

Reintegration Scenario of Home Returned Migrant Workers: Situation in Cumilla District

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Abstract: Remittance is the second largest earning source for Bangladesh Economy after RMG export. In 2015, according to Bangladesh Bank the net worth of remittance inflow was 15,270.99 million USD and later years it started to fall down until 2018 record level of remittance inflow worth of 15,544.68 million USD. Whatever the reasons may stand behind this ups and downs in remittance inflow, but this is also caused by increasing rate of home returned migrants. No one can deny, the contributions of these home returned migrants; but unfortunately, the reintegration scenario of these home returned migrants never got enough concern to anyone. This article shades light on this reintegration scenario of home returned migrants in Cumilla district, one of the top concentrated migrant areas in Bangladesh. This article focuses on the demographic information, abroad working period, earned skills in abroad, causes of home returning, present works of home returned migrants, present savings, present working problems, entrepreneurial trend and experience of migrations of home returned migrants of Cumilla district. The findings of this paper can help the government to implement policies and roles towards mixed cultural worked experienced home returned migrants and their reintegration process in a planned manner.

Keywords: Government policy and role, Home returned migrants, Reintegration scenario.

Introduction

Background and Research Problem

History of human migration in search of food and water dated back to ancient times. But those migrations were permanent to create a new civilization on the other places of earth. In Colonial periods conquest of new lands or kingdoms initiated the modern human migration which was highly inspired by industrialization using cheap labor force and raw materials from the colonized regions with the creation of a new consumer market for newly industrialized outputs. Through such Colonization few nations had built the fortune to be called as industrially developed nations. After

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World War-II, migration was no longer under full control of Colonizer nations, partially these human migrations started to take place in those independent nations who supplied the energy for industrialization. Gulf countries suddenly became the human migration hub after the 1950's successful exploitation of petroleum as driving energy for industrialization and transportation revolution. Bangladesh as a nation which has a measurable colonial past and exploitive history of being East Pakistan, experienced a large scale of migration between 1947 to 1971. After the independence of Bangladesh, human migration gained a brand name and legality of the international arena. But recently, the home returning migration is taking place in huge amounts due to the instability of migrants' host countries especially from middle-eastern countries. Therefore, it is a prime research problem how do those home returned migrants reintegrate themselves within the society.

Literature Reviews

In 2017, overseas migrant employment from Bangladesh is 10,08,525 and in which only from Cumilla is 1,05,386 amounting 10.45 per cent of total migrants' workers (BMET, 2017a). On the other hand, from 2005 to 2017 total migrant workers from Cumilla district is the highest number than any other district in Bangladesh amounting 8, 10,876 and 10.75 per cent of total migrant workers during that time period (BMET, 2005-2017b). But, there is an opposite trend too of returning migrant workers from gulf countries especially from Saudi Arabia, UAE and Oman which amount in 56.2 per cent of total home coming migrants and 10.6 percent of total home returning migrants were from Cumilla district (ILO, 2015). So, it is a basic question of interests how these homes returning migrant workers reintegrating themselves? What should be the role of the govt. for utilizing the skills and remittance of these home coming migrant workers for reintegration and social security? This paper will be helpful to solve these inquiries.

Very few studies had been done before on this issue. In 2015, International Labour Organization (ILO) with the help of BMET, BILS and "The Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment" on "1,200 returning migrant workers at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka and Shah Amanat International Airport in Chittagong and additional 85 in depth interviews" which doesn't include reintegrating scenario of returned migrants, their new employment efforts. Besides that, report omitted "the challenges and problems during their adjustment and reintegration processes".

Just after that, step forward act of (Hasan and Rahman, 2015), brought light "characteristics of Expatriates, Remittance Flow, and their Adaptation Processes: Situation of Six Villages in Bangladesh" featuring on three divisional villages. But this publication didn't clarify definite reintegration process as using and promoting skills of returnee migrants. They just overviewed the situation of migrants rather than showing their returning and reintegration process using their skills and savings.

Besides, International Organization for Migration (IOM, 2017), the UN Migration Agency, with project partner NGO named POPI (People's Oriented Program implementation) is supporting the returnees with asset transfers and income generation training in root level, like 50 returnee migrants at the Meherpur Union Parishad in November 2017 who were trapped aboard a trawler on their way to Malaysia. IOM's Building Resilience of Returnee Migrants project, funded by the Australian government, aims to help migrant returnees get back on their feet. IOM aims to promote safe migration and support victims of irregular migration through awareness building at the national and community level. IOM also works with the government to create safe migration enabling policies for both internal and international migration.

Objectives of the Study

The general objective of the study is to identify the reintegration Scenario of home returning migrants. The specific objectives of this article are:

- To analyze the demographic aspects (age, marital status, education, dependent family members, and other earners of the family) of returned migrants
- To examine the migrant's abroad life, returning causes and acquired skills (countries worked, abroad worked time, major cause(s) of home returning and abroad acquired working skills)
- To observe the present reintegration scenario of returned migrants (works, savings, working problems)
- To find out the necessity of returned migrants for the betterment of reintegration process (further required loan and entrepreneurial trend if loaned)
- To examine the willingness to re-migrant and working experience of returned migrants.

Methodology

The data

This study used quantitative data, which is collected through face to face interview using semi structured questionnaire. Greater concern was laid down on data collection stage to ensure the quality and validity of the data. In order to collect in-depth data from home returned migrants the present study has been conducted in ten Upazillas (Sub-districts) in Cumilla district. From each Upazilla fourteen correspondents have been randomly chosen.

Selection of the Study area

Total 14 Upazilla in Cumilla district will randomly selected for the home coming workers.

Table 1. Location of home returned migrants under field survey 2018

SL	Upazilla (Sub-districts) in Cumilla	Number of Respondents
1.	Comilla Sadar Dakshin	14
2.	Burichong	14
3.	Debidwar	14
4.	Homna	14
5.	Titas	14
6.	Chandina	14
7.	Brahmanpara	14
8.	Barura	14
9.	Muradnagar	14
10.	Chauddagram	14
Total = 10		140

Source: Field Survey, 2018

Sample and Sampling procedure

Respondents should work in foreign country especially gulf-countries and their returning should not be longer than 1 week to 2 years. In this condition, each respondent is considered as sampling unit. Sample size of the study is 140 which are selected randomly.

Analysis of data

The collected data was analyzed by using Microsoft Excel and Statistical Packages for Social Sciences (SPSS). The analyzed data was presented via Graphs, Pie chart and simple statistical tools.

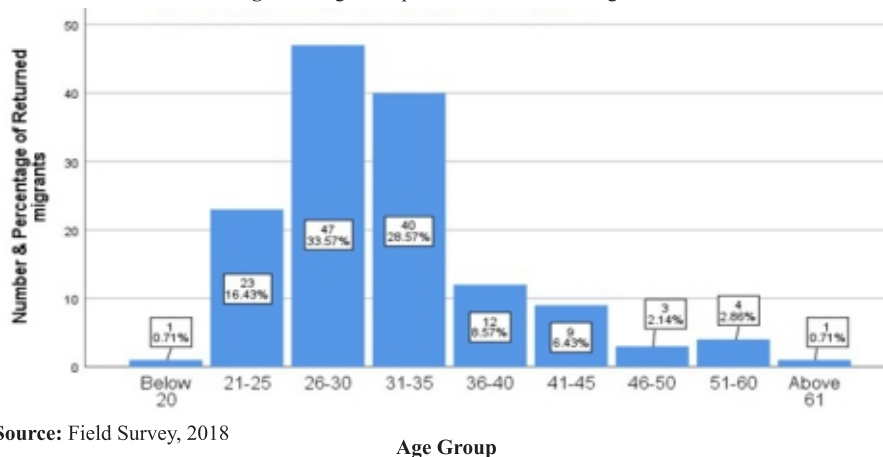
Findings of the Study

Demographic Scenario of Returned Migrants

Age Composition of Returned Migrants

From below 20 years old to above 61 years old, the ages of returned migrant are categorized into groups with 5 years interval. The most returned migrant age group is 26-30 range amounting 33.57% of total returned migrants. The 2nd and 3rd age groups are 31-35 and 21-25 accordingly. First three age groups are collectively representing 78.57 per cent of total returned migrants. That means majority of home returned migrants are youth and physically able to work.

Figure 1. Age Composition of Returned Migrants



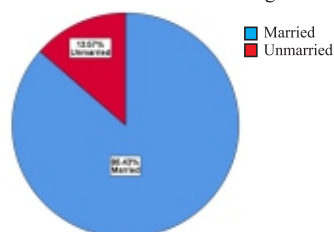
Source: Field Survey, 2018

Age Group

Marital Status of Returned Migrants

Among the home returned migrants 86.4 per cent are married and 13.6 per cent unmarried. That indicated these home returned migrants have families to take financial responsibilities.

Figure 2. Marital Status of Returned Migrants

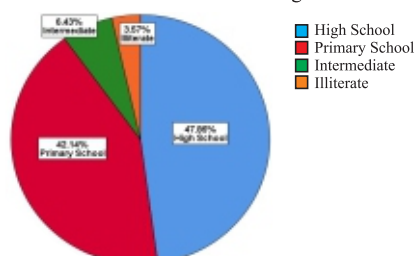


Source: Field Survey, 2018

Education Level of Returned Migrants

The study finds out that 47.86 percent of home returned migrants are enrolled into high school. The second highest, 42.14 percent enrolled into primary education. 6.43 percent enrolled into intermediate or college level education and 3.57 percent are illiterate home returned migrants.

Figure 3. Education level of Returned Migrants

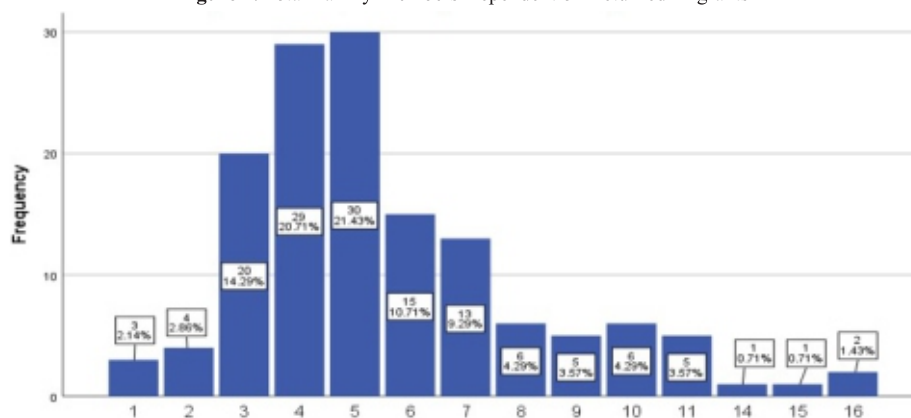


Source: Field Survey, 2018

Total Family Members Dependent on Returned Migrants

The financial and social responsibilities of a returned migrant can be measure through the size of the dependent family members. Except the returned migrant, the study finds out the following dependent family member bar diagram. From the bar diagram we can see that, 21.43 percent migrants have 5 dependent family members. The second highest, 20.71 percent have 6 dependent family members. The mean of dependent family members is 5.62 or in general we can say 5 to 6 dependent family members on a home returned migrant.

Figure 4. Total Family Members Dependent on Returned Migrants



Source: Field Survey, 2018

Total Family Members

Other Earners in the Families of the Returned Migrants

In the families of home returned migrants, there are also partial earner(s) in home or abroad. Therefore, it's also an important to count the other earners of the same joint or nuclear family.

Table 2. Other Earners in the Families of the Returned Migrants

Number of Other Earners	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
One Domestic	21	15.0	15.0
One Migrant	36	25.7	40.7
Both Domestic	8	5.7	46.4
Both Migrant	7	5.0	51.4
One Migrant One Domestic	4	2.9	54.3
None	64	45.7	100.0
Total	140	100.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2018

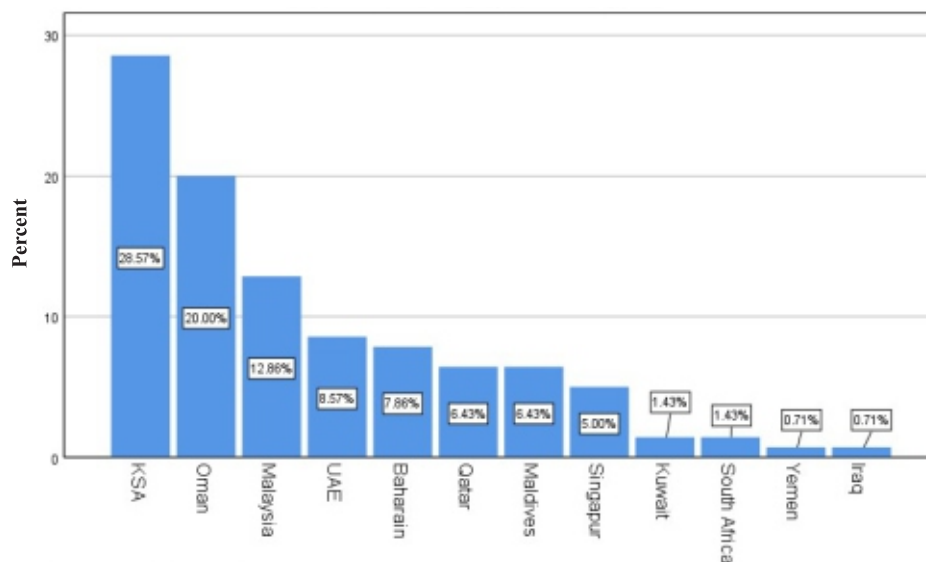
From the table above, 45.7 percent home returned migrant have no other earners of their families. Therefore, it could be a crucial burden for these homes returned migrants if they do not have well domestic income source. On the other hand, 25.7 percent home returned migrants still have their own one migrant family member working in abroad. Therefore, these homes returned migrant have lesser burden. Another 15 percent home returned migrants have their one domestic active earning family member. Both domestic earners, both migrants and one domestic one migrant earners are respectively 5.7 percent, 5 percent and 2.9 percent.

Migrant's Abroad Life, Returning Causes and Acquired Skills

Countries Returning Migrant Worked

Home returned migrants are from different countries. From the study, we find 28.6 percent home returned migrants are from KSA; 20 percent from Oman; 12.9 percent from Malaysia. The UAE and Baharain returned migrants are nearly similar in count 8.57 percent and 7.86 percent respectively. On the other hand, Qatar and Maldives returned migrants are in same count representing 6.43 percent of the total returned migrants. The rest of the nations has lower rate of returned migrants.

Figure 5. Countries Returning Migrant Worked

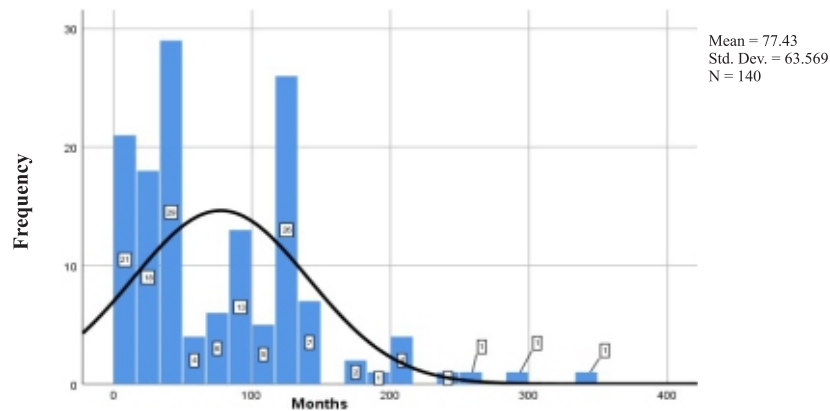


Source: Field Survey, 2018

Abroad Worked Time of Returned Migrants

The home returned migrants worked time express by months. The minimum worked time period was 1 month and maximum 348 month. From the monthly worked time period, the mean is 77.43 month and standard deviation 63.569 from total 140 correspondents.

Figure 6. Abroad Worked Time of Returned Migrants (In Month)

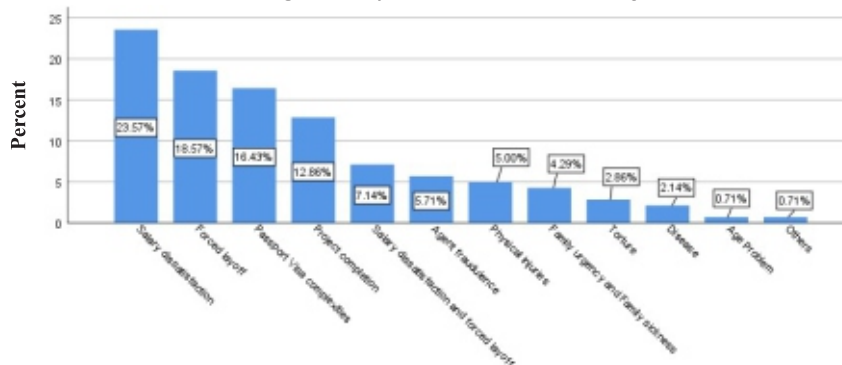


Source: Field Survey, 2018

Major Causes of Home Returning

There are various causes of home returning of migrants. The study finds that major 23.57 percent migrants returned home due to salary dissatisfaction with their foreign employers. Another, 18.57 percent affirmed their forced layoffs from jobs. Other three major causes are passport visa complexities, project completion and salary dissatisfaction and forced layoffs amounts 16.43 percent, 12.86 percent and 7.14 percent accordingly.

Figure 7. Major Causes of Home Returning



Source: Field Survey, 2018

Major Causes

Abroad Acquired Working Skills

The home returning migrants have acquired experience from abroad. The study shows 34.3 percent of the home returned migrants have construction working skill; 10.0 percent have salesman skill; 8.6 percent have business skill. Moreover, 7.9 percent home returned migrants have driving skills.

Table 3. Abroad Acquired Working Skills of Returned Migrants

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Construction worker	48	34.3	34.3
Salesman	14	10.0	44.3
Business	12	8.6	52.9
Driving	11	7.9	60.7
Hotel boy	8	5.7	66.4
Electrical	7	5.0	71.4
Domestic worker	7	5.0	76.4
Physical labor	7	5.0	81.4
Gardening	6	4.3	85.7
Cleaning	4	2.9	88.6
Others	4	2.9	91.4
Carpenter	3	2.1	93.6
Painter	3	2.1	95.7
Packaging	2	1.4	97.1
Garments	2	1.4	98.6
Supervisor	1	.7	99.3
Garage	1	.7	100.0
Total	140	100.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2018

Present Reintegration Scenario of Returned Migrants

Present Work of Returned Migrants

The home returned migrants are trying to reintegrating themselves in various ways with their savings or other helps. 17.1 percent of returned migrants working as construction workers, 14.3 percent doing business with their savings, 14.3 percent preferred to driving. But, for various reasons 10.7 percent yet remained unemployed.

Table 4. Present Work of Returned Migrants

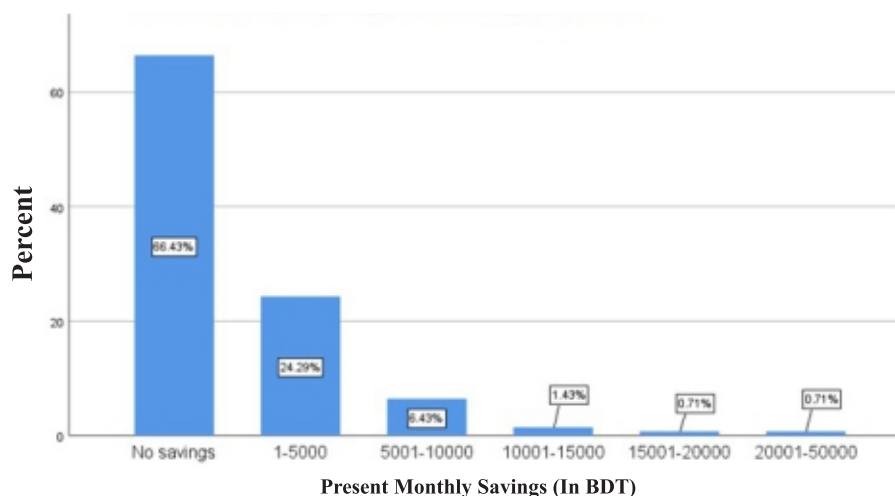
Types of Worker	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Construction worker	24	17.1	17.1
Business	20	14.3	31.4
Driver	20	14.3	45.7
Service Job	19	13.6	59.3
Agriculture	17	12.1	71.4
Unemployed	15	10.7	82.1
Others	7	5.0	87.1
Grocery	6	4.3	91.4
Day labor	5	3.6	95.0
Painter	4	2.9	97.9
Carpenter	2	1.4	99.3
Fishery	1	.7	100.0
Total	140	100.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2018

Present Monthly Savings of Returned Migrants

The home returned migrants who once sent thousands of thousand saved money to home nation, but unfortunately 66.43 percent of them have no savings working in own nation. The second highest 24.29 percent returned migrant group saves 1-5000 taka and third highest 6.43 percent can save 5001-10000 taka per month.

Figure 8. Present Monthly Savings of Returned Migrants (in BDT)



Source: Field Survey, 2018

Present Working Problems of Returned Migrants

The home returned migrants facing various problems in reintegrating themselves after foreign working experience. 23.6 percent of returned migrants have lack of savings; 20.0 percent have lack of loans; 15.7 percent have lack of proper job. Another 7.9 percent confessed they have both lack of loan and lack of savings.

Table 5. Present Working Problems of Returned Migrants

Problems	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Lack of savings	33	23.6	23.6
Lack of loan	28	20.0	43.6
Lack of Jobs	22	15.7	59.3
Lack of loan & lack of savings	11	7.9	67.1
No problem	9	6.4	73.6
Over loan	8	5.7	79.3
Lack of training	7	5.0	84.3
Over loan and lack of savings	7	5.0	89.3
No govt. assistance	6	4.3	93.6
No ability to re-migrant	2	1.4	95.0
Age problem	2	1.4	96.4
Lack of savings and no ability to re-migrant	2	1.4	97.9
No govt. assistance and lack of training	1	.7	98.6
Lack of training and lack of jobs	1	.7	99.3
Others	1	.7	100.0
Total	140	100.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2018

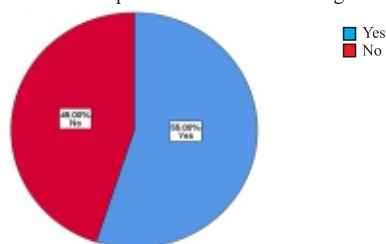
On the other hand, 6.4 percent have no problems at all, where another 5.7 percent returned migrants have over loan problems.

Necessity of Returned Migrants

Further Required Loan of Returned Migrants

The home returned migrant demands loans according to their future plan. 55.0 percent home returned migrants required further loans. And another 45.0 percent do not required loans.

Figure 9. Further Loan Requirement of Returned Migrants

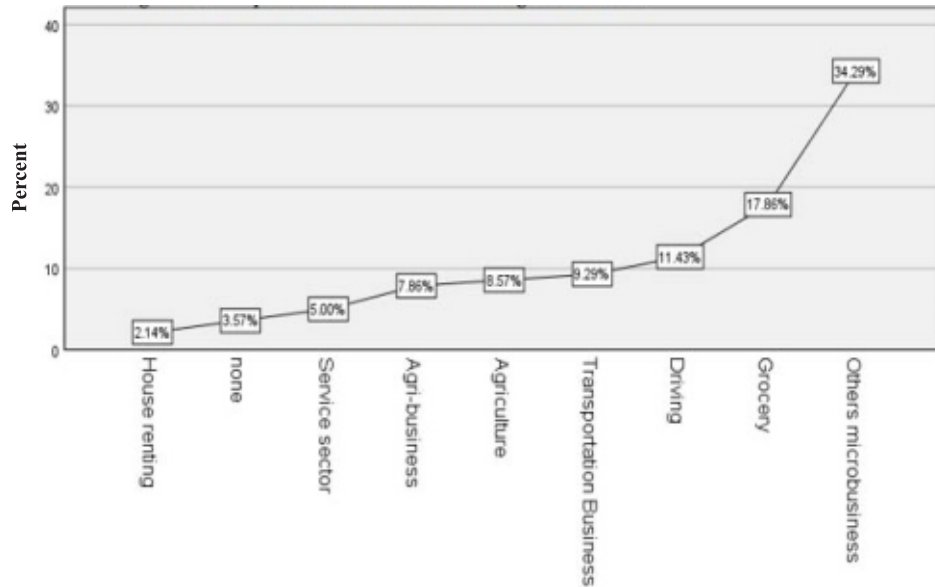


Source: Field Survey, 2018

Entrepreneurial Trend of Returned Migrants if Loaned

If the home returning migrants are loaned or helped they wishes to trend into new entrepreneur according to their abroad experience.

Figure 10. Entrepreneurial Trend of Returned Migrants if Loaned



Source: Field Survey, 2018

Entrepreneurial trend if loaned

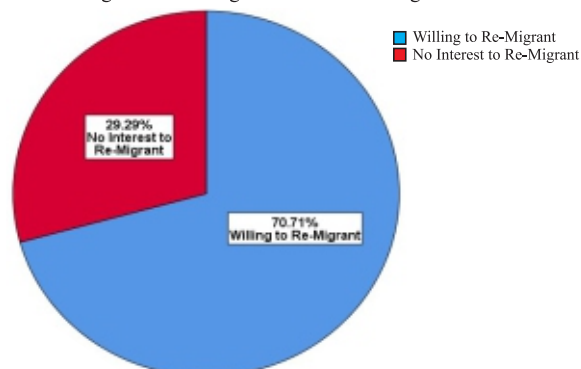
34.29 percent of home returned migrants wish to start micro-businesses; 17.86 percent want to expand their grocery; 11.43 percent prefer driving their own vehicles; 9.29 percent want to run their transportation business; 8.57 percent want large scale agriculture production; 7.86 percent want to do agro-business; 5.00 percent want service sector and 2.14 want to rent their house. But, interestingly, 3.57 percent want to do nothing but retired from work.

Willingness to Re-migrant and Working Experience of Returned Migrants

Willingness to Re-migrant of Returned Migrants

Social behavior denoted here the attitude toward remigration of home returned migrants, happened due to foreign mixed culture, attitude and ambition in the character of home returned migrants. This social behavior turns them into future plan.

Figure 11. Willingness to Re-migrant of Returned Migrants



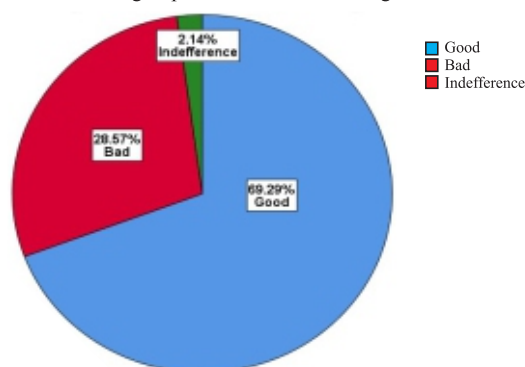
Source: Field Survey, 2018

From the study found 70.7 percent of home returned migrants are willing to re-migrant if they have ability or help from anywhere. Another 27.1 percent do not want to re-migrant. Very lowly engage in political, religious or drug addiction.

Working Experience of Returned Migrants

The study finds 69.29 percent home returned migrants have good experience about working in foreign countries. On the other hand, 28.57 percent of the returned migrants have bad experience about working in foreign countries. Another 2.14 percent remain indifference between good or bad experience.

Figure 12. Working Experience of Returned Migrants



Source: Field Survey, 2018

Conclusion

Remittance is always blessings for Bangladesh economy. This sector grew nearly itself without proper governmental assistance. But, it's time to think about the home returning migrants which are in rapid increasing trend due war in Middle East and chaos in many nations with growing nationalistic sentiments and inward economic policy.

This study found that 78.57 percent home returned migrants are in the between 21 to 35 years old. That means, these young workable youth can be re-migrant if they are financially helped and provide adequately trained. Moreover, their foreign working skills could build our nation through growing micro-business entrepreneurial trend. They may not have literature certificates but still they are highly skilled and experienced in their work.

Recommendations

- a. Accountability of foreign embassies of Bangladesh should be taken as 16.43 percent home returned migrants have passport and visa related unsolved problems.
- b. A guided migration should hold by government as salary dissatisfaction and forced layoffs combined 49.28 percent of home returned migrants which all are due to result of unguided and uninformed migration outcomes.
- c. Home returned migrants should have reintegration facilities such as investment relief, loan facilities with nominal interest and necessary training for entrepreneurial purposes.

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