Human Migration and Culture Change in India: Past to Present

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Abstract
Culture can be considered from three perspectives including human- nature relationship, related to cultural elements that help in social relationships and search for goals and motivations of human beings. Such views relating to culture shape the human migration since ancient period while now it is developed into diverse parameters of cultural globalization.Cultural globalization as values and attitudes are embedded in people carried to the new place through migration. It leads to culture change in societies- source and destination of migrants. There are generally four types of effects that culture change creates on a migrant life- native to immigrant, immigrant to native, immigrant to home communities and home communities to immigrants.Cultural convergence generated through migration sometimes eroding national diversity, by mixing isolated native communities and metropolitan cultures. But it is the local people, who will have to take control of the situation so that revival of local cultures may open the scope of spreading in a sustainable manner.
This paper points out the global scenario of migration and culture change from past to present and assess the impact of cultural globalization at the destination due to migration.
Key words: Migrants, Culture Change, Globalization, Source, Destination
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I. Introduction

Human migration dates back in ancient period in search of food and shelter. In subsequent days, search for knowledge, recreation and better livelihood added to make it more sophisticated version of people's mobility. It is the key factor in cultural globalization as values and attitudes are embedded in people carried to the new place and cultural contact as well as assimilation occur. Cultural globalization is different from trade and economic change, rather the effects of new environment on the psychological condition of migrants are the central theme of cultural globalization. There are generally four types of effects that culture change creates on a migrant life- native to immigrant, immigrant to native, immigrant to home communities and home communities to immigrants.

The paper will investigate how migration creates a platform for cultural contact between two different culture group through increase their cultural proximity. Migration-based culture change is the result of this contact emerged from several cultural diffusion mechanisms.

II. Objectives

The paper deals with the cultural change happened to immigrants after reaching at the new place. The main objectives of the paper are-
a) To find out the global scenario of migration and culture change from past to present
b) To assess the impact of cultural globalization at the destination due to migration

III. Literature Review

People gather a flood of information from diverse channels originating far beyond local communities and even national borders, transmitted through the rapid expansion of mass communications that is the core component of the broader phenomenon of globalization. Norris & Inglehart(2009) discussed about cultural globalization, which is different from the economic globalization as a result of capital flow between source and

destination countries of migrants. Cultural diffusion from natives to immigrants were discussed in various studies (Abramitzkyet al. 2014, 2020; Fouka et al. 2021) while some scholars pointed out from other angles the cultural diffusion from immigrants to natives (Miho et al. 2020; Giuliano &Tabellini 2020). Sofie and Knudsen (2022) studied whether culture plays a role in the individual decision to migrate, and how this generate cultural change in the communities of origin. Cultural remittances were discussed by Barsbai et al. 2017, where cultural effects were mentioned in detail from immigrants to home communities. As a result of cultural contact and later cultural exchange between natives and immigrants of any place, a new hybrid culture (Ritzer, 2012)develops which sometimes creates differences between them and cultural polarization results (Huntington, 1993; Inglehart & Norris, 2003), while McLuhan & Fiore, (1968) stressed on the creation of global village.Cultural adaptation, continuity, and change among the immigrant people of the Thakaliand Lepcha community of eastern Himalayan region has attracted considerable attention in recent years (Messerschmidt, 1982;Vinding,2000; Sharma, 2016).Loss of social support systems, cultural norms, religious customs, pressure for adjustment to a new culture generally creates mental stress on migrant in a new environment. The rate of mental illness are increased in some migrant groups. Bhugra& Becker (2005) reviewed the concepts of migration, cultural bereavement and cultural identity and explore the interrelationship between these three.

IV. Migration Scenario in India: Past to Present

India was mainly considered as a country with high fertility rate and migration as a demographic factor has never been considered an important issue in research. This is mainly because of very less number of internal migration in the country since historical past. It got triggered in 1947 during partition, when the country experienced a massive transfer of people between India and Pakistan. Such a change in small-scale internal migration to a large scale politically-triggered international migration created serious problems of refugee settlement in India. This has also increased the scope of research on migration from Indian perspective.

The Second World War marked an important transition for the migration scenario of India. It marked the beginning of the transformation for entering Indian origin people to developed world. The largest migration flow ended in UK as there were some old colonial links and many soldiers started their settlement with experience from wartime. Subsequently, the 1947 brought the large-scale forced migration.

Besides, some social and economic factor induced migration were gaining importance slowly like- a) Immigration to Britain, that was traditionally favourable destination for temporary migration and later attracted permanent settlement for variety of people from India. b) Australia, Canada and the USA- the three countries attracted after their immigration policy got revised and started as a strong pull factor for outmigration from India. These developed countries were also joined by the UK and other EU countries, who become places for migration of highly skilled workers from India. c) In later days, the middle-east, gained popularity as these oil-rich countries attracted semi-skilled and unskilled labours from India on a temporary basis but with better livelihood for all.In recent years, remittance transfers from the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries—Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates—have accounted for more than half of all funds remitted to India. The United States was the origin of nearly one-fifth of remittances to India in 2021 (Singh, 2022).

Table 1: Number of Indian Migrants in different countries, 2020

Destination Country	Number of Indian Migrants
UAE	3,471,000
USA	2,724,000
Saudi Arabia	2,502,000
Pakistan	1,597,000
Oman	1,376,000
Kuwait	1,152,000
UK	835,000
Canada	720,000
Qatar	702,000
Australia	579,000
Total	17,869,000

Source: United Nations, Department of Economics and Social Affairs, Population Division (mentioned by Singh, 2022)

India, however proved herself as a popular destination for international migration for centuries. During 1500 BCE, nomadic pastoral Aryans from the Eurasia arrived India and inhabited the territory as Dravidians and later gradually gave birth to Vedic civilization. Numerous empires including those of Alexander the Great, the Kushans of Central Asia, Muslim Sultans, Persians, the Portuguese, the Moghuls and lastly the British came to the country to rule. Apart from these groups, other people came for several other socio-cultural-religious-economic purposes like scholars, merchants, travellers for wealth, prosperity and better livelihood. However, the

flow changes during post-independence era. The great bulk of India's immigrants now come from neighboring countries in South Asia, stemming from extended interpersonal and economic ties during colonial and pre-partition eras (Singh, 2022). People from other countries generally settled down near commercial and agricultural centres contributing increase in urbanization rate of the country.

Table 2: Immigrants in India by Countries of Origin, 2020

Source Country	Number of Migrants
Bangladesh	2,488,000
Pakistan	833,000
Nepal	734,000
Sri Lanka	185,000
China	108,000
Myanmar	57,000
Uganda	45,000
UAE	38,000
USA	33,000
Brinei	24,000
Total	4,879,000

Source: United Nations, Department of Economics and Social Affairs, Population Division (mentioned by Singh, 2022)

The above tables reveal the fact that, people are moving from one place to another globally at large scale. For example, Indian people are migrating to other countries due to variety of reasons. Likewise, immigrants from other countries are finding India as a suitable place to stay.

V.Cultural Globalization and its impact

In the present era of globalization, people have become more concerned about the uniqueness and speciality of their own culture thus generating a cultural identity of their own. Such cultural identity of citizen provides global significance in terms of native products, knowledge, regionality, customs, rituals and so on. An article byPriyamMarik published in The Telegraph online dated 30th Sep 2022, tells about how the Durga Puja has become one of the important festival in London. Thus, Bengali people who have migrated from India to UK, have nurtured their cultural elements and started celebrating their main festival there in the new country of their destination. When people construct their identity at new place, they generally defend it and become more aware of preserving their cultural attributes in the new situation. Since beginning, Bengali festival was not celebrated like today, but migrants put their hands together to spreadthe glory of their own culture to the new environment without coming in confronting with the host community. Globalization has created the platform because British migrants who are settled down in India, are also enjoying their every cultural elements like Christmasand New Year's eve, where Indians also take full participation. Actually, globalization brings much more awareness of cultural identity than before. In a deeper sense, apart from some negative impacts, globalization enhances cultural identity and people become much more concerned about the uniqueness or the particularity of their culture. The confrontation between local and global is losing importance as in contemporary era global significance of local knowledge in various sectors is gaining significance.

Cultural transformation is a dynamic process, which is sometimes act slowly and sometimes very quickly. Cultural transformation results in the continuous changes, in which individuals and societies undergo cultural transformation influenced by globalization. Globalization refers to the cross-national co-ordination of various socio-economic processes like production and consumption processes. Effects of inter-penetration of production process across globe can be seen in every societies as this process in contemporary globalization differs much from earlier global economics and hence changes in production process and consumption patterns can be seen as the wide-spread response to contemporary globalization. For example, preferences for food and clothing may change through exposure to globalization processes. In other words, exposure to globalization is an important parameter of cultural diffusion and cultural transformation. It is a natural concept of destruction of local cultures as a result of exposure of that culture to the globalization. But, in case of India, as it is facing exposure to foreign cultures since ancient times and hence it has become a strong culture, which still enjoying with its all varieties and flavours of culture instead of several times foreign domination.

Rather, it can be said that, in response to early history of exposure to foreign cultures, Indian physical and cultural terrain give rise to new, fertile and unique cultural expression. In every period of time since ancient past, Indian cultures face and reacts to every situation of cultural flows from east to west during past; from mid-east to west and east in the medieval period and more recently cultural flows from west to east. Here comes the idea of cultural globalization. Though the impact of globalization is not unidirectional, rather changes its direction from time to time. In ancient past, predomination of Indian food, textiles, spices, artifacts all over the Western World shows direction of cultural flows from east to west. But in recent years, especially after

colonization, culture flows are mainly from west to east. Inspite of the fact that, Indian cultural tradition and its attributes are not faded away, western cultural flows penetrating continuously into Indian culture with the increasing exposure to globalization. Hence, India is now showing a new cultural integration with splashes of Western colours in every fields of social life along with Indian own cultural traditions and cultural platforms. This has created a new global culture in the platform of Indian unique age-old traditions. Thus, in other words, increasing penetration of market cultures, Indian cultural values are changing very fast. This changing conceptualization depicts in every individual, family, society, community and attitude towards environment.

Sorokin (1985) distinguished between ideational and sensate civilization. The former are spiritual and the later are materialistic. Such a distinction is based on the use of knowledge by various cultures. For example, ideational cultures use knowledge for transformation of inner life, while sensate cultures focus on moulding the external life with the use of science and technology. In case of India, on an average, ideational variables dominate the intellectual activity and social practices, while globalization especially pattern of material consumption and resultant social status along with application of science and technology provide indicators of sensate cultures. However, in the recent era of globalization, the world is providing evidences of the dominance of sensate culturesin every field of human activity.

In a commercial society of recent era, the penetration of western cultural values through the market mechanism is a common feature. In a traditional society like India, where chanting of Vedic mantras can still be heared by common people at the time of worship; globalization is bringing a radical change and local manifestations of imported cultural elements demonstrate social changes.

Berger (1997, 2000) mentioned about four arenas of cultural globalization, which are business culture, popular culture, intellectual culture and in new social movements. He also mentioned four possible effects of the interactions of local and global cultures-
  i)   Replacement of local culture by the globalized one,
  ii)   Parallel existence of both local and global cultures,
  iii)   Synthesis of global culture with the local one and
  iv)   Total rejection of global cultures by the local culture.

The two extremes among these four outcomes, i.e., total acceptance and total rejection- are mainly 'pure' in form, while the other two are developed as a result of hybridization. In India, all these four outcomes are existed in society in permutations and combinations based on regional flavours of the country. Though cultural preservation movements by Hindu or Islamic fundamentalists are manifestations of rejection criterion; but the movements of teachers, students, doctors, engineers, scientists etc are the outcome of synthesis effect. However, in every field, India is providing synthesis effect which is the maintaining of first parallelism and subsequently synthesis of local and global cultures. Here comes the concept of hybridization of culture. Cultural hybridization results from the synthesis of global culture with the local. For example, expenditures for marriage extravagates, use of western dress and décor- all have become a part of wedding events. Departmental stores, shopping malls and very recently online shopping- all determine the synthesis of Western cultures with the traditional Indian cultural platform. India is said the land of thousand festivals. Here, more western festivals have added like Valentines Day, Mothers day, Rose day and so on. On one side, there is traditional cultural activities by fundamentalists while on the other side, newer social movements propose ideas of women's rights, environmentalism, legal rights of tribal groups which have adopted from western social movement issues.

VI. Culture Change among Migrants

Migration contributes the diversity of cultures, ethnicity and behaviours among people coming from outside. Individuals who migrate experience numerous stress that impact their mental well-being. Loss of social support systems, loss of cultural norms, religious customs, adjustment to a new culture of migrant generally changes their concept of self and identity in a new environment. The rate of mental illness are increased in some migrant groups.

The highly educated knowledge workers concern about the new environment of the new place and react accordingly. Globalization creates the scope to collect information about the destination place much before reaching the new place. Such information proves helpful in contemporary days. Besides this, there arises some situation after reaching the new place, which become obvious to face by the immigrant at the work place and at the residential area too. Pre-existing concepts about the new place for immigrants needs modificationas there are positive as well as negative implications for the situation at destination to tackle by new settler.Migration for economic or educational reasons mainly done individually and at a later date be joined by their families, whileforced migration by political reasons may occur with their families.

Feminization of migration has become a recent topic for discussion among policy makers of different countries. It is reflected in the increasing number of female migrants which is now changing the migration pattern of the world. Females are now going to other places not only as an accompanying person but as migrant worker, student, scientist, doctor, engineer etc. This new trend of migration should be supported by more

gender-sensitive policies which would help thewomen migrants to overcome every obstacles faced by them during migration phase. Such policies can also protect female migrants from experiencing vulnerable situations that may put them at the heighestrisk of violence, abuse and exploitation (World Migration Report, 2020).

VII.Conclusion

Migrants are agents of culture change due to their culturally dynamic character. Immigrants change the culture of the host societies through mixing. Values and beliefs are exchanged between native and immigrant people. In some cases, migrant's values are considered as inferior to the host culture group, thus creating stress on the psychology of migrants. Researchers are pointing out to the different situations arising infront of migrants through microlevel study and try to formulate suitable measures to overcome these negative situations. Cultural convergence generated through migration of people worldwide sometimes eroding national diversity, as pre-existing remote and isolated communities mixes up with metropolitan cultures and assimilates into global culture. But it is the local people, who will have to take control of the situation so that revival of local cultures may open the scope of spreading in a new form that is suitable for young generation through preserving all the flavours of regional specificity and maintain the cross-border information flows on a wide range of cultural values.

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