

ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION IN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FARMER'S LIVELIHOODS: A CASE STUDY OF AN AGRARIAN COMMUNITY

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Agriculture is the key to rural development that led to the rise of human civilization. There is a close linkage between migration and agricultural development therefore the main objectives of the present paper were to examine the patterns of expending remittances in agriculture and the impact of remittances on the livelihood of the farmer. The study was conducted in the rural areas of District Toba Tek Singh. Multistage sampling technique was used for data collection at different stages. District Toba Tek Singh was selected through simple random sampling technique. 120 respondents were selected through convenient sampling technique. A strong relationship between migration and agricultural development was found. Most of the migrants invested their income in agricultural sector such as purchase of farm land, livestock and farm machinery.

Keywords: Agricultural development, international migration, remittances investment, livelihoods

INTRODUCTION

Pakistan is the developing country and agriculture is the backbone of country's economy. It is currently seventh most populous country in the world (Government of Pakistan, 2008). Agriculture sector occupies an important position in its economy. It is the second largest sector, accounting for over 21 percent of GDP, and remains by far the largest employer, absorbing 45 percent of the country's total labor force. Nearly 62 percent of the country's population resides in rural areas, and is directly or indirectly linked with agriculture for their livelihoods. The agriculture's strong linkages with the rest of the economy are not fully captured in the statistics. While on the one hand, the sector is a primary supplier of raw materials to downstream industry, contributing substantially to Pakistan's exports, on the other hand, it is a large market for industrial products such as fertilizer, pesticides, tractors and agriculture implements (Government of Pakistan, 2010).

There is a close linkage among agriculture, rural development and migration. People have been on the move since human life started. Migration is neither a new phenomenon, a failure of development, nor a replacement for development. Individuals move as part of their attempt to improve their lives and the lives of their families, to learn new skills, to acquire new experiences, to find a job or to run away unsafe

conditions insecurity, disaster or famine. Migration is an economic, social and political process that affects those who move, those who stay behind, and the places where they go (Reyes, 2007).

Human migration is the movement of people from one place in the world to another place for the purpose of taking up permanent or semi permanent residence, usually across a political and geographical boundary. An example of semi permanent residence would be the seasonal movements of migrant's farm laborers (Anonymous, 2005). The Push-Pull theory of migration traced out the economic factors of migration in the sending country as well as in the receiving country. The factors of migration include but not limited to demographic pressure, high unemployment and low living standards in the home country. These factors have been identified as push-factors. The factors of migration in the receiving country included the demand for labor, promising economic opportunities, and political freedom and these factors are identified as pull factors (Datta, 2002). 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). In Pakistan 10 million people, or 8% of the population of Pakistan, consisted of internal or international migrants (Government of Pakistan, 1998). However, during 2003, the rural and urban population

is estimated to be 89.7 million (61%) and 53.3 million (39%) respectively (Government of Pakistan, 2003). Due to this, urban areas are growing at much faster rate than the rural areas. The migration of labor out of agriculture is a primary feature of the economic development process (Taylor and Martin, 2001). The effects that migration can potentially have on the rural economy can be quite complex. Migrants typically continue to have economic interactions with the source households and communities they leave behind (Stark and Bloom, 1985). On the other hand, migration may help reduce pressure on agricultural land, provide opportunities for the rural unemployed 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 labor market pressure and generate remittances that constitute an important source of income for migrants' families (Farooq and Cheema, 2005).

Keeping in view the importance of the migration in agricultural and rural community livelihoods, the objective of the present paper was to identify the patterns of expenditure or remittances of migrants in agriculture; study the impact of remittances on the livelihoods of farmers, and suggest some recommendations for the improvement for the better utilization of remittances for agriculture development

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in the rural areas of District Toba Tek Singh. The observations were recorded through multistage sampling techniques. A

sample of 120 respondents (wives of migrants) was selected through convenient and snow ball sampling (Goodman, 1961) technique. One Tehsil (Toba) out of three Tehsils from Toba Tek Singh District was selected through simple random sampling technique. Four union councils out of 32 union councils were selected through simple random sampling technique. 30 respondents from each union council were selected through convenient sampling technique. A comprehensive interview schedule was devised in the light of research objectives. The data were analyzed through the descriptive and inferential statistical technique using the statistical package for social sciences (SPSS).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Demographic characteristics of migrants: The data in Table 1 describes that majority of the migrants had up to 31 years age. Previously Sattar (2009) conducted research on "International migration and its impact on socio-economic development in rural households in T. T. Singh" Pakistan. She found similar results that majority of the migrants were up to 30 years age. Migration decision effects by many factors in which age is one prominent factor. This showed that majority of the persons had spent their most productive working age in overseas countries.

The information presented in Table 2 revealed that 96.7 percent (a huge majority) of the respondents had joint family system before migration and 95.0 percent (a huge majority) of the respondents had joint family structure system after migration. There was a minimum change in family structure after migration. Mostly people preferred joint family system due to agriculture.

Table 1. Distribution according to the present age of migrant

Age	Frequency	Percentage
15-20	22	18.3
21-25	12	10.0
26-30	27	22.5
31-35	33	27.5
36-40	15	12.5
41 and Above	11	9.2
Total	120	100.0

Table 2. Distribution of the respondents according to their family structure before and after migration

Family Structure	Before Migration		After Migration	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Nuclear Family System	4	3.3	6	5.0
Joint Family System	116	96.7	114	95.0
Total	120	100.0	120	100.0

Agriculture is not only the single factor for joint family system but it is a prominent factor for joint family system. They thought that increased in family members also increased the agricultural production. Similar results were found by Sattar (2009) about family structure who conducted her research on the topic "International Migration and Its Impact on Socio-Economic Development in Rural Households in T.T. Singh", Pakistan. She found that majority of the respondents were living in joint and extended family system.

Remittances expenditure pattern

The information presented in Table 3 reveals that mostly people invested their remittances in agriculture sector because majority of the migrants belonged to rural areas. Location is not only the single factor for investment in agriculture but this is the mindset, lack of education, lack of exposure or lack of awareness etc. The migrants who were not investing were those people who had a few month or years duration of migration. It is evident from the above results that agriculture remained the preferred sector of investment by the migrants. Therefore, it can be argued that migration has direct impact on agricultural development. Zaqqa (2006) conducted research in Jordan. He stated that migrants invest their remittances in industry, agriculture, services, stocks, marriage and repayments of debts also. 4.3 percent migrants invested their remittances in industry, 2.8 percent of the migrants invested in agriculture and services with respective ratio. The difference in results shows that Pakistan is an agricultural country and agriculture is the second large sector of Pakistani economy.

The data given in Table 4 reveals that 46.7 percent (less than half) of the migrants had no investment, 30.0

percent of the migrants had investments in farming, 18.3 percent of the migrants had investments in livestock sector and 5.0 percent of the migrants had purchase farm machinery. Mostly people invest in sowing crops.

The livestock and farming sectors play a vital role in poverty reduction in Pakistan. So people prefer to invest in this sector to enhance their income. The migrant's money was used for the purchase of livestock and machinery and this is contributed in the overall agricultural development of Pakistan. Khan *et al.* (2009) worked on impacts of remittances on living standards of emigrants' families in Gujarat, Pakistan and found that people invest on purchasing immovable property like plots, investing on business, purchase and up-gradation of their houses which was one of the major elements of the recipient's improvement in living standards. Some of them were investing their remittances on the purchase of agriculture land. They were saving their money on the bank deposits. They were also saved their remittances on wealth (gold jewelry). Khan's results were different with the present research due to many reasons. The difference was in respondents' age, education, mindset, occupation, location, level of awareness etc.

The information presented in Table 5 indicates that 39.2 percent of migrants had no land. Table also showed that 24.2 percent of the migrants had land holding between 10 and above after migration and 30.8 percent had no land after migration. It can be concluded from the above results that there was an increase in the number of respondents who purchased 10 and above acres of land after migration. Khan *et al.* (2009) conducted his research in Gujrat and Jehlam Districts of Pakistan. He indicated that 51 percent of migrants had no land. Respondents had ownership of land and also tenants before migration. The difference

Table 3. Distribution of the migrants according to remittance investment sector in the area of origin

Investments	Frequency	Percentage
Agriculture	55	45.8
Industry	19	15.8
No investment	46	38.3
Total	120	100.0

Table 4. Distribution of the migrants according to agriculture investments

Agriculture	Frequency	Percentage
No Investment	56	46.7
Farming (crops)	36	30.0
Livestock Sector	22	18.3
Purchase Farm Machinery	6	5.0
Total	120	100.0

between the study of Khan and Khan (2008) and present research was due to many factors that affect on the decision of remittances investment. It was employment statuses, education, level of awareness, level of adoption rate that affected the decisions of investment.

Impact of migration on livelihoods: The information presented in Table 6 revealed that 0.8 percent of the migrants had no income after migration, 23.3 percent (a little less than one fourth) of the migrants earned between 15000-25000 rupees after migration, 11.7 percent (slightly more than one tenth) of the migrants were between 25001-35000 rupees after migration, 22.5 percent of the respondents of the migrants had an income of 35001-45000 rupees after migration, 1.7 percent of the migrants had between 55001-65000 rupees after migration and 3.3 percent of the migrants had 65001-75000 rupees after migration, 13.3 percent of the migrants had receiving income above to 75001. Khan *et al.* (2009) while working in Gujrat, Pakistan illustrated that with the effect of emigration total average monthly income of a family raised to Rs. 92640.00 with standard deviation Rs. 69200.123. So, it can be stated that emigration played a vital role to improve the economic status of the families.

CONCLUSION

The results of the present study indicated a strong relationship between migration and agricultural development. Most of the migrants invested their income in agricultural sector such as purchase of farm land, livestock and farm machinery. The results showed that more than 45 percent of the migrants invested remittances in agriculture sector followed by industry (15.8%). Those who invested in agriculture preferred to invest in farming (30%), purchase of livestock (18.3%) and 5 percent purchased farm machinery. It is suggested that government should establish proper system of remittances investment in the area of origin. Proper infrastructure should be developed in rural areas that attract migrants to invest more remittances in rural areas. Law and order situation of rural areas also needs the attention of government. Better policies should be formulated to adjust agricultural production rate in market that also benefit farmers as well as middle man.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author acknowledges the support provided by International Centre for Development and Decent Work (ICDD).

Table 5. Distribution of the migrants according to agricultural land holding area (in acres) before and after migration

Land Holding (acres)	Before migration		After migration	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
1-4	33	27.5	32	26.7
5-9	35	29.2	14	11.7
10 and Above	20	1.7	29	24.2
No Land	47	39.2	37	30.8
Total	120	100.0	120	100.0

Table 6. Distribution of the migrants according to monthly income (in rupees) after migration

Pay of Migrant (RS)	Frequency	Percentage
No Income	1	0.8
15000-25000	28	23.3
25001-35000	14	11.7
35001-45000	27	22.5
45001-55000	28	23.3
55001-65000	2	1.7
65001-75000	4	3.3
75001-and Above	16	13.3
Total	120	100.0

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