

Preface

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PREFACE

This report is the final output of the research project, "*Internal Labor Migration in Pakistan*," conducted by the Institute of Developing Economies, Japan External Trade Organization (IDE-JETRO). The project was carried out and the report was completed while I was a visiting scholar at the Department of Economics, Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) from June 1st, 2004 to March 31st, 2005.

Internal migration is one of primary concerns for policy makers in many of developing countries. Migration from rural to urban areas has led to the rapid expansion of population of cities. According to *Pakistan Population Assessment* published by the Government of Pakistan and the United Nations Population Fund in 2003, 24 % of urban population growth in Pakistan during 1981 to 1998 was due to migration. The urban sector in Pakistan has been growing at a speed of more than what it can absorb, causing serious economic and social problems. Despite the fact that internal migration is a pressing issue in the Pakistan context, analysis on this subject has not received much attention recently. This has caused a shortage of relevant literature.

In an attempt to fill the gap, the research project on internal migration was initiated. The primary purposes of this report are to analyze 1) changing patterns of internal migration in Pakistan, 2) the determinants of labor migration, 3) socio-economic impact of internal migration on migrant households, and to provide an analytical framework for migration policies. The report is made up of contributions by four researchers.

Rashid Memon examines the changing patterns of internal migration and presents several important findings. He also analyzes the determinants of internal migration by incorporating rural-urban wage differential in estimation. The study shows that the wage differential and other traditional variables such as age and level of education significantly affect the probability of migration.

Hisaya Oda analyzes the determinants of labor migration at household levels, based on the data from a survey of rain-fed villages in Punjab. The study points out that the probability of migration is low among landless and small landholding households. He argues that migration opportunities are not equally distributed and some segments of the population have no chances to migrate.

G. M. Arif investigates the impact of internal migration on the well-being measured by per capita consumption, infant mortality and child nutrition. His study shows that no real difference between migrant and non-migrant households in these indicators was found. The study also points out the poor socio-economic condition of rural-rural migrants. Possible explanations for these findings are presented.

S. M. Turab Hussain presents a theoretical framework built on an extended family model of migration for policy analysis. The impact of urban employment and rural income subsidies on both migration and unemployment levels in the urban sector is examined. The model presented generates much richer and varied results than the simple Harris-Todaro individual decision based model.

We hope that this report will at least serve to stimulate further work on internal migration.

I benefited from many people in carrying out the research project, "*Internal Labor Migration in Pakistan*." I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Department of Economics and LUMS for all the institutional support and facilities provided to me during my stay. Without their support, the report would not have been completed. I am really thankful to Dr. Anwar Khurshid, Dean of School of Social Sciences, Dr. Anjum Nasim, Dr. Ali Cheema, Dr. Faisal Bari of the Economics Department, and Ms. Shazi Malik of the Human Resource Department for the arrangements of my visiting fellowship at LUMS. I also appreciate kind assistance provided by Mr. Khalid Pervaiz and Mr. Sajeel Anwar Khokhar of the Economics Department, and Mr. Muhammad Shafique of the university library. For those of you whose names I have failed to acknowledge here, I apologize in advance. Please be assured that I appreciate your input.

Hisaya Oda

Lahore, Pakistan
March 2005