

Contemporary international migration: A study of Bangladeshis in the north of Paraná, Brazil

Abstract

At the end of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century, international migratory flows have undergone a reconfiguration driven by several factors related to the globalization process, such as the change in production systems, technological modernization, capital mobility and the flexibilization of labour standards. Therefore, there is a new international social division of labour. In this scenario, Brazil, even being mostly a country of emigration, emerges as an attractive pole for migrants from countries of the Global-South – from Latin America, Africa and Asia – interested in the labour market of Southeast and South regions: international labour migration. In this context, the cities of Rolândia and Jaquapitã, in the north of the state of Paraná, are attractive poles for Bangladeshi migrants to work in halal production in slaughter plants. The object of research of this study is the Bangladeshi international labour migration, from 2013 to 2022, without historical precedents in Brazil, and destined to the north of Paraná to work in a food industry certified for halal slaughter in order to supply the Muslim international market. The main objective of the research is to understand the international migration networks of Bangladeshi migration to the northern region of the state of Paraná and its specificities: context, conditions, social networks and trajectories under three central axes that examine historical-cultural, economic and political data. It is also a contribution to South-South migration theory. It is a qualitative investigation with data collection from two groups of participants: a) Bangladeshi workers living in the northern region of Paraná over 18 years-old and b) people who acted in a situation of reception or integration of Bangladeshis in the local community. The research has a higher qualitative proportion, data collection with field research through the research techniques of in-depth semi-structured face-to-face interview with open questions and a form filled out with personal data such as education, professional training in Bangladesh, other work experiences in Brazil and in other countries and family information. These primary data are complemented with secondary ones from different government databases, SISMIGRA, the School Census and RAIS. The methodological perspective is mixed, data from qualitative and quantitative sources are interpreted together by content analysis to understand the complex reality of Bangladeshi migration and its specificities.

Keywords: Contemporary international migration. International migration networks. Labour migration. South-South Migration. Bangladesh.

Biography

Luiz Augusto Silva Ventura do Nascimento is a visiting researcher with CERC Migration, investigating Bangladeshis international migration to North of Paraná, Brazil. He is currently a PhD candidate in Sociology at the State University of Londrina (UEL). Luiz holds an MA in Social Sciences (2016), with a Specialist in Sociology Teaching (2013) and in Civil Law and Civil Procedure (2004), all from State University of Londrina. He has an LLB from the North of Paraná University (2003), BA in Social Sciences at the State University of Londrina (1999).