

Illegal Immigration from Haryana to Overseas: A Sociological Analysis

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Since the very inception of human civilization, it has been a human tendency to migrate from place to place due to several factors. Nowadays, a large number of young Indians are going abroad specifically to the USA and some European countries through illegal means. Punjab has the highest number of such illegal immigrants and now such patterns are on the rise in Haryana also. Thus, keeping in view the above, the present paper is an attempt to study the problems as well as the impact of Illegal immigration from Haryana to the United States of America and Europe. The paper is empirical in nature and is based on primary data collected from the families of the respondents with the help of families of the migrants through interview schedule and the migrants through virtual mode. The key findings of the study reveal that the person of the younger generation irrespective of their gender & economic position are rushing towards the USA and European countries in order to secure their future. It has become a fashion to go to the USA via illegal means. The finding show reveals that the family structure of such migrants is being adversely affected.

Keywords: donkey system, migration, employment, youth, family, refugee

Since time immemorial, humans had the tendency to remain on the move and settle due to several reasons such as the search for fertile land and natural resources, natural calamities, pandemics, war, discrimination, and anticipation of a better life etc. In this manner, the history of migration from one place to another is worldwide in nature. If we attempt to see from a historical lens, we will find that very early to Jesus Christ, Aryans came from the Middle East and settled in India. In the Middle age, Jews and Arabs settled in Europe, English and French people in North America and Australia, Spanish, and Portuguese settled in South America. But a movement from one place to another for a short span is not considered migration rather it is the settlement of a permanent nature. There are many types of migration such as long term-short term, political, economic, religious and social, etc.

The movement of people between regions or countries is known as migration. It is known as the process of change in place of residence of a person or group and permanently living in a region or country. As per the Demographic Dictionary of the United Nations, "Migration is such an event in which people move from one geographical area to another geographical area. When people leave their place of residence and go to live permanently in another area then this is called migration."

Types of Migration

Immigration and Emigration: When a person moves permanently

from one country to another country is known as immigration and the person in his own country will be known as an Immigrant for example the movement of a person from India to Spain will be known as Immigration and for India, it will be termed as emigration.

In-migration and Out-migration: Both In-migration and out-migration are types of internal migration i.e. migration occurring within a country. In-migration is a migration occurring within a specific area only whereas migration out of the area is known as out-migration. For example, migration of people from Haryana to Delhi will be in-migration for Delhi region and out-migration for Haryana.

Gross and Net Migration: Gross migration is the migration whereby the total number of persons coming into the country and the total number of people going out of the country is called gross migration. Here, the difference between the total number of persons migrating into a country and migrating out of the country for residing during any time period is accounted as net migration.

Internal Migration and External Migration: In internal migration, there remains the movement of people in different states and regions within a country. Whereas, in the external, which is also known as international migration, the movement of people remains from one country to another for permanent settlement.

Some Allied Concepts of Migration

- *Migration Stream:* Migration stream means the total number of people migrating from one region to another or from one country to another for residing during a time period.
- *Migration Interval:* Migration may occur continuously over a period of time. But to measure it correctly, the data should be divided into intervals of one to five or more years. The division relating to a particular period is known as the migration interval.
- *In-migrants and Out-migrants:* The place which people leave is the place of origin and the person is called an out-migrant. On the other hand, the place of destination is the place where the person moves and the person is called an in-migrant.

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- A person who has to move to another country due to some problem in their native country/ home is termed a refugee.

Illegal Immigration

Illegal migration is the movement of people from one country into another country by violating legal methods. The persons illegally entering a country without legal means are known as Illegal immigrants or undocumented immigrants.

Factors Leading to Illegal Immigration

There are several pull and push factors responsible for illegal immigration are as follows:

Pull Factors

- Employment and business opportunities
- Healthy work environment
- Good lifestyle
- Better Educational Facilities
- Means of entertainment
- High-quality health facilities
- Kins and relatives settling abroad

Push Factors

- Lack of employment opportunities
- Low income and poverty
- Discrimination based on socio-economic, political, cultural, and religion
- Overpopulation
- War and external aggression
- Internal disturbance
- Lack of entertainment facilities

Review of Literature

The process of immigration to the US is not new and many scholars, from India and outside have conducted research from time to time. In this regard, the study of Bratsberg (1995) indicates that in the last two decades, both legal and illegal types of immigration to the US have increased. There has been recorded additional growth of one lac to three lac in the US population from 1980 to 1986. Even after passing the Immigration Regulation of 1986, the flow of illegal immigration is on the rise. Pramanik (2005) found that immigration to developed countries like the US has given rise to many problems related to cultural identity, political participation, safety and security of persons and property, human rights, terrorism, and many more. Porter (2006) reveals that the availability of better employment opportunities, amenable work environments, and health facilities have developed a sense of attraction among the youth for immigration to the US. As per the report of the Federal Reserve (2003) 9.7 million employment opportunities have been added to the US economy and in that 5.6 million were non-US. Sahi (2012) reveals that as per the report of MPI (Migration policy institutes) 2021, 2.7 million people of Indian origin are living in the USA, and in that 63297 Indian citizens (20000 from Punjab) reached the US border without any legal document for seeking refuge. The majority of the people were of 21-30 years of age group and of rural background. As per Kapuria (2019) Punjab is one of those Indian states which is contributed to international immigration from time immemorial. As per an estimate. There are about 5 million Punjabi people abroad and the majority belongs to the rural area. During the

decade of 1980, many push factors such as higher cost of agriculture, indebtedness, desire for earning more money, and suicide by persons engaged in agricultural activities compelled the youth for tracing opportunities in developed countries. On the other hand, Bah (2022) describes some of the push factors such as socio-economic discrimination, violation of human rights, poverty, environmental degradation, lack of resources, conflict, and violence have excelled the youth for immigration to developed countries even though smuggling mode. Apart from the fear of deportation, the immigrants in the US remain deprived of many civic amenities including health and legal aid etc. Due to illegal immigration to the US, there many social problems have been on the rise such as human trafficking, prostitution, drug peddling, theft, and sexual exploitation etc.

Method

The present paper is an attempt to study the problems as well as the impact of Illegal immigration from Haryana to the United States of America. It is based on the descriptive and analytical types of research design and in that 40 respondents from whose families illegal immigration has taken place, have been sampled from Kaul, Cheeka in Kaithal district, Nising in Karnal, and Pehowa in Kurukshetra district of Haryana have been sampled purposively sampled. Because as per Immigration agents, these places have the highest immigration rate in Haryana. The relevant data has been collected with the help of an interview schedule. Apart from this, the respondents have arranged some virtual interviews of the Emigrants.

Significance of the Study

Though migration is a demographic event, its direct or indirect long-term effects may be on the socioeconomic and cultural development of any region or country. The Migration depicts various trends and changes in society. Keeping in view, the present paper will be useful in having an understanding of the process, mode, and effects of illegal migration from India to the USA. The study of migration is of vital importance in determining the size and structure of the population, and growth rate as well as in determining the distribution of population and supply of labour in the country. The paper will draw the attention of the sociologist, law, and policymakers to assess the problem of illegal migration from India to not only the USA but also to Europe and other regions and help them trace amicable solutions. Thus, the study of migration is also useful for formulating economic and other policies by the government, economists, sociologists, politicians, and planners along with demographers

Findings

The core findings of the study are as under:

The data reveals that the majority of the respondents (77.5%) who have sent their children/wards to the USA through illegal immigration are from a rural background, engaged in agricultural and allied activities, living in joint families, and having two or more children. The age group of the majority is 50-60 years (67%), and income of the more than half of the respondents (57.5%) is 6-8 lakh per annum. About one-third of the respondents have sent their son followed by 27%, and about 47.5% immigrated by Donkey route (via Mexico) whereas 37.5% through other means i.e. through tourist and/or study Visa. As reported by the respondents, the age of the majority of the emigrants (77.5%) is 20-30 years and the same number are unmarried, and male in gender. Regarding the cost of immigration, 60% of respondents have reported that an amount of

Rs.15-30 lakh has been incurred therein and about two third have advanced some loan from outside while one-third have arranged the amount by selling the immovable property. Most of the emigrants have been caught by the securities agencies of the USA, put in jail or camps, and later released on bond bail. Now, the majority of the emigrants have been reported to earn Rs.1.5-2.5 lakh per month by doing work in departmental stores, packaging firms, on petrol pumps, restaurants, manual labour, construction labourer, taxi and truck driving, delivery person, and such like other, etc. The majority have to work for 12-14 hours daily to earn by doing overtime as well. Apart from this, most are living in shared accommodations and used to do their household work (including food preparation) on a sharing basis.

Regarding the impact, it has been noticed that due to the immigration in large numbers, in the USA the rate of wages has gone down i.e. from 16 dollars/hour to around 9 dollars/hour. This is also resulting in a lack of availability of work to the emigrants and they have to go far from their residences for that. The majority of the emigrants have been found to be financially exploited in case of wages. Some parents have sought loans from indigenous bankers on higher rates of interest (from 24-36%) and the amount being sent by the emigrants is not enough to meet their debt as only interest is met out from that. The problem of isolation, cultural shock, racial discrimination, and the fear of deportation have also been reported. Another aspect is that the emigrants are becoming overaged from their marriageable age.

Conclusion

On the basis of the analysis of the facts traced out from the data collected, it may be concluded that in Haryana, the trends of illegal migration to the US and other countries have more reflection on the area or region adjoining Punjab. Because Punjab has the highest number of illegal immigrants. This is on the higher side in the land-owning caste/communities which even do not hesitate to sell their agricultural land for that. There are impacts on the family structure of the respondents as the marriageable age is being crossed by the male emigrants for many reasons. Some girl emigrants are eager to marry outside the region/caste and culture as well. The practice of Watta-Satta i.e. exchange marriage followed by the Ror community (which has the highest rate of immigration in Haryana) in the strict sense is getting diluted. The demographic structure of the country of immigration is also affected. As per Govt. reports, for the last two years, the enrolment rate of students in Higher Educational Institute in the area under study is declining as the youth is keen to rush to the US and Europe. The agents are minting money by smuggling people and there is no check upon that. There mushrooming growth of immigration centers can be noticed in the small towns of the area of the study and they are exploiting the people and sometimes do also cheat innocent people in the name of work Visa and PR. The Govt.

and law enforcement agencies should take this problem into account and the immigration centers should be brought under legal scanner.

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