



Impact of migration and social development in India

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Abstract

The development impact of migration and remittances on origin countries and on destination countries in the South. International migration is an ever-growing phenomenon that has important development implications for both sending and receiving countries. For a sending country migration and the resulting remittances lead to increased incomes and poverty reduction, improved health and educational outcomes, and promote economic development. Yet these gains might come out at substantial social costs to the migrants and their families. Since many developing countries are also recipients of international migrants, they face challenges of integration of immigrants, job competition between migrant and native workers, and fiscal costs associated with provision of social services to the migrants. Impacts of migration on climate change, democratic values, demographics, national identity and security. In conclusion, the paper highlights a few policy recommendations calling for better integration of migration in development policies in the South and the North, improving data collection on migration and remittance flows, leveraging remittances for improving access to finance of recipient households and countries, improving recruitment mechanisms, and facilitating international labor mobility through safe and legal channels.

Keywords: migration, development, substantial, demographics, labor mobility, legal channels

Introduction

Migration is a decision that impacts the welfare of the household, the home community, and in the end the whole economy in various ways. The welfare implications of migration on the origin country are most often, though not always, sizable and positive. The main channels through which migration alleviates poverty are increased incomes from remittances, ability to smooth consumption, access to finance for starting a new business, as well as tapping of the knowledge and resources provided by the international community of the migrant Diaspora. Besides pure monetary gains, migration and remittances allow for higher investment in health care and education. Yet, not all impacts are positive: exploitation of migrants by unscrupulous recruiters or employers is reportedly widespread; separation from family can be stressful for migrants; and large-scale immigration can pose serious challenges to a nation's identity and sovereignty.

Migration contributes to human capital formation

There is a growing body of evidence suggesting that the income from remittances is disproportionately spent on education and health rather than everyday consumption. Once in school, the children of migrants may be more likely to finish their education, as the increased income from remittances provide additional financial resources and better prospects associated with migration influence social norms and incentives towards gaining more education. Evidence from rural Pakistan suggests that temporary migration is associated with higher school enrollment, especially for girls. Furthermore, migration has been observed to increase health knowledge in addition to the direct effect on wealth, which has led to lower rates of infant mortality and higher birth rates in Mexico. Migrants may also bring back health-

improving practices such as drinking safe water and better sanitation. On the other hand, migration as such pose present a threat to migrant health as certain jobs expose migrants to occupational hazards, such as tuberculosis, pneumoconiosis and workplace injury by mine workers. Increased mobility of workers has also contributed to a rapid spread of communicable diseases such as HIV. For instance, 27 percent of the male Senegalese migrants were HIV positive compared to 1 percent of non-migrants' males from the same area. Sexually transmitted infections are also more likely to spread among migrants themselves as well as their permanent partners residing in the sending communities.

Social impacts on the origin country

At its best, migration can be a rewarding experience that is made in the interest of the household welfare, but in most cases moving to another country and being separated from one's immediate family takes place at considerable emotional cost. Especially temporary circular migration increases the risk for family breakdown, fragmentation of social networks and psychosocial stress. The emotional impact is not just limited to the migrants themselves, but also to the family left behind. Especially in poorer households where the whole family cannot afford to emigrate together, they emigrate one member at a time resulting in eroded family structures and relationships, the longer the separation between the migrating parents and their children, the more children lose parents' reference in the management of the household, their authority and their role as providers of love and material care. Parents are gradually replaced by other family members, or the children take upon themselves the task of parenting. The feelings of rejection, abandonment and loss follow the children left behind, and cannot be compensated by the material gifts and

remittances sent from abroad. To some extent the recent technological advances in terms of e-mail and affordable telephone calls might allow the transnational families to form and foster social ties even at a distance.

Separation from the parents has also long-term consequences in all aspects of the children's lives. Evidence from Mexico points to the fact that the offspring from migrant families have lower educational attainment than other children, as the boys of the migrants are more likely to opt for migration themselves (implying decreasing returns to education) while the domestic workload of the daughters increase. Adolescents left behind are also commonly overrepresented in adapting risky behavior, and absence of mothers has been found to be associated with the involvement of children with violence: 80 percent of children in conflict with the law in Jamaica had their mothers absent, while this was the case for only 30 percent of other children. Also the abuse of drugs and alcohol as well as reduced school attendance has been observed among children left behind by migrants. On the other hand, recent evidence from Mozambique suggests that migration could also strengthen social networks as the higher income from remittances reduces the cost for the migrant-sending household to participate in these networks. This closer inter-family collaboration can, to some extent, remedy the absence of within-family cohesion and safety nets.

Even though migration is usually a voluntary and planned choice of the individual, the reality might turn out to be very different from the original expectations. Too often the intended aspirations of the migrants do not materialize but many are trapped in trafficking. Young women are exploited as sex workers abroad, and in many cases they have been promised legitimate work at the destination but then forced into prostitution upon arrival. Also, children are commonly victims of trafficking that can lead to life-long trauma. The abuse of migrants by the middle men or the recruitment agencies is a problem that is growing in magnitude as the migration flows increase and the phenomenon becomes more commercialized. The problem expands from pure trafficking into working in slave-like conditions as the international market for labor allows for trading with workers' contracts leading to abuse of individual migrants. The abuse of the migrant workers has led to calls for further regulation of the recruitment agencies across migration corridors.

Social impacts on the destination countries in the South

Apart from the increased competition at the labor markets, increasing inflows of migrants impose an integration challenge in all areas of social life. In many of the developing countries, however, policies to manage immigration are lacking while control of the same is failing to curtail the inflow of migrants due to scarce resources, weak administrative capacity, and porous borders. Some of the cross-border migration is often widely accepted, but sometimes immigrants even from neighboring countries are treated as unwanted foreigners. This inability to control migration and to integrate the newcomers has at times led to dramatic actions and great human suffering. When the economy is already under pressure, failure of integration has sometimes led to massive expulsions of migrants mostly in the South. The Nigerian Government, for instance, expelled over 2 million immigrants mainly from Ghana in 1983 due to a domestic economic crisis, for which the aliens became

scapegoats. More recent examples of forced repatriation can be found both in the North as well as in the South: the United States deported more than 350,000 immigrants and South Africa 300,000 in 2008 alone. The case of Cote d'Ivoire, where stripping of immigrants of some of their rights sparked a chaos that has led the once stable country to the verge of an internal conflict, illustrates the growing intolerance to foreigners in the South. These instances highlight the importance of strengthening migration and integration policies in developing countries as they host large numbers of immigrants.

The challenge of integration is most prominent in urban areas. Most internal as well as international migrants end up in the cities of developing countries because of employment opportunities, with many working in the informal sector of business, transport, crafts and services. For example, a quarter of the population of Libreville in Gabon is from another country from Central Africa and West Africa. Sometime the movement is driven by the falling living standards and weak support services in the source community. If the excess supply of labor is combined with poor ability of the local authorities to manage immigration, the result is commonly increased disparities and expansion of slum areas in the cities. Forced migration can also contribute to urbanization. War, environmental degradation, and economic crisis lead to large population movements from rural areas into cities where people take refuge. There are allegedly 2 million Somalis in Mogadishu, mostly refugees escaping the fighting in their villages and seeking protection of the NGOs or the warlords. The rapid expansion of cities combined with weak local administration or lack of migration policies have led to desperate actions by the host countries officials. In Dhaka, Bangladesh, 60,000 people were forcibly cleared from the slums in early 2007; in Jakarta, Indonesia, migrants are required to show proof of employment and housing to enter the city; and in Zimbabwe (internal) migrants were evicted from shanty towns around Harare in 2005. Migration is only a part of the urbanization challenge, but the interaction between migration and rapid urbanization is likely to be important for policy in the destination countries in the South.

Before presenting the policy recommendations, it would be useful to point out a few emerging themes in the literature and public debates on the impact of migration on climate change, political institutions, fertility and national security. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) noted already in 1990 that the greatest single impact of climate change could be on migration. It predicted that as many as 200 million people may be forced to migrate by 2050 because of climate change. The effects of migration on climate change, on the other hand, are less understood. It is generally assumed, that short term and circular migrants make little investment in maintaining the ecological stability of their destination while long-term immigrants have an incentive to invest in environmental management. When migration is induced by a conflict or a natural disaster leading to a sudden inflow of migrants, the displaced people may resort to unsustainable activities in absence of other means of survival exacerbating existing environmental problems and creating new ones. Large refugee camps have especially been observed to put pressure on the ecosystem. McNally *et al.* (2002) argue that even long-term migration can affect the environment through increased competition for limited resources. And adoption of new techniques and

raw materials, leading to more environmentally friendly production and consumption practices.

Conclusion

Migration is risking the host country and reliving the sending country of its burden. The immediate solution insight and also on hand seems most plausible is that of dramatic action aimed at precipitated quarantine in the growth of population. The truly holds and acts mastic which the policy makers are not yet capable to discern. Few minutes ponder over the global issues of this kind would defiantly, I believe, draw attention to this fact. My firm belief is most often convincing that the logical concussion reflects upon the rapid growth of population to be the hindrance creator and trouble-shooter in the entire game of transnational problem.

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