Trends, Patterns and Impact of Migration in Karachi

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ABSTRACT

The process of migration has a long history. Migration occurs at international, national and regional levels. There is more trend of migration from rural to urban. Karachi (an international city of Pakistan) is a hub of business, trade and industries. The seaport in the city may have attraction for skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled people. Many people may travel to Karachi for jobs, for business for investment, for better education, and for better health facilities. When people of different cultures move to Karachi and start living, definitely their settlement adds problems in the city. People bring with them their cultural social, historical, and geographical identities. The purpose of study is to find out nature of migration and migrants problems in Karachi. The data was collected by survey 150 respondents (having different ethnic backgrounds), 15 IDIs and 05 FGDs. The content analysis technique is use for qualitative analysis. The analyzed data is in graphs and in description. The study reveals that people migrate to Karachi for jobs, industry; trades, better health and education (pull factors). Poverty, lacks of resources, warfare, natural disasters (push factors) also help move people to Karachi. The migrants are unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled. Most of them have temporary settlement. The migrants' issues include accommodation, health, security, foods and homesickness. Whatever, it is, migration has enhanced their socio-economic status in their respective relatives and areas. However, there is need to conduct an ethnographic study of migration trends, patterns, nature, and migrants issues. There is also need to locate from, where unskilled semi-skilled and skilled migrant move and which kind of skill they have.

Keywords: Migration, Karachi, Trends, Impact, settlement, health, Issues, unskilled, ethnographic study

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

Migration is not a new phenomenon.¹It starts with the history of human being and country and people had to confront the difficulty emerging from the diversified groups in one polity. It is thought that demographic growth, climate change, economic needs, combat and nation building, state and empire contributed to migration.² Basically, human nature is inquisitive but more than that search of food, water, shelter, and favorable climate lead people to migrate.³ It is believed that military invasion and successive local development are the ways most recognizable through which ethnic groups have extended their cultural influence. Forced displacement also takes place because of natural hazards and phenomenon. War, cross border conflicts, tribal war fares, family clashes, better job opportunities, better health facilities, better education and more secure and safer place to live have contributed much to migration of people. Again there is now, according to the scholar, the growth of an "immigration industry" in many developing countries is also facilitating both legal and illegal female migration.⁴ It has been found that job transfer and switching, job search and marriage. Mainly earnings and joblessness are descriptive variables. Low unemployment in one area exerts high influence.⁵

1.2 Economical and Developmental Impacts of Migration:

Shaikh and Nabi ⁶ point that with an urban population growing 3 % per year, Pakistanis are moving to cities faster than any other country in South Asia. By 2030, more than half of Pakistan's projected 250 million citizens are

¹ Farooq, M. The impact of Internal Migration on Individuals and Institution in Punjab, Pakistan, PhD thesis, University of Agriculture Faisalabad, Pakistan, (2005-6)

² Castles, S. International migration at the beginning of twenty first century: global trends and issues, UNESCO, ISSJ 165/2000, Malden, USA, (2000)

³ Van. H., N. Theories of Migration and Social change, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, DOI:10.1080/1369183X.2010.489359, (2010)

⁴ Ghosh, J. Migration and gender employment: Recent trends and emerging issues, Human Development Research Paper, United Nations Development Program, (2009)

⁵ Greenwood, J., M. Human Migration: Theory, Models, and Empirical Studies, *Journal of Regional Science*, Vol. 25, No. 4, (1985)

⁶ Shaikh H. & Nabi, E. *The six biggest challenges facing Pakistan's urban future*, *International Growth center*, available at <https://www.theigc.org/blog/the-six-biggest-challenges-facing-pakistans-urban-future/>, 16 Jan 2017)

supposed to settle in cities. In other words, Ishfaq, et al,⁷ says that Pakistan's urbanization is now the highest in South Asia, and its urban population will equal its rural population by 2030. Undoubtedly, migration leaves tremendous effect on migrants' family, or country whether it is internal or international migration.⁸ It is believed that International migration contributes a lot to strengthen the economic development of all region of the world. The economic theory reveals that the foremost reason of migration is attempt made by an individual to capitalize his earnings by moving from low-wage to high-wage economies. It has been studied that migration has had positive impact on development of sending countries. The development bases on strong economy of the country.⁹ To support this point, they argue that migration has had positive impact on the economy of the migrants via remittances. In other words, the remittance increases cash flow in the country and increases the buying power of the respective people which leaves positive impact on the domestic economic development. This is the main benefit obtained by labor sending countries. It is reported that the beginning of eighties has seen a large amount of remittance which has a significance contribution to the economy of countries like Pakistan and Sri Lanka.¹⁰

The study shows that remittance flows has helped Bangladesh reduce poverty by 6%. It means that this remittance has helped to improve the economy of the country and if the poverty is reduced, the country can make development.¹¹ It has been observed that immigrants have been considered as progressive having constructive impact on development by bringing back to the native country where the community improvement and awareness

⁷ Ishfaq, S., Ahmed, V., Hassan, D., & Javed, A. Internal Migration and Labor Mobility in Pakistan, South Asia Migration report 2017, Routledge India,(2017)

⁸ IOM Situation report on International Migration in East and South Asia , Bangkok,(2008)

⁹ Katseli, T., Louka, B., E., Lucas, X. Effects of Migration on Sending Countries: *What Do We Know*, International Symposium on International migration and Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations Secretariat Turin, Italy, 28-30 June 2006, UN/POP/MIG.Symp? 2006/11/Rev, 31 August

¹⁰ Piyasiri, W. Asian Labor Migration: Issues and Challenges in Era of Globalization Reports and Conclusions:ILO Asia Pacific regional Symposium for Trade Union Organization on Migrant Workers, 6-8 December 1999, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, ILO, (1999).

¹¹ Mehdi, S., S. Refugees memories in India and Pakistan: divided Countries. Separated cities. (Edit Ghiislaine Glasson), New Delhi, Oxford University Press, (2003)

that would crack orthodoxy.¹² Moreover, it has been explored that if migration is handled properly, it can produce significant increase for both the receiving countries and the countries they belong to. It has been found that Europe receives less skilled migrants than the USA. USA received more skilled migrants than other countries.¹³ He further points that the EU has received highly skilled migrants who belong to the Caribbean islands, Balkans, South West Asia, East Europe and Sub Saharan Africa.

1.3 Socio-Cultural Impacts of Migration:

It is believe that migration leaves prints on people of both sending and receiving countries, which neither can be scratch nor can be delete.¹⁴ It helps to uplift the social status of the migrant's family. The finically strong family enjoys a reputable and respectable status in the society. Moreover, one study reveals that migration has long shaped the nature of societies. Moreover, there is improvement in living conditions and change social status and structure. The research marks the point that migrants move in hope from yield to favela.¹⁵ Life in city is better, more healthy, more interesting and with a better chance of advancement. It is further said that they are not passive victims.

A scholar think that migration helps to challenges cultural and national life styles.¹⁶The social connotation of diverse ethnicity bases largely on meaning linked to it by people and the countries of destination. Migration creates complex process for existing ethnic or racially divided societies with long-standing minorities. Moreover, the migration expert observes that there is usually conceived expectation that migrants would reject their conventional values and practices and follow those of the main society.¹⁷ It has been

¹² Horevitz, E. Understanding the Anthropology of Immigration and Migration', *Journal of Human Behavior in Social Environment*, 19:6, 745-758, (2009)

¹³ Castles, S. International migration at the beginning of twenty first century: global trends and issues, UNESCO, ISSJ 165/2000, Malden, USA, (2000)

¹⁴ Van. H., N. Theories of Migration and Social change, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, DOI:10.1080/1369183X.2010.489359, (2010).

¹⁵ Pearce Fred Effects of Urban Migration, Daily DAWN, Monday, Sept. 20, 2010, Guradian, London, (2010).

¹⁶ Castles, S. *Twenty-First Century Migration as a Challenge to Sociology*", *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 33:3,351-371, (2007).

¹⁷ Vertovec, S., Wessendorf, S. Migration and Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Diversity in Europe: An overview of issues and trends, *International Migration, Integration and*

further investigated by the same researcher that migrants do not own the host country. The migrants have either permanent settlement or temporary settlement. They are reluctant to avoid taking part in the development of country. It can be derived that they may not own the host country.

Similarly, besides their economic development, a few Pakistani leaders show their concerns and fears that Afghans can be a security risk for the country.¹⁸ They think there would be anarchy, violence, and anti-state activities. The Afghans do not own the country. Many officials of government of Pakistan point out that Afghan people are involved in stolen goods, smuggling, weapons and narcotics across border to the west of Pakistan.

Migration also raises the issue of brain-drain. It is pointed out that the current material on the brain-drain has drawn has highlighted some of the prospective advantages of technology transfers, trade and flow of capital tempted by 'brain circulation', opposing the conventional beliefs of overwhelming harm to those left behind. So there is also pull factor involves in migration.¹⁹

1.4 Migratory Trends and Issues in Karachi:

Khan and Khan 2016²⁰ have found that Karachi has expanded to approximately 24 million populations and is a main destination for internal migrants. 45% of migrants in Karachi live in shanty towns with no ownership, leadership or reforms in policies, while adding to the security issues and unorganized urbanization of the city leading to problems regarding housing, employment.²¹ Karachi has attracted and pulled people from all parts of Pakistan because in Karachi there is harbor and it has made it industrial and commercial hub of Pakistan. It means that Karachi pulls the people from across the country. Consequently, migration to Karachi has

Social Cohesion (IMISCOE), Centre on Migration, Policy and Society [COMPAS], University of Oxford, (2004).

¹⁸ Mehdi, S., S. *Conflict, migration, and peace*, * ¾, pp 55-84, (2007).

¹⁹ Lucas, E., B. *Diaspora development: Highly Skilled Migrants from East Asia*, and World bank, (2001)

²⁰ Khan, A Khan, A. A. *Rural To Urban Migration: Connecting Opportunities, Addressing Gaps and Harnessing the Potential of Urbanization*. Rural-Urban Migration Dialogue Series, Akhter Hameed Khan Resource Centre, (2016)

²¹ Malik, H., I. *What Is Wrong in Karachi?* Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. 33, No. 33/34 (Aug. 15-28, 1998), pp. 2219-2221, (1998)

become key factor which has contributed in the growth of the city through its history.²² The scholar of migration believes that the external and internal migration has made Karachi the most plural region in the country.²³ The population of Karachi has been increasing by 5% annually because of internal migration. The studies have shown that nearly 250,000 poverty ridden people annually from NWF province (Now Khyber Pakhtoonkhah) and from Punjab migrate to Karachi for earning. It is said that people move to Karachi because they are recommended by their relatives. They gave examples of Mirza (resident of Kosar Niazi Colony) who recommended his relatives who have been living (as workers in brick kiln) in Lawa in Pothore plateau of North Punjab.²⁴

The growth in Karachi's population is largely because of the migration from the interior of Sindh as well as other parts of Pakistan.²⁵ People move to Karachi because of political victimization, poverty, family conflict and tribal warfare. But it has been worked out that in 1980s, the migration of Afghan refugees also affected the demographic transition in Karachi.²⁶

It is said that when the partition was made, in August 1947 and April 1951, 06 million non-Muslims moved to India from Pakistan and eight million Muslims came in Pakistan from India. It has been found that in majority of refugees were adjusted in west Punjab who came from east Punjab.²⁷ But the refugees who came later settled in urban areas of Sindh and they were Urdu speaking who came from northern, central, and western provinces of India. The census of 1951 reveals that 55% population of Karachi consisted of

²² Gazdar, H. (no date) Migration Policy and Urban Governance: The Case of Karachi, *Abstract*, Collective for Social Science Research, accessed on 21-2-11 available at www.researchcollective.org.

²³ Malik, Karachi, pp. 2219-2221, (1998)

²⁴ Gazdar, Haris., Mulla H. B. The Making of a 'Colony' in Karachi and the Politics of Regularization, *South Asia Multidisciplinary Academic Journal* [Online], 5 | 2011, Online since 30 décembre 2011, Connection on 15 février 2012. URL: <http://samaj.revues.org/index3248.html>, (2011).

²⁵ Hussain, A. Ethnicity, National Identity and Patriotism: *The Case of Pakistan*, *Asian Survey*, Vol. 16, No. 10, pp. 918-930, (1976)

²⁶ Mehdi, S., S. Migration and Multiculturalism and peace City: The experience of Karachi in State, Society and Displaced people in South Asia, (edit Imtiaz Ahemd et al) Dhaka University Press Ltd pp312-326, (2004).

²⁷ Hasan, A. (1999) Understanding Karachi Planning & Reform for Future, Karachi City Press, (1999).

Mohajirs. Jinnah declared Karachi as capital of Pakistan and in 1947-1954, 1 million Urdu speaking Muslims came to Karachi.

Again, there is other point of view that the constituent assembly made decision to separate it from Sindh and Sindhi members resisted because their important heritage seemed to be lost. In 1955, Sindh, Baluchistan, NWFP, Punjab and tribal areas were formed One Unit-West Pakistan, and Lahore was declared its capital and Karachi remained its capital. In 1958, the Federal government made decision to shift capital to Islamabad and Karachi was made capital of Sindh once again.

Migration has played a very important part in demographic change. The city received the attention of refugees from South Asia in search of better life.²⁸ Majority of Muslims population migrated from India and most of Hindus moved back. According to the studies, the internal migration also took place in 1950s and 1960s from Punjab and NWFP.²⁹

According to Population Bureau of Statistics (2017 Census),³⁰ the population of Pakistan, Sindh province and Karachi as under,

Administrative units	Population 2017	Population 1998
Pakistan	207,774,520	132,352,279
Sindh	47,886,051	30,439,893
Karachi Division	16,051,521	9,856,318

It has been studied that in 1970s and 1980s, in 1971, there was flow of ethnic migration; Bihari refugees, and there was also migrants from Afghanistan in 1980.³¹

Hasan and Mohib indicated that the consecutive migratory waves brought changes in the religious, ethnic, linguistic and demographic fabric of the city. It is said that in 1941, the population of Hindus, Sikhs and Jains consisted of

²⁸ Malik, I., Review of *Life after Partition: Migration, Community and Strife in Sindh, 1947-1962*, by Sarah Ansari (review no. 636) available at <http://www.history.ac.uk/reviews/review/636> Date accessed: October 5 2010

²⁹ Hasan, A. Karachi, (1999)

³⁰ Population Bureau of Statistics PROVINCE WISE PROVISIONAL RESULTS OF CENSUS – 2017, Government of Pakistan, (2017).

³¹ Haq, F. Rise of the MQM in Pakistan: Politics of Ethnic Mobilization, *Asian Survey*, Vol. 35, No. 11, pp. 990-1004, (1995)

53% and Muslims made population of 42% in 1941. However, in 1951, the Muslims were 98% and Hindus were 1.5%.³²

Further, in 1947, Sindhi speaking community was three-fifths of population. When multiethnic migrants from India came they were mainly Urdu speaking and became in majority and Sindhis became in minority.

The rapid increase of migration with decline of formal sector's capability to supply basic infrastructure to the people contributed to violence. 50% population has been settled informally or illegally. 47% water is supplied by tankers etc. Public transport has been dominated by private owners. Over all, the informal sectors dominate the city. The strong social networks depend on family bond, ethnic background, and identity of religion and sects.

According to World Population Review (2016-17),³³ Karachi is growing 5% annually mainly because of rural to urban flow of migration and 45000-50000 workers and labors migrate to Karachi every month.

1.5 Patterns of Migration:

In 1951, Karachi has 14.28% Sindhis and 58.7% Urdu speaking community, which means Karachi became Muhajirs City overnight.³⁴ Waseem³⁵ has observed that the refugees' rehabilitation in Karachi and Sindh was not satisfactory. In Punjab, he further exclaims that the migration process stopped but in Karachi and Sindh continued. By 1954, 2, 40,000 out of 7, 50,000 migrants needed to be rehabilitated. Most of them started settling in urban areas of Sindh. This migration process created immense problems of settlement in Karachi.

According to one view, in the beginning Mohajirs dominated politics, bureaucracy and business.³⁶ The Gujrati community which consists of Memon, Bohra, and Khoja were seven out of twelve largest industrialists. In

³² Hasan, A., Mohib, M. Urban Slums: The Case of Karachi, Pakistan, (2010)

³³ World Population Review Karachi population available at <http://worldpopulationreview.com/world-cities/Karachi-population>, (2016-17).

³⁴ Waseem, M. Ethnic Conflict in Pakistan: The Case of MQM, The Pakistan Development Review, 35.4 Part II, pp 617-629, (1996)

³⁵ Zaidi, S., A. Sindhi vs Mohajir in Pakistan: Contradiction, Conflict, Compromise, *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 26, No. 20 (May 18, 1991), pp. 1295-1302, (1996).

³⁶ Zaidi, S., A. Sindhi vs Mohajir in Pakistan: Contradiction, Conflict, Compromise, *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 26, No. 20 (May 18, 1991), pp. 1295-1302, (1991)

1972, Bhutto nationalized industry where electrical engineering, petrochemical industry, iron, and steel automotive assembly plants were owned by Mohajirs. It has been observed that the political attitudes of Mohajirs were based on paternalistic vision of society, enhanced commitment to ideological mobilization and lack of tolerance for provincial and ethnic aspirations.

It has been studied that in 1958, the military coup dominated Punjabis in control of key positions in the corporate sector.³⁷ The shift of capital also pointed to the dominance of Punjab-based army in new dispensing, largely at the expense of Mohajirs. Theoretical nationalism backed ideological nationalism as dominant mode of thinking. In 1970s, it was said that there are four cultures, Sindhi, Punjabi, Baloch and Pashtun.

According to one study, there are four waves of migration in Karachi:³⁸
1940-50s----Mohajirs

When the bulk of Mohajirs came in Karachi during the first wave of migration, they started living in kachi abadis which were devoid of the basic facilities of life. They found themselves helpless with the local government for provision of tenure and civic amenities. It is said that in 1980s, Mohajirs started moving away from Islam and Pakistan.

In 1980s, ethnicity came on surface as dominant theme for survival. Mohajirs developed a sense of nationalism in Karachi and Sindh against Punjabi and Pathan migrants. In the beginning, Punjabis joined with Mohajirs, and Pathans to form Mohajirs-Punjabi-Pakhtun Muttahida Mohaz which aimed to secure the rights of three migrant communities in Sindh. Moreover, Mohajirs separated and joined with Sindhis against Punjabis.

1960-80s Punjabis and Pathans

The Punjabi migrants were circular migrants. They were engaged in industrial jobs where as Pathans followed construction work, diggers of soil,

³⁷ Malik, I., Review of Life after Partition: Migration, Community and Strife in Sindh, 1947-1962, by Sarah Ansari (review no. 636) available at <http://www.history.ac.uk/reviews/review/636> Date accessed: October 5 (2010)

³⁸ Waseem, M. Ethnic Conflict in Pakistan: The Case of MQM, The Pakistan Development Review, 35.4 Part II, pp 617-629, (1996)

retail sellers, and transport. They behaved as working-life migrants tied with home. Both kept their cultural and linguistic identity. They did not assimilate in the main culture.

1970-90s--- Sindhis

In 1970s, in the third wave, Sindhis came to Karachi and Hyderabad to reintegrate these cities with Sindh in administrative and political sense. PPP government led by Mumtaz Ali Bhutto passed Language Bill and the government introduces quota system to introduce Sindhis in Karachi. The Green revolution in Sindh in 1980s displaced many Sindhis tenants and haris (labors at agricultural land) in from land and pushed them to Karachi

1980-90s—foreigners, Afghan, Iranians, Ethiopians, Sri Lankan, Bangladeshis, Burmese, Thais, Bangladeshi, Philippines Karachi was mid-way stop on the route to Gulf, and became center of underground activities, human trafficking, women trafficking and smuggling from Bangladesh and Afghanistan, and involved in drug.

1.6 Physical (infrastructure) and Social Issues of Migration

In 1947, Karachi became capital of Pakistan and it was detached from Sindh and was designate as the Federal capital Area. The political figures and intelligentsias of Sindh showed their reservations and objected this separation. Many buildings which were of Sindh took over by Federal capital. This led to first Karachi-Sindh conflict.

It has been studied that the multi ethnic and multi class refugees (600,000) occupied open land and empty buildings of fleeing Hindus.³⁹ People from all walks of life including artists, thinkers, philosophers, poets, performers, and labors lived in the same areas near Sadar Bazaar. In 1952, a university was established and federal secretariat was constructed near to Bazar. In Civil Lines, quarters, embassies were established. As a result, in four years, the Sadar Bazar of Karachi was considered as the main point of the city with different multinational culture and Karachi became a highly density multi-class city. In the old buildings, the functions were held. It was used for conferences entertainment, musical concert etc. Different strata of city like

³⁹ Hasan, A. (1999) Understanding Karachi Planning & Reform for Future, Karachi, City Press, (1999).

students, politicians, ambassadors, thinkers, and working class all used it. There was an increase in Cinema and film festivals started regularly.

He further says that to fulfill the need of capital and to accommodate civil servants and other employees, cooperative housing societies around the city were launched. Resultantly, the elite and refugees started leaving for new societies. To settle the new migrants who came from different areas of the country, the administration started new plans.

It is thought that the population of Karachi made an increase by 217% between in 1951 and 1972 and many reasons are given for this,⁴⁰ These are as follows:

In 1958 the Kotri Barrage on lower Indus was built and consequently fishermen of different villages had to leave the area and they moved to Karachi to join fishing industry.

Military rulers were from NWFP and they patronized their ethnic groups and helped them to establish their business, industries, and transport activities in Karachi. They as labor started working in port, industries, and building site. They were regarded as more painstaking and more trustworthy than local. They were selected in security forces, police and by end 1960s, Karachites, of refugees, or natives were nudged out of the occupations. Prior to Ayub period, transport was owned by Bloch and Sindhis and so were taxies. Sindhis and Bloch also were the contactors of government.

This developed the political disturbances and aggression for the reasons that of money-making activities and professions were recognized with one or another ethnic faction.

Ayub was great believer in centralized government. The regional languages were disallowed for educational activities and the refugees' population supported it to promote Urdu. Consequently, this distanced Sindhi from Urdu speaking people.

It has been found out that the growth in Karachi's population is largely because of the migration from the interior of Sindh as well as other parts of

⁴⁰ Ibid.

Pakistan.⁴¹ A scholar thinks that the population dynamics is very powerful science if big city ignores it; consequently it faces problems which can burn it.⁴² The other scholars present their point of view that in Karachi, the social, political, religious, ethnic, and economic considerations are push factors which make people migrate from their birth places or origin.⁴³ People from Sindh migrate to avoid being the victim of honor killing. They further say that migration is clearly an urban phenomenon.

According to Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (2017),⁴⁴ Karachi consisted of 6 districts, viz, East, West, Central, South, Korangi and Malir and Karachi had 28.72% of Sindh province. Most of head offices, offices, business and trade centers are in Karachi which has the capacity to absorb the huge population. High quality schools, colleges, universities, hospitals, and communication facilities are available here. It also causes many problems. Though there are many facilities in the city, but according to a study, the migrants have to face problems to avail all the amenities. The major problem which migrants have to face is of accommodation. It means that the infrastructure is not supporting.⁴⁵

Scholars considers that Karachi has always been a very distinct social, political and cultural entity, quite apart from the rest of the country and especially from Sindh.⁴⁶ Karachi is the hub of economic and industrial activities which pull people from other regions. Many previous work reveals that economic factor is dominant to attract people to Karachi. To substantiate it, it has been found that 48% people migrate to Karachi for employment and 26% come for business purposes. But another study reveals that 61% come to Karachi for study. People move to Karachi because they face poverty in their own areas.⁴⁷ Furthermore, it has been observed that 91% female

⁴¹ Saleem, F. Karachi's disease is purely political, *The NEWS*, Tuesday, January 18 Karachi, (2011)

⁴² Nasar, A., Aamir, N. (no date), *Internal Migration: The case of Sindh*, Conference Paper No. 40, SPDC, Accessed at on 01-10-10 available at www.spdc.org.pk

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) Districts in Karachi, available at <http://www.kmc.gos.pk/Contents.aspx?id=84#6>, (2017)

⁴⁵ Zaidi, S., A. Sindhi vs Mohajir in Pakistan: Contradiction, Conflict, Compromise, *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 26, No. 20 (May 18, 1991),

⁴⁶ Gazdar, H. (no date) *Migration Policy and Urban Governance: The Case of Karachi*, Abstract, Collective for Social Science Research, accessed on 21-2-11 available at www.researchcollective.org

⁴⁷ Ibid.

migration is because of marriage and honor killing. There is another negative aspect of migration to Karachi is that it brings the brain of other areas and keep those areas undeveloped.

People migrate to Karachi because of better job opportunities, business, industry, better health and educational facilities, entertainment, as an international city, marriage and family relationship. It has been observed that the migrants do not show any interest in the development of city. They (migrants) just come to earn and go back and celebrate their festivals in their own native cities, towns and villages. It is pointed out that migrants send remittance to their family members who live in his native town.⁴⁸

2 Research Questions:

1. What are major migratory trends (push and pull factors) in Karachi?
2. What are the patterns (nature of settlement) of migration in Karachi?
3. What are the major migrant issues in Karachi?
4. What is impact of migration on socio-economic conditions of migrants in Karachi?

3 Methods:

This is a qualitative research in which the data was collected by survey (sample size; 150 respondents having different ethnic backgrounds (Mohajir, Punjabi, Pashtun, Sindhi, Bloch, Seriki, Hindko, Kashmeri, etc.) questionnaire (pretest was made to check whether tool is understandable and workable) and conducting 15 IDIs and 05 FGDs (7-8 migrants) in the field (at tea houses, small hotels; where just tea and food is available and at their residential places etc.). For data collection mixed techniques, snow ball and convenient sampling techniques were used. The collected data was analyzed by applying content analysis techniques. The survey tool was close-ended and having 15 questions to address different variables, job, industry, unskilled, settlement etc. But the tool used for IDIs and FGDs was same. The tool covered migrants' issues, migration trends, patterns and nature of migration. The recording IDIs and FGDs were denied and the responses were

⁴⁸ Hasan A., Raza M. Migration and small towns in Pakistan, Working Paper Series on Rural-Urban Interactions and Livelihood Strategies, WORKING PAPER 15, Human Settlements Program, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) London, (2009)

noted down clearly. To ensure, the clarification and correctness of responses, the noted responses were orally told to them (respondents). The responses and observations were noted in the diary. The analyzed data was presented in graphs and in description.

4 Survey, IDIs and FGDs Results:

4.1 Migratory Trends (push and pull factors) in Karachi

The results revealed that there are more pull factors than push factors. It means that Karachi has attraction for people who belong to different communities in different areas of Pakistan.

The following graphs reveal that job (41%) opportunity (ies) is most contributing factor among Pull Factors (job, industry job, business opportunities, education, and better health facilities) and industry attraction is a leading contributing factor.

Similarly, among Push Factors (poverty, natural disaster, warfare, lack of resources and loan), poverty is most problems which forces people of Pakistan to move Karachi. So in poverty-ridden areas, people do not have another option. In Pakistan, there are certain areas where lack of resources makes people migrate to Karachi. Natural disaster (earthquake, flood, water logging) also contributes to migration of people to Karachi. Importantly, loan has emerged as one of the contributing factors. This because, in Pakistan, in rural areas particularly and might be in urban setting too, the wealthy men offers loan on interest basis for wedding, construction of houses, to buy domestic animals, agricultural raw materials (seeds, fertilizers, watering and plough filed) but when they cannot pay back so they migrate to Karachi to get rid of it.

4.2 Migration Patterns, Levels, and Migrants Issues

It has been found that mostly unskilled (66%) migrants move to Karachi for job (as labors in construction, factory filed and workers in other sectors. Moreover, it has been noticed that most of migrants are unskilled, lay man they do not have any skill to do. So they work in construction filed as labor, or work in industry as worker. If someone id educated, he works in office, as messenger. In the focus group discussion, laborers shared that the Thakidar (Constructor) mostly keeps 20-30% of their wages. They have to work for more than routine time and they work on small wages, but with the passage of time, the amount of wage is increased. The thaikadar make them work more so that in minimum time the building completes and amount of their wages also be small. In this way laborers are exploited. The semi-skilled migrants work at hairdresser shop, dry cleaner, in the kitchen of offices, hotels, restaurants, taxi driver, mechanic workshop(car/bus/truck/motorcy

cle), plumber shop(as karigar, a person who is technically good at that profession), electrician, refrigerator mechanic, where job is available. They reveal that to have job they use reference. No job is available without reference what the skill a labor has. It might be because of environment of mistrust in the city. The skilled migrants try to work in industry as supervisor in industry with respect to skills. But they say that in the beginning, they want that they have to get job whatever nature of it is. But later they find at the job of their level. None shared that any one opened his own shop. It means in the beginning, migrants either he is skilled or semi-skilled worker, he has to work as associate or on wages. The migrants who work in industries have their reservation and concerns that the management of industry hire them on contract bases but does not appoint them as permanent employees. A skilled migrant told that he knows many skilled migrants who have been working in the industry for long time, but they have not been yet appointed as permanent because the management has not to provide all other facilities and give pay according to labor law. Home sickness has also been found one the heartbreaking phenomenon among migrants. They say they miss their family members a lot. The married migrants miss their children and share their activities with one another. The security issues also disturbs the migrants because whenever, the areas are affected by targeting killing and go on strike, transport strike, all these increase their financial constraints and affect their economic conditions. The daily wages migrants are more affected as compare to others. They cannot afford take taxi or rickshaws.

The most migrants say that they are not in position to have permanent settlement. They temporarily settle, so they rent to house. The migrants who later (after their migration) shifted their family say that because of unaffordable rent, they have to live in very small houses of one large room or two small rooms etc. The owners of the house impose restrictions of water use, children noise etc. One migrant told that the owners avoid rent their house to the large family. A migrant angrily said that the owner questions like an investigator how many children are in family. If more than three, they are refused. Sometime, owner wife reaches ask why children make noise and why guests visit and stay at home. They ask because more water is used.

On the other hand single migrants (without family) sadly pointed out that they have to make lot of efforts to find accommodation, because people are reluctant to rent their houses because of security and mistrust. To send big amount of remittance, they cook food at the rented house and in one room they accommodate 4-6 people in a room. In this way their health is affected because if one catches flow, fever, other sometime also are affected. Most of migrants worker who live together are affected by smoking. Most of the labors smoke. Most of them start smoking in Karachi because there is no family pressure which stops them. Finding others smoking and being invited,

they start smoking. Some migrants reveal that few start drug use. In case of a migrant worker gets ill, or gets lost job, other supports him by taking him to doctors and providing him food or offering loan respectively. The migrants who do not have time to cook food or do not cook food at their rooms, they have to eat unhygienic food. This is because these types of hotels offer food at cheap rate. Mostly, one meal is shared by two people but they pay extra money for chupati (round spread baked bread in oven). In this way they save money. It is enough meal to satisfy their needs. Moreover, they (two migrants) order one cup of tea in two small cups. In this way they save money of one cup. Sometime, they enjoy karahi ghosht(special food) in a month or two. They buy resale clothes and dresses to save money. But when they go home, they have shopping for their family members, but mostly they move to cheap shops in Saddar (market in Karachi) and other markets of the city. It was also reported that a few migrants satisfy their sexual needs by visiting prostitute, eunuch or young boys depending on availability and money.

4.3 Impact of migration on socio-economic conditions of migrants

The migrants indicated that migration has eased their life. Financially they are comfortable. They have paid their loans. They have been able to arrange dowry for their sisters and daughters. They have built new houses and have started sending their younger brothers, sisters, sons and daughters to schools. Now they and their parents are respected and enjoy the basic facilities of life available at their respective native villages and towns. One migrant enthusiastically and proudly said that his sister's marriage was held very wonderfully that his relatives were surprised because no relatives made arrangement like what he did. Now, the relatives prefer their family for rishta (matrimonial knot). Some migrants also reveal that they have bought residential plots in their native villages and also bought agricultural lands. It was also shared that migrants' fathers have stopped working as workers at Chaudhry (rich people having lot of land and wealth, of village/town. Their mothers stopped going for job and to agricultural land for cotton, wheat and rice etc. Now they have their own cows, beefalos, he and she goats and sheep etc.

5 Conclusion:

Karachi is an international mega metropolitan city, a source of attraction for unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled people of different areas of Pakistan.

People move to Karachi for job, industry, business, trade, better health and education facilities. Moreover, when people find poverty, lack of resources and warfare and pay big amount of loan at their native place, they are forced to leave their home, so they prefer Karachi as better option to live which is solution for their problems. In result, migration has tremendous impact on the migrants in different ways. In Karachi, migrants face accommodation, health, food, homesickness and various other problems. In spite of different problems, Migration has become an effective phenomenon to improve the socio-economic conditions of the migrant, it has helped them construct their new houses, pay back loan, earn respect, arrange marriages, provide better education facilities to their brothers, sisters, sons, daughters, nephews and nieces and provide other basic facilities of life available in the native places and at nearby cities.

6 Recommendations:

There is more to explore to the migrant in Karachi. Following recommendations needed to be addressed.

- There is need to study problems being faced by migrants on bases of different ethnic backgrounds (Mohajir, Punjabi, Sindhi, Bloch, Pashtun, Hindko Speakers, Kashmir, Saraki).
- There is need to study impact of migration on migrants on bases of different ethnic backgrounds (Mohajir, Punjabi, Sindhi, Bloch, Pashtun, Hindko Speakers, Kashmir, Saraki).
- There is need to study migrants on bases of different ethnic backgrounds (Mohajir, Punjabi, Sindhi, Bloch, Pashtun, Hindko Speakers, Kashmir, Saraki) who fall in push and pull factors.
- There is need to identify the areas of Pakistan from where unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled migrants belong to and compile the data.

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