



Migration School

Migration has emerged as a significant aspect of Nepali society, affecting numerous households. This trend is primarily fueled by a considerable number of Nepalis seeking opportunities abroad, specifically for employment, education, family reunification, and permanent residence. According to the 2021 census, over 2.1 million Nepali citizens, constituting 7.4 percent of the national population, now reside outside the country. Among them, 81.3 percent are men, and a significant number of Nepali students are pursuing education abroad. The Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology (MoEST) issued 'no objection certificates' (NOCs) to 416,364 Nepalis for studying abroad between 2008/09 and 2020/21, with approximately 120,000 young students obtaining NOCs in 2022 alone. Nepal has also has significant number of diaspora living and working abroad. This migration pattern reflects a notable outflow of Nepal's young and educated population, driven by the desire for improved economic opportunities.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

5

GENDER
EQUALITY



10

REDUCED
INEQUALITIES



8

DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH



International migration and remittances have played a pivotal role in Nepal's economic development and poverty reduction. The most evident impact of Nepal's migration is manifested through remittances flowing back into the country, with remittances constituting one third of the country's gross domestic product (GDP). It significantly contributes to both household and national economies. The migration is also highlighted in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development goals, and



Nepal is the leading country championing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration (GCM). Nepal, being the former chair of the Colombo process, actively engages in the Abu Dhabi Dialogue, BALI process, and other regional and global forums, showcasing a strong commitment to promoting safe and orderly migration while reinforcing regular pathways. Nevertheless, migration experiences often entail risks and vulnerabilities. Many migrants face abuse, forced labor, exploitation, health risks, and life-threatening conditions.

Nepal is one of the most disaster-prone countries globally, exposed to multiple recurrent natural hazards and climate risk that have claimed thousands of lives and destroyed houses over the decades. Furthermore, the adverse impacts of climate change on livelihoods, food security, and water availability are likely to exacerbate existing vulnerabilities and increase overall levels of migration in the coming decades.

Migration School and Its Rationale

Migration and sustainable development are critical issues that have not been comprehensively addressed in the curricula of Nepali universities, leading to a gap in academic knowledge and expertise among policymakers. As a result, stakeholders lack exposure to a comprehensive approach to harness the positive

impact of migration for development. There is a clear need to mainstream migration governance into the policies of all three tiers of government.

Recognizing this need, the Migration School is an initiative by IOM Nepal, together with the Ministry of Labour, Employment, and Social Security (MoLESS) and Tribhuvan University, Central Department of Population Studies, in collaboration with National Planning Commission. The Migration School conducts two-week, in-person classes in Kathmandu, Nepal, providing an interdisciplinary exploration of migration. Its objective is to enhance knowledge, foster a comprehensive understanding of migration, governance, and sustainable development, and build capacity for various stakeholders, including government officials, civil society actors, students, and academia in Nepal.

The Migration School project aligns with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals and Nepal's role as a champion country for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration (GCM). It aims to contribute to SDGs 5 (gender equality), 8 (inclusive economic growth and decent work), 10 (reducing inequality), and 17 (strengthening means of implementation and global partnerships). By adhering to the GCM, the Migration School seeks to address prioritized migration issues in Nepal.



First Edition of Migration School

IOM Nepal, in coordination with the Ministry of Labour, Employment, and Social Security (MoLESS), conducted the university mapping to select the university where the Migration school will be organized. For this purpose, Tribhuvan University's Central Department of Population Studies (TU-CDPS) was selected based on the courses offered, number of students, and the university's recognition. After several meetings between the two organizations, IOM Nepal's Chief of Mission and the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 10 June 2022 at Tribhuvan University to launch the Migration School.

The first batch of the Migration School, held from 4-15 September 2023, marked a significant milestone. Comprising 43 participants, with women constituting 37 per cent of the cohort, the diverse group represented central and provincial government entities, National Human Rights Commission, Tribhuvan University's constituent campus, civil society organizations, the private sector, development practitioners, returnee migrants, and scholars pursuing MPhil and MPhil leading to PhD programs. The participants were selected from competitive process. The first batch was celebrated as a grand success, affirming the program's impact and relevance.

As part of the Migration School initiatives, research grants are offered for innovative research ideas spanning various migration thematic areas. Candidates need to apply through the online portal for this. Based on the originality of the ideas and the innovative methodology proposed, the research ideas are reviewed by an expert group and selected accordingly. The first five research grants were awarded to the applicants who proposed

1. The Social Cost of Labor Migration,
2. Challenges for the Sustainability of Herding in the Langtang Valley,
3. Gender and Rights-Based Approach in Migration,
4. Marginalized and Indigenous Populations in the Migration Discourse,
5. Effect of Migration on Older People Left Behind in Nepal.



Testimonials from Students of Batch 1

"This comprehensive course has significantly enriched my understanding of migration management. Given that migration plays a pivotal role in my line of work, particularly in the context of conducting social assessments for various projects, I am now well-equipped to proactively address migration-related issues during these assessments."

Shuba Shrestha, Senior Sociologist, Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport



"As an IT professional, I've identified numerous gaps in data and its quality related to migration management. Leveraging my IT expertise, I am happy to collaborate to improve data quality and explore innovative data management strategies related to human mobility."

Raman Pradananga, Director Engineering and Business Development at Vertex.



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