

MIGRATION IMPACTS ON RURAL POVERTY: CASE STUDY OF FAISALABAD
DISTRICT, PAKISTAN

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ABSTRACT

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The global economy of today includes migration as a key component. Although this study aims to evaluate the significance of internal migration in reducing poverty in rural Faisalabad, people leave their homes for a variety of reasons. Internal migration refers to people moving within a nation, typically in quest of better job prospects. One of these South Asian nations with high internal immigration rates also includes Pakistan. Poverty is regarded as a significant influence in this regard. In the Pakistani district of Faisalabad, rural household poverty is estimated, as is the effect of internal migration on rural household poverty.

Keywords: Migration, Poverty, Rural, District Faisalabad, Pakistan

INTRODUCTION:

The geographical movement of individuals from one location to another is known as migration. Another area with the goal of improving socioeconomic function chance. It may be internal or cross-border. Internal migration entails relocating from urban to rural locations. Within a country, from urban to rural areas. Long-term or brief migration from rural to urban is possible. Migration plays an important role in rural development alleviating poverty.

Migration from rural to urban occurs when societies relocate. Lack of employment possibilities, insufficient healthcare and education, movement constraints, marginalization of the land, output shocks, and inefficiencies are some of the issues that affect both agricultural and industrial sectors. The agricultural sector absorbs additional rural labor. Besides socioeconomic factors, the main driver of migration is poverty.

Like other developing countries, rural Pakistan suffers from poverty. Overall, the most recent Human Development Index suggests that poverty rates are rising. The daily poverty rate in Pakistan is very high. Not just in metropolitan regions, for instance, where 18% of the population falls below the poverty line, but also in other locations where poverty is prevalent.

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According to the government, Pakistan's 2014 rural poverty rate is 46%. Possible strategy to escape poverty is to the trap in rural-urban migration that ignores rural development.

The two issues, migration and rural poverty are closely related. In terms of approaches to poverty reduction, internal displacement provides as people's income levels increase (Taylor and Stark, 1991), important insights emerge (Deshingkar and Farrington, 2009). Rural areas and the labor force tend to favor the industrial sector and urban areas in the early stages of growth. The primary purpose of migration is to boost rural household income and consumption (Harris and Todaro, 1970). Numerous studies have examined the decline in rural residents' well-being and levels of poverty, as well as the factors that influence internal migration (Catania, 2006), the effects of migration on poverty (Richard et al., 2005), and the regional development brought on by rural-urban movement (Wu & Yao, 2010).

Rural-to-rural, urban-to-urban, or rural-to-urban migration can occur within a nation. Migration from rural to urban areas is crucial to reducing poverty. The reasons for rural-to-urban migration include a lack of work possibilities, a poor healthcare system, productivity effects, and an oversupply of labor in the agriculture sector. Despite these variables, the main purpose of migration is to alleviate poverty (Kousar et al., 2016). Bezu and Holden (2014) highlighted that household poverty forces people to move in search of better income opportunities and quality of life. From a poverty reduction perspective, rural-urban migration provides a key feedback (Deshingkar and Farrington, 2009) by increasing personal income (Taylor and Stark, 1991).

The number of persons participating, the length of departure, the effect of leaving and prospective return on migrants and their home communities, and the concentration of migrant origins in a few places or categories all affect the "impact" of migration (Lipton, 1980). The welfare of households is strongly impacted by overseas remittances. Higher household income (Faridi and Mehmood, 2014; Acharya, 2012; Kageyama, 2008), increased food and non-food consumption, and investments in education all have a direct impact on household well-being. Internal migration reduces the pay disparity between urban and rural areas, which is the primary outcome of migration for rural households (Harris and Todaro, 1970). (Akhtar and Islam, 2019).

Richard et al. (2005) examine the impact of settlements poverty alleviation International migration data of poverty, inequality and remittances in 71 developing countries He works on international migration. The results show that the prevalence and nature of poverty have been significantly impacted by migration and overseas remittances. The outcome also demonstrates that a 10% increase in per capita income would reduce poverty by 3.5%. The analysis also revealed that if there was a 10% rise in global migration, those who were poor would have 21% less. According to research, if international authorities paid attention to immigration policy, it would help the world's impoverished.

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Cattaneo (2006) investigated the factors that influence domestic migration. Data were from the quality of life measures in Albania. In 2002, the survey was carried out. The survey was overseen by the World Bank and National Institute of Statistics. For data analysis, use OLS estimations. Age, gender, education, marital status, ownership variables, and industry variables are examples of nature and independent variables. Result shows that education has a statistically significant effect on the level of Migration The most educated people migrate more for pleasure. The likelihood of migration depends not only on terms of wage rates, but also in terms of unemployment gaps.

Using information from demographic and health surveys, Achia et al. (2010) investigated the major causes of poverty. To get Socioeconomic index for each family member, analysis is used. Used logistic regression to estimate the outcome. The results show that as the level of education increases, it can reduce the likelihood of a household falling into poverty. The study recommends that the government should overall do plan of urban and rural construction.

China's rural to urban migration is clearly influenced by the uneven income distribution and regional growth, according to Wu and Yao's (2010) explanation. In total, 8914 villages were used to obtain the data, which represented 5 million Chinese living in rural areas. Applied research provides multiple regression analysis of associations and migration results show that the poor are worried. More agreement was found in more remote areas. The conclusion is that labor migration is more frequent than internal migration.

Fahad and Rehmat (2013) investigated how Pakistan's macroeconomic policies contributed to poverty. The macroeconomic indicators database is from 1994-2005. Parameters for estimating multiple regression models, they used the OLS method. Income distribution is equal and is measured by the Gini coefficient. It concluded that the implications for development and investment social programs must be driven by the government and also to provide new jobs per capita income, and more to improve the quality of life.

Zhu and Luo (2014) surveyed the impact on rural poverty and inequalities caused by urban-rural migration. Research directed in Hubei Province, China. Research data was from the 2002 household survey. Since immigrants arrived, there has been a significant increase in alternative agricultural income, leading the studio to create a counterfactual scenario wherein rural income and poverty were first depicted. The study came to the conclusion that encouraging rural income patterns is sufficient. The study explained, for people from remote areas, the decision to relocate both rural and urban areas ultimately depend on it. Expectations of higher income and quality of life are also better.

Kousar et al. (2016) examined how internal migration affects poverty. This analysis's major goal is to ascertain how rural-to-urban migration affects household poverty. The findings of this study reveal that internal migration significantly affects the re-education of poverty. The report suggests that the government spend money on infrastructure and human resources in rural areas.

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Imran et al. (2018) investigated how remittances affected the prevalence of poverty in Pakistan's Punjab province. This study seeks to ascertain the association between remittances and poverty in immigrant households at the district level, or the subnational level (urban and rural areas). According to the test's findings, there is a substantial inverse association between remittances and the prevalence of poverty among urban and rural households in all of Punjab.

METHODOLOGY:

For this study, data was collected from different people in the village of District Faisalabad, Pakistan. Faisalabad is a mix of rural agricultural or industrial areas. Many industries depend on agriculture and urban areas. Since there are more job opportunities in cities. In the past, people from rural areas migrated in search of a better future.

In this chapter, the next section discusses policy techniques, and methods used in this study. This section also provides a detailed discussion of the advantages of qualitative research methods. Additionally, this section covers characteristics of qualitative methods, as data collection tools, sampling size and strategy, learning environment, the conceptualization of vocabulary, and field experience.

A study design is the overall plan you choose to link multiple studies. Presenting components in a logical and clear manner ensures you can respond successfully for a research topic. Interviews are typically conducted as part of qualitative research when a researcher asks one or more participants broad, open-ended questions and records their responses. The usage of audio cassettes helps to ensure more accurate transcription (Creswell, 2012). Especially in qualitative research, interviews are used to explore the meaning of a central theme within a subject world. A fundamental task in interviews is to understand the meaning of what the interviewee says (McNamara, 2009). The universe of the research is composed of different people from different areas of Faisalabad. The researchers took a sample of 12 people from Saman-Abad, Faisalabad. who migrated from rural areas. Interview guides were used as data collection techniques. It gave researchers try to create interview guidelines to improve results. The field trip experience was incredible. Some respondents were not serious, but most were cooperative. It was a wonderful experience.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION:

In this chapter, the researcher gathers data about how migration impacts the rural areas of Faisalabad. The interview schedule was used to obtain the information. The researcher collects the data from those people who migrated from the rural areas to Saman-Abad, Faisalabad.

Table 4.1

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Demographic details

Variable	Category	Frequency
Age	25-35 years	6
	36-50 years	4
	51-65 years	2
	Total	12
Gender	Male	9
	Female	3
	Total	12

Participant A:

The location of my household residence is the center and the work status of the head of the household is a regular employee and income comes from a job. The pre-migration economic status of the household was middle. We migrate for better access to resources and services such as education and healthcare, and the ability to live near other people, and during migration, our household wealth didn't change. Migration can lead to increased cultural exchange and the sharing of ideas and perspectives. However, there are also potential disadvantages of migration. These include the potential for cultural conflict and tension, difficulty in adjusting to a new environment, and the potential for exploitation and discrimination. If migration had not taken place, then the economic condition of our household would be worse.

Participant B:

The location of my residence was central. The head of the household is a regular employee, the income comes from a job. The pre-migration economic status was poor. The reason for migration was to improve our financial situation which was improved during the migration period.

Advantages are

1. Better opportunities for jobs.
2. Easily available resources.
3. Health care benefits.

The only disadvantage we faced is noise, It's always noisy here.

If we hadn't migrated our economic status would have been worse. I can safely say that migration has improved our financial status.

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Participant C:

The households were living in a village before migration. The head of the household was a regular employee at a private firm. He was doing a job at that firm. The households were lower middle-class members of society. But after migration, the households began to progress and become the upper-middle-class part of society. I migrated to hunt and look for opportunities to succeed in my life and earn a handsome livelihood. My household wealth has increased after migration. If I haven't migrated, I would have been suffering with my financial status because of the increase in inflation.

Participant D:

The location of my residence was a village. The head of the household is a regular employee, the income comes from rent. My Pre-migration economic status was Good. The reason for migration was to improve our education and enhance our financial resources which was improved during the migration period. If we hadn't migrated our education and financial facilities would have been worse. I can safely say that migration has improved our education and our wealth.

Participant E:

The location of my previous household residence was a village. The work status of the head of the house is a casual worker. The type of household income is job. The economic status of a household was poor before migration. The economic status of our household after migration is middle income to rich. The reason to migrate was less facilities, poor economic status and lack of opportunities. During the migration period the household wealth decreased. The benefits after migration is that, now we are able to increase our economic status for more opportunities and facilities for both studies and medical point of view. The present economical set of the household would have been worst if we had not migrated. After migration, our income is better now and our kids have more opportunities to study in city.

Participant F:

The location of the household residence was village. The work status of the head of the household is an employer. The type of household income is job. The pre-migration economic status of the household was poor. The economic status of the household after migration is middle income now. We migrated because of better needs of life like for study, for job and in search of food etc. The household wealth during migration period is increased. The advantages after migration is, we have now better facilities of life and our income increases. But after migration from rural area to city, our health is bad now because of pollution.

Participant G:

The location of the household residence was center. The work status of the head of the household is Casual employer. The type of household income is job. The pre-migration economic

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status of the household was middle. The economic status of the household after migration is middle-rich income. We migrated for education. During migration we faced too much difficulties. On that time, we didn't have any advantage of migration. But the disadvantage we face after migration is financially crisis. If migration had not taken place, then the economic condition of our household would be bad.

Participant H:

The location of my household residence was center and the work status of the head of the household is a regular employee and income comes from job. The pre-migration economic status of the household is middle income. The economic status of the household after migration is middle income because of family problems. Household wealth during migration period has been decreased. There is no any advantage yet. The disadvantage of migration includes the tension and difficulty while settling in city. The economic condition would have been better than the worse.

Participant I:

The location of household residence was village. The household head is an employer and the money come from the rent. The pre-migration economic status of the household is middle income. The economic status of the household after migration is poor because of very high rates in city. Everything is very expensive in city rather than rural area. The household wealth during the migration period decreased. The economic condition would have been better.

Participant J:

The location of my household residence is the Center and the work status of the head of the household is a regular Employee and income comes from job. The pre-migration economic status of the household was middle income. The economic status of the households after migration is rich. We migrated for better access of education and our household wealth during the migration period didn't change. Migration helped me get better study and explore new places. And here we can discuss disadvantages as well, there are extreme political issues and cultural conflicts in city. If migration had not taken place our economic condition wouldn't have changed.

Participant K:

The location of my household residence is the center and the work status of the head of the household is an unpaid family worker and income comes from a pension. The pre-migration economic status of the household was poor. Migration can provide access to a more diverse and dynamic community that can provide a sense of belonging, as well as exposure to different cultures and ways of life. It can also provide opportunities for social and professional networking, and personal growth and development. Migration to a new city can lead to feelings of isolation, particularly for those who are not familiar with the local culture or language. This can make it more difficult to form social connections and support networks. If we don't migrate

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then our economic status would be better because city cities tend to have a higher cost of living, such as housing, transportation, and food costs, which can be a burden for low-income households or newly arrived migrants.

Participant L:

The family's home was situated in a rural area. The primary breadwinner of the household held a regular job. The household's financial resources came primarily from wages and rental income. Prior to migration, the family's economic status was middle class. However, after relocating, the family's financial standing improved significantly, placing them in the category of wealthy. The decision to migrate was made in pursuit of better prospects and more opportunities. As a result of migration, the family's wealth also increased. The benefits of migration included access to better job opportunities and higher earning potential. However, the process of migration also brought challenges, such as leaving behind loved ones and struggling to acclimate to a new culture. If the family had not migrated, their economic status would have remained unchanged.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Migration is the process by which individuals relocate from one location to another in search of permanent or semi-permanent employment. Pakistan has the highest rate of immigration from South Asia. One of them is regarded as poverty. It plays an important role in migration in developing countries. Internal migration of the poor, including in Pakistan, seems to be more common. This study's evaluation aims to identify rural household poverty and the effects it has on the Faisalabad District. This study is very important in rural poverty reduction policy recommendations. Govt should pay more attention to areas of Pakistan and improve the health, education and income of individuals or families in rural areas. There must be progressive projects that allow the rural poor to gain access to development. It should be suitable for poor households.

Conclusion

This study uses primary household data from the district of Faisalabad to examine the role that migration—both internal and external—plays in reducing rural poverty. This might be brought on by inadequate infrastructure for health, education, and transportation, a dearth of resources for low-paying jobs in rural areas, and low agricultural production. Most of the households in the rural areas of Faisalabad district are directly or indirectly engaged in the agricultural sector which is in poor condition due to lack of good quality seeds, use of outdated agricultural techniques and as a result, farmers' income decreases. This leads to lower productivity in the agricultural sector, further reducing farmers' incomes and increasing the chances of these households falling below the poverty line. Some people leave their homes in search of better employment chances or higher income opportunities in urban regions or other nations in order to meet their basic needs of family due to the lack of informal sector employment opportunities or low-wage employment opportunities in rural areas. Families with internal or external

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immigrants have a better quality of life. The results find that both internal and external migration have statistically significant and negative effects on poverty reduction. This shows that immigration can improve people's quality of life.

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