

# The Impact of Migration on Achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)@Viksit Bharat 2047

## Mallayya

Assistant Professor, Dept. of Sociology, Shri CMP Govt. First Grade College Lokapur, Bagalkot.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17307803>

### ABSTRACT:

Migration, both internal and international, is a defining feature of globalization and human mobility in the 21st century. While migration provides economic, social, and cultural benefits, it also creates challenges for sustainable development. Recognizing its importance, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development integrates migration within several goals, most notably SDG 10.7 (facilitating safe, regular, and responsible migration). This paper examines the relationship between migration and the SDGs, analyzing its opportunities, risks, and long-term implications for development. It further highlights policy recommendations to maximize the positive contributions of migration while minimizing adverse effects.

### KEYWORDS:

Migration, Sustainable Development Goals, SDG 10.7, Remittances, Brain Drain.

.....

### Introduction

Migration is not a new phenomenon; it has been part of human history. However, in the modern era, migration has gained greater complexity due to globalization, economic inequalities, environmental changes, and political instability. According to the United Nations International Organization for Migration (IOM, 2023), there are approximately 281 million international migrants worldwide, representing 3.6% of the global population. Additionally, billions migrate internally, especially from rural to urban areas in search of better livelihoods.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) recognize migration as a transformative force that can contribute to poverty reduction, economic growth, education, and innovation. At the same time, unmanaged migration can lead to social tensions, exploitation, urban overcrowding, and inequality. Hence, understanding migration's dual impact is essential

to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

## **Migration and Its Link to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

### **Migration influences multiple SDGs, either directly or indirectly:**

SDG 1 (No Poverty): Migrants send over \$647 billion in remittances annually, supporting millions of families in low- and middle-income countries.

SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being): Migrants often face health risks due to limited access to healthcare, but remittances improve health outcomes for families back home.

SDG 4 (Quality Education): Remittances enable children to access better education. However, migrant children may face exclusion in host countries.

SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth): Migration fills labor shortages and boosts productivity, though migrants are often exploited in low-wage sectors.

SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities): Migration reduces global inequality through income transfers but may widen inequalities within host societies.

SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities): Rapid urban migration leads to overcrowding, slums, and pressure on resources in cities.

SDG 13 (Climate Action): Environmental migration is rising due to climate change, particularly in vulnerable regions.

### **Positive Impacts of Migration on SDGs**

#### **1. Economic Growth and Development**

Remittances contribute significantly to national economies. For example, in Nepal and the Philippines, remittances account for more than 10% of GDP.

Migrant workers provide skills, innovation, and cultural diversity in host nations.

#### **2. Poverty Reduction**

Migrants' earnings often support extended families, reducing poverty and hunger in their countries of origin.

#### **3. Knowledge and Skills Transfer**

Return migration contributes to technological innovation, entrepreneurship, and skill development.

#### **4. Cultural Exchange and Diversity**

Migration fosters multicultural societies, enhancing tolerance and cross-border cooperation.

### **Negative Impacts of Migration on SDGs**

#### **1. Brain Drain**

Emigration of skilled workers reduces human capital in origin countries, particularly in healthcare and education sectors.

#### **2. Exploitation and Inequality**

Migrant workers often face wage discrimination, unsafe working conditions, and limited legal protections.

#### **3. Urban Challenges**

Rural-to-urban migration increases pressure on housing, sanitation, transportation, and employment in cities.

#### **4. Social Integration Issues**

Migrants may encounter xenophobia, exclusion, and limited political participation in host countries.

#### **5. Environmental Stress**

Large-scale migration contributes to resource depletion, especially in fragile ecosystems.

### **Case Studies**

**India's Internal Migration:** Millions migrate seasonally from rural to urban areas. While this provides labour for industries, migrants often lack social security and access to public services.

**Syrian Refugee Crisis:** Over 6.8 million Syrians have fled the country, impacting host countries like Turkey, Jordan, and Lebanon by creating both economic opportunities and social challenges.

**Mexico-USA Migration:** Remittances from Mexican migrants in the U.S. significantly support rural communities but also lead to dependence on external income.

**Climate-Induced Migration in Bangladesh:** Rising sea levels and floods have displaced thousands, showing the link between climate change,

migration, and sustainable development.

## **Policy Recommendations**

### **1. Safe and Regular Migration Channels**

Governments should expand legal pathways to migration and reduce irregular migration risks.

### **2. Integration Policies in Host Countries**

Ensure equal access to education, healthcare, and social security for migrants.

Promote cultural integration programs to reduce xenophobia.

### **3. Brain Gain Strategies**

Incentivize skilled migrants to return home and contribute to national development.

### **4. Remittance Utilization**

Create financial literacy programs to channel remittances into productive investments (education, business, and infrastructure).

### **5. Climate-Resilient Planning**

Develop strategies for managing climate-induced migration, especially in vulnerable coastal and agricultural regions.

### **6. Global Partnerships**

Strengthen international cooperation through the Global Compact for Migration (2018) to ensure fair and humane migration practices.

## **Future Outlook**

By 2050, climate change, demographic shifts, and economic inequalities are expected to increase migration significantly. If well managed, migration can serve as a catalyst for achieving SDGs, particularly by reducing poverty, fostering innovation, and addressing labor shortages. However, unmanaged migration could worsen inequality, strain urban infrastructure, and fuel political conflicts. Sustainable development will therefore require policies that treat migration as an opportunity rather than a crisis.

## **Conclusion**

Migration is one of the most powerful forces shaping sustainable development in the 21st century. It contributes positively through remit-

tances, skills transfer, and cultural exchange but also poses challenges such as brain drain, inequality, and urban stress. The SDGs provide a framework to harness migration's potential while mitigating its risks. Ensuring safe, orderly, and inclusive migration will be crucial to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

### References:

1. Adger, W. N., Boyd, E., Fábos, A., Fransen, S., Jolivet, D., Neville, G., ... & Vijge, M. J. (2019). Migration transforms the conditions for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. *The Lancet Planetary Health*, 3(11), e440–e442.
2. Baş, İ. M. (2022). The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Migrants/Migration. In *Refugee Crisis in International Policy–Volume III: Refugee Policies of the International Organizations* (pp. 59–75). Transnational Press London.
3. Holliday, J., Hennebry, J., & Gammage, S. (2019). Achieving the sustainable development goals: surfacing the role for a gender analytic of migration. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 45(14), 2551–2565.
4. Pudryk, D., Kwilinski, A., Liulov, O. V., & Pimonenko, T. V. (2023). Towards achieving sustainable development: Interactions between migration and education. *Forum Scientiae Oeconomia*.
5. Prada, E. M. (2020). The relationship between sustainable development goals and migration. An EU-28 perspective. *Journal of Social and Economic Statistics*, 9(1), 28–45.

### Funding:

This study was not funded by any grant.

### Conflict of interest:

The Authors have no conflict of interest to declare that they are relevant to the content of this article.

### About the License:

© The Authors 2024. The text of this article is open access and licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.