



INDIAN MIGRATION TO THE GULF

ISSUES, PERSPECTIVES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Edited by

Anisur Rahman, Sameer Babu M, and Ansari PA



Indian Migration to the Gulf

This book explores issues of rights, issues, and challenges faced by Indian migrant workers in the GCC countries. It focuses on the struggle of migrants in the state of origin and destination states and how the process of migration shapes the identity and existence of migrant workers. The essays in the volume focus on policy, rights, issues, and challenges faced by migrants as well as the long-term challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

With contributions from academics and policymakers, this book will be of interest to scholars and researchers of migration and diaspora studies, public policy, and South Asian Studies.

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**Dedicated to Migrants Working for Development of the Gulf
Countries and India**



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Preface

Migration and the mobility of people across the world is rapidly growing today. It is estimated that there are about 281 million migrants globally which roughly constitutes of 3.2% of the world population. The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries is emerging as one of the major sources of the destination for millions of immigrants especially from the South Asian countries such as India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, and now Nepal. The six GCC countries together constitute more than 52% of the non-nationals in their population. It has been noticed in the last few decades that made new provisions of immigration policies to protect the welfare of the local national population and control the outflow of remittances to other countries. But this is not happening as it was expected that there would be an impact of immigration policies of GCC countries directly or indirectly on the size, flow, stock, trend, magnitude, and characteristics of immigrants. The size and volume of non-nationals are still increasing. It is also evident that the India–Gulf migration has emerged as the second-largest employment migration corridor in the world. The six GCC states host more than 8.5 million Indians. These Indians in fact constitute almost 30% of total expatriates in the region. The main aim of the book is to discuss the role played by expatriate workers in bringing tangible changes in the Gulf society where they are working. The role of GCC countries has also been examined that provide economic and social security to expatriates. An attempt has also been made to understand the changing dynamic trends along with a socio-demographic profile of migrants in the Gulf countries. How the Indian migrants would be proved to be made more productive would also be discussed in this volume. Hopefully, this volume is found to be quite interesting and relevant to those scholars who have an interest in migration studies, policymakers, and general readers alike.

I appreciate the role of my co-editors Dr Sameer Babu, Associate Professor, Department of Adult and Continuing Education and Extension Education, and Dr Ansari PA, PDF Scholar for their unstinting support in bringing out this volume. We are grateful to all chapter authors of

this unique book on Indian Migration to the Gulf. We are also thankful to the library staff of various institutions of higher learning who have helped us by providing appropriate resource materials and literature. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Routledge Publishers for bringing out this book.

Anisur Rahman



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Introduction

India is a land of migration. With a history as long as human civilization, the topic of migration is one that is often in the news. More than 275 million migrant workers are dispersed worldwide in 2019, out of which India figures amongst the major migrant-sending countries in the world. People have been migrating due to the influx of various factors, categorized as the push and pull factors. Poverty, unemployment, political repression, human rights abuses, and conflict are the reasons that push more and more people out of their home countries whereas economic opportunities, political freedom, physical safety, and security pull both highly skilled and unskilled workers into new lands. Thus, migration is often seen as a factor in bringing socio-economic change to the place of origin and destination.

The pattern of Indian labor migration can be discerned into two phases, the pre-independence phase, and the post-independence phase. In the first pre-independence phase, indenture labor (the demand for Indian laborers was high in the colonies of West India, South Africa, Mauritius, Malaysia, and Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), kangani/Ministry of labor (South Indian laborers were recruited to Malaysia, Sri Lanka, and Burma), free or passage emigration (of trading caste and classes to South Africa as well as in the East African countries of Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda) are some of the historical patterns of Indian migration that may be traced. These migration patterns arose as a result of colonial expansion. On the other hand, “brain drain” or voluntary emigration to metropolitan countries occurrences in Europe, North America, and Oceania, as well as labor migration to West Asia, might be examples of post-colonial emigration trends. These trends are the product of postcolonial India’s underlying socio-economic contradictions. Large-scale Indian immigration of highly qualified and semi-skilled professionals to Europe and North America began in the late 1960s. The Sikhs were among the first Indian migrants to these countries. These ethnic groups now make up the major ethnic groups in the United Kingdom, Canada, and the United States. The ethnic makeup of Indians in Europe, North America, and Oceania are equally noteworthy. The majority of Indians in the United

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States are scientists, engineers, surgeons, teachers, and other educated professionals. On the contrary, labor mobility in the countries of West Asia started in the 1970s, with the increase in oil prices that resulted in the huge demand for labor to meet the growing infrastructural development of the region. The labor demand was met by the labor imported from the countries of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka. The oil boom aided Indians in meeting the Gulf region's infrastructure expansion needs as well as establishing a niche as a loyal labor force that continues to remain in significant numbers in the region.

Concerning India's relation with the Gulf, migratory labor mobility exhibits certain trends; migrants are "contract laborers", without any citizenship rights, thus debarred from remaining permanently in the host countries. Historically, people from India and the Middle East have been exchanging and engaging with one another for thousands of years now. Indian migrants come from a variety of countries all over the world, and the country is also the world's largest recipient of remittances (money sent back home). Due to the oil boom of the 1970s, Indian migration to the Gulf has acted as a vital source of cash for the country, and also served as the economic backbone of high-migration areas such as Kerala, through the transfer of remittances. Migrant laborers from India were employed during this period. However, today the migration trend shows that large labor mobility from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Rajasthan has started to dominate and has replaced Kerala and other southern Indian states.

A long-standing historical trend, Indian emigration to nations such as Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates has accelerated significantly in recent decades.

A substantial number of Indians leave the nation in search of higher education or employment opportunities. As previously said, the vast bulk of them arrive in countries in the Gulf region. The main reason for this influx of immigrants into the Gulf is the abundance of work possibilities available there, particularly unskilled and support-based positions that are open to persons with limited professional qualifications. Growing remittances from Indian unskilled laborers in the Gulf region were essential in rescuing India's economic predicament.

As a result, remittances from abroad have historically been a significant source of foreign currency in India, and they have the potential to assist the country in reducing its current account deficit. The outflow of emigrants to foreign countries results in an increase in government revenue in the form of fees for visas, departure taxes, international telephone calls, and other levies. All of these institutions had been used by migrant workers, either directly or indirectly.

As a result, in addition to economic remittances, social remittances are also carried between locations via migrants in a variety of ways. Men and women who migrate to different nations bring a variety of ideas back home with them and exchange them between countries.

Numerous changes have been observed in migrants' lives, including an increase in household/family income, sending their children to school, repaying loans, lowering the unemployment rate, purchasing houses, growing savings, and expanding the commercial sector, among others. Globalization and ITC (information communications technology) are playing a significant role in further enhancing migration from India to various regions of the world, with a particular emphasis on migration to the Gulf.

Hundreds of thousands of employees of Indian ancestry are forced to fend for themselves in the Gulf in the absence of legitimate documents and employment security. Denied access to healthcare, human rights, and correct legal status, their daily struggle to survive and earn a living must be publicized/documentated in order to put pressure on the system to implement necessary reforms.

Researchers, policymakers, and academics have been driven to place a high priority on this topic because of the significant economic contribution that Indian migrants make in these countries. Cross-border migration, especially international migration, always has a two-way effect on the places where it originates and where it ends.

Due to economic slowdowns, shifting oil prices, and changes in Gulf labor policies, the outflow of Indian migrants to the region has slowed, while return migration has surged.

This edited volume, consisting of 18 chapters, is structured under four wider sections, viz. sociocultural appraisal of Gulf migration, economic implications of Gulf migration, Gulf migration: A regional perspective, and Gulf migration: Gender and literature.

Chapter 1, titled *Indian Diaspora in the Gulf: Impact and Advantages* written by Javed Charan. A considerable amount of migration from India to Gulf countries began during the 1973 oil boom, which resulted in greater oil income and supported large-scale commercial enterprises in the Gulf region. Along with the complex parts of cultural heritages, those individuals gained access to a new but previously existing instrument that can facilitate productive discourse among people in their respective socio-religious contexts. The Indian government aided the Indian diasporic community's soft power by making various adjustments to its foreign policies that always address concerns affecting PIOs and OCIs. This framework will provide some new aspects, such as narrative frames drawn from these cultural heritages, to analyze the association and involvement that the Indian Diaspora population still experiences while living outside of India.

Chapter 2, written by Ansari, Anisur Rahman, and Sameer Babu M, discusses the COVID-19 and its Impact on Gulf Returnees: A Study of Kerala, India. It is their contention that migrant laborers appear to be employed in every sector of the Gulf economy as a result of the high wages and growing demand for physical labor jobs. This paper also makes an attempt to look into and analyze the government's response to the COVID-19 situation. Kerala's approach to the pandemic has been both innovative and noteworthy. Despite

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this, a considerable number of immigrants are employed in the informal or unorganized sector in the Gulf region. The return migrants, who were once an important component of Kerala's economy, have now been relegated to the periphery of society. Because they are not organized, they are still unable to speak on their behalf for improved working conditions or for their rights to be respected. It is difficult for Gulf migrants to lead a regular life after they have left the region without the aid of their extended relatives or the government. Many of these migrant workers encounter similar socio-economic challenges after they are no longer considered the primary breadwinners in their families. All that is addressed in this research is the social and economic life of these migrants, who are no longer considered citizens of the country by the government and society and are therefore no longer a part of its social and cultural framework.

Chapter 3, written by Mohammed Taukeer, addresses the Nature, Process, and Consequences of Migration: A Case Study of Migration from India to the Gulf. In both internal and foreign labor migration, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are the top two states. In addition to internal migration within India, both these states have recently seen international migration emerge as a viable source of income for laborers who are already involved in internal movement within India in order to supplement their income. Gulf migration is a relatively new phenomenon in both Indian states, although internal migration is a key source of income for a large proportion of the populations in both states. The chapter investigates the nature, mechanism, and effects of Gulf migration from Uttar Pradesh to the Gulf of Mexico in order to understand these implications. According to the information gathered from returned migrant laborers at the source, the chapter investigates the process, determinants, and impact of migration from Uttar Pradesh to the Gulf. It also discusses the working and living conditions of migrant laborers in both domestic and international destinations, as well as the working and living conditions of migrant laborers in these destinations.

Chapter 4, written by Ani Merly Paul and Lekshmi S Kaimal, is on highly skilled Indian professionals working in the Gulf region. As the world's greatest exporter of migrant labor, India is widely regarded as the world's most productive. In India, international migration is considered to be one of the most important aspects of the country's economy. Kerala's economy is heavily reliant on remittances, particularly those coming from the Gulf region. Because of changes in educational and demographic variables, migratory patterns have shifted. The emigration of highly qualified professionals is expanding on a daily basis. Education-oriented youngsters were given new opportunities and greater employment possibilities as a result of globalization and liberalization policies that opened up new horizons for them. The emigration of unskilled laborers from the Gulf region dominated the Gulf boom of the 1970s. A significant influx of educated and competent professionals into the various Gulf countries occurred with the dawning of the new millennium. The emigrated trained professionals found greater

comfort and financial stability in the Gulf region, which resulted in a change in their way of life. The emigration proved to be beneficial in that it raised their standard of living while also improving their economic standing in their home country.

Muhammed Shabeer outlines the significance and contributions of the Kerala Muslim Cultural Centre (KMCC) in Chapter 5. He goes on to say that the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) is home to the largest Indian expatriate group. Following the oil boom, the Middle East became a new and popular destination for semi-skilled and unskilled labor. One of a country's most valuable assets is its diaspora. According to the Kerala migration census 2018, there are over 2.1 million Keralites emigrating worldwide and 24 lakh Keralites working in the GCC, with remittances totaling about 85,000 crore rupees. Frontal diasporic organizations exist for India's different political parties: The INC (Indian National Congress) is divided into two groups. (1) OICC (Overseas Indian Culture Centre), (2) Priyadarshini Cultural Centre, (3) (5) Priyadarshini. The CPI-M (Communist Party of India (Marxist)) has Navodaya as its expatriate organization, the PDP (People's Democratic Party) has PCF and the SDPI (Socialist Democratic Party of India) has Fraternity Forum, the INL (Indian National League) has INCC (Indian National Cultural Centre), but the IUML's (Indian Union Muslim League) has KMCC. To promote social development, political parties are utilizing their ability to build diasporic organizations. The KMCC (Kerala Muslim Cultural Centre) is the IUML's (Indian Union Muslim League) frontal diasporic organization, and it continues to be the largest among expatriate organizations worldwide. The KMCC's primary goal is to engage in high-level philanthropic activities. Above all, the diasporic diaspora has demonstrated exceptional solidarity for Kerala in the aftermath of the recent floods. The author investigates the function of diasporic organizations in philanthropic activities and the building of social capital.

Chapter 6, written by Bhupesh Gopal Chintamani, is about the relationship between India and the Gulf Cooperation Council countries. Labor migration is an unavoidable part of life in the contemporary world, and India has traditionally been a labor-sending country due to the abundance of labor available in the country. For decades, India has supplied competent and trained skilled professionals to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries in a globalized world. More precisely, more than eight million Indians live and work in the Middle East (MEA, 2018). These expats send a considerable portion of their savings and income back to their families in their home countries, not only to support the family's sustenance but also to promote welfare among the household's members at the grass-roots level. This chapter is an attempt to examine the role of the Gulf Cooperation Council in the Indian economy in depth, both in terms of emigration and remittances. MEA data is used in the context of emigration to reinforce the historical incidence between India and the Gulf Cooperation Council in terms of future opportunities. The author argues that there is a structural

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shift in the ECR profile of Indian states, such as Kerala's role in the India-GCC connection, which is not a new phenomenon; Uttar Pradesh and Bihar will soon be the leading states in terms of ECR migration and inward-remittances into the country from the GCC region.

Anisur Rahman and Waseem Ahmad write in Chapter 7 that about nine million Indians working in Gulf countries are the primary source of remittances and foreign cash for India. In 2018, India got \$80 billion in foreign aid, with the Gulf accounting for a sizable portion. The contribution of Indian communities is well recognized, as they are not only earning a significant quantity of foreign cash but also assisting in the reduction of unemployment in their own country. Apart from remittances, there are a number of incentives and initiatives in place to encourage these populations to invest in India. Furthermore, they are permitted to bring gold back into the nation. These are all contributing variables that have a positive impact on India's benefit. They play a critical role in the lives of migrants and their families in particular, as well as in the country's overall growth. On the other side, they are as important to the Gulf because of their significant economic contribution. As a result, the chapter's major goal is to investigate how they are strategically essential and how they might boost our bilateral relations. A map showing annual outflows of Indian migrants to the Gulf is attempted. The number of remittances sent to India, as well as the impact of the Indian Diaspora on India and the Gulf countries, is analyzed. In order to understand the policy change that is required for them, their working and living conditions are also described. In order to handle existing and future issues, the chapter also discusses India's and the Gulf countries' migration policies. Finally, how diaspora communities are growing as a soft power for both sides' mutual benefit will be examined.

In Chapter 8, Muhammad Azhar examines the family tax, Indian expatriates, and the Saudi economy. Saudi Arabia has implemented a new "family tax" or "dependent tax" on the dependents of expatriate workers in the country since July 2017. Expatriate workers must pay 1200 Saudi Riyal for each dependent per year. This tax would rise by SR 1200 per year until 2020, when it would reach SR 4800 per year per dependent, significantly raising the rigor of family tax. It appears that the application of the family tax in Saudi Arabia had two goals in mind. The initial goal was to find an alternative source of funding other than oil and to raise funds for government spending. The second goal was to discourage expatriates from staying in Saudi Arabia by increasing the cost of doing so. It may also result in greater job prospects for Saudi citizens, according to Saudi policymakers. The number of Indian expatriates in Saudi Arabia is believed to be around 3.2 million. Saudi Arabia has the highest concentration of Indian passport holders outside of India of any country (Azhar,2017). The number of dependents of these workers is in the millions. The implementation of a family tax in Saudi Arabia would undoubtedly make the stay of these dependents problematic.

In Chapter 9, Shahid Bashir and Mohsin Majeed make an attempt to empirically analyze the remittance-growth nexus in India using a most recent sample, which they found to be insufficient. The Indian economy stands out as a particularly good candidate for such an examination because the country has seen an increase in remittance inflows over the previous decade. Also included is a synoptic summary of remittance inflows from the Gulf countries, which may be found in Chapter 2. For the purpose of investigating the remittance growth nexus, the authors used the ARDL bounds testing approach. Several studies have demonstrated that remittance transfers help to stimulate the economy of India, both in the short and long term. Further research has found that external debt has a detrimental impact on economic growth, as has been documented. There was no statistically significant association between inflation and economic growth, according to our findings. The policy ramifications of our findings indicate that India should implement policies to stimulate inward remittances from the developing world. This can be accomplished by offering a greater rate of interest on non-resident deposits in order to spur the growth of inbound remittances into the country. Furthermore, the costs of international remittance transfers should be kept to a bare minimum.

Muhammed Fazal's Chapter 10 is titled "COVID-19 Crisis and Migration: Impact on Kerala Economy". He goes on to say that Gulf migration and remittances have been beneficial to Kerala's economy for more than 50 years, as they have provided the foundation for the state's progress in all areas as well as prosperous support during its difficult times. Everyone assumed it would be a stable economic pillar. The chapter argues that Gulf remittance or emigration is not a long-term economic pillar for Kerala because the impact of the COVID-19 crisis differs from the earlier effects of global crises and calamities in the state; and the social remittance acquired and exchanged by migrants is a treasure for returnees to be resettled by the government. The impact of COVID-19 on Kerala's economy, as well as its influence on return migrants and guest laborers, are discussed, as well as methods to use social remittance for their resettlement. The study draws on data from the GoK dashboard to examine COVID-19 statistics in the state; the Kerala Migration Survey to examine migration, remittance, and return migration trends; and a variety of recent papers and news stories to aid in the analysis and assessments.

Atinder Pal Kaur's Chapter 11 is titled "Migration from Punjab to the Gulf Countries: Punjabi Migrants and Social Change in Left-Behind Families". Already, when the British invaded Punjab in 1849, Punjab had a long migration history. Following this, Punjabis began migrating to many areas of the world as indentured laborers, most notably to British colonies and as army men. The migration to Gulf countries occurred later, during the 1973 Gulf oil boom, when demand for laborers to work on Gulf-building projects and factories surged dramatically. As a result, migration from Punjab to the Gulf nations as unskilled laborers increased. The chapter is

divided into two sections: (a) a historical overview of Punjabi migration to Gulf states; and (b) a look at developments in left-behind families from an economic to social perspective. The work is theoretically ethnographic and narratorial in nature. Qualitative approaches were used to collect empirical data for this study in the Doaba region of Punjab. According to the chapter, migration began in 1975 and has since become a rite of passage. Individuals are driven to improve their level of living and economic prospects; the Gulf countries have become a conduit for migration.

In Chapter 12, K Jafar discusses the experience of **Mobility on the Margins: The Experience of Migration and Development in Kerala**. It is also stated that the development experience of the southern Indian state of Kerala has been much explored because of its distinctive characteristics. As two separate phases of development, the “Kerala model” of development and “virtuous growth” can be utilized to better understand how education plays a vital part in the process of migration and remittance-driven development that Kerala has witnessed in recent decades. Several academics have documented the positive benefits of labor migration, particularly in terms of initiating upward socio-economic mobility in the recipient country. In general, these narratives portray Kerala's migration as a 'successful model' for local development; nevertheless, they tend to overlook the uneven impact of migration on marginalized groups of society as well as departures from the larger model of migration. The author attempts to draw attention to certain micro evidence related to the pattern of migration across vulnerable groups, as well as the exclusive nature of this broader model and its implications for migration-led growth in the state.

Sonal Thakker investigates the “culture of migration” that occurs in some societies in Chapter 13; that is, the sociocultural environment is a significant predictor favoring male movement in some societies. A male is expected to be a “provider”, and his adolescent years are fraught with socio-economic pressure to do so. The technique used in this chapter is mostly based on an examination of secondary data gleaned from a comprehensive review of the literature on the sociocultural elements that have a significant impact on men's mobility. The urge to establish their “masculinity” motivates young males who have grown up in a cultural setting that values migration. He/she conducted an examination of such instances in which migration is the norm. Families in Goa are also acclimated to the absence of males who work primarily in the Gulf, and women appreciate their migrant husbands for performing the role of family breadwinners.

The Pangals' trek to the Gulf is depicted in Chapter 14 by Md. Chingiz Khan. For a long time, the Pangals, Kukis, and Nagas have all been settled. Pangals live in the valleys. Among Manipur's indigenous populations, this community is among the most educationally, economically, and socially disadvantaged, despite their significant contributions to the state's affairs. They make up 8.32 percent of the overall population, according to the 2011 census. Many Pangals have been moving and establishing in Gulf

nations such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Oman in search of a better way of life. Despite the fact that the Pangals began migrating in the late 1960s, the rate of movement has now surpassed that of the previous decades. Even some Pangals, estimated to number in the tens of thousands, were able to obtain permanent residency in Saudi Arabia. Some of them serve as lecturers in Saudi Arabian universities, while others work in the information technology and medical fields. The following are some of the key questions: What drove Pangals to migrate to different parts of the Gulf, mainly Saudi Arabia? Apart from Mecca, Medina, and Dubai, did they focus on other nearby areas? What motivates them to act in this manner? What prompted the Pangals to relocate to these locations? Do they encounter any difficulties or hurdles when working in such cities? What are the social and economic challenges that Pangals face in the state, with a particular focus on job-related activities prior to being relocated to Gulf countries? What are the consequences of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) of 1958 for Pangals who have migrated and settled in other Gulf countries? This chapter is based on multiple interviews with Gulf workers. This chapter delves into the history of Pangal migration to various Gulf countries in search of labor.

In Chapter 15, Baby Kizhakkekalam Jyothi KK discusses migration in Kerala, with a particular emphasis on the potential and challenges associated with return migration. When remittances decline, investment in land, construction of houses and other buildings, consumption, education, and health suffer. Repayment of bank loans suffers as a result, particularly in districts where there is a significant concentration of emigration. It is necessary to deal with serious economic suffering for thousands of households that are totally dependent on Gulf remittances for their subsistence. The districts with a high concentration of emigration will be the hardest hit by a downturn in the economy. Malappuram, Kannur, Kasargod, Thrissur, Kottayam, Alappuzha, Pathanamthitta, and Kollam are among the districts that are most at risk of experiencing a recession in the near future. It is expected that about half of the return emigrants will be absorbed into the Kerala labor market. According to the Kerala Migration Survey conducted in 2018, around 2.1 million emigrants from Kerala dwell in countries all over the world. In addition, approximately 90% of Keralite migrants who travel to the Gulf do so on temporary employment contracts, and they must return home when their contracts expire, according to the government. Furthermore, it is estimated that remittances account for nearly 36% of Kerala's state gross domestic product. This is a nearly 13-fold increase above the proportion of remittances received by the Indian Union. This dependence is demonstrated by the flow of Gulf remittances and their contribution to the state's economy, which illustrate the state's reliance on remittances.

Naziya Naweed addresses **Indian Female Migrant Workers and Human Rights Violations in the Gulf: A Case Study of Kuwait** in Chapter 16. Human rights violations are frequently perceived as a threat to people's

individual identities. Women have traditionally been on the receiving end of societal hierarchy due to their sex, and they face tremendous constraints. The situation of Indian women is no different from that of women all across the world. However, attractive work opportunities around the world have enticed people to rise above their difficulties. Similarly, the discovery of oil in the Gulf region and the resulting feasible job prospects drew skilled workers from all over the world. With a considerable proportion of the female labor force, the wave of Indian migration to the Gulf region, both skilled and semi-skilled, began quickly. The Kuwaiti diplomatic mission and embassy can play an essential role in highlighting the issue of female migrant workers. As a result, the restrictions, exploitation, and prejudice suffered by female domestic workers in the region are notable, posing an issue for the host country and raising worries for the Indian government's population. As a result, the paper emphasizes the steps undertaken by the Indian government to mitigate their vulnerabilities from time to time. The report also included some modest proposals/recommendations for policy-makers to enhance the situation of Indian female migrant workers.

In Chapter 17, K. Deepa reviews studies on migration to Gulf countries. Indians have moved to many parts of the world throughout history for a variety of reasons. For their livelihood, a considerable number of Indians have relocated to West Asia, mainly the Gulf States, and now make up a significant portion of the Arab population. They work in every aspect of society, from white-collar employment to manual labor. The Indian Diaspora in the Arab Gulf States has been around for about a century. The numbers have risen steadily over the last 45 years and are now settling into a predictable pattern. Not only because of their competence, but also because of their sense of discipline and law-abiding, peace-loving attitude, Indians are one of the most preferred communities in the Gulf region. Many Gulf countries have completed the infrastructure-building phase, which necessitated a significant amount of manual labor. They are increasingly concentrating on knowledge-based sectors as well. This improved white-collar workers' job opportunities in the Gulf region; another change in the pattern of Indian workers migrating to Gulf countries is the geographic expansion. India is the world's largest beneficiary of remittances, particularly from the Middle East. Gulf remittances overtook North American remittances as India's biggest source of remittances in 2008.

Nitesh Narnolia and Mousam write in Chapter 18, **"Indian "Guest Workers" in the Gulf: Discussing Deepak Unnikrishnan's Temporary People"**, that the Gulf region has long been a popular destination for Indian labor migrants. It has provided Indian employees with both financial stability and the uncertainty of returning home, as these migratory workers are known in the Gulf as "guest workers". Indian migrants have expressed dissatisfaction with their current situation. The Gulf has long been thought of as a place where citizenship can never be achieved, no matter how long one lives there. In his debut novel, *Temporary People* (2017), Deepak

Unnikrishnan depicts the living conditions of Indian migrants in the Gulf. Through a review of Unnikrishnan's novel *Temporary People*, this course aims to evaluate the difficult lives of Indian labor migrants in the Gulf (2017). The chapter looks at the history and current tendencies of Indian labor migration to the Gulf, as well as how the selected novel fits into those trends. It also discusses how the Gulf has brought the opportunity for Indian workers and economic stability to the working class, while simultaneously causing problems for migratory workers who encounter hardships in their daily lives.

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