



# **Farmers' Insights on the Migration from Rural to Urban Areas in Bangladesh**

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## **Authors' contributions**

*This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.*

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## **ABSTRACT**

This research uses a qualitative methodology to investigate the complex dynamics of rural-urban migration among Bangladeshi farmers via in-depth interviews and focus group discussions. The main objectives are to determine the main causes of migration, comprehend the difficulties farmers have when migrating, and evaluate the effects of migration on their communities and means of subsistence. According to the research, three main factors influence migration: social goals, environmental concerns, and economic incentives. Numerous obstacles, such as unstable work, skill gaps, excessive living expenses, and subpar housing, negatively impact the well-being of

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migrant farmers. Notwithstanding these obstacles, migration offers chances for greater access to services, skill development, and economic progress. The results underline the need for all-encompassing policy interventions, stressing the significance of job assistance, training programs, and sustainable rural development projects to help migrant farmers. To improve the resilience and well-being of migrant farmers and their communities, this study offers policymakers practical suggestions for creating more inclusive and prosperous migration policies.

*Keywords: Agricultural extension; migration; intension; rural-urban; Bangladesh.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Migration from rural to urban areas is a major worldwide phenomenon that has greatly influenced many nations' socioeconomic and cultural environments, especially those in the developing world. Due to a complex social, environmental, and economic interaction, people migrate in this pattern, defined by their relocation from rural to urban regions. It affects social structures, economic activity, and demographic patterns, significantly affecting rural and urban areas. The movement of rural farmers to urban regions is particularly significant in Bangladesh, a nation with a mostly agricultural economy and quickly expanding metropolitan centers. It is important to comprehend this movement from the farmers' point of view to create comprehensive policies that meet the requirements of both rural and urban populations [1].

Farmers have a major role in food production and rural people's lives, making them the backbone of the rural economy. However, several reasons, including financial difficulties, environmental issues, and the attraction of city facilities, force many farmers to abandon their conventional farming methods and relocate to cities. The impact of this movement on rural development and urban planning is not limited to the farmers and their families. It is possible to gain important insights into the dynamics of rural-urban migration and contribute to creating inclusive and balanced development policies by thoroughly understanding the goals, experiences, and motivations of these migrant farmers [2].

The most persuasive forces for migration from rural to urban areas are often economic. Rural regions in developing nations like Bangladesh often provide fewer job prospects and lower incomes than metropolitan centers. Due to this economic inequality, people are strongly motivated to move in quest of better employment opportunities and higher salaries [3]. A sizable section of the rural population works in the agricultural industry, often characterized by low

productivity, poor infrastructure, and restricted market access. These difficulties worsen rural poverty and prompt many farmers to seek better city prospects. For rural migrants, higher incomes, steady work, and better living conditions in metropolitan areas are a strong draw [4]. However, the reality of urban life often starkly contrasts these aspirations, with many migrants having to deal with unstable work, expensive living expenses, and subpar housing in metropolitan areas [5].

The environment is an important aspect influencing rural-urban migration [6]. Rural communities are disproportionately affected by climate change, natural catastrophes, and environmental degradation since the environment directly impacts agricultural livelihoods. Flooding that occurs often, river erosion, and cyclones are major hazards to rural residents in Bangladesh, causing damage to houses, infrastructure, and crops. These environmental issues make rural inhabitants more vulnerable and serve as powerful motivators for migration [7].

Migration pressures are further exacerbated by the rising frequency and severity of natural catastrophes brought on by climate change. Farmers are often compelled to relocate to metropolitan areas in pursuit of alternate livelihoods due to the loss of arable land and decreased agricultural output. This movement represents a long-term adaptation strategy to deal with the changing climate and a reaction to recent environmental shocks [8].

Additionally, social considerations influence rural-urban migration, such as improved access to healthcare, education, and other amenities [9]. Compared to rural areas, urban areas usually have better social infrastructure, healthcare, and educational amenities. Many rural families relocate to urban areas to improve their children's educational chances and general quality of life. Furthermore, many rural migrants are drawn to the city by its appeal, defined by

better living circumstances, contemporary conveniences, and increased social mobility. People are drawn to cities by pull factors, which are the perceived advantages of living in an urban area, such as better housing, transportation, and recreational opportunities. However, adjusting to urban life may present difficulties, such as social dislocation, cultural acclimatization, and losing links to rural communities [10].

Several theoretical frameworks have been created to examine the intricate aspects of migration from rural to urban areas. One of the most popular frameworks, the push-pull model explains migration as a result of push factors (such as living conditions, employment opportunities, and environmental degradation in rural areas) and pull factors (such as higher wages, better job opportunities, and better living conditions in urban areas). This model emphasizes the impact of both origin and destination variables in influencing migration choices, highlighting the multiple forces at play. According to the neoclassical economic theory, people migrate mainly for economic reasons, wanting to better their financial situation and maximize their income [11]. The new economics of labor migration (NELM) theory provides a more nuanced viewpoint, which views migration as a household strategy to diversify income sources and lower risks [12].

Notwithstanding these theoretical developments, the need for qualitative research delving into migration's individual experiences and sociocultural aspects is becoming more apparent. Qualitative research may provide a detailed contextualization of migrants' aspirations, challenges, and motivations, something that quantitative research often fails to do. By using a qualitative approach to examine farmers' perspectives on rural-urban migration, this research seeks to close this knowledge gap.

This study aims to explore farmers' insights on rural-urban migration through a qualitative approach. By conducting in-depth interviews and focus group discussions with migrating farmers, this research seeks to achieve the following objectives:

- I. To identify the primary factors influencing farmers' decisions to migrate from rural to urban areas.
- II. To understand farmers' challenges and experiences during the migration process.

- III. To assess the impacts of migration on the lives and livelihoods of farmers and their communities.
- IV. To provide actionable recommendations for policymakers to develop more effective and inclusive migration policies.

## 2. METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH

This study uses a qualitative approach to investigate farmers' perspectives on migration from rural to urban areas. Focus groups and in-depth interviews with migrant farmers from Bangladesh's rural areas are the main techniques used to gather data. These techniques record the farmers' firsthand accounts and real-life experiences, offering a more profound comprehension of the elements affecting their migratory choices.

### 2.1 Sample Selection

Snowball sampling is used in this research to choose individuals who have recently moved from rural to urban settings. The sample consists of farmers from multiple geographic and socioeconomic backgrounds to represent various viewpoints thoroughly. Thirty farmers were chosen for in-depth interviews, and three focus groups consisting of eight to ten farmers were held each.

### 2.2 Data Collection

A semi-structured interview guide is used to conduct in-depth interviews. It consists of open-ended questions intended to elicit detailed responses regarding the factors influencing migration decisions, the difficulties encountered during migration, and the effects of migration on the lives and livelihoods of the farmers. Similar guidelines enable the focus group talks, which promote participatory dialogue and the exchange of differing viewpoints among participants.

### 2.3 Data Analysis

Thematic analysis transcribes and examines the information gathered from the focus group talks and interview sessions. Using this technique, the data is coded to find recurrent themes and patterns, which are then categorized and analyzed to provide insightful conclusions. Iterative rounds of coding and interpretation are used to improve and verify the themes throughout the analytic process [13].

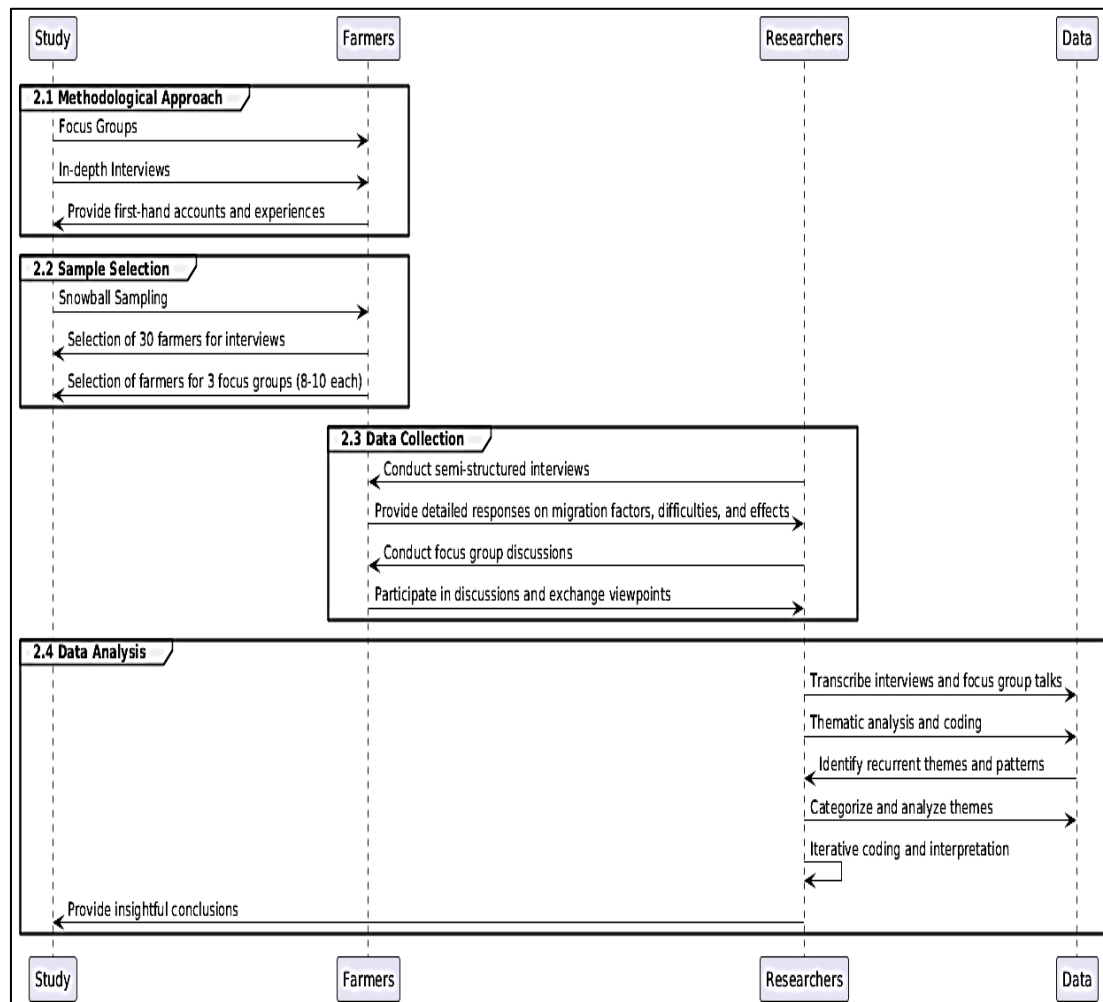


Fig. 1. Research methodology for this study

### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of in-depth interviews and focus groups with migrant farmers from different Bangladeshi rural locations are presented in this chapter. The qualitative data offers rich insights into the causes affecting migration choices, the difficulties encountered throughout the process, and the effects of migration on the livelihoods and lifestyles of farmers and their communities. The results of the thematic analysis are arranged according to major topics.

#### 3.1 Factors Influencing Migration Decisions

##### 3.1.1 Economic motivations

Among the farmers surveyed, economic concerns were shown to be the main motivators of rural-urban migration. Numerous interviewees

cited poor earnings and a lack of job possibilities in rural regions as the main drivers of migration to metropolitan areas. Low productivity, restricted market access, and poor infrastructure are common features of Bangladesh's rural agriculture sector, all exacerbating rural poverty and economic instability [14].

Mobarak Mia (45), a farmer from Rajshahi explained (currently migrated to Dhaka):

*"In the village, we work hard on our farms, but the income is insufficient to support our families. In the city, there are more job opportunities and better wages. That is why I decided to move to Dhaka."*

Several other participants agreed, pointing out that compared to their rural hometowns, metropolitan locations provided more secure and well-paying career prospects. Farmers are

strongly compelled to seek out better lives in cities due to the economic difference between rural and urban regions [15].

### 3.1.2 Environmental challenges

Environmental variables also significantly influenced migration decisions [16]. Numerous farmers said that cyclones, frequent floods, and river erosion had negatively damaged their agricultural production and means of subsistence. Climate change worsens these environmental problems by increasing the frequency and severity of natural catastrophes in Bangladesh [17].

A farmer from Barisal shared (Abdul Karim (36), currently migrated to Dhaka):

*"Every year, our village is affected by floods. The water destroys our crops and homes. We cannot continue to live like this, so we decided to move to the city for a better and safer life."*

Migration was significantly pushed by the loss of arable land and decreased agricultural production due to natural catastrophes and environmental deterioration. Farmers saw migration to urban regions as a long-term adaptation strategy to deal with the adverse effects of climate change [18].

### 3.1.3 Social aspirations

Social considerations, such as easier access to healthcare, education, and other facilities, were significant driving forces for migration. Numerous

farmers wanted to raise their children's standard of living and provide them with more access to education. Compared to rural areas, urban areas usually have better social infrastructure, healthcare, and educational facilities [19].

One participant from Khulna stated (Abdul Hadi (39), currently migrated to Dhaka):

*"We moved to the city so our children can attend good schools and have a better future. In the village, the schools are not good, and there are no proper healthcare facilities."*

Despite the difficulties involved in migrating, the desire for higher living standards and social mobility was an influential pull factor that attracted many rural families to metropolitan areas [20].

## 3.2 Challenges Faced During Migration

### 3.2.1 Employment and livelihoods

Although one of the main drivers of migration was the prospect of greater career possibilities, many farmers found it difficult to find steady work in cities that paid well. Many migrants found themselves in low-paying, unstable occupations in the unofficial sector due to the difficult transition from agriculture to urban employment [21]. This section explores the difficulties migrant farmers have in finding work and supporting themselves, using their own stories to highlight the complexity of their circumstances.

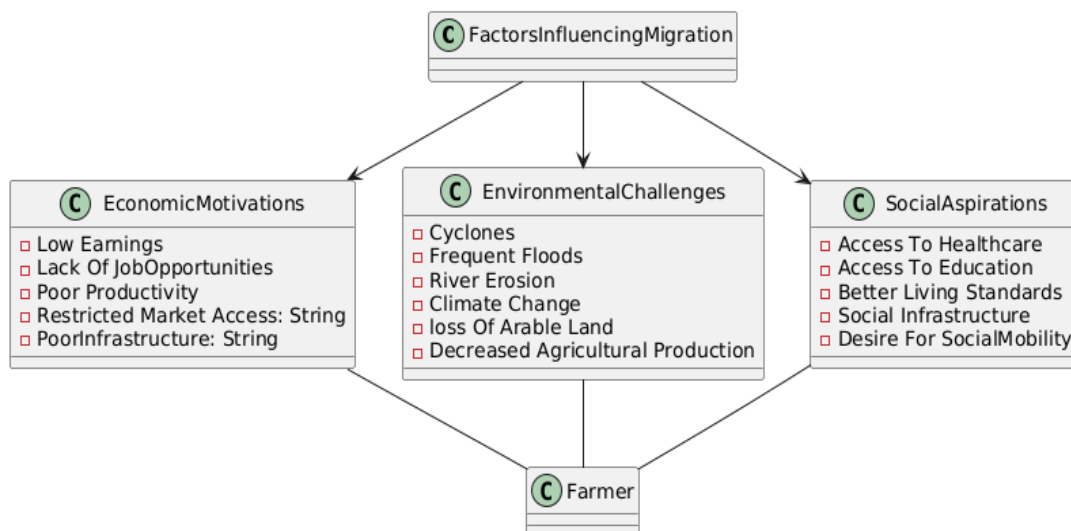


Fig. 2. Factor influencing migration decision

### 3.2.2 Precarious employment in the informal sector

Many moving farmers worked in the unorganized sector, known for its low pay, unstable employment, and unfavourable working conditions. Jobs that do not provide a steady salary or benefits, such as rickshaw pulling, street selling, and day work in construction, are included in the informal sector.

One farmer who migrated to Dhaka shared his experience (Mohammad Ali (39)):

*"Finding a good job in the city is not easy. I had to take up multiple low-paying jobs to make ends meet. It is difficult, but we have no other choice."*

Another participant from Barisal, who now works as a day labourer in Chittagong, expressed similar frustrations (Baker Ali (45)):

*"Back in the village, at least we had our land to farm. Here, I have to work long hours in construction, and the pay is barely enough to cover our expenses. The work is hard, and a job is not guaranteed daily."*

These remarks draw attention to the unstable nature of work in the unorganized sector and the financial risks that farmers who migrate confront. These migrants face several obstacles in their quest for economic stability and higher living standards, chief among them being the shortage of steady work possibilities in metropolitan regions.

### 3.2.3 Skill mismatch and employment barriers

When migrant farmers' skill sets do not align with the demands of the urban labour market, it might be difficult for them to switch from rural to urban employment. Many farmers are forced into low-skilled, low-paying industries because they lack the formal education and technical abilities necessary for higher-paying positions in metropolitan areas [22].

A farmer from Sylhet, who moved to Dhaka, described his difficulties in finding suitable employment (Sahabuddin (55)):

*"In the village, we worked on the farm and knew everything about agriculture. But here in the city, those skills are not useful. Employers want people with education and*

*technical skills, which we do not have. This makes it very hard to find a good job."*

For some migrant farmers, the absence of appropriate skills and credentials is a substantial obstacle to obtaining work. The necessity for focused education and training initiatives to assist migrants in acquiring the skills required for improved employment possibilities in metropolitan regions is highlighted by this skill mismatch [23].

### 3.2.4 Economic pressures and coping strategies

Farmers who migrate to metropolitan regions are frequently forced to adapt coping mechanisms to survive due to economic constraints. To obtain work and sustain their family, many migrants work long hours, take on many occupations, and depend on unofficial networks [24].

A participant (Mosaddek, 42) from Rajshahi, who works as a street vendor in Dhaka, shared his coping strategies:

*"I sell fruits during the day and work as a night guard in a building at night. It is exhausting, but we need the money to pay for rent and food. Sometimes, I borrow money from friends when things get tough."*

These coping mechanisms show the tenacity and will of moving farmers, but they also reveal the harsh reality of urban life and the financial insecurity that migrants endure. The fact that these migrants must perform many jobs and depend on unofficial networks suggests that they have insufficient formal job options and support structures [25].

### 3.2.5 Impact on family life and well-being

The difficulties that migrant farmers encounter in finding work have a big influence on their general well-being and family life. The mental and emotional well-being of migrants is impacted by the financial strains and rigorous work schedules that often allow little time for social and familial contact [26].

A farmer from Khulna (Sadek Ali, 33), who works as a rickshaw puller in Dhaka, described the impact of his work on his family life:

*"I leave home early in the morning and return late at night. I hardly get to spend time with*

*my children. My wife also has to work as a maid to help with the expenses. It is very stressful for all of us."*

Another participant from Mymensingh, who migrated to Chittagong, expressed similar concerns (Moksed Mia, 46):

*"We moved to the city for a better life, but the constant worry about money and work makes it hard to be happy. The stress affects our health, and we often feel isolated without our extended family and community support."*

These stories highlight migration's broader psychological and social effects and immediate financial difficulties. The stresses of urban life combined with the distance from extended family and community hurt the health of migrant farmers and their families [27].

### 3.2.6 Overcrowded and inadequate housing

Due to the absence of reasonably priced accommodation in cities, a large number of migrant farmers wind up living in cramped, subpar housing. Many migrants live in informal settlements typified by shoddy infrastructure and improvised dwellings. These circumstances jeopardize people's emotional and physical well-being [28].

A participant from Chittagong (Karim Mia, 59) shared his experience:

*"We live in a small, crowded room in a slum. It is not a good place to live, but we cannot afford anything better. The living conditions are very tough."*

Another farmer who migrated to Dhaka described similar challenges (Kuddus Ali 45):

*"There are six of us living in a single room. The space is too small, and there is no privacy. It gets very hot in the summer, and we often have problems with water and electricity."*

These remarks draw attention to the subpar and cramped living circumstances that many migrant farmers face. Their living conditions are negatively impacted by their living conditions, which are tough due to a lack of space, privacy, and facilities like power and water.

### 3.2.7 High Living Costs

Farmers who migrate confront additional housing issues due to the high living expense in

metropolitan regions. Most migrants are low-income individuals who find it difficult to buy appropriate accommodation. They are thus often forced to live in less desirable, less expensive housing alternatives in informal settlements.

A farmer from Rajshahi (Maruf Mia, 23), now living in Dhaka, explained:

*"Rent in the city is very high. Even a small room costs a lot. After paying rent, very little money is left for food, education, and other expenses. We have to make many sacrifices to manage our budget."*

The financial strain of exorbitant living expenses compels migrants to make accommodations of lower quality, hence exacerbating their living circumstances. It is challenging for them to attain a respectable quality of life because of the financial burden that affects other areas of their lives, like healthcare, education, and nutrition [29].

### 3.2.8 Lack of Basic Amenities

The welfare of migrant farmers is significantly impacted by the shortage of basic utilities in informal settlements. Many participants complained about insufficient access to power, clean water, or sanitary facilities—all necessary for good health and hygiene [30].

A participant from Khulna (Arman Ali, 42), now residing in a Dhaka slum, shared:

*"We do not have access to clean water. The water we use is dirty and often causes illnesses. There are no proper toilets, and the electricity supply is very irregular. These conditions are very hard to live in."*

Another farmer from Mymensingh (Kabir Uddin, 45), living in Chittagong, described similar difficulties:

*"Sanitation is a big problem. There are very few toilets, and they are not maintained properly. This makes it very difficult, especially for women and children. We also have frequent power cuts, which disrupt our daily life."*

In addition to posing health hazards, the absence of basic services exacerbates the everyday hardships migrants face. The general standard of living of migrant farmers is negatively impacted

by the hazardous and unpleasant living conditions caused by a lack of clean water, adequate sanitation, and consistent energy.

### 3.2.9 Impact on health and well-being

The subpar housing conditions and high living expenses in metropolitan regions significantly impact the health and well-being of migrant farmers. Inadequate housing and overcrowding raise the risk of infectious illnesses, while poor sanitation and clean water lead to poor hygiene and unfavorable health consequences. Additionally, migrants' mental health is impacted by the stress and worry brought on by difficult financial circumstances and inadequate living conditions [31].

A farmer from Barisal, now living in a Dhaka slum (Akbor, 41), described the health impacts:

*"We often get sick because of the poor living conditions. There are many diseases in the slum, and it is hard to stay healthy. The children suffer the most, with frequent illnesses and poor growth."*

Another participant from Sylhet, residing in Chittagong (Mofiz, 35), shared similar concerns:

*"The stress of living in such conditions takes a toll on our mental health. We constantly worry about our living situation, finances, and children's future. It is tough to live with this constant anxiety."*

These stories highlight the detrimental effects of subpar housing and expensive living expenses on migrant farmers' health and well-being. Migrants' struggles with their physical and emotional health serve as a stark reminder of how urgently better housing and living conditions in cities are needed.

### 3.2.10 Cultural adjustment and social dislocation

Transitioning from a rural to an urban setting requires significant cultural adaptation. It was difficult for many migrant farmers to adjust to the faster-paced metropolitan lifestyle, different social conventions, and anonymity of city living [32].

A farmer from Sylhet described his experience:

*"Everyone knows each other in the village, and we have strong community bonds. In the*

*city, we feel alone and isolated. It is difficult to build new relationships."*

Another participant from Rajshahi shared similar sentiments:

*"The city is so different from the village. People here are always in a hurry, with little time for socializing. We had close-knit relationships in the village but barely know our neighbours here."*

These remarks capture the sense of cultural displacement that many farmers who migrate go through. One of the leading causes of loneliness and alienation in urban environments is the disappearance of well-known social networks and the challenge of forming new ones.

### 3.2.11 Loss of rural community ties

Strong social connections and supportive networks are often characteristics of rural communities. Farmers who were migrating commonly expressed losing their communities' feeling of connection and togetherness. Many people in metropolitan areas felt helpless and unprotected due to the lack of support networks.

A farmer from Mymensingh (Ali Akbor, 56), now living in Dhaka, expressed his feelings of loss:

*"In the village, we helped each other with everything. The whole community would come together if someone was sick or needed help. Here in the city, we don't have that kind of support. Everyone is on their own."*

Another farmer from Barisal noted the impact of this loss on his family's well-being:

*"My children miss their friends and relatives back in the village. They feel lonely here, and it affects their happiness and behaviour. We all miss the sense of community we had."*

These stories highlight the value of connections to rural communities by offering practical and emotional assistance. The absence of these ties in cities might cause migrant farmers and their families to feel alone, negatively affecting their general well-being.

### 3.2.12 Challenges in building new relationships

For many migrant farmers, forming new city connections was a major issue. In addition to



cultural differences, the anonymity and fast-paced nature of city life made it challenging for migrants to make new social relationships [33].

A farmer from Khulna (Karim, 26), who moved to Chittagong, shared his struggles:

*"It is hard to trust people here. In the village, we knew everyone from childhood, but in the city, people are strangers. It takes time to build trust and friendships, and we feel very isolated."*

Another participant from Rangpur (Abul Kashem, 36) described the difficulty of establishing a social network in Dhaka:

*"We try to make friends with our neighbours, but everyone is busy with their own lives. There are few opportunities to socialize, and we live among strangers."*

These quotes emphasize how hard it is to start new connections in cities. Farmers who migrate experience greater loneliness and isolation due to a lack of social engagement and the possibility of forming connections with others.

### 3.2.13 Impact on mental health and well-being

For migrants, the absence of social support systems in cities presented serious difficulties that had an impact on their general and mental health. Anxiety and sadness were among the mental health problems caused by stress from adapting to a new setting and feelings of loneliness and isolation.

A farmer from Comilla (Kabir Khan, 55), now living in Dhaka, described the mental health impacts:

*"The isolation is hard to bear. We miss our family and friends from the village. The stress of living in a new place, with all its challenges, takes a toll on our mental health. Sometimes, it feels overwhelming."*

Another participant from Jessore (Bulbul, 48) shared similar concerns:

*"My wife and I often feel depressed because we miss our old life. The city is stressful, and without the support of our community, we feel lost. It affects our mood and our ability to cope with daily challenges."*

These accounts highlight the detrimental effects that social dislocation and isolation have on migrant farmers' mental health. Migrants' general well-being is negatively impacted by their lack of social support system and the difficulties they have adjusting to urban life. These factors significantly strain their emotions.

### 3.2.14 Challenges in building new relationships

For many migrant farmers, forming new city connections was a major issue. In addition to cultural differences, the anonymity and fast-paced nature of city life made it challenging for migrants to create new social relationships.

A farmer from Khulna (Faruque, 45), who moved to Chittagong, shared his struggles:

*"It is hard to trust people here. In the village, we knew everyone from childhood, but in the city, people are strangers. It takes time to build trust and friendships, and we feel very isolated."*

Another participant from Rangpur (Kalam Mia, 25) described the difficulty of establishing a social network in Dhaka:

*"We try to make friends with our neighbors, but everyone is busy with their own lives. There are few opportunities to socialize, and we live among strangers."*

These quotes emphasize how hard it is to start new connections in cities. Farmers who migrate experience greater loneliness and isolation due to a lack of social engagement and the possibility of forming connections with others.

## 3.3 Opportunities for Rural Migration

### 3.3.1 Opportunities for economic advancement

For some farmers, migration offers social and economic mobility prospects despite its drawbacks. They may increase their earning potential and improve their financial well-being by accessing metropolitan markets, various employment options, and exposure to new technology and skills [34].

A farmer from Jessore (Faruque Hossain, 41), now working in Dhaka, described his experience:

*"In the city, I learned new carpentry skills. Now, I earn more than I did as a farmer. I can also send money back to my family in the village, which greatly helps them."*

Similarly, another participant from Rangpur (Rabbi, 45) highlighted the benefits of urban employment:

*"I work in a garment factory. The pay is better than what I could earn from farming. I feel more secure in this job, and it has improved our standard of living."*

These tales show how migrant farmers use urban opportunities to better their financial situation and provide for their families. Their ability to send money home via remittances, access to higher-paying employment, and developing new skills enhance their economic resilience and well-being.

### 3.3.2 Improved Access to Services

Better access to healthcare and educational opportunities in metropolitan regions is one of the noteworthy advantages of migration that participants mentioned. Numerous farmers who were moving emphasized that these advancements were crucial in raising living conditions and promoting social mobility [35].

A participant from Khulna (Lalon, 25) shared his experience:

*"Our children are going to good schools in the city, and we have access to better healthcare facilities. These are the main benefits of moving to the city."*

Similarly, another farmer from Rajshahi (Akbor, 25) described the educational opportunities available in urban areas:

*"In the village, there were limited options for schooling. Here in Dhaka, my children can access better schools with more resources. It gives them a better chance for their future."*

These claims highlight how migration improves the well-being and chances for the future of migrating farmers and their families by increasing access to basic services.

### 3.3.3 Challenges of social integration

Notwithstanding its advantages, migration poses obstacles to social assimilation and cultural

adaptation in metropolitan settings. Several participants reported experiencing emotions of alienation and loneliness as a result of their inability to make friends and form relationships in their new metropolitan neighbourhoods.

A farmer from Sylhet (Ali Mia, 25) described the challenges of social integration:

*"In the village, everyone knew each other and had a strong sense of community. People are more distant here in Dhaka, and making friends is hard. We miss the social bonds we had back home."*

Another participant from Jessore (Palash Mia, 56) highlighted the cultural differences:

*"How people live and interact here is very different from our village. It took us a long time to understand the customs and norms. Sometimes, we still feel like outsiders."*

These stories capture the social dislocation many farmers go through when they migrate, navigating strange social environments and trying to forge new identities in cities.

### 3.3.4 Support for alternative livelihoods

Reducing reliance on agriculture and increasing economic prospects in rural regions require diversifying rural livelihoods via training and assistance for new sources of income. Encouraging cottage industries, small-scale businesses, and eco-tourism projects may increase livelihood resilience and provide additional revenue streams.

A farmer from Bogura (Abdul Malek, 45) discussed the benefits of diversifying livelihoods:

*"I started a small poultry farm with support from a government program. It has provided an additional income stream for my family and reduced our reliance on farming alone."*

Another participant from Pabna (Taleb Uddin, 45) shared his experience with alternative livelihoods:

*"We received training in handicraft making. Now, my wife and I produce and sell handicrafts, which has boosted our income and created employment for others in our village."*

These tales demonstrate how alternative livelihoods may raise rural incomes, lower poverty rates, and slow down the factors that drive migration.

### 3.3.5 Improving Urban Employment Support and Training Programs

To alleviate the difficulties migrant farmers have in finding steady, lucrative work in cities, it is imperative to create efficient training and employment assistance initiatives. This chapter examines methods and suggestions for improving job prospects in urban areas via training programs, job placement services, and encouragement of small company growth and entrepreneurship.

### 3.3.6 Importance of skill development

Acquiring new skills is essential for improving migrant farmers' employability and easing their transition into urban labor markets. By offering focused training programs that meet the needs of urban sectors, employers may better prepare migrant workers for long-term employment with higher wages.

A farmer from Chittagong (Motiar, 45) emphasized the importance of skill training:

*"I received training in electrical wiring through a government program. It helped me secure a job with a construction company here in Dhaka. Now, I have a stable income to support my family."*

Similarly, another participant from Sylhet (Abdus Kuddus, 42) shared his experience with skill development:

*"I attended a vocational training course in plumbing. A local NGO sponsored it. Now, I work as a plumber and earn more than I did back in the village."*

These testimonies highlight how focused skill development programs may help migrant farmers become more employable, increase their chances of employment, and support their financial integration in urban environments.

### 3.3.7 Job placement and support services

To match migrant farmers with acceptable jobs in cities, efficient job placement services are necessary. The creation of career counseling

services, job fairs, and job placement centers may help match migrant workers' credentials and abilities with open positions across various industries.

A farmer from Rajshahi (Faqrul, 45) discussed the benefits of job placement support:

*"I registered with a job placement center when I first arrived in Dhaka. They helped me find a job as a security guard in a commercial building. It was a relief to have their support."*

Another participant from Barisal (Abdul, 35) highlighted the role of support services:

*"The local government provided information about job openings in nearby factories. They also helped us prepare our resumes and practice interview skills."*

These illustrations show how proactive job placement and support services may help farmers relocating to cities navigate the urban job market and find steady work.

### 3.3.8 Support for entrepreneurship and small business development

Encouraging small company growth and entrepreneurship among moving farmers may provide other routes to financial independence and lessen reliance on wage labour. Migrants may be empowered to launch and grow small enterprises in metropolitan regions by accessing microfinance services, start-up incubation programs, and entrepreneurial training [36].

A farmer from Jessore shared his entrepreneurial journey:

*"With support from a local NGO, I started a small grocery store in our neighborhood. It's been challenging, but I'm proud to have a business and generate income for my family."*

Similarly, another participant from Rangpur (Zobbar, 45) discussed the impact of small business support:

*"I received training on poultry farming and a loan to start my own poultry business. It's been successful so far, and I'm grateful for the opportunity."*

These success examples show how entrepreneurship may support self-employment, income creation, and economic resilience in urban settings while offering migratory farmers realistic economic possibilities.

### 3.3.9 Addressing housing and living conditions in urban areas

To improve the well-being and standard of living of migrant farmers in metropolitan regions, housing and living circumstances must be improved. The significance of improving urban planning, funding affordable housing, and modernizing informal settlements are covered in this chapter. It also looks at laws intended to provide urban migrants with a respectable level of life by providing necessities like power, clean water, and sanitary facilities.

### 3.3.10 Provision of Basic Amenities and Services

Improving living circumstances requires ensuring access to necessities like power, clean water, and sanitary facilities. To improve the quality of life and health standards of migrants living in metropolitan areas, policies should prioritize providing these services.

A participant from Comilla (Kabir, 25) discussed the impact of essential services:

*"Access to clean water and sanitation has drastically reduced our health issues. We no longer worry about waterborne diseases, which was a big problem before."*

Another farmer from Rangpur (Faqrul, 25) added:

*"Electricity is a basic need. Before, we used to use candles and kerosene lamps. Now, with electricity, our lives are much safer and more comfortable. We can study, work, and live without the constant worry of fire hazards."*

These testimonies demonstrate the enormous advantages of offering urban migrants basic amenities that improve their living circumstances and general well-being.

### 3.3.11 Supporting social integration and community building

Encouraging migrant farmers to integrate socially into urban areas is essential for their adjustment and well-being. This chapter examines the value

of creating community-building projects and social assistance programs to address the issues of social dislocation and foster welcoming, empowered urban settings for migrants.

## 4. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE RECOMMENDATIONS

The research highlights the many factors that influence and complicate farmers' migration from rural to urban areas in Bangladesh. Social goals, environmental difficulties, and economic motives generally drive migration choices. In metropolitan locations, migrants look for better employment possibilities, more pay, and better living circumstances. However, many challenges are associated with moving to the city, such as unstable work, a lack of matched skills, expensive living expenses, subpar housing, and social disruption. Despite these obstacles, migration offers chances for employment growth and improved access to services and other sources of income.

### 4.1 Recommendations

**Improve Rural Development Initiatives:** To lessen the economic gap between rural and urban regions and enhance rural infrastructure, market accessibility, and agricultural output. Adopt laws that encourage environmentally friendly farming methods and lessen the adverse effects of environmental issues on rural communities' means of subsistence.

**Offer Training and Skill Development Programs:** Create focused training and skill development initiatives to prepare rural migrants for metropolitan labour markets. Provide ongoing education and certification opportunities to improve employability and professional advancement. Make it easier for rural migrants to access start-up incubation programs, financing services, and entrepreneurial training. Promote the start-up of cottage industries and small enterprises to provide alternate revenue streams.

**Improve Services to Support Urban Employment:** Set up career advising services, job fairs, and job placement centres to help immigrants connect their abilities with appropriate jobs. Encourage collaborations between the public, nonprofit, and commercial sectors to provide metropolitan regions with more secure, well-paying employment.

**Address homes and Living Conditions:** Create programs to provide cheap homes and enhance living circumstances in urban informal settlements. Assure migrants have access to necessities like sanitary facilities, clean water, and dependable energy to improve their quality of life.

**Fortify Support Systems and Social Integration:** Oversee social programs and community-building initiatives to aid immigrants in assimilating into metropolitan areas. Offer counselling and mental health support services to address the psychological effects of social dislocation and migration.

**Encourage Inclusive Urban Policies:** Create urban development strategies that take migrant communities' demands and difficulties into account. To enhance their quality of life and facilitate long-term integration, immigrants must be ensured access to social services, healthcare, and education.

By implementing these suggestions, stakeholders and policymakers may construct a more inclusive and balanced approach to rural-urban migration, improving migrant farmers' livelihoods and general well-being and promoting sustainable development in Bangladesh's rural and urban regions.

#### DISCLAIMER (ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE)

Author(s) hereby declare that NO generative AI technologies such as Large Language Models (ChatGPT, COPILOT, etc) and text-to-image generators have been used during the writing or editing of this manuscript.

#### COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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