

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACT OF BRAIN DRAIN IN INDIA

Dr Meghna Aggarwal¹, Tushar Batra²

¹Assistant Professor, ASSM College (A University College of GNDU, Amritsar), Mukandpur

²Assistant Professor, Khalsa College, Amritsar

ABSTRACT

Brain Drain is “the movement of highly skilled and qualified people to a country where they can work in better conditions and earn more money”. A brain drain is frequently considered as an economic expense, since emigrants usually take with them the value of their higher education and training subsidized by the Government. The Government of India estimated that there are 30 million Indian human resources who are working for the industrialized countries are well educated and skilled. This study mainly focuses on socio-economic factors of brain drain in Indian context. Also the concern raised in this paper is that the valuable human capital in high end professional institutions like IIT's, AIIMS and IIM's are generated with the money collected from the tax payers but it is very unfortunate that these professionals and skilled human resource are permitted to work for the development of developed countries. India is a developing country and it is becoming a major supply of human capital for the established economies. Brain drain may have modest good impact on our economy in the short run but being a growing country, India cannot afford departure of highly valuable people and there is need to evaluate our long term higher education plan in this area.

Keywords: Brain Drain, Higher Education, professional exodus, Socio-Economic aspects

1. INTRODUCTION

Brain Drain is “the movement of highly skilled and qualified people to a country where they can work in better conditions and earn more money” or “when large numbers of educated and very skilled people leave their own country to live and work in another one where pay and conditions are better”. Brain-drain can also be named as “Human Capital Flight” because it resembles the case of capital flight, in which mass migration of financial capital is involved. Brain drain is usually regarded as an economic cost, since emigrants usually take with them the value of their higher education and training sponsored by the government or other organizations.

2. CLASSIFICATION OF BRAIN MIGRATION

In a wider perspective than brain drain only, brain migration may be of the following types:

- a) Brain Over flow
- b) Brain Export
- c) Brain Exchange
- d) Brain Drain.

In Indian context Brain Overflow and Brain Drain are relevant terms. Brain Export and Brain Exchange are significant for developed countries. With latest census data, as 60 % of the Indian

population is young (below 35) and Brain Overflow is very much applicable presently. Several thousands of Engineers, doctors, scientists are coming out of the Indian universities every year with vague future prospective of their employment in India. The problem of Brain overflow usually leads to the problem of Brain drain. However, Brain-drain may have many other reasons, for example-political instability of a nation, lack of opportunities, health risks, personal conflicts etc. The term brain-drain was introduced by observing the emigration of the various technologists, doctors and scientists, from various developing countries to more developed nations like USA, UK, Germany, England etc. Now this phenomenon of brain drain has a conversed effect for a country in which people are getting migrated and **Brain-drain** of a nation becomes **Brain-gain** for that particular country. Usually all developing countries including India are suffering from brain drain and developed countries like USA are having brain gain from this phenomenon. More or less, all the backward countries are suffering from this problem. India is also one of the major nations in the world which is suffering from this brain drain seriously at the present moment.

The brain drain is a direct loss, of trained experts in many fields, to the under-developed and poor countries. On the other hand, it is a net gain to the advanced countries. According to a UNO report, every year thousands of experts are migrating from backward countries to advanced countries like USA, UK, Canada, Germany etc. The under-developed countries are spending millions of rupees on the training of these experts. But the advanced countries are utilizing their services without spending any money on their training. In 2010, India with an estimated stock of 11.4 million emigrants was the second emigration country in the world, behind Mexico (11.9 million). In absolute terms, India is among the countries which lose most highly-skilled workers to foreign markets.

There are many reasons for migrating from one country to other country i.e. Lack of support to expert or highly educated people in terms of financial support and resources and support from government, these reasons are making Indian experts to leave India and render the services to other countries. The steady outflow of our nation's talent, especially those educated, at the cost of the tax payers' money, has caused concern to the government. Due to high salary and facilities Indian youth is moving abroad. One reason as to why the developed countries prosper is because of the high intellectual migrants from the poor developing countries. This knowledge gap is increasing and the poor countries are becoming poorer and rich countries are emerging as knowledge countries and they are ruling the world.

3. CAUSES OF BRAIN DRAIN IN INDIA

There are various reasons for the brain drain in India. The reasons usually include two aspects which respectively come from countries and individuals. In terms of countries, the reasons may be social environment (lack of opportunities, political instability, economic depression, health risks, etc, in host countries). In terms of individual reasons, there are family influence, and personal preference: preference for exploring, ambition for an improved career, etc. Keeping all these in mind we can identify some causes for the brain drain in India.

Higher Education: Higher education in India evolved considerably after independence in terms of the number of universities as well as in terms of access to higher education. Before

independence education was limited and elitist; but in the present scenario the impressive increase in higher education has privileged the medium and lower section also. However, the standard of higher education raised some questions over the adequacy of studies, resources, institutional quality and employability of university passouts. Therefore, students striving for better education standards and job prospective are moving abroad.

Better Employment: - India has skilled and semi-skilled, employed and unemployed human resource. Low salaries and inefficient working conditions can be the first motive that triggers the movement to the countries with better living standards and facilities. There is huge difference in terms of salary in all three groups of countries namely developed, developing and underdeveloped. Therefore, those workers prefer to move another country in order to have better living conditions with high salaries. Employment is one of the strong reasons for brain drain in India.

Lack of Opportunities: In developed countries, researchers are provided with funds and necessary equipment to carry out study, which can be another motive that attracts those deprived of these opportunities. Most scientists in underdeveloped countries do not possess laboratory facilities and researchers cannot get sufficient funds. Therefore, when developed countries offer these facilities, researchers and scientists naturally prefer to migrate to these countries.

Favorable migration policies: - The top appointments are quite few in India. Thus, the talented experts like to seek new pastures abroad. India, with its large reserves of highly-skilled workers, has emerged as one of the most prominent country to fill the supply gaps in the labour-deficient economies of the developed world. Considering of these factors, some developed countries have relaxed their migration policies to attract more talent in their country.

4. SOCIO – ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF BRAIN DRAIN IN INDIA

(i) As a Political Problem

When the best of professional manpower leave their home country and settle in a more developed one, it is a political phenomenon, but it only rarely occurs that the motives are exclusively political. It involves peculiar contradiction; it simultaneously indicates the lack of production and over production of professional manpower on the drained country. In this sense, brain drain is a symptomatic phenomenon, but at the same time it is expressive of a fundamental difficulty. The net effect of this is that the development of science and technology has been accelerated in the developed countries and has been slowed down in the drained countries.

(ii) As an Economic Problem

The economic aspect of brain drain derives from disproportionate economic, technological and scientific development of the developed and the developing countries. It is characteristic of brain drain that the more underdeveloped a country is economically, the more it loses by brain drain while only developed countries profit from the process. The outflow of our nation's talent, especially those highly skilled, educated from our premier institutes like IIT's and IIM's, AIIMS and other R & D institutes at the cost of the "Tax payers" money (in billions) raised a big question mark on the future prospects of Indian infrastructure development and various

undergoing research works. Due to high salary and facilities, Indian youth is moving abroad. It is clear from the above fact that why the developed countries prosper at fast pace because of the high intellectual migrants from the poor developing countries. This knowledge gap is increasing and the poor countries are becoming poorer and rich countries are emerging as knowledge countries and they are ruling the world.

(iii) As a Social problem

Firstly, the main social problem associated with migration may have impacts on national identity. The trend over time, such as one can be discriminated is inherent in ethno-cultural fixtures. Secondly, migration may have impacts on integration, defined as group outcomes set against the societal average. Put differently, this about understands the trajectories of first (and second) generation immigrant performance in a range of economic and social spheres (employment, housing, health, social interaction, marriage and so on). Finally, migration may have impacts on cohesion. This refers to how migration affects neighborhoods, and is defined by people's perceptions of how people get along with each other in their local area or neighborhood.

CONCLUSION

India Government must understand the problem of brain drain and its consequences towards Indian Economy. Government should support for all category of people not to leave from India, by supporting financially, technically, and professionally. Where there is an effective utilization of human knowledge is possible then there we can see the growth rate of economy in terms of all aspects and on GDP rate. Moreover, Government must amend policies in higher education, so that our talent can be discouraged to settle in other countries. The recent success of India in 'Mars Orbiter' Project was due to highly motivated scientists, who work day and night for their nation despite of going abroad. Had these scientists went to abroad, above space project would never been a great success. So, Indian Government must redress the above issue of Brain drain and may take initiative to retain our best brains.

The balance of power and for the staggered development of the world, it is very important to stop the phenomena of Brain-drain. This will help a particular country to use all local skilled citizens for development and to attain higher GDP. But to hold these skilled workers at their native places, it is also important to provide them enough work opportunities and living facilities. For this purpose our Government may take initiatives and amend policies or developed nations may help developing countries with necessary money and resources.

Sovereign nations seem unlikely to relinquish regulation of immigration policy to the type of outside body such as a World Migration Organization. After all, the arrangement currently works in Western nation's favor. As developed countries see more of their educated young people leaving for jobs in other, wealthier nations, perhaps demand for such a body will increase.

REFERENCES

[1] International Organization for Migration (2010), World Migration Report 2010. The future of migration: Building Capacities for Change

- [2] India-EU Migration Database - Demographic and Economic Database
- [3] Jayaram J., The Indian Diaspora : Dynamics and Migration, 2004, Indian Sociological Society, Sage Publications India Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi.
- [4] The Indian Diaspora - <http://indiandiaspora.nic.in>
- [5] Dr. Mohammad Reza Iravani., Brain drain Problem: A Review International Journal of Business and Social Science Vol. 2 No. 15; August 2011
- [6] Raveesh S. Brain Drain: Socio-Economic Impact on Indian Society: International Journal of Humanities and Social Science Invention ISSN (Online): 2319 – 7722, ISSN (Print): 2319 – 7714.
- [7] UNESCO Statistics - <http://stats.uis.unesco.org>