



CHAPTER- I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Migration is the third component of population change, the other two being mortality and fertility. Migration is influenced through social, cultural, economic and political factors. It is a response of human organisms to economic, social and demographic forces in the environment. The United Nations Multilingual Demographic Dictionary defined migration as follows: “Migration is a form of geographical mobility or spatial mobility between one geographical unit and another, generally involving a change in residence from the place of origin or place of departure to the place of destination or place of arrival.

Migration of population is an international phenomenon. It is practiced from time immemorial. Migration implies giving up of some political boundary, however small it may be. Migration is not merely a process of shifting people from one place to another; it is a fundamental process to change the structure of the population and it contributes a lot for the understanding of the space content and space-relations of a geographical area. It is a highly selective process affecting individuals with certain economic, social, educational and demographic characteristics and therefore the relative influence of these factors may vary from country to country, as well as between regions within a country. Not only the factors controlling migration vary from area to area but also the significance of the same factor varies from person to person.

Migration involves three types of change- change in the area of out-migration, change in the area of in-migration and change in the migrants themselves. Many developing countries in the 1960s witnessed a large stream of migration of population from rural to urban areas despite rising level of urban unemployment and underemployment. There has been rapid growth of urban populations in developing countries not only due to natural growth of population but mainly due to migration. Usually, urban areas offer a variety of employment opportunities that demand labor. The characteristics of migrants in developing nations may broadly be divided into three broad categories such as demographic, educational and economic.

Generally people move from rural to urban areas. The factors influencing the decision to migrate are varied and complex. Rural urban migration has both positive and negative implications in economic and social development and environmental condition in both urban and rural areas. People adopt migration as a viable economic strategy, mainly because it offers a way out of the existing structural trap and new possibilities to improve their economic conditions. Migration represents a clear protest against the existing socio-economic arrangements as well as the underdevelopment of source areas. It personifies refusal to continue to adopt to the prevailing social relations of production.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

In Nepal the volume of internal migration has been very high and increasing in every decade. Migration is a serious problem of Nepal, especially in Kathmandu District. The process of migration has been gradually intensifying the existing settlement problems as well as creating new problems both at place of origin and destination.

The factors influencing the decision to migrate are varied and complex. Because migration is a selective process affecting individuals with certain economic, social, educational and demographic characteristics (Ghosh, 1985). Livelihood opportunities in rural areas are considerably low and the urban informal sector provides new opportunities. Labor migration from rural poor households to urban areas, mostly into the

Kathmandu Valley is high. This shift in migration patterns seems quite natural in that the capital city is the center of power and privilege. It exerts its influence in charting the direction of the country's political, social and economic development and it has disproportionately high share of consumption as well as investment in the urban sector. For a poor country like Nepal labor migration is a result of its socio-economic situation because poverty exists everywhere. Laborers have been recruited without contract letter and with a very minimum standard of agreement, that is, with wage and shelter for living. This situation has to be compromised by laborers because the supply of labor is more than the demand. They have to contend not only with ignorance of the new environment, but also with differences between that environment and the one from which they have come.

Migration to Kathmandu Valley, now-a-days, is even higher particularly after the Maoist Insurgency in the country. People are not safe in the rural areas and they are in trap between the government security force and maoist insurgents. So, people have been coming to the Kathmandu Valley where people may have felt relatively safer than in their origin. Migrants tend to move from places of lower economic opportunities to areas with higher potential opportunities. It has also been seen that migrants who stay in cities seem to be better off, on average than people who remain in the place of origin.

1.3 Rationale of the Study

Human power plays vital role in the development of the country. No country can implement development plans and programs unless a perfect knowledge about the size, age, sex, structure of population and its distribution patterns as well as available resources and employment opportunities. It is also equally important to know the view of people towards the particular area.

Workers in the informal sector do not enjoy the measure of protection afforded by the formal modern sector in terms of job security and decent working conditions. Most workers entering this sector are recent migrants from rural areas unable to find

employment in the formal sector. These laborers wish to become self dependent and make a prosperous life and move to urban areas. Their motivation is usually to obtain sufficient income for survival, relying on their own indigenous resources to create work. They find sporadic temporary employment in the informal sector and their incomes are insufficient to provide even the most rudimentary shelter. The migrants, on the other hand, also face serious adaptation problems, e.g. the rural migrants moving to the new towns suffer from lack of pure air, water and open space.

As Kathmandu Valley has been considered as a most migrant receiving area in the country, the study is focused in the area where the overwhelming majority of the migrants are working. Therefore, the study is an attempt in mapping out the existing working condition, the problems faced by migrant workers and their present situation. Availability of reliable data and in-depth analysis of the situation of the workers can help or suggest in making strategies to cope up with this problem.

1.4 Objectives

The *general objective* of the study will be to find out the problems faced by migrant workers in Kathmandu district.

The *specific objectives* will be:

- To find out the socio-economic condition of the migrant workers.
- To identify the real causes of migration of the workers.
- To examine various types of risk associated with their work participation.
- To explore the possible alternative ways to tackle with the problem of migrant workers.

1.5 Limitation of the study

The study has covered the migrant workers of Kathmandu district only. It can not be generalized in other areas. The findings of the present study may not be so relevant to all

the migrant workers since it covers limited number of respondent. This will be the major limitation of this study.

1.6 Organization of the Study

This thesis consists of a total of five chapters. The first chapter is the introductory chapter, which includes background of the study, statement of the problems, rationale, objectives, limitations of the study and finally organization of the study.

The second chapter deals with the five different sections of the literature review:

- Theoretical Research on Migration
- Migration in Nepal
- Trends of Migration
- Rural-to-Urban Migration
- Effect of Migration in Urban Areas

The third chapter deals about the methodology. It includes different types of research tools used in field work and rationale for selecting of that particular area.

Chapter four deals with the results and discussion on research findings. The outcomes of data collected from the respondents are interpreted here. It provides information regarding migrant worker's profile, working conditions of the workers and their perception regarding future life.

Chapter five is the last chapter which deals with the summary of the analysis, draws conclusion and recommendations based on the analysis of the findings.

CHAPTER- II

LITERATURE REVIEW

The decision to migrate is the outcome of human psychology and behavior. So it is very difficult to apply universal laws to human behavior. Theoretical explanation of migration had begun about more than a century ago which is different at different part of the world. Different attempts have been made to generalize migration with certain theories. There is no single theory which can explain all the situations of migrants in the process of migration. There are many scholars who have studied the migration process in different parts of the world. Some of the studies are described as below:

2.1 Theoretical research on migration

According to Lewis-Fei-Ranis model (1961), the economy consists of two sector: i) a traditional, rural subsistence sector characterized by zero or very low productivity “surplus” labor and ii) a high productivity modern urban industrial sector into which labor from the subsistence sector is gradually transferred. Modern sector growth and employment expansion is assumed to continue until all “surplus” rural labor is absorbed in the urban industrial sector.

According to Evertt S. Lee (1966) the process of migration is the product of four different sets of factors. They are factor associated with the area of origin, factor associated with the area of destination, intervening obstacles and personal factors. According to him, migration is a result of “pushes” and “pulls” at both area of origin and the area of destination.

The migration model of Todaro (1976) concerns with describing the process of migration from rural to urban area. He has given the most significant contribution to the large volume of migration literature. He is of the view that migration mechanism can be explained by the differences in expected rather than actual earnings between two places. The Todaro model has several policy implications in rural-urban linkage development.

In 1885, G.E. Ravenstein provided general laws of migration, which still remain starting points for much contemporary migration theory, particularly in rural-urban migration. Ravenstein's "laws" of migration may be summarized in the form of six basic propositions: i) Distance, ii) Hierarchy of urban centers (small, nearby first and then large emerging centers), iii) Stream and counter stream, iv) Urban-rural differences, v) Technology and communication and vi) Economic motive.

2.2 Migration in Nepal

Majority people living in rural communities are categorically the small farmers, tenants and landless poor. Meeting basic food and cash requirement for family maintenance is the main challenge for the farm families of rural Nepal. Survival strategy is the main philosophy of farming transformed from generation after generation. Rural economy based on agriculture and with subsistent mode of production in a traditional manner is suffering from low productivity and low wages for labor that is not compatible with modern consumerism. Therefore the rural economy has failed to absorb a large number of laborers, whereas the urban economy has become a labor demanding area, preferably seeking for cheap labor. This implies mobility outside the village for seeking off-farm and non-farm employment to complement rural livelihoods. Both internal mobility and migration abroad have been common as a coping strategy.

Nepal is presently experiencing a considerable volume of internal and international migration. Very high unemployment and underemployment rates of 17.4 and 32.3 percent respectively have compelled people to remain either in the vicious circle of poverty or

migrate to other places within and outside the country for better opportunities (CBS, 2003). The malaria control programs and the government policy of resettlement have largely increased migration from the mountain and hill zones in the late fifties and early sixties. Later, more and more people migrated to the Terai from the adjoining hills and mountain zones to find cheap agricultural land. The shift of occupation from agriculture to non-agriculture is a recent phenomenon.

Migration has been an important component of population redistribution in Nepal. People have been migrating from rural to rural and rural to urban areas in search of employment and educational opportunities. Occasional natural calamities like floods and landslides have also forced people to flee from their birth place to other potential areas for their livelihood. Important causes of internal migration in Nepal have been poverty, inequitable distribution of income, unemployment, difficult livelihood and food insecurity. The 2001 census included five main reasons for migration: trading, agriculture, employment, study/training and marriage.

Migration in general is caused by forced circumstances. Nepal's migration is particularly caused by its internal setting, which provides very limited scope for the people to maintain their livelihoods. The forced migration is taking place internally in Nepal as well due to the maoist reason since 1996. The problem of displaced persons is becoming acute in the western hills as a large number of people leaving the villages due to fear of maoist abduction. Kathmandu, the national capital and the other district headquarters are increasingly overcrowded with the displaced persons producing a variety of social problems.

Migration for labor in Nepal is not new. It has been recognized as normal practice by society in most parts of the country. Since the 1950s, migration from rural areas of Nepal has resulted in the formation of squatter settlements in the urban Kathmandu Valley. High unemployment and day-to-day struggles to survive have compelled people living in rural areas to leave their places of birth in search of a better life in city. Poverty and deprivation are obvious key factors that have contributed to the growing number of

workers in the exploitative labor market. Urban migration, especially to the Kathmandu Valley is overwhelming. Migration to Kathmandu Valley is increasing every year. In migration to Kathmandu is primarily caused by the economic attraction where there has been a rapid growth of economic activities including tourist oriented services, rapid growth of urban facilities and abundance of low-skill informal sector service. In addition, personal factors like economic condition of the family, job security, skill and education encourage for rural to urban migration. Migration continues partly because of growing insecurity in Nepal's rural areas as the Maoist insurgency has come to control large parts of the countryside. In addition, Nepalese must confront a lack of economic opportunities at home and increasing opportunities abroad.

2.3 Trends of Migration

The trend of large volume of internal migration in Nepal is just five decade old. The growth of population in the major cities in hills as well as in terai region is one of the visible changes brought about by internal migration. Since Nepal's terai area was infected with high prevalence of malaria, there was very insignificant migration between hill and terai till 1950. With the successful control of malaria in terai in 1960, migratory movement from hills and mountain areas to terai started to increase. At the same time, migration to Kathmandu valley also gained pace.

According to Nepal Population Report 2002, published by the Ministry of Population and Environment, the trend of migration has been increasing in Nepal. In 1971, 445,128 people migrated within the country, which accounted for 3.9 percent of the total population. It increased to 929,585 in 1981, comprising 6.2 percent of total population. Hence, the volume of internal migration increased by 32.1 percent as compared to a decade back, to make the number of migrants to 1,228,356, which is 6.6 percent of total population.. The migration of people from hill to terai has increased by many folds. The pull factor of terai was resettlement programs, availability of the fertile arable land, employment opportunities, better communication and transport facility.

A survey conducted by the Central Department of Population Studies in 1996 showed that out of the total population in Nepal, 22 percent were internal migrants. The study also showed that migration rate among female was far higher than the male. Persons aged between 15-39 were more mobile than other age groups. Terai also has a large number of migrants from the south.

In Nepal, the major streams of internal migration are rural-to-rural (69.2%) and rural-to-urban (25.5% in 2001 and 31.2% in 1996). Urban-to-urban (2.8%) and urban-to-rural (3.5%) are of lesser importance. Internal migration in Nepal has been very much a permanent phenomenon as 44.1 per cent of the total inter-district migrants were living in the destination for more than 10 years in 2001. (CBS, 2003)

2.4 RURAL-TO-URBAN MIGRATION

Because of opportunities in urban areas, rural to urban migration takes place with increased tempo. Therefore, it is natural that in developing countries, urbanization is considered as a symbol of development, according to Nepal Population Report 2002, published by Ministry of Population and Environment. Nepal still has a low level of urbanization compared to many other countries in Asia. Nepal's urban centres increased from 16 in 1971, 23 in 1981, 33 in 1991 and 58 in 2001. Nepal had 86.1 per cent rural population and 13.9 per cent urban. With increasing number of urban centres and the level of urbanization, Nepal is experiencing increasing volume of internal migration in the urban areas during the 1990s.

As the rural resources of land and forest are exhausted, resulting in more and more landless people, rural-to urban migration is the only way out for people looking for better employment opportunities. Rural areas thus get trapped in underdevelopment because of losing able persons to towns and cities. When there is no prospect of jobs and relatively good economic life, it is natural that people start moving in other areas. The growing cases of violence and insurgency have also pushed people to migrate in much safer place but this is not the solitary cause of increased internal mobility. Opening up of high ways

and shortened length of travel between different places have also encouraged people to move from one place to another.

Kathmandu valley have most of the facilities including the higher education, transport, communication, small handicraft industries and hospitals therefore it has become the most favorite destination for migration The capital city has increasingly become the major employment centre, especially for teenagers and youths working in carpet and garment industries, restaurants, hotels, retail shops, trekking centers and bus terminals. Internal migrants to urban areas have increased over time from 13.4 per cent in 1971, 16.3 per cent in 1981, 17.2 per cent in 1991 and 26.8 per cent in 2001(CBS 2003). In Kathmandu Valley, Kathmandu city had almost 42 per cent internal migrants from both rural and urban areas of other districts in 2001. Of the total valley in-migrants, Kathmandu city alone received 78.6 per cent of the total rural migrants and 64.8 per cent of the urban migrants from other districts.

2.5 EFFECT OF MIGRATION IN URBAN AREAS

One of the biggest challenges in the urban areas is uneven distribution of population. Places like Kathmandu have many pull factors. Unless we enhance pull factors in rural areas, migration will continue. Migration has led to haphazard urbanization and unplanned development. Many people come to grasp opportunities in the urban areas. Along with Nepalese migrants, there are a large number of Indian migrant workers in Nepal as Kathmandu valley is home to all kinds of internal and external migrants. During the Dashain festival, we can see Kathmandu as calm and quiet, since a large number of people go home.

There will always be pressure for resources in urban areas. In a span of 40 years, Nepal's urban population increased from 3.6 percent of the population to 13.2 percent of the population. This is an increment of 400 percent. Many urban areas, including Kathmandu valley, lack basic amenities such as sewerage, supply of potable water, sanitation and garbage disposal, telephone, transportation and electricity. As the population grows, the available

facilities are inadequate. Urban areas face several challenges to maintain their infrastructure, employment and sanitation properly. There is increasing number of slum areas outside and inside the ring-road; public transport is overcrowded and overused, as are roads, the water supply system is fragile, allowing sewerage to seep into drinking water and spreading infectious diseases (ESCAP 1995).

With the large number of population moving internally from one place to another, the population structure of country's urban areas particularly Kathmandu valley has witnessed a drastic change. Strained by the pressure of the population growth coupled with high inbound migration, the infrastructures of the valley have been unable to cope even as the new migrant population is playing an important role in accelerating the economic growth. Both the migrants who have gone overseas to work as well as those who have been displaced internally are bringing about changes in social and economic structures. The time has come for policy makers to think about the expansion of infrastructures to manage the migrant population as the growing conflict is certain to drive away thousands of people more from villages to cities.

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter deals with the techniques and the procedures used during the research study. This includes the selection of the study area, research design, sampling procedure, data collection techniques and tools, reliability of the study, analysis and presentation of the data and the limitation of the study.

3.1 Rationale for the selection of the study site

In Nepal, Kathmandu is among the major destinations for migrated workers. Kathmandu Valley has been a major migrant receiving area because most of the opportunities concerning livelihood and most of the developmental infrastructures are concentrated in this area. The Capital city attracts thousands of workers from rural areas. They make a mass of unprotected labor force who are exploited in labor, face risk life situations and have their fundamental rights violated. Very high unemployment and underemployment in rural areas have compelled people to remain either in the vicious circle of poverty or migrate to other places for better opportunities.

Kathmandu district was selected for the study because it comprises a large number of migrant workers from rural areas. The study helps in finding either the workers really benefiting by working in urban areas or not and how much they have been able to increase their living standard.

3.2 Research Design

The research was based upon the migrant workers in Kathmandu district. The study was descriptive in nature, which describes a socio-economic situation of migrant workers in and the problems faced by them. This study has tried to establish certain relationship between socio-economic situation and problems faced by the migrant workers in Kathmandu district.

3.3 Sampling Procedure

The universe of this study was the migrant workers who are involved in different informal service sector in Kathmandu District. Non-Probability sampling method was used among 50 sample size through Purposive Sampling method.

3.4 Variables and their operationalization

There were two variables, *independent variables* and *dependent variables* used in the study.

Independent Variables: It includes the socio-cultural and economic condition of migrant workers such as age, sex, caste, education level, occupation and access and control over productive resources.

Dependent Variables: It includes the decision making process in migration and risk associated in the work place in urban areas.

3.5 Data Collection Techniques and Tools

Both primary and secondary sources of data were used in this study. The primary data were gathered from interview with the 50 respondents individually. For the collection of primary data a questionnaire was prepared and it was filled by the researcher using direct personal interview method. The researcher also observed the field and tried to get necessary information through the interaction with the workers.

The secondary data were collected from different published articles, documents, books etc. Different books and bulletins of Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) and Central Department of Population Studies (CDPS) were also used for the secondary data.

Besides, observation tool also played a valuable role in collecting the required information.

3.6 Reliability

The study is reliable because the collected data were field based and the information was collected from the working areas of the workers which reveal the working conditions of the workers and the type of work they are involved in. The study also includes the workers working in different informal service sector.

3.7 Method of Data Analysis

The data has been analyzed both electronically and manually. The information collected from the field study has been transformed into a master sheet and data was tabulated accordingly, and processed manually. The information was grouped and sub-grouped then they were classified as per the necessity to meet the objective of the study. The systematic analysis has been done using simple statistic tools and the data were presented in the form of tables, charts, percentages and figures in a descriptive way.

CHAPTER-IV

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

This chapter deals with the description and interpretation of data collected from the migrant workers in Kathmandu district in clear and precise diagrams and graphs. It analyses the socio-economic condition of the workers, causes of migration and various types of risk associated with their work participation.

4.1 Migrant Worker Profile

4.1.1 Current Age of Migrant Workers

On the basis of age the respondents are categorized into different groups. The age structure of the migrant workers is provided in the table 4.1. More than one half of the respondents are in the age group of 16 to 25 years. Similarly, 32 per cent workers are between 26 to 35 years. The age group of workers between 36 to 45 is 12 per cent and only 4 per cent are above the age group of 46 years. It indicates that migration from rural to urban areas is entirely age selective and people generally migrate in their young adult age group.

Table 4.1: Classification of Workers According to Their Age

S.N.	Age group in years	Frequency	Percentage
1	16 to 25	26	52
2	26 to 35	16	32
3	36 to 45	6	12

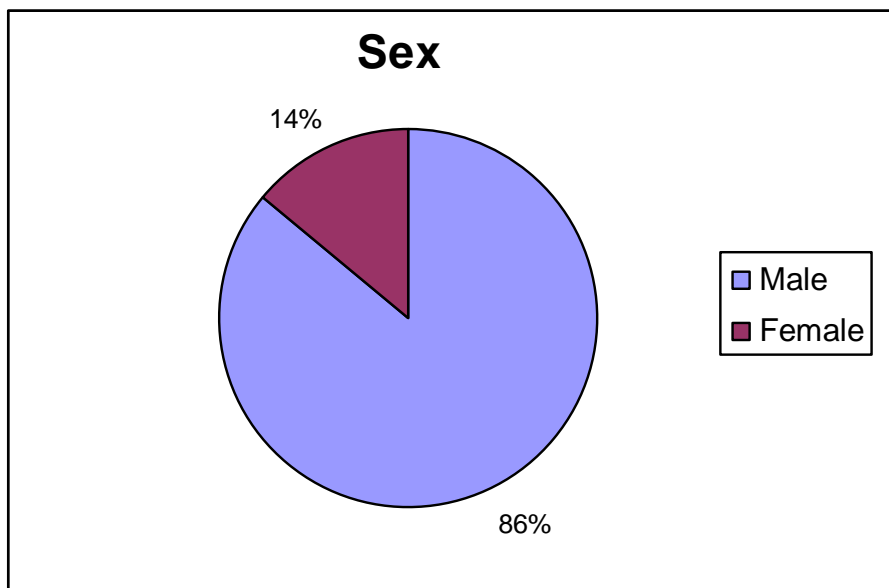
4	46 and above	2	4
Total		50	100

Source: Field survey, 2005

4.1.2 Sex

Out of the total respondents interviewed, the population of male is 86 per cent and female is 14 per cent. The figure shows that male is more migratory than the female. Among women it was found that the reason behind their migration is due to their husband's migration and other 4 per cent have said that unhappy family relationship with their husband has compelled them to migrate.

Fig: 4.1 Classifications of Workers on the Basis of Sex

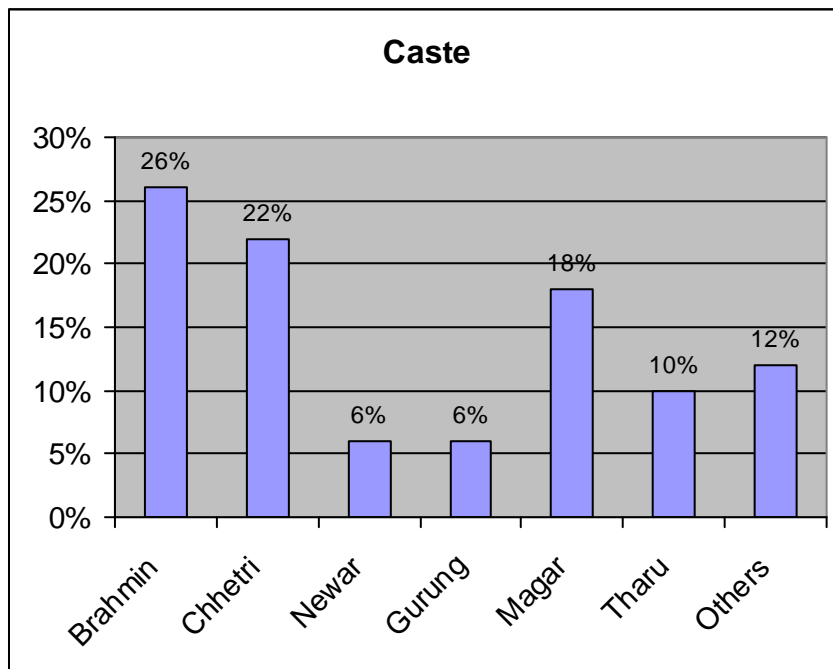


Source: Field survey, 2005

4.1.3 Caste/Ethnicity

The selected site for the study is composed of heterogeneous caste group. A large portion of the participants come from Brahmin and Chhetri ethnic groups. Out of the total respondents, Brahmin occupied 26 per cent followed by Chhetri 22 per cent, Newar 6 per cent, Gurung 6 per cent, Magar 18 per cent and Tharu 10 per cent. The study shows that Brahmin and Chhetri are more migratory than the other ethnic groups. The figure 4.1.2 shows the caste distribution of the migrant workers.

Fig: 4.2 Classification of Workers on the Basis of Caste



Source: Field survey, 2005

4.1.4 Literacy

Educational level is the most important factor that enhances individual, family as well as the social development process. Literacy plays a major role in migration decision-making process. It is generally observed that literate people tend to migrate more so often in search of better opportunities. Economic and other opportunities are greatly influenced by the educational status of an individual.

About 10 per cent of respondents reported that they can not read or write, and another 16 per cent are just literate, meaning they can simply read and write. These two categories “Illiterate” and “Can read and write” refer to migrant workers who have never attended formal educational classes. Of the total, 30 per cent of workers interviewed passed primary level education. Similarly, 12 per cent obtained lower secondary level education, 28 per cent secondary level and remaining 4 per cent higher secondary level education.

Table 4.2: Classification of Workers According to Level of Education

S.N.	Level of education	Frequency	Percentage
1	Illiterate	5	10
2	Can read and write	8	16
3	Primary education	15	30
4	Lower Secondary education	6	12
5	Secondary education	14	28
6	Higher Secondary Education	2	4
Total		50	100

Source: Field survey, 2005

4.1.5 Land Holding Pattern

The ownership of land may be one of the many ‘processes’ which lead the rural people to work in Kathmandu valley where economic opportunities are quite higher than in the villages. As all the migrant workers interviewed originated from rural areas, the main method of establishing the size of the family’s assets was to inquire about landholding pattern. The majority of workers explained that their families earn their livings from agriculture, which includes cultivation of their own farm or sharecropping. Out of the total respondents, 8 per cent reported that their family does not own land and remaining others have land ownership. The amount of land holding differs individually.

Table 4.3: Land Holding Pattern of the Family

S.N.	Land Ownership	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	46	92
2	No	4	8
Total		50	100

Source: Field survey, 2005

4.1.6 Land Holding Size

For rural households, land is crucial for survival. Among the different factors of production, land contributes to economic security, social status and power relations. Land holding, food sufficiency from own land and food sufficiency from the major economic activity of the households are the three poverty indicators.

The percentage of workers having land up to 10 Kathha is 36 per cent, similarly 28 per cent of them hold land from 11 to 20 Kathha and 16 per cent hold 21 to 30 Kathha land. Only 6 per cent respondent reported the land size to be between 31 to 40 Kathha. The remaining 6 per cent have the land size bigger than 41 Kathha.

Table 4.4: Land Holding Size of the Family

S.N.	Area of Land (In Kathha)	Frequency	Percentage
1	Landless	4	8
2	0-10	18	36
3	11-20	14	28
4	21-30	8	16
5	31-40	3	6
6	41 and above	3	6
Total		50	100

Source: Field survey, 2005

4.1.7 Food Sufficiency

Food sufficiency depends not only on land holding but also upon its size and the family size. The table 4.1.5 shows that 36 per cent have sufficient income for their survival and 64 per cent have difficulties to survive from the land they do have. This is due to small land holding size. To fulfill the urgent needs of the family they have to borrow money and have to do labour work. They face acute poverty in terms of food sufficiency and other basic needs. They do not have employment opportunities in off-farm season in the origin and in search of employment they leave their home and migrate to urban areas where economic opportunities are higher.

Table: 4.5 Food Sufficiency in the Family

S.N.	Food Sufficiency	Frequency	Percentage
1	Sufficient	18	36
2	Insufficient	32	64
Total		50	100

Source: Field survey, 2005

4.1.8 Occupation at Origin

Occupation is one of the most important factors of socio-economic characteristics of the population. It indicates the socio-economic status of the person. The table below shows the occupation of the respondents before leaving their origin.

Out of the total respondents, 40 per cent were engaged in farming followed by students (46 per cent), labour work (6 per cent), search of employment (4 per cent) and the percentage of trade and service is equal (2 percent).

Table: 4.6 Worker's Occupation at Origin

S.N.	Occupation	Frequency	Percentage
1	Farming	20	40
2	Trade	1	2
3	Seeking of Job	2	4
4	Service	1	2
5	Labour Work	3	6
6	Student	23	46

Total	50	100
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Source: Field survey, 2005

4.1.9 Reasons for Leaving the Home

The main reasons why rural population leaves their origin are influenced by different factors. Of the total, 40 per cent reported that to support the family they left their home. There were a same percentage of workers (24 per cent) who have left their home by influenced by friends and due to lack of basic needs respectively. Similarly 38 per cent reported that there were no employment opportunities at the origin. Other reasons behind leaving the home includes, to study (6 per cent), delighted by city life (8 per cent) and among women workers husband migration is the main reason behind leaving their origin.

Table: 4.7 Reasons for Leaving the Home

S.N.	Reasons for Leaving	Yes		No		Total
		F	%	F	%	
1	Influenced by Friends	12	24	38	76	50
2	To Support the Family	20	40	30	60	50
3	Lack of Basic Needs	12	24	38	76	50
4	Delighted by City Life	5	10	45	90	50
5	Unemployment	19	38	31	62	50
6	Husband Migration	4	8	46	92	50
7	To Study	3	6	47	94	50

Source: Field survey, 2005

4.1.10 Age at the Time of Migration

The age at which workers usually leave home for the first time for the work is presented in table 4.8. The age of respondents at the time of leaving home for the first time ranges from 11 to 35 years. Majority of the workers left home during the age of 11 to 20 years (70 per cent). This is followed by one-fourth of the total workers who left home during age of 21 to 30 years. Only the minority (8 per cent) had left the home above the age of 30 years.

Table: 4.8 Age of Respondents at Their First Move

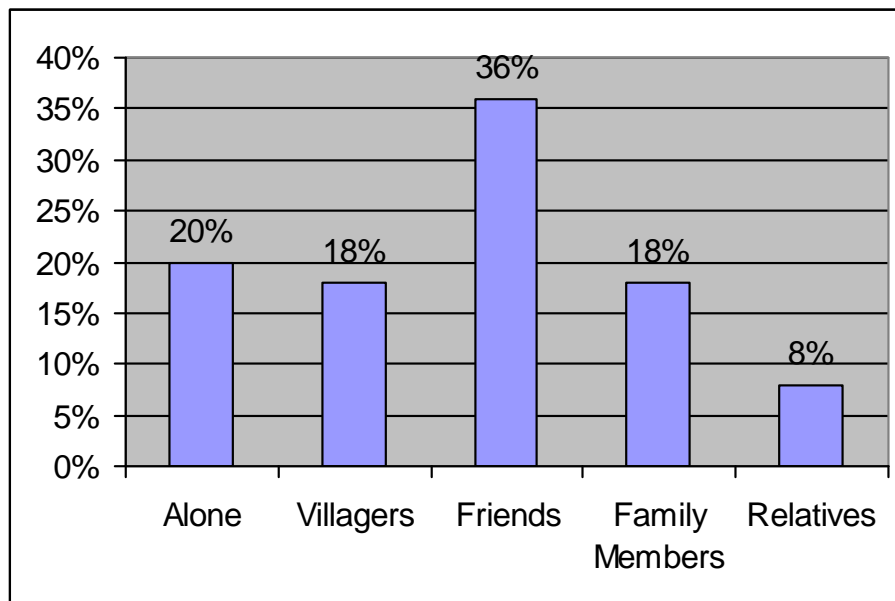
S.N.	Age at Arrival	Frequency	Percentage
1	11-20	35	70
2	21-30	13	26
3	30 and above	2	4
Total		50	100

Source: Field survey, 2005

4.1.11 Persons Accompanying Workers

At the first time when the workers have left their home, 18 per cent said that they came with their family members, 8 per cent with their relatives, 18 per cent with villagers, 36 per cent with friends and the remaining 20 per cent were alone. This shows that when the workers leave their home for the first time they collect information from about the employment opportunities in urban areas from their relatives or friends who are already in urban areas and take support from them to find the employment in the urban areas.

Fig: 4.3 Persons Accompanying Workers from Home to Urban Areas



Source: Field survey, 2005

4.1.12 Information about the Work Placement

In the rural areas people do not have employment opportunities. They are forced to leave their origin to fulfill the basic needs of their family. At the time of departure they are unaware of the type of work they are going to perform in the destination. They do any type of work which they can find immediately. The study also shows that majority (86 per cent) did not know about the type of work before leaving their origin and only 14 per cent replied that they knew about the work before through their relatives and friends.

Table: 4.9 Information about the Work Placement before Leaving the Origin

S.N.	Work Placement	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	7	14
2	No	43	86
Total		50	100

Source: Field survey, 2005

4.1.13 Frequent Visit to Origin

Since most workers come from remote rural areas, respondents were asked whether they were allowed to visit their villages and homes. Majority (80 per cent) makes frequent visits to their homes and the remaining 20 per cent do not make frequent visit. The frequency of the visits is probably inversely related to the distance of their home from Kathmandu and the expenses required for traveling to that location.

Table: 4.10 Frequent Visit of the Workers to Their Origin

S.N.	Frequent Visit	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	40	80
2	No	10	20
Total		50	100

Source: Field survey, 2005

4.2 Working Conditions of Migrant Workers

4.2.1 Occupation at Destination

The rural population when enter into the urban labour force then they are engaged in different types of work. One of the apparent consequences of migration is occupational change. The change is mainly from agriculture as the leading occupation to more of a diversification. The study also covers the migrant workers from different sector of occupation. Altogether workers from different seven sectors were included in the study. The workers from textile factory cover 38 per cent which is higher than in other occupation. Similarly workers involved in construction work is 20 per cent followed by grocery shop (14 per cent), restaurants (6 per cent), Khajuri food industry (4 per cent), driving (8 per cent) and workers working in college as peon, service in-charge, guard and lab person was 10 per cent.

Table: 4.11 Classification of Workers on the Basis of Occupation at Destination

S.N.	Occupation	Frequency	Percentage
1	Grocery Shop	7	14
2	Restaurants	3	6
3	Textile Factory	19	38
4	Khajuri Food Industry	2	4
5	Construction Work	10	20
6	Driving	4	8
7	College (Peon, Service in-charge, Guard, Lab Person)	5	10
Total		50	100

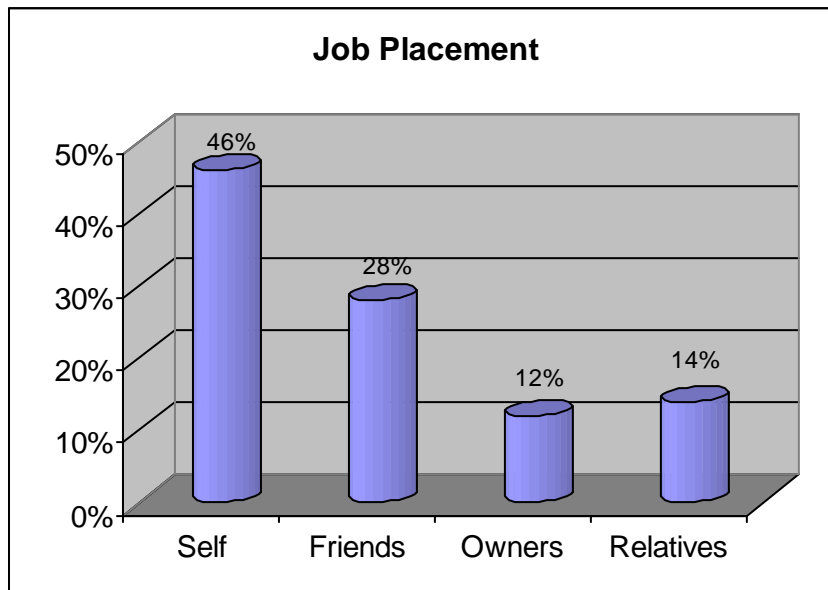
Source: Field survey, 2005

4.2.2 Job Placement of the Workers

Respondents were asked about the channels of getting job in urban areas. Of the total, 46 per cent said they find the work themselves. Similarly, 12 per cent said owners themselves made a contact with them to provide the job since they have already worked in other place and have done the same occupation. Relatives and friends also play a key role in finding the jobs. The study shows that the percentage of friends and relatives was 28 per cent and 14 per cent respectively who helped the workers in finding the current

job. Majority of the workers reported that they can leave the job at any time. If they find other better job opportunities then they change their occupation. The figure 4.2.1 shows the details of how the workers got opportunity for the current occupation.

Fig: 4.4 Person Recruiting Workers for Employers

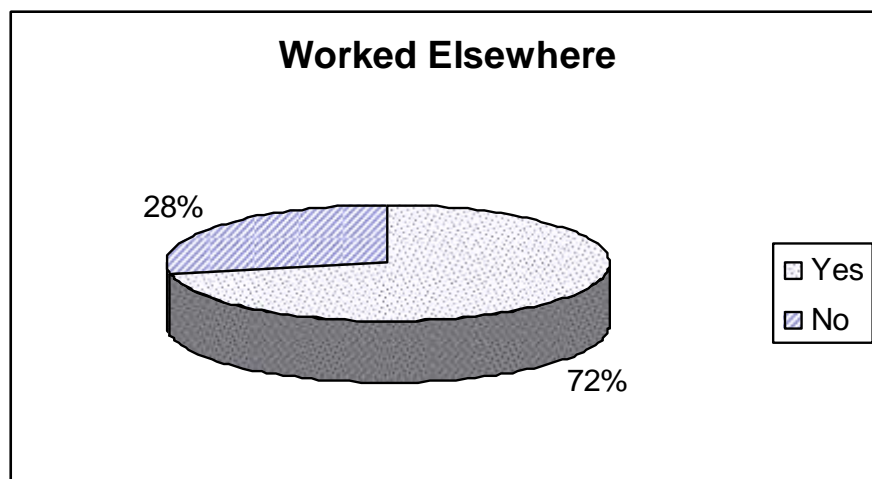


Source: Field survey, 2005

4.2.3 Worked Elsewhere

Of the total, 72 per cent of the workers had worked in other places also. They keep on shifting their job from one place to another. According to the workers interviewed, their work duration depends on their relationship with employer and the wage rate they get from the employer.

Fig: 4.5 Worked Elsewhere



Source: Field survey, 2005

4.2.4 No. of Previous Places of Employment

It was found that a majority of the migrant workers had worked with other employers previously. The table 4.2.2 shows that 28 per cent of respondents are working for the same employer from the beginning. Remaining 72 per cent respondents have left a previous employer. The percentage of workers who have worked before in another place is 28 per cent. This is followed by the workers who have worked in two places before is 24 per cent, three places 6 per cent and remaining 14 per cent had worked in four or more places.

Table: 4.12 No. of Previous Places of Employment

S.N.	Place	Frequency	Percentage
1	None	14	28
2	One	14	28
3	Two	12	24
4	Three	3	6
5	Four or more	7	14
Total		50	100

Source: Field survey, 2005

4.2.5 Reasons for Leaving Previous Work Place

For almost half of the respondents who have worked with a different employer previously, 'low remuneration' was quoted as one of the important reasons to quit that former placement. For nearly 17 per cent of the participants reported that 'rude employer' was the reason they quit their previous job and about 20 per cent left because of heavy workload. Retirement, self-interest and desire to do a permanent work which would enable them in the future were other reasons behind leaving the previous job.

Table: 4.13 Reasons for Leaving the Previous Job

S.N.	Reasons for Leaving	Frequency	Percentage
1	Rude Employer	6	16.66
2	Low Salary	18	50
3	Too much work	7	19.45
4	Others	5	13.89
Total		36	100

Source: Field survey, 2005

4.2.6 Working Hour

Respondents were asked about the length of time they spend in their work in an average day. The table below reports the total number of hours worked by the respondents. Of the total, 14 per cent work less than 10 hours. Majority of the workers (60 per cent) work for 10 to 12 hours per day, similarly 20 per cent work for 12 to 14 hours. The workers working more than 14 hours is only 6 per cent.

Table: 4.14 Working Hours of the Workers

S.N.	Working Hour	Frequency	Percentage
1	Less than 10	7	14
2	10 -12	30	60

3	12 - 14	10	20
4	14 - 16	3	6
Total		50	100

Source: Field survey, 2005

4.2.7 Remuneration

Of the total, 8 per cent reported that their salary does not exceed Rs. 1000 and another 18 per cent receive monthly salary ranging between Rs. 1000 to Rs. 2000, while one worker was unaware of his salary status. Likewise, 36 per cent of participants reported that their salary per month ranges between Rs. 3000 to Rs. 4000. Only 6 per cent of the respondents reported a salary above Rs. 5000 per month. Monthly salary was relatively higher for workers who were engaged in Textile Company.

Table: 4.15 Salary of the Workers per month

S.N.	Salary per month (In Rs.)	Frequency	Percentage
1	Don't Know	1	2
2	0-1000	4	8
3	1001-2000	9	18
4	2001-3000	6	12
5	3001-4000	18	36
6	4001-5000	9	18
7	5000 and above	3	9
Total		50	100

Source: Field survey, 2005

4.2.8 Income Satisfaction

Among the total respondents, 56 per cent were satisfied in their earning and remaining 44 per cent were not satisfied with their earning. It seems majority were satisfied in their earning but in reality workers do not have other option to work from which they can earn more money, so they are compelled to do so. The workers are provided minimum wage rate and they can hardly fulfill their basic requirements from the earning.

Table: 4.16 Satisfaction with Earning Among the Workers

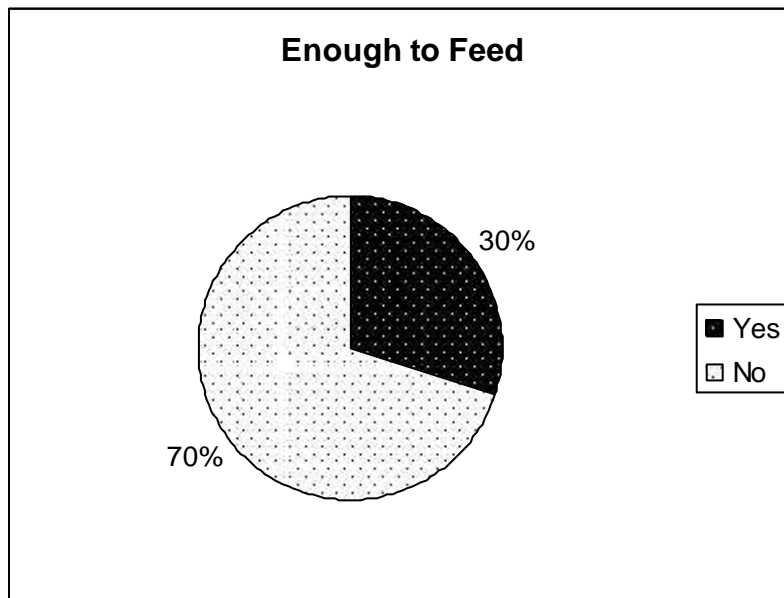
S.N.	Satisfaction with Earning	Frequency	Percentage
1	Satisfied	28	56
2	Unsatisfied	22	44
Total		50	100

Source: Field survey, 2005

4.2.9 Extent of Support to the Family

It is essential to understand here to what extent the workers' income is vital for the livelihood of the family. Nearly one third of the respondents reported that their income is sufficient to feed their family. It also depends upon the size of family. While remaining 70 per cent of them reported that their income is not helpful at all to support their family.

Fig: 4.6 Enough to feed the family



Source: Field survey, 2005

4.2.10 Incidence of Sickness

The issue of health was also explored through questionnaire. Majority of the workers (78 per cent) reported that they had fallen ill while working. All of them had visited the doctor for their medical treatment.

Table: 4.17 Suffered from Illness

S.N.	Suffered from Illness	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	39	78
2	No	11	22
Total		50	100

Source: Field survey, 2005

4.2.11 Medical Treatment

Majority of the workers (82.05 per cent) had to pay their medical expenses by themselves. Only 17.95 per cent are provided medical treatment by the employer. Among these workers, one respondent was retired from army and he is provided medical treatment from British army throughout his life time.

Table: 4.18 Medical Treatment of the Workers

S.N.	Medical Treatment	Frequency	Percentage
1	Self	32	82.05
2	Employer	6	15.39
3	Previous Employer	1	2.56
Total		50	100

Source: Field survey, 2005

4.2.12 Incentives to the Workers

Participants were asked whether they are provided any additional incentives along with their salary from the employer. Most of the workers reported that they are not provided any additional incentives and it is difficult for them to survive only on their wage from the employer. An overwhelming majority (68 per cent) of workers interviewed reported that they are not provided any additional incentives and only 32 per cent get additional incentives from the employer.

Table: 4.19 Incentives Provided By Employers

S.N.	Incentives	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	16	32
2	No	34	68
Total		50	100

Source: Field survey, 2005

4.2.13 Additional Incentives

It was asked to the respondents if the employers provide them additional incentives. An overwhelming majority of the workers who were provided additional incentives from the employer reported that they get the facility of food and accommodation. More than two-third of the respondents reported that they do not get additional incentives. Almost all were provided food (93.75 per cent), followed by accommodation (81.25 per cent), clothes (37.5 per cent), medical treatment (43.75 per cent) and bonus (6.25 per cent).

Table: 4.20 Additional Incentives

S.N.	Reasons for Leaving	Yes		No		Total
		F	%	F	%	
1	Food	15	93.75	1	6.25	16
2	Clothes	6	37.5	10	62.5	
3	Accommodation	13	81.25	3	18.75	16
4	Medicine	7	43.75	9	56.25	16
5	Bonus	1	6.25	15	93.75	16

Source: Field survey, 2005

4.2.14 Work Satisfaction

Each participant was asked whether they are satisfied with their present job. Out of the total, 46 per cent were satisfied with their job and the remaining 54 per cent were not satisfied with their job.

Among those who were unsatisfied with their job reported that wage and the type of work they are involved in are the main reason behind their dissatisfaction. About 49 per cent said that the wage they get is very low and other respondents (51.85 per cent) criticized about the work. The work they are involved in is either difficult or it can not secure their life in the future. Workers were found to be worried about their future life.

4.21 Satisfaction with the Present Occupation

S.N.	Work Satisfaction	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	23	46
2	No	27	54
Total		50	100
Reasons For Unsatisfaction			
1	Due to Wage	13	48.15
2	Due to Work	14	51.85
Total		27	100

Source: Field survey, 2005

4.3 Perception Regarding Future Life

4.3.1 Future Expectation

The table 4.3.1 shows the details about the future expectation of the workers. About 20 per cent workers like to continue the same job in the future. While others have said that they would like to enter in other different occupations. Of them 22 per cent want to do their own business, 14 per cent want to engage in service and 12 per cent want to go abroad. More than one third of them have not decided about the future work.

4.22 Future Expectation of the Migrant Workers

S.N.	Future Expectation	Frequency	Percentage
1	Go Abroad	6	12
2	Continue the same type of job	10	20
3	Own Business	11	22
4	Service	7	14
5	Farming	2	4
6	Undecided	14	28
Total		50	100

Source: Field survey, 2005

CHAPTER- V

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 SUMMARY

In recent years, rural-urban migration has been increasing tremendously. The disequilibrium between rural areas with lack of modern facilities and urban areas with modern facilities like education, employment and the like has enhanced the rural-urban migration. Mass and increasing poverty caused by high rate of population growth, limited employment opportunities, underemployment, low wage rate and low productivity is the major problem of the country, today. Migration to Kathmandu Valley is higher because of its increasing informal sector which has capacity to absorb the migrants.

The data for this study was collected from 50 respondents in Kathmandu district by purposive sampling method. Workers working in different informal sectors were interviewed for the study. Information was gathered in written form by the researcher.

The average age of the migrant workers was about 27 years. At the time of departure from the origin 70 per cent of the migrants interviewed were below the age of 20 years. It indicates that migration from rural to urban areas is entirely age selective. The study

revealed that male predominates to in-migration in Kathmandu. Only 14 per cent of those interviewed were female. A large portion (48 per cent) comes from Brahmin and Chhetri ethnic groups. About 26 per cent of the workers have not attended school, of them 16 per cent can simply read and write. Only 4 per cent have reached up to higher secondary level education but have not completed the study. About 46 per cent were studying before they have migrated to Kathmandu Valley. They said that due to household poverty they had to leave their home and there was no employment opportunity in their origin. Another 40 per cent were engaged in farming before they left their origin. The percentage of workers involved in other occupation like service, trade was very low (4 per cent) before leaving the home.

A majority (96 per cent) of migrants reported that agriculture is the main occupation in the origin. About 64 per cent of migrant's family can not survive throughout the year with primary occupation. As a result, they have to take loan and have to do labour work as secondary occupation. The migration of respondents is associated with the size of land holdings. Ownership of land is one of important indicators of economic status of people in our society. Of the total, 8 per cent have no land. Among those who have land, almost 64 per cent have less than 20 Kathha of land. In terms of sufficiency for survival, it is difficult for them to survive whole year with the land they have. And they are compelled to migrate to support their family.

The majority of the migrant workers reported that they make a regular visit to their home and others are so busy that they can hardly take out their times to visit the home. It was found that a majority of the workers keep on changing their occupation. The study shows that about 72 per cent of the respondents had worked with other employers previously. When the workers for the first time left their home, they did not know about the type of work they have to perform in the destination. Majority of the workers leave their previous jobs because of low remuneration. Heavy workload and rude employer are also key reasons.

Among the total respondents 56 per cent reported that they are satisfied with their earning but in reality they do not have other option to work. They hardly can find job anywhere. Since there is no way to earn more money the workers themselves are compelled to show their satisfaction level in their earning. Similarly, 70 per cent of the respondents reported that their salary is not enough to feed their family. It also depends upon the size of the family members.

During the study respondents were asked whether they are provided other additional incentives or not. Only 32 per cent of them are provided additional incentives. Among those who are provided additional incentives, 93.75 per cent get food followed by 81.25 per cent accommodation, 37.5 per cent cloth, 43.75 per cent medical treatment and remaining 6.25 per cent bonus. The highest percentage (60 per cent) is working for 10 to 12 hours a day. This is followed by those who work less than 10 hours (14 per cent), 12 to 14 hours (20 per cent) and others work for 14 to 16 hours. Almost 54 per cent of the workers reported that they are not satisfied with their occupation because of the type of work and low salary.

An overwhelming majority of them said that they would prefer to have a different occupation. They are also interested in obtaining skill development training if available. Regarding future plans of the migrant workers, they do have different opinions. Of the total respondents, 22 per cent reported that they want to start their own business, 14 per cent want to do service, 20 per cent of them are interested to continue the same work they are doing now, 12 per cent want to go abroad and 28 per cent are not sure about what to do in their future life. Only 4 per cent reported that they want to return home and engage in farming since agriculture is their family occupation.

5.2 CONCLUSION

Along with the rapid growth of urbanization in Nepal, the gap between rural and urban life in terms of livelihood opportunities has been broadened. Livelihood opportunities in

rural areas are considerably low and it is the urban informal sector where opportunities are available. Labour migration from rural poor households to urban areas, mostly in Kathmandu valley is considerably high.

Migration is becoming a big problem in today's underdeveloped countries. This is not creating problem only in places of destination, but this has created various problems in the places of origin also. It has increased work burden on women. The women especially wives of absentee has faced various problems in managing household activities, agricultural activities, social activities etc.

The migration decision making process is a complex phenomenon. The social, economical, educational, familial and individual factors interact with each other and build up both the "stress" and the "hopes and aspirations" of the possible migrant until a decision either to migrate or not to migrate is made. Age, marital status, presence or absence of dependents, the size of the family and who the providers and decision makers in the family are and who the motivators are other factors that come into play in the decision making process. Distance from the possible destination and channels of communication are still other factors that must be taken into account.

Family occupation is also important in decision making process. Main occupation in rural areas is agriculture, which is very much static on one hand and subsistence in its nature and not sufficient for survival on the other hand. Most important problem of rural area is the lack of cash income source for which rural population are compelled to migrate.

Labour migration to urban areas has become a normal and valued poverty-coping and income generating strategy for poor rural households of Nepal. The level of income at the origin is directly concerned with the migration process. The higher the level of income at destination the higher the level of motivation to leave the place. Because of the human nature to act for their betterment, people generally shift the place from the lower to the higher level of opportunities.

Nepal is facing the problem of mass poverty mainly caused by unemployment, under-employment and low wage rate of the employed population. There is consensus among the economists and policy makers that poverty can not alleviate without employment generation all over the country. Thus the central goal of the Nepalese economic policy should be poverty alleviation through employment generation (CDPS 1997).

5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

On the basis of the findings of this study, the following recommendations are made to the government sector and concerned authorities to discourage migration from rural to urban areas.

- The economically disadvantaged groups should be approached with income enhancing programs, which would allow them to become less reliable on the urban employment. Income generation programs such as vegetable farming, agribusiness and marketing skills should be targeted in marginalized districts.
- The Government must give the priority in distribution of land to the landless people and poor empowerment policies have to be launched for their betterment.
- The basic needs and the facilities like transportation, communication, education, health, and drinking water should be provided to the people at their usual residence to discourage internal migration.
- Agriculture inputs like improved seeds, fertilizers, agricultural tools and equipments should be made available for the farmers at low price for encouraging

them to apply these inputs for higher production to sustain the increased population.

- Agricultural labour should be given some vocational training to improve their knowledge and skill so that they can produce crops properly.
- To solve the problem of food insufficiency, it is necessary to introduce high yielding varieties of seeds, suitable for the particular area, by which food production may be increased.
- Small scale industries should be developed in the rural areas to reduce the disguised and seasonal unemployment. The approach to industrialization should be based on labour intensive technology.
- In rural areas, both male and female member must be well equipped and trained to produce better results from the resources available to them. Any plan for development must emphasize the modernization of rural society in a manner that promises increased opportunities for the people of every strata.

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Annexes

Annex I: Distribution of Migrant Workers by District of Origin

S.N.	Districts of Birth Place	Total	
		No.	Percentage
1.	Charikot	1	2
2.	Chitwan	2	4
3.	Dhading	2	4
4.	Dhankuta	1	2
5.	Dolakha	1	2
6.	Gorkha	1	2
7.	Jhapa	2	4
8.	Kailali	1	2
9.	Kaski	1	2
10.	Kavre	4	8
11.	Khotang	2	4
12.	Makwanpur	1	2
13.	Morang	1	2
14.	Nawalparasi	1	2
15.	Nuwakot	1	2
16.	Okhaldhunga	1	2

17.	Palpa	5	10
18.	Ramechhap	1	2
19.	Saptahari	5	10
20.	Sarlahi	2	4
21.	Sindhupalchowk	6	12
22.	Sindhuli	3	6
23.	Siraha	1	2
24.	Sunsari	2	4
25.	Tanahu	1	2
26.	Udayapur	1	2
Total		50	100

Annex II: Questionnaire

**PROBLEMS OF THE MIGRANT WORKERS:
A CASE STUDY OF KATHMANDU DISTRICT.**

Date:

District:

VDC:

Village:

Personal Data

1) Name:

2) Age:

3) Sex:

4) Caste:

a. Brahmin b. Chhetri c. Newar d. Gurung

e. Magar f. Tharu g. Others

5) Occupation:

6) Level of education:

- Illiterate
- Can read and write
- Primary level

- Lower secondary
- Secondary
- Higher secondary and above

7) Marital Status: Married Unmarried

About Place of Birth

8) Where is your home?

District VDC/Municipality

9) What is the main source of income for your family in your village?

10) Total No. of Family Members:

S.N.	Name	Age	Sex	Education	Occupation	Relation

11) Land Holding Size:

Land Types	Ropani	Ownership (Own/ Shared Ownership)
Khet		
Bari		

12) Is it sufficient to survive for your family?

Yes No

13) If no, then how does your family manage for basic needs?

- By taking loan • Wage Laboring
- Selling Livestock/Grains • Others (Specify)-

14) What was your main occupation before you moved here?
• Farming • Trade • Seeking of job • Service • Labour work
• Student • Others (Specify)-

15) Why did you leave your home?
• Influenced by friends • To support the family • Lack of basic needs
• Delighted by city life • Unemployment • Others (Specify)-

16) When did you leave your home?

17) When you moved out from your home who were with you?

Parents Children Villagers Friends
Alone Others

18) Do you make frequent visits to your family? Yes No

About Current Work

19) When did you start working in this place in Kathmandu?

Year Month

20) Before leaving home, did you know about the work that you were to perform?

Yes No

21) If yes, what was the expected work?

22) Did you work elsewhere in Kathmandu, previously, before you came here?

Yes No

23) After leaving home and before entering the current work place, how many works were you involved in?

24) Why did you leave your previous job?

• Rude Employer • Low Salary • Too much work
• Others (Specify)-

25) Who brought you to this work place?

• Self • Friends • Middlemen • Owner
• Others (Specify)-

26) Did you come here at your own will?

Yes No

27) If no, why? (List main reason)

28) Do you think that you can leave the work if you wish at any time?

Yes No

29) If no, why? (List main reason)

30) How much do you get as salary (per month)? NRs.

31) Who controls your earning?

32) Are you satisfied with your earning?

Yes No

33) Is your earning enough to feed your family?

Yes No

34) Have you suffered from illness/injury while you were working?

Yes No

35) Did you visit the doctor to treat the illness?

Yes No

36) How serious was the illness/injury?

- Did not need any medical treatment
- Medically treated
- Hospitalized
- Prevented Work
- Others (Specify)-

37) Who paid the medical expenses?

- Self
- Free of charge
- Employer
- Others (Specify)-

38) Have you been forced to work while you were sick?

Yes No

39) How many hours do you work in a day? Hrs.

40) Have you experienced any mistreatment from your owner?

Yes No

41) Are there any additional incentives/benefits from employers?

Yes No

42) If yes, what are they?

- Food/Clothes
- Accommodation
- Medicine
- Bonus
- Training skills
- Others (Specify)-

43) Are you satisfied with this job?

Yes

No

44) If no, why you are not satisfied?

- Due to wage
- Due to work
- Due to employer
- Others (Specify)-

45) If you are not satisfied with this job, what type of job will be the best?

Specify:

46) What would you like to do in the future?

- Earn money
- Go abroad
- Continue the same type of job
- Do not know
- Others (Specify)-