

# Growth of Population Pressure Resulting Migration: Its Issues and Perspectives for India

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## 1 ABSTRACT

India is a developing country and has second largest population in the world after China. As per 2011 census data shows around 41 percent of India's is below the age of 20 years, 50 percent of the population are in the age group of 20 to 59 and only 9 percent of the population are above the age group of 60 years. Every third person in an Indian city today is a youth. The median individual in India will be 29 years, very likely a city-dweller, making it the youngest country in the world by 2020. An increasing proportion of India's youth are unemployed. A look at the World Development Indicators data of the World Bank shows that only one in three people in the 15 to 24 years was employed in 2014. That is a 13 percentage point drop from the 45 percent employment rate in 1991 when economic reforms were initiated.

To be sure, the population in the 15 to 24 age group has increased by 45.3 percent in India between 1990 and 2015, according to data from UN World Population Prospects. So, jobs for this segment have failed to keep pace with the rise in population. That said, the proportion of this age group in the overall population has marginally declined. It was 19 percent in 1990 and came down to 18.4 percent in 2015. India's youth employment is also far lower than the 41 percent global average.

To be sure, another reason for the fall in youth employment is that a greater proportion is seeking higher education. Data from the ministry of human resource development show that enrolment in higher education among 18 to 23 year olds has increased from 8.1 percent in 2001-02 to 21.1 percent in 2012-13. Simply put, a lower percentage of India's youth is now seeking jobs. National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) data show a sharp fall in the proportion of youth in both rural and urban areas due to migration to other countries as a form of brain drain for better opportunity as well as to increase income.

India has been a major source of human resource for many countries of the world. Substantial migration of people from the India started in the 1830s and led thousands of Indians to colonial destinations, still continues. However, the later migrants differ markedly, particularly from the earlier migrants of the 19th century, in terms of venous socio-economic attributes, intentions to migrate, and the diversity in destinations as well. Now-a-days, because of the euphoria about high rates of growth in India as well as insulation from the economic crisis, as compared to many other countries of the world, people from developed countries are also pouring in India to look for profitable business prospects, employment in the multinational companies and for education. But, despite having experienced major migratory flows, India's involvement in international migration lacks a well structured policy framework. Also, there are no relevant data sets on the out flows, inflows and stocks of migrants belonging to various categories and countries.

Assuming that migration is a process and requires a multi-level planning not only by the individual migrants but also by the family, the community, and the government, the paper discusses several important areas of migration cycle. This paper attempts to put together issues related to international migration in a global perspective and covers wide range of issues crucial for migration policy in India. The paper argues that migration policy cannot be formulated in isolation room the changes and developments taking place across the global socio-political spectrum and need to be in harmony with international law while acknowledging the rights of every stakeholder, i.e., the receiving country, the sending country, local communities in both the countries, and the migrants themselves.

Keywords: Migrants, brain Drain, Migration Policy, International Migration, Receiving and destination countries

## 2 INTRODUCTION

India is not only seen as an emigration country today, rather it also attracts a large number of people from across the nations in Africa, Asia and even in the West. However, the immigrants are quite different from Indian emigrants particularly in terms of their education, socio-economic composition and motivation. There have been large inflows of people from neighboring countries like Bangladesh, Nepal, Tibet, etc., which has even made significant changes in the demographic profile of some states in India. India is also fast emerging as a destination for many multinational companies (MNCs) to outsource some of their operations. Looking at

the history of migration from Indian in the last two centuries four waves of substantial emigration are quite distinguishable:

1st Phase of migration: Started from the year 1830s and spanned a little over a century, dominated by Indian labour imported to fill the supply gaps in the plantations in British and other colonies, viz., Mauritius, South Africa, Malaya, Fiji, and other Caribbean countries.

2nd Phase of migration: took place especially after World War II, majority of Indian migrants headed towards the industrial nations of Europe and North America. Emigration of Indians to the Gulf in the 1970s, particularly in the wake of massive extraction of petroleum products and the subsequent construction booming constitutes.

3rd Phase of migration: beginning in the 1990 when Indian market opened up; and

4th Phase of migration: picking up in the early 21's century, from India consists of software professionals, management professionals and highly educated professionals who have migrated to the European countries, US and to South West Asian countries in particular.

Unlike 1st and 2nd phase, migration patterns from India today show a paradigm shift. Not only the UK, the US, Australia, Canada and the Gulf but a large number of countries in the European Union, countries in Africa and Asia are emerging major destinations for Indian emigrants. A foreign degree also opens gateways to enter in the international labour market.

Migration of Indians during 4th phases has been triggered and managed not by any considerate policy framework by the Indian state rather by the push factors at home on the one hand and the unstable demand supply gaps in the receiving countries on the other. Towards the end of the first phase the Emigration Act, 1922 was enacted to regulate the recruitment and emigration of low-skilled agricultural workers, but the Act remained silent on the issues of exploitation of emigrants and the emigration of people with technical qualification or professional expertise.

Even in the post-independence period international migration has not been paid considerable attention in the policy perspectives and the same old legislation kept in vogue until the enactment of the Emigration Act 1983. The Act, which made it mandatory for certain workers or prospective migrants put under a category called Emigration Check Required (ECR) to obtain clearances form the office of the Protectorate of Emigrants, under the Ministry of Labour, was put in place to protect the emigrant workers from abuses in the labour market.

Medical tourism is the new addition in the list of immigration to India. People not only from the developing countries but from the developed world too have now been heading to India. The immigration policies of the destination countries are being reshaped and remodeled by three important factors as under:

- (a) Demographic imbalances and consequent labour shortages,
- (b) Increasing pressure on internationalization and competition for superiority in the global market, and
- (c) Security concerns to safeguard the interests of their local citizens from undesirable immigrants and terrorist activities.

Focusing on emigration, the questions facing India's policy stance are:

- (a) Whether more out migration is good and should be encouraged, or is bad and therefore should be discouraged?
- (b) Good for whom, bad for whom - for the country as a whole, for the migrants, for the family accompanying them, for those left behind?
- (c) Is there an optimum rate of out migration?
- (d) Whose emigration should be supported and whose to be restricted?

These are tough and serious questions which have no unique answers for all times to come. The migration policy addressing them must therefore have flexibility for incorporating amendments according to the changing circumstances and paradigms.

### 3 MAJOR MIGRANT CATEGORIES

**Economic migrants:** An economic migrant generally refers to a person who leaves his/her home country to work in some other country. Migrants belonging to all occupational or professional categories who primarily earn their livelihood by contributing in some economic activity are economic migrants and include all high-skilled, semi-skilled, and low-skilled people. Their entry into the destination country is facilitated by visa extending them legal right to stay there up to a certain period of time. There are specific statues/laws laid down by nation-states to regulate the entry, working conditions, wages/remuneration, integration, etc., for foreign country nationals in their territories. Majority of economic migrants choose legal channels but there are large number of economic migrants too who seek entry through illegal channels and therefore have to bear the wrath of the state for they are not allowed to engage in any economic activity.

Generally, people tend to improve their economic status through migrating; sometimes they are forced to migrate due to extreme poverty or unemployment as is the case in many countries of South Asia. Economic migrants flock in the places where employment opportunities are abundant and flee from those places where economic opportunities are shrinking. Silicon Valley in the US, for example, has become a hub for IT professionals in the late 20th century for it provided immense opportunities for the people. Economic migrants are not always pushed by the opportunity-deficient home economies; many times they are pulled by the receiving countries to avert the negative impact of labour or skill shortages arising due to reasons such as demographic imbalance or massive expansion of economic activities.

Majority of migrants in the world today are economic migrants. On an average, labour migration accounts for about 25 percent to 30 percent of permanent migration (Khadria, 2002; OECD, 2007). According to the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs "there are about five million overseas Indian workers all over the world. More than 90 percent of these workers are in the Gulf countries and Southeast Asia" (MOIA, 2008). Who are mainly unskilled or semi-skilled workers; and most of them too come back to India after the expiry of their contract. Majority of economic migrants who go to the developed countries, US, UK, Canada, Australia, etc., are better educated and skilled than their counterparts going to the Gulf.

Significant proportions of them intend to migrate for permanent residency in the countries of their destination. However, due to the better economic performance of their own countries in the last few decades and the stricter immigration policies of the destination countries in extending citizenship rights to migrants, increasing number of migrants going to the developed countries too also prefer to return to their own country or to some other country.

**Family migrants:** is one of the most important categories of permanent immigration that accounts for almost 45 to 60 percent of total flows (OECD, 2007). Economic migrants, who primarily move in order to better their employment and earning prospects, do keep in mind their long term interests too. They also want their family members (spouse, parents, siblings, etc.) to accompany them or to join them later, depending upon the laws of the destination country about family reunification. Migration, therefore, induces further migration.

Laws for family reunification are not universal in every country (IOM, 2000) and do vary in accordance with inter alia labour requirements of the receiving countries and their attitude in granting permanent or long-term residency rights to the immigrants. For example, developed countries that have traditional ties with countries in Asia and Africa such as the UK, and countries where the contribution of migrants, specially the skilled migrants, such as the US and Canada receive large number of migrants induced under the family reunification clause of their migration policy. On the contrary, family migration in the receiving countries where granting of permanent or long-term visa is almost prohibited, most of the economic migrants in these countries go on short-term labour contract and inevitably have to return to their home country after the expiry of the contract.

Family migration has important bearings for host country as well as for the home country. While it is presumed that family migration helps in better integration of the migrants in the host society as it provides emotional support to the primary migrants to adapt to the new society (IOM, 2000) there are also evidences that it may affect the integration adversely if immigrants form old different clusters and kept on following their original norms and traditions. Further, it may also induce other family members to engage in economic activities in the host society creating ripple effects on the local labour markets. Family migration also decreases the flow of remittances to the countries of origin because migrants have to spend more in the host

country and save less. This can be seen from changes in the pattern of remittances India receives every year from developed countries and Gulf countries.

Political migrants: is a person who leaves his/her home country and tend to migrate to another country not because of an apparent economic motive but because of the fear of persecution in the homeland. Frequent occurrences of political, ethnic, religious and regional turbulences in some parts of the world, coupled with natural environmental disasters, have led to the affected people to leave their homes and seek asylum elsewhere. History is replete with the instances of people fleeing their homeland and seeking refuge elsewhere in the times of political turmoil. 20th century, perhaps, has witnessed unprecedented human sufferings because of the warring nation-states on the one hand and quest for political identity among various groups of people formed on geographical, religious, ethnic or ideological basis. People were forced to flee their homes and had to stay in refugee camps for many years. Estimates show that in 2000 there were 17 million refugees in the world constituting 9.7 percent of all international migrants up from 4.5 million or 5.5 percent in 1970 (IOM, 2005).

India has witnessed one of the most severe crises arising out of political instability during the time of partition. Millions of people became refugees overnight in their own homeland. They were brutally forced to flee to the other sides of the newly drawn border. Their properties were ransacked and their belongings were looted by the miscreant mobs of religious fundamentalists. In 2003, for example, India ranked among the top ten countries with 13,553 claims lodged for asylum in developed countries (UNHCR, 2004).

There is a great need for improving refugee protection and assistance in the regions of origin. The nation-states and other international regulators should now realise that patchy efforts are unlikely to prevent the movements of refugees and asylum seekers. Rather, a comprehensive regularisation policy needs to be devised taking into account the factors that generate human sufferings and force the people to flee and not just monetary compensation. The principle enunciated in the 'Agenda for Protection' established by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), is that the institution of asylum should not be undermined by the efforts of states to stem irregular migration. As specified in Article 31 of the 1951 UN Refugee Convention, refugees must not be penalized on account of their illegal entry or presence in a country.

Students: Cross-border mobility of students for higher education has undergone remarkable increase during the last four decades. There has been a trend of internationalisation of higher education in many countries. The number of international university rose from about 238,000 in 1960s to 2.5 million in 2004 (Chen and Barnett, 2000; UNESCO Institute of Statistics Online). Majority of international students come from developing countries such as China, Korea and India, and prefer to go to the developed countries such as the US, the UK, Germany, France, Australia and Japan (Teichler, 1999). Students from India also have been heading offshore to pursue higher studies or to do research, particularly to the developed countries of the West. For example, over 150,000 tertiary level students leave India to study overseas every year (Financial Express, March 17, 2008). The U.S. has emerged as the most favored destination among Indian students. However, the mobility of Indian students today is not limited to the traditional destinations of US or UK; rather increasing number of Indian students have been moving to other countries like Australia, Germany, France, Canada, New Zealand and Singapore.

For many universities of the developed countries who recruit international students higher education has become an export good. The international representatives or education agents provide services like counseling, expert guidance on choosing courses and universities, ticketing, foreign exchange, orientation programmes, etc. Education Fairs are organised where representatives of different universities meet students and provide information regarding the courses offered and the kind of opportunities that the students might get if they decide to take admission.

However, the picture painted by the representatives of foreign universities may not be as rosy as it appears to be. Some of these universities may be ranked quite low in their own countries but might be able to lure students from countries like India where, prima facie, a foreign degree is considered better than the native degree on the pretext of quality education and post-degree placements. In these kinds of scenarios it is a genuine requirement from the state regulatory authorities to prepare the list of foreign universities and educational institutions who are accredited to recruit students from India with their international rankings and publish it from time to time. The Indian High Commission in the destination countries can be asked to

keep track of Indian students and collect feedback from them regarding the universities and education agents. The Indian High Commission should also try to build networks with student bodies in the respective host country as it would help them address student issues better.

Illegal Migrants: is increasingly taking centre stage in most migration debates:

(1) Many countries across the world, developed as well as developing, are facing large influx of illegal migrants. Most often, they come from the neighbouring countries. For example, Bangladesh and Nepal, countries that share physical borders with India, are prominent source of illegal migrants to India. Illegal migration causes several kinds of problems in the local community and sometimes may bring far reaching impact on the socio-demographic profile of the receiving region/state,

(2) They also affect employment opportunities for locals in the region, by taking up jobs, sometimes even at wage rates much below the prevalent wages. Illegal migrants can broadly be put in the following categories:

- Legal (skilled/semi-skilled/low-skilled) migrants who lost their legal status due to overstay in the destination country.
- Illegal migrants (skilled/semi-skilled/low-skilled) infiltrated voluntarily.
- Forced illegal migrants brought through hazardous routes such as trafficking.

(3) Illegal migrants belonging to these categories differ in terms of their socio-economic profile, education, employment and inclination. Therefore, migration law should take into account certain issues such as: who are the illegal migrants and where they have come from; what are their motives; what are the areas of their operation; when did they arrive and who helped them reach the destination; how do/can they affect the interests of the local population? But whatever may be the causes and nature of illegal migration, migration policy should aim at curbing illegal migration in all forms.

Nation-states employ various mechanisms to deal with illegal migration. Deportation of illegal migrants to their own countries is one such method. Deportation, which might appear quite the simplest, however, is difficult to implement. For example India has been following the policy of deportation since long but it has not brought enthusiastic results. UK and France are also encouraging illegal immigrants to return home voluntarily by offering them lump-sums and benefits to restart their livelihood. In 2006, Britain returned 6,000 illegal immigrants. However, this policy may also result in increasing the flow of illegal immigration in order to get good money and then come back.

#### 4 AREAS OF KEY CONCERN IN MIGRATION CYCLE

**Job and education search:** It is a fact that majority of people who intend to move overseas do so for better employment prospects and therefore gather information regarding the job opportunities in the labour markets of their preferred destination countries from various sources, e.g., newspapers and employment news, online advertisements, companies' bulletins, personal contact of the people in the host country, and from recruitment agents. However, no systematic mechanism has been put in place for collecting, compiling and disseminating information about overseas job opportunities and educational avenues in India so far. Given the massive outflow of people from India in search of employment and for education as well systematic information related to different aspects of migration decision is imperative. This enunciates the need to develop an index for major destination countries based on certain variables such as access to labour market, prospects for family reunion, education, transportation, residential rights, political participation, political stability, migration governance, social security, climate and others.

**Recruitment:** Migrants are employed either directly by the employer or through some outsourcing agency or an agent. In India there are a large number of agents. As on 31st December 2007 there were 1835 recruiting agents in the country (MOIA, 2008). The task of these recruiting agents is to facilitate the process of emigration, particularly in case of low-skilled and semi-skilled people, and help them coordinate with their overseas employers. The recruitment agents could be asked keep informing the concerned state authorities from time-to-time about their clients in foreign countries and about the credibility of employers. Registered recruiting agents can be extended logistic support based on public-private-partnership model for keeping and maintaining the database, like working in collaboration with employment exchanges in India. But it is to be noted at the same time that everything is not topsy-turvy with migration agents. Many of them would be doing commendable jobs. But there is no system to recognize them and reward them accordingly.

**Passport:** A passport is a document that recognises the individual as a citizen of the country granting it. It is a right of every individual in India to obtain a passport within prescribed timeframe after the payment of certain fee. Under the Passport Act 1967, three kinds of passports may be issued:

- (a) Ordinary passport - to the citizens of India,
- (b) Official passport - to the specified government officials of different categories, and
- (c) Diplomatic passport - to the officials of the Indian Foreign Services and some other specifically identity. Mainly three kinds of documents are required for getting the passport (i) age related (ii) residential address related, and (iii) Educational certificates.

Due to the lack of a centralised network connecting all the 28 passport offices across the Country, quite a few times an individual has been issued more than one passport. This can have serious consequences for national security as by this way erroneous people can get into India using fake passports. At present, passports are either delivered by post or can be obtained by the person from the counter at the passport office. Both these modes of passport delivery are continuing for several years and have been good enough. But certain problems have been creeping up regarding the efficacy of these mechanisms.

Modern technology in data handling combined with systemic reforms can make the system quick and efficient. A national database of citizenship can be prepared. This database can be linked up with crime records (reports of the violation of law, misconduct, or criminal offence) available with police departments and investigation agencies across the states, and the judiciary.

**Visa:** A visa is an endorsement on the passport. It allows the holder to enter in the territory of the issuing country. Visas are generally of three types:

- (a) Immigrant or permanent resident visa, issued to the persons who intend to immigrate or settle permanently in destination/receiving country;
- (b) Non-immigrant or temporary visa, issued for a temporary period after which the holder of the visa will have to leave the country, visitor's visa, tourist visa, student visa, business, visa, work visa; and
- (c) Transit visa, required when somebody passes through a foreign country which comes in the way to reach another foreign country as the destination. For getting transit visa, to and fro tickets are necessary to be produced along with the destination country visa.

Besides these common forms, several other forms of visa have been introduced in the last few years, e.g., airport visa, working holiday maker's visa. Airport visa is issued to those who tend to change a flight at the airport en-route to some other country. Working holiday maker's visa is issued to those who are allowed to work in the country for a limited time to satisfy primarily non-economic objectives. Coordination with foreign missions and consulates might help save the emigrants from being exploited at the hands of touts.

**Travel and foreign exchange:** Travel involves several decisions such as the air route, the cost of travel, check-in, arrangements of foreign exchange, etc. Due to the lack of specified and categorical mechanism of providing information on such issues many people have to bank upon the services of middlemen and agents, There is a need to develop some mechanism of collecting up-to-date information about it.

**Settlement:** Set dement in the host country involves many decisions starting from the choice of locality for accommodation, proximity from the site of employment, means of transportation, living conditions in the surroundings, and most important the cost of living. Also, one has to think about the medical facilities and security, especially in the countries where people are showing an increasing distrust and hatred towards the immigrants. There is a need for government intervention assuring people about their safety and security.

The growing scale of international migration is a response to the demand for workers in receiving countries. But, despite greater demand, the opportunities for legal entry and set dement of immigrant population are still limited. Along with the countries of origin, the destination countries should also work in harmony to promote the safety and protection of migrants. Also, nation-states are required to ensure that migrants are granted secure legal status to enhance the possibility of free movement between countries of origin and destination. This is likely to protect the migrants from falling into the clandestine ways and protect them from exploitation. A number of migrants resort to fake marriages with the citizens of the destination countries in order to become eligible for citizenship. However, laws have been amended in this concern in



countries like the UK, but the resultant impact on the families is to be looked into as this causes unnecessary stress and troubles for honest migrants also.

**Return and re-integration:** Indians who went abroad in search of better educational and professional opportunities are returning home. Source countries like India, which once viewed the migration of their educated individuals as brain drain for they had an inclination for permanent settlement in the destination countries, are no more worried about the current scale of migration, including those of highly skilled individuals, for they are witnessing now that a large number of people tend to return home after having some foreign exposure. Their return is being seen as beneficial for the source country, as return migrants come back with improved levels of knowledge and technical skills, i.e., human capital.

However, the impact of return migration in the domestic economy depends to a large extent on the kind of migrants, that is, with which skill category the migrants belong to. It should inspire their confidence in their own country and 'homecoming' should no longer be felt a nightmare for potential returnees. It is very important to gain trust and confidence of the Indian overseas diaspora. As long as they do not perceive it worth while to return to the home country they will be hesitant.

## 5 OVERARCHING DOMAINS

**Gender and international migration:** At present, the number of people living outside their own country of birth is larger than at any time in history. Among the huge migrant population, nearly 50 percent are women. Unlike in the past, when women migrated mostly due to marriage, a large number of them are now migrating for work. In Asia, the number of women migrating from some countries has surpassed males. Migration can provide new opportunities for women to improve their lives, escape oppressive social relations, and support those who are left behind. But at the same time it can also expose them to new vulnerabilities as the result of their precarious legal status, abusive working conditions, exposure to certain health risks, and most importantly being perceived as weaker sex. Instances are abounding regarding the trafficking and exploitation of women by touts and agents, who sometimes force them into flesh trade. Due to the pitiable state of women migrants many source countries have started putting age restrictions, insisted on male guardian's consent and put temporary blanket bans. In the early 1990s, Bangladesh, India and Indonesia imposed minimum age restriction. Currently, the minimum age requirement for women to be eligible to migrate overseas in Indonesia and Pakistan is 22 years and 35 years, respectively.

Despite being a major source country India still does not have enough information on women migrants. There have been many studies from gender perspective in the field of international migration but significant work on the gender dimensions in international migration from India is not available. Khadria (2003, 2007) conducted studies in India but they were on migration of nurses. This gap needs to be bridged. Empirical studies on women migrants are required in region/state specific contexts capturing the condition of Indian women who have migrated either as immediate relatives and later on took jobs or directly migrating as economic migrants. The problems faced by them due to the triple effect of (i) being an immigrant, (ii) being a women, and (iii) profession specific as in the case of housemaids, etc., need in-depth investigation and fair treatment.

**International migration and remittances:** Increased labour mobility has led to an upsurge in the magnitude of money transfers across international borders as migrant workers send a large proportion of their earnings home to help families left behind. Remittances constitute a vast sub-economy upon which many nations depend to sustain their gross domestic product. Remittances have more than doubled in the past six years to \$318 billion in 2008, of which \$240 billion came from migrants from developing countries. Countries receiving the largest amount of money from their nationals working abroad were India (\$27 billion), China (\$25.7 billion), Mexico (\$25 billion) and the Philippines (\$17 billion). The main sources of remittances were the US (\$42 billion) and Saudi Arabia (\$15.6 billion) (World Bank, 2008). A major chunk of the remittances, comprising as much as 80-90 percent, is spent on consumption worldwide (Migration News, 2008), reflecting that the breadwinner is often abroad and that remittances substitute for local earnings.

Brady (2008) points out that migrants probably spend as much as \$400 billion to their home countries each year, i.e., four times the West gives in aid. But the cost of transferring remittances can be extremely high. The Government of India has taken this issue with banks like the AXIS Bank and the State Bank of India and persuaded them to bring down the transfer cost reasonably low. In this regard some exclusive rights can be

given to the banks to lower the transfer charges. Also, the migrants should be informed about the transfer rates charged by different banks.

**Climate change and international migration:** According to Dr. Thomas Fingar, Deputy Director of National Intelligence for Analysis and Chairman of the National Intelligence Council, current research in Asia indicate that South, Southeast, and East Asia will face risks of reduced agricultural productivity as large parts of the region face increased risk of floods and droughts. By 2025, cereal crop yields will decrease 2.5 to 10 percent. Economic refugees will perceive additional reasons to flee their homes because of harsher climatic conditions. Besides the movement within countries, especially to urban areas, many displaced persons will move into neighbouring developing countries, sometimes as a staging ground for subsequent movement onward to more developed and richer countries with greater economic opportunities. Many likely receiving nations will have neither the resources nor interest to host the climate induced migration. The consequences of global warming are expected to include faster rising sea levels (seas rose six to nine inches in the 20th century) and more precipitation at higher latitudes and less in semi-arid subtropical regions, many of which already suffer droughts. The US National Intelligence Council released a report in June 2008 that predicted destabilizing events around the world in the wake of climate change, including ethnic violence and illegal immigration (NIC, 2008). Climate change, according to the NIC, "will worsen existing problems such as poverty, social tensions, environmental degradation, ineffectual leadership and weak political institutions." The NIC predicted that the effects of global warming are likely to be most severe in sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and Central and Southeast Asia, where farm output may drop and encourage rural-urban migration (Migration News, 2008).

As India has also been experiencing climatic changes we need to explore the impact that climate change and the consequent movements of people could have on migration. India should analyse the possibilities and the risks involved and also how to deal with such a situation of climate induced migration.

**Terrorism and international migration:** The separatist movements in different countries and the increasing extremism related to some religions and sects have arisen as a serious threat to the very existence of a peaceful coexistence of distinct human identities across nations. This phenomenon has serious implications for international migration also and has been occupying significant space in migration debates particularly after the 9/11 incident. The key factors that spawned international terrorism show no signs of abating over the next some years.

Moreover, they harm the prospects of cross-border movement of people like international tourists by creating panic which affects the livelihood of the local populace quite adversely. On the linkages of migration and terrorism State for External Affairs, Government of India, once told the United Nations General Assembly that many a times, illegal migrants have been found involved in terrorist activities in India (Indian Express, 2006). Besides tackling the issue on its own India has raised this issue time and again at bilateral and multilateral platforms, but the fact remains that no comprehensive mechanism to deal with this threat has yet evolved. There is an urgent need for India to win the confidence of the global community in its anti-terror mechanisms.

**International migration law:** Putting the international refugee regime aside, there is little international cooperation on migration at the global level and no truly international migration regime exists to date. There are the longstanding but under-subscribed conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO), limited cooperation in practice on high-skilled migration under the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) and increasing cooperation on illegal migration, human smuggling and trafficking within the context of the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime.

The fundamental obstacle to international cooperation on labour migration, as Ari Zolberg (1991;1992) and James Hollifield (1992) have pointed out, is that migrant destination countries have little incentive to join such a regime because foreign labour, especially low skilled labour, is in abundant supply. A global migration regime may make sense for reasons such as increasing economic efficiency worldwide, ensuring poor migrant source countries' access to the wealthier migrant destination markets, and for the sake of international development and reducing global inequalities.

**Future of migration:** Due to shortage of labour in many of the developed countries, there has been an increasing competition among them to attract skilled labour from developing countries. This tendency of fulfilling labour shortage in the developed countries by imported manpower is perceived to pose certain

challenges as well as provide opportunities for source countries. India being a leading labour export country has to ponder over the future impacts that this may have on the Indian economy as well as the Indian Diaspora. Considering the demographic shifts and India's own position in producing human capital two possible scenarios emerge for India:

## 6 FINDINGS

In order to maximize the positive impacts of cross-border migration and minimize the negative consequences veritable statistics is fundamental requirement. Data related to various aspects of migration such as flow/stock of migrants, destination countries, countries of origin, profile of migrants, their intentions, mode of crossing borders, legal status, remittances, etc., for all migrants should be collected. However, the fact is that despite growing scale of international migratory flows necessary statistics in India is not easily available simply because it is neither collected properly nor maintained. At present, statistics relevant to migration is being collected in India for different purposes by different government departments and other organisations, namely, Bureau of Immigration, Protectorate of Emigrants, Ministry of External Affairs, Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner and National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO). Since migration statistics is collected by different agencies to meet their own individual requirements and differs in coverage, it purportedly lacks uniformity and comparability. Some academic institutions such as Centre for Development Studies, Kerala, are also engaged in collecting and analysing migration data with focus on unskilled migration. However, it would really be very ambitious to expect from individual institutions to provide a comprehensive coverage of migration form a country like India. This situation warrants sequential coordination between various government departments, universities and institutions involved in study and monitoring of migration.

**India losing out:** According to the World Population Council the productive population of India, i.e., people belonging to the age group 15 to 60, will stop increasing in the coming years and it will stabilise at 64 percent of the total population from 2025 to 2050 and will decrease thereafter to 62 percent of the total population in 2050 (Gain, 2008). It may lead to shortage of skilled labour in India too, if the present rate of migration from the country continues unabated. The government is right now focusing on the immediate benefits associated with emigration. But the pattern of emigration shows that the migrants belong to the high-skilled categories such as the scientists, engineers, doctors, management and IT professionals, academicians, who are already in short supply, may lead to decline in productivity. Also, the education system shall face severe shortage of teachers and researchers resulting in poor quality students passing out from educational institutions.

**India gains:** The second scenario postulates that India along with China would emerge as a major global player having an immense impact on the geo-political landscape. India is well positioned to become a technology leader in the coming decades. Sustainable high economic growth, expanding military capabilities and large demographic dividend will be the contributing factors to the expected elevation of the country. Knowledge and technology involving the convergence of nano, bio, information and material technology could further its prospects in the forthcoming global economy. Substantial enhancement of financial recourses in social sector, especially on education and research, would help India to become the largest source of knowledge professionals in the world.

The two scenarios just described are based on the recent indicators of economic performance and potential for future growth. Nothing is sure to happen. Nevertheless, projections provide food for intellectual engagement and help moving ahead with certain degree of expected outcomes. Projections, therefore should be given due importance in policy perspectives if they are based on solid empirical indicators. Migration policy of India should, therefore, be based upon vital datasets of social and economic importance.

## 7 CONCLUSIONS

This paper has tried to cover a wide range of issues concerning the subject of international migration in India. It presumes that migration decision-making and processes are overarching fields which requires a well structured policy framework taking care of the concerns of both countries, i.e., the host country and the country of origin. Migration affects and gets affected too by a large number of issues and developments taking place in the larger socio-political context and cannot be governed or managed by unilateral laws. In order to create a win-win situation for all the stakeholders, viz., the destination country and the host society,

the country of origin, the local community and the migrants, developing a national migration regime necessitates working in tandem with other participating nation-states as well as the related international organizations through bilateral and multilateral dialogues. Various concerned departments such as education, labour, home, and foreign affairs need to work out a comprehensive long-term plan to reap the advantages of India's large quantum of un-nurtured or under-nurtured human resources.

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