



SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF WOMEN IN ABSENCE OF HUSBAND DUE TO INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY

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ARTICLE INFO

Article History:

Received 11th August 2017
Received in revised form
24th September, 2017
Accepted 19th October, 2017
Published online 30th November, 2017

Key Words:

Socio-economic,
Emotional,
Psychological,
Migration,
Absence.

ABSTRACT

The people living in one area of the world basically move towards the other part of the world for the purpose of taking temporary or permanent residence. People go to other part of the country and as well as overseas with the intention of improving their living conditions and leave the place of their origins in search of work but unfortunately it implicit adverse effect on their families who are left behind. The researcher attempts to determine and explore the impacts of husband absence due to the mobility on their family. The main aim of the study is to point out all those emotional, psychological, economical, and cultural problem by which a family especially a wife has to go through in absence of her husband. The study was unique in its approach as it considers these issues from the micro prospective. The study was based on Qualitative approach. Data was obtained from 10 in-depth interviews. The revealed that wives in absence of husband have to face many problem related adjustment in their in-laws, support and being guardian of children. More over the research suggested some measures for to improve the conditions of migrant's wives.

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Citation: Seemab Abid and Noreen Qudoos, 2017. "Socio-economic conditions of women in absence of husband due to international mobility", *International Journal of Development Research*, 7, (11), 17123-17126.

INTRODUCTION

Male of developing countries especially those belong to the rural areas and under develop areas of Pakistan are mostly illiterate, unemployed, and poor. They don't have enough job opportunities. In this situation for them migration is only way to get good job opportunity and improve their living condition. The man migration aims not only to improve their economical condition, but also for the social welfare of their families. Countries like USA, UAE and Iran have great attraction for the people how are skilled and unskilled from the various part of the world. Pakistan is a developing country and like other developing countries many people migrate to other countries for seeking of good jobs and better economic conditions. Mostly people who migrate to other countries are uneducated and poor. Migration involves high cost and migrants can't afford to bring their families along with them. So they have to leave their families behind. Socio-economic conditions of women in absence of their husband and condition of

families of the migrant can be affected greatly by the adverse outcomes of this mobility. In Pakistan, there are four types of international flows: from Pakistan to developed countries in the EU, North America and East Asia, from Pakistan to the Gulf region (mainly to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and United Arab Emirates but also to Iran, Iraq, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman), between Pakistan and Afghanistan as part of historical and traditional patterns of migration between the two countries but also due to the porous borders, and lastly from other South Asian countries (mostly from Bangladesh, Burma and India) to Pakistan since 1947. Gazdar, Haris (2003) One of the determining issues for the country is the large amount of Afghan refugees who first arrived in Pakistan in the late 1970s and continued to come during the civil war in the early 1990s and the Taliban rule. (Margesson, Rhoda: 2007). Compared with other provinces of Pakistan, and Pakistan taken as a whole, Balochistan's economic and social development appears to face particularly daunting challenges. The province starts from a relatively low level – in terms of social achievements such as health, education and gender equity indicators, economic development and physical infrastructure. The fact that Balochistan covers nearly half of the land area of

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Pakistan while accounting for only a twentieth of the country's population is a stark enough reminder that any understanding of the province's economic and social development will need to pay attention to its geographical and demographic peculiarities. Indeed, remoteness, environmental fragility and geographical diversity might be viewed as defining the context of development in the province. (Haris Gazdar 2007) According to establishment of Balochistan, only 5,000 people have migrated to other fraction of the country so far. Therefore the government should not try to downplay the crisis. The federal government should provide the House members with correct data on the migration.

In the present study has observed that international migration is a growing phenomenon and has got significant attention. It has deep effects on the source countries. In the present study, an effort has been made to pinpoint the possible impact of migration on families left behind, left behind regarding up bring and education of their children and work load. This study is focus on the impacts of male migration "due to international mobility" on the family left behind. it is observed that international migration is a growing phenomenon and has got significant attention. It has deep effects on the source countries. In the present study, an effort has been made to pinpoint the possible impact of migration on families left behind, with special emphasis on the social and emotional conditions children and females in absence of their male guardian. The most essential component of all societies is the family and most importantly the parents who play the fundamental role as they are the major source of fulfillment of basic necessities of life, healthy and susceptibility. Parents who make conceivable by enduring socio economic and psychological protection to their family in all spheres of life. Migration of labor mobility affects the education, health standardizes of living of the family members in many ways i.e. remittance enables the migrant families to spend more amount on their well-being, many problems faced by the wives of migrant

Research questions

What are the psychological impacts of Husband absence in case of husband due to migration?.

- On the wives left behind?
- What sort of problems face by a wives being a single mother and head of family in case of husband absence due to migration?.
- To find out the societal reaction towards the wives of the migrants.

Objectives of the study

- To examine socio- economic impacts of male migration on families left behind.
- To find out the societal reaction towards the wives of the migrants.

Review of Literature

The issue of male's migration and the impact on their non-migrating wives has received a growing amount of research attention. This research literature comes from diverse settings, including Africa, Latin America, Europe, and Asia. It is notable, however, that, despite the geographic and cultural diversity, several common themes and findings emerge. Alexis Silver on "The families across borders" (The effects of

migration on family members remaining at home) 18, January (2006) in his research paper demonstrated that those families who are left behind after the male migration are mostly neglected by the people across the borders as they cease to be active influence in their lives. Due to separation from close family members influence the emotional well beings and loneliness level of the families left behind. The loss of a family member due to migration leads to depression and loneliness but it can have less pressure if there is a good social support from the other members in the family. He says the advance technology and facilities such as internet, emails and telephone have eased the communication level among the families left behind (Alexis Silver 2006). Farooq and Javed (2009) designed a study to investigate the problems of the migrant families left behind in the rural areas of Pakistan. It was observed in the study that woman initially felt loneliness and burdened as they assumed the new duties and responsible in the absence of their husbands particularly concerning the male children consequently they face many psychological strains when their husbands left them at origin. Scott Vabika-victor, Agadjanian and Arusyak Sevoyan (2010) has done his research on the wife of labor migrants and try to through light on the problems of their that they have to face in the absence of their husband. According to him, they are in depress and in state of stress because they are alone responsible for their own and their husband household task. They all are always staying over burden. These all things make them emotionally weak that leads them towards the variance psychological problems but these psychological pressure can reduce if they have good social support from family members. He further explain that advance technology and facilities such as internet, mails and telephones have eased the communication level among the migrants and other family members.

Izhar Ahmed Khan, Sadaf Mehmood, Ghulam Hussain and Babar Shahbaz in their research that human migration is the movement from one place to another for the sake of residing somewhere permanently like from rural to urban migration in search of employment. International migration which refers to the changes in the residence of people from one part of the world to the other part for the sake of their livelihood because of economics of migration mostly focuses on the expectation of a higher income from abroad as a main factor to migrate and in a sense to recover their living standard but it most of the time leads to the adverse effects on the families left behind especially on the education of their children. According to them migration not only have socio economic impacts but also influence on the status of the wives after the male migration. The study highlights the positive results of remittance which develops the lives of families who left behind. Some families believe working abroad is the only way to improve the financial conditions of a family. The study suggests woman should be provided opportunities so that they can easily handle the problems individually.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study is Qualitative in nature. Quetta city was selected as the locale in for this study. The units of analysis in this research are those females whom husbands are migrated to other countries due to any reasons and they are left behind with their kids staying alone or with their in laws. The sample size is select keeping in view that the sample is having all the characteristics of whole population. The total sample was consists of 30 female that are wives of migrants living in

Quetta. This research is purely a qualitative study, using Sami structured interviews and focus group discussions consist of 10 respondents in each group. For selection of sample size two techniques of non-probabil sampling are used by researcher. By the help of snow ball and convince sampling techniques researcher have selected the whole sample. Thematic analysis technique is used for data analysis.

RESULTS

Hardship facing by a wife in case of husband mobility due to migration

Migration of married male has been affecting the lives of the wives left behind though the wives are receiving remittances on regular basis that fulfilled their household requirements and due to those remittances their standard of living increased significantly but they still lacking the most important and beautiful thing of their lives and that is the missing of companionship of the better halves. While acknowledging this main spillover effects could be important, this study is also focused on the direct effects of husband migration on the wives left behind rather than on the other impacts of migration. Migration has reflective impact on the wives left behind. These impacts of migration vary from one wife to another wife mostly depending on the social status of wife and family size to whom they belong. The more severe impact is when the migrated husband has no job in abroad is unable to send remittances so the burden to run home comes under wives.

The impact of migration on wives left behind can be positive or negative, mainly depending on whether their husbands are migrated temporarily or permanently and whether or not they sending money back home and most importantly how often they visit their home town and spend time with their families.

In some cases migration usually involves the temporary departure of migrants. But in all cases the level that this married male was the head of the family prior to leaving, there can be de facto enhance in the need for the wife left behind to take important decisions mainly connecting to the benefits and maintenance of the household.

Lonely

The impact of migration on a wife can be positive, negative or both mostly depending on the capability and conditions, as well as the family environment in which they are spending their lives. Among the unfavorable consequences of migration loneliness is by far the leading problem faced by the wife left behind. Due to the absence of her husband she was unable to share her feelings and day to day problems with the other family members and most occasions where quick responses or decisions were required and no one was there to support her decision she found herself lonely and sometimes not even take any decision.

Over Burden

The study revealed that because of the male migration of male member of the family the domestic and other work load also increased on the wives. It ultimately makes the life more difficult of the wives left behind. Similarly, in most cases it is also possible that the domestic work burden of a wife could increase as she tries to alternate for the contribution to family responsibilities of an absent husband. On most cases it is found that the wives are not only managing the households during the

absence of their husbands but also looking after the matters related to the family and children.

Insecurity

Countries like Pakistan the females being a head of families due to the absence of their husbands feel insecure as they have to look after all the matters either related to household or children they need to interact with different types of people. Though the situation varies case to case as there are less chances of insecurity where the family of migrant lived in a joint family system or with the parents of the migrant but in other scenario where the nuclear families live alone with one parent mother the ratio of insecurity increased as they became vulnerable and can be victimized, during our research we also found few similar wives who feel insecurity on early days soon after their husbands migration, but from when they had start living and moving with other male relatives (such as brother or father)for their support and now the feel secure.

Social Pressures

Being the head of family in the absence of her husband a wife is facing and dealing different moral and social pressures, at one place she needed to play a vital role for the better and successful life of her children and on the other hand she needs full skills to cope up with the social pressures that she might face in the absence of her husband. These social pressures can be internal or external. Internal social pressure can be the interference of the family members that challenges the decisions of the wives left behind and always try to de motivate and give impression that she is not capable of handling things/situation, while in the external pressures the wives left behind were answerable to many odd questions of society that basically are not comes under the rights of any person but they make fun out of it. Our research shows that this type of social pressure is being faced by almost every woman.

Psychological Issues

As mentioned before that the respondents of the study were consisting of the wives of the migrants. The main concern of the researcher is to find out and highlight not only social issue and pressures but also psychological problem of women such as depression and frustration. These psychological issues ultimately affect the mental health of wives of migrants. There were many causes that become the root cause of psychological problem of wives of migrants. Such as ignorance by the family members, being over stress, emotional disturbance, and feeling of being alone were playing vital role in provoking psychological issues among wives of migrants. Their face expressions and views each and every action indicate their true state of mind.

One of the respondent added during her interview, I tried myself maximum to be confident and strong because I have to deal my matters alone but internally. I feel myself weak and insecure, this thing always disturb me a lot. Another respondent share her views as, in daily routine I have to deal with many issues related to household tasks and children related matters that make my life complex. All these burden made me frustrated and depress. And as the result I get annoyed with all. Some time I used to shout on my children. I know that is not good for my children but some time I can't control my behavior.

Anatomy of Women

In absence of husband being head of the family anatomy of women has completely change. They have play dual role at a sometime. They all have performed their role not only as a mother but also have to deal with the task of a father. On one hand Women are were involve in decision making and household managerial tasks and at the other they have to perform all domestic tasks such as socialization of children. She is entirely responsible for raring and caring of her children as well as other domestic duties. And for all these effort she even don't have a single word of appreciation. In joint family set up wives of migrant got help from their in laws regarding the socialization of children and their schooling etc. in this case their mostly decision are taken by the elder of the families. This support system make them feel secure.

DISCUSSION

Main focus of the researcher was on the condition of wives of the migrants. By the medium of this research researcher wants to highlights the all the suffering and and problem of migrants wives by which they have to go through due to her husband migration. It had been observed by the researcher though the families of migrants were economically satisfied and their standards of living become more stable but all wives were looking worried and not happy with the absence of their husband. Their family role become entirely change because at the same time they have to play the role of a father and a mother for their children. But in spite of their all effort the are enable to fill the lag that are created among the family due to migration of head of the family. All respondent are agree and told the researcher that have to take care of every family related issue. Taking decision for all the important issues of family that make them tense all the time. They always stay under the pressure of right and wrong. They further add that migration of their husband increase their responsibilities due to which they always feel overburden. It was also observed by the researcher during FGDs and interviews that mostly are emotionally disturbed and seemed frustrated, and their views also express their issues such they said most of the time they feel themselves alone, there is no one who take care of them. It was also observed that they women who are living in joint family set up are comparatively less loaded with responsibility rather them women lived in nuclear family system. Because in joint family system there was always someone who more or less help them out to fulfill their domestic task and family's responsibilities. Alexis Silver on "The families across borders" The loss of a family member due to migration leads to depression and loneliness but it can have less pressure if there is a good social support from the other members in the family.

The most important task and responsibility that made a single mother always tense is socialization of the children especially personality development of male child. Father migration adverse affects the children that are left behind. All the respondents were frequently share their worries and concern about their growing children. They shared With the researcher that it has been always difficult to satisfied the growing needs of their kids begin single mother. Children were missed their father very much at every event. This absence made them emotionally and psychologically weak. As the result Children were facing different behavioral social issues. Same issues are discussing Gerald C. Ogbuja (2008) said that "A woman in husband's absence has with a reduction of protection, discourages and disinterested in every phase of achievements. Children with absent fathers manifest in numbers of internalized behavioral problems as sadness and depression, sex role difficulties, social functioning and lower self-esteem."

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