

Migration: causes and effects

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Key Words

Migration, brain drain, brain gain, remittances, globalization.

Abstract

Migration is movement of people between regions or countries. It is the process of moving from the use of one operating environment to other operating environment that is, in most cases, is thought to be a better one. Immigration and emigration are usually reserved for migration into and out of countries respectively. Migration may be temporary, with the intention of returning to the country of origin in the future or permanent or migrants may not have decided between these alternatives at the time of migration. In this age of globalization, migration is a very common feature. The main causes of Migration in India are huge population, rigid educational system, lack of good job opportunities etc. Migration results in to brain drain, talent shortage, reverse brain drain, remittances etc. Migration can be taken as one of the positive factors in the era of globalization which helps in the free flow and exchange of ideas, commodities, and technology along with talents. It has its own positives and negatives. In Indian context, as of today, migration has resulted in to brain circulation. The present paper is an attempt to examine the causes and effects of Migration in India.

Introduction

Migration is movement of people between regions or countries. It is the process of moving from the use of one operating environment to other operating environment that is, in most cases, is thought to be a better one. Immigration and emigration are usually reserved for migration into and out of countries respectively. Migration may be temporary, with the intention of returning to the country of origin in the future, or permanent or migrants may not have decided between these alternatives at the time of migration.

India has become a very prominent source of skilled labour migration. The flow of Indian professionals is towards the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and many other similar destinations. In 2010, India with an estimated stock of 11.4 million emigrants was the second emigration country in the world, behind Mexico (11.9 million). An important place in the flows of well-trained Indian migrants is taken by Indian students. India, for example, accounts for 5.5% of the 2.8 million students studying outside their home-country. After China (421,100), the country sends the greatest number of students abroad 153,300.

The ex-prime minister of India, Shri. Atal Bihari Vajpayee's address to the Global Organisation of Persons of Indian Origin (GOPIO) at New Delhi in January, 2001 reflects the perception of the Indian polity towards the highly qualified and experienced emigrants of India settled abroad. Expressing the pride of the Indian nation on the legendary success stories of Indian entrepreneurs abroad, he is reported to have said "from hi-tech chip laboratories to curry restaurants, from renowned hospitals to famous educational institutions, from well known research centre to leading think-tanks everywhere you find an Indian who has overcome all odds to establish himself through skilled education and hard work".

Objective of Study

In this age of globalization, migration is a very common feature. The present paper is an attempt to examine the causes and effects of Migration in India.

Research Methodology

The study is purely based on secondary data. The secondary data were collected from different sources such as Professional Magazines, Reference Books, Newspapers, Journals and published reports of World Bank, UNESCO, ministry of MHRD, ministry of Overseas Affairs etc. The collected data was compiled and analyzed for the purpose of the study.

Causes of Migration

Migration is affected by push and pulls factors. Push factors include lack of employment opportunities and fears of disorder or of persecution on grounds of race, religion or politics in the areas people live. Pull factors include favourable employment opportunities, good health and educational facilities, public order and freedom, and a favourable climate, particularly for the retirement in the areas people move to. Some of the major causes as highlighted by the present paper are presented below:

- **Huge Population:** India is known for its huge demographic potential. It has huge population which is educated, English speaking, computer savvy and efficient. This is what is required by developed economies because they lack in terms of working population. Therefore, they attract Indian skilled labours by offering lucrative packages. India on other hand fails to provide good working opportunities to this population. This results in migration of skilled labours.
- **Rigid Education System:** One of the important reasons why many students migrate to developed nations is for higher education, because Indian educational system lacks the flexibility which is the need of time. It offers rigid, stereotyped and traditional courses with less or no scope of shifting or changes across the subjects, streams etc. People follow a fixed mindset in opting for subjects, courses and careers. This results in huge demand for some particular type of courses and professions. There is huge commercialization of these courses which results in mushrooming of institutes offering similar kind of courses; this further dilutes the results and quality. The system lacks the format of standardization. Government needs to take concrete measures to amalgamate Indian education system with global to achieve uniformity and standardization and this is what is required today to meet global manpower demand. There is a need to change the attitude of students, parents also by counseling, suggestions and guidance.
- **Educated Unemployment:** As of today status of higher education in India in the year 2010-11 is: 523 universities, 33023 colleges, 11809 AICTE technical institution, 200 distance teaching universities/institutions, 169.75 (in lakhs) enrollment in universities and colleges, 37.45 (in lakhs) enrollment in open distance learning, 18.56 (lakhs) enrollment in post graduation diplomas, 10364 AICTE approved technical programmes and 26.15 lakhs intake in AICTE approved technical programmes are there. This shows the level of educated youth is high in India. By 2020, India will become the world's largest pool of young people estimated at 820 million as compared to the present number of 400 million. In contrast there is lack of opportunities for job. The Indian employment system is affected by the beurocratic policies and framework especially at the government or public sector openings. This also leads to migration of qualified people.
- **Globalisation:** In today's globalised and liberalized era there is no restriction on the movement of capital, goods, technology and information. In this context every country is

trying to make a distinguished position in the World market. To achieve this well trained man power is a must. In the fight for market shares and under the pressure of growing global competitiveness, the developed countries look for the best and brightest minds to win this battle. With a well-educated and large workforce India is an important provider of highly-skilled specialists for many developed economies including EU countries, which have become increasingly popular destinations.

- **Increasing Consumerism:** Consumerism means the growing wants and needs of an individual for goods and services. India is one of the largest and fastest growing economies in the world. The consumer's standard of living is improving and hence his needs are also increasing. Consumerism is justified in today's age of globalization. To fulfill this ever increasing and ever changing needs and wants people look for better paid jobs which will provide better standard of living. Earning in foreign currencies makes it possible.
- **Other factors:** Many of the social, economic and political factors also lead to migration. Political instability, red-tapeism, poverty, economic depression, political chaos, rising crime, crises and conflicts, corruption, family reasons, economic depression, low educational standards and inadequate infrastructure are some of the factors which create insecurity amongst the population that makes them leave their place of origin and migrate to better place. The host country, on the other hand, offers rich opportunities, political stability and freedom, a developed economy and better living conditions that attract talent. At the individual level, family influences, personal preferences, career ambitions and other motivating factors can be considered.

Effects of Migration

- **Brain drain: Human capital flight** is an Economics term equivalent to the Sociology term, **brain drain**, which refers to the emigration of intelligent, well-educated individuals to somewhere for better pay or conditions, causing the place they came from to lose those skilled people, or "brains". Brain drain occurs when scientists, engineers, doctors, IT- professionals and other intellectuals migrate to another country for higher studies, to undertake research activities, to get better job and work experiences which they are not getting from their country of origin. India is a very prominent source for supply of professionals. Elites and highly qualified professionals from India are placed all over the World. India is very rich in resources including human resources. India needs to put these resources to optimum utilization to bring amazing results for the country. The intellectuals which India loses every year can help in the effective utilisation of our natural resources. Government needs to take timely and effective efforts to bring these resources back to India.
- **Talent shortage:** Migration results in to talent shortage in the home country. The educated crowd instead of serving their own country prefers to work for the developed nations for the sake of better pay and standard of living or any other reason. This is evident in India also especially in the field of medical services. Rural areas face acute shortage of medical practitioners. Also, there is huge demand of IT professionals in Telecom software companies which is unfulfilled. Most of the available professionals prefer to go to abroad to meet the requirements of software companies abroad. This results in the crunch for professionals in these sectors.
- **Brain gain:** It can be generally defined as a form of brain drain where human capital moves in reverse from the developed countries to the developing ones. These migrants may accumulate savings; develop skills which could later be utilized in their home

countries. The dot-com bubble, sub-prime crises, 9/11 attack, attack on students in Australia and related issues; in contrast the resilience shown by India made many of these migrants come back home. The expertise of these talented migrants can be used for the establishment and management of enterprises. Brain gain also results in increased capital flows in to the country of origin, which can be used for the better utilization of resources. The returning entrepreneurs can also help India in making a distinguished position in the international markets.

- Cross flow of knowledge and information: Thanks to the Indian Diaspora they have become a means for the exchange of thoughts, skills, ideas and practices across the nations. This has helped India becoming an innovative centre especially for IT development. Naturally these resources contributed to the development process in India. In addition to the direct financial advantage Indian Diaspora specially highly qualified ones bring other benefits such as image improvement for the country, knowledge transfers, access to new markets, business networks.
- Financial Resources: Migration results in remittances. Indians who are earning abroad in foreign currencies send back money home for their families and to fulfill their liabilities. They also travel to and forth and along with them they bring foreign earnings to their country. Estimated at 30 million with a presence in 189 countries, the Indian Diaspora produces an annual economic income of about \$ 400 billion, almost 30 percent of India's GDP. There has been a steady increase in remittances from US\$ 15.8 billion in 2001-02 to US\$ 70 billion in 2011-12. This is highly encouraging and shows the significant aspect of brain gain to our economy. Indian Diaspora has also resulted in increased demand for Indian products in foreign market. This has further helped in the increased consumption of various products of Indian origin which now is equally liked and demanded by Indian and foreign markets. Indians settled abroad are now investing in various businesses in the form of FDI. This has helped in establishing a business network which helps in facilitating capital circulation between India and other countries.

Conclusion

Many of young Indian scientists and technicians are working very hard to develop our country. It's the hard work and devotion of its human talent that India today could achieved the nuclear status as well as become a space power. There is no limit to development and progress, India needs the talent of all the Indian scientists and engineers settled abroad. They can play an important role in future progress of our country. Migration can be taken as one of the positive factors in the era of globalization which helps in the free flow and exchange of ideas, commodities, and technology along with talents. It has its own positives and negatives. In Indian context, as of today, migration has resulted in to brain circulation. The migrants of yesterday are coming back and are creating new avenue for economic development. The situation is improving in IT, pharmaceuticals, bio-tech, and chemical field. The need of the time is to develop effective policy framework to attract the migrants which can then create substantial benefits for the nation.

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