Chapter 7: Conclusion

There are many evidences (e.g. Rogaly et. al. 2001, Janarth 2004) where children of school going age migrate with their parents or relatives missing their school at the place of origin. They neither have access to school at the destination nor at the place of origin. When they return to school at their source locality there may be too little possibility that they could catch what was going on in the class. The concern of the above discussion is unlike this type of migration. Here the children hardly migrate and even if they migrate it is for very short period compared to the other kind of migration discussed before in this section and they migrate for earning a wage unlike many other studies (such as Rogaly et. al. 2001, Srivastava and Sasikumar 2005) where children accompany their parents primarily to take care of the younger siblings or help their parents to gain the more volume of work or do nothing. Therefore, although there is very little possibility of children to miss school yet there may be various kinds of impact of temporary migration on child education and this is often very complex.

Women migration from Jalpara is a recent phenomenon. The extent of women migration is also very low. Therefore, findings of women migration on the impact of child education may not be representative rather it may be suggestive. Since women migration from the study village takes place mainly from the single parent family the impact was found to be more negative than that in double parents family from where mainly male members migrate. The discussion also suggests that women migration for longer period is more negative than that of migration for shorter period.
The findings also suggest that because of the nature of such migration is of short duration many teenager schoolboys were found to make use of this for the benefit of their own education. Those boys were found to migrate out to hire out their own labour so that they can bear a large part, if not entire, of the cost of their own education. But schoolgirls cannot do so mainly because of the gender ideology of labour division that is they were not expected to work in the field or elsewhere except in and around the household boundary.

It was almost universal that migration had improved the affordability of families to child education to a great degree. Although the government schools are free from monthly tuition fees, with the promotion from one level to another the cost of education of a child continuously increases. The cost includes session charge, books, stationeries, uniforms, foot wears and above all the private tuition fees, which are also vital for a student.

However, the possibility of migration may influence many boys to discontinue their education. So far there is no possibility of such negative effect of migration for girls. Rather there is possibility that the boys’ migration often becomes beneficial to girls education in the form of improvement of affordability through remittances of boys’ migration. Hence we can explain the higher school completion rates of girls than boys in standards 5 to 8. As reported by many villagers the higher school completion of girls would improve the prospect of getting better boys for their marriage.

Though the findings suggest that there is a wide range of impacts of migration on child education yet it cannot give any statistical data that can help in making generalization. This
seeks further research of quantitative research. Moreover, with the change of context, which varies largely across the board, there is possibility of some new findings, which may be of similar kind to some extent. They can also be different in some ways. Thus there is need of many studies at micro level so that they can help to understand both the problems of internal temporary migration and the education of children.

Whereas education, more particularly education of higher levels and better quality, is a dream for many poor people, the opportunity of migration offers many of them to progress towards their goal, which is also the goal of the nation. Therefore, migration can facilitate to achieve the goal not only at the individual level but also at the national level. Thus there is necessity to pay more attention to this topic and identifying the positives and negatives of such migration necessary measures should be taken to increase the possibility of positive effects and decrease the possibility of negative effects.