

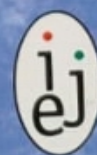


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International Migration From Goa – An Analysis

Roy Gomes and B.P. Sarath Chandran

Introduction

Migration, since the beginning of civilization, has been a very important link for the development and progress of nations. International migration has revolutionized the whole world due to the development of modern transportation systems which made the distant dream a reality, breaking down barriers of distance and time. Developments in technology have modernized transportation and have made it quicker, cheaper and easier for people to move around the globe in a fraction of the time that was needed half a century back.

Due to the problems of poverty, lack of development and decent job availability, people migrate in search of better lifestyles and a better future for their children and families. Equipped with some minimum skills, people are willing to sacrifice and relocate to any part of the globe to get better returns for their skills, and are also ready to learn new skills for better earnings. Migrants are a great help to plug labour shortages in destination countries, start entrepreneurship ventures, and contribute to the economy through taxes and social security contributions.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development stresses on the positive contribution of migrants towards the inclusive growth and sustainable development of countries of origin, transit and destination, which requires international cooperation for ensuring safe, orderly and regular migration with full respect for human rights and the humane treatment of migrants and refugees.

Levels and trends in international migration

International migration numbers worldwide have grown rapidly reaching 244 million in 2015, up from 222 million in 2010, 191million in 2005 and 173 million in 2000. The International migrant stock grew by an average of 2 percent per year between 2000 and 2005. The annual growth rate accelerated during the period 2005-2010, reaching 3 percent. 2010-2015, however, it slowed down, falling to around 1.9 percent per year. It has been noticed that high-income countries host more than two-thirds of all international migrants.

In 2015, 71 percent of all international migrants worldwide (173 million) lived in high-income countries. Out of these, a whopping 124 million migrants were hosted in high-income OECD countries, while 49 million migrants lived in other high-income non-OECD countries. 29 percent (71 million) of the world's migrants lived in middle income or low-

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income countries. Of these 71 million, 61 million lived in middle-income countries and 9 million in the low-income countries.

Since 2000 international remittances have increased almost three times and registered a fall during the 2009 recession. Remittances to middle-income countries have increased more than three times since 2000. International remittances in 2008 were \$450 billion went down to \$420 billion (declined by 7%), but rose to \$452 billion in 2010. According to World Bank, in 2013 the middle-income nations received as a group an estimated \$363 billion in remittances.

India and China are the highest recipients of remittances in the world and also the top receiving nations among middle-income countries. In 2013, India received an estimated \$71 billion in remittances, and China around \$60 billion. Among the other top middle-income receiving nations for remittances are the Philippines (\$26 billion), Mexico (\$22 billion) and Nigeria (\$21 billion).

France tops the list of remittance receivers among the five high-income nations, with an estimated \$22 billion in 2013, Germany (\$15 billion), Belgium (\$11 billion), Spain (\$10 billion) and South Korea (\$9 billion). The United States ranking ninth among high-income nations received an estimated \$6 billion in remittances in 2013. According to World Bank estimates, Bangladesh, among the world's poorest countries, ranks first as a remittance receiving nation and received \$15 billion in 2013. Other top low-income receiving nations are Nepal (\$5 billion), Tajikistan (\$4 billion), Burma (Myanmar) (\$3 billion) and Kyrgyzstan (\$2 billion).

India has a long history of migration. During the colonial period, a large number of Indians were taken to different parts of the world such as Africa, Caribbean and other parts of Asia to meet the labour-intensive jobs. In modern days also, migration continuous to happen for employment, better job prospects, higher income, education and improved standard of living. While people with professional education and technical competencies move to advanced countries like USA, UK, Canada, semi-skilled and skilled labour force migrate to the middle east and other developing countries for employment opportunities. Historically Goans migrated to many parts of the world, particularly to East Africa and West Asia, in search of employment and career prospects. Recently a large number of Goans are migrating to countries like Canada, U.K, USA, and Australia for better education and employment opportunities. Goa being a Portuguese colony, Goans are eligible for Portuguese passport and gets an entry into the European Union (EU), of which Portugal became a member in 1986.

In India's tiniest state with a population of around 15 lakhs, an average of 11 Goan people are surrendering their Indian citizenship every day after acquiring Portuguese passports. If for some, it is the lure of the British life that makes them embrace Portuguese citizenship, for others it is just a convenient way for a hassle-free travel across the world. From 4 people every day giving away their Indian citizenship in 2014, the numbers have reached 11 in a couple of years. With no clear statistics of Goans surrendering their Indian passport at embassies in other countries, the figure is expected to inch up. So, if it was 1,613 people who surrendered their Indian citizenship in 2014, it went up to 3,863 in 2015 and has crossed the 4,000-mark to touch 4,131 in 2016.

Objectives of the Study

The study is intended to understand the diverse motives that compel the Goans to migrate in to foreign countries. Efforts are made to understand the socio-economic status of the migrants and the expectation these people in the foreign countries. The study also identified measures that could be adopted by the State Government to reduce the out migration so that the local Goans are retained in their motherland.

Methodology

The study was conducted in four areas of Goa namely, St. Cruz, Taleigao, Vasco and Ribandar consisting of 200 respondents, 50 from each village. The data was collected through a structured questionnaire.

Review of Literature

Bell (2002), compared the internal migrations in Australia and Britain in the early 1980s and 1990s, and found that the Australians have higher propensity to migrate; migration distance in Australia is longer than that of Britain and has a negligible effect on migration. But migration effectiveness is higher in Britain than in Australia and migration in Australia generates greater re-distribution of the population because of the huge amount of migration.

Maritsa (2001), on the basis of life histories of Gujarati migrants in New York and London, studied the importance and role of specific configuration network ties in migration flows and occupational pattern and found that network ties like organisational and community relationships, interpersonal ties like friendship etc., play an important role in migration and availability of employment at the destination.

Elmar (2000), through the use of migration determinants and analysis of previous experiences of member countries of the European Union, tried to forecast the migration pattern that may result from the forthcoming eastward enlargement and the effect on the labour market of the Union. According to *ibid*, the major reason for migration is the economic imbalance, and since the disparity between member countries is negligible, the fear of large-scale migration is misplaced. But inequality that exists between some of the member-countries may encourage migration.

De Haan (2002), reveals that even though the migration pattern in the West African region is mainly caused by environmental factors, social norms decided the pattern of migration and the benefits accrued to society. Similarly, household and kinship network structure provided migrants independence to move by retaining them in the network.

Clare Waddington (2003), on the basis of the previous literature, concluded that migration is undertaken for a more secure livelihood, and have led to a reduction in poverty and inequality as well as for improvement of education of children of migrants. According to *ibid*, remittance is a major source of income to the migrant households for their daily requirements as well as for accumulation. But, sometimes migration, which is due to vulnerability, may further increase vulnerability.

Analysis of the Primary Data

Table 1
Age of Respondents

(figures in percentage)

Age	St. Cruz	Taleigao	Vasco	Ribandar	TOTAL
20-30	9	10	11	7	37
31-40	10	11	9	11	41
41-50	4	4	4	7	19
51-60	2	0	1	0	3
TOTAL	25	25	25	25	100

Source: Primary Data

In Table 1 shows that majority of the migrants (78%) are in the age bracket of 20 to 40 years. This shows youths are interested to migrate to foreign countries for better economic life, job opportunities and modern life. The main reason for migration is identified the respondents as employment (77 percent) followed by financial independence and education (table-2).

Table 2
Reasons for Migration

(figures in percentage)

Reasons	St. Cruz	Taleigao	Vasco	Ribandar	TOTAL
Employment	20.5	18.5	14	22.5	77
Education	0	1.5	3.5	1.5	6.5
Financial Independence	2.5	4.5	5.5	1	13.5
Loan repayment	0.5	0	1	0	1.5
Std. of Living	1.5	0	1	0	2
Marriage	0	0.5	0	0	0.5
TOTAL	25	25	25	25	100

Source: Primary Data

Educational qualifications of the migrant play a very important role in making the choice to migrate in to other countries. It also reflect what kind of occupational choices the migrants are making when they decide to migrate. Table-3 provides the educational background of the people who are migrating to foreign countries from the selected Villages. The table revealed that majority of the youth migrating abroad (81%) have completed HSSC and Graduation and none of them having below tenth educational qualification.

Table 3

Source: Primary Data

Table 4

Source Primary Data

Rehabilitation and reintegration plays a very important role for the migrants to return back to the home country. Table 4 shows that majority of the youth migrating abroad (86%) were willing to return if the Government is ready to provide good remunerative jobs to them.

Table 5

Source: Primary Data

Table 5 showed the response of the migrants to return to the State if the Government initiates self-employment opportunities to them. The survey revealed that majority of the youth migrating abroad (85%) were willing to return if the Government is ready to promote self-employment for youth through subsidies, zero interest loans, zero tax etc.

Table 6
Willingness to return if Govt. provides free quality education
(figures in percentage)

	SA	A	PA	N	PD	D	SD	TOTAL
St. Cruz	17.5	4	3.5	0	0	0	0	25
Taleigao	14	7	1.5	0	0	1.5	1	25
Vasco	12	5	4.5	0	1.5	1.5	0.5	25
Ribandar	13.5	7.5	2	0	0	1	1	25

Source: Primary Data

In Table 6 we see that the majority of the youth migrating abroad (93%) were willing to return if the Government is ready to provide free quality education, medical facilities and good infrastructure.

Table 7
Willingness to return if Govt. provides unemployment relief, insurance, medical facilities etc.
(figures in percentage)

	SA	A	PA	N	PD	D	SD	TOTAL
St. Cruz	14.5	4	3.5	0	0	2	0	25
Taleigao	14	5.5	2	0	2	1	0.5	25
Vasco	10.5	6	4.5	0	1	2.5	0.5	25
Ribandar	13.5	5.5	2.5	0	1.5	1	1	25

Source: Primary Data

In Table 7 we see that the majority of the youth migrating abroad (87%) were willing to return if the Government is ready to provide good remunerative jobs to all the youth of Goa

Table 8
Willingness to return if Govt. promotes and supports talent & merit and cuts down on corruption, favouritism etc.
(figures in percentage)

	SA	A	PA	N	PD	D	SD	TOTAL
St. Cruz	15.5	5	3.5	0	0	0	1	25
Taleigao	13	6.5	2	0	2	1.5	0	25
Vasco	10.5	7	3	0	2.5	1	1	25
Ribandar	14.5	4	2	0	3	1.5	0	25

Source: Primary Data

In Table 8 we see that the majority of the youth migrating abroad (85%) were willing to return if the Government is ready to promote talent in all the youth of Goa

Table 9
Minimum monthly salary (in thousands) that will make you return to Goa for good
(figures in percentage)

	70K	80K	90K	100K	Above 100K	NOTA	TOTAL
St. Cruz	0	4.5	7	11	1.5	1	25
Taleigao	1.5	3	4	15.5	1	0	25
Vasco	0	2.3	8.5	11.5	2.5	0	25
Ribandar	0.5	2.5	7	15	0	0	25

Source: Primary Data

*NOTA - None of the above rates

In table 9 we see that the majority of the respondents (around 90%) feel that if they can draw a salary of around Rs. 1 Lakh per month in Goa a majority will be willing to return back for good.

Conclusion

From the above study it is understood that the most of the respondents migrated to the other countries due to lack of employment opportunities in the Home State as the Government is not able to provide adequate employment opportunities to its people. Other attractions to migration include avenues for a decent life, inadequate infrastructure at the home, nepotism and corruption in getting jobs, lack of recognition of merit in the consideration of jobs and the necessity for political patronage in getting government favours. The study strongly argues for comprehensive government policy to arrest the exodus of Goans migrating abroad.

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