

CHAPTER-I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

International labour migration is an internationally recognized phenomenon throughout the world. In this context, Nepal is not an exception of the case. This chapter reviews, at first, the basic concept of migration and international labour migration which mainly deals with their nature, Nepal's international labour migration and its trend in the recent decades excluding India. Scientific knowledge on migration and labour migration has been reviewed. Statement of the problem, objectives of the study, conceptual framework and significance of the study as well as organization of the report related to labour migration has been discussed.

Migration is one of the dominant demographic variables along with fertility and mortality. It affects not only population size but also its structure and characteristics. Because of the complexity, migration is not easy to define. However the United Nations Multilingual Demographic Dictionary defines migration as "a form of geographical mobility or spatial mobility between one geographical unit and another generally involving change in residence from the place of origin or the place of departure to the place of destination or the place of arrival" (UN, 1973: 73). Migration is an event that occurs in a time interval and hence the temporal aspect is also important, as is the spatial when such movements occur within a country they are referred to as internal migration while if they involve crossing national boundaries, they are referred to as international migration, and emigration refers to migration outside the country and immigration inside the country from other countries.

Migrations are often analyzed as responses to 'push and pull' factors in origin and destination. On the one hand, underemployment and poverty in the rural areas, lack of facilities and services, population pressure on land and so on in origin have been cited as push factors; on the other, the greater opportunities for employment, better chance of facilities and services, the more varied social life, greater liberty of individual and so on in destination have been cited as pull factors.

Migration is purely a socio-economic phenomenon, which is the result of a complex mechanism involving social, physical, political, institutional and other determinants. However, migration is guided by individual behaviour and decision because it is not possible to determine that people with similar characteristics migrate.

All migrations are not only the result of poor economy but also caused by complex mechanism of social, psychological, political and industrial determinants. Modern migration system, which evolved as the response to the concentration of developmental activities in the urban centres is mainly guided by better social status and high standard of living.

International labour migration is one of the integral components while talking about international migration which is defined as the movement of people across national boundaries to become involved in foreign services and job opportunities. Especially labour migration takes place from less developed countries to most developed countries for future prospects (Seddon, et al. 2001). Millions of people from around the world (especially from the developing world) are leaving their usual place of residence for seeking better employment and food supply for their dependants. Global economic, social, political and demographic trends indicate clearly that international labour migration is likely to increase in the future and not decrease. Thus, the challenge is how to manage migration in such a way that the positive effects are maximized, making in win-win phenomena for all concerned (ILO, 2006).

1.1.1 International Labour Migration Practices in Nepal

International labour migration constitutes an important economic and demographic aspect in Nepal. Nepal has long tradition of international labour migration. Historical accounts suggest that the tradition of foreign labour migration in Nepal emerged since the early 19th century with the inception of the recruitment of Nepali Youths in British Army in India. Foreign labour migration for non-military purpose, however, had become evident somewhat lately in mid 19th century mainly due to excessive taxation, oppression production relations and impoverishment of peasantry. This type of labour migration was virtually confined to India primarily to work in British tea plantations. Evidences suggest that the scale of labour migration to India has gradually intensified and with the emergence of liberalization and open market policies adopted by the

state, a new tendency to migrate Nepali labourers to overseas through institutional recruitment processes have emerged in the country (Adhikari and Suwal, 2007).

Nepal is an agricultural country where more than 80 percent of the total population depend on agriculture, but there are no privileges and facilities to improve this sector has been initiated by the government. People in the villages have many difficulties to earn money to meet their daily necessities. Because of marginal agriculture, there is hardly any scope for them to aspire for better social status and higher standard of living. There is no opportunity for a good work to pursue in the rural areas in particular and the urban areas in general to sustain livelihood, they do not have sufficient land for cultivation to grow crops enough to maintain livelihood for whole year. Thus, people in the villages are still under the roof of poverty (Ale, 2004). Therefore, international labour migration has impact on most of households in rural area as well as the household of urban area, at present. It has become a major source of income for the large number of households in Nepal or it has been a significant base of peoples' livelihood.

Now, foreign employment has reduced the state of poverty and unemployment to the certain extent. The life style of the households who succeeded in going for foreign employment has changed. Likewise, it seems that the economy of Nepal is being increasing up by the remittance. The 11 percent decline in poverty level (measured in head count index) in between 1995/1996 and 2003/04 (declined from 42 percent to 31 percent to a large part) is acknowledged to the contribution of remittance. During the time of conflict, all other sources of earning convertible foreign currencies (like export, tourism, foreign aid or foreign direct investment (FDI) when gone feeble and showed downward trend, the amount of remittance sent by Nepalese working abroad escalated continually and single source of remittance became not only to compensate the loss but further contributed to increase the reserve of foreign exchange. Therefore, it has been claimed that the Nepalese economy during the slackness of other avenues of earning foreign exchange, the remittance income maintained the Nepalese economy as a whole (Thapa, 2007). Despite receiving the huge amount of remittance, Nepalese households have not been able to utilize and invest the whole remittance in productive sector. Therefore, the areas of investment and utilization of the remittance has emerged as a major problem in the field of foreign employment in Nepal.

1.1.2 Trend of International Labour Migration in Nepal

Quite recently no attempt has been made to derive an integrate data comprising of all forms of foreign labour migration in Nepal. The available data, therefore, are fragmented, and can depict part and partial of the different aspects of foreign labour migration.

Available data on emigration as well as number of Nepali workers in foreign countries increased tremendously over time. Number of emigrants during 1942-2001 increased by about five-folds from 163,000 in 1942 to 762,000 in 2001 (1.4-3.4 percent of the total population) respectively (Kansakar, 2003). Compared to this, the guesstimated data derived through data collection from Embassies/ consulates and associations of Nepali people in foreign countries indicate that as many as 1.1 million Nepali workers would have been in foreign countries in the year 1997 and 2.4 million (2,358,000-1.5 million in India and 858,000 in other countries) in 2006 (Seddon, et al., 2001; Adhikari, et al., 2006).

Like in India, number of Nepali workers in overseas countries is found to increase tremendously. An estimate for the year 1997 by Seddon et al. (2001) indicated that there were about 100,000 Nepali workers in overseas: 44,000 in East/South East Asian countries, like Malayasia, South Korea, Israel, Japan and others, 40,000 in Gulf countries, 15,000 in the Western countries and the rest 1,000 in other countries. The most recent guesstimate by Adhikari et al. (2006) put the comparative figure to 858,000, 8.58 time increase since 1997. According to this estimate, the largest 551,000 or 64.2 percent of the total Nepali workers in overseas were in Gulf countries followed by 251,000 in the East/ South East Asian countries or 29.2 percent, 25,000 in Europe/ Australia, 23,000 or 3 percent, in North America (2.7 percent), and the rest in other countries (Adhikari and Suwal, 2007).

Of the total Nepali workers who have gone overseas through official channel (975,967) until mid July 2007, the largest share (59.8 percent) went to Gulf countries followed by the numbers gone to the countries of East/South East Asian region (39.4 percent). The rest went to the countries of other regions- Europe/ Australia (0.12 percent), SAARC except India (0.10 percent), America/ Canada (0.33 percent) and Africa (0.01 percent). This reveals that official labour migration from Nepal virtually

is a Gulf and East/South East Asian countries (99.7 percent) phenomenon (DOLEP, 2007).

The Gulf countries, from the very inception of official labour migration, continue to become largest destination of Nepali migrant workers. Annual data on official labour migration show that until 1999/00, vast majority of the official migrant labourers (80-97 percent) used to go to the Gulf countries. However, after that, relative share going to Gulf countries started to decline. It declined to about 78 percent in 2000/01 and to 48 percent in 2000/02. During the last 2002/03-2005/06 period, it stabilized to 51.56 percent. Until 1999/00, East/South East Asian countries accounted for less than four percent of total official labour migration from Nepal which increased up to 22 percent in the next year, and to 51 percent in 2001/02. During the 2002/03-2005/06 period, proportion of official migrant labourers going to East/South East Asian countries stabilized somewhere between 43-48 percent. So far, some 1487 Nepali workers found officially gone to developed countries of Europe/Australia and North America, although, such countries always been "centre of attraction" for the people of developing countries for employment as well as other purposes. This small figure might be explained by restricted immigration policy of those countries for labourers from countries like Nepal (Adhikari and Suwal, 2007).

1.2 Statement of the Problem

International labour migration has become an important issue at present in Nepal. In the past few years, Nepalese foreign migrants have rapidly increased. Lack of employment, and in the recent years political conditions like insurgencies, political unrest, etc. are the causes behind 'increase' in the migration to foreign countries. Most of the migrants are from rural areas. Lack of job and employment opportunities have compelled the households in village to go for foreign employment. Similarly, the households collect money for this purpose by mortgaging and selling their land, properties and taking loan with high interest rate. Because of illiteracy and scarcity of appropriate skill, they have to go abroad as an unskilled worker (labour) where they have to work for low salary. Causes of betray and deceiving by the manpower companies and local broker have emerged as some serious problems related with foreign employment.

Due to the lack of opportunities and employment to sustain livelihood, rural youths are compelled to follow the option of labour migration and so far as the remittances from foreign employment are concerned, they have not been utilized in productive and creative sector. They get a very low salary in foreign countries because of the lack of skill, therefore, the remittance is just enough to repay the loans and interest. The households who have high remittances, they are also not utilizing in the creative and productive work. They only use it as purchasing land and ornaments.

Hence, this study has emphasized in above mentioned issues. Moreover, the study has also tried to show the kind of skills of foreign migrants they have before going abroad and the kind of skill they learned abroad. Similarly, it also examines the sources of money for going for foreign employment and the causes of being migrants. Such kinds of common problems have been the main concern of this study. Therefore, it is concentrated to verify and examine the above mentioned facts and statements and their real situation with the people and their area.

1.3 Literature Review

Revenstein (1889) also known as the father of modern migration studies was the first person to study migration. According to him, there are certain undesirable factors in the place of origin, which stimulates or compels the individual to migrate to the other places, and likewise, there are certain desirable factors in the destination that attracts the migrants. In his words, the former factors are "push" factors and the latter are "pull" factors causing the events of migration. Moreover, according to him, the distance between the origins determines the volume of migration between place of origin and destination. Higher the distance, lower the volume of migrations and vice versa. He also said that migration occurs within streams and counter streams. He was not sure to say that only the distance between the origin and destination determines the volume of migration.

Lee (1966) has proposed the 'Push-Pull obstacles' model of the migration on the basis of Ravenstein theory. In this model also the 'pull', 'push' and 'neutral' factors are analyzed. According to Lee, the decision to migrate and the process of migration are determined by the following four factors which include: Factors associated with the area of origin (push), Factor associated with the area of destination (pull), Intervening

obstacles (distance cost or lack of transport and communication etc), Personal factors (age, sex, education and race)

Zipf (1946) has studied migration and brought out an article where he had focused on the reason that compelled the migrants to move. He has expressed the views in systematically and theoretically, on the destination of migrants that where is the origin and where is the destination of migrating.

In accordance with above statements it can be concluded that some people migrate on the attraction with the available facilities, geographical setting and other factors of the destination and some people migrate due to the natural disasters and their individual reasons.

Todaro (1976) has given the most significant contribution on the large volume of migration literature. According to him, migration mechanism can be explained by the differences in 'expected' rather than those 'actual' earnings between two places. He has formulated migration model where he explains that, migration is stimulated primarily by rational economic considerations of relative benefits and costs, which are mostly financial and also psychological. Similarly, the decision to migrate depends on expected rather than actual wage differentials and, migration rates in excess of new employment opportunity are not only possible but also rational and even likely in the face of wide, new or old expected income differential. Likewise, the probability of obtaining a job in the new sector is inversely related to the unemployment rate in the new sector. He also explains that migration rates in excess of new job opportunity growth rates are not only possible but rational and even likely in the face of wide new-old expected income differentiations. High rates of unemployment in the new sector are therefore inevitable outcomes of the serious imbalance of economic opportunities between new and old areas of most underdeveloped countries.

Oded Stark (1991), the migration of labour at a theoretical level, migration research has expanded the domain of variables that seem to impinge upon and are affected by spatial labour supply decision. It has highlighted the whole of wider social entities and interactions within them in conditioning migration behaviour, it has identified new linkages between migration as a distinct labour market phenomena and it has contributed to our understanding of the processes of economic betterment and

development. At the empirical level, recent work of the economics of labour migration has confirmed the usefulness of old and well established models of labour migration.

Ter Heide (1963) expressed his view on migration as “migration may be influenced not only by absolute geographical distance but also by technical distance in terms of communication and transportation facilities and by social distance in terms of cultural, linguistics and religious differences between place of origin and destination”.

Lewis (1954) described to its macro level analysis international migration is caused by geographic difference in the supply of and demand for labour and countries with a large endowment of labour relative have a low equilibrium market wage, which is depicted graphically by the familiar interaction of labour supply and demand curves.

Cain (1976) views a bifurcated occupational structure and a dual pattern of economic organization for advanced industrial societies. The reasons of that international migration are caused by push factors in sending countries and by pull factors in receiving countries.

1.3.1 Labour Migration in Nepal

New ERA (1981) studied migration situation in Nepal categorizing migration into three parts. According to this study, the migration for certain period like on seeking of job, on purpose of business and trade are categorized in temporary migration. And seasonally, people joining foreign employment like service in the Indian and the British armies are categorized as seasonal migrants and those permanently settled in new destination, leaving place of origin are categorized as permanent migrants.

Pardar (1974) has conducted studies in both the developing and developed countries in order to find out the basic reasons behind the decision of a man to migrate. He concluded in his study that in developing countries a large proportion of migrants have lower socio-economic status than non-migrants at both places of origin and destination, whereas in developed countries and southern United States, migrants are younger, more educated and of higher socio-economic status than non-migrants of the place of origin and destination.

NPC's (1984) research of migration in Nepal states that migration as a demographic concern covers estimating selective characteristics of migration streams, qualification of their volume, direction and distance estimated their demographic impacts of original destination.

Alam Macfarlane (1976) in an anthropological study of the Gurungs of Nepal in Mohoria village in Kaski district revealed that cash is one of the two major economic sectors along with food stuffs for which people migrate to work, mainly in the army, and their pay and pensions are used to buy gold, clothing, and certain luxuries and household necessities. He further stated that almost exactly half of the income of the households comes from foreign services abroad which play a crucial role in the Gurungs' economy of the cash flooding from migrant labour. About two-thirds of the amount brought back from abroad is usually in cash, the rest is in gold, clothes, radios, watches, with gold as the predominant item. He also argued that almost every family involved in foreign employment is heavily indebted, often for very large sums of more than a lakh in Nepalese Rupees. One of the main reason of borrowing such amounts is for 'agent' to facilitate work abroad. He stated that to go to South Korea or Hongkong or Japan, families often borrow up to 10 lakhs, on which they pay interest upto ten to seventy percent per year. Frequently the money is lost through theft or police corruption in the country where, often illegally, the migrants are working.

Differentials in income derived from agriculture and government resettlement projects on the plains were important factors of migration. Government increased investments in irrigation, industrial activities and administrative activities in specific towns were the structural determinants or migration (K.C., 1985).

The draft document of eighth five years plan also recognizes unemployment, underemployment and level of poverty, and its overriding objective is the gradual elimination of absolute poverty through employment opportunities (NPC, 1989).

In accordance with the expression on migration of Shrestha (1990), the major reason of migration is the poor economic condition. He argues that the economic condition in the hills is poorer than the plain and in the plain; there are more facilities and privileges in every sector than hills. It is easy for livelihood. Therefore, people migrate from the hill to the Terai and the plain for seeking of economic opportunities.

Migration is not a longing but it is an obligatory for those people who are facing too many scarcities. However, some people migrate on the attraction of the luxuries of the new destination but are in few numbers and some migrate on the religious and cultural beliefs. Similarly, migration studies in Nepal can be categorized into six groups namely, historical aspects of migration; pattern, magnitude, scope, causes and consequences; problem and implications of resettlement; international and urban/intra-urban migration; the political implications of migration and anthropological studies in migration (Subedi 1991, 93).

According to the study undertaken by Segal (1993) in the marginal and rural area of the country, the financial investment on trade and cottage industry is very much low and it is not sufficient for the job seekers of these areas. Therefore, the numbers of foreign migrant workers are increasing rapidly.

The reasons of labour migration are, no opportunity of employment in self-country, political impact, poor economic condition that compelled the job seeker to migrate but only migrants cannot reduce such problems and scarcities in the country. Similarly, major causes of labour migration are poor economic condition in self-country, pressure of population, lack of employment, political condition, which compelled people to go in foreign employment. It seems that international labour is the major part to eradicate poverty and scarcities (Briks, Sincliar and Stalker, 1994).

Subedi (1997) expressed his views with comparing between migration and occupation. According to him, the reasons of migration and occupation change may be related to each other. To eradicate the problems and scarcities, migration and occupation may become the alternative way. Therefore, the dimension of migration and occupational change are broad and both can play a vital role in eradicating unemployment, scarcities and various socio-economic problems.

Unemployment means those people who don't have a permanent work or are not employed for a long period, they are said unemployed people and people who are working in the session of above mentioned they are said employed people. These above illustrations show that most of people in every country with poor economy are facing the problem of unemployment (Higgins, 2001).

Seddon et al. (2001) tilling labour migration as New Lahure, explained that foreign labour migration and its returns can help to reform or improve poor Nepalese life and living standard. But the poorer are very far away from these opportunities, because they are unable to invest for foreign employment on one hand and on the other hand they are badly being cheated by the local agencies and by the employer in their destination. Consequently, very poor are little involving in foreign employment. Their lives in countryside are far left behind in comparison of local wealthier (foreign earner). Village inhabited apart of foreign labour migrants, are depending on their foreign earner.

Subedi (2003) has stated that Nepal in the 21st century is growing as a labour producing country. More than two hundred thousand unskilled labour every year is entering into the labour market. Majority of these labours are mainly from rural areas. Because of poverty and lack of employment opportunities, out migration as a form of labour has been compelled. He further stated that the Nepalese government has been considering labour migration as a means of benefiting both its citizens and the state. He expressed that out migration from Nepal as labour has rapidly increased in recent year than before. More than 160 foreign employment agencies have been actively working to send the Nepalese employee in foreign market. But those labours are not free from being a victim of local agencies and their destination too. India, in majority, West Asian and East and South-East Asian countries are the main destination of Nepalese labour migration. He argued that recent political condition of the nation also is forcing youth to take a walk to overseas for employment. But qualifying the supply and security of both life and job permanency of Malaysia and Saudi Arabian Industry worker are the main issues to be stated.

The agencies, which are involving in the processes of labour migration, are crucial in fact. They are cheating badly to the candidates of labour migrants by accumulating information, high investment and job security. These crucial processes are influencing the prosperity to migrate and the potential contribution to the households and their livelihood. Those migrants who are really from the poor and rural family have to be properly informed about the system and situation of destination (Pull factor). They are given wrong information with fact, less attraction and consequently they have to face so many difficulties in their destination too (Wyss, 2003).

Some resources are likely to seek foreign employment, and some are likely to migrate within the country and subsequently add to the present level of poverty in the destination. Likewise, emigration tends to be good for the country by reducing unemployment and increasing remittance (K.C., 2003).

Emigration from Nepal has been characterized by both brain drain and brown drain and foreign labour migration has emerged as the major source of earning for the migrant household and the nation (Kansakar, 2003).

Information, communication and technological revolution and universal access and reach of the media have meant a vast diffusion of awareness of the differences in living standard between rich and poor countries that has added to the allure of migration. New market institutions have emerged which facilitate the process in the shape of intermediaries and agents. Transnational enterprises move managers around the world, while the practice of "shopping" overseas for specialized skills have growth ("body-shopping") and labour markets for some highly skilled professionals are effectively global (Nayyar, 2004).

Because of the greater stake of the unskilled labour going abroad (more than 75 percent) from Nepal, most of them are compelled to work in 4 Ds (dirty, dangerous, difficult and demeaning) (Gurung and Pathak, 2005).

It has been found that the money saved by women migrants was found to have been spent on variety of items. Most of them spent a good amount of remittance on buying household necessities. 'Constructing a house', 'paying back loans' and 'lending out money' were other uses of money saved by woman. However, women have used money in a productive manner. There were only a few women who used money to purchase gold and jewelry but this form of expenditure can also be looked at as a means of investment (Adhikari et al., 2006).

Remittance from Nepalese grew at 20 percent a year between 1995-96 and 2003-04 rising from less than 3 percent of GDP in 1995-96 to about 12 percent by the end of 2003-04. At the household level, the average size of remittances increased from Rs 3,500 (8.5 percent of mean per capital expenditure) in 1995-96 to nearly Rs 6,000 (15.8 percent of mean consumption) in 2003-04. The share of households receiving remittances rose as well from 23 percent in 1995-96 to 32 percent in 2003-04. More

than a quarter of recipient households reported receiving remittances from multiple senders. Increased remittances have important implications for household, villages and the state. Distributional patterns of remittances influence the rate of economic growth in the country. At the household level, remittances help to smooth consumption, provide mutual insurance and alleviate liquidity constraints. Remittances also influence decisions about the labour market activities of household member, investment in human and physical capital, and number of children. How remittances are used likely differs by household income and social position. Poor households are likely to spend remittance on basic subsistence needs, helping to alleviate poverty of remittances are saved or invested, and they contribute to future benefits (CBS, DFID, ADB and WB, 2006).

Subedi (2006) in the study among Duras stated that migration and remittance economies are not new among them, because many younger Dura people have migrated temporarily to urban or abroad for employment. Besides the foreign army service, most of the people travel to India, Saudi Arabia, Singapore or Middle Eastern Countries, for examine in order to find work as manual labourers. He further stated that low level of literacy has placed the population at a disadvantage for most jobs which has compiled them to migrate abroad. Remittances and pensions from foreign employment have played a significant role in the Dura economy, 55 household out of 381 household (17 percent) received cash remittances which were most commonly used to maintain members of the migrant families. The study identified 52 percent of off-farm income (as opposed to 40 percent of all remittances coming from India to rural Nepal) comes from Indian (India army pension, Indian army salary and wage from labour). About 9 percent of total off-farm income comes from British army pensions and various countries (e.g. Hongkong, Israel, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore and other Middle Eastern Countries) also constituted another 9 percent of total remittances.

Besides other consequences, remittance has a pivotal contribution in reducing poverty and vulnerability at household and community levels. It helped to maintain household level consumption cost and financial security. If contribution of remittance to pull down the poverty level is ignored, the poverty level of the country would have been

increased to 36 to 37 percent from 31 percent (NRB, 2007 as cited in Adhikari and Suwal, 2007).

From the above literature, it is found that different scholars and writers have different views about labour migration and livelihood pattern. The above literature focused on the labour migration, its causes and consequences, remittances, livelihood strategies and pattern of ethnic groups. Most of the literatures are based on labour migration. These studies helped the researcher in formulating questionnaire, field work, table work and overall guidelines on preparing of whole dissertation. These studies also provided new framework of analysis in the field of labour migration.

1.4 Objectives of the Study

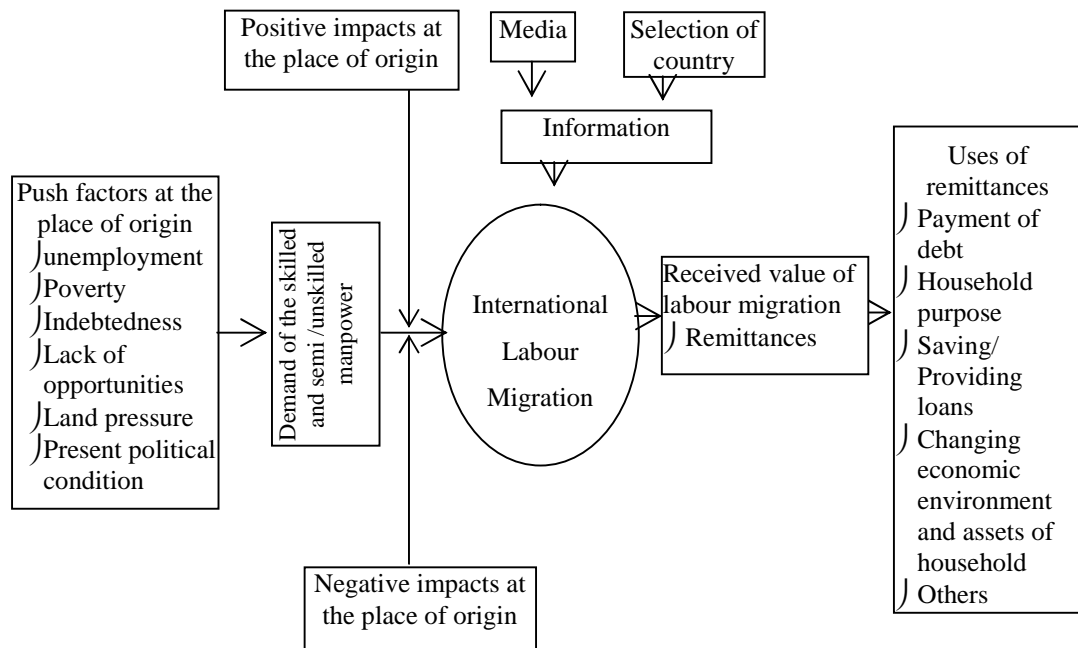
The specific objectives of the present study are:

- i) To find out the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the migrant households.
- ii) To find out the sources and extent of essential amount of money made available for foreign employment.
- iii) To analyze the areas of using the remittances, and
- iv) To find out the skills of the foreign migrants, especially labour migration in transforming the environment of the household and households changing assets.

1.5 Conceptual Framework

Because of the limited time and resource, the study cannot cover all the aspects of the international labour migration. Therefore, this study has focused on the specific topic which includes the causes and impacts, the source and extent of essential amount of money made available for foreign employment, remittance and its uses and the skill of the foreign migrants. In order to focus these issues, the following conceptual framework is designed:

Figure 1: Conceptual Framework of the Study



1.6 Significance of the Study

In the context of Nepal, international labour migration is a burning issue, but very few studies were concluded in the past. While observing the past research documents, it is seen that most of the studies are very specific to provide information on the status of international labour migration. Some of the studies have only focused on its causes and consequences while others have highlighted the issues of remittance. Articles written by different scholars are not very much updated even in the long years gap and that is because of the lack of proper information. So this study generalizes the issues of international labour migration which includes the sources and extent of essential amount of money made available for going to foreign employment by the labour migrants, the areas of using the remittances sent by the migrant workers and the skills of migrant workers before and after going to foreign employment for them who are interested to know about it.

Considering the huge amount of remittances coming into Nepal from foreign labour migration and its important role in the Nepalese economy, it is hoped that this study will provide some understanding as to the factors contributing to the prospects and potentialities from foreign labour migration and problems and issues constraining the effective management and monitoring of labour migration for the benefit of the migrants and their households area as well as the nation. This study also provides

some facts on the use of the remittance and some guidelines on how to invest and utilize the remittance also. Therefore, it might be expected that this study may be helpful in formulating appropriate policy, rules and regulations to make foreign labour migration an important economic sector of the country.

1.7 Organization of Report

The study is classified into four chapters. The first chapter deals with the introduction including general background, statement of the problem, literature review on migration and labour migration in Nepal, objectives of the study, conceptual framework, significance of the study and organization of report.

The second chapter deals with data and method which includes introduction to the study area as well as its population. Research method, identifying and defining the variables, determining the sample size, tools and techniques for information/ data collection and data management, method of analysis are also included in this chapter.

The third chapter of the study analyzes and discusses the data and the results which are collected through the questionnaire, focus group discussion, interview and observation from the field study and finally the fourth chapter summarizes the whole study and reaches at the conclusion.

CHAPTER – II

DATA AND METHOD

This chapter provides introduction to the study area which comprises Parroha Village Development Committee (VDC), Ward No.1 of Rupandehi district and its population. The type of method used for this research is stated as well as the variables are identified and defined based on the conceptual framework given in chapter I. The process of determining the sample size is clarified. Tools and techniques used to collect data and information is dealt. Finally, the method used to collect data through survey and process of data management is provided.

2.1 Introduction to the Study Area: Parroha VDC, Ward No. 1

Nepal is a small landlocked Himalayan country situated between two major Asiatic civilizations: India to the south and Tibet, an autonomous part of China to the north; it has an elongated rectangular shape with roughly north west to south west orientation. For political and administrative regions, Nepal is structured along hierarchical lines. There are four different levels (listed from the lowest to the highest): VDCs (3395)/Municipalities (57), Districts (75), Zones (14), and Development Regions (5). The Rupandehi district (out of 75 districts) lies in the Western Development Region (WDR) of Nepal and covers an area of about 1360 sq. km. The total population is 708419 of which males are 360773 (50.5 percent) and females 347646 (49.5 percent). The sex ratio of the district is 104 (CBS, 2003). Rupandehi is bounded by Nawalparasi in the east, Uttar Pradesh (the state of India) in the south, Palpa and Kapilbastu to its north and west respectively. There are altogether 65 VDCs and 2 municipalities in this district. The total households of this district are 117,856 and average size of the household is 6.01 (Nature, 2001).

Parroha VDC lies in the north western part of Rupandehi district. Parroha stretches between 83°20' to 83°25' east longitude and 27°40' north latitude. It is surrounded by Butwal municipality and Semlar VDC in the east, Dudharakha VDC in the west, Kha. Bangai and Suryapura (Suryapal) VDC in the south and Palpa district in the north. This VDC comes under the Constituency No. 4 of the district. The VDC is approximately 300m. high above the sea level and the total area is about 46 sq. km.

The VDC is 33 km. north west from the district headquarter and 8 km. west from Butwal, the headquarter of Lumbini zone (Nature, 2001). The east west highway cuts across the village dividing it in equal halves: north and south. The term Parroha has been derived from 'Parro' (Parro means buried, Parmeshwor means God). Now the Temple called Parroha Parmeshwor stands on the very spot where Parroha Parmeshwor is supposed to have been lying according to popular belief. So, obviously the VDC derives its name from Parroha Parmeshwor in its abbreviator form.

The study area comprised Ward No. 1 of Parroha VDC. Butwal municipality is situated about 13 km. east of this ward. The east west highway that connects Mechi with Mahakali region has touched a large part of it. Ward No. 8, 2 and 6 lie in the east, Ward No. 4 and 5 in the north, Ward No. 8 in the south and Ward No. 9 in the west has surrounded this ward. Most of the facilities of the VDC are centralized within this ward. Because of the facilities, most of the people are centralized with in this ward and the population density of the ward is increasing over the years. Most of the houses of this ward are built up with concretes, bricks and cements. There are also a very good facilities of hydroelectricity, drinking water, telephone, education and health as well as security and transportation in this ward.

2.2 Introduction to the Study Population

The population of the Parroha VDC is large and it is densely populated in comparison to other VDCs of Rupandehi district. According to CBS 2003, the total population of the VDC is 19,055 which shares about 2.7 percent of Rupandehi district. The VDC is characterized by higher proportion of female than male (51.4 percent vs 48.6 percent). The sex ratio of the VDC is 94.5 which is lower as compared to the national sex ratio of 99.8. The population composition of the VDC by age and sex is shown in table 1.

Table 1: Distribution of Population Composition of Parroha VDC by Age and Sex

Age Group	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female		N	%
	N	%	N	%		
0-4	1113	5.8	1068	5.7	2181	11.5
5-9	1335	7.0	1307	6.9	2642	13.9
10-14	1350	7.1	1275	6.7	2625	13.8
15-19	1029	5.5	1161	6.0	2190	11.5
20-24	757	4.0	944	4.9	1701	8.9
25-29	597	3.1	772	4.1	1369	7.2
30-34	542	2.8	648	3.5	1190	6.3
35-39	458	2.4	591	3.1	1049	5.5
40-44	424	2.2	497	2.6	921	4.8
45-49	370	1.9	395	2.1	765	4.0
50-54	314	1.7	340	1.7	654	3.4
55-59	309	1.6	260	1.4	569	3.0
60-64	230	1.2	191	1.1	421	2.1
65+	430	2.3	350	1.8	780	4.1
Total	9256	48.6	9799	51.4	19055	100.0

Source: CBS, 2003: Table 1.

Table 2: Distribution of Population Composition of Ward No. 1 by Age Group and Sex (HHs=688)

Age Group	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female		N	%
	N	%	N	%		
0-5	219	5.7	245	6.4	464	12.1
6-15	520	13.5	411	10.7	931	24.1
16-44	949	24.7	902	23.4	1851	48.1
45-59	206	5.4	221	5.7	427	11.1
60+	77	2.0	95	2.5	172	4.5
Total	1971	51.30	1874	48.7	3845	100.0

Source: Nature, 2001: Table 2.1.

Table 2 shows that Ward No. 1 has the total population of 3845 which accounts for almost 19 percent of the VDC'S population. The proportion of males is higher than that of females, 51.3 percent and 48.7 percent respectively. About one-half of the total population belongs to 16-44 age groups which is also known as an active age group followed by 6-15 age group. The average household size of the ward is 5.59.

Parroha VDC has a diverse social composition. Despite of large proportion of Tharu population residing in the VDC in the early decades, due to the migratory phenomenon, different ethnic/ caste groups like Brahmins, Chhetris, Magars,

Thakuries, Dalits began to settle in the VDC. The VDC is composed with the following caste and ethnic groups.

Table 3: Distribution of Population by Ethnic/Caste Composition in Parroha VDC

Ethnic Group	Number	Percentage
Tharu	5012	26.3
Brahmin	4442	23.3
Magar	3207	16.8
Chhetri	2371	12.4
Dalit	2013	10.6
Thakuri	354	1.9
Gurung	112	0.6
Muslim	68	0.4
Unidentified	32	0.2
Others	1152	6.0
Total	19055	100.0

Source: CBS, 2003: Table 11.

Mainly the people who follow the Hindu religion reside in the VDC as well as in Ward No. 1. The people who reside in this VDC belonging to other religions are Buddhist, Islam, and Christian. The people belonging to different religions in the VDC are shown in table 4.

Table 4: Distribution of Population by Religion Composition in Parroha VDC

Religion	Number	Percentage
Hindu	18684	98.1
Buddhist	255	1.3
Islam	68	0.4
Christian	45	0.2
Sikh	3	-
Total	19055	100.0

Source: CBS, 2003: Table 13.

Table 4 shows that 98.1 percent of the total population of the VDC is Hindu followed by Buddhist (1.3 percent), Islam (0.4 percent) and Christian (0.2 percent).

2.3 Survey Research Method

Both qualitative and quantitative research methods have been applied in this study. The questionnaire method has been used under quantitative method whereas focus

group discussion, interview and observation method have been used under qualitative method to collect appropriate and reliable data.

2.4 Research Design

This study is based on the descriptive technique. It mainly uses both primary and secondary sources of data to find out the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the migrants household, sources and extent of essential amount of money made available for foreign employment, to analyze the uses of the remittance and finally to find out the skill of foreign migrants, especially labour migration in transforming the environment of the household and household changing assets.

2.5 Determining the Sample Size

It was found that 260 households were involved in foreign labour migration in Ward No. 1 of Parroha VDC. In order to administer the questionnaire schedule, the sample was drawn using some form of probability sampling. The minimum sample size was determined using the following statistical relation.

$$n = X \frac{z^2 pq}{d^2}$$

Where,

n is the minimum sample size

z is the standard normal deviate, usually set at 1.96 (or more simply at 2.0) which corresponds to the 95 percent confidence interval.

p is the proportion in the target population estimated to have a particular characteristic. If there is no reasonable estimate, the use of 50 percent (0.50) is recommended.

q is 1.0-p

d is degree of accuracy desired, usually set at 0.05 or occasionally at 0.02.

Therefore, the minimum sample size in 95 percent confidence interval, p=0.91 and 0.05 level of degree of accuracy is:

$$n = X \frac{(1.96)^2 (0.91)(0.09)}{(0.05)^2}$$

β 130 households

In the sampled 130 households, 141 individuals were involved in foreign labour migration; 76 were absentees and 65 were returnees. The information of absentees

were collected from the household head and the information of returnees were collected from them.

2.6 Tools and Techniques for Information/Data Collection

Information was collected from people of the study area, official records and various, governmental/non-governmental articles and documents. Basically primary and secondary methods were used for the purpose of data collection.

2.6.1 Primary Data Collection

The data for this study have been collected using questionnaire, focus group discussion, interview and observation.

2.6.1.1 Questionnaire

The questionnaire is a most important step of a data collection. Therefore probable questions were prepared, which were result oriented according to the objectives. A serious discussion was made about the questionnaire before preparing the question, if they were according to the objectives of the study or not. Questions were prepared in the circumstance of individual and reference statement of interviewer. In which, the demographic composition of the migrant households, socio-economic condition (age, sex, marital status of all members) were included. The interview was based on the questionnaire of livestock, landholding size, education and other facilities. Likewise, other questions were on the base of migration like to volume, causes, impact, remittance, skills and the source of financial management about foreign employment.

2.6.1.2 Focus Group Discussion

A focus group discussion is a form of qualitative research in which a group of people is asked about their attitude towards different issues raised by the researcher. Questions are asked in an interactive group setting where participants are free to talk with other group members. Focus group discussion is a widely used method to collect qualitative data in demographic research. To acquire detail information, focus group discussion was conducted with 8 persons, every 2 from political workers, social workers, students and housewives in which discussion was made about major subjects such as attitudes and impacts of labour migration, the sources of livelihood

and the impression of labour migration over the children and women. And information regarding their situation in the community and family support after foreign employment as well as financial management for labour migration, skills and other topic were discussed during the group discussion.

2.6.1.3 Interview

Interview also was taken among various people which includes returnees and the migrant households. In this case, two methods of question, the first method of structured and second method of unstructured were asked. During the interview, a good opportunity of collecting attitudes, experiences of the people in various levels, which have assisted in the research to go on, was found. And more information concerning the remittances, migration process and procedure, impact of migration on family and community, causes, skills as well as their opinion on migration were included.

2.6.1.4 Observation

Besides interview, direct observation method was used to collect some partial qualitative data. Direct observation is a tool used to collect qualitative data where the researcher observes certain sampled situations or people rather than trying to become immersed in the entire context (Trochim, 1999). Some data have been taken on the support of observation, in which the livelihood of the migrant households is included. Observation of physical and cultural environment especially details of the respondent's house structure, furnishing, cloths, ornaments and surrounding were observed and details were recorded in the interview. From this, observation, answers of respondents were corrected and with the answer compared with the questions.

2.6.2 Secondary Data Collection

Secondary data on above parameters have been obtained from various sources. Among the source of secondary data, first and foremost are the population census reports and other literature like relevant literatures on international migration' research work and reports, journals particularly on Nepal and on international labour migration as well as published and unpublished reports of NPC and VDC of the study area. Research publications of several research organizations like CEDA, CNAS, Central

Department of Population Studies and Geography, New Era and Central Library of the Tribhuvan University have been thoroughly consulted for the study.

2.7 Data Management

For the purpose of data management, simple quantitative technique such as calculation of total cases, percentage and ratios were computed. The collected data have been shown in tables and the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) has been used to manage and analyse data. Through the chart, pie-diagram has been used.

2.8 Defining Variables

On the basis of conceptual framework in chapter I, following variables are identified and defined.

International labour migration: Movement of the people abroad for economic motives or in other words to earn money to improve their livelihood.

Poverty: The state of one who lacks a usual or socially acceptable amount of money or material possessions.

Unemployment: A situation in which people are without jobs either because they are unwilling to accept available jobs or because there are no jobs available.

Indebtedness: Means the unpaid principal and interest plus any other sums a borrower is obligated to pay.

Lack of opportunity: Scarcity of the favorable movement or occasion for doing something.

Remittance: Refers to that proportion of migrants earnings sent from migration destination to the place of origin.

CHAPTER – III

DATA ANALYSIS, RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The purpose of this chapter is to analyze the data collected from the field survey and discuss them. This chapter is organized into five sections: the first section deals with the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the migrant households; the second section deals with migration in the study area; the third section deals with the source of money made available for foreign employment; the fourth section deals with the remittance and its uses in the study area and finally the fifth section deals with the skills of migrant before and after going for foreign employment as well as the role of labour migration in transforming the economic environment of the household and households' assets.

3.1 Demographic and Socio-Economic Characteristics

3.1.1 Demographic Characteristics

This study is mainly limited within Ward No. 1 of Parroha VDC. Population distribution and absent population of the study area is shown in table 6.

Table 5: Distribution of the Population and Absentees of the Study Area

Sex	Total Population Excluding Absentees		Absent Population	
	N	Percent	N	Percent
Male	330	47.1	63	82.9
Female	371	52.9	13	17.9
Total	701	100.0	76	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

Table 5 shows that the study area has the total population of 701. It also shows that the proportion of females is higher than the proportion of males (52.9 percent vs 47.1 percent) which differs from the VDC's data. The main cause of difference between the VDC's data and study survey data is the study is only limited to migrant households and due to more involvement of males in international labour migration than females for their livelihood in the study area. Table 5 also shows that among 76 absentees, an overwhelming majority of the absentees are males (82.9 percent) compared to very few females (17.9 percent).

Age and sex structure of the population is the major explanatory variable in demographic analysis. If age distribution is distorted, all age-specific patterns of the vital events are eventually distorted. Importance of age and sex composition is not only limited to demographic analysis but also to different socio-economic and development planning of a country. The population composition of the study area is shown in table 6.

Table 6: Distribution of the Population Composition of Migrants' Households by Age group and Sex

Age Group	Sex				Total		Sex Ratio
	Male		Female		N	%	(M/F)×100
	N	%	N	%			
0-4	15	2.1	14	2.0	29	4.1	107.1
5-9	23	3.3	34	4.9	57	8.1	67.6
10-14	31	4.4	40	5.7	71	10.1	77.5
15-19	35	5.0	47	6.7	82	11.7	74.5
20-24	45	6.4	54	7.7	99	14.1	83.3
25-29	37	5.3	39	5.6	76	10.8	94.9
30-34	25	3.6	23	3.3	48	6.8	108.7
35-39	15	2.1	24	3.4	39	5.6	62.5
40-44	17	2.4	17	2.4	34	4.9	100.0
45-49	20	2.9	29	4.1	49	7.0	69.0
50-54	17	2.4	22	3.1	39	5.6	77.3
55-59	17	2.4	12	1.7	29	4.1	141.7
60-64	10	1.4	7	1.0	17	2.4	142.9
65 and above	23	3.3	9	1.3	32	4.6	255.6
Total	330	47.1	371	52.9	701	100.0	88.9

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

Figure 2: Population Pyramid by Age and Sex

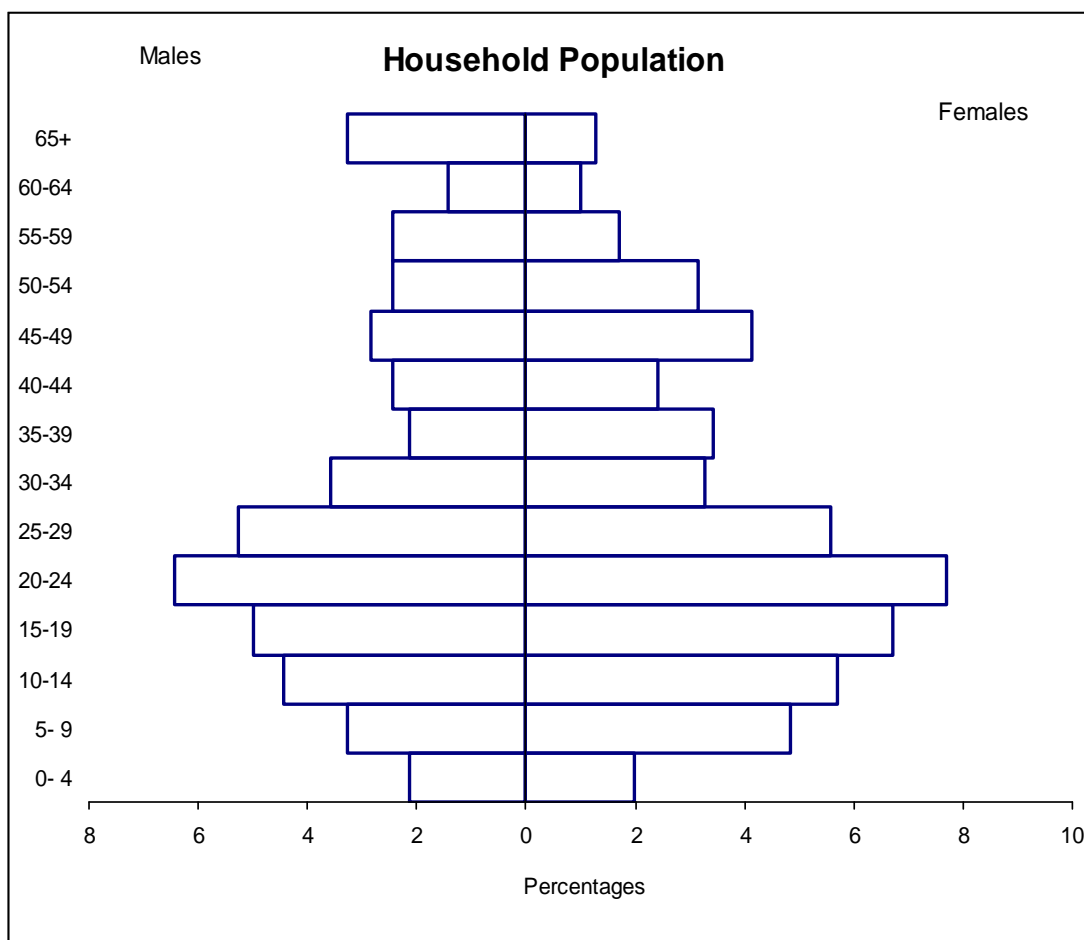


Table 6 shows that age group 20-24 has the highest population with 14.1 percent followed by 15-19 age groups and 25-29 age groups where as age group 60-64 has the lowest population. Economically active age group (25-49) is far lesser than the economically inactive group and the school age group. It indicates that most of the active males of the study area have been migrated for foreign employment. This age group is also known as the most important age for the households in the sense of earning and for the economic and other progress in the households in the study area.

The sex ratio of the study area is only 88.9 which indicate that females predominate males in terms of sex ratio. It is usually because most of the people migrated abroad for the livelihoods are males as compared to females.

It can be concluded that the pyramid is somehow similar to hallow and swollen (narrow and flat) pyramid. In this pyramid, some age bars become narrow and for some age groups, it is flat. The pyramid shows the fertility is somehow stable, growth

rate varies from age group to age group, proportion of working and dependent population is neither high nor low and child population is high rather than elder population. The pyramid is generally affected by the migration of the population.

Table 7: Distribution of Absent Population by Age group and Sex

Age Group	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female			
	N	%	N	%	N	%
15-19	-	-	1	7.7	1	1.3
20-24	17	27.0	-	-	17	22.4
25-29	15	23.8	5	38.5	20	26.3
30-34	13	20.6	3	23.1	16	21.1
35-39	8	12.7	2	15.4	10	13.2
40-44	5	7.9	2	15.4	7	9.2
45-49	3	4.8	-	-	3	3.9
50-54	2	3.2	-	-	2	2.6
Total	63	100.0	13	100.0	76	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

Table 7 shows highest percentage (26.3 percent) of the absentees are in 25-29 age group. Broadly, absentees in the age group of 20-49 years which is also known as economically active age group accounts for 96 percent. Likewise, for males, 20-24 age group accounts with the highest percentage with 27 percent where as it is 25-29 age group for females with 38.5 percent. Most of the males and females who are still working abroad are in 20-44 age groups which is seen similar to the total proportion.

Table 8: Distribution of the Marital Status of the Migrants' Households (15 years and above)

Marital Status	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female			
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Married	174	66.7	207	73.1	381	70.0
Unmarried	85	32.6	64	22.6	149	27.4
Widow/er	2	0.8	12	4.2	14	2.6
Total	261	100.0	283	100.0	544	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

Table 8 shows that the majority of the population in the study area is married (70 percent) and the proportion of married females is slightly higher than married males and it resulted in higher proportion of unmarried males, almost 33 percent as against about 23 percent for females. However, the proportion of widowhood is 4.2 percent

for females and it is only 0.8 percent for males. The higher proportion of widowhood among the females is due to the fact that widow marriage is socially and culturally not accepted.

Table 9: Distribution of the Absent Population by Marital Status

Marital Status	Sex				Total	
	M	%	F	%	N	%
Married	48	76.2	11	84.6	59	77.6
Unmarried	15	23.8	1	7.7	16	21.1
Widower	–	–	1	7.7	1	1.3
Total	63	100.0	13	100.0	76	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

Table 9 shows that large proportion of the absent population is married (77.6 percent) whereas the proportion of the unmarried absentees is only 21.1 percent. A significant number of males who are absent numbering 15 persons or 23.8 percent and female numbering only 1 person is unmarried. Likewise, 48 male and 11 female absentees accounting 76.2 percent and 84.6 percent respectively are married. During the field survey, it was observed that, social custom among the people that they should get married before entering into the foreign employment was the main reason behind the increase in the number of married migrants abroad. As they get married, the family burden increases which compels them to migrate abroad and to overcome those problems they have chosen the labour migration as their main source of income.

Figure 3: Percentage Distribution of the Population of Migrants' Households by Number of Family Members

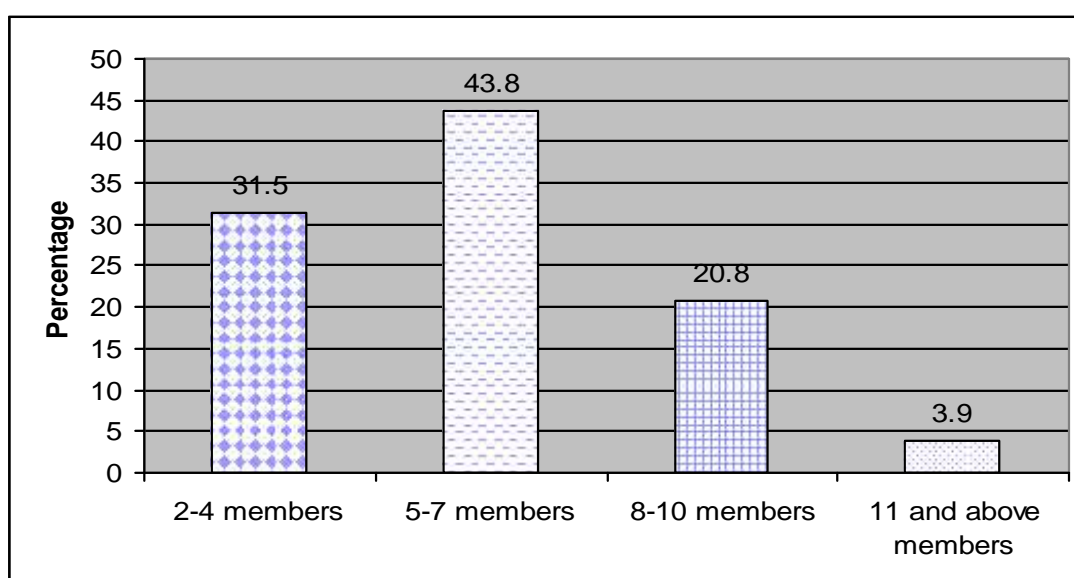


Figure 2 shows that highest percentage of migrant households (43.8 percent) has 5 to 7 members. The average household size is 5.39 which is almost consistent with national average of 5.55. Like wise, the households with joint families are also found in some extent. Households with number of members above 8 and 11 members account for 20.8 percent and 30.9 percent respectively.

3.1.2 Religion Composition

Religion has greater impact in the life of every people. Nepal is a Hindu country where 80 percent of the Nepalese people follow Hindu religion.

The generated survey data suggests that an overwhelming majority of the people (86 percent) of the study area are Hindu followed by Buddhist (7.6 percent), Islam (5.6 percent) and Christian (0.9 percent).

3.1.3 Caste/ Ethnic Composition

There are various caste/ethnic groups in the study area but most of the people are from Brahmin, Chhetri, Magar, Tharu, Gurung, Dalit and Newar ethnic groups. Brahmin and Chhetri have predominance over other ethnic/caste groups with more than 55 percent of the total population. It is due to the migratory phenomena which largely increased from hills to Tarai after government's resettlement program introduced in late 1960s which is going on an increase now a days also. The data of ethnic/caste groups with their population have been presented in table 10.

Figure 4: Percentage Distribution of the Population of Migrants' Households by Caste/Ethnic Composition

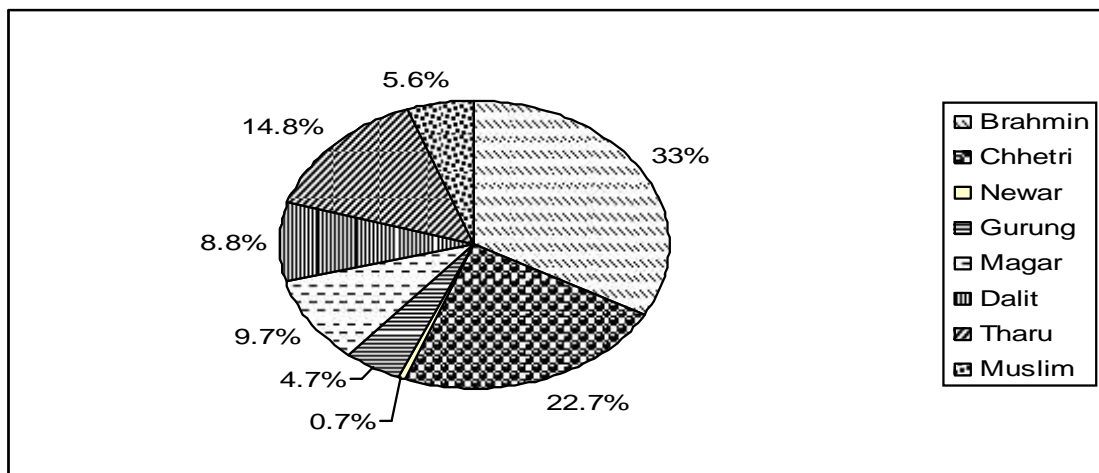


Figure 4 shows that the study area has the large percentage of Brahmin population (33 percent) followed by Chhetris (22.7 percent). The Tharus, who are also known as the natives of the Tarai from the early decades accounts for 14.8 percent. Significant numbers of Dalits also reside in the study area but their proportion is lower in comparison to other ethnic/caste groups. Newar, Gurung and Magar population occupy 15.1 percent of the total population followed by some Muslim population.

3.1.4 Literacy Status

In the context of education, the people of the study area are relatively developed. There is one government school and three private secondary schools with two 10+2 campuses which have played a vital role to uplift the literacy status and their educational attainment. During the field survey, it was observed that the number of people who have completed higher education is also significant. The reason is because of the youths migrating to urban centers like Butwal and Kathmandu for higher education.

As compared to the total literacy rate of 76 percent of the VDC (Nature, 2001), the literacy rate of the study area is 81.0 percent. As usual the male literacy rate is high comparison to female. The male literacy rate is 88.9 percent where as it is 73.9 percent for females. On the other hand, only 11.1 percent males are illiterate compared to 26 percent of the females which is shown in table 10.

Table 10: Distribution of the Population of the Migrants' Households by Literacy Status and Level of Education (5 years and above)

Literacy Status	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female			
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Literate	280	88.9	264	73.9	544	81.0
Illiterate	35	11.1	93	26.1	128	19.0
Total	315	100.0	357	100.0	672	100.0
Level of Education						
Primary	69	24.6	87	33.0	156	28.7
Secondary	131	46.8	131	49.6	262	48.2
Higher secondary and above	80	28.6	46	17.4	126	23.2
Total	280	100.0	264	100.0	544	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

Awareness towards education in the study area is basically to the fact that more people realized the importance of education in their daily life which has played a positive role to up lift the literacy rate. This factor resulted in the opening of schools in this ward and other ethnic/caste group also got benefited.

Table 10 shows the level of education of the literate population which indicates that 28.7 percent of the total population of the study area is literate with primary schooling. As the students who are studying in school at present have also been included in this data, therefore, the ratio is high. Almost every one in two persons (48.2 percent) is literate with secondary schooling. The people who acquired higher education account for 23.2 percent. The data shows that more females are educated in primary and secondary level but it slows down to higher secondary level. The reason behind this is due to the high drop out rate of females from schools than males. The social custom and tradition some how have played the vital role for this drop out which was observed during the field survey. Only 17.4 percent females in the study area have got chance to get the collage level education compared with 28.6 percent for males.

Table 11: Distribution of the Labour Migrants by Literacy Status and Level of Education

Literacy Status	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female			
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Literate	107	90.7	15	62.2	122	86.5
Illiterate	11	9.3	8	34.8	19	13.5
Total	118	100.0	23	100.0	141	100.0
Level of Education						
Primary	15	14.0	8	53.4	23	18.6
Secondary	63	58.9	6	40.0	69	56.8
Higher secondary and above	29	27.1	1	6.7	30	24.6
Total	107	100.0	15	100.0	122	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

Table 11 shows the educational status of the foreign labour migrants which indicates that an overwhelming majority of the migrant workers (86.5 percent) are literate. The proportion of literate male migrants is much higher than literate female migrants (90.7 percent vs 62.2 percent). The table also shows that among the literate migrant workers, 56.8 percent have secondary level of education whereas about one-fourth

have the level of education of higher secondary and above. Likewise, less than one-fourth of the migrant workers reported to have primary and lower secondary level of education respectively.

3.1.5 Living Standard

3.1.5.1 Housing Condition

The social status, the structure of land surface, climate, and the source of the income all these have effect on building a house. The study area is situated on the flat land of Tarai. Therefore, most of the houses have been constructed with bricks, cement and concretes, known as Pakki houses followed by some Kachchi and Ardha Pakki houses.

The generated survey data suggests that most of the households (73.1 percent) have Pakki houses and is followed by Kachchi with 13.8 percent and Ardha Pakki with 13.1 percent. During the field survey, it was observed that the main reason behind most of the people living in the Pakki houses is the remittance sent by the migrants who are abroad or were abroad for labour purpose. Another reason is the belief that the Pakki house shows the higher living standard of the people.

3.1.5.2 Condition of Toilet Facility

Often defecation has been a serious problem in rural area of Nepal and diseases associated with faecal contamination in soil and water is rampant in rural Nepal. The situation of the study area was also vulnerable during the last decades but because of the awareness programs run by different NGOs/INGOs and increasing literacy rate, most of the households of the study area have begun to make toilets attached with their houses. The society of the study area has given priority to make a toilet in each and every house.

The generated survey data suggests that however, 13.8 percent of the households in the study area do not have toilet, about four-fifth of the households (79.2 percent) have ordinary toilet followed by modern with flush with 6.9 percent. During the field survey, it was observed that the households who don't have toilet facilities belong to Tharu and the Dalit caste. Especially illiteracy and Poverty are the main reason behind

this. Another reason is that most of the Tharu households prefer to go outside near the river rather than inside the toilet for this purpose.

In the study area, there are also other modern facilities like furniture, gas stoves, television, vehicles, and telephones. The living standard of some households is like those of the urban areas and may be compared with the life-style of the Butwal municipality. The household who have a good source of income have higher living standard. The living standard of the households has changed drastically after the involvement of their family members in the foreign labour migration which is shown in table 12.

Table 12: Distribution of the Migrants' Households with Different Facilities (before and after) the Labour Migration

House-hold Particulars	Before				After				Total	
	Yes		No		Yes		No			
	HH	%	HH	%	HH	%	HH	%	HH	%
Furniture (Sofa, dining tables, cupboard)	38	29.2	92	70.8	113	86.9	17	13.1	130	100.0
Gas stove	59	45.4	71	54.6	98	75.4	32	24.6	130	100.0
TV, Radio, VCD	58	44.6	72	55.4	68	52.3	62	47.7	130	100.0
Vehicle (motorbike, car, bus)	5	3.8	125	96.2	20	15.4	110	84.6	130	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

Table 12 shows that there is a huge fluctuation in the household particulars in the study area, before going to foreign employment and after going to foreign employment. The households who did not have furniture were 70.8 percent before but it came down to 13.1 percent after going to foreign employment. Similarly, 54.6 percent of the households who did not have gas stove before were reduced to 24.6 percent after going to foreign employment. Similarly, the households with essential, expensive and luxurious materials like TV, Radio, VCD with only 44.6 percent before was lifted up to 52.3 percent after going to foreign employment. The percent of the households with vehicles was only 3.8 percent before which increased to 15.4 percent after going to foreign employment. Therefore, it can be concluded that the foreign labour migration has played a leading role to uplift the living standard of the migrant households of the study area.

3.1.6 Livestock Possession

Generally, agriculture is the main occupation of the study area with other occupations like foreign employment, service and some cottage industries. There is also along tradition of raring cattle for manure, milk, meat and for farming. They mostly keep buffalos, caws, goats, chickens and ducks. They have provision of separate sheds for the cattle apart from their houses. In the rural area of Nepal, people mainly keep cattle to evade the scarcity of manure and for the biogas for cooking purpose. Similarly, what kinds of livestock, the households keep in the study area are shown in table 13.

Table 13: Distribution of Cattle of the Migrants' Households

Number of Livestock	Buffalos		Cows		Goats		Chickens/Ducks		Pigs	
	No. of HH	%	No. of HH	%	No. of HH	%	No. of HH	%	No. of HH	%
1-2	46	65.7	33	78.5	26	35.6	8	17.4	3	50.0
3-4	18	25.7	8	19.1	26	35.6	8	17.4	3	50.0
5-6	5	7.1	1	2.4	13	17.8	12	26.1	-	-
7-8	1	1.4	-	-	7	9.6	12	26.1	-	-
>8	-	-	-	-	1	1.4	6	13.0	-	-
Total	70(157)	100.0	42(83)	100.0	73(250)	100.0	46(314)	100.0	6(14)	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

It is evident from table 13 that more than three-fourth of the households have kept some kind of livestock which include buffalos, cows, goats, chicken/ducks and pigs where as about one-fourth of the households reported that they haven't kept any kinds of livestock.

Similarly, most households have kept buffalos. It has been seen that altogether 70 households have 157 buffalos. The next main livestock is goat in the study area. Altogether 73 households have kept 250 goats. Generally, goat rearing is for extra income. Therefore, most of the households in the study area rear goats to sell. Chicken and ducks have been kept by 46 households numbering 314. The households have kept these cattle for the purpose of meat because they have to pay more money to buy meat during the festivals and for the guests. Cows have been kept by 42 households numbering 83. Although many households have kept cattle, they have kept them in a low numbers, especially numbering from 1-2.

3.1.7 Ownership of Land and Food Production

Generally, the study area lies in the flat land of the Tarai region. After the resettlement program introduced in the late 60s, most of the people from the hilly areas started migrating in these areas. They started to deforest the forest land and started cultivation for agricultural purposes (Nature, 2001). Therefore, most of the households of the study area some how have more or less agricultural land for farming. The size of land by their ownership is shown in table 14

Table 14: Distribution of the Migrants' Households by Ownership of Land

Land Holding Situation (in Kattha)	Own land	
	No. of HH	%
1-10	18	13.8
11-20	24	18.5
21-30	30	23.1
31-40	15	11.5
40 and above	26	20.0
Having no land/rented in	17	13.1
Total	130	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

Note: 20 katthas equal 1 bigha

1 bigha equals 0.68 hectares.

Table 14 shows that 23.1 percent of the households have 21-30 Katthas. Likewise, 18.5 percent have 11-20 Katthas where as 11.5 percent of the households have 31-40 Katthas land. The households with no land consists only 13 percent. Similarly, there is a tradition of renting land for agricultural purpose in the study area. The households who don't have enough manpower to farm their land rent out their land where as the households with no land rent in the land for farming especially for food and other purpose.

During the field survey, it was observed that most of the households have sufficient land or have rented land for cultivation and they don't have deficient of food product. But because of the traditional cultivation system and less interest on cultivation, food production from the land is somehow less.

Most of the households of the study area produce paddy, wheat, maize, mustard, potatoes and others. The seasonal crop like vegetable production is very less.

Although, there are high possibilities of market, but due to the lack of irrigation facilities and human resource, they are not interested of growing vegetables.

Table 15: Distribution of the Migrants' Households by Food Production

Food Production (in quintal)	Paddy		Maize		Wheat		Potato, Mustard	
	No. of HH	%	No. of HH	%	No. of HH	%	No. of HH	%
1-10	35	26.9	41	31.5	50	38.5	6	4.6
11-20	40	30.8	-	-	2	1.5	-	-
21-30	14	10.8	-	-	2	1.5	-	-
31-40	12	9.2	-	-	2	1.5	-	-
41 and above	20	15.4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Having no production	9	6.9	89	68.5	74	56.9	124	95.4
Total	130	100.0	130	100.0	130	100.0	130	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

Note: 1 quintal equals 100 kg.

Table 15 shows that more than one-half of the households with land produce Paddy ranging from 11 to 40 quintals. Among 130 households, more than one-fourth of the households (26.9 percent) produce 1 to 10 quintals where as more than 41 quintals is produced by 15.4 percent households. The households having no production account for only 6.9 percent of the total households.

The second main production of the study area is wheat. About two-fifth of the households (38.5 percent) produce wheat ranging from 1 to 10 quintals where as 56.9 percent of the households do not produce paddy as a whole. Only 31.5 percent of the households produce maize. The production of potato and mustard constitute only 4.6 percent.

Table 16: Distribution of the Migrants' Households by Status of Food Sufficiency

Sufficient Condition	No. of HH	%
Sufficient throughout the year	91	70.0
Sufficient for 8 months	17	13.1
Sufficient for six month	9	6.9
Sufficient for less than 6 months	4	3.1
Buying whole year	9	6.9
Total	130	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

Table 16 shows that the majority of the households (70 percent) can maintain their livelihood in whole year by self-product. Likewise, 6.9 percent of the household have to purchase food during whole year. It means that they have extremely less cultivating land or no land and these households cannot maintain their livelihood even a month by self product. Similarly, 6.9 percent of the households can maintain their livelihood for six months by self product and followed by 13.1 percent for eight months. Although more households can maintain their livelihood by self-product throughout the year, it was observed that the costs of other materials are on the rise which has made difficult to maintain their minimal living standard. Therefore, the people of the study area are being interested in going for foreign employment.

3.2 Migration in the Study Area

3.2.1 Volume of Migration

Migration is not only a problem of the study area but also a problem of the whole nation. In the study area too, the number of foreign labour migrants are on an increase. Several people have gone abroad to up lift their economic condition and to maintain livelihood for their households. In table 17, only those migrants who are still abroad and connected with employment have been included and those migrants who were employed abroad in the past and have returned back have not been included.

Table 17: Distribution of the Labour Migrants by Volume of Migration

Sex	Total Population Including Absentees		Absent Migrants	
	N	%	N	%
Male	393	50.6	63	8.2
Female	384	49.4	13	1.6
Total	777	100.0	76	9.8

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

Table 17 shows that foreign labour migrants as percent of the total population constitute 9.8 percent, 8.1 percent males and 1.6 percent females respectively of the total population which shows that the volume of migration abroad for livelihood is very high in the study area.

3.2.2 Destination of Migration

Migrant workers of the study area have gone to different countries for employment. Table 18 shows that the destination of the foreign migrants is confined to five Gulf countries, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arab, United Arab Emirates (UAE) followed by eight Asian countries which include Israel, Iraq, Japan, Malaysia, South Korea, Singapore Afghanistan and Hongkong. Remaining three countries of destination of the migrants are some European countries like Spain, Belgium and United Kingdom (UK). Highest percentage of migrants (53.9 percent) have their destination to Gulf countries followed by Malaysia (27 percent) of the total migrants. The remaining 19 percent have their destination to other countries which mainly include South Korea, Hongkong, Israel, Iraq, Belgium, UK and Singapore. In table 18, both the migrants who are still abroad and those who were employed abroad in the past and have returned back have been included.

Table 18: Distribution of the Labour Migrants by Their Counties of Destination

Destinations	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female			
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Malaysia	36	30.5	2	8.7	38	27.0
Saudi Arab	20	16.9	10	43.5	30	21.3
UAE	19	16.1	2	8.7	21	14.9
Qatar	14	11.9	2	8.7	16	11.3
South Korea	8	6.8	-	0.0	8	5.7
Kuwait	3	2.5	4	17.4	7	5.0
Hang Kong	4	3.4	-	-	4	2.8
Israel	-	-	3	13.0	3	2.1
Belgium	2	1.7	-	-	2	1.4
Iraq	2	1.7	-	-	2	1.4
Japan	2	1.7	-	-	2	1.4
Oman	2	1.7	-	-	2	1.4
Singapore	2	1.7	-	-	2	1.4
UK	2	1.7	-	-	2	1.4
Afghanistan	1	0.8	-	-	1	0.7
Spain	1	0.8	-	-	1	0.7
Total	118	100.0	23	100.0	141	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

Table 18 shows that among 141 migrants, an overwhelming majority of the migrants are males as compared to the females. Majority of the migrants including both males and females have seen chosen their destination to the Gulf countries followed by

Malaysia. Among 23 female migrants, 16 migrants or 70 percent have chosen their destination to Gulf countries where as it is 49.2 percent numbering 58 persons for males. Malaysia alone has also been the popular destination for the male migrants followed by South Korea. Beside this, the European countries have also become the destination of few migrants of the study area.

In this way, it seems that the Gulf countries and Malaysia have become the ultimate destination of foreign employment for the migrants. Although the government has not still yet provided the final approval for the female migrants to work in the Gulf countries, it was observed that most of them go there illegally through India and third countries by contacting the local brokers, agents and also through their friends. After the foreign employment contract from the Government of Nepal with government of Israel, the trend of Nepalese female migrants going to Israel is also on the rise.

Since few years back, the government of Malaysia and Gulf countries had been demanding Nepalese workers. Because of which large number of Nepalese migrant workers are going to Malaysia and Gulf countries. During the interview with the returnees and migrant households, it was found that the type of work, climate and culture and especially cheap travel cost are the reasons why Nepali workers migrate to Malaysia and other Gulf countries.

On the other side, the people with higher income and high level of education endeavours to go America and the European countries. Although the migrants should pay more money for this country but they dream the prospect of earning more money. Legally or illegally, anyhow the youths of middle and high class choose these countries for their destination.

3.2.3 Causes of Migration

There may be various reasons behind migration. Because of the social and economic compulsion and self-motivation and individual decision, people migrate abroad for employment temporarily and permanently, that is for short or long duration. Moreover people from the study area have been migrating abroad to improve their economic condition since last two decades and there are many other individual reasons behind migration. The causes of migration by sex in the study area are presented in table 19.

Table 19: Distribution of the Labour Migrants by Reasons for Foreign Labour Migration

Reasons	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female		N	%
	N	%	N	%		
Unemployment	57	48.3	6	26.1	63	44.7
Poverty	20	16.9	4	17.4	24	17.0
Lack of opportunity	17	14.4	7	30.4	24	17.0
Indebtedness	15	12.7	2	8.7	17	12.1
Land pressure	5	4.2	2	8.7	7	5.0
Less inclination on agriculture	2	1.7	2	8.7	4	2.8
Present political condition	2	1.7	-	-	2	1.4
Total	118	100.0	23	100.0	141	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

Table 19 shows that unemployment, poverty and lack of opportunity are the major reasons for most of the labour migrants. Reasons of migration for 45 percent labour migrants were unemployment. During the interview with the returnees and migrant households, they stated that opportunity of employment is extremely limited in the country, which have compelled them to go abroad for foreign employment. About one-half of the males and more than one-fourth of the females expressed that unemployment is the main cause behind the labour migration.

Similarly, 17 percent of the labour migrants had migrated due to poverty, weak economic condition and lack of opportunity respectively. The proportion of male and female migrants expressing poverty and weak economic condition as the main reasons of migration is almost similar, 17 percent and 16.9 percent respectively. In this way, poverty has become one of the main reasons for going to foreign employment. Likewise, during the interview, the returnees stated that they are not able to find opportunities to improve the living standard as per the level of education in their home country which has compiled them to migrate abroad for better livelihood.

Out of the labour migrants 12.1 percent had migrated due to indebtedness. During the interview with the returnees and migrant households, they expressed that many of the households borrow money or loan from the banks and other individuals for agriculture and other purposes but they are unable to pay the money back due to high interest.

This has compelled them to migrate abroad to earn money and pay back their loans. Only 5 percent of the labour migrants had migrated due to land pressure. Likewise, negligible number of labour migrants, only 1.4 percent had migrated due to present political condition.

Besides this, other reasons have also compelled people to go for foreign labour migration. They are less inclination to involve in cultivation and to imitate other's living standard etc. During the field survey in the present research, the inclination of youths in cultivation was found extremely low in the study area. Due to the less inclination on cultivation and lack of employment in their own villages, the foreign employment has emerged as the ultimate alternative.

3.2.4 Impact of Migration

Migration influences equally both sides of migration that is in the place of origin and place of destination. Influences may be positive or negative. Migration also influences directly or indirectly on the living standard, livelihood, society and culture of the human beings (Subedi, 1993). All of these aspects have been examined in the present research study. Accordingly in the study area, 54 percent of the respondents had expressed their attitudes about the influences of migration while 46 percent did not respond or they were reluctant to express.

During the interview with returnees and migrant households and focus group discussion with political workers, social workers, students and housewives, people expressing their views about the influences of migration expressed that, foreign employment has been the main reason behind the improvement in the economic condition of the households. In this case, if there had been no demand for Nepali workers as foreign labour migrants, there would have been extreme difficulties to maintain their livelihood at present situation. People of the study area have positive attitude towards foreign employment from the viewpoint of employment and livelihood. Likewise, the other positive impacts are inflow of remittance from foreign countries, knowledge and commands on various skills, to know about custom, culture language, lifestyle and economic and social development about the foreign countries where Nepali migrants worked. From their earning from foreign employment, they have been able to spend or donate a small amount for the social activities in the study

area. It has been taken as positive impact. Likewise, during the focus group discussion and interview many of the people had expressed their views on behalf of negative impact of foreign employment.

During the focus group discussion and interview, they expressed that the main negative impact of foreign employment has been on agriculture. Generally, the youths of the study area have extremely less inclination to pursue agriculture as their occupation. Moreover, large scale migration of youth for employment within and outside the country has affected agriculture due to the shortage of labour, because the low caste communities like Damai, Sarki and Kami who were available as wage labour particularly for agriculture and other activities in general are also migrating from the study area within and outside the country.

Similarly, during the focus group discussion and interview, it was revealed that the worst impact of foreign employment is the increasing dependency of that whole family over the earning of a member from foreign labour migration for their households expenses. The family has to arrange for necessary expenses in order to send the family member for foreign labour migration. They have to borrow money with very high interest rate with the hope that within few years time the loan will be paid back with interest from the earning from foreign employment. In certain cases the result become disastrous due to various unforeseen incidents and reasons and the family will have to repay the loan by selling their land and other properties.

People also expressed that other negative impact is the cheating done by the broker and the manpower agencies. In the place of work they are not provided the amount of salary to cover required cheating by the broker and such cheating has ruined the economic condition of the people who want to go abroad. The broker demands them pre-payment while going abroad and cheats the whole amount as well. Such cheating by the broker has ruined some people of the study area. Consequently, they are being compelled to carry the extra load of credit. They have been bearing up many difficulties to refund the credits.

Likewise, after returning from foreign employment, they have a nature of spending more money and adopt urban culture in society. They usually spend the remittances not in the village, but in market centers and town and as a result the villages remain

backward in many aspects. Due to such impacts, the original culture and tradition of the study area are on the verge of extinction.

Anyway, there are both negative and positive impacts of foreign employment but it has become an alternative way of employment for the youths of present society. During the focus group discussion, it was concluded that the proper monitoring and management of the foreign labour migration as well as technical skill training and employment generation within the country can derive benefit both the youths within the country and those going abroad for employment.

3.2.5 Attitudes towards Labour Migration

People of the study area expressed their diverse attitudes towards foreign labour migration which is clear from table 20.

Table 20: Distribution of the Migrants' Households by Attitudes towards Labour Migration

Attitudes	Head of the Household				Total	
	Sex					
	Male		Female		N	%
	N	%	N	%		
Positive	48	44.0	7	33.3	55	42.3
Negative	32	29.4	9	42.9	41	31.5
Neutral	29	26.6	5	23.8	34	26.2
Total	109	100.0	21	100.0	130	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

Table 20 shows that among 130 household heads, the highest percentage of the households (42.3 percent) have positive attitudes towards foreign labour migration. The head of the households belonging to males have more positive attitudes than females (44.0 percent vs 33.3 percent). During the focus group discussion with political workers, social workers, students and housewives and interview with the returnees and migrant households, people who have positive thinking towards labour migration, expressed that, due to the scarcity of employment and weak economic conditions, people have been compelled to go abroad for employment. Therefore, labour migration is considered as only right solution of these problems.

In the focus group discussion and interview, people expressed their views in favour of labour migration due to massive unemployment in the villages and resulting adverse impact on society. Increasing number of unemployed youth is, of course, not good for any society. Unemployment brings many negative impacts in the society like violence, murder, quarrel, looting, pollution etc. Foreign employment has prevented to some extent such unhealthy and unsocial impacts. Foreign employment has been playing the main role in alleviating poverty and improving economic condition. The positive aspect is the high salary and possibilities of saving money abroad as compared to low wage and salary with no saving at all. Owing to these causes, people have positive attitude towards foreign employment.

Likewise, 31.5 percent of the household heads have negative attitudes towards foreign labour migration. The head of the households belonging to females have more negative attitudes than males (42.9 percent vs 29.4 percent). During the focus group discussion and interview, people expressing negative attitudes towards foreign employment stated that the main negative impact is to miss their family for long period. Likewise, hard work, low salary and wages, drain of the enterprising youth abroad results in increase in the neglect of the village and the country, selfishness etc were considered as the negative impact of foreign employment. People again expressed their view that if the Nepali youth power could be used in the country instead of sending them abroad, it would contribute in the development of the country. Moreover, there is no prestige and reputation in working abroad like in ones own country. Moreover, the migrant workers had been responsible for bringing several dangerous diseases in the village.

Similarly, 26.2 percent of the household heads have neutral attitudes, that is, neither they have positive nor negative attitudes towards foreign labour migration.

3.3 Financial Management for Foreign Employment

People of the study area have to face many difficulties to manage money for foreign employment. As the household economy of the study area is weak, therefore, they have to manage the cost of covering the expenses for foreign employment from different sources. The low and middle class households have to borrow money from

local money lenders. The people manage money for foreign employment in the following ways.

Table 21: Sources of Financial Management

Source	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female		N	%
	N	%	N	%		
Taking loan with interest	55	46.6	11	47.8	66	46.8
Mortgaging of land	24	20.3	7	30.4	31	22.0
Borrowing with relatives without interest	22	18.6	3	13.0	25	17.7
Self- finance	14	11.9	1	4.3	15	10.6
Not stated	3	2.5	1	4.3	4	2.8
Total	118	100.0	23	100.0	141	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

Although a large amount of money is required, people manage anyhow the large amount of money to join in foreign employment which is elaborated below:

3.3.1 Self- finance

It requires huge financial resource to go to foreign countries. Therefore, the people who could go with their own financial sources are very few in the study area. Table 24 shows that only 10.6 percent of the total migrants numbering 15 have gone abroad through self-finance. The percentage of male migrants going abroad through self-finance is higher with 11.9 percent whereas only one female migrant have gone abroad through self- finance. During the focus group discussion with political workers, social workers, students and housewives and interview with the returnees and migrant households, they expressed that males are engaged in some type of work in the villages or in the urban areas from where they receive some amount of money and invest for foreign employment.

In this context, the respondents that have a retired life and have returned from foreign employment hesitated to elaborate how they managed the money. But the young generation has gone abroad from their parents saving also. A few numbers of persons have gone abroad through self finance from rural areas of Nepal. In reality, they do not have capacity to invest huge amount of money for foreign employment through self finance so they have to arrange through other sources.

3.3.2 Mortgaging of Land and Properties

Mortgaging the land ownership certificates and properties is also a source of getting money on loan to go to foreign employment. During the focus group discussion and interview, people expressed that the tradition of taking loan by mortgaging land and properties is very old in Nepal. The banks and cooperative institutions help migrants for such transaction deeds. But the debtors should pay the interest. Accordingly in the study area, more than one-fourth of the migrants (22 percent) have gone abroad through such agreements with the banks and cooperatives. The percentage of the male migrants going abroad by such process accounts for 20.3 percent numbering 24 whereas it is 30.4 percent numbering 7 for females. Some of the migrants have mortgaged their property and land with the local money lender.

3.3.3 Taking Loan with Interest

Most of the foreign migrants of the study area have gone abroad by taking loan. Before going, the foreign migrants borrow the loans from creditors with a very high interest rate. The percentage of migrants borrowing money for the agreement of foreign employment is 46.8 percent. The proportion of male and female migrants going abroad by taking loan is almost same.

During the focus group discussion with political workers, social workers, students and housewives and interview with the returnees and migrant households, people expressed that generally, migrants take loan on 2 to 5 percent of interest per month. Migrants of the study area are being compelled to bear the high interest on loan due to the scarcity of alternative way of employment. Although they go abroad by taking loans but they do not get a good salary there. Consequently, they cannot save enough money to repay the creditors. Migrants go abroad with the expectation of earning money but they become victim of the burden of heavy amount of money including interest. Such kinds of examples are somehow found in the study area.

3.3.4 Borrowing with Relatives without Interest

In the study area, foreign migrants have also borrowed without paying any interest with their relatives to go abroad. Such migrants have been encouraged and assisted by their relatives and such group of migrants account for 17.7 percent. The proportion of

male migrants going abroad by borrowing money with relatives without interest is a little bit higher than female migrants (18 percent vs 13 percent). Besides this, 2.8 percent of the migrants did not state about the sources of financial management for foreign employment.

In this way, foreign migrant workers of the study area have embraced many sources to invest on foreign employment but some of them have not earned as much money abroad as they have invested which was expressed during the focus group discussion and interview. Besides the high class peoples and some middle class, no one has gone abroad with self investment or with the source of self finance. Most of foreign migrants of the study area have invested the amount for foreign employment by taking loans.

3.3.5 Amount of Money Spent for Going to Foreign Employment

The amount of money spent on foreign employment depends particularly on the individual countries of destination. The investment cost is very high and expensive for European countries and USA as well as for some Asian countries where as the investment cost to Gulf countries and Malaysia is a little bit cheaper. But there are differences as per the types of work, sponsor companies and organizing companies.

During the focus group discussion with political workers, social workers, students and housewives and interview with the returnees and migrant households, people expressed that generally the brokers make contact to the workers in rural areas in contact with the manpower agencies related with foreign employment and the foreign employment agencies fulfill the demand of Nepali workers abroad. In this connection, agencies and brokers demand commission with the aspirant migrant workers. The investment cost of foreign employment become very expensive including commission of broker and manpower agency. Table 22 shows spent amount by the migrant workers for going to foreign employment.

Table 22: Distribution of the Labour Migrants by Amount of Money Spent

Invested Amount of Money (in 000 Rs.)	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female			
	N	%	N	%	N	%
<100	58	49.2	15	65.2	73	51.8
100-150	27	22.9	5	21.7	32	22.7
150-200	11	9.3	-	-	11	7.8
200-250	6	5.1	-	-	6	4.3
250-300	4	3.4	-	-	4	2.8
300-350	2	1.7	2	8.7	4	2.8
350-400	2	1.7	1	4.3	3	2.1
400 and above	8	6.8	-	-	8	5.7
Total	118	100	23	100.0	141	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

Table 22 shows that highest percentage of foreign migrant workers (51.8 percent) have spent below Rs. 100,000/- which shows that Gulf countries and Malaysia have been the popular destination of most of the foreign migrant workers. The proportion of male migrants who spent less than Rs. 100,000/- is a little bit higher than female migrants, 65.2 percent and 49.2 percent respectively. It is because most of the female migrant workers have been migrated to Gulf countries especially Saudi Arab, Kuwait, Qatar and UAE where as the males migrating abroad are scattered among different countries. During the interview with the returnees and migrant households, they expressed that although there is no work permit for the Nepalese female workers to go to Gulf countries, they usually fly over there from India and third countries through brokers, agents and their friends too.

Similarly, 22.7 percent have spent between Rs. 100,000/- to Rs. 150,000/- to go abroad among the total migrants. The proportion of the male migrants spending between Rs.100,000/- to Rs. 150,000 is a little bit higher than the female migrants. Only 7.8 percent of the total migrants have spent between Rs. 150,000/- to Rs. 200,000/- followed by 4.3 percent spending between Rs. 200,000/- to Rs. 250,000/-. Only 5.7 percent of the migrants have spent Rs. 400,000/- and above. The migrants from the study area who have gone abroad by spending more than Rs. 400,000/- constitute developed countries like United Kingdom, Belgium, Spain, and some other Asian countries. Although there is no work permit for the Nepali workers in these countries, it was revealed that the migrants go there by paying more money and commission to the local broker and agents of the foreign employment agency.

In this way, migrants of the study area have gone to foreign countries investing from minimum of Rs. 100,000/- and they are doing hard work abroad with the expectation of bright future reforming house economy as well as maintaining their household's livelihood.

3.3.6 Deception in the Process of Migration

The incident of people deceived on the process of foreign employment is not new in Nepal. The brokers allure the innocent people of the villages: make them convinced in going for foreign employment. Then they demand from them pre-payment and deceive huge amount (Ale, 2004). Several cases of such cheating have come through the news. The brokers have deceived them in different ways. In this case, people go abroad depending on assurance of salary, type of work, facilities as provide by the brokers without taking full information. Consequently, they become victims of cheating and this has been the major mistake of the people of the study area.

During the interview with returnees and migrant households, they expressed that in some condition, foreign employment has ruined some of the migrants of the study area. Most of them have complained about their job. As per the agreement, an employer agency has not given the job accordingly signed in the agreement paper to the workers. The migrant workers, who have been to Gulf countries and Malaysia, have expressed such complaints more than those going to other countries. According to them, some foreign employers do not give the payment until six months. They also complain the hateful behaviours of their employer. Nevertheless, the broker has put more people to distress. The manpower agencies entrust the whole dealings to the broker and commission agents; consequently, they take advantage of the innocent people of rural areas as well as urban areas. Table 23 illustrates the ways in which the migrants have been deceived in the process of going to foreign employment.

Table 23: Channels Deceiving the Labour Migrants in the Process of Migration

Channels	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female		N	%
	N	%	N	%		
Local broker/agent	12	41.4	3	42.9	15	41.7
Company of working place	11	37.9	3	42.9	14	38.9
Man power agency	5	17.2	1	14.3	6	16.7
Friends	1	3.4	-	-	1	2.8
Total	29	100.0	7	100.0	36	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

Table 23 shows that the commission agents and brokers have deceived many of the migrants. Among 36 migrants who were deceived in the process of going abroad and working there, 15 migrants were deceived by the brokers and commission agents. Likewise, female migrants were found deceived more by local brokers and agents rather than other channels. Because of the illegal route used by the female migrants to go abroad, they are more deceived by the brokers and agents. The companies where the migrants worked and are still working have deceived 14 of the total 36 deceives migrants. Similarly manpower agency stands in the third position in terms of deceiving the migrants going abroad which accounts for 10.6 percent. These types of deceiving have put many people of the study area economically distressed.

3.3.7 Amount of Money Deceived in the Process of Going to Foreign Employment

In the context of foreign employment, several Nepali people have lost millions of rupees because of deceiving by the brokers and other institutions. During the focus group discussion with political workers, social workers, students and housewives, and interview with the returnees and migrant households, people expressed that many youths of the study area have also lost the big amount of money in the context of giving money to the brokers for foreign employment and not getting the promised salary agreed with the manpower company abroad which has to be provided by the company they have worked. Table 24 shows the deceived amount of money from the migrants of the study area.

Table 24: Amount of Money Deceived

Amount (in 000 Rs.)	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female			
	N	%	N	%	N	%
0-20	4	13.8	0	-	4	11.1
20-40	5	17.2	0	-	5	13.9
40-60	5	17.2	3	42.9	8	22.2
60-80	-	-	1	14.3	1	2.8
80-100	5	17.2	2	28.6	7	19.4
100-120	4	13.8	-	-	4	11.1
120 and above	6	20.7	1	14.3	7	19.4
Total	29	100.0	7	100.0	36	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

Table 24 shows that highest percentage of migrants (37.2 percent) have been deceived between Rs. 1,000/- to Rs. 60,000/-. Among the deceived female migrants, 3 migrants have been deceived between Rs. 60,000/- to Rs. 80,000/-. This type of deceiving includes the ones done by the brokers because the females are compelled to use the illegal route to migrate where as the proportion of deceiving for the male migrants is scattered. Nearly one-half of the male migrants have been deceived between Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 60,000/- who are mostly deceived by the brokers and the manpower agencies. The number of the migrants deceived between Rs. 60,000/- to Rs. 120,000/- and above accounts for more than one-half of the total deceived migrants. This type of deceiving includes those migrants who were deceived by the company they have worked or are working and those who intended to go abroad in more developed countries illegally where there is no work permit which was revealed during the interview with the returnees and migrant households.

3.4 Remittance and its Influences on Household Economy and Livelihood

Remittance refers to that proportion of migrant's earnings sent from migration destination to the place of origin. The term "remittances" is normally limited to monetary and other cash sent by migrant workers to their families and communities and does not include the kinds and gift transfer (cited in Adhikari and Suwal, 2007).

The remittances of foreign employment have been contributing to the Nepalese economy as well as household economy for many years. The remittance of foreign employment has improved economic condition of many households in both rural and

urban areas of Nepal. The remittance has not only been contributing to household economy but it has also been the main source of the foreign exchange earning in Nepal. It will not be exaggeration to state that the economy of Nepal depends on foreign remittances. The foreign migrants bring approximately Rs. 97.7 billions in Nepal per year as remittance (NRB, 2007).

The remittances of course influence the living standard of people and their livelihood. People fulfill all their needs if there is good source of income. It is also a nature of mankind to lead a better life by earning more. If a person has a good income, he can definitely improve and change his living standard. Moreover, he can improve his economy as well as reputation and status in the society (Ale, 2004).

In the context of the study area, the contribution of remittances in transforming and improving the household economy is mainly confined to most of the households. During the field survey, it was observed that the households of foreign migrants were economically and socially more better off than those of the non migrants. During the focus group discussion and interview, people expressed that the remittance has not only supported to maintain their livelihood, for e.g., paying school fees, buying essential goods but have been able to lead a life of comfort with different facilities like modern kitchen and household appliances, refrigerator, television, telephone, private vehicles and others. Some of them have migrated to the urban area like Butwal. The remittance has contributed to the education of their children. Some families with higher remittance have sent their children to private collages and schools in the cities. Therefore foreign remittances have not only influenced the economic condition of households, but also provided the insight to look after the future of their children.

3.4.1 Procedures of Sending Remittances

The foreign migrants send their remittances to their households through different methods which is clear from table 25.

Table 25: Distribution of the Labour Migrants by Procedures of Sending Remittances

Procedures	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female		N	%
	N	%	N	%		
Bank	80	67.8	8	34.8	88	62.4
Hundi	35	29.7	13	56.5	48	34.0
Friends/Colleague	3	2.5	2	8.7	5	3.5
Total	118	100.0	23	100.0	141	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

Table 25 shows that majority of the migrants (62.4 percent) send their remittances through bank. The proportion of males sending remittances through bank is higher for males than females, (68.7 percent vs 38.4 percent). During the interview, people expressed that the female migrants going abroad are illiterate and they do not know the procedures to sent money through bank.

The next remitting system is hundi, an informal channel to send money in Nepal by migrant workers to be delivered to their relatives. Among the total migrants, 34 percent send their remittance through hundi. More than one-half of the female migrants (56.5 percent) and 29.7 percent of the male migrants have adopted this procedure to send their remittances. Only 3.5 percent of the total migrants send their remittance through their friends and colleague. In this remitting system, their friends and colleagues help them to carry the remittances to Nepal. Through this system, the risk of loss and or theft is, however, are high and it is not available at every time. These are the reasons why very few migrants send their remittances through this system.

3.4.1.1 Income of Foreign Migrants

The income and salary of foreign migrants may be different in accordance with their destination and type of work they choose. The destination has mainly influenced the salary and income of labour migrants. In this case, the migrants of European countries, South Korea, Hongkong, Israel and Singapore get the highest wages and salaries in the comparison to Gulf countries and Malaysia.

During the focus group discussion with political workers, social workers, students, and housewives and interview with the returnees and the migrant households, people

expressed that most of the Nepali migrant workers get up to Rs. 10,000/- per month in Malaysia and Gulf countries and the migrants getting Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 20,000/- per month are in few numbers in Malaysia and Gulf countries. The migrants getting the monthly salary more than Rs. 10,000/- in these countries are those who have worked there for a long period of time and who have satisfied the employer of the company. Similarly, Nepalese migrant workers get Rs. 20,000/- to Rs. 30,000/- and Rs. 30,000/- to Rs. 40,000/- in Israel, Afghanistan and Iraq who have not provided the work permit but reached there through illegal channels and in the Gulf countries for those only who are skilled and have got job in the renowned and reputed companies. The migrants who get monthly salary more than Rs. 40,000/- are those who are working and have worked in some developed Asian countries like Japan, Hongkong, Singapore, South Korea and some European countries. Table 26 shows the monthly salary of the migrant workers who are working abroad and who worked abroad and have returned back to their own country.

Table 26: Distribution of the Labour Migrants by Monthly Salary

Monthly Salary (in 000 Rs.)	Male		Female		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
<10	44	37.3	12	52.2	56	39.9
10-20	30	25.4	8	34.8	38	27.0
20-30	13	11.0	-	-	13	9.2
30-40	11	9.3	-	-	11	7.8
40-50	7	5.9	3	13.0	10	7.1
50-60	7	5.9	-	-	7	5.0
60 and above	6	5.1	-	-	6	4.3
Total	118	100.0	23	100.0	141	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

Table 26 shows that about two-fifth of the migrant workers (39.9 percent) get their salaries less than Rs. 10,000/- per month. The proportion of female migrants is higher than males (52.5 percent vs 37.3 percent). During the interview, people expressed that most of the female migrants are unskilled and thus are working as domestic helpers or household workers abroad. Likewise, 27 percent of the total migrants get salaries between Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 20,000/- which is followed by 9.2 percent of the migrants getting salaries between Rs. 20,000/- to Rs. 30,000/-. The table also shows that more than 24 percent of the total migrants get their monthly salaries between Rs. 30,000/-

and Rs. 60,000/- and above. The proportion of male migrants is higher than female migrants (21.1 percent vs 13.0 percent).

During the focus group discussion with political workers, social workers, students and housewives and interview with the returnees and migrant households, they expressed that although the Nepalese migrant workers earn more in the foreign countries, they fail to send all of their earnings to their houses. It depends on the behaviour of the individual. Though the labourers, who go to the developed countries get handsome salaries, they fail to save much as they have to adjust themselves with the lifestyle of those countries. Surprisingly, the migrant labourers, who go to Gulf countries, tend to save the major portions of their earnings as the laws are very strict in these countries. However, the young people tend to go for foreign employment; they tend to get themselves indulged in various means of pleasure. Consequently, they can't earn as well as they save as much as they wish. That's why they don't like to open their mouth and tell lies about their salaries, expenses and savings. Table 27 shows the amount of the income send by the workers in the home country as the remittances:

Table 27: Distribution of the Labour Migrants by Amount of Remittances Received

Amount of Income (in 000 Rs.)	Male		Female		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
<100	14	11.9	6	26.1	20	14.2
100-500	47	13.8	13	56.5	60	42.6
500-1000	15	12.7	2	8.7	17	12.1
1000-1500	10	8.5	-	-	10	7.1
1500-2000	3	2.5	-	-	3	2.1
2000-2500	3	2.5	-	-	3	2.1
2500 and above	12	10.2	-	-	12	8.5
Not Stated	14	11.9	2	8.7	16	11.3
Total	118	100.0	23	100.0	141	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

Table 27 shows that 42.6 percent of the total migrant workers of the study area have the level of income between sRs. 100,000/- to Rs. 500,000/-. The proportion of the females having the level of income between Rs. 100,000/- to Rs. 500,000/- is higher than males (56.5 percent vs 39.8 percent). Likewise, 14.2 percent of the total migrants have the level of income below Rs. 100,000/-. These are the migrants who have just

gone abroad or have returned in a short period of time or are provided with very low salaries.

During the interview with the returnees and migrant households, people expressed that as majority of the Nepalese migrant labourers have gone to the Gulf and Malaysia, they get poor salaries than others and it directly affects their income. For example, a migrant labourer, who works in Malaysia for three years, earns not more than Rs 300,000/- to Rs. 400,000/- after subtracting the invested amount but if they find the over time facilities they earn a little bit more than that income. Among the total migrants, 12.1 percent have the level of income between Rs. 500,000/- to Rs 10,000,00/-. The proportion of males who have the level of income between these amounts is higher for males than females (12.7 percent vs 8.7 percent). Likewise, 11.3 percent of the migrants have the level of income between Rs. 10,000,00/- to Rs 25,000,00/- and 25,000,00/-. These are the migrants who have gone to the developed and more developed countries.

So far, during the household survey, 11.3 percent of the total respondents did not state about the income from the remittance due to security reasons.

3.4.2 Use of Remittances

The purpose of using remittances depends on the need of the households. However, the foreign migrant workers and their household use the remittances mainly for three purposes. During the focus group discussion with political workers, social workers, students and housewives and interview with the returnees and migrant households, people expressed that the first purpose is to fulfill the essential needs like food, clothing, health, fuel and transportation as well as to spend on other house expenses and pay the debt. The second purpose of using remittance is to lend on interest and to save or deposit in the bank, to invest in the children's education etc. and the third purpose of using the remittances is to purchase land, construct new house and to invest on business.

In Nepal, most of the households of the migrant workers depend on the remittance for their livelihood. During the focus group discussion and interview, people expressed that most of the households give the first priority to cover the basic needs and house expenses. Some of them who have large remittances invest on the small business or

lend money to other an interest, buy land, construct the houses, invest in the children's higher education or buy cattle or invest on productive works, which further become the extra sources of income. But in case of most of families, the remittance is just enough to cover their basis essential needs. Very few of them invest the remittance for the long term purpose. Most of the households spend money on children's education by reducing their individual needs with the expectation and desire that their children could be capable to find out a good job in the country itself. They are aware of the pangs and disgrace they have to bear during their service in the foreign country. If some households manage to save a little of remittance then they also use it for fulfilling the individual needs. It is also used to buy ornaments and gold. Similarly, purchasing land for food and constructing a beautiful house is the dream of every foreign migrant worker (Ale, 2004). Table 28 shows how the remittance is used in different areas which are earned by the migrant workers abroad.

Table 28: Distribution of the Migrants' Households by Use of Remittances

Remittance used Areas	No. of HH	Percent
Buying land	68	52.3
House build	70	53.8
Education	74	56.9
Health	74	56.9
Buying foods and clothes	80	61.5
Payment of debt	82	63.1
Saving/providing loan	26	20.0
Marriage/buying vehicles	20	15.4

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

Note: percent total may exceed 100 due to multiple responses

Table 28 shows that the top priority of remittance in the study area is to pay debt of their families and to maintain livelihood. In the interview with the returnees and migrant households, people expressed that the money which they landed from others while going abroad and for the family purposes are paid after they start sending the remittances to their families. Among 130 households, 82 households responded that they used some amount of their remittances to pay their debt.

Similarly, most of the households of foreign migrants have used the remittance to meet the daily essential things and expenses like food, clothing, education and health.

Majority of the households numbering 80 among 130 households expressed their views that they have used some amount of the remittances for buying food and clothes, 74 households each for children's education and health purpose. After the house expenses and the basic needs, they have used the remittances in the long-term purpose like building house, buying land and saving/providing loan. Like-wise, 70 house holds stated that they used the remittances for building a new house while 68 households expressed that they have invested the remittances for buying land. Only 26 households stated that they have their deposited the money in the banks or have provided loads to other. The number is low because most of the households hesitated to express that they have saved or provided loans because of the security reasons during the field survey. Few households numbering 20 stated other reasons for using the remittances with include buying vehicles, investing on cultivation, productive works and business and for marriage purposes.

Generally, in the study area most of the households have used the remittances especially for three purposes. i) Short term purpose: To maintain livelihood and pay the debt and immediate needs like clothes, health as well as for house expenses. ii) Mid-term purpose: The investment on cultivation, productive works and some investment in saving and providing lands and business. iii) Long term purpose: To invest on land and purchasing properties, to construct or build the new houses, and to invest on the children's higher education etc.

3.5 Type of Works of the Migrants

Education plays a vital role in building skills and capacity in any foreign migrant worker. The Nepali migrant workers are unskilled and generally have low level of education. They have to work as unskilled worker abroad. Because of the weak economic condition, the educated migrants are also being compelled to work as low class wage labour abroad. Most of the migrants have to do very hard work. Generally, the Nepali labour migrants have to be involved in 4D's work (Dirty, Dangerous, Difficult and Demeaning) abroad because of the lack of skill and low level of education (Gurung and Thapa, 2005).

Moreover, most of them do not get the work as per their skill and opportunity to utilize their full skills. During the focus group discussion and interview, people

expressed that at the present situation, most of the Nepali migrant workers do not get job abroad in accordance with the agreements expect very few migrants. Due to the good training opportunity, some of them have got the work in reputed companies as per their skills. Most of the Nepali migrant workers have the lack of training of the reference work before leaving for foreign countries. Consequently, they get exploited and harassed. There is no one to look after their complaint, because Nepal has not embassy in those countries. Even in those countries where there is Nepali embassy, the embassy does not look after the interest of Nepali migrant workers. Table 29 shows the types of work the foreign migrants were involved before and are involving abroad.

Table 29: Distribution of the Labour Migrants by Types of Work they are Engaged in

Types of Work	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female			
	N	%	N	%	N	%
General labour	50	42.4	-	-	50	35.5
General operator (Machines)	17	14.4	-	-	17	12.1
Domestic work	2	1.7	13	56.5	15	10.6
Restaurant worker (Cook/Waiter, Room boys/girls)	11	9.3	4	17.4	15	10.6
Security guard	12	10.2	-	-	12	8.5
Driver	12	10.2	-	-	12	8.5
Sales men/girls	4	3.4	4	17.4	8	5.7
Scaffolding	4	3.4	-	-	4	2.8
Supervisor	4	3.4	-	-	4	2.8
Not stated	2	1.7	2	8.7	4	2.8
Total	118	100.0	23	100.0	141	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

Table 29 shows that the popular employment sectors are general labours (35.5 percent) which clearly indicate that most of the migrant workers of the study area are unskilled. The proportion of male migrants working as general labour accounted for 42.4 percent where as no female migrants were found involved in this work. More than one-half of the female migrants (56.5 percent) worked as the domestic helper abroad. During the interview with the returnees and migrant households, people expressed that most of the female migrants are unskilled and those who have gone in the Gulf countries and Israel have to work in the houses and the apartments as domestic workers. Scarcity of training opportunities in the country and low level of

education are the main causes of migrant workers to work as labourers and domestic workers.

So far, only 12.1 percent of the migrant workers are working or worked as general operator which includes operating the machines and engines which is very risky in comparison to other works. All the male migrants were found to be involved in this work. Like-wise, 16.3 percent of the migrant workers were working in the restaurants and hotels and business centers as cook, waiter/waitress, room boys and girls and sales man and girls. The proportion of female migrants is a little bit higher than male migrants in this case (34.8 percent vs 12.7 percent). Only 17 percent of the total migrants worked as security guards and drivers which can be termed as a skilled work in context of others. All of the migrants involved in these works were males. However, 2.8 percent of the total migrant workers did not state what work they do or did in the counties abroad. No migrants have gone abroad from the study area for the higher post like manager, engineer etc.

3.5.1 Skills of Migrants before Going on Foreign Employment

Due to the lack of higher education and proper skill training opportunities, most of the migrant workers of the study area are unskilled and they are working or worked as an unskilled worker abroad. During the focus group discussion and interview, people expressed that most of the persons gone for foreign employment from the study area are inexperienced and untrained. The broker and manpower companies have organized their employment abroad in the post of skilled workers and the company has distressed them. Generally, the Nepali migrant workers who are skilled and got training are holding the post of motor driver, cook/waiter and salesman/girls, care givers, security guards, technician and others.

During the interview, the returnees stated that generally, Nepali migrant workers do not have necessary training for the foreign employment. The migrant workers also do not realize the need to take training for various posts. They would take some months training or make fake certificates if they needed. Table 30 shows the types of skills of migrants have had before going to the foreign countries for labour migration.

Table 30: Distribution of the Labour Migrants by Type of Skills Before Going on Foreign Employment

Skills	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female			
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Unskilled	85	72.0	19	82.6	104	73.8
Skilled	33	28.0	4	17.4	37	26.2
Total	118	100.0	23	100.0	141	100.0
Types of Skills						
Driver	8	24.2	-	-	8	21.6
General technician	8	24.2	-	-	8	21.6
Cook/Waiter	6	18.2	-	-	6	16.2
Security guard	5	15.2	-	-	5	13.5
Sales men/girls	4	12.1	1	25.0	5	13.5
Care giver	-	-	3	75.0	3	8.1
General operator	2	6.1	-	-	2	5.4
Total	33	100.0	4	100.0	37	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

Table 30 shows that an overwhelming majority of the migrant workers (73.8 percent) are unskilled where as only 26.2 percent of the migrants are skilled. The proportion of unskilled female migrants is comparatively higher than the male migrants. Table 30 also shows that 37 migrants among 141 migrants had some types of skills before going to foreign employment. Among 37 skilled migrants, 16 migrants had driving and general technician skills which include plumbing, scaffolding and others. All of the migrants who have these skills are males. Similarly, 11 skill migrants had cook/waiter and salesman/girls training before flying to the country abroad. Among the skilled female migrants, 3 migrants have the care giving training which is ultimately necessary for those who wish to fly to Israel. The skill of the security guard is gained by 13.5 percents migrants numbering 5 among 37 skilled migrants.

3.5.2 Skills of Migrants after Getting Back from Foreign Employment

Generally, in the study area, the skills of the migrant workers have not developed, even after going abroad. During the interview with the returnees, it was revealed that most of them do not get work as per their qualification, therefore, they do not get the chance to develop their skill. As studied earlier, most of the migrant workers of the study area had low or medium level of education and are unskilled, therefore, they do not have the capacity of learning new skills. So they have brought no new skills from

abroad. Table 31 shows the skills of the migrant workers who have learnt abroad and returned to their home country.

Table 31: Distribution of the Labour Migrants by Type of Skills after Returning From Foreign Employment

Skills	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female			
	N	%	N	%	N	%
No change(Same)	49	89.1	9	90.0	58	89.2
Cook/Waiter	2	3.6	-	-	2	3.1
Vehicle Driver	1	1.8	-	-	1	1.5
Mason	1	1.8	-	-	1	1.5
Salesman/girls	1	1.8	1	10.0	2	3.1
Unknown	1	1.8	-	-	1	1.5
Total	55	100.0	10	100.0	65	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

The skills of the migrant workers of the study area after returning from the foreign employment shows that an overwhelming majority of the migrant workers (89.2 percent) returned without any new skill, that is no change in their skills. During the interview, the returnees expressed that most of them were not anxious to learn new skills, therefore, they remained unskilled workers. They did not have the leisure time for learning skills and the companies also did not provide them training for skilled work. Therefore, migrant worker had the same skills, which they had before migrating for employment abroad. Few of the returned migrants (10.8 percent) learnt some skills abroad which include driver, cook/waiter, mason and salesman/ girls.

3.5.3 Transforming Economic Environment of the Household

The labour migration has of course transformed the economic environment of the migrant's household. In this context, the transformation in household environments is to find out:

1. The impact of foreign employment on family environment before and after migration as well as after the return of the migrants and
2. Kind of effect created in his household in his absence.

During the focus group discussion with the political workers, social workers, students and housewives, people expressed that all members of family have their own

responsibility in each household. Everyone's responsibility may not be borne by other, so all the members should come on general understanding to run a house with good environment. If the head of a family leaves the house for long time, then other member should have a capacity of running the house wisely. Money is not only a solution of running a family. The entire member should work together and cooperate with each other in the matters related with the household and its members.

During the field survey, it was observed that some household's environment has been ruined due to absence of the family head. The housewives of migrant workers may feel lonely and marry others due to their long absence. Most of the wives of the migrant workers are less educated; therefore, they are disappointed and distressed even by a simple problem. They cannot evaluate their children's progress in their studies or cannot keep track of the children's activities and as a result some of the children might not be going to school and might get involved in bad habit of gambling, drug addiction, prostitution, theft and robbery, etc. Similarly, they are not capable to run economic activities properly, like keeping proper accounting, timely payment of school and other bills, paying revenue, taxes and so on.

3.5.4 Changing Households' Assets

During the focus group discussion with the political workers, social workers, students and housewives and interview with the returnees and migrant households, people expressed that labour migration has resulted in the possession of the assets of the households in the study area. It has changed the living standard, custom and other activities of household in the study area. Income from foreign employment has improved condition of house of many households as well as improvement of the individual members in education, behaviour, food and dresses habit. Many families have been able to get their children admitted to expensive private schools in the urban area like Butwal and Kathmandu. Due to the good income from foreign employment, the household has been able to equip their house with modern amenities and luxurious goods. The facility of the transport access has encouraged the household to bring about changes in many sectors.

In the focus group discussion and interview, people expressed that consequently, migrant household are constructing the houses build of brick and cement and concrete instead of other. Their houses are equipped with modern equipment, accessories, and other luxurious goods. Because of the facilities of electricity, many of the households

of migrants have been able to use television, radio, Refrigerator, electric heater, electric iron as well as the rice cooker in their kitchens. Due to the good income, varieties of foods have been included in their cuisine. Most of household cook foods on the biogas gas stove instead of firewood because of the easy availability of cooking gas cylinder in the market. They have also bought enough ornaments, jewellery and gold. The members of the rich family have bought private motor vehicle, and motorbike.

During the focus group discussion, people expressed that as the foreign labour migrants are not able to cultivate their agriculture land, they let the landless and other poor communities cultivate their land as sharecropper or tenant farmer. The landless and poor people have been able to own land as share cropper or tenant farmer and have been able to improve their livelihood. Most of luxurious goods are available in their home. The living standard of the household of the study area has changed. But the labour migration has not improved economic condition of all households in the study area. It has also ruined some households which was expressed during the focus group discussion with political workers, social workers, students and housewives and interview with the returnees and migrant households. There are some households who became landless, because they had sold their land to go abroad for employment but got cheated. The previously rich families have become poorer or landless ones. In the study area, these are some of the changes that have been resulted from foreign employment.

Thus, foreign employment has brought about change and improvement in the source of income, livelihood condition, possession of assets and economic conditions to a considerable extent among the foreign labour migrant households. It has also encouraged and made eager to the youths of the households of the other communities to go for foreign employment. The on going political and insurgent crisis as well as unemployment crisis are compelling the youths to seek employment outside the country.

However, the lack of investment of remittances from foreign employment in industry and other productive sector has hindered the prospect of employment generation in the study area and the result will be continuous exodus of enterprising youths at the cost of the development of the villages which is the bitter reality of the country in general and the rural areas in particular.

CHAPTER – IV

CONCLUSION

4.1 Conclusion

The present research study has endeavored to examine how international labour migration influences and contributes the migrant households of Parroha VDC, Ward No. 1 (a village of western Nepal). The study has stressed on the inclination of labour migrants as well as their process, financial management, decision making, use of remittances and their skills before going to and the development of new skills after returning from foreign labour migration.

Most of the people are, however, inclined to go for foreign labour migration by leaving their particular occupation. But in the study area, mainly the economic compulsion plays a vital role behind foreign labour migration such as employment problems, poverty as well as lack of opportunity followed by indebtedness and land pressure.

Similarly, destinations of the migrants are governed by the decision of the individuals or households as well as their economic status. In the study area, migrants have had the choice for the following countries for their destination.

- i. **Gulf countries and Malaysia:** An overwhelming majority of the migrants have chosen these countries as their destination. Especially, the middle-income groups and some low income groups. The broker and various foreign manpower agencies mainly organize their migration.
- ii. **Asian countries:** The Asian countries include South Korea, Japan, Israel, Singapore, Hongkong and Iraq. The investment cost of these countries is higher than that of Gulf countries. Therefore, few migrants, especially, those from the high and middle income groups have chosen these countries as their destination.
- iii. **European countries:** The migrants to these countries are extremely few. Due to high investment cost and risk, only high-income people have tried

to get access to these countries (most of them in an illegal way), organized by the brokers and agents.

The amount of investment cost mainly depends on the destination of the migrants. In this context, the ways in which migrants have managed the amount of investment cost have been categorized as following:

- i. **Mortgaging of land and taking loans:** The majority of the migrants, especially of the middle income class group of the study area have mortgaged the land and have taken loan from the bank or rich people of the village, and have invested on foreign labour migration. Most of these migrants have gone to gulf countries.
- ii. **Self:** Some of the migrants have managed the amount for foreign employment from the saving of their household income. Such migrants are very few in the study area.
- iii. **Borrowing money without interest:** The foreign migrants who have good cooperation from their relatives, have borrowed the amount to invest for their trips. About one-fifth of the migrants of the study area belong to this category

The methods the foreign migrants have used to transfer the remittance to their families in the study area are as follows:

- i. **Using Bank:** The majority of the migrants have sent their remittances through bank. Although the migrants should go a little bit long process as well as their households should open an account in a reference bank, there is more trust. Due to the awareness and reliability and availability of banks in Butwal, this system has been an effective way for the migrants to send and the migrant households to receive the remittances.
- ii. **Hundi system:** More than one-third of the migrants have sent their remittance through hundi. Although it was the most popular way to sent remittances in the past, due to the paying system of commission to the agencies, the popularity has reduced.

Very few migrants of the study area have used their friends or colleagues to send their remittances.

There are many purposes of using the remittances. It depends on the needs of households and they have been categorized into three. The migrant households of these study area have used the remittances in the following categories.

- i. **The first purpose or short-term purposes:** In this purpose, the immediate needs of the household like food, clothing, health, education, other house expenses as well as the payment of debt are included.
- ii. **The Second purpose or mid-term purpose:** The second purpose of using the remittance is to invest on any productive work that will provide additional source of income for the families. It has been found that the households of the foreign migrant have invested on cultivation, business and either have saved or provided loans.
- iii. **The third purpose or long term purpose:** It has been found that the households of the foreign migrants have invested on land and purchasing properties, have constructed or built a new house and have invested on their children's higher education.

In the context of migrant's skills, most of them have either low skill or no skill at all. Most of the foreign migrants of the study area have been compelled to work as an unskilled labour abroad. The lack of higher education and proper training has compelled them to remain them unskilled. As such, these migrants tend to go to Gulf countries where there is demand for unskilled labour. Very few foreign migrants of the study are have middle class skills like driver, cook/waiter, technicians, operators and salesman/girls. No high skill foreign migrants have gone abroad from the study area.

The skills learnt abroad by the foreign migrant are very few in the study area. The overwhelming majority of the migrants had no change in the skills after returning from the foreign employment. Most of the people with low level of education have gone abroad so they did not have the capacity to learn any skill abroad. However, some migrants have got knowledge of cook/waiter, vehicle driving, mason and others.

4.2 Issues for Further Research

The scope of the study of international labour migration is both wide and vague. So, due to limitations of time and resources, this study has covered only the limited topics such as socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the migrants' households, sources of money made available for foreign employment, uses of remittances, the skills of the migrants and the role of labour migration in changing the economic environment of the households and household assets. It is hoped that it will be an important contribution in the field of international labour migration of Nepal for further studies.

Despite, there are many issues which can be studied in this field, like comparative study of the migrants and non-migrants households, impact of remittance on the national economy, socio-economic status of the migrants households before and after going abroad.

Similarly, there are many Nepalese migrants facing different kinds of vulnerable problems. Therefore the issues like "Foreign labour migration and trafficking", "Foreign employment for women: challenges and opportunities", "Problems faced by foreign labour migrants" could be more emerging researchable issues in the subject of international labour migration.

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