



## An Explanation of International Migration: A Case Study of Pakistan

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International migration poses significant challenges, especially for developing countries. This study examines the economic, socio-political, and demographic drivers of international migration, with a specific focus on Pakistan, to determine which factors exert the strongest influence. Primary data were gathered from domestic and foreign participants to understand their motivations for migration. The findings indicate that, among economic, demographic, and socio-political factors, the latter is the most influential in driving international migration from Pakistan. Key push factors include corruption and family responsibilities, while major pull factors involve access to quality education and higher wages. To retain its young workforce, Pakistan must foster an environment with improved labor market opportunities and instill confidence in its citizens.

**Keywords:** International Migration, Socio-Political Factors, Economic Drivers, Demographic Factors, Pakistan Migration Trends.

### Introduction:

Over the past four decades, international migration has emerged as a critical issue worldwide. Traditionally, major immigrant-receiving countries included Canada, the United States, and Australia. However, with the continuous increase in migration volume, the flow of migrants has diversified beyond Europe. Following the Second World War, Europe attracted numerous workers, primarily from Southern Europe. By the 1960s, migration trends had shifted, with significant increases in migrants from Asia, Africa, the Caribbean, and the Middle East.

For developing countries, international migration presents both opportunities



and challenges. A large portion of the working-age population seeks better employment, wages, healthcare, and educational opportunities abroad. This exodus of skilled and unskilled labor impacts the home country's economic and social structures. While remittances from migrants contribute to economic development, the long-term consequences include a depleted labor force and potential economic and social setbacks. Pakistan is a state where approximately seven million economic workers are working abroad; the figure of migrating persons is also increasing each year.<sup>1</sup>

However, since 1970, the trends of migration are changed. Previously, that process was only comprised of unskilled migrants but now this circle is extended to a sufficient number of highly qualified doctors, IT specialists, engineers and other professionals. Various factors are involved in migration. People of developing countries usually prefer to migrate to OECD countries because of income differential, social benefits and higher quality education. Other than that, demographic conditions of the both home and receiving countries play an important role in encourage migration.

Demographic factor depicts change in population age structure; the larger the percentage of younger population, the more people intends to migrate to other countries. Recently, the demographic pattern of the world has attracted a great deal of social scientists and demographers. "Projections suggest that, in terms of migration pressure, South East Asia and Africa will face big increases in youth populations; other regions such as China, Latin America and the Caribbean will experience population ageing which will lessen the incentives to migrate internationally; and other regions such as Eastern Europe will see their populations ageing and diminishing in numbers."<sup>2</sup>

The migration to other countries primarily depends on the native country's economic, social and political conditions. Pakistan is going through its transition mode where she is striving for sustainable development in all spheres. On the one hand, Literacy rate has increased up to 55%. People's awareness towards education is increasing which mainly consists of youth. On the other hand, unemployment rate increased during this decade.

Pakistan is a labor abundant country and it was expected many years ago that in

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<sup>1</sup> Bureau of Emigration and Overseas Employment, Pakistan

<sup>2</sup> OECD, (2009), The Future of International Migration to OECD Countries, OECD Publishing. doi: 10.1787/9789264064126-en, ISBN: 9789264063686 (PDF). Page No 11

the 2020s, the 15 to 24 age bracket is expected to swell by 20 percent.<sup>3</sup> Pakistan's population under the age of 24 will be in majority till 2030. Moreover, as late as 2050, the median age is expected to be only 33.<sup>4</sup> But unfortunately because of the unavailability of labour market policies, Pakistan is not in a situation to absorb large amount of workers. According to International Organization of Migration (2004), migration is not a solution of challenges that is created by the current and projected demographic factors but developed and developing countries should find the other ways to manage their demographic changes, economic development and labor market needs.<sup>5</sup>

**Objective of the Study:**

The objective of this study deals with the motivational factors affecting international migration in case of Pakistan. The major question, this study needs to address is that among economic, socio-political and demographic factors, which factor is affecting the most in case of Pakistan. Is demographic factor playing a vital role in international migration of Pakistan?

**Significance of Study:**

This study, regarding the factors affecting international migration, has a lot of significance for the policy makers to understand an emerging issue of international migration in a broad spectrum. This work has both practical and theoretical importance. On the one hand, this study will contribute to the previous existing literature on international migration. On the other hand, this research will definitely draw the attention of policy-makers, that why this outsized number of migrants consists of our educated and energetic youth, which will affect social and economic development of a country in the long run. Developed countries are now confining their labor laws to discourage migration; consequently, it will create an enormous pressure on the governments to introduce a policy that will make it possible option for one to remain in their own country.

**Research Questions**

The research questions we address in this paper are:

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<sup>3</sup> Neil Howe and Richard Jackson, "The World Won't Be Aging Gracefully. Just the Opposite," Washington Post, January 4, (2009)

<sup>4</sup> UN Population Division estimates from 2005 and 2006

<sup>5</sup> Migration and Demography Section 2.2, IOM (2004)

1. What is the nature of demographic transition in Pakistan and how it is affecting international migration?
2. How do economic factors such as unemployment, inflation and higher salaries, affect the international migration in Pakistan?
3. How do socio-political factors such as social insecurity, family responsibilities, poor law and order situation, corruption, better Education and health facilities, affect the international migration in Pakistan?
4. Which factor is affecting international migration the most in case of Pakistan?

### **Limitations of the Study**

This research was conducted only on a small size of population whose availability was easy. Therefore, to generalize the results for larger groups, the study should have involved more participants at different level. It created a difficulty while finding significant relationships from the data. Shortage of time is another factor; detailed interview with sufficient number of participants would be a good source of data.

### **Review of Literature**

While defining the complexity of a concept of international migration, observed that there is multiple factors affect migration. They considered migration as a tool for development in case of remittances that migrants send back to their home countries. In addition, the human development of returning migrants through the investment by the host country is an additional advantage. They concluded from their different migration surveys that 80 to 90 percent people moves to another country because of economic reasons like unemployment and insufficient income.

Dzvimbo (2003) discussed the international movement of human capital from African countries to the developed world. African countries are losing their intellectual asset because of their inappropriate policies and poor domestic condition. Reduction in real income, growing cost of living, lack of employment opportunities, devaluation in currency and the dearth of funds allocated to the education sector of African higher education institutes are the main determinants of skilled migration. In the end he also suggested some policies for the detainment of their human capital in their own country.

After sorting the determinants into economic and non-economic, Mayda (2005) analyzed the international migration flows into fourteen OECD countries from 1980 to 1995. He concluded that an income opportunity in the destination countries is an important pull factor that not only attract the immigrants but more importantly, enhance

the size of emigration rate. The cost of migration is one of the important variables that effect negatively on the migration rate, specifically the distance appears to be a significant one.

Ahmed et al (2008) explored in their study regarding the macroeconomic factors of international migration in case of Pakistan. They found that income inequality and poverty are the main causes of migration throughout the world. Unemployment, inflow of remittances and inflation is positively related and real wage rate is negatively related with international migration. Every year more than 500,000 workers are going abroad from Pakistan. The economic condition of the native country plays an important role in order to encourage migration.

Kim & Cohen (2010) analyzed the demographic, geographic and social factors of international migration to 17 affluent countries from 1950 to 2007 through panel data approach. The purpose to analyze these factors was to predict the future international migration, as an element of demographic projections as well as they are less time sensitive and uncertain as compared to the economic factors. They also found that Migration inflows are greater where official language is same in both origin and host country.

Demographic factor also plays an imperative role behind the increase of an international migration. Especially after 90's, increasing migration and demographic transition became a foremost issue particularly in developing countries. According to Fargues (2004) demographic explosion that has taken place is due to the part of international migration, because when movement takes place from one country to another the social, economic and cultural changes happen. This change affects their behavior in various matters including the matter associated with demographic reproduction that includes marriage and fertility. Two conclusions drawn from this paper; first is that whenever the migration takes place in a western world, it will bring an accelerated step towards low birth rates, in this context international migration would be positive for the global demographic benefit, secondly emigrants convey the new ideas in their home country in a way they would prove an agent of social change in their country of origin.

The identical approach widened by Fargues (2011) that there are two fundamental issues related to them; first is that the direction of migration from developing to developed world transmits their values and practices of the origin countries. That shows actually the international circulation of people assists the circulation of ideas. Secondly, on the other side migration become less vital in case of remittances. People usually prefer to keep their family with them leaving no spouses and children to the home country

beside that the money earned through migration would be used in other sources like enhancing skills, Knowledge etc. So migration policies on remittances and family reunification of the host country should also reconsider.

Helliwell (2004) explored by analyzing the link between demographic transition and international movement of capital and population that even after migration away from the origin into different world usually the social and economic bond remains the same. The increased or decreased flow of migration determined by the migration policies and found that continually increase in migration mostly worsens the situation, one of which is demographic changes.

International Organization of Migration (2004) argues that there is a strong impact of the demographic factor behind the development of migration policy. He reviewed the four case studies of U.S, Japan, India and South Africa and concluded that policy makers should keep in mind the short and long term impact of migration on the origin and host countries. Whereas most of the developed countries encourage and deal with migration to overcome their demographic and labor market needs.

Fargues (2006) explored that international migration actually unconfined the demographic pressure from the various parts of the world. He used the data of three countries, Turkey, Morocco and Egypt and found that because of international migration towards western world, birth rates are falling down due to the transfer of ideas in which migration trend of the first two countries is tilted towards Europe while Egyptian inclination is towards the Gulf. Thus he concluded that Correlation is negative in case of Turkey & Morocco whereas it's positive in the case of Egypt.

Ananta and Arifin (2008) examined that after three decades of independence, Indonesia entered in a transition stage. Currently, they are passing through the second stage of transition in which the fertility rate is below the replacement level. Migration itself is not a problem, but it should be managed at various aspects, both in receiving and sending countries. They recommended three approaches to deal with the international migration, firstly through good governance, secondly through market mechanism and thirdly through business point of view.

In order to describe the demographic condition of Arab countries Shakoory (2011) proposes that they are entering into a demographic window of opportunity which comes once in a life time opportunity. Moreover, they are also confronting with the issue of international migration. If proper policies would not be formulated to increase the employment opportunities in order to absorb this huge bulge of youth than this

opportunity can also create a social and political pressure to the Arab governments. On the other hand, policies of the receiving countries now no longer encourage migration beside that they are constraining the influx of migration through implementing the rigid immigration policies.

In order to find a complex correlation between demographic changes, environmental factors and migration, Hugo (2011) examined in his article that demographic change that has been occurring since last half century, attracted most of the researchers around the globe. The major key issue is that environmental factor and demographic factor both effects international migration independently. But demographic factor essentially became a consequence of the deterioration in environmental which eventually effects or compel people to migrate.

While describing the situation of Europe in the same context Nimwegen and Erf (2010) explained that Europe is advanced in population ageing and decline as compared to the other major regions. This is the biggest challenge that Europe has to confront with its demographic challenges. International migration is one of the significant sources of European population growth. The demographic factor in third world countries who have high population growth rate is always remain a push factor of migration because of economic, social imbalances and political unrest. Because of this mass migration from within or outside the Europe, ethnic diversity is increasing, challenges of citizenship are rising and it will increase in the future.

There are some extremely powerful realities or factors in the world which attracts or repel the youthful migration flow to the other part of the world. To find out the reasons of migration Fargues (2008) investigated that why MENA's workers would want to migrate; one of the foremost reasons is the poor employment and social conditions. MENA (Middle East & North Africa) and Europe are an ideal case of demographic transition, MENA has a large number of working age population, an excess of labor supply while Europe has a shortage of labor supply which is an important factor of production for the economy so this deficiency of labor which will affect Europe's economy could be mitigated by the migration of MENA's workers.

The organization of economic cooperation and development (2009) describes that the future of international migration depends on some factors in which one of the important factor is the demographic factor. If population comprises on the bulk of youth than the tendency of migration will be greater while on the other hand population ageing in Europe, China and Caribbean could become a pull factor for international migration.

Further explaining the pull factors of international migration Lowell (2008) discussed that no doubt there are many pull factors like economic factors, education facility, health care etc. attracting a developing nation to the developed ones. But demographic factor is the core issue of most of the developed countries therefore they fulfill their labor market needs through a pool of migrants. It is expected that in future there will be a competition among the developed countries that who will get the best and the brightest one.

Khadria (2008) analyzed the future scenario of migration from the three South Asian countries (Pakistan, India & Bangladesh) to OECD countries. She concluded that we should describe the positive aspects of push and pull factors of migration. However, beside that we should also minimize the negative aspects of the factors by the long term strategic planning of the Government. Therefore, OECD should also redirect their attention towards the demographic and education strategies to accurate this negative pull.

### **Concluding Remarks**

It is concluded from the study that international migration has been progressing for past few decades. People usually move from one country to another for several reasons and Pakistan is not an exception. But after 1980s, an unusual increase in the volume of international migration has drawn the attention of the researchers worldwide. Factors that affect international migration vary according to the home country's economic, socio-political and demographic conditions. The demographic transition around the world also influenced international migration in various ways, in which one of the factors is the demand of labor force by the developed world and the demographic push from the developing world.

### **International Migration and Demographic Transition in Pakistan**

This chapter has been split up into two parts: the first one shall discuss the nature and trends of international migration in Pakistan while in the second one; we shall analyze the transformational process that is happening from past some decades in the demographic structure of Pakistan. Furthermore, with the help of previous data on international migration, we shall evaluate how demographic factor is effecting the international migration.

#### **Nature of International Migration in Pakistan**

International Migration takes place when there is difference of resources between origin country and the destination country. International migration is increasing throughout the world specifically; developing countries are on the top of the list. Cur-



rently, the figure of international migrants worldwide has arrived at 232 million.<sup>6</sup>

There are different types of international migration in Pakistan. First one is that when friends or families live abroad, they sponsor their relatives to the host country, we can call it a family reunification. Some people go abroad for the study purpose and some for the work purpose. These types of immigrants usually migrate through legal channel. There is another type of migration in Pakistan in which people go abroad mostly on student visa and then extend their stay beyond the specific duration of visa, as a result become illegal in the foreign country. On the other hand, various people adopt some illegal ways to enter into a foreign territory. These last two types of migrants are called “undocumented immigrants” because it is very difficult to estimate or document them. There are almost millions of illegal immigrants around the world.

If we observe at the historical trends of international migration from Pakistan, then we come to know that immigration started from Pakistan to UK large scale. This migration mostly consisted of the young men from the communities of Azad Kashmir. At that time, a large irrigation project was initiated in the city of Mirpur in which one of the guarantors was UK government. Due to this project, many people were displaced and as a compensation package migrant status to UK was given to them<sup>7</sup>. Consequently, many less educated and unskilled workers were migrated and they took their family members and dependents from Pakistan after few years of settlement.

Then trends of international migration changed since 1970s; previously it was more to developed world. But later on due to the increase in oil prices by OPEC, demand of workers for both skilled and unskilled increased and shifted towards the Gulf countries. Secondly, in that era Pakistan was facing the poor law & order and unstable political condition because of the war. At that time Government of Pakistan also adopted a policy to encourage the migration of skilled and semi-skilled labor force.

About two million Pakistani workers had immigrated to the Gulf region till the start of 1980s. The flexible immigration policies, introduction of green card system, visas were also given through lottery, played as a major pull factor to international migration. Historically, till the end of 90s, United States recorded a large influx of international migrants around the world. Concurrently, another trend of international migration came

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<sup>6</sup> UN, International Migration Report (2013).

<sup>7</sup> I. Imran. (1997) Home from Home – British Pakistanis in Mirpur, Bradford Heritage Recording Unit

forth due to the emerging East Asian tiger economies; many Pakistani workers went there on visit visas, stayed beyond the specified time and became illegal.

After the incident of 9/11, the life of the Pakistani immigrants changed around the world, particularly in United States. Ratios of the visas fall down, many deportations were taken place; particularly life became vulnerable for the illegal migrants. But after three years, it recovered and continued to grow rapidly. At that time in Musharraf's regime, economy was stable and flourishing in Pakistan that restored the confidence of the Pakistani immigrants. In that case remittances were increased three fold after 9/11 attacks; it played a major role to strengthen the economic growth. However, despite the political stability and economic growth in the country, the number of immigrants increased during the decade.

Another declining trend in migration flows is observed at the end of 2010, due to the global financial crisis around the world. As a result, sharp downfall of the economy and a substantial rise in the unemployment rate took place in the developed world. But fortunately, Pakistan wasn't highly affected from this crisis. However, the migration flow towards developed world decreased and it was shifted towards GCC (Gulf cooperation council) countries (Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates). Likewise, the remittance flows in developing countries (Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and the Philippines) noticed slighter decline from the Immigrants that were living in GCC countries.<sup>8</sup>

Apart from theoretical explanation of the nature of international migration, graphical demonstration has its own importance. To examine the various trends of international migration in Pakistan since 1971 to 2014, the study has taken a data as per occupation and category wise from the Bureau of Emigration and Overseas Employment.

A trend of number of workers going abroad as per occupational group wise. Unskilled and skilled workers are the leading two occupational groups migrating from Pakistan, followed by semi-skilled and highly skilled occupational group. An unskilled worker refers to those who don't have any technical skills. He can only do manual work or perform simple duties as Laborer, helper, general cleaner, sweeper, hotel maid etc. Almost 3,465,105 million unskilled labor force has been migrated to the other countries,

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<sup>8</sup> Mohapatra, Sanket, & Ratha, Dilip. (2010). The impact of the global financial crisis on migration and remittances. *The Day After Tomorrow: A Handbook on the Future of Economic Policy in the Developing World*.—Washington: World Bank, 297-320.

wherein UAE is the top priority destination country for the unskilled labor, Saudi Arabia comes on the second number. The significant increase in the emigration of unskilled labor is marked in 2014, as they were 239,524 million in 2013, which increased to 323,750. Almost 84226 thousands additional workers were migrated in 2014 as compared to the last year. One of the reasons of this abrupt increase is the agreement between Government of Pakistan and Korean Government, in which South Korea has opened the gate for the Pakistani unskilled worker in return of better remuneration and fringe benefits. After screening through the formal procedure of EPS (Employment Permit System), many skilled workers has been sent to South Korea. The positive point of this agreement is that the migration of illegal Pakistani workers to South Korea has been decreased to 10 percent. Among the unskilled workers, the highest category of workers migrated abroad in large numbers is laborers.

In Pakistan, skilled workers are the second major occupational group migrating abroad. Skilled workers refer to those who have specialized training/skills or competent enough to work independently, e.g. electrician, mechanic, carpenters, tailors, cook etc. Overall 3,433,178 million skilled labors have been migrated till the end of 2014. Figure 4 demonstrates that Carpenters are going abroad in majority as a skilled labor for the sake of better opportunities. The ongoing trend of migration elucidates that Pakistan is not utilizing or underutilizing their technical work force. An element of uncertainty also prevails in their job. Secondly, the salary or remuneration package offered to them is very low or not according to their skills, that is why they prefer to move abroad for the betterment of their lives and their family.

After skilled workers, the demand of semi-skilled workers is also quite significant and it is increasing throughout the world. This is the third occupational group of migration. Some countries, like UAE & Saudi Arabia are providing a good remuneration package to these semi-skilled workers. Semi-skilled workers refer to those who possess limited skills or techniques e.g. Operator, Lineman, Typist, Driver, welder etc. He performs his duties with simple tools & machine. Drivers are migrating abroad in large numbers specifically to UAE and Saudi Arabia.

Highly skilled labor refers to those who hold professional degree, can work efficiently and supervise the work of skilled employee .e.g. doctor, engineer, and lawyer, head Cashier, head Clerk etc. Highly skilled labor is considered an asset of any country. Migration of highly skilled workers is also termed as Brain Drain that means a loss of intellectual and technical personnel. Engineers are considered the highest category that is

inclined to migrate. Pakistan trains relatively fewer doctors and engineers as compared to developed and newly developed economies. Already a small percentage of the age group is enrolled in institutions of higher learning. Furthermore, there are only a few institutions providing quality education. Migration of the highly skilled has created a critical shortage of teachers, doctors and engineers and that is badly affecting the quality of services such as education, health, construction and industrial development.

#### Nature of Demographic Transition in Pakistan

The commencement of demographic transition worldwide took place at the end of 1950s, but many regions of the world including Pakistan entered late in transition phase. In Pakistan, demographic transition began at the end of 1980's, with the shift from high mortality and fertility, to low mortality and fertility rate. According to Pakistan Demographic Survey (1990-1991), infant mortality rate was 91 per 1000 birth during 1986-1990, which was quite high, now decreased to 61 per 1000 birth until the end of 2012. Infant mortality rates are often used to identify the health conditions and quality life of the country.

High population growth rate of 1990s is now the working age population and today's working age population will be the bulk of old population after the next few decade. Figure 7 represents the trends of crude birth rate and death rate of Pakistan based on medium variant.<sup>9</sup> There is a number of Crude death and birth rate on y-axis and number of years on x-axis. The crude birth rate in 1950 was 47 births per 1000 population and this natural increase in the birth rate was at peak at the end of 1980's but after that transformation in demographic structure took place and it began to fall from 47 births to 30 births per 1000 population and it continued to decrease till 24 births per 1000 population by the year 2012. The decline in fertility rate also contributes to enter in a bonus phase where most of the population comprises on youth.

A key aspect of the decline in mortality and fertility rate is a provisional rise in the youth age group that represents major segment of the population, generally lies between 15-35 age group. Consequently, it also reduces the dependent ratio of population. If this fertility decline in Pakistan persists for a longer time, not only the proportion of old age population will be maximized but also the median age of population will be in-

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<sup>9</sup> Medium variant shows the middle of a range of estimated population and it gives more accurate and balanced view of the projected population

creased. According to UN Projections 2005 (medium variant), 03 percent share of old age population would approximately increased to 10 percent of the total population till 2050 in Pakistan. Pakistan is passing through the demographic transition stage in which majority of population consists of youth and dependency ratio is also declining.<sup>10</sup>

### **Effect of Demographic Transition on International Migration**

Demographic transition plays an important role in determining the trends of International migration of any country. The population growth rate is declining worldwide since several years and in the next few decades, many countries will have to face the problem of population ageing. Particularly in developed world, an average fertility rate was 1.56 children per women recorded in 2005-2010, which is below the replacement level.

However, Pakistan is among one of those auspicious countries, which has abundance of human resource capital; nevertheless, the question is why this human resource or dividend of our country are depleting. Unfortunately, due to lack of labor market policies, Pakistan's economy is not in a position to absorb this young labor force. The Government of developing countries like Pakistan adopts a policy to facilitate and encourage labor migration in order to release this demographic pressure from the economy. On the other hand, for developed countries this young labor force is not only a major factor of population enhancement but also fulfills the demand of their labor resources.

Globally, the number of young migrants has reached 34.8 million in 2013. The developing regions observed their migrant population under the age of 20 is increased by 10% compared to 3% in the developed regions between 1990 and 2013.<sup>11</sup> Due to the underutilization of our work force, the major proportion of international migrants consists on young and working age population.<sup>12</sup>

The highest migration was happening in age group of 05-09 from 1990 to 2013. Globally the pace of migration slowed down after 2000, reasons behind this decrease may be the global economic crises of late 2000s that hit many countries severely. The continually increasing strict immigration policies of the foreign countries also played a major

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<sup>10</sup> Bloom and Williamson(1998)

<sup>11</sup> "World Migration in Figures" A joint contribution by UN-DESA and the OECD to the United Nations High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Development, 3-4 October (2013)

<sup>12</sup> United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2013). International Migration 2013 Wall chart (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.13.XIII.8).

role in it. Since 2010, the annual rise in global international migration decreases to 3.6 million.<sup>13</sup>

Specifically, in Asia rapid increase has been seen in recent years in the number of male migrants. The yearly enhancement in the figure of male migrants reached at 3.1 percent far surpassed the figure of female migrants that is 1.9 percent. One of the reason is the rising demand for male migrant workers especially in the Middle East countries.<sup>14</sup>

It is concluded from this section that there is a continuous increasing trend of international migration in Pakistan from 1950 till now. A large number of workers with different occupations majorly consist of skilled and unskilled workers are going abroad. Most of these workers belong to young age group. Our highly potential youth is migrating due to lack of opportunities in their own country. This window of Demographic dividend opens only for a short period and that time is not far away when Pakistan would have to face a demographic challenge due to the declining trend of birth rates.

### **Impact of Economic and Socio-political Factors on International Migration**

This section explains some pertinent economic and social factors that are significantly affecting the international migration in Pakistan. As far as economic factors are concerned, we shall discuss unemployment, inflation and higher salaries and in socio-political factors Family responsibilities, poor law and order situation, corruption, social insecurity, better education and health facilities will be highlighted in the context of international migration.

#### **Economic factors**

The economic condition of a native country is assumed to be a significant factor in international migration. Pakistan is confronting with precarious economic condition since last 60 years and one of the main reasons behind this is frequently changing governments. Difference in economic opportunities between origin country and the host country always compel people to migrate. A potential migrant always prefers to migrate, if he finds better economic opportunities in destination country than home country and dislikes to migrate if cost of migration increases.<sup>15</sup>

Increasing opportunities in labor market depends on the growth of the economy. Unfor-

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<sup>13</sup> World Migration in Figures; the United Nations High-Level Dialogue by UN-DESA and the OECD on Migration and Development, 3-4 October 2013

<sup>14</sup> United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2013)

<sup>15</sup> The Future of International Migration to OECD countries published by OECD, (2009)

tunately, Pakistan is facing sluggish economic growth which is unable to provide enough opportunities to the working age population. As a result, major proportion of population is unemployed and those who are employed are not getting suitable remuneration according to their skills and capabilities which is termed as underemployment. It is observed that up to some extent underemployment in Pakistan surpassing the unemployment. Another reason for this rising unemployment is the increasing private education institutions providing low quality education in Pakistan. A large number of private institutions with insufficient and untrained faculty providing

The skills of technical manpower are being underutilized in Pakistan from many years; therefore technical manpower is migrating abroad at large scale. Certainly, in the short term international migration is a source of reducing a pressure of unemployed workers but in long term it creates emptiness in several fields of development. For instance, at this time Pakistan is facing shortage of doctors & nurses to run their public health programmes and same is the case with engineers.<sup>16</sup>

### **Socio-political factors**

In context of international migration, it is not only the economic factors that compel people to migrate but in many cases, socially deprived societies play more important role to push people to favor welfare enriched societies. Social facilities available in the host countries always remain a major consideration for the potential immigrant. In Pakistan, family structure is quite different than the other parts of the world. It is mostly patriarchal and large extended families lives in a same house. On average, Pakistan's household size consists of six persons per family in which Male or a father is the sole bread earner of a family. Generally, family responsibilities is one of the intangible factors that oblige people to settle abroad to fulfill the requirements/necessities of their whole family that is impossible within their limited income.

While on the other hand, Government of developed countries somehow shares the burden of dependent people in the form of social security like, unemployment fund, free education, pensions, old age benefits, disability income etc providing to their public. This social security benefit not only keeps people away from the vicious circle of pov-

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<sup>16</sup> S. T. K Naim & Zainab Iftikhar, (2009) "Migration of highly skilled and its Impact on the Economic and Technological Development of Pakistan and Bangladesh"

erty but it also prevents young cohorts from indulging in various negative activities. The positive thing in this scenario is that in developed countries, these benefits are not only confined to their natives but some of these benefits also given to the migrated individuals which become a pull factor or a big attraction for a people living in developing countries to migrate abroad.

Provision of better health and education facilities to the public should be the priority of any country. A large number of Pakistani immigrants are studying in foreign educational institutions. One of the reasons to study abroad is the preference of foreign degree holders in Pakistan. As far as health care system is concerned, Pakistan still is in evolving stage. Regrettably, public sector organizations have failed to provide better facilities to the people, in order to fill this gap private sector embarked into the situation and quite successful in providing better quality of services. But these services provided by the private sector are unaffordable for the poor people or general public. Difference between haves and have-nots becomes widen which leads to an anarchy in a country.

Whenever there is insecurity, lawlessness and violence arises in a society that means poor law and order situation has prevailed in a country. Pakistan is facing extreme threat of terrorism and poor law & order situation. There is always an uncertainty for a common man to come back home safely. Unfortunately, it effects the poor and vulnerable the most. Foreign investors always feel reluctant to invest in a country where law and order situation is not stable. In other words, it also deteriorates the economic growth of the country. People who are surrounded with insecurity and pathetic law and order situation would always prefer to live in a country where they could prosper amply.

Corruption is another complex socio-economic phenomenon which has been a strong determinant of international migration. There are various forms of corruption in Pakistan like, bribery, nepotism, red tapism, abuse of power, illicit appointments, black marketing, hoarding etc. There is a positive relationship between corruption and international migration. Corruption specifically affects the migration of highly skilled workers. Whenever there is a procedure of appointing a capable, efficient and appropriate person to a job, corruption blackens the procedure which ultimately disappoints the person and compels to move to a place where his skills would be properly channelized. As we all know that demand of highly skilled workers are worldwide and they can take challenges by migrating to another country. Migration of Highly skilled workers affects



negatively on the economic growth of a country.

**Conclusion:**

According to Lee's push and pull theory of migration, unemployment, inflation, social insecurity, poor law and order situation and corruption are push factors of international migration. These factors like inflation, unemployment, social insecurity, poor law and order situation and corruption are directly proportional to international migration. A potential migrant is always attracted by these pull factors such as better salaries, better education and health facilities of developed countries. While migrating into another country, an immigrant always compares the positive and negative factors of destination and the origin country. Yet, it is a country's responsibility to retain their young migrants and provide them suitable environment and opportunities so that they could amply prosper and flourish in their own country.