



## **Investigation the impact of male migration on their spouse relationship**

**kinza kiran and Madiha Shokat**

### **ABSTRACT**

People who travel internally or externally from one state to another state for the basic necessity of life called international migration. Generally, people migrate from one place to another with the audacity for the well-being of the family member. Migration has a positive association with budget allocation for a family but the negative association through the psychological disturbances becomes the part of the personality of the left behind the family. This study was designed to measure the possible impact of male migration on their spouse relationship. The study was carried out in the urban areas of district city Sialkot Pakistan with a sample size was 120. The data was collecting through the purposive sampling technique (qualitative and quantitative) methods. A comprehensive interview schedule was designed. A strong optimistic relationship was found between migration and socio-economic protection of the families left behind. The collected data were analyzed by Chi-squares. However, the present research concludes that the majority of the wives feel anxiety, loneliness, and social insecurity in the absence of their husbands.

**Keywords:** Migration, Spouse relationship, Anxiety,

### **INTRODUCTION**

Human migration is the movement of people from region to region for the sake ‘‘of’’ basic necessity ‘‘of’’ life (Massey et al., 1994; Bauer., & Gang., 1998). International migration is the treating of people from one place to another for permanent or temporary residence (Anonymous, 2005). Migration is a fundamental feature of the demographic background of Pakistan. The origins of international migration are rooted in a lack of employment opportunities and poverty in the country. The people of developing countries perceive that migration is a thrilling gizmo that can solve their all economic problems. Household of developing countries thinks that migration can escape them from poverty and unemployment (Sattar, 2009, Khan et al. 2010). Migration is not a new or different thing for the individual. The trends of migration start since the beginning of human life. (Reyes, 2007) The term left behind leaves a deleterious impression (Toyota et al.2007).

Therefore, a woman becomes the sole employee with added familial and domestic responsibilities (Jetley, 1987). The responsibilities of Pakistani women increases in the absence

of a man and she is supposed to look after many other things which otherwise should be performed by the male. (Gulati, 1993, Hugo, 2002, Hadi, 1999).

The serious issue is that when the migrant has no job out of the country and unable to send remittances. A Woman becomes the facto head of the family, therefore in this way female may change by improving woman status and empowerment but the female regulated household is not the sign of “emancipation from male power” women may still reliant on a man for their flexibility ( Mahler et al., 2006).

Many commentators have tried to find out the reason, that why people move from one place to another. They move due to the reason for seeking a great amount of income. Many other factors influence migrants (Bauer and Ganger, 1998).

The decision of males to migrate is not an easy task because it has certain physical, financial, and emotional effects on the women left behind (Nichols, 2008). Migration has positive and negative effects therefore, migration does’ not only affects the migrant’s life rather it affects the life patterns of family and the community. So the migration is not an event but it is an experiment in which the whole family members suffer (Ratha et al. 2007). Women feel lonely and insecure in the absence of their male members. (Farooq, 2009). Migration is basically the root cause of rising disturbance in the life patterns of human life. When the husband goes abroad the most of the negative effects occur in both of the spouses and this negative impact may result in the separation. Most of the spouse involves in susceptible misperception, fidelity relationship divorces, and superfluous marital affairs are thought up by migration(Chee, 2003).

Export of expert labor is very essential for frugality. In this way, the state also decreases unemployment, thus moderating social obstruction, but also causes foreign interchange revenues through the inflow of allowances. In that, logic the overpopulation can also be used as a “two-edged sword” for the nation's advantage (Azhar, 2008).

The migrant focuses the probability of a higher amount of income overseas, by the way, the main reason to migrate. Other variables that wield important incentives to migrate, as well as economic reasons, war, cultural discrimination, and dogmatic discrimination. The main choice of a state of purpose was also often inclined by the presence of a network of friends and family who traveled before to a particular state (Solimano, 2002).

## **OBJECTIVE**

- To measure the effects of male migration on spouse relationship.

## **HYPOTHESIS**

- Higher the problems faced by the left behind family less will be the marital satisfaction
- Higher the feeling of loneliness in the absence of spouse lower will be the marital life

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Kousar, (2014) suggested that international migration is ingrained with the lack of employment opportunities and poverty. Developed countries perceive that migration is a magic tool that can solve their economic problems. A native of developing countries thinks migration can escape them from poverty and unemployment. However, along with benefits migration involve high cost, mostly uneducated people of Pakistan migrate toward other countries, they aren't able to bring their family with them so the families left behind in Pakistan

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Carbello et al. (1998) emphasized that due to the husband migration many of the women suffer from anxiety and depression because migration exactly means the separation of spouse marital problems are same. First of all, women feel loneliness and this loneliness causes depression if the women suffer from depression then how can protect their child from the environment. Therefore children also face some psychological issues and he or she had not presentable personality.

Horitos-Fatouros and Despina (1988) contended that migration was a spinning point in women's lives. The study findings showed that intensification in women's employment capability in the host state increased their individuality and led towards a change in gender protagonist within the family. The main purpose of Horistos-Fatouros and Despinawas to describe role change between genders within families.

Izhar et al. (2010) highlighted that the wives were satisfied with their husband's migration but they feel the social protection insecurity after the departure of their husband. Loneliness was the major factor between the spouses and the children too. The female who had no children and lived separately started the job to remove depression and loneliness.

Farooq et al. (2009) stated that woman performs the double duty in the absence of their male member. It was easy for those wives who are well educated and had strong communication with their spouse. It was difficult for those females who are newly married and their husbands are migrated. Wives face psychological problems because of the lack of husband shelter and family care. The female spends a very tuff time during this situation. A woman whose husband living abroad and she lived in the extended family had limited freedom and autonomy in decision making.

Kousar (2014) demonstrated that migration has certain various impacts on the human capital foundation emotions and psychology of the left\_ behind members. The family experience two types of results one is the positives in which the family is financially protected and the other one is the negative impact that shows the weak relation between the spouse and the children too.

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## METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in urban areas of district Sialkot. The data was collected through the purposive sampling method both (qualitative and quantitative) methods. The sample size was (120) for wives. A comprehensive interview schedule was also designed the collected data were analyzed by chi-square.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

**Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to the year of the migrant migrates.**

Years of migration	Frequency	Percentage
3-5 years	21	17.5
6-8 years	23	19.2
9-12 years	67	55.8
Above 12 years	9	8.9
Total	120	100

The data present in table1 depict that 55.8% (slightly more than half) of the migrant migrates between 9-12 years, 19.2% less than one-fifth of the migrant migrates between 6-8 years, 17.5 percent of the migrant migrates between 3-5 years only 8.9 % of the migrant migrates above 12 years.

Sialkot city famous for sports industry every second house one person must live in the abroad for the import-export. A wave of international migration emerged due to the industrial boom in European countries so a huge proportion of the migrants showed that people migrate more in the year 9-12 for improvement in their living conditions.

Sadaf (2010) conducted her research on women (gender) empowerment and livelihood of the families left behind huge difference occurred between the present research majority of the migrants migrate between the year 9-12. It is due to the area difference.

**Table 2: Higher the problems faced by the left behind family less will be the marital satisfaction**

Problems	Satisfaction with marital life			Total
	Unhappy + a little happy	happy	extremely happy	
Low	6	14	15	35
	17.1%	40.0%	42.9%	100.0%
Medium	19	13	8	40
	47.5%	32.5%	20.0%	100.0%
High	23	13	9	45
	51.1%	28.9%	20.0%	100.0%
Total	48	40	32	120
	40.0%	33.3%	26.7%	100.0%

Chi-square = 12.12    d.f. = 4            P-value = .016\*            Gamma = -.361

\* = Significant

Table 2 represents the relationship between problems faced by the left behind family and their level of satisfaction with marital life. Chi-square value shows a significant relationship between problems faced by the left behind family and their level of satisfaction with marital life. Gamma value shows a negative relationship between the variables. It means if the family faced more problems then they had less satisfaction with marital life. The above table shows that the majority (51.1%) of the respondents were unhappy with their marital life and they had more problems. So the hypothesis “Higher the problems faced by the left-behind family less will be the marital satisfaction” is accepted.

**Table : 3 Higher the feeling of loneliness in the absence of spouse lower will be the marital life**

Feel loneliness in the absence of their husband	Satisfaction with marital life			Total
	Unhappy + a little happy	happy	extremely happy	
No	0 0.0%	20 100.0%	0 0.0%	20 100.0%
Somewhat	6 42.9%	0 0.0%	8 57.1%	14 100.0%
Yes	42 48.8%	20 23.3%	24 27.9%	86 100.0%
Total	48 40.0%	40 33.3%	32 26.7%	120 100.0%

Chi-square = 53.92    d.f. = 4            P-value = .000\*\*            Gamma = -.234

\*\* = Highly-Significant

Table 3 represents the relationship between the feeling of loneliness in the absence of a spouse and respondents’ level of satisfaction with marital life. Chi-square value shows a highly significant relationship between the feeling of loneliness in the absence of a spouse and respondents’ level of satisfaction with marital life. Gamma value shows a negative relationship between the variables. It means if the respondents feel loneliness in the absence of a spouse then they had less satisfaction with marital life. The above table shows that a major proportion (48.8%) of the respondents were unhappy with their marital life and they felt more loneliness in the absence of a spouse. So the hypothesis “Higher the feeling of loneliness in the absence of spouse lower will be the marital life” is accepted.

The results demonstrated that the distribution of the respondents according to their social problems after the departure of their husbands indicates that they felt lonely and faced the burden of more responsibilities. The majority of the respondents faced the burden of responsibilities after the departure of their husbands. Very few respondents felt loneliness interviews revealed that the migrant family in-touch with the migrant through the internet, WhatsApp, Skype,

messenger. Modern technology shrinks the distance and decreases the level of loneliness. In the absence of the husband women usually depend on the other male persons of the extended family for the movement in society. Therefore women face a lot of challenges in the absence of their male members. Sadaf (2010) conducted a study on women (gender) empowerment and livelihood of the families. Her research based on the women responsibilities after their husband departures. They stated that the respondents had to face a lot of social insecurity and responsibilities in the absence of migrants. Parallel results were found by Sadaf. A huge difference in the present study (loneliness) because of the area selection, the present study occurred in the urban areas of Sialkot whereas; the preceding study belongs to the rural areas of Faisalabad.

## CONCLUSION

The present study reveals that in the absence of the husband's women faced a lot of problems in that particular situation. A woman usually depends on the other male person of the family members for the movement in society. Therefore, women faced a lot of challenges in the absence of their male members. Women felt lonely, emotionally unstable, felt insecure, and psychologically disturbed in the absence of their spouses.

## SUGGESTIONS

Human relation is a God gifted phenomenon. It is important to maintain and respect relationships. The important thing in every relationship is strong bonding, good communication, and trust. It is observed that the male spouse who lived abroad if had strong bonding, good and proper communication and trust relationship with her spouse they are happy in their lives even they lived together or lived far away.

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