INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LAW

MANAGEMENT & HUMANITIES

[ISSN 2581-5369]

Volume 5 | Issue 1

2022

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Migration: Causes, Challenges and Legal Rights

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ABSTRACT

This paper is an attempt to understand the emerging migration patterns in India and the issues underlying them. With globalization, urbanization and accompanying changes in socio-economic conditions, migrants have been attracted to urban areas in recent times. The emerging migration pattern depicts the confinement of migrants in lower socio-economic classes in Urban India in response to the macroeconomic reforms. The National Sample Survey data (2007/08) on Migration reveals a gloomy and divergent picture of recent migrants who have migrated prior to five years. Inter-state Migration among males to urban areas shows precedence growth reflecting the Migration of people from lower socio-economic classes. The negative interrelationship between per capita income and interstate migration rate further confirms it. A steady increase of urban migrants in the lower economic class indicates Migration is dominated by poorer sections. This finding is completely different from the last NSS round, where a direct relationship between the economic status of the individual and inclination to Migration has been noticed. The reason for such a divergent pattern of Migration within a period of 10 years really needs to be investigated. Higher Migration of lower social groups takes place in an urban area compared to an earlier period. All these variations in migration patterns are attributed to rural-urban disparities in socio-economic development and increasing urbanization. Given the current development and growth of urbanization increasing regional disparities, it is likely that Migration to the urban area will accentuate more in future due to the changing nature of the economy. Hence, an enquiry into the changing pattern of Migration is critical to explore the emerging issues identify the challenges and main precedence required at the policy level for urban development.

I. INTRODUCTION

Toward the beginning of the new thousand years, exactly 150 million individuals, or 2.5 per cent of the total populace, live external their nation of birth. That number has multiplied starting around 1965. With destitution, political suppression, denials of basic freedoms, and struggle to

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push an ever-increasing number of individuals out of their nations of origin while monetary open doors, political freedom, actual prosperity, and security manoeuvre both profoundly gifted and untalented labourers into new grounds, the speed of worldwide relocation is probably not going to slow any time soon.

Scarcely any nations stay immaculate by movement. Countries as blended as Haiti, India, and previous Yugoslavia accommodate worldwide streams. The United States gets by a wide margin the most worldwide travellers; however, transients likewise fill Germany, France, Canada, Saudi Arabia, and Iran. A few nations, like Mexico, send migrants to different terrains, yet in addition get foreigners, both those intending to settle and those on their way somewhere else.

Establishments and laws for accomplishing collaboration among receiving, source, and travel nations are in their earliest stages. The World Trade Organization directs the development of merchandise worldwide, and the International Monetary Fund screens the worldwide development of capital, yet no equivalent foundation controls the development of individuals. Nor does a typical agreement exist among states or specialists so far as that is concerned regarding the expenses and advantages of more liberated or more prohibitive migration strategies.[2]

International Migration, however, is forcing states to recognize that policies and approaches need to be more harmonized. Since the 1990s, regional groups have been established in the Americas, Europe, East Asia, Africa, and elsewhere to address issues of mutual concern.[3]

II. GLOBALIZATION AND MIGRATION

In the post-independent period, two different trends dominated the scene of Migration in India.

(A) Migration to the Developed Countries

The Migration of labour to industrialized developed countries of the west remained in process for a long time, but the U.K. was the most attractive country for a significant number of Indian engineers, scientists, doctors and technical workers during the 1960s when such demand was not met by the local English workers.

The movement to North America began in the mid-1950s, and the pattern stayed humble till the centre of the 1960s. During the 1960s and 1970s, the pattern of relocation among Indians to the USA and Canada was expanded quickly. Till the finish of the 1980s, around 3.6% and

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[2] A. Kielland: "Child labour migration in Benin: Incentive, constraint, or Agency?" Germany, January 2009
[3] International Organization for Migration, 2015. How the World Views Migration. Global Migration Data Analysis Centre.

6% of Indians were living in USA and Canada separately. In any case, with the beginning of globalization, the transient streams to these nations expanded in the 1990s to 38,330 people from 2,6184 in the 1980s and in Canada from 7,930 in the 1980s to 13,770 in the 1990s.[4]

In 2003, in excess of 23000 Indians got U.S. migration visas, and more than 17000 got Canadian visas (ILO 2003:1). Additionally, a critical progression of Indian experts to the nations like Australia, Germany, Japan, Malaysia and New Zealand was likewise noted in the 1990s. The movement to create nations from India developed consistently somewhere in the range of 1950 and 2000. In any case, during 2003, almost 1.25 million scholastically and actually qualified specialists from India was relocated to the USA, Canada, the U.K., what's more Australia.[5]

(B) Migration to the Middle East

The second trend of Migration from India was towards the oil-producing 38 rich countries of the Middle East during the 1970s. Till the end of the Second World War, the Migration of Indians to the Gulf countries was at a low scale, and there were only 14,000 Indians in 1948 (Jain op. cit.: 156). But the rapid hike in oil prices during 1973-74 and afterwards brought uneven richness to the Gulf region, which laid the foundation of various developmental programs including schools, houses, hospitals, big business establishments, improvement in transportation and communication in the countries of this region. But the local workers were unable to meet the increasing demand in the labour sector because of their low number and inadequate training. Therefore, it paved the way for the entry of technical experts and semi-skilled workers from several countries of Asia, including India.[6]

By the mid of 1980s, India was the second-largest supplier of manpower to these countries as the labour migration from India to the Gulf jumped from only 22,000 in 1971 to 1,55,000 in early 1991. However, this trend was continued only by the end of 1997, and thereafter, the annual flow of Indians to the Gulf started declining slowly. During 1999, there was a steep decline in the number of Gulf going aspirants. This was, of course, largely due to the restriction imposed by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.[7]

But later on, it again started increasing with some variations. One stupendous feature of labour migration from India was that over 90% of the migrants made their way to the Middle East

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[4] European countries: European Labour Force Surveys (Eurostat), 2000 and 2010; United States: 2000 Census and American Community Survey 2010; Canada: Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics, 1998-2008.
[5] **National Sample Survey Organisation,** *Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation*, Government of India, Sept. 2001.
[6] Indian Migration Report, 1st edition by S, Irudaya Rajan 2018.
[7] ibid.

countries. In 2004, the number of workers who were given emigration clearance for contractual employment was 500,000 for the Gulf countries (IOM-India 2005:1). Interestingly, Oman, Saudi Arabia and UAE were the most loving destinations for Indian workers. In 2002, more than 99,453 migrant workers obtained clearances, whereas 95,034 and 41,209 workers got clearance for the United Arab Emirates and Oman, respectively.[8]

Apart from Gulf countries, South East Asia and East Asian countries also emerged as new alluring countries for a greater number of migrant workers in the light of uneven industrial progress these countries achieved during the middle 1980s. Malaysia and Singapore were turned out to be the host destinations for an overwhelming number of migrant labourers. South Korea, Malaysia and Singapore faced an acute shortage of labour as the local labour was not willing to do lower-status jobs, and therefore, these countries relied on foreign labour force mainly from South Asia. The majority of migrant workers from South Asia comprised semi-skilled and unskilled manpower to these countries, and Indian workers, as about 25,000 in Singapore and 11,000 in Malaysia, were engaged in a different occupation in 2002.[9]

(C) Immigration

Migration of people from different countries, more significantly from neighbouring countries, to India was associated with the democratic polity, liberal society, religious freedom and developed economy coupled with more job avenues. Since 1947 the number of legal as well as illegal immigrants in India has been increasing over the decades. But an instant increase in the number of foreign migrants in the country was noted during 1991-2001. Their number had increased from 1,079 945 in 1991 to 6,166,930 in 2001. As per Census 2001, 626,712 persons were migrated to India from neighbouring countries.[10]

III. TYPES OF MIGRATION

Migration can be classified in several ways, which are as under:

(A) By political boundaries –

Based on political limits and the boundaries crossed, such as districts, counties, state borders and international boundaries, further identified as the places of origin and destination. A widely recognized distinction exists between Internal and International Migration: –

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[8] OECD (2012), "Renewing the Skills of Ageing Workforces: The Role of Migration", *International Migration Outlook 2012*, OECD Publishing, Paris, *http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/migr_outlook-2012-7-en.*
[9] Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General (2007-2016), United Nations, at the 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development.
[10] National Sample Survey Organisation Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation Government of India Sept. 2001

1.) Internal Migration

The movement of people within a country regardless of their location, whether from an urban area to a rural area, to an urban area to a rural area, or from a rural area to an urban area, is called internal Migration**.** Those arriving at their destination are "in-migrants," and those leaving are "out-migrants." It also includes the movement of people within villages, blocks, and districts.

2.) International Migration

The movement of people across national boundaries, such as those who immigrate to a foreign country or those who emigrate from their own country. This also includes Migration across continents.[11]

(B) By movement patterns

Based on classifying people according to their social status, travel points and periodicity.

1.) Step migration

Migration initiated from a small settlement and moved to a larger one in the urban hierarchy over the years. This includes a pattern of closer, not too destabilizing migrations from a person's place of origin to an ensuing destination, such as movement from a farm to a village, then to a town and subsequently to a suburb (if applicable) and finally into a city. This category also includes the movement of people from a smaller to a bigger city. A series of shorter, less extreme migrations from a person's place of origin to the final destination—such as moving from a farm to a village, to a town, and finally to a city.

2.) Circular Migration

Cyclical migration experiences between an origin and a destination with at least one Migration and return. Migrants share their time between multiple (at least two) locations with their family, work, etc. While the frequency of movement may vary along with the length of stay at the destination, a circular migrant spends significant periods of time at the origin and destination.[12]

3.) Seasonal Migration

Seasonal Migration is a very common form of circular Migration, driven by seasonal peaks in labour demand, mostly in agriculture. The process involves moving for a period of time in response to labour or climate conditions (e.g., farm workers following crop harvests or working

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[11] *Ibid.*

[12] A. Kielland: "Child labour migration in Benin: Incentive, constraint, or Agency?" Germany, January 2009

in cities off-season).

4.) Return migration

Return migration, on the other hand, refers to a one-time emigration and return after an extended stay outside the host territory. The voluntary movements of immigrants back to their place of origin. This is also known as circular Migration.[13]

5.) Chain migration

Families move from one place to another at different stages of their life cycle, then bring their children from their home location to their new location. The theory is that a chain of people moves from place to place, supported by those who came before. In a chain migration, one family member sends money to bring other family members to the new location; as a result of chain migration, certain neighbourhoods or small towns cluster people from a specific region.[14]

(C) By decision-making approach

In light of characterizing the movement as willful or compulsory, given certain socio-political elements (for example, the anxiety toward abuse credited to race, religion, political connection, identity or relationship to gatherings; departure from war; struggle including arms; common conflict; normal or man-made catastrophes; starvation) or formative variables (for example significant framework projects, including air terminal, street, dam or port development; the authoritative freedom of metropolitan undertakings; mining and deforestation; the making of preservation parks/holds and other biosphere related drives, among others): –

1.) Voluntary Migration – Based on a person's free will, initiative and desire to live in a better place and to improve their financial status, among other factors.

2.) Involuntary Migration –Based on a person's being forced out of their home due to certain unfavourable environmental and political situations. This can be further sub-classified as **Reluctant/impelled/imposed Migration** – When a person is put in a situation that encourages relocation or movement outside their place of residence. **Forced Migration** – When a person is unable to return home (refugee), or undergoes a legal procedure to qualify as a refugee in the host country (asylee), or is forced to leave their home due to a conflict or development but does not cross any boundaries (Internally Displaced Person (IDP)).[15]

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[13] https://www.scholarshipsads.com/migration-types-of-migration-push-pull-factors-ofmigration/
[14] *Ibid.*
[15] A. Kielland: "Child labour migration in Benin: Incentive, constraint, or Agency?" Germany, January 2009

IV. THE CHALLENGES

(A) Quantification

International Migration is difficult to quantify because of the often large number of undocumented migrants, and estimates of internal Migration are similarly problematic. However, the consensus is that movement has increased and intensified in the last two decades and that 'new' groups of migrants are emerging, such as young, single women who move independently rather than for marriage and/or under the authority of older relatives and men.

(B) Lack of Conscious Policy Making

Arrangements intended to control global relocation typically just advantage illicit dealers and businesses who employ undocumented travellers to abstain from consenting to existing compensation and working conditions guidelines. Strategies which endeavour to limit inward movement by making it hard for transients to get to metropolitan lodging and essential administrations are additionally normally fruitless. Generally, strategy creators just disregard the way that versatility is a significant piece of individuals' lives, for instance, when land rearrangement arrangements and credit drives accept that family individuals experience altogether in one single spot.[16]

(C) Health care access

Migrants battle with comparative difficulties as other underserved populaces in regards to admittance to medical care, yet face the extra hindrances of portability, language, and social contrasts, absence of knowledge of nearby medical care administrations, and restricted qualification to freely and secretly subsidized medical care programs. While the uninsured rate for underserved Americans has dropped since the reception of the Affordable Care Act, episodic proof shows that numerous traveller labourers like farmworkers can't manage the cost of co-pays and deductibles. Migrants are progressing - - yet their medical care probably won't follow. Their transient ways of life free them once again from their supplier organizations, decreasing access further. Undocumented labourers stay ineligible for inclusion under the ACA. Anxiety toward removal and contact with administrative offices makes admittance to medical care much more confounded for undocumented travellers.[17]

(D) En-route health

Migrants who are en-route to a new location may encounter additional health risks such as heat

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[16] A. Kielland: "Child labour migration in Benin: Incentive, constraint, or Agency?" Germany, January 2009
[17] Migration Policy Institute, 2014. "Internal Labour Migration in India Raises Integration Challenges for Migrants". 3 March 2014.

or cold stress, dehydration, and exposure to disease when crossing borders or travelling within a country. Migrants are more vulnerable while on the move, which may cause increased incidences of trafficking and exploitation. Needs at work: Immigrant and migrant populations work in some of the riskiest industries in the country, including agriculture, forestry, fishing and construction. Immigrants have higher rates of injury and fatality compared to workers in other sectors. In fact, foreign-born workers are more likely to die on the job than those born in the U.S.

(E) Toxic exposures

Farmworkers are exposed to pesticides in the fields. Farmworker families are also exposed. Para occupational exposure results from direct contact with farmworkers, such as parents or household members. Children and family members may also be exposed to pesticide applications and from pesticide drift. Toxic exposures don't just happen to farmworkers. Migrant workers may be exposed to household and industrial cleaners, industrial manufacturing products, and other chemical exposures. Chemical exposure poses a huge range of health risks.[18]

(F) Legal and regulatory concerns

There is a long history of agricultural exclusions under various laws, resulting in insufficient on-the-job protections for farmworkers. MCN has long advocated for stronger Worker Protection Standards. Workers in all industries may not know their rights or may fear acting as a "whistleblower" when their rights are violated.

(G) Housing and sanitation

Migrant housing is associated with: pesticides exposures; unsafe drinking water; crowding; substandard and unsafe heating, cooling and electrical systems; inadequate sanitation; and dilapidated structures. Clinicians need to be aware of these additional health and well-being risks for migrant patients.[19]

(H) Food insecurity

It is estimated that more than half of farmworker households are food insecure. Farmworkers in migrant housing may face added food insecurity due to a lack of access to transportation, food storage, and cooking facilities. It is estimated that more than half of farmworker households are food insecure. Several studies estimate that more than half of farmworker

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[18] *Ibid.*

[19] Priya Deshingkar and Daniel Start, "Seasonal Migration for Livelihoods in India: Coping, Accumulation and Exclusion" August 2003 at p. 290.

households are food insecure.[20]

(I) Climate change

Climate change disproportionately affects the poor more than other populations. Outdoor workers like migrant farmworkers are particularly vulnerable. Climate change is estimated to affect the health of outdoor workers through increased temperatures, more extreme weather, degraded air quality, and more vector-borne diseases. Migrants may have a higher risk of being exposed to these changes as a result of substandard housing (that may lack insulation and air conditioning) and outdoor work (resulting in an increase in heat stress and other heat-related illnesses). They also may have fewer resources to help them adapt to the changes.[21]

(J) Citizenship

The main challenge for immigrants, however, is to acquire citizenship of the host country and avail themselves of the fundamental rights to the country they have migrated to. As far as the Indian subcontinent is concerned, the immigration laws are governed by the provisions of the Constitution of India. Articles 5 to 11 in Part-II of the Constitution deals with citizenship, and it defines a citizen as a person of Indian domicile or someone with an Indian lineage in the family. Article 10 deals with the continuance of foreigners as Indian citizens, subject to any laws enacted thereafter by the legislature. It also declares that a foreign citizen can acquire Indian citizenship through the process of Naturalization (ordinarily residing in India for 14 years) and registration of foreigners with the FRRO (Foreigners Regional Registration Officer) or FRO (Foreigners Registration Officer).[22]

V. LEGAL RIGHTS OF MIGRANT PEOPLE

All persons, regardless of their nationality, race, legal or another status, are entitled to fundamental human rights and basic labour protections, including migrant workers and their families. Migrants are also entitled to certain human rights and protections specifically linked to their vulnerable status.

(A) The Human Rights at Issue

The human rights of migrant workers and their families include the universal, indivisible, interconnected and interdependent human rights, some of which are as under:

   i.   The human right to work and receive wages that contribute to an adequate standard of

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[20] *Infra.*

[21] "Internal Labour Migration in India Raises Integration Challenges for Migrants". 3 March 2014. Available at: http://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/internal-labor-migration-india-raisesintegration-challengesmigrants.

[22] *Ibid.*

living also includes equal pay for equal work. The human right to a standard of living is adequate for the health and well-being of the migrant worker and his or her family. The human right to safe working conditions and a clean and safe working environment, including the right to reasonable limitation of working hours, rest and leisure.[23]

ii. The human right to freedom from discrimination based on race, national or ethnic origin, sex, religion or any other status, in all aspects of work, including in hiring, conditions of work, and promotion, and in access to housing, health care and basic services including right to freedom from sexual harassment in the workplace.

iii. The human right to equality before the law and equal protection of the law, particularly in regard to human rights and labour legislation, regardless of a migrant's legal status.

iv. The human right to freedom from forced labour, the right to return home if the migrant wishes, and also the right of migrants and their families to reunification.

v. The human right to protection against arbitrary expulsion from the State of employment.[24]

(B) International

International human rights apply to all human beings, regardless of immigration status. Everyone – citizen or migrant, documented or undocumented – enjoys basic human rights such as the right to life, liberty, and security of person; freedom from slavery or torture; the right to equal protection of the law and freedom from discrimination; freedom from arbitrary arrest and detention; the presumption of innocence; and freedom of association, religion, and expression.[25] These human rights are protected by international treaties, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).[26] Several treaties specifically address the human rights of migrants, including the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. These treaties outline rights of particular importance to migrants, including due process, family reunification, and asylum.

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[23] Priya Deshingkar and Daniel Start, "Seasonal Migration for Livelihoods in India: Coping, Accumulation and Exclusion" August 2003 at p. 290.

[24] Migration Data Portal, Migrant rights, available at: https://migrationdataportal.org/themes/migrant-rights

[25] Arts B, "Migrating out of Poverty", University of Sussex Falmer, Brighton BN1 9QN, United Kingdom, p. 328.

[26] International Organization for Migration, 2015. How the World Views Migration. Global Migration Data Analysis Centre.

(C) Rules and regulations for immigrants

There are certain acts that have been passed to regularize the process of availing citizenship by foreigners, such as:

1. **The Passport (Entry in India) Act, 1920** – Under this act, the foreigners entering India are required to get a visa from India Missions. The act also prescribes specific documents for submission during their valid travel for allowing into the country.

2. **The Foreigners Act, 1946** – This act regulates the entry and the residence of foreigners within the Indian borders until their departure from the country.

3. **The Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939** and The Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1992 – It mandates that certain foreigners who stay past their specified visa period must register with the Registration Officer.

VI. SUGGESTED MEASURES

Efforts should be made to ensure that the government's migration and development policies are integrated. It is necessary to enforce labour laws more strictly as well as to simplify and modify the laws where necessary. By keeping a record of migrant workers and in partnership with NGOs, panchayats could act as a resource bank for migrant workers in their area. Authority should be created to monitor and negotiate on labour contracts and study the nature of emerging skill requirements for major labour-importing countries.[27]

Institutionalizing mechanisms for interstate coordination; Taking a four-pronged approach that defines the roles and responsibilities of the government, employers, workers and organizations of civil society with the goal of promoting the rights of migrant workers through social dialogue and collective bargaining. Assuring access to social security schemes at the destination, including the public distribution network and subsidized rations.[28]

Accessing housing, water and sanitation; Providing identity documents to migrants, which enables them to open bank accounts and enrol for welfare schemes. Strengthening and/or setting up district facilitation centres, migrant information centres and gender resource centres. Strengthening the role of vigilance committees to guard against bonded labour and child labour. Registering workers by organizing enrolment camps. Providing education and health services at the worksites or seasonal hostels. Providing skills training, in particular for adolescents and young workers. Establishing a universal helpline for migrant workers.

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[27] *Infra.*
[28] International Journal of Current Research and Review DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.31782/1JCRR.2018.10191

Indian missions/embassies should make the recruitment process more transparent; put workers' contact details on the web. Fraud in recruitment by the agencies should be treated as a criminal act and should not be dealt with under the company law. The government should display names of defaulting recruitment agencies and agents on the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) and Indian embassies' websites and protect the interest of potential migrants. The MOIA should declare visa trading a criminal act in India. The Indian government should pay attention to visas issued by the household sector, which cause two problems, a. Migrant workers don't fall under the labour laws of gulf countries and (b) Mostly kafeels demand visa in connivance with the recruitment agencies and both share the profit. Visa issued under households are a major source of visa trading.[29]

VII. CONCLUSION

India has been witnessing a large and diverse flow of internal Migration for the past few decades. Well, we can say that Migration goes hand in hand with growth and development. A strong national strategy that ensures better access to entitlements and basic working conditions will be essential in building a sustainable and equitable pathway to the development of the nation and the progress of our people. There are conflicting views. One view is that Migration adversely affects the welfare of the source areas because of increasing rural to urban Migration in spite of rising urban unemployment, increasing environmental problems, overgrowing of population, and the shortage of urban amenities. Although the available urban opportunities and the rising wage levels in urban areas continue to be the main source of attraction for the migrants, the urban problems and the problem of shortage of labour in rural areas are aggravated more by the accelerating rural to Urban Migration. It is due to this reason that Migration is viewed as adversely affecting the welfare of both the rural as well as the urban areas. The other view is that Migration directly or indirectly takes care of the welfare of rural areas and positively affects urbanization, cultural transformation, and development. Migration is a function of certain objective social conditions operating at the rural source and at the urban destination. Those conditions are generally referred to as rural push and urban pull factors of Migration. The interplay of these push-pull factors plays an important role in determining the flow of out- or in-migration.

Migration is both a separative and additive process. It separates people from the place of origin and adds them to the place of destination. These functions of Migration have important social consequences. The immediate effect of Migration is the separation of individual migrants from

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[29] Arts B, "Migrating out of Poverty", University of Sussex Falmer, Brighton BN1 9QN, United Kingdom, p. 328.

the origin areas. Hence, as Mac Iver stated, society is a web of social relationships. We find this Migration not detachable from this society is an integral part of it, and with the growth and development of the country, the government should try and formulate policies for the welfare of the country and for these migrants as well.

In an increasingly interconnected world, governments are unlikely to be able to solve the many problems posed by international Migration through unilateral approaches only. Source, receiving, and transit countries must all cooperate to manage international Migration.

In conclusion, Migration has always been an important part of livelihoods. This is likely to increase because of the number of new opportunities. Policy-makers should recognize this State of affairs and appreciate the potential and actual contribution of migrants to sustainable development and poverty reduction in host and home areas. Policies should then concentrate not on migrants themselves but rather on ensuring that Migration is a choice and not the only option. This means reducing the constraints which force people to migrate, ensuring that migrants' rights are respected in host areas, and recognizing and supporting migrants' contributions and their rights in home areas.

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