



## RURAL OUT-MIGRATION OF YOUTHS IN BHUTAN: ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

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### Abstract

This study seeks to identify the factors responsible for youths' rural out-migration in Bhutan. The study's particular goals are to identify the causes of rural out-migration, examine the impacts of rural-to-urban movement, identify the problems, obstacles associated with out-migration, the initiatives taken by the royal government of Bhutan to check on the rate of migration, and propose concrete solutions to reduce the rate of migration. The purposive sampling is used for the selection of the respondents and data was collected through questionnaires survey from total of 83 respondents. The Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) was used to analyze the data for this study. The study concluded that the main cause of young people leaving rural areas was, among other things, their desire to find better career opportunities. It is suggested that to lower the rate of migration, the government should provide employment opportunities and develop various programs to keep young people engaged in meaningful work.

**Keywords:** Youth rural out-migration, government initiatives, impacts and challenges

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## Introduction

Concerns about youth migration have been raised globally with regard to rural society's health, development, and growth (Petrin et al., 2014). The rural brain drain is exacerbated by rural-urban mobility since the out-migrants tend to be highly educated, skilled, and trained while those who stay tend to be less educated, illiterate, and less skilled, all of which are likely to be contributing factors to the low human capital development in rural areas. Rural areas worry that they won't have enough educated and qualified workers to fill future employment openings because of the phenomenon known as the rural brain drain. Additionally, the researchers have noted that due to both young outmigration and senior in-migration, rural populations are aging more quickly than urban populations. (Sano et al., 2020).

According to the Population and Housing Census of Bhutan 2017, 62.2% of Bhutan's population still resides in rural areas, despite the fact that urban centers have grown recently and are drawing in more people from the countryside than they can accommodate due to amenities (NSB, 2018). In reality, migration was viewed as a positive condition of the natural process of transferring surplus labor from rural to urban industrial sectors. By migrating, people would find well-paying jobs and send remittances to their families, enhancing the welfare of rural people who are left behind (Gilbert & Gugler, 1994). Regrettably, this scenario is completely different now due to the phenomenon of a high influx of youths from rural areas creating an urban labor surplus (Todaro, 1976) and exacerbating urban unemployment problems making them vulnerable to the municipality of problems (Tindigarukayo, 2014). People move from rural to urban areas in pursuit of opportunities due to the wealth gap and higher quality of life in urban centers, which causes rural-urban migration. The lack of industries and businesses, the difficulties of working in agriculture, the need for higher education, and the acquisition of skills in a variety of occupations, as well as issues related to inadequate social amenities, are some of the causes that contribute to rural out-migration (Aworemi et al., 2011).

The PHCB (2017) reveals that the majority of the western dzongkhags had population growth due to positive net migration, while the eastern dzongkhags saw population decline due to negative net migration. Thimphu Dzongkhag has gained the most population among the eight dzongkhags that have seen population growth as a result of migration, accounting for 9.2% of the total. However, Trashigang Dzongkhag lost the most people owing to migration, 2.3% of the total

population. Of the 20 dzongkhags and 4 Thromdes, 12 dzongkhags have seen population losses from out-migration and 8 dzongkhags have seen popu

lation gains from in-migration. Internal migration is the primary cause of the population growth in all four thromdes. The migrant population is primarily composed of younger age groups; the highest proportion was observed in the 25–29-year-old age group, where 66% of them have changed their place of residence. Fewer migrations occurred in age groups 50 and older, indicating that migration is a recent phenomenon. The total number of migrants has increased by 10.9% in 2017 as compared to 2005. Family relocation, employment, and education were the three reasons for migration stated in 2017 (17.8%, 12.7%, and 8.3%, respectively), which is comparable to the data from 2005 (NSB, 2018).

## Problem Statement

Rural out-migration is becoming common among youth within the country in recent decades. Urban areas are becoming more congested with increase in population while rural areas are left almost empty which is the effect of rural out-migration. The environment, society, and standard of living are all greatly impacted by the movement of people from rural to urban locations. Therefore, it needs to be taken into consideration as a key field to be studied since it can influence how government policy is developed.

Rural out-migration poses some problems in rural as well as urban areas. Urban centers in Bhutan are experiencing significant problems as a result of the sudden inflow of people from rural areas, and both rural and urban areas are feeling the effects. especially in rural areas country is experiencing a labor crisis, depopulation, *Gungtong* (empty households), and a decline in social and cultural norms. In contrast, risks to the physical environment including rape, kidnapping, theft, and trafficking are brought on by the inflow of migrants into urban centers (NSB, 2018). Increased crime rates, unemployment, housing problem, drug and alcohol abuse, prostitution, and pressure on amenities have all been observed in recent years, especially in Thimphu (MoA, 2005). With the disparity between rural and urban areas in terms of amenities like education, employment, entertainment, health, the standard of living, infrastructure, and difficulty working in the agricultural sector due to a lack of technologies and being unable to use machinery due to the sloping topography. Youths today are less engaged in agricultural work and are more open to educational and career opportunities. As a result, Bhutan's rural

areas now have a large geriatric population (over 50) and a small child population (under 12). Contrarily, rural areas are suffering from a labor crisis that left no choice for farmers to work in small plots only because the majority of young people moving to urban areas in quest of a better living (Rural-Urban drift, 2022). If this trend of migration continues over a long period of time there will be a threat to food security. In order to address these challenges, the government needs to encourage rural youths to involve in farming and their challenges need to be taken into action.

Despite internal migration, there has been a sharp increase in recent years in the number of Bhutanese traveling to the western world. A total of 32258 people, only those who have registered with Bhutanese embassies, are spread over 113 nations.

Because of the high rate of economic mobility provided by an economy with a respectable living income, it was discovered through an interview with potential migrants done by The Bhutanese Report that they wished to earn in dollars (Tobgay, 2022). People go to the western world mostly for better education and jobs that are split 50-50. More graduates are currently preparing and registering for the International English Language Test (IELTS) than for the Royal Civil Services (RCSC). As per the report in kuensel it was found that total number of graduates who appeared preliminary examination decreased by 1,370 graduates compared 2021 (Dema, 2022).

### Literature review

One of the most concern in Bhutan, like in most developing countries today, is how to control the influx of youth migration (Kok, 1999). Young people's out-migration is influenced by a variety of reasons besides only economic ones. Young adults from rural areas prefer the city. Most academics concur that migration is an interpersonal, biographical, and emotional process that is influenced by routines, cultures, values, and identities (Foster & Main, 2018). Despite the fact that the majority of Bhutan's population (69.1%) still lives in rural areas, urban centres have become increasingly popular in recent years in most districts. The capital city is expanding at a rate of 7% year, according to Bhutan's office of the census commissioner from 2005. Such disturbing data demonstrates that the number of people moving from rural to urban areas is alarming (Choda, 2012). The goal of minimizing outmigration is being pursued by government organizations, private businesses, and civil society organizations. The underlying causes of the outmigration are still open questions.

According to Maria Thomas (2018), as a result of young people's disinterest in agriculture and their eagerness to pursue education and employment, thousands of people in the kingdom of Bhutan are leaving their village in search of a better life in cities, resulting in the emptying of rural areas and the abandonment of elderly people over the age of 65. Nearly half (48%) of the 686,697 persons who were born in the Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan have relocated away from their place of origin, according to the 2017 Population and Housing Census of Bhutan. The majority of these migrants are between the ages of 25 and 29. According to the 2015 Gross National Happiness Survey, rural-urban mobility has led to social disruption and a sense of belonging, as well as labor shortages in rural areas and unemployment in urban ones (Thomas, 2018).

Many researchers have found that the cause of migration is usually not just a one factor, but there is the combination of various factors that have led to the movement of people from their place of origin to the destination. Some of the causes of migration as shown by the some of the literatures is that because of the poverty people are driven from their homeland to the other destination (Blij, 1996). Both the economic and non-economic condition has led to the migration of people from area to another in Ethiopia. The economic factors, unpleasant and intolerable living and working condition, scarcity of farm land, environmental degradation, declining production and overall economic deterioration have forced many people to migrate from rural to urban areas in search of employment, better job opportunities, and better living conditions (Hailemariam & Adugna, 2011). The study by Goldstein (1979) have found that male is more dominate in rural to urban migration in Africa and Asia, where by in Latin America female are more frequent (Goldstein, 1979). The labor migration in South Asian countries is male dominated but Sri Lanka is the only country in South Asia which promotes the female labor migration even though the proportion of female working the region is low, it has been increasing over the years. The migration has played a vital role in providing employment and remittance, which has important macroeconomic and developmental impacts and South Asia is the second highest remittance receiving region in the world (Srivastava & Pandey, 2017)

The study on migration decision should not always consider on the role of wages but also at the same time need to account for amenities and cost of living in urban areas. For example, a study in Nepal

have seen an attach to the value of infrastructure and services, such as access to electricity and road connectivity (Shilpi et al., 2014). It is also important that urban amenities that might pull migrants extent beyond infrastructure to be also include social, health and education opportunities in urban areas. In respect to this statement a study on internal migration flows across Chinese province by Fu and Gabriel (2012) found that the high skilled worker valued the human capital concentration of destination areas where as the low-skilled migrants did not. Such heterogeneous preferences can possibly be explained by the higher barriers faced by low-skill migrants for their capital investment (Fu & Gabriel, 2012).

According to a study by Kiran et al. (2016), improving one's standard of living, the availability of more lucrative employment in urban areas, industrialization of rural areas, a lack of feed and fodder, higher education, a lack of interest in labor-intensive activities, a lack of a fair price for agricultural products, and governments' failure to reach farmers in order to provide them with welfare programmes were identified as the main causes of rural-urban migration. Youth migration from rural to urban areas has recently increased. People will continue to move from rural to urban regions in pursuit of greater possibilities for their better lives until the government provides for the basic necessities of rural life and offers the productive youth in rural areas employment prospects. Government must create social amenities and facilities in rural areas in light of the potential drawbacks, as well as chances for work for rural youth (Kiran et al., 2016).

### **Governments Initiatives to reduce rural-urban migration**

There are no explicit policies or plans in place in Bhutan to lessen rural-urban migration. However, some programmes and approaches directly or indirectly help to lower rural-urban migration. For instance, the government's vision 2020 has prioritized the creation of a growth hub in eastern Bhutan, which will ease strain on the western regions, particularly Thimphu and Phuentsholing (MoAF, 2013).

The other strategy was to improve road and electrical connectivity to help villages escape isolation, improve access to services and the market, and help rural industrialization create jobs. For the community's inclusivity, new programmes and initiatives will be provided that specifically target the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups of individuals. Decentralization of

functions, budgets, personnel, and decision-making were some of the methods stressed during the 9th Five Year Plan, which led to the delegation of fiscal and administrative authority to local levels. The government prioritized multi-sectoral upgrading in the agricultural sector along with rural road connectivity to address the migration issue (Rabten, 2019).

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forest has implemented a number of efforts to slow the rural-urban movement in Bhutan, including building farm roads to help farmers get their goods to market, providing agriculture inputs, and providing other essentials to rural residents.

Additionally, sufficient irrigation canals are built for the farms and high-yielding seeds, insecticides, and fertilizers are introduced to boost productivity. The electric fence was introduced to protect crops destroyed by wild animals, and compensation for livestock damage and agricultural compensation methods were provided for damage caused by natural calamities and hazards. In addition to all of that, the ministry intends to build farm shops and sheds along the side of the road. They will also establish farmers' associations and cooperatives and provide training to the farmers in order to increase farm mechanization (Pem, 2016). So, in order to keep people in rural engaged, the government need to offer them with improved service, opportunities, and contemporary amenities.

### **Research gap**

Numerous research studies have looked into the idea that the main reason young people in rural areas leave their communities is to improve their standard of living. The reasons why Bhutanese rural youth leave their communities has not yet been the subject of any in-depth investigation. This study sought to identify the primary reasons why young people are moving from rural areas to urban areas and to offer some suggestions for slowing the trend's accelerating rate.

### **Objectives**

The objective of this study is to identify the factors that could contribute to rural youth out-migration in Bhutan. Numerous issues that migrants confront and their causes are discussed in this paper, which could be useful to policymakers in reducing issues and difficulties faced by migrants. This outcome will also make it possible to maintain rate of rural youth out-migration and the study will focus on:

- Identifying the factors responsible for rural out-migration of youths in Bhutan.

- Studying the initiatives taken by government to check on the rate of youth migration in Bhutan.
- Analyzing the impacts of rural-urban migration and propose concrete solution to reduce the rate of rural-urban migration.

### Research Methodology

The quantitative technique is chosen to enable a greater and more understanding of the study by enhancing the descriptions of phenomenon by offering a clear understanding. As this study mainly focuses on youth so, the respondents are selected purposively by selecting the young people (age group 15-29) from the total population. The primary data was collected through survey questionnaire from the total of 83 respondents of youths across the Bhutan, among which 53 respondents are male and 31 respondents are female. The survey instrument for this study is a set of questions that collected the information on factors responsible for the rural out-migration, crisis in the place of destination, perception of rural out-migration from the respondents, educational level of the migrants, governments initiatives and social-economic characteristics of migration. The data for this study was collected primarily through online survey questionnaires by google form. The secondary data has been compiled from research papers, policy and regulation documents, publications from many relevant stakeholders, websites, and pages of relevant government officials. The Microsoft of Excel and Statistical Package for social sciences (SPSS) was used for evaluating and analyzing in the phase of completed questionnaires. With the help of Excel primary frequencies were calculated and illustration were prepared while each participant's answers to specific questions were recorded, placed into a database, and then analyzed using SPSS. The results are deduced from the findings, which are examined in the form of graphs and tables.

### Limitations of research

Some of the shortcoming encountered while conducting a research are; due to the time limitation and other constrain data could not be collected from the larger sample population. This study is mainly focused on young people of age 15-29, and could not collect data above the age of 29 to mention their perception of the cause and consequences of rural youth out-migration. On other hand, some respondents were found unwilling to provide full information the researcher wants to know. At the same time some of the youths were not interested to take part in survey questionnaire which made difficult in

getting a greater number of participants taking part in the study.

### Data Analysis

This research, it was focused on Bhutan's youth rural out-migration. The questionnaire primarily consisted of mostly closed-ended but few opened-ended questions to collect the various opinion by respondents. The Microsoft of Excel and Statistical Package for social sciences (SPSS) was used for evaluating and analyzing in the phase of completed questionnaires. With the help of Excel primary frequencies were calculated and illustration were prepared while each participant's answers to specific questions were recorded, placed into a database, and then analyzed using SPSS.

### Data Analysis and Interpretation

In this chapter the collected data has been interpreted, analyzed, described, and illustrated in a systematic manner as a next step of the research paper as showed in the following three major categories namely the demographic statistics, social status and the consequences of the migrants. The analysis and interpretation have been made in an accordance to the aim of the research in the forms of tables, graphs and charts.

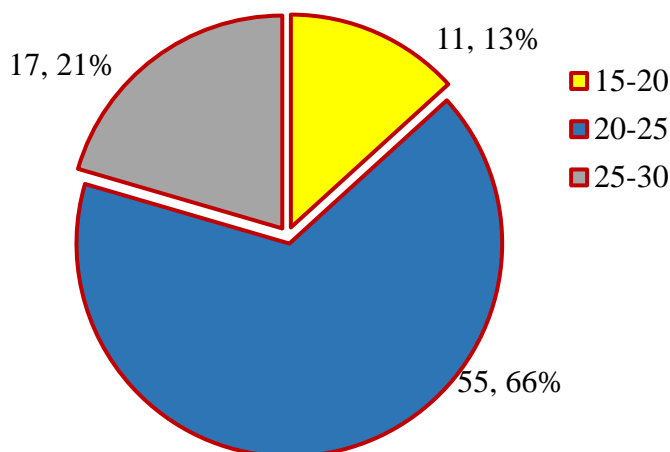
#### I. Demographic statistics of the migrants

The demographic information of the respondents has been analyzed in this area of the data analysis, including the distribution of respondents by sex and age in tables and charts.

**Table 1:** Distribution of respondents by sex

| Sex    | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|--------|-----------|----------------|
| Male   | 52        | 63             |
| Female | 31        | 37             |
| Total  | 83        | 100            |

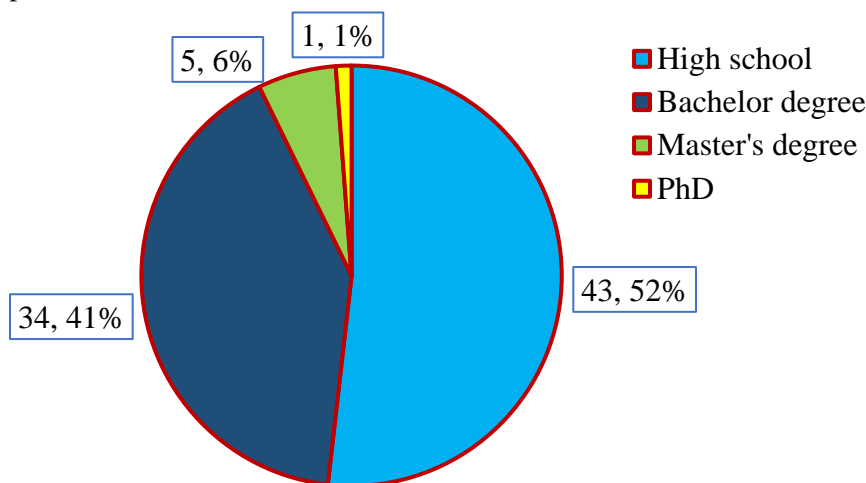
The proportion of male migrants is higher than the proportion of female migrants, as seen in table 1. From the statements of all respondents, 63% of the male migrants were female, and 37% were male. According to Abdurrahman (1987), more men than women migrate from rural to urban areas, especially to major cities and towns, because men are more sensitive than women. Similar to this, a study conducted in rural Southern Bhutan by the Tarayana Centre for Social Research and Development revealed that the majority of men were looking for better jobs in urban centers, while the majority of women remained in their communities due to gendered sociocultural relations and a variety of consequences.



**Figure 1:** Distribution of migrants by the age group

The study has identified that which age group was migrating the most as illustrated in the figure 1. As indicated by the figure that the high proportion of migrants were between the age group of 20-25 which accounts 66% of the total respondents. The second largest migrants were found under age group between 25-30 which comprise 17% of the total respondents. The remaining 11% of migrants are between the age group of 15-20 that accounts

13% of the whole respondents. As most people in this age group have either graduated from high school or are college graduates, making them more susceptible to migration in search of a job or further education, it suggests that the young population is highly active in terms of migration between the ages of 20 and 25.



**Figure 2:** Distribution of migrants by education status

In accordance to figure 2, the majority of migrants are young people (52% and 34%, respectively) who have graduated from high school and obtained a bachelor's degree.

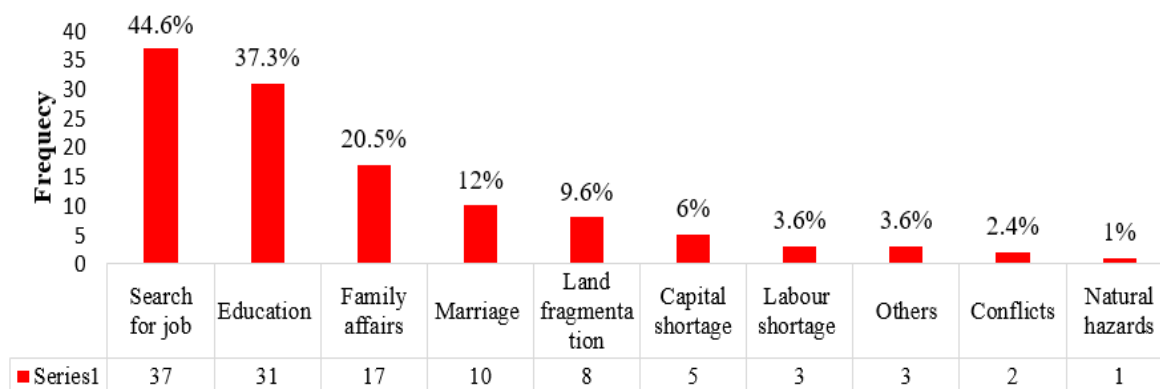
finishing their studies, they are unable to return to their hometown because they must hunt for employment in order to improve their standard of living and reduce their dependency. Due to the lack of economic opportunities in rural areas other than farming they are left with little alternative but to relocate to urban areas. The study has found out that with increased in the level of education the interest of youth in agriculture decreases.

This demonstrates unequivocally that the majority of young people migrate either in search of economic opportunities or to pursue higher education, which causes the youthful population in the country's rural cohort to decline. Even after

## II. Social Status of migrants

In this section of analysis, the social status of the youth rural out-migrants has been analyzed using graphs, charts and tables ranging from the cause of

migration, education status, top five destination of youth rural out-migration, current employment status and Responses of migrants to stay in place of destination or return to the place of origin.



Causes

Figure 3: The causes of migration

Figure 3 shows that, among the different factors for rural youth exodus, the majority of young people 44.6% of all respondents—were in search of job. Education (37.3%), family issues (20.5%), marriage (12%), land fragmentation (9.6%), a lack of capital (6%) and labour (3.6%), conflicts (2.4%), and natural disasters (1%), come in that order. As indicated in figure 2, the respondents were primarily between the ages of 15 and 30. The bulk of respondents were high school graduates (52%), followed by university graduates (42%), postgraduates (6%), and PhD holders (1%). After graduating, the majority of young people move to urban areas in search of employment and

better opportunities. Some young people move away from home for higher education because there are no colleges or universities in their hometowns, but for most, doing so is a requirement. In addition, because the majority of them were discovered to be unemployed and dependent on their parents, they are forced to relocate when their parents move from one place to another. According to the PHCB 2017, family relocation accounted for 17.8% of all claimed reasons for migration, followed by employment (12.7%) and education (8.3%), which is consistent with PHCB 2005 findings.

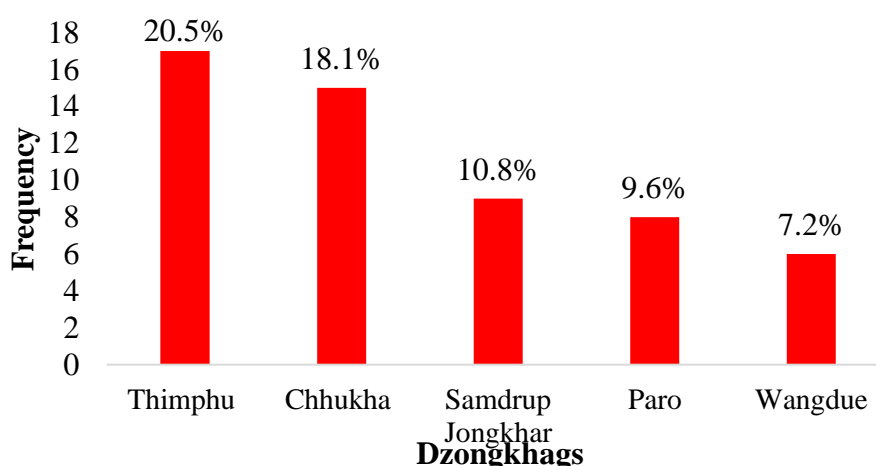


Figure 4: Top five destination of youth out-migration

The illustration of figure 4 indicates that the destination of young out-migrants in Bhutan are major in urban areas in the country which is similar to the migration pattern across the worlds as majority of people migrates from rural to urban area. The capital city of the nation, Thimphu

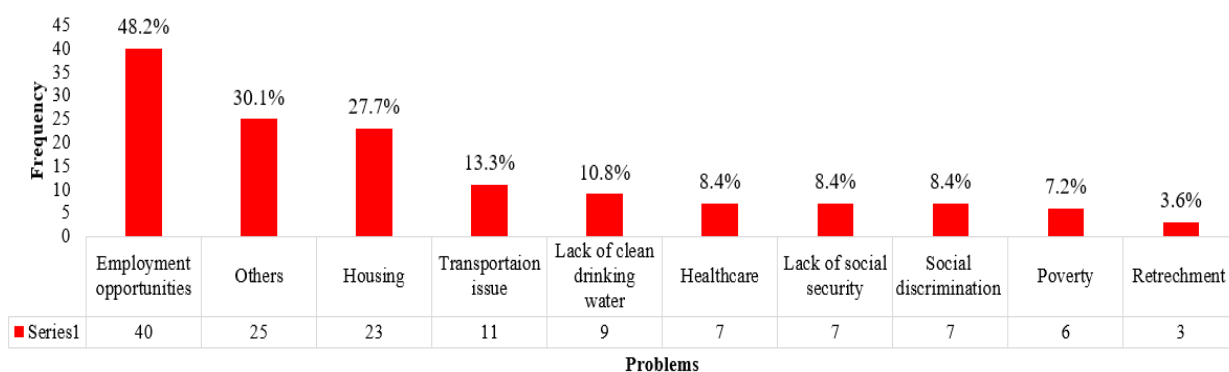
dzongkhag, has the highest concentration of young people (20.5%), as most of the head offices are located there. Most young people move there in quest of career opportunities. The following two dzongkhags Chhukha (18.1%) and Samdrup Jongkhar (10.8%) are considered to be the nation's

industrial and business hubs and a gateway to India for commerce, where the majority of young people have access to a variety of job options in the commercial or industrial sectors. Due to the location of Paro (9.6%), the country's only international airport and a popular tourist destination, many young people have discovered opportunities in the tourism and commercial sectors as the number of foreign visitors rises. Due to the location of the two big hydropower projects, which create work possibilities for young people, Wangdue dzongkhag (7.2%) also draws some young people. According to the PHCB 2017, Thimphu dzongkhag got the most migrants, with 71,506 persons, the majority of them migrated from eastern dzongkhags. Chhukha dzongkhag was the second highest with 18,912 migrants out of the entire population of the nation.

**Table2:**Current employment status of migrants

| Employment status | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|-------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Employed          | 22        | 26.5           |
| Unemployed        | 61        | 73.5           |

The table 2 shows that out of 83 respondents 61 (73.5%) were unemployed where by 22 (26.5%) were employed during the time of collecting the survey for the research. It indicates that there is high rate of youth employment in Bhutan despite they are migrating to urban areas in search of greener pasture but they are left without fulfilling their dreams. A study by Aaron O’Neill (2023) shows that youth employment in Bhutan is increasing every year from 11.02% in 2019 to 12.96% in 2020, and 18.75 in 2021 (O’Neill, 2023). According to the Ministry of Labour and Human Resources (2014) the main causes of youth employment in Bhutan are due to the lack of required experience/relevant skills, preference over types of job and remuneration (Ministry of Labour and Human Resources , 2014), and social



**Figure 5:** Problems in the area of destination

As seen in figure 5, 48.2% of migrants experience difficulties finding employment possibilities in the Eur. Chem. Bull. 2023, 12(Special Issue 5), 2506 – 2517

security whereby having friends and families to support them (Wangmo, 2012).

**Table 3:** Responses of migrants regarding their wish to return to the place of origin.

| Do you want to return to your place of origin | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|---|-----------|----------------|
| Yes   | 27        | 60.2           |
| No  | 6         | 7.2            |
| Neutral                                       | 50        | 32.5           |

As table 3 shows that the majority of migrants, or 60.2% of all migrants, want to return to their place of origin because they were unable to find employment opportunities that matched their expectations and because of the high cost of living in urban areas. Even when migrants did find employment, their pay was insufficient to cover even their most basic needs. However, 7.2% of all migrants do not want to return because they are happy where they are now. They continued by stating that their place of origin lacked even the most basic amenities, such as a good network of roads, health facilities, and markets, and that returning to their village to work in the fields of agriculture would put them in a worse situation than where they were going. While 32.5% of the total respondents were unable to make a decision at the time of the survey because they stated that if they encountered problems in the area of their destination in the future, they would also return to their place of origin, if they were to find better employment and income, they would not return to their place of origin.

**The consequences of migration**

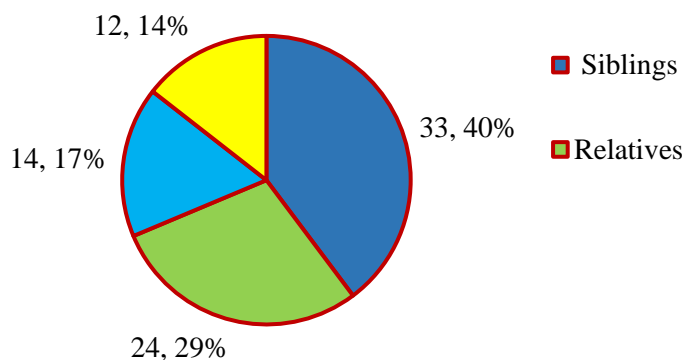
In this section of the research, the researcher have given concentration on the the main problems of the the migrants in the place of destination. As per the collected data its shows that the young population in Bhutan are undergoing varoius problem in the verge of searching a greener pasture

area of destination, while housing and other issues (personal issues) affect 30.1% and 27.7% of all



migrants, respectively. The remaining problems were transportation issue (13.3%), lack of clean drinking water (10.8%), healthcare, social security and discrimination (8.4%), poverty (7.2%) and retrenchment with (3.6%). According to the respondents, the main issue with employment opportunities is that the majority of young people are either recent college graduates or graduates of high school without any work experience, whereas any opening requires at least two years of

experience. As a result of this mismatch between the job description and job requirements, it has become difficult for them to find employment in their desired location. In addition, they received extremely meagre pay, making it impossible for them to make ends meet, forget about supporting their families. These are just a few of the problems that Bhutan's young migrants are dealing with.



**Figure 6:** Distribution of respondents by housing status

On other hand the migrants faced difficulty in getting house in the place of destination and even if they get the rent of the house are unaffordable which made them to live with either of siblings (40%), relatives (29%), friends (17%), and own rented house (14%), as shown in figure 6.

**Discussion**

Understanding Bhutan's rural youth exodus was the goal of this study. Similar to the findings of the other researcher, it was observed that the proportion of migrants was predominated by male migrants as opposed to female migrants, signifying that the majority of men were looking for better living conditions in urban centres while women remained in their communities as a result of gendered socio-cultural relations. Regarding the distribution of migrants by age group shown in figure 2, it was discovered that 66% of all respondents were young people between the ages of 20 and 25, who made up the bulk of migrants. This clearly symbolize that youths are not interested in agriculture works and at this age group they are looking for the better livelihood so that they can have an independent living.

employment due to a lack of experience or qualifications, and there are also few job opportunities available. As shown in table 2, even though they had received their bachelor's degree or been high school graduates a year or two priors, 73.5% of the total responder were still without a job. Even though the government has taken steps, Bhutan's youth unemployment rate is increasing each year. This clearly demonstrates the government's inefficiency. The government needs to develop new projects and strategies to involve young people and provide them with job opportunities. Figure 5 demonstrates the unequal distribution of development and growth between the east and west by showing that the majority of young people are drawn to the western region of the nation.

One of the most effective ways to reduce the pace of rural youth migration will be to equalize growth and development in urban and rural areas. Even though 60.2% of all respondents mentioned they would return to their country of origin in the future, this will happen when they are very old. This will eventually result in an ageing population that is not very helpful to growth and development efforts. The majority of migrants live with others (siblings, relatives, and acquaintances), which demonstrates that they have a severe housing shortage. According to the respondent's concern, they are unable to find a home in their new location and

even if they do, the rent is quite expensive. Therefore, it would be highly beneficial to everyone if the government could negotiate the rent with the proprietor, as house rent is rising annually, contributing to the high cost of living in urban areas.

### Suggestions

This study shows that, rural-urban migration has led to a variety of issues in both rural and urban areas, including labor shortages, abandoned homes, aging populations, cultural breakdown, unemployment, housing issues, poor income, and break-ins, among others respectively. The study has scrounged up a few potential solutions to prevent these crises from happening and to stop young people from leaving rural areas.

The government should build some of its head offices in other eastern dzongkhags in order to lower the rate of migration to urban areas. For instance, if the Royal Civil Service Commission allowed university graduates to take their royal civil service examination in any of the one eastern dzongkhag, it would prevent graduates from moving unnecessarily to the west, where they are facing issues like housing issues, financial crises, and urban congestion (Thimphu). The capital city of Thimphu is where the majority of its head offices are based, with only a few in Phuentsholing as a potential development area. Exogenous migration of individuals from rural to urban regions results from this, and the government's uneven regional facility establishment serves as the primary driver of migration.

As they migrate in quest of work possibilities, educational chances, skill development training, etc., youth migration rates are at their highest. Rural-urban migration is brought on by the perception that these opportunities are only present in the major urban centers and are scarce elsewhere. Therefore, it would undoubtedly aid in lowering youth migration if the government took steps to provide all those facilities, especially in underdeveloped districts like Mongar, Pemagatshel, Luentse, etc. Youth migration in Bhutan is also influenced by social and cultural factors in addition to educational and employment opportunities. In contrast to the more traditional and conservative attitudes in some parts of Bhutan, for instance, many young people are drawn to the more liberal and open-minded attitudes present in larger cities in India and other nations. Bhutan's government should take action to address the issue of youth migration by funding programmes for

education and training as well as expanding employment prospects within the nation.

The government must build infrastructural amenities in rural areas, such as those for recreation, health, telecommunication, water supply, and sanitation, in order to lower the rate of rural youth migration. Through the introduction of new technologies, new labour incentives, the development of irrigation facilities, increased access to fertilizer, financial and technical support, as well as awareness-raising, the agriculture sectors can be developed in rural areas, absorbing large amounts of labour force and reducing rural out-migration.

The country's restricted options for higher education, on other hand, is one of the main contributing causes. Given that Bhutan has a small number of universities with constrained space and resources, many young people who desire to pursue higher education must travel abroad. The number of migrants moving to the other country for pursuing higher education will likely decline if the government can provide more programs for advanced study, such as master's degree and PhD programs at the majority of the nation's universities.

### Conclusion

The main objective of the study was to examine the factors responsible for rural youth out-migration in Bhutan. The required data for the study was collected through online questionnaires from 83 respondents age range from 15-30, the case study and secondary data were also been used for the analysis of the study. Through the analysis of collected data, following conclusion was made by the researcher.

The survey reveals that the majority of the migrants were young people, between 20 and 25 years old, who had either completed high school or graduated from college. The main reasons people migrated were for job opportunities and to pursue higher education. As 73.5% of the total respondents were unemployed at the time of the survey, despite having moved to an urban location a year or two prior, the study also discovered a negative correlation between moving to an urban area and finding profitable jobs. The majority of young people are moving to Thimphu, Chhukha, and Paro from the western regions of the country, such as the east, where places like Trashigang, Pemagatshel, and Lhuentse are located.

The study also revealed that the majority of migrants left their place of origin in search of better

living conditions, employment opportunities, and financial opportunities. However, most of them encounter a variety of issues upon arriving at their new homes, including issues with housing, transportation, clean drinking water, social security, healthcare, social discrimination, and poverty, among others. With regard to any qualification, whether high school or university degrees, the migrants are unable to find employment opportunities as they had anticipated. The elements that draw migrants are the expectation of a better standard of living, greater employment opportunities, and better amenities.

According to the survey, among other things, the unemployment issue in rural areas and the expectation of employment opportunities in urban areas are the most significant factors causing migration. This has led to issues in both rural and urban areas, such as a lack of labor, an ageing population and young children, a concentration of people in urban areas, pollution, illegal trade, theft, violence, etc. The rate of migration is highest among young people, who move in search of career opportunities, educational opportunities, skill development opportunities, etc. Because there are few of those opportunities in other districts and only a handful in the capital city, there is a rural-urban movement. Therefore, it would undoubtedly aid in lowering young migration if the government took the initiative to provide all those facilities, especially in other districts like Mongar, Pemagatshel, and Lhuntse.

Knowing that the dearth of employment possibilities in Bhutan is one of the factors fueling youth exodus. Since the labour market is still quite competitive and many young people struggle to find work that is both fulfilling and well-paying despite having their qualifications, the government should create employment opportunities for young people. Which causes people to lose hope and perceive their future as not remaining in Bhutan. Many young people in Bhutan believe that prospects for career and personal development are greater abroad.

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