Journal of Positive School Psychology http://journalppw.com
2023, Vol. 7, No. 6, 1136-1142

A Sociological Analysis Of Factors Responsible For Farming Occupational Mobility In Gilgit Baltistan, Pakistan

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Citation: Hussain, Z., Asghar, K.,Anjum, F Iftikhar, M (2023). A Sociological Analysis Various Factors Responsible For Occupational Mobility In Gilgit Baltistan, Pakistan. South Asian Journal of Public Health 2023

ABSTRACT: Background: Studies have identified occupational mobility as one of the major areas of concern for young people entering into professional life; in developing countries like Pakistan, the majority of the population engaged in agricultural activities. The agriculture sector has been defining the livings of the poor people, giving them employment opportunities in the past, but at present, the agricultural sector has limited its potential to fulfill the increasing demands of employment due to a long list of limiting factors. Therefore, greater emphasis is placed on forces that precipitate youth to switch one occupation over another, especially from farming to non-farming occupations. The present study investigated the sociological factors responsible for occupational mobility in Gilgit Baltistan, Pakistan. **Methods:** For this purpose a structured questionnaire was used to elicit the related information from professional respondents in three divisions; Gilgit Skardu and Diamar in Gilgit Baltistan transitional province, Pakistan. Through convenient and simple random sampling techniques, data was collected from 408 respondents quantitative analyses was used. The analysis was undertaken at uni-variate, bivariate levels of coded data to establish the relationship between dependent and independent variables. Data were analyzed with the aid of statistical package (SPSS) version-16.0. **Results:** The main findings at bi-variate level analysis show a significant relationship between all sociological factors (i.e., socioeconomic factors such as age, educational level of the respondents, educational level of the respondent's father, family types family size, annual income of the respondent's work and ownership status size in (Kanals) it also was found that scarcity in land size, coordination with cities after the development of transportation system, better income and job opportunities in cities, hardworking and fewer incentives in agriculture, loss of cooperation among farmers during farming practices, division of land among the siblings, lack of basic facilities such as road, school, health centers were responsible for farming occupational mobility in Gilgit Baltistan , Pakistan.

Keywords: Sociological Analysis *[1], Factors*[2] Farming *[3] , Occupational Mobility*[4] , Gilgit Baltsitan*[5]

1. Introduction

Changes in acceptable living standards, guiding principles, and ideologies, as well as changes in the general environment in which individuals make a livelihood, might result from occupational mobility, job changing, or leaving traditional employment. Occupational mobility offers a baseline for measuring variations in the employment structure of the rural economy as well as a trustworthy indicator of the urbanization tendencies of rural areas. The village's employment structure brings to light certain key elements of the socioeconomic situations of its residents since it shows the fundamental activities

on which people depend for a living. (Husain, et al,. 2022) . Occupational mobility is linked to social status change. Indeed, a desire to improve one's social status can result in a change in occupation. Shifts in the occupation have frequently led to lifestyle changes. Infect occupational change has also been used to eliminate a perceived undesirable lifestyle by other societies or higher social classes because it is associated with dirty and degrading employment. (Lyons et al., 2012).

The smaller labor absorption capacity of the farming sector, The high unemployment and underemployment rate in the rural agricultural sector, low productivity, low income, weak ability of the agricultural sector to absorb labor, low productivity, and low income in the agricultural sector. In Pakistan, the service sector hires 34.95 percent of the total workforce (Adesugba & Mavrotas, 2016).

As the education level of the head of household increased, the contribution of the agricultural sector decreased. As the education level increased, the contribution of the non-agricultural sector increased exponentially. The non-agricultural employment rate of the week and low-educated rural areas is lower than that of wealthy households. We find that education is a crucial determinant of participation in the rural non-agricultural production sector. (Judge et al., 2010).

Occupational mobility is caused by many factors at the individual level, including age, education, knowledge, and skills. For example, individuals might change jobs to maximize their lifetime earnings by exploiting their human capital, such as education, work skills, and work experience. (Rahut et al., 2018).

2. Materials and Methods

2.1 Operationalization: The present study investigated the sociological analysis of various factors responsible for farming occupational mobility in Gilgit Baltistan, Pakistan. The immediate objective of the study was to ascertain the sociological factors affect occupational mobility, examine the pattern and mobility, investigate the relationship between socioeconomic characteristics and occupational mobility,

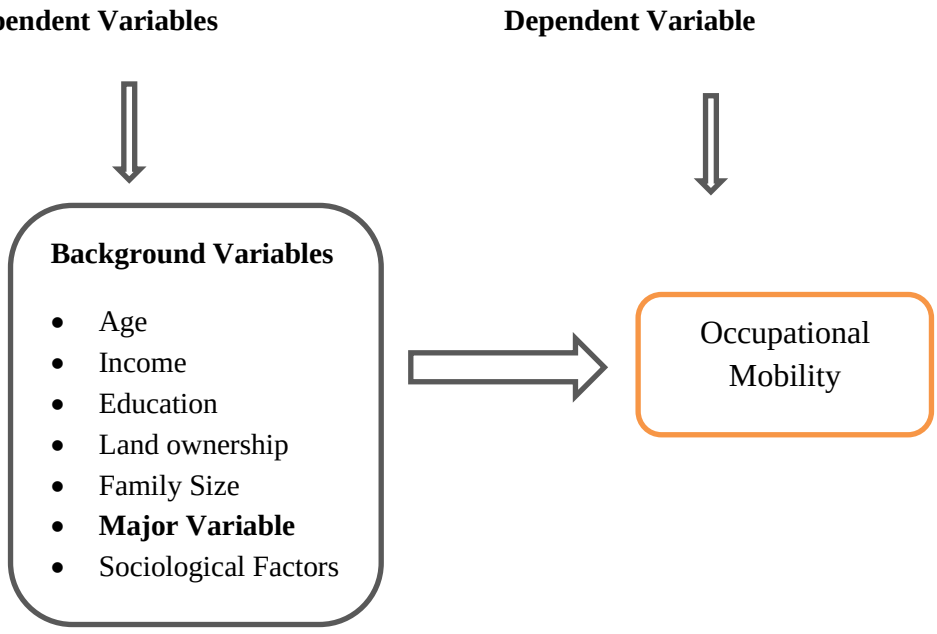
2.2 Instrumentation: and A structured questionnaire was used to elicit the related information from professional respondents in three divisions; Gilgit Skardu and Diamar in Gilgit Baltistan transitional province, Pakistan.

2.3 Sample Size: Through convenient and simple random sampling techniques, data was collected from 408 respondents both quantitative and qualitative analyses were used.

2.4 Statistical Analysis: After editing and cleaning, a two-fold analysis was undertaken at uni-variate and bivariate, levels of coded data to establish the relationship between dependent and independent variables. Data were analyzed with the aid of statistical package (SPSS) version-16.0

4. Conceptual Framework

Fig.1



Hypothesis of the study

- There is an association between sociological factors and occupational mobility

5. Results

Table-1. Distribution of respondents according to the sociological factors responsible for farming occupational mobility

Sr. No	Statement	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Total
1.1	Coordination of urban with rural people	86 21.1%	175 42.2%	147 36.0%	408 100%
1.2	Advance facilities in big cities	40 9.8%	112 27.5%	255 62.5%	408 100%
1.3	Better transport facilities in urban areas	64 15.7%	139 34.1%	205 50.2%	408 100%
1.4	Off-farm job opportunities available in urban areas	56 13.7%	157 38.5%	195 47.85	408 100%
1,5	To avail a suitable status in society	57 14.0%	156 38.2%	195 47.8%	408 100%
1.6	To provide higher education to children.	49 12.0%	105 25.7%	253 62.0%	408 100%

6.Discussion

Table -1.1 illustrates that one-fifth of the total respondents that become 21.1%, disagreed that

the urban contacts of rural people are responsible for occupational mobility. In comparison, 42.9% of the respondents reported that they have no idea about occupational mobility if rural people have contact with urban people, and 36 % agreed that urban contact of rural people is responsible for occupational mobility.

Table 1.2 shows that only a few respondents, i.e. 9.8%, have disagreed with the statement that advanced facilities in big cities are responsible for occupational mobility. In comparison, 27.5 % of respondents had no idea about the advanced facilities in big cities responsible for occupational mobility. A majority of the respondents, i.e. 62.5%, reported that advanced facilities in big cities attract people from rural to urban areas. They change their occupation after migration to cities. Traxler et al. (2008) examined the major facilities in big cities, such as education, assets, access to public services, and language skills that affect non-agricultural job opportunities. Gender and education play a key role in the intensity of participation, but not in income level.

15.7% of respondents do not agree with the statement that improved urban transportation facilities are responsible for occupational mobility, while 34.1% of the respondents showed no response about the statement that improved urban transportation facilities, and 50.2% of the respondents agreed that improved urban transportation facilities attract people from urban to rural areas and they change their occupation

The information given in table 1.3 revealed that 13.7 % of the respondents are 13.7% respondents have disagreed with the statement that off-farm job opportunities available in urban areas are responsible for occupational mobility, whereas 38.5% of respondents were neutral regarding the perception that off-farm job opportunities available in urban areas are responsible for occupational mobility and 47.8% respondents reported that they are agreed that the off-farm job opportunities available in urban areas are responsible for occupational mobility. The result clearly illustrates that most respondents are changing their occupations due to non-farming jobs in cities. The above result also supported by the study of Muhammad,(2012), who It is observed that farmers in relatively developed areas spend more time on non-agricultural employment opportunities. This may be related to the developed means of transportation and communication, better educational facilities, and local non-agricultural employment opportunities.

The information given in table-1.4 also shows that 14% of respondents did not agree that people change their occupation to avail a suitable status in the society while 38.2% of respondents were neutral regarding the perception that people shift from one occupation to another to get a suitable status in the society and majority of the respondents that are 195 respondents out of 408 were agreed that people change their occupation from farming to non-farming activities to get a suitable status in the society

The information provided by table 1.5 revealed that a few numbers of respondents did not agree that the people shift from farming to non-farming activities to provide higher education to their children. In contrast, one-fourth of the respondents have not responded regarding the statement that the people change their occupations to provide their children with such a better education and the majority of the respondents that is 250 out of 408, reported that people shift from agriculture to non-agricultural occupation to provide their children with such a better education, the above result can also be supported by the observations made by (Muhammad, 2012) in general, agricultural employment has gradually shifted to non-agricultural employment, but the means of transportation and communication are underdeveloped, and higher education and infrastructure are lacking

Result

Table- 2 There is an association between Sociological factors and farming occupational mobility.

Sociological Factors	Attributes	Respondent's level of preferences for occupational mobility			
		Low	**Medium**	**High**	**Total**
	Low contribution	28 6.9%	12 2.9%	10 2.5%	50 12.3%
	Medium Contribution	33 8.1%	33 8.1%	57 14.0%	123 30.1%
	High contribution	43 10.5%	55 13.5%	137 33.6%	235 57.6%
	Total	104 25.5%	100 24.5%	204 50.0%	408 100.0%
Statistics	Chi-Square ≤ 0.000 (.233) Somers' d ≤ 0.000 Gamma ≤ 0.000 (0.376)				

6.1 Discussions

The data presented in table 2 reflects a strong and positive significant relationship between the sociological factors of the respondents and the respondent's level of preferences for occupational mobility. The researcher operationally defined the sociological factors that had a significant effect on the respondent's occupational mobility by using some indicators of occupational mobility, as coordination of urban with rural people, advanced facilities in big cities, better transport facilities in urban areas, to avail a suitable status in society and off-farm job opportunities available in urban areas and to provide higher education to children in terms of sociological factors. The responses were collected at Likert – Scale (5=strongly agree, 4=agree, 3=neutral, 2=disagree, 1=strongly disagree). Responses were computed for indexation by using SPSS and possible (Cronbach's alpha=0.730). These archer computed all the responses and converted the Likert scale response into high, medium and low contributions for further analysis.

There is a strong and positive association between the sociological factors and the respondent's level of preferences for occupational mobility. This is calculated by the Coefficient of Chi-Square values ≤ 0.000 for each variable. The intensity and direction of the existing association are measured by applying Somar's d ≤ 0.000 co-efficient, which is highly significant at a 1% significance level for each.

Furthermore, the data are given in table 2 also depict that when the respondents wanted off-farm job opportunities available in urban areas. They became more interested in occupational mobility and preferred occupational mobility. It is evident from the table that a small number of respondents (12.3%) of those who responded that the contribution of sociological factors is low in occupational mobility, amongst them 2.5 % were

highly preferred for occupational mobility, while only 2.9 % respondent's level of preferences for occupational mobility was medium and a.9% respondent's level of preferences for occupational mobility was very low. The table also depicts that 30.1 % of the respondents viewed that the contribution of sociological factors in occupational mobility is medium; amongst them, 14.0 % of the respondents were highly preferred for occupational mobility, while 8.1 % moderately preferred for occupational mobility and 8.1% of them had a low level of preferences for occupational mobility. Similarly, only 57.6 % of the respondents had thought that the contribution of sociological factors in occupational mobility is low. Amongst them, 33.6 % were highly preferred for occupational mobility,13.5 % level of preferences for occupational mobility were medium, and 10.5 % had a low level of preferences for occupational mobility. The results of the present study were supported by the findings presented by a district-level data analysis of Mecharla (2002), found sociological factors as determinants of inter-district variations in rural non-farm employment in Andhra Pradesh: variations in irrigation, transportation, communication literacy, urbanization, commercialization, infrastructure, and poverty are significant determinants of occupational mobility towards non-farming sectors.

Conclusion

Sociological factors emerged as definers and modelers for affecting respondent's occupational preferences. Mostly they valued social status. The advanced facilities in urban areas attract rural people towards it in the same pattern the rural areas are expanding and gradually converting into urban and peri-urban, which adversely affect the occupational decision-making process of the respondents. In contrast, respondents were found to put weight on socio-economic status in their decision and were at odds to choose a field corresponding to their skills and education. Consequently, the majority of the respondents changed their occupations concerning their achieved status. Our study has some limitations such as, only male respondents were included. No female respondent was included. Our cultural barriers did not allow us to include both the gender effects in our analysis. If it had been studied, some of the results might be different

Supplementary materials: Data was collected from the professional youth of Gigit Baltistan and analysis was performed

Author's Contribution: **Zakir Hussain** : Proposed research, performed research, collection of data, analyses of data, writing manuscript. **Kanwal Asghar**: Supervised and Contributed in writing manuscript. **Farkhanda Anjum** : Preparation of research proposal, analyses of data, writing manuscript **.Muhammad Iftikhar**: Statistical analyses of data. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

Funding: This research received no external funding.

Institutional Review Board Statement: Proof reading was preformed reviewed two times for this study, because we have done primary analysis of collected data. However study has followed all the ethical guidelines.

Informed Consent Statement: Patient consent was waived due to primary collection of data analysis.

Data Availability Statement: Data supporting the results can be found at end of each result found in this study with references.

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Acknowledgements: This discussion paper is developed from my doctoral thesis work under

the supervision of outstanding scholars Assistant Professor Dr. Kanwal Asghar. I am grateful to her for encouragement and valuable guidance. Many people also assisted me while I was writing my thesis and I have already placed this on record in my thesis. I am grateful to My Co- Supervisor Assistant Professor Dr. Farkhanda Anjum Department of Rural Sociology University of Agriculture Faisalabad for bringing out this discussion paper.

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