

Indian Diaspora Down Under* : A Socio-economic perspective

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Abstract

Today, Indian Community is one of the fastest growing communities in Australia. As on 2012, there were over 450, 000 people of Indian origin who call Australia home. India has also been identified as one of the five key regional nations that are most important to Australia- with an ambitious plan laid to double two-way trade to USD 40 billion by 2015 (The Hindu, 2012). But, there is still a way to go- many issues to be solved and many challenges to be overcome in facilitating such long-term, mutually-beneficial relationship and 'people matters' in making such relationship a success. Indians in Australia are spread wide-and-far across the country. With its varied ethnic composition, they are a diverse lot in themselves- with myriad of experiences, sentiments, beliefs, skills and backgrounds. This article is based on a broader research that tapped into the experiences of a variety of people of Indian origin living in Australia that include eminent scientists, social activists, medical professionals, policy makers, business men, academics and IT professionals while simultaneously gathering enormous amount of secondary data. Their range of responses from apprehension, to agony, to acclamation along with other factual data is a repository of information and collection of sentiments.

* : Colloquially, Australia is known as the country down under. The term comes from the fact that Australia is located in the Southern Hemisphere, 'below' many other countries on the globe (Wikipedia, 2014).