

Indian Diaspora

Problem with the term

- 'Prefix' - Indian
- 'Term' - diaspora

The concept of homeland was not meant for India, rather local, regional community. Similarity between Gujarati muslim and Gujarati hindu. The word 'India' was thus used by the govt to solve the problem of identity.

Diaspora, problem was sorted out by high level committee headed by L.M. Singhvi. The committee defined diaspora as communities of migrant living or settle permanently in other countries but aware of its origin and identity and maintain varying degree of linkages with the homeland. The committee defined 'diaspora' as people migrated from ~~current~~ territory currently under India; people residing in distant lands but have promotional, cultural and spiritual link with the mother country will be called as diaspora. The committee added the word spirituality in order to cover all the religions.

Why maximum diaspora formation took place during colonial period?

- ① External factors :
- Industrial revolution
 - (Push)
 - change in consumption habits
 - abolition of slavery
 - Incentive to plantation
 - opening of Suez canal.

Internal factors :- (Push)

- peasantry in distress
- famine
- destruction of human capital industry.

Problem with the Term ^{prefix} prefix and diaspora :-

There are 2 basic problems concerning the Indian diaspora

① Prefix - Indian

② Term diaspora

The implication of the first is that there is single India with its people who are somehow united under one flag. This is far from obvious. India has been described as a nation and its fragments. Here the unity of India is a construction. Moreover Indian abroad don't show much identify with India as a nation but with the homeland i.e., specific region or locality from where they migrated or their ancestor came from. It appears that region and locality are much more important in structuring the migrant identity rather than religion and nationality.

[A Gujarati Hindu and Gujarati Muslim will have lot more in common than a Gujarati Hindu and a Punjabi Hindu]

The govt made a strong effort to reconnect diaspora. Here the word Indian was ^{directly} ~~clearly~~ intended to unify the migrants, whose origin lie within the current borders of the republic of India. This means that, prefix has been defined by govt itself.

(2)

The Indian govt setup a high level committee for Indian diaspora under chairmanship of L.M. Singhvi. The committee defined diaspora as communities of migrant living or settled permanently in other country aware of its origin and identity and maintaining varying degree of linkages with the mother country.

The high level committee defined Indian diaspora as people who migrated from territories that are currently within the borders of the republic of India. It also refer to their decedents. Further more, govt of India added that all those people residing in distant land and have retained their emotional, spiritual, cultural link with the country of their origin. The official definition therefore does not exclude any 'religious' group of Indian origin from membership of Indian diaspora.

Why maximum diaspora formation during colonial period?

The origin of Indian diaspora lies mainly in the subjugation of India by the british and its incorporation into the british empire. The historical background against which Indian overseas migration was intensified was the penetration of british. merchantile capitalism in Asia.

In the 2nd half of 19th century, due to industrial revolution, people started getting employed in factories earned more money and gradually led to change in their consumption pattern. So, the things which were previously reserved for elitist consumption. (Tea, sugar, coffee etc..)

suddenly started to be consumed by local masses/common masses. When the common masses started consuming these product. It led to huge increase in demand for these product. As these products were plantation based so they were labour intensive so, naturally it also led to increase in demand for labour. Secondly, as slavery was abolished, it became very difficult to find labour who can work on plantation field. So, the only alternative to motivate the labour to work on plantation was to give them incentive. As incentive was given to workers, naturally it also created increased in demand.

Lastly, Suez Canal was opened up and thus it integrated the world capitalist system with the Asian peripheral economy and more importantly, it reduced the distance between 2 economies into half. As a result more trade started taking place between the two economies. The frequencies of trade also increased and the Britishers started to earn more profits from trade with Asia in general and India in particular. These profits were further invested in plantation and mining and as they were labour intensive so naturally it increased demand for labour. So, while expanding capitalist economy in British empire, created a huge demand of labour in India, many factors created socio economic condition that led to Indian exodus overseas.

Internal factors :-

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① Peasantry was in distress because, revenue administration of Bengal passed into the hands of East India company. [1765]. As revenue administration passed into the hands of the company, it started extracting more from the peasant.

② Zamindari system was introduced through permanent settlement Act of 1793. This zamindari system created an intermediary between the company and the peasants. The zaminder also got his share from the peasant and due to this peasant was under more pressure or distress.

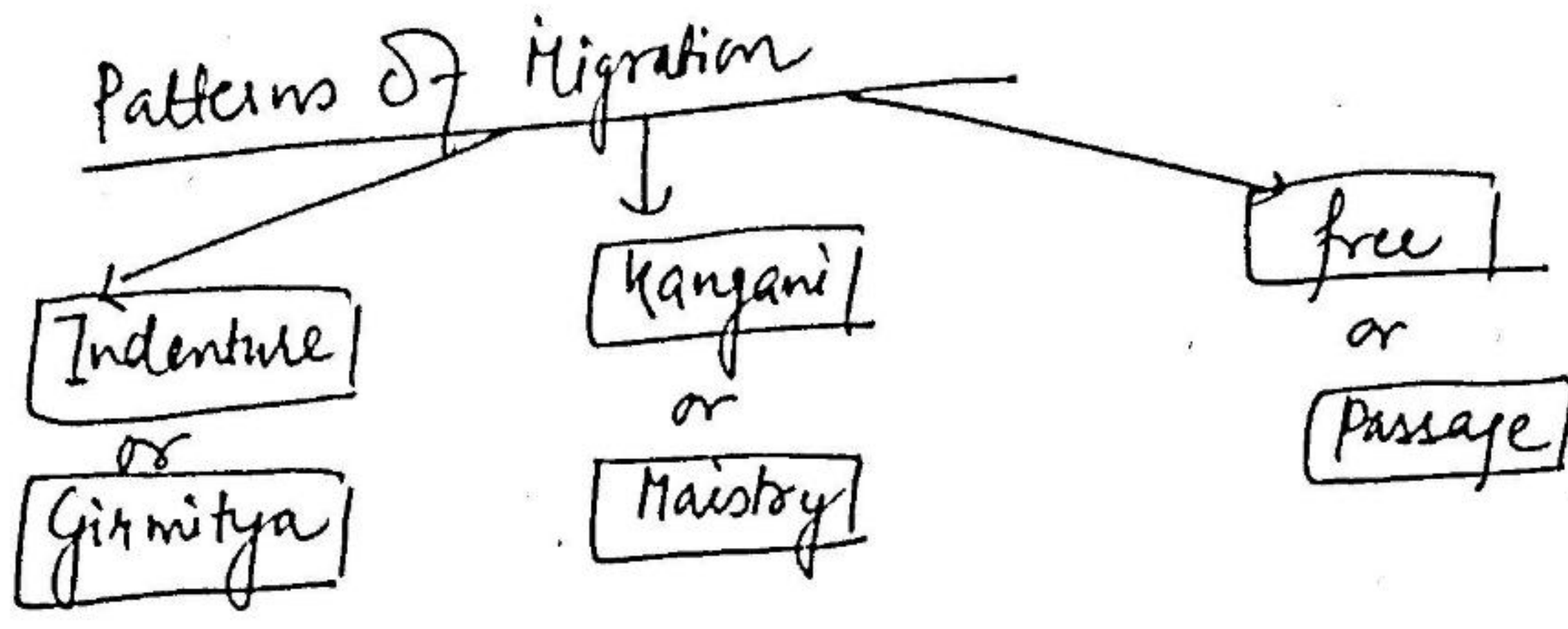
③ Widespread and frequent famine, and local scarcity and throughout 19th century were also a major contributory factor in adding to the misery of rural population. In the last four decades of the 19th century. The govt ^{economic} policy led to decline in food production and rise in food prices. On the other hand, during the same period, export of food grain, increased resulting in further shortage of food grain and increase in its price to the tune that it was beyond the capacity of common masses. This led to starvation death and panic selling of the land. So, indirectly famine also created a class of landless labourers.

④ Destruction of handicraft industries:- India was a great manufacturing power mainly because of its handicraft industry. This industry provided employment to millions

of people. Cotton industry was thriving and the British cotton industry was unable to compete. The Britishers imposed heavy custom duty on Indian import in England, but it did not help them much. So in 17th century, the Britishers prohibited the entry of Indian cotton goods, as a result people ~~suddenly~~ gradually started getting unemployed with the destruction of those industries.

④ Other factors → Excessive dependence on agriculture, seasonal unemployment, mass illiteracy, caste bound occupation structure, ~~these~~ ^{were} additional contributory factor in creating a class of landless labour.

Under these circumstances, when there was huge demand of labour outside, and in India, millions were waiting to be employed. So, in this scenario, imperial govt put pressure on the Indian govt to export Indian labour to various colonies. During this period, 98% of people who moved out of the country were labourers. That's why Indian diaspora is ~~only~~ often known as labour diaspora. and only 2% of the population were middle class.



→ Historically 3 distinctive patterns of indian migration can be identified during the colonial period.

① Indenture began in 1834, when slavery was abolished in British empire. labour was needed to work on plantation field in various british colonies, without dependable supply of labour, the survival of plantation is extremely difficult. Consequently, the british colonist followed the practice of latin american and Cuban colonist, who were importing chinese indenture labour from the portuguese settlement of Macau.

Indenture was a contract by which the labour was bound to work for a given employer for 3 to 5 year term performing the task assigned to him for a specific wage. At the end of the contract, the labour was free to indenture or work elsewhere in the colony. Labour was entitled to subsidised return passage (return ticket at lower price) or a piece of land with some money. Most of the labour opted for second because it give them some amount of security, freedom and ownership. Under this system labour were mostly exported to Girmitya

countries (Trinidad, and Tobago, Surinam, Fiji, Guinea, and Mauritius.) This system came to an end in 1920.

Kangani system :- derived from Tamil word Kankani meaning overseer or foreman. Kangani himself was an Indian diaspora, he used to recruit labour (S. India) by paying them in advance for expenses. This system of recruitment was used to supply South Indian labourers to Brunei and Malaysia.

Maistri system was more or less characterised by middleman employer and labour relationship. Here the middle man or labour contractor or charged maistri used to earn money from both employer and the labour. Under this system, North and East Indian labour were mostly exported to Burma.

Difference between Indenture & Kangani/Maistri system

- ① Under Indenture system, labour move out of the country through legal agreement, whereas under Kangani and Maistri system, labour move out of the country through verbal agreement.
- ② Under Indenture labour system, labour was bound to work for given employer, whereas under Kangani & Maistri system, labour was free.
- ③ Under Indenture system, labour were exported to far

off places, whereas under rangri or maistri system, labour were exported to shorter distance (5)

free or passage system :-

The 3rd form of Indian migration with in the British empire was free or passage migration. Under this system, people paid their own expenses to move out of the country. Under this system, Gujarati and Punjabi traders mostly moved out of India and settled in East African countries like Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

<u>NRI</u>	<u>PIO</u>	<u>PIO CARD</u>	<u>OCI.</u>	
				→ who
				→ benefits
				→ restriction
				→ fees
				→ citizenship.

NRI :- A person who holds Indian passport and he is a Indian citizen but resides outside India, for a minimum of 182 days. People on govt assignments or UN assignments

PIO :- A person whose any of ~~Indian~~ ancestor was a an Indian passport holder but currently, the person is a foreign citizen or passport holder.

PIO cardholder :- Any person who at any time held Indian passport or either of his parents or grand parents permanent

newly resident in India as defined by Govt of India Act 1935, or belong to a territory part of India thereafter, provided that they have never been citizen of Nepal, Shutan, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka & recently India govt also added Iran in the list ..

OCI : Any foreign nationals who is eligible to become citizenship of India on 26 Jan 1950 or who was citizen of India on or at 26 Jan 1950 or belong to a territory that became part of India after 15 Aug 1947 Ex! - Goa, Sikkim etc... provided the country where he or she resides provides dual citizenship in some form or the other. Under the local law. Then he/she along with their minor children for the OCI card provided they are not citizen of Pakistan and Bangladesh.