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Conclusion
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CONCLUSION

The scope for understanding migration as a process has broadened considerably in recent years. Migration studies are no longer restricted to simply understanding push and pull factors. It now encompasses the understanding of the migration experience in its various socio-cultural, political and economic dimensions (Chopra 1995, Gardner and Osella 2003). Migration is now recognized as a social process that involves not only individuals but also households (De Haan 1999, Pessar 1999).

In the present study, large numbers of women along with their households have migrated to Jogendra Nath colony to avoid communal violence and poverty in their homeland, which means they are pushed largely by circumstances. Migrant households have taken positive decisions to migrate into India from Bangladesh as they have little option and they are forced to leave Bangladesh for secured lives and survival of their families. Here the roles of family and kin group in arriving at the decision of migration are crucial.

It is found in the present study that the respondents belonging to young age group i.e. 14-35 years have migrated at a larger number than other age groups as they have felt their lives more vulnerable in their homeland due to ethnic tensions and communal violations. They migrated into India in order to keep themselves in a safer place. The majority of them (98.34%) belong to Namasudra caste and only (0.33%) belong to Brahmin caste. So a homogeneity is found among the migrant population in respect of the caste configuration and it is also known from them during the study that most of them have migrated from Faridpur District which has helped to develop a sense of unity and integrity among the migrant people. In the
sample it is found that 83.33 percent are married and only 3.00 percent are separated.

It was observed that age of the most of the respondents (83.00%) at the time of marriage was between 14-18 years and age of the most of the respondents (46.67%) at the time of giving birth of her first baby was between 19-22 years. A large number of migrant women belonged to poor families. The educational level of their parents was also low. The parents with their girl children felt their lives vulnerable in Bangladesh due to unfavourable circumstances caused by communal violence. So they arranged marriages of their girl children at an early age. Poverty and illiteracy of their parents were also important factors for early marriages of the migrant women. Due to early marriage the respondents gave birth of their first children at an early age.

Most of the migrant households (77.33%) form nuclear families in the place of destination due to insufficient earnings and inadequate living space. Formation of nuclear family is considered as a strategy for survival. Small sized families consisting of four members is found among 48.67 percent households. It is also observed that 26.67 percent families have two (2) dependent members and 28.33 percent families have three (3) dependent members.

The sample population clearly depicts the illiteracy of the majority of the respondents (58.67%). Due to their illiteracy or low level of education they engage themselves in various types of low paid unskilled works at home or outside home in order to earn some money for the survival of their families. The majority of the respondents are engaged in sewing (42.67) and bidi binding (20.67%) as these types of works have market potentials. As they are engaged in various types of low paid unskilled works so their earnings are also very minimum to run their families smoothly. The monthly incomes of the most of the respondents (95.67%) are upto Rs. 1000, and monthly family incomes of most of the families (61.00%) fall between Rs. 1001-3000 and only one family earns more than Rs 9000 per month. So the
monthly family incomes reveal the very poor condition of the migrant households.

Due to the poor economic condition 69.00 percent households pick up fire-wood to cook their food. It is also observed that 74.00 percent respondents wear ordinary dresses. 75.00 percent respondents find source of entertainment through gossiping with neighbours during leisure time. A very few number of them watch T.V. during their leisure time.

II

Due to communal violences and ethnic tensions in Bangladesh millions of people emigrated from Bangladesh and scattered in the different parts of West Bengal and India. Some of them came in Kalyani town first and later on settled themselves at Jogendra Nath colony of the same town. The settlers of Jogendra Nath colony were the migrant people of Bangladesh. Before 1964 the land of this colony was vacant. Surendra Nath Sikari was the first settler in the colony later on 14 other families took shelter in this colony. These fifteen families initially struggled much to build the colony since 1964, though subsequently other families who settled later in this colony joined in this struggle. Though the fear and difficulties of the unknown circumstances gripped their hearts, at the sometime the thought of absence of ethnic tensions and communal violences encouraged them to join in the struggle for colony building. The lands were inhospitable covered with shrubs. Through collective labour the area was made fit for habitation. The colony was made up of haphazard groupings of small makeshift huts which were constructed with locally available materials such as bamboo, mud, rags thatches etc. The government of West Bengal tried to evict them several times. The struggle for colony building was started under the leadership of Rajendra Nath Halder and Jogendra Nath Mondal and came to an end under their leadership.

In the initial years there were no facilities of drinking water, tubewell, market and pitch roads for communication. But now this colony is under
Kalyani Municipality and Kalyani Municipality has taken every responsibility to develop this colony. Since 1995 the people of this colony have got their democratic rights to cast their votes in Municipal election and now there is no fear of eviction from this land as this land has been allotted to them by Relief and Rehabilitation Department.

III

The main causes of migration of the people from Bangladesh are ethnic tensions, communal disturbances and poverty. So, migration is considered by them as a survival strategy. This study focuses on new survival strategies adopted by the migrant women in the place of destination. Here the researcher observes that traditional gender roles do not dictate the behaviour pattern of women and girls. Migrant women do the household works at the same time they are engaged in various income generating activities both at home and outside home. They feel responsible to earn money for the survival of their families. It was observed that most of the respondents in their homeland were housewives. Though they live in a patriarchal social system yet their male counterparts show liberal attitude towards their working wives. This is a strategy to adapt themselves in the new circumstances.

In the place of destination the migrant households face lot of problems in their daily lives. They adopt different need-based strategies in their three stages of settlement to overcome these problems.

In the initial stage as the number of households were smaller so they were united easily and engaged themselves in joint economic venture to meet their economic requirements. As most of the migrants migrated from same district of Bangladesh so their livelihood followed their own distinct culture with various survival strategies. In the first stage the male members were engaged in economic activities and women were engaged in domestic activities. But women also helped their male members in time of need. In
this initial stage the migrant households built makeshift huts for their dwelling purpose due to the fear of eviction.

In the second phase survival strategies had been changed due to increase in the number of households in that colony. It was not possible for them to continue the joint economic venture to meet their economic requirements. So the male member switched over from joint economic activity to individual economic activity and women also tried to earn some money through various types of income generating activities for the survival of their families e.g. cattle rearing, bidi-binding, paper bag making and also by domestic works in the urban households etc. In this stage the migrant households tried to build permanent dwelling huts with locally available materials by replacing their make-shift nature of huts of their first stage of settlement as they were allotted 3-5 cottas of land for their permanent settlement.

In the second stage the migrant households developed the concept of 'Samaj' (a village society) in order to protect themselves from any type hostile environment. This was an important survival strategy adopted by them in the new environment. This village society helped the migrant people in time of any crisis.

In the third stage the migrant people (both men and women) engaged themselves in various types of permanent works. In this stage they formed associational activities like credit and saving societies which helped them to meet their economic requirements in time of need. As most of migrant people were illiterate and very poor so they had to fall in prey of local money lenders to meet their economic requirements. So it was an important strategy to satisfy their economic needs. Besides this they also developed 'support-network' strategy which helped them to solve problems other than economic need e.g. taking care of children and old people, exchange of dresses during festive activities etc. This was also an important strategy adopted by the poor migrant people in order to cope with the urban problems.
The poor women in the third stage took the facilities of different groups under the scheme of Development of Women and Children in Urban Area (DWCUA) to uplift their economic condition and betterment of their families. After joining in DWCUA they gained economic independence which helped them to bring a change in their status and gave them new identity in the society.

The researcher tried to understand relationship between perceived needs of the respondents and their age, level of education, nature of family type and occupational status through $\chi^2$ test. It is observed from the $\chi^2$ tests that age and occupational differences have no significant impact on the perceived needs of the respondents but there is a significant association between educational differences and perceived needs of the respondents and differences in family types and perceived needs of the respondents.

IV

For a comprehensive analysis of migrant households an attempt has been made to know about the level of living in their place of origin.

It was observed that a good number of respondents' husbands were illiterate (43.00%) and those who achieved higher educational qualification were very few in number. 34.33% percent husbands of the respondents were engaged in cultivation as they had their own agricultural land for cultivation and 45.00 percent husbands were engaged in unskilled low paid works. A good number of respondents' husbands (36.67%) earned Rs. 1001-2000 per month.

So, it is clear that due to low level of education and occupation of the respondents' husbands their monthly incomes were also low i.e. they belonged to the low income group in their homeland.

Regarding land holding pattern of the households in the place of origin it was observed that majority of households possessed (56.00%) upto 1
Bigha land. It was found that 86.00 percent respondents were housewives and remaining others were low paid workers.

The family structure of the migrant households reveals that 60.00 percent families were nuclear and 89.33 percent respondents lived in Kachha houses. 53.33 percent households did not have any latrine and bathroom and they used open field for excretion.

As regards the asset position it was found that 51.67 percent households did not have any asset in the place of origin and very few of them were in better position (5.33%) in respect of the asset lying in their houses.

Dress pattern of migrant households reveals that 48.33% respondents had to wear ordinary dresses.

So, the income level, nature of house, asset position, landholding pattern and dress pattern of the migrant households reflect their poor living standard in their place of origin, but it was found that level of satisfaction of the majority of households (53.34%) in the place of origin was high because of their strong emotional and psychological attachment with their homeland.

From the comparative study of family structure both in the place of origin and destination, the prevalence of nuclear families i.e. 60.00 percent and 77.33 percent respectively is found.

Comparative analysis of quality of houses of the migrant households reflects the poor condition of the houses both in the place of origin and destination i.e. 89.33 percent and 83.33 percent respectively.

About the asset position of the migrant households it is found that 89.33 percent households had no asset in the place of origin but this number has gone down in the place of destination as it is 3.33 percent.

Activity status of the respondents husbands reveals that a good number of their husbands were engaged (34.33%) in cultivation in their
home land whereas the number decreases in 2.33 percent in the place of destination due to non-availability of agricultural land. But it was found that households taking low quality of food in the place of origin were 30.00 percent and the number has increased in the place of destination (51.67%) due to low level of income.

Regarding level of satisfaction it was found that majority of the respondents (53.34%) had high level of satisfaction in their home land which has decreased to 16.00 percent in the place of destination due to their detachment from their homeland.

It was also observed that attitude of the respondents towards love marriage was very rigid in the place of origin due to the rigidity of social rules and regulation while the change in attitude towards love marriage is found in the place of destination due to close contact with urban environment.

Tension, conflict and violence are important aspects of familial relation. It is not confined in one particular stage of society. It occurs in upper, middle or lower classes though with different nature and extent (Ramdoss and Karna 2003). Tension, conflict and domestic violence arise out of the familial environment when there is absence of harmony or good relation among the family members (Saxena 1999). It is observed through comparative study of poor illiterate emigrant women and affluent educated working women that the nature of tension, conflict and violence is completely different among the two different groups of women.

It is found that 79.00 percent respondents in the present sample maintain a good relation with their family members which helps to perform their domestic activities and other economic activities in co-operation with other family members but this co-operation is not found among the family members of affluent, educated working women. It is also observed that husbands and in-laws of the poor women are very liberal about their
working women, if they do not return back at home in scheduled time due to disturbance of conveyances the in-laws and husbands do not give any ill-treatment towards their daughters-in-law and wives but the educated working women face ill-treatment from their family members in such a similar situation. The husbands and in-laws think that they are being deprived and neglected by their wives and daughters-in-law respectively.

The present study reveals that the respondents who work at home they (79.00%) look after their children, so most of their children (70.34%) interact with other children without any conflict and majority of them (70.33%) do not do any mischievous work. The study also shows that a large number of respondents (62.67%) give adequate company to their children so they do not have any guilty feeling about this matter. It is also found from the study that 43.00 percent children of the respondents have no demand of getting more company from their mothers but 45.00 percent children of the respondents expect moderate company from their mothers. But the educated working mother always feel guilty for not giving adequate company to their children. For this reason they have to face much problems in the family.

But one thing that is found common among married educated affluent working women and married less educated poor working women is both the groups face physical and mental torture by their husbands yet both the groups try to win over the conflicting situation to maintain the harmonious condition in the family.

VI

Migration causes shift of residence from one place to another to earn livelihood as well as it changes the socio-cultural and economic milieu both at the place of origin and place of destination. Women immigrants are often intended to be dependents and stay at home to fulfill the stereotypical occupations. Men are more likely destined to be employed outside the home and capable of looking after women and children independently (Boleria and
But in this study it is found that poor women play significant role to run their families by contributing their total incomes. It is also found that social network (including kin, caste etc) is the most effective channel of communication (informative system) which favours decision making in migration as very rarely people move without prior information and a linkage of some kind or other.

The present study throws light on the survival strategies of the poor migrant women. They migrate with hope of getting more opportunities for the survival of their families but they have to face much hidden silent sufferings in the place of destination. So, they have to adopt different need based strategies for the survival of their families.

These poor women tried to improve their economic condition with the help of community and kinship network. Generally, these poor women being socio-economically downtrodden lacked mental faculties for shouldering risks of borrowing and investing money in micro-enterprise. But when they formed micro-credit and saving societies with the help of community and kinship network they got opportunities of savings at local level. They also formed their own 'samaj' or 'village society' in order to protect themselves from any type of hostile circumstances. This 'village society' also helped to promote community solidarity which in turn helped them to cope with urban poverty.

So, the policy makers have to understand how the survival strategies of poor, illiterate migrant women enable them to acquire confidence and strength to win over their vulnerable position in the urban area. It is also necessary to take cognizance of the poor migrant people for the amelioration of their poverty and proper rehabilitation.