

Abstract

Out-migration from Rural Villages in Bangladesh: A Micro-Level Study

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This study investigates the differentials of migration at individual level and identifies the factors active for rural out-migration. The data for this study has been collected from 10 rural *mauzas*/villages of Comilla district of Bangladesh. The migration differentials at individual level have been discussed into four aspects of migration: selectivity of migrants, nature of migration, factors active for migration, and destination of migrants. These features of migration are discussed according to the sex of the migrant in order to get an overview of rural out-migration process.

The findings indicated that adults and more educated people are mostly involved in the process of rural out-migration. Before participating in migration process, most of them were engaged in studies or unemployed. A little more than half of the migrants have reported that they migrated for temporary service and about one quarter has migrated for permanent job. The education of the migrants was found positively related with the permanent type of migration. The migration rate was found significantly higher for males, educated and unemployed people, and also for the people belonging to the ages 20-29. The overall out-migration rate for 3 years period was estimated as 27.39 per thousand populations.

The main push factors for out-migration were identified as poverty, job searching and family influence; however, the main pull factors behind migration were found as better opportunity, prior migrants and availability of job. The push factors were found significantly related with education of the migrant and their occupation at the place of origin. More than one-third of the migrants migrated to foreign countries (mainly UAE and Malaysia), and rest migrated to some big cities like Dhaka and Chittagong.

Further, the study indicated that females were migrated slightly earlier ages than males, mainly migrated as dependent members and mainly migrated due to family influence.