



## MIGRATION OF LABOR FROM INDIA TO GULF COUNTRIES: HOW FAR IT SUPPORTS SUSTAINABILITY?

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**ABSTRACT** India is a big country with the tag of larger contributor of labour force to the international community characterized by highly skilled technician to illiterate workers. Although international migration has an old age history in India but after 1990 due to liberal policies of the governments at international level due to effect of industrialization and globalization a large current of international migration started to developed nations and Gulf countries. However, change in lifestyle, consumption behaviour and desire to leave a good life was among the major causes for such migration. According to information available from Ministry of Overseas Affairs, Government of India. Tamilnadu has the highest number of international migration followed by Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and so on. Thus, south India has maximum number of International Migrants as workforce. However, Goa has the minimum number of International migrant in terms of labour workforce followed by Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and so on. There is no doubt that migration of labourer to foreign soils improve their economic condition and status which impacts can be observed in form of sound Bank Deposits, Construction of houses, better education to the children and better health facilities to their family members but on the contrary there are also some negative aspects which include stress, family problems, loneliness, threat of life in some countries where race problem exists, problem arising out of terrorism for which in recent times many Indian bound to return their home etc. thus, we can say that in spite of better opportunities an international migration to some countries is a serious concern.

**KEYWORDS :** International Migration, Workforce, Skilled and Unskilled Labour, Globalization

### Introduction:

India is second largest country of the world after China in terms of population. India is characterized by diversity of population in terms of different aspects and literacy. The overall status of literacy in India is characterized by highly educated population to illiterate population and its impact can be seen on its labour force too. International migration is a global phenomenon that is growing in scope, complexity and impact. Migration is both a cause and effect of broader development processes and an intrinsic feature of our ever globalizing world. While no substitute for development, migration can be a positive force for development when supported by the right set of policies. The rise in global mobility, the growing migration patterns and its impact on countries, migrants, families and communities have all contributed to international migration becoming a priority for the international community. (United Nations Population Division, Department of Social and Economic Affairs.)

**Objectives of the Study:** Present study is an effort to study the role of inter-nation migration of unskilled labor in supporting financial needs.

1. Impact of such migration on economy of a country.
2. Problem and prospects of international migration etc.

**Methodology and Data:** Present study is based on the Secondary data. It is a study of international migration of skilled and unskilled laborer from different parts of India to West Asia mainly Gulf Countries. Study is based on existing data available from Census, Ministry of Home Affairs, International Labor Organization, MPI etc. on the other hand indirect oral interviews are conducted with the people who are staying or stayed at some point of time in foreign country for employment.

**Reasons behind International Migration of:** The reason of migration may be different but in case of migration of labour from India to different countries following reasons play crucial roles:

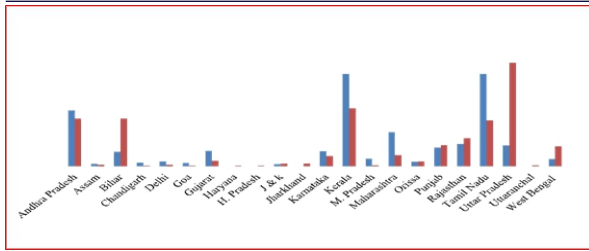
1. Large population pressure and less opportunity of employment are the most observed reasons for international migration.
2. A big difference in amount of wage is the most accepted reason for such migration.
3. In few cases people migrate voluntarily.
4. Higher amount of remittance due to higher salaries.
5. To fulfill the basic needs of family, better education of children, enhancement of property.

**Pattern of Migration :** If we analyse the pattern of migration from

India to Gulf countries we find that the share of Saudi Arabia is maximum with a total number of labour migrant about two million followed by United Arab Emirates (1.7 million), Oman (0.7 million) Kuwait (0.64 million), Qatar (0.5 million) and Bahrain (0.35 million). Thus the total number of migrants as a whole for the gulf country is 5.94 million. According to sources of the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Overseas Home Affairs the number of immigrants to the gulf countries as a whole increased steeply in between the year 1999-2007 along with United Arab Emirates while gradually progressive in case of Saudi Arabia. Reasons behind Migration of unskilled and semi-skilled labor force to West Asian Countries or Gulf Countries as per available sources of information are Oil Boom in Persian Gulf Countries in the 1970s inspired people to move in these countries. Along with this the other reasons are historical relationship of India with South West Asia, Larger Muslim population of the country, industrialization, Globalization and adoption of liberal policies by government after 1990 etc. Immigrants are mainly engaged in Oil Industry, Construction and service sectors. There is a contract of 2-5 years which may be renewed subject to terms and conditions. The whole recruitment process is completed through an authorized agency. India Immigration Act, 1983 regulates the interest of people migrating overseas for employment in respect of their wages, terms and security etc.

**Remittances:** Employment of Indian workers abroad helps earn foreign exchange and thereby adds to the foreign exchange reserves of the country. It may be observed that there has been a steady increase in remittances from US\$ 15.8 billion in 2001-02 to US\$ 70 billion in 2011-12. As per sources in forty years the amount of remittances increased from 121 million US dollar to 53,000 US dollar (Zachariah and Irudaya Rajan (2010), Word Bank Estimates for 2009), an increase of more than 400 times which has positive impacts on foreign money of India. The most striking changes were observed after the year 2000. However, there is a slight decline in the year 1990 due to gulf crisis but later it never look back in past.

**State wise Migration:** if we analyse the share of migrant in respect of state wise migration, we find that Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of immigrant followed by Kerala and Tamil Nadu. However, an inclined rate in case of UP while declined rate in case of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Maharashtra is observed. The most interesting observation is found in respect of Hilly States of India whose shares are much less in respect of Agrarian states except Goa, Gujarat and Delhi.



**Figure 1: state wise representation of immigrants from India to Gulf Countries.**

#### Major Findings:

Workers from the Gulf. About 47 percent of India's remittances – close to USD 33 billion – come from the overseas Indians in the six Gulf countries.

1. Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of immigrant followed by Kerala and Tamil Nadu. However, an inclined rate in case of UP while declined rate in case of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Maharashtra is observed.
2. Remittances play a major role in the country Foreign Exchange and GDP.
3. Muslims Populations immigrates maximum in numbers.
4. Economic and Social upliftment of immigrants occurred.
5. Inspiring from other immigrants large scale migration occurred from Indian Villages mainly from Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar cause development of cultural landscapes.
6. Rural-Urban transformations are impact of such migration.
7. Contractual rules and trapped in wrong hands create problems to immigrants.
8. Long duration stay causes ill mental health and other health complications for both family members and immigrants.
9. In some cases family unrest goes up to broken marriages.

#### Conclusion:

In the present age of globalization international migration is an important issue. India is a big exporter of unskilled and skilled migration and want to be more better in competition to the other country because it gives positive impacts on foreign exchange and GDP but there are also adverse impacts of such migration in form of wage gap and other issues particularly in case of political crisis.

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