
Migration in Development Policy: Bangladesh Context

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Bangladesh at a Glance

- **Official Name:** The People's Republic of Bangladesh
 - **Capital City:** Dhaka
 - **Area:** 1,47,570 Sq. Km.
 - **Per Capita GDP:** US\$ 848
 - **GDP growth rate:** 6.3 %
 - **Population:** 146 million
 - **Adult literacy rate:** 65 %
 - **Civilian Labour Force:** 60.3 million
 - **Male:** 37.5 million and **Female:** 22.8 million
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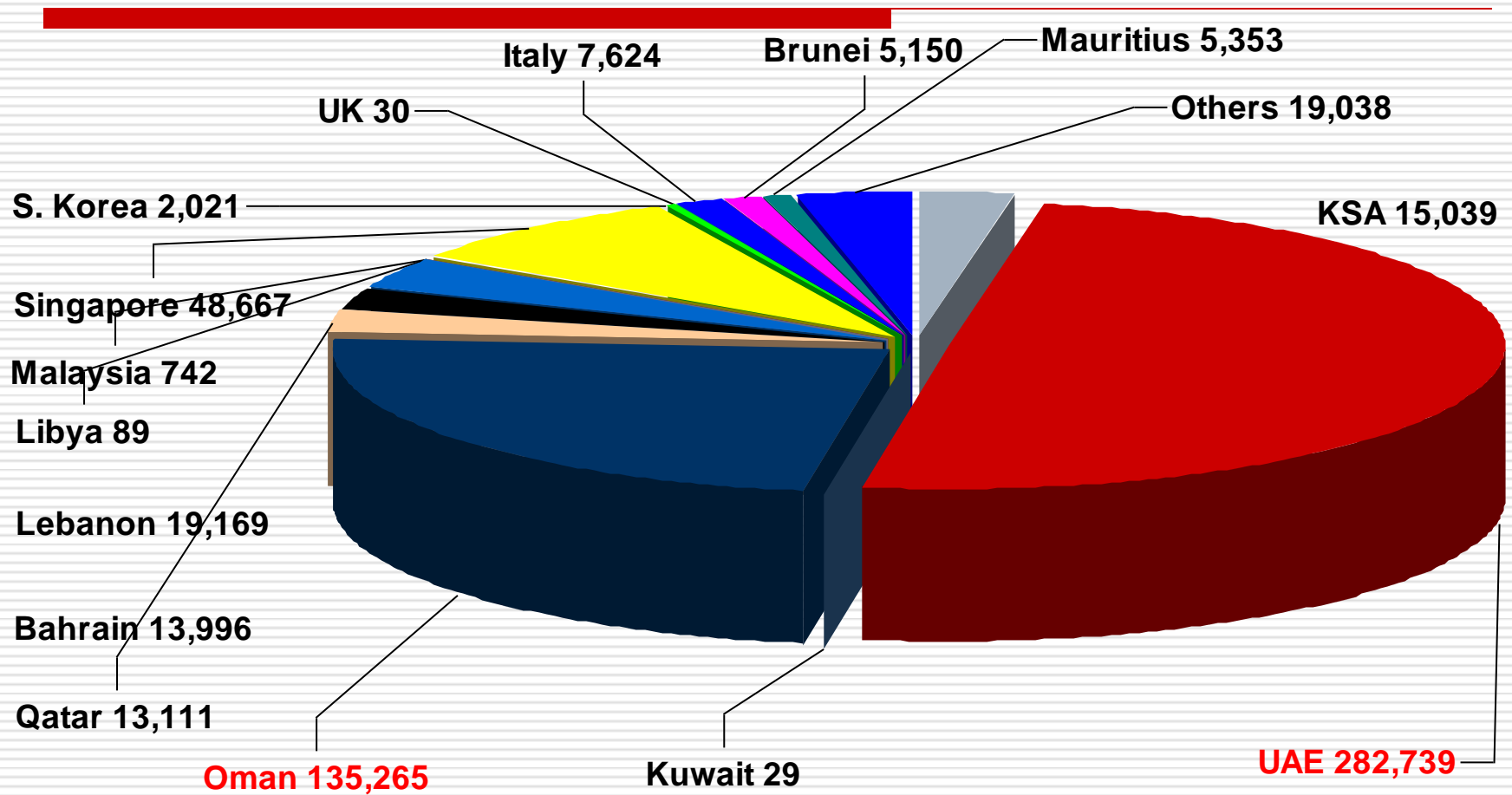
Overseas Employment scenerio

- ❑ Bangladesh is one of the major manpower sending countries in the world.
 - ❑ Around **8 million** Bangladeshi nationals are working in **143 countries** across the world.
 - ❑ Bangladesh is a huge reservoir of professionals, skilled and semi-skilled manpower.
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- **Number of Overseas Employment in 2011 : 5,68,062**
 - **Female Migration in 2011 : 30,579 (5%)**
 - **Highest number of overseas employment in 2011: 2,82,739
(United Arab Emirates)**
 - **Overseas Employment in Jan-May 2012 : 3,21,727**
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Country-wise Overseas Employment in 2011 (Major countries)



Rules and Regulations for Overseas Employment/Migration Process

Emigration Ordinance 1982

i) Emigration Rules 2002.

Controls migration process and promotion of overseas employment.

ii) Recruiting agents conduct and license Rules 2002.

Stipulates the role of the activities of Recruiting agents.

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

Arranges welfare activities to the migrant workers and their families.

Bangladesh adopted Overseas Employment Policy in 2006

to ensure

the prospect of regular migration of long term and short term for both men and women from all parts of Bangladesh at a rational cost.

Objectives of the Policy

Organise overseas employment sector and to ensure welfare of Bangladeshi workers abroad.

Ensure abolition of any scope of irregular migration.

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Commitment of government to protect the rights, dignity and security of all migrant workers in and outside the country.

Measures to ensure the social protection of the left behind families and properties of both short-term and long-term migrants.

Consideration of misconduct in the recruitment process as an act against national interest and provision to make the concerned persons, governmental and private organisations accountable.

Encouraging remittance flows through official channels and support to the workers and their families to ensure effective and efficient use of remittance.

Assist in social and economic re-integration of returnee migrant workers.

Allocation of necessary resources and strengthen the existing institutional infrastructure and personnel for the implementation of the above policies.

Capacity Building to

- 1) inform and train aspirant migrant workers so that they can compete in global markets.
 - 2) provide support and advocacy for migrants while abroad,
 - 3) negotiate fair contracts, bilateral agreements and cover costs of managing this.
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Awareness development

More briefing sessions at BMET before departure of the workers to make them aware about

- agreement of service conditions,
- working environment,
- culture, wages and other benefits,
- remittance system,
- local language of the host country, etc.

to develop awareness on the use of legal channel of migration, campaign through electronic and print media is also going on.

Protection of rights of the migrant workers

Protection of migrants' rights through the following measures:

- Signing of bilateral accord or Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with labour receiving countries.
 - Legal support to the workers fallen in trouble.
 - Dissemination of information regarding migrant workers' rights in host country, providing comprehensive pre-departure briefing,
 - Ensuring working hour, payment for wage, over time, leave, health service, freedom of movement in the work contract.
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Strategy for Training in 6th Five year plan (SFYP)

Current most important strategy paper of the government is the 6th Five year plan document. Regarding skill development and employment generation issue it has emphasized –

- Creating good jobs for the large pool of under-employed and new labor force entrants by increasing the share of employment in the industrial sector from 17 percent to 25 percent.
 - Increasing the contribution of factor productivity in economic growth to 10 percent.
 - Overseas employment of skilled labour to be increased from 35% to 50%
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Bangladesh's approach to migration fit into the larger development vision

- 1. Overseas Employment sector has been declared as a thrust sector of the Economy of Bangladesh.**
 - 2. Every year 2.5 m workforce is added in the labour market. Formal sector employment generation is 0.2-0.3 m. Overseas employment can play a pivotal role as it creates 0.6 – 0.7 m employment.**
 - 3. Migration is considered as the development alternative to the economy of Bangladesh.**
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- Ministry of Expatriates Welfare and Overseas Employment, the new Ministry exclusively created for migration management in 2001 is the driving force behind the inclusion of migration issues.
 - Government is implementing all relevant activities accommodating the other stakeholders, like NGOs, International Organisations (IOM, ILO, UNWOMEN), other development Partners etc.
 - Government has allocated special budget (Tk 21m) and is increasing annual budget (Tk. 8.1 to 30.1 in three years) to promote safe migration.
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Government initiatives in support of inclusion of migration into development planning

- Digitization in Migration management**
 - Establishment of Expatriates Welfare Bank**
 - Promotion of Skill Development Training**
 - Initiatives and Incentives for Smooth Transfer of Remittances**
 - Initiative to explore new markets**
 - Efforts to reduce migration cost**
 - Enhancement of Labour Attaché**
 - Inter-Ministerial Vigilance Task Force**
 - Updating of Emigration Ordinance**
 - Adopting Anti-Trafficking Law**
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Strategies to ensure sustainable safe migration.

1. Exploring new markets for overseas employment.
2. Expansion of existing labour markets.
3. Skill development training to promote export of more skilled workers.
4. Strengthening welfare for the migrant workers.

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5. Ensuring more transparency in the recruitment process.
 6. Strengthening of capacity and capabilities of Bangladesh Missions abroad.
 7. Capacity Development to meet the emergency situation.
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Thank you all
