

Increasing trend of international migrants: Impact of technological revolution & social network



Abstract

This paper discusses the impact of technological revolution & social network on the increasing trend of international migrants. In recent years, migration has been modeled within the perspective of new technology & social network. IT based revolution & internet based communication has changed people's life style as well as social relations. Recent advances in our ability to communicate and process information in digital form a series of developments are reshaping the economies, politics and demand of the societies of many countries around the world which is affecting the migration pattern.

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Introduction

Migration is the most complex component of population change. It provides an important network for the diffusion of ideas & information and indicates symptoms of social & economic change. It can be regarded as a human adjustment to economic, environmental & social problems. Clarke, J.L. (1965) said, there is no unanimity over the meaning of migration though many consider it as movement involving change of residence of substantial duration. Clarke was of the opinion that migration cannot be defined perfectly as it involves a wider range of elements. Trewartha, G.T. (1969) placed emphasis on distance, human will & change in permanent residence in migration. He describes the term migration has various shades of meaning. According to Demko, G.J., Ross, H.M., Schnell, G.A. (1970) definition of migration is generally based on change in residence, journey to work, types of boundary crossed & many other things. Whatever migration is basically two types: first one is internal migration (migration within the same state) & another one is international migration (migration between states). If we look at the world migration statistics it is clear that the overall number of the international migrants are increasing day by day. According to IOM 2012 report technological revolution & social networking has a great impact in this response. This paper will try to find out the correlations between these issues.

Objective

This paper broadly examines the increasing trend of international migration scenario of the world & the impact of technological revolution & social network on it. In doing so, the paper has been designed with some specific objectives.

Objectives of the paper are

- To understand the causes of human migration and the effect on the sending and/or host country
- To understand the trends of international migration.
- To understand technological revolution & its impact on international migration trend
- To understand social network & its impact on international migration trend
- To realize what is the scenario in the context of Bangladesh

Conceptualization of Migration

Human Migration can be defined as the movement of people from one place in the world to another. All migrants are movers, but not all movers are migrants. Migration involves both spatial and temporal dimensions. The temporal dimension of migration has been generally defined as a permanent or semi permanent move, generally of at least one year. Vacationers, seasonal farm workers, and nomads are not migrants, for their moves are not permanent. The

spatial dimension generally involves moving a significant but unspecified distance and crossing a geopolitical border, such as a county line in the United States. As a result, migrants change their baseline population of reference and their local networks. Whereas movers need not necessarily do so. International migration, obviously, involves crossing national borders and thus is distinguished from internal migration, which occurs within national boundaries. Internal migrants to and from an area are called in-migrants and out-migrants, while international migrants are known as immigrants when they are moving into a new country and emigrants when they are leaving an old one. The difference between in-migrants and out-migrants is net migration. (Poston D.L. & Micklin M. 2005)

Causes of human migration and the effect on the sending and/or host country applying theory

The practice of moving away from home in search of a better place is becoming common. The ease of global mobility allows people to migrate to distant places around the world. The rate of human migration has increased recently due to many factors. There are a few factors that cause people to migrate from one country to another. There are pull and push factors that encompasses in each causes. The causes include social, political and economic aspects; the effects also vary for both sending and host countries.

Ravenstein (1889) concluded that pull factors were more important than push factors i.e. few job opportunities, political fear or oppressive laws, heavy taxation, unattractive climate or desertification, uncongenial social surrounding/poor medical care/poor housing, even compulsion (slave trade, poor transportation facilities, pollution) all have produced and still producing currents of migration. But none of these currents can compared in volume with that which arises from the desire inherent in most men to better themselves in material respects. (Weeks, 2002) The potential migrant weighs the push and pull factors and moves if the benefits of doing so exceeds the cause. Between the desire to move and the actual decision to do so there also may be intervening obstacles i.e. distance of the expected destinations, cost of getting there, poor health etc. Also migration is associated with career advancement which is one of the major or ‘ pull ’ factors of migration. Individuals spend much of their lifetimes pursuing various goals whereby a goal such as more education, a better job, a nicer house, a more pleasant environment people want to attain.

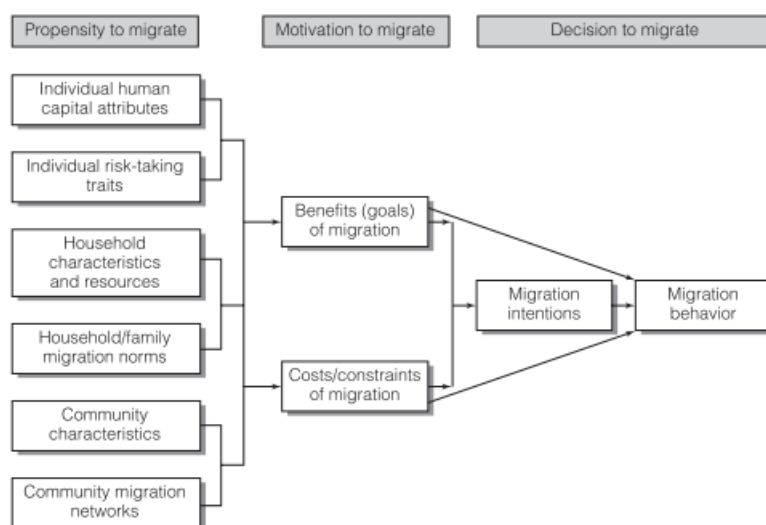
Demographers have shown that migrants who respond mainly to pull factors at a place of destination tend to be ‘positively’ selected. They generally have more education than those have remained behind. On the other hand, migrants responding mainly to push factors in the area of origin tend to be negatively selected. They are the people who cannot seem to be succeeded either because of the poor education or lack of needed talents. (Poston Jr. & Bouvier, 2010).

Everett S. Lee (1966) noted that there is more to migration than a person calculating the advantages and disadvantages, the positives and negatives, at both the areas of origin and destination. He has observed that two of the more enduring generalizations that can be made about migration are:

1. Migration is selective (that is, not everyone migrates, only a selected portion of the population).
2. The heightened propensity to migrate at certain stages of the life cycle is in the selection of migrants. (Weeks, 2002)

Human migration affects the sending country. There are pros and cons for the country as human migration occurs. Some people who migrated out of their country in search of a better lifestyle and a higher salary will mostly send money back to their parents in their own respective countries. This will help the economic growth of the sending country. In addition, people back at home will be motivated when they see higher salary being paid to people with more knowledge. This will spark encouragement to young people to study harder as the people that migrated out of the country become an example for them. However, the sending country loses high tax payers and talents that could give aid to the development of the country. Meanwhile, human migration also affects the host country. The host country can benefit from the immigrants as most immigrants are willing to be paid a lower price for labor. This creates job loss for the natives and will cause issues between the native people and immigrants. The host country can also benefit from the immigrants because if they are highly educated, they can educate younger generation of the host country, hence giving a brighter future to the next generation of the host country.

Conceptual model of migration decision making



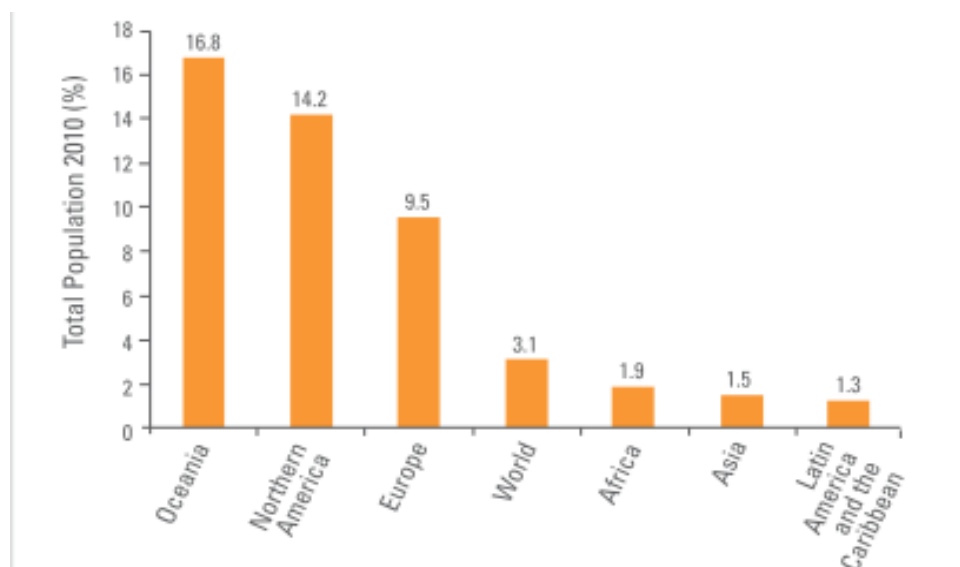
Source: weeks, 2002

Trends in international migration

The total estimated number of international migrants in the world (global migrant stock) has increased from 154 million in 1990 to 232 million in 2013, and is expected to continue to rise in the foreseeable future (United Nations, 2013). Although this represents a considerable increase in the global migrant stock, the percentage of international migrants compared to the global population has changed only slightly in the 23-year period, from 2.9 per cent in 1990 to 3.2 per cent in 2013. Between 1990 and 2013, the migrant stock has increased more than twice as fast in countries in more developed regions (by 53 million) as that in countries in less developed regions (by 24 million). Between 1990 to 2013, the migrant stock born in the global South and residing in the global North has doubled—from 40 million to 82 million. Over the same period, the migrant population from the South and residing in the South grew from 59 million to 82 million.

Major regions of the world account for different shares of the global stock of immigrants and emigrants. For example, in 2013, Europe hosted 31 per cent of the global migrant stock, whereas it was the origin of 25 per cent of all emigrants (of whom 65 per cent were living within Europe). In comparison, Asia and Northern America hosted 31 and 23 percent of the total migration stock, respectively, while they were the origin of 40 and 2 per cent of all emigrants. Further, the majority of foreign-born from Asia and Oceania (58 per cent each) remained within Asia and Oceania, whereas 71 per cent of foreign-born from Latin America and the Caribbean resided in Northern America. (United Nations Population Division, 2014)

Share of international migrants among the regions



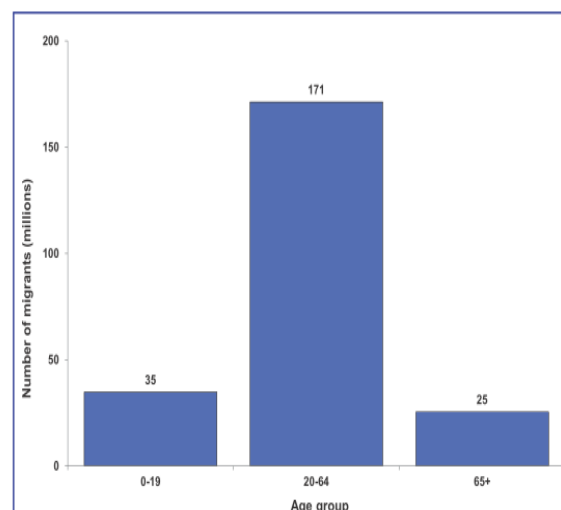
Source: United Nations Population Division. 2009.

The origin of international migrants has become increasingly diversified over the past two decades. In 2013, India (14 million), Mexico (13 million), the Russian Federation (11 million), China (9 million) and Bangladesh (8 million) were the top five emigration countries. The number of migrants from China living in Africa, Europe, Northern

America and Oceania more than tripled between 1990 and 2013, while the number of migrants from Mexico and the Philippines living outside their country of birth has doubled during the same period. Despite the increased diversification of migratory flows, international migration remains highly concentrated. In 2013, of the 232 million international migrants worldwide, more than half were living in just 10 countries, namely, the United States of America (46 million), the Russian Federation (11 million), Germany (10 million), Saudi Arabia (9 million), the United Arab Emirates (8 million), the United Kingdom (8 million), France (7 million), Canada (7 million), Australia (6 million) and Spain (6 million) (Annual report, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs 2013).

Selectivity among the international migrants

Migration tends to be selective by age, sex, level of education and other characteristics. Migrants tend to be younger and healthier than their non-migrating counterparts. For instance, in a sample of seven European countries, immigrants between 20 and 29 years of age constituted between one third and one half of all immigrants arriving in 2008 and 2009 (Roig et al., 2008). At the global level, in 2013, the median age of all international migrants is 38.4 years, compared with 29.2 years in the total population. The median age of migrants is higher than that of the general population due to a smaller proportion of children among migrants. Moreover, in some destination countries newborns are not considered immigrants (principle of *jus soli*). The median age of migrants is higher in countries in more developed regions (42.2 years) than in less developed regions (33.2 years). Examining by region, international migrants living in Africa and Asia tend to be younger (median age of 29.9 and 33.6 years, respectively) than in Europe, Northern America and Oceania (median age is 42.3, 42.2 and 43.4 years, respectively)



Source: United Nations, Global Migration Database. <http://esa.un.org/unmigration/>

Women & international migration pattern

Among international migrants worldwide, in 2013, approximately half are women 52 per cent in countries in more developed regions and 43 per cent in less developed regions. Since women often live longer than men, they tend to be overrepresented among older migrants. The large labour movements in Europe and the United States of America in the 1960s and 1970s were male dominated and women and children migrated as dependants. Changes in the migratory behavior of women first appeared in the 1980s and 1990s with the development of service sector employment and, in particular, the growing need for nurses and teachers. Women are now also likely to seek employment opportunities abroad in domains previously dominated by men. Increasingly, women are migrating on their own or as heads of households and principal wage earners for themselves and their families. For instance, data from labour emigration permits in South and South-East Asia show that some countries, such as Indonesia, the Philippines and Sri Lanka, allocate 70 per cent or more of such permits to prospective female migrants.

Increasing number of migrants, 1965-2050

Year	Number (in millions)
According to UN Population Division	
1965	75
1975	84
1985	105
1990	120
According to IOM	
2000	150
2010	214
2050	405

Sources: Collected from different sources

IOM identified four major causes for this increasing trend:

1. Growing demographic disparities
2. Environmental change
3. New global political and economic dynamics
4. Technological revolution and social network (IOM 2012)

As the objective of this paper is exploring the impact of technological revolution & social network on this increasing trend now it will be focused for better understanding.

Impact of technological revolution on increasing international migrants

Understanding revolution

Revolutions are the by-products of new ideas. New ideas in the fields of physics, theology, philosophy, politics, agriculture, sociology, and engineering incited revolutions that have transformed how we conceive of our place in the universe, how we regard our place in society, how we travel from location to location, how we grow food, how we manufacture goods, how we educate ourselves, how we communicate with others, how we wage war, and how we maintain the peace. Ideas that bring about revolutions are typically characterized as ones whose time has come. Ironically, it can take many years for a new idea to become sufficiently accepted and popularized before being recognized as one whose time has come.

Today's most widespread and far-reaching revolution is a technology revolution. Technology, in one form or another, has been around for a long time, and the word's definition has grown and its meaning to us has changed over the years. The word technology comes from the Greek word *technologia*, which is defined as the systematic treatment of an art. Common use of the word today includes the categorization of products, services, and methodologies into high technology (high tech), low technology (low tech), and no technology (no tech). (Kosakowski, 1998)

Understanding technological revolution

Technological revolution is (in general meaning) a relatively short period in history when one technology (or better a set of technologies) is replaced by another technology (or by the set of technologies). We might define a technological revolution as a dramatic change brought about relatively quickly by the introduction of some new technology. It is an era of an accelerated technological progress characterized not only by new innovations but also their application and diffusion. (Wikipedia)

Five successive technological revolutions, 1770s to 2000s

Technological revolution	Popular name of the period	Core country or countries	Year
First	The industrial revolution	Britain	1771
Second	Age of steam & railways	Britain spreading to USA & continent	1829
Third	Age of steel ,	USA & Germany	1875

	electricity & heavy engineering	forging ahead & overtake Britain	
Fourth	Age of oil , auto mobile & mass production	USA & Germany later spreading to Europe	1908
Fifth	Age of information & telecommunication	USA spreading to Europe & Asia	1971

Source : perez (2002)

Current scenario of IT (Information Technology) revolution over the world

IT is a driving factor in the process of globalization as well as technological revolution. Improvements in the early 1990s in computer hardware, software, and telecommunications greatly increased people's ability to access information and economic potential. While advancements in Internet-based tools over the past five to ten years, such as social networking websites, twitter, and other Web applications are changing the way people use and share information for personal, political, and commercial purposes. These developments have facilitated efficiency gains in all sectors of the economy. IT drives the innovative use of resources to promote new products and ideas across nations and cultures, regardless of geographic location. Creating efficient and effective channels to exchange information, IT has been the catalyst for global integration & migration.

Products based upon, or enhanced by, information technology are used in nearly every aspect of life in contemporary industrial societies. The spread of IT and its applications has been extraordinarily rapid. Just 30 years ago, for example, the use of desktop personal computers was still limited to a fairly small number of technologically advanced people. The overwhelming majority of people still produced documents with typewriters, which permitted no manipulation of text and offered no storage. Twenty years ago, large and bulky mobile telephones were carried only by a small number of users in just a few cities. According to a 2013 International Telecoms Union (ITU) World Report, there were 6.8 billion cell phone subscriptions worldwide at the end of 2012. Global mobile cellular penetration reached 96 percent in 2012. In some developing countries, mobile phones are used by more people than the fixed line telephone network. But perhaps most dramatically, just fifteen years ago, only scientists were using (or had even heard about) the Internet; the World Wide Web was not up and running, and the browsers that help users navigate the Web had not even been invented yet. Today, of course, the Internet and the Web have transformed commerce, creating entirely new ways for retailers and their customers to make transactions, for businesses to manage the flow of production inputs and market products, and for job seekers and job recruiters to find

one another. According to ITU World Report 2013, the total amount of users reached more than 2.7 billion (39 percent of the world's population) by 2013. The news industry was dramatically transformed by the emergence of numerous Internet-enabled news-gathering and dissemination outlets. Websites, blogs, instant messaging systems, e-mail, social networking websites, and other Internet based communication systems have made it much easier for people with common interests to connect, exchange information, and collaborate with each other. Education at all levels is continually transforming thanks to innovations in communication, education, and presentation software. Websites now serve as a primary source of information and analysis for the masses. Globalization accelerates the change of technology. Every day it seems that a new technological innovation is being created. The pace of change occurs so rapidly many people are always playing catch up, trying to purchase or update their new devices. Technology is now the forefront of the modern world creating new jobs, innovations, and networking sites to allow individuals to connect globally. The timeline below shows the rapid transformation of how technology has accelerated within the last 20 years to 2012.

- 18 years ago: Internet commercialized
- 17 years ago: first mobile phone with Internet connectivity
- 15 years ago: Google named the search engine of choice by PC magazine
- 12 years ago: Blackberry launched
- 9 years ago: Face book launched
- 7 years ago: Twitter launched
- 6 years ago: iPhone, the first of the smart phones, introduced
- 5 years ago: Groupon introduced
- 3 years ago: 17 million smart tablets sold — estimated that 100 + million by 2014
- 1 year ago: Google Glass announced

Sources: Zickuhr, K., Smith, A.2012

The impact of IT revolution on migration

As the number of international migrants (who were staying more than one year in a foreign country) is increasing, according to my perspective IT revolution has not much positive impact on this increasing trend. Let me explain. Technology has made our life easier & better. Most of the people have now access in Computer, mobile, internet etc by which we are saving our time not going from one place to another. In this time anyone can get information or send message or talk to others sitting their own house they don't need to move. Again they can earn by it like doing programming, freelancing etc.

Transport revolution

Some Magic of transportation system over the world

• Wireless communications
• Cell phone triangulation
• Vehicle re-identification
• GPS based methods
• Sensing technologies
• Inductive loop detection
• Video vehicle detection
• Bluetooth detection

Some Vehicle based transportation systems

Airline	An airline provides scheduled service with aircraft between airports. Air travel has high up to very high speeds, but incurs large waiting times prior and after travel, and is therefore often only feasible over longer distances or in areas where lack of ground infrastructure makes other modes of transport impossible.
Bus & coach	Bus services use buses on conventional roads to carry numerous passengers on shorter journeys. Buses operate with low capacity (i.e. compared with trams or trains), and can operate on conventional roads, with relatively inexpensive bus stops to serve passengers. Therefore buses are commonly used in smaller cities, towns, and rural areas, as well as for shuttle services supplementing other means of transit in large cities
Train	Passenger rail transport is the conveyance of passengers by means of wheeled vehicles specially designed to run on railways. Trains allow high capacity on short or long distance, but require track, signaling, infrastructure and stations to be built and maintained. Urban rail transit consists of trams, light, rapid transit, people movers, commuter rail, monorail suspension railways and funiculars.
Commuter, intercity, and high-speed rail	Commuter rail is part of an urban area's public transport; it provides faster services to

	<p>outer suburbs and neighboring towns and villages. Trains stop at stations that are located to serve a smaller suburban or town center. The stations are often combined with shuttle bus or park and ride systems. Frequency may be up to several times per hour, and commuter rail systems may either be part of the national railway or operated by local transit agencies.</p> <p>Intercity rail is long-haul passenger services that connect multiple urban areas. They have few stops, and aim at high average speeds, typically only making one of a few stops per city. These services may also be international.</p> <p>High-speed rail is passenger trains operating significantly faster than conventional rail—typically defined as at least 200 kilometers per hour (120 mph). The most predominant systems have been built in Europe and Japan, and compared with air travel, offer long-distance rail journeys as quick as air services, have lower prices to compete more effectively and use electricity instead of combustion</p>
Tram and light rail	<p>Trams are rail borne vehicles that run in city streets or dedicated tracks. They have higher capacity than buses, but must follow dedicated infrastructure with rails and wires either above or below the track, limiting their flexibility.</p> <p>Light rail is a modern development (and use) of the tram, with dedicated right-of-way not shared with other traffic, (often) step-free access and increased speed. Light rail lines are, thus, essentially modernized interurban.</p>
Rapid transit	<p>A rapid transit railway system (also called a metro, underground, or subway) operates in an urban area with high capacity and frequency, and grade separation from other traffic.</p> <p>Systems are able to transport large amounts</p>

	of people quickly over short distances with little land use. More than 160 cities have rapid transit systems, totaling more than 8,000 km (4,971 mi) of track and 7,000 stations. Twenty-five cities have systems under construction.
Personal rapid transit	Personal rapid transit is an automated cab service that runs on rails or a guide way. This is an uncommon mode of transportation (excluding elevators) due to the complexity of automation
Cable-propelled transit	Cable-propelled transit (CPT) is a transit technology that moves people in motor-less, engine-less vehicles that are propelled by a steel cable

Source: Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The impact of Transport revolution on migration

Rapid transport system has made our life easier to move. Increasing facilities, cheap cost of airlines, buses, high speed train, metro rail system etc has a great impact on the movement of people as well as migration. Now a day they can easily move by these vehicles. New technology is bringing new revolution in transport system & increasing the number of migrants both in internally & internationally.

Industrial revolution & its impact on migration

The Industrial Revolution was the transition to new manufacturing processes in the period from about 1760 to sometime between 1820 and 1840. This transition included going from hand production methods to machines, new chemical manufacturing and iron production processes, improved efficiency of water power, the increasing use of steam power, and the development of machine tools. It also included the change from wood and other bio-fuels to coal.

Textiles were the dominant industry of the Industrial Revolution in terms of employment, value of output and capital invested. Textiles were also the first to use modern production methods.

The Industrial Revolution marks a major turning point in history; almost every aspect of daily life was influenced in some way. In particular, average income and population began to exhibit unprecedented sustained growth. Some economists, such as Robert E. Lucas, Jr., argue that the real impact of the Industrial Revolution was that "for the first time in history, the living standards of the masses of ordinary people have begun to undergo sustained growth (Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia).

Millions of people moved & still moving during the industrial revolution. Some simply moved from a village to a town in the hope of finding work whilst others moved from one country to another in search of a better way of life. Some had no choice, they were transported as a punishment for a crime. The main reason for moving home during the 19th century was to find work. On one hand this involved migration from the countryside to the growing industrial cities, on the other it involved movement from one country, in this case Britain, to another. Poor working conditions, housing and sanitation led to many people opting to emigrate. The British at the time controlled a massive empire including America, Canada, South Africa and Australia and people soon started to move to these countries in search of a new life. Migration was not just people moving out of the country, it also involved a lot of people moving into Britain. In the 1840's Ireland suffered a terrible famine. Faced with a massive cost of feeding the starving population many local landowners paid for laborers to emigrate (it was cheaper than paying them poor relief for a long period of time). About a million of these laborers migrated to Britain, many others moved to North America.

Source: <http://www.schoolhistory.org.uk/IndustrialRevolution/migration.htm#.VDgsNGeSxr8>

Health care revolution

Technology is dramatically improving health care in the following ways:

- Prevention and control of emerging infectious diseases,
- Patient to health care provider interaction,
- Rapid dissemination of information,
- Improved responses to outbreak situations.

Efforts to contain outbreaks of dangerous infectious diseases require the rapid collection and transmission of detailed patient data to medical labs or public health centers. Health professionals need tools to communicate important scientific or epidemiological findings to other parts of the health care community. Technological revolution on health sector is enhancing capacity in each of these areas. Many health problems in developing countries are being addressed using technology. Digital records and images utilizing digital cameras have made it possible for doctors around the world to share information or offer advice on treatments for complicated ailments. For example, using Internet connections, doctors working in remote regions of northern Uganda during an outbreak of the deadly Ebola virus would be able rapidly to transmit their findings to experts at the World Health Organization in Geneva and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta.

Technological Applications in Health and Medicine & impact on migration

- Patients have access to their medical facilities from any location via secured Internet sites. That means they don't need to move
- Rapid increasing technology is now available in developing countries also so they don't need to go to developed countries for better treatment
- Online treatment has bring a new revolution like video conference by which anyone can communicate to a doctor sitting their own house.

Source: Kosakowski, J. 1998

Student mobility & Technological revolution in education sector

❖ New technologies in Education:

Personal Access to Mobile Devices	In developed world 89 percent of high schools students have access to Internet-connected smart phones, while 50 percent of students in grades 3 through 5 have access to the same type of devices. High school student access to tablets tops out at 50 percent and laptops come in at 60 percent
Internet connectivity	64 percent of students surveyed identify 3G- or 4G-enabled devices as their primary means of connecting to the Internet, with another 23 percent saying they connect through an Internet-enabled TV or Wi-Fi console.
Use of Video for Class work and Homework	23 percent of students are accessing video created by their teachers.
Mobile Devices for Schoolwork	Sixty percent of students are using mobile devices for anytime research, 43 percent for educational games and 40 percent for collaboration with their peers.
Online Learning	Math was the subject student were most interested in taking online, with Foreign language coming in second and science a distant third.

Source: <http://thejournal.com/Articles/2014/02/03/10-Major-Technology-Trends-in-Education.aspx?Page=2>

There were 2.8 million students in the world in 2007 (UNESCO, 2009). The top three countries of origin of students, accounting for almost a quarter of all international students, are all Asian: Chinese students alone account for around 15 per cent of the world's mobile students, while Indian (5%) and Korean (4%) students are second and

third, respectively. Between them, the countries highlighted in map 14 hosted nearly 2.5 million foreign students in 2007, with students from Asia representing half of this number. The United Kingdom and the USA together account for almost a million foreign students, while France is the main destination for African students. There are certain regional hubs: South Africa, for example, is the main country of destination for students from Southern African countries as well as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Zambia and Zimbabwe; around 60,000 of the roughly 97,000 mobile students in Central Asia go either to Kyrgyzstan or the Russian Federation; Australia attracts over 135,000 of the nearly 800,000 student migrants in the Asia-Pacific; almost a quarter of mobile Eastern European students go to Germany; and, among Western European and North American students, the United Kingdom is the study destination of just under 24 per cent of students. Access in internet, better transport system is increasing the number. (Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs report 2013)

The migration scenario of Bangladesh

Migration has become an important livelihood strategy for the people of Bangladesh. It has remarkable positive impact on social development and empowerment through skill transfer and by fostering many community development initiatives. Bangladesh has a long history of international migration. During British rule some people migrated to UK and also USA for trade and higher study. But after independence of Bangladesh in 1971, the flow of migration to other countries also increased. During mid 1970s due to oil exploration of Middle East countries, there was tremendous demand for skilled and unskilled workers. The higher income of the migrated person not only changes his destiny, but has also improved the lives of his family in the home country.

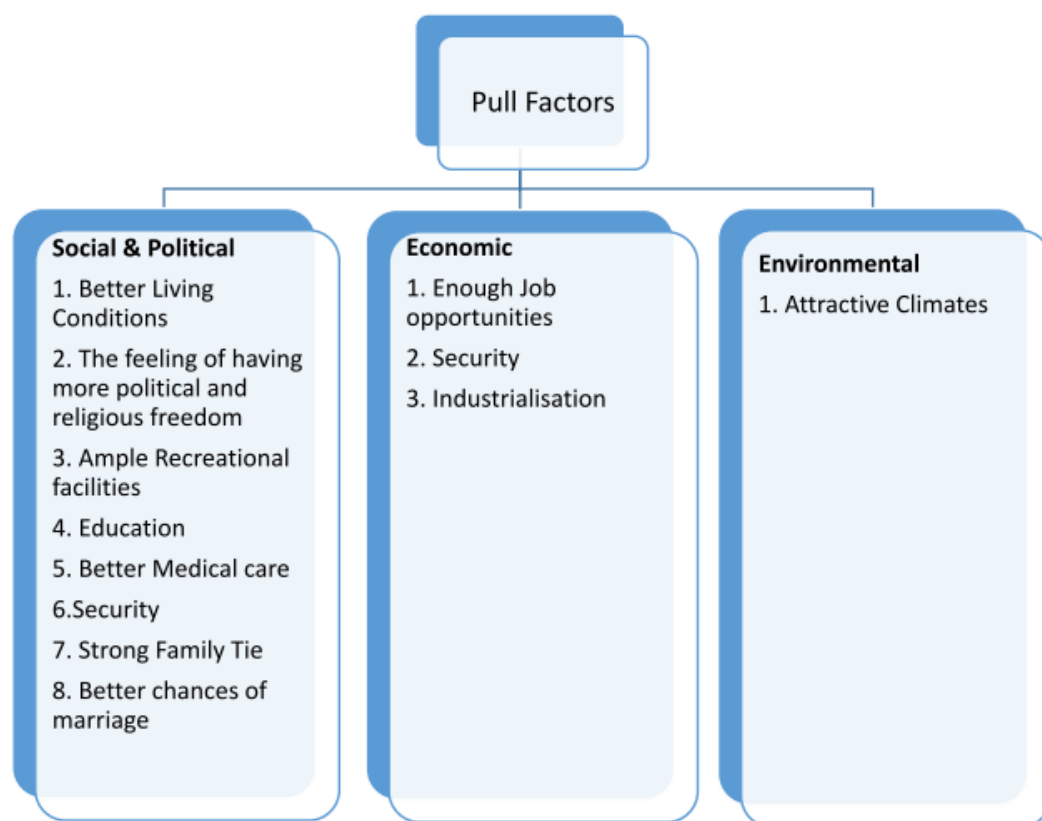
International migration from Bangladesh has become a defining characteristic of the country. Especially since 1980s, large scale migration has become a common phenomenon of Bangladesh. A total 0.9 per cent of Bangladesh's populations, i.e. 1400,000 people have left the country this year alone. 13.4 per cent of them are women. The rate of increase in migration from Bangladesh stands at 2.7 per cent between the year 2000 to 2010 up from 1.1 per cent between 1990 and 2000. (bdnews24.com 2013)

Presently about 7.5m Bangladeshi migrants are working all over the world. Yearly migration from Bangladesh is about 0.3-0.4m. In the years of 2010, the migration from Bangladesh was 3,90,702. Bangladeshi workers are mainly engaged in 143 countries of the world but about 90% of the migration takes place in the Middle East and Malaysia. Libya, Qatar Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kuwait, Oman, Malaysia and Singapore are some of the major countries of destination. Currently two types of international migration occur from Bangladesh. One takes place mostly to the industrialized west and the other to Middle Eastern and South East Asian countries. Voluntary migration to the industrialized west includes permanent residents,

immigrants, work permit holders and professionals. They are usually perceived as long term or permanent migrants. Migration to Middle East and South East Asia are usually for short term and that migrants return home after finishing their contracts of employment in the host countries. (BMET 2014)

The number of Internet subscriptions in Bangladesh grew from 186,000 in 2000 to 617,300 in 2009. However, only 0.4% of the population used the Internet in 2009 giving Bangladesh one of the lowest usage percentages in the world, ahead of only North Korea, Myanmar, and Sierra Leone This limited Internet penetration is due to many factors, including: high costs, little local content, limited or poor service quality, lack of infrastructure with the last mile often limited to dial-up, too many providers competing in a relatively small market, and low literacy rates. By 2011 however, the number of Internet users in Bangladesh had seen phenomenal growth of over 900% bringing the total number of users to 5,501,609 (3.5% of the total population) mainly due to wide availability of mobile Internet access. (Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia)

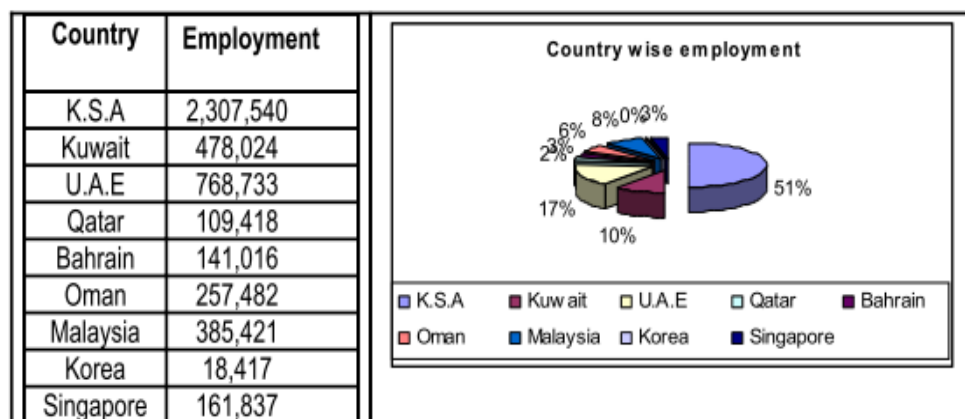
As most of the people of our country live in poverty they don't have much access in technology.so we are far behind to use the new era of technology for our development. In case of the migration scenario of Bangladesh, according to Anwara Begum (1999), various push factors worked behind this. All of the factors can also be divided into 3 categories.



The most important thing which has affected most of the migration process of Bangladesh is industrialization & transport revolution. Most of the Bangladeshis are migrating in developed countries as well as Middle East. Which means their industrial advancement is working as a pull factor to our population.

COUNTRY-WISE OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT

From 1976 – June 2007 (Top 9 countries)



Source: Islam, M.N. 2009

Again if we talk about internal migration within the country many studies have established that migrants of Bangladesh from the areas of origin move towards the area of destination on the basis of some factors i.e. Socio-economic development which differs at different ages.

Studies also show that our migration pattern differs according to educational and employment opportunities, access to public health, family planning facilities, inducement to late marriage & better living standards.

The impact of social network on international migration

The impact of the social network on international migration will be visualized by two dimensions. First one is by **social networking sites** & the second one is **social network theory** which presents a broader perspective to make a relationship with migration.

First dimension: Social networking sites as an online social network influencing migration

The idea of “Social Networking” has existed for several decades as a way for people to communicate in society and build relationships with others (Coyle & Vaughn, 2008). With the increase of technology used for communicating with others and the popularity of the

Internet, “Social Networking” has become an activity that is done primarily on the Internet, with sites like MySpace, Facebook, Bebo, Friendster, and Xanga (Coyle & Vaughn, 2008). Social networking sites (SNS) may be defined as: Web-based services that allow individuals to (1) construct a public or semi-public profile within a bounded system, (2) articulate a list of other users with whom they share a connection, and (3) view and traverse their list of connections and those made by others within the system (Boyd & Ellison, 2007).

In today’s network society, the speed and intensity of information and communication flows have increased tremendously and are shaping our everyday lives to an ever-greater extent. The internet is no longer merely a tool for scientists or the military – purposes for which it was developed only 20 years ago – nor is it the aggregate of top-down dotcom domains as it was in the late 1990s. The internet has rapidly developed into a social medium weaving together the contributions of millions of people, making them not mere consumers but also active producers of media content. This phenomenon has been dubbed ‘Web 2.0’ (O’Reilly 2005). Social media have evolved to become important information distribution channels, in addition to serving as personal communication tools. This revolution in information and communication technology (ICT) is of particular significance for migrants and non-migrants who live geographically dispersed but often remain connected through transnational networks.

Social networking sites and the Facilitation of Migration

Many researchers conceptualize the relationship between social media and migration by considering how it facilitates social ties between individuals (Haythornthwaite, 2002; Komito, 2011; Dekker and Engberson, 2012). Dekker and Engberson (2012) argue that new communication channels opened by social media can transform migrant networks and thus facilitate migration through four key functions:

- (1) By strengthening strong ties with family and friends;
- (2) By creating weak ties to individuals that can assist in the process of migration (and integrating)
- (3) By creating a network of latent ties; and
- (4) By creating a rich source of ‘insider knowledge’ on migration.

Combined, these functions can serve to reduce the costs of migration through both reducing the emotional cost of separation and through allowing access to both information and contacts that can assist the migrant in having a smooth relocation. The implication of this is that social media can have different impacts on social relations.

Haythornthwaite (2002) findings suggest that where ties are strong, communicators can influence each other to adapt their behavior through verbal exchanges via different communication channels. Where ties are weak, communicators were historically more reliant upon formal means of communication; new media, however, allows

previously unconnected people to communicate and can thus strengthen their network of weak ties. Komito (2011) has similar findings. On one hand social media facilitates the creation of weakties through brief offline interactions or superficial online encounters based on a shared interest (for example, via a social networking sites, gaming environment, or forum). On the other, social media enables migrants to passively monitor past social connections, which can help to sustain community, even across distances. It has been observed that new technologies made snowballmigration easier by increasing the number of friends and relations abroad who can be found and might be willing to provide assistance' (Komito, 2011).

ICT technologies such as social media can facilitate retained connections between migrants and their countries of origin (Diminescu, 2008).

While historically, contact with family and friends back home would have required either expensive phone calls or lengthy waits between the sending and receiving of letter and cassette messages, the advancement of technology allows for immediate communication. From the perspective of psychology, this can represent a way of coping with familial separation which can have implications for one's mental health (Bacigalupe & Cámara, 2012). Thus, while in the past a feeling of loneliness may have prompted migrant to seek companionship in the country of destination, social networking can act as an '**emotional buffer**', decreasing motivations to integrate (Komito, 2011). Social media allows migrants to carry their friends and family from one place to another, reducing the need to establish local connections and potentially prompting further migratory movements (Komito, 2011).

Second dimension: “Social network theory” influencing migration

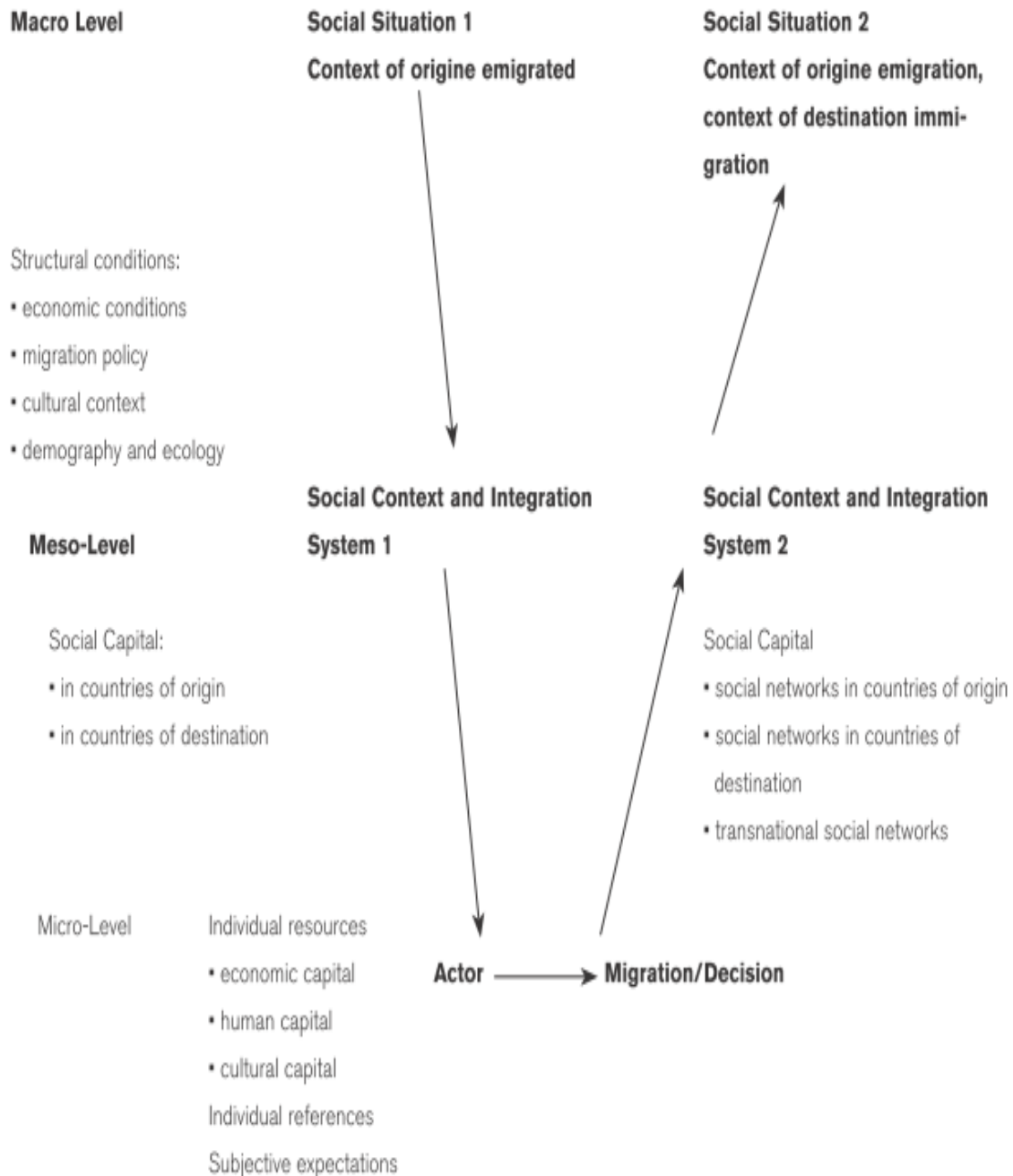
Some researchers of international migration have begun to formulate a new approach to the sociology of migration on the basis of networks. Social network theory highlights the importance of networks can lead to so called chain migration & thus stimulate & perpetuate the migration process. According to the social network theory ,the actor is a subject in different networks which he or she can use rationally to maximize utility. thus , existing networks can facilitate the decision whether to move or not.(Elrik,T 2005).The meso level of households, kinship networks and social networks links the social structure to the individual decision maker. A migration network can be defined by a composite of interpersonal relations in which migrants interact with their family or friends. Social networks provide a foundation for the dissemination of information as well as for patronage or assistance. Interactions among social networks make migration easier by reducing the costs and risks of moving. The social network paves the way for establishing transnational migration networks (Faist 1997). Given the multiplier effect of social networks, they may result in a migration chain. Informal networks help migrants to finance their travel, to find a job or even accommodation. Migration networks enable migrants to cross borders, legally or illegally. Personal relations which connect migrants, former migrants and non-migrants with

each other in the places of origin and destination increase the probability of international labour migration in connection with circular migration and chain migration processes (Boyd 1989). As social networks are extended and strengthened by each additional migrant, potential migrants are able to benefit from the social networks and ethnic communities already established in the country of destination.

The following collected hypotheses refer to this influence of community and kinship ties on migration decisions

1. **Affinity hypothesis:** The existence of relatives and friends at the place of residence reduces the tendency to migrate. Non-economic factors such as close links to a community, strong local kinship ties, high investments in a community as well as assimilation difficulties in a new community all reinforce the tendency not to migrate (Ritchey 1976). Social networks at the place of residence are a *preventive* factor.
2. **Information hypothesis:** When relatives and friends are already living in different places, the propensity to migrate increases. In addition, migration to these places becomes more attractive because the living conditions (e.g., job opportunities) are known. The larger the distance between the place of origin and the place of destination, the less information circulates. The more social relations one has at the place of destination and, consequently, the more information channels these relationships provide, the more influential such information is on the decision to migrate. A social network at the place of destination is a *pull* factor.
3. **Facilitating hypothesis:** Relatives and friends promote and channel migration to their own place of residence by facilitating adjustment to the new location, e.g. job search, material support, encouragement, provision of new social ties. Social networks at the place of destination are a *pull* factor.
4. **Conflict hypothesis:** Intra-familial conflicts within the community also cause migration. Social networks at the place of residence can serve as a *push* factor.
5. **Encouraging hypothesis:** Families may encourage members of their family to migrate for work, e.g., as a strategy to secure the household income. Social networks at the place of residence are a *push* factor. (Cairncross, 1997).

Multilevel Model of Migration Decision-Making and Social Networks



Source: <http://www.kakanien.ac.at/beitr/diganth/labourmigration/SHaug1.pdf>

Conclusion

We are at present witnessing more complex and diverse migration flows comprised not only of labour migrants but of other types of migrants as well. Such migration flows may be difficult to explain using theories & common sense or just by observation. Moreover, with internet access becoming more widespread and people increasingly gaining access to all kinds of migration mediators, those wishing to migrate are likely to be able to use more sources to get information and assistance than in the past. With the rapid growth of technological revolution in IT, transport, industries, health, education etc facilitates to increase the number of international migrants. Again social network & Social networking sites also facilitate this with multidimensional effect. So it is now clear that the ***technological revolution & social network*** is playing a major role to increase the trend of international migrants.

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