



Intra Household Allocation of Resources in Rural Punjab: Comparative Analysis of Migrants and Non Migrants Households

Samita Behl* and Lakhwinder Singh**

ABSTRACT

International remittances play a significant role in the resource allocation pattern of the rural households. The overall objective of this paper was to examine the impact of international migration, remittances on gender, household expenditure and the decision making power of the left behind females primarily focusing on human capital and to compare the similar behaviour among non migrants' households also. The empirical evidence supported that with the inflow of remittances, across migrants' households, a change in behaviour of resource allocation was very much obvious. De facto heads were now more altruistic to the next generations as across migrants' households, educational attainment for the children was their prime target. Migrants' households focussed on education and health for long term investments so that poverty across households also in the region of origin could be reduced and probability of employability be increased and that of child labour be declined. Somehow, the household inequalities and gender discrimination in rural Punjab were still prevailing to hamper these long term targets.

Key words: Migration, Gender discrimination, Allocation of resources, Rural Punjab
JEL Classification: F2, F22, I30

INTRODUCTION

Punjab state has remained an important source of migration from India to other developed and developing countries. As the human resources are going abroad, the state in lieu of that receive remittances. Remittances have the capacity to raise investment both in the state as well as among the households.

Most of the studies (Thomas, 1990; Zimmermann, 2011; Subramanian and

Deaton, 1991; Pajaron, 2011; Hoddinott and Haddad, 1995; Thomas, 1990; Song, 2008; Fuwa *et al.*, 2006 and Bhalotra and Attfield, 1998) examined the pattern and impact of resource allocation on gender, household expenditure and bargaining and decision making power of the de facto heads and their spouses but related to developing economies. The research study conducted by Singh (2008) on Punjab was unique in several ways as it had examined the extent and the impact of inter and intra household resource allocation in rural Punjab. In a similar way, Thandi (2008) also explored the impact of

*Research Scholar and **Professor of Economics, Punjabi University, Patiala.

the area and production of potato mainly on account of price instability. Jalandhar district alone was having the maximum area and production of potato. About 35 per cent of the cold storage capacity of the state was also concentrated in this district. The arrival of potato had varied from 6.60 lakh qtls in 1993-94 to 2.88 lakh qtls in 2012-13. There had been inter-year fluctuations in the arrival of potato. The arrival of potato was maximum in the post-harvest period. The lowest market arrival was 0.06 lakh qtls in April in the year 2005-06 and the maximum arrival was 2.75 lakh qtls in December in the year 2001-02. The seasonal indices of arrivals were found to be highest in the month of December i.e. 282 and the lowest in June i.e. 42. The net price received by the producer was about ₹357 per qtl which was about 48 per cent of the consumer's purchase price for sale of potato in Jalandhar market during February 2012. This figure was about ₹385 per qtl for sale in the same market in September, 2012. The addition net gain to the farmer was of ₹28 per qtl for sale in September, 2012 as compared to February 2012. The extension agencies may advise the farmers to store potatoes in cold stores to fetch higher prices in the lean season. To encourage the small and medium farmers to take their produce to distant markets outside the state, cooperative/group marketing may be encouraged. This will increase the income of the farmers.

REFERENCES

- Anantia (2008) What is India's Share in Global Vegetable and Fruit Market? Culled from www.managementparadise.com
 Celestine, A (2012) The City of Taj and the Price

- of Potato, *The Economic Times Magazine* (August 12-18, 2012), 5:14-15.
 Chatha, I S and Sidhu, D S (1980) *Production and Marketing of Potato in the Punjab State*, Department of Economics and Sociology, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana.
 Dastagiri, M B, Kumar, B G and Diana, S (2009) Innovative Models in Horticulture Marketing in India. *Indian Journal of Agricultural Marketing in India* 23:83-94.
 Gill, K S (1990) *Marketing of Grapes in Punjab*. Research Report, Department of Economics and Sociology, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana.
 Government of India (2001) *Report of the working group on Horticulture Development for Tenth Five Year Plan(Main Report) Planning Commission*, New Delhi.
 Jairath, M S (2008) Enhancing Farmers' Linkage to Markets. *Indian Journal of Agricultural Marketing*. 22:355-356.
 Kaur, S (2005) *Diseases of Potato-Potato Cultivation in Punjab*, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana. Pp: 20-28.
 Mavi, G S, Narang, D D and Sekhon, S S (2005) Insect-Pests and Nematodes of Potato, *Potato Cultivation in Punjab*, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana. Pp: 29-35.
 Rambani, V (2004) Mandi Shift Unearths Massive Tax Evasion. *Hindustan Times*, Chandigarh: 80, July 12. Pp:4
 Rangi, P S and Sidhu, M S (2001) Problems of Small and Marginal Farmers in Marketing of Fruits and Vegetables in Punjab in Ajit Singh (ed) *Problems of Small and Marginal Farmers in Marketing of Fruits and Vegetables*, Books India International, New Delhi. Pp:73-86.
 Sidhu, M S (1995) *An Economic Analysis of Production and Marketing of Seeds in Punjab*, Ph.D. dissertation (unpublished), Punjabi University, Patiala.

Received: August 12, 2015
 Accepted: October 3, 2015