>Kacha</i> | 35 | 58.33 | 10 | 16.66 |
| Open | 12 | 20 | 0 | 0 |

Health facilities of the respondents' households are the important issues of determining the social status. In this study, five types of facilities such as, govt. hospital, L.M.F doctor, MBBS doctor, *Kabiraj* (local healer who treatments with traditional medicine) were taken into consideration. Table 7 reveals that, about 30, 96.66, 1.66, and 75 percent of the

respondents took facilities of govt. hospital, L.M.F doctor, MBBS doctor and *kabiraj* respectively before migration. Alternatively, about 91.66, 41.66, 3.33 and 8.33 percent of the respondents take facilities of govt. hospital, L.M.F doctor, MBBS doctor and *kabiraj* respectively after migration.

Table 7. Health facilities of the respondents.

| Types of treatment | Before migration | | After migration | |
|--------------------|---------------------|------------|---------------------|------------|
| | Number of household | Percentage | Number of household | Percentage |
| Govt. hospital | 18 | 30 | 55 | 91.66 |
| L.M.F doctor | 58 | 96.66 | 25 | 41.66 |
| MBBS doctor | 1 | 1.66 | 20 | 33.33 |
| <i>Kabiraj</i> | 15 | 75 | 5 | 8.33 |

Social participation ultimately indicates social status. In this study, social participation means attending various social activities like, attending religious ceremonies (Ijtema, Durga puja etc.), marriage ceremonies, helping disabled person etc. It reveals that, before migration 70 percent, 30 percent of the

respondents used to attend religious and marriage ceremonies respectively but no respondents helped the disabled person before migration. However, after migration respondents social participation changed dramatically and 33.33 percent of the respondents helped the disabled person (Table 8).

Table-8. Social participation of migrant respondents.

| Respondents social participation | Before migration | | After migration | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|------------|-----------------------|------------|
| | Number of respondents | Percentage | Number of respondents | Percentage |
| Religious ceremony | 42 | 70 | 12 | 20 |
| Marriage ceremony | 18 | 30 | 28 | 46.67 |
| Helped disabled person | 0 | 0 | 20 | 33.33 |
| Total | 60 | 100 | 60 | 100 |

Working efficiency is a good indicator of social status. In Table 9, expresses the increase of working efficiency of migrants. About 66.67 percent of respondents realize that, working efficiency has increased after migration. On the other hand, 33.33 percent views negative about the increase of working efficiency.

Table-9. Working efficiency after migration.

| Increase efficiency increased after migration | No. of Respondents | Percentage |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Yes | 40 | 66.67 |
| No | 20 | 33.33 |
| Total | 60 | 100 |

The changes of social status are divided by five categories and each category has different weight

values- 0,1,2,3 and 4 respectively. Social status of the respondents is revealed in Table 10:

Table 10. Social status of respondent’s households

| Types of social status | Weight (w _i) | Number of respondents | Percentage of respondents |
|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| No change | 0 | 2 | 3.3 |
| Little change | 1 | 9 | 15.0 |
| Medium change | 2 | 24 | 36.6 |
| High change | 3 | 15 | 25.0 |
| Very high change | 4 | 10 | 16.6 |
| Total | - | 60 | 100 |

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Social Status Index (SSI)} &= \sum \frac{w_i f_i}{m} \times 100 \\
 &= \frac{(0 \times 2) + (1 \times 9) + (2 \times 24) + (3 \times 15) + (4 \times 10)}{(60 \times 4)} \times 100 \\
 &= \frac{0 + 9 + 48 + 45 + 40}{240} \times 100 \\
 &= \frac{142}{240} \times 100 \\
 &= 59.17\%
 \end{aligned}$$

It is found from the aforementioned table that, the value of weighted average index is 59.17 percent. Table 10 shows, social status of migrants rise “very high” by about 12 percent. Twenty three percent of respondents have “high change”, 42 percent respondents are “medium change” of their social status and about twenty-three percent have minor change.

In this study poverty is measured by head count ratio and the poverty gap method. Following Table (11) reveals the overall poverty condition e.g. the head count ratio and poverty gap before and after migration. The table shows, about 41.67 and 60 percent were below the lower and upper poverty line before migration. On the contrary, these percentages has been changed which are 26.67 and 45 percent respectively after migration. On the other hand, the head count ratio of the respondents is 30 and 50 percent respectively after migration, which was 48.43 and 63.33 percent before migration. Again, the poverty gap of the respondent was 11.02 and 9.33 percent for lower and upper poverty line before migration respectively, which is 5.6 and 9.33 percent respectively in after migration.

Poverty status of migrants

Table 11. Poverty situation of respondents’ household

| Year | No. of respondents below lower poverty line | Head-count ratio | Poverty gap in percent | No. of respondents below upper poverty line | Head-count ratio | Poverty gap in percent |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| 2006 (before migration) | 25 (41.67%) | 48.43 | 11.02 | 36 (60%) | 30 | 19.27 |
| 2012 (after migration) | 16 (26.67%) | 63.33 | 5.6 | 27 (45%) | 50 | 9.33 |

Conclusion

Migration is considered to be one of the strategies of development. It is the driver of growth and an important route to be out of poverty. Migration has significant positive impact on people’s livelihood and well-being. The socio-demographic condition of the respondents is not so well. Majority of the respondents are youth, married and illiterate. The Number of family members is also large among the most of the migrants. For these reason, nearly all of the respondents faced poverty. These factors pushed poor people in migration to Sylhet city to earn more money to fulfill basic needs of their family. Greater parts of the respondents have been residing in Sylhet

city for more than four years. The index of economic status is 53.30 percent which expresses the improvement of migrants’ economic conditions while more than one-third of respondents’ economic status is increased highly. The indicators of economic status as household income, savings, expenditure, land possession, nonproductive assets etc. has also been improved after migration.

Alternatively, respondents’ households has gained improved in their social status conditions and the index value of the respondents’ social status is 59 percent. The variables of social status like housing status, water and sanitation facilities, social participation, treatment competence, working efficiency are rising in comparison of before

migration, whereas housing condition, water & sanitation facilities are grown up hugely. Besides, pure drinking water and sanitation, proper treatment and recreation are very crucial elements for improvement of livelihood. There are no alternative of proper treatment and recreation for mental satisfaction and freshness. From the study it is revealed that, more than three-fourth portion of migrated construction workers can get proper treatment and recreation after migration which leads them to develop their overall standard of life.

Poverty is one of the important causes of migration. In aspect of poverty, poor people cannot fulfill their subsistence need properly. Hence, people move to a new area for searching better job opportunity so that they would be able to fulfill their subsistence need. It is found from the value of Head count ratio and poverty gap that, the poverty situation has been improved after migration. Consequently, from the above discussion it can be concluded that, internal migration contribute highly to the development of the socio-economic status of poor people.

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