

Editorial | AKM Ahsan Ullah[‡]
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Remittance flows in many developing countries have proved to be a lifeline to millions of households as well as the economies of many developing countries. Remittances have contributed a significant portion of GDPs in many countries. For example, remittances contribute about 50 per cent to Tajikistan's GDP. As the volume of international migration increased substantially over the recent decades so did the volume of remittances. This is slightly slower than the past, for example, from 1970 to 2015, remittances increased by more than 500 per cent (see Ullah, 2017). However, it was proven that remittances were resilient to crises (Sirkeci, Cohen, Ratha, 2012).

Globally, remittances transfers add up to three times the budget of official development assistance amounting to more than US\$600 billion a year. The remittances and money transfer sector mainly serving migrants and their families and communities has been expanding with many players entering every year to tap into this relatively lucrative market (See Sirkeci & Přivara, 2017).

Just about a decade back, most literature considered only financial remittance as 'real' remittance. However, as scholarship expanded and advanced, we came to know that migrants remit many other important things in addition to remittances in cash, a new thinking leading to the concept of social remittances (e.g. Levitt, 1996 and Levitt & Lamba-Nieves, 2013), political remittances, intellectual remittances, personal remittances, community remittances, and remittances in kind have also been added to the terminology (Ullah & Alkaff, 2018).

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Therefore, it is important to look at how to reinforce the assortment of remittances, both with the end goal of comprehension the effect of it and for framing powerful approach for overseeing it. While debate is ongoing whether remittances bring about positive impacts, there is evidence for and against the positive contribution of remittances in uplifting millions from below the poverty line. Nevertheless, there is still a lot room for further thinking and research. In **Remittances Review** (RR), we promote this specialist line of research with no reservations. The journal calls for papers that examine range of issues of remittances including but not limited to remittances patterns, and related consumption patterns, investments potentials, security-development-remittance nexus, volume and direction of money transfers, feminization of remittances, governance, transfer costs and remittances corridors, the development of the money transfer sector, stakeholders and policy making.

Remittances Review encourages both empirical and conceptual papers as well as policy oriented papers. As the editors, we believe the benefit of engaging in public and private debates in informed by scholarship and empirical evidence in the field.

The themes of the papers the current issue of **Remittance Review** include are geographically wide and thematically deep. The authors paid attention to a range of interesting dimensions of remittances i.e. how remittances become a development actor; interplay between remittances and growth and how remittances appear to diversify income sources in rural communities.

Bezon Kumar and colleagues' paper explores avenues of uses of remittance in Bangladesh. The empirical paper revealed that household size, level of training and skill, length of stint determine the amount of remittance curved out of income. About half of the remittances goes to consumption indicating the fact that the amount goes to productive schemes is insignificant.

Xing's paper investigates some set hypotheses based on empirical data from Fiji. The hypothesis revolves around the impact of remittances on rural development: household consumption patterns; crop production, and diversification. While it turned out that most amount of remittances were used for education and housing/house renovation, remittances play significant role in rural development. This paper dispelled a conventional belief that remittances are mostly used for food consumption, the results however suggest that it was used for other purposes than consumption.

The Pacific island countries (PICs) have been very much dependent on remittances for their annual budget. Jayaraman, Lau and Ng's



paper demonstrates that remittances received by PICs from the islanders working overseas are growing fast. The remittances increasing, far exceeding aid and FDI. Their paper delves into the role of financial sector development (FSD) in the interplay between remittances and economic growth.

Singh's paper takes a position to look into socio-economic, psychological and political impacts of migration led truancy of male counterparts on women left-behind. Migrant's remittances helped enhance social status of the households in village. Male migration and the remittances enabled them to enjoy financial autonomy, made them empowered and decision makers for their own. The costs however are high, for example, loneliness, sense of insecurity and increased workload.

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