

Rural Urban Migration and Urban Transition in Bangladesh: A Case Study of Dhaka City

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Abstract: Rural urban migration (RUM) is the main responsible element for urban poverty and over population in urban area. There are several factors for internal migration which influence to create migration. As consequences, slums are increasing in Dhaka city. Dhaka is the largest urban city among Bangladesh and it has huge employment opportunity. As a result, Dhaka is an attractive destination for poor rural people and youth. Besides, Bangladesh frequently faces natural disaster .So the rural people encourage to move Dhaka city. Both push and pull factors influence to create rural urban migration. Political conflict, religious mayhem, poverty etc encourage to create migration status. But the impact of RUM on social, economic and cultural both deep and diverse. This paper examines the rural urban migration pattern .It explores factors of rural urban migration. These findings of this work show that the impact of RUM on social economic and cultural environment. This study focuses causes of urbanization process in Dhaka city. It also examines overall conditions of poor migrants people livelihood.

Keywords: Rural urban migration, urban transition, migrants, Bangladesh, Dhaka city.

INTRODUCTION

Migration can be broadly defined as the change of residence from one civil division to another for a specific period of time or on a permanent basis. Migration occurs for various reasons and its determinants or factors vary from country to country and even within a country; it varies depending on the socio-economic, demographic and cultural factors.

High unemployment rate, low income, high population growth, unequal distribution of land, demand for higher schooling, previous migration patterns and displeasure with housing have been identified as a number of the prominent determinants of rural urban migration [1-6]. According to United Nations, 50% of the projected increase in the world's urban population will come from rural-to-urban migration so that by 2025, over 1.1 billion urban people in Less Developed Regions will be rural migrants [7]. Rural urban migration is a common pictorial of the developing countries and it is the main element of unplanned growth of towns and cities of developing countries .Rural-urban migration, is the most crucial component of internal migration of any country [8]. According to Haris 1970 [9], development of cities is intrinsically related with migration, especially with rural-urban migration, as the huge labor requirement of urban centers is fulfilled by the labors from rural areas. Generally, the differentials in migration (selectivity of certain person or group to be more mobile than others) have been studied mainly by age, sex, marital status, education and occupation. In recent years, most of the

cities in Bangladesh are experiencing rapid urbanization and Rural urban migration (RUM) is the most important factor behind it. Bangladesh is one of the highest rates of growth of urban population. Millions of rural people are migrating to divisional cities of Bangladesh like Khulna, Chitagong, Syhlet, etc [10].This study focuses, Rural Migration to the capital of Dhaka city of Bangladesh. This paper illustrates factors of rural urban migration in Dhaka city. It also examine impacts the rural urban migration on social environment. It analyzes actual factor of urbanization of Dhaka city.

METHODOLOGY

The methodology for this research is case study analysis including relevant information, article facts etc. This paper is mostly literature based review such as update newspaper ,articles, international and national magazine, information from social medias like face book, twitter , you tube, various books. The work is done entirely on the basis of secondary sources of data.

OBJECTIVES

- To examine factor rural urban migration and urbanization of Dhaka city
- To find out impact of rural urban migration on Dhaka city
- To analyze pattern of urban transition of Dhaka city.

Origin of the migrants

Dhaka has emerged last shelter home of migrants poor rural people. It is considered as the nucleus of the country. It is not surprising, therefore, that Dhaka is always the first choice for rural-urban migrants. Bangladesh consists of 64 districts where two largest slums of Bangladesh have migrants from 40 districts. Comilla, Sherpur, kurigram, Nilfamari, jamalpur and Barisal are the top districts from where rural-urban migrants generally come. Migrants come both from northern and southern Bangladesh. However, Chittagong is the second largest city of Bangladesh and is known as the ‘port city’. Chittagong plays vital role in serving city and it also serves its neighboring districts. There are three big cities- Rajshahi, Khulna and Jessore also take every year a sizeable rural urban migrants poor rural people. Syhlet which is called 2nd London also a rich division where many rural poor people goes in order to get job opportunities.

Rural displacement: migrations flood towards cities

Structural adjustments and modernization of agriculture and changing climate are playing a significant role to rural displacement in Bangladesh. Environmental disasters and vulnerabilities due to climate change force millions of rural poor out from their land towards city. In the recent decades the rural poor living in the coastal areas were frequently affected by natural disasters like cyclones river erosion, flood etc. a big amount of of rural poor people who used to work in their land became the new migrants towards cities especially capital Dhaka city. They have made migrants as a strategy for fleeing from extreme poverty and vulnerabilities. These poor migrants usually move to the urban peripheries where they can get lower salary

jobs. Generally rural poor people leave their home land for better livelihood. Normally, they are going to Dhaka, Khulna, Jessore, Syllet, Chittagong, Rajshahi etc cities.

Dhaka city and Rural Urban migration

Dhaka City has emerged as a fast growing megacity in recent times. It began with population of 2.2 million in 1975 which reached 12.3 million in 2000. The growth rate of the population during 1974-2000 was 6.9% [11]. Today (2017) Dhaka contains 19 million people. Actually there is no city in the world that has experienced such a high growth rate in population during this period. A table has given below where urban population has been showed-

Table-1: Urban population

Year	Million
2012	14
2013	14.8
2014	15.9
2015	17
2016	18
2017	19

Sources: Population 2017.com

For the millions of rural poor in Bangladesh, Dhaka is an attractive destination. Migrants in Dhaka predominantly come from the Northern and Southern parts of the country. Comilla, Sherpur and Barisal are the top three districts from where rural urban migrants predominantly come [12]. According to population 2017.com, Dhaka contain big amount of people.

Compared to any other place in the country, Dhaka offers the best chance for economic opportunity. Administrative headquarters and civil employments, financial and banking services, international commerce and business are all largely concentrated in Dhaka [13]. More than 80 percent of the garment industries of Bangladesh are located here.

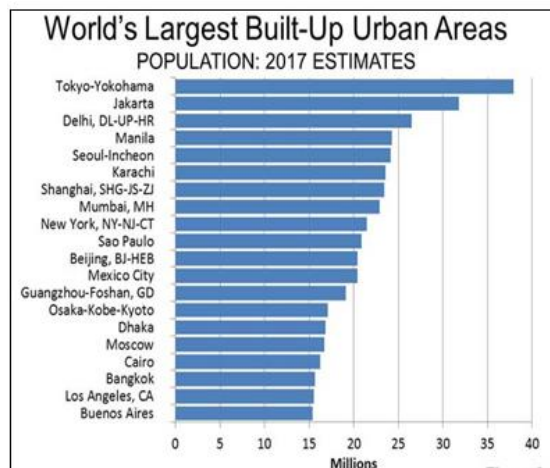


Fig-1: Population Estimates
Sources: Population 2017.com

With these industries a large number of young female came to Dhaka. Despite the growth of formal sector industrial and other employment, Dhaka is dominated by the presence of a huge informal sector of economic activities. It has been estimated that about 65% of all employment in the city is in the informal sector [14]. Work in the informal sector has a potential role in influencing RUM therefore, that Dhaka is always the first choice for rural-urban migrants. Dhaka joined ‘megacity’ rank in 2001 with a population of 10.7 million [15]. In 2025 Dhaka will become the 5th largest megacity [16]. According to UN-HABITAT [17], by 2020, Mumbai, Delhi, Mexico City, Sao Paulo, New York, Dhaka, Jakarta and Lagos all will have achieved metacity status (Metacity, or hypercity, is an epithet that refers to massive sprawling conurbations of more than 20 million people. Dhaka now (2009) holds 14.65 million populations in an area of 1530 square kilometers and becomes the world’s 9th largest megacity [16]. Between 1990 and 2005, the city doubled in size - from 6 to 12 million [18]. The World Bank says through public radio international In 2010, Dhaka, with its current population of 15 million people, bears the distinction of being the fastest-growing in the world. Between 1990 and 2005, the city doubled in size — from 6 to 12 million. By 2025, the U.N. predicts

Dhaka will be home to more than 20 million people — larger than Mexico City, Beijing or Shanghai Dhaka City, the densely populated capital of Bangladesh, is highly vulnerable to the impacts change. In the future a sustained influx of climate-induced migrants is likely to join the urban poor, where they will have to face new hazards of city life [19].

The rapid growth of rural-urban migration (RUM) has been a common feature of the developing countries. There are various reasons for its occurrence and these reasons may vary from country to country. However, the consequences of this type of migration have similar effects for different [10]. According to Ullah [20], due to PEST factors (political, economic, social and technological) people are more likely to move besides Ishtiaque [12] showed that people from south-eastern and north-eastern part are less likely to move to Dhaka, as two major industrial cities, Chittagong and Sylhet, are situated there. Bhuyan [21] examined that the process of rural-urban migration is strongly influenced by the incidence of push factors, but Ullah [20] thought that migration is influenced by both push and pull factors.

Urban transition through rural urban migration:

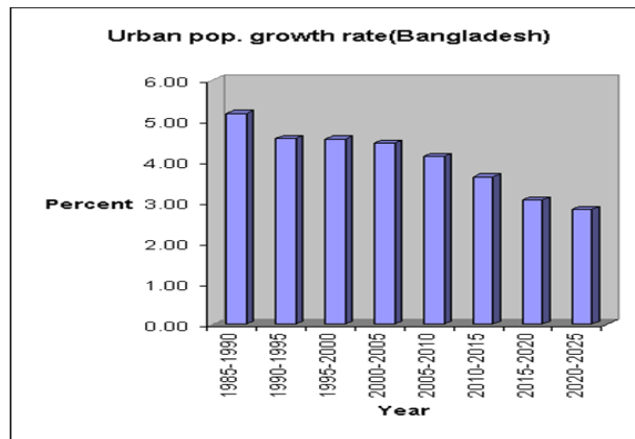


Fig-2: urban population growth rate
Sources: center for opportunity urbanization

Like other developing countries in the world, Bangladesh is facing increasing urban population since the post colonial era. The current trends show that the urban growth rate currently stands at 5-6% per annum, almost twice that of the rural sector, and 118 should it continue, more than 50% of the Bangladesh population will become urbanites by the year 2030 [22]. In general the increase in the level of urbanisation in the last three decades was influenced by factors including- rural to urban migration, territorial expansion of existing urban centers and natural growth of the population in urban centers. The nature of urbanisation also follows the global trend. A very large part of the urban population of Bangladesh is concentrated in only five major

metropolitan cities of the country. In addition to this scenario, very rapid growth of metropolitan cities has been observed, particularly in Dhaka, the capital city [23]. Urban population growth rates in Bangladesh are the highest among the South and South-East Asian countries. For example, average annual urban population growth rates in India and Thailand in the late 1960s were 4.0% and 4.8% respectively against 6% in Bangladesh at the same period [24]. Urbanisation in its proper sense started in Bengal with establishment of British administrative centers (particularly, the district headquarters) and development of business centres on the banks of large rivers [25]. The population growth rate in the urban areas in Bangladesh grew until the

1990s, steadily after the consecutive periods of independence from British in 1947 and from Pakistan in 1971. Until 1951, Bangladesh was almost completely a rural-agrarian country with 95.67 percent of the population living in rural areas and only 4.33 percent in urban areas [26].

The level of urbanisation in the whole Bangladesh was extremely low in 1951 with only approximately 4% of the total population living in urban areas. It has increased gradually to approximately 5% in 1961 and then increased very rapidly from approximately 9% in 1974 to approximately 23% in 2001 [27, 28].

Nearly 50 percent of the national urban population happens to be concentrated in the four metropolitan cities: Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi. This four city primacy

Factors of rural urban migration: urban transition towards Dhaka city

Rural urban migration (RUM) is a multi-causal phenomenon. It is usually compound by environmental, social, economic, political and other factors. Much of the literature on migration focuses on RUM as a result of environmental or economic crises. But a large proportion of RUM are due to marriage and other familial reasons (loses of husband, divorce, joining family/relatives etc [10]. Migration contributed about 40 per cent to the urban growth in Bangladesh during 1974 -- 1981. The share was probably similar during 1981 --1991. For some large cities, this share could even be higher, up to 70 percent, as in the case of Dhaka. Medium term projection shows that urban population will share for 38 percent of the total population and will exceed 85 million in 2020, which is almost equivalent to the 1981 population of the whole country [29]. Dr. Barkat attributed this mainly rural to urban migration which leads to urban growth and the difference in rate of rural population growth and urban population growth leads to urbanization (i.e. percent of national population, living in urban areas).

Natural factors

Bangladesh often faces acute natural disaster and this disaster is common feature in our climate her southern, south eastern part of Bangladesh repeatedly affected .Flood and river bank erosion another causes for rural urban internal migration towards Dhaka city .besides northern part of our county faces monga which leads food insecurity also responsible for migration to Dhaka city. Situation has sharpened in every census. However, (Francis atul sarkar). In 1961 Dhaka's share of the urban population of Bangladesh was 20 percent. The share rose to 24 percent in 1974, 26 percent in 1981, and 30 percent in 1991. Bangladesh has 150 million in 2011 as BBS said with 1.34 % of population growth rate. The urban people growth rate is 3.5%. Among the all urban cities, Dhaka is the 2nd fastest

growing mega city, between 1975 and 2007 with 5.65% urban growth. Dhaka would be the fastest growing mega city up to 2025 in spite of having lower rate of 2.72% from 2007 to 2025. Report showed that the population of the country is not likely to stabilize or begin to decline before, possibly, 2060, when it might be 230 million, with more than 70 percent being urban. According to Zakiul Alam, Urban transition consists of two major factors.

- By the movement of people from rural to urban
- By the changing agricultural economy to industrial economy

Social factors

It is also interesting to note that the number of female children is higher than the male child in the poor families. Socially, it is an additional burden for them. So the poor families remain very anxious for the marriage of their daughters and want to reduce the number of family members through marriage as well as poor women have migrated for reasons of marriage. A few migrants also leave their villages for religious violence e.g. religious conflict, *fatwa* (religious edict) etc. Some other people have migrated due to the torture unleashed on them by the influential quarters of the villages. Some migrant families said that they got credit from NGOs and they could not use this money for appropriate purpose. They spent all credit loans for their own family consumption or repairing houses of the villages. Many times women and husbands migrated alone in the city areas in search of employment opportunities [30].

Economic Factors

In our country a sizeable youth have no job. Therefore, they migrate to Dhaka for employment opportunity. They are work as restaurant workers, street vending, maid servants, daily laborers, etc. when the poor people fail to feed their family in their native villages, they have to see the hungry faces of their beloved children and then try to get opportunities, even after trying heart and soul, to get rid of poverty, they are compelled to migrate to Dhaka city.

Political Factors

Political conflict is also responsible for rural urban migration. A majority number of people leave their native village due to their political party defeat. They faces torture from ruling party. Sometimes false cases are filed against them.

Poverty Factor

Bangladesh is a poor country according to World Bank Bangladesh have 47 relative poor and 26 million extreme poor. They have many shortages of income sources. For this reason, people migrate themselves to other cities for earning. Thus internal migration are created in Bangladesh.

Educational Factors

Now-a-days many students in Bangladesh prefer Dhaka for better education. Dhaka hold many leading both public (i.e Dhaka university, Jagannath university, Dhaka medical college etc) and private (i.e North south university, BRAC university, ULAB, American international university etc). Besides various secondary school (Udayan, progroze, motijhil Ideal etc) and higher secondary school (Notredame, Dhaka college, Vikarunnesa etc). Therefore, thus every year thousands student comes in Dhaka.

Other Factors

Some people compelled to leave their land for bankrupt. The poor people take loan or mortgaged their land in commercial or governmental bank .but when they did not able to pay bank loan, lost the mortgaged land or property and they migrate to Dhaka.

Actually, migration is the combined effect of both push and pulls factors [31]. Within Push-Pull Model push factors are operative at the rural end while pull factors are operative at the urban destination. Pushes factors push people toward the cities and pull factors attract them. Urban bias is held responsible for RUM [32].

Table-2: Push and pull factors of RUM in Bangladesh

Push Factors	Pull Factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Landlessness · Adverse person to land ratio · Frequent and severe natural disasters (drought, flood, monga, river bank erosion) · Homelessness · Loss of income sources · Unemployment and poverty · Absence of industries · Law and order situation · Village politics · Lack of social and cultural opportunities (education, health care, recreational facilities) · Do not like village (particularly rural rich) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Job/Earning opportunities · Easy access to informal sector · Higher incomes/Rural-urban wage differentials · Rural urban disparities in social amenities and services (education, health care, recreation) · Positive information about the city (garments factory jobs) · Better livelihood · Fast and colorful life in city · Joining families/relatives · Willingness to change and see new Places

Source: Momtaz Jahan-2012 [10]

The impacts of rural urban migration

The impact of consequences of rural- urban migration both diverse and depth. The World Bank says Dhaka, with its current population of 15 million people, bears the distinction of being the fastest-growing in the world. Between 1990 and 2005, the city doubled in size - from 6 to 12 million. By 2025, the U.N. predicts Dhaka will be home to more than 20 million people - larger than Mexico City, Beijing or Shanghai. As a result –

Urban Poverty

Urban population is growing at an estimated 3.7 percent per year in Bangladesh and almost 68 million people, representing more than one third of the entire population, will live in urban areas by 2015, according to official estimation. About 35 percent of the population in the six largest cities live in slums, 20 and 23 percent of whom are poor and extreme poor, respectively. A recent international study showed that about 50000 people every year move to the capital city Dhaka from coastal and rural areas. In order to get job poor people migrate to Dhaka and live in slums.

Crisis of housing facilities

Shortage of housing facilities: It is estimated that less than 20 percent of the poor of Dhaka are owners. The last statistical survey, conducted in 1995

[33] found that 16 percent of the poor in Dhaka were owners; 56 percent were tenants; 8 percent were rent free dwellers, and nearly 20 percent were squatters or illegal occupants [34]. More than two million people in the capital city of Dhaka either live in slums or are without any proper shelter. Housing structures tend to be of poor quality, and access to basic infrastructure services is low.

Poor drainage system

Dhaka often experiences water logging in rainy season. the situation becomes worse and intolerable in this period. So this poor drainage system brings sufferings to city dwellers. For the poorest quintile, only 9 percent of households have a sewage line, and 27 [23].

Low basic services

Dhaka city always experiences low utility services due to over population. It is really difficult for Dhaka city corporation to provide basic services to this huge population.

Low Water supply

In Dhaka 49% of the population have access to piped water supply and the remaining have to depend on private hand pumps and unspecified sources. People living in slums do not have access to piped water. Piped

water is unsafe to drink directly. Inadequate safe drinking water increases health risks (khondokar rawan).

Poor sewerage system and sanitation facilities

Sewerage is another important factor of sanitation. Conventional sewerage systems in Bangladesh exist only in parts of Dhaka city. The only sewage treatment plant at Pagla employs waste stabilization methods of sewerage treatment and discharges treated waste into the river Buriganga. Storm water in Dhaka is collected by a separate drainage system. (Banglapedia). A small number population get sanitation facilities with acute demand large number of people use open space, ditches and drains for defecation. Particularly slum poor have no proper fixed toilets.

Waste management and garbage disposal

Only 9% of the slum population manages to get solid waste management services [35]. Actually there is not proper garbage disposal waste management system. Frequently, garbage and wastage are stacked up besides streets.

Electric and gas supply

Access to electricity is far from universal and sometimes access to these services is accomplished through illegal means. Actually there is no access gas supply to city slum dwellers.

Crime activities

Now Dhaka has become home of city of crime and insecurity. Social unrest Quarrel, clash, conflict, theft, robbery, hijacking, kidnapping, killing, illegal rent or toll collection, frustration, drug, smuggling, addiction, mastani (local youth hooligan) etc is a common feature of Dhaka city. It has reported that, these poor migrate people are involving these anti-social activities. Because they have few employment opportunity.

Creation of slums

Dhaka alone contains about 3.4 million people in 4966 slums [12] korail slum is the largest slum in Bangladesh which created poor migrated people. The population density of the slums is extremely high. Most of the slums and squatters have a single room for the whole family that makes them highly congested and unhealthy. It has been reported that, all the thanas of Dhaka Metropolitan area have slum population. Slums and squatter settlements have mostly developed in the peripheral thanas of Mirpur, Mohammadpur and Demra [36]. The poor mainly live in slums scattered throughout the city, with close to 80 percent of slums located on privately owned land creating considerable institutional challenges in terms of basic service provision [37].

Prostitution

Day by day, prostitution racket has increased in Dhaka city just like Mumbai commercial city of India, and Moscow capital city of Russia etc. As women and children from rural area who does not have sufficient income generating activities, they willingly engage towards prostitution. Sometimes this poor vulnerable girl lured by pimp. Many female students are getting involved to prostitution.

Informal economy

Informal economy is the part of an economy that is neither registered as a business nor licensed, one that does not pay taxes and and is not monitored by government. Sometimes this informal economy leads illegal business such as drug dealing, prostitution, hundi etc.

Living conditions of migrants in Dhaka city

In Dhaka city, the migrated people have no enough living opportunities. Generally the poor migrants who migrate to Dhaka city for searching work involve them in the informal sector and take their shelter in the slum areas [38]. In 2010, it has been projected that upto 60% of the total population of the city are living in the slums (15). Slums in Dhaka city have been growing rapidly since 1971. Several surveys on slum growth in Dhaka, conducted by Centre for Urban Studies (CUS) recorded slum populations 275,000 in 1974, 718,143 (2,156 slums) in 1991, 1.5 million (3007 slums) in 1996 and 3.4 million (4,966 slums) in 2005 (16). According to the trend of the slum growth in the city the present number of slum would be more than 7000. Trend of growth shows that slum population increased two times more than previous count and it has been increasing since 1991 (10). The Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) will conduct the country's second full census on slum and floating population in all the city corporation areas in 2014 (17).

Challenges of Urban city

There are lots of problems contains Urban cities. Actually many problems are creating due to over burden of population.

Water logging

Water logging is a common picture in a rainy season in urban cities. Especially Dhaka city become standstill when rain occurred. Frequently, boats run in high way road because of water logging.

Air pollution

Recent report clearly said that urban Dhaka is the most polluted cities in the world. Meanwhile, many environment activists has expressed concerned over air pollution.

River Pollution

Nature gives two rivers Dhaka city i.e. Buriganga and turag but both river today faces existing

crisis because of unplanned industrialization and urbanization.

Traffic jam

It is a common phenomenon of urban like Dhaka, Chittagong cities etc. The number of urban population increase, with increase vehicle. Now the situation has reached in danger.

Sound pollution

Because of rapid urban population. There has been a general increase in the level of sound around us on an average city dweller are exposed to sounds ranging from 30 to 90 decibel or even more.

Imbalances administration

Because of huge unexpected population, Dhaka Corporation and others services provider cannot afford properly. For this, Dhaka city corporation divided in two categories Dhaka South and north city corporation.

Change of Culture

When people migrate to one of the main urban centers they tend to adjust their habits and belief system, if no immediately, but at least, over a generation or two. These changes include changes in religion, clothing, ceremonies, sexual habits, etc [39].

Some of the positive consequences of urbanization

Though rural urban migration plays down villain role, it has many positive effects on urban life.

- **Economic benefits:**
 - higher productivity,
 - better income,
 - industrialization etc
- **Socio-cultural benefits:**
 - modernization,
 - development etc
- **Political benefits:**
 - empowerment,
 - democracy
- **Others benefits**
 - Awareness
 - Technology
 - Adaption ability

DISCUSSIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

Actually, rural urban migration is natural process. Despite the unfavorable and unhygienic conditions, poor migrants opt to come in Dhaka city. Though this rural migrant influences to flourish industrialization and informal economy, it has detrimental effects on urban society.

If we analyze this study, we understand, there have big disparity between rural area and urban city. Most of the facilities, i.e education health, and economic opportunity are contained in Dhaka city. So it is so difficult to maintain RUM in Bangladesh.

Therefore, in order to stop flow of rural urban migration, a balanced development is urgently needed. Otherwise Dhaka city may be worse place in entire world. So Government should make and implement sustainable urban policy. Besides, a strategic plan can encourage resisting urban growth. To make sustainable and healthy Dhaka city, proper management is essential. Urban administration should make proper effort to improve overall conditions of livelihood of urban poor. Slum is another big challenge for ensuring robust Dhaka city. However, N.G.O can also play vital role to control migration flow. It is admitted that, both government and N.G.O made collaborative effort in many other cities like Manila, Paris, Mexico etc. Therefore, government should play combine initiatives with N.G.O and civil society to survive rural urban migration challenges.

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