

Kenya



I Demographic Features of the Country

Kenya was a British colony and got its independence on 12 December 1963. Founding president and liberation struggle icon Jomo KENYATTA led Kenya from independence in 1963 until his death in 1978, when President Daniel Toroitich arap MOI took power in a constitutional succession. The country was a de facto one-party state from 1969 until 1982 when the ruling Kenya African National Union (KANU) made itself the sole legal party in Kenya. MOI acceded to internal and external pressure for political liberalization in late 1991. The ethnically fractured opposition failed to dislodge KANU from power in elections in 1992 and 1997, which were marred by violence and fraud, but were viewed as having generally reflected the will of the Kenyan people. President MOI stepped down in December 2002 following fair and peaceful elections..

Capital: Nairobi

Population: 34,707,817 (estimated)

Age Structure:

0-14 years: 42.6% (male 7,454,765/female 7,322,130)

15-64 years: 55.1% (male 9,631,488/female 9,508,068)

65 years and over: 2.3% (male 359,354/female 432,012) (2006 est.)

Ethnic Group: Kikuyu 22%, Luhya 14%, Luo 13%, Kalenjin 12%, Kamba 11%, Kisii 6%, Meru 6%, other African 15%, non-African (Asian, European, and Arab) 1%

Economy: The regional hub for trade and finance in East Africa, Kenya has been hampered by corruption and by reliance upon several primary goods whose prices have remained low. A severe drought from 1999 to 2000 compounded Kenya's problems, causing water and energy rationing and reducing agricultural output. As a result, GDP contracted by 0.2% in 2000. Despite the return of strong rains in 2001, weak commodity prices, endemic corruption, and low investment limited Kenya's economic growth to 1.2%. Growth lagged at 1.1% in 2002 because of erratic rains, low investor confidence, meager donor support, and political infighting up to the elections. In the key December 2002 elections, Daniel Arap Moi's 24-year-old reign ended, and a new opposition government took on the formidable economic problems facing the nation. In 2003, progress was made in rooting out corruption and encouraging donor support. GDP grew more than 5% in 2005

Labour Participation: Agriculture 75%

II Indian Diaspora

1. Size of Indian Diaspora:

There are over 75,000 people of Indian origin including Indian passport holders (about 0.36 percent of total population). Indians handle between 30-35 percent of total economy .Of these, about 75% are Kenyans citizens, 10% are British overseas citizens and about 15% are Indian citizens (NRIs).

2. Geographical spread of the Indian Diaspora

Though concentrated pocket of Indian diaspora is not known it seems that they have settled around business cities like Nairobi.

3. Profile of Indian Diaspora

Indians are comfortably settled after lot of hardship, most of them are engaged in agriculture and business but new diaspora is engaged in Professional like Engineers, Marketing, Accountants, Technicians, Teaching, etc. They have migrated from various part through old diaspora mainly belong to Punjab and Gujarat region but in recent wave of migration to Kenya, many Indians from Southern Part of India like Andhra and Tamilnadu have migrated. Gujaratis are more than any other community in Kenya however the members of other communities like keralite, Andhraite and Tamilnadu is growing faster. Kerala Association is as old as almost 70 years old in Kenya.

4. Brief history of Diaspora

Migration to east African countries started In 19th Century. The bulk of Indians labour brought to East Africa to built the *Mombasa - Kampala railway line and to work in* agricultural fields. Most of them belonged to Punjab region, many

were killed in by wild animals while laying the railway line later, many of them, mostly from Gujarat , started moving in and established in retail business in different parts of the country. There were referred as 'Dukawallas' and now they own most of the corner shops. These Indians were brought by British colonizers and became visibly rich. In initial years, Indians were not politically active but later they started asserting and made ways in political system by forming Kenya Indian Youth Congress. However in 1967, government of Kenya started the Kenyanisation of its economy when all non-citizens, largely India, were asked to take work and residence permit and allowed them to trade in restricted areas. Indian government asked people of Indian origin to integrate in local culture and give their British passport but PIO were not agreed to this. Later, many Indian moved to various part of the world and some returned to India. However, in early 80s Indians started migrated to Kenya but in high skilled jobs. At present, Indians are

5. Known Distinguished Diaspora

There are couple of well known Business Magnets who are proud to Indians are also there in Kenya. Mr. Manu Chandaria is top among them who bagged the Bharatiya Pravaasi Award from by then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee in the second BPD event held in Delhi. Chandharia Group has many Industries in Kenya and many other Countries. He is also a Philanthropist who really does a lot on charity.

6. Concerns and Problems of Indian Diaspora

New immigration policy - africanizsaion

7. Diaspora Publications

8. Diaspora Relations

Technological Transfers

India-Kenya partnership in technology transfer for small and medium industries has been very strong in the areas of technical assistance involving the exchange of experts and know-how. National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) helped Kenyan Industrial Estate Limited and Appropriate technology Advisory Committee to develop and promote small and medium industries in Kenya. Indian government provided assistance by way of supply of machinery and equipment and started industries under the Kenya Industrial Estate Limited programme. Apart from the efforts of National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) experts to help Kenya, many private consultants from India also rendered consultancy services to Kenyan Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

Bilateral Agreements:

A fresh Agreement on the Cultural Exchange Programme between India and Kenya for the years 2003 – 2006 was signed on July 22, 2003 in Nairobi during the first meeting of the Indo-Kenya Joint Commission meeting

9. Local Laws affecting Indian Diaspora

Yet to explore

10. Diaspora Associations

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