

* BRAIN DRAIN IS BETTER THAN BRAIN IN THE DRAIN *

I) Introduction:

Thesis Statement:

The political instability, economic uncertainty and lack of visionary leadership are some of the causes of brain drain, which is better than brain in the drain by providing remittances in national economy, by brain linkage and knowledge circulation along with many other factors.

II) Causes Of Brain Drain:

① Political instability due to political polarization lead to brain drain

Case in Study: Highly professional-educated people left the country in 2019-2022. "Economic Survey of Pakistan"

② Economic uncertainty resulting in lack of job opportunities, inflation and low wages force skilled individuals to leave the country

"No matter how good a thing is, if it is in a wrong place it is worthless"

③ Lack of visionary leadership pushes skilled individual to seek better opportunities abroad.

Case in Study: Emigration from New Zealand to Australia.

III Brain Drain Is Better Than Brain In the Drain

① Defining the phrase "Brain in the Drain"

② Linking the terms "Brain Drain" and "Brain Leakage" ~ Brain Circulation which reinstates the fact that brain drain is better than brain in the drain.

* Case in Study:

In 1980s, many US-educated Taiwanese engineers returned home.

③ Providing remittances to home country to reduce current account deficits and contribute effectively in state's economy.

* Case In Study:

In 2022, Indians living abroad sent \$111 bn as remittances, setting the highest amount of remittances in world.

④ Establishing diplomatic relations between host and parent state through soft power and cultural diplomacy.

* Case In Study:

US-China Forum on Science and Technology Cooperation

- ⑤ Transforming Brain Drain into Global gain when talent finds suitable opportunities for the utilization of their talent.

Case in Study:

Albert Einstein emigration from Germany to US.

- ⑥ Improving human development index through educated returnees from abroad.

"Planting a tree in neighbour's house gives freshness to both houses".

- ⑦ Losing ~~of~~ talent is better than losing lives
Case in Study:

Germany suicide rate is high due to unemployment. "The Guardian"
• Unemployment causes 45,000 suicides a year world wide. WHO's mortality database

- ⑧ Fostering cross-border innovation and collaboration in technology through skilled individuals.

• Swades Movie; a journey of Mohan Bhargava from NASA to ISRO.

④ Conclusion:

"No matter how good a thing is, if it is in wrong place it is worthless." A state where skilled individuals are unable to find jobs that match their qualifications and end up working in low-skilled jobs, lead to brain waste. This brain-wastage necessitate them to emigrate to better place where they can fully utilize their talent and have better life style. Hence, it is not wrong to say that brain drain is better than brain in the drain. According to Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, "Brain Drain is the movement of highly skilled and qualified people from their home country (a developing country) to a developed country where they can work in better conditions and can earn more. While, brain in the drain refers to the condition where there is lack of opportunities, lack of innovation and as well as quality education. These are certain push factors which are the major causes of the brain drain. The political polarizations in a state that lead to political instability is the foremost cause of the exodus of human capital which is known as Brain-Drain. The other factor is the economic uncertainty of the parent state that is

demonstrated in form of inflation, unemployment and high taxation on middle class. However, the pull factors of the developed and stable states attract the qualified and skilled professionals towards them. These pull factors include stable political environment, better quality of life, superior economic outlook along with many other factors that reinstate the fact that brain drain is better than brain in the drain. By utilizing these opportunities, these emigrants can transform the term brain drain as brain circulation by providing their skills and knowledge to their parent state. Moreover, the overseas citizens send remittances to the parent state to support their family which ultimately benefit state's economy. Besides sending remittances, the foreign diaspora can play a great role in establishing diplomatic relations between the host and the parent state. Furthermore, brain drain can be transformed into global gain, improve Human Development Index (HDI) & collaboration in technology along with other factors. Hence, the political instability, economic uncertainty, lack of visionary leadership are causes of brain drain; which is better than brain in the drain by providing remittances in national economy, by brain linkage along with many other factors.

Political instability due to political polarization is the foremost cause of the brain drain. In other words, the discontent among the political parties and struggle for power politics is the reason of political instability. This unrest condition necessitates the individuals mainly who are educated and are aware of the circumstances, to emigrate for better life opportunities. As highlighted by Economic Survey of Pakistan, from 2014-2020, almost 400,000 highly professional-educated people left the country including doctors, engineers, technicians etc. In 2022, almost 800,000 (highest since 2016) skilled individuals left Pakistan, among which 92,000 were graduates. Therefore, political unrest compels the individuals to migrate for personal growth and development.

The other push factor which causes the brain drain is the economic uncertainty of that state. The economic uncertainty is visible in form of high-sky inflation, lack of job opportunities that lead to unemployment, low wages making difficult for people to meet their needs. These causes drive the people to seek employment in foreign countries, where

these are better opportunities. As it is said that "No matter how good a thing is, if it is in wrong place it is worthless". Therefore, a clear indication is shown that economic uncertainty leads to exodus of Human Capital.

Moreover, the lack of visionary leadership is also one of the main cause of brain drain. The incompetent leaders who fail to make any strategic decisions for long-term progress pushes the capable individuals to leave the country as they see no future there. Their ineffective policies cause socio-economic disparities. They only make short-term policies to save their power-position which hinders long-term sustainability. According to Australian Bureau of Statistics, high number of New Zealand citizens mainly professional and skilled people emigrated to Australia. They express dissatisfaction with government policies and governance.

There are certain pull factors; the positive characteristics of the developed country from which migrants would like to benefit and these pull factors reinstate the fact that brain drain is better than brain in the

chain. The phrase "Brain in the Drain" refers to brain wastes, where skilled people are unable to find jobs of their aptitude and are being exploited in low-wages jobs with strict schedule. Therefore, these professionals and educated people prefer to move abroad for maximum utilization of their talent and for their personal growth and development.

Brain Drain, however, is beneficial if it is linked with Brain Circulation or Brain Linkage. The term Brain linkage or the Brain Circulation means getting benefits from the opportunities by moving abroad. These opportunities can be in form of getting better education, experience etc. When these individuals return home country and would make significant contribution to parent state by their foreign learned skills. The best example of brain circulation was seen during 1980s, when US educated Taiwanese began to return home and contributed to its burgeoning semiconductor and electronic industries, leading to World's largest semiconductor industry. Hence, brain circulation as a result of brain drain is better than brain in the drain.

Moreover, another factor which shows that brain drain is better than brain in the drain is "remittances". The expatriates provide remittances to home country that reduce her current account deficits and contribute significantly in state's economy. Remittances are the money sent by the individuals those are working abroad, to their families in home country. Remittances form a significant part of nation's GDP, help to improve living standards as well. According to Bureau of Emigration and Overseas Employment, overseas Indians sent home a world record of 111 billion dollars in form of remittances. This shows that brain drainers can play a constructive role in building home country.

Furthermore, Brain Drain is helpful in establishing diplomatic relations between host and the parent state through soft power and cultural diplomacy. Joseph Nye define soft power as: ability of a country to influence other through attraction rather than coercion. It is the ability to get others to want the outcomes you want. Through this strategy, developed nations attract skilled individuals from developing countries and get benefit from their talent. US-China Forum on

Science and Technology initiated in late 1970s was the result of brain drain, where large number of Chinese scientists, researchers who had emigrated to U.S helped in establishing diplomatic relations through soft power diplomacy.

Another important factor which demonstrates that brain drain is better than brain in the drain is the transformation of brain drain into global gain. The term global gain means that when a talent finds suitable opportunities for the utilization of its talent, then it contribute not only to his host state but also to global community. The suitable opportunities that a skilled individual lacks in his present state such as technology, research centres, innovative tools lead to move him abroad. Albert Einstein is a prime example, when he moved from Germany to USA for study and contributed his work in Quantum mechanics which transformed science and technology. Hence, the alteration of brain drain as global gain is beneficial for the globe rather than being wasted in the native country.

Furthermore, brain drain can contribute positively by improving Human Development Index (HDI) in the home country. HDI is the real indicator of any country's progress and is based on three factors: health, education and standard of living. A skilled and educated returnee would contribute his knowledge or skills for the betterment of the parent state which would ultimately improve HDI. Thus, brain drain is better than brain wastage when emigrants contribute constructive role in the society. As it is said that, planting a tree in neighbour's home gives freshness to both houses. Hence, improvement in HDI through educated returnees show that brain drain is better than brain in the drain.

Moreover, loss of talent is better than loss of lives; indicate that brain export is better than being wasted in the drain. It is better to move to other place rather than spending life in impoverished area, which often lead to high crime rates, suicides etc. According to WHO mortality database, unemployment causes 45,000 suicides a year

world-wide. According to a report of Guardian, in Germany suicide rate is high due to unemployment. This alarming threat compels the skilled individuals to seek better opportunities abroad. Hence, exodus of Human Capital - losing talent is better than losing lives.

Similarly, brain drain is helpful in fostering cross-border innovations and collaboration in technology through skilled individuals. The Bollywood movie "Swades" is an example which shows that brain export is beneficial for the parent state as well. This movie highlighted the journey of a man who was a project manager at NASA and then he returned to India and start working in ISRO, where he fully used his experience and brought innovations. Thus, brain drain is helpful in fostering cross border innovations.

There is no doubt in the fact that brain drain is better than brain in the drain. The negative characteristics of the home country necessitates the skilled individuals to

emigrate to other country for better life style and where their talent is fully utilized according to their aptitude. These negative characteristics include political and economic instability along with lack of visionary leadership. However, the pull factors of the developed states successfully attract professionals and skilled individuals and get maximum benefit of their talent. USA has made such policies such as foreign exchange programs, merit-based free scholarships that attract intellectual people from all over the world and maximized utilization of their talent. The expatriates in return are beneficial to the parent state as well. They send remittances which contribute positively in national economy. Moreover, brain drain sometimes is transformed into brain-linkage and thus these intellectuals create pathways to bridge the gape between host and parent state by cross-border innovations, improving HDI through educated returnees, establishing cordial relations between two states along with many other factors.