



## Development Through the Lenses of Migration

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### ABSTRACT

This article examines the impact of migration on society, both how it is measured and analysed. Migration was the most critical force driving India's otherwise idyllic progress in the twentieth century. Researchers found that skilled emigration is rising in developing countries and that rich countries are increasingly turning to foreign workers with advanced training to fuel domestic innovation. This study discusses migration and skill development and social, economic, and technological innovation in depth. In this case, the research is descriptive. The information was gathered through secondary sources such as journals and books.

**Keywords:** Migration, Society, Skill-based migration, labour

## INTRODUCTION

Migration is not a new concept. Since the beginning of human civilisation, people have migrated from one place to another to find employment and livelihood (Qin, 2010). Nevertheless, industrialisation and urbanisation attracted labour migration from rural areas to urban parts of the world (Lipton, 1980; Rogers & Williamson, 1982; Pokharel, Tharu & Pandey, 2021). Migration in developing countries is higher than the developed countries because developing countries are primarily overpopulated, and means of livelihood are also scarce (Kahl, 2008). Being the second most populous country, India is not an exception in this direction. The rapid increase in population in India is spurring national and international migration. India has the most prominent demographic dividend (Population between 15 to 65). However, employment opportunity for this substantial working-age population is inadequate (Czaika, & De Haas, 2014; Noor, 2020).

Consequently, migration from native (rural) places to urban and semi-urban areas occurs. Migration has favourable consequences as it increases earnings, social development, and economic growth. However, it also shows some detrimental effects like overpopulated urban areas, increment in slum population, and the mental health of left-behind family members (Battistella, & Conaco, 1998). Since the number of developing economies is also large recipients of international migrants around the globe, these economies face challenges of integration of immigrants, job competition between migrants and workers from their home country, and fiscal expenditure linked with the provision of public services to the migrants (Page, & Plaza, 2006; Rowthorn, 2008). Therefore, such a condition has raised two questions; whether migration is iniquity or virtue.

The Economic Survey 2016–2017 predicted that more than 9 million individuals relocate annually inside the country. The majority of such migration is for employment or education. While Delhi, followed by Mumbai, is the leading destination for migrants, many people are relocating to southern states, such as Bangalore, Chennai, etc. The highest number of these migrants comes from Bihar, UP, Bengal and Assam. The Census 2011 data suggest that a significant amount of workforce migration is within the district and other districts within the state in India. Around one-fourth of the entire migration is to the opposite state. The movement of employees is more in metropolitan regions due to the availability of educational and career opportunities.

Migration history is the chronicle of people's struggle to survive and prosper, beginning with avoiding insecurity and poverty and moving towards better opportunities to improve their quality of life. In the twentieth century, a well-known economist and major proponent (Galbraith, 1979) described migration as "the oldest intervention against poverty." Over the last seventeen years, the global number of foreign migrants has increased. According to a United Nations estimate, about 258 million individuals, or around 3.4 percent of the world's population, do not reside in the nation where they were born (Pison, 2019).

According to (Joshi, 1999) People migrate in different ways and for different purposes. They move to advance their standard of living, give their children better opportunities, and reduce poverty. In the present scenario, more people are motivated to move to different places with modern transportation and communication facilities available to humans. Migrants can be classified in various ways, including whether they are moving within the country or across borders. Additionally, migration has been categorised into numerous forms based on motivation, distance, and time; for instance, Internal/International migration; Rural to urban migration; Voluntary/Involuntary migration. Migration is driven by the circumstances that compel people to leave their homes and seek a better life elsewhere (Bhagat, 2009). With this background, this article examines migration's effect on society.

### **Migration and Skills Development**

Skilled labour movement from developing nations has a persistent trend (Chandramalla, 2022). Governments in sending and receiving countries must react to and capitalise on mobility. Skilled migration is frequently perceived to negatively affect the nations of origin (Iredale, 2001; Benedict & Ukpere, 2013). However, recent research and policy experience call this premise into question and provide a more comprehensive picture. When skilled migration is appropriately structured, the countries of origin and destination can profit (Joppe, 2012). Several benefits to the nations of origin are disregarded for emigration. No matter how far they travel, migrants bring a wealth of material and intellectual capital that can be used to improve education and infrastructure in the nations they leave behind (Schiller, 2009). They also open doors for themselves that they would not have otherwise been able to open by staying put.

Additionally, many highly trained professionals are underemployed or unemployed in their home countries so emigration might ease labour market pressures in emerging economies (Clemens, 2013). Policymakers might restructure policies related to migration that attempt to restrict skilled migrants. There is no apparent benefit to the countries of origin from these measures that affect migrants, countries of origin, and countries of destination. Restrictions on migration or the places migrants move include limits on recruitment policies of "autonomy", which set the global goal as zero migration. Instead of building an immobile society, authorities should plan for an increasingly mobile society. There are many benefits to skilled migration. Thus better understand how destination-country and origin-country policy influence the benefits of migrants. The following two approaches may be applied to get benefitted from the migration:

First, governments should use workers who do not choose to migrate to their fullest potential. While in low-income countries, this can mean providing meaningful incentives to provide primary care in slums and rural areas; focusing training efforts instead on higher-level secondary and tertiary care; providing healthcare providers with the medications and tools they need to practise effectively; and removing domestic barriers to independent practise by well-trained nurses. Merit-based appointments at national academic centres, freedom of expression, and collaborations with overseas research centres are examples of this in academia. Non-migrants are less separated from peers abroad if they access these resources.

Second, policymakers from powerful nations of origin and destination should develop intergovernmental partnerships to promote the generation and transfer of skills. Skill investment continues only in environments where the rules are well defined and accepted. Without reciprocal trust and conversation, bilateral interactions degenerate into arbitrary and unpredictable measures, such as recruiting restrictions, "self-sufficiency," and punitive levies. These international treaties must consider the particularities of various industries and provide for the reciprocal recognition of qualifications and experience. Mobility professionals should be included in many of these plans, not all to have to be educated at the taxpayer's expense in their home countries.

### **Migration and Social Development**

National and international migration in search of employment is an escalating phenomenon with several important socio-economic development implications for home and host economies. For

the home country, migration and the resulting benefits cause increased incomes, poverty alleviation, and enhanced health standards and educational attainments, consequently promoting socio-economic development. However, these benefits might come at substantial social costs to the migrants and their families.

Migrating to another nation and being separated from one's immediate family can be a positive experience when done for the benefit of the entire household, but this is not always the case (Ratha, et. al., 2011). A family breakup, social network fragmentation, and psychosocial stress can all be exacerbated by short-term cyclical travel (Nordin, 2005). Migrants and their families are the only ones affected by this. The longer the separation between the migrating parents and their children, the more children lose mental development in household management, authority, and the provision of love and maternal care (Jingzhong, & Lu, 2011). When it comes to raising children increasingly replaced by other members of the family, or their children assume the responsibility of raising them. Rejection, abandonment, and loss follow the children left behind by their parents' migration (Castañeda, & Buck, 2011). Gifts and remittances from family and friends in other countries cannot compensate for their loss. E-mail and low-cost phone conversations may help transnational families establish and strengthen social links, even living on different sides of the world. (Orellana, et. al., 2001).

### **Migration and Economic Development**

Migration from the South to the North affects both origin and destination countries. About 3 percent of the world's population is estimated to live outside their birthplace (United Nations, 2009). More than 9 out of 10 global migrants travel for financial motives. Through and large, migration has positive economic impacts on the migrant household, the sending country, and the receiving country. (Ratha et al. 2011.) Indirectly, migration and remittances significantly impact a country's population well-being. It has been discovered that a 10% rise in per capita official overseas remittances will reduce the percentage of individuals living in poverty by 3.5%, according to a cross-country study. (Siddiqui, 2012). Both at the macroeconomic and household level, remittances have been found to stabilise income (Mengistu, & Ashagre, 2018). Migration to the United States and other countries has historically been a significant source of remittances through economic downturns, financial crises, and natural disasters (Beets, & Willekens, 2009). Migrant

remittances increase domestic savings and improve financial intermediation (Adenutsi, 2011; Misati, et. al., 2019), improving growth prospects (Mundaca, 2009).

Migration also leads to better health and education awareness among migrants. Migrants' access to better healthcare facilities and educational institutions reduces the infant mortality rate and enhances educational attainments, directly impacting wealth (Ratha, 2013). Health-improving practices, such as clean water and improved sanitation, can be brought back by migrants on their way to or from another country (Hanumanthappa, 2014).

### **Migration and Innovation**

(Ozgen et al, 2012) argue that cultural variety is a significant source of fresh ideas and creativity. International migrants enhance ethnic and cultural variety (Hugo, 2005). Even while a rise in the share of international migrants cannot be proven linked to increased innovation, it has a statistically significant impact on patent applications (Chellaraj, et. al., 2008; Hunt, J. (2011).

The five mechanisms through which immigration may boost innovation are:

- The population size effect
- The population density effect
- The migrant share effect
- The skill composition effect
- The migrant diversity effect.

The first two apply to the native population, while the last three apply to migrants only. Population size determines available resources, the scale of non-traded goods and services, and the market size (Behrens, 2005). Population density facilitates face-to-face interaction for exchanging ideas and labour pooling resulting in knowledge spillovers (McCann, et al., 2005). Immigration boosts local aggregate demand due to its share in the first three mechanisms (Mian, & Sufi, 2012). Large and diverse foreign populations inhabit the world's greatest cities at all times. They are home to complex, efficient, dynamic, interacting small enterprises run by migrant entrepreneurs or employ migrant workers giving the skill composition effect (Sanders, & Nee, 1996).

## CONCLUSION

It is clear from the above discussion that migration has both positive and negative effects on society, depending on the type of migration undertaken. People who have fled their homes in search of better employment opportunities have encountered family disintegration upon their return. In addition, developing countries like India are experiencing a brain drain due to the high demand for highly-skilled workers in developed countries and fewer employment opportunities in the home country. Migration showed a significant positive impact on economic development. Migration enhances innovation in the origin and the host countries. Thus, this study recommends that policymakers may design policies focusing on migration trends and to have more opportunities for their people to go and work in some other destination.

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