

Empirical Study of Foreign Exchange Remittance of Non-Resident Indians

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Abstract

Remittances sent by migrants are an important component of the development finance for the countries. India has secured position as the world's top beneficiary of remittances with USD 80 million in 2018. The study was done in the Maharashtra State which leads the number in remittance (17%). The study highlighted the foreign exchange remittance behaviour of NRIs. The present study tried to understand the remittance behaviour of NRIs and remittance behaviour with respect to demographic profile. The remittance behaviour is studied with the help of demographic and non-demographic factors such as gender, age, occupation, education, purpose of remittance, frequency of remittance, risk in remittance etc.

Keywords: Foreign Exchange, Remittances, Remittance Behaviour, Demographic Profile, Growth & Development etc

1. Introduction

Monetary remittances by migrants constitute a behavior of significant economic importance. Remittances sent by migrants are an important component of the finance for the countries. Remittances are an important source of external finance for the growth and development of any country. Evidence is there to establish the fact that remittances help in reducing poverty and children's education. The transfer of funds can be used for consumption, savings, investment purposes, housing expenses and healthcare. Contribution by remittances made by Indians living abroad and classified as NRIs are no different. Remittances by Indian migrants have been increasing over the years. India has registered a significant growth in remittances from USD 63 Million in 2016 to USD 80 Million in 2018. A major chunk of NRI population of India is Kerala, Maharashtra & Karnataka, who contribute more than 50% of the economic output of the state & thereby participate in the growth of India.

This study explores the frequency of remittance with regard to certain demographic variables like gender, age, education etc. which could be of interest to policymakers who can study it as a major development issue.

2. Literature Review

Zachariah & Rajan (2015) Remittance behaviour was studied through factors like age, education, duration of stay, wages, migrant status, working conditions, motive for remitting, size of household etc.

It is imperative to understand the remittance behavior also because the purpose of remittances affects the end uses of such funds.

Stark and Bloom (1985), this study considers migration enhances income levels, investment capacity and acquires insurance against risk. The major findings of this study was that remittance is used for household's development.

Vanwey (2004) this study found more tendency to remit for women than men. The purpose of remittance was family growth, investments, education and medical emergency.

Rajan (2011) observed from the study that the remittance sending is more likely male dominating. The purpose of remittance was investments and education.

De la Briere et al. (2002) analysis reveals remittance behavior varies with gender and household composition. It is observed from the study that the remittance sent by male is more than the female.

Osili (2007) study has shown that remittances are significantly associated with household size, education, health conditions and operational risk.

There are very few studies available in the Indian context and hardly any in the context of Maharashtra which

gets the most of the remittance inflows which makes it a good case for the researchers to undertake this study.

3. Methodology, Research Area & Sampling Design

3.1 Topic of the Research

Empirical Study of Foreign Exchange Remittance of Non-Resident Indians

3.2 Objective of the Research

1. To study the foreign exchange remittances of Non-Resident Indians.
2. To study the variance in remittance behaviour with respect to demographic variables by considering factors like purpose, frequency and risk of remittance as various behavioral perspectives.

3.3 Scope of the Research

The scope of the study was limited to State of Maharashtra & NRI only

3.4 Hypothesis of the Research

H₀: There is significant relationship between gender, age, occupation and education & frequency of remittance

H₁: There is no significant relationship between gender, age, occupation and education & frequency of remittance

3.5 Research Design of the Research

The research design of the present research was as follows:

a) Types of Data

A primary and secondary data was used for this research study. The primary data was a fresh data and secondary data was already exists in some or the other form and was collected already by someone else.

b) Sources of Data

The primary data was collected through structured questionnaire. The secondary data was collected from various Annual reports, Quarterly reports of the economy, Newspapers and Reference Books, Journals and Internet Media sources.

c) Sample Size

The sample size for present research study was 50.

d) Sampling Method

Purposive sampling method was used to identify the respondents.

e) Data Collection Method

Structured questionnaire was used for data collection

f) Tools for Data Presentation

The tools such as tables & line charts were used for data analysis and presentation.

g) Statistical Tools for Hypothesis Testing

The statistical tools such as trend analysis, Pearson correlation and standard deviation method were used for

data analysis & hypothesis testing.

4. Result & Discussion

This section provides the results of analysis & the discussion part. Table shows male respondents were more (68%). Most of the respondents who are part of this study are professionals (48%) & majority are post graduates (52%).

Table 1. Remittances to India in US\$ Million

Years	Amount
2001–2002	15400
2002–2003	16390
2003–2004	21610
2004–2005	20250
2005–2006	24550
2006–2007	29100
2007–2008	37200
2008–2009	51600
2009–2010	55060
2011–2012	66100
2012–2013	67600
2013–2014	70370
2014–2015	66300
2015–2016	62700
2016–2017	65300
2017–2018	80000

Source: Reserve Bank of India

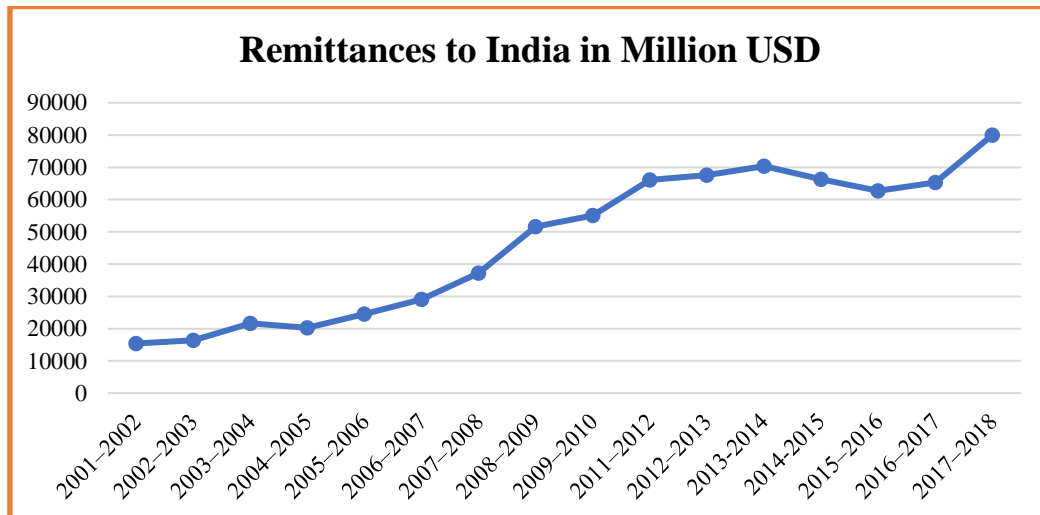


Table 2. Percentage Share of State wise Remittances in India

States	Share in Percentage
Kerala	19
Maharashtra	16.7
Karnataka	15
Tamilnadu	8
Delhi	5.9
Andhra Pradesh	4
Uttar Pradesh	3.1
West Bengal	2.7
Gujrat	2.1
Punjab	1.7
Others	21.8

Source: Reserve Bank of India

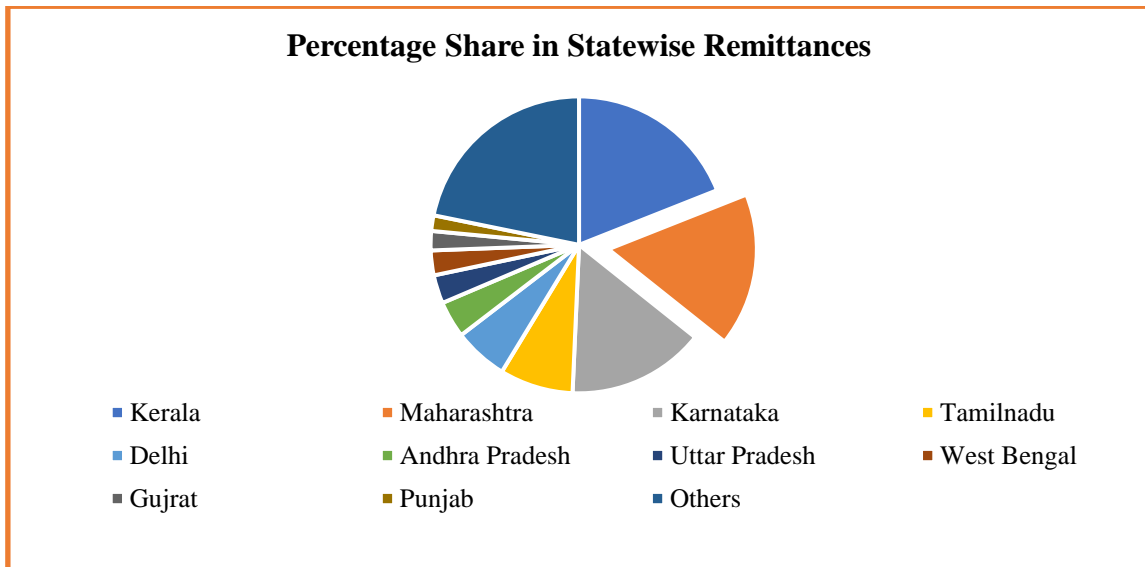


Table 3. Country-wise Remittances in Million USD

Rank	Country	Amount
1	UAE	13823
2	United States	11715
3	Saudi Arabia	11239
4	Kuwait	4587
5	Qatar	4143
6	UK	3941
7	Oman	3250
8	Nepal	3016
9	Canada	2877
10	Australia	1944

Source: Reserve Bank of India

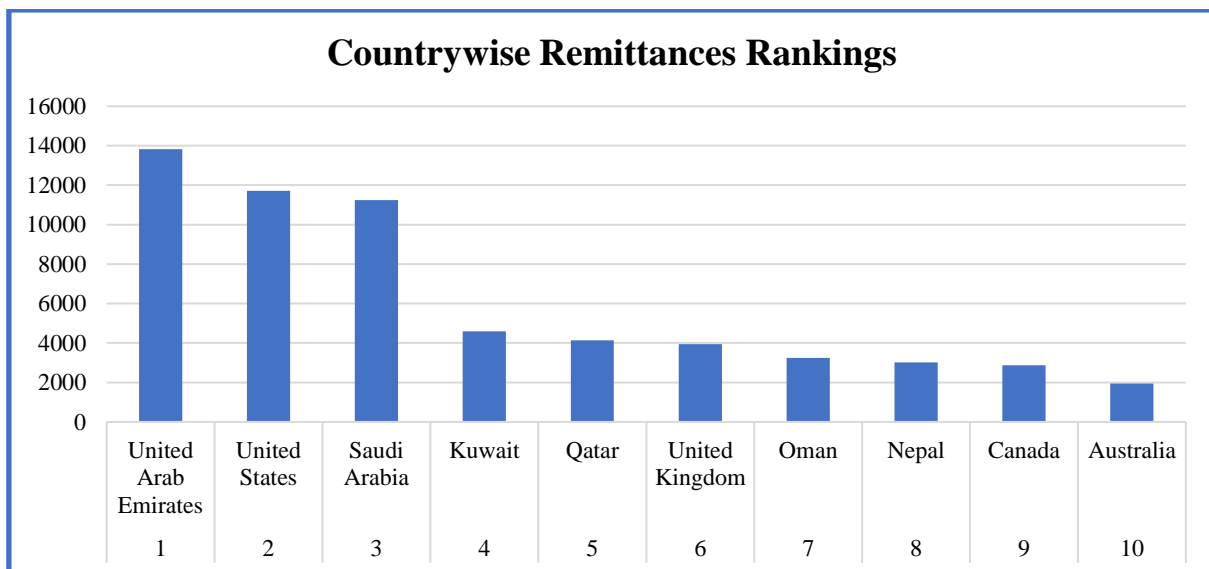


Table 4. Profile of Respondents

Characteristics of Surveyed Data (N=50)			
Demographic Variable	Item	Count	Percentage
Gender	Male	34	68
	Female	16	32

	Total	50	100
Age	20-30	5	10
	31-40	19	38
	41-50	21	42
	51-60	5	10
	Total	50	100
Occupation	Business	11	22
	Professional	24	48
	Government Staff	4	8
	Others	11	22
	Total	50	100
Education	Higher Secondary	0	0
	Graduate	18	36
	Post Graduate	26	52
	Others	6	12
	Total	50	100

With regard to frequency of remittance, it is observed that the majority of the respondents (46) prefer to remit monthly rather than weekly, quarterly, half yearly or yearly.

Table 5. Frequency of Remittance

Period	Frequency	%	Valid %	Cumulative %
Weekly	4	8	8	8
Monthly	23	46	46	54
Quarterly	14	28	28	82
Half Yearly	6	12	12	94
Yearly	3	6	6	100
Total	50	100	100	

Table 6. Importance of Risk while remitting

Risk while remitting	N	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Operational Risk	50	4.00	2.2609	0.80423
Interest Rate Risk	50	4.00	2.2609	0.85695
Transaction Risk	50	4.00	2.2754	0.87769
Exchange Risk	50	4.00	2.2754	0.88597

When respondents were asked about the main risk factor which they consider while remitting among Operational Risk, Interest Rate Risk, Transaction Risk & Exchange Risk it was observed that operational risk is considered as the main risk factor while remitting money. Table shows that as the mean is high and the standard deviation is low in the case of operational risk, it is inferred that operational risk is considered as the main risk factor while remitting money.

Table 7. Purpose of Remittance

Purpose of Remittance	Frequency	%	Valid Percent	Cumulative %
Family Expenditure	26	52	52	52
Investment in land & property	7	14	14	66
Investment in Equity shares	2	4	4	70
Bank deposits	11	22	22	92
Others	4	8	8	100
Total	50	100	100	

The objective of the study was to find out the purpose of remittance by NRIs. From the study it was observed that the majority of the respondents remit money so as to help families to meet the expenditure. Results show 52% of the respondents remit money for family expenditure.

Hypothesis framed for the Study

There is significant relationship between gender, age, occupation and education & frequency of remittance

Table 8. Gender & Frequency of Remittance

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson chi-square	21.652a	8	0.006
N	50		

Result: The value of the test is 0.006. It is below the critical value of 0.05. There is a significant relationship between gender & frequency of remittance. There by H_0 is rejected.

Table 9. Age & Frequency of Remittance

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson chi-square	30.808a	16	0.014
N	50		

Result: The value of the test is 0.014. It is below the critical value of 0.05. There is a significant relationship between age & frequency of remittance. There by H_0 is rejected.

Table 10. Occupation & Frequency of Remittance

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson chi-square	19.938a	12	0.068
N	50		

Result: The value of the test is 0.068. It is above the critical value of 0.05. There is no significant relationship between occupation & frequency of remittance. So H_0 is accepted.

Table 11. Education & Frequency of Remittance

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson chi-square	15.751a	12	0.203
N	50		

Result: The value of the test is 0.203. It is above the critical value of 0.05. There is no significant relationship between education & frequency of remittance. So H_0 is accepted.

5. Conclusion

It was observed that gender wise variations have been observed in the context of remittance and the impact of education on remittances is mixed.

The researchers have tried to study the relationship between other demographic variables & remittance behavior by introducing variables like age & occupation and finally it can be concluded that gender & age have significant relationship with remittance. Education & occupation have no significant relationship and this aspect needs to be explored further.

From this study, it is evident that the majority of the respondents remit money so as to help families to meet the expenditure.

With regard to frequency of remittance, it is observed that majority of the respondents prefer to remit monthly & accessibility is the most important factor considered while choosing a remittance service provider followed by reliability & operational risk is considered as the main risk factor by NRIs while remitting money.

Most preferred mode of transfer is through banks and second most preferred mode of transfer is online fund transfer, it is imperative that the service providers should locate their branches where there is more NRI and the operation procedures for transfer should be transparent.

The customers should be taken care of properly and they should be educated about the operational risks involved in the transactions.

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