

Brain Drain is Better than Brain in Drain

Outline

A. Introduction

B. Conceptualizing the Terms Brain Drain and Brain in Drain

C. Brain Drain is Indeed Better than Brain in Drain

1. It allows individuals to acquire new skills

2. Brain drain provides an opportunity for professional enhancement;

2.1 Most of the people move outside to pursue higher education

3. It helps in transfer of knowledge across countries;

3.1 Study by South East European University

4. Boosts economy of a country

through remittances;

4.1 India received 120 billion dollar in remittances in 2023: World Bank

5. Provides access to global markets to home nation

6. People moving abroad leads to creation of global network among individuals of a state;

6.1 Pakistani American Entrepreneurs Network

7. Human capital flight leads to creation of innovation hubs;

7.1 Story of Indians in Silicon Valley

8. It reduces unemployment in home country

9. Intellectuals moving abroad puts pressure on government to make reforms;

9.1 Casestudy of Newzealan: Focusing on education

D.1

Co.

li

to

as

fu

Ch

to

as

le

10. Brain drain acts as brain circulation leading to ~~the~~ improvement of society
11. Individuals moving abroad promote soft image of a country
12. Moving foreign leads to personal growth

D. Brain Drain Acts as a Double Edged Sword: A Case Study of Sri Lanka

Eo. Conclusion



Essay

"Change is the law of the life, and those who look only to the past and the present are certain to miss the future." said John F. Kennedy. Change in quotation refers to improvement that one seeks and to do so one must look into various avenues of

life. This urge to improve one's quality of life led men more from one place to another, from one city to another and ultimately from one country to another. This phenomenon of moving from country of origin to another has become common feature among nationals of developing nations; when intellectuals are involved in it, this is termed as brain drain. Brain Drain is often considered detrimental for a country in discussions held by laymen. Actually, when looked into properly brain drain is not necessarily a bad thing for a state. It allows individuals to acquire new skills, provides an opportunity for professional enhancement and helps in transfer of knowledge across countries. Along with this,

it boosts the economy of a country through remittances, gives it access to global market and leads to creation of innovation hubs. It also promotes soft image of a nation in community of states. However, there is a flip side to it as well. Perpetual brain drain can lead to destruction of a country. To say the least, brain drain offers a lot to a country in comparison to its brain being in drain.

To start with, the term brain drain is the phenomenon in which intellectuals and skilled workforce of a country leave its homeland and move abroad. In developing nations this is a common happening. People leave the country of their origin and move towards developed countries in search of

quality life. On the contrary, brain in drain is a situation in which intellectual people remain unnoticed and unknown due to lack of opportunities and infrastructure. According to a report by United Nations Human Rights Commission (UNHCR), around 280 million people live outside the countries of their origin. It nearly amounts to 3.8 percentage of world's total population. So, this concept of brain drain is not new to the world.

The paragraph above discussed the concept of brain drain and the discourse below will enlighten how brain drain is indeed better than brain in drain.

Firstly, it allows individuals to acquire new skills by living in a different society than

that of its origin. A person who leaves its country has to acquire certain skills of life to be able to thrive in a completely new society. This need pushes an individual to learn more and learn quickly. Moving towards a developed country gives individual all the opportunities to learn new things, thus enhancing a persons ability and lifestyle.

Secondly, people move outside for growth in their professional lives. Brain drain as a phenomenon provides an opportunity for that purpose. Developed countries are home to excellent institutions of learning and offer in contrast to that institutions in developing countries are unable to serve their true purpose of learning. According to

a survey, most of the people moving abroad are those who want to pursue higher education in the host country. So this act of moving abroad adds to professional qualification of a person that could not be done if one had chosen to stay home.

Thirdly, brain drains results in transfer of knowledge across countries. People moving from one country to another transfer valuable knowledge from host nation to its home country. A study done by South East European University revealed that returnees knowledge transfer is positively associated with the development of the state. Thus, when a expatriate returns it adds to development of society. So, brain drain is actually better than brain in drain.

Fourthly, economy of a country gets a boost through remittances sent by its nationals living abroad. It adds to the foreign exchange reserves of a country, keeping the economy afloat. For many developing nations remittances are their one of most important sources of collecting dollars - the dominating currency of the world.

According to the report by World Bank, India received 120 billion dollars in form of remittances in year 2023.

Nationals living abroad earn in dollar and send back, resulting in growth of the country.

Fifthly, this provides access to global markets to ^{the} nation. As a result of brain drain people move to different parts of the world and they engage

themselves with different markets. Their exposure to different markets gives their country access to that market. Many of them start business and import from the country of their origin to run work. This results in enhanced trade of the country through direct access of global markets.

Sixthly, people expatriates settle outside and form associations among themselves. Primarily they do so to keep in touch with each other and perform business transaction, however; they also support the country of their origin from that platform.

One such example is an association named Pakistani Americans Entrepreneurs Network. They fund growing and promising startups in Pakistan and also provide them technical

and field related assistance in order to grow them. Thus it is evident that brain drain is better than brain in drain.

Seventhly, human capital flight leads to creation of innovation hubs. Intellectuals and created people often resist themselves in developing countries due to innumerable hurdles. Some of them move abroad and hon their intellect and make innovations that are life changing for many. The story of Indians in the silicon valley is one of many examples of creation of innovation hubs through human capital. Many startups - now turned unicorns - are result of brain in mid-eighties and nineties in the sub-continent, such as Ola, Zomato and Lenskart.

Eighthly, it reduces unemployment in home country. One of the major problems in countries with highest percentage of brain drain is unemployment. Once individuals move outside they reduce the number of unemployed persons in country. Many posts become vacant in home country where fresh faces are appointed resulting in overall reduction of unemployment ratio. Though very often than not, it is not the case, but brain drain results in reduction of unemployment ratio.

Ninthly, loss of intellectuals and skilled workforce puts pressure on government to make reforms to retain them. No country in the world can afford losing all its able workforce, so governments are compelled to make efficient

policies to avoid excessive brain drain. Newzealand - now a developed country - once faced problem of excessive brain drain. It forced government to bring reforms in various sectors, leading her on the path ^{to} prosperity. Thus, it is proved that brain drain acts as a push in bringing reforms in a country.

Tenthly, Brain drain acts as a circulation of brain which results in overall improvement of the society. Cultural Exchange between the countries result in adoption of democratic and human-centric values in the society. Chinese diaspora in Taiwan enjoys democratic freedom and brings those values back to China, resulting in openness and freedom in chinese society to some extent. So, it is safe to conclude that

brain drain acts as impetus in bringing positive changes through circulation of minds.

Eleventhly, expatriates promote soft image of their country in the host state. This happens by way of them organizing various festivals, gatherings and programs which depict soft image of the country. Many artists move abroad and engage with larger audience. Through their art they narrate stories about their country which, usually are not known by foreigners. This results in improvement of image at international level resulting in bilateral partnerships and multilateral association. This helps a state to grow.

Lastly, Brain drain results in personal growth of an individual. Social standards

and quality to-the-maximum. Individuals move abroad for growth in various countries, of a better life. It is also evident provided by Development are ranked in terms of life expectancy. Thus, brain drain personal growth leaving to The side to case with its benefits as discussed in the

(14)

(15)

_ _ _ _ _

and quality of life is not up-to-the-mark in developing countries. Individuals from these countries move abroad to seek personal growth in all walks of life. Developed countries, often host states, offer a better life to these individuals. It is also evident from the rankings provided by United Nations Human Development Report. Developed nations are ranked above the rest in terms of human development, life expectancy and quality of life. Thus, brain drain leads to personal growth of individuals leaving the country.

There is always another side to a coin, same is the case with brain drain. With all its benefits to the country, as discussed above, it has a fair share of harm as discussed in the upcoming paragraph.

Brain drain does not offer a solo flight to prosperity, but if it exceeds a certain number, it can lead to downfall of a great country. Excessive brain drain is to a country what cholesterol is to a heart patient. This analogy depicts that when a country faces excessive human capital flight, it can face a collapse. Sri Lanka is the victim of excessive brain drain. Its economy ^{had} collapsed and the country ^{had} become bankrupt, due to majority of its efficient human resource left the country. Thus it is clear, that brain drain can destroy a country if not addressed properly. To conclude, brain as a phenomenon is not harmful and is rather better than brain in drain. As, it adds

to personal growth of individuals of a country. Brain drain has also improved the societies and has forced governments to take efficient measures, thus resulted in growth of countries. As it has been discussed above that brain drain can result in creation of innovation hubs in a country. It also boosts the economy as well. However, it ~~has its~~ has its drawback as well. Increased brain drain can destroy a country as well. The change brought* by globalization in this world makes brain drain inevitable and through proper steps taken it can be ensured that brain drain is fruitful for the country in contrast to brain in drain.