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Consequences of Internal Migration on Family Institution in Punjab: A Case Study in Faisalabad (Pakistan)

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ABSTRACT

Internal migration redistributes population and workforce from rural to urban areas. This study was designed to investigate the consequences of internal migration on family at destination. The study was carried out at Faisalabad city. It includes 300 interviews from eight circle areas of the city. The main objective of this study is to explore the relationship about the Socio-economic status, health care, parents' attitude toward children's education, parents' opinion about children marriage and political participation before and after migration with the t-test. Probit estimation technique was used for the cross sectional data collected during the year 2002 - 03 to examine the consequences of the internal migration towards the improvement of the family/household in the urban areas of Punjab. 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 of the family as an institution

INTRODUCTION

Migration is one of the most important phenomena affecting the economy and social composition of cities; their geographical organization and politic. Although attention is currently focused on the impact of migration to cities, out migration can be equally important particularly if the social composition of in and out-migrant flow is very different. Differential migration can reshape the social structure of the cities in a few decades leading to economic and social problems regarding employment opportunities, health care, education and the provision of social facilities. 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 was estimated to be 89.7 million (61%) and 53.3 million (39%), respectively (Government of Pakistan 2002 - 03). The key reason for migration to urban areas has been the limited opportunity for economic advancement and mobility in rural areas. The economic and political control that local landlords exercise in much of the countryside has led to this situation. Due to this, urban areas are growing at much faster rate than the rural areas. 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).

On the positive side, migration may help reduce pressure on agricultural land, provide opportunities for the rural un-employed 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 agricultural labour population, skilled population and non-skilled population have moved to the big cities. Consequently, it has created framing labour shortage and caused delay in harvesting process and put pressure on the civic institutions and also has generated a problem of housing, which ultimately is raising the prices of the houses and urban properties. In spite of all this, industrial growth of some cities breeds multiple problems, including the un-planned 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, those 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. In the light of aforementioned discussion, the focus of study was on the Faisalabad city, which is known as the city of Migrants with the objectives of examining the consequences of migration on family (institution) at destination and to recommend measures for migration policies in the country.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present research was conducted in urban Faisalabad, which was consisting 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 an 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. The t-test and Probit Analysis technique were used to draw the inferences.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Pakistan's cities are expanding much faster than the overall population. Due to this, 32.5% of all Pakistanis lived in urban areas, with 13% of the total population living in three cities of over 1 million inhabitants each–Karachi, Lahore and Faisalabad (Government of Pakistan, 1998). This paper is focusing on the consequences of the internal (rural-urban) migration on migrants and their families at destination. The t-test was used to test the following hypotheses.

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. The higher the rate of improvement of the social capital at destination, the greater will be the impact of migration on the family. The higher the rate of adaptation of the modern values at destination, the greater will be the impact of migration on the family.

Socio-economic variables and modern values (type of family, parents' attitude toward children's education, opinion about children marriage) are given (Table I) in order to examine the consequences of migration. Socio-economic variables for the household (income, schooling of the children, types of family & housing facilities) reflecting the present situation and permit the comparison before and after migration. The means of the monthly income before migration was Rs. 2540/and it was raised to Rs. 9878/after migration, statistically it was highly significant, which reflected that migrants had availed themselves of better economic opportunities and improved their household income as compared to previous one. The t-test result showed that better economic opportunities were the major source of attraction to the rural areas that had attracted the rural people toward the act of migration, which was positively associated with objective of poverty reduction in the family migration, settled in the urban areas. In case of social capital, the mean value was 1.80 at the time of migration, which was raised to 2.79 after migration; consequently P value was significant at.01 level of significance, which showed that migrants had availed themselves of better schooling facilities at city as they enrolled their children in these schools in order to improve their social capital. The t-test result showed that people paid more attention to the children of their education with respect to improve their social capital after migration. The occurrence of modern values in the migrants' families with respect to the housing facilities consisted of electricity, natural gas, piped water system/motor pump, drainage and sewerage system, telephone, television and cable, give the weight age "Two" if migrants possessed these facilities and otherwise "One". On the basis of this, migrants had gained the weight age 8.0100 before the migration, which was raised to 12.4883 after migration and statistically it was highly significant, at .01 level of significance, which reflects that migrants had improved their housing structure after migration. The occurrence of modern values in the migrants' families with respect to the type of family (Joint + Nuclear) and parent's attitude toward children's education were significant because there was huge difference between means before and after migration. Moreover, the parents' opinion about children marriage were still traditional because Faisalabad city is yet under the influence of the traditional values, therefore means difference of the parents' opinion about children marriage were very close and the result was significant owing to large sample size, which showed the exogamy trends prevailed only among the educated migrants' families but there was no relationship between migration and parents' opinion about children

Table I. Measure Socio-economic status, modern values, health care and political participation before and after migration with the t-test

Economic and Social indicators	Mean before migration Xi	Mean after migration Xii	t-value
Monthly income	2539.87	9878.18	16.592***
Social capital	1.80	2.79	15.130***
Housing Facilities	8.0100	12.4883	42.386***
Type of family (Joint+ Nuclear)	1.06	1.71	21.466***
Parents attitude toward children's education	1.39	1.97	19.667***
Parents opinion about children marriage	4.11	4.12	5.975**

Socio-economic status**:** Monthly income, Social capital, Housing Facilities.

Modern values: Type of family(Joint+ Nuclear), Parents attitude toward children's education, Parents opinion about children marriage.

Xi is the mean value before migration and Xii mean value after migration.

marriage, The t-test result showed that migrants and their families had adopted the modern values as they were associated with the urban- life.

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

No such empirical evidence is available in establishing the causal relationship of the consequences of migration 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) confirmed that land holding was considered as economic opportunity 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 was a positive determinant of rural-urban migration from rural areas either family or individual's migration. The land holdings coefficient was significant at 5% in the urban community. The negative land holdings coefficient showed that family migration was 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 increased by one acre in case of family migration, the probability of staying at origin by 0.034323. This also implies that large farmer had less tendency of migration as compared to the small farmer and marginal person. Thus Probit model result showed that land was the main source of income in the rural areas of Pakistan. 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 depicts 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 was 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 0.000552. The result showed that better economic opportunities were 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 showed that rural out-migration was positively associated with objective of poverty reduction in the urban community.

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
EDU	.00006**	.19076	.053838
AGE	.03012***	.00932	.000614
FAMSIZ	.08569**	.04847	.038539
SOT	.01054*	.00750	.079097
SOCAPT	.32995**	.18503	.037276
SANT	.33053*	.21482	.061945
WOEMP	.37238**	.18654	.022954

These findings are contrary 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 (Todaro 1969; Harris & Todaro 1970). 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 area (Zambia), in South Africa and research undertaken by the International Labour Organization (Bohning, 1984) revealed that there is over-whelming evidence of the positive contribution of migration, including 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 (Table II) revealed that the migrants' families in the urban community had concentrated on the schooling of their children in order to improve the social capital. Probit model showed that the coefficient was 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 0.037276. It concluded that migrants' families had paid maximum attenuation 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 reflects that the consequences 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 was 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 was enhanced by 0.022954. It concludes that migration can promote social mobility, economic independence and relative autonomy if their husband in the urban areas accompanies with them. 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 coincide with Lefebver (1985), who stated that majority of the women did not experience any change 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 etc.

CONCLUSIONS

This study revealed that 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. Rural out-migration was positively associated with objective of poverty reduction in the urban communities. However, majority of the parents had positive attitude toward their children education after migration either male or female, because education and modern values had eroded the gender discrimination. Women in the decision making processes and women empowerment have improved after migration.

The occurrence of modern values in the migrants' families with respect to the type of family (Joint + Nuclear) had entirely changed because majority of the migrants' families were in nuclear set up. Moreover, migrants put pressure on the civic institutions and these institutions were not going to cope with the demands of the mass.

Policy for recommendations. The labour-class migrants are living in slums or near the industrial sites, which 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. Moreover, Government and NGOs should increase the number of civic institutions in the rural areas in order to meet the demand of the people. Besides these facilities, the Government of Pakistan should, therefore, launch a scheme of Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns, which will support in order to divert the rural to urban migration stream.

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