

# **LABOUR MIGRATION FROM BANGLADESH 2011 ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES**



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*Mojnu, a returnee migrant entrepreneur*

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# Labour Migration From Bangladesh 2011: Achievements and Challenges

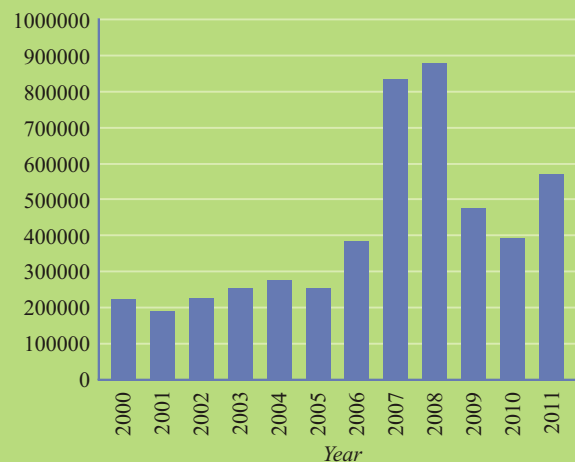
Despite facing a hostile environment Bangladesh has been able to secure a place among the emerging economies for its success in several social and economic sectors. Analysts have noted that if the country continues to retain the pace of growth in its per capita GDP, Bangladesh will transform into a middle income group country by the next decade and a half (Goldman - Sachs: 2005). Three sectors have contributed to such growth. These are garments manufacturing, migrants' remittances and services. In 2010, remittances constituted 13.65 percent of the GDP. In 2010-11 fiscal year, it was 3.22 times higher than net income from apparel exports, was 6.4 times of the overseas development assistance and as much as 12.5 times of the foreign direct investment received by the country. In order to keep the development of Bangladesh going, it is very important to establish good governance in the migration sector. In the last decade the successive governments have taken a number of steps in this regard. In this report, the achievements of and challenges faced by the sector in 2011 are presented.

## 1. Patterns of Migration from Bangladesh, 2011

### 1.1 Statistics

BMET data informs that 7.7 million Bangladeshis have gone overseas since 1976 on short term contract work. Apart from this there is a sizeable number of long term Bangladeshi emigrants living in different countries of the world. Due to situation that arose as a result of world economic crisis the emigration from the country was lower by 17.85 percent and 21 percent from the previous year in 2009 and 2010 respectively. In terms of growth in flow of migration, 2011 was good a year. This year migration has increased by 45.40 percent over the last year. The flow of female migrants has continued to increase since the restriction was lifted in

Flow of Overseas Employment 2000-2011

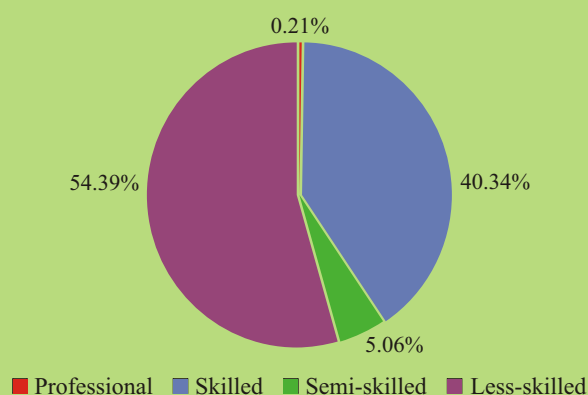


2003. In 2011 the flow of female migrants increased by 10.37 percent over that of 2010. Because of significant increase in the migration of males, the percentage of flow of female migrants has dropped from 6.6 from the previous year to 5.38.

### 1.2 Skill Composition

Compared to the last year skilled migration has increased in 2011. The percentage of skilled workers was 23.19 in 2010. In 2011 it increased to 40.34 per cent. Only 0.21 percent of the migrants who went abroad were professionals, 5.06 percent were semi-skilled and 54.39 percent were lowly skilled workers.

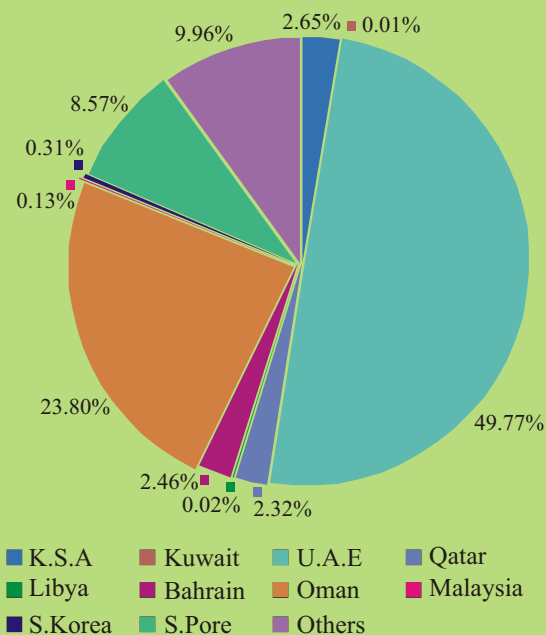
Overseas Employment by Skill Category 2011



### 1.3 Countries of Destination

Like last year, this year as well the highest number of migrants went to the UAE. In 2010 52.04 percent of the total number of Bangladeshi workers went to UAE. This year it came down to 49.77 percent. 23.80 percent of the total number of workers went to Oman and 8.57 percent to Singapore. Saudi Arabia was the destination of 60 to 70 percent of the workers from 1999 to 2004. In 2010, it dropped to a meager 1.81 percent. In 2011, 2.65 percent of total Bangladeshi migrants went to Saudi Arabia. Some major discussions took place with Malaysia about recruitment of workers under government to government (G2G) arrangements. Though only 742 workers went to that country in 2011, a large number of Bangladeshi migrants in Malaysia were regularised under government initiatives.

Top 10 Destination Countries in 2011



The government identified few countries as potential market and formed five sub-committees to pursue those markets. It also sent delegations to Saudi Arabia and Iraq. However, attempts to enter new and older markets so far remained unfulfilled.

US\$65b infrastructure development has been taking place in Qatar for the World Cup Football 2022. Nine new stadiums will be constructed along with renovation of three existing ones. US\$ 25b is estimated to be spent on rail and metro network. The capacity of hotels and apartments will be doubled. The government of Bangladesh is yet to reach any agreement on sending its workers to Qatar.

### 1.4 Source Areas

An important characteristic of migration is that it takes place from different pockets of a country mainly through the expansion of social network. A large section of migrants originates (43.06 percent) from six districts of Bangladesh. In 2011, 11.71 percent of the total number of migrants originated from Comilla, 9.14 percent from Chittagong, 6.55 percent from Dhaka, 5.76 percent from Brahmanbaria, 5.07 percent from Chadpur and 4.83 percent from Tangail. During 2007 and 2008 a few specific programmes were undertaken to increase the share of North Bengal as source area of migration. But so far it has failed to produce any meaningful outcome.

RMMRU research has identified that a section of people from areas affected by environmental change are migrating internally. BMET data on source areas show that they hardly avail international migration as livelihood option. Only 0.39 percent of the migrants originated from Satkhira, 0.35 percent from Barguna and Bagerhat, and 0.26 percent from Patuakhali.

### 1.5 Returnee Migrants

The basic principle of short term contract migration is that some people will migrate and some others will return after finishing their contract. Bangladesh does not have a database of returnee workers. In 2011, 39,401 workers were deported with passport or outpass. 16,017 of them were deported from Saudi Arabia alone. Outside this figure are the returnees from Libya.



One of the most important challenges that the government faced this year was ensuring security of its workers in the Gulf and North African countries where movements for democratisation began. 60,000 to 70,000 workers in Libya for all practical purposes became refugees or internally displaced during the people's uprising there. Once the media, particularly the Bangladeshi media, started transmitting the hardship of the workers, within a short span of time the government of Bangladesh successfully repatriated 36,656 workers with the help of international community. By taking loan from the World Bank the government has also provided Tk.50,000 to each of the returnees as one time grant. It took assistance of IOM in distributing grant. RMMRU survey conducted on 10,000 returnees from Libya demonstrates that 92 percent of the workers on an average have Tk. 165,000 as debt. Only 13 percent of them could secure reemployment until August 2011 and a majority of them urgently needs job. National trade bodies such as FBCCI, BGMEA, BKMEA, and REHAB expressed their commitment to employ the returnees from Libya. However, their statements were not followed up by action. In order to create opportunities to employ returnees RMMRU has created a website ([libya.rmmru.org](http://libya.rmmru.org)) where profiles of returnees are available that includes gender, education, skill and work experience. This may be treated as the first complete database with skills of jobseekers.

After the regime change in Libya infrastructural development projects will soon commence. A small number of companies have already called back 100 workers. The government needs to prepare a concrete plan of action for reemployment as well as clearance of due salaries and compensation to the affected workers.

### 1.6 Remittance

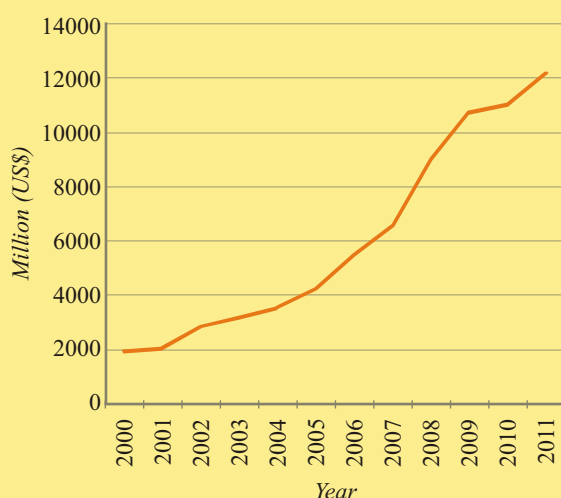
In 2011, Bangladesh received US\$ 12.16 billion remittance. The receipt of remittance has grown 10.98 percent. Saudi Arabia still



*After returning from Saudi Arabia, I established a handloom industry with 36 machines. I produce 200 saris everyday. I am very proud to receive RMMRU's Shonar Manush Award 2011.*

remained the highest remittance source country followed by UAE, USA, Kuwait, UK and Malaysia. Compared to public commercial banks, private banks have been doing better in increasing their market share in remittance transfer. 26.13 percent of the remittances came to Bangladesh through Islami Bank, followed by Sonali, Agrani, Janata, National and BRAC banks. 2011 witnessed the expansion of remittance transfer through bank led mobile solutions.

*Year wise remittance flow 2000-2011*



### 1.7 Complaints

BMET receives complaints from migrants on fraudulence, malpractice and ill-treatments in two ways; one through online ([www.ovijogbmet.org](http://www.ovijogbmet.org)) and the other manually at the BMET office. In 2011, 125 complaints were received through online and 375 complaints were received manually. The total number of complaints therefore stood at 500. In 2010, 401 cases remained unresolved. Under the circumstances, in 2011 the total number of pending cases stood at 901. This year steps were taken to address 573 complaints. Of this figure, 275 cases were addressed and 108 complaints were dismissed for lack of evidence. The rest 190 cases are under process whose merits have been established.

An analysis of 70 complaints reveals that in the vast majority of cases the complainants claimed compensation between Tk. 200,000 to 250,000. Of those only seven persons secured compensation from Tk. 160,000 to Tk. 240,000, ten persons between Tk. 110,000 to 150,000, five persons Tk.100,000 and the rest between Tk.25,000 to Tk. 50,000. Lack of information about procedure of filing complaints, lack of necessary documents, inability to nominate a competent representative in the arbitration process by the affected person, short notification time and lack of transparency of the arbitration process have been identified by the migrants to be important drawbacks in the complaints mechanism of BMET.

### 1.8 Beheading of Bangladeshi Workers in Saudi Arabia

The year 2011 may be viewed as the most unfortunate year for the migrants and stakeholders of migration in Bangladesh. The incident involving beheading of Bangladeshi workers in Saudi Arabia has created scope for larger role of multilateral forums in harmonising both the laws of labour sending and receiving countries when it comes to rigorous punishment like death sentence of migrant workers. Simultaneously it revealed the lack of capacities of Foreign Ministry to deal with the labour migration issues. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs should have taken initiatives in order to provide legal support to the migrants in the countries of destination. This could reduce the scope of one-sided justice. In such an important case, before the incident took place, the coordination that was needed from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment was not visible. The government should take lessons from the tragedy, institute mechanism to deal with such crisis, and take up the issue of protection of workers in various multilateral forums and create global public opinion against capital punishment.



## 2. Legal and Institutional Reforms

### 2.1 Draft of New Migration and Overseas Employment Act

The emigration process of Bangladesh is regulated by the Emigration Ordinance of 1982. There has been a long standing demand of the civil society of Bangladesh for the revision of the law to deal with the current problems. In 2009, the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment set up an inter-ministerial committee along with representatives of RMMRU and the Manusher Jonno Foundation. This committee recommended the revision of four provisions of the Emigration Ordinance, 1982. At the invitation of the Law Commission, RMMRU formed another committee with government functionaries and eminent law experts that included Dr. Shahdeen Malik, Dr. Sumaiya Khair and Dr. Asif Nazrul. The committee drafted a new law called the Emigration and Overseas Employment Act and in June 2011, the draft law was presented to the Ministry of EWOE by RMMRU. Currently, the Ministry is looking into the draft. The law is being revised almost after 30 years and it may be safe to assume that the new law will be in operation for the next thirty years. The draft law has set an important precedence of cooperation between government and civil society organisations.

The proposed Act has 32 provisions. It has taken into cognizance the 1990 UN Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, that Bangladesh has recently ratified. The proposed Act has done away with the Special Courts that 1982 Ordinance provided for. It has given powers to the affected persons to file civil or criminal cases in the court of law, if government fails to file case within a stipulated period of time. The new law has provisions for the recruiting agencies to issue identity cards to their sub-agents and made renewal of license of recruiting agencies contingent upon their performance.



*My brothers in Abu Dhabi are ecstatic to hear that we received Shera Remittance Beboharkari Poribar Award. Our factory yields 6-7 thousands maunds of salt per month and employs 80 workers.*

## 2.2 Ratification of 1990 UN Convention

Since 1997, RMMRU and WARBE DF have been demanding the ratification of the 1990 UN Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and their Families to the successive governments in Bangladesh. The Chair of the UN Committee on Migrant Worker's Convention Mr. El Jamri came to Bangladesh in December 2010 on RMMRU's initiative and discussed the issue with different ministries. The cabinet gave its consent to the ratification of the Convention without reservation on 12 April 2011. The ratification documents were submitted to the UN on 24 August. This is a significant achievement of civil society organisations. Now, the government should bring in necessary changes in the national laws and frame them in conformity with the 1990 Convention.

## 3. Service Providing Institutions to Migrants

### 3.1 Recruiting Agencies

In 2011, the number of recruiting agencies came down to 860. 18 recruiting agencies secured new licenses and 24 licenses were cancelled or license holders faced other punitive actions. The government deems that the fraudulent practices of few recruiting agencies are leading to high migration cost and other mismanagement in the labour migration sector. RMMRU also wants good governance in the recruitment sector. It is essential to bear in mind that the industry cannot survive without entrepreneurs.

### 3.2 Probashi Kallyan Bank

The Probashi Kallyan Bank started functioning in April 2011. Transfer of remittance, financing migration cost and providing capital support to migrants to help productive utilisation of remittance are three areas where PKB will be working. The aggregate capital of the bank is Tk. 1000 million. The bank received 95 percent of its capital from the subscription of departing migrants; in other

words, from the Wage Earner's Welfare Fund. In 2011-12 fiscal year, the bank secured Tk. 210 million as allocation for migration loan programme. In last 8 months, the bank provided Tk. 110 million as migration loan to 175 potential migrants at 9 percent interest rate. The bank also provided Tk. 1.8 million to ten small entrepreneurs from its Tk.100 million investment loan allocations. In this regard, the interest rate for commercial sector is 12 percent and non-commercial sector is 10 percent. Immediate measures should be taken to inform potential migrants and their families about the loan programmes of Probashi Kallyan Bank.

### 3.3 Government at the Grass Roots

Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET) has 42 District Employment and Manpower Offices (DEMOS) to provide services at the grassroots. According to a circular of BMET (2010), major responsibilities of DEMOs include, a) registration of potential and returnee migrants; b) information dissemination on overseas employment; c) help migrants' with banking services; d) burial of dead and compensation distribution; e) complaint investigation; f) publicity and coordination and g) filing of cases in special court. The DEMOs lack adequate budget to implement these activities. Moreover, BMET does not have work plan and proper monitoring system for the DEMOs. RMMRU study finds that DEMOs' responsibility revolves around bringing bodies of dead migrants, paying cost for burial and distributing compensation among the nominees. Instead of empowering DEMOs, the government is promoting District Welfare Desks at the District Commissioner's offices. The presence of such dual power at the grassroots could be a hindrance in establishing good governance in migration.





### 3.4 Government Services at destinations: The role of Labour Attachés

The labour attachés are the only service providing agencies in the countries of destination. Bangladesh government has posted 21 labour attachés in 16 Bangladesh missions including Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kuwait, Jordan, Libya, Malaysia and Singapore. The government has appointed welfare officers in South Africa, Iran, Italy, Spain, Greece, Lebanon, Maldives and Brunei. Due to intense pressure from the civil society the government took the decision to open 9 more labour wings in December 2010. For many years, the appointment process of the labour attachés has been questioned by RMMRU and other civil society organisations. The labour attachés are appointed through an internal competitive examination process. Currently three labour attachés are from the military and rest are contractually appointed from administration and audits and accounts cadres of the government. Labour attachés from the armed forces have been working in the important destination countries like UAE, Oman and Iraq.

Without raising any issue about personal qualifications of those who have been appointed, it can be stated that the Labour Attachés certainly lack the required theoretical knowledge and institutional experiences to deal with complex problems that they face in the countries of destination. As a result they have to learn on the job on how to perform their tasks in such sensitive and competitive markets. After working for a few years they return back to their respective ministries or services. As a result the acquired knowledge gets wasted. To do away with such mismanagement, the Ministry needs its own cadre service. EWOE Ministry, DEMOs, BMET, and labour attaché - all should be included in this cadre system. The Parliamentary Standing Committee of the MEWOE has endorsed RMMRU's proposal to this effect.



*A few of us from our area are getting trained in different trades. We plan to form a team and sell our service at local market place.*

### 3.5. Human Resource Development and Technical Training Centres (TTCs) of BMET

Creating skilled human resource and ensuring market access for them along with participation at the lowly skilled labour market is the best possible way to increase income of migrants and reduce fraudulent practices from the migration sector. Currently BMET has 38 technical training centres. These government training centres lack overseas job linking facility for their trainees. The trained workers need immediate online database for their direct recruitment. Moreover, standard of trainings offered by these centres also raises questions. Instead of bringing these training centres under revenue budget, the government has decided to establish 35 more training centres under development budget. Climate change affected regions and Monga affected areas of North Bengal need such training centres. Emphasis should be laid more on the quality of the existing training centres than establishing new training centres. Most of the workers from Bangladesh migrate to work in the civil construction sector. RMMRU's study on public-private training centres finds that it is possible to reduce government-run three-month long civil construction training courses to one month. If the courses are run six days a week instead of the current 5 half-day a week, then those could be completed within one month.

In order to increase the number of professional and highly skilled workers, the government should increase its investment in three types of training: hospitality, nursing and care giving services. To increase hospitality and catering service courses, initially training centres should be established at least at the divisional level. To promote nurse migration from the country along with increasing capacity of public universities, the government must withdraw all restrictions and offer incentives to private universities to start B.Sc. nursing and care giving courses. Public-private

partnership in training must be encouraged in all hospitality, nursing and care giving services.

### 3.6 Role of Civil Society Organisations in Migration Management

The government initiatives to bring in good governance in the labour migration sector commenced as a result of collective demands of civil society organisations. Since 1997, CSOs have been working in this area. In all three areas, research, training and information campaign, it is the civil society organisations who initiated programmes. The government subsequently implemented training and information campaign at a wider scale.

In 2011, RMMRU, Manusher Jonno Foundation, WARBE DF, BOMSA, Brac, OKUP collectively in different capacities trained around 10,000 migrants at district level. The training includes pre-departure orientation, 21 day care giving training for female workers and skill development training. In order to encourage investment and entrepreneurship, RMMRU honoured entrepreneur migrants and their families with *Shonar Manush Award*. RMMRU also awarded banks, DEMOs, and Migrants Right Protection Committees (MRPCs) for their customer friendly services to migrants and their families. The draft of the overseas employment policy is a major achievement of this year. The Law Commission invited RMMRU to prepare the draft of the law. RMMRU formed a committee comprising of eminent lawyers, academics, and government officials including Dr. Shahdeen Malik, Dr. Sumaiya Khair, Dr. Asif Nazrul, Dr. Tasneem Siddiqui, Mr. Abul Kalam, and Mr. Selim Reza. As a voluntary initiative the committee prepared the draft and submitted it to the government in June 2010. The draft law is an important contribution of the civil society.



## 4. Multilateral Forums

### 4.1 Bangladesh's Participation in the GFMD

The 5th Global Forum on Migration and Development was held on December 1-2 in Geneva this year. Bangladesh participated in the Forum along with 161 sending and receiving countries. In Bangladesh two pre-GFMD regional meetings were held to secure inputs for the Geneva meeting. One meeting was organised by the Bangladesh Government, and the other was jointly organised by RMMRU, WARBE and other partner organisations of Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA) in Bangladesh.

This year's GFMD has recognised RMMRU's *Shonar Manush Shommanona and Remittance Utshob 2011* as an innovative approach in connecting migrants and their family members with various services of the government and NGOs. Bangladesh was a member of the Steering Committee of GFMD 2011. It is extremely disappointing that due to lack of coordination between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, Bangladesh has failed to send its report to the committee. The head of the committee identified Bangladesh as a defaulter in this respect.

### 4.2 ILO Domestic Workers' Convention 2011

The adoption of the ILO Convention on Decent Work for Domestic Workers is a significant achievement in the international migration arena in 2011. This Convention was adopted on 16 June 2011. Bangladesh voted for the adoption of the instrument. Emphasising the right of women to migrate, Bangladesh government has taken various initiatives including exploration of markets to promote female migration. The government should immediately ratify the Convention in order to ensure the security of female migrants of Bangladesh.



*RMMRU has recently published a manual to train female workers. A copy of the information guide should be given to all of us who are receiving training. - Parul, Faridpur*

### 4.3 Fourth Ministerial Meeting of the Colombo Process

Bangladesh, as a member of the Colombo Process, took over the rotational chairmanship of this regional consultative process on 14 December 2009. The 'Fourth Ministerial Consultation for Asian Labour Sending Countries' was hosted by Government of Bangladesh in Dhaka, on 19-20 April 2011. The agenda of the ministerial consultation was Migration with Dignity. Among others eleven

member countries and five labour receiving countries participated in the meeting. The Ministerial Declaration did not contain any time bound concrete programme of collaboration between the member countries. Nor was there any decision to set up its own Secretariat.

A parallel civil society meeting was jointly organised by Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA) with its network members in Bangladesh that include RMMRU, WARBE DF, ASK, and ACD. The CSO demanded meaningful collaboration of member countries on providing rights of migrant workers of Asia.

### 5. Declaring 2012-2021 as the 'Migration Decade'

RMMRU organised the Second 'Shonar Manush Shommanona and Remittance Utshob 2011' on 26 October at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, Dhaka. In this programme NGOs, migrant workers' associations, government and private banks and civil society organisations appealed to the Prime Minister through the Minister of MEWOE and Chair of the concerned Parliamentary Standing Committee to declare the year 2012-2021 as the Migration Decade.

In order to use migration as tool for development, ensure migrants rights in the countries of destination and to deal with the challenges of globalisation including global financial crisis and political instability in the middle eastern countries, the government needs short-term, mid-term and long-term planning, needs consolidation, institutionalisation and decentralisation of power of the concerned Ministry, BMET, DEMOs, and TTCs, and also requires adequate funding. 10 years is a good time frame to take these initiatives and bring about change. Thus, at the end of this year, the key demand of RMMRU is to declare the year 2012-2021 as the Migration Decade.

### 6. Conclusion

Reviewing the 2011 migration scenario, it has been observed that some major tasks in establishing good governance in migration sector have been successfully executed. Preparing of the draft of Overseas Employment Act, introducing migration loan programme of the Probashi Kallyan Bank, repatriating the Libya returnees, and ratifying the 1990 UN Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers are the most notable initiatives. Simultaneously, the challenges were enormous for the government this year. The failure to restore and access labour market in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and other countries, one country centric migration, and return of female migrants from Jordan were some of the formidable challenges.

Realising their due salary and compensation and their employment either at home or abroad still remain a big challenge for government for the returnees from Libya. The government should update the country and skill wise database of long term migrants. It should also update the database of returnee migrants to feed in their skills in the national development programmes.

The government needs to take various steps at administrative level. The Migration and Overseas Employment Act should be forwarded to the Parliament as soon as possible. Branches of BMET, DEMO, TTC and Probashi Kallyan Bank in the climate change affected areas should be opened to facilitate international migration from those areas. The number of complaints lodged against fraudulence is very low. In order to increase complaints, BMET should ensure the right of migrants to employ their representatives in favour of them at the arbitration.

In order to deal with issues like reducing migration cost, visa trading, and the demerits of kafala system, the government should strengthen the participation of civil society



organisations in the multilateral forums and to effectively engage with the migrant receiving countries. To prevent incidents like beheading of migrant workers in future, initiatives should be taken to make migrants aware and take up the issue of protection of workers in various multilateral forums.

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*After receiving training through RMMRU, I worked as a plumber for three months. Now I am processing my migration. However, my dalal is offering me cleaner's job. But I want to go as plumber. - Alal Sharker, Karotia, Tangail.*

# RMMRU's Scholarship Scheme for Skill Development



Increases Income,  
Reduces Exploitation

RMMRU has been actively engaged in promoting right of labour migrants for the last 16 years. It is offering scholarships for skill training to poor potential migrants at the grassroots in order to facilitate skilled migration. In this regard, you or your organisation can help transform a poor potential migrant into a skilled worker. It is estimated that a prospective trainee needs only taka 10,000 on an average to complete a residential training course in public and private training centres of different districts.

We believe your contribution will lead to reduction of poverty of many poor households.

RMMRU is offering scholarship in the following trade courses:

Plumbing and Pipe Fitting

Carpentry

Duct Fabrication

Air Conditioning and Refrigeration

Welding

Driving

Electrical House Wiring

Industrial Sewing Machine Operation

*Only for females:*

Garments Machine Operation

Housekeeping

*Help transform poor aspirant migrants into  
skilled workers by providing scholarship*



RMMRU's scholarship holders attending trade courses

**For sponsorship and other details please contact**

Programme Officer, Skill Development Scholarship  
**RMMRU**

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Email: [info@rmmru.org](mailto:info@rmmru.org)



# Looking for Skilled Workers?

## Visit RMMRU's Online Skill Profiles of Emergency Returnee Migrants from Libya



Returnee Migrants Have  
the Right to Reintegrate

RMMRU has developed an online profile of 10,000 emergency returnee migrants from Libya. You can access the job seekers' profile at <http://returnee.rmmru.org>. Soon it will be available at [www.BDjobs.com](http://www.BDjobs.com).

Potential employer or employers association such as REHAB, BGMEA, FBCCI, BKMEA, G4 security services, and chain restaurants can recruit skilled worker by entering into this website. The skill profiles of the job seekers reflect that 44.7% are mason, 22.7% carpenter, 7.6% electrician, 7.4% ceramics and tiles fitter, 5.9% steel fixer, 3.5% cook, 2.0% plumber, 1.69% lab technician, 1.60% cleaner, 0.9% security guards, 0.6% painter, 0.25% engineer and 0.2% nurse.

RMMRU research on this group of migrants finds that two-third of them belong to the age group of 20-30 years. Around 69% only have class 10 level educational backgrounds. 65% returnee migrants do not possess any arable land whereas 9.65% do not even have homestead land. The average cost they incurred while migrating to Libya was BDT 2,50,000 (US\$ 3500). On an average they stayed for 17 months in Libya. 90 percent of them took loan to finance migration. Currently 92% of them are in debt due to emergency return. The size of average debt is BDT 165,000 (US\$2200).

RMMRU urges public and private sectors to employ our skilled migrant workers. We strongly believe that it is very much possible to rehabilitate the emergency Libya returnees within Bangladesh. The BMET and the recruiting agencies can also use this online database to recruit workers for overseas employment. The programme is part of RMMRU and RPC collaboration funded by DFID, UK.



## Help Libya Returnees by Providing Livelihood

**For details please contact**  
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মানুষের জন্য  
manusher jonno

promoting human rights and good governance