

Brokers as dream sellers: The Indian Student Experience

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Abstract

India is the world's second-largest student sending country after China and the number of Indian students abroad has increased fourfold in the last two decades. This paper sought to understand the relationship between international education, student migration and migrant brokers from the experiential perspectives of international students, prospective student migrants, educational professionals and migrant recruiters. The paper considers the often-ignored underbelly of the relationship between student migrants and migrant recruiters along with the status dynamics and divisions along the lines of class, ethnicity, and international boundaries. The paper examines into the interplay between the complex web of migration facilitation, and migrants' agency that allows for and gives rise to new migration corridors. Drawing on the survey among the Indian international students and based on anthropological and historical scholarship on student migration from India, the paper situates these shifts in students straddle competing pressures and aspirations across the home-host divide by moving across with the image of a cosmopolitan migrant in the foreground. The paper will also rely on primary sources such as memoirs, autobiographies, and media interviews of student migrants, their families and their relationship with the recruitment agencies in the home country.

Biography

Irudaya Rajan is the Founder Chairman at the International Institute of Migration and Development, Kerala and former professor at the Centre for Development Studies (CDS), Kerala. Currently, he is the chair of the KNOMAD (The Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development), World Bank working group on internal migration and urbanization. He is one of the expert committee members to advise the Government of Kerala on Covid-19. He has published in international journals on social, economic, demographic, psychological and political implications of migration on individuals, community, economy and society. He is the editor of the annual series *India Migration Report* since 2010 and *South Asia Migration Report* since 2017 published by Routledge. Founder Editor in Chief, *Migration and Development*.