

Original Article

# A Study of Migration Management and the Role of Migration Resource Centers with Special Reference to India

Deepshikha Bhattacharjee<sup>\*1</sup> and Somodatta Bhattacharjee<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Law, Assam University, Silchar, Assam, India

<sup>2</sup> Department of History, Assam University, Silchar, Assam, India

\*Corresponding author email: deepshikhab108@gmail.com

**Citation:** Bhattacharjee, D.; Bhattacharjee, S. (2021). A Study of Migration Management and the Role of Migration Resource Centers with Special Reference to India. *Journal of Intellectuals*, 1(1), 130–143. Retrieved from <https://journals.bahonacollege.edu.in/index.php/joi/article/view/joi2021-1-1-11>

Received: 11 August, 2021  
Revised: 19 October, 2021  
Accepted: 16 December, 2021  
Published: 25 December, 2021

**Publisher's Note:** JOI stays neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.



**Copyright:** © 2021 by the authors. Submitted for possible open access publication under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).

**Abstract:** Migration has been a reality of human civilization. Human migration has been perceived differently at different points of time. While in some host countries, migrants are welcomed, in some other, they are considered to be a burden. Normally, in case of international migration, migration occurs from less developed countries to the developed ones. So, apparently it appears that only the countries where emigration occurs gain from the remittances. But, actually migration can lead towards development of not only the emigrating countries but also the countries where migrants arrive. However, mismanagement of the process of migration can have disastrous impact too. To reap the benefit of migration, migration must be managed properly. Migration management is very important and it has to be done by both the sending and receiving countries. The main aim of migration management is to ensure safe, regular and orderly migration. Migration Resource Centers (MRCs) play a very important role in this regard. The Migration Resource Centers (MRCs) of different countries are very important links in the process of migration management. They are one of the key elements in achieving the objectives of migration management. MRCs can be set up by Government or by non-governmental institutions, Trusts, etc. Sometimes the pioneer migrants set up such centers for helping the existing as well as prospective migrants. The multinational corporations (MNCs), private enterprises also invest in Migration Resource Centers as a part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activity. MRCs may be bearing different names in different places. Migration Resource Center, thus is an umbrella term for all the centers or institutions helping migrants one way or the other. The present paper aims to analyze the role of MRCs with special reference to the case of India.

**Keywords:** Migration Resource Centers (MRCs); Migration, International Migration; Migration Management; Safe Migration; Development; Emigration; Immigration; Migration Research

## 1. Introduction

Migration has been a reality of human civilization. But, it is perceived differently at different points of time. While some countries welcomed migrants, some others

considered them to be a burden. Again, the countries which once welcomed them are now formulating laws for preventing the same. A country's attitude towards migration always depends on time and circumstances. The states have always followed a realist approach in dealing with migration. Thus, on the basis of state interest, migration laws are made liberal and stringent. Migration has great impact on socio-economic and political dimensions of any state. As estimated in the World Migration Report 2020, there are 272 million international migrants worldwide. This constitutes 3.5% of the world population. (Mcauliffe, 2019). Various reasons are there for the increased movement of people from one country to another. The most important ones are the development of communication and connectivity, means of transport, relaxed political blocks, etc. The reasons which pull people towards a developed country is the prospective rise in wage, better living conditions etc. The push factors are worse livelihood, wage disparity, internal strife, religious persecution, etc. in the home countries. Migration although is not a new phenomenon, it indeed has become more complex in present times (IOM, 2004).

India has a major share of internal migration and has also been one of the principal countries of origin of international migrants (De, 2019) (UNDESA, 2020). According to the 2011 Census, there is approximately 450 million internal migrants in India including both intra-state and inter-state migrants which shows a sharp rise of 45% since the 2001 Census data (De, 2019). Between 2011 and 2016, as per the Economic Survey of India 2017 the size of inter-state migrant population was approximately 60 million (Sharma, 2017). The major origin states have been Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, etc. and the major destination states have been Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Gujrat, etc. (Kamal, 2018). Regarding international migration, India has a significant size of diaspora population in various countries like Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, USA, etc. In the Gulf countries, there are 8.4 million Indians living and working (MEA, 2021). From Indian states of Bihar, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, etc. a substantial number of migrants move to the Gulf countries (Sasikumar, 2015). This is due to infrastructural development and demand for semi-skilled and low-skilled workers in different important sectors of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, USA, etc. (Khan, 2021). India has received approximately 87 billion USD remittance from these countries in 2021 (PTI, 2021). Apparently it appears that only countries from where emigration takes place gain from the remittances. But, actually migration can be beneficial for not only the place of origin of the migrants but also the place of their destination. To reap the benefit from migration, migration management is very important and it has to be done by both the countries of origin as well as the destination countries. Migration Resource Centers (MRC) play a very important role in migration management. The present study tries to find the research gap by reviewing the related literature and attempts to present an analytical study on the MRCs.

## 2. Review of Related Literature

Migration is an interdisciplinary concept. It has economic, social, political, cultural, environmental, and anthropological aspects to name a few. Thus, ample literature is available on migration from various disciplines. Irudaya Rajan and Arokkiaraj's article titled *Research on International Migration from India Needs a Fresh Start*, published in Economic and Political Weekly (EPW) is a very recent piece on migration research. It discusses the gaps existing in

present migration research. The basic problem, according to this article, is lack of data. There is serious lack of data on internal and international migration, cross-border trafficking, forced and illegal migration, etc. Secondly, migration studies must include psychological, geographical, sociological approaches and it should not only be limited to demographic, economic and political approaches. Thirdly, the trend of studying the impact of migration from India to USA, Canada, UK, and the Gulf countries only should be changed. The area should be broadened and researches should be conducted on the impact of migration from India to South-East Asian countries, the Scandinavian countries, etc. The book titled *Handbook of Internal Migration in India* edited by S. Irudaya Rajan and Sumeetha M. (First edition, 2019, SAGE Publications Private Limited) deals extensively with India's internal migration. It adopts an interdisciplinary approach while discussing about the causes of internal migration, the trends, and various dynamics related to it. The essays try to explore the relationship between migration and the families, societies, and the economies of the migrants. Regarding the policymaking on migration, the book examines various impacting factors such as gender, religion, caste of the migrants, broader issues like urbanization, climate change, and existing political environment in the states as well as the country. The book gives special importance in understanding the issue of temporary migration in India and its impact on the economy and socio-political of the country. Hein de Haas's *Migration and development: A theoretical perspective*, a working paper published in 2008 by International Migration Institute (James Martin 21st Century School) University of Oxford analyses various theories of transnational migration, and the theories dealing with migration as an element of development. The article *Migration Governance in a Pandemic: What Can We Learn from India's Treatment of Migrants in the Gulf?* by Rhea Abraham and published in the EPW deals with a very relevant issue of migration governance. The impact of migration depends on the migration governance and management, and the article throws light on migration governance in the extraordinary times. It gives a detailed analysis of the Government of India's strategies of migration governance in the present pandemic time. An ILO publication titled *Managing International Labor Migration from India: Policies and Perspectives* by S.K.Sasikumar and Zakir Hussain (ILO Asia-Pacific Working Paper Series, 2008) discusses about labor migration from India. It deals with both the immigration and emigration policies of the country and migration management in India. Paul Tacon and Elizabeth Warn's *Migrant Resource Centers: An Initial Assessment* published by the IOM discusses about the MRCs, the good practices they are following for helping migrants and the sustainability of such practices. Another IOM publication, the work of Dr. Jane Pillinger titled *Running an Effective Migrant Resource Centre: A Handbook for Practitioners* gives a detailed description of what an MRC is, how to set up MRCs, the ways of building sustainable MRCs, and the problems faced by the MRCs in successfully serving the migrants.

### 3. Research Gap and Rationale of the Study

There is ample amount of literature on migration. But, the specific area, i.e., Migration Resource Center (MRC) is relatively new and yet to be studied properly. Full-fledged research works have not been done in this area. The literature published by International Organization for Migration (IOM), International Labor Organization (ILO) and Governments focus on the bright sides, i.e., the good practices of the Centers. So, from these literature, one can only know whatever has been achieved as they barely talk about the unfinished tasks. Besides, the literature is mostly in the

shape of reports, news, press releases, etc. Migration is a very important element of sustainable development, and through proper management, it can be beneficial for the development of both the countries of origin and destination. More research works should, therefore, be undertaken on the importance of MRCs in this regard. The present study attempts to fill the gaps in research on MRCs. First, it tries to present an analytical review of the importance of the MRCs, their functioning in general all over the world followed by their status and working in India.

#### **4. Methodology**

The study employs an analytical method. It is mainly based on secondary sources. Various publications by Migration Resource Centers (MRC), International Organization for Migration (IOM), International Labor Organization (ILO), etc. have been consulted for the study. Various manuals, brochures on how to set up and run effective MRCs are also used. The Governments of the countries having MRCs also publish their works. The websites like <https://icm.gov.in/>, <https://mea.gov.in/index.htm> are also consulted. Some unstructured interviews have also been conducted in an online mode. Questions like if they are aware of the existence and service of MRCs, if they have sought and actually got any help from the MRCs, etc. are asked to some skilled and unskilled persons working abroad and some who are planning to move abroad.

#### **Research Questions**

The study aims to answer the following questions:

- a) What is migration management?
- b) What is Migration Resource Center (MRC)?
- d) How are the Migration Resource Centers (MRCs) performing in India?

#### **5. Migration Management**

The concept of migration management aims at maximizing the benefits of migration, and minimizing the negative impacts of it. It leads to safe migration and ensures to bring it in an orderly form. There has been a trend to decide policies on immigration or emigration unilaterally by the states on the plea of state sovereignty. Proper importance is not given on coordination of all the states (both sending and receiving) in policy making and managing migration. Lack of coordination has led the whole process into conflict with contradictory rules and regulations. International migration is essentially a transnational matter, and, therefore, it has to be dealt with in a coordinated manner, and not unilaterally (Baas M, 2019). Governments of all the states should cooperate in sharing information regarding migration and in setting up processes and operating them at the same time. Besides, internal migration too needs to be dealt with in collaboration with the states or units in a federal system like India and all the stakeholders. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has set up a Migration Management Department having five different divisions. These are Migration Health Division, Migration, Environment and Climate Change Division,

Migrant Protection and Assistance Division, Immigration and Border Management Division, and Labor Mobility and Human Development Division. There is one unit attached to it which is called the IOM Development Fund Unit (IOM, Migration Management, 2016). The various divisions have their own fields of expertise. They generally advise the countries on how to mainstream migration. They look after and manage the issues such as safe movement of people from one state to another or within the state, the return of migrants with assistance, the health of the migrants, trafficking, border management, etc. The Development Fund is there to manage different migration related projects in partnership with different multilateral, private and Government partners.

Migration contributes to development. Both the countries of origin as well as the destination countries can reap the benefits of migration if it is properly managed. The Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 identifies migration as an important driver of sustainable development in the world. Irregular and illegal migration leads to chaos, and it cannot be an instrument of development for any state. When a migrant moves safely and legally to another country, first, he/she can be placed well or have better employment opportunities, second, he/she can serve the destination country as a part of its labor force, and third, he/she can send more remittances to the country of origin. The remittances are directly linked to the well-being of the family of the migrants and in a broader sense, it contributes to the economic development of the home country. A migrant to be able to work well and earn, has to be healthy. Moreover, his/her basic necessities must be fulfilled. Thus, the migrant must have the right to access to basic services in the place or country they move to. All these are only possible if migration is legal and is managed properly by both the host and home side. A poorly managed migration can also impact negatively and it can also bring hardships to the migrants. Thus, a safe, orderly and regular migration is the aim that must be pursued by all the countries in the world. Migration management has to concentrate on the humane aspect of migration too (Purkayastha, 2018). Thus, human rights of the migrants is a very important issue that has also to be managed for a proper migration management.

## **6. The Migration Resource Centers (MRCs) and their Performance in India**

Migration Resource Centers (MRCs) of different countries are very important links in the process of migration management. They are one of the key elements in achieving the objectives of migration management. A clear cut definition of MRC is not very easy. They are actually the structures or centers to provide help to the migrants and setting up coordination with the home Governments as well as the Governments of other countries. MRCs can be bearing different names in different places. They can be set up by Governments and also by Non-Government bodies, Trusts, etc. Sometimes the migrants themselves set up such centers for helping the existing as well as prospective migrants. The multinational corporations (MNCs), private enterprises also invest in Migration Resource Centers as a part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activity. Within the definition of MRC, the centers or institutions which provide migrants meeting space, religious institutions which provide faith-based services and let the migrants meet people from the same religious group, etc. can also be included. In Dubai, the St. Mary's Catholic Church has been providing space for migrants and allowing them to come and interact. MRC, thus is an umbrella term for all the centers or institutions helping migrants one way or the other. First, the MRCs has to identify their clients or the people whom it intends to serve. The term client here is used for a person who comes to the MRC for any help related to migration. Some MRCs

include a wide range of clients whereas some focus on specific groups. For example, some serve the current migrants and the migrants who are willing to migrate, the migrants who are planning to return, and also the families of the returnees. But, some MRCs are specific towards one or some of such groups. After identifying the client groups, the next important step for the MRCs is to know the needs of the groups. A migrant may be facing many problems, but, it is not possible for the MRC to provide help for to deal with all the problems. So, to maintain a good and relevant service, the MRC should make a list of services that it can actually provide to its clients. A target group analysis and a need analysis are the handy tools in the hands of the MRCs for this purpose. For target group analysis, they have to keep a track of outgoing and incoming migrants from the authorized sources, like Government websites, websites of international bodies dealing with migration, etc. They can also contact the migrant associations, if any, to know about their needs and problems. For need analysis, they can go for collection of data regarding the migration pattern of the country of origin, the system of transportation, the laws relating to migration, etc. Information should also be collected of the destination or host countries. Whether the laws of the host countries are migrant-friendly, whether the migrants have knowledge about the laws, whether it is safe to migrate to that country, these are some of the information which should be collected. Many relevant information can be collected from pioneer migrants or the migrants who have returned and are experienced. The MRCs should be in consultation with different Government and non-governmental agencies as well as researchers in the field of migration in order to identify the needs of the targeted groups. Before setting up an MRC in Georgia, more than 100 prospective migrants were consulted by the IOM as a part of client need analysis, and a service package was made on the basis of the feedback given by the consulted clients (ILO, 2018)

Besides the identification of target groups and their problems, the other two most important factors that the MRCs have to focus are location and language. Inaccessible locations can ruin the main purpose of setting up of MRCs. Online accessibility, no doubt is a way, but it cannot be considered to the universal solution. The unskilled, technologically uneducated or less educated migrants may not be having online accessibility. Thus, the MRCs should be located in such an area which is more or less accessible from the areas of transportation, like rail stations, bus stands, airports, etc. Language is another important matter which has to be given utmost importance. The MRCs should be keeping in mind the language or languages of the area where they are located. There may be a general language which all or most people of the space can understand or specific languages must be used for special target groups of specific linguistic communities. If communication is disrupted because of linguistic barrier, it kills the very aim of the MRCs (Pillinger J. , 2015)

The service provided by the MRCs varies from one MRC to another. It also varies from one country or region to another. First of all, the MRCs try to provide information and advice relating to the laws, the rights as migrants, employment opportunities, visa process, etc. to the ones planning to migrate. But, here again, the information and orientation differ in case of different groups. For example, the information provided to the ones aiming to take up domestic jobs post migration is different from those to the students. The students are provided with the information on the laws for pursuing studies abroad, the country where they want to go, the fee structure of the university or educational institutions, etc. Besides, they are made aware of the international students groups and bodies and the students services they provide, the employment opportunities, and warnings are given on exploitation by the fake

employment agencies. The pre-migration information is very important in the sense that they help persons who are planning to migrate to take an informed decision which leads to their safe migration. Many a time people decide to migrate without having proper information or having false and misleading information. There are groups of people who try to make profit by helping people cross the borders illegally. Kamal Sadiq, in his work *Paper Citizens: How Illegal Immigrants Acquire Citizenship in Developing Countries* explains how a group of people by taking advantage of erratic systems and bureaucracies in different countries, provide documents to illegal migrants (Sadiq, 2008). The documents do not have any legal base and they make the migrants/immigrants only paper citizens. The people who facilitate the process have literally made this a business and are making huge amount of money out of it. The MRCs can be helpful in saving the migrants from such rackets. Many people find it difficult to complete the formalities of passport, visa, work permit, and MRCs provide assistance in these cases. The MRCs provide information about employment opportunities and the ways to approach for them beforehand. They make people aware about the fraudulent job openings, sector specific job opportunities so that the migrants can settle in the destination country without much difficulty (Tacon P. a., 2009).

The pre-migration information also includes information relating to the political condition of the destination country, banking and transport system, culture, food, language, customs, etc. In order to make the prospective migrants ready for any social challenge in the country of destination, training programs are organized by the MRCs. Many cross-cultural experts are also invited to impart training (ILO, Pre-Departure Training Curriculum, 2014). The MRCs also provide training and orientation which help the migrants find employment in the destination country without much difficulty. For low skilled and unskilled laborers who are planning to go abroad for better employment opportunities, the MRCs advise to go for training and skill development programs so that they can find suitable jobs within the country. Thus they do not have to move to another country and it solves their problems (Tacon P. a., 2009).

Remittance is one the most important issues of migration studies. The MRCs play an important part in imparting financial knowledge to the migrants. The migrants are provided with information regarding the ways of sending money to home, the less costly ways of money transfer, investment, etc. The returnees also receive help from the MRCs. They are helped with information regarding job positions in their own countries once they return. They help the returnees reintegrate with the culture of home. Psychological services are provided to them and they are referred to specialists if needed. MRCs are also instrumental in making migration an element of development. Ensuring safe and orderly migration prove to be beneficial for the migrants as well as the home and host countries. Imparting training to prospective migrants, enriching them with prior information, helping them search and find suitable job in foreign countries, ensuring their safe return, and supporting them post return, all of these lead to a healthy migration process. Remittances are helpful for home countries, more specifically those which are poor economies. For host countries, a regular and orderly migration process prevent illegal immigration and the developed host countries can use cheap labor in their economy. It, thus, leads to a win-win situation for both the sides, and reflects positive impact in the lives of the migrants. The MRCs aim to provide impartial service to all migrants. The migrants get all sorts of legal and procedural information in migration process. The MRCs help migrants being aware of their rights and obligations relating to migration. The MRCs aim at integrating the migrants with the destination countries, preventing irregular and illegal

migration, protecting regular migrants, etc. Besides, MRCs take up the tasks of promoting sustainable migration and linking migration with development (Takon, 2010). MRCs extend help not only international migrants, but also internal or inter-state migrants (Pillinger J. , 2015).

Regarding service delivery, there are different methods. The principal ones are direct and indirect or passive methods. Direct method can also be termed as active method. This method involves direct contact with the client. Here individual client or a group approaches the centers and receive information and advice in written form, or orally, or through internet. The client is sent to other specialists also if it is found necessary. In the passive method, the MRCs does not see the client personally or individually. It is a general kind of assistance where important information is shared thorough websites, leaflets, notices, etc. Information gets outdated, and it is one of the disadvantageous parts of passive method. To make this method effective, websites, notices, etc. should be continuously updated. The MRCs also help the clients with advocacy. The poor, uneducated, disable people who find it difficult to stand for their rights are advocated by the MRCs. Services are also provided through telephone, email, etc. Awareness campaigns are organized so that people get to know about the service and can access them. For awareness, mediums like radio, television, newspaper, text messaging are used (Pillinger D. J., 2015).

India is predominantly an emigrating country. As per India Migration Now (IMN), a research and advocacy organization, India receives approximately 5 million immigrants from different countries and sends approximately 18 million people to other countries, which is more than double of the number of immigrants.<sup>1</sup> (Singh, 2021) According to the Ministry of External Affairs, Indians are there in approximately 199 countries of the whole world (MEA, 2018). India is the highest receiver of remittances worldwide. This is an estimation of the World Bank. The country has received almost \$79 billion as remittance in the year 2018 as per the World Bank data (Bank, 2019). Thus, as a sending country, it is very important to be aware of the labor market trends, changing laws, especially labor laws of various countries. It is also very important for a sending country to portray an image of being a country sending potential and skilled laborers. There are attempts to help people through MRCs. Although MRCs can be set up by both Government and non-governmental bodies, the present paper deals with the initiatives taken by the Government. The erstwhile Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs<sup>2</sup> took the initiative and started Overseas Workers Resource Centre linking it with the MRCs in various places like Hyderabad, Chennai, Kochi, etc. It attempted to be active 24 hours and give advice and information on migrating to different countries, the challenges, and the rules. Both pre-migration and post-migration helps were extended (MOIA). The migrants used to be given all information regarding Indian embassies for help migrants post migration. Information on fraudulent employment agencies were also given to the migrants so that trafficking, sexual crimes could be prevented.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in the year 2008 started a non-profit organization named India Center for Migration (ICM). The center undertakes various projects, research work on international migration and advises the

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://indiamigrationnow.org/>

<sup>2</sup> The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs merged with the Ministry of External Affairs post 2014.



Government in policy making. (MEA, India Center For Migration, 2021). The ICM takes care of these on behalf of the Government. It estimates the gaps in labor supply in the markets of other countries, the possible opportunities for Indian workers there, and the skills needed for different sectors. It also conducts skill development programs for the people who want to move abroad for work and study. Pre-migration trainings, and orientations are also arranged for the workers. It makes arrangements to take care of the welfare of the people already overseas. As a think-tank it studies and compares the measures taken by various other countries of origin for ensuring safe and orderly migration which are helpful in Government policymaking.

The pre-migration training and orientation programs (which is also called pre-departure orientation training) have some basic objectives. First, the prospective migrants are attempted to make aware of the importance of regular migration. It is normally meant to discourage them to choose irregular migration which has legal and political implications. Awareness is made regarding various Government schemes for the protection and welfare of the emigrants. It is of utmost importance to make the prospective emigrants know about the immigration rules of the destination countries. So, training is imparted on this aspect also. After the preliminary knowledge, survival and doing well in the destination countries are equally important. So the orientation programs are designed in such a way that can help the prospective migrants with soft-skill development which include trainings on customs, languages, and indigenous rules of the host countries. The courses of these programs are designed in different Indian languages for making it an inclusive one. Trainings are available in all these languages. Approximately 30 orientation and training centers are set up by the Government of India which are located in the states of Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Punjab, Bihar, West Bengal, Tamilnadu, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Telangana, Karnataka, Orissa, etc. (ICM, Important Information for Migrant Workers, 2018). In the southern states and Bihar and Punjab, there are more numbers of the training centers. After the Corona pandemic hit the whole world including India, the training programs were suspended for some time, but, resumed again in the latter part of 2020. From November 2020, approximately 97,000 workers have undergone training. The Government of India has also come up with online training programs considering the present pandemic situation (MEA, 2021).

Various initiatives have also been taken by the India Center for Migration. Indian workers emigrate to the European countries and the gulf countries more than anywhere else in the world. The ICM conducted a Labor Market Survey of the markets of the European countries, the employment opportunities in various sectors, and the prospect for India to supply labor. In order to make it a smooth process for those who go and also to use migration to EU as an instrument of development, the ICM has come under collaboration with the European Union (EU) for having constructive dialogue and better policy making in the area of migration. Under this initiative, conferences are held, research papers were published and many awareness campaigns were organized in different places. The Government has also set up Migration Resource Centers in Kerala, and Andhra Pradesh in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to make the prospective migrants aware about migrating to the European countries. In 2010, the Government of India set up an MRC in Dubai for the migrants to the Gulf countries. Along with the (IOM), the ICM, in 2012 launched vocational skill training project for the people in the states of Northeast India planning to migrate within India or abroad. In 2014, in collaboration with the United Nations Women (UN Women), workshops were organized

for awareness of the women who were intending to go to the Gulf countries as domestic workforce. As a think tank, the ICM provides the Government necessary input for policymaking like it has been doing on Emigration Management Bill. It also helped Government with data to develop rules on employment contract, on emigration, etc. the ICM also runs fellowship programs where researchers are invited to carry on research on the broad theme of migration within India and abroad (Migration, 2018). During the ongoing pandemic situation the Government of India has been helping the migrants by taking various initiatives like welfare fund for the Indians staying abroad, MADAD which is an electronic portal giving Indian migrants in other countries a chance to register the grievances. Besides, programs such as Mahatma Gandhi Pravasi Suraksha Yojana, Pravasi Kaushal Yojna, Pravasi Bharatiya Sahayata Kendra, etc. have been started for this regard (Abraham, 2020).

## **7. Conclusion**

Even after being one of the most important sending country, there is lack of proper database on migrants. Only some states like Punjab, Tamilnadu, Gujrat, and Kerala have their databases in the state level. Traditionally, emigration used to happen from the states in Southern part of India, but, now states like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, etc. have also joined the league. But, database is yet to be developed in these states. There are some inherent problems with the databases too. They focus plainly on voluntary, legal and regular migration of laborers, as emigrants and as returnees, but, there is no mention about emigrants who move for higher studies, or work, or due to marriage. Also, no mention is made of forced migration, irregular migration, human trafficking, etc. The lack of data creates knowledge gap in understanding as well as policymaking in this field (Irudaya Rajan S. a., 2020).

Some problems are there in regard to the functioning of the MRCs. The number of MRCs set up by the Government is found to be insufficient. Mainly the capital cities or big cities have the MRCs. Many a time, it is difficult for people in rural areas to come again and again access the services. Most of the MRCs set up by the Government are located in the states of South India. In the eastern side Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal have MRCs. But, the northeastern part of the country is mostly neglected. MRCs are not set up in the states of Northeast (ICM, 2016). Skill development courses giving emphasis on hospitality sector have been conducted in Assam in collaboration with IOM. But, due to lack of MRCs, the prospective migrants have to face problems of location and language to avail the services of the MRCs.

Another drawback of the centers is that the whole concept is majorly for helping the workers, meaning the laborers and some for the students. But, they are of little help for the women who have to migrate post marriage and lose their job along with facing problems relating to visa. The researcher conducted an informal interview with some such women in online mode. These women are highly educated having engineering and management degrees from top B schools in India who found themselves jobless after migrating to the United State of America after marriage. They call themselves 'visa-wives'. Being asked about MRCs, their answer was that they were not aware as they had never heard about it. Some of these women have managed to get employed after several years of migration and, now they themselves are conducting online workshops on various employment opportunities, the ways to approach the recruiters, ways to deal with visa problems, etc. Thus, awareness is also an issue with the MRCs. People must be made

aware to be able to avail the services. The MRCs should give more importance to female migrants. They should change the notion that they work for workers, unskilled laborers, and students only and not for the skilled and educated people. Female migrants are the most vulnerable. They are exploited abroad. There is a record of complaints filed by female migrants with the embassy of India in Kuwait. There are rackets of fake and unrecognized recruiting agencies acting as middlemen for the employment of female migrants as domestic workers abroad (Irudaya Rajan S. &, 2020). There are cases of human trafficking by these kind of agencies. Most of the female migrants migrate illegally and because of no valid document, they have to depend on the fraudulent agencies. This increases the chance of exploitation of women, their deportation, illegal practices and unsafe migration. In 2019, more than 300 Indian migrants were deported from Mexico on the charge of illegal immigration (MEA, 2019).

Another problem in India is that here less importance is given to the services for the immigrants which must be looked after properly. Links should be strengthened with the diaspora. Diaspora can be very helpful in supplying information about the destination country, employment opportunities there, and any possible legal, political, and social hurdles for the migrants. The migrants must also be given orientation about how to contact the diaspora organizations in their destination countries so that they can get help from them in need. There should be more importance given to the collaborations with the academia. The researchers working on various aspects of migration can be very helpful in advising on policymaking for the Government. Like the shifting trend in emigration, where people from various other states along with the south Indian states are now migrating, trend of choosing the destination country is also changing. Now, Indians, mainly laborers and students are not only moving to the Gulf, but also to various countries of Southeast Asia like Korea, Japan, and China, etc. Besides, Indians are also moving to Scandinavia. But, the level of research on these shifting trends is unsatisfactory. It is high time that the researchers and the academia take up these new issues for in-depth study (Irudaya Rajan S. a., 2020). Without detailed and comprehensive research the loopholes cannot be discovered and it will impact on necessary policy making. Research on the issues of migration, the MRCs, etc. will increase awareness too. MRCs need to be more inclusive regarding clients. They should widen their jurisdiction of functioning. By ensuring safe movement and positive work opportunities, the MRCs are helping the migrants in their personal development and well being which further leads to the way of migration for development.

## References

1. Abraham, R. (2020, August). Migration Governance in a Pandemic: What Can We Learn from India's Treatment of Migrants in the Gulf? *EPW*, 55(32-33).
2. Baas M, Y. B. (2019). Introduction: Migration studies and critical temporalities. *Current Sociology*, 67(2), 161-168.
3. Bank, T. W. (2019). *Record High Remittances Sent Globally in 2018*. Washington: The World Bank.
4. De, S. (2019). Internal Migration in India Grows, But Inter-State Movements Remain Low. *World Bank Blogs*. Retrieved January 2022, from <https://blogs.worldbank.org/peoplemove/internal-migration-india-grows-inter-state-movements-remain-low>.

5. De, S. (2019). Internal Migration in India Grows, But Inter-State Movements Remain Low. *People Move*. Retrieved January 2022, from <https://blogs.worldbank.org/peoplemove/internal-migration-india-grows-inter-state-movements-remain-low>.
6. Express, T. I. (2009). *Punjab to set up Migrant Resource Centre*. Chandigarh: The Indian Express.
7. ICM. (2016). *Annual Reports, 2011-12, 12-13, 13-14, 14-15, 15-16*. India Center for Migration. Retrieved January 2022, from [https://mea.gov.in/images/ARs\\_of\\_ICM\\_in\\_English\\_3\\_9\\_2018.pdf](https://mea.gov.in/images/ARs_of_ICM_in_English_3_9_2018.pdf).
8. ICM. (2018). *Important Information for Migrant Workers*. ICM. Retrieved August 2021, from <https://icm.gov.in/ebook?pdf=%2Fapi%2Fv1%2Ffile%2Fimage%2Fbooklet-pdf%2F4>.
9. ILO. (2014). *Pre-Departure Training Curriculum*. ILO. Retrieved January 2022, from [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/asia/robangkok/srobangkok/documents/publication/wcms\\_314224.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/asia/robangkok/srobangkok/documents/publication/wcms_314224.pdf).
10. ILO. (2018). *A Mapping of Migrant Resource Centers in the Arab States*. ILO. Retrieved August 2021, from [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/arabstates/ro Beirut/documents/publication/wcms\\_618767.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/arabstates/ro Beirut/documents/publication/wcms_618767.pdf)
11. (2020). *Inter-State Migrant Workers in Ernakulam, Kerala*. Caritas, India. Retrieved August 2021, from <https://www.caritasindia.org/first-migrant-resource-centre-inaugurated>.
12. IOM. (2004). *International Agenda for Migration Management: Common Understandings and Effective Practices for a Planned, Balanced, and Comprehensive Approach to the Management of Migration*. The Berne Initiative. International Organization for Migration (IOM). Retrieved July 2021, from <https://www.refworld.org/pd/fid/46949e762.pdf>.
13. IOM. (2010). *Migrant Resource Centre to Help Potential Indian Migrants Make Informed Decision*. IOM. Retrieved August 2021, from <https://www.iom.int/news/migrant-resource-centre-help-potential-indian-migrants-make-informed-decision>.
14. IOM. (2016). *Migration Management*. IOM. Retrieved August 2021, from <https://www.iom.int/migration-management>.
15. Irudaya Rajan, S. &. (2020). Research on International Migration from India Needs a Fresh Start. *EPW*, 55(5).
16. Irudaya Rajan, S. a. (2020). Research on International Migration from India Needs a Fresh Start. *EPW*, 55(5).
17. Irudaya Rajan, S. a. (2020). Research on International Migration from India Needs a Fresh Start. *EPW*, 55(5). Retrieved January 2022, from <https://www.epw.in/engage/article/research-international-migration-india-needs-fresh>.
18. Kamal, S. (2018). *Inter-State Migration: Why Migrant Workers Must Be A Part Of India's Development Story*. Swarajya. Retrieved January 2022, from <https://swarajyamag.com/ideas/inter-state-migration-why-migrant-workers-must-be-a-part-of-indias-development-story>.

19. Khan, A. A. (2021). Challenges of reverse migration in India: a comparative study of internal and international migrant workers in the post-COVID economy. *Comparative Migration Studies, CMS 9*, (49). doi:<https://doi.org/10.1186/s40878-021-00260-2>.
20. Mcauliffe, M. a. (2019). *World Migration Report 2020*. Geneva: International Organization for Migration (IOM). doi:DOI:HTTPS://DOI.ORG/10.1787/ECO\_SURVEYS-USA-2018-EN.
21. MEA. (2018). *Question No. 6091 Indian Citizens Abroad* . MEA.
22. MEA. (2019). *Unstarred Question No. 2738:Deportation of Indians*. MEA.
23. MEA. (2021). *Annexure- I to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No.2653, Number of Indian Workers in Gulf and Emigration Check Required (ECR) Countries*. Ministry of External Affairs. Retrieved January 2022, from [https://www.mea.gov.in/Images/arebic/ru2653\\_00.pdf](https://www.mea.gov.in/Images/arebic/ru2653_00.pdf).
24. MEA. (2021). *Inaugural launch of online Pre-departure Orientation Training Programme*. MEA. Retrieved August from <https://fsi.mea.gov.in/pressreleases.htm?dtl/33776/Inaugural+launch+of+online+Predeparture+Orientation+Training+Programme>.
25. MEA. (2021). *India Center For Migration*. MEA. Retrieved August 2021, from <https://mea.gov.in/icm.htm>.
26. Migration, I. C. (2018). *Pre-Departure Orientation for Migrant Workers*. India Center for Migration. Retrieved August 2021, from <https://icm.gov.in/ebook?pdf=%2Fapi%2Fv1%2Ffile%2Fimage%2Febook-pdf%2F4>.
27. MOIA. (n.d.). *Overseas Workers Resource Centre & Migrant Resource Centres*. MOIA. Retrieved August 2021, from <https://www.mea.gov.in/images/pdf/owrc-and-mrc.pdf>.
28. Pillinger, D. J. (2015). *Running an Effective Migration Resource Center*. IOM. Retrieved January 2022, from [https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/running\\_effective\\_migrant\\_resource\\_centre.pdf](https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/running_effective_migrant_resource_centre.pdf).
29. Pillinger, J. (2015). *Running an Effective Migrant Resource Centre: A Handbook for Practitioners*. IOM. Retrieved January 2022, from [https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/running\\_effective\\_migrant\\_resource\\_centre.pdf](https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/running_effective_migrant_resource_centre.pdf).
30. Pillinger, J. (2015). *Running an Effective Migration Resource Center*. IOM. Retrieved January 2022, from [https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/running\\_effective\\_migrant\\_resource\\_centre.pdf](https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/running_effective_migrant_resource_centre.pdf).
31. PTI. (2021). *India, world's largest recipient of remittances, received USD 87 bn in 2021: World Bank*. The Economic Times. Retrieved January 2022, from <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/india-worlds-largest-recipient-of-remittances-received-usd-87-bn-in-2021-worldbank/articleshow/87772984.cms?from=mdr>
32. Purkayastha, B. (2018). Migration, Migrants, and Human Security. *Current Sociology*, 66(2), 167-191.
33. Sadiq, K. (2008). *Paper Citizens: How Illegal Immigrants Acquire Citizenship in Developing Countries*. Oxford University Press.

34. Sasikumar, S. . (2015). *From India to the Gulf region: Exploring links between labour markets, skills and the migration cycle*. Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and the International Labour Organization (ILO).
35. Sharma, K. (2017). *India has 139 million internal migrants. They must not be forgotten*. World Economic Forum. Retrieved January 2022, from <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2017/10/india-has-139-million-internal-migrants-we-must-not-forget-them/>
36. Singh, P. a. (2021). *Millions Of Indians Seek Better Lives Abroad, But India Treats Immigrants Poorly, New Study Shows*. India Migration Now. Retrieved January 2022, from <https://www.indiaspend.com/governance/millions-of-indians-seek-better-lives-abroad-but-india-treats-immigrants-poorly-study-711347>.
37. Tacon, P. a. (2009). *Migrant Resource Centers: An Initial Assessment*. Geneva: IOM. Retrieved January 2022, from [https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/mrs\\_40.pdf](https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/mrs_40.pdf).
38. Tacon, P. a. (2009). *Migrant Resource Centres: An Initial Assessment*. IOM. Retrieved January 2022, from [https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/mrs\\_40.pdf](https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/mrs_40.pdf).
39. Takon, P. a. (2010). *Migrant Resource Centres: An Initial Assessment*. IOM, IOM Migration Research Series. Geneva: International Organization for Migration. Retrieved August 2021, from [https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/mrs\\_40.pdf](https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/mrs_40.pdf).
40. UNDESA. (2020). *International Migration 2020 Highlights*. New York: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. Retrieved January 2022, from [file:///C:/Users/Deepshikha/Downloads/undesa\\_pd\\_2020\\_international\\_migration\\_highlights\\_updated.pdf](file:///C:/Users/Deepshikha/Downloads/undesa_pd_2020_international_migration_highlights_updated.pdf).