

## Migration between India and Nepal: An Appraisal

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**Abstract:** International migration across the world has been on the rise for all regions. Low and middle-income countries are the largest beneficiary of migration; however, in the discussion of international migration, the issues of low-income countries are often missing, especially when migration takes place from a resource-rich country to a low-resource or less developed country. In that context, the objective of this study is to address two related questions about international migration from India. First, what has been the pattern of international migration from India in the recent past? Second, to what extent, Indians choose to migrate to a relatively less developed country (discussing a case of Nepal)? We have used HDI-criterion to decide the level of development in various migrant destination countries. This study has utilised secondary data from the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

**Keywords:** International migration, Low-income countries, HDI.

### Introduction

Migration is a common human practice which was evident in all era of human civilization. In India, migration is very complex. It is mainly because multicultural beliefs have existed in India, resulting in inward and outward migration (Pattanaik, 1998). The cultural and linguistic similarities have helped people to assimilate with locals and outsiders. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the British started exporting labour from India to their colonies to expand their industrial production and fill the labour gap that emerged after the industrial revolution and expanded their colony size. Therefore, it is said that the modern labour migration that we discuss today was started with British rule (Khadria et al., 2008). Post-independence, the government of India did not show much interest in sending its surplus labour to work abroad; therefore, the flow remains very low. Economic liberalization, ease in visa norms, and improved means of communication accelerated outflow only after the 1990s. Today India accounts for the highest number of out-migrants, and it also receives the highest remittance (IOM, 2019).

The flow of international migrants can be broadly categorized into three groups: First, the migration towards developed countries; second, migration towards high and middle-income countries; and thirdly, the migration towards low-income countries. The first two categories account for more than 98 per cent of the global migrant, and only two per cent of people migrate to low-income countries (World Bank, 2016). Scholars have often ignored this kind of migration. The general discussion on south-south migration, which primarily talks about migration flow between developing countries, is more or less silent on the migration issues between low-income countries or developing countries. One such case of migration is between India and Nepal. India and Nepal are two neighbouring countries in South Asia that share similar cultural and religious beliefs; further, the open border system between the countries acts as a bonus in promoting cross border movement of capitals such as migration, trade and commerce, marriages, and education. Although India-Nepal migration is considered an old fashion, there is a gap between academic and scholarly works. The context of

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India-Nepal migration is relatively under-researched in modern times. This paper attempts to bridge the gap in migration literature that has emerged over time. This paper tries to address two of the following questions:

- The pattern of international migration from India between 1990 to 2019
- How Indian migrants are responding to a low-income country, considering the case of Nepal.

### **Data and Methodology**

This study has used secondary data from the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) on migration from 1990 to 2019. The data set covers both the inward and outward flow of migrants for all UN member countries. The compilation method of UN DESA is appropriate, and it is widely used to study migration and policymaking. So, we can say that data is reliable. Other data sources like the Census of India and estimates provided by the Ministry of External Affairs are not used because they lack uniformity in its variable, making it difficult to compare over time. Further, those data are dated. In our study, we have used the Human Development Index (HDI) value to decide the country's development and prosperity. The data on HDI has been taken from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). A higher value of HDI means the country is more prosperous or developing, while a lower HDI value is an indicator of a relatively lower level of development.

### **International Migration from India**

India is a country that sends the highest number of migrants across the globe. According to the recent estimate by World Bank (2018), 17 million Indians fall under the category of international migrants. Although this is the highest number of migrants by a single country despite that, it is still less than two per cent of the total population of India. Historically Indians were migrating for trade-commerce and religious activities (Tumbe, 2018 p.17). Before the advent of the British in India- trade, war, persecution, and royal marriages were the main reasons for migration. During the foreign invasion, people took refuge in neighboring countries like Nepal (Kansakar, 1984). However, the British facilitated and promoted large-scale migration from India to the rest of the world, especially to their colonies. This promotion was to fill the gap of labour requirement that emerged after the Industrial Revolution and the subsequent ban on the slavery system in Europe (Khadria et al. 2008). The then situation of India was also supportive of the migration as the country was facing a famine-like situation (During the British rule in 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century India faced many famines) (Dahal, 1983). Further, the improved means of transportation helped Britishers in sending more migrants. The majority of migrants returned after few years, while many permanently settled in the destination countries (Dahal, 1983; Tumbe, 2018 p. 42).

Post-independence international migration remained slow in India. In the 1970s, the prices of petroleum scaled up, resource-rich Gulf countries started investing heavily in infrastructure and production; to meet the production level, they started pulling the youths from poor and developing economies, including India (Zachariah et al. 2002). Since then, the gulf-countries are among the top destination for Indian migrants. In the 1990s, the visa norms for migrants were liberalized, which increased the outmigration at an unprecedented rate. Over the years, the scales of migration among the countries have changed. People with different levels of education and skill have acted differently in choosing their place of destination. The majority of tertiary educated people prefer OECD-countries (Organisation for Economic

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Co-operation and Development) or a developed economy, while the semi-skilled and unskilled people prefer to migrate to high-income countries having an industrial base (World Bank, 2016).

India has maintained close linkages with European countries such as the United Kingdom, Germany, France, and Italy. These countries are among the top destinations for Indian migrants in Europe. Education and high-paid jobs are the main reasons for such migration (Khadria et al. 2008; Tumble, 2012; UN DESA, 2020). In Northern America, the United States and Canada are the main destinations. They attract highly skilled professionals and students. Student prefers the USA primarily because of the quality education and attractive scholarship programs. Among the African countries, South Africa is the key destination of Indian migrants (UN DESA, 2020). This migration is triggered by the push factors at home and pull factors at the destination (Khadria et al. 2008).

Apart from this, the highest numbers of Indians move within Asia. In Asia, the major destinations for Indian migrants are United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, and Bahrain. These countries are known for petroleum-related industries. Here mostly unskilled and low-skilled people get employment in petroleum and construction-based work. At the same time, trained nurses and caregivers are preferred for healthcare sectors (Azeez and Begum, 2009). Few countries like Pakistan, Nepal, Malaysia, Singapore, and Bhutan are other preferred destinations of Indians within the Asia region. There are numerous reasons for migration to these countries, ranging from employment, education, tourism to marriages (Wickramasekara, 2011).

The pattern of international migration from India has been changing over time. Initially, this flow was directed towards a few countries, which gradually increased by many folds. The statistics on migration flow from India to the top 20 destination countries have been shown in appendix 1. These countries are the top recipient of Indian migrants for the period of 1990 to 2019. The table clearly shows the changing nature of this flow. The United States, United Arab Emirates, and Saudi Arabia are the top three countries that absorb the highest number of Indian migrants. Together they host 48 per cent of Indian migrants. Other important destinations include the Gulf countries (Kuwait, Oman, Qatar), Malaysia, Japan, European countries (the UK, Italy, France, and Germany), Canada, and New Zealand. The migrations to these countries have increased over time. The period of 1990 to 2019 shows a continuous increase in the number of migrants in most countries. The migration to Qatar has dramatically increased between the 2000-2005 periods. However, there are some fluctuations in migration towards neighboring countries (Pakistan and Nepal).

International migration from India is skewed towards developed and high-income countries with employment as a primary reason for migration (Khadria et al. 2008). Despite that, we can not ignore that many migrants go to other poor or less developed countries for employment. Here the migrants take benefit of their skill and expertise that the host countries are lagging. This discussion is presented in the next section.

### **Migration towards comparatively less developed countries**

The term development is extensive. It can take up numerous meanings varying from field to field, such as economic, political, and social sciences. So, it is imperative to set a standard parameter or indicator to decide where one country is more developed than others. The Human Development Index (HDI) is one such indicator that compares the achievement of

countries on a scale of 0 to 1. It is a composite indicator of the health, education, and per capita income of the country. A higher HDI value means a country performs better in terms of education, health, and income, and its human development levels are better in comparative terms. To understand this context easily, we have categorised the top destination countries based on their HDI values in table 1. The first category consists of countries whose HDI values are very high, i.e., close to 1, the second category consists of the country having high HDI value while the third category is of medium HDI values. With its HDI value at 0.674, India falls under the third category (UNDP, 2019) while its top migrant destination countries are in all three categories. The top 3 countries United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and the USA, account for 48 per cent of Indian migrants have HDI values 0.87, 0.85, and .92, respectively which falls under the category of very high HDI.

**Table 1: Human Development Index of top migrant destination Countries (and India)**

Country	Value of HDI					Average Annual Growth in HDI	Geographic Region
	1990	2000	2010	2015	2018		
<b>VERY HIGH HUMAN DEVELOPMENT</b>							
Germany	0.801	0.869	0.92	0.933	0.939	0.57	Europe
Australia	0.866	0.898	0.926	0.933	0.938	0.29	Oceania
Singapore	0.718	0.818	0.909	0.929	0.935	0.95	Asia
Canada	0.85	0.868	0.895	0.917	0.922	0.29	N. America
New Zealand	0.82	0.87	0.899	0.914	0.921	0.42	Oceania
United Kingdom	0.775	0.867	0.905	0.916	0.92	0.62	Europe
United States	0.86	0.881	0.911	0.917	0.92	0.24	N. America
Japan	0.816	0.855	0.885	0.906	0.915	0.41	Asia
France	0.78	0.842	0.872	0.888	0.891	0.48	Europe
Italy	0.769	0.830	0.871	0.875	0.883	0.49	Europe
United Arab Emirates	0.723	0.782	0.821	0.86	0.866	0.65	Asia (Gulf-Region)
Saudi Arabia	0.698	0.744	0.81	0.857	0.857	0.74	
Qatar	0.757	0.816	0.834	0.851	0.848	0.41	
Bahrain	0.736	0.792	0.796	0.834	0.838	0.46	
Oman	..	0.704	0.793	0.827	0.834	..	
Kuwait	0.712	0.786	0.794	0.807	0.808	0.45	
Malaysia	0.644	0.724	0.773	0.797	0.804	0.8	Asia
<b>HIGH HUMAN DEVELOPMENT</b>							
South Africa	0.625	0.629	0.662	0.699	0.705	0.43	Africa
<b>MEDIUM HUMAN DEVELOPMENT</b>							
India	0.431	0.497	0.581	0.627	0.647	1.46	Asia
Nepal	0.38	0.446	0.527	0.568	0.579	1.52	
Pakistan	0.404	0.449	0.524	0.55	0.56	1.17	

Source: UNDP, 2019

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Similarly, all other preferred destinations such as Europe, Oceania, North America, and Gulf countries have very high HDI value. South Africa is the most preferred destination in Africa; its HDI value is slightly better than India's. Countries with lower HDI value than India but qualify under the most preferred destinations are Pakistan and Nepal. Overall, 17 out of 20 migrant destination countries have higher HDI values than India, while only two countries have lower HDI values.

Over the years, countries have significantly improved their level of development which is visible in their HDI values. With an increasing level of development at the origin, the migrants prefer a more developed country. In 1990, 47.7 per cent of total Indian migrants were in these developed countries, which has increased to 85 per cent in 2019. In terms of absolute number, 3.1 million migrants in 1990 were in developed countries, which increased to 14.9 million in 2019. The proportion of migrants in less developed countries has declined from 48 per cent in 1990 to 11.5 per cent in 2019. This decline is visible in absolute numbers as well. The migration from India is skewed towards more developed regions. This practice validates the argument of expected income or wage where migrants move towards the advanced economic sectors for a higher wage (Harris and Todaro, 1970).

This section helps us to understand the direction of the migration process. The majority of Indian migrants move towards more developed countries, while the share of migrants in relatively poorer countries has declined over time. Other than Nepal and Pakistan few other underdeveloped countries like Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Myanmar also host Indian migrants, but the number of migrants is minimal (UN DESA, 2020).

The migration between India and Pakistan is attributed to the partition of the two countries. While the migration between India and Nepal is very complex. Here the reasons vary from employment and business to marriages (IOM, 2019). The migration between India and Nepal is somewhat different from other international migration, mainly because India shares an open boundary with Nepal and its people enjoy similar rights. People do not require any visa while moving to Nepal. So, it is undocumented migration that is legal.

From the India-Nepal migration, corridor migration takes place in both directions-people come from Nepal to India and India to Nepal. The open border system that these two countries have managed so far has acted as a channel to promote trade, business, and cross-border migration. Migration between these two countries has taken different forms in a different era; section five discusses the India-Nepal migration in detail.

## **Migration between India and Nepal**

India to Nepal migration dates back to time immemorial. The geographic location of the two countries and the open border system they have followed are the main drivers of migration (Kansakar, 1984). The migrations between India and Nepal have occurred due to numerous factors such as religious and cultural linkages, British rule in India, economic opportunities (Dahal, 1983; Kansakar 1984). Different phases of this migration are discussed below:

### **Religion and Cultural aspect of India-Nepal migration**

Lord Buddha, who founded Buddhism, was born in Lumbini (Nepal). The Pashupatinath Temple (an ancient Hindu temple) situated in Kathmandu valley has a linkage

with India. These two religious sites have developed a migration corridor between the nations. People from these two countries visit a set of religious places situated on both sides of the border. Further, there is a tradition to appoint a South Indian Bhatt priest in the Pashupatinath temple. Due to this, several such religious priests have settled there (Kumar, 2016). From the 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> century, when the foreign invasion took place in India, the kings of Mewar, Chittor, Kannauj, and Mithila fled to take shelter in Nepal (Pattanaik, 1998; Kansakar, 1984). Royal marriages were regular practices; Nepali elites migrated to India for education (Pattanaik, 1998). In that period, Indian traders were allowed to engage in trade with Nepal. However, large-scale Indian settlement was not there (Dahal, 1983).

### **Migration during the British period**

Under the British regime, India maintained a close link with Nepal, which helped them ensure control over the Indian economy. Before this, the British fought with Nepal and took some of its territories; the bravery of Nepalese soldiers impressed them, and they wanted to recruit them in the British Indian Army. The king of Nepal was not in its favour. However, later the British offered him money in exchange for soldiers, and they signed a pact, according to which the Crown of Nepal allowed the British to recruit local Gorkhas in the British Indian Army, and in the exchange king was given assurance that the British will recognize the sovereignty of Nepal and they will maintain friendship (Thapliyal, 1999; Adhikari, 2006). This outward migration created a labour shortage in Nepal. To address this challenge and to increase the productivity in Nepal, the then ruler decided to promote agricultural activity in the Terai region of Nepal. The Nepalese of the hills were not ready to settle in Terai because of the hot climate and prevalence of malaria. So the king provided incentives like- free land, seeds, and capital to the outsiders (mainly Indians) to start rehabilitating (Dahal, 1983; Kansakar, 1984; Pattanaik, 1998). In the subsequent period, the flood and famine-like situation forced North Indians (mainly from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal) to migrate to Terai in Nepal (Dahal, 1983; Thapliyal, 1999). The earliest settlers cleared the forest and made the region habitable. Tharus were the first who settled there (Gurung, 1992). Subsequently, India and Nepal promoted trade, but Indians were not allowed to go beyond Kathmandu (Dahal, 1983). Many political leaders took refuge in Nepal during the British Rule (Kansakar, 1984). Today, the Terai is the most populous region of Nepal (Thapliyal, 1999).

### **Migration in the Post-Independence Era**

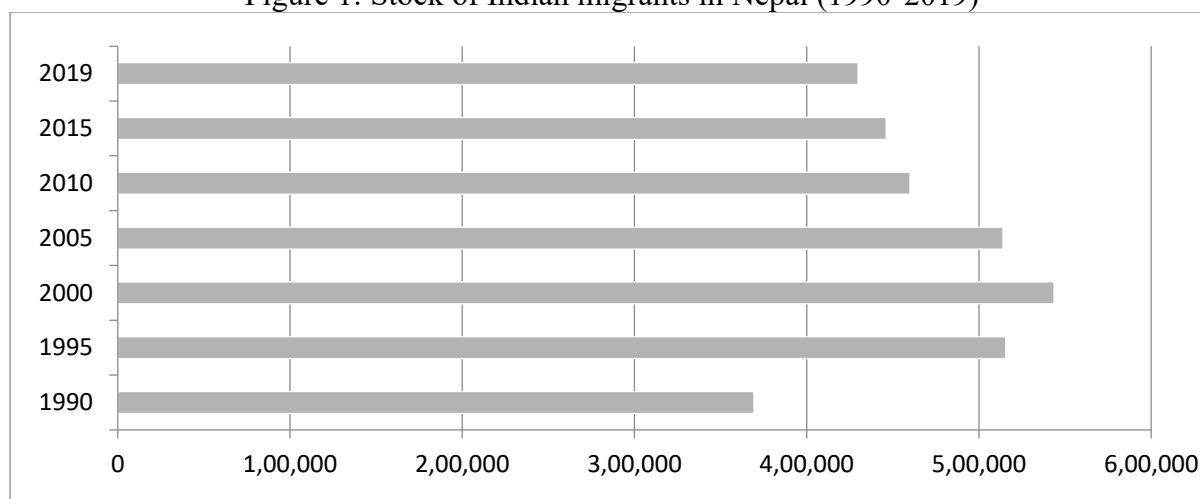
After its Independence in 1947, India maintained close ties with Nepal. The main reason was to ensure its security towards the north and age-old cultural ties (Murthy, 1999). Both countries signed the Treaty of Peace and Friendship in 1950. Under which they formally decided to continue the open border system for trade and transit purposes, and they agreed to give equal preferences to their citizens in terms of employment, settlement, and business activities (Pattanaik 1998 and Thapliyal, 1999).

This has helped people of both sides to take advantage of the opportunities that they were lagging in their country of origin. People often cross the border for daily purchases and enjoy the advantages of price differences in two countries (Kumar, 2016). On the one hand, the People of Nepal come to India in search of better employment opportunities, education, and health care facilities. While people from India migrate to Nepal for employment, business, escaping persecution, and marriages (Pattanaik, 1998; Murthy, 1999; Kumar, 2016). Studies have found that the people of Terai prefer to maintain marital relations with neighbouring Indian states and vice versa, primarily because of cultural similarity (Subedi, 1991).

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The volume of migrants towards Nepal has always remained significant, but due to the open nature of the border and no documentation, it is difficult to estimate the number of Indian migrants in Nepal. Subedi (1991), in his study, estimates that in 1961 there were 3,24,159 Indian-born people were residing in Nepal, which increased to 3,22,718 in 1971. In the later phases of 1981 to 2000, the migration towards Nepal increased. Figure 1 shows the stock of migrants in contemporary India to Nepal for 1990-2019. The stock of migrants has increased during 1991-2000, and then it started to fall until 2010. However, the number of migrants remained more than that of 1990.

Figure 1: Stock of Indian migrants in Nepal (1990-2019)



Source: UNDESA, 2020

## Migration and Politics

The migration between India and Nepal was never easy and smooth. Migrants have faced discrimination and challenges (Dahal, 1983; Pattanaik, 1998; Thapilyal, 1999); hence the number of people migrating to Nepal has changed over time. The government imposed various restrictions on migrants, and they keep on changing the citizenship laws. The first Citizenship Act of 1952 requires a five-year stay in Nepal to acquire citizenship. The citizenship law of 1962 made reading and writing of the Nepali language mandatory to get citizenship. In 1964 the minimum stay of five years was increased to 12 years. The citizenship act of 1975-76 was strict than the earlier version; the new act set the new criterion for citizenship like land revenue document paid before 1950, name of the person in voter list included in the general election of 1958, and a minimum stay of 15 years (Dahal, 1983). The provisions affected the permanent settlers, and it was against the Treaty of Peace and Friendship 1950 that advocates equal treatment of citizens. Many scholars have argued that most of the Indians had already obtained the citizenship of Nepal (Dahal, 1983; Pattanaik, 1998; Adhikari, 2009; Nayak, 2011). One reason for opposing migrants is that migrants are snatching the local opportunities. The policymakers have taken steps like citizenship acts and labour laws to curb the influx of foreigners in Nepal. Despite that, the number of Indian migrants among the immigrants in Nepal is the highest (IOM, 2019).

Migration between India and Nepal is an age-old practice; people have migrated under different migration streams. The volume of India-Nepal migration is significantly high despite that there exists a gap in academic and scholarly works. One reason that can be attributed here is the poor documentation of migrant data. The open nature of the border and keeping no

record while crossing the border make it difficult to estimate the exact number of migrants. Second, the India Nepal migration does not put any threat on the sovereignty of either country. So, no attempt has been made to regulate and maintain the record of migrants. The possible reasons for such practice and belief are the integrity that the natives of these countries have maintained. Geographical location and border demarcation are important aspects of the migratory process (Shukla, 2006, Kumar, 2016). India shares a 1751 km long border with Nepal, which lacks proper demarcation due to natural barriers and political will. The border crosses the agricultural fields, forests, rivers, and houses. It is said that there are houses on the border that opens towards India from one side, and its other side opens towards Nepal (Thapilyal, 1999). Further, some people live in India but own land in Nepal, and some people own land in India but live in Nepal. It is because of the poor demarcation of the border. Many times, border pillars were destroyed by floods, and sometimes people even do so to encroach more land (Shukla, 2006). The open border system has made life easier there. People of both the country have access to extensive markets and economic opportunities. For instance, people from Nepal come to India to purchase clothes, and people from India go to Nepal to take advantage of the price difference in the adjacent border markets (Kumar, 2016). Many native travels via India to reach one place of Nepal from another. Other than these, people from India migrate to Nepal to do business and work there. Many of the street vendors found in Kathmandu are from neighbouring North Indian states (Kumar, 2016). Many Indians have permanently settled there in Kathmandu and Terai region. These migrations get a further boost due to marriages.

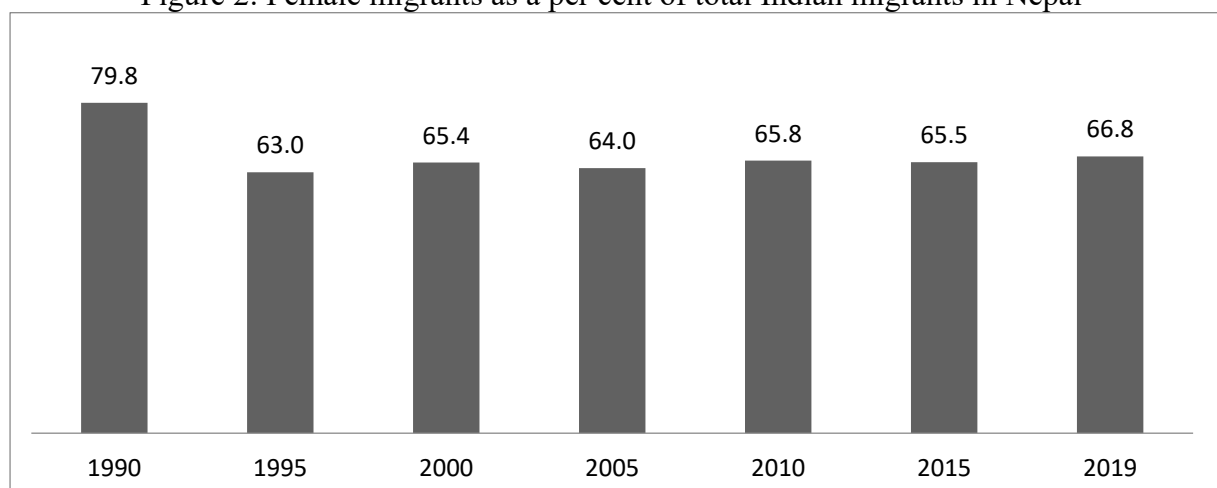
## Discussion

Nepal is a landlocked country that faces many challenges due to its geographical position and no access to sea route; however, India has always supported Nepal in all circumstances. Post-independence India helped Nepal in setting industries and institutes. At that time, Nepal was lagging both in terms of skilled workforce and capital. So the people of India were encouraged to work and invest there. Despite all these positive aspects, the Indian people are considered a threat to the natives as they believe that Indians are snatching the local jobs. This belief of local people was addressed under various Nepali laws. The government proposed a citizenship act which made it mandatory to know the Nepali language and ownership of land to get citizenship (Dahal, 1983). Specific rules were imposed to cut the number of Indians in Nepal. All this action has affected the number of Indian migrants in Nepal. It is said that until 1964 Indians were encouraged to settle down in Nepal (Dahal, 1983). Most of them got citizenship in the 1950s, and migration continued to Nepal. It only declined after the Citizenship act of 1964. Post-1990s, the number of migrants increased again.

Some of the studies consider India-Nepal migration as a case of migration for marriages because the migration of women is highest among the other stakeholders (WEF, 2017). Figure 2 shows the stock of female migrants as a per cent of total Indian migrants in Nepal. The figure shows the stock of female migrants has declined from 1990s data, but it has always remained above 60 per cent. It is important to note that marriage migration dominates all kinds of migration in India's context. It is a usual cultural practice where females leave their parents' house and settle in the in-laws' house. Among other forms of migration-employment, business, and education are more common in the Indian context. In these cases, male outnumbers female.



Figure 2: Female migrants as a per cent of total Indian migrants in Nepal



Source: UN DESA, 2020

Nepal is a comparatively less developed country than India, having a lower HDI value (UNDP, 2019). The underdevelopment in industry and lack of employment opportunities push people towards India (Pattaniak, 1998; Das, 2008). Recruitment of Gurkhas in the Indian Armed Forces is one of the main reasons for the migration of youths; apart from this, many people are working as security guards, cooks, helpers, and other informal jobs (Pattaniak, 1998). The income and pensions of these migrants are significant sources of remittance and Indian currency (Indian currency has a higher value in Nepal) to Nepal.

Remittances sent by migrants are vital for developing country as it helps the economy through investment, funding education and meeting other needs (Ratha and Mohapatra, 2007). If we consider the bilateral flow of remittances between India and Nepal, we will find that India receives more remittance despite the lower number of migrants than the Nepalese counterpart (Word Bank, 2020). The reason behind this is that majority of the Indians are employed in high-paying sectors of Nepal. Some of these people prefer Nepal to start a business as they face comparatively less competition than India. On the other hand, most Nepalese workers in India are employed in subsistence sectors; their remittances are not recorded. Most of the studies have ignored the remittance issue of this migration. The detailed discussion on remittance is beyond the scope of this paper.

## Conclusion

This study explored international migration in the context of India. Our study found that migration from India to the rest of the world has increased between 1990 and 2019. In these years, migration from India has inclined towards high income and developed countries, whereas the number of migrants has declined in less developed countries. The case of India and Nepal is unique here, which has shown mixed effects of migration. The stock of migrants has initially increased and then declined, but Nepal still qualifies for one of the top migrant destinations of India. The migration between India and Nepal is dominated by females, where the reason for migration is marriages. This aspect is more like internal migration in which females are migratory, primarily for marriages. The other reason for migration is employment. Although the migration practice between these two countries is old and bilateral since time immemorial, the Treaty of Peace and Friendship 1950 has further strengthened it. Despite that, official estimates on migration are incomplete because of not prioritizing the issue. Good

information on migration will help in better management of migration and providing safety nets against discrimination. The study can be elaborated on many other aspects of migration such as remittances, gender-specific issues, integration of migrants, and political aspects. The absence of information and data limits the scope of the current study. So a further study is desired with additional input on the issue.

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Appendix 1: Top Migration Destination of Indians, 1990-2019

Country	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2019
<b>Africa</b>							
South Africa	8,356	14,552	16,669	19,953	34,551	37,733	42,302
<b>Asia</b>							
Japan	3,108	5,584	10,065	21,219	22,497	24,727	30,063
Nepal	3,69,370	5,15,578	5,43,594	5,13,955	4,59,935	4,46,113	4,29,769
Pakistan	29,16,548	24,45,179	21,61,329	20,68,147	20,23,077	20,00,908	15,88,067
Malaysia	20,808	46,325	76,707	95,250	1,26,986	1,32,699	1,46,128
Bahrain	60,505	74,599	88,904	1,57,081	2,59,915	3,02,635	3,18,547
Singapore	14,109	29,739	48,248	83,963	1,24,357	1,50,082	1,27,189
Kuwait	3,75,183	3,32,377	4,18,664	4,85,847	6,74,184	10,61,758	11,24,256
Oman	1,52,554	2,82,987	3,33,881	3,73,411	4,73,206	10,52,013	13,25,444
Qatar	2,738	2,975	2,769	1,93,404	5,40,914	6,45,577	6,98,088
Saudi Arabia	9,06,468	9,29,709	9,78,992	12,16,549	15,79,235	20,03,256	24,40,489
United Arab Emirates	4,58,294	6,67,853	9,15,848	12,86,993	29,13,802	31,84,017	34,19,875
<b>Europe</b>							
Italy	3,413	23,261	43,109	89,745	1,36,380	1,36,403	1,61,364
United Kingdom	3,99,526	4,22,284	4,52,144	5,49,350	6,91,279	7,95,776	9,17,686
France	25,817	26,652	27,486	41,118	44,431	48,888	52,981
Germany	31,877	32,944	34,011	45,659	55,250	57,568	89,704
<b>North America</b>							
United States of America	4,50,406	7,46,337	10,48,517	13,90,605	17,84,284	22,33,814	26,61,470
Canada	1,66,640	2,40,035	3,19,138	4,24,855	5,17,890	5,79,167	7,12,050
<b>Oceania Region</b>							
Australia	69,928	78,297	90,710	1,48,970	3,29,520	3,89,992	5,68,971
New Zealand	9,292	12,459	20,329	41,448	56,073	69,800	71,747

Source: UN DESA, 2020

Note: The top migration destination of Indian migrants includes all types of migration.