

Entrance Examination for Graduate School of Regional Design

Please answer the following question.

Consider the statement. “Labor migration from underdeveloped countries to developed countries can create both positive and negative impacts for the home and host countries.” What do you think is meant by this statement? Explain your answer.

Learning Objectives

To understand labor migration from underdeveloped countries to developed countries as one of the most impactful global phenomena shaping economies, societies, and individual lives today. Understanding both sides of the economic and social impacts of labor migration helps develop policies that protect migrant rights while addressing domestic labor needs as well as balance economic growth with social stability.

Model Answer

Examinees must elaborate at least 3 points in each of the following 4 sections (4 x 25 = 100%).

1. Positive impacts of labor migration to home (developing) countries
 - Remittances: Migrant workers send money back home, which boosts household incomes, reduces poverty, and stimulates local economies. In some countries, remittances make up a substantial portion of GDP.
 - Foreign Exchange: Remittances contribute to national reserves, helping stabilize the currency and support international trade.
 - Investment: Families often use remittances to build homes, start businesses, or invest in education and healthcare, indirectly improving national development.
 - Knowledge, skill, and attitude development: Migrants often gain new knowledge, skills and attitudes abroad that they can bring back home, contributing to a more capable workforce.
 - Reduction in Unemployment: Migration can ease pressure on domestic

labor markets, especially in countries with high youth unemployment.

- Improved Living Standards: Families of migrant workers often enjoy better access to education, healthcare, and housing.
2. Negative impacts of labor migration to home (developing) countries
 - Brain drain: Loss of skilled workers. Highly educated professionals often migrate for better opportunities, leaving behind a shortage of doctors, engineers, teachers, and other critical roles.
 - Reduced innovation: The departure of talent can slow technological and institutional progress, especially in sectors that rely on expertise.
 - Family separation: Long-term absence of parents or spouses can lead to emotional stress, broken families, and challenges in child development.
 - Dependency on remittances: Families may become financially dependent on money sent from abroad, discouraging local productivity or entrepreneurship.
 - Exploitation: Recruitment agencies and brokers may exploit migrants through high fees or false promises, creating cycles of debt and abuse.
 3. Positive impacts of labor migration to host (developed) countries
 - Filling labor shortage: Migrants often take jobs in sectors facing shortages—like agriculture, healthcare, construction, and elder care—keeping essential services running smoothly.
 - Boosting national economy: By expanding the labor force, migrants contribute directly to national output and economic growth.
 - Entrepreneurship: Many migrants start businesses, creating jobs and stimulating innovation. In some countries, immigrants are more likely than natives to become entrepreneurs.
 - Tax revenue: Migrants contribute more in taxes and social security than they receive in benefits, especially when employed in formal sectors.
 - Counteracting aging populations: Migrants help offset declining birth rates and aging demographics.
 - Cultural enrichment: Migrants bring new languages, cuisines, traditions, and perspectives, enriching the social fabric.
 4. Negative impacts of labor migration to host (developed) countries

- **Job market competition:** In certain sectors, especially low-skilled jobs, migrants may compete with native workers, potentially depressing wages or increasing unemployment among vulnerable groups.
- **Strain on public services/overcrowding:** Rapid or poorly managed migration can stretch resources like healthcare, education, and housing—especially in urban areas.
- **Rise in anti-immigrant sentiment:** Migration can fuel political backlash, especially when economic anxieties or cultural fears are exploited by populist movements.
- **Social fragmentation:** Without proper integration policies, migrants may form isolated communities, leading to reduced social cohesion.
- **Language and cultural barriers:** These can hinder communication, education, and employment opportunities, both for migrants and host communities.