

Translation of the Jugantor story on LIRNEasia study

LIRNEasia Study:

Mobile money transfer system to reduce transfer cost

The Bangladeshi external and internal migrants can send their money back home at a very cheap transfer fee if mobile money transfer system introduced in the country. The government should make the relevant regulations simple and build the necessary infrastructure for launching the service, said a study of the LIRNEasia, a regional think tank working for the ICT development across the Asia Pacific region.

Dr. Erwin Alampay, a researcher of the LIRNEasia, conducted the research comparing Bangladesh with Philippine where the mobile money transfer scheme introduced successfully five years back.

Erwin told Jugantor that 96 per cent of mobile users of the Bottom of the Pyramid (BoP) in Bangladesh credit their prepaid accounts by electronic reloads. He like Philippine, the mobile money transfer system will enables the Bangladeshi BoP users to send money through a short message system (SMS).

Erwin said that said a good number of people from Bangladesh migrated to another country or migrated to a big city from their village for job. According to the LIRNEasia study, around 10 per cent relatives of BoP are migrant workers in foreign lands and another 10 per cent are migrated to big cities from their village for work. Of which 86 per cent of expatriates Bangladeshi workers and 52 per cent internal migrant workers regularly remit back money to their home. On an average, a worker send US\$186 back home at a time. But only two percent of the migrants are happy with the present system of sending money.