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Analyzing Indian Diaspora: Pyramid Impact on Reforms & Migration Pattern

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Migration is as old as human civilization. It is human tendency to migrate to better places, a rationale. Migration has been described by scholars in many ways. Migration in general refers to permanent living in other regions than origin of birth. In the current time, migration has become necessity for economic, social & political reason. In recent time, migration is also influenced by technology war. Migration is helping both, the original & destination country. Migration is some time mandatory and voluntary many time. This research paper attempts to work on transnational migration of Indians after 1800 AD and limits it on two aspects;

- i. those who were born in India after independence (August 1947) and are living outside India permanently
- ii. Those who or their parents were born in United India in or after 19th century and are permanently living outside India.

The paper aims to analyze the pattern of migration of Indians over time and its impact on India. Beside we discuss economic, social and political impact and how it influenced reform in education, societal & political, we argue that the flow have distinct character in each wave based on the destination, factor behind migration, skill set of migrant. The patterns of the flow of people between countries are widely influenced by international economic, political and cultural interrelations those have positive impact on Indian economy, society and culture. But two positive intricacies discussed in this paper is not discussed by any researcher so far. The first one is the people who migrated in first waves have provided the base for the second. The second is imitation of the first migrant by the next potential migrants was the prime cause including their support converted them into migrants.

The Indian Diaspora is a generic term to describe the people who migrated from territories that are currently within the borders of the Republic of India. The Diaspora is currently estimated to number over twenty million. Residing in distant lands, Indian diaspora members have succeeded spectacularly in their chosen profession by dint of their single minded dedication & hard work. What is more important they have retained their emotional, cultural & spiritual links with the country of origin.

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India has one of the world's most diverse and complex migration histories. Since the 19th century, ethnic Indians have established communities on every continent as well as on islands in the Caribbean and the Pacific and Indian oceans. The composition of flows has evolved over time from mainly indentured labor in far-flung colonies to postwar labor for British industry to high-skilled professionals in North America and low-skilled workers in the Middle East. In addition, ethnic Indians in countries like Kenya and Suriname have migrated to other countries, a movement called secondary migration. Indian traders established bases around the Indian and the Pacific oceans, especially in East Africa and Western and Southeast Asia. However, those flows were not the basis for Indian migration in the 19th century or the global dispersion seen today. These flows began with the era of British colonial rule. The British had strategic portions of India under their control by the end of the 18th century and gained control over more territory in the 19th century. In 1834, Britain began exporting Indian labor to Mauritius. The Netherlands and France, which replicated the British system, also relied on Indian workers. By 1878, Indians were working in Guyana, Trinidad, Natal (South Africa), Suriname, and Fiji. Workers for plantations in Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Fiji, and Mauritius were mainly recruited in the present-day states of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. In Guyana and East Africa, laborers originated mainly from Punjab and Gujarat.

The other flow was based given the proximity of Tamil Nadu to French possessions in India, the bulk of workers in most French colonies, such as Guadeloupe, Martinique, and La Reunion, as well as the majority of indentured laborers in Natal (South Africa) was Tamils. Tapping the labor surplus of South India, mostly in Tamil Nadu, the managers of tea, coffee, and rubber plantations in Sri Lanka, Malaya (part of present-day Malaysia), and Burma authorized Indian headmen, known as *kangani* or *maistry*, to recruit entire families and ship them to plantations.

M.K. Gandhi writes that in 1890, during his studying law in London, there were not many Indians in Britain. He mentioned very few students, workers & elite princes were living there. He further writes when in South Africa, about the year 1860 the Europeans in Natal, finding that there was considerable scope for sugar-cane cultivation, felt themselves in need of labour. Without outside labour the cultivation of cane and the manufacture of sugar were impossible, as the Natal Zulus were not suited to this form of work. The Natal Government therefore corresponded with the Indian Government, and secured their permission to recruit Indian labour.

These recruits were sign an indenture to work in Natal for five years, and at the end of the term they wee be at liberty to settle there and to have full rights of ownership of land. Those were inducements held out to them, for the whites then had looked forward to improving their agriculture by the industry of the Indian labourers after the term of their indentures had expired. (M. K. Gandhi 'The Story of my experiments with truth', p143)

But the Indians gave more than had been expected of them. They grew quantities of vegetables. They introduced number of Indian varieties and made it possible to grow local varieties cheaper. They introduced the mango. Nor did their enterprise stopped at agriculture. They entered trade. They purchased land for building, and many raised from labour to status of owners of land and buildings. Merchants from India followed them and settled there for trdae. The Sheth Abubakar Amod was first among them. He soon built up an expensive business. The white traders were alarmed. When they first welcomed the Indian labourers, they had not reckoned with their business skill. They might be tolerated as independent agriculturists, but their competition in trade could not be brooked.

Indian diaspora's propensity to create multiple associations and long-distance connections helps migrate country in multiple ways. Indian society is socially distinct. Their emotions are deeply rooted to factors of nationalism, regionalism, religion, caste, relatives, family & native villages. The migrant would have continued relation with one or more factor as aforesaid, whether they are permanent migrant or temporary. These attachments have multiple positive effects. The researchers have identified economic, social, cultural & political effect. Here we dealt upon a new effect which was never discussed by any researcher. The effect we are referring is imitation, if any person in the family goes to a foreign soil and enjoys a good life over there, his close family members, relatives, villagers & fellow caste members will start imitating his life style at the first stge. Then one finds way migrate by one or another way. This is evident from the fact that, you find certain villages as migrant village and migrating to specific region or country. It is also observed that members of particular caste are heavily migrated. Migrant's profiles and social capital of migrants depending upon the age, activity profile, type of skills, sector of employment, length of stay abroad and network of contacts helps country of origin to avail those benefits. The diaspora option views skilled migrants as carriers of a social capital that is waiting

to be organized and harnessed for the advantage of India, leading to the rise of a new agent in development discourse: migrants, diasporas, or transnational communities.

As per census of India in 1911, around 4,000 Indians lived in Britain: 1,000 students and 2,500 persons working in navigation related activities. Recent data from the Office of National Statistics in the UK report nearly 700,000 people in the UK born in India in 2010 (ONS 2011). Laborers, mostly from rural areas, would initially sign up for a five-year contract. Many renewed their contracts, and a significant portion chose to stay permanently, deciding to accept a piece of land or a certain payment in lieu of their right to be shipped home. Isolated from the rest of the local population, colonial rulers housed the workers in barracks and regulated their lives in almost every regard, with severe punishments for disobedience and "insufficient work." The poor living conditions and almost unlimited employer control led historian Hugh Tinker to label the system a "new form of slavery."

In response to severe criticism, MK Gandhis satyagrah in South Africa and local pressure on Indian Government compelled the British Imperial Legislative Council to abolish the indenture system in 1916. By that time, more than 1.5 million Indians had been shipped to colonies in the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, and Oceania, according to estimates by the historian Brij V. Lal. In addition to low-skilled workers, members of India's trading communities settled in many countries where indentured laborers had been brought or where business opportunities in the British Empire were promising. For example, Gujarati merchants became shop owners in East Africa, and traders from present-day Kerala and Tamil Nadu provided rural credits for peasants in Burma, Ceylon, and Malaya or were involved in retail trade. Meanwhile the Indians were now established their occupation, wealth, social, cultural & political network to influence in the destination countries. This coupled with their connection with home country attracted more and more people of different skill to increase their number and strength on one hand and their help to mother land in good & bad time made live easy there.

Ethnic Indian communities, especially those in the United States and the United Kingdom, have become known for their economic success and generally peaceful integration. However, millions of ethnic Indians, including those on temporary contracts in the Middle East, have limited rights and less secure futures. The flow of Indian to UK after 1900 is of young, mostly male, and

coming either for work (mainly through work permit system), to reunify with their families. Those coming for work are overwhelming professional and focused on science and technology and are likely to be disproportionately entering via Intra-Company Transfer permits. The Indian community in the UK has a long history and is marked with heterogeneity. Broadly speaking it is a young community, well-educated, and performing better than virtually all other minority groups on a variety of socio-economic indicators, with the caveat that certain key indicators such as the employment rate are lower than the general population. The main centres of the Indian community are in identifiable areas in London, Birmingham and Leicester. Indian Immigration to The United Kingdom, Will Somerville & Amar Dhudwar; Working Paper Migration Policy Institute UK.

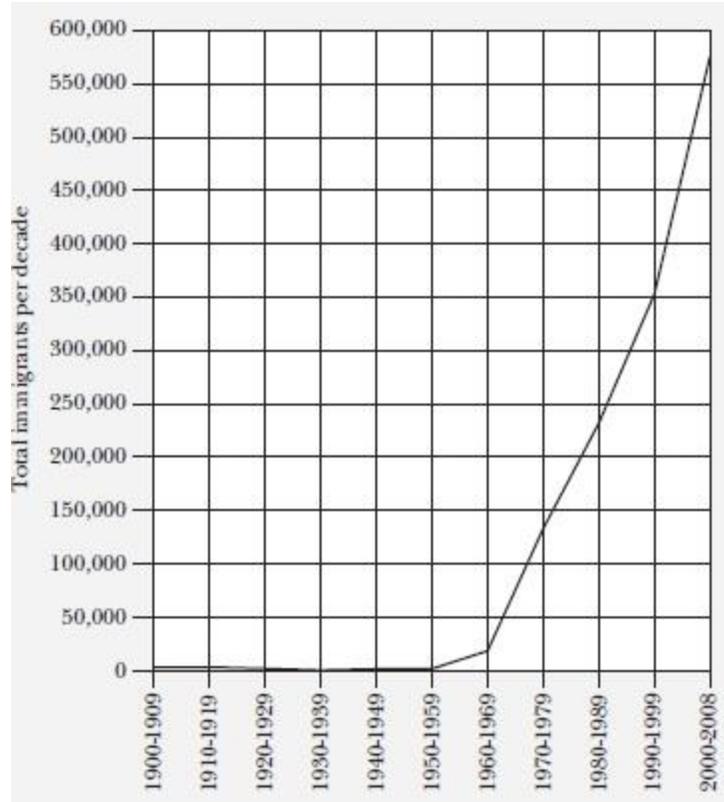
The first wave to United States occurred in the first decade of the twentieth century, the second during the 1970's, and the third during the early twenty-first century, when the highest level of immigration from India occurred. Accounting for more than 2.5 million people in 2007, Asian Indians constituted the third largest Asian immigrant population in the United States. Although most immigration from India to the United States occurred during the early twenty first century, the earliest signs of international migration from India occurred after 1830, when Indian merchants, sailors, and indentured workers traveled on East India Company ships to North America. The 1900 U.S. Census reported that 2,545 "Hindus" whose birthplace was listed as India had settled in the United States. Between 1820 and 1900, 700 persons moved from India to the United States. In the following 30 years, this number rose to a still insignificant 8,700; most were Punjabi Sikhs who worked in agriculture in California. Anti-Asian legislation in 1917 and 1924 banned immigration from south or Southeast Asia, including India, and ensured that Asians would not qualify for naturalization or land ownership.

Even similar picture emerge in Canada with meager number of about 100 Indians in Canada. This number rose by 5,000 in the following three years, before a restrictive immigration policy required whoever landed in Canada to make a continuous journey from the country of one's citizenship. Since no steamships traveled directly from India to Canada, Indian immigrants were intentionally excluded. Between 1907 and 1917, thousands of Sikh landowners and peasants left the Punjab in northern India to search the western shores of North America for employment and

higher wages. First group immigrated to Vancouver, Canada, Punjabi Sikhs settled in Oregon, Washington, and Northern California to work on the Western Pacific Railroad. Legally prohibited from bringing their wives and families, some young, male Sikhs married Mexican women, creating a “Mexican Hindu” culture. The small Sikh immigrant community remained faithful to its religious and cultural practices, establishing temple settlements for other Asian Indian travelers. During the time of the British Raj, small-scale migration from the subcontinent to Britain consisted largely of educated Parsees and Bengalis. Between World War I and World War II, the number of Indians in Britain increased although the population remained small; estimates range from 5,000 to 8,000. Many worked in unskilled jobs for low wages.

The next phase was result of political change after independence from British rule, socialistic pattern and influence of the previous flow & their life style influenced the youth to tried their life better in America. The Supreme Court established the "right to travel" as a fundamental right under the Indian constitution, following which the Indian parliament enacted the Passports Act of 1967. However, the act contains several provisions to refuse the issuance of a passport if the government thinks this would not be in "public interest." Also in the first decades after independence, unskilled, skilled, and professional workers (mostly male Punjabi Sikhs) migrated from India to the United Kingdom. This is commonly attributed to Britain's postwar demand for low-skilled labor, postcolonial ties, and the United Kingdom's commonwealth immigration policy, which allowed any citizen of a Commonwealth country to live, work, vote, and hold public office in the United Kingdom. The flocks obtained social support of the first lot in settling quickly. Indirectly this time the new entrants have learnt lot of American & British life style & etiquettes from the previous settlers due to their constant touch with families, relatives, native & caste connections. These percolations of character have accelerating effect in all fronts.

Following number growth depicted in chart indicates the steep growth toward United States.



Source: Department of Homeland Security, Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, 2008. Figures include only immigrants who obtained legal permanent resident status. Immigration records for 1820-1899 show a total of only 687 immigrants. <http://immigrationinamerica.org/360-asian-indian-immigrants.html>

Substantial Indian migration to Northern America started only in the late 1960s. Both in the United States and Canada, major changes in immigration policy affected immigration flows generally, and Indian immigration specifically. In the United States, the 1965 Immigration Act, which came fully into force in 1968, abolished national-origins quotas and made it possible for high-skilled immigrants, including Indians, to gain permanent residence and bring their family members. The Immigration Act of 1990, effective from 1995, facilitated this process further by introducing the H-1B temporary worker category. This visa category allows U.S. businesses to hire foreigners with at least a bachelor's degree in "specialty occupations" including scientists, engineers, and IT specialists. Indian citizens are by far the top recipients of H-1B visas each year. H-1B visas, which are tied to a specific employer, are valid for three years and may be renewed for another three years. At that point the employer can decide to apply for lawful permanent residence for the H-1B visa holder. According to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, from 1986 to 2005, the annual total influx of Indian immigrants more than tripled from

27,000 to 85,000, while the share in total immigration flows rose from 4.4 to 7.4 percent. Indian citizens accounted for 5.7 percent of all persons obtaining lawful permanent resident status in 2008. The Indian foreign born are highly skilled: The U.S. Census Bureau's 2008 American Community Survey found that 74.1 percent held at least a bachelor's degree, and 68.9 percent reported working in management, professional, and related occupations.

The Indian diaspora in developed countries, especially in the United States, is highly organized with many regional and pan-Indian cultural, professional, religious, and charity organizations. In recent years, advocacy groups, political ambitions of individuals like Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal, and the Congressional India Caucus have demonstrated Indians' increasing political influence. Many countries have seen more Indians elected to national legislative bodies like Fiji, Mauritius, South Africa, West Indies, Malaysia beside North America & Britain . In Canada, eight ethnic Indians, were elected to the House of Commons in October 2008. Currently, six elected Members of the British Parliament and eight Members in the House of Lords are of Indian descent. While ethnic Indians are a minority in most countries, they constitute around 40 percent of the population in Fiji, Trinidad, Guyana, and Suriname. They make up 70 percent of the inhabitants of Mauritius. In Mauritius, where 70 percent of the population is of Indian descent, the prime minister has been an ethnic Indian except for between 2003 and 2005. As noted earlier, Singapore's current president is an ethnic Indian. Seven cabinet members and 27 parliamentarians in Fiji are of Indian descent; in Malaysia, the count goes to one cabinet minister and three members of parliament. In Germany, two ethnic Indians are elected representatives in the central parliament, as is one India-born person in New Zealand.

The total size of the Indian community, the foreign born of Indian ethnicity (e.g., those born in Fiji or Trinidad), and the U.S.-born children of Indian immigrants surpassed 2.8 million in 2013. India is the largest recipient of migrants' remittances in the world, receiving over \$ 50 billion in 2010, from nearly ten million emigrants. An estimated 15% of these inflows or roughly \$ 8 billion originate from European Union (EU) countries which host about a million Indian emigrants, a figure around 0.6 % of India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Around 75% of the flows from the EU to India, or \$ 6 billion, originate from the United Kingdom (UK). Migrants' remittances to India constitute about 4% of total extra-EU remittance outflows. Indian emigrants in the EU held over \$ 8 billion worth Non-Resident Indian (NRI) deposits, forming nearly 20%

of NRI deposits in the Indian banking system. Emigrants in UK and Germany held 70% and 20% of NRI deposits held by Indian emigrants in the EU. Remittance flows as unrequited transfers and emigrant capital flows substantially bolster India's balance of payments at the macro level and support household consumption plans and investments choices at the micro level.

It is not just economic now. It is politics, culture & technology. The remittances and investment have made India a destination of robust economy which USP (unique selling point) of Foreign Direct Investment & Foreign Institutional Investment. Unrecorded investment and synergies generated through local donations to the villages, community & local institutes have pyramidal & incremental effect on tangible & intangible property. Tangible properties being created with direct help of settled migrants and their demonstrated show have attracted young generation to become like such donor immigrants worked as catalyst to study hard in India and then realize dream have jumped in the fray. The recent immigrants are working almost all part of the world but large number in North America, Middle East, Europe, Singapore & Hong Kong. Being a base of identity as Indian in several field of science, hardworking nature, acquaintance of English, French and other languages have made their life easy. The already built base has boost confidence in the settlers.

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