

## **Factors of population movement towards Dhaka: An Empirical Study**

Naznin Islam<sup>1</sup> Shah

Md. Azimul Ehsan<sup>2</sup> Bushra Khanam<sup>3</sup>

### **Abstract**

Internal Migration is a very common phenomenon in Bangladesh. The pressure of people is increasing day by day in urban areas, especially in Dhaka city. It is predicted that Dhaka will be more populous than Mexico City, Beijing or Shanghai by 2021. If population pressures cannot be controlled now, then the unplanned city may face serious threat in future. Overcrowding and lack of planning in Dhaka city is creating traffic jam, land grabbing, imbalance in climate, pollution and never ending demands for energy and water. Though migration is necessary but it is vital to control when it impedes the development of a city. Nonetheless, before any policy measures are adopted to control this increasing trend of migration, it is important to know ground realities behind such internal movements. This study has been conducted, adopting both quantitative and qualitative social research tools, to know the different underlying factors which induce the rural people to migrate in Dhaka city. The findings suggest such migration is taking place owing to both push and pull factors. However, the economic and socio-cultural factors have been stronger reasons of migration than the pull/motivating forces. Although the process of migration has improved the condition of few migrants, most of them still suffer from poverty and low standard of living. In order to reduce the wave of increasing migration in Dhaka, government needs to adopt regional development policy with the availability of social and cultural facilities of city standard. Moreover, the big industries and garment factories should be shifted away from Dhaka which will not only reduce the pressure on the city but also ease the workers livelihood.

**Keywords:** Internal, migration, rural, urban, factors, Dhaka, city, push, pull, economic.

### **1.0 Introduction**

Migration, in a broad sense is the rearrangement of residence for different period and natures. Lee (1996) considered migration as all the permanent or semi-permanent movements, changes of residence whether forced or voluntary. Internal migration is termed as the transform of residence from one administrative border line to another within the same nation, whereas international migration is the movement of a national border line. Very fast an unintended expansion of cities and towns is one of the main reasons for this movement from rural to urban area

---

1. Professor, Department of Public Administration, Dhaka University. Email-naznin\_ru@yahoo.com

2. Lecturer, Department of Public Administration, Jagannath University, Dhaka.

Email-ehsan.azim@yahoo.com

3. Senior Executive (Research, Development & Planning). Cosmo School and College.

nowadays. However, internal migration rate is always higher due to emergent urban growth for developing countries. A distinctive selectivity with respect to age, sex, marital status, education, occupation etc. turn up for these socio-economic groups for rural-urban migration (Lee, 1996 and Sekhar,1993).

Like other developing nations, internal migration in Bangladesh from rural area to urban area is very common phenomenon. Migration has long been an important livelihood strategy for the people of Bangladesh. Cities are always a center point of interest. Every year, thousands of destitute victims of natural disasters pour into the cities from the rural areas. Others come in the hope of a better life whenever the population rise to such an extent that people can no longer pursue migration as a livelihood strategy (Yasmin, 2016). In the recent years, most of the cities in Bangladesh are experiencing rapid but unplanned urbanization. While the annual population growth rate is 1.7 percent at the national level, the percentage of urban growth is increasing faster and it is expected more than 50 percent of the population in Bangladesh will live in urban areas by the year 2025 (ESCAP, 2007).

The rapid growth of population and consequent landlessness along with other factors of population displacement in the rural areas lead to rural unemployment, which generates a growing flow of migrants. It seems to be an inevitable process where the urban sector absorbs the surplus rural populace. The pressure of people is increasing day by day in urban areas, especially in Dhaka city. Everyday new faces are adding here. The World Bank projected the population of Dhaka City will be 20 million in 2025 from what was 15 million back in 2010; which then will be more populous than Mexico City, Beijing or Shanghai (Yasmin, 2016).

About 63 percent of the total growth of Dhaka's population is due to migration and only 37 percent growth comes from natural increase. Currently, about one third of the people in Dhaka live in slums and squatter settlements and this number is increasingly with the increased number of migrants (RAJUK, 2015). According to World Bank approximately 3, 00,000 to 4, 00,000 people migrate to Dhaka each year. If population pressures cannot be controlled now, then the unplanned city may face serious threat in future. Overcrowding and lack of planning in Dhaka city is creating traffic jam, pollution, land grabbing, imbalance in climate, impossible demands for energy and water day by day. Though migration is necessary but it is vital to control when it impedes the development of a city. Hence, it is important to know the real factors behind the migration of the migrants in Dhaka city.

### **1.1 Objective of Study**

The key purpose of this paper is to know the various underlying factors which has resulted the migrants to migrate in Dhaka city. The study also attempts to know what impact the migration had on the lives of the migrants.

## **2.0 Methodology**

This study has been conducted by collecting data from both primary and secondary sources. Both qualitative as well as quantitative tools of social research were used to carry out this research. Primary data was obtained by in-depth interviewing of 60 migrants who are currently residents of Shahjahanpur, kamalapur, Shobujbagh, Bashabo and Khilgaon. Purposive random sampling was used in order to track the migrants. Structured questionnaire was used for interviewing the respondents. The pattern of questionnaire was so designed such that some key informations about the migrants can be obtained like-

- What are the push/pull factors behind migration?
- For how long are they living here in Dhaka?
- The place from where they have migrated
- Who helped them before/after migration?
- Has their standard of living improved after migration or not?

Although the questionnaire was structured one, probing questions were asked when it was needed. The secondary sources from where the data was obtained include various academic articles published in national and international journals, policy documents, ministerial reports, books etc.

## **3.0 Literature Review**

The topic 'Rural-urban migration' in the field of social research is not a new one. Scholars have shown keen interest in this field and so several studies have been conducted in this related topic. Some of those existing literature were reviewed to get some insights of those previous research works.

Farhana and Rahman (2012) conducted an empirical research in Rajshahi city to explore the causes of migration of the poor migrants along with the identification of the impacts of urban migration on poverty reduction. The study results highlight the significant reason behind such rural urban migration is driven by poverty. The migration of the rural poor to the urban centers has caused a direct transmission of rural poverty and backwardness to the towns. Hence, the study recommended targeting migrant groups and urban poor within urban areas in the provision of availability of work and social care services.

Randall S. Kuhn (2004) investigated the determinants of rural-urban migration by adult males. The age pattern of migration for married and unmarried men, depicts the strong effect of marriage on out-migration at any particular age. Household land holdings have been found to be a key determinant of rural-urban migration in most settings, and typically individuals are more likely to move if their households own less land. Moreover, the study found various reasons for differences between family migration and individual migration.

Akhter (2014) conducted a study to analyze the migration process of the rural population of Bangladesh. The study found that more young male members are migrating to the cities for working in non-farm sectors due to their negligence in working in the agricultural sectors. However some people from farm households are migrating due to holding less agricultural land and to take responsibility of the rest of the family members. The study also found that more members from the same households migrate to the city when the households having more number active males and experienced household head.

The study conducted by Golam (2011) highlighted the major push-pull and self-selective factors of seasonal rural-urban migration during the lean period using survey data from northern Bangladesh. It was found from the study that seasonal rural-urban migration occurs frequently at early stage of life of an individual and then decreases with age. Choice of favorable destinations consisting availability of higher income opportunity, lower cost of migration, and the favorable shelter at destination areas are significantly related to individual decision of being a migrant. Lower per capita food expenditure is another determining factor of voluntary migration. The study also found that probability of temporary migration decreases, if migrants income increases after the migration is taken place.

Hossain (2001) studied rural urban migration in ten villages of Comilla district of Bangladesh. His study mainly focuses on differentials and determinants of migration and finds that persons involved in the process of rural out-migration are adults and more educated. Most of them were engaged in studies or unemployed before migration. About half of the migrants migrated for temporary service and about one quarter migrated for permanent jobs. Further, educational attainment of the migrants is found related with the permanent type of migration, whereas temporary types of migration are mainly associated with illiterate migrants. The migration rate is found to be significantly higher for educated as well as unemployed, and also for those belonging to the ages 20-29. Poverty, job searching and family influence are the main push factors for out migration, while better opportunity, prior migrants and availability of job are the main pull factors behind migration.

Several studies of (Connel etal; Sekhar, 1993 and Upton, 1967) illustrated that family size as positively related with the migration process. On the other hand, respondents from large households lean to migration procedure very often because of to hold up the family responsibilities. Tullberg (2009) depicted that if the respondents had economic possibilities in the place of origin that they would not be convinced to migrate even if they knew that their rewards may be larger in the place of destination. Mazumder and Oberai (1987) illustrated that the internal migration from rural to urban area also taken place for the progression of industrialization in Bangladesh i.e. garments factory which implied huge demand in the urban labor market. Several study depicted that adult males showed more propensity to migrate than others. Most of the studies observed that determinants of migration diverge

from country to country, even various cities within a country. The tendency of the migration depends on the socio-economic, demographic and cultural factors of the population. Nabi (1992) and Sekhar(1993) discussed the significant determinants for migration were high unemployment rate, low income, elevated population growth, uneven distribution of land, demand for higher schooling, prior migration patterns and natural disasters.

Several studies (Deshingkar and Grimm, 2005; Narayan et al, 2002) also suggest that an increasing number of poor migrant every year migrate either permanently or seasonally to Rajshahi city. They move on their own, in groups or with siblings in search for job opportunities available in the city or to escape from unemployment and poverty situations at rural areas. The poverty argument in Bangladesh is strong, where many poor and landless migrants are forced to migrate to support themselves or their families (Ahmad, 2004).

The review of these literatures show that although many studies have been conducted on this relevant topic, however no such study has yet been conducted with the intention of knowing the factors which induce the migrants to migrate in the capital of Bangladesh, Dhaka city. Thus, this empirical study will help to fill this void in the field of social research.

#### **4.0 Theoretical Perspectives**

Theoretical understandings of internal migration (rural urban migration) can be grouped under two broad headings: geographical push-pull models, under which movements are governed by a balance of attracting and repelling factors and economic models rooted in productivity and livelihood differentials, notably those offered by Lewis(1954) and Harris and Todaro (1970)

#### **4.1 Lee's Theory of Migration (The Push and Pull Factors Approach of Rural-Urban Migration)**

In 1966, Lee revised the basic push-pull concept. He developed a “general schema into which a variety of spatial movements can be placed” (Lee, 1966:49). He also tried to figure out a number of conclusions with regard to the factors in the act of migration, the volume of migration, the development of streams and counter streams, and the characteristics of migrants. With regard to the factors in the act of migration he divided into “push” factors (factors associated with the area of origin), “pull” factors (factors associated with the area of destination), intervening obstacles and personal factors (Lee, 1966:50). Lee also hypothesized that both area of origin and destination have positive forces which hold people within the area or pull others to it, negative forces which repel or push people from the area, and zero forces which has no effect. Lee hypothesized that factors associated with origin area conditions would be more important than those associated with destination areas.

These factors associated with the areas of origin and destination are governed by personal factors “which affect individual thresholds and facilitate or retard migration” (Lee, 1966: 51). The final element in Lee’s model is the notion of “intervening obstacles” interposed between origin and destination. These constitute “friction” in the migration process (transport costs, migration controls etc.) and may reduce or retard migration, or even (in the case of a law) prevent it altogether. It is worth noting that push-pull type explanations have been cited most frequently in the Bangladesh context within studies examining the impact of environmental vulnerabilities.

Economic models are rather more sophisticated in their formulation and certainly more parsimonious, given they are driven by economic differentials between localities (which in turn provide incentives for individuals and families to relocate)

#### **4.2 Dual Economy Models of Rural-urban Migration**

Lewis (1954) offers a classical model of migration decisions in low income countries which tries to explain the transition from a stagnating economy based on a traditional rural sector to a growing economy driven by the development of a modern urban sector (Lall, Selod and et. al, 2006:8). They further add that according to Lewis theory, subsistence areas referring to rural - the agricultural sector where the labor force is suffering from unemployment and underemployment, and modernized areas - the industrial sector where many employment opportunities are being generated and are also suffering from a labor shortage. Along the development course, the industrial sector is expanding and it requires more and more labor while the agricultural sector is stagnant with a labor surplus. Under these circumstances, the labor surplus in rural areas will supplement the labor shortage in urban areas, and in this way the rural-urban migration begins. In this model, Lewis assumes that rural economies initially present a specific context in which there is surplus labor in the agricultural sector. On this consideration, the agricultural sector is able to supply labor force to the modern industrial sector which can grow by accumulating capital and steaming labor from the traditional agricultural sector. The transfer of the labor between two economic sectors involves the reallocation of the labor force across space through migration from low population density rural to high density of urban areas. Lewis adds that migration occurs until surplus labor is absorbed by the modern sector (Lall, Selod and et. al, 2006:9). Clearly, his account has a strong resonance with the pattern seen in Bangladesh in the recent years.

#### **4.3 Todaro and Harris-Todaro Expected Model of Rural-Urban Migration**

The economic motive of migration is best articulated in the Todaro and Harries-Todaro model. Todaro and Smith (2003) postulate that, migration responds to

urban-rural difference in expected income rather than actual earnings. Normally, people move from their place of origin for higher income and better job. The assumption in the Todaro and Harris-Todaro model is that, migration is primarily an economic phenomenon. Migrants are assumed to consider the various opportunities available in the urban sector (Todaro and Smith 2003). However, the theory also explains that, rural-urban migration can exist despite low opportunity in the major towns. Todaro (1997) and Todaro and Smith (2003) state most of the poor, uneducated and unskilled migrants will either seek casual and part-time employment as vendors, repair persons in the urban traditional or informal sector or become totally unemployed and languish in slums and shanty towns. This theory is very much relevant for understanding the rural urban migration towards Dhaka city.

Apart from these theories, the network theory of rural-urban migration gives another dimension for understanding the reasons of internal migration.

#### **4.4 Network Theory of Rural-Urban Migration**

By network theory migrants set up interpersonal ties that connect migrants, former migrants, and non-migrants in the place of origin through bonds of kinship, friendship, and shared community origin (Massay et al, 1993 cited in De Haas, 2008). An important concept around the importance of migration network, locally as well as internationally put simply, migrants move to place where friends, family members, neighbors or others from their village have moved before because it decreases their psychological and financial costs as well as increase social security. As a result, migrants in a particular destination tend to come from specific areas of origin; particularly when the migratory jobs are relatively attractive and have higher returns (De Haan and Yakub, 2009). This theory will help us explaining the fact why the respondents have chosen Dhaka city particularly for migrating.

### **5.0 Findings**

The data which was obtained from in-depth interviewing of the 60 respondents have been presented here.

#### **5.1 Factors of Migration**

This portion will discuss the various push factors, more specifically the reasons which has forced the respondents to migrate to Dhaka city.

##### **1. Economic Push factors of the migrants**

The table 01 shows the various economic push factors that have induced the respondents in taking the decision to migrate in Dhaka city. Maximum number of migrants (60 percent) mentioned lack of employment and struggle for livelihood as economic push factors for migration. Rural areas are still lagging behind in terms

of industrialization and thus unemployment is the general feature of this country. People did not find satisfactory employment. So they move to city area looking for employment (Haider, 2010:313). 43.64% of migrants mentioned economic insecurity/depression/poverty as economic push factors. Bangladesh is one of the poorest countries of the world and poverty is pervasive in Bangladesh. Poverty is inability to attain minimal standard of living. It is understood as a multi-dimensional

SL. No.	Name of the economic Push Factors	Frequency	%
1.	Lack of industrialization/crisis in small and cottage industry	03	5.45
2.	Lack of employment	33	60
3.	Economic Insecurity/depression/poverty	24	43.64
4.	Struggle for livelihood	33	60
5.	Problems in doing Business	04	7.27

**Table 01: Economic Push Factors of migration**

concept involving identifiable minimum standard of nutrition, clothing, shelter, healthcare, education and political liberty (Rahman, 2010:17). This poverty has compelled them to migrate to Dhaka city. One of the respondents Md. Shahjahan Miah, who is a salesman by profession mentioned his story behind migration as-

*‘My father was a farmer. Sometimes he had to remain jobless. Whatever he earned was too little for us. Usually we lived from hand to mouth. Sometimes we would take dal-bhat, sometime rice with a pinch of salt only. It was very hard to run an 8 member family including my grandfather and grandmother by one earner. I was a school going boy. My father was unable to afford my educational expenses. At last my schooling was stopped. For this extreme poverty, my father decided to migrate from Gaibandha to Dhaka. After few months, he brought me to Dhaka as well.’*

However, factors like lack of industrialization/crisis in small and cottage industries and problems in doing business was not found that much significant enough for prompting the respondents doing migration.

## 2. Climatologic push factors of the migrants

Flood is perennial problem of Bangladesh. Almost every year there is flood in one or other part of the country. In an average year, about 20% of the land area of the country is flooded (Choudhury, 2009:50). Flood is an important climatologic push factor of the migrants. 3.64% respondents mentioned flood as climatologic push factor. 7.27% respondents mentioned river erosion as another factor. A substantial area of Bangladesh is affected by river bank erosion. The major factors responsible



for riverbank erosion are: rapid rise and fall in water level; high variation in maximum and minimum discharges; rate of sedimentation and scouring bed material; formation and movement of large bed forms; social condition of bank materials flow pattern and deflecting current to the bank line (Q LAhmed, 1994:101). One of the migrants Md. Anowarullah who is a computer operator by profession said,

*Chagolnaiya of feni district is a no flood area rather drought occurs here. Farming is fully dependent on rainwater. Now, rainfall in this area is being irregular. During rainy season i.e. the month of Ahsar and Srabon, only one crop is produced whereas in the past the production was double as the rain used to begin from the moth of Chaitra & Baishakh. Moreover, there is no rain in winter, the land become dry. there is no available canal and pond to get water by irrigation'*

SL. No.	Name of the Climatologic Push	Frequency	%
1.	Flood	02	3.64
2.	River Erosion	04	7.27

**Table 02: Climatologic Push factors**

### 3. Political Push factors of the migrants

It was found from the study that two kinds of political factors were responsible for migration. One is political threatening/terrorism (3.64%) and another one is involvement in politics (3.64%). Bangladesh is a relatively homogenous country, yet politics here is intensely factional-fission, fusion, and proliferation are pervasive aspects of political culture of Bangladesh (khan, 1996:3). It was reflected in this study. Among the respondents some have migrated to the town because their supported political party has been defeated in the election and they feared the torture of rival party, some feared the case which might be filed against them and some faced the threat of life.

### 4. Socio-cultural push factors of the migrants

The following table shows various socio-cultural push factors for which they were compelled to migrate from their origin. Among them, influence of family members have been the most dominant one as 58.18% respondents agreed on this factor which pushed them. However, 38.18% respondents thought otherwise. They believed that the presence of their relative in Dhaka city have forced them to take such a decision. This phenomenon can also be explained with the 'network theory of rural urban migration' where someone takes the decision regarding migration in case he/she has his/her relatives in the place of destination.

12.73% of the respondents opined that their reasons of migrating were related to their marital factors. One of our respondents, Hazera begum, who is currently residing in North Mughda and House Assistant by profession also migrated to Dhaka for such reasons. In her words,

*“After few months of my marriage, my husband said, ‘we will go to Dhaka, will work there and save money. We will be well-off. Giving me such false assurance he married somewhere else. I fell into endless miseries with three children. I could not afford food or cloth; faced harsh words from my own family and in laws. Finding no other way, I came to Dhaka from Rangpur. My husband lived on my income for 3 years, compelled me to work’. I was with my mother for 3 years and she worked as a house assistant too in others’ houses. I had two sisters and a brother. Now, both of my two daughters are employed in a garments factory and my son works in a press. Now I am living well”.*

SL. No.	Socio Cultural Push factors	Frequency	%
1.	Influence of family members	32	58.18
2.	Presence of relatives	21	38.18
3.	Lack of better education facilities	13	23.64
4.	Lack of food	09	16.36
5.	Marital factors(divorced, newly married)	07	12.73
6.	Lack of interest in farming	07	12.73
7.	Social insecurity	06	10.91
8.	Homelessness/unequal distribution of land	06	10.91
9.	Change in hereditary profession	05	9.09
10.	Reluctance to village life	04	7.27

**Table 03: Socio-Cultural Push Factors**

10.91% of the respondents had such opinions that ‘social insecurity’ was their socio-cultural push factor of migration. Razeya Banu, a resident of Shekertek, Mohammadpur, who is a sex worker by profession, shared her harsh story how social insecurity has compelled her to migrate here in Dhaka. She said

*“I got married before my early youth at the age of 15 that to with a person of 30.He always used to torture me. Alongside, I was abused by my brother-in-law. The*

*matter was no more secret and the so called patriarchal society declared me guilty and I was excommunicated in the family. I could not get any legal support. All on a sudden, on one fine morning, I was awarded with a divorce letter and was thrown out from the house. Going to parents house for shelter, I found that door was also closed for me. Hence, I was compelled to come to Dhaka from Nilphamari accompanied by a relative”.*

Thus, it is evident that among various push factors, it is the economic as well as the socio-cultural push factors which have significantly prompted these migrants to take the decision in favor of migrating to the capital city of Bangladesh.

### **5.2 Pull/Motivating factors of migration in Dhaka city**

Earning makes a man relatively independent; it gives him/her self-reliance and social status. And consequently it raises awareness towards self-development. It should be emphasized that financially better life is the precondition of health and education as well as awareness and upliftment of social status. In this study through the open discussion with the migrants, it was found that maximum migrants had some sort of future plans to be self-sufficient. They thought that all their dreams will be fulfilled by going to Dhaka. They prepared themselves to engage there in different types of income earning activities. These activities are grouped into major occupational categories’ i.e. self-employment and wage employment. The table below reveals that 83.64% respondents identified higher income probabilities, 80% respondents identified better life and 74.55% respondents identified higher rate of remuneration as important pull/motivating factors of migration. Other significant pull factors that infused migration of the respondents are employment opportunities in RMG sector, kinship sector, positive information about the city life, joining with relatives, better service facilities including education facilities etc. However, factors like communication facilities, better medical facilities, and favorable social conditions were not that much significant motivating ones

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Pull/Motivating Factors of Migration</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>%</b>
1.	Higher Income Probabilities	46	83.64
2.	Higher rate of remunerations	41	74.55
3.	Better life	44	80
4.	More employment opportunities e.g. RMG	24	43.64
5.	Kinship network	18	32.73
6.	Positive information about city life	17	30.91
7.	Joining with relatives	16	29.09
8.	Better Service facilities	11	20
9.	Education facilities	06	10.91

**Table 04: Pull/Motivating factors of Migration**

Shahadat Hossain, who is currently as resident of Shantibagh and a tailor by profession, shared his views about his migration. In his words,

*“A boy named Mamun was my primary school mate .After passing primary level he went to Dhaka and started working as a tailor in a market. I wanted to go and join him but was afraid of unknown. My sisters, residing at Dhaka always encouraged me to go to Dhaka. Later my father decided to go to Dhaka with me for better earning. And he entrusted me to Mamun for learning tailoring. I learnt sewing, cutting and other technical works day by day. There are large numbers of customers in Dhaka than Madaripur village. Customers make the payments in cash not in credit. Now I have my own tailoring shop. I think Dhaka is a place of better earning and more learning than Madaripur”.*

### **5.3 Persons who help the migrants before and after migration**

From the discussion above, it is evident that the migrants have migrated in Dhaka city owing to various push and pull factors although the degree of intensity of those factors did vary from one migrant to another. Network theory of rural urban migration suggest that migrants set up interpersonal ties that connect migrants, former migrants, and non-migrants in the place of origin through bonds of kinship, friendship, and shared community origin (Massay et al, 1993 cited in De Haas, 2008). This study did find such empirical evidences. While trying to inquire the fact those usually have helped these migrants before and after migrants, it was found that in case of 70.71% respondents, relatives staying in Dhaka city played this facilitating role. Friends, Non-relatives, people from the same village, in-laws, neighbors, parents and siblings- were also found to help the migrants before and after the migration. The table below better illustrates the fact.

<b>SL. No.</b>	<b>Who have helped the migrants</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>%</b>
1.	Relatives staying in Dhaka	39	70.91
2.	Friends	28	50.91
3.	Non-relatives	12	21.82
4.	Same Village	17	30.91
5.	In laws	10	18.18
6.	Neighbors	24	43.64
7.	Parents and Siblings	09	16.36

**Table 05: Who have helped the migrants?**

### **5.4 Number of Migrants from various divisions**

All the migrants who migrated to Dhaka for various reasons do not have the same place origin. We tried to find out the place from where they have come from. It was found that the migrants have their migrated from different places of Bangladesh

like Dhaka, Chittagong, Rangpur, Barisal, Khulna, Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions. Significant number of migrants has migrated from Dhaka division (30.91% respondents) and Chittagong division (23.64% respondents).

SL. No.	Divisions	Frequency	%
1.	Dhaka	17	30.91
2.	Chittagong	13	23.64
3.	Rangpur	09	15.45
4.	Barisal	07	16.36
5.	Khulna	07	12.73
6.	Rajshahi	03	7.27
7.	Sylhet	02	3.64

**Table 06: Migrants from various destinations**

However, the number of migrants who have migrated from Rajshahi and Sylhet were not that much significant (7.27% and 3.64% respectively). The reason of high number of people migrating from Dhaka division can be attributed due to nearness to the place of destination. The final element in Le’s model is the notion of “intervening obstacles” interposed between origin and destination. These constitute “friction” in the migration process (transport costs, migration controls etc.) and may reduce or retard migration, or even (in the case of a law) prevent it altogether. Thus, this particular point of Lee’s theory certainly explains the fact why more people are migrating from Dhaka division compared to Sylhet or Rajshahi.

### 5.5 Duration of Living

After finding the place from where the respondents have migrated, we tried to figure out for how many years these migrants have been living in Dhaka. The table below gives us a better idea about the duration of stay of the migrants in Dhaka city. It is interesting to note here that the rate of migration has increased over the last 15 years, since more than 75% the respondents have agreed to fact that they have been living in Dhaka for last 15 years. On the other hand,

	Range	Frequency	%
1.	1-5 years	10	18.18
2.	6-10 years	18	32.73
3.	11-15 years	14	25.45
4.	16-20 years	03	5.45
5.	21-25 years	04	7.27
6.	26-30 years	05	9.09
7.	31-35 years	01	1.82

**Table 07: Duration of Living**

Comparatively few numbers of respondents was found who have been residing here for more than 15 years. Various push and pull factors which have already been discussed earlier elucidates the reasons behind such increase of migrants in the recent years compared to the past.

### 5.6 Level of expectations of the migrants

In terms of level of expectations of the migrants, the data above reveals the fact that 41.82% of migrants are moderately fulfilled. However, the expectations of significant portion of migrants (40 percent) are not fulfilled. It was found from the study that only 20 percentage of migrants' expectations level are fulfilled.

Sl. No.	Conditions of expectations	Frequency	%
1.	Fulfilled	11	20.00
2.	Not fulfilled	22	40.00
3.	Moderately Fulfilled	23	41.82

**Table 08: Level of Expectation of the Migrants**

Moreover, when the respondents were asked whether they had any regret about their decision of migration, 49.09% of migrants said that they have regret and 27.27% said in the negative that they have no regret about their migration. The table below shows the various reasons which the migrants believed have resulted in the non-fulfillment of their expectations after migration.

SL. No.	Problems	Frequency	%
1.	Financial Problems	32	58.18
2.	Family Problems	12	21.82
3.	Surrounding Problems	10	18.18
4.	Personal Problems	20	36.36
5.	Lack of Planning	04	7.27

**Table 09: Why the Expectations have not been fulfilled?**

Majority of the respondents 58.18% identified financial problems as a reason for non-fulfillment of their expectations. It is interesting to note that for this economic reason, they were forced to come in Dhaka. Despite their migration, their economic expectations were not fulfilled. Their fate did not change, rather their nomenclature only change. Previously, they were regarded as rural poor and after migration; they are termed as 'urban poor'. They face problems of sanitation facility, lack of safe water, shortage of water and poor congested shelter which makes them vulnerable to various inconveniences.

### 6.0 Concluding Remarks

The current study has found the various causes behind the migration of the individuals and the families from the different rural areas of Bangladesh to its

capital hub. Broadly, those factors can be divided into two groups-push and pull factors as per Lee's theory of internal migration. It was found from the study that push factors were more dominant ones than the pull factors behind the migration of the respondents. However, the economic hardships and socio-cultural factors were the most significant ones among these push factors. This study found relevance with the economic theories of migration given by Harris-Todaro and Lewis where they explained the economic rationales behind the internal migration. Most of the respondents agreed to the fact that lack of industrialization and lack of livelihood opportunities in their place of origin forced them to come here in Dhaka. More than 80 per cent of the garment industries of the country are located in Dhaka which allures a large number of young females who come to Dhaka to earn their living (Yasmin, 2016). The findings from the study also suggest some of the respondents were allured seeing such opportunities along with better education and facilities in Dhaka. Moreover, they dreamt of having a better standard of life than the rural life has them to offer. These were some of the motivating reasons which have pulled some of the migrants from the rural areas to Dhaka city.

Another significant finding of this study is that since the last 15 years, the rate of internal migration in Dhaka city has increased and large numbers of the migrants who are entering Dhaka city are coming from greater Dhaka division. As it has been said, the respondents came with a hope of better livelihood in the capital city but the tangible scenario is totally different. Only 20% of the respondents have agreed that they were satisfied with their way of life after migration while 40% of them felt that their migration was a mistake and they have regrets for coming in Dhaka. It was found from the study that these poor people find their shelter in the informal settlements initially. They face problems of sanitation facility, lack of safe water, shortage of water and poor congested shelter which makes them vulnerable to various inconveniences. Hence, the migration of the rural \ poor to the urban centers has caused a direct transmission of rural poverty and backwardness to the towns, engendering the process of 'ruralization' of the urban areas. The pull factors, which attract the rural people and induce them to migration to urban locations, are in a large measure the direct or indirect results of government's development policy and effort, that have always been biased towards the urban areas (Farhana, Rahman & Rahman, 2012).

Though the government has taken some pragmatic initiatives recently to alleviate poverty but migration control is necessary to continue development activities. The issue of internal migration needs to be addressed properly by the policy making bodies and the government should take necessary action to support the migrants. It is time to think afresh before it gets too late. Firstly, government should actively plan for more effective and dynamic cities, linked and supported by their hinterlands. This implies a stronger focus on local economic development

rooted in private sector growth, with a view to absorbing surplus labor. Equally, at the local level, new forms of decartelization and devolution are required, empowering urban localities to resolve the challenges faced. Secondly, development of rural areas is necessary alongside of urban areas in order to halt the rural urban migration. The government needs to adopt a stronger regional development policy for broadening the footprint of the current growth model to the secondary cities, and to hasten the development of agriculture and non-farm activities, especially in the more lagging regions. Thirdly, social and cultural facility available in the capital city should be made available in regional levels too. Fourthly, garment factories with many workers need to be decentralized and set up away from Dhaka city. Government might also provide incentives, (tax holidays and abatements) to encourage developments away from the congested core. The shifting of big industries and garment factories from Dhaka will not only reduce the pressure on the city but also ease the workers livelihood. It is firmly believed that if the above mentioned policy recommendations are translated into reality, the current trend of Dhaka centric internal migration will definitely decline which will help to facilitate the process of sustainable development of our country.

## References

- Afsar, R. (2000). *“Rural Urban Migration in Bangladesh: Causes, Consequences and Challenges”*; Dhaka, The University Press Limited.
- Akhter, S.(2014). *“Household Level Determinants of Rural-Urban Migration in Bangladesh”* International Journal of Social, Education, Economics and Management Engineering Vol:8 No:1, 2014
- Connel, J., Dasgupta, B., Laishley, R. & Lipton, M. (1976). *Migration from Rural Areas: The Evidence from Village Studies*, Delhi: Oxford University Press.
- De Haan, A., and Yakub, S. (2009). *Migration and Poverty: Linkages, Knowledge Gaps and Policy Implications*. Social Policy and Development Programme p.40, UNRISD.
- Deshingkar, P. & Grimm, S. (2005). Internal Migration and Development: A Global Perspective. In IOM Migration Series, No. 19; ISSN 1607-338x, Switzerland: International Organization for Migration.
- ESCAP (2007). *ESCAP Statistical Yearbook 2007* Retrieved from (<http://www.unescap.org/stat/data/syb2007/ESCAP-SYB2007.pdf>)
- Farhana, K. M., Rahman, S. A. & Rahman, M. (2012). *Factors of Migration in Urban Bangladesh: An Empirical Study of Poor Migrants in Rajshahi City*. *Bangladesh e- Journal of Sociology*.
- Golam, M. (2011). *“Seasonal Unemployment and Voluntary Out-Migration from Northern Bangladesh”* Modern Economy, 2011, 2, 174-179.
- Harris, J.R & Todaro, M.P. (1970). *“Migration, Unemployment and Development: A two Sector Analysis”*, American Economic Review 60 (1).
- Hossain M. Z. (2001), *“Rural-Urban Migration in Bangladesh: A Micro Level Study”*, Brazil.



- Kuhn, R. S. (2004). *The Determinants of Family and Individual Migration: A Case-Study of Rural Bangladesh*.
- Lall, Somik V., Harris Selod and Zmarak Shalizi. 2006. "Rural-Urban Migration in Developing Countries: A Survey OF Theoretical Predictions and Empirical Findings." Development Research Group. The World Bank.
- Lee, E. S. (1966). *A Theory of Migration*. *Demography*, 3(1): 47-57.
- Lewis, A. (1954). "Economic Development with unlimited Supplies of Labor"; The Manchester School, May 1954; Hoboken NJ: Wiley-Blackwell.
- Mazumdar, D. (1987). *Rural-Urban Migration in Developing Countries: In Handbook of Regional and Urban Economics*. E.S. Mills (ed.) Elsevier, USA.
- Nabi, A.K.M. N. (1987). "Dynamics of internal migration in Bangladesh", *Canadian Studies in Population*, 19(1):81-98.
- Oberai, A.S. (1987). "Migration, Urbanization and Development". Geneva: International Labor Office.
- Sekhar, T.V. (1993). *Migration Selectivity from Rural Areas: Evidence from Kerala*. *Demography India*, 22(2): 191-202.
- Thirwall, A.P. (1994). *Growth and Development*; Eight Edition; London: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Todaro, M., and Smith, S. (2003). *Economic Development* (8th ed.). New York University and Population Council, Barkharath printers, New Delhi.
- Tullberg, E.A. (2009). *A Comparative Emigration Analysis of Swedish Country Specific Responses to Socio-Economic Push-and- Pull Factors 1870-1900*. Master Thesis, Department of Economic History, Lund University, Sweden.
- UNDP (2013). *Internal Migration in Bangladesh: Character, Drivers and Policy Issues*, United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Bangladesh.
- Yasmin, S. (2016, July 14). "Urban Migration". Retrieved from <http://www.theindependentbd.com/home/printnews/51030>