

“BRAIN DRAIN AND CAUSE FOR DEPARTING ABROAD”

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ABSTRACT

In this research paper, author studies the factors that affect the decision of students going abroad for higher studies. The tendency to migrate from one place to another is probably as old as the history of humankind. In primitive societies, such migration took place due to several factors, like adverse climatic conditions, displacement due to war, insurgency or local feuds, religious/ethnic persecution, or merely for economic reasons. In modern times, people migrate due to numerous reasons, including the above-stated ones. It is now widely referred to as the phenomenon of migration of highly skilled or educated people of one country to settle down and work in another country in order to improve their economic conditions. It is to be noted that the term brain drain is used in case of when migration of highly skilled and educated occurs due to economic reasons, When this migration is seen to be almost permanent and harmful for the country from where people are leaving, When skilled and educated people of a country, from where people are leaving, is already in deficit of such kind of manpower. The researcher concludes that the primary reasons for going abroad are for better job prospects and quality of education.

KEYWORDS: *Brain Drain, Higher Education, Better Job Prospects and Quality of Education*

INTRODUCTION

INDIA has seen a consistently high rate of economic growth in the recent years. It has now become a major player in the global knowledge economy. Skill-based activities have made a significant contribution to this growth. Such activities depend on the large pool of qualified manpower that is fed by its large higher education system. It is now widely accepted that higher education has been critical to India's emergence in the global knowledge economy. Yet, it is believed that a crisis is plaguing the Indian higher education system. While, the National Knowledge Commission (NKC) set up by the Prime Minister calls it a 'quiet crisis', the Human Resource Minister calls higher education 'a sick child'. Industries routinely point towards huge skill shortages and are of the opinion that growth momentum may not be sustained unless the problem of skill shortages is addressed. There appear to be endless problems with the Indian higher education system. The higher education system produces graduates that are unemployable, though there are mounting skill shortages in a number of sectors. The standards of academic research are low and declining. An unwieldy affiliating system, inflexible academic structure, uneven capacity across subjects, eroding the autonomy of academic institutions, low level of public funding, archaic and dysfunctional regulatory environment are some of its many problems. Finally, it is widely held that it suffers from several systemic deficiencies and is driven by populism, and in the absence of reliable data, there is little informed public debate.

Recent Developments in Indian Higher Education

Higher education has received a lot of attention in India over the past few years. There are four reasons for this recent focus. First, country's weak higher education system is being blamed for skill shortages in several sectors of the economy. Second, reservation quotas in higher education institutions, particularly the more reputed ones that provide access to high status and best-paid jobs became a highly divisive issue, central to the policy of inclusive growth and distributive justice, and hence politically very important. Third, in the backdrop of the first two developments, it began to be argued that the country would not be able to sustain its growth momentum and maintain competitiveness unless problems with higher education are fixed. Last, demand for higher education continues to outpace the supply due to growing population of young people, gains in school education, the growing middle class, and their rising aspirations. It is widely believed that technological advances and a shift in demographic provide India with a window of opportunity to productively engage its huge pool of human resources, and become a leader in both the rapidly expanding sectors of services and highly skilled manufacturing. This would, however, require revamping the higher education sector. Hence many steps have been taken to augment supply, improve quality and fix many of the problems faced by higher education. Many new institutions have been planned and some of them are already operational. This research details the results of a survey of students regarding their orientation towards higher studies abroad.

Research Objectives

To study the factors that affect the decision of students going abroad for higher studies.

Research Hypothesis

Primary reasons for going abroad are better job prospects and quality of education.

Research Methodology

For any research; deciding the sample size and sampling technique is an important part. There are various methods for deciding the sample size. For this study, the data collection was done by web-based survey and the sample size is 147 students through the direct filling of the online questionnaire by the respondents with the help of Google Docs application. A web-based survey was suitable for this study because it could reach a wide audience anytime and anywhere (Neuman, 2004). It was 'the most efficient method of data collection considering their time and constraints', because it had a minimal financial impact and could collect store responses more accurately (Lokken et al., 2003, p. 128). To analyze all the data different techniques has been used by the researcher which mainly includes regression analysis and cross tabulation. For this, SPSS v16.0 software package has been used. With the help of obtained results, interpretation is done. From all analysis, the conclusion is made with respect to the objective of the research.

DATA ANALYSIS

Cross Tabulation between Gender VS Planning to Go Abroad for Higher Studies

Table 1: Cross Tabulation

		Are You Planning to Go Abroad for Higher Studies? [yes-1, no-2]		Total
		Yes	NO	
Gender[male 1, female 2]	Male	82	32	114
	Female	21	12	33
Total		103	44	147

From the above table, the researcher observed that 114/147 whose gender is male and 82/114 male are planning to go abroad for higher studies. It was also observed that 33/147 whose gender is female and 21/33 are planning to go abroad for higher studies. So researcher concludes that irrespective of gender students are interested to go abroad for higher studies.

Hypothesis

Primary reasons for going abroad are better job prospects and quality of education.

Table 2: Regression Model

Sr. No.	Parameters	Beta Value
1	Constant	1.513
2	Better Job prospect (X1)	0.349
3	Better life style(X2)	0.130
4	Quality of education (X3)	0.335
5	Social status (X4)	0.132

Interpretation:

The regression equation which we found out from the above analysis is as follows:

$$Y = 1.513 + 0.349x_1 + 0.130x_2 + 0.335x_3 + 0.132x_4$$

Where x_1 =better job prospects.

x_2 =better lifestyle.

x_3 =quality of education.

x_4 =social status.

Here researcher observed that the coefficient for better job prospect and quality of education are comparatively higher, so the two major factors for going abroad are better job prospects ie x_1 followed by quality of education ie x_3 . The researcher also observed that the least important factor for going abroad are better lifestyle ie x_2 followed by social status ie x_4 . It means that students are mostly interested to go abroad for better job prospect and quality of education. Hence researcher accepts the hypothesis that primary reasons for going abroad are better job prospects and quality of education.

CONCLUSIONS

The term, 'brain drain' refers to the phenomenon of migration of highly skilled or educated people of one country to settle down and work in another country in order to improve their economic conditions. Migration of skilled manpower from the developing countries to the West has badly affected the industrialization efforts of poor countries. Some people say that people generally leave abroad due to their selfish behavior. However, it is documented that people leave their motherland and their dear ones due to assorted reasons, including the Cataclysmic, economic and political ones. Unchecked brain drain bears implications both for the developed and developing countries. The salient implications of brain drain for developing countries include declined output, poor quality of goods and services, inequitable transfer of the third world resources to the first world rich countries, distressful family relations and privation in the social order. On the other hand, developed countries get highly skilled and educated emigrants free of cost. Other advantages of brain drain for rich countries include improvement in productivity (both quantitative and qualitative), increased receipts of Taxes and smoother adjustment of these people in their adopted country. There is a dire need to check this menace by taking assorted, yet concerted efforts. Salient measures to constrain the tendency of brain drain include the provision of adequate employment opportunities, career and professional development, improved environment, and living conditions, the revival of democratic disposition at national as well as organizational levels, and involvement of world agencies to check this trend. Finally, the young and the experienced professionals ought to be Reminded of their ethical and emotional obligations to their own people, who have sponsored their education and livelihood in one way or other. 'Young, well-educated, healthy individuals are most likely to migrate, especially in pursuit of higher education and economic improvement.' (Awases et.al. 2003) and (Mejía, 1979). From the study, the researcher found the major reason for going abroad are better job prospect and quality of education.

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