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RESEARCH ARTICLE

BRAIN DRAIN IN INDIA

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Abstract

India is the world's largest source of immigration. There's a growing sense of dissatisfaction among students that the current Indian education system is inept at preparing them for the challenges of an increasingly globalised world. India has a huge unemployment problem with an unemployment rate of 7.9%. There's a tough competition for jobs and seats in colleges. Gender and caste discrimination, corruption and other social evils are still prominent. The youth wants to be free from the social norms thrust upon them by the Indian society. All these factors contribute to the rise in Brain Drain from India.

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Introduction:-

Currently, India is the world's largest source of immigration and nearly two-thirds of those migrating out of India seem to be highly educated, which is the highest for any country.

As per the latest government data available, 11,33,749 Indian students are studying abroad. So why do so many students prefer to study abroad rather than complete their higher education in India itself? This is the question we must ask ourselves. This is because there's a growing sense of dissatisfaction among students that the current Indian education system is inept at preparing them for the challenges of an increasingly globalised world. The lack of innovative courses is drawing a lot of young students to leave Indian shores for better education overseas.

This brain drain is a "consequence of an education system designed for "selecting" the best and brightest in an economy that cannot create enough opportunities for its best and brightest." When we look at the three most important exams in India, JEE, NEET, and UPSC, the picture becomes clear. Roughly 35,26,000 students sit for these exams every year. What are they judging you based on? How well you can answer questions given on a sheet of paper. That's definitely important. Knowledge is important, but where's the creativity in this? Where's the innovation? And if I talk just about JEE and NEET, there's no guarantee that you'll be able to get into a good college even if you sit for these exams because the competition is just so tough. And even if you do get into a good college, there's no guarantee you'll get to study the subjects you want to. So things like these just make the prospect of studying abroad seem attractive.

Moving on from the students, the skilled labour present in a country... what do they want? Good salary for their work, flexibility in their working hours, job security. And India, to begin with, has got a huge unemployment problem. This means people aren't even getting jobs to begin with, let alone expecting job security. Right now the unemployment rate in India is about 7.9%, which doesn't seem huge when presented like this, but when presented in actual numbers, there are 53 million unemployed people present in India as of Dec 2021, and a huge proportion of them are women.

Besides a lack of jobs, there are also the problems of skills-opportunity mismatch, wherein you might be skilled at one job but the competition for it is so tough that there's usually someone present who's better at it than you are, and you have to settle for a job which you don't really enjoy if you get a job at all. Additionally, gender and caste discrimination are still prominent in many parts of the country, though not as prominent as before, but they are still there. However, in countries like the US and UK, professionals in healthcare and science, technology, engineering and maths are in great demand. You've got better pay, better work hours, and an overall better quality of life at somewhat of an affordable price, so it seems like too good an offer for someone to refuse.

When it comes to Brain Drain, it's not just the students or young skilled professionals who are eager to go abroad. Now there's another emerging trend among the millennials who, for one, are leaving India for mental peace and the freedom to live the way they want to, without the social norms that Indian society thrusts upon them.

There are a lot of questions we need to ask ourselves as a country. The questions about quality of life, employment opportunities, social structure, financial and social security, development, gender equality, freedom in all walks of life. It is not to say that other countries have everything, but their position is far superior to India's, and if the Indian government wants to stop the brain drain, it will have to take some action.