



Theoretical underpinning of Indian migration in the Gulf: An analysis

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Abstract

Migration is global phenomena in the context of theoretical underpinning where migration works as function in the context of theoretical debate from its past reflection to present with future implication. Therefore, major argument of this paper is based on theoretical analysis of unfolding facts of migration in historical trajectories of Indian Gulf migration in twenty first century. In the consequence of argument, objective justification of the study is focused on content-based discourse of theoretical underpinning of Indian Gulf migration. The paper's methodology is based on a review-based examination of Gulf migration using a retrospective to prospective approach to the study design from the past to the present with implications for the future. Findings of the study show that there is colonial reflection in post-colonial reflection of Gulf migration by post-colonial theoretical underpinning of the migration in twenty first century. Therefore, paper is relevant in the context of sustainable historical approach under the agenda of millennium development goals of India.

Keywords: Indian Gulf Migration, theoretical underpinning, post-colonial migration theory, historical trajectories of migration, migration and development (MDGs context)

Introduction

Moving to a new location is referred to as migration. Migration is defined as moving from one country to another, from one state to another, or from one town to another (Magill, 1997, p.978) [9]. People can migrate freely both voluntarily and under duress in regional, national, and international situations. Those who relocated to find new territory for commerce and conquest, as well as those looking for better employment and chances to improve economic well-being, do so voluntarily. People who must relocate because of war, partition, disintegration, asylum requests, ethnic disputes, and land alienation are compelled to migrate. Compulsions arising from the survival instinct of the poor migrant workers are reflected in involuntary migration (Majumder, 2014) [25].

Foreigners allowed for special purposes, settlers, migrant workers, economic migrants, and asylum migrants are the main categories into which migrants are sometimes divided. People who are allowed by a nation other than their own with the specific intent of engaging in economic activity are known as migrant workers. Seasonal migrant workers, project-tied migrant workers, contract migrant workers, temporary migrant workers, established migrant workers, and highly skilled migrant workers are all included in this group. Based on their employment, migrants fall into two categories:

1. Settlement migration is a conventional form of migration in which individuals relocate to another nation in order to find employment.
2. Contract migration, which occurs when an employee is formally authorised to enter a foreign nation and begin working in a certain position; a contract is made either on his behalf or between him and the company or employer he will work for. There are two types of contract migration: "individual contract" and "collective contract" (Zachariah, Prakash & Rajan, 2002, p.13-15) [59].

International migration has been significantly impacted by globalisation. According to UN estimates, there are more people residing overseas than ever before. International migrants made up 3.2% of the world's population. Women made up 48% of all international migrants worldwide. India is one of the top four nations that send and receive migrants. There were 20,01586 Indian foreign migrants living in the United Arab Emirates and 28,01,410 in Saudi Arabia in 2014 (MOIA, 2014-2015, p 6) [11].

Globalisation opened the door of opportunities for trade and migration in the world. Integration of global economy determined the flow of international migration. While political economy of globalisation posed challenges for flow of people, neo-liberal economic policies encouraged migration of people (Wolf, 2008, p.401-409) [47]. The socio-economic inequalities between core and periphery work as push factors for international migration (Wade, 2008, p.410-426) [47]. North globe has one-fifth of world's population and four-fifths of the world income while south globe has four-fifths of the world population and one-fifth of the income of the world. The global inequalities are the major reasons for international migration between global north and global south (Castles & Wise, 2008, p.1-17) [47].

Pathways and Corridors of International Migration and Remittances

South globe includes countries of low income, lower middle income and upper middle-income countries; North globe includes high income countries. Countries of Gulf region namely Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman, and Kuwait are included in North globe (Laczko & Anich, 2013, p. 44) [51].

- South-North movements accounted for 45% of all migrations, followed by South-South (35%), North-North (17%), and North-South (3%), according to the World Bank's 2010 [2] classification. According to Table 1.1, three out of every four migrants are probably from the South.

Table 1: Stock of International Migration on Pathways (Estimation of World Bank)

Pathways	Stock of International migrants in Million	Stock in Per cent
North- South	7	3.0
South – North	95	45.0
North- North	37	17.0
South-South	75	35.0

Source: Rudolf, Brian and & Laczko, 2010, p.55

The number of migrants is higher in South than North but migrants account for a smaller percentage, if compared to the population living in the South and the North, respectively. In the North, emigrants represent a higher percentage of the total population (between 3.6% and 5.2%) than they do in the South (less than 3%) because people living in the North are more mobile than people living in South.

- The share of the female migration stock is 42 per cent in South-North, 18 per cent in North-North, 36 per cent in South-South and 3 per cent in North to South pathways of migration
- The high percentages of immigrants in South-North destination countries, especially in several Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) nations (86% for Qatar, 68% for the United Arab Emirates, and 66% for Kuwait).

- In comparison to the North, the South has a significantly greater percentage of migrants under the age of 24.
- In both the North and the South, 44% of migrants are low-skilled, 33% have intermediate skills, and only 22% are highly skilled. The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries are the main destinations for workers with intermediate and low skills.
- India to USA is the fifth largest migration corridor of South to North pathways and Bangladesh to India is third largest migration corridors of South to South pathways.
- Mexico, India and China are the top origin countries of migrant of South globe. USA and Saudi Arabia are the top destination for migrants under South to North globe (Table 1.2).

Table 2: Top Two origin and Top Two Destination countries of Migrants

Pathways	Top Origin Countries of Migrants	Top Destination Countries for Migrants
South-North	Mexico 13%, India 8%	USA 35%, Saudi Arabia 7%
South-South	Russia 11%, Ukraine 8%	Russia fed 16%, India 7%
North-South	USA 14%, Germany 11%	Mexico 9%, Turkey 8%
North-North	UK 11%, Germany 10%	USA 27%, Germany 12%

Source: Rudolf, Brian and & Laczko, 2010, p.64

Of the top 20 global remittance corridors, sixteen are part of the South-North migration flow, and the remaining four are the remittance corridors from India to Bangladesh (South-South pathways), Malaysia to Indonesia (South-South pathways), France to Belgium, and France to Spain.

- Sixty-two percent of all remittances go from North to South, twenty-two percent go from North to North, thirteen percent go from South to South, and three percent go from South to North.
- In 2010, UAE to India was second largest remittances corridor of South to North migratory flow, India to Bangladesh and Bangladesh to India was consequentially first and fourth largest remittances corridors of South-South pathways of migration.
- In the South-South context, there is a bi-directional economic linkage between India and Bangladesh according to inflow and outflow of the remittances. In 2010 [30], India received 1899 Million USD from Bangladesh and sent 3769 Million USD to Bangladesh. Overall, India received 10 per cent of the total remittances and sent 11 per cent of the total remittances of South-South pathways of the migration.
- In the North –South context, India received world’s largest remittances. India received 19 per cent of the remittances from South to North pathways of Migration (North to South remittances). United States of America and Gulf countries were the major sources of remitted to India (Anich, Brian and Laczko, 2013, p.53-84) [5].

History of International Migration from India

Following the abolition of 1834 Slavery Act passed by British Parliament. 30 million migrants left India before independence, of which an estimated 24 million came back. The history of international migration from India has two phases: pre-independence and post- independence (Rajan & Kumar, 2010, p.1-18) [37].

International Migration from Pre-Independence

Indentured work Migration (1834–1910): Indenture was distinct from peonage and serfdom, although it was halfway between slavery and free work. Following the abolition of slavery, indentured labourers from India travelled to Mauritius, Natal, and Fiji as part of a worldwide labour migration movement. The first Caribbean nation to accept indentured Indian workers was British Guiana in 1838. Over 500,000 indentured migrants arrived in Mauritius between 1834 and 1910, 52,189 arrived in Natal between 1860 and 1911, and 60,695 Indians arrived in Fiji between 1879 and 1916, primarily for the sugar sector.

The Kangani System of Migration (1910–1936): Under the "Kangani" system, contracts were typically oral rather than written and had a short duration (about 30 days). Its name came from the unusually significant position played by the "Kangani," or head man, who served as both the field foreman and the recruiter. Since "Kangani" were often the older members of a family or group to whom additional families from the same area were recruited, this system was entirely dependent on social ties and patriarchy. Under the

"Kangani" system, Indian labourers, particularly those from southern India, went to Sri Lanka and South East Asia.

Free Migration (1936–1947): The 1936 Sastri report brought in the official removal of the "Kangani." The "Kangani" system allowed for unrestricted movement. It was an independent choice rather than one made by a collective. Petty contractors, merchants, bankers, shopkeepers, and pedlars made up an army. During this time, wealthy people and members of higher castes migrated. They were Pathans from the North West, Baniyas from the United Provinces, Marwari from Rajputana, and Chettiars from Madras. Because Muslims were more resourceful, ambitious, and combative, and because they were accustomed to travelling, there were more Muslims than other migrants during this time.

International Migration from Post Independent

India's international migration is divided into two categories: First, professionals and skilled workers migrate permanently to the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, and Australia; second, unskilled and semi-skilled workers migrate temporarily to Middle Eastern countries that export oil. India's international migration is divided into two categories: First, professionals and skilled workers migrate permanently to the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, and Australia; second, unskilled and semi-skilled workers migrate temporarily to Middle Eastern countries that export oil.

Indian Labourers Migration to Gulf Countries: Historical Overview

According to Prakash (1998) [33], there are four historical stages of Gulf migration from India:

- a. Initial phase of steady growth (between 1976 and 1979).
- b. Peak phase (between 1980 and 1983).
- c. Declining growth phase (between 1984 and 1990).
- d. Revival phase (between 1991 and 1995).

The outflow of Indian labourers can be divided following phases:

1. **First phase (1985-1991):** The first phase covers the period between 1985 and 1991, the total outflow of the migrants ranged between 0.11 million and 0.20 million.
2. **Second Phase (1992-1997):** The annual flow of labour migration was more than 0.42 million in that phase.
3. **Third Phase (1998-1999):** It showed declined phase of outflow of labour migration from India because of 0.37 million labours migrated in 1998 and 0.20 million Indian labours migrated in 1999.
4. **Fourth Phase (2000-2008):** In the beginning of twenty-first century when annual flow increased from 0.24 million in 2000 to 0.84 million in 2008.
5. **Fifth Phase (2009-2010):** The outflow of labour declined due to global crisis. The total number of migrants was 0.61 million in 2009 and 0.64 million in 2010 (Zachariah & Rajan, 2012 p.8-10) [2, 10, 58].

6. **Sixth Phase (2011-2014):** According to Ministry of Overseas affairs more than 95.0 per cent of the labour migrated to Gulf countries of total migration under emigration check clearances. Saudi Arabia was the largest destination for Indian labour and United Arab Emirates was the second largest destination. Average 7, 21,612 labours migrated to Gulf countries between 2011 and 2014 [43]. Malaysia was the other largest destination for unskilled and semi-skilled labourers except of Gulf countries in 2014 [43] when 22,000 labourers migrated to Malaysia (Annual Report 2014-2015 MoIA, Govt. of India) [27].

Therefore, methodology of the paper is based on review of literature under retrospective to prospective manner of the study design from its past to present with future implication.

1. Theoretical Underpinning

Lee (1966) [24] developed this theory to explain why migrants are unexpected. He asserts that push and pull variables play a significant role in migration. The pull factors are the favourable elements in the destination location, whereas the push forces are the unfavourable elements in the place of origin. Migration is affected by factors of origin point, destination point, intervening factor, decision making process. Socio- economic factors work as push and pull factors. High standard of living, job opportunities, high wage rates play as pull factors. Corruption in governance and private sector, lack of employment and lack of good quality education are push factors for migration. Forced migration is the result of ethnic, race, caste and socio- economic and political inequalities (Laczko & Anich, 2013, p.33) [5].

The Situation Oriented Approach (Push-Pull Theory in Migration)

Push and pull factor highlight the causes of migration and socio-economic development of origin and destination point.

Prakash (1978) [34] explored the causes and impact of Gulf migration from Chavakkad village of Trichur district in Kerala. He explained the relationship between internal and international migration and role of social networks in Gulf migration. The author collected primary data on 95 households and total 136 returned migrants to obtain information. Chavakkad was a poor, backward village and agriculture was the major occupation. The only industrial activity worth mentioning was beedi industry, which provided employment to about 5,000 persons. Pre-migration to Gulf countries some were unemployed. The some were beedi makers, tailors, small businessmen, helpers, hotel workers, drivers, part time postmen, ex- servicemen, ordinary workers. The education status was very low among the migrant labourers. The largest number of migrants was in Dubai, Abudabi, Qatar and Sharja. They found jobs as construction workers, hotel workers including waiters, partnership business, military helpers, and drivers. They used to send a sum ranging from Rs 200 to Rs 1500 per month to their family members at root. Quality of education and employment was very low among migrant labourers' pre-migration to Gulf countries. These were the major push factors for migration. Some youths were working in Mumbai and other cities for search of job before migration

to Gulf countries. The role of relatives and friends and remittances played as pull factors in Gulf migration.

Naidu (1991) ^[29] examined the trend of Indian labour migration to Gulf countries between 1976 and 1987. Naidu analysed the trend and causes of Gulf migration with secondary data. After 1973, Gulf countries invested the oil revenues in development projects; this led to increased demand for every type of labourers like professionals, skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled. Around the 80.0 per cent of the Indian labourers migrated to four countries, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Oman and Kuwait in these phases. The share of unskilled migrant labourers was 40 per cent; skilled labourers less than 50 per cent; white collar labourers and high- skilled labourers made up a little less than 5 per cent in total outflow from India.

Zachariah, Mathews, and Rajan (1999) ^[57] investigated the push variables that influence Gulf migration from Kerala. They discovered a statistically significant positive correlation between an area's birth rate and emigration rate, a negative correlation between emigration rate and per capita state domestic product (SDP), and a positive correlation between emigration rate and population density. Districts with low state domestic product (SDP) per capita typically have high emigration rates. The push factors were strongly associated with emigration from Kerala. Age factor was strongly associated with emigration as people of age group 25 to 29 emigrated 3.2 times higher than general average of all groups in the case of emigration. The trend of Gulf emigration was high among the involuntary unemployed people and in the condition of involuntary unemployed head of the households. Emigration propensities were higher in illiterate and literate without schooling than degree holders. Pull factors were not identified because these were related with destination point. According to them five elements played as push factors: demographic expansion due to declined mortality rate, stagnation of agricultural development, educational expansion with no jobs and the state institutions' inability to offer the necessary assistance, as well as the conditions for the expansion of the secondary and tertiary sectors of the state economy. The fifth element has to do with the destination, such as expanding economic prospects during the 1970s Gulf boom. It was the primary driver of labour migration.

Zachariah, Nair & Rajan (2001) ^[56] focused on the migration of return migrants to Gulf countries. According to them, the return migrants compare the socio-economic conditions between the origin and the destination and finally decide to again migrate to Gulf countries. Lack of employment opportunities in Kerala was mentioned as the first reason for migration to Gulf countries followed by desire to improve living conditions of their households. Other reasons cited were discharging family responsibilities and repayment of debt. The economic activity before the migration and economic activity in the Gulf countries reveal the employment status of migrant labourers. Pre-migration most of the migrants worked as casual labourers, self-employed, some were unemployed and few in regular employment. Mostly 70 per cent migrants worked in secondary and tertiary sector and 30 per cent worked in primary sector.

Sukendran and Rajan (2010) ^[37] explored the nature and causes of migration of female housemaids to Gulf countries; taking a total of 270 sample housemaids. In Andhra

Pradesh, the majority of housemaids came from poor agricultural households like from 'Mala' community from west Godwaree region of Andhra Pradesh. They were poor with large family size. They used to face many hurdles for survival. The social network worked as pull factors for their migration to Gulf countries, most of them found job information from local Agents of village. Social networks helped the labourers to migrate to Gulf countries. The reasons mentioned for migration were repayment of debt, poverty, unemployment, domestic violence, calamities, condition of women as separated, widowed or unmarried with family responsibilities to earn money, desire to travel and experience new culture.

Auke (2012) The main objectives were to explore the nature and causes migration, causes of coming back and comparative study between pre-migration and post-migration with primary data. Auke covered 44 respondents from Andhra Pradesh, 81 respondents from Tamilnadu and 18 respondents from Kerala. The duration of the last migration for those who came back was 11.2 per cent who returned less than one year, 67.2 per cent returned duration 1 to 5 years and 21.7 per cent duration was more than five years. There were three important reasons for coming back from abroad: first, 'low salaries'; second 'family and friends'; and third 'difficult labour conditions. There were push and pull factors for re migration like higher salary was the most prominent reason to go abroad. Repayment of debt was a major reason to go abroad again. Status improvement was considered very important reason for migrant labourers. Unemployment was an important factor for re-migration of labour.

Zachariah and Rajan (2012) ^[58] interpreted migration from Kerala which revealed the reasons for declined migration of unskilled labourers from Kerala. First, the demographic factors determined the trend of migration from Kerala. Second, the average wage among unskilled workers in Kerala increased significantly. There was narrow difference in the wage rate between Kerala and Gulf countries. Third, the increasing trend in the proportion of ECR passport holders from other large states in India such as Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are likely to depress migration from Kerala.

Zachariah and Rajan (2015) ^[46] interpreted migration from Kerala highlighting the economic and non-economic reasons for Gulf migration, like Kerala not able to create enough jobs for youngsters with a secondary or higher level of education. The unemployment rate before migration among the migrants was about 31.1 per cent who desired to go abroad. The glamour associated with Gulf migration worked as pull factor for migration.

Global Economic Crisis in 2009 ^[10] and South Asian Migrant Labourers in Gulf countries

Rajan and Narayan (2012) ^[42] analysed the impact of global crises on inflow of remittances including the impact of South Asian migrant labourers in Gulf countries the study included 50 return migrant labourers in each of four selected South Asian countries, namely; Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. The survey included 250 return migrants from India. Migrant workers were negatively impacted by the 2009 ^[10] global crisis. The Middle East was impacted by the worldwide crisis that started in the United States and spread to Europe and Japan. This included a decline in oil prices, a reversal of capital inflows, a

downturn in the real estate and stock markets, and losses in sovereign wealth funds. The global crisis affected the characteristics of Gulf economy, such as high share of oil export in total export, sizeable share of services in GDP, especially transportation, trade, hotel and restaurant. The push factors forced the migrant labourers to return from Gulf countries because of loss of the job. Some migrants from India did not return because of high cost of travel and family responsibilities at the root.

1. Dual -Labour Market Theory and Kafala (Sponsorship System) System in Gulf Countries

Different segments of labour market co-exist because of migration: Primary segment where high skilled labourers work with high wage rate and good working conditions; secondary segment where low skilled labourers work with low wage rate and poor working conditions. Local labourers are reluctant work in their native region. Hence, labour shortage comes at the bottom segment of labour market. It also leads to higher demand for labour abroad who work at less wage rate than that of high skilled workers and in bad work environment (Reich, Jordon & Edwards, 2002, p. 359-365). In the Gulf countries, functioned by Kafala (Sponsorship system) and *Kafeel* (sponsor) the political economy of segmentation of labour market in Gulf countries (Ahamad, 2010, p.27-29)^[11].

Koser (2007)^[19] analysed the nature and causes of international migration. The segmentation of labour market shows pulls factors for skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workers of poor countries. This is because native workers do not want to work in poor working conditions, low pay, and little security. It indicates the question of identities of native labourers. Koser described 3D jobs' environment in developed countries: (1) dirty work, (2) dangerous environment, (3) difficult working conditions. All these increased the demand of labourers in bottom hierarchy of labour market. It opened the door for supply of labour from poor countries with high population and little opportunities of jobs.

Segmentation of Labour Market under Kafala System in Gulf Countries

Winckler (2010)^[53] examined the pattern, policies and scale of labour migration to Gulf countries. He observed four patterns of international migration after second world war: (1) International labour migration as a basic tool for nation building in USA, Canada and Australia, (2) Temporary labour migration to the developed countries in Europe, (3) A total ban on labour migration in Japan, (4) The unique GCC "rentier states" and labour migration to Gulf countries. "Rentier States" gave a political platform to native people and it was "no taxation and no representation" system. It gave a luxurious life to local peoples and created dual labour market in Gulf countries. Native people aspired with employment in public sector with high salary and luxurious facilities. Workers from abroad were employed in private sector with low salary. It had begun after first oil decade 1973 to 1982, which rapidly increased the demand of cheap labour from developing countries. Oil production and prices transformed the GCC countries within a short period of time into pure "rentier states" with oil revenues amounting to 80 per cent of the total governmental revenues. It increased the demand of semi-skilled and unskilled workers in Gulf countries from poor countries. There was high percentage of

foreign labourers in Gulf States Saudi Arabia (50%), Kuwait (80%), Bahrain (29.2%), Oman (68%), Qatar (92%), UAE (85%) and total foreign workers are 65.30 % in Gulf. These outflows of workers resulted from the demand for labourers under Kafala system.

The differences in labour practices in Gulf nations were studied by Roper and Barria (2014)^[45]. They claim that the Kafala system has three goals: First, the Kafala system guarantees the availability of inexpensive workers for the low-cost supply of goods and services, including residential sector in the private sector. Second, the system controls how immigration is considered to affect culture and the population's sense of national identity. Third, the Kafala system limits the rights of workers because of possible security issues brought on by a huge number of migrants who outnumber natives.

Kafala (Sponsor) System and Right of Migrant Labourers in Gulf Countries

Countries of Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) use official words 'Guest workers' or 'expatriate manpower' under the Kafala system. Migrant labourers cannot obtain citizenship in Arab region. This system depends on social cohesiveness between sponsor and labourers. Sponsors take political, social and economic responsibilities of labourers. In parallel, labourers depend on Kafeel. Kafeels take their Passport and Visa for which the migrant labourers work as slave labourers during the contract period. Kafeel exploits the labourers physically and mentally. A migrant worker may face criminal charges for "absconding" if they choose to leave their job without the employer's written consent. Workers are still at risk of being regarded like criminals rather than getting the proper victim care, even if they quit in reaction to abuse. Because they need the employer's approval and have their passport, the migrant workers are unable to leave the nation (MFA, p.1-8).

Rajan and Prakash (2012)^[40] observed that migrant labourers faced problems of physical and mental exploitation. Contract labourers depend on the mercy of employers (Kafeel). The high level committee of Indian Diaspora appointed by the Government of India to look into the conditions of Indian migrant labourers in the Gulf countries, noted that contract migrant labourers faced very critical problems like employers ignoring the labour laws migrant labourers working in very poor conditions, alteration of the provisions of the original labour contract after arrival, non-compliance with the provision of labour contract by the employer, denial of job, deprivation from wages and non- wages benefits as per the original contract. As per contract, labourers had to work for eight hours per day but they were forced by Kafeel to work for 10-12 hours a day. The living conditions of migrant labourers were very poor. The semi-skilled and unskilled labourers lived in small rooms with four to eight bunker beds the crowded labour camps. There was no settlement mechanism for the disputes involving violation human rights, delay in wage payment, non-payment of wage, and harassment by employers. In case of female domestic labourers, they could not approach labour courts as they were not covered by any labour laws. Migrant labourers faced psychological pressure for their families left behind in origin countries, difficult working conditions, and job insecurity and sometimes they committed suicide in Gulf countries. Migration policies of Saudi Arabia give unquestionable authority to the employer.

Kafeel took away the Passport of migrant labourer and issued Iqama (residency card). The Passport would be returned only when migrant labourers would leave the host country. Migrant labourers could not change his sponsor or job unless the sponsor issued a release certificate. The sponsor had the right to refuse to give a release certificate, deport the labourer and ask the authority to ban the labourer from coming back to the country for two years.

Rajan (2015) ^[16] observed three stages in life of a migrant labourer: the time before departure, the time spent in the new destination and rehabilitation process after return to root. Migrant labourers faced problems both pre and post migration. There are two types of passport holders: ECR (Emigration check required) and ECNR (Emigration check not required) ECR passport holders were exploited at every stage of migration by passport officers, recruitment agencies, travel agents, airports, emigration check at airport and customs officials.

Thus, there are four negative aspects of Kafala and Kafeel system: (1) Kafala system ignores the basic human right of migrant labourers and rule of International labour organisation in the favour of labour. (2) The migrant labourers work under 'Kafala (Sponsorship) systems on the basis of contract with Kafeel and hence, migrant labourers have face problem of physical and mental exploitation. (3) There is not effective mechanism for protection of human right of migrant labourers in Gulf countries (4) Migrant labourers have to face difficult problems of working and living conditions in destination.

Arab versus Foreign Workers and Impact on Local Labour Market in Gulf Countries

It is estimated that 9.5 million South Asian workers are engaged in Gulf countries. The south Asian expatriates are 61.8 percent of total expatriates. Gulf countries are big job markets for unskilled and semi-skilled labourers of south Asia (Rajan & Narayana, 2012, p.80) ^[42].

India is the largest source of labourers in Gulf countries. Out of the top ten migration corridors in the world, India to UAE, India to Saudi Arabia corridors rank fourth and ninth. Saudi Arabia was the second highest remittance sending country in the world in 2006. The policy of Omanisation, Kuwaitisation, Qatarisation, control the flow of migrant labourers from foreign (Calton Noora 2010, p.34-36, Naufal & Termos, 2010, p.37-41) ^[8, 30].

NITAQAT Law, Nationalisation of Private Sector and Migrant Labourers in Gulf Countries

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's (KSA) government has given jobs and possibilities for Saudi citizens more attention. In order to promote the employment of Saudi nationals in the private sector, the Ministry of Labour in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) approved Ministerial Resolution No. (4040) dated 12/10/1432H and introduced a new Saudization effort called the Nitaqat program (Hejailan, 2012, p.1) ^[15]. According to the Nitaqat law, local businesses must employ one Saudi citizen for every ten foreign workers. For migrant workers in Saudi Arabia, it made things challenging (www.indianexpress.com).

1. The Migration Networks Theory

According to this view, migration is a network process where migrants communicate with their close friends and

family members to support one another. They share information, offer financial support, and even assist the immigrant in finding employment. By lowering the expenses and hazards, this kind of engagement makes relocation easier. Nonetheless, there are cases where friends and family migrate illegally, which leads to difficulties; migrants are exploited and subjected to violence. International migration is influenced by the transnational network (Laczko & Anich, 2013, p. 34) ^[5].

Social Networks in Labour Migration to Gulf Countries

Social networks reduce the risk of migration, which makes them pull factors. Social and cultural pull factors include the formation of organised migrant communities in destination nations. The majority of legal migration flows in many developed nations come from networks of family members living overseas, which might further encourage migration by making it easier for others to migrate (Laczko & Anich, 2013, p. 34) ^[5]. This indicates that it has a favourable impact on international migration. Global networks of families, friends, and businesses, which are symbolic and facilitate the flow of ideas of cultural, social, and economic interest, have reinforced this transnational engagement of individuals riding on the globalisation process (MOIA, 2014-2015, p. 4).

Kurien (2002) ^[21] states that social networks are pull factors for international migration. The Mappila (Keralite Muslim), Ezhava (lower-caste Keralite Hindu), and Syrian Christian (upper-caste Keralite Christian) communities comprised the three villages and communities of Veni, Cherur, and Kembu that were the subject of this anthropological study. Kurien discovered three categories of data: case studies of representative households of various types, including long-term, short-term, and returned migrant and non-migrant households, as well as information at the community and household levels. In addition to the women and men in homes, it covered 276 village and panchayat offices, travel agencies, banks, schools, preschools, stores, hospitals, and police stations.

First, Veni village was Muslim-dominated and located in Northern part of the Kerala. Poverty, unemployment and political causes forced the young men in the village for migrated in other parts of the country for search of jobs. Their traditional works were bakery and hotel work. The migration to Gulf was the result of ethnic relationship between Arab traders and Mappila Muslims. Some people migrated with Arab traders. Arab traders were major sources of information about employment opportunities in Gulf countries. Islamic identities played as pull factors for Gulf migration in among Muslim youths. Ethnic networks provided support to their community and new migrants at both destination and origin. Socio economic status of Muslim community improved as a consequence of Gulf migration. They helped their poor relatives, friends and neighbours with gift and money. So, ethnic networks created a chain of labourer migration to Gulf countries. Cherur was Hindu village and located in South Kerala. Ethnic networks were not so strong compared to Muslims community. They migrated with the help of agents, not supported by relatives or friends. The post-migration life style improved relative to past. They also supported their own community. Christian dominated Kembu village was located in central Kerala. Christians had been supported by British company during 1930 to 1940 to Gulf countries.

Gulf migration created “Culture of migration” in these villages. In other words, there was a dialectical relationship between the economic and the socio-cultural spheres of community life.

Ali (2007) ^[3] found the role of social networks strongly associated with Gulf migration from India and other parts of the world. The study established the relationship between culture of migration and social connections. Unskilled migrant labourers found the information of job opportunities and Visas from their relatives and friends. Saudi Arabia was the major destination for youths of Hyderabad. If they did not find US Visa then they decided migrate to Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries. Social connections and culture of migration changed the culture at root.

Nadjmabadi (2010) ^[35] objective of this ethnographic research was exploring “social and cultural integrity” in provinces of Harmoz in Gavbandi district of Iran. Social connections played as positive role to Gulf migration. Role of social networks were very strong in Iranian migrant to Arab regions. Absence of economic development in the coastal region of Gavbandi district was major push factor for migration. There were strong social and ethnic relationship between Iranian migrants and Arab; there was similarity between Arab and Iranian in dress, custom, tradition and modes. They fully enjoy in special ceremonies in Gulf countries. They were economically very strong in Arab, for example *Bazar-e- Irani* is famous market of Iranian products in Arab. The Sheikh Al Zyed of UAE encouraged Iranian migrants and provided various supports because they were similar in Arab culture. Iranian migrants provide socio-economic support to their community in village so that it worked as pull factor for Gulf migration. All the Iranian migrant labourers lived together in labour camps and helped Iranian migrant labourers.

Gardner (2010) ^[11] explored the behaviour of migrant labourers in labour camps by caste, religion, language and similar geographical identities with ethnographic approach. The field work was conducted in Bahrain in Qatar among South Asian migrant labourers. There were differences between Arab workers and non-Arab workers by cultural modes. Similar geographical identities and ethnic value were major sources for communication among the South Asian migrant labourers to Gulf countries. The South Asian migrant labourers lived in one common room without conflict in the labour camp. Caste played negligible role in the camps. The Hindu/Muslim communal tensions were muted in the labour camps. However, the South Asian workers and Arab workers could not live together because their culture was different. The problems of “social and cultural integrity” were the result of flow of non- Arab migrant labourers in Gulf States.

2. Migration and Development

Labour mobility has significantly increased as a result of globalisation, with social, economic, and environmental ramifications for all parties involved. The Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) was founded in 2007 ^[3] as a result of the inaugural United Nations High-level Dialogue (HLD) on International Migration and Development, which took place in 2006 ^[13] and solidified migration's place on the development agenda. The opportunity for the global community was emphasised at the second United Nations High-level Dialogue (HLD) on international migration and development. The following

aspects of migration and development were highlighted in the 2013 ^[5] World Migration Report:

1. On all pathways of migration movements;
2. On to the well-being of migrants and their quality of life;
3. On migration for development (Laczko & Anich, 2013 ^[5], p. 31-36).

There is relationship between migration and development remittances. The developing countries receive largest part of the remittances. Much of remittances are sent through informal or illegal processes (Harris, 2005, p.4591-4595, Ghosh 2006, p.11-27) ^[13, 14].

The Indian diaspora receives the most remittances worldwide and is the second largest behind the Chinese diaspora. Migrants from India were found to send money in three different ways: (a) household remittances and NRI deposits (individual-level transfers); (b) collective remittances (diaspora philanthropy); and (c) direct investment and an intangible resources flow. Telgu, Punjabi, and American Patel diasporas provide financial assistance to their communities. A forum for social and economic remittances between migrants and non-migrants is provided by information technology (Upadhaya & Ruttern, 2012, p.54-62).

Remittances to South Asia are growing more steadily, according to the World Bank. Both skilled and unskilled individuals are discovering new employment prospects in the Gulf Co-operation Council, which is driving the expansion (The Economic Times, Oct 7, 2014) ^[48]. West Asia accounted for 30.8% of remittances, while North America and Europe accounted for 29.4% and 19.5%, respectively, according to the RBI. Currently, remittances make for about 4% of the GDP. Household expenses accounted for 40% of all such payments. Among the Indian states that receive the most remittances are Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, and Uttar Pradesh. NRIs from industrialised and Gulf nations are being driven by the depreciating rupee and increasing deposit interest rates. (Source: <http://hindustantimes.com>).

Micro Impact: Socio- Economic Impact of Migrant Households

The economic effects of Gulf migration on Kerala's regional economy were studied by Prakash (1998) ^[33]. Migrant households have a stronger socioeconomic standing than non-migrant households. According to the survey, migrant households' monthly income and expenditures on food, clothing, education, gasoline, light, travel, entertainment, medical costs, and other durable goods were much greater than those of non-migrant households. When compared to their pre-migration state, migrants' quality of life improved. There was a surge in assets like land, buildings, gold ornaments, cars, consumer durables, and pump sets.

Zachariah, Mathews and Rajan (2000) ^[41] examined the socio-economic impact of migration to Gulf countries. The ‘Gulf-wives’ felt psychological stress like loneliness, increased anxiety, added responsibilities, adverse impact on children education, debt incurred to financial migration, limited financial gains. The elderly population suffered from loneliness and psychological stress at root. The findings pointed at positive and negative impact of Gulf migration on households. Overall, socio-economic conditions of migrant households improved relative to the non-migrant households.

Rahman (2001) ^[36] explored the nature, causes and consequences of labourer migration to Gulf countries from Siwan and Gopalganj districts of Bihar. They investigated the impact of migration on migrant families. The author observed that most of the remittances from Gulf were spent on consumer durables and, demonstrative expenditure because of absence of entrepreneurship and education among the migrants and their families.

Arif (2009) ^[10] explored the economic and social impact of remittances between pre-migration and post-migration on migrant households in Pakistan. Poverty was the prominent push factor for labourer migration to Saudi Arabia. Social networks worked as the pull factors in labour migration to Saudi Arabia. The migrant labourers send remittances through banking system at root. Remittances were the major sources of income for migrant households. Remittances were spent on health, education, food item, and debt repayment. Overall socio-economic status of households improved post-migration.

Zachariah and Rajan (2012) ^[58] examined migration from Kerala during 1998, 2003, and 2008 ^[39, 47] together. The socio-economic condition of migrant households improved relative to non-migrant households. The migrant households possessed more consumer durables than those of non-migrant households.

Conclusion

Migration is the result of multi-dimensional phenomena of economic and non-economic phenomena because process of migration is the result of interdisciplinary subject of social science. There are so many routes of migration from root to destinations as well as destination to root. Because the process of the social network system of migration minimises the danger and financial cost of migration from root to destination, migrant labourers choose this route of movement where they can readily access the system. Based on the theoretical framework of migration, we discovered that since migration is an interdisciplinary topic and a function of multiple system theories, including macro and micro theories of migration, we are unable to explain the process and effects of migration within a single framework of the study. The internal to international migration system on a worldwide scale is highlighted in this study's opening chapter. In India's colonial and early post-colonial eras, it is even discovered that there was internal to international. We found that reviewed theories of migration discussed the aspects of internal and international migration separately but not into a single framework because both internal and international migration is the result of similar socio-economic phenomena of migration. Both types of migration resulted with similar causes of migration therefore it is need to study of migration into a single frame of study because both internal and international migration is correlated to each other in the terms of economic and non-economic causes associated with root and destination into a sequential frame work of migration.

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