

**SEASONAL LABOUR MIGRATION TO INDIA:
A Study of Athbiskot VDC in Rukum District, Nepal**

**A Dissertation Submitted to
Central Department of Sociology and Anthropology
In Partial Fulfillment of Requirement for the
Masters' Degree of Arts in Sociology
Tribhuvan University**

**Submitted by
Jayanti Thapa
Clas Roll No. : 209
T.U. Regd. : 9-1-57-186-98
Exam Roll No. : 280088**

**Central Department of Sociology and Anthropology
University Campus
Kirtipur, Kathamndu
2008**

RECOMMENDATION LETTER

This is to certify that **Jayanti Thapa** has completed the dissertation on "*Seasonal Labour Migration to India: A Study of Athbiskot VDC in Rukum District, Nepal*" under my guidance.

I, therefore recommend this dissertations for final approval and acceptance. .

Dr. Padam Lal Devkota
(Supervisor)
Central Department of
Sociology/Anthropology
T.U., Kirtipur, Kathmandu

Date:

APPROVAL LETTER

This dissertation entitled "*Seasonal Labour Migration to India: A Study of Athbiskot VDC in Rukum District, Nepal*" by **Jayanti Thapa** has been submitted to the Central Department of Sociology/Anthropology. The undersigned members of the thesis committee have approved it.

Approved by

.....

Dr. Om Gurung

Chairman

.....

Dr. Laya Prasad Uprety

External Examiner

.....

Dr. Padam Lal Davkota

Supervisor

Date:

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First of all, I am deeply indebted to my Gurus who provided me with their invaluable guidance and suggestion since my first day in school. My hearty gratitude and sincere thanks go to all my Gurus who have helped me in my development as a student and as a responsible person of this nation.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to my thesis supervisor Dr. Padam Lal Devkota, Central Department of Sociology/Anthropology, T.U., Kirtipur for his good guidance, suggestions and encouragement without which my work would be failed.

I am extremely grateful to Dr. Om Gurung, Department Head, Prof. Dr. Chaitanya Mishra, Dr. Rambahadur Chhetri, Dr. Samira Luitel and other faculty members, for their cooperation and encouragement.

I can not forget those people who provided me valuable time and helped me in each and every step of collecting data. I am heartily grateful to the people of Athbiskot VDC especially those who provided me necessary data and information.

I would like to thank all my friends for their support and kind cooperation.

I would like to remember my daughter Sujan, my life partner Sushil, parents and other family members for their help, love and support.

Jayanti Thapa

CONTENTS

	Page
Recommendation	
Approval Letter	
Acknowledgements	
Contents	
List of Tables	
CHAPTER - ONE: INTRODUCTION	1-8
1.1 Backgrounds	1
1.2 Problem Statement	5
1.3 Objectives of the Study	7
1.4 Significance of the Study	7
CHAPTER – TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW	9-25
2.1 Theories Explaining the Perpetuation of Labour Migration	21
2.1.1 Network Theory	21
2.2.2 Social Capital Theory	22
2.2.3 Migration Systems Theory	23
2.3.4 Flow of Remittance	24
CHAPTER- THREE: RESEARCH METHODS	26-32
3.1 Selection of the Study Area	26
3.2 Sources of Data	27
3.3 Sampling Procedure	28
3.4 Primary Data Collection Techniques	28
3.4.1 Household Survey	28
3.4.2 Interview	29
3.4.3 Focus Group Discussion	29
3.4.4. Observation	30

3.5	Reliability and Validity of the Data	30
3.6	Field Experiences/ Difficulties	31
3.7	Method and Techniques of Data Analysis	32
3.8	Limitations of Study	32
CHAPTER- FOUR: AREA AND PEOPLE		33-37
4.1	The Village Area	33
4.2	Population of the VDC	34
	4.2.1 Social Life	36
4.3	State of Education in the VDC	36
CHAPTER - FIVE: PUSH-PULL FACTORS OF LABOUR		
MIGRANTS		38-49
5.1	Push Factors of Labor Emigrants	38
	5.1.1 Poor Economic Condition	40
	5.1.2 Unemployment	40
	5.1.3 Indebtness	40
	5.1.4 Individual Desire	40
	5.1.5 Family Pressure	41
	5.1.6 To Utilize Leisure Time	41
	5.1.7 Study Migrants by Caste/Ethnic and Sex	41
	5.1.8 Study Migrants by Age and Education	43
	5.1.9 Marital Status of the Student Migrant Workers	45
5.2	Pull Factors of Labor Migrants	46
	5.2.1 Easy Availability of Unskilled Work	47
	5.2.2 Low Investment	48
	5.2.3 Effect of Grokhali's Work	48
	5.2.4 Presence of Friends and Relatives	48
	5.2.5 Free Border	49
	5.2.6 Language and Cultural Similarity	49

CHAPTER-SIX: IMPACT IN THE FAMILY/HOUSEHOLD ECONOMY	50-55
6.1 Family/Household Economy	51
6.1.1 State of Agriculture	51
6.1.2 Livestock	52
6.1.3 Other Sources of Income of Study Households	53
6.2 Impact in the Family/Household Economy	54
CHAPTER SEVEN: IMPACT IN THE VILLAGE COMMUNITY	56-59
CHAPTER EIGHT: SUMMARY AND MAJOR FINDINGS	60-67
8.1 Summary	60
8.2 Major Findings of the Study	63
8.3 Conclusion	66
REFERENCES	68-72
ANNEX	

LIST OF TABLES

	Page
Table 1: Migrants abroad by Sex	4
Table 2: Ten Major Destination of Nepalese Migrant Workers	5
Table 3: Wardwise Population of Athbiskot VDC	35
Table 4: Wardwise household Report of the VDC	35
Table 5: Sex wise Population and Total Households in the VDC	36
Table 6: State of Schools in the VDC	37
Table 7: State of Education in the VDC	37
Table 8: Push Factors of Labour Migration	39
Table 9: Labour Migrants by their Caste/Ethnic and Sex	42
Table 10: Study Migrants by Age and Education	43
Table 11: Marital Status of Study Migrant Workers	45
Table 12: Pull Factors of Labour Migration to India	46
Table 13: State of Agriculture of Study Household	52
Table 14: State of Livestock of Study Households	53
Table 15: Amount of Remittance and Its Allocation	55
Table 16: Impact of Labor Migration in Village Community	57
Table 17: Conclusion of Discussion on Impact	58

ACRONYMS

AIDS	:	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
CBS	:	Central Bureau of Statistics
CDPS	:	Central Department of Population Studies
CPN	:	Community Party of Nepal
DDL	:	District Development Committee
e.g.	:	For example n
et. al.	:	And other
GON	:	Government of Nepal
HIV	:	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
i.e.	:	that is
M.A.	:	Master of Arts
NGO	:	Non Government Office
NLSS	:	Nepal Living Standard Survey
No.	:	Number
NPC	:	National Planning Commission
Ph. D.	:	Doctor of Philosophy
ROSCA	:	Rotating Savings and Credit Associations
Rs.	:	Rupees
SAARC	:	South Asian Association for Regional Corporations
SLC	:	School Leaving Certificate
T.U.	:	Tribhuvan University
VDC	:	Village Development Committee
Vol.	:	Volume

**SEASONAL LABOUR MIGRATION TO INDIA:
A Study of Athbiskot VDC in Rukum District, Nepal**

–By Jayanti Thapa

THEME AND CONCLUSIVE FINDINGS

Life of Nepalese villagers is very poor. The main source of income in the village is agricultural production. But the most of the people in village have very few fertile land. Their food production is insufficient for them. They have not any extra sources of income. There is absence of government in village. There are not any developmental activities. During the war between state and Maiost, job opportunities were totally blocked and destroyed. These many facts have compelled villagers to go abroad in search of work to earn money. Most of the villagers leave their place of origin mainly to fulfill their basic need of food, cloth, shelter.

The area of this study is Athbiskot VDC of Rukum district (ward no. 2 and 6). The basic focus of the study is *Seasonal Labour Migration* in which people go to outside the village in order to send back remittance to their families, generally, they do not like to abandon their place of resident but always like to cope with seasonal labour migration.

Almost all the village people go to India mainly in search of work /job opportunities. They would not go abroad if they get work opportunities in their village. Different factors of labour migration are there which push and pull labour migrants to India. Labour migration has brought different impact in family/household economy, in the village, community. It has positive and negative impacts. Government and other developmental institutions should think in time to stop the flow of manpower to abroad from Nepal.

Objectives of the Study

The specific objective of the study are:

- i) To identify the push-pull factors of labor migration from rural area to India.
- ii) To examine the effect of foreign labor migration to the family and household economy.
- iii) To find out the impact of international labor migration in the village communities under study.

Research Methods

The study was based on the descriptive and quantitative research design. Both primary and secondary data have been used and various techniques were applied to collect the required data for the present study. The major techniques employed for the data collection were household survey, questionnaire, observation, interview, focus group discussion.

Major Findings of the Study

- Almost all the labor migrants have very poor economic condition. They have very low agricultural production. Only 12 percent of households have food sufficiency for a whole year. But 88 percent of households have to buy food to survive.
- Different factors push villagers as labor migrants. Major push factors for labour migration are :
 - poor economic condition,
 - unemployment,
 - indebtedness,
 - individual desire,
 - family pressure and
 - utilizing leisure time.
- All the caste/ethnic wise migrants of their total population is about equal in ratio. Of total 110 Dalit population 23.6 percent go to India in labor migration, 22.2 percent Magar, 20.9 percent Thakuri, 19.9 percent Chhetri and 17.4 percent Brahmins of their own population have become seasonal labor migrants to India.

- Both male and female go to India to earn money. Of the total migrants, 84 percent migrants are male and 16 percent migrants are female.
- Different age group people go to India as labor migrants. The ratio of age is from 15 to 59. The highest age group to be labor migrants in India is from 20-29. Of the total, 35 percent of migrants are of this age group.
- Most of the labor migrants cannot read and write. 35 percent of the labor migrants are unable to read and write, 21 percent labor migrants can only read, 25 percent have got primary level education and 11 percent of labor migrants are got above than primary level education. Non of the migrants is SLC passed.
- Most of the labour migrants are married. Of the total study migrants 67 percent migrant workers are married. Mainly married people are forced to go to India in search of work to earn money. They have big responsibility towards their family.
- Different pull factors are there that why almost all the villagers make India as their destination of labor migration. Main factors that pull the villagers to India are:
 - opportunities of unskilled work,
 - network of friends and relatives,
 - free border,
 - Gorkhali's good image,
 - low Investment and
 - language and cultural similarity.
- Labor migration has played very significant role in the labor migrants' household economy. Only 41 percent households have few temporary sources of income but 59 percent of the households have no any sources of income. Labor migration to India is the main source of income for above than 80 percent of the migrant households.
- Each labor migrant household receives remittance in ratio of 5000-40,000 Nepalese currency in a season. They use this money in food, clothes, children's education, paying loan. They fulfill their daily needs

and other problems by earn money from labor migration. The remittance received form labor migration has very good impact in the labor migrants household economy.

- Village community is getting both impacts positive and negative form labor migration which has made easy to solve immediate needs and problems of the community. Almost all the labor migrant household have invested earned money in education. People in the community have become aware and clever practically learning from out world. These are the positive impacts in the community.

On the other-hand absence of youths and male people in the village in ritual and social activities, enter of bad habits like drinking, smoking and gambling, fear of HIV/AIDS transmission to labor migrants, increasing nature of cheating others, indifference nature of labor migrants are the negative impacts of labor migration in the village community.

Directions for the Future Research

The results of this study do not cover the situation of seasonal labour migration of all areas. Many researches have been done similar to this research but the core focus is different. Micro level study should be conducted in this region to bring out the real situation of labour migration and its overall impact in the life of labour migrants, other family members and in the village community.

Because of limited time, economic problem, lack of enough data and information researcher could not cover following facts in detail. So, following directions need to be for the future research.

- * Detail information about the overall state of migrant households.
- * Overall impact of labour migration in the life of labour migrant workers, their family members and in the community.
- * Condition of labour migrants and their work type in destination places.
- * Impact in young generations and their future.
- * Attitude of labour migrants towards labour migration to abroad.

- * Factors that can stop flow of manpower from rural areas or possible job opportunities in rural areas.