

Indian Migrants in UAE

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Abstract

What is migration? International migration is moving within a state, country moving to a different country or continent. In case of UAE return migration is applied no matter how many years they put into working and striving in the UAE, at some point all of them must return to their home country. This kind of workers remain migrant workers, they are never categorized in the immigrant category as an immigrant who moves to another country intending to settle there permanently. These migrant workers basically work in the construction sector with low income. The United Arab Emirates in 1970s after the discovery of oil formed the principal destination for Indian emigrants in search of better jobs. This article examines the state of Indian emigrant in the UAE. This article examines the situation of Indian migrant workers in UAE. Today Dubai is the home of world's tallest skyscraper, manmade Islands built in shapes of palm and state of art leisure. Today the city would not exist without international migration. Migrant constitutes 80% of the population, it is this workforce who had built the city from the scratch. At the same time these workers have no right for citizenship and no civil rights they live in permanent temporariness.

The strategic location of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) makes it a crucial link between Asia and Europe. UAE is the fastest growing country in the world with their two most popular cities Dubai and Abu Dhabi. Dubai is a world city attracting people from across the world. For centuries the Gulf States occupied an important and convenient position on the sea.

Major thrust came after the discovery of oil in the 1960s and with a handful of the locals it was not easy to carry out economic expansion. This led to a huge influx of workforce which came from India mainly from southern India. Today 56% are Indian nationals residing in the UAE making the largest number of expatriates living in the UAE.

Keywords Globalization, Migrants, Expatriates, Revolutionized, civilization, United Arab Emirates(UAE)

Introduction

The paper explores the role of Indian Expatriates in the development of Dubai, the contribution of Indian Diaspora in expanding the economic growth of UAE. India and UAE are each other's largest partners in trade; both countries have flourishing relations. For India UAE comes as the most favored nation. The contribution is not just limited to the labour workforce, but also Indian business tycoons are major players in the economic growth of UAE. UAE based Indian business leaders include Micky Jagtiani, owner of The Landmark Group, Yusuf Ali owner of EMKE, group popularly known as the LuLu Supermarkets which today have marked their presence across the UAE and the wider GCC nations, Vidya M. Chabria owner of The Jumbo Group and others top the list. The Indian Migration increased only after the discovery of oil in 1960s. The Indian community is increasing day by day.

The 21st century is the age of Globalization. Globalization is a universal phenomenon of our century. Globalization affects the international migration of workers and increases international travels. Today the world has become a global village now all the continents are well connected, and this new age has revolutionized this new phase of communication. Migration is a process and outcome of globalization. The twentieth century has seen a huge movement of population from one country to another. The beginning of any civilization leads to migration and this form of migration is inevitable for any civilization to grow and thrive. Migrant is a person who migrates to another country for better job opportunities. Migrants are people who move from one country to another with the permission of their government. Migrants never lose their citizenship and they remain a second class citizen in the country

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they work. They have the right to come back to their countries without any permission. They can continue to practice their political and civil rights even if they live in another country. Migrant is the citizen of a particular country.

The migrants are assets to both receiving and sending countries. The receiving countries are benefiting by the contribution of work they do and help them in expanding their economy. The sending country receives the remittances sent by them back home and invests in the real estate sector. The remittances sent by them play an important role in the economies of India. There are twenty million Indian migrants in the world.

Dubai and Abu Dhabi are important cities for India in terms of employment, gas, crude oil, and petroleum. So, it makes it clear these cities play an important role in the economic growth of both countries India & UAE. The UAE is an important destination for the Indian workforce to seek better employment opportunities. The first wave of Indian migration to UAE came after the oil prices increase in 1973 with the increase in revenue the government launched a massive investment program to address this need of manpower and expertise. Therefore, they needed more work force; the only aim of these workers is to earn and save money to have a better life back home. The Indian migrant from UAE remits 50% to 60% of their earnings to India. They remain second class citizens and their connection back home is strong and most of the earnings are spent back home in their country. The dependency on foreign expertise and workers is quite significant. These thousands of workers from India migrated into these countries just for better jobs but they go through severe hardships during their stay. They are underprivileged people and highly inspired by the high currency of the UAE.

Objective of the Study

The aim of this paper is to focus Indian Migration to the Gulf particularly to the UAE. The case of Dubai is fascinating as it grew remarkably had hyper consumerism, massive immigrations vertiginous quality where the world first wealth for citizens and professional expatriate workers comes from the sub-continent in a forest of construction claims proclaiming the desert and the sea.

The study / papers aims to explore the impact of the dependency of the UAE on foreign workers and expertise, the living and working conditions of the labour force, reasons why the workers opt to migrate to the region, where the Indian Diaspora stands in terms of economic and social status in the UAE, at the same time this massive exodus of people and expertise in to the UAE can and in many instances has been a great tool to expand the Indo-UAE relationship, exchange of technologies benefitting and effecting mutual growth and development.

The study also delves into the relationship and economic development of both countries, recognizing and enhancing the social and economic value of Indian nationals migrating to the UAE, the importance of the Indian Diaspora in expanding the economic growth of the UAE and India.

Indians play a vital role in their host country as well as in their homeland. The study aims to understand the term Diaspora meaning "scattering" derived from the Greek word refers to the dispersion / amalgamation of members / society into other areas and permanently becoming part of that specific area. In the case of Dubai, the arriving migrants / workforce are all the time in search of an identity and remain deeply rooted to their own homelands. Their status remains an expatriate and their existence always remains temporary while in the case of most other countries one naturally becomes a citizen naturally and enjoys all civil rights. The workforce and expertise in the UAE are only as good as they can contribute to the economy and offer growth, these are expendable in nature and more often than not there are cases where people are made redundant and sent back to their countries once they cease to produce the desired results at work. This lack of permanency even shapes the lives of the expatriate during their work stint in the UAE.

Dubai deals with two kinds of classes, the working professional class and

the labourers, though in spite of lack of permanence, they stick to their jobs and shape their lives by a constant three years visa renewal system. Dubai is a state of temperance. There are many classes of expatriates in the UAE. These categories can be divided into intellectual workers, professors who play at a high position in the field of academics. Then the working-class engineers, professional workers, in the government sector as well as in the multinational companies.

Present Position of Indian Migrants in the UAE

There is a huge population of Indians in the UAE. The migration of workers started in the 1960s. India is one of the largest migrant sending countries in south Asia. In the UAE two thirds of the labour force migrated from India. India has been the source of supply of workers in all sectors, specifically the construction sector-manual workers, semi-skilled and skilled workers. Most workers come from poor backgrounds and come from rural India.

Most of them have agricultural land back home and their families completely depend on the remittances sent by them. Only a small number of migrants come from educated and well-off families like the doctor, engineers, bankers, chartered accountants, and college teachers. The total number of Indians working in the UAE is 1.4 million according to the latest government figures. 46% of the workers in the UAE are Indians. Most of the workers come from the southern state of Kerala approximately 35%, followed by other states such as Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar. In UAE foreigners constitute 99% of the labour force, which Indians are a sizable number. Over 35% of Indian workers in the UAE are engaged in manufacturing, transport, and related professions. While 20% engaged in the professional and technical field.

Table1
Sending Migrants by Indian States to UAE

S.No	Indian States	State wise Percentage of Migrant Contribution
1	Kerala	25.82
2	Tamil Nadu	23.2
3	Andhra Pradesh	21.32
4	Uttar Pradesh	22.4
5	Karnataka	20.1

Sources: Milli Gazette, New Delhi.

Conclusion

UAE is a kingdom of young country, youth freshness and fast development regions. The United Arab Emirates is an Islamic State and governed by Islamic Laws but in the past there have been cases of exploitation by the employer to their employees without the knowledge of the Government. The UAE allows any employers to do such kind of activities. Despite some difficulties faced by workers, the UAE remains heaven on earth for Indian workers. The Indians are an asset to UAE as well to India. In UAE the number of Indian professionals is increasing and contributing to the economic growth. Indian migrants play a vital role in the development of UAE. Indian migrants play a positive role in enhancing India's bilateral relations between UAE and India.

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