

Occupational Choice of Return Migrants: A Case Study of Selected Return Migrants

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Abstract:

The economic factor plays an important role in the migration of individual from one place to another place. Return migration is a recent phenomenon. This research article is based on the primary data collected by the investigator in Bantwal and Mangaluru taluk of Dakshina Kannada district of Karnataka. The study finds out the income and occupational choices of the return migrants.

Keywords: return migration, occupational choice.

INTRODUCTION:

Migration is a process where the population redistribution takes place. Migration takes place for various reasons. The important factor in the modern era for migration is an economic factor. There are various other reasons for the migration of people from one place to another. They are social, political, geographical, environmental, cultural and miscellaneous factor. Voluntary migration is a means which helps to achieve the migrant his goals and protect his interests. In recent decade globalization is a buzz word which influences the international migration. Migration of labour influences the socio- economic development of a country. Indian constitution provides freedom for individuals to move from one place to another within the country. It is right of an individual to move and settle anywhere in India. In India people migrate for the reason of wage difference between the places. The citizens of India have migrated to other country for the reason of education and mainly in search of job. Better opportunities and higher wages enable them to raise their standard of living in the present and to save more for the future. Most of the migration to different countries is temporary in nature either do not want to or because they are not allowed to. There are few scholars made an attempt to define the return migration. Return migration can be defined as a migratory movement when people return to their place of origin after spending a significant period of time in another country (King, 2000). This has been a relatively neglected area in the research of international migration. (Czaika and Varela, 2012). In general return migration has been

studied mainly as a sub-process of international migration. Returning migrants are assumed to bring with them additional human capital, while migrants' remittances often help to ease poverty and provide a means of investment in small and medium size businesses in the presence of capital constraints.

ORIGIN OF THE RESEARCH PROBLEM:

Return migration is one part of the several phases of migration. In India, if we look back to the history the great leaders of independence movement had themselves been emigrants and later returned to India. The leaders went for the higher education to abroad and had work experience. But later, these migrants came back to home country (Aurelie Varrel).

The six countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) – Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Unites Arab Emirates have been major destinations for emigrant workers from India (Kumar2014).For migrants in the Gulf countries, permanent immigration is not an option for various political and legal reasons, so 'temporary migration' is the dominant form of migration.

The migrated people have their own problem because of the sudden change in the global economy. Global recession led the migrants to return their home country due to unemployment the policies promoting the native employment i.e. 'Nitaqat'. The process of 'Nitaqat' i.e. localization of jobs in the gulf countries has further added the magnitude of return migrants.

LITERATURE REVIEW AND FINDINGS OF THE LITERATURE REVIEW:

There are various scholars who have done their research on return migration. Nassar (1991) G.M. Arif and M. Irfan (1997) Nadeem Illahi (1999) Konig's (2000) Rolf Sternberg and Claudia Müller (2005) and many more have done their study at the international level most of them based on the secondary data. In India Kerala has highest literatures regarding the return migration related to Kerala return migrants.

The findings of the literature review helps to understand that migrants' savings and remittances behavior while abroad shown to be an important avenue for understanding the occupational choices of the return migrants, particularly their choice of becoming either self employed or wage employed. The choosing between the occupations is influenced by the return migrants' savings, educational status and remittances. It should also be

note that there are few returnees who want to be non participant in any of the economic activity either because they are retired or they don't find the suitable job in the home country. Most of the young returnees from the Gulf countries are active either they will be in the private sector or self employed. Once again choosing between these is decided by the salary what they get in particular sector.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

- To find out the socio economic background of the return migrants
- To know the duration of temporary stay of the gulf return migrants
- To find out the occupational choice of return migrant
- To understand the reasons for return migration

METHODOLOGY:

The study area includes Bantwal and Mangaluru taluk. In this area many people migrated to the Gulf countries and came back to the home place. The particular study tries to find out the occupational choice of these return migrants through the primary data. The sample size is 25. Primary data is collected through the questionnaire which includes the questions relating to their age at the time of migration and at the time of return, educational status and occupation at three stages i.e. before the migration, at the time of migration and after the return from host countries and the income level after the return from host country.

Occupational choice is the process of economic development. While analyzing the occupational choice of the return migrants, it is important to consider the availability of choices to them. In the present study the people who are not participated in economic activity after the return is also included to know the reason behind why the returnees are not participating in the economic activity.

SOCIO- ECONOMIC BACKGROUND OF THE RETURNEES:

AGE STRUCTURE OF THE RETURN MIGRANTS:

Data relating to distribution of migrants according to age groups presented in the following table.

Table 1.1: Age group of the return migrants at the time of return migration:

Age group	Number of people	Percentage	Male	Female
Below 30	02	8	2	0
31-35	04	16	2	2
36-40	08	32	5	3
41-45	08	32	7	1
Above 46	03	12	2	1
Total	25	100	18	7

From the above table it obvious that majority of the population belonging to the age category of 36 to 40 and 41-45 years has returned to the home country i.e.32 per cent. 16 per cent of the respondents are belonging to the age category of 31 to 35 years. 12 percent are belonging to the age category of above 46 years and only 8 per cent belonging to the category of below 30 years of age. As gender if we consider, then the migration among male members is greater than female. 72 per cent of male have migrated to gulf country, which is nearer to 3/4th of the sample size population.

Table 1.2: Age of the return migrants at the time of migration:

Age group	Number of people	Percentage of return migrants	Male	Female
> 20 years	02	8	2	0
20- 25	16	64	11	5
26-30	05	20	3	2
Above 31	02	8	2	0
Total	25	100	18	7

Table-1(a) presents the data about the age of the return migrants at the time of migration to the Gulf countries. It evident from the data the percentage of migration is high among the category of the returnees who belong to the age category of 20-25 years. More than 70 per cent of the respondents migrated to the Middle East countries at the young age i.e. below the age of 25 years. 20 per cent of the return migrants migrated to the Gulf countries at the age of 26 to 30 years and less portion of the return migrants i.e. 8 per cent have moved to Gulf countries at their age above 31 years. The study also reveals that the tendency to migrate for gulf country is higher among the youth.

EDUCATIONAL STATUS:

The following data shows the educational status of the return migrants.

Table 1.3: Educational qualification of the return migrants

Education Level	Total number of migrants	Percentage	Male	Female
Primary (1-4)	4	16	2	2
Higher Primary (5-8)	13	52	11	2
High school (9-10)	6	24	5	1
PUC	2	8	0	2
Total	25	100	18	7

Source: Field Survey Data

The above table shows that, 16 per cent of the respondents have not even completed the primary education level, 52 per cent studied only up to the higher primary level and 24 per cent had education up to high school. Remaining 8 per cent respondents studied up to the pre university level education. Study shows that proportion of primary education level return migrants higher than other. The table shows that even though many of them have not completed the high school education they have gone to abroad to earn better amount and increase the standard of living.

DURATION OF THE STAY:

The duration of stay influences the socio economic condition of the migrants as well as their family members.

Table 1.4: Duration of stay on the basis of Gender

Duration	No. of respondents	Percentage	Male	Female
Less than 3 years	4	16	2	2
4 to 6 years	18	72	14	4
More than 7 years	3	12	2	1

The study also found that the 16% of the people stayed in the abroad for less than three years. 72% of the people were there in abroad for four to six years and remaining 12% of the population stayed back in Gulf countries for more than 5 years.

OCCUPATIONAL CHOICES:

The occupational choice of return migrants is important to their home country. Return migrants are likely to have acquired human capital while abroad, either through formal training or by working in a more efficient labor market. The employment of these newly acquired skills in the home country can have important economic implications.

For the purpose of study, occupational choice of the return migrants divided into three categories i.e. Non-participant, Wage employed and self employed. The following table provides the economic activity of the return migrants.

Table 1.5: The economic activity of the return migrants at three periods

PERIOD	Gender	NON - PARTICIPANT	WAGE EMPLOYMENT	SELF EMPLOYMENT	Total
BEFORE MIGRATION	Male	1	17	0	18
	Female	4	3	0	7
AT THE TIME OF MIGRATION	Male	0	18	0	18
	Female	0	7	0	7
RETURN MIGRATION	Male	2	14	2	18
	Female	1	6	0	7

Source: Field Survey data

The field study shows that before migration the people who were considered as non participant was 20% and 80% of the population was engaged in the wage employment. At the time of migration all the people were engaged in the wage employment activity and most of them have enrolled themselves in the low skilled jobs. The study reveals that, 8% of the respondents have enrolled in self employment due to the longer stay in Gulf country. It is important that the duration of stay will influence the occupational choice of the migrants. The 20% of the population engaged in the wage employment. The remaining 12% are not engaged in the wage employment activity because of the health issues and higher amount of savings. While comparing the statistics of the period of before migration and after return to home country, the occupational choice of the selected migrants shows that there is a reduction in the wage employment and increase in the percentage of self employment.

COMPARISON OF INCOME LEVEL OF THE RETURN MIGRANTS:

The study reveals that better wages in the host country made the selected returnees to move Gulf countries. Before the migration many of the returnees were either not participated in any of the activity or they were working for the less wage in the home country.

Table 1.6: income level of the return migrants before the migration:

INCOME LEVEL	Number of male respondent	Number of female respondent
Less than5,0000	10	
5,000 to 10,000	7	2
10,000 to 20,000	-	1
Total	17	3

The above table reveals that most of the respondents were earning their wage below Rs 5000 which is approximately 40%. 36% of them were earning between 5,000 rupees to 10,000. And only one individual was earning between 10,000 to Rs 20,000.

Table 1.7: Income level of the respondents at the time of migration

INCOME LEVEL	Number of male respondent	Number of female respondent
Less than10,0000	-	-
10,000- 20,000	2	3
20,000- 30,000	13	4
30,000-40,000	3	-
Total	18	7

The above table reveals that many of the respondents were earning between 20,000 to 30,000 which constitute 68 per cent of the population. This table shows that the wage differences between the home and host country is the main reason for migration of individual to Gulf country. So economic factor can be considered as push factor for the migration. 20 per cent of the migrated population was earning between 10,000 to 20,000. And remaining respondents were earning above 30,000.

Table 1.8: Income level of the respondent after the return from Gulf country

INCOME LEVEL	Number of male respondent	Number of female respondent
Less than10,000	3	2
10,000 to 15,000	11	4
15,000 to 20,000	2	
Total	16	6

The above table reveals that the majority of the return migrants earn between 10,000- 15,000. i.e. 60 percent. 20 per cent are belonging to the category of less than 10,000. 8 percent of the return migrants are earning between 15,000- 20,000. 12 per cent of the respondent did not take part in any of the activity because of the remittances and the savings of abroad.

REASONS FOR RETURN MIGRATION:

The people migrate to other places in search of jobs and to improve the standard of living which is an economic factor. But it is not necessary that people return to their home country because of economic reason. Most of the time a non- economic reason which plays an important role while they return to their home country.

The occupational choice of migrants when they return is influenced by the form of migration, the duration of the migration and the reason for return. There are various reasons why they have returned to their home country. 40% of the population returned to the home country because of the contract was expired. 24% of the population condition at home required their presence. 20% was not happy with the life of Gulf country because of isolation and work pressure. Remaining 16% of them have given the reason of children' education.

Mohd Imran Khan in his study says the people have come back to the home country because of many reasons. The majority of the people returned to their home country with non economic reason. Majority of the returnees have given a reason of marriage, migration of earning member and socio- political problem in the host country.

The particular study conducted also says that, majority of the people returned to their home country because of the non economic reason.

STAY IN ABROAD:

Most of the respondents have considered their stay in abroad was successful because when they were in abroad either they have purchased property, constructed new house or purchased valuable items or durables. The 80% of returnees have considered their stay at abroad is a successful one because the migration to Gulf countries have raised their standard of living. 12% of the returnees did not feel much difference and remaining 8% of them consider their stay in abroad as a failure one because of the early return to the home country which made them to spend more than received income.

CONCLUSION:

There is a relation between the return migrants and occupational choice of the return migrants. Most of the people migrated to Gulf countries which is 'temporary in nature' because of the pull factors specially the economic factor. Thought of migration came into many of the return migrants either because of their economic condition at home country or their family and friends were doing well in the Gulf countries. They have spent amount either by taking loan or the family savings. The study reveals that the factors like duration of the stay and the educational factor decides the occupational choice among the selected return migrants. It is also found that the people with low level income and educational level turned into work in the wage employment activity.

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