

ABSTRACT

Intra-national labor migration is an important issue in contemporary Nepal. Labor tends to migrate from rural to rural, rural to urban and urban to urban areas in search of better opportunities and better livelihood. The social networks such as family members and friends living in those areas play crucial role for labor to decide which area to migrate. Family members and friends give information about the possible destination for migration and also support for their lodging and fooding in the time of settlement in new location. They also help to search job for newly migrated people. In this paper an attempt is done to explore the impact of social networks on the choice of destination for labor to migrate and chance to find job in new destination.

The results found in this paper suggest that social networks have more important role for rural to urban migration of labor than rural to rural or urban to urban migration. On average, the impact of social networks in case of rural-urban migration of labor is found to be 6 times stronger in comparison to rural-rural migration and 24 times stronger in comparison to urban-urban migration. This is because in case of intra-regional migration, the settlement is easier even without the help of networks due to similarity in environment but in case of inter-regional migration the environment totally changes from the previous one and the migrants labor needs more help from the networks. Urban origin labors are found interested to migrate to other urban areas with the help of their social networks but they are found unwilling to migrate to rural area. Economic variables such as wage differentials between origin and destination and high unemployment rate in origin are also found to be positive stimulus for choice of destination to migrate. Social networks are also found important for the newly migrant labor to find job in new location.

Key words: migration, origin, destination social networks, labor