



## GEOGRAPHICAL STUDY OF EMIGRANTS IN GOA

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### Abstract

In modern day context, migration is a selection process and dynamic in nature. Thus, emigration has led to continuous change of space-content and space-relationship of an area, influencing the place of origin, place of destination and the migrants themselves. Goa was an agrarian society, but due to downfall in local occupations and development in communication and transport linkages, widening of employment opportunities in distant global locations, younger generation from Goa started migrating to overseas, so is the case of Chandor village. Even today most of the youth aspires to go abroad at a very young age. Therefore, the inflow of migrants to developed nations has helped to develop the remittance economy at the place of origin. This has brought in multiple ramifications to the emigrant's families. The study has been conducted to give comparative statistics to identify the socio-economic prospects of emigrant families and local residents of Chandor village. To carry out the analysis, Five point Likert scale, ranking method, T-test and cartographic techniques are adopted. The study is undertaken to know the significant difference in emigrant household and local residents in terms of education, qualification, quality of house, children education, household amenities, benefits acquired and other social standings. Thereafter, some suggestions are given for the utilization of remittance at village level thereby benefiting migrant themselves, their families and locals.

### Introduction

When people move within or across international border, with hope or uncertainty, seek for better opportunities, hoping to combine their talent with resources in the destination country so to benefit themselves and their families. Local communities and societies have benefitted, both in places of origin and at destination. (Human Development Report, 2009) International migration is an important issue of the global policy as it generates enormous social, economic and cultural implications at both place of origin and destination. In the context of present study, there is always a sense of pride among the families whose sons/husbands work abroad. Their social standing is high in the community which is basically defined by the assets they possess and the level of participation in village celebrations (Bhardwaj and Yadav, 2013). Goa is popular as a tourist destination with high human development Index but one of the attributes of the workforce and income generation is emergence of remittance economy. This is a long standing phenomena, more prominently observed in the Catholic dominated talukas of Goa.



Youth seek employment abroad to enhance their economic status. Most of the emigrants sent remittance to their families. This has led to economic up scaling, thereby enabling the families from Chandor to be financially secure, achieving better standard of living, providing better education to their children, investing on health and consumer durables and purchase of property than local residents. In this paper the focus is to assess the socio-economic aspects of emigrants vis-a-vis locals of Chandor village, Goa

### **Objective**

The main objective is to analyze the difference in socio-economic status of households of emigrants vis-a-vis locals of Chandor village, Goa.

### **Database and methodology**

Though the study is largely based on field survey of households, there is substantial reliance on secondary data sources which include governmental as well as non-governmental publications. Apart from this, considerable reliance is shown on books, projects, journals and web based resources on the related topic. With the reference of primary data, questionnaire was formulated to find out the personal information, socio-economic perspective. Since the basis of the study is comparative analysis of emigrants and locals, 60 were local respondents and proportionate numbers were emigrant respondents, thus the total respondent were 120. The survey was done to understand the variance in opinion and perception of the selected population. This would also indicate the socio-economic change in the village. To carry out the analysis, Five point Likert scale, ranking method, T-test and cartographic techniques are adopted.

### **Study region**

Goa, nestled between Arabian Sea and Western Ghats lies midway on the western coast of India. Administratively, Goa is divided into two districts i.e. North Goa district and South Goa district comprising 12 talukas with 443 villages and 70 towns (Census of Goa, 2011). Among the talukas, Salcete is the prominent taluka of South Goa district comprising of 8 towns and 44 villages (Census of Goa, 2011). Salcete is located along the coast of Arabian sea surrounded by Marmagoa, Ponda and Quepem taluka. Among the villages of Salcete taluka, Chandor village is a rural settlement. Chandor has a long standing legacy of overseas migration since historical times. This has led to emergence of remittance economy and subsequently affected the local agricultural landscape as well employment. Even today most of the youth aspires to go abroad. The inflow of migrants to developed nations has helped to develop the remittance economy at the place of origin. This has brought in multiple ramifications to the emigrant's families. Thus, migrating abroad has become a regular practice since generation. For a long period of time, main occupation of people of Chandor has been in the fields of agriculture. Toddy, tapping occupied the second place. But gradually there was a



shift from primary occupation to tertiary occupation due to development witnessed by Chandor. Most of villagers started migrating to foreign countries and on ships for better jobs and income. They work as steward, drivers, cooks, gardeners, helpers etc. while others in who stayed back in Chandor are engaged agriculture, plantations, and businesses like preparing 'fenni' liquor (liquor distilled from the toddy tapped from palm) and oil from coconut. Some are engaged in service sector like restaurants services, teaching, government services, tailoring, shopkeepers etc (D'Costa J and Lotlikar N C., 2006).

## Results and discussion

The following discussion is divided into three sections. The first section provides a comparative topology of emigrants and locals. It basically encompasses of emigrants and locals' educational qualification and profession, age at work, duration of employment. The second section deals with expenditure and investment patterns, focusing on various attributes like house type, household assets, fuel type, medical facilities, schooling of children and income spent on various amenities. The third section identifies the benefits acquired by both the groups, by working at two different destinations; one abroad and the other in Goa.

### Topology of emigrants and locals

There is a strong correlation between the education and the occupation. Therefore majority of population are employed in low status jobs. Education is considered as a critical variable in the determinants and consequence of migration (Zachariah & Rajan, 2009).

Table-1: Educational Qualification of Emigrants

Educational Qualification	Emigrants (percent)	Local Resident (percent)
Middle School	8.33	23.33
SSC	23.33	23.33
HSSC	30	16.67
Graduation	8.33	28.33
Post Graduation	6.67	1.67
Diploma/Vocational Courses	15	6.67
Professional Courses	8.33	0

Source: Fieldwork, 2014

Emigrants have much higher level of education than local residents. Most of emigrants prefer to go abroad at a very young age. Therefore, after SSC and HSC they join vocational or diploma courses. 30 percent of emigrants have done their higher secondary school than

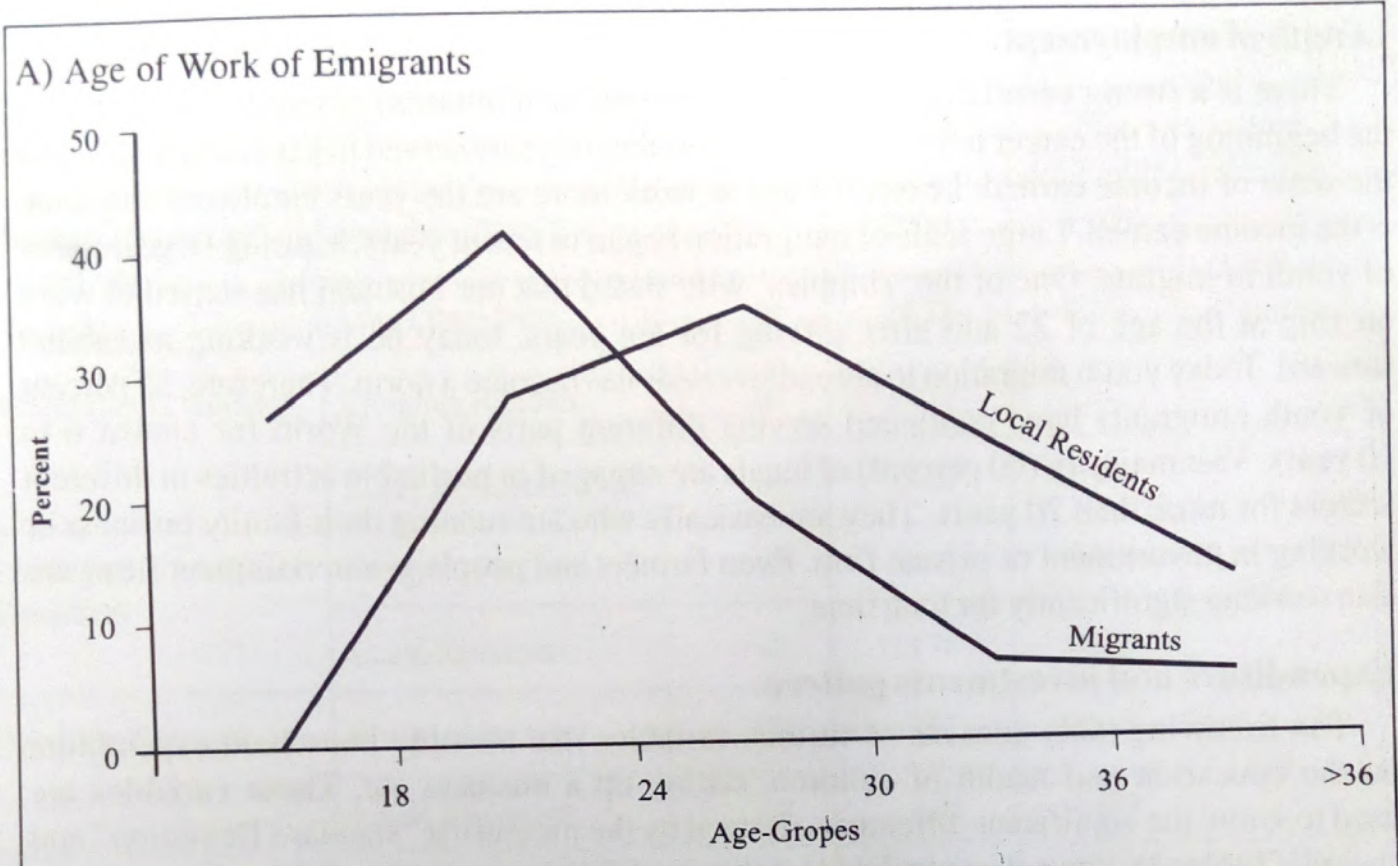


just 16.67 percent of locals and further procured a diploma or vocational courses in catering, hotel management, ITI, electronic, technical etc. On the other hand most of the local residents of Chandor are degree holders reporting 28.33 percent. They study up to graduation so to get a suitable job in government or private sectors. Most of the locals as well as few emigrants are educated up till middle school and are mostly noted among older age group. Less educated locals run family business. According to one local businessman, he did not continue with the schooling because he had been already engaged in their family business of distillation of liquor. Now days to get specialized and well paid jobs few emigrants opt for professional courses. They join professional courses like engineering, medicine, ship building etc. Around 6.67 percent of emigrants obtain Master degree in specialized subjects and migrate abroad for further studies and start working because earning are much higher than they would have earned in Goa. Remaining emigrants and locals have done their schooling and show stable results (23.33 percent)

Youth from Chandor is not highly qualified and are happy to work at any position performing non-manual work. The emigrants belong to upper caste are well qualified and are engaged in white collar job especially in Gulf countries. But the Goans working in Goa are employed in various service sectors and businesses. Besides these, locals also work as farmers. During off seasons they work as daily wage labours, masons and wood loggers. A small minority of locals work in groups as singers, carpenters and mechanics for private firms. The age is the indicator which assesses the man power to work. There is a great demand for migrant labourers all over the World between the age of 18-35. (Fig. 1)

The minimum age limit to depart abroad is 18 years. At this age the individual is considered to be matured enough to take responsibility of work. Most of the emigrants (35 percent) leave Chandor at the prime working age of 25-30 and after that propensity to emigrate declines as the age advances. At this age majority of people go to work on ship, Gulf and Asian countries and serve the land till the age of retirement that is 58 years. While others go to Europe and Australia for higher education. 41.6 percent of locals start working in Goa at the age of 18 - 24 because most of the youngsters as soon as they finish with their education, eager to work to get work experience. With due course of time some section of locals shifting to migration. Hidden talents such as singing, playing instruments, dancing helped one fourth of locals to pursue a career in their talents and prosper at a very young age (at the age of 15+) while others especially older people due to lack of education still works in primary activities. At the age of 30, 23.3 percent of people move to United Kingdom for work and with the hope for permanent citizenship. Few return emigrants and locals seek self employment in service sectors at their later age and provide service to general population.





### B) Length of Employment of Emigrants

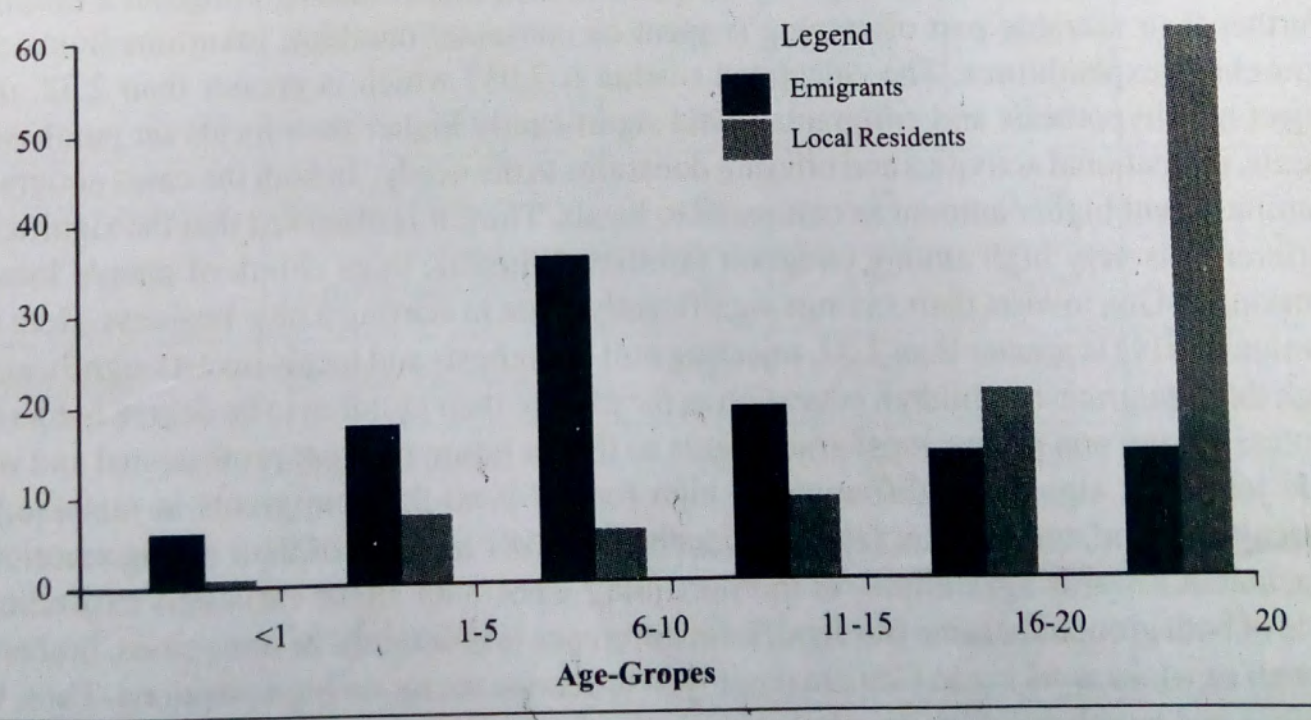


Fig. 1



### **Length of employment**

There is a strong correlation between age at work and duration of employment. Age at the beginning of the career helps to know the number of years served in a particular field and the scale of income earned. Lesser the age at work more are the years employed and more is the income earned. Large scale of emigration began in recent years, aspiring large number of youth to migrate. One of the 'shippies' wife stated that her husband has started to work on ship at the age of 22 and after serving for ten years, today he is working as cabinet steward. Today youth migration to abroad/overseas has become a norm. Therefore, 35 percent of youth emigrants have continued serving different parts of the World for almost 6 to 10 years. Vast majority (60 percent) of locals are engaged in profitable activities in different sectors for more than 20 years. They are basically who are running their family business or working in government or private firm. Even farmers and people in entertainment firms are also working significantly for long time.

### **Expenditure and investments pattern**

The following table consists of various variables like monthly household expenditure on the education and health of children, setting up a business etc. These variables are used to know the significant difference, derived by the measuring "standard Deviation" and "t-test" (Table-2). Since the calculated t-value, i.e 4.371 is greater than 2.32 null hypothesis is rejected and the results typify that emigrants families rather than locals spends significantly high share of remittance on buying an apartment or building/repairing a house. This is because the inflow of remittance and capacity to spend is seen higher among emigrant's families. Further their sizeable part of earning is spent on consumer durables, luxurious living and household expenditures. The calculated t-value is 2.957 which is greater than 2.32, thus reject null hypothesis and emigrants spend significantly higher than locals on purchasing assets, recreational activities and offering donations to the needy. In both the cases emigrants families spent higher amount as compared to locals. Thus, it is observed that the significant difference is very high among emigrant families. Whereas, huge chunk of people locally working in Goa invests their savings significantly more in starting a new business. Here the t-value (3.511) is greater than 2.32, rejecting null hypothesis and locals invests significantly high than emigrant on children education as they aspire their children to be degree holders in profession and non professional graduations so that in future they get professional and well paid jobs. The significant difference is high for the local than emigrants in maintaining agricultural land, but more in favour of locals, i.e. 2.581 because of their strong emotional attachment towards agriculture. In the remaining areas with slight variations expenditure style of both groups are same (no significant difference is observed). In some cases, husbands as well as wives working in Goa are employed in service sector on high positions. Thus, the savings and health practices are almost equivalent to emigrant's families.



Table-2 : Expenditure and Investment Pattern of Families of Emigrants and Locals

Inventory		Total	Mean	Std. Deviation	Test Statistics
Monthly Household Expenditure	Emigrants Families	60	27.55	8.396	1.858 *
	Local Residents	60	24.73	8.211	
Education of Children	Emigrant Families	60	10.27	8.912	3.978***
	Local Residents	60	18.60	13.560	
Facilities For Medical Treatment	Emigrant Families	60	11.82	6.866	1.361
	Local Residents	60	13.78	8.838	
Purchase Property	Emigrant Families	60	3.77	8.510	1.394
	Local Residents	60	2.00	4.889	
Buy An Apartment Or Built/ Repair A House	Emigrant Families	60	15.90	12.832	4.371***
	Local Residents	60	6.88	9.519	
Set up a Business	Emigrant Families	60	0.78	3.221	3.511***
	Local Residents	60	4.83	8.334	
Maintain Agricultural Land	Emigrant Families	60	1.40	3.346	2.581***
	Local Residents	60	4.12	7.436	
Target Savings	Emigrant Families	60	15.28	7.757	0.206
	Local Residents	60	15.63	10.656	
Miscellaneous	Emigrant Families	60	13.23	6.698	2.957***
	Local Residents	60	9.00	8.838	

Source: Fieldwork, 2014

Note: \*: 10% Level of significance, \*\*: 5 Level of significance, \*\*\*: 1 Level of significance



Type of housing provides the insight of living condition and status. The study reveals that 31.67 percent of emigrants have big modern houses with architectural designs as compared to just 5 percent of general population of Chandor, who still prefer to stay in traditional ancestor house. Assets possessed and the utility is another indicator to determine the standard of living. Emigrant households possess quite high consumer durable than local population of Chandor because with inflow of remittance emigrants prefer to live a luxurious life with high standard of living. The principle fuel used for cooking in Goa particularly in Chandor is Liquid Petroleum Gas. 21 percent of emigrants uses Liquid Petroleum Gas and Electricity (hot plate) for cooking as it is affordable and saves time. Most of the locals cook on 'Chullas' due to availability of wood in the village. Medical facilities include cost of consultation and cost of medicines. It is studied that large majority of local residents do home remedies to treat their sickness as they believe in traditional ayurvedic treatments and also due to financial constraints but emigrant households prefer to visit general and specialized doctors for their routine checkup. But today, sickness like cancer, heart strokes, aids have compelled emigrants and locals families to take treatment in private hospitals. Overall migration have reduced infant mortality rates and increased life expectancy. Education facilities form the primary motive for majority households. Majority of emigrant's children go to self finance institutes. Some give a drop to these children's by motorcycle or car. Due to financial constrain locals confine their children to semi-government or government schools which is within the proximity of their house and prefer to send their children by walking or bicycles as it is affordable within their limits. Most of the income earned is saved for future prospects by families of emigrants (95 percent) and locals (83.33 percent). The savings are in the form of monetary funds, LICs, insurance and bank deposits. Nearly 55 percent of emigrants invest their savings in buying luxurious assets like four wheelers, hi- tech mobiles/tabs as against 53.33 percent of locals. 41 percent of emigrant families also make investments on constructing palatial house than that of one fourth percent of locals. This is because for emigrants house types represent the status symbol and enhance their position in society. Whereas 33.33 percent of locals make their investments on business to earn profitable income while just 8 percent of emigrants spent on business because in their absence there is no one to carry on the business. A small minority of locals and emigrants spent on buying a shop to start off with their business. More than a quarter of emigrants families spend on purchasing the properties while some rich locals make investments on lands and act as brokers thereby making profitable business.

### **Benefits acquired**

The Table-3 presents the various benefits acquired by the families of emigrants and locals as a result of their work. These benefits help to know the significant difference between both the groups, basically derived by the measuring "standard Deviation" and "t-test".



Table-3 : Benefits Acquired

Benefits Acquired		Total	Mean	Std. Deviation	Test Statistics
Better Quality Of Life	Emigrants Families	60	4.27	0.548	3.760 ***
	Local Residents	60	3.82	0.748	
Enhancement Of Social Status	Emigrants Families	60	3.68	0.770	1.391
	Local Residents	60	3.47	0.929	
Better Celebrations Of Birthdays/Festivals	Emigrants Families	60	4.23	0.647	2.719 ***
	Local Residents	60	3.85	0.880	
Active Youth Clubs	Emigrants Families	60	3.33	0.896	1.949 *
	Local Residents	60	2.97	1.149	
More Inclination Towards English/Convent Schools	Emigrants Families	60	3.77	0.909	1.410
	Local Residents	60	3.55	0.769	
Modernization Of House	Emigrants Families	60	4.18	0.725	3.057 ***
	Local Residents	60	3.73	0.880	
Better Education Facilities	Emigrants Families	60	4.23	0.593	2.029 **
	Local Residents	60	3.98	0.748	
Cultural Transformatio	Emigrants Families	60	3.43	0.673	4.427 ***
	Local Residents	60	4.07	0.880	

Source: Fieldwork, 2014

Note : \*: 10 percent significance, \*\*: 5 percent significance, \*\*\*: 1 percent significance

The value of t-test is 3.760, which means the significant difference is higher among emigrants than locals. As a result, emigrants are able to give luxurious lives to their families as compared to local earners. They are able to provide better education to their children and



fulfill their needs, able to visit private and specialized hospitals for medical treatment, enjoy tours and picnic with families, consequently giving better and improved livelihood to their families. Posh houses with architectural designs are built using remittance by the emigrants. Therefore emigrants depict significantly higher value (3.057) in modernization of house than locals. Social standing of emigrant's families is high in the society than local residents. Their social status is represented by their house and their participation in village celebrations. Due to financial constraints locals invest less on feasts and family celebrations where as emigrants throw big parties involving communities. This represents 2.719 t-test value where null hypothesis is rejected and the significant difference is higher for emigrants as compared to locals. There is also an increasing trend among emigrants towards educating their children in self aided schools where as natives working locally confine their children to semi-government or government schools. Thus calculated t test value is 2.029 and signifies moderate significant difference between both the groups. But when we examine cultural transformation significant difference is high in favors of Goans than emigrants as the t-test value is 4.427 which is higher than 1 percent. This is because Goans experience more cultural changes as they are directly exposed to transforming local and aged cultures. Emigrants as well as locals especially businessmen make their contributions towards village clubs. Infact they jointly run "Seamen's Organizations" where they organize inter-village football tournament for Seamen's trophy, typifying low significant difference of 10 percent. There is no significant difference in social status and inclination towards convent schools among both the groups

### **Conclusion**

The comparative analysis of emigrants vis-à-vis locals shows that emigrants outstands locals in many aspects. Though with low education qualification and low work status emigrants earns much higher than locals. Further emigrants live a luxurious life with higher standard of living, posse's modern amenities than that of locals. All this enhance status of the emigrants in the society. Efforts should be made to generate employment at local level using local population enabling to gain higher returns or incomes. Remittance and increase in the price of the land has witnessed downfall in agriculture, therefore, efforts should be made to initiate co-operative farming to evolve a sustainable ecological model in the rural landscape. Since educational qualifications amongst the migrants are low, the type of work also reflects low profile among the emigrants. It is essential to promote or acquire higher skills and qualifications to foster better employability profiles and positions at the work place.

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