

Indian Diaspora in Saudi Arabia: The Problems of Reverse Migration

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Oil rich Gulf countries became more attractive destination for temporary labor from south Asia since 1970s. The scale of labor movements to Gulf linked to the exploration of oil revenue, investment in domestic industry and the shortage of domestic labor. Saudi Arabia is an important destination for unskilled and semi-skilled labors from India, especially Kerala. Remittance from host countries played crucial role for the development of sending countries in the form of creating employment, labor market and livelihood prospects. But, the worldwide oil market crisis, the Nitaqat program, the countrywide lockdown and the closing of international and interstate borders in an effort to contain the COVID-19 pandemic all contributed to the informal migrant workers' reverse movement. In this context, this article discusses Indian diaspora in Saudi Arabia and the impact of reverse migration.

Key words: Diaspora, Reverse migration, Nitaqat, Covid 19, Unemployment, Foreign remittance

Diaspora is a word of Greek origin that means scattering or sowing of seeds. It is used to refer to people who leave their native lands to settle in other parts of the world for employment, business or any other purpose. The term 'Diaspora' has become so diluted and dispersed from its original meaning that 'Rojers Brubecker' interpreted the term and gave it new significance which is widely accepted. He argues that there are three fundamental components of diaspora that are still widely recognised. The first is spatial dispersion; the second

is orientation to a ‘homeland’, and the third is boundary-keeping (Brubecker, 2006). The term ‘diasporas’ has no clear definition, and its meaning has shifted dramatically throughout time, making it difficult to quantify. Indian Diaspora is a generic term used for addressing people who migrated from those territories that are currently within the borders of the republic of India. It constitutes NRI’s¹ (Non Resident Indians) and PIO’s² (Persons of Indian Origin). The government of India recognizes the importance of Indian Diaspora as it has brought economic, financial and global benefit to India.

Diasporas are non-state actors who engage with state actors, most notably their host state (the country in which they now reside) and their motherland. They play a unique role in international relations because they are bound between two countries, sharing two cultures, having an emotional attachment to two countries, and maintaining social links in two communities. Diaspora groups have risen to prominence as an essential component of foreign policy formulation. They have developed as powerful entities, since they are recognised as ‘soft power³’ in the area of foreign policy strategy, as well as an agent or catalyst of economic growth in their countries of origin in addition to their active participation in host nations. The Indian diaspora can be found all over the world, and the most prominent of them are in the West Asian countries. Since independence, two types of migration have left India. One is professionals and technical experts chosen to migrate industrialized countries, semi-skilled and skilled workers emigrating to Middle East

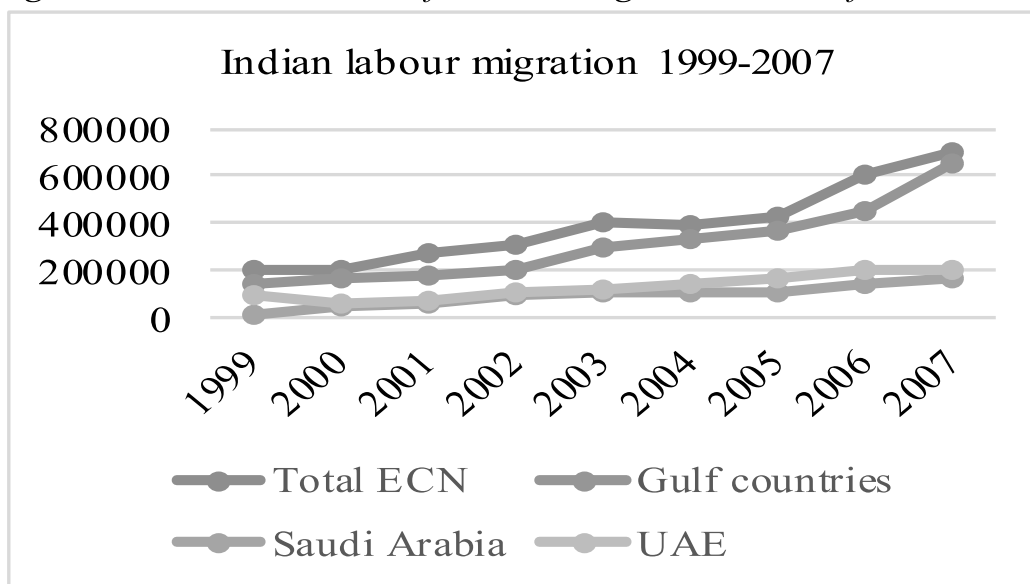
In the late 1970s, Indians began moving to the oil-rich Gulf in search of work. The top migration corridors for Indians are the UAE, the US and Saudi Arabia. During 1992-2001, nearly 3.6 lakh persons per annum migrated from India to the Gulf countries. This is significantly higher than the quantum of labour outflows from India attained even during the ‘Gulf boom’ of the late 1970s and early 1980s. The scale of labour movements to the Gulf linked to the exploration of oil revenue, investment in domestic industry and the shortage of domestic labour. Numerous substituent global events have had a substantial impact on this labour migration. With the introduction of a new economic paradigm, the Indian diaspora was able to take advantage of the

unregulated and open Indian economy's profusion of economic prospects. Due to large investment and remittance from the Indian diaspora, it was able to settle the foreign policy dilemma

According to Global Migration Report 2020, India accounts for the highest share with 17.5 million Indians living outside the country. According to this report India, China, Mexico, Philippines and Egypt were the top five remittance recipient countries. The migration report shows that Indians constitute the world's largest diaspora population, making it the largest source of labour for the world market. Although, India and China were well above the rest with total inward remittances and India exceeding US\$78.6 billion annually.

Saudi Arabia and the UAE have been the principal destinations during the last two decades. In fact, they account for about 55 percent of total Indian emigration to the Middle East. The 82 percent of the total remittances received by India originated from eight countries- the UAE, the US, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, the UK and Malaysia. Saudi continues to be among the most preferred destination for Indians seeking jobs abroad, resulting in the Gulf Kingdom becoming among the highest source of remittance to India. Figure 1 shows Indian trends of labour migration to the Gulf countries since 1999.

Figure 1 – Indian trends of labour migration to Gulf since 1999



Source: Migration Policy Institute

The figure 1 shows increasing trend of the Gulf migration and migration to Saudi Arabia during the period of 1999 - 2007. The chart depicts that since 2000, there has been an increasing tendency towards migration. That means, in the beginning of migration, the Gulf became an attractive destination for Indian migrants. Migration to Saudi Arabia shows an increasing trend in this figure. The Saudi economy hired foreign workers mainly during oil boom years.

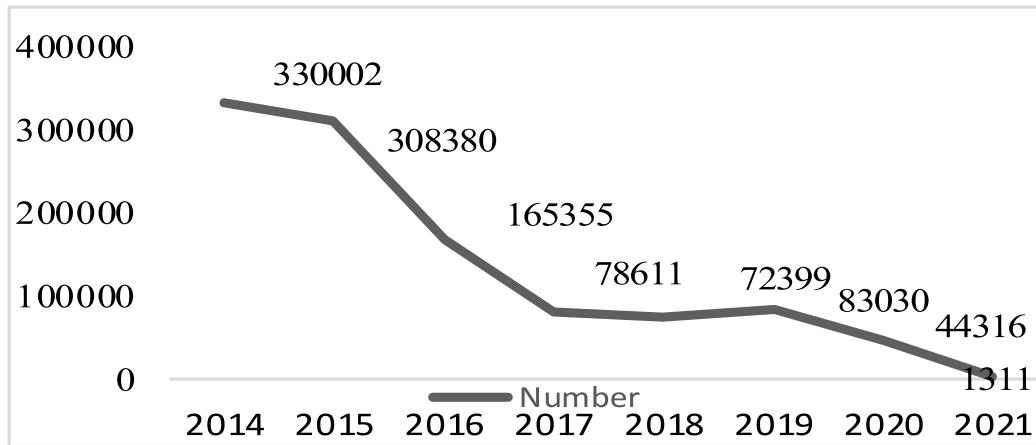
Table 1.1 – Indians in the Gulf countries, 2018

Country	NRI's	PIO's	Overseas Indians
UAE	3,100,000	4586	3,104,586
KSA	2,812,408	2,160	2,814,568
Kuwait-	928,421	1482	929,903
Qatar	691,539	500	692,039
Oman	688,226	919	689,145
Bahrain	312,918	3257	316,175
Total	8,533,512	12,904	8,546,416

Source: Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India. Statistics on NRI'S and PIO's.

Table 1.1 shows the statistics of Indians in the Gulf in 2018. There are an estimated 25 million Indians living abroad (Press Information Bureau, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, 2015). This represents a significant portion of the country's population. Of these, the majority—roughly six million—dwell in the Gulf. As per the World Bank statistics, the population of Saudi Arabia in 2019 is estimated to be at 34.14 million. As per the data from Saudi General Authority of Statistics (GaStat) in 2017-18, more than 30% of Saudi population were expats. Indians are the largest diaspora in the country. There are 2.8 million Indians living and working there.

Figure 2- No. of people got emigration clearance to Saudi Arabia 2014-2021 February)



Source: E-migrate portal, Govt. of India

Figure 2 depicts the number of Indians who have got emigration clearance to Saudi Arabia since 2014. The pattern of Indian migration to Saudi Arabia has shifted significantly during the last decade. The number of blue-collar employees migrating to Saudi Arabia has dramatically declined. The number of Indians granted emigration clearance to work in Saudi Arabia has fallen sharply since its high in 2014, as seen in figure 2. A combination of elements at both ends of the migration corridor contribute to the diminishing number of Indians leaving for employment in Saudi Arabia. Nationalisation policies implemented by Saudi government, low wage rate, oil market crisis, voluntary return to home and recent pandemic Covid-19 are also responsible for this diminishing tendency.

In the beginning of migration to the Gulf, most migrants came from south Indian states of Kerala, Tamilnadu and Andhra Pradesh. These states have historical connection with the Gulf and have large number of Muslim population. Almost half of the Indian migrants to the Gulf is from Kerala. Among them 16% are women. Saudi Arabia was the destination of Malayali emigrants in 1998 with 37.5 percent. Since then Saudi's share of Keralites declined to 26.7 percent in 2003 and further to 23 percent in 2008 and 21.8 percent in 2013 (Zachariah & Rajan, Migration and Development: The Kerala Experience, 2012). The most striking aspect is that Kerala remittance made up 21 percent of state income in the 1990s. "After independence, large number of

Keralites found jobs in cities like Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Bengaluru etc. But this trend declined in the 1970s due to the native's mentality", according to K V Joseph, the migration expert. In this time, job seekers in the Gulf became witnessed a golden boom for Keralites. A huge number of Keralite Considered the Gulf as their new destination. Nearly 40 percent of Kerala emigrants live in the UAE and 25 percent in Saudi Arabia. Remaining 10 percent of emigrants concentrated were in other countries like the USA, the UK and Australia etc. Compared to the last five years, the emigrant population is showing a decline. Keralite are the largest expatriate communities in Saudi Arabia. Recent trends to the Gulf migration from India have witnessed certain changes. Table 1.2 clearly depicts this trend. State - wise data comprises emigration clearance taken by recruiting agents, project experts or through direct recruitment. The table 1.2 shows only Indian ECR workers in Saudi Arabia from leading states.

Table 1.2- State wise emigration clearance to Saudi Arabia

States	2007	2010	2012	2015	2018
Bihar	2888	29919	43223	43189	13337
Kerala	8741	43765	41799	12388	5739
Rajasthan	3312	21574	25527	16264	6668
UP	9941	87924	128381	128925	25501
West Bengal	1177	15507	22224	37678	7408
Tamil Nadu	2971	24553	23348	14443	2380
Andra Pradesh	1066	5973	10398	8935	840
Karnataka	1188	8197	9464	4702	908
Total	31,278	2,37,412	3,04,364	2,61,822	62781

Source: e-Migrate portal, Government of India

Table 1.2 clearly shows the recent trend of Indian migration to Saudi Arabia. Instead of Kerala and Tamil Nadu, the north Indian states of UP and Bihar now lead the list. The Ministry of External Affairs only keeps track of the number of Indians living abroad and

those who need an emigration check. The Kerala Migration Survey 2016 conducted by CDS shows an absolute decline in the total number of Kerala emigrants from 2.4 million in 2014 to 2.24 million in 2016, constituting a drop of 1.54 lakhs. It is for the first time the number has declined since CDS started conducting migration survey in 1998. The preliminary findings of the survey conducted by I.Rajan (2016) shows that among the 14 districts, Thrissur has seen the largest decline in the number of emigrants (75,355) followed by Ernakulam (71,749) compared to 2013 figures. Malapuram, which has the higher number of emigrants, also saw a decline (58,618) during 2013-2016. Nearly 38 percent of Kerala's emigrants live in the UAE and 22 percent live in Saudi Arabia. After Nitaqat, Saudi Arabia has lost its 3 percent share.

Trends of Remittance from Saudi Arabia

Despite a decrease in Indian migration, remittances surged by about 14% to \$ 78.6 billion in 2018. There are several elements that contribute to the trend. First, the Indian rupee has depreciated, and second, the Indian expatriate population in the Gulf comprises a significant proportion of high-income earners whose remittances are not recorded by official migration figures and finally, many migrant workers in the Gulf have climbed the social ladder. Despite the pandemic that decimated the global economy, India received over \$83 billion in remittances in 2020, a decline of only 0.2 percent from the previous year, according to a World Bank report.

According to a World Bank report, India retained its position as the country receiving the most remittances in 2018, with \$80 billion sent home by the diaspora. China (\$67 billion), Mexico and the Philippines (\$34 billion each), and Egypt (\$26 billion) are the next largest recipients of remittances. As a result of the enormous diaspora in the Gulf and other countries, India has been a major recipient of remittances. Expat workers account for three-quarters of the Kingdom's 13.6 million workforce, with the majority being from India, Syria, Pakistan, Bangladesh, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka. In the first ten months of 2020, Saudi Arabian expats contributed SR123.4 billion (\$32.9 billion) in remittances to their home countries, a rise in

18.58 percent as compared to the year 2019. The payment increase occurred as foreign employees in the Kingdom sought to assist their families amid the corona virus outbreak (Gassem, 2020).

Figure 3-India's total inward remittances

Source: World Bank

People working overseas sent home less than \$3 billion until 1990. However, by 2018, India's international remittances would have increased significantly, reaching \$ 78.6 billion. In 2020, the pandemic Covid-19 has affected inward remittance. Figure 4 shows Middle East countries with highest remittance to India in 2018.

Figure 4- Middle East countries with highest remittance sending to India

Countries in the Gulf region collectively account for a large share of overall remittances to India. According to the Reserve Bank of India's fourth round survey of authorised dealers on India's inbound remittances in 2016-17, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar accounted for over 45 percent of all remittances to India. The figure 4 clearly shows that Saudi Arabia is the second largest remittance sending West Asian country to India. In most areas of the Saudi economy, Indians have become the major and leading labour force.

Impacts of Migration

There is a direct relationship between migration, remittance and development. The effect of migration is significant in major sending regions. Foreign remittances and reduction of unemployment are major benefits of external migration. Remittance has a considerable impact on regional economies. Migration acted as a safety valve in countries like India to reduce growing unemployment. Flow of remittances not only boosts foreign exchange but also provides potential source of additional savings and capital formation. As nations increasingly opened their borders to foreign workers in the last two decades, remittances to India have sourced from US\$ 2.10 billion in 1990's to US\$ 78.6 billion in 2018. The emergence of 'remittance communities' creates symbiotic relationships between source and remittance receiving countries.

At the family and community levels, migration and remittances have a positive impact on development. Migration may increase household wages, food, health, housing, and educational standards at the family level. Improvements in health, education, sanitation, and infrastructure may be seen at the community level, benefitting both migrant and non-migrant households. These migrants provide a vital source of money for India through remittances, as well as contributing significantly to the economic growth of the Gulf States.

Remittances do improve social and economic conditions within different areas of the country. It constitutes a flow in cash and kind directly to the migrant's family. There is a question whether remittances can help to alleviate poverty and improve human well-being in origin areas. Remittance to India has a considerable impact on economy

and development. It is also reflected in the consumption pattern. With regard to the skill acquired from Saudi, 33.1 percent opined that they achieved some sort of skills, supervision etc. during their emigration life. The impact of migration clearly reflected in the socio- economic life of Indian society. In the case of Kerala, foreign remittance played an important role in ‘Kerala Model of Development’⁵, because Kerala has enjoyed the benefits of migration in the early 1990s. Other states of India have utilised the scope of migration in the late 2000s.

When we look into the impact of migration in Kerala, it has provided the single most dynamic factor in the otherwise dismal scenario of the state in the last quarter of the 20th century. This helped those households to attain high income, consumption and acquisition of assets. This also pushed up the prices of land, consumer food, education, transport etc. (Prakash, 1998). Currently Kerala receives remittance of 36.3 percentage of its GDP. Malabar was in the forefront of GCC migration. Kerala approached the end of the millennium with a little cheer of money in its homes, thanks to migration and the economic returns that it brings. In Kerala, migration must have contributed more to poverty alleviation than any other social factor including agrarian reforms, trade union activities and social welfare legislation (Zachariah, Mathew, & Rajan, 2001). This flow appears to have increased wealth. Although the average per capita consumption in Kerala was below national average until 1978-79, but by 1999-2000 consumer expenditure in Kerala exceeded the national average by around 41% (Srivasthava, Ravi, & Sasikumar, 2003). The volume of remittances received by Kerala contributed to the state’s excellent and improved health and education. Remittances are used for housing, purchase of land, education of children’s and dowry. Housing has been the first requirement of emigrants.

Declining Trend of Migration

Fluctuations in migration happened in certain years. There are a number of reasons behind this. Migration to West Asia, especially Saudi Arabia, has declined since 2011 due to fluctuations in oil price, regional policies of host countries, job loss due to continuous lock down during the time of the pandemic Covid-19 etc. Table 1.3 clearly

illustrates the sharp decline of Indian migration to Saudi Arabia.

Table 1.3- Declining trend of Migration to Saudi Arabia

Country	2018	2017	2014	% change 2018/17	% change 2018/14
KSA	65,542	78,557	3,29,882	-16.56	-80.13

Source: Reply by MEA in Parliament: statistics for 2018 up to Nov 30

The five-year outflow of Indian migrants to Saudi Arabia peaked in 2014 at 3,29,882. Compared to that figure, the decline in 2018 is as high as 80 percent. In 2017, Saudi Arabia has relinquished its position as the most attractive destination among the Gulf countries for Indian workers. The effect of Nitaqat reflected in migration after 2014. Nitaqat is not the only reason for the decline in migration from India to Saudi Arabia. It is essential to consider the diminishing migration trend and its reasons, including Nitaqat, fall of oil prices, and Covid-19. Some of the prominent oil producing self- economies are trying to increase the share of their native population in the workforce engaged in various sectors of the economy, realising that the oil boom may end at some point.

The Program of Saudisation and Its Impact

The term Saudisation came in the late 1970s as a new economic term. Saudi Kingdom began its Saudisation policies in 1995. The concept refers to the replacement of expatriates with competent and skilled local employees. The policy was formulated through a ministerial decree in 1995, which declared that private firms with over 20 employees should reduce the number of non-Saudis by 5 percent annually, implement penalties for noncompliance including denial of access to certain types of Govt. support, enforce a freeze on application to hire new workers from abroad and on their renewal of existing permits (Al-Bureay & Asad, 2009). But, it also failed.

In 2011, the government intensified the emphasis on Saudisation through the Nitaqat programme, was introduced to boost failed Saudisation programme. The Arabic word ‘Nitaqat’ means ‘ranges’ or ‘limits’. It is an attempt of Saudi government to assist Saudi locals. Theoretically, it should reduce unemployment rate in

the country by compelling companies to hire more locals. Nitaqat acts as a monetary rule in Saudi labour market. This program looks more on the number of employees in each company rather than their capabilities. Saudi government took this effort after the ongoing slowdown of the economy due to continued low crude oil prices. The policy is not specifically directed at Indian nationals and the Saudi government is exercising its prerogative and sovereign right by following this policy uniformly in respect of all foreign nationals.

Why Saudisation

The unemployment rate is strikingly high for Saudi nationals with a bachelor's degree, but, there are large numbers of both male and female bachelor degree holders, and a substantial percentage of them are unemployed. Lack of suitable public transportation, lack of information about the availability of jobs, and the weak professional networks for youth and female employees make it costly and time consuming for job seekers to hunt out jobs suitable for their skills. Saudi government's flagship program 'VISION 2030⁴' aims at securing meaningful employment for Saudi citizens and to raise the proportion of women who are active in the labour force to 28 percent (currently at 17 percent).

According to the report of International Monetary Fund (IMF) the figure of jobless Saudi nationals ballooned to 11.6 percent and it has reached 32.8 percent among women. Saudi Arabia's unemployment rate remained the same at 6% in December 2018, from the previously reported number of 6 percent in December 2017. In the latest reports, Saudi Arabia's population reached 33.41 million in December 2018.

Saudi employment in the private sector is hampered by high wage requirements and mismatched career expectations. Private sector employment provides lower wages and weaker job security than the public sector. The 'Vision 2030' aims at making most of the new employment being generated in the private sector. It ensures 4.5 million job opportunities for Saudi women and men in the private sector by 2020. Furthermore, it aims at increasing the ratio of Saudis employed in the private sector to 50 percent by 2020.

Covid 19 and reverse migration

Due to the unexpected shutdown and widespread layoffs, there was a pressing need for them to return to India (Kumar&Akhil, 2021). Wage theft is a long-standing problem, but it was made worse by the COVID-19-induced migrant crisis (Foley & Piper, 2021). The abrupt and unplanned lockdown, closing of hotels, construction sites, and other industries that employed migrant workers and paid them meager wages, left them jobless, homeless, and without wages. The employers' recklessness, widespread wage theft, and forced layoffs of a significant number of both domestic and foreign migrant workers added to their suffering (Kuttappan, 2020; Sarkar, 2020).

Reverse Migration and Its Impacts

Regarding the issue of reverse migration, the number of Indian workers emigrating to the Gulf for work has dropped in the past couple of years, probably due to the slowing economies of countries that are part of the Gulf Cooperation Council, which have been hit by reduced oil prices. According to the World Bank, the Nitaqat law implemented by the Saudi government at the local level, and the fall in global oil prices and the pandemic Covid-19 have led to a large number of job losses and returns. But the government's failure to show accurate figures on how many people have returned as a result makes it difficult to understand its impact. The job losses and returns of expats will be problematic for India. It might result in the laying off a huge number of Indian workers, mainly in the states of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, which already have high unemployment rates. According to a World Bank Report, inward remittances to India remained flat at \$83 billion in 2020 (a mere 0.2 percent drop over 2019) owing to the return of migrant workers from the Gulf to India due to the spread of the devastating Covid-19 pandemic that has impacted the global economy since the beginning of 2020. The loss was mostly attributable to a decrease in remittances from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (Kulkarni, 2021). Figure 5 shows the return of the migrants from the Gulf countries in 2018.

No.of Indians brought back by Govt. of India, 2018

Figure 5

Source: Ministry of External Affairs (In reply to starred question No.247), Rajya Sabha, Session-246)

The Figure 5 clearly shows that Saudi Arabia is in the top in the list of returnees. This also happened due to the policies implemented by the Saudi government and the fall of oil price. The effect of oil glut and resultant downswing of economies in the Saudi has had some delayed impact on remittances. The movement in oil prices has a big influence on oil, given that these economies depend on oil for growth. Earnings of the migrant workers from India reflected in the slowdown of these economies in the aftermath of the oil price fall in 2015 and 2016.

Reverse migration seriously affected trade, real estate, construction, business and education in India especially Kerala. If a worker leaves the Kingdom for not having legal documents, he can come back once and find a sponsor and stay there. This provides relief to the returnees. As per the Kerala Migration Survey (2014), the number of Kerala migrants who returned from abroad is 12.5 lakh in 2014, 11.5 lakh in 2011, 11.6 in 2008 and 7.4 lakhs in 1998. The largest number of Kerala migrants returned from Saudi Arabia is 34.5 percent of the total. Once the return emigrant reaches Kerala, unemployment rate increases substantially to 18 percent. Emigration brings substantial reduction of unemployment rate in Kerala. The major

part of the trade and commerce, construction etc., depends on foreign remittances. In Kerala, Gulf migration has been considered as a 10-20 year project. Remittance for this period was used for construction of houses, household expenditure, education of children, buying land etc. More than 40 percent of returnees spent their savings for construction and nearly the same proportion had been used for the purpose of marriage of their daughters. But the increasing rate of reverse migration due to nationalisation policies, fall in oil price and the Pandemic Covid-19 and other reasons affect this project.

Problems of Indian Migration

Our present policy is not sufficient to address the problems of unskilled labourers and returnees. The greatest limitation of Indian migration management system is the lack of sound and judiciously defined policy structure. The regulatory system followed by India is a selective system in which certain groups come under this act and others are outside its purview. It has two major adverse impacts. First, all those who possess an education of higher secondary level get an unregulated chance. A proper documentation of this section is not done. Second and most importantly, contrary to stated intention, the emigration clearance system makes the ECR passport holding emigrants more vulnerable in multiple forums and various stages of their emigration. ECR passport is discriminatory in principle and in praxis become a stamp for exploitation (Rajan, Varghese, & Jayaumar, 2008). The data on who passes through the channel of emigration is only available. To protect the vulnerable categories of unskilled, semi-skilled and women, the Protector General of Emigrants checks their labour contracts before they depart to ensure working conditions and fair wages. This process is called an Emigration Clearance Check. From August 2016, the recruitment through the six states run recruitment agencies was made mandatory for Indian nurses and domestic workers.

The legal and administrative framework of emigration management in India is provided by the Act of 1983, which seeks to protect the emigrating workers through a principle of 'protection by exception' by making it mandatory for the ECR passport holders to

get emigration clearance from Protector of Emigrants (PoE) officers before proceeding for expatriate work in the specified countries. In this system, the decision to emigrate is that of the individual and government job in principle is to regulate the flow of people to the best interests of the emigrants. The Protector of Emigrants (PoE), an office independent India inherited from the colonial regimes, grants emigration clearance by ensuring the documentary uprightness of the applicants for expatriate labour. Considering the magnitude of forgery and fraudulence in the field today, the PoE offices are not equipped with any technological means to check the veracity of the documents submitted to them. This casts serious doubts about the effectiveness of the exercise of emigration clearance itself. With regard to India at national level the data related to returnees are not adequate. But in the case of Kerala, they gave special effort to keep the details of returnees through its Migration Survey.

Rehabilitation Policies for Expatriates

When we look into government interventions to deal with the problem of return emigrants, we find it is minimal. There has been only a little effort by central as well as state govt. since 1990's. The non-residential Keralite has begun self-employment schemes for the returnees affected by Nitaqat. But it was not utilised by a significant number. But in the case of India, national level policies are not enough for the states. But, Kerala is far better than other states with systematic policies and programs. The Department of Norka and Norka Roots played an important role to reintegrate returnees. Their policies are mainly related to economic incentive policies. At the institutional level, the Norka is one of the major initiatives of Kerala government launched in 1996. NORKA Roots is its wing, which provides various helpful services to migrants and returnees. Some of their programs are pre-departure training, skill upgradation program, Pravasi ID card, annual meet and resettlement and reintegration of NRKs returning to Kerala.

Conclusion

Indian Diaspora played a crucial role in the overall development of the economy. Their remittance helps our economy for the development and reduction of unemployment. Remittances

have been sent home by migrants under many different conditions. It benefits the family back home as well as the government, which may import commodities for the nation with a positive balance of payments. It is essential in lowering extreme poverty in some places. Diasporic community puts substantial contribution for development of community and individual level. But the process of reverse migration seriously affected various levels of development of the economy. Reverse migration has made a number of pre-existing issues that the migrant groups faced worse, which has caused them to suffer consistently at various points during their migration. A major policy concern is the proper reintegration of migrants, which would involve gathering up-to-date, creating jobs that match their skill set, including them in welfare programs, and allowing social security benefits to be portably transferred in light of the mobile character of migrant communities. A few actions might be taken to address the problem, including proper verification of recruiters' details, increased local support via the Indian embassy, and worker welfare programs in the host nation. So that in the event of an unexpected return, people can get a reasonable solution for their resettlement.

Endnotes:

1. Non Resident Indian (NRI) is an Indian citizen who resides in India for less than one hundred and eighty-two days during the course of the financial year or, who has gone out of India or who stays outside India for the purpose of employment, or who has gone out of India or who stays outside India for carrying on business or vocation outside India or who stays outside India for any other purpose indicating his intention to stay outside India for an uncertain period.
2. Person of Indian origin means a foreign citizen (except a national of Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, Iran, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Nepal), who at any time held an Indian passport or who or either of their parents/ great grandparents was born and permanently reside in India as defined in Govt. of India Act, 1935 and other territories that became part of India. Thereafter provided neither was at any time a citizen of any of the aforesaid countries or who is a spouse of a citizen of India.
3. Soft power definition is the capacity to influence other nations through the use of persuasion and attraction rather than coercion or force. Soft power relies on culture, arts, and science.
4. Saudi Vision 2030 is a government program launched by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia which aims to achieve the goal of increased diversification economically, socially and culturally, in line with the vision of Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman

5. The Kerala model of Development refers to the state of Kerala in India's economic policies. When compared to the rest of the country, it has strong social indices such as high literacy and life expectancy rates, much improved access to healthcare, and low infant mortality and birth rates. Despite having a lower per capita income, the state is frequently compared to developed countries on all parameters. These accomplishments, as well as the reasons that contributed to them, have been regarded as hallmarks of the Kerala model.

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