

Mobility Reasons in Pakistan

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Abstract - Pakistan being an under developed country, its economy is very fragile. Large chunk of its population resides in rural areas; they lack income resources and basic facilities. Wealth and income sources are not well distributed; they are concentrated in eastern and south eastern parts. People tend to migrate to urban centers in search of better jobs; health and income facilities. This surge in migration and high population growth rate has created a number of problems in urban areas. Recently natural hazards such as floods and earth quakes; and insecurity in western parts of Pakistan have triggered migration to the urban centers. The phenomenon of migration is based on several factors. On the other hand mobility trends report an increase in visits to friends and relatives. As the social dispersion increases in modern societies, the means of mobility have become an inherent part of everyday life. This paper investigates the need of mobility which engenders the need of physical travel and triggered migration..

Index Terms – Mobility, Pakistan, urban, rural social mobility.

I. INTRODUCTION

The Industrial Revolution in 19th century marks a major turning point in history of the world. It influenced almost every aspect of daily life in some way. Mobility which is the key element in the social life has been affected greatly by the revolution of industrial age and most recently by evolution of information technology. These technological advancements in mobilities have marked a great impact on the societies all over the world.

Pakistan is under developing country and economy is growing at slow rate. The main income sources are agriculture, leather industry & cloth industry. Income wise people could be categorized as upper class, middle class and lower class. The percentage of middle class people is around 90%, most of them moved from rural to urban areas due to better job (in terms of both quality and quantity), health, educational and recreational facilities etc. In overall Pakistan the women employment is far less than men; in general in north and western Pakistan, male folks are the sole bread earners.

According to statistics (Hamid, 2010) 9 -12% people migrate from rural to urban areas. According to (Afzal, Triana, & Malik, 2007) 12 % of people move from rural to urban in the search of these basic needs.

Main Reason for Moving from Previous Residence
March 2007 quarter

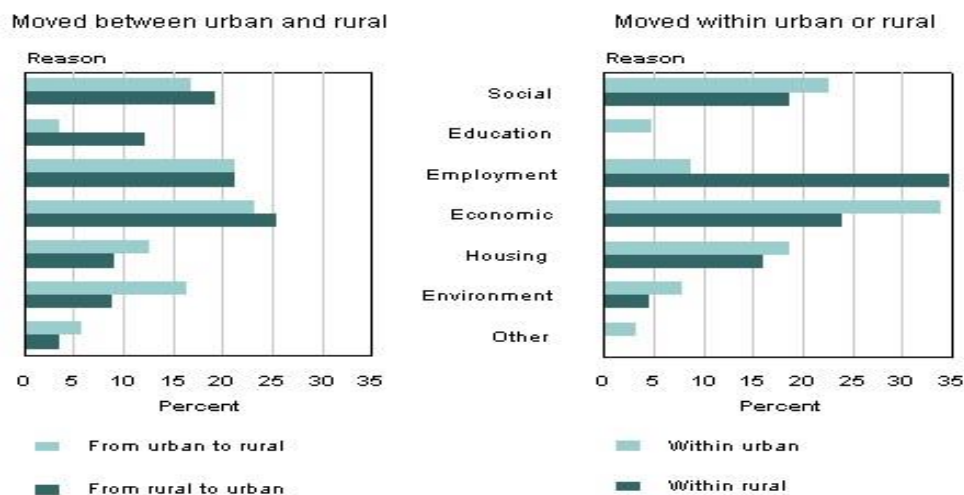


Figure 1 (Urban and rural dwellers' reasons for moving)

Apart from aforementioned reasons, wave of terrorism and insecurity particularly in western Pakistan, has forced people to migrate to urban centers. Relatively smaller number of people has migrated due to natural disasters, such as floods and earthquake. According to figure no 1, clearly depicts urban residents urban residence chose a rural residence mostly for employment reasons which is 23% of reasons stated for this category, Environment reasons tends at 21%, especially lifestyle reasons, were also important. Conversely, when moving from a rural residence, an urban residence was mainly chosen for environment reasons 22% because moving to a place with better services and facilities was important. Moves within urban areas involved choice of a residence that provided proximity to services and facilities, but also a residence in a more suitable suburb or town, and a better natural environment (environment reasons comprised 21% of reasons stated for this category). In contrast, moves within rural areas resulted in choosing a residence that enabled better employment opportunities, or to start a new job employment reasons comprised

30% of reasons stated for this category. Social reasons 24% were also important for example, to live closer to others. Manuscripts must be in English. These guidelines include complete descriptions of the fonts, spacing, and related information for producing your proceedings manuscripts. Please follow them.

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II. MOBILITY

The word mobility is extracted from the word mobile and movement. The movement of people from one city to another in a system, and mobility cannot be measured.

Mobility, in literal, is defined by oxford dictionary as ‘the ability to move or be moved freely and easily’ (Oxford University Press, 2014). It can be explained as the movement of a person or an object from one point ‘origin’ to another point ‘destination’ causing some displacement (journey). In this definition the word ‘freely’ and ‘easily’ can be explained by classic migration theory which explains that the choice to move is the result of push and pull factors in origin and destination. In a broader term mobility includes walking, dancing, exercising, driving to work, moving home, going on holiday, marching, running away, immigrating, traveling, exploring, attending conferences (CRESSWELL, 2006). All of these are forms of mobility.

Motility- Ability to move or moving or having the power to move is called motility.

Movement - The act or an instance of moving change in place or position of things or person is called movement.

Types of Mobility

There are two main types of mobility and again these two parts are divided

1) Social mobility

Social Mobility is a transformation from one state to another state.” “The Changes taking place in the position and status of an individual in his / her Social life is Social Mobility.” (Sorokin, 1959).

Nature of Social Mobility can be defined as the act of moving from one social class to another. An open class society is one in which mobility is high; a closed class is one in which there is little mobility. The caste system in which people are confined to the occupations and statuses of their ancestors is the most extreme example of closed class society (Misra, 1990).

2) Labor mobility

Labor mobility can be defined as “ workers are able or willing to move between different jobs and occupations, if it does not skilled workers have low occupational mobility but high geographical mobility, low skilled or unskilled workers have high degrees of both types of mobility. Low labor mobility causes structural unemployment governments try to avoid it to by worker retraining schemes and by encouraging establishment of new industries in the affected areas (LONG, 2005). And labor mobility divide in geographical mobility, occupational mobility, mobility amidst industry (BOYER & HATTON, 1997).

III. REASONS OF MOBILITY (WHY PEOPLE MOVE)

A rural area is an open swath of land that has few homes or other buildings, and it is not many people. A rural area’s population density is very low. Many people live in a city, or urban areas. Their homes and businesses are located very close to one another. In a rural area, there are fewer people, and their homes and businesses are located far away from one another. Agriculture and wildlife is the primary source of income in outskirts.

Throughout the world, more people live in rural areas than in urban areas. This has been changing rapidly, however. Urbanization is happening all over the world. In Asia, for example, the United Nations estimates that the urban population will increase by almost 2 billion by 2050 According to (Haq, Nov 26, 2012.).

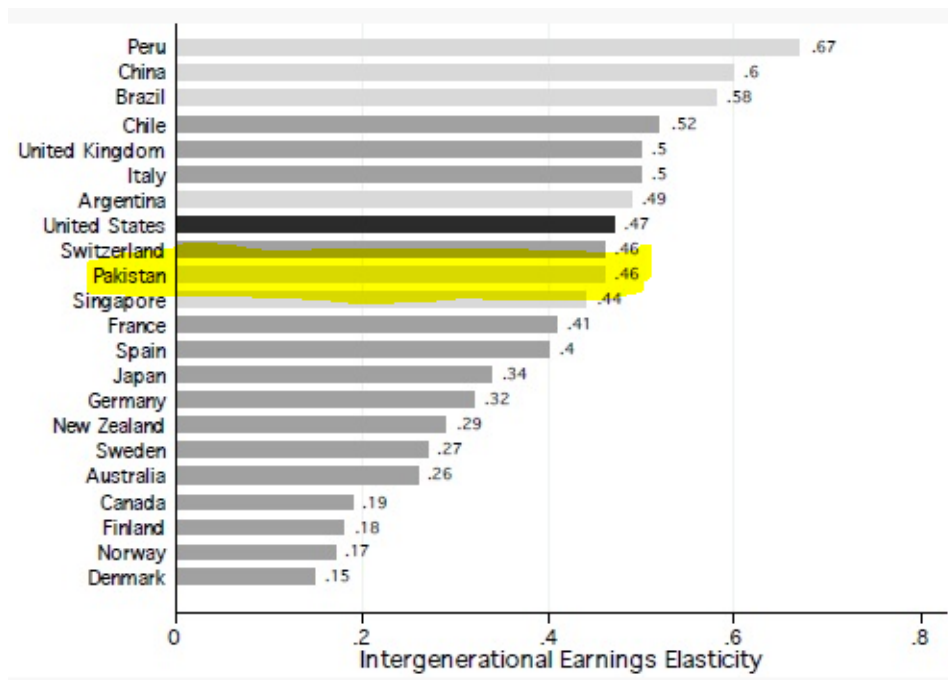


Figure 1, Intergenerational Mobility in Pakistan

IV. REASONS OF MOBILITY (WHY PEOPLE MOVE)

According to (Inter-generational earnings elasticity, July 6, 2012) the intergenerational earnings elasticity in Pakistan is 0.46 as highlighted in figure no 2, the same as in Switzerland, which means that a difference of 100% between the incomes of a rich father and a poor father is reduced to 46% difference between their sons' incomes. Studies done among 22 countries which shows that towards 0.67 are the lowest economic mobility with inter-generational elasticity. The highest economic mobility is offered by Norway and Finland 0.15.

Pakistan has continued to offer significant upward economic and social mobility to its citizens over the last two decades ("Asia's Emerging Middle Class: Past, Present And Future", ADB report).

Due to breakthrough of inventions in 20th century the mobility can be classified into six main categories. First is Employment factor, within rural area, also within urban is economic reason. The second reason is due to housing (property prices increases and people move to economical location). And the third reason is Social which is explained above under "Social Mobility". In the last environment is also very major reason, in recent two decades due to flood, earthquakes, heat shock and other disaster 27% migrate from urban to rural (Mueller, Gray, & Kosec, 2014).

V. REASONS FOR URBAN TO RURAL POPULATION SHIFT

Desire for enhanced personal lifestyle

Obtaining material wealth isn't a primary motivation for everyone. Although higher-paying jobs tend to be found in cities, entrepreneurs and tele-commuting jobs are sample situations which enable workers to thrive financially outside cities. More people are also realizing the benefits of connecting with the earth in garden spaces and with their loved ones.

Wish for affordable land

Families concerned about environments reflect on where to raise children. Individuals also have expectations for how much private space they would like to own. Where people desire to buy a house, land is often less expensive outside the cities and choices broader. Children access more playgrounds and larger residential fields. Adults are also able to access green spaces for leisure when clubs better afford green spaces for courts and sports fields' e.g. (Islamabad motorway and new town ship). Average income people show more interest in such type of long term invests.

Availability of technology

The idea of being disconnected from the world is a thing of the past. Modern technology such as T.V, radio and broadband Internet are available almost anywhere. Technology facilitates communication with friends and family, and also mediates work, makes teleconferences possible and brings people closer for business even if they are geographically separated. The excuse work can't be done "in country side" is no longer true. Highly-successful companies are known to assemble talented people virtually precisely because these people may prefer to live in rural areas. Corporate climates are at least slowly changing with technology and making it possible to create different kinds of lifestyles.

Fear of terrorist attacks

People from western parts of Pakistan are moving to cities because of insecurity/ terrorism and some people from big cities (except those belonging to western Pakistan) think to move to villages because of the reason of safety and security.

Exploring retirement options

People who have lived through their own rat race have saved money and seek a change of scenery. Sometimes they choose to relax, but they may also need to work to survive and prefer a slower pace in the country over city options. Aging populations of Western countries will soon surpass numbers of working age people. Retirees overwhelmingly choose to distance from urban life and find or create work where they can interact with like-minded people. The country is understood to be quieter, less expensive and also healthier.

Growing environmental awareness

All the public discussions about the state of the planet are causing people to think more about the consequences of their choices. They realize a lack of public transport in the country may be reason to rethink when it's necessary to use their own vehicles. An exercise focus on walking, bicycles, or riding animals makes sense to improve health and well-being. Growing food appeals as does feeling more connected to the land. People also move to locations where they can assist other people develop more sustainable living. This involves missionary work, volunteering and working for foundations, NGOs.

VI. DISADVANTAGES OF MOBILITY IN PAKISTAN

There is huge numbers of problem occurring as a direct result of this migration process as well as direct population increase in urban areas. In this section, the problems as aggregated chiefly into two kinds: one as physical, which is due to the straining of the limited resources and infrastructure available in the urban areas and the other is more of a psychological kind, which is the encroachment of a culture, language on the other to the extent that it creates the threatening image in the minds of local people residing for a longer time in those areas. However, one can't be viewed independent from the other.

Infrastructure capacity

Most of the Pakistani cities have traditionally grown without much government commercial use overnight. The outcome of this way of functioning is that much of the housing has come up without any planning for sanitation, water or Public transport. Housing is the dominating problem if seen in the present context. In fact in many major cities, there is huge number of people living in slums without much coverage of basic human necessities and benefits under government planning.

Basic needs

Most of the cities face huge deficits of drinking water supply, electricity and choked urban streets. This scenario is not at all sustainable for future. Most of the streets in cities lack the space for providing a quality public transportation services and usually get limited on the quality aspects like travel time, predictability and reliability. Although the unhindered migration of people from rural to urban by itself is not the leading factor for these problems but combined with shoddy planning of infrastructure like housing, sanitation, water supply and transportation systems makes a perfect combination of self-destruction.

Culture and Language (Mix Culture)

Different people come from far and near in search of different kinds of aspects from all provinces of Pakistan. Their culture and languages are totally mixed with each other.

Energy crises

According to (Mills, 2012) Pakistan has an acute energy crisis that it cannot resolve domestically, at least not in the near term. This crisis reflects years of underinvestment, partly implemented reforms, and bureaucratic overlap and infighting. The government has taken steps to address the problem, but a far more comprehensive package of solutions is required one that must be enacted with greater political will than yet displayed.

Inflation problem

Pakistan, with a population of about 19 million people has undergone a remarkable macro-economic growth during last few years, but the core problems of the economy are still unsolved. Inflation is one of these core problems. Government claims that in order to keep the prices of essential commodities under control, it has been taking various measures throughout the year.

Unemployment Problems

Unemployment is also a major problem faced by Pakistan today, the unemployment rate in Pakistan was last reported at 5.50 percent in December of 2009. From 1990 until 2009, Pakistan's Unemployment Rate averaged 5.88 percent reaching an historical high of 8.27 percent in December of 2002 and a record low of 3.13 percent in December of 1990. Unemployment also triggers a problem like Participation in Violence (Cramer, 2010).

VII. CONCLUSION

The rural people are shifting towards the urban centers in the developing areas in order to improve their living standards. While some of these migrants succeed in their aspiration, other suffer from the overcrowding of the cities and at times, the urban poor are worse off than their rural counterpart. Overcrowding ads further problem to already poor planned cities.

VIII. POLICY RECOMMENDATION

Provide basic amenities to the rural public at their door steps, improve their living condition, provide non-farm income opportunities to them and introduce some land reforms. Beside this education, health facility and other basic amenities would definitely do some good for solving the problem.

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