

# Likelihood Impact of Internal Migration on Family Institution in Punjab, Pakistan

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## ABSTRACT

Internal migration redistributes population and workforce from rural to urban areas. This study was designed to investigate the impact of internal migration on family at destination. The main objective of this study is to explore the relationship about the Socio-economic status and modern values with the impact of migration by Probit estimation technique. The study was carried out at Faisalabad city. It includes 300 interviews from eight circle areas of the city. Information obtained from each respondent, which covers the objectives of the study as well as social and economic background of the migrants and their families. Probit estimation technique was used to test the four hypotheses that need to be refuted and or accepted for meaningful policy imperatives to arrest the increasing trend of the internal migration. Thus, Probit model analysis proves that the migrants have been able to significantly improve the socio-economic status and adopted the modern values in the urban areas of Pakistan.

**Key Words:** Migration; Development; Family; Institution

## INTRODUCTION

Human migration has always been a common phenomenon under push and pulls factors in the human history. Presumably, this flux is rooted in the desire of rural people to improve their quality of life by tying their future to the promise of urban development. But some would argue that what the individual may believe is in his best interest can be delusory, for the hope of a better life in the city can be shattered by the reality of urban destitution due to over-crowding, pollution, unhygienic conditions and unemployment. In spite of all this, this sequence repeats itself, which shows that no one is learning from the experience of others. As a matter of fact, more than 150 million international migrants celebrated the turn of the millennium outside their countries of birth. They came to their new country to work, study or escape persecution or violence in their home countries (IOM, 2000). While in Pakistan 10 million people, or 8% of the population of Pakistan, consisted of internal or international migrants (Government of Pakistan, 1998). Thus, some of the surplus agricultural population, skilled population and non-skilled population have moved to the big cities and consequently put pressure on the civic institutions. The urban population at the time of independence (1947) was 5 million (15.4%) that had increased to 23.84 million (28%) in 1981 and further to 42.445 million (32.5%) in 1998. During 1981 to 1998, the total population increased by 55% whereas the urban and rural population increased by 60 and 40%, respectively. However, during 2003, the rural and urban population is estimated to be 89.7 million (61%) and 53.3

million (39%) respectively (Government of Pakistan 2002-3). Due to this, urban areas are growing at much faster rate than the rural areas.

On the positive side, migration may help reduce pressure on agricultural land, provide opportunities for the rural unemployed and underemployed, and is associated with rising living standards and livelihood prospects at the household and community levels in the urban areas. Migration may relieve labour market pressure and generate remittances that constitute an important source of income for migrants' families.

On the negative side, some of the semi skilled population and non-skilled population have moved to the big cities and consequently put pressure on the civic institutions and also generate a problem of housing, which raise the prices of the houses and urban properties. In spite of this, industrial growth of some cities breeds multiple problems, including the unplanned growth of the city. The investors from other parts of the country shift to that area and purchase suitable land and area as required by them. This increases the cost of property and causes high rents in the developed areas. Consequently, these who have migrated from rural areas to cities for earning bread and butter are forced to live in slums where they face numerous problems. Resultantly a mushroom growth of slums takes place, particularly in the developing countries.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present research was conducted in Faisalabad city. Urban area was consisted of eight circle areas. In order to

draw the sample from the Faisalabad city, survey lists maintained by Excise and Taxation Department were used as the sampling frame. A multi-stage sampling technique was used to draw the sample (Nachmias & Nachmias, 1992). At the first stage, Faisalabad city was selected which had already been divided into three Rating zones and thirty-eight circle areas by the Excise and Taxation Department on the basis of economic stratification. At the second stage, eight circle areas are selected i.e. Ghlum Muhammad Abad, Muslim Town, Peoples Colony No. 2, Ayub Colony, Gulistan Colony and Madina town, Katchiabadi Rajwali, Aminabad and Nasir Colony through random sampling to observe the impacts of rural-urban migration on the family as a institution. At the third stage, households were selected with the help of interviewers who had visited the research areas but the required information was collected wherever the migrants were found to have been living. Three hundred households were selected through random sampling technique. The respondents included the urban migrants who had migrated before 1990. Probit Analysis technique is used to draw the inferences. Probit model is estimated through Statistical Packages for Social Sciences (SPSS).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Pakistan is a developing country that has experienced rapid rural-urban migration in the last thirty years. This study examines the impact of internal (rural-urban) migration on migrants and their families in the city. Probit model was used to test the following hypotheses.

Table I depicts that 82% of the migrants had improved their income, while same figure improved their social capital. Thus, 54 and 59% respondents did not give weightage to their women in the decision making participation and women empowerment, respectively, while 46 and 41% migrants gave the proper importance to their women in the decision making participation and women empowerment after migration. Even heavy smoke from factories may be perceived differently, ranging from environmental deterioration to a symbol of progress and wealth. It must be noted that the living conditions have improved greatly with better housing conditions and the spread of public amenities. In the light of empirical evidence, it is concluded that migration has improved the quality of life and promoted the socioeconomic status of the migrants at destination and it is the positive impact of the migration. These findings are coincide with Lee and Phillips (1997) who concluded that earnings of rural-urban migrants were appeared to increase with city size and with length of time spent in urban areas.

**Empirical results of the model.** In this section, empirical analysis of migration's impacts is presented by implying maximum likelihood estimate (Table I) by using the cross sectional data collected during the year 2002-03. Total sample size for this analysis is 300 migrants from the urban areas. This needs a thorough empirical analysis to establish

the migration's impacts on urban areas in the province of Punjab.

No such empirical evidence is available in establishing the causal relationship of migration's impacts on family as an institution in order to provide meaningful information for policy imperatives. Under this analysis an advance econometric model is used.

**H-1. The poorer the economic opportunities in the rural areas of Pakistan, the greater will be rural out-migration.** The likelihood estimates Table II confirm that land holding is considered as economic opportunities in the rural areas of Pakistan. The most important aspect of the rural economic opportunity hypothesis states that land deprivation, particularly total landlessness or some small land holdings is a positive determinant of rural-urban migration from rural areas either family's migration or individual's migration. The land holdings coefficient is significant at 5% in the urban community. The negative land holdings coefficient show that family migration is much more likely among small land holdings and landless household as compared to large land holdings i.e. 13 and more acres. As the possession of land increases by one acre in case of family migration, the probability of staying at origin by.034323. This also implies that large farmer has less tendency of migration as compared to the small farmer and marginal person. Thus, Probit model result shows that land is the main source of income in the rural areas of Pakistan.

The analysis of data from eight villages suggests that high rate of out-migration from a village is intimately associated with unequal distribution of resources (usually land). It is the main Push factor in the rural areas that is empirically proved. This study also coincides with Lipton (1980) conclusions that study the Indian Village Programme, emphasise the inequality-increasing effects of rural to urban migration. "The analysis of data from forty Indian villages suggests that high emigration from a village is intimately associated with unequal distribution of resources (usually land)." Kuhn (1999) concluded that land deprivation, particularly total landlessness without access to any land, is strong determinant of family migration while households with some small land holdings are likely to practice individual migration.

**H-2. The higher the rate of poverty reduction among the migrants' families in the urban areas of Pakistan, the greater will be the rural out migration.** Table II depict that a large majority of the migrants' families had improved their monthly household income in the urban areas. The coefficient of monthly income after migration is significant at 1% level in the urban migrants. The marginal effect of an additional increase in the income by one unit, the probability of poverty reduction is enhanced by .000552. The result shows that better economic opportunities are the major source of attraction to these in the rural areas that have fascinated the rural people toward the act of migration. Probit model result shows that rural out-migration is

**Table I. Impact of Migration on the household at destination**

Prospects after migration	Urban community	
	Same (%)	Better (%)
Household income	18	82
Schooling of the children	18	82
Women participation in the decision making	54	46
Womens' empowerment	59	41

**Table II. Maximum Likelihood Estimates by Probit model in the Urban Community**

Variables	Coefficient	Standard Error	Probability
LHOLD (ECOPT)	-.48570**	.26676	.034323
MINAM (POVTR)	.62234***	.00004	.000552
SOCAPT	.32995**	.18503	.037276
SANT	.33053*	.21482	.061945
WOEMP	.37238**	.18654	.022954

positively associated with objective of poverty reduction in the urban community. These findings are counter to a micro-level wages differentiate model study which acknowledge migration is more likely if an individual's expected destination-area income, the expected wage timing, the probability of employment, are higher than current origin-area income (Harris & Todaro, 1970; Todaro 1969). Amjad (1989), though noting that international Asian migrants are not from the poorest strata, and that overseas employment may have an inflationary impact, still believes that migration has had an overall favourable impact on poverty alleviation in Pakistan. Thus, migration in many cases does alleviate the poverty, but it can also increase inequality because remittance allows the migrants and their families to improve their assets and 'human capital'. Studies of migrants since the 1940s in Malawi—Zambia area, in South Africa and research undertaken by the International Labour Organization (Bohning, 1984), there is overwhelming evidence of the positive contribution of migration, including its alleviation of rural poverty. Thus, Emigration has been improving the migrants' life and their families' socio-economic status.

**H-3. The higher the rate of improvement of the social capital at destination and origin, the greater will be the impact of migration on the family.** Data in table II reveals that the migrants' families in the urban community have concentrated on the schooling of their children in order to improve the social capital. Probit model shows that the coefficient is significant at 5% level in the urban migrants. As the schooling of the children increased by one unit in the urban community, the probability to improve the social capita is .037276. It is concluded that migrants' families have paid maximum attention on the schooling of their children with regard to elevate the position of their families in the society.

**H-4. The higher the rate of adaptation of the modern values at destination and origin, the greater will be the impact of migration on the family.** Table II give

information about the impacts of migration on the traditional values, which have emerged as the modern values in the family system in the shape of the women participation in the family's decision and women empowerment in the rural and urban community in the migrant's families. The women's empowerment coefficient is significant at 5% in the urban community. The effect of modern value increases one unit; the probability of women empowerment in the urban community in the migrant's families is enhanced by 0.022954. It is conclude that migration can promote social mobility, economic independence and relative autonomy if their husband in the urban areas accompanies women's moves. This gives them more control over their family's matter or, at least, greater participation in family decision. The result of the urban community did not coincided with Lefebver (1985), the majority of the women reported that they did not experience any changes in their position in the household since their husband's departure. It is true that the head of the household gives his directions through letters about affairs, like the education of their children, the decisions to take in the agriculture, the strategy to follow in the marriage of a relative.

## CONCLUSION

The researchers concluded the following results:

1. Majority of the migrants migrated from rural to urban areas for better employment with regard to enhance the household income and avail themselves for social facilities i.e. better health and better marketing facilities.
2. Migration had improved the household income, quality of life and promoted the socioeconomic status of the migrants at destination and it is the positive impact of the migration. Therefore, rural out-migration is positively associated with objective of poverty reduction in the urban communities. However, women in the decision making participation and women empowerment had empowered after migration.
3. Majority of the parents had positive attitude toward their children education after migration either male or female because education and modern values have eroded the gender discrimination.
4. Migrants put pressure on the civic institutions and these institutions are not going to cope the demand of the mass.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1- The labour-class migrants living in slums, at or near the industrial sites, or in crowded conditions in the peripheral areas, are more vulnerable than the original village population. Government and NGOs should provide the basic facilities in these areas to reduce the difficulties of its dwellers.
- 2- There are a number of policies that can be developed to

promote development while maintaining a mutually advantageous migration policy. Such initiatives should come from the business communities which greater control of world trading systems, resources, influence, and a high stake in the outcome, with the co-operation of the government they should install their industries away from the big cities.

3- Family migration brings women and children to the city even though migration is viewed as primarily a working-aged male process in Pakistan. These family migrants may also stay in the city for a much longer time, if family migration gains prevalence as rural population pressure increases, additional women and children might be expected in the city, particularly those who are poor, rootless, and unable to have access to typical security mechanisms. With additional women comes a need for maternal health services, family planning, and possibly informal employment. With additional children comes a need for education and child health services. Government and NGOs should increase the number of civic institutions in order to meet the demand of the people.

4- Development of small and medium towns is therefore, supported in order to divert the rural to urban migration stream which is going to large towns only. The Government of Pakistan should, therefore, start a scheme of Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns.

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