

## **A Study of the Voluntary Return of the Bangladeshi Migrants from Libya: Factors for Migration and Risks**

Laila Muntajeri Deena<sup>6</sup>

### **ABSTRACT**

*This study examines the motivational factors behind the migration of Bangladeshi migrants to Libya and identifies the risks and challenges faced by the migrants associated with their voluntary return to their home country. Incorporating this evidence from the literature reviews and the key informants' interviews, this research demonstrated lack of fixed source of income is the main push factor for migration followed by social and community level pressures for better income generation and higher income opportunity is the main pull factor for migration followed by the aspiration to settle down in Europe, especially in Italy as the final destination. It is also observed that the magnitude of difficulties and challenges experienced by the Bangladeshi migrants in Libya are higher than the driving forces for migration, leading to the voluntary return to their home country. This phenomenon of the voluntary return of the Bangladeshi migrants from Libya must be addressed through a combination of adequate reintegration support, building social awareness, pertinent counselling for the returnees, proper coordination among the parties involved in the repatriation and reintegration process and appropriate policy intervention with a view to discourage the unplanned migration for the potential migrants.*

**Keywords:** Migrants, Voluntary return, Factors, Motivations, Risks

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<sup>6</sup> Director (Deputy Secretary), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Email: [deena24bcs@gmail.com](mailto:deena24bcs@gmail.com)

## INTRODUCTION

### Background

The phenomenon of migration has been a part of human history for a long time. People have been moving from one place to another aspiring for better opportunities for jobs, health care, education as well as a comfortable standard of living. Evidences reveal that many Bangladeshi workers migrate abroad for better living and work opportunity (Hasan 2023; Rahman 2011a; 2011b). They are mainly driven by a lack of job opportunities. However, because of vulnerabilities and human traffickers many Bangladeshi nationals return to their home country. This research deals with the expectations and perils experienced by the Bangladeshi migrants who are destined towards Libya and voluntarily return due to some common reasons, such as: the feeling of insecurity, limited legal protection, joblessness, victims of human trafficking, confinement in detention centers, intercepted at sea while crossing the Mediterranean, boat capsize etc. The fate of Bangladeshi migrant workers, taken to Libya on false promises, is one of gross human rights violations. Those are lucky who are able to come back to Bangladesh, although heavily indebted. The fate of others, who are still trapped, is less certain. According to the Labor Counsellor of the Bangladesh embassy in Tripoli, an estimated 20,000 Bangladeshis are still in Libya, either waiting to return home or cross the Mediterranean to reach Italy (The Daily Star 2017). From the deception used by brokers in Bangladesh to traffic these individuals, to the torture and extortion, every aspect of this gruesome trade is criminal (The Daily Star 2017). As a contemporary phenomenon in the Italian maritime system, the upsurge of Bangladeshi nationals travelling irregularly into Italy crossing the Mediterranean was brought to the attention of the world in the middle of 2017 (Mannan 2017). According to a report published by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) 15,228 migrants from Bangladesh entered Italy over the Central Mediterranean Route (CMR) in 2022, with the bulk passing through Libya in transit. Bangladeshi immigrants made up slightly more than 14% of all immigrants who arrived in Italy, making them the third most common nationality (IOM 2023).

### Problem Statement:

In the context of migration, "push factors" and "pull factors" are two categories that usually explain the reasons why people choose to leave their home country (push) or move to another country (pull) (Ferwerda & Gest 2021). Push factors refer to the conditions or circumstances in a person's home country that motivate them to depart (Urbański 2022). These factors can include political unrest, economic deprivation, insufficient job opportunities, natural disasters, oppression, or conflict (Djafar 2012). Pull factors, on the other hand, are the desirability or opportunities in a different

country that motivate individuals to relocate (Humera & Fatima 2017). These factors can include better scope of job, commendable wages, quality education, political stability, upgraded quality of life, family reunification, or better social services. The pattern of migration depends on both push and pull factors and the balance between them can differ on the basis of individual cases and the particular context of migration.

Many Bangladeshi nationals migrate abroad due to some considerable reasons, such as: insufficient income, low salary, unemployment, aspiration for higher income abroad, family encouragement, vulnerable economic condition at home country (Kibria 2008). Most of them sell their valuables, assets, land, properties, last resorts or borrow money on high rate of interests to gather money for migration to their desired destination. Among them, many international migrants return to Bangladesh every year. The process of returning to home country is not considered to be a smoother one since the returnees are confronted with several difficulties. Voluntarily returned migrants most often experience discrimination upon their return, wrongly offended as deported criminals which can lead to the feelings of frustration and stress in returning migrants (Islam 2018; Mamun & Hoque 2022). Along with the financial challenges these migrants face, the crisis situation frequently causes psychological trauma and, in some cases, bodily harm. Given their familiarity with the culture and environment, migrants returning to such impoverished conditions are eager to migrate again (typically back to the nation they fled), unknowing of the repercussions of doing so in a place that has recently seen civil war or political instability (Kelly & Wadud 2012). The factors that motivate people to migrate from Bangladesh to middle-east (especially to Libya) and the risks that often push migrants back to Bangladesh remain underrepresented in the current literature. This research aims to address this gap and provide an understanding of the issue associated with those factors and risks, taking Libya as a case.

### **Research Question and Objectives:**

This study set out to explore the factors and risks associated with labor migration to and return from Libya. The research questions are –

- (i) what are the motivating factors for Bangladeshis to migrate to Libya
- (ii) what are the risks that force many migrants to return from Libya to Bangladesh?

Based on these questions, this research aims to achieve the following objectives:

- To identify and examine the factors that motivate Bangladeshis to migrate to Libya
- To explore the risks that force migrants to return to Bangladesh from Libya

**Justification of the Study:**

Despite an increase in violence against Bangladeshi migrants, there has been no discernible decrease in the number of Bangladeshis trying to migrate. Since remittances play a significant role in the GDP growth of the country, migration is still regarded as being important for both the state and for individuals (Ranjan 2016). In 2019 US\$ 18.32 billion was remitted to Bangladesh (BMET 2020), contributing to 40% of Bangladesh's total foreign exchange earnings and making the country the third highest recipient of remittance in South Asia (World Bank 2020).

This study is significant because it focuses on the experiences of the Bangladeshi migrant workers during their repatriation from Libya back to Bangladesh. This study is also important as it helps different agencies, International Organizations and the Government of Bangladesh to fix up their roles when they will deal with the issues regarding the voluntary return of the irregular migrants, specially from Libya. While there is a body of research on refugee return and a well established literature on how migrants decide whether and where to relocate, there has been far less study on why migrants decide to return. It is logical to assume that some of the factors that explain the decision to migrate may also explain the decision to return, such as the comparison of opportunities at home and abroad and the likelihood that it will be incorporated into broader family strategies (Koser & Kuschminder 2015). In this connection, this study adds to the existing body of knowledge on migration patterns, factors influencing migration decisions, and the risks migrants face during their journeys, particularly regarding the case of migration cases of Libya.

**LITERATURE REVIEW**

In many places of the world, forced migration and displacement continue to be serious problems. Millions of people who have been forcibly displaced within their own countries- from Rwanda to Colombia and Sri Lanka- as well as generations of Palestinians in the Middle East- remain in a precarious situation, unsure of whether to choose integration into a new environment (when permitted by the authorities) or to wait for a chance to return to their home countries (Stefanovic, Loizides & Parsons 2015). If the 1990s were considered as a decade of repatriation, the previous 10 years are best defined as "a decade of protracted emergencies". Intense conflict in Burundi, the Central African Republic, Iraq, Nigeria, South Sudan, Syria, Ukraine and Yemen has resulted in the creation of millions of new refugees. Meanwhile, protracted hostilities have persisted in nations like Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Myanmar, Somalia and Sudan (Crisp & Long 2016).

Several actors, including host nations, international agencies, non-governmental organizations, diasporas and civil society organizations and origin countries are involved in the enormous industry of return migration (Kuschminder 2017). For persons who want to go back to their home country, the UK has a number of assisted voluntary return (AVR) program. The most significant is the Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration Program (VARRP), which is available to all applicants for asylum and those who have been denied, but there are other programs for specific nations, most notably Afghanistan (Black, Koser, Munk, Atfield, D'Onofrio & Tiemoko 2004).

Through the EU-IOM Joint Initiative coined as “Voluntary Humanitarian Return” (VHR) program, more than 106,700 migrants have been repatriated since 2017 from nations in North Africa, the Horn of Africa, the Sahel and the Lake Chad region to at least 46 countries of origin in Western, Central and Eastern Africa as well as Central, South and South-East Asia. IOM data shows that Nigeria, Mali, Niger, Bangladesh, Guinea, Sudan, The Gambia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Senegal are the top 10 countries of origin for migrants repatriated from Libya through the VHR program (United Nations Human Rights 2022).

Because of the geographical location at the center of the North African Coast, Libya has extensively been used as a gateway by the migrants to reach Europe, specially Italy by boat (Morad & Gombac 2018). Due to its sizable informal economy and government policies that welcomed irregular migration along with regularization plans as a strategy to meet labor market demand, Italy has attracted irregular migrants (Castles, Cubas, Kim & Ozkul 2012). On the other hand, in comparison with the Middle-Eastern and South-East Asian countries, Europe has conventionally been regarded as a suitable destination for Bangladeshi migrants, especially for those who planned to settle down abroad for pretty long time. It is also found through research that specialized job opportunities, better health care system, ample opportunities for the realization of migrant's talent and potentialities, better scope of education for children etc. acted as the motivational forces for the long-term Bangladeshi migrants to opt for Europe and North America (Morad & Gombac 2018).

The goal and desire to migrate is a significant essential factor that interacts with various outside forces that influence migration to create the ultimate decision to actually relocate (Castelli 2018). The Bangladeshi people are instigated by their friends and family who have successfully travelled to Europe with the aid of brokers, known as “dalaals”, using the route with stops in Turkey or Tunisia (Middle East Eye 2020). The migrants from Libya to Bangladesh claimed that they had no plans to leave Libya, where they were employed regularly and were paid well. But they faced the difficulty to send remittances to Bangladesh through the Libyan system. Moreover, they were

concerned for their security because of the ongoing upheaval in the nation. They were forced to consider alternatives due to war, strife, and political unrest, and Italy was considered as a potentially simpler and closer location (Mollick 2016).

Since the Mediterranean emerges as an integrated path for the illegal migrants to be transported by sea, it is quite evident that migratory flows are constantly being adapted to the availability of opportunities and crossable routes. Taking into consideration, it appears that the functional expertise developed in the field of illegal maritime crossings from Libya has been occurred by organizational changes in the market taking place at a higher level, on a Mediterranean scale (Monzini 2007).

According to a Report on Trafficking in Persons: Libya, all migrants in Libya, including those looking for work there or passing through on their way to Europe, are especially vulnerable to sex and labor trafficking. In order to smuggle and traffic migrants into and through Libya, numerous armed groups, criminal gangs and networks, tribal organizations, smugglers, and traffickers conspire and compete. At the same time, they commit grave human rights abuses and violations against migrants, including torture, sexual abuse and exploitation, rape, extortion, ransom demands, theft, and forced labor (United States Department of State 2022).

Literature review found that many migrants in Libya are being sent back to the same unsustainable conditions that may have led them to leave in the first place, such as extreme poverty, ongoing food insecurity, including as a result of climate change, a lack of access to dignified jobs, health care, and education facilities, family separation, subpar living conditions, and refusal of access to the right to development. In addition, they are dealing with additional psychological, financial, and personal hardships as a result of their unsuccessful migration attempt and the traumatic experience they had in Libya (United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights 2022).

There is no denying the fact that returned migrants inevitably face acute difficulties of reintegration, starting from unemployment and social maltreatment to apathy and frustration. The absence of institutional support for reintegration is one of the biggest issues that the migrants encounter upon their return (Siddiqui 2003). Reintegration must take place in all three areas-economic, socio-cultural and safety and security-underscoring the significance of each area in the process of total reintegration and sustained return (Kuschminder 2017).

Notably, the issue remains in the public discourse due to continuous investigation from media and concerned non-government organizations. The government also remains answerable to these institutions. However, not many recent academic studies

have examined the issue to provide a comprehensive understanding. This research aimed to address this knowledge gap.

## **METHODOLOGY**

This research aimed to explore and understand a real-life situation. Considering this objective, this study adopted a qualitative approach to address the research questions. A qualitative research method has been adopted in this research as it is easier to understand and carry out with one respondent at a time. This method is considered as more communicative and descriptive (Vaismoradi, Turunen, and Bondas 2013). Qualitative research methods provide insights into the experiences, perspectives, and beliefs of individuals in a specific context (Creswell and Poth 2018). Since this study aimed to identify, explore and examine various factors involving human participants in a real-life situation, using qualitative domain was deemed used to generate rich data and valuable insights. Interviews are useful method to apprehend participants experience and views (McIntosh and Morse 2015). The study has collected data from primary and secondary sources, including government documents, academic literature, and interviews with key stakeholders such as government officials and irregular migrant workers. Data was collected through Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) method. KIIs are particularly significant because they allow researchers to gather in-depth information from key stakeholders who have unique knowledge and perspectives about a particular issue or topic. By conducting KIIs, researchers can point out respondents' real experiences and perspectives, which can help inform program planning or policy decisions.

For data collection, in-depth interviews have been conducted with 10 government officials (relevant embassy officials, officers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Expatriate Welfare & Overseas Employment), two employees of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and 10 Bangladeshi migrant workers who voluntarily returned from Libya. These 22 interviews allowed the participants to share their experiences and perspectives on the topic. Purposive sampling method has been employed and a snowball technique was used. Informed consents were obtained in all cases. Each interview was guided by a questionnaire and lasted about an hour. The thematic areas were selected from literature reviews and the objectives of this research. The data was thereby analyzed by using thematic analysis.

One of the key limitations of this research is that it relied on data collected from a relatively small number of interviews. The results may not be comparable to other countries' contexts.

## **Data Analysis**

To address the research questions, a thematic analysis method was applied. This analysis allowed the researcher a lot to organize and interpret the data and identify important trends, issues, or topics. The purpose of thematic analysis is to comprehend the patterns of meanings emerging from data on lived experiences (i.e. the informants' descriptions of experiences pertinent to the research topic in, for example, interviews or narratives). Data that must be textual in nature are used as the starting point for the analysis, which seeks to group meanings into patterns and then themes. In a thematic analysis, the researcher aims to comprehend the meanings that are ingrained in experiences and to textually convey these meanings while completing the analysis (Sundler, Lindberg, Nilsson, & Palmér 2019). This thematic analysis method was used to work out the meaning behind the words people used. This was realized by discovering repeating themes in text. These themes revealed key insights into data and can be quantified.

## **RESULTS/FINDINGS**

To bring the findings, the adaptation one-to-one interviews (KII) have been done precisely. Based on the informants' views and opinion, several thematic areas were identified. Some of the identified thematic areas which acted as the driving forces for the Bangladeshi migrants to migrate to Libya and the sufferings they undergo and the difficulties faced by them compelled them for their voluntary return to the home country, which are discussed below:

### **Thematic explanation for understanding the factors for migration**

#### **Unemployment and inadequate income**

Data from the respondents revealed that unemployment and having limited access to income opportunities are the main driving forces for migration to other countries including Libya. It was also found that Bangladeshi migrants who returned from Libya were facing either employment crisis or did not have any fixed source of income in their home country before they started for Libya. Most of them were earning their living by working in the agricultural fields of others, in the grocery shops, on a daily basis, as a salesman, as mason, as taxi driver etc. A newspaper Article delineates a survey report by the IOM on more than 11,000 prospective migrants in 64 districts of Bangladesh. The report shows that 73% of the respondents chose to migrate in order to grab better employment and income opportunities. There were some other common reasons, such as, 13% of them opted for migration because of their financial hardship while 11% wanted to go abroad to upgrade their social status (The Daily Star 2023).



### **Social and community level pressures**

The data derived for this study purpose indicated that the insufficient extent of income generation is more compounded with social and community level drivers/pressures in some districts/regions like Madaripur, Shariatpur, Faridpur, Gopalganj, Narshingdi, Sylhet, sunamganj, Habiganj, Kishoreganj, Cumilla, Noakhali, Brahmanbaria, Gazipur, Jamalpur, Mymensingh, Satkhira, Barguna, Chandpur, Kurigram, Manikganj and Munshiganj etc. where a good number of migrants are out of the country. These driving forces have demonstrated effect to the individual families to migrate their young family members to outer world including Libya by adopting whatever means, mostly by irregular channel/pathway.

### **Particular age group as motivators**

Bangladeshi migrants to Libya generally belong to the youth age group ranging from 25-30 years old. Most of them get inspired by their friends, peers and relatives. Literature in this regard suggests that besides the individual-level decisions, young people's decision-making process to migrate can also depend on the factors like the overall macroeconomic condition, access to labor market, and institutional environments in the home country (Milasi 2020). Feedback from the respondents also reveals that young people of this particular age group are motivated by themselves since they have insufficient access to job market in the home country and are mostly influenced by the same age group who had already migrated to Libya with a view to reach Italy as their final destination.

### **Aspiration to settle down in Europe**

Libya had been considered as hotspot being it a transit point, from where Bangladeshi migrants along with nationals from other countries had been facilitated by smuggler group to send by boat to Europe, particularly Italy as a popular destination for migration over the years. According to the Annual Statistics Report published by the EU's border agency Frontex, around 8,667 Bangladeshi Nationals entered the EU block in the year 2022 irregularly. Among the group of people, 7,574 approached through the central Mediterranean route, 604 through the eastern Mediterranean and 437 through the western Balkans. The Frontex Statistics also reveals that majority of the Bangladeshi migrants' final destination was Italy who reached EU irregularly in 2022. In the same report, it shows that approximately 150,000 Bangladeshi migrants live in Italy engaged with different sectors/jobs as per the information received from the Bangladesh Embassy in Italy. This number of Bangladeshi nationals in Italy is higher than the number of Bangladeshi nationals in any other EU country. It may be because of the lenient attitude of Italy towards the foreigners and the occasional

legalization procedure of Italy for the irregular migrant workers (The Business Standard 2022).

### **Desperate urge to improve the existing socio-economic condition**

Respondents shared that the impulses for migrants to make the journey across the Mediterranean are often driven by a combination of factors, including economic hardship. Many migrants hope to find better opportunities for themselves and their families in Europe. However, the journey itself is often incredibly dangerous and risky, particularly for those who are being smuggled or trafficked by criminal organizations.

### **Alluring promises of the middlemen or “Dalals” for better work opportunity abroad**

Data pointed to the fact that most of the migrants had to go through a chain of middlemen (across the country) to reach Libya with false promise that they would be ended up to European country, particularly Italy with better income opportunity and hence would have a better life. For this, they give the ‘Dalals’ 4 lakh taka to 16 lakh taka to go to Italy. In such cases, they mostly migrate through irregular channel without signing proper papers/documents. The Bangladeshi migrants are not even provided with the same jobs as they were promised before migration.

### **Associated risks leading to voluntary return**

#### **Human rights abuses and exploitation**

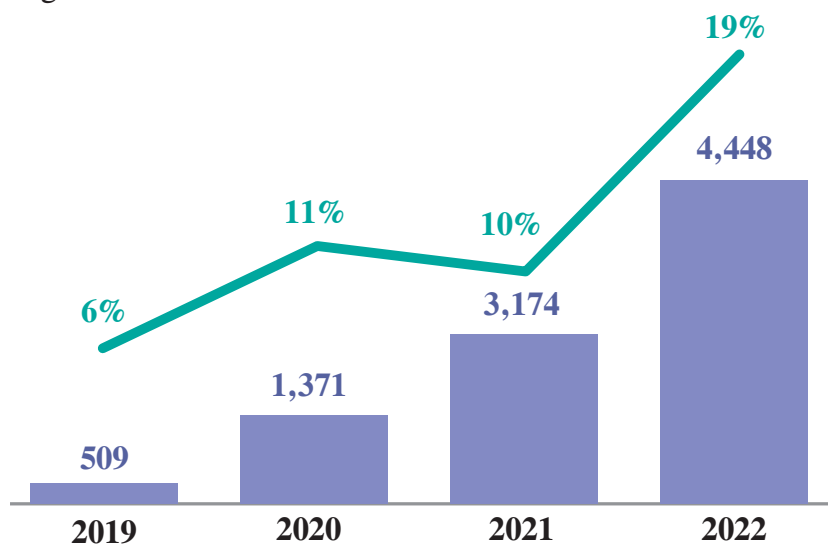
Bangladeshi migrants in Libya are often vulnerable to human trafficking and exploitation. Respondents shared that human traffickers often lured migrants with false promises of work and a better life in Europe. However, Bangladeshi migrants have mostly been sold or traded by the authorities to the traffickers. Some traffickers may target migrants who are in detention centers or otherwise vulnerable. The lack of effective governance and the presence of armed groups and criminal networks have made it difficult to protect the rights and safety of the migrants.

#### **The untold sufferings to perform the “Game”:**

There is a popular term used by the mafia/smugglers group as ‘Game’ by trying to send migrants to their destination, here in case Italy by rickety/un-seaworthy boat. In many cases, incidences of boat capsizing happened. Many of them lost their life, while only a handful of can be rescued.

The following graph shows the number of migrants from Bangladesh intercepted and returned to Libya and percentage it represents of the total number of migrants returned by year. In 2022, a total of 4,448 migrants from Bangladesh were intercepted and returned to Libya while crossing the Mediterranean Sea. As figure 1 shows, the percentage of migrants from Bangladesh that are prevented to cross the Mediterranean and are deported back to Libya has also increased since 2019 (IOM 2023).

**Figure1: Migration Data**



Source: International Organization for Migration, March 2023

**Lack of legal status**

Interviews with respondents revealed that many Bangladeshi migrants in Libya are undocumented and have no legal status, making them vulnerable to arrest and detention by authorities. They are often unable to access basic services such as healthcare. They may also face legal challenges, such as being detained or deported, and may struggle to access basic services such as healthcare. Migrants who are rescued from the Mediterranean or who are victims of trafficking may lack legal protection, which can make them vulnerable to exploitation and abuse.

**Predicament of oppression by “Mafia”**

Data revealed that migrants become stranded at Libya without having proper documentation and ended up in detention centers or at the hands of smugglers group called “Mafia” - a criminal gang, who works under transnational smuggling group. Migrants’ passports are taken away by the smuggler to make them more vulnerable and migrants’ loose authority to themselves. Migrants are tortured and abused by the

smuggler to persuade their family members at home country to send more money for their safety of life otherwise their life will be endangered.

### **Troubles in sending Remittance**

Respondents shared that the difficulties faced by Bangladeshi migrants in sending remittances from Libya reflect the broader challenges faced by migrants in the country. The ongoing conflict and instability, combined with the lack of access to financial services, make it difficult for migrants to send money home and support their families.

### **Dire financial situation after return**

Respondents shared that returnees face unavoidable economic challenges upon their return, as they have spent significant amounts of money on their migration journey and have lost their sources of income in Bangladesh. This makes it difficult for them to reintegrate into society and support themselves and their families.

### **Traumatized migrant workers**

Data indicated that those who are rescued from the Mediterranean or who are victims of trafficking to Libya become traumatized and carry through a terrible experience struggling with physical and psychological injuries.

### **Perils in the Detention Centers**

The Officials in the Bangladesh Embassy in Libya informed that many Bangladeshi migrants in Libya are detained in overcrowded and unsanitary conditions, sometimes for extended periods of time. The situation for Bangladeshi migrants in Libya, including those who are in detention centers, is very challenging and difficult. The migrants in detention centers in Libya face a range of abuses, including torture and extortion. The exact number of Bangladeshi migrants in detention centers in Libya is difficult to determine, as many are held in unofficial and unregulated facilities. The number of migrants from Bangladesh present in detention centers in Libya also remained high.

### **Lack of support networks and social ties**

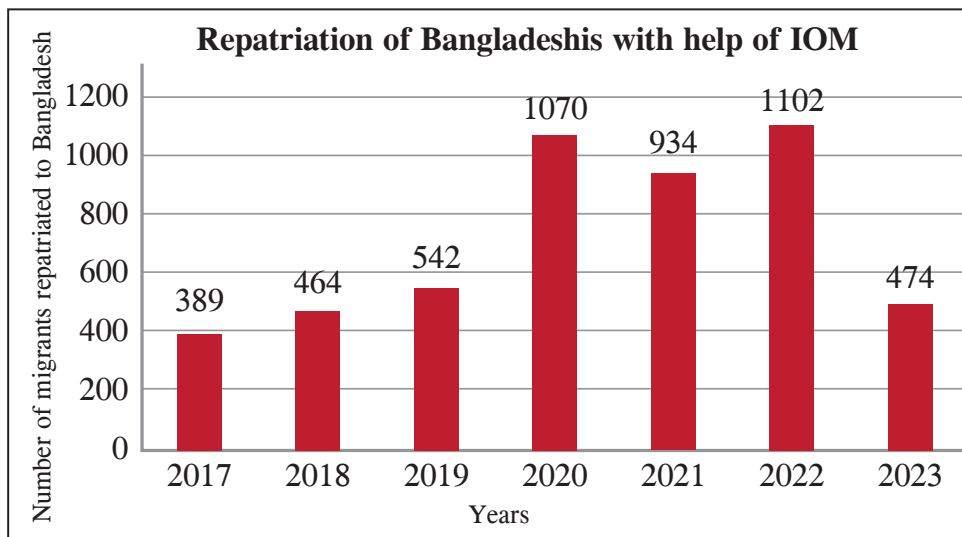
Data revealed that the absence of robust support networks, including family, friends, or community connections; make the experience of migration even more challenging. The feeling of isolation and longing for familiar surroundings and support is also considered to be a significant factor in their decision to return.

**DISCUSSION**

Through the thematic and narrative analysis of this study, it is revealed that the extent of risks experienced by the Bangladeshi migrants in Libya leading to the voluntary return to their home country, are much higher than the motivating factors for their migration. The Bangladesh Embassy in Libya has been working to facilitate the voluntary return of Bangladeshi migrants who wish to return home voluntarily. The Embassy has been providing legal assistance to Bangladeshi migrants in Libya, including issuing travel documents and providing other necessary support. The Embassy has also been working closely with international organizations such as the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to facilitate the voluntary return of Bangladeshi migrants by arranging repatriation flights for them who wish to return home. These flights are often organized in coordination with the IOM Libya. It is also obvious from the data derived from the Bangladesh Embassy in Libya regarding the increasing number of repatriated Bangladeshis from Libya that the difficulties and sufferings faced by the Migrants are too much to endure compelling them to return to the home country. As such, the Embassy has been engaging in diplomatic efforts with the Libyan government and other stakeholders to improve the situation of migrants in the country and to facilitate the safe and voluntary return of Bangladeshi migrants.

The following graph shows (Figure 2) the number of year-wise repatriated migrants to Bangladesh with the help of IOM. It reveals the fact that compared to the previous three years (2017,2018,2019), in the next consecutive three years (2020,2021,2022) there is a conspicuous increase in the number of Bangladeshi migrants repatriated to Bangladesh from Libya with the help of IOM:

**Figure 2:** Data of repatriation



Source: Bangladesh Embassy, Tripoli, Libya, May 2023

## CONCLUSION

When deciding whether to move or stay, a particular person's ethnic background and the financial and social support of their family play a major role (Castelli 2018). Many Bangladeshis want to escape poverty by undergoing a perilous journey organized by the traffickers because of their limited employment opportunities in home country. After examining the various factors for migration, it can be concluded that several push factors acted as the motivational agents for the Bangladeshi migrants to migrate to Libya, which include limited job opportunities, poverty, lack of economic development, low wage, family instigation, peer pressure. Pull factors, on the other hand, include better livelihood, higher wages, aspiration to go to Europe, especially to Italy as the destination. However, Bangladeshi migrants in Libya are often vulnerable to human trafficking and exploitation. Sometimes, they are the victims of untold sufferings in the detention centers. These perils are aggravated when the Bangladeshi migrants are intercepted and returned to Libya, failing to cross the Mediterranean to reach Italy as their desired destination. In this dire situation, migrants are returned to their home country voluntarily bearing with the grim experiences of physical and psychological wounds. Returning migrants often face various reintegration problems when they come back to their home country which may include economic difficulties, social discrimination, loss of social networks, psychosocial challenges, lack of access to support services etc. Therefore, it is extremely important to arrange for counselling, debriefing and reintegration for the returning migrants (Chy, Uddin & Ahmmed 2023). Moreover, proper legal framework for migration is utmost important. Without a significant increase of legal migration procedures, irregular migration is likely to continue due to the ability of individuals involved in moving migrants to quickly shift their routes and the ease with which globalization makes this feasible (Fakae 2019). A comprehensive approach involving government agencies, civil society organizations, and community support is crucial to address these reintegration problems to keep away from the precarious migration trend of the potential migrants of the country.

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