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## Causes of Internal Migration and Its Impact on Poverty: A Case Study from Kurigram District in Bangladesh

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### ABSTRACT

Internal migration plays a pivotal role in poverty reduction, and this phenomenon is widespread in Bangladesh. While some studies based on secondary data have been published on internal migration, the definitive conclusions drawn from this data remain unclear. Therefore, to address this gap, our study fills the void by utilizing primary data. The research primarily relies on data collected through interviews, encompassing 300 respondents who migrated, 100 family members of migrants, and 82 individuals from their kinship networks. The study uncovers crucial findings regarding the causes of internal migration and its impact on poverty. Furthermore, it sheds light on the theoretical underpinnings of migration theory. One significant discovery of the study is that the living standards of respondents improve after migration compared to their pre-migration living conditions. Additionally, this paper delves into the examination of socioeconomic and socio-demographic factors that influence the decision-making process of internal migration. By employing primary data and conducting in-depth analyses, this research provides a more comprehensive understanding of the intricacies surrounding internal migration and its effects on poverty alleviation.

### INTRODUCTION

In the 21st century, internal migration is a favorite topic for researchers in developing countries like Bangladesh. Migration is the movement of residents from one geographical area, location, or administrative boundary to another to live permanently or temporarily. The most precise definition of migration has been given by Lee (1966) as permanent or semi-permanent changes of residence whether forced or voluntary as migration. There are a few types of migration founds in Bangladesh as Rural-urban, seasonal, and return migration. Migration is mainly two types: internal (migration within the same country) and international (migration to another country). However, our study is based on internal migration. The population of Bangladesh is increasing by 2 million people annually, and if present trends continue, the country's population is expected to reach 238 million by 2050 (Kiron & Islam, 2023). Bangladesh is a developing country and most of its people live in rural areas. As a result, Unemployment and scarce resources are common affairs. The socio-economic condition of Bangladesh is not satisfactory and poverty is prevailed. So, people are migrating to different cities for better employment and earnings (Alam & Islam, 2014). Migration is a process to be free from the vicious cycle of poverty (Gedikli *et al.*, 2022). Two-thirds of the migration in Bangladesh is internal (Afsar, 2003). The rate of migration in districts town is comparatively less than in a divisional city (Population and Housing Census, 2011). Migration generally occurs due to pull and push factors. Employment facilities in new areas, possibilities of economic structures, standard livelihood, and standard geographical conditions of migrated areas are considered important pull factors

(Parkins, 2010). Natural calamities and family problems are the push factors.

Internal migration has been focused on some studies. But most of these studies are based on secondary data which are collected from Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), Population and Housing Census, Population Census, UNDP, and other sources. The cause and consequence of internal migration from the census data from Bangladesh are not sufficient because only some information about respondents is available in the census schedule. Otherwise, these data are based on an aggregate level. So, this study uses a sample survey. In this study, we focus on internal migration in Bangladesh and tried to explore the causes behind internal migration by measuring poverty. At last, we explore the impact of internal migration on poverty.

### Research Problem

#### Problem Statement

The study of internal migration in developing countries is an important issue in several fields. Urban growth, human well-being, economic crisis, food insecurity, unemployment, low income, poverty, inequality, loss of land, demand for a new job, the expectation of better earnings, and previous migration patterns are several factors that affect the migration decision of the household of Bangladesh (Istiaque & Mahmud, 2011). The migration does bring economic development by creating employment opportunities. It reduces the regional disparity both in social and economic terms. Therefore, the net migration increased dramatically (Siddiqui, 2003). In developing or poor countries, people migrate from one place to another place due to fulfill subsistence needs. Their socioeconomic mobility is considered a necessary

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condition for sustainable development and poverty alleviation (Rokib & Islam, 2009). The internal migration rate in developing countries was always higher in the case of rural and urban migration (Sekhar, 1993). Most of the studies in Bangladesh are related to migration policies (Islam & Begum, 1983), migration and development (Afsar, 2000), rural-urban migration (Olopade *et al.*, 2019, Sultan & Fatima, 2017), and seasonal migration (Shahriar *et al.*, 2006).

The population of Bangladesh is increasing day by day. This overwhelming population creates pressure on our economy due to scarce resources. A study showed by BBS (2015) states that 35.2% of non-urban individual is living below the poverty line. To escape poverty nowadays people at first think to migrate to another place. Gurmu *et al.* (2000) showed that for a developing country, migration is a salient feature of life which allied with the country's economic growth. Therefore, in Bangladesh, there are many people who move from one place to another place due to poverty and other factors.

This study explores the link between internal migration and poverty. Although there are many factors behind migration, our interest is in the impact of internal migration on poverty alleviation and measuring poverty reduction as a result of migration. Occupational, educational, social, political, and climate change are some factors behind migration (Al-Amin, 2010). There are some studies we generally found about internal migration. All of them are very few concentrated on the cause and impact of internal migration on poverty alleviation. So, this study tries to fulfill the research gap by using primary data and addressing the following research questions:

RQ1: What are the causes behind internal migration?

RQ2: Is there any link between internal migration and poverty?

RQ3: Is migration good for the standard of living?

### Objectives of the Study

The broad and general objective of this study is the impact of internal migration on poverty. These broad objectives consist of several specific objectives. These are:

- i. To determine the causes which lead to making decisions about migration in Bangladesh's Kurigram district's people by measuring poverty status.
- ii. To see the migrants' standard of living based on after and before consumption and savings & find out the theoretical justification of migration.
- iii. To explore the socio-demographic & socio-economic status of the migrants.
- iv. To draw a statistical test with a mathematical and graphical presentation of poverty before and after migration and identify the relationship between the after and before migration situation of the migrants.

### Significance of the Study

Migration is a natural and socio-demographic process. It is not regarded as a matter of recent phenomenon. Actually, migration started in ancient times when

people migrated from one place to another place due to voluntary (searching for food) or involuntary (natural calamities) (Chowdhury *et al.*, 2012) reasons. In ancient times, the communication and transport systems were not well. Therefore, most people migrate from one place to another place in their own country (internal migration). In recent times, internal migration has increased remarkably especially in developing countries (Lucas, 2016). Actually, two-thirds of the people of Bangladesh are internal (Afsar, 2003). Therefore, it is a significant topic to know what are the causes behind the people's migration from their birthplace (Kurigram) to their destined place.

The curse of poverty is enough to keep any nation down in this modern age of technology. The forms of poverty are visible in developing and underdeveloped countries. Eradication of poverty is essential to keep up with the present modern age. Nevertheless, poverty led to depriving people of basic needs. Poor people are trying hard to alleviate poverty. Migration is an example of this. A study states that poverty is a significant cause of migration (Sarkar, 2010). In Bangladesh, a huge number of people are living below the poverty line (Xames *et al.*, 2022). So, internal migration is an important issue in this country. There was a backlink between migration and poverty (Kimura & Chang, 2017). So, this study tried to explore the impacts of internal migration on poverty.

Poverty is a social cause in Bangladesh. Kurigram district is one of the poorest districts in it. The basic reason for most of the people in Kurigram district migrating to different districts in our country is to develop their socio-economic conditions. This socio-economic development includes well-being, pattern of livelihood, self-esteem, etc. So, various questions were kept in our mind such as:

- i. Can they ensure their well-being and develop their livelihood after migration?
- ii. Can they reduce their poverty generally?
- iii. How many units of poverty tend to reduce after migration?
- iv. Can they develop their socio-economic status?

To find out the answer to these questions, one way open for anyone that conducts research work. Therefore, in this study, we tried to give answers considering the given questions. Since there is a direct link between poverty and migration, it is imperative to explore the effect of migration on poverty which is the main target of this study. If the effect of migration on poverty can be explored, the government can use this result for policy purposes. Then the government can take proper policy to the internal migration for the reduction of poverty conditions. In that sense, it can be surely said that this study is considerably significant.

The main objectives of this paper are to identify the causes behind internal migration and the impact of internal migration on poverty. Section 2 of this paper describes the meaning of migration, types of migration, reasons for choosing this problem, and the objectives of the paper. Section 3 mentions the background information about the internal migration perspective. The previous

research and relevant migration theories will be discussed in section 4. Section 5 specifies the information on data, data collection procedure, study area, and sample size. Section 6 presents the limitation of this study and the measurement procedure of poverty. This study uses the first three methods for measuring poverty. Section 7 describes the results of this study. The socioeconomic and economic characteristics of respondents and the cause of their migration are analyzed there. At last, it can be found the impact of migration on poverty. Finally, a summary of the result and conclusion will be pointed out in section 8.

### Background of the Study

Bangladesh is located in the northeastern part of South Asia. It was born on 26 March 1971 through the bloody nine-month war. It is a small and densely populated riverine country. The surface area in Bangladesh is currently at 1,47, 570 sq km (BBS), and the total population is 16,84,26,046 as of Friday, October 14, 2022, based on Orometer elaboration of the latest United Nations data. It is one of the highest densely populated countries. Since Bangladesh is a riverine country, the population of Bangladesh always face natural disaster which pushes them to go migration for their survival.



**Figure 1:** Map of Bangladesh

The poverty rate in Bangladesh is high, especially in the Kurigram district (70.87%). This harsh poverty bound them to migrate internally.

There are eight divisions in Bangladesh (Padma and Meghna preamble divisions). The division of Bangladesh is divided into 64 districts or zillas. A simplified map of Bangladesh is given in Figure 1. Kurigram district is a

district of Bangladesh in the Rangpur division. This district is located on the northern side of Bangladesh along the country's border with India. Administration of Kurigram subdivision was formed in 1874 and it was turned into a district in 1984. The district has nine Upazila of which Ulipur is the largest and Char Rajibpur is the smallest. A map of the Kurigram district is given in Figure 2.



**Figure 2:** Map of Kurigram District

When we look at the poverty list among the districts in the country, Kurigram district has acquired its highest position. According to the household income and expenditure survey (HIES) published by BBS. 70.87% of the population of Kurigram district live below the poverty line. This was 63.67 percent in 2014. A recent study showed that an average of 72.98 percent of the population in this district live below the poverty line which means, the poverty rate increase day by day. The rate of poverty in different upazila of Kurigram district is 79.8% in Char Rajibpur, 76.4% in Rahumari, 73.5% in Chilmari, 71.9% in Bhurungamari, 72.76% in Nageswari, 72.6% in Kurigram Sadar, 69% in Fulbari, 70.8% in Ulipur, and 70.1% in Rajarhat. It also showed that Rajibpur acquires the highest position, Rahumari is the third, Chilmari is the fourth, the Bhurungamari is fifth, Nageswari is sixth, Kurigram Sadar is seventh, Fulbari is eighth, Ulipur is ninth, and Rajarhat is tenth position among all upazila poverty list in Bangladesh (BBS). It can be said that all the highest ten positions of poverty were earned by the Kurigram district except the second position (Bandorban, Thansi).

According to this study, the average rate of poverty in Kurigram districts is mostly similar to the poverty rate of Nageswari Upazilla. So, this study collected the sample data from Nageswari upazilas for finding accurate results. The total area of Nageswari upazila is 415.80 sq km located in 25°58'5.4" north latitudes and in 89°41.492' East longitudes. It is bounded by Bhurungamari upazila and the West Bengal state of India on the north, Kurigram Sadar upazila on the south, Assam state of India on the East, and Fulbari upazila on the west. It has one municipality, 14 unions, 79 mouza, and 369 villages. The literacy rate in urban areas and rural areas are 40.62% and 27.97%, respectively. Socio-economic and growth rates between rural and urban are different. This difference forces to rural-urban migration (Bach & Smith, 1977).

## LITERATURE REVIEW

Migration is a broad term that incorporates all kinds of movement from one place to another (Haider, 2010). A good number of studies have been published about

migration in which some studies are mainly concentrated on drivers and policy issues about migration, migration and development, migrants' livelihood, patterns, trends, and determinants of migration, etc. But a few numbers of studies tend to concentrate on the cause of migration and the impact of migration on poverty. A recent study (Sarkar *et al.*, 2020) tried to explain the impact of internal migration on poverty alleviation in Bangladesh. But this study is based on secondary data. This study finds few research works which are based on primary data as factors behind internal migrations and migrants' livelihood (Al-Amin, 2010), internal migration, and socioeconomic status (Chowdhury *et al.*, 2012). A study reveals a special work that is based on the primary data and the data collected from Kurigram districts but the objectives of that study were to the seasonal migration in the autumn lean period in Bangladesh (Shahriar *et al.*, 2006).

In the early period of Bangladesh, a study has been published by Chaudhury (1978) which tried to identify the factors affecting rural out-migration and to assess its economic consequence, based on data collected from four upazillas of Mymensingh district. He argued that age, sex, education, occupation, wealth, land ownership, and irrigation facilities have profound effects on migration intentions. There are a handful of studies describing the internal migration pattern of the Bangladesh population such as "Internal migration and the development nexus" (Afsar, 2003), "Dynamics of internal migration in Bangladesh" (Alam & Mamun, 2022; Nabi, 1992), "An analysis of internal migration in Bangladesh" (Paul & Ramekar, 2018), "Factor affecting internal migration in Bangladesh" (Farjana *et al.*, 2019), "Internal migration in Bangladesh" (UNDP) are only a few of the studies of them.

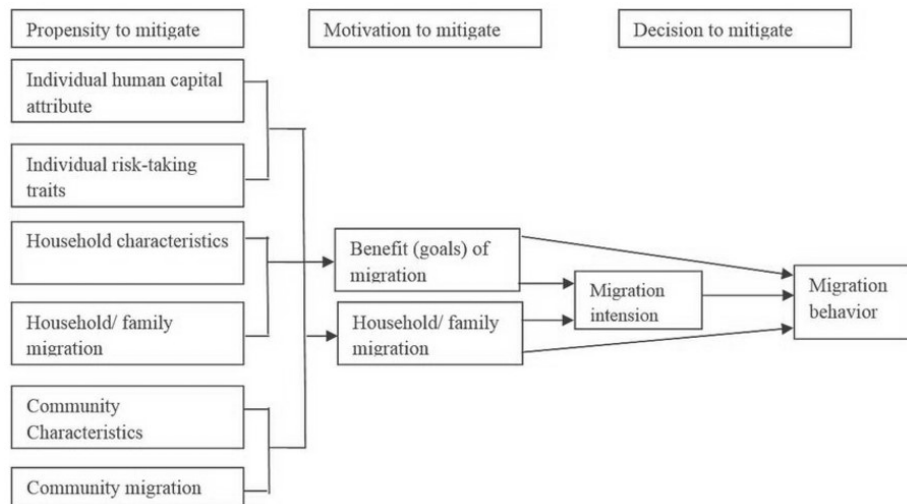
Some recent studies tried to explore the causes of internal migration and unemployment impact. Internal migration plays a crucial role in Bangladesh's national economy by reducing domestic unemployment and ensuring a substantial influx of remittance at the place of origin (Afroze, 2017). A recent study mentioned that the education, assets, and income of respondents, as the important factor for migration (Aktar *et al.*, 2022).

Another recent study showed that age, education, income, respondents' position in their family, family type, marital status, relation with close relatives, and family members had an impact of choice on migration (Kabir *et al.*, 2022). Migration has a strong nexus with unemployment and development. Searching for employment, and more income is the primary reason for migration (Kabir *et al.*, 2018). Natural calamities are also responsible for internal migration. Flood hazards in combination with loss of assets increase the likelihood of internal migration (Petrova, 2021). Though some studies are available for internal migration, the effective results of these studies are not well. Internal migration studies based on sample surveys only fulfill the gap of the readers they gather their wants after reading the study. There are a large number of studies have been already published about internal migration but this study is unique because this study shows the impact of internal migration on poverty

based on the sample data and draws statistical results that can capable to identify the relation between poverty and migration.

**Theoretical Perspectives**

The study of internal migration plays a key role in national well-being because of its effects on economic, social, and demographic change. The accelerating rate of migration in developing countries is high. It is a major source of redistributing the population during development as the sectoral composition of the economy and the geographical distribution of employment change (Kuznets & Murphy, 1966). There are many theoretical foundations on migration that complement each other. Most of the theories are as leveled as either push or pull theories of economies. There are many reasons which are responsible for the decision-making of people to migrate. Figure 3 shows a conceptual model of migration decision-making.



**Figure 3:** A conceptual model of migration decision-making (Source: Al-Amin, 2010; Sarkar *et al.*, 2020)

There are three theories of migration which considered as most significant theories of migration. These are: (1) Neoclassical theory (2) Neo economic theory, and (3) Network theory. Actually, all of these migration theories' basic foundation for people taking decision to migrate. Here, we attempted to discuss these theories which are mostly applicable and useful for explaining internal migration.

**Neoclassical Theory**

One of the oldest and most commonly used to explain migration is the neoclassical theory of migration. The main basis of the neo-classical theory of migration is that the major cause of migration is different pay (wage). This theory proposes that international migration is connected to the global supply and demand for labor (Harris & Todaro, 1970). This theory states that geographical differences in wages bounds to move from low wages areas to high wages areas. Without possibilities for adequate earnings in non-urban places, hardship is being improved and this pressured many non-urban inadequate

to seek a career elsewhere, leading to massive rural-urban migration (Olopade *et al.*, 2019). The migration also depends on the labor market situation (Massey, 2015). Migration can be minimized by ensuring equal resource distributions in different areas and depending on the conditions of the labor market (Rodes García, 2013). This theory can be applied to both micro and macro levels. At the micro level, individuals consider the psychological price like prospects of finding employment, the probability of being expelled from the host country, and the economic cost of immigration (Borjas, 1989). The concept indicates that knowledge, choice, skill, experience, and consumption also influence people in making their decision about migration.

**The New Economic Theory**

The new economic theory of migration has a different point of departure compared to neo-classical theory. New economic theory state that the decision to migrate is not made by the individual's own self, it is the result of collective decisions to maximize income and employment

opportunities and minimize income and employment opportunities, and minimize risks. This theory also argues that people may migrate for the relative effects. The member of the family work in different fields which reduces the risk of the total security and wealth of the family because if one of them would be laid off or unable to work due to sickness or die. This is the developing and agricultural world insurance policy while they carve up the net optimistic returns from migration (Stark & Bloom, 1985; Massey, 2015). One family trying to improve their income compared to close relatives and reduce deprivation compared with some reference groups. Government influences migration not only through labor market policies but also through policies on the other markets identified insurance, credit, etc. This theory does not focus on wage equilibrium but emphasizes reducing risk. The main theme of this theory is that people subsidized their journey to decrease the risk inherent in societies with weak institutions like no unemployment insurance, no welfare, and no bank from where people expect financial support and well-being for their household economy. This theory is a better explanation of household behavior for decision-making to migrate than the neoclassical theory of migration.

### Network Theory

The network theory of migration argues that links to groups, family, or friends (networks) in receiving individuals or countries influence migrants to take the decision of choosing the migration destination. Migrant networks are defined as sets of interpersonal ties that connect migrants, migrants, and former migrants in a web of kinship, friendship, and shared origin (King, 2012). Migration networks influence both the scale of migration and the sorting of migration across countries, as they provide an incentive to replicate the destination choices of earlier migrants (Bertoli, 2010). Massy *et al.* (1993) mentioned that migrants set up interpersonal ties that connect them to previous migrants and non-migrants in origin and principal areas through ties of association, companionship, and shared social origin.

International migration increases due to lower costs and risk of transformation and increases the expected net return to migration (Gheasi & Nijkamp, 2017). This theory has been given importance in social relations. This theory states about people's social networks that are when individuals know people from the community who have migrated earlier to the specific areas then they are more likely to get interested to migrate there because it decreases their psychological and financial costs as well as increase social security (Castles, 2007).

### Research Hypothesis

According to this research objectives, the following hypothesis is considered and we tried to explore the result whether it is statistically significant or not.

### Null Hypothesis

There is no significant difference between poverty before migration and poverty after migration.

### Alternative Hypothesis

Otherwise.

### Data

The research intends to give insights into the cause of migration and the impact of internal migration on poverty in the Kurigram district of Bangladesh. It is not carried out secondary data for precise analysis. So, the data and information have been used from sample surveys (primary data) which are collected from the field. The data which are used in this study purposes contain the total number of 482 migrants. Actually, migrants' information and data are collected directly from the migrants (sometimes through interviews over the phone and their kinship) in their birthplace. This study has counted only those migrants who moved from Kurigram to other districts in Bangladesh during the year 2021.

### Study Area

The site for our study is one of the country's poorest regions Kurigram district in the northern side of



Figure 4: Map of Nageshwari upazila

Bangladesh. Since Kurigram district has 9 upazillas. Nageswari Upazila is one of them. It has one municipality (Nageswari municipality) and 14 unions. Of them, this study has chosen Nageswari municipality and Bamondanga union as urban and rural regions respectively for this research purpose (refer to Figure 4). For finding a consistent result, we collected half of the data from Nageswari municipality, and the remains are collected from Bamondanga union. The main target for selecting this place is that it is situated at approximately the mid-point of the Nageswari upazila.

### Source Material

The source of the data for this study is sample survey data. The questionnaire included questions about the demographic (family size, family type, marital status), socioeconomic (schooling, monthly income), reasons for migration (push and pull factors), and some respondents' information (age, sex, migration place) aspects of the migrant individual. We fill up our questionnaires by asking questions to our respondents as an interview method. The migrated individual was classified into two categories in terms of their birthplace.

### Urban

The individuals who live in the Nageswari municipality.

### Rural

The individuals who live in the Bamondanga union. The data contained 482 respondents among them 241 data are collected from urban residents and others are collected from rural regions. Among the respondents, 77.8% were male and 22.2 % were female. To complete our study, we used a combination of SPSS, MS Excel, and R programming.

### Sample

The data set contained a total number of 482 individuals information of the Kurigram district. Thus, the total sample size for the study is 482. The data collection was done through face-to-face interview, phone interview, and sometimes their family members or kinships. As our objective is to identify the causes behind migration and the impact of migration on poverty, so at first, we measure the poverty before migration and after migration then we get a change in poverty due to migration. Therefore, we considered poverty before migration and poverty after migration to find the impact of migration on poverty. It is noted that we used to Head Count Index (HCI) method, poverty gap, and Foster-Greer Index (FGI) for measuring poverty. We also draw Statistical tests to explore the relationship between migration and poverty.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The methodology section in this study is divided into two parts: limitation of study and measurement of poverty. Here, we used World Bank information about the poverty line for measuring poverty before migration and after

migration. Then we find out the impact of migration on poverty. The poverty line is an income standard. The person who earns below this standard is considered a member of poverty.

### Limitation of the Study

Migration is a broad area in the research world. There are numerous books, research articles, and migration projects have been published by several scholars. This study is only focusing the internal migration. The main limitation of our study is time constraints because of our academic duration. Another is that it focuses on a limited geographical area in the Kurigram district.

### Measurement of Poverty

Poverty is a state in which people are unable to meet their essential needs for a certain standard of living. There are four most common approaches available for measuring poverty (Todaro *et al.*, 2011). These are:

- i. Head Count Index (HCI)
- ii. The poverty gap index
- iii. Foster-Greer Index (FGI)
- iv. Human Capital Index (HCI)

In this study, the first three methods are used to explore the consequence of migration on poverty.

### Statistical Test

Since our sample size is large, we used a nonparametric test in this study for finding the result of migration on poverty. Here we applied the poverty gap before migration and the poverty gap after migration. There are some methods available for non-parametric tests, in our study, we chose the Wilcoxon Rank sum test.

### Empirical Results

This section of the study can be divided into six major parts. These are the socio-demographic and socio-economic situation of migrants, causes of migration, statistical results, the impact of migration toward poverty, migration, and living standards, and theoretical justification.

### Socio-Demographic & Socio-Economic Status of Migrant People

The variable is defined as sociological and demographical characteristics and is called a socio-demographic variable. Such variables in our study include age, sex, marital status, and family type. The term socio-economic concerned with the interaction of social class and the financial situation of the respondents. This study mentions several socioeconomic factors such as education, and occupation.

### Education

The study explores that the number of migrants from the Kurigram district who have no academic education is 23.23%, assumed as illiterate people whereas the graduate and post-graduate migrants are very low the rate of 3.31%. We found that secondary education is highly

significant for migration. The rate of secondary educated people is 41.07%. The second lowest number of migrants is higher secondary educated people with a rate of 3.32%, approximately the same as graduate people and later are primary educated people. The rate of primary educated migrants is 27.6% of total respondents. This result is

presented clearly in the below bar graph (Figure 5). In this study, most of the people who migrate to another place are less educated. A study showed that migration is gradually being considered as the development alternative for the illiterate and unskilled workforce (Islam, 2010).

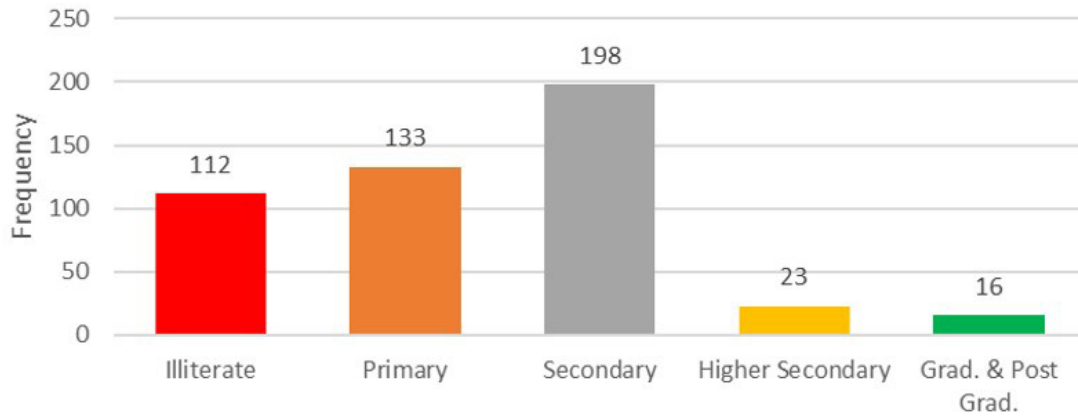


Figure 5: Education of respondents

### Occupation

Occupation is the person's physical and mental activity for earning a living. There are several occupations available for people. Out of them, some occupation is significant for migration. This study illustrates that day labor is highly significant for migrants from Kurigram districts. Since the literacy rate in the Kurigram district is not well, so most of the people migrate from their birthplace to

another place for performing daily labor. The second highly significant occupation is garments workers. The percentage of day labor and garments migrants are 38.6% and 34%, respectively. The later migrant occupation is rickshaw puller, farmer which means agricultural work, industry job, students, and others are 8.71%, 4.9%, 4.56%, 2.9%, and 6.33%, respectively. The findings are shown in Figure 6.

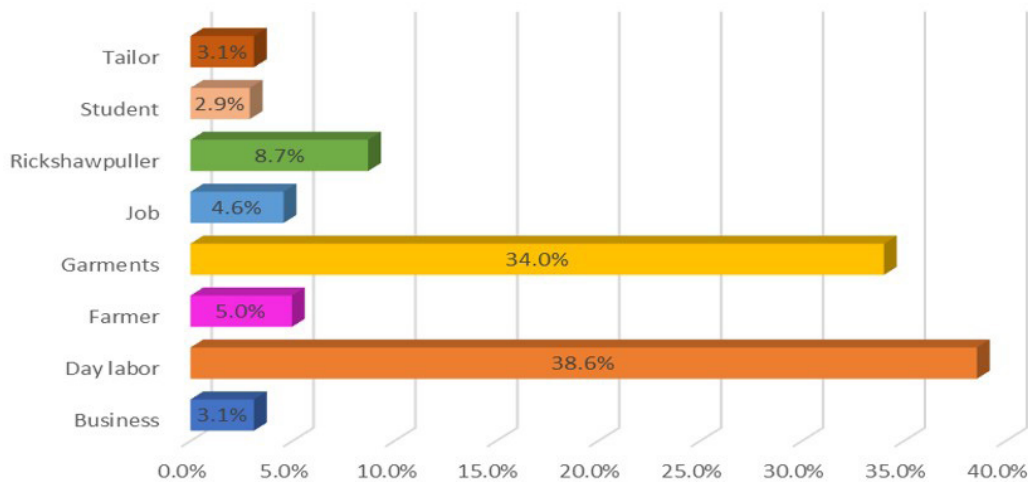


Figure 6: Occupation of respondents

### Marital Status

The marital status of the individual varies for internal migration. A large proportion of people migrate who were married for earning income to maintain their families, as shown in Figure 7.

Our study identifies that the number of married and

unmarried migrants is 391 and 78 respectively. The divorce and widow rate of migrants is low, whereas the widow rate is extremely low. Married is one of the main reasons for migration (Kabir *et al.*, 2018). Married people are migrating 5 times greater than unmarried people.

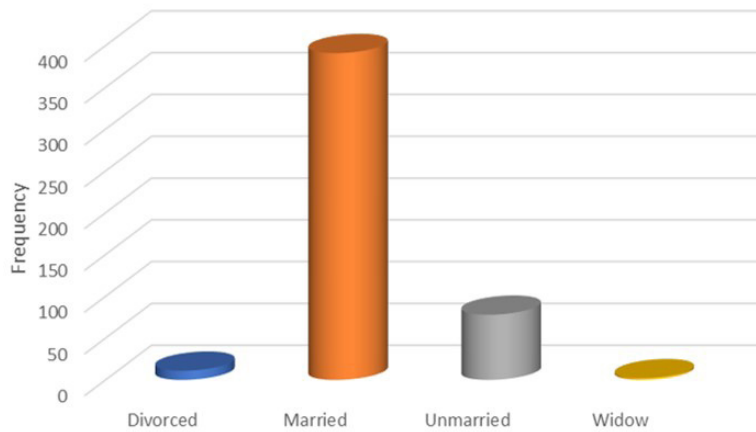


Figure 7: Marital status of migrants

**Age**

The individual age of 15 to 30 is highly significant for internal migration. The number of significant age respondents is 321. In our study, the number of migrant child laborers is 7. The rate of over 50 migrants is very low. The age between 31 to 49 is the second highest age of internal migration as Figure 8. The percentage of respondents belonging to each category is 66.6% for 15-30 age, 1.5 for those aged 0-14 (child labor), 28% for those aged 31-50, and 3.9% for those aged over 50. The importance of family and social facilities in the decision of young adults to migrate (WDR, 2007). Internal

migration mostly composed of young adults and the poor constitutes the largest flow of people in developing countries (UNDP, 2009).

The affair of internal migration is keeping its salient social and economic aspects (World migration report, 2015). Based on this result this study asserts that socio-demographic and socio-economic factor has an impact on migration. A similar result we find in a recent study on age, education, income, respondents' position in their family, family type, marital status, relation with close relatives, and family members had an impact of choice on migration (Kabir *et al.*, 2022).

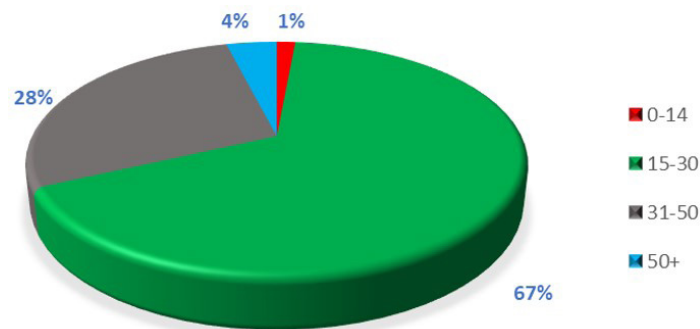


Figure 8: Age structure of respondents

**Causes Behind Internal Migration**

There are some causes found in our study that are responsible for internal migration. These are occupational,

social, climate, educational, beneficial, and political. Such causes can be classified into pull and push factors. Pull factors are something that attracts people to migrate to another place and push factors are something that creates people to leave their birthplace to another place as migrants. In our study education, occupation, and beneficial are pull factors, and remain are push factor. A simplified pie chart (Figure 9) shows our result holding all datasets.

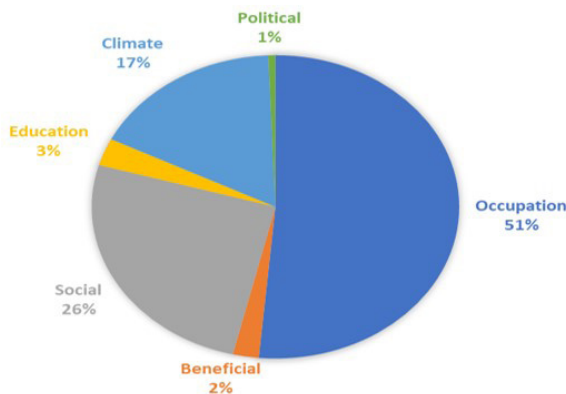


Figure 9: Causes behind internal migration

According to our study, Occupational reason is highly significant for internal migration; likely 51.45% of respondents migrate from their birthplace due to occupational reason. The occupational reasons also some sub reasons as finding work, more income, transferring jobs, and others. The greater number of respondents of occupational migrants migrate due to finding work later for more income, jobs, and others. Therefore, this study

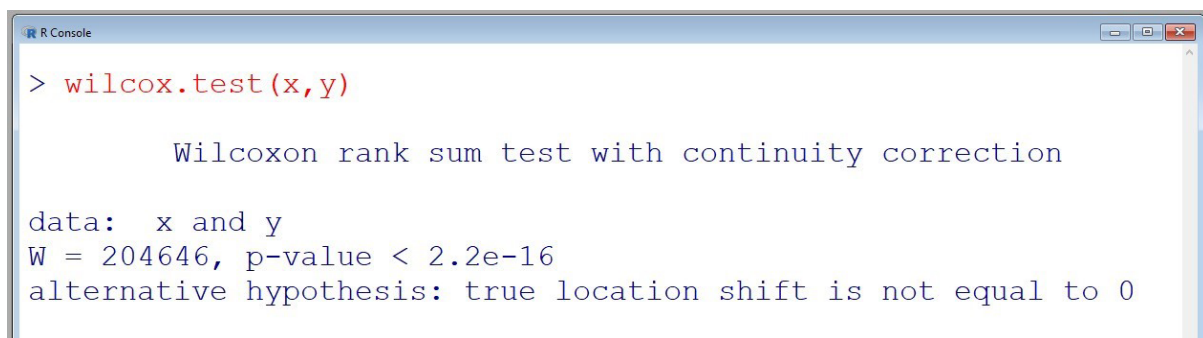
identifies that job source is scarce in Kurigram districts. More income is also a significant factor for occupational migration because all people want to survive as well as possible. A study explores that failure to earn enough for a satisfactory living motivates people to undertake intra-country migration as a livelihood strategy (Nabi, 1992). The second and third highest significant causes for internal migration are social and climate reasons at 25.72% & 17%, respectively. Some women decide to migrate as a result of their husbands' failure to bear family (Nguyen *et al.*, 2015). In this study, most of the women migrate to another place due to their divorce, widow, gender inequality, social insecurity, and family problem. Women's internal migration is important for women's empowerment (Kabeer, 2001). Since some women migrate due to their family problems. In addition. Climate changes are expected to have serious impacts on

land loss and livelihood (IPCC, 2018). Kurigram district is the poorest district in our country. Researchers mentioned before that climate frequently affects the population of the Kurigram district. So, people migrate to another place to survive well. This result is similar to the study that Environmental migration is one of the main pathways to environmental decline (Reuveny, 2007). The educational, beneficial, and political reason for internal migration is very low at 2.90%, 2.28%, and 0.6%, respectively.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Statistical Results

According to our data set, we calculated the poverty gap of the respondents before and after migration. Then we tried to explore the statistical effect of migration on poverty. The result of the Wilcoxon rank sum test of our data is shown below.



```

> wilcox.test(x,y)

      Wilcoxon rank sum test with continuity correction

data:  x and y
W = 204646, p-value < 2.2e-16
alternative hypothesis: true location shift is not equal to 0
  
```

Figure 10: The result of the Wilcoxon rank sum test

The Wilcoxon rank sum test of statistical analysis portrayed that the p-value is less than  $2.2e^{-16}$ . The level of significance is the probability of rejecting the null hypothesis when it is true. At the 0.05 level of significance, the result is highly statistically significant. So, we reject the null hypothesis which means that there is a significant difference between poverty before migration and poverty after migration. To solve the question what is the relationship between poverty and migration, this study goes forward to the mathematical and graphical presentation below.

### Impact of Migration on Poverty

To explore the impact of migration on poverty, we used the Headcount index, the Foster-Greer index, and a graphical presentation based on the poverty line and poverty gap. The World Bank updates the world poverty line at \$2.15 based on the purchasing power parity. The current dollar rate in Bangladesh BDT is 105.62 at 10:40, 20 January 2023. Based on this information, we calculated poverty and poverty gap after migration. To find out the impact of migration on poverty, we also used the average dollar value in the year 2021 at 85 BDT per dollar (Google). The poverty variable counts the respondents whose income is below the poverty line. The poverty gap is the difference between the poverty line and the income of respondents. The poverty line is at present 6800 BDT and 5500 BDT for the year 2021 per month in

Bangladesh. Since we collect only those respondents are migrated from Kurigram districts during the year 2021.

The poverty measurement method of the Head Count Index (HCI) is the ratio of the number of respondents living in poverty to the total number of respondents (Todaro *et al.*, 2011). The formula can be written as-  
Head count index =  $H/N$

Here,

$N$  = Total number of respondents.

$H$  = Number of respondents below the poverty line.

Poverty before migration =  $H/N = 110/482 = 0.2282$

Poverty after migration =  $H/N = 16/482 = 0.0332$

Here, Poverty before migration > Poverty after migration.

Therefore, this study reveals how migration reduces poverty.

### Poverty Gap Method

Poverty gap =  $Y_p - Y_i$

Here,  $Y_p$  = the poverty line

$Y_i$  = respondent's income

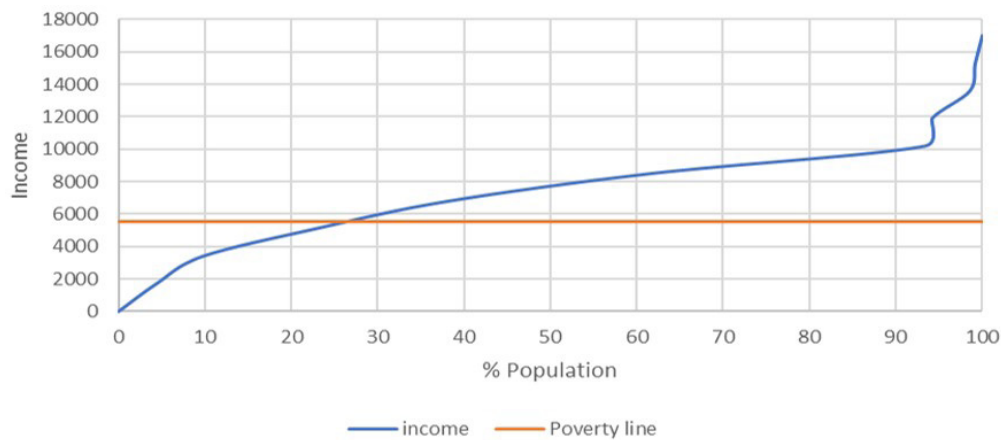
The graphical presentation of the poverty gap method based on our sample is mentioned below which includes both poverty before and poverty after in Figure 10 and Figure 11, respectively.

To find the poverty gap among the respondents, we use the above information as:

Poverty line = 5500 for 2021 year based on the World Bank declaration.

Poverty gap=Poverty line - Respondents income in the period of 2021.  
Using all the information, this study portrayed the following figure (Figure 11). We use the same procedure

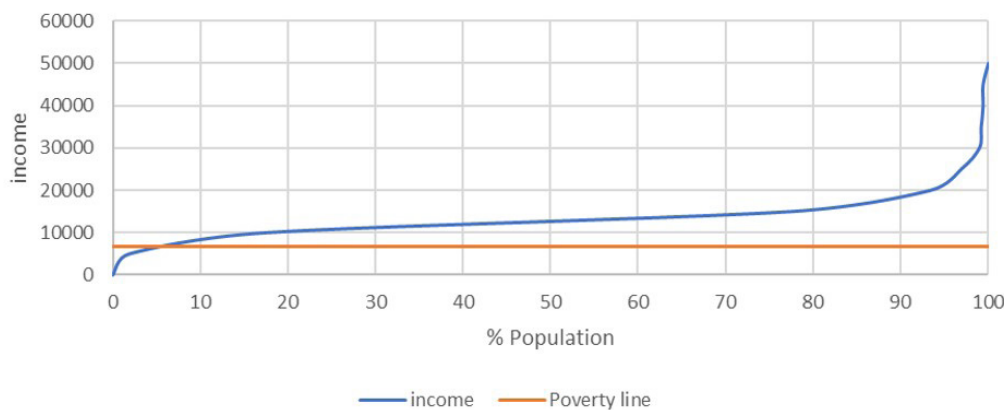
for the next figure (Figure 12), but in this figure, the poverty line is 6800 based on World Bank and counts the respondent's income during the period of 2022.



**Figure 11:** Poverty gap before migration

Figure 11 shows the poverty gap of the respondents before the migration. The orange color line indicates the poverty line as below the income of 5500 BDT per month. The blue color line indicates the relationship between

the income of the respondents and the percentage of the population (respondents). This figure identifies that there are 22.82% of the people live below the poverty line when they stay in their birthplace.



**Figure 12:** Poverty gap after migration

Figure 12 shows the poverty gap of the respondent after migration. The orange color line is the poverty line and the blue color line is the respondent's income. The difference between the two lines shows the poverty gap. This gap indicates about 3.34% of the respondents live below the poverty line. Therefore, this study explores that the impact of migration on poverty is negative. In straightforward terms, migration plays an important role to alleviate poverty. Internal migration potential has the strongest contribution to the growth process and to poverty reduction (Kabir *et al.*, 2018).

**Foster-Greer Index (FGI)**

A well-known poverty index for measuring poverty is Foster-Greer Index (FGI) often called the  $P\alpha$  class of poverty measure. The  $P\alpha$  index is given below:

$$P\alpha = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^H \left( \frac{Y_p - Y_i}{Y_p} \right)^\alpha$$

Here,  $Y_p$  = The poverty lines,  $Y_i$  = The income of i-th

person,  $N$  = Total number of populations

When

$\alpha=0$ , Then numerator equal to  $H$  and  $P\alpha$  index equal to Head Count Index (HCI).

$\alpha=1$ , we get normalized (Per capita) poverty gap.

And  $\alpha=2$ , We find the poverty severity.

According to the respondent's data, we measure the poverty severity before and after migration by Foster-Greer Index (FGI) as-

Poverty severity before migration,  $P\alpha = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^H \left( \frac{Y_p - Y_i}{Y_p} \right)^\alpha = \frac{1}{482} (26.89) = 0.055$

Here,  $N=482$ ,  $H=110$ ,  $\alpha=2$ ,  $\sum_{i=1}^H \left( \frac{Y_p - Y_i}{Y_p} \right)^\alpha = 26.89$  (Using Microsoft excel)

Poverty severity after migration,  $P\alpha = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^H \left( \frac{Y_p - Y_i}{Y_p} \right)^\alpha = \frac{1}{482} (2.97) = 0.00616$ .

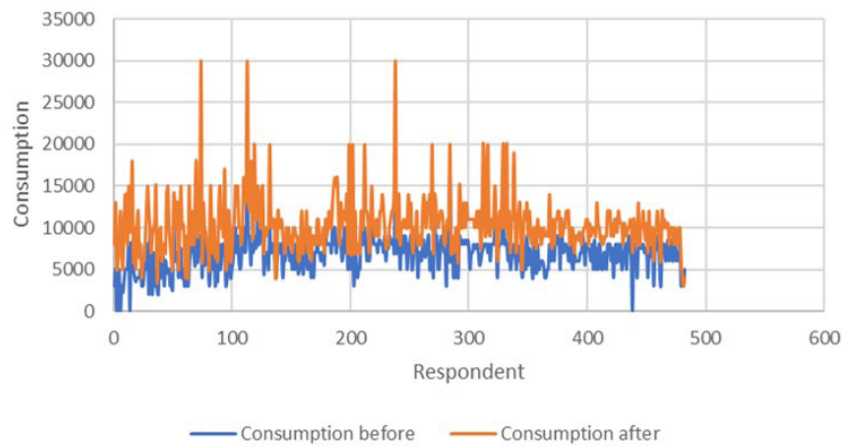
Here,  $N=482$ ,  $H=16$ ,  $\alpha=2$ ,  $\sum_{i=1}^H \left( \frac{Y_p - Y_i}{Y_p} \right)^\alpha = 2.97$  (Using Microsoft excel)

These results reveal that 0.055 is greater than 0.00616.

So, poverty before migration is higher than poverty after migration. Based on all mathematical results, this study reveals that there is a link between poverty and migration. Migration helps people to alleviate their poverty.

### Migration and Living Standards

Living standards refer to the quality of human life. The relationship between migration and living standards are shown in Figure 13 and 14. We identify the living



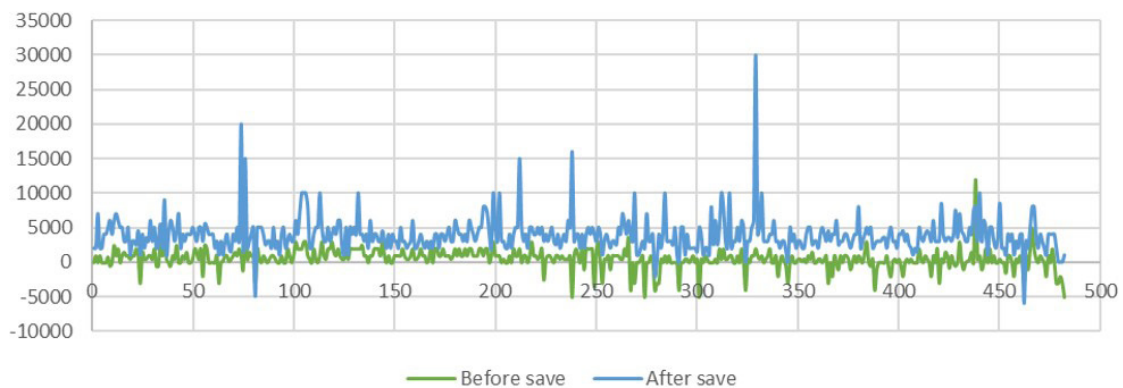
**Figure 13:** Living standards based on consumption

standards of the migrants in terms of before and after consumption. The alternative way of after and before saving is also available which shown in Figure 14.

Figure 13 shows the consumption level including both after and before migration of the respondents. The orange color curve indicates the consumption of the

respondents after the migration and the blue color curve indicates the consumption before migration. According to the figure, it is clear that the consumption of the respondents after migration is greater than the consumption before migration.

Figure 14 presents the savings rate of the respondents. The

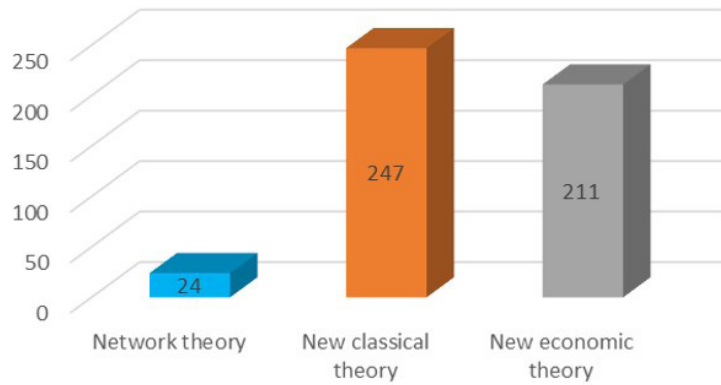


**Figure 14:** Living standards based on saving

blue color curve indicates the savings rate after migration and the green color curve indicates the savings rate before migration. Both saving curves remain fluctuating which represents the different savings rate of the respondents. In Figure 14, it is clear that the saving rate after migration is greater than the saving rate before migration. Based on the above two figures, the consumption and savings rates are higher after migration than before migration. It is also found that very few respondents' consumption and saving rate is lower after migration than before migration which is negligible. So, this study finds that internal migration has a positive consequence on the standard of living. A study mention that internal migration can be considered socially and economically beneficial (Afroze, 2017). This study also reveals that internal migration improves the migrants' living standards.

### Theoretical Justification

The classical theory of migration state that people migrate from one place to another place due to finding work, and various wage levels between two geographical areas which means occupational reasons. In this study, the number of respondents who migrate from their home district to another district on the basis of classical theory is 51.2%. It is the most significant theory in the data set. The Network theory of migration implies that people migrate from one place to another place due to social networks. The study explores that there are 5% of respondents in the data set to migrate from Kurigram districts because of Network theory. The remaining individuals migrate based on the New economic theory of migration. It is the second largest theory for the respondent to migrate from their birthplace to another place. The rate of respondents below this theory is 43.8%. A simplified figure is shown in Figure 15.



**Figure 15:** Theoretical justification

### Discussions

This section summarizes the major finding of this study with some discussion. On the basis of the data, we found that a large number of people migrated from the Kurigram district to Dhaka. So, this study finds that Dhaka is the most common destination for people who migrate internally in Bangladesh. More than 46% of the respondents migrate from Kurigram district to Dhaka. The second and third highest migration place are Camilla (10.6%) and Chatogram (4.4). People also migrate to Kamrangir Char, Savar, Narayanganj, and others (See Appendix A1).

Gender is an important factor in migration. Males are migrating more than the female. Based on the data sets, the male is migrating 3.5 times more than the female. The total number of female respondents in the data is 107. The Muslims are the largest number of respondents in our sample indicating the geographical area is Muslim-intensive. The number of Hindu religion respondents in our data is very low. The nuclear or single-family respondents are the largest number who migrate to another place than the joint family. It indicates single-family become soared in the present world.

Economic forces are the strongest determinant in driving migration the core choice for internal migration in Dhaka is to work as a rickshaw puller (Islam, 2010). This result also reveals in this study, rickshaw puller is the third largest occupation after migration of the respondents. A study showed about 31% of rickshaw pullers migrate due to better employment (Morshed & Asami, 2011). Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics reported that there is a positive impact of rickshaw pullers and internal migration (BBS, 2011). The highest and second-highest occupations of migrants are day labor and garments worker respectively. Since the literacy rate of Kurigram district is not satisfactory as well as the poverty rate is so high (BBS). So, people migrate for the work of day labor and garments which means education-free work. Some people also play a significant role in their families through job and business. A few respondents migrate for their education purposes.

Our study represents that there are no female respondents who are migrating due to political reasons. Social reason

is the primary cause for women migration such as family problem and social insecurity. River erosion is the main climate reason for respondents to move to another place. Other climate reasons include landslides, floods, and drought.

No female respondents are moving to another place due to higher income. Their main target to move to another place is to find work. Male migrants are six times greater than females to move to another place because of their education. The graphical and mathematical presentations reveal the impact of migration on poverty. The study found that internal migration leads to reducing poverty. The theoretical justification attempt is applied to explore the motive of the migrants to decide migration.

The before and after saving and consumption analysis of the respondents ensure that migration plays a key role to improve the living standards of the people. This study observes that migration has a positive impact on economic benefits. A similar result, we found in the PSC journal as internal migration is considered as socially and economically beneficial (Afroze, 2017). In spite of the benefits of internal migration, it has also a negative impact too. Some studies already reveal the negative impacts of internal migration. A study showed that high blood pressure and elevated blood glucose are fueled by a shift in population structure (Demographic and Health Survey, 2011). A most relevant study reveals that some places may have worsened due to the extra pressure of migrants (Kalemba, 2022). In our data sets most of the people migrate to Dhaka which may lead to extra pressure on the environment of Dhaka (Xames *et al.*, 2023).

### CONCLUSION

The main objectives of this study were to explore the causes of internal migration. In this study, we found that occupational, social, climate, beneficial, educational, and political are the reasons for internal migration. In this study, we tried to explore the characteristics of migrants, the cause deciding migration, the consequences of migration on the migrants' livelihood as living standards, and the theoretical justification of migration. This study also identifies the positive impact of migration on the living standards of people. It also reveals that internal migration

is an important factor to alleviate poverty. Overall, this study may help social scientists and policymakers with their policy purposes and their different programming.

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**Appendix**

**Table 1:** A1. Migration places

Migration Place	Frequency	Percentage	Valid Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
Bikrompur	1	0.2	0.2	0.2
Bogra	8	1.7	1.7	1.9
Chandura	1	0.2	0.2	2.1
Chattagram	21	4.4	4.4	6.4
Cox's bazar	7	1.5	1.5	7.9
Cumilla	51	10.6	10.6	18.5
Dhaka	224	46.5	46.5	64.9
Dinajpur	3	0.6	0.6	65.6
Gazipur	62	12.9	12.9	78.4
Jatrabari	3	0.6	0.6	79.0
Kamranggir char	16	3.3	3.3	82.4
Keranigonj	2	0.4	0.4	82.8
Khagrasari	2	0.4	0.4	83.2
Lalmonir hat	2	0.4	0.4	83.6
Manikgonj	2	0.4	0.4	84.0
Mymensingh	1	0.2	0.2	84.2
Narayongonj	14	2.9	2.9	87.1
Netrokona	1	0.2	0.2	87.3

Nilphamari	2	0.4	0.4	87.8
Norshingdi	1	0.2	0.2	88.0
Pabna	1	0.2	0.2	88.2
Padma char	1	0.2	0.2	88.4
Rajshahi	4	0.8	0.8	89.2
Rampura	3	0.6	0.6	89.8
Rangpur	4	0.8	0.8	90.7
Sadarghat	2	0.4	0.4	91.1
Sarietpur	6	1.2	1.2	92.3
Savar	14	2.9	2.9	95.2
Sirajgonj	11	2.3	2.3	97.5
Srinagar	2	0.4	0.4	97.9
Sylhet	6	1.2	1.2	99.2
Tangail	4	0.8	0.8	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>482</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	