

RURAL-URBAN MIGRATION FOR EDUCATION (A Case Study of District Bahawalpur, Pakistan)

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ABSTRACT: *This study identifies education as a factor which manipulates the rural to urban migration observed in the particular areas of the city of Bahawalpur. The research was conducted in the same city because the influence of education from rural-urban in some selected areas of Bahawalpur can be observed. It was carried out in Bahawalpur because the city has a massive amount of migrants from its nearby rural areas. Data was gathered by using pre-tested interview technique so that correct and authentic information from the concerned people should be collected. The study reveals that education is the major reason for migration among established as well as families which are not economically sound. They too have been in the line of striving for achieving the same aim. This study, however, gives out some new findings regarding migration. Likewise, in the rural areas, the insufficient social ease and amenities are discouraged because of their conventional mode of life which is affecting health and farming. These are the two areas which are also being affected by migration. Though it is proposed that to control the rate of migration good educational institutes and certified instructors should be made available in the non-urban areas. The main route of information is gathered with the help of a set of questions through area research containing a set of questions that was designed according to twenty five main concerns regarding numerous features of research. To save cost and time and to maintain the cooperation and goodwill of the respondents; the questions were kept simple and straight to the point. A selection of case studies was made as another tool for collecting data among the sample size, insuring that these case studies will represent the entire migrant's aspect in this regard.*

Keywords: rural, urban, migration, education, social status, agriculture, Bahawalpur.

INTRODUCTION

The movement of a person or group of persons to achieve a purpose, a better living standard or to ease the life is known as migration in common terms. This could be permanent or for some time till the objective is achieved. Migration happens across a political boundary which could be seasonal (semi-permanent) or for ever. For example the migration of labors in search of a job in a matter of time is semi-permanent. Similarly, people who move to another area voluntarily (willing movement) or involuntarily (forceful movement) come under the banner of migrants. These acts are tagged as "voluntary migration" or involuntary migration."ⁱⁱ

Mainly the migration process can be termed as moving from one country to another, but 'internal migration' that is moving from one city to another or in this case study the movement of people from rural to urban area for the purpose of better education system is also possible. This could be done individually or in the form of groups and units. The World Migration Report 2010 by the International Organization for Migration [1], talks about the increase in the number of international migrants as compared with yester migrations is doubled. In 2013 the total number of migrants was 220 million, which could reach to 405 million by 2050 if it continues with the same pace.

With the emergence of globalization a lot of changes have been taking place which not only destroy the old traditions but also change a lot in those societies. "Migration" is considered as one of the major sources in this esteem. Migration is as old as the human history. Migration has also been identified as a survival strategy established by the poor, especially the rural dwellers"[2]. To find a better and secured place to start a good living with better education rate, the amount of people migrating for this purpose is growing each day.

"The rapid increase in the urban population and labor force has been the result of a high rate of natural growth plus a movement of population from rural to urban areas" [3]. Global mobility is on an increase which is enabling more and more people to reach and migrate to the desired areas either outside the country or inside the country. These people's favorite and favorable destinations are where they can find a standard living so that they can prosper. "But whether migration is caused by poverty in the rural areas, employment opportunities in the urban centers, or simply the attraction of city life, it is generally accompanied by a variety of social problems" [4].

People start shifting from the non-urban subsistence agriculture market to the cities in search of better job possibilities and better residing circumstances. This pattern of improving in the town inhabitants as an effect of the huge action of people to places is known as urbanization. "In Pakistan, villages are backward, often isolated from the rest of the country. Villagers have to work hard for their livelihood. Most of the village folks work as cultivators of one kind or another. Very few villages have electricity, hospitals, schools and roads connecting them with the main towns" [5].

However, movement of people from the rural subsistence agricultural sector is not the only cause of employment, but now this trend is slowly changing among the economically well off families and their migration to other countries is happening because of education purposes. As compared to economic reasons, they give priority to educate their children in better environment which is providing them by the adaptation of urban life. "The recent research shows that about 1/3rd of respondents that makes around 32.5% of this research's plaintiffs strongly agree with the purposes of migration, whereas the other 33.3% approved that the sole reason for them to migrate is to provide their kids with better

education system; moreover 31.7% had other reasons to leave their yester living area” [6].

Migration and knowledge are choices that are indeed connected in many forms. Education performs a crucial part at many levels of an individual’s migration. In addition the choices of migrants regarding their own academic, financial commitment and their objectives about upcoming migration plans may also impact the academic achievement of their children. “The perception of seeing migration as an individual or household rational aspect and stating it is a societal optimal level at a macro level is nonetheless truth and nothing else, if observed only in the rural to urban migration case” [7].

There is no single reason that why people move from their houses and decide to live elsewhere. In fact, there are motives which carry out more details and the reasoning behind this act. “Behind the rural to urban migration, three categories can be perceived according to the established reasoning and facts. The foremost category can be related to education and related fields of interest to enhance the skills of the migrants” [8]. But a complicated interplay of many causes: the need for work and to get a better source of income is a dominant reason why people prefer migrating from rural to urban.

Likewise, in other parts of the world, people in Pakistan have also been affected by moving from one place to another. “The domain of migration in Pakistan is mainly done due to attain better economic opportunities and to gain the benefits which can be preserved nationwide economy, at family level, community benefit or for self-advantage” [9]. Another study states that, “The Migration from rural to urban areas is a universal pattern in Pakistan and, as a consequence, it is one of the important components of urban growth. It may be more appropriate to find out the proportion of the population migrating from one area to another to estimate the net effect of migration on urban growth” [10].

Now the overwhelming factor is that around 70% people are those who migrate for educational purposes only. People choose to move so that they can provide a better learning and educational environment for their kids. Why do they do so? This is done so that these children can have a better future than that of their parents and better living conditions as well. Migration with such reasons becomes essential. “Education is a main factor to migrate from a rural area to the urban side because parents think good education will make a way and open doors for better employment opportunities and this way their child’s importance will grow” [11].

According to the 1998 Census most migrants execute a migration for close relatives’ appropriate aspects; the well-known of which are ‘moving with the go of the home hold’ and wedding. Initially, migration is taken as a short-term set up by the migrants to get over problems such as investing off bad debts. This however soon changes to a long long-term solution to their problems and whole close relatives’ associates move to the cities.

METHODOLOGY

The current study is conducted to perceive education as the factor of rural urban migration. For this purpose collect a sample of 20 families which migrated from the village “Chalay Wahin Shareef” to Bahawalpur city. Among all

these ‘education’ is the common factor behind their migration. The research is based mostly on two types of information. The main route of main information was gathered with the help of a set of questions through area study by meeting with focused examples. For this objective Bahawalpur town was chosen as a comfort testing place where most family members have kept migration qualifications and remarkably most of them move for educational purposes which are under the current research focused and hardly any migration research was undertaken before this one. The major concern in this selection was that the pretty associate of every qualification sector in the perspective of academic migration should signify. Therefore, having an affordable stability of rural-urban migrant reflection, the associate example was taken from 7 town members and 13 non-urban migrants. Dimension example for the study was 40-60 years old reproduction age that moved in their early age and after some time they called their parents and other family members as well. For case study a set of questions was designed that included about 25 concerns regarding various factors of the research. To save cost and efforts and to sustain the collaboration and a good reputation of the participants the terminology of questions was kept short and simple. The second method of information was some chosen situation research were gathered among the example size and guarantee that this situation research will signify the entire migrant’s part in this respect.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

With the emergence of globalization, societies like Pakistan has been now shifted towards the social change in their norms, values, traditions and cultural traits. But among this one major factor which ultimately leads all of them towards it are the economic factor; while in the long run context if we see things than it clearly shows that the low rate of education among Pakistani communities drove them towards this situation. As Pakistani society has an agricultural background so its majority of the population live in rural areas where the basic facilities of life is not reachable, so in this worst condition it is just not possible for someone to provide good education to the children and fulfill the requirement of the family.

Per capita income in Pakistan is less than 2 dollars per day, “While inequality in Pakistan is relatively modest, as reflected by its GNI (Gross National Income) coefficient score, almost 60 per cent Pakistanis earn less than the \$2 per day poverty benchmark” [12]. So how it is imagined that there could be fruitful future ahead of that man who fought with poverty the whole day and in the end he can secure some money for his child’s education as well. As this current study sees the migration in the context of education, there are some findings which are elaborated under headlines talking about the causes of migration along with its pros and cons. The issues which are enforcing them to migrate are also discussed briefly.

Causes of Migration

Deteriorating Farm Production: All respondents have agriculture background and most of them still have their land, their earning source is still related to it; so all of them are not satisfied with their income regarding agriculture after

migration. They feel that now they bear loss because they are not able to watch and take care of their land issues. In their absence farmers are not working properly, which ultimately leads to the loss of their income. As one respondent said “*Jab men wahan hota tha to mery zameen ki pedawar aj ki muqably men ziyada hoty thy lekin yahan aany k baad men ab zameen pay nahi ja sagta ho jis ki waja c mughy kasht men boht nuqsan ho raha h, kiyn k pechy kaam karny waly thek c kaam nahi karty aur koi un ko dekhny wala bhi nahi hota jis ki waja c hmen nuqsan uthana parta hy.*” (When I was there my agriculture land was producing was much more than it is today. Now, as I am here I cannot visit my land due to which I am suffering from losses because the workers do not work properly as nobody is there to look after due to which we suffer losses).

As their decision regarding educational migration has been interlinked in somehow with the economic factor, they feel that when their children are getting higher education in good institutions they will get good quality jobs where they can manage their bright future. But at the movement, they face economical loss in their agricultural production and they feel migration is the result of it. They still agree with their decision of migration which they have taken for their children’s future only.

Lack of Educational Facilities: As discussed earlier, the issues which take place after migrating to the desired area, helps people not only to get their children educated, but also to sustain them with economic development, social awareness and character building along with finding opportunities to look for sources to gain bread and butter. These are the causes which enforce these people to make decisions to migrate to a suitable area of interest. As education has become a major reason for migration, the main factor we found was the lack of basic opportunities for better education in rural areas. There are no quality teachers available there. As compared to the past, ratio of migrants is increasing rapidly. People are leaving rural areas and moving to the cities only for education purposes. Schools are not in good condition that is why they cannot facilitate children to get an education in a better environment. In rural areas there is no quality ensured ad standardized private schooling that is why parents opt for sending their children to urban areas for gaining knowledge.

Role of Women in Decision Making: The currently discussed society being a male dominating one ensures that the role of women leads to pressurizing them because leaving a child for educational purposes is not okay at all. The misconception in this regard that the child cannot live without the mother and vice versa is very rural type. To gain something one has to let go of something too. Besides this, flexibility may dislocate the childbearing procedure because of two possible reasons that could be either separation of the partners or of upset circumstances during the initial times of migration [13]. But the migrants has viewed that although it is not possible for them to neglect the suggestion in this regard of household women’s and after without them it is not possible for them to take this decision and live without them, especially when the question is about their children. So to some extent they agree that they take suggestions from their partners before making

any such decision and seek their permission even after making the decision.

Village Atmosphere: The children at an early age learn the most, so staying in a village is not suitable as it is not an ideal environment for their knowledge building. It is different to learn in villages than in the cities. If a child refuses to go to school in the rural areas, this scenario is not taken as seriously in the village as it is taken in cities. The learning styles differ and so does the learning method. The social norms of the village ignore the basic necessity of education and also ignore this stage of child where learning process starts. The strong social ties of the village put a bad impact on a child who is living in a joint family system. These kids stay at home and play games, waste their time with other kids doing nothing. This attitude puts a negative impact on a child’s grooming. Early age learning skills once missed does not bring back the opportunities of learning effectively. Once a character is built in early age, it stays forever and cannot be changed.

Social Status: The lack of quality education is one thing; other important factor due to which people migrate to other areas is the attitude of the landlords of the village. The people who are satisfied with the status quo situation stay there, and those who want to free themselves from all this hardship, they migrate. Number of people are migrating to the urban areas because of the misbehavior of the landlords. A *Wadera System* (feudalism) is increasing with the passage of time. The rate of migration is increasing as they have been following each other. When a person with low socioeconomic status gets settled in the city, the others get motivated and decide to migrate also. Getting settled in the cities adds to their prestige in the society. Their economic condition improves and they normally can build a house in the village. This course of migration draws a bad impact and it shows the consequences after some time as a loss of their economic resources as well in other social terms also.

Advantages of Migration

The study reveals the decision of migration is done for the benefit of their children's education and their better economic opportunities. While we see the benefits in this context every migrant has different views. One of my respondents said, “*mughy apny fiasly pay ksi qisam ka koi pachtawa nahi h kiyun k men smjhta hon ye mery aur mery bachon k behter mustqbil k liey behter tha.*” (I do not regret my decision as I think that it was better for me and for my children). Although all the respondents were very much concerned about the loss of their income regarding agriculture due to migration, but when they were asked about the benefits, they strongly agreed that they have a fruitful future ahead not only for themselves but also for their children and their generations. Looking up to their views it is necessary to not only get educated in a good environment, it is also very important for their children to cope up with such environment where they can build their skills and abilities.

Most of these migrants have religious backgrounds in their settlement so they do not allow their daughters to get an education in the villages, but after the migration to the urban areas now their way of thinking has been totally changed.

The majority of migrants is now sending their females to school and they are showing their willingness that their daughters will get better and higher education in not schools or college level but they will make sure to provide them an education in universities also. "Pakistani women migrate for two reasons that are either their parents are moving to the cities, or their spouses are living or moving to urban areas. In some areas of the central Punjab, according to the recent study claims that an increasing trend in the rural areas is witnessed of women taking a bold step to migrate all alone to make an independent living"[14]. This shift in decision making or changing of mindset is also possible after the migration of these families which affect in a lot of ways on other people and their relatives. As a result, they are also getting awareness about the female education and are able to give permission to their female complements.

Case Study: Hafiz Talib Mehoomood, 56 years of age, has migrated in 1972 when he was enrolled in middle school. He said, "For me this phenomenon is not new. A person can migrate in such kind of circumstances negating the conventional reason of leaving the place on an economical basis. As at that time in my village there were no opportunities of further education, so my parents sent me to the Bahawalpur City from my village Challywan Sharif. My brother and a few of my cousins came with me to the city. I completed my education here. Now I am a law graduate. I feel it was not possible for me to reach to this education level if my parents had not sent me to the city. My parents could not afford my educational expenditure as their financial position was not very strong. He simply allowed me and my brothers to go to the city where we worked and earned to bear our educational expenditure. After completing my education I did some minor jobs as it was difficult for me to get a civil service. After few months I decided to leave the job and join my family in the village, where I could do agriculture farming.

In 2000 I felt that my children were not getting a good education, so I brought my whole family to the city so that my children could also have a better educational facilities. Some other factors which provoke me to come to the city were to stay away from the traditional upbringing of in a rural area. We waste time in playing useless games, working on the lands and not taking care of our educational career. Comparing rural with urban life there is a strict check of parents to make sure their child does not waste his time on useless activities which are of no advantage or benefit to him. Now I feel that I have provided my children a better environment. One of my sons is living abroad for education. I find his migration is fruitful for his future as he will get better opportunities to establish himself.

Case Study: Muhammad Salman is a professional school teacher migrated in 1986 from his village. He completed his M.A degree in 1997 and after that he went back to his home in the village to join his family and to work on agricultural land. While he was studying his father asked him to come back and join him to take care of their lands. At one point he made up his mind to leave his studies and go back. He worked with his father, but soon realized that this is not the ideal environment he wants his children to grow up in. So he came back, finished his studies and joined the education

department as a reputed teacher. He said, "My case of migration was totally different from those families which have huge agricultural land, but they move their children to urban life. I made the decision whole of my family will go along with me because I felt that a child not only requires good education in a better environment, but also requires his family in his early life." Expressing his views on different issues, he said, "In my time agriculture was a profitable business, but now with the passage of time and due to lack of facilities like water, electricity, etc. the agricultural production is not the same as it used to be. Now a large number of families have migrated from rural to urban areas and started different type of businesses. My parents are still living in my hometown village because they do not like the urban lifestyle due to which I am still in touch with my village. When I visit there and see children who are not getting an education in the villages I feel that I have made the right decision regarding my children's future and their best career.

Disadvantages of Migration

Social Relationship and Kinship Ties: Although all these migrants are migrated from their hometown, but their elder family members and the other relatives are still living in the villages, which makes it difficult for the migrants to meet them on a daily basis. They consider migration as a cause of disturbing their social relations as they are not able to join their families, even on the rites of passage ceremonies, which include birth rituals, death and weddings ceremonies. According to one respondent, "In our society, it is considered very bad if someone has not attended these events and the result is to bear the trouble in close relations, especially our old parents have to face the music, who are still living in the village. The people blame them for sending their children to the cities, leaving the real life behind. The most popular blame in such situation is, "*Kesy bety hen apny Maan Baap ka khayl hy nhi rakthy hen is umer men* (what type of the children are they who can't take care of the parents in such an old age)."

Vanishing Cultural Traits: The majority of the people were worried about the changing cultural values. This issue was frequently highlighted during the discussion when the people said that they feel that their traditional culture is now almost vanished due to migration. Although they frequently visit their villages and are visited by the people from there as well, but the point of building their children's esteem, according to cultural values and traits can only be done while living in the village. These traits cannot be nourished in the city. Technology is also considered in this regard as the focal point of migration which affects their children in socialization which, according to them disturbs their traditional cultural values and norms.

Forgetting Native Language: Research brings out another major factor which is essential regarding their native language viewing that now their new generation is not able to speak their mother tongue Siriaki as fluently as they can speak Urdu or English. This is happening because they spend their most of the time outside their home where their friends belong to different language sects and this enables no continuation of using Siraiki in daily conversations. These parents feel that this condition brings disadvantages because

their children do not know about their mother tongue or native language. Outside the home they have to speak other languages, but they don't even prefer speak Siriaki in their homes. So the use of their native language for communication in their daily lives is almost nil. This situation is quite alarming for parents and they do not know what to do in this regard.

CONCLUSION

Migration is not a new phenomenon, it has prolonged with the human history, but now this trend to some extent has changed and shifted. However, their motives are entirely the same. Now people are looking up to new statements to face the challenges of the present time and to reduce its effects. The current study shows that presently education has been the major cause for the purpose of migration though there are some other historical factor still attached in different shapes as well but the influence of major crack is obviously counted as education. Although migrants face so many hurdles after they move regarding the societal behavior and some cultural traits, but even then they try to facilitate their children with better education facilities and better lifestyle as compared with village life. They also accept this entire situation in both negative and positive sense, but they feel that their long term benefits are more than the worst results. The important thing is that they are satisfied with their decision.

Being an agriculture-centered economic group, people in Pakistan want to reside in cities as assessed with town places. But due to the overall look of the others, the moving of time in those places and the deficiency of water gradually forces them to think about other choices of making sources as well. In this viewpoint now people shift with different factors. Being economically unsettled costs much what costs more is living in misery with worst case scenario issues.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Provide basic amenities to the rural public at their doorsteps, improve their living conditions as they could become capable to educate their children, provide same opportunities which are available in urban life. Enhance their economic condition, as they can make sure to send their children towards schools. Qualified teachers appointed in village level schools.

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ⁱⁱ Human Migration Guide.