

## BAHAWALPUR DISTRICT: PROFILE OF THE MIGRANT POPULATION

Abdul Ruaf \*

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### Abstract

*Bahawalpur is basically populated by migrant population when the first Ruler of the State came from Iraq and settled at Bahawalpur City, then gradually the area populated by people came from surrounding areas and incentive was given by the head of the State. The district still has migrant population but percentage of it has reduced with the passage of time.*

### Keywords

Bahawalpur, Migrant Population, Census, Punjab.

### Introduction

The growth and increase of the number and size of migrants in the country's populations from centuries and in recent years across of the world have played a vital role in enhancing the population and developing and creating new town and cities in country as well as in the world, which have caught attention of the experts.<sup>1</sup>

Bahawalpur District is located in southern Punjab, It extends from 27° 40' to 29° 50' northern latitude and 70° 54' to 72° 50' east longitude. It is surrounded by districts Lodhran, Vehari and Multan in the north, Rahim Yar Khan and Muzaffargarh in the west and Bahawalnagar and India in the east. (Map 1) The greater part of the district is desert which is locally known as Cholistan or Rohi desert.

Bahawalpur was the princely State of Pakistan and merged into Pakistan in 1956, divided into three districts Bahawalpur, Rahim Yar Khan and Bahawalnagar.

Migration played a vital role in the population of Pakistan, in its distribution and the size. When Pakistan appeared on the world map number of persons migrated from India to Pakistan to settle in a new State. Later on when Cities were growing and establishing as industrial cities, population migration increased from rural areas to urban areas to enjoy development of the cities and to

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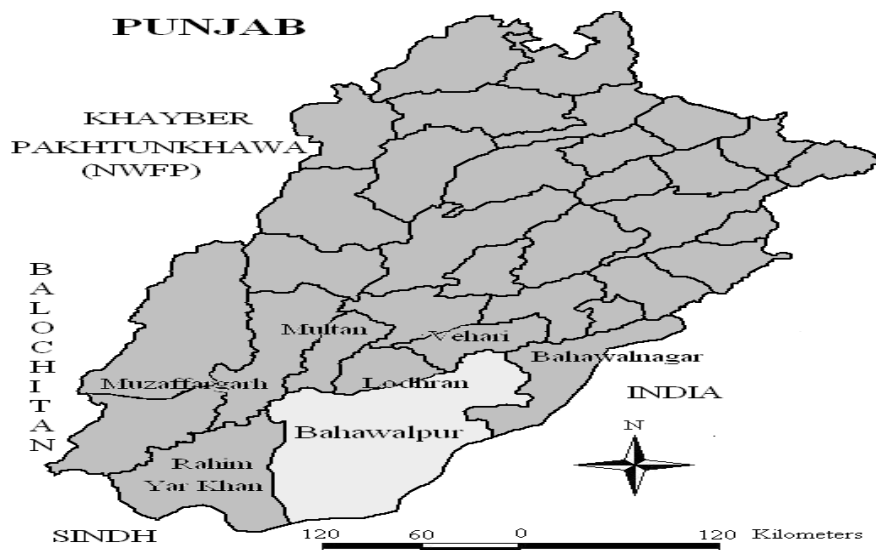
\* Assistant Professor of Geography Govt. S.E. College Bahawalpur

find new favorable conditions or facilities like health, education and economic.

Due to the migration, changes occurred in the settlements pattern based on socioeconomic and cultural modification.

### Methodology

For the current study, data has been taken from the population census of Pakistan used for the analysis which has almost entirely depended, on the population census as it is specially selected and prime source of relevant information. The population census 1998 which is the latest in the sources of the population censuses was used for the analysis of the population and migrant population as elements of the existing pattern. In the census from 1951, 1961, 1972, 1981 and 1998 data has three levels of aggregation, national, provincial district.<sup>2</sup> From District Censuses Report of Bahawalpur data has been taken Tehsil wise which is the smaller administrative unit at district level in Punjab Province.



Map. 1

### Size of the Migrant Population

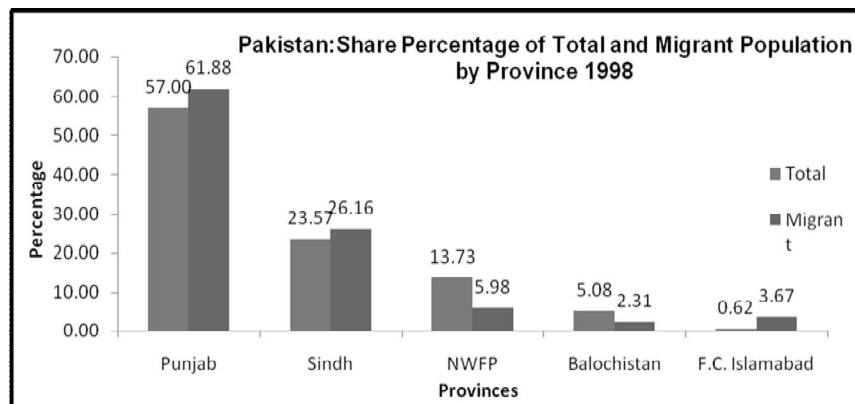
According to the census 1998 the migrant population in that year was 10.82 million out of total population 129.17 million. It was 8.38 percent of the total population of Pakistan. The proportion of the Migrants in the population of the provinces in 1998 is given in Table 1. The province of Punjab, which contained 57.00 percent population of Pakistan, had 61.88 percent of the total migrant population. The other provinces had far smaller size of the migrant population as indicated by the percentage of their migrant population that is Sindh 26.16, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (NWFP) 5.98, Balochistan 2.31 and Federal Capital Islamabad 3.67. (Table 1 and Fig 1)

**Table 1**

**Pakistan: Total and Migrant Population by Province and Share Percentage 1998**

	Total Population	Total Share Percentage	Migrant Population	Migrant Share Percentage	Migrant Proportion Percentage
Pakistan	129170164	100.00	10829264	100.00	8.38
Punjab	73621290	57.00	6701256	61.88	5.19
Sindh	30439893	23.57	2832937	26.16	2.19
NWFP	17737591	13.73	647725	5.98	0.50
Balochistan	6565885	5.08	249615	2.31	0.19
F.C. Islamabad	805235	0.62	397731	3.67	0.31

Source: Census Report of Pakistan, 1998, p. 9



**Fig. 1**

### **Migrant Population by place of previous Residence 1998**

According to 1998 census maximum number of people migrated from province of Punjab to Bahawalpur that is 66.59 percent of the total migrant population of the district. Second higher figure is 24.74 percent came and settled in from other countries of the world. Among the provinces leading figure is from Punjab followed by 0.34 percent from Khyber Pakhtunkhawa, 2.50 percent from Sindh, 0.32 percent from Balochistan and 0.01 percent each from Islamabad and<sup>3</sup>

Azad Jammu and Kashmir. 5.49 percent population did not mention their previous residence. (Table 2 Fig. 2)

**Table 2**

#### **Bahawalpur: Migrant Population by Place of Previous Residence1998**

Place of Previous Residence	Migrant Population	Percentage of Total Migrant Population
Khyber Pakhtunkhawa	510	00.34
Punjab	100414	66.59
Sindh	3764	02.50
Balochistan	478	00.32
Islamabad	22	00.01
A.J.& Kashmir	22	00.01
Other Countries	37304	24.74
Not Reported	8271	05.49

Source: Government of Pakistan: Population Census Organization, (2001), District Census Report of Bahawalpur, 1998, p.3.

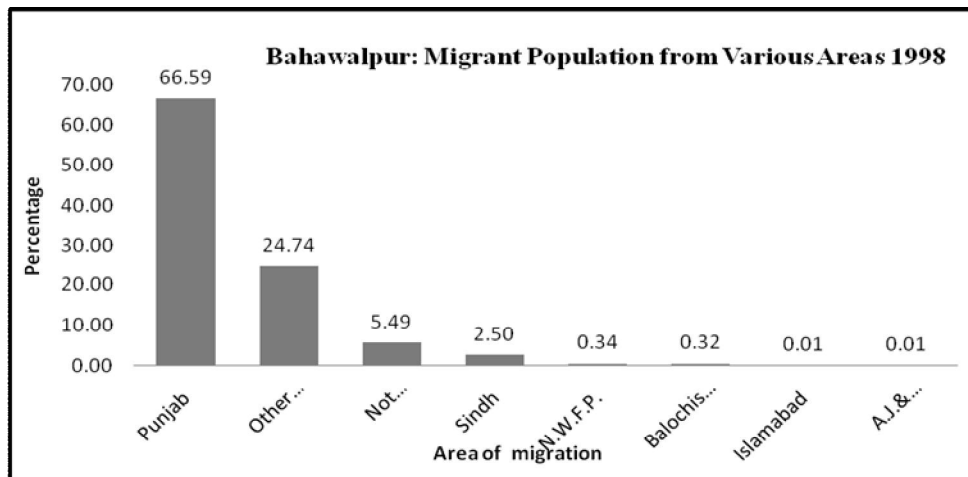


Fig. 2

**Source: Government of Pakistan: Population Census Organization, (2001), District Census Report of Bahawalpur, 1998, p.13.**

#### **Migrant Population by Districts of Punjab 1998**

Great number of people migrated from different districts of Punjab Province into Bahawalpur district, on the bases of 1998 census. Highest percent of migrant population is 11.92 percent from Bahawalnagar, followed by 10.95 percent from Multan, 8.78 from Faisalabad, 5.08 from Lodhran, 4.18 from Sahiwal, 2.78 from Vehari, 2.26 from Sargodha, 2.25 from Sheikhpura. The percentage of the rest of districts is low. The only district was Khushab from where people did not come here. (Table. 3, Fig. 3)

**Table 3**

#### **Bahawalpur: Migrant Population from Districts of Punjab Province 1998**

Districts of Previous Residence	Migrant Population	Percentage of Total Migrant Population
Attock	118	0.08
Rawalpindi	157	0.10
Jhelum	326	0.22

Chakwal	87	0.06
Sargodha	3404	2.26
Bhakkar	37	0.02
Khushab	00	0.00
Mianwali	782	0.52
Faisalabad	13238	8.78
Jhang	2147	1.42
Toba Tek Singh	1932	1.28
Gujranwala	1851	1.23
Hafizabad	270	0.18
Gujrat	548	0.36
Mandi Bahauddin	162	0.11
Sialkot	2229	1.48
Narowal	207	0.14
Lahore	2112	1.40
Kasur	181	0.12
Okara	2091	1.39
Sheikhupura	3394	2.25
Vehari	4187	2.78
Sahiwal	6297	4.18
Pakpattan	278	0.18
Multan	16508	10.95
Lodhran	7662	5.08
Khanewal	2498	1.66
Dera Ghazi Khan	337	0.22
Rajanpur	113	0.07
Lieah	266	0.18

Muzaffargarh	1605	1.06
Bahawalnagar	17977	11.92
Rahim Yar Khan	7413	4.92

**Source: Government of Pakistan: Population Census Organization, (2001), District Census Report of Bahawalpur, 1998, p.13**

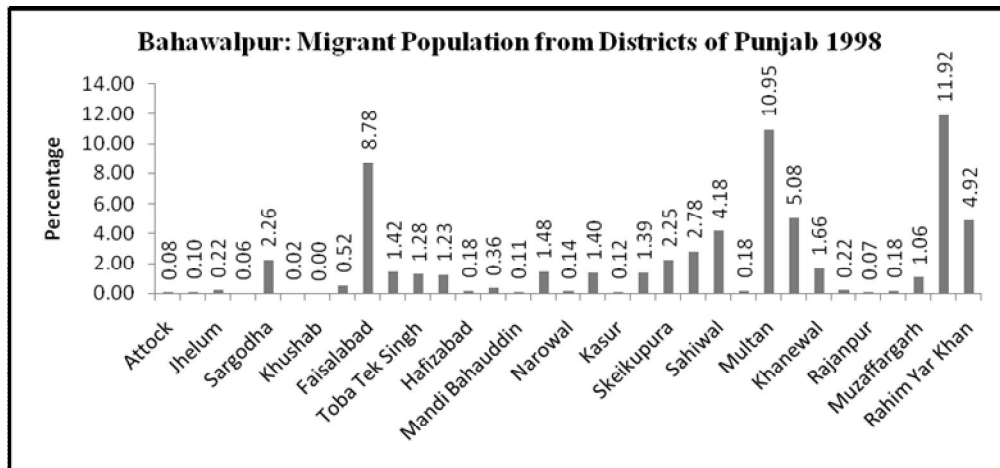


Fig. 3

### Change in Size of the Migrant Population since 1951

Migrant population is very important in case of Bahawalpur, because in history it is written that the city was established by the first Ruler of the State Nawab Sadiq Muhammad Khan who did so in 1739. It actually got the status of state in 1702.

Before describing the population of the district Bahawalpur the change and size of the country and provinces is important, this describes the role and changes on national and provincial levels. As given in Table 2. Migrant population<sup>4</sup> of Pakistan in 1951 was 6.5 million, which was 20.51 percent of the total population, it increased in 1961 and became 14.0 millions, 34.84 percent of the country's population, declined in 1981 actual numbers was 9.9 million and the percentage 12.15 in the national population, and in 1998 it migrant population increased to 10.8 million but percentage of the nation population decreased to 8.38 percent. This shows ups and downs in migrant population from 1951 to 1998. (Table. 4) The same trend prevails in Punjab province.

Province of Punjab has the highest share in the total population as well as in the migrant population. The share in the migrant population was 80.91 percent

in 1951, 84.74 percent in 1961, 63.42 percent in 1981 and 61.81 percent in 1998, which was the highest among all the provinces of Pakistan.

**Table 4**  
**Pakistan: Total, and Migrant Population by Province 1951-1998**

Census Year	Total	Share	Migrant	Share
<b>1951</b>	Population	Percentage	Population	Percentage
Pakistan	31830448	100.00	6527505	100.00
Punjab	20636702	64.83	5281194	80.91
Sindh	6047748	19.00	1167197	17.88
NWFP	3991831	12.54	51126	0.78
Balochistan	1154167	3.63	27988	0.43
<b>1961</b>				
Pakistan	40389005	100.00	14072731	100.00
Punjab	25581643	63.34	11925556	84.74
Sindh	8468712	20.97	2013050	14.30
NWFP	5086813	12.59	45817	0.33
Balochistan	1251837	3.10	88308	0.63
<b>1972</b>				
Pakistan	62461883	100.00	DNA	DNA
Punjab	37610159	60.21	DNA	DNA
Sindh	14155909	22.66	DNA	DNA
NWFP	8032324	12.86	DNA	DNA
Balochistan	2428678	3.89	DNA	DNA
Islamabad	234813	0.38	DNA	DNA



**1981**

Pakistan	81955097	100.00	9959251	100.00
Punjab	47292441	57.71	6315775	63.42
Sindh	19028666	23.22	2774516	27.86
NWFP	11061328	13.50	491365	4.93
Balochistan	4232376	5.16	264451	2.66
Islamabad	340286	0.42	113144	1.14

**1998**

Pakistan	129170164	100.00	10829264	100.00
Punjab	73621290	57.00	6701256	61.88
Sindh	30439893	23.57	2832937	26.16
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Source: Government of Pakistan: Population Census Organization, Census Report of Pakistan, 1951. pp.5,6; Government of Pakistan: Population Census Organization, (2001), Census Report of Pakistan, 1998, pp.7,8,9

### **Size change Total and Migrant Population From 1951-1998 of Punjab Province and District Bahawalpur**

District Bahawalpur is located in Punjab province and in the share percentage of rise and fall of the migrant population trend is nearly similar. In the province of Punjab share percentage in 1951 was 25.99 percent because after creation of Pakistan mostly population migrated into Punjab later on it settled down into other provinces with opportunities offered or found. This share trend increased in 1961 was 46.62 percent and sharply declined in 1981, 13.35 percent and the trend in 1998 remained 9.10 percent of the total population. The same trend prevails in the district Bahawalpur where in 1951 the percentage was 5.42 when it was having the status of the Sate. After merging into Pakistan converting into district the percentage share increased to 22.98 which is very high from 1951. Then again like the Province of Punjab share percentage declined,

remained 13.30 and same trend show in 1998 percentage was 6.2. (Table 5 and Fig. 4)<sup>5</sup>

**Table. 5**  
**Punjab Province and Bahawalpur District: Share Percentage**  
**of Migrant Population of Total Population 1951-1998**

Census Year	Total Population	Migrant Population	Share Percentage of Migrant Population
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**Punjab Province**

Census Year

1951	20636702	5281194	25.59
1961	25581643	11925556	46.62
1981	47292441	6315775	13.35
1998	73621290	6,701,256	9.10

**Bahawalpur District**

1951	970302	52589	5.42
1961	735524	168988	22.98
1981	1453438	193284	13.3
1998	2433091	150785	6.2

Source: Government of Pakistan: Population Census Organization, Census Report of Pakistan, 1951. pp.5,6; Government of Pakistan: Population Census Organization, (2001), Census Report of Pakistan, 1998, pp.7,8,9

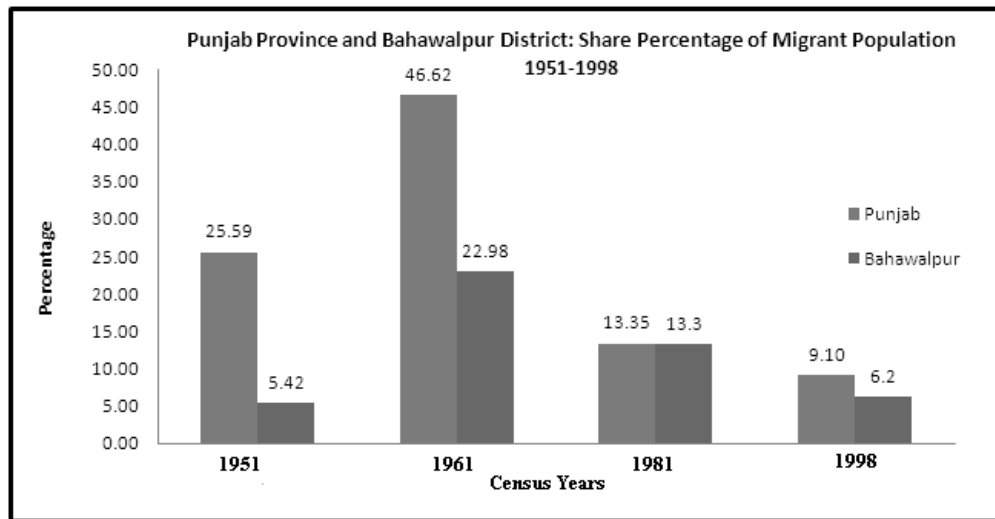


Fig. 4

Source: Population Census Report 1951, p.5; 1961, p.6; 1981,p.8; 1998,p.9.

### Conclusion:

Migrant population is very important in case of Bahawalpur District City. The city was settled by the first ruler of the state Nawab Sadiq Muhammad Khan first. The district population is based on migrant population from different districts of Punjab and from different parts of Pakistan as well as from other countries. Highest migrant percentage is 11.92% from Bahawalnagar. Percentage of the migrant population increased between 1951 and 1961 census period but it decreased during 1981 and 1998 census while actual population increased.

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