

Introduction

Most countries in the world actively participate in migration, whether by receiving, sending, or transiting. According to recent statistical evidence, around 272 million individuals, or about 3.5 percent of the world's population, are estimated to reside and work abroad (IOM, 2020). Some people relocate to unite with their families, some pursue educational chances, and some find employment or economic opportunities. Others relocate to flee hostilities, persecution, terrorism, or human rights abuses. Many others relocate in reaction to the unfavorable consequences of environmental variables like natural catastrophes or climate change. Humanity has been on the move ever since the beginning of time. However, compared to mobility, which has a much larger narrative, migration has a much smaller one. Even though many people are mobile, not all of them are inherently migrants. There are two schools of thought on migration. The first is the anti-migration movement, which contends that migrants are unneeded and, hence, should not enter or stay in a country if they are not citizens. Pro-migration groups, on the other hand, believe that they must address migration. Nevertheless, migration is a complex phenomenon that must be managed and understood thoroughly, as it is not a threat that needs to be stopped. There are various assumptions and theories about migration:

- Migration is a crucial, unavoidable, and persistent aspect of society and the economy.
- Migration is largely a personal activity that is influenced by the political and social climate as well as the economic, cultural, and social surroundings.
- Migration is a crucial component of sustainable development and operates at the neoliberal economics and post-colonial politics intersections.
- Migration shows diversity and power (not a threat to identity or security).
- Additionally, migration has a geopolitical component that occasionally influences geopolitics.

Who is a Migrant?

Two approaches to defining migrants: (Carling, n.d.)

- ***The Inclusive Approach:*** The term "migrant" is viewed as an all-encompassing notion that encompasses all types of migrations.
- ***The Residual Approach:*** excludes persons who flee because of conflict or persecution.

The paper briefly looks into the state of migration and mobility today, as well as how current crises, such as war and natural disasters, affect migration. It also discusses how the international system currently handles these issues and how migration and mobility may develop in the future.

Migrants in Crisis

We have observed over the years that migration falls under the category of crisis. If we look at the boat - people, a very well-known image in the Mediterranean or the Bay of Bengal, we can see how desperate people flee their home countries in search of safety, security, and decent life in developed countries. They frequently end up in the very sea they were attempting to traverse. When there is conflict or disturbance, migrants, especially the most-

vulnerable ones are disproportionately affected in terms of where they can live, work, and travel. Migrants who are in vulnerable circumstances are those who cannot fully exercise their human rights and are more likely to be violated and mistreated (OHCHR and the Global Migration Group, 2018). A migration crisis may start slowly or suddenly; it could have interconnections to natural or human-made causes; and occur within one country or across borders (IOM, 2012).

What is Crisis?

A crisis is a point in a chain of events where the direction of upcoming events is decided (an "inflection or turning point"). It is a state of unpredictability, risk, or unease resulting from social, economic, political, or international situations that could ultimately result in a significant fundamental change or transformation (OHCHR, 2023).

Highlights from the keynote speech by Professor Shahidul Haque, Professorial Fellow at the SIPG, NSU:

Crisis Related to Mobility-Immobility Dilemmas and Market-State

For the first time in human history, migration stopped in 2021 due to the severe outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. There was no movement, so no migration. As a result, this provided some valuable lessons for both the individuals and the market forces, as well as the industrial systems, about how things have gone wrong, even in China, a country with strict social controls. There is also speculation that the UN's method for managing migration may not be appropriate. The anti-migration group's primary objective was to sabotage the migration endeavor. Therefore, certain people and highly powerful individuals and states utilize these instruments to proclaim that migration is not necessary and that people should not move as it seems potentially bad.

COVID-19 Pandemic and another Crisis

It is quite improbable that we will soon return to the pre-COVID level because of the significant effects of a setback brought on by pandemics and other crises. Many people were simply unable to move. It was truly hectic for the migrants. Second, those who wished to return home were not permitted to do so. Nobody was allowed to return home, despite his or her desire. That applied to Bangladesh as well. People then started looking for information on how to deal with irregular violence, which is what happened. So, in a sense, yes, it was human trafficking. Thus, this is the premise. People will choose a perilous route to move if you forbid them from doing so because they will move anyway. And for that reason, there are currently 200,000 Bangladeshi nationals throughout Central Asia, particularly in Bosnia and other countries. No global system exists, notwithstanding what I have said about managing migration. Even if so, many people are moving, but the impact is still great. There is no recognized system because the groups opposed to migration and the main migration groups cannot agree. Because of this, it took the international community in the American system approximately 70 years to come to terms with the idea of managing physical and combat migration in an informed fashion.

Contesting of Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration (GCM)

Bangladesh served as the global migration development Chair in 2016. However, the UN does not neglect to discuss why migration is such a significant issue. Compact migration is the result of 18 months of negotiations between the states and the development of such a framework. Therefore, this compact is quite potent. It considers all factors, including consistent return retention. There was no guiding concept on which even a small entity providing information to an international body would comment. There was simply no principle in the texts about worldwide migration as if such a phenomenon did not exist in human civilization. So, there was sort of a gap there earlier. Currently, however, there are several principles to which states might appeal in disputes with neighboring states over the protection of their citizens.

Future of Migration and Mobility

Future mobility and migration come in four different forms. The first is that migration will be minimized because of one's limiting nature, but that will also result in individual organization, which is excellent. The second is that there will be more forced migration as a result of conflict, a shortage of resources, and climate change. Therefore, that would also occur. Third, the need for migration will decline. All the work that migrants frequently end up doing in a destination country is taken care of by technology. The fourth is that migration will be more inclusive, regular, and orderly. Therefore, it would be a lot for just one of the four or a mix of the four.

New Migration Order Unfolding

The migration and mobility that will finally lead to a vision will be influenced by geo-environments and geo-cultures. However, a lot of things are undoubtedly occurring. Everything will rely on how the current generation views and treats the environment. We are successful because we still consider migration to be vital in this day and age. However, every part of the world is unable to imagine a day when people won't be moving. Moreover, our generation has never considered migrating right. We reasoned that we had a university education system globally, not just in Bangladesh. Because of this, the generation after this will approach and handle it differently, leading to a more harmonic migratory system.

Concluding Thoughts: Migrants must be at the center of all initiatives

Despite being a phenomenon of development, migration has been a contentious, delicate, and sensitive problem that creates barriers to a trust-based, inclusive migration system. Without allowing for orderly and regular movement, global connectivity and international cooperation are unlikely to be successful and sustainable. Migration securitization is not a practical solution for dealing with complex international migration. There is no migration problem; rather, there is a crisis of cooperation and a lack of empathy. Migration is neither a risk nor a problem; rather, it is a component of the solutions. It is crucial to have a positive conversation about enhancing global collaboration on migration governance. Issues related to migration should be handled within the parameters of international rules and practices while taking regional circumstances into account. To regulate migration, a cutting-edge system of mobility and migration must be built.

Highlights from the speech by Mr. Abdusattor Esoev, Chief of Mission, International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Bangladesh

The big countries that are taking in migrants include the US, Germany, Saudi Arabia, and Russia. Migrants are three times more productive when they relocate to a new country in search of significant chances than if they stay put in the original country. For instance, if any of you were to stroll through Bangladesh today and then return to your home and place of employment, things would presumably continue as usual. Migrants strive to be adaptive and resilient in the face of a variety of difficulties. The policies of each nation will determine how to deal with migration because migrant adaptations are crucial.

Russia, which has between 13 and 15 million foreign workers, was ranked fourth among countries that host migrants. The Russian government is concerned about adaptation and integration to make sure that individuals are somewhat highlighted in the research. I was in Moscow when COVID-19 struck, and I witnessed firsthand how awful it was for one side of the nation. While Russia and other nations offered many services and assisted migrants in extending or regularizing their visas to accomplish a variety of tasks, there was little support for the migrants themselves.

Despite the challenging circumstances, these individuals have managed to come together, thanks to their commitment. I wanted to underline this because, of course, other problems are going on in the world right now, like the crisis in Ukraine or, more lately, the fight in Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan. The human rights initiative focuses somewhat on the gender component; my purpose is something else I wanted to discuss here. We still see many nations, and the number of migrants still needs to be pushed to change, so I believe that has also been highlighted in the Professor's presentations about the gender difficulties of migration, which has always been considered a primary form of movement.

But over the past several years, we have noticed an increase in female migration, the gender component of migration, or the movement of families settling in new countries or working there to start families, where the role of the females and female migrants has grown in significance. From the standpoint of human rights, I believe we also need to examine the gender component of migration, where female migrants are more vulnerable than they may realize, which was also evident during the COVID-19 pandemic. I believe we must continue to discuss what migration is in general. The finest illustration is what migration might offer not only for the economics of the migrant remittances. I believe the Qatar World Cup 2022 is an excellent example of athletes representing their countries with pride, as 90 or 80 percent of the spectators there, for instance, are "migrant" offspring. This demonstrates what is significant and how it is important if migration is handled legally. If it is managed well, it can also provide prominence in the worldwide arena, such as the World Cup, in addition to benefits for economic, social, and cultural purposes. France would likely be pleased to see their country advance in terms of who is playing there, as well as you or us as mere World Cup watchers watching how nations are taking the seat and are bouncing in.

Highlights from the speech by Huma Khan, Human rights, Gender, and development professional in conflict and post-conflict settings

Since there are so many distinct ethnicities in South Asia, it was once a melting pot for various civilizations and races. We should first take pride in the fact that we are descended from migrants who came from all over the world, including at least Asia and possibly Europe and Africa. The first thing to emphasize is that it is a matter of pride rather than a problem. Modern society sees migration as a concern. What causes people to move? What will stop us? What rules do we follow? But we also need to acknowledge how our migration has shaped who we are as artists.

The second argument I intended to make was that, in the technical world, there are countries that send migrants and those that receive them. However, I want to ask everyone to move past this binary. I believe that we are all migrant-receiving nations. Bangladesh is not only a nation that sends out people; as the last issue on migrants within Bangladesh brought up, it is also a nation that receives people. We should provide migrants with the same amenities that they receive in other countries when they enter our country since it is most likely how others will host us.

The Rohingyas are to blame for all the issues in Bangladesh. Is it logical? Actually, no. For a time, let's say, "Is it real?" Yes, that is part of the issue. In the modern world, having a large number of businesses will be problematic. But is it the root of all the issues? Actually, no. Therefore, we must also be aware of other people's politics.

The rights of migrant workers and their families are covered by an international human rights treaty; therefore, this only applies to those who may pay for work either with or without their families. It does not apply to all migrants, but it is a convention that several member states have ratified, and the idea of how the law of rights operates is obviously what a member state must ensure that it puts into practice. Additionally, it connects very well with the global compacts because it recognizes that countries that are members, like Bangladesh, pioneer countries, must ensure that they implement what they have agreed to. You must link the two to ensure that we provide for our moving and confirm migrants' safety, and by this, I mean we must safeguard their rights, provide them safety, and provide them protection. Bangladesh is also a signatory, for example, on the conventional rights of migrant workers. So, that is the framework for human rights that we have. It is not enforceable since most human rights documents lack the same level of legal force as international law. It does, however, already exist and can be utilized to advance migrant workers' rights.

Highlights from the speech by Ahmed Munirus Saleheen, Secretary, Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, Government of Bangladesh

You are aware of at least three benefits that migration gives to our social and economic development. The first one is employment, which I believe most of you are aware of. At least 25% of Bangladesh's overall employment demands are met via employment or job migration. It influences the distribution of poverty. Bangladesh would have remained 25% poorer than it is now if there had been no migration, claims a World Bank research. In terms of remittances, their contribution to macroeconomic growth is remarkable. About six percent of our GDP is made up of remittances. My inquiry is therefore crucial, which is why migration is acknowledged as a significant economic driver in our national planning document.

The majority of the time, our migration is pretty harmful. Human rights abuse, exploitation, and terms like "born in this library" are all frequently used in discussions on migration. That is to say, there are many problems leading to migration that need to be disclosed. That will maybe be the subject of our conversation. How could we be afraid in these unpredictable and chaotic times? Bangladesh is thus one of the rare nations that benefits from migration. The state of Bangladesh and the government of Bangladesh are not leaving the benefits because some people choose to live overseas. Bangladesh takes part actively.

The migration narrative needs to be altered first. Additionally, one of the nation's top universities was included in the project of this kind of study. Nothing could be more ideal when they are starting this kind of conversation because the migration discourse must be widely accepted. People must understand the significance of migration. In addition, while discussing the difficulty and impending disaster, it is important to comprehend why it is occurring. Therefore, lack of public awareness is one of the biggest problems. They frequently make ill-informed decisions. The choices are not wise ones.

We live in a world where there are migrant labor and migration. We must be aware that they are indeed contributing. The people who wish to migrate, who want to move overseas in search of a better future or a better career, must also realize that they must base their decisions on accurate facts. Another reason is that moving is expensive and difficult because of this lack of knowledge. Migration's social cost is the third issue. The people who are living overseas must think about how their families are affected by them and how they fear for their families in this nation. These circumstances can occasionally occur outside of the nation. Determining the various situations that migrant workers or migrants may find themselves in will help all of you, especially the younger generations and our dear students, overcome many of the challenges, particularly those related to the dissemination of information about their rights and obligations.

The Bangladeshi government is devoted to promoting responsible, regular, and safe migration. This is comparable to our GCM commitment and SDG programs. We require partners who will work with us in partnership. The Bangladeshi government collaborates with a variety of parties, including our CSOs and youth overseas development partners. We want to continue it. Otherwise, migrant workers would not be able to overcome all of their difficulties, whether they arise here or in their final destinations.

Summary of the Seminar

Key Issues with Migration

- When there is conflict or disturbance, the most vulnerable ones, especially the migrants are disproportionately affected in terms of where they can live, work, and travel. Migrants who are in vulnerable circumstances are those who cannot fully exercise their human rights and are more likely to be violated and mistreated (OHCHR and the Global Migration Group, 2018).
- The anti-migration group's primary objective was to sabotage the migration endeavor. Therefore, certain people, highly powerful individuals, and states utilize these instruments to definitively proclaim that migration is unnecessary or bad and that people should not move.
- Even those who wished to return were not permitted to do so. People then started looking for information on how to deal with irregular violence. People will choose a difficult route to move if you forbid them from doing so because they will move anyway. And thus, human trafficking became more rampant.
- Future mobility and migration come in four different forms. The first is that migration will be minimized because of one's limiting nature. The second is that there will be more forced migration as a result of conflict, lack of resources, unemployment, inflation, and climate change. Third, the need for migration will decline. All the work that migrants frequently end up doing in a destination country is taken care of by technology. The fourth is that migration will be more inclusive, regular, and orderly.
- An increase in female migration, the gender component of migration, or the movement of families settling in new countries or working there to start families, where the role of the females and female migrants has grown in significance.
- Bangladesh is not only a nation that sends out people; as the last issue on migrants within Bangladesh brought up, it is also a nation that receives people such as the Rohingyas in Bangladesh.
- The majority of the time, our migration is pretty harmful. Human rights abuse, exploitation, and terms like "born in this library" are all frequently used in discussions on migration. That is to say, there are many problems that serve as a way for migration, which need to be disclosed.

Recommendations

- Migration securitization is not a practical solution for dealing with complex international migration. There is no migration problem; rather, there is a crisis of cooperation and a lack of empathy. Migration is neither a risk nor a problem; rather, it is a component of the solutions.
- Issues related to migration should be handled within the parameters of international rules and practices while taking into account regional circumstances.
- To regulate migration, a cutting-edge system of mobility and migration must be built.
- The policies of each nation will determine how to deal with migration because migrant adaptations are crucial.
- From the standpoint of human rights, we also need to examine the gender component of migration, where female migrants are more vulnerable than they may realize.
- If migration is managed well, it can also provide prominence in the worldwide arena, such as the Qatar World Cup 2022, in addition to benefits for economic, social, and cultural purposes.
- We should provide migrants with the same amenities that they receive in other countries when they enter our country since it is most likely how others will host us.
- We should safeguard their rights, provide them safety, and provide them protection as Bangladesh is also a signatory on the conventional rights of migrant workers.
- In addition, while discussing the difficulty and impending disaster, it is important to comprehend why it is occurring. Therefore, creating public awareness is one of the key tools for highlighting migration as a positive phenomenon.

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Professor Shahidul Haque delivering his keynote speech during the International Seminar on 'Migrants in Times of Crisis' on 17 December 2022



Panelists of the International Seminar on 'Migrants in Times of Crisis'



Launching Ceremony of CMS & International Seminar on 'Migrants in Times of Crisis'



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