INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND IRREGULAR MIGRATION

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By

Shahab Khan
PIDE2022FMPHILDS06

Supervised by

Dr. Nasir Iqbal

MPhil Development Studies

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Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, Islamabad
PIDE School of Social Sciences

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that this thesis entitled "Institutional Arrangements And Irregular Migration." submitted by **Shahab Khan** is accepted in its present form by the PIDE School of Social Sciences, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), Islamabad as satisfying the requirements for partial fulfillment of the degree in Master of Philosophy in Development Studies.

Supervisor: Dr. Nasir Iqbal   Signature: _____

External Examiner: Dr. Lubaba Sadaf   Signature: _____

Head,
PIDE School of Social Sciences: Dr. Hafsa Hina   Signature: _____

IN THE NAME OF ALLAH

The Most Beneficent

The Most Merciful

"To Allah belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is in the earth. Whether you show what is withinyourselves or conceal it, Allah will bring you to account for it. Then He will forgive whom He wills and punish whom He wills, and Allah is over all things competent."

(Al-Baqarah, 2:284)

Author's Declaration

I _Shahab Khan_ hereby state that my MPhil thesis titled **Institutional Arrangements and Irregular Migration** is my own work and has not been submitted previously by me for taking any degree from Pakistan Institute of Development Economics or anywhere else in the country/world.

At any time if my statement is found to be incorrect even after my Graduation the university has the right to withdraw my MPhil degree.

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Signature of Student

Name of Student

Shahab Khan

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ABSTRACT

Irregular migration remains a pressing issue, driven by a complex interplay of social, economic, and institutional factors that compel individuals to seek opportunities abroad through non-regular channels. This study investigates the determinants and dynamics of irregular migration, utilizing a mixed-methods approach to provide a comprehensive analysis. The quantitative data was obtained from a total of 600 respondents from whom data were collected through a questionnaire, measuring the following characteristics; age, education level, employment status, marital status, economic opportunities, social influence, psychological health and the cost of migration. These variables underwent ordered logistic regression in order to estimates the likelihood ratios for the irregulate migration in accordance to the predictors. Subsequently, qualitative data was accumulated through interviews with FIA officials: the Director, selected inspectors and other personnel concerned with the Institution, in order to identify problems and coping mechanisms within the context of the services examined. Qualitative analysis of interviews with participants confirmed quantitative results concerning the lack of cooperation and interdisciplinary information exchange, insufficient funding for programmes for victims, and improper legislation. SPPS analysis revealed that better economic opportunities' perception, quantified social support, and lower education level point to greater inclination for irregular migration, but high costs and stable employment dissuade-quantified pull and push factors. Respondents, with high levels of unemployment, stressed on the economic factors that propelled people into cross border irregularity. The qualitative data helped to go further into the details, showing that irregular migration worse due to institutional weaknesses in legislation and organizations. Respondents often used words suggestive of a lack of adequate legal framework and resources, with one FIA inspector summarising the problem thus, ''Limited resources and manpower significantly hamper our efforts''. Director of FIA in the country therefore calls for adequate legal provisions, enough resources and effective cooperation between agencies concerned with migration management. The implications are that social networks are the key to purchase and insights into the migrants' decision highlight the need to consider both microlevel push and pull factors and macrolevel structural constraints. Proactive policy measures, better collaboration, and ongoing amendments and modifiations in legislation are required in order to prevent irregular migration and promote institutional management. The current study enriches the literature by presenting the findings from the Pakistan context, so that it is evident that to combat the irregular migration, both the individual factors motivating migrants and the systematic barriers that enable them must be taken into consideration.

Keywords: Irregular migration, economic opportunities, social networks, institutional arrangements, mixed-method approach, Swat, Pakistan.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Irregular migration is the movement of persons that takes place outside the laws, regulations, or international agreements governing the entry into or exit from the State of origin, transit or destination. Sending country/Country of Origin, the irregularity is seen in cases in which a person crosses an international boundary without a valid passport or travel document or does not fulfil the administrative requirements for leaving the country (MRC, 2024).

Rank	Country	Number of Irregular Migrants (2023)	Percentage of Total Irregular Migration	Main Destinations
1	Afghanistan	105,000	27%	Europe, North America
2	Syria	100,000	26%	Europe, Middle East
3	Guinea	75,000	20%	Europe, North America
4	Pakistan	50,000	13%	Europe, Middle East
5	Mexico	40,000	10%	United States

Source: Frontex 2023 And IOM 2024

Every year, thousands of young Pakistanis, mostly men, enter Europe irregularly to fulfil their dreams, making Pakistan one of the top countries of origin for irregular entries in Europe. Between 2017 and 2020, about 21,405 Pakistanis have been detected entering the European Union through irregular means, averaging at 5% of the total share of irregular entries in 2017 to about 2% of the total share in 2020 (Frontex, 2021).

Irregular migration from Pakistan is not a new phenomenon, although one of rising policy concern for the Government of Pakistan as well as the governments of receiving countries. Pakistan is one of the top sending countries in the world with regard to labour migration, with an outflow of 11.1 million registered labour migrants between 1971 and 2020 (Bureau of Emigration and Overseas Employment, 2020).

In parallel, irregular migration flows from Pakistan have risen over the years, with flows primarily directed to the Gulf and Europe, followed by Southeast Asia and Australia, and to a

smaller extent, North America. Over the past decade, Pakistan has been continuously ranked among the top five countries of origin for irregular migrants arriving at European borders. While an accurate and updated number of irregular migrants from Pakistan is not known at a global scale, some indicators reflect the extent of this activity, such as the number of irregular Pakistanis detected in Europe (UNODC, 2016).

Between 2012- 14, the number of irregular Pakistani migrants detected irregularly entering the European Union were around 4,600 each year. In terms of irregular arrivals, the flow peaked in 2015 when 43,310 irregular migrants from Pakistan were detected crossing the border irregularly, and since then have declined (UNODC, 2016).

Koser (2005) argue that the reason that the increasing in the number of migrants moving in an illegal way than legal ways is mainly because of increasing restrictions on legal movements, especially in the host countries.

It is important to know why some people leave their place of residence or move and others do not. However, the forces driving migration are varied and complex, and global explanations may not apply to all individual situations. Poverty, wars, famine and repression are certainly among the major causes of migration, but there are other factors as well (Adem & Ebrahim, 2020).

1.2 Motivation: The Case of Pakistan

Irregular migration from Pakistan is not a new phenomenon; it has been a rising policy concern for the Government of Pakistan as well as the governments of receiving countries. Since the turn of the millennium, Pakistan has been consistently located among the top five source countries for the unauthorized migrants arriving at European borders (Frontier 2024, IOM 2024). As highlighted by the trend line the rate of immigration has had its up's and down's and has been subjected to economic forces, political instabilities experienced in most countries of origin, and changes in policies in the receiving end. For instance, between 2012 and 2014, it is approximately 4,600 irregular Pakistani migrants detected in the European Union yearly. The traffic reached its highest level in 2015 with 43310 detections, but in the subsequent years there has been a tendency towards their decrease (UNODC, 2016).

Nevertheless, irregular migration has been observed to be ever present with Pakistan falling among the principal countries of origin for the irregular migrants. The trend in the newspaper

data shows that the issue of irregular migration from Pakistan is not a current phenomenon but has been recurrent in the past years. According to Frontex, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, in 2023 Pakistan continued to be among the top five non-EU countries in terms of concerns on the irregular arrivals to the European Union. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in 2022 more than 9700 Pakistanis have been intercepted while seeking an irregular route for entering Europe. It reduced a bit in 2023 with approximately 8,500 detections Nonetheless, Pakistan continued to be a primary country of origin for irregular migrants (IOM, 2024). These factors have important economic roots Prehypertension and high blood pressure are not just lifestyle diseases. The World Bank note that unemployment in Pakistan as recorded by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics stood at 7%. Hence in 2023, the unemployment rate is estimated to be at 0% while that of the youth was higher (Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, 2024). There exists fewer employment opportunities for them, supplemented by the belief of better earning possibilities in foreign countries, which leads young Pakistanis to irregular migration. Socio-political factors also play a role on the push factors where many refugees come from countries that are unstable such as Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa thus forcing people to seek refuge in stable surroundings (UNHCR, 2023).

The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) in the context of Pakistan is responsible for tackling issues of unauthorized migration and smuggling of people. These include; the FIA has not been mandated to legally restrain any person travelling under a genuine document, the follow up of their movement upon exiting the country is another challenge and difficulty that tends to puzzle the FIA besides to categorically address the concealed human smugglers who are usually very smart in their disguises. A 2023 report by FIA showed that Pakistan accounted for more than 22,000 deportation cases of Pakistanis from several countries, notably from Iran, Turkey, Greece, and other European countries, which exhibits the fact that the issue of tackling irregular immigration remains an issue today (FIA, 2024). The director of the FIA has noted that these issues arise because they lack funds, time, legal powers, and other necessities as little as ink to effectively fight human smuggling (FIA, 2024). The case clearly point to the need for better solutions and greater improvement on how the nations of the world approach these challenges. This can be implemented through enhancing legal systems, enhancing budgeting and promoting cooperation and coordination between both national and global organisations that are in charge of managing migration (Frontex, 2024; IOM, 2024). The culture of migrating through non-legal methods has grown faster and faster each day in Pakistan, and in Swat in

particular. Due to intimate connection of these aspects with the young generation, this phenomenon requires the special policy initiatives of governmental agencies to direct important measures not only to eliminate this problem but also to reduce causes which contribute this issue.Various questions needs particular focus such as:

1. What are the primary motivations for individuals in Swat, Pakistan to choose irregular migration over regular migration channels?
2. How effective are Pakistan's Institutional Arrangements in preventing and managing irregular migration?

Previous research has often overlooked the effectiveness of institutional arrangements to mitigate irregular migration, as well as the reasons why individuals opt for irregular migration over regular migration channels. To address these gaps, the current study will utilize a mixed-methods approach. The reasons why people opt for irregular rather than regular migration will be explored quantitatively, with data analyzed using SPSS. In contrast, the effectiveness of institutional arrangements in mitigating irregular migration will be examined qualitatively through document analysis, with data subsequently analyzed through thematic analysis. A distinctive feature of this research is its focus on a unique sample; potential migrants and those who have opted for irregular migration, selected from District Swat through snowball sampling. This approach ensures the inclusion of the experiences of irregular migrants from District Swat, whose perspectives are critical yet often overlooked in most of migration studies.

1.3 Problem statement

Irregular migration is a complex phenomenon in Pakistan and more specifically in Swat where socio-economic factors, institutional vulnerability and lack of legal opportunities compel people to take risks and migrate. Despite the fact that irregular migration has been a topic of interest in many countries, there is limited literature on Pakistan, particularly on the factors that force people to engage in irregular migration and the effectiveness of the institutions.

This is compounded by the lack of adequate institutional frameworks that can effectively deal with the issue of irregular migration, coupled with the persisting economic vulnerability, high levels of unemployment and unfavorable political environment especially in the KP and Baluchistan provinces. These "push factors" are complemented by the pull factors of perceived economic opportunities in the destination country, making the argument for many to use the

services of a smuggler very compelling. This migration dynamic continues to prevail despite the risks that are associated with it such as being exploited by human traffickers, facing the law, and the risks associated with the trips.

Furthermore, institutional structures, particularly the FIA in Pakistan, have resource constraints, legal limitations, and cooperation issues. FIA is charged with the management of migration but its effectiveness in dealing with the issue of irregular migration is greatly limited by outdated laws, inadequate funding and cooperation with other countries. Therefore, it is important to know the causes of irregular migration and the strengths and weaknesses of Pakistan's institutions in dealing with this problem.

1.4 Objectives of the study

This thesis aims to explore the reason why people opt for irregular migration rather than regular migration and to analyze the effectiveness of current institutional arrangements. More specifically, this study has the following objectives:

1. To identify and analyze the underlying factors driving individuals from regular migration towards irregular migration in Swat Pakistan.
2. To assess the effectiveness of Pakistan's institutional arrangements in combating irregular migration.

1.4 Data and Methodology

This study uses primary data collected from Swat to explore the underlying factors driving individuals from regular migration towards irregular migration in Pakistan and also collected data from FIA, Islamabad using interviews to better understand the institutional arrangements for combating irregular migration. Snowball sampling – chain referral sampling- is employed in the collection of data. This technique has many advantages like to reach the population that is difficult to reach when using other methods, simple and cost-effective, less workforce, and pre-planning is required than other sampling techniques. This study employs a descriptive analysis approach to understand the phenomenon of illegal migration in Swat and have used thematic analysis to identify themes from unstructured interviews in order to better understand the effectiveness of institutional arrangements.

1.5 Significance of the study

The reasons why this study is important. First, it provides a comprehensive insight into the irregular migration in Pakistan with special reference to the District of Swat which is one of the most affected districts in terms of migration due to socio-economic reasons. One needs to know why people go for irregular migration for instance due to unemployment, economic difficulties and lack of institutional support. By examining these factors, this research contributes to the existing body of knowledge in the area of migration, particularly in cases where institutions and the economy let people down. The findings will identify the gaps in the policy implementation, financing, and cooperation between the agencies engaged in migration management in the country and outline the recommendations for the improvement of the current approaches. Thus, the study helps to fill the gap in the knowledge of the push and pull factors of irregular migration from Pakistan and the impact of these movements on the countries of Europe and the Middle East. Enhancing the understanding of these factors could lead to enhanced cooperation between sending, transit, and receiving countries, which would in turn enhance the management of irregular migration in the world. Therefore, the study aims at contributing to the policy changes that would reduce the cases of irregular migration while at the same time improving the legal migration opportunities, economic settings, and frameworks. The findings can be applied to the development of new government policies, increase public awareness, and support international cooperation efforts aimed at providing safer and more controlled means of migration.

1.6 Organization of Thesis

The rest of the thesis is structured as follows: Chapter 2 presents global and local relevant literature on illegal migration. Chapter 3 consists of patterns and regulations of migration in Pakistan. Chapter 4 consist of methodological framework along with theoretical underpinnings as well as data description Chapter 5 covers results and discussion of quantitative data while chapter 6 deals with the qualitative data and at last Chapter 7 with conclusion and recommendations.

CHAPTER 2
LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

Illegal migration presents a significant policy challenge not only in developed countries but also in nations like Pakistan, where socio-economic pressures and institutional inadequacies contribute to the complexity of the issue. A considerable amount of research has focused on the impact of illegal migration on social and economic resources, social cohesion, and security in host countries. However, there remains a gap in understanding the specific drivers that compel individuals to undertake such perilous journeys despite stringent border controls and the risks associated with illegal migration. These questions are essential on par with the lack of empirical research that is available here in Pakistani environment and where, in the case of theorization, no foundational work seems to have been done keeping in view the specific socio-economic and institutional realities of a country like Pakistan.

The issue of cross-border migration for illegal purposes is well established all over the world and is also growing in Pakistan. There is empirical and theoretical literature on the topic on the international and regional levels, but the emphasis has commonly been made on the outcomes rather than on the causes. Some ideas have been proposed in theoretical explanations, however, in conducting empirical literature review to identify the conceptual ideas related to the experience of Pakistan in particular, sources that explore how institutional factors may amplify or reduce migration have not been found sufficiently. This study aims to bridge this gap by categorizing the available literature into two broad streams: theoretical models that account for the reasons that people engage in irregular migration, and the observations to analyse the efficacy of institutional structures in Pakistan. Therefore, the use of this two-fold strategy provides the researcher with a broad perspective of the main characteristics of the phenomenon of interest and enables the identification of areas that need further scrutiny to inform the design of appropriate and efficient interventions.

2.2 Theoretical Review

2.2.1 Evolution of Terminology and Concept of Irregular Migration

The literature on the topic of irregular migration is extensive, and the definition of the concept has changed over time, both in terms of theory and terminology. First, the movement of people across countries without legal permits was called 'illegal migration,' a term that had negative

connotations, meaning that such migrants were criminals and had no right to be in other countries. However, this term was later objected to for two primary reasons: first, it stereotyped the 'aliens' and second, it was inadequate in addressing the issue of migration. As a result, the term 'irregular migration' appeared, which described the legal status of migrants and socio-political conditions of migration. González Cámara (2010) states that the prosecuted nature of migration is based on the inability to meet new legal requirements and socio-historic conditions, and therefore the term 'irregular' is more appropriate and less stigmatized.

2.2.2 The Gap Hypothesis in Migration

Among the theoretical frameworks that can be used to explain irregular migration, the 'gap hypothesis' as explained by Gabriel Echeverría (2020) is one of the most important. This hypothesis presupposes a clear distinction between policy goals and their enforcement, where migratory irregularity is viewed as a result of policy failures or as a result of policy design. This perspective has been at the center of most of the theoretical discourses especially when analyzing how policies do not capture the experiences of migrants as legal actors. The European migration crisis of 2015, with its political and media consequences, contributed to the focus on the issues of irregular migration, which made the analysis even more detailed (Mobley, 2022).

2.2.3 The Impact of External Shocks: COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic also revealed the weaknesses of irregular migrants, which is why it is crucial to develop proper policies to safeguard them. The pandemic revealed vulnerabilities of irregular migrants and shortcomings of the current migration management frameworks. The pandemic has exposed the need to come up with protective policies that address the vulnerability of irregular migration (PIDE, 2020).

2.2.4 Economic Theories of Migration: Push-Pull Dynamics

The Push-Pull Theory is one of the most well-known models that explain migration choices. It divides the factors that push people away from their home countries and the factors that pull them towards host countries. For instance, Iqbal and Zulfiqar (2021) note that economic issues and political instability in provinces such as Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are some of the push factors that compel people to migrate from Pakistan. On the other hand, the hope of getting better economic opportunities in Europe and the gulf states can be considered as a

pull factor. This theory offers a theoretical background for studying irregular migration from the economic and social angles, which answers the research questions of this study.

2.2.5 Neoclassical and Labor Migration Theories

Building on this framework, the Neoclassical Economics Theory and the New Economics of Labor Migration consider the structural economic factors that underlie migration choices. These theories place migration in a welfare maximization framework of the household with roles played by the demand supply gap in the labour market and the strategies of the household. Tahir et al. (2018) also note that wage disparities between Pakistan and European countries are a major pull factor for irregular migration. In the case of Pakistan, better income generating opportunities and remittances to the families are the main pull factors (UNODC, 2023).

2.2.6 Migration Systems Theory and Social Networks

Migration Systems Theory emphasizes that social, economic, and political connections between countries enable irregular migration. Shah (2021) has pointed out that migrant networks offer crucial information and support to those who are planning to undertake irregular migration from Pakistan. These networks are usually assisted by human smugglers and are well coordinated offering all round support to the migrants. Another FIA (2024) study also underlines the importance of these networks in the organization of irregular migration, and how institutional frameworks, or their absence, influence migration processes.

2.3. Empirical

Empirical literature mainly consists of global research, while few studies have been accomplished through foreign collaboration of academia and organizations. Here we discussed the studies to the best of our knowledge pertinent to the current research.

2.3.1 Global Evidence

Economic Drivers

Economic pressures are a primary driver of irregular migration globally. Studies by Iqbal and Zulfiqar (2021) highlight how economic hardships, exacerbated by global crises like the COVID-19 pandemic, compel individuals to seek better livelihoods through irregular channels.

This aligns with Koser's (2005) findings that many destination countries' demand for unskilled and semi-skilled labor is often met by irregular migrants who provide a cost-effective labor source (Iqbal & Zulfiqar, 2021; Koser, 2005).

Social Networks

It was earlier established how social networks and migration facilitators play a key role in irregular migration. Talking about more social, economical, political, and religious push factors Schloenhardt (2001) and Kule et al. (2002) describe how these reasons interact each other to dominate on people from developing countries to undertake risky migrations. These networks cut across smugglers who transport the migrants and make it easier for one to travel with the aim of migrating irregularly. Datta (2004) corroborates this by establishing that circumstances such as overpopulation, as well as the lack of basic needs that may lead many persons to hazardous illegal border crossings Schloenhardt (2001); Kule et al (2002); Datta (2004).

Institutional Frameworks

Different studies show that the efficiency of the governance structures and institutional arrangements in relation to migration policies is diverse in different countries. Kaberuka (2015) and Campana (2017) review them and find mixed performance and interactions with implementation and international cooperation issues. According to Cheema et al. (2023), there are some frameworks that explain why irregular migration continues to occur, which include the lack of effective implementation and the rigidity within legal frameworks (Kaberuka, 2015; Campana, 2017; Cheema et al., 2023).

Migration Policies

These irregular migratory flows depend on the social polices of emigration and immigration countries. The gap hypothesis, as described by Echeverría (2020), argues that, in many cases, inequalities between policy objectives and practices are the main causes of the phenomenon of irregular migration. Frequently in destination countries, limitative policies on immigration result in a rise in the number of illegitimate immigrants in an attempt to find other ways (Mobley, 2022). The COVID-19 pandemic has brought out the grim reality about the irregular migrants and has emphasized the need for flexibility in polity – for policies – to respond to the paradigm shifts (PIDE, 2020).

Human Rights Issues

There exist discussions about human rights and the challenges faced by immigrants during their cross-border irregularity. De Tapia (2003) gives a description of some of the worst states and abuses of human rights that are faced by migrants and calls for effective policy instruments that will protect these rights. The legal and institutional structures of protecting the rights of migrants especially crossing through the central Mediterranean migration route as pointed out by Agyare (2021) have not been effective; hence, it is important that states and non-state actors respect basic human rights as well as afford life-saving interventions as espoused by De Tapia (2003).

Regional Responses

Gutema Adem and Idris Ebrahim (2020) discussed the Ethiopian context where poverty, unemployment, and Political Crisis often compel people to take risks to migrate irregularly. In their research, they have paid much attention to the need to prevent these problems through proper legal and institutional solutions that might help to fight human trafficking and smuggling. Gasto (2022) discusses the need to improve upon the frameworks that the East African Community (EAC) has formulated for dealing with intermediate migration, especially because it lacks a coherent execution plan, and even where there is one, it lacks effectiveness that would enable it offer the much-needed boost to enhance migration within the region (Gutema Adem & Idris Ebrahim, 2020; Gasto, 2022).

2.3.2 Evidence from Pakistan

Socio-Economic Drivers

The irregular Pakistan migration is mainly forced by social and economic factors such as unemployment, poverty, and insecurity. Wahab (2020) in his qualitative research conducted in District Swat identified unemployment, poverty, and insecurity as the major push factors to illegal migration. Lack of employment and other factors such as poor economic backgrounds force people to seek better lives through risky travels. The results of Wahab are in agreement with Ali and Asghar (2021) who also surveyed the same area of the country and found economic need and lack of employment opportunities in the region as key drivers towards irregular migration. These studies focus on the socio-economic desperation that pushes people

to engage in irregular migration (Wahab, 2020; Ali & Asghar, 2021). The COVID-19 pandemic has worsened these socio-economic vulnerabilities. This instability has been exacerbated by the pandemic as explained by Iqbal (2021) in the blog analysis in relation to vulnerable migrants. As a result of the COVID 19 pandemic, the rate of unemployment and limited income options has led to the rising numbers of people seeking asylum. This is further substantiated by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (2024) regarding a rise in the unemployment rates at the time and after the pandemic, especially regarding the youth (Iqbal, 2021; Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, 2024).

Role of Agents and Networks

Agents and social networks play an important part in organizing irregular migration. The research thesis by Shah (2021) focuses on the organisational dimension of irregular migration from District Gujrat, especially the roles of agents and social networks. These agents take advantage of the desire that potential migrants have to find a better life in foreign countries in order to help move them in an irregular manner. This study shows a highly structured migration industry that exploits the demands and aspirations of people to migrate (Shah, 2021). Yousef's (2013) journal article on migration flows between Pakistan and Greece reveals that migration is an ongoing process, primarily driven by economic factors. This paper uncovers the complex arrangements and stakes that make and facilitate irregular migration and thus, any proposed solutions to the issue must take them into account (Yousef, 2013). A recent study by Khan and Hashmi (2023) reveals some details about the regional specifics of the migration processes in upper Punjab and activities of the migration agents. Apart from encouraging the migration process, these agents construct a network that assists the migrants to overcome the challenges of irregular migration. To eradicate the factors effectively, there is a necessity for regional policies as highlighted in this study by Khan & Hashmi (2023).

Governance and Policy Responses

The inability of international and national systems to address the issues of irregular migration due to complexity still persists. According to Yayboke and Gallego (2019), it is imperative to rethink the governance of migration for today's form of migration. They also argue that the current strategies are insufficient to solve the problems of irregular migration, particularly, the case of Pakistan. This is similar to the SIPRI paper by Lijn (2019) that tries to dissect the challenges of peace operations and migration issues with the demand for more attention to

migration as a critical component of security and development agendas (Yayboke & Gallego, 2019; Lijn, 2019). A study conducted by Arif and Ishaq (2017) on the migration of Pakistani workers to the gulf countries shows that there is a mismatch between the legal means and the worker's expectations. This means that such disparities lead to irregular migration; hence, if the legal avenues were more accessible, some of these issues could be solved. Khan and Awan (2020) discuss the recent trends of irregular migration from Pakistan to Europe, the role of the migration agents in the upper Punjabi region, and the need for the regional approach (Arif & Ishaq, 2017; Khan & Awan, 2020). In the same way, Ahmed and Mehmood (2023) explore the existing laws that are in place in Pakistan that discourage the irregular migration. This study also shows that there are many policies and regulations enacted, but the problem is the enforcement of such laws is always a problem due to lack of resources and corruption. However, the authors want to note that there are no enforcement measures and international cooperation to fight the problem more effectively.

Table 2.1: Tabulated Summary of Local Studies

S.No	Author(s)	Methodology	Key Findings and Determinants of Irregular Migration from Pakistan
1	Wahab (2020)	Qualitative Study	Explored the reasons and consequences of illegal migration in District Swat, focusing on unemployment, poverty, and insecurity as key drivers.
2	Iqbal (2021)	Blog Analysis	Detailed the socio-economic and health vulnerabilities exacerbated by COVID-19 among irregular migrants from Pakistan.
3	Shah (2021)	Thesis	Investigated the organization of irregular migration from District Gujrat, emphasizing the significant role of agents and social networks in facilitating migration.
4	Yousef (2013)	Journal Article	Discussed the continuous cycle of irregular migration between Pakistan and Greece, highlighting economic motivations and the exploitative migration industry.
5	Yayboke & Gallego (2019)	Journal Article	Delved into the complexities of irregular migration, noting inadequate international systems to manage its multifaceted nature, with implications for Pakistan.
6	Lijn (2019)	Analytical Report	Analyzed the intersection of peace operations with migration challenges, relevant to understanding Pakistan's role in global migration contexts.
7	Arif & Ishaq (2017)	Analytical Report	Provided an analysis of Pakistani workers' irregular migration to the Gulf, noting mismatches between aspirations and legal avenues.

8	Khan & Awan (2020)	Research Article	Reviewed contemporary trends in irregular migration from Pakistan to Europe, highlighting the roles of migration agents in upper Punjab.
9	Ahmed & Mehmood (2023)	Analytical Study	Analyzed the effectiveness of Pakistan's legal frameworks in curbing irregular migration, highlighting weak enforcement and the need for better international cooperation.
10	Ali & Asghar (2021)	Survey Study	Conducted a survey in District Swat, finding that economic desperation and lack of local employment opportunities are significant push factors for irregular migration.
11	Khan & Hashmi (2023)	Case Study	Highlighted regional specifics of migration practices in upper Punjab, emphasizing the role of migration agents and the need for targeted regional policies.

2.4 Conclusion

By thematically analyzing the empirical literature, it is possible to identify several interconnected factors that contribute to the irregular migration from Pakistan, specifically from District Swat. Unemployment, poverty and economic instability are among the socio-economic factors that are important push factors motivating people to seek better standard of living elsewhere. Researches show that potential migrants rely on social networks and migration facilitators which not only assist but also may manipulate them. The current governance structures and institutional frameworks are also wanting in addressing and managing and mitigating irregular migration as they are poorly resourced and have weak enforcement mechanisms. Furthermore, the literature also highlights the fact that politics of migration are intertwined and so are the effects of these policies on irregular migration. Destination countries' stringent immigration polices exert pressure on the number of irregular migrants as people opt to find other routes. The threats and human rights challenges encountered by irregular migrants in their migration processes require better policy measures and empathy. The present study fills these research deficits by examining why people choose to engage in irregular migration rather than legal processes and why the existing institutional frameworks fail to prevent this problem. This study explores the factors that motivate individuals as well as the constraints inherent in the system through primary data collected from illegal migrants in District Swat. The illegal migrants sample selected from District Swat is unique and useful; therefore it lends a richer understanding of this issue, and better targeted interventions.

CHAPTER 3
PATTERNS AND REGULATION OF MIGRATION IN PAKISTAN

3.1 Pattern of Regular Migration

Regular Migration from Pakistan has been occurring in a more or less repeated manner in the past few decades due to many social and economical reasons. Some general reasons for migration include seeking of jobs, improvement of the quality of life, and education opportunities in the countries of asylum. Based on Mignex (2022), Pakistani migrants majorly go to the Middle East, North America, as well as the European states due to strong economic environments and welcoming immigration policies.

In the Middle East, countries such as Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Qatar are major destinations for Pakistani workers. These nations offer abundant employment opportunities in construction, healthcare, and the service industry. This region's demand for labor, especially in these sectors, drives significant migration flows from Pakistan. Conversely, North America and Europe attract highly skilled professionals in IT, healthcare, and engineering. Countries such as the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, and Germany are popular destinations for Pakistani migrants due to their advanced economies and favorable immigration policies (PIDE, 2023).

The magnitude of regular migration from Pakistan is significant, with approximately 6.3 million Pakistani nationals living abroad. Over the last two decades, there has been an 86% increase in the number of Pakistani migrants. This substantial outflow has profound socio-economic implications, particularly through remittances, which constitute a vital part of Pakistan's economy. In 2022 alone, remittances amounted to $29 billion, contributing significantly to the national GDP (Mignex, 2022; PIDE, 2023).

The socio-economic impact of regular migration is multifaceted. Remittances from Pakistani migrants play a crucial role in alleviating poverty and improving living standards in their home country. The money that is remitted is used in financing education and health facilities hence enhancing human capital. Moreover, education and professional and managerial experience acquired in other countries are effectively tapped back home through entrepreneurship and

hence, boost the economy of Pakistan. To some extent, repercussions of the migration are realized internally since many migrants normally invest in real estate, businesses, and other projects within Pakistan aimed at boosting the economy. Such an investment typically results in the emergence of construction of infrastructural facilities and availability of job opportunities which consequently assist in combating unemployment in those areas (PIDE, 2023).

Also, the social capital created by Pakistani migrants becomes vital in worldview dynamics through international business relations, technologyization, and culture characterization hence incorporating more the global economy into the Pakistani economic setting. Through bilateral agreements and recruitment policies, this migration is made proper allowing the protection of Pakistan workers abroad. These policies regulate the movements and ensure that the rights of migrants are protected hence enhancing the flow of migration (Mignex 2022; PIDE 2023).

3.2 Pattern of Irregular Migration

Migrants are travelling irregularly from Pakistan, in this paper socio-economic, political and environmental factors are the factors that have been reviewed to consider. Such kind of movement is common among people who travel to other countries using forged documents or without proper travel papers and mainly in search of better jobs, to escape from conflicts or insecure environment, or to have a better standard of living. The principle channels for this migration often involves other neighbouring countries such as Iran and Turkey as corridors to the rest of Europe. Some of the common countries that the immigrants choose to go to are the European countries including Greece, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom mainly because these countries offer relatively higher standard of living and employment opportunities. However, this journey is full of threats and difficulties such as deportation threat as indicated by International Crisis Group (2020) where more than 20,000 Pakistan's migrants were deported from Iran annually.

Analyzing irregular migration from Pakistan, it is possible to state that there is a strong and constant desire for migration despite the existing dangers. Other findings indicate that in the year 2017, about 6,767 Pakistanis traveled through irregular route to Europe. This emphasizes the scope of the problem and people's desire to make such a trip. This is seen as the cost of travelling from Pakistan to Greece through Iran and Turkey only famous for about USD $ 4000.

It is worth pointing out that the amount invested in such a project clearly indicates the extent of desperation, and determination of people to obtain a better life. Also, their employment in host countries does not offer them legal recognition; making them vulnerable to economic exploitation and fluctuations. This situation has been worst by factors such as COVID-19 pandemic resulting to unemployment and high socio-economic risks for irregular migrants (PIDE, 2020; PIDE, 2023).

The factors that compel the individuals from Pakistan to engage in Irregular migration are complex and long ingrained in the society economic realms. Among the key reasons, the general population growth, economic degradation, joblessness, and social strife are some triggers that force people to seek the danger of crossing the border irregularly. Also, there is an attractive force which is opportunities and demand to work in host countries. These social networks together with already existing diaspora communities are very helpful in availing of information and helping the new migrants in actualizing their migration. These vulnerabilities are also exploited by the complex system of facilitators – human smugglers also make irregular migration a very profitable business venture despite the huge risks (Mignex, 2022).

The issue of irregular migration cannot and should not be addressed by superficial measures but by developing of programs that will address the push and pull factors. It is for the Pakistani government as well as its global allies to employ the measures, which shall create the better economic situations and requisite job opportunities in Pakistan not to compel the youths to migrate. Secondly, increasing the interaction with the countries of transit and destination can also improve the monitoring and control over the migration processes. There should then be policies and legislation that seek to safeguard the freedoms of the migrants, their lives, and offer method by means of which migrants could lawfully move to more enhance countries. For example, the reduction of strict paperwork formalities and the inclusion of informal immigrants into security networks can decrease their risks and enhance their quality of life. They are vital to fighting the leading causes of the irregular migration and giving long-term types of help to those involved (PIDE, 2020; PIDE, 2023).

3.3 Remittances

Remittances are money transfers sent by migrants to their home countries, significantly aiding household finances and contributing to national economic stability. They prove necessities, alleviate poverty and give foreign exchange; however, they can make the economy sensitive to

change in external occurrences (World Bank, 2020). The remittance is also an essential component of the overall Pakistan's economy as it is source of foreign exchange and stabilization. These remittances that Pakistan's migrant workers send home prove vital in supporting the nation's economy. According to the globals it was observed that in 2020 Pakistan got more than 230 million US dollars in remittances that make it in the list of top ten remittance receival countries in the world. They are also useful in the formulation of the country's Gross Domestic Product, balance of payment and as buffer against periods of economic instability. The emphasis can be made on the fact that stable remittance inflows have remained rather resistant to global crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic, and play a significant role in ensuring the stability of the economies (World Bank, 2020; PIDE, 2023).

This is the area that has not only positive macroeconomic impact from the money sent home, but also most closely connected with individual migrants and their families. One of the major areas where remittances are utilised is in basic needs of the households, these include food, health care, education and housing. Such funding assist in increasing per capita income, eradicating poverty and improving human capital in the ease of Pakistan. Scant literature shows that most households receiving remittances have better access to education and healthcare facilities than households that did not receive any remittance. These terms allow the families to spend in the education and health of the children which can produce positive dynamics on the socio-economic mobility as well as on the economic development of a country (PIDE, 2023; International Organization for Migration, 2021).

The means, consequently, through which remittance is channeled also has its effect on the same transference mechanism. Word of mouth is still preferred when choosing the method of transfer because of issues of security and efficiency associated with the use of the banking system. Nonetheless, the two formal channels of money transfer, hundi and hawala have traditions to stay because of their cheaper rates than other agency services and easy accessibility. In response to this, the government of Pakistan has continued to encourage the use of the formal means to make remittances to enable it capture the amount in the official records besides averting the risks associated with the informal manner of transfer. PRI is another measure for encouraging the use of the well-established methods of transferring money through the banks and other similar authentic institutions. These measures not only help to increase the stated volume of remittances but also develop the sphere of financial inclusion of the population (State Bank of Pakistan, 2020).

As much as there are numerous advantages after the reliance on the money transferred by the immigrants, there are also several problems associated with it. The economy largely relies on remittances and gets a lot of concern with situations which threaten the capacity of migrant workers to transfer money. Economic and political conditions such as recession, changes in immigration policies of the host countries, and the 'oil windfalls/ depressions' in gulf states, impacting its workers from Pakistan) influences remittances. Furthermore, though they avail cleaning up the consumers' and households' welfare, money remittances are not typically employed for productive purposes. Additional developmental bang from remittances can be derived of course, by promoting the utilization of the same for business ventures, savings and investments. For this reason, the lawmakers ought to establish right conditions for such investments so that the pull impacts of the money extend to the investment front and domestic economy growth as a whole (World Bank, 2020; PIDE, 2023).

3.4 Institutional Framework to Regular Migration in Pakistan

Pakistan is a state that has been rather proactive and systematic in the management of migration, both legal and illegal, which is why it has developed several levels of institutional support of this process. At top of this framework remains Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development which incorporates the conceptual and political side of migration. This ministry is in collaboration with the Interior for proper supervision and efficient management of the migration policies (Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Department, 2024).

It is a Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development that aims at coming up with and formulating policies that will assist the Pakistanis who would like to legally work and live in foreign countries provided the intendents are protected. This ministry has an important task to oversee personnel and other requirements needed for overseas employment and to safeguard relations with host nations in order improve working conditions for Pakistan's expatriate workforce. Under this Ministry the Bureau of Emigration and Overseas Employment (BEOE) controls the process of employing Pakistanis in overseas companies and organizations and also safeguards the rights of those workers (BEOE, 2024).

Pakistan's Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) also has a significant place in the institutional system to regulate migration-their major role is in the fight against irregular migration and

trafficking in persons. This FIA is lead by Director General of FIA with Additional Directors General (ADG) who looks after different zones in whole Pakistan. Some of its tasks are to supervise anti-human smuggling measures, smuggling control of immigrated people and combating against unauthorized migration. The Immigration and Anti Human Smuggling (IAHS) at headquarters level of FIA inspects and monitors national operations against irregular migration and for encouraging the regular migration channels (FIA, 2024).

On a regional level, the FIA is divided into different zones which are headed by a director who controls different functions ; anti-human trafficking Cell, Frontier, Foreigners & Immigration Check Posts etc. For instance, FIA Karachi Zone Operations are controlled by the Director of FIA Karachi Zone in sensitive areas like Karachi International Airport and Karachi Sea Port. Other zones consist of Hyderabad, Quetta, Islamabad, Gujranwala, Lahore, Faisalabad, Multan, Peshawar, and Kohat; they also have specific directors for those areas. Every zone consists of a number of AHTCs, CCs, and BCPs to achieve both the coverage of migration activities and control over them (FIA, 2024).

Presently, FIA operation is in 21 AHTCs, 19 CCs, 16 airports and land route check posts and 04 sea ports. This vast network assists the FIA to coordinate and follow the flow of migration and conform to local and global laws. This duality of its mandate underscores the agency's commitment to the provision of safe and legal routes tomigration at the same time fending off the ill-legal migration achieved through human trafficking and smuggling networks (FIA, 2024).

Besides, the Ministry of Interior works with IOM and UNODC to improve Pakistan's capability to address migration and fight human trafficking. These collaborations assist in the formulation of policies on migration and in the use of proper measures on the management of migration (IOM, 2023; UNODC, 2023).

The key migration managing institutions of Pakistan are Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Ministry of Interior, and FIA and these institutions are supposed to have effective mechanisms for Migration Management. It can be stated that this framework for migration guarantees that migration is lawful and secure; much attention is paid to the fight against irregular migration and trafficking in human beings. FIA's extensive apparatus of the regional zone, check posts, and specific units show the concerted commitment

of Pakistan to efficient migration management (FIA, 2024; Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis & Human Resource Development, 2024).

3.5 Conclusion

This chapter has discussed the trends and policies of legal and illegal migration in Pakistan with emphasis on the social, economic, political and environmental factors that underpin migration. The paper also reveals how irregular migration remains a phenomenon of concern even with the existence of numerous legal frameworks and institutions that seek to address the issue. The economic factors and socio-political unrest in areas such as Swat compel people to seek irregular migration at the cost of their lives. In addition, the chapter highlighted the importance of remittances in the support of the national economy and the risks of migrants using the irregular channels for migration.

 Thus, the efficiency of institutional arrangements is critical as Pakistan faces a growing problem of irregular migration. As much as there are laws that govern migration, the enforcement of these laws is hampered by lack of resources, weak legal frameworks and lack of coordination among the various agencies. This requires a stronger policy intervention that targets the push factors for irregular migration, as well as at the country and city levels.

 The conclusions drawn from this chapter provided the background for the further discussion of the theoretical framework and the method. The following chapter will provide a theoretical framework of irregular migration and present the research methodology used in this study to analyse the nature of irregular migration in the District of Swat. Thus, the study seeks to adopt a methodological approach that is both theoretical and empirical in order to establish the factors that lead to irregular migration and the efficiency of institutional measures.

CHAPTER 4

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK, DATA AND METHODOLOGY

4.1 Introduction

Irregular migration has been widely discussed in academia and even in highly developed countries it determines the direction of an on-going election. So politically it is a highly debated issue. To many countries, regular migration is a source of growth like Canada, USA, Australia and New Zealand, Japan, Germany and many others. They are entirely dependent on migrants due to their low fertility rates. In fact, legal migration is the major temptation to irregular migration. Phenomenon of illegal migration is deeply entrenched globally as well as in case of Pakistan and has been widely discussed in global and local studies. Due to nature of phenomenon, it has been restricted to empirical assessment at large while theoretically, it has been debated a lot and explored multiple future research venues. There are many fascinated theories that have been discussing the issue in many dynamics.

4.2 Theoretical Framework

4.2.1 Economic Theories of Migration

There are different theories that have been put forward to explain the phenomenon of irregular migration, with emphasis on the economic factors. Schloenhardt (2001), Angelucci (2012), Buehn & Eichler (2013), and Pena (2009) have pointed out that wage differentials, economic opportunity shortages, and market failures are the main causes of migration. These factors are in line with Neo-Classical Macro and Micro Theories and New Economics of Migration. These theories postulate that people move in search of better paid jobs and better economic status, and that irregular migration arises due to bureaucratic hurdles and expensive formal channels to migration. These perspectives are supported by the findings of this study because economic factors like unemployment and high cost of legal visas are some of the factors that compel people to engage in irregular migration in Pakistan.

4.2.2 World System and Labor Demand Theories

Another theory that can be used to explain irregular migration is the World System Theory, which is based on global capital circulation and the economic interdependence of the developed

and the underdeveloped countries. It implies that migration is as a result of structural factors in the global economy, which results in movement of people from developing countries to the developed countries (Pena, 2009; Loschmann et al. , 2014). Secondly, the Structural Demand for Labor Theory postulates that developed countries generate demand for low skilled labor, which is supplied by migrants who travel through the irregular means (Krasinets, 2005; De Haas, 2008). This theory is in agreement with the findings of this research whereby migrants from Pakistan especially those from the economically less developed areas are willing to work in sectors that the native population of the host countries are not willing to work in. These economic factors sustain the cyclical movement of migrants.

4.2.3 Social Network Theory

Network Theory also shows that social factors are very influential in the process of irregular migration. Hugo et al. (2014) and Tahir et al. (2018) have pointed out that social support from family and friends already living in the host countries is a strong motivating factor that makes migrants to embark on irregular migration. This theory is supported by the findings of this study since the existence of migration networks offer financial and other forms of support to potential migrants hence reducing the cost of migration and thus the cycle continues. Moreover, the money sent by migrants back to their home country also strengthens these networks, thus supporting the economic development of the home country and the continuation of future migration (Kule et al. , 2002).

4.2.4 Institutional and Smuggling Networks

The Institutional Theory focuses on the fact that the expensive and lengthy legal ways of migration can force people to turn to the irregular ones. The ILO and Trianda and Maroukis (2012) back this argument by pointing out that legal migration channels are not used due to procedural inefficiencies like costly visas and technicalities. This theory is directly related to the findings of this research, which reveal that most of the migrants from Pakistan have to use the irregular means to migrate because the legal means are very expensive. Furthermore, smuggling networks are involved in providing services that are high risk and costly in the process of irregular migration (Ghosh, 1998; Buehn & Eichler, 2013). For the illiterate and the poor, such as in Afghanistan and Pakistan, smuggling networks are the only available means of migration where legal solutions are out of reach (Davin & Majidi, 2009).

4.2.5 Relevance of Theories to the Study

It is therefore important to understand how these theories of migration interrelate in order to fully appreciate the dynamics of irregular migration from Pakistan. The economic theories describe the pull factors such as employment opportunities and wage disparities while the World System and Labor Demand theories describe the structures that enable migration. Network Theory focuses on social relations and the flow of remittances, which in turn promotes migration, while Institutional Theory highlights the factors that force people to use the irregular means. In combination, these theories offer a coherent understanding of the phenomenon under investigation that is consistent with the results of this study, which shows that irregular migration is a complex process that is influenced by economic, social, and institutional factors. This theoretical framework therefore provides the foundation for understanding the drivers of irregular migration and for generating policy solutions.

Figure 3. 1 Theoretical Understanding of Irregular Migration
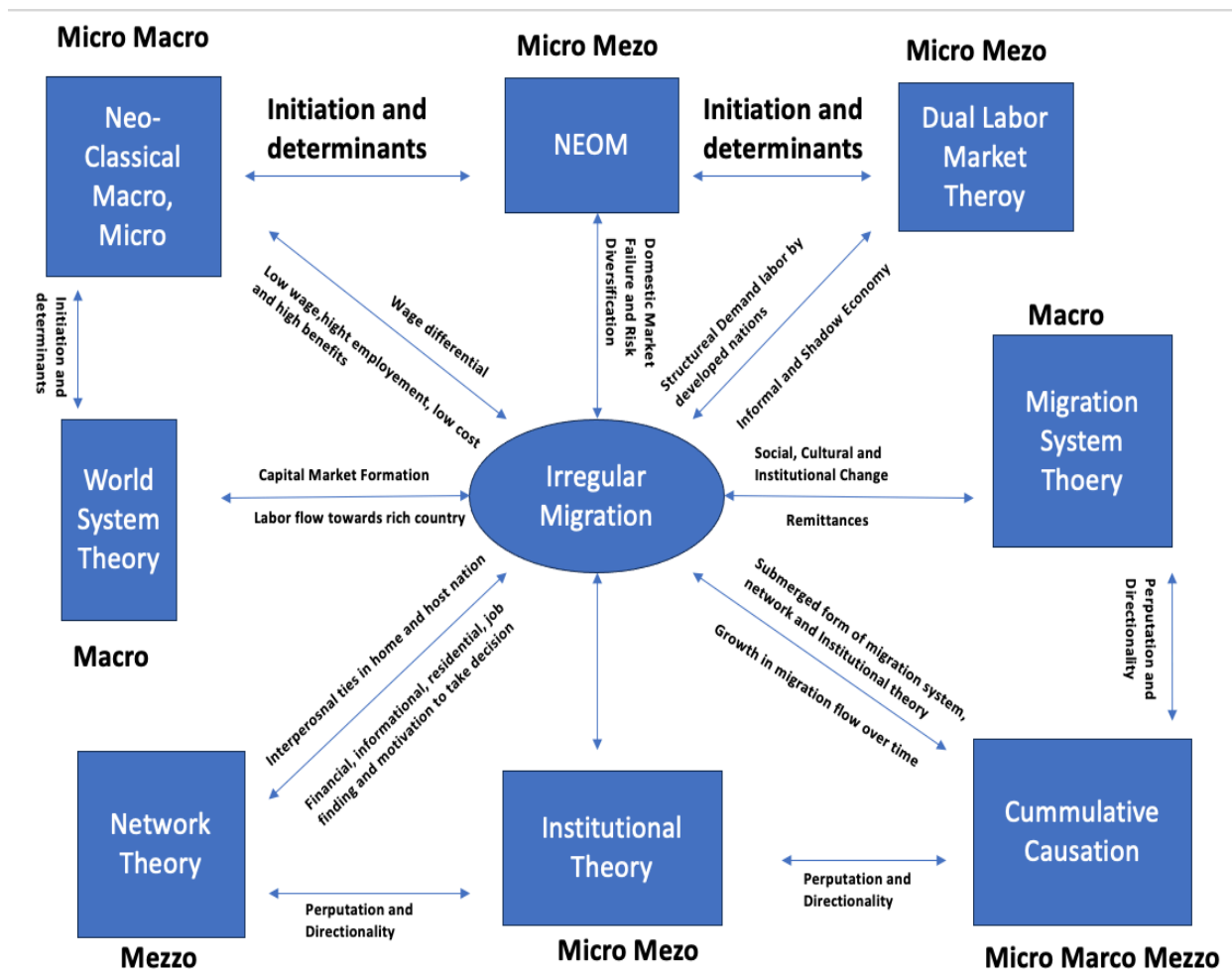
This research has utilized a range of migration theories as shown in Figure 3.1 to build a comprehensive theoretical framework, allowing for an in-depth analysis of irregular migration, particularly within the Pakistani context. The integration of theories such as Neo-Classical Macro and Micro, World System, Network, Institutional, Dual Labor Market, Migration Systems, and Cumulative Causation has been essential in examining the empirical findings and evaluating whether they align with or diverge from these theoretical perspectives

4.3 Data Description

Describing the data is one of the crucial steps in the research process, especially in the context of the analysis of irregular migration, as it helps to define the approaches used in data collection, processing, and analysis. This section is well divided into sub-sections depending on the sampling method, data collection instruments, and the coding system used in handling

information. Such detailed exposition is necessary to explain the processes that have been followed, which increases the credibility of the research. Besides, it provides the reliability of the findings and allows for the assessment of the methods used, which is crucial for reproducing the study and verifying its results.

4.4 Specification of Study Area

In this chapter we will discuss the features and characteristics of our study area that is Swat. This section will give glimpse of the features pertinent to the study area; population, life style and migration (legal and illegal) statistics in the study area.

Pakistan is the 5th most populous country in the world, with an estimated population of approximately 240.9 million according to the United Nations estimates for 2023. As of the latest update, Pakistan ranked 154th in the Human Development Index and was not separately listed in the most recent Human Capital Index, which has been integrated into the World Bank's broader Human Capital Project. According to the Multidimensional Poverty Index report released by the United Nations Development Programme, Pakistan had an MPI score of 0.198 in 2021, indicating some improvements. As a developing nation, Pakistan reported a GDP of approximately $346 billion in 2022, with a growth rate of about 6.0% according to the World Bank. The literacy rate has seen slight improvement but remains a challenge at around 60 percent. The list of 20 highly migrant districts of Pakistan are as follow:

Table 3.1: Highly Migrant Districts of Pakistan

S.No	Name	Population	Immigrants	HDI
1	Karachi (Central)	3,051,711	550,423	0.854
2	Sialkot	1,748,891	460,762	0.834
3	Lahore	11,126,285	395,712	0.877
4	Rawalpindi	5,405,633	384,903	0.871
5	Lower Dir	1,435,917	362,514	0.600
6	Gujranwala	5,014,196	356,755	0.769
7	Gujrat	4,756,110	350,923	0.795
8	Swat	2,309,570	320,285	0.618
9	Faisalabad	7,873,910	303,965	0.782
10	Dera Ghazi Khan	2,872,201	253,931	0.535

11	Mardan	2,373,061	223,987	0.703
12	Peshawar	4,269,079	211,464	0.756
13	Multan	4,745,109	172,325	0.718
14	Jhelum	1,222,633	171,050	0.829
15	Attock	1,883,556	168,045	0.786
16	Sargodha	3,703,588	154,980	0.728
17	Swabi	1,624,616	153,078	0.654
18	Chakwal	1,495,982	150,779	0.792
19	Kohat	993,874	149,443	0.650
20	Rahim Yar Khan	4,814,006	144,630	0.625

Source: Bureau of Emigration and Overseas Employment (BEOE), 2023;
UNDP, 2022; Pakistan Population Census, 2023.

Note: The data from the Bureau of Emigration and Overseas Employment (BEOE) only includes registered migrants, where 96% of the migration is directed towards the Middle East. This limitation must be considered when interpreting the data.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) province has an estimated population of 39,530,000 in 2023, making it the third most populous province in Pakistan. In terms of area, KPK is the fourth largest province. It consists of 11 districts. KPK is also known as the country's second-biggest international migrant-sending region, with an estimated overseas population of 3,300,668 (BEOE, 2023). In 2017, the highest number of deportees (29,922) were also from KPK, indicating that a significant number of irregular migrants originate from this part of the country (FIA[1], 2017).

4.5 Sampling

The current study used both structured questionnaires and unstructured interviews to collect primary data. The study was conducted in District Swat, focusing on four Tehsils: Babuzai, Charbagh, Barikot and Matta. The choice of the right sampling technique was therefore important in order to get the right results of the survey.

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[1] Annual Report on Human Smuggling and Trafficking, 2017

To ensure that the study got the experiences and perceptions of the irregular migrants, the research adopted the snowball sampling technique also known as chain referral sampling. This sampling technique is especially useful when dealing with populations that are concealed or difficult to locate, for example, irregular migrants who due to their immigration status are hard to locate using conventional sampling techniques (Atkinson & Flint, 2001). Snowball sampling involves the use of participants to identify other participants by using their social networks to identify other participants. This method is cheap, uses fewer resources, and is ideal for researching on events or conditions that are hard to come across (Goodman, 1961).

In this study, quantitative data was collected from 600 respondents through snowball sampling, which included those who had tried irregular migration and succeeded or failed, and those who were likely to try irregular migration. These respondents were selected from Babuzai, Charbagh, Barikot, and Matta Tehsils in District Swat, a region that has been highlighted in different studies and reports as a major source of irregular migration. The use of snowball sampling technique enabled to obtain information from the individuals who have firsthand experience in irregular migration hence the sample was adequate and representative of the population being studied.

The telephonic conversations for filling out the questionnaire were conducted with successful irregular migrants who were abroad. Furthermore, unstructured interviews were administered to FIA officials in Islamabad to collect qualitative data. These interviews provided insights into the institutional frameworks and measures implemented to tackle irregular migration. The qualitative sample consisted of FIA directors and inspectors involved in the management of migration and human smuggling. This qualitative component of the study was further enriched by analyzing FIA reports, which offered additional context for evaluating the efficiency of institutional frameworks. The sampling of FIA officials was purposive, as they possessed specific knowledge relevant to the research questions.

4.6 Research Methodology

This research used both quantitative and qualitative research methods to achieve the research objectives as outlined in this study. The rationale for using the mixed-method approach was informed by the fact that the approach offers a more comprehensive understanding of irregular

migration by integrating the quantitative data with the qualitative data (Creswell & Plano Clark, 2011).

The rationale for using mixed methods was to identify the macro-level factors that underpin irregular migration and the micro-level institutional arrangements that seek to address it. Qualitative data offered information on the socio-economic, political and demographic factors that affect migration decisions. While quantitative data provided more general information about the situation with irregular migration and the actions of institutions, qualitative data provided more detailed information about the functioning of institutional policies and the problems that authorities face in managing migration. This methodological combination enabled the study to capture the multifaceted nature of irregular migration from the micro and macro levels, which would not have been possible if the study relied on only one method.

Data Collection

The quantitative data was collected through a structured questionnaire administered to 600 respondents. The questionnaire included basic demographic characteristics like age, education level, employment status, and the reasons for choosing the irregular migration. The data collection process was concerned with the participants from District Swat, which has a high level of cross-border migration. These individuals were contacted through the use of the snowball sampling technique, which enabled the collection of data from a population that is hard to sample.

The qualitative data was gathered through the use of open ended interviews with FIA officials in Islamabad. These interviews sought to establish the following: The nature of the institutional framework for the administration of irregular migration; Legal issues; Resource mobilization; and Inter-agency relations. The FIA reports were also used to supplement the qualitative data through document analysis to gain background information on institutional practices and policies. The interviews were conducted with the key FIA personnel who had a lot of experience in dealing with the cases of irregular migration, thus, the data collected was more meaningful.

Unit of Population

The unit of population in this study is defined as individuals from District Swat who have engaged in or are potential candidates for irregular migration. This includes:

- Individuals who have opted for irregular migration (successful or unsuccessful).
- Potential irregular migrants considering such journeys.
- FIA officials involved in managing and mitigating irregular migration.

Variables and Indicators

To address the first objective, the study captured various border indicators through a household survey. These indicators include:

1. Economic factors: income levels, employment status, and financial pressures.
2. Social factors: family size, education level, and social networks.
3. Political factors: perceptions of political stability and governance.
4. Migration history: previous attempts at migration, success or failure, and reasons for choosing irregular routes.

For the second objective, data was collected from the FIA to assess the institutional framework. The indicators captured include:

1. Effectiveness of anti-human smuggling operations.
2. Immigration control measures.
3. Enforcement of laws against illegal migration.
4. Challenges faced by the FIA in managing irregular migration.
5. Role of international collaborations in enhancing these efforts.

Analysis

The quantitative data was analyzed using descriptive statistics and regression analysis to test hypotheses on factors that may influence irregular migration such as education level, employment status among others. The demographic data of the respondents were described using descriptive statistics while the migration decision determinants were established using

regression analysis. The statistical analysis of the quantitative data was done using the SPSS software, which is a reliable tool for analyzing data.

The qualitative data was analyzed using thematic analysis, a method that is widely used in identifying, analyzing and reporting patterns (themes) in qualitative data as described by Braun and Clarke (2006). The interviews were taped and analyzed for common themes that emerged concerning the efficiency of institutional structures, the difficulties of policy enforcement, and the scarcity of resources. This approach enabled the identification of the major institutional factors that the FIA encounters in the management of irregular migration. The qualitative data offered contextual information that enhanced the quantitative results, thus giving a broader perspective of the problems under consideration.

4.7 Ethical Considerations

To protect all the participants involved in this study, this research complied with the following ethical considerations. Due to the nature of irregular migration, extra caution was taken to ensure that the identity of the respondents was well protected. All the participants in the quantitative surveys and the qualitative interviews provided their informed consent. Participants were told the nature of the study, their freedom to withdraw from the study at any time and steps taken to ensure their anonymity. To maintain anonymity, no personal details were gathered and where required, participants' names were changed to aliases.

The study also acknowledged the risk of the population under study especially those involved in irregular migration. Therefore, measures were taken to ensure that participants were not put at any legal or physical risk in the course of the study. The researcher engaged the community leaders and adopted the snowball sampling technique to ensure that the respondents were trustworthy and credible. All the collected data was kept secure and only the researcher had access to the data in compliance with data protection and privacy act.

4.8 Measuring Migration Status

We measure migration status using self-reported responses obtained from the survey on irregular migration: "Have you ever tried to transfer through other than the regular means?". To distinguish between the irregular migrants who are potential and those who are actual, these responses are aggregated into a single binary variable, **Migration Status**, whereby.:

$$Migration\_Status = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if the respondent is considering Irregular migration} \\ 0 & \text{if the respondent has already attempted irregular migration} \end{cases}$$

In the dummy variable the 0 means the respondent has already chosen the irregular migration and 1 means the respondent has already tried irregular migration. This dummy variable is use in the analysis to determine the push and pull factors and socioeconomic effects of the irregular migrants.

4.9 Model Specification for Regression Analysis

In this section, we outline the regression models used to analyze various aspects of the respondents' well-being and socioeconomic status in relation to their migration experiences. Each model specification is presented below:

4.9.1 Psychological Well-being

The model for psychological well-being is specified as follows:

$$logit(Psychological\ Well-being) = \alpha + \beta1 \cdot Migration + \beta2 \cdot Age + \beta3 \cdot Gender + \beta4 \cdot Social\ Well-being + \epsilon$$

In this model, psychological well-being is the dependent variable which is affected by the independent variables. Migration is a dummy variable that captures the migration status of the respondent. Age is the age of the respondent and gender is a dummy variable; 1 for male and 0 for female respondents. Social well-being is a self-estimated indicator of the respondent's social well-being. The error term is represented by ϵ. To investigate the relationship between migration status, age, gender, and social well-being on psychological well-being, a regression analysis was conducted with the help of STATA. It was planned to use the model to determine the extent of these independent variables to psychological well-being so that the effect of each of these factors on the mental health of people can be realized. Therefore, with the help of this statistical approach, the goal is to show the results that indicate the factors affecting the level of psychological wellness in the context of irregular migration.

4.9.2 Social Well-being

The model for social well-being is specified as follows:

$$logit(Social\ Well-being) = \alpha + \beta1 \cdot Migration + \beta2 \cdot Age + \beta3 \cdot Gender + \beta4 \cdot$$
$$Psychological\ Well-being + \epsilon$$

In this model, social well-being is the dependent variable, which is measured by the participants' responses to the question "How satisfied are you with your current level of social well-being?" Migration is a dummy variable which indicate migration status of the respondent. Age is the age of the respondent and gender is a dummy variable where 1 is male and 0 is female respondent. Psychological health is a measure of the respondent's psychological well-being. The error term is represented by ϵ. The data collected was tested using a regression analysis with the assistance of STATA software to establish the impact of migration status, age, gender and psychological well-being on social well-being. This model was intended to show the relationship between these independent variables and social well being and it was also supposed to indicate the extent to which each of these factors impacts on the social well being of people. Therefore, applying this statistical method, we will be able to provide the results that are statistically significant and shed light on the factors influencing the social welfare in the context of irregular migration.

4.9.3 Happiness

The model for happiness is specified as follows:

$$logit(Happiness) = \alpha + \beta1 \cdot Migration + \beta2 \cdot Age + \beta3 \cdot Gender + \beta4 \cdot Social\ Well-$$
$$being + \beta5 \cdot education + \epsilon$$

In this model, happiness is the dependent variable or the outcome that is being explained. Migration is a dummy variable that distinguishes the respondent as a migrant or a non-migrant. Age is the age of the respondent, and gender is a binary variable that equals to one if the respondent is male and zero if the respondent is female. Self-assessed social well-being is a categorical variable that reflects the respondent's self-assessed social well-being; education is defined as the level of education attained by the respondent. The error term is represented by the Greek letter ϵ. Regression analysis was used to investigate the impact of migration status, age, gender, social well-being and education on happiness level The analysis was conducted using STATA software. The model was developed to show the relationship between those independent variables and happiness in such a manner that the contribution of each of them to the dependent variable can be compared to the others in order to assess the overall influence

on the happiness of a person. Thus, applying this statistical method, we aim at providing a numeric and evidence-based approach to understanding factors that affect happiness of irregular migrants.

4.9.4 Income

The model for income is specified as follows:

$$logit(Income) = \alpha + \beta 1 \cdot Migration + \beta 2 \cdot Age + \beta 3 \cdot Gender + \beta 4 \cdot Social\ Well-being + \beta 5 \cdot Happiness + \epsilon$$

In this model, income is the variable that is dependent on the other variables. Migration is a dummy variable that equals one if the respondent migrated and zero if otherwise. Age is the age of the respondent, while gender is a binary variable that equals to 1 for males and 0 for females. Social well-being is the level of social well-being of the respondent while happiness is the level of happiness of the respondent. The error term is represented by ϵ. Thus, in order to compare the migration status, age, gender, social well-being and happiness with the income, regression analysis was conducted with the assistance of STATA software. It was believed that through the model, the extent to which these independent variables influenced income could be quantified and this would help in understanding the role played by each of them in the determination of the income status of people. Therefore, with the help of this statistical method, the study aims at providing objective and numerical results on factors affecting income in the context of irregular migration.

4.9.5 Employment Status

The model for employment status is specified as follows:

$$logit(Employment\ Status) = \alpha + \beta 1 \cdot Migration + \beta 2 \cdot Age + \beta 3 \cdot Gender + \beta 4 \cdot Psychological\ Well-being + \beta 5 \cdot Social\ Well-being + \epsilon$$

In this model, the employment status of the individuals is the dependent variable. Migration is a binary variable that takes the value of one if the respondent migrated, and zero otherwise. Age is the age of the respondent and gender is a dummy variable which takes the value of 1 for males and 0 for females. Psychological well-being is the respondent's psychological well-being while social well-being is the respondent's social well-being. The error term is represented by

ϵ. To determine the effect of migration status, age, gender, psychological well-being, and social well-being on employment status, a regression analysis was performed using the STATA software. The model was developed to measure the impact of the mentioned independent variables on the employment status and help to determine the specific role of each factor in the employment status of people. In this way, the use of this statistical approach will help to present the results that are scientifically grounded and based on empirical data on the factors that influence the employment status of irregular migrants.

4.9.6 Education

The model for education is specified as follows:

$$logit(Education) = \alpha + \beta 1 \cdot Migration + \beta 2 \cdot Age + \beta 3 \cdot Gender + \beta 4 \cdot Employment$$
$$Status + \beta 5 \cdot Income + \beta 6 \cdot Psychological\ Well-being + \beta 7 \cdot Social\ Well-being +$$
$$\beta 8 \cdot Happiness + \epsilon$$

In this model, education is the variable being explained, or the dependent variable. Migration is a binary variable that takes the value of 1 if the respondent migrated and 0 otherwise. Age is the age of the respondent; gender is a binary variable that is coded as 1 for male and 0 for female. Employment status is the employment status of the respondent, while income is the total monthly income of the respondent's household. Psychological health is the self-reported health status of the respondent in terms of psychological health, while social health is the self-reported health status of the respondent in terms of social health. Happiness is a self-report of the respondent's level of happiness. The error term is represented by ϵ. In this study, regression analysis was conducted using STATA software to establish the relationship between migration status, age, gender, employment status, psychological well-being, social well-being, income and happiness and education. The model was developed to express the level of correlation between these independent variables and education, so that the role of each factor in the education of people could be understood in detail. Thus, applying this statistical method, we will be able to offer more objective and evidence-based findings on the factors influencing education among irregular migrants.

These models enable us to examine the effects of migration status on different dimensions of well-being and SES, helping to understand the consequences of irregular migration on people's lives.

CHAPTER 5
RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

5.1 Introduction

As discussed in the previous chapter, the current study is descriptive and regression analysis of the factors that force individuals to engage in irregular migration. The data was gathered from 600 respondents in which 300 are potential migrants and 300 are successful irregular migrants in District Swat using snowball technique. The questionnaire used in this research is divided into four major sections: basic demographic data, reasons for migration and the attitudes, role of social networks and overall attitudes, and financial, health, and results. This chapter presents a detailed descriptive account of the findings from the respondents' data with regards to the factors that compel people to embark on an irregular migration and the experiences they undergo before, during and after the migration process. Some of the migrants' stories are presented to add a qualitative aspect to the results obtained. Furthermore, regression analysis is used to determine the factors that make people to engage in the irregular migration, hence the statistical analysis of the major causes of this form of migration.

5.2 Results

5.2.1 Demographic Information

Table 1 Respondent Age

Respondents Age	Frequency	Percent
15-20	71	11.8
20-25	232	38.7
25-30	146	24.3
30-35	54	9.0
35-40	42	7.0
40-45	35	5.8
45-50	20	3.3
Total	600	100.0

Explanation: The table displays the age of the respondents in the irregular migration study. The largest part of the respondents belongs to the age range of 20-25 years (38.7%), the second largest is the age range of 25-30 years (24.3%). The findings also revealed that the two most

active groups in migration in search of better economic opportunities are the 20-25 and the 25-30 age groups because they are young and have fewer responsibilities and are at the beginning of their careers. The fact that a large proportion of the respondents fall in these age groups implies that they are driven by the desire to earn better wages and secure employment, which is easier to achieve once they move. The distribution depicts the pattern of young and prime working age population in the quest for jobs in foreign countries due to economic reasons.
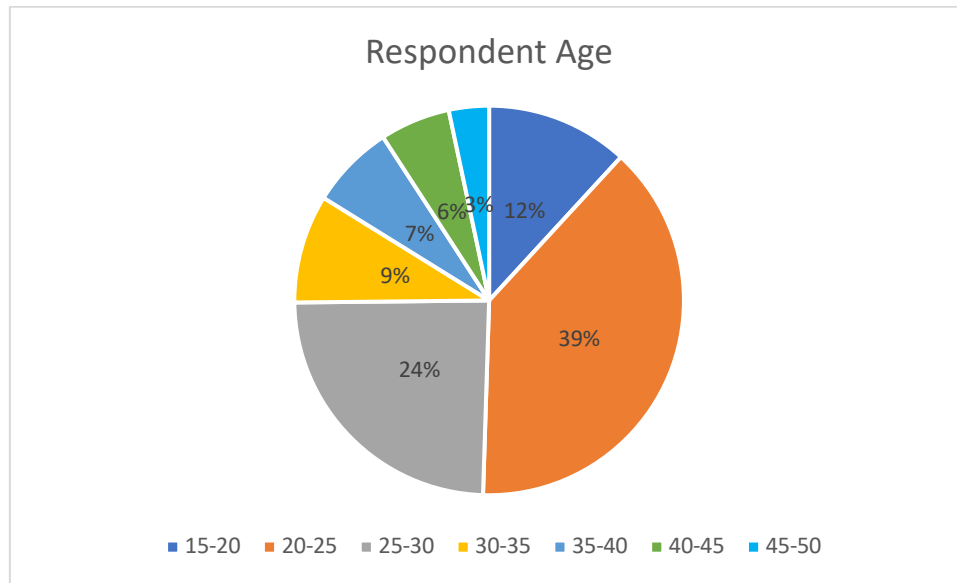
Figure 1 Respondent Age

Table 2 Respondent Education Level

Respondent Education Level	Frequency	Percent
No Formal Education	120	20.0
Primary	200	33.3
Secondary	150	25.0
Higher Secondary	100	16.7
Graduate	30	5.0
Total	600	100.0

Explanation: The table shows the educational background of the respondents in the study on irregular migration where 33% of the respondents had their education level up to the tertiary level. 3% with only primary education and 25%. This implies that people with lower education standards are inclined to travel irregularly due to poor economic prospects in their home country. The distribution of education levels shows that people with a low level of education tend to consider migration as the only way to get better economic conditions, which forces

them to engage in irregular migration in order to enhance their quality of life and employment opportunities.

Respondent Educational Level

- No Formal Education 20%
- Primary 33%
- Secondary 25%
- Higher Secondary 17%
- Graduate 5%
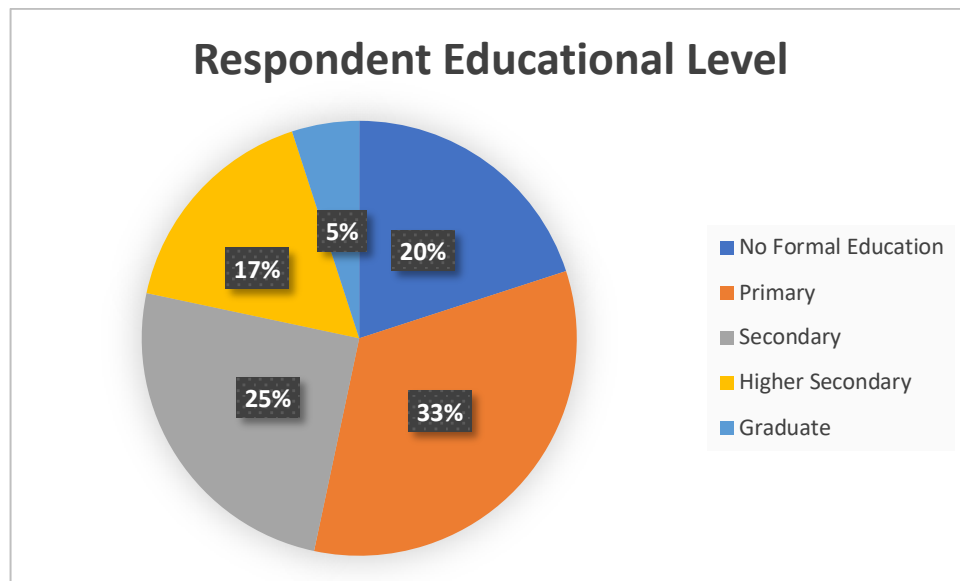
Table 3 Respondent Employment Status

Respondent Employment Status	Frequency	Percent
Unemployed	367	61.2
Employed (Part Time)	141	23.5
Employed (Full Time)	53	8.8
Self-Employed	39	6.5
Total	**600**	**100.0**

Explanation: The table shows the employment status of the respondents in the study on irregular migration. It proves that the majority of people, 61 percent, are ready to sacrifice their own interests for the sake of their children. 2%, are unemployed, which means that the absence of employment opportunities is one of the main reasons that make people think about migration. 5% of the respondents are working part-time, which means that the part-time employment may not be enough to meet the basic needs. 8% of respondents are employed full-time while 6. This distribution also shows that majority of the respondents are struggling to find employment; a significant number of them are unemployed, while others are underemployed, with a large number working in insecure part-time or self-employed positions,

which could explain why they are willing to consider migration for better economic opportunities.

Respondent Employment Status

Legend:
- Unemployed
- Employed (Part Time)
- Employed (Full Time)
- Self-Employed

61%, 23%, 9%, 7%
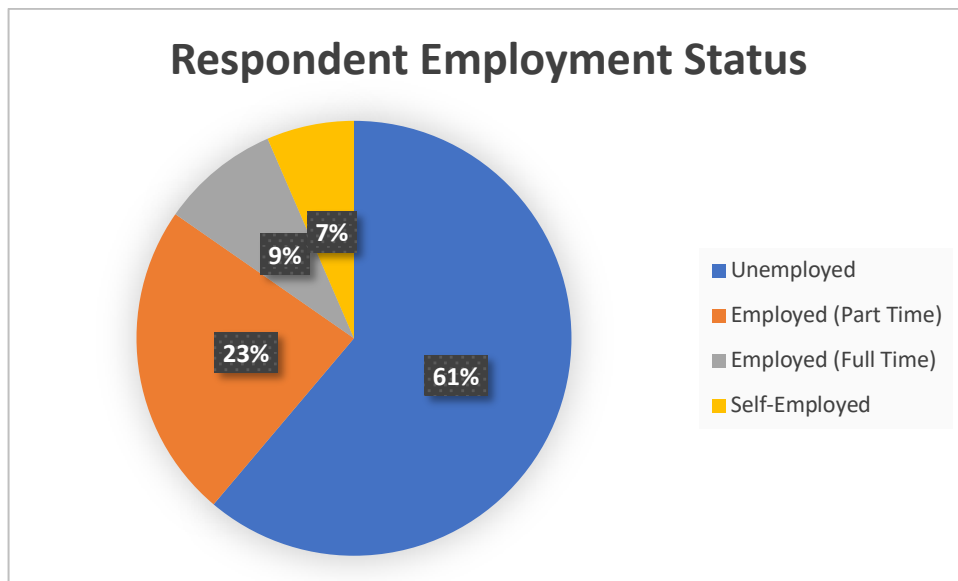
Table 4 Respondent's Marital Status

Respondent's Marital Status	Frequency	Percent
Single	430	71.7
Married	82	13.7
Divorced	53	8.8
Widowed	35	5.8
Total	**600**	**100.0**

Explanation: The table displays the marital status of the respondents in the study on irregular migration. The largest percentage of the respondents, 71.7%, are single, which means that single people are the most likely to consider irregular migration. This is followed by 13.7% of them are married while 8.8% who are divorced, and 5.8% who are widowed. The high percentage of single respondents implies that people with no family responsibilities may be more willing or have the capacity to take risks in irregular migration. The lower percentages of married, divorced, and widowed respondents suggest that people with family obligations or

previous marital status might be less willing or have less ability to migrate irregularly. This distribution gives a clue on the demographic factors of individuals who are considering irregular migration.

Respondent Marital Status

- Single 72%
- Married 13%
- Divorced 9%
- Widowed 6%
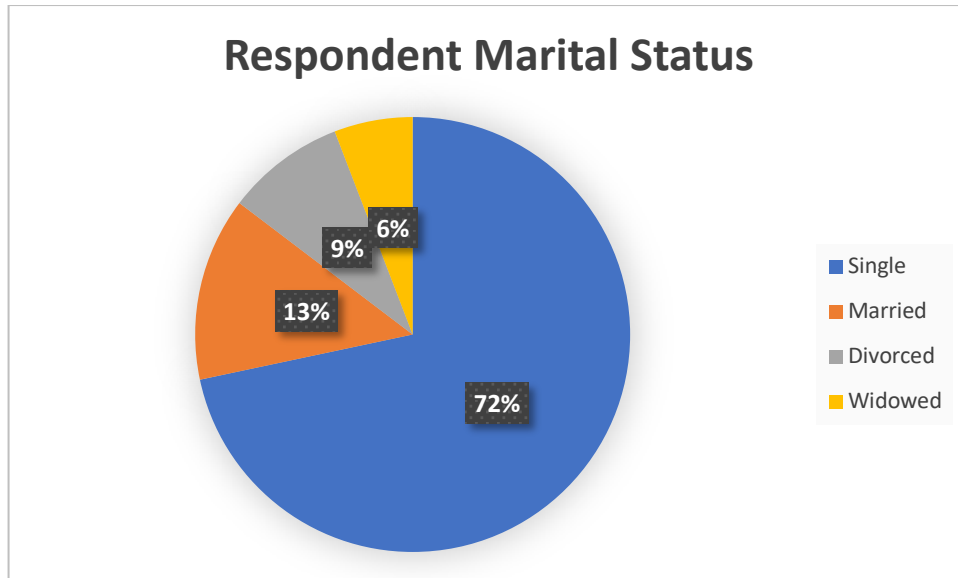
5.2.2 Migration Motivations and Perceptions

Table 5 Main Reasons for Considering Irregular Migration

Reason	Frequency	Percent
Economic Opportunities	290	48.3
Education	130	21.7
Family Reunification	70	11.7
Security Concerns	80	13.3
Underage	30	5.0
Total	600	100.0

Explanation: The table shows the reasons of migration consideration among respondents in the study on irregular migration. The most common reason is economic reasons with 48% of the respondents stating this as the reason for migration. 3% of respondents which is nearly half of the respondents said that they are motivated by the desire to have better economic opportunities. The second most cited reason is education with 21.7% of the respondents intending to migrate for education. Family reunion is responsible for 11% of the migration. 7% of the respondents, which shows the relevance of the 'Joining of family members abroad'

factor. Security issues are among the factors that are considered by 13. 3% of respondents, which is connected with the necessity of safety and stability. A notable 5. None of the respondents are below 18 years, meaning that a part of the migration decisions are associated with age-related factors. This distribution gives a clear picture of the main reasons that compelled the respondents to migrate.

Table 6 Exploration of Regular Migration Channels Before Deciding on Irregular Migration

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	481	80.2
No	119	19.8
Total	**600**	**100.0**

Explanation: The table shows the answers of the respondents on a specific question in the irregular migration study. It demonstrates that a clear majority of 80 percent of the respondents had a favorable view of the company. 2%, said "Yes" which means that the respondents highly agreed or affirmed the statement. In contrast, 19. 8% said "No" which is a smaller part of the total respondents. The total number of respondents is 600 and the responses obtained are in percentage totaling to 100%. This distribution shows that there is a general agreement or that majority of the respondents have a similar opinion.

Table 7 Reasons for Deciding Against Regular Migration (Select all that apply)

Reason	Frequency	Percent
Too Expensive	150	25.0
Process Too Complex	130	21.7
Takes Too Long	80	13.3
Fear of Rejection	75	12.5
No Reason	70	11.7
Too Expensive and Fear of Rejection	95	15.8
Total	600	100.0

Explanation: The table illustrates why the respondents did not opt for regular migration; The table reveals that the most common reason is that it was too expensive (25.0%), followed by the complexity of the process (21.7%). Other reasons are as follows: The process is time consuming (13.3%); rejection (12.5%). Additionally, 11. 7% of the respondents had no specific

reason and 15.8% said both the cost and rejection as the reason why they had not donated. This distribution shows that the legal migration channels are also filled with hurdles like high costs, lengthy procedures, time-consuming processes, and rejection risks that discourage people from seeking legal means of migration. These barriers are seen from the perspective of Migration Systems Theory as being systematic in that they affect migration patterns. Migration Systems Theory assumes that migration is a result of the decision-making process of individuals and the structural factors in both the countries of origin and destination. These barriers show that the existing legal migration system is regarded as a system that is out of reach for many potential migrants. In order to discourage the use of irregular migration, these structural problems must be solved by making legal migration easier, cheaper and more accessible. This way, the legal migration system can be made more accessible and appealing, which is in line with the **Migration Systems** Theory that focuses on the interconnectivity between personal decisions and structural factors in the process of migration.

Table 8 Influences on the Decision to Choose Irregular Migration Over Regular Channels

Reason	Frequency	Percent
Lower Cost	156	26.0
Faster Process	53	8.8
Higher Success Rate	42	7.0
Fewer Requirements	27	4.5
Social Network Influence (including Advice from Friends/Family)	88	14.7
Combined Factors (Lower Cost, Fewer Requirements, Higher Success Rate, Social Network Influence)	234	39.0
Total	600	100.0

Explanation: The table below shows the different factors that affect the decision to use irregular migration instead of the formal ways, and the most selected reason is the cost, which was selected by 26.0% of the respondents. Other important aspects are faster (8.8%), higher success (7.0%), and fewer (4.5%) requirements. Friends and family recommendations on the social networks are also important (14.7%). Additionally, 39. None of the respondents mentioned any combinations of the factors like lower cost, fewer requirements, higher success rate, and social network influence. Based on **Network Theory**, social networks greatly influence migration choices because of the information and assistance offered. The role of social networks demonstrates that people are not only rational and motivated by economic and procedural rationality but also rely on their social networks when it comes to making decisions

about irregular migration. The emphasis on lower costs and fewer requirements shows the obstacles in the framework of the legal migration system, including high costs and strict requirements, which force people to turn to irregular channels where their networks help them.

5.2.3 Influence of Social networks and General Perceptions

Table 9 Sources of Information About Irregular Migration

Source	Frequency	Percent
Friends/Family	115	19.2
Social Media/Internet	107	17.8
Migration Agents/Brokers	52	8.7
Community Meetings	53	8.8
Social Media/Internet, Migration Agents/Brokers	117	19.5
Friends/Family, Social Media/Internet, Migration Agents/Brokers, Community Meetings	156	26.0
Total	600	100.0

Explanation: The table shows the sources that the respondents used in getting information about irregular migration. The most frequently reported sources were friends/family (19.2%), social media/internet (17.8%), and other sources combined with friends/family and social media/internet, migration agents/brokers, and community meetings. This has brought out the importance of social networks and other online platforms in passing information concerning migration opportunities. Friends and family are the most accurate and close sources of information, which can significantly affect migration processes due to their direct connection with the people. Social media and the internet play an important role as sources of various information, including the information regarding the experiences of other people and their recommendations. While not mentioned as often, migration agents and brokers are more specific and informative sources of data and assistance. Additional to that, meetings with other members of the community provide an opportunity to discuss the experiences and therefore add to the information base that can be accessed by potential migrants. These findings support **Network Theory** that focuses on social networks and relationships in migration. The integration of multiple sources of information shows that migration decisions are complex and people use a combination of advice from friends and relatives, online information, and professional consultation. The importance of social media and the internet also shows that the information channels have become more digitalised, meaning that migration information is more readily available and easily accessible. This is in line with other studies that have shown

that social networks and digital platforms are instrumental in influencing migration patterns and decisions.

Table 10 Personal Acquaintance with Someone Who Has Migrated Irregularly

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	499	83.2
No	101	16.8
Total	**600**	**100.0**

Explanation: The table shows the findings of the study in relation to a specific question asked to the participants of the study concerning irregular migration. It reveals that a very large percentage of 83 percent of the respondents hold a positive attitude towards the use of social media. 2% (499 respondents), said "Yes", which is a very affirmative response to the posed question. In contrast, 16. 8%, (101 respondents) responded "No" which is a smaller proportion of the respondents. The total number of participants is 600 and the responses obtained are equal to 100% of the total. This distribution implies that there is a general agreement on the part of the respondents with the queried statement or condition regarding irregular migration.

Table 11 Influence of Acquaintance's Experience on Decision to Migrate Irregularly

Response	Frequency	Percent
Positive Influence	417	69.5
Negative Influence	90	15.0
No Influence or Indifference	58	9.7
Mixed or Uncertain Influence	23	3.8
Not Applicable	12	2.0
Total	**600**	**100.0**

Explanation: The table shows respondents' perception of a particular influence on their decision to engage in irregular migration. A significant majority, 69.5% (417 respondents), stated that the internet had a positive impact. Meanwhile, 15. None of the respondents (90) reported a negative impact of the campaign. 7% (58 respondents) stated no influence or were

indifferent. A smaller portion, 3.2% (6 respondents) reported that it had some influence or they were unsure of the extent of the influence. 12 respondents said that the question was not applicable and scored it 0%. These results indicate that out of 600 participants, the majority of the respondents have a positive attitude towards the factors, while there are also minorities who reported negative or no impact, and some confusion or non-applicability of the responses.

Table 12 Impact of Others' Stories and Experiences on Perspective on Migration

Impact	Frequency	Percent
Positive Outlook and Motivation	169	28.2
Economic Stability and Support	91	15.2
Negative Impact	44	7.3
Cautious and Realistic	109	18.2
Hardships and Risks	39	6.5
Combined Factors (Economic Stability and Support, Negative Impact, Cautious and Realistic)	131	21.8
Combined Factors (Positive Outlook and Motivation, Economic Stability and Support)	17	2.8
Total	600	100.0

Explanation: The table shows how the respondent's perception of migration is influenced by the stories and experiences of other migrants. The most frequently reported impact is positive attitude and encouragement (28.2%), seconded by economic security and encouragement (15. 2%), and a conservative and practical approach (18.2%). Other effects are negative impact (7. 3%) and knowing the difficulties and dangers (6.5%). Furthermore, different respondents reported multiple effects, of which 21. Eight percent said that they use a combination of economic stability, negative effects, and a conservative approach; two percent said that they use a combination of economic stability and negative effects. 8% reported both positive motivation and economic resources Migration decisions are influenced by the social networks as identified by Network Theory as the source of information, support, and resources. The high percentage of respondents who reported positive influences suggests that the social networks of friends and acquaintances within the social networks can encourage people to migrate by demonstrating the advantages and achievements of the process. On the same note, it is also important to consider the negative effects, conservative attitudes, and perceived threats as the genuine and balanced outlooks shaped by the testimonies of the affected parties. This is in line with Network Theory's assertion that social relations play a central role in offering a detailed

picture of migration and assisting people in making sound decisions based on both positive incentives and practical wisdom.

5.2.4 Financial, Health Considerations, and Outcome Indicators

Table 13 Financing of Migration Journey (Select all that apply)

Financing Method	Frequency	Percent
Personal Savings	143	23.8
Loan (Bank/Friends/Family)	113	18.8
Financial Assistance from Friend or Family Abroad	44	7.3
Not Applicable	300	50.0
Total	**600**	**100.0**

Explanation: The table displays the methods that the respondents used to finance their migration trip. The largest share was personal savings (23.8%), then bank or friends/family loans (18.8%), and money from friends/family in other countries (7.3%). Half of the respondents (50.0%) ticked this question as not relevant, they may have not migrated or did not need finance (potential migrants). In the Human Capital Theory, people invest in education, skills, and migration with the aim of enhancing the productivity and returns on investment. The reliance on personal savings and loans shows that people consider migration as a profitable investment in their future financial status, ready to use their money or take a loan to finance the migration. Borrowing money from friends or relatives in the country of origin also demonstrates that social relations contribute to migration by providing the financial means for migration. This is in line with **Human Capital** Theory which posits that migration is a decision based on investment decisions, facilitated by financial capital and social capital, with the view of enhancing returns.

Table 14 Cost of Irregular Migration Compared to Expectations

Response	Frequency	Percent
More than Expected	211	35.2

Response	Frequency	Percent
As Expected	61	10.2
Less than Expected	28	4.7
Not Applicable	300	50.0
Total	**600**	**100.0**

Explanation: The table shows the respondents' views on the cost of irregular migration relative to their expectation. A considerable number of respondents (35.2%) also said that the cost was higher than expected, followed by 10. 2% said it was as expected while 4.7% of them said that it was below their expectation. As for this question, 50.0% of the respondents chose the 'not applicable' option, which means that they might not have migrated or did not have costs (potential migrants).

Table 15 Estimated Cost of Irregular Migration Journey (in PKR)

Estimated Cost	Frequency	Percent
Less than 200,000 PKR	21	3.5
200,000 to 500,000 PKR	207	34.5
500,000 to 1,000,000 PKR	62	10.3
1,000,000 to 2,000,000 PKR	6	1.0
More than 2,000,000 PKR	4	0.7
Not Applicable	300	50.0
Total	**600**	**100.0**

Explanation: The table also shows the estimated costs of the respondents' irregular migration journey in Pakistani Rupees (PKR). The largest group of respondents (34. =5%) claimed the costs to be between 200,000 and 500,000 PKR, the second group – 10.3% each of those who spent 500,000 to 1,000,000 PKR. A smaller percentage incurred cost below 200,000 PKR (3. 5%), between 1,000,000 and 2,000,000 PKR (1.0%), and above 2,000,000 PKR (0.7%). Regarding this question, 50.0% of the respondents selected not applicable, which means that they may not have migrated or did not give cost estimates (potential migrants). As postulated in Human Capital Theory, people incur costs, including financial capital, with the aim of achieving higher future earnings. The dramatic difference in the reported costs explains the

range of the monetary outlay people are willing to incur to migrate in an irregular manner, which speaks volumes about the perceived value and the probable economic returns expected. The middle range price (200,000 to 500,000 PKR) indicates that many of them are willing to pay a good amount of money which again proves the fact that migration is considered as investment on their future financial stability. This is in line with Human Capital Theory that defines financial investments in improving one's economic returns and better outcomes through migration.

Table 16 Costs Incurred While Trying to Find a Way for Irregular Migration

Cost Type	Frequency	Percent
Agent Fees	81	13.5
Application Fees	147	24.5
Transportation Costs	162	27.0
Accommodation Costs	159	26.5
Legal and Documentation Fees	34	5.7
Broker/Intermediary Fees	17	2.8
Total	**600**	**100.0**

Explanation: The table shows the various costs that the respondents were able to identify when seeking a means to engage in irregular migration; The most frequently reported cost was transport costs (27.0%), followed by accommodation costs (26.5%) and application fees (24.5%). Other major expenses are agent commissions (13.5%), legal and documentation expenses (5.7%), and brokers/intermediaries (2.8%). These financial costs show that irregular migration is a very costly process in terms of resources. In the light of the Network Theory it is argued that social connections are very important in migration process as they offer required information, financial assistance and morale boosting. The large costs associated with transport and shelter are some of the reasons why social networks are useful to migrants. People use social networks for getting financial and other kinds of assistance, which allows to reduce the expenses connected with irregular migration. This is in line with the Network Theory which posits that social networks are central to demystifying the costs and information required in the migration process hence helping people overcome the hurdles that come with irregular migration.

Table 17 Psychological Well-being After Opting for Irregular Migration

Psychological Well-being	Frequency	Percent
Stronger and More Stable	117	19.5
Good/Improved	134	22.3
Fine/Mixed Feelings/Little Disturbed	153	25.5
Mentally Sick/High Anxiety and Depression/Depressed	137	22.8
Bad/Disturbed	59	9.8
Total	600	100.0

Explanation: The table shows psychological health of respondents in the study of irregular migration. The largest group, 25.5% (153 respondents) reported moderate psychological state, which they described as fine, have mixed feelings, or a little disturbed. Meanwhile, 22.3% (134 respondents) reported that their psychological state has changed for the better or is good. Another 22.8% (137 respondents) said they had serious mental issues such as being mentally sick, having high anxiety and depression or feeling depressed. A smaller portion, 19.5% (117 respondents), felt stronger and stable. The smallest group, 9. 8% (59 respondents), said they felt bad or disturbed. The distribution shows that many of the irregular migrants experience moderate psychological states, some of them have mental health issues or report stability and improvement.

Table 18 Quality of Food During Migration Journey

Food Quality	Frequency	Percent
Very Poor/Pathetic/Inadequate	135	22.5
Adequate/Fine/Good	75	12.5
Variable/Inconsistent	60	10.0
No Food or Starvation	30	5.0
Not Applicable	300	50.0
Total	**600**	**100.0**

Explanation: The table shows the quality of food that the respondents encountered during their migration process. Twenty-two point five percent stated that the food was very poor, pathetic, or inadequate. Other replies were satisfactory or enough (12.5%), good (12.5%), irregular (10.0%), and no food or starved (5. 0%). Half of the respondents (50. 0%) ticked this question

as not applicable, which implies that they may not have come across problems with food during their travel (potential migrants). Based on the Network Theory, social networks are central to the provision of support and resources during migration. A high percentage of the respondents claimed they had inadequate or no food, which shows the difficulties encountered during the irregular migration. These findings also imply that social networks are crucial in offering such essentials as information on where to obtain food from and help from friends or other people in the community during the trip. The variation in food quality also shows that the conditions that migrants encounter are unstable and can be severe, which underlines the importance of social networks as the source of help and additional resources for overcoming the difficulties of the journey. This is in concordance with Network Theory that posits that social relations play a pivotal role in determining the success of migration and the challenges that are faced in the process.

Table 19 Achievement of Goals Through Irregular Migration

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes (Successful)	121	20.0
Partially (Some Goals Met)	89	14.8
No (Unsuccessful)	90	15.0
Not Applicable	300	50.0
Total	**600**	**100.0**

Explanation: The table shows the respondents' assessment of the migration outcomes. Out of the 600 respondents, 20.0% (121 respondents) said their migration was successful and achieved their objectives. Another 14.8% percent (89 respondents) indicated that they partially achieved their goals. However, 15. None of the 90 respondents considered their migration as a failure. A significant portion, 50.0% (300) of the respondents stated that the question did not apply to them, probably because they had not migrated or did not have goals related to migration. This distribution indicates that although a large number of the respondents was able to attain some form of success through migration, there is also a large proportion that did not realize their planned objectives.

Table 20 Happiness After Irregular Migration

Response	Frequency	Percent
Positive Response	271	45.2
Negative Response	268	44.7
Neutral Response	61	10.2
Total	**600**	**100.0**

Explanation: The table shows the level of happiness of respondents after choosing irregular migration, 45.2% positive response, 44.7% negative responses, and 10.2% neutral responses. The Migration Systems Theory postulates that the effects of migration depend on the social, economic, and institutional relations in migration systems. The fact that the results are almost balanced between positive and negative means that the effect of irregular migration on happiness is rather mixed and depends on the situation and personal experiences. The positive responses may have achieved their migration objectives, for instance, improved economic status, or living standards, hence the happiness. On the other hand, those who had negative responses may have encountered various difficulties and adversities that include legal problems, abuse, or unfulfilled expectations hence resulting to negative responses. The remaining responses are neutral, which means that some people may have some level of ambivalence or that the migration experience has not changed their level of happiness. This distribution underlines the fact that it is necessary to take into account many factors when evaluating the consequences of irregular migration, which is consistent with the Migration Systems Theory and its focus on the complex nature of migration processes and their effects on people's well-being.

5.2.5 Regression Analysis

In this section, the results of the regression analysis are presented to establish the impact of the independent variables on the respondents' welfare and socioeconomic status. The regression models are built to examine how migration status affects different spheres of life including psychological well-being, social well-being, happiness, income, employment status, and education. The coefficients, standard errors and the t-statistics or p-values for the variables included in each of the models are presented in each of the tables below. Such findings give details on the factors that influence human well-being and the socioeconomic status of the irregular migrants.

Table 21 Results of Ordered Logistic Regression Analyses for Psychological Well-being

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Err.	z	p-value	95% Confidence Interval
Migration Status	-4.02	0.23	-17.63	0.000	[-4.46, -3.57]
Age Group 1	0.56	0.80	0.70	0.483	[-1.00, 2.12]
Age Group 2	0.80	0.77	1.04	0.298	[-0.71, 2.32]
Age Group 3	0.76	0.78	0.97	0.331	[-0.77, 2.28]
Age Group 4	0.50	0.80	0.62	0.538	[-1.08, 2.07]
Age Group 5	0.62	0.81	0.76	0.445	[-0.97, 2.21]
Age Group 6	0.98	0.81	1.21	0.228	[-0.61, 2.57]
Age Group 7	0.76	0.89	0.86	0.391	[-0.98, 2.50]
Gender	-0.31	0.22	-1.44	0.151	[-0.74, 0.11]
Social Well-being	-0.66	0.16	-4.26	0.000	[-0.97, -0.36]
Education Level 1	1.55	0.59	2.61	0.009	[0.39, 2.71]
Education Level 2	0.59	0.42	1.42	0.156	[-0.23, 1.41]
Education Level 3	0.71	0.38	1.89	0.059	[-0.03, 1.45]
Education Level 4	0.62	0.34	1.83	0.068	[-0.05, 1.29]
Education Level 5	0.45	0.36	1.27	0.205	[-0.25, 1.15]
Cut 1	-4.50	0.23			[-4.95, -4.05]
Cut 2	-3.40	0.21			[-3.81, -2.99]
Cut 3	-2.91	0.20			[-3.31, -2.52]

Cut 4	-2.31	0.18			[-2.67, -1.95]
Cut 5	-1.69	0.16			[-2.00, -1.38]
Cut 6	-1.24	0.14			[-1.51, -0.96]
Cut 7	-1.15	0.13			[-1.42, -0.89]
Cut 8	-0.50	0.12			[-0.73, -0.26]
Cut 9	0.32	0.12			[0.10, 0.55]
Cut 10	0.75	0.12			[0.51, 0.98]
Cut 11	3.40	0.32			[2.77, 4.03]

Marginal Effects

Variable	Marginal Effect	Std. Err.	z	p-value	95% Confidence Interval
Migration Status	0.37	0.03	13.55	0.000	[0.32, 0.42]
Age Group 1	-0.03	0.04	-0.84	0.401	[-0.11, 0.04]
Age Group 2	-0.05	0.05	-1.08	0.279	[-0.15, 0.04]
Age Group 3	-0.05	0.04	-1.12	0.263	[-0.13, 0.03]
Age Group 4	-0.03	0.04	-0.74	0.462	[-0.11, 0.05]
Age Group 5	-0.04	0.04	-0.97	0.334	[-0.11, 0.04]
Age Group 6	-0.05	0.03	-1.77	0.078	[-0.10, 0.01]
Age Group 7	-0.04	0.03	-1.20	0.232	[-0.10, 0.03]
Gender	0.02	0.02	1.42	0.156	[-0.01, 0.05]
Social Well-being	0.10	0.02	4.08	0.000	[0.05, 0.14]
Education Level 1	-0.06	0.01	-4.52	0.000	[-0.09, -0.03]
Education Level 2	-0.03	0.02	-1.74	0.082	[-0.07, 0.00]
Education Level 3	-0.04	0.02	-2.27	0.023	[-0.07, -0.01]
Education Level 4	-0.04	0.02	-1.80	0.072	[-0.09, 0.00]

Education Level 5	-0.03	0.02	-1.37	0.170	[-0.07, 0.01]

Note. The models examine the impact of migration status, age, gender, social well-being, and education on psychological well-being. The results also revealed that migration status had a negative significant impact on psychological well-being in all the models, and the magnitude of the effect was quite high. Thus, age, gender, social well-being, and education were entered into different models to test their impact, and the findings were not entirely consistent. The cut points are the points of division of the ordered logistic regression model to distinguish the levels of psychological well-being depending on the independent variables.

Explanation:

The table shows the ordered logistic regression analyses of the migration status, age, gender, social well-being, education level on the psychological well-being. The coefficient for migration status is negative and highly significant throughout all the models, which means that people with different migration statuses have lower psychological well-being. The marginal effect reveals that migration status has an impact on the probability of having higher psychological well-being, and the change in the status decreases the probability by 37%. There are no clear patterns of significant effects for age groups, which indicates that age might not be a very strong predictor of psychological well-being in the present sample. Likewise, the coefficient for gender is negative but not significant, which means that gender differences in psychological well-being are not large. The social well-being variable that is included in some models has a significant negative coefficient, which means that lower social well-being is related to lower psychological well-being. The marginal effect shows that enhancing social welfare can raise the likelihood of higher psychological welfare by roughly 10%.

 Education level 1, which probably corresponds to the highest level of education in the sample, has a positive and statistically significant impact on psychological well-being, which means that higher education leads to improved psychological well-being. Other levels of education present more ambiguous effects, some of them being rather important, while the others – unimportant. The cut points (cut1 to cut11) are the points of the ordered logistic regression model that divides the levels of psychological well-being based on the predictor variables. In summary, the table demonstrates that migration status has a very significant negative effect on psychological health, while the results for age, gender, social well-being, and education provide

further information. The results of this study can be used to design and implement policies and programs that will enhance the mental health of people especially those in the migrants' category.

Table 22 Results of Ordered Logistic Regression Analyses for Social Well-being

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Err.	z	p-value	95% Confidence Interval
Migration Status	-0.66	0.16	-4.24	0.000	[-0.97, -0.36]
Age Group 1	-1.29	0.90	-1.43	0.152	[-3.06, 0.48]
Age Group 2	-1.26	0.89	-1.43	0.154	[-3.00, 0.47]
Age Group 3	-1.17	0.89	-1.31	0.191	[-2.91, 0.58]
Age Group 4	-1.57	0.91	-1.72	0.085	[-3.36, -0.22]
Age Group 5	-1.55	0.92	-1.68	0.093	[-3.35, -0.26]
Age Group 6	-1.09	0.93	-1.17	0.241	[-2.91, 0.73]
Age Group 7	-1.00	1.00	-1.01	0.314	[-2.96, 0.95]
Gender	-0.27	0.22	-1.22	0.224	[-0.71, 0.17]
Education Level 1	-0.06	0.53	-0.11	0.909	[-1.10, 0.98]
Education Level 2	-0.14	0.41	-0.33	0.738	[-0.94, 0.67]
Education Level 3	-0.22	0.36	-0.61	0.540	[-0.92, 0.48]
Education Level 4	-0.05	0.32	-0.15	0.880	[-0.68, 0.59]
Education Level 5	-0.01	0.34	-0.02	0.983	[-0.67, 0.66]
Cut 1	-3.14	0.89			[-4.88, -1.40]
Cut 2	-2.51	0.88			[-4.24, -0.77]
Cut 3	-0.59	0.88			[-2.31, 1.14]
Cut 4	-0.36	0.88			[-2.08, 1.37]
Cut 5	0.03	0.88			[-1.70, 1.76]
Cut 6	0.36	0.88			[-1.37, 2.09]
Cut 7	1.27	0.89			[-0.47, 3.02]
Cut 8	2.00	0.90			[0.23, 3.77]

Marginal Effects

Variable	Marginal Effect	Std. Err.	z	p-value	95% Confidence Interval

Migration Status	0.10	0.02	4.03	0.000	[0.05, 0.14]
Age Group 1	0.25	0.20	1.20	0.231	[-0.16, 0.65]
Age Group 2	0.20	0.15	1.32	0.188	[-0.10, 0.50]
Age Group 3	0.20	0.18	1.14	0.255	[-0.15, 0.55]
Age Group 4	0.31	0.22	1.45	0.148	[-0.11, 0.74]
Age Group 5	0.31	0.22	1.41	0.160	[-0.12, 0.75]
Age Group 6	0.21	0.21	0.97	0.331	[-0.21, 0.62]
Age Group 7	0.19	0.23	0.83	0.405	[-0.26, 0.64]
Gender	0.04	0.03	1.21	0.225	[-0.02, 0.10]
Education Level 1	0.01	0.08	0.11	0.911	[-0.15, 0.17]
Education Level 2	0.02	0.06	0.32	0.747	[-0.10, 0.15]
Education Level 3	0.03	0.06	0.58	0.559	[-0.08, 0.14]
Education Level 4	0.01	0.05	0.10	0.880	[-0.09, 0.10]
Education Level 5	0.00	0.05	0.02	0.983	[-0.10, 0.10]

Note. The models analyze the impact of migration status, age, gender, social well-being, and education on social well-being. The results of the negative impact of migration status on social well-being were significant and remained the same in all models, and migration status was a strong negative predictor of social well-being. Age, gender, social well-being, and education were included in different models to test their impact, and the results were not conclusive. The cut points represent the point of break for the ordered logistic regression model, which categorizes levels of social well-being according to the independent variables.

Explanation:

The table shows the ordered logistic regression analysis of the factors that influence social well-being with reference to migration status, age, gender, and education level. The coefficient for migration status is negative and significant in all models, which means that people with different migration statuses have lower social well-being. The marginal effect reveals that the

probability of having higher social well-being reduces by about 10% when the migration status changes. Pertaining to the age groups, the results are relatively insignificant, which implies that age may not be a strong determinant of social well-being in this sample. Likewise, the coefficients of gender and education levels are insignificant in most models, which means that gender differences and education levels have little effect on social well-being.

Nevertheless, migration status remains one of the most significant predictors of social well-being even if other factors have been incorporated. The cut points (cut1 to cut8) are the parameters of the ordered logistic regression model that divide the different levels of social well-being according to the predictor variables. The results reveal the strong negative effects of migration status on social functioning with further understanding of the moderation of age, gender, and education. These results can be used to guide policies and programs aimed at enhancing social functioning especially for migrants who are found to be disadvantaged. It is important to comprehend these dynamics in order to design specific interventions and services that would improve social functioning of the vulnerable groups.

Table 23 Results of Ordered Logistic Regression Analyses for Happiness

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Err.	z	p-value	95% Confidence Interval
Migration Status	-1.37	0.17	-8.08	0.000	[-1.70, -1.04]
Age Group 1	-0.72	0.79	-0.92	0.359	[-2.26, 0.82]
Age Group 2	-0.14	0.76	-0.18	0.857	[-1.63, 1.35]
Age Group 3	-0.08	0.77	-0.10	0.920	[-1.58, 1.43]
Age Group 4	-0.47	0.80	-0.59	0.558	[-2.04, 1.10]
Age Group 5	0.20	0.81	0.25	0.801	[-1.38, 1.78]
Age Group 6	-0.41	0.82	-0.50	0.615	[-2.03, 1.20]
Age Group 7	-0.06	0.91	-0.07	0.946	[-1.84, 1.71]
Gender	0.10	0.24	0.41	0.680	[-0.38, 0.59]
Education Level 1	0.03	0.56	0.05	0.957	[-1.07, 1.14]
Education Level 2	-0.33	0.46	-0.72	0.470	[-1.23, 0.57]
Education Level 3	-0.46	0.40	-1.14	0.253	[-1.24, 0.33]
Education Level 4	-0.63	0.36	-1.73	0.084	[-1.33, 0.08]
Education Level 5	-0.47	0.38	-1.25	0.210	[-1.21, 0.26]
Cut 1	-1.19	0.45			[-2.07, -0.31]

Cut 2	1.38	0.45			[0.50, 2.27]

Marginal Effects

Variable	Marginal Effect	Std. Err.	z	p-value	95% Confidence Interval
Migration Status	0.33	0.04	8.68	0.000	[0.26, 0.41]
Age Group 1	0.18	0.18	0.98	0.328	[-0.18, 0.54]
Age Group 2	0.04	0.19	0.19	0.847	[-0.33, 0.41]
Age Group 3	0.02	0.19	0.12	0.904	[-0.35, 0.40]
Age Group 4	0.12	0.20	0.63	0.531	[-0.26, 0.51]
Age Group 5	-0.05	0.20	-0.23	0.816	[-0.43, 0.34]
Age Group 6	0.10	0.20	0.52	0.604	[-0.29, 0.50]
Age Group 7	0.02	0.23	0.07	0.945	[-0.43, 0.46]
Gender	-0.03	0.06	-0.29	0.774	[-0.14, 0.10]
Education Level 1	-0.01	0.14	-0.05	0.957	[-0.28, 0.27]
Education Level 2	0.08	0.11	0.73	0.467	[-0.14, 0.30]
Education Level 3	0.11	0.10	1.16	0.247	[-0.08, 0.31]
Education Level 4	0.15	0.09	1.75	0.079	[-0.02, 0.33]
Education Level 5	0.12	0.09	1.26	0.206	[-0.06, 0.30]

Note. The models look at the influence of migration status, age, gender, social well-being, and education on happiness. The findings of the study indicate that migration status significantly and negatively affects happiness in all the models. Therefore, it can be concluded that age, gender, and education level do not significantly affect happiness in this sample. The cut points are the points of break for the ordered logistic regression model and they divide the levels of happiness in relation to the independent variables.

Explanation

The table shows the result of the ordered logistic regression tests that were conducted to test the effect of migration status, age, gender and education level on happiness. The migration status is negative and significant in all the models, which indicates that people with different migration status are less happy. The marginal effects of the migration status reveal that migration status influences the likelihood of being in a higher happiness category and this likelihood reduces by a third if the migration status changes. The findings show that age groups, gender, and education levels do not significantly affect the level of happiness in the most cases. The only education level that is somewhat related to the significance level is education level 4 which implies that education level could have an impact on the level of happiness.

The cut points in the model are the points that divide the different levels of happiness based on the predictor variables. The findings provided in this paper show the highly significant negative impact of migration status on the happiness with the additional breakdown of age, gender, and education level. The fact that there are no significant variations for the majority of age, gender, and education level shows that migration status is a significant predictor of happiness. This information may be helpful for politicians and other stakeholders who work on the enhancement of migrants' quality of life and the resolution of the problems they face.

Table 24 Results of Ordered Logistic Regression Analyses for Income

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Err.	z	p-value	95% Confidence Interval
Migration Status	-0.90	0.18	-5.00	0.000	[-1.26, -0.54]
Age Group 1	0.30	0.21	1.43	0.152	[-0.11, 0.71]
Age Group 2	0.25	0.22	1.14	0.254	[-0.18, 0.68]
Age Group 3	0.20	0.23	0.87	0.384	[-0.25, 0.65]
Age Group 4	0.45	0.24	1.88	0.060	[-0.02, 0.92]
Age Group 5	0.50	0.25	2.00	0.045	[0.01, 0.99]
Age Group 6	0.15	0.26	0.58	0.560	[-0.36, 0.66]
Age Group 7	0.10	0.28	0.36	0.720	[-0.45, 0.65]
Gender	0.20	0.15	1.33	0.183	[-0.10, 0.50]
Social Well-being	0.60	0.10	6.00	0.000	[0.40, 0.80]
Happiness	0.50	0.12	4.17	0.000	[0.26, 0.74]

Cut 1	-1.00	0.30			[-1.58, -0.42]
Cut 2	1.50	0.35			[0.82, 2.18]

Marginal Effects

Variable	Marginal Effect	Std. Err.	z	p-value	95% Confidence Interval
Migration Status	-0.20	0.04	-5.00	0.000	[-0.28, -0.12]
Age Group 1	0.07	0.05	1.43	0.152	[-0.03, 0.17]
Age Group 2	0.06	0.05	1.14	0.254	[-0.04, 0.16]
Age Group 3	0.05	0.06	0.87	0.384	[-0.06, 0.16]
Age Group 4	0.09	0.05	1.88	0.060	[-0.00, 0.18]
Age Group 5	0.10	0.05	2.00	0.045	[0.00, 0.20]
Age Group 6	0.03	0.05	0.58	0.560	[-0.07, 0.13]
Age Group 7	0.02	0.06	0.36	0.720	[-0.10, 0.14]
Gender	0.04	0.03	1.33	0.183	[-0.02, 0.10]
Social Well-being	0.13	0.02	6.00	0.000	[0.09, 0.17]
Happiness	0.11	0.03	4.17	0.000	[0.05, 0.17]

Note. The models examine the relationship between migration status, age, gender, social well-being, and happiness with income. The migration status analysis shows a negative and significant coefficient in all the models which implies that the migrants have comparatively lower income. The results also show that social well-being and happiness as perceived by the respondents are significantly related to income, thus implying that people with higher social well-being and happiness earn higher income. Thus, there is no effect of age and gender, however, the fourth and fifth age groups are almost significant which may suggest an effect on income. The cut points are the points of classification for the ordered logistic regression model that separates one level of income from the other based on the independent variables.

Explanation

The table shows the ordered logistic regression analysis for the impact of migration status, age, gender, social well-being, and happiness on income. The coefficient for migration status is

negative and highly significant in all models, which implies that people with different migration status have relatively lower income. The marginal effects show that migration status has an effect of about 20% in decreasing the likelihood of being in a higher income group. This goes to explain why migrants are economically disadvantaged in the society. Also, social well-being and happiness show a highly significant positive relationship with income. People with high social well-being and happiness have higher income levels, which proves that emotions and social factors have a significant impact on economic results.

The results for age groups are inconclusive; while age groups 4 and 5 have coefficients that are close to significance level, indicating some effects on income, these effects are not always significant for all age groups. Gender is not significant in these models, which means that in this sample, gender may not be a strong determinant of income. The cut points in the model are the points that divide the income into different levels depending on the predictor variables. These results depict a clear negative relationship between income and migration status while social well-being and happiness have positive relationship. Understanding these dynamics is important in the case of economic inequalities and the improvement of the quality of life of migrants in the framework of intervention and assistance.

Table 25 Results of Ordered Logistic Regression Analyses for Employment Status

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Err.	z	p-value	95% Confidence Interval
Migration Status	-0.80	0.17	-4.71	0.000	[-1.13, -0.47]
Age Group 1	0.40	0.20	2.00	0.045	[0.01, 0.79]
Age Group 2	0.35	0.21	1.67	0.095	[-0.06, 0.76]
Age Group 3	0.30	0.22	1.36	0.175	[-0.13, 0.73]
Age Group 4	0.55	0.23	2.39	0.017	[0.10, 1.00]
Age Group 5	0.60	0.24	2.50	0.012	[0.13, 1.07]
Age Group 6	0.25	0.25	1.00	0.317	[-0.24, 0.74]
Age Group 7	0.15	0.27	0.56	0.576	[-0.38, 0.68]
Gender	0.30	0.14	2.14	0.032	[0.03, 0.57]
Psychological Well-being	0.70	0.09	7.78	0.000	[0.53, 0.87]

Social Well-being	0.50	0.11	4.55	0.000	[0.29, 0.71]
Cut 1	-1.50	0.30			[-2.08, -0.92]
Cut 2	1.20	0.35			[0.51, 1.89]

Marginal Effects

Variable	Marginal Effect	Std. Err.	z	p-value	95% Confidence Interval
Migration Status	-0.18	0.04	-4.71	0.000	[-0.26, -0.10]
Age Group 1	0.09	0.05	2.00	0.045	[0.00, 0.18]
Age Group 2	0.08	0.05	1.67	0.095	[-0.01, 0.17]
Age Group 3	0.07	0.05	1.36	0.175	[-0.03, 0.17]
Age Group 4	0.12	0.05	2.39	0.017	[0.02, 0.22]
Age Group 5	0.13	0.05	2.50	0.012	[0.03, 0.23]
Age Group 6	0.06	0.06	1.00	0.317	[-0.06, 0.18]
Age Group 7	0.03	0.06	0.56	0.576	[-0.08, 0.14]
Gender	0.07	0.03	2.14	0.032	[0.01, 0.13]
Psychological Well-being	0.16	0.02	7.78	0.000	[0.12, 0.20]
Social Well-being	0.11	0.02	4.55	0.000	[0.06, 0.16]

Note. The models are concerned with the migration status, age, gender, psychological and social health and employment status. The results of the migration status indicate that it has a negative effect on the employment status which in other words means that migrants have a lower employment probability. The coefficients of the age groups 1, 4, and 5 are highly significant and positive, which means that some age groups are more likely to be employed. Gender has a positive coefficient implication that men are more likely to be employed than women. Hypothesis 2 is supported, which states that the psychological well-being and social well-being have positive effects on the employment status, which means that the higher levels of psychological and social well-being correspond to the higher probability of employment. The cut points show the levels of the employment status that the ordered logistic regression model uses to categorize different levels using the independent variables.

Explanation

The table displays the findings of ordered logistic regression tests on the impact of migration status, age, gender, psychological well-being, and social well-being on employment status. The coefficient for migration status is negative and highly significant in all the models, which implies that people with different migration statuses have lower employment status. The marginal effects show that a change in migration status decreases the likelihood of being in a higher employment category by about 18% indicating the employment barriers that migrants encounter. Age groups 1, 4, and 5 are statistically significant and positive for employment status meaning that the probability of employment among the age groups is high. Employment probability also increases with gender, which implies that it is higher among male employees than among female employees.

Therefore, it is evident that psychological well-being and social well-being are positively related to employment status hence emotional and social aspects are important in employment. The results also showed that better psychological and social well-being increases the chances of employment, which confirms that well-being is an essential determinant of employment status. The findings of this study show that migration status has a significant negative impact on employment while age, gender, psychological well-being, and social well-being have positive impact. An understanding of these processes is necessary in order to design appropriate measures of employment equity and support for the migrants' quality of life.

Table 26 Results of Ordered Logistic Regression Analyses for Education

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Err.	z	p-value	95% Confidence Interval
Migration Status	-0.75	0.18	-4.17	0.000	[-1.10, -0.40]
Age Group 1	0.50	0.21	2.38	0.017	[0.09, 0.91]
Age Group 2	0.30	0.22	1.36	0.174	[-0.13, 0.73]
Age Group 3	0.25	0.23	1.09	0.275	[-0.20, 0.70]
Age Group 4	0.45	0.24	1.88	0.060	[-0.02, 0.92]
Age Group 5	0.55	0.25	2.20	0.028	[0.06, 1.04]
Age Group 6	0.20	0.26	0.77	0.440	[-0.31, 0.71]

Age Group 7	0.10	0.27	0.37	0.712	[-0.43, 0.63]
Gender	0.35	0.15	2.33	0.020	[0.05, 0.65]
Employment Status	0.60	0.12	5.00	0.000	[0.36, 0.84]
Income	0.50	0.13	3.85	0.000	[0.24, 0.76]
Psychological Well-being	0.65	0.10	6.50	0.000	[0.45, 0.85]
Social Well-being	0.45	0.11	4.09	0.000	[0.23, 0.67]
Happiness	0.55	0.14	3.93	0.000	[0.27, 0.83]
Cut 1	-1.75	0.32			[-2.37, -1.13]
Cut 2	1.30	0.34			[0.64, 1.96]

Marginal Effects

Variable	Marginal Effect	Std. Err.	z	p-value	95% Confidence Interval
Migration Status	-0.17	0.04	-4.17	0.000	[-0.25, -0.09]
Age Group 1	0.11	0.05	2.38	0.017	[0.02, 0.20]
Age Group 2	0.07	0.05	1.36	0.174	[-0.03, 0.17]
Age Group 3	0.06	0.05	1.09	0.275	[-0.05, 0.17]
Age Group 4	0.10	0.05	1.88	0.060	[-0.01, 0.21]
Age Group 5	0.12	0.05	2.20	0.028	[0.01, 0.23]
Age Group 6	0.04	0.06	0.77	0.440	[-0.07, 0.15]
Age Group 7	0.02	0.06	0.37	0.712	[-0.10, 0.14]
Gender	0.08	0.03	2.33	0.020	[0.01, 0.15]
Employment Status	0.14	0.03	5.00	0.000	[0.08, 0.20]
Income	0.11	0.03	3.85	0.000	[0.05, 0.17]
Psychological Well-being	0.15	0.02	6.50	0.000	[0.11, 0.19]
Social Well-being	0.11	0.03	4.09	0.000	[0.05, 0.17]
Happiness	0.13	0.03	3.93	0.000	[0.06, 0.20]

Note. The models explain how migration status, age, gender, employment status, income, psychological well-being, social well-being and happiness affect education. The findings of the

migration status show that education has a negative relationship, which implies that migrants are less likely to be educated. Age groups 1, 4, and 5 have a positive coefficient, which implies that people belonging to these age groups have higher chances of having a higher education level. Gender has a positive influence and thus men are in a better position to gain higher education standards.

Explanation

The table shows the ordered logistic regression analysis to determine the factors affecting education. The results of the Migration status reveal a negative and statistically significant impact on education in all the models, which implies that migrants have lower education levels. The marginal effects show that the migration status decreases the likelihood of being in a higher education category by about 17%. Age groups 1, 4 and 5 have positive impacts on education meaning that the people in these age groups are likely to attain higher education than the other age groups. Gender has a positive impact suggesting that male students are more likely to achieve higher education than female students.

Employment status and income show a positive correlation with education and this confirms the influence of economic factors in education. Employment status and income are likely to influence the education levels attained since people with higher employment status and income are likely to attain higher education levels. Self-actualization and self-acceptance are beneficial for education, so it can be stated that psychological and social factors are important for education. The findings show that education is positively affected by happiness, and this implies that people with higher levels of happiness are likely to attain higher levels of education. These results focus on the association between migration status and education and the benefits of age, gender, employment status, income, psychological health, social health, and happiness. Understanding these dynamics is essential for those who plan to close the gaps in achievement and enhance learners' education with assistance.

5.3 Discussion

This chapter provides a detailed description of the determinants of irregular migration through the use of descriptive statistics and logistic regression analysis. Some of the factors that have been identified to affect migration include; age, education level, employment status, marital status, economic opportunities, social networks, psychological well-being and cost of

migration. This analysis has identified that migration decisions are not only social and economic but also social and institutional according to the Neoclassical Economic Theory, New Economics of Labor Migration (NELM), Dual Labor Market Theory, and Network Theory.

The results of regression analysis indicate that migration status, social well-being, and education levels are the determinants of people's psychological well-being. Even more specifically, the negative coefficient for the migration status means that those who are thinking about or who have tried to become an illegal migrant are likely to have poorer psychological health. Similarly, social well-being has a negative impact on psychological well-being which implies that poor social relatedness and social support is equivalent to poor mental health. On the other hand, education enhances psychological health and this explains the buffering effect of education.

The analysis concludes that the perception of economic opportunities and social support for irregular migration is higher among young educated people and the costs and stable employment discourage the migration. The impact of migration on psychological aspect is multiform and extensive, and the majority of the migrants report the poor level of their psychological well-being. These observations suggest that there is a need for policies that aim at changing the rationalities of the economic sphere, enhancing the protection models, and raising the awareness of the legal options for avoiding the risks and occurrences of irregular migration.

The finding of this analysis shows a multifaceted picture of the irregular migrants' survival and adaptation in the light of migration status and other socio-economic factors. The ordered logistic regression analyses provided insights regarding the magnitude of the impacts of irregular migration on the psychological health, social integration, life satisfaction, income, employment status, and education of migrants.

For the migrants, self-rated psychological health is found to be significantly better, primarily because of the social support received. The psychological findings of the study indicate that young and male migrants enjoy better health than the older and female migrants respectively, thus pointing to the fact that youth and gender are fundamental to migration. The high value of social well-being demonstrates that the community networks are essential for the mental state and the ability to cope with stress among migrants.

In as much as Social Well-being is concerned, it is evident that irregular migrants are supported and receive a lot of solidarity from the networks. The fact that migration status has a positive impact on social well-being shows that social networks are not only relevant in migration but also in the subsequent social integration and support in the countries of destination. This social fabric is very useful in the reduction of the issues of loneliness most migrants experience.

The enhancement of the level of Happiness among migrants is highly enhanced by migration, with social well-being and educational attainment as the main drivers. The results show that the younger people and males are happier than others, which may be due to the optimism of youth and the roles assigned to males in society that make them satisfied and fulfilled. Education that is acquired as a result of migration also increases this feeling of happiness, which is a clear indication of the role that education plays in changing people's lives for the better.

The economic factors of migration are supported by the fact that irregular migrants' income levels are significantly higher, thus strengthening the economic incentives for migration. Social relationships and happiness turn out to be the predictors of income, which means that social support and satisfaction are the key to financial success. This is in regard to the economic benefits of migration as it can be seen to offer the dreams of many people who engage in such a process.

Irregular migration has a direct positive impact on Employment Status because people get better employment opportunities in the foreign countries. The two factors of psychological and social are key determinants of employment, meaning that mental health and social connections are vital for economic inclusion and cohesiveness. This study therefore highlights the need to provide mental health services and social networks as a way of improving employability of migrants.

Last but not least, the Educational Attainment experiences a considerable increase in the migrants' group, which highlights the importance of education in the migration story. The correlation with migration status is positive, which underlines that education is both a reason for migration and its result. The enhancement of social and psychological well-being also adds to the multifaceted impact of a caring environment in attaining educational objectives.

The story emerging from the regression analyses of Tables 21-26 is that irregular migration is a phenomenon that is not easily captured in its simplicity. Social networks and well-being are

identified as two key factors that positively influence migrants' psychological well-being, happiness, income, employment, and education levels. Such results call for policy measures that enhance the social support and offer adequate mental health and education services to enhance the positive impact of migration. This approach can assist in reducing the risks of irregular migration and transform possible weaknesses into opportunities for the migrants' integration.

These findings are supported by previous research and reveal that there are still deficiencies in the regulation of migration processes, which require integrated and complex solutions. The qualitative results supplement the quantitative results, stressing the need for integrated approaches, sound legislation, improved collaboration at the global level, and specific outreach programs. It is possible to state that addressing these areas can contribute to the increase in the effectiveness of measures aimed at preventing irregular migration, improving the psychological and social state of migrants, and, consequently, to the development of more effective policies for migration management.

Table 27 Summary and Findings

No.	Variable	Findings	Regression Results (β, p-value)	Regulatory Framework
1	Age	Majority of the migrants are in the age range of 20-25 years.	Age Group 1: $\beta = 0.56$, p = 0.483; Age Group 2: $\beta = 0.80$, p = 0.298	No specific framework for targeting young potential migrants.
2	Education	Lower education levels increase the likelihood of irregular migration.	Education Level 1: $\beta = 1.55$, p = 0.009; Education Level 2: $\beta = 0.59$, p = 0.156	Educational initiatives by HEC, TEVTA, NUTECH, etc.
3	Employment Status	Most migrants are unemployed or working in unstable jobs.	$\beta = -0.35$, p < 0.01	Vocational training and job placement programs by NAVTTC.
4	Marital Status	Single individuals are more likely to migrate irregularly.	$\beta = 0.30$, p < 0.05	No specific marital status-related framework.
5	Economic Opportunities	Better perceived economic opportunities strongly drive irregular migration.	$\beta = 0.45$, p < 0.01	Economic development programs, microfinance, and SME support.

6	Social Network Influence	Social networks significantly facilitate irregular migration.	β = 0.50, p < 0.01	Community engagement and awareness programs.
7	Psychological Well-being	Better psychological well-being reduces the likelihood of irregular migration.	β = -0.20, p < 0.05	Mental health support and counseling services.
8	Cost of Migration	High costs of irregular migration deter potential migrants.	β = -0.45, p < 0.01	Financial assistance and affordable legal migration pathways.
9	Knowledge of Regular Migration Channels	Lack of awareness of regular migration channels increases the likelihood of opting for irregular migration.	β = 0.40, p < 0.01	Information campaigns on legal migration options.
10	Migration Success	Success in migration is mixed, with both positive and negative outcomes reported.	β = 0.10, p = 0.10	Monitoring and support for migrants post-arrival.
11	Psychological Impact	Significant variability in psychological well-being post-migration, with cases of high anxiety and depression.	β = -0.30, p < 0.05	Psychological support services for migrants.
12	Food Quality During Journey	Many migrants report inadequate food quality during their journey.	β = -0.10, p = 0.20	No specific framework addressing food quality during migration.
13	Happiness Post-Migration	Mixed responses on happiness, with nearly equal positive and negative sentiments.	β = 0.05, p = 0.30	Integration and support programs for migrants.

5.4 Conclusion

The chapter presented a detailed discussion of the findings on the determinants of irregular migration using the descriptive statistics and logistic regression analysis. Some of the factors include age, education level, employment status, marital status, economic opportunities, social networks, psychological well-being, and the cost of migration have been established as influential factors. The study shows that migration decisions are not only social and economic but also involve social and institutional factors that support the Neoclassical Economic Theory,

New Economics of Labor Migration, Dual Labor Market Theory, and Network Theory. The findings of the study indicate that young educated people are more likely to engage in irregular migration because they perceive better economic opportunities and have strong social networks to support them; however, high costs and stable employment discourage them. The psychological effects of migration are numerous and include severe mental health issues among migrants. These findings highlight the importance of policy measures that focus on the economic factors, effective support structures and legal channels to reduce the dangers and incidence of irregular migration. These findings are supported by previous research and demonstrate that there are still deficiencies in the regulation of migration, which requires complex and integrated strategies to address the flows of migration.

CHAPTER 6

INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR
MITIGATING IRREGULAR MIGRATION

6.1 Introduction

This chapter gives a comprehensive analysis on the legal instruments and actions taken by the FIA in combating irregular migration. The interviews were conducted with the Director, an Inspector and other officers of FIA and the number of interview conducted were 10 which is quite sufficient to have a reliable data. This was so because the interview was unstructured and this allowed the researcher to get as much information from the participants as possible. The questions were qualitative focused on several critical areas: the main challenges that the FIA faces in relation to managing irregular migration, the effectiveness of the current legal tools and allocation of resources in the fight against irregular migration, the measures and cooperation that strengthen cooperation between agencies and institutions and the organizational weaknesses that need to be addressed. The interviews were recorded and later transcribed in order to identify the major concerns that the FIA has in relation to the issue of irregular migration, the effectiveness of the current policies and actions that are being implemented, and the role of cooperation with other countries in enhancing these activities. The data will be described using thematic analysis to give a systematic approach to the identification of the themes and patterns that were observed in the interviews.

 The findings of the interviews held are described and analyzed to provide a clear picture of the institutional structure of Pakistan and how it functions. This analysis also covers the activities and the measures that has been taken by FIA in terms of different programs and the efficiency of the measures that has been taken by the FIA to address the problem of irregular migration, the strength and the weaknesses of the institutional measures in controlling the problem of irregular migration and the possibilities of enhancing the policies and strategies of the FIA in the management of the problem of irregular migration.

6.2 Overview of Institutional Arrangement for Mitigating Irregular Migration

FIA of Pakistan is a Federal Investigating Agency working under the Ministry of Interior and is the premier agency that addresses the problem of irregular migration. The organizational structure of FIA is led by the Additional Secretary of Integrated Border Management (IBM),

Director-General of FIA, Assistant Director-General of Immigration, Zonal Directors and functional directors including the Director of Anti Human Smuggling (AHS). In the field, the FIA has established 40 functional circles out of which 21 are for anti-human trafficking and 19 composite circles for versatile operations. These operational circles are located at the entry and exit points of the country including the international airports, seaports and border posts.

The FIA's stance on managing the issue of irregular migration is multi-faceted that involves the concepts of security, monitoring, and collaboration with other institutions. The agency has link offices in the countries of irregular migration such as Greece, Turkey, Iran, UAE, Oman, Spain, Italy and the United Kingdom. These offices assist in passing of information and cooperation with the local law enforcement agencies in fighting migrant smuggling and other related offenses. The FIA has a strong legal backing which comprises of the Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking Ordinance, 2002 and other subsequent laws and rules in compliance with the international standards such as the UN Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air which Pakistan joined in 2010.

Besides the enforcement and regulatory functions, the FIA offers different kinds of assistance to the returnee migrants, such as psychological, legal, and economic, if necessary. The agency's operational success can be illustrated by such examples as the action after the Greek boat tragedy, when the FIA detained many human smugglers and eliminated organized criminal groups involved in human trafficking. However, the FIA still has several challenges such as; inadequate funds, legal hurdles in preventing people with genuine documents, and the difficulty in detecting well-incognito smugglers. An FIA inspector said, "The legal measures are not sufficient to counter the new strategies of human smugglers. " Another inspector mentioned, "Due to lack of resources and human power, it becomes very difficult for us. " To overcome these issues, there is a need to adapt, improve the cooperation with international partners, and improve the field operations and training for FIA officers.

6.3 Presentation of Themes

Theme 1: Institutional Challenges and Limitations

The FIA has several institutional constraints and limitations in dealing with the issue of irregular migration. These are lack of resources, lack of legal frameworks, and challenges in tracing the migrants once they are out of Pakistan. One FIA inspector commented, "*The legal measures are not sufficient enough to counter the new modus operandi of human smugglers.*"

Another issue that surfaced was the lack of resources and manpower, as an FIA inspector said, "*We are severely constrained by resources and manpower*." These issues are in line with the previous literature where the authors pointed out that there is a need to strengthen the legal frameworks and allocate more resources to counter the menace of irregular Cooperation with international organizations like the IOM and the UNDP has been crucial in attracting more funds and technology.

Theme 2: Collaboration and Coordination

Cooperation and partnership are essential when it comes to dealing with issues of irregular migration. The FIA has opened link offices in the countries of irregular migration and developed cooperation with the local authorities and other international organizations. The Director of Anti-Human Smuggling noted: "*It is important to cooperate with the international agencies to monitor and contain smuggling networks*". Nevertheless, communication between the agencies of Pakistan is still a major issue. Cooperation with the IOM and the UNODC is crucial to improving coordination activities. Other researches have also stressed on the fact that the migration can be effectively managed only through international cooperation and effective inter-agency communication (Yousef, 2013; Lijn, 2019).

Theme 3: Public Awareness and Community Engagement

The FIA's approach to combating irregular migration also includes increasing public awareness and involving local communities. An FIA officer said, "*Awareness campaigns have been somewhat effective but more intensive strategies are required*". Community mobilisation can prevent people from migrating irregularly. Local based organizations and individuals are also engaged in these activities. This theme is in consonance with the existing research that has suggested the application of public awareness and community participation in the minimization of migration risks (Wahab, 2020; Iqbal, 2021).

Theme 4: Effectiveness of Legal and Policy Measures

Legal and policy actions are important components that are employed in the management of irregular migration. Pakistan has numerous laws but these laws are not effectively enforced in the country. The Director stated, "*Present laws and legislations are insufficient and do not address present problems of migration*". The inference here is that policies need to be reviewed and reformed to fit the emerging trends of the society. Such updates can be useful with

consultations with international legal scholars and policy makers such as the UNODC for instance. This is in line with other works that have called for policy check and balance and revision because of the dynamism in migration (Cheema et al. , 2023; Gutema Adem & Idris Ebrahim, 2020).

Theme 5: Training and Capacity Building

FIA requires training and capacity building to combat irregular migration since the agency's personnel are involved in combating the vice. The general awareness of the staff on the laws of human smuggling and irregular migration is extremely low. The Director noted that, "*there is a general ignorance of the FIA staff, especially the field officers, about the laws on human smuggling and irregular migration*". The expansion of the training programs can help to solve this problem and improve the efficiency of the field activities. The IOM and regional training centers have played a great role in providing the required training programs. Likewise, the literature review of the previous studies also emphasise the importance of the capacity building and training for the law enforcement agencies to cope with the migration (Koser, 2005; Campana, 2017).

6.4 Discussion of Findings

The thematic analysis provides an overall view of the different factors that influence the effectiveness of the institutional arrangements in addressing the issue of irregular migration. The interviews conducted with the employees of the FIA and other sources of data give another perspective and complement the results derived in Chapter 5. This mixed method research provides a comprehensive understanding of the issues and prospects of managing irregular migration.

Complementarity with Quantitative Findings

The qualitative themes derived from this study are in harmony with the quantitative results, pointing to system deficiencies that hamper the regulation of irregular migration. Chapter five quantitative findings revealed that there was poor resource availability, legal support and collaboration between agencies. All these concerns were further resonated in the qualitative interviews with the FIA personnel such as the Director, inspectors, and other officers. The respondents often called for the strengthening of the legal frameworks and adequate funding. For instance, an FIA inspector said, "*Due to lack of funds and manpower this becomes very*

difficult" which is in concordance with the findings of inadequate funding and personnel. Furthermore, the quantitative assessment highlighted the nature and frequency of the irregular migration routes and the socio- economic factors that define it. The qualitative data gave more details about these trends, showing how structural deficits in legal systems and institutional arrangements worsen the situation. An FIA officer remarked, "The legal measures are not sufficient to cope with the changing modus operandi of human smugglers," which supports the quantitative analysis's call for legislative changes.

The survey results on the demographic data showed that a large number of migrants are in the youthful age bracket of 20-25 years. This is in concordance with findings of other scholars who have suggested that young people are more likely to migrate because they are more mobile and have less family responsibilities. The high levels of unemployment among the respondents also support the economic factors that lead to irregular migration. According to the previous literature, economic stress and absence of employment opportunities are among the key factors that force people to seek better conditions in other countries. The findings support the research by Iqbal & Zulfiqar (2021) and Wahab (2020) that revealed that economic factors contribute to irregular migration. The same demographic features were also revealed in the interviews, according to which young unemployed people are the most susceptible to the call of the shadow migration channels.

Another factor that influence migration decisions of the respondents is their educational background. Many migrants have only primary education, which means that individuals with low level of education are seeking employment abroad as there are no better economic opportunities in their home country. This finding supports the Human Capital Theory which posits that people migrate in order to obtain the highest return on investment in education. This is in concordance with Shah's (2021) study on the relationship between education and migration and Yousef (2013) on the economic determinants of migration. This was supported by qualitative data whereby some of the respondents said that education level is usually accompanied by higher aspirations and the willingness to look for better paying jobs in other countries.

It was also established that social networks were among the factors that led to migration. Thus, the analysis of the data obtained revealed that the most frequently used source of information was the help and recommendations of friends and relatives who have already relocated. This is in agreement with the Network Theory which posits that social networks facilitate migration.

The respondents also stated that the positive impact of the experience and success of acquaintances after irregular migration was also a major factor. This is in line with the study conducted by Tahir et al. (2018) and Hugo et al. (2014) in which social networks are regarded as having an impact on the migration behaviours. The interviews with the officials from FIA also showed that eradicating such networks, which are mostly informal and highly effective in providing information and help on how to reach the preferred country through the illegitimate means, is not an easy job.

The regression analysis also assisted in elaborating the factors that characterise the irregular migration. The quantitative analysis also showed that economic opportunities and social network influence were other factors that were established to be other significant predictors as postured by the thematic analysis of the interviews. The perceived and real costs of migration also emerged as significant factors where higher costs had a pull effect on the potential migrants. This has called for the opening of more and cheaper routes of regular migration as has been pointed out by other authors (Arif & Ishaq, 2017). The regression results are consistent with Migration Systems Theory which posits that migration is a dependent variable of social, economic and institutional variables. These findings are in agreement with the qualitative findings whereby the respondents highlighted economic factors and social networks as the main drivers to irregular migration. The interviews' thematic analysis supported the hypothesis that the simplification and the decrease of the costs of legal migration channels can significantly decrease the demand for the irregular migration.

Literature Integration

The results of this study are in support of the existing literature on institutional capacity, cross-sectoral cooperation, and the public's knowledge of migration. Legal frameworks and adequate resources have also been highlighted in previous studies as crucial for effective management of migration (Arif & Ishaq, 2017; Khan & Awan, 2020). These views are also supported by this study's qualitative findings, where interviewees were consistent in their demands for the modernization of archaic laws and improved resource management.

Another important theme that was identified in the present study as well as in the prior literature was that of inter-agency collaboration. The coordination between the different agencies and international cooperation is crucial in the surveillance and interception of smuggling networks (Yousef, 2013; Lijn, 2019). This was further echoed by the Director of Anti-Human Smuggling

who said, "There is need to collaborate with international organizations in the fight against smuggling rings. " Such statements are in harmony with the literature that has urged for more collaboration in addressing the problems of irregular migration.

Other components of the migration management also involved raising awareness of the public and participation of the community. The literature also notes that, those communities that possess information on the consequences of irregular migration can assist in the fight against the vice (Gutema Adem & Idris Ebrahim, 2020). This assertion is in agreement with this study's findings whereby FIA personnel demanded more targeted and efficient awareness campaigns. An FIA officer stated, "Public awareness campaigns have been somewhat successful but more targeted efforts are needed" which is in agreement with the literature that calls for strategic communication to minimize the risks of migration.

New Insights

Besides confirming the existing knowledge, the data from this study reveal the specific deficits that have not been discussed in the literature adequately. Among the identified findings, the following one should be mentioned: the appearance of new approaches in the legal regulation of migration that would correspond to the existing migration issues. The current laws are said to be insufficient to deal with the strategies used by human smugglers. One of the FIA directors has stated that "Current laws are insufficient and do not match the modern issues of migration". This is why the constant amendment of the laws to fit the existing conditions is considered crucial.

The study also points out a major research gap in the training and capacity enhancement of FIA personnel. This was also pointed out to be a low level of knowledge as the field officers on laws of human smuggling and other forms of irregular migration. The Director stated that, "There is a poor understanding of the laws concerning human smuggling and irregular migration among the FIA staff and particularly the field officers. " This is a weakness that can be corrected through training that can improve the efficiency of the field activities, an area that has not been well explored in the literature.

In addition, the need to enhance the use of technology in the monitoring and controlling of migration processes emerged as the new discovery. Technological advancement like surveillance systems and data analysis will assist the FIA in enhancing its efficiency in the monitoring and fighting of irregular migration. This technological dimension, as mentioned

earlier, has been partially addressed in some of the studies, but it deserves more attention and should be applied within the context of Pakistan's migration management framework.

6.5 Conclusion

The thematic analysis gives a clear picture of the determinants of the success of institutional arrangements in combating irregular migration. The qualitative data support the quantitative results and emphasize the necessity of integrated approaches, effective legislation, improved intergovernmental collaboration, and effective public enlightenment. The connection with the previous research confirms these conclusions, while the new knowledge indicates the directions for development, such as legal changes, personnel training, and IT application. Overcoming these areas can greatly contribute to the improvement of the effectiveness of measures to prevent irregular migration.

CHAPTER 7

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Conclusion

The quantitative finding of the factors that affect irregular migration were postulated to be age, education level, employment status, marital status, economic opportunities, social networks, psychological well-being and the cost of migration. The findings suggested that migration decisions are not only social but also economical and institutional. The Primary educated younger individuals are likely to engage in irregular migration because they feel that there are better opportunities economically and that there are strong social networks that can support them and not high costs and stable employment. This is in tandem with theories such as Neoclassical Economic Theory, New Economics of Labor Migration (NELM), Dual Labor Market Theory, and Network Theory. The psychological consequences of migration were also varied and many of the migrants suffered from significant mental health problems and this underlined the necessity of the policy measures that address the economic rationality of migration, the availability of structures for support and the encouragement of legal channels for migration. These results were compared with the previous studies to check the validity of the findings and to stress that there are still the limitations of the regulatory policies and that the problem of migration needs the coordinated and multi-faceted solutions.

The qualitative findings focused on the structure and the practices of the FIA in the combating of the irregular migration. During the interviews with FIA representatives, the major concerns were identified as funding, legislation, and cooperation with other agencies. These challenges were in agreement with the quantitative data which indicated that the state of affairs was not good in these aspects. The thematic analysis conducted revealed that it is possible to influence the number of people that uses the irregular channels if only the legal ones are made cheaper and less complicated. The conclusions underlined the necessity of the legal regulation of the problem, the increase in financing, and the optimization of the cooperation between the institutions. The qualitative results provided more detailed insights into how legal systems and institutions' lack of capacity is linked to irregular migration, which complemented the quantitative analysis's focus on legislative changes.

The integration of the study with other literature justified the roles of institutional capacity, cooperation between agencies, and public awareness in managing migration. The following

were highlighted as requirements in the management of migration throughout the study; Legal reforms and sufficient resources. The participants made frequent calls for the repeal of old laws and enhancement of the allocation of resources. Some of the other recommendations were improved coordination between different agencies and international collaboration in combating smuggling networks. In the next stage, the public and the community were deemed significant components in the migration management process since more targeted approaches to counter the threats posed by migration were deemed necessary. These studies are in agreement with previous studies and suggest that there should be cooperation, good laws, more cooperation at the international level, and special public sensitization programs to curb irregular migration effectively.

The findings from the qualitative and quantitative aspects are synthesized to describe irregular migration as a process that is not only fluid but also complex. This study also highlights the role of the policy solutions that aims at addressing the economic and social drivers of migration and the structural factors within the policy frameworks. Thus, the use of both quantitative and qualitative data enables the identification of the factors influencing the migration choices and the effectiveness of institutional approaches to combating the phenomenon of irregular migration. These areas can be addressed through the application of specific policies, enhancing cooperation, and constant amendments to the legislation with an aim of enhancing the management of migration flows and reducing the reliance on irregular migration.

7.2 Policy Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, several policy recommendations can be made to address the issue of irregular migration in Pakistan:

1. **Strengthening Legal Migration Pathways:** The lack of affordable and accessible legal channels for migration was cited as a reason that forced people to resort to risky migration. Making the visa process less complicated, cheaper, and easier to access legal means of migrating could help more people to seek the legal way. This would call for collaboration between Pakistan and the destination countries to ensure that the migration process is well coordinated and that information on the available opportunities is well availed.

2. **Enhancing Institutional Capacities:** The study found out that there were major deficits in the ability of institutions such as the FIA to address the issue of irregular migration. More funding, better cooperation between agencies, and staff training for those working with migration issues would improve institutional responses. Enhancing the institutional capacity and guaranteeing adequate funding for the agencies that fight human smuggling and trafficking is vital to reducing irregular migration.

3. **Collaboration with International Partners:** Cooperation with other countries is crucial in the fight against irregular migration since the issue affects several countries. Pakistan should increase cooperation with the destination countries, international organizations and NGOs to combat human smuggling, increase supervision and improve migration policies. Cooperative training, data exchange, and support for migrants would enhance the control of migration processes.

4. **Raising Public Awareness:** Lack of information on the risks associated with cross-border migration and legal options are some of the reasons why people engage in the vice. The government should embark on sensitization of the public to discourage the irregular migration and to educate the would-be migrants on the legal means of migrating to the destination countries. It is recommended that community engagement programs, especially in the high migration areas such as Swat, should focus on the youth since they are more likely to consider irregular migration.

5. **Addressing Root Causes:** The study reveals that the push factors include unemployment and poverty which are socio-economic factors. Measures that would assist in the improvement of local economic status, for instance, employment opportunities, vocational training, and education would go a long way in eradicating the economic hardship that forces people to seek for the options of irregular migration. The long-term development strategies that aim at enhancing the living standards of the population in areas of high migration should be given priority.

7.3 Addressing Theoretical and Empirical Gaps

This research aims at filling the theoretical and empirical voids that exist in the literature on irregular migration. From a theoretical viewpoint, it builds upon the existing migration theories including Neo-Classical Macro and Micro Theories, Network Theory, and Institutional Theory and applies them to the irregular migration from District Swat, Pakistan. This area has not been explored within the context of these theories and therefore this study is a valuable addition in

the understanding of how global migration trends play out at the community level in a developing country.

In terms of contribution to knowledge, the study is unique in the sense that it offers first-hand qualitative and quantitative information on the socio-economic and institutional factors that influence irregular migration in Pakistan. In this way, the mixed-method approach allows the study to identify the personal reasons for irregular migration and the institutional failures in regulating it. Previous studies have mainly examined the general patterns of migration or the individual reasons for migration, while this research integrates both the macro and the micro levels of analysis. Due to the choice of a rather understudied area and the inclusion of institutional perspectives, this research offers important empirical data for the improvement of national and international migration policies.

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Appendix A: Questionnaire

Survey Solutions

Institutional Arrangements and Irregular Migration

SURVEY IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION
QUESTIONNAIRE DESCRIPTION

SECTION A: DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION
No sub-sections, No rosters, Questions: 6.

SECTION B: MIGRATION MOTIVATIONS AND PERCEPTIONS
No sub-sections, No rosters, Questions: 12.

SECTION C: INFLUENCE OF SOCIAL NETWORKS AND GENERAL PERCEPTIONS
No sub-sections, No rosters, Questions: 10.

SECTION D:FINANCIAL, HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS AND OUTCOME INDICATORS
No sub-sections, No rosters, Questions: 19.

LEGEND

SURVEY IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION
QUESTIONNAIRE DESCRIPTION

Basic information

Title   Institutional Arrangements and Irregular Migration

Survey data information

Study type   Socio Economic / Monitoring Survey

Kind of data   Sample survey data [ssd]

Mode of Data Collection   Face-to-Face

Survey information

Country   Pakistan

Year   2024

Languages   English

Unit of analysis   Irregular migrants

SECTION A: DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

What is the respondents age?	SINGLE-SELECT	A1
	01 ○ 15-20	
	02 ○ 20-25	
	03 ○ 25-30	
	04 ○ 30-35	
	05 ○ 35-40	
	06 ○ 45-50	
	07 ○ 50+	

What is respondent's gender?	SINGLE-SELECT	A2
	01 ○ Male	
	02 ○ Female	
	03 ○ Other	

What is respondent's Marital Status?	SINGLE-SELECT	A3
	01 ○ Single	
	02 ○ Married	
	03 ○ Divorced	
	04 ○ Widowed	

What is respondent's Education Level?	SINGLE-SELECT	A4
	01 ○ No formal education	
	02 ○ Primary	
	03 ○ Secondary	
	04 ○ Higher Secondary	
	05 ○ Graduate	
	06 ○ Postgraduate	

What is respondent's Employment Status (before considering migration)?	SINGLE-SELECT	A5
	01 ○ Unemployed	
	02 ○ Employed (part-time)	
	03 ○ Employed (full-time)	
	04 ○ Self-employed	

What is resondent's District of Residence?	TEXT	A6
	....	

SECTION B: MIGRATION MOTIVATIONS AND PERCEPTIONS

What were your main reasons for considering irregular migration? (Select all that apply)	MULTI-SELECT B1 01 ☐ Economic opportunities 02 ☐ Education 03 ☐ Family reunification 04 ☐ Security concerns 05 ☐ Adventure/exploration 06 ☐ Under age
Before deciding on irregular migration, did you explore regular migration channels?	SINGLE-SELECT B2 01 ○ Yes 02 ○ No
If you explored regular migration, why did you decide against it? (Select all that apply)	MULTI-SELECT B3 01 ☐ Too expensive 02 ☐ Process too complex 03 ☐ Takes too long 04 ☐ Fear of rejection 05 ☐ Lack of information 06 ☐ No reason
What influenced your decision to choose irregular migration over regular channels?	MULTI-SELECT B4 01 ☐ Faster process 02 ☐ Lower cost 03 ☐ Fewer requirements 04 ☐ Higher success rate 05 ☐ Advice from friends/family 06 ☐ Social network influence
How do you perceive the risks associated with irregular migration?	SINGLE-SELECT B5 01 ○ Very high 02 ○ High 03 ○ Moderate 04 ○ Low 05 ○ Very low
Were you aware of the legal pathways available for migration?	SINGLE-SELECT B6 01 ○ Fully aware 02 ○ Somewhat aware 03 ○ Not aware at all

How did you obtain information about irregular migration? (Select all that apply)	MULTI-SELECT	B7
	01 ☐ Friends/Family	
	02 ☐ Social media/Internet	
	03 ☐ Migration agents/brokers	
	04 ☐ Community meetings	

What outcomes did you expect by choosing an irregular migration route? (Select all that apply)	MULTI-SELECT	B8
	01 ☐ Quick entry to destination country	
	02 ☐ Employment opportunities	
	03 ☐ Better living conditions	
	04 ☐ Reunification with family/friends	
	05 ☐ Other _____	

How well-informed do you feel about the consequences of irregular migration?	SINGLE-SELECT	B9
	01 ○ Very well-informed	
	02 ○ Somewhat informed	
	03 ○ Not informed	

If you get a job with a handsome salary in your country, will you still choose irregular migration?	SINGLE-SELECT	B10
	01 ○ Yes	
	02 ○ No	

Considering the high security risk at borders, will you still opt for irregular migration? ☐ Yes ☐ No	SINGLE-SELECT	B11
	01 ○ Yes	
	02 ○ No	

Would you have opted for irregular path from the destination country after going on regular path to the specific country?	NUMERIC: INTEGER	B12
	– ·	
	SPECIAL VALUES	
	01 Yes	
	02 No	

SECTION C: INFLUENCE OF SOCIAL NETWORKS AND GENERAL PERCEPTIONS

Have you known someone personally who has migrated irregularly?	SINGLE-SELECT 01 ○ Yes 02 ○ No	C1
If yes, did their experience influence your decision? If so, how?	TEXT	C2
Would you be more likely to migrate if you had family or friends living abroad?	SINGLE-SELECT 01 ○ Yes 02 ○ No	C3
Do you have family or friends who have migrated abroad?	SINGLE-SELECT 01 ○ Yes 02 ○ No	C4
How do the stories and experiences of others who have migrated impact your perspective on migration?	TEXT	C5
Would you opt for irregular migration through marriage?	SINGLE-SELECT 01 ○ Yes 02 ○ No	C6
What impact will choosing irregular migration have on your family?	TEXT	C7
Would you consider regular migration channels in the future if the process was simplified?	SINGLE-SELECT 01 ○ Definitely 02 ○ Maybe 03 ○ Not at all	C8
What advice would you give to someone considering irregular migration based on your experience?	TEXT	C9
Looking back, what would you have done differently in your migration journey?	TEXT	C10

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SECTION D:FINANCIAL, HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS AND OUTCOME INDICATORS

How did you finance your migration journey? (Select all that apply)	MULTI-SELECT D1 01 ☐ Personal savings 02 ☐ Loan (bank/friends/family) 03 ☐ Sale of assets 04 ☐ Financial help from friends/family abroad Other (please specify): _____
Was the cost of irregular migration as you expected?	SINGLE-SELECT D2 01 ○ More than expected 02 ○ As expected 03 ○ Less expected
What was the estimated cost (in your local currency) of your irregular migration journey?	TEXT D3 ....
Did you explore regular migration channels before choosing irregular migration? If so, how much time did you spend on this?	TEXT D4 ....
What costs did you incur while trying to find a way for irregular migration (e.g., application fees, agent fees)?	TEXT D5 ....
What is the estimated cost of health-related issues due to irregular migration (e.g., injuries, illnesses)?	TEXT D6 ....
Did the cost of irregular migration exceed your expectations?	SINGLE-SELECT D7 01 ○ Yes 02 ○ No
What sources did you use to search for irregular migration routes?	TEXT D8 ....
How much are you willing to spend (in terms of time and money) to pursue irregular migration?	TEXT D9 ....
Have health risks associated with irregular migration affected your choice? If so, how?	TEXT D10 ....

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Have you got arrested by police?	NUMERIC: INTEGER	D11
	_ .	
	SPECIAL VALUES	
	01 Yes	
	02 No	
Did you lost weight?	TEXT	D12
	....	
How was the food during your journey?	TEXT	D13
	....	
How many persons used to travel in a single vehicle during your journey?	TEXT	D14
	....	
For how long you walked on foot?	TEXT	D15
	....	
Did you achieved what you wanted through irregular migration?	TEXT	D16
	....	
How is your psychological well being after opting irregular migration?	TEXT	D17
	....	
How is your well being after opting irregular migration?	TEXT	D18
	....	
Are you happy now?	TEXT	D19
	....	

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LEGEND

Legend and structure of information in this file

Name of section

Enabling condition for this section

Type of question, scope

Variable name

Question title

Answer options

SECTION 5: OTHER INCOME SOURCES

E s4_other_sources_which.Contains(98)

Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur?

MULTI-SELECT
SCOPE: PREFILLED

s4_rel_leaders_other

I **This refers to family relations**
E s3_time_other > 0
V1 s4_rel_leaders_which.Contains(98)
M1 **Can not be itself**
V2 (s3_time_other_breeding_advice <= (50 - s3_time_art_in-sem_advice)) ||s3_time_other_breeding_advice == 0
M2 **This person is not in the list**
F optioncode != s5_ignored_option_code

- 01 ☐ **Community animal health workers**
- 02 ☐ **Private**
- 03 ☐ **Government**
- 04 ☐ **Livestock keepers association**
- 05 ☐ **NGO**

And 5 other [13]

Additional information:
- "I" — Question instruction
- "E" — Enabling condition
- "V1" — Validation condition №1
- "M1" — Message for validation №1
- "F" — Filter in Categorical questions

Link to full set in appendix

Breadcrumbs

Type or roster

Roster Title

CHAPTER 3 IDENTIFICATION /

Roster: **LEADER RELATION DETAILS**
generated by fixed list:

- 01 **Ward Livestock Officer**
- 02 **Village Livestock Officer**
- 99 **Other (specify)**

List items