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2021

Online at <https://mpra.ub.uni-muenchen.de/108290/>  
MPRA Paper No. 108290, posted 15 Jun 2021 00:47 UTC

# **International Remittances Literature: A Study in Bangladesh during the period of 1971-2020**

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## **Abstract**

Remittance has become a major contributor to the Bangladeshi economy. As the emigrant workers from Bangladesh gradually increased over the years, the amount of annual remittance to the country significantly rose. In 1974, Wage Earners' Scheme was initiated in order to help the Non-resident Bangladeshis remit their earnings home through legal channels. The scheme soon became popular among the Bangladeshis working abroad. Some \$11.8 million was remitted to Bangladesh in the fiscal year of 1974–75. The amount rose to over \$350 million in the fiscal year of 1980-81 and to over \$750 million in the fiscal year of 1990–91. Remittance is sent formally through various ways such as demand draft, traveler's check, telegraphic transfer, postal order, direct transfer, Automatic Teller Machine. etc. Hundi or money carrier system is prevalent as informal process of remittance sending in most cases. The most popular reasons behind the preference towards Hundi system is the absence of any transaction charges, its fast delivery and the opportunity to maintain confidentiality. This research paper is designed to provide an illustrated account of what kind of research has been done on these remittances at home and abroad over the past fifty years.

Keywords: remittances, migration, expatriate, diaspora, temporary, workers, labour, literature.

## 1.1 Introduction

Remittance contributes an important role for alleviating the poverty from the developing and least developed countries. Inflow of remittances support the economic growth of a country at demand and supply sides. The developing countries received \$251 billion remittances out of total world remittances of \$337 billion in 2007 which was 74% of total remittances. The growth rate of remittances of Bangladesh was 18.1% within South Asia region which was the second highest rate in this area. Bangladesh has a long history of supplying human resources to the whole world although the skill level is low because of poor training facilities, unplanned focusing for the development of human resources for export purposes, adverse social climate. Bangladesh searches new nations and sectors of exporting human resources by creating a good relationship with remitter countries and expected remitter countries.

According to Remittance inflow to a report by the Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD), Bangladesh accounted for 6.6% of its GDP in 2020, making it the eighth largest remittance earner in the year. Bangladesh earned \$21.75 billion from expatriates last year an increase of 18.4% from 2019 amid the Covid-19 pandemic. The KNOMAD report said that remittance flows remained resilient in 2020, registering a smaller decline than previously projected despite Covid-19.

As the coronavirus was tearing through the world in February last year, fear gripped Bangladesh that remittance, which has gone on to become one of the lifelines of the economy, would take a massive hit. The inflow of remittance declined from February to April last year when the pandemic was putting down its roots all over the world. But from May onwards, the inflows have been on the rise as countries all over the world gradually started to ease their movement restrictions. Expatriate Bangladeshis sent \$2.06 billion in remittance last month, up 89.17% year-on-year from last April. Remittance inflow increased 39% to \$20 billion in the July-April period of the current fiscal year, compared to the same period of the last fiscal year. According to Bangladesh Bank, “the 2% cash incentive on remittance earning has played a vital role behind this.

The COVID-19 pandemic is adding to these challenges. As the coronavirus outbreak has spread rapidly around the globe, the Bangladeshi government

has struggled to combat it. The public-health crisis has been exacerbated by the economic ripple effects resulting from the pandemic-induced difficulties faced by Bangladeshis working abroad: Large-scale job loss, salary reductions, and increase in deportations from the GCC. The migrant workers’ sudden loss of income and unexpected financial precarity have profound consequences for their families and communities, with remittances that normally equal nearly one-third of Bangladesh’s national budget now predicted to fall significantly.

## 2.1 Methodology

Once the scope was defined, this paper combined in-house expertise libraries or bibliographies referred to us from members of our team with online searches using the citation database ISI Web of Knowledge. A bibliography such as this can hardly be complete. Despite our efforts, it is obvious that there will be gaps. First, the pace of publication is such that a handful of new publications would need to be added every week. Second, our systematic search for journal articles is limited to ISI-indexed journals; many articles from other journals have also been included, but not in an exhaustive way. Third, even with the range of search terms used, we may have missed ISI-indexed articles that address return migration but use an unusual terminology. Finally, there are probably relevant books and book chapters that we simply did not discover. On the other hand, the bibliography also contains entries that may seem at odds with the scope of the bibliography as described above. These are likely to be publications sourced from the pre-existing bibliographies of the team members, which would not have otherwise come up in this searches. Despite these inconsistencies, it is confident that the bibliography constitute a reasonable representation of the literature on return migration. The ambiguities of inclusion and exclusion nevertheless caution against bibliometric analysis.

## 3.1 Findings

The results obtained are divided into the following five categories:

### 3.1.1 During the period of 1971-1980

(Mahmud & Osmani 1980).

### 3.1.2 During the period of 1981-1990

(Quibria & Thant 1988; Stahl & Habib 1989; Peach 1990).

### 3.1.3 During the period of 1991-2000

(Mahmood 1991; Salim 1992; Ahmed 1993; Chowdhury 1992; Ahmad & Zohora 1997; Mahmood 1991; Rahman 1999).

### 3.1.4 During the period of 2001-2010

(Siddiqui & Abrar 2001b; Murshid et al 2002; Pollen 2002; Kuhn & Meneen 2003; Kuddus 2003; Azad 2004; Mannan & Krueger 2004, 2002; Bruyn & Kuddus 2005; Mannan & Kozlov 2005, Al Hasan 2006; Beaudouin 2006; Bruyn & Wets 2006; Haque 2006; Hasan 2006; Protik & Kuhn 2006; Rahman et al 2006; Ullah & Panday 2006; Zamir 2006; Sayan 2006; Barua et al 2007; Higuchi 2007; Khan 2008; Afsar 2009, 2005, 2004, 2003, 2001; Buchenau 2008; Rahman & Yeoh 2008; Rahman & Rahman 2008; Ahmed & Uddin 2009; Farid et al 2009; Mannan & Wei 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006; Raihan et al 2009; Ahmed 2010; Chowdhury et al 2010; Khonkder et al 2010; Mamun & Nath 2010; Orozco 2010).

### 3.1.5 During the period of 2011-2020

(Ahmed 2011; Das & Chowdhury 2011; Chowdhury 2011; Paul & Das 2011; Rahman 2011; Ahmed 2012; Barai 2012; Rao & Hassan 2012; Stevanovic 2012; Abdullah & Hossain 2014; Barkat & Ahmed 2014; Al-Mukit et al 2013; Faroque et al 2013; Hassan & Mark 2013; Khan & Islam 2013; Osmani & Latif 2013; Ali 2014; Chowdhury 2014; Chowdhury & Rabbi 2014; Datta & Sarkar 2014; Hatemi-J & Uddin 2014; Islam 2011; Mannan & Farhana 2014a, 2014b, 2014c, 2014d, 2014e, 2014f, 2014g; Mannan et al 2014; Masuduzzaman 2014; Chowdhury 2015; Pradhan 2015; Mannan & Farhana 2015a, 2015b, 2015c; Mannan & Fredericks 2015; Akter 2016; Azam et al 2016; Haider et al 2016; Hassan et al 2016; IOM 2010, 2009; Islam & Rayhan 2016; Majumder 2016; Osmani 2016a, 2016b; Rashid 2016; Regmi & Paudel 2016; Taguchi & Lama 2016; Hassan & Shakur 2017; Mahmud 2017, 2014; Siddiqui 2016, 2004b; Wadood & Hossain 2017; Ahmed et al 2018; Ghelli 2018; Kumar et al 2018; Sarkar et al 2018; Kumar 2019; Mannan 2017a, 2017b, 2017c, 2016, 2015, 2011a, 2011b; Rahman et al 2020).

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