

ASIAN EMIGRATION TO THE MIDDLE EAST: EMIGRATION FROM ANDHRA PRADESH

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ABSTRACT

Migration is one of the defining features of the 21st century. It contributes significantly to all aspects of economic and social development everywhere, and as such will be key to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The growing occurrence and significance of labour migration from India has become an important area of interest in policy research. From the review of literature on migration, it is evident that emigration plays a pivotal role in the socio economic scenario of the host countries and considerable investigations have taken place to understand migration and remittances in Kerala ,Goa,Punjab and Gujarat. But on the other side, the scarcity of studies on these aspects in other emigrating states in India, especially Andhra Pradesh and Telangana . (Sasikumar &Hussain,2007;Ajay Shahoo,2015). The Agenda's core principle of Sustainable Development Goals on migration is to "leave no one behind", including migrants, requires data disaggregation by migratory status, opening up significant migration data needs but also the opportunity to improve migration data Hence, taking into consideration the existing gap in research, the present study, therefore, attempts to shed light on labour flows from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana during post reforms period.

Keywords: Emigration Clearance, Gulf migration ,National Sample Survey Organization,

Introduction

Migration is a common behavior in many countries around the world. Indeed, more people are geographically mobile today than at any point in human history, with as estimated 232 million international and 750 million domestic migrants in 2013 (UN Press Release 2013; International Organization for Migration, 2015). The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes for the first time the contribution of migration to sustainable development. Migration is a cross-cutting issue, relevant to all of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (left). 11 out of 17 goals contain targets and indicators that are relevant to migration or mobility. . India is also one

of the major contributors of this population as a country of origin, transit and destination in international migration (Guruchran, 2013). The World Bank classifies India as one of the top emigrating countries where migration is a reality for a large section of population: stock of 11.4 million Indians from India in 2010 (World Bank, 2011). India ranks first in the list of top remittance receiving countries with \$69.8 billion followed by China (\$66.3 billion), and Philippines with US \$ 24.3 in 2012.

Profile of Migrants from India

India is one of the leading manpower-exporting countries in the world, with more than thirty million Overseas Indian spread across the world from socially and economically diverse group of people .Indian Overseas Population reached 30 million population comprising of 58 percent of People of Indian Origin (POI), and remaining 42 percent of Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) as per estimates of Ministry of External Affairs. Migrants from India have three major destination markets: English speaking industrial countries, including Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States; Gulf countries, such as Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates; and Southeast Asian countries, including Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand. (Ministry of External Affairs,2016).

Source of Remittances

High-income countries are the main source of remittances. The RBI estimates that around 44 percent of total remittances to India in 2006 originated from North America reduced to 38 percent in 2009 while 24 percent originated from the Gulf countries increased to 27 percent in 2009 This could be due to the fact that global financial crises originated in United States and had limited impact on Gulf region.

Objectives of the study:

- 1) To examine the history of international migration from on Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
- 2) To study trends and patterns of gulf migration from Telugu speaking states.
- 3) To identify major problems associated with emigration and suggest measures

Data Sources.

To study the trends and patterns of international migration from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, at a macro level, secondary data sources such as Annual Reports of Ministry of External Affairs, NSSO, International Labour Organization and International Migration Organization.

Emigration of Telugu speaking people

The root of international labour migration of Telugus can be traced back to the colonial past and can be categorized into four phases: first phase of the colonial emigration as indenture and kangani labour to the British and French colonies during the nineteenth and early part of twentieth century, second phase after independence, constitute the emigration of professionals such as doctors, engineers, scientists, and students to the developed countries such as US, UK, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.(Baskar&Bhatt,2003) The migrant labour force, semi-skilled and unskilled, which emigrated to the countries of West Asia and the Gulf following the oil boom during the nineteen sixties and seventies form the third stream. Many of them left their families behind in India and remitted savings towards family maintenance and investments. They form third phase, majority of them are expatriate¹ Indians (Bodvarsson & Berg). The migration of software engineers and information technicians over the past two decades may be considered as the fourth wave or 'IT wave' .

Indian emigration to Gulf countries is completely different from migration to other countries like USA, UK, Australia and other developed countries. Gulf emigration of contractual workers² is strictly regulated and they are denied citizenship rights and bringing family. Nearly 85% of Gulf emigrants are either unskilled or semiskilled workers engaged in works such as construction, the low-end service sector and domestic work (ILO Report,2015). Approximately,around 5 lakh persons from Telangana are currently employed in the Gulf countries.On comparative note,emigrants from Kerala are graduates and professionally employed in white collar jobs in gulf , Telangana emigrants are employed in blue color jobs .Several aspirants are being lured and sent to gulf for jobs on visit visa , azad visa ,fake trade certificates made them to languish in jails for years and some of them were deported known as gulf victims leading to suicides(Ajay Sahoo,2015,Viswajit,David ,2017)) .

In the current scenario , emigration of Telugus to gulf countries is on raise, especially from Telangana emigration continues even today on large scale. One of the earliest reasons for migration in Northern Telangana districts is due to violence caused by extremists and harassment of police. As a result, some of the youth and most of the landlords migrated to nearby towns/cities like Bombay in search of job and later emigrated to gulf and this channel of migration of was spread to other aspiring migrant in rural areas slowly (Balagopal,Samapth,2006:Sahoo,2015).Migrants mostly comprise of small marginal farmers,

¹ Expatriate is a person who lives in foreign land for work. In its broadest sense, an expatriate is a person who is living in a (foreign) overseas country on a temporary basis, but for more than one year .Indians in Gulf countries are mostly expatriates.

tenant farmers and rural labourer and more recently youth also migrating from northern districts of Telangana are Karimnagar, Nizamabad, Adilabad and in Andhrapradesh from Kadapa, Chittoor and woman from East Godavari are major emigrating districts. (Jayathi:2004, Irudya Rajan,2014).

Table 2: State-Wise number of workers granted Emigration Clearance, 2007-2016

State	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Telangana	11437	48425	27161	27842	29270	42252	44949	38518	36312	25079
Andhra Pradesh	9654	43618	42023	44193	43612	50358	61213	53104	45232	27005

Source: Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, Government of India.

The states of Telanagna and Andhra Pradesh accounted for over 7.51 lakh emigration clearances during last decade(2007-2016) with an average annual flow of 75000 telugu speaking workers as shown in table 2 .Flow of emigrants from Andhra Pradesh is higher than Telangana state. Andhra Pradesh reached its peak in 2012 with 61213 workers and Telangana reached its peak in 2008 with 48425 workers shown in figure 20. Though the volume of workers who have been granted emigration clearance has been on the lower in Andhra Pradesh 2007 and 2008. Andhra Pradesh has picked up the momentum after 2009 and surpassed Telangana taking the lead position in the succeeding years. Bulk of these clearances were for the Middle East region. The migrants from these states are majorly unskilled and engage in jobs in the construction and retail industry. The various job roles offered as masonry, carpentering, and assistant electricians in the construction industry, followed by store cleaners, drivers, delivery boys and rental clerks in the retail sector. Majority of woman are employed as domestic maid emigrating from Andhra Pradesh is much higher than in Telangana state. (IOM,2010b; Rajan,2014;Sahoo,2015). NSSO survey of 64th round indicates that the north eastern region of Telangana has high migration intensity. While in case of Andhra Pradesh it was seen that the coastal districts have high emigration levels .Even though emigration may not be evenly spread across all districts in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, there is definitely high levels of emigration in these states. NSS data cannot shed light on the year to year outflow of migrants across districts over the time.

Problems of Migrants during migration process

The recruitment for overseas employment from India is a highly complicated and process involving multiple players. Recruitment process involves obtaining passports on verification local police, medical testing, No Objection Certificate, emigration clearance from Protector of Emigrant, air travel etc. Studies on gulf migration by Ajay (2015) reported that migrants did not

get job by their own efforts in Gulf countries. They were recruited through local agents and intermediaries,. These intermediaries are friends, family, relatives, community members, current and returnee migrants who build trust with the potential migrants and have guided them in the migration process. Because many of migrants are less educated and economically poor and the idea of traveling to a major city to interact with a licensed agent or with a government official is too daunting, expensive, or impractical. They often choose to work with sub-agents anyway because people find it easier and more accessible to initiate the migration process. Existence of multiple recruitment players including employers, overseas recruiting and clearing agents, contracting companies in destination countries and Officials, Recruiting agents, Sub-agents at lowest level, Middle men and unauthorized agents seem to be mainly responsible for these higher costs due paid commissions In some cases there is also a risk and cost of being defrauded, fake visas and travel documents and even friends/relatives of the overseas employed are involved in the chain, in varying depth and intensity, taking advantage of the situation in major exporting states of India (Rajan, 2011, Varghese and Jayakumar,2009). This has made the cost of emigration skyrocket under different heads and items.

Conclusion

Contemporary migration patterns from Telugu speaking states provide useful insights to study the flow of migrants. Patterns of migration from India have experienced important shifts due to changing global requirements. It was observed during first phase migration of professional of “IT Wave” to developed countries like U.S.A,UK, Australia and Canada. But migration to the Gulf countries, from mainly the Southern states, especially Andhra Pradesh and Telangana constitute by and large less educated , unskilled and semi-skilled emigrant workers to various destinations in the Gulf every year making the region one of the prominent destinations to workers from India. Decadal growth rate of annual labour flows show phenomenal increase during the decade 2007 to 2016 and continue to remain high. From the above points, it is clearly evident that the crucial waves of emigration can be attributed to unemployment, agriculture stagnation, failure of the state level institutions to provide the required support and the milieu for growth of secondary and the tertiary sectors of the State economy or demographic growth creating a surplus of labour. On the whole, different regions of the Telugu speaking states have experienced mobility caused by various socio-economic conditions for underlying fact a better life and livelihood are at the root of the decision to migrate. To conclude ,the study bring out the fact that there is indeed high level of emigration in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh and these must have a significant bearing on the economy of the state. Thus to have a better understanding of the role of emigration in the socio economic lives of the households in these states it is imperative to have a large scale survey of emigration.

Policy recommendations

Research and evidence-based policy making

To fill research gap in migration literature ,need to conduct detailed countrywide mapping of international migration and develop state migration profiles ,Creation of data bank of international migrants in general and gulf destinations in particular engaging state-level research institutions and with the support of Civil society organizations, Labour departments and Panchayat bodies at local level.

Migrant-friendly policy environment

Amidst the growing significance of foreign labour migration, the international and national policy instruments and agreements and state government's policies and regulations should be geared towards migrant-friendly policies throughout the migration cycle

Ensuring procedural and structural support

The government should provide procedural and structural support for improved governance of this sector from socio-economic and political cost for safe and secure labour migration .

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