



Migration and Development: Bangladesh Perspective

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International Migration



- ♣ Migration has become a global issue with mounting complexities.
- ♣ Labour migration issues involve policy intervention, international cooperation and various partnerships.

- ♣ Migration is caused by
 - Higher wages
 - Gap in demand and supply of labour
 - Better standard of living
 - Regional conflicts and political instability
 - More employment opportunity

- ♣ Presently estimated global migrant population is 200 m.
- ♣ 96 m are labour migrants
- ♣ 49% in the total figure constitutes female migrants.



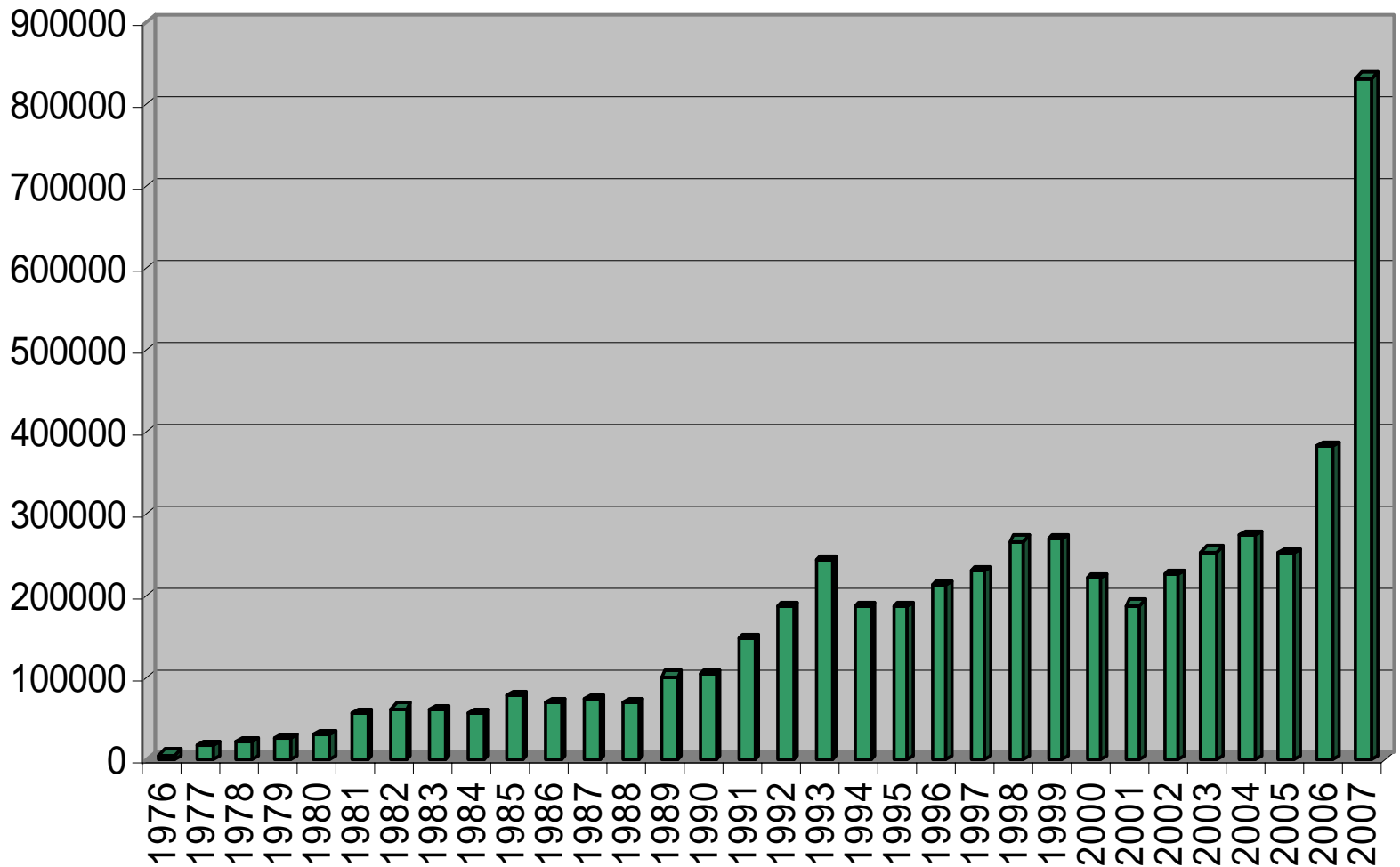
Migration Scenario of Bangladesh

- Overseas Employment officially started in 1976.
- No. of workers cleared for overseas Employment in 2007 : 8,32,609.
- Presently migration takes place in more than 100 countries.
- Remittance in 2007 : US \$ 6.568 b.
 - It is 10% of GDP,
 - 5 times of ODA and
 - 10 times of FDI.
- Female migration : 2- 4%

Year wise overseas employment (1976 – June 2008)

Year	Number		Year	Number		Year	Number
1976	6087		1987	74017		1998	267667
1977	15725		1988	68121		1999	268182
1978	22809		1989	101724		2000	222686
1979	24495		1990	103814		2001	188965
1980	30073		1991	147131		2002	225256
1981	55787		1992	188124		2003	254190
1982	62762		1993	244508		2004	272958
1983	59220		1994	186326		2005	252702
1984	56714		1995	187543		2006	381516
1985	77694		1996	211714		2007	832609
1986	68658		1997	231077		2008 (Jan-June)	4,75,396

Trend of Overseas Employment (1976 - 2007)



Country-wise overseas employment

(1976 – 2007)

Top 14 countries

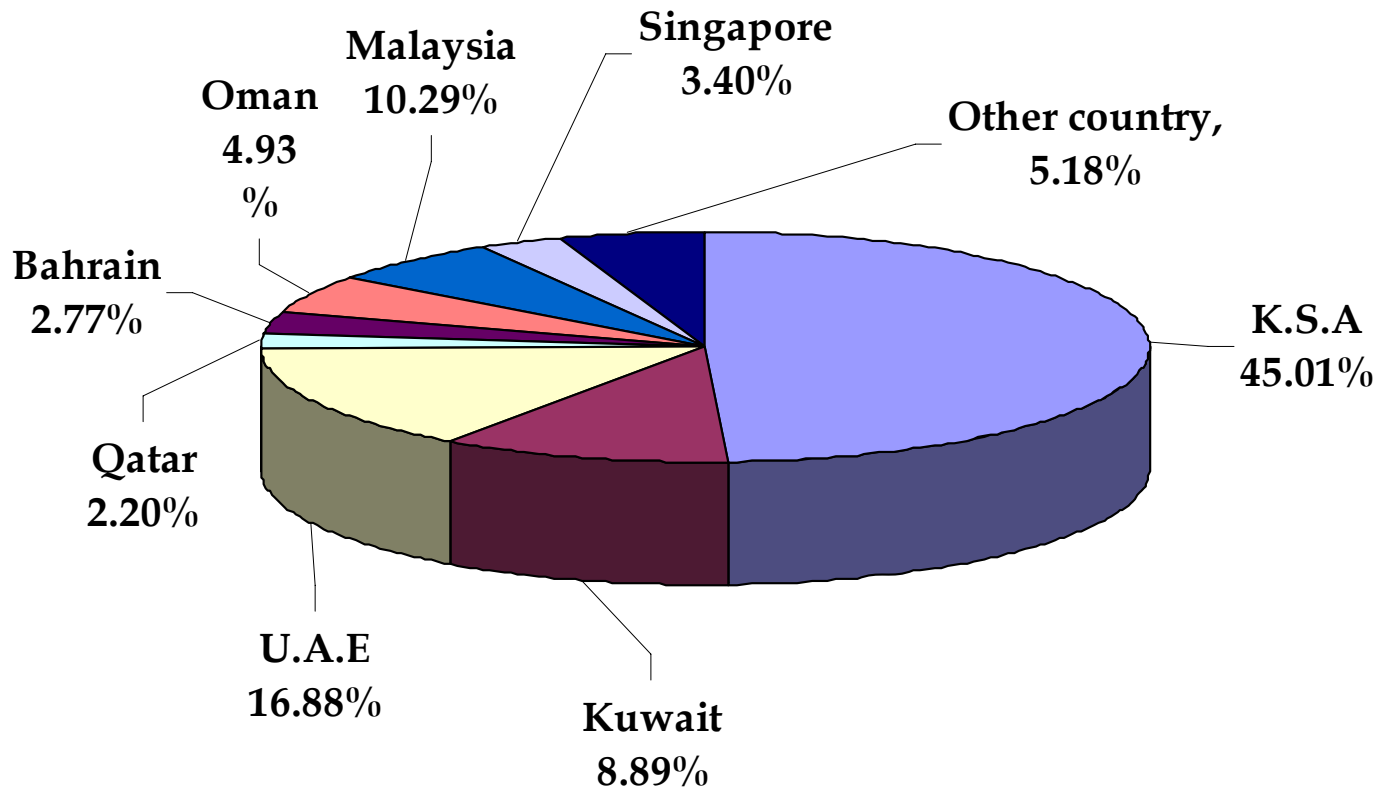
Country	K.S.A	UAE	Kuwait	Oman	Qatar	Bahrain	Lebanon
Number	2,426,339	909,780	479,242	265,924	118,503	149,573	8,248

Country	Jordan	Libya	Singapore	S Korea	UK	Italy	Malaysia
Number	22,396	55,253	183,435	18,419	7,611	13,925	554,572

Others	Total
177,634	5,390,854

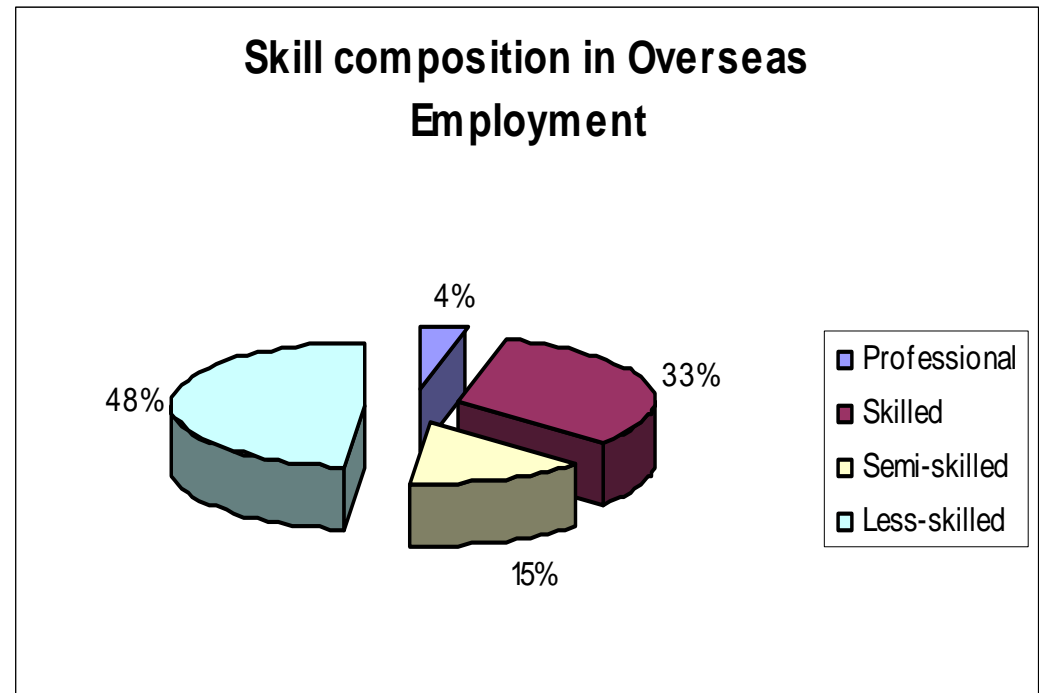
Country wise overseas employment

(1976 – 2007) Top 8 countries



OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT BY SKILL GROUP

Skill Group	%
Professional	4%
Skilled	33%
Semi-skilled	15%
Less-skilled	48%



Laws regulating overseas employment / migration in Bangladesh



Migration from Bangladesh is regulated under an ordinance called the 'Emigration Ordinance of 1982'.

Bangladesh adopted Overseas Employment Policy in 2006 to organise overseas employment sector and to ensure welfare of Bangladeshi workers abroad.

Rules and regulations for overseas employment/ migration process



i) Emigration Rules 2002.

It controls emigration process and encourages promotion of overseas employment. Moreover it stipulates the role of Registrar and Labour Attaches.

ii) Recruiting agents conduct and license Rules 2002.

It regulates the activities of Recruiting agents.

iii) Wage Earners` Welfare Fund (WEWF) Rules 2002.

It arranges welfare activities for the migrant workers and their families.



Database Network

The benefits of database network are as follows:

- **All activities relating to registration, recruiting permission and Emigration Clearance have been modernized**
- **System has become easier, faster and transparent**
- **Registration of unemployed and referral to the vacancy positions for overseas market.**
- **High officials can monitor entire process from their own computer terminals.**
- **Overseas employer can use for recruiting workers directly from database**

Positive impact of Overseas Employment

- 1. It reduces unemployment problem and helps poverty alleviation of Bangladesh.**
- 2. It improves economic condition of migrant workers and their families through remittances.**
- 3. It strengthens country's foreign reserve position through remittance**
- 4. It develops the capability of investment for self-employment.**
- 5. It helps transfer of technology through skills acquired by migrant workers working abroad.**



Measures for safe female migration

- Government has promulgated a new circular to facilitate women migration process.
- Training of women workers strengthened.
- Safe houses established in the Bangladesh Missions abroad.
- Separate briefing for the women migrants.
- Awareness campaign for safe channel of women migration.
- Reporting in the mission by the Recruiting agencies about migration of women workers.



Control of Recruiting Agent

The Recruiting agent is allowed to receive a maximum of Tk. 84,000.00 including air ticket, non compliance of which make liable for punitive action, cancellation of license and forfeiture of security deposit, etc.

This figure is Tk. 10,000.00 only for women migrant workers in house keeping trade. Air ticket is provided by the employer.

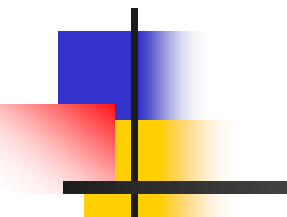
Recruiting Agents need to deposit Tk. 1.6 m to BMET for processing license which is kept as security deposit. This money may be distributed to the claimants for any fraudulence activity detected.

Problems faced by Bangladeshi Workers:

A. In home country

- Inadequate access to reliable information on legal channels of migration.
- Fraudulent contract of employment.
- High migration cost.
- Falsification of documents.
- Exploitation by recruiting agencies and intermediaries.

B. In the countries of destination

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- Nonpayment, Withholding, under payment or delayed payment of wages and benefits.
 - Poor working and living condition.
 - Physical and sexual harassment.
 - Retention of passport or travel documents.
 - Unlawful termination of employment.
 - Joblessness



Welfare to the migrant workers

- ❖ **Welfare desks at three International Airports to assist migrant workers. BMET officials are working round the clock at these airport booths.**
- ❖ **Extending financial assistance to the stranded workers for repatriation and emergency treatment for distressed worker.**
- ❖ **Pre-departure briefing at BMET to make them aware about terms and conditions of employment contract remittance system and culture & local language of the host country, etc.**



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- **Efforts by missions to mitigate problems abroad by providing legal aid assistance to the workers.**
- **A one-stop-service center is being constructed with all modern facilities to provide all the related facilities for migrant workers.**
- **Financial assistance up to Tk. 1(one) lac to the members of the family of a deceased migrant who does not get compensation from the foreign employer and Tk. 20,000.00 to meet the burial expenses.**



Nine point strategies

Government has recently adopted 9 point strategies to ensure sustainable safe migration.

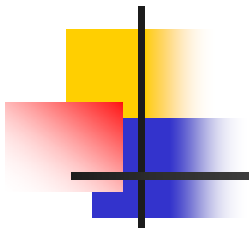
1. Exploration of new markets for overseas employment.
2. Expansion of existing labour markets.
3. Skill development training to promote export of more skilled workers.
4. Special efforts to emphasise export of down-trodden people.
5. Strengthening welfare for the migrant workers.

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6. Ensuring more transparency in the recruitment process.
7. Efforts to increase the flow of remittance through proper channel.
8. Special focus on export of female workers.
9. Strengthening of capacity and capabilities of Bangladesh Missions abroad.



Thank you very much indeed