



migrant support group

Roots and Routes

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Editor's Note



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Dear Friends,
Greetings!

'COVID-19 does not seem to leave us' may be the motto of the current issue of the newsletter Roots and Routes. Indeed, as the number of infected people worldwide has exceeded 5 million in May, the impacts of the pandemic are yet to be observed and discussed to better grasp what is happening. What cannot be doubted is that COVID-19 has left no group unaffected, and its consequences - notably lockdown measures or border closures - are more strongly felt amongst population on the move – migrant workers and undocumented people in particular.

Against this backdrop, GFRDT launched its series of virtual panel discussions in May. These webinars have made possible the virtual gathering of experts from various geographical and disciplinary backgrounds to discuss how COVID-19 has affected the movement of people. The current issue includes the outcomes of the five first webinars.

The series kickstarted on international labour day focusing on the issues and challenges of migrant and diaspora communities with the aim of unpacking their experiences since the outbreak of COVID-19. Abhishek Yadav discusses the outcome of the second webinar in the paper "Migrants and COVID-19: Coping strategies worldwide". While the current global health crisis has posed numerous challenges to migrant and immigrant populations, it has also shed light on their contribution and the key role they play in some vital sectors. However, Yadav reports, as they are amongst the most vulnerable, migrants need to be given special attention from governments and civil society organisations. In that regard, cooperation is key to mitigate the impact of the pandemic. Nitesh Narnolia discusses the outcome of the third webinar in a paper entitled "Global cooperation of Indian Diaspora during COVID-19". Narnolia reports on the need to better support the Indian diaspora in this time of crisis. Reflecting on the post-COVID world, he stresses the importance of developing economic and socio-cultural ties with countries hosting people of the Indian diaspora. Anuja Tripathi reports on the fourth webinar in the paper "COVID does not discriminate, An Unequal World does". As she sheds light on the experiences of women migrant and women migrant workers in particular, Tripathi wonders "why there is an inherent tendency to not see women and recognize their work, while discussing migration challenges?" Because of their concentration in the informal economy, in the care economy and their condition of primary caregivers, women are strongly impacted by the consequences of COVID-19. Tripathi puts forward the importance

to make visible their work and the need to include their issues and concerns in the responses to COVID-19. Alyona Seth discusses the situation of migrant workers in the Gulf in the paper “Migrant Workers from the Gulf: Reintegration and Rehabilitation Must”. Reminding us that Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries are host to a large population of migrant workers from South Asia, Seth explains that they are trapped in a health and livelihoods crisis because of the pandemic. Thus, there is an urgent need to develop and implement specific reintegration and rehabilitation measures towards migrant workers returning from the Gulf, following a whole-of-society approach.

The current issue of the newsletter also includes two book reviews. Parul Srivastava reviews Tumbe Chinmay’s India Moving: A History of Migration. The author offers us to go through a journey of learning about migration in India from pre-historic times to present times in a readable writing style. Imtiaz Ahmed reviews Noel Brehony’s (editor) Hadhramaut and its Diaspora: Yemeni Politics, Identity and Migration. Ahmed notes that the book covers an extensive range of topics that helps

us understand the significance of the Yemeni region of Hadhramaut and its diaspora.

Finally, the current issue ends with an interview of Dr. Nurlan Atabaev and Dr. Gulnaz Atabaeva from International Atatürk-Alatoo University on the issues and impact of migration in Kyrgyzstan. Interviewed by Dr. Sadananda Sahoo, they highlight notably the importance of remittances which makes one third of the country’s GDP.

I hope you will find this issue interesting and helpful to better grasp what is currently happening around the world, especially for people on the move and for the most vulnerable among us.

Do not hesitate to reach us at editorinchief@grfdt.com if you have any questions, comments or thoughts you would like to share.

Zohra Hassani

Zohra Hassani



Application Deadline: 28 August 2020
The programme will start from 01 September 2020



**Online Certificate Programme on
GLOBAL COMPACT FOR MIGRATION (GCM)**
“Learn, Act and make Change”

Migrant Forum in Asia, Philippines, Cross-Regional Centre for Refugees and Migrants, Lebanon, Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism, India and Civil Society Action Committee, Switzerland, announce a 6 Months Online Certificate Programme on the ‘Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration’ .

Duration 6 Months (Sep. 2020 – Feb. 2021)	Programme Eligibility Bachelor's Degree	Credits of the Programme 16	Programme Fee No Fee (Free of Cost)
Why this programme? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To provide an interdisciplinary and comprehensive approach for a better understanding of the various facets of migration from the grassroots to the global level 2. To learn, be informed and act as an agent of change through conversations, dialogue, knowledge sharing, campaigns and other methods. 		Programme Structure (16 Credits): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Course 1: Migration and Diaspora: Theory and Methodology (4 credits) Course 2: Global Compact for Migration- I (4 Credits) Course 3: Global Compact for Migration- II (4 Credits) Course 4: Project Work (4 Credits) 	
For Who? Development Practitioner, Activists, Students, Policy Makers, Academicians, Diplomatic Missions, Representatives of Civil Society Organisations, Private Sector, Trade Unions, and international organisations		Resource Persons: Academicians and policy experts from across the globe	
Registration		Kindly use this link to register: https://forms.gle/tQSoeQcJYS6wr68D7 Visit www.grfdt.com to know more or send an email to grfdttraining@gmail.com for more information.	

GRFDT Virtual Panel Discussion Series 1: COVID-19: Issues and challenges of migrant and diaspora communities. 01 May 2020

COVID-19 and the movement of people have a very close relation. In fact, the pandemic became global as a result of the movement of the people. As of 26 April 2020, 2.9 million infected, 200,000 deaths and 837,000 recovered cases of COVID-19 were reported from worldwide. In such a high concentration rate, the pathogenic disease has become a serious and unprecedented challenge for every aspects of life, including the migrant and diaspora issues. Argument regarding the migrants and diaspora are mostly reflected in relation to their condition of survival. The increase in cases of COVID 19 has brought a halt to major part of the economy. According the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) global economy growth is seen falling to 2.4 percent whole year compared to an already weak 2.9 percent in 2019. It noted that the global economy is estimated to rise to a modest 3.3 percent in the year 2021. However, in its report the World Trade Organisation (WTO) mentioned the expected recovery in 2021 is equally uncertain. All these have resulted in creating deep anxiety for millions who have lost their job.

The COVID-19 has not only changed the course of migration drastically but it has also made the migration experience more vulnerable in the future. Many countries now have substantial number of migrants and diasporas who not only contribute to their national economy but global economy as well. Against this backdrop, this panel discussion will explore the followings:

1. How is the experience of immigrant or diaspora communities in various countries since the outbreak of COVID-19?
2. What are the best policy measures in any country relating to the immigrant and diaspora communities?
3. What are the future options for global migration?

4. What is the experience of Indian diaspora in major destination countries such as Gulf, USA etc.
5. What ways this entire change affect the migration and diaspora research?
6. When we talk about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 2030), what are the possible roadmaps for it? COVID-19 has adversely affected the migration experience in a great way.

The Team of Experts represent various disciplinary background and from different countries. Therefore we try to give a more nuanced understanding of the entire issue.

Speakers

- Nandini C. Sen (moderator), University of Delhi, India
Brij Maharaj, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
Denison Jayasooria, Associate Research Fellow, Institute of Ethnic Studies, UKM, Malaysia
Ashook Ramsaran, President, Indian Diaspora Council International (former President, GOPIO), New York, USA
Sadananda Sahoo, Indira Gandhi National Open University, India
Rakesh Ranjan, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, India
Feroz Khan, Institute for Research and Development in School Education, India
Monika Bisht, Institute for Research and Development in School Education, India

Migrants and COVID-19: Coping Strategies Worldwide

Abhishek Yadav



COVID-19 pandemic has brought immense challenges to migrants all over the world. Therefore, it is pertinent for countries to learn from each other as to how the impact of the pandemic on migrants can be minimised. In such context, Delhi-based think tank Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism (GRFDT) organised a webinar titled “Migrants and Immigrants during COVID-19: Country Specific Cases” on 10 May 2020, in collaboration with Bharati College, University of Delhi. The session was moderated by Dr. Amba Pande from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi.

Prof. Binod Khadria, formerly with the Zakir Hussain Centre for Educational Studies, JNU, argued that there is an urgent need to provide prominence to the migrant discourse, which has been a long-neglected domain, especially in academia. He observed that COVID-19 has created borders within countries as well, which have intensified miseries of the migrants. He further stated that there is a high possibility of re-emergence of brain-drain debate as countries have started to adopt the higher amount of selectivity in regulating migration. It would lead to the high demand for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) experts worldwide. STEM experts can be declared as the Sixth Global Commons to share their expertise in a mutually beneficial manner amongst all coun-

tries without any hindrance.

Dr. Alwyn Didar Singh, former Secretary-General, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), New Delhi, shared that the world economy has affected much due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which in turn has been affecting migrants across the globe. Such economic downfall of the world economy has triggered unemployment and increasing plight of migrants.

Localisation process will be the new challenge for countries, and therefore, mainly state governments with the help of the central government should take command in managing the issues associated with it.

Moreover, efficient usage of technology by the governments can help migrants in a safe journey, and can also prove to be helpful in their search for the desired jobs. Further, Dr. Singh argued that the migration which is taking place cannot be termed as ‘return migration’ as it is ‘reverse migration’, and hence needs to be managed accordingly.

Prof. Biman Chandra Prasad, Member of Parliament, Fiji, highlighted the adverse impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the economy of Fiji. It has mainly affected the tourism sector of the country. It is pertinent to mention that 40 per cent of the

country's GDP comes from the tourism sector. Pandemic has deeply hurt tourism and remittances of Fiji. Australia and New Zealand, being highly developed countries, can play a useful role in boosting the economies of the smaller Island pacific countries. Therefore, it is suggested that regional integration is the viable solution to minimise the adverse impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the economy of Pacific Island countries. Deeper and meaningful regional integration is the crucial step in envisaging broader Regional Pacific Community to minimise the adverse impact of COVID-19 on economies.

According to Prof. Stephanie Hemelryk Donald, University of Lincoln, UK, many policy failures have been witnessed in the UK by the successive governments. She argued that the UK needs to accept the reality that it is arguably not a global force now and should consider the COVID-19 as a pandemic rather than a European war. She considers that lack of testing, failure in shutting down early and lack of proper healthcare facilities are some of the reasons for dismal conditions prevalent in Britain. Prof. Donald has found that British-Chinese researchers are being discriminated in Britain. However, she also elaborated that it is likely that 30–40 per cent of British-Chinese people under the age of 25-35 with high skills can re-migrate anywhere in the world, if such discrimination persists. In addition to it, regrettably, people on the frontline, including doctors, nurses, and healthcare workers are also being discriminated by the common people. Prof. Donald considered that class dimension also needs to be explored in understanding whether people have been following lockdown or not, as it is convenient for rich to stay at home, but very hard for poor people to sustain their income for a long duration without going outside and working for a wage.

Prof. Luciana L. Contarino Sparta of the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina, observed that people of Chinese and Korean origins are being discriminated and have been compelled to close their shops and supermarkets in Argentina. Lots of complaints are being filed against discrimina-

tion, xenophobia and racism in the country. She argued that the government is facing the economic crisis and has shown its inability to help Argentinian diaspora.

However, Prof. Sparta also opined that Argentina cannot run its economy without the help of Australian and Latin-American migrants as their contributions in shops, hotels and restaurants are irreplaceable.

There is a high possibility that many shops and restaurants in Argentina would not open due to prospects of low income or no income at all.

Ashook Ramsaran, Executive Vice President, GOPIO, observed that COVID-19 had impacted the world GDP, thereby reducing the migration, which is going to increase localisation. Therefore, policies have to be made accordingly to utilise the domestic labour of returning migrants effectively. In addition to it, Dr. Rekha Sapra (Principal, Bharati College, University of Delhi) opined that the deep-rooted problem with the psyche could be considered as one of the reasons people are not following the lockdown strictly.

It has been observed that all countries have been affected by the COVID-19 in a varied manner. Therefore, cooperation among countries can play a significant role in tackling the impact of the pandemic. Migrants need special care and attention from respective governments, NGOs and civil society organisations to help them cope up with the immense pressure due to economic challenges, health vulnerabilities, stigmatisation and various forms of discrimination. In such time of uncertainty, the world community must come forward and help the most vulnerable sections of the societies, including migrants in all possible ways.

The writer is a PhD Candidate and Senior Research Fellow at the School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

[Published in Delhi Post](#)

Global Cooperation of Indian Diaspora during COVID-19

Nitesh Narnolia



Connecting with Indian diaspora across the world will help in developing economic as well as socio-cultural ties with other countries.

COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the entire humanity not only to an unprecedented health crisis, but also financial crisis. When international travel was suspended by India in March 2020, a lot of anxiety and uncertainty was created among Indians overseas, especially the ones on economic margins, students and blue-collar workers. The Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism(GFRDT) organised a webinar “Indian Diaspora during COVID-19: Coping Strategies and Future Prospects” on 14 May 2020 keeping the role of Person of Indian Origin (PIO) diaspora amidst COVID-19 pandemic. The panelists from different host countries assessed the situations created by the pandemic and the role played by the Indian diaspora, especially PIO diaspora in dealing with the crisis as well as in determining the post COVID-19 world of mutual cooperation. The webinar was moderated by Prof. Chandrasekhar Bhat (Former Professor, Hyderabad Central University). Prof. Bhat highlighted two distinct streams of Indian di-

aspora – the Non-Resident Indian (NRI) diaspora and the PIO diaspora.

No Discrimination in Treatment in The Netherlands – PIO at Frontline

Prof Mohan K. Gautam, European University of West & East, The Netherlands, discussed the role of Indian diaspora and Indian embassy in the Netherlands in coping with COVID-19 crisis. Prof Gautam commented upon the reports that suggest more death of coloured people in the UK and USA and at the same time, clarified that in the Netherlands there is no such discrimination in the treatment of COVID-19 patients because of the involvement of Hindustanis in health care system of the country. Hindustanis are the PIO diaspora who had migrated to the Netherlands due to their particular reasons and now they have integrated into Dutch culture, politics, social welfare, health care and education system.

Hence, PIO are at frontline in the Netherlands, working continuously for the welfare of the citizens of the Netherlands irre-

spective of race, colour and religion.

Another reason of lack of discrimination in treatment is medical insurance by the government in the Netherlands, which provides 900 Euro per month. Prof Gautam also suggested that Indian embassy should decide its credibility towards Indian diaspora in the Netherlands and Indians also need to create the political lobby of India there to help its diaspora during critical times similar to COVID-19.

PIO Stuck in St. Vincent

Arnold Thomas, Indian origin historian from St. Vincent, discussed the history of Indian diaspora in St. Vincent as well as how less population of PIO has affected Indian diaspora during COVID-19 in St. Vincent. Although, between 1861 and 1880, 2475 Indians were brought to St. Vincent and many of them were not inclined to go back, the deteriorating working conditions led Indians to protest against their exploitation, which triggered the end of indenture labor in St. Vincent. Once it was ended, half of the Indians were brought to St. Vincent returned back to India. In addition to the protest march, there were two other events also that affected Indian population in St. Vincent – the Hurricane of 1898 and volcanic eruption in 1902. By the time of World War II, many of the remaining Indians joined Windrush (it refers to the people who were invited by the governments to relocate to Britain from Commonwealth countries in the Caribbean to address labour shortage) and most of the Indian villages became depopulated. Therefore, today Indians are less than 10 per cent of total St. Vincent population, limited to 110 thousand in numbers. It might be because of less population that Indian diaspora in St. Vincent could not get any assistance from India during this COVID-19 crisis.

New Paradigms in Business and Health Care

Deo Gosine, an entrepreneur who temporarily shifted from New York to Trinidad after COVID-19 created a critical situation there, shared that the

Government of Trinidad is handling the whole crisis more effectively than in New York or USA. In order to prevent the spread, the government had begun to act in time by closing the borders, suspending international travel and making mask compulsory at public places, etc. Along with the challenges, COVID-19 has also provided some opportunities as there would be new paradigms in business, communication and health care system in post-COVID-19 era. Deo Gosine suggested that now the academia and critics need to think how society will co-exist in post-COVID-19 period. Another panelist, Vishnu Bisram, a journalist in Guyana, also highlighted the opportunities that will be opened for India as well as its diaspora communities in the health care system. There are possibilities for India and USA to develop partnership in medical field in post-COVID-19 period. This partnership can have an impact on Indian diaspora in USA in many ways such as in relaxation of visa rules, new job opportunities, etc., along with strengthening economic status of both India and USA.

Impact of Remittances from Fiji to India

Satish Rai, a filmmaker of Indian descent in Fiji, highlighted that COVID-19 has caused massive job loss for both NRI and PIO in Fiji/Australia. Earlier, the Girmityas (PIO) were more in number in Australia, but the large-scale student migration has increased the number of NRI diaspora in Australia. These NRI students are facing more problems during this pandemic crisis because most of them work part-time to bear their expenses, but this nation-wide lockdown has left these students with no source of income. Another problem, Satish Rai emphasised, was the loss of remittances from Fiji to India because it doesn't come in the form of bank transfer, rather in the form of cash and investments whenever the Indo-Fijians would travel to India. As international travel has been suspended, it will create a huge impact on remittances.

Political Loss for PIO in Guyana

Vishnu Bisram, a journalist based in Guyana, observed that there is political loss for PIO in Guyana

because of COVID-19. There were general elections in Guyana in March 2020 and the Indian descents were about to win elections, but stealing of ballots had caused delay in results. Now there is a need to recounting ballots in order to reach on final result, but due to COVID-19 it could not take place.

Overall, this pandemic has caused a political loss for PIO in Guyana. If the Indian descents had won, it would have improved the conditions of NRI–PIO in Guyana during COVID-19 crisis.

Additionally, there would be a huge impact on immigration to the West in post-COVID-19 world because of increased unemployment and travel restrictions. He pointed out that NRI-PIO will still have job opportunities, but the illegal migrants will have to face difficulties in getting employment both in homeland and host land.

GOPIO on Frontline against COVID-19 in France

Mehen Poinoosawmy, the international coordinator of Global Organization for People of Indian Origin (GOPIO), France, mentioned that GOPIO is working continuously to help the stranded Indians, especially students in France by providing them with ration bags with groceries. It is also collecting funds to distribute ration in Chennai and Delhi as well. Hence, GOPIO is working on frontline against COVID-19 not only in France, but also in their land of origin – India. At the same

time, he also stated that different lockdown strategies of different European countries including Germany, France, UK, Italy, Spain, Sweden, Denmark and Norway had different impact on spread of COVID-19. Germany, which entered into lockdown early and isolated the people with symptoms of corona virus, by imposing strict restrictions, was able to reduce death rate. Therefore, proper sanitary measures and strict restrictions on movement can control the spread of corona virus.

Overall, all the panelists have suggested to strengthen the financial situation of the citizens; provide psychological support to people in diaspora; and create Indian lobbies to support NRI-PIO in dealing with this crisis. They have highlighted the opportunities in post-COVID-19 era to develop the economy as well as business ties with many developed countries. These business opportunities will be significant for India in post-COVID-19 world, as it needs to kick start the economic activities and connecting with Indian diaspora across the world will help in developing economic as well as socio-cultural ties with other countries.

The writer is a GRFDT Member & Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Diaspora Studies, Central University of Gujarat, Gandhinagar.

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COVID Does Not Discriminate, An Unequal World Does

Anuja Tripathi



Statistics by the United Nations/ Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN/DESA) reveal that there are 172 million migrant workers worldwide and women constitute roughly 40 per cent of this population. Women migrants form a huge percentage of the workforce of many countries, including India, contributing significantly to the global economy. Yet, they are among the most vulnerable population groups as many reports have documented that women workers are majorly concentrated in the informal economy characterised by precarious living conditions, low wages, no social protection, and immense discrimination. The phenomenon of migration is not new in India, albeit, the immensity of the dependence of the economy on the migrant workforce is a new realisation. The sudden outbreak of COVID-19 has emanated an unparalleled impact on the complexities of the already marginalised women migrant workers. The consequences of this pandemic are worse for women migrant workers since their concerns are invisible, their work is undocumented and they face increasing levels of abuse and violence, especially those employed as domestic workers and caregivers.

Even during these times, when migration issues and challenges are widely discussed on every public platform, there are hardly any reports or news articles specifically arguing for the rights and issues of women migrant workers.

The important question to be addressed here is why there is an inherent tendency to not see women and recognise their work, while discussing migration challenges.

In the similar context, the Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism (GRFDT) organised a webinar titled ‘Migration, Gender, and COVID-19: Socio-Economic and Policy Perspectives’ on 18 May 2020. Eminent scholars and experts worldwide shared their experiences and insights on the subject and provided policy suggestions to tackle the challenges involving women’s migration and COVID-19.

Discrimination in an Unequal World

COVID does not discriminate, an unequal world does, said Prof. Kamala Ganesh, Scholar in Residence, Shiv Nadar University. While moderating the panel discussion, she said that due to the gendered division of labour and persuasive patriarchal norms, women are expected to be the primary caregivers. The implication of the pandemic and nationwide lockdown on women has resulted in increased labour as schools, colleges, and workplaces are closed and people are at home. It is far more challenging for women working in the organised sector with white-collar jobs, since they are constantly struggling between maintaining their professional responsibilities and work at home. The main concern about the current topic of migration is those people who are working in the informal sector and low-end jobs, as they are the most vulnerable populations for COVID.

Prof. Margaret Walton-Roberts, Wilfrid Laurier University, Canada, highlighted the significance of care labour in the health economy and domination of women migrants in the health sector. She said women’s paid inclusion in the labour market has increased globally, but

the fact remains that men have not taken up much of the double burden of social reproductive tasks. Hence, in many higher-income nations such as the US or Canada, there's increased reliance and often marginalization to provide child and elder, a low-paid care and domestic service.

Ambassador Manju Seth, Former Ambassador to Madagascar, observed that there is invisible and undocumented work of women migrants which needs to be brought into forefront. COVID-19 has affected everybody, but the women domestic workers are the most affected groups. Their living conditions do not allow social distancing and they have limited or no access to health care services. These women are trapped in difficult and fragile situations and cannot even return to their home countries owing to abusive and complicated procedures.

Aparna Rayaprol, Professor and Former Head, Department of Sociology, University of Hyderabad, spoke on the impact of COVID-19 on the issue of gender and migration. She said the care economy is the place that is extremely gendered whether in terms of nurses, domestic workers, and the caregivers to the large aging population of our country, especially during the spread of the virus. The care economy prefers to have a female worker inside the homes, rather than male workers. The focus on gender and migration is extremely significant in all directions incorporating the intersectionalities and invisibilisation of work of these women.

Informal Sector Women Remain the Most Vulnerable

Paddy Siyanga Knudsen, Migration Governance Analyst based in Malaysia, observed that the informal economy is largely dominated by women in trade and services because they couldn't get space in the public and formal sectors of employment.

There has been a lot of rural migration, particularly where women are working as domestic workers.

Hence, migration is driven by work within the urban centres. It is a growing informal sector, but women are mainly left behind with no literacy rate.

Immigrant women not as victims, rather as game changers and fighters

Prof. Annapurna Pandey, University of California, Santa Cruz, USA, observed that in the COVID-19 pandemic migrants are main victims. The US is putting all kinds of restrictions to stop migration by using COVID-19 as an excuse. There has been tremendous discrimination when it comes to the visa situation in the states. Women, those who are migrating, become dependants, who are mostly very highly educated professional, but they are not allowed to work which reflects the tremendous disparity in terms of women's empowerment in the US.

There has been only limited freedom of movement during the lockdown to seek alternative solutions for the living expenses, or at best to go home. These are unlikely during the strict regulations of national health systems. This strict lockdown also exposes migrant women and girls for gender-based violence, where they are restricted to move around for secure places.

The Way Forward

There is a need to implement policies and measures incorporating and adopting a feminist agenda for making the invisible work of women migrants visible, voicing their issues fearlessly, and breaking the vicious cycle of abuse and discrimination. There should be the inclusion of women migrant workers in the COVID-19 policy responses to ensure recognition of social justice and equality. Government should incorporate women migrant workers as their target population for various frameworks related to COVID-19 policies, with special attention to the concerns of women, such as access to health services, their safety during the lockdown, and the increased cases of gender-based violence. Women migrant workers, who are working as health care providers against COVID-19, should be provided with necessary safety equipment, legal, social protection, and financial entitlements. Policies recommendations and responses should be framed based on effective monitoring and evaluation of well-documented gender-based data.

The writer is pursuing PhD. at the School of Interdisciplinary and Transdisciplinary Studies, Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), India.

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Migrant Workers from the Gulf: Reintegration and Rehabilitation Must

Alyona Seth

As the world finds itself caught in the grip of global pandemic COVID-19, plight of migrant workers has assumed greater significance in policy discourse. An international panel of scholars and practitioners recently looked at the need to address the issues of migrant workers facing a health and livelihoods crisis in the Gulf. The panel took part in the webinar titled “Gulf Migration: During and Aftermath of COVID-19”, which was organised by the Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism (GRFDT).

Shabari Nair, Regional Migration Specialist, International Labour Organisation (ILO), who moderated the webinar, brought to fore the urgency of the issue of migrant labours. He said, according to estimates by ILO, there are 164 million migrant workers spread across the world. The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries are home to the largest share of migrant workers as a percentage of the total workforce. Workers from South Asia (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka) and Philippines have been migrating to the Gulf countries since the 1970s drawn by prospects of higher wages. As the GCC countries grapple with the twin shocks of the pandemic and oil price slump, migrant workers find themselves trapped in crisis of both livelihoods and health.

Need of Accurate Data

Data on number of migrant workers residing in the Gulf are patchy. According to Dr S. IrudayaRajan (Centre for Development Studies, India), the official estimate of 9 million Indians in the GCC countries is incorrect and underestimates the total number of migrants currently living there at present. Dr Ganesh Gurung (Nepal Institute of Development Studies, Nepal) estimated around one million migrants from Nepal in the Gulf. Pakistan, like India, also has historical links with the Gulf. Echoing the sentiment of discrepancies in data collection, Dr Nasra Shah (Lahore School of Economics, Pakistan) estimated that anywhere between 3 and 6 million Pakistanis may be residing in the Gulf. Dr Bilesha Weeraratne (Institute of Policy Studies, Sri Lanka) contended that labour migration from Sri Lanka has been declin-

ing in recent years, and there are an estimated 203,000 Sri Lankans in the Gulf. Philippines is another important source country for migrant workers in the Gulf with a migrant stock of an estimated 3 million. Nearly, 60 per cent of Filipino migrants in the Gulf are women employed as domestic workers.

Data on irregular migrants is even harder to come by and Dr Rajan contended that at least 20-30 per cent of the migrant workers in the Gulf are undocumented, a number contested by Dr Shah who claimed the numbers are likely to be much higher. Dr Shah, alongside the other panellists, has stressed on the heightened vulnerabilities of irregular migrants during this pandemic.

Shabari Nair reminded that anyone, anywhere infected by the virus is a cause of concern for policymakers which in turn unearths irregular migration.

Network connections have been a major facilitator of irregular migration in recent years, but they may be less incentivised to offer shelter and support for fear of discovery by authorities via contact tracing or raids to identify virus hotspots.

Dr Andrew Gardner (University of Puget Sound, USA), an anthropologist, also touched upon the significance of data. The Gulf countries are also not a homogenous unit. He asked how relative openness of a country such as Qatar to research and data collection will reverberate in the government's capacity to respond to the pandemic. In the absence of accurate data, good policymaking is difficult to achieve. Dr S IrudayaRajan said “if we do not have accurate data, we will not care for them”.

Role of Remittances

Remittance from migrant workers in the Gulf is an important source of foreign exchange earnings for origin countries. According to Dr AKM Ahsan Ullah (University of Brunei, Brunei Darussalam), remittances account for 9 to 10 per cent of Bangladesh's GDP, half of which is received from workers in the Gulf. Dr Gurung contends that remittances account for 28 per cent of Nepal's

GDP and most of it is accrued from Qatar. Dr Weeraratne said that one in every 11 households in Sri Lanka receives remittances, which accounts for 8 per cent of the country's GDP. He added that remittance inflows to the country contracted by 14 per cent in March compared to last year and increased to 32 per cent in April as the Gulf countries entered into a period of lockdown, which made it difficult for migrant workers to send home their earnings. The data for Sri Lanka are closely aligned with recent estimates by the World Bank that claim global remittances are going to experience 20 per cent decline in 2020.

Swiss Ambassador for Development, Forced Displacement and Migration, Pietro Mona, shared that while the pandemic itself is a short-term health crisis, the issue of remittances as a consequence is going to have longer-term negative consequences for South Asian economies. In line with this, Switzerland and UK have launched a call to action to maintain open channels that facilitate the cross-border flows of remittances by migrant workers. Mona announced that Pakistan had joined the initiative and urged other South Asian countries to follow suit.

Reintegration of Migrant Workers

The panellists all agreed that with their livelihoods threatened, migrant workers in the Gulf are set to return and origin countries need to implement policies to reintegrate them into society. Similar difficulties are found in South Asia and Philippines – the migrant workers from the Gulf are returning to decimated economies with high unemployment figures. Migrant workers who were seen as assets prior to the pandemic because of the huge volume of remittances they sent back are now stigmatised by their own communities and seen as disease carriers.

Dr Gurung expects 25 per cent of the migrant workforce in the Gulf will seek to return and the challenge facing the government is how to reintegrate them, keep them in isolation, send them to their villages, and how to generate employment for them in Nepal. Dr Rajan contends that a large number of migrants will be returning over the next six months, but out-migration to the Gulf will resume in 2021. Similarly, D. Gardner contends that the pandemic may come to resemble another push factor, in a series of such factors, which propels migrants to seek remuneration from Gulf countries in the future.

What Needs to be Done?

The short-term will exact a heavy toll on the returning migrants as many would have lost their jobs and may not be welcomed by their communities.

Those migrants that are returning with some savings must be advised on where to invest their money.

The government also needs to implement policies of up-skilling so as to enable them to look beyond the Gulf in the long-term. Sri Lanka is one of the few countries in the region to have a sub-policy on return and reintegration, but as Dr Weeraratne pointed out the current situation is a far cry from the traditional environment under which the policy is usually implemented. Migrants often return after having completed their contract, or if they fail to achieve what they set out to do they return to a functioning economy – at the moment the economy is in turmoil which compounds the difficulty of reintegration.

The need for a coordinated response by sending countries was also highlighted by panellists. Sri Lankan migrant workers repatriated from Kuwait have tested positive upon landing which has placed the burden of treatment on Sri Lanka's public health system. Dr Weeraratne questioned the responsibility of GCC countries in sending back workers that had contracted the disease while residing there and called on a coordinated response by sending countries. Dr Gurung said South Asian countries must consider coordinated efforts in destination countries such as supplying essential services to migrant workers housed together.

A common thread that emerges from the discussion was the pressing need for policymakers across South Asia and Philippines to devise and implement policies aimed at rehabilitating and reintegrating the returning and vulnerable migrant population. Shabari Nair raised an important question: what shape will these reintegration policies take? A whole-of-society approach that incorporates trade unions, civil society, employers, migrant worker groups, evidence-builders, and policymakers is the way forward.

The writer, a public policy researcher, is pursuing Masters in International Affairs at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public policy, National University Singapore.

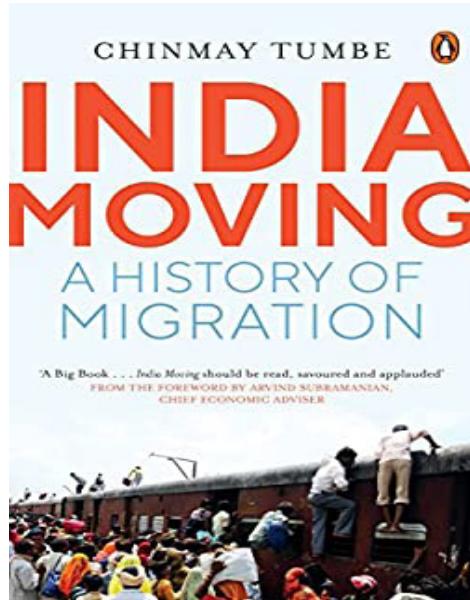
[Published in Delhi Post](#)

Tumbe, Chinmay (2018). India Moving: A History of Migration, Vikings Penguin Random House India, 304 pages.

Parul Srivastava

Migration has always been a heated topic and more so in current times when the politics of numerous political parties in the country depends upon this, which thereby results in many political battles being fought over migration and allied issues. Politics and emotions are both relying on nativism during the present times. So, if one has not had much exposure to the topic of migration, this could very well be the book for them. The first time I heard about 'India Moving: A History of Migration' by Chinmay Tumbe, Faculty at the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, I was psyched! How often is it that one gets to read about migration starting from the ancient times moving up to the contemporary society- all in one book. This work came out of the author's PhD thesis while at IIM Bengaluru and the research that he did post PhD.

Arvind Subramanian, the former Economic Adviser to the Prime Minister of India, adorned the book by writing a foreword wherein he remarks that the book should be read, savoured and applauded. The book is divided into six chapters which discuss everything from Indian Diversity to the Great Indian Migration Wave, from Diasporas to Partitions and from Displacement to Development. The first chapter itself begins with a quotation by the former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, 'India is a geographical and economic entity, a cultural unity amidst diversity, a bundle of contradictions held together by strong but invisible threads.'



Tumbe then goes on to talk about the diversity of the country. It then moves onto discuss migrations from ancient to modern times.

The next chapter is all about what the author calls the 'Great Indian Migration Wave' which he classifies as the world's largest and longest voluntary migration in history. He talks about both internal and international migrations as well as voluntary and involuntary migration. The author talks about migration can be used as a tool to come out of despotic rules and in many other cases, to further improve one's living condition and quality of life on the basis of markers like religion, gender and obviously, caste!

In his own words, 'it ranks among the largest and longest migration streams for work in documented history. He argues that this phenomenon led to the rise of cities like Kolkata and Mumbai in India and Yangon and Dubai, outside of the country. This ultimately played a very important role in shaping the history of modern and contemporary India. Tumbe defines the features of the Great Indian Migration Wave and says that it is 'male-dominated, semi-permanent and remittance-yielding'. There's an interesting study that Tumbe did in Ratnagiri which is not just famous for its mangoes but also for man-goes (exporting man power) too. Migration, according to Tumbe was a 'well established tradition' in mid-19th century Ratnagiri and it affected three principal castes. There are more case studies about Udupi in Karnataka, Density and Destiny (Saran in Bihar), Gan-

jam in Odisha amongst others, in this chapter.

Further, he talks about displacement arising out of dams and partition of India, about migrations from certain States (like U.P, Kerala, Bengal, Bihar) which he classifies as ‘clusters’ (coastal, Clusters and Gangetic clusters), slavery etc., just to name a few. He goes on to talk about the factors on which he has classified these clusters and their history which again has a lot to do with migration. He argues that more and more migration is a good thing because it enables people to benefit tremendously, which is not possible if one is stuck at one place. This benefit is in terms of money, facilities, exposure etc. A migrant network helps a lot if one belongs to that network in terms of jobs and information, which is why it’s essential to get more and more people out there with the help of migration. In his study in the Konkan region, he found out that the upper castes have a much wider network as compared to other castes.

One outstanding thing about the book and more about Chinmay Tumbe’s writing style is that it is very lucid and readable, which means that the book has been written in a non-academic style so that it can penetrate through the masses and reach readers outside of academia too. He has dexterously combined the disciplines of economics, history and mixed it up with sketches and literary references to paint a picture of why and how the people of India moved over the years. Looking at the endnotes and references of Tumbe’s book, it can be firmly stated that he stands on the shoulders of giants in the field of ancient, medieval as well as modern and contemporary history. Instead of looking at smaller, more pressing issue-based researches, Tumbe chose to look at Migration that stretches from the pre-historic times to the present times, also including the Rohingya migrations. However, he focuses more on migrations from the North and North – Western states and doesn’t really probe deep into the migrations from the states of down South.

Further into the book, the author talks about merchants and discusses various merchant communities in India starting from the Sindhis, Punjabis to Gujaratis and Marwaris and the reasons behind their migration. The author also deliberates migrations of Muslim, Jew and Parsees too. Further ahead in the book, we find Tumbe discussing diasporas and there he talks about how

the Gujaratis, Malayalis and Tamilians were key to the extension of their internal and international diasporas, during the colonial period. Partitions and Displacement is another chapter that’s written rather interestingly. He starts with the Partition of Burma in 1937 and moves on to the Partition of India in 1947 and the birth of Pakistan which has been discussed from both Western and Eastern fronts in the book. The birth of Bangladesh which resulted from the separation of East Pakistan from West Pakistan in 1971 is also probed in. One will get a bird’s eye view of migrations happening from Tibet, Sri Lanka and Kashmir region. The author could have given more emphasis on ‘twice migrations’ which is prevalent among the Sindhi and Punjabi community that migrated to the Indian side of the border during the partition of India in 1947 and then migrated to other parts of the world due to economic reasons mostly.

The last chapter talks about migration and development and that is what the author is arguing in the book that how migration is a wonderful thing and one shouldn’t shy away from it as many a times, it opens better avenues for people than were available at their native place. Another interesting thing that Tumbe talks about in the book is Ambedkar and Thackrey and their different views on migration. Ambedkar on one hand, looked at migration as a very positive thing that uplifted his status and gave him a sense of dignity whereas Thackrey on the other hand, looked at migration from the point of view of a native. He also adds a third dimension of Gandhi (‘cosmopolitan recommending fixity’). Overall, one can say that this thickly footnoted book can be an absolutely wonderful and a much-needed read for scholars and students who wish to investigate into or rather start out in the vast sea that is Migration. It will help give an overview to the reader thereby making them understand the various nuances and types of migrations and they may ultimately be successful in selecting a topic from this reader and probe into it a little more.

The author takes into consideration and attempts to answer many questions as part of research for this book. He details the readers about the hotspots of emigration in India and talks about the size of the Indian diaspora. Tumbe’s book looks at how India has built by taking into account migration patterns and interestingly everything from literature, cuisine, music to folklore is

all somewhere related to the history of migration. As is presently evident, foreign politics, trade, economy are also influenced by migration.

He also tries to point out towards the ‘movement of certain communities’ and the ‘building of economic capital’. By the end of the book, readers will come to admire the sheer breadth of the book and will marvel at the fact that how the author was able to cover so many displacements and migrations in a single book. The book will surely open up a lot of debates that may eventually be probed into by researchers in the field of social sciences. For his methodology, the author has taken into deliberation not just economic factors to study migration patterns but also social and cultural factors which are critical demarcating factors. Tumbe, a Faculty at IIM Ahmedabad also mentions that the logo of IIM-A was taken from one of the carvings in the Sidi Saiyyed Mosque, built by Sidi, who were a group of people that migrated from East Africa to India.

So, if one is looking forward to reading a seminal work on Migration that has been done by an economist, they will certainly find this book to be quite an absorbing read. However, if one has been working on migration from the lens of History, they will find certain sections of the book familiar but one could still read it to get a more surface level understanding of Migration in the context India. The book is more like an overview, which runs through centuries and hence, does not delve deeply into any topic. However, it would serve as a good reference book on the history of migration in India, from the ancient times. Although it’s not the most comprehensive book on the History of migration in India, it’s definitely a primer on migration in India.

The reviewer is a Doctoral Candidate at the Department of History, University of Hyderabad, India.

Brehony, Noel (2017), Hadhramaut and its Diaspora: Yemeni Politics, Identity, and Migration, London: I. B. Tauris, 320 pages.

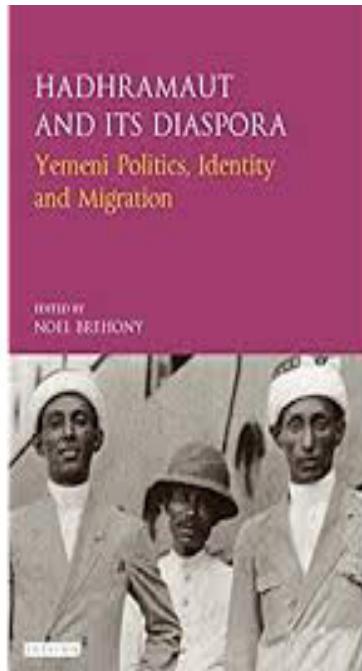
Imtiaz Ahmed

The valley of Hadhramaut stretches over 370 miles, which has helped preserve a unique local Hadrami identity for centuries. Establishment of two influential Kingdoms Qu'ayti and Kathiri was the result of Hadhrami diaspora in India, and they dominated Hadrami politics until the early 1960s. Hadhramis limited their activities almost exclusively to the Indian ocean, rather than developing a global diaspora on Gujarati or Cantonese lines. This contrasted with other Yemenis, who went as labourers to Europe and North America. Hadhramaut is one of the largest governorates in Yemen in terms of area.

Within this vast region, Hadhramis were active since centuries, because of migratory nature they travelled far lands in Indian ocean mainly in Indonesia, Malaysia, south-western India and the Deccan, both shores of the Red Sea, and the Gulf of Aden, and the East African Littoral and islands down to Comoros. This immigration has profoundly affected the host countries as well as Hadhramaut itself.

The editor of the book Noel Brehony is one of the acclaimed authors and experts of the middle east region, notably Yemen, which offers deep insight and analysis from diverse perspectives. He works extensively on Hadhrami and Yemeni history and diaspora.

The book is divided into three parts, Part I, sheds light on Hadhramis in Yemen and its politics since the 1960s, concerning Hadhrami Exceptionalism, Hadhramaut's social structure, agriculture, and migration. In the first Chapter, Saadaldeen Talib and Brehony discuss Hadhramaut in South Arabia in the People's Democratic



Republic of Yemen (PDRY) and later in Yemen Arab Republic (YAR). They also shed light on the rise of marginalized groups like Houthis in the north, Al-Hirak in the south, and Al Qaeda in several parts of Yemen. Other important areas highlighted are Yemeni Arab spring of 2011, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) deal and its failure, war and its impact on Hadhramaut, and the future of Hadhramaut. The chapter offers three exciting and possible options viz Hadhramaut in a federal Yemen, in independent south, and an independent Hadhramaut.

In Chapter 2, Thanos Petouris discusses the socio-political changes that took place in the region during the middle of the twentieth century. This chapter is an attempt to answer the question of the putatively exceptional position of Hadhramaut as a geographical and political entity and its contribution to the politics of southern Arabia. It also discusses the distinction between premodern and modern Hadrami identity as a result of changes in Hadrami diasporic communities. In Chapter 3, Helen Lackner mainly focused on the socialist reform of the 1970s and how it changed social relations and self-perceptions of the various group. She further discusses the reversal of the situation after the unification and relevance of these changes in the ongoing chaos of the region.

Part II explores the status Hadhramis in the diaspora concerning the Atlas of Sayyid Uthman ibn Abd Allah ibn Yahya of Batavia (1822-1914), diaspora in Indonesia and revival of Hadhrami diaspora, migrants of Hadhrami origin in the Philippines, hiring of Yemeni mercenary for abroad, issue of citizenship and belong-

ing among the Hadhramis of Kenya, Hadhrami diaspora through the lens of trade.

In Chapter 4, Nico J.G. Kaptein discusses the publication of Sayyid Uthman, which is on the colonial historiography of Indonesia, lithography, and the users of his Atlas. In chapter 5, Kazuhiro Arai throw lights on the Hadhrami diaspora in Indonesia and revival of Hadhrami diaspora, Indonesian visitors in Hadhramaut, the connection between two countries, publications on Hadhrami religious figures in Indonesia, accessibility of Southeast Asia from Hadhramaut, and finally the history of South Yemen (1937-90) and unified Yemen 1990 to the present.

In chapter 6, William G. Clarence-Smith discusses the Arab Muslim migrants in the colonial Philippines with Hadhrami connection, settlement of Muslims in the Philippines and resistance to colonialism, collaboration with colonialism, independent Ulama and Islamic reform, trade and shipping, and the Hadhrami presence after independence in 1946.

In chapter 7, James Spencer discusses the issues around mercenaries and soldering generally and those relating to indigenous soldiers in Yemenis in particular, Yemenis security providers in the diaspora, the role of Hadhramis in commercial security operations, the status of Yemeni soldiers, colonial era, Hadhramis in Hyderabad, post-colonial era, patterns of recruitment, Islamist fighters, Muwalladin as fighters, and local soldiers as a communications channel.

In Chapter 8, Iain Walker discusses citizenship and belonging among the Hadhramis of Kenya. Like other communities, Hadhramis were able to maintain a unique identity in coastal areas of Kenya, and after independence, they formally became the citizen of Kenya but keeping their identity alive. Moreover, while Kenyan or Yemeni passport is a sign of identity, but Hadhrami identity is based on a deep historical understanding and recognition of belonging that is inscribed in. Performed through daily practice, in various places, and various spaces, that in national terms sees Hadhrami as being at once both/ neither Kenyan and/nor Yemeni.

In chapter 9, Philip Petriat discusses the role of non-sada merchants and how these non-sada groups traded in

a network form in the 20th century. Not only among Hadhramis but also the non Hadhramis was the distinctive feature and how these non Hadhramis work like a nodal point connecting different groups extending over a larger area while stressing on the methods adopted by A. Cohen. Network analysis of Hadhrami migration provides us with tools for comparison with other dispersed communities.

Part III is short and precise and has only one chapter and conclusion. In chapter 10, Leif Manger talks about the challenges encountered during his research on Hadhramis diaspora. This chapter identifies three challenges: defining diaspora, historicizing globalization, and understanding of historical agency. Other topics emphasized in this chapter are historical realities of early Indian ocean migration, Hadhramaut region before the sixteen centuries, and being a Muslim in the Indian ocean world.

This book concluded by Bujra, where he discusses the research issues concerning the Hadhramaut and Hadhramis and recommendations for further research. Role of the Hadhramaut Research center (HRC) and the purpose of HRC and how it will help the young Arab researcher in carrying out research.

Although the book has covered an extensive range of topics, it also has some shortcomings. The author has not investigated the plight of Hadhrami communities in the diaspora, mainly Hadhramis in India, which is one of the largest migrant community in India. The book has also not highlighted the critical aspects of diaspora like the assimilation, adaptation, and integration processes of Hadhramis in the host countries and the declining role of the Hadhrami diaspora in international politics and foreign policy. There is relatively less discussion on the ancient Hadhramaut and Hadhramis and their role in the spreading of Islam in other foreign lands. The rich historical heritage of Hadhramaut still needs much attention apart from the Islamic perspective.

Notwithstanding the above gaps, this book fills an important research gap in the subject. It has effectively touched many parts of Hadhrami or Yemeni life in general, like how Yemen is dealing with the devastating war for years. After looking at the quantity of literature produced on the Hadhrami diaspora in the past one century, this book serves some purpose and needs to be

translated in Arabic as well as other local languages of the Indian ocean realm.

This book has a limited audience; still, this book gets readers from different social science subjects. This book is primarily for researchers working on Yemeni diaspora or Hadhrami diaspora, but it also includes people from varied allied subjects like diasporic studies, geography, history, anthropology, international relations, and foreign policy.

The chapters in the book illuminate many aspects of Hadhramaut, Yemen, and the diaspora, but show that re-

search on these issues, though impressive and attracting the attention of leading scholars, is still comparatively undeveloped. The chapters regarding Hadhrami exceptionalism, the revival of Hadhrami diaspora, Yemeni fighter abroad, diaspora or network, and paradigms of research is a groundbreaking work that highlights new insights in the Hadhrami diaspora instead of traditional diaspora concepts. The research issues regarding Hadhramaut and its people at the end of this book, which is a beacon for a new researcher in Hadhrami diaspora.

The reviewer is a Doctoral Candidate at the Aligarh Muslim University, Uttar Pradesh, India.

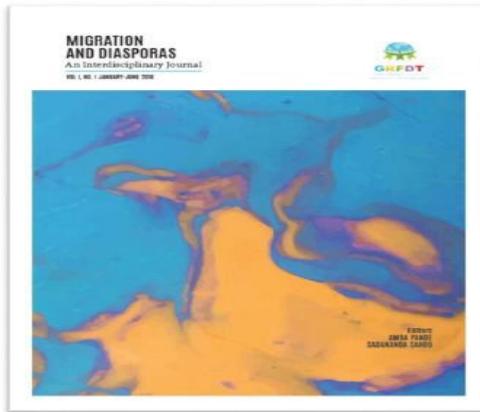


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Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism

Issues and Impact of Migration in Kyrgyzstan

Russia has been the main destination for Kyrgyzstan migrants due to their linguistic similarities and also a no-visa policy.

Dr. Nurlan Atabaev and Dr. Gulnaz Atabaeva both work with Nargiza Alymkulova at International Ataturk-Alatoo University. Their work focusses on the impact of Remittances on Kyrgyzstan.

They have shared some of their thoughts and research findings on the Issues and Impact of Remittances in the country's economy and society with Dr. Sadananda Sahoo.

Sadananda Sahoo (SS): Gulnaz, can you tell me about the impact of International migration on your country in general?

Gulnaz: Well, migration in our country has a significant impact on both social and economic development. Since we are researching the investigated effect of remittances on economic growth, we can say that money sent back home by labour migrants plays an essential role because it makes up 1/3rd of our GDP. It has both positive as well as a negative impact. In terms of positive, it increases consumption. Our consumption also increases our deficit or income share increases; it affects economic growth; money flows out of the country's investments. It also increases dependency.

SS: But don't you think this remittance base economy is very problematic? Because you don't have a sustainable economy and the second thing is, what is the impact of this remittance on women, especially? Their husbands are not there at home. How do they make use of this remittance? And what is their social and economic impact show my being a woman?

Gulnaz: Yes, it has impacts on the women as well.



When husbands migrate abroad, women become the managers of the finances. Women manage to spend the money on their children for their education and expenses for medical expenses, and they become empowered; of course, in that sense, a woman plays an essential role in this money.

SS: So why do they prefer only Russia and not other countries?

Nurlan: Because for Russia, we don't need a visa. Secondly, it is the Russian language we have studied and we have TV, and we have got an education in the Russian language. That's why it easier for us to get a job in Russia.

SS: So do you have in-migration? Immigration to your country?

Nurlan: Yes, mostly from selected ethnic Uyghurs from the neighbouring countries like Uzbekistan and the Kazakhstan because life here is much more easier than there.

SS: So, I have another question, especially on the issue of conflict. Today many countries have conflict. They don't consider migrant people as part of their society. Do they have similar conflicts in your country?

Gulnaz: Our migrant workers, when they get over to Russia, they can be confronted with such problems. But for the diaspora there is such an organization for one common interest, for example, for their rights, working conditions, which as well. But anyway, as many developing countries face our country.

SS: One last question how you think the future of migration globally or you can see the scenario emerging in your country and globalization?

Nurlan: Yeah, globalization scenario for the next five

years. So, the next 50 years, significantly increased because of the globalization because of the integration, technology, air transport, and the other stuff, and because of that massive gap between the countries of the developed and developing countries and the these needs to be somehow regulated as the others say it's a visible. The globalization of immigration will increase and for some countries it will be a problematic issue whereas for some other countries it will be the solving problems.

SS: We had a one-time brain drain problem. We are talking about the sufferings of so many people who migrated. So, that should have been a big issue in India because you lose lots of brainpower, so such is the basis in your country as well?

Gulnaz: As mentioned at the beginning of integration was post Soviet system. For example, Russian, many Russian people settled in Kyrgyzstan because as Soviet Union collapsed. Many Russian doctors, engineers, and skilled workers went back to their home to Russia too. Most migration happened due to unemployment from less income to high income countries.

SS: Thank you, Gulnaz and Nurlan, for sharing very, very good ideas on a topic like this.

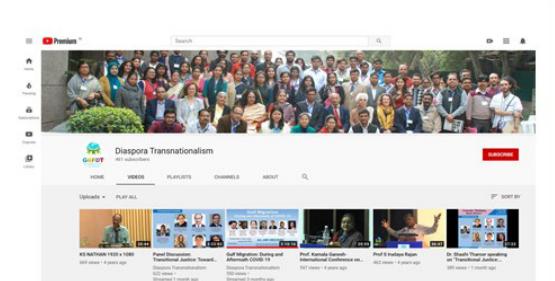
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