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Socio-Economic and Cultural Factors Affecting Migration Behavior in District Faisalabad, Pakistan

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ABSTRACT

The rapid migration from rural areas towards cities, obviously, represents the major factor contributing to the rapid urbanization. The migration behavior of the people within the socio-economic, cultural and psychological context was examined in this study. The study was designed to give us insight into the migration behavior of the people in the changing patterns of socio-economic and demographic structure. The present study was conducted in the urban localities of Faisalabad (Pakistan). Three areas were selected at random with a sample size of 150. Purposive sampling technique was applied for selection of the respondents. A *migrant* in this study confined to a male having a family, migrated from rural to urban area, at least 3 years ago. Data was collected through a well-designed interview schedule. Data was collected about socio-economic variables included literacy, family income, age, occupation, health facilities. Moreover questions about their purpose of migration, motivation factors (push & pull factors), their perception about the urbanization & its consequences, were asked as well. Data were analyzed by using the appropriate statistical techniques. It is concluded that the “*Pull Factors*” play a major role in shaping the migration behavior of the majority of the respondents, as (74 %) people attracted towards city, with a desire to achieve a “better life style”. Among the socio-economic factors age, income and education were found as the main factors shaping the migration attitude of the respondents. The majority of the respondents were young adults, not highly educated and professionals, and having large-sized families, fell in the low-income group.

INTRODUCTION

Naturally, every human being has an urge to achieve a higher standard in life. Migration is an attempt on the part of human being to settle themselves to the physical and social set-up in such a way that it leads to the optimum satisfaction of the migrants. It is the most complex of the population processes i.e. fertility, mortality and migration. In the less developed regions of the world, the major problem faced by governments is excessive migration out of rural areas into the already crowded, large urban centers. Migration is defined as any permanent change in residence. It involves the “detachment from the organization of activities at one place and the total round of activities to another” (Goldscheider, 1971).

Over time the most frequently heard explanation for migration has been so called “Push-Pull Theory”, which says that some people move because they are pushed out of their former location, whereas others move because they have been pulled or attracted to someplace else. This idea was first put forward by Ravenstein (1889), who analyzed migration in England. He concluded that pull factors were more important than push factors.

Jakson defined the poor living conditions as “push” factors and attractive & better living conditions as “pull” factor. He says, “the declining socio-economic conditions at the place of origin are push factor and better opportunities at the place of destination are pull factor” (Jakson, 1969).

Studies of in-migrants to a number of Asian cities found that the attraction of “city lights” was of no

significance: “economic hardship in varying degrees was the real reason for practically all migration”. (UNESCO, 1956).

Migration has dynamic consequences for the migrants themselves, for the areas from which they move and for the areas to which they go. The shift of migrants from one area to another brings changes in the population structure, economy, and social conditions of both the areas, and these changes in turn influence the population growth of each area. The rapid Urbanization or redistribution of people from countryside to city is one of the most significant demographic movements in world history at least as important to the world as the population “explosion” itself. Rural-to-urban migration is a cause of increasing unemployment, urban congestion, inefficiency and imbalance in the national development. (Kuznets, 1964)

In general, it seems that the most readily identifiable consequences are those associated with higher standard of living in cities than in rural places. Although, cities offer economic and social opportunities that are unavailable anywhere else, city dwellers often weigh those advantages against one of the most widely perceived disadvantages of increasing urbanization and crowding. Crowding of people into cities is, doubtless, harmful to existence. People are living in unsanitary houses in dirty areas that raised death rates. Crime and vice are also often believed to be linked to urban life.

In Pakistan, according to population census held in 1998 the share of rural population has declined from 71.7% in 1981 to 67.5% in 1998 or by 4.2%. The share of the urban population accordingly has increased from 28.3% in 1981 to 32.5% in 1998 or by 4.2%. This suggests that every 3rd person now lives in the city or town. The urban population has grown universally in all provinces and the rural population has simultaneously declined with same proportion. (Anonymous, 2000).

But due to the pressure of population on the cities, a very large portion of these in-migrants lack the most elementary urban facilities like water supply, sewerage, garbage collection, medical treatment, schooling, security, housing, transportation, electricity etc. So, people face many problems in their adjustment and they also create problems for other people and the town planners. Unemployment is more obvious due to increasing number of skilled and un-skilled labor in the city, as jobs are fewer than the number of workers. Migrants cope with the housing problem by illegally squatting on vacant public land and building their own dwelling from whatever materials are at hand. These squatter sections create problems in the smooth flow of transportation and also create unhealthy conditions, which pollute the environment. The study was designed to know the factors responsible for shaping migration attitude in the socio-economic and psychological context. The objectives of the study are as follows:

- 1) To determine the characteristics of respondents before and after migration
- 2) To explore the socio-economic, psychological and environmental reasons for migration.
- 3) To examine the correlation of “push” and “pull” factors with migration behavior.
- 4) To identify the perception of migration towards the adverse impacts of urbanization.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study Area

Faisalabad is the 3rd largest city in Pakistan with a population of just over 2 million (Population Census Organization). The present study was conducted in the urban localities of Faisalabad, Pakistan. Three areas were selected at random, i.e. Peoples Colony, Samanabad, & Ghulam Muhammadabad.

Study Population

The sample size was 150 male heads of the migrant family. Purposive sampling technique was applied for selection of the respondents. A migrant in this study confined to a male having a family, migrated from rural to urban area, at least 3 years ago.

Data Collection & Analysis

An interviewing schedule was prepared in order to explore the study objectives. The questions in the interview schedule were mostly structured. Before actual application, questionnaire was pre-tested to check the validity and workability and necessary amendments were made. Data was collected about socio-economic variables included literacy, family income, age, occupation, health facilities. Moreover questions about their purpose of migration, motivation factors (push & pull factors), their perception about the urbanization & its consequences, were asked as well. The data thus collected were analyzed in Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS), to arrive at the logical conclusion.

RESULTS

Characteristics of Study Population

Most of the respondents i.e. 60.7 per cent were young adults, of age group 21-30. Before migration, most of the respondents i.e. 65.3 per cent had joint families (joint family is the type of family which consists of members related through blood and spread over several generations living together under one roof and work under a common head), whereas after migration, the nuclear family system (a family consists of only husband, wife & their children) was predominant as 70.0 per cent respondents had nuclear families. Data on educational profile show that before migration, majority of the respondents i.e. 48.7 per cent got education up to Metric, whereas after migration, graduates were in

majority i.e. 33.4 per cent (Table 1). Most of the respondents i.e. 52.7 per cent were non-agriculturists before migration and after migration their proportion also increased up to 90.7 per cent. It was observed that before migration most of the respondents i.e. 44.0 had low income up to Rs. 5,000 and after migration 38.7 per cent respondents fell in medium income group i.e. up to Rs. 10,000 (Table 1).

Table 1: Socio-economics Characteristics of Respondents

Socioeconomic Characteristics	Before Migration		After Migration	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Age Group				
21-29	81	54		
30-38	54	36		
≥39	15	10		
Family Type				
Nuclear	52	34.7	105	70
Joint	98	65.3	45	30
Education				
Illiterate	15	10	15	10
Up to Metric	73	48.7	47	31.3
Up to Graduation	38	25.3	50	33.4
Post Graduation	17	11.3	26	17.3
Professional	7	4.7	12	8
Family Income (Rs.)				
Up to Rs. 2000	31	20.7	5	3.3
2001–5000	66	44	55	36.7
5001–10000	38	25.3	58	38.7
>10000	15	10	32	21.3
Occupation				
Agriculturists	71	47.3	14	9.3
Non-Agriculturists	79	52.7	136	90.7

Stimulation for Migration

The research findings reflect that mostly the people were deprived of the good living conditions and the lack of the basic amenities of life in the villages. So, the “Pull factors” played a major role in shaping the migration behavior of the majority of the respondents. City life attracted them so much that they decided to migrate at any cost.

About 39.3 per cent respondents migrated to the city for the employment, 30.7 per cent for achieving better standard of life, and 30.0 per cent for the better educational facilities (Fig 1). Pull factors were the major stimulations, which motivated most of the respondents. A great majority i.e. 78.0 per cent respondent were greatly stimulated by the pull factors, where as Push factors play less role in motivating the respondents to migrate, as 28.0 per cent respondents were greatly stimulated by them (Table 2).

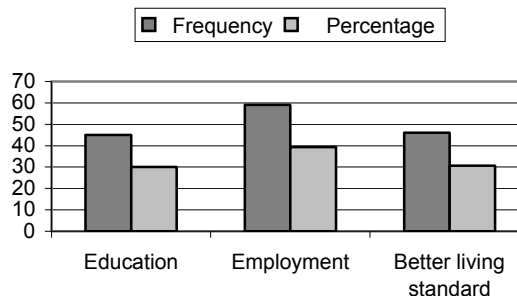


Fig. 1: Respondent's purpose of migration

Table 2: Factors responsible for stimulation for migration to the city

Extent of stimulation	Push factors		Pull factors	
	F	% age	F	% age
To some extent	76	50.7	33	22.0
To a great extent	42	28.0	117	78.0
Not at all	32	21.3	-	-

Table 3: Consequences of high level of fertility as a responsible factor for their migration

Consequences of high level of fertility	Frequency	Percentage
Faster growth of labor supply	21	35.0
Limited land holdings due to inheritance	39	65.0

Among the socio-economic push factors, most powerful was the “lack of educational opportunities” as most of the respondents i.e. 68.0 per cent migrated due to this reason. Whereas most powerful Pull factor was the “Better Living Standard” as most of the respondents i.e. 74.0 per cent were attracted towards city for achieving a better life style.

40.0 per cent respondents migrated to the cities due to the consequences of high level of fertility in the rural areas, and results showed that limited land holding was the main reason among the consequences of high level of fertility, due to which 65.0 per cent respondents migrated to the city. Whereas 35.0 per cent respondents migrated from the village, as they did not find jobs there due to the faster growth of labor supply that is again a major consequence of high level of fertility. (Table 3).

Impacts of Urbanization

A great majority of the respondents i.e. 96.0 per cent were fully aware of the adverse impacts of migration towards cities. Majority of the respondents i.e. 65.3 per cent agreed that unemployment is the major problem created by rapid migration rate (Table 4). Poor provision of the social services declared as the 2nd major problem, as 59.3 per cent favored it strongly,

Contamination of environment was another major problem as it got the strong favor of 36.0 per cent respondents, Disequilibrium in the city growth as a 4th major problem, favored by 28.7 per cent respondents strongly, Inadequate housing was strongly favored by 27.3 per cent respondents (Table 4).

Most of the respondents i.e. 62.0 per cent felt themselves fully adjusted in the city environment. Most of the respondents i.e. 64.0 per cent had no idea in their minds to return back to their native villages, even if they will provided with the facilities like in the cities. Due to changing cultural values and problematic urban life, about 56.7 per cent respondents sometimes thought that they were living a better life in the village.

Table 4: Perception of the respondents regarding the problems of city life due to rapid migration

Problems	To some extent		To a great extent		Not at all	
	F	%	F	%	F	%
Unemployment	50	33.3	98	65.3	2	1.3
Disequilibria in the city growth	85	56.7	43	28.7	22	14.7
Contamination of the environment	74	49.3	54	36	22	14.7
Inadequate housing.	95	63.3	41	27.3	14	9.3
Poor provision of social services	47	31.3	89	59.3	14	9.3

DISCUSSION

The findings of the study help us to conclude that among the socio-economic factors

age, income and education were found as the main factors shaping the migration attitude of the respondents. The majority of the respondents were young adults, not highly educated and professionals, and having large-sized families. As far as their economic condition is concerned, most of them fell in the low-income group before migration. Most of them migrated for making higher income, getting better education, and achieving a better standard of life.

The result finding of the present study supported the "Push-Pull Theory" presented by Ravenstein (1889), which says that some people move because they are pushed out of their former location, whereas others move because they have been pulled or attracted to someplace else. The result findings of current study reveal that Pull factors were the major stimulations, which motivated most of the respondents. A great majority 78.0 per cent respondent were greatly stimulated by the pull factors, whereas Push factors

play fewer roles in motivating the respondents to migrate (Table 2).

To find out the real cause of rural urban migration UNESCO in 1956 declared that "economic hardship in varying degrees was the real reason for practically all migrations", and the result findings of the present studies supported this reason as about 39.3 per cent respondents migrated to the city for the employment, 30.7 per cent for achieving better standard of life, and 30.0 per cent for the better educational facilities.

Rural –to-urban migration is a cause of increasing unemployment, urban congestion and inefficiency and imbalance in the national development. (Kuznets, 1964). It is obvious from the result findings that the rapid rate of migration has created many problems in the city life i.e. unemployment, poor provision of social services, contamination of environment, and the housing problem for the migrants. People are well aware of these factors, and majority of them also think that they were living a better life in the village. But, even though, the pace of migration is still very rapid and people are not prepared to return back to the villages even if they are provided with the good facilities there.

A highly significant association between age of the respondents and their attitude towards migration was found. Data reveals that young adults are more mobile than the people of other ages, indicating the strong relationship of the age upon the migration attitude. (Table 5). It is clear from the table that the young people had migrated mostly for employment (53.1 %), whereas the people of all other age groups prefer to migrate mostly for getting education (40.7 & 46.7 %) respectively. There is no significant preference of the respondents who had migrated mainly for improving their life style.

The results show the diversity in the attitudes of respondents of different income groups. The priorities of the respondents differ with respect to their income levels. The respondents of low-income group had migrated mostly for *employment* (43.3 %), as they want to increase in their income. The main purpose of the mediocre respondents was to increase in their *educational capabilities* (42.1), whereas the respondents with high-income level had migrated to improve their life-style (40.0).

The value of chi-square shows that there exists a non-significant association between income levels and migration rates. Data does not support that the level of migration goes up as income levels rise. It has been concluded that people with low-income levels are more likely to move. (Table 6)

Conclusion and Recommendations

The stream of the migrants is too large to combat, and the rural- urban flow is unavoidable. But a policy can

Table 5: Association between age of the respondents and their attitude towards migration

Age (years)	Attitude towards migration			Total
	Education	Employment	Better life style	
21-29	16 19.8%	43 53.1%	22 27.2%	81 54.0%
30-38	22 40.7%	12 22.2%	20 37.0%	54 36.0%
39 +	7 46.7%	4 26.75	4 26.7%	15 10.0%
Total	45 30.0%	59 39.3%	46 30.7%	150 100.0%

Chi-square = 4.66694; Degree of freedom = 4; Level of significance = 0.0031

Table 6: Association between income levels of the respondents and their attitude towards migration

Monthly income (Rs.)	Attitude towards migration			Total
	Education	Employment	Better life style	
Up to Rs.5000	25(25.85)	42(43.35)	30(30.9%)	97(64.7%)
Rs.5001-10,000	15(42.15)	13(31.6%)	10(26.3%)	38(25.3%)
Above Rs.10,000	5(33.35)	4(26.7%)	6(40.0%)	15(10.0%)
Total	45(30.0%)	59(30.7%)	46(30.7%)	150(100.0%)

Chi-square = 4.66694; Degree of freedom = 4; Level of significance = 0.3232

be made to lower the pressure of people towards cities. Keeping in view the research findings the following suggestions may be contribute in the formulation of a good and workable policy for the migrants:

- a) Obviously, most of the people are pushed out of their communities, as they don't find the opportunities to live a comfortable life. So, the government must allocate a larger share of development funds for the provision of the basic amenities of a modern and comfortable life. Considerations should be given to the improvements and up-grading of the existing poor and miserable conditions of our rural areas like, educational opportunities, Medical, nutrition, sanitation, roads, transportation and recreational facilities.
- b) There is a lack of job opportunities in the rural areas that compel the unemployed to migrate to the cities in search of better opportunities of a desired occupation and to increase in their income. Government must provide incentives for the investors to set-up new industries in these areas. In this way, these areas can attract industry, and the resulting jobs will attract people.

- c) Promotion of Agro-based industries in the rural areas can contribute to stop this huge flow of migrants from the villages.

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