Socio-economic Implications of Emigration on Farmers' Household in Eastern Zone of Punjab

ABSTRACT

The present study was undertaken to analyse the socio-economic implications of emigration on farmers' household in the eastern zone of Punjab. The study was based on multi stage random sampling technique. Both primary and secondary data was used to achieve the objectives of the study. Primary data was collected from Gurdaspur and Hoshiarpur districts and secondary data wereas collected from various online portals during the period 2020-21. Multiple linear regression model and simple descriptive tools were used to calculate the results.The value of dependent variable (factors affecting amount of remittances sent back by emigrants) worked out to be 51.9 per cent. Out of 34 explanatory variables, age, education, status before migration-2, visa type-1, visa type-2and destination country were negatively statistically significant at various probability levels, however, number of children, status before migration-1, visa type-3, factor responsible for migration-1 and factor responsible for migration-2 were positively statistically significant.The study found that90.4 per cent migrants were in the age group of 20 to 35 years and44.8 per cent of migrants emigrated due to unemployment in their country.The study suggested that the central and state governments should come forward to provide employment opportunities to the youngsters in Punjab according to their qualification.

Keywords: Emigration, emigrants, unemployment, youngsters

1. INTRODUCTION

A regular pattern of migration from Punjab began with the induction of Sikhs into the Indian army after the British annexation of Punjab in 1849. Sikh soldiers were taken to distant places under the British Empire. The soldiers, who returned from overseas, brought back stories and visions about foreign lands. This, in turn led enterprising and vigorous young men to go to the British colonies to seek their fortunes. And thus, began the saga of overseas migration from Punjab (Kaur, 2019).Migration of professionals, skilled, non-skilled personnels from Punjab to other developed countries is rising more and more nowadays. The wave of international migration of people from Punjab to certain developed countries like: US, UK, Canada, Europe, UAE, etc is giving high tides torural population to move to other countries for living. During 1960's, youth of Punjab moved to these western countries for earning more money. Later on, the oil boom in gulf countries was another attraction for the Punjabi youth to migrate to fulfil their dreams by earning more money (Dhindsa, 1998). Later on in 1980's, the concept of emigration originated among the rich class of farmers, who started sending their sons to developed countries to marry the girls of the families already settled in developed countries just to get immigration. It was further estimated that among 20 million Indian people settling abroad, 10 to 15 per cent of people were Punjabis. The emigrants who fled from Punjab to other countries like: US, UK, Europe and Canada mainly constituted people of Doaba origin (Kaur, 2006).

More Indians are opting to travel and study overseas than they ever done before. While India has seen an overall increase of 22 per cent in the visa applications during the last two years, Punjab is far ahead of any other state with 66 per cent growth in the number of visa applicants. There was a time when travelling and studying overseas was limited to the

rich only, but this is becoming more and more affordable now. It's actually becoming a craze to go overseas, especially on student visas and Punjabis are actually leading the way (Grewal, 2019).

Earlier Punjabis went abroad due to their small land holdings. They earned sterling pounds and dollars and sent these back home, thus providing assets for their families. Land holdings expanded and big bungalows sprung up in villages. But now the trend has reversed (Gandam and Nehra, 2018). Fourth or fifth generation of Doaba NRI's are brought up abroad. They have no emotional attachment with villages of their elders. They simply do not want to come here. NRI's are now selling their lands. Major reasons cited behind Punjabis foreign flight were: Utter failure of system, alarming unemployment, atmosphere of terror and insecurity, collapse of law and order, lack of work culture, rampant corruption, scourge of drugs, burial of the concept of welfare state providing affordable education and health care (Gandam and Nehra, 2018).

The most tangible outcome of international migration is the remittances that households receive from its migrant members. Remittances provide much required income to the households that are resource constrained. It has positive impact on the health and nutrition status of the family members, on schooling and education of the children, on investment in family-run small business and on housing (Kapuria and Birwal, 2017). The increasing number of youth migrating to western nations from rural Punjab shows a trait of problematic future for the north Indian states. It is important to understand the current scenario and figure out the solutions for the potential impediments to the development of an agrarian state. A migrating state is often on a verge of shattering economy and unbalanced economic graph among the population. Lack of nationalism among the youth has a great hand in planting the seeds of love towards the western world among the youth (Kaur, 2018).

Objectives

1. To study the socio-economic profile of emigrants.

2. To study the cost incurred on emigration process and sources of finance.

3. To study the factors affecting the extent of remittances sent by emigrants.

4. To identify the factors affecting large scale emigration.

2. METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in the eastern zone of Punjab during 2020-21.Multistage random sampling technique was used for the collection of data. At first stage, two districts,Gurdaspur and Hoshiarpur were selected randomly. At second stage, two blocks namelyKahnuwan and Qadian from Gurdaspur and Mukeriyan and Dasuya from Hoshiarpur were chosen randomly.At third stage, one village from each selected block wasere chosen randomly i.e., Jogi Cheema village from Kahnuwanblock, NangalButtar village from Qadian block, Khichian village from Mukeriyan block and Ballagan village from Dasuya block, respectively. At last stage, 25 respondents were randomly selected from each selected village. Overall, 100 respondents were randomly selected from the study area. The data of emigrants was collected from the head member of the family. From Gurdaspur, total 64 emigrants were selected and from Hoshiarpur district, 61 emigrants were selected. Thus the study was based on 100 respondents and 125 emigrants.

2.1 Analysis of data

Hejase et al. (2012) contend that informed objective decisions are based on facts and numbers, real, realistic and timely information.The data of emigrants was analysed toachieve

the objectives of the study. So, descriptive statistics was used. According to Hejase and Hejase (2013), "descriptivestatistics deals with describing a collection of data by condensingthe amounts of data into simple representative numerical quantitiesor plots that can provide a better understanding of the collecteddata" (p. 272). Therefore, tabular ~~method forms using~~ with frequency distribution and percentage were used to achieve the first, second and fourth objective of the study. However, to meet the third objective of the study i.e., to identify the factors affecting amount of remittances sent back by emigrants multiple linear regression analysis was used.

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots.. + \beta_n X_n$$

Where,

Y-Factors affecting amount of remittances sent back by emigrants (Dependent variable)

$X_1 \ldots.. X_n$- Explanatory variables

β_0- Intercept term

$\beta_1, \beta_2 \ldots\ldots \beta_n$- Regression coefficients

Explanatory variables for the model

X_1 = Age of the emigrant

X_2 = Education (Graduation) [1- If the emigrant graduated; 0- If not graduated]

X_3 = Number of children of emigrant

X_4 = Status of emigrant before migration (Student) [1- If student; 0- If not student]

X_5 = Status of emigrant before migration (Drivers, shop owner, peons) [1- If driver, shop owner and peon; 0- If not driver, shop owner and peon]

X_6 = Visa type (Permanent Resident) [1- If migrated on PR visa; 0- If not migrated on PR visa]

X_7 = Visa type (Spouse) [1- If migrated on spouse visa; 0- If not migrated on spouse visa]

X_8 = Visa type (Illegal, sponsorship) [1- If emigrated on sponsorship and illegally; 0- If not emigrated on sponsorship and illegally]

X_9 = Country of destination (USA) [1- If migrated to USA; 0- If not migrated to USA]

X_{10} = Factor responsible for migration (Better job opportunities) [1- If migrated for better job opportunities; 0- If notmigrated for better job opportunities]

X_{11} = Factor responsible for migration (Acquiring higher education) [1- If migrated for higher education; 0- If notmigrated for higher education]

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Punjab is one of the few states in the country that have historically contributed to the pool of international migrants and still continues to do so. According to estimates, about five million people from Punjab have migrated overseas(Kapuria, 2019).The results obtained from the study are shown in ~~the following tables.~~Tables 1 to9, and Figures 1 to 3.

Table 1 shows the details of sampling and samples selection.

Table 1: Detail of study sample in the eastern zone of Punjab (2020-21)

Name of the District	Name of the Blocks	Name of villages selected	No of households selected	No of emigrants selected
Gurdaspur	Kahnuwan	Jogi Cheema	25	64
	Qadian	NangalButtar	25	
Hoshiarpur	Mukeriyan	Khichian	25	61
	Dasuya	Ballagan	25	
Total	**4**	**4**	**100**	**125**

Source- Field survey

Table 2: Socio-economic profile of emigrants

PARTICULARS		GURDASPUR $n_1=64$	HOSHIARPUR $n_2=61$	OVERALL $n=n_1+n_2=125$
Operational holding (acres)	Landless	4 (6.25)	4 (6.56)	8 (6.4)
	Marginal (<2.5)	5 (7.81)	2 (3.28)	7 (5.6)
	Small (2.5-5)	18 (28.13)	10 (16.39)	28 (22.4)
	Semi-Medium (5-10)	35 (54.69)	35 (57.38)	70 (56)
	Medium (10-25)	2 (3.13)	9 (14.75)	11 (8.8)
	Large (25 or above)	0 (0)	1 (1.64)	1 (0.8)
Age (in years)	<20	2 (3.13)	2 (3.28)	4 (3.2)
	20 to 35	60 (93.75)	53 (86.89)	113 (90.4)
	36 to 55	2 (3.13)	4 (6.56)	6 (4.8)
	>55	0 (0)	2 (3.28)	2 (1.6)
Gender	Male	42 (65.63)	45 (73.77)	87 (69.6)
	Female	22 (34.38)	16 (26.23)	38 (30.4)
Category	General	57 (89.06)	52 (85.25)	109 (87.2)
	OBC	5 (7.81)	6 (9.84)	11 (8.8)
	SC	2 (3.13)	3 (4.92)	5 (4)
Education	Illiterate	0 (0)	1 (1.64)	1 (0.8)
	Primary/Matric	0 (0)	4 (6.56)	4(3.2)
	Senior Secondary	34 (53.13)	37 (60.65)	71 (56.8)
	Graduation	22 (34.38)	14 (22.95)	36 (28.8)
	Post-Graduation	4 (6.25)	2 (3.28)	6 (4.8)
	Diploma	4 (6.25)	3 (4.92)	7 (5.6)
Family type	Nuclear	25 (39.06)	25 (40.98)	50 (40)
	Joint	39 (60.94)	36 (59.02)	75 (60)
Annual Income	< 4lakh	13 (20.31)	8 (13.11)	21 (16.8)
	4-8lakh	20 (31.25)	22 (36.06)	42 (33.6)
	8-12 lakh	24 (37.5)	24 (39.34)	48 (38.4)
	>12 lakh	7 (10.94)	7 (11.48)	14 (11.2)

Source-Field survey

*Note-*Figures in parenthesis are percentages of the total number

The socio-economic profile of emigrants is given in Table 23. The overall scenario of study showed that the maximum number (56%) of emigrants belong to semi-medium

category followed by small category (22.4%). As compare to other age groups, the highest percentage (90.4%) of emigrants was falling under 20 to 35 years. The proportion of male emigrants(69.6%) was much higher than the female migrants (30.4%). Overall, the emigration rate was maximum(87.2%) for general category followed by OBC (8.8 per cent) and SC (4%), respectively. Around 60 per cent emigrants belonged to joint family.The majority of emigrants (56.8%) migrated after completing their secondary level of education. The highestpercentage (38.4%) of emigrants washaving annual income between 8 to 12 lakh.

Table 3: Status of emigrants before migration

STATUS	GURDASPUR $n_1=64$	HOSHIARPUR $n_2=61$	OVERALL $n=n_1+n_2=125$
Unemployed	33 (51.56)	31 (50.82)	64 (51.2)
Student	14 (21.88)	11 (18.03)	25 (20)
Farmer	11 (17.19)	11 (18.03)	22 (17.6)
Private job	2 (3.13)	0 (0)	2 (1.6)
Govt. job	3 (4.69)	7 (11.48)	10 (8)
Other*	1 (1.56)	1 (1.64)	2 (1.6)

Source-Field survey
*Note-*Figures in parenthesis are percentages of the total number
Other-* Drivers, peons and shop owners

Status of emigrants before migration is shown in Table 34. Overall, 51.2 per cent emigrants were unemployed, 20 per cent were students, 17.6 per cent were farmers, 8 per cent were doing government job and 1.6 per cent each were others and doing private job respectively.

Table 4: Country wise distribution of emigrants

COUNTRY	GURDASPUR $n_1=64$	HOSHIARPUR $n_2=61$	OVERALL $n=n_1+n_2=125$
Canada	30 (46.88)	25 (40.98)	55 (44)
Australia	9 (14.06)	5 (8.2)	14 (11.2)
New Zealand	8 (12.5)	4 (6.56)	12 (9.6)
U.K.	4 (6.25)	3 (4.92)	7 (5.6)
U.S.A	2 (3.13)	6 (9.84)	8 (6.4)
Dubai	6 (9.38)	8 (13.11)	14 (11.2)
European Countries	5 (7.81)	10 (16.39)	15 (12)

Source-Field survey

*Note-*Figures in parenthesis are percentages of the total number

Table 4 reveals the information about the preferences of emigrants for the destination country. The above information showed that maximum number (44 per cent) ofemigrantsmigrated to Canada. This might be due to the fact that obtaining a temporary visa and eventually a permanent residence in Canada has gotten easier for international students.International student enrolment at Canadian educational institutions has increased to 52 per cent between the 2016-17 and 2019-20 academic years (Sangani, 2022). Around 12 per cent emigrants migrated to European countries and only 5.6 per cent migrated to U.K.

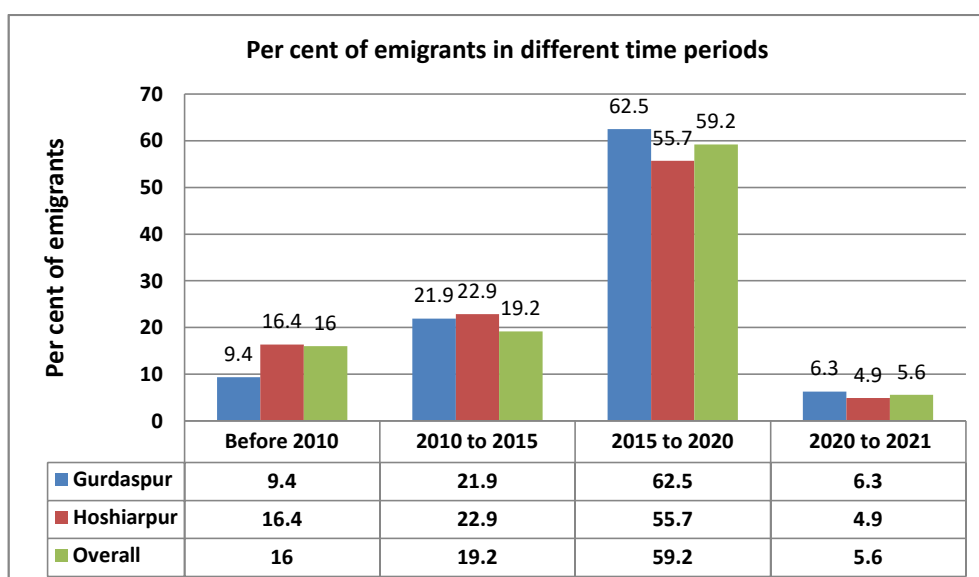Figure 1: Distribution of emigrants according to year of migration

Per cent of emigrants in different time periods

	Before 2010	2010 to 2015	2015 to 2020	2020 to 2021
Gurdaspur	9.4	21.9	62.5	6.3
Hoshiarpur	16.4	22.9	55.7	4.9
Overall	16	19.2	59.2	5.6

Figure 1: Distribution of emigrants according to year of migration

Source-Field survey

~~The above bar graph~~Figure 1 explores the information about the year of migration. On an average, the maximum number of emigrants (59.2 per cent) migrated from 2015 to 2020 followed by 19.2 per cent emigrantswho migrated in the years of 2010 to 2015 and the least proportion (5.6 per cent) of emigrants went overseas during the period 2020-21 due to outbreak of Corona virus which caused closing of international borders.

Table 5: Distribution of emigrants based on visa type

VISA TYPE	GURDASPUR n_1=64	HOSHIARPUR n_2=61	OVERALL $n=n_1+n_2$=125
Study Visa	38 (59.38)	31 (50.82)	69 (55.2)
Work Visa	17 (26.56)	20 (32.79)	37 (29.6)
Permanent Residency	4 (6.25)	3 (4.92)	7 (5.6)
Spouse Visa	4 (6.25)	3 (4.92)	7 (5.6)
Other*	1 (1.56)	4 (6.56)	5 (4)

Source-Field survey
Note-Figures in parenthesis are percentages of the total number
Other*- Illegal and sponsorship visa

Table 5illustrates the distribution of emigrants based on the type of visa. Overall, the majority of emigrants (55.2 per cent) migrated on study visa followed by work visa(29.6 per cent) and only 4 per cent emigrants migrated to foreign countries on other type of visa.

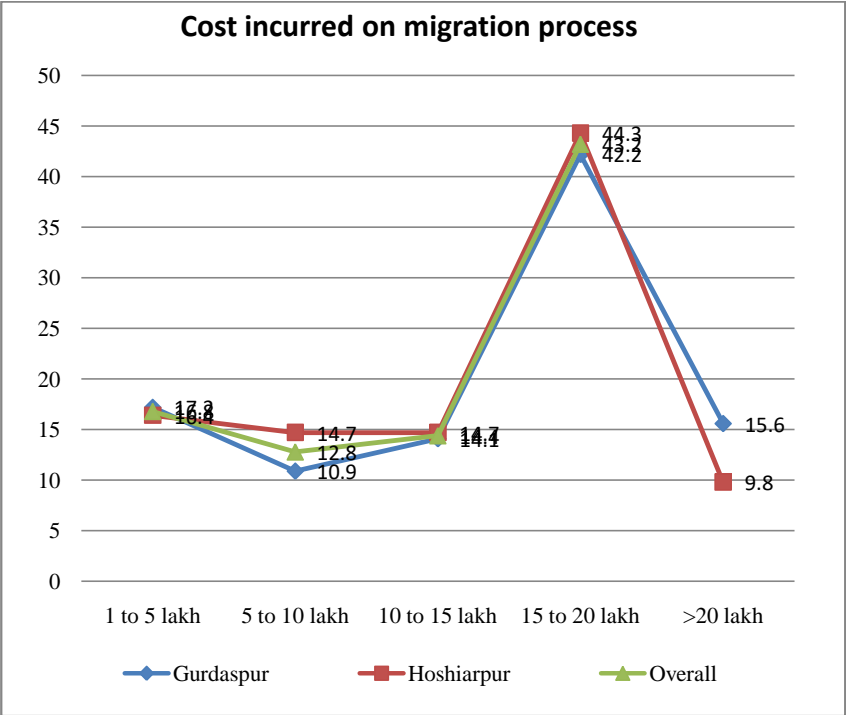**Cost incurred on migration process**

Figure 2: Cost incurred on migration process
Source-Field survey

The cost incurred on emigration process is shown in ~~Table 7~~Figure 2. The highest proportion(43.2 per cent) of emigrants spent between 15 to 20 lakh in order to migrate.
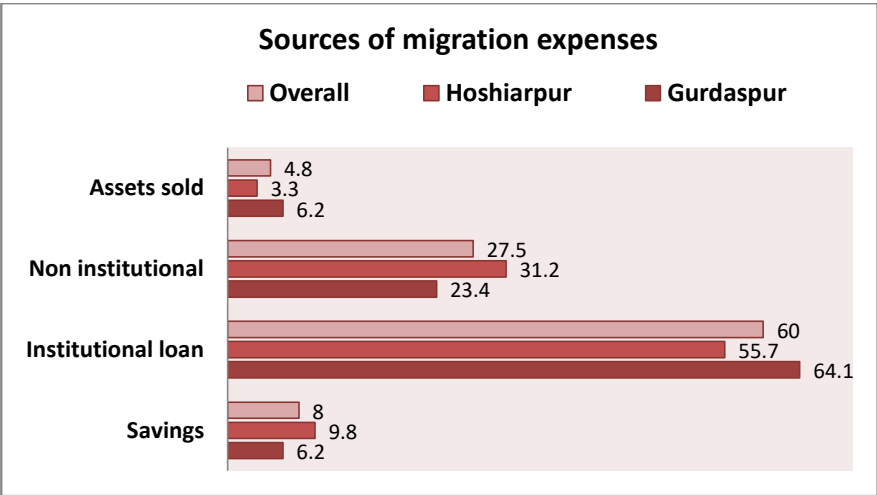
Sources of migration expenses

Figure 3 : Various sources of migration expenditure
Source-Field survey

Table 6Figure 3provides information regarding different sources of migration expenses. Overall, the maximum percentage of emigrants (60 per cent) was dependent on institutional loan followed by non-institutional sources with migration percentage around (27.5 per cent) and approximately 4.8 per cent emigrants sold their assets in order to migrate to their destination country.

Table 6: Remittances sent back to family by emigrants after migration

Amount (Rs)	GURDASPUR n_1=64	HOSHIARPUR n_2=61	OVERALL n=n_1+n_2=125
0	46 (71.88)	41 (67.21)	87 (69.6)
1-3 lakh	5 (7.81)	13 (21.31)	18 (14.4)
3-6 lakh	8 (12.5)	6 (9.84)	14 (11.2)
6-9 lakh	2 (3.13)	1 (1.64)	3 (2.4)
>9 lakh	3 (4.69)	0 (0)	3 (2.4)

Source-Field survey
Note-Figures in parenthesis are percentages of the total number

Table 67 shows the amount of remittances sent back to family by emigrants. Overall, 69.6 per cent emigrants sent zero remittances back because they use their earned money on meetings their day to day expenses, paying taxes to the governments, buying houses and for the settlement of some businesses, 14.4 per cent sent between 1-3 lakh back, 11.2 per cent sent between 3-6 lakh and 2.4 per cent each sent between 6-9 lakh and greater than 9 lakh, respectively.

A. Push factors of migration

Push factors responsible for migration are shown in Table 7. Overall, the highest proportion (53.6 per cent) of emigrants migrated due to unemployment, 22.4 per cent migrated due to peer pressure and 9.6 per cent emigrants migrated due to declining income in agriculture. The result of the study was in line with the study of Bhabra and Sandhu (2020), where they revealed that the unemployment in Punjab is one of the most serious issues. Thousands of professionals are graduated from various institutions but due to lack of opportunities, they are forced to migrate to various developed countries (Bhabra& Sandhu, 2020).

Table 7: Factors responsible for migration: Push Factors

A. Push factors of migration

FACTORS	GURDASPUR n_1=64	HOSHIARPUR n_2=61	OVERALL n=n_1+n_2=125
Unemployment	35 (54.69)	32 (52.46)	67 (53.6)
Declining income in agriculture	7 (10.94)	5 (8.19)	12 (9.6)
Peer pressure	13 (20.31)	15 (24.59)	28 (22.4)
Gender inequality	3 (4.69)	2(3.28)	5 (4)
Inadequate education	2(3.13)	5 (8.19)	7 (5.6)
Drug usage	4 (6.25)	2 (3.28)	6 (4.8)

B. Pull factors of migration

~~The above table~~Table 8 provides information regarding pull factors of migration. Overall, the maximum number (42.4 per cent) emigrants migrated due to their desire to earn more followed by 20 per cent migrated because of better job opportunities in foreign countries and only 2.4 per cent migrated due to family migration.

Table 8: Factors responsible for migration: Pull Factors

FACTORS	GURDASPUR $n_1=64$	HOSHIARPUR $n_2=61$	OVERALL $n=n_1+n_2=125$
Better job opportunities	10 (15.63)	15 (25.59)	25 (20)
Desire to earn more	28 (43.75)	25 (40.98)	53 (42.4)
Free society	9 (14.06)	5 (8.19)	14 (11.2)
Acquiring higher education	3 (4.69)	5 (8.19)	8 (6.4)
Family migration	2 (3.13)	1 (1.64)	3 (2.4)
Good lifestyle	12 (18.75)	10 (16.39)	22 (17.6)

Source-Field survey

Note-Figures in parenthesis are percentages of the total number.

REGRESSION ANALYSIS

In order to identify the chief determinants of the study variable, *i.e.*,factors affecting amount of remittances sent by the emigrants, we have made use of multiple linear regression analysis.

Table 98: Results on step-wise multiple linear regression analysis of the factors affecting amount of remittances sent by the emigrants on the explanatory variables

Explanatory Variable	$\hat{\beta}$	SE($\hat{\beta}$)	t-value	Significance
Intercept	3.0658	0.8203	3.738	***
Age	-0.1019	0.0297	-3.435	***
Education (Graduation)	-1.2342	0.3807	-3.242	**
No of children	0.7440	0.1851	4.019	***
Status before migration-1 (Student)	1.0389	0.4376	2.374	*
Status before migration-2 (Other)	-2.6628	1.2758	-2.087	*
Visa type-1 (PR)	-1.8283	0.7743	-2.361	*
Visa type-2 (Spouse)	-1.6016	0.7273	-2.202	*
Visa type-3 (Other)	4.8547	1.0431	4.654	***
Destination country (USA)	-1.6622	0.8108	-2.050	*
Factor causing migration-1 (Better job opportunities)	0.9218	0.4518	2.040	*
Factor causing migration-2 (Acquiring higher education)	2.3543	0.8114	2.901	**

*** Significant at 0.1% probability level; ** Significant at 1% probability level; *Significant at 5% probability level.

The factors affecting the amount of remittances sent back by emigrants were age, education (graduation), number of children, status before migration-1, status before migration-2, visa type-1, visa type-2, visa type-3, destination country (USA), factor responsible for migration-1, and factor responsible for migration-2.Moreover, rRegression analysis was carried out for determining factors affecting the amount of remittances sent by migrants.After applying multiple linear regression, the value of the coefficient of determination R^2 worked out to be 0.472 meaning that 47.2% of the variation in the dependent variable was explained by the variation in the explanatory variables.Age was negatively significant at 0.01 percent of significance. This negative significance implies that the lower the age,the more the amount of remittances sent by the emigrant, however, number of children and visa type-3 were positively significant at 0.01 per cent of significance. Education (graduation) was negatively significant at 1 per cent significance whereas factor responsible for migration-2 was positively significant at 1 per cent significance. The variables that were positively significant at 5 per cent significance were status before migration-1 and factor responsible for migration-1. On the other hand, status before migration-2, visa type-1 and visa type-2 and destination country were negatively significant at 5 per cent significance.

CONCLUSION

While studying the migration from the eastern zone of Punjab the study identified that 90.4 per cent ofemigrants were in the age group of 20 to 35 years, which is considered to be the most productive age group for the development of a nation. So, it is essential for the central and state government to look up to this critical matter and take some initiatives to control the overseas migration from Punjab.The majority of emigrants(69 per cent) were males. About 56 per cent emigrants migrated after completing secondary level of education. The major push factor responsible for overseas migration from Punjab was unemployment with 53.6 per cent emigrants migrated to developed countries due to lack of career opportunities in Punjab and the main pull factor responsible for migration was desire to earn more and 42.4 per cent emigrants migrated because of this.Therefore,the study suggested that the state government should provide employment opportunities to youngsters based on their level of education because a migrating state is often on the verge of shattering economy and unbalanced economic graph among the population. Lack of nationalism among the youth has a great hand in planting the seeds of love towards the western world among the youth (Kaur, 2018). So it is essential to develop the feeling of nationalism in youngsters by introducing them to the great heritage of our country at school levels.

Make sure to carefully review the write up of thereferences for consistency and matching the journal's requirements. Make sure all references reported are used in the text

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