

International Migration Literature Search in Bangladesh during the period of 1971-2020

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Abstract

The Bangladeshi diaspora consists of people of Bangladeshi descent who have immigrated to or were born in another country. First generation migrants may have moved abroad from Bangladesh for better living conditions, to escape poverty, to support their financial condition or to send money back to families in Bangladesh. With a total of 10 million Bangladeshis living abroad, the country has ranked fifth among top 20 countries of origin for international migrants. There is a large Bangladeshi diaspora population in Saudi Arabia. There are also significant migrant communities in various Arab states of the Persian Gulf, particularly the United Arab Emirates and Oman, where Bangladeshis are mainly classified as foreign workers. British Bangladeshis are mainly concentrated in east London boroughs Tower Hamlets and Newham; the migration to Britain is mainly linked with chain migration from the Sylhet Division. Besides the UK and Middle East, Bangladeshis also have a significant presence in the United States, Malaysia, South Africa, Singapore, and in other Western countries such as Italy, Canada, and Australia. This research paper is designed to provide an illustrated account of what kind of research has been done on these migrants at home and abroad over the past fifty years.

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

1.1 Introduction

Bangladesh has a relatively small land mass of 147,570 sq. km (about 0.03 per cent of the world's land surface) and a population of 144.03 million people making it the 8th largest densely populated (976 person km2) country globally [Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), 2012]. Of its population, 23.30 per cent and 76.60 per cent live in the urban and rural areas, respectively, with an average household size of 4.36 and 4.46, respectively. Agriculture is Bangladesh's main source of livelihood with the labour force 25.7 per cent is involved in agriculture, forestry and fisheries. The major challenge facing Bangladesh is poverty: it ranks 112th among the 123 countries on the human poverty index (IOM 2009). One consequence of its widespread poverty is international migration as a common livelihood strategy for many Bangladeshi households. Remittances sent by its migrant workers contributed 9.04 per cent to the country's GDP in 2010-2011 (BMET 2013).

Globalisation as a phenomenon not only involves the movement of goods and services worldwide but has resulted in major flows of workers across countries in search of livelihoods that are not sustainable in the originating countries. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has accounted in 2000-2010, the global migrant stock has grown twice as fast as in the previous decade, from 2 million per year to about 4.6 million migrants annually in the next decade. There are currently 232 million international migrants globally (UN 2013).

In 2006, migrant worker remittance flows was estimated to be about USD 276 billion internationally, of which USD 206 billion were sent to developing nations (Mannan et al. 2014). The World Bank estimated, the international remittance flows that touched USD550 billion in 2013. It is anticipated to increase by 8 per cent annually over the

subsequent years (Mannan & Farhana 2014). Of the global remittances in 2013, USD\$414 billion were received by the developing nations, such as Bangladesh, China, India, Mexico, the Philippines and Pakistan (Mannan & Farhana 2014).

Bangladesh has been recording migration data officially since 1976 for workers on contract employment in the Middle East. After Independence in 1971, migration was accelerated because of political reasons spreading beyond the Middle East to its neighbouring countries and the EU. International migration has become livelihood strategy reflecting the unstable political and socio-economic situation in Bangladesh.

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 nevertheless exclusion 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

(Hussain 1979; ILO 1980; Islam 1980).

3.1.2 During the period of 1981-1990

(Ali 1981; Ali. & Ali 1981; Boer 1981; Islam 1981; Nasiruddin 1983; Siddiqui 1983; Haque 1984; Carey & Shukur 1985; Habib 1985; Ahmed 1986; Hossain 1986; Osmani 1986; Adams 1987; Islam et al 1987; Alam 1988; Islam 1988; Kibria 1988; McKeigue et al 1988; Eade 1989; Qubria 1989; Rahim 1990).

3.1.3 During the period of 1991-2000

(Islam 1991; Osmani 1991; Tomlinson 1992; Chowdhury 1993; Faraizi 1993; Ghosh 1993;

Summerfield 1993; Gardner & Shukur 1994; King & Knights 1994; Matin 1994; White 1994, 1992; Chowdhury 1995; Eade & Momen 1995; Islam 1995, 1991; Khonkder 1995; Rudinick 1995; Asghar 1996; Eade et al 1996; Kotalova 1996; Knights 1996; Chowdhury 1997; Firoze 1997; Gavron 1997; Islam 1997; Qubria 1997; Ahmed 1998; Chalmers 1998; Eade 1998, 1997a, 1997b, 1994, 1990; Gardner 1998, 1995, 1993a, 1993b, 1992a, 1992b, 1990; Greenhalgh et al 1998; Mahmood 1998, 1996, 1995, 1994a, 1994b, 1992, Zahid 1998; Dannecker 1999; Hadi 1999; Karim et al 1999; Kuhn 1999; Foo 1999; Mannan & Kozlov 1999, 1997, 1995; Siddiqui et al 1999; Abrar 2000; Ahmed 2000; Achacoso 2000; Afsar et al 2000; Ali 2000; A Mu'min et al 2000; Flagstad 2000; Hassan 2000; Hazarika 2000; INSTRAW/IOM 2000; Ishida & Hassan 2000; Kibria 2000, 1997; Mannan & Krueger 2000, 1998, 1996; Rahman 2000; Shamim 2000; Siddiqui & Abrar 2000).

3.1.4 During the period of 2001-2010

(Aziz & Rashid 2001; Blackledge 2001; Hadi 2001; Iredale & Guo 2001; Khanum 2001; Kuhn 2001; Mannan 2001; Naved et al 2001; Rahim 2001; Siddiqui & Abrar 2001; Akram 2002; Barn 2002; Blanchet 2002; Dale et al 2002; Dale et al 2002; Eade & Garbin 2002; Ellickson 2002; Gillan 2002; Mannan & Boucher 2002; Mannan & Krueger 2002; Rahim 2002; Rashid 2002; Reza 2002; Titumir 2002; Akram et al 2003; Baluja 2003; Mahmud 2003; Miyan 2003; Phillipson et al 2003; Abrar 2002, 2005; Akbory 2003; Kuhn 2003; Tahmina 2003; Chakraborty 2004; Datta 2004; Eade 2004; Joshi 2004; Khonkder 2004; Lawson & Sachdev 2004; Menon 2004; Rahman 2004a, 2004b; Ahmed 2005; Ahmed & Uddin 2005; Al-Azami 2005; Blanchet et al 2005; Chowdhury 2005; Dannecker 2005, 2004, 2003; Ghosh 2005; Kershen 2005; Mannan & Kozlov 2003, 2001; Nazneen 2005; Nandy 2005; Ramachandran 2005; Ahmed

2006; Equal Opportunities Commission 2006; Faroque 2006; Gardner & Ahmed 2006; Lian & Rahman 2006; Rahman et al 2006; Tackey et al 2006; Aminuzamman 2007; Ghosh 2007, 2006; Protik & Kuhn 2006; Zeitlyn 2006; Islam 2007; Islam et al 2007; Khonkder 2007; Pichler 2007; Rozario 2007; Salway 2007; Samson 2007; Subban 2007; Dale 2008; Dale & Ahmed 2008; Haque 2008; Begum & Khondaker 2008; Joarder & Hasanuzzaman 2008; Khonkder 2008; Naim & Iftikhar 2008; Shamshad 2008; Sikder 2008; Sultana 2008, 2005; Sultana & Brahmmanbaria 2008; Ward & Spacey 2008; Afsar 2009, 2005, 2004, 2001; Akbar 2009; DCLG 2009; Garbin 2009; Hasan 2009; Moses 2009; Rahman 2009; Sharma & Zaman 2009; Alexander et al 2010; ILO 2010; Kibria 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005, 2004a, 2004b; Khattab et al 2010; Mannan 2010; Mehdi 2010; Rahman 2010).

3.1.5 During the period of 2011-2020

(Ahmad 2011; Deka 2011; Lie 2011; Mohsin 2011; Paul et al 2011; Halder 2012; Mantoo 2012; Akter et al 2013; Alam 2013; ; Bal 2013; Belanger & Rahman 2013; Buchman 2013; Dutta 2012; Islam et al 2013; Ishtiaque & Ullah 2013; Kibria 2013, 2011a, 2011b; Khan & Richardson 2013; Rasinger 2013; Roshid & Chowdhury 2013; Abdullah & Hossain 2014; Al-Azami 2014; Barkat & Ahmed 2014; Barkat et al 2014a, 2014; Bhardwaj 2014; Bose 2014; Das et al 2014; Ghosh 2014; Islam 2014; Iqbal 2014; Joarder et al 2014; MPC 2014; Sarkar & Islam 2014; Sarmah & Protim 2014; Baey & Yeoh 2015; Biswas 2015; GoB-ILO 2015, 2014; Sarma 2015; Mannan & Fredericks 2015; ; ADB & ILO 2016; Chowdhury & Hamid 2016; Das & Talukdar 2016; IOM 2017, 2016, 2014; Kundu 2016; Shafiq 2016; Barkat & Suhrawardy 2017; Barkat et al 2017; Khoda & Shahzada 2017; Siddiqui 2017, 2005, 2004, 2003a, 2003b, 2003c, 2001; Farhana & Mannan 2018a, 2018b; Banik & Kumar 2019; Karim 2020;

Mannan 2020, 2017a, 2017b, 2016, 2015, 2011a, 2011b; Mannan & Farhana 2020, 2018, 2014a, 2014b Mannan et al 2020).

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