

## Does Internal Migration Make Difference? An In-depth Study to Explore the Change in Socio-economic Status and Gender Relations between Internal Migrant Families

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Internal migration has been considered as an opportunity to improve socio-economic status by people belonging to lower socio-economic stratum. However, studies lack on the role of individual genders in satisfying the objectives of migration at the place of destination. This study fills this gap and explains the impact of internal migration on the socio-economic status of migrant families in Lahore, Pakistan. It is assumed that people migrate to improve their socio-economic status. Though poverty affects largely the decisions relating to migration, but our study highlights the role of other factors also e.g. limited employment opportunities, exploitation at workplace and low wages. Internal migration helps migrants to achieve their targets partially. Female's employment is welcomed by males, but they abandon their paid work. Resultantly, the socio-economic status of single earner families does not change. In contrast, households where both males and females are working progress gradually. Finally, in most cases, the perceived benefits of migration are not achieved due to a reverse women empowerment. It results in reduced family income, which causes female's professional exploitation, deprive children from education, and promote domestic violence.

**Keywords:** Internal migration, socio-economic status, gender, poverty

Internal migration has always been perceived as an opportunity to heighten the socio-economic status by people belonging to lower socio-economic stratum. Especially in rural areas, migration to big cities is professed to be a reliable source of poverty eradication. Dwellers of rural areas assume that displacement from backward areas to highly developed ones will bring prosperity in their lives. They associate the well-being of their families with this adventure. There is no doubt that internal migration opens new channels of interaction between two different cultures, it offers new platforms for skill development, and it comes up with new economic opportunities but in reality, a small fraction of migrants enjoy real change in their lives. In Pakistan, like other parts of the world, internal as well as external migrations, both are taking place frequently. The statistics reveal a large proportion of rural dwellers migrate toward urban areas on yearly basis (Arif, 2005; Memon, 2005). In the remaining world, it has been observed that migrants enter with different skills in the labour market at destinations. Persistent attachment with specific professions in a long run enables them to earn well. Resultantly, their fiscal contribution brings back improved social status for their families (Pahl and Rowsell, 2006). In most cases, this is the main objective of migration.

Besides few evidences, the studies on migration are scarcely available in the literature of Pakistan. Two main barriers exist i.e. lack of resources and inadequate access to data. However, among available, studies were conducted based on national surveys that reveal solely statistical figures on selected indicators which do not encompass in-depth analysis of the phenomenon. The studies with primary data that underline specific reasons and consequences of internal migrations are very rare. Generally, available studies provide a brief overview of migration trends across different provinces within the country. The survey statistics declare the Punjab at top

(42%), by following Sindh (38%), KP (19%) and Baluchistan (1.2%) on inter-provincial migration (Labour Force Survey, 2013) on internal migration. However, these statistics do not specify the places of origin and destinations. However, a previous study of Arif (2005) narrated that 40 percent of migrants move from rural to urban areas in Pakistan. The Punjab appeared as leading province where internal migrations happen more frequently. The LFS (2013) revealed that 27 percent migrants moved from rural to urban areas in the Punjab during previous few years. In fact, the Punjabis considered as an important hub of economic activities that generate wide range of employment opportunities for its dwellers and new entrants. Thus, it can be assumed that the migrants who move toward various cities of the Punjab intend to find improved means of subsistence as compared to past professions. According to LFS (2013) those who migrated, 6.3 percent moved in search of good jobs and 5.3 percent shifted to avail prevailing job offers. The survey also sheds light on employment activities of migrants e.g. 45 percent migrants had employment status and 34 percent were own account workers at the places of destination. One out of five migrants was observed as contributing family worker. Fifty-two percent male migrants were engaged as employees, and 48 percent female migrants were serving as contributing family workers. These statistics authenticate our presumption that uplifting of socio-economic conditions is the primary objective of in-migrants.

Moreover, internal migration is usually more than individual phenomenon because in most of cases, the families accompany with. The studies of Memon and Farooq; Mateen and Cheema (2005) inferred that majority migrates with families. In fact, the decision of migration is family driven; it does not matter who moves; either individuals or families. There are several push and pull factors that influence the decision of migration. These factors have an ability to coerce individuals or families to move from one place to another. Population Education Cell (2001) summarized the push and pull factors that are embedded with rural to urban migration in two categories; firstly, the factors which make it difficult for inhabitants to live e.g. lack of education, health, employment, sanitation, justice, and land degradation prevention methods. Second, cluster of factors is related to cities which attract rural inhabitants towards urban places e.g. better education, improved healthcare, more employment opportunities, and attractive life style. Among these, access to suitable employment opportunities (Congdon, 2010; Meen, 2005) and lure of improved life standard, and availability of basic amenities like, education, health and clean drinking water (Norman, 2010) have great importance.

The situation is lucid that families move from rural to urban areas frequently in the Province of Punjab, Pakistan. Indeed national surveys indicate objectives of migration via few statistics, but do not offer explanations behind the decisions and consequences of internal migration. Moreover, neither past studies nor survey statistics articulate the role of individual genders in satisfying the objectives of migration at the place of destination. Therefore, the present study fills the gap in these lines, and explains the impact of internal migration on the socio-economic status and gender relations of migrant families in Lahore city. Particularly, current study also introduces a new concept of 'reverse women empowerment' that happened due to changed role of women from 'home-makers' to 'home-maker cum breadwinner' and men denied to fulfil their responsibilities as 'breadwinners' at the place of destination.

The study will answer following research questions:

1. Does migration bring change in the socio-economic status of migrant families?
2. Which factors contribute to the rise or stability of family's socio-economic status after migration?
3. Does migration change gender relations within the family that further determine family's socio-economic status at the place of destination?

## **Method**

### **Data Collection**

Interviews were conducted with 10 heads of families who had migrated from Okara district to Lahore city in search of employment and have been residing there for at least five years. For selection of sample, purposive sampling technique was used. The criteria of respondents' selection were to approach those families who have migrated at least five years ago and have established their family set-up in Lahore city. All the households were approached individually and head of the family either male or female were requested to participate in interviews. Though unit of analysis was a single household, but information was taken from senior heads of family. Before conducting the interviews, interview guide was prepared and open ended questions

were written down. In order to conduct interviews, firstly rapport was built and where required probing technique was also used. In some cases, the respondents showed some hesitation to join the discussion in the interviews, but gradually they developed confidence with the researcher. In average, it took about 40-50 minutes to complete interview with an individual respondent. Both, national language and mother tongue were used to take interviews from respondents.

### **Characteristics of Respondents**

Four respondents were male and six families had females as head of the family. The age group of the respondents was 26-55 years. All were married and had 2-8 children. All of them were migrated from Okara district and the duration of migration was 05-25 years. For males, age at marriage was 16-20 and for females it was 12-15 years. All female respondents were illiterate and only one male respondent had primary level of education. By profession, females were domestic workers and males were daily wagers.

### **Data Analysis**

As permission was taken from respondents, audio-recording was done. All the recorded interviews were transcribed in English by authors. The transcribed content was reviewed by a socio-linguistic in order to ensure that material is properly translated and transcribed. Extraction of emergent themes from the interview transcript was done by following by analytical induction and constant comparison. In this regard, emergent themes were derived through exploration of similarities and differences in the respondents' views (Auerbach & Silverstein 2003).

Multiple steps were followed during data analysis. At first step, transcribed audio material was read number of times. At second step, themes were derived from the text through systematic investigation of similarities and differences of respondents' views. The coding was performed by using MAXQDA software. It helped to summarize the data and construct the more meaningful inferences. At third step, notes were transcribed in proper phrases. And at last stage of the analysis, themes were summarized, illustrated and explained and narratives were used to support the impressions (Smith, 2007).

It is also mentioned that the respondents also provided additional information that was not relevant to research questions. Hence, this information was included in the initial transcriptions, but later irrelevant contents were erased during final analysis and report writing process.

### **Ethical Considerations**

While conducting interview, ethical considerations were kept in mind. The purpose of research was clearly communicated to the respondents. Further, verbal consent was taken for audio-recording and note taking. Anonymity of respondents was also ensured that and names and their identities were kept veiled.

## **Results**

While conducting in-depth interviews, the opinions about the benefits of migration of head of migrant families were obtained in following dimensions; personal and family socio-economic conditions before migration, causes of migration, experiences at the place of destination, current socio-economic status, and living conditions after migration. The findings shed light on their experiences, processes, and achievements in the following manners.

### **Socio-economic Conditions of Migrant Families before Migration**

The very first question asked to the respondents was about their socio-economic status before migration. All of the respondents stated poor economic conditions at place of residence. Male respondents stated that they were daily wages workers and were involved in harvesting the crops. The daily wage in harvesting season was one hundred to two hundred Pak. rupees. Both, husband and wives were involved in work in harvesting season. Females were also involved in cotton picking<sup>1</sup>. They were paid sixty to one hundred Pak.

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<sup>1</sup>As respondents were from Okara belt, in this belt cotton is a famous crop and usually most of the female labour is involved in picking the crops.

rupees for 40 kg bail of cotton. Household's earnings were insufficient to meet basic needs of life. None of respondents possessed any piece of land and own house. Even few (4 out of 10) were living in shared houses with other families because they had not enough money to live independently. In single breadwinner families, the level of poverty was more acute. In these families, the food was not available three times a day. Access to healthcare was limited. In case of illness, indigenous health providers and quakes were consulted. Solely, in case of serious disease, they rushed to the hospitals. For this, they had to borrow money from relatives or contractors. Education was not priority of these families because they were giving least attention to the education of their children. The public schools were situated in nearby vicinities. The books and stationary were provided free of cost by the state, but still they were not sending their children to schools. Poverty can be a salient cause behind neglecting attitude of parents toward the education of their children. It was notice that the child labour was popular in these families. Their children were accumulating family income by earning Rs. 30-50 on daily basis. Contradictory to cultural norms and values, female's participation in the paid work was surprising. Usually, local culture condemns their presence in the labour market. However, they were working as daily wagers in the fields, but their incomes were considerably lower than their male counterparts. In some cases, only females were working and males were not. Here patriarchal norms worked in reverse, because male members used their right of decision-making in favour of female's paid work and they were engaged in other non-productive activities. It does not mean that they were empowering their females on the matter of employment, but actually they were exploiting them at two fronts; at household and at workplaces. They were expecting from their wives to amalgamate their culturally defined domestic roles and care-giving responsibilities along with paid work. And their wives were acting upon their wishes. It is concluded that at the place of origin, families were unable to meet their basic needs of life due to low incomes. Children were not sent to schools and preferred for child labour. Few husbands were exercising their patriarchal domination in favour of wife's employment, but they do not deem to empower their women. In fact, they were escaping from 'breadwinning' responsibilities by putting dual burden on their wives.

#### **Push and Pull Factors of Internal Migration**

Migrants shared various factors that instigate them for migration from their place of residence to urban areas. They shared three common 'push' factors i.e., poverty, lack of consistency in employment, and exploitation at work. According to respondents, they were living below poverty line and were incapable to have three meals per day. Poverty can be linked to absence of industries at the place of origin, because the Okara belt is famous for cotton, wheat and maize crops. Due to poverty, they were unable to fulfil basic amenities of life for their families, e.g. necessary food, education of children, and medication. It forced them to consider migration as an alternative option. Almost all respondents were illiterate. They stated that maximum employment opportunities for them were revolving around working in fields at the place of origin. They were offered work in cotton and wheat crops during harvesting seasons. These opportunities were sporadic. They had no other skills hence for the rest of the months they were unable to find alternative sources of income. In anticipation of variety of employment options, they decided to depart toward big city. The respondents also narrated that they were exploited by the employers at the place of origin. The experience of professional violence was reported by both genders at their previous workplaces. Extensive work, but inappropriate behaviour of employers heightened the feeling of hopelessness and helplessness among them. For instance, one respondent described the violent experiences as follows:

#### **RUL JANDY SUN MITTIAN WICH (Interviewee No. 01)**

##### *Gone to rags*

Both genders had been experiencing half cuts in wages. It was reported by two males and one female that they were paid on weekly basis. They were paid 50 percent less than committed money. They were able to get wages in different steps. The brokers and the contractors who arranged their jobs had been deducting their own shares from their incomes. In case of any protest, they were considered 'rebels'. They were threatened about jobs or practically they were kicked out from the employment. In latter case, they were not paid remaining money for the work they had already done. Though both genders were experiencing certain issues in wages, but the female workers were specifically experiencing wage discriminations at workplaces. It was observed that female's involvement in the paid work was wholeheartedly accepted by the families. It is contradictory to overall

situation of female's labour market participation in Pakistan. But for explanation, the female respondents stated that because their mothers were engaged in outside work, hence they learnt and accepted this role accordingly. It has become a social norm in the area which had become a custom in society. They perceived their paid work as a tradition of their caste and declared it a norm of 'Bradri' which caused their respect in the community. However, they were clearly paid less than their male counterparts. Hence, they were considering their income inadequate with respect to their needs. Thus, attractive employment opportunities at Lahore city served as 'pull' factor of their migration. They gathered information regarding the availability of domestic work in new and big colonies at Lahore city. It played a decisive role in convincing them for migration. Above stated factors enforced or attracted migrant families to move from the place of origin to Lahore city where they predicted proper employment and adequate earnings on regular basis. In all cases, family was fully involved in the decision of migration. The 'Chain Migration' also facilitated the decision-making process of many respondents for the migration. It is because, the migrants, prior to move, consulted their relatives, who had already migrated and settled down in big cities. Lastly, because female's outside work was acceptable by the families, therefore anticipated dual earning also convinced them to move.

### **Perceived Benefits of Migration**

Past literature inferred that people migrate to raise their socio-economic status. The respondents specified the same reason of their migration. Majority (8 out of 10) migrated to Lahore city to acquire good employment opportunities and to improve their socio-economic status. However, there was diversification in the viewpoint of respondents about their intended goals of migration and subsequent achievements.

Majority of the respondents (8 out of 10) migrated to Lahore city with the help of their relatives. Later, these relatives also helped them obtain an employment. These relatives also helped them in searching suitable rental houses. All families were living in the single room rental houses with attach bath, but the facility of kitchen was not available. Majority of migrants found employment easily. They were less likely exploited by the employers at new workplaces. Their jobs enabled them to earn Rs. 300-600 on daily basis compared to Rs. 100-200 at their native places. Overall family income reached to Rs. 10000-15000 per month. Most of respondents were satisfied with their decisions of migration and considered it a positive step of their lives. They were able to fulfil basic necessities of their families. Especially, if families had dual earners, it enabled them to manage household more conveniently. Two respondents told that they had purchased motorcycles on instalments. One respondent had purchased a piece of land in Lahore as well as at native place. The migrants less likely experienced wage exploitation in the destination place. In fact, migration protected a majority of respondents from previous type of violence at workplaces. They were getting their wages without middle men, on time, and according to job agreements.

Nevertheless, few respondents (4 out of 10) did not perceive migration beneficial at all. They had no jobs, or had no adequate income. Thus, they reported difficulties in fulfilling basic needs of families. They stated that food was difficult to manage at the place of origin which seemed easy here. Otherwise, migration could not bring a significant change in their lives. For instance, a thirty years old woman reported that:

**WAHAN AIK TIME KA KHANA MILTA THA YAHAN ZAIDA MILTA HA**

**OR KOE FARAQ NAHI (Interviewee No. 06)**

*No difference except improvement in the food supply which was scarce there*

Our findings shed light on the causal effects of their dissatisfactions with migration. It was analyzed by the statements of female respondents that they found jobs immediately as domestic workers at the homes of rich people. They were happy with their income and additional benefits of their jobs like (additional cooked food, used clothes and minor household items) that were often offered by the employers. Females were also earning better than before. For instance, the average income of female workers was more than Rs. 5000 per month besides other benefits (Zakat etc.). However, their male counterparts behaved inversely when they observed that their wives were sufficiently earning and were fulfilling household needs adequately. Initially, it was presumed by female migrants that their male counterparts will continue working after migration that will

ultimately bring their families out of poverty. Nevertheless, it did not happen because their husbands refused to fulfil their responsibilities as 'breadwinners'. A majority of females was unhappy with the attitude of their male partners. Majority of wives (4 out of 6) reported that their husbands abandoned the employment after the commencement of their jobs. They shared that they were beaten by their husbands if they stressed them to work. Without the support of husbands, they were experiencing severe difficulties to provide basic necessities of life to their families. For instance, it was difficult for them to provide three time meal to their children. They had a single bed, 2-3 carts, one bicycle, and few utensils at their homes. In case of medical complications, they had to borrow money from employers or peers. They were unable to send their children to schools. One female respondent stated:

**SAADY PULLY KAKH NAHI**  
*We have nothing*

Several times, they had to borrow to meet their basic needs. This was happening because their husbands had refused to play their role in the familial development through their income. The household was totally dependent on their wives' income. They were experiencing triple burden of work; domestic chores, caregiving assignments, and paid work outside home. Therefore, single income and additional burden of 'traditional' responsibilities coerced females to realize that the situation of their families will not change plausibly. One of the female stated that:

**LAHORE KI KAMAI LAHORE MAIN HI RAH JATI HA (Interviewee No. 05)**

*Earning at Lahore ends up with spending in Lahore*

Another female respondent stated that:

**AB TO ZINDGI GUZAR RAHY HAIN (Interviewee No. 04)**

*Now, we are hardly able to meet needs*

They seemed hopeless from their husbands. They did not see their efforts and income enough to achieve the targets of migration. This situation enhanced pessimism in their attitudes. It is concluded that a majority of migrants was happy with their decisions of migration because it has shielded them from work exploitations, provided suitable employment opportunities, and enhanced their family income in the place of destination. However, their socio-economic conditions did not change plausibly due to 'reverse women empowerment' effect. Although, they were allowed by their husbands to work outside home, they appeared as single earners in the families. They were also expected to perform domestic and caregiving duties. It enhanced their miseries instead of economic empowerment. If they refused to accept tri-roles, they were beaten by their husband. Hence, it is concluded that though migration offered new opportunities to migrant families in the destination area, it also ended up with the 'reverse women empowerment' and physical violence against them.

**Literacy Level after Migration**

Respondents were also asked about their efforts to educate their children after migration, because all respondents and their children were illiterate when they migrated. It was observed that majority of respondents (7 out of 10) was not sending their children to schools. For justifications, they narrated that they cannot afford fees of private schools. The public schools were located at large distances. Moreover, the opportunity cost rigorously convinced them to deprive their children from education. They believed that rather than sending their kids to school it is more appropriate to involve them in manual work at different workshops, tailor's shop or electric shop. According to their belief, they will learn some skills and earn well in future. Another causal explanation behind the lack of parent's interest in the children's education can be the effects of 'reverse women empowerment' when only mothers were responsible to provide for basic needs of their families, the husbands had no contribution in the family income, and the mothers were autonomous to decide about the involvement of their children in the income generation activities.

On the other side, three families were sending their children to schools. They selected youngest child for education. They were sending them in private school that were relatively expensive than public schools. They

were paying Rs. 600-800 per month for tuition fee. In addition, they were paying Rs. 500 per month for their coaching at evening. More often, these families were dual earners. One family stated that:

**YAHAN HATH KHULA HA**  
*We are economically better here*  
**BACHY PARHNAY KA DIL KARTA HA AB**  
*Now we wish to send our kids to school for education*

However, elder children, specifically female children were discriminated in this regard. This is again an outcome of 'reverse women empowerment', because the families believed that elder children, specifically female children can assist in the domestic chores or in the paid work. It is concluded that child education was not initial priority of migrant families. They were solely focusing to enhance family incomes hence they attached their elder and female children with the paid work. Though, education became priority of few migrant families, yet female children were deprived from this noble cause.

### **Gender Relations**

In the native areas, in few cases, both parents found working to supplement family income and meet basic needs of life. Nonetheless, the situation changed when they migrated and reached Lahore city. Husbands, irrespective to their professional skills, abandoned the employment. On the flipside, wives charged this responsibility and entered the labour market. It seems that wives gained empowerment in the labour market, but in reality they suffered with triple burden of responsibilities i.e. domestic chores, care-giving responsibilities and jobs. We call it a 'reverse women empowerment' that basically enhanced their miseries instead of fiscal relief and autonomy. In these cases, wives were solely responsible to fulfil household financial needs, and the husbands did not hesitate to torture them physically if they refused to accept this role. Migration deteriorated gender relations between parents. We are not claiming that wives were enjoying equality at the place of origin, but at least they were equally working with their husbands outside homes, and both were bringing money in the home. In that situation, husbands had sense of responsibility that can be associated to gender equality to certain extent. Reverse women's empowerment at the place of destination was responsible for vulnerable situation of migrant families, because it was observed that where both parents were working; the families improved their socio-economic conditions significantly.

### **Discussion**

It is presumed that internal migration, from less developed to developed areas, improves the socio-economic conditions of migrant families. Our results accept this hypothesis partially. The results reveal that socio-economic status of the migrant families changed where gender relations were practices based on equality. Both parents were equally involved in income generation activities. On the flipside, the situation did not improve in the single earner (female) families.

At native places, the respondents were daily wage workers. They were exploited in the matter of salaries by the middle men and employers. Their incomes were inadequate hence they were coerced to live in shared houses. Family income was not sufficient to meet basic necessities of life. Often they had no meal for three times a day. None of a single family sent their children to schools. Wives were helping husband hand by hand financially and were also looking after household chores.

After migration, the situation changed in the selected families. Majority of family members found jobs on regular basis. These jobs were unstructured e.g. without a formal contract. Nonetheless, there were no middle men between work and income. On the matter of wages, they were not exploited by the employers. They were earning twice high as compared to their previous employments. They were in a position to secure three time meal per day for families.

According to initial research questions, our findings do not differ from Kothari (2002) and Dennett & Stillwell (2010) that the families migrated to Lahore to improve their socio-economic conditions, to get rid of poverty, and to secure themselves from employer's exploitations. It also supports the study findings of Scottish

Government (2009) regarding rural to urban migration that identified shortage of jobs and lack of availability of basic services in rural areas. Though the decision of migration is influenced by different push factors; specifically by economic factors as stated hypothesis of the current study, yet in decision making process, the role of family, peer groups, and relatives is very important. In case of rural to urban migration, migrants were guided and supported by their relatives and friends during the process (*Chain Migration*). Our findings confirm the same indicators such as relatives, elders, and friends as imperative instigators of migration, which were also reported by Scottish Government Social Research (2008). However, the motivations offered by these agencies do not separate from certain push or pull factors.

Previous studies (Farooq & Cheema, 2005; Farooq & Javed, 2009; Khan et al., 2011; Farooq et al., 2014) revealed that migration profoundly alters the socio-economic status of the individuals and families. However, the findings of present study offer varying results in two dimensions; first socio-economic status of migrant families changed significantly where both husband and wife remembered the purpose of migration, concentrated on paid work, produced dual incomes, and supported each other hand by hand. Second, the situation did not change in single earner families where husbands refused to work. It means internal migration opened new doors of prosperity for migrants, but gender stereotypes reversed the situation, and it increased female's hardships as single breadwinners for the families. It might have happened because males were illiterate, and they were only acquainted with few agriculture skills, hence they could not find jobs immediately. But on the other side, females owned additional skills of domestic chores thus they obtained jobs as domestic workers immediately. Moreover, among those males who were accommodated by the evolving economy of the city, when they observed that their wives were earning enough they ceased their jobs. Their lethargic attitude jammed the family's progress. This caused poverty, hunger, deprivations, and violence in the families. In these cases, 'reverse women empowerment' exacerbated the situation and enhanced the hardships of female partners. With reference to our second research question, dual earner families appeared as salient determinant of change in socio-economic status of migrant families. Because single earner families, particularly where only females were breadwinners, the situation further deteriorated. This resulted nutrition deficiency, no education for children, poor health conditions, and stagnant socio-economic status.

The 'reverse women empowerment' also exerted negative influence on children's education. Migrants had moved to Lahore city many years ago. In native areas, they did not pay attention on the education of their children. They had a tradition to involve their children in child labour. Migration did not change the situation plausibly. Majority was not sending their children to schools. Majority of these families had only single source of income (females). Importantly, female children were still deprived of education. It can be assumed the probability of husband-wife conflicts will be high on the matters of household, income and preferences that ultimately deprive female children of education. This leads to a conclusion that the chances to attain education are high among migrant families where gender-friendly atmosphere exists.

However, few families had altered their attitudes toward their education. They were sending their younger children to schools. They were facilitating additional help in their studies. They did not seem hesitant on home tuitions. This slight change endorses the findings of Hu (2013), Edwards and Ureta (2003), Antman (2012) that migration of parents increases the likelihood of educational attainments of children at the place of destination. More specifically, our research infers that these were dual earning families who took this initiative. It means child's education is linked to fiscal situation of families, mutual understanding of partners, and realization of need of education.

## **Conclusion**

Current study supplemented existing theories of migration and feminism with the following inferences. It is assumed that people migrate to improve their socio-economic status. Though poverty affects largely the decisions relating to migration, but our study also highlights other factors that enforced people to move from Okara to Lahore e.g. limited employment opportunities, exploitation at workplace and low wages. Internal migration helped migrants to achieve their targets partially. The inverse change in the attitudes of male migrants toward their employment in one way and female's economic empowerment in another way, hindered familial prosperity. Female's employment was welcomed by males, but they abandoned their paid work. Resultantly, the

socio-economic status of single earner families did not change. Reverse women empowerment exploited them at three fronts; domestic, care-giving and paid work. On the flipside, where both male and female were engaged in the paid work, their families were progressing gradually. It infers that recognition of gender equality in true sense can foster the process of socio-economic uplifting within migrant families. Finally, in most of cases, the perceived benefits of migration did not achieve because a reverse change in the gender relations within the family and toward the female's employment was observed that reduced family income, caused female's professional exploitation, deprived children from education, and promoted domestic violence.

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