

**CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF SEASONAL MIGRATION: A  
STUDY OF CHAME VILLAGE, MANANG**



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**LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION**

This is certified that **Reena Lama** has completed her dissertation entitled “CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF SEASONAL MIGRATION: A STUDY OF CHAME VILLAGE, MANANG, under my guidance and supervision. I therefore, recommend this dissertation for final approval and acceptance.

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**ACCEPTANCE LETTER**

This dissertation entitled “CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF SEASONAL MIGRATION: A STUDY OF CHAME VILLAGE, MANANG”, submitted by **Reena Lama** has been accepted as the partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in Sociology.

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## LETTER OF DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the thesis entitled "**Causes and Consequences of Seasonal Migration: A Study of Chame Village, Manang,**" submitted to the Central Department of Sociology, Tribhuvan University, is my original work conducted under the guidance and supervision of my supervisor. I have properly acknowledged all ideas and information sourced from various references throughout this dissertation. The findings presented in this thesis have not been submitted or presented elsewhere for any degree or other purposes. I also confirm that no part of this thesis has been published in any form before this submission.

.....  
**Reena Lama**

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Date: September, 2024

**Reena Lama**

## Abstract

Nepal has experienced both internal and external migration for a long time. Internal migration involves the movement of people within the country from one location to another, either temporarily or permanently, while external migration refers to people moving abroad. These migrations are driven by geographical, economic, political, and other factors, leading to significant changes in the socio-economic and demographic structures of both the host and migrant communities.

This dissertation explores the key causes and consequences of seasonal migration, focusing on its trends, changes, and continuity among the people of Chame village in the Manang district of Nepal's mountainous region. It specifically examines the winter seasonal migration occurring from December to February, when people traditionally move to lower-altitude areas. The study identifies the primary drivers of this migration as trade and exchange of herbs, local products, and the barter of salt (*Bhotenoon*) for grain (83.34% of respondents), escaping the harsh winter cold (63.33%), and reconnecting with family and relatives in destination communities.

Seasonal migration is an annual practice embedded in the local calendar, but it is not without challenges. Migrants face cultural differences, identity crises, language barriers, and issues with accommodation and travel. However, migration also offers opportunities such as skill development, better networking, forming kinship relations, and economic benefits. Gender disparities are notable, with 66.67% of male participants engaging in seasonal migration compared to 33.33% of females.

The findings reveal that the relationship between migrants and host communities can be both harmonious and conflicted due to socio-cultural differences, reflecting inequality in the migration process. Despite these challenges, long-standing seasonal migration has fostered strong social relationships and social capital.

The study found that 60% of male and 40% of female respondents reported changes in seasonal migration patterns in last decade due to improved economic conditions, infrastructure development (e.g., road connectivity), a tourism-based economy, and remittances from abroad and other factors. Today, winter seasonal migration is more leisure-oriented compared to the economically driven migration of the past.

A mixed-method approach was used for this research, with fieldwork conducted from December 2023 to June 2024, employing household surveys, interviews, informal conversations, and observations. The collected data, alongside secondary sources, are presented across three interconnected chapters, engaging with existing migration literature.

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## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS**

AD:	Anno Domino
BS:	Bikram Sambat
CBS:	Central Bureau of Statistics
CRM:	Chame Rural Municipality
DH:	District Headquarter
GON:	Government of Nepal
IOM:	International Organisation of Migration
USA:	United States of America

# CHAPTER 1- INTRODUCTION

## 1. 1 Background of the Study

Migration research today largely focuses on cross-border movements and the cultural and social disruptions they cause (Anthias, 2012). Migration is defined differently by different scholars; Bailey (2010) defines migration as the movement of people from one location, country, or region to another, highlighting that migration can be internal or international. Internal migration refers to movement within a country, such as from rural to urban areas or vice versa.

Interest and concern around migration and mobility have been increasing (Tacoli, McGranahan, & Satterthwaite, 2015). Nepal, with a long history of human migration (Gautam, 2005), has seen a growing trend, with over 2.1 million Nepalese currently abroad (IOM, 2023). People are moving due to various reasons such as poverty, lack of opportunities, unemployment (Adhikari, 2023), the need for food and shelter, and the desire to explore new places. In recent decades, there has been a notable rise in rural-urban migration and international migration driven by job opportunities, income potential, and better services in cities and developed countries.

Research on migration emphasizes the need to consider both economic and social factors (Bhatt, 2009) when analyzing internal and external migration. Migration decisions are influenced by personal networks and other variables (Schon, 2021). The reasons behind migration are diverse, spanning economic, social, cultural, political, and ecological factors affecting both the host and migrant communities (Helms & Leblang, 2019). In Nepal, much research focuses on labor migration for economic reasons, but this alone does not fully capture the varied causes and impacts of migration. This study explores the multiple drivers of seasonal migration and its

wide-ranging effects social, cultural, economic, and ecological on both host and migrant communities. Seasonal migration in this study is people's migration during the winter (December-February) in the lowlands from the mountain region. Using mixed research methods, the study analyzes migration as a dynamic process influenced by both economic and environmental factors, particularly the environment-migration nexus (Borderon et al., 2019), and links seasonal migration with livelihood strategies (Keshri & Bhagat, 2010) in the past to current trend as a leisure time. This study shows internal migration particularly seasonal migration associated with livelihood strategies in the past that takes place during winter is currently changing due to the improved economic condition, wide range of livelihood options, foreign earning/remittance and improved connectivity such as motor road connection and changing patterns of mobility. This change has both causes and consequences to the people who involved in the winter seasonal migration both socially, economically and culturally. Therefore, dynamics of migration trigger social change in both host and migrant communities and this has become a subject for sociological research in contemporary time.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Migration has emerged as a significant global issue, with people relocating for various reasons, impacting both the host and migrant communities. In Nepal, migration trends include both internal and external movements (Gautam, 2005). Internal migration occurs within the country, while international migration involves moving abroad (Bailey, 2010). Current migration statistics in Nepal emphasize foreign labor migration, and research largely focuses on this aspect. The M.A. Sociology course titled "Migration, Social Network, Remittance, and Development" also leans towards international migration. However, from a sociological perspective, both internal and external migration have distinct causes and effects on social, geographical, ecological,

cultural, political, and economic aspects of life (Startup, 1971; Richmond, 1988; Borderon et al., 2019).

Parkes (2015) notes that temporary migration, including seasonal migration, is often overlooked in migration studies. Seasonal migration, such as winter movement from mountain areas to cities, affects both the migrating and receiving communities and reveals various dimensions of social change. This type of migration is understudied in social sciences; yet examining it could enhance our understanding of migration dynamics.

Sociologically, migration is categorized as voluntary or involuntary. Involuntary migration includes slavery and exile, while voluntary migration is driven by economic, political, and social factors (Richmond, 1993). This research primarily explores the causes and effects of internal, seasonal, voluntary migration, aiming for a comprehensive understanding. Seasonal migration, observed in the researcher's community, involves temporary relocation during winter, usually for 2-3 months. Using a historical time and space perspective, the study seeks to investigate the causes and consequences of seasonal migration from the perspectives of the migrants, encompassing social, cultural, economic, ecological, and geographical factors. This holistic examination of migration's impacts is rarely discussed in existing literature, and focusing on seasonal migration will illuminate the complex dynamics of causes and effects on both the host and migrant communities. The study's primary question is: what are the main causes and consequences of seasonal migration? Sub-research questions will further explore these issues.

- a) What are the key factors that drive people to participate in seasonal migration?
- b) What are the impacts of seasonal migration on both the host community and the migrants' home community?

c) Have the causes and effects of seasonal migration changed or remained the same over the time for those involved?

### **1.3 Research Objectives**

The main objective of this study is to understand the causes and consequences of seasonal migration. The specific objectives are:

- i) To examine the past and present major trends in seasonal migration.
- ii) To explore the changes and continuities in seasonal migration and its impacts to the people and community who participate in seasonal migration.

### **1.4 Rational of the Study**

In today's rapidly changing world both internal and external migration has contributed in social change. The social change marks changes in societal structure, culture, demography and the total way of life of people in both migrant communities and receiving communities. In Nepal internal migration including seasonal migration has become a less discussed topics and issues when it comes to the mobility and migration research. Therefore, sociological studies focusing on seasonal migration and dynamics it carries will help to comprehend migration holistically. This study will be helpful for migration researcher to systematically explore and analyse empirical evidence of seasonal migration, its causes and consequences.

### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

From a social science perspective, particularly in sociology, internal migration is a crucial topic that influences the social and demographic structure of society. However, this area is often overlooked in migration studies. This research aims to address this gap by contributing to the

literature on internal migration, with a focus on seasonal and temporary migration. Examining seasonal migration through the lens of time and space offers insights into social changes at both micro and macro levels.

## **1.6 Organization of the Study**

This dissertation is structured into seven interconnected chapters. Chapter One covers the study's background, problem statement, research aims and objectives, significance, and organization. Chapter Two provides a literature review, discussing the sociology of migration and theoretical perspectives on migration. Chapter Three outlines the research methodology, including the research design, rationale for selecting the study area, data sources and types, sampling procedures, data collection methods, data analysis techniques, and study limitations. Chapter Four explores the study area's people, places, and historical aspects of migration, including key causes and common migration destinations. Chapter Five examines the relationship between migrants and host communities, highlighting the challenges migrants face and the opportunities migration brings. Chapter Six focuses on changes and continuities in seasonal migration among the people of Chame village, comparing current practices with past experiences. Chapter Seven provides a summary and conclusion of the dissertation. References and annexes are included at the end.

## **CHAPTER 2 - LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **2 Literature Review**

Migration is a process where people or group of people move internally or externally from one place to another. Migration has varying causes and consequences for different migrants, affecting both the host and originating communities, including their people and places. Literature on migration, particularly concerning underdeveloped countries, often emphasizes economic causes (Helms & Leblang, 2019). However, internal migration, especially seasonal migration that is temporary in nature, may have diverse impacts on social, cultural, economic, ecological, and other aspects of human life. This type of migration is often overlooked in existing migration studies. Therefore, this section reviews relevant literature, addressing theoretical, methodological, and empirical aspects of migration to highlight identified research gaps.

#### **2.1 Migration and Sociology**

Migration is defined in various ways by different scholars. Rayna Bailey describes it as “the movement of people from one location, country, or region to another” (Bailey, 2010). Similarly, Gautam (2005) defines migration as “a form of geographical or spatial mobility that involves a change of usual residence of a person between clearly defined geographical units.” These definitions highlight that migration entails the movement of people from one place to another for both short and long durations, driven by diverse causes. Helms & Leblang (2019) note that migrants often choose destinations based on economic opportunities and social safety nets, showing that migration is also influenced by social factors. Thus, when examining internal seasonal migration, it is important to consider causes beyond economic factors.

Richard Startup, in his article “Sociology of Migration,” argues that “any sociologically adequate definition of migration must point out that class of physical movements of individuals or groups which has consequences either for relationships between individuals or for the social structure of a group to which they belong” (Startup, 1971). This perspective emphasizes both physical mobility and its impact on relationships at individual and group levels, making it particularly relevant for exploring migration's diverse causes and consequences beyond economic aspects.

One significant outcome of spontaneous migration is population redistribution, which can lead to social, economic, political, and cultural changes in both host and origin communities (Gurung, 2001). For instance, the post-1950s Malaria eradication in Nepal's lowlands triggered migration from the hills, reshaping regional demographics. Migration, whether internal or international, short-term or long-term, has both positive and negative consequences. Bailey (2010) notes that migration can bring benefits like skilled manpower and reduce labor shortages but also challenges like social integration of migrants.

Current trends in foreign migration in Nepal illustrate these dynamics: while it creates economic opportunities, it also causes a shortage of skilled labor. Similarly, internal seasonal migration brings varied short- and long-term effects, and these impacts differ by location and time. Despite its significance, this issue remains understudied in migration literature, highlighting a need for research on seasonal migration's multifaceted causes and consequences.

Richmond (1988) classifies migration theories into macro and micro levels. Macro theories focus on immigrant adaptation, integration, and assimilation, while micro theories examine socio-psychological factors, motivation, and decision-making among migrants. Applying these theories

to internal migration helps to understand the complex causes and outcomes of migration comprehensively.

Internal migration refers to movement within a country, affecting regional population distribution without altering the overall national population. In Nepal, historical migration patterns originated in the hills and expanded to the fertile plains, driven by factors like land availability and economic opportunities (Gurung, 2001). Present-day internal migration is influenced by push factors like unemployment, limited access to education, healthcare, and low agricultural productivity (Adhikari, 2023). Both historical and contemporary socio-economic and political forces shape migration practices, making the study of internal migration essential for understanding social change over time and space.

Alexandra Winkels (2012) in essay titled “migration, social networks and risk: the case of rural-to-rural migration in Vietnam” shows that mixed evidence about the impacts of the migration on the livelihoods of migrants and their families. Emphasizing migration with familial support and kinship network this Vietnamese case also demonstrates migration process can generate risks for migrants and their families. This is due to perceived outcomes of the migrants in the host communities and the actual scenario in the destinations. The actual experiences and imaginations differ and migration process always differs people to people and place to place due to its overall geographical, political, socio-economic and cultural environment. What is still lacking in the internal migration study is the systematic examination of its causes and consequences are people and place specific who involves in migration and that treating all internal migration homogenously.

## **2.2 Migration Theory**

Sociologists studying migration often start by distinguishing between voluntary and involuntary migration, with the latter including examples such as exiles, the slave trade, mass expulsions, and migration due to religious or political persecution (Richmond, 1993). Migration theory typically assumes a balance between positive and negative factors influencing movement. Various migration theories exist, but this dissertation focuses on the most relevant ones. Push-pull theories view migration as a response to low socio-economic status or insecurity in the sending country compared to the wealthier and more stable conditions of receiving societies. However, this theory does not adequately explain specific migration patterns, such as internal or seasonal movements.

Critiques of push-pull models highlight three main limitations: first, they often assume that individuals make cost-benefit calculations to maximize their expected welfare; second, they overlook intra-household dynamics; and third, they emphasize motivations to leave an origin and select a destination without fully considering available opportunities (Schon, 2021).

Structuration theory suggests that sociological explanations are probabilistic rather than deterministic, acknowledging human agency and choice, even when constrained by external conditions. There is no straightforward cause-and-effect relationship between events and their outcomes. The multivariate model posits that people have considerable freedom in deciding whether to migrate, choosing destinations, and returning, with decisions influenced by a combination of political, economic, environmental, social, and psychological factors.

Stephen Castles, in his social transformation perspective on global migration, argues that a general theory of migration is neither possible nor desirable. Instead, significant progress can be made by integrating migration research with a broader understanding of contemporary society

and linking it to wider theories of social change across various social science disciplines (Castles, 2010). The systems approach in migration research examines direct connections between sending and receiving regions within global or regional systems, analyzing both the causes of migration and its impact on migrants and host societies (Richmond, 1993).

Although economic factors often dominate migration discussions, social and cultural factors also play crucial roles in shaping migration patterns (Bhatt, 2009). Therefore, there is a need to revisit theoretical and methodological approaches to study both internal and external migration to uncover its less obvious causes and effects.

Network theory of migration deals with people's migration associated with kinship, social ties and work experience (Vertovec, 2002). In this process migrant's network connect across time and space and involve in migration in different destinations (De Haas, 2010). This network can attract both short and long term migration both internal and international migration. The network theory's more focus is on international migration for economic opportunity and other opportunities. But the fact is that internal migrations are also triggered by the network of people and group who involve in migration in different time and space. Therefore, network theory of migration should cover issues related with all types of migration to understand causes and consequences of migration.

Whether it is in flow of people in the host communities or out flow of the migrants to the destinations this mobility can trigger social change both demographically, socially, economically, politically and so on. Alejandro Portes (2008) in 'migration and social change; some conceptual reflections' argues "multiple ways in which migration relates to social change is daunting task". Social change can highlight culture and social structure alterations during migration process and this happens both in host communities or migration destinations and

migrant communities. This is also associated with both internal and international migration case and this should not be the case of analysis in one particular type of migration. Because, all kind of migration whether it is short term, long term, internal or external migration this all brings changes in various aspects of people's social life. Therefore, social change theory in migration research helps to broaden both causes and consequences of migration in host and migrant communities across different time and space. Thus, Portes (2008) further opines "migration is of course, change and it can lead, in turn, to further transformations both in sending and receiving societies (p12)." This further shows avenue for us to consider both communities and changes they go through migration process to understand the concept of social change and its relationship with migration.

Economic theory of migration sees main cause of migration for the people who involve in migration are primarily economic reasons. This could be both internal rural-urban migration and international migration in search of job opportunities and better economic opportunities. In the context of internal rural to urban migration in China Zhang and Song (2003) argues, rural-urban income gap. In compare to rural areas urban areas are center for market, businesses, employment and multiple other economic opportunities. This is one of the major causes that people from rural areas migrate to urban areas in search for better economic opportunities. Likewise, in the case of international migration economic opportunities become one of the top reasons for migrating to the countries where migrants sees potential for their economic growth. This economic theory of migration shows relationship between all types of migration and economic factor as a major cause for migrants to involve in migration.

All above discussed various theories of migration whether it is push-pull theory, social change theory, economic theory of migration, network theory of migration and other theories related

with migration help us to understand what triggers people to migrate across different time and space. What these theories help us is that migration is not just an event where people move from one geographical location to other but how this movements are motivated and what social changes these mobility can bring in both host communities and migrant communities. Rather than seeing all type of migration as homogenous it is crucial for us to comprehend migration and social change as a contextual issue and particularly internal migration like seasonal migration carry historical, geographical, political, social, and economic and so on meanings to the people who involved in such type of migration. Thus, studying seasonal migration through social change theory help us to comprehend migration holistically in today's rapidly changing world where migration and mobility both internal and international has become a burning issue.

### **Research Gap**

Schon (2021) argues that viewing migration simply as total inflows or outflows overlooks many critical aspects, such as location networks, preferential attachment, and other influencing variables. Therefore, it is crucial for sociologists to explore the diverse factors involved in temporary or seasonal migration, both historically and in the contemporary context, to better understand the relationship between social change and migration. Seasonal migration is often underrepresented in migration literature, despite the significant impact it has on both host and migrant communities. This is particularly relevant in contexts like Nepal, where both internal and international migration are pressing issues. Peterson (1958) suggests that analyzing both internal and international migration is essential for moving toward a general theory of migration. To fulfill the identified research gap, this study examined internal migration, specifically focusing on seasonal migration, to understand its causes, consequences, and implications for migration theory and methodology through lived empirical evidences.

## **CHAPTER 3 - RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

### **3. Research Methodology**

This study utilized a mixed research methodology, incorporating both quantitative and qualitative approaches, to examine the causes and consequences of seasonal migration. The mixed-method approach was chosen because the quantitative aspect helps identify trends in seasonal migration, while the qualitative aspect provides insights into the reasons behind these trends. Quantitative tools were used to generate statistical data, and qualitative tools were employed to validate and contextualize these findings, effectively addressing the research questions, aims, and objectives of the study.

#### **3.1 Research Design**

The research design is both explorative and comparative. The explorative aspect of the design allows for uncovering the diverse causes and consequences of seasonal migration. Meanwhile, the comparative design facilitates the examination of past and present trends in seasonal migration, enabling the comparison, contrast, and analysis of variations, changes, and continuities over time.

#### **3.2 Rational of Selection of the Study Site**

Chame village was chosen as the study site for two main reasons. First, the village has a long history of seasonal migration, making it an ideal location to explore the causes and consequences of migration on various aspects of daily life. Second, the researcher's familiarity with the community's language offers an advantage in effectively gathering data from native speakers. Additionally, practical considerations such as time and resource constraints also influenced the selection of this site.

### **3.3 Sampling Procedures**

Chame village has 86 households (Chame Rural Municipality, 2022), and for this study, 30 households were selected using a simple random sampling method. The use of simple random sampling ensured that each household had an equal chance of being selected. Following the selection, the researcher conducted a household survey based on age and gender to examine the past and present trends of seasonal migration. For this sample all 86 households were numbered and randomly picked the house number and noted down. Selected house numbers were chosen for the study sample. From each chosen households, household heads were selected for survey questionnaire fill up. Both male and female respondents from chosen households were selected to generate the information and data for this study.. For the key informant interview, elder people who were involved in migration since long time were chosen to understand past trends and recent changing pattern of seasonal migration. Informal conversations were conducted with multiple research participants from both male and female respondents to find out the causes and consequences of seasonal migration in the past and present context. This has helped researcher to address research questions and objectives of this study.

### **3.4 Nature and Sources of Data**

To complete this research, the researcher gathered both quantitative and qualitative data, including statistics and narratives, through fieldwork and by examining existing data on migration, with a focus on seasonal migration. The necessary data and information were collected from both primary and secondary sources, which are detailed in the following sections.

### **3.4.1 Primary Data**

For the primary data of this study, researcher relies on the fieldwork. Fieldwork provided researcher to generate both qualitative and quantitative information, stories, narratives and experiences of seasonal migration, its causes and consequences.

### **3.4.2 Secondary Data**

For the secondary data researcher looked at the published statistics and literatures on migration, seasonal migration, archives, recorded audio-visual materials, and other important sources such as photos, and travel memoirs.

## **3.5 Data Collection Tools and Techniques**

The researcher employed specific research methods, tools, and techniques for data collection tailored to the nature of the research questions, objectives, and feasibility of the study. The data collection tools and techniques used in this research are detailed in the sections below.

### **3.5.1 Household Survey**

The researcher carried out a household survey involving 30 out of 86 households in the study area. These households were chosen using a simple random sampling method, ensuring each household had an equal chance of being selected. This approach helped in gathering quantitative data and identifying trends related to seasonal migration. The household survey was conducted with 20 male household head and 10 female household head to generate the gender balanced perspective on seasonal migration. During household survey 30 questionnaires were filled for the purpose of this study.

### **3.5.2 Informal Conversations**

The researcher engaged in informal conversations with 15 selected informants as part of this study. These conversations are conducted with the relations of the researcher being native to the

study area and know the people engaging in seasonal migration. These discussions facilitated open dialogue about issues related to seasonal migration, including its causes, effects, and historical context, drawing on both individual and collective experiences. Informal conversations also allowed the researcher to capture diverse perspectives and narratives about seasonal migration. These interactions provided a detailed understanding of why migration began and how it has become a trend for others. These informal conversations also eased researcher to build rapport in the field with research participants to find out the details of the seasonal migration in both past and present context.

### **3.5.3 Key informant Interview**

The researcher carried out 10 key informant interviews with research participants who have a history of seasonal migration spanning at least 30 years. This approach provided qualitative insights to address the research questions and objectives. The selection of key informants was assisted by local residents and the researcher's own familiarity with the study area. A checklist, aligned with the research questions and objectives, was prepared to guide the interviews.

## **3.6 Data Analysis Procedures**

In the initial phase, after concluding the fieldwork, the researcher organized data from various primary and secondary sources, including surveys, interviews, informal conversations, archival materials, and statistics. Following this, the researcher processed the data by transcribing recorded interviews and informal conversations to identify themes for final analysis. The survey data were presented using tables. This approach ensured a balanced use of both quantitative and qualitative data for comprehensive analysis and interpretation, allowing for meaningful dialogue with existing migration literature.

### **3.7 Reliability and Validity of the Study**

The researcher utilized all relevant tools and techniques in alignment with the research questions, and objectives, while considering the feasibility and practicality within the given timeframe and context. This approach allowed the researcher to concentrate on specific issues and the necessary data. The final analysis was not reliant on a single source of data; instead, the researcher verified the accuracy and consistency of the information by cross-checking across multiple research tools. The validity and reliability of the study were further enhanced by the chosen sample size, thematic presentation of findings, and integration of both qualitative and quantitative analyses with existing literature and knowledge.

### **3.8 Limitations of the Study**

This study was conducted with limited time and budget. Therefore chosen theory and methods of the study may have limitations in its findings and analysis. This study was conducted focusing limited study area for the purpose of requirements for the partial fulfillment of the Masters degree in Sociology. Therefore, approach and outcomes of this study is more inclined towards academic discussion and analysis. Given the constraints of limited resources, time, and the specific focus of the study (a sociological investigation of seasonal migration), there are restrictions on the extent to which the analysis and generalization can address various aspects of migration, including its causes and consequences. This limitation arises from the study's design, which centers on a case study of one particular village engaged in seasonal migration.

## CHAPTER 4

### PEOPLE, PLACE, AND SOME ASPECTS OF MIGRATION HISTORY AND SEASONAL MIGRATION

This chapter examines the history of migration, with a focus on seasonal migration, among the residents of Chame village using primary data collected from fieldwork. Seasonal migration in this study refers to temporary migration or short term migration (Keshri & Bhagat, 2010). To gain a deeper understanding of migration and seasonal migration, it is crucial to explore aspects such as the people, location, settlement history, livelihoods, environment, and geography. This analysis sheds light on the origins of migration and seasonal migration trends and how these patterns have evolved over time.

#### 4.1 People, Place and Migration

Chame is a village with around 120 households (86 native households) and a population of approximately 600, located in Manang, one of the mountain districts in the Gandaki Province of western Nepal. The village's first settlers were the Gurung and Lama communities, who consider themselves indigenous to the area. Chame is situated on small flatlands along the banks of the Marsyangdi River, surrounded by steep landscapes and large Rocky Mountains. About a century ago, Chame consisted of around 10 households divided into two clans, *Fajen* and *Mhajen*. Over time, these clans further split into two distinct territories: *Cheme*, governed by *Fajen*, and *Maada*, governed by *Mhajen*. This division was primarily for village governance and influenced the organization of festivals, rituals, and resource management.

Today, Chame consists of around 86 households belonging to local inhabitants, expanded from the original clans, with families connected through either the *Fajen* or *Mhajen* lineage. The village is now home to the Lama and Gurung communities, along with other migrant groups,

including Tamang, Dalits, and Newars. These diverse caste groups live in harmony, culturally and practically. Migration into Chame village increased significantly after it was designated the district headquarters of Manang in 1978 (B.S. 2035), leading to the establishment of government offices and attracting people for jobs, trade, and services. Seasonal migration, once limited due to security concerns, scarce resources, and challenging geography, became more prevalent as residents learned about economic opportunities outside the village. Initially driven by livelihood needs and the desire to escape harsh winters, seasonal migration now varies by age, occupation, and other factors among Chame village's residents.

#### **4.2 Livelihoods**

The main sources of livelihood in Chame village are agriculture, tourism, trade, and foreign employment. Due to the village's soil and climate conditions, only a single crop is cultivated, a practice that continues to this day. Agriculture is primarily for subsistence, with residents growing vegetables for their own use rather than commercial purposes. Among those interviewed for this study, 75% previously engaged in agriculture, and 25% still practice it, some for subsistence and others for commercial reasons.

Tourism became a major income source for Chame only after the late 1980s. Before the 1990s, nearly all villagers relied on agriculture and animal husbandry. The tourism sector boomed in the 1990s, spurred by the adventurous Annapurna Circuit trekking trail and the famous Thorong-La Pass at 5,400 meters. Many locals shifted from agriculture to tourism-related businesses, such as running hotels, restaurants, local inns, shops, and working as guides and porters. Today, the village has 40 hotels that cater to tourists, along with numerous shops, restaurants, and inns serving both locals and visitors, making tourism the backbone of Chame village's economy.

In addition to agriculture and tourism, locals engage in trade and business both within the country and abroad. Initially, trade involved selling valuable local herbs and handicrafts to major cities like Kathmandu, Pokhara, and Chitawan. Over time, this expanded internationally to markets in India, Singapore, Hong Kong, Bangkok, Malaysia, and beyond, as traders built networks through domestic trade. For a few households, trade became a primary source of income.

Foreign employment is another significant livelihood strategy, with many households dependent on remittances. Nearly every family has members working abroad, in countries such as the United States, Japan, Korea, and Europe. This income has enabled some families to migrate to urban areas or even settle abroad, highlighting the role of stable earnings in driving migration.

Migration in Chame is multifaceted, involving both in-migration and out-migration as people seek better livelihood opportunities. Seasonal migration, once primarily a strategy for survival, has become increasingly common due to various factors, reflecting the evolving nature of livelihoods in the area.

Table 4.1 Livelihood

<b>Livelihood</b>	<b>Number of households</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Agriculture	5	16.67%
Tourism	18	60%
Animal Husbandry	2	6.66%
Other	5	16.67%

Source: Household Survey 2024

Table 4.1 summarizes the sources of income among the households surveyed in this study. Tourism is the primary livelihood for 18 households, accounting for 60% of the total. Agriculture

follows with 5 households (16.67%), animal husbandry involves 2 households (6.66%), and 5 households (16.67%) depend on other sources such as foreign income, trade, and small to medium-sized businesses. Limited agricultural land, single-crop cultivation, and subsistence-based farming have pushed most residents toward tourism-related businesses.

Recently, people have also turned to raising animals like yaks and goats, which provide dual income from dairy and meat production. These animals are valuable and hold high economic worth; offering households involved in these activities a broader strategy for earning. The economic stability derived from diverse livelihood strategies has influenced changes in migration patterns, including seasonal migration among the individuals and households in the study area.

### **4.3 In Migration and Settlement History**

In my conversation with a 74-year-old informant, a respected intellectual and political figure of the area, he recounted his family's claim of being the first settlers of the place. He shared a story passed down by his father, who explained that when his parents migrated from Helambu, they were seeking better livelihoods. His father once had a dream in which their household deity advised them to settle in a sacred place supported by large Rocky Mountains, with abundant water, fertile land, and a landscape that promised peace, prosperity, and a better life. Today, the area is indeed characterized by northern Rocky Mountains, rivers, white peaks, agricultural fields, and a sense of sacredness, marked by numerous village and household deities. Despite the harsh climate and challenging geography, the inhabitants have found happiness and prosperity (Personal Communication, September 2023).

Oral history suggests that settlement in this area began roughly 100 years ago, during a time when people were more mobile in search of livelihoods. Although there is no written evidence detailing the exact founding of the village, the oral accounts indicate that people migrated here

from Helambu, Rasuwa, North Gorkha, and Tibet. Located at an elevation of 2,700 meters above sea level, the village supports the cultivation of barley, maize, potatoes, apples, and some green vegetables. It also boasts abundant pastureland for cattle, rich water resources, medicinal herbs, and forests providing timber and firewood. Over time, migration into and out of the village facilitated the exchange of ideas, contributing to the village's growth and evolving settlement patterns.

Today, the research site is home to a diverse mix of castes and ethnic groups. Originally dominated by Lama, Ghale, and Gurung communities, it now includes Tamang, Newar, Brahmin, Chhetri, Magar, Dalit, and other caste groups who migrated here for jobs, business, government service, and other opportunities. Many of these newcomers bought land, built houses, and settled permanently. The current population ratio is approximately 60-40, with a higher proportion of migrants from different parts of Nepal, such as Gorkha, Rukum, Rolpa, Lamjung, and Dhading, compared to the indigenous population. This shift is largely due to the increasing out-migration of local people to cities and abroad since the early 2000s.

This out-migration has significantly impacted the village's culture, language, rituals, and socioeconomic life, both in the village and in the new places where locals have resettled. For example, those who moved to Kathmandu have children and grandchildren who no longer speak or understand their native language or the rituals central to the everyday life of their ancestors. These changes illustrate the profound effects that migration has on individuals and communities involved in the migration process.

#### **4.4. The Migration Process**

Bailey (2010) opines, “migration usually is the movement of people planning to remain only temporarily in the destination location” (p4). The migration process in this study reflects the

collective experiences and activities of individuals, families, and households involved in seasonal migration during various periods in the past. This encompasses all aspects of migration, including preparation, the goods and services migrants take with them, those they bring back upon returning from host communities, and the activities they engage in during their seasonal migration. Typically, this migration occurs during the winter months, from December to February, with people beginning their journeys to lowland destinations at the start of December. Before departing, families carefully prepare goods for trade and exchange during the migration period.

This is inter-regional migration inside the country (Gurung, 2001) or internal migration that involves movement of people within a single country from rural to urban area (Bailey, 2010). The migration journey is rarely straightforward; it is often complex and challenging, involving long treks over difficult terrain with heavy loads, both on the way to lowland areas and when returning home. Finding accommodation and arranging food during the journey posed particular difficulties, especially for women, the elderly, and families with children. During my recent visit to Chame village in May 2024, a 46-year-old informant shared her experiences during our jeep ride. She said, “Traveling is easier now with jeeps and motorcycles. When I was young, my family migrated to Khanigau village in Lamjung each winter to escape the cold. We were a joint family of 10, and it took us three days on foot to reach Khanigau. With such a large family, it was tough for my parents and me to manage food and shelter along the way. In Khanigau, we built a temporary shed on land provided by relatives and stayed there for three months. This routine continued for about 15 years. Now, we live in Kathmandu, and when I tell my children these stories, they don’t believe me and make fun of it.” This story is just one example of the

varied experiences faced by families during migration. To fully understand these experiences, it is essential to view migration as a process involving multiple stages and events.

Members of the study site migrate temporarily to specific locations for defined periods and purposes, bringing changes to the societal structure during these times. The Manange community, for instance, is adaptive to the seasonal cycle, as seen in studies among the Nuer of the Sudan with seasonal change; whole society is moving geographically (Evans Pritchard, 1940). Another example is Marcel Mauss's (2004) work on seasonal variations among Eskimos, where population move one place to another coping winter seasonal change and their activities are set according to season. Likewise in this study site winter migration is often prompted by environmental factors, such as snowfall, which limits agricultural and other livelihood activities, leaving families confined to household chores. Many factors attract people to lowland migration destinations, including opportunities for trade, the exchange of goods and services, the sale of valuable medicinal herbs, and locally made handicrafts. This seasonal migration is a time filled with economic activities that support the community's adaptive strategies and resilience.

#### **4.5. Seasonal Migration Time**

In this study, the term "seasonal migration" refers to the temporary migration that occurs during specific times of the year that is December to February. This has been a continuous process for a long time, with people participating for various reasons, including escaping the winter, trading, exchanging goods and services, bartering, and other social and economic activities. The focus here is mainly on winter migration, which takes place between the months of Mangsir and Falgun (December to February), when the area experiences extreme cold temperatures, often dropping below freezing, along with snowfall.

For many years, people from this study area have engaged in winter migration to various lowland destinations. Migration typically begins in mid-Mangsir as temperatures sharply decline, and by the first week of Falgun, when temperatures start to rise, people gradually return home. In the past, reaching migration destinations required walking for 3-7 days from their local area to the nearest motor able road, facing difficult terrain and limited transportation. Migrants had to carry all necessary supplies, such as food, blankets, and rugs, to sustain themselves during the journey. The most vulnerable groups during these treks were children, women, and the elderly, who had to walk 65-100 kilometers each way to and from host communities.

The household head bore the responsibility of planning and managing the entire migration journey, ensuring the family's safe arrival at their destination and return home. Therefore, the sociological importance of migration goes beyond merely counting the movement of people from one place to another; it lies in understanding how different social groups within a community experience various aspects of the migration journey. This includes the challenges faced during travel, as well as the diverse impacts encountered in host communities after reaching the new destination.

#### **4.6. Migration Journey**

The migration journey begins in the winter season, with people moving from the mountains to lowland areas for at least three months. Startup (1971) notes, “The second phase of the migration process is the journey to the new environment. This comes to an end when the migrants are considered to have entered the third phase” (p. 185). Individuals and families undertake this journey to their destination communities, where social relationships between migrants and host communities are developed and modified. The first phase is preparation and decision making for

migration, second phase is migrating to the destinations and third phase is returning home from host communities as winter comes to an end.

Migrants historically traveled on difficult trails through hills, rocky terrain, rivers, snow, ice, and steep inclines, carrying their belongings both on the way to and from the host communities. This journey was not the same for everyone; women with children, the elderly and young children often faced more significant challenges and hardships. Among the 30 respondents, 25 (75%) described their migration journeys as particularly difficult, with most of these respondents being women and household heads. Only 5 (25%) respondents viewed the migration journey as a routine process and did not find it very challenging and these are the male household heads.

Before motor roads were available, people from this study site would walk up to 7 days to reach host communities during the winter migration period. However, with the recent development of road connectivity, the migration journey has become much shorter, allowing people from Chame village to reach major cities like Kathmandu, Pokhara, and others within a day (Lama, 2024). This achievement of motor road also marks the changes in pattern of migration journey.

#### **4.7. Migration Destinations**

Seasonal migration destinations vary between individuals and families. The nearest migration destination is Lamjung, which is a neighboring district connected to Manang. The farthest destinations are Kathmandu and Pokhara, where it used to take up to 7 days of travel to reach. The table below highlights the most common migration destinations for people from the study area.

**Table 4.2 Top Migration Destinations**

<b>Top Migration Destination</b>	<b>Number of Migrants</b>	<b>Total percentage</b>
Kathmandu	14	46.67%

Lamjung	8	26.67%
Pokhara	5	16.66%
Others	3	10%

Source: Household Survey 2024

Table 4.2 highlights the primary migration destinations for households in the study area. The most popular destination is Kathmandu, chosen by 14 out of 30 households which is 46.67%, followed by Lamjung with 8 households 26.67%, Pokhara with 5 households 16.66%, and 3 households 10% migrating to other locations for the winter season.

Kathmandu is the top choice due to the presence of relatives, making it a comfortable and secure place for temporary migration. For three months, migrants engage in trade and various economic activities to earn money and escape the harsh winter. Kathmandu’s larger market also offers opportunities for networking and connections, which can help facilitate future migration abroad.

Lamjung, the second most preferred destination, is popular because of its proximity, lower travel costs, and strong family networks. The ease of access and opportunities for trade, goods exchange, and the convenience of bringing back collected items make Lamjung a favorable choice for temporary migration. Pokhara being the third top most destinations where 5 household members 16.66% regularly migrated during winter due to already established relationships and markets from the inception of the seasonal migration. Only 3 household 10% migrate to other destinations during winter seasonal migration.

#### **4.8. Motivational Factors in Seasonal Migration**

It is noteworthy to mention “why people migrate is one of the most interesting questions in social science research” (Fan & Stark, 2011). Different migration studies have identified various factors

motivate people to involve in migration. Keshri and Bhagat (2010) states, temporary migration in poorest section of India is one of the most significant livelihood strategies.

In this study seasonal migration is considered as temporary and short term migration. “The decision to migrate is generally considered to be a choice between two alternatives, staying at the place of origin or migrating to an alternative destination” (Stecklov & Winters, 2002). There are several factors that drive seasonal migration, and these must be carefully considered. Paul (2015) states, an individual level aspiration and household level negotiation involve in migration process. These are associated with both livelihood strategy and environmental or ecological factors (Asad & Whang, 2019). The first cause is related to socio-economic factors and the second is the need to escape harsh winter conditions or environmental pressure (Borderon, 2019).

As Peterson (1958) argues “social group at rest, or a social group in motion, tends to remain so unless impelled to change” (p258). During winter, people from this study area temporarily migrate to lowland regions to escape the cold and heavy snowfall experienced in the highlands between December and February. Some migrate with their families, while others migrate individually, depending on the resources and connections they have at their migration destination. By late September, they harvest crops like potatoes, maize, and apples, with the final harvest of buckwheat by the end of October. By November, most major livelihood activities, such as agriculture, tourism, and other related businesses, are wrapped up for the season.

People raising cattle and horses must stay in the village to care for them during the winter, but for others, almost no livelihood activities occur in the highlands during this season. They spend spring, summer, and autumn preparing and gathering goods, such as medicinal herbs, salt,

handicrafts, and flour, which they then sell in the cities and lowlands during winter. In return, they bring back essential items like rice, spices, and oil when they return home in March and April.

To reach the lowlands, migrants often endure a 3-7 day journey on rocky trails, crossing rivers and spending nights in caves or even under the open sky. They carry their food, clothing, and goods for trade and exchange, cooking near water sources when necessary. For many, this seasonal migration is an essential strategy for survival and maintaining their family's livelihood. For the people who involved in seasonal migration is movement for necessity (Bailey, 2010). The specific causes of seasonal migration for people in the study area are explored in detail below.

#### **4.9. Major Causes of Migration among the individual, family and households**

There are numerous reasons for migration in general and seasonal migration in particular. The decision to migrate from rural to urban areas is deeply personal and complex (Singlemann, 2019) and it is related with individual motivations and other agendas (Sandell, 2013). Environmental dimensions of human migration are one of the major issues (Hunter, Luna & Norton, 2015). The new economics of labor migration theory have highlighted 'the unified household approach' that is associated with reaching a common consensus as to which family member to engage in migration. This model assumes a moral economy (or a joint utility functions and common preferences) existing across the family (Lacroix, 2010). Likewise, "availability of economic and social resources at the micro and macro levels affects the migratory process" (Asad & Whang, 2019, p124). Furthermore, an important element of internal migration in Rajasthan and Orissa India is driven by factors like 'collapse in rural employment, the economic difficulties facing

agriculture, and inadequate employment opportunities' (Bhatt, 2009). These literatures show there is no single definite reason for migration. The reason associated with migration varies individual to individual, family to family and society to society. For this study, both push and pull factors have influenced people's involvement in the migration process throughout history and in the present day. Push and pull factors include economic (Fan & Stark, 2011), political, and social forces (Richmond, 1993). What is particularly intriguing about migration patterns and seasonal migration historically is that they were driven by a variety of factors including social, environmental, economic, and geographical. The following sections discussed the details of these push and pull factors, providing examples from the fieldwork conducted in this research.

#### **4.9.1. Pull Factors for Seasonal Migration**

Pull factors of migration “are those that pull people to new places, including better jobs, nicer weather or stable government” (Bailey, 2010). Furthermore, Parkes (2015) defined ‘push zone’ and ‘pull zone’ in migration process. Push zone is where people are pushed for the migration to other destinations due to various reasons for e.g. violence, political instability, unemployment and so on and pull zone is destinations where migrants are attract due to different reasons such as better job opportunities, good weather, security concern and so on. To understand the factors driving seasonal migration for the individual and households in this study area, it is important to consider the pull factors, which include the economic opportunities (Bygnes, 2017), availability of markets for goods and services at migration destinations, the presence of relatives in cities and lowlands, favorable weather conditions without snowfall, and the opportunity for networking (Stecklov & Winters, 2002) and other prospects in host communities. It is also the socioeconomic condition and economic opportunities that motivate people to migrate from one place to another (Singlemann, 2019). These factors significantly influenced migration patterns

among the individual and households in the past. However, the current context has shifted, and the evolving patterns of seasonal migration are explored further below with empirical findings from the field.

#### **4.9.2. Push Factors for Seasonal Migration**

While pull factors certainly influence migration, push factors play an equally crucial role in driving people to engage in seasonal migration. Push factors has been defined “situations that push people to leave their native location, including food shortages, wars, or natural disasters” (Bailey, 2010 p4). In this study, various push factors such as limited livelihood opportunities, isolated geography, harsh winters or environmental condition (Borderon, 2019; Hunter et al., 2015)), and family obligations have compelled people to migrate seasonally. Historically, and even currently, the Himalayan/Mountain regions of Nepal have experienced limited agricultural production due to their geographical location and climatic conditions, leading to a reliance on single-crop agriculture. Gurung (2001) states, agricultural based Nepal’s economy caused population pressure on cultivate land. But, in this study area single crop agriculture practice caused people to involve in seasonal migration for an alternative livelihood in the lowland. Ritchey (1976) argues, market condition affects migration and this is the case of this study. People migrate from rural to urban area during winter in search of market to sell and exchange goods and services to get an economic opportunity. Recently, tourism has emerged as a key economic driver in these harsh, isolated regions. These historical push factors have driven many individuals to migrate seasonally in the past. However, the present context has evolved; bringing changes to migration and seasonal migration patterns, which are explored in detail below.

**Table 4.3 Causes of Migration**

<b>S.N</b>	<b>Causes of Migration</b>	<b>Destination</b>	<b>Migration With Family Members</b>	<b>Single Individual Migration</b>
1	To escape the winter	Kathmandu	11	19
2	Trade and Business	Kathmandu, Pokhara, Lamjung, Chitawan	5	25
3	To meet family members	Kathmandu	11	19
4	Others	Kathmandu Pokhara	5	7

Source: Household Survey 2024

Table 4.3 outlines the reasons for migration, destinations, and whether migrations were made with family members or individually. The primary reason for migration is trade and business, with 25 single individual 83.34% and 5 families 16.66% migrating for this purpose. The second major reason is escaping the winter and visiting family members in Kathmandu, with 11 family 36.67% migrations and 19 single individuals 63.33% involved. Other causes of migration include movements to Kathmandu and Pokhara, with 5 family migrations and 7 single individuals traveling for various reasons.

These migration trends are driven by multiple factors such as escaping harsh winter conditions, pursuing trade and business opportunities, and visiting family. Historically, these patterns formed part of a seasonal cycle for many people, and while some continue these practices today, the number of migrants and their reasons for migrating vary among individuals and families in this study area. This can be related to the population of migrant community as strategy for

socioeconomic mobility (Asad & Whang, 2019) and environment that encompasses climate stressors and climate related event (Borderon, Sakdapolrak, Muttarak, Kebede, Pagogna, & Sporer, 2019). Also “theoretically, the greater the unemployment rate in the area, the greater will be the rate of out-migration and the smaller will be the rate of migration flow into the area” (Ritchey, 1976 p369).

#### **4.10. Household Migration by Gender**

This section examines seasonal migration patterns by considering both genders and their respective involvement in migration activities. “A substantial body of evidence shows gender asymmetry in family migration” (Lersch, 2016). One of the major findings in this study is gender disparities in this seasonal migration. Paul (2015) argues, migration and gender is crucial subject of inquiry particularly in patriarchal societies. The gender differences highlight social stratification, hierarchy, and social divisions (Anthias, 2012). Gender issues in migration has been overlooked in the literatures ‘because migration tended to be viewed as chiefly a male movement, with viewing women as a dependent followers’ (Bhatt, 2009, p 87).

This study found that there was a gender disparity in household seasonal migration. Out of a total of 30 households, 20 males (66.67%) and 10 females (33.33%) participated in seasonal migration. The migration rate is higher among males compared to females. This disparity arises because livelihood activities are more reliant on males, and the challenging road conditions and longer journeys typically involve more men. As a result, more females tend to stay at home in the village, taking care of family members during the harsh winter. However, scholars working in the gender and migration highlight both micro and macro factors are responsible for these disparities. Men and women both have equal right to migrate and migration to both genders should be seen beyond duty (Paul, 2015). Furthermore, Bhatt (2009) stresses to analyze

migration through both women and men's differential experience in the context of highly gendered world. This is true in the case of country like Nepal where gender differences is high marker of social differentiation where still issues of women are overlooked in both internal and international migration.

#### **4.11 Changing pattern of seasonal migration**

In this study area, seasonal migration once represented a significant event for individuals, families, and households, typically occurring during the winter months. This migration was deeply rooted in the historical experiences of both migrant and host communities. As social beings, people engaged in these migratory patterns as a strategy for survival and livelihood. Factors such as isolated geography, limited agricultural production and food insecurity (Singlemann, 2019), harsh winters, and other elements contributed to seasonal migration for many individuals and families. While not everyone in the village participated in this migration, selected individuals and households did, influenced by factors such as social networks or social capital (Stecklov & Winters, 2002) and economic disparities.

During these times, a sense of social harmony prevailed, with villagers and relatives exchanging well-wishes and gifts. Those remaining in the village took care of homes, livestock, and other responsibilities. This reciprocal support fostered a close-knit community. However, with changing times, the distinct pattern of seasonal migration has faded, and people now migrate more frequently without adhering to specific seasonal schedules. Therefore, Anthias (2012) argues contextual, dynamics and processual analysis is crucial in migration studies. This is due to migration process and its context that varies people to people and place to place.

## **CHAPTER 5**

### **RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RESIDENT COMMUNITIES AND MIGRANTS**

The migration process involves two key communities: the migrants who move from one place to another for various reasons and the host or resident communities where these migrants settle. Startup (1971) argues, migration have impacts on social and group structure. Due to cultural differences and other factors, there is often a dynamic shift in social relationships between these two groups (between migrants and host communities). This chapter explores the relationship between host and migrant communities to understand the social, cultural, political, and economic impacts of seasonal migration on both sides. This relationship is not always harmonious, and conflicts may occasionally arise due to socio-cultural differences between the members of the host community and the migrants. In this regard Ritchey (1976) argues “in many instances the structural and the positional or status variables interact in their effect on migration” (p 372). Therefore, relationship between migrants and host communities has disparities in many instances.

#### **5.1. Migration and Resident Community**

In this study, "resident community" refers to areas where individuals from the study location migrate temporarily, particularly during the winter months from December to February each year. As Barderon et al., (2019) shows migration-environment relationship in Africa, people of this research site migrate to the lowlands due to environmental pressure. These lowland communities are located in the Lamjung, Kaski, Chitwan, and Kathmandu districts. Migrants relocate to these areas not only to escape the harsh winter but also to trade various goods such as herbs, local products like buckwheat flour, *Dhikenoona/Bhotenoona* (salt), barley, handmade

woolen carpets, and other items, which they exchange for rice, other grains, spices, and cash. Initially, host communities were reluctant to engage with the migrants due to differences in lifestyle and daily practices. However, as seasonal migration became a regular pattern, the host communities gradually became more accepting of the migrants.

A key informant, a 65-year-old individual, shared his experience of migrating to Lamjung 25 years ago: “I went to Lamjung during the winter to sell herbs. I had no support on this journey and traveled to various parts of Lamjung district to sell valuable herbs during my three-month stay. Finding accommodation and food was difficult. People in the host communities called us ‘*Bhote*’ and treated us differently. Gaining trust in the initial years was challenging, but over time; the host communities became more flexible and welcoming” (Thinley Lama, Personal communication, May 2024). This account illustrates that migration is not just about the temporary or permanent movement of people it also highlights the evolving relationship between host and migrant communities, emphasizing the complex dynamics that migration brings to both groups.

## **5.2 Seasonal Migration and Consequences**

Migration is the movement of social demography (Ritchey, 1976). Whether it is temporary migration or permanent migration it generates short and long term impacts (Liang & Sun, 2020). Migration affects both host and migrant communities across various aspects of daily life, including ideas, culture, identity, economy, language, social structures, and politics (Hunter et al., 2015). In addition to these, migration also brings spatial inequality (Kanbur & Rapoport, 2005). These impacts lead to both positive and negative changes, particularly for migrant communities and their members. The following sections will provide a detailed discussion of the specific consequences that seasonal migration has on both home and host communities.

### 5.3. Challenges in the host communities for migrants

Migration is not just an activity but a complex process involving multiple challenges. Both migrants and host communities face difficulties influenced by social, cultural, linguistic, geographical, political, economic, and other factors. As Bailey (2010) notes, on the downside of the migration to the destination place may experience problems integrating immigrants into their society. In addition, Siyal et al., (2018) highlights, outcome of internal migration may be social and ethnic tensions between migrants and host communities. The table below outlines the specific challenges that migrants encounter within host communities during their migration and stay.

**Table 5.1 Challenges Faced in the Host Community**

<b>Challenges</b>	<b>Numbers</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Language	12	40%
Culture	25	83.34%
Identity	25	83.34%
Accommodation	27	90%
Travel	30	100%

Source: Household Survey 2024

Migration is often a lengthy process as it involves essential preparations, including financial arrangements, cultural adjustments, and securing accommodation. According to Table 5.1, one of the primary challenges faced by migrants in host communities is the travel itself which is out of 30 respondents 30 (100%) have highlighted travel challenges to reach host communities, this is mainly due to inadequate transportation services. Migrants from the study area typically endure journeys ranging from 3 to 7 days to reach their destinations during winter migration. This is

primarily because they live in geographically isolated areas that only received road infrastructure in 2013. Before the road's construction, people had to walk hundreds of kilometers to reach their migration destinations. Even a decade after its completion, the road remains in poor condition and is not accessible year-round due to insufficient government investment and limited local interest in upgrading the road.

Another significant challenge for migrants is accommodation in the host communities which is 27 people 90% out of 30 people. Single individuals generally find it easier to arrange accommodation than those migrating with families. Relatives living in urban areas are usually more welcoming to individuals than to entire families, largely due to space constraints. Many migrants have lived in temporary shelters, such as thatch huts, particularly in the neighboring district of Lamjung. My informants shared these experiences during our journey between their hometown and Kathmandu.

The issues of identity become crucial in migration (Anthias, 2012). Identity-related challenges also impact migrants, with 25 individuals 83.34% reporting issues during migration. Host communities often label migrants as "*Bhote*" and treat them differently, causing feelings of humiliation and not welcoming, especially during the initial years. As the host communities and their people are unfamiliar to the migrants, it was initially difficult for them to adapt, and they often experienced discrimination. Many migrants felt offended by the "*Bhote*" label, which caused a sense of identity crisis and questions about their dignity.

Cultural differences between migrants and host communities are expected, shaped by social, political, and economic factors. 25 people 83.34% have faced cultural challenge in the host communities. Culture encompasses the entire way of life of both the host and migrant communities, and these differences can lead to conflicts. A 72-year-old informant shared her

experience in Lamjung, where she unknowingly touched cooked rice in the host community's hearth—a practice considered taboo. As a result, the host community refused to eat the rice and prepared a new batch, highlighting cultural misunderstandings. Other cultural differences, such as hand usage, toilet practices, and everyday activities, present challenges but also learning opportunities for migrants from the beginning of their migration process to the present.

Language is more than just a communication tool; it reflects social, cultural, political, and geographical contexts. Language differences often mark territorial, caste, ethnic, and class distinctions. Out of 30 people 12 people 40% have noted language related challenge in host communities. Migrants are generally familiar with Nepali and use it in their interactions within host communities. However, differences in vocabulary, tone, and pronunciation can still set them apart. Language barriers pose significant difficulties, particularly in trade and the exchange of goods and services. For example, in Lamjung, where Gurung is commonly spoken, many migrants struggle to communicate effectively, highlighting the linguistic challenges faced during migration.

#### **5.4. Socio-Cultural Barriers**

“People migrate in the hope of improving their life chances and well being, the process of migration is characterized by impediments, susceptible not only to structural and even cultural constraints” (Bhatt, 2009). Migrants often struggle to adapt to the new environment of host communities, especially during the initial period, due to differences in socio-cultural backgrounds. In this study, socio-cultural factors refer to the social norms, values, beliefs, and practices of both host and migrant communities. Host community members often refer to migrants from the mountains or “*Bhot*” as “*Bhote*.” These migrants have distinct lifestyles, norms, beliefs, values, and ideas that shape their daily lives, which can seem unusual and

different to the host community. These practices arise from the migrants' habitus, a concept by Pierre Bourdieu, who defines habitus as a “structured structuring structure” (Bourdieu, 1994). By this Bourdieu means people from different community and culture may carry certain ways of behavior and habits shaped by their socio-cultural and other environment. Both host and migrant communities have their own everyday practices, which can often be in conflict with one another. For instance, there are cultural taboos, such as prohibitions against entering the homes of Brahmins and Gurungs in the Lamjung district. This restriction stems from their cultural beliefs and practices concerning notions of purity and impurity (Dumont, 1980). The ‘*Bhote*’ people are often regarded as impure by these communities due to caste and ethnic differences, making it taboo for them to enter these households. In many instances tension arose due to these cultural norms and values in the host communities in the later years of the seasonal migration. As one of my 70 years informants shared me his experience in this way “we are human, not an alien, they treated us like we are from other planet”. This experiences shows that socio-cultural differences between migrants and members of host community may rise complex issues in migration process.

### **5.5. Linguistic Barriers**

Instances reported by the informants in this study reveal that during migration, migrants often faced linguistic barriers, leading to communication gaps within host communities. The migrants' first languages are not Nepali but their own native tongues. During the migration process, they often struggled with communicating in Nepali, particularly with vocabulary and speaking tone, making tasks like selling, trading, and conversing challenging. Many host community members would mimic the speech patterns and language of the *Bhote* people, which was offensive to the migrants, especially during the initial stages of migration. However, as the migrants gradually

assimilated and adapted to the host communities, such incidents became less frequent, and the situation has since improved.

## **5.6. Migration and Inequality**

The migration process highlights the unequal dynamics between host and migrant communities. Bailey (2010) notes, “seasonal migrants have earned the nickname Snowbirds in places like Florida, Arizona and other sunbelt areas where they typically spend their winters” (p4). People of this study site used to get ‘*Bhote*’ and ‘*Fohori*’ nickname in the host communities. Migrants often face a need to assimilate and acculturate due to various factors. Significant social, economic, physical, and psychological disparities co-exist between these groups with increased migration (Kanbur & Rapoport, 2005). In many cases, host communities view migrants as inferior, leading to discrimination based on cultural and linguistic differences. These differences increase the risks of exclusion of migrants in the host communities (Tacoli, McGranahan & Satterthwaite, 2015). Migrants are sometimes isolated, living in temporary shelters far from the host community. They also encounter difficulties accessing essential resources like water, firewood, and other necessities, further revealing the inequalities they face. Migrants face social, economic, and political discrimination in the process of migration (Bhatt, 2009). These generate inequalities (Schon, 2021) between migrants and members of host communities. A deeper examination of these instances exposes a broader picture of inequality in the migration process.

## **5.7. *Kaafal Pakyo Bhote Farkyo*; Symbols of Dull**

Each month, migrant communities associate with specific tasks and events crucial to their individual and communal lives. For instance, with the onset of spring, they begin agricultural work, resume tourist businesses, and return to their usual village routines. This cycle continues throughout the year, culminating in the migration to the lowlands. To manage this annual

rhythm, people follow a set calendar. However, host communities often view this migration as dull, encapsulated in the saying “*kafal pakyo bhote farkyo.*” This phrase, which literally translates to “bayberry as delicious fruit, when time to eat this delicious fruit migrants return home” reflects the local obsession with the spring season and its associated activities. As spring arrives and the weather warms, migrant communities start returning home to resume agricultural and daily activities. Yet, host communities perceive this return as a sign of poor judgment.

Migration and return are marked by two key periods for migrants. From December to February, during the offseason when agricultural and business activities slow down, people migrate to the lowlands. After spending about three months there, they begin to return home in March. This marks the start of the new season, when they resume their livelihoods, including agriculture and running shops, hotels, restaurants, and other businesses. This period is often referred to in everyday conversation as "returning to normal life."

### **5.8. Opportunities in Migration**

The migration process presents both challenges and opportunities for host communities and migrants. Migration also promotes cultural diversity (Aure & Forde, 2021). These interactions allow both groups to learn from and exchange with each other in various ways. They share goods, services, and ideas, fostering relationships and networks that create numerous opportunities for members of both communities. Gurung (2001) notes, seasonal migration also contributed in economy sustained in the hills and positive effects of migration include providing people opportunities to find work unavailable in their homeland (Bailey, 2010). Furthermore “in the economy of rural households of developing countries, temporary migration plays an important role, not only securing by household survival but also by providing income to household members” (Keshri & Bhagat, 2010). Seasonal migration equating to temporary

migration bring different opportunities to the individual and family involving in such migration.

The table below provides a detailed overview of these opportunities.

**Table 5.2 Opportunities in the Migration Process**

<b>Types of opportunities</b>	<b>Number of people</b>	<b>Total percentage</b>
Trade and Exchange of goods and services	26	86.67%
Learning Opportunities	24	80%
Financial opportunities	14	46.67%
Network Building	17	56.67%

Source: Household Survey 2024

Table 5.2 illustrates the types of opportunities that arise from the migration process for members of migrant communities. Out of 30 respondents, 26 reported experiencing trade and exchange of goods and services during seasonal migrations which is 86.67%. Migrants bring valuable herbs like Yartsagumba, Nirmasi, Panchaule, chiraito, Bhote salt, and barley flour, and also offer labor and perform special rituals, such as Lama Text reading, to enhance household well-being in Gurung villages in the Lamjung district. During migration, they learn various skills and ideas from host communities, including agricultural techniques, cattle raising, language, and cultural practices that is faced by 24 people composing 80%. They also gain financial opportunities to work abroad or in cities through connections made in the host communities composed of 14 people 46.67%. Many migrants have settled in Kathmandu or other foreign countries as a result of these connections.

Furthermore, migrants have built strong networks in host communities from the beginning of their migration journey to the present. These networks have facilitated business partnerships,

marital relationships, and various social, political, and cultural exchanges between the communities. 17 people 56.67% have experienced network building opportunity during migration. Seasonal migration thus fosters mutual learning and creates numerous opportunities for both host and migrant communities. These opportunities are especially relevant in today's rapidly globalizing world, where people are increasingly connected both virtually and personally.

### **5.9. Learning and Sharing Opportunities**

During the migration process, individuals bring their own ideas and cultural values to their destination. These ideas and cultural norms often differ from those of the host communities, which can sometimes lead to conflicts between migrants and locals. However, this process also provides opportunities for mutual learning in various areas such as ideas, culture, social dynamics, politics, and economics. Migrants and host communities exchange languages, cultural practices, economic strategies, and social connections, thereby creating social capital (Bourdieu, 2018) that can be utilized in the future for both individual and social purpose.

### **5.10. *Nechang*, emotional and instrumental relationship**

"*Nechang*" refers to a designated place where individuals stay during their winter migration or journey. It is a fixed long-established location that fosters relationships built over time. Ritchey (1976) opines, "kinship and friendship affiliations tend to tie individuals to communities" (p389). *Nechang* offers shelter, food, affection, and care to individuals and families during their stay, facilitating the exchange of goods, emotions, and kinship based on residence. Historically, people could not afford hotels or lodges due to their economic status, so *Nechang* relationships were crucial. This reciprocal arrangement between the house owner and migrants provided a support system during their migration.

*Nechang* can be used for both long-term and short-term stays. However, this traditional *Nechang* relationship has changed with the availability of hotels, lodges, and resorts in cities and along migration routes. As a result, the strong social bonds previously formed through *Nechang* have been weakened. Many younger people today do not fully grasp the significance of *Nechang* or its historical importance to their ancestors. This shift in seasonal migration patterns needs to be considered when analyzing changes in migration practices.

#### **5.11. Manange Chautara in Lamjung Besisahar named after migrant communities**

Among various migration destinations, Lamjung, a neighboring district of Manang, is a key winter destination for the people of Manang. Historically, reaching Lamjung from Manang required a 3-4 day walk, but now it can be covered in 4-5 hours by jeep, using both public and private vehicles. Notably, there is a place in Lamjung called Manange Chautara, named after the Manang people who used to rest and stay there during their winter migrations. According to a 67-year-old informant from Lamjung, this name reflects the strong historical connection and social bonds between the two communities.

Today, jeeps to Manang depart from Manange Chautara, and many people from both Manang and Lamjung run hotels and restaurants in the area, often named after the migrant communities. While there are occasional criticisms from host communities, this practice exemplifies the harmonious relationships built through seasonal migration established by past generations.

#### **5.12. Social relationships influenced by Geographical Movement**

The cases presented in this study show that migration involves a significant geographical movement from one location to another. Sandell (2013) opines, “Migration involves travel, interpersonal relationships, and spaces” (p 364). During the migration process, people often had

to travel long distances on foot to reach their destinations or host communities. Due to challenging terrain and a lack of accommodation, they needed to build strong relationships with various people along the way to support their journey. Some of these relationships have endured to this day, with reciprocal exchanges still occurring. Migrants often send gifts such as locally produced apples, potatoes, flour, buckwheat, and medicinal herbs, while they receive vegetables and spices from host communities. These social connections are fundamentally tied to the geographical movement involved in migration. Therefore, when studying migration as a process, it is essential to consider these relationship-building aspects as significant social facts (Durkheim, 1982). The story box below illustrates how social relationships are developed during the migration process and their significance to those involved in seasonal migration.

Pema Lama, an 82-year-old resident of Chame village, recounts her experiences with seasonal migration. She explains that in the past, livelihood options were limited. With four sons and two daughters to support, she would journey to the lowlands of Lamjung in the winter to trade Bhotenoon (salt) for grains and rice. The journey was arduous, with no bridges and rocky paths, necessitating river crossings barefoot. She carried essential supplies like flour, chili powder, salt, and yak fat for cooking along the way. Once in the lowlands, she exchanged salt and herbs for crops, grains, rice, and sometimes cash. On her return, she brought back oils, spices, cigarettes, and other items. This migration occurred only in winter, while summer was dedicated to farming and collecting salt from China via Manang district's trade route. Today, transportation options have drastically changed; people can travel by vehicle at any time, unlike in the past when a 4-5 day walk was necessary for trade. Pema notes that migration patterns have shifted with these advancements, and survival during migration once required building social relationships with the host community and maintaining connections back home.

## CHAPTER 6

### MIGRATION AND SOCIETAL TRANSFORMATION: HISTORICAL AND CONTEMPORARY PATTERNS

Research has demonstrated that human civilization has always been accompanied by migration (Bhatt, 2009). Also, human evolution has historically involved migration as a key strategy for survival (Bailey, 2010). Even if we look at the primitive migration “the first class of migration to be defined is that resulting from an ecological push, and we shall term this primitive migration” (Peterson, 1958 p259). Over time, migration has evolved from a basic survival tactic into a multifaceted phenomenon encompassing social, cultural, political, economic dimensions, and even aspects of globalization. Liang and Chunyu (2013) states, “ for the first time in human history, over half of the world’s population lives in urban areas, mainly owing to internal migration from rural to urban areas” (p209). These literatures shows migration plays crucial role in human evolution and due to multiple factors trend of migration is also changing. This chapter analyzes both historical and contemporary migration patterns and social changes within Chame village, the focus of this study. It aims to reveal trends in seasonal migration and the social transformations driven by these migratory patterns. This helps us to comprehend and examine relationship between mobility and social transformation in both historical and present context.

#### **6.1. Changes in Seasonal Migration pattern**

In the past, people had a set schedule for migrating to the lowlands, which was integrated into their annual livelihood strategies. Due to limited agricultural production and few livelihood options, staying in one place was not feasible. Seasonal migration served two main purposes: it allowed people to exchange, sell, and barter locally produced goods and services, and it helped

them avoid the harsh winter months when livelihood activities were nearly nonexistent. Traditionally, migration would begin in early December and return by the end of February. Today, however, migration patterns have become more flexible due to improved transportation. People can now travel from the study area to Kathmandu in a single day, a journey that once took four days. These changes in mobility and livelihood activities indicate a significant shift in seasonal migration practices.

Table 6.1. Changes in seasonal migration

<b>Changing pattern of seasonal migration</b>	<b>Changing</b>	<b>Not changing</b>	<b>Same as previous</b>
Male	18	-	-
Female	12	-	-
Total	30	-	-

Source: Household Survey 2024

Table 6.1 illustrates the evolving patterns of seasonal migration. Among the 30 respondents, 18 males 60% and 12 females 40% noted that seasonal migration has changed in contemporary times. This data highlights a clear shift in seasonal migration practices compared to the past. This change outlines various reasons and factors contributing to changes in seasonal migration, which are discussed in detail below.

## **6.2. Factors Contributing Changing Migration Pattern**

It is a well-established fact that things evolve over time, and migration patterns among the people in this study area have notably changed over the past decade due to various reasons and contributing factors. This shift is evident in the increased mobility of people to different regions

of the country. These changes are supported by shared experiences of recent migration trends and seasonal movements. Key factors driving these changes include climate change (Elliott, 2012) measuring few snowfall or no snowfall at all during the winter in this study site, enhanced economic and livelihood opportunities, improvements in infrastructure and connectivity, and the impact of remittances and foreign employment.

### **6.2.1. Improved Economic Condition**

In the past, many individuals from migrant communities moved to host areas seeking better economic opportunities to support their families and engage in trade and barter. This migration served two main purposes: avoiding the harsh winter and exchanging goods to earn money for family needs. Today, however, migrant community members have increasingly moved abroad, benefitting from growth in tourism and agriculture, which has significantly improved their economic conditions.

Nowadays, members of these communities can afford luxuries such as expensive motorbikes, cars, and jeeps, and they spend well during their winter migrations. The term "Manang" is now often associated with wealth, reflecting changes brought about by migration and other factors. The networks established during seasonal migrations have created job opportunities in cities and abroad, leading many migrants to achieve economic stability and permanently relocate for better health, education, and job opportunities.

Since the 1990s, Manang district has become a popular tourist destination, leading to the development of various accommodations from small lodges to luxurious hotels. This tourism boom has positively impacted the local economy and livelihoods. Manang's natural beauty and

cultural richness, including attractions like Tilicho Lake (4919 meters) and Thorong-la Pass (5416 meters) on the Annapurna Circuit, draw both foreign and domestic tourists.

With improved economic conditions, people from Manang now have more investment and livelihood options, and winter migration has shifted from a survival strategy to a form of leisure. This shift is a result of enhanced economic stability, which has changed the purpose of winter migration from necessity to recreation. This evolution underscores the strong relationship between economic status and migration patterns in Nepal. To better understand this relationship, further sociological studies on migration, particularly seasonal migration, are needed.

### **6.2.2. Remittance and Foreign Income**

International Organization of Migration 2023 report states Nepal's 25 percent GDP is dependent on remittances. Nepal currently faces significant challenges as many people migrate abroad in search of jobs, education, and better futures. Statistics indicate that Nepali nationals are spread across various countries worldwide that composed over 2.1 million people (IOM, 2023). In the study area, out of 86 households, over 60 have one or more members living and working abroad that composed 69.77%, with the top destinations being the USA, Japan, South Korea, and Hong Kong. As Gurung (2001) argues, people of mountain zone emigrated for service reason. People who moved/migrated foreign country in search of job and service generated remittance to support family in Nepal. The foreign income has enhanced family economic conditions, allowing many to build homes in cities like Kathmandu, Pokhara, and Lamjung. Younger generations are now pursuing education in these cities, and some family members have permanently relocated there.

As a result, the village has seen an influx of people from other parts of Nepal seeking job and business opportunities, leading to a population shift where non-locals now outnumber the original residents. This migration has significantly altered seasonal migration patterns in the study area. With improved economic conditions and a wider range of livelihood options, people continue to migrate to cities and abroad, driven by the pursuit of better life opportunities.

### **6.2.3. Improved Infrastructure**

In the past, the study area was characterized by its isolated geography, lacking essential infrastructure such as roads, bridges, hospitals, schools, and public offices. Before the motor road was completed in 2013, Manang district was classified as an ‘A’ grade remote district by the Government of Nepal. Following the completion of the motor road, Manang was reclassified as a ‘B’ grade remote district.

Previously, the district headquarters were located in Lamjung until 2035 B.S. However, improvements in walking trails, increased tourism, and migration raised political awareness, leading to the transfer of the district headquarters to Manang. Since then, the establishment of government offices has improved infrastructure, including walking trails, micro-hydropower, safe drinking water, motor roads, and modern RCC buildings.

These infrastructure improvements have enhanced connectivity with the outside world. A notable achievement was the relocation of the district headquarters from Lamjung to Manang in 2035 B.S., which boosted public infrastructure and local awareness. This development has allowed residents to connect with bureaucrats and increased recognition of tourism in the area, positively impacting local livelihoods. People now exchange goods and services through government offices, building networks for trade and ideas, which has gradually altered migration patterns.

Gurung (2001) argues, development factors influence spatial mobility of population. Linking the motor road as a development the most significant change in migration patterns has come from the improved motor road connectivity. Before the road, travel to migration destinations like Lamjung took 4 days, and reaching Kathmandu required 7 days. Now, with the motor road, Lamjung is accessible within four hours, and Kathmandu and Pokhara can be reached within ten hours (Lama, 2024). This development has eliminated the need for seasonal migration tied to winter and allowed people to move freely throughout the year. Whereas seasonal migration used to occur once a year, it is now more frequent and driven by various factors, with infrastructure and connectivity playing a major role in these changes.

Comparing past and present migration trends reveals fewer similarities in the causes of seasonal migration. Today, most people migrate for shorter periods to escape winter and visit family, rather than for trade and barter. The improved infrastructure and connectivity have expanded livelihood opportunities and altered migration patterns. A critical sociological analysis of mobility, migration, connectivity, and infrastructure underscores their strong influence on changes in migration patterns within these communities.

#### **6.2.4. Other factors**

Socioeconomic factors plays major role in migration (Siyal, Khalid, & Qaisrani, 2018). With increased opportunities and access to education, people from this study area are no longer confined to their villages. They now migrate to places where they see greater potential for growth. This research has shown that those currently living in the villages are often involved in various livelihoods such as hotel businesses, construction, commercial agriculture, and

government jobs. If these opportunities change, individuals from this area are likely to migrate to cities or abroad.

Startup (1971) argues, involving in migration or decision making for migration is shaped by ideas of an individual and group depending upon their condition. The changing trend in seasonal migration has also been influenced by improved economic conditions in the present. With better financial stability, people can afford better healthcare, education, and other amenities in urban areas. Consequently, people may migrate to different locations depending on evolving circumstances, contributing to shifts in seasonal migration patterns among individuals, families, and households in the study area.

### **6.3. Young Vs Old generation on Migration perception and activities: (Time and Space Perspective)**

As time progresses, both perspectives and migration activities shift among different generations. In this analysis, the older generation refers to individuals over 60 years old, who have been consistently involved in migration over a long period. The younger generation, on the other hand, includes those under 50 who participate in migration but with a more contemporary view of the process.

In this study, "time" denotes migration events that used to occur within a fixed annual timeframe, reflecting social mobility of people, goods, services, and ideas. "Space" refers to migration destinations and the broader world outside the migrants' homes.

This time and space framework provides a clear understanding of migration and social change in the research area. Compared to the past, younger generations now have greater opportunities for livelihoods, better education, improved infrastructure, and enhanced connectivity, allowing them

to explore the world more freely. In contrast, previous generations faced limited exposure to the outside world due to isolated geography, poor infrastructure, and fewer livelihood options. Despite these limitations, the older generations managed to sustain and develop their individual, family, and communal lives, preserving socio-cultural, economic, and political aspects.

Today, with more opportunities available, migration has become a regular part of life rather than a rare event. This increased mobility has influenced daily life, ideas, culture, and various aspects of individual and communal existence. Thus, migration brings about significant social changes in both host and migrant communities, and these changes can be better understood through the perspectives of time and space.

#### **6.4. Migration and Globalization a sociological perspective**

Throughout history, human mobility has been essential for survival. Hunter-gatherer societies were never static; they moved to different locations at various times. Seasonal variations influenced their daily activities (Mauss, 2004). As Castles (2009) argues, “socio-economic change and human mobility are constantly interactive processes that can be observed in many historical and current cases” (p2). With technological advancements and more reliable agricultural production, people became more sedentary, leading to the development of families, households, and structured societies.

Globalization should be simultaneously seen as a technological and political process (Czaika & Haas, 2014). As time has progressed, innovations, improved connectivity, and increased economic activities have made societies more complex. Today, we live in an era of globalization, where the world is often described as a "global village." This interconnectedness has transformed

socio-cultural and economic dynamics, shifting social relationships to be more focused on material gain rather than traditional norms and values.

People can now travel almost anywhere within a given timeframe, making migration a pressing global issue. In Nepal, for example, the rate of foreign migration is steadily increasing, with significant social and economic implications. Changes in migration patterns impact both host and migrant communities, leading to shifts in local economies and demographic changes, such as aging populations in villages and evolving production-consumption-distribution systems.

Sociologists must critically examine the socio-cultural, economic, political, and geographical consequences of these migration patterns. Migration brings opportunities but also challenges. By applying sociological knowledge to policy interventions and contributing to global discussions on migration, we can better understand and address the causes and consequences of migration, reflecting on past trends, present experiences, and future projections. Particularly sociological approach to studying migration using intersectionality help us to comprehend migration processes of ethnicity, gender, class and so on in order to grasp the complexities of the social world (Anthias, 2012). Migration involves relationship between migrants and host community members and these relationships are in layers. We must critically examine these layers to unfold the dynamics of migration to understand the social change in today's rapidly changing socio-economic, political and territorial aspects associated with issues of all types of migration both in-migration and out-migration. "A central concept for analysing the links between human mobility and global change is the process of social transformation" (Castles, 2009 p16).

## CHAPTER 7

### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

This chapter briefly summarizes and draws the conclusions from the findings and analysis made on the above discussed chapters. This chapter divides in to two sub chapters; first sub-chapter makes a summary of this dissertation and second sub-chapter concludes this dissertation.

#### 7.1. Summary

Migration refers to the movement of people from one geographical location to another, and it can be classified as either internal or external. Internal migration occurs within a country, including temporary and seasonal movements, while external or international migration involves moving from one country to another for both short and long durations. This research aims to explore the causes and consequences of seasonal migration, its trends, and patterns of change and continuity.

Using a mixed-method approach (quantitative and qualitative), the study gathered data through fieldwork and relevant secondary sources. Key research tools included household surveys in 30 households, 15 informal conversations and 10 key informant interviews with selected respondents.

Migration has both historical and sociological contexts, necessitating an understanding of people, places, livelihoods, and geography from a historical perspective. Analyzing the reasons behind migration involves examining socio-economic, environmental, and other factors. Seasonal migration is influenced by both pull and pushes factors in home and host communities, such as economic, environmental, and social dynamics.

Historically, 75% of livelihoods in the study area depended on agriculture, but today, 60% are linked to tourism, with 16.67% still reliant on agriculture. The top seasonal migration destinations are Kathmandu (46.67%) and Lamjung district (26.67%). Major reasons for seasonal migration include trade and business (83.34%) and escaping the winter (63.33%). Seasonal migration shows gender disparities, with 66.67% of participants being male and 33.36% female.

Migration involves the transfer of socio-cultural ideas, values, and norms, affecting both the home and host communities. Migrants face challenges related to travel, accommodation, identity, and language, while also encountering opportunities such as trade, learning, networking, and financial gains. In this study, 100% of respondents reported travel challenges, 90% accommodation issues, 83.34% identity-related challenges, and 40% language barriers. However, 86.67% found trade and exchange opportunities, 80% gained learning experiences, 56.67% built networks, and 46.67% accessed financial opportunities. Social relationships, such as kinship and emotional ties, also develop during seasonal migration.

As migration patterns evolve, they drive social changes in both communities. Changes in seasonal migration are noted by 60% of male and 40% of female respondents, with a shift from livelihood-driven to leisure-focused activities over the past decade. Contributing factors include improved infrastructure, economic status, climate change, foreign migration, remittances, education, and literacy. These findings highlight the transformation of seasonal migration patterns and their impact on social change.

## 7.2. Conclusion

This dissertation examines the causes and consequences of seasonal migration, using both qualitative and quantitative data to analyze the patterns of change and continuity among the people and households of Chame village. Seasonal migration, a form of human mobility that involves moving from one place to another for varying durations, is driven by a range of factors rather than a single cause. Both push and pull factors influence migration decisions: push factors include limited livelihood options, economic challenges, harsh winter conditions, and environmental issues, while pull factors involve better economic opportunities, existing family connections in destination areas, and more favorable weather conditions.

Migration is not merely the movement of individuals or groups; it is a complex process that brings social, cultural, economic, linguistic, and political changes, impacting everyday life in both host and migrant communities. This mobility can also lead to social tensions and conflicts based on caste, ethnicity, geography, identity, religion, and culture. However, seasonal migration also offers opportunities for the exchange of ideas, cultural integration, economic benefits, and the building of social relationships between migrants and host communities.

In the context of globalization, where improved connectivity and infrastructure have made the world more interconnected, people have more livelihood options, both locally and globally. These changes have evolved gradually over time, significantly influencing migration patterns and behaviors. Technological advancements and economic improvements have altered the nature of migration, with once-essential seasonal migrations now being perceived as routine processes. The purposes of seasonal migration have shifted, reflecting broader socio-economic transformations.

A sociological examination of seasonal migration allows for a critical understanding of its impacts on individuals, households, and communities at both local and global levels. It goes beyond viewing migration as mere movement, highlighting its deeper societal implications. This dissertation emphasizes the importance of focusing on internal and seasonal migration to better understand social change, urging academic and policy institutions to critically consider these migration forms in the context of a rapidly evolving world.

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## ANNEX

### Household Survey Questionnaire

HH Number:

Name:

Gender:

Age:

Occupation	Agriculture	Tourism	Service	Business	Other	Remarks

Family Type: Nuclear/Joint (Tick any one)

Numbers of family Member:

1. Have you ever participated in winter seasonal migration?

If yes, please could you share your experience about winter migration?

.....

2. Did you migrated your own or with your family members?

.....

3. Where was your migration destination?

.....

4. Why did you choose this particular destination?

.....

5. How many days do you have to walk to reach your migration destination?

.....

6. For how many months did you participate in the winter migration?

.....

7. What were you and your family member's livelihood then?

- .....
8. What was the reason behind your engagement in seasonal migration?  
.....
  9. What were the major challenges you have faced in host communities?  
.....
  10. What were the opportunities in the seasonal migration/host communities?  
.....
  11. Has seasonal migration pattern remained same or changed in last 10 years?  
.....
  12. If, changed what are the main reasons of this changes?  
.....
  13. Do people still practice winter seasonal migration?  
.....
  14. What was the relationship status with host communities during winter migration?  
.....

**Checklist for seasonal migration related additional information**

1. History of seasonal migration
2. What was seasonal migration to the individual, family and households
3. What type of goods and services were exchanged during winter migration
4. Women’s participation in seasonal migration
5. The major causes and consequences of the winter seasonal migration
6. People’s livelihood in the past and differences in past and present livelihood
7. Differences between past and present winter season
8. Foreign income and remittance
9. Agricultural productions
10. Migration journey and process (before motor road and after road connectivity)
11. Current status of the people and place (Past and present context)
12. How people sees seasonal migration
13. History of tourism in place