

Country Brief - United Kingdom



I Demographic Feature of the country

Name of the country: United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland

Capital: London

Population: 58.8 million

Age structure:

0-14 years: 17.5% (male 5,417,663/female 5,161,714)

15-64 years: 66.8% (male 20,476,571/female 19,988,959)

65 years and over: 15.8% (male 4,087,020/female 5,477,226) (2006 est.)

Languages spoken: English (official language), Welsh and Gaelic are also spoken in Wales and Scotland respectively

Ethnic Group:

white (of which English 83.6%, Scottish 8.6%, Welsh 4.9%, Northern Irish 2.9%) 92.1%, black 2%, Indian 1.8%, Pakistani 1.3%, mixed 1.2%, other 1.6% (2001 census)

Economy and international Relation:

It has close relationship with the United States, EU, plays a key role in the conduct of international relations. Economy open to foreign investment and international trade, flexible labour markets. The UK, a leading trading power and financial center, is one of the trillion dollar economies of the world. Over the past two decades the government has whittled down public ownership. The UK has large coal, natural gas, and oil reserves. Services, particularly banking, insurance, and business services, account by far for the largest proportion of GDP while industry continues to decline in importance. GDP growth was 3.2% in 2004 and 1.75% in 2005. Inflation, interest rates, and unemployment remain low.

Migration and UK

According to 2001 Census, 4.9 million (8.3 per cent) of the total population of the UK were born overseas. This is more than double the 2.1 million (4.2 per cent) in 1951.

II Indian Diaspora**1 Demographic Features of the Indian Diaspora**

The Indian emigrant community in the United Kingdom is now in its third generation. As an immigrant group, people of Indian origin have been remarkably successful. Stereotypes about Indians have now moved from their being bus-conductors, waiters, and small shopkeepers to their being doctors, lawyers, accountants and successful businesspeople. Increasingly, the second and third generation of Indians has started inter-marrying with the rest of the population, to the point where this has in itself become a stereotype. Indian culture has been

constantly referenced within wider British culture, at first as an "exotic" influence in films like *My Beautiful Laundrette*, but now increasingly as a familiar feature in films like *Bend It Like Beckham*. Indian food is now regarded as part of the British cuisine.

2 Size of Indian Diaspora:

According to the UK National Census 2001, there are **569,800 Indians**, referring to 'Non Resident Indians' or first generation Indians (though HLIC committee report identifies Indians as 12,00,000). This above figure is low than HLIC report since census does not take into account those Indians who migrated to UK from British colonies. Moreover, it does not segregate the PIO from British citizen. It may be said that 569,800 Indians belong to 1950s period, categorized as foreign born in census, means those who migrated to the UK for studies or professional reasons in 1950s and thereafter. The below mentioned table presents the religious segregation of New Indian Diaspora in the UK as per 2001 census:

| | Christian | Buddhist | Hindu | Jewish | Muslim | Sikh | Any other religion | No religion | Religion not stated | All People |
|------------------------|-----------|----------|-------|--------|--------|-------|--------------------|-------------|---------------------|------------|
| Asian or Asian British | 0.25 | 9.64 | 96.56 | 0.72 | 73.65 | 96.18 | 13.73 | 0.40 | 3.11 | 4.37 |
| Indian | 0.14 | 1.30 | 84.46 | 0.26 | 8.51 | 91.48 | 12.03 | 0.23 | 1.20 | 1.99 |

Source: Census, April 2001, Office for National Statistics England and Wales

2001 Census revealed that 4.37% of the population identified themselves as "Asian" or "Asian British", Out of this about 2.46 million people, identifying themselves as of "Asian" descent. (in the UK context, "Asian" means Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi). Where as Indians is approximately 2 percent of total population with Leicester having the highest proportion (25.7 per cent).

Person of Indian Origins constitute the single largest ethnic minority in Britain. Amongst the Indian immigrants, the latest number, approximately 45 percent hails from Punjab (HLCID, 2001). Gujarati consisting of Hindus and Muslims, Islamis and Bohras constitute an equally large ethnic group. The diaspora from Bihar, Bengal and UP states are in small in size.

3 Brief History of Indian Migration:

The presence of Indians in U.K. is primarily a result of the interaction between the British Raj and India. The acute shortage of labour after the Second World War resulted in large migrations from India. In sectors like health, Indian presence became crucial. There was the second flow of emigrants after the expulsion of Indians in Uganda. Today, the Indian community is well represented in every walk of life. Although some Asians had settled in the United Kingdom, either temporarily or permanently, before the Second World War (including, most notably, the young Mohandas Gandhi), most Asian immigration to the UK took place in the 1950s and 1960s from Commonwealth of Nations countries such as India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, at the same time as immigrants from former Caribbean colonies were also moving to Britain. Although this immigration was continuous, three distinct phases can be identified: (i) Manual workers were recruited to fulfil the labour shortage that resulted from World War II. These included Anglo-Indians who were recruited to work on the railways as they had done in India. (ii) Medical staff, particularly doctors from West Bengal and Punjab, were recruited for the newly formed National Health Service. These people were targeted because they spoke English and held qualifications which were recognized in the UK and (iii) During the 1970's large numbers of East African Asians, who already held British passports, entered the UK after they were forced to leave Kenya and Uganda. Many of these people had been store-keepers in Africa and opened shops when they arrived in the UK, thereby reviving the traditional British corner-shop which until that point had been in decline.

The Commonwealth Immigrants Act 1962 and Immigration Act 1971 largely restricted any further primary immigration, although family members of already-settled migrants were still allowed. In addition, much of the subsequent growth in the British Asian community has come from the births of second- and third-generation Asian Britons.

4 Profile of Indian Diaspora

Generally, Indians are highly qualified and engaged in medical, engineering and other scientific professionals. National Health Service is greatly dependent on the services of doctors from India. There is a large number of student community as well. Indians are also well represented in both Houses of Parliament and in the major political parties. However, a majority of original immigrants from East Africa are in small and medium scale business and also the health the sector. Per capita income of the community is higher than the national average.

5 Geographical Spread of Indian Diaspora

Indians are mainly concentrated in Leicester area (especially Belgrave, Rushey Mead, Highfields, Spinney Hills, Evington) and has high concentration in other areas like Bedford (Queens Park, Cauldwell), Birmingham Sparkhill, Sparkbrook, Glasgow (especially Pollokshields, Pollokshaws and Woodlands), Leeds (Harehills, Chapeltown) and London (especially Tower Hamlets, Newham, Hounslow, Brent, Southall, Ilford, Harrow). HLCID report also confirms that Indians over 40 percent population live in inner and outer London.

7 Known Distinguished Diaspora

Indians have risen to very high level in UK and it is said that there are about 300 important NRI business man and 150 rich and prominent Indians

(HLCID,2002). The number is increasing. Some of the important personalities are Lord Swaraj Paul, Laxmi Mittal, Shrichand, Gopichand Hinduja, Hotelier Jasminder Singh, Manu Bhai Madhavanim, Gulu Lalvani, etc

8 Concerns and Problems of Indian Diaspora:

In a few local areas, ethnic tension has resulted in ill-feeling and racist violence against immigrants, and groups such as the British National Party have exploited this. However, in general, racism towards people of Indian origin has greatly reduced from the early days of mass immigration after Partition and the expulsion of the Ugandan Indians.

Recent case of nursing and medical professionals (to be explored in more details)

9 Diaspora Relations

Indians have maintained good relation with diaspora ethnic community and generally considered non-infering.

10 Local Laws affecting Indian Diaspora –

UK introduced point based Immigration system in 2002 which focused on high skilled migration and having provision for permanent settlement. There are various incidence of racial discrimination, recent being with Indian doctors.

11 Diaspora Associations

UK has about 1000 Indian diaspora associations which are divided on six lines.

- Associations based on religious identity
- Associations based on regional or ethnic identity
- Associations based on political orientation

- Associations based on Alma- mater/students
- Associations based on professional/business/occupational identity
- Associations based on developmental/charity orientation
- Associations based on commercial activities