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The Magnetic Attraction of Dhaka:

Motivational Factors Behind Rural areas to Dhaka

(Urban) in the Context of Bangladesh

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Abbreviation

RUM- Rural Urban Migration

BDT-   Bangladeshi Taka

DHUTS- Dhaka Urban Transport Network Development Study

CBD -   Central Business District

RMG-   Ready Made Garments

Abstract

Your paragraph is mostly grammatically correct, but it can be refined for better flow and clarity. Internal migration is a common feature in developing countries like Bangladesh. Various factors drive migration, and each individual's reasons for migrating differ. This paper aims to identify the motivational factors behind migration from rural areas to Dhaka city. Due to urbanization and industrialization, Dhaka has become a center of attraction. People are drawn to Dhaka to fulfill their basic needs, which are often unmet in the villages. Through this paper, I focus on uncovering the real-life situation of internal migration in Bangladesh. For this study, six migrants were interviewed, and their reasons for migration were collected as data. These motivational factors are analyzed using the push and pull theory.

The findings reveal that their places of origin lack the facilities that could prevent migration; instead, push factors drive them away from their place of origin. Conversely, pull factors act as a magnet, drawing them toward Dhaka. It is also evident that migration from rural to urban areas has improved migrants' conditions, allowing them to live a better life.

Keywords: Internal migration, rural areas to Dhaka, push and pull theory, Bangladesh

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Chapter One

Introduction

According to Lee "Migration is defined broadly as a permanent or semi- permanent change of residence" (Lee,1966: 49).

Migration is a common trend in Bangladesh, a developing country where the movement of people is broadly categorized into two types: internal and international migration. Internal migration describes an individual's movement within a nation's borders, specifically from one administrative region to another, whereas international migration entails leaving one country to live in another. There are several reasons for migration. This paper focuses on the factors behind internal migration from rural areas to Dhaka.

In recent years, Bangladesh has been experiencing rapid urbanization, with rural-to-urban migration being the most significant factor behind this trend. The extensive expansion of industrialization and urbanization opens employment opportunities, which is one of the main reasons for this migration pattern. Bangladesh has one of the highest urban population growth rates in the world. While the national population increases at a pace of 1.7% annually, the urban population is rising more quickly. By 2025, it is predicted that over 50% of Bangladesh's population will reside in urban regions (ESCAP, 2007).

Dhaka is the most popular destination for migration. Dhaka is the capital and largest city of Bangladesh, designated as a "megacity" in 2001, serves as a magnet for individuals from various parts of the country, drawing migrants towards its urban opportunities and amenities. Between 1990 and 2005, Dhaka doubled in size from 6 to 12 million (Burkart, 2008, in Ishtiaque & Ullah, 2013:46), and it continues to grow rapidly. In 1975, the population was 2.2 million, which was a manageable number. By 2000, it had grown to 12.3 million. With a population of about 25 million, Dhaka City is expected to continue its rapid population growth and rank as the world's most populous megacity by 2025 (Hossain, 2011:370). The World Bank projected that the population of Dhaka City will grow from 15 million in 2010 to 20 million in 2025, surpassing cities like Mexico City, Beijing, and Shanghai (Yasmin, 2016). With the current rate of

population growth, the 158 million people living in the nation are predicted to expand to 206 million by 2025 (ESCAP, 2007).

Several reasons drive people to migrate from rural areas to Dhaka in Bangladesh. According to Ishtiaque and Ullah (2013), there are eight main factors: natural disasters, lack of work opportunities, financial crises, family pressure, job availability, ease of access to the informal economy of the city, colorful city lights, and occupation at the rural origin (Ishtiaque & Ullah, 2013, p. 49). My research findings reveal some similarities and notable differences compared to these factors. Both studies highlight poverty and economic opportunities as significant drivers of migration. Additionally, my findings confirm the other factors like climate change, agricultural decline, dowry, Income gap, social networks. Migrants predominantly prefer Dhaka because it provides the best possibilities for obtaining employment (Ishtiaque & Ullah, 2013:46).

The motivations behind internal migration vary significantly across different countries and cultures. This paper delves into the specific reasons individuals migrate from rural to Dhaka city in Bangladesh, employing the push and pull theory using the concept of Lee (1966). My findings will be explored based on this push and pull theory. Instead of focusing on policies and other systems that facilitate migration from rural to urban areas, this paper examines the individual steps and motivations behind their movement. Internal migration is often perceived as an opportunity to improve socio-economic status among people belonging to the lower socio-economic stratum. Particularly in rural areas, migration to big cities is seen as a reliable means of poverty eradication (Jabeen, Tahir, & Shahito, 2017).

Through this paper, the aim is to shed light on the central role of migrants in the phenomenon of internal migration, focusing on their individual motivational factors that help them to migrate to Dhaka city. To understand internal migration I have used Lee's push and pull concept. Push means those factors that push people away from their place of origin. Pull factors are associated with the place of destination. Push and pull model will be explored more in the theory section.

Research question

For this paper the main question is-

What are the primary motivational factors driving Bangladeshi people to migrate from rural areas to Dhaka city?

Working question:

- How do push factors contribute to migration from rural areas?
- In what ways do pull factors attract rural residents to migrate?

My interest for this Topics

Growing up in Dhaka, Bangladesh, I've witnessed remarkable changes in my city over the years. What were once open fields are now crowded with towering buildings, and the streets have become increasingly congested. Dhaka has seen a number of restaurants, universities, and businesses, further adding to its hustle and bustle. As a resident, I've often interacted with rickshaw drivers, street vendors, and domestic helpers to understand why they chose to move to Dhaka. Additionally, working in a private bank helped me to understand the migration stories of colleagues who came to Dhaka in search of employment opportunities. These experiences made me realize that Dhaka has become a magnet for people from all walks of life. Despite living in the city for most of my life, I had never deeply explored the dynamics of internal migration until my master's program encouraged me to look at it from a new perspective. Internal migration is a common phenomenon in Bangladesh, this study aims to shed light on the factors of internal migration from rural areas to Dhaka city.

Outline of the paper

Introduction: The primary objective of this paper is to identify the factors that motivate migrants to move from rural areas to Dhaka in Bangladesh. This phenomenon is particularly significant in the context of Dhaka, the country's capital, which has become a major hub for internal migration. The following sections outline the structure of this paper and the key components of the research.

Literature Review: The second section provides a comprehensive literature review to create a complete picture of the reasons for migration from the perspectives of different authors. Moreover, how this paper is different from others will be explored here.

Methodology: The third chapter explored the data collection process and highlights every issue that has been taken. This section covers the data sources, the presentation of interlocutors, and the methods used for data collection. It also addresses my positionality as a researcher, as well as the limitations and strengths of the study. In summary, this chapter outlines the entire process of gathering and analyzing data, emphasizing the various difficulties and methodological issues encountered throughout the interview session.

Theoretical Framework: In the fourth chapter, the theoretical framework is discussed. For theory I chose Lee's push and pull theory to uncover my findings. The Push and Pull theory, commonly used in migration research, is employed to understand the motivations behind internal migration. This section will explore how push factors (poverty, agricultural decline, climate change, inadequate land, income gap, dowry) and pull factors (employment opportunities and social network) influence migration. Relevant literature will be reviewed to complement and support the findings.

Analysis: The fifth chapter presents the analysis of the data collected from my interlocutors. This section explains the specific factors identified as motivations for migration, supported by direct quotations from the data. The analysis aims to understand the individual reasons behind internal migration in Bangladesh.

Conclusion: The final chapter provides the findings and draws conclusions based on the analysis. Basically, The chapter concludes with a summary of my paper.

Chapter Two

Literature Review

There are several studies that have been conducted focusing on motivational factors of internal migration in Bangladesh. I found those studies helpful for me to get some ideas about rural to urban migration. For this section, I have selected a few literature that helped me to understand better about internal migration in Bangladesh and most of them I used in my paper.

The main focus of this study is the motivational factors behind rural areas to Dhaka. To understand these factors, I have used the conceptual framework of migration proposed by Everett S. Lee in his article titled "A Theory of Migration." This article outlines four main domains of migration and explains that push factors are linked to the place of origin, while pull factors are connected to the destination. Lee also mentions zero factors, which do not influence migration. Lee's migration theory helped me critically analyze the reasons behind internal migration in Bangladesh and identify the push and pull factors based on my data.

Akhter (2014) discovered in her research that young males exhibit a higher inclination to migrate from rural to urban areas. Her study also highlights a trend among migrants shifting away from agricultural pursuits towards seeking non-farm sector employment in cities. Additionally, individuals migrate due to insufficient land for cultivation and responsibilities of their families. Research further indicates a correlation between an increase in migrant numbers and households with multiple male members, particularly when one serves as the head of the household.

Hossain (2001) focused on the migration from rural areas to Comilla district, examining various factors driving this movement. His findings indicate that many migrants were either pursuing studies or experiencing unemployment prior to their relocation. Moreover, the migration rate is notably higher among educated and unemployed individuals. Hossain also highlights age as a significant factor, with those aged between 20 and 29 displaying a greater tendency to migrate. Push factors such as limited job opportunities, poverty, and family pressure are identified, while improved job prospects and social networks serve as pull factors influencing the migration decision.

Farhana and Rahman (2012) conducted research in Rajshahi city to investigate the causes of migration. Their study underscores poverty as a primary driver for migration. Poor migrants view migration as an opportunity to improve their lives. Additionally, the study emphasizes the need to focus on job opportunities and social services for migrant populations and the urban poor in urban areas.

Nabi (1992) identified factors motivating migrants to decide to migrate, including high unemployment rates, low income, rapid population growth, insufficient land, lack of access to good schooling, encouragement from previous migrants, and natural disasters.

Shikdar (2012) explores the impact of rural-urban migration on urban areas in Bangladesh. Using secondary data, Shikdar highlights the rapid population growth rate, predicting that over 50% of the population will reside in urban areas by 2025. The main pull factors for migration include fewer job opportunities, poverty, and family pressure, while better prospects and higher salaries drive internal migration in Bangladesh. Motivations for migration vary among individuals, with

poverty being a key push factor for illiterate individuals and better job opportunities and higher education serving as pull factors for the literate population.

Uddin & Firoj (2013) in their paper, focused on rural urban migration based on Chittagong city. They tried to focus on migration by showing income differences. Through their paper it was also clear that poverty is not the prime reason to move to Dhaka, rather people have a dream to live in Dhaka. Dhaka is a colorful city and offers gas, water, electricity that is essential for living, though it is missing in village life. Moreover, living in Dhaka increases their reputation.

In my thesis paper, I investigate the motivational factors behind internal migration by engaging directly with six individuals who have made migration from rural areas to Dhaka. Unlike many past studies that analyze this phenomenon from a distance, I conducted interviews with my participants to gather firsthand data of their migration experiences. Through these interactions, I aimed to uncover the authentic reasons behind their decisions to move.

Now a question might arise, what makes my thesis paper different?
To answer this question, I made a semi structured interview pattern where I did not ask any question about migration. So they had full freedom to explain the way they wanted to express their feelings. They were explaining not only the big factors like money or financial crisis that they faced. Rather they also mentioned small factors like social issues like dowry pushed them to migrate and personal stories like divorce. They tried to explain the before and after migration story that they are dealing with. They include family, opportunities, dowry, social network, better life, not just economic ones.
By talking to different people from different backgrounds and professions, I tried to uncover factors about internal migration. This will be helpful to understand the migration process better in the context of Bangladesh.

Chapter Three

3. Methodology

In this section, I will provide an overview of the methodological approach used in this paper, including how I selected research methods and the strengths and limitations of the study. The focus of this paper is to understand the factors behind internal migration especially rural to Dhaka in Bangladesh.

To gather detailed information about migrants' journeys, I conducted a qualitative analysis. I started by planning and focusing on data collection. Then, I utilized my network to connect with interviewees. I conducted six semistructured interviews for this paper. In these interviews, I avoided specific questions to allow each person to share their migration story and experiences without interruption. I believe that everyone's migration journey is like a unique story, and I wanted to capture these individual narratives.

This section covers various aspects, including data collection methods, descriptions of the interviewees, rules and resources used, data collection and translation processes, and the theoretical concepts applied in data analysis. Additionally, it discusses the profile of the interviewees, the interview process, and before and after conditions of migration from my interviewee.

3.1 Recruitment of interlocutors

During a visit to Bangladesh in November, I stayed for a few days due to a family emergency. At that time, I had not yet decided on a topic for my master's thesis related to Bangladesh. Therefore, I was unable to undertake any preparatory work during that trip. As it was not feasible

for me to return to Bangladesh to collect data, I tried to do convenience sampling due to constraints related to time and location (Etikan et al., 2016: 1-2). Essentially, I relied on my personal network to connect with potential interlocutors.

My interlocutors were grouped into three categories:

- The first group comprised two domestic workers who are employed as maids, one working at my residence in Lalbagh (a city-centric area where my family resides permanently), and the other at our village house in Dohar, which is also located in Dhaka.

- The second group consisted of garment workers who migrated from rural areas to Dhaka in pursuit of a better life. With the assistance of my cousin, who holds a senior managerial position in a garment factory, I was able to interview individuals from this group.

- The third group comprised rickshaw pullers operating in Dhaka. I conducted online interviews with them, facilitated by my mother. I was acquainted with one of the rickshaw pullers through my previous job at a private bank in Bangladesh, where I regularly used his services for commuting to the office. The other rickshaw puller was selected randomly by the first individual.

3.2 Presentation of Interlocutors

In this section, I will present the demographics of our interlocutors, categorized by their professions. During the interviews, I sought permission from each participant regarding the use of their real names, to which they expressed no objections, allowing me to utilize their actual identities in this paper.

Domestic Workers / Maids

The first domestic worker is Rahela, a 45-year-old female residing in Dohar. Rahela migrated from Faridpur in pursuit of a better life, prompted by the financial struggles faced by her family of five due to her husband's limited earnings. She followed in her mother's footsteps and expressed contentment with her decision, harboring hopes of purchasing land in Dohar for permanent settlement. It has been 17 years since her relocation, and she remains satisfied with her choice.

The second domestic worker is Kiron, aged 40, originally from Jamalpur. In her village, Kiron had no employment opportunities, prompting her move to Dhaka. Since relocating, Kiron, her husband, and their elder son have found employment in Dhaka, significantly improving their standard of living. During the interview, Kiron shared her happiness, mentioning that her younger child has also begun contributing to the family's income, leading to an overall improved quality of life.

Garment Workers

The third individual is Mahbub, a 37-year-old garment worker employed as an operator in a prominent garment factory. Mahbub migrated to Dhaka due to the lack of opportunities in his village, enabling him to secure employment and financially support his family. Moreover, he had a dream since his childhood to migrate to Dhaka.

The fourth interlocutor is Sadia, a 38-year-old garment worker who relocated to Dhaka with the assistance of her aunt. Facing financial strain in her village, Sadia sought employment in Dhaka to contribute to her family's income. She now works as an operator in a garment factory as well, grateful for the improved prospects in the city.

Rickshaw Pullers

The fifth interlocutor, Aziz, aged 48, transitioned from farming to become a rickshaw puller in Dhaka. Climate change and family crises forced Aziz to leave his village in pursuit of financial stability, aiming to repay debts and achieve a better standard of living.

The sixth individual, Shumon, aged 39, previously worked as a farmer in the village. Challenges such as leasing land and facing crop losses during floods prompted Shumon to migrate to Dhaka in search of better economic prospects. He found pulling a rickshaw more lucrative than farming after relocating to the city.

3.3 Caution while conducting interview

Before conducting the interviews, I shared the mission and objectives of my project, seeking permission from each interviewee before initiating our discussion. Additionally, I endeavored to elucidate the importance of data privacy and confidentiality to them. Prior to delving into our conversation, I emphasized the significance of understanding their motivations for migrating from rural areas to Dhaka city.

While initially anticipating interview durations of approximately 25 to 30 minutes, the actual length varied among participants. Some individuals offered extensive explanations, occasionally revisiting stories or transitioning between topics, resulting in longer sessions. Conversely, others provided more concise responses, leading to shorter interviews.

Before each interview, I sought authorization from the respondents to commence and record the entire session, all of whom consented without objection. I assured them of maintaining the confidentiality of their narratives and thoughts. I extend my gratitude to each interviewee who generously shared their migration experiences to assist me in my research.

Remaining unbiased toward individuals of the same ethnic group and maintaining a neutral facial expression during the interviews posed challenges. However, drawing from my past experiences, I successfully navigated these challenges. I intentionally selected Bangladeshi migrants to

mitigate language barriers and facilitate a deeper understanding of their narratives. This decision significantly contributed to comprehending their circumstances and analyzing each interview more effectively.

3.4 My positionality/insider and outsider perspective

"The research process can never be totally 'inside' or completely 'outside', but involves an interrogation of situatedness and how 'being inside' relates to lived bodies and their practices and experiences" (Woodward, 2008: 547). For this paper, I am In this project I have also experienced my stand being an insider of the group that actually helps me to understand better their condition while conducting my investigation.
Moreover, "the Page researcher's potential position as an 'insider' offers particular opportunities for utilizing self as a key resource" (Voloder, 2008: 27).

Throughout the data collection process, I have not implemented my perspective to understand their situation, rather I tried to understand my interviewee's situation within their lens. Additionally, as I share the same language so they do expect that I do understand what they are trying to explain by saying "you would know" clarify a relation between the researcher and interviewee (ibid).

3.5 Methodological approach

For this paper I used a phenomenological approach coupled with storytelling methodology to gather qualitative data. Through this paper, I tried to find out the lived experiences of individuals in the context of motivation behind internal migration. I feel the phenomenological method is most appropriate for my paper because it is a specific approach within qualitative research that focuses on understanding the lived experiences of individuals. I followed a semi structured interview approach, as it is a great tool for researchers while using it to extract data. I started my interview with a few specific questions to get to know about the participants, including their

name, age, place of origin, marital status and number of kids. Then I followed an unstructured interview where they could express their migration story without any obligation. "Being unstructured does not mean that the interview is unfocused" (Cypress, 2018). Storytelling is also a great tool for researchers because a participant is free to tell an incident exactly as it happened (ibid).

For my interviews, my focus was on exploring the motivational reasons behind participants' migration, including aspects such as their previous sources of income, way of life and living standards in the village. Additionally, I tried to understand how they made the decision to migrate and how it affected their lives. My aim was to conduct a comparative analysis between the participants' pre-migration and post-migration experiences. This analysis seeks to understand how migration has impacted their lives, particularly in terms of changes in their livelihoods and overall well-being. By examining these aspects, I aim to contribute to a deeper understanding of the factors whether their post-migration livelihoods are better than before.

Furthermore, I investigated how social networks facilitated the migration process for participants and helped in their settlement in Dhaka.

Data is collected from "one on one" interviews using "web based interaction"(Cypress, 2018). I am using Messenger for collecting data because of its availability in the country. Data plays a great role to answer my research question, so I was extra careful about collecting data from my interviewee.

Qualitative interviewing begins with the assumptions that the perspective of others is meaningful, knowledgeable, and able to be made explicit (Lincoln and Guba, 1991). One significant benefit of the unstructured interview is that participants can talk about the past, present and link about the future (Cypress, 2018). I like to use interviews for my paper because, "interviews are likely to provide a more complete and in depth picture than other forms of inquiry" (Guba and Lincoln, 1981). One of the best parts is, the aim of phenomenological approach is to "elicit a personal comprehensive description" "for a small number of individuals who have experienced it" (Cypress, 2018). The focus of an interview is the direct description of a

particular situation as it is lived through without offering casual description or interpretive generalization (Patton, 2005).

3.6 Distance data collection method

I conducted my interviews online and it was actually helpful for both parties. I was able to conduct the interview staying in my place (Denmark) and I did not worry about their transportation or even any mutual place to conduct the interview (Lo lacono et al. 2016:6). It is time saving for both parties. I did my interview in the middle of March and it was Ramadan time. So I had to be very careful about time for fixing the interview session. Lo lacono et al (2016) shows that, "time can be used in a more flexible way, around the needs of participants, while retaining the synchronicity of the interviewer" (Lo lacono et al. 2016:8). While doing an online interview, the best part is it could be recorded and played later when needed. It helps to understand the motivational factors behind migration better. .

3.7 Data collection process

After conducting the interview I was trying to look at the main points. I was trying to display the findings for this paper. Braun and Clarke's thematic analysis method is used for analyzing the data. They suggest that when looking at qualitative data it is a good idea to follow a structured method, interview is one of them (Braun, V & Clarke, V, 2006). Transcription is a big section of an interview that is also marked by Braun and Clarke. They mentioned that when it comes to interviews, transcribing is a very crucial part to get introduced with the data (Braun, V & Clarke, V, 2006). I did the transcription by myself without using any software or any AI tools. I watched the recorded videos and transcribed them, it took a long time to do that. I did that, because the transcription tool does not have the ability to transcribe everything from the interview exactly the

way it is described. Moreover, meaning will be changed if something is omitted (Braun, V & Clarke, V, 2006).

There are different phases that should be followed when working with the data (Braun, V & Clarke, V, 2006). First, is to get to know the data and if the data is collected by myself, then it is important to read the data carefully and become familiar with the data (Braun, V & Clarke, V, 2006).

Second important thing, after reading all the data I found a few patterns and I marked them with codes. The coding should be used to look after interesting angles in the data (Braun, V & Clarke, V, 2006). Coding makes it easy to look after the key findings.

Three, four and five involves the search of and work with themes and emerge them with the coding (Braun, V & Clarke, V, 2006). For my paper I found eight factors and i labelled them as code- poverty, agricultural decline, natural calamities, inadequate land, income gap, dowry, employment opportunities and social network. Then i implimented quotations that go under that code.

Six deals with the result. Here it is important that the different themes are shown and that findings help illuminate the reader about the contents of the interviews (Braun, V & Clarke, V, 2006).

After the end of this process I found that poverty is the main factor that motivates them to move. There are many other reasons that are interlinked with it. So I make a table to see which factors work as push factors and which ones work as pull factors and mark them as codes: poverty, agricultural decline, climate change, inadequate land, income gap, dowry, are working as push factors and employment opportunities and social network works as pull factors. Both sides helped migrants to make the decision to migrate. At this point, with my organic approach to Braun & Clarke's model of a thematic analysis, I am able to produce my analysis (Braun & Clarke 2006:93). Which is discussed in chapter five.

Limitation

In my paper, I recognize several limitations, primarily stemming from constraints in time and location. My tight schedule made it challenging to collect data as thoroughly as I had initially intended. Additionally, my geographical location presented a significant obstacle to data collection. Had I been able to travel to Bangladesh, I believe I could have conducted more comprehensive face-to-face interviews with participants, delving into every detail of their migration journeys.

Moreover, due to my remote location, there may have been a degree of nervousness among participants during our remote interviews. Furthermore, the fact that I interviewed maids who work in my house might have influenced their willingness to provide detailed explanations. Additionally, I encountered challenges in gaining deeper insights during interviews, as participants may have been hesitant to share certain personal details, such as Rahela's reluctance to elaborate on her daughter's divorce.

Furthermore, working alone meant that there were no peers to review my work and identify any overlooked aspects or errors. Therefore, I had to exercise extra caution to ensure the accuracy and completeness of my paper.

Strength

I believe that one of my greatest strengths during the interviews was my ability to communicate fluently in Bengali. This proficiency facilitated seamless communication with the interviewees and allowed me to grasp their situations accurately as they described them. As the respondents shared their migration stories, I found myself able to vividly visualize their experiences. I made a conscious effort to listen attentively without making assumptions, relying solely on the information provided during the interviews.

Speaking Bengali also helped me pick up on cultural cues and understand things better. It also made it easier for the interviewees to open up to me. Some topics, like money, family problems, politics, and debt, were a bit uncomfortable for them to talk about, but they shared what they felt

okay with. This showed me the importance of creating a supportive atmosphere during interviews.

Moreover, conducting interviews in Bengali also provided insights into cultural nuances and contextual understandings that might have been lost in translation. It allowed for a deeper level of empathy and comprehension of the interviewees' perspectives. Additionally, the interviews shed light on the sensitive nature of certain topics, such as earnings, family crises, political issues, and debt. While some participants expressed discomfort discussing these matters, they shared as much as they felt comfortable. This experience made clear the importance of creating a supportive and non-judgmental environment during interviews, encouraging participants to share their stories authentically.

Chapter Four

Theoretical Framework: Push and Pull theory

This chapter aims to discuss the push and pull theory of migration, a framework crucial for understanding the migration process. This theory was initially coined by Ravenstein in 1889 and later revised by Everett Lee in 1966, provides a comprehensive lens to analyze the various forces influencing migration decisions. According to Lee

"Migration is defined broadly as a permanent or semi-permanent change of residence" (Lee, 1966: 49). That means any type of movement or distance is considered as a migration if the person changes his residence is considered as a migration. According to Lee every migration has an origin, a destination and an intervening set of obstacles (ibid).

Everett Lee Spurgeon, a sociology professor at the University of Georgia, is renowned for developing the Push and Pull Theory, also known as Lee's Theory, a groundbreaking theory of migration. Lee introduced his model at the annual convention of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association in Kansas City in 1965. His seminal paper, "A Theory of Migration," was published in the Demography journal in 1966. The theory aims to formalize a framework for understanding the causes that explain the volume of migration between origin and destination, drawing on sociological concepts. Lee's theory is straightforward and has stood the test of time.

Everett Lee's Push and Pull theory

Everett Lee's revision of the push and pull model in 1966. Lee formulated four factors which are associated with the decision to migrate and the process of migration. Four factors are-

1. Push Factors
2. Pull Factors
3. Intervening Obstacles
4. Personal Factors

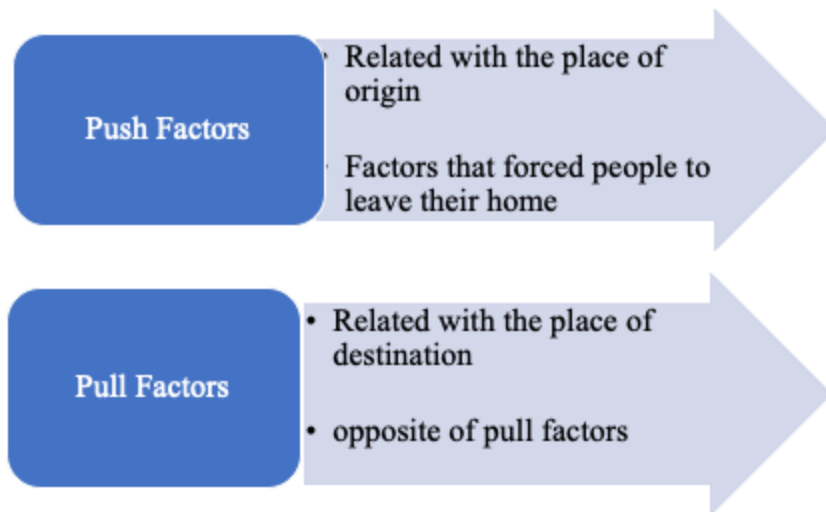He categorize push and pull factor like -

Figure: Push and pull model

Lee hypothesized that positive forces drive individuals to remain in the original region or draw others there, negative forces push people away from the place, and he also mentioned zero forces, which have no effect (Lee, 1966:50). Lee hypothesized that factors associated with origin area conditions would be more important than those associated with destination areas. That means push factors are more influencing to migrate. 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 "intervening obstacles" model. Here he showed the obstacle that migrants face within migration between origin and destination.

Chart: Intervening obstacle

"Lee hypothesized that positive forces drive individuals to remain in the original region or draw others". What I used in the previous paragraph might contradict my analysis based on his theory. Because I am showing that push factors propel people from their place of origin. To support my idea I would like to mention another line that is also mentioned by Lee. which is, factors are not effect every people in a same way, rather different way as well (Lee, 1966: 50)

I am using Lee's push and pull theory because it does not specify particular factors but rather provides a framework that subsequent scholars have expanded upon by identifying specific push and pull factors based on empirical data. Therefore, I have implemented factors of migration based on my findings.

Contributions by Other Scholars

Massey et al,. (1993) underline how demographic pressures affect rural areas. A limited amount of land for agriculture and rapid population increase lead to land fragmentation and lower agricultural production. Because of this population pressure, people from rural areas migrate to metropolitan areas in search of improved livelihoods, which worsens poverty.

According to Todaro (1976) Even when urban unemployment rates are high and known to prospective migrants, there can still be significant amounts of movement from rural to urban areas. Even if they wind up unemployed or earn less in the city than they would in rural areas, migrants will still move.

Application of Push and Pull Factors in Bangladesh

In this study, I applied the push and pull theory to analyze the motivational factors behind internal migration in Bangladesh, based on data collected through interviews. The findings indicate several push factors such as poverty, agricultural decline, Inadequate land, climate change, Income gap and social issues like dowry, which drive individuals from rural areas. Conversely, pull factors such as employment opportunities, and social networks attract individuals towards Dhaka from rural areas.

Lee's migration study offers a solid framework to comprehend the intricacies of migration decisions made by Bangladeshi rural inhabitants, emphasizing push and pull aspects. The theoretical discussion is enhanced, and the dynamics of rural to Dhaka migration are clarified by identifying particular push and pull forces applicable to the Bangladeshi setting.

4.1 Push factors are

Poverty: extreme poverty in rural areas is a significant push factor. Rahman (2010) mentioned, People who experience severe poverty are forced to relocate to cities in desire of better living conditions due to poor income levels and a lack of economic prospects.(Rahman, 2010, p.115).

Agricultural Decline: Many people living in rural areas are being forced to seek alternative livelihoods in metropolitan areas due to declining agricultural output and profitability. According to Rahman (2010), Rural inhabitants relocate as a result of the declining agricultural returns brought on by variables including market instability and soil deterioration (p. 112).

Climate change: Bangladesh faces natural disasters almost every year. It definitely works as a critical push factor. Yasmin (2016) highlighted, Rural populations are forced to move to safer urban regions due to frequent floods, cyclones, and other environmental concerns (p. 45).

Income Gap: The huge gap in income between rural and urban areas serves as a powerful draw. According to Fields (1975), people from rural areas who want to improve their financial status are drawn to urban areas because of the higher earnings and greater economic possibilities (p. 391).

Social Issues like Dowry: Push factors might also be the financial weight of the dowry and other social pressures. According to Kabeer (2000), dowries put a heavy financial burden on families, which drives them to migrate in search of better economic opportunities (p. 76).

Pull Factors are-

Employment Opportunities: Urban areas provide a multitude of career options, especially in Dhaka. According to Ishtiaque and Ullah (2013), one of the main draws for rural migrants to migrate to cities is the abundance of varied work opportunities (p. 46). Dhaka creates more opportunities for women as well. Women have greater employment options in urban settings than in rural ones. Women from rural regions are drawn to cities by the substantial job opportunities provided by the growth of the garment industry and other service sectors, according to Kabeer, 2000: 78).

Social Networks: Existing social networks in urban areas can significantly facilitate migration by providing support and information. According to Massey et al. (1993), "Social networks reduce the costs and risks associated with migration, making it more feasible for individuals to move to urban areas" (p. 450).
De Haas (2010) expanded on Lee's pull factors by highlighting social networks as an additional motivator for migration. Other migrants assist migrants in obtaining information, housing, and employment.

Chapter Five

5. Analyzing push and pull factors

In this study, I have delved into the motivations driving migration from rural areas to Dhaka, Bangladesh. Utilizing Everett S. Lee's Law of Migration, I have structured my analysis around the categorization of migration factors into push and pull factors. By employing this model, I've systematically categorized the various influences on migration based on whether they push individuals away from rural areas or pull them towards urban centers.

To structure my findings, I've embraced Lee's concept of "migration involving a set of factors at origin and destination" (Lee, 1966: 52). Consequently, I have organized the factors influencing migration into two categories: those originating from rural areas (push factors) and those attracting individuals to urban destinations (pull factors). This framework provides a systematic approach to understanding the complex dynamics of migration in Bangladesh.

In addition to drawing from academic journals and articles, I have enriched my analysis with insights gathered from six semi-structured interviews conducted for this research. The appendix contains transcriptions of these interviews, from which I have extracted quotations, words, and explanations to enhance the clarity and depth of my analysis.

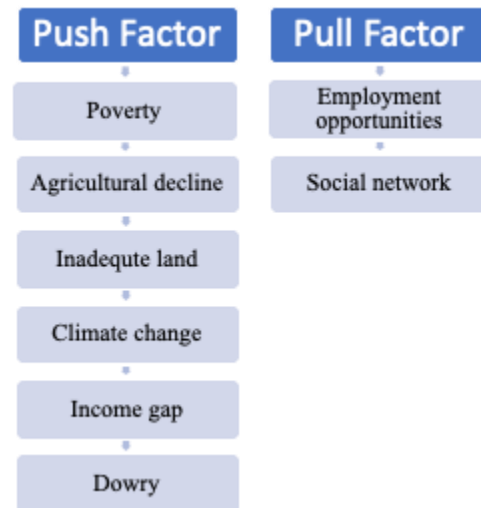Push and pull factors that are discussed in this section are-

figure: Push and pull factors according to my data

This section of the analysis will focus on push and pull factors, first looking at push factors and then pull factors.

5.1 Push Factors

5.1.1 Poverty

Poverty serves as a significant push factor propelling individuals and families from rural to urban areas. In the Asia-Pacific region, over 80% of the impoverished population resides in rural areas, where poverty is most prevalent (Asian Development Bank, 2007). UNESCO defines poverty as the absence or scarcity of material possessions or money, encompassing social, cultural, and political dimensions.
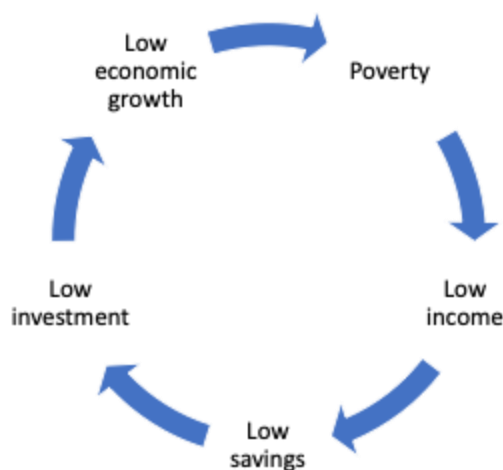
Figure: poverty cycle

Poverty operates as a cycle. People living in poverty earn a small amount of money, which limits their ability to save. With low savings, their capacity to invest is restricted, ultimately leading to low economic growth. This perpetuates the cycle of poverty.

Mahbub said,

My father used to work as a farmer. My grandfather did the same. My father was not able to fulfill our basic needs nor did his father. Poverty is a cycle that continues generation after generation. I do not want to lead that life. I had a dream to come to Dhaka, work and earn money to get rid of poverty from our life.

In Bangladesh, rural poverty frequently pushes people and families towards cities in search of better economic opportunities. Rural areas struggle with restricted access to viable livelihood possibilities, with around 20.5% of the population living below the national poverty line (World Bank, 2020). The difficulties experienced by people living in rural areas are made worse by elements including land degradation, the effects of climate change on agriculture, and inadequate infrastructure (International Organisation for Migration, 2019).

In response to poverty, many rural families view migration to Dhaka as a survival strategy, believing it could potentially alleviate their bad economic condition.

Shumon,

I used to live in a village with my parents. Our living conditions were very poor. I had a few neighbors who migrated to Dhaka and changed their condition. I was so motivated to see them. They also had a tough life but migration changed their life.

Specifically, marginalized groups such as rickshaw pullers, laborers, weavers, small business owners, fishermen, landless individuals, smiths, and marginal farmers in Bangladesh's rural communities endure severe poverty. (Mairand Marti, 2009). According to Rahman and Chowdhury, about 4.5 million people moved domestically in 2007, with 75% of them relocating to rural or urban areas. In that year, more than 480,000 people relocated from rural to urban areas. Poverty is the most fundamental economic and social problem since it results from the inability to achieve a "minimum" level of human well-being (Rahman and Chowdhury, 2012).

Waddington and Sabates mentioned, Individuals who are impoverished frequently move to cities in an effort to improve their standard of living, although the evidence is mixed (Waddington and Sabates-Wheeler, 2003). Here they showed that migration is a way of changing their condition but not everyone is successful. My findings are different. I interviewed six people and I found all of them are happy with their movement. Migration changes their condition of life, income source, social status. Moreover, few of them do not want to go back, rather planning to stay in urban areas permanently.

Rahela

I don't regret, rather I am happy with my decision to migrate. This is one of the best decisions of my life. My son does not want to go back.

Kiron

Migration changed our condition. When I moved I sent money back home and my family members could buy food items.

Moreover she also mentioned,

I bought a piece of land in Kholamora and want to stay there with my family. If I can save some money and build a house. I can live happily throughout my life.

I could say poverty is a big concept that is interlinked with all other push factors. I believe, because of climate change, rural people live under the poverty line. Moreover, Farmers are not getting their expected amount of crops and because of agricultural decline they are living under poverty and motivated to migrate. Dowry is another issue that pushes them to migrate. Because of dowry people came to Dhaka to earn money because it is not a thing that people face everyday but, dowry is a big pressure for poor girl families. As they have to give a good amount of money or something valuable to the groom's family so the bride's family need money for dowry.

5.1.2 Agricultural decline

Millions of people in Bangladesh have traditionally depended on agriculture as their main source of income due to the country's primarily agrarian economy. In 1969 to 1970 the agriculture sector of Bangladesh accounted for about 80% of employment and 55% of GDP (Khan, 1972:17).
But the agricultural industry has had a lot of difficulties lately, which has decreased its economic contribution and created unemployment that forced many people living in rural areas to look for work elsewhere.
Few reasons for agricultural decline in Bangladesh are-

- Land degradation: Deforestation, soil erosion, and misuse of land have all contributed to land degradation, which has decreased agricultural output and rendered vast tracts of land unfit for cultivation (Hossain, 2018). This actually demotivated farmers to find other professions.

- Lack of technological knowledge: Farmers find it challenging to compete in the global market due to a lack of access to new agricultural technologies and techniques, which reduces farming production and efficiency (Rashid, 2019). Farmers do not have knowledge in that field. They just follow their ancestors.

Shumon,

I did not have any agricultural knowledge. I learned from my father. He also did not have any education on agriculture.

- Lean season: Agricultural failure and Lean season are reasons for migration. People need money to survive in the lean season as well.
Rogaly and Rafique (2003) also stated that seasonal migration is an option for people to earn money and support their family by sending money home or investing money on land for agriculture.

Shumon said,

My father used to go to Dhaka, during the lean season. He stayed in Dhaka for a few months. He earned money by doing various types of work. He would send money home, and when he came back after a few months, he would bring many things for all of us."

Hossain, Khan and Seeley (2003) stated through their study that seasonal migration is a survival plan for poor people who face natural disasters. People are planning to move sometimes temporarily and then they stay for a long time. Some people find a new place more comfortable and do not want to go back. Some people move from one place to another place.

- Market Instability: According to the World Bank (2019), fluctuating pricing, restricted access to markets, and unfair trade practices all lead to market instability, which lowers farmers' income and pushes them to pursue alternate sources of income. Farmers do not have easy accessibilities in farming products.

- Water Shortage: Poor irrigation infrastructure and water management techniques lead to water scarcity, which has a negative impact on crop output and livelihoods, especially during dry seasons (IFPRI, 2017). Farmers are dependent on nature, so if rain does not take place on time farmers do not get the expected amount of crops.

As aziz mention,

I did not get the expected amount of crops four years back to back. I had no other option than to move to Dhaka.

5.1.3 Inadequate Land

In Bangladesh, land tenure is a major socioeconomic problem since owning land is frequently associated with respect and social standing in the community (Hossain, 2018). Landowners, however, are often moving away from agricultural labour since they consider farming to be a low-status profession. A common practice among landowners is to lease their property to tenants through contractual agreements; in these arrangements, the landowner usually earns 50% of the crop produce without having to engage in any active farming (Rahman et al., 2016). Landless farmers are disproportionately affected by this system since they have to put in the most work and split the harvest with the landowner.

When considering the movement of rural to urban areas, land ownership becomes a significant issue in determining the choices made by households. Families without land typically find it simpler to migrate than those who do, since land ownership offers some protection from the damaging effects of natural calamities (Kuhn, 2000). Families who own property are better able to cope with the effects of natural disasters like flooding, droughts, and landslides since land is essential to the security of one's livelihood.

I found that comparing Aziz and Shumon experience how landlessness influences migration choices. They both faced floods, both suffered losses, but Aziz, who owned land, had more

stability. Shumon, who did not have land, struggled financially because he had to share his crop yield with his landlord. This pushed him to leave farming and seek work in Dhaka.

Shumon said,

I did not have any land or anything that I could stay in my village. If I had land in my village maybe then I could survive in our village by doing some farming. I was facing natural calamities every year so I was not able to cultivate a good amount of crops. On top of that, I had to pay half of it to the landlord. So it was not possible for me to survive with my family.

The interrelationship between land ownership and poverty rates is evident, as individuals who possess land in rural areas tend to be economically influential rather than poor, often driving the economy of those regions (Islam, M. A. 2013).

5.1.4 Climate change

Push Factors in Climate Change: Natural Disasters

Bangladesh faces natural disaster every year which works as a big push factor for rural people to migrate. Few occurrences are mentioned below.

Over the past few decades, global warming has caused the Earth's temperature to rise dramatically (Khan et al., 2015:18). Bangladesh, despite contributing minimally to global warming compared to wealthier nations, is among the worst affected (ibid). Almost every year, the country faces natural disasters due to climate change, which is a primary push factor for internal migration. Jakariya and Islam (2021) highlight in their book "Climate Change in Bangladesh" that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has documented Bangladesh as one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change (Jakariya & Islam, 2021).

Bangladesh is a riverine country where natural calamities occur frequently. Among them, flood is the most common calamity that takes place almost every year in Bangladesh. The most biologically sensitive districts—Kurigram, Gaibandha, Rangpur, and Lalmonirhat—are often affected by floods as they lie along the Brahmaputra River's erosion line.

Due to its geographic location and monsoon climate, Bangladesh frequently experiences flooding, which has a severe effect on the lives of millions of people and the country's economy. For example, the 2020 floods devastated about a third of the nation, uprooting millions of people and severely harming both agriculture and infrastructure (Al Jazeera, 2020). The population is more vulnerable as a result of these floods, particularly in rural areas with limited resources (World Bank, 2021). Flooding is becoming more severe and frequent as a result of climate change (UNICEF, 2021). Moreover, Bangladesh's flood vulnerability is aggravated by its extensive river network and low-lying topography, which makes it particularly susceptible to monsoon rains and river overflow. The floods of 2019 affected more than 7 million people, because of that significant displacement and destruction of crops, which are a major part of the country's economy (IFRC, 2019). According to recent studies, flooding events are expected to become more frequent and intense due to climate change, requiring stronger adaptation techniques (Climate Change Cell, 2020).

Rahela said,

His husband's family faced floods frequently in their village. That is why they migrated to Faridpur.

These frequent natural disasters lead to significant food insecurity, known locally as "manga", which affects millions of people and acts as a substantial push factor for migration. Manga represents a cycle of food insecurity that primarily impacts agricultural workers. In these regions, paddy farming is the main agricultural activity, but the low labor demand during transplantation periods combined with frequent natural calamities results in poor crop yields. Consequently,

farmers face severe financial strain and food insecurity, forcing them to seek livelihoods elsewhere (Rahman & Islam, 2017; Khan et al., 2015).

Kiron,

My father used to work as a farmer in my village and earn a good amount of money every year. We had a happy family. Within a few years due to climate change, he did not get the expected amount of crops from our field, so I decided to move to Dhaka to earn money to support our family.

Moreover, Bangladesh is frequently hit by major cyclones. Significant cyclones in recent years include Sidr in 2007, Rashmi in 2008, Bijli in 2009, Viyaru in 2013, Komen in 2015, Roanu in 2016, Mora in 2017, Fani, Matmo, and Bulbul in 2019, Amphan in 2020, Yaas in 2021, Sitrang in 2022, and Ramel in 2024. Cyclone Sidr, a category 4 storm that struck southern Bangladesh in November 2007, displaced about 2 million people and destroyed extensive paddy crops. Subsequent floods exacerbated the situation, destroying over 2 million tonnes of food and resulting in approximately 1,500 deaths (Khan et al., 2015:19). Each cyclone leaves many people with nothing, compelling them to migrate to urban areas in search of better opportunities (Jakariya & Islam, 2021).

Sadia,

I heard from my mother that my grandfather was rich. Because of the cyclone he lost everything. Many other families also faced the same. It is very common in Bangladesh.

5.1.6 Income gap

The decision of rural inhabitants to migrate in pursuit of better economic opportunities is a common trend. Todaro's migration model underscores the significance of job prospects and

higher wages in city areas as primary drivers of migration (Todaro, 1969). In an adapted version of the model by Todaro and Harris, rural-urban differences in expected earnings are identified as the principal motive for migration, with urban unemployment rates serving as a balancing mechanism (Harris & Todaro, 1970).

Rural residents often perceive migration to urban centers like Dhaka as a pathway to improved livelihoods due to the anticipated higher earning potential. This expectation is fuelled by the prevalent notion that urban areas offer superior income prospects compared to rural locales. Anecdotal evidence suggests that migrants are influenced by narratives of city life shared by fellow migrants, leading to a heightened desire to relocate to cities (Kabir et al., 2018).

Here is the chart that I made using my data to show the difference of income gap.

Name	Previous profession	Present profession	Previous salary	Present salary
Rahela	maid	Domestic worker	No salary	6000-8000
Kiron	nothing	Domestic worker	No salary	10000-12000
Mahbub	nothing	Garments worker	000-5000	18000
Sadia	nothing	Garments worker	No salary	18000
Aziz	Farmer	Rickshaw puller	3000-6000	15000-2000
Shumon	Farmer	Rickshaw puller	3000-5000	17000-22000

The data illustrates that all respondents are currently employed following migration, even among those previously unemployed. Some individuals have changed occupations, while others remain

in their previous professions, yet all report increased earnings compared to their pre-migration income levels. Consequently, these migrants express contentment with their decision to relocate, citing improved financial circumstances. Particularly noteworthy is the transformation observed among individuals who previously had no source of income in their villages, but now earn between 9000 to 20000 BDT, marking a substantial improvement in their economic status.

The tabulated data further reveals that the majority (90%) of respondents now earn more than 10000 BDT, a stark contrast to the mere 20% who achieved this level of income in their original place of residence. Additionally, half of the respondents reported earning no income in their village, whereas post-migration, they too are earning between 9000 to 20000 BDT. This significant disparity in income levels before and after migration underscores the allure of Dhaka's higher wage levels as a primary motivator for migration and continued residence in the city.

Aziz,
Living in Dhaka gives an opportunity to earn more money. I can earn five times more money than before. I repaid my loan that I took from my daughter's wedding.

Mahbub,

My father is a farmer and never consistently earned 18,000 taka from farming. However, migrating to Dhaka created that opportunity for me.

Shumon,

I used to ride a rickshaw in my village when I did not have to work in my field. I used to earn a small amount of money while driving all day. But now I am riding a rickshaw in Dhaka, and I am earning good money without having to ride all day.

5.1.6 Dowry

Dowry (□□□□) is considered as a traditional concept in Bangladesh. It is not a religious or state law, but rather a longstanding practice that has become a tradition. According to Hindu customs, dowry is a payment made when a woman leaves her father's house. This ensures that both the bride and the property move from her parents' home to her husband's home. Depending on their condition, dowry might be anything: money, furniture, gold, real estate, or anything else—and eventually turn into a deal. (Diwan, 1990:21).

In the setting of Bangladesh, dowries were usually paid in urban regions, especially by wealthy people, and then gradually stretched from urban to rural areas (Alam and Martin 1984:7). People do not feel happy if they give birth to a girl because girls are considered as weak and parents have to give dowry during their marriage. It is an extra pressure for every parent in Bangladesh, especially those who are living under poverty rate.

As Rahela said,

"My family is searching for a potential groom for my younger daughter. We liked the last candidate, as they also expressed interest in us. They are requesting a gold earring as part of the marriage arrangement. Some people are advising me to inform them that the groom will be going abroad within a few months. Therefore, I could offer cash instead, which could assist with the costs associated with migration".

Poor families seek to reduce the number of family members through marriage, thus they are always quite anxious for their daughters to marry (Farhana et al., 2012: 110)

Muslim bride's family being forced to spend exorbitant amounts of money for dowry (Jahez another name) which is a big drain on the family's economic resources as well as it symbolizes social status, so that families continuously compete in making dowry as spectacular as possible. This condition is actually beneficial for the groom's family.

According to the religious belief of muslim there should not be any pressure for brides parents, the groom will do every arrangement. The Islamic faith has established the mahr (groom gives

something to the bride depending on his ability), and society has established the dowry, which consists of cash, jewelry, and luxury gifts for the groom.(Chaudhury and Ahmed, 1988: 282).

Aziz,

When my daughter got married, I had to provide three hundred thousand taka (300,000). However, I did not have that amount of money, so I took out a loan. Along with the wedding expenses, there were other necessary expenditures that added immense pressure on me. Unable to repay the debt while living in the village, I ultimately made the decision to move to Dhaka".

The situation worsens when money, property, or goods are demanded or expected from the bride's family (Huda, 2006).

Rahela said,

My elder daughter got divorced because we couldn't provide the amount of money as they demanded. She used to go to her in-laws and they pushed her back.

Dowry-related divorces are a frequent occurrence in both rural and urban areas, primarily due to economic constraints, especially prevalent in village communities. The weight of providing dowry burdens the potential bride's family in rural regions, prompting them to seek better economic prospects in urban settings. This migration is fueled by the aspiration to enhance financial stability, allowing families to set aside funds for their daughters' marriages. Therefore, dowry-related pressures serve as a push factor, urging families to move to urban areas to pursue better livelihoods and socioeconomic circumstances.

5.2 Pull Factors

5.2.1 Employment opportunities

Rural-to-Dhaka migration in Bangladesh is primarily driven by employment opportunities (Kabir et al., 2018). These job opportunities act as a pull factor for rural migrants. Dhaka, the capital city, offers employment in various sectors such as construction, services, and garment manufacturing, providing a wealth of job prospects (World Bank, 2020). This abundance of opportunities attracts individuals seeking better lives and financial growth, fueling the urbanization of Bangladesh.

Additionally, unskilled and semi-skilled individuals who have migrated from rural areas to Dhaka face challenges due to the rise of technology-based jobs in the Central Business District (CBD). Consequently, they often find themselves, "involved in less paid jobs like many other developing cities" (Hossain, 2013, p. 375). Professions that migrants generally choose are garments worker, household worker, rickshaw puller, street vendor, waiter, food delivery man, construction worker, cleaner, plumber, low grade employee in government and private organization, transport workers etc.

Despite the prevalence of low-paying jobs, newcomers still choose city life due to higher salaries compared to those in rural areas. Moreover, living in Dhaka offers advantages such as dual income opportunities for both husbands and wives.

Kiron said,

Me, my husband and now my son all are working. If we lived in a village, my son and I did not have anything to do.

Therefore, development plays a vital role in every migration (Hossain, 2003, p. 3). I will now analyze two job sectors based on my data.

Garments industry

The Garment sector opens huge possibilities and job opportunities in Dhaka. Which works as a pull factor for rural people.

A new generation of workers, traditionally mainly unexplored, has entered the workforce as a result of the RMG (ready made garments) business since the late 1970s: ladies (Kabeer 1988:107). In Bangladesh, "3.6 million garment workers, of which are about 80% women" (Fairwear Foundation, 2013 in Naved et al. 2018:150).

Because of the garment industry women are more interested in the labor market. In the garment industry women are getting more priority than men because women are more adaptable, obedient, punctual and more faithful than men (Afsar, 2002; World Bank, 2013). Moreover, it is assumed that most of this manpower migrated to Dhaka from rural areas (Kabeer & Mahmud 2004:148). Women are becoming confident and empowered after joining the garment industry. Karim (2014) showed that factory work has enabled women to become self reliant as they become 'workers'.

As Sadia mentioned,

When I was in the village and unable to earn money, I had no option but to keep my opinions to myself within my household. However, after joining the garment factory, I began earning a good amount of money, which has made me feel empowered.

She also mentioned

While working in the garment industry and sending money to help my father, I found that he could not make decisions about my marriage without consulting me. This level of consultation and involvement in marriage decisions is uncommon in rural areas. I believe that my source of income compelled my father to seek my consent before making any decisions.

Mahbub,

Dhaka gives me a good source to earn money. Working in the garment industry changed my attitude. When I went to the village, people asked me about my job, my life, earnings and sought my help as well for their migration. This made me feel that I had achieved something, which made me proud.

Rickshaw puller

In the rural areas of Bangladesh, many individuals engage in farming, yet not all find success in this occupation. Those who face challenges in farming often consider migrating to seek better livelihoods (Nabi, 1992). Among internal migrants, Dhaka emerges as the predominant destination due to its abundant job prospects. The garment industry stands out as the primary employment option, followed by opportunities in the transportation sector, particularly as rickshaw pullers, and domestic work. Both men and women favor employment in the garment industry. In cases where garment industry jobs are unavailable, men often turn to rickshaw pulling, while women seek employment as domestic workers. Driving rickshaws in urban areas presents opportunities for higher income.

Aziz

Dhaka creates better job opportunities for me. I am working as a rickshaw puller and I am earning well. Moreover, I am working as a porter for extra money. Dhaka opens opportunities for me.

Dhaka is an exessively populated city and people need transportation to move every single day. About 20.8 million rides everyday are made by people living in the Dhaka Metropolitan Area, and rickshaws cover 38% of those trips. (DHUTS 2010). A newspaper of Bangladesh (Prothom Alo) reported that average value of per trip in rickshaws is around 30 (BDT), so total income from the rickshaw sector should be 237.12 million per day which is 1120.8 million every year.

Rickshaws create job opportunities for around 1.5 million people everyday. According to The Bangladesh Labor Force Survey (2010) report, The reduction of persistent poverty is greatly aided by the employment of internal migrant laborers in rickshaw pulling.

Shumon

I have a permanent job, which helps me to bear the cost of my family.

5.2.2 Social Network

Social networks are one of the great tools for migration. Wilson shows social networks as a medium of migration (1994). Potential migrants are often influenced by the experiences shared by others, which motivates them to consider migration. This shared experience acts as a pull factor, attracting individuals towards the idea of moving to new destinations.
He also mentioned that people want to migrate to those places where they have someone familiar, it could be more than one place (Wilson, 1994: 297). Six people that are interviewed for this paper, all of them got their first job through their social networks, after migration. Few of them got help for settlement as well. Their social network helps them in several sectors of the migration process such as finding jobs, moral support and help to settle in new locations (Wilson, 1994: 271).

As Sadia mentioned,
When I first came to Dhaka, my aunt helped me to get into the garment factory and she also worked over there. I was staying with my aunt and it was easy for me to settle in Dhaka and find my first job as well.

Aziz,

I got my first rickshaw from my malik (owner of rickshaw) with the help of my cousin. He used to live in Dhaka and rode a rickshaw. So when I came to Dhaka, he helped me to find a mess (where people share a room for living) for me to live in and talked to a person who has few rickshaws and gave them for rent. My cousin used to take his rickshaw from him. That is why the owner of the rickshaw gave me one because he knew my cousin. I just came from the village so he played a middle man role or a guarantor for me.

Kiron,

My grandmother talked to her neighbors about me and with the help of one of them I got a job.

Aziz also mention,

Before coming to Dhaka, I contacted my cousin and shared my story with him. He suggested that I come to Dhaka, assuring me of his support. This encouragement from my cousin was a significant factor in my decision to migrate.

In the Afsar (1999), showed that Before shifting, people from remote areas spent a lot of time and energy getting in touch with friends, family, and neighbors in Dhaka. In Dhaka, seventy-five percent of them obtained their first jobs through these social networks.

Chapter Six

Conclusion

In conclusion, this thesis paper has shed light on the motivational factors behind migration from rural areas to Dhaka. It emphasizes the actual experiences and driving forces of migrants who have undertaken this migration. I conducted six semi-structured interviews to discover a variety of push and pull reasons impacting the decision to move from rural areas to cities, especially Dhaka. Pull factors such as employment opportunities and social networks have drawn people to Dhaka, while push factors such as poverty, agricultural decline, climate change, inadequate land, income gap, and dowry have driven people away from their original places.

This study has gained important insights into the lived realities and issues faced by people navigating the migration process by interacting directly with migrants. The results emphasize the significance of factors to understanding migration from the viewpoint of individuals who are directly impacted, rather than relying exclusively on external observations or secondary data sources.

This research paper opens opportunities for further study. It does not address policies, the effects of large migration flows on Dhaka, government plans to discourage internal migration, or the challenges migrants face after arriving in Dhaka. These areas could be explored in future research.

Interestingly, my findings reveal that my interviewees are happy with their migration decisions and do not have regrets. However, there are many other stories where people live vulnerable lives in slums, facing several difficulties and even unemployment while living in Dhaka. Interviewing more people could provide additional angles to examine.

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Appendix

Appendix : Coding Doc

Interview	Name
DW 1 =	Rahela
DW 2=	Kiron
RMG 1 =	Rahman

RMG 2 =   Sadia

RP 1 =   Aziz
RP 2=   Shumon

Code: Poverty	
Examples	Description
Mahbub said, *My father used to work as a farmer. My grandfather did the same. My father was not able to fulfill our basic needs nor did his father. Poverty is a cycle that continues generation after generation. I do not want to lead that life. I had a dream to come to Dhaka, work and earn money to get rid of poverty from our life.*	Generation after generation people are living under poverty.
Shumon, *I used to live in a village with my parents. Our living conditions were very poor. I had a few neighbors who migrated to Dhaka and changed their condition. I was so motivated to see them. They also had a tough life but migration changed their life.* *Rahela*	My Neighbor's migration story motivated me to migrate to alleviate poverty.

I don't regret, rather I am happy with my decision to migrate. This is one of the best decisions of my life. My son does not want to go back.	Living happily after migration.
Kiron	
Migration changed our condition. When I moved I sent money back home and my family members could buy food items.	Took family responsibilities for a good life
Moreover she also mentioned,	
I bought a piece of land in Kholamora and want to stay there with my family. If I can save some money and build a house. I can live happily throughout my life.	Now she wants to stay in Dhaka. So she bought a piece of land. Want to stay in Dhaka, forever.

Code: Agricultural decline	
Examples	Description
Shumon, *I did not have any agricultural knowledge. I learned from my father. He also did not have any education on agriculture.*	Illiteracy is a big problem for Bangladeshi people.

Shumon said, *My father used to go to Dhaka, during the lean season. He stayed in Dhaka for a few months. He earned money by doing various types of work. He would send money home, and when he came back after a few months, he would bring many things for all of us.* As aziz mention, I did not get the expected amount of crops four years back to back. I had no other option than to move to Dhaka.	Migration during the lean season creates opportunities for extra income.

Code: Inadequate land	
Examples	Description
Shumon said,	

I did not have any land or anything that I could stay in my village. If I had land in my village maybe then I could survive in our village by doing some farming. I was facing natural calamities every year so I was not able to cultivate a good amount of crops. On top of that, I had to pay half of it to the landlord. So it was not possible for me to survive with my family.	Landless families took decision of migration faster than those who have land.

Code: Climate change	
Examples	Description
Rahela said, *His husband's family faced floods frequently in their village. That is why they migrated to Faridpur.* Kiron, My father used to work as a farmer in my village and earn a good amount of money	Flooding is one of the biggest reasons for migration in Bangladesh.

every year. We had a happy family. After a few years due to climate change, he did not get the expected amount of crops from our field, so I decided to move to Dhaka to earn money to support my family. Sadia, *I heard from my mother that my grandfather was rich. Because of the cyclone he lost everything. Many other families also faced the same. It is very common in Bangladesh.*	Because of Climate change farmers are facing less interest in farming. As they do not get expected crops. Many families who had standard living conditions turned poor because of the cyclone. Which is another push factor for migration.

Code: Income gap	
Examples	Description
Aziz, *Living in Dhaka gives an opportunity to earn more money. I can earn five times more money than before. I repaid my loan that I took from my daughter's wedding.*	Income gap motivated people to migrate.
Mahbub, *My father is a farmer and never consistently earned 18,000 taka from farming. However, migrating to Dhaka created that opportunity for me.*	Farmers do not earn that much money that an industrial worker can earn. Which is another push factor for farmers.
Shumon, *I used to ride a rickshaw in my village when I did not have to work in my field. I used to earn a small amount of money while driving all day. But now I am riding a rickshaw in Dhaka, and I am earning good money without having to ride all day.*	Even riding rickshaw people can earn more in city areas.

Code: Dowry in

Bangladesh

Examples	Description

As Rahela said, *"My family is searching for a potential groom for my younger daughter. We liked the last candidate, as they also expressed interest in us. They are requesting a gold earring as part of the marriage arrangement. Some people are advising me to inform them that the groom will be going abroad within a few months. Therefore, I could offer cash instead, which could assist with the costs associated with migration.*	Bride families have a huge pressure over them because of dowry.
Aziz, *When my daughter got married, I had to provide three hundred thousand (300,000) taka. However, I did not have that amount of money, so I took out a loan. Along with the wedding expenses, there were other necessary expenditures that added immense pressure on me. Unable to repay the debt while living in the village, I ultimately made the decision to move to Dhaka*	The family became financially depleted while arranging a marriage for their daughter.
Rahela said, *My elder daughter got divorced because we couldn't provide the amount of money as they*	Even, divorce took place because of Dowry.

demanded. She used to go to her in-laws and they pushed her back.	

Code: Employment opportunities	
Examples	Description
As Sadia mentioned, *When I was in the village and unable to earn money, I had no option but to keep my opinions to myself within my household. However, after joining the garment factory, I began earning a good amount of money, which has made me feel empowered.*	Dhaka opens job opportunities for females as well.

She also mentioned

While working in the garment industry and sending money to help my father, I found that he could not make decisions about my marriage without consulting me. This level of consultation and involvement in marriage decisions is uncommon in rural areas. I believe that my source of income compelled my father to seek my consent before making any decisions.

Working in a garment factory gives her self respect within her family. Her father asked for her decision, which is not normal from the perspective of Bangladesh.

Mahbub,

Dhaka gives me a good source to earn money. Working in the garment industry changed my attitude. When I went to the village, people asked me about my job, my life, earnings and sought my help as well for their migration. This made me feel that I had achieved something, which made me proud.

More earning source than his father. Which is possible because of migration.

Aziz

Dhaka creates better job opportunities for me. I am working as a rickshaw puller and I am earning well. Moreover, I am working as a porter for extra money. Dhaka opens opportunities for me.

Dhaka creates dual job opportunities to earn more money.

Shumon I have a permanent job, which helps me to bear the cost of my family.	Permanent job. Good amount of money to live with family. Everything is possible because of migration.

Code: Social Network	
Examples	Description
As Sadia mentioned, *When I first came to Dhaka, my aunt helped me to get into the garment factory and she also worked over there. I was staying with my aunt and it was easy for me to settle in Dhaka and find my first job as well.* Aziz, *I got my first rickshaw from my malik (owner of rickshaw) with the help of my cousin. He*	Social networks help to find a job in the garment industry.

used to live in Dhaka and rode a rickshaw. So when I came to Dhaka, he helped me to find a mess (where people share a room for living) for me to live in and talked to a person who has few rickshaws and gave them for rent. My cousin used to take his rickshaw from him. That is why the owner of the rickshaw gave me one because he knew my cousin. I just came from the village so he played a middle man role or a guarantor for me.	Got help from my cousin. Not only find a job, but rather find a room as well.
Kiron, *My grandmother talked to her neighbors about me and with the help of one of them I got a job.*	
Aziz also mention, *Before coming to Dhaka, I contacted my cousin and shared my story with him. He suggested that I come to Dhaka, assuring me of his support. This encouragement from my cousin was a significant factor in my decision to migrate.*	This actually shows the network is not only limited within family and friends rather is a big concept.
	Cousin support helped him to take decision of migration