



INTER-LINKAGES BETWEEN INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA A REMITTANCE CENTRIC ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

The role of the migrant has become contentious over the time. Different schools of thought have analyzed this process differently. Scholars like Merkle and Zimmermann (1992: 79), Chami, et al. (2003: 22) and Ghosh (2006: 23) argue that, migration cannot be relied as for the betterment of family, region, and state, because in the long run migrant will settle at the host land and homeland relationship will decline. On the contrary, many other studies forwarded positive view towards migration. De Hass (2006: 632), Puri and Ritzema (1999: 14), and Hass (2007: 34) in opposition to 'decay hypothesis' argues that, longer stay at host land will increase the emotional tie-up between migrant and homeland, which ultimately results as increasing economic and social relationship. The presented article tries to explore some of the ways in which Migrants have been actively involved in the development efforts. This research paper concentrated to examine the role of Migrants driven development with the help of existing literature and data sources and ways to enhance the Migrants engagement and related research.

Introduction

Migration is a reality of all times and all places. It represents both an opportunity and a challenge. While well-managed migration may foster progress and welfare at origin and destination, its mismanagement may put social cohesion, security and sovereignty at risk (Fargues, 2014). It may happen when people can no longer sustain themselves within their

own existing settlement. Today, people prefer to migrate in search of better economic benefits, lifestyle and opportunities. Migration not only takes with their skill and expertise to new locals, but also their culture, living style and collective memories. (Rao, 2013). At the macro level contemporary development discourses often represent migrants from developing countries as “agents of development” (Faist, 2008) because of the substantial resources that they can transmit back home through remittances, investments, and philanthropic donations.

The issues related impact of Migrants on development have been considerably discussed by many scholars like Kuznetsoc(2006), Sorenson et al (2002), Sahoo and Pattanik (2013), Rahman and Yong (2013), Rahman, Yong and Ullah (2014), Farguise (2014), Baloo and Annie (2007) and others. While most of the existing literature considered financial investment as a most effective tool of Migrants driven development (Chanda, 2010; Agunias and Newland, 2012 and Edurado, 2012), scholars like Adams, Richard H. (2003), Adams, R. H. Jr. and J. Page (2005), Rahman and Yong (2013) and others emphasized development dimensions of Migrants remittances.

Globalization and Migration

Migration has always been seen as a major characteristic of societies; the last two centuries have witnessed the mass mobility of populations, with millions of people moving across the planet to take up new lives in new places. In the post-Fordism era with increasing global competition and different technological innovation the pattern of becoming mobile equally effected all over world. With special attention on Migrants investment and entrepreneurial approach, liberalization helped in many ways such as better transport facilities, involvement of information and communication technology, liberalization in state policies, and others. Many countries started a separate overseas affairs ministry to facilitate the Migrants relationship with special focus on investment. It is a global phenomenon- one that is political, economic, social and cultural which challenges the Nation states and leads up to the birth of multiple networks, trans-national or transcontinental, but also regional or local, bringing migration into the main world stakes (Wenden, 2009). Although with the changing nature of state policy and liberalization of state regulation during 1990s helped migrant entrepreneur to invest and generate better development aspects.

In many countries, including South Asia and the African Continent, movement of people has played a crucial role in the development process, especially economic growth. In many countries like, India, China, Bangladesh, Philippines, Mexico, Ukraine, etc., the remittance

contribution of migrants has been a prominent factor of socio-economic development (World Bank, 2014). One of the major characteristics of diaspora as discussed by William Safran (1991) is 'collective commitment to maintenance, restoration, safety and prosperity of a homeland'. The notion put forth by Safran coins the diasporic motivation in the development process. While the existence of Migrants can be traced since the Jewish dispersal, their significance in the development process has been a relatively new phenomenon. The contributions to the development have been increasingly acknowledged in the last two to three decades.

Remittance and Development

South Asian Countries have experienced a sharp increase in remittance during the past three decades. In 2014 South Asia has received a \$116 billion of remittances, second only after East Asia (World Bank, 2015). Transfer of remittance to South Asian Region has seen a 4.5 percent rise in 2014 compare to 2.5 percent in 2013. Countries like Pakistan has seen an increase of 16 percent followed by Sri Lanka (9.6 percent) and Bangladesh (8 percent). For India (0.7 percent), probably because of falling value of rupees hampered the remittance investment, but continuous flow of remittances from Middle East and Southeast helped to be a top receiving country in the world. In 2013 only, India received \$71 billion of remittances followed by China, Philippines and Mexico (World Bank, 2013). The amount received by India is nearly 4% of its GDP, and provides a major boost on micro as well as macro level of society.

Country	Remittances in 2013 (Million)	Remittances as % of GDP 2013
Bangladesh	14,228	12
India	71,000	4
Nepal	5,210	25
Pakistan	14,990	6
Sri Lanka	6,690	10

Trend of migration from India

Broadly, Indian Migration can be divided in two stretches; First Colonial Era and Second Post-Colonial Era. Colonial Era migration broadly took place to different colonial plantations, significantly started from 1834 after ban on slavery. Some of the preferred

countries include Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Fiji, Mauritius, Guyana, East Africa, Guadeloupe, Martinique, La Reunion, and Natal (South Africa) (Naujoks, 2009). Second stretch can be further understood with the three broader divisions. (a) Permanent Migration to Europe, Australia, and North America; (b) Contract Labour Migration to the Gulf States and Southeast Asia; and (c) Cross-border and Seasonal Migration within the region (Khatri, 2007). Second stretch includes the migration of skilled workers in the 1950s and 1960s, including medical doctors, academicians and engineers. Later in 70s migrant group includes short-term semi-skilled or unskilled migrant workers migrated to gulf countries after establishment of OPEC. These gulf countries include Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Iraq, and Libya. Recently, with the expanding frame of migrant receiving countries, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, and Singapore are also attracting large number of skilled/unskilled workers.

India has been one of the biggest shareholders of global remittances. In 2013, India received \$71 billion as a remittance. It is evident that remittances have played an important part in the Indian economy, but the issue is how such flows utilized in the livelihood of remittance-recipient households. The 64th round survey of National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) estimates that the average rural household consumer expenditure was nearly INR 38,000 compared to almost INR41,000 for rural households receiving remittances. Following the same trend Average annual household consumer expenditure was nearly INR65,000 for all urban households compared to almost INR80,000 for the urban households receiving remittances (NSSO, Employment-Unemployment Survey, 2007-08; highlights). NSSO has not specifically differentiated between internal migration and international migration in the highlight, but it gives, enough space to consider remittance as an important factor in the betterment of life.

The impact of remittances is more pronounced in parts of the country that have experienced higher volumes of emigration. In the southern state of Kerala, for example, remittances constitute 31.2 % of the state domestic product (Abdulla: 2014). Along with Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Punjab are the states that have been receiving a larger proportion of migrant remittances.

Remittance Transfer in South Asia

Migration remittance is one off most significant link between migration and development. It plays an effective role in reducing poverty, decrease in everyday risk from external shocks,

betterment of life prospects, and many other positive aspects, which provide convenient angle for approaching the complex migration agenda. In real sense remittances are personal flow of money from migrants to friends and families, which need to be better utilized for multiplier effect. The Human Development Report 2009, Overcoming Barriers: Human mobility and development has noted that ‘financial remittances are vital in improving the livelihoods of millions of people in developing countries (UNDP 2009: 71) . Many empirical studies have confirmed the positive contribution of international remittances to household welfare, nutrition, food, health and living conditions in places of origin.

Among the regions, South Asia is the second largest remittance recipient in 2013 following the East Asia and Pacific. Remittance one of the direct outcomes of international migration is the most beneficial private transactions in the global economy. This often stems from relatively developed economies and goes to the migrant households located in the developed economies. The south Asian region draws nearly one-fourth of the global remittance volume that contributes on average to over ten per cent of GDP of South Asian Countries (Rahman et al. 2014). The formal remittance inflows to South Asia have been increasing from \$16.13 billion in 2000 to \$111 billion in 2013 and suppose to reach \$136 billion in 2016 (World Bank, 2013). Total remittance transfer from South Asia reached \$111 billion in 2013, where India alone contributed \$70 billion.

Among the South Asian countries, India, Pakistan and Bangladesh ranks first, seventh and eighth in the world, respectively in terms of volume of remittances received in 2013. As a share of gross domestic product, Nepal receives the largest formal remittance inflows (25%) among the South Asian countries and ranks third in the world, followed by Bangladesh (12%), and Sri Lanka (10%). Remittances are also the most important external funding source for the countries in South Asia (World Bank, 2014). In 2009, remittances in South Asia were three times larger than foreign direct investments and more than ten times larger than official development assistance. In terms of origins of remittances to South Asia, the Middle East countries are the largest recipient of South Asian migrant workers and correspondingly, the amount of remittances originated from the three countries, UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar are estimated to account over 60% of the total remittance inflow to South Asia. India is a significant country both as a remittance sending and receiving (Ozaki, 2012). The total remittances inflow to India amounted \$49.5 billion in 2009, while the remittance outflow was \$2.8 billion.

Return Migration and entrepreneurship

According to Curtin (1984), ethnic and social networks can be seen as, one of the important instruments in the promotion of international trade for countries. Familiarity drawn from ethnic and social networks helps to overcome weaknesses in the information and contracting environment (Curtin, 1984). Robin Cohen (1997) in his book “Global Diaspora; An Introduction” defined trade diaspora as an important typology of diaspora with examples of Chinese traders in European colonies of South-East Asia and the Lebanese in the Caribbean and East Africa. Cohen introduced the idea of diaspora as a continuous state of formation and reformation. More recent study by Baghdiantz-McCabe et al. (2005) explores the role of ‘diaspora entrepreneurial networks’- merchant families and their extended regional networks with others of the same ethnic origin- focusing particularly on Armenians, Jews, Greeks and Indian. This process of diaspora business networks, popularly known as trade diaspora continued in its mercantile style till the early twentieth century, but their diasporic role was not considered by any nation state.

Migrants entrepreneurship has caught the attention of policymakers and researchers who recognize that poorer countries suffer from a deficit of entrepreneurship and that this is both a cause and a consequence of their poverty (Newland & Tanaka, 2012). The emergence of ‘Migrants Entrepreneurship’ has become a key resource for social as well as business development. These entrepreneurs are not only providing leadership and management skills, but also, and more importantly, they bring significant knowledge in the area of science and technology. However, it is true that the transfer of knowledge is not a straightforward process and requires deliberate government policies and firm strategies for successful utilization of returnee resources.

Brain drain is often seen as major setback for the developing countries like India and china especially in the case of IT and Health Professional during 1980s, a substantial share of the high-educated migrants to the U.S. come from china and India. Though only about one in 10 new arrivals are from from one of these countries, they make up 28 percent of college-educated new arrivals. Almost half of these migrants arrived in the last decade, and one in four come in just the last five years (Friedberg, 2007). Recent analysis suggests that in the current global competitive environment, “Brain drain” may provide a crucial advantage to these countries through return migration. Return migrants could play an important role in

building innovative capabilities in these countries by filling knowledge gaps in critical areas of Research and Development(R & D).

Return Migrants is not only denotes physical presentation but it can be through knowledge processing or entrepreneurial networks between host and home countries. As entrepreneurship is a process of risk, uncertainty and innovation (Knight, 1921, Schumpeter 1934), cultural integration with home country influence workers to invest back-home in order to get better security aspects. As in the current global scenario where most of the developing countries' markets are still working with protectionist mindset with a lack of innovation ecosystem based on collaborations between firms, universities, R&D institutes and financial institutions (Kale, 2007) Migrants entrepreneurs with global experience and innovative ideas helps to generate better livelihood and creation of state' development.

Migrants and Investment

For many countries, migrants have been actively engaged with home country. Chinese can be seen as one of the prominent examples, which contributed more than 70 per cent of in Chinese gross domestic product from 1985 to 2000 (Roy and Banarjee, 2007). This contribution helped china to increase the economic growth of the country (Development Research Centre, 2009). Coming late to the migrants' involvement, Indian government post-1991 also tried to attract its diaspora. The concept of brain drain reflected in the large flow of Indian skilled persons to North America and European countries, initially created a serious concern which later on resulted in a proposal for 'taxing of brain drain' (Bhagwati, 1976 a&b). While this misconception of brain drain over the time changed with 'brain gain' or 'brain drain' concepts, Indian migrants prove as crucial for the homeland development with their active engagement in Information Technology and Healthcare Sector. Indian migrants who held senior positions in US companies were instrumental in lobbying for the outsourcing of IT contracts to India during the Y2K crisis (Development Research Centre, 2009). However, these engagements cannot be one-sided, as it is equally required governments to create a positive atmosphere towards migrants' engagement.

Migrants and Philanthropy

Apart from remittances and large-scale investment, philanthropic engagement can be seen as crucial for the development of homeland. Migrants associations working at the homeland as well as host land creates a positive atmosphere and linkages to participate in the homeland

development. These hometown associations can facilitate collective investment in community projects. Some of the examples can be seen in the form of building of schools, hospitals, community centres, development of sanitation system at villages, roads, renovation works of community infrastructure etc. Some of these associations which facilitate development in the form of philanthropy, entrepreneurship, and advocacy are, Mexican Talent Network, The African Network, The Business in Development Network, South African Diaspora Network, Korean IT Network, African Diaspora Marketplace, The Indus Entrepreneurs and others. However, the scope of these associations' contributions to development varies widely from one to another, and according to the size and wealth of the association's membership.

Impact of Migration at Various Levels

The developmental impact of the Migrants can be traced at various levels; Household, Community, Social, National as well as at international level. At the family level, as New Economics of Labour Migration considers, Migrants broadly work in two dimensions, first, it provides economic support to family living back home, and second with continuous transfer of remittance, it assures security and the maintenance to the migrants, who intend to come back (Haan, 2006: 350). At community level, Migrants with the help of remittance can generate multiplier employment as well as entrepreneurship. Social capital generated by Migrants has been an important contribution of human mobility. Much attention paid to material resource transfers, but intangible flows emanating from the migrants, such as transfers of knowledge, ideas, and expertise, professional and scientific collaborations, and dissemination of political or religious ideologies, arguably exert more influence on the development trajectory (Levitt and Lamba-Nieves, 2011:2; Levitt 2001, Rahman & Fee, 2012: 692). Migrant remittances also precipitate contradiction at the national level, particularly when the inflow of funds grows sufficiently large to engage the attention of the national government. Given that virtually all governments in the developing world suffer from a severe deficiency of foreign exchange, the inflow of migrant remittances is invariably viewed as a valuable contribution.

First, remittances now form an important part of household livelihood strategies. Remittances contribute directly to raising household incomes, while broadening the opportunities to increase incomes. Remittance also allows households to increase their consumption of local goods and services, which further leads to increase employment and entrepreneurship.

Second, at the community level, Migrants with the help of remittances and collective investment under hometown associations generate multiplier effects in the local economy, creating jobs, and spurring new economic and social infrastructure and services, particularly where effective structures and institutions established to pool and direct investment.

Third, at the national level, migrants provides foreign currency and contribute significantly to GDP.

Fourth, migrants can redistribute resources from rich to poor countries. The increase in remittances, which now surpass official aid transfers to developing countries, reduces international inequality and promotes poverty reduction.

Social Importance of Migration

Migrantsintegration towards the home country is not a new concept, but it dramatically enhanced after globalization and the increase in cross boarder entrepreneurial activities. Countries of origin are trying hard to attract Diasporic talents and resources while the countries of destination hope to increase the effectiveness of their development assistance and immigration and integration policies (Agunias and Newland, 2012). Countries with higher levels of Migrantsrelationship tend to have promising prospects for economic growth, as well as proactive Migrantsengagement policies, good governance, positive socio-cultural perceptions of entrepreneurship, a critical mass of human and social capital, and access to financial institutions and pools of capital (Newland and Tanaka, 2012). Although conceptually Migrantsfinancial engagement with home country is an example of Protected Market Hypothesis (Aldrich, 1990), which gives an entrepreneur market with less risk and uncertainty. But the attraction of Migrantsneeds to be addressed properly by the government of the home country through different relaxation and initiative, which can further lead to homeland development. Remittances are the most important instrument for all country's Migrantsdriven development. According to World Bank Worldwide remittance flows, including those in high-income countries, reached \$501 billion in 2011 and are expected to increase to \$615 billion by 2014, in this \$372.1 billion, with an increase of 12.1% in developing countries (Ratha and Silwal, 2012). Any Migrantsengagement activities usually give effect to different dimensions of the society- it can create employment, develop infrastructure, and increase economic capacity of stakeholders through financial as well as knowledge development.

Engaging the migrants to pursue entrepreneurial ventures seems a matter of common sense as an element of development policy, but in many cases it creates a conflict between state run enterprise and Migrants ventures, as former thinks later as a competitor. It is also true that just facilitating Migrants investment doesn't mean survival of the organization; in many cases because of the failure of the venture it creates loss of capital and energy both of government and entrepreneurs. Even if an enterprise survives, there is again consideration of major problems, as it can go beyond the rules and regulation of state and this is also possible that money flow to these organizations may have illegality which can destroy the economy of the state. As in many cases it is seen that the Migrants driven investment usually happen in well infrastructure countries, which are ready for development further enterprises. While in the case of Migrants investment, the question of legality and illegality are more often coming into the picture. For example Mauritius shares 40% of India's foreign direct investment, but many reports suspect the legality of the money. A well established Migrants enabled development can only possible with the proper balance relationship between different stakeholders of the entrepreneurial procedure such as government, entrepreneurs, society, homeland, host land, manpower and available resources. If a state is possible to facilitate and interact with all require facilities and resources, then Migrants entrepreneurship can secure better development.

The Human Development Report 2009, 'Overcoming Barriers: Human mobility and development' has noted that 'financial remittances are vital in improving the livelihoods of millions of people in developing countries (UNDP 2009: 71). Many empirical studies have confirmed the positive contribution of international remittances to household welfare, nutrition, food, health, and living conditions in places of origin. A World Bank review of remittances to South Asia in 2005 remarked: "The increase in remittance volumes has renewed academic and public policy interest in their potential to reduce poverty and economic vulnerability, improve family welfare, and stimulate local economic development in the face of much lower, and sometimes temperamental FDI flows"(Maimbo, Adams et al. 2005). Global Economic Perspective Report (2006) notes that remittance inflow has made it possible for Bangladesh to cut poverty by 6 per cent. In Nepal, a study done by the Nepal Living Standard Survey found that the contribution of remittances in reducing poverty between 1996 and 2003 was 11 per cent. Other contributors included the increase in agricultural wages, an increase in nonfarm activities, and some reduction in the dependency

ratio. Remittances not only help to reduce poverty, but also reduce the depth and severity of poverty in Nepal and other countries (Khatri, 2007).

The issue of migrants in the development process leads to a number of conclusions. The issues of remittance, philanthropy, entrepreneurship, investment, knowledge transfer, social capital among many others need to be considered in order to understand the developmental trajectory of migrants engagement.

Way Forward

Migrants' engagement has caught the attention of policymakers and researchers who recognize that poorer countries suffer from a deficit of entrepreneurship and that this is both a cause and a consequence of their poverty (Newland & Tanaka, 2012). The emergence of 'Migrants Engagement' has become a key resource for social as well as business development. These diaspora, either from the host land or returnees are not only providing leadership and management skills, but also, and more importantly, they bring significant knowledge in the area of science and technology. However, it is true that the transfer of knowledge is not a straightforward process and requires deliberate government policies and firm strategies for successful utilization of returnee resources.

Migrants needs to be considered as a driver of economic as well as social development in the post liberalized era. Through certain industries such as education, healthcare, infrastructure and IT, Migrants investment, creates a better and sustained investment than others, as there are a large number of human resource already available and well networked. Some of the ways to enhance the Migrants direct investment can be seen as- Facilitating land acquisition or proper help in overcoming with the infrastructural constraints, Enhancing education and facilitating the other aspects of institutions such as philanthropy, training, free camps, Investment in the domestic manufacture of equipment and services and tie-ups with international organizations, which can enhance the capability of professionals as well as institutions. The protectionist mindset of business to one of risk taking or innovation and collaboration between firms, universities, R&D institutions and financial institutions can give large scale impact and inclusiveness. The state needs to address Migrants business forums and establish require policies specifically focused on attracting and retaining skilled returnees for better entrepreneurial activities. The state should consider innovative programmes, formulation of the sector and technology specific policies to encourage return migration of the skilled workforce in high-technology areas. There is an urgent need to support market

firms to attract and retain returned engineers and scientist by improving social infrastructure and conditions so that returnees find it easier to adjust life in new places of work. As entrepreneurship, talks about risk and innovation there should be a risk sharing mechanism such as loan insurance schemes, credit guarantee etc. as it is true that Migrants engagement is a process of development of the homeland.

Conclusion

International migration has remarkable potential of development of the home as well as host land. An explosive increase in the remittance to the South Asia in the form of social development, Economic Betterment, Reduction in poverty, empowerment of the marginalized sections, strengthen national economy and increase in self-sustainability of the suppressed section of the society has attracted the attention of social scientists and policy makers globally. Many scholars recognized remittance as a reliable source of betterment of society, yet there is very less studies discusses about forms, types, processes, actors, motivations, socio-economic and cultural contexts, and so on of the remittance in the context of India.

In line with the propositions of the New Economics of Labour Migration and Livelihood Approaches, migration and remittance play a very important role in the life of migrants and families left behind (Stark, 2009). Over the time, countries like Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal and some extent India have built their domestic economies around these migrant flows. While the bilateral ties with GCC have helped South Asia to have consistent flows of labour migration and remittance transfer, but, over the time, it has increased the dependence on migration based economies. Most prevalent examples are Nepal and Indian state Kerala. In case of both these migrant homelands, remittances have been gradually becoming a sole medium of GDP, which may leads to acute vulnerability in case of any instability. As migration is a selective process, most international remittances do not tend to flow to the poorest members of communities nor to the poorest countries. However, poor non-migrant families often affected indirectly through the economy-wide effects of remittance expenditure on wages, prices, and employment in migrant sending communities.

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