



Government of Nepal
National Planning Commission Secretariat

**Regional Workshop on Strengthening the
Collection and Use of International
Migration Data in the Context of the 2030
Agenda for Sustainable Development**

Context

- Historically Nepal has witnessed three distinct waves of migration (internal).
 - 1st- during unification of Nepal until the early eighteen century
 - 2nd - in the mid-50s with the implementation of the state sponsored resettlement programme
 - 3rd - With the advent of democracy in 1951, the planned economic development & socio-economic transformation of the country

Context (International Migration)

- Started in the 19th Century with recruitment of Nepali (Gurkhas) to serve in the British Army and British India
- Since 1990s people began to migrate increasingly to the Gulf countries for work
- 2 million Nepali - in foreign countries,
 - 40% in India, remaining 60% - Overseas
 - 9% of overseas migrants are Women
- 1/3 of the pop'n benefits from remittances
- 25% of Nepal's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (NIDS, 2010)

Definitions of International Migrants

- **Statistical Definition**

Person who are foreign born / foreign citizens residing in Nepal & person who are absent for six months/more/intention to stay more

Administrative Definition

Immigration Act

- (a) "Immigration" means the process of entering of the foreigners into Nepal, their stay presenting therein and their depart therefrom.
- (b) "Foreigner" means any person at that time, who is not a citizen of Nepal.

Foreign Employment Act,

- (a) "Foreign employment" means employment which a worker gets abroad.
- (b) "Worker" means a citizen of Nepal who gets in foreign employment.

Labour migration: The term is used to indicate migration for foreign employment from Nepal but excluding to irregular migration

Deviations across data sources

- Definitions vary according to purpose of collection
- Only major source of data is Population Census- once in a decade
- Sources of data are multiple and vary across their utility purposes

Sources of Data

- The census - major source of migration data.
Two questions - 'Place of birth' & 'Any family members currently not residing at home'
- Q1. 'Place of birth' - basic and universal question provides info. mainly on 'non-migrant', 'in-migrant', and 'immigrant'.
- Q2. 'Status of presence'
gives info. on 'absent population', provides info. on those abroad and 'out-migration',

Sources of Data

- Large Scale Surveys - CBS, NPC (NLFS, NLSS, NPHC)
- Administrative sources: Current Statistics & Administrative Data

Ministries, Departments

Department of Foreign Employment

Department of Labour

Department of Immigration

Department of Education

Migration Statistics

- Migration data collected for first time in the census of 1920 and 1930,
- 1961 - data collected on migration both on internal & international migration on the basis of citizenship & place of birth.
- 1971 - collected only for the population present (de jure population) not absentee population (de facto population)
- 1981 - data by sex and by broad age groups (0-15 years, 15-59 years and 60 years and above)

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Migration Statistics

- Data available by birthplace, citizenship and by regions and countries of destination for absentee population.
- Three separate parts of volume on migration:
 - a) Volume I. Part II regarding place of birth and residence one year ago,
 - b) Volume I. Part II on native born population by education, marital status and activity, and
 - c) Foreign born population by education, marital status and industry.
- Data available by sex & age (five-year age) & destination.
- Countries of foreign-born broadly categorised into five groups
 - a) SAARC countries,
 - b) other Asian countries,
 - c) European countries,
 - d) other countries, and
 - e) countries not stated

Migration Statistics

- 2001 census, data on migration collected from complete enumeration & sample enumeration
- 2001 Census data on international migration are of two types:
 - a) Population absent from home by countries of destination and by sex.
 - b) Citizenship of the population by countries, by sex and by age
- 2011 census, from both complete enumeration (Form 1) and sample enumeration (Form 2).
- Form 1 has two categories of questionnaires, household questionnaire, (questions 1 -14) and an individual questionnaire (questions 1 – 15).

Migration Statistics

- Info. on absent population by households is obtained through Question No. 13 under household category. Similarly, Q. No. 14 gives information on absentee population by age and sex, as well as their status of education, duration of stay abroad (in years), purpose or reasons for going abroad and the destination country.
- identify the absent population by age group & level of education - the first exercise

Migration Statistics

- **Data availability on international migration in the censuses reports vary**

Major aspects covered

- Regional distribution of foreign born population provided by countries of birth, by sex, by period of stay, distribution among geographical regions of Nepal,
- Population gone abroad for livelihood provided by countries of destination, by sex, by age-groups, by reasons of absence, distribution among geographical regions,

Coordination Mechanisms

- National Statistical Council
 - Chaired by VC of NPC
 - Members from all ministries
- National Planning Commission
- Central Bureau of Statistics

Challenges in integrating data sources

- Sensitive issue of international migration and policy measures to control and regulate international migration particularly from Nepal-India open border resulting in the misreporting of the immigrants of their true identity
- Pop'n Census characterized by lack of consistent plans and policies relating to quality and importance of population data and other data relating to international migration.

Challenges in integrating data sources

- Frequent changes in census schedules has resulted in the poor quality and unreliability of migration data for qualitative analysis, & understanding the trend, magnitude and implication of migration
- Frequent changes in district boundaries, census questionnaires and definitions, a comparative study and analysis of census data of Nepal, at both the national and district levels, has become virtually impossible since 1961
- Need for consistency, continuity, coordination & monitoring of the data collection- particularly in relation to international migration.

Current initiatives & Future Plan

Vision - Establishment of effective, coordinating and dynamic national statistics system

Strategies

- Produce, improve and supply high quality statistics.
- Use all possible methods and resources of generating statistics.
- Enhance institutional capacity to ensure quality of statistics according to the federal structure.
- Efforts made to address the optimal demand of national and international users

Current initiatives & Future Plan

- Three-dimensional relation among statistics, planning and development
- Identification and Development of SDG indicators for Nepal – localisation exercise including for IM
- Review of Pop'n Census Questionnaire underway
- Emphasis on coordination of statistical activities
 - from local to central level,
 - manage statistics and develop structure in federal and local agencies,
 - eliminate duplication in generated statistics

Current initiatives & Future Plan

- Labour and employment management information system will be developed.
- Record system for migrant workers and returnee migrant workers will be improved.
- Registration of labourers of unorganized sectors will be initiated and accident insurance will be provisioned for them.

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Thank you