

GOANS MIGRATING TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES - A STUDY ON MIGRATION OF GOAN YOUTH IN SELECTED VILLAGES OF TISWADI TALUKA IN GOA

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ABSTRACT

Migration is an international phenomenon. Though migration was prevalent in the past, nowadays there is an increasing trend of migration from under-developed and developing to the developed countries. Usually qualified, competent and healthy people migrate in search of jobs and for career advancement (Massey et al 1994).

Goans are well known for their pioneering spirit in colonial times. They migrated to many parts of the world, particularly to East Africa and West Asia, in search of better prospects. In more recent times, the search for better education and employment opportunities, has taken them further to Canada, U.K, USA, Australia etc., but the pattern has now, to some extent got altered (Goa Migration Study 2008).

This study tries to understand the aspirations of the people in selected villages of Tiswadi taluka, with respect to migration and reasons for the drastic decision to leave behind their families, property and other belongings.

Keywords: Migration; standard of living; housing pattern; financial independence

1. INTRODUCTION

Migration means movement of people to a new area or country, permanently or temporally with the intention of settling down in a new location, to find better career prospects or for a better standard of living. The movement is typically over a long distance and from one country to another (Massey et al 1994).

Migration is an international phenomenon. People used to migrate in the past as well but these days there is an increasing trend of migration of people from under developed and developing to developed countries. Usually qualified, competent and healthy people migrate in search of employment, better career prospects and life-styles (Goa Migration Study 2008). Social, economic and political factors contribute to encourage migration. Large scale migration affects both the country of origin and destination country, which necessitates the framing of laws (Kubiňáková 2010).

Early migrations were influenced by climate, fertility of the soil and flora and fauna of environments. It also appears that there must have been quite different types of migrations at different times and in different regions. It also appears that during pre-historic times, river valleys had better transport facilities and therefore, people felt attracted to migrate to places which were near rivers, lakes or valleys.

Over the past two to three decades, Goa has seen a huge exodus to Europe, especially due to the ease of obtaining the Portuguese Passport which the Goans can avail of due to 450 years of Portuguese rule and presence in Goa (Souza 1999). Goans find it easier to travel on Portuguese Passport and take advantage of the freedom to settle anywhere in Europe. However, Goans prefer the UK on account of the English language.

2. OBJECTIVES

- a) To study the reasons for migration of Goans to foreign countries.
- b) To study the pattern of migration in terms of age, gender and educational qualifications.
- c) To study the effects of migration on the housing patterns of the respondents.

3. METHODOLOGY

The study is confined to four villages in Tiswadi taluka i.e., Agassaim, Goa Velha, Siridao and Merces, and is based on both primary and secondary data. Primary data was obtained through questionnaires and secondary data was collected from books, journals, magazines and websites.

The sampling method used is purposive. The sample is confined to middle class families and not to any religious group. The study has been conducted prior to Brexit.

4. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Bell et al (2002), compared the internal migrations in Australia and Britain in

the early 1980s and 1990s, and found that the Australians have higher propensity to migrate; migration distance in Australia is longer than that of Britain and has a negligible effect on migration. But migration effectiveness is higher in Britain than in Australia and migration in Australia generates greater re-distribution of population because of huge amount of migration.

Poros (2001), on the basis of life histories of Gujarati migrants in New York and London, studied the importance and role of specific configuration network ties in migration flows and occupational pattern and found that network ties like organisational and community relationships, interpersonal ties like friendship etc., play an important role in migration and availability of employment at the destination.

Honekopp (2000), through the use of migration determinants and analysis of previous experiences of member countries of the European Union tried to forecast the migration pattern that may result from the forthcoming eastward enlargement and the effect on the labour market of the Union. According to *ibid*, the major reason for migration is the economic imbalance, and since the disparity between member countries is negligible, the fear of large-scale migration is misplaced. But inequality that exists between some of the member-countries may encourage migration.

De Haan et al (2002), reveals that, even though, the migration pattern in the West African region is mainly caused by environmental factors, social norms decided the pattern of migration and the benefits accrued to society. Similarly, household and kinship network structure provided migrants independence to move by retaining them in the network.

Waddington (2003), on the basis of previous literature concluded that, migration is undertaken for a more secured livelihood, and have led to reduction in poverty and inequality as well as for improvement of education of children of migrants. According to *ibid*, remittance is a major source of income to the migrant households for their daily requirements as well as for accumulation. But, sometimes migration, which is due to vulnerability, may further increase vulnerability.

5. DATA ANALYSIS

The data collected is from four villages in Tiswadi taluka, namely Agassaim, Goa Velha, Siridao and Mercés. The sample size used in this study is 400, 100 from each village and the respondents selected were from different age groups.

5.1 Analysis of Age Groups

Table 1: Age Groups of Respondents (figures in percentage)

AGE GROUP	AGASSAIM	GOA-VELHA	SIRIDAO	MERCES	TOTAL
01-20	1.25	1.50	2.00	1.25	6.00
20-30	14.00	12.75	12.00	11.25	50.00
30-40	8.50	7.50	8.00	10.5	34.50
40-50	1.00	2.75	2.50	2.00	8.25
50 & above	0.25	0.50	0.50	00	1.25
Total	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	100

Source: Field work of author

Table 1 indicates that nearly 50 per cent respondents migrating are in the age group of 20-30 years. This implies that these youth are keen to make a new beginning in a new country. 34.5 per cent respondents migrating are in the age group of 30-40 years. The age group of 20-40 years accounts for 84.5 per cent migrating abroad. Table 1 clearly shows that in these four villages, the young and productive minds are adamant to go abroad as they are either unable to find gainful employment or they have already made up their minds that there is no other option other than to migrate. The total percentage for the age groups 20-30, 30-40 and 40-50 years soars to 92.75 per cent. From this, one can safely state that people have realized that in order to have a good and a meaningful life, migration is the solution. In the category of 01-20 years migration is about 0.06 per cent. This category consists of dependent children and students who have to migrate along with their parents or go for higher studies. The 50 years and above group comprises of the elderly, who are forced to migrate for family support and to be with their families.

5.2 Analysis of Gender classification

Table 2 shows that the overall male to female migration ratio is around 1.5:1. The perception was that males dominated the migration scenario by about 90 per cent as they were in search of employment. But this has reduced recently because the men migrate along with their families and as a result the male-female ratio has considerably reduced. The focus has now shifted from seeking employment, to families settling abroad.

Table 2: Gender classification of Respondents (figures in percentage)

Village	Males	Females
AGASSAIM	14.25	10.75
GOA VELHA	14.50	10.50
SIRIDAO	14.00	11.00
MERCES	14.00	11.00
Total	56.75	43.25

Source: Field work of author

5.3 Analysis of Educational Qualifications

Table 3: Educational Qualifications of the Respondents (figures in percentage)

Educational Qualifications	No. of Respondents		
	Males	Females	Total
Below Class 10	7.75	8.25	16.00
Class 10	10.50	11.25	21.75
Class 12	13.75	9.50	23.25
Graduation	20.75	13.25	34.00
Post-Graduation	2.75	1.00	3.75
Professionals/Specialisation	1.25	0.00	1.25
Total	56.75	43.25	100

Source: Field work of author

Table 3 reveals that 61 per cent are not graduates. 34 per cent are graduates; 3.75 per cent post graduates and 1.25 per cent are professionals or have some sort of specialization. The data in Table 3 also indicates that the respondents who are graduates prefer to migrate in search of gainful employment. The other reason for migration is to settle with one's family as well as to seek employment. Respondents who are not graduates are migrating in order to be with their families, as well as to continue their education, in order to attain a foreign qualification. This is because possessing a foreign qualification, leads to secure high positions in various organizations abroad, which otherwise would be difficult with an Indian qualification.

5.4 Analysis of period living abroad

Table 4: Number of years living abroad (figures in percentage)

YEARS	AGASSAIM	GOA VELHA	SIRIDAO	MERCES	Total
0-5	11.00	10.75	10.50	11.00	43.25
5-10	9.00	8.75	9.50	9.50	36.75
10-15	3.75	3.50	3.00	3.00	13.25
= >15	1.25	2.00	2.00	1.50	6.75
Total	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	100

Source: Field work of author

Table 4 reveals that 43.25 per cent of the respondents have migrated in the last 5 years; and 36.75 per cent of the respondents have migrated in the last 10 years. It implies that 80 per cent of the respondents have migrated within a span of 10 years. This indicates that there is a huge motivation among the residents of these villages, especially the youth to migrate and this trend persists. It was also revealed in the data that almost all the respondents have migrated on Portuguese passports.

5.5 Analysis of Migration Destination

Table 5: Place of Migration (figures in percentage)

Place of Migration	No. of Respondents
United Kingdom	71.50
France	27.50
Italy	1.00
Total	100

Source: Field work of author

Table 5 reveals that the most preferred place for migrating is the UK as this accounts for 71.5 per cent of the respondents. This is because the English language is prevalent in the UK and most Goans have a fair knowledge of the same. The second most preferred place for migrating is France at 27.5 per cent. It is interesting to note that majority of residents of the village of Siridao prefer to migrate to France. But the number of respondents selecting France as the choice of place of migration has exceeded 25 per cent. This is on account of

inter-village marriages taking place in the villages of study, and as a result respondents, especially girls from Agassaim and Goa Velha prefer to migrate to France and settle with their husbands.

5.6 Analysis of Reasons for Migration

There are various reasons that are responsible for human migration. In recent years, employment is one of the major reasons for migration. Other reasons are to improve one's standard of living, enjoy a better life style, prestige, financial independence, etc.

Table 6: Reasons for Migration (figures in percentage)

REASONS FOR MIGRATION	AGASSAIM	GOA VELHA	SIRIDAO	MERCES	Total
Education	5.25	4.50	6.00	5.50	21.25
Employment	22.00	21.50	20.25	20.75	84.50
Financial independence	22.00	21.50	20.25	20.75	84.50
Better standard of living	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	100
Better life style	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	100
Status in society/Prestige	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	100
Marriage Prospects	11.25	9.75	11.00	11.75	43.75
Repayment of loans	6.25	3.75	4.50	3.00	17.50

Source: Field work

Table 6 reveals that majority of the respondents have migrated in search of decent employment and financial independence. It is clear from the data that 100 per cent respondents cited better standard of living, better lifestyle, and status in society as reasons for their migration. 84.5 per cent of respondents have migrated for employment and financial independence. 43.75 per cent of the respondents believe that migrating abroad serves to drastically improve marriage prospects. 21.25 per cent have migrated for education or higher education, and 17.5 per cent suggested that they have loans to repay.

Table 7: Annova Table for Reasons for Migration

Groups	Count	Sum	Average	Variance
Agassaim	8	141.75	17.71875	74.93638
Goa Velha	8	136	17	88.125
Siridao	8	137	17.125	75.17857
Merces	8	136.75	17.09375	82.26674

Source of Variation	SS	df	MS	F	P-value	F
Between Groups	2.570313	3	0.856771	0.010693	0.998448	2.946685
Within Groups	2243.547	28	80.12667			

Source: Fieldwork of author

According to Table 7, there is no significant relation in the rate of migration in the four villages. It shows that in all these four villages of Agassaim, Goa Velha, Siridao and Mercés, there is a lot of migration taking place.

5.7 Analysis of Type of Houses

Table 8: Type of houses of the Respondents (Before & After Migration) (figures in percentage)

HOUSE PATTERN	BEFORE MIGRATION	AFTER MIGRATION
Small house with roof tiles	57.00	0.00
House with Terrace	32.50	10.00
Rented	1.00	0.00
Apartment/Flat	8.50	12.00
Bungalow	1.00	78.00
Total	100	100

Source: Fieldwork of author

Table 8 reveals the effect of migration on the living conditions and the type of house the respondents chose to live in. It can be seen from the data that the percentage of respondents who were residing in small houses and houses with terrace went down drastically from 89.5 per cent to 10 per cent after migration and percentage of respondents residing in bungalows rose up from 1 per cent to 78 per cent. This implies that respondents living in small houses renovated or restructured their houses and improved the housing pattern to a bungalow. Some purchased apartments and others bought land and built bungalows.

6. Conclusion

The study conducted on migration of Goans to different countries shows that there is a high volume of people migrating abroad. People in general prefer migrating abroad primarily for economic reasons. In this study, it has been seen that a lot of people are migrating from the villages of Agassaim, Goa Velha, Siridao and Mercas.

Goans do not migrate for economic reasons only. Though the primary reason for migration is employment and financial independence, people are migrating for better life styles, better standard of living, prestige and family status. It is observed that majority of the respondents belong to the age group of 20-40 years and a lot of improvement has taken place in the living conditions and housing pattern of the respondents.

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