



Social Mobility through NRIs in Charotar Region

Dr. Manishkumar Mansukhbhai Jansari

Assistant Professor in Sociology,

Shree Bhikhabhai Patel Arts College,

Anand, Gujarat, 388001

Abstract

Continuity and change is crucial features of any society which can be possible through the internal and/or external forces. The NRIs are the outcome of some of processes and forces of social changes and social mobility in Charotar region. The researcher observed the facts about process of social mobility through NRSs in villages of Charotar region which inspire to study on 'Social Mobility through NRIs in Charotar Region'. The objective of the study is to analyze the process of social mobility through NRIs in villages of Charotar region and examines the various factors of social mobility in reference to NRIs. The 10 villages of Anand District of Charotar region are research area for present sample survey study. The respondents were the NRIs and prestigious villagers who are selected from availability non-random sampling method. The data collected from respondents through unstructured interview and conversation. The interview guide constructed for collection of primary data from the respondents. The conclusion is that they are themselves model of social mobility and they become means of social mobility for their relatives as well as caste members or villagers in some extent.

Key Words: immigration, migration, NRI, processes, Social mobility

Introduction:

Society is never be static entity, it always be change through some processes and social forces. Continuity and change is crucial features of any society which can be possible through the internal and/or external forces. The human history demonstrates that over a period of time economic and demographic factors would force a rearrangement of individuals, families, and society in general. Globalization, liberalization, modernization, industrialization, urbanization, education, development of commerce; trade; and service, emergence of new values, social reformation, and infrastructural development are important factors of social change in modern world. Such factors have been initiated and motivated the process of migration and mobility in society. The NRIs are the outcome of some of these processes that are important factors of social mobility in Charotar region.

Concept of NRI:

NRIs - Non-Resident Indians are dominant group in the contemporary world as well as in India. They have migrated from different regions of India and settled at the diverse countries of the world. Indian diaspora is the largest and dominant group in the contemporary world. Diaspora is a word of Greek origin that means scattering or sowing of seeds. It is used to refer to the people who leave their native lands to live in other parts of the world for employment, business or any other purpose. Indian Diaspora is a generic term used for addressing people who have migrated from the territories that are currently within the borders of the Republic of India.

Section 2 of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA), deals with various definitions. It defines a person resident in India and a person resident outside India. However, it does not define the term non-resident nor it does define the term Non Resident Indian (NRI). However, Notification No. 5/2000-RB (dealing with various kinds of Bank Accounts) defines the term Non Resident Indian (NRI) to mean a person resident outside India who is either a citizen of India or is a person of Indian origin. In short, the definition of the term NRI is contextual and can have slightly different connotations for FEMA/Income Tax/Acquisition of Immovable Property etc. A Person of Indian Origin (PIO) - is defined in Regulation 2 of FEMA Notification as a citizen of any country other than Bangladesh or Pakistan, if (a) he at any time held Indian passport; or (b) he or either of his parents or any of his grandparents was a citizen of India by virtue of the Constitution of India or the Citizenship Act, 1955 (57 of 1955); or (c) the person is a spouse of an Indian citizen or a person referred to in sub-clause (a) or (b) (Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, p.3).

Social Mobility:

Such NRIs are foci of many social researches particularly into process of social mobility. Social mobility is one of the universal processes which always be occurs within the process of social stratification. There is no society which is completely open and no society that is completely closed. The two societies are the never same in reference of movement allowed and discouraged and that the speed of social mobility can change from one time period to the next. It depends on how developed the society is. Such a societal shift can happen over time as individuals move from one position to another due to various social interactions. Mobility stands for shift, change and movement which is the change may be of place or from one position to another. Russian sociologist Pitirim Sorokin first introduced the concept of social mobility in his book *Social and Cultural Mobility*. "By social mobility is understood any transition of an individual or social object or value - anything that has been created or modified by human activity - from one social position to another" (Sorokin, 1950, p.133). Rose and Rose defined, "The mobility is the condition or frequency of moving upward or downward in social status" (1969, p.592).

There are two principal types of social mobility, horizontal and vertical. By horizontal social mobility or shifting, is meant the transition of an individual or social object from one social group to another situated on the same level.... In all these cases, 'shifting' may take place without any noticeable change of the social position of an individual or social object in the vertical direction. By vertical social mobility is meant the relations involved in a transition of an individual (or a social object) from one social stratum to another. According to the direction of the transition there are two types of vertical social mobility: ascending and descending, or social climbing and social sinking. According to the nature of the stratification, there are ascending and descending currents of economic, political, and occupational mobility, not to mention other less important types. The ascending currents exist in two principal forms: as an infiltration of the individuals of a lower stratum into an existing higher one; and as a creation of a new group by such individuals, and the insertion of such a group into a higher stratum instead of, or side by side with, the existing groups of this stratum. Correspondingly, the descending current has also two principal forms: the first consists in a dropping of individuals from a higher social position into an existing lower one, without a degradation or disintegration of the

higher group to which they belonged; the second is manifested in a degradation of a social group as a whole, in an abasement of its rank among other groups, or in its disintegration as a social unit (Sorokin, 1950, p.133-134).

Research Method:

The researcher has been purposively visits of different villages of Charotar region and observed the facts about process of social mobility through NRSs in such villages which inspire to study the research problem on “Social Mobility through NRIs in Charotar Region”. The objective of the study is to analyze the process of social mobility through NRIs in villages of Charotar region and examines the various factors of social mobility in reference to NRIs. The study follows the sample survey method and descriptive research design to consider the research problem. Obviously the title of study indicates the research area. Charotar consists of two districts namely Anand and Kheda. The Talukas which fall under Charotar region include Anand, Petlad, Borsad, Sojitra, Tarapur, Umreth, Ankjav, and Khambhat of Anand district, whereas Matar, Kheda, Mahudha, Nadiad, Thasara, and Mahemdabad of Kheda District. The researcher frequently visited some villages of Charotar region for planning of the NSS camp and invites the NRIs for seminars. The 10 villages of Anand District of Charotar region are the research area for present study which is Ashi, Ajarpura, Sarsa, Ode, Khankuva, Vadod, Gopalpura, Sudan, Vaghasi, and Adas. The respondents, who reside at those 10 villages, were the NRIs, and prestigious villagers who selected from availability non-random sampling method. The data collected from respondents through unstructured interview as well as conversation and the interview guide constructed for collection of primary data from the respondents. Some important findings and generalizations have derived from the analysis of collected data which describe in following part of article.

Social Mobility and NRIs:

There are hundreds NRIs proved their courage in various walks of life in contemporary global world. From science to arts, business to literature, or any other field, there are remarkably talented NRIs have contributed to global development and advancement as well as the global culture. It can be possible through some new circumstances of social mobility in changing world. There are various facilitate factors of the universal process of social mobility which are always be prevails in every society at either lower or higher degree. It may different at various stages of development of society and in every society. Broom and Selznick discussed some factors like, changes in occupational and economic structure, education, geographical migration, social values and ideology, aspiration and expectation of individual, marriage, differences in birthrate, achievement and failures, and obtain of power (See, 1964, 195-197). The present article examines such factors of social mobility with reference to social mobility of NRIs.

Geographical Migration:

Human migration is an ancient phenomenon that stretches back to the earliest periods of history, but its manifestations and impacts have changed overtime as the world has become more globalized. The geographical migration is one of the vital sources of social mobility which itself a kind of mobility and the fact is that it may provide lot of chances of social mobility. A more noticeable and prevalent mobility is geographic, in which the individual may move from rural to urban or vice versa, from one part of a city to another, from one part of a country to another and from country to country. Such movements have great sociological implications that are attentions of many sociological studies. There are also cases of mobility though not with change in one’s economic or social position. As such, mobility involves significant movement in an individual’s economic, social and political position.

The long-term and growing body of evidence on migration and mobility shows that migration is in large part related to the broader global economic, social, political and technological transformations that are affecting a wide range of high-priority policy issues (IOM, 2020, p.1). The current global estimate is that there were around 272 million international migrants in the world in 2019, which equates to 3.5 per cent of the global population (IOM, 2020, p.19). More than 40 per cent of all

international migrants worldwide in 2019 (112 million) were born in Asia, primarily originating from India (the largest country of origin), China, and South Asian countries such as Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan (IOM, 2020, p.26). India had the largest number of migrants living abroad (17.5 million), followed by Mexico and China (11.8 million and 10.7 million respectively). The top destination country remained the United States (50.7 million international migrants). More than half of all international migrants (141 million) lived in Europe and Northern America (IOM, 2020, p.4).

The report expose that the Indians are the highest proportion of immigrants in the world. Indians make up 6.4% of the world's total immigrant/expat population. They immigrated and settled at all countries of the world particularly in UAE (3.5 million), USA (2.7 million) and Saudi Arabia (2.5 million). The NRIs immigrated and settled at all abroad due to the search for better job; service; and occupation, professional development, higher education, better future and high standard of living, marriage with NRI, plea by relatives etc. The fact is that many NRIs settled at overseas as bureaucrats, industrialists, businessmen, professionals, proprietors, skilled and unskilled workers with lots of struggle. A moment ago Indian born American, Kamla Harris elects as the Vice-President of the USA. Remarkable NRIs, Bobby Jindal; Balvir Singh; Ram Villivalam; Sam Arora; Ravinder Bhalla; and others, are another dignitary in politics of USA. Some NRIs possess key positions in bureaucracy as civil servants in different countries. Recently the President of USA, Joe Biden, appoints 20 Indian American at different positions in the Whitehouse. The immigration of Indians at new country is entirely the geographical mobility though it may provide lot of chance of upward vertical mobility to NRIs.

Occupational and Economic Structure:

The worldwide process of globalization, liberalization, modernization, industrialization, and urbanization change the world economy and occupational structure. It produces the new opportunities of occupations, professions, services and livelihood at developed countries as well as developing countries. So the NRIs immigrate at different countries of the world in search of such better opportunities. The many NRIs acquire such chances and increase their social status, prestige, and wealth through business, profession, service, and work in foreign. Some NRIs acquire the key positions in field of industries, business, professions, multinational companies, education and well-known institutions of various countries. Laxmi Mittal, Swraj Paul, Vinod Khosla, Sundar Pichai, Pranav Mistry, Indra Nooyi, Sabeer Bhatia, C.K.Prahlad, Satya Nadella, Narinder Singh Kapany, Lakshmi Pratury, Ajit Jain, Karan Billimoria, and many others are successful NRIs in the arena of industry and business. They can attain social mobility as well as power, prestige, and wealth at abroad through immigration. They contribute in economy of homeland to acquire prestige or affection to motherland. The NRIs contribution to Indian economy still constitutes a major portion of the country's whole economic development. Their contributions to the Indian GDP mounted at 3.4% in 2018.

The top 3 remittance recipients were India (USD 78.6 billion), China (USD 67.4 billion) and Mexico (USD 35.7 billion)' (IOM, 2020, p.3). In 2018, India, China, Mexico, the Philippines and Egypt were (in descending order) the top five remittance recipient countries, although India and China were well above the rest, with total inward remittances exceeding USD 67 billion for each country (IOM, 2020, p.36).

Each NRI money transfer adds to the country's foreign exchange pool which increases foreign-exchange reserves of India. Furthermore, they contribute in foreign trade and engage in investments in business, real estate, share market, or fixed and recurring deposits in various banks at homeland. Foreign remittances increase the purchasing power of the people at homeland which in turn stimulates the market and increases demand and supply. The respondents affirm that many villagers have purchase the land, home, farm and other property through the remittance of their NRI relatives. Some have initiated own business, services, or invest the money in various sectors through the acquire money from NRIs. The market booms during November to February in Charotar due to visit of NRIs at homeland. They buy lot of merchandises

during that period for them or their relative. Thus, social mobility of relatives can be happens through remittances of NRIs. In other words, the NRIs are responsible for upward vertical mobility of some of their relatives.

Aspiration and Expectation of Individual:

Extreme aspiration and expectation of immigration have seen in the people of Charotar region. They always attempt to immigrate at overseas countries and conscious effort to acquire visa as well as immigration through any ways. The respondents assert that there is higher proportion of immigration in Patidar caste than other castes of the villages. Although the aspiration to settle at abroad has seen in rich members of other castes, it prevails in Patidar caste very intensively. They have much succeed to immigrate than other castes due to richness, higher income, land ownership, strong kinship relations, and aspiration of better future. The study affirms that the Patidar along with members of other castes have settled every parts of the world and they are dominant group in several countries. The aspiration to immigrate at abroad has seen in new generation in very severe form due to support of the NRIs. The NRIs of villages motivate the new generation of their family members, relatives, and caste member to immigrate at overseas countries. They guide the new generation about visa policy of different countries, job opportunity and work permit at abroad, education facilities and prospects in foreign, nature of society in abroad and so on. The study reveals that many youth have more knowledge about various overseas countries than India. Thus, the NRIs encourage anticipated socialization of the new generation. Furthermore, the NRIs support and help to settle the newcomer emigrants at abroad and thus many NRIs state that they have settled in abroad either the help of NRI relatives or caste members. Moreover, the study expose that notable youth of kinship relatives, caste members, or villagers can be immigrate through monetary or other kind of assistance of NRIs. That means the research area demonstrates strong kinship relations, caste ties and village affinity. Thus, the upward vertical mobility of new comer immigrates can be possible through settled NRIs.

Education:

The nature and quality of education is itself an example of social mobility which provides so many opportunities for better future. So the new generation of Charotar determinedly attempt to study in the various developed countries for better future and to settle at abroad through it. Thus, study at abroad is significant technique of immigration. In this course they work hard to pass various examinations like, TOEFL, IELTS which are prerequisite for admission in higher educational institutions and universities at abroad. Once they admit in higher education institutions in foreign they try to settle there through work permit after completion of study. Some NRIs are become famous in the field of medical science and medicine, natural science and technology, arts and literature, education and teaching, creativity and sports. Raj Chandra Bose, Har Gobind Khorana, Subramanyam Chandrashekhar, Amartya Sen, V. Ramkrishnan, Abhijit Banerjee, Kalpana Chawla, Sunita Williams, Salman Rushdie, Firozsha Bag, V.S. Naipaul, Pan Nalin, Rohinton Mistry, Zubin Mehta, Amar Bose, Fareed Zakaria, Sonny Mehta, Mira Nair, Deepak Chopra, and others personalities contribute in the various field. Many scholars work as academicians at different overseas universities and colleges, scientists in well known institutions, actors; models; directors; and musicians in various countries, international writers and won prestigious prizes, social workers at various overseas countries after completion of study in foreign universities.

Notable NRIs of Charotar settled at abroad through such ways and then they assist and encourage to the brilliant students for study at abroad and guide them how to settle there. Some NRIs immigrate at overseas countries after the permanent residence of their youngsters who finishes their education at abroad. Thus, study in abroad is the important means of the social mobility of NRIs. They believe that education is an important means of permanent settlement in foreign. In this course, they build or donate in the school and nursery, school library, or community library in his village. Many NRIs serve as the trustees or administrators in such public associations of village of Charotar. Thus NRIs of Charotar consciously attempt to spread education in new generation. They pay school or college fees, provide notebooks, offer prizes as

well as medals to the students of village. They handle activities and competition for the physical and socio-cultural development of new generation. Thus, the NRIs are conscious about social mobility of new generation and assist them to study at abroad. So they can be acquire chance of social mobility and raise their social status as well as prestige.

Marriage:

Marriage is one of an important sacrament in Indian Hindu society. The rule of caste endogamy is dominant in NRIs as the Indian Hindu society. The study exposes the fact that many NRIs visit homeland in the search of life mate for their offspring. The NRIs search the life mate through relatives, friends or professional agency and arrange the marriage within short period of time after the selection of life mate. Consequently, numerous youngsters can obtain chance to immigrate at abroad through marriage with NRI spouse. The observation is that marriage with NRI life mate is a significant factor for upward vertical mobility, especially for girls, in Charotar region. They can obtain various opportunities of job, business and service at abroad. The President of USA, Joe Biden, recently permits to work under H-4 visa in USA for wife of H1-B visa holder which ban by Donald Trump, the former President of USA. The study reveals that the prestige of family increase in society after the marriage of offspring with NRI life mate. Moreover, it may provide the chance of immigration for other family members after the settlement of offspring with life mate at abroad. Some NRIs immigrate at abroad in such way and settle there through different kinds of livelihood. Thus, marriage with NRI life mate is key factor of upward social mobility.

Differences in Birthrate:

The fact is that there are low birthrate in developing countries, higher class and castes, and educated families than others. There are notable gap between the birthrate and rate of development in developing countries. The fact is that most of natives of developing countries never be want to do labor and unskilled work while they have lot of resources. Therefore, they invite other citizens in their country through different kind of visa for such work as well as more development which may provide the chance of immigration and upward social mobility for many persons. Such developing countries issue visa and work permit for definite period of time and it may be increase as necessity of the country. Sometimes, government of such countries issues the order of permanent residence of such persons. *Recently, new elected president of the USA, Jo Biden, signs on orders to permanent citizenship of 11 million colonists including 5 lakhs Indians who may acquire legitimacy in USA.* Thus, many families acquire such opportunity of social mobility in developed countries.

Conclusion:

The NRIs are significant facilitate factor of social mobility of citizen of Charotar region. They are themselves model of social mobility and they become means of social mobility for their relatives as well as caste members or villagers in some extent. "Diaspora group and individuals are being recognized as both major stakeholders and potentially powerful actors that are using their influence and financial resources to contribute to the development of their home countries" (Newland K., 2010, p. V). Migrants have made significant sociocultural, civic-political and economic contributions in origin and destination countries and communities, including by being important agents of change in a range of sectors (IOM, 2020, p.4). The NRIs, along with other factors, are one of the crucial factors for development of Charotar region. It may possible due to the remittance send by NRIs at homeland.

The NRIs indicate the vertical mobility than horizontal mobility. Both kind of vertical mobility can be understood through the study of NRIs. Many NRIs designate upward mobility through the immigration and settle at abroad after struggle. They acquire power, prestige, positions, and wealth through their efforts, education, profession, job or skill at different countries. Of course, not all the NRIs succeed to achieve such valuable things after the hard work or struggle at abroad and come back to homeland. Such NRIs lost their wealth and prestige at homeland which indicate the downward mobility for them. Thus, NRIs are cases of various kind of social mobility and they reinforce the facilitate factors of social mobility. Moreover, they are

responsible for the social mobility of others at homeland through remittance as well as abroad by various kinds of help.

References:

1. Broom and Selznick. (1964) *Sociology: A Text with Adapted Readings*. New York: Harper & Row. P 195-197
2. IOM, UN Migration. (2020). *World migration Report 2020*. Geneva: International Organization for Migration
3. Newland Kathleen (ed.). (2010). *Diasporas New Partners in Global Development Policy*. Washington, DC: Migration Policy Institute. P.V
4. Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs. *Handbook for Overseas Indians*. P. 1,3
5. Rose A. & Rose C. (1969). *Sociology: The Study of Human Relation*. New York: Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group. P.592
6. Sorokin P. (1950). *Social and Cultural Mobility*. Illinois: The Free Press of Glencoe. P.133-134

