

**INTERNAL MIGRATION:  
The Case of Sindh Province**  
By  
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**I. INTRODUCTION**

Population explosion, declining land productivity, rising expectations for higher wages, and a search for better living conditions has historically motivated migration from less developed areas towards developed areas and, thereby, accelerated the process of urbanization [Shixun and Xian, 1992]. Pakistan has also experienced the same phenomena with the share of urban population increasing from 17.7 percent in 1951 census to 32.5 percent in 1998 census. Among the four provinces, currently the highest rate of urbanization is observed in Sindh province with urban population shares of 49 percent [Nasar et. al., 1999]. It is likely that, in the next few years, the urban population of Sindh will exceed its rural population, with fundamental implication on the patterns of resource allocation and electoral representation.

This study explores the inter-district migration pattern in Sindh province. It highlights the behavior and reasons for moving out from one district to another, using information provided in District Census Report of 1998. The paper also examines the characteristics of migrant population and attempts to correlate migration with district's development level.

Although, examination of intra-district pattern of migration is also useful to understand migration behavior, the lack of information does not allow dealing with this important phenomenon. Another important phenomenon, which is missing from this exercise, is the detailed explanations and reasons for rural-urban migration. Unfortunately the information in the census regarding in-migration, only informs of the previous residential district without urban/rural breakdown.

At the time of the 1998 Census there were 5 divisions and 21 districts with 163 urban localities in the province comprising of 1 Metropolitan Corporation, 8 Municipal

Corporations, 29 Municipal Committees, 117 Town Committees and 8 Cantonments. The only metropolitan city of the Sindh province which is also the biggest in Pakistan, the Karachi Metropolis, is spread over five districts, viz., East, West, Central, South and Malir and comprises of 28.72 percent of total population of the province. This study considers these five districts as a single administrative area. The analysis in this study is therefore based on 17 administrative units of the province.

The paper is organized as follows: Section II briefly discusses the migration pattern with emphasis on urbanization in Sindh province; Section III provides reasons for migrations; Section IV explores the role of education as a pull factor of in-migration. A correlation between the extent of migration and district development level is highlighted in Section V, while concluding remarks are provided in the last section.

## **II. MIGRATION PATTERN – AN INTER PROVINCIAL MIGRATION**

Various factors like social, political, religious, ethnic, and economic considerations push people to migrate from their birth places or origin. Sindh province has experienced considerable patterns of in-migration.

During the inter-census period (1981 to 1998), the size of Sindh population has increased from 19 to 30 millions, whereas the annual growth rate reduced from 3.56 to 2.71 during the same period. The proportion of urban population has increased with a relatively higher annual growth rate of 3.44 percent. On the contrary, the annual growth rate in rural population is 2.09 percent during the inter-census period. This phenomenon clearly reveals rural to urban migration pattern. The Karachi urban area alone has a population of about 9 million and this accounts for 62 percent of total urban population of the Sindh province. The three major cities i.e. Karachi, Hyderabad, and Sukkur together represent 73 percent of the total urban population of Sindh.

Table –1 displays migration pattern of the province. About 52 percent people came from Punjab followed by 36 percent from NWFP. The Table also reveals that most of the out-migration from Sindh occurred for Punjab ( 74 percent ), whereas only 6 percent migration is reported from Sindh to NWFP. The figure of migration for NWFP is exceptionally low as compared to migration from NWFP to Sindh.

<b>TABLE – 1 INTER-PROVINCIAL MIGRATION DIRECTION OF MIGRATION IN SINDH</b>				
<b>[Percent of Population Reported]</b>				
<b>Administrative Areas</b>	<b>In [from]</b>		<b>Out [to]</b>	
	<b>No.</b>	<b>[ %]</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>[%]</b>
Punjab	635765	52	161803	74
NWFP	430848	36	12393	6
Balochistan	76399	6	22901	10
Other Areas – Islamabad, FATA, etc.	70298	6	21424	10

Source: District Census Reports, 1998

<b>TABLE – 2 URBAN SHARES</b>			
<b>[Percentage of Total District Migration]</b>			
<b>Administrative Areas</b>	<b>Out-Migration</b>	<b>In-Migration</b>	<b>Population</b>
Jacobabad	56	91	24.4
Shikarpur	78	34	24.1
<b>Larkana</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>28.9</b>
<b>Sukkur</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>26.2</b>
Ghotki	79	87	16.3
Khairpur	74	33	23.6
Naushahro Feroze	73	57	17.7
Nawabshah	69	74	26.4
Dadu	65	21	21.4
<b>Hyderabad</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>50.8</b>
Badin	49	30	16.4
Thatta	76	11	11.2
Sanghar	71	39	22.8
<b>Mirpur Khas</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>33.1</b>
Umerkot	50	55	16.8
Tharparkar	36	75	04.4
<b>Karachi Division</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>94.8</b>
<b>Total (Sindh)</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>48.8</b>

Source: District Census Reports, 1998

It is evident from Table – 2 that migration is clearly an urban phenomenon. The urban share of intra-province in or out migration is about 75 percent. Most of the districts have more than 80 percent urban shares, especially for out-migration.

Considering each division separately, of the five divisions of Sindh most of the out migration is found in the headquarters of the divisions as shown in Table – 2, which provides district-wise detailed urban migration patterns. For instance, in Larkana and Sukkur district the urban share of the out migration is above 80 percent. Thus, this outflow of all the districts of Sindh is directed towards Karachi division showing a high inflow of 92 percent.

<b>TABLE – 3</b>		<b>PATTERN OF URBAN IN-MIGRATION</b>		
<b>[Percent of Population Reported]</b>				
<b>From Administrative Areas</b>	<b>To Rest of Sindh</b>	<b>To Karachi</b>	<b>Total</b>	
Punjab	12	88	100	
NWFP	4	96	100	
Balochistan	11	89	100	
Other Areas – Islamabad, FATA etc.	1	99	100	
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>100</b>	

Source: District Census Reports, 1998

The pattern of urban in-migration indicates that a very large population come to Karachi (92 percent) with the rest of Sindh accounting for 8 percent. The Table also highlights that migration from Punjab to rest of Sindh is relatively higher (12 percent) than other areas.

### **III. WHY PEOPLE MIGRATE?**

An important factor, contributing towards migration is industrialization which provides employment opportunities [Parveen, 1993]. In addition to this, availability of universities and colleges are an added attraction for migratory population. This study concentrates on two social factors (marriage and education) and two economic factors (business and employment) that induce migration. The census provides information regarding reasons for migration on the basis of population and not on the basis of households. Therefore, the

movement of people because of migration with head of households that accounts for indirect reason for migration is not considered in this analysis.

The economic opportunities are an important cause of migration. This phenomenon is consistent with conceptual models of migration that envisage the development of the migration process [Skeldon, 1985]. It can be seen quite clearly that the inflow is high in the industrial areas as the job opportunities are vast in nature, depending upon the

**TABLE- 4 REASON OF MIGRATION – DISTRICTWISE DISTRIBUTION**

(From All Areas to Sindh Districts)

<b>Administrative Area</b>	<b>Study</b>	<b>Marriage Business</b>	<b>Empl./ Transfer</b>	<b>Total</b>	
Jacobabad	1	23	27	49	100
Shikarpur	1	70	23	6	100
Larkana	0	73	26	1	100
Sukkur	1	12	9	78	100
Ghotki	0	43	28	28	100
Khairpur	10	36	31	23	100
Naushahro Feroze	5	77	14	4	100
Nawabshah	1	48	19	32	100
Dadu	9	26	11	54	100
Hyderabad	2	40	47	11	100
Badin	1	46	38	15	100
Thatta	0	18	65	17	100
Sanghar	3	56	35	7	100
Mirpur Khas	1	62	31	6	100
Umerkot	5	9	13	73	100
Tharparkar	1	31	2	65	100
Karachi Division	3	23	26	48	100
<b>Total Sindh</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: District Census Reports, 1998

person's skill and interest. These finding are reported in Table – 4 according to which 46 percent people migrate from other provinces to Sindh province on account of employment opportunities and 26 percent come for the purpose of business. So on the whole, 72 percent

migrated on account of economic factors and 28 percent on account of social factors. Karachi, which is one of the main centers of economic activities accounts for 32 percent of the total major industrial establishment of Pakistan. This table shows that 48 percent people migrate from other areas to Sindh province to Karachi for employment and 26 percent come for the purpose of business.

The highest in-migration after Karachi is into the district of Hyderabad. About 47 percent of in-migrants come for the purpose of business and about 11 percent for employment and transfers. In Sukkur, majority of migrants (78 percent) migrated for employment and due to transfers. In Shikarpur 29 percent and in Larkana 27 percent people migrate because of both employment and business objectives while Khairpur accounts for 54 percent of migration for this purpose.

**TABLE-5 REASON OF MIGRATION – DISTRICTWISE DISTRIBUTION**  
(Within Sindh Districts)

Administrative Area	Study	Marriage	Business	Empl/ Transfer
Jacobabad	0	0	0	1
Shikarpur	0	1	1	0
Larkana	0	1	1	0
Sukkur	2	4	2	9
Ghotki	0	1	1	0
Khairpur	6	1	1	1
Naushahro Feroze	3	2	0	0
Nawabshah	1	4	2	2
Dadu	9	2	1	6
Hyderabad	8	10	19	3
Badin	0	3	2	1
Thatta	0	1	8	1
Sanghar	5	6	4	1
Mirpur Khas	2	10	7	2
Umerkot	2	1	2	1
Tharparkar	0	0	0	0
Karachi Division	61	51	50	71
<b>Total Sindh</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: District Census Reports, 1998

Table – 5 gives another story about the causes of migration. It depicts in detail, the intra-district distribution of reasons for migration. It is apparent from the table that whatever the

reason may be whether it is for study, marriage, business or employment / transfer all of it is directed towards Karachi ranging from 50 to 71 percent. For instance, within the province of Sindh, 61 percent come to Karachi for the purpose of study, while few of them come to Khairpur, Dadu and Hyderabad. The table, which depicts reasons for intra-province movement indicates that Karachi, Hyderabad, Thatta and Mirpukhas are selected for business, while for employment Karachi, Sukkur and Dadu are preferred.

**Table: 6** **PERCENTAGE SHARE MALE MIGRANT POPULATION BY REASON OF MIGRATION**  
(Within Sindh Districts)

Administrative Area	Study	Marriage	Business	Empl/ Transfer
Jacobabad	100.0	3.8	93.8	94.8
Shikarpur	100.0	8.7	92.5	100.0
Larkana	*	1.9	74.6	100.0
Sukkur	81.8	6.2	84.3	99.3
Ghotki	*	0.6	96.4	94.7
Khairpur	18.4	7.9	77.7	96.4
Naushahro Feroze	100.0	0.9	77.9	100.0
Nawabshah	100.0	1.8	98.3	96.2
Dadu	54.5	9.7	93.4	97.3
Hyderabad	93.5	7.7	90.9	92.1
Badin	100.0	5.3	97.7	98.5
Thatta	*	28.9	78.2	100.0
Sanghar	98.1	3.1	91.9	90.8
Mirpur Khas	100.0	5.0	92.9	90.3
Umerkot	70.1	4.4	90.3	98.6
Tharparkar	*	0.0	100.0	66.7
<i>Karachi Division</i>	81.1	7.6	93.1	93.7
<b>Total Sindh</b>	<b>77.9</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>91.1</b>	<b>94.6</b>

\* no in-migrant for respective reason

Source: District Census Reports, 1998

It is worth mentioning that there are altogether ten universities operating in the province. In district Dadu, there is Sindh University along with Mehran Engineering University and Liaquat Medical College, in Hyderabad (Tando Jam) district there is an Agriculture University, whereas Khairpur has Khairpur University as well as Law Colleges which meets the demand of higher studies in the area. Further in Karachi, there are two universities in the public sector that is Karachi University and NED Engineering University, whereas provincial government has given charter to a large number of universities in the private sector.

Alongwith the facilities for higher studies, there are also a considerable number of degree and professional colleges.

In the case of migration for both marriage and study, it shows that people move independently whereas those who move for the purpose of business and employment / transfer usually carry family members alongwith them. The migration for economic reasons therefore accounts for higher migratory population. Nevertheless, the increasing female participation in migration is an important factor in accounting for the finding that migrants are staying longer at places where they migrate. The reason for their stay is not dependent on the socio-economic conditions or development of the region at large. For the purpose of marriage as mentioned in Table – 4, 25 percent of the people migrate from all areas in the province of Sindh and out which 93 percent cases reveal that migration occurs because of female movement on account of marriages. Analyzing the intra-Sindh migration pattern in Table – 6, we find that in Ghotki, Naushero Feroze, and Tharparkar districts the male migration due to marriage is quite in-significant. On the other hand, in Larkana, Ghotki, Thatta and Tharparkar districts there is no attraction for population to migrate for the purpose of study. While very significant male migration is shown in the districts of Jacobabad, Shikarpur, Naushahro Feroze, Nawabshah, Badin and Mirpur Khas for the purpose of study. The other two economic reasons business and employment are very much male oriented in all the districts of Sindh. However, only district of Tharparkar shows 33 percent female migration for the purpose of employment.

#### **IV. ROLE OF EDUCATION IN MIGRATION**

Employment is an important economic factor associated with migration. Employment mostly accounts for male migration. But this movement of the people for the sake of employment especially those who are educated, cause brain drain from the area of origin, causing the out migration district to remain underdeveloped and the in migration district to develop further. For instance Karachi is the largest center of industrial, commercial and financial activity and attracts migrants from all parts of Sindh and the country.



**TABLE – 7 EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF MIGRANT POPULATION – DISTRICT-WISE DISTRIBUTION**

(From All Areas to Sindh Districts)

%

Administrative Area	Illiterate	Literate	LITERATE MIGRANT POPULATION		
			Below Matric	Matric But Below Degree	Degree & Above
Jacobabad	54	46	25	15	5
Shikarpur	71	29	19	6	4
Larkana	68	32	27	4	1
Sukkur	29	71	42	23	6
Ghotki	60	40	22	12	6
Khairpur	72	28	12	8	8
Naushahro Feroze	71	29	18	7	3
Nawabshah	61	39	22	11	5
Dadu	39	61	29	16	15
Hyderabad	68	32	22	7	3
Badin	70	30	19	9	2
Thatta	74	26	16	5	4
Sanghar	69	31	20	7	3
Mirpur Khas	67	33	19	9	4
Umerkot	40	60	29	28	2
Tharparkar	57	43	28	11	4
Karachi Division	43	57	30	17	9
<b>Total Sindh</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>8</b>

Source: District Census Reports, 1998

Table – 7 furnishes information regarding proportion of literate migrant. Districts Sukkur, Dadu, Umerkot and Karachi receive relatively higher proportion of literate migrants. Districts Shikarpur, Khairpur, Naushahro Feroz and Thatta have high share of illiterate migrants. Among literate migrant people, about 29 percent possess below Matric education; about 16 percent possess higher secondary education, while about 8 percent are graduates.

Table – 8 portrays individual district's share of literate and illiterate population coming from all areas in the province of Sindh. It portrays that in Umerkot and Tharparkar the ratio of in-migration of the male literates is as high as 742 and 802 percent respectively.

**TABLE 8: DISTRICTWISE SEX RATIO OF MIGRANT POPULATION (10 Years and Above) BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT**

(From All Areas to Sindh Districts)

Administrative Area	Illiterate	Literate	Total	LITERATE MIGRANT POPULATION		
				Below Matric	Matric But Below Degree	Degree & Above
Jacobabad	84	160	244	129	249	151
Shikarpur	66	104	170	106	96	105
Larkana	66	74	140	61	180	206
Sukkur	56	413	468	372	549	352
Ghotki	61	164	225	154	170	211
Khairpur	100	149	250	155	107	187
Naushahro Feroze	43	141	184	127	149	306
Nawabshah	67	156	224	136	189	244
Dadu	55	157	212	120	138	391
Hyderabad	67	233	299	205	287	446
Badin	72	211	283	176	304	307
Thatta	96	367	462	308	431	1306
Sanghar	63	154	217	150	172	165
Mirpur Khas	62	138	199	121	158	199
Umerkot	76	742	818	489	1582	581
Tharparkar	80	802	882	1478	409	413
Karachi Division	104	182	286	158	214	241
<b>Total Sindh</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>245</b>

Source: District Census Reports, 1998

Only the district of Larkana indicates literate female in migration from all areas of Pakistan among which most of them are below matric cases. In the case of literate migration among all the three major categories matric but below degree male migrants are highest in the district of Umerkot. According to the census report, in Umerkot and Tharparkar districts male literacy ratio is very low that is 36.3 and 28.3 respectively, so male in-migration of the literates is a positive factor which accounts for improvement in the literate population of the areas.

## V. CORRELATION BETWEEN DEVELOPMENT LEVEL AND IN-MIGRATION

A composite Index of Development<sup>1</sup>, which measures development levels in terms of social (education, health) and economic (housing, labor force) indicators is constructed to evaluate

<sup>1</sup> The simplest numerical procedure for establishing districts' development position is the summation across standardized scores of each indicator. The technique is referred to as the Z-sum technique and is commonly used in development ranking. The higher the Z-sum for a particular district the more developed it is in relation to other districts. Using the districts' standardized development scores; an index (0-100 scale) is constructed to show the level of development [Ghaus, et.al., 1996]

the level of development of different districts of Sindh. The list of development indicators is provided in the Annexure. Table – 9 shows the magnitude of districts' development index, its development rank order and percentage of in-migration. The information clearly reveals a positive relationship between development index and in-migration.

<b>TABLE – 9 IN-MIGRATION AND LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT</b>			
<b>Districts</b>	<b>Rank Order</b>	<b>Index of Development</b>	<b>Percentage of In-Migration</b>
Jacobabad	14	25.0	1
Shikarpur	10	35.4	0
Larkana	4	45.2	0
Sukkur	3	54.2	3
Ghotki	12	29.7	0
Khairpur	9	36.0	1
Naushahro Feroze	6	42.9	0
Nawabshah	5	43.9	1
Dadu	11	31.4	1
Hyderabad	2	65.1	3
Badin	13	25.2	1
Thatta	15	16.4	1
Sanghar	8	36.3	2
Mirpur Khas/Umerkot	7	38.7	3
Tharparkar	16	00.0	0
Karachi Division	1	100.0	83

Karachi has an index of 100 (with rank 1), which shows highest degree of development in Sindh. Due to its development status, the percentage of in-migration is also the highest. Hyderabad ranked 2 with a development index of 65. After Karachi, the highest in-migration of 3 percent appears in Hyderabad. If we analyze from the lower ranking, Tharparkar and Thatta rank 16 and 15 respectively showing a very low degree of development. This lower level of development is translated into lower degree of in-migration in the area that is nearly zero percent in Tharparkar and 1 percent in Thatta.

Moreover, the correlation coefficient between level of development and percent of in-migration is 0.8, which indicates high and statistically significant relationship between migration and development level. It confirms the theory of migration that economic forces are major reasons for migration. The developed districts provide ample opportunities of employment and business due to large industrial base and other infrastructure. If Karachi is excluded from the observation then the correlation coefficient falls to 0.5.

## VI. CONCLUSION:

The large-scale urbanization is primarily due to the weak policies of the government, which promoted or accelerated investment in the urban centers instead of developing rural areas and creating job opportunities there. Besides the attraction of job opportunities, provision of other facilities like education, health, transport and communication and all other infra-structural facilities are far better in urban areas of large metropolis. In our study we have analyzed that in case of Sindh this privilege of focused development whatever the limited funds the government has is directed towards Karachi. This is the outcome of the continuous changing political governments, which come in power in the country exercise its own interest in the development process.

In the province of Sindh over time, the highest average annual growth rate is appeared in Karachi division. The influx of the population in Karachi Division is due to its metropolitan nature. Most of the offices and the business centers are located here and has the capacity to absorb huge population. Moreover, high quality schools, colleges, universities, hospitals, and the communication facilities are available here as compared to other districts. But at the same time, the growing population of urban areas like Karachi faces myriad of problems.

Although there are no deliberate policies towards developing large cities. But still on account of the various social and economic policies pursued, urban areas start growing, thereby increasing migration. It has been observed that if the low developed areas are better off with respect to socio-economic conditions then the population of that area prefers to move in the vicinity instead of urban centers be it for the sake of employment. But one of the drawback in the Sindh province with respect to Karachi is that it does not have any joint city. So, whoever comes for job in Karachi stays in the city which gives rise to multiple problems for the district management.

In Asia, we find that there are countries having agrarian economies which normally reflect culture of less developed areas. But still government policies are directed towards the improvement and development of urban areas or areas which already reflect city profile. The agrarian culture of those areas where their economies are based on agricultural produce are

developed but not with the view of absorbing surplus labor force because policy is to adopt capital intensive techniques rather labor intensive techniques. Agriculture credit provided by the government is for mechanization and for the production of agriculture exports.

Like other Asian countries the population growth rate in Pakistan is also high which poses a burden on the society thereby reducing per capita production. This low levels of productivity and low wages mostly in the rural areas tends to increase out-migration towards industrialized urban centers. Moreover, the SHMI (Small & Household Manufacturing Industries) in Sindh are only 14.8 percent which is low causing internal migration. This phenomena increases poverty of the urban areas which might not be very obvious in the rural areas. The setting or the living conditions in rural areas are quite simple, but urban areas has its own complex needs and there are not enough provision of services which are necessary to live in urban areas like sanitation, housing, electricity, etc. In fact, we find that the bulk of population which come to the urban areas still remain poorer as compared to the urban dwellers but they are better off if compared to their living condition in the rural settlement. After reviewing the above phenomena one can easily judge that the development of rural or urban areas all depend on the whims and wishes of the political government in power.

Another more crucial question for migration policy is whether trade in goods can narrow the wage gap, thereby reducing the pressure for labor migration, or whether such a trade widens the wage gap and further exacerbates the incentive to migrate. Thus, better quality of life or better economic opportunities are strong incentives for migration, thereby resulting in crowding of the urban areas. Therefore, government policies should be designed in such a way so that development takes place in a diversified manner in different areas without any regional biases. This is because this crowding phenomena has consequential impact on the delivery of services for the district municipalities rather planners, policy makers in terms of resource allocations and setting of development priorities.

## Annexure

<b>Selected Indicators Used in Final Development Ranking</b>	
<b>Health</b>	
1.	Doctors per 10000 Population
2.	Nurses per 10000 Population
3.	Hospitals/Dispensaries Beds per 10000 Population
4.	BHU/RHC Beds per 10000 Rural Population
<b>Education</b>	
5.	Adult Literacy Rate – Male Urban
6.	Adult Literacy Rate – Male Female
7.	Adult Literacy Rate – Male Rural
8.	Adult Literacy Rate – Male Rural
9.	Primary Enrollment Rate – Male
10.	Primary Enrollment Rate – Female
11.	Primary Teacher – Student Ratio
<b>Housing</b>	
12.	‘Pucca’ Wall House – Urban
13.	‘Pucca’ Wall House – Rural
14.	RCC/RBC Roofing – Urban
15.	RCC/RBC Roofing – Rural
16.	Housing Using Electricity – Urban
17.	Housing Using Electricity – Rural
18.	Inside Water Availability – Urban
19.	Inside Water Availability – Rural
<b>Labor Force</b>	
20.	Urban Industrial Labor Force
21.	Urban Employed Labor Force
22.	Rural Employed Labor Force

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