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# **Impact of the Global Financial Crisis on Migration and Remittances in Bangladesh: A Survey Based Analysis**

Raihan, Selim

South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM),  
Department of Economics, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

October 2010

Online at <https://mpra.ub.uni-muenchen.de/37946/>  
MPRA Paper No. 37946, posted 09 Apr 2012 13:44 UTC

# **Impact of the Global Financial Crisis on Migration and Remittances in Bangladesh: A Survey Based Analysis**

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**Selim Raihan<sup>1</sup>**

**October 2010**

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<sup>1</sup> Dr. Selim Raihan is Associate Professor, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. This report has been produced for IOM and ADB.

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## **I. BACKGROUND**

International remittance is an important source of foreign exchange income for the developing countries including Bangladesh. The remittance has become a focal issue in economic literature over two or more decades for its increasing volume and important role in poverty reduction. The huge amounts of remittances compared with other internal flows into the economy have macroeconomic effects which may be critical and important for many developing countries.

Half of the top ten recipients of remittances in the world are in Asia (i.e., India, PRC, Philippines, Bangladesh and Pakistan) and such flows contribute substantially to the economy, including household income and expenditure. Slowing growth in the countries importing labor from developing Asia due to the global crisis, results in falling employment that may lead to job protection for local workers over imported labor. This will put the remittance flows at risk and the reduction in flows can be a significant blow to poverty reduction. Alternatively, remittance may increase during the economic downturn, helping counter-balance the drop in a country's alternative sources of foreign funds. Against this backdrop, this study, based on a survey of households, examines the impact of global financial crisis on the flow of remittances into Bangladesh.

This study, based on a household survey, contributes to an enhanced understanding about the impact of the global financial crisis (GFC) on migrant household in Bangladesh. The purpose of this survey was

- to have a sound and complex understanding of the impact of the GFC on migrants and their households
- to integrate information on effective coping mechanisms used by migrants and their households
- to integrate information on different social programs provided by the governments and other public and private institutions to help the migrants and their households
- to disseminate the gathered information in support of the governments of these countries and other stakeholders involved in mitigating the negative impact of the crisis

## II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Raihan et al. (2009) explored the impact of remittances on poverty issues in Bangladesh. The analysis was conducted using two different methodologies: a computable general equilibrium model (CGE) and a micro level analysis of survey data. Under the first approach, the study explored the impact of a reduction in remittances on the poverty headcount ratio, the poverty gap index and the squared poverty gap index. Results indicate that the impact is stronger on the poverty headcount ratio than on the other measures and suggest that 1.7 out of the 9 percentage point reduction in poverty in Bangladesh during 2000-2005 was due to growth in remittances. Using the survey data the study shows that if the household receives remittances, the probability of the household becoming poor decreases by 5.9 percent.

The survey by IOM (2009) generated data from representative sample of 10,926 migrant households in Bangladesh. In general, the migrants were young, 32 years old and family oriented men. The migrants mostly sought low-skilled jobs and were migrated to mainly Middle-East and South East Asia. Generally the migrants were not poor. It was evident that the costs of obtaining the migrant contracts were 5 times the per capita GDP. The migrants were basically from middle class and lower middle class families and they tended to pay the migration cost by selling lands. On average migrants earned Tk 21,363 per month (6 times the GDP per capita in FY09), although the majority (54.3 percent) earned between Tk 10,000 to 20,000 (2.8 to 5.6 times GDP per capita). Migrants saved 62 percent of their income on average and the amount they saved per month constituted 3.7 times the country's monthly GDP per capita. The migrants remitted, on average, Tk. 81,710 per annum, which was 1.9 times per capita annual GDP and 32 percent of migrants' average income. They remitted the money in three to four installments. The average amount remitted constituted 51 percent of migrants' average savings, suggesting a significant part of their savings was not remitted.

Hussain and Naeem (2010) used simple regression to find the key macroeconomic determinants of remittance in Bangladesh. Number of workers finding employment abroad every year, oil price, exchange rate and GDP growth were the key determinants of changes in the level of remittance inflow. The regression results suggest the following: (1) each additional migrant worker brings in \$816 in remittances annually; (2) depreciation of exchange rate by one taka increases annual remittance by \$18 million; (3) remittances are higher during periods of low economic growth; (4) the impact of oil price increase on



Bangladesh's balance of payment is unfavorable. A dollar increase in oil price increases oil import payments by about \$26 million whereas it increases remittances by \$15 million. Thus the impact of a dollar increase in oil price on the balance of payments is a deficit of \$11 million; (5) the amount remitted varies positively by the amount of income migrants earn, the duration of stay, and the level of education. The study also finds that the total local income of recipient households is on average 34 percent lower than non-recipient households. Remittances are mostly sent through banks (73 percent). Only 18 percent migrants reported using informal channels. It takes on average 8.6 days to receive remittances from banks and shorter (4.7 days) through informal channels. 87 percent receiving remittances through formal and informal channels reported not requiring to pay any fee and the other transaction costs (transport) are not very significant.

According to the OXFAM (2010) fears of reduction in remittances and large-scale return of migrants due to global financial crisis have proved largely unfounded. Countries with a high level of female migrants, such as the Philippines, have been particularly resilient. The Overall number of migrants going overseas from Indonesia actually increased by 54 percent (quarter to quarter) between September, 2008 and December, 2008. In Vietnam, some migrants tried to return home but could not find work as farmers because households no longer had sufficient productive land and agricultural incomes were too small. Many of them then returned to the cities. Nonetheless across the region, remittances went down, in part due to drops in male migration (for example, in Indonesia and many parts of the Pacific Islands<sup>28</sup>), and in part due to the fall in the US Dollar (for example, in the Philippines). For some households, the drop in remittances had a serious impact on their incomes, and consequently on food consumption.

Abella and Ducanes (2009) summarized the experiences from some Asian developing countries. According to their analysis Malaysia had more than 2.1 million registered foreign workers, 53 percent of whom were Indonesians, 15 percent Bangladeshis, 10 percent Nepalese, and 7 percent Indians. The official figures, as of September, 2008, appeared to grossly underestimate the number of retrenched foreign workers at less than 6000. The majority of those retrenched were from the manufacturing sector, which together with the services sector, was expected to be the hardest hit by the crisis. Thailand had some 1.8 million foreign workers mostly coming from neighboring Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia. Many were working in agriculture and fishing, food processing, construction, and various

low-skill services. According to the Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI), foreign workers in manufacturing –particularly factory work and food processing, and in agriculture – especially crop farming and animal husbandry, were the most vulnerable to be laid off. Singapore had about 900,000 foreign workers, about 30 percent of its total workforce. Of these, 143,000 were professionals from all over the world and the rest low-skilled workers mainly from other ASEAN countries and from China, India and Sri Lanka. The financial service company Credit Suisse projected that some 100,000 jobs in the manufacturing and services sectors would be lost in 2009. In Bangladesh, the effect of the crisis did not become manifest until January of 2009. Total reported emigration still rose by 5 percent from 2007 to 2008 to reach an all time high of 875 thousand workers. However the volume of emigration in the first month of 2009 was already 40 percent lower than the monthly average from January to November 2008. Some of the decline can be attributed to causes other than the global crisis. Deployment to important destination countries like Malaysia, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia actually started declining in 2008 or even earlier for a variety of reasons, but these were more than offset by large worker flows to UAE and to Singapore. In recent years, annual labour emigration from Sri Lanka averaged over 200 thousand per year, with half of those for employment as housemaids. The government was especially concerned with the bleak economic outlook for UAE where an estimated 150 thousands Sri Lankans were employed. Until the end of 2008 the number of Sri Lankans reported to be laid off appeared insignificant, but the government expected the situation to become much worse.

### **III. METHODOLOGY**

A primary survey on 217 households was conducted based on a questionnaire. The survey questionnaire, which was developed by IOM Manila, was written in English and was translated into Bangla.

The household survey was implemented by collecting data from 217 random samples of migrant households from three Upazillas in three Zillas. A migrant household has been defined as a household that had at least one of its members lived/worked abroad during August 2007 and September 2008 and lived/worked abroad or returned back home afterwards. The selection of the migrant household was made independently of their current

status (i.e. regular or irregular) in the country of destination. The distribution of samples is provided in Table 1:

**Table 1: Distribution of Samples**

<b>Name of District</b>	<b>Name of Upazilla</b>	<b>Name of Village</b>	<b>Number of Sample Households</b>
Manikganj	Singair	Khan Baniara and Hindu Baniara	75
Gazipur	Joydevpur	Bhanua and Pajulia	77
Hobiganj	Hobiganj Sadar	Pailgram, Richi and Nabiganj	65
			Total = 217

The selection of these three upazillas facilitates drawing information on migrants from diverse backgrounds. The migrants from Singair upazilla in Manikganj district have destinations in different countries in Middle East. Also, there are both male and female migrants. In Joydevpur upazilla in Gazipur district, also the migrants have destinations in Middle Eastern countries. In Hobiganj Sadar upazilla in Hobiganj district have migrants destined primarily in the UK.

In addition to the household survey, two Focused Group Discussions (FGDs) were conducted: one in Manikganj and the other one in Hobiganj. The report of these FGDs is provided in the Annex.

In the survey and FGDs the comparison is made between the pre and post global economic crisis. The period between August 2007 and September 2008 is considered as “Before” and the period between October 2008 and September 2009 is considered as “after”.

#### **IV. MIGRANT HOUSEHOLD PROFILE: IMPACT OF THE GFC**

Table 2 provides information on the age-composition of the household members in the migrant households. It appears that, on average, there has not been any significant change in the composition of household members during the period under consideration. However, for the age category 20-24, households in Gazipur experienced decline in the average number of family members.

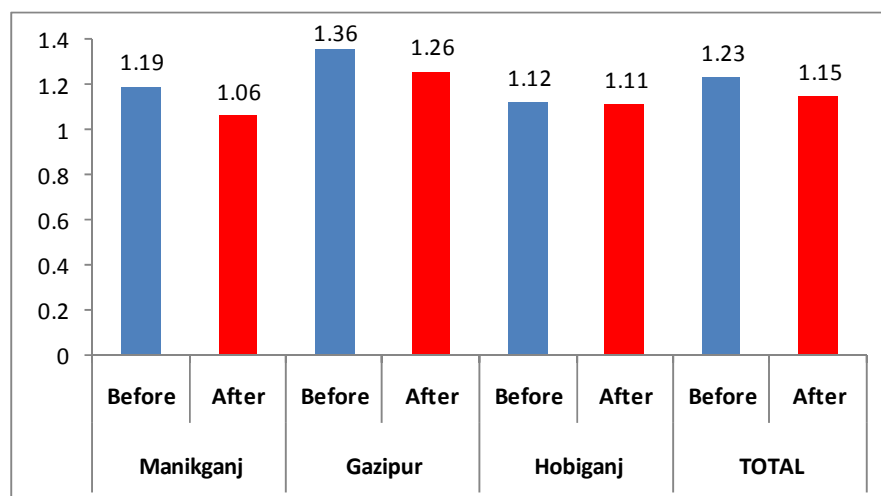
**Table 2: Average number of family members (excluding migrant workers) by different age groups before and after the GFC (HP1)**

	Manikganj		Gazipur		Hobiganj		TOTAL	
	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After
Age 0-1	0.19	0.11	0.13	0.05	0.05	0.09	0.13	0.08
Age 2-6	0.47	0.48	0.46	0.43	0.47	0.50	0.47	0.47
Age 7-14	0.57	0.59	0.39	0.43	0.58	0.53	0.51	0.51
Age 15-19	0.32	0.31	0.26	0.25	0.55	0.56	0.37	0.36
Age 20-24	0.36	0.37	0.46	0.42	0.47	0.47	0.43	0.42
Age 25-59	0.91	0.91	0.89	0.95	0.97	0.97	0.92	0.94
Age 60 and over	0.35	0.33	0.39	0.38	0.48	0.52	0.40	0.40

Note: Before = Aug 2007 - Sep 2008 and After = Oct 2008 - Sep 2009

Figure 1 suggests that, on average, the number of family members working abroad declined during the GFC. For the total sample, the fall in this number is 6.5 percent. However, households in Manikganj appear to experience largest fall in outward migration followed by Gazipur. The households in Hobiganj experienced lowest fall among the three districts.

**Figure 1: Average number of family members working abroad (HP2)**



	Manikganj	Gazipur	Hobiganj	TOTAL
% change	-10.92	-7.35	-0.89	-6.50

Note: Before = Aug 2007 - Sep 2008 and After = Oct 2008 - Sep 2009

The survey also explored the highest level of achievements by the migrants due to migration. It appears that earning more money is the dominant achievement by the migrants (Table 3).

However, in Hobiganj, 15 percent of the households reported that the migrants also gained new knowledge and skills as a result of migration.

**Table 3: The biggest achievement of the migrants so far (% of Households) (HP3)**

	<b>Manikganj</b>	<b>Gazipur</b>	<b>Hobiganj</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Earn More	94.6	98.7	84.6	93.1
Gain new knowledge and skills	2.7	1.3	15.4	4.6
Others	2.7			2.3

It appears that on average around 41 percent of migrant households have 'illiterate' household heads (Table 4). The educational background of the migrant households is however different among the three districts. In Manikganj, more than two-third of the migrants are from the households with illiterate heads, whereas in Gazipur and Hobiganj the corresponding figures are only 26.3 and 29.2 percent respectively. Thus educated households appear to have larger proportion of migrants in Gazipur and Hobiganj.

**Table 4: The highest education completed by the household head (% of Households) (HP4)**

	<b>Manikganj</b>	<b>Gazipur</b>	<b>Hobiganj</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Illiterate	66.2	26.3	29.2	40.9
Primary (upto V or equivalent)	17.6	27.6	23.1	22.8
Junior secondary (VIII)	10.8	28.9	24.6	21.4
Secondary (SSC)	4.1	14.5	13.8	10.7
College/ University/ Masters	1.4	2.6	9.2	4.2

Table 5 suggests that in Manikganj and Gazipur domestic work and agricultural work are the major occupations of the migrant households. However, in Hobiganj, agricultural work and business are the two major occupations. The rate of unemployment among the household heads appears to be very high in Hobiganj.

**Table 5: The usual occupation of the household head (% of Households) (HP5)**

	Manikganj	Gazipur	Hobiganj	TOTAL
Domestic works	44.0	47.4	7.8	34.4
Construction labour	2.7	1.3	3.1	2.3
Agricultural Work	36.0	27.6	32.8	32.1
Business		1.3	14.1	4.7
Service worker	2.7	1.3	4.7	2.8
Cleek/ administrative worker		5.3	4.7	3.3
Technical/ professional worker	1.3		1.6	0.9
Unemployed	4.0	6.6	17.2	8.8
Other	9.3	9.2	14.0	10.7

Table 6 suggests that the household heads who are engaged in household works, construction and farming are mostly illiterate and a small percentage of them have primary and junior secondary education. Some the unemployed household heads have primary and junior secondary education but find it difficult to get a job. Education up to secondary and college/university level are very rare among the Household heads

**Table 6: Head Job and his/her Education Level (% of households) (HP4 and HP5)**

	Illiterate	Primary (up to V or equivalent)	Junior secondary (VIII)	Secondary (SSC)	College/ University/ Masters	Total
Household works	40.29	25	25	6.94	2.77	100.00
Construction labor	100	0	0	0	0	100.00
Farmer	52.17	27.55	11.6	8.68	0	100.00
Service worker	0	33.33	16.67	33.33	16.67	100.00
Clerk/ administrative worker	14.29	14.29	42.86	0	28.57	100.00
Technical/ professional worker	0	50	0	50	0	100.00
Unemployed	36.87	15.75	42.12	5.25	0	100.00
Other	28.15	15.6	18.72	25.03	12.48	

Table 7 shows that the average monthly income of the migrant households, on average, declined by 2.15 percent during the crisis. However, Hobiganj experienced average fall in income by 13.6 percent and Manikganj experienced the fall by 9.3 percent. In contrast, Gazipur experienced a rise by 20.7 percent.

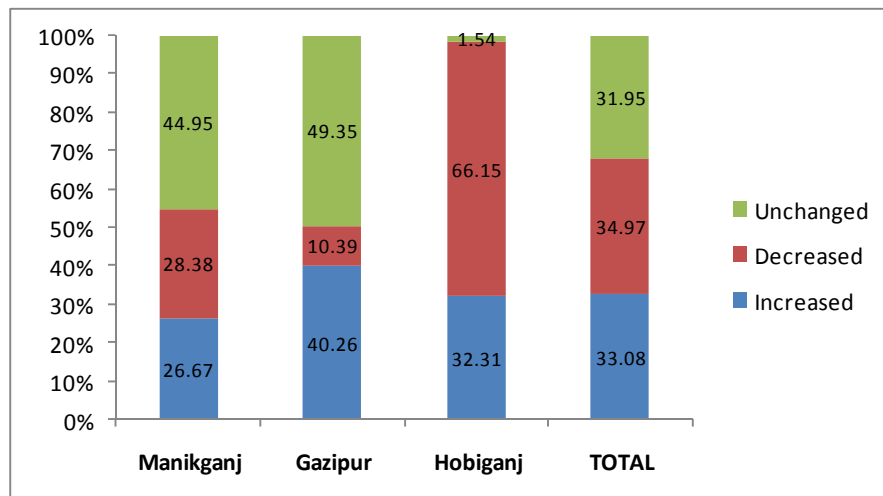
**Table 7: Average monthly household income (HP6)**

	Manikganj		Gazipur		Hobiganj		TOTAL	
	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After
Income (taka)	14223	12899	17693	21350	31169	26938	20573	20131
% change		-9.3		20.67		-13.57		-2.15

Note: Before = Aug 2007 - Sep 2008 and After = Oct 2008 - Sep 2009

In Hobiganj, more than two-third of the migrant households experienced fall in average income (Figure 2). In Manikganj, such figure is 28.4 percent and in Gazipur, only 10.4 percent households experienced fall in income. In Gazipur, 40 percent of the households experienced rise in income. Close to 50 percent of the households in Manikganj and Gazipur however experienced no change on income during that period.

**Figure 2: % of households experienced rise and fall in income (HP6)**



Compared to the pre-crisis period during the crisis period, the source of monthly income from agricultural work increased in Manikganj and Gazipur, but slightly declined in Hobiganj (Table 8). The income from non-agricultural works however increased in all three regions. The remittance income declined in Manikganj and Hobiganj, but increased in Gazipur.

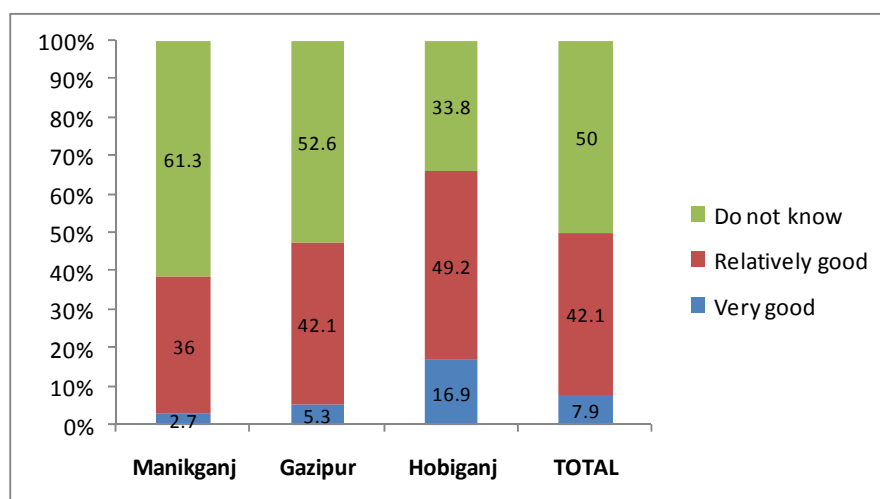
**Table 8: Changes in the sources of monthly income and their fluctuation between 2008 and 2009 (HP7)**

	Manikganj	Gazipur	Hobiganj	TOTAL
Agricultural works	3.53	3.14	2.98	3.04
Non-agricultural works	3.08	3.44	3.4	3.45
Foreign currency/ remittance	2.86	3.27	2.98	2.96
Income from bank savings	3.5	3.57	3.42	3.21
Rent income	3.6	3.5	3.33	3.4
Other earnings from investment	3.6	3.67	3.39	3.42
Pension and retired benefits		3	3.17	3.1
Shop	3.5		3	3.25
Poultry		2	2	2
Job		3		3
Other			3.33	3.33

Note: 1 = Much less, 2 = Less, 3 = Same, 4 = More, 5 = Much more

On average 50 percent of the migrant households do not have any knowledge about the global financial crisis (Figure 3). This percentage is the highest in Manikganj, where 61 percent of the households fall into this category. The knowledge on GFC appears to be much better among the migrant households in Hobiganj as 49 percent households have relatively good knowledge and 17 percent households have very good knowledge on this.

**Figure 3: Knowledge about the Global financial crisis(% of Households) (HP8)**

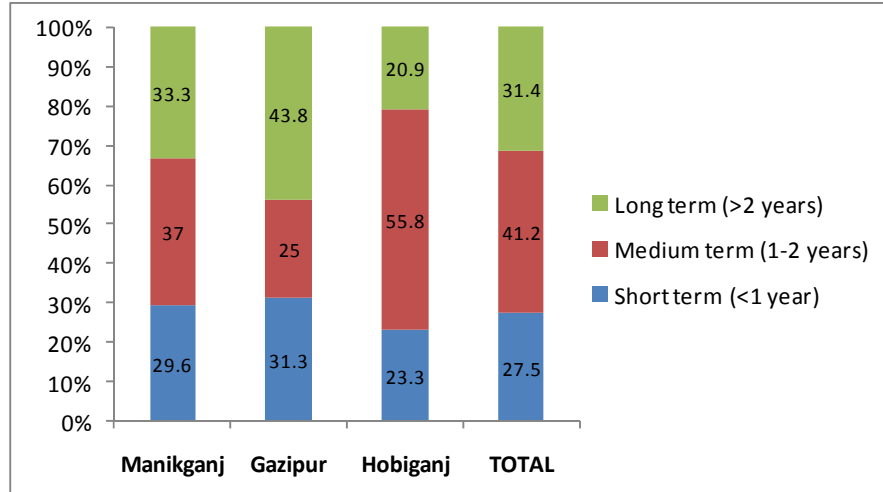


The households who had either 'relatively good' or 'very good' knowledge on global financial crisis also expressed their view on the duration of the crisis. Figure 4 suggests that majority of the households, on average, held the view that the impact of the crisis would last



for 1-2 years. However, in Gazipur, majority of the households feared that such impact would continue for more than 2 years.

**Figure 4: If the answer to the previous question is YES, the expected period of the impact (HP9)**



On average, the migrant households had to search more for jobs during the crisis period compared to the pre-crisis period (Table 9). The job-searching was the most acute for the migrants from Gazipur. Income and overall livelihood deteriorated in Manikganj and Hobiganj, but increased in Gazipur.

**Table 9: Impact of global financial crisis on the job, income and livelihood**

	Manikganj	Gazipur	Hobiganj	TOTAL
Searching job	3.86	4.25	2.27	3.46
Income/ wage	2.58	3.47	2.21	2.75
Overall livelihood	2.08	3.5	2.33	2.63

Note: 1 = Much less, 2 = Less, 3 = Same, 4 = More, 5 = Much more

## V. REMITTANCE BEHAVIOR OF THE MIGRANT HOUSEHOLDS: IMPACT OF GFC

The impact of global financial crisis on remittance inflow appears to be evident in Table 10. On average, there has been a 6.4 percentage point drop in the number of households receiving remittances from the migrants. The situation is worst in Manikganj where the drop is by 12.3 percentage point. The impact appears to be the lowest in Gazipur.

**Table 10: Receiving remittances from the migrants (% of Households) (RM1)**

	Manikganj		Gazipur		Hobiganj		TOTAL	
	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After
% of Households	98.6	86.5	94.6	93.2	93.8	89.2	95.8	89.7
Percentage Point Change		-12.27		-1.48		-4.90		-6.37

Note: Before = Aug 2007 - Sep 2008 and After = Oct 2008 - Sep 2009

Global financial crisis also led to reduced frequency of receipt of remittance money by the migrant households. Table 11 shows that households experienced reduced frequencies of 'monthly', 'every other month' and 'four time a year' receipt of remittance money. Lesser frequent options like 'twice a year', 'once a year' however became more prominent during the crisis period.

**Table 11: If the answer to the previous question is yes, then the frequency of receiving remittances (RM2)**

	Manikganj		Gazipur		Hobiganj		TOTAL	
	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After
Monthly	5.3	2.7	23.4	24.7	4.6	0.0	11.5	9.7
Every other month	29.3	25.3	37.7	31.2	20.0	13.9	29.5	24.0
Four times a year	46.7	37.3	20.8	18.2	47.7	20.0	37.8	25.4
Twice a year	5.3	10.7	6.5	10.4	10.8	40.0	7.4	19.4
Once a year	2.7	2.7	1.3	0.0	6.2	13.9	3.2	5.1
Other	10.7	14.7	3.9	7.8	4.6	1.5	6.5	8.3

Note: Before = Aug 2007 - Sep 2008 and After = Oct 2008 - Sep 2009

It also appears from Table 12 that the households who used to receive remittance on a monthly basis before the crisis, around 87 percent of them received remittances on the monthly basis after the crisis. Such figure for the households who received remittances every other month is 77.4 percent. For the households receiving remittances four times a year before the crisis, almost 38 percent of them experienced lesser frequency of remittance receipt during the crisis. Those households who were receiving remittances twice a year before the crisis, 27 percent of them received remittances less than twice a year during the crisis.

**Table 12: Frequency of remittances received before and after (RM1 and RM2)**

		Remittance (after the crisis)					
		Monthly	Every other month	4 times a year	Twice a year	Once a year	Other
Remittance (before the crisis)	Monthly	86.96	4.35	0.00	0.00	4.35	4.35
	Every other month	0.00	77.42	8.06	6.45	0.00	8.06
	4times a year	0.00	2.47	59.26	25.93	6.17	6.17
	Twice a year	0.00	0.00	6.67	66.67	13.33	13.33
	Once a year	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	33.33	16.67
	Other	14.29	14.29	0.00	0.00	0.00	71.43

Note: Before = Aug 2007 - Sep 2008 and After = Oct 2008 - Sep 2009

The channels of inflow of remittance also experienced some major changes (Table 13). During the economic crisis, the importance of bank was reduced and the use of money transfer organization increased. The fall in the use of bank and rise in the use of money transfer organizations is rather dramatic in Hobiganj. There has been reduced use of *hundi* (illegal and informal transfer) during the period of economic crisis.

**Table 13: If the answer to RM1 is yes, the major way of remittance received (only for those who have received remittances, in percentage) (RM3)**

	Manikganj		Gazipur		Hobiganj		TOTAL	
	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After
Bank	76.00	66.67	76.62	64.94	63.64	31.17	76.04	57.14
Money transfer organization	1.33	5.33	9.09	18.18	3.90	36.36	5.07	21.20
Friends/ colleagues	2.67	2.67	1.30	1.30	0.00	1.30	1.38	1.84
Hundi	13.33	9.33	7.79	6.49	6.49	3.90	9.68	6.91
Other	2.67	1.33			5.19	2.60	2.76	1.38

Note: Before = Aug 2007 - Sep 2008 and After = Oct 2008 - Sep 2009

Table 14 suggests that households who were receiving remittances from banks before the crisis, only 76.8 percent of them were also receiving remittances through banks after the crisis. 19 percent of those households were receiving remittances through MTOs. Also, there was reduced importance of hundi as 40 percent of the households who received remittances through hundi before the crisis, received remittances through banks or MTOs after the crisis.

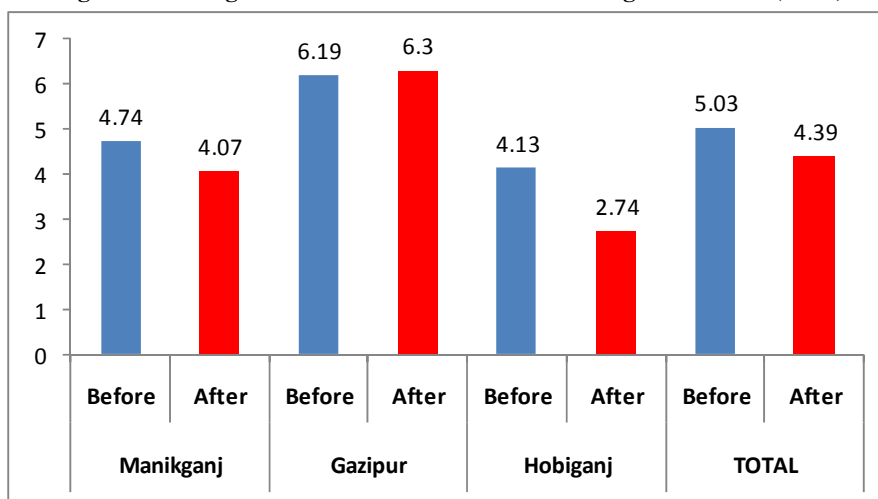
**Table 14: Mode of remittances before and after (RM1 and RM3)**

		Mode (after the crisis)				
		Bank	MTOs	Friends/ Co-worker	Hundi	other
Mode (before the crisis)	Bank	76.82	19.21	0.66	2.65	0.66
	MTOs	10.00	90.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Friends/Co-worker	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
	Hundi	20.00	20.00	0.00	60.00	0.00
	other	37.50	50.00	0.00	0.00	12.50

Note: Before = Aug 2007 - Sep 2008 and After = Oct 2008 - Sep 2009

The average number of transactions of receiving remittances also reduced from 5.03 to 4.39 during the crisis period. The largest fall is observed in Hobiganj. Households in Gazipur however experienced some rise.

**Figure 5: Average number of transactions of receiving remittances (RM4)**



Note: Before = Aug 2007 - Sep 2008 and After = Oct 2008 - Sep 2009

Households, on average, experienced 18.8 percent fall in remittance income during the crisis period (Table 15). The severe impact is observed in Hobiganj where migrant households encountered 58 percent fall in remittance income. Gazipur, however, was the exception.

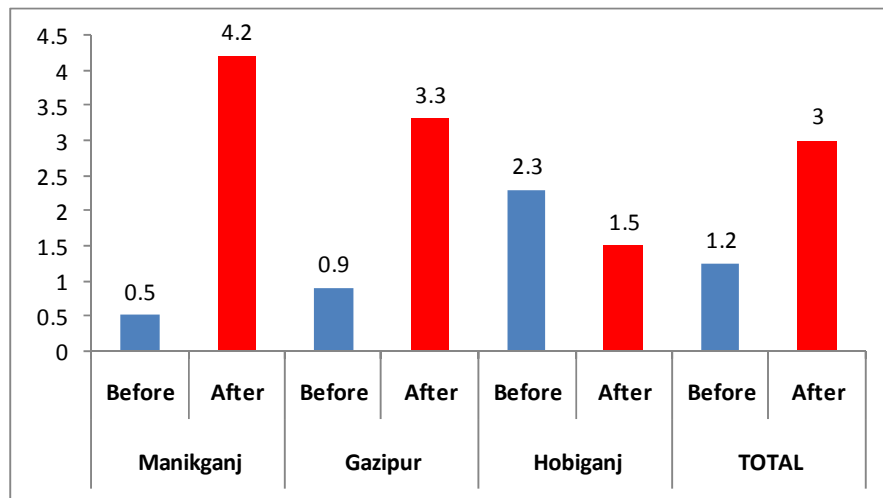
**Table 15: Average amount of remittances received (RM5)**

	Manikganj		Gazipur		Hobiganj		TOTAL	
	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After
<b>Average (Taka)</b>	137608	132403	138806	157286	201593	84466	156444	127077
<b>% Change</b>		-3.78		13.31		-58.10		-18.77

Note: Before = Aug 2007 - Sep 2008 and After = Oct 2008 - Sep 2009

The crisis also compelled some households to send money to their migrant members. Before the crisis, only 1.2 percent household sent money abroad, which increased to 3 percent during the crisis (Figure 6). The rise in percent of households is most prominent in Manikganj where such figure increased from only 0.5 percent before the crisis to 4.2 percent during the crisis.

**Figure 6: Sending money to the migrants while he/she staying abroad (% of households) (RM6)**



Note: Before = Aug 2007 - Sep 2008 and After = Oct 2008 - Sep 2009

On average, there has been some rise in the use of remittance money for all categories of expenses. However, the migrant households in Hobiganj experiences some fall in the use of remittance money on expenditures like education, durable, utility bills and investment (Table 16).

**Table 16: Change in the use of the remittances between 2008 and 2009 (RM9)**

	Manikganj	Gazipur	Hobiganj	TOTAL
Food	3.47	3.58	3.02	3.36
Tobacco	3.80	4.00	2.40	3.40
Education	3.64	3.80	2.74	3.39
Medical care	3.69	3.56	3.41	3.55
Housing (i.e. rent, house maintenance and repair)	3.91	3.61	4.00	3.84
Household operation (e.g. domestic services, etc.)	3.08	3.33	3.50	3.30
Personal care goods	3.00	3.33	3.00	3.11
Durables; furniture and equipment (e.g cars)	3.11	3.57	2.89	3.19
Utilities bills (i.e., electricity, water, gas, etc.)	3.38	3.32	2.00	2.90
Communication and transportation	3.07	3.57	3.11	3.25
Leisure goods (e.g. recreational goods, travel, etc.)	3.00	3.75	3.34	3.36
Gifts/Donation to individuals and/or institution	3.57	2.67	3.20	3.15
Special occasions (e.g. marriage, funeral, etc.)	4.00	3.31	3.19	3.50
Savings	3.00	3.88	3.90	3.59
Investment	3.86	3.86	2.21	3.31
Loan repayment	3.87	3.87	3.18	3.75
Land purchase	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
Eid/hajj			4.00	4.00

Note: 1 = Much less, 2 = Less, 3 = Same, 4 = More, 5 = Much more

The households who experienced fall in remittance income, significant percentages of them also experienced fall in spending on all categories of items and especially on food, education and health. Also, fall in spending on durables and savings appears to be very prominent (Table 17).

**Table 17: Use of remittance by change in its amount between 2008 and 2009 for the households who experienced fall in remittance income (% of households) (RM5 and RM9)**

Items	Much less	Less	Same	More	Much more
Food	1.35	28.38	21.62	48.65	0.00
Tobacco and Alcohol	0.00	40.00	40.00	20.00	0.00
Education	2.04	30.61	20.41	44.90	2.04
Medical care	0.00	12.24	32.65	51.02	4.08
Housing (i.e. rent, house maintenance and repair)	0.00	0.00	25.00	37.50	37.50
Household operation (e.g. domestic services, etc.)	0.00	7.69	69.23	23.08	0.00

Personal care goods	0.00	23.08	69.23	7.69	0.00
Durables; furniture and equipment (e.g. cars)	14.29	64.29	0.00	21.43	0.00
Utilities bills (i.e., electricity, water, gas, etc.)	0.00	14.29	57.14	28.57	0.00
Communication & Transportations(e.g. cell phone, etc.)	0.00	10.34	44.83	44.83	0.00
Leisure goods (e.g. recreational goods, travel, etc.)	0.00	0.00	87.50	12.50	0.00
Gifts/Donation to individuals and/or institution	0.00	6.67	40.00	53.33	0.00
Special occasions (e.g. marriage, funeral, etc.)	0.00	8.33	8.33	70.83	12.50
Savings	7.32	70.73	9.76	12.20	0.00
Investment	4.35	30.43	17.39	43.48	4.35
Others	0.00	10.34	10.34	62.07	17.24

In contrast, the households who experienced rise in remittance income, significant percentages of them also experienced rise in spending on all categories of items and especially on food, education and health. Also, rise in spending on durables and savings appears to be very prominent (Table 18).

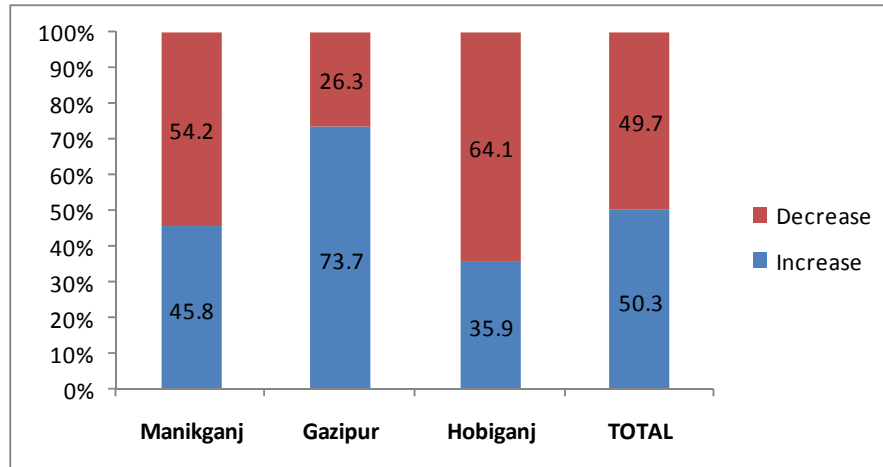
**Table 18: Use of remittance by change in its amount between 2008 and 2009 for the households who experienced rise in remittance income (% of households) (RM5 and RM9)**

Items	Much less	Less	Same	More	Much more
Food	0.00	4.92	34.43	60.66	0.00
Tobacco and Alcohol	0.00	0.00	33.33	66.67	0.00
Education	0.00	10.64	23.40	65.96	0.00
Medical care	0.00	2.78	36.11	55.56	5.56
Housing (i.e. rent, house maintenance and repair)	0.00	5.88	47.06	41.18	5.88
Household operation (e.g. domestic services, etc.)	0.00	0.00	66.67	33.33	0.00
Personal care goods	0.00	16.67	83.33	0.00	0.00
Durables; furniture and equipment (e.g. cars)	0.00	0.00	20.00	80.00	0.00
Utilities bills (i.e., electricity, water, gas, etc.)	0.00	4.17	62.50	33.33	0.00
Communication & Transportations(e.g. cell phone, etc.)	0.00	7.69	30.77	61.54	0.00
Leisure goods (e.g. recreational goods, travel, etc.)	0.00	0.00	50.00	50.00	0.00
Gifts/Donation to individuals and/or institution	0.00	20.00	80.00	0.00	0.00
Special occasions (e.g. marriage, funeral, etc.)	11.11	0.00	11.11	55.56	22.22
Savings	5.56	33.33	16.67	27.78	16.67
Investment	0.00	0.00	0.00	87.50	12.50
Others	0.00	10.00	15.00	60.00	15.00

## VI. THE GFC AND THE MIGRANT HOUSEHOLD’S COPING MECHANISM

Almost 50 percent of the migrant households, on average, experienced fall in income during the period under consideration (Figure 7). The negative impact is most prominent in Hobiganj where 64 percent of the migrant households incurred fall in income. The situation is different in Gazipur where 73.7 percent migrant households had rise in income.

**Figure 7: Change in Household Income between 2008 and 2009 (% of households) (HC1)**



On average, 51.88 percent of the households who experienced fall in income during the crisis period reported that it was due to the reduction in remittance income (Table 19). The situation is the worst in Gazipur.

**Table 19: If the answer to HC1 is “decrease” then the reasons (% of households) (HC2)**

	Manikganj	Gazipur	Hobiganj	TOTAL
Reduction in remittance income	47.82	62.50	34.99	51.88
Job loss among family members	43.48	25.00	5.00	9.22
Wage cut among family members	8.70	12.50	37.55	26.62
Others	0.00	0.00	22.46	12.29

The migrant households had to work more to compensate the loss in income. Borrowing money and using savings are also two other important options (Table 20).



**Table 20: If the answer to HC1 is “decrease” then the reduction has been compensated (% of households) (HC3)**

	<b>Manikganj</b>	<b>Gazipur</b>	<b>Hobiganj</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Working More	0.00	37.84	78.19	50.84
Borrowing Money	33.33	37.84	9.57	18.73
Using Savings	60.71	24.32	9.57	26.09
Selling Valuable assets	5.95	0.00	0.00	2.68
Other	0.00	0.00	2.66	1.67

More than 45 percent of the households who experienced reduction in remittance income had to work more for the compensation of loss in incomes (Table 21). 50 percent of the households who experienced job loss among family members compensated it through their savings. Major source of compensation for income loss among the households who experienced wage cut was working more hours to earn their livelihoods.

**Table 21: Reason of Income loss and ways to compensate it (HC2 and HC3)**

		<b>How to compensate for income loss</b>				
		<b>Working More</b>	<b>Borrowing</b>	<b>Saving</b>	<b>Selling</b>	<b>Other</b>
<b>Reason for decrease in income</b>	Reduction in remittance incomes	45.45	18.18	33.33	0.00	3.03
	Job loss among family members	0.00	16.67	50.00	16.67	16.67
	Wage cut among family members	64.71	23.53	11.76	0.00	0.00
	Other	87.50	12.50	0.00	0.00	0.00

Around 97 percent of the migrant households also experienced rise in household expenditure during the crisis period (Table 22).

**Table 22: % of households experienced rise in household expenditure between 2008 and 2009 (HC4)**

<b>Manikganj</b>	<b>Gazipur</b>	<b>Hobiganj</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
94.1	98.4	98.5	96.9

Table 23 suggests that there were rise in household expenditure for almost all categories of household expenses during the crisis period.

**Table 23: Change in the component of household expenditure between 2008 and 2009 (HC7)**

	Manikganj	Gazipur	Hobiganj	TOTAL
Food	3.52	3.56	3.86	3.65
Tobacco	4.00	3.67	3.04	3.57
Education	3.57	3.77	3.57	3.64
Medical care	3.79	3.53	3.70	3.67
Housing (i.e. rent, house maintenance and repair)	3.86	3.55	4.00	3.80
Household operation (e.g. domestic services, etc.)	3.12	3.29	4.00	3.47
Personal care goods	3.00	3.40	3.23	3.21
Durables; furniture and equipment (e.g cars)	3.29	3.48	2.56	3.11
Utilities bills (i.e., electricity, water, gas, etc.)	3.22	3.48	2.56	3.09
Communication and transportation	3.14	3.25	3.92	3.44
Leisure goods (e.g. recreational goods, travel, etc.)	3.14	3.54	3.69	3.46
Gifts/Donation to individuals and/or institution	4.00	3.50	3.22	3.57
Special occasions (e.g. marriage, funeral, etc.)	2.72	2.40	3.65	2.92
Savings	3.44	3.27	3.97	3.56
Investment	3.67	4.13	2.55	3.45
Loan repayment	4.03	3.07	4.00	3.70

Note: 1 = Much less, 2 = Less, 3 = Same, 4 = More, 5 = Much more

Very few households received any form of assistance from the government (Table 24). Only 8.76 percent of the households received some credit or loan from the NGOs. Households only in Manikganj and Gazipur could avail this assistance. However, households in Hobiganj could have some assistance only from friends or relatives or from some other sources. Only households in Hobiganj received some forms of cash support from friend and relatives. There was no training or job opportunities offered by the government or any other institutions.

**Table 24: Any assistance received from any institution (% of households) (HC8)**

	Manikganj		Gazipur		Hobiganj		TOTAL	
	Credit/ Loan	Cash	Credit/ Loan	Cash	Credit/ Loan	Cash	Credit/ Loan	Cash
Govt.	1.33						0.46	0.00
NGO	18.67		6.49				8.76	0.00
Friends/ relatives	4.00		1.30		6.15	9.23	3.69	2.76
Other	1.33		3.90			3.08	1.84	0.92

\*No training, Job was provided by any institution.

The average assessments on the assistance received by the households are rather poor (Table 25). Credit or loan appeared to be insufficient and thus less than important. However, cash support was just sufficient for the recipient households in Hobiganj.

**Table 25: Assessment on the assistance received (HC9)**

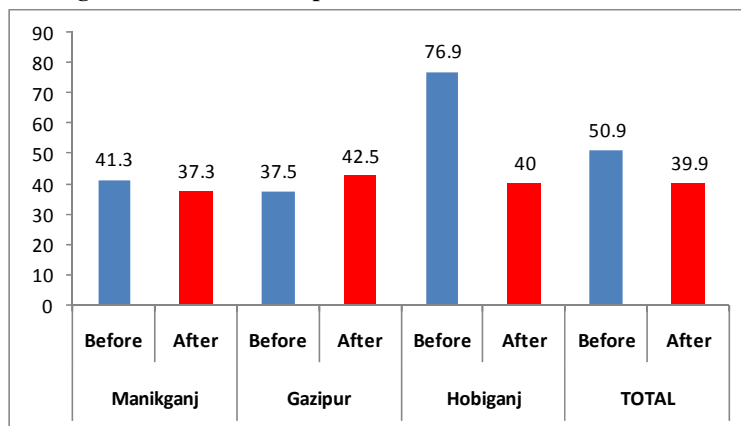
	Manikganj	Gazipur	Hobiganj	TOTAL
Credit/Loan	2.83	2.59	2.00	2.47
Cash			3.00	3.00

Note: 1 = not important, 2 = less important, 3 = important, 4 = very important

## VII. SAVINGS AND INVESTMENT BEHAVIOR OF MIGRANT HOUSEHOLD: IMPACT OF GFC

The global economic crisis, in general, appears to have negative impact on savings behavior of the households. Before the crisis, on average, 50.9 percent household used to save; however this proportion came down to 39.9 percent during the crisis. The largest fall in observed in Hobiganj where this proportion came down from 76.9 percent to only 40 percent. However, in Gazipur, there was a rise in this proportion.

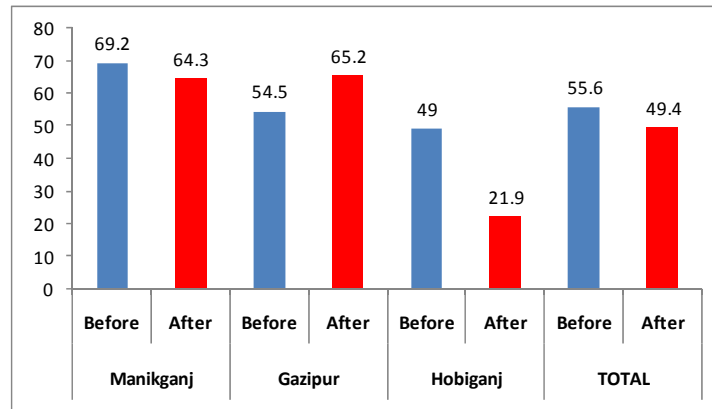
**Figure 8: Saving conducted before September 2008 and in 2009 (% of households) (SI1)**



Note: Before = Aug 2007 - Sep 2008 and After = Oct 2008 - Sep 2009

The households who conducted savings were also asked whether they could save as scheduled. On average, 55.6 percent household could save as scheduled before the crisis and this proportion came down to 49.4 percent during the crisis. Again, Hobiganj appears to be worst affected.

**Figure 9: If answer to SI1 is yes, conducting saving as scheduled? (SI2)**



Note: Before = Aug 2007 - Sep 2008 and After = Oct 2008 - Sep 2009

There is no clear pattern of changes in savings behavior among the migrant households during the crisis period. However, more frequent options like “monthly” and “four times a year” became less prominent and less frequent option like “once a year” became more prominent during the period under consideration (Table 26).

**Table 26: If the answer to SI1 is yes, the frequency of savings (SI3)**

	Manikganj		Gazipur		Hobiganj		TOTAL	
	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After
Monthly	45.2	45.2	74.1	71.0	16.0	7.7	45.10	41.30
Every other month	12.9	9.7	7.4	12.9	8.0	11.5	9.43	11.37
Four times a year	9.7	6.5	3.7	3.2	20.0	11.5	11.13	7.07
Twice a year		3.2			34.0	30.8	11.33	11.33
Once a year	6.5	12.9	3.7	3.2	22.0	38.5	10.73	18.20
Random	25.4	22.6	11.1	9.7			12.17	10.77

Note: Before = Aug 2007 - Sep 2008 and After = Oct 2008 - Sep 2009

There has been a decline in the average amount of savings during the crisis period by 19.44 percent (Table 27). Households in Hobiganj appears to be worst affected as the amount was reduced by 41.22 percent. Households in Manikganj also experienced a fall in savings amount by 38.4 percent. Again, households in Gazipur, on average, were able to increase savings amount by 12.35 percent.

**Table 27: Average amount of savings in 2008 and 2009 (SI3)**

	Manikganj		Gazipur		Hobiganj		TOTAL	
	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After
<b>Average (taka)</b>	76625	47225	89980	101093	74730	43923	78925	63575
<b>% Change</b>		-38.4		12.35		-41.22		-19.44

Note: Before = Aug 2007 - Sep 2008 and After = Oct 2008 - Sep 2009

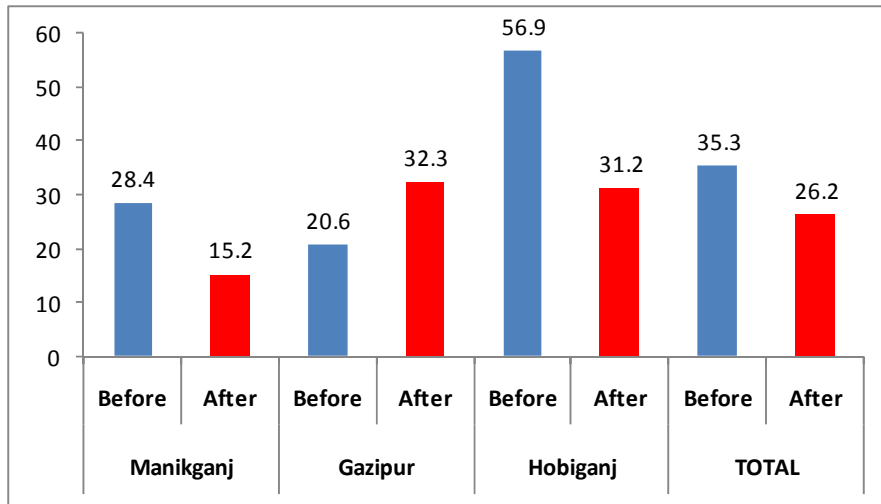
Table 28 suggests that the households who were conducting saving on a monthly basis before the crisis, 97 percent of them were doing the same even after the crisis. However, the correspond figures are 77.8 percent, 55.6 percent and 50 percent for the households who were conducting savings ‘every other month’, ‘4 times a years and ‘twice a year’ respectively before the crisis.

**Table 28: Saving before and after (% of households) (SI1 and SI3)**

		Savings conducted (after)					
		Monthly	Every other month	4times a year	Twice a year	Once a year	Other
<b>Saving (Before)</b>	Monthly	96.97	0.00	3.03	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Every other month	0.00	77.78	0.00	22.22	0.00	0.00
	4times a year	11.11	0.00	55.56	22.22	11.11	0.00
	Twice a year	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	50.00	0.00
	Once a year	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00
	Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	50.00

The investment behaviors of the households are very similar to their savings behavior (Figure 10). There has been decline in the percentage of households conducting investment during the crisis period and again households in Hobiganj reduced their investment drastically during the crisis period.

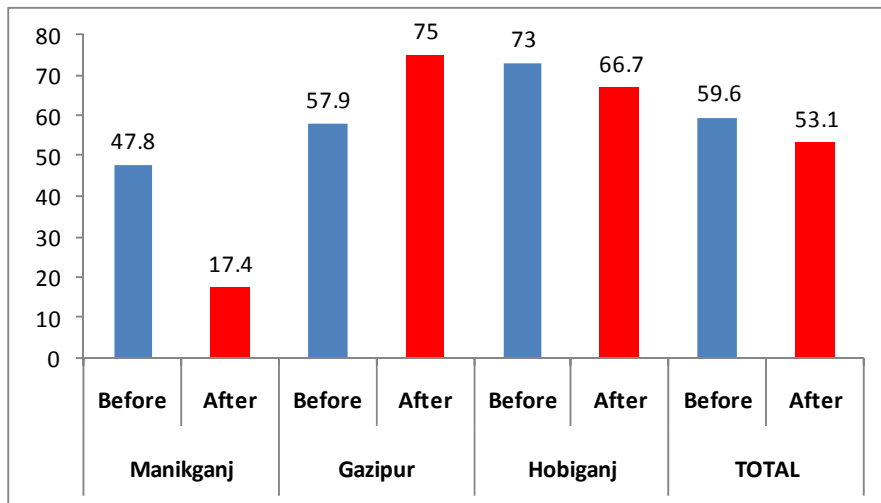
**Figure 10: Investing in 2008 and 2009 (SI5)**



Note: Before = Aug 2007 - Sep 2008 and After = Oct 2008 - Sep 2009

Households were also able to conduct their investments as scheduled to lesser extents during the crisis period (Figure 11). Only in Hobiganj there were increased proportions of households who could conduct investments as scheduled.

**Figure 11: If answer to SI1 is yes, conducting investment as scheduled? (SI6)**



Note: Before = Aug 2007 - Sep 2008 and After = Oct 2008 - Sep 2009

Table 29 suggests that the frequency of investment, in general, declined after the crisis. However, more frequent options like “monthly” and “four times a year” became less prominent and less frequent option like “twice a year” and “once a year” became more prominent during the period under consideration.

**Table 29: If answer to SI5 is yes, then the frequency of investment (% of households) (SI8)**

	Manikganj		Gazipur		Hobiganj		TOTAL	
	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After
Monthly	7.69	5.00	0.00	0.00	2.78	0.00	3.23	1.69
Every other month	7.69	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.61	1.69
Four times a year	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13.89	5.26	8.06	1.69
Twice a year	7.69	10.00	0.00	0.00	16.67	26.32	11.29	11.86
Once a year	46.15	50.00	76.92	70.00	66.67	68.42	64.52	62.71
Random	30.77	30.00	23.08	30.00	0.00	0.00	11.29	20.34

Note: Before = Aug 2007 - Sep 2008 and After = Oct 2008 - Sep 2009

Average amount of investment declined by 25.8 percent during the crisis period (Table 30). Households in all three sample areas experienced decline in average amount of investment. The fall is however largest in Manikganj, where households, on average, reduced investment by 67.55 percent.

**Table 30: Average amount of investment in 2008 and 2009 (SI8)**

	Manikganj		Gazipur		Hobiganj		TOTAL	
	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After
Average (taka)	122342	39692	817730	706725	576972	309666	515785	382700
% Change		-67.55		-13.58		-46.33		-25.80

Table 31 suggests that the households who were conducting investment on a monthly basis before the crisis, none of them were doing the same even after the crisis. However, the correspond figures is 100 percent for the households who were conducting investment every other month. The corresponding figures are 20 percent, 57.1 percent and 52.5 percent for the households who were conducting investment '4 times a year', 'twice a year' and 'once a year' respectively before the crisis.

**Table 31: Investment before and after (SI5 and SI8)**

		Investment conducted (after)					
		Monthly	Every other month	4times a year	Twice a year	Once a year	Other
Investment (Before)	Monthly	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
	Every other month	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	4times a year	0.00	0.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	40.00
	Twice a year	0.00	0.00	0.00	57.14	42.86	0.00
	Once a year	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	52.50	47.50
	Other	4.55	0.00	0.00	9.09	54.55	31.82

Reduction in remittance income played increased important role behind reduced investment during the crisis period (Table 32).

**Table 32: If the answer in SI5 is no, then the reasons (SI9)**

	Manikganj		Gazipur		Hobiganj		TOTAL	
	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After
Reduction in remittance incomes	3.13	8.62	0.00	21.67	10.81	22.58	4.88	10.59
Job loss among family members	1.56	5.17	0.00	0.00	5.41	4.84	2.44	3.53
Wage cut among family members	0.00	0.00	0.00	38.33	51.35	56.45	15.45	34.12
Less income	7.81	6.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.61	4.07	5.29
Less opportunity	18.75	18.97	4.55	3.33	0.00	0.00	10.57	7.65
Loan payment	29.69	29.31	9.09	8.33	5.41	1.61	18.70	13.53
Less interested	15.63	13.79	9.09	0.00	0.00	1.61	9.76	5.29
Savings	10.94	8.62	40.91	13.33	0.00	0.00	13.01	7.65
Others	12.50	8.62	36.36	15.00	27.03	11.29	21.14	12.35

More than 80 percent of households opined in favor of further investment and the pattern is similar across three regions (Table 33).

**Table 33: Likely to invest more? (SI12)**

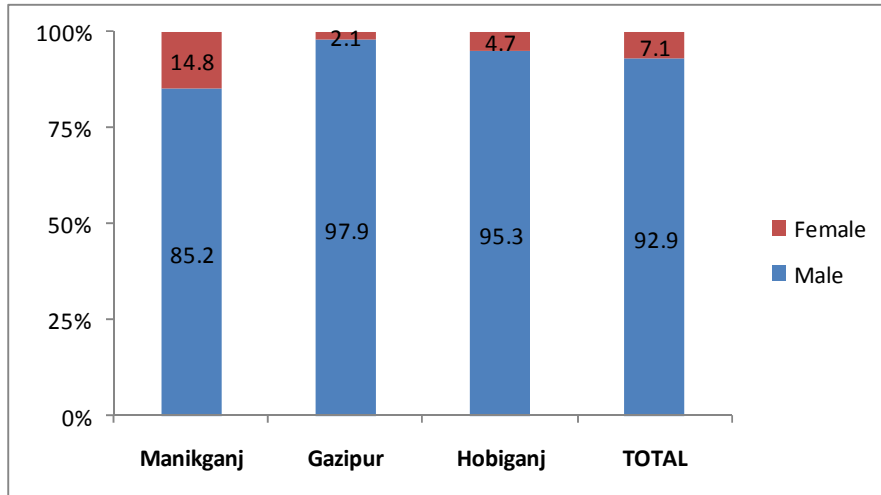
	Manikganj	Gazipur	Hobiganj	TOTAL
<b>Yes</b>	82.1	80.4	79.5	82.1
<b>No</b>	17.9	19.6	20.5	17.9



## VIII. MIGRANTS WORKERS' PROFILE

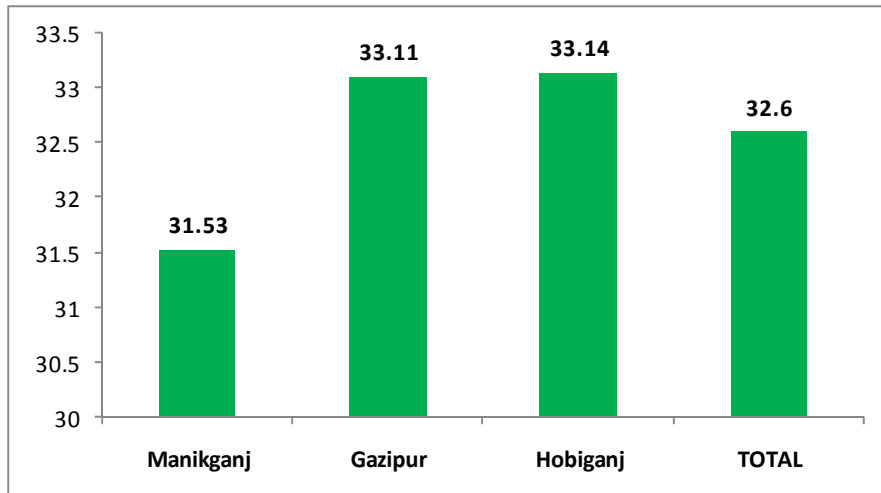
92.9 percent of the sample migrants are male (Figure 12). The proportion of female migrants is only 7.1 percent. However, this proportion appears to be the highest in Manikganj, where 14.8 percent of the migrants are female. In Gazipur, only 2.1 percent of the migrants are female.

Figure 12: Sex of the Migrant Workers



On average, the migrants are 32.6 years old (Figure 13). The migrants from Manikganj appear to be the youngest whereas those from Hobiganj appear to be the oldest in the samples.

Figure 13: Average Age of the Migrant Workers



Migrants are mostly the sons or daughters of the household heads (Table 34). A significant percentage of the migrants in Manikganj and Gazipur are also the spouses of the household heads.

**Table 34: Migrants' Relationship to the household head (% of Migrants)**

	Manikganj	Gazipur	Hobiganj	TOTAL
Household head	9.1	9.4	2.4	7.1
Husband/wife	37.5	30.2	5.9	24.9
Son/daughter	51.1	49.0	64.7	54.6
Other	2.3	11.1	14.1	9.3
Brother/sister			12.9	4.1

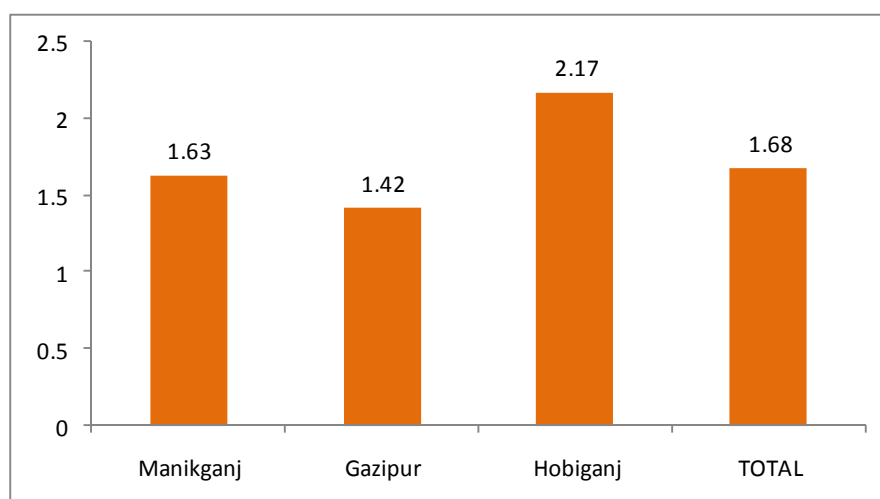
On average, two-thirds of the migrants are married and the remaining one-third are unmarried (Table 35). However, the proportion of unmarried migrants is the highest in Hobiganj.

**Table 35: Marital Status (% of Migrants)**

	Manikganj	Gazipur	Hobiganj	TOTAL
Single	27.3	25.0	45.9	32.3
Married	72.7	74.0	54.1	67.3
Divorced/separated		1.0		0.4

The average number of children of the married migrants is 1.68 (Figure 14). This average is the highest in Hobiganj and lowest in Gazipur.

**Figure 14: Average number of children**



On average, 13.9 percent of the migrants are illiterate (Table 36). Illiteracy among the migrants is the highest in Manikganj (30.7 percent) and lowest in Hobiganj (0 percent).

**Table 36: Highest educational attainment of the Migrants**

	<b>Manikganj</b>	<b>Gazipur</b>	<b>Hobiganj</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Illiterate	30.7	10.6		13.9
Primary (upto V or equivalent)	34.1	22.3	21.2	25.8
Junior secondary (VIII)	18.2	27.7	40.0	28.5
Secondary (SSC)	12.5	30.9	15.3	19.9
College/ University/ Masters	4.5	8.5	23.5	12.0

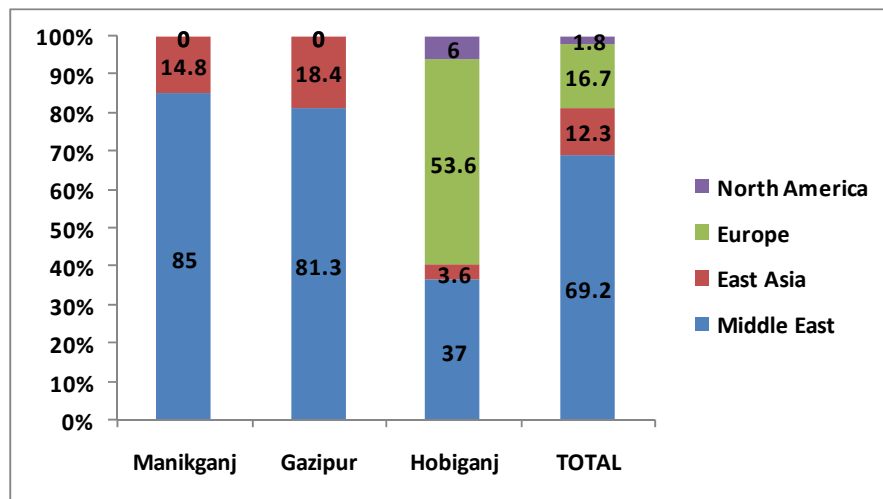
The major destination countries are the Middle Eastern countries (Table 37 and Figure 15). However, in Hobiganj, the major destination countries are the European countries and in particular the UK. For Manikganj and Gazipur, Saudi Arabia is the single most important destination country.

**Table 37: Destination Country of the Migrants**

	<b>Manikganj</b>	<b>Gazipur</b>	<b>Hobiganj</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Bahrain	1.1	1.1		0.7
Dubai	10.2	19.5	14.3	14.1
Iraq			1.2	0.4
Saudi Arabia	50	51.7	16.7	38.3
Kuwait	4.5	3.4	3.6	3.8
Lebanon	5.7	1.1		2.2
Libya	1.1	1.1		0.7
Oman	1.1			0.4
UAE	6.8			5.6
Qatar	4.5	3.4	1.2	3
<b>Sub-Total for Middle East</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>81.3</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>69.2</b>
Brunai		3.5		1.1
Malaysia	14.8	13.8	3.6	10.8
Singapore		1.1		0.4
<b>Sub-Total for East Asia</b>	<b>14.8</b>	<b>18.4</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>12.3</b>
Spain			1.2	0.4
Cyprass			2.4	0.7
Greece			3.6	1.1

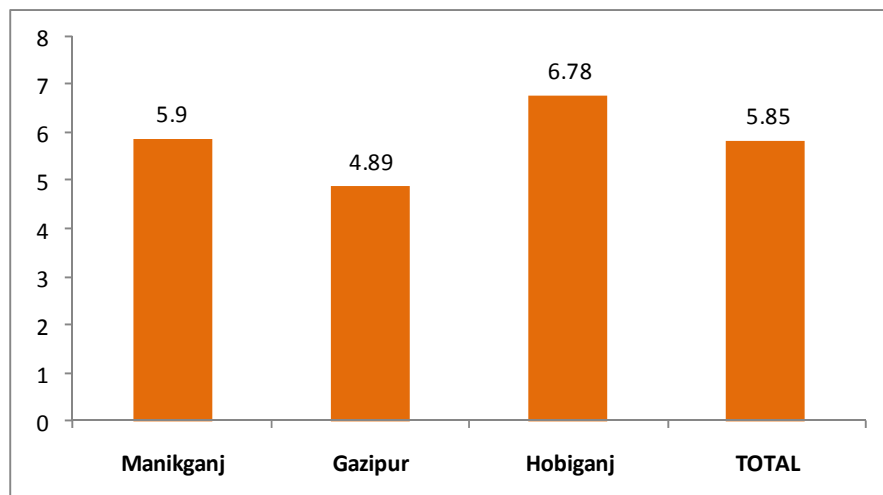
Italy			7.1	2.2
UK			39.3	12.3
<b>Sub-total for Europe</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>53.6</b>	<b>16.7</b>
Canada			2.4	0.7
USA			3.6	1.1
<b>Sub-total for North America</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1.8</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Figure 15: Destination Country of the Migrants



The migrants on average are staying 5.85 months at the current migrated countries (Figure 16). The figure is the highest for Hobiganj.

Figure 16: Average months stayed at the present migrated countries



Construction work appears to be the single most important type of work for the migrants from Manikganj and Gazipur (Table 38). In contrast, restaurant work is the most important job for the migrants from Hobiganj. The migrants from Manikganj experienced some fall job in construction work.

**Table 38: Type of work abroad (% of Migrants)**

	Manikganj		Gazipur		Hobiganj		TOTAL	
	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After
Domestic worker	4.49	4.60					1.49	1.56
Construction worker	23.60	22.99	22.92	25.27	7.23	7.69	18.28	19.14
Factory worker	8.99	9.20	10.42	12.09	7.23	7.69	8.96	9.77
Agricultural worker	1.12	1.15					0.37	0.39
Service worker	21.35	21.84	8.33	7.69	4.82	5.13	11.57	11.72
Clerical/Administrative worker	4.49	3.45	8.33	9.89	7.23	5.13	6.72	6.25
Technical/Professional worker	8.99	8.05	5.21	5.49	0.00	0.00	4.85	4.69
Restaurant worker					31.33	28.21	9.70	8.59
Other*	26.97	28.74	44.79	39.56	42.17	46.15	38.06	37.89

Note: \*Shop-assistant, cleaner, day labor, gardener, fisher man, business, cattle farming, driver, tailor, plumber, painter, electrician, security guard, etc.

In Manikganj, majority of the migrants were agricultural workers before going abroad (Table 39). However, for the migrants from Gazipur and Hobiganj ‘other’ types of occupations were major forms of job before going abroad.

**Table 39: Usual occupation of the migrants in Bangladesh before going abroad (% of Migrants)**

	Manikganj	Gazipur	Hobiganj	TOTAL
Domestic worker	10.3	8.5	2.5	7.3
Construction worker	3.4	7.4	6.3	5.7
Factory worker	1.1	4.3	1.3	2.3
Agricultural worker	44.8	20.2	11.3	25.7
Service worker		1.1	1.3	0.8
Clerical/Administrative worker		3.2	1.3	1.5
Technical/Professional worker	5.7	3.2	6.3	5.0
Student	6.9	5.3	21.3	10.7
Other	27.6	46.8	48.8	41.0

Migrant workers who were domestic worker before migration, 16 percent of them remained as domestic workers after the migration. They were mostly employed in the agricultural works. The migrants who were construction workers before the migration,, 57 percent of them also got employed as construction worker after migration. The rest were employed mostly in a variety of works. For all other categories, it appears that other types of jobs, which are mostly different types of production and services jobs, are the major source of employment for the migrants after migration.

**Table 40: Migrant occupation before and after migration (col(14)-(16))**

	After Migration								
	Domestic worker	Construction worker	Factory worker	Agricultural worker	Service worker	Clerical/ Administrative worker	Technical/ Professional worker	Other	
Before Migration									
Domestic worker	16	5	0	42	5	0	11	21	
Construction worker	7	57	0	0	0	0	7	29	
Factory worker	0	17	33	0	17	17	0	16	
Agricultural worker	0	28	16	1	7	3	3	42	
Service worker	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	
Clerical/ Administrative worker	0	0	0	0	0	50	0	50	
Technical/Professional worker	0	8	8	0	15	8	23	38	
Other	3	18	9	0	20	10	6	35	

Before migration, migrants who were earning in the range of US\$ 0-100, 95.53 percent of them experienced rise in income (Table 41). Among these migrants, 71.82 percent were earning in the range of US\$ 200-500 after migration. Those having their incomes ranging between 100-200 before migration, 72.7 percent of them experienced a rise in their incomes in the range of US\$ 200-500. More than 9 percent of them were earning in the range of US\$ 500-1000.

**Table 41: Average monthly income before last departure and abroad (col(16) and col(21)(22))**

	Average Monthly Income (in US dollars)	After Migration			
		0-100	100-200	200-500	500-1000
Before migration	0-100	4.47	21.65	71.82	2.06
	100-200	9.09	9.09	72.73	9.09
	200-500	0.00	33.33	66.67	0.00

In general, in abroad, the migrants are pre-dominantly (84.3 percent) engaged in wage-employment (Table 42). Only 10.2 percent are self employed. The proportion of self employed is the highest in Hobiganj (15.7 percent). In Manikganj, because of the high proportion of female migrants, there are migrants, working as housemaids, either salaried or non-salaried.

**Table 42: Status of the Migrant worker**

	Manikganj	Gazipur	Hobiganj	TOTAL
Self employed	5.0	10.0	15.7	10.2
Wage employment	82.7	87.8	83.1	84.3
Salaried house maid	9.9	1.1	1.2	3.9
Non salaried house maid	2.4	1.1	0.0	0.8
Other				0.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

On average, “no contract” appears to be the dominant form of contract (Table 43). This proportion is the highest in Hobiganj. Higher percentages of migrants from this region are destined to Europe via relatives of friends, which could be a major reason behind this. Verbal contract is the dominant form of contract for the migrants from Manikganj.

**Table 43: Type of contract**

	Manikganj	Gazipur	Hobiganj	TOTAL
Verbal contract for employed	44.6	36.1	2.4	25.1
Written contract for employed	26.8	36.1	38.6	34.6
No contract	28.6	27.8	48.2	36.0
No written account for self employed			8.4	3.3
With detailed accounts for self employed			2.4	0.9

Pursuit of higher salary is the dominant reason for leaving the country (Table 44). Also, lack of job opportunity plays an important role. In Hobiganj, however, links with family or relatives of friends in destination country is a major reason.

**Table 44: Main reasons for leaving country**

	<b>Manikganj</b>	<b>Gazipur</b>	<b>Hobiganj</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Higher salary	64.6	80.4	33.6	57.8
Lack of job opportunity within the country	30.2	17.6	39.3	29.7
Wage cut of job loss among family members	1.0	1.0	0.0	0.6
Family/relative/friend in destination country	0.0	0.0	23.8	9.1
Other	4.2	1.0	3.3	2.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Taking loans from family or relative is the major source of financing the cost of migration (Table 45). However the role of money lender is also very important, especially in Manikganj, where 52.4 percent of the migrants took loan from the money lenders. Self financing is a major source of financing in Gazipur.

**Table 45: Financing the cost of Migration before last departure**

	<b>Manikganj</b>	<b>Gazipur</b>	<b>Hobiganj</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Migrant (self)	19.4	34.7	18.1	24.8
Family or relative	18.4	27.3	71.3	37.4
Money lender	52.4	33.1	0.0	29.6
Recruitment agency	0.0	3.3	0.0	1.3
Employer	6.8	0.0	0.0	2.2
Other	2.9	1.7	10.6	4.7

## **IX. MIGRANT COPING MECHANISM**

Percentage of migrants returning home increased during the crisis period (Table 46). The percentage point rise of returning migrants appeared to be the highest for the migrants from Hobiganj.



**Table 46: Returning Home in 2008 and 2009 (% of Migrants)**

	Manikganj		Gazipur		Hobiganj		TOTAL	
	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After
% of Migrants	13.6	20.7	22.1	26.7	7.4	17.5	14.5	21.8
Percentage point change		7.1		4.6		10.1		7.3

Note: Before = Aug 2007 - Sep 2008 and After = Oct 2008 - Sep 2009

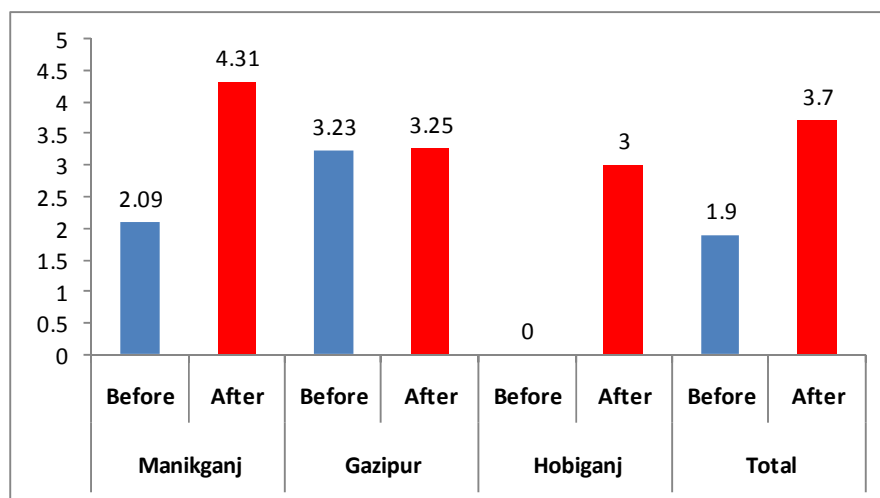
Pre-termination of the contracts by the employers appear to be the major reason behind returning home by the migrants from Manikganj (Table 47). The contribution of this factor in returning home increased dramatically for these migrants during the crisis period.

**Table 47: Reasons for returning home**

	Manikganj		Gazipur		Hobiganj		TOTAL	
	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After
End of the contractual period and will be renewed								
End of the contractual period and will not be renewed	18.18	11.76	8.33	8.70		7.14	9.52	9.26
Pre-termination of contracts by employers	9.09	52.94	4.17	8.70		0.00	4.76	20.37
Pre-termination of contracts by migrants (illness and others)	18.18		8.33	0		7.14	9.52	1.85
Vacation	54.55	17.65	0.00	0		0.00	21.43	11.11
Leave			41.67	39.13	100.0	64.29	40.48	31.48
Other		17.65	37.50	43.48		21.43	14.29	25.93

The number of months being unemployed by the migrant workers increased quite significantly for the migrants from Manikganj and Hobiganj (Figure 17). For the total sample, the number of months being unemployed increased from 1.9 months to 3.7 month.

**Figure 17: Number of months being unemployed**



The migrants applied various job searching method before and during the crisis period (Table 48). Registering in public employment agency appears to be the dominant form of job searching method both before and after the crisis period. However, its importance declined during the crisis period and the importance of ‘approaching employer directly’ increased during the period under consideration.

**Table 48: Job search method used**

	Manikganj		Gazipur		Hobiganj		TOTAL	
	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After
Registered in public employment agency	2.44	2.38	2.70	2.94	0	0	2.63	2.35
Registered in private employment agency	78.05	66.67	70.27	67.65	0	0	72.37	63.53
Approached employer directly	12.20	21.43	21.62	23.53	0	66.67	17.11	24.71
Approached relatives or friends	2.44	4.76	2.70	2.94	0	16.67	3.95	4.71
Other	9.88	7.76	6.70	8.94	0	19.67	9.95	7.71

For the total sample, only 5.27 percent of the migrants could change their work place during the crisis (Table 49). This percentage is the highest for the migrants from Gazipur and the lowest for the migrants from Manikganj.

**Table 49: Change in work place? (% of Migrants)**

	<b>Manikganj</b>	<b>Gazipur</b>	<b>Hobiganj</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Yes</b>	3.1	7.7	5.0	5.27
<b>No</b>	96.9	92.3	95.0	94.73

Also, only 5.41 percent of the migrants could change country during the crisis period (Table 50). This figure is the highest in Gazipur (11.11 percent) and lowest in Manikganj (0 percent).

**Table 50: Change in Country? (% of Migrants)**

	<b>Manikganj</b>	<b>Gazipur</b>	<b>Hobiganj</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Yes</b>	0	11.11	5.13	5.41
<b>No</b>	100	88.89	94.87	94.59

Almost quarter of the migrants from Manikganj had to lower day to day expenses to cope with the crisis (Table 51). Also migrants from this region used own savings or borrowed from family, relatives or friends. The migrants from Gazipur used their own savings and borrowed from family, relatives or friends. The migrants from Hobiganj used their own savings and also looked for new jobs.

**Table 51: Change in livelihood between 2008 and 2009**

	<b>Manikganj</b>	<b>Gazipur</b>	<b>Hobiganj</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Lowering day to day expense (food, housing, etc)	23.21	5	16.04	14.75
Looking for new job/ additional job	8.93	0.00	26.42	11.78
Using his/her saving	21.43	30.00	51.89	34.44
Borrowing money from family or relatives	19.64	35.00	2.83	19.16
Borrowing money from friends	14.29	5.00	0.94	6.74
Other	12.50	5.00	1.89	6.46

The general trend which is seen due to change in working condition is that the migrants adjusted to the adverse situation by using their savings and also by lowering their expenses (Table 52). Some of the migrants who experienced reduction in ‘working hour’ and ‘over time without pay’ also had to look for new jobs.

**Table 52: Working condition and Change in livelihood before and after (col 17 and 19)**

Working Condition	During the crisis period						
	Lowering expense	New job	Saving	Borrowing from family	Borrowing from friends	others	No change
Wage cut	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
Benefit reduction	25.00	0.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00
Working hour reduction	18.92	3.60	25.23	1.80	1.80	5.41	43.24
Overtime without pay	4.35	21.74	43.48	8.70	0.00	0.00	21.74
Other	10.00	15.00	55.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	15.00
No change	9.35	0.00	3.74	1.87	0.00	4.67	80.37

Most of the migrants faced the problem of wage cut with the exception of agricultural worker; as there is no change in their working condition during the period under consideration (Table 53). Most of the service workers, domestic workers, construction workers, administrative workers, technical workers and other workers were also seen working overtime without pay.

**Table 53: Migrant job and change in his/her working condition between 2008 and 2009  
(Section V col(15) and Section VI col(19))**

		Working Condition				
		Wage cut	Benefit reduction	Working hour reduction	Overtime without pay	Other
Migrant Job (after)	Domestic worker	75.00	0.00	0.00	25.00	0.00
	Construction worker	48.98	2.04	2.04	32.65	10.20
	Factory worker	56.00	0.00	4.00	16.00	16.00
	Agricultural worker	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Service worker	23.33	0.00	0.00	46.67	6.67
	Clerical/ Administrative worker	50.00	0.00	5.56	33.33	5.56
	Technical/Professional worker	50.00	0.00	0.00	41.67	0.00
	Other worker, specify	29.10	0.75	2.99	45.52	8.96
	Unemployed	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Most of the migrants in this sample survey did not change their jobs during the crisis. However, those who changed their jobs, they did so mainly for high wage and insurance (Table 54).

**Table 54: Migrant job and reason for changing job (sec. V col(14) and Sec VI (16))**

		Reason for changing work				
		High wage	Insurance	More stable job	Type of job	Working environment
<b>Migrant Job (after)</b>	Domestic worker	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Construction worker	50.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Factory worker	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Agricultural worker	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Service worker	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Clerical/ Administrative worker	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Technical/Professional worker	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Other worker, specify	0.00	0.00	0.00	80.00	20.00

Note: Out of 269 migrants 96.3% did not change their jobs only 3.7% changed their previous jobs

Majority of the migrants did not seek any job. However, the migrants who were domestic workers and lost their jobs, 100 percent of them went to public employment agencies for job searching (Table 55). Migrants of most of other job categories mainly used private agencies for job searching. 100 percent of agricultural workers, who lost their jobs, went directly to the employers for new job. The clerical and administrative workers however took the help from relatives or friends.

**Table 55: Job search method used and migrant job in 2009 (Sec.V col(15) and Sec VI (11))**

		Job search method used				
		Public employment agency	Private employment agency	Employer directly	Relatives or friends	others
<b>Migrants Lost their jobs</b>	Domestic worker	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Construction worker	0.00	76.48	11.76	0.00	11.76
	Factory worker	12.50	75.00	12.50	0.00	0.00
	Agricultural worker	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
	Service worker	0.00	72.22	27.78	0.00	0.00
	Clerical/ Administrative worker	0.00	33.31	0.00	66.69	0.00
	Technical/Professional worker	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Other worker, specify	0.00	53.13	37.49	3.13	6.26
	Unemployed	0.00	66.67	0.00	33.33	0.00

## **X. SUMMARY OF THE RESULTS**

This study, based on a household survey, contributes to an enhanced understanding about the impact of the global financial crisis (GFC) on migrant household in Bangladesh. The household survey was implemented by collecting data from 217 samples of migrant households from three Upazillas in three Zillas in Bangladesh during July 2010. They are Singair Upazilla under Manikganj Zilla, Joydevpur Upazilla under Gazipur Zilla and Habigonj Sadar Upazilla under Habigonj Zilla. The migrants from Singair upazilla in Manikganj district have destinations in different countries in Middle East. In Joydevpur upazilla in Gazipur district, also the migrants have destinations in Middle Eastern countries. However, Habigonj Sadar upazilla in Habiganj district have migrants destined in the UK. In the survey and FGDs the comparison is made between the pre and post global economic crisis. The period between August 2007 and September 2008 is considered as “Before” and the period between October 2008 and September 2009 is considered as “after”.

### **Migrant Household Profile: Impact of the GEC**

- On average, the number of family members working abroad declined during the GFC. For the total sample, the fall in this number is 6.5 percent.
- Earning more money is the dominant achievement by the migrants
- On average around 41 percent of migrant households have ‘illiterate’ household heads
- In Manikganj and Gazipur, domestic work and agricultural work are the major occupations of the migrant households. However, in Hobigonj, agricultural work and business are the two major occupations.
- The total average monthly income of the migrant households, on average, declined by 2.15 percent during the crisis. However, Hobiganj experienced average fall in income by 13.6 percent and Manikganj experienced the fall by 9.3 percent. In contrast, Gazipur experienced a rise by 20.7 percent.
- In Hobiganj, more than two-third of the migrant households experienced fall in average income. In Manikganj, such figure is 28.4 percent and in Gazipur, only 10.4 percent households experienced fall in income.
- Compared to the pre-crisis period, during the crisis period, the source of monthly income from agricultural work increased in Manikganj and Gazipur, but slightly declined in Hobiganj. The income from non-agricultural works however increased in

all three regions. The remittance income declined in Manikganj and Hobiganj, but increased in Gazipur.

- On average 50 percent of the migrant households do not have any knowledge about the global financial crisis

### **Remittance Behavior of the Migrant Households: Impact of GFC**

- On average, there has been a 6.4 percentage point drop in the number of households receiving remittances from the migrants. The situation is worst in Manikganj where the drop is by 12.3 percentage point. The impact appears to be lowest in Gazipur.
- Global economic crisis also led to reduced frequency of receipt of remittance money by the migrant households. Households experienced reduced frequencies of 'monthly', 'every other month' and 'four time a year' receipt of remittance money. Lesser frequent options like 'twice a year', 'once a year' however became more prominent.
- The channels of inflow of remittance also experienced some major changes. During the economic crisis, the importance of bank was reduced and the use of money transfer organisation increased. The fall in the use of bank and rise in the use of money transfer organisations is rather dramatic in Hobiganj. There has been reduced use of hundi during the period of economic crisis.
- The average number of transactions of receiving remittances also reduced from 5.03 to 4.39 during the crisis period. The largest fall is observed in Hobiganj. Households in Gazipur however experienced some rise.
- Households, on average, experienced 18.8 percent fall in remittance income during the crisis period. The severe impact is observed in Hobiganj where migrant households encountered 58 percent fall in remittance income. Gazipur, however, was the exception.
- The crisis also compelled some households to send money to their migrant members. Before the crisis, only 1.2 percent household sent money abroad, which increased to 3 percent during the crisis.

### **The GFC and the Migrant Household's Coping Mechanism**

- Almost 50 percent of the migrant households, on average, experienced fall in income during the period under consideration. The negative impact is most prominent in

Hobiganj where 64 percent of the migrant households incurred fall in income. The situation is different in Gazipur where 73.7 percent migrant households had rise in income.

- On average, 51.88 percent of the households who experienced fall in income during the crisis period reported that it was due to the reduction in remittance income.
- The migrant households had to work more to compensate the loss in income. Borrowing money and using savings are also two other important options.
- The migrant households also experienced rise in household expenditure during the crisis period.

#### **Savings and Investment behavior of Migrant Household: Impact of GEC**

- The global economic crisis, in general, appears to have negative impact on savings behaviour of the households. Before the crisis, on average, 50.9 percent household used to save; however this proportion came down to 39.9 percent during the crisis.
- There has been a decline in the average amount of savings during the crisis period by 19.44 percent.
- The investment behaviours of the households are very similar to their savings behavior. There has been decline in the percentage of households conducting investment during the crisis period.
- Average amount of investment declined by 25.8 percent during the crisis period.
- Reduction in remittance income has played increased important role behind reduced investment during the crisis period.

#### **Migrants Workers' Profile**

- 92.9 percent of the sample migrants are male. The proportion of female migrants is only 7.1 percent. However, this proportion appears to be the highest in Manikganj, where 14.8 percent of the migrants are female. In Gazipur, only 2.1 percent of the migrants are female.
- Migrants are mostly the sons or daughters of the household heads. A significant percentage of the migrants in Manikganj and Gazipur are also the spouses of the household heads.
- On average, two-thirds of the migrants are married.



- On average, 13.9 percent of the migrants are illiterate. Illiteracy among the migrants is the highest in Manikganj (30.7 percent) and lowest in Hobiganj (0 percent).
- The major destination countries are the Middle Eastern countries. However, in Hobiganj, the major destination countries are the European countries and in particular the UK. For Manikganj and Gazipur, Saudi Arabia is the single most important destination country.
- On average, in abroad, the migrants are pre-dominantly (84.3 percent) engaged in wage-employment. Only 10.2 percent are self employed.
- On average, “no contract” appears to be the dominant form of contract. This proportion is the highest in Hobiganj. Higher percentages of migrants from this region are destined to Europe via relatives or friends, which could be a major reason behind this. Verbal contract is the dominant form of contract for the migrants from Manikganj.
- Taking loans from family or relative is the major source of financing the cost of migration. However the role of money lender is also very important, especially in Manikganj, where 52.4 percent of the migrants took loan from the money lenders. Self financing is a major source of financing in Gazipur.

### **Migrant Coping mechanism**

- There were increased proportions of migrants returning home during 2009.
- Average number of months being unemployed in the destination countries also increased during 2009.
- Some small percentages of migrants also changed their jobs and moved to the other countries.

## **XI. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

Based on the FGDs with the stakeholders a number of policy implications have emerged from this study. They are as follows:

### **Macro-micro mismatch**

There is a mismatch between the macro and micro pictures as far as the inflow of remittances in Bangladesh is concerned during the crisis period. The macro picture suggests a large

growth of remittance inflow during that period, while the micro perspectives, as obtained from this household survey, indicate to the fact there were a large number of households who experienced fall in remittance incomes, and the livelihood of these households worsen during the crisis. Therefore, there is a need to provide necessary support measures for the migrants and households who were affected by the global financial crisis.

### **Recent trend of remittance inflow**

The recent macro trend of remittance inflow has also raised concerns. Over the last two years, the growth in remittance inflow has been reducing quite significantly. If this trend continues in the future, then there is a risk of reduced remittance inflow even at the macro level.

### **The cost of migration and barriers**

The survey and the FGDs have indicated that still the cost of migration is very high in Bangladesh. Lack of access to credit contributes to high migration cost. Also, there are unauthorized middle men and frauds, which create lot of sufferings for the prospective migrants. Also, there are a number of barriers for the smooth migration of the prospective migrants. Illiteracy among the migrants, lack of proper information, and lack of help from the relevant government institutions raise the barrier to smooth migration. Providing soft loans to the prospective migrants and effective functioning of the relevant institutions can reduce the cost of and barriers to migration.

### **Incentives for remitters**

In the face of the reduced flow of remittance, there is a need to provide some incentives for the remitters. Setting up migrants' bank and providing guidance for the productive use of remittance money could be among the options.

### **Reintegration programme for returning migrants**

The survey and the FGDs with the stakeholders indicated that there was virtually no initiative by the government and NGOs for the reintegration of the returning migrants. There is a need to use the skills of these returning migrants and the relevant institutions should come forward with the reintegration schemes.

**Bilateral and multilateral negotiations**

Government must seek to improve bilateral agreements and negotiations with countries which are the main destinations for Bangladeshi migrant workers. Also, at the WTO, Bangladesh, with other developing countries, should pursue the demand for liberalisation of temporary movement of natural persons under GATT's mode 4 negotiations.

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## Annex

### **FGD Report: Manikganj**

*Place: Khanbaniara, Manikganj.*

*Time: 3:00-4:30 pm*

*Date: Thursday, 15/07/2010*

*Total number of people presented in the discussion: 30*

*Occupation: Agriculture-16, Business- 4, Teaching- 3, permanently returned Migrant-2, in vacation-1*

*Male: 26, Female: 4*

It was found that 25-30 percent of the families in that village had at least one person working outside the country. Most of the migrants from this village were from agricultural families.

The migrants from this area were mainly going to the middle-east countries: Saudi-Arabia, UAE, Kuwait, Bahrain, Lebanon etc.

The alarming fact about going abroad as a worker is that the low-educated people of the village are mostly being deceived by the agents. We have found 10-15 people were victimized by the travel agents this year in this particular village. The villagers opined that almost 70 percent of the people, trying to go abroad, were being duped by the agents. It was also found that the migrants were receiving salary/wages much lower than the contracted amount.

The contract or agreements which are made before going abroad are always misleading to the migrants. To most of the migrants, the time spans and wage of their works are unknown to them. The people willing to go outside for work need to pay the usual fees to the agent first; but if for some reasons the agent can't make the person go abroad then the prospective migrant doesn't get the money back from their agent. So, the low-income prospective migrant failing to go abroad ends up nowhere.

The migrants face severe problems while working in the middle-eastern countries. One of the migrant who had to return home for not receiving the proper monthly salary said "We need to

do other business beside our usual job with a high risk of getting caught by the police”. This is because they are always underpaid in their usual job. The migrants always have to work under the threat of losing their job.

The migrants of Bangladesh do not get the necessary help that they should have from the embassy of Bangladesh in the countries where they are working. It is seen that the Indians, Malaysians migrants get lots of facilities and help from their respective embassies but the embassy of Bangladesh is of little use to the migrants. The migrants and their families also blame Bangladesh Government for not taking the proper steps to solve the problems which the migrants are facing while working.

From the participants of the FGD, we came to know that remittance is mostly sent through the banking system. However, now the money transfer agencies such as “Western Union” money transfer is becoming more popular as it takes only a day to transfer the money. The practice of “Hundi” is not that much significant in this area.

The poor people find it very difficult to manage the money for going abroad. Selling lands or livestock is a common practice for the accumulation of money needed for migration. Also, taking loans with high interest rates is a widely used practice.

The impact of global financial crisis was felt through falling remittance incomes. It was found that for a good number of families the amount of remittance received declined in 2009.

The significant factor which is found in this area is that a good number of women are going abroad to work. The female migrants mainly go to Lebanon to provide home service. But there are incidences of maltreatment on them, as understood from the narration of the two returning female migrants.

The relevant government agencies do not provide any assistance program for the migrants or the returning migrants.

## **FGD Report: Hobiganj**

*Place: Village- Jalalabad, Union- Richi, District- Habiganj*

*Time: 3:30-5:00 pm*

*Date: Sunday, 18/07/2010*

*Total number of people presented in the discussion: 40*

*Occupation: Agriculture-25, Business- 3, Teaching- 2, permanently returned Migrant-7*

*Male: 38, Female: 2*

The picture of migration from this particular area was not a satisfactory one in terms of the earnings of the migrated people. As far the information from the discussion, we came to know that up to 15 to 20 percent of the total families in this village have at least one of their members working outside the country. Europe is the main hub for the migrants of this area. A number of people are also going to UAE, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, other Middle Eastern countries and Malaysia from here. Most of the migrants are going as construction laborers though fair amount of instances of drivers and tailors are also found.

Most of the migrants accumulate money for going abroad by taking loans with high interest rates. It is evident from the discussion that it takes almost 2-3 to return the loan back with the interest.

The migrants are facing severe problems while working in the Middle East countries. Salaries of the workers are not paid in due time. The returning migrants reported that the authorities of their company treated them badly and without any reasons hold their salaries. If the migrants wanted to raise their voice against these inhuman activities, the authority either sent them to prison or forced them to return to their native countries.

The foreign embassies of Bangladesh provided no effective help for the migrants who fell into trouble while working abroad. According to the migrants, it was only the fellow Bangladeshis who came forward with some help.

The contracts which are made with migrants by the local agents are mostly violated by the agents. In fact the low-educated migrants are always deceived by the agents. Either the migrants find the wage lower than the contract amount or they are forced to do another work which they were not intended to do before coming to the new country. The migrants are often

not paid the minimum wage. For these reasons, the migrants are forced to do other works illegally, such as small business (selling vegetables, cloths etc), which they are not authorized to do.

The migrants are facing so many problems but still a good number of people are going out of the country. According to the villagers people are driven by the dream of doing well by seeing the few people from their village earning good amount abroad. The failure record really does not bother them. The high degree of optimism is driving them to go out of the country. It is also true that people who are going out has no better work opportunities at home. Mostly they can do agricultural work at home with a very low return, according the villagers.

The most used method for sending money to the villagers is through Banks and MTOs. In the past, "Hundi" was a dominant method of sending money.

One significant fact about this area is that women are almost not going to work outside the county.