

# CHAPTER - ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

'The Webster' New world dictionary defines livelihood as "a means of living or supporting life". In another word, it is a means by which life is sustained. In context of Nepal it can be taken as way of living by meeting needs for food, clothes, shelter, health, education and environment which could provide substantial degree of local needs and self reliance (Dhakal 2006).

The concept of livelihood traces back to Robert Chambers's 'People-centered Approach', who is often called the father of the sustainable livelihood approach. He devised this approach in the mid 1980s, in order to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of international development cooperation (DFID 2002). Later on, the concept became popular and was used in other sectors including labour migration.

The process of moving of people from one geographical place or region to another is called migration.<sup>1</sup> It is seen as an important and essential source of livelihood of poor people in the world including Nepal. For instance, large numbers of people have been migrating to one place to another such as rural areas to urban, least or developing countries to advanced or developed countries to secure the livelihood of their household.

In the past, household income was come form hunting and gathering, animal husbandry, agriculture and so on. Along with the

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<sup>1</sup> The researcher only focuses on the international migration.

development of human civilization as well as industrialization, the survival strategies of human beings are also changed dramatically. Along with the beginning of the capitalism in the world, the livelihood of people including Nepali people have changed. Labour became one of the important components of world economy. With this there was a massive migration trend of people as labour in different part of the world for assuming better livelihood. Nepal couldn't be an inception to this. After mid 20th century labour migration becomes a crucial component of household economy in rural areas of Nepal. The household economy shifted from predominance agricultural to non agricultural activities including labour migration. Labour migration became major means of survival. It is an important coping mechanism of poor people living in the rural areas livelihood.

Many people in Nepal have migrated to India and other countries (like Saudi Arab, Malaysia, Qatar etc.) for survival and uplifting their families economic status. Moreover it has helped to reduce the level of vulnerability which these people were facing.

In this research, the researcher aims to study role of labour migration for livelihood among the people of Satiswara VDC of Tanahun district, with focus on the causes of labour migration. Moreover the research also examines the contribution of foreign labour migration to the household economy or livelihood of the people.

## **1.2 Problem Statement**

Labour migration has been one of the main sources of livelihood of many Nepali people. If we look at the history of labour migration in Nepal, it has a long history. About 200 years ago, Nepalese started to

seek work abroad and sent remittances back to their families in Nepal. In the early 19th century, for instance, Nepalese men migrated to Lahore (in today's Pakistan) to join the army. They earned the nickname "Lahure" which is still in use till date for Nepalese employed in foreign armies abroad. Later on Nepalese migrated to India for getting recruited in the British India Company. This trend got further impetus among the people of hilly and mountain region after the treaty of Sugauli which was signed in the first quarter of the 19th century between India and Nepal. In this sense labour migration is not a new practice in Nepal. It has been a means of livelihood for the Nepalese household for more than century.

All people have certain basic needs without which life would be impossible. Some of the basic needs are food, shelter, health, clothes, education and security. However, the concept of basic needs may be changed over time. For example, in the past food, cloth and shelter were taken as the basic needs of the Dalbhanjyang people. As result they migrated to India and other countries in search of job to fulfill these demands. At present, some of people have been migrating to India and other Arabian countries due to lack of insecurity or 10 years Maoist Movement in Nepal. Thus decrease in the productivity of land and lack of political stability has problematized the livelihood of Nepalese people. Furthermore migration has become the only immediate solution to such problem.

Along with other areas of Tanahu district the area of study of this research i.e. Dalbhanjuyang is highly influence by this trend of labour emigration. Before 1960s most of the people were employed or engaged in agricultural. Due to uncontrolled growth of population, in the study

area of this research further fragmentation of land has taken place. As a result people are forced to search jobs inside and outside the country like India, Qatar, UAE, Korea etc. This trend of emigration which is end is growing popular among the younger generation has changed the face of traditional livelihood strategy based on agriculture.

Several research and study are done in relation to labour migration and livelihood (Subedi 1988, Gurung and Karmacharga 2001). However these researches only described/analyzed the trend of labour migration or the volume of migration but none of them explain it from sociological perspective. In this sense, this is important to find out the role of labour migration in livelihood of the people in the small area of Nepal.

Facts indicate that in the name of raising the living standard, labour migration creates a vacuum in the utilization of available resources in the rural areas. Though as a coping device of the rural people, labour migration creates shortage of skilled manpower in the country itself. Further more it creates certain changes in demographic and socio-economic condition. Therefore, I am interested to conduct this research to examine the following research questions:

- ❖ Who are involved in labour migration?
- ❖ Which age/sex/ethnicity/cultural groups of people are migrating?
- ❖ What is the trend of labour migration in rural household?
- ❖ Why do they decide to migrate elsewhere, for work?
- ❖ What is the contribution of remittance in their livelihood?
- ❖ Is the labour migration bring any change in past livelihood strategy of the people?

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

The general objective of the study is to understand the role of labour migration in the livelihood of Dalbhanjyang tole. The specific objectives are follows:

- ) To identify the cause of labour migration in the study area.
- ) To examine the contribution of foreign labour migration to the household economy.

### **1.4 Significance of the Study**

Migration is not only a demographic phenomenon but also a sociological one. Therefore, this study has its own importance in a sociological research. This study aims at exploring and investigative various aspects related to labour migration like its causes, factors and its role in household economy of the emigrants. The research will attempt to study the role of labour migration on livelihood with special focusing on the local people in Dalbhajyang tole. This study can be a supplementary source of information in understanding the various aspects of labour migration in livelihood/household economy.

The information provided by this research may be helpful for the academicians and researchers who want to conduct further study in this area. Similarly, this study may be fruitful in planning policy making and drafting development who will be concerned in the related issue.

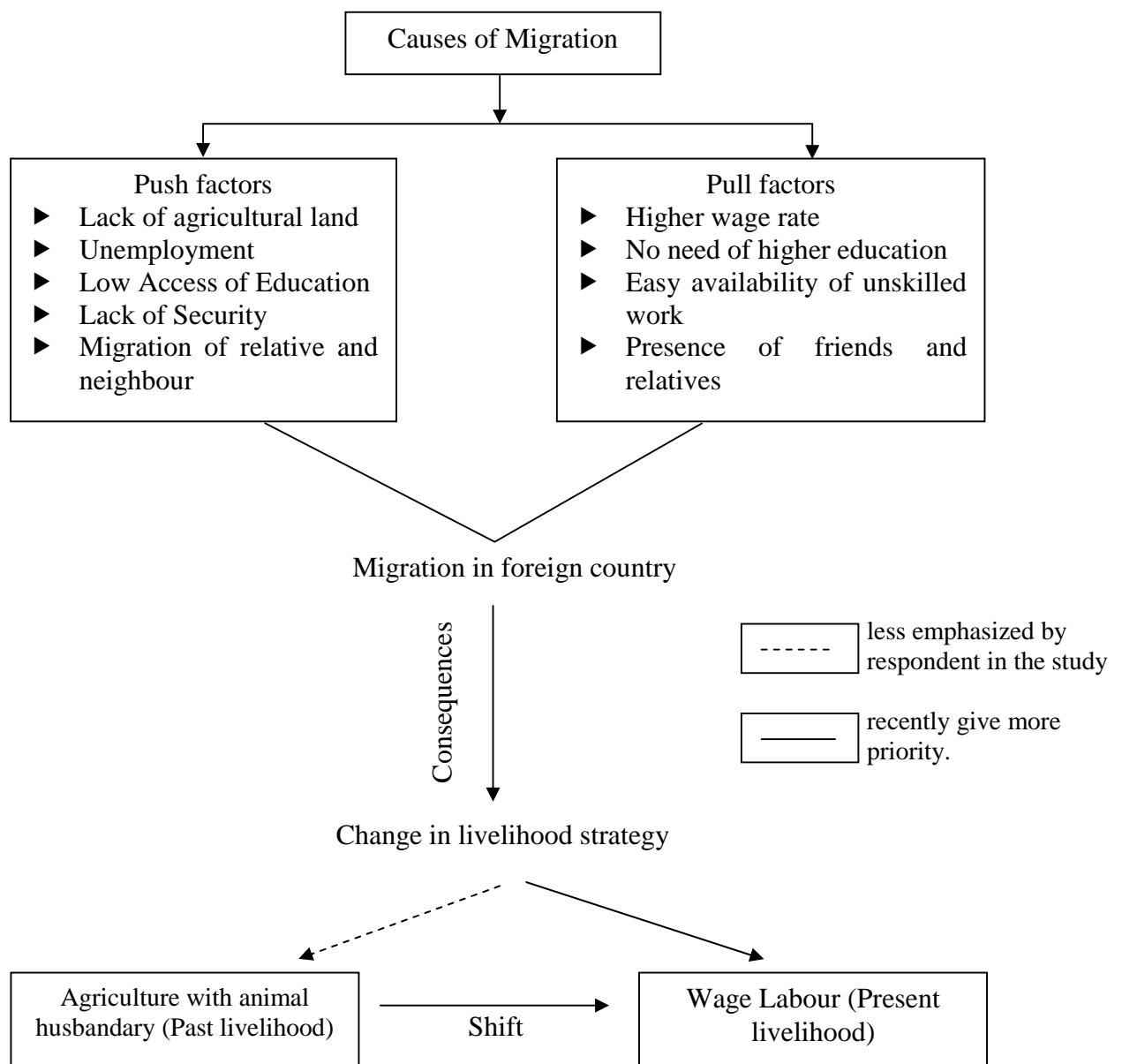
### **1.5 Theoretical Framework**

Barth (1956) The concept of "niche" guides the study. The concept of 'niche' was developed by Fredric Barth while studying the three groups of Pakistan like Guther, Kohestani and Pathan and later used by Gunner Halland in his study. In the study the concept 'niche' is applied by the researcher in studying and understanding the adaptative strategy of the

people Dal-bhanjyang tole. Similarly, the researcher also applied a "pull-push" approach to understand the cause of migration of Dalbhajyang people. This analytical model or framework i.e. "pull and push" approach was propounded by Zipf (1964), Slowffer and Revenstein, (1865). This study also describes about causes of labour migration among Dalbhanjyang people.

### 1.6 Conceptual Framework

In this study, I have developed a conceptual framework which guide the whole study, is presented in following diagram.



In the case of migration of people of Dalbhanjyang, two factors play decisive role. They are pull and push factors. The push factors are lack of agricultural land, unemployment, low access of education, lack of security and migration of relative and neighbour which attract them towards the foreign countries. The pull factors are higher wage rate, no need of higher education, easy availability of unskilled work and presence of friends and relatives which attract them towards the foreign countries like India and Arabian countries. After migration to the India and the Arabian countries, the livelihood strategy of the people of Dalbhanjyang have been changing. For example, in the past their livelihood is directly embedded with agriculture with animal husbandry whereas present mainly adopted foreign wage labour as the means of survival in Dalbhanjyang.

### **1.7 Organization of the Study**

This study has been organized into eight chapters. The first chapter gives a general background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the strategy, significance of the study, theoretical framework and conceptual framework. The second chapter presents the literature review. This chapter gives theoretical review, history and trend of labour migration in Nepal, labour migration and rural livelihood and remittance. The third chapter deals with the research method applied to collect the necessary data required for the study. The chapter four is includes geographical seating. The chapter five is related to socio-economic profile of the study area. This is related caste/ethnic composition, population composition, religious composition pattern of house, education composition, marital status, agriculture, landholding pattern,

food sufficiency, livestock and off farming activities. The chapter six deals the history of labour migration and causes of labour migration. Chapter seven presents the role of labour migration, income level of the labour migrants in the place of destination, expenditure and invest of income level of migrants. The last eight chapter is summary and conclusion of the study.



# **CHAPTER - TWO**

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

Review of relevant literature is an essential part of a social research. It provides a guideline and some theoretical and methodological knowledge to the researchers that help them to meet the goal of the research. Similarly, it also helps to make the present research more scientific and logical. This chapter review the pertinent literature related to theory, labour migration in livelihood. The first part deals with the theoretical consideration which is applied to analyze the migration and socio-economic changes. The second part is concentrated with the previous literature related to historical trend of migration and its causes.

### **2.1 Theory of Migration**

The study of population migration has been a rapidly developing branch among other several academic disciplines. There are various types of study of migration such as sociological, economic, geographical, demographical studies. Theoretical explanation of rural to urban, urban to international migration had begun about more than a century ago.

Sociology doesn't offer any grand theories of migration, despite the large numbers of empirical studies focusing on migration. Studies of migration can be tentatively classified as neo-classical, modern and emergent. During the neo-classical period of sociology is the 1960s the focus of studies was on movement of people from country side to cities and their assimilation in to the dominant culture. Likewise structural inequalities and migration of people from less developed to more developed region in search of job were the major focus of modern

studies. The recent sociological and anthropological studies of migration focus less on general theories and more on specific as particular migration (Lewellen 2002:131).

This theory of migration, also commonly known as "law of migration" was propounded by British demographer, Revenstein in his article "Pull and Push factor", published in 1885. His theory was later followed by other demographer like Stouffer in 1940, Lee 1969 and Lewis 1954.

"Laws of Migration", also known as "Push-Pull" factors of migration, still predominates as framework of migration analysis. Push factors are land tenure system, unfavourable forms of trade, wide dispersion of property and income, pressure of rural poverty in general and so on are concerned with the place of origin, whereas pull factors are employment, education and other facilities or opportunities known as "Bright Light" and are related to the place of destination (Revenstein 1885). According to his theory, migrants move from low level opportunity area to high level, better facilitated opportunity area. In the case of Dalbhanjyang, there are few opportunities of employment locally. As a result, a large number of youths migrate towards other areas inside and outside the country for seeking labour work. Distance between the place of destination and origin also influences the volume of migration. In the past, the flow of migration towards India was very high in Dalbhanjyang whereas in the 1990s, this trend changed and the volume of migration of people towards the Arabian countries rapidly increased. It became possible due to the air-link with these countries which has helped a lot in reducing the distance between Dalbhanjyang and Arabian Countries.

All the approaches formulated till now reveal that migration is the result of push factors or the place of origin, pull factors at the place of estimation and cost of overcoming the obstacles that lie between the individual and the possible alternatives to his problems. This model is within the framework of "Push and Pull" principle which was contributed largely by Stutter Zipf and others. There are usually three sets of factors, which influence individual decision to migrate: positive, negative and natural (Lee, 1966).

### **Theory of Adaptation**

Adaptation, as defined by Chettri, is the subject matter of sociology, anthropology, and population studies. It is a key concept of human ecology that analyses human-nature relationship. From the very beginning of history of the human being, human and nature are interdependent and interrelated with each other. Human beings, like any other organism, are enmeshed within the webs of environment relationship (Ingold, 1992)

Sociologists and anthropologists have been studying the relationship between human and environment for a long time now. The earlier approach of human ecology, "environmental determinism", deals by focusing environmental nature as the determinant of human behaviour. It further emphasized the diversity of cultures as an outcome of the interaction of human beings with nature in different environment settings (Hardesty 1977, Moran 1979, Rambo 1983)

The concept of environment determinism, that was popular all along 19<sup>th</sup> century, in anthropological studies, gradually turned towards "Environmental possibilism" in the third decade of 20<sup>th</sup> century.

According to this new concept environment instead of being the determining factors provides many possibilities for cultural growth.

After two decades of influence, environmental possibilism finally was given way to the approach "cultural ecology". It had a significant on socio-anthropological studies during mid 1950s and was primarily a product of the studies conducted by Julian Steward. Many scholars have studies the relationship between human and nature by applying the methods of cultural ecology in different human society. e.g. hunting and gathering society (Steward 1955).

Ray-Rapaport (1979) has given priority to "eco-system" instead of culture in constructing the fundamental unit of analysis. For anthropologist like Rappaport and Vaidya, focus on biological survival of the target population is more importance than the socio-cultural system of it. Cultural peculiarities and characteristics of a community always help in adapting with the ecosystem according to this theory (Hardesty, 1979).

Another approach "cultural materialism" developed by Marvin Harris had a significant influence on anthropological studies. He followed from Emic and Etic perspective while study human and nature relationship (Harris Marvin, 1988).

Influential anthropologist Charles Frake and H. Conkilin during 1960s gave birth to another method of studying culture in relation to nature. This method was 'ethno-cognition' and it primarily focuses on the classification of folk knowledge, taxonomy, meaning and syntax.

In 1965 another new approach regarding human ecological interaction came on the horizon. The concept was that of 'Niche'. As an approach, it was developed by Gunnar Halland (Halland 1969). This

concept of 'niche' is applied by the researcher in studying and understanding the adaptive strategy i.e, labour migration by using 'niche' dimension of the people Dalbhanjyang tole.

This study has made efforts towards understanding the socio-cultural and economic strategies of livelihood adapted by the people of Dalbhanjyang tole. Though initially agricultural occupation was sufficient in meeting like demands of these people but later on due to various reasons it was seem insufficient in fulfilling their needs. As outcome of this never possibilities were explored in relation to income generation strategies. The most easiest and promising of the strategies that they came upon was foreign employment. Though at the inception, the 'dream land' of these labour turned peasant was India, due to various other inception incentives and better opportunity of income provided by the Arabian countries, the location of 'Dream Land" shifted towards south-east Asian countries like Qatar, Saudi Arab, Malaysia and so on in the long run.

## **2.2 History of Labour Migration in Nepal**

An out line the population of nepal represents waves of migration from the north and the south at different period of history. There are some research dealing about the history of labour migration in Nepal and while preparing this disertation some of them were reviewed.

Documentary evidence of formal labourmigration from, Nepal however, begins with the recruitment of Nepalese in the British-Indian army as "Gurkhas".

Dunning the Anglo war (1814-15) the British were impressed by the courage and bravery of Gurkha (Nepalese) army despite their defeat with the southern, western and eastern boundaries of present day Nepal.

Only four districts of Far western Terai namely Banke, Bardia, Kailali and Kanchanpur were added later on. These were given to Nepal from British India government as a gift in return to the help provided by " Gurkhas" in sepoy mutiny of 1857 (Subedi 1988).

The treaty also empowered the British to recruit Gurkha in the army. Immediately after the treaty four Gurkha battalions were organized in the hills of Garwal and Kumaun by recruiting the prisoners of war of Anglo-Nepal War in 1818 which was the first large scale emigration of Nepalese. This is one of the earliest records of the formal commencement of international labour migration in Nepal (Shrestha quoted in Subedi 1988).

### **2.2.1 Trend of Labour Migration in Nepal**

The emigration from Nepal was characterized by a universal phenomenon of predominance of males accounting for 87.8 percent of the total population (CBS, 2001). The total persons emigrated abroad as revealed by the census of 1952/54 and 1961 were 198,120 and 328,470 respectively. As for the major source of emigrants from Nepal was the hilly region accounting for 95.9 percent of the total emigrants in 1952/54 and 92.9 percent in 1961. The decrease in percentage does not mean absolute decrease in number. The number of emigrants from western hills increased from 96,639 persons in 1952/54 to 150,502 persons in 1961 and increased to 538,633 persons or 55.7 percent. Emigration from Nepal to foreign countries continued to increase in all the regions (Kansakar 1974: 68-69).

Since the census of 1981 population data on emigration were made available on the biases of sex reasons of absence and the countries of

destination of the emigrants from Nepal. During that period India is found to be the hot spot for Nepalese emigrants. In 1981, out of a total of 402977 emigrants from Nepal, 93.1 percent went to India, 0.7 percent to China, 2.3 percent to other countries of Asia and rest to other countries (CBS 1981).

Emigration of Nepalese to Asian Countries including India accounted for 93.8 percent of the total in 1981 and went up to 93.5 percent in 1991. The total for the other Asian Countries excluding India was 9319 persons, accounting for 2.25 percent of the total emigrants from Nepal in 1991, it went up to 31347 persons, an increase of 22028 persons. It clearly indicated the changing trend of emigration of Nepalese to three countries of west Asia (Arab countries), East and South East Asia. The Second largest number emigrated to European Countries and was followed by North American countries (CBS 1991).

In the censuses of 2001, the total number of emigrant from Nepal has slightly increased from 587243 persons in 1991 to 589050 in 2001, an increase of 1807 persons or 0.3 percent only and the percentage of Nepalese emigrants to India has gone down from 89.21 percent in 1991 to 77.28 percent in 2001. This indicates the increasing trend of emigration of Nepalese beyond India to other countries. The Second largest destination of the Nepalese emigrants was Saudi Arabia, which accounted for 8.85 percent of the total emigrants followed by Qatar and United Arab Emirates. The total number of Nepalese emigrant to Gulf countries including other countries like Kuwait, UAE and Bahrain accounted for 16 percent of the total. Hong Kong is the fourth largest destination of the Nepalese emigrants followed by Japan, Korea and China and the

Nepalese emigrants to these East Asian countries together accounted for 2.83 percent of the total emigrants. Malaysia represents the sixth largest destination of Nepalese emigrants and the UK represents the fifth largest destination (CBS 2001).

Following these estimations the number of Nepal in India would be about two to five time highest than official statistics show because Nepalese migration to India is often semi permanent or seasonal migration for migrating to Gulf countries. Official source such as the national census speak of 110000 migrants in 2001 and the ministry of labour and transport registered only slightly less than 104000 migrants. Estimate however suggest that between 200000 to 400000 persons are working in Gulf countries (Garner and Gurung 2003,299).

Considering the estimates of emigration to India and Gulf countries, the percentage of the total population absent from Nepal would be between 6.5 and 14.70% compared to the officially recorded 3.3 percent (Kullmair et. al. 2006).

### **2.3 Labour Migration and Rural Livelihood**

Agriculture is the main sector of employment for 83 % the individual involved in the labour force and 86 % of household are cultivating some land (World Bank 1998).

Seddon, Gurung and Adhikari (2001), argue that off-farm and non-farm income is critical in determining the overall livelihood status of the household and its members. For nearly two centuries rural Nepal have brought money back to home and supplement their farm income and contributed to the livelihood of household members. They claim that rural livelihoods have never been wholly reliant on agriculture. At the same



time labour migration has long been an important feature of rural areas in Nepal.

Household income comes from diverse sources of remittances for rural households. Migration of labour force across the country and its border is a crucial component of household as well as national economy. Labour migration has become a major source of income to rural households. Most of the 18-35 aged rural people are engaged in circular labour migration who mostly return to their parental home for the autumn festival season at Dashai and Tihar and they are at home for one or two month only (Graner and Karmacharaya, 2001).

Wage labour and seasonal labour migration are major supplementary income source for rural households (Pokhrel, 2000). The main source of earning for rural household (for 17.3 percent people) is foreign employment (Bhandari, 2003).

The remittance of labour makes a singular contribution to the national economy, but they find no mention in national economic calculation (Dixit et al 1997:10). Lickwis martin (2001) argues that subsistence agriculture does no longer guarantee livelihood security for rural household most of them need other sources of income to survive. Seasonal labour migration and wage labour are a common income strategy of many households in the village. Interaction with urban labour market is a part of rural livelihood patterns. Majority of the households are there with a low food sufficiency and high risk of food security. Rural people try to meet their need for cash income with wage labour and migration.

Labour migration to India, Arabian country and other country is increasingly, important in terms remittances and migrants for improving their personal attitudes, maintain household economy and livelihood.

## **2.4 Remittances**

Though the amount of money remitted per persons annually varies considerably from one country to another it will improve the overall economic scenario of the country if labour from other countries regularly send money without any interruption. In 2003, total inflow of remittance was 44 billion NRS. Equivalent to approximately 604 million US\$ (Kollmair et al, 2006).

NPC (1997) estimated that 35 percent of total household income in rural Nepal comes from off-farm and non-farm earnings. Annual remittances form India amount to about 40 billion and additional 35 billion from other countries (Dahal 2000:42).

Graner and Gurung (2003) estimated the annual remittances amount to about 35-69 billion rupees, equivalent to about 13 to 25 percent of the GDP (Cited in Shai, 2005). Similarly, 23 percent of all households in Nepal and 24 percent rural households received remittances in 1966 (NLSS 1996).

The CBS Survey of 2003 shows the proportion of such households in 32 percent. Rural areas have higher proportion of recipients relative to urban areas. In particular, 40 percent of households in rural west of households receiving remittances has increased from 23 percent in 1995/96 to 32 percent in 2003/04. Of the total remittances 23.2 percent come from India. The Far West has higher shares (63 percent) from India, which Mid-West has 59.5 percent remittances from India (CBS 2003/04)

It is urged that, beside 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. It has been urged that if the contribution of remittance to pull down the poverty level was ignored, the poverty level of the country would have been increased to 36-37 percent from 31 (as cited in NRB 2007: 1 [2064BS]).

Despite the huge contribution of remittance in reducing poverty, its use in capital formation for productive investment is still a lacking part. Studies have conclude that, households use the remittance income primarily on household purposes like purchase of homestead land or house, paying off the loan purchase of jewellery or deposit in banks (NRB 2005).

# **CHAPTER - THREE**

## **RESEARCH METHODS**

This chapter deals with the methods adopted by researcher for data collection, analysis and interpretation. In this chapter, the researcher mainly discuss on the reason for the selection, process of sample selection, nature and sources of data and the tools which were used to collect the information from the field. Similarly, the chapter also deals about the data presentation and interpretation applied by researcher in this thesis.

### **3.1 Selection of the Study**

This micro level research has been conducted in remote village of Tanahun district in Western Nepal which was one of the least developed regions of Nepal. I selected Dalbhanjyang tole of Satiswara VDC of Tanahun as the research site. One of the reasons behind selecting this site is that many people have been migrating to India for last few decades and Arabian countries from this area. In this sense, the site is suitable for me to find out the cause of labour migration, trend history of emigration as well as their present dominant economic strategies. Moreover this area has also been appropriate for the researcher in finding out the role of labour migration in their household economy as well as livelihood.

At present a large number of young adults population adaptation of international labour migration as a livelihood strategy for in the study area. Therefore, this area was suitable for the researcher to find out the present livelihood strategy of the local inhabitant as well as contribution of the labour migration in their household economy.

### **3.2 Research Design**

This study adapted descriptive as well as analytical designs for its research. The description was about socio-economic and cultural setting of the study area relating it with the labour migration as a livelihood strategy of rural people. Basically, the source of household income, uses of remittances and characteristics of migrant workers in terms of age, sex, education and caste, ethnicity as well as contribution of agricultural production have been described.

As the study was concerned with the interpretation of relationship between agricultural production and food sufficiency and land holding size, it analyses the data and examines the relationships between different variables. The study relies on the primary data collected in a natural or real life setting.

### **3.3 Universe and Sampling**

All labour migrated household of Dalbhanjyang Tole was the universe of the study. However, the researcher has selected 30 household only as a sample unit for detail study. There were three caste/ethnic groups like Gurung, Newar and Damai in the study area. Before selection of the same unit, I divided the all inhabitant into three categories i.e., Gurung, Newar and Damai based on caste/ethnic composition. Among them, Gurung was the largest households and followed by Newar and Damai respectively. Out of total households, 19 households from Gurung households, 9 from Newar and 2 household for Damai were selected for detail study according to their presentation in the study area.

### **3.4 Nature and Source of Data**

Both primary and Secondary data were collected by employing various tools, techniques and sources. The primary data was collected from interviews, key informant interviews and observation. Secondary data have been collected from VDC record, NGO/INGO, booklets, Newspaper and literature related to migration. This study was based on qualitative as well as quantitative data.

#### **3.4.1 Household Survey**

The total 147 household of Dalbhanjyang only 30 households were taken as sample by using stratified sampling methods. The total population was 147 person consisting of 84 males and 90 females. The household survey, the general household information such as caste composition, religion, sex, age, marital status education status, family structure, house pattern, land holding size, causes migration, number and types of livestock were collected. In addition, the duration of settlement in the destination place was also collected by using household survey. To collect that information, the researcher had used a household survey.

#### **3.4.2 Interview/key Information Interview**

For the primary data collection, some unstructured interviews were conducted. The household head was selected as a sample for interviewing. During the field work interviews of 17 male and 13 female from 30 households were taken. I collected information about the causes behind migration in the study area. Livelihood strategies of people as well as the contribution of remittances to the household economy, foreign employment, network and access with places of destination and their opinion were obtained.

Key informants interview was conducted with ward chairman, old persons, teachers, migrants returned from abroad their family members of that area. Through the key informant interview, the data regarding to causes of migration of local people, history migration, past and present livelihood strategy ways of earning, contribution of remittance to the household economy, domestic production, their views and experience concerning foreign employment and their opinion about it were obtained.

### **3.4.3 Observation**

Observation was used to obtain qualitative information. During the course of study, the researcher observed the physical and socio-cultural environment. The respondent's house structure, settlement patterns, ornament, clothes and surroundings were observed and recorded by observation. Observation was done during daily walks through the village and interaction with villagers. The tool also provided further details information about their live style. This tool was also suitable for researcher to cross-check the information collected.

The researcher observed the village structure, conditions of school, health post, health center, road telephone service their distance from the village and their usability and availability to the villagers.

### **3.5 Methods of Data Analysis**

Both qualitative and quantitative methods of data analysis were used to scrutinize primary as well as secondary data. The quantitative data's were analyzed using descriptive as well as statistical tool (i.e. percent, ration etc). The information based on qualitative methods was analyzed is descriptive way.

### **3.6 Limitation of the Study**

This research was totally based on primary data and the study mainly focuses on impacts of labour migration in livelihood in the village of Satiswara VDC of Tanahun District. Due to several limitations, this study covers only the study area so it cannot be generalized to all other aspects of labour migration.



# **CHAPTER – FOUR**

## **THE SETTING**

The chapter describes the Geographical setting of the study area. The main focuses on the location of the study area. The main focuses on the location of the study area, its physical setting, its agricultural production, practice of animal husbandry, its resources and development infrastructure available in the study area.

### **4.1 Geographical Setting**

Tanahun district is one among 75 districts of Nepal. Tanahun falls in the western Development Region and in Gandaki Zone. Tanahun is situated 150 km west of Kathmandu and 50 km East of Pokhara. This hilly district lies between 83057' and 84034' East longitude and 27031' to 28005' north latitude. Having almost equal length and breath it covers an area of 1151sq. km.

The study was conducted in the Satiswara VDC ward No. 7 Dalbhanjyang. Geographically this VDC lies a hilly area and is surrounded by Mirlung VDC in the East, Kayamin VDC in the West, Risti VDC in the North, Tanahunsur VDC in the South.

Economy refers to production, consumption and distribution of goods and service among the individuals in a community or a society. It supports livelihood of people. The main economy of Dalbhanjyang including Satiswara VDC is based on agriculture. All household have at least a small piece of land for agriculture purpose. Besides this some households also rely upon services in different government and non government sectors and foreign employment for their livelihood.

Agriculture is the backbone of Dalbhanjyang villagers. Almost all the household in the study area are involved subsistence farming. They produce different cereal crops for their own consumption. After migration from the origin they have less given priority to their traditional occupation *Khetipati* such as paddy, millet, maize, potato vegetable and fruit production (For details see in next chapter).

Animal husbandry is another way of making earning livelihood in Dalbhanjyang. Almost all household keep livestock due to the availability of fodder needed for livestock rearing. People keep different varieties of animals like buffalo, cow, ox, goat and cock. Farmers keep livestock for different purposes, i.e. cows and buffaloes for milk and milk products, ox for ploughing, goat for meat also their waste is utilized as manure in agricultural land. Easy money can be earned by selling the livestock or the products like milk, ghee and meat (for details next chapter).

## **4.2 Natural resources**

Natural resources cover the entire natural gifts such as forest, soil, mineral and water. There is an intimate relationship between natural resources and people. These resources affect economic as well as socio cultural practices of the population. Main resources namely forest, soil (land) and water are discussed below.

### **4.2.1 Forest**

In the study area there are two types of forest: community forest and private forest. Community forest is a type of forest where a local community themselves conserves and manages the forest. That means all the members of the community forest were responsible for the management of the forest. The products of the forest are used by member

of user groups according to the rule of the community. On the other hand, Private forest is maintained by person for his/her own benefit. No one has access in this forest except owners of the forest. All the resource available in the forest were also used for their own benefit.

In the field observation elderly persons informed me that there was no scarcity of the forest in the past particularly in the Rana period. At that time forest was protected by Talukdar. Along with the fall down of the Rana regime, no one took responsibility to protect the forest resources. As a result the forest resources were gradually decline from the area. The forest degradation was reach in the peak stage after Nationalization of the forest in 1957. Deforestation continues until the Panchayat period. Dalbhanjyang the inhabitants of Dalbhanjyang are facing the problem like shortage of fuel, wood and timber. However at the local level afforestation selected species such as sal-tree (*Shorea robusta*), bamboo, kaaphal (*Merica exculenta*), mango, pear and other fruits and fodder trees had been taking place. Villagers use forest products (types of trees) such as firewood for fuel, grass for fodder, timber for construction and agricultural tools.

#### **4.2.3 Soil**

In the study area, villagers have categorized the soil in the different categories based on colour of soil and nature of soil. On the bais of the colour of the soil villagers categoried the soil into four categories like black soil, loam soil, red soil and white soil. Similarly on the basis of nature of the soil villagers have categorized the soil into two categories i.e., sandy soil and rocky soil. They use soil for various purposes. White and red soils are generally used for painting houses in various rituals and

festivals. The villagers also informed me that black and loam soils are most productive soil for agricultural purpose where as sandy and rocky soils were less productive.

#### **4.2.4 Water**

Water is the most important natural resource which is used for multiple purposes by the villagers. It is used to irrigate agriculture land. In addition, villagers also use water for drinking, cooking, bathing, washing clothes etc. There are some stream, wells, springs in the study area. Among them, Makerekhola, Chokhola, Newarpani, Parepani are the major sources of water for farmers as well as its other inhabitant. Villagers had made *Kulo* (irrigation canals) for irrigating their land. Despite this, the villagers also use rainfall and stream water for irrigating their fields.

#### **4.3 Development Infrastructure**

Infrastructure are the basic requirement for the overall development of any place. Road, communication, health, education, drinking water, electricity were the available infrastructure facilities enjoyed by the people of Dalbhanjyang tole. It means the tole is relatively developed in comparison to other several villagers of the nation.

Road is a basic infrastructure for development. In Satiswara VDC, there are no alternative transportation facilities except motor roads. Those roads are linked to each village. Muler are used to carry the loads before the road has introduced in the area.

As a means of communication, now, telephone is playing trivial role. But still, government has not been able to provide land-line telephone facilities in every house. So people use Mero-Mobile, Namste

Nepal Mobile and Sky phone for communication. In this village limited people have private telephone. Some people have used cordless phone and currently after 2005 some emigrants family and businessman have also mobile phone. Besides this postal service is another facilities of communication that is used by some of the residents of Dalbhanjyang. The post office is situated near the VDC office.

In household survey electricity has been found to be provided in most household of the Satiswara VDC. According to them the access of electricity in the study area had made them easy for reading, lighting at night, cooking heating etc. Similarly, it is easy for them to watch television and several audio video and CD player.

In this VDC there is one health post, several medical shops and family planning workers serving the villagers. It provided the modern health facilities to the villagers during the time of health problems. However, in my field observation majority of the household did not get the facility of health in the VDC due to the lack of economy. Some informant informed me that after migration in the Arabian countries, the living standard of the people was gradually increased as a result some proportion of their income was used for health. In this household survey 40 percent were enjoying better health service.

## CHAPTER - FIVE

### SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE OF THE STUDY AREA

Social and economic characteristics of the population are important for sociological analysis of the phenomenon. This analysis provides the background for better understanding of the migration and livelihood trends of the villages. In this chapter, socio-cultural aspects like caste/ethnic composition, religion, education, agricultural practices, marital status, and economic status of people would be described to analyze the relation with migration and livelihood strategy.

#### 5.1 Caste/ Ethnic Composition

There are three caste and ethnic groups of the people in the Dalbhanjyang. They were Gurung, Newar and Damai. Table 1 presents number of households and percentage of population occupied by them in Dalbhanjyang Tole.

**Table - 1**  
**Caste/Ethnic Composition in the Study Area**

<b>Caste/Ethnic Groups</b>	<b>No. of Household</b>	<b>%</b>
Gurung	19	63.4
Newar	9	30.0
Damai	2	6.6
Total	30	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2008

Of the total households, Gurung community constitutes the largest ethnic group which occupied nearly 2/3 of the total population. This group comprises about 63.4 percent. Newar is the second largest group constituting of 30.0 percentage and Damai comprising of 6.6 percent of the total population.

## 5.2 Age and Sex Composition

Age and sex are important demographic characteristics playing an important role in any population analysis. Age-sex structure is the product of past trends in fertility, mortality, and migration and determines in turn the current levels of birth, death and migration rates. Moreover, the age-sex composition of the population has significant implications for the productive potential, manpower supply, school attendance, status and role and responsibility of individual in family and society and family planning service delivery etc (Pantha and Sharma, 2003:58).

The total population in the 30 household was 174 of the total population, 84 were male and 90 female. The table -2 shows the age and sex composition of the households under study.

**Table - 2**  
**Age and Sex Composition**

Age Group	Male		Female		Total		Sex Ratio
	No	%	No	%	No	%	
0-4	4	4.7	7	7.8	11	6.3	57.1
5-9	5	5.9	3	3.4	8	4.6	66.6
10-14	6	7.2	10	11.1	16	9.2	60.0
15-19	13	15.5	9	10.0	22	12.6	144.4
20-24	5	5.9	7	7.8	12	6.8	71.4
25-29	12	14.3	8	8.9	20	11.5	150.0
30-34	8	9.6	7	7.8	15	8.6	114.2
35-39	6	7.3	8	8.9	14	8.1	75.0
40-44	5	5.9	9	10.0	14	8.1	55.5
45-49	4	4.7	3	3.3	7	4.1	133.3
50-54	5	5.9	7	7.8	12	6.9	71.4
55-59	6	7.2	4	4.4	10	5.7	150.0
60+	5	5.9	8	8.4	13	7.5	62.5
Total	84	100.0	90	100.0	174	100.0	93.33

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

The table shows that the sex ratio of the total population is 93.33. However, the sex ratio for the age group 5-9 is higher in comparison to the average sex ratio. In this study area 15 to 40 age group population was higher. It clearly suggests that there was higher change of labour migration. In Nepalese context people under the age of 15 year and above 60 years are supposed to be economically inactive and people between the age of 15-59 years are considered economically active. In this sense 40.2 percent people are inactive and 59.8 percent population is active in this area.

### 5.3 Religious Composition

Hinduism is the religion adopted by majority of the groups at Dalbhanjyang. More than 83.4 percent belong to this religion. Table 3 show the religious composition of these area.

**Table - 3**

#### **Religious Composition**

<b>Religion</b>	<b>No. of Households</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Hindu	26	86.7
Buddha	4	13.3
Total	30	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

The above table shows, Hindu is as the major religion (86.7%) and Buddhism as the second highest religion (13.3%). In these areas, there was only one person following Christian Religion, which shows that Christianity is gradually being introducing in this area.



## 5.4 Pattern of House

In the study area, I observed two types of house: single storied and two storied. Both of them were, made of soil and stone. Out of 30 houses 14 were slate roofed, 2 were thatch roofed and 14 were corrugated roof. The walls of all houses were made of soil and stone. Majority of the houses were two storied. In the two storied house, the ground floor was used for keeping agricultural equipment and upper floor was used for bedroom and setting rooms. In single storied house a room was used for kitchen, another for keeping agricultural equipment and rest were for bedroom. The table 4 shows the house types of Satiswara VDC ward No. 7, Dalbhanjyang.

**Table - 4**

**Pattern of House**

Types of House	corrugated roof	%	Thatched Roof	%	Slate Roof	%	Total No.	%
Single storied	2	14.28	2	100			4	13.3
Two Storied	12	85.72			14	100	26	86.7
Total	14	100.00	2	100	14	100	30	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2008

Village settlement was found scattered in the study area. However, I also observed that each caste/ethnic group lived in their own separated Tole (selection area).

In the study area, I found that the villagers generally measured their social and economic status by the structure of the house they have. The house roofed by stone slate was taken as the sign of rich family in the

study area. That means, the structure of house reflects the social status of the household and helps in demarcating between rich and poor people in the society. Thus the types and structure of the house were found to be also symbolizing the social stratification of the society.

## 5.5 Education Composition

In the study area people generally give higher social status to educated people than uneducated people. Education is a vital and key factor for foreign employment. In the study area those people who have got higher education have go employment opportunities in governmental and foreign sector. With some still illiterate, majority of the people is literate. Table 5 shows educational status of the household studies.

**Table - 5**

### **Educational Status of the studies population**

Level	Male	%	Female	%	Total	%
Illiterate			7	11.7	7	5.38
Literate	5	7.2	4	6.6	9	6.93
Primary (1-5)	17	24.2	12	20.0	29	22.31
Lower Secondary (6-8)	12	17.2	10	16.7	22	10.93
Secondary (8-10)	7	10.0	6	10.0	13	10.0
S.L.C.	13	18.6	12	20.0	25	19.24
Intermediate	13	18.6	8	13.3	21	116.15
Bachelor	2	2.8	1	1.3	3	2.31
Master	1	1.4			1	0.76
Total		100.0	60	100.0	100	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2008

In this study female illiterate rate 5.38 percent. Similarly male education percentage is higher than female in the study area. The table 5 also shows that number of girls' attendance in the secondary and higher level education were lower in comparison to boy. The reasons behind low literacy rate among the female was due to lack of time as the girls have had to assist their parents in household chores might from their childhood. The girls between the ages of 14-19 were generally considered to be marriage able age in the study area. During the time of my field work, two marriages was took place belong to Gurung and Shrestha ethnic group, who were under the age of 18<sup>2</sup>. It also proved the fact that it this place girls are forced for early marriage at the age of 15-18.

## 5.6 Marital Status

Marriage is a socially approved sexual and economic union between a man and a woman that is presumed to be more or less permanent and that subsumes reciprocal right and obligations between to spouses and their children (Ember and Ember 1994:227). The table 6 shows the marital status of studies household.

**Table - 6**

### Marital Status

Marital Status	Male		Female		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Married	34	45.9	33	39.4	73	46.21
Unmarried	40	54.1	44	52.4	78	49.37
Widow/widower			5	5.9	5	3.16
Divorce			2	2.3	2	1.26
Total	74	100	84	100.0	158	100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

<sup>2</sup> Hira Gurung and Kamala Shresta of Dalbhanjyang had got married at the age of 15 and 18 respectively.

In Nepalese context, women are married earlier than men. The population of current married males was slightly higher than females. The table show the disparity in widowhood between male and female in the study area. There was no single widower but 5 widows. The main causes behind that the male have social right of remarriage. Similarly in the study area, boys generally preferred to marry girls of lower age than themselves.

## **5.7 Agriculture**

It is know fact that agriculture is the backbone for the livelihood of people in Dalbhanjyang. In it 86% people were found be to depending on agriculture for their subsistence livelihood/economy. After migration they have still give priority to their agricultural occupation, *Khetipati* (i.e. maize, millet, paddy etc.).

### **5.7.1 Landholding Pattern**

In the study area, land as the main source of economy. All household have a small piece of land. For many of the respondents, lands is permanent property as well as secure means of livelihood for the present as well as future than any other sources such as service, foreign employment and wage labour. This is proved by the evidence that income from remittance was used for buying land in the study area. There was disparity of landholding among the villagers of Dalbhanjyang. Table - 9 reflects the landholding pattern of all household in Dalbhanjyang.

**Table - 7**  
**Landholding Pattern**

<b>Landholding (In Rapanees)</b>	<b>No. of Household</b>	<b>Percent</b>
1-5	7	23.4
6-10	8	26.6
11-15	6	20.0
16-20	5	16.4
21+	4	13.4
Total	30	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2008

The above table shows that land available to the different household. Land is taken as the source of higher social status in this area. People with many Rapanes of land have higher social status and for families having only 1 to 20 Rapanees land were found to be facing problems in fulfilling the annuals demand of food grains.

In Dalbhanjyang all household cultivate their own land. Land is divided in to two types, Khet (irrigated land) and Bari (Un-irrigated land). khet is for the cultivation of paddy and wheat, Whereas the bari for dry crops such as millet.

**Table - 8**  
**Types of land and their composition**

<b>Types of Land</b>	<b>No. of Household</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Khet	12	40.00
Bari	18	60.00
Total	30	100.00

Source: Filed Survey, 2008.

Table 8 shows that most of the land in Dalbhanjyang is *bari* or unirrigated land. *Bari* is less productive than *Khet*. Millet and Maize are mostly produced in this area. In the study area, Migrant and person have given priority to Ghareti (cartilage).

### 5.7.2 Food Sufficiency

In this area food sufficiency was determined and affected by land holding size, productive and size of family. Food grain production of the households is also affected due to various causes such as types of land and landholding pattern. A large proportion of the household in Dalbhanjya are unable to fulfill food requirement of their family by their own production. The table 9 shows the food sufficiency of households in the study area.

**Table - 9**  
**Food Sufficiency**

<b>Duration (Months)</b>	<b>No. of Household</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Less than 4	7	23.3
4-8	9	30.0
8-12	10	33.3
12 above	4	13.4
Total	30	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2008

The actual food situation of household in the study area presented in table 9 shows that out of the total sample households only 13.4 percent could fulfill their food needs only a very small proportion out of the total

households reported their own produces sufficient for the whole year. Larger proportion of households reported their own produce was sufficient for 8-12 month only 30 percent of the families were provided for 4-8 months of foods by their own land products and 23.3 percent of the families with even worse condition could sustain only below 4 months on their own production. For fulfilling their needs these families depend on extra income sources to fulfill their needs for food, which they bring from shops for the rest of the year. In this study area low productivity and high dependency on rainfall are the most of causes for the food deficiency. There is a relation between migration and food grains. According to a local resident Sher Bahadur Gurung, at first when man and women used to work together there was enough food grains to eat. But now when most of the men have gone to abroad, there has been a lack of manpower which automatically has caused lack of food grains.

## **5.8 Livestock**

Livestock is an integral part of the subsistence farming system in this area. Most households rear animals like cows, oxen, buffalos, goats and chickens. Livestock is another main source of income for them. Cows and buffalos are reared for milk while oxen for ploughing the fields. Chickens and goats are raised for household consumption. Cow's urine (*Gahut*) is also used to sanctifying on various occasion such as death, birth and menstruation. It was believed that drinking *gahut* (cow-urine) sanctities them other wise they remain impure.

Cow dung is necessary for them to purify their house and kitchen in various ritual and festival such as Aushi, Purnima, Shardha, Dashin and Tihar. The table 10 shows the livestock of Dalbhanjyang.

**Table - 10**

**Number of Livestock by Households**

<b>Types of Livestock</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Cow	5	4.0
Oxen	15	12.0
Buffalo	20	16.0
Goat	35	24.0
Chicken	50	40.0
Total	125	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2008

The table 10 shows the number of chickens reared are greater than other livestock. Since chicken is used in many conditions like in Aaitabare Puja, Baisakh Purnima, food for guests etc. Every household has at least one goat. Buffalos are kept by 16.0 percent of the households. The main reason behind to kept buffalo by the villagers was that it gave large quantity of milk and produced more manure. Similarly, the villagers also informed that the quantity of fat in buffalo's milk was also higher than cow. They could produce large amount of ghee from buffalo's milk. Moreover, the price of buffalo's milk was higher than the cow's milk in the local market. For example, the price of buffalo's milk and cow's milk was 20 and 16 Nepali Rupees respectively during my study period. However, the villager who kept cow informed me that they were easy to rear because a small amount of fodder is sufficient where as buffalo demand more fodder.



In the study area, hens are kept for meat, cash and religious purposes. In the study area, it was informed me that they use the cock for offering the blood to the local ghost called "Aitabare". The puja was done in order to protect the villagers as well as domestic animal from the various evils such as unproductivity, illness, natural calamities from the ghost.

### **5.9 Off - Farming Activities**

In the study area, 86.6 percent household are unable to produce food grains for the whole year. Therefore, these household are involved in other off farm activities like employment in factories, teaching, marketing and other business sectors. In the study area 60 persons had gone to foreign country for employment, only one person was teacher at Dalbhanjyang School and two persons were found to involve in business man. There are two persons who run business in Dalbhanjyang. We find there selling food grains, salt, cooking oil, clothes.

Similarly, majority of the people were involved in foreign employment. In the study area not only members of the poor family but also the middle and rich families were also found to be involved in the foreign employment. Here middle and rich families denoted to those family who produced sufficient food grain through out the year from their own land or share-cropping. This clearly suggests that food insufficiently was not only the main cause of labour migration in the case of Dalbhanjyang.

It the study area 1 household of Damai was involved in "Bista" which is their traditional occupation. Tailors get food and goods by their Bista for sewing the clothes of other peoples. We find a decline in Bista

System after people have started to migrate. Most of them wear ready-made clothes like Jeans and T-Shirts. A local tailor Mithe Pariyar informed me that the use of Bista system was gradually decline with the introduction of ready-made garments. Ten years back, he had more than 50 Bista households in Dalbyanjyang whereas only less than 25 households were associated with him as Bista.

# **CHAPTER - SIX**

## **CAUSES OF MIGRATION**

This chapter deals about the history of labour migration, causes of international labour migration, consequence of labour migration and role of labour migration and livelihood and Dalbhanjyang.

### **6.1 The History of Migration**

The history of migration in Dalbhanjyang is not new. In the First World War, the people of Satiswar had gone to India for employment. In the beginning, 3 persons had gone to India to work in British Indian Army. After Indian independence the young people from Dalbhanjyang migrated to work in different cities of India for different purposes. It continued until 1990s. Now a days this trend has changed a bit and people are migrating to Arabian and other countries other than India for employment.

### **6.2 Causes of Migration**

Migration is as old as human history. People have been moving towards place where better facilities are available. In case of international migration, skilled as well as unskilled manpower is flying away from developing countries to developed countries.

In the case of Dalbhanjyang, there are several cases which play decisive role for labour migration. They were lack of productive land, education facilities, transportation facilities, health facilities, electricity facilities, employment facilities and sense of insecurity. The causes for migration can be classified as push and pull factors.

### 6.3 Push Factors

Push factors means the factors which attracts people towards another place by leaving their place of origin for better opportunities. The study found out major 4 causes which pushed the migrants from their origin place. The push factors are less agricultural production, unemployment or lack of employment opportunity, lack of security, low access to education and migration of relative and neighbour.

**Table - 11**

#### **The push factors behind the migration according to the households**

<b>Cases</b>	<b>No. of Emigrates</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Lack of agricultural land	26	32.5
Unemployment	22	27.5
Low access of education	20	25.0
Lack of Security	6	7.5
migration of relatives and neighbour	6	7.5
Total	80	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2008

#### **6.3.1 Lack of Agricultural Land**

Lack of agricultural land is the highest cause (32.5%) for international labour migration in Dalbhnjyang as reported by the respondents. In the study area there isn't sufficient water resources for irrigation. Their land is located in the upper part of the river. It was impossible for them to irrigate that land. Therefore, most of the farmers are dependent on the rainfall for transplanting the paddy. Most of the

lands were used for dry cultivation. This area of land known as Bari is used for growing cereals like wheat corn and millet. The decline in agricultural production due to the decline in fertility productivity capacity of the land is one of the major reasons of migration of these people to foreign countries.

### **6.3.2 Unemployment**

The second cause behind international labour migration is found to be unemployment. This national problem occupies as the major problem in this VDC. Unemployment was put forward as the second major cause by 27.5 percent of the total respondent families. There are no NGO/INGO, no government offices, no facilities and market functioning in this area. Therefore, most of the people depend upon agriculture for their livelihood in lack of other options. It can be said that lack of better income and employment opportunities are some of the major reasons of behind emigration. Among the people of Dalbhanjyang only one is teacher, two are business men while other are engaged in agricultural occupation. For example when I asked a question about the reasons behind the migration of young people towards India and other Arabian countries, one of the respondents said that in Nepal there was the lack of employment in government and non-government sector. The person who have one's own man ( *afno-manchhe*) only get chance of employment in government, non-government and private sector. That kind of finding was also found by Bista in his book *Fatalism and Development: Nepal's Struggle for Modernization* (1991).

### **6.3.3 Low Access of Education**

Around 25 percent of the total respondents pinpointed in associability to education as the major cause for international migration. They informed that the nearest higher education was not available at the local area. There is one primary school in Naryan Chaur but no campus in Satiswara VDC for higher education. Therefore they have to send their children to Damauli in Tanahun for higher education. People left their house for higher education which was economically costly for poor households. One of the informants said that it was very difficult for them to give higher education to their off springs. As a result, after completing their school level education we send our off-spring to Arabian countries for earning money for livelihood. A key informant, Shambhu Shrestha, a teacher by profession informed that due to the lack of employment opportunities for undereducated and educated people in Nepal, more Nepalese are attracted toward foreign. Countries for employment as every kind of worker is accommodated in those country. A local resident said that since young boys are mostly attracted to work in abroad and earn foreign currencies, boy and girl are marry early so that people donot give continuity to their education.

Among the unemployed or underemployed persons, young people are more attracted towards foreign employment.

### **6.3.4 Lack of Security**

Lack of security has also been found to be one of the key reasons behind labour migration in the Satiswara VDC. During field study, it was found that out of 30 respondent 7.5 percent had migrated due to insecurity during the Maoist insurgency. During the period of insurgency

the peace and security condition of the whole country including that of Satiswara VDC was worse. In the rural area violence and terror were common after the Maoist insurgency in Nepal that started from 2052 B.S. Specially, youth were badly affected by these movement. People in this village felt themselves unsafe all the time. According to a key informant there were high chances of youth people being abducted by the Maoist during the insurgency. As a result, of this large number of youths migration to aboard countries due to the pressure from their parent as well as their own. Here, I have presented a case about how an adult man was compelled to migrate to Saudi Arab for labour and security.

Case: 1

*In 2065 B.S. Sunil Shrestha was about 28 years. The political conflict left none untouched. It was not a matter of surprise that he too became a victim. H's parents urged him to leave the country in search of a secure place as well as a job. He applied for Visa. He got a job of security gourd in Saudi Arab. At present be has returned home after working continuously for 3 years with his savings and bought a land and invested his remaining money in making a house.*

### **6.3.5 Migration of Relative and Neighbour**

During the household survey, only 7.5 percent people migrated to foreign countries due to the migration of relatives and neighbour to aboard. In the study area, I found that, Gopal Gurung went to Qatar after his brother, newphew and other villagers went abroad and get employed over there.

## 6.4 Pull Factors

The Pull factors are also responsible for emigration of people. Majority people have chosen India and other countries for migration. In Satiswara VDC reflects members of the migrants' family reported several reasons for choosing destination country. The reasons are as follows, higher wage rate, easy availability of unskilled work, no need of higher education and presence of friends and relatives. The table 12 presents the causes of emigration in the study area:

**Table - 12**

### **Main Causes of Emigration: Pull Factors**

<b>Causes</b>	<b>No. of Emigrants</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Higher wage rate	24	28.6
Easy availability of unskilled work	22	26.2
No need of higher education	20	23.8
Presence of friend and relatives	18	21.4
Total	84	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

#### **6.4.1 Higher Wage Rate**

Migrants their jobs only as a means to earn money. Getting higher wage rates is one of the main causes behind emigration. In the survey 28.6 percent of respondents highlighted it as the main cause. During the course of the field study, the respondents who returned back from the Arabian countries informed me that there was a huge disparity in wage rate provided in Dalbhanjyang and foreign countries. According to a key



informant a male member can earn only Rs 80 but they can earn Rs. 400-500 in foreign country per day. Therefore the people are attracted to countries for employment. Similarly the villager also informed that the person not only earn large amount of income in the Arabian countries but also have higher social and economic status in the village who returned with handsome earning. Therefore, foreign jobs enable them to increase their social status and prestige at home and society, when they come back.

#### **6.4.2 No Need of Higher Education**

In the study area, it was found that labour migrant below SLC had also migrated to foreign countries. Out of total migrated youth population, 23.8 percent of the emigrants had gone to foreign countries for employment with out higher education. A Key informant informed that in Nepal, there was no chance of getting government as well as non-government job without completing SLC. But in cause of India and other Arabian countries an illiterate person could get a good job and earn handsome amount. That earning was sufficient to fulfill the demand of basic need of their family. (Do you have any evidence to support this argument).

#### **6.4.3 Easy Availability of Unskilled Work**

Nepal was facing of the problem of unemployment and underemployment whereas Dalbhanjyang cannot be on exception in the case. In the course of study, I did not find any industries and commercial centers in Dalbhanjyang. The villagers also informed that lack of industries and commercial centers, there was a scarcity of employment opportunity in the study area. The skilled as well as unskilled power was

concentrated them in agricultural sector for employment which was seasonal. As a result large number of people was remained as unemployed and underemployed in the study area. In the case of illiterate or literate population in rural areas including Dalbhanjyang were unskilled. It became even harder for them to acquire employment. This condition is major factor which drives a lot of people including that of Dalbhanjyang to foreign countries, where unskilled labours have access to jobs like security guard, cook, driver, salesman and some other unskilled jobs in Arabian countries and Indian cities.

#### **6.4.5 Presence of Friends and Relatives**

Presence of friends and relatives has provided further impacts in attracting emigrants to India and Arabian countries. According to the field survey, probability of getting foreign employment through friends and relatives was found to be higher and relatively lower risk of fraud and possibilities of lower investment. Relatives employed in foreign countries provide necessary information through their family members to their relatives and friends. Most of the people seek work in localities where their relatives have gone before. More than 21.4 percent respondents households supported this factor as behind foreign employment.

#### **6.5 Impact of Labour Migration**

In Dalbhanjyang, the rapidly migration of youth people to the foreign countries like different cities of India and Arabian countries has been highly impacting on population composition as well as socio-cultural and economic activities of the people. Informants told that the number of youth male population in the village have been gradually absenting consequently some of the cultural practices like Rodhi,

Ghantu Dance were in the state of extinct in the study. Similarly, the village faced the shortage of agricultural labor in the study area.

The most prominent example of labour migration was seen in the population composition in the study area. During my field observation, it was very difficult to me to the youth male in the village. In the course of household survey, I asked a question to the information about the occupation of their youth members of the family. Majority of them said that their young sons had gone to Arabian countries for employment. It clearly suggests that after migration of youth people in foreign countries, the village was inhabitant by old and children along with the women of all age group.

Another and most important impact of labour migration was seen in the cultural performances carried out by villagers especially the young people in the study area. The villagers informed that the traditional cultural practice like Rodhi was gradually decreasing in Dalbhanjyang Tole. Rodhi is a cultural dance get together of young male and females belonging to the Gurung Community have declined and are carried out rarely now a day due to the emigration of the youths.

During the observation, I found that the impact of labour migration was seen in their dress pattern, food habits, marriage system and festivals. For example, the old persons informed me that in the past villagers used to eat maize, millet, wheat etc. But during my field observation, I found these food grains used rarely by the village. The villagers now use rice and wheat as their major food grain which they procure (413-3) from shops. Previously most of the women used to wear "Lungi" but now using of 'Kurta' Salwar is more in use. Along with these changes, the

traditional arrange marriage system has also been gradually rejected and the trend of love marriage has been adapted.

The villagers informed that the direct impact of youth migration was seen in agricultural work in the study area. Agriculture as an occupation demands intensive labour it is impossible to carry our agricultural activities by an individual alone. In the study area children, old age people and women were remained and majority of the youth were migrated in foreign countries as a labour employment. As a result, children, old age people and women were involved in agricultural activities which were mostly done by the youth population in the past. In my field observation, I found that old age especially the age of 50 were ploughing their field for transplanting and women and children were in weeding of maize in the study area.

The villagers also informed that the burden of household activities especially agricultural tasks has now been shifted to women. Previously women were mainly involved in household work. Now a day they also have to do outside works. This evidence clearly suggested that the labour migration of men created dual role on women in the household economy i.e., household work and outside household work.

Though the men are not there to work but the money which they send is used to fulfill their lack regarding the labour need in carrying out agricultural activities in the farms.

## **CHAPTER – SEVEN**

### **LABOUR MIGRATION AND LIVELIHOOD**

This chapter discusses on role of labour migration on livelihood of the village, income level of the labour migrants in the place of destination, expenditure and invest of income level of migrants people in Dalbhanjyang.

#### **7.1 Role of Labour Migration on Livelihood of the villager**

There is an intimate relation between migration and livelihood of the people in Nepal and Dalbhanjyang village can not be an expectation to it. Migration has been playing a key role in improving livelihood of the Dalbhanjyang people. The demand of cheap labour particularly in Gulf countries, East Asian countries and South East Asian countries due to their rapid industrial and economic developed has assisted. The villagers are fulfilling their needs through foreign employment.

The remittance from foreign employment has been playing an important role in improving the living standard of the households in Dalbhanjyang. Agriculture as the main occupation of the people was able to support livelihood of a very few households. However, they were not self sufficient in food production and due to the ever increasing size of their families, they had to depend on extra labour sources for buying food grains as their own agricultural production could not sustain even for 8 months. Though agriculture has been the major occupation of majority of the households of this village due to low productivity and yield of the crop it was hard to sustain for the whole year on their farm products. Therefore, people of the village have a compulsion to go out for work. In

this context, some of the labour migrants went to India, some went to Arabian countries and some to other for employment. Some households of the village have extremely feeble economic condition except labour migration, these households don't have any alternate way for their livelihood.

Some families are ever landless besides lacking other sources of income in village. Now some of families have been affording the household expense form the income generated through labour migration.

## **7.2 Income Level of the Labour Migrants in the Place of Destination**

The level of income depends upon the types of work they get. The jobs are categorized as government jobs, private jobs in the industries, construction work, labour collies, sale-man security services in the hospitality industry. Destination country determines the type of work in turn influences the level of salary and income of the migrant labours. Migrants working in India are the ones who get the lower salary in comparison to labours working in to other countries.

Some of the Dalbhanjyang migrants, who get jobs in reputed companies, receive good salaries along with facilities like free electricity apartments for staying, drinking water, vehicle and other facilities in the Gulf countries along with India. They were able to save large amount of income than other who did not have such facilities. The respondents informed me that most of the migrants labour did hard and difficult work and got low benefits. One of the key respondent informed that me unskilled labours earn relatively lower income than the skilled labour. In the case of these villagers, most of them work as unskilled workers in

India as well as in other foreign countries. The employers give them lower level of work like watchmen, gatekeeper, kitchen worker, vegetable garden, herder in desert and salesman, which entails lower level of salary and reduction in other facilities. Depending on the range of salary, labour migrants of this village they are classified as follows:

**Table - 13**

**Level of Income of the Labour Migrants**

<b>Month in Ruppees</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<10000	11	22.0
10000-15000	9	18.0
15000-20000	10	20.0
20000-25000	8	16.0
25000-30000	6	12.0
30000+	5	10.0
Total	50	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2008.

According to the data presented in table 13 cleared that persons having salary range below NRS. 10000 are the majority with 22 percent of the total labour migrants of this village. Migrants having an income range between 15-20 thousand NRS make up 20 percent while persons earning salary between 10-15 and 20-25 thousand consist of 18 percent each of the total labour migrants of Dalbhajyang. Labour migrants earn more in Arabian countries than India. Among the total migrants, 11 percent earned more than 25000 NR currencies per month. That was nearly 13 times higher per month than annual income of Nepali people.

The monthly income of migrants worker working even in Army of the India Government was only 10000 but labour migrant can easily earn more than this in Arabian countries. Therefore labour migrants of Dalbhanjayang, especially young are moving towards Arabian country according the Ward Chairperson Nanda Kumar Shrestha.

### 7.3 Expenditure

Expenditure refers to spend of income which has no return in the future. Foreign employment is considered as the second best alternative means of maintaining rural livelihood after agriculture. In the study area, large proportion of the income is used for meeting daily expenses such as food, clothing and education, paying taxes and maintaining other household activities. Labour migrants generally used their income to buy plot of agricultural land or building a new house in town area. The utilization of income is shows in table 14.

**Table - 14**  
**Expenditure of Remittance in the Study Area**

<b>Particular</b>	<b>Yearly average Expenditure</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Food	10000	23.82
Cloths	7000	19.04
Treatment	8000	16.66
Education	5000	19.04
Festival	4000	11.91
Entertainment	4200	9.53
Total		100.00

Source: Field Survey, 2008.



The data presented in the table 14 suggested that major part (23.82 percent) of the income is expended for buying food materials. While clothing, next to a food, claimed 19.04 percent of the total income with education equally claiming 19.4 percent. Festival celebration, health treatment and entertainment claimed 16.66 percent 11.91 and 9.53 percent respectively of the total income in this area. Besides these income is also used for paying debt, building houses and marriage.

#### **7.4 Invest of Income**

The Dalbhanjyang villagers define the term invest as a use of money for buy land or building of house in town or lending money for earning interest in order to earn profit. In the study area, it was found that some of the labour migrants invested their income for constructing houses in urban or local market area. For instance Ram Kumar Shrestha, at the age of 35 was the employee as a salesman in Almarai, a private business shop in Arabian countries. According to him, he has been working in this private business centre for 12 years. In the early time of his employment carrier, he earned Rs. 20000 which reached in 80000 now. From his income, he had made a four storey house in Damauli, the district head quarter, through which he earned NRs. 16000 from the rent of that house.

Similarly some of the people used their remittance for buying agricultural land. Bashu Dev Shrestha of Dalbhajhang has bought 40 ropani land in Chitawan and has made 3 storey house in Damauli with his foreign income. He earned more than NRs. 150000 per year from that land. In my field observation I found that almost all the households have bought a small plot of land for Ghareti in Domauli and other places with some of the already started making houses on it.

In this village many people have invested their income for educating their children in good schools. One of the respondent informed that if they invest money for their education it will make better future of their children.

# UNIT-EIGHT

## SUMMARY & CONCLUSION

### 8.1 Summary

Out of the total 117 households of Dalbhariyang only 30 households were taken as sample by using stratified sampling method. The total population was 174 persons consisting of 84 males and 90 females. Having a sex ratio is 93.33%. The society was heterogeneous in term of social structure, in which Gurung was the largest groups (63.4%) of the total population and followed by Newar and Damai with 30 % and 6.6 % respectively. Hinduism has the major group in this area with following up to 86.7% of the total population and following it in second position is Buddhism with a follower percentage of 13.3%.

Houses were mostly traditionally built and generally are one or two storeyed whereas 13.3% are one storeyed. In the study area, 5.38% are illiterate, 6.93% are literate 19.24% have done SLC, 16.15% have done PCL 2.15% have done Bachelors whereas only around 0.71% have done post-graduation. Out of total population 49.37% were unmarried and 46.21% married, 3.16% were widow and widower and 3.16% were divorced.

Agriculture is the main occupation of the people of Dalbhanjyang but unfortunately 96 households of it are unable to fulfill their yearly food demands by the production of their farm. Dalbhanjyang few households i.e., 13.4 percent are able to meet their food demands for the whole year by the production of their own field. Farm land is categorized as "khet" (irrigated land) and "bari" unirrigated land. Along with these two types of

land division a relatively new category of land 'Ghareti' (Gurtilage), has into fashion in this area. in the study area, majority of the migrant household had bought ghareti in urban and semi-urban area.

Farmers has been always employing other sub-strategies to fulfill their needs. Livestock farming is one of the major proponents of this occupation. Besides being an independent strategy in itself, livestock farming was found to be carried by these peasants turned migrant labour's family as an aide in fulfilling their agricultural requirements cow, ox, buffalo, chickens are the major livestock reared by this group of people. This kind of farming was to turned to be determined and affected by the economic status and cultural practices of the livestock holder. Though potential fields, livestock and agricultural farming has been found to be incapable of keeping its promise. Due to which more and more people were forced to think of off-farm activities, to sustain their life of these activities, services at national and international level were interesting. Due to more interesting offers put forward by foreign countries, migrant's people were found to be in foreign employment.

The youth people were migrated to foreign countries due to the several causes. Among them, lack of agricultural land (32.5%), unemployment (27.5%), low access to education (25.00%), lack of security (7.5%) and migration of relatives and neighbour (7.5%). Along with these factors easy availability and unskilled job relatively, higher salary and moreover no pre-requite of formal higher education are some other causes on more precisely pull factors, that attract these migrant labours.

Foreign employment has brought some shift in the socio-economic and cultural practices of the villagers. Most of the males are either in search of foreign jobs and some have migrated there. The village population thus presently is reduced to females, old people and children. In lack of efficient labour, agricultural activities. The main source of income of these peasants have lost its hold to remittance. Foreign employment has provided an easy alternate to the hard labour demanding job of farming. More and more of the population have neglected farming and switched on to foreign employment as source of income. Similarly, in lack of male youths traditional and cultural practices like "Ghatu" dance and "Rodhi Ghar" have declined. Most of the remittance is used in fields like fooding, clothing, celebrating festivals, entertainment and education. The offspring of the emigrants families attend good schools. The role of whom has also changed dramatically. Along with this living standard of the emigrant family has improved due to foreign employment.

## **8.2 Conclusion**

The major objectives of the study were to understand the causes behind labour migration in Dalbhanjyang tole of Tanahun District and to examine the contribution of foreign labour migration in household economy.

In this research, I explain the concept of 'niche' to examine the changing adoptive strategy of Dalbhanjyang people. In the past, people normally depended up on agriculture with animal husbandry whereas very few number of people have involved in labour migration in India city as gatekeeper, watch man and so on. Now, the niche of the Dalbhanjyang people has been gradually changing i.e., their have been exploiting the labour market of Arabian country as a temporary migration. That means, agriculture with animal husbandary was the main

source of livelihood. In this way, the concept of niche is suitable/appropriate to analyse the relationship between migration and livelihood of people.

There is no single cause of labor migration in the rural area. The study reveals multiple causes behind labour migration. Major causes behind this trend are lack of agricultural land, unemployment, lower access to education, lack of security and migration of relatives and neighbour and consequently who had a better living than their past one. Among other causes, majority of the emigrants, emigrated due to lack of sufficient agricultural land and lack of insecurity caused due to Maoist insurgency in the part. Besides, the emigration of the relatives and neighbour has also played major part in amplifying this trend. For instance, Santosh Shrestha a Dalbhanjyang resident pulled his brother and nephew to Qatar, after he himself had worked over there for two years.

The causes of labour migration may be change overtime. In the past people of Dalbhanjyang generally migrated to India due to the lack of agricultural land and unemployment. But at present particularly after Maoist movement a large number of youth people were migrated to Arabian due to the lack of insecurity in their home land.

The findings also show that the remittance of foreign labour migration play important role in household economy as livelihood of rural people. In the case of Dalbhanjyang majority of the people spend their income in foods, clothing, celebrating festivals and entertainment whereas as very few people spend their income in income generating activities i.e. buying of agricultural and construction of house in urban area. For example, Bashu Dev Shrestha of Dalbhanjyang has bought 40 ropani land in Chitawan and has made 3 storey house in Damauli.

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## Questionnaire for Household Survey

### Household Survey for labour migration on livelihood

1. VDC .....Ward No.....Caste/Ethnic.....  
Name of respondent .....Religion.....

2. Socio-economic condition of respondent households

Name of the members	Relation with household	Sex	Age	Marital Status	Education	Occupation		
						I	II	III
						A	B	L

3. How many members of your family member have gone abroad?  
Numbers .....

4. Which country has your family member gone to ?  
Country .....place/city.....

5. How long has/have he/they working there?  
Month ..... year.....

6. *Why did he/they go there?*

- a. lack of agriculture land
  - b. low agricultural production
  - c. Unemployment
  - d. Present political situation
  - e. others:
7. Why did he/they select that place?
- a. low investment
  - b. Higher wage rate
  - c. Easy availability of unskilled work
  - d. Presence of friends and relatives.
  - e. others:
8. Land holding pattern before and after the emigration (In Bigha/Kattha)

Types	Size of Land	
	After	Before
Khet		





TV/VCD/Radio		
Furniture		

**PART II**

**Key informant interview for emigrant**

- J What is the main causes of labour migration  
.....
- J When did you migrate from their?  
.....
- J How is the job situation of foreign country?  
.....
- J How much your earning amount?  
.....
- J How was your past livelihood?  
.....
- J How much investment of that earning?  
.....
- J What are the change brought by labour migration.  
.....

**PART III**

**Check list for key informant interview**

- J What is a causes of labour migration?  
.....
- J How is the historical background of migration  
.....
- J What is the trend of labour migration?  
.....
- J Which Age/Sex/Caste/ethnicity cultural groups people are migrating?  
.....
- J What is the past livelihood of labour migrants?  
.....
- J What is the present livelihood of labour migrants?  
.....

### **Key informant interview for emigrant**

- J Cause
- J Time period of migration
- J Job situation in foreign country
- J Earning amount
- J Past livelihood
- J Investment of that earning

### **Local Information (Key informant)**

- J History/trend
- J Causes
- J Past livelihood
- J Present livelihood
- J Change

### **Check list for key informant interview**

- J History of labour migration
- J Trend
- J Age Sex/Cast/Ethnicity
- J Causes of labour migration
- J Past livelihood of labour migrants
- J Present livelihood of labour migrants