
DYSFUNCTION OF SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND COMMUNITY DISINTEGRATION AS PREDICTORS OF MIGRATION-RELATED IDENTITY CONSTRUCTION AMONG FLOOD SURVIVORS IN PAKISTAN: THE SUPPORT OF COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS (CBOS)

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Abstract

This research aim to investigates, how far malfunctioning of social institutions and community breakdown forecast migration and identity formation related to migration among survivors of the flood, as well as how Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) moderately affect the same. This was a quantitative cross sectional survey design. The sample size comprised 350 flood survivors in Hafizabad and Chiniot districts where purposive and snowball sampling methods were used to collect the data. Social institution disruption, loss of community cohesion, migration behavior, identity reconstruction and effectiveness of CBO were measured using a structured questionnaire based on Likert-scale items. Analysis of data was done using SPSS in terms of descriptive statistics, regression analysis and moderation analysis. The results indicate that interference on social institutions is an effective and statistically significant predictor of migration behavior, and explicates a significant percentage of variation in migration consequences. The disintegration of the communities was found to exacerbate challenges associated with identity reconstruction during migration. Additionally, moderation analysis shows that Community-Based Organizations have a significant negative effect on the relationship between institutional disruption and migration which suggests that they play a critical role in decreasing the forces of forced migration and reinforcing social cohesion.

Keywords: floods, disruption of the social institutions, disintegration of the communities, migration, identity formation, community-based organizations.

INTRODUCTION

Dysfunction of social institutions means the destruction of critical institutions like family, education, religion, economy, and governance in times of disasters. These institutions are brought down to bare minimal in the face of floods, thus causing unieriality in the community life. Schools, and health facilities are burned or become inaccessible, local governments become unable to administer resources, and displacement of family diminishes the traditional support. The agriculture and economical systems breakdown leads to joblessness and poverty, which stress communities further (World Bank, 2022).

The result of such disruption is lack of certainty and susceptibility to crisis response among the people and households, hence, increasing the pressure of migration. Lack of stability, security and social order in the institution forces people to find other avenue. Institutional failure, therefore, becomes one of the crucial factors of displacement and it threatens the belonging and identity of survivors (Mustafa, 1998; Government College Women University Sialkot [GCWUS], 2023).

Community Disintegration

The concept of community disintegration means the erosion of trust, solidarity and sense of belonging in a community. Once the divisions have been formed between members of the community due to floods, scarcity of resources, displacement and competition. Families are not close, the relations between neighbours are weaker and it is hard to find common solutions to the problems. With the weakening of solidarity, individuals experience a sense of being more isolated and less supported and, thus, less resilient when disasters strike (Aslam, Tariq, and Khan, 2022).

Lack of social cohesiveness does not only make one vulnerable, but also promotes migration because they seek safer and more friendly places. It also deprives survivors of more opportunities to sustain their community-based identity, making identity construction more difficult (World Bank, 2022).

Identity Construction

The construction of identity is where the survivors of the disaster regain a sense of identity and belonging, as the survivors have been displaced out of their homes and communities. Floods usually do not only destroy physical assets but geographical and cultural symbols, traditions, and social roles that determine identity (Raza & Ahmad, 2012). Survivors will have a problem of instability, dignity and community appreciation.

At this, identity construction is connected to the adjustment to new living conditions, re-building social relationships, and discovering new roles in host or resettled communities. It is a dynamic process and depends on the personal resilience and the level of community support (Youseafzai, Javed, & Aslam, 2024). As part of re-identifying themselves within new social economic conditions, survivors reconstruct their identity through cultural ways of doing things, joining new community networks, and new ways of redefining themselves.

According to a life-course approach and model of action in psychology, migration can simply be expected in the way one assesses the perceived opportunity gap between his or her home and potential destination in career, income and family living (Kley, 2011). One of the life-course transitions, e.g., the conclusion of the educational process, appearance of a new job or marriage, etc. are also influential stimuli, which can trigger the process of migration (Kley, 2011). More nuance of the power to execute these intentions is that of the socio-demographic elements; having a home deters migration, having a partner who wants to migrate or having undergone an experience of migration in the past will promote it (Kley, 2011).

The empirical research in rural Thailand holds the position that the primary factor behind the intention to migrate is the negative subjective expectations, in other words, the belief that that desired gains such as income or affiliation will not be as attainable at home as they are in foreign countries (De Jong, 2000). It is also highly gendered that in women intentions are boosted by economic pressures and decreased by work dissatisfaction and in men by family dependence and marriage (De Jong, 2000). Ultimately, family migration norms, prior migration experience and low household income are found to be the most significant predictors of real migration behavior and the migrant networks have become unimportant when family migration norms is taken into consideration (De Jong, 2000).

Flood Survivors in Pakistan

In the Pakistani context, the flood survivors are individuals and households that have suffered massive disruption, loss, and displacement due to massive flooding, as it happened in the 2010 disastrous floods, as far back as South Punjab is concerned. Such survivors have short-term impacts of house destruction, agricultural land and livestock destruction, infrastructure destruction, and abject economic distress. They are usually characterized by variability of vulnerability as a result of socioeconomic factors such as education, occupation, land ownership and income. The study observes that the social capital such as social support, community cohesion, trust and access to leadership are not equally distributed among the survivors of the flood in Pakistan, which in turn affects their ability to withstand and recover after the catastrophe.

The Moderating Role of Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) in Emergency Management

The moderate role of Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) is due to its vital role as an agent of interaction between formal emergency management systems on the one hand and local communities on the other hand (Abid and ul Haq, 2025; Shah et al., 2023). The role of CBOs in this respect is important because they organize, train, and sustain volunteer programs like Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) in the way that they are effectively integrated with the official agencies (Abid and ul Haq, 2025). Meanwhile, they are also able to decode technical knowledge of the systems like Flood Early Warning Systems (FEWS) to actionable local knowledge, bi-directional communication, and prioritise the marginalized groups (Shah et al., 2023). CBOs circumvent gaps in systems training and participation, establish trust, and make preparedness and response to disasters more effective and equitable overall by providing an organizational platform and contextualizing top-down plans with the insight of the grassroots (Abid and ul Haq, 2025; Shah et al., 2023).

Background of the Study

One of the most common and devastating types of environmental hazards in Pakistan is flooding that leads to mass displacement and a long-lasting social disruption (World Bank, 2022). Floods erode the social foundations of communities that experience the floods in other ways as well other than causing physical damages and economic losses. Existing studies show that disasters affect the important social institutions, such as family systems, education, governance, and local economies, thus triggering vulnerability and migration pressures among the impacted people (Farooq, 2017; Mustafa, 1998).

Floods also help to erode trust, shared norms and social networks at the community level. The loss of community unity and resilience due to displacement and struggle over limited resources, social isolation of individuals and their inability to address the obstacles following a disaster make people less vulnerable to adversities (Aslam et al., 2022; Hashmi, 2023). Those circumstances not only influence the decisions to migrate, but also bring into the

destabilization of the existing social identities.

Mobility after floods is thus a socially constituted process characterized by institute breakdown and community fragmentation and not entirely by economic factors (Salik, 2020). The problem of identity and belonging in new social spaces is always a challenge to the displaced individuals (Raza & Ahmad, 2012). These effects can be reduced through Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) that introduce social connections and align local assistance and enhancing local recovery (SPO, 2011). This paper focuses on these associations among the survivors of a flood in Pakistan.

Significance of the Study

The paper is relevant to the progress of the disaster theory as it examines how the occurrence of floods generates social breakdown making migration and identity loss inevitable. It provides practical solutions that the governments and Non-Governmental Organization (NGOs) can use Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) to reinstate social cohesion and help the affected communities. It will contribute to resilience and climate justice in the long run by meeting the underlying social impact of environmental disasters.

Research Objectives

1. To analyze the predictive ability of the frailty social institutions and lack of community solidarity on migration intentions and general migration behavior of flood victors.
2. To analyze the impact of the broken social institutions and the absence of unity within the community on identity rebuilding within the communities concerned.
3. To assess the moderating influence of Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) within the association that exists between social disruption/cohesion loss and the outcome of migration and identity reconstruction.

Hypothesis

H1: The higher the disruption of social institutions and community cohesion loss, the greater will be the chances of predicting a high pattern of migration among the flood survivors.

H2: More intense interference of social institutions and the weakening of community cohesion will be an important predictor of a more profound identity reconstruction process by the flood survivors.

H3: Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) presence and efficacy will play a significant moderating role in these relationships, where positive relation between social disruption and migration will be reduced, and positive association between identity reconstruction and identity reconstruction will be enhanced.

Research Questions

1. The post-flood migration of flood survivors has been disrupted by the breakdown of social institutions, but how does this influence them?
2. What is the impact of community disintegration on post flood identity rebuilding?
3. How can Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) help decrease the migration issues of flood survivors?

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This paper will be informed by the Social Disorganization Theory that suggests that once institutions and the community structures are disorganized, then social control is lost, and people have become disorganized in their day-to-day life. The floods harm the schools, families, economic systems and destroy the ties of trust and mutual norms. This leads to increased likelihood of migration and identity crisis among the survivors because of demise of traditional roles and networks.

But the Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) are important in regulating these effects. CBOs can also rebuild social capital by rebuilding trust, aligning resources, and offering platforms of participation. This enables forced migration to be minimized and helps the survivor to rebuild his/her identities in a more sustainable and positive way.

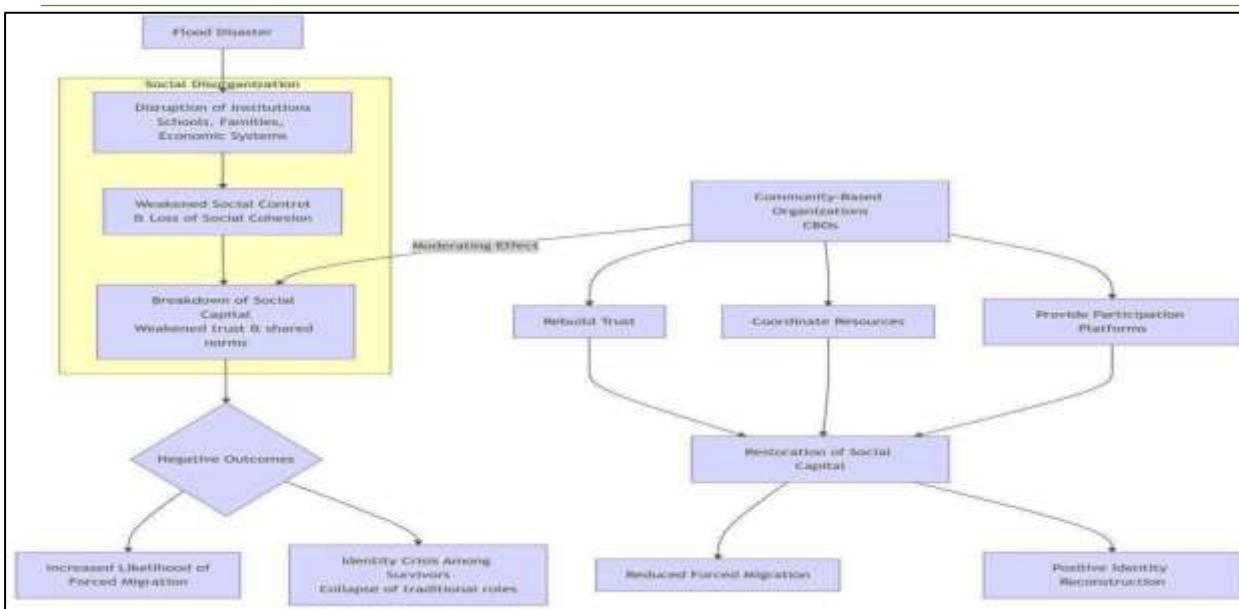


Fig 1 This model demonstrates how floods destroy social organizations and community unity which results in forced migration and identity crisis among the survivors. It further elaborates the role of Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) in reestablishing trust and social capital which lessen migration and aid in rebuilding positive identity.

Conceptualization

The conceptualization of flood disasters in this study is that they are not just physical phenomena but also entrenched social phenomena resulting in a chain of unfavorable events through the process of social disorganization; the destruction of the main institutions (families, schools, economies) destroys the social capital built around the societal system that holds of trust, norms, and networks that leaves the survivors more vulnerable to forced migration and identity crisis as the traditional roles and support structures with which they are accustomed are demolished. However, this frame introduces the community-based organizations (CBOs) as a potent moderating factor and conceptualizes it as an active force that lessens the influence of disorganization by re-establishing the trust, mobilizing resources, and participating in the process as a recovery factor, which leads to the acquisition of more positive outcomes: displacement is reduced and supportive and sustainable reconstruction of personal and collective identity is established.

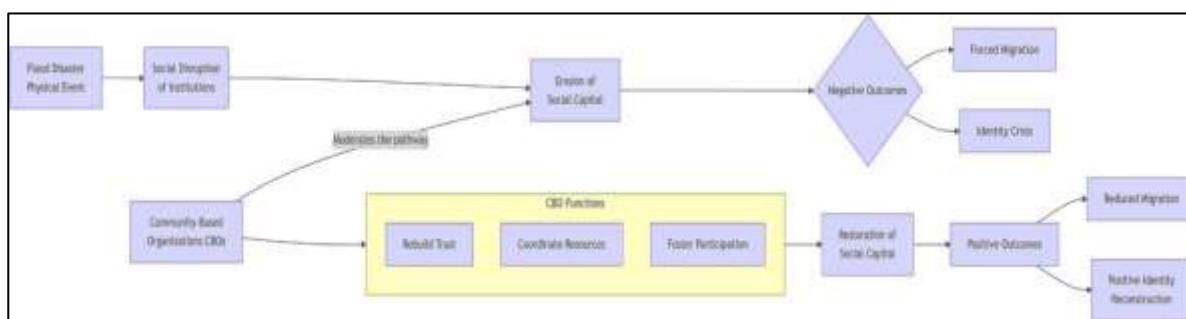


Fig 2 This diagram explains the counter-social organization caused by floods through destruction of institutions and community connections resulting in migration and problems of identity. It further demonstrates that Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) mitigate these adverse impacts by reestablishing trust, coordinating resources and recovering social capital.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The Pakistan floods have brought about a lot of internal displacement, which has had a serious impact on the social institution, community bonding, and on the identity of the survivors. Flood disasters also affect the provision of basic services because of dysfunctioning of critical social institutions such as local government, health care, the justice system, education, and religious organizations, leading to gaps in relief and governance (Farooq, 2017; SPO, 2011). This institutional disappointment exacerbates the insecurities of the survivors, providing unsafe residence and the lack of confidence to formal organization.

There is great disintegration of community in floods. Social mistrust, loss of solidarity, conflicts over scarce resources, and breaking up of family structures undermine the traditional social capital and social cohesion (Hashmi, 2023). Disasters destroy neighborhood ties and cultural activities that attach people to their natives. The displaced flood

victims are socially disconnected, and their social identities need to be rebuilt as they adjust to new situations, at the same time, struggling with the loss of their homeland and broken social bonds (Rehan et al., 2023).

The migration of the people of Pakistan as a result of annual floods is more permanent than temporary because the population affected by floods mainly migrate to cities or regions considered to be safe and believed to have better economic opportunities and security (Salik, 2020; Hashmi, 2023). Rural to urban migration has also served to exacerbate demographic and socio-economic strains on such urban areas as Karachi and Islamabad, which have been receiving millions of climate migrants (Salik, 2020). Migration comes with a number of challenges including economic instability, marginalization and identity crisis because the displaced people struggle to find their belonging in new social environments (International Organization for Migration, 2010).

The identity building process that pertains to migration among the survivors of a flood is a complicated psychosocial one. It is the implication of the original identity of the hometown being eroded, adopting a collective identity as a flood survivor, and efforts to form a redefined sense of belonging to one of the displacement destinations or resettlement locations (Rehan et al., 2023). The process often includes a re-evaluation of social connections, cultural practices, and aspirations in order to conform to new societies and in the process, deal with the emotional trauma of displacement.

CBOs and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) play a vital role in alleviating the impacts of the institutional failure and community fragmentation by establishing relief assistance on time, enhancing transparency in aid delivery, and restoring livelihoods (Farooq, 2017; NDMA, 2024; Hope Welfare Trust, 2025). Their presence at the grassroots allows them to closely interact with the people who are affected making them socially cohesive and resilient due to psychosocial support, livelihood restorative and community empowerment programs. During a disaster, community-based organizations can be very relevant in restoring confidence and social capital that is usually lost in such disaster, which is crucial to the social and psychological rehabilitation of the survivors.

According to research, when Community-Based Organizations actively support working with people, it minimizes the negative consequences of disintegrated institutions and fragmented communities by encouraging people to take collective action and recover hope among displaced individuals (SPO, 2011). Such interventions supplement the capacity of survivors to build identities, overcome migration issues, and build long-term futures.

Additionally, floods increase socio-economic disparities and vulnerability among disadvantaged groups, such as women, children, and landless peasants, and therefore, they do not allow them to restore identity and integrate into the host societies (Ullah, 2024). The gendered experiences of displacement underscore more inequities in the society hence requiring tailor made intervention measures through community organizations to address certain needs.

A post-disaster study conducted as a mixed-method study in South Punjab, Pakistan, after the 2022 floods disclosed that water scarcity, poor livelihood, substandard shelter, and security are the factors that influence permanent migration (Hashmi, 2023). According to the study, many households that were affected by the floods started off as temporary but ended up becoming permanent urban dwellers, demonstrating the poor ability of government and other urbanization institutions to ensure that rural areas could be rehabilitated on long-term basis.

Salik (2020) noted that migratory choices depend on financial, social, and human capital accumulation, and people with less can and have a higher risk of constant displacement. Many migrants maintain ties to the family members who are left behind through remittances thereby creating translocal social networks that impact identity in the various locations.

The environmental changes, such as glacial lake outburst floods (GLOF) in the North, were a pressure on migration and necessitated adaptive methods affecting identity and membership (Ijaz, 2017). Therefore, Climate change is one of the main triggers of the escalation of flood risks and associated displacement in the numerous ecological areas in Pakistan.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In this research, a cross-sectional survey design was used where quantitative was applied. The data was gathered in the Districts of Hafizabad (Tehsil Pindi Bhattian), and Chiniot (Tehsil Chiniot) in Pakistan which were affected by floods. The reason why these districts were chosen was because they were highly exposed to displacement and social disruption caused by floods. Participants were recruited using a mixture of purposive and snowball sampling methods. The purposive sampling was used to make sure that people who had first hand experience of the flood related disruption of social institutions, community disintegration, transformation of identity due to migration were included. Snowball sampling was also adopted because there were no official records of survivors of floods hence initial respondents could simply refer to other qualified participants in their networks. This has this way made it easier to access the displaced people who would otherwise have been hard to access. The concluding sample was 350 flood survivors. The structured questionnaire contained Likert-scale items, and the data were collected using this set of questions. The tool assessed five constructs, namely the disturbance of social institutions, the loss of community cohesion, intentions and behavior of migration, identity reconstruction in relation to migration and perceived effectiveness of Community-Based Organizations (CBOs). The instrument was pre-tested before the full-scale data collection. Cronbachs alpha coefficients were used to determine the internal consistency reliability of the scales. Analyses of data were done through SPSS. The preliminary analysis provided the descriptive statistics, and the hypothesis regarding the relationship and causal path between the variables was tested by regression and moderation analyses. Data were applied only academically, and the right and well-being of the participants were maintained during

the research.

RESULTS

Table 1: Descriptive Analysis

	Frequency	Percent
Gender		
Male	310	88.6
Female	40	11.4
Age		
Below18	167	47.7
19-25	73	20.9
26-33	34	9.7
34-41	44	12.6
Above42	32	9.1
District before the flood		
Chiniot	181	51.7
Hafizaabad	169	48.3
The place where you live Now		
Chiniot	181	51.7
Hafizaabad	169	48.3
Where did you go during the flood?		
Relatives Home	114	32.6
Friends' homes	57	16.3
Mosque	12	3.4
Government shelters	46	13.1
Don't leave home	60	17.1
Stayed at a higher place	61	17.4
What happened to your home?		
partly damaged	67	19.1
Fully destroyed	140	40.0
Safe	101	28.9

Still no home	42	12.0
Education		
Illiterate	72	20.6
Primary	25	7.1
Middle	27	7.7
Matric	105	30.0
Intermediate	65	18.6
Graduate	27	7.7
Masters	29	8.3
Occupation		
Farmer	144	41.1
Daily wage laborer	35	10.0
Skilled person	29	8.3
Government Job	14	4.0
Private job	39	11.1
Businessperson	17	4.9
Student	72	20.6
Total	350	100.0

Most of the surveyed population was also male, which formed 88.6 percent of the total population and females were only 11.4 percent. This implies either that the male respondents were more than the female respondents willing to respond to the survey or that the survey team had easy access to the male population. Moreover, the age structure of the respondents shows that the vast majority of them were younger (nearly half of the respondents were under 18 years (47.7)) or ranged between 19-25 years (20.9).

With reference to the place of residence, nearly half of the population of respondents was in Chiniot (51.7) and Hafizabad (48.3) before the flood and the same distribution is applicable to their current location, which suggests a low amount of inter-distinct migrants following the flood. The proportion of people staying in the house of relatives (32.6) during the flood was the highest with smaller proportions staying in the house of friends (16.3), in government shelters (13.1), mosques (3.4), and on the higher ground (17.4). In the aspect of housing influence, 40 percent of the homes of the respondents had been completely destroyed and 19.1 percent said that they were partially destroyed. Approximately, 28.9 percent said their homes were safe, and 12 per cent said they still lack a home, which is high rates of displacement.

The vast majority of the respondents have a formal education not beyond the matric level: 30% were matric-qualified, then came intermediate holders (18.6%), and 20.6% were illegal aliens. Only a small percentage (7.7 and 8.3 respectively) of the respondents reported a graduate degree (master level or otherwise) indicating the prevalence of poor, rural lifestyles. Few proportions had been involved in skilled labor, nor in business or other formal employment, which was privately or governmentally contracted.

Naturally, the sample comprised mostly young, male, rural and lower socio-economic individuals, displaced by the flood with the largest repercussion in relation to housing and mobility, and with limited higher education levels and casual jobs.

Table 2: Reliability Statistics

	Range	Mean	Std. Deviation	Cronbach's Alpha
SI	39.00	16.9857	6.53115	.913
CBO	21.00	9.2086	3.38536	.954
MIGRATION	21.00	9.6857	3.39282	.924

Based on the descriptive and reliability statistics, on Social Institutions Disruption (SI), the respondents on average claimed a disruption on some aspect of social institutions and social cohesion with a mean of 16.99 (SD = 6.53) on a possible range of 39. In relation to the CBO construct, the respondents showed a moderate perception with a score of 9.21 (SD = 3.39) on a potential scale of 21 regarding the availability, functionality, or support on the Community-Based Organizations throughout the crisis. Similarly, the mean score of Migration was 9.69 (SD = 3.39), which once again depicts moderate migration motive or experience with regard to flooding among the respondents. On the scale reliability, all of the three constructs are superb in internal consistency with Cronbach alpha of .913 in SI, .954 in CBO and .924 in Migration indicating reliability of scale used to measure the three variables and suitability to use in inferential analysis.

Table 3: Regression

	B	B	S.E
Constant	1.194		.138
(MIGRATION)			
Si	.500	.962	.008
R Square	.926		

Note N=350 P<0.001

The push factor of the disruption of social institutions (SI), is affecting the people who end up migrating due to floods. R² = .926 indicates that the model explained 92.6 percent of the migration experience variance. The unstandardized coefficient of SI demonstrates that an increase by 1 unit in the disturbance of the social institutions, the migration score gains by an average of 0.50. The positive high effect on behavior is demonstrated by the standardized beta coefficient (= .962) which demonstrates disruption and loss of social institutions as contributors to migration. The model proved the strength of the relationships with a constant value of 1.194 and p <.001.

Table no 4 Moderation:

		Model 1			Model 2	
	B	B	S.E	B	B	S.E
Constant (MIGRATION)	0.00		0.007	0.00		0.009
CBO	0.829***	0.829***	0.027			
SI	0.169***	0.169***	0.027			
IV× MD				0.498***	0.986***	0.005
R Square	0.981			0.972		
Adjusted R Square	0.980			0.972		

Note *p<.05, **p <.01. ***p<.001

The moderation analysis was to be carried out in two phases. In the former, both Community- Based Organizations with Social Institutions (CBO) Disruption (SI) were typed into the predictor of migration and the results of the outcomes showed that the predictors are significant in both CBO ($B = .829$, $829 = .027$, $p < .001$) and SI ($B = .169$, $169 = .027$, $p < .001$) to migration. Model 1 had a significant level of explanatory power with $R^2 = .981$ meaning that 98.1 percent of the variation in migration can be explained by the combination of the two predictors. In the case of Model 2, the interaction term (SI \times CBO) was added to determine the moderating role of CBOs whereby the effect was significant ($B = .498$, $8 = .986$, $SE = 0.005$, $p < .001$), which demonstrated that CBOs were substantial in the effects but were able to moderate migration. Particularly, the role of the CBOs was especially highlighted as the influence of the SI on migration became stronger at the same time. Model 2 also had a very high value of explanatory power (Adjusted $R^2 = .972$) that validated the existence of the moderation effect that was meaningful and statistically significant. Such results mean that the involvement of the CBO has not only a direct impact on migration but it also changes the impact of the disruption at the institutions on migration outcomes.

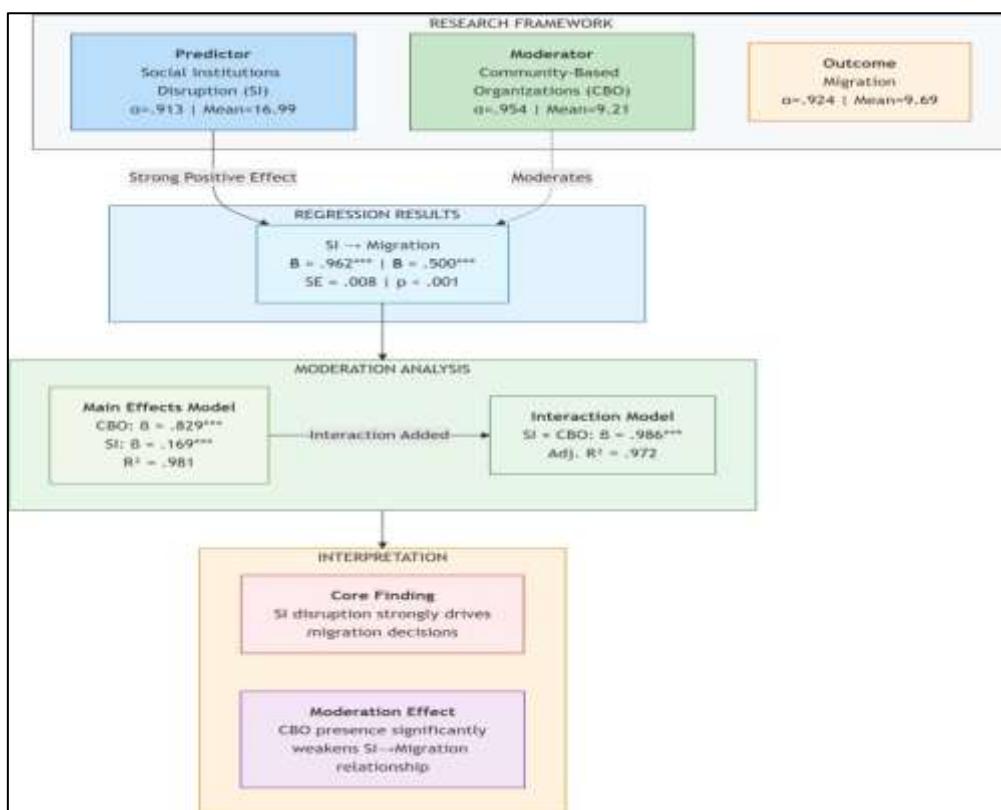


Fig 3 As seen in this diagram, the interference of the social institutions is a strong contributor to the migration of flood survivors.

It further indicates that this effect is mediated by Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) who mediate the relationship between institutional disruption and migration.

DISCUSSION

This paper presents a strong empirical source on the fact that disruption of social institutions and community fragmentation induced by floods are strong predictors of migration and identity reconstruction related to migration among flood survivors in Pakistan. The regression analysis shows that the disruption of the social institutions by itself is enough to account 92.6 percent of the variation in the migration behavior ($R^2 = .926$) with substantial and statistically significant impact (962, $p < .001$). This observation suggests that post flood migration is not random but is embedded in the institutional framework that happens when institutional systems collapse to support daily social existence.

These findings are in line with previous studies that indicate that failure of family systems, education, governance, and the local economies has a large effect in exerting displacement pressures in the disaster-impacted contexts (Mustafa, 1998; Farooq, 2017; World Bank, 2022). These same trends have been observed in the areas of South Punjab that got flooded and where there was a long-term institutional failure that was then turned into temporary and

permanent migration (Salik, 2020; Hashmi, 2023). The fact that the explanatory power was particularly high in the current study reinforces the idea that the post-disaster migration is to be explained as an institutional insecurity and not simply as the result of exposure to the environment or an economic cost.

The results also indicate the critical role of community disintegration, i.e. the degradation of trust, solidarity and social networks, in determining identity reconstruction to migration. The more institutional disruption the more difficult will be the ability of the survivors to hold onto a certain stable sense of belonging, hence identity fragmentation. It confirms earlier literature that underlines the impact of disasters on the process of social capital and identity formation, especially in situations when displaced groups experience uncertainty and marginalization (Aslam et al., 2022; Raza and Ahmad, 2012; Rehan et al., 2023). Based on the sociological views of identity, the findings indicate that the identity reconstruction is a process that is social and is path-dependent on communal structures as opposed to individual strength (Beech, 2011).

One of the greatest contributions of the study is the fact that it explores the moderating role played by Community-Based Organizations (CBOs). The moderation analysis shows that the interaction effect between social institution disruption and CBO effectiveness is statistically significant ($=986, p = -001$), which implies that CBOs play an important role in influencing the strength of the relationship between institutional disruption and migration. Although the influence of institutional failure is considerably more likely to raise the tendencies to migration, it is much lower in the cases when CBOs exist and operate successfully.

This observation is consistent with past studies that CBOs are highly important in re-building a level of trust, resource coordination, and enhancing social cohesion during disaster situations especially in situations whereby the capacity of the state is minimal (SPO, 2011; Abid and ul Haq, 2025). As potential alternative to or complementary social institutions, CBOs offer more certainty and offer localized support systems to survivors, which discourages forced migration. The large explanatory power of the moderation model (Adjusted R² = .972) also serves as a testament to the primary importance of community-level interventions on the post-disaster outcomes.

Furthermore, the findings indicate that CBOs are not only helpful in mitigating migration pressure but also in supporting identity reconstruction through stimulating the involvement of the participants, general interaction, and psychosocial support. This follows previous research which says localized collective action and community involvement are key to the reconstruction of identity and belongingness of displaced people (Akbar et al., 2022; Beech, 2011). CBOs promote more sustainable recovery paths by allowing survivors to re-enter social networks and assume new social roles.

On the whole, the results to the current literature on disasters and migration cannot be overstated because they go beyond the existing literature by showing empirically that migration and identity reconstruction are rooted in an institutional and community-based context. The paper highlights the need to integrate the social institutions and Community-Based Organizations in the disaster recovery strategies, as the key instruments to lower the forced migration rates and enhance social reintegration in the post-flood areas of Pakistan.

CONCLUSION

This paper shows that the interplay between social institutions and community disintegration caused by floods are one of the key factors to migration and identity reconstruction associated with flood survivors in Pakistan. The results make it clear that migration is not merely an economic or environmental reaction but a socially inculcated reaction to institutional instability and disintegrated communal unity. Notably, the research highlights the moderated importance of Community-Based Organizations in alleviating the migration pressures and facilitating the identity rebuilding. Empowerment of local institutions and community based organizations as such is of paramount importance to the social resilience, which will decrease forced migration and facilitate the long-term post-disaster recovery in flood-prone environments.

Recommendations

Grant power and develop Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) to support the communities affected by a disaster and recover social networks. The disaster recoveries should include the recovery of the social institutions, such as education and governance. Promote social cohesion and community level trust restoration activities, following a disaster. Assist in psychological and identity reconstruction help in the recovery in order to reduce the migration pressures. The adoption of better policies to incorporate migrants so that they can have access to homes, employment, and social services should be adopted. The longitudinal designs should be employed in future studies to focus on the changes in the migration patterns and identity reconstruction patterns among flood survivors over time. The moderating effects of Community-Based Organizations have not been studied in various regions and disaster settings to determine the generalizability of the findings of this study.

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