

## Brain-Drain

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### Abstract

The term brain-drain was introduced by observing the emigration of the various technologists, doctors and scientists, from various developing countries (including Europe) to more developed nations like USA. Now this phenomenon of brain drain has a conversed effect for a country in which people are getting migrated and brain-drain of a nation becomes brain-gain for that particular country. Usually all developing countries including India are suffering from brain drain and developed countries like USA are having brain gain from this phenomenon. Countries like china, Pakistan, Russia, India and Iran are also facing problems of brain-drain. Unemployment, population explosion and corrupt political systems are main reasons for migration of skilled workers from Asia. In countries like India, Pakistan, Bangladesh etc graduates, post graduates, experienced and skilled professionals are not getting enough opportunities to develop and succeed. So with dreams of development these professionals leave their native country in search of better future. This brain-drain is a great loss to these developing countries. This will help a particular country to use all local skilled citizens for development and proliferation. But to hold these skilled workers at their native places, it is also important to provide them enough work opportunities and living facilities. For this purpose, developed nations should help developing countries with necessary money and resources. So that each and every human of this planet can have good standard of living and each and every nation can introduce itself as a developed nation.

**brain-drain, emigration, developing countries, developed nations, technologists, talents, money, unemployment.**



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### ۱) Introduction

The term brain-drain was introduced by observing the emigration of the various technologists, doctors and scientists, from various developing countries (including Europe) to more developed nations like USA. Now this phenomenon of brain drain has a conversed effect for a country in which people are getting migrated and brain-drain of a nation becomes brain-gain for that particular country. Usually all developing countries including India are suffering from brain drain and developed countries like USA are having brain gain from this phenomenon.

### ۲) History of Brain Drain

Europe witnessed Brain Drain after World War II, because Europe was completely shattered and it was a “down and out” Situation for various European countries. At that time countries like Australia, United States of America and Russia presented huge working opportunities for skilled people of Europe. As a result many European Engineers, Doctors, Skilled workers, scientists etc migrated to other countries.

In fact present day Australia is in developed state only because of mass migration of skilled people from the entire world to the Australia. Europe applied many economic reforms after World War II and Monterey collaborations of European countries helped Europe to stand back and reduce the rate of Brain drain.

### ۳) Brain drain from Europe

A few years before, Europe was one of extreme sufferers of the brain-drain. In Europe brain drain was occurring in two stages. First was the

migration of workers from the southeastern Europe and Eastern Europe to the Western Europe. And other stage of brain-drain was the migration from Western Europe to the USA. But this cycle of migration is getting slower these days. To stop the brain-drain Europe community also launched a provision called “Blue-card”. It’s same as green-card facility of USA. In fact EU was getting much more liable for the immigrants of Asia in last decade in order to compensate the brain-drain. But at the same time EU is worried about the effects of foreign population on culture and environment of Europe, so these days EU is implying some strict rules to regulate flow of immigrants.

#### ۴)Brain drain from Africa

This continent has suffered maximum because of brain-drain. According to a survey Ethiopia lost its ۷۵% of skilled workers in the years ۱۹۸۰-۱۹۹۱. This mass migration of skilled workers is showing extremely detrimental effects on the development of nation. In the similar manner Kenya and Nigeria are also great sufferers of brain-drain.

#### ۵)Brain drain from Middle East

Countries of Middle East like Iraq, Iran etc are also great sufferers of the phenomena of brain-drain. Lack of some basic facilities and services are the reasons for the mass migration from these areas. Dictatorship, terrorism, orthodox attitude are basic hurdles of development of this region.

#### ۶)Brain drain from Asia



Countries like china, Pakistan, Russia,India and Iran are also facing problems of brain-drain. Unemployment, population explosion and corrupt political systems are main reasons for migration of skilled workers from



Asia. In countries like India, Pakistan, Bangladesh etc graduates, post graduates, experienced and skilled professionals are not getting enough opportunities to develop and succeed. So with dreams of development these professionals leave their native country in search of better future. This brain-drain is a great loss to these developing countries.

### ۷)Brain drain from Iran

According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Iran has the world's highest rate of brain drain. Every year, more than ۱۵۰۰۰۰ highly educated Iranians leave their country. The majority emigrate to the U.S., Europe, Canada, and Australia. The damage caused by this phenomenon is estimated to be ۳۰ billion a year.

The rates of Iran's brain drain are reaching such astronomical figures that the Iranian press is beginning to suspect that a conspiracy is involved, schemed and carried out by the West with the help of Iran's neighbors. This was indicated recently in an article published by Tabnak, which is Iran's most popular online news agency. Its owner, Mohsen Rezai, has close connections to government officials such as Ayatollah Rafsanjani, and senior officers within Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC).

One event which has strengthened this conspiracy theory is the defection of Ali Reza Asgari, a top IRGC general, in March ۲۰۰۷. According to Western media reports, he was lured away by the promise of millions of dollars and a better future. His defection is believed to have caused considerable damage to Iran's intelligence network and nuclear program. Another is a CIA-engineered nuclear brain drain from Iran, which was carried out in ۲۰۰۵ with limited success.

Some pro-government elements in Iran now suspect that the West wants to weaken Iran's economic infrastructure to the point of collapse by luring away its top graduates and professionals. The methods applied in such cases to lure away Iran's top talent are much less cloak and dagger, as was the case with Asgari. They include an increase in the number of issued student visas and work permits. And many of those who are moving abroad are succeeding. One only has to look at top technology companies and universities in the U.S. One successful Iranian among many is Anousheh Ansari, the first female space tourist and leading telecommunications



entrepreneur. There is also Firouz Naderi, NASA director of the Mars project, as well as many others.

Those blaming the West for this phenomenon may be getting carried away with their conspiracy theories. Nevertheless, the Iranian government has every reason to be concerned. One example is Iran's airline sector. Already beset by maintenance problems due to sanctions, it now has to deal with the new phenomenon of pilot shortages. Increasing numbers of Iranian pilots are leaving their ۳۰۰۰۰- a-month jobs in Iran for ۷۰۰۰ monthly salaries paid by newly established Persian Gulf airlines. This phenomenon is damaging Iran's struggling tourism and transportation sector other impacted sectors are Iran's oil and gas. Iran relies on these sectors for ۸۰% of its export receipts. Decaying infrastructure, corruption, and low wages are forcing some of Iran's top oil engineers to look for new jobs. Increasing numbers of such engineers are finding it easier to get work abroad for higher wages and better conditions due to an increase in investment by oil-rich countries of the Persian Gulf.

Perhaps one area which is worrying the Iranian government the most is Iran's nuclear program. For years, the best and the brightest within Iran have been recruited by the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI). Its top scientists are reported to receive Western-style salaries and benefits. More importantly, this organization has been the only sector in Iran which benefited from a brain gain by recruiting Iranian engineers and scientists from places such as the United States. With runaway inflation figures and increasing risk against the lives of such scientists, more may now be tempted to defect. Meanwhile, top graduates that the AEOI wants to recruit may now decide to look elsewhere, thus causing further damage to Iran's nuclear ambitions.

Proportionally, graduates from Tehran's Sharif University, dubbed "Iran's MIT," seem to make up the largest proportion of graduates who leave the country. The parliament (Majlis) has decided to take the unprecedented step of summoning Saeed Sohrab, the head of the university, to see why so many graduates from Iran's top university prefer to live and work abroad. This alone will not be enough to stop this damaging phenomenon. What is needed is urgent and concrete action by Iran's leaders.

However, some officials, such as Ahmadinejad, have no interest in tackling this problem. Unlike some government officials, President



Ahmadinejad does not even believe that the brain drain phenomenon exists. During a trip to the UAE in April ۲۰۰۷, he openly stated that there is “no brain drain in Iran.” He even said that he fully supports Iranians “traveling abroad.” Ahmadinejad, who prides himself on being a staunch follower of Imam Khomeini, belongs to a group of right-wing extremists who believe in Khomeini’s teachings, declared publicly in ۱۹۸۰ by the founder of the revolution:

The enemies of the Islamic revolution say that the country’s best brains are escaping. I don’t care that they are escaping. These university-educated people who are always concerned about Western science and civilization should be allowed to leave. We don’t want Western science and know-how. If you think that this is not your place, you are free to go.

The fact that Ahmadinejad and his supporters do not want to address Iran’s brain drain problem is likely to cause more divisions within the Iranian government. This is because more moderate politicians see this phenomenon as severely damaging, and they are right. If unchecked, this phenomenon could contribute to factors which could cause the eventual downfall of the regime. A country of ۷۰ million cannot afford to see its important economic infrastructure fall apart due to a shortage of skills. Especially not Iran, because stability is of utmost importance to its rulers. With oil prices falling and Iran needing to develop its non-oil sector, it is very likely that the extremists will be cornered. It’s either them or the economic progress of the country. One of them will have to win. For the sake of his government, Ayatollah Khamenei should make sure it is the latter.

#### ۸)What Is Brain Gain?

On the other hand brain-gain is just an opposite situation to brain-drain. Countries in which skilled workers are migrating are said to brain-gaining countries. Examples include- USA, Canada and UK. These countries are having brain-gain because these nations are rich and have enough work opportunities. Moreover, they provide better facilities and life styles.

#### ۹)How to prevent the brain-drain?

**Brain drain is lethal for any country, so every country should try to prevent it through following efforts-**



۱. Providing ample opportunities of employment to the skilled workforce of nation, so that citizens of country can find good employment within the country only.
۲. Just “employment” can never satisfy modern competent youth. They need smart earnings and respect in society. Government should set the norms in such a way that salaries of people are high enough so that they can match requirements of modern life style.
۳. It has been observed that it is the “worker” class that represent maximum share in Brain drain. Workers prefer to work at place where they get high wages and superior working conditions. Developed countries satisfy both of these needs. Governments of developing nations should set minimum wages according to international standards only.
۴. International communities of nations should try to install some diplomatic machinery that repels the unbalanced movement of workforce from one region of world to another region.
۵. Educations system of a country should always have a match with employment policy of government. If no. of educated people is more than no. of jobs in public and private sector of country then it is natural that people will move out of country in search of work.
۶. When some country indulges itself in a destructive activity like war, invasion etc then it creates internal instability and insecurity. People prefer to move out from such an insecure environment. This has been observed in various countries like Iran, Iraq and Afghanistan.
۷. Governments of developing nations never conduct skill assessment of population. As a result, such nations never plan for the future of their workforce. This should be avoided and a proactive approach should be adopted to deal with Brain Drain.

Above given points are just few suggestions, there are many other ways through which Brain drain could be reduced or eliminated. Prevention of Brain drain will lead into a balanced and sustainable development of entire world.

#### ۱۰) Conclusion

For the balance of power and for the staggered development of the world,





it is very important to stop the phenomena of brain-drain. This will help a particular country to use all local skilled citizens for development and proliferation. But to hold these skilled workers at their native places, it is also important to provide them enough work opportunities and living facilities. For this purpose, developed nations should help developing countries with necessary money and resources. So that each and every human of this planet can have good standard of living and each and every nation can introduce itself as a developed nation.

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