Migration - Impediments Encountered by the Wives

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ABSTRACT There is an urgent need to study various problems faced by the wives in a situation where husband migrate out of village to seek employment and consequently leave behind their wives to manage the household alone. The current investigation was carried out in Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh, an abode of migratory families, to ascertain the problems faced by the respondent wives left behind as a result of migration of their husbands. The findings revealed that the wives of the migrants faced number of problems due to the absence of their husbands in the various aspects which included personal, psychological managerial, social and child related issues. Significant negative correlation was found between the problems faced by the respondents and their educational level as well as family income.

INTRODUCTION

Migration of the husbands alone from the villages put the wives in problem filled situations while managing the households single handedly. These problems can be categorised as personal, psychological, managerial, social and children related. Personal and psychological problems include tension during untimely communication between husbands and wives. Managerial problems include difficulties in management of time and money.

Children related issues include difficulties in disciplining the children, taking care of their education. According to Patel (1963), as most mothers are busy with household and other economic activities, they are unable to discipline their children and look after their studies.

A number of researches have been conducted to determine the economic impact of migration but the social and psycho-gical impact of migration of husbands on the families left behind particularly the wives, have been overlooked and is less probed. Though, there are economic benefits of migration but they are accompanied by the difficulties by those who are left behind. Therefore, the present investigation was carried out with the following specific objectives:

1. to identify the impediments faced by the respondents
2. to investigate the relationship between impediments encountered and personal and family variables.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present investigation was carried out in Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh. Using descriptive type of survey design, data were recorded with the help of structured and pre-tested interview schedules. For selection of sample, multi-stage random sampling technique was used. In the first stage of sampling two blocks viz., Panchrukhi and Bhawarna were selected. From these two blocks, eight villages (from each block) were selected randomly. In each of the selected village, a list of migrant families was prepared where migration had parted husbands and wives. From this list, a sample of 80 families was selected through proportional allocation method. Wives of the migrants were interviewed who were respondents for the present investigation.

The descriptive rating scale was prepared consisting of the statements of the problems faced by the wives of the migrants in different aspects which were grouped under various categories viz., personal and psychological, managerial, social, children related and emergencies. The responses to these statements were sought in terms of 'always', 'some times' and 'never'. For the analysis of the data, the statements were scored as given in the table.

Score values for the problems faced by the respondents

Response	Score value
Always	3
Sometimes	2
Never	1

The problems faced by the respondents were categorized into high medium and low intensity problems. For this, mean score (x) and standard error (S.E.) were calculated and the categorization was done in the following manner:

(i) $\overline{X}$ + S.E. and above --- High
(ii) $\overline{X}$ ± S.E. and above --- Medium
(iii) $\overline{X}$ - S.E. and above --- Low

Correlation coefficient was computed to find out the relationship between the problems faced by the respondents due to migration of their husbands.

a) The correlation coefficient was computed to find out the relationship between the total problems on the whole and the independent variables. In case of family type, being qualitative variable, the value to dummy variables were given as 1 to nuclear and 2 to joint family system.

b) The zero order correlation matrix was computed to find out the relationship of independent variables with each category of problems:

The characteristics studied under each component have been explained in the tables.

- personal and psychological
- managerial
- social
- child related

The significance of the value of correlation coefficient was tested by using the following test statistics at selected level of probability.

$$|t| = \left| \frac{r\sqrt{n-2}}{\sqrt{1-r^2}} \right|$$

where,   r = correlation coefficient
         n = number of respondents

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Personal and Family Characteristics

A majority of both respondents (81.25%) as well as their husbands (92.50%) belonged to the age group of 21 - 40 years prior to migration. Similar was the case after migration. Almost similar number of respondents had done matric (28.75%) and primary (26.25%). Least number of respondents studied above matric i.e. 7.50 per cent. Majority of the households (68.75%) has income in the range of Rs. 15000 and below prior to whereas, after migration majority had in the range of Rs. 45,001 - 60,000 that is, 22.50 per cent and almost equal number of households (20.00%) had income in the range of Rs. 30,001 - 45,000. Sampled households were mainly nuclear families (74.00%) and had family size upto 4 members. (Table 1-4)

Problems Faced by the Wives of the Migrants

The various problems faced by the respondents were categorized into high, medium and low intensity groups. The first three problems viz., feeling worried due to gap in communication with the husband, problems in upbringing of children, inability to visit parents or relatives due to lack of time were assigned high scores placing them in high intensity group of problems. The next problems ranging from serial number 4 to 19 were placed in the group of medium intensity problems. These included difficulty in dealing with financial responsibilities, disciplining the children, insufficient time for recreational activities, feeling loneliness and lack of peace of mind. Gulati

Table 1: Age-wise distribution of respondents and their husbands

(Number)

Age in completed years)	Respondents		Husbands	
	Before migration	After migration	Before migration	After migration
Below 21	14 (17.50)	-	-	-
21-40	65 (81.25)	72 (90.00)	74 (92.50)	57 (71.25)
41-60	1 (01.25)	8 (10.00)	6 (7.50)	23 (28.75)
Total	80 (100)	80 (100)	80 (100)	80 (100)

Figures in Parenthess indicate percentage of total sample in each category.

Table 2: Distribution of respondents and their husbands according to their educational level

(Number)

Eduational level	Respondents	Husbands
Illiterate	15 (18.75)	2 (2.50)
Primary	21 (26.25)	15 (18.75)
Middle	15 (18.75)	12 (15.00)
Matric	23 (28.75)	37 (46.25)
Above matric	6 (7.50)	12 (15.00)
Technical Qualification	-	2 (2.50)
Total	80 (100)	80 (100)

Figures in parentheses indicate percentage of total sample in each category.

Table 3: Family characteristics of the sampled households

(Numbers)

S. No. Particulars	Households
1. Caste	
Upper Castes (Rajput, Brahmin)	25 (31.25)
Intermediate castes (choudhary, Chimey, Kumhar)	42 (52.50)
Lower Castes (Julaha, Harijan)	9 (11.25)
Scheduled tribes (Gaddi)	4 (5.00)
Total	80 (100)
2. Family Type	
Nuclear	60 (75.00)
Joint	20 (25.00)
Total	80 (100)
3. Family Size	
Upto 4	44 (55.00)
Above 4	36 (45.00)
Total	80 (100)
4.Landholding Size (Kanals)	
Below 7	50 (62.50)
7 and above	30 (37.50)
Total	80 (100)

Figures in parentheses indicate percentage of total sample.

(1987) also found that the 43 per cent of the women felt lonely due to the absence of their husbands. The low intensity problems included family members being not co-operative, feeling emotional stress etc. (Table 5).

Hypotheses: Following hypotheses were framed:

1. There is no significant relationship between the problems faced by the respondents and personal and family variables which included:

Table 4: Total yearly income before and after migration of the sampled households

(Number)

Income range (Rs.)	Before migration	After migration
15,000 and below	55 (68.75)	-
15,001 - 30,000	18 (22.50)	14 (17.50)
30,001 - 45,000	3 (3.75)	16 (20.00)
45,001 - 60,000	1 (1.25)	18 (22.50)
60,001 - 75,000	-	12 (15.00)
75,001 - 90,000	1 (1.25)	6 (7.50)
90,001and above	2 (2.50)	14 (17.50)
Total	80 (100)	80(100)

Figures in parentheses indicate percentage of total sample in each category.

a) Age
b) Education
c) Family size
d) Family type
e) Family income

2. There is no significant relationship between different categories of problems viz.,
- personal and psychological
- management (time management and money management)
- Child related,
- social problems
and personal and family variables.

The formulated hypothesis to observe the correlation between the selected independent variables and the problems faced by the respondents showed that significant negative correlation existed between the educational level of the respondents and the problems faced by them ('r' value = -0.37618; significant at 0.01 level of probability). Hence, the respondents having better educational level had less problems as compared to those who were less educated. As the education plays an important role in tackling day to day problems, for instance, managing monetary resources such as day to day expenditure, banking, saving, investment, teaching children etc., thereby leading a better quality life. (Table 6).

Significant negative correlation was also observed between the family income and the problems faced by the respondents ('r' value = -0.30346; significant at 0.01 level). This

Table 5: Problems faced by the respondents due to migration of their husbands

Problem faced	Assigned score in decreasing order	Group
1. Feeling worried due to untimely communication or gap in communication	238	
2. Difficulty in upbringing of children alone	223 ⇒	High
3. Inability to visit parent's house or relatives due to lack of time	188	
4. Insufficient time for recreational activities	179	
5. Not able to teach the children	177	
6. Insufficient time to rest	174	
7. Feeling loneliness	173	
8. Do not like to participate alonein social functions	154	
9. Feeling lack of peace of mind	153	
10. Difficulty in disciplining the children	130	
11. Feeling depressed in absence of husband	125 ⇒	Medium
12. Less time to devote to children's study and welfare	124	
13. Difficulty in dealing with financial responsibilities	124	
14. Difficulty in managing resource demands at the time of emergency	124	
15. Difficulty in taking right decisions at the time of emergencies	119	
16. Thinking their husband should not have taken such a job	114	
17. Not able to maintain social relations due to absence of husband	108	
18. Suffering from health problems (hypertension, acidity, etc. due to absence of husband	100	
19. Feeling insecure due to absence of husband	93	
20. Other family members are not co-operative	90	
21. Feeling stress due to husband's migration	88	
22. Absence of husband has resulted in feeling insecurity in children	87 ⇒	Low
23. Available money is insufficient to run household affairs	82	
24. Have difficulty in receiving or obtaining money from husband	80	

Mean $\overline{X}$ = 135.3; Standard Error = 44.61
Possible score range = 80 to 240
Actual score range = 80 to 238

suggests higher the income lesser were the problems faced by the respondents. The possession of monetary resources relaxes the stress by increasing the purchasing power of respondents. (Table 6)

Zero - order correlation matrix was computed in order to find out relationship between different categories of problems faced by the respondents and the selected independent variables such as age, education, family type, family size and family income. (Table 7) Significant negative correlation was found between education and personal problems ('r' value = -0.33684; significant at 0.01 level). This testify that less educated respondents faced more personal problems because they had to take up those responsibilities which they were unable to cope leading them to feel more stressed.

The significant negative correlation was found to exist between the family income and the managerial problems faced by the respondents ('r' value = -0.40013; signifi-

cant at 0.01 level) as possession of money relaxes many constraints. They may have more resources at their disposal.

It was observed that the social problems faced by the respondents had significant negative correlation with their age ('r' value = -0.43645; significant at 0.01 level). This suggests that wives with less age had more social problems. This may be perhaps due to the problems encountered in participating alone in social functions, difficulty in maintaining social relations. Also their

Table 6: Correlation coefficient between the selected variable and the problems faced by the respondents

Variables	Problems faced by the respondents
Age	-0.14398
Education	-0.37618**
Family Type	-0.21112
Family size	-0.03412
Family income	-0.30346**

** Significant at 1 per cent level of probability

Table 7: Zero- order correlation matrix between selected variable and different categories of problems faced by the respondents

Variables	Variables							
	Personal	Managerial	Social	Child related	Family income	age	Education	Family type
Managerial	0.36135**							
Social	0.15140	0.19348						
Child related	-0.06769	0.25972*	-0.00576					
Family income	-0.02093	0.40013**	-0.09661	-0.07466				
Age	0.03320	-0.15845	-0.43645**	0.17162	0.42662**			
ducation	-0.33684**	-0.28746*	0.16538	-0.33474**	0.29804**	-0.25082*		
Family type	-0.02413	-0.09364	-0.01982	-0.39816**	-0.03605	-0.45588**	0.38483**	
Family size	-0.06154	0.13219	-0.06944	-0.18275	0.06031	-0.08853	0.13092	0.38178**

** Significance at 1 per cent level of probability   * Significance at 5 per cent level of probability.

alone mobility is restricted and it is difficult to find company for every visit.

Significant negative correation existed between the managerial problems faced by the respondents and their educational level ('r' value = -0.28745; significant at 0.05 level). This means that less educated respondents had more managerial problems. This is probably due to the reason that respondents with less education may have problems in management of money, dealing with banking matters or affairs. Also education makes the person knowledgeable and confident and the respondents may be lacking in these posing them difficulties in taking right kind of managerial decisions.

It was observed that the educational level of the respondents and the child related problems faced by them were signifi-cantly negatively correlated ('r' - value = -0.33474; significant at 0.01 level). This may be due to the reason that the respondents who were less educated were not able to manage their children properly especially their education.

Type of family to which the respondents belonged and child related problems faced by them were significantly negatively correlated ('r' - values = -0.39816; significant at 0.01 level). This suggests that the respondents who were living in the joint families had less problems in taking care of children, disciplining them and other such problems which hindered the upbringing of the children. This may be due to the presence of other elders in the family who could supervise the children.

CONCLUSIONS

- Wives of the migrants suffered number of problems in all the aspects studied. Constant worry and loneliness all the time affected their physical and mental state.
- The highest intensity problem identified was feeling worried due to untimely communication. The low intensity problems included, other family members being less cooperative, feeling emotional, insecurity in children.
- Significant negative correlation was found between the problems faced by the respondents and their educational level as majority of them were found to be less educated.
- Significant negative correlation existed between the managerial problems faced by them and their educatinal level. Similar relationship existed with family income also.
- Social problems were negatively and significantly correlatd with age. Child related problems were found to be negatively and significantly correlated with education and family type.

REFERENCES

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