

Editors' Note

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International migration has been more dynamic, complex as well as a contentious subject in contemporary times than ever before. Similar is also the case of various diaspora's engagement with their home countries, host countries as well as in transnational spaces. This largely owes several factors, including the prevailing political-economic situation in many countries. Since last one decade, there has been increasing restrictions on international migration across the globe. Restrictions are also increasing for high skilled migrants in some of the countries such as the USA in recent times. The political consideration often undermines the economic demand and supply of labour that is created by market forces. This is not only making migrant vulnerable individually but also as a family and community. One can observe at least four important developments in the global scenarios that have been changing the nature, character and composition of international migration since the last few decades:

1. The increasing and a fresh spell of refugee migration owing to political and conflict situation in many parts of the world, especially in many regions of Asia and Europe.
2. There has been increasing restrictions on immigration in the top migrant receiving countries due to host of factors such as radical nationalism, economic recession and unemployment in host countries.
3. The increasing technological innovation that is changing the nature of work and employment.
4. The ageing population in Europe and some parts of Asia that may change the course of migration, create new challenges and opportunities in near future.

One crucial part of the international migration is the forced migration. The UNHCR (2019) put the figure of displaced people from their homes is as whopping 70.8 million people around the world are and out of which a significant nearly 25.9 million are refugees and over half of whom are under the age of 18. As a result of this shock, the situation in the migration flow has been not only being highly regulated, but rules are changing very frequently also. Out of total international migration of about 250 million quite significant numbers are already refugees and forced migrants. All these diverse range of migrants are coming under the umbrella of diaspora today

or at least they are in the making of diaspora.

The rise of radical nationalism or ethnonationalism is not just confined to developed Europe and USA, it is across many newly developing regions such as India as well. It has tremendous impact on the inflow of migrants. This phenomenon is also partly due to the rise of unemployment and economic recession in many countries. Some countries which have been traditionally highly receptive to the international migrants have recently put restriction on the migrants. Saudi Arabia's Nitaqat law is one such measure to protect the native people from job loss due to foreign workers.

Technological development not just influences migration positively but also negatively. While in one hand the Information technology, mobile technology helps in better information management, choice of destination countries and better skill management, on the other hand, there is job loss due to the development and up-gradation of technology. Migrations of skilled migrants are changing from time to time due to technological up-gradation and innovation. The more the innovation will be in the area artificial intelligence, robotics, data science, quantum computing, internet-of-things, it will further impact the job and hence migration in future too. Though in certain areas such as healthcare and retail, the jobs are increasing, in some other areas such as oil, gas and mines jobs are also decreasing in recent times.

The ageing population in many parts of the world is also partly responsible to creating demand for jobs related to healthcare and related areas. It also restricts the out migration of traditional migrant sending countries to a great extent. Asian countries such as Japan, China, South Korea and many European countries such as Spain and Italy are increasingly feeling the pressure of ageing population. Older people migrate less than younger people. Also older people demand more care and hence it influences the in-migration.

Interestingly, there has been an increase in the number of women migrants in recent times as compared to their male counterparts in some of the developed regions of the world. The share of migrant women was highest in Northern America (52%) and Europe (51%), and lowest in sub-Saharan Africa (47%) and Northern Africa and Western Asia (36%) (UNDESA: 2019). International migration has been more complex today than ever before.

Therefore it is important to think of human mobility in more sustainable terms. In this context, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides renewed thrust on human migration. It recognises that international migration is of major relevance for the development of countries of origin, transit and destination, requiring coherent and comprehensive responses (UN: 2017). In the Agenda, Governments pledged to “facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies” (SDG target 10.7).

Migration management has been the new catchphrase in the policy level for both sending, receiving and transit countries. The effectiveness is, however, depends on the host of factors such as the real time data on migration trends, demographic data, skills management and development outcomes. Skills are increasingly globalised today, and migration is the only way to cope up with the globalised demand and supply. The globalised economy today cannot sustain without mobilising financial capital and human capital at a global scale. The increasing speed of innovation makes new demand for new skills and that is only possible with the transnational flow of financial and human capital. It is very important to understand the diasporic communities and their role in various areas such as knowledge transfer, trade and commerce, technological innovation etc. in the emerging global socio-economic, political and cultural arena.

This issue of journal presents four interesting papers based on primary works by the respective researchers. The paper by Camelia Tigau investigates the Medical diasporas and provides a very important aspects of the experiences of the healthcare professionals working in USA whose origin is from different countries. The paper not only provides critical review on the subject of the technology transfer and social networks by reviewing earlier studies but also talks about the diasporic engagement in both host and home countries.

The second paper titled “Global African Trading Diasporas: Case Studies from China and Malaysia” by Ute Rösenthaler further discuss about the diasporic social capital vis a vis home country dynamics. Though there are many studies about Chinese diasporas in Africa, there are very few on the African diasporas in China. Ute’s paper finds that African diaspora provides social capital for the African traders in China and Malaysia though

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they vary in different degrees.

Rowell D. Madula's paper "Sailing in Venice: Negotiating Filipino Transnational Identity in Venice, Italy" discuss about the social mobility among Filipinos in Italy. Based on case study, Madula investigates that Filipinos in Venice maintain their strong Filipino identity in spite of continuous challenges of integration with the host society.

Sikh immigrants in Italy constitute the second largest group of Sikh diaspora in Europe after United Kingdom. The paper by Emma Rossi based on case study in Novellara (RE), Italy provides an interesting insights into the various occupations by Sikhs minority. The paper also explores about the socialisation of Sikh community in Northern Italy, especially the way they keep the religious and social traditions alive.

These four papers discuss four different aspects of social, economic, religious and transnational experiences of different diasporic communities in various continents. All four papers generally agree that there is a strong social capital among the all diaspora communities that helps them in trade, identity maintenance and transnational mobility and network. Besides these papers, the issue has five book reviews that are exploring different aspects of migration and diasporas.

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