



ICM
INDIA CENTRE
FOR MIGRATION

Panel Discussion

Report
January 2020



Students' Mobility:
Challenges, Opportunities and Prospects

ABOUT ICM

The India Centre of Migration (ICM) was established in the year 2008 as a research think-tank to Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on all matters relating to international migration and mobility. The Centre undertakes empirical, analytical and policy related research, and undertakes pilot projects to document good practices. Over the years, ICM has expanded its scope of work, by following a multi-pronged approach by actively organizing workshops, research studies and seminars in collaboration with academic institutions, state governments, international bodies.

ICM conducts research studies which entails monitoring and analysis of the trends and dynamics of international labour market. It has also been contributing towards programs for skill development and skill upgradation to promote employment opportunities overseas.

The centre is the implementing partner representing MEA in the ongoing technical support project under the aegis of Joint Declaration on India-EU Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility (CAMM).

ICM has broadened its scope by playing a pivotal role in conducting Training of Trainers workshops and certifying Master Trainers. The trainers impart Pre-Departure Orientation (PDO) Training to migrant workers in order to ensure that workers migrate safely for overseas employment with an enhanced skill-set. In this regard the PDO resource material in the form of comprehensive manuals and handbooks in seven languages has been developed.

Apart from that, this year onwards ICM plans to conduct a host of research activities such as panel discussions, consultation workshops, conferences and empirical studies. These research endeavors would be undertaken with a view to generate new ideas and come up with research studies that cater to the underlying issues and areas concerning migration.

ICM envisions to lead research and analysis on international migration to support informed policy making and enable strategic interventions for a coherent and harmonised response to the transnational movement of people from India.



Introduction

The India Centre for Migration (ICM) organised a Panel Discussion on Students' Mobility: Challenges, Opportunities and Prospects on the 15th of January 2020. The discussion witnessed participation from representatives of higher educational & research institutions, think tanks, UN bodies and funding agencies. The overarching theme of the discussion was to identify the contemporary trends of student mobility from and identify the policy challenges and future pathways in the field.

Inaugural Address

The discussion commenced with a welcome address by Shri Yogeshwar Sangwan, Joint Secretary, MEA. Mr. Sangwan gave a brief introduction to ICM and its past activities including its past collaborations with national and international partners. He further provided a brief overview of the theme of

the panel discussion and emphasised on the significance of the said theme in the light of India's expanding youth population.

Shri Dinesh K. Patnaik, Additional Secretary (CPV-OIA), MEA delivered the keynote address. He drew an important distinction between student migration and other types of migration stating that in India, traditionally, students are not considered migrants. On the other hand country such as UK often term students as migrants. He urged for the need to look at migration from a comprehensive point of view, one that would also facilitate migration of teachers, researchers and skilled professionals. He underlined how the mobility of students is linked to the larger issue of connectivity and mobility of various other professionals. Elaborating on the role of the Indian government, he stated that although there is no single body which deals with student migration, the government has played a key role



in facilitating student migration and continues to be engaged in exploring ways and means through which it can be facilitated.

He further highlighted the key issues faced by Indian students in the destination country. This includes fraud and malpractices by unscrupulous agents who charge hefty sums from students in the name of getting them an education abroad. After reaching the destination country, students often find that the universities do not exist or aren't recognized by government bodies. In this context, he highlighted the role played by the government in executing Labor Mobility Partnership Agreements (LMPAs) which help create a legal framework and ecosystem through which students can migrate. These agreements also include partnership on key issues such as degree recognition, equivalence and post study employment and training. He informed the discussants that a 'Global Indian Student Portal' is in the works which would serve as one stop center

for all information needed by Indian students for studying abroad.

At the end of the inaugural address, Dr. Surabhi Singh, CAO, ICM gave a brief introduction to each of the Panellists. The panel consisted of Dr. Gulshan Sachdeva (JNU), Prof. Binod Khadria (JNU), Dr. Aarti Srivastava (NIEPA), Dr. Amba Pande (JNU) and Ms. Neelanjana Gupta (Brookings India).

Mr. Patnaik informed that informed the discussants that a 'Global Indian Student Portal' is in the works which would serve as one stop center for all information needed by Indian students for studying abroad.



Panel Discussion

The discussion started with an address by Prof. Gulshan Sachdeva, who acted as the moderator for the discussion. Prof. Sachdeva set the tone of the discussion by sharing his personal anecdotes about encountering the presence of Indian students in non-traditional study destinations. He stated that Indian students were not only migrating to popular destinations such as US, UK and Europe but also non-traditional and historically lesser known study destinations such as Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. Citing the example of Indian medical students who obtain medical degrees from foreign educational institutions, and face problems in practicing medicine in India, he drew comparisons with the Bologna Process. (The Bologna Process was a multilateral inter-governmental exchange which standardized and unified higher education systems across Europe to facilitate student and staff mobility.)

Citing such global best practices which facilitated student mobility, he highlighted the need to strengthen cross-institutional exchange of students, researchers and scholars, within India and from India to other parts of the world. Handing over the floor to the panelists, he invited Prof. Binod Khadria to begin his presentation.

Prof. Sachdeva highlighted the growing importance of non-traditional study destinations such as Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan and the need to address challenges faced by students regarding recognition of degrees from such places.



Prof. Binod Khadria (Retired)

School of Social Sciences, JNU

Prof. Khadria began with highlighting the existing trend of emigration from India. Given the existing demographic trends, he noted that India was expected to supply 80% of the future global labour force. He highlighted how migration policies across the world have become increasingly selective and rapid demographic changes have led to a 'global talent war'. He presented the migration of students in four phases i.e. (i) Pre 1991 which was the pre-reform phase where mobility of students was mostly confined to students going and coming back (ii) 1991-2000 which was marked by the overlap between the educational market and labour market (iii) 2001-2015 where the education market and labour market came closer and was characterised by features such as Optional Practical Training (OPT) and post-study work opportunities and (iv) 2016-2030 where an almost entire merger of the educational market and labour market took place.

After discussing the trends, Prof. Khadria highlighted certain key issues concerning global student migration from India. Given that most of the student's foreign education is funded out of their parents' pocket, he noted that India's reverse remittance's share has been increasing. The money which is sent out to foreign countries in the form of educational fees, counters the large share of money received in form of remittances sent by Overseas Indians. Linking this to the current status of India's diaspora diplomacy, Prof. Khadria highlighted that diaspora diplomacy shouldn't only be viewed narrowly in terms of national interest but also a method to transcend domestic boundaries and build global community. In other words, he noted that increased diasporic engagement can finally dismantle migratory barriers and strengthen the global community as a whole.



Dr. Aarti Srivastav

NIEPA

Prof. Aarti Srivastava began by addressing the key reasons behind student migration. This included the expectation of rise in remuneration, desire to expand knowledge, desire to acquire market-oriented skills and the need to adjust with the dynamic job market. In order to improve student mobility from foreign countries to India, she enumerated measures such as starting entrance exams for foreign students to enter Indian universities, ensuring residential security for foreign students, starting language bridge courses to remove linguistic barriers and initiating degree equivalence & certificate courses. Another measure suggested by Ms. Srivastava was to consider matching of the Indian admission cycle to the international student calendar. She noted that three factors should be kept in mind while monitoring skill gaps i.e. educational level, expertise in technical skills and quality.

Ms. Neelanjana Gupta

Brookings Institution India

Continuing with this theme, Ms. Neelanjana Gupta highlighted the need to make structural changes in the higher education architecture in India which could facilitate increased inward mobility of foreign students to India. She recommended measures which include matching degrees and skills with the changing nature of the job market, increasing focus on good quality independent research and working to improve access to well qualified faculty.



Dr. Amba Pande

School of International Studies, JNU

Dr. Amba Pande noted at the outset that migration is a welcome phenomenon. She briefly discussed the developmental impacts of outward and inward migration and how structural improvements within the system could further improve and facilitate such mobility. She suggested that China's overhaul of its education system could serve as a good practice in this regard. She informed the participants that China increased public funding of higher educational institutions and adopted a model of mass education. This was marked by measures such as the increase in number of scholarships, improvement in infrastructure and increased enrolment of domestic and international students.



Question and Answer Session



Participants posing questions on issues concerning funding and linguistic barriers.

Ms. Shikha Sinha from DAAD highlighted the existing language gap and asked if courses could be initiated to enable students to overcome linguistic barriers in foreign countries

The Panellists responded by stating that language courses could be initiated both at

university level and by government recognized institutes. This could be in consonance with the current trend of student migration to western european countries.

Ms. Neeru Snehi asked whether networking with regional organisations is a possibility which would enable students to use those networks to pursue higher education? Prof. Sachdeva remarked that the government should explore such possibilities to strengthen cross-institutional mobility of students and researchers.

The Panel Discussion was also attended by funding agencies such as DAAD and Fulbright. After the Panellists spoke, funding agencies were invited to share their views on student mobility. It was noted that migration of students should not be viewed as brain drain or loss of remittances but as a means of knowledge transfer and creation. The need for



a comprehensive strategy was also highlighted not only to increase student mobility from India but also for improving the branding and marketing of educational institutions in India to improve inward student mobility.



Representative from DAAD, Dr. Katja Lasch emphasising on the need to formulate guidelines for recognition of dual-degrees pursued abroad.

Conclusion

The Panel Discussion was followed by a Question and Answer session where some crucial points from the discourse on international student mobility were raised. This included issues such as language barriers which hinder participation in the education and job market, conflict of interest between sending and destination countries and the mutual non-recognition of educational degrees. The need for a comprehensive and coherent policy that links both inward and outward student migration was underscored. The closing remarks were delivered by Prof. Gulshan Sachdeva who noted how the discourses on mobility and education are co-dependent and require a coordinated and comprehensive approach. He noted that policies that take into account this mutual dependency between mobility and education can facilitate circulation of knowledge. The Panel discussion culminated with a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Shashank Vikram, Director, OIA-I, MEA who thanked all panelists and participants for a fruitful and enriching discussion.

Students' Mobility: Challenges, Opportunities and Prospects

Concept Note

Rapid globalisation has fuelled large scale commercialisation of higher education leading to the establishment of education as a tradeable service. A deliberate and conscious implication of this establishment has been the internationalisation of higher education, facilitated and sustained through large flows of internationally mobile students making education a key driver of migration. This mobility has been facilitated by the availability of cheaper and faster means of travel and communication, and free movement of money and capital. The number of internationally mobile students has risen from 2 million in the year 2000 to over 5.3 million in the year 2017 (UNESCO). The top destination for students has been the United States of America, United Kingdom, Australia and Russia (Ibid.).

In this sphere, India has emerged as a significant player as a leading consumer and provider of education services. It is noteworthy that India's changing demographic structure coupled with socio-economic advancement has contributed to its position as a major country of origin for international student migration. Many Indian students are also choosing European nations to pursue advanced studies. Within Europe from the years 2008-2016; Germany (1174 to 4056), Cyprus (826 to 3192), France (803 to 2587), Poland (241 to 2657), Ireland (642 to 2339) and the Netherlands (317 to 1475) have witnessed a sharp increase in the number of permits issued for Indian students for education purposes over the last years (Eurostat figures).

Given that the global mobility of Indian students for higher education constitutes a substantial portion of emigration from India, it is pertinent to ideate strategies that can facilitate efficient and productive migration. Additionally, increased international student migration presents an ideal opportunity to maximise its developmental impact not only through prospective flow of remittances but also through skill enhancement and knowledge transfer.

Against this backdrop- the India Centre for Migration (ICM) is organising a panel discussion on Students' Mobility: Challenges, Opportunities and Prospects on the 15th of January 2020. Participants of the panel discussion will be drawn from think tanks, higher educational institutions, government bodies, UN Agencies, civil society etc. This Panel discussion will deliberate on the existing trends of student migration and mobility from India. This entails identifying student migration patterns by mapping popular study destinations and identifying prominent degrees and programmes chosen by Indian students.

Panellists will also discuss best policy practices concerning student migration including analysing the growing restrictionism in immigration policies, flagging cultural, linguistic and financial barriers in availing education and employment, balancing increasing student intake vis a vis paucity of skill gaps in different countries and recognition and equivalence of degrees in India and abroad. Participants will also be encouraged to mark existing skill gaps across different regions which could enhance post-study employability and high skilled migration. The discussion will conclude with a deliberation on the challenges and the way forward.

Panel Discussion

Students' Mobility: Challenges, Opportunities And Prospects

Programme Schedule

15th January 2020

2:30 – 3:00	Registration	
3:00 – 3:05	Welcome Address	Shri Yogeshwar Sangwan Joint Secretary, MEA
3:05- 3:15	Keynote Address	Shri Dinesh K. Patnaik Additional Secretary(CPV-OIA), MEA
3:15 – 3:20	Introduction to the Panel by ICM	Dr. Surabhi Singh CAO, ICM
3:20 – 3:30	Introductory Remarks by Moderator	Prof. Gulshan Sachdeva School of International Studies, JNU
3:30 – 4:30	Panel Discussion Prof. Binod Khadria (Retired) School of Social Sciences, JNU Dr. Aarti Srivastav NIEPA Ms. Neelanjana Gupta Brookings Institution India Dr. Amba Pande School of International Studies, JNU	
4:30 – 4:50	Question and Answer Session	
4:50 – 4:55	Closing remarks by Moderator	Prof. Gulshan Sachdeva School of International Studies, JNU
4:55 – 5:00	Vote of Thanks	Dr. Shashank Vikram Director (OIA-I), MEA
5:00	High Tea	



INDIA CENTRE FOR MIGRATION

Students' Mobility: Challenges, Opportunities And Prospects

15th January 2020

Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra, New Delhi

Bio-Profile of Speakers

Panellists

Prof. Binod Khadria

Dr. Aarti Srivastava

Ms. Neelanjana Gupta

Dr. Amba Pande

Moderated by: Prof. Gulshan Sachdeva



Dinesh K. Patnaik
AS (CPV&OIA)

Mr. Dinesh K. Patnaik is a career diplomat of the Indian Foreign Service with experience of over 25 years in a variety of interesting and challenging assignments. He has served in Indian Missions in Geneva, Dhaka, Beijing and Vienna. At Headquarters, he has served in the Europe West, External Publicity, Africa and UN Divisions. Mr. Patnaik served as the Deputy Chief of Mission at the Indian Embassy in Vienna from 2009 to 2012, was India's Ambassador to Cambodia from 2012 to 2015, Ambassador to the Kingdom of Morocco from 2015 to 2016, and was Deputy High Commissioner of India to London from 2016 to 2018. He was Additional Secretary (Indian Ocean Region) in the Ministry of External Affairs from November 2018 to July 2019. He is currently Additional Secretary (CPV&OIA) of the Ministry of External Affairs. Ambassador Patnaik holds a Master's degree in Business Administration (MBA) from the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Kolkata. He also holds a Master's degree in Advanced International Studies from the University of Vienna and Certificate in International Studies from the Diplomatic Academy, Vienna.



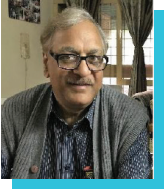
Yogeshwar Sangwan
JS OIA 1 & CEO, India Centre for Migration

Mr. Yogeshwar Sangwan is a graduate from IIT Delhi. He joined Indian Foreign Service in 1994 and has served in Indian Mission in Iran and Romania. He has served as Indian Ambassador to Armenia and Georgia from 2016 to 2019. Presently, he is serving as Joint Secretary in Ministry of External Affairs as well as Chief Executive Officer of India Centre for Migration.



Prof. Gulshan Sachdeva

Dr. Gulshan Sachdeva is Professor, Centre for European Studies, School of International Studies, JNU. He holds a Ph.D. (Economic Science) from Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest, 1994 and an M.Phil. (Soviet Studies) from School of International Studies, JNU. His area of interests center on Europe (European economic integration, India-EU), Afghanistan (security, development, regional cooperation) Russia and Eurasia (economic transformation, India-Russia, India-Central Asia) etc. He has previously held the Jean Monnet Chair in European Economic Integration & Energy Security (awarded by the European Commission, 2016- 2019).



Prof. Binod Khadria (Retd.)

School of Social Sciences, JNU

Dr. Binod Khadria recently retired as a professor of economics and education after teaching and guiding research scholars at Jawaharlal Nehru University's School of Social Sciences for last thirty years. He was the recipient of two prestigious fellowships, the Times Fellowship for post-doctoral research of national importance to India, and the Fulbright Senior post-doctoral grant in the US; and been the Director of International Migration and Diaspora Studies (IMDS) Project at JNU. He has also taught at universities in Australia, Japan, Singapore, the Netherlands, Geneva, France, UK, Ireland, and Boston and Pennsylvania in the US. In addition, in 2017-18, he held the prestigious inaugural ICCR (Indian Council for Cultural Relations) Chair of Visiting Professor in Contemporary Indian Studies at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey.



Dr. Aarti Srivastava

Associate Professor

Department of Higher and Professional Education, NIEPA

Dr. Aarti Srivastava is Associate Professor, Department of Higher and Professional Education, National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA). Doctorate from Jawaharlal Nehru University and masters in both Economics and Education, she has worked in premier Research Institutes, University of Delhi and Banaras Hindu University. She has closely contributed to the NCF2005, (NCERT), World Social Science Curriculum (CBSE), Rockefeller funded project on South Asia, as well as been trained at IIEP, Paris. Dr. Srivastava is on the editorial board of several indexed Journals apart from having published widely on Youth Employability, Gender, Teaching- Learning and other aspects of Higher Education.



Ms Neelanjana Gupta

Brookings Institution India

Neelanjana Gupta is a Research Analyst at the Brookings Institution India Center. She has an academic background in economics and quantitative analysis, and is interested in conducting evidence-based research to inform policy decisions. Her areas of focus are education and financial inclusion with the cross-cutting theme of gender. She hopes to use her experience and knowledge to empower those who wish to create better lives for themselves. Previously, she has served at NITI Aayog's Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office. She obtained a Master of International Affairs from the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and International & Global Studies from Brandeis University.



Dr. Amba Pande

School of International Studies, JNU

Dr. Amba Pande is associated with the School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Dr. Amba Pande received her M.Phil. and PhD from Centre for Southeast Asia and South-West Pacific Studies, School of International Studies, JNU. Her research interests include Indian Diaspora, International migration, Transnationalism and Indo-Pacific. She has been a visiting faculty/scholar at the University of Amsterdam (the Netherlands), University of South Pacific (Fiji), and Otago University (New Zealand). She has done major research projects with UGC and ICSSR. Dr Amba Pande is part of the editorial board of several journals and book series. She is the founder-editor of Migration and Diaspora: An Interdisciplinary Journal, GRFDT, New Delhi (<http://www.grfdt.com>) and Associate Editor of International Studies Journal (Sage).



Dr. Shashank Vikram

Director OIA I

Dr. Shashank Vikram, is an officer from the 2004 Batch of Indian Foreign Service(IFS). He is a medical graduate from GSVM Medical College, Kanpur. Before assuming his present post of Director in Ministry of External Affairs, he served as Consul General of India, Durban. Earlier he has also served in Indian missions in Lisbon and Brasilia.



Nishi Kant Singh

DS OIA I

Mr Nishi Kant Singh joined Indian Foreign Service(IFS) in 2010. He graduated in life sciences from Hansraj College, Delhi University. He has served in Indian Mission in China and has worked in eGovernance & IT Division of the Ministry. Presently he is serving as Deputy Secretary in Overseas Indian Affairs Division-I and is looking after day to day affairs of ICM.



Tadu Mamu
US OIA I

Ms. Tadu Mamu joined Indian Foreign Service in 2011. She is a graduate in Electrical Engineering. She has earlier served in Myanmar. Presently, she is serving as Under Secretary in Ministry of External Affairs.



Dr. Surabhi Singh
CAO, India Centre for Migration

Dr. Surabhi Singh holds a PhD in international relations from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Before assuming her current post of Chief Administrative Officer at India Centre for Migration, Dr. Singh has worked at the Indian Council of World Affairs and International Organization for Migration.



India Centre For Migration

Sushma Swaraj Bhawan

Dr. Rizal Marg, Chanakyapuri,

New Delhi- 110021

Tel: +91-11-24156415

Email: icm@mea.gov.in