

# Real of the Reel: A Million Dollars Journey from Punjab

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## ABSTRACT

An attempt has been made in this paper to analyse the patterns of migration from Punjab to the West by linking it with the political and economic history of Punjab. A special emphasis has been made to reflect the present crisis and the historical pattern of Punjabis migration to west. The pathetic condition of the deserted wives of NRIs and the illegal routes adopted by the Punjabi youth due to the non-availability of the visas and work permit have also been discussed. The failure of green revolution, the rise of political corruption, the spread of drugs and nexus between the politicians and the drug mafia, unemployment etc. in the post – militancy Punjab has been linked with the migration of Punjabis to the West. A special emphasis is also given to the politics of populism and the mobilisation of voters on the non – developmental issue in the post militancy Punjab.

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## 1. Introduction

The condition of the Punjabi youth is impoverishing day by day. Future is seems to be bleak, opportunities are few, there is lack of quality education, even the well educated youth is trapped in net of structural poverty and unemployment in the post-militancy Punjab. Government is not in the mood to create new jobs or to fill the vacant vacancies.<sup>1</sup>

The pride of being the natives of the land of five rivers and the land of green revolution is also withering away as traditional profession of agriculture has not only failed but also depleted the precious source of underground water and the fertile soil of the great land of Punjab. What it left? Poverty and dangerous diseases like cancer, irrespective of the threats of the money lenders (Arthias) to grab the agricultural land if the families fail to lend the loan money<sup>2</sup>.

The drug addiction of the youth further added the worries of the impoverishing families, as the government attempts to rehabilitate the drug addicted youth as well as to control the drug trafficking have miserably failed due to the lack of political will.<sup>3</sup>

At the same time some Punjabis have a lavish life style and enough money not only to sustain it, but also to buy the lands of impoverishing peasantry of the vicinity. These families are the example of the successful families in the Punjab, what everyone wants to be. The key of their success is the entry of someone from family in the West, but the door of entry to the west is locked now due the strict visa regime.<sup>4</sup>

## 2. The Tales of Betrayal and Shame

The newspapers are flooded with matrimonial advertisements like, *UK citizen pharmacist Jat Sikh Boy, 39 divorcees, handsome, teetotaler, vegetarian, graduate in professional vocation genuinely seeking vegetarian Jat Sikh female with good family values for marriage, must be slim, fair 25-30, Email [ukpharmacist@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ukpharmacist@yahoo.co.uk) or Tel 0044773627181.*<sup>5</sup>

Likewise, Sunday is a day for the oversea women to advertise their matrimonial in the leading newspapers of Punjab. *Jat Sikh parents living in California seek alliance for their daughter, healthy, professional '5-5' tall 32 years, never married, very pretty, boy from highly educated family professional willing to settle in California, reply with photo and bio-data, to [calresident1@yahoo.com](mailto:calresident1@yahoo.com).*<sup>6</sup>

Dreaming a good life in Britain, Satwant Kaur landed at Heathrow to start a new life with her husband, far displaced from her home in Punjab. She found him waiting at the airport entrance. Visibly happy, he took her suitcase and passport telling her to wait till he fetched his car. He never returned, the draught bride waited in vain, with tears, in her eyes she sought help from the Sikh staff at Heathrow. She had no idea of her husband's address. When she had nowhere to go they took her to the nearest Gurdwara at South hall and tried to locate her husband but failed as Satwant did not have the address of her NRI husband. Then they again applied for her passport, raised money for ticket and arranged her return home.<sup>7</sup>

Ravinder Kaur spends her lonely days in the one- room accommodation at her brother compound in Ludhiana. Looking at the photos of her sons hoping that her truant husband will return, Ravinder told a reporter: "it was in 1995 when her husband came to India to take the family with him to Canada".

At the New Delhi Airport, he asked her to wait while he showed the children around. After three hours of waiting, she made inquiry about their flight. It had taken off: Ravinder was shocked when she opened the envelop which had been given to her by her husband as travel documents. But she could find only the blank papers in it.

In another village, two sisters Tirth Kaur and Jagir Kaur are waiting for their NRIs husbands. In the case of Tirth and Jagir the craze of family for an NRI groom had gone to an extent that they didn't learnt any lesson from the marriage of their elder daughter. This family decided to play the gamble of greener pasture to the west by marrying their younger

daughter to an NRI again. The greed for the greener pasture to the west, not only spoiled the life of one more daughter of this family, but also landed the family in debt badly. The family crossed all its limits while spending for giving the red carpet welcome for the family of their NRIs grooms.<sup>8</sup>

After suicide attempt a youth from Moga recuperating in hospital told the police that he could not bear the shame and the grim situation of his family who has sold the agriculture land to raise 17 lakhs for sending him abroad. Revealing the facts of this case to media the SSP of Jagraon District Police told to the media, that the police has busted a new kind of immigration racket involving three kingpins, a travel agent, a trader couple and a dozen of *desi kabootarian* (Punjabi girls who lured the boys for paper marriage as Canadian Citizens).

Jaswinder Kaur was arrested for allegedly faking over two dozen marriages to help the Punjabi boys to migrate to United Kingdom. She used to charge over 10 lakhs for each marriage. This young woman operated with the help of her Uncle, who use to find the prospective grooms for paper marriage. Within a short span of a year she netted more than one crore rupees.<sup>9</sup> Another serial bride Parminder Kaur from Canada was arrested by the police, while she was getting married to Beant Singh in Ahmedgarh. Confessing her crime she revealed that she is not first one to have done this. Kaur also revealed 'that she too had been a victim of NRI marriage fraud. Her parents had married her with a NRI who was 35 years older to her and was deserted by him in Canada. She told that there are dozens of Canadian women who have been exploiting Punjabi youth at the instance of their husbands.<sup>10</sup>

Stories of the betrayal from the NRIs wed-locks and the demand for NRIs grooms and brides are now at the climax in Punjab. The newspapers are carrying both the tales of the victims of NRIs wed-locks and the advertisements of the NRI's matrimonials. The often repeated tragedy is that a boy from UK, USA, and Canada landed in Punjab and gets married with a beautiful girl. By marrying with a Punjabi girl NRIs are not only provided with an opportunity to have wonderful holidays with a beautiful Punjabi girl but also get a handsome amount of dowry.

The honeymoon holidays of NRI grooms in Punjab ends with enjoyment, good earning and promises to call the newly wedded brides to their dreamed lands, as soon as possible, never to call. Soon the letters stops, the phone rings through the answer machine and even that stops after a while. The most tragic stories perhaps are of women that keep waiting for their husband's to return years after years. There are women's who have been married for over 20 years but have only been with their husband not more than a week.

The phenomena of the deserted wives of NRIs become rampant in Punjab. The agonies of Satwant, Ravinder, Tirht, Jagir and Jagdish are common to thousands of women in Punjab. Their numbers were revealed at a workshop of the Ministry of External Affairs and the National Commission for Women at Chandigarh. Among the total 30,000 victims of NRIs marriages in India, Punjab alone has 15000, cases the half of the victims of NRIs knots. Everyone will be shocked after

knowing that the country (UK), from where the Satwinder has returned to Punjab alone have 1200, more daughters of the Punjab who are living in shelters.<sup>11</sup>

No village is lucky enough to escape from the peccadillo of the NRI wed-locks. While addressing a media conference in Chandigarh the President of Lok Bhlai Party, Mr. Balwant Singh Ramoowalia told that in every village of the Punjab, there are examples of the abandoned and tattered lives of deserted wives of the NRIs. In fact, two or three girls in every village have such a horrifying tale to narrate," said the head of Lok Bhlai Party at an abandoned wives media conference in Chandigarh. Expressing his concern over the victimisation of Punjabi girls by the NRIs, the Governor of Punjab Lt. Gen J.F.R Jacob revealed that he knows 40 such cases from a single village in Punjab.<sup>12</sup>

The tragedy is not ending with the agony of young girls, which are forced to cope with the adverse socio-economic conditions due to failure of their NRIs wed-locks. It went to the climax when one listen the catastrophic stories of the Punjabi youth who risks their lives to cross the frontiers illegally for their entry to prosperous lands of west. Their numbers are unaccounted; the stories of their imprisonment or the inhuman conditions to which they face during their illegal march to west are often hidden by the families due to social shame and the pressure of travel agents. The tales of agony came out only when the disastrous tragedies like Malta boat tragedy happens.

The often repeated tragedy of the inspiring youth of the Punjab is that they are either spending their youthful days in the prisons of west and are haunted by the fear of arrest by the police and deported back to India from their millions dollar journey.<sup>13</sup>

The dominant psyche is that there is no future in their motherland as merit and hard work does not work. It is only corruption and political patronage that can work while getting the government jobs and business here. The traditional professions of agriculture and Army are also failed as entry of the Punjabis (Sikhs) in the Military services was also reduced to 2% from 10 % by the Congress government under leadership of Indira Gandhi government in 1970's.<sup>14</sup>

Chasing his foreign dreams, Bhupinder paid 7.50 lakh to a travel agent and was assured for direct landing in UK by him. But he was first taken to Moscow; he was caught on the border and jailed in Moscow. The travel agent, however, bailed him out from there for his future journey, but unfortunately Bhupinder was again caught on the Solvac border. Unable to bear it longer, he committed suicide in jail.<sup>15</sup>

In the above context it is pertinent to mention that more than 30,000 Punjabi youths have been cooling their heels in the various jails of western countries for entering with wrong traveling documents.<sup>16</sup> Moreover, 50 youths who are now middle aged waiting to see their families from the last 20 years in Tehran. Their passports and visas were burnt during the American- Iraq war, when an American missile blown off their rented accommodation. The Indian Embassy is of no use to

them as its officers are not responding to the inquiries of these desperate youths properly.<sup>17</sup>

It may also be mention that a UAE court recently pronounced death sentence for 17 Punjabi labourers on the charge of killing a Pakistan national. This verdict shocked the world as never before such a large number of persons were sentenced to death for killing a person.<sup>18</sup> More shocking is the fact that the parents of some of them were even not aware of that there dear ones are facing a death sentence.<sup>19</sup>

Exploited, humiliated and even forced into flesh-trade. Seven girls returned from Singapore to their homes in Tarn Taran (a small border town of Punjab): only one from them dared to report the gory tale of the exploitation in Singapore to the police while others kept mum due to social pressure. All were from the poor families of this small town and were promised the lucrative jobs of nurses and baby sister in Singapore. According to the deal the family of the each girl had to pay three lakh in installment to the travel agent Gulzar Singh.

The girls took the flight to Singapore after paying the first installment of 50,000. For the first four days these girls were herded in tiny rooms like cattle, denied proper food and asked to wait. Then the exploitation of the empty bellies started, travel agents forced them to oblige their employers, their relatives and even clients. The exploitation of these girls continued until they escaped.<sup>20</sup>

There is no account of youths, who had either been killed or ended in jails while trying to reach America, Canada, England and other rich countries; however, as per newspaper reports more than 30,000 Punjabi youths are in various jails and around 1500 lost their lives while crossing the seashores and frontiers of the first world illegally.<sup>21</sup>

The stories of the daughters and the sons of the great land of Punjab are surely mind-shocking. After listening them no one can think to marry a daughter with an NRI groom or sending a son abroad through the travel agents. Unfortunately the line of the aspirants in Punjab is unending, the tragic tales of illegal immigration, betrayal by the NRI grooms in very neighbourhood and the destitution of the families, whose sons had either been killed or got caught in the foreigners land during their journey could not teach any lesson to the people of Punjab.

The mania can be observed from well known proverbs *ek ver tangi sanghi bhugat ke je bahr chale gaye tan sabh dhone dhote jan ge!* (If somehow, one is fortune enough to go and settle abroad all the miseries of his family and of coming generations will vanish).

This unending desire of youths from one of the prosperous state of India raises very serious questions about the present socio-political and economic set-up of the state. These could not be answered without a serious analysis of the political economy of Punjab and the history of migration from Punjab to west.

### 3. Migration of Punjabis to the West: A Historical Analysis

The history of migration of Punjabis to west is traced back to the establishment of the British rule in Punjab. Hence there is a need of serious analysis of history and pattern of migration from Punjab to the prosperous lands by linking it to the present socio-economic and political situation of the Punjab.

Punjab has an important place in the history of India and Punjabis played a dominant role in the affairs of Indian State. The abundance of rivers and the canal net-work in the alluvial land of Punjab had made the dream of self-sufficiency in the food production possible. The people of state are also known for the role they had been playing against any military aggression on the India since ancient times.

During the colonial period the land of Punjab became the major fodder to the British Indian Army and the Sikhs earned the title of *Martial Race* from the British Empire. The contribution of the Punjabis for the India's freedom struggle is also of praise worthy. The people across the Punjab give a tough resistance to the British Empire by their extreme participation in both in violent and non violent struggle against the Empire. The hard struggle and sacrifices of the *Ghadhr Lehar* (Ghadhar Movement) and the non-violent *Gurdwaras Reform Movement* of the Akalis were the most noted achievements of the freedom struggle.<sup>22</sup> Even after the independence the state of Punjab set the examples of hard work and progress for the other states of Indian Union.

This has been beautifully depicted in Punjabi folklore. *"Bharat hai vang mundri vich nag Punjab da. Bharat je shrab ta, eh nasha shrab da. Avan nu ta a jan javania, hare kise te, par hor hi hisab hai Punjab da Ganga banave devte, Jamuna Banave Devian. Ashaq magar bna sake Pani Chenab da."*<sup>23</sup> (India is like a ring and Punjab is its gem. If India is like wine then Punjab is its effect. No matter young age comes to everyone but the youth of Punjab is really different. The Ganga gives birth to Gods, the Yamuna gives birth to Goddess but only Chenab can give birth to platonic lovers).

The love and pride of the Punjabi youth for their mother land is withering away and they become desperate to take a flight for west. Unfortunately this is justified by the stereotype of the \$ and £ shine. It is generally attributed to the dominance of materialism on their psyche and their craze for Dollars and Pounds. The reality, however, is different from this view. The \$ and £ are not growing on the plants; it require a lot of hard work in addition to the legal formalities of Visa and work-permit to work in the developed world.

Unfortunately the journey of the majority of them starts through the illegal routes as they do not fulfill the criteria of skill and educated labour. Only a few of them get tourist and study visas. Visas of most of them are also rejected due to the suspicion of their malafide intension of settling there.

One can easily guess the kind of work a person can get in the alien land in which he/she has entered as an illegal migrant and always haunted by the fear of getting caught and deported back. Moreover, the language barrier, racial discrimination also restrict their entry to mainstream market. Their chances to get

work are very bleak. But the net-work of Punjabis already settled there come to their rescue in these bleak hours. This is not enough to emancipate the new entered as they need to learn the foreign language and work-permit to enter into the mainstream labour. They go for the coaching of the language classes after working for hours while being haunted by the fear of getting caught by the police and deported back to India.<sup>24</sup>

As a matter of fact Punjabis flight to overseas was started after the establishment of British rule in Punjab. The historic defeat of the Sikhs after the death Maharaja Ranjit Singh in 1849, the deportation and conversion of the last teenaged Sikh King (Maharaja Dalip Singh) into Christianity had created an environment of confusion and uncertainty for the Sikh soldiers. Hence a large number of them joined the British army that proved crucial during Indian revolt in 1857. The loyalty and role of Sikh soldiers, which they played to defend the British interest during the 1857 revolt had earned the blessings of British Empire. The Empire honored the Sikhs with title of *Martial Race* and designed favourable policy for the Sikh recruitment to British Indian Army.<sup>25</sup>

Unfortunately the Sikh loyalty and support to the British Empire could not improve the condition of impoverishing peasantry. The exploitative rates of land revenue and water ruined the farmers of Punjab. Their condition was further deteriorated by the introduction of cash economy in agriculture. The introduction of collection of revenue in cash instead in kind created lots of problems for Punjabi farmers.<sup>26</sup>

This not only ended the long established fabrics of village community under which the village collectively paid the revenue to the King. It also forced the illiterate farmers to enter into the cash economy and to make deals with the moneylenders.<sup>27</sup> They were neither familiar to the cash deals or nor were in the position to pay the revenue in cash. The new laws of revenue forced the farmers to take loans from the local moneylenders, who took the full advantage of the illiterate farmers and got their thumb impression on the huge amounts to which they did not paid to the farmers. The exploitation of the moneylenders and high rates of water and revenue ended the Punjabi farmers in destitute soon.

When there was no ray of hope for the Punjabi farmers. The British connections, however, provided them with an opportunity to improve their condition by working in the overseas economies. The impoverishing peasantry of Punjab got information from those Sikhs, who been abroad as a part of British Army that they can change their economic condition by working in the overseas economies. Their journey started from the Seaport of Calcutta but before its beginning they had to mortgaged their land to the moneylenders as they need a big amount to cover the long sea distance.<sup>28</sup>

The sea shores were open for Punjabis at that time as they were part of British Empire and their healthy constitution helped some of them to get recruited into the British police in Malaysia and China. Those who could not get the British jobs became the watch man and the servants for rich.<sup>29</sup>

The process of migration from Punjab to the lands of America and Canada was initiated at end of nineteenth century from Malaysia and Singapore. When they heard that a worker can earn \$ 2.50 daily by working in mills and road constructions in the over-sea economies. It was great news for them to improve their condition because it was a far higher amount as compared to the labour rates in India.<sup>30</sup> The migrants sent news about their exaggerated incomes to their relatives and friends living in the villages of Punjab. This also encouraged the Punjabis who settled in Singapore and Malaysia to move to the lands of Canada and United States. Consequently a large number of Punjabi peasants from Lahore, Sialkot, Amritsar, Ferozpur, Gurdaspur, and Ludhiana and particularly from Jalandhar mortgaged their lands and migrated to the United States and Canada.<sup>31</sup>

The initial government reports on the immigration of the South Asians in Canada shows that the Sikhs composed the majority with 85%, the Muslim constituted 13% and Hindus 2% among the South-Asian from 1900 to 1917. But the mass flow of the South-Asian and particularly the enterprising nature of the Punjabis who had purchased some undeveloped lands and entered the timber industry by their hard work created a sense of insecurity among the locals.<sup>32</sup>

To discourage the migrants the Canadian government adopted a four pronged policy in 1908. Under the new policy the prospective migrants had to start from the country of their citizenship and to travel continuous without any stay in other country. They were also required to possess \$ 200 each and there also had to be favourable labour condition in the country at the time of their arrival. It hit the impoverishing peasantry of Punjab as their daily income was just a few cents. They could not purchase the tickets of distant sea journey of Canada without working in Singapore and Malaysia.<sup>33</sup>

This turned the flow of Punjabis to the United States then, which was restricted by the Immigration Act of 1917 of American government. Under which the Indians were identified as a "barred zone". It was followed by a process of segregation and enactment of the laws for inter-racial marriages.<sup>34</sup>

As it is mentioned above that the migration to the overseas from Punjab is linked to the establishment of British Empire in Punjab. The destitute of Punjabi farmers at home and the demand for labour in the ever expanding British Empire encouraged the large number of them to get migrates in the oversea lands of Canada, America and UK during the colonial period. Unfortunately the flow of Punjabi labour to Britain, however, continued even after the Independence of India. The Industrial boom in England after the Second World War and the shortage of work in Punjab also forced the Punjabi farmers to migrate to the England.

#### 4. Present Crisis and Human Trafficking in Punjab

The Independence of India promised fast-growth. Punjab also benefited from the innovations and new technology of agriculture and it become the land of green revolution. But it could not be sustained for long time. The hopes of the Punjabi farmer to improve their economic condition by adopting new

technology and high-yielding variety seeds began to shatter within a decade of green revolution.<sup>35</sup>

The cost of production took up-turn and the farm – production witnessed stagnation within the first decade of green revolution. Secondly a large number of small holders were not only left untouched from the benefits of green revolution, but they were forced to leave the agriculture as they could not purchase the new technology, which became a necessity of agriculture in Punjab.

The intensive use of capital and technology made a large number of farmers and agriculture labour unemployed. Disguised and seasonal unemployment also increased as green revolution lacked the diversification of crops. The farmers with marginal and average holding found themselves trapped in huge loans but also began to face the problem of declining in the fertility of land and water.<sup>36</sup>

The relative failure of green revolution and resultant farmer suicides began to be reported in the early of 1980. They also faced the problem of decreasing of agriculture subsidies by the government and stagnation in productions and prices of the agriculture products. No doubt the Kissan Union had launched movement to save the agriculture but their struggle was manipulated by the vested political interest of the national and regional political parties.

The issue of impoverishing peasantry was inextricably linked with the identity politics in the sinister designed politics of Punjab. Unfortunately the issue of environment damage and participation of peasantry in policy making were pushed to the back stage by the fundamentalist and secessionist forces.

The failure of agriculture and the declining of state economy not get any attention from the intelligentsia and the political leadership as law and order began to dominate the governance of the state. The rural population in general and peasants in particular were put at a great disadvantage by the wide –spread violence and the corruption during the militancy.

The collapse of the civil administration and education system compounded the problem. Moreover, the youth found it difficult to work at late hours in agriculture as they were afraid of the haunts of police as well as of militants. Under such circumstances escape to the foreign countries seemed the only way out. Farmers began to sell their lands at throw-away prices to send young sons abroad.

The end of militancy and the formation of the elected government in Punjab in the mid of 1990's had miserably failed to take strong policy measures and steps to save the agriculture and economy of conflict torn state. Political populism and the short-term political gains continue to dominate the agendas of the political parties. The wide spread corruption and apathy of the political leadership and the bureaucracy further discouraged the inspiring youth. The nexus between drug mafia and police with a political patronage, which had developed during the militancy period, have had long term affects on Punjab. The smuggling of

narcotics and addiction of Punjabi youth also damage the image of Punjab. It began to be dubbed as a 'narcotic state'.<sup>37</sup>

The scarcity of government jobs due of the non- filling of vacant posts in different departments, even forced the highly qualified youth of the Punjab to either sit idle or to leave for abroad for a better future.<sup>38</sup> A flight to west in search of the better life and livelihood has become an order of the day for the inspiring youth in Punjab now. In the grim situation when the developed economies like UK, USA and Canada restricted the entry of Punjabi labour. They searched the new lands of Australia and New Zealand to make their fortune, which is soon closed by the racial attacks against the Indians.

At present there are 120,000 Indian Students in Australia and the absolute majority among them is from Punjab. They are not only facing the discrimination at the employment and payment fronts but are also facing threats to their lives due to the racial attacks. The situation is so grim that within a week Punjab received two dead bodies of the beloved sons who left their mother land with a dream of better future.<sup>39</sup> Despite of racial violence against the Indian students at mass and the strong protest by the Indian government, Australian government had not categorised these attack as the racial and hate crimes<sup>40</sup> Australian police contemplated these racial attacks as the part of street crimes.<sup>41</sup> Finally an advisory was issued by the foreign Minister of India to the students to not select Australia as destination of their education. But despite that their numbers are increasing continuously.<sup>42</sup>

The aspirants from Punjab for students' visas to Australia continue to wait for their turn and are ready to take any risk. They continue to sell of their land and even do not bother about risk their life and limb. Getting an education and enrolling in the foreign universities provides them with an opportunity of employment in the rich economies, as the chances at home are very bleak. Moreover, education in foreign country is treated as synonymous of permanent settlement or immigration to abroad.

## 5. Conclusion

The analysis of the present socio- economic and political crisis of the Punjab and the history of the migration of the Punjabis to west established that the Punjabi have chosen the west not for fun and adventure. Neither they are dazed of the \$ and £ shine. The reality of Punjabis migration to the rich economies is very different from the projected one. The over-sea journey from Punjab to west started after the defeat of Sikh Kingdom and the establishment British rule in Punjab. The high rates of land and water revenues of the British Empire forced Punjabi farmers to leave their mother –land and work in the oversea to earn the livelihood and support their families in Punjab.

Unfortunately the Independence of India and the end of colonialism could not change the trends as the Punjabi youth is still looking at the west for the better future. Agriculture is in crisis and farmers are facing a lot of problems at the every front of their day to day life they need the government help to come out of the crisis badly. But instead of helping them government is withdrawing the subsidies of agriculture sector,

which were provided earlier. The established truth is that the Government of Punjab cannot give any financial relief to farmers as it is already under the financial crunch. To look at the central government for help is also proving as futile exercise as under the New Economic Policy the central government is taking back the agriculture subsidies.

Only the withdrawal of the subsidy on the fertilizers by the central government will put the burden of 170 crore on the struggling peasantry of Punjab,<sup>43</sup> whose debt is increased five times within a decade. According to the Tribune reports the total debt on the Punjabi farmers today crossed the amount of 30,394, which was of 5,700 up to 1997. Now the average debt per farm house hold is Rs 1.39 lakh and 72% of farm households are more heavily involved in debt. The condition of the agriculture is so grim that 17% of the farmers cannot pay back even the interest of their loan.<sup>44</sup>

The future of Industry is also bleak in Punjab as it is facing a new challenge from the neighbouring hill states. The industrialists prefer to invest in the neighbouring hill states because of the concession of the central taxes to the industry in hill states.<sup>45</sup> The financial conditions of the Punjab is deteriorating day by day, the government is even not in the position to pay for the routine administrative expenditure.

To mop up the resources and fill the empty coffers the government of Punjab has finally decided to sell out of some prime government properties. It is estimated that the selling of some prime properties can contribute the amount of 10,000 crore to the empty coffer and will give a temporary relief. Even this huge amount of 10,000 crore neither can't do any magic and nor can give any permanent relief to the struggling economy as the debt against the state is increased to an extent that only the paying of the interest of the amount is costing 6,000 crore annually.<sup>47</sup>

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Indebted to the huge amount of 63,000 crore to the centre, Punjab government is thinking of financial restructuring of the State that can't be done without the financial help of central government. In the grim situation Punjab government appointed a Resource Mobilization Committee of Deputy Chief Minister Sukhbir Badal and Industrial Minister Manoranjan Kalia, which declared that the facility of free electricity and water to the agriculture will go away.<sup>48</sup>

The farmers of the Punjab are ruined to an extent that they are even not able to unite a voice against the step- mother treatment made by the government. The demon of the state oppression and the sinister designing of the farmers struggle during 1970's and 1980's are still haunting the wounded psyche of Punjabi farmer. The bitter taught lesson is that the government and political leaders are none of help and they have to do for their own.

The only visible option for the success in Punjab is to have a member of family in west. Moreover, the administrative, political corruption and the financial health of the state made all these option of looking for government service, business and agriculture a distance dream for the common man in Punjab.

The proud of the state and people is badly ruined by the mis-governance and politics of populism particularly after the end of militancy. It is not only the economy of the state which needs to put on the path of development with the help of central government but it also requires social initiatives from all corners of the world to morally correct the society which is facing the post green- revolution and post conflict crisis. The government has not adopted specific measures to deal with menace of fake NRI marriages. The vicious circle of poverty, unemployment, drug addiction is accelerating in the state that is forcing the Punjab youth to enter the West by hook and crook as there are no future prospects in their mother land.

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  26. Another migrant to Austaria Mr. Resham Singh son of Balwinder Singh, residence of Village Saran in Tarn Taran. Told that he entered Europe illegally in 2003 and wanted to work in England, but he couldn't make and got some connection in Austria to work at the construction sites initially. After a year he learnt vernacular and also manage to have some legal grounds for his stay in Austria and entered to the mainstream market. Now he works at pizza shop and also delivers the news papers at the dawn hours.
  27. While telling his story of learning the foreign language Resham joked upon himself and told that *Bhai ji Jatt Budhi nu te Punjab chu Angerji smaj nahi see auani par ehte vekho 6 mehanya ho Dutch Sekh gya.* "Brother I came to know the real meaning of the moral that the necessity is mother of all inventions, As you know that being from a rural and agriculturalist family, I was not able to understand my Matriculation course book of English, but here with the short

- span of six month I learned the working vocablury of Dutch, to which I could not do for the long of period of 13 years during my school education in India with all the available help of my school teachers". *Interview of Resham Singh was conducted by author on 20-1-2016, at his residence.*
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