



Brain Drain - A Jerk to the Economic Cushion

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Abstract

The state of Punjab in India has been witnessing alarming situation. It has been losing its number of educated youths each year. The fate of economy in Punjab gets worsened owing to reduced skilled workforce. Apparently, the hope among youth gets shattered due to alarming and jolted state of Punjab's economy. The study Visa has become an envelope for the youth to move abroad and settle over there. The huge influx of migration among the younger adults substantiates this claim that study visa has become an envelope for moving abroad. One of the common goals among these younger adults from Punjab is to get settled abroad. In consideration of this persisting issue, this research paper aims to categorically investigate this trend of obtaining study Visa in the pretext of studying abroad, while in reality, to find a better opportunity of work and settled over there. The research paper also demonstrates how this persistent issue has jolted the economy of the state adversely. The student visa is not the issue the issue is survival, and for this reason, most students work as part-time employees abroad for catering to daily expenses. However, few students work as full-time employees for daily expenses and also send money to their parents to settle the loan. After working as full-time employees, they can also manage study to succeed in life and achieve their goals. This type of pressure management can make them strong and, in the future, they can survive without any background support. On the other hand, they are able to bring money to their home, to their country and that can help to improve the economy. In addition, these young students also create employment based on the knowledge and experience that they earn from abroad. Besides, some students also set up new startups abroad and send money to their homes, and also invest money in the development of their own country. Therefore, the mindset of going abroad for study as well as work is comparatively good.

1. Introduction

The concept of brain drain, is, however, not new for India. The country witnessed the similar circumstances in past. However, the current cause of concern for the country is the surge in number of immigration of people especially young workforce from different states. Not only does Punjab face this situation of immigration of highly skilled and educated workforce but also the trend has been on the rise gradually in the other states. Unequivocally, the brain drain caused a crippling and adverse impact on economy. The youths from Punjab, has, undoubtedly, become the victim of Brain Drain leaving the state and the country with an aim to settle over Abroad. The easiest and preferable way to go abroad is a student Visa that can help a young boy or girl to study abroad and also helps them to work abroad (King & Sodhi, 2018). This particular way of going abroad has two sides, one side is charming and another side is darker. The darker side is, there is a need for millions of rupees to study abroad, and for this reason, a large amount of money has to be invested in one particular person, and all those money just not only invested in that particular person, it also invested to abroad and make the country richer and more developed, besides, the investment also has a risk of zero returns from both economical and intelligence sides.

The charming side is the "return on investment", from both the economical and intelligence sides, after getting returned from abroad. It is claimed that the investment returns double in the home country. Going forward, the epicenter of immigration was Punjab but now immigration occurs from all over the country (King & Sondhi, 2018). Based on this crucial fact, there are many developments taking around India, Approximately, each student and young age people are able to start their own business to create employment and also, they invest their wealth in infrastructural



development. Based on all these aspects, this can be said that entire world is becoming a global society and all the members of this society help each other to develop.

2. Literature review

According to Gibson & McKenzie, (2011), the British Royal Society first coined the term for the exodus of the technologist and scientists to the USA and Canada from the UK. They believed their important human resources are being drained. Now the term is widely used to the 'emigration' of a country's highly talented and skilled people. Eventually, the country from which exodus is happening face a merit crisis and suffer in many areas whereas the other country where people are moving can use their brain for development. Admittedly, the rate of high immigration from one country to another country is similar and this causes huge inconvenience and complexity to the native economy of a nation. The conducted study by According to Gibson & McKenzie, (2011), concludes that over the period of times, the skilled and unskilled immigration have increased manifold. Hence, the complete resemblance and reliability upon the skilled and educated workforce for brain drain is not appropriate to solely acknowledge.

However, the country such as India, significantly sheds its light on skilled workforce and associate them with the influx of high immigration owing to brain drain as identified by (Gaikar Vilas, 2013). Furthermore, it has been pointed out by (Gaikar Vilas, 2013), India is one of the countries where brain drain is not only common, but has increased rapidly. The number of high-skilled migrants are leaving the country to look for a better opportunity in other countries. As per reports, India has witnessed an estimate of 11.4 million, ranking behind Mexico (11.9 million). India, along with Philippines, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal is the highest 'suppliers' of migrants. In 2000, India was the first country to send physicians. The number is 57,383. In India, this is not new. It has been found that most migrants are from Punjab to Canada (Gaikar Vilas, 2013). However, each part of India is witnessing emigration to some of the developed countries, though the emigration from Punjab to Canada is still prevalent. The study considerably concluded that even though number of immigration has increased manifold, the surge in high immigration from Indian and specifically for the state of Punjab is rather an alarming and the clarion call for settlement of the rising issue needs to be identified.

Buga & Meyer, (2012) analyzed that India has the "third highest education system" in the world. As per 2009 report, enrollment in higher education was 89% in the USA, 24% in China, and 55% in France, and 16% in India. This horrifying number shows the country's problem of providing higher education to the deserved candidate. However, there are other sides as well. Indian students are "important source" of labour for the developed countries. Indian students work in the developed countries to make their ends meet and bear the cost of education. On the basis of the findings obtained by Buga & Meyer, (2012), it can be acknowledged that even though India has maintained the status quo of huge influx of people as immigration to migrate to other countries, the mutually beneficial growth leads to surge the demand of acquiring the study visa among the younger population of the state of Punjab and other provinces in the country.

Theodoropoulos *et al.* (2014), investigated that "Brain drains to brain gain" awareness has been increasing. It has been noticed that both receiving country and sending country can benefit from migration. As per the report, almost 30 million Indians in abroad has an income of \$400 billion, 30% of India's total GDP. The remittance, as per 2010 report was \$55 billion or 3.9% of the GDP. The Indian government sees it as a way of getting foreign money. Moreover, there are some people who return to the country and invest either their merit in the job or money in the business. It becomes easier for the government to invest foreign money. The contribution of the IT sector is



also booming. The US based or the UK based Indian IT companies are earning using human resources. They get their work done in low budget, Indian employees get the desired salaries, the companies earn in foreign money in which the government keeps some portion as tax. In a nutshell, it is a win-win situation for everyone. Theodoropoulos *et al.* (2014) concluded that even though that brain drain causes challenges to national economy of a nation, it is considered as a beneficial opportunity to be exploited by the youths considering the growth in their future career. It can be linked with the perspective of Indian students pretending to take study visa with aim to get an employment abroad.

3. Methodology

Given the current nature of the study that aims to investigate into the role of brain drain for accentuating the trend of obtaining study visa as an envelope for moving abroad, the present study incorporates the standardized qualitative based secondary method of the research. The application of secondary method of research assists in obtaining the series of substantial and reliable data for drawing the concrete and relevant conclusion of the study. Therefore, the use of reliable sources of data have been considered and crucial inputs from findings have been extracted with an aim to highlight the implication of this issue in future.

4. Analysis of Data

This section provides an analysis of data based on migration, Indian states, and time. There are six states that migrate the most percentage of students abroad. These states are 'Andhra Pradesh', 'Punjab', 'Maharashtra', 'Gujrat', 'Tamil Nadu', and 'Karnataka'.

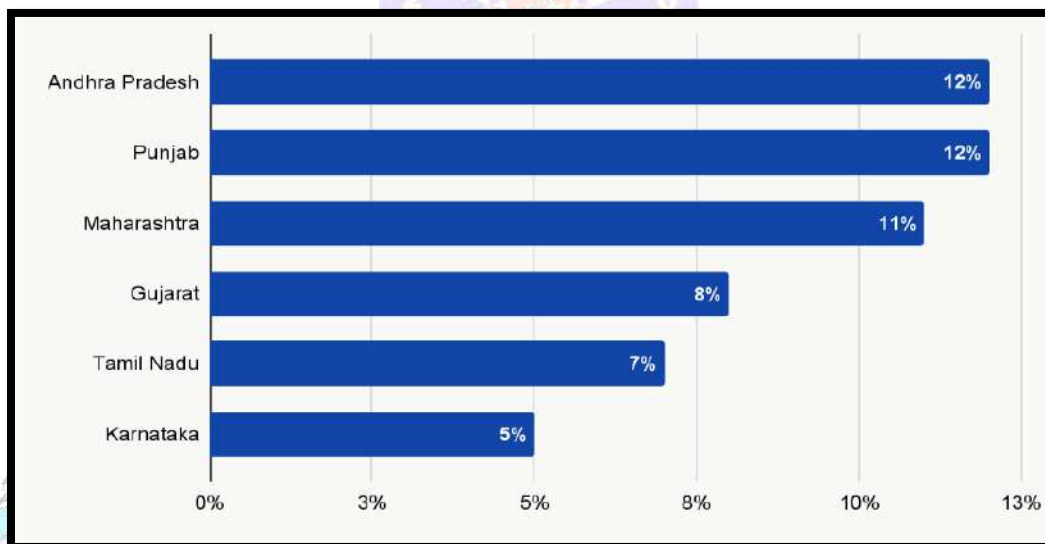


Figure 1: Student migration as per state

Source: (Baas, 2019)

Through this graphical representation, it is established that not only Punjab, but other six states also migrate students abroad for study. Among the total percentage of students, 12% of students migrated from Andhra Pradesh and the same figure also migrated from Punjab. The least percentage of students who migrated from Karnataka, and the percentage is 5% (Baas, 2019). The other three states also migrate a certain percentage of students, 11% of students migrated from Maharashtra, 8% of students migrated from Gujarat, and 7% of students migrated from Tamil Nadu. All those students are not from the same education category or group, there are various groups of students. Most students are from the business management group, and the second largest group of



students are engineering students. In the third position, medical students are migrated and the rest of the students are from different study groups, such as sociology, philosophy, history, and many more.

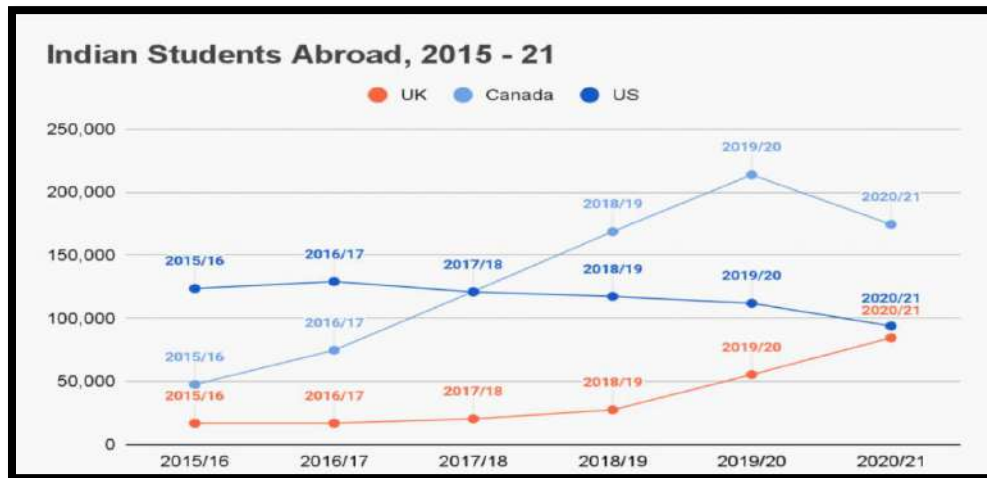


Figure 2: Student migration based on time and destination country

Source: (Lo, 2019)

Through the above graph, it is established that most Indian students migrated to 'UK', 'Canada', and the 'US' for studies. Based on the graphical representation, it is clear that Canada consumes most of the students since 2015, and before covid-19 pandemic, the highest number of students migrated to Canada in the year 2020 (Lo, 2019). The second-highest number of students migrated to the 'US' and the third-highest number of students migrated to the 'UK'. Since 2016, the number of students is decreasing in the 'US' and the number of students is increasing in the 'UK', and in the year 2020/21 Number of students becomes the same for both the 'US' and the 'UK'.

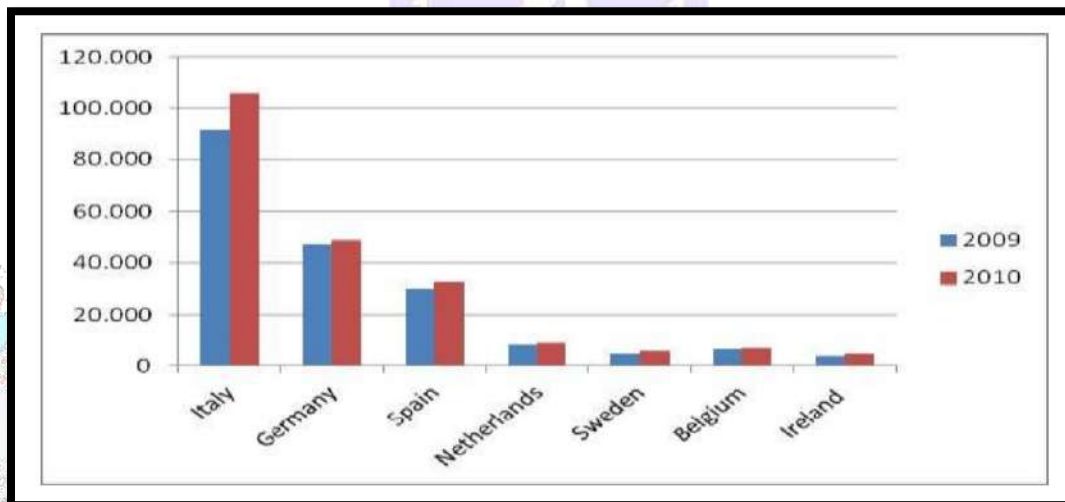


Figure 3: International immigration

Source: (population database)

The demonstrated graph above from population database demonstrated the alarming situation across the world. The European countries have been facing the similar situation of brain drain due to the conditions of brain drain. Therefore, on the basis of this data, it can be concluded that the



pre narrative among the youths for leaving the nations for the purpose of work has been highly prevalent across the world.

2001			2009		
EU country	Indian immigrants	Stock of Indian citizens	EU country	Indian immigrants	Stock of Indian citizens
1. United Kingdom	16,001	150,676	1. United Kingdom	64,000	293,000
2. Germany	8,949	35,183	2. Italy	12,769	91,855
3. Italy	4,820	32,507	3. Germany	12,009	47,025
4. Austria	836	4,879	4. Spain	5,956	29,754
5. Spain	835	6,790	5. Netherlands	2,699	8,003
6. Netherlands	684	3,361	6. Sweden	1,795	4,676
			7. Belgium	1,787	6,749
			8. France	1,458	13,000
			9. Poland	1,137	269
			10. Ireland	1,078	4,046
Total EU	33,390	250,269	Total EU	108,341	518,645

Figure 4: Total number of Indian immigrations in EU country

Source: (population database)

The above data depicted the huge surge in the number of immigrants from India in EU country. The most specific reason to be cited in this regard is brain drain. The statistical report of population database states that during the year 2001, a total 33390 Indians went EU countries for higher study. However, the number in Indian immigrants got increased manifold over the decades and it significantly concludes that India has been losing its skilled workforce owing to the issue of brain drain among the Indian youth population from different states.

4. Findings and conclusion

The report has discussed the “visa as an envelope” to the students for moving abroad and permanently settling there. The trend is not new and it has been practiced by many families for ages. Almost every part of India is witnessing the ‘moving abroad’ phenomenon. A special trend is seen in Punjab where most of the people go to Canada to study and work. Some of them settle there permanently (Dohlman et al., 2019). Many Indians from various parts of the country move to different countries for different purposes. But the connection between Punjab and Canada is still highly prevalent in today’s time. The problem is many poor families want their children to move abroad because they think living in India will not make them strong bread-winner. For this reason, they sell their land, mortgage their houses, or take huge amounts of loans to bear the cost of visas and travel. Not all people go like this because there are well-established and wealthy families for whom it is nothing but a cakewalk (Hasselbalch, 2019). However, there are two horrifying scenes in these circumstances. One, there is a huge brain drain from India and two, many young people are being trapped in visa scams. It is not only happening in Punjab but all over India. The every-year flock is so high that Canada, the USA, and some other European countries are either putting a ban or making it harder to get a visa. Surprisingly, it has a benefitting side too. That is “return on investment”.

It has been found that many people do not want to become foreign citizens. Instead, they want to return to India and invest in something. Now, that investment can be either in merit or in money.



Some people make ends meet with investment in the bank and interest from it, some invest the earned money in a new business in which a couple of youths get a job (Adeyemi, 2018). On the other hand, people who were working abroad, return to India and find a job in a reputed company for a reputed designation. The qualification and work experience make it easier to get a job for them. Apart from all of these, "moving abroad", "a foreign experienced candidate", "passed out from a foreign university", etc. provide them with a so-called respectable position in society.

To conclude, the study has shown qualitative research because all the collective resources are secondary. Primary research was not possible because that consists of questionnaires and interviews. However, the collected sources are authentic and show the results of brain drain to muscle drain in this current scenario. Both India and foreign countries especially, Canada, the USA, and the UK are facing a huge influx of Indian students. On the other hand, the Indian government is concerned about brain drain and huge loans from the banks. At the same time, the Indian government is peaceful because ROI is happening as the returning students or working professionals are investing merit and money in the country.

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