

Beyond 'Push-Pull' Dichotomy: Dynamics of Rural-Urban Migration in Bangladesh

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ABSTRACT This manuscript is an ethnographic account of the dynamics of rural-urban migration in Bangladesh, beyond the 'push-pull' dichotomy of conventional studies. Rural-urban migration has always been considered in both academic and public domains within the understanding that lack of opportunities in rural areas and mounting new scopes in urban centres determine the migration pattern. The present manuscript challenges the conventional ideas and argues that the capacity to aspire is instrumental behind rural-urban migration in many cases. The manuscript is based on ethnographic data collected through half-year long intensive fieldwork among migrant workers in Dhaka. The manuscript reveals that various factors are in operation behind rural-urban migration beyond 'push-pull' orthodoxy, and sometimes they work in the frontline.