

A STUDY OF NOMADS IN DISTRICT FAISALABAD

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The Nomad refers to the one belonging to wandering pastoral community. Nomadism involves repeated shifting of the habitat of the people in search of subsistence and the mobility is focused around temporary centers of operations, the stability of which is dependent upon the food supply and the availability of technical knowhow for resource utilization and adjusting in the labour market. The main objective of the study was to assess and address various economic behavior patterns of nomads. For this purpose the study was carried out in the four areas in District Faisalabad. A sample of 120 respondents was made from four randomly selected areas of District Faisalabad. A well designed interviewing schedule has been developed to accomplish the task of collecting data. Whilst data thus collected was analyzed through percentage statistical technique. Analytical conclusions are drawn and critical suggestions have been formulated on the basis of collected data. The present study shows that the birth rate among nomads is very high i.e. 33.3 percent respondents have 5-10. The major source of income for nomads was labour (67.5 percent) More than one fourth i.e. 38.5 percent of the respondents reported that the males and females are involved in labour. More than one fourth i.e. 36.7 percent of the respondents reported that sheep/goat/poultry products were the major source of their income.

Keywords: Nomads, socio-economic, behavior, income, culture

INTRODUCTION

The word "nomad" derived from Greek word "Nomos" means Pasture. According to Simpson and Weiner (1989) it connotes a rover wandering pastoral community. In this way nomadism refers to derive to pasture. Nomads are the people who move about in search of their livelihood and relaxation from place to place along with their homes and belongings. Nomadism is an ancient lifestyle. The incursion of nomads into settled civilizations marked the early history of ancient Egypt and Babylonia and reached their height with the great Mongol invasions of West Asia and Europe in the 13th, 14th, and early 15th century, notably under Genghis Khan and Taimur (Rubel, 1976). Nomadic societies have devised forms of culture which have been particularly suited to their environment and conditions of mobility as well as to the demands and possibilities of their way of life (Akbar, 1981). Today, in numerous regions of world including Faisalabad, Pakistan, nomadic populations are faced with crucial challenges to their current existence, future viability, and especially to their cultural identity. Many are suffering from the decline of their traditional social structures and poverty from marginalization. Nomads are versatile people and opportunists in finding various resources for supporting themselves and for trade. By traveling, they exploit the differences in the seasons, to pasture, grow crops, or to gather natural produce (Said, 1983). The Faisalabad nomads who may be referred to as the 'city nomads' are not aimless wanderers. They are involved in various activities for their livelihood like making handicrafts, dealer of second hand

goods, and picking over a waste tip and even begging. Nomadic people live like a separate group and support themselves by occupations that require systematic travel. Some travel with their animals for pasture and water. Others sell their services or goods, traveling to find customers and raw materials; and they are more common in Faisalabad. True nomads are not aimless wanderers, refugees or displaced people, or are the individuals of settled societies whose work requires them to travel often. And also at the same time, they are not homeless, but people whose whole way of life makes them 'at home' on the move. Many cultures have been traditionally nomadic, but nomadic behavior is increasingly rare in industrialist countries (Anonymous, 2010). The growth of habitation of nomads depends on rainfalls usually once in a year during the rainy season with occasionally long drought seasons. The rain generates activity around the sprouting bushes. It is this time of the year, and it is drought season that makes the dwellers run away to other areas in search of water for themselves and for their livestock herds. This tempts migration and migratory character results in nomadism (Pels, 1998). The nomadic movements noticed in different parts of the world are of four types: viz. daily, monthly, quarterly and six monthly. The most common movements are, however, mainly of last two types (Grossberg, 1988). The character of nomadic societies, the size of nomadic group, the distance, duration and direction of migration, and the type of livestock (camels, cattle, goats, sheep, horses and donkeys) vary greatly with environmental conditions and traditions, so that there is a wide gamut of life between pure nomadism and a

completely sedentary population. Fundamental contrasts arise between those nomads in a state of permanent nomadism and those who have begun to adopt a more sedentary way of life; between those who still live in a primitive state, far away from industrial society, and those whom, for natural or economic motives, find themselves, if not absorbed into the modern world, at least in contact with it, and so on (Bates, 1999). The world's economy is changing drastically, and pastoral nomads must feel the impact. They have been at the mercy of shifting commodity prices, tariff regulation, and trading patterns over which they have little or no control. As the monetized economy expanded to engulf the pastoral nomads, they have become more and more dependent on goods from settled communities, and their sensitivity to macro change is increasing (Hugh, 2001). The sprawling Azakhel refugee camp in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province where these nomads were settled has been washed away in the flash floods of 2010. Perhaps settling down was their fault. Had they been moving which their way of life was, the flood may not have got them in the sweep of its devastation. Kochis have changed their lifestyle and culture in the wake of the unsettled conditions in the region. Gone are the days when Kochis used to move freely between Pakistan and Afghanistan with their herds of goats, mules and camels. For centuries they have been managing their seasonal migratory wanderings without a care and any thought of settling down (Anonymous, 2010). Thousands of people camped out along the main road from Quetta, capital of the southwestern Pakistani province of Balochistan, to Sukkur in Sindh Province, are living in primitive conditions, some with no shelter from the scorching sun. Among them are particularly vulnerable groups: nomads who have lost their livestock. For those totally dependent on their animals the losses mean they must find alternative livelihoods. This is especially difficult for people who have no readily marketable skills, and no savings, to fall back on (IRIN, 2010).

The pastoralists support themselves with herds and flocks of sheep, goats, cattle, buffalo, camel, horses, cow, or donkeys, finding pasture in semi-arid grassland, deserts or mountains. They are the only humans, to utilize the arid and semi-arid regions which comprises one third of the earth's surface, being successful where modern technology and development projects have often failed. The peripatetic sometimes called commercial nomads travel as traders, hawkers, vendors, entertainer, craftsmen, seller of all sorts of articles, fortunetellers, acrobats and as casual workers, traveling between villages and towns for customers. Faisalabad district's nomadic population bears largely the peripatetic nomads.

The nomads are an important but ignored part of mankind. The varied estimates of their numbers demonstrate the difficulty of knowing exact figures, but the total nomads would be large enough to populate many countries. The

significance of nomads is even greater because many people who have a history of nomadism are still in contact with; some may revert to it; or their culture may still be influenced by this history. Keeping in view the importance of nomads the present study focuses on the existing economic system of selected nomad group, and on identification of their economic problems, and finally on certain measures which may helpful in designing certain policies for the betterment of Nomads.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Nomadic peoples are whole societies that support themselves by occupations that require systematic travel. Faisalabad city was selected for present study as universe. Faisalabad was divided into four sampling areas i.e., Judge Walla, SidhuPura, Samanabad and bypass at Jhung Road, because in these areas majority of nomads was residing. From each sampling area respondents were selected by proportional allocation i.e. more number of nomads in a sampling area the greater will be the sample taken from that area (a sample of 35, 30, 20, 35 respondents was taken from Judge Walla, SidhuPura, Samanabad and bypass at Jhung Road respectively). Thus the total respondents were 120 in numbers. A well designed questionnaire was developed to collect data from the respondents. Data was collected using both resources i-e, primary and secondary. Thus the data was collected by using stratified sampling techniques. The questionnaire focused to identify social and economic behavior pattern of nomads, and the perception of the respondents about their income, which were prohibiting them to play role in the development of society. Data was analyzed by using percentage statistical techniques.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

No systematic study about Nomads of District Faisalabad has been conducted. However, the few anthropological studies are conducted on national level probing the nomadic life and relevant to the present probe are listed in following:

Table 1. Distribution of respondents according to family type and number of children

| Type of family | Frequency | Percent (%) |
|-------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Nuclear | 120 | 100.0 |
| Joint | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 120 | 100.0 |
| Total No. of Child Born | | |
| 1-5 | 65 | 54.2 |
| 5-10 | 40 | 33.3 |
| 10-15 | 12 | 10.0 |
| No Child | 3 | 2.5 |
| Total | 120 | 100.0 |

Table 1 describes the distribution of respondents according to their type of family and total number of child born. It is clear from the table that hundred percent (100%) of respondents live in nuclear system and zero percent (0.00%) have joint family system. More than half (54.2%) of respondents have (1-5) children, more than one forth (33.3%) have (5-10) children, one tenth (10%) have (10-15) children and less than one tenth (2.5%) have no child.

Table 2. Distribution of respondents according to their occupation, their forefather's occupation and their satisfaction

| Occupation | Frequency | Percent (%) |
|-------------------------------------|------------|--------------|
| Begging | 7 | 5.8 |
| Labor | 81 | 67.5 |
| Handicrafts | 6 | 5.0 |
| Dealer of Second Hand Goods | 9 | 7.5 |
| Picking over a waste tip | 15 | 12.5 |
| Unemployed | 2 | 1.7 |
| Total | 120 | 100.0 |
| Forefathers' Occupation | | |
| Begging | 3 | 2.5 |
| Labor | 85 | 70.8 |
| Handicrafts | 14 | 11.7 |
| Dealer of Second Hand Goods | 6 | 5.0 |
| Picking over a waste tip | 12 | 10.0 |
| Total | 120 | 100.0 |
| Satisfied Occupation | | |
| Yes | 27 | 22.5 |
| No | 93 | 77.5 |
| Total | 120 | 100.0 |
| Reasons for not satisfaction | | |
| Low Income | 43 | 35.8 |
| Dearness | 50 | 41.7 |
| Satisfied | 27 | 22.5 |
| Total | 120 | 100.0 |

Table 2 describes the distribution of respondents according to their occupation, forefather's occupation, satisfaction about their occupation and reasons of un-satisfaction from their occupation. It is clear from the table that more than two third (67.5%) of respondents were engaged in the occupation of labor, more than one tenth (12.5%) belonged to picking over a waste tip, less than one tenth involved in occupation of dealer of second hand goods (7.5%), begging (5.8%), handicrafts (5%) and unemployed (1.7%). More than two third (70.8%) of respondents' forefathers were engaged in the occupation of labor, little more than tenth (11.7%) involved in handicrafts, one tenth (10%) belonged to the picking over a waste tip, less than one tenth were involved in the dealing of second hand goods (5%), and begging (2.5%). More than half (77.5%) of the respondents were not satisfied with their occupation. While less than one forth (22.5%) were satisfied with their occupation. Less than half (41.7%)

of the respondents were not satisfied with their occupation because of dearness, more than one forth (35.8%) of the respondents were not satisfied with their occupation due to low income. While less than one forth (22.5%) were satisfied with their occupation.

Kreutzmann (1994) explained that nomadism is both a way of life and economic activity in many parts of the dry and semi-dry lands of world. This show how strong is the impact of socio-cultural values on economic activities. It has been observed that nomadism, like all other human cultural and economic systems, develops, declines, or changes its nature whenever appropriate forces of change operate on it at the right time and in right direction.

Table 3. Distribution of respondents according to their labour and family income

| Labor | Frequency | Percent (%) |
|----------------------------|------------|--------------|
| Male | 16 | 13.3 |
| Male + Female | 46 | 38.3 |
| Male + Child | 14 | 11.7 |
| Female + Child | 2 | 1.7 |
| All | 42 | 35.0 |
| Total | 120 | 100.0 |
| Male Income (Rs.) | | |
| 100-140 | 88 | 73.3 |
| 140-170 | 7 | 5.8 |
| 170-200 | 22 | 18.3 |
| No Income | 3 | 2.5 |
| Total | 120 | 100.0 |
| Female Income (Rs.) | | |
| 100-150 | 13 | 10.8 |
| 150-190 | 61 | 50.8 |
| 190-230 | 17 | 14.2 |
| No Income | 29 | 24.2 |
| Total | 120 | 100.0 |
| Child Income (Rs.) | | |
| 60-80 | 57 | 47.5 |
| No Income | 63 | 52.5 |
| Total | 120 | 100.0 |

Table 3 describes the distribution of respondents according to their working activities, male income, female income and child income. It is clear from the table that more than one fourth (38.3%) of the respondents including male + female were doing work while (35%) male + female + children have been doing work for their family, more than one tenth (13.3%) of the male respondents were doing work for their family, more than one tenth (11.7%) of the respondents including male + children were doing work for their family and more than one percent (1.7%) of respondents including female + children were doing work for their family. More

than half (73.3%) of the male respondents earned (Rs. 100-140) per day, more than one tenth (18.3%) earned (Rs. 170-200) per day, less than one tenth (5.8%) earned (Rs. 140-170) per day and more than two percent (2.5%) don't have income. More than half (50.8%) of female respondents earned (Rs. 150-190) per day, little less than one forth (24.2%) don't earned any income, more than one tenth (14.2%) earned (Rs. 190-230) per day and more than one tenth (10.8%) earned (Rs. 100-150) per day. More than half (52.5%) of the child respondents have no income. While less than half (47.5%) of child respondents were earning (Rs. 60-80) per day.

Clark (1972) stated that nomadism frequently involves commercial transactions and seasonal employment in harvesting. Harvests stimulate migration in many parts of the world, especially where commercial cultivation is practiced. Kyuchukov and Ian (2005) postulated that the great advantage of nomadism is that it enables the nomads to use vast areas which have problems that make them either impossible or extremely difficult to be used by settled people. Thus, the nomads are able to raise large numbers of cattle, sheep, and camel and find jobs in adjacent cities of such desert lands.

Table 4. Distribution of respondents according to their source of income from livestock and income from Livestock

| Source of Income | Frequency | Percent (%) |
|---------------------------------|------------|--------------|
| Livestock | 18 | 15.0 |
| Sale of Camel | 9 | 14.7 |
| Sale of Sheep/Goat | 33 | 27.5 |
| Sale of Poultry & Products | 16 | 13.3 |
| Sheep/Goat + Poultry & Products | 44 | 36.7 |
| Total | 120 | 100.0 |
| Livestock Income (Rs.) | | |
| 15000-20000 | 16 | 13.3 |
| 20000-40000 | 2 | 1.7 |
| 60000+ | 2 | 1.7 |
| No Income | 100 | 83.3 |
| Total | 120 | 100.0 |

Table 4 describes the distribution of the respondents according to their source of income from livestock. It is clear from the table that more than one forth (27.5%) were earning income through sale of sheep/goat, more than one tenth (15%) earned income through sale of livestock, more than one tenth earned income through sale of poultry and products (13.3%), and sale of camel (14.7%). While more than one fourth (36.7) earned income through sale of sheep/goat + poultry and products. Less than 100 percent (83.3%) of the respondents have no source of livestock income, more than one tenth (13.3%) of respondents earned

(Rs. 15000-20000) of annual income, more than one percent (1.7%) earned (Rs. 20000-40000) and (1.7%) earned (Rs. 60000+) of annual income. Hassan (1977) studies the economic institution of nomadic group in different parts of Pakistan and described the source of income of nomads as rearing of livestock and selling their products in the nearest area and acquiring certain type to skills to be adjusted in cities' labor market.

Table 5. Distribution of respondents according to the quantity of output, price of output gained from their animals and their assets

| Quantity | Frequency | Percent (%) |
|---|------------|--------------|
| 12-4Kg Milk (Sheep/Goat) | 3 | 27.5 |
| 10-20Kg Milk (Cow/Buffalo) | 20 | 16.7 |
| 6-45Kg Milk (Dachi) | 8 | 6.7 |
| 8-12Eggs (Poultry) & 4-12Kg Milk (Sheep) | 14 | 11.7 |
| 4-12Kg Milk (Sheep/Goat) & 8-12 Eggs | 4 | 3.3 |
| 10-20Kg Milk (Cow) & 8-12 Eggs | 2 | 1.7 |
| No Output | 39 | 32.5 |
| Total | 120 | 100.0 |
| Per day Price of output of their animals | | |
| Total Value (Rs.) | | |
| 24-48 (Sheep/Goat) | 33 | 27.5 |
| 150-300 (Cow/Buffalo) | 20 | 16.7 |
| 52-78 (Dachi) | 8 | 6.7 |
| 32-40(Poultry) | 14 | 11.7 |
| 48-40 (Sheep + Poultry) | 4 | 3.3 |
| 150-40 (Cow + Poultry) | 2 | 1.7 |
| No Output | 39 | 32.5 |
| Total | 120 | 100.0 |
| Assets | | |
| Tent/Charpoys | 37 | 30.8 |
| Tent + Donkey cart + Charpoys | 11 | 9.2 |
| Tent + Cains/other Equipment+ Charpoys | 11 | 9.2 |
| Tent + Manger + Charpoys | 11 | 9.2 |
| Tent + Manger + Donkey cart + Charpoys | 8 | 6.7 |
| Tent + TV + Charpoys | 15 | 12.5 |
| Tent + Palang + TV + Charpoys | 2 | 1.7 |
| Tent + Cane + Suit case + Charpoys | 10 | 8.3 |
| Tent + Donkey cart + Charpoys + Palang + TV | 15 | 12.5 |
| Total | 120 | 100.0 |

Table 5 describes the distribution of respondents according to the quantity of the output gained from their animals, per day price of the total outputs of their animals and their assets. It is clear from the table that more than one fourth (32.5%) of the respondents don't keep animals, (27.5%) get 4-12kg per day milk from sheep and goat, more than one tenth get 10-20 kg per day milk from cow and buffalo (16.7%), and (11.7%) get 8-12 eggs per day from poultry, less than one tenth get 6-4 kg per day milk from Dachi (6.7%) and (3.3%) get 4-12 kg per day milk from sheep/goat, and 8-12 eggs per day from poultry. And (2.5%) get 10-20 kg per day milk from cow/buffalo and 8-12 eggs per day from poultry. More than one fourth (32.5%) of the respondents don't keep animal, (27.5%) of the respondents sale total milk of sheep and which amounts Rs 24-48 per day, more than one tenth (16.7%) sale total milk of cow and buffalo at the rate of Rs 150-300 per day, (10.8%) sale total eggs of poultry at Rs 32-40, less than one tenth (6.7%) sold total milk of dachi at the rate of Rs 52-78 per day and (3.3%) sell total milk of sheep, goat at the rate of Rs 24-48 per day and eggs of poultry at the rate of Rs 32-40 per day and (2.5%) sale milk of cow, buffalo at the rate of Rs 150-300 per day and eggs of poultry at the rate of Rs 32-40 per day. More than one fourth (30.8%) of the respondent keep tent and charpoys, more than one tenth keep tent/television/charpoys (12.5%) and the same percentage (12.5%) keep tent/donkey cart/charpoys/palangs/television, less than one tenth keep tents/donkey carts/charpoys (9.2%), the same percentage (9.2%) keep tent/chains/other similar equipments/charpoys, (9.2%) keep tents/manger/charpoys, (8.3%) keep tent/can/suitcase/charpoys, (6.7%) keep tent/manger/donkey cart/charpoys and (1.7%) keep tent/palang/television/charpoys.

Table 6 describes the distribution of respondents according to their loan taking strategies, type of loan they take, amount of debts and reason of taking loan. It is clear from the table that more than half (54.2%) of respondents take loan. While less than half (45.8%) do not take loan to run their home affairs. Less than half (42.5%) of respondents had loan from Numberdar, more than one tenth (11.6%) had loan from relatives and less than half (45.8%) do not take loan. Less than one fourth (20.0%) of the respondents took loan up to the amount of (Rs. 15000-25000), more than one tenth (18.3%) had loan up the amount of (Rs. 5000-15000), and (15.8%) up to the amount of (Rs. 25000-35000). While less than half (45.8%) do not take any type of loan. A little less than one fourth (24.2%) of the respondents had loan to do some business. While more than one tenth had loan for the marriage of their daughters (15.8%) and for medical treatment (14.2%).

Conclusions: Nomadism involves repeated shifting of the habitat of the people in search of subsistence. And the mobility is focused around temporary centers of operations, the stability of which is dependent upon the food supply and

Table 6. Distribution of respondents according to their loan taking strategies, type, amount and reasons of loan

| Do You Take Loan? | Frequency | Percent (%) |
|-----------------------------|------------|--------------|
| Yes | 65 | 54.2 |
| No | 55 | 45.8 |
| Total | 120 | 100.0 |
| Type Of Loan | | |
| From Numberdar | 51 | 42.5 |
| From Relatives | 14 | 11.6 |
| No Loan | 55 | 45.8 |
| Total | 120 | 100.0 |
| Amount of Loan (Rs.) | | |
| 5000-15000 | 22 | 18.3 |
| 15000-25000 | 24 | 20.0 |
| 25000-35000 | 19 | 15.8 |
| No Debts | 55 | 45.8 |
| Total | 120 | 100.0 |
| Reasons for Loan | | |
| For Daughter Marriage | 19 | 15.8 |
| For Medical Treatment | 17 | 14.2 |
| For Business | 29 | 24.2 |
| No Loan | 55 | 45.8 |
| Total | 120 | 100.0 |

the availability of technical knowhow for resource utilization and adjusting in the labor market. It is found that the distribution of the nomads correlates with a number of human and physical factors. And the cultural heritage of nomadism is a very important factor in the continuation of nomadism. Culturally the partners in nomadic society, in Faisalabad, are arranged into totemic sub-clans so that the exchange establishes a system of sociological ties of an economic nature combined with ties between individual and individual's kinship group and village and so on. Pastoralists, in our country, have come under pressure due to variety of circumstances that include population growth, environmental degradation, and unsound development and trade policies. Especially encroachment of agriculture on their grazing territories and the privatization of former communally owned land are undermining their existence. However, nomadic pastoralism can be a complex and efficient form of land use. Yet, in the determination to change a way of life, Pakistani authorities have to realize the complex relationship between ecological, cultural and economic factors. The present study shows that the birth rate among nomads is very high i.e. 33.3 percent respondents have 5-10 children while 54.2 percent respondents have 1-5

children. The major source of income for nomads was labour (67.5 percent) while some of them were involved in picking over waste tip i.e. (12.5 percent) it was second major source of income. More than one fourth i.e., 38.5 percent of the respondents reported that both the male and female were involved in labour. While almost an equal proportion of people i.e. 35 percent of the respondents reported that the children also work with the male and female members of the family. More than one fourth i.e. 36.7 percent of the respondents reported that sheep/goat/poultry products were the major source of their income.

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