

Migration, Refugee and Conflict

Week 1 – Introduction to Migration

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Schedule for overall course

Week 1 : Introduction to Migration (Types & Causes)

Week 2: Introduction to Refugees?

Week 3: History of Migration in Nepal

Week 4: Armed Conflict and Migration in Nepal

Week 5: Legal Frameworks for Migration in Nepal

Week 6: Labour Migration Governance in Nepal

Week 7 : Social cost of Foreign Labour Migration in Nepal

Week 8: Informal sectors in Nepal

Contd...

Week 9 : Trade Unions and their Roles

Week 10: International Initiatives in Migration

Week 11: Gender and Economy

Week 12: Risks and Vulnerabilities

Week 13: Globalization and Migration

Week 14: Human Security and Migration

Week 15: Diplomacy and Migration

Week 16: Crisis and Migration

Defining Migration

- Movement from one place to another
- Movement can be due to diverse factors.
- When we see the patterns of movements around the surroundings few can be pointed out such as ;
- Political
- Economical
- Environmental
- Social
- Religious
- Educational

Further focusing in-depth

- Livelihood opportunity
- Poverty reduction
- Due to insecurity of basic needs such as; food, water, health access, education
- Presence of stigma, discrimination, prejudice
- Violence, Exploitation
- Persecution
- War / diverse facets of conflict
- Climate change issues/ Natural disaster
- Epidemic/ Pandemic (Recent example : COVID)

What is Migration?

Migration is an expression of the human aspiration for dignity, safety and a better future. It is a part of the social fabric, part of our very own make-up as a human family.

- Ban ki-moon, Secretary – General (2007-2016), United nations at the 2013 High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development.

How society influences the trends and patterns of Migration is an important focus.

- ▶ Migration is the geographic movement of people across a specified boundary for the purpose of establishing a new permanent or semi permanent residence.
- ▶ Along with fertility and mortality, migration is a component of population change. The terms “immigration” and “emigration” are used to refer to moves between countries (international migration). The parallel terms “in-migration” and “out-migration” are used for movement between areas within a country (internal migration).

Population Handbook

Nepal Census Definition of Migration (2001/2011)

A person who moves either from his [or her] place of birth to another area or keeps on moving stepwise or circular by changing his [or her] residence more or less frequently by being either a seasonal, temporary, semi-permanent or permanent migrant, depending upon the duration of migration and reasons for migration within a defined geographic area (i.e., internal migrants only).

Nepal Demographic and Health Survey

NDHS 2006

- ▶ A household member who had moved away in the 12-month period prior to the survey.

NDHS 2011

- ▶ A person who has migrated away from the household in the 10 years prior to the survey.

- Migration is a global phenomena ; Both national and international
- The reasons of migrating differs

International Organization for Migration (IOM) defines migrant as any person moving or has moved across an international border or within a state away from his/her habitual place of residence, regardless of

- Legal status
- Movement is voluntary or involuntary
- Causes of movement
- Length of stay

This broadly can focus on the two aspects ;

- a. Labour migrants
- b. Forced migrants

Labor migrants includes those seeking economic opportunities whereas forced migration includes asylum seekers and refugees.

- It is also mentioned that migration is a very complex phenomena and the final decision to migrate is impacted by all three factors; macro, meso and micro.

Macro factors : political , demographic,socio-economic,Environmental

Meso factors : communication technology, land grabbing and diasporic links ex: the role of social media generating sentiments

Micro factors: education , religion, marital status and personal attitude to migration plays a major role to decision towards migrating.

The political can focus on
insecurity aspect, conflicts, persecution and existing discrimination

The environmental can focus on
issues such as climate change, hazards, food, water security,

Social aspect
could highlight existing social issues

Economic focuses on
job opportunities.

World Migration Report 2022

Key migration data at a glance

	2020	2019
International migrants	281 million (3.6%)	272 million (3.5%)
Females	135 million (3.5%)	130 million (3.4%)
Males	146 million (3.7%)	141 million (3.6%)
Labour migrants	169 million	164 million
Missing migrants	3,900 dead and missing	5,400 almost

Contd...

Remittances in 2020 was 702 billion US dollar

In 2019 it was 719 billion

The COVID pandemic led to decline

In addition , low and middle-income countries received remittances of 540 billion US dollar in 2020 whereas, it was 548 billion US dollar in 2019.

Furthermore, it is important to view data on displaced persons in order to be aware about the current scenario of displacements.

Contd...

	2020	2019
Displaced persons	89.4 million including refugees, asylum seekers, displaced Venezuelan and IDPs	84.4 million
Asylum seekers	4.1 million	4.2 million
Refugees	26.4 million	26 million
Displaced Venezuelans	3.9 million (not including those who were refugees or asylum seekers)	3.6 million
Internally displaced persons (IDPs)	55 million . 48 million due to conflict and violence and 7 million due to disasters	51 million

Migration Drivers

The Questions here arises are;

- What are the factors that drives migration ?
- How these factors influences the process of migration ?
- How several multi-dimensional factors get interlinked in the process of migration?
- Is the migration pattern in an uniformity style or not ? Is it same to all populations? Or the heterogeneous notion is found?

To understand all these aspects the theoretical basis is considered.

Further aspects

- Why do people choose to migrate?
- The Social sciences have always developed diverse perspectives on finding out the exact answer to that question.
- However several aspects and concerns keep changing and overlapping in search of exact answer.
- As the world is interconnected the notion of migration is also diverse.

Types of Migration

- Voluntary
- Forced
- Theories of Voluntary and Forced migration will provide further clarity to dynamics of migration and is explained through diverse theories on migration.

Theories on Migration

- The drivers of migration in several academic literature includes economic, political, social, cultural, demographic and ecological factors.

Migration theories have come up with reasons on why? When? Where? And How? People migrate.

- The cost-benefit model by Sjaastad and push-pull model by Lee suggest that an individual migrate due to discrepancy and economic opportunity. The push and pull factors of migration by Lee is an important contribution.
- Lee has mentioned that no matter how short or how long , how easy or how difficulty the every act of migration always has origin, destination and few obstacles . And the distance of movement here states the present one.

- The network theory emphasizes on the influence of social network. Migration is the decision taken by an individual actor, family, friends , migrant organizations and other economic and political factors. Here , network influences an individual with diverse perceptions on migration . It helps in understanding the destination choice and also supports in analyzing the benefits of migration.
- Networks on migration can be identified as; affinities, information, facilitation, conflict, support (Haung,2008).

- Zelinsky came up with an argument that demographic transitions and modernization processes explain the development and changing mobility patterns. It has highlighted on demand and supply pattern and emergence of cheap labour in capitalist labour-recruiting countries.
- The world systems theory by Wallenstein explain that capitalist system destroy traditional economic structures and livelihoods and shape both domestic and international patterns.
- Ravenstine's came up with two notions of migration
 - a. the majority of migrants go only short distance .
 - b. Migration proceeds step by step

Migration driver taxonomy

- Demographic
- Economic
- Human Development
- Individual
- Politico-institutional
- Security
- Socio-cultural
- Supranational

Contd..

- Demographic

Population dynamics

Family size and structure

- Economic

Economic and business conditions

Labour markets and employment

Urban/Rural development and living standards

Poverty and inequality

Contd

- Politico-institutional

Public infrastructure, services and provisions

Migration Governance and infrastructure

Migration Policy and Other Public Policies

Civil and Political rights

- Security

Conflict , War and Violence

Political Situation, Repression and Regime transitions

Contd...

- Environmental

Climate Change and Environmental Conditions

Natural Disasters and Environmental Shocks

- Human Development

Education Services and Training Opportunities

Health services & situations

- Individual

Personal resources and migration experiences

Migrant aspirations and attitudes

Contd...

- Socio-Cultural

Migrant communities and networks

Cultural norms and ties

Gender relations

- Supranational

Globalization and (Post) Colonialism

Transnational Ties

International relations and Geopolitical transformations

Types of Migration thus can be listed as;

International : Crossing the border of a Country

National: Movement between state or provinces

Local: Within city/region; change of income or lifestyle

Voluntary: Outcome of a Choice

Involuntary: Outcome of Constraints

In addition, foreign labor migration, seasonal migration, chain migration and circular migration all can fit in the above diverse categories as per the contextual necessity.

International labor migration is typically circular, as non-permanent movements from host to destination occurs.

- Conflict-induced migration
- Development-induced migration
- Disaster-induced migration
- Policy-induced migration

Vulnerability while migrating : Trafficking and Smuggling

Concluding

- Inadequate human and economic development can be a reason to migrate. Brain-drain, vulnerability in basic necessities, Human development index aspect
- Demographic increase, urbanization
- Climate changes
- Land grabbing
- Persecution (religious, ethnic)
- Personal willingness to migrate
- Sexual identity
- Opportunities
- Globalization

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