

The Compulsion of Foreign Employment: Socio-Economic Circumstances of Developing Country

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Foreign employment is a burning issue for developing countries like Nepal. Nearly thousand Nepalese depart for foreign employment everyday. This paper is focused on exploring the reasons of foreign employment. Both primary and secondary facts are used in this paper. Primary facts are collected through the case study and observation method. The purposive sampling method is used to select the cases. The cases are located in the Pokhara metropolitan city of Nepal. Most people have gone abroad after marriage because of the financial burden and the responsibility of earning money. Lack of cash, superstition, traditional beliefs, political and family conflicts, inter-caste marriages, and family structure have led to foreign employment. Most people go for foreign employment without skills, and they work in construction, sanitation and, they get paid less and return home without skills. These facts are partially congruent to the theoretical explanation of Wallerstein.

Keywords: employment, family, foreign, globalization, livelihood

Introduction

Lacking the possibility of adequate employment, Nepalese people have a compulsion of selling physical labor in the foreign labor market. Despite old traditions of employment, and due to the increasing globalization and industrialization, labor migration is increasing. The Nepal government's statistics show that 74 percent of Nepali workers employed in foreign labor markets are unskilled (Department of Foreign Employment, 2014). International mobility has become a livelihood characteristic of our times. Over 272 million individuals or around 3.5 percent of the global population are estimated to be living outside their countries. It is estimated that 63.5 percent of this population move for employment opportunities, and this type of migration features most significantly in Nepal's migration profile (Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security, 2020). Millions of workers in the global labor market are migrating from one country to another in search of attractive jobs, services, and facilities. Aryal (2013) mentioned that the modern form of foreign employment started in the mid-1980s but Nepal has a history that a few youths joined in the British-India military before the Anglo-Nepalese War (1814-1816). Mishra (2017) also mentioned that Nepal incorporated into world capitalism in 1885. At present, Nepal permitted foreign employment to 110 countries for institutional recruitment and 172 countries for individual effort. The latest data show 5.5 million work permits issued by the Department of Foreign Employment (Ministry of Finance, 2020). Most of the world's estimated 150 million migrants are

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people searching for improved economic opportunities abroad (Bhattarai, 2005). According to the World Bank report 2011, every year, an estimated more than four million Nepalese travel abroad for work, equivalent to one-third of the working male population (Jones & Basnett, 2013). However, the government of Nepal lacks a record of actual migrant workers in those countries because it does not put records who came on vacation and who quitted the job. Qatar remains in the first position following Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. Every day, nearly one thousand youths depart from one and only one airport at Tribhuvan International Airport. For some reason, this number has reduced 236,208 last year (Ministry of Finance, 2020). Besides, according to the 2017 report of the United Nations, there are 258 million international immigrants, of which 234 million are immigrants of working age (15 and older) and 164 million immigrants workers are worldwide (ILO, 2018).

Foreign employment which I mean in this study refers to those who have migrated for employment in GCC (Gulf Council Corporation) and Malaysia. Pokhara valley is the second-largest city in Nepal and is known as a city of tourism. Labor migration has become a common occurrence in this valley. In this study, active male and female population (aged 25-45 years) are involved in foreign employment. Most of the employees from the Pokhara valley still live in Malaysia, GCC, Europe, East Asia, and America. Our data indicate that most of the surveyed foreign employees who returned to Pokhara valley had stayed more than two years abroad before their return, and the average stay abroad was six years. In these circumstances, this paper is focused to identify the major reason for foreign employment in the context of Nepal.

Objective and Method

The objective of this paper is to explore the prominent causes of foreign employment. This research is based on a qualitative research approach. Both primary and secondary facts are used in this paper. Primary facts are collected through the case study and observation method. The purposive sampling method is used to select the cases. The cases are located in the Pokhara metropolitan city of Nepal. Similarly, secondary facts are gathered from the government, reports, previous research documents and literature through the content analysis method. Both primary and secondary data are analyzed by a content analysis method. The primary and secondary data which I put to analyze will be handled qualitatively. A total of 25 respondents were selected by purposive sampling.

Theoretical Discourse

Wallerstein (1974) stated that the whole world can be put to analyze into three tiers mainly core, semi-periphery, and periphery. He assumed that due to incorporation into world capitalism, there assigned world division of labor. Countries from the periphery and semi-periphery provide cheap labor to core countries and in return receive industrial or high technologically modified products/goods. He considers the unequal relationship in this transaction that hampers the economy of the periphery.

According to Simon Paddington's (Tipps, 1973) modernization theory, modernism is a multifaceted process that fundamentally changes values, beliefs, and aspirations at the psychological level. Agriculture is less important than trade, industry, and other non-agricultural activities. Immediately after the 1950s, 114 colonized nations became independent with the end of World War II, which were dominated by Western and European nations. They needed economic, technical, and scientific support to move the development process forward. While the developed world needed to somehow dominate the third world to retain its hold on raw

materials and labor in third countries and to secure markets for its products. In this context, he established modernization as a slogan of development in the third world.

These main factors influenced foreign employment policy in the last three decades. Developed countries imported skilled manpower from third world countries while GCC and Malaysia hired unskilled workers from the same area. This led to the twin trap of labor shortage for agriculture and economic stagnation in third world countries. Despite the abundance of natural resources in Nepal, people are forced to go abroad due to a lack of policy and implementation (United Nations, 2002).

De Haas (2007) wrote that migration is a part of livelihood strategies pursued by households to spread income risks and, if possible, to generate income and remittances that can be used to improve living standards or to invest in housing, education, or commercial enterprises. This particularly applies to developing countries, where credit and insurance markets often fail and many people are poor. This perspective, which has been particularly explored within the “New Economics of Labor Migration”, represented an advance over theories that conceptualized migration as the result of a cost-benefit calculation of income-maximizing individuals operating in perfect markets.

Findings and Discussion

Lacking Cash

If a person wants to run a daily household, he needs some profession, employment, or business to earn money. Currently, Nepal lacks industries that could consume those energetic workers. I take the economic factor as the major one for foreign employment. Considering the increasing consumption of expensive and luxury items, Nepal and Nepalese could not remain untouched by it. Although the state has not taken any concrete steps to end the practice of reducing and treating the poor and low-income people as second-class citizens, the individual has to take the lead in raising funds to do business and modernize the profession internationally. To compete in the world labor market, it is essential to gather knowledge and skills that bear a strong correlation to the economic factor.

Case 16 said that perhaps if he had money, he wouldn't exchange money for sweat at 45 degrees centigrade of temperature. He would either grow gold on his farm or he would be a good trader in the city. Although all this was repeated in his mind over and over again, he was satisfied that he had earned more than he had lost by going for foreign employment.

This statement shows that most rural people have no money to invest in their own country and they must go abroad to raise seed money. Along with this, no one will go for a job if they have the opportunity to own land. On the one hand, there are no industries and employees in the country and on the other, old and established industries are closing despite innovations. There is a clear vision of case 16 that no one is interested to go abroad; if they got a job and opportunity in the country, they are willing to grow gold in their land. More than 72 percent of Nepalese are involved in agriculture. Despite being an agricultural country, the subsistence farming system has become a feature here. Due to which, except for semi-unemployed and seasonal workers, we have not been able to become entrepreneurs in agriculture and we are forced to remain farmers. As a result, most of the occupations are in agriculture before going abroad, based on this case.

Family Conflict

Rising poverty, unemployment, inequality, and drug addiction have forced people to go abroad for employment. In this case, the family members (husbands) of case 1 often had family quarrels due to drug

addiction and made everyone anxious and even sold their house while taking medication. Unfortunately, neither the property nor the people remained. She said that she had to go abroad for employment to support her children and her elderly mother. Similarly, the nature of a person or a member is affected by the environment of the home and the structure of the family. It has been found that family background also motivates to go for foreign employment.

Case 1 (age: 33) elucidated that his mother got married to another man when he was at the age of 11, his father also got married to another woman and his upbringing and education was done by another. At the age of 19, he could not distinguish between interest and compulsion, had a passion for it, and more the humiliation at home and in society.

According to the above statements, children without parents are orphans. When a father brings a young wife into the home or a mother gets married to someone else, the young children become orphans. The news that the wife of a man who has gone for foreign employment has gone to *poila* has been filling the pages of the newspaper day by day. But here, it is a little bit different than we ever heard. A wife got a second marriage against her husband's second marriage. Now a little child was stranded because of his parents. Case 1 found that her father did not behave like her father after her second marriage, was expelled from school, did not have pocket money and had to wait for Dashain. It has been found that people go for foreign employment as they cannot establish themselves in society without the necessary income. All these things pushed him abroad.

Traditional Values

Due to globalization, the Nepalese economy is not able to achieve the desired results from the traditional work of agriculture, trade, and other ethnic occupations and it is difficult to earn money from it. Lack of technical and vocational education hampers youngsters and they are consequently attracted to foreign employment. Their appetite for an opportunity, even for the youths who are keen to do something within the country is compelled to borrow money from banks and individuals.

Even though Nepal is naturally rich, it has not been able to utilize its resources and immense manpower. This country, which is listed in the list of poor countries, has become the subsistence-oriented, traditional, and dependent country. Going abroad is a compulsion without any interest. When there is no good profession, employment, and trade in the country, people go abroad in search of work to earn money and change their standard of living by earning more income. Along with development, the need for people is also increasing day by day. Someday, the people working in the landlord and running a dairy were gradually liberated, but their income and dairy could not be guaranteed by the state. As a result, they had to earn daily to live. According to the economic survey of the government of Nepal 2020, estimated per capita income was only US\$ 1,085 that was increased by 46 dollars than last year. Some homeless, landless, freed *kamaiyas/haliyas* could not get out of debt and were forced to move to Malaysia and Gulf countries, including India, as foreign domestic workers. The money earned from this helped to spend for the better education of their own families and also to make easier in the society for social and cultural opportunities. The fact has been found during the study that those who do not even have their work and land have to earn money by working in other people's houses or businesses and those who do not have any source of income go for foreign employment. Here, case 17 suffers by the traditional conditions of the current situation of the countryside where people follow various values of the community according to caste, geographical structure, and religions.

He says, "We barely had enough food for three months by our crops. In the village, there was no work to earn a living. With the new technology, there was neither enough land nor market to farm. It was considered inauspicious to cultivate

off-seasons and used to say that we should look for good stars while planting crops. Milk could not be sold even if the cattle were raised because the gods were angry. Since everyone in the family was the same, we didn't get any help or advice. Then I entered the city in search of a job".

The above statements cover all over the country's problems. Most of our developments are centralization and the government argues that development for the people, by the people, and to the people. So, decentralization is the main issue for development but it is the only slogan not to feel real. Many rural municipalities have still out of road, electricity, television, and telephone services except radio. Many people in the village still follow the cultural and traditional system even if they are ill. Health service is not around all over the country. Many villagers use letters to communicate with each other through the post office. Per capita income and household production can solve only the above problems. To increase income, people must be educated and healthy. Then we strongly take part in an inbuilt nation. Educated people not only increase their knowledge but also contribute to the community that harms the nation and human.

The above statement shows that earnings, land, cultivation systems, traditional values, sufficient of the market determine people where and when they stay. Similarly, the income of one member of the family can be used to assess the overall financial condition of the family in the case of food grains. Seeing that she was wearing it, again and again, she had to wait for a year to put on new clothes. Everyone has its aspiration and needs but no one can complete it without earnings. Most of the youth who have not enough assets and education must go abroad for earning. Here it is clear that foreign employees may be available to all and at any time.

Political Violence

Politics is the policy of the state. Every act, rule, law, form of government, political and geographical division is decided based on this. There is a government in every state which is sustainable only if it is transparent and far-sighted by respecting the sentiments of the people and involving the common people in all the activities of the state. It is the responsibility of the state to address every desire and demand of the citizens. If the state fails to manage the basic needs of the people such as food, shelter, education, health, employment in time, theft, robbery, hooliganism, and other anarchy will flourish in the state. Conflict is created when the unequal distribution of state resources, discrimination, ethnic and regional imbalances, and corruption increase. The conflict has not been defined in Recommendation No. 205. For the Recommendation, it includes "armed conflicts" as well as "non-armed conflicts". It covers many diverse situations, including situations of violence that destabilize societies and economies (ILO, 2020).

Judging by the nature of the crime and the minimum punishment and fine, the crime can be calculated by judicial and pre-peace society. The justice of any political party, ethnic or geographical group and organized crime based on the division in shares on various pressures will get criminal immunity as well as the organization and organized cause of anarchy, corruption, and black-market and against the ideology of the legal state and the power of power against the principles of natural justice. The state cannot bring an action. The situation is the issue of impunity.

Government action to withdraw cases filed in court as a continuation of institutionalizing impunity rather than giving justice to the victim can be taken more seriously. Based on the evidence involved in the heinous crimes, including murder, the court has started proceedings to grant amnesty to those convicted. This work has been institutionalized by impunity since the government itself, is the defender of the law. Although the government has withdrawn the cases of "political" nature of the conflict, it has decided to withdraw the cases of

those involved in such incidents as murder, abduction, torture, disappearance, and cases such as murder, abduction, sexual harassment, torture are not criminal in any case but political nature. The government viewed all kinds of cases in the same ways.

Case 18 (age: 40) says “Who runs a tourist hotel in Mustang, left her young children at home and went abroad as it was difficult to make ends meet due to business crisis due to the then political conflict. She worked there for 15 hours per day. She returned home ignoring her well-paying job and promotion, fearing that her children would become addicted and ruin their future”.

According to the above case, it runs around 12 years and has destroyed all kinds of businesses both governmental and private sectors. Demands were started from political ideology but behaviors were criminals. Nobody knew about the strategy of the war but it showed that it is not a civil war against the government, it is robbery. There was no security and no one was safe even the police. Many times they hunt our foreign guests from the hotel at midnight. Both the government and Maoists look like the same style and dress. Similarly, case 3 also says,

“After hearing about thefts, robberies, looting, arson, killings, violence and killings daily, she went abroad to Japan in the hope of surviving rather than living in a state of panic. Pipa, who runs a tourist hotel in Mustang, left her young children at home and went to Japan as it was difficult to make ends meet due to the political crisis at the time”.

According to Pipa, because of thefts, robberies, looting, arson, killings, violence, she could not sleep with comfort. Mostly in the evening, she heard bombardment and in the morning she looked at some dead bodies, destroyed roads and structures through paper. No telephone service was reached. Electricity poles could be seen but there was no wire and light. Sometimes the police came for the investigation and behaved with them if they had caught the criminals. Through all kinds of tension, she decided to go abroad to earn some money.

Family Structure

There are different ways and processes of learning and understanding depending on the person's condition, ability, and environment. It plays a role in the transformation of the society with new ideas that reflect the originality of the people, representing the voice of all, so that the merits and demerits of the people and the desires and aspirations of the society may flourish. It is said, “empty vessel makes a lot of noise”. When people lack knowledge, it harms the whole nation. It is not as easy to study as it is to do other simple things. Just going to school does not mean that there will be continuity of study. Even at a young age, most people want to play and enjoy themselves more than they read. At the same time, there is a large share of those who drop out of school and are unable to study due to the general belief that even if they do not get a job after studying, they will earn less and go to the Gulf to earn money no matter how much they study. Besides, some people say what happens if they cannot finally read and therefore they must go abroad. Due to which these youths have gone for foreign employment.

A family is a social unit of two or more people, a relationship accepted by blood, marriage, or certain method. There are many ways to define a family. A family is a family that is closely related to each other, especially to parents and their children. A family is a structure in which the members of a family living in a house made up of one or more people have a relationship full of similar qualities. Different qualities and faults in a family determine what the family and family members will look like. The nature of the person or member is influenced by the environment of the home and the structure of the family. Family background also motivates people to go for foreign employment.

Case 18 (age: 38) mentioned that he was the youngest of 11 family members. His turn came last in everything. Even if his father gave one hundred rupees to everyone who went for a walk, one thousand rupees could be spent. Later, everyone had to be scolded. Even if he spoke kindly to someone in the family, he thought that he was pretending to cheat him out of money.

The above statements show that the family has a size that is divided into three parts, small, large, and combined. Depending on the family structure, the family member may be able to run their own business or have a job or family status. Since most of the people going for foreign employment are from middle- and lower-class families, the impact of family structure and their family income and the number of family members seems to have affected them. If the number of families is small then the possibility of going for foreign employment from that house is less and if the family structure is large then it has been found that one or the other member has gone for foreign employment for income from that house.

The conceptualization of labor as part of a family or household strategy creates an analytical room to move beyond the income-maximizing paradigm and to include motives such as risk-avoidance and risk-sharing. Besides, such perspectives allow labor to be seen as an investment in which household members pool resources to facilitate the labor of one member and shed light on the reasons that laborers send remittances beyond pure altruism. Conceptualizing individual labor as part of broader household strategies to improve wellbeing, increase income, and raise investment capital also compels us to reinterpret return labor.

Inter-Caste Marriage

The result is a disruption of social, economic, political and mutual brotherhood and peace. This leads to chaos as well as widens the distance. The main responsibility of the state is not to prevent crime like robbery, hooliganism, strife, torture, and fraud in the society. The state operates its machinery properly to control it. However, if there is no demand for the people to deliver the same kind of justice everywhere, some people will get frustrated and this creates a frightening situation. One will look at the other with charges and hostility which leads to civil war; people fight for some existence and some flee to other countries' compulsion to live.

Generally, in any country, the tradition of creating various forms of pressure to relieve the problems of scarcity, illiteracy, unemployment, and other problems has led to great frustration even in the general public due to the practice of pressure and movement without being able to meet demand and guarantee of equality. One of the respondents has the same problem during the study where inter-caste marriage, out of home, not manageable living and unsafe work take his death.

Case 5 (age: 45) said that their inter-caste marriage was not accepted by the family. They lived outside and made a living. After their two children grew up, they worked all day building construction. One day while working, her husband fell from the roof and died. After that, she had nowhere to go with her children, and she left her children in an orphanage and went abroad.

According to the above statements, we could say that some of our traditional systems like caste are a social crime of our community. It never changes into an ideal society. All men should be the same and they have the same rules and regulations. Why is there a difference between man and man? It must be ended and the government should be kept equal for all. And on the other hand, it shows that if anyone gets a seasonal job in Nepal, the dependent family is not safe by his job and because of his temporary job nature, he neither gets a house nor does he have money. So, a small number of wages and seasonal work never fulfill people's needs. In this context, she (case 5) went abroad to earn in her old age for her children.

Conclusions

Foreign employment, which started unofficially in 1260 BS, has so far spread to 110 countries. Currently, about 1,000 Nepalese depart for foreign employment every day. Despite their entrepreneurial mindset, most of the respondents were engaged in agriculture before going abroad due to financial constraints. People with good and regular income in the country have not gone for foreign employment. Low-income and lower-class people have been in the compulsion to go abroad. It has been found that children of polygamous parents or victims of domestic violence go for foreign employment. It has been found that most people go abroad after marriage because of the financial burden and the responsibility of earning a lot of money. Lack of cash, superstition, traditional beliefs, political and family conflicts, inter-caste marriages, and family structure have led to foreign employment. Most people go for foreign employment without skills; they work in construction, sanitation and they get paid less and return home without skills. These facts are partially congruent to the theoretical explanation of Wallerstein.

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