

Visa Restrictions: Need to Trigger Total Deglobalisation

The industrialized countries have regretfully been pursuing the course of selective deglobalisation by restricting the entry of human resources from India and other developing countries, after having captured the markets of the same developing countries for their goods and capital through free access into them with the offer of free access to human resources from developing countries in return for the free mobility of goods and capital, they got in the name of globalisation. After getting free and irreversible access for their goods and capital through various multilateral and free trade agreements, they have tactfully kept the free mobility of manpower, off the agenda of all such multilateral as well as free trade agreements. Now, they are completely backing out of their offer, and denying work visa to the people from India and other developing countries.

However, the visa restrictions being imposed on Indian IT professionals and other skilled people by several countries, including the US, the UK, Australia, Singapore etc., by stringent visa norms, in the name of saving jobs for native-born citizens, are bound to prove more counterproductive for them, as well as for the overall global economy as well. Indeed, every advanced degree-holder, as well as the skilled Indian immigrant, as a consumer, entrepreneur or executive in the host country, facilitates generation of twice more jobs for the native-born citizens, contributes economic value, advances intellectual wealth and enriches entrepreneurial ecosystem of the host economy.

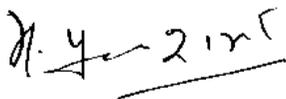
Moreover, the industrialized countries should also not forget that the knowledge based Indian Diaspora, serving across the world from Singapore in the far east to the US in the far west, has been visibly contributing to sustained progress and prosperity of the host countries by adding net economic value, raising the GDP, creating extra jobs, generating intellectual wealth, and nurturing entrepreneurial ecosystem for them. So, the restrictions being imposed on the immigrant technocrats and skilled manpower from India by several countries these days would cause unwarranted slowdown in the host economies as well as dampen the overall economic growth worldwide. India-born people and persons of Indian origin are largely behind the success of a vast number of host countries and hundreds of their multinational companies having multi-billion dollar turnovers in these countries already suffering from huge demographic deficit for a variety of knowledge based sectors. Indians are either the key executives or even Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) and at least as the key professionals, responsible for several companies of global repute. Though, the Indian CEOs of hundreds of such companies like Microsoft, Google, Adobe, Soft Bank, MasterCard, PepsiCo, Citibank, Birkshire Hathway Insurance, Global Foundries, Cognizant, Net App, Herman International etc., are drawing hefty salaries between Rs 100-1000 crore per annum, they add manifold and several trillions of dollars in the turnovers, net worth and revenues of these companies and GDP of the host countries. In the US, even IPOs of those companies get more over-subscribed, which have Indian co-promoter(s).

Scores of studies reveal that immigrants do not kill jobs in the US or any other host country. Rather, on the other hand, immigrants help create more jobs as consumers, entrepreneurs and executives in the host country. They also create huge demand for housing wealth into the host country triggering a entire construction value chain. A new research by Americas Society/Council of the Americas (AS/COA) and Partnership for a New American Economy (PNAE) has found that the 40 million immigrants in the United States have created \$3.7 trillion in housing wealth to generate manifold turnovers and employment into several allied sectors and downstream or front end value chain.

The study of American Enterprise Institute and the Partnership for a New American Economy, has analyzed state-level employment data from 2000 to 2007 and found that every 100 foreign-born workers, working with advanced degrees had helped to generate additional 262 jobs for native-born workers. The study also found “that American States with greater numbers of temporary workers in the H-1B program for skilled workers and H-2B program for less-skilled nonagricultural workers had higher employment among US natives.” According to this study, the addition of 100 H-1B workers was associated with an additional 183 jobs for native-born workers, while the addition of 100 H-2B workers was associated with an additional 464 jobs for native-born workers. Moreover, it has also been found that the immigrants are more likely than natives to start their own businesses. Besides, the immigrants fuel technological and scientific innovations. However, the migrants from Islamic countries, especially refugees, creating rape scares and fueling increased jihadi activities including suicide bombings in Europe, should not be clubbed with the Indian Diaspora.

By ignoring the contribution of the Indian diaspora, the countries ranging from Singapore to the US imposing restrictions over Indian immigrants would dampen their own growth. It would less affect the bottom line of Indian Companies than the domestic companies of the host countries opting to restrict immigrants from India. If the US proposal to double minimum pay requirement for the H1B visa holder to \$ 1, 30,000 is enacted, it will severely affect the US corporate performance as well as the economy as a whole. Likewise, Singapore has also recently stopped issuing visas to Indian IT professionals and in November last year, the UK government had also tightened visa rules, making it difficult for Indian IT professionals to work there. Recently, on April 18, 2017, Australia has also abolished the 457-visa category, in vogue since 1996 allowing foreign workers to stay for 4 years permitting them to work in 650 occupations. However, the overall protectionist restrictions being applied by countries deriving high economic value from the skills of Indian diaspora would no doubt hit the bottom lines of Indian as well the domestic companies of the host countries. These would also affect the remittances for India to some extent. But the impact on the economies of host countries applying these restrictions would be much more severe.

The pace at which the industrialized countries have been digressing away from their avowed commitments of giving free access to human resources from India and other developing countries, in the name of globalization for securing free access for their goods and capital into developing countries, is deplorable. After getting free access for their goods and capital into various developing countries they are going back on their words unilaterally and are now imposing visa restrictions. India must now lead the world to counter against the one way access of goods and capital from the industrialized countries, when they are moving towards selective deglobalisation by new visa norms to scuttle the entry of Indian techies and skilled persons. The industrialised countries are also subverting the rules of free trade by raising the issue of environmental, sanitary and phyto-sanitary or labor standards. They have also been clandestinely subsidizing their farm produce as well as industrial goods to cause trade distortions. So it is time for India to lead for total deglobalisation, when the ongoing globalisation aimed at free mobility to goods and capital from the industrialised countries has been leading to rampant inter country disparities in percapita income, standard of living, and the over all prosperity of all developing countries. Almost two thirds of global GDP is cornered by 2000 multinational corporates from the industrialised world, coming from mere 30 countries out of the total 204 nations of the world. Out of these 30 countries as well most of the top 500 MNCs are from the US, China, Germany, UK, France and Japan. India has 6 corporates in to 500 of the world. So, the ongoing globalisation facilitating free access for the goods and capital of large trans-national corporations to the peril of vast masses, leading to job losses, miseries, malnutrition, high cost of subsistence etc. needs to be reversed to counter the selective deglobalisation by visa restrictions. Total deglobalisation by reversing all the multilateral trade agreements, free trade agreements and draconian IPRs would help the vast masses to prosper, instead of facilitating amassing of wealth by the MNCs alone or those on few high profile jobs.



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