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GALLUP PAKISTAN POLL FINDINGS ON

FLOW OF PAKISTANI WORKERS TO MIDDLE EAST PICKING UP

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FLOW OF PAKISTANI WORKERS TO MIDDLE EAST PICKING UP

The migration of Pakistani workers to the Middle East has slightly picked up during the last one year. In 1986, 53,000 new workers went abroad and the average figure for the first 6 month in 1987 is higher, even though slightly compared to the previous year.

This was stated at a seminar held at Gallup Pakistan here today. It was attended by university professors, researchers and government officials.

The number of people who are returning from the Middle East is about twice as many as of those who are going out thus making the outflow negative, Mr. Farooq Azam, research manager of the overseas Pakistanis foundation told the seminar.

He said that the return migrants are, in the first place, attracted by business, but a relatively small number of them are successful.

Scholars are now analyzing the causes for success, or failure, of such enterprises. It was observed that those who succeed generally have higher "holding power" in real estate, transport, and a congenial environment.

It was observed that even though the remittance money invested in housing does not directly lead to production and increase in employment; it does serve a useful purpose in generating construction related business and in providing security to their owners to start business.

It was estimated that about a quarter of return migrants were unemployed. Possibly a good proportion of them were not striving too hard for employment. Among others the reasons for unemployment, including self employment, could be age, paucity of funds and redundancy of their know-how. Mr. Farooq Azam said that present was the "migration return era" of guest workers from the Middle East. He noted that the proportion of Pakistani labour in the Middle East is de cling as compared with labour form certain other South Asian and South East Asian countries, such as Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, India, and Philippines.