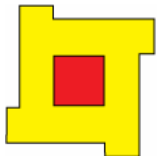


Seasonal Internal Migration: A Coping Strategy for Extreme Poor Households



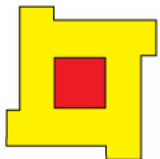
Mehnaz Rabbani



BRAC

Structure

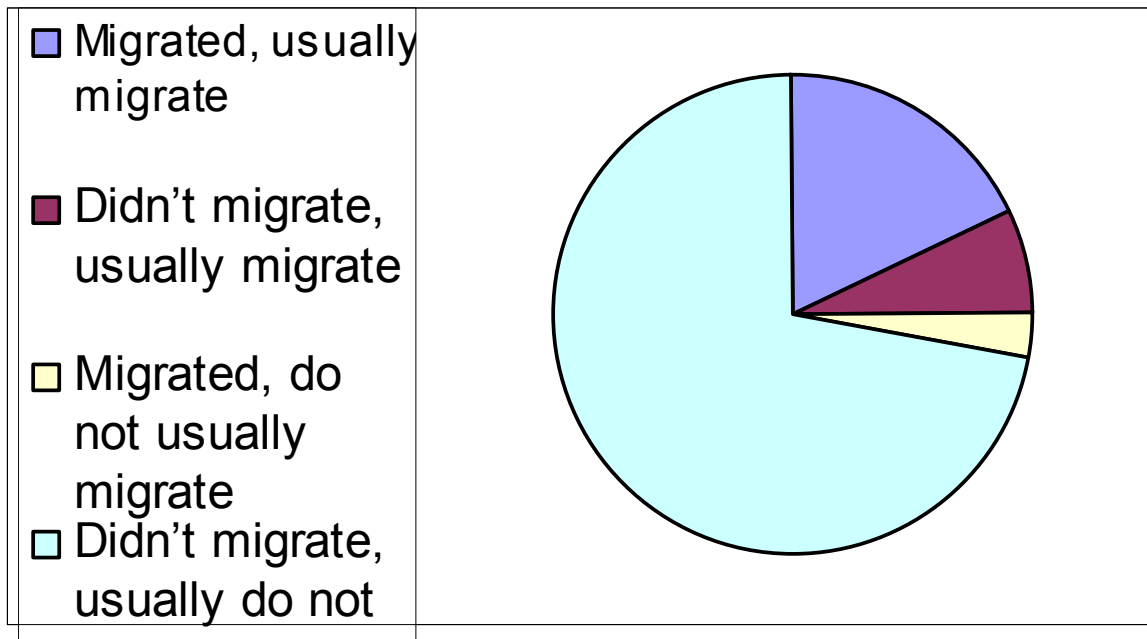
- Background/methodology of study
- Nature of migration
- Determinants and conditions of migration
- Types of contracts
- Challenges for other members of household
- Suggestions for further work



Methodology

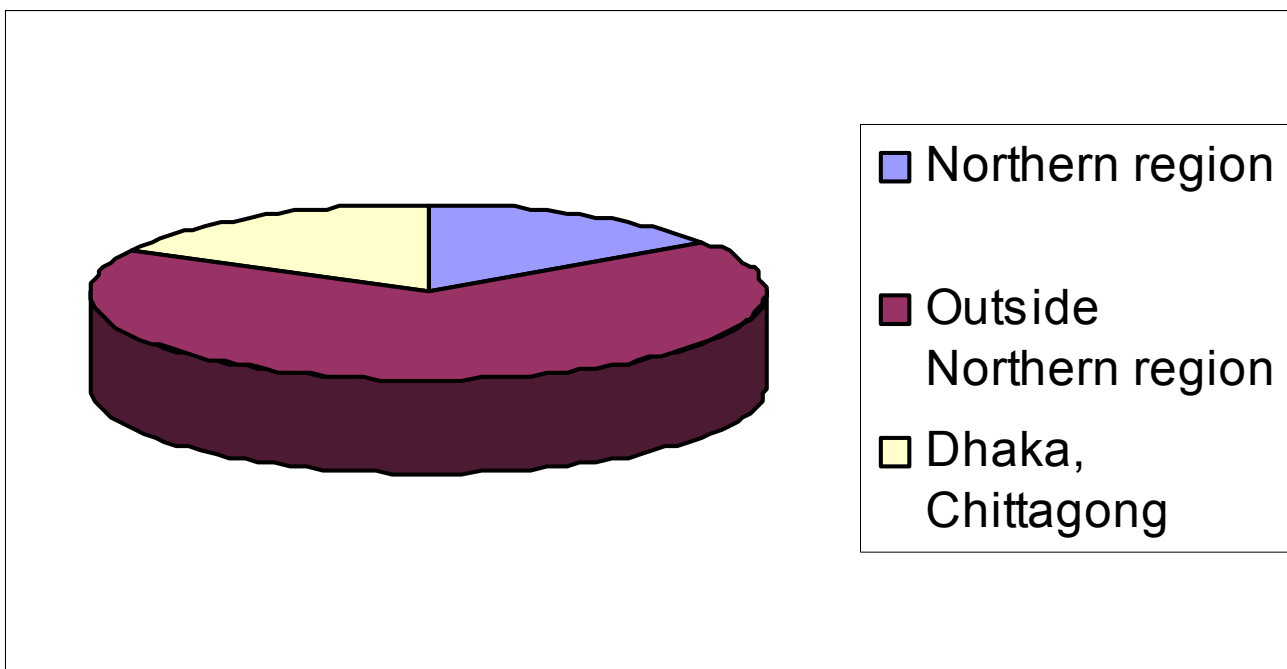
- Data (2005): 5000 households in Nilphamari, Kurigram, Rangpur
- Limitation of the data set:
No individual migrant information
Specific use of remittance information
- 15 Case studies, FGDs (2007): Kurigram, Rangpur

Initial findings from 2005 survey



Average duration of migration – 73 days

Where to?



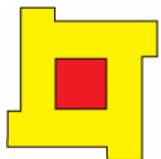
Initial findings continued...

- 69% work as day labourer
 - 19% work as rickshawpullers
 - Other kinds of work - garbage collection, construction, small trade, etc
-
- 8% report remittance as the main source of income – chance of underestimation



Correlates of migration

Variable	Coefficient
Number of income sources	Negative
Regularity of income from employment	Negative
Male headed household	Positive
Earner-member ratio	Positive



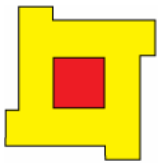
Factors affecting decision

Reasons for migration:

- Lack of regular employment opportunities
- Crisis (flood, illness, dowry)
- Debt
- Attractive urban lifestyle (for younger, unmarried men)

Reasons for staying back:

- Unpleasant experiences – accidents, illness, ill treatment by employer, etc
- Lack of social support
- Assets/new enterprises
- Household preference



Necessary conditions

- Contact with employer/other migrants
- At least one able member (preferably male) to stay back
- Savings - enough to cover food needs of household during migration
- Transport cost
- Support/assurance from other members to cover risks



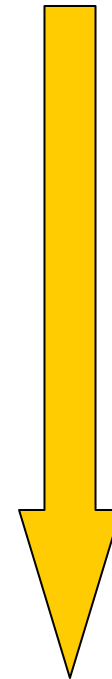
Ways to migrate

Manush bechar bajar

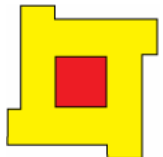
Personal (no contracts)

Sardars

Large landowner contracts

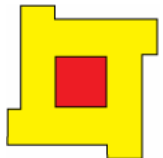


Security



The ones left behind

- Responsibility of household based enterprises
- Paid work
- Financial management
- Informal market borrowing
- Quantity and quality of food
- Security – maintenance of social status
- Unpaid work



Suggestions

Long term policy:

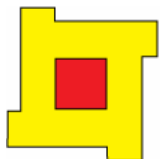
Employment generation for the unskilled in North Bengal

Short term policy:

Provide services to make temporary migration more profitable

Suggestions from group discussions

- Short term (1-2 month) loan facilities for households
- Safe lodging and health services for migrants in urban areas
- Low cost remittance transfer service
- Capacity development and links with employers
- Short term work opportunities at home for women



Thank you

