

Social Costs and Risks of Being a Filipino Migrant Worker in the Kingdom of Bahrain

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Abstract

Migration and development is one of the priority thrusts of the present dispensation of the Philippines and one of the major concerns of the Kingdom of Bahrain. The subject of this study focuses on Filipino migrant workers which is very appropriate since the Philippines have become one of the largest sources of labor in the world. While that of Bahrain, the country has received recognition as the most committed in enhancing migrant labor practices among the destination countries for migrants in the Gulf. The Kingdom has acknowledged the indispensable share of the expatriates to its economic growth and has ensured ample protection for those at risk type of workers. It has also committed the provision of necessary safety nets in responding and managing social costs of being a Filipino migrant worker in Bahrain. The main objective of this study is to examine the motivating factors and benefits of becoming a migrant worker in Bahrain and to look into the social costs and risks. The end-result of the study is to come out with interventions that will respond to these social costs and risks faced by the Filipino migrant workers in the Kingdom of Bahrain. Descriptive method was used in generating the data set such as motivating factors, benefits, risks and social costs of migration. Ranking, weighted mean and the Likert scales were used to analyze the primary data. Correlation analysis was applied in assessing the significant relationship between impacts of economic and social status of a migrant worker and a) family cohesion; and b) psychosocial condition of the OFW and the family left-behind. It was found out that overseas jobs through remittances propel a better standard of living for migrant workers and families. However, there were unfortunate impacts of migration to OFWs and families left behind. The benefits provided to OFWs and their families have indirect effect to the resultant social costs as manifested on the results of the correlation analysis. It can be construed that the prevailing separation of one of the spouses from his / her family or separation of one of the parents or both parents from the children has immeasurable negative impacts. Economic benefits cannot replace the emotional and psychosocial bonding that can develop in the relationship of the family members when they are physically present.

Keywords: Social Cost on Migration, OFWs in Bahrain, OFW's Benefits and Risks

1. Introduction

The increasing number of migrant workers all over the world is caused by the growing pace of globalization. The growing problems on the lack of job and poverty induced these economically-baled persons in developing countries to look for work outside their country of origin, while growing demand for labor from developed countries have prompted them to hire these workers, particularly those who have no specialization or lack of skills. Consequently, high number of workers and their families go abroad and find work. ILO estimated that there were 232M migrants around the globe, representing 3.1 per cent of the global population. These overseas workers have their share on the economic growth on the country where they chose to work, and their remittances at home had contributed to enhance growth of the economies of their respective country. Yet at the same time these workers particularly the unskilled workers often enjoy little social protection, face labor market disparities and are exposed to abuse and illegal movement of laborers [1]. These are the risks the migrant workers face in the host countries. Aside from these risks, these temporary migrants are facing difficulties and adjustment with the family they left behind in their respective country. In the face of the economic benefits these workers and their families receive due to fruits of overseas work, the social costs as trade off of being a migrant worker are enormous issues that confront them. Among these social tolls include young people committing offenses, habitual taking of illegal drugs, psycho-social maladjustments, low self-worth, teen-age marriage and pregnancies, broken families and among others that confront the migrant workers and the family that was left behind. These are well-documented, although there is no quantification yet to measure these social costs of labor migration [2].

The subject of this study focuses on Filipino migrant workers which is very apt since the Philippines has become one of the largest sources of labor in the world. From blue-collar workers to sailors, health professionals and financial managers, Filipinos are finding jobs overseas. There were about 2.4 million overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) recorded in 2015 by the Philippine Statistics Authority. OFWs working in Western Asia to include Bahrain are estimated 2.3 percent of the total number of OFWs [3].

The Philippines' reputation as the top labor supplier in the world has become a phenomenon that created positive and dissenting voices in the Philippine society [4]. On one hand, particularly the government, the presence of Filipinos in every part of the globe is a substantiation of the demand for Filipino workers. On the

other hand, this is also a proof, as other sectors see it, that the government does not have the ability to provide decent work and income which its people are compelled to look for greater jobs outside the country. While there are benefits that can be drawn from a migrant worker as evidenced in a number of studies relative to increased incomes and assets on the households, the social costs of overseas Filipino Workers phenomenon are one of the issues confronting them. Children are growing up without one or both parents, marriages are breaking up, spouses unable to withstand long period of separation, and other social tolls as consequences of being a migrant workers.

The Kingdom of Bahrain, with approximately 1.4 million residents in 2015 according to the latest census figures, has received recognition as the most committed in enhancing migrant labor practices among the destination countries for migrants in the Gulf. The Kingdom has acknowledged the indispensable share of the expatriates to its economic growth particularly to those in the construction and services sectors. Foreign employment reaches 582,407 workers by first quarter of 2016 about 42% of the total work force. Majority of these are low-skilled and working with low wage in construction, trade, manufacturing, and services particularly in household work. Of the total number of migrant workers, Filipino migrant workers rank 4 of the top 20 nationalities of Non-Bahraini workers with a share of 29,234 workers or 6.21 percent of the total foreign employment in Bahrain [5].

This research, therefore, is very important study as inputs to policies on migration in providing tools for both countries – the Philippines and the Kingdom of Bahrain. It is utmost important to manage the flooding of overseas workers, ensure ample protection for those at risk type of workers and to provide necessary safety nets in responding and managing social costs of being a Filipino migrant worker in Bahrain. *1.1*

1.1 Objectives of the study

The objective of study is to examine the motivating factors and benefits of becoming a migrant worker in Bahrain and to look into the economic and social costs and risks of migrant workers. The end-result of the study is to come out with the interventions that will respond to the social costs and risks faced by the Filipino migrant workers in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

1.2 Scope and limitations of the study

This study focuses on the social costs and risks of being a migrant worker. The Filipino workers in Bahrain are the only main focus of the study. The research was not able to expand its coverage on all migrant workers with different nationalities due to time, place and resource constraints in disseminating and retrieving the survey questionnaire.

1.3 Conceptual Framework

Research on migration is inherently interdisciplinary requiring a combination or varied theories on the phenomenon of migration. It engages various disciplines on social science like sociology, political science, law, economics, demography, geography, psychology and cultural studies [6]. Thus, the theoretical framework of this study is corroborated with a combination of various related theories.

The following past studies and theories which are related with the research' problems and hypothesis will be used as bases in organizing and developing the study:

The neoclassical theory is dominant theory today in substantiating the reasons of migration with primary statement that migration is driven by cogent economic attentions of conditional benefits and costs focusing on financial and psychological. Both causes and effects of migration are the embodied on this theory [7]. This is also the oldest theory of migration which asserts the regional differentiation on wages as the main ground for labor movement [8].

The contention of the dual labor market theory is that the main cause of international migration is brought about by host developed countries' pull factors. Accordingly, there are two labor market segments in these nations. The primary segment uses the method of capital-intensive production and chiefly adept labor, while the secondary segment employs the system of labor intensive of production and largely low-skilled labor. The assumption of this theory is that international labor migration comes from the demand of labor in the secondary segment of modern industrial societies [9]. The conclusion is that the chief cause of worldwide migration is a structural demand on both highly skilled and lower skilled workers in developed countries. As is, labor mobility is not because of the motivating factors in the host countries but by enticing forces in destination countries [10].

New economic theory puts forward that decisions in migration are not solely due to a person, but family or household influence plays a critical role not only due to increased income but also to risks and constraints reduction. The decision of overseas workers is influenced by a wide-ranging set of factors that are bent by the country of origin's condition. Thus, the decisions of migrants are not solely their choice migrant but are rather to address household's income risks and the decay of various markets including labor, credit or insurance market [11]. Hence, migration does not only respond to the absence of meaningful wage differentials but rather the

migrants are forced to consider other factors related to relative deprivation in poorer households.

Push and pull migration framework considers both areas where people live and where people go. This summarizes migration interests by looking at the association of the country of origin and the destination as a result of push and pull factors' pressure. Push factors can be found in the country where the migrant worker resides as driver of mass departure. These are absence of economic options, harassment on religion or politics, hazard in the environment, and so on. Pull factors which exist in the country of destination. Among these factors are job opportunities, religious or political freedom, and safer environment. These factors - push and pull - are harmonizing where migration can happen in cases where there is enough grounds to work abroad (the push) which is being addressed by the corresponding pull at receiving country [12].

It is well accepted that children left at home are positively or negatively affected when a parent or family member is working abroad. Remittances ease limited household budget and result in an increase in to better child's education, child health, and a decrease in child labor. There were evidences in studies supporting this hypothesis. Several studies support the negative impacts or social costs of migration [13] that concluded that parental migration is equivalent to parental absence from home which is an immense brunt on child outcomes which is an enormous trade off on positive effect of remittances.

1.4 Research paradigm

The study applied the Input-Process-Output model. The inputs of the study used a) the socio-economic status or profile of the respondents; b) the motivations, benefits and social costs / risks of being a migrant workers and the perception of the respondents on the relationship of the benefits and social costs of being a migrant workers will be generated through the survey questionnaire.

Under the process, the study undertook the following activities: a) compilation of secondary data collected from official sources; b) preparation of a survey instrument to be validated by experts, distributed to and retrieved from respondents; and c) documentary and data analysis.

The outputs of the study are the policy options/recommendations to address the social costs and risks of being a migrant worker.

The paradigm adopted a cyclical approach as indicated by the feedback loop to ensure that policies to be supported and executed would respond to the risks and social costs faced by the migrant workers.

2. Research Design and Procedure

The study used the descriptive type of research. This type requires the explanation of data gathering and collection that shows easier understanding of facts by organizing and putting them in a table [14]. This was also designed to assist the reader in determining the distribution of data set and in reducing it to manageable form. In detail, it is a tool for constructing data into patterns which will be used during analysis and subsequently arriving the appropriate implications and conclusions in the study.

In using the descriptive method, data were generated from primary and secondary sources analyzed through a statistical tool. The foci of analysis were on the socio-economic status of overseas Filipino workers in Bahrain, motivating factors that pushed them to become migrant workers, the benefits and social cost of being a migrant worker, and in establishing the relationship between the economic status and social cost of being a migrant worker. Survey questionnaire were given to Filipino migrant workers in Bahrain as respondents. The questionnaires zeroed-in on the statement of the problem of the study particularly on the status, motivation, benefits and social cost / risks faced by the respondents as well as their perception on the level of impact on their economic status to the resulting social cost. A tailored survey questionnaire was used in the study as instrument in generating information needed to answer the problems stated in the research. This questionnaire comprises of four parts.

Part I encompasses the socio-economic status of the respondents in terms of age, gender, marital status, number of years in Bahrain, type and status of employment, ranges of salary, presence or absence of their family in the country, and among others. This set of indicators is to establish the socio-economic status of the respondents.

Part II presents queries on a) the motivating factors that urged them to become migrant workers; b) the benefits the respondents are receiving as migrant workers which will indicate the factors that prompt them in staying as migrant workers in Bahrain; and c) the social costs / risks of migration not only on the part of the migrant worker but also on the family who were left behind. The responses would serve as bases in generating the major motivating factors, pull factors and social costs and risks of migration. These factors, and cost and risks indicators were ranked by the respondents from 1 to n as 1 as the highest motivation to go abroad. The risks and costs indicators were rated by the respondents by ranking them from 1 to n as 1 as the most problematic area and n as the least.

Part III shows the extent of impact of being an OFW on socio-economic benefits / factors received by them as OFWs. This portion of the questionnaire assesses the level of impact on the socio-economic benefits of being

a migrant worker. The economic benefits include a) better employment opportunities, and b) higher income. While that of the social development benefits comprise of a) better education for the children and dependent, b) better shelter / housing for the family, c) better quality of life of the family left in the Philippines, d) Decent life not only for the OFW but also his / her family, and e) good working condition.

Part IV assesses the level of impact on the social and economic status of migrant workers with the resulting social costs on a) family cohesion; b) psychosocial condition as perceived by the respondents.

2.1 Respondents and Locale

All types of Filipino migrant workers (skilled and unskilled) were the respondents of the study. Potential respondents were contacted through friends and network and visit to Filipino neighbors.

2.2 Data gathering

The researcher floated the survey questionnaires and tried to reach as much as possible a considerable size to attain a representation of the population through the nonparametric identification for respondent-driven sampling.

2.3 Data limitations

Since this research used purposive sampling technique, the utility of probability sampling was no longer an alternative because of lack of time, space and resources. The population size of Filipino migrant population in the Kingdom of Bahrain was also considered which is estimated of about 50,000 to 60,000 skilled workers and their dependents (2015 data from Philippine embassy). In this case, sampling is hard-to-reach group. The selection of respondents was done through nonparametric identification for respondent-driven sampling. Respondent-driven sampling is a survey method for hidden or hard-to-reach populations in which sampled individuals enlist other respondents in the study population through their social connections [15]. This is simply capturing individuals to pass on those they know, and these individuals in turn direct those they know and so on. The most popular estimator for the population mean assumes that individual sampling probabilities are proportional to each subject's reported degree in a social network connecting members of the hidden population.

2.4 Data processing and statistical treatment

The data gathered were coded for organization purposes. These were analyzed, and interpreted in coming up with a rational result. Ranking was done to reveal the motivation, benefits and social cost and risks which the migrant workers had and are encountering. Weighted mean and the Likert scales was utilized to analyze the data particularly in assessing the level of impact on the socio-economic status of the Filipino migrant workers to the resulting social costs and risk as perceived by the respondents. A score of 1.00 to 5.00 was given as basis of their choices.

2.5 Statistical Tool

The data collected were analyzed using descriptive statistics and correlation analysis. Correlation analysis is the statistical tool that is used to describe the degree to which one variable is linearly related to another variable [16]. The study used the Pearson product moment coefficient of correlation r which measures the strength of the linear relationship between two variables. The significance of the correlation coefficient was also tested.

3. Findings

Part 1: Status of the Respondents

Profile

Table 1: Age Bracket of Respondents

Age Bracket	No. of Respondents	% Share
20-25 yrs old	3	2.5
26-30 yrs old	21	17.5
31-35 yrs old	31	25.8
36-40 yrs old	17	14.2
41-45 yrs old	25	20.8
46-50 yrs old	7	5.8
51-55 yrs old	10	8.3
56-60 yrs old	5	4.2
more than 60 yrs old	1	0.8
	120	100.0

Age. The average age of Filipino migrant-workers as respondents is about 39 years old. Table 1 reflects the age brackets of the respondents. Majority of the respondents are within the 31-35 age brackets of about 25.8 percent of the respondents.

There were 3 respondents or 2.5 percent whose ages are between 20 to 25 years old. There was one respondent who is more than 60 years of age.

In terms of gender, marital status, type of jobs, number of years in Bahrain and other

demographic and socio-economic information, Table 2 shows the status of the respondents.

Table 2: Demographic and Socio-Economic Profile of Respondents

Profile	Disaggregation	No.	% Share
Gender	Female	77	64.2
	Male	43	35.8
Marital Status	Single	29	24.2
	Married	81	67.5
	Separated	9	7.5
	Widow/er	1	0.8
Educational Attainment	Doctorate	10	8.3
	Masters	1	0.8
	College	45	37.5
	Undergraduate	53	44.2
	High School	11	9.2
No. of Years in Bahrain	Less than 1 year	2	1.7
	1-3 years	29	24.2
	4-6 years	36	30.0
	7-10 years	45	37.5
	More than 10 years	8	6.7
Migrant with	With Family	32	26.7
	Without Family	56	46.7
	With Spouse	12	10.0
	With Children only	20	16.7
Type of Job	Professionals (Teacher / Professor/Engineer / Accountant / Nurse / Office Staff etc.)	26	21.7
	Service worker (working in salon, restaurant, hotel, cleaning job, domestic worker, driver, etc)	84	70.0
	Laborers (construction workers, crane operator, etc.)	10	8.3

Profile	Disaggregation	No.	% Share
Monthly Salary	less than 100BD	9	7.5
	100-150BD	71	59.2
	151-200BD	6	5.0
	201-300BD	12	10.0
	301-400BD	1	0.8
	401-500BD	2	1.7
	501-600BD	1	0.8
	601-700BD	5	4.2
	701-800BD	7	5.8
	801-900BD	3	2.5
	900-1000BD	2	1.7
More than 1000BD	1	0.8	

Gender. There were 77 female respondents or 64.2 percent of the respondents, while male respondents were 35.8 percent.

Marital Status. Majority of the respondents are married of about 67.5 percent of the total respondents. Single respondents was accounted 24.2 percent, separated, 7.5

percent and widow/ er, 0.8 percent.

Educational Attainment. Most of the respondents were high school graduate of about 44.2 percent of the total number of respondents, followed by college graduates accounted at 37.5 percent, and 11 respondents with post graduate studies.

Number of Years in Bahrain. There were 37.5 percent of the respondents were in Bahrain for about 7-10 years as migrant workers. There were 8 of the respondents who were in the country for more than 10 years. For those who have been in the country for 4-6 years is about 30 percent.

With / Without Family: Almost half of the respondents, 46.7 percent, did not bring their respective family with them. Only 10 percent of them are with their spouses and only 26.7 percent with family. Majority of them have left their children behind in the Philippines.

Type of Job. There were 70 percent of the respondents who were working in the Services sector. Most of them are working in hair salon, restaurants, hotel cleaning agency, household as domestic helpers, and among others. There were about 8.3 percent who were in the Industry sector as construction workers and crane operators. Respondents as professionals in the field of teaching, engineering, medical allied and office-related professions were about 21.7 percent of the total respondents.

Monthly Salary. The respondents were receiving on the average of 250BD per month. Majority of them, 59.2 percent, have salary that ranges 100-150BD. These were services workers and laborers.

Examining the profile of the respondents, these are people who are economically-baled persons who opted to work abroad instead of working in the Philippines and at the same time staying with their respective family. This reflects the study of Porumbescu that the decisions of being migrant workers might be influenced by factors related to relative deprivation in poorer households. Most of these workers were married, left their family behind, working as services workers whom majority of them are domestic workers, and receiving salary just enough to take care of their family [11].

Part II: Motivation, Benefits, and Social Cost / Risks being an OFW

The objective of these parameters (challenges and opportunities) is to assess the views of the respondents on labor migration particularly on the motivating factors, the benefits accorded to them and the risks or social costs they face for being a migrant worker.

Motivation

Table 3 reflects the motivating factors that prompted these respondents to become migrant workers.

Table 3: **Motivations**

Motivation (Reasons of working abroad)	Mean Rank	Over all Rank
No employment opportunities	2.2	2
Cannot find the right job	2.3	3
Very low salary	1.7	1
Poverty (being poor)	3.3	4
Cannot send children to school	4.0	5
High prices of goods and services	4.3	6
Peace and order problem	6.6	9
Poor services from the government	4.5	7
Poor working condition	6.0	8
Others: Please specify and rank accordingly		
- to support my child being a single parent		
- to get away from live-in partner		

The result of the survey shows that very low salary in the Philippines is foremost reason in deciding to work abroad. No employment opportunities, cannot find the right job and being poor or poverty accorded as 2nd, 3rd and 4th motivating factors that pushed them to come to Bahrain. High prices of goods and services, poor services from the Philippine government and poor working conditions are other factors that made them decide to seek jobs in the Gulf States.

The decision of the OFWs to venture on working abroad is an option that seriously affects the well-being of not only themselves but more importantly of their families. The reasons mentioned by these respondents particularly on the factors of low salary, joblessness, lack of decent work and being poor are factors that forced them to work abroad. The only main route for them and their families to escape poverty is to find full and decent work abroad. This finding supports the work of Azam & Gubert [17] that migration is a decision which critically affects household wellbeing, home population, and consequently the whole economy in many forms. The findings also proved the study of Cai [4] that the presence of Filipinos in every part of the globe is not only a substantiation of the demand for Filipino workers but also a proof, as other sectors see it, that the government does not have the ability to provide decent work and income which its people are compelled to look for greater jobs outside the country.

Benefits

While there were motivating factors that influenced the respondents to have job overseas, there were benefits or pull factors that the respondents prompted them to stay as migrant workers in Bahrain. Table 4 shows the benefits the respondents are receiving as migrant workers.

Based on the result of the survey, respondents accorded the much higher salary / income as number 1 benefit. This is in response to number 1 motive – low salary in the Philippines that influenced them to go abroad. Very good employment, better education for the children and dependent and good working condition are benefits that draw them to stay and continue to work in Bahrain. The factors that pushed them to go abroad were accordingly responded with the benefits they received from working overseas. Most of them, particularly those with much improved living condition, do not want to go home yet in the near future. Most of them have been here for more than 7 years. Basing on the dual labor market theory, the result of the survey proves that labor mobility is not because of the motivating factors in the host countries but also by enticing forces in destination countries [10]. The migrant workers have long settled here in the country which has provided them the benefits which the home country could not.

Table 4: **Benefits for Being a Migrant Worker**

Benefits in Working Abroad	Mean Rank	Over all Rank
Very good employment	2.9	2
Much higher salary / income	2.1	1
Good working condition	4.2	4
Good allowance, benefits and incentives	4.4	5
Better education for the children and dependent	4.1	3
Better shelter / housing for the family	5.5	7
Better peace and order	7.5	9
Better quality of life of the family left in the Philippines	6.1	8
Decent life not only for you as OFW but also your family	4.5	6
Others : Please specify and rank accordingly		
-		
-		

Risks / Social Cost

While these OFWs are being provided with better salary, employment opportunities and other benefits, there are consequences and issues they encountered and are encountering as OFWs. Table 5 shows the risks and social cost as trade-off of becoming migrant workers.

Table 5: Risks / Social Costs of Migration

Social Cost / Risks / Issues (Problems faced as OFW)	Mean Rank	Over all Rank
A. Family Cohesion / Unity		
- Infidelity / unfaithfulness	3.2	1
- Broken family	4.0	2
B. Social Welfare		
- Psychosocial problems (OFW) – depression, loneliness, anxiety, etc.	4.3	3
- Psychosocial problems (Family left behind)	4.8	4
- Child / Children left behind- School drop-out	6.7	6
- Child / Children left behind – victim of sexual abuse	7.9	10
- Child / Children left behind – delinquent behavior	8.5	11
- Excessive spending by family member left behind	5.9	5
- Gambling by family member left behind	7.8	9
C. Working Condition		
- Labor abuse by employer	7.6	8
- victim of sexual abuse	9.2	12
- not decent job, low paying-job, no insurance	7.3	7
D. Others : Please specify and rank accordingly		
-		
-		

The results of the survey reflect that there is trade-off of the benefits of migration which these OFWs are facing with. Impacts on family cohesion, which include infidelity and broken home, were leading as social costs as perceived by the respondents. Infidelity or unfaithfulness ranks 1 followed by broken home. Psychosocial problems by the OFW and also by family left-behind, children dropping-out from school, excessive spending by family member left behind, and not decent job are also recognized as issues experienced by the respondents. There were some who were also exposed with labor and sexual abuse.

The reason for these respondents in opting to be migrant workers was to advance not only their economic condition but also of their families'. As Reyes furthered that the reason of overseas workers is to acquire skills and experiences, find better work, yet some end their condition as victims from ailments of the society [18]. Infidelity and marriage annulment cases have risen over the years. Although there are no official figures to show, according to Francisco (2015), she quoted Fr. Resty Ogsimer, executive secretary of the Catholic Church-based migrant welfare group ECMI, that from experience, the number one problem of couples is infidelity. Infidelity is the number one family stressor that would lead to broken family. There were reports that infidelity is the most frequent reason for marital separation. The psychosocial problems of the OFW and the family / children left behind can be supported with the study of Zosa & Orbeta that these temporary migrants are facing difficulties and adjustment with the family they left behind in their respective country. In the face of the economic benefits that these workers and their families receive due to fruits of overseas work, the social tolls (young people committing offenses, habitual taking of illegal drugs, psycho-social maladjustments, low self-worth, teen-age marriage and pregnancies, broken families and among others) are trade off of being a migrant worker. These are enormous issues that confront them. The condition of the children who were left under the care of relatives or friends is also repercussion of improving economic condition of the family [2]. Further, these workers particularly the unskilled workers often have little social protection, face labor market disparities and are exposed to abuse and illegal movement of laborers in the host countries as reported by International Labor Organization [1].

Part III: Extent of Impact of being an OFW on the Resulting Socio-Economic Benefits / Factors

The results of the survey on Table 6 show the level of impact of being an OFW on the resulting socio-economic benefits.

Table 6: Extent of Impact of being an OFW on the resulting socio-economic benefits

Socio - Economic Benefits / Factors	Weighted Mean	Interpretation
A. Economic	5	Greatest Impact
- Better Employment	5	Greatest Impact
- Higher Income	5	Greatest Impact
B. Social Factors	4.6	Greatest Impact
- Better education for the children and dependent	4.88	Greatest Impact
- Better shelter / housing for the family	4.96	Greatest Impact
- Better quality of life of the family left behind	4.91	Greatest Impact
- Decent life not only for the OFW but also the family	4.46	Great Impact
- Full, productive & decent work	3.93	Great Impact

All the respondents recognized that having a job overseas has the greatest impact on both economic and social aspects of their lives. On economic benefits – both better employment and higher income were rated 5. This means that being an OFW, the achievement of economic outcomes or is greatest. On the social factors, better shelter / housing for the family, better quality of life for the OFW and family, and better education for children and dependent were rated with greatest impact. Decent life and full, productive, and decent jobs were rated great impact. Despite of some of their claims that they have no security protection, spent long hours of work and no health insurance, still, they preferred their jobs in Bahrain than in the Philippines because of their situation before they have their overseas job.

The results of the survey backed up the research of Ratha (2008) that migration eases poverty due to better employment opportunities and increased income through remittances, more fluid consumption, easier finance access and starting a business. It also increases health care and education particularly the children left-behind [20].

Part IV Respondents’ Assessment on the Level of Impact on the Social and Economic Status of Migrant Workers on Family Cohesion and Psychosocial condition of the OFW and Family Left-Behind

1. Respondents’ Perception on the Level of impact of the economic status of migrant workers on a) family cohesion; and b) psychosocial condition as OFW and their family.

Table 7 shows the perception of the respondents on the level of impact of OFW’s social and economic status on family cohesion and psychosocial condition as OFW and their family left-behind.

Table 7: Level of Impact of OFWs’ social and economic status on family cohesion and psychosocial condition

Social Cost	Weighted Mean	Interpretation
A. Family Cohesion	3.76	Great Impact
- Infidelity	4.00	Great Impact
- Broken Family	3.52	Great Impact
B. Psychosocial Condition	3.53	Great Impact
- Socio-psychological problems (OFW)	3.12	Moderate Impact
- Socio-psychological problems (Family left behind)	3.63	Great Impact
- Child / Children left behind- School drop-out	3.42	Moderate Impact
- Child / Children left behind – victim of sexual abuse	3.36	Moderate Impact
- Child / Children left behind – delinquent behavior	3.95	Great Impact
- Excessive spending by family member left behind	3.54	Great Impact
- Gambling by family member left behind	3.98	Great Impact
- Labor abuse by employer (OFW)	3.12	Moderate Impact
- Victim of sexual abuse (OFW)	3.5	Great Impact
- Not decent job, low paying-job, no insurance	3.64	Great Impact

Majority of the respondents perceived that their improved socio-economic status has great impact on family cohesion and psychosocial condition of OFW and their family left-behind. As to family cohesion, these respondents perceived that infidelity is a resulting social cost with great impact when their economic status improved. Consequently, the rate of broken family came out almost the same rate as infidelity. In terms of psychosocial condition as a result of improved socio-economic status of the OFW, related-problems was experienced both the OFW and their family left-behind. Socio-psychological problem faced by the respondents as OFW was rated as moderate impact particularly for those who have been staying for a long time in the country presumably because they have already adjusted with the environment. While the family left-behind

particularly their children, they perceived that it has great impact to them. Children with delinquent behavior, excessive spending and gambling by family member left-behind were also perceived with great impact. Several studies support the negative impacts or social costs of migration [13] that concluded that parental migration is equivalent to parental absence from home which is an immense brunt on child outcomes. This is an enormous trade off on the positive effects of remittances.

For the working condition particularly social protection and labor security, the respondents perceived these as moderate to great impact as the economic outcomes of their situation are greater not only for themselves but also for their families.

As emphasized by Kamrava & Babar in their study, this is a classic view of two facts which are often described in tandem that labor migrants give up a certain portion of their rights and render themselves exposed to mistreatment as trade off of economic opportunities provided by work in the wealthy Gulf States [19].

2. Relationship of the respondents' perception on relationship in the perception of the respondents in terms of impact of economic and social status of a migrant worker on a) family cohesion; b) psychosocial condition of the OFW and the family left-behind

Table 8 summarizes the relationship of the impact of economic and social status of a migrant worker on a) family cohesion; and b) psychosocial condition of the OFW and the family left-behind

Family Cohesion

There is a negligible relationship in the perception of the respondents on their economic and social status and the impact on family cohesion. The correlation tests conducted show that there is a weak relationship between the economic as well as social status of a migrant worker and family cohesion and there is no statistically significant correlation between the two variables.

This can be construed that improved socio-economic status of the respondents is indirectly related to the impact on family cohesion. Economic opportunities accorded to the migrant workers might not be the primary reason why infidelity and broken home occur when one of the members particularly the spouse works abroad. Although the issue of broken marriages is among the major problems of OFWs, these are not directly caused by socio-economic benefits out of being an OFW. Feeling of loneliness and the feeling of freedom from long distance with their wives and husbands may be claimed as main causes of infidelity and broken homes that impact family cohesion.

Table 8: Correlating the relationship of economic and social status / benefits of being an OFW with family cohesion and psychosocial condition

Indicators		Correlation Coefficient	Interpretation*
Economic Status/ Benefits	Family Cohesion	0.033	negligible relationship
Social Status / Benefits		0.267	negligible relationship
Economic Status/ Benefits	Psychosocial Condition	0.053	negligible relationship
Social Status / Benefits		0.115	negligible relationship

* Significant at 0.05 level of significance

One of the studies of Scalabrini Center and Overseas Workers Welfare emphasized that the main danger arising from family separation as a result of overseas job is that it frequently leads to the break-up of the family. Depression or loneliness as aftermath of separation is one of the causes on struggle of broken families. Extramarital relationships occur as a way to cope with psychosocial sufferings of being an overseas worker.

Psychosocial Conditions of the OFW and of the Family left-behind

There is a negligible relationship in the perception of the respondents on their economic and social status and the psychosocial sufferings of the OFW and the family-left behind. This means that the social costs of being an OFW are not the direct resultants of improved economic and social status of the OFW. As manifested on the correlation between socio-economic benefits and impact on family cohesion, the main reason might be more on the separation of the OFW from his family particularly from his children.

Although, this research did not show a strong relationship between socio-economic benefits and social costs, what is transparent that has a direct impact of economic benefits is shown on the excessive spending and gambling by family member left behind. Due to higher income as a result of remittances, many OFWs cannot help but to feel that their relatives treat them like ATMs or Automated Teller Machines—where they can withdraw money anytime they please.

While that of the OFWs' distress on working condition, their forbearance is so great and misery does not matter to them as long as the economic benefits they receive would continue to improve their quality of life. Many studies on migration have supported this conviction.

4. CONCLUSION

The objective of the study is to examine the motivating factors and benefits of becoming a migrant worker in Bahrain. It has also looked into the economic and social costs and risks of migrant workers. It specifically generated the following: a) motivating factors that urged these Filipinos to become migrant workers in the Kingdom of Bahrain; b) the benefits of becoming a migrant worker in the country; c) the risks and social costs of being a migrant worker; and d) significant relationship in the perception of the respondents in terms of impact of economic and social status of a migrant worker on family cohesion and psychosocial condition of the OFW and the family left-behind.

Based on the findings of the study as substantiated in Chapter 4, it can be concluded then that:

1. Majority of the Filipino migrant workers in the Kingdom of Bahrain are working in the Services sector, which is dominated by personal and household care subsector, as domestic helpers, drivers, hair salon workers, sales ladies, cleaners and other related-job.
2. Most of these are married, heads of the family, have been staying in the country for 7 to 10 years and with family and children left behind. This implied that there is a pressing concern on the lack of productive and decent jobs in the Philippines that exerted pressure on families and individuals to pursue overseas employment. Overseas job has become more or less permanent work and a de facto source of employment for these Filipino workers and many of them are opting to lengthen their stay abroad for as long as it is possible to improve their quality of life and of their families.
3. Remittances really help improve the quality of life of the migrants and their families, and as asserted by the respondents there are benefits which provided better education for the children and dependent, better shelter / housing for the family, decent life not only for the OFW but also the family, and among others.
4. Working abroad through remittances propels a better standard of living for migrant families and good education opportunities for the children and health care for the family. However, there were unfortunate impacts of migration to OFWs and families left behind. The respondents cannot deny that these social costs are tolls to family cohesion and psychosocial condition of the workers as well as their families. Infidelity and broken homes are foremost impacts on family cohesion. Psychosocial sufferings are pronounced struggles articulated by the respondents.
5. The benefits accrued to OFWs and their families have indirect effect to the resultant social costs of being a migrant worker. It can be interpreted that the prevailing separation of one of the spouses from his / her family or separation of one of the parents or both parents from the children has immeasurable negative impacts. Economic benefits cannot replace the emotional and psychosocial bonding that can develop in the relationship of the family members when they are physically present.
6. Majority of these workers have experienced some form of labor abuse and discrimination as manifested in the response of the respondents.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based from the findings and conclusion the following are recommended to address the social costs of being a migrant worker:

1. Social toll of migration should inspire the Philippine government to intensify efforts to meaningful work. The only route to escape poverty is to create full, productive and decent work.
2. Families of OFWs must be provided with psychological and social safety nets by government and concerned non-government organizations. Intensify closer monitoring of children of OFWs by concerned agencies in support of their psychological and emotional wellbeing.
3. The frontline services of government agencies overseas must be more responsive to the concerns of the OFWs and serve them with care and dignity. Their only shelter of these migrant workers when they are in distress is no other than their own government.
4. There is a need to establish database system on social costs of migrations to generate information on issues and problems of family fragmentation, sexual abuses of children left behind committed by relatives, delinquency of children and other forms of psychosocial problems. This database system will serve as input to policy recommendations and strengthen existing programs of the government to respond to risks and social costs of migration.
5. Migrants and families are not mere clients of government programs and services but they should be involved in policy discussions and deliberation to address the real plight of migrants. There is a need then to strengthen and sustain the participation of the migrant sector in policy recommendations, formulation and legislation on migration and development.
6. Intensify the presence of concerned government and non-government organization in various areas of the country including overseas concerned agencies to reach out, in a broad-spectrum, to families of OFWs in the provision of services and programs of the government.

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