

1 From “Dunki to Dhaka”- Dual 2 Analysis of Inter and Intra migration 3 in South Asia.

4 5 **Abstract:**

6 No country today is immune from migration with global migrant numbers rising from 214
7 million in 2010 to 281 million in 2020. The papers focus on illegal migration – by examining
8 a dual analysis of inter (migration from South Asia to abroad) and intra migration (migration
9 within South Asia) focusing South Asia. Inter migration is driven by a lack of opportunity
10 and low living standards pushing them to seek better prospects in Western countries. Paper
11 highlights that migrants become desperate to leave their home due to the inability of such
12 countries to provide better living standards and opportunities to the masses, creating a state of
13 helplessness and vulnerability that compels them to leave their homeland. While inter
14 migration is more fuelled by the aspiration of NRI identity, intra migration is rooted in
15 regional socio-political dynamics. The study highlights the Dunky route as one of the most
16 dangerous & longest illegal routes, with many South Asians largely, Indians risking their
17 lives to seek for “American dream. “In contrast, intra migration is shaped by economic
18 inequality, ethnic, religious conflict, and civil unrest. A key focus of this study is the
19 continuous influx of illegal Bangladeshi migrants into India since the 1971 war.

20 **Keywords:** Migrant, Illegal Migration, Inter migration, Intra migration, South Asia, Dunky,
21 American dream

22 **Introduction:**

23 Illegal migrants who cross rivers, deserts and mountains to come to a totally different world,
24 but why they put their life on risk? It is not because they wish to rather, they have no other
25 choice. People call them illegal but failed to understand that they are desperate to find a home
26 and a better life. Many travels in search of good and dignified life, what their country is
27 unable to provide them; unfortunately they find death. “Many leaves but not all arrives”. The
28 paper reflects the plight and hardship faced by these migrant- which time and again ignored
29 by the media. Migration is a part and parcel of human life which plays a pivotal role in
30 shaping human world through exchange of culture, ideas, technologies, and remittances
31 across the region. There is no country, no state immune from migration. Migration can be
32 classified as into legal and illegal migration. The paper focuses on illegal migration, where
33 individuals resort to unauthorized, undocumented and illegal methods to cross the border.
34 These migrants do not leave their homes willingly but hopelessly leave due to inability of
35 their countries to provide better living standard and opportunity to the masses creating a state
36 of helplessness and vulnerability that compel them to leave their homeland. The paper’s
37 regional focus is on the South Asia. South Asia is a hub of sending and receiving migrants.
38 Sending migrants to abroad and receiving migrants mostly from their neighbouring countries.

39 As of 2020, approximately 17.5 million migrants from Asia resided in Northern America
40 (IOM, 2021). On the other hand approx. 20 million undocumented migrants reside only in
41 India (Mayilvaganan, 2019), largely from Bangladesh, Sri-Lanka, Myanmar and other
42 neighboring countries. Thus, refugee crisis, deportation of illegal migrants from abroad,
43 managing asylum seekers along with human trafficking and smuggling cause a major issue
44 in the region. To examine the trend of the region of sending and receiving migrants the paper
45 presented a dual analysis in the form of "Inter migration" (moving of illegal migrants to
46 abroad) and "Intra migration" (receiving migrants from the neighbouring countries). While
47 discussing the inter migration, it is presented how people in the South Asian countries are
48 driven by lack of opportunity and low living standard which push them to seek better
49 prospect in the western countries. The illegal migration routes are full of dangers and threats.
50 It has multifaceted menace, highly lined with human trafficking, terrorism, narcotics and
51 other unsocial activities. There are various illegal migration route for South Asians to move
52 abroad such as Balkan route, Sea Voyage route, dunky route etc. However, to give a more
53 focused view, the study goes deep into one of the most dangerous & longest illegal routes i.e.
54 the dunky route, which has claimed countless lives as migrants have to cross multiple
55 borders, jungles, and seas. The desire to live the "American Dream" lures many South Asians
56 into embarking on this hazardous journey, describing it as a frightening and nightmarish
57 experience. The observation is made that the inter migration was more about the craze for
58 living in abroad where they create a delusion that living abroad will provide them a sense of
59 pride by achieving the tag of NRI. Whereas intra-migration within South Asia is influenced
60 by regional factors like economic disparity, ethnic diversity, and religious or linguistic
61 conflicts, which sometimes lead to civil unrest or persecution. A key focus of this study, is
62 the continuous influx of illegal Bangladeshi migrant who entered in India since 1971 war. In
63 conclusion we can imply that both inter and intra migration in South Asia are driven by a
64 common factor: the lack of opportunities and the desire for a better life. However, the routes
65 and challenges vary.

66 **Literature Review:**

67 Scholarly interest has been stimulated on illegal migration across the globe. While many
68 claim it to be a global crisis, some scholars emphasize on the plight and hardship face by
69 these homeless migrants and advocate for the protection of their human rights. UNHRC's
70 study named *Trapped in transit: "The plight and human rights of stranded migrants"*
71 conducted by Rebecca Dowd introduced a new term "stranded migration." The term refers to
72 a helpless situation where migrants are unable to continue their journey to the intended
73 destination or return back to their origin country due to unforeseen reasons such as closure of
74 borders, exploitation or trafficking, legal issues etc. (Dowd, 2008). Similarly to highlight the
75 plight of irregular migrants and the need to cater their human right, the United Nations
76 Department of Economic and Social Affairs in its journal titled "*International Migration
77 Policies: Government Views and Priorities*" stated that despite the protection granted by
78 international law, migrants continue to face many difficulties in their migratory process. The
79 process of obtaining refugee status has become increasingly complicated. There is a need to
80 establish comprehensive, rights-based approaches that address the root causes of irregular
81 migration, especially those related to labour market demands. A one-size-fits-all approach is
82 inadequate, as migrants are increasingly vulnerable to discrimination, exploitation, and abuse
83 (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2013). The UNODC, in its

84 report titled "*Combating Violence against Migrants*," highlighted that migrants are serious
85 victims of grave human rights violations. This report was a response to the General
86 Assembly's Resolution 67/185 on "*Promoting Efforts to Eliminate Violence against*
87 *Migrants, Workers, and Their Families*." The General Assembly report outlined three key
88 guidelines for states to follow: the obligation of states to place human rights of migrants
89 above law enforcement and migration management objectives, no individual shall be
90 excluded from the protection of human rights on any grounds, including refugee status or any
91 other classification, and the third one underlines the need to place the rights of all victims,
92 irrespective of their status, at the centre of efforts to combat violence (Crime, 2015). The
93 haunting image that once went viral on the internet serves as a stark reminder of the dangers
94 migrants face. A tiny toddler wearing a bright-red T-shirt and shorts, washed up on a beach,
95 lying face down in the surf not far from the Turkish resort Bodrum. Turkish media identified
96 the 3 years old boy as Alan Kurdi who met this tragic death, while 12 Syrians drowned to
97 reach to the island of Greek encapsulated the extraordinary risks refugees are taking to reach
98 the west. From here a famous hashtag emerged - #KiyiyaVuranInsanlik (*humanity washed*
99 *ashore*) (Guardian, 2015). All these aforementioned works says refugees and irregular
100 migrants become homeless not by choice but out of desperation. However, the reluctance of
101 host countries and the failure of international law often result in either tragic death or
102 miserable living condition. Therefore, the world must recognize that no human is illegal, and
103 crossing the borders does not strip migrants of their fundamental human rights. The migrants
104 and refugees' rights are also human right. Once people migrate – weather legally or illegally-
105 one things remains common that is formation of a certain community, formation of diaspora
106 that need to be studied. In context of South Asian diaspora Shahid Javed Burki in his paper
107 titled: "*South Asian Diasporas: Agents of Change in a Poorly Integrated Region*" examines
108 how diaspora of South Asia scattered all around the world that does not only influence those
109 who migrates but also those who stays. A widely cited estimate places the South Asian
110 diaspora, dispersed across various regions of the world, at approximately 50 million. If this
111 estimate is correct, then the share of South Asians in the global migrant population would be
112 approximately 25 percent, which is proportional to the subcontinent's share of the world
113 population. In 2009, the total population of South Asia was 1.75 billion, or 25.7 percent of
114 the global total of 6.8 billion. The contributions made by the South Asian diaspora are now
115 being widely recognized. Members of these communities contribute to both the countries in
116 which they live and work as well as their countries of origin (Burki, 2011). "A key point that
117 emerges from this discussion is that this dispersed population, living away from their
118 homeland and often referred to as NRIs in India, plays a pivotal role in shaping the narrative
119 of the "American Dream." They often serve as conduits of Western ideals, lifestyles, and
120 success stories, which, in turn, shape aspirations among individuals in their homeland. The
121 central theme of this paper is to present a dual analysis of inter- and intra-regional migration
122 in the context of South Asia. A plethora of scholarly work has been conducted on South
123 Asian migration. For instance, Viresh Kumar Bhawra, in his journal article "*Irregular*
124 *Migration from India to the EU: Evidence from Punjab*" explains how natives of Punjab,
125 particularly young men, leave their villages to travel overseas. This migration is driven by
126 both push factors (such as an unprofitable agricultural sector, underemployment,
127 unemployment, and social restrictions) and pull factors (such as better educational and
128 employment opportunities, a higher standard of living, and the presence of family members
129 and relatives abroad). The lack of opportunities in their home country, combined with the

130 lavish display of wealth by NRIs when they visit India, fuels the “craze” to go abroad
131 (Bhawra, 2013). The craze to go abroad, driven by a glorified vision of foreign land creates a
132 delusion that somehow if they manage to arrive in Western hemisphere their life will be
133 lavish and work opportunities will line up without being aware about the consequences they
134 might face. South Asia, a developing region lagging far behind in progress, economic
135 opportunities, and fair wages compared to the West, has become a hub for migrants who risk
136 perilous routes each year in pursuit of a better life that their home countries fail to provide.
137 The Vice president of India Jagdeep Dhankar emphasized on what he calls as “Forex Drain”
138 which refers to a new disease these days - the disease to go abroad. Forex drain is
139 particularly, about those students who wants to study abroad without the objective
140 evaluation- in which institute they are enrolling, which country they are going, they keen to
141 go as they think of abroad as heavenly land. This does not only turn out as a significant
142 financial burden but also it is draining India’s foreign exchange reserves (India, 2024). In
143 certain region, migrating to abroad has become status symbol, with family taking loans,
144 sometimes selling assets to send their children to foreign land. According to the UN
145 Migration Report, South Asia is home to over 40 percent of the world’s international
146 migrants. Since 2020, migration from South Asia to the Western Hemisphere has increased
147 considerably. For instance, in 2020, the number of South Asian migrants in North America
148 reached 17.5 million, rising from 17.3 million in 2015. In Europe, migration from Asia stood
149 at 23 million in 2020, The high unemployment rates and underdevelopment in SAARC
150 countries compel individuals to seek better job opportunities abroad (Migration, 2024). The
151 illegal migration routes, their danger and threat migrants face throughout the journey also
152 require a deeper study. For instance, Times of India in its recent article “*Indian immigrants*
153 *deported: The big business of donkey route*” disclosed the ugly reality behind the so - called
154 glorified “American Dream.” A U.S. military aircraft landed in Amritsar, India, carrying 104
155 deported Indians who had illegally entered the U.S. This incident underscores the persistence
156 of human trafficking routes from India via Latin America and Mexico into the U.S., The
157 “donkey route” starts with migrants reaching Latin American countries like Ecuador, Bolivia,
158 or Guyana, where they can easily obtain visas on arrival or tourist visas. From Latin America,
159 agents transport migrants to Colombia, which is closer to the U.S. border than Panama. From
160 Colombia, migrants enter Panama through the dangerous Darién Gap, a dense jungle with no
161 roads or bridges and home to wild animals like jaguars and anacondas. Additionally, migrants
162 face robbery and sexual violence at the hands of criminal gangs. A record 96,917 Indians
163 were caught or expelled in 2023 while attempting to cross into the U.S. border, a sharp
164 increase from 30,662 in 2021. This data highlights India's growing role as a top source of
165 illegal migration through the "donkey route" (India, 2025).

166 Intra-regional migration within South Asia has its own unique characteristics and
167 circumstances. Sitakanta Mishra, in her exceptional work “*Illegal Cross-Border Migration in*
168 *South Asia: Impediments to Regional Peace and Stability*” highlights that common history,
169 geographical proximity, cultural ties, and kinship linkages were major reasons for early
170 undocumented cross-border migration. However, today, such migration has become a serious
171 concern due to its socio-political and strategic implications. The absence of a structured legal
172 framework and the inability of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
173 (SAARC) to address this issue have allowed it to pose a significant challenge to regional
174 security. Mishra notes that while ethnic diversity exists across South Asia, it has often
175 become a source of separation, animosity, and persecution, forcing many migrants to seek

176 refuge outside their home countries (Mishra, 2018). According to the Migration Data Portal,
177 political instability and historical events continue to be major causes of large-scale
178 displacement and migratory movements in South Asia. Some notable events that have
179 influenced inter- and intra-regional migration trends include the 1947 India-Pakistan
180 partition, the 1971 Indo-Bangladesh war, the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, and the ongoing
181 Rohingya crisis. (Portal M. d., 2025). In a study done by World Bank titled “*Migration &*
182 *Remittances Overview*” says there are some key drivers of migration including significant
183 income gaps between high-income and low-income countries, which persist across both low-
184 and high-skilled occupations. Additionally, widening income inequality within origin
185 countries, particularly in low-income regions, serves as a powerful push factor. For those
186 individuals whose only asset is their labor, migration to a wealthier country offers a crucial
187 opportunity to escape poverty (Bank, 2025). The influx of illegal migrants on Indian
188 Territory remains a major concern as illegal migrants across South Asia migrate to India
189 without proper documentation. M Mayilvaganan in his paper “*Illegal Migration and Strategic*
190 *Challenges: A Case Study of Undocumented Migration from Bangladesh to India* argues that
191 while migration can bring positive contributions, illegal migration poses serious challenges to
192 receiving states. India’s total number of migrants is estimated at 314 million, of which
193 Bangladeshi migrants constitute approximately 10–20 million, many of whom cross the
194 border undocumented. The issue gained prominence when people from Northeast India and
195 West Bengal expressed outrage and brought the matter to the Supreme Court. In defense,
196 Bangladeshi migrants claim that their lives are threatened in their homeland and that, due to
197 cultural and linguistic ties, relocating to India remains their only viable option
198 (Mayilvaganan, 2019). The paper deeply examines the case of undocumented Bangladeshi
199 migrants.

200 In conclusion these literature on illegal migration highlight the global crisis with scholars
201 emphasizing both the hardship faced by migrants and the need for the protection of their
202 human right. The central argument of these literatures attempts to presents a dual analysis of
203 Inter and Intra migration in the context of South Asia. While, the push and pull factor remain
204 a similar cause of migration in both the cases, they also share a unique and distinct feature.
205 The intra migration is more driven by the ethnic, linguistic and cultural factor, where cultural
206 diversity often becomes a threat to minorities, such as Bangladeshi Hindus. On the other
207 hand, inter migration to Western countries is largely fueled by the pursuit of the "Western
208 dream"—a glorified perception of life abroad that many aspire to, often at great personal and
209 financial risk. However, dangerous routes like the "dunky route" expose migrants to life-
210 threatening risks. Illegal migration is often viewed negatively as a crisis for destination
211 countries, but this perspective overlooks the fact that undocumented migrants are often
212 among the most vulnerable—displaced, threatened, and compelled to leave their homeland
213 due to crisis and insecurity.

214 **Understanding Illegal Migration**

215 The human population reaches at every corner of the world by moving from one place to
216 another. This process of “moving” from one place to another is the fundamental aspect of
217 human existence. With the advent of modern state system and creation of border, collectively
218 each state developed the legal mechanism to regulate the movement of people across the
219 border. It was estimated in 2010 that 214 million migrants from all over the world reside
220 outside country of origin, (Mayilvaganan, 2019). Within 10 years in 2020 raised to 67
221 million which 281 million population (BBC, 2020). The illegal migrants also term as

222 Irregular migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, undocumented/unauthorized settlers and illegal
 223 aliens. The illegal migration is a big threat for any country as not only it exhausts the
 224 resources and opportunity by increasing the population but it destabilizes the state
 225 governance as natives many times protest and show their aggression by demanding the
 226 government to detect and expel the aliens. The illegal migration has multifaceted menace
 227 since it is highly linked with human trafficking, terrorism, narcotics, drug smuggling and
 228 other such unsocial activities.

229 **Inter Migration in South Asia**

230 The history of migration from South Asia to western nation can be trace to the colonial period
 231 for filling the labour requirement in the west. It is one of the biggest migration corridors
 232 formed by south Asians moving toward West Since 20th century the South Asia collectively
 233 faced number of undocumented migration issues across the region, such as millions of
 234 Hindus and Sikhs left Pakistan for India, and about six million Muslims moved to Pakistan
 235 from India in 1947, the Halabja crisis in the late 1980s. After the invasion of Afghanistan by
 236 the Soviet Union, an estimated six million people left the country from 1979 to 1989, and 3.2
 237 million moved to Pakistan and 2.2 million to the Islamic Republic of Iran. Tibetans and
 238 Bhutanese in India and Nepal, the hajongs in India and the Rohingya crisis are another such
 239 tragic incidents of migration. (Portal M. D., 2019). For South Asian migration is a form
 240 livelihood strategy. South Asian migrants choose their destination mostly in western world
 241 due to vast availability of opportunity, better wage standard, secured livelihood and education
 242 opportunity. (News, 2021). In fact, the United Nations in 2020 estimated that between 2000
 243 and 2020, the largest growing migration corridor was that between Central and Southern Asia
 244 to the North African and West Asian countries which grew by 13 million migrants in this
 245 decades. This is directly attributed to the increase of labour migrants primarily from the
 246 countries like India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh (Rajan, 2023). The
 247 phenomenon of international migration continues to rise pressure on nations like the USA,
 248 UK, France, Germany, Canada and some other western countries. Below is the data
 249 highlighting South Asians migration towards Western countries.

United States	As of 2020, approximately 17.5 million migrants from Asia resided in Northern America, which includes the United States and Canada. (IOM, 2021). As of 2022, approximately 1.7 million unauthorized immigrants in the U.S. originated from South Asia, accounting for about 15% of the total unauthorized population (Institute, 2022).
Canada	Between 2016 and 2021, 62% of the 1.3 million immigrants to Canada arrived from Asia, totaling approximately 823,205 individuals. The South Asian community has become one of the largest ethnic groups in Canada (Canada, 2024).
Australia	As of June 2023, it is recorded that Australian population included 8.2 million people born overseas & those born in India record the largest since 2013 (Statistics, 2023).
Europe (France, U.K)	As of 2020, Europe hosted approximately 23 million migrants from Asia, an increase from nearly 20 million in 2015. (IOM, 2021). Only in France, as of 2023, had a total immigrant population of 7.3 million, representing 10.7% of its population. Among these, immigrants from Asia, (including South Asia) have been increasing. (Pascual, 2024). In 2017, France had an estimated 300,000 to 400,000 unauthorized immigrants. Although exact figures for Asian nationals are not specified, France has seen diverse immigration patterns, including from Asian countries. (Phillip Connor, 2019). In 2017, the UK was

	estimated to host between 800,000 and 1.2 million unauthorized immigrants. While specific numbers from Asia are not detailed, the UK has significant communities from countries like India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh (Phillip Connor, 2019). The majority of new citizens came from Asia (40%) and Africa (32%), with India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh being the top three countries of origin where Indians formed the largest group (United Nations, 2015).
--	--

250 ***This data highlights the tendency of South Asians to favour Western countries as their***
251 ***primary destination for migration.***

252 These individuals either live in hiding, avoiding detection by authorities, and lack legal
253 recognition or protection, or they may choose to seek asylum upon reaching their destination
254 country.

255 Why South Asians Choose Western Countries for Migration

256 Leaving behind one's home, country, family, and friends is never an easy decision. Yet, many
257 people feel compelled to migrate, often driven by aspirations for higher education, economic
258 advancement, better opportunities, or sometimes as a means of escaping violence and
259 persecution in their home countries. However, the focus of this discussion is to explore what
260 pushes individuals to such desperate measures that they risk embarking on illegal and
261 perilous migration journeys, fully aware of the potential consequences and hardships they
262 may encounter along the way. Some of the key reasons for their migration are explored
263 below.

264 *Ethnic /Racial and Religious Division:* A key driver of South Asian migration is the deep-
265 seated fragmentation within their heterogeneous societies, marked by countless divisions
266 along racial, caste, ethnic, and religious lines. These marginalized caste, religious minorities
267 and other disadvantage tribal groups often face exclusion from the mainstream society and
268 opportunities. The minorities feel-threatened in their home country, therefore, moving abroad
269 (Although many of the disadvantage groups migrate to the neighbouring South Asian
270 countries as well in large numbers) seems a better choice.

271 *Unstable Govt. & Weak Civil Society:* According to Antonio Gramsci revolution occur in a
272 state where civil society is weak. These developing countries are still on the path of growth,
273 therefore, the Government even if they are democratic, unable to prevent the persecution
274 which happens in the name of ethnic and religious divisions. Revolution, protests, civil wars,
275 and religious/ethnic hatred among communities are still very rampant in these countries.
276 Governments in these countries lack the stability and strength to move beyond racial, ethnic,
277 and religious conflicts and prioritize social progress. Divisions extend beyond ethnicity to
278 geographical and linguistic differences, further exacerbating tensions. Weak civil societies
279 fail to hold governments accountable for policy failures, corruption, and human rights abuses,
280 compelling individuals to seek better opportunities elsewhere. These unstable governments
281 often struggle to maintain law and order, resulting in economic hardship, violence,
282 persecution, and civil unrest. E.g. The North Eastern part of India lack opportunities and
283 facilities provided in mainstream society thus they flee to neighbouring countries or abroad.
284 According to 2011 census 25% North Eastern migrate only for employment opportunities
285 (Lusome, 2020) Moreover, the plight of Rohingya Muslims of Myanmar forced to move to

286 neighbouring countries such as India, Bangladesh, Thailand and even illegally migrated to
287 abroad. As of 2023 1.3 million Rohingyas are asylum seekers and took refuge in another
288 country. Many walked for days through jungles and undertook dangerous sea journeys
289 across the Bay of Bengal to reach safely in Bangladesh (UNHRC, 2024). It will not be
290 incorrect to say “diversity of South Asia has turnout to be a curse for them” and
291 unaccountable corrupted governments have exacerbated the division among them.

292 *Slow Economic Progress:* Referring to South Asian countries as "third world" may be
293 considered derogatory, yet it remains undeniable that these nations lag behind in economic
294 development compared to others. The slow economic progress coupled with rampant
295 poverty, hungers, low standard of living, less per capita income and huge unemployment is
296 what derives the people to migrate to another country. In 2013, SAARC accounted for
297 24% of the global population but contributed only 3% to the world's GDP, despite being
298 larger in size than the EU. However, its GDP was merely one-third of that of the EU
299 (Dayal, 2013). By 2023, SAARC's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) reached approximately
300 \$4.5 trillion USD, representing around 4.2% of the global GDP. Over a decade, its GDP
301 increased by only about \$1.5 trillion USD (Economy, 2023). As of 2023, the European
302 Union (EU) accounts for approximately 14.46% of the global Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
303 (Statista, 2023). Poverty is huge parasite in the country. As of 2024, approximately 1.48
304 billion people in South Asia live on less than \$6.85 per day, constituting about 42% of the
305 global population living below this threshold (Fleck, 2024). The white-collar labour wages is
306 comparatively low and there is huge population who are unemployed, this compel them to
307 migrate even by using unethical means. For instance the average salary in Asia is
308 around 12,883 USD per year, which is significantly lower than the average salaries in other
309 continents like North America (USD 50,832) and Europe (USD 37,020) this makes the South
310 Asians a competent source of sending migrants to abroad (Doctor, 2023)

311 *The Western Dream:* The "Western Dream" is a powerful delusion held by many migrants,
312 particularly from developing regions, who believe that moving to Western countries will
313 provide them with a significantly better life. This dream often includes visions of economic
314 stability, better living standards, and access to quality education, healthcare, and
315 opportunities for personal and professional growth. However, the reality is far darker and
316 harsh. This western dream has ruined the life of many Asian as upon reaching their
317 destination, illegal migrants risk detention, deportation, and criminal charges, further
318 shattering their dreams. The stark contrast between expectations and reality often leads to
319 disappointment, mental health issues, and a feeling of being trapped.

320 Tracing Popular Illegal Migration Routes:

321 *Balkan Route (South Asia to Europe):* Harjinder Kumar (age 39) arrived in Serbia & fell into
322 debt, while, Jasbir Singh (age 27) came to Serbia and paid € 12000 to human traffickers.
323 These are the Indians who tried to enter Europe illegally through Balkan and stayed in Serbia
324 (Serbia is the only country allow visa free travel). The route was popularized in 2015-16
325 when people attempted escaping conflict in the Middle East all the way from Bosnia and
326 Serbia to reach to European countries, soon came to known as Balkan route. (Islam, 2022).
327 The desperation and helplessness comes out in these words

328 “If I had a job in India I wouldn’t have to come Bosnia like this” “European police don't
329 respect us. They even remove our turban shake our beards and take off our clothes” (Islam,
330 2022).

331 *The Donkey Route (South Asia to North America)*: One of the most prominent illegal routes
332 used by south Asians particularly from Punjab and Gujarat of India is the Donkey Route. The
333 donkey route involves crossing multiple borders all the way from South Asia then traveling to
334 the countries in the Middle East like the United Arab Emirates or Oman. From there, they
335 further proceed to African nations like Kenya, Ethiopia, or South Africa. The journey
336 continues to South and Central American countries, including Brazil, Ecuador, and
337 Colombia, where they traverse the treacherous Darién Gap into Panama. Migrants then move
338 through Central American nations such as Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and then finally after a long
339 journey they reach to Mexico US border. The US or Canada is migrants’ destination. The
340 Dunky route is one of the most dangerous and longest migration routes, mostly the dunky
341 migrants either die in the journey, abandoned by dunkers (guides). There is no guarantee that
342 migrants even after spending lacks of money will reach their destination alive and even after
343 reaching the destination, it’s completely a delusion if you believe that life is going to be easy.
344 In the later part of this research paper the Donkey route will be explored in more depth.

345 *Sea & Voyage route (South Asia to Australia)*: The migration route used by irregular
346 migrants from South Asian countries such as Bangladesh, India, and Sri Lanka are also
347 marked by dangerous sea routes and voyages. Migrants embark on perilous sea journey from
348 their homeland and move toward Southeast Asian countries like Indonesia and Malaysia,
349 where they await further arrangements. (Graeme Hugo, 2014). The final stage involves
350 departure of boat from Indonesian port such as Sumatra or Java then finally headed towards
351 Australia’s Northern Coast aiming for destination like Christmas Island or Australian
352 Mainland. (Bodean Hedwards, 2023). Australia has implemented stringent border protection
353 measures, which involve intercepting vessels carrying asylum seekers and either returning
354 them to their point of departure or transferring them to offshore detention centers, with Nauru
355 being one of the most controversial. However, Australia has been criticized for violating the
356 human rights of asylum seekers. (Olbrycht-Palmer, 2025).

357 *Air routes and fraudulent documents*: Low-wage-income countries such as Bangladesh,
358 Afghanistan, and Sri Lanka drive irregular migration, as many aspire to improve their
359 economic status upon reaching their destination country. To some extent, this is true that
360 laborers do receive better wages in developed countries. Many migrants believe that air
361 routes are less dangerous than land or maritime routes. There is a strong link between
362 smuggling networks and the migration of people through illegal air routes. When migrants
363 fail to migrate legally, these smuggling networks become their only option, offering
364 international protection. Smugglers transport people across long and remote land borders
365 using various types of vehicles and collaborate with regional smugglers to organize air
366 smuggling using forged and fraudulent documents. (UNODC, 2024). Through these criminal
367 networks they purchase fraud, stolen and fake documents to reach western countries.

368 **Exploring dark realities of Inter Migration: Study of “Dunki” route from India to U.S**

369 Studying Dunki route gives a clear picture of inter migration, state of desperation,
370 helplessness, and legal consequences and working of criminal networks. The dunki route is
371 the name given to the route particularly from the state of Punjab, Haryana and Gujarat

372 seeking entry into the US. This unique name of “Dunki” came from Punjabi idiom meaning
373 to move or hop from one place to another. (Chhabra, 2023). As its name suggest migrants
374 need to hop constantly at multiple countries including deserts, national borders, sea, and
375 dangerous jungle. The dunki route is a dark perilous journey that no one should even think of
376 attempting where the hardship is beyond legal consequences. Those attempted dunki will
377 always describe it as scary experience and nightmare. Travelling via dunki route is costly as
378 migrants pay around 20 to 25 lacs to the agents. (Business, 2024). These agents make
379 promises that they will make them reach safely and dunkers will be allotted to them,
380 however, when they embark on this journey reality hits them hard and realizes that they made
381 a life threatening decision

382 *Exploring the stops and the route:* After reaching a Latin American country—often Ecuador,
383 Bolivia, Brazil, or Venezuela—migrants embark on an overland journey facing treacherous
384 jungles, rugged terrains, and waterways. Their route passes through countries such as
385 Panama, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala, and ultimately Mexico before
386 reaching the U.S. border. Crossing the dense and perilous Darién Gap in Panama is a crucial
387 and highly dangerous segment of the Dunki route (Business, 2024).

388 *Does Reaching US Mexico border is a relief?* Even if migrants survive criminal networks,
389 physical and environmental hazard, starvation and dodge the eyes of authorities – is all this
390 hard work pays off in the end? The answer is NO. They face arrest, detention and
391 deportation back to their country. Consequences include 5-year ban on re-entry in US.
392 (Security, 2024). They seek asylum upon reaching there which is human right but on June
393 2024 a subsequent amendment made which curtail the right to seek asylum in America. (IRC,
394 2022).

395 *Consequences to face:* Migrants who are unaware of consequences, also manipulated by
396 “American dream”, invest their life earning without knowing what consequences they might
397 face on perilous journey of this Dunki route. Hardly a small section of migrants achieves their
398 dream, many die during the journey, starve for days, constantly walk for days, months or
399 sometimes even year and even if they reach to the border, most of the time they are deported
400 back to their country. Upon arrival, they are placed in asylum centres where they await the
401 processing of their claims. The life in asylum centres is not easy. Living conditions in these centres
402 can be challenging due to overcrowding and limited resources. For instance, migrant holding centres
403 in key border regions have been reported to operate at 150% capacity, housing over 1,500 migrants
404 despite being designed for 1,000 (Taer, 2024).

405 Plight of real life Dunki migrants:

406 Youth in small Indian states are now frustrated with their unemployment and feel helpless as
407 they watch their families struggle in impoverished conditions. The dream of earning in
408 dollars drives many young people to become real-life Dunki migrants.

409 Some real-life examples include:

410 Among the Indians chasing the ‘American Dream’ are youths from Haryana. Jitendra is one
411 of them. His real journey to his destination began in Ecuador. Jitendra and his group
412 traversed through forests, rivers, and seas. They remained hungry for days and once survived

413 on just biscuits for an entire week. Along the way, thugs robbed them of their money, phones,
414 and even their clothes and shoes. They had to trek barefoot in the cold and snow. (Jha, 2023).

415 In a documentary by *The India express* in which they interviewed the real life Dunki
416 migrants. The migrants belong to Gholpura village in Karnal. According to locals every 80
417 young man out of 150 leave their houses to embark on journey of dunki route. The plight of
418 these dunki migrants is well explained in the words Uday Singh who attempted the dunki and
419 deported by the US authorities from Mexico borders. Along with him 311 men were deported
420 from total 500 migrants. The travelling agents charged Rs.15 Lacks from him and all that
421 money got wasted. Uday Singh mentioned that upon arriving in Ecuador, local agents at the
422 airport were there to assist them with their flight arrangements. He also highlighted that the
423 toughest part of the journey was crossing the Panama Jungle.

424 (Source <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jvzlp6voxyY>)

425 **Intra-Migration within South Asia**

426 Migration, the relocation of individuals from one region to another, is a fundamental aspect
427 of human existence that cannot be eliminated. Migration becomes a complex challenge when
428 individuals cross national borders without proper authorization, resulting in irregular or
429 undocumented status or seeking refuge. No country is entirely exempt from migration, and
430 South Asia, in particular, experiences substantial movement both within and beyond its
431 borders, posing distinct challenges for the region. Intra-regional migration, such as the
432 movement of Bangladeshis to India, differs significantly from inter-regional migration, where
433 individuals seek opportunities outside South Asia. The primary factors driving intra-regional
434 migration within South Asia are as follows:

435 The first is economic disparity among countries. For example, India, as one of the world's
436 fastest-growing economies, serves as a key destination for undocumented migrants seeking
437 better opportunities. This influx has prompted responses such as the controversial National
438 Register of Citizens (NRC) launched by the Indian government in Assam in 2019 to identify
439 and address illegal immigration. The second factor is the threat of persecution based on race,
440 ethnicity, or religion in the region. For instance, Sri Lankan Tamils have historically migrated
441 to neighboring countries, particularly to India, to escape violence and discrimination in their
442 homeland. Such migrations highlight the complex interplay of economic aspirations and
443 safety concerns that drive people to cross borders illegally. While migration contributes to the
444 cultural and economic dynamism of host countries, it also raises concerns about the strain on
445 resources and opportunities for local populations. This often leads to demands from native
446 residents for governments to regulate undocumented migration and prioritize the needs of
447 citizens. Over-migration can create tensions, both socially and economically, emphasizing the
448 need for balanced policies that address humanitarian concerns while safeguarding local
449 interests.

450 Popular migration flow within South Asia:

451 *Bangladesh to India:* The migration flow from Bangladesh to India is a continuous story
452 whose origin can be traced back to Indian partition 1947. With the partition, the world
453 witnessed the biggest migration of that time. Pakistan till 1971 was constituted of East and
454 West Pakistan. The oppression that Bangladeshi Muslims faced in East Pakistan by Urdu
455 speaking Muslims created a political and social turmoil resulted in the creation of Bangladesh

456 in 1971. The persecution of Bengali Muslims by the Pakistani army apparently created
457 pandemonium with large scale migration into Indian Territory. New Delhi was more
458 concerned about the increasing migrants to West Bengal and Assam which ultimately forced
459 the Indian government to support Bangladesh's pro-independence group in the Bangladesh's
460 liberation war. Some estimates reported that around 10 million Bangladeshis had migrated
461 into India during the course of the war and out of which 1.5 million never returned. From
462 1971 till present illegal migration along with smuggling and border criminal networks are
463 still a challenge for India. As per the estimates of 2020 almost 20 million undocumented
464 migrants reside in India (Mayilvaganan, 2019). Which increased from 3 million in 2010.
465 (BBC, 2020).

466 *Afghanistan to Pakistan:* One of the most pivotal movements during cold war period was
467 invasion of USSR in Afghanistan, when the land of Afghanistan turned into a proxy war
468 battlefield between the two super powers. After the fall of Shah of Iran in 1979, Pakistan
469 remained only reliable ally of Afghanistan. This particular event during the cold war initiated
470 the transmigration of refugees and illegal migrants from Afghanistan to Pakistan. During that
471 period managing Afghan refugees was an important asset for President Zia (Schöch, 2008).
472 Pakistan adopted a different approach toward illegal migrants and found a way to legalize the
473 stay of Afghani refugees through following initiative:

- 474 • Afghan Citizen Card (ACC) - Provided an identification to Afghan refugees. The card
475 legalizes and regularize their stay in Pakistan. The documentation process was carried
476 out by Pakistan's National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA). In 2017
477 Pak authority established 21 Afghan citizen center in 17 districts (Migration,
478 Undocumented Afghans, 2018).
- 479 • Proof of Registration (POR) - The act introduced in 2006 is an identity proof for
480 Afghan refuge allowing them to legally reside in Pakistan for a temporary period.
481 (UNHCR). In 2024 Pakistan have announced 1 year extension of 1.5 million
482 refugees, (the extension period is from 30 June 2024-30 JUNE 2025) (Hussain, 2024).

483 *Sri- Lanka to India:* Forced migration from Sri Lanka to India is largely due to the
484 geographical proximity between the two countries, separated by the Palk Strait. India often
485 experiences influxes of conflict-induced and crisis-induced forced migrants. Sri Lanka
486 underwent a 35-year-long civil war between the Government of Sri Lanka and the LTTE. The
487 Sri Lankan civil war serves as a stark reminder of the devastating consequences that racial,
488 linguistic, and ethnic discrimination can have, particularly in a region as diverse as South
489 Asia. It exemplifies how deeply ingrained divisions along these lines can escalate into
490 prolonged conflict, causing immense human suffering and socio-political instability. The
491 persecution, deaths, mass killings, and massacres that Tamils faced led them to migrate
492 forcibly to neighbouring countries. Due to geographical proximity and sympathy for Tamils,
493 many Sri Lankan Tamils fled to India.

494 *Rohingya Muslims to India and Bangladesh:* Rohingya Muslims are the ethnic groups living
495 in Myanmar. Due to persecution and internal danger they faced in Myanmar forced Rohingya
496 to flee from their country and seek shelter in nearby countries, largely they moved to
497 Bangladesh. In August 2017, armed attacks, massive scale violence, and serious human
498 rights violations forced thousands of Rohingya to flee from their homes in Myanmar's
499 Rakhine State, forcing more than 742,000 people - half of them children - to seek refuge in

500 Bangladesh. Many walked for days through jungles and undertook dangerous sea journeys
501 across the Bay of Bengal to reach safely in Bangladesh. (UNHCR, 2024). While most of
502 Rohingyas took refuge in Bangladesh but poor security, hygiene and environment
503 condition what pushed Rohingyas to migrate further to India. In a study done by Mixed
504 Migration Centre (MMC), it was found that the majority of their respondents had lived or
505 spent time in Bangladesh before arriving in India. There are two main patterns of Rohingya
506 migration to India: from Bangladesh westward to the state of West Bengal in India and
507 northeast to the Indian states of Mizoram and Meghalaya. On both of these routes, the
508 Rohingya are vulnerable to exploitation due to their lack of official identification documents,
509 their inability to speak local languages and their lack of financial means. (MMC, 2019).
510 Approx. 22,500 Rohingya refugees registered with the UN Refugees Agency (UNHCR) who
511 have fled to India. (Sullivan, 2024).

512 Crossing the boundaries: Bangladesh to India

513 India, Bangladesh, and Pakistan share a common history, yet they were tragically divided by
514 the events of the past. Unlike Pakistan, India maintains a relatively cordial relationship with
515 Bangladesh. However, the geographical proximity between the two countries has led to
516 persistent issues of smuggling, human trafficking, and illegal migration. The flow of illegal
517 migrants into Indian states, particularly Assam, Tripura, and West Bengal, has become a
518 significant concern for the native populations in these regions. Examining this migration
519 trend highlights the stark contrast between intra-regional migration within South Asia and
520 migration from South Asia to other regions of the world. This study reveals the unique
521 characteristics of the migration process, influenced by the region's diverse culture, history,
522 and the compelling factors that drive people to leave their homes in search of safe
523 surrounding.

524 Historical link: Even before 1971 war the trend of people migrating from East Bangladesh
525 (Bangladesh/ East Pakistan) to India in search of better opportunity was in existence. The
526 Britishers used to hire educated Bangladeshi professionals to expand their administration in
527 Assam. East Bangladeshis also used to work in Bangladesh as peasant to cultivate the
528 agricultural land of Assam. The Britishers made it easy for them to work in Bangladesh.
529 (Das, 2016). In post-independence the world knows how India played a pivotal role to make
530 Bangladesh a free country from West Pakistan. The historical ties between India and
531 Bangladesh is a significant push factor for migration. These relations are characterized by
532 shared history, cultural bonds, and historical events like the 1971 Liberation War, which have
533 fostered economic, social, and familial ties. These connections make migration easier for
534 Bangladeshis as India is a second home for them.

535 *Linguistic and ethnic link:* The division of East & West Pakistan was triggered when Bangla
536 language was oppressed by Urdu speaking people. They fought for the respect and autonomy
537 of their language. The point is they speak Bangla which is the official language of West
538 Bengal. This shared linguistic heritage eliminates language barriers, making it easier for
539 migrants to integrate socially and economically in West Bengal. There are various estimates
540 of presence of illegal Bangladeshi migrants in West Bengal such as in 2004, Sriprakash
541 Jaiswal, the then Minister of State for Home Affairs, informed the Indian Parliament that
542 there were approximately 12 million illegal Bangladeshi migrants in India, with West Bengal
543 accounting for about 5.7 million of them. (BBC, 2020).

544 Religious Link: Bangladesh is a Muslim majority country with policies based on
545 Islamisation, along with anti-Hindu sentiments, it creates a state of fear and insecurity among
546 the Hindu population of the country. Economist Dr. Abul Barkat of Dhaka University has
547 conducted extensive research on the migration of Hindus from Bangladesh. According to his
548 findings, from 1964 to 2013, approximately 11.3 million Hindus left Bangladesh due to
549 religious persecution and discrimination. This equates to an average of about 230,612
550 individuals per year, or roughly 632 people per day. (Hasan, 2025). For Bangladeshi Hindus,
551 India seems a safe place to practice and profess their religion which is one of the reasons
552 which pressurize them to leave their country. In the last year 2024, the PM Sheikh Hasina of
553 Bangladesh was overthrown due to her authoritarian rule and left the country. The news was
554 roaming around all over the world about Hindus being targeted and killed. Hindu residents
555 confirmed episodes of vandalism and mob violence, particularly after the arrest of a Hindu
556 monk in November, also they claim that Hindu temples vandalized and set on fire in
557 Bangladesh. Bangladesh constitutes 9 % of Hindus surrounded by overwhelming majority of
558 Muslims, feels threatened and insecure. (Saif Hasnat, 2024).

559 **Dual analysis of inter and intra migration: Study of South Asia**

560 Migration is not merely an act of crossing borders, it is a profound testament to humanity's
561 enduring quest for a better future. Currently, approximately 281 million people worldwide
562 reside outside their countries of origin. This raises a critical question: why do individuals
563 choose to leave their homelands? Various factors drive migration, ranging from education
564 and employment opportunities to more complex and pressing circumstances. This paper
565 focuses on undocumented and irregular migrants, who often leave their countries due to
566 unfavorable conditions in their homelands. These individuals are compelled by vulnerability
567 and despair to seek refuge in foreign lands. Specifically, the study explores the migration of
568 South Asians to Western countries, primarily due to the inability of their home nations to
569 ensure fair working conditions, adequate living standards, equitable wages, and just resource
570 allocation. Weak governance, political instability, and widespread poverty in developing
571 nations have forced millions to seek opportunities in more developed and economically stable
572 countries. In South Asia, impoverished conditions create a psychological narrative that
573 migrating to Western nations will secure a better future for migrants and their families.
574 However, this vision of a prosperous life often collides with a harsh reality. The "Dunki
575 Route" serves as a stark example of how people are manipulated by the allure of the so-called
576 "American or Western Dream." Desperate individuals invest their life savings in agents who
577 exploit their vulnerability, often leading to tragic outcomes. Many lose their lives during the
578 journey, while others fall victim to criminal networks, smugglers, and human traffickers.
579 Female migrants, in particular, face heightened risks, including forced prostitution, sexual
580 assault, and exploitation. The root causes of irregular migration can often be traced back to
581 systemic failures in governance. If workers were paid fair wages, if unemployed individuals
582 could find meaningful jobs, and if people were protected from discrimination, persecution,
583 and threats, the prevalence of illegal migration would significantly decrease. A fair
584 distribution of wealth and resources, coupled with a commitment to human rights, could
585 prevent countless individuals from undertaking these dangerous journeys.

586 Intra-regional migration within South Asia also reflects the economic hardships faced by its
587 people. Many irregular migrants choose India as their destination due to its position as the
588 largest economy in the region. However, the region's diversity, often considered its strength,
589 has also become a source of division. The emphasis on racial, ethnic, linguistic, and religious

590 identities has fueled animosity, leading to persecution and insecurity for minority groups.
591 This, in turn, forces many to seek asylum in search of safety and dignity. Ethnic tensions
592 across South Asia frequently result in regional terrorism, mass killings, human rights
593 violations, property destruction, and large-scale migrations. These conflicts highlight the
594 urgent need for systemic reforms to address the underlying economic and social crises.

595 In conclusion, **illegal migration is often a coerced decision rather than a voluntary**
596 **choice**. No one willingly leaves their home and family unless compelled by dire
597 circumstances. The persistent economic and ethnic crises in developing countries are key
598 drivers of irregular migration. Addressing these root causes with robust governance, equitable
599 resource distribution, and a commitment to protecting human rights is essential in reducing
600 illegal migration and safeguarding the lives of vulnerable populations. Both inter and intra
601 migration in South Asia are driven by a shared factor: limited opportunities and the pursuit of
602 a better life. However, the pathways taken and obstacles encountered differ.

603 **Conclusion:**

604 Migration both inter and intra, remains a defining feature of South Asia and its socio-
605 economic landscape driven by aspiration for a better and the harsh realities of limited
606 opportunities. While inter migration from South Asia to western nation is fuelled by
607 economic deprivation and allure of an NRI identity, intra-migration within the region is
608 deeply rooted in socio-political factor such as economic inequality, ethnic conflict and civil
609 unrest. The perilous nature of illegal migration, particularly through routes like Dunky route,
610 highlights the desperation of those who seek opportunity abroad, often at risk of their lives.
611 Similarly the continuous influx of undocumented migrants within South Asia, particularly
612 from Bangladesh to India underscores the region's complex migration dynamics. Both form
613 of migration intertwined with broader concern such as human trafficking, border security and
614 refugee management creates challenges for policy making. Apart from discussing dual
615 analysis, another aspect that have been examined is the compelling situation in both forms of
616 migration where individuals migrate with the urge of having dignified life, socio-economic
617 development and social security. It is not only the fault of migrants taking illegal ways to
618 migrate but we also need to draw our attention over inability of home countries to provide
619 better life and security. The refugee rights are also human right that every nation and entire
620 world need to remember. Recognizing the dignity and survival of those displaced is shared
621 responsibility of all humanity.

622 **Bibliography**

- 623 Bank, W. (2025). *Migration & Remittances Overview*. The World Bank.
- 624 BBC. (2020). India and Bangladesh: Migration claims fact-checked. *BBC News*. Retrieved
625 from <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-51575565>
- 626 BBC. (2020). India and Bangladesh: Migration claims fact-checked. *BBC*.
- 627 Bhawra, V. K. (2013). *Irregular Migration from India to the EU: Evidence from the Punjab*.
628 CARIM INDIA.
- 629 Bodean Hedwards, L. B. (2023). *SMUGGLING AND ITS INTERSECTION WITH HUMAN*
630 *TRAFFICKING IN SOUTH AND SOUTH EAST ASIA*. Global Initiative Against
631 Transnation Organization Crime.

632 Bureau, T. H. (2025). U.S. has sent back over 15,000 Indians since 2009, data provided by
633 Jaishankar shows. *The Hindu*.

634 Burki, S. J. (2011). South Asian Diasporas: Agents of Change in a Poorly Integrated Region.
635 *Institute of South Asian Studies*.

636 Business, T. (2024). What is Donkey Route Map | Is Donkey Visa Safe. *Slide Share* .

637 Canada, S. (2024). *A statistical snapshot of Asians in Canada*.

638 Chhabra, R. (2023). Donkey flight: The craze for foreign shores. *The Sunday Guardian*.
639 Retrieved from [https://sundayguardianlive.com/news/donkey-flight-the-craze-for-](https://sundayguardianlive.com/news/donkey-flight-the-craze-for-foreign-shores?utm_source=chatgpt.com)
640 [foreign-shores?utm_source=chatgpt.com](https://sundayguardianlive.com/news/donkey-flight-the-craze-for-foreign-shores?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

641 Crime, U. N. (2015). *Combating violence against migrants: Criminal justice measures to*
642 *prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish violence against migrants, migrant workers*
643 *and their families and to protect victims*. United Nations. UNODC. Retrieved from
644 [https://www.unodc.org/documents/justice-and-prison-](https://www.unodc.org/documents/justice-and-prison-reform/UNODC_Combating_Violence_against_Migrants.pdf)
645 [reform/UNODC_Combating_Violence_against_Migrants.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/justice-and-prison-reform/UNODC_Combating_Violence_against_Migrants.pdf)

646 Das, P. (2016). *Illegal Migration From Bangladesh Deportation, Border Fences and Work*
647 *Permits* (Vol. 56). New Delhi: Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses. Retrieved
648 from <https://idsa.in/system/files/monograph/monograph56.pdf>

649 Dayal, R. (2013). Regional Forum of Freight Forwarders Multimodel Transport Provider and
650 Logistic Service Provider . *AITD India* .

651 Doctor, T. (2023). What is the average salary in Asia? Retrieved from
652 <https://www.timedoctor.com/blog/average-salary-in-asia/>

653 Dowd, R. (2008). Trapped in transit: the plight and human rights of stranded migrants.
654 *UNHRC*, 1-7.

655 Economy, C. (2023). South Asia Association of Regional cooperation SAARC Economy.
656 *Contryeconomy.com*.

657 Fleck, A. (2024). Decline of Poverty Has Slowed. *Statista*. Retrieved from
658 [https://www.statista.com/chart/33269/population-living-in-poverty-worldwide-and-in-](https://www.statista.com/chart/33269/population-living-in-poverty-worldwide-and-in-south-asia/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)
659 [south-asia/?utm_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.statista.com/chart/33269/population-living-in-poverty-worldwide-and-in-south-asia/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

660 Graeme Hugo, G. T. (2014). *Indonesia as transit country in irregular migration to Australia*
661 . Department of Immigration and Border Protection .

662 Guardian, T. (2015). Shocking images of drowned Syrian boy show tragic plight of refugees.
663 *The Guardian*. Retrieved from
664 [https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/sep/02/shocking-image-of-drowned-syrian-](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/sep/02/shocking-image-of-drowned-syrian-boy-shows-tragic-plight-of-refugees)
665 [boy-shows-tragic-plight-of-refugees](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/sep/02/shocking-image-of-drowned-syrian-boy-shows-tragic-plight-of-refugees)

666 Hasan, M. K. (2025). ‘No Hindus will be left after 30 years’. *Dhaka Tribune* .

667 Hussain, A. (2024). Pakistan says registered Afghan refugees can stay for one more year.
668 *Aljazeera*.

- 669 India, T. o. (2024). Is the study abroad dream of Indian students a 'disease' or a symptom of a
670 larger crisis? A deep dive into the economic implications, root causes, and way
671 forward. *The Times of India*. *Times of India*.
- 672 India, T. o. (2025). Indian immigrants deported: A big business of donkey route. *TOI*.
- 673 India, T. o. (2025). Indian Immigrants deported: A big business of donkey route. *TOI*.
- 674 Institute, M. P. (2022). *Profile of the Unauthorized Population*:. MPI.
- 675 IOM. (2021). *Migration and Migrants: Regional Dimensions and Developments*. IOM
676 Global.
- 677 IRC. (2022). Is it legal to cross the U.S. border to seek asylum? *International Rescue*
678 *Committee*.
- 679 Islam, A. (2022). Migrants from India attempt to reach the EU via Balkans. *DW*. Retrieved
680 from [https://www.dw.com/en/why-are-migrants-from-india-attempting-to-reach-the-](https://www.dw.com/en/why-are-migrants-from-india-attempting-to-reach-the-eu-via-balkan-route/a-60903073)
681 [eu-via-balkan-route/a-60903073](https://www.dw.com/en/why-are-migrants-from-india-attempting-to-reach-the-eu-via-balkan-route/a-60903073)
- 682 Jha, M. (2023). How real-life 'Dunki' bet everything for a life in US. *India Today*. Retrieved
683 from [https://www.indiatoday.in/sunday-special/story/real-life-dunki-haryana-punjab-](https://www.indiatoday.in/sunday-special/story/real-life-dunki-haryana-punjab-agents-donkey-route-us-america-uk-canada-immigration-agents-2467571-2023-11-26)
684 [agents-donkey-route-us-america-uk-canada-immigration-agents-2467571-2023-11-26](https://www.indiatoday.in/sunday-special/story/real-life-dunki-haryana-punjab-agents-donkey-route-us-america-uk-canada-immigration-agents-2467571-2023-11-26)
- 685 Lusome, R. &. (2020). Migration in Northeast India: Inflows, outflows and reverse flows
686 during pandemic. *The Indian Journal of Labour Economics*.
- 687 Mary Hanna, J. B. (2021). Immigrants from Asia in the United States. *Migratin Policy*
688 *Institute MPI*.
- 689 Mayilvaganan, M. (2019). Illegal Migration and Strategic Challenges:A Case Study of
690 Undocumented Migration from Bangladesh to India. *Artha-Journal of Social*
691 *Sciences*, 18, 25-32. Retrieved from
692 <https://journals.christuniversity.in/index.php/artha/article/view/2174/1738>
- 693 Mayilvaganan, M. (2019). Illegal Migration and Strategic Challenges:A Case Study of
694 Undocumented Migration from Bangladesh to India. *Artha-Journal of Social*
695 *Sciences*, 24-52.
- 696 Migration, I. O. (2018). Undocumented Afghans. *IOM PAKISTAN*. Retrieved from
697 <https://pakistan.iom.int/undocumented-afghans>
- 698 Migration, I. O. (2024). *Migration and Migrants: Regional Dimensions and Developments*.
699 IOM. Retrieved from [https://worldmigrationreport.iom.int/what-we-do/world-](https://worldmigrationreport.iom.int/what-we-do/world-migration-report-2024-chapter-3/asia?utm_source=chatgpt.com)
700 [migration-report-2024-chapter-3/asia?utm_source=chatgpt.com](https://worldmigrationreport.iom.int/what-we-do/world-migration-report-2024-chapter-3/asia?utm_source=chatgpt.com)
- 701 Mishra, S. (2018). Illegal Cross-Border Migration in South Asia: Impediments to Regional
702 Peace and Stability. *Contemporary concerns*, 205-2015.
- 703 MMC. (2019). Rohingya migration to India: patterns, drivers and experiences. *Mixed*
704 *Migration Centre*, 3-13. Retrieved from [https://mixedmigration.org/wp-](https://mixedmigration.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/063_briefing-paper_Rohingya_India.pdf)
705 [content/uploads/2019/04/063_briefing-paper_Rohingya_India.pdf](https://mixedmigration.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/063_briefing-paper_Rohingya_India.pdf)

706 Mohan, G. (2025). 487 more illegal Indian migrants to be deported from US soon:
707 Government. *India Today*.

708 News, T. M. (2021). Transnational Migration in South Asia: Trends, Causes & Factors.
709 *Global research forum on diaspora and transformation (GRFDT)*.

710 Olbrycht-Palmer, J. (2025). Australia responsible for arbitrary detention of asylum seekers,
711 UN committee finds. *NEWS*. Retrieved from
712 [https://www.news.com.au/national/politics/australia-responsible-for-arbitrary-](https://www.news.com.au/national/politics/australia-responsible-for-arbitrary-detention-of-asylum-seekers-un-committee-finds/news-story/b260eed605366e19bf313b9b29002dbe?utm_source=chatgpt.com)
713 [detention-of-asylum-seekers-un-committee-finds/news-](https://www.news.com.au/national/politics/australia-responsible-for-arbitrary-detention-of-asylum-seekers-un-committee-finds/news-story/b260eed605366e19bf313b9b29002dbe?utm_source=chatgpt.com)
714 [story/b260eed605366e19bf313b9b29002dbe?utm_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.news.com.au/national/politics/australia-responsible-for-arbitrary-detention-of-asylum-seekers-un-committee-finds/news-story/b260eed605366e19bf313b9b29002dbe?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

715 Pascual, J. (2024). In France, the reasons behind immigration are becoming more diverse. *Le*
716 *Monde*.

717 Phillip Connor, J. S. (2019). *Europe's Unauthorized Immigrant Population Peaks in 2016,*
718 *Then Levels Off*. Pew Research Center.

719 Portal, M. D. (2019). *Migration data in Southern Asia*. Retrieved from
720 <https://www.migrationdataportal.org/regional-data-overview/southern-asia>

721 Portal, M. d. (2025). *Migration data in Southern Asia*. Migratin Data Portal.

722 Rajan, S. I. (2023). Migration in South Asia: Old and New Mobilities. *Springer Nature Link*.

723 Saif Hasnat, M. M. (2024). Sorting Fact From Fiction as Fear Engulfs Bangladesh's Hindus.
724 *The New York Times*.

725 Schöch, R. (2008). Afghan refugees in Pakistan during the 1980s: Cold War politics and
726 registration practice. *UNHCR*, 1-5.

727 Security, U. D. (2024). Securing The Border. *Homeland Security*. Retrieved from
728 <https://www.dhs.gov/immigrationlaws>

729 Statista. (2023). European Union: Share in global gross domestic product based on
730 purchasing-power-parity from 2019 to 2029. Retrieved from
731 [https://www.statista.com/statistics/253512/share-of-the-eu-in-the-inflation-adjusted-](https://www.statista.com/statistics/253512/share-of-the-eu-in-the-inflation-adjusted-global-gross-domestic-product/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)
732 [global-gross-domestic-product/?utm_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.statista.com/statistics/253512/share-of-the-eu-in-the-inflation-adjusted-global-gross-domestic-product/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

733 Statistics, A. B. (2023). Australia's Population by Country of Birth,. *ABS Website*.

734 Sullivan, D. P. (2024). A Lifetime in Detention: Rohingya Refugees in India. *Refugee*
735 *International*.

736 Taer, J. (2024). Migrant holding centers in a key border region are overflowing — despite
737 Biden's border 'crackdown'. *New York Post*.

738 UNHCR. (2024). Rohingya Refugee Crisis Explained. *UNHCR*. Retrieved from
739 <https://www.unrefugees.org/news/rohingya-refugee-crisis-explained/>

740 UNHCR. (n.d.). Proof of Registration Card (PoR). *UN High Commission for refugees*.
741 Retrieved from <https://help.unhcr.org/pakistan/proof-of-registration-card-por/>

742 UNHRC. (2024). Rohingya Refugee Crisis Explained. *UNHRC*.

743 United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, P. D. (2013). Irregular
744 migration, human trafficking and refugees. In International migration policies:
745 Government views and priorities. *United Nations*, 91-104. Retrieved from
746 https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/policy/InternationalMigrationPolicies2013/Report%20PDFs/k_Ch_5.pdf
747

748 United Nations, D. o. (2015). *International migration report 2015: Highlights*. Retrieved
749 from
750 https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/publications/migrationreport/docs/MigrationReport2015_Highlights.pdf
751

752 UNODC. (2024). MIGRANT SMUGGLING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. *SOM Observatory* .
753 Retrieved from
754 <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/24c172302ab64ad0b786ee16fa8e601c>

755 Wikipidea. (2017). Refugee Crisis.
756
757
758
759

UNDER PEER REVIEW IN IJAR