Economic and Social Council

Research Report
The Question of:
Brain drain in conflicted areas

Introduction

Brain drain is a phenomenon that affects several third world countries. It is when educated and skilled workers move out of their country in search of a better future, living standards and job opportunities. It can be described as the process in which a country loses its most educated and talented workers to other countries through migration. This trend is considered a problem, because the most highly skilled and competent individuals leave the country, and contribute their expertise to the economy of other countries. The country they leave can suffer economic hardships because those who remain don't have the 'know-how' to make a difference.

It could negatively impact the country in several ways both economically and socially. It can also impact the country in which the people are immigrating to. This is known as Brain gain.

The brain drain in higher in countries are in a conflict or war because they do not have enough jobs for its population. This causes the educated population to immigrate to countries in a more socially and politically stable environment.

The brain drain has been an issue since the 1930s and it has only increased as globalization has increased.

The Committee

ECOSOC was established in 1946 by the UN Charter. It is the central mechanism for the UN system activities and its specialized agencies and supervises the subsidiary in the economic, social and economic fields.

The ECOSOC committee underwent reform in the last decade to strengthen the council and its working methods. It gave attention to the outcomes of all major UN conference summits related to environmental, social and economic fields.

Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) aims to achieve sustainable development goals. It follows the standard rules of procedures, which means it is not an ad-hoc debate. It related work of 15 UN specialized agencies, their functional commissions and five regional commissions. The ECOSOC has 54 members. The General Assembly selects 18 new members for ECOSOC each year for the term of 3 years with a provision that a retiring member can be re-elected. It holds one seven-week session each year in July. (“UN Economic”)

Key Terms

Brain drain
Brain drain is the immigration of educated and skilled labour to a more developed country. Usually in search of a better standard of living, jobs, salary and more stable political conditions.

Brain gain
Brain gain is the opposite of the term brain drain. It is when highly educated and skilled labour moves to foreign nations in hopes of better job opportunities and living conditions.

Immigration
When people move to live in different countries permanently.

Globalization
The integration of people, businesses and governments from different countries and regions across the world.

LEDCs
Less economically developed countries also known as developing countries.

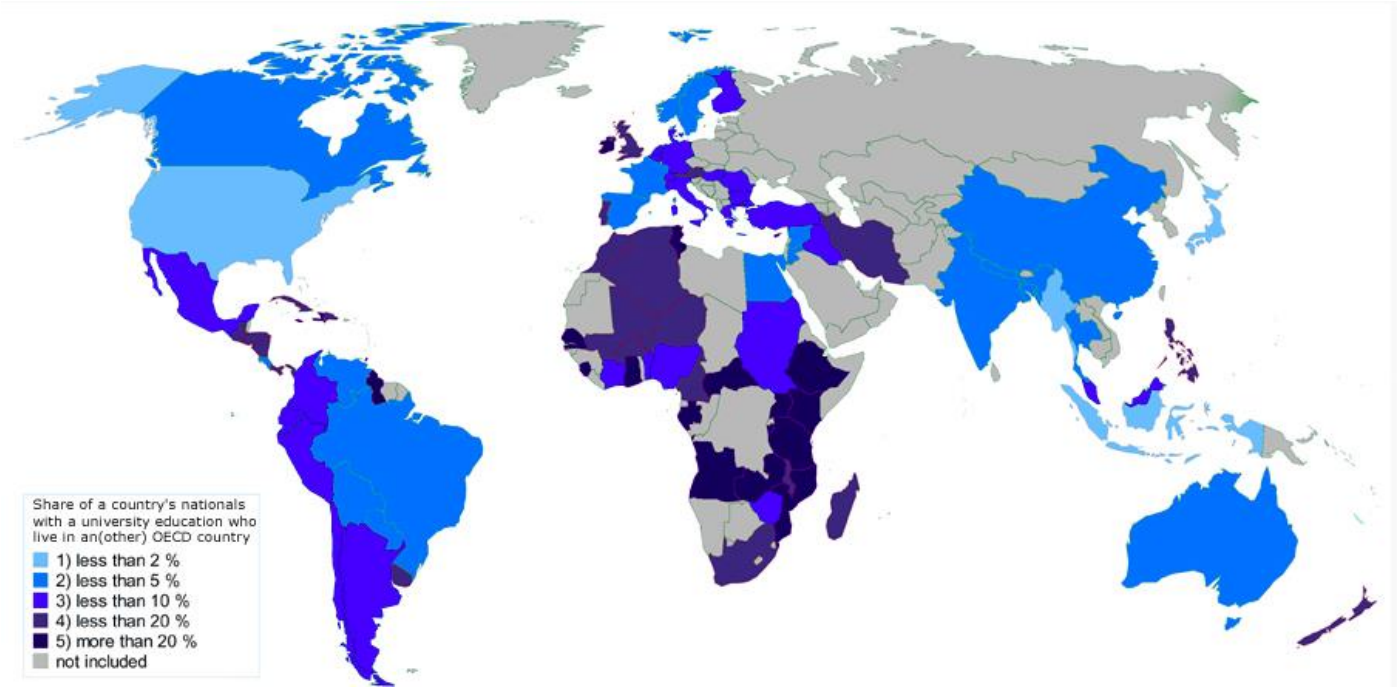
MEDCs
More economically developed countries also known as developed countries. Countries with more developed and rich economies.

Human Capital
Human capital, intangible collective resources possessed by individuals and groups within a given population. These resources include all the knowledge, talents, skills, abilities, experience, intelligence, training, judgment, and wisdom possessed individually and collectively (Huff)

General Overview

The brain drain is a common phenomenon that occurs in today's world. Due to increased globalisation, the rate of import and export has increased in the neo-liberal economy has multiplied during the last three decades. The result of the huge migration, rates to be much higher for great intellectuals.
There are several reasons that could cause a brain drain in a country. Political conditions of the country being one of the leading reasons. The political conditions can ensure stable and peaceful living conditions. If the political conditions of a country are unstable or threatening it becomes a push factor for several people to immigrate to countries with better political conditions.
Several students also go abroad to study but it is also considered a brain drain. As, after they finish their studies they are most likely to find a job and work in a foreign country rather than returning to their home country. So, the education and skills of those students do not end up benefiting their own country. (UKEssays)

The living conditions of the country could also trigger many people to immigrate. If a nation is in conflict caused by a civil war like Syria, or because of any other reason. It would make people want to move to a safer country with better standards of living.



"Brain Drain - A World Overview." Brain Drain - A World Overview - OECD, www.oecd.org/social/poverty/braindrain-aworldoverview.htm.

The map above shows the brain drain around the world. Many developing countries do not have sufficient resources to create better job opportunities. The brain drain issue mostly occurs in the third world countries because those are the ones mostly in conflicted states. The major industries that are impacted by brain drain are IT industry and healthcare industry. They are both growing and important industries

Brain drain can negatively impact a country in several ways like loss of tax revenue.

Due to the fact that educated and skilled workers are leaving the country they do contribute to the country's economy anymore which result in decreased GDP of a country. This could overall impact the country negatively as they might affect their investment into important factors like education and healthcare. The country's economy might not be great causing people to lose confidence it in and it might make them want to move to a foreign nation. (Causes and Effects)

It might also lead to a loss of potential future entrepreneurs. The country could lose potential entrepreneurs because they might see better opportunities and resources provided to them in foreign countries compared to their own. This might even lead to a loss of innovative ideas. (Huff)

Major Parties Involved

India

India is one of the biggest countries to face the brain drain issue. Although, the leading reason for the brain drain is not the conflict in the area. India is still the top country for the immigration of scientists and doctors with 9,50,000 out of Asia's total 2.6 million. India is a developing country with several problems like unemployment, lack of opportunities causing the skilled and educated people to leave the country. (Caleb)

Nigeria

Nigeria is another developing country that is facing several economic and social problems. The country has a low GDP, poor healthcare, and the history of a three-year bloody civil conflict in the late 1960s. 5,405 Nigerian-trained doctors and nurses are currently working with the British National Health Service (NHS) in the United Kingdom (U.K.). The figure, released by the British Government, revealed that Nigerian medics constitute 3.9 per cent of the 137,000 foreign staff of 202 nationalities working alongside British doctors and nurses. ("Nigeria's brain drain")

Iran

Iran is also facing the brain drain issue especially since 1979, the anti-royal revolution took place. Before the revolution only a maximum of 50,000 people would emigrate every year but in 2012 nearly 150,000 students also moved abroad, the majority of whom were PhD Candidates. 64% of the emigrating students over the past 14 years, have also been winners of Olympics gold medals. It is nearly equivalent to 150 billion dollars' worth of capital. (Dalvan)

Syria

Syria went through a civil war that affected the country socially and economically. The post-conflict issue that Syria is facing like several other countries that went through conflict is the issue of brain drain. By 2014, a year before the exodus of Syrians to Europe, the UN figures showed that Syria's per person GDP had regressed to $1,820. So, only the educated and wealthy could leave the country. So, Syria is facing this issue after the war as the educated and skilled workers left the country in hopes for better living standards and job opportunities. (Brain Drain Means Syria)

There are several other third world countries that face similar issues like Greece, Vietnam, Pakistan and many other countries.

Timeline of Events

Date	Event
1933 to 1938-	Increased anti-Semitism forces Jewish population to migrate out of Europe.
1963	the Royal Society defined "brain drain" the exodus of British scientists to the USA, seriously jeopardizing the British economy.
1970s	After the end of the Soviet Union and of the Warsaw Treaty in the last decade of the past century, a huge brain drain started from the Eastern European countries; at the same time, a serious risk of brain waste is present nowadays, since not all the migrants are able to find a job at the level of their skill. ("the brain drain: old myths")
1979	the anti-royal revolution happened in Iran increasing the people leaving the country
2006	The World Health Organization (WHO) published a report In 2006 in which it assessed the effects of the ongoing brain drain crisis in the healthcare industry.
2012	150,000 students also moved abroad, the majority of whom were PhD Candidates from Iran.
2014	The Syrian exodus happened resulting in the brain drain increasing in Syria.

Previous attempts to solve the issue

The government of several countries would have made policies regarding their countries policies and immigration laws.

The OECD was known as the organisation for economic cooperation and development as well. The mission of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is "to promote policies that will improve the economic and social well-being of people around the world." The OECD works with the government to solve the common problems. They focus on the economic, social and environmental change. They analyse and compare data to predict future trends.

Several countries that are part of OECD like Canada, Germany etc. have made policies to help with the brain drain crisis. Several of those policies are related to immigration and visa rules. In January 2002, the UK government announced it would launch a skills-based migration programme and similar schemes exist in Australia and New Zealand.

In reality only a few countries have been successful in luring the skilled workers back to their countries. While there are often media reports of successful Indian entrepreneurs in the United States who establish branches or even firms in India only a small number actually return; in 2000, it was estimated that some 1,500 highly qualified Indians returned from the United States, although more than 30 times that number depart each year. ("old myths")

The Future

If the issue of brain drain is not addressed or resolved it could affect several nations. It could deeply impact a nation's economy. Due to the fact that people do not contribute to countries economy anymore the tax revenue of a country goes down. This could in turn impact the total GDP of a country. The government might also not have enough resources to create jobs and invest in important things like healthcare and education.

If the government cannot invest in such important thing it just makes the issue of brain drain worse. That is because the only real way to solve the issue is to create enough resources and jobs in their own countries so people are not tempted to move to other countries. So, it is extremely important to address this issue. (Karpillo)

Important Decisions a Resolution Must Take

There is no one or easy solution to this problem of brain drain in conflicted areas. The problem of brain drain would need government intervention to solve the problem. The government can try and control the immigration policies of people leaving the countries. Although, that would not solve the issue. It can be seen as a short-term solution but in the long run it can create more problems than solving it. As, a lot of people might still be unemployed and people might be living in bad living conditions due to that. So, the government would have to create jobs and long-term solutions.

Long-term solutions are needed to make an actual difference in the condition of the nation. This kind of improvement would need government intervention. There needs to be an overall improvement in the stability of the country's economic and social state. The nation would need to invest in job opportunities by creating more jobs. The nation needs to invest in research infrastructure and increasing salaries.

The country would also need to work on the overall stability and peace as the conflict in a country causes people to leave their country to find a more peaceful country with better living conditions. The political conditions of a country need to be stable for the country to focus on improving factors like unemployment and GDP.

The government can work on their policies and invest in the nation's progress. The science and technology policies are important to focus on as they would increase the job advancement opportunities and also research opportunities. This would reduce the brain drain issue as it would encourage skilled workers to stay and work in that country.

The issue with several countries with the brain drain issue is that they are LDC. They are less economically developed countries they do not have the resources or capital to invest in creating job opportunities and improving the living standards of the country. It also takes time to establish such opportunities.

Further Reading

For delegates, it can be really useful if they have a few websites where they can read more about your issue. You can refer to useful websites here.

OECD website- http://www.oecd.org

Useful articles-

- https://www.thoughtco.com/brain-drain-1435769
- https://lifehacks.io/5-reason-for-indias-brain-drain/
- http://thepointernewsonline.com/?p=60092
- https://vip.politicsmeanspolitics.com/2018/06/12/irans-brain-drain-ranks-first-in-the-world/
- https://thearabweekly.com/brain-drain-means-syria-cant-recover-generation
- https://www.ukessays.com/essays/economics/causes-and-effects-of-brain-drain-in-developing-economics-essay.php

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