# Punjab to Abroad- Factors, Causes and Advantages A Case Study of the International Migration From Rural Punjab

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#### Abstract

International migration is a global phenomenon and it affect almost every country of the world. This study is based on the international migration from rural Punjab, especially from Doaba region. In this research paper reasons behind the choice of destination country, earning amount before and after migration, amount of household assets etc. have been discussed. It is observed that the ratio of male migrants is much higher than the females. There are two main motives of the young migrants, first is to get higher education and the other is to explore better job opportunities. During the study it is noticed that majority of the households have repaid their loans. In this study it is also observed that people mainly use remittances to purchase household goods and to purchase four wheeler (cars) and furniture. This paper explored that after migration the household conditions of the migrants' have improved a lot and they have purchased a number of luxurious items which they have not been possessed before migration.

Keywords: Migrants, Loan, Remittances, utilization, family members.

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# Introduction

International migration is a worldwide event that occurs in all areas as people cross their borders for a variety of purposes. Migration is associated with socio-political and cultural exchanges, providing an opportunity for states, societies and businesses to benefit excessively from it. Migration helps to improve the standard of living of both destination and origin countries' citizens; it provided most people around the world with ample opportunities to lead a safe and healthy life in the host country. Changes in environmental conditions, disagreements between people due to various political and social issues, oppression on some social classes are the various reasons which prominently increasing the migration (IOM, 2018). Different theoretical models are projected to clarify why international migration began and even supposing every eventually seeks to convey a proof of a similar factor. They use terribly numerous ideas, assumptions, and terms of reference. Twin labour market theories associate migration to the trendy industrial nations and their structural needs whereas world system theory opined that migration is that the phenomenon that happens beneath the method of globalization. Each these theories had unnoticed the micro-level call processes and centered on forces in operation at a lot of higher level of aggregation (Massey et al., 1993).

Lewis theory of unlimited supply of labour, 1954 is one among the oldest and well-known theory of labour migration. In line with this theory there are two sectors within the economy- one is that the ancient, over inhabited subsistence sector and another is that the industrial sector (Lewis, 1954). As per the extensions of this theory, overpopulated countries have zero marginal productivity of labour and low level of wages whereas the industrial countries have massive endowments of capital relative to labour and better wages. Consequently, immense variations in wages cause labourers from the low wage economies to migrate to the high wage industrial countries. As a results of this migration the surplus labour decreases and wage rate rise within the labour abundant countries, whereas the availability of labour will increase and wage rate falls within the industrial countries (Massey et al., 1993).

India incorporates a long history of migration, Indian migrants migrated to various countries like uk, Africa, several Arab countries and also the Caribbean. Out of the entire migrants, several of them migrated because of their personal interests and matters however a number of them migrated involuntarily, they migrated due to their money restraints. At this time the favourite destination countries for Indian migrants are Australia, New Zealand, Canada, America and a few Gulf countries (Kapuria & Birwal, 2017).

Many NRIs have migrated from the Punjab over the years, particularly from the Doaba region, that consists of 4 districts, specifically Kapurthala, Hoshiarpur, Jalandhar and Shahid Bhagat Singh Nagar (Nawan Shahar)(Saha, 2009). These districts have a protracted history of migration from rural areas, particularly within the postindependence era. After working in their destination countries migrant send some money to their family members, in economic terms this money is known as remittances. These remittances will have a big impact on the quality of living of the families/regions receiving remittances in Punjab. Most of the recipients utilize these remittances to shop for house product, producing and additionally for investment functions. Individuals additionally use remittances for charity; they donate to charitable trusts, to education, health or different welfare establishments. These remittances are wont to build luxurious homes, purchase luxurious cars, etc., that have a significant demonstration impact on the non-recipients of the remittances. As a result, they additionally attempt to send their relatives and family members abroad (Saha, 2012).

# **Review of Literature**

Haas (2005) examined the relation between international migration, remittances and development. As per the study, there was an essential relationship between migration and development, because when educated and skilled person migrate from one nation to another, it affects the development of both countries. Origin country obtains advantages of remittances and the destination country gets benefit of his/her services. So the remittances contributed to the good of both sending and receiving nations. In the study, it was noticed that migration brought drastic changes in the life of recipients, mainly through improved living standards. The study further explored that per capita income and expected economic growth had a negative impact while the size of population; national income had a positive impact on the total

Rosenzweig (2005) looked at how migration impacts rising economies. The look at seemed into the relationship among migration from lowearning international countries and their development. He employed both primary and secondary data in his research. The original data was gathered through a survey of US immigrants. The study revealed that poverty was a major motivator for people to migrate from backward nations to advanced industrialized nations. This study also looked at the migration of skilled and educated people, which is referred to as brain drain. Many students travelled abroad to pursue further education and skilled training. The study also found that the flow of international migration from underdeveloped to developed countries has increased.

and per capita remittances.

Gupta and Hegde (2009) studied that migrants and temporary workers from India sent large amounts of remittances to India. These remittances helped the country of origin compensate for the social losses incurred as a result of the brain drain. In this study, they inspected the social and economic features that influenced the payment patterns of Indian families living in the United States. The survey revealed several important factors that influence remittances such as; family loans, strategic goals, remittance channels, etc.

Afram (2012) investigated migration patterns and remittance flows in his study. During his research, he discovered that there are three major target markets for immigrants from India. The former were developed countries such as the United States, Canada and Australia. The second was the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Doha, Qatar and other Gulf countries, and the third was Southeast Asian countries such as Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand.

Gurucharan (2013) considered the future of Indian immigrants. In this study, the author outlined the migration and sought to point out certain shortcomings of the migration policy. The main purpose of this study was to learn more about the government's immigration policy and related reforms. The report also provided some suggestions for overcoming migration-related obstacles.

A 2013 case study by Sahai and Lum investigated the influx of Punjabis immigrants into the Italian dairy industry. Studies show that low-skilled workers generally migrated to Italy and other Gulf countries, while high-skilled workers migrated to the United Kingdom and other Western countries. It was observed that the Punjabis proved themselves through their efforts, gained a high reputation from Italian employers, and now preferred to hire Indians for other expatriates.

# **Research Gap**

There are various studies available on international migration but there is dearth of studies which have been conducted by using household survey and if some studies are available those are very old. The main purpose of this study is to analyze the impacts of international migration on migrant sending areas and on their families' standard of living.

# Objectives

The main objectives of this study are:

- To analyze the socio- economic characteristics of the migrants' households and also to analyze the reasons behind migration.
- To measure the impact of remittances on

migrant households.

• To capture the utilization pattern of remittances of remittances-receiving migrant households.

# **Research Methodology**

This research aims to examine the overall effects of international migration on the development of migrants' households in their home countries in various aspects of their lives. Both primary and secondary data were used to meet the goals. The National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO), the World Bank, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), RBI Reports, Census Reports, the Statistical Abstract of Punjab, and other journals and reports provide secondary data on migration.

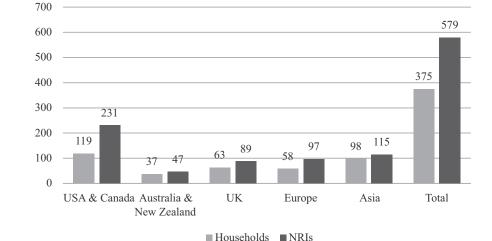
For the year 2018-19, migrants' homes are the primary source of information for the gathering of primary data. The primary data was gathered using a standardized questionnaire that asked questions about household conditions, education, earning and activity status, changes in people's mentalities, sources of income, and household management.

# Locale of the Study / selection of the districts, blocks and sample size

The study is confined to the fifteen villages of the two districts of Doaba region of Punjab. Doaba region has been selected because this region has the greatest proportion of international migrants' to Punjab. At first stage two districts Jalandhar and SBS Nagar have been selected. These two districts consist of 1441 Villages (965 villages in Jalandhar district and 476 villages in SBS Nagar district). The district Jalandhar has 10 blocks and district SBS Nagar has 5 blocks. At second stage one village having highest population from each developmental block has been selected. Thus overall 15 villages have been selected. At the final stage, a sample of 375 households has chosen for the interview.

# Analysis and Discussions

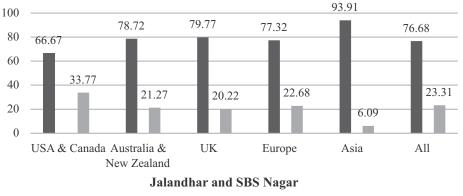
During the survey it is observed that the Punjabi youth is migrating to abroad from all categories of families, there are a lot of reasons which force the young productive persons to migrate to other countries. The earning amount of NRIs, their household assets and repayment of loan etc. are some of the variable which have been investigated deeply. Data related to all these variables have presented in tables and figures which have been analyzed below:



#### Figure 1 : Distribution of Sampled Households and the number of NRIs according to the Destination of the Emigrants

Figure 1 shows the distribution of households belonging to the NRIs in the selected districts. Total 579 persons have migrated abroad from the 375 sampled households. We can observe from the above table that 231 migrants out of the 119 households migrated to the USA and Canada and 47 NRIs out of 37 households migrated to Australia and New Zealand. Out of the remaining households 89, 97 and 115 NRIs have migrated to UK, Europe and Asia respectively. From the above data it can be clearly estimated that in case of some households, more than one person has migrated to abroad

Figure 2: Distribution of Sampled Households, according to the Total Family Members Living Abroad





Source: Primary Survey, 2019.

Figure 2 shows the country-wise and gender-wise distribution of the persons who have migrated. The combined data of both the districts shows that out of the total family members who have emigrated, a big majority is male as we can see that about 67 per cent, 79 per cent, 80 per cent, 77 per cent and 94 per cent of the members migrated to USA & Canada,

Australia & New Zealand, UK, Europe and Asia, respectively are male. The proportion of male migrants is even higher in the each group, it is much higher in case of Asian countries rather than the other countries but the situation is different in USA & Canada where the ratio of female migrants is just half of the male members in this group.

Particular	USA & Canada	Australia & New Zealand	UK	Europ	Asia	All		
Jalandhar and SBS Nagar								
More social network	26.84	17.02	22.47	24.74	8.69	21.42		
Less cost	_	10.64	11.24	13.4	68.69	18.48		
Higher Education	16.02	51.06	3.37	-	-	11.05		
More work Opportunities	42.86	40.42	55.06	58.76	81.74	54.92		
Marriage	18.18	14.89	24.72	11.34	1.74	14.51		
Family	30.3	10.64	29.21	22.68	6.09	22.45		

Source: Primary Survey, 2019.

\*Values given in table are percentages.

In table 1, it is observed that in both the sampled districts, majority of the migrants had chosen their destination countries due to the prevalence of more work opportunities there, but in the case of Australia and New Zealand, the situation is different, as 51.06 per cent students had chosen these countries to get higher education. USA & Canada were preferred by 16.02 per cent students for higher education, while in the remaining last two groups of countries, none of the migrant migrated for the education purpose. As we know

that the visa processing fees and the ticket price of Gulf countries is much cheaper than the advanced western countries, so majority of the migrants who belong to middle or lower middle class prefer to migrate to Asian countries, almost 68.69 per cent had chosen the Asian countries due to the less cost of migration. It can be seen that about 27 per cent and 24.74 per cent persons selected USA & Canada and Europe because of greater social connectivity in these countries.

Particular	USA & Canada	Australia & New Zealand	UK	Europe	Asia	All
Jalandhar and SBS Nagar						
Paper fees	55.84	51.06	53.93	62.89	24.35	50.09
Study fees	15.58	46.81	6.74	10.31	-	12.78
Payment to public officials	35.5	12.77	52.81	31.96	20	32.64
Payment for the contract marriage	1.73	-	5.62	2.06	-	1.9
No expenditure	-	-	-	-	68.7	13.64

Source: Primary Survey, 2019.

\*Values given in table are percentages.

When a person migrates to another country, he/she faces different circumstances so the purpose of his/her expenditure also changes after migration. By looking at the different categories of purposes of expenditure, we see that after migration a large part (50 per cent) of the emigrants had spent their money on paper fees. In this case paper fee defined as the fee which emigrant pays in the process to renew visa papers/immigration papers or to extend work permit. When emigrant submits these documents to government offices they have to pay some fee to complete the submission process. After reaching destination country some emigrants apply for their PR or apply visa applications of their family members to call them abroad, while applying these applications, they have to complete some legal processes/ paper work. Emigrants can complete this paper work themselves or they have to hire the experts for these services. Payment to experts or payment at the government offices while submitting documents are considered as payment to public officials. The second major item of expenditure is towards to public officials (32.64). These are two primary purposes on which most of the emigrants of first four groups spent their money.

Whereas, in the case of Asian countries group, expenditure for the above discussed two purposes is just stands between 20-25 per cent. As we know that in Asian countries a large part of the emigrants neither want to settle for life time nor they invite their wives or children for long duration so expenditure on these two categories is small, compared to the other groups. It is also noticed that some emigrants get the citizenship of destination country with the help of paper marriage, in this type of cases they paid contracted amount of money to their spouse, payment to contracted spouse mostly happen in the case of male emigrants. Because some male emigrants went abroad in the illegal way and after reaching their destination country they find the permanent resident girl and made a contract marriage with her. The ratio of this type of emigrants is merely about 2 per cent for Jalandhar and SBS Nagar districts. It is interesting to see that there are plenty of emigrants about 69 per cent, who did not made any expenditure after migration, and all these emigrants are belonging to the Asian countries. When we look at the expenditure on study, table disclosed that around 13 per cent students had continued their study after migration. Table perusal reveals that among all the five groups expenditure for paper fees is highest about 63 per cent for the group Europe and lowest for the group of Asian countries.

Table 3: Distribution	of NRIs according to the	e Earning Amount befor	re Migration and Aft	er Migration (Annual)
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Particular	USA & Canada	Australia & New Zealand	UK	Europe	Asia	All		
Jalandhar and SBS Nagar								
Earning amount before Migration	55,437	34,893	52,471	27,144	34652	44,446		
Earning amount after migration	23,25,108	20,38,298	17,41,573	11,97,938	7,95,652	1719,516		

Source: Primary Survey, 2019.

\*Values given in table are average values.

In Table 3 the average earnings of every individual before and after migration has been analyzed. As we know that India is an over populated country, so here people earned lesser amount of income as compared to other advanced and some Asian countries. Therefore, for the better standard of living and attractive salary package, a part of the population wanted to settle abroad. It can be easily seen that there is a huge difference in the earnings before and after migration. The total of both the districts shows that the highest earnings before and after migration belongs to the emigrants of USA and Canada, this amount stands at Rs.55,437 before migration and Rs. 23,25,108 after migration. In the case of emigrants belonging to UK, the earnings before migration were Rs. 52,471 and after migration it increased to Rs. 17,41,573. It is observed that emigrants belonging to European countries had the lowest earnings before migration which stood at Rs. 27,144, whereas, the emigrants

belonging to Asian countries earn the lowest amount (Rs. 7,95,652) among all the five groups after migration.

#### **Remittances and Repayment of loan**

Usually, majority of the migrants send money to their family members or friends, in economic terms this money is known as remittances and family members use these remittances for various purposes. First of all they prefer to return the loan which they have been previously taken to send their family member abroad. Along with it they use remittances to purchase household goods, for construction purpose, for social and family functions and for donation purpose also. In the next tables the repayment of loan and purchase of household assets before and after migration have been discussed.

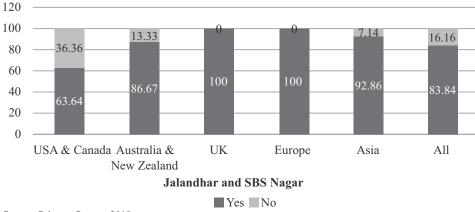


Figure 3 : Distribution of Households according to the Repayment of Loan

Source: Primary Survey, 2019.

Further, in figure 3, we have examined the distribution of NRI households according to the status of repayment of loan. It can be easily observed that about 84 percent households have repaid their loan and remaining 16 percent have not repaid it. The total of both the districts shows that

63.64 per cent of the emigrants' households belonging to USA & Canada while this proportion is 87 per cent for those belonging to Australia & New Zealand, 93 per cent for Asian countries and all of those belonging to UK and Europe have fully repaid their loans.

Table 4: Distribution of Households according to the Average Value of
Durable Household Assets Purchased before Migration

Particular	USA & Canada	Australia & New Zealand	UK	Europe	Asia	All			
Jalandhar and SBS Nagar									
TV/LCD/LED	16807	22,162	14,285	17,759	20,510	18,027			
Refrigerator/oven	12,605	8919	13,016	13,759	8673	11,461			
Fans/cooler/AC	13,613	9459	18,095	12,500	4082	11,293			
Sewing machine/ washing machine	6302	6486	5079	5689	1837	4853			
Utensils/Gas Connection	10,630	9729	10,476	10,172	3469	8573			
Furniture	100,840	126,486	61,905	25,345	11224	61,733			
Mobiles	11,924	20,027	22,968	24,793	4673	14,674			
Computer/laptop/printer	5462	8108	4444	9310	3673	5680			
Ornaments	483,193	824,324	530,159	551,724	153,06	449,067			
Two wheeler	43193	36,216	47,143	46,552	31,326	40,587			
Car	126,050	205,405	196,286	241,379	86,735	153,243			
Other(filter/geyser/inverter etc.)	46,218	14,865	19,048	12,414	2755	21,973			
Total Households	119	37	63	58	98	375			

Source: Primary Survey, 2019.

The information presented in table 4 shows the average value of the NRIs households' assets which they had before migration. The table shows that in two sampled districts, before migration every h o u s e h o l d h a s the TV/LCD/LED, refrigerator/oven, fan/cooler/Ac, sewing or washing machine etc. The total average values for every household are Rs. 18 thousand for TV/LCD, Rs.11 thousand for fridge/oven, Rs.11 thousand for fridge/oven, Rs.11 thousand for sewing/washing machine, Rs. 85 hundred for utensils and gas connection, around Rs. 62 thousand for furniture, 14 thousand for mobiles, 56

hundred for PC/laptop, 4.49 lakh for ornaments, 40 thousand for two wheeler, 1.53 lakh for car and about Rs. 22 thousand for the value of other household assets. In the group wise presentation it can be observed that households belonging to group Australia & New Zealand and group Asia have the greater amount of assets such as TV/LED/LCD as comparative to other groups, for group Australia and New Zealand this value stands at Rs. 22 thousand and for group Asia it stands at Rs. 20,510. The table revealed that among all the five groups households of the last group had the least value of most of the household assets.

 Table 5: Distribution of Households according to the Average Value of

 Durable Household Assets Purchased after Migration

Particular	USA & Canada	Australia & New Zealand	UK	Europe	Asia	All			
Jalandhar and SBS Nagar									
TV/LCD/LED	9157	10,270	13651	8965	7653	9600			
Refrigerator/oven	1344	2703	2222	9655	3673	3520			
Fans/cooler/AC	11,597	4865	11,825	7931	2143	7933			
Sewing machine/ washing machine	1933	4054	1809	3621	1020	2144			
Utensils/Gas Connection	1471	5135	2698	4138	1449	2445			
Furniture	113,445	56,757	49206	27,241	7143	55947			
Mobiles	9949	11,135	6825	9483	3979	7909			
Computer/laptop/printer	7563	5135	4635	4052	9489	6792			
Ornaments	67227	189,189	96,825	120,689	82,653	96,533			
Two wheeler	12,185	11,892	16,507	17,241	32,347	18,933			
Car	294,118	243,243	222,539	263,793	42,857	206,720			
Other(filter/geyser/inverter etc.)	6050	5351	4603	3621	1653	4213			
Total households	119	37	63	58	98	375			

Source: Primary Survey, 2019.

Table 5 shows the average expenditure of different households belonging to the emigrants on durable household assets like TV/LED/LCD, refrigerator, radio, fans, cooler, AC, sewing machine, car etc. after migration. The main purpose of constructing this table to compare the change in the well-being of NRIs family members' after migration and it is gratifying to know that the level of comfort of all households has been raised after migration. It is noticed that every household has purchased some assets after migration. In the combined picture of both districts it can be observed that among the all five groups, group UK has spent the maximum amount of money about Rs. 13 thousand on the

purchase of LCD/LED, whereas lowest amount spent on LCD/LED by group Asia. The table has shown that households of the USA & Canada have spent the huge amount on purchase of furniture and cars; the average expenditure on these both items after migration is Rs. 1.13 lakh for furniture and 2.94 for cars. As we can see in group wise distribution that households belonging to the NRIs from western and advanced countries (Canada, USA, Australia, New Zealand, UK and Europe) have reported higher expenditure on durable items than the households belonging to the migrants of Asian countries, this is because most of the NRIs belonging to Group Asia went to gulf countries while the destinations of the NRIs belonging to first four groups are mainly developed countries, Obviously the remittances from gulf countries are lower than the remittances from developed countries. But we can also notice fewer differences between the expenditure on household durables by western countries group and Asian countries group, which again finds in explanation in the fact that some of the NRIs belonging to group fifth have good package jobs in the destination country or in India their family members are also well settled so they have spent the large amount on the purchase of some durable goods such as refrigerator, laptop and two wheeler etc

# **Findings of the study**

The findings of the study revealed that out of the 375 households 579 NRIs have migrated to abroad. It is found that proportion of male NRIs is much higher than the female NRIs and the highest male migrants 93.91 per cent have migrated to Asian countries. During the survey it is observed that majority of the migrants, migrated to other countries due to the more and highly paid work opportunities available in abroad. Therefore, it cannot be said that jobs are not available in home place but earnings from those jobs are meagre. These are not enough to live a dignified life.

Australia and New Zealand has become the top most favorite destinations of emigrants for the purpose of higher education. In districts Jalandhar and SBS Nagar major part of the emigrants have migrated to these countries to attain higher education.

It is noticed that remittances receiving households are much better than the non-receiving households. Education and skill efficiency, duration of stay and legal status all are the some important factors which influence the migrant's earning level in destination country. It is observed that in middle or upper middle class families when people receive remittances they use money to buy property, household goods or on social ceremonies, in contrast in lower middle class households, people use remittances for construction purpose. Households' assets of migrants' family members before and after migration have also been analyzed in the study and it is observed that with the help of remittances they have purchased a number of luxurious items and their standard of living of have improved a lot.

# Conclusion

From the above study it is concluded that apart from the economic benefits, the international migration plays positive role in changing the attitude and behaviour of migrant's and his/her family members. Remittances not only benefits individual recipients, it also benefits the domestic and national economies in which they live. In fact, remittances have a multifaceted effect on domestic economies - because later spending generates income for others and stimulates economic activity in general. In many developing nations, remittances are the most reliable and stable form of foreign earnings.

#### Recommendations

Although international migration is very beneficial for migrant sending countries but it also create the problem of brain drain in developing countries. Therefore, in the light of above research it is recommended that, government of India should introduce some improved and advance employment generation programs which provide better work opportunities to the skilled personnel of India.

#### Limitations

The main limitation of this study is that, this study is based on the general pattern of international migration. In this study all the migrants who have been migrated abroad in different years and from different back grounds have been analyzed collectively. But if they were analyzed separately according to their duration of migration and their back grounds (Rich, Marginal, Poor) then better results could be seen.

#### **Scope for Future Research**

Most of the international migration from India originates from some states, mainly from Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala and also most of the international migration originated from rural areas. In Punjab, most of the international migration originates from rural Doaba region. Present study focuses on rural areas of two districts, namely Jalandhar and SBS Nagar. This study would be helpful for those researcher who have keen interest to examine the causes behind migration, impacts of migration and the role of international migration in the development of rural Punjab.

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