



## RETURN MIGRANTION CHOICE OR COMPULSION?- A STUDY OF SELECTED RETURN MIGRANTS IN BANTWAL TALUK

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**Abstract:** Migration is an inevitable part of human life. It is a movement of people from one place to another place. If the people migrate to other countries in search of better job opportunities then their migration is temporary in nature. This leads to return migration of people to their origin place from the destination place. The study considers reason for migration and return migration and comparison of job status at three stages. The study area is confined to Bantwal taluk of Dakshina Kannada district in Karnataka State. It includes only 25 respondents who have returned from Gulf countries.

**Keywords:** migration, occupational choice and return migration.

### INTRODUCTION

Migration takes place because of social, political, geographical, environmental, cultural and miscellaneous factor. The migration to a place either may be Voluntary migration or Forced migration. The voluntary migration is the migration with a willingness of an individual and forced migration is because of the external factor and pressure the individual is migrating to other places. Migration within the border and outside the border of a country became prominent. Urbanization and Globalization are the factors which play an important role in the migration of an individual. Because of urbanization people move from rural area to urban area. Globalization has led to international movement of people from their home country to host country. If migration of an individual is because of the better job opportunities, then this kind of migration leads to the socio-economic development of a country. Indian constitution provides freedom

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for individuals to move from one place to another within the country. It is right of an individual to move and settle anywhere in India. In India people migrate for the reason of wage difference between the places. At the same time, it is a known fact that the migration of an individual to other places will be temporary in nature. So, they will return to their origin place. The process of return from the destination place to host place is considered as return migration.

King (2000) defines return migration as "a migratory movement when people return to their place of origin after spending a significant period of time in another country". The concept of return migration has been a relatively neglected area in the research of international migration. (Czaika and Varela, 2012). So, this concept is considered as sub process of international migration.

#### **ORIGIN OF THE RESEARCH PROBLEM:**

The Indian history shows that, the great leaders of independence movement had themselves been emigrants to other countries for higher education and had their work experience and later returned to India. So, return migration concept is there before the independence of India. (Aurelie Varrel).

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) – Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates have been major destinations for emigrant workers from India. For migrants in the Gulf countries, permanent immigration is not an option for various political and legal reasons, so 'temporary migration' is the dominant form of migration which leads to return migration. At the same time the process of 'Nitaqat' i.e. localization of jobs in the Gulf countries has further added the magnitude of return migrants to India.

#### **LITERATURE REVIEW AND FINDINGS OF THE LITERATURE REVIEW**

There are various scholars who have done their research on return migration. G.M. Arif and M. Irfan (1997) Nadeem Illahi (1999) King D.E (2008) Rolf Sternberg and Claudia Müller (2005), June De Bree (2008), King R. (2015) and many more have done their study at the international level. The international level of studies are secondary data in nature only few have done the research considering both primary and secondary data. In India too there are few research articles related to return migration and almost all the studies are done at Kerala.

The findings of the literature review help to understand that, the savings done at the time of migration and remittances while abroad shown to be an

important avenue for understanding the occupational choices of the return migrants. The return migrants either choose to be self-employed or wage employed. The choosing between the occupations is influenced by the return migrants' savings, educational status and remittances. It should also be note that there are few returnees who want to be non-participant either because they are retired or they don't find the suitable job in the home country. Most of the young returnees from the Gulf countries are active either they will be in the private sector or self-employed. Once again choosing between these is decided by the return migrants based on the salary, experience and applicability of new skills.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

- To know the socio-economic background of the return migrants
- To know the duration of temporary stay of the gulf return migrants.
- To understand the reasons for return migration.
- To find out the occupational choice of return migrant.

### **METHODOLOGY**

The study area includes Bantwataluk which is in Dakshina Kannada district of Karnataka State. In this area many people migrated to the Gulf countries and came back to the home place. The particular study tries to find out the occupational choice of these return migrants through the primary data. The study includes 25 respondents and the information was collected through the questionnaire. The questions were related to socio-economic profile, three stages of migration i.e. before migration, at the time of migration and after the return from Gulf country.

### **SOCIO- ECONOMIC BACKGROUND OF THE RETURNEES**

The socio-economic profile of the respondents considers the age of the return migrants, educational qualification and area of residence. The table 1 describes the socio-economic characteristics of the respondents.

From the table 1 it is understood that, majority (72 percent) of the return migrants were male. It represents that male members are the one who migrate to other countries in larger proportion than the female. The educational qualification of the respondent shows that, majority of them have primary level of education and they have migrated to Gulf country. Considering the present age it is seen that less percentage of respondents fall in the category of below 30 years of age which is an indicator that younger is the person, he tries to spend his time in the host country by

**Table 1: Socio-Economic Profile**

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Particular</i>	<i>Number of people</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<b>Gender</b>	Male	18	72
	Female	07	28
<i>Total</i>		25	100
<b>Educational Qualification</b>	Primary	12	48
	High School	08	32
	PUC	05	20
<i>Total</i>		25	100
<b>Age</b>	Below 30	04	16
	30-35	06	24
	35-40	05	20
	40-45	10	40
<b>Total</b>		<b>25</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: primary Data

earning higher amount of salary. So, we can see in the table majority of the respondents belong to the age category of 40 to 45 years. The table represents that, even though the respondents have less level of education, they have migrated to Gulf country and done the job with the hope of earning better amount of income than the home country.

**Table 2: Age of the return migrants at the time of migration**

<i>Age group</i>	<i>Respondents</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Less than 20	04	16
20- 25	16	64
26-30	05	20
Total	25	100

Source: Primary Data

Table 2, represents the data about the age of the return migrants at the time of migration to the Gulf countries. It is evident from the data the percentage of migration is high among the category of the returnees who belong to the age category of 20-25 years. Around 80 per cent of the respondents migrated to the Gulf countries at the young age i.e. below the age of 25 years, where 64 percent of the respondents belong to the age category of 20 to 25 years. 20 per cent of the return migrants migrated to the Gulf countries at the age of 26 to 30 years. The study also reveals that the tendency to migrate for gulf country is higher among the youth. This is also an indicator that at the young age people get the opportunity to do the job in Gulf country.

## REASONS FOR MIGRATION

The respondents have said it is because of the economic factor why they have moved to Gulf country. Majority (40 percent) of the respondents have given the reason of better opportunities in the Gulf country. 28 percent of the respondents have said more pay in the Gulf country, 16 percent of the respondents have said poverty is the reason and remaining 16 percent of the respondents have said because of the family pressure they have moved to Gulf country. The reasons are different but at the end intention is the same that is the economic factor. For example, if we consider the wage structure in the home country and Gulf country there is a huge difference in the wage provided for the unskilled labourers. The Gulf countries are dependent on the developing countries for the unskilled labourers that is the reason why we can see more non nationals in the unskilled labourers.

## DURATION OF THE STAY

The duration of stay influences the socio-economic condition of the migrants as well as their family members. The duration of stay also influence the occupational choice of the respondents. The study done on return migration also reveals that, higher the stay in Gulf country will lead to opt for self-employment rather than the wage employment.

**Table 3: Duration of stay on the basis of Gender**

Duration	Gender		Total
	Male	Female	
Less than 5 years	2 (08)	3 (12)	05(20)
5 to 10 years	6 (24)	3 (12)	09 (36)
More than 10 years	10 (40)	1 (4)	11 (44)
Total	18 (72)	7 (28)	25 (100)

Source: Primary Data

The study reveals that majority (44 percent) of the respondents have spent more than 10 years in the host country. This is an indicator that the respondents have spent more years in the Gulf country to earn better amount of salary and to increase their standard of living. 36 percent of the respondents have stayed for more than 5 years to 10 years. There are 20 percent of the respondents who have spent less than 5 years, which represents that they have returned early to home country because non adjustable factors in the Gulf country.

## STAY IN ABROAD

The respondents have considered the stay in the Gulf country was a successful one. They have considered it successful because of certain

reasons. There are respondents who have purchased property, new vehicle or purchased valuable items. The 92 percent of the returnees have considered their stay at abroad is a successful one because the migration to Gulf countries have raised their standard of living and they have got much respect in the society. 8 percent of the returnees did not feel much difference because there were few returnees who have returned early to home country so that their expenses to migrate for Gulf country was greater than the income what they have earned.

### **REASONS FOR RETURN MIGRATION**

The respondents have migrated to Gulf country because of the economic factor but its not the same reason to return back to home country. The respondents were not much interested to return back but at the same time it is very important to note that, the migration of these 25 respondents were temporary in nature. It is also a known fact that migration to Gulf country is not of permanent in nature, the policy of the Gulf country says, the migrants can work on temporary basis as soon as their contract gets over, they have to return back to home country and then if the employer wants the individual to work in their place, they will renew their employment visa.

The respondents have migrated because of economic factor but return to home country is because of non-economic factor. The respondents have returned to home country either because of the contract was expired or because there were social factors which made the respondents to return back to home country. So, it can be seen that it is the forced return migration than the voluntary return migration.

### **COMPARISON OF JOB STATUS IN THREE STAGES OF MIGRATION**

The occupational choice of return migrants is important to their home country. Return migrants are likely to have acquired new skills in the host country through formal training or by working more efficiently. Using the newly acquired skills in the home country can have important economic implications. For the purpose of study, Job status of the return migrants divided into three categories i.e. Non-participant, Wage employed and self-employed. The following table provides the economic activity of the return migrants.

The data shows that before migration there were 28 percent of the respondents were non-participant in the economy (unemployed). Nearly 72 percent of the respondents were wage employed before migrating to Gulf country. At the time of migration all the people were engaged in the

**Table 4: The economic activity of the return migrants at three periods**

<i>Period</i>	<i>Job Status</i>		
	<i>Non – Participant</i>	<i>Wage Employment</i>	<i>Self-Employment</i>
Before Migration	7 (28)	18(72)	-
At the time of Migration	-	25 (100)	-
Return Migration	-	20 (80)	5 (20)

*Source:* Primary Data

wage employment activity and most of them have enrolled themselves in the low skilled jobs. It is important to note that, the respondents have gone to Gulf country with the help of some agencies and they have got the job because of the agencies on the basis of contract. After the return from Gulf country, out of 25 respondents, 20 of them were wage employed but remaining 5 of them chosen to be self-employed. This is a better indicator that, the respondents are doing the self-employment rather than wage employment. While comparing the two periods of migration i.e. before migration and after return to home country, the occupational choice of the selected migrants shows that there is a reduction in the wage employment. It is also important fact to know that after the return all the respondents have engaged in economic activity to lead their life in the home country.

### COMPARISON OF INCOME AT THREE STAGES

The income of the individual plays an important role in day today life. The people are willing to higher amount of money, so for this reason either they change their job or they search in better job in other places and migrate to that place. The table 5 represents the income level of the respondents in three stages.

**Table 5: Comparison of income at three stages of migration**

<i>Income</i>	<i>Before Migration</i>	<i>At the time of migration</i>	<i>Return Migration</i>
Below 5000	10 (40)	-	
5000-10000	08 (32)	-	
10000-15000	07 (28)	-	12 (48)
15000-20000	-	04(16)	10 (40)
20000 to 25000	-	10 (40)	03 (12)
25000 and above'	-	11 (44)	
Total	25 (100)	25 (100)	25 (100)

*Source:* Primary Data

*Note:* The values in the bracket represents percentage of the total.

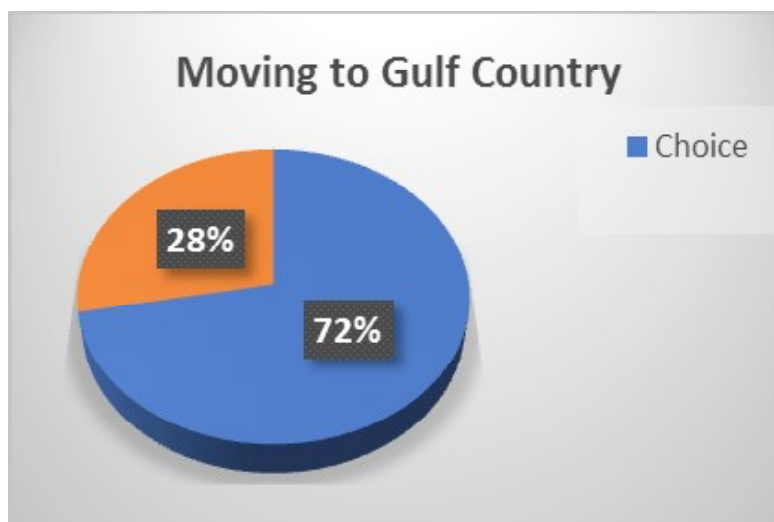
The table represents the comparative analysis of the income at three stages. Before migration the respondents were earning the income, which was below 15,000 rupees. 40 percent of the respondents were earning below 5000 rupees, 32 percent of the respondents were earning between 5000 to 10000 rupees and remaining 28 percent of the respondents were earning between 10000 to 15000 rupees. At the time of migration, the respondents were earning good amount of income. 84 percent of the respondents were earning more than 20,000 rupees which is a good indicator. After the return from Gulf country, the respondents were earning less than Gulf country. 52 percent of the respondents were earning more than 15000 rupees.

The salary of the respondents was better in the Gulf country, but the migration was temporary in nature to these countries. So, the respondents have returned back to home country. When considering the income, the respondents were doing good after the return from Gulf country. There were few respondents who have opted for self-employment after the return which is a good sign of return migration.

### CHOICE OR COMPULSION

The present concept is an analysis according to the response of 25 respondents. According to the field study, for majority of the respondents, the migration from home country to Gulf country was a choice and returning to home country was a compulsion.

Figure 1: Moving to Gulf country

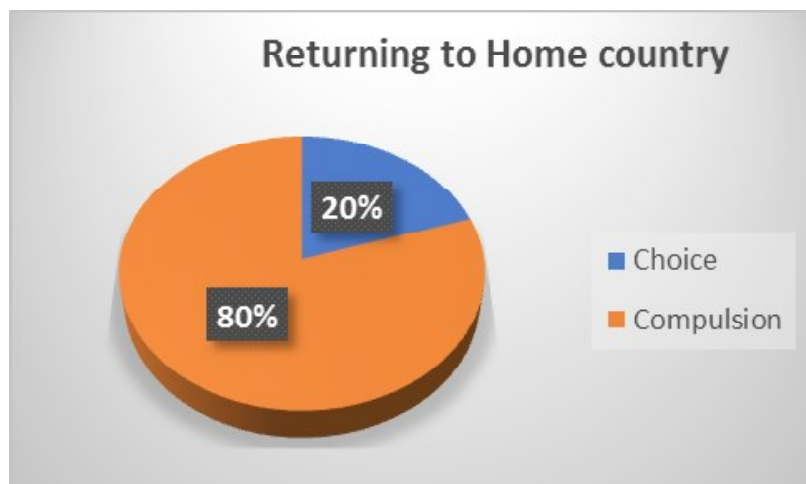


Source: Primary data



The figure 1 represents the respondents view regarding migration towards Gulf country. There were majority (78 percent) of the respondents migrated because they wanted to increase their standard of living and 28 percent of the respondents who were unemployed in the home country for them it was compulsion to move for Gulf country. So, the majority view of migrating to Gulf country is a choice than compulsion.

**Figure 2: Returning to Home Country**



Source: Primary Data

The figure 2 represents the views of respondents regarding the return to home country. The return to home country was not a choice for many return migrants, it was a compulsion that they had to return for home country because of the factors like contract got over and the situation in the family wanted the presence of the person who was earning income in the Gulf country. There were few respondents have answered saying it was the choice of theirs to return to home country because they were not able to adjust for the existing environment of Gulf country. So, considering the views of respondents we can come to an inference that, the return migration is more of compulsion than the choice of the respondents.

## **CONCLUSION**

Migration to Gulf countries which is 'temporary in nature', which made the respondents to return to home country after a certain point of time. Both push and pull factors play an important role in the life of respondents to migrate for Gulf country but the return was not in the hands of majority respondents. The non-economic factor played an important role to return

to home country. The migration to Gulf country gave some experience and skills to the respondents which added weightage when they returned back and enrolled in the job.

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