Determinants of and Personal Factors in Rural-Urban Migration: Case of Comilla-Dhaka Migrants

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Abstract

The present study was an attempt to analyze the determinants of and personal factors in rural-urban migration. Emigrants of Lalbagh, Dhanmondi and Motijheel thanas of Dhaka city who were migrated from rural Chauddagram, Nangalkot and Laksam upazilas of Comilla district were the population out of whom 90 individuals were selected purposively. Among 10 determinants, want of employment and lack of educational facilities in the village, opportunity of more income in the city and worst-off condition of the individuals were the foremost reasons behind rural-urban migration. Besides, individual characteristics like age, sex, education, occupation, marital status etc. were studied and were found that the young, male, educated, high occupational and un-married persons were largely migrating to the city. About 49% of the principal migrants were between 26-40 age-group and 48% had completed above 12 years of schooling. There were only 2 female as principal migrants and only 14.44% of the migrants were married at the time of migration.

Keywords: *Migration, determinants, personal factors*

Introduction

Migration is one of the basic components of population growth and redistribution. It occupies a central place in demographic analysis. It is a geographic mobility that involves a change of usual residence between defined political or statistical areas or between residence areas of different types. In general usage, the term has been restricted to the relatively permanent change (International Encyclopedia of Population, 1982). Migration has taken place in all nations; all over the world throughout history, but today it is most prominent in the so-called developing countries. Though there are various types of migration, yet rural to urban migration is becoming more and more significant. Everyday, thousands of people especially in under-developed and developing countries leave their villages for searching livelihood in the cities (Joshi, 1999).

Like many developing countries in the world, migration in Bangladesh is dominated by the inflow from rural to urban migration, although other forms such as urban to rural, rural to rural or urban to urban, are not uncommon.

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According to the 1991 census data regarding internal migration by direction, the highest rate of internal migration is of the rural to urban type. The rate of rural to urban migration was 51.8 per thousand as against the urban to rural migration rate of 1.1, rural to rural 3.4, and the urban to urban migration rate of 4.4 per thousand (BBS, 1994).

Besides, there are several internal and external factors that determine the reasons and motivations of people from one place to another, generally from rural to urban areas. Researchers from various disciplines have made attempts to identify the determining factors that account for decision to migrate. According to Ravenstein (1885), migration process is characterized by stages, stream and counter-stream and rural-urban differentials in propensity to migrate and is influenced by distance, economic motives, technology, and communication.

Moreover, migrants are not randomly selected from the population in the areas of origin. The question who migrates from one place to another and who does not leads to the issue of personal factors in migration. Migration selectivity permits the identification of a number of personal characteristics like age, sex, education, occupation, marital status etc. which distinguish migrants from non-migrants. According to Demko and Fueks (1980), migration is a highly selective process. It removes the younger, stronger, best-educated, most skilled people from rural areas to urban areas. Keeping the above view in mind, the following specific objectives were put forward for the present study:

1. To identify the determinants of rural-urban migration, and
2. To identify the personal factors those prompted individuals for rural-urban migration.

Methodology

Migration analysis comprises two areas, one is area of origin (from which migrants migrated) and another is area of destination (in which migrants moved). For the sake of convenience out of fifteen upazilas of Comilla district three upazilas namely Chauddagram, Nangalkot and Laksam were selected purposively as the areas of origin for the present study. Besides, considering its importance in the urbanization process of Bangladesh it was decided to consider Dhaka as the area of destination. Three thanas namely Lalbagh, Dhanmondi and Motijheel were selected as the areas of destination because of the concentration of the migrants of Comilla district.

Study Area

Area of Origin   Area of Destination

Comilla   Dhaka

Chauddagram   Nangalkot   Laksam   Lalbagh   Dhanmondi   Motijheel
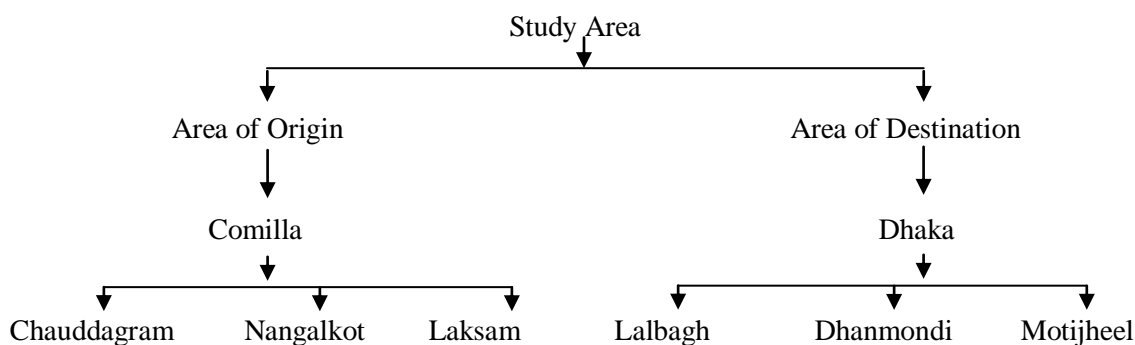
The universe of the present study was the rural migrant population of selected three upazilas of Comilla district in selected three thanas of Dhaka city, who were migrated to Dhaka city and spent at least five years in this district. A sample of 90 respondents, 30 from each upazila was drawn purposively in order to fulfill the objectives of the study. The study was based on a set of field level primary data collected from the selected respondents by face to face interview with the help of pre-tested interview schedule. The data were collected during February to April, 2006. The secondary data were collected from Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), population census reports and the daily newspapers. After collecting requisite data, they were processed and analyzed with a view to achieve the objectives of the study. Tabular analyses of significant items have been depicted through charts, graphs and diagrams because of their simplicity to use and understand. To determine the change in some socio-economic aspects of migrants, statistical tools like mean, percentages, ratios etc. were applied.

Findings and Discussion

Getting answer why some people decide to make a move and others do not is not straightforward because of complex nature of the migration process. Attempts are taken here to identify the determinants of and personal factors in rural-urban migration.

Determinants of rural-urban migration

The decision of migration of people from rural to urban areas is influenced because of several factors. In this study respondents were asked to mention only two causes in order to priority. Weight score was given to these priorities. Thus total weighted score was calculated on the basis of which a final rank order was drawn.

The analysis pertaining to the determinants of rural-urban migration indicates that a majority of the migrants was migrated for seeking employment opportunities (37 persons). Thus the first reason for migration from rural Comilla to Dhaka was want of employment in Comilla. This had directly influenced the young educated persons to leave their village. The second important factor was lack of educational facilities in the village. The third important cause identified by the migrants was both the search for more income and worst-off condition of migrants at the village which is shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Determinants of rural-urban migration

Determinants of migration	1st Priority (No.)	2nd Priority (No.)	Total weighted score	Final rank order
Want of employment	37	8	82	I
Family movement	3	3	9	
More income	7	11	25	III
Education	13	1	27	II
Transfer of job	3	-	6	
To attain high social status	-	7	7	
Accompanied with parents	10	-	20	
Called by acquaints	6	7	19	
Attraction to city life	3	4	10	
Worst-off	8	9	25	III

Total Weighted Score: 1st Priority x 2 + 2nd Priority x 1

To find out the variation in the causes of rural urban migration according to the respondents' educational qualification, the respondents were classified as illiterate, up to primary, below SSC, below graduation, above graduation and professional. Table 2 indicates that the illiterate person indicated want of employment and called by acquaints as the first cause of migration. In case of primary educational level, though the first importance was given to accompanied with parents, first importance was attached to want of employment by the people for all other three categories of educational qualification except professional. The number of respondents attached first importance to want of employment was 7, 15 and 11 for below SSC, below graduation and above graduation respectively. Table 2 shows that the numbers of migrant were positively related with education level.

Table 2. Reasons of migration on the basis of level of education of migrants

Reasons of migration	Illiterate	Primary	Below SSC	Below Graduation	Above Graduation	Professional
Want of employment	2	1	7	15	11	1
Family movement	-	-	2	1	-	-
More income	-	-	-	2	5	-
Education	-	-	-	-	11	2
Transfer of job	-	-	-	-	3	-
To attain high social status	-	-	-	-	-	-
Accompanied with parents	1	2	-	3	3	1
Called by acquaints	2	1	-	2	1	-
Attraction to city life	-	-	-	1	2	-
Worst-off	1	1	4	1	1	-
Total	6	5	13	25	37	4

The causes of rural-urban migration can also be revealed from the amount of money migrants brought in possession at migration. From the Table 3 it was found that 22 migrants were migrated to the city bringing below Tk.100 with them. So, it can be said that migration of people from rural to urban areas resulted for economic crisis which was in turn the consequences of lack of employment in the place of origin. Again, there was an inverse relation between the numbers of migrant with the amount of money brought in possession, that is, the number of migrants was decreasing with the increase in amount of money brought.

Table 3. Distribution of migrants by amount of money brought in possession at migration

Period of migration	Amount of money (Tk.)						Total
	Below 100	100-300	301-500	501-1000	1001-5000	Above 5000	
Up to 1975	8	2	-	-	1	-	11
1976-1980	5	3	1	1	-	-	10
1981-1985	3	2	2	1	2	-	10
1986-1990	3	1	3	4	4	-	15
1991-1995	1	3	2	2	1	3	12
1996-2000	2	9	9	4	2	6	32
Total	22	20	17	12	10	9	90

Personal factors in rural-urban migration

Migrants in urban areas have certain distinguishing personal factors which characterize them from rest of the population. Age, sex, education, marital status, occupation, income play a vital role in their movement from one place to another.

Age and sex structure

The composition of the family members by age and sex in the sample household shows that the highest number of migrants (94) was from below 15 years of age followed by the age group of 15-25 (90). The population of male and female members was 176 and 131 respectively. The overall sex ratio was 135.35 (for every 100 women). The average family size was found to be 3.41 for three upazilas which is significantly lower than the national average size of family of 5.18 (BBS, 2000). The age and sex structure of migrant households are shown in Table 4.

Table 4. Distribution of family members by age and sex

Age Group (year)	No. of migrants		
	Male	Female	Total
Below 15	43	51	94
15-25	51	20	71
25-40	41	49	90
40-64	41	8	49
Above 64	-	3	3
Total	62	50	307

In present study, age of sample migrant respondents was classified into three broad categories such as below 25 years, 26-40 years and above 41 years. Out of 90 respondents, highest 48.89% were between the age group of 26-40 years and lowest 17.77% respondents were below 25 years. Thus, the study revealed that there was a large concentration of migrant respondents in the middle age group. The reason for this may be that most migrants leave their village at a working-age period. This is probably because of the expected long-term economic benefits from an extended migratory stay (Table 5).

Table 5. Distribution of migrants by their age

Age Group	Chauddagram		Nangalkot		Laksam		All	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Below 25	6	20	6	20	4	13.33	16	17.78
26-40	15	50	14	46.67	15	50	44	48.89
41-60	9	30	10	33.33	11	36.67	30	33.33
Total	30	100.00	30	100.00	30	100.00	90	100.00

Moreover, Figure 1 shows the distribution of migrants' age at the time migration. The highest 63.33% of the respondents migrated to the city at 15-25 age group followed by 17.78% at 26-35 age groups. So it can be said that migrants came to the city in their early year.

Level of education

Education level of migrants is generally higher than that of the non-migrants and rural people. There were 41 illiterate members among them 27 were children who were not at the age of going school. There were 87 members categorized as below graduate that is who completed SSC and HSC examination. This proportion was highest followed by graduate and above (69). The level of education of family members of migrants is shown in Table 6.
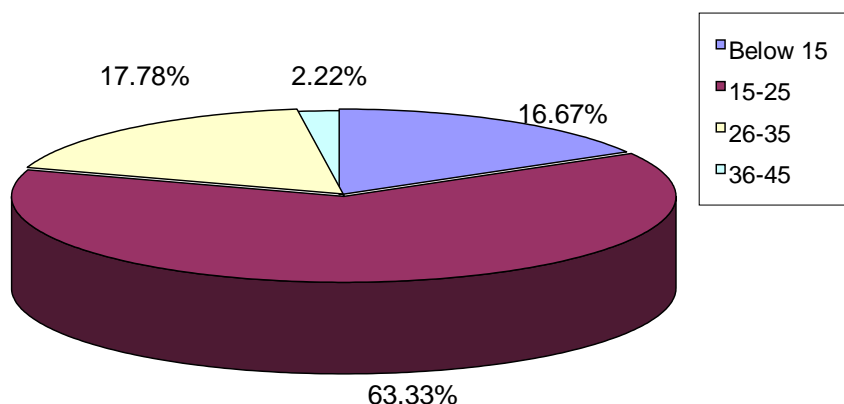
Figure 1. Distribution of migrants by their age at migration

Table 6. Distribution of family members by level of education

Level of education	Chauddagram			Nangalkot			Laksam			Total
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
Child	6	2	8	4	7	11	4	5	8	27
Illiterate	0	1	1	4	2	6	2	4	6	14
Primary	9	14	23	9	7	16	11	5	16	55
Below SSC	8	10	18	7	8	15	10	4	14	47
Below graduation	19	12	31	12	10	22	16	18	34	87
Above graduation	20	7	27	20	4	24	17	1	18	69
Professional	2	2	4	3	1	4	-	-	-	8
Total	64	48	112	59	39	98	60	37	97	307

Educational level of the sampled migrant respondents is presented in Table 7. On the basis of the years of schooling, educational level was classified into five groups such as nil (zero), up to 5, 6-9, 10-12 and above 12 years. The data revealed that the percentages of zero and up to 5 years of schooling were very low consisting only 5.55% and 4.44% respectively. The maximum respondents (47.78%) were completed above 12 years of schooling followed by 10-12 years (26.67%). 15.56% of respondents were found having completed 6-9 years of schooling.

Table 7. Distribution of migrants by their year of schooling

Year of schooling	Chauddagram		Nangalkot		Laksam		All	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Nil (0)	-	-	4	13.33	1	3.33	5	5.55
5	2	6.67	2	6.67	-	-	4	4.44
6-9	4	13.33	4	13.33	6	20.00	14	15.56
10-12	7	23.33	6	20.00	11	36.67	24	26.67
Above 12	17	56.67	14	46.67	12	40.00	43	47.78
Total	30	100.00	30	100.00	30	100.00	90	100.00

Occupational status

Occupation plays an important role in migration. The data clearly indicate that majority of the respondents i.e. 42.22% were running their self business followed by 26.67% as govt. employees. The number of respondents was 21.11% as occupation of private job. The percentage of house-wife as the principal migrants was 2.22. Table 8 shows the occupational status of migrant respondents.

Table 8. Distribution of migrants by their occupational status

Occupation	Chauddagaram		Nangalkot		Laksam		All	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Govt. employee	10	33.33	5	16.67	9	30.00	24	26.67
Private job	5	16.67	8	26.67	6	20.00	19	21.11
Business	12	40.00	14	46.66	12	40.00	38	42.22
Labour	3	10.00	3	10.00	1	3.33	7	7.78
Housewife	-	-	-	-	2	6.67	2	2.22
Total	30	100.00	30	100.00	30	100.00	90	100.00

Marital status

The study revealed that most of the respondents were married. Most of them became married after migration. From Figure 2 it is found that before migration only 14.44% of migrants were married and this figure changed into 74.44% after the migration was taken place. Still there were 25.56% unmarried respondents.
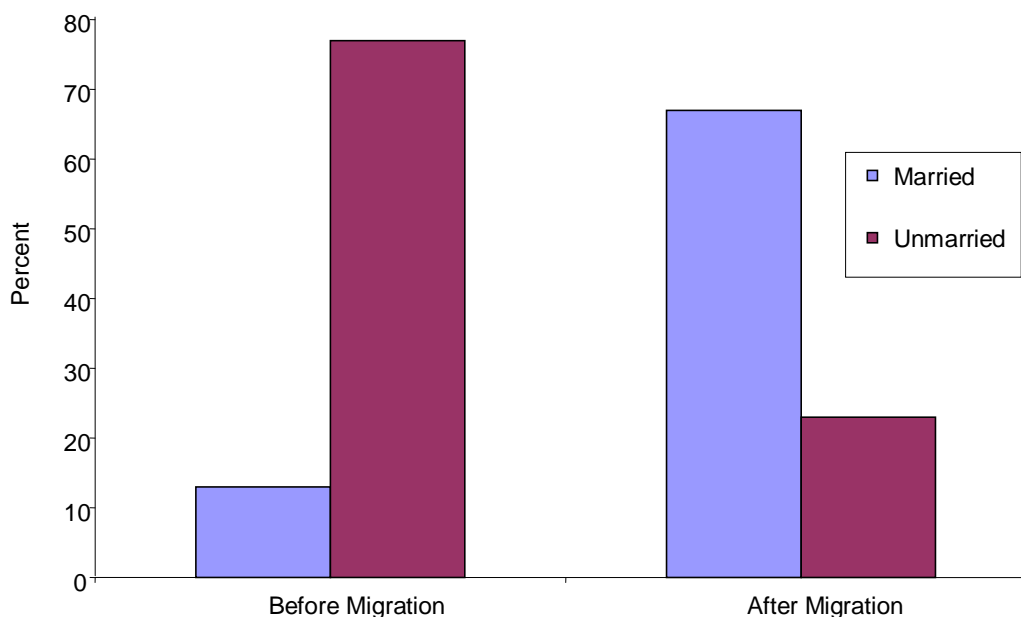

Figure 2. Marital status of migrant respondents

Level of income

The income of migrant respondents is shown in Table 9 on the basis of various income as well as age group. There were 21 respondents below Tk.5000 income group followed by 19 respondents between 5000-10000 income-groups of all age groups. It was observed that the average income increased with the increase of age group i.e. Tk.9719 and Tk.23408 for age groups below 25 and 46-55 respectively. Moreover, the average per month income of respondents was calculated as Tk.16370 which was very high than urban per capita income of Tk.1926 (HES, 2000).

Table 9. Average per month income of migrant respondents by age group

Age group (Year)	No. of respondents in various income groups						Average income (Tk)
	Below 5000	5000-10000	11000-15000	16000-20000	21000-25000	Above 25000	
Up to 25	10	2	1	-	1	2	9719
26-35	3	7	2	-	1	1	9964
36-45	8	8	6	10	2	9	22391
46-55	-	2	2	1	8	4	23408
All Groups	21	19	11	11	12	16	16370

Conclusion

Rural-Urban migration is not only an integral part of economic development but it may also become a major instrument of social change. There are several factors behind the decision to leave the village for the urban areas. A large number of rural people of Comilla migrated due to seek employment opportunities in the city. So, searching for job in the city or want of employment in the areas of origin is the main motivating factor for rural to urban migration. Though, rural to urban migration generally keeps the educated persons at an advantageous position by providing them with better job opportunities, but owning to economic hardship the less educated and illiterate migrants also move towards the urban centers. Thus, the process of migration affects people of all socio-economic categories. Comparatively young and educated people have been migrating from rural areas to the city. In the process of migration, generally adult males migrate first followed by wife and children in case of married migrants and parents or sibling in case of unmarried ones.

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