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## RESEARCH PAPER

### Internal Migration and its Consequences on Migrant Families: A Case of Study the Punjab, Pakistan

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#### ABSTRACT

The trends of rural to urban or urban to urban migration, is a common phenomenon especially in developing countries like Pakistan and have significant effects on both sending and receiving communities, and on the lives of migrant families. The target population of this study was the migrated families in Lahore city, from rural or other areas of the country. To draw the sample from target population a multistage simple random sampling was applied. A community based survey method was used for collection of primary information through structured questionnaire. The data was collected from migrated families and total 448 respondents were interviewed. Majority of the area in the country does not possess the basics as improved health facility, education institutes especially for females, better economic opportunities for livelihood and so many among others. Due to these unrest conditions most of the people migrate from their homeland to Lahore city in the hope of better livings. This migration brings positive as well as negative consequences on the host communities and the migrated lives also. Socio-cultural ties, kinship relations, community geographical and demographic situation, family type and process, occupational status among others have entirely changed because of this movement in the country.

**Keywords:** Global Phenomenon, Internal Migration, Migrated Families

#### Introduction

Since the beginning of the human life, one of the most vibrant human activities has been the process of human migration. Migration is a historical global phenomenon as people migrate due to lack of necessities such as food, health, education, employment and for better opportunities of livelihood at the destination (Nazir-ul-Islam et al., 2020). Both type of migrations (External and internal) have their specific causes and consequences, but the internal migration have become an important approach for various groups of population in the world (Afsar, 2003). The trends of rural to urban or urban to urban migration, is a common phenomenon especially in developing countries and have significant effects on both sending and receiving communities (Wang at al., 2000). There are numerous causes of internal migration across the world, as to find better facilities and

opportunities for present life and for future. At the same time there are considerable consequences on the receiving communities and the migrated families also (Horwood et al., 2020). Migration from rural area to urban setting is one of the common practices in developing countries and become the major reason of unplanned expansions of cities or urban settings. Recent report of international organization of migration highlighted that in last decade the tendency of internal migration is double as compared to yester (IOM, 2020). Internal migration has specific consequences on migrated families also, as weakening family ties with their homeland, family structure, relations & priorities, and societal norms, old traditions among others (Usman, 2009). Due to this the reduction of natural resources, environmental degradation, overpopulation, psycho-social instability and redundancy among others are the negative consequences of internal migration on receiving communities (Philipp et al., 2020).

Internal migration has particular causes and consequences, which vary from place to place and nation to nation. The causes of internal migration among families in developed countries are entirely different, as compare to under developing countries (Rooth et al., 2006). In developing countries most of the individuals and families considered that migration is a suitable means to solve their problems and improve their lives (Akar, 2010). People migrate to urban areas in hoping for better and suitable job/work opportunities, better health facilities, better education facilities to their children and young generations among others (Tullberg, 2009). They also think that internal migration improves their economic condition and reduce poverty at family level, enhance living conditions as well as personal development and life style of migrated families. Unproductive work, low wages, fragmented and landlessness compel rural exodus in developing countries (Celine, 2020). There are always opposite sides of the coins as overcrowding in urban population has negative impact on the delivery of government services and infrastructure. The basic human needs are become narrow and ecosystem, natural resources of these communities becomes deteriorated (Santana et al., 2012). Mostly poor families are settled at the edges of urban areas and contribute in developing tropical and subtropical areas. With the increases of unchecked population the issue of law and order, social unrest, insecurity, sexual activities and idleness has prominent (IFMS, 2020).

Pakistan is one among the developing nations, with a large portion of rural population, and huge portion of this population is directly or indirectly linked with agriculture sector (Long et al., 2008). Currently the urban population is one third out of total, which can be reached near about 50% in 2025. One of the prominent reasons of this rapid increase in urban population is due to internal migration. In the country, the rural areas are often isolated and backward with poor education, health and livelihood facilities (Nong, 2002). In recent time Pakistan have made progress in all fields of life and now people socially and technologically more advance and have better economic opportunities than ever before (ASD et al., 2020). There are various migration dynamics and patterns in Pakistan, which have significant and complex personal, social, economic and political consequences on the life of migrated families. Livelihood and internal migration has an uncertain relationship, as at the one side migration has specific causes and consequences of poverty and at the other hand it can be induced by population movement (Bangkim et al., 2020). With the emergence of globalization, in rural areas of Pakistan, the trends are also changed and people preferred alternative work options instead of agriculture. As the people start shifting from their traditional source of incomes, they started to find more opportunities inside and outside the country (Fachin, 2007). Now a day, beside economic

stability is an important factor of migration, people give importance other factors, as they moved due to better education purpose, due to more civilized environment, due to improved health facilities for their families and coming generations (Olopade, 2019).

In Pakistan, after independence number of social, economic, political and technological transformation were taking place throughout the country, especially in big cities as Karachi, Lahore, Rawalpindi and Faisalabad among others (Planning Commission of Pakistan, 2011). Punjab as the largest province was most influenced by these changes and developments. District Lahore is one of the largest districts of Punjab, and has specific geographical and demographic importance and history (Siddiqui, 2003). District Lahore has shown a rapid growth with regard to economic prospects especially in industries, education and health. Lahore has appeared as guidepost not only for other district of Punjab, but for the future development of the country (Imran, 2013). Lahore has become the center of power in terms of politics, infrastructure development and become a self generating industrial hub (PSDP, 2020). Lahore has a mixed history of internal migration and this migration have significant consequences on the lives of migrated families. For the effective management goods and services of urban areas of district Lahore and slow down the process of rapid urban growth of the cities, an integrated debate is required (Burki et al., 2011). The complexities of the issue and its impact on individual, family and community level inspired researcher for this study. The researcher tried to find out the actual reasons/causes of migration and its impact on the migrated families in Lahore city.

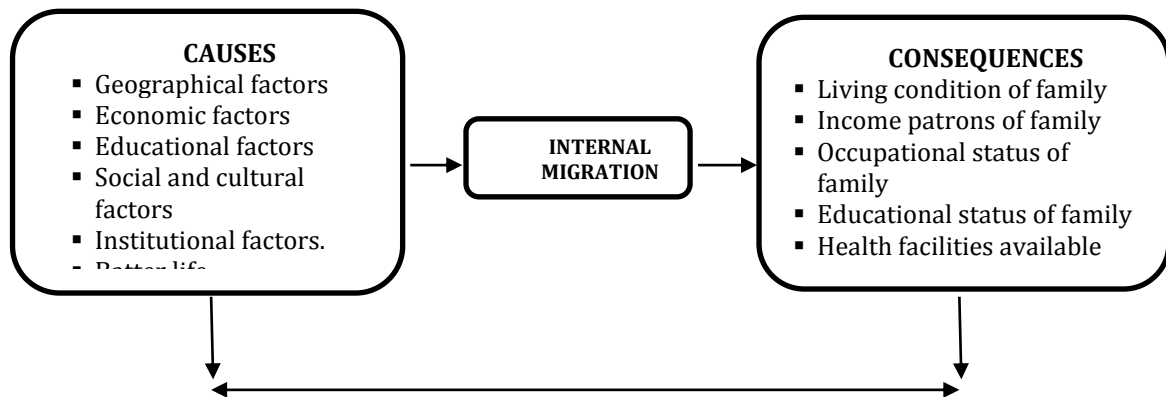
This age of globalization bring changes in the entire lifestyle of individuals and families. Normally it is assumed that the people lived in urban areas are independent and enjoy more facilities with each aspect of life (Skeldon, 2002). This always inspired people to move from one place to other, for better livings of themselves and their coming generations (Yankow, 2003). Existing studies highlights the significance association between internal migration of families and betterment of their social, educational, health and economic conditions. Keeping in mind the said situation the following hypothesis was established for the completion of this study.

- There is a significance difference in family income at the place of origin and at the place of destination, Lahore city.
- There is a significance difference in family educational status at the place of origin and at the place of destination, Lahore city.
- There is a significance difference in family health at the place of origin and at the place of destination, Lahore city.

### **Conceptual Framework of the Study**

The study of internal migration has the key importance to understand the patterns and motives of movement within the country, from rural to urban area or urban to urban area. This movement of people from place to place has profound consequences on individuals, families and the host communities (Tremblay, 2001). Internal migration is due to many reason as some people migrate for better economic opportunity (job or work), some give importance to their education and health, while some migrated due to security or other societal issues (Barbieri, 2007). This migration trend is observed higher in developing countries where people have less livelihood facilities at their homeland. The

researcher conceptualized some major causes of internal migration and its consequences on migrated families and on the host communities as well.



### Material and Methods

The study in hand was conducted in district Lahore, Punjab Pakistan. District Lahore and its residence have unique socio-cultural identification and demographic characteristic in the country. Lahore is the capital of Punjab, and stand at the second largest city of the country after Karachi with the population of 11.13 million (Census of Pakistan, 2017-18). A multi stage simple random sampling technique is used to draw a sample from the target population. Lahore city is divided into nine administrative towns (LG & CD, 2020) by the district administration authorities as;

Sr.No	Name of the Town/Administrative unit	Sr.No	Name of the Town/Administrative unit
1	Nishtar Town	6	Shalimar Town
2	Gulberg Town	7	Samanabad Town
3	Aziz Bhatti Town	8	Wahgah Town
4	Allama Iqbal Town	9	Data GunjBakhsh Town
5	Ravi Town		

For the purpose of this study, four administrative towns are selected randomly, and at the second stage first block of each selected town is selected and all migrated families lived in first block were approached for the purpose of data collection. The data was collected from migrated families of the first block (complete block was covered) and total 448 respondents were interviewed. A community based survey method was used for collection of primary information through structured questionnaire. The population of the study was the families who were migrated from outside the Lahore district and lived there since one or more years. Head of the family (men or women) was selected as respondents of the study. The collected data was analyzed keeping in mind the objectives of the study and result presented in different form as descriptive and statistical among others.

### Results and Discussion

Basically this study is divided into two parts as in first portion researcher tried to find the primary reasons or causes of their internal migration towards Lahore city, while at the same time second part of the study examine the consequences of internal migration on

migrated families. For this purpose researcher approach 448 respondent families in Lahore city and find out that the age group of 21-30 years have high tendency of internal migration towards Lahore city. Out of total migrant 34.4% respondents were unmarried at the time of their migration, while 63.6% were married and migrated with their families. The study also point out that there are almost 58% respondents were job/workless and migrated to Lahore city for a work opportunity. When the respondents asked about their per month income at their homeland, out of total almost 97% respondents claimed that they earn less than 10,000 per month. The table below shows the income trends of respondents before and after migration.

**Table 1**  
**Income trends of respondents before and after internal migration of families**

	Per-month income before migration			Per-month income after migration		
	Frequency	%	Valid %	Frequency	%	Valid %
Below 10,000	424	94.6	96.8	357	79.7	80.2
10,000 to 20,000	10	2.2	2.3	46	10.3	10.3
20,000 to 30,000	4	0.9	0.9	18	4.0	4.0
30,000 to 40,000	0	0	0	6	1.3	1.3
40,000 to 50,000	0	0	0	10	2.2	2.2
More than 50,000	0	0	0	8	1.8	1.8
Total	438	97.8	100.0	445	99.3	100.0
Missing	10	2.2		3	0.7	
	448	100.0		448	100.0	

The above table presents the frequency distribution, percentage and valid personages of data regarding per-month income of the respondents before and after migration. The table presented that the largest portion of the respondents have less than 10,000 per-month income at their homeland before migration. Less work opportunities and low wages is an important push factor of internal migration. The study also presents that a very few respondents reported that they have 30,000 per month income before migration. There is not any respondent who claimed that he/she have 50,000 or more per-month income before migration but a many of them have enough income after migration towards Lahore city.

In another statistical test, cross tabulation highlighted that the change in per-month income and homeland of respondents relationship. The test of chi-square in the below table presents, that there is not high significance association among the per-month income of respondents and the change of living place (before and after migration). At the host community of Lahore city after migration of respondents have only 10% significance. The details are given in the table below.

**Table 2**  
**Difference in per-month income after internal migration of families**

	Difference in per-month income after internal migration					Total
	Below 5000	5000 to 10,000	10,000 to 15000	15000 to 20,000	20000 to 30,000	

<b>Home land</b>	<b>Urban</b>	Counting	57	7	3	3	3	6	79
		Out of total %	13.3%	1.6%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	1.4%	18.5%
	<b>Rural</b>	Counting	260	33	23	9	11	13	349
		Out of total %	60.7%	7.7%	5.4%	2.1%	2.6%	3.0%	81.5%
<b>Total</b>	Counting	317	40	26	12	14	19	428	
	Out of total %	74.1%	9.3%	6.1%	2.8%	3.3%	4.4%	100.0%	

$\chi^2 = 3.496$ ,  $df = 5$ ,  $P\text{-Value} = 0.624$

The education trend among migrants shows that, there are almost 18% out of total respondents who were illiterate or not complete their primary level before migrations. Only 27% respondents reported that they complete their higher secondary school before migration. The graduation and higher studies trend is very poor among the respondents. While on the other hand a significance change was observed in higher education trends as 21% respondents have the completed their graduation or above degrees after migration to Lahore city. With the increased in education status the respondents were able to perform in productive fields and high positions in government sectors, and also affect their living conditions in all aspects.

The situation of housing has also changes in the life of migrants as before migration most of the respondents 86% lived in their own or parents houses and does not pay for their residence. While after migration to Lahore city the situation was entirely change and a large portion 78% of respondents lived in a rented houses. Only a few respondents have their own place of living at destination before migration and some arranged after some years. The table below presented in details the regarding the housing of the respondents before and after migration.

**Table 3**  
**Status houses of the migrated families before and after internal migration to Lahore**

	House of the respondents before migration			House of the respondents after migration		
	Frequency	%	Valid %	Frequency	%	Valid %
<b>Personal house</b>	380	84.4	86.2	63	14.1	14.8
<b>On rent house</b>	44	9.8	10.0	330	73.7	77.6
<b>Stay with relatives house</b>	10	2.2	2.3	20	4.5	4.7
<b>Others</b>	7	1.6	1.6	12	2.7	2.8
<b>Total</b>	441	98.4	100.0	425	94.9	100.0
<b>Missing</b>	7	1.6		23	5.1	
	448	100.0		448	100	

The existing literature presented that one of the most important cause of internal migration towards Lahore city is the better work/job opportunities. The comparison of work and per month income of respondents, before and after migration indicates the association of better income conditions and internal migration. A huge portion 58% out of total respondents was unemployed at their homeland before migration. This situation attached with other factors of livelihood as only 49% of respondents have electricity and 14% had gas facility in their houses before migration, whereas after migration to Lahore city all 100% respondents enjoy these basic facilities. The researcher tried to find out the

difference in monthly income of the respondents before and after migration and its association with other factors of respondents life. The details presented in below tables as

**Table 04**  
**Difference in dependent and independent variable before and after internal migration**

Independent variable	Dependent variable		
	Per-month income before migration	Per-month income after migration	Change in per-month income before migration
	<b>Coefficient Values</b>		
R-squared value	.679	.620	.633
Constant	7.518	7.490	6.418
Respondents age	---	.048*	.078**
Age squared	---	-0.001**	-0.002***
Schooling of migrant before internal migration	-0.010	---	---
Schooling of migrant after internal migration	---	.067***	.114***
Schooling of respondents father	.121***	---	---
Schooling of respondents Mother	-0.098***	---	---
Total family members before internal migration to Lahore city	.086***	---	---
At present total family members	---	-0.010	-0.049*
Per-month saving before internal migration	.092***	---	---
Per-month saving after internal migration	---	.021	.019
Male migrant respondent as reference category		Ref	
Female migrant respondents	-0.794***	-0.734***	-0.675***
Nuclear type of family as reference category		Ref	
Joint system of family	-0.002***	---	---
Homeland of the respondents from other urban area as reference category		Ref	
Homeland of the respondents from rural area	.441***	---	---
Unemployment of migrant respondent before migration as reference category		Ref	
Personal work of migrant before migration	-0.229	---	---
Service (Govt or private) of respondents before internal migration	-0.107	---	---

Studying by respondent before internal migration	-0.521*	---	---
Agriculture status of the respondents before internal migration	-0.032	---	---
Labour work of respondents before internal migration	---	---	---
Other involvement of respondents before internal migration	-0.090	---	---
Unemployment of migrant respondent after migration as reference category		Ref	
Personal work of migrant before migration	---	.497***	.528***
Service (Govt or private) of respondents before internal migration	---	---	---
Studying by respondent before internal migration	---	-0.234***	-0.773***
Agriculture status of the respondents before internal migration	---	---	---
Labour work of respondents before internal migration	---	-0.076	.280
Other involvement of respondents before internal migration	---	-0.495***	-0.714***
Internal migration for better occupation as reference category		Ref	
Respondent migration for education	0.641**	.440***	.655***
Respondent migration for social aspects of life	---	-0.221	.025
Respondent migration for political involvement	---	-0.180	.003
Respondent migration for getting more benefits in urban settings	---	.222	.522*
Respondent migration for climate	.337	-0.229	.533*

▪ At 1 percent is consider as highly significance \*\*\*

▪ At 5 percent level significance \*\*

▪ At 10 percent level significance \*

The above table presents various determinants of intermigration of the respondents. The findings of the study showed the independent variable as father and mother years of schooling, total number of family member and per-month saving among



others of the respondents before migration to Lahore city. All the considered independent variables have significance change after migration of the respondents as above table presents.

## **Conclusion**

Due to rapid globalization development, societies especially in developing countries like Pakistan has changed and shifted towards the change in their social, cultural, traditions, health, education and economic conditions among others, of individual, family and communities (Rogaly et al., 2003). A huge portion of population lives in rural areas and attached with agriculture sectors. Due to for a way from urban areas and poor facilities, the situation of living condition is not satisfactory in most of the rural areas of the country (Ping et al., 2005). Majority of the rural area does not possess the basics as improved health facility, education institutes especially for females, better economic opportunities for livelihood and so many among others. Due to these unrest and unsuitable conditions in rural areas most of the people migrate to their homeland to other urban areas in the hope of better livings (Montgomery et al., 2000). The trend of internal migration has increased day by day in the country, and this trend brings some positive and also negative consequences on the host communities and the migrated lives also (Hill, 2008). Socio-cultural ties, kinship relations, community geographical and demographic situation, family type and process, occupational status among others have entirely changed because of this movement in the country (Mberu, 2006). The sending and receiving communities bear these changes or consequences and have significant impact on host and migrant families with regard to infrastructure, services and per-capita resources available in the cities (Blackburn, 2010). The presents that although the migrant families suffer badly and facing hardships during settlement of new places in urban area of Lahore, butt inspite of all this they preferred to stay for the better education and income, lifestyle for them, their families and children. Internal migrant to Lahore city conceded that after entire negative consequences, they can get long term benefits for their future and coming generations. The most important thing is that due to all these hardships they are satisfied and stand with their decisions of migration from homeland to their destination, Lahore city.

## **Recommendations**

After comprehensive review of existing data on internal migration and analyzing the primary data of this study researcher recommended the following recommendations for further researchers, policy makers and authorities for proper management of consequences. This also helps to avoid the rapid process of internal migration and unchecked urbanization.

- Policy makers, authorities and government should provide the clear guidelines regarding process of internal migrations.
- Rural and Sami urban areas should always keep on equal priorities at the time of resources distribution
- Improved health, education facilities, advance mood of transportation and road infrastructure should provide the far away areas.

- Better opportunities of work (job & business) for both genders should be ensured by the government at their home place.
- Recreational and productive activities and facilities create in rural areas for enhancement of young talent and for equal opportunities.
- Ensure security of lives, movements, goods and business should be on top priority of government and authorities.
- Media should present the positive picture and importance of rural life and provide the real time access to the inhabitant.
- Advance telecommunications and technologies should be reachable the rural population as its available for urban settings.
- Better opportunities especially education, personal development and work for females and girls should be ensure at their door step.
- Academic, individual researchers and organization should focus on the specific demographic and geographic needs of rural and far away areas, to highlight their actual problems and their solutions.

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