



MIGRATION FROM INDIA TO UNITED KINGDOM – AN ANALYTICAL STUDY

Reni Sebastian* Prof. (Dr.) Meerabai M**

**Ph.D Research Scholar, Department of Applied Economics Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT), Kochi, Kerala, India.*

***Professor & Director – UGC- Women's Study Centre , Department of Applied Economics, Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT), Kochi, Kerala, India.*

Abstract

Migration to United Kingdom and such other nations of the world from India has been quite high over the years. Despite the current recession it is noted that there is as high as 1,50,000 net migrants from India to UK. The paper makes an analytical study of the trend and pattern of migration to UK from India over the ten years; period 2004 to 2013, implications of such migrations, and lastly makes suggestions for more meaningful management such migration.

Key Words: *Migration United Kingdom, Skilled Migrants.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Since 1945, immigration to the United Kingdom (UK) under British nationality law has been substantial, in particular from the Republic of Ireland and from the former colonies and territories of the British Empire such as India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, the Caribbean, South Africa, Kenya and Hong Kong. Other immigrants have come as asylum seekers, seeking protection as refugees under the United Nations 1951 Refugee Convention, or from member states of the European Union, exercising one of the European Union's Freedoms. In fact, about 70 percent of the population increase between 2001 and 2011 censuses was due to foreign-born immigration. 7.5 million People (11.9 percent of the population) were born abroad. The migration from India to UK is sought to be studied in detail in this paper.

2. IMMIGRATION INTEGRATION POLICY IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

Although the United Kingdom has large foreign-born and native-born ethnic minority populations, there has been little policy activity in the area of immigrant integration in the country. Instead, since 2010 integration issues have been subsumed within broader about diversity, equality and social cohesion. This report explores the United Kingdom's unique experience with immigrant integration, which is strongly influenced by its colonial ties. Following World War II, the United Kingdom received a wave of migrants from its former colonies, many of whom were already British citizens, spoke English and maintained strong ties to what they consider their mother country. As a result, native born citizens have been reluctant to think of migrants as such, preferring instead to consider them minorities. This mainstreaming of integration policy – attempting to reach people with a migration background through needs-based social programming and policies that also target the general population – has been supported by societal norms emphasizing inclusion and antidiscrimination as well as an ideological commitment to localism at the national level. These factors, combined with suspicion of top-down regulation, have led the national government to relinquish responsibility in integration matters to local governments.

3. RELEVANCE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY ON MIGRATION TO UK FROM INDIA

In the past decade, the size and characteristics of immigration to the United Kingdom have changed significantly. Immigrants are more numerous, more mobile and more diverse than ever before. The experience of immigration is different; immigrants are coming from a broader array of countries, staying for shorter period of time, enjoying significant engagements with communities outside of the United Kingdom and are no longer settling solely in cities. In parallel, UK immigration policy has undergone radical changes. Public opinion and other forces have prompted policy makers to focus their efforts on combating illegality and on flows of asylum seekers. At the same time, economic pressures have dictated the need to have selection systems so the country can attract desirable economic immigrants. Despite the current recession, immigration to the UK is expected to remain at approximately 150,000 net migrants per year. Globally, more than 232 million people are international migrants – a number that continues to rise. Advances in transportation and communication have increased the capacity and desire to move. Migration today is more widely distributed across more countries. The data-rich research offered here, based on credible sources, sketches migration flows, the sending of remittances, admission levels, enforcement actions and more for countries around the world. Net UK migration increased to 212,000 in the year to September 2013, pushing it further away from the conservatives' target of below 100,000 according to official estimates.

Though there are many studies on inter-state migration in India and its impact, like, the study by Dr. Manoj P K and Neeraja James (2014) [7] on migration of housing construction workers to Kerala from other states, studies involving migration from India to other countries are very scarce. So, this study seeks to make a macro-level analysis of migration from India to UK..

4. MIGRATION STATISTICS AS OF 2014 – MAJOR TRENDS OBSERVED AND CAUSES FOR MIGRATION

- Net long term migration to the UK was estimated to be 212,000 in the year ending December 2013, a statistically significant increase from the previous 177,000 and unchanged from the net migration previously reported for the year ended Sept. 2013.
- Recent patterns of net migration over the last two years show an increase since the lowest estimate of 154,000 (year ending September 2012). However, net migration has continued to be lower than the general level of net migration since 2004.
- 526,000 people immigrated to the UK in the year ended Dec. 2013; not a statistically significant difference from 498,000 in the previous year. 43,000 more EU citizens and 11,000 fewer non-EU citizens immigrated to the UK than in the previous year.
- 314,000 people emigrated from the UK in the year ending December 2013. This is not a statistically significant difference from the 321,000 in the previous year.
- 214,000 immigrated for work in the year ending December 2013, a statistically significant increase from 180,000 in the previous year.
- 201,000 EU citizens immigrated in the year ending December 2013, a statistically significant increase from 158,000 in the previous year.
- 23,000 EUZ (Romanian and Bulgarians) citizens immigrated in the year ending December 2013, a statistically significant increase from 9,000 in the previous year.
- In the year ending March 2014, work visas issued increased 10 per cent (with Skilled Work Visas up 18 per cent) as well as increase for study (+6 per cent) and student visitor visas (+14 per cent), partly offset by a fall in family visas (-4 per cent).
- There was a 5 per cent increase in asylum applications in the year ending March 2014 (23,731) compared with the previous 12 months (22,630), although well below the 2012 peak (34,132).
- Net migration to the UK in the year ending March 2014 was 243,000.
- The most important cause for migration has been work and is followed by study. The major causes for migration to UK are as shown in Table I.

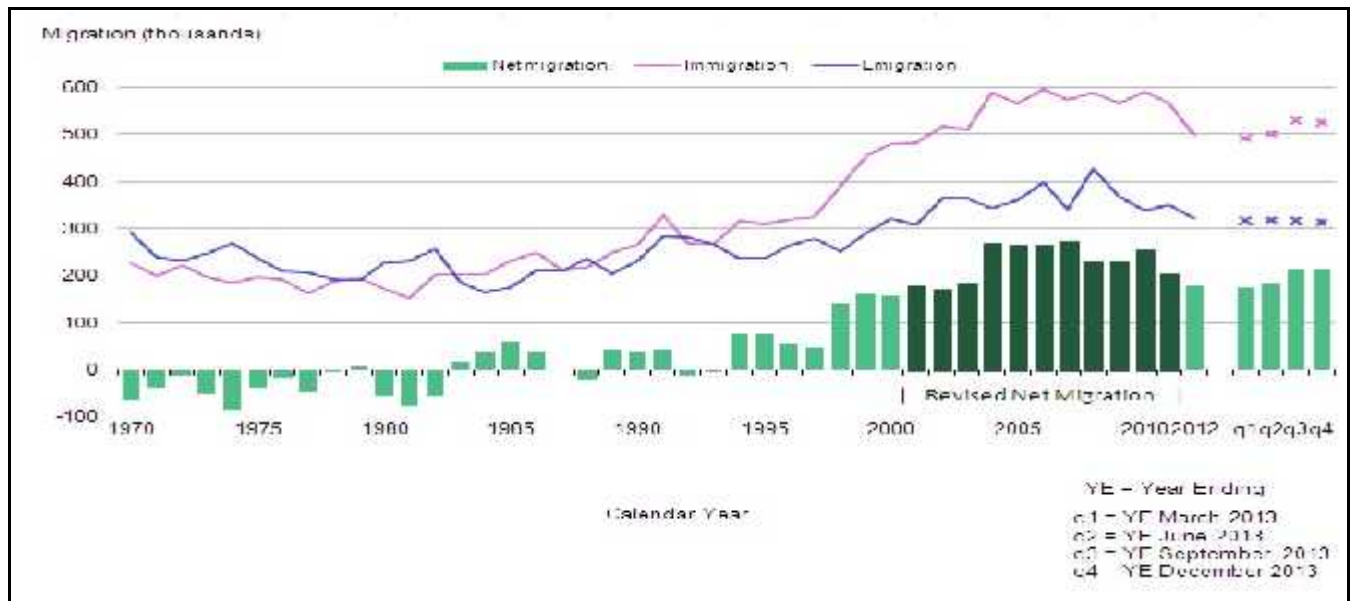
Table –I, Causes of Migration to UK

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|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 214,000 for work• 177,000 to study• 71,000 for family reasons• 24,000 seeking asylum• 19,000 returning home• 21,000 No reason stated |
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Source: Estimated figures based on ONS Survey data.

The detailed figures show that in the year to December 2013, some 201,000 EU citizens came into the UK as long-term immigrants; something officials said was a statistically significant increase of 43,000 over the previous year.

Figure I: International migration to and from the UK: 2004-2013 - Rolling annual figures



Provisional figures show that in 2013, 526,000 people arrived to live in the UK whilst 314,000 left, meaning that net inward migration was 212,000. The number of people immigrating to the UK increased between 2012 and 2013 by 28,000, whereas the number emigrating fell by 7,000. From April 2013 to April 2014, a total of 560,000 immigrants were estimated to have arrived in the UK, including 81,000 British citizens and 214,000 from other parts of the EU. An estimated 317,000 people left, including 131,000 British citizens and 83,000 other EU citizens. The top countries represented in terms of arrivals were: China, India, Poland, the United States, and Australia.

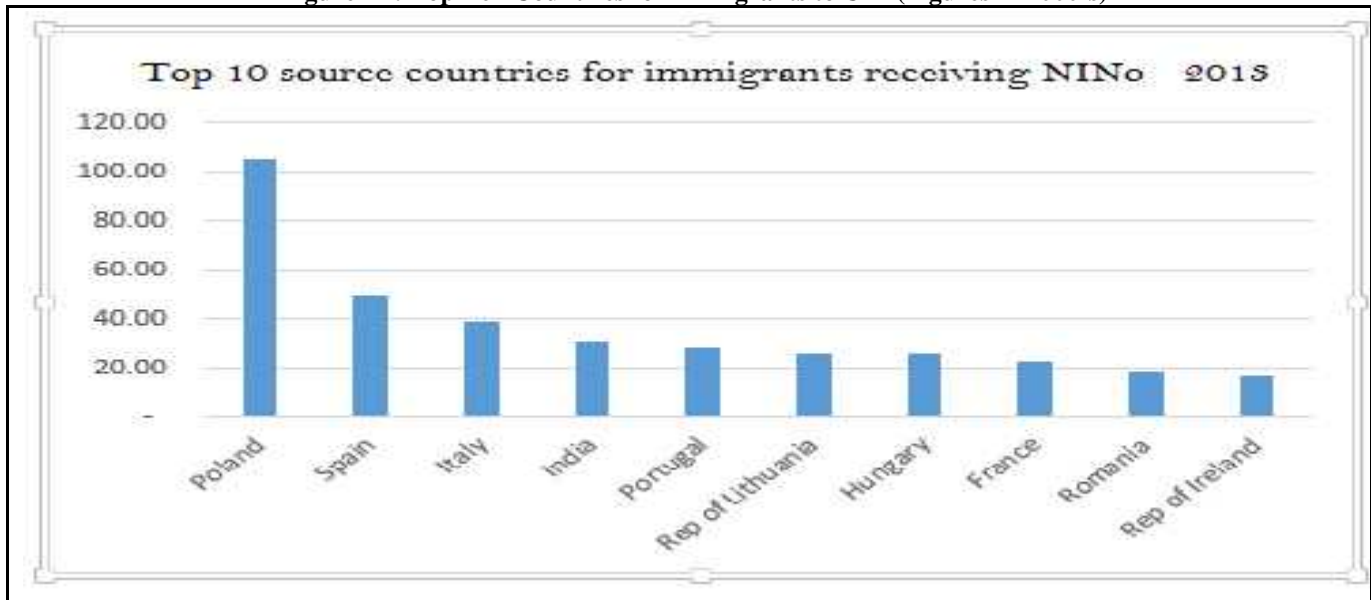
Figure II: Share of immigrants in the UK working population (Per cent)



(Source: Center for Economic Performance, London School of Economics)

It is noted that there has been a tremendous growth in the share of immigrants in the UK over the years, particularly since 2005s. There has been almost three times growth in the share as of 2012 compared with that of 1975. (Figure II). Among the countries that contribute to such a huge flow of immigrants the share of India is fourth after Poland, Spain and Italy in that order. (Figure III). Such large-scale migrations have implications on the UK as well as the respective countries from people migrated, like India.

Figure III: Top Ten Countries for Immigrants to UK (Figures in 1000's)



(Source: Govt. of UK - Department for Work and Pensions statistics)

5. SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT OF MIGRATION

Economic migration is normally a voluntary market transaction between a willing buyer (whoever is willing to employ the migrant) and a willing seller (the migrant) and is hence likely to be both economically efficient and beneficial to both parties. Indeed, the basic economic theory of migration is very similar to that of trade; and like trade, migration generally is expected to yield welfare gains. "As long as the marginal productivity of labour differs in various countries, the migration of labour is welfare improving." If all markets are functioning well, there are no externalities, and if we are not concerned about the distributional implications, then migration is welfare –improving, not only for migrants but for natives.

One key difference between migration and trade, however, is that –unlike goods or capital- migrants are, as discussed above, economic and social agents themselves, with a degree of control over the migration decision. So unlike goods or capital, migrants are self –selected. Partly as a result, migration is most likely to occur precisely when it is most likely to be welfare –enhancing. Countries which are abundant in labour will have lower wages than countries which are abundant in capital; workers will, if labour is mobile ,have an incentive to migrate from the former to the latter, improving resource allocation overall. Migration may also have externalities- that is positive or negative effects beyond those which impact on the migrant and his or her employers directly. These might impact on the native population in a number of ways;

- Congestion: Migrants could increase congestion in some areas, imposing costs directly on native workers and businesses
- Neighborhood benefits or disadvantages: Migration could help to regenerate depressed neighborhoods or the reverse
- Intangibles social and human capital: Migrants may have attributes – entrepreneurialism, for example – that generate benefits for natives.
- Diversity: Natives may gain (tangible or intangible) benefits from interacting with migrants from different backgrounds and cultures
- On the cost side, migrants will consume public services, and may be entitled to some social security benefits.
- On the benefit side, migrants will pay taxes, both direct (if they are in work) and indirect.

Migration should have a positive effect on growth, but an ambiguous one on growth per capita. However, as with trade, static estimates of the magnitude of such effects are small. It is very difficult to estimate empirically the effect of migration on economic growth across countries, for two reasons. First, migration does not cause growth, the relationship is likely to run both directions. Secondly, growth is affected by numerous other factors. Migration has positive effects both on growth and on growth per capita.

There are varying skill levels among economic migrants; those migrating to the UK are typically more skilled than the domestic population (Kyambi 2005). In 2005, 45 per cent of economic migrants were located in Greater London. Some



evidence on the social impacts of migration had few adverse effects on UK society. Latest studies show that new arrivals are making a positive contribution to the social and economic fabric of many towns. In those areas where migration can be linked with poor community cohesion, and it is often more powerful contributory factors drive out such as deprivation, crime anti-social behavior and unemployment.

The recent arrival of migrant workers has helped the UK become a more competitive and vibrant economy. These are the following ways helped for that. Firstly, migration has sustained the delivery of key public services and plugged gap in the labour market. Secondly, migration has brought benefits to business in UK especially of new working practices.

The effect of immigration may be pronounced for specific sections of the economy and the population. Much clearly depends on the economic and social environment; the speed, scale, and concentration of migration; the particular characteristics of the migrant and native populations; and the extent to which migrant complement or are in competition with natives. Economy – wide skills shortages are significant, though they remain below the levels seen in the late 1980's. The fact that many migrants are concentrated in the industries and sectors where there are particular labour or skill shortages is clear both anecdotally and from the available data. The full effect of the current recession on Economic migration from Eastern Europe will not be clear for some time. In 2006, around 141,000 work permits were issued. The leading source country was India with over a third of all work permits. The booming UK Economy proved an attractive destination for many A8 citizens. Eastern European migrants have worked mainly in low paid jobs in sections such as catering, and construction, hospitality and administration. The UK, until it hit the wall of the global recession, enjoyed high growth, low unemployment, and large are highly numbers of unfilled job vacancies. Consequently, significant numbers of foreign workers filled the gap.

Migrants concentrated and increasingly in London and relative concentration of migrants in particular areas causing an increase in the pressure on housing, markets, transport and other infrastructure congestion and overcrowding. The concentration of migrants in specific locations can also generate social effects such as, competition for jobs and resources in local markets. It is also very significant for other economic and social outcomes, and needs much more consideration. London is a global city with a widely recognized name, image and reputation. Within London, there are indications that migrants are also concentrated in areas of both relative prosperity and relative deprivation (high unemployment). There is at least anecdotal evidence that high concentrations of migrant children lacking English as first language can lead to pressure on schools which lack sufficient resources to meet levels of need, and to some concern among other parents.

Hospitals and health services may also come under particular pressure, and tension may also centre on access to social housing. These concerns and tensions are likely to be most pronounced if there is a sudden large influx of migrants into a particular area. In the long term migration of skilled labour may have costs for the country of origin, by including a switch to products and processes that require less skilled labour and by causing deterioration in the public services and public administration? At the same time, longer term benefits may include the new skills and dynamism brought back to the country of origin by returning migrants. Even if migrants do not, migration may develop international networks that promote trade and investment flows, benefiting both source and receiving countries. One example of this is the mutually beneficial relationship between the Indian software industry in Bangalore and Silicon Valley, which is characterized by a very large Indian migrant workforce. The net effect of migration will vary overtime and from source country to source country depending on the skills of migrants, the sectors they leave and whether they subsequently return.

Not enough is known about migrants' social outcomes. There are no data on many key outcomes and the data which does exist fails to distinguish between short and long term impact, which might be expected to differ significantly. It is also difficult to distinguish between possible macro benefits (or costs) to society as a whole and micro costs (or benefits) to individuals, households and firms and little work has been done to identify whether the impact could have been enhanced or avoided by policy intervention.

Benefits include a widening of consumer choice and significant cultural contributions (e.g., in the arts, literature, science and sport) these in turn feed back into wider economic benefits. Social impacts can be real, without quantifiable. Some impacts can be quantified for example increase in consumer choice, but many other contributions cannot be measured. However as for natives, lack of employment is a key cause of wider social exclusion.

Migrants have undoubtedly made significant positive contributions in social and cultural fields, and to public life. Leaving aside the economic implications whether the changes that have resulted from migration area "benefit" is clearly subjective. However, most British people do regard it as such, social research shows that the majority consistently regards immigration as having a positive effect on British culture. This is true even for many of those who favour a more restrictive attitude to immigration controls.

6. MIGRATION – CHALLENGES AND POLICY DIRECTIONS

The analysis of current immigration patterns and policies and public attitudes towards them combined with our future scenarios has a range of implications for how the United Kingdom could approach the issue of immigration. Many econometric studies find little or no effect on the wages or employment prospects of natives, certainly not an aggregate level – even if there is a large, rapid influx of migrants into a particular location. As one recent survey of the literature concluded; “The overwhelming majority of empirical studies agree that there is essentially no statistically significant effect of immigration on labour market outcomes”.

The effect of immigration may be more pronounced for specific sections of the economy and population. Much clearly depends on the economic and social environment; the speed, scale, and concentration of migration; the particular characteristics of the migrant and native populations; and the extent to which migrant complement, or are in competition with natives.

Failure to integrate migrants into UK society and to allow them access to public services can lead to their being socially excluded in other respects, which can in turn, cause personal and social problems. In part, social exclusion can be the result of entry and settlement controls designed to deter entry. Access to employment, health, housing, and welfare services is determined by immigration status, as most of those subject to immigration restrictions are required to live without recourse to public funds. Lack of English is a further determinant of exclusion, disadvantaging migrants in the labour market and in accessing health and other services. Migrants’ lack of recognized qualifications can also cause difficulties in obtaining employment. Lack of documentation clarifying entitlement similarly leads to denial services – including access to child benefit, housing benefit and NHS treatment.

To conclude, the social and economic outcomes partly reflect the way in which present and past policies have operated and have been generally positive –both for many individual migrants and for the UK as a whole. Post-entry migration policy has a potentially powerful role in influencing migrants economic and social outcomes and their economic and social impacts on natives. Thus there appears considerable scope for more subtractive and coordinated post-entry policies designed to ensure that migration does indeed achieve the government’s economic and social objectives.

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