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# South Asia Centre for Labour Mobility and Migrants (SALAM)

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## Content

### Meetings

- The University of California (UC Berkeley)-SALAM collaboration was formally launched on October 13, 2022.
- The Executive Committee Meeting of SALAM was conducted online on October 18, 2022.
- SALAM Advisory Committee Meeting was conducted online on January 12, 2023.

### International Workshops

- SALAM organized an online International Workshop on Dec 13 – Dec 17, 2022. The title of the workshop was “Researching Labour Migration in South Asia: Data, Methods and Theory”.

### Public Lectures

- Dr.Sanchita Baneerjee, Executive Director, UC Berkeley (USA), delivered a public lecture in IIPS, Mumbai, on 20th December 2022.

### SALAM Lecture series

- The 8<sup>th</sup> Lecture Series, titled “Were the Expenditure Levels of Internal or International migrants in Bangladesh more resilient to COVID-19”, was held on September 2, 2022.
- The 9<sup>th</sup> Lecture Series on “Labour Migration Agreements: Good Practices, Opportunities & Challenges” were held October 20, 2022.
- The 10<sup>th</sup> Lecture Series, titled “Overview and Process of the Skills Passport of Sri Lanka”, was held on November 14, 2022
- The 11<sup>th</sup> Lecture Series “Forging a Feminist Labor Migration Policy: The Philippine Context” on December 7, 2022
- The 12<sup>th</sup> Lecture Series on “Migration, Entrepreneurship, and Trade” was conducted on January 12, 2023.

### SALAM Activities

- Participation in XXVII IIPS National Seminar 2023, Bengaluru on 23– 5 February, 2023.

### Research

- Article on ‘Youth Emigration Punjab to Canada, Trends and Patterns’ by Ananya Barman, Intern, IIPS, Mumbai.
- Short Article on ‘Role of Internal and External Remittances on Flows and Changes in Rural Society in Pakistan’ by Ms. Huma Arshad, Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU), Islamabad.

## Meetings

### I. Formal Launch of University of California (UC) Berkley - SALAM Collaboration on October 13, 2022

The inauguration of the Climate Change Initiative, which marked a significant milestone in the ongoing battle against climate change, was held virtually on October 13, 2022. The webinar, jointly organized by the Institute for South Asia Studies, UC Berkely, and the South Asia Centre for Labour Mobility and Migrants (SALAM), brought together



academics and climate activists from five South Asian countries: Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. The participants in the event addressed a wide range of critical aspects of climate resilience in the global South. The program commenced with a warm welcome and insightful opening remarks from distinguished individuals: **Dr. Sugata Ray**, Associate Professor of History of Art at UC Berkeley, set the stage for the webinar by emphasizing the urgency of climate action. **Dr. Kathy Yelick**, Vice-Chancellor for Research at UC Berkeley, underscored the importance of research and collaboration for combating climate change. **Dr. Linda Rugg**, Associate Vice-Chancellor for Research at UC Berkeley, highlighted the

University's commitment to addressing global challenges like climate change. **Prof. K. S. James**, Director of the International Institute for Population Sciences in Mumbai, shared his perspective on the demographic aspects of climate vulnerability. **Ms. Nansiri Iamsuk**, Programme Specialist at UN Women in Dhaka, presented a gender-focused perspective to the climate discourse by highlighting women's experiences in climate-induced migration.

The focus of the webinar was on the challenges associated with climate resilience in the global South and possible solutions. Experts from various South Asian countries discussed their research and presented insights:

**Prof. Ram B. Bhagat** of the International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai, highlighted the complex relationship between climate change, vulnerability, and migration in India. His presentation emphasized the need for tailored strategies to address India's unique challenges. **Dr. Madhukar Upadhyaya**, representing the Centre for the Study of Labour and Mobility, Kathmandu, examined the intricate issues surrounding climate-induced migration in Nepal. He presented a holistic view of the topic in his discussion of the sociocultural aspects of migration. **Dr. Kashif Majeed Salik** of the Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad, discussed Pakistan's vulnerability to climate extremes and its impact on migration and well-being. Dr Salik underscored the importance of preparedness for — and adaptation to — climate change. **Dr Manoj Thibbotuwawa**, who is associated with the Institute of Policy Studies in Colombo, Sri Lanka, shared valuable experiences from Sri Lanka to emphasize strengthening of climate resilience among vulnerable communities through community-based approaches.



Prof. Tasneem Siddiqui of the Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit, Dhaka, discussed Bangladesh's pressing concern: climate change-induced displacement. Her focal point of her discussion was her country's strategy to address the issue. Prof Siddiqui highlighted the need for proactive measures. The webinar concluded with closing remarks from **Prof. Kailash Das**, Convenor of SALAM at the International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai, who expressed gratitude to all participants and emphasized the need for continuing collaboration and action on climate change. **Dr. Sanchita Banerjee Saxena**, Executive Director of the Institute for South Asia Studies at UC Berkeley, concluded the event by echoing the need for unity and collective action in tackling climate change.

The inaugural Climate Change Initiative Virtual Webinar served as a crucial platform for knowledge exchange and collaboration among experts and activists in South Asia. The exchange helped to highlight the multifaceted



challenges posed by climate change in the region and highlighted the urgent need for innovative, community-driven solutions to enhance climate resilience. This event marked the beginning of a concerted effort by the South Asian community to address the challenges of climate change in a united manner.

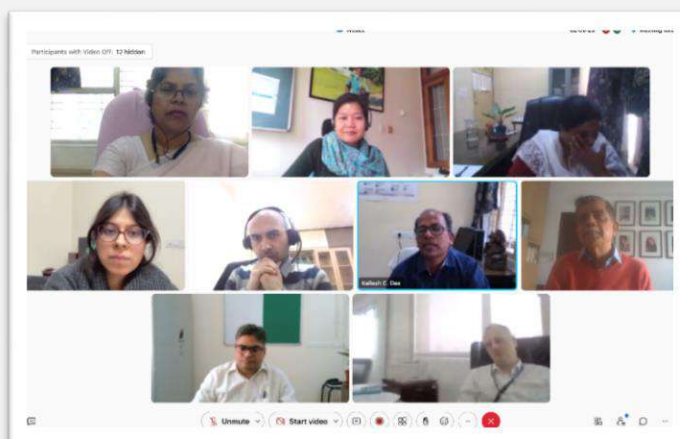
## II. Meeting of SALAM's Executive Committee

SALAM's Executive Committee meeting was held virtually on October 18, 2022. The meeting was chaired by Prof. K.S. James, Director and Senior Professor, the International Institute for Population Sciences. The committee conducted a comprehensive review of the project's progress, discussing its accomplishments, the challenges encountered, and the milestones achieved to date. The participants examined the project deliverables and discussed strategies for timely and successful completion. An update on the development of the project's website, including detailed information about its features and functionalities, was shared among the participants. The meeting also facilitated discussions on regional thematic papers. In this regard, valuable insights and recommendations were received from partner organizations. Also discussed at the meeting was the future trajectory of SALAM, including various possibilities for continuation of projects, as well as their expansion and enhancement. Lastly, a succinct conversation took place regarding the organization and planning of an international SALAM conference.



## III. Meeting of the Advisory Committee

The second advisory committee convened the second meeting held on January 12, 2023. The primary objective of this meeting was to have a comprehensive review SALAM's progress. The emphasis was on the regional thematic papers by SALAM's partner organisations. It was agreed that SALAM had made commendable advance, especially in nurturing robust relationships among member institutions. One crucial issue that emerged during the meeting was sustainability. The meeting participants agreed that collaboration among member countries and their support is essential. The participants at the meeting were a diverse group, including Mr. Amish Karki (ILO, Delhi, India), Mr. Andrew Gray and Mr Lohitha Karunasekara (IOM, Sri Lanka), Ms.



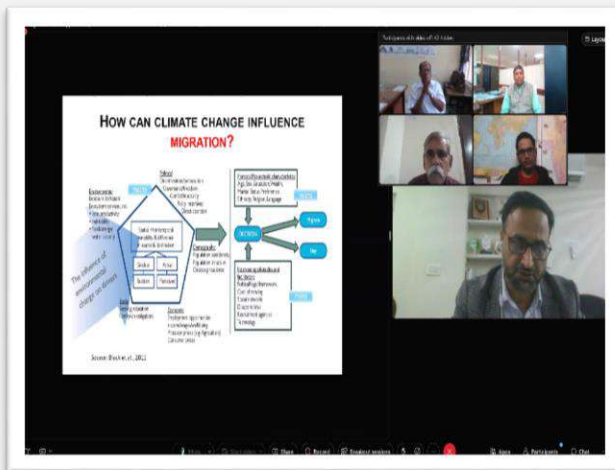
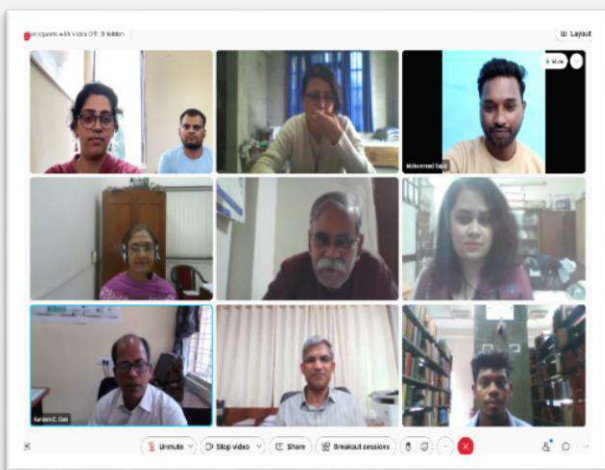
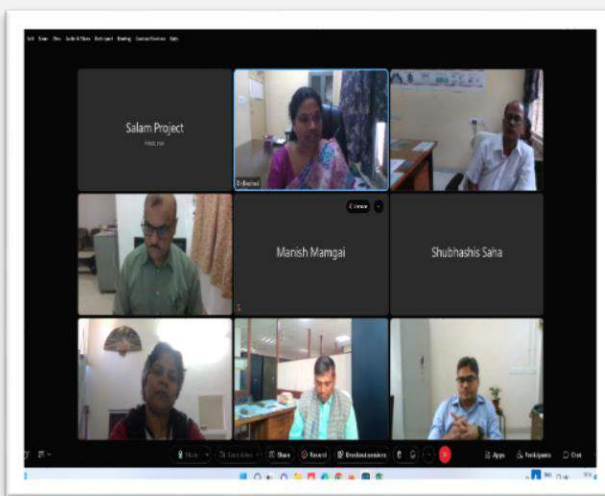
Nansiri Iamsuk (UN Women, Bangladesh), Prof. C. R. Abrar, Ms. Rukaia Parveen Tuba and Dr. Syeda Rozana Rashid, (RMMRU, Bangladesh), Dr Arjun Kharel and Ms. Sadikhya Bhattarai (CESLAM, Nepal), Dr. Bilesha Weeraratne (IPS, Sri Lanka), Mr. Kashif Salik and Ms. Khansa Naem (Sustainable Development Policy Institute—SDPI, Pakistan), Prof. Pushpendra Kumar Singh, (Former professor, Tata Institute of Social Sciences India), Prof. R.B. Bhagat (Former Professor, IIPS, India), Dr. Sugandha Nagpal (Assistant professor, O.P. Jindal Global University, India), Prof. K. C. Das (Professor, IIPS, India), Prof. Archana K. Roy (Professor, IIPS, India),

Dr. Reshmi R.S (Professor, IIPS, India, Dr. Kunal Keshri (Professor, IIPS, India), Ms. Kokila Shetty (SALAM, IIPS, India), Mr. Chandan Kumar (SALAM, IIPS, India)

## Workshops

### I. International Workshop

A five-day online international workshop on “Researching Labour Migration in South Asia: Data, Methods, and Theory” was conducted on Dec 13 – Dec 17, 2022. It was organized by the South Asia Centre for Labour Mobility and Migrants under the aegis of the International Institute of Population Sciences (IIPS). The focus of the workshop was on the issues of labour migration in South Asia. The workshop was attended by forty-eight participants from different countries like Germany, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, and India.



At the workshop, a panel of distinguished experts shared their insights on the various aspects of Labor Migration from South Asian perspective. The resource persons included Professor R. B. Bhagat (International Institute for Population Sciences, IIPS, India), Professor K. C. Das (IIPS), Mr. Debabrata Mukherjee (Ministry of Labor and Employment, Government of India), Ms. Nansiri Iamsuk (UN Women, Bangladesh), Mr. Andrew Gray (International Organization for Migration, IOM, Sri Lanka), Professor Archana K. Roy (IIPS), Dr. Reshmi R. S (IIPS), Dr. Kunal Keshri (IIPS), Dr. Kashif Salik (SDPI, Pakistan), Dr Arjun Kharel (CESLM, Nepal), Mr. Mahmudol Hasan Rocky (RMMRU, Bangladesh. All the

participants at the workshop were awarded e-certificates. The final session was concluded by Professor K. S. James, Director of IIPS.

## **II. IIPS National Seminar 2023 “75 Years of India’s Demographic Changes: Process and Consequences”.**

To commemorate 75 years of India’s independence, International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) and Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC) jointly organized the XXVII IIPS National Seminar 2023 at ISEC, Bengaluru on February 23 – 25, 2023.. The theme of the seminar was "75 years of India's Demographic

Changes: Process and Consequences". At the seminar, SALAM’s partners presented thematic papers, physically as well as virtually, in technical sessions 9 and 12. In the physical mode, Dr. Arjun Kharel (CESLAM, Nepal) discussed "Migration Cost and Debt Burden among Migrant Households in Nepal." Ms. Sadikshya Bhattarai, also from CESLAM, Nepal, presented her paper on "Labour Migration Cost and Debt Burden in Migrant



Households in South Asia." Dr. Reshmi RS (IIPS) shared insights on "Data for Labour Migration Governance in India: Gaps, Challenges, and Needs". Prof. Archana K. Roy’s (IIPS) paper discussed "International Migration and Autonomy of Left-Behind Women: A Perspective from South Asia."

In the virtual sessions, Dr. Tasmia Persoob (RMMRU, Dhaka, Bangladesh) presented her paper, "Return and Reintegration of Migrant Workers in Bangladesh." Dr. Sayeda Rozana Rashid, also from RMMRU, discussed "Return and Reintegration of Migrant Workers: South Asian Policy and Practices." Dr. Bilesha Weerathne (IPS, Sri Lanka) delved into the topic of presented her paper, "Understanding Informal Remittances: Experience from Sri Lanka." Lastly, Ms. Khansa Naeem (SDPI, Pakistan) shared her insights on "Sustainable Labour Migration and Development in Pakistan: Linkages and Trends in Times of COVID-19 and Beyond”.

### **SALAM Lecture Series**

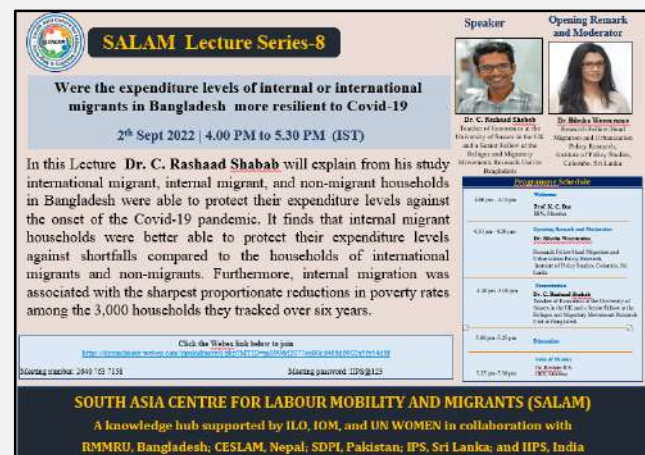
SALAM conducts a monthly lecture series in the virtual mode. The purpose of the lectures is to raise awareness about SALAM’s activities and share knowledge on global trends and issues related to labor mobility, especially in South Asia, among academicians, researchers, and the student community. During the period September 2022 – February 2023, internationally reputed experts on spoke on the topic of migration. A brief description of the lecture series is provided here:

#### **I. 8<sup>th</sup> SALAM Lecture**

The eighth SALAM Lecture Series was delivered by Dr. C. Rashaad Shabab, a distinguished faculty member of the University of Sussex (UK) and Senior Fellow at RMMRU (Bangladesh). Dr Shabab’s topic was, 'Were the Expenditure Levels of internal or international migrants in Bangladesh more resilient to COVID-19?'. The session was moderated by Dr. Bilesha Weeratne, Research Fellow and Head of Migration and Urbanization Research at IPS, Sri Lanka.



The lecture was thought-provoking. This was evident during the question-and-answer session. During this lecture, Dr. Rashaad explained the findings of his study that showed international migrant, internal migrant, and non-migrant households in Bangladesh were able to protect their expenditure levels with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. His study found that internal migrant households were better at safeguarding their expenditure levels against shortfalls compared to the households of international migrants and non-migrants. Moreover, within the 3,000 households tracked over a six-year period for the study, internal migration exhibited the most significant proportional decrease in poverty when contrasted with the rates observed among international migrants. The lecture was followed by an engaging and interactive question-and-answer session which was skilfully moderated by Dr. Bilesha Weeraratne. The interactions provided deeper insights into the internal migration scenario in Bangladesh. The lecture was attended by forty participants from India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Pakistan, and Germany.



**SALAM Lecture Series-8**

**Were the expenditure levels of internal or international migrants in Bangladesh more resilient to Covid-19**

29<sup>th</sup> Sept 2022 | 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM (IST)

In this Lecture **Dr. C. Rashaad Shabab** will explain from his study international migrant, internal migrant, and non-migrant households in Bangladesh were able to protect their expenditure levels against the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. It finds that internal migrant households were better able to protect their expenditure levels against shortfalls compared to the households of international migrants and non-migrants. Furthermore, internal migration was associated with the sharpest proportionate reductions in poverty rates among the 3,000 households they tracked over six years.

**Speaker:** Dr. C. Rashaad Shabab  
 Professor of Economics at the University of Dhaka in the U.S. and a Senior Advisor at the Bangladesh Migration and Policy Research Network, Bangladesh Center for Workers' Rights, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

**Opening Remark and Moderator:** Dr. Bilesha Weeraratne  
 Associate Professor of Migration and Urbanization Policy Research, Institute of Policy Studies, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

**Programme Schedule:**

4:00 pm - 4:15 pm	Registration
4:15 pm - 4:30 pm	Prof. K. C. Das, ILO, Dhaka
4:30 pm - 4:45 pm	Opening Remarks and Introduction
4:45 pm - 5:15 pm	Dr. Bilesha Weeraratne
5:15 pm - 5:30 pm	Dr. C. Rashaad Shabab
5:30 pm - 5:45 pm	Discussion
5:45 pm - 5:55 pm	Vote of Thanks
5:55 pm - 6:00 pm	Prof. K. C. Das, ILO, Dhaka

Click the Webex link below to join  
<https://southasiacentre.webex.com/join/joinMeeting?URL=5244548463&url=12>

Meeting number: 2949 12 7128 Meeting password: 12798125

**SOUTH ASIA CENTRE FOR LABOUR MOBILITY AND MIGRANTS (SALAM)**  
 A knowledge hub supported by ILO, IOM, and UN WOMEN in collaboration with RMMRU, Bangladesh; CESLAM, Nepal; SDPI, Pakistan; IPS, Sri Lanka; and IIPS, India

## II. 9<sup>th</sup> SALAM Lecture

The 9th series of the SALAM Lecture Series was held on October 20, 2022. It featured Dr. Katrin Marchand, a researcher from UNU-MERIT at the United Nations University in Maastricht, the Netherlands. The session was moderated by Mr. Paul Tacon, a Migration Policy Specialist at the International Labour Organization (ILO), Geneva, Switzerland. In her lecture, Dr. Katrin provided a comprehensive overview of labor migration agreements and highlighted the different types of agreements that were framed across the world. In the process, Dr. Katrin also shared insights from good practices observed in bilateral labor migration agreements. This lecture also addressed the challenges faced while negotiating and implementing such agreements. Dr. Katrin Marchand presented a comprehensive understanding of labor migration agreements, from their diverse types to the challenges and opportunities they entail. She also pointed out the opportunities presented by these agreements, particularly in the context of the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM). Mr. Paul Tacon elaborated on the ILO's role in mediating labor migration agreements. The lecture, which was attended by a diverse audience of thirty-five participants from India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Pakistan, fostered an interactive and engaging discussion on the subject. The diverse audience from South Asian countries added depth to the discussion, making it a valuable platform for knowledge exchange and collaboration in the field of labor migration agreements. The lecture underscored the importance of international cooperation in addressing labor migration challenges and the role of organizations like the ILO in mediating agreements to promote safe, orderly, and regular migration.



**SALAM Lecture Series-9**

**Labour Migration Agreements: Good Practices, Opportunities & Challenges**

20<sup>th</sup> Oct 2022 | 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM (IST)

Employment has always been a major factor driving international migration. The International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates that migrant workers account for the majority of all migrants worldwide and while the relative importance might have changed as a result of recent trends in forced migration, labour and employment remain important factors driving global migration. In this talk, **Dr. Katrin Marchand** will provide an overview of what labour migration agreements are and what different types of agreements have been developed. This will be done by taking stock of good practices of bilateral labour migration agreements from around the world. In addition, challenges encountered when concluding and implementing such agreements will be discussed as well as opportunities associated with them, especially with regards to the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM).

**Speaker:** Dr. Katrin Marchand  
 Researcher, UNU-MERIT, United Nations University, Maastricht University, Maastricht, the Netherlands.

**Opening Remark and Moderator:** Mr. Paul Tacon  
 Migration Policy Specialist, ILO, Geneva, Switzerland.

**Programme Schedule:**

4:00 pm - 4:15 pm	Registration
4:15 pm - 4:30 pm	Prof. K. C. Das, ILO, Dhaka
4:30 pm - 4:45 pm	Opening Remarks and Introduction
4:45 pm - 5:15 pm	Mr. Paul Tacon, Migration Policy Specialist, ILO, Geneva, Switzerland
5:15 pm - 5:30 pm	Dr. Katrin Marchand
5:30 pm - 5:45 pm	Discussion
5:45 pm - 5:55 pm	Vote of Thanks
5:55 pm - 6:00 pm	Prof. K. C. Das, ILO, Dhaka

Click the Webex link below to join  
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**SOUTH ASIA CENTRE FOR LABOUR MOBILITY AND MIGRANTS (SALAM)**  
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### III. 10<sup>th</sup> SALAM Lecture

The tenth SALAM lecture series was held on November 14, 2022. Mr. Dasun Kodithuwakku, National Project Coordinator of ILO, presented an Introduction to National Skills Passport. Mr Kodithuwakku gave an overview of the Skills Passport and explained how it operates in the vocational educational system. The Skills Passport is a comprehensive portfolio of skills and qualifications of a worker, acquired informally, along with references. This enables employers and workers in Sri Lanka to compare their skills using various skills assessment frameworks. The Skills Passport is essentially a "gateway" to job opportunities and helps the holder to access further training for re-skilling and up-skilling. The direct benefits to government and workers were also highlighted in the lecture. On the same topic, Employers Engagement and Future of Skills Passport was explained by Mr. Vajira Ellepola, Director General of the Employers Federation of Ceylon (EFC). Mr Ellepola gave an overview of Sri Lanka's experiences in implementing the Skills Passport with ILO and TVEC. The key benefits of the Skills Passport were also highlighted as well as plans and strategies for the future extend and add more value to Skills Passport were highlighted during the presentation. Overall challenges and strategies were also discussed during the lecture.

The slide is titled "SALAM Lecture Series-10" and "Overview and Process of the Skills Passport of Sri Lanka". It is dated "14<sup>th</sup> November 2022 | 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM (IST)". The slide lists the following speakers and session moderator: Mr. Vajira Ellepola (Director General, Employers' Federation of Ceylon (EFC)), Mr. Dasun Kodithuwakku (National Project Coordinator, ILO), and Prof. C. R. Abeyaratne (Director, Foreign and Migration Research Unit, IIMBMSU, University of Dhaka). The program schedule is as follows: 4:00 pm - 4:10 pm: Welcome by Dr. Reshmi R.S. (EFC, Sri Lanka); 4:10 pm - 4:20 pm: Opening Remarks and Moderator by Prof. C. R. Abeyaratne; 4:20 pm - 4:40 pm: Presentation by Mr. Vajira Ellepola; 4:40 pm - 5:00 pm: Presentation by Mr. Dasun Kodithuwakku; 5:00 pm - 5:20 pm: Vote of Thanks by Ms. Kallia Shetty (ILO, Sri Lanka). The slide also includes a background section, an introduction to the National Skills Passport by Mr. Dasun Kodithuwakku, and a section on Employers Engagement and Future of Skills Passport by Mr. Vajira Ellepola. At the bottom, it provides a WhatsApp link to join the meeting and mentions the South Asia Centre for Labour Mobility and Migrants (SALAM) and its partners: ILO, IOM, and UN Women.

### IV. 11<sup>th</sup> SALAM Lecture

A public lecture was conducted by South Asia Centre for Labour Mobility and Migrants (SALAM) under the aegis of the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) in Mumbai, India. The lecture was organized on December 20, 2022, from 11:45 am to 1:15 pm in Conference Hall, IIPS Mumbai, India. The Introduction and welcome note for the lecture was presented by Prof.KC.Das (Professor and Head, IIPS, India) and Prof. K.S. James (Director and Sr. Professor, IIPS, India), made an opening statement and introduced the speaker. The public lecture titled "The Garment industry in Bangladesh under COVID – 19: Lessons from the Rana Plaza Disaster on How we Understand Worker Safety".was delivered by Prof. Sanchita Banerjee Saxena, (Director, Subir and Malini Chowdhury Center for Bangladesh Studies & Executive Director, Institute for South Asia Studies, University of California, Berkeley, USA) She delivered a lecture on the ready-made garment (RMG) sector in Bangladesh. The Lecture revolved around the lessons from an earlier crisis in Bangladesh - from one of the worst industrial disasters in history, the collapse of the Rana Plaza building in 2013. The speaker focussed specifically on the distorted notions of what constitutes safety for workers, primarily for women workers, which continue to perpetuate the cycle of labour violations for those at the very bottom of the global supply chain. Post-lecture, there was a question and answer session, following which the program was concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr Reshmi RS.



## V. 12<sup>th</sup> SALAM Lecture

SALAM conducted the 12th lecture series on 7 December 2022. The lecture was delivered by Ms. Catherine Rose Torres (Programme Officer, BRIDGE, UN Women Philippines). The topic of her lecture was "Forging a Feminist Labour Migration Policy: The Philippine Context". The session was moderated by Prof. T.V.Sekher (Professor and head of the Department of Family & Generations, IIPS Mumbai). According to the Center for Feminist Foreign Policy (CFFP), a feminist foreign policy (FFP) is one "centered around the wellbeing of marginalised people" and one that offers "an alternate and intersectional rethinking of security from the viewpoint of the most vulnerable." Sweden was the first country to announce that it was embracing an FFP in 2014, Since then, at least 6 other countries have either declared an FFP (Mexico) or a feminist international assistance or development policy (Canada and Germany) or have pledged to do so (France, Luxembourg, and Spain).

The image shows a promotional poster for the SALAM Lecture Series-I1. The title is "Forging a Feminist Labor Migration Policy: The Philippine Context". The date and time are "7<sup>th</sup> December 2022 | 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM (IST)". The speaker is Ms. Catherine Rose Torres, Programme Officer, BRIDGE, UN Women Philippines. The moderator is Prof. T.V. Sekher, Professor and Head of the Department of Family & Generations, IIPS Mumbai. The poster includes a table of contents with topics like "Introduction", "The Philippine Context", and "Conclusion". At the bottom, it lists the organizing institutions: SOUTH ASIA CENTRE FOR LABOUR MOBILITY AND MIGRANTS (SALAM), a knowledge hub supported by ILO, IOM, and UNWOMEN in collaboration with IIMBHI, and the Center for Feminist Foreign Policy (CFFP) in partnership with IIPS, ILO, and IOM.

Although the Philippines is yet cast its lot with the countries that have embraced an FFP or plan to, it takes pride in being a champion of gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE). A Filipino diplomat, the late Amb. Leticia Ramos-Shahani, drew up the first draft of the CEDAW, and the Philippines was the first ASEAN country to accede to it. Ms Torres said that the Philippines was also an active participant in the 4<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, as well as in its 25th anniversary last year, which is also referred to as Beijing+25. In addition, at least one of the three pillars of Philippine foreign policy—Assistance to Nationals (ATN)—would appear to benefit significantly from special focus on the vulnerable and the marginalized, as called for by feminist approaches. The feminization of Philippine migration, including labor migration, has been recognized. In the National Migration Survey jointly conducted by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) and the University of the Philippines Population Institute (UPPI) in 2018, 55% of those who had international migration experience in the past five years were women. Ms Torres shared that a feminist labor migration policy would engage more proactively with the issues and challenges faced by women migrant workers, as well as other migrants regardless of their sex and gender, who are in the most precarious and vulnerable situations. It would also address the issues affecting the migrant workers' families and communities, as well as the broader implications on society of migration and its feminization. Such a migration policy has the potential to be more intersectional and inclusive, more sustainable and regenerative, and more empowering for migrants and uplifting for the country. It would also take into account the ongoing care crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic and possible pandemics in the future, as well as the ongoing climate crisis as a driver of migration, especially disproportionate impact of these crises on women and girls, and other marginalized populations.

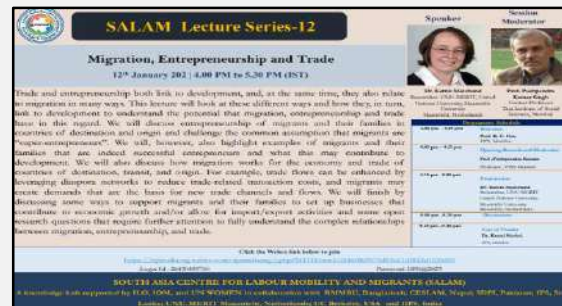


## VI. 13<sup>th</sup> SALAM Lecture

The 13<sup>th</sup> series of SALAM lecture series, which was held on November 12, 2023 and the lecture was given by Dr Katrin Marchand, a researcher from UNU-MERIT at the United Nations University in Maastricht, the Netherlands. The topic for the lecture was

“Migration, Entrepreneurship and Trade” The was moderated by Prof. Pushpendra Singh (Former Professor Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai). The speaker looked at the different ways understand the links between development and

migration, entrepreneurship, and trade potential. The lecture discussed the entrepreneurship of migrants and their families in both the origin and destination countries. The insights challenged the common assumption that migrants are “super-entrepreneurs”. At the same time, examples of migrants and their families’ entrepreneurial success were highlighted to show how they contribute to development. The lecture also discussed how migration works for the economy and trade of countries of destination, transit, and origin. She also discussed that not all migrants are entrepreneurs and different kinds of migrants are much more likely to end up in entrepreneurship, with different success rates. More research along these lines is therefore necessary, so that the dialogue is not so much on migration and entrepreneurship, but rather on, for example, highly skilled migrants and entrepreneurship, forced return migrants and entrepreneurship, or immigrants and necessity versus opportunity entrepreneurship. Different kinds of migration as well as different kinds of entrepreneurship ultimately also have different implications for development in diverse contexts. Post-lecture, there was a question and answer session, following which the program was concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr Kunal Keshri.



lecture

to

Article on 'Youth Emigration Punjab to Canada, Trends and Patterns' by Ms. Ananya Barman, Intern,  
IIPS, Mumbai

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## Introduction

Migration, much like births and deaths, plays a significant role in demographic dynamics. It can profoundly influence a region's population density. In regions experiencing zero population growth, immigration can contribute to a growth in the total population. Conversely, emigration can result in a decrease. Migration is poised to become an increasingly influential factor in shaping population trends. From 2020, it is projected that migration will be the sole driving force behind population growth in developed regions. Nevertheless, it is anticipated that by 2050, these developed areas will be confronted with declining populations as the net inflow of migrants will no longer be sufficient to offset the surplus of deaths over births.

Conversely, in the developing world, outward migration is projected to have minimal impact on population growth. The persistent high fertility rates in emerging nations are predicted to outweigh the relatively minor negative effects of net out migration, thereby sustaining their population growth (UNDESA, Population Facts, 2017i).

Migration has the potential to reshape the global population. According to the United Nations Multilingual Demographic Dictionary, migration is defined as a form of geographical and spatial mobility involving a change of residence from the place of origin or departure to the destination or arrival point (Vende & Kanitkar, 1978ii). Shaw's (citation needed) conventional definition characterizes migration as the relatively permanent movement of individuals over substantial distances. Another perspective on migration highlights its crucial role in the exchange of labor, skills, and the provision of knowledge and creativity essential for global progress. Consequently, the migration process encompasses two dimensions: the temporal and geographic aspects, which encompass spatial boundaries, residential mobility, change of residence, time, and distance. Moreover, there are two distinct categories of migration: internal migration, which occurs within a country, and international migration, involving movement between two or more nations.

## Emigration and Immigration

International migration predominantly manifests as either immigration or emigration. Emigration involves the act of departing from one's country of origin or habitual residence to settle in another country, seen from the perspective of the nation of departure. This effectively designates the new country as the individual's primary place of residence (IOMv). On the international stage, the act of moving to a new country is termed immigration, from the viewpoint of the recipient nation. Emigration of Indian Youths The United Nations and the Global Migration Group defines youth as individuals ranging from 15 to 24 years of age (Global Migration Group, 2014). However, within the European Union, the category of young people may include those aged 13 – 30 years (European Commission, 2011). In this context, youth migration can be described as a form of mobility that occurs as young individuals transition from childhood to adulthood, generally spanning the ages of 15 to 29 years. The major drivers of youth migration include factors, such as employment opportunities, access to

education, marriage, escaping from poverty, violence, and conflict, as well as the impacts of environmental changes. 2019 International Dialogue on Migration by the IOM underscored the global presence of 1.8 billion young individuals, representing the largest generation in human history. Within the 258 million international migrants, 11 percent fall within the age group of 24 years and under, with a substantial 90 percent originating from developing nations. Approximately 1 in 8 migrants venture beyond their home countries in pursuit of enhanced economic prospects. A substantial segment of these young people, around 4.3 million, choose to study abroad. This migratory trend among young individuals holds increasing significance, both from economic and social perspectives. It necessitates an examination of their motivations for migration and the imperative of ensuring the safety and security of these migrants. Recent statistics from the IOM underline that a substantial proportion of young migrants originate from developing nations, thus underscoring the relevance of studying youth emigration from India.

India, which has a considerable population of young adults aged 18 to 23 years, has emerged as the largest contributor to this demographic, according to UN Population Prospects. Notably, education and employment opportunities stand out as primary drivers for this international migration. The intertwining of these two factors is evident, particularly as studying abroad remains a favoured choice for Indian students. Over time, an increasing number of Indian students have opted for foreign educational institutions, attracted to the substantial benefits of international education like expanded educational opportunities, promising career prospects, higher earning potential, and an elevated standard of living. Studies have demonstrated a remarkable surge in the preference of Indians to relocate overseas, particularly in the top 5 destination countries, namely the United States, Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, and New Zealand. This trend has evolved to the extent that even students completing High School are now pursuing education abroad. In 2015, the count of Indian overseas students exceeded 350,000 (Kaur, 2019).

### **Punjabi Youths in Canada**

Canada is sometimes referred to as "Mini-India", and not without reason. It is well-known that there are many Indians living in Canada who have fostered a vibrant sense of community there over the years. In 2015, Canada's Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, famously boasted that there are more Sikhs in his cabinet than in his Indian counterpart's, Narendra Modi. Trudeau actively engages with Indian culture, participating in Bhangra dances, cooking at gurdwaras, and attending Indian events to promote inclusivity in a country with a diverse population. Many individuals hold a favorable view of Canada, appreciating its robust infrastructure, well-maintained roads, and access to free healthcare.

Statistics reveal that Punjabi is the most prevalent language among immigrants to Canada. The country's Permanent Residency (PR) policies are comparatively more liberal than those of other affluent nations. With access to over 200 universities, Punjabi youth are capitalizing on opportunities for education in Canada, in contrast to countries with stricter regulations such as Australia, New Zealand, the United States, and the United Kingdom. In 2018, nearly 1.25 lakh Punjabi students enrolled in Canada. In comparison, 25,000 chose other nations (The Tribune, 2018). Before the end of the 20th century, the immigration of South Asian people to developed countries was a complex process deeply rooted in historical patterns. During this period, migrants primarily served as laborers, toiling in tea, coffee, and rubber plantations, as well as diverse factories in different countries. This migration was often shaped by historical events, economic needs, and colonial legacies, creating



a complex tapestry of human movement that extends beyond labor dynamics. Understanding this multifaceted history provides valuable insights into the challenges and motivations that characterized South Asian migration to developed nations during that era. Following the oil boom in the Gulf Countries during the 1970s, there was a significant influx of Indian migrants to the Middle East, particularly in the petroleum and construction sectors. The landscape of global migration underwent further changes in the 1990s with the advent of liberalization and globalization. During this period, many Western countries reevaluated their immigration policies, making them more adaptable and interconnected with the transnational community (Deepika & Aggarwal, 2021). For more than a century, immigrants from India have contributed to Canadian culture. The earliest available record of Indians in Canada dates to 1904. The bulk of Indian immigrants to Canada at the time were Sikhs looking to start over in British Columbia. There are first generation Indians and Canadians of Indian heritage in every city and province in the nation; however, certain places are more well-liked than others. Although the majority choose to live in Ontario and British Columbia, Canada still has a lot to offer. The most Punjabi concentrated in Toronto a major magnet for Indian immigrants. The Greater Toronto Area (GTA) may be considered Canada's economic core if Toronto is regarded as its engine. All kinds of manufacturing jobs are available in plenty in communities from Brampton (known as mini-Punjab) to Oakville. With the GTA becoming a technology hub, more tech businesses are taking notice of its advantages (excluding Toronto). The region is quickly growing into a major destination for new immigrants, particularly Indians. Over a century after some of the first Indian immigrants to Canada passed through Vancouver, there is still a close connection between the city and current immigrants from India. Immigrants from India with credentials in engineering, mining, or related fields are particularly drawn to Calgary. Edmonton has a much to offer Indians in terms of jobs.

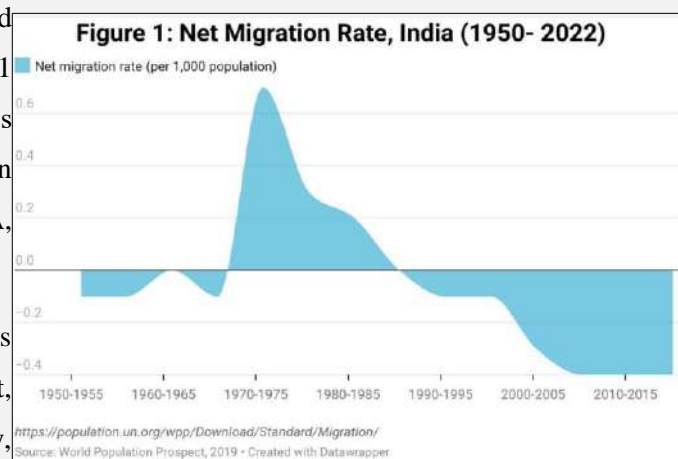
## Emigration and Indians

Net migration is the number of immigrants minus the number of emigrants, including citizens and non-citizens, for a five-year period. Net migration is the net total of migrants during the period, that is, the total number of immigrants less the annual number of emigrants, including both citizens and non-citizens. According to the report of United Nations World Population Prospects (2019)xxii, the Net Migration rate of India is -0.342 per 1000 population, which indicates that the emigration population exceeds the immigration population.

According to the same source, the net migration rate started to decline with the onset of globalization—from 0.011 (1988) to -0.015 in 1989. The total number of emigrant's from India worldwide has been increased from 6.6 million in 1990 to 17.8 million (2020), as estimated by UNDESA, International Migrant Stock, 2020xxiii.

Among the 195 countries of world, there are 17 countries (e.g. UAE, USA, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Oman, Kuwait, UK, Canada, Qatar, Australia, Nepal, Bahrain, Italy,

Malaysia, Singapore, New Zealand, Germany) consist of 95% of total Indian migrant stock. In 2020, total number of emigrants exceeded 1 lakh or 0.1 million in these countries. The majority of Indian nationals are tending more to move to North America, European countries, the Middle- East and some selected countries of Southeast Asia than any other parts of the world.

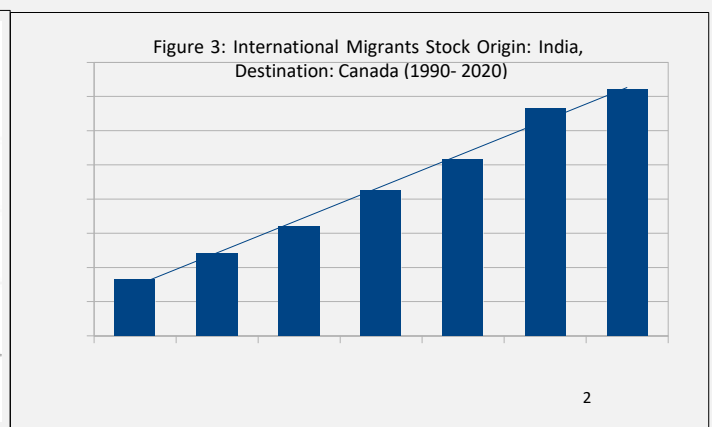
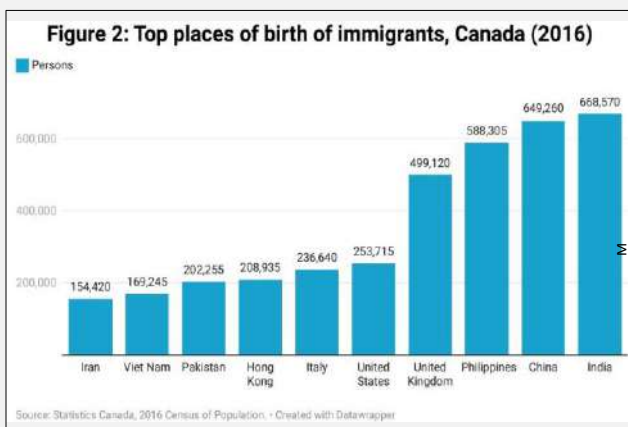


## Punjabis in Canada

Punjabis' emigration patterns have varied over time. Some pioneering emigrants travelled to North America in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, but because of their distinctive physical characteristics (turban and beard), uncommon cultural customs, and quickly expanding population, Canada and the USA placed limits on their immigration. When India got independence from Britain in 1947, the British government allowed commonwealth citizens to migrate to the United Kingdom because of great demand for low-skilled workers and continuation of ties with the former colonies (Naujoks, 2009 xxiv). Many Punjabis took advantage of this possibility to increase their prospects of living in a prosperous nation. Indians who wanted to immigrate left for the new world in the 1960s as immigration laws in North America relaxed for non-Europeans. (Naujoks, 2009; Tatla, 1995 xxv). According to some estimates, the majority of Sikhs—the dominant religious group from Punjab—live in Britain, the USA, and Canada (Tatla, 1995).

Punjab had two unique emigration trends that can be distinguished based on the socioeconomic stratification of the society. Landlords from the Jat community preferred to settle permanently in Europe, the United States, Canada, and Australia since these countries offered them solid social networks and the chance to work in a variety of industries. Once a migrated, they sponsor other family members, and eventually, the whole family relocates. The Middle-East, on the other hand, is the favorite location for lower class (landless) communities: most young men travel there as contract labourers and return to India after a few years when their contracts expire (Nangia, 2001xxvi).

A person who is or has ever been a landed immigrant or permanent resident is referred to as an immigrant. Immigration officials have given this person permission to reside permanently in Canada. Those immigrants who became citizens of Canada by naturalization fall under this category, which was accepted as a departmental standard on February 15, 2016. Over the course of roughly two centuries following the first British and French colonisation, what is now Canada has had four significant waves (or peaks) of immigration and settlement by non-Aboriginal Peoples. The fifth wave is now occurring in Canada. Statistics Canada has tabulated the effect of immigration on population growth in Canada from 1851. Statistics Canada provides Immigration data on place of birth, period of immigration to Canada, ethnic origin and non-official language spoken mostly at home in the section of immigration and ethno-cultural diversity.



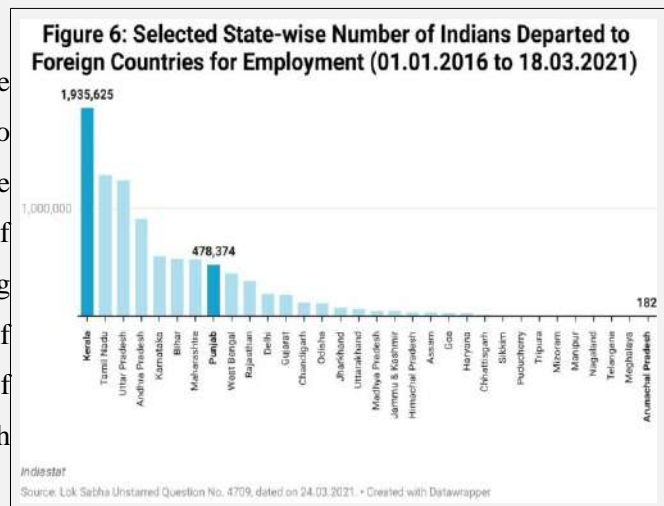
## Indian Immigrants: Place of Birth

Often, the identification of a person as a migrant is done by his/her place of birth in respect to his/her place of enumeration. This can be the easiest way to define a migrant although, sometimes, the process can be influenced by the number of return migrants. The UNDESA provides the annual statistics on International Migrants Stock, the number of international migrants based on origin and destination countries. In this above chart, the number of Indians who leave the country shows an increasing trend: from 166,640 in 1990 to 720,083 in 2020. Statistics Canada gives data on country-based immigration statistics. The number of Indian immigrants (668,570 in 2016) was the highest among 10 countries.

### Emigration for Employment

Employment is a key driver of international migration. Among the younger generation, the aspiration to go abroad is so high. They are inspired by the success tales of emigrants to seek employment overseas to raise their level of living and lead more comfortable lives. Punjab has many folk tunes that honour immigrants' accomplishments (Tatla, 1995). Many young people wish to support their families by raising their income and standard of living, to those of strong familial ties and social pressure. They believe that this can only be accomplished by working abroad, where they can earn many times more than they would in India (Nangia, 2001xxiv).

Sometimes, people who lack the necessary competence and experience for independent immigration, or those who lack a close relative to sponsor them turn to expensive immigration agents for assistance. Among the states of India, Kerala holds the foremost position in sending nationals abroad for employment. The number of emigrants from Kerala was 1,935,652, which is 14.1% of the total emigrants in the period January 2018 – March 2021. Punjab ranked 8<sup>th</sup> (478,374 emigrants).



### Emigration for Education

Worldwide, according to IOM's (2019) report, 4.3 million young people migrated for education. The number of Indian students studying abroad is also increasing. Migration for studies is a popular method adopted by youth, especially from the more affluent families in India, and more so from the big cities. This strategy is used by those who want to get a professional degree or higher education. A large majority of Indian students travel overseas to pursue graduate studies, their most cherished destinations being the USA, Australia and the United Kingdom. These countries also provide opportunities for them to stay permanently (Naujoks, 2009xxiii).

Students from rural areas are also want to improve their quality of life. They do not want to face the hardships and uncertainty of agricultural work. They learn technical skills which have demand in national and international labour market. Training facilities for such skills are ample in many cities of Punjab. According the reports of Ministry (22.07.2021), total number of students going abroad for study was 11,33,749. Of these, 77% 8,75,298 students preferred to go to UAE, Canada, USA, Australia, Saudi Arabia, UK for pursuing a higher education. The graph shows the countries with more than 50,000 Indian students. Most Indian students in this group were



in the UAE (219,000) and Canada (2,15,720). An unstarred question in the Lok Sabha (No. 4709, 24.03.2021, as reported in *indiastats*) illustrates the rising trend in Indian student migration to Canada.

While the overall number of people moving to Canada has increased consistently, the influx of students to Canada has seen a sharp growth since 2013. Prior to that year, government sources show that the total number of students was below 10,000. However, after 2013, the number of students increased substantially, reaching 215,720 in 2019, while the total number of emigrants was 720,083. In the same year, 2019, Punjab had the highest share of students going abroad. Subsequently, there was a decline in the number of students traveling abroad, most likely due to the pandemic. Once abroad, students enrolled in a variety of courses, including computer technology, hotel and resort management, project management, health and sciences, among others.

However, many faced challenges in finding employment in their respective fields of study as their primary goal was to secure permanent residency in their chosen countries. As a result, if they were unable to secure jobs matching their skills, they often opted for roles such as driving, agricultural work, plumbing, gas station attendants, and storekeeping, among others. According to the MMA's 2018 report, Canada emerged as the top destination for Indian students, surpassing Australia by a significant margin. Canada recorded 123,940 students in 2017, marking a 41% increase compared to Australia (MMA, 2018). In 2020, several factors influenced student decisions. Canada took a more cautious approach in opening its borders to international students during the pandemic. Additionally, the social unrest during Trump's presidency in the United States prompted many Indian parents to consider Canada as a safer and more cost-effective alternative.

### **Findings**

The major finding of the study is that Indian's comprised the largest percentage of immigrants in Canada. In a survey, 668,570 (Statistics Canada, 2016) persons mentioned being born in India. Data from another source, UNDESA, 2020, shows that the absolute number of Indian immigrants has increased over the years from 1990 to 2020. Considering the age profiles of all Indian immigrants in Canada, the largest percentage are in the under 14 years age group. Immigrants from two age groups, 15 – 24 and 25 – 34 years comprise 33% of all migrants. The number of males is more than the number of females. The number of migrants aged 45 years and more is comparatively less than the numbers in the younger age groups.

Figure 6 represent the number of people from Punjab who leave the country for employment. The destination country is not mentioned. For education, 11,33,749 Indian students travelled abroad. The number of Indian students in UAE and Canada were 2,19,000 and 2,15,720 respectively, the highest among destination countries.

The state wise distribution of student emigrants (Figure 7) showing that the highest percentage of student had left the nations belonged with Punjab. However, the number has dropped sharply after the COVID pandemic. Although, the number of students to go to foreign countries have been increased over the years (Figure 8). Most of the migrants of Punjab belong to the Doaba region. They try for admission in foreign universities with the aim of settling abroad permanently. To that end, they take up any job that is available: drivers, receptionists, etc. Obtaining permanent residence is their primary objective.

### **Limitations**

Tracing population migration, especially outmigration (Internal Migration) or Emigration (International Migration), is a challenging task in India due to insufficient data. In many states, state-level data is lacking, making it difficult to accurately measure the number of people leaving the country. India's census data provides information on immigration; however, there is a paucity of data on emigration. This is a major limitation in this

study whose focus is on Punjab, a state with high prevalence of emigration. Moreover, data on the reasons for migration are not readily accessible, which is a barrier to a comprehensive study on student and employment migration from Punjab to Canada. While the Ministry of External Affairs provides data on employment migration to ECR countries, data for ECNR countries is unavailable. Given these constraints in secondary data, a primary survey could provide a more robust conclusion on the studied topic, including the reasons for emigration among the youth in the Doaba region, Punjab.

**Conclusion:**

Punjabis pronounce "Canada" as "Kannedda." As per the available data, the number of emigrants from Punjab to Canada has steadily increased over the years. This rise can be attributed to the inclusive approach of the Canadian government, which is reflected in its immigration policies. In effect, it has made Canada into a highly desirable destination for Punjabis. Currently, Canada is home to half a million Punjabi individuals many of whom have established themselves as prominent figures in business and civic life.

As this paper shows, the primary motivation for emigration is to seek employment and settle in a foreign country after completing higher education in Canada. However, many individuals face challenges in securing jobs of their liking. This can be attributed to various factors which are not discussed here because of lack of access to appropriate data. It was also seen that the number of student migration had declined in the wake of the global pandemic, partly due to delays in the processing of Canadian visas.

**Article on ‘Role of Internal and External Remittances on Flows and Changes in Rural Society in Pakistan’ by Ms. Huma Arshad, Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU), Islamabad.**

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Household assets heavily count on assets, as families explore multiple options to maximize their financial security and contentment while minimizing risks through secure investments. Besides putting money into small businesses, healthcare, education, and households also recognize the significance of tangible assets like land, shops, agricultural land, animals, and poultry. These assets not only generate income and provide contentment, but also serve as a safety net for unforeseen future events. Regarding household income, the majority is typically set aside for day-to-day expenses. Any extra income, such as gifts or bonuses beyond regular earnings, is categorized as transitory income. Studies on consumption patterns have shown that such windfalls are often directed toward savings or investments rather than immediate expenditure.

Households are aware of the importance of investing for securing their current and future well-being. However, maintaining a steady investment flow can be a challenge for many households, leading them to turn to the stock market to invest their savings. In rural areas, assets are a significant form of stock investment. Sometimes, certain household members may encounter limited earning opportunities locally, motivating them to explore prospects for a better income elsewhere. If they find more lucrative work in a foreign country or a different town, they may choose to relocate specific family members. The portion of income sent home by these individuals is known as external remittance if sent from abroad. If the money is sent from another city within the country, it is called an internal remittance.

Remittances play a crucial role in the development of developing countries, and their significance cannot be overstated. These financial transfers have become an integral part of their developmental strategies. Remittances contribute to various aspects of their progress, including bolstering the balance of payments, strengthening reserves, stabilizing exchange rates, and improving the general welfare and living standards of their population. At the individual level, remittances have a profound impact on households. They facilitate improvements in the health of family members and provide support for children's education, leading to a reduction in infant mortality rates. It is evident that households receiving remittances often prioritize investing these funds. These monetary inflows also enable households to enhance their overall well-being, resulting in better health outcomes, improved access to education, and a more comfortable and prosperous lifestyle.

In 2022, Pakistan, as a developing nation, emerged as the fifth-largest recipient of remittances. Over time, rural society in Pakistan has witnessed notable transformations. The major catalyst for this change is the inflow of remittances. Both internal and external remittances have a pivotal role in shaping the nation's socio-economic landscape. Internal remittances are usually funds sent from urban to rural areas within Pakistan. They have become integral to the rural economy, particularly in regions where urban job opportunities are more abundant. Young individuals who have migrated to cities for better prospects often send money home to support their families.

External remittances are funds sent by overseas Pakistanis to their families residing in rural areas. Pakistan is home to one of the world's largest diaspora populations, and external remittances have had a profound impact on the country's economy.



The increase in remittance inflows to Pakistan can be attributed to several factors. The implementation of the Pakistan Remittance Initiative (PRI) has encouraged the use of formal channels for money transfers over informal ones. Additionally, skilled and educated workers migrating abroad now earn more, resulting in higher remittance amounts. Another significant factor is the regularization of previously undisclosed income, leading to the rise in remittance flows. Key contributors to Pakistan's remittances include the Gulf Countries Council (GCC), United States, and United Kingdom. Their financial contributions have played a vital role in strengthening the country's economy through remittances.

The rise in remittance inflows has had a significant impact on Pakistan's economy, thereby elevating their importance. Remittances have played a vital role in significantly reducing the country's debt, financing government expenditures, and, most importantly, making a significant contribution to poverty alleviation. Rural households use remittances to invest in both human and physical assets. Research conducted by Lucas & Stark (1985), León-Ledesma & Piracha (2004), and Osili (2004) has shown that rural households commonly direct remittances towards investments. These investments serve various purposes, such as inheritance, saving for the future, and upholding the dignity of their place of origin. Households receiving remittances typically experience improved living standards, with a considerable portion of these funds being allocated to investments in housing, health, and education.

However, remittances do not have a uniform impact on all types of physical assets owned by rural households. Nonetheless, external remittances have had a positive influence on asset accumulating in Pakistan. For instance, households that receive remittances typically have more durable assets and enjoy higher living standards compared to those without remittance inflows.

Rural households in Pakistan are fully aware of the crucial role played by external remittance income in amassing assets, viewing these inflows as short-term resources that provide a safety net against future uncertainties. The influence of household characteristics on asset accumulation varies among rural households in the country. External remittances have had a substantial impact on asset accumulation. Although internal remittances also show a positive effect, it is less pronounced. Household characteristics, such as income, gender of the household head, age of the household head, and household dependency, also exert a noteworthy influence.

The significance of external remittances for Pakistani households cannot be emphasized enough as the country ranks 5<sup>th</sup> globally in terms of remittance receipts. Receiving remittances from international migrants enables rural households to build assets for their future. Other household characteristics also play a significant role in asset accumulation. Due to the increased vulnerability of rural households to risks and uncertainties, they regard external remittances as a source of temporary income, directing more of these funds towards investments for acquiring assets. In comparison, other income sources like labor income and internal remittances are primarily used for day-to-day expenses. In conclusion, remittances, particularly external remittances, hold immense significance for rural households in Pakistan.

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