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July 2019

Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism

## **Regional Development: Diasporas role and challenges**

**Sadananda Sahoo and Feroz Khan**



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Diaspora and Transnationalism

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**Design and Production: Rakesh Ranjan and Feroz Khan**

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## Abstract

Diasporas' role in homeland development is a contested subject globally. On the one hand, their role in development through the knowledge transfer, investment, philanthropy, on the other hand, just opposite engagement such as their role in creating conflict in the homeland is equally recognizable. The role of diaspora in the IT revolution in India's development on the one hand and the role of LTTE and the Khalistan movement pose a very contrasting picture of the diaspora homeland engagement. Indian diasporas are not a monolithic group; the true sense of Indian diaspora lies in their regional identity, mostly linguistically and culturally identified, such as Punjabis, Telugus, Tamil, etc. This paper tries to focus on the role of regional diasporas in the development process. As development is a vast concept that includes, both economic and non-economic components.

This paper tries to bring few diaspora engagement cases in the development process in the homeland through philanthropy, investment, democratic participation etc. Indian diaspora can be broadly divided into the old diaspora (PIOs) and the new diaspora (NRIs). They can also be divided into various classes and occupations, such as the professionals and labour class. Their engagement with the homeland varies depending upon the, resources, status of the citizenship, and the linkages with the homeland. While the Non Resident labour diasporas are hailed for their remittances, the professional NRI diasporas contribute to the knowledge transfer and investment. Diaspora engagement can help in the socio-economic development of the region. However, diasporic engagement with the homeland development is complex and needs to be tapped through proper policy formulation and engagement at both the regional and national levels. In this context, the paper highlights that the experience of some of the countries having best practices must be taken in to account. China's investment policy, Philippines and Bangladesh's remittance policy, and gender-sensitive policies are some of the best practices engaging their respective diasporas that need to be taken into account.

**Keywords:** Diaspora engagement, diaspora policy, regional diaspora, NRI, PIOs, Best practices

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Statement: All the views expressed in the paper are of the author(s).

# Regional Development: Diasporas role and challenges

Sadananda Sahoo and Feroz Khan

## I. Introduction

The development has both a local and global trajectory. The role of diaspora in making national building is a part of homeland development. People who settled in foreign countries and still carries the emotional ties with native or their ancestor's land contributes to nation-building. This contribution can be seen in many forms – like the remittances, investment, philanthropic work, and involvement in socio-political activities in both native and host country. Importantly, the involvement of diaspora at the international level improves the relations between the two countries. It contributes to the improvement of the bilateral trade relationship between the two countries. As a human resource, the role of the diaspora can be seen as the brain gain both sender and receiving country.

Diasporas' role in homeland development is a contested subject globally. Diaspora has a dysfunctional role in many countries in promoting extremism to unrest. From Jews diaspora to Tamil Diaspora in Sri Lanka, there has been a more negative side of the diaspora role in many countries. Many of these diasporas have a transnational network and operated from advanced countries. For example, the Khalistan movement was remotely controlled by extremist Sikhs from Canada and the UK. The Afghanistan destabilization was made by the Afghanis settled in advanced countries such as the USA and other countries.

The most important side of diaspora engagement in recent years has been in skill transfer, financial resources, and transnational social and cultural capital through a transnational global network. Developed countries attract skilled people from different parts of the world. On the contrary, the under-developed countries received a large number of unskilled and semi-skilled workers. The advantage of migration is that it provides a skilled, semi-skilled, and unskilled workforce. It increased the labour flow and benefited both growing and declining sectors. At the one end provides the lowcost labour in the economy. At the other end, it provides high skill workers. In developed countries, migrant workers get the advantages of learning new skills. These news skills and knowledge emerges as social gain in the form of brain gain for many countries.

The liberal law of developed countries provides ample opportunities for the migrant to increase their social status. It provides opportunities to actively participate in political activities. The increase in the socio-political status of diaspora helps sender countries to get benefits from the good weal. Importantly, financial resource helps in financing public infrastructure. Contrary to this, the migrant gets easy access to the labour market in developing countries. Developing countries provides the opportunity for semi-skill and unskilled workers to earn a higher income in comparison to their native country. These workers acquired new skills that benefit both the sender and the receiving country. Developing countries provide opportunities for migrant workers to go for short-term or rotation migration.

This paper tries to focus on the role of regional diasporas in the development process. As development is a vast concept that includes both economic and non-economic components, this paper tries to bring few diaspora engagement cases in the development process in the homeland through philanthropy, investment, democratic participation.

## II. Global Scenario

The journey of development in China can be seen from destitute to giant economy in the current scenario. The involvements of diaspora get shadowed in the rising economy. Nonetheless, the overseas Chinese have significantly contributed to the development. The impact of diasporic contribution is visible at local development and in the form of brain gain. Noticeably, the active involvements of the Chinese diaspora in political and socio-economic factors are very much evident in the South Asia region. The presence of overseas is also impacted able in other parts of the world. The United Nations reported noted that the population of overseas China has more than doubled between 1990 and 2017 (Goodkind, 2019). It is estimated that the overseas Chinese population has increased by more than 5.5 million (ibid). As per the United Nation's report, 10 million Chinese are residing abroad as of 2017, of which nearly 2.4 million are in the United States and almost 2.3 million in Hong Kong (ibid).

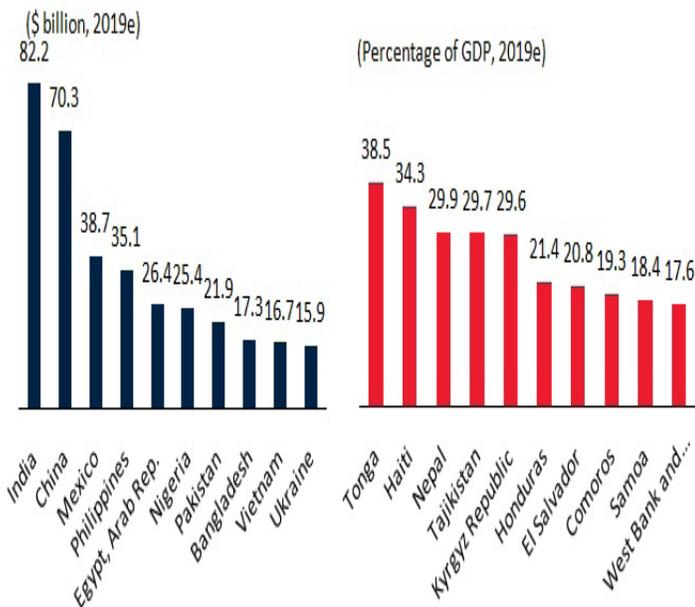
The World Bank report estimated that middle-income

countries (LMICs) are expected to reach \$551 billion in 2019, up by 4.7 per cent compared to 2018. As per the World Bank estimation, China is just behind India in recipients of remittances.

Many other countries, such as Philippines, Bangladesh have remarkably benefitted from diaspora contribution. Migrants contribute to financing for the development process in the native country. They contribute in forms of remittances, investment, and philanthropy as well as in form of brain gain for the home-country. Remittances help in raising the standard of living and helps in bargaining for a better standard of living. Investments boost major infrastructural development. The investment provides a competitive market in the economy, as well as increases the choice of people. Trade is another aspect of investment. It contributes to bilateral and multilateral trade between two countries, regions, multiple countries, and various regional forums. Environment conservation can be seen as the outcome of an investment. Investment fills the gap between the fast-growing economy and underdeveloped economy.

In terms of market development, investment from the PIOs and NRIs contribute for generating a positive impact on regional market development. It promotes significant labour-market flexibility and boots the working-age population. Importantly, it contributes to 'brain gain' and 'brain acquisition' for receiving country. Through the process of acquiring, the investor acquires a talented brain to perform the task. The process of 'brain acquisition' contributes to further investment practice and development of the economy.

**Figure 1: Top recipients of remittances, 2019**



Source: World Bank Blog, 2019

Bangladesh is one of the countries whose economy largely depends on remittances from the migrant. According to the

Bangladeshi Bank report, Bangladesh has received US\$ 15.54 billion in the year 2018, which is 15 per cent higher than that of 2017 (US\$ 13.53 billion) (Siddiqui et al., 2019). Remittances help in gaining economic growth. It enhances the consumption level of the people back at their native place. It contributes to framing the policy for infrastructural development and generates employment avenues for the people. Remittances help in increasing the living standard of people. It contributes to increasing the education and health status of the people of the recipient country. It plays a crucial role in building the image of the recipient country in the world market. It also helps in trade-related policies.

In recent years Bangladesh emerges one of the nations that receive a higher amount of remittances. Nonetheless, people's movement from Bangladesh can be traced back to colonial rule. A large chunk of people from Bangladesh moves every year to another country as workers. Almost 12,199,14 Bangladeshi have been migrated to a different part of the country, according to the Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET) report (ibid). As per the destination, these workers can be classified into high skilled or semi-skilled, or unskilled. Like India, generally, the high skilled workers of Bangladesh move towards developed countries of the world. On the contrary, semi and unskilled workers move to other parts of the world. The BMET report noted that in 2018, almost 35 per cent of the total flow of workers migrated to Saudi Arabia (ibid). This was followed by Malaysia 24 per cent and Qatar 10 per cent (ibid).

### III. Indian Diaspora

The IT boom placed Indian information technology professionals into a new global market. It not only opens the new avenue of jobs in the global market for Indians but also contributed to the development of the Indian IT sector. Leclerc (2008) argued that a considerable amount of IT projects in Bangalore is funded by the Indian Diaspora. Importantly, Punjab and Kerala's state gets the major boost in the economy because of the remittances received. The diasporic contribution to the development of the state economy is not a new phenomenon. The concept of nation-building with diasporic contribution was prevalent during the 1950s and 1960s (Mishra, 2016). Indeed, the Government of India's constant efforts flourished the notion of nation-building and promoted it with the name of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD). The PBD programme spots the contribution of overseas Indians. Importantly the PBD programme provides the platform for both old and new diaspora to engage the government, people, and land of their ancestor and contribute to the development.

#### Demography and Presence

The United Nation's migration report 2017 noted that globally twenty largest countries or areas of origin account for almost 49 per cent or nearly half of all international migrations. Importantly, India accounts for the largest number of people

living outside the country's borders or what is known as diaspora. The report noted that in 2017, India was the largest country of origin of international migrants with nearly 17 million people. In terms of migratory movements, the report noted that nearly 3 million people of Indian origin reside in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and almost 2 million are United State of America and Saudi Arabia. Grant Thornton 2016, report provided the overall distribution of Indian migrants till 2015 (table 1). The distribution indicates that a large number of people of Indian origin reside in Saudi Arabia, followed by UAE and the USA.

Table 1. Distribution of Indian Migrants

S.No.	Country	% of total Indian migrants (2015)
1.	Saudi Arabia	24.6%
2.	UAE	17.6%
3.	USA	11.2 %
4.	Kuwait	6.7%
5.	Oman	6.2%
6.	Nepal	5.3%
7.	Qatar	5.3%
8.	Bahrain	3.1%
9.	Singapore	3.1%

Sources: "Overseas Migration Patterns from India,"

Grant Thornton India LLP, February 2016.

#### A. Diversities of Engagement

**B. Regional Diasporas:** Some regions have more strong presence and better transnational networks than others. Kerala, Punjab, Gujaratis have very global diaspora networks

#### IV. Regional Development:

Development is a relative concept that cannot be measured with simply calculating some statistical formulas or by investing in the infrastructural expansion. Development counts for many things – that includes socio-psychological and economic well being. It accounts for maximizing the choice of people and freedom to express. The manifestation of regional development expresses socio-political and financial progress. Importantly, the contribution of local people along with the policy framers plays a vital role in regional development. The role of diaspora has added advantage in the overall regional development. The contribution of diaspora in the form of remittances, donations, and investment promotes regional development.

#### (A) The Case of Kerala

#### Demography

To directly depict the precise number of outmigrants from the state is quite difficult. A huge chunk of the population has been migrated to different parts of the world. The process out of out-migration is continuing. According to the data available at e-migrant, Ministry of External Affairs – Kottayam appears to one of the topmost top 50 districts of the country to send out migrants to Emigration Check Required (ECR) countries in the year 2019. Of the total 201738 migrants, Kottayam alone sent 2298 migrants.

The district wise remittances received in the state portrays different figure. It is because it calculates overall remittances received to the state irrespective of the countries.

Table 2. Household Remittances by District, 2013 and 2018

Districts	2018 in croers	2013 in crores	Per cent In-crease	Per-cent 2013	Per cent 2018
Thriuvananthapuram	2904	1847	57.2	9.5	7.6
Kollam	4602	2168	112.3	15.0	8.9
Pathanamthitta	2220	1478	50.2	7.2	6.2
Alapuzha	1795	2065	-13.1	5.8	8.5
Kottayam	1062	699	52.0	3.5	2.9
Idukki	277	228	21.7	0.9	0.9
Ernakulam	435	3210	-86.5	1.4	13.2
Thrissur	3350	2527	32.6	10.9	10.4
Palakad	1270	1009	25.9	4.1	4.2
Malapuram	6326	3510	80.2	20.6	14.4
Kozikode	2662	1967	35.3	8.7	8.2
Wayanad	432	303	42.7	1.4	1.2
Kannur	2320	1976	17.4	7.6	8.2
Kasargod	1061	1294	-18.0	3.5	5.3
Kerala	30717	24374	26.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Rajan, & Zachariah, 2019, pg-48

Table 2 distribution indicates that Kollam appears as the top remittances receiving district in the state, followed by Malapuram and the district of Kottayam. The table noted that the district of Ernakulam and Alappuzha reported negative growth in receiving remittances.

The district of Kollam, Malapuram, and Kottayam appears to be productive districts to send many people as out

migrant. The outcome is the result of comparison done by both e-migrant and data from the state's table of remittance.

Kerala's state has seen an increase in the number of outmigrants to the Gulf and other countries (Zachariah & Rajan, 2015). The number of return emigrants has increased from 13.6 lakhs in 1998 to nearly 24 lakhs in 2014. Further, the non-resident Keralites (NRK) has increased from 21 lakhs in 1998 to nearly 36.5 lakhs in 2014 (ibid). The overall year wise distribution of Keralites migration to the Gulf and other countries has been provided in table 3.

Table 3 Distribution of Keralites Migration

S.No.	Year	Emigrants (in lakhs)	Non-Resident Keralites (NRK) (in lakhs)
1.	1998	13.6	21.0
2.	2003	18.4	27.3
3.	2008	21.9	33.5
4.	2011	22.8	34.3
5.	2014	24.0	36.5

Source: Zachariah, K. C., & Rajan, S. I. (2015).

#### A. Remittances

In general, remittances can be used differently at diverse prospects. It can be seen as money sent by the migrant workers to their homes. In another context, it can be taken as family income received at home. In crude economic terms, it can be seen as foreign direct investment, and for the government, it can be seen as a source of external finance that is being used to generate foreign exchange earnings. At the social level, the term remittance can largely view either in social status or motivational prospects. It improves the quality of life, especially in developing countries (Prakash, 2017).

Interestingly, India is currently the highest remittance receiving nation, followed by China and Mexico. The role of states has an important contribution in this regard. For example, Kerala, located at in the southern part of India, accounts for 1.2 per cent of the country's geographical area and 2.7 per cent of the population. Nonetheless, it contributed 35 per cent of migration's population to India's total population in the last century and 25 per cent in the present century (Khadira, 2010). The distribution of remittances is a concern, with 19 per cent Kerala is the top destination. In-state wise share in inward remittances, Kerala accounts for 19 per cent, followed by Maharashtra 17 and Karnataka 15 per cent (livemint, 2018) in the year 2018.

Remittances play a vital role in the development and achievements, which Kerala has undergone. It helped in

reducing poverty, unemployment, and relative deprivation in Kerala. Despite the fact of low industrialized growth, Kerala's economy went into a higher growth cycle, at an average growth rate of 6.5 per cent from 1987-88 to 2013-14 (Prakash, 2017). With a total population of 3.459 crores, Kerala receives remittance of Rs 85,092 crores in the year 2018. On average, Kerala receives Rs 24,000 as per capita remittances that contributed Net State Domestic Product (NSDP) (Rajan, & Zachariah, 2019).

#### Household Remittances by District, 2013 and 2018

Indicators	1998	2003	2008	2011	2014	2018
Remittances	13652	18465	43288	49695	71142	85092
NSDP	53552	83783	140889	159144	196077	440515
Remittances as per cent of NSDP	25.5	22.0	30.7	31.2	36.3	19.3

Source: Rajan, & Zachariah, 2019, pg-54

Remittance to Kerala has contributed to the overall household directly or indirectly. It helps in raising the standard of living of the people of Kerala. Apart from their daily essential good, most of the population maintains their bank account to keep the received money in saving account. Indeed, a large proportion of families also used the amount to pay back their debts. A major proportion of remittance is used in the education and health of the family members. Importantly, a considerable amount of remittance in Kerala also gets used in purchasing luxury items. Remittance helps in generating demands in the economy and contributes to employment generation.

#### B. Education

Migrants use a different vehicle to transmit the overall development in their home countries. As a source of connection between the host and native country, the migrants promote new culture and technology. Through remittances, philanthropic work, and increasing Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), the migrants encourage a environment in their native place. Furthermore, remittances facilitate the family to invest a considerable amount of their family income on education. It is not every time that at a personal level migrant directly incorporated development work; rather, the many time the remittances, demand in the economy made the state to progress and offer human development.

The state of Kerala has made great progress in its overall human development. The literacy rate of Kerala is highest at all Indian level. The total number of literates in Kerala is 28,234,227, and the literacy rate is 93.91 per cent as per

the census of India report 2011. Importantly, the rural area's literacy rate is 92.92 per cent, and the urban area is 94.99 per cent. The gender gap in literacy in rural area of the state is found to be 4.55 per cent; on the contrary, in urban areas, it was around 3.5 per cent.

#### Literacy Rate of Kerala from 1951-2011

Year	Persons	Male	Female
1951	47.18	58.35	36.43
1961	55.08	64.89	45.56
1971	69.75	77.13	62.53
1981	78.85	84.56	73.36
1991	89.81	93.62	86.17
2001	90.86	94.24	87.72
2011	93.91	96.02	91.98

Source: Official Web Portal, Government of Kerala (Government of Kerala, 2011)

\*Note: Literacy rates in 1951, 1961, 1971 relate to population aged five years and above. Rates for the year 1981 to 2011 relate to the population aged seven years and above.

#### C. Healthcare

Along with education, the health sector of Kerala has already achieved a respectable position in India. The continuous efforts of the state government along with policy measure were responsible for the expansion of health care facilities in the state. The initial period of rapid growth in health facilities was dominated by the public sector (Kutty, 2000). However, the contribution of NRIs in terms of funding, philanthropic work, and investment also provided a major boost in the education and health care sector of Kerala. Social Remittance' is one of the prominent concepts that elaborate the changes brought by NRI in their homeland. In the state of Kerala, NRI contributes to the development of health, education, and infrastructural development. The work of NRIs is associated with the development of infrastructure for health care (Mitra, 2017). The Shreevalsam Education Trust, Kerala worked to build a super-specialist hospital, and a medical college with all its ancillaries such as a collage of nursing, pharmacy collage, and other para-medical courses in Edappal with the help of NRIs living in Abu Dhabi and Dubai (Khaleej Times, 2011). NRIs venture from the USA also contributed to multi-specialist hospital in Thiruvananthapuram. Apart from this, the NRI and PIOs contribute to free medical consultation, free medicine distribution, and free testing services, and blood donation banks. The NRI trust occupied for organizing village-level medical camps.

#### D. Life Style

Onam, the festival of harvest, is considered the most prominent festival of Kerala. The festival is celebrated for the coming of King Mahabali. The preparation for the festival starts eight to ten days in advance. It is a festival in which relatives meet with each other. Generally, distance does not matter for the gate to gather in this festival. This festival also attracts large NRIs and PIOs to celebrate it. For this festival, either the NRIs and PIOs plans to come to India in large number or in their host country they generally do get to gather to celebrate it. It reminds them of their rich culture. Vishu, the mark of New Year, is another prominent festival of Kerala. The festival has its special charm both in Kerala and Malayalees living outside India. Along with getting to gather and the festival also promotes some rituals to need to offer to celebrate the festival of Vishu. The market of Malayalees dominated population is overcrowded with vegetables and fruits – like Kani Villari, Mango, snake gourd, banana, elephant yam, and coconut. Apart from these festivals like Thrissur Pooram and Thiruvathria plays the dominant role in linking the Malayalee culture.

Kerala's traditional clothing plays a key role in the rejuvenating cultural link among Malayalees, especially for the NRIs and PIOs. The demand for these traditional dresses among NRIs and PIOs can be seen during the fest, wedding season, or celebrating the festival to gather. The traditional wears for women comprise Kancheepuram, Banaras, and Kota saris; whereas men in Kerala generally wear mundu and jubba. Mundu is a garment worn around the waist. Apart from social and cultural ties the political links also bind the NRIs and PIOs to gather to Kerala. Funding to political parties and promoting ideology is a common trend seen among the NRIs and PIOs. The NRIs also involve in active campaigns for the political parties, including social media to organising rallies. From finance to technology and from ideology to promotion of community, Diaspora's involvement in contemporary politics plays a placeholder role for a political party.

#### (B) Punjab

##### Demography

According to the e-migrant, the district of Jalandhar appears one of the topmost 50 districts to send a large number of outmigrants. Out of 201738, Jalandhar alone reported sending 2560 out migrants from the country in the year 2019. As per the remittance distribution, Jalandhar and Ludhiana. districts appear to be topmost districts to receive remittance in the year 2012 (Reserve Bank of India, 2012). Importantly, in terms of overall distribution districts around Jalandhar Doab, especially Hoshiarpur and Nawan Shehar reported to the cluster that sends the large number of migrant workers (Export-Import Bank of India, 2016).

The s diaspora's contribution has facilitated not only in terms of 'brain-gain' but also in regional development. Punjab appears to be one of the regions where the diasporic

contribution is clearly evident indirect and indirect returns. As discussed by Chanda and Ghosh (2012), direct returns are related to financial flow in remittances, foreign direct investment (FDI), and transfer of technology know-how. The indirect diasporic returns are associated with the benefits to the native country arising from diaspora's position in the host country.

### **A. Remittances**

Remittances are the money that is a transfer by NRIs or PIOs to India. Punjab appears to be one of the effective destinations to attract large remittances. As per India's inward remittances report 2016-17 Punjab listed in the top ten states with 1.7 per cent of shares in total remittances (Reference). In reality, Remittances receive in the form of money transfer to family, relatives or spent in philanthropist purposes or in development activities at local, regional, or national levels. Remittances are the share of income that the NRIs sent back at home. Remittances play a significant role in individual family level and individual family level and whole at a regional or national level (Reference). In India, remittances are generally used to repay family debt. Generally, people out migrate to other countries searching for jobs to earn money to repay their family debt. It also happens that in the process of out-migration many people took loans, and they repay once they acquire the job.

Another potential area where a large number of remittances are used is marriages. Remittances in India are normally encashed as money used for daughter, sister, or son's marriage. It gets utilise to arrange the marriage programme as well as an amount of dowry. It has been found that remittances are used in health care and education purposes. One of the major contribution of remittances in India is people invest in health care and achieving higher education. Overall, remittances have a significant welfare impact at the local, regional, and national levels. It contributes to generating demand in the market and hence contributes to overall economic development. The philanthropic and development work of remittances also contributes to generating a large number of employment and opening new employment avenues back at home country. In case of Punjab, the remittance has assisted the programme of 'Green Revolution' (Chanda and Ghosh, 2012). The programme of green revolution in India got the major boost because of remittances. It contributed to the success of the plan and facilitated the promotion of the green revolution plan at the national level.

At the advantages level, remittances play an immensely impacted role in the overall development of Punjab. It helped in Punjab's rural development and contributed to raising the living standards of people and increased the household computation (ibid). Indeed, it also contributed to agricultural development and provided new employment opportunities to large number of migrant works. Nonetheless, increased income level has also contributed to high consumption of drugs in Punjab. The ill-effect of drugs can be many and at

a grave level. But the most immediate impact is degrading health conditions and increase in crime rate. Punjab appears to be of India's top states reported the highest number of narcotics drugs and psychotropic substances (NDPS) crimes.

### **B. Education**

The increase in the inflow of remittances has contributed to the development of social resources in the state of Punjab. Indeed, the inflow of remittances has supplemented building and development of infrastructure for schools and colleges in Punjab. The work of fundraising for the development of schools in Punjab can be traced back to the early nineteenth and twenty centuries. Khalsa Middle School is one of the best examples in this regard (Walton-Roberts, 2005). The Khalsa School was developed by the NRIs in 1923 to provide a good standard of education in the Punjabi language (ibid). Despite the fact that the school handed over to the government in 1952 until 1967, the group of NRIs continued to cover all the schools' cost (ibid). Guru Ravi Das Trust is another potent example of private fundraising in the area of education development. Guru Ravi Das trust Educational Assistance Trust was established by the Punjabi diaspora (Chanda and Ghosh, 2012). Trust's main objective is to facilitate education to poor children by providing textbooks and scholarships for schools and colleges (ibid).

The philanthropic contribution of the Punjabi diaspora helped in the development of formal education. Importantly, it also facilitated the infrastructural development in rural and remote areas of the state. Punjabi NRIs' involvement helped develop many educational institutions, including engineering, vocational training colleges and computer-aided infrastructure buildings. The role of Punjabi diaspora also visible in working with the collaboration of state government to facilitate or to develop government schools across the state territory. The diasporic community contributes to the construction of buildings, rooms, toilets, library, and schools. They also contribute to distributing books and scholarships for the poor students or the backward communities.

Diasporic funding also contributes to the development of smart schools and colleges in Punjab. Indeed, it also flourished the growth of the private education system in the state. At the one end, these private education institutes produce high standards than the public and raise the competition. At the other end, it also promotes commercialization of the education system that mark with a higher fees structure and low scholarship.

### **C. Healthcare**

The direct contribution of large-scale remittances is visible in the health sector of Punjab. The philanthropic work of Punjabi diaspora and private investment has contributed to the development of a standard medical infrastructure in the state. The healthcare sector develops as the demand for an increase in modern technology increases due to high

investment . It introduced modern and sophisticated testing and surgical devices. Indeed, it also introduces standard infrastructural setup and increased hospital facilities. In the case of Punjab, the diasporic contribution through funding has contributed to developing a standard healthcare sector. NRIs' contribution can be seen either in donation, philanthropic work, or investment in the sector.

One of the contributions of diaspora involvement of the health sector is by donating land for building hospitals. Donations to medical college and hospitals are another major contribution of diaspora. The role of return migrants can be seen in building a hospital in local and rural areas. In addition to the donation to the hospital and medical instruments, the Punjabi diasporic contribution also visible in promoting social services. The social services include organizing free medical camps for poor people. The free medical camps include services like blood donation, eye tests, funding for surgical needs, and free medical advice.

The role of the diaspora is noticeable in promoting medical tourism in Punjab. -effective treatment compared to many western countries, the availability of cost-effective treatment compared has attracted the most effective treatment compared to many western countries has attracted medical tourism in India. The advanced treatment facilities and the team of professional medical experts have attracted NRIs and PIOs to visit Punjab for medical assistance. As per the 25th Punjabi, Pravasi Divas report, out of the total arrival tourist in Punjab, almost 0.85 per cent of them reported as a medical tourist. The report noted Punjab receives almost 9350 and around 35 lakhs patients for health care from neighbouring states of Punjab. Importantly, as per the report, Punjab alone contributes 1.87 per cent to India's total medical tourist arrival. , Medical tourism alone generates Rs 281 crores annually for Punjab, which is 0.16 % of India's total revenue.

The policy of the state government also encourages the role of diasporic contribution in the health sector. These policies engaged funding in developing government hospitals by introducing new-state-of-technologies public health sector. The government policy also promotes private in investment in the health sector to increase the role of public, private partnership for the development of the health sector.

#### **D. Life Style**

Punjabi diaspora has made a mark on both the host and native country. Punjabi diaspora has a long history which talks about their movement in different parts of the country. It also informed the engagement of diasporic community diasporic community's engagement to its native land through religious, economical, political, and cultural aspects. The involvement in the religious process at the homeland keeps the diasporic community from maintaining the link through their belief and following native land. It also engaged them

actively to fund and contribute to establishing religious temples and participating in many religious, charitable works., the diasporic community's engagement in nation-building, is not a new phenomenon. The Punjabi diaspora actively participates in regional development. Through remittances and the form of investment, remittances and the form of investment, the diasporic community contributed to the infrastructural development. The attachment to ancestors lands expressively ties the diasporic community to support for development back in India.

Active engagement in political activities makes the diasporic community maintain the social like with native land. Involvement in political activities can broadly classify into direct and indirect participation. Under direct participation, the NRIs and PIOs fund the political parties of their preference. Indeed, at many occurrences in active campaigning and mobilising funds to support, the NRIs and PIOs get involved in active campaigning and mobilising funds to support political parties. At the one end, NRIs and PIOs' active involvement in political activities helps in attracting diasporic communities. At the other end, it poses the challenges of influencing the overall election through investing money. Indirect participation helps in gaining the political link between the two countries. The influence of the diasporic community helps in trade and bi-lateral treaties between the host and native countries.

Cultural ties are another aspect that intact diasporic community to their native lands. At the one end, it creates the new identity of diasporic community in the host nation. At the other end, it promotes to sustain the same lifestyle of native countries. Broadly, cultural ties can be the view from two prospects – one preserving the culture in the host country and the second maintaining the cultural ties with native countries. Punjabi diaspora has followed both prospects to retain the lifestyle of their originality. At the host country, the Sikh community is actively involved in political and social aspects. The migrant has contributed to the development of schools and colleges that provide education in the Punjabi language. People are actively involved in building and maintaining Guruwara and religious institutions. Importantly, the host country's political affiliation provides a sense of security to protect and maintain their culture beliefs. An institution like marriages and folk festivals, has held the ties of practicing culture between diaspora and native land. Many diasporas prefer to get married in their native land with all the rites and rituals. Similarly, the folk festival provides the platform to celebrate with similar customs.

#### **Conclusion**

India being a country of huge diversity in terms of language, religion, ethnicity, geography and other socio-economic factors, it is very important to see the intangible culture that influences the psyche of the individual or community in the diaspora. It is for this reason diaspora engagement is stronger

where it has a stronger root.

Diasporas in India are basically strong at the regional level as their identity is based on language and state. The diasporic engagement follows the same pattern as their familiar links influenced their decision to engage with their home state. Kerala and Punjab have shown different models of diaspora engagement. Remittances, knowledge transfer, and philanthropic engagements are part of the larger scheme of engagement.

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Global Research Forum on Diaspora and Transnationalism (GRFDT) is a consortium of researchers and policy makers drawn from national and international universities, institutes and organizations. GRFDT is presently based in India and is shaping as the largest such group focusing specifically on the issues related to diaspora and transnationalism.

The GRFDT works as an academic and policy think tank by engaging national and international experts from academics, practitioners and policy makers in a broad range of areas such as migration policies, transnational linkages of development, human rights, culture, gender to mention a few. In the changing global environment of academic research and policy making, the role of GRFDT will be of immense help to the various stakeholders. Many developing countries cannot afford to miss the opportunity to harness the knowledge revolution of the present era. The engagement of diaspora with various platform need to be reassessed in the present context to engage them in the best possible manner for the development human societies by providing policy in-put at the national and global context.

