Research Paper

Economic, Socio-Cultural and Familial issues of Return migration: a Survey of Return Migrants in Hyderabad[1]

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ABSTRACT:
Return migration is an important, but often neglected component of the immigration process. Return refers broadly to the act of going back from a country of presence (either transit or destination) to the country of previous transit, or origin. There are numerous sub-categories of return which can describe the way it takes place, e.g. voluntary, forced, assisted or spontaneous return; as well as subcategories which can describe who is participating in the return, e.g. repatriation (for refugees). Voluntary return is based on an informed decision freely taken by the individual. Ease of transport, globalization, economic opportunities and disparities are drastically transforming human mobility into an increasingly complex, multidirectional phenomenon. Instead of migration being a onetime journey, migrants and their families often subsequently move to a second or third country of destination. While each person has the right to return to his/her own country, return is not necessarily the final stage in the migration process. Return migration is a major component of migration flows and migrants plan their migration pathway and their return in light of their individual and family objectives and many other factors. They also take into account of opportunities in the home country. The present study is limited to those educated middle class professionals on the move who have lived outside and are now back in Hyderabad either permanently or temporarily. The study depends on both the secondary and primary sources, with the help of secondary sources, return migration and the economic, socio-cultural and familial issues of return migration have been addressed. A primary survey of 35 return migrants in Hyderabad has been undertaken who have returned to work and live in Hyderabad, taking into consideration various factors that pulled them out of the country and eventually returning back. It includes their plans of emigration, return and their impact and their expectations from the government for better management of the entire migration process.
KEYWORDS: return migration, Hyderabad, IT, professionals.

I. INTRODUCTION

Return migration is an important, but often neglected component of the immigration process. Return refers broadly to the act of going back from a country of presence (either transit or destination) to the country of previous transit, or origin. There are numerous sub-categories of return which can describe the way it takes place, e.g. voluntary, forced, assisted or spontaneous return; as well as subcategories which can describe who is participating in the return, e.g. repatriation (for refugees). Voluntary return is based on an informed decision freely taken by the individual (IOM, 2004). Ease of transport, globalization, economic opportunities and disparities are drastically transforming human mobility into an increasingly complex, multidirectional phenomenon. Instead of migration being a onetime journey, migrants and their families often subsequently move to a second or third country of destination. While each person has the right to return to his/her own country, return is not necessarily the final stage in the migration process.

Many migrants do not envision returning to their country of origin, and a multitude of factors influences their final decision whether or not to return. Where return takes place, it may be of a permanent or temporary nature, keeping open the possibility of renewed out-migration (IOM, 2008). Recently, innovative

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options such as "virtual" return have also emerged, helping migrants to contribute to development projects in their countries of origin while remaining abroad. Making return migration work for economic and social development is a key opportunity for countries of origin and an area where cooperation with countries of destination and other stakeholders can play a major role. One of the principal benefits of return can be the "brain gain" involved in the return of skilled nationals who may have gained additional work experience, skills and know-how while abroad. For example, complementing an assessment of labour market needs with policy tools, such as special visa regimes and other incentives in cooperation with the private sector, can help attract qualified nationals from abroad. Returning migrants may bring entrepreneurial initiatives, transnational contacts, investment capital and intercultural competencies to their country of origin.

Though many are seen to be making multiple multiples over a period of time, some will return home and others will not, some will move to a new destination, while others will be caught up in a cycle of circular migration. But though return migration forms a major component of migratory flows, knowledge of it is still in fragments and as Feindt and Browning (1972) defined return migration as a significant but insufficiently studied phenomenon. The main motivation for emigration is generally economic, the reasons for return are numerous, complex and sometimes contradictory. Both individual and societal factors play a role in effecting the homeward flow of emigrants. Returning home does not necessarily mean the end of the migration pathway nor is it always final.

'Return migration describes a situation where migrants return to their country of origin by their own choice, often after a significant period abroad' (Dustmann and Weiss, 2007). The contributions of the return migrants to their origin country may result from a combination of the resources they transfer upon their return; they bring back with them the education and working experience they acquired abroad. Secondly they may come back with financial capital in the form of savings and they may also have specific social capital obtained from their migration experience. IMO (2008) espouses that return migration can have a positive impact in the form of creating new businesses by the returnees and help improve the functioning of markets in their home country. They can also help in fostering the transfer of adoption of new technologies. For many of the migrants, 'return allows them to capitalise on the skills they have acquired abroad by landing a more highly skilled job than they could have hoped for had they stayed at home' (IMO, 2008).

The issue of return is at the heart of the debate on international migration management and understanding of the phenomenon is still fragmentary because of the difficulties in measurement and the lack of comparative data. Return migration is a major component of migration flows and migrants plan their migration pathway and their return in light of their individual and family objectives and many other factors. They also take into account of opportunities in the home country. Comparisons on lifestyle, food, schools, and hygiene and work culture follow, and a family consensus on "returning to India" is reached. NRI techies find that they can make valuable contributions to the booming IT industry in India and with a good number of "world" schools, plush accommodation, global entertainment and the sprouting shopping malls, India is the place to be.

Returning professionals try to effect positive change or expedite it by focussing on the comprehensive development of their hometowns. Chacko (2007) expressed that the efforts of the returning professionals in contributing to their hometowns may range from funding infrastructure development and education to fostering civic engagement. These professionals wish to provide an anchor for foreign-born second and third generation Indian immigrants while helping improve the physical and social infrastructures of their hometowns. They also maintain transnational networks through their work, personal friendships, ownership of property and a desire to send their children abroad for college education. But despite an overall positive experience, returning expatriates also experience frustrations. The NRI townships and gated communities are perceived as islands of privilege. The upscale residential communities often have landscaped gardens, tennis and badminton courts, swimming pools, clubhouses with gyms and well equipped playgrounds that are a far cry from other typical residential environments in the cities. Being gated keeps them exclusive and inaccessible to any other than the residents and their guests and the hired help. The NRIs themselves, with their affluent lifestyles and high salaries are sometimes resented and viewed as instrumental in skyrocketing of real estate values in the areas where they settle. The overall poor infrastructure, pot-holed and traffic-clogged streets and apathetic governmental departments and bureaucracy in the cities they live in also continue to vex the newly returned.

The present study is limited to those educated middle class professionals on the move who have lived outside and are now back in Hyderabad either permanently or temporarily. The study depends on both the secondary and primary sources, with the help of secondary sources, return migration and the economic, socio-cultural and familial issues of return migration have been addressed. A primary survey of 35 return migrants in Hyderabad has been undertaken who have returned to work and live in Hyderabad, taking into consideration various factors that pulled them out of the country and eventually returning back. It includes their plans of emigration, return and their impact and their expectations from the government for better management of the entire migration process.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Return migration is usually considered as the final phase of the migration project and periodic returns for short vacations followed by overseas employment within the same migration project are not considered return migration. Sahay (2009) pointed out that in all of the literature on return migration, there exist some underlying assumptions about return: the first assumption views return as temporary, the second as permanent and lastly where return is chosen owing to different factors like failure or homesickness. Migration studies relating to return draw our attention to the different typologies of return migration keeping in mind the differences between migrants intending their departure to be permanent and also those who intend it to be temporary.

Return migration as one of the main component of international migration has not received its due, due to the fact that there no substantial data or information on how many are returning each year and under which category. Return refers broadly to the act of going back from a country (either transit or destination) to the country of previous transit or origin (IOM, 2004). Return migration is defined as 'the movement of emigrants back to their homelands to resettle' (Gmelch 1980: 136). Tambiah (2000) expressed that a development that beckons increasing attention in our era of globalisation concerns the enormous transnational movements of people for various reasons: in search of employment in the more prosperous industrialized or industrializing countries as guest workers or as immigrants. He further goes on to say that there is intensification in the creation of diverse diaspora populations in many locations, who are engaged in complex interpersonal and intercultural relationships with both their host and origin societies.

Skilled migration is synonymous with legal, permanent migration as the richest countries compete with each other to fill the labour shortages in an increasingly knowledge-based economy. However, the growing concern has been raised by the developing countries is that skilled workers are being hovered up leading to negative consequences of its various development. But attempting to restrict the migration of the skilled may not achieve the desired objective and may unfairly discriminate against career advancement for African and Asian professionals. Further, voices for facilitating 'brain circulation' by the government are increasingly on the rise instead of thinking of 'brain drain'.

For many immigrants, returning home is a prospect they cherish and one that sustains them during their migration history. Different ties with the home country at different levels at different points of time keep their aspirations alive. Migrants arriving under temporary programme, lend themselves naturally to the return dynamics (IMO 2008: 162). Some migrants choose to return and still some do not, some will move on to a new destination and while others will be caught up in a cycle of circular migration. But while return migration is a major component of migratory flows, out knowledge of it is still fragmentary.

Definition of return migration:

Return can be defined as the situation where a 'migrant goes back to his home country after living in another country for some period of time, (the definition often concealing more complex situations like secondary or repeat migration, temporary or definitive return) (IMO 1008: 163). Goulbourne (1999) has defined return as 'not a permanent or static feature but is rather a recurring and dynamic process. According to United Nations Statistics division for collecting data on international migration (UNSD, 1998), returning migrants are 'persons returning to their country of citizenship after having been international migrants (whether short-term or long-term) in another country and who are intending to stay in their own country for at least a year (IMO 2008: 164).

IOM has defined return migration as, 'return refers broadly to the act of going back from a country of presence (either transit or destination) to the country of previous transit, or origin. There are numerous sub-categories of return which can describe the way it takes place, e.g. voluntary, forced, assisted or spontaneous return; as well as subcategories which can describe who is participating in the return, e.g. repatriation (for refugees). Voluntary return is based on an informed decision freely taken by the individual' (IOM 2004: 10).

Whether return is happening in the true sense:

Return migration is taking place as can be seen from the literature, though the flow may be less but it is taking place and which needs to be taken into consideration. The dynamics of the globalising cities in India and the opportunities they offer now draw skilled immigrants homeward. Well educated and affluent first generation Indian expatriates are returning to India to take advantage of new job opportunities and to strengthen their connections with their heritage. Returning immigrants bring with them skills, connections and capital that helped thrust the Indian IT industry to the forefront. They are also involved in improving the physical and social infrastructure of their hometowns not only with capital but with personal involvement, helping the cities and communities from which they originated. The rising number and strength of transnational linkages forged by returning immigrants in Hyderabad is mirrored in the global connections of firms, services and institutions

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located in the city. National, state and city government as well as private enterprise have also been instrumental in promoting transnational ties that are economic, social and cultural in nature.

This refers to the decision to return permanently to one's country of origin. This often occurs as migrants near the end of their lives and decides that they wish to return to live and die where they were born. Return migration can, as we will see, have significant *beneficial* effects on the society if these people bring with them large amounts of capital: knowledge, finance and technical and professional skills which they use when they return. Return migration may have significant *negative* effects on the society where they return with limited resources and depend on their families and governments to look after them in their old age, which brings out the significant importance of the consequences of movement (Macpherson 2000). Migration may have important on the cultures and societies. Migration also has effects on the cultures of both the places that migrants leave and those in which they re-settle. These effects vary with different types of migration and the lengths of time involved. Migration can have significant effects on economies. Migration has impacts on the economies that people leave and those in which they re-settle. These effects vary with different types of migration, the skills of the migrants and the lengths of time involved.

Dustman and Weiss (2007) argued that with a sufficiently high rate of return migration, the source country can actually gain from the opportunity that its citizens have to acquire experience abroad and which is quite opposite of the usual brain drain argument. Social links between the sending and receiving areas become stronger, migration costs decline and more people will find migration economically profitable when enclaves of migrants from the same place of origin develop at the destination. Return is not permanent or static feature but is rather a recurring and dynamic process (Goulbourne 1999: 161). He dealt with the problems, opportunities and policy issues of return by stating that several problems as well as opportunities are generated by the process of return and settlement. These may include both psychological and practical difficulties that are involved in the decision to move from one physical location to another and which are compounded by returnees' memories and expectations. Problems prevail at all levels and they are associated with customs and excise rules, health services, house prices and residential concentration. Adding to these, he also mentioned that there are all also less than professional behaviour of lawyers are at the root of the returnees practical concerns and which tend to influence not only the final decision to return but also the day-to-day struggles involved in the process of re/settlement. It has also heard of many success stories: migrants who have gained new skills while working abroad and who have returned to their own country and established successful businesses.

Return migration with reference to the Indian context

India is particularly important source country for skilled migration in sectors such as IT, engineering and health care. In recent years, India has also 'experienced increased incidence of return migration and a growing role of overseas Indians in its economy, especially in sectors such as IT and business process outsourcing (BPO)' (Chanda and Sreenivasan 2006: 215). They claim that these trends have mainly been spurred by the phenomenal growth of these sectors in India in the past 5-10 years, including the presence of important multinationals and growing employment opportunities. Brought out the differences in the earlier and the present studies, while the earlier studies dating to 1960s and 1970s focussed on the brain drain and loss of public subsidies in higher education, the present studies are now dealing with understanding the impact of skilled migration through brain circulation, in terms of contributions in skill and technology transfer, FDI and start up capital, diaspora networks and return migration.

India is witnessing large droves of graduates and other Indian technologists who were previously working abroad, and as Wadhwa (2010) pointed out, they started returning in small numbers in the 1980s and 1990s and fuelled the early growth of India's IT industry, driving the subcontinent to become the world's system administrator. He further pointed out that since 2000, hundreds of global multinationals have set up research labs in India to capitalize on cheap but highly skilled labor and to move closer to emerging markets in Asia. He further expressed that with the US economic downturn and political pressure, stopping this drain will be challenging and as a research by their team at Duke, Harvard and Berkeley Universities has shown, smart Indians and Chinese are now leaving for a broad combination of professional and cultural reasons. The desires to be closer to friends, family and comfortable lifestyles now easily available in their countries are strong drivers. Of all these factors, the most important factor driving their return is a strong belief that they will have brighter professional and economic futures at home, regardless of politics or even a rebounding US economy (Wadhwa 2010: 21). The study further revealed that most foreign national students now express little desire to settle in the US, many said to have preferred to return to their home country to start a business or build a career. Supriyo (2009) remarked that recession, uncertainties and difficulties in the immigration process and emerging opportunities in India combined, have created a flow of reverse migration from the United States to India. Adding to this, there is also a trickle from the UK and the dam has burst in Dubai and which has given rise to Indian cities full of returnees, with a bit of cash, trying to start a new life all over again. He pointed out a study, a trend reading, where the study concluded that America is no longer the only land of opportunity. A similar

research conducted at Duke University shows that people who are returning home to China and India are highly educated, about 35, economically successful and many of them are permanent residents or citizens, implying that while immigration difficulties may play a part, this is not the only reason people want to go back.

Large scale emigration in the long run would lead to return migration where emigrants would return to their home country after staying away a couple of years. Many emigrants who migrate for better economic reasons focus on better economic opportunities at the place of destination. Due to the economic liberalization, there is the emergence of job opportunities in the Indian labour market at various sectors. The highly-skilled professional Indians who had earlier gone abroad in search of better educational and professional opportunities are now starting to make a move back owing to the changing scene. The highly skilled are moving back to reap the good that has come out of the liberalization process and the booming of the Indian economy. India once viewed migration of educated individuals as brain drain are now reaping benefits in the form of brain gain owing to the huge exodus of people including the highly skilled individuals who are returning home after having some foreign exposure. Their 'return is now being seen as 'brain gain' for the source country, as return migrants come back with improved levels of knowledge and technical skills, i.e., human capital' (Khadria 229: 73). Owing to the stable growth of the Indian economy, not only is the outflow of high-skill professionals from India expected to decline, there is a hype about enhanced return migration to India (Khadria 2009: 134).

Although much of the skilled migration from India to the developed countries has tended to be permanent in nature, increasingly, there is a reversal of such flows (Chanda and Sreenivasan 2007: 231). They opined that the recent slowdown in the US economy and the bursting of the tech bubble coupled with the growing business and employment opportunities in India, return migration to India is on the rise. The Indian IT and BPO industries are playing an instrumental role in driving return flows to India. According to NASSCOM, between 2001 and 2004, roughly 25, 000 Indian IT professionals settled abroad have returned to India. In spite of the fact that these numbers are small, the point to be noted is that they are rising. It is estimated that around 6, 000-7, 000 technology professionals returned to India in 2001 and that this figure could be anywhere around 8, 000-10, 000 in 2004. Furthermore, according to NASSCOM sources, reverse migration is not restricted to the IT industry but also visible in the financial services sector (Hindu Business Line, Dec 16, 2004).

The growing interest in returning to India is indicated by the results of a recent online survey of Indian American executives in US corporations. According to the findings of the survey, 68 percent said that they were actively looking into opportunities for returning back to India, 12 percent said that they were returning to India, and an equal percentage noted that they were open to exploring such ideas. The survey found that many who came to the US in the 1970s, 1980s and even the 1990s were planning to go back to India (Oberois, July 21, 2004). Recent recession and the rise in unemployment in North America is an important reason for the increased return migration and also the improving economic conditions in India are also spurring return migration (Chanda and Sreenivasan 2006: 232). They are of the view that many overseas Indians want to return in order to contribute to and participate in India's growing and dynamic economy, such as by providing research and leadership skills in its growing outsourcing market. They further pointed out that overseas Indians are increasingly viewing employment opportunities in India as being comparable to those in the US, especially since off-shoring activities are on the rise and leading companies like Intel and IBM are now doing cutting edge work in India.

The past few decades has seen the formation of Indian diaspora, a significant portion of immigrant populations in western countries like the US and Canada. Moving to the west was seen as the most sought after professional opportunity for qualified Indians who move after completing their education in their native country. However, the 21st century has witnessed a change in the brain drain pattern that most experts had never expected to take place as soon as pointed out by Batra (2007). She pointed out that, backed by a booming economy, Indian companies and MNCs with branches in India, started offering young Indians salaries that were unheard of until even a decade ago. Bangalore and Hyderabad quickly gained the reputation of global IT hubs and as a result, some of India's brightest skilled labour remained in and returned to these cities to work. Rohan Bhargava was working as a computer engineer at one of the country's leading IT firms and returned to India only when he realised that the current opening at a job search was offering better opportunities as the difference in income in America and India was negligible and secondly because it was important for him to work in an environment that offers a tremendous scope for growth and he saw more growth in the Indian economy that anywhere else in the world (Batra 2007: 2).

How development is attracting migrants to return: The IT sector

The growing global presence of many Indian companies, particularly in the IT sector, is also helping to attract back talent. Finally, the rising standards of living and improved facilities for families of returning migrants are making it easier for overseas Indians to return back to their motherland. The returnees constitute the smallest group of the Indian diaspora and there were some 15, 000 Indian American professionals who took up jobs in India in 2005 (Lal 2008). He further pointed out that NASSCOM, on December 26, 2005, estimated

a group representing Indian outsourcing companies of about 30, 000 professionals of Indian origin who had returned to India in the previous 18 months.

According to Mr. Salman Khurshid, minister of state for corporate and minority affairs, India is beginning to witness a reverse brain drain as great Indian minds from all over the world are getting keen to tread the growth path of a resilient economy that has witnessed the global meltdown. The minister on his four days official visit to Dubai asserted that reverse brain drain has already begun and this was a great sign of the world's confidence in India and its recognition of India's potential. 'Those who know that you cannot permanently leave India have sensibly kept your links with the country by educating your children in systems that are compatible to those of India so that they can go back to India either for higher studies or for work', he added. He further remarked that, 'many second-generation Indians are coming back to the country. Top multi nationals are sending their top Indian minds to head their companies in India. So when we lose some, we win many back' (OIFC, 2010).

Hundreds of Indians employed in the Gulf are having to return home as the global recession hits the region and thus there is a possibility of India facing a major crisis is inevitable if the steady trickle of gulf returnees turns into a tide (Parashar et. al., 2009: 11). They further reported that the Indian embassy in UAE says 20, 000 Indians have returned from the Gulf countries alone in the past four months. The decision to return to India is not an easy one, even in the case of Punshi, 34, who had spent nearly half of his life abroad as he had to struggle with the idea for long (Mukherjee 2008: 1). He pointed out the various factors that prompted Punshi to return to India, the convulsions in the financial market and recession in US and Europe was one of the push factors and India projected to grow by 7-8% during the fiscal year was being rediscovered as the new land of opportunity was one of the pull factors. Apart from all the other factors, personal factors also play a very important role as he wanted his son to have the best opportunity to grow up in an Indian environment having the support of grandparents and other family members.

While earlier there was a trickle of Indians returning from abroad, today the facts speak for themselves and as Sahay (2009: 141) pointed out, according to one estimate, there are 35, 000 returned NRIs in Bangalore alone, with many scattered across India. She further pointed out another study conducted by India's NASSCOM in 2003, which categorised U.S returnees, 15 percent were U.S citizens and about that many more as green card holders. These numbers indicate that a significant percentage of those returning are doing so by choice rather than compulsion. As mentioned by Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the prime minister of India in 2004,

There was a time, not long ago, when many people in India bemoaned of the phenomenon of 'brain drain'. Today a large number of highly qualified and successful Indian professional are returning to India because they see that India itself has become a land of opportunity and achievement. Foreign companies and businesses now look at India as an important emerging market and are keen to invest here. At the same time, there has been a reverse phenomenon. The year 2003 has seen many Indian corporations emerging as global players with impressive investments overseas and acquisitions of companies' abroad (Inaugural Session, 9 January 2004, Second PBD).

With increasing flexibility in the flow of capital and trade goods, return migration has assumed increasing importance as an economic and social strategy for families. Sahay pointed out that while economic factors are cited as the most relevant motivation for the decision to migrate, personal and family aspects seem to play an important role in the decision to return. Narayan (2005) and Nayar who returned to India after staying 20 years in the US contemplates on the different issues that an immigrant face while in a foreign land, the whole process of going to the US as a young individual full of dreams and expectations that the country will offer. The desire to want to come back to the homeland when life comes back to a circle and when one finds that there is lot more to ponder on other than simply living a comfortable life outside as a foreigner. One is always considered as an outsider irrespective of whether you have taken the citizenship of that country. Choices involved sacrifices and assimilation involving losing bits of one's own identity and that's when the longing to go back creeps in. Economic immigrants change identities, choose cultures and chase opportunities and still choose to go back home as and when one wishes to. And the one problem that economic immigrants face is that they are equally at ease in two disparate cultures and therefore fit into neither, belong to both countries, yet choose neither. She also pointed out that at some point, when the going gets tough with the INS and the green card, the isolation that comes from being far away from family and friends becomes too hard to bear and that's when they start dreaming of going back home. The arrival of children complicates the process but compounds the longing.

As India's economy booms and continues to maintain a steady 8 percent GDP growth, NRIs are looking towards returning to India for investment. An online article (indiaground.com) pointed out that many NRIs are returning as multinational companies are offering multiple job opportunities to the returnees. The article also stated that some of the IT and ITES companies like the wipro technologies, Motorola and L & T InfoTech are successfully and actively hiring NRIs who are planning to return to India. Ashish (2006) revealed his own reasons for returning back to India as there are multiple opportunities in India, more lucrative option for

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most industries. Being closer to home serves as a very important reason and things are improving and it has changed over the years, life is more eventful and there is also the satisfaction on serving one's own country.

Smerd (2007) is of the view that for expatriates, the opportunities in India are particularly abundant. With their technical, cultural and language skills sharpened by years in the American market, Indian repatriates are especially well qualified to bridge the gap between Indian and American workforces. The great Indian diaspora shows signs of coming full circle, with tens of thousands of immigrants flocking back to the motherland (Chaudhry 2010). He revealed that the exact numbers are hard to come by, but as of last year, more than 1, 20, 000 U.S returnees signed up for an OCI card. It is hard to tell how many of these will move back, but he pointed out that a study by the Harvard University estimates that 100, 000 non-resident Indians will relocate to India over the next five years. He expressed that many NRIs who move back to India enjoy a lifestyle of high-end apartments, five-star meals, housemaids, driver and cook that would remain a fantasy in America (Chaudhry 2010: 4). For younger generations of immigrants, moving back offers much the same opportunity to rise up the social and work ladder and those who have done well in America can do far better and with greater speed in India, he argued. He revealed the reasons for returning to India, as he himself returned to India after staying 20 years in the US. Returning to India satisfies a number of other inchoate but important desires: to offer children a secure sense of identity: renew connections with the extended family; and finally to make a difference.

Return flow in Hyderabad, AP:

Hyderabad witnessed a reverse trend in the year 2000 when city bred techies, armed with BTech degrees from top-notch international institutes, gave up their cushy jobs in the US returned to the land of Nizams to start their own ventures (Sengupta, 2009: 2). The then chief minister, Mr. Naidu, brought about an IT revolution in the city and many tech-savvy Hyderabadis plunged into entrepreneurship. Rao expressed that Andhra Pradesh (AP) has a huge heritage of IT talent that has helped start-ups perform well. Chacko (2007) deals with the mutual impact of returning Indian-origin skilled workers on the cities of Bangalore and Hyderabad which has emerged as India's leading 'tech cities'. She has dealt with the issue of the reverse brain drain as US trained Indian professionals are returning to their home country in increasing numbers to take advantage of new growth and employment opportunities. The effects of this skilled, transnationally active labor force on various sectors of the economy, on the social and physical infrastructure of Bangalore and Hyderabad and in forging and solidifying transnational linkages between India and the US and also investigates the reason why successful US professionals of Asian-Indian origin are returning to their home country.

Copparapu (2010) deals with why non-resident Telegus are returning home giving up their American dream. It was found that they come back as they sense a deeper need for their expertise in India than abroad, and one gets satisfaction working and serving one's own people. Some also mentioned to have returned as they want to raise their children in India, knowing their extended family and their culture. Reverse migration is happening amongst people from all walks of life including engineers, and is not exclusive to doctors who were the first migrants in the post-independence era to return to India. Many professionals claimed to have said that they are not compromising when they move back to India with competitive salaries, better standard of living and a 'glocal' work culture pervading across the country today. One tends to grow faster, learn more and pull skills to much better use here in India and thus make up for the parity in money, she found out from the study.

The earlier studies seem to have focussed much on the brain drain and the loss that it has incurred on the development of the country, the loss in subsidies in the higher education. The present study aims to look at the economic, socio-cultural and familial aspects of Hyderabadi returnees who have lived and worked outside for a minimum of 5 years and above and are presently living and working in Hyderabad. The study deals with understanding the impact of skilled migration through brain circulation, by contributing their skills and expertise in different fields. How the professionals who have had exposure to the different working system and environment ought to contribute at different sectors of development once they move back to their original homeland.

III. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY
RESEARCH OBJECTIVES:
- To study why people return back? What were the reasons behind their decision to return?
- What are the social and economic consequences of their return on their families and society/city?
- What are their recommendations for the government for the better management of the migration process?

Methodology:

This study is designed to make an assessment of return migrants to attain the objectives specified above. Thus the perception of respondents was obtained from a qualitative investigation on the basis of

purposive sampling. Respondents were drawn from returnees who have moved back to India after staying abroad for a minimum of 5 years and above and presently living and working in Hyderabad. An analytical questionnaire was prepared prior where data was gathered. The instrument consisted of questions designed to provide information determining the explanations and analysis in relation to return migration and to gather information on various issues relating to out-migration, familial, economic/financial issues, impact of return migration and recommendations for the government for better management of the entire migration process, with the purpose of attaining the objectives. Secondary materials such as books, articles, journals and electronic materials were also reviewed for the compilation of the study.

Respondents were drawn from those who have stayed anywhere outside of India for a minimum of 5 years and above and is presently living and working in Hyderabad. 35 respondents were approached in their offices, homes and through other contacts, as convenient to the respondents and they were interviewed basing on the questionnaire. The study is therefore based on the data collected from only these 35 respondents as the researcher could not locate more of them. Attempts were made to capture respondents from different occupational mix in order to enrich the insights and minimize the bias that may result from selecting a particular group.

IV. Data Analysis and findings

The sample consisted of 35 returnees who have come back from various destination countries to live and work in Hyderabad. It has 27 male (77.14%) and 8 female (22.86%) respondents, 19 (54.28%) respondents were born in Andhra Pradesh including 12 respondents who were born in Hyderabad itself. The rest 16 (45.72%) respondents were born outside Andhra Pradesh (Table 1. 2). All the respondents are married except one respondent.

The maximum number of the respondents falls in the age group of 31-45, as 15 (42.86%) are between the age group of 36-40, followed by 9 (25.71%) between 41-45 years, and 5 (14.29%) within 31-35 years of age. Among others, 3 (8.57%) respondents aged between 46-50 years, 2 (5.71%) between 51-55 years and one respondent aged in the range of 56 years and above.

All the respondents are college graduates, while 25 (71.43%) of them also own post graduate or higher qualification (HQ) degrees. Of the total respondents, 2 (5.71%) respondents have received secondary education from abroad, similarly 4 (11.43%) college graduate degrees and 15 (42.87%) PG/HQ degrees were also earned from abroad. Among those who earned their post graduate degrees from India are only 10 (28.56%) respondents. Among the degrees earned within India, the table also shows degrees earned in Andhra Pradesh (AP) and outside AP. There are 21 (60%) respondents who received their higher secondary education from AP and the rest 12 (34.29%) respondents from other parts of the country. Similarly, 16 (45.71%) college graduate degrees were earned from AP and the rest 15 (42.86%) outside Andhra Pradesh. Among the 10 (28.56%) post graduate and higher qualification degrees, 5 (14.28%) are earned from Andhra Pradesh and the rest 5 (14.28%) from other parts of the country.

For the purpose of overseas visits of the respondents, the reasons/purposes of their visits, 1 (2.86) went overseas solely for education, while 16 (45.72%) went exclusively for work, and the rest, 18 (51.42%) went for both education and work. The maximum number of respondents, 14 (40%) have stayed for 10-14 years together in all the destination countries they visited, followed by 12 (34.29%) stayed for 5-9 years, 6 (17.14%) respondents stayed for 15-19 years and 3 (8.57%) respondents stayed for 20 years and above.

The various destination countries from where the respondents returned to Hyderabad. The maximum number of respondents, 27 (77.14%) returned from the United States, and 5 (14.28%) others moved back from various destinations like Doha, Bahrain, Philippines and Fiji. 2 (5.71%) returned from UK, and 1 (2.87%) from Australia. It also depict the total number of years of sty overseas (taking all destination countries) of the respondents about their stay and the last number of years of stay in the last destination country form where the migrant returned to Hyderabad. Taking the total overseas stay, the large number of respondents, 17 (48.57%) said to have for 5-10 years, 11(31.43%) respondents for 11-16 years, 4(11.43%) respondents stayed for 17-22 years and 3 (8.57%) stayed overseas for 23 years and above. The number of years in the last destination country, 18 (51.43%) respondents said they stayed for 6-11 years, followed by 9 (25.71%) respondents for 0-5 years, 6(17.14%) respondents for 12-17 years and 2(5.71%) respondents' for18 years and above.

The immediate purposes/reasons of the respondents for going abroad are for better job opportunities, gaining professional experience and higher studies were the immediate purposes/reasons for going abroad for the maximum number of respondents. Among the 35 respondents, 19 (25.67%) said they went abroad for better job opportunities in the host country, 17 (22.97%) for gaining professional experience, 16 (21.62%) for higher studies, 6 (8.11%) for projects and assignments, another 6 (8.11%) for settling down in the host country, 5 (6.76%) for joining family and friends abroad, and another 5 (6.76%) respondents also revealed to have migrated for other purposes like marriage , saving money, etc,.

The push factors responsible for the out migration decision of the respondents and as per the responses of the respondents, the major push factors were 'limited career opportunities' with 17 (48.57%) respondents, 'unattractive salaries', 'better opportunities after return' and 'other factors like marriage, business requirements' each with 13 (37.14%) respondents. 5 (14.28%) respondents went abroad due to 'pressure from family to go abroad', for 4 (11.43%), it was 'lack of quality education in India' and 'pollution on Indian roads', 'security problems like terrorism, internal disharmony, etc', with 1 (2.86%) respondent each.

The reasons stated for working in different places overseas were, 'better opportunities' with 13 (37.14%) respondents, 9 (25.71%) worked for factors like business requirements, research and studies, completion of assignments and for better employment opportunities, 5 (14.29%) respondents for project locations, 4 (11.42%) respondents because of client locations, 3 (8.58%) respondents were transferred, and 1 (2.86%) respondents because of layoffs/recession (table 2. 12 (ii). The total number of respondents who has the citizenship of the other country is 13 (37.14%) respondents and the remaining respondents, 22 (62.86%) respondents have the Indian passport. As per the current resident overseas status, 11 (34.28%) respondents have the OCI card and 1 (2.86%) has the PIO card, where as the rest of them 22(62.86%) still holds the Indian passport.

With regard to the number of years the respondents has been living in Hyderabad since their return. The maximum number of respondents living in Hyderabad after return for 1-11 years, as 17 (48.56%) respondents has been living for 5-11 years and 15 (42.86%) respondents for 1-5 years. There are 1 (2.86%) respondents each staying in Hyderabad for 12-17 years, 18-23 years and 24-29 years after return. To understand the motives behind choosing Hyderabad as their return destination after return, we have asked if the respondents belong to or worked or stayed in Hyderabad before. The result shows in table 3. 3 that 23 (65.71%) respondents belong to Hyderabad, of them 13 (37.14%) did not work earlier before emigration and 10 (28.57%) respondents have worked earlier. Of the rest, 2 (5.72%) respondents who does not belong to Hyderabad have worked in Hyderabad earlier and the rest 10 (28.57%) respondents are the first timers to work in Hyderabad after return.

The important contribution of the migration of the respondents on their current work and business in Hyderabad are that the majority of the respondents, 28 (80%) revealed that their 'work experience overseas' and 'knowledge and skills gained overseas' are the two most important contributions that have benefited them in their current work. 12 (34.29%) respondents feel 'networks established overseas' have enabled them to contribute to their present work and 7 (20%) respondents opined that the 'capital accumulated overseas' has significantly benefited their current work and business in Hyderabad.

V. Conclusion and recommendations

Indians have been working and living abroad in large numbers and they are spread all across the globe. It was especially after the 1965 Immigration and Naturalization Act which allowed migration on a large scale. It was the first time where restriction was not made basing on race and they were encouraged to migrate and specially if they were professionals. People have started to return back to their 'roots' for many different reasons. In this study, I have tried to understand the economic, socio-cultural and familial issues of return migration and interviewed 35 respondents who have lived and worked abroad and are now presently living and working in Hyderabad.

In the first section, I have discussed briefly about return migration as one type of migration dynamics and the importance of studying return migration. The second section is about the objectives and the different methods that were employed for carrying out the work and collecting information. The third section is the literature review where I have related broadly about return migration, whether it is taking place in the Indian context, the impact it has on the development of the country and also briefly explain what the study aims to achieve. Data analysis and findings comprises the fourth section.

Findings of the study:

Out of the 35 respondents, the majority are male (27) and (8) are female, married and falls in the age group of 36-40. All the 35 respondents are graduates and out of which 25 of them also possess post graduates and other higher qualifications. Majority of the respondents went abroad either for education and work, stayed overseas ranging from 5-33 years, and the maximum number of them (27) returned from the US and the rest from different other locations across the globe.

Self-motivation, family and friends are the biggest motivating factors responsible for going abroad. Better job opportunities, gaining professional experience and higher studies were the immediate purposes/reasons for going abroad for the maximum number of respondents. The top factor emerging or responsible for going abroad was better infrastructure and career opportunities abroad and the major push factor for going abroad was limited career opportunities in India. Majority of them worked at different places overseas and the top reason was better opportunities. The maximum number of respondents (22) has the Indian passport,

while the rest (13) has the citizenship of other countries. 12 respondents have the OCI card and 1 has the PIO card, the rest has the Indian passport.

The maximum number of respondents returned to Hyderabad, India between 1998-2009 and they have been living in Hyderabad after return for 1-11 years. In trying to understand the motives behind choosing Hyderabad as their return destination, respondents were asked if they belonged to Hyderabad, worked or stayed in Hyderabad before. 23 belong to Hyderabad, 10 have worked in Hyderabad earlier, 2 does not belong to Hyderabad but have worked in Hyderabad earlier before emigration and the rest 10 respondents are the first timers to work in Hyderabad after return.

The top factor emerging or responsible for returning to Hyderabad as their return destination is family and relatives in Hyderabad. The one ultimate factor responsible for coming back to India for majority of the respondents was because of family obligations. It was a post-emigration decision for the majority of the respondents, self motivation and family are seen as the two most important factors that prompted the respondents to come back. The top factors responsible for returning back is familial obligations, pollution on roads and transportation and attitude of the people were found to be the things that really bothered the respondents after their return. It is a permanent move for the maximum numbers of respondents (20) and 13 respondents are not sure whether they are back for good or not.

Family and professional networks are the two top networks that the respondents were associated with while abroad, the maximum number of respondents is no longer associated with any network abroad. Majority of the respondents went abroad with their spouses and the majority of spouses are graduates. The majority of the spouses who accompanied the respondents are software engineers. The different ways of communication the respondents had with their family, friends and relatives were through telephonic calls, personal visits and through internet/mails/chats and letters. Majority of the respondents did not perceive any kind of psychological cost of being away from family and friends. It was a collective decision coupling themselves with their families that decided the decision when it came to migration.

The maximum number of respondents did not disclose the information with regard to their approximate annual income. Similarly, savings information was not also disclosed by the majority of the respondents and also the money that was remitted to India. A large number of respondents have spent a part or full of the remittances sent on the construction of house. Also when it came to the current income in Hyderabad, the majority of the respondents did not disclose their amount. The majority of the respondents did not respond to the query of their current income in India in comparison to their income abroad. For the maximum of them, their major expenditure/investment after return is buying plot and building a house.

For the majority of them, their work experience overseas and knowledge and skills gained overseas are the two most important contributions that have benefitted them in their current work. For the majority of the respondents, they are often travelling overseas after their return for projects and assignments of the company. Majority of the respondents are living with their parents and families after their return and almost all of them are still in touch with their friends and colleagues abroad through mail/phones, social visits and networking sites.

The maximum number of respondents said that they may go abroad either temporarily or permanently. Majority of the respondents opined that migration at this stage is not a brain drain and they all agreed that there should not be any restriction from country as it is democratic and that putting restrictions will only harm the country. All the respondents opined that the country is definitely benefitting from the international migration of the skilled. Majority of the respondents agreed that return migration is taking place in the country and they also believed that development is taking place because of return migration. The majority also opined that the gap of living standards, salaries and facilities at the work place between the origin and destination countries have narrowed down to a certain extend.

Depending on the study, respondents move back owing to various factors ranging from familial obligations to the welfare of their children, better economic opportunities, and also owing to the changing landscape of India, the various industries mushrooming after liberalization and opening of the market to the outside world. For the majority of them it was a post-emigration decision, while for some, it was pre-emigration decision while for some it was an unexpected one. The expectations and plans of almost all the respondents have been fulfilled and they all are satisfied with their current personal and professional lives in India. When it comes to their plans, they are willing to go overseas for various factors, for personal, professional reasons, for some, they are not sure as to whether they wish to settle there permanently but are willing to go for certain number of years, for some, they don't have any plans as such. The majority of them are in touch with their overseas contacts through various avenues and make occasional visits too. Though majority of them are no longer member of any associations and networks overseas, they are in touch with their professional networks through phone, mails and participating in various seminars and conferences. They are all concerned about the basic infrastructure in India, they lament that the basic infrastructure are not paid necessary attention and thus most people who are contemplating return seem to consider this as one of the factors they consider when planning their return journey. Hygiene, environment, pollution, transportation and corruption at various levels are some

of the vices that they struggle to at every phase. They opined that the government should pay attention to building industries similar to IT so as to pull in people from various other sectors. Granting dual citizenship is also seen as a good avenue for some of the respondents, tax benefits to those who are investing here. Improve the educational scenario in India as it is seen that majority are going out of the country so as to get better and quality education in some of the best universities outside of the country.

Recommendations:

As per the interviews conducted for the study and through observations, following recommendations are being made by the researcher.

The infrastructure of the country is lacking and all the respondents have problem with that. They are of the view that fixing up the system will automatically bring about change in the whole set up bringing in the new phase when people who earlier went abroad will find more and better reasons to come back, as it is something that haunts one and all when one is contemplating return. The country will inspire more to come back when there is better infrastructure and better quality of life, improving and developing opportunities for more and better jobs and also provide better equivalent living conditions.

The concept of transparency at the work place need to be introduced so as to insure that corruption doesn't happen at any level. The government should also help in setting up new firms and corruption should be minimised so as to pull in more and more individuals, it should also aid in providing comparable opportunities in the work place and professionalism at the work place should also be given equal and due importance.

The country also need to revamp and fix the educational system for better quality education and better health care as it is seen that many move out of the country as they don't find good educational institutions where they can pursue higher education. Need to develop other industries in the country similar to IT and also bring in more facilities for better research and labs to carry on different research work.

There should also be significant tax benefits and relaxation in the taxing system of the country so as to enable investment opportunities and better and new policies for taxation in the country. Better governance should be stressed on by reducing bottlenecks for doing business and allow people to invest, enabling them to buy properties without any hassle. The government also need to focus on maintaining law, order and justice in the country.

Need to create a conducive atmosphere for the Indian professionals and ease in applying for visas, NRI benefits should also be increased and there is also a need to have NRI cell for every division and sector.

It would of great help if there is a data based source through which information can be obtained as to how many are returning and what category of people are coming back. State-wise clubbing of information would also be of immense help as statistics pertaining to people moving in and out of the country seems to be lacking which could aid in tackling the problem.

Dual citizenship will also go a long way and providing it will enable many to come and invest in the country, providing voting rights will also be a boost for the Indians who are contemplating return.

Limitations of the study:

Locating returnees in the community at large is difficult as there is no such or other efficient means enabling one to locate them. Nonetheless, it was managed to find 35 returnees by way of snowball sampling as indicated in the method section.

Secondly, there is a shortage of materials regarding return migration in general as most studies of migration focus on out migration. Moreover, there is no literature available regarding Hyderabadi return migrants that would help understand the pattern. It was also impossible to find data on statistics of Hyderabadi return migrants.

Lastly, because of the small and less well balanced sample, this study doesn't yield conclusions that could be considered valid for the whole population of returnees in Hyderabad.

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