

# **SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL FACTORS AFFECTING MIGRATION BEHAVIOR: A CASE STUDY OF DISTRICT KECH BALOCHISTAN**

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## **ABSTRACT**

*The study was designed to give us insight into the migration behavior of the people in the changing patterns of socio-economic, demographic structure, cultural and psychological context. The present study was conducted in district Kech (Balochistan). Purposively sampling technique was applied for selection of the male heads migrant family. Data was collected through a structured questionnaire. The result shows that the majority (60%) of the respondents were fall in age category 46 to 60 years, 50% of the respondents was illiterate, majority 90% of the respondents have married. More than half (55.3%) of the respondents were agriculturists after migration and before migration their ratio was drop off up to 46.perecent. Vast majority 90% of the respondents come here for improve their social contact. Vast majority 95% of the respondents migrated due to lack of laws and orders situation. On the basis of results it was recommended and suggested that government should provide all basic facilities at the door steps and gross root level of*

*masses in order to stop the rural flow of migration. The government must allocate a larger share of development funds for the provision of the basic amenities of a modern and comfortable life.*

**Keywords:** socio-economic, cultural, migration, Kech, Balochistan

## **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. 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). 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).

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. 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 them 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 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; Magill, 1999; Martyn, et al. 2011). 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 (Farah et al. 2012). 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 how socio-economic/ cultural factors affecting migration behavior in district Kech Balochistan province.

### **Problem statement**

The study of migration is an important issue in different fields which comes out not only from the people's movement from place to place but also considers its influence on livelihood aspects of individuals as well as urban growth. Migration from rural area to urban area is one of the major causes of fast and unintended expansion of cities and towns. For developing countries the internal migration rate was always higher in case of rural-urban migration, a distinctive selectivity with respect to age, sex, caste, marital status, education, occupation etc. crop up and the inclination of migration diverge significantly among these socio-economic groups. To estimate the patterns of inter-regional migration and the determinants associated with migration, the question were raised that what are the reasons behind the internal migration in district Kech province of Balochistan and how it effects on socio-economic circumstances and livelihood aspects in district Kech Balochistan. Keeping in view above facts the present study was designed to point up the link between migration and household living conditions which is under stable and explicable that replicates the miscellany of definitions as well as understanding of migrants and migration and socio-economic and cultural factors affecting migration behavior: a case study of district Kech (Balochistan). It was visualized that the results of this research would be

supportive in confirming or negating. Following were specific objectives of present study.

### **Objectives**

1. To determine the socio-economic characteristics of respondents before and after migration.
2. To explore the societal and environmental reasons for migration.

### **Methodology**

The designed in this study will be utilized by sample survey method (Trochim, 2000). Purposively 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. Sample size of sixty (60) respondents of male heads of the migrant family was drawn with the help of McCall (1980) table of “determining sample size from given population”. An interviewing schedule was prepared for this purposed in order to explore the objectives of the present study. The questions in the interview schedule were mostly structured, comprehensive as well as closed and open ended. The data thus collected was analyzed in Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS), with the appropriate statically tools to arrive at the logical conclusion.

### **RESULTS**

Socio-economic characteristics of the male heads of migrant family:

The socio-economic characteristics mainly related to age, education and marital status are characteristics exert their pressure on the behavior of an

individual. Age of an individual makes him mentally mature and able to take rational decisions (Khan, 1991). In this regard the age regarding data were gathered and presented in Table 1.

Table-1: Distribution of respondents regarding to their age (n=60)

| S. NO. | Age          | NO.  | %age  |
|--------|--------------|------|-------|
| 1.     | 20 to 30     | 05   | 10    |
| 2.     | 31 to 45     | 10   | 20    |
| 3.     | 46 to 60     | 30   | 60    |
| 4.     | 60 and above | 15   | 30    |
| Total  |              | 60.0 | 120.0 |

The data shown in Table-1 depicts that majority (60%) of the respondents were fall in age category of 46 to 60 years. Most 30% of the respondents were 60 and above years. Whereas only 10% of the male heads migrant family were 20 to 30 years of age.

Education is extensively regarded as a route to economic prosperity being the key to scientific and technological advancement. Hence, it plays a pivotal role in human capital formation and necessary tools for sustainable socio-economic growth (GoP, 2008-09).

Table-2: Distribution of respondents regarding to their educational level (n=60)

| S. NO. | Educational level | NO. | %age |
|--------|-------------------|-----|------|
|--------|-------------------|-----|------|

|       |               |      |       |
|-------|---------------|------|-------|
| 1.    | Illiterate    | 25   | 50    |
| 2.    | Primary       | 15   | 30    |
| 3.    | Middle        | 10   | 20    |
| 4.    | Matriculation | 05   | 10    |
| 5.    | Intermediate  | 03   | 06    |
| 6.    | Graduation    | 02   | 04    |
| Total |               | 60.0 | 120.0 |

To observe the educational level of the respondents, data were presented in Table-2. Half (50%) of the male heads migrant family was illiterate. Most 30% of the respondents received primary level of education. Whereas (20-10%) of the respondents had middle and matriculation school certificate respectively. Only 6% of the respondents have education intermediate.

Table-3: Distribution of respondents regarding to their marital status (n=60)

| S.NO. | Marital status | NO.  | %age  |
|-------|----------------|------|-------|
| 1.    | Married        | 45   | 90    |
| 2.    | Single         | 15   | 30    |
| 3.    | Widow          | 00   | 00    |
| Total |                | 60.0 | 120.0 |

Marital status mainly divided into three main categories i.e. married, single and widow. The data regarding marital status presented and

depicted in Table-3. Large majority 90% of the respondents have married. Followed by (30%) of the male heads migrant family belonged from single family status.

### **Occupation of migrants**

At the place of destination the availability of employment prospects play a very vital role for making migration decision. In contrast the occupation before migration of the respondents also helps to understand about the occupational factor achieves for migration. Occupation and professional were the important socio-economic variable the data about their occupational selection pattern according to respondent's place of origin and place of destination were tabulated and presented in Table-4.

Table-4: Distribution of respondents regarding to their occupation (n=60)

| S. NO. | Occupation         | Before Migration |       | After Migration |       |
|--------|--------------------|------------------|-------|-----------------|-------|
|        |                    | F                | %age  | F               | %age  |
| 1.     | Agriculturists     | 56               | 46.7  | 66              | 55.3  |
| 2.     | Non-Agriculturists | 64               | 53.3  | 54              | 44.7  |
| Total  |                    | 120              | 100.0 | 120             | 100.0 |

More than half (53.3%) of the male heads migrant family were non-agriculturists before migration and after migration their proportion decreased up to (44.7 percent). More than half (55.3%) of the respondents were agriculturists after migration and before migration their ratio was drop off up to 46.7 percent.



Table-5: Distribution of respondents regarding reason for migration (n=60)

| Reason for migration | Response |    | %age |    | Total |     |
|----------------------|----------|----|------|----|-------|-----|
|                      | Yes      | No | Yes  | No | Yes   | No  |
| Occupational reason  | 30       | 30 | 88   | 32 | 60    | 120 |
| Educational reason   | 40       | 20 | 80   | 20 | 60    | 120 |
| Social reason        | 25       | 35 | 90   | 30 | 60    | 120 |
| Political reason     | 22       | 38 | 60   | 60 | 60    | 120 |
| Beneficial reason    | 50       | 10 | 85   | 35 | 60    | 120 |
| Calamity reason      | 33       | 27 | 60   | 60 | 60    | 120 |

The imperative feature of the present study was logic for migration as perceived by the male heads migrant family the responses and perceptions of the respondents are presented in Table-5. Vast majority 90% of the respondents were perceived that they come here for improve their social contact. Whereas 88-85-80% of the respondents were of the ideas that the valid reasons behind of their migration were e occupational, beneficial and educational purposes respectively. More than half 60-60% of the respondents were provided their perceptions regarding the causes of their migration were political and calamity reason respectively.

Table-6: Distribution of respondents regarding societal and calamity reason behind migration (n=60)

| Societal & calamity reason behind migration | Response |    | %age |    | Total |     |
|---|----------|----|------|----|-------|-----|
|   | Yes      | No | Yes  | No | Yes   | No  |
| Family collisions                           | 34       | 26 | 30   | 90 | 60    | 120 |
| Social insecurity                           | 40       | 20 | 80   | 40 | 60    | 120 |

|                         |    |    |    |    |    |     |
|-------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Lack of laws and orders | 60 | 00 | 95 | 25 | 60 | 120 |
| Gender inequality       | 20 | 40 | 22 | 98 | 60 | 120 |
| Flood                   | 30 | 30 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 120 |
| Drought                 | 43 | 17 | 31 | 89 | 60 | 120 |
| Cyclone                 | 10 | 50 | 33 | 87 | 60 | 120 |

Societal and calamity reason behind migration data shows in Table-6. Vast majority 95% of the respondents were of the views that societal reason behind migration were lack of laws and orders situation. Followed by 80-60% of the respondents were of the opinion that societal reasons behind migration were social insecurity and flood in the area respectively. Most (30%) of the respondents were agreed that the societal reason behind migration were family collisions. Whereas only 22% of the respondents were of the outlook that societal reasons behind migration were gender inequality.

## CONCLUSION

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 as well as reason for natural disasters behind this internal migration and its impact on their livelihood. In present research have investigated a range of demographic and social factors in their study and found that demographic factors such as age, family size and occupation and so on had enormous impact on migration. The decision to move is based on certain felt deprivations, stress, constraints, aspirations, motivation at the place of origin.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

On the basis of achieved results and findings following recommendation were suggested: the government should provide all these facilities at the door steps of villager in order to stop the rural flow of migration and provide opportunity to the rural people raise the living standard; 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 and 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.

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