

Effective Factors on Rural Emigration in Golmakan Rural District, Chenaran County

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ABSTRACT

Rural-urban emigrations have always been attended to by scholars in various disciplines. Rural emigrations have caused numerous problems in the origin and destination in Iran during recent decades. The final result of these emigrations is losing regional balance and harmony. Thus, it is essential to take measures to provide for rural development and diminish the caused problems by reducing rural emigrations to cities. The region under study is Golmakan Rural District in Chenaran County in Razavi Khorasan Province. The required data were gathered through desk and field studies by a questionnaire. Cochran Formula was used for determining the sample size for data collection in villages. Data analyses were conducted through SPSS Software and inferential statistics using Pearson Test. The results of this study showed that there are numerous effective factors among which lack of employment and low income have more important roles. Finally, some strategies were suggested.

KEYWORDS: rural emigration, Golmakan Rural District, lack of employment, low income

1. INTRODUCTION

First of all, people mostly emigrate due to economic reasons. The more the difference of economic opportunities between urban and rural regions, the more the emigrants from rural regions to urban regions (Todaro, 1988). Mahdavi considers the reasons for emigration from villages to cities to be two dimensions: first, rural population growth and thus excessive population in the villages; second, difference in the living in villages and cities (Madavi, 2010). Poverty and unemployment always move the villagers to cities (Farahana et al., 2012). Inequalities in social and economic opportunities between urban and rural areas and frequent natural disasters in some regions encourage a vast population to emigrate from rural areas to big cities in Bangladesh (Jahan, 2012). Surplus rural labor force and the differences between urban and rural income are the factors for the emigration of villagers to cities in China (Zhao, 2003). The main reasons for migration in Bolivia are employment, education, and family issues (Andeson, 2002). A study in Pakistan showed that there is a positive significant relationship between the kind of employment, work force of family members, education level, land resources and emigration (Ikramullah, 2011). The encouraging factors in Scotland with regard to economic activity for emigration from the villages include lack of high quality jobs, the difference between salary and life expenses, lack of proper recreational amenities, opportunity to socialize with peers, and freedom from social pressures (Crow, 2010). Lack of access to employment, unemployment, poverty, natural disasters such as river erosion, flooding, etc., other social and cultural factors such as marriage, family conflicts, better life, education facilities, social inequality such as chaos and the domination of elders and political factors, etc; crossing the border, political participation, etc are among the motivations for emigration (Haider, 2010). In Ogun Waterside, Nigeria, emigration have been due to further education, job search, basic amenities, joining the family and marriage (Okhankhuele et al., 2013). With the emigration of villagers to cities, the rural producers become consumers in cities which leads to more dependence of the country. Taken measures to reduce the villagers emigration were the ineffective provision of service facilities because a major part of rural emigrations are due to life fundamental issues such as lack of employment and income. It seems that the removal of these problems in villages will slower the emigration of villagers to cities and reduce city problems. Thus, the main research question is "what are the main reasons for emigration of villagers to cities?"

2. METHODOLOGY

The methodology of this study is descriptive-analytical. Stratified random sampling was used in this study. First, 30 villages from Golmakan Rural District were classified based on population according to the results of census in 2011. Then, four villages were selected randomly. Documentary and field methods were used for the data collection based on designing and filling a questionnaire. Cochran Formula was used for determining the sample size. 139 questionnaires were filled by going to the houses in the village on a systematic random basis of which 126 were main emigrants with a decision to emigrate and 13 did not have the decision to emigrate due to marriage and were among consequential emigrants.

3. RESULTS

348 people emigrated from the villages under investigation during a five year period from 2009 to 2013. There were 126 main emigrants, 36.21 percent of the total emigrants, and 222 consequential emigrants, 63.79 percent of the total

emigrants. This showed that each emigrant moves 1.79 people with him out of the village. The findings of this study showed that most emigrant families from sample villages had smaller dimensions; 36.69 percent of emigrations had one family member. Most of emigrants from the studied villages, 128 people with 36.78 percent frequency, were between 20 to 29 years old. This showed that young and active forces emigrate from villages. 48.28 percent male and 51.72 percent female emigrants emigrated from the villages and 95.80 percent literate and 4.20 percent illiterate people emigrated. The emigrants mostly emigrated to urban points. 57.76 percent immigrated to Mashhad, 15.8 percent emigrated to Chenaran, 12.3 percent immigrated to Golbahar new city, 7.47 percent emigrated inside the rural district, 4.31 percent immigrated to Sarakhs County, and 1.73 percent emigrated to other points. The active emigrant population from the sample villages were 140 before the emigration of which 107 people, 70.86 percent, were employed and 33 people, 29.14 percent, were unemployed. In addition, the active emigrant population after the emigration from the sample villages were 140 people of which 131 people, 93.57 percent, were employed and 9 people, 6.43 percent, were unemployed. The employed people increased 22.71 percent and unemployed people decreased 22.71 percent after emigration from the village. Thus, one of the reasons for the emigration of villagers is unemployment and lack of access to employment.

Table 1: Reasons for emigration from sample villages during 2009 to 2013

Reason for emigration	Total	Percent
Employment	73	57.93
Low income	38	30.16
Lack of welfare and health facilities	8	6.35
Education	5	3.97
Family disputes	2	1.59
Total	126	100

Hypothesis 1: There is a positive significant relationship between lack of employment and emigration in sample villages.

In hypothesis 1, Pearson correlation coefficient between lack of employment and emigration was .365 and the significance level of Pearson's correlation test was .000 which is lower than .05. Thus, there is a positive significant relationship between lack of employment and emigration in sample villages.

Hypothesis 2: There is a positive significant relationship between low income and emigration in sample villages.

In hypothesis 2, Pearson correlation coefficient between low income and emigration was .589 and the significance level of Pearson's correlation test was .000 which is lower than .05. Thus, there is a positive significant relationship between low income and emigration in sample villages.

4. Conclusion and Some Strategies

The investigation of reasons behind emigration in this study showed that 57.93 percent of people emigrate due to unemployment in the villages and to have access to proper jobs. In addition, the employed people after emigration from the villages increased 22.71 percent. Also, 30.16 percent of people emigrated due to low income which is caused by economic inequality between cities and villages. They emigrate to have more income. These statistics showed that access to proper job and more income are high priorities for emigrants, thus the following strategies are suggested:

-Regarding natural phenomenon like rivers, mountains and countryside, it seems desirable to establish necessary infrastructures for tourism and organizing them in a proper way for creating jobs.

-Regarding abundant gardens in this rural district, establishment of small transformation industries in the field of garden products such as conserving fruits and juicing can be effective on employment and increasing the villagers' income.

-Regarding garden products such as apple and pear, establishing cold store for preservation and gradual supply of these products can create job opportunities and higher income for the villagers.

-In order to expand the land under cultivation, new methods of irrigation such as drip irrigation for gardens and sprinkler irrigation for crops are suggested.

-Regarding the cold and dry climate of the region, greenhouse cultivation can be considered in order to prevent damages to agricultural products caused by temperature changes.

-Regarding the livestock units, the establishment of workhouses for dairy products, animal food production, and Vermicomposting Fertilizer production will cause higher incomes and job opportunities.

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