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RESEARCH ARTICLE

PROBLEMS AND ISSUES OF PUNJABI IMMIGRANT WOMEN

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ABSTRACT

Immigration from one place to another places is a universal phenomena since the ages from pre-Aryan stage to this age of science migration from one place to other place is there. Migration doesn't see any caste, creed or faith barrier even the language is not problem for migration. Indian's have been in contrast to ancient immigration, modern immigration from India was wholly a British creation it begin in 1834. When slavery was abolished in the British Empire. Labour was needed to work on the different British colonies. It is estimated that between 1834 and 1937 scene thirty millions Indian migrated to the sufficient parts of the world. The present paper has focused on various problems and issues that are faced by Punjabi women immigrant. The researcher has used secondary source for collection data, like news paper, magazines literatures etc.

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INTRODUCTION

Immigration from one place to another places is a universal phenomena since the ages from pre-Aryan stage to this age of science migration from one place to other place is there. Migration doesn't see any caste, creed or faith barrier even the language is not problem for migration. According to the Encyclopedia Britannica, "immigrant is define as a person who has been settled in a country of which he is not a native for less than ten year". There are various problems faced by different immigrant from various countries, when they migrate from their borders, we are specially here, concerned with Punjab immigrant women, who are facing various challenges, issues and problems in abroad.

There immigration to the green pastures by Punjabi youth is not hidden story to anyone. But from the last Twenty year we see not only young immigrating from Punjab. But women are also migrating to other countries even by hook or crook. Indian's have been in contrast to ancient immigration, modern immigration from India was wholly a British creation it begin in 1834. When slavery was abolished in the British Empire. Labour was needed to work on the different British colonies. It is estimated that between 1834 and 1937 scene thirty millions Indian migrated to the sufficient parts of the world.

The story of this international of the Punjabis dated back to the colonial period. Prior to that there is no evidence of any migration of the Punjabis. The international immigration of the Punjabis began during the colonial period and it was a part of colonial political economy. Sociologically speaking, the formation of the permanent community is not possible without the formation of family that ensures the continuity of generations as well as cultural practices. The first Punjabi immigrant in Canada to bring his family was Teja Singh in 1912 (Bal, 1997).

The conditions after 1947 underwent radical change because of two reasons. First, the Punjabi immigrants now belonged to an independent country. Secondly, the second world war had ended leaving behind tremendous destruction in Europe. England needed lot of labour for reconstruction. Similarly, Canada had initiated an economic expansion programme. When India got independence and was partitioned as well, Punjab was one of the states that suffered most as a result people. The U.S.A also opened its doors for refugees. At this moment there is no knowledge of the actual number of Punjabis migrating to the U.S.A 's immigration policy came at the time of Lyndon Johnson after 1964 when the quota system was abolished and the point system was introduced to receive the skilled labour (Judge, 2003). There is migration of major section of the Punjabis, which is going on the basis of the family relation this migration is sponsored and covers all the permanently settled Punjabis in the English speaking countries. Family category is based on marriage.

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The migration of the Asian in general and Punjabis in western countries dates back to the beginning of the this century. The entry of the immigrants is largely remained restricted owing to or any social and political reasons during the last to decades. There has been an unbroken chain of migration of the Punjabis to abroad. Most of these Punjabis hail from the rural areas of the Punjab the first stage of migration was dominated by the economic consideration as an essentially potential force in the second stage, according to the Bal (1997). At present about half the number of people, who immigrate for Canada each year are women. Hania Zlotnik (2003) in his study of female migration also talked about the increasing number of female immigrants in the developed and developing countries. In the same study data (see Table 1) shows that the proportion of women and girls have accoured they high in all international migrants. For more than 40 years female migration have been almost as numerous as male migrants, in 1960 there were 35 million female migrants and 40 million male migrants, the gap between females and males remained about the same, 85 million females migrants versus 90 million male migrants (Ibid, 2003).

Table 1. Percentage of female migrants among the total number of international migrants, by Major areas 1960-2000

Major areas	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000
World	46.6	47.2	47.4	47.9	48.8
More developed region	47.9	48.2	49.4	50.8	50.9
Less developed region	45.7	46.3	45.5	44.7	45.7
Europe	48.5	48.0	48.5	51.7	52.4
Northern America	49.8	51.1	52.6	51.0	51.0
Oceania	44.4	46.5	47.9	49.1	50.5
Northern Africa	49.5	47.7	45.8	44.9	42.8
Sub-Saharan Asia	40.6	42.1	43.8	46.0	47.2
Southern Asia	46.3	46.9	45.9	44.4	44.4
Easter and South Asia	46.1	47.6	47.0	48.5	50.1
Western Asia	45.2	46.65	47.2	47.9	48.3
Caribbean	45.3	46.1	46.5	47.7	48.9
Latin America	44.7	46.9	48.4	50.2	50.5

The number of Indian migrants working in the Gulf countries today is estimated to be around four million and, according to South Indian scholars who have conducted a large-scale statistical study, nearly half of them come from Kerala, a small southern Indian state. About 10% of these Keralese migrants, more than 150,000 are female. Some of them are housewives who followed their husbands, other are employed as secretaries or in the other office jobs, some are domestic servants, but a large number, estimated between 40-60,000 are nurses (Percot, 2006). According to the report of citizenship and immigration Canada 51 percent female of people who immigrated to Canada in 1992 were females a percentage that has remained relatively stable over the past three decades (Judge, 1994) in his study provide the account of the pattern of migration of the Punjabi men to Canada, but there is a paucity of studies of women's migration. It is important to mention that they have been migrating to abroad as wives, sister and mothers implying that in certain terms their subordination to men is inherent in the logic of migration. A large number of Punjabi women's are working now in different countries and now a days even Punjabi women are going to countries like Australia and New Zealand even or are study basis to settle there and live a happy and prosperous life.

The Punjabi women social, economic and psychological problems face by them and there are various issues yet have to be dealt by them like the property issues, identify issues, dowry, divorce and other social issues etc.

Objectives

The main objectives of the study are to explore the various problems and issues that are faced by Punjabi women immigrant. The Punjabi women are facing a different type of social and economic problems and there are various issues that are concerned with the Punjabi women immigrants. There is a dearth of research on Punjabi women immigrants problems and issues. So my study of field focus on this ignored problem.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

For the purpose of my study, I chose 'Hindustan Times' as the main newspaper for collecting data and the period in which used to get the material was from 1st January 2008 to 31 October 2008.

In this study, newspaper is secondary source for collection data, various problems have been published in newspapers, faced by the Punjabi women immigrations.

Profile of Punjabi Immigrant Woman

For the purpose of present analysis of study Punjabi immigrant residing indifferent countries like Canada, USA, Australia, England, New Zealand and even Gulf are selected. Punjabi women are settled in different countries of the world and they are serving as a back bone to the Punjabi families. Most of them belongs to Jatt Sikh Punjabi families. They have settled abroad on the basis of marriage.

Issues, Problems and Punjabi Women

There are many variables in terms of problems and issues face by Punjabi women. But here only selected variables have been taken because all the variable cannot be discussed in the available short span of time of while selecting and discussing the problems, 'The Hindustan Times' have been a secondary source of information to the study. Because the recent information only in the newspaper and various issues in which study is focus like. Property issue, identity issue, dowry issue, divorce issue, marriage issues and other issues etc. and these are though to be sufficient for the purpose of present study.

The Diaspora of Punjabi women are facing various problems and issues:

1. Property issue
2. Dowry issue
3. Child Custody issue.
4. Issue of Illegal migration
5. Remarriage issue.

Property issue

The Punjabi women are facing the property issues in India is grabbed by a close relatives or by someone others. My study

has two examples in which NRI women accuses of police of grabbing their house. On 22 May, 2008, Baljinder Kaur, USA NRI has accused the police of not registering an FIR following a beggary and looting at her house. There properties are not safe addressing media person, she told them, I reached on April 29 and was staying with her sister Kulwant Kaur in the local model house in Jalandhar, when I went to Laharan Pratap Pura villager house yesterday. At the times locks and doors and window panes were broken and some valuable missing. Then she explained to police on authorized can takers of the house form past three years and NRI women claimed that the police has failed to register has complained. But SHO said that a complained has been registered in the dail diary yesterday. Second case, is on NRI women who accused Saromani Akali Dal an SHO of grabbing has house accord in to 5 January, 2008 "Hindustan Newspaper" show the case of grabbing the house of NRI in which the wife of NRI's living in Germany has accused the police of abetting illegal occupation of their family house by Shromani Akali Dal Activists in Chogawan village of the Amritsar district. Harpreet Kaur alleged that some local SAD activist had taken possession of their house worth Rs 20 lakh in November during her absent. She also accused the SHO Rashpal Singh has not registered the FIR against them. She also said that nothing has been done despite repeated complaints send by my father in law from Germany to SSP (Rural), The Punjab state Human Right Commission and to the DGP Punjab, when batched SSP. Rural Iqbal Singh said the neither the case had been brought to his noticed, nor had the police received any such complaint.

Related to the true cases of NRI properties we can say the Punjabi immigrant women are facing lots of problems in Punjab. Their property is not in the safe custody and their property is forcefully occupied and looted by the other peoples even the police in not doing their duty faithfully and honestly.

Dowry Issue/Dowry Death Issue

In my study the second problem, which I noticed in the dowry problem faced by Punjabi immigrant women in abroad. There is always NRI Boys and NRI demand huge some of money from the Girls parents. There are many cases of dowry which I have gathered in my study from 'Hindustan Times'. First our case of a married girl, who married with NRI of Italy after marriage NRI household compelled her wife to give him Rs. 20 lakh for taking her to Italy, he demanded the money as a dowry then the girl registered complain against her husband and his brother for demanding dowry (22 May, 2008).

The second case is of Sushma Rani, who was marry to NRI, Raj Kumar of Dakoha village. Who worked as a cook with the private company in Germany on Jan 20, 2003, then they went to Germany with him after reaching there complied her demanding dowry every day he tortured psychically and mentally to her, to the agony she started living with her childhood friend then her husband planned trip to Turkey. But he had different Planned. He deserted her at Delhi Airport and has not given her passport. Their her father alleged that he and her daughter went of him in laws residence at Dakoha village on March 04. But they refused to accept their daughter in law. It is the case of demanding the Dowry and harassment of the

women by her husband and in laws. Third is the case of dowry death of Punjabi immigrant women. In which Sarabjit Kaur was marry to Ranbir Singh who stayed in Norway 2005 then she also settled with her husband. The girl mother said that one day she started calling her up and complaining that she was being harassed from more dowry including 5 lakhs and Tata Safari. On March 14, this year her mother said she got call from Ranbir Singh, who claimed that Sarabjit had died after heart attack.

After complaining the Kathunangal police register case against Ranbir, his brother, father after an enquiry. In the finding of the newspaper news these three cases related to dowry has been studied elaborately. Which it was found that Punjabi women immigrant were psychically, mentally tortured by husbands for demanding more and more dowry.

Child-custody issue

Problem of a child, whose father and mother give divorced to each other and the issue comes not that who will resided with the child either the father or the mother. From the finding of 'HT' newspaper. There comes to a case on 28 May, 2008 a divorced American couple of Punjabi origin a fighting a legal battle in Punjab or custody of their minor daughter. The dispute started in the USA itself. After the couple's split the daughter was with the mother under an order by a USA court, that had given the order, 'right to visit the child'. The mother who remarried had a baby with her second husband. Allegedly violated the USA Apen Court. The mother now living with her second husband has alleged that her first husband fill an application cancellation of OCI status granted to their daughter. She express fears that if during the child visit of the USA, her OCI status was cancelled by Indian authority. The Girl will have to stay over there as USA, citizen, whenever the father council said that the child, her parents were USA citizen they had accepted the jurisdiction of USA court and even their marriage was disclose through decree of mutual divorce by New Jersey court. So it is the different emerged during the battle of child custody.

Not only the women immigrant suffers but her child also suffer from this dispute.

Issue of Illegal Migration

'Hindustan Times' 20 March, 2008. this is the case of the family of Sarabjit Kaur. 25 girl of a Ludhiana district who alleged that she was held captive for 30 months in Singapore and Ukraine. This is the case of illegal migration of the Punjabi women. Her family members said that the travel agent frauded with her daughter because the travel agent assured her that a female agent would escort her daughter to destination. Her father said that family has paid Rs. 8 lakh to agent for job of Girl. 'However, instead of job, Sarabjit was forced into prostitution. On her refused, she was made of work as maid in somebody's house all her documents taken away.'

After two year Sarabjit was asked to move Ukraine by the people of some network to become a part of the flesh trade for rest of her life. Her father said that she was luck in informing her family, that she was in kive and it was then her father

contacted Balwant Singh Ramowalia and pleaded of her help and the girl came back to India. In this case there is new light how illegal migration of Punjabi women a going on different foreign countries and how the travel agents do their wicked act to harass the Punjabi women immigrant.

Remarriage issue

There is also remarriage issue or second marriage issue of Punjabi immigrant women. In my study HT which is source of my information. I have noted that an 27 March 2008, in which Rajwinder Singh NRI was getting married second time even when the divorcing proceeding with his first wife are still on. The parents of her first wife accompanied a complaint that Rajwinder Singh was getting married today and the police registered case against him and assted him for second marriage without illegal divorce, SHO said that the paper only proved that the divorce proceeding were still in UK. The agitated family members and relative of his first wife manhandled the NRI and the police had to intervene and asset him. DSP said Rajwinder Singh of Madhopur village near Nakodar was married to Sarabjit Kaur of Nawashar in 1994 and a couple had son he had failed for divorce in UK and case was pending in UK court.

From this case we have observed how women suffering from their NRI grooms. The NRI's grooms sometimes do a three or four time marriage and they even sparate from their wife after a short span of two-three months. Firstly they married them then they put the case of divorce against their wives and the wives also bear harassment and mental tortured of divorce case. Then they husband also try to get married with someone even without divorce paper.

Conclusion

To conclude we can say that Punjabi immigrant women working in abroad and face many problems. Punjabi immigrated women, who migrated on marriage basis or on a other basis feels and faces many problems and issues. A Punjabi immigrated woman goes to green postures for their bright future to foreign countries and sometimes find themselves in problematic situations. The Punjabi immigrant women settled in alien country through their hard work they feel the heat of identity problem over there. The formation of the family is not possible without the Punjabi immigrant women they are part and parcel of the family. Their job profile is from low to moderate work at work places. The Punjabi immigrant women are resident of development countries like Canada, USA, England and in developing countries like Australia, Italy etc. Mostly the women, who migrated to foreign horizon are form rural Punjabi background.

They are facing many problems like property in at home in India and dowry problem from their in laws and there is also problem of racial discrimination. There is not only problems but various important issues are related to Punjabi women immigrant like identity issue, and remarriage issue etc. There are also various related issue like the issue racial discrimination at host countries and issue of marriage. Bureau's in India and robbery issue and illegal migration used by travel agents contract marriage is also a big issue now a days. The

paper marriage used by the common people to go abroad is also becoming a new problems in these days. The for goning discusses leads us that to conclude that the Punjabi immigrant women are facing problem of behavior by their husbands and families in laws. They are being tortured for dowry and in some cases we find a dowry deaths of Punjabi immigrants women. They are humiliated, tortured by their husbands for various reasons. In which there is no mistake of Punjabi immigrant women. Property is the one of the big issue. Their property in Punjab is being ruined, looted forcefully occupied and grabbed by the local Punjabi fellows. The other problem, which is paramount importance is of divorce. Punjabi husband give divorce their Punjabi immigrant wives. The major concern of Punjabi immigrant women is identity problem, when there is identity crisis the self-confidece is lost and legal battle begins.

In this study the other issue that comes, is the child-custody issues. The Punjabi immigrant women are deprived of their right of residing with their off springs and there is a child custody by husband. The other issue is illegal migration of Punjabi immigrant women. The Punjabi immigrant is being exploited by fraudulent travel agents and sometime the situation worsens and they are being raped and man handled by them. In last we can say that these problems and issues faced by Punjabi immigrant women are never nevertheless few but are important, which seeks our attentions in present era.

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