

A Sociological Study of Factors Responsible for Migration: A Case Study of Faisalabad City (Pakistan)

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ABSTRACT

Migration is relatively permanent moving away of an individual or collectively from one place to another. The rural flow of migrant creates many problems in urban areas. Faisalabad city was selected as universe of the study, as it is the third biggest city of the country according to population. Out of 113 union councils four were selected randomly. A sample of 30 respondents from each union council was selected by using simple random sampling technique to make total of 120 respondents. An interview schedule was constructed for the collection of data. The response based identification of factors mainly included shortage of job, better education institution, better economic opportunities, better health institutions and high paying jobs.

Key Words: Migration; Sociology; Pakistan

INTRODUCTION

Migration is relatively permanent moving away of an individual or collectively from one place to another. The decision to move is based on certain felt deprivations, stress, constraints, aspirations, motivation at the place of origin. Deprivations are felt by collectively or individuals when the immediate needs are not fulfilled by the existing conditions within a community (Haq, 1974). It is assumed that when opportunities like good jobs, educational and physical facilities and civic amenities are short in supply in the community, certain members of the community conceive the idea of moving out of it and going to different place where they can find adequate facilities and opportunities to raise their living standard.

The human history from ancient times filled with the stories of many migrations. Archaeological evidence shows that since the isolation of different peoples imposed by the last Ice Age ending 50,000 years ago, human beings have been in move. These moves or migrations have different purposes, sometimes it was due to shortage of food, due to wars, for the quest of better life or a spirit of adventure. But it is a fact that migration was historically the source of civilization through the fusion of cultures and bodies of knowledge, as people moved, mingled, and exchanged ideas and goods (Magill, 1999).

At the time of independence of Pakistan in 1947 from British rule, million of Muslims moved from India to Pakistan. They were not only seeking the better economic conditions but also social and religious conditions as well. This was almost the largest migration of masses from one place to another with some specific cause (Khan, 2002).

On the basis of its nature, migration is sub-divided into "internal" and "international". However, the internal

migration is much more powerful as compared to the international migration (Harker, 2001).

Overtime, the most frequently heard explanation for migration has been the so called "push-pull theory", which depicts that some people move because they are pushed out of their former location, whereas others move because they have been pulled or attracted to some place elsewhere. This idea was first given by Revenstoein in 1989 (cited by Rafique, 2003). According to him the living conditions are "push factors" and attractions of better living conditions are pull factors".

At first, the migration is frequently seen as a temporary expedient, a way to purchase land or pay off a debt. Typically, the migrant sends part of his earning to a family he left behind and to the village to work at peak agricultural seasons. They are barely able to meet their basic needs of food, clothing shelter and health at minimum level required for survival. This poverty and pressure on land in villages are push factors responsible for urban migration.

Pull factors attract people from one place to another offering them better facilities and job opportunities. In urban life more facilities are available while comparing with rural areas, such as education, better job opportunities, transportation, communication etc. these pull and push factors attract the rural peoples to migrate and enjoy better facilities of urban life.

According to Economic Survey of Pakistan (1998) the share of rural population declined from 71.1% during 1981 to 67.4% in 1998. Similarly, urban share has been increased (Govt. of Pak., 2000). This flow creates many problems in urban areas. Therefore, it is necessary to investigate the factors which are responsible for migration. For this purpose, the present study was designed to explore the

factors mainly responsible for migration and formulate measures to stop the urban centered flow of migration.

METHODOLOGY

Faisalabad city was selected as universe of the study, as it is the third biggest city (Govt. of Pak., 1998). The city consists of 113 union councils out of these four, union councils i.e. U.C. 241 (Peoples Colony No. 2), U.C. 125 (Najaf Colony), U.C. 251 (Millat Colony) and U.C. 256 (Samanabad) were selected randomly. To constitute as sample of 120 respondents, 30 respondents from each selected union council were selected by using purposive sampling technique, with the limitation of all respondents have been migrated to the city at least three years ago. An interview schedule was constructed for the collection of data. The collected data was analyzed using simple statistical techniques like averages and percentages.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The decision to move is based on certain felt deprivations, stress, constraints, aspirations, motivation at the place of origin. Therefore, respondents were asked about their motives to move and presented in Table I which reveals that 47.5% of the respondents migrate due to employment followed by education (26.7%) and for better living (25.8%), respectively. These results are coincides with Farah (2001) who concluded that the purpose of migration to the city was employment as reported by 39.3% of the respondents. Better living standard and higher education as reported by 30.7 and 30.0% of the respondents, respectively.

The respondents were asked about the reasons for migration from previous place to present and data regarding to this factor is presented in Table II which reveals that a large majority (80.0%) of the respondents were agreed with that the non-availability of job was the main reason for their migration followed by absence of educational facilities, poor health institutions, low paying jobs, poor rural settings, labour intensive agriculture production, family disorganization, tight control of family, and polluted environment as reported by 72.5, 68.3, 60.8, 49.2, 38.3, 33.3 and 23.35% of the respondents, respectively. However, a fair majority (46.7%) of the respondents disagreed with that polluted environment was reason for their migration followed by family disorganization, tight family control, poor rural settings, low jobs, labour intensive agriculture production, shortage of jobs, absence of educational facilities, and poor health institutions as reported by 35.8, 35.0, 25.0, 17.5, 15.8, 8.3, and 8.3% of the respondent, respectively. Moreover, from 11.7 to 44.2% of the respondents remained neutral about the reasons of migration. These results are supported by Ahmad (2002) who also found the similar results like absence of better education facilities (59.3%), insufficient income (44.0%),

Table I. Distribution of respondents regarding their main purpose of migration

Main purpose of migration	No.	%
Education	32	26.7
Employment	57	47.5
Better living	31	25.8
Total	120	100.0

Table II. Distribution of respondents (n=120) regarding their reasons for moving from origin

Reasons	Agree (%)	Neutral (%)	Disagree (%)
Shortage of jobs	80.0	11.7	8.3
Low paying jobs	60.8	21.7	17.5
Labour intensive agri. production	40.0	44.2	15.8
Poor rural settings	49.2	25.8	25.0
Absence of education facilities	72.5	19.2	8.3
Family disorganization	38.3	25.8	35.8
Tight control of family	33.3	31.7	35.0
Poor health institutions	68.3	25.0	6.7
Polluted environment	23.3	30.0	46.7

absence of health facilities (40.0%), dirty environment (32.0%) and unemployment (28.0%).

There are always factors which pull the human being for migration from one destination to other. Migrant always thought about facilities available to them within a particular place after migration. Therefore, the respondents were asked about the factor/reasons responsible for migration and presented in Table III. The data depict that a large majority (82.5%) of the respondents were agreed with that of better education institution was the main factor which pulled them to migrate followed by better economic opportunities, better health institutions, high paying jobs, better housing facilities, public entertainment, and better sewerage system as reported by 81.7, 78.5, 65.0, 60.0, 59.2, 50.8, and 47.5% of the respondents, respectively. Moreover, a lesser (22.5%) number of the respondents disagreed with the factor better sewerage was the main reason for migration followed by public entertainment, better housing facilities, high paying jobs, education institutions, and better health institution as reported by the 19.2, 16.7, 10.0, 9.5, 1.7, 0.8 and 0.8% of the respondents, respectively. However, from 16.7 to 30.0% of the respondent was shown neutral attitude about the factor responsible for migration. Farah (2001) also reported similar results.

Data presented in Table IV reveals that majority (42.5%) of the respondents made own decisions for migration. But 30.8% of the respondents reported that their parent took the decision of migration to the nearest urban area followed by spouse/children and friend/relatives as reported by 23.3 and 3.3% of the respondents, respectively. Ahmad (2002) also found that majority of the respondents i.e. 86.6% decided to migrate by their own will, followed by friends and relatives (6.0%), mass media (4.7%) and co-villagers (2.7%), respectively.

Table III. Distribution of respondents (n=120) regarding reasons of selection of destination

Reasons	Agree (%)	Neutral (%)	Disagree (%)
Better economic opportunities	81.7	16.7	1.7
High paying jobs	65.0	25.0	10.0
Better education institutions	82.5	16.7	0.8
Better health institutions	78.5	20.8	0.8
Better transport facilities	60.0	30.8	9.2
Better sewerage systems	47.5	30.0	22.5
Better housing facilities	59.2	24.2	16.7
Public entertainment	50.8	30.0	19.2

Table IV. Distribution of respondents regarding their decision of migration

Decision maker	No.	%
Self decision	51	42.5
Parents	37	30.8
Spouse/children	28	23.3
Friends/relatives	04	3.3
Total	120	100.0

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

It can be concluded from the above findings that the main reasons for migration were appeared to be the lack of educational and health facilities, non-availability of jobs, lack of non-availability of housing facilities etc. it is therefore, suggested that government should provide all these facilities at the door steps of villager to stop the rural flow of migration and provide opportunity to the rural people raise the living standard.

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