

CAUSES AND IMPACT OF IMMIGRATION ON PAKISTANI YOUNG PEOPLE ON PAKISTAN AND ON HOST COUNTRY (Great Britain)

Prof. Dr. Rashid Khan

Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Peshawar, Pakistan

Sareer Khan

Ph.D Scholar, Department of Sociology, University of Peshawar, Pakistan

Yorid Ehsan Zia

Assistant Professor, Quaid-e-Azam College of Commerce, University of Peshawar, Pakistan.

ABSTRACT

'Push' and 'pull' phenomena exist everywhere in the world. People are pushed out of their heaths and homes to other countries in search of better living. Unemployment and poor life force them to leave their homes, and experiencing untold hardships in search of 'green pastures' in the developed countries. Both skilled and unskilled labour force is transferred to the developed countries. Thousands of people are emigrating to Middle East, UK, USA, France and Germany legally and illegally. What are the factors and forces that attract these helpless people towards developed countries? And what is the impact of people who have emigrated from a poor country like Pakistan on their own country and on their host country? These are such questions, which may sensitize the minds of policy makers, and leadership of the country, committing to ensure quality of life for their people in the street.

Keywords: Economics development, Awareness about Laws, enrich culture and social life, Security, Religiosity, Westernization, Extremism, Radicalization.

INTRODUCTION:

[Pakistan](#) came into existence in 1947, so documentation of the life of Pakistani Britons technically can only start from that year. However, Muslim immigrants from the part of [British India](#) now known as Pakistan entered the [British Isles](#) as early as the mid-seventeenth century.

British Pakistanis (also Pakistani Britons) are citizens of the [United Kingdom](#) whose ancestral roots lie in [Pakistan](#). The UK has the second largest overseas Pakistani population after [Saudi Arabia](#). Pakistanis make up a large subgroup of [British Asians](#) largely due to historical and colonial links and Pakistan still being part of the [Commonwealth of Nations](#). The British Pakistani population is very diverse and differs from region to region. British Pakistanis are victims of the [North-South divide in Britain](#). This means that in London and the South East, the community is socially mobile and

Educational achievement is on or above national averages. While in the West Midlands and the North of England, the community has generally suffered from a decline in the manufacturing industry and the change to a service economy. Later generations, however, are being taught relevant skills to work within a service based economy and as such are making good progress particularly within the Sciences.

Apart from those who came from rural areas, a considerable number of Pakistanis arrived from cities and towns in the 1960s. Many of these were qualified Teachers, Doctors and Engineers and they had a predisposition to settle in London, as opposed to the Midlands or the North.

Population:

According to the [2001 UK Census](#), 747,285 Pakistanis were residing in the UK and by most recent estimates the figure has increased to well over 1,000,000. This represents 1.5% of the UK's total population and makes it the world's second largest overseas

Pakistani community. The largest population is located in the [West Midlands](#). There are a 100,000 [Pashtuns](#) in the UK, the vast majority of whom are Pakistani Pashtuns. Mirpuris from [Mirpur District](#) in [Azad Kashmir](#), make up 60-70% of the British Pakistani population and they mainly reside in Birmingham, Bradford, Oldham and surrounding towns. Apart from Midlands and the North, where those from [Azad Kashmir](#) make up more than 85% of the Pakistanis, similarly high levels of those from Azad Kashmir are also found in [Luton](#) and [Slough](#). Whilst those [in London](#) trace their origins to others areas of Pakistan.

Religion

The majority 92% of Pakistanis in the UK are [Muslims](#) (mainly [Sunni](#)), however there is a sizeable minority of [Shia Muslims](#) as well as some [Christians](#) (around 8,000 people), and a few [Hindus](#) and [Sikhs](#) throughout some communities.

Allegations of Extremism

[Central Intelligence Agency](#) and [MI5](#) currently believe that a British-born Pakistani extremist entering the US under the [Visa Waiver Program](#) is the most likely source of another terrorist attack on American soil. Gareth Price, head of the Asia Program at the [Royal Institute of International Affairs](#) in London stated that British Pakistanis are more likely to be radicalized as compared to other Muslim communities in Britain. Such problems within the community highlight the need for government funding to help keep Pakistanis away from extremism and instead integrate with mainstream society.

Discrimination

British Pakistanis are 8 times more likely to be victims of a racist attack than white individuals. The chances of a Pakistani being racially attacked in a year are more than 4% - the highest rate in the country, along with [British Bangladeshis](#). Though, this has come down from 8% a year in 1996¹

Radicalization in Pakistan:

Pakistan has enormous importance due to her strategic location; her being the front line state during the Soviet invasion on Afghanistan (1979-1988), and now a front line of defense and a staunch ally of the Allied Nations in the global war on terror. Pakistan has tremendous human and natural resources, excellent minds and brains, beautiful historical places, arts and literature, and has been contributing to the world peace and progress through various international forums, like UN and its Agencies, OIC , SAARC and other international organizations of which Pakistan is a member.

Law and order situation in Pakistan:

After 9/11, the US/Nato forces invaded and bombard the Afghan nation, sometimes indiscriminately, which led to the desired goal of destruction of Taliban rule in Afghanistan, but in addition, gave rise to a lot of internal and external problems for Pakistan: the economy, internal security environment and social tranquility jolted badly due to such problems. The spill-over effect of Taliban from Afghanistan into the tribal belt of Pakistan has been under continuous discussion in the western media and US administration, both civilian and military departments. Right from the every day reports of various research institutes in USA and news stories of *Washington Post*, the *New York Times*, etc to the well-researched analysis and reports of EUROPOL (TE-SAT, EU Terrorism Situation and Trend Report, 2008) and Council on Foreign Relations report on ‘Securing Pakistan’s Tribal Belt (Daniel Markey, 2008), Pakistan remains in the mainstream of our debate on war on terror. Pakistan has deployed more than 90,000 security forces on the Pakistani side of Afghan border, with more than 900 check points to stop cross border movement of Afghan-Taliban and other miscreants. Pakistan received a death toll of 1200 security forces in tribal areas during the ongoing war on terror and hundreds of civilians and police in the settled/urban districts. A cascade of suicide attacks in 2007 horribly terrorized the nation and literally pardysed the local administration.

The general public has greater grievances against the western nations, especially the USA which along with Nato forces carries out unnecessary air strikes on Pakistan tribal areas, on the pretext of ‘actionable-intelligence’ against Al-Qaeda stalwarts, the results of which have never been tangible and visible. Rather, the illiterate tribal people and other population of the country take it for unwarranted instigation and looking for lame excuses to attack Pakistan’s tribal territories, most often, allegedly pushed by some unfriendly elements. Pakistan’s tribal areas (seven Tribal Agencies and six Frontier Regions) are usually described by the US as ‘safe-haven’ for Al-Qaeda, which is strongly rebutted by the government and general masses. There might be some Afghan-Taliban elements in these areas, who might have been hiding in the rugged mountains of the tribal belt, but it is not acceptable that they can visibly operates or organize their activities in any part therein. The US/Nato airstikes on Pakistan’s tribal areas have never been a success in chasing and hitting any high valued target so far. All their claims are debated and challenged. Some times innocent children, women and Pakistan’s security forces are hit and killed, as often happen in Afghanistan as a result of ‘unintentional’ and ‘friendly fire’! Unfortunately, no one has undeniable facts and figures about the various kinds of Taliban and there is no good research about their organization, structure, style finances, strength, weaknesses and gradual infiltration, tactical retreat and resurgence.² www.gov.pk (Access on 5th December, 2009)

¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Pakistanis#Population

Objectives of the study:

1. The socio, economic and political issues faced by people in their own country.
2. The views of the people on the future status of the migrants.
3. The irritant nature of emigration laws that discourage emigration.
4. The kind of experience, Pakistani emigrants have in host countries.
5. The impact of the current security threat in Europe, the potential change in attitude towards Pakistani, its impact on their decision to emigrate to other countries.
6. Whether emigration is good or bad for Pakistani as well as for the country they wish to go
7. The impact of Pakistani emigrants on their host countries and on their own country
8. The impact of young people returning to Pakistan on younger generation of their country
9. The reasons of maladjustment of Pakistani migrants in their new country.

Expected Outcome of the Analysis:

The analysis was expected to:

- i To bring out in limelight host of security, socio-economic, political and ideological issues, facing to people in Pakistan.
- ii. To bring out in bold relief the inconveniences Pakistani face during migration from their country.
- iii. To influence the socio-economic policies of the government of Pakistan.
- iv. To provide conducive environment, for harmonious adjustment of Pakistani people in foreign societies.

Methodology of the study:

The analysis has been delimited to districts of Peshawar, Mardan, Kohat and Bannu in which 130 respondents belonging to various groups, particularly those who had migrated from Pakistan to other countries, especially Britain have been interviewed on various issues. For this purpose a comprehensive questionnaire was framed for collection of requisite information on the issue.

Table I: Indicates multifarious important issues faced by individuals, community and Pakistani society

Important Issues	Self		Community		Pakistan	
	Frequency	%age	Frequency	%age	Frequency	%age
Economy	68	52.0	106	81.3	116	89.3
Security	88	68.0	119	92.0	126	97.3
Utilities	87	66.7	111	85.3	120	92.0
Democracy	33	25.3	55	42.7	113	86.7
Political Leadership	29	22.7	66	50.7	121	93.3
Health Care	47	36.0	109	84.0	109	84.0
Education	58	45.3	107	82.7	118	90.7
Development Issues	54	41.3	111	85.3	120	92.0

Table II: Indicates location of the respondents

Location	Frequency	Percent
Peshawar	38	29.3
Karak	12	9.3
Charsadda	10	8.0
Kohat	10	8.0
Lower Dir	11	8.0
Malakand Agency	9	6.7
Swabi	7	5.3
Mardan	5	4.0
Swat	5	4.0
Bannu	3	2.7
Bunner	3	2.7
Khyber Agency	3	2.7
Lakki Marwat	4	2.7
Nowshera	4	2.7
Bajaur Agency	2	1.3
Chitral	2	1.3
Gilgit	2	1.3
Total	130	100.0

Table III: Indicates intention of the respondents to go abroad inspite of Security threats and negative attitude of the west

Intention		Frequency	%age
A	I will go abroad	38	29.3%
B	Pakistan face life threat, no life in Pakistan, People are not happy because of security situation in Pakistan	26	20.0%
C	I don't want to go abroad	24	18.7%
D	Pakistanis are suffering and are treated negatively in the west	16	12.0%
E	No change	14	10.7%
F	Life is not safe in UK/USA	12	9.3%
Total		130	100.0%

Table V: Indicates respondents view about the impact of Pakistan immigrants on that new home/ host countries

Impact		Frequency	%age
A	Better for host country in all aspects e.g. economic development, cheap labour is provided because Pakistani are hard worker	116	89.3%
B	Uneducated and illegal immigrant creates problem	14	10.7%
Total		130	100.0%

Table VI: Shows the impact on Pakistani of people returning to Pakistan

Impact		Frequency	%age
A	Economic development, awareness about laws, more religious and better socialized, employment	35	26.7%
B	Their patriotism increases	35	26.7%
C	They Invest in Pakistan	23	17.3%
D	Enrich their culture and social life	16	12.0%
E	They bring foreign remittances	14	10.7%
F	No significant impact is deserved	7	6.7%
Total		130	100.0%

Table VII: Shows respondents answer to the question “do you have young relatives between the ages of 14 and 30 who have come back from the UK”

Response	Frequency	Percent
No.	95	73.3
Yes	33	25.3
Don't Know	2	1.3
Total	130	100.0

CONCLUSION:

The present analysis of the situation focuses on social, economic, political problems facing to individuals and Pakistan in general and of emigration of people from Pakistan to other countries in particular. The “Push” and “Pull” syndrome, prevails every where in developing countries but it is more serious in Pakistan. The negative impacts of immigration of people from their own country are known. Such as it has deprived of skilled and semi skilled labour, and also of highly qualified and trained human power.

Immigrants were of the view that though the immigration laws of foreign lands were strict, other formalities were tough but they did not damp their will to go.

Immigration is good as well as bad; it is good in the sense that migrants send money to their country which is invested in development. They also improve the quality of life of their dependents. It is unfortunate in the sense that human power of Pakistan contributes to the development of other countries and thus the phenomena of ‘brain-drains’ continues.

Pakistanis, who had established themselves as British citizens, would never abandoned their British nationality. They would prefer to remain British as well as Pakistani. The first generation is hoped to remain true to their cultural roots but later on changes would occur in their socio-cultural life and it is not definitely stated, that they would remain true to their cultural roots.

In case, Pakistani migrants feel problems in integration and adjustment, is a matter of serious concern. They should adjust themselves in the new society if they prefer to be British and Pakistani at the same time.

The assumption that British Pakistanis return to UK with radical ideas, has been rejected participants. In their view, they were not radicalized; however, they had become very sensitive to the depressing situation prevailing in their country. They have been sincerely advised to avoid violence, be peaceful, behave like a good Muslim, lead a happy and prosperous life and look for a bright future for the children.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The following recommendations based on findings, are forwarded for improvement of the situation.

As revealed in the study, students comparatively are taking more interest in the affairs of their country. They are more aware and more sensitive to the problems facing to them and their society. The problem lies with their empowerment and equipping them with appropriate education so that they could realize their potentialities and play dynamic role in the solution of problems.

Security to the people be ensured by all means. Basic amenities are provided to people and the heart rending inflation be contained so that people could lead with at least minimum necessities of life.

Why are people migrating from Pakistan to other countries? This is simply because of ‘push’ and ‘pull’ phenomena. If the ‘push’ factors are not eliminated, at least, these may be minimized. Appropriate education and skill be provided to young, development of infrastructure, particularly in rural areas, be undertaken which would create job opportunities and would hold back the influx of migration of people from their country.

People are determined to go abroad if they could get a chance. Factors like laws are strict, expenses are high, attitude of the people is negative and facing problems in adjustment in new environment are not discouraging them from going abroad. These issues may therefore, be taken up at high level of the governments to review the existing emigration and foreign policies.

Emigrants may remain British and Pakistani at the same time but they may not lose their identity as true Muslim and a faithful citizen of Pakistan. They may not forget their cultural heritage. Efforts be made to bring about cultural cohesion and social integration among Muslim community, living abroad. This does not mean that they should not have due regard for the cultural and social values of the people of the host country.

'Brain drain' is matter of serious concern for Pakistan. Strict policy may be adopted to retain those highly trained and educated migrants who have obtained such a high profile on the poor economy of their country and they devote their services for the development of other countries. However, suitable job opportunities and incentives be given to them to keep them at home in their homes.

Emigrants might be facing the problem of adjustment in their new society with the passage of time, irritants in this way, will be gradually removed. However, emigrants are required to equip themselves with tools for adjustment like getting proficiency in English language, association with welfare organization and participation in sports, social and other cultural activities of the people.

Emigrants instead of being influenced by radicalization, should own democratic ideals and behavior of a democratic country, learn the secrets of its modernization, progress and development as prerequisite for a qualitative and progressive state of society. They should work hard, prove their worth and contribute to the development of their host country and at the same time manage to carve out a bright future for their children.

REFERENCES:

¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Pakistanis#Population

² www.gov.pk (Access on 5th December, 2009)