

Patterns and Trends of Out-migration in Syangja District of Nepal

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Abstract: *When migration occurs, it has a significant impact on the lives and livelihoods of individuals, communities, societies, and the nation. In this regards, the paper aims to examine the patterns and trends of out-migration in Syangja district of Nepal. As key data sources, government records, Nepal Census Data 2021, and related reports were used for analysis. This research has employed a descriptive research approach for the analysis of the trends and patterns of migration in Syangja district. On the basis of secondary data, the information on the population growth, migration pattern and trend, causes of migration, and the preferred destination has been presented and discussed. The article has also discussed the factors influencing decisions on migration. The study reveals that people of Syangja had chosen to migrate both within the country and outside. The main reasons for migration were primarily employment and education, which is considerably lacking in Syangja. The findings indicate that migrants expect a higher standard of living as a result of their migration. Understanding the migration patterns and trends which are helpful for the policymakers and decision makers to formulate the district specific policy and strategy as well as to regulate and harness the benefits of migration.*

Keywords: *Migration, Trends, Patterns, Employment, Destination countries*

Introduction

The historical accounts of migration to and from Nepal have been subject to debate, with various scholars and individuals highlighting different periods in history. However, generally speaking, the earliest form of movement to and from Nepal is attributed to the Trans-Himalayan trade between India, Nepal, Tibet, and China, which can be traced back as early as 500 BC. Another significant migration event occurred between the 5th and 10th centuries when individuals speaking Tibeto-Burman languages arrived from the north, followed by the influx of Indo-Aryan groups, particularly Brahmins and Kshatriyas, from the south between the 9th and 13th centuries. Nepal maintained strong connections with both the northern and southern regions. In fact, until the early 19th century, most parts of Nepal had stronger economic ties and closer cultural affinity with Tibet than any other country. During that time, Tibet had a larger Nepali population than any other country outside of Nepal, and there were more people of Tibetan origin residing in Nepal than those of Indian origin. Since then, Nepal has observed significant internal migration, emigration, and also immigration into the country. In due course, Nepal started to be listed as the country of Lahure (Gurkha), a tradition of Nepali youths recruited to serve the British Army and then British India. The major reasons for those Lahure were a part of livelihood to support their families back home in Nepal who were living under extreme poverty (IOM, 2019).

The Constitution of Nepal guarantees the right to employment (Article 33), the right to labor (Article 34), and the right to live with dignity (Article 16) (Constitution of Nepal, 2015). However, even after seven years since the promulgation of the Constitution, Nepal continues to not being able to offer

adequate jobs and employment opportunities. Youths of Nepal are desperately marching for labor work in India, Gulf countries, Malaysia, Korea, Japan, and different parts of the European and American countries. It is estimated that around five million Nepalese are in foreign countries for employment. National Census of Nepal conducted in the year 2021 showed nearly half of the migrant workers destination is India.

Majority of Nepali people have accepted international migration as crucial to economic betterment. This is primarily due to the significant number of Nepali people engaged in transnational migration, mainly for work and education. As per the findings of the 2021 Census, there are over 2.1 million Nepali citizens residing outside the country, which accounts for 7.4 percent of the national population (NSO, 2023). Among the migrant group, male members constitute 81.3 percent (approximately 1.8 million individuals). Additionally, there is a noteworthy population of Nepali students pursuing education abroad. The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST) granted 'no objection certificates' (NOCs) to 416,364 Nepalese for studying abroad between 2008/09 and 2020/21. It is evident that labor migration and the influx of international remittances have brought social and economic advantages to both the country and the families of migrants. Nepal has a longstanding tradition of migration for employment opportunities in other countries. In recent years, a notable increase is observed in the number of Nepali people migrating to various destinations across the globe for work and their better livelihood.

Regarding the data of labor approvals granted by the Department of Foreign Employment (DoFE) from 2008/08 to 2011/12, there were over 4.7 million 'new entry' labor approvals issued to Nepali workers for overseas employment, along with more than 1.8 million renewed labor approvals. This substantial increase in labor migration from Nepal can be attributed to the liberalization of migration policies in the 1990s (Sharma et al., 2014). Interestingly, this shift coincided with economic growth and a shortage of labor in the countries comprising the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), namely Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. These factors made the GCC countries and Malaysia particularly appealing destinations for Nepali labor migration, accounting for approximately 85 percent of Nepali workers leaving Nepal (MoLESS, 2020).

It is noteworthy to mention that the armed conflict in Nepal spanning from 1996 to 2006 also contributed to the emigration of Nepali people. This combination of liberalized migration policies, economic growth in GCC countries, labor shortages, and internal armed conflict has played a significant role in shaping the pattern of labor migration from Nepal. Understanding these dynamics and their implications is crucial for formulating effective policies and strategies to address the challenges and opportunities associated with labor migration in Nepal.

Because of many factors, migrant workers become most vulnerable. The COVID-19 pandemic hard hit this population globally and made their situation more precarious (Baniya et al 2020a; IOM & NIDS, 2020 & WOREC, 2020). The COVID-19 pandemic caused forced termination of job, loss of workers'

jobs, and even the workers faced reduced or nonpayment of wages and benefits (Baniya et al 2020; Bhattarai et al 2022). A large number of Nepali migrant workers returned home due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This reveals the dire need for and urgency to review the plans, policies and programs appropriate to the returnees for their economic and psychosocial reintegration.

It is a very challenging situation that despite their significant contributions to boost the economies of both home country and the country of destination, migrant workers have been largely subjected to various forms of abuses related to human rights and labour rights. On top, it is very pathetic to note that they also lack access to justice in the country of destination.

The study area, Syangja district is located in the Gandaki Province of Nepal with an area of approximately 1,164 square kilometers, the district is home to a diverse population. Syangja is characterized by its predominantly agricultural economy, with subsistence farming and small-scale industries being the primary sources of livelihood for its residents. The district's geographical location, nestled in the hills of western Nepal, and its proximity to major urban centers, such as Pokhara and Kathmandu, make it an important area to study migration trends in one hand. Other hand, migration is a complex and multidimensional phenomenon that has profound socio-economic implications for both the migrants and the regions they leave and settle in. In the context of Syangja district, Nepal, understanding the patterns and trends of migration is crucial for comprehending the district's development dynamics and formulating effective policies. This paper aims to investigate the migration trends and patterns in Syangja district of Nepal with the objective of shedding light on the factors influencing migration and analyzing the destinations of migrants.

Materials and Methods

This article is descriptive in nature and is based on secondary sources of data/information. The analysis of data on migration patterns of eleven local levels of Syangja district, based on survey conducted by NPHC 2021 provides valuable insights into the dynamics and implications of outmigration from the district. The trends of foreign employment for Nepali people are presented. In order to create a single comprehensive report, this article refers more to the trends of past fiscal year while also referring to *Nepal Labour Migration Report 2022* and the *Census Report of 2021*. The data used in this study was taken from various sources such as those published in newspapers, books, journals, government publications (various Issues of Economic Survey published by the Ministry of Finance),

Results and Discussions

Trend of Population growth in Syangja District

Between 1981 and 1991, the population of Syangja district exhibited a modest growth rate of approximately 8.0%, indicating relative stability. The study data revealed that the migration may not have significantly impacted population changes during that period. However, from 1991 to 2001, the

growth rate increased to around 8.1%, implying a higher rate of migration. This suggests that economic opportunities or other factors likely influenced increased migration to the district. Between 2001 and 2011, the population growth rate dropped to -9.4%, indicating a net outmigration and a decrease in population. This indicates a substantial number of people leaving the district, possibly in search of better opportunities elsewhere. This negative growth trend continued between 2011 and 2021, with a growth rate of -11.7%, signifying an ongoing outmigration pattern. Overall, the population data highlights the influence of migration on the population dynamics of Syangja district, with periods of immigration followed by significant outmigration.

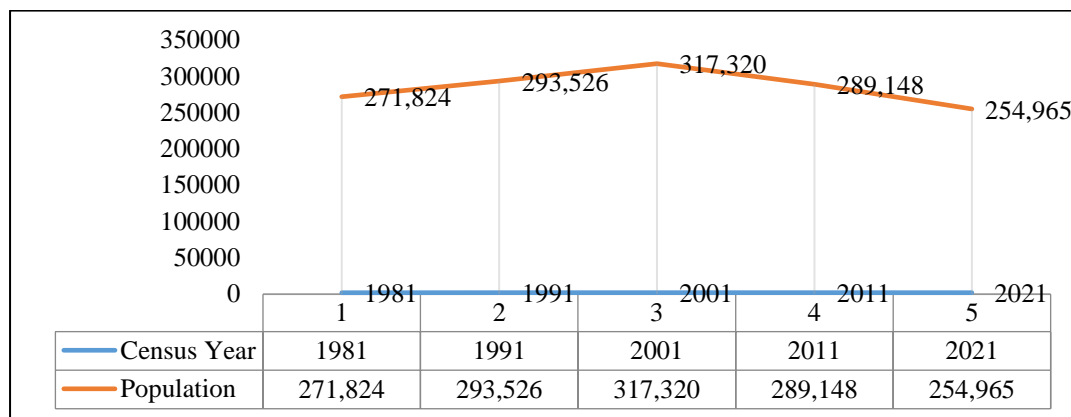


Figure 1: Population growth of Syangja district (1981 to 2021) [NPHC, 2021]

Personal remittance and contribution in National GDP

The provided data showcases the percentage contribution of personal remittances to the national GDP over the years. In 1992, personal remittances accounted for 1.5 percent of the GDP, which decreased to 1 percent by 1996. However, there was a prominent increase in 1998 when remittances contributed 1.7 percent to the GDP. The trend continued to rise significantly over the years, with a substantial jump in 2002 when personal remittances accounted for 11.2 percent of the GDP. This upward trajectory continued, reaching a peak of 25.9 percent in 2014. Although there were some fluctuations, the contributions remained significant, with the most recent data from 2022 showing that personal remittances accounted for 22.7 percent of the national GDP. These data, sourced from the World Bank, IMF and the Economic Survey Report 2022/23, highlight the substantial role of personal remittances in the economic growth and development (World Bank, 2023).

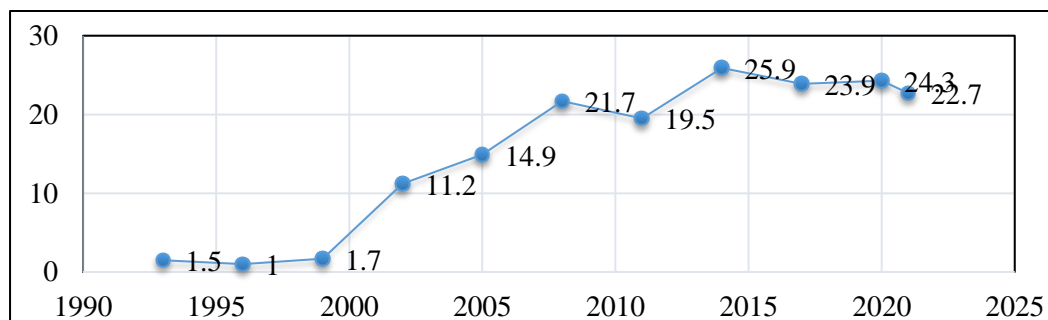


Figure 2: Personal remittance and contribution percent in GDP

New labour approvals issued in Gandaki Province

The table below highlights the distribution of new labor approvals issued in Gandaki Province based on different skill profiles for the years 2019/20, 2020/21, and 2021/22. In terms of professional skills, the proportion remained relatively consistent, ranging from 0.09 percent to 0.1 percent. The category of highly skilled workers saw minimal representation, with an increase from 0 percent to 0.01 percent over the three-year period. Skilled workers constituted the largest share, accounting for 44.9 percent to 45.8 percent of new labor approvals. Semi-skilled workers experienced a slight decline, with proportions ranging from 8.5 percent to 10 percent. The highest proportion was observed in the unskilled category, ranging from 44.9 percent to 50.9 percent. Overall, these figures provide the distribution pattern of labor approvals by skill profile in Gandaki Province, indicating the varying degrees of skills required and utilized in the region.

Table 1: New labour approvals issued by skills profile in Gandaki Province

Type of skills	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Professional	0.1	0.1	0.09
Highly skilled	0	0	0.01
Skilled	39	45.8	44.9
Semi-skilled	10	9.2	8.5
Unskilled	50.9	44.9	46.5
Total%	100	100	100
Total N	24,904	9204	42537

Source: FEIMS, 2022

The table 2 presents the number of new labor approvals issued in Gandaki province for the years 2019/20 to 2021/22, along with the top 10 destinations. In 2021/22, the top three destinations for new labor approvals were Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Qatar, with 13,773, 7,844, and 6,802 approvals, respectively. Other notable destinations included Kuwait, Bahrain, Croatia, Romania, Malta, Oman, and Japan. The total number of new labor approvals in Gandaki province increased from 24,881 in 2019/20 to 42,536 in 2021/22, indicating a growing trend in overseas employment opportunities for individuals from this region.

Table 2: New labour approvals issued in Gandaki province and top 10 destinations

2019/20		2020/21		2021/22	
UAE	7,743	Saudi Arabia	2,730	Saudi Arabia	13,773
Saudi Arabia	5,212	UAE	1,723	UAE	7,844
Qatar	3,351	Qatar	1,598	Qatar	6,802
Malaysia	2,920	Afghanistan	542	Kuwait	2,897
Kuwait	1,057	Bahrain	444	Malaysia	1,967
Bahrain	618	Romania	417	Croatia	1,249
Afghanistan	473	Croatia	300	Romania	1,229
Malta	454	Oman	290	Bahrain	1,174
Oman	421	Japan	202	United Kingdom	963
Romania	377	Cyprus	158	Japan	750
Other	2,255	Other	791	Other	3,888
Total	24,881		9,195		42,536

Source: FEIMS, 2022

Figure 3 shows the labor approval data for the fiscal year 2078/79 (from July 16, 2021, to July 16, 2022) in Syangja. The data includes the number of approvals in different categories. The recruiting agency category shows that 4,179 males and 234 females were approved, resulting in a total of 4,413 approvals. In the individual-new category, there were 105 male and 665 female approvals, with a total of 770. The individual-legalization category had 47 male and 436 female approvals, totaling 483. In the individual-re-entry category, there were 268 male and a significantly higher number of female approvals, reaching 9,211, resulting in a total of 9,479. The overall total, including re-entry, shows that 4,599 males and 10,546 females were approved, with a total of 15,145. Without considering re-entry, the approvals were 4,331 males and 1,335 females, totaling 5,666. These detailed numbers provide valuable information into the labor approvals in Syangja during the specified fiscal year (MoLESS, 2022).

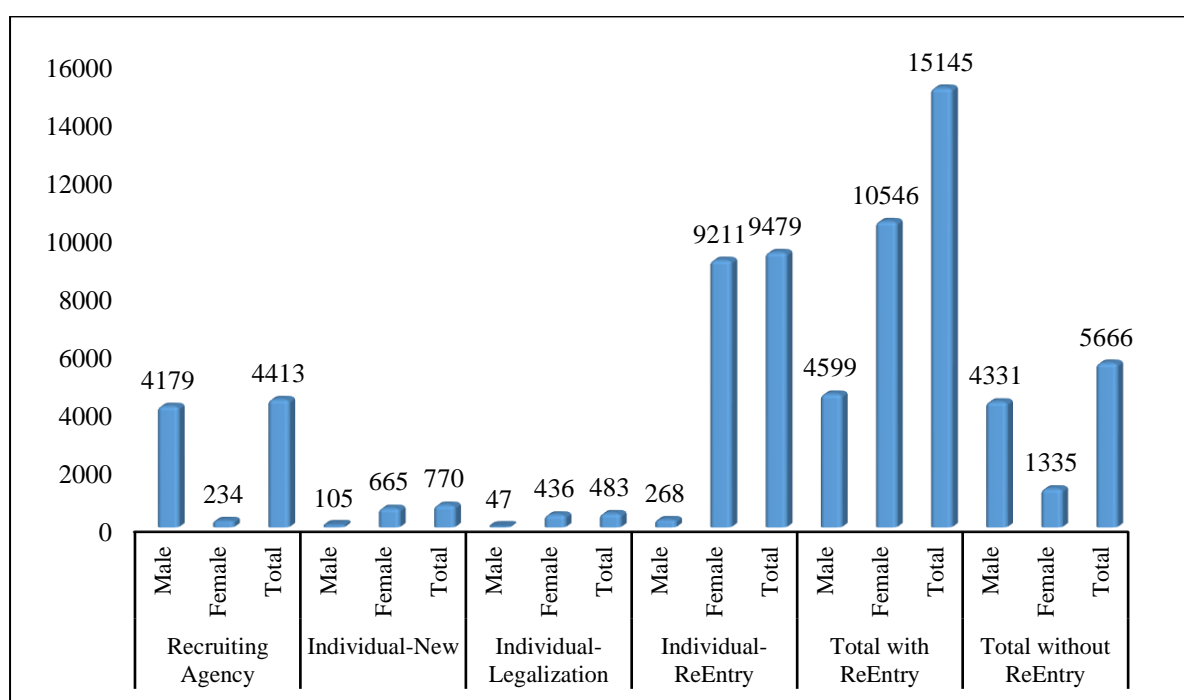


Figure 3: Labour Approval for FY 2078/79 (2021-07-16 to 2022-07-16) in Syangja

Study data disclosed the phenomenon of absent households and population categorized by sex in different regions. The data reveals that in Syangja, 37 percent of households are absent, while in the Gandaki region, the percentage is slightly lower at 31.4 percent. On a national scale in Nepal, 23.3 percent of households are absent. When considering the absent population by sex, the data shows that in Syangja, 11.3 percent are females, while in the Gandaki region, the percentage rise to 16.3 percent. Nationally in Nepal, 17.8 percent of the population consists of absent females. On the other hand, the majority of the absent population is male, accounting for 88.7 percent in Syangja, 83.7 percent in the Gandaki region, and 82.2 percent in Nepal. Overall, the data suggests that male participation remains higher in Nepal, as evidenced by the higher percentage of absent males compared to females.

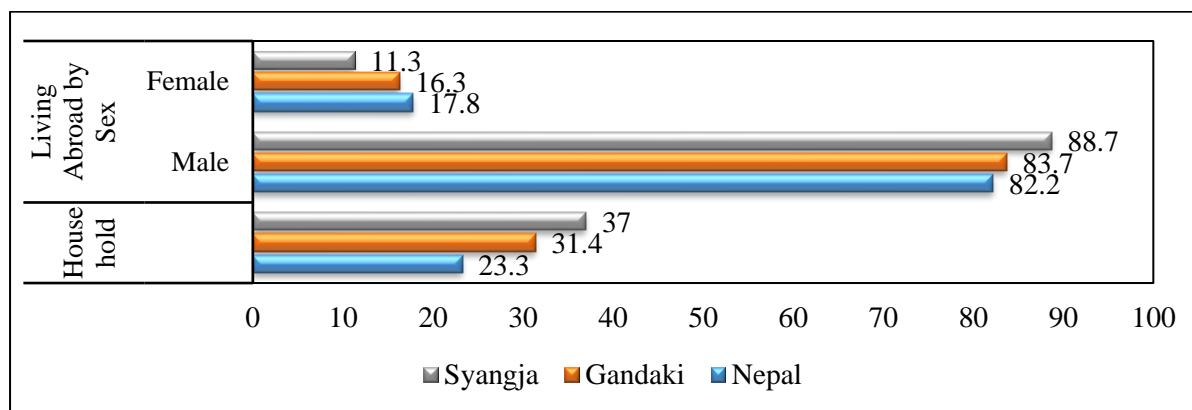


Figure 4: Absent household and population by sex [NPHC, 2021]

Causes of Death of Nepali Migrant in Destination Countries

The GCC countries and Malaysia, being major hosts to Nepali migrant workers, bear a significant burden of migrant worker deaths. From 2019/20 to 2021/22, over 100 deaths were reported annually in Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the UAE. South Korea also witnessed a considerable number of deaths among Nepali migrant workers, with 13 deaths in 2020/21 and 14 deaths in 2021/22 (FEWIMS, 2022). Additionally, even in newer destinations like Romania and Poland, there have been cases of Nepali migrant worker fatalities, although the numbers remain relatively low. The causes of death varied across countries, with Malaysia reporting COVID-19 as the leading cause, followed by suicide, traffic accidents, and 'natural causes.' In Saudi Arabia and Qatar, 'natural causes' preceded traffic accidents in terms of mortality reasons. The significant number of deaths resulting from traffic accidents and COVID-19 underscores the urgent need for specific attention to the safety and health of migrant workers. This can be achieved through comprehensive pre-departure orientation and training, as well as continuous support and guidance upon arrival at their destinations. Furthermore, the inability of many families to repatriate the bodies of deceased migrant workers and perform proper funeral rites during the COVID-19 pandemic emphasizes the importance of ensuring dignified repatriation, which should be facilitated by both the destination countries and Nepal.

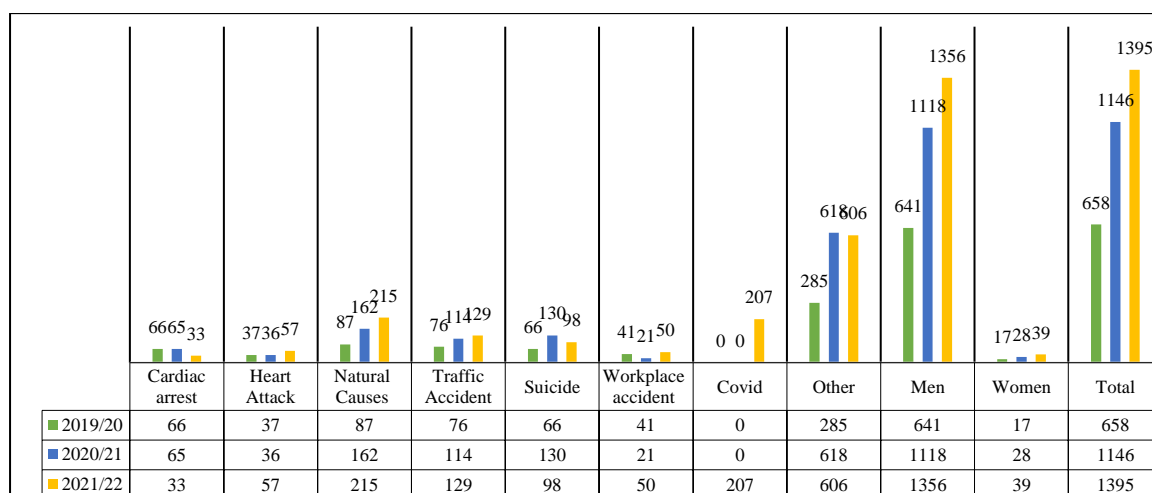


Figure 5: Causes of death of Nepali migrant in destination countries

The study illustrates data on the number of migrant deaths in Gandaki Province from the years 2019/20 to 2021/22. In 2019/20, there were 97 deaths reported among male migrants, while no female deaths were recorded, resulting in a total of 97 deaths. The following year, in 2020/21, the number of male migrant deaths increased to 175, with 4 female deaths, making a total of 179 deaths. In 2021/22, the numbers continued to rise, with 197 male migrant deaths and 5 female migrant deaths, resulting in a total of 202 deaths (FEWIMS, 2022). Overall, during the entire period, there were 469 deaths among male migrants and 9 deaths among female migrants, with a total of 478 deaths. This data sheds light on the mortality rates among migrants in Gandaki Province and highlights the need for further research and attention to address the factors contributing to these deaths and develop appropriate measures for the safety and well-being of migrants.

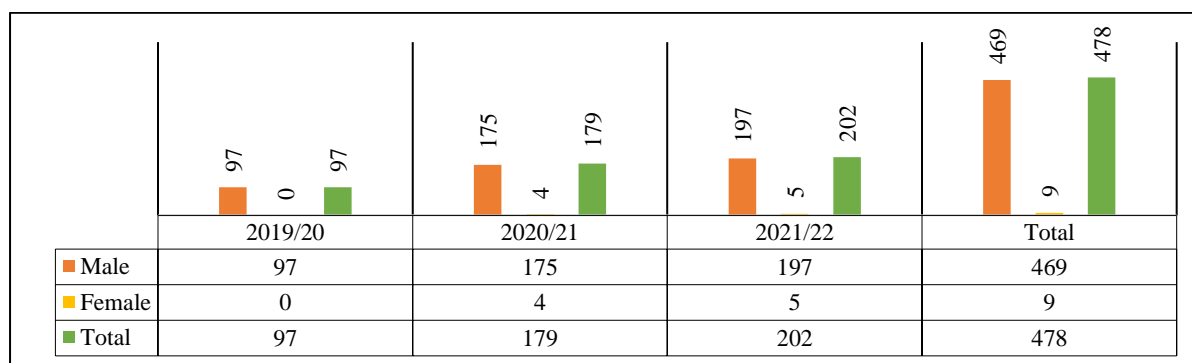


Figure 6: Number of migrant's death in Gandaki Province (2019/20 to 2021/22)

Table 3: Absent population abroad by country (of local levels in Syangja district)

Area	Total	Absent population abroad by country												Not Stated
		India	SAA RC	ASE AN	Middle East	Ot her Asian	Euro pean Country	Other Euro pean	North American	South ern American	Afri can	Pac ific	Ot her	
Gandaki	286593	54666	1065	16081	121621	34861	16436	11351	13184	104	872	15148	345	859
Syangja	35289	9435	144	1579	16960	3040	1265	697	952	8	120	961	41	87
Putalibazar	5194	1031	24	201	2559	531	241	130	193	0	16	245	14	9
Phedikhola	1473	235	11	39	823	156	78	38	52	0	3	35	0	3
Aadhikhola	1832	407	8	83	922	182	58	32	75	1	1	55	0	8
ArjunChaupari	1887	577	3	89	861	172	47	27	59	1	1	46	2	2
Bhirkot	3564	1098	10	123	1700	187	129	81	112	0	11	102	4	7
Biruwa	2224	597	13	126	1047	235	86	54	43	2	1	20	0	0
Harinash	2056	535	4	137	1125	108	57	28	27	1	1	28	1	4
Chapakot	3406	938	12	157	1833	229	66	35	39	1	14	74	2	6
Waling	6893	1800	18	280	3175	651	293	195	194	2	34	201	14	36
Galyang	4292	1454	38	223	1787	383	128	51	92	0	31	96	1	8

Kaligandaki	2468	763	3	121	1128	206	82	26	66	0	7	59	3	4
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Source: NPHC, 2021

Absent Population Abroad from Syangja District

The data highlights the distribution of the absent population abroad from different areas within the Syangja district and provides the migration patterns and destinations. The data includes various countries and regions where individuals from these local levels have migrated. The numbers indicate the total population and the count of individuals absent in countries such as India, SAARC countries, ASEAN countries, the Middle East, other Asian countries, European countries, other European regions, North America, South America, Africa, Pacific regions, other countries, and those with an unspecified location.

Study data on the absent population abroad categorized by reasons for their absence include various reasons such as salary/wage, trade/business, study/training, seeking job, being dependent, others, and an unspecified reason. The numbers indicate the total population and the count of individuals absent for each reason in different regions, including Gandaki, Syangja, and all local levels of Syangja district. The data highlights the reasons into the motivations behind the absence of populations in these regions and sheds light on the different factors contributing to migration and temporary residence abroad.

Table 4: Absent population abroad by reason of absence

Reasons	Total	Salary/wage	Trade/business	Study/training	Seeking job	Dependent	Others	Not Stated
Gandaki	286593	194863	1489	28966	23240	29744	2583	5708
Syangja	35289	24382	155	2033	3943	3785	320	671
Kaligandaki	2468	1738	8	85	320	227	32	58
Galyang	4292	2681	10	225	731	559	31	55
Waling	6893	4996	29	430	450	836	52	100
Chapakot	3406	2107	22	154	794	246	25	58
Harinash	2056	1614	3	67	118	227	16	11
Biruwa	2224	1542	8	114	267	218	20	55
Bhirkot	3564	2505	19	220	318	390	55	57
Arjun Chaupari	1887	1203	6	100	245	259	9	65
Aadhikhola	1832	1283	6	97	131	228	22	65
Phedikhola	1473	962	14	97	197	143	26	34
Putalibazar	5194	3751	30	444	372	452	32	113

Source: NPHC, 2021

Table 5 presents a comprehensive overview of households with absentees abroad and the corresponding absent population in the Gandaki region, specifically focusing on Syangja District and its local levels. Study reveals that out of the 68,923 households in Syangja District, 25,518 households have at least

one member absent abroad. The total absent population in the district totals to 35,289 individuals, with 31,292 males and 3,997 females. Similarly, the detailed data for all local levels of Syangja District is presented. For example, in Putalibazar Municipality, which comprises 11,881 households, 3,894 households have absentees abroad, resulting in an absent population of 5,194 individuals, including 4,538 males and 656 females. This data offers valuable information on extent of international migration in each area, highlighting the number of affected households and the corresponding absent population. It helps to understand the impact of migration on social dynamics, remittance inflows, and demographic changes within Syangja district and its constituent regions.

Table 5: Number of households with at least one absentee abroad and absent population

Area	Total Household	Household with at list one absentee	Absent population		
			Total	Male	Female
GANDAKI	661632	207910	286593	239788	46805
Syangja	68923	25518	35289	31292	3997
Putalibazar Municipality	11881	3894	5194	4538	656
Phedikhola Gaunpalika	3165	1084	1473	1294	179
Aandhikhola Gaunpalika	3992	1342	1832	1600	232
Arjun Chaupari Gaunpalika	3808	1316	1887	1644	243
Bhirkot Municipality	6171	2506	3564	3136	428
Biruwa Gaunpalika	3954	1466	2224	1936	288
Harinas Gaunpalika	3582	1472	2056	1885	171
Chapakot Municipality	6251	2542	3406	3154	252
Walling Municipality	13424	5129	6893	6086	807
Galyang Municipality	7933	3019	4292	3808	484
Kaligandaki Gaunpalika	4762	1748	2468	2211	257

Source: NPHC, 2021

The table 6 provides a detailed breakdown of the absent population abroad by level of education at the time of leaving the country. The data is presented for different areas within the Gandaki Province, including Syangja district and its local levels. Within Syangja district, the total number of absent individuals is 34,622. Among them, 361 individuals had a beginner-level education, 4,086 had completed primary education, 6,719 had attained a lower secondary education, 8,613 had a secondary education, 3,531 had successfully completed the School Leaving Certificate (SLC) or Secondary Education Examination (SEE), 7,542 had intermediate-level education, 1,523 were graduates, 763 had

postgraduate qualifications, 4 individuals belonged to an unspecified category, 38 had no formal education, and 1,442 individuals did not provide information about their education level. Additionally, the table offers similar information for each local level within the district. This distribution of the absent population by level of education provides the data on educational attainment of individuals who have migrated abroad. Understanding the skill sets and qualifications of migrants can provide valuable support into their potential contributions to the labor markets and economies of both the destination countries and the areas they originated from.

Table 6: Absent population abroad by level of education at leaving the country

Area	Total	Level of education										Not Stated
		Beginners	Primary	Lower Secondary	Secondary	SLC/SEE	Intermediate	Graduate	Post Graduate	Other	No Level	
Gandaki	280621	4213	36445	49425	55741	30570	66605	16124	6170	127	832	14369
Syangja	34622	361	4086	6719	8613	3531	7542	1523	763	4	38	1442
Putalibazar Municipality	5121	52	350	818	1221	598	1375	297	195	0	16	199
Phedikhola Gaunpalika	1445	15	136	232	304	189	393	84	42	1	1	48
Aandhikhola Gaunpalika	1799	18	211	315	395	177	421	124	38	0	1	99
Arjun Chaupari Gaunpalika	1822	23	267	380	403	161	361	99	34	0	2	92
Bhirkot Municipality	3467	57	431	751	917	287	676	140	95	1	1	111
Biruwa Gaunpalika	2181	15	225	472	619	206	435	80	29	0	3	97
Harinas Gaunpalika	2039	18	304	529	535	253	266	48	25	0	0	61
Chapakot Municipality	3366	45	503	846	889	304	528	88	37	1	0	125
Walling Municipality	6776	54	681	1121	1803	724	1610	263	161	0	5	354
Galyang Municipality	4188	42	621	764	917	466	917	209	73	1	3	175
Kaligandaki Gaunpalika	2418	22	357	491	610	166	560	91	34	0	6	81

Source: NPHC, 2021

Table 7 presents information on the absent population abroad categorized by age at the time of leaving the country. In Gandaki province, the total absent population totals to 286,593 individuals. The distribution of absent population by age groups, ranging from below 14 years to 65 years and above, with a separate category for those with undisclosed age is studied. By examining the age distribution of the absent population, this distribution enables a detailed understanding of the demographic dynamics of migrants and their potential influence on both the regions of origin and the destination countries.

Table7: Absent population abroad by age at leaving the country

Area	Total absent population	Age of departure (in Years)							Not State d
		Below 14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 +	
Gandaki	286593	14774	141055	89446	25478	4961	1470	895	8514
Syangja	35289	1935	18274	10148	2746	630	146	80	1330
Putalibazar Municipality	5194	204	2766	1536	415	90	16	19	148
PhedikholaGaunpalika	1473	65	725	462	136	31	12	2	40
AandhikholaGaunpalika	1832	108	935	508	142	33	10	0	96
Arjun ChaupariGaunpalika	1887	142	1013	505	112	19	10	5	81
Bhirkot Municipality	3564	242	1827	995	256	98	22	13	111
BiruwaGaunpalika	2224	110	1099	640	230	41	13	10	81
HarinasGaunpalika	2056	75	1112	578	147	32	1	3	108
Chapakot Municipality	3406	143	1817	966	309	69	12	1	89
Walling Municipality	6893	370	3393	2056	534	135	33	19	353
Galyang Municipality	4292	316	2231	1198	331	57	10	6	143
KaligandakiGaunpalika	2468	160	1356	704	134	25	7	2	80

Source: NPHC, 2021

Population of migrant people is rapidly increasing in the past two decades. In general, about half of the Nepali households have at least one member abroad or having returnee from foreign employment. At present, Nepalese communities and Nepal are significantly benefitted from the remittance sent by migrants abroad. Since lack of well-paid job and better opportunities for employment in home country have urged Nepalese to seek migration abroad, it may become extremely serious in the long run if any labor or migration policy changes in the country of destination, disfavoring the migrants. The global scenario reveals that people below poverty line with economic instability, food insecurity, lack of employment, unequal distribution of income, etc. tend to migrate to improve their situations. The increasing trend of labour migration has placed Nepal as one of the high remittance recipient countries among the least developed countries. Hence, remittance has played a significant role in the GDP of many nations, including that of Nepal.

This paper highlighted the key drivers of migration, the demographic characteristics of migrants, and the impacts of migration on both the origin and destination countries and communities. The study revealed that limited employment opportunities and low wages were prominent economic drivers of migration in the Syangja district. Many migrants sought better livelihood opportunities by migrating either to urban areas within the country or overseas. Education, marriage, and family reunification were revealed as social drivers for migration. The majority of migrating population from Syangja were young adults, with larger proportion of males compared to females. This gender imbalance has, of course, significant implications to the communities at the origin and destination countries, impacting their social structures, labor markets, and the family structures and dynamics.

Furthermore, the study explored the impact of migration on the origin and destination communities. Both the positive and negative impacts and consequences have been found in the source communities. On one hand, remittances sent by migrants have contributed to improved living standards of the families, increased household income, and helped investment in education and healthcare. On the other hand, the departure of young and productive workforce has led to a loss of labor, skills, and potential local entrepreneurship impacting very less or decline in the economic growth. In the communities of destination countries, the influx of migrants has created several challenges as well as opportunities. The pressure on urban infrastructure, housing, and public services is overarching. This requires effective urban or city planning, provision of infrastructure and governance. However, it should also be noted here that the migrants also contribute significantly to the local economy by filling the gap in labor market, skills, enhancing cultural diversity, and creating opportunities for entrepreneurship and economic diversity. In conclusion, this research article, based on the secondary data from the NSO, provides valuable figures into the dynamics of migration globally in general, and specifically in the local levels of Syangja district, Nepal.

Conclusion

The analysis of Nepal's National Census Data 2021 of Syangja district has indicated a higher prevalence of outmigration to market towns or urban areas or abroad from rural areas, contributing to urbanization and shift in demographic features or characteristics of the population. The findings can be helpful to enhance the understanding of the factors influencing migration. This paper can contribute to the existing knowledge on migration trends and patterns in Syangja district, Nepal. . Understanding these patterns and their consequences is essential for the policy makers and decision makers to formulate informed policies and interventions that can harness optimum benefits from the migration of own citizen while mitigating the hurdles and challenges.

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