



Child Labour Migration and Access of their Parents' to Basic Needs

Sami Ullah¹, Ihsan Ullah Khan^{2-3*} and Tariq Ali⁴

1. Department of Sociology, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University Sheringal, Dir Pakistan.
 2. Department of Criminology, Law and Justice, University of Illinois, Chicago USA.
 3. Department of Sociology, University of Peshawar, Peshawar, Pakistan.
 4. Department of Political Science, Islamia College University Peshawar, Pakistan.
-

Abstract

The improvement in access to resources ensures high social status in these traditional societies. This study investigates labour migration and their parents' access to basic needs of life. It upgraded the social status of parents and left behind families. The study sample included of three selected villages of union council Doag Dara, district Dir Upper, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan. A sample size of 278 respondents was selected by using the stratified random sampling technique. Chi-square test was used to find the significance of association between access to basic needs and social status of the emigrant's parents. Social status of the respondents was significantly associated with access to different variables investigated in the research. Revitalizing the positive traits of family institution to enhance taking care and comfort of elderly people and reducing their workload, especially in activities that involve physical exertion, were the major recommendations.

Keywords: Basic Needs, Social Status, International Labour Migration, Migrant's Parents

1. Introduction

People migrate from one region to another in pursuit of good income, well paid jobs, business opportunities thereby supplying good health and food facilities to their families. Therefore, it plays a significant role in raising their family status in terms of economy as well as education and health care facilities. However, in this process of migration, the labours are stressed to provide enough money for the sustenance of their families. The current study has analysed this aspect of migrants and the contribution of money in the form of remittances which is not enough for the wellbeing of their families at home. This study investigated demanding work of the labours abroad and its effect on the living standards of their families back at home. The results of the study show a great association between the earnings of the migrants and the fulfilment of basic needs of life at home to their families. Among various other factors, the availability of nutritious food was basic need which was investigated in this research. Money is important for raising living standards of an individual or a family. The labour working abroad, in extreme conditions, is providing money in the form of remittances to improve the living standards of their families.

The area selected for the sample study is very backward in socio-economic terms as compared to other areas of the country. It lacks basic health facilities, schooling, and other basic human needs. Therefore, this study analyses the impact of remittances on the social uplift of concerned population. This is a quantitative study and the researchers have tried to analyse the impact of teenagers working abroad on the living standards of their families. The results show that there is a significant impact of the living standards of the people and family at home and the labours abroad. Since there is poverty in Pakistan in general and in the sample area, it has a significant impact on the living standards of the relative families.

2. Literature Review

People are moving for their livelihood from one part of the world to another. Furthermore, it can also be due to war, or lawlessness. Labours migration is the most important economic considerations which has been increasing as the time passes. There are certain factors due to which labour migrates, and one of them is their family. The choice of country of destination was also often influenced by the existence of a network of family and friends who have migrated previously to a specific country (Solimano, 2002). Migration in search of employment significantly improves the economic standing of left behind family and national economy in general (GOP, 2008). Remittances in the form of cash are found as a major contribution in assuring a better status to the left behind family members, as they have greater access to money which liberates them from material deprivation, and are helpful in securing better health, and education besides survival, sustenance, rehabilitation and reconstruction in response to natural or man-made circumstances (UN, 2011; Hadi, 1999). Most of the existing studies, which focus on the effects of migration on household members left behind, have shown positive impact in the shorter and longer run. The household members, who are left behind, use remittances for food, security, education, health insurance and strategic motives to improve their life for a long time. It also directly contributes to household income, and facilitates them in buying more goods, along with fulfilling the education and health care requirement (UN, 2011).

The researchers are investigating that how migration policies of the developed countries affect the household of the poor countries. They explored jobs opportunities for foreigner labours which can stimulate the human capital in poor countries household. A million of families in the developing countries receive financial support from family members who work in economically rich countries in North America, Europe, Asia, and Middle East. Receiving more remittances contributes to spend it on various activities which automatically showed the rising position of the individual in society (Dean, 2004). In migration process, the emigrants' children provide more support to their parents. Singh (2000) argues that the emigrants provide remittances to their parents which make their access to the houses for shelter, nutritious food, and clean drinking water. It also increases the chances of parents to access to the better health treatment and to buy clothes according to the seasonal requirement. Comparing the migrant's and non-migrant's families and linking the child migration with the parental health, Knodel et al., (2005) argues that the co-resident parents and those who are living alone, faced more problems than that those parents who are living alone are more disadvantageous, because they required assistance during their illness and disabilities. The report shows that the elderly people face problems who are living alone in rural areas. During the illness of parents of emigrant people there is no one to take care of and support them.

The communication and housing facilities of the families who are left behind are strongly tied with the child migration as explored by Cowgill (1972) the families considered that the emigrants are more important for fulfilling their daily needs. Through the continuous flow of remittances from abroad, the families are encouraged to build spacious and luxurious houses and provide them communication facilities like vehicles for transportations, telephone and internet facility. Silverstein et al., (2006) explored that the emigrant sending remittances to their family; it assists them in their daily routine, like it provides easy services to access the quality of food, clean drinking water, access to the better health treatment and enable them to participate in the community resource utilization like forest and mining.

People migrate with the hope of improvement of living condition. Migration in search of employment significantly improves the economic standing of left behind family and national economy in general, yet it costs deprivation too (GOP, 2008). Remittances in the form of cash are found as major contribution in assuring a better status to the left behind family members, as they have greater access to money which liberates them from material deprivation, and are helpful in securing better health, and education besides survival, sustenance, rehabilitation and reconstruction in response to natural or man-made circumstances. However, the left behind families, especially the parents and wife are burdened with additional responsibilities of caring children (UN, 2011; Hadi, 1999). Most of the existing studies, which focus on the effects of migration on household members left behind, have shown positive impact in both the short run and long run. The household members, who are left behind, use migrants' remittances. Remittances are used to repay loans taken to finance migration or education, and insurance and strategic motives. It also directly contributes to household income, allowing households to buy more assets; enables higher investment in business; and facilitate buying more goods, including education and health inputs (UN, 2011).

3. Materials and Methods

This paper specifically focuses on the effects of child labour migration and their parents' access to basic needs which upgrades their social status and other left behind family members. The study includes the Union Council Doag Dara, Tehsil Sheringal, district Dir Upper in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Pakistan. More specifically, the data has been collected from three selected villages of this Union Council i.e., Doag Payeen, Mian Doag and Daramdala. A total sample of 620 children's parent (male) has been identified who have emigrated to different destination overseas. The sample of 278 respondents was selected through stratified random sampling technique and data is collected using the Sekaran table (2003). The sample size is further distributed by using proportionate allocation formula to different sampled villages to meet efficient opinion of the respondents. A formula developed by Kumar (2005) is followed and given below:

$$n_i = \frac{n \times N_i}{N}$$

n_i = Required sample size.

n = Total sample size.

N_i = Number of the respondents in each sub strata (village).

N = Total Population size.

Table-1: Distribution of Population and Samples Size into Various villages of the Study Area

No.	Villages	Population	Sample size
1	Doag Payeen	200	90
2	Main Doag	300	134
3	Daramdala	120	54
Total		620	278

Source: District Population Office Dir Upper

The conceptual framework was also designed for this quantitative study which is shown in the Figure-1 below:

Figure-1: Conceptual Framework.

Independent variable	Dependent variable
Access to basic needs	Social status

Questions were asked from the respondents through the nominal scale. The dependent variable (social status) was indexed and cross tabulated with independent variable (access to basic needs) to measure the association. Chi-square test outlined by Tai (1978) at bi-variate level was used through the formula as given below:

$$\chi^2 = \sum_{i=1}^r \sum_{j=1}^c \frac{(O_{ij} - e_{ij})^2}{e_{ij}}$$

The Fisher Exact Test which also is known as Exit Chi-square Test was used instead of a simple Chi-Square, to overcome the violation of Chi-Square assumptions. The relationship developed by Fisher to overcome such violation is given in equation devised by (Baily, 1982) through equation shown below:

$$\text{Fisher Exit Test Probability} = \frac{(a+b)! (c+d)! (a+c)! (b+d)!}{N! a! b! c! d!}$$

4. Results and Discussion

4.1. Univariate Analysis of Access to Basic Needs and Social Status

Employment abroad is a source of increase in income and supposed to minimize deprivations at family level. Planned uses of economic resources bring improvement in living standards in shape of improved access to basic needs and facilities. To check the state of respondent's access to basic needs, eight questions were asked. The results are given in Table-2. Majority, 95.3% of the respondent got nutritious food, while a lesser number i.e., 4.3% were deprived of nutritious food. A high proportion of 56.1% respondent had access to better health facilities; on the other hand, 43.9% respondents had no access to better health facilities. Kuhn et al., (2011) supported the result that the children migration had positive links with parental health of the rural village of Indonesia

through improved access to nutritious food and health facilities. The majority respondent, 90.3% lived in sufficiently spaced home, while 9.75% did not live in a sufficiently spaced home. Likewise, a high number of the respondents (92.1%) used good qualities clothes according to the seasonal requirements, the remaining 7.9% responded negated the use of required clothes. According to Singh (2000) the children migration abroad is beneficial for the parents left behind, the remittances coming from the children side are usually spent for the nutritious foods, seasonal cloths and for houses construction.

A considerable number, 84.2% of the respondents had power to avail better transport facilities for mobility, and 15.8% had no access to good transportation system. The Table further elaborated that, 97.8% respondents accessed to electronic communication system like telephone/mobile, while 2.2% had no such type of facilities. Assistance is given by Tabuga (2007) study that there were finding larger positive impacts on monetary receiver with larger shares on consumer goods, fuel, and communication. More in this regard, 91.4% respondents had access to use communal resources like forest, although 8.6% had no access. Table-2 justifies that, 68.7% respondents accessed to clean drinking water at home, and 31.3% not availed these facilities. From the result it was clear that remittances make possible the parents left behind to avail basic facilities of life which were not possible without remittances.

Table-2: Frequency and Percentage Distributions regarding Access to Basic Needs and Social Status

Statements	Yes		No	
	OV	%V	OV	%V
Do you avail chances to get nutritious food?	266	95.3	12	4.3
Do you have access to better health facilities?	156	56.1	122	43.9
Do you live in a sufficiently spaced home?	251	90.3	27	9.7
You used good quality cloth according to the seasonal requirements.	256	92.1	22	7.9
You have access to a better transport system for your mobility.	236	84.2	44	15.8
You have access to communication system like telephone/mobile	272	97.8	6	2.2
You have access to uses of communal resources like forest.	254	91.4	24	8.6
You have access to clean drinking water at home.	191	68.7	87	31.3

Note: OV represent object value and %V represents percent value

4.2. Bivariate Analysis of Access to Basic Needs and Social Status

Availing the basic needs is a fundamental human right and essential for satisfactory life. The children employed abroad make it possible through having enough economic resources finds access to basic needs. Overseas employment of children is a direct source for meeting the basic needs in shape of having access to basic life needs like food, cloths, shelter, and health. To determine the association between the access to basic needs due to remittances and social status, the variable was restricted to the statements given in the Table-3. A significant ($p=0.003$)

association was found between the access to nutritious food and social status of the parents. The result clarifies that the enough financial help given by emigrant children can enable the parents to consume the nutritious food. Findings of Singh (2000), support these findings that remittances and children employment are strongly associated with the food security of rural poor families. Similarly, a highly significant ($p=0.000$) association was found between access to better health facilities due to remittances and social status of the parents. The study universe is remotely located and deficient in health facilities like doctor and medicine. Access to better health facilities is made possible by financial support from children abroad, which in its turn symbolizes high social status. Kuhn et al. (2011), supported the result that the children out-migration and remittances had positive links with parental health of the rural village of Indonesia.

Table-3: Bivariate Analysis of Access to Basic Needs and Social Status

Statements	Attitude	N	%	Social Status				Chi-square	P-value
				High	%	Low	%		
Do you avail chances to get nutritious	Yes	266	95.7	185	66.5	81	29.1	10.408**	0.003
	No	12	4.3	3	1.1	99	3.2		
Do you have access to better health facilities	Yes	156	56.1	126	45.3	30	10.8	28.048**	0.000
	No	122	43.9	62	22.3	60	21.6		
Do you live in a sufficiently spaced home	Yes	251	90.3	175	62.9	76	27.3	5.182**	0.03
	No	27	9.7	13	4.7	14	5.0		
You used good quality cloth according to the seasonal requirements	Yes	256	92.1	188	62.6	68	30.6	49.905**	0.000
	No	22	7.9	00	00	22	7.9		
You have access to a better transport system for your mobility	Yes	234	84.2	175	62.9	59	21.2	34.624**	0.000
	No	44	15.8	13	4.7	31	11.2		
You have access to communication system like telephone/mobile	Yes	272	97.8	188	67.6	84	30.2	12.81**	0.001
	No	6	2.2	00	00	6	2.2		
You have access to uses of communal resources like forest.	Yes	254	91.4	185	66.5	69	24.8	36.461**	0.000
	No	24	8.6	3	1.1	21	7.6		
You have access to clean drinking water at home	Yes	191	87.7	127	45.7	64	23.0	0.358	0.583
	No	87	31.3	61	21.9	26	9.4		

**P-value <0.01

A significant ($p=0.030$) association was found between enough space home and social status of parents. This is due to prevalence of large houses irrespective of the presence of family members working abroad. Moreover, a highly significant ($p=0.000$) association existed between having enough seasonal cloth, and social status. Having enough cloth is a symbol of social status and sponsored through financial support from abroad. This result is supported by Singh (2000), that the children migration is directly proportional to environmental or seasonal protection. Again, a highly significant ($p=0.000$) relationship was found between access to transportation facilities and social status. It was seen that the peoples of the study area symbolise their status through ownership

of their vehicles which also is an approach source in remote areas. Likewise, a highly significant ($p=0.001$) association was found between the access to communication system like telephone/mobile and social status. The remoteness of the study area restricts communication through telecommunication. Having access to such facilities is costly and symbolized as prestigious. The results are supported by Tabuga (2007) that the larger shares on consumer goods, fuel, and communication depend upon the flow of remittances from abroad in rural Philippine. A highly significant ($p=0.000$) association was found between the use of communal resources like forest and social status. Investment in communal natural resources establishes their rights in the tribal society, which possible through amount sent through remittances. Conversely, a non-significant ($p=0.583$) association was found between the access to clean drinking water at home and the social status of the left behind families.

5. Conclusions

Foreign remittances are a source of improvement in access to basic needs. Access to such facilities was culturally symbolized as prestigious and bore high value. Therefore, improvement in access to resources ensures high social status in these traditional societies. It is suggested that the Government should improve the access of elderly people to basic living, health, and nutritional requirements by making available these needs on their doorstep. To sum up the discussion, it can be aptly said there is a direct relationship between the labour working abroad and the social life of the parents and family at home. The results show that there is a significant relationship between the independent and dependent variables.

References

- Abuga, A. (2007). International Remittances and Household Expenditures, *PIDS Discussion Paper*.
- Baily, K. D. (1982). *Methods of Social Research* (2nd ed). New York: Macmillan Publishing Co., Inc.
- Cowgill, D. O. (1972). The Role and Status of the Aged in Thailand. *Aging and Modernization*, 91-101.
- Government of Pakistan, (2008). Economic Survey of Pakistan. *Economic Advisor Wing*. Finance Division, Islamabad.
- Hadi, A. (1999). Overseas migration and the well-being of those left behind in rural communities of Bangladesh. *Asia-Pacific Population Journal*, 14(1), 34-43.
- Knodel, J., Chayovan, N., Mithranon, P., Amornsirisomboon, P., & Arunraksombat, S. (2005). Thailand's older population: Social and economic support as assessed in 2002. *Population Studies Centre Research Report*, (05-471).
- Kuhn, R., Everett, B., & Silvey, R. (2011). The effects of children's migration on elderly kin's health: A counterfactual approach. *Demography*, 48(1), 183-209.
- Kumar, R. (2005). *Research Methodology: A step-by-step guide for beginners*. Sage Publications Limited.
- Sekaran, U. (2003). *Research Methods for Business*. USA: Hermitage Publishing Services.
- Silverstein, M., Cong, Z., & Li, S. (2006). Intergenerational transfers and living arrangements of

- older people in rural China: Consequences for psychological well-being. *The Journals of Gerontology Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences* 61(5), S256-S266.
- Singh, I. B. (2000). Bihar: Yet to Reap the Bonus of her Backwardness. E-Seminar on Poverty in Bihar.
- Solimano, A. (2002). Globalizing Talent and Human Capital: Implications for Developing Countries. Santiago: United Nations.
- Tai, S. W. (1978). *Social Science Statistics: Its Elements and Applications*. California: Goodyear Publishing Company.
- United Nations (2011). *Impacts of Remittances on Poverty and Developing Countries*. New York: USA. Retrieved on March 15, 2013 from http://www.unctad.org/en/Docs/ditctncd20108_en.pdf.
- Yang, D. (2004). How remittances help migrant families. *University of Michigan*. Retrieved from file:///D:/remmtance/Migration%20Information%20Source%20%20How%20Remittances%20Help%20Migrant%20Families.html.