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Korean Diaspora in India in the Context of Korean Investment: An Overview

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Abstract:

The Korean diaspora in India plays a significant role to strengthening the India-Korea economic and trade relations. The present study had identified four features of the Korean diaspora in India: Firstly, the growth of the Korean diaspora in India is driven by increased Korean investment in the country. Secondly, the concentration of the diaspora is observed in main industrial clusters across India, influenced by the formation of industrial clusters led by large Korean companies. Thirdly, the diaspora consists primarily of expatriate and business groups. Lastly, the decision to disperse of the Korean diaspora to

India is predominantly based on economic rational choice. However, compared to Korean investment-driven diasporas in other major late-mover advantage countries, the Korean diaspora in India remains relatively small. To further enhance the India-Korea economic and trade relations, it is imperative for both nations to reassess their immigration policies, foster people-to-people exchanges, and collaborate on creating a platform that encourages greater dispersal of Koreans to India.

Keywords: Korean Diaspora; Korean Investment; India; Korea; Economic and Trade Relations

1. Introduction

Koreans¹ have a rich history of dispersing to various parts of the world. In the era of economic globalization, this diaspora continues to expand, driven by rational economic choices (Bergsten, C. F., Choi, I., & Ch'oe, I. B. (Eds.) 2003)². India, being a major developing country, holds significant appeal as an important investment destination for Korean companies. Consequently, Koreans, including expatriates of Korean companies and businesspersons searching new opportunities, have been dispersing to India alongside these investments. As a result, the Korean diaspora has been growing in size and exhibiting a certain degree of agglomeration. Korean expatriates and businesspersons in India play a vital role as operators or front-line practitioners for Korean

¹ Korea could refer to either South Korea or North Korea. In this Study, Korea is used to refer to South Korea or the Republic of Korea (RoK), while Koreans refer to South Koreans. In the case of Korea and North Korea combined, a bracket would be added following the word Korea, such as Korea (South & North), or Koreans (South & North).

² Bergsten, C. F., Choi, I., & Ch'oe, I. B. (Eds.). (2003). *The Korean diaspora in the world economy* (Vol. 15). Peterson Institute.



companies, contributing significantly to the success of Korean investment in India. The progress of India-Korea relations, particularly in terms of economic and trade cooperation, is intricately linked to the performance of Korean companies operating in India. Thus, the presence and influence of the Korean diaspora in India hold significant importance of the development of India-Korea economic and trade relations. Consequently, a thorough examination of the Korean diaspora in India is becomes an essential component in understanding the dynamics of India-Korea relations. Building on this understanding, the current study aims to conduct a comprehensive analysis the of Korean diaspora in India.

2. Review of Literature:

Diaspora Studies is a complicated field, encompassing various levels and theories that make it a multidimensional subject. Its vastness and diversity often draw parallels to the tale of *Blind Men and the Elephant*, where each scholar perceives and emphasizes different aspects of diaspora issues based on their individual interests, research approaches, and theoretical frameworks (DeWind, J. 2020)³.

However, international diaspora research has gained significant attention in academia, leading to the emergence of foundational theories. Li Ming-Huan categorizes diaspora theories into three orientations: the theory of economic rational choice, which emphasizes market orientation; The conflict theory of civilization which explores political connotation; and the theory of trans-nationalism, which highlights the impact of globalization (Li M.H. 2010)⁴. The theory of economic rational choice provides a theoretical framework to understand the driving force behind the Korean diaspora in India. From an economic standpoint, diaspora is a 'business' (Salt, J., & Stein, J. 1997)⁵ or a 'family business' (Herman, E. 2006)⁶, representing an individual or their family's evaluation of the costs and benefits associated with their human resource investment. Choi In-Bom's research offers a comprehensive overview of the global distribution of the Korean diaspora. In 2001, the Korean diaspora was mainly concentrated in the United States (38%), China (33%), Japan (11%), the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) (9%) and Canada (2%), accounting for 93% of the total Korean diaspora population (Choi, I. 2003)⁷. Yoon In-Jin focuses on the Korean diaspora In China, CIS, Japan, the United States and Canada, examining immigration, settlement, and adaptation, and identifying commonalities among Korean diaspora communities in these countries

³ DeWind, J. (2020). Blind Men and the Elephant: One View of the Field of Migration Studies. *Comparative Migration Studies*, 8, 1-16.

⁴ Li M.H. (2010). *A Reflection on Contemporary Western International Migration Theory* (Doctoral dissertation)

⁵ Salt, J., & Stein, J. (1997). Migration as A Business: The Case of Trafficking. *International Migration*, 35(4), 467-494.

⁶ Herman, E. (2006). Migration as A Family Business: The Role of Personal Networks in the Mobility Phase of Migration. *International Migration*, 44(4), 191-23.

⁷ Choi, I. (2003). Korean Diaspora in the Making: Its Current Status and Impact on the Korean Economy. *The Korean Diaspora in the World Economy*, 9, 2. Retrieved from https://www.piie.com/publications/chapters_preview/365/2iie3586.pdf



or regions (Yoon, I. J. 2006)⁸. Researchers studying the Korean diaspora tend to concentrate on the key countries or regions where the majority of Koreans reside. The proportion of the Korean diaspora in India is relatively small and seemingly insignificant, which has resulted in limited discussion among scholars. Korean diaspora in India is characterized by its small scale and strong correlation with Korean investment in the country. Consequently, studies on the Korean diaspora in India are often intertwined with research on Korean companies operating in India. For instance, Kim Hyeong-Deug examines the cultural adaptability training provided to Korean managers dispatched to India using cross-cultural management theory (Kim, H. D. 2021)⁹. Park Keun-Hyung conducts empirical research on the relationship between living environment characteristics and cognitive traits in India, as well as the impact of the expatriates and their families on the performance of invested companies (Park. K. H. 2020)¹⁰. Moreover, academia also explores the life stories of non-committed Korean war prisoners settled in India (Kim, K. H. 2004)¹¹, the challenges faced by Korean missionaries in India (Lee, J. H. 2019)¹², and experiences and identities of Korean youth escaping from the socio-political hardship of 'Hell Joseon' (Korean Hell) (Lee, M. Y. 2019)¹³. Research on the Korean diaspora in the Philippines also offers insightful ideas and serves as a reference for the current study, aiding in data comparison (Miralao, V. A. 2007)¹⁴. However, in general, prior studies focuses on specific topics or minority groups with India, and a comprehensive study on the Korean diaspora in India seems to be lacking in academia. This current Study can be seen as a valuable contribution and supplement to this area of research.

3. Research Objectives:

This study aims to provide an overview of the Korean diaspora in India by addressing the following key questions:

- i) What are the distinctive features of Korean investment in India?
- ii) What are the distinctive features of the Korean diaspora in India and how are they connected to Korean investment in the country?

⁸ Yoon, I. J. (2006, October). Understanding the Korean Diaspora from Comparative Perspectives. In *Asia Culture Forum* (pp. 1-21). Retrieved from <https://core.ac.uk/reader/51179970>

⁹ Kim, H. D. (2021). Determinants of Organizational Commitment in Emerging Market: Korean Expatriates in India. *European Journal of Economics and Business Studies*, 5(1), 116-125. Retrieved from https://revistia.com/files/articles/ejes_v5_i1_19/Kim.pdf

¹⁰ Park. K. H. (2020). A study of the Influence of Living Environment on Expatriate Satisfaction, Performance & Sequential investment of the Korean FDI Investors in Developing Countries (Doctoral dissertation).

¹¹ Kim, K. H. (2004). The Life Story of Noncommitted Korean War Prisoners Settled in India. *Journal of India Studies*, 9(1), 83-115.

¹² Lee, J. H. (2019). Missionary Deportation Problems in India and Seeking Strategies for Effective Mission. *Mission and Theology*, 47, 41-76.

¹³ Lee, M. Y. (2019). 'Escape from Hell-Joseon': A Study of Korean Long-term Travelers in India. *Korean Anthropology Review*, 3, 45-78.

¹⁴ Miralao, V. A. (2007). *Understanding the Korean diaspora to the Philippines*. Retrieved from <https://www.pssc.org/wp-content/pssc-archives/Philippine%20Migration%20Research%20Network/Exploring%20Transnational%20Communities%20in%20the%20Philippines/Understanding%20the%20Korean%20Diaspora%20in%20the%20Philippines.pdf>



- iii) What specific groups consisting of the Korean diaspora?
- iv) What factors drive Koreans disperse and settle in India?
- v) Considering the context of Korean investment in India, is the density of the Korean diaspora in India deemed sufficient?

4. Research Methodology

The current Study employs quantitative analysis, investigation analysis, and comparative analysis as the primary research methods. Firstly, firsthand data is utilized to analyze the distinctive features of Korean investment and the Korean diaspora in the country. The objective is to establish connections between the two phenomena. Secondly, by examining the available firsthand data and considering the Indian immigration policy, this Study aims to determine the occupational classification within the Korean diaspora in India and identify its major groups. Thirdly, a small-scale survey is conducted, consisting of interviews and online resources, involving thirteen Koreans who live or have lived in India. This survey aims to elucidate the driving forces behind the dispersal of Koreans to India. Lastly, an Index of Diaspora Power in relation to investment for various countries is constructed, facilitating a comparative analysis to gauge the overall density of the Korean diaspora in India within the context of Korean investment.

4.1 Survey Tools:

Interview Schedule, and Survey Schedule, which have been administered online.

4.2 Sample Designing and Sample Size:

During the interviews, a guided questions list (see [Table 1](#)) was employed to ensure a structured approach. The interviewees were encouraged to elaborate on the provided topics, allowing for a more comprehensive understanding and gathering of details information.

Table 1: Interview Questions List to Koreans Diaspora in India

Topic	Main Questions
Visa	What kind of Visa do you hold? Which type of visa does the majority of Korean diaspora apply for? Any special types of Visas do the Korean diaspora hold in India, such as Medical Visas, Conference Visas, Official Visas, or Project Visas? Do you have any idea?
Groups & Data	What are the main groups consisting of the Koreans diaspora in India? Do you have any idea of its population?
Dispersion Purpose	What makes you choose to live in India?
Permanent Stay	Have you attained a permanent residency? Will you seek a permanent stay in India? Why?
Cross-border Travel	How often do you go back to Korea in a year? Why so?

A sample of nine Koreans who have dispersed to India for work or business purposes was interviewed for this Study. Among the interviewees, six individuals identified as businesspersons, two as expatriates in Korean companies, and one as an expatriate official in Korean embassy to India (see [Table 2](#)).



Table 2 : Interview of Korean Diaspora in India

Item No.	Date of Interview*	Address*	Interviewee	Occupation	Years of Stay in India
TLSe2021_02	2021.6.7 & 2023.3.5	Seoul	Mrs. Om	Business, Education & Cultural	14
TLDe2021_04	2021.6.8	Gurgoan	Mrs. Lee	Business, Hotel	5
TLDe2021_06	2021.6.12	Jeju	Mr. Young	Business, Restaurant	6
TLDe2021_09	2021.7.3	New Delhi	Mr. Oh	Business, Trade & Incubator	5
TLDe2021_10	2021.7.26	Gurgoan	Mr. Jeong	Business, Startup	6
TLDe2022_18	2022.3.20	Gurgoan	Mrs. Kim	Business, Trade & Hotel	8
TLDe2021_03	2021.6.6	Noida	Mr. Lee	Expatriate	3
TLSe2021_05	2021.6.10	Seoul	Mr. Kim	Expatriate	2
TLSe2021_01	2021.6.5	Guangzhou	Mrs. Song	Official	8

*Note: the interviews were conducted through E-mail, telephone, or social software chatting. The address refers to the interviewee's location during the interview.

A sample of seven Korean businesspersons who have dispersed to India has been documented online (see Table 3).

Table 3: Stories of Korean Businessmen in India Online

Item No.	Interviewer /Interviewee	Update / Loading Date	Occupation /Accessed Link
OLDe2021_02	Kotra Reporter	2021.3.18	Representative of A company in NCR
	Mr. Park	2022.3.6	https://inkconnect.tistory.com/134
OLDe2021_03	Kotra Reporter	2021.3.18	Representative of B company in NCR
	Mr. Kim	2022.3.6	https://inkconnect.tistory.com/134
OLBa2022_04	Choi Ki-Yeong	2020.2.6	Representative of Auur in Bangalore
	Mr. Kim	2022.3.6	https://inkconnect.tistory.com/132
OLBa2020_06	Choi Ki-Yeong	2020.2.10	Representative of GoPizza in Bangalore
	Mr. Lim	2022.3.6	https://inkconnect.tistory.com/133
OLMu2019_07	Kotra Reporter	2019.12.29	Representative of inBody in Mumbai
	Mr. Ho	2022.3.6	https://dream.kotra.or.kr/kotranews/cms/news/actionKotraBoardDetail.do?SITE_NO=3&MENU_ID=130&CONTENTS_NO=1&bbsGbn=246&bbsSn=246&pNttSn=179707
OLDe2020_09	Kosma Reporter	2020.3.8	Representative of Focustek in Gurgoan
	Mr. Park	2022.12.5	https://www.kosma.in/%EB%8B%A4%EC%9A%B4%EB%A1%9C%EB%93%9C
OLCh2010_22	Niranjara Ramesh	2010.5.19	Representative of a construction company in Chennai
	Mr. Shin	2022.3.5	https://www.livemint.com/Politics/rmbtf0t81y6HoVSm08XXRJ/A-little-bit-of-Korea-in-Chennai.html

5. Data Collection Method:

The majority of the data for this study is obtained from Indian and Korean authorities, including Korea Export & Import Bank (Koreaexim)¹⁵, Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (Kotra)¹⁶,

¹⁵ Koreaexim. *Statistics of Foreign Direct Investment*. Retrieved from <https://stats.koreaexim.go.kr/en/enMain.do>

¹⁶ Kotra. *Trade Information Rooms*. Retrieved from <https://www.kotra.or.kr/subList/20000018754>



Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea (MoFA, RoK. 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2021a)¹⁷, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Government of India (DPIIT, GoI. 2021)¹⁸, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India (MoT, GoI. 2009-2019)¹⁹. Additionally, some data is collected from online articles, blogs, interviews, and relevant journal articles published by other researchers.

6. Concept of Korean Diaspora in India:

The term “diaspora” originates from the ancient Greek language and has been used to describe migration and colonization. Its meaning has varied across different contexts and time periods. In contemporary international immigration studies, ‘the concept of a diaspora is a way of understanding migration, cultural differences, identity politics, and so on’, which ‘refers to a dispersion of people of a common national origin or of common beliefs living in exile’. ‘An even broader definition would simply refer to people of one country dispersed into other countries. These contemporary definitions of a diaspora especially refer to one phenomenon: cross-border migration’ (Choi, I. 2003)²⁰. In this study, the term “Korean diaspora” is used in accordance with its contemporary definition, which pertains to the dispersal of Koreans to India who share a common national origin or beliefs. Thus, “Korean diaspora”, “Korean migrants”, and “Korean overseas” can be used interchangeably.

Koreans also commonly use the term ‘overseas compatriots’ (재외동포) to refer to all Koreans living abroad. The Korean government’s definition of overseas compatriots is inclusive, encompassing Koreans living abroad regardless of their nationality. This including Korean citizens, former Korean passport holders, and non-Korean passport holders of Korean (South & North) descent (MoFA, RoK. 2021b)²¹. Therefore, in this Study, the term “Korean overseas compatriots” can also be substituted with “Korean diaspora”. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea (MoFA, RoK. 2021a)²² conducts a survey to count Korean overseas compatriots in India using data from

¹⁷ MoFA, RoK. (2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2021a) *The Status of Korean Overseas Compatriots 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2021*. Retrieved from https://www.okf.or.kr/portal/info/pg_knt.do and, MoFA, RoK, *Definition and Status of Korean Overseas Compatriots*. Retrieved from https://www.mofa.go.kr/www/wpge/m_21507/contents.do

¹⁸ DPIIT, GoI. (2021). *Quarterly Fact Sheet: Fact Sheet on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from April 2000 to March 2021, (Updated up to MARCH, 2021)*. Retrieved from https://dpiit.gov.in/sites/default/files/FDI_Factsheet_March%2C21.pdf

¹⁹ MoT, GoI. (2009-2019). *India Tourism Statistics 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019*. Retrieved from <https://tourism.gov.in/market-research-and-statistics>

²⁰ Choi, I. (2003). Korean diaspora in the making: Its current status and impact on the Korean economy. *The Korean diaspora in the world economy*, P.10.

²¹ MoFA, RoK. (2021b). *Definition and Status of Korean Overseas Compatriots*. Retrieved from https://www.mofa.go.kr/www/wpge/m_21507/contents.do

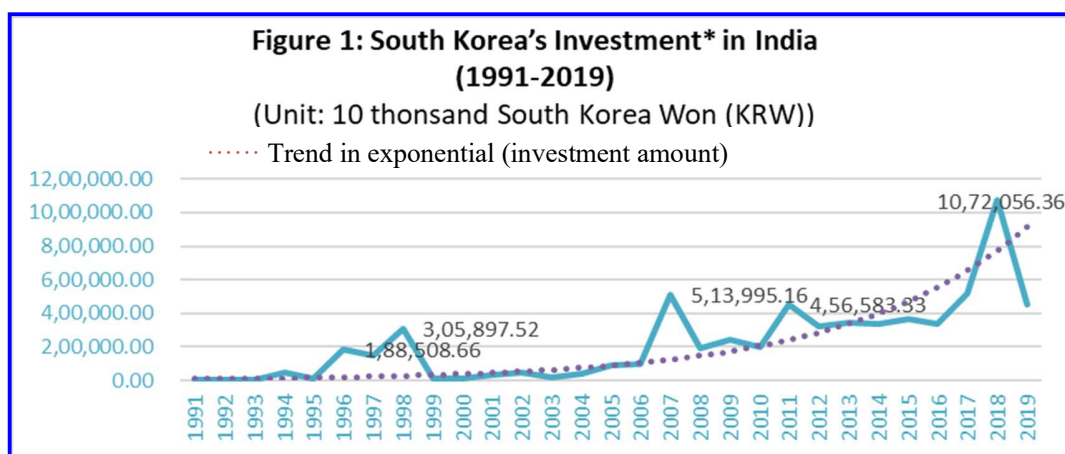
²² MoFA, RoK. (2021a). *The Status of Korean Overseas Compatriots 2021*, P.106-111. Retrieved from https://www.okf.or.kr/portal/info/pg_knt.do



Foreigners Regional Registration Offices (FRROs) or Foreigners Regional Officers (FROs) in India. According to the requirements of the FRRO/FRO under the Bureau of Immigration India, foreigners who stay in India for more than 180 days in a calendar year are required to register with the relevant FRRO/FRO (MHA, GoI. 2018)²³. These registered foreigners have a “residency” status. On the other hand, foreigners who stay in India for less than 180 days in a calendar year are considered short-term visitors. Considering the Korean government's definition of overseas compatriots, the registration requirements for foreign residents by FRRO/FRO, and the methodology employed by MoFA, RoK to count Korean overseas compatriots in India, this Study defines the Korean diaspora in India as given bellow. *The Korean diaspora in India refers to the community of Korean overseas compatriots who stay in India for more than 180 days in a calendar year.*

7. Data Analysis and Its Findings

7.1 The Features of Korean investment in India



* Note: the data shows the investment amount of reported Korean companies invest in India. Source: Koreaexim.
Retrieved from <https://stats.koreaexim.go.kr/en/enMain.do>

Firstly, Korean investment in India has experienced significant growth over the years (see [Figure 1](#)). It witnessed a substantial boost from 1996 to 1998 and continued to grow steadily from 1997 to 2017. In 2018, there was a notable peak. While the accumulation of investment amount from Korea's foreign direct investment (FDI) into India has been increasing rapidly, its share in the total FDI flows into India has declined. In 1999, Korea's share in total FID flows into India was 13%

²³ MHA, GoI. (2018). *Regulation Applicable to Foreigners in India*, retrieved from https://www.mha.gov.in/PDF_Other/Annex%20II_01022018.pdf



(Seshadri, V. 2016)²⁴. However, it decreased to 0.92% from April 2000 to March 2020 (DPIIT, GoI. 2021)²⁵.

Secondly, Korean investment in India is primarily dominated by large companies, which have established industrial clusters within the country. From 1980 to the first half of 2018, the declared investment amount by Korean large companies in India amounted to USD 6.3 billion, whereas medium and small companies accounted for only USD 820 million, representing merely 13% of the investment amount by large companies (see Table 4). Additionally, Korean medium and small companies have mostly entered the India market alongside large companies to provide services or supply goods to them (Jung, H. B. et al. 2016)²⁶. The major Korean companies driving investment in India include Samsung Electronics, Hyundai Motor, and LG Electronics, which have formed industrial clusters. As shown in Table 5, Korean companies are predominantly located in National Capital Region (NCR), Chennai, Bangalore, Mumbai, and Pune, collectively representing 97.9% of the number of Korean companies in India.

Table 4: Korean Investment in India (1980-1st half of 2018)
(Unit: number, million USD)

Size of Company	No. of Companies	No. of Acceptances	Accepted Amount	Proportion in invested amount
Large	332	1,117	6,322	87.1%
Medium and Small	458	1,562	823	11.3%
Other	261	558	117	1.6%
In Total	1,051	3,267	7,262	100%

Source: Koreaexim. Retrieved from <https://stats.koreaexim.go.kr/en/enMain.do>

Table 5: Clusters Dominated by Korean Large Companies and Korean Diaspora Population in India (Unit: number)

Major Large Companies	Type of Cluster	Area of Cluster	No. of Companies	Population of Korean Diaspora
Samsung Electronics, LG Electronics	Home Application & Electronic	Noida & Greater Noida	322*	3,566*
Company Headquarters	Headquarters Economy	South Delhi & Gurgaon		

²⁴ Seshadri, V. (2016). *India-Korea CEPA: An Appraisal of Progress* (No. id: 8697). P.22. Retrieved from <https://ris.org.in/en/node/412>

²⁵ DPIIT, GoI. (2021). *Quarterly Fact Sheet: Fact Sheet on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from April 2000 to March, 2021, (Updated up to MARCH, 2021)*. P.6. Retrieved from https://dpiit.gov.in/sites/default/files/FDI_Factsheet_March.21.pdf

²⁶ Jung, H. B. Kim, B. S. Chung, W. H. Hong, S. W. Kang, J. H. Jung, K. S. Choi, M. Y. & Kim, Y. K. (2016). Research for Korean Start-Ups and Small-Medium Companies to Enter India Market. *KIEP Research Paper*, 16(02). P.111.



Hyundai Motor, Samsung Electronics	Vehicle, Home Application & Electronic	Chennai	112	4,246
LG Electronics	Home Application & Electronic	Pune	46	488
Finance and Logistic Companies	Finance and Logistic Companies	Mumbai		200
R&D Centers	R&D Centers	Bangalore	39	1,092
In Total (Percentage)			530 (97.9%)	10,674 (89.9%)

* Note: The diaspora population of NCR in total.

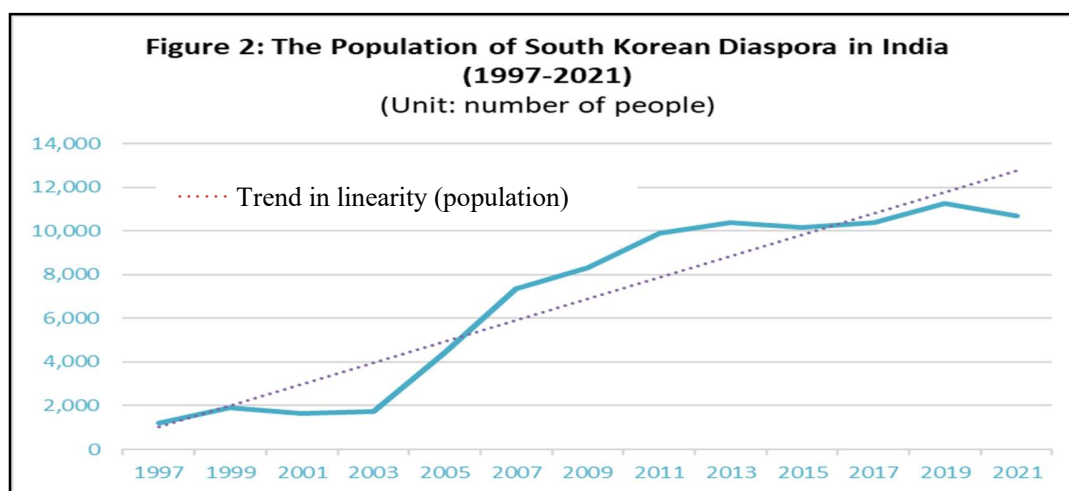
Resource: KOTRA Trade Centers in India Branches (till October 2021).

MoFA, RoK. (2021a). *The Status of Korean Overseas Compatriots 2021*, P.106-111. Retrieved from

https://www.okf.or.kr/portal/info/pg_knt.do

7.2 The Features of Korean Diaspora and Their Relevance to Korean investment in India:

Koreans who dispersed to India exhibit similar features to Korean investment in the country. Firstly, the growth in the population of the Korean diaspora in India aligns with the growth in Korean investment in the country, as shown in [Figure 1](#) and [Figure 2](#). The population of the Korean diaspora in India began to increase significantly in 1996, coinciding with a wave of investment led by large companies like Hyundai Motor (Park, Y. M. & Lee, J. K. 2019)²⁷, Samsung Electronics, and LG Electronics (Economychosun. 2011)²⁸ (also see [Figure 1](#)). During this period, 1,229 Koreans entered India for long-term residence (see [Figure 2](#)). Subsequently, after a certain period of accumulation, Korean companies experienced another peak in investment in 2007 (see [Figure 1](#)).



Source: MoFA, RoK. (2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2021a), *The Status of Korean Overseas Compatriots 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2021*. Retrieved from https://www.okf.or.kr/portal/info/pg_knt.do

²⁷ Park, Y. M. & Lee, J. K. (2019). A Study on the Economic Status of India and Strategies of Korean Companies to Enter the Indian Market. *The Korean Journal of Area Studies*, 37(2), 153-176. P.159.

²⁸ Economychosun. (2011). LG Electronics Dominates Home Appliance Market, Samsung is Chasing after LG with Mobile Phones, updated 1 June 2011. Retrieved from https://economychosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2011/06/01/2011060100006.html



Correspondingly, in 2008, the population of the Korean diaspora in India increased to 8,337 and continued to grow steadily, eventually reaching a number between 10,000 and 11,000 (see [Figure 2](#)). This suggests that the Korean diaspora was influenced by Korean investment in India.

Secondly, based on the characteristics of Korean companies forming industrial clusters led by large companies' investment in India, a significant concentration of Korean diaspora in the industrial clusters had appealed, as shown in [Table 5](#). In the major industrial clusters, the Korean diaspora accounted for 89.9% of the total dispersion population in India. This again may indicate that the Korean diaspora in India was driven by Korean investment, and the locations where the Korean diaspora settled down overlapped with the areas of industry clusters formed by Korean companies.

Taking Chennai, which has the highest concentration of Korean diaspora, as an example. In 2021, there were 4,246 Koreans residing in Chennai, accounting for 39.8% of the total population of the Korean diaspora (see [Table 5](#)). This can be attributed to the presence of Hyundai Motor's industry cluster in Chennai, along with Samsung Electronics and its relevant supply factories. A well-known "Little Korean" village has emerged near the Hyundai Motor factory in Chennai, gaining some recognition in India. According to Indian media reports, the Korean community in Chennai was the largest foreign community, with a population of 1,500-3,000 in 2010 (Niranjana Ramesh. 2010)²⁹, which increased to 3,000-4,000 in 2013 (Swetha Kannan. 2013)³⁰, and surpassed 6,000 in 2017 (Sanchairi Pai. 2017)³¹. It is worth noting that the population figures reported by the news might be higher than those of the MoFA, RoK's statistics due to the inclusion of short-term visitors. There are around 1,000 Korean single expatriates residing in Sriperumbudur, Chennai in 2010, as reported by the India Chennai Korean Association (iCkoa). These individuals were typically sent abroad for 6-12 months, while non-single employees often brought their families and lived in Chennai for more than three years. The rapid growth of the Korean diaspora population was mainly driven by these non-single employees who brought their spouses and children to reside in Chennai. Furthermore, approximately 90% of Koreans in Chennai by were affiliated with Hyundai Motor, either directly employed by Hyundai Motor or working for companies in Hyundai Motor's supply chain. A smaller number of Koreans were employed by Samsung Electronics, LG Electronics, and Lotte Confectionery (Niranjana Ramesh. 2010)³².

²⁹ Niranjana Ramesh. (2010). *A Little Bit of Korea in Chennai*, updated 19 May 2010. Retrieved from <https://www.livemint.com/Politics/rmbtf0t81y6HoVSm08XXRJ/A-little-bit-of-Korea-in-Chennai.html>

³⁰ Swetha Kannan. (2013). *Seoul Searching in Chennai*, updated 24 July 2013. Retrieved from <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/seoul-searching-in-chennai/article23028944.ece>

³¹ Sanchairi Pai. (2017). *Searching for the S(e)oul: The Little-Known Story of Chennai's Connection with Korea*, updated 27 February 2017. Retrieved from <https://www.thebetterindia.com/89171/chennai-connection-korea-seoul-history-hyundai/>

³² Ibid; See Footnote -29



The village of Thandalam near Sriperumbudur has developed as a distinct Korean residential community. Korean-style banners directing Koreans to markets, hardware stores, restaurants, and serviced apartments (Niranjana Ramesh. 2010)³³. Thandalam can be considered a genuine “Little Korea” village in Chennai, with the highest concentration of Korean residents among all Koreans households in Chennai, accounting for 14% according to data from the iCkoa website in 2016 (iCkoa. 2016)³⁴. The Korean community in Chennai has access to various amenities, including shops, restaurants, and apartments, Korean churches, and institutions providing training for Korean students. In 2010, the Madras Korean Church had 400 Korean members, and there were 800 Korean children attending international schools in Chennai. It is even reported that a Korean mother established a dance training institution to cater to these Korean children (Niranjana Ramesh. 2010)³⁵.

7.3 The Main Group of Korean Diaspora:

Based on the strong correlation between the Korean diaspora in India and Korean investment in the country, it can be inferred that the primary composition of the Korean diaspora consists of expatriate group and its associated groups. As mentioned earlier, a significant number of the Korean diasporas in Chennai are expatriates directly employed by Hyundai Motor or other Korean companies. Among them, many non-single employees often relocate with their families, leading to the formation of a larger Korean community. This community, in turn, creates a Korean business network that attracts more Koreans to Chennai for job opportunities and business prospects, resulting in the further expansion of the Korean diaspora community. In this Study, the main groups within the Korean diaspora comprising expatriate and business groups, along with their families, are collectively referred to as “the expatriate and business groups”, representing the prominent segment of the Korean diaspora in India.

Although precise data on the population size of the Korean expatriate and business groups is unavailable, the study can make inferences based on various aspects of the available data, suggesting that these groups constitute the majority of the Korean diaspora in India. According to data from MoFA, RoK in 2021, all Korean diaspora members in India held Korean passports, with only 21 individuals having obtained permanent residency in India. The remaining 10,652 individuals were classified as non-permanent residents. Among the non-permanent residents, 171 were international students, and 10,481 were classified as general non-permanent residents (MoFA, RoK. 2021a)³⁶. According to the regulations of the MHA, Gol, ‘all foreigners visiting India

³³ Ibid; See Footnote -29

³⁴ iCkoa. (2016). *The Settlement Map of Koreans in Chennai*, updated 13 April 2016. Retrieved from <https://www.ickoa.org/residency>

³⁵ Ibid; See Footnote -29

³⁶ MoFA, RoK. (2021a). *The Status of Korean Overseas Compatriots 2021*, P.106-111. Retrieved from



on long term (more than 180 days) Student Visa, Medical Visa, Research Visa, Employment Visa, Missionary Visa, and Project Visa are required to themselves registered with the FRRO/FRO concerned having jurisdiction over the place where the foreigner intends to stay, within 14 days of arrival. However, all Business Visa holders are required to register themselves with the FRRO/FRO concerned in case the aggregate stay in India on Business Visa exceeds 180 days during a calendar year' (MHA, GoI. 2018)³⁷. Considering that general non-permanent residents are mostly Koreans who have already registered with FRRO/FRO, they can be categorized as holders of various visa types mention above, such as, Medical Visa, Research Visa, Employment Visa, Missionary Visa, Project Visa, and Business Visa who have stayed for more than 180 days. Among these visa types, the proportions of Medical Visa and Research Visa (MoT, GoI. 2019, 2013)³⁸ holders are extremely small (see [Table 6](#)). Additionally, Korean missionaries (Missionary Visa (MoT, GoI. 2019)³⁹ holders) faced difficulties in obtaining valid visas and often risk expulsion, indicating their insignificant proportion (also see [Table 6](#)). Therefore, it can be reasonably inferred that the majority of Korean general non-permanent residents are holders of Employment Visa, Project Visa, and Business Visa holders who fall under the category of Business & Professional visits (excluding Film Visa, Conference Visa, and Official Visa holders, as they do not require FRRO/FRO registration requirements for stays less than 180 days) (MoT, GoI. 2019)⁴⁰. These visa categories mainly encompass the expatriate and business groups within the Korean diaspora in India.

Data recorded from 2009 to 2019 indicates that the proportion of Business & Professional visitors from Korea to India each year ranged between 43.1% and 53.3%, followed by the categories of Leisure Holiday & Recreation, and Visiting Friends & Relatives, which accounted for 27.5-52.12% (27.5-52.12%) (see [Table 6](#)). Considering that Film Visa, Conference Visa, and Official Visa holders likely present a small proportion (as suggested by our survey⁴¹ in [Table 2](#)), it can be inferred from this data that Business & Professional visitors and their accompanying family members (included

https://www.okf.or.kr/portal/info/pg_knt.do

³⁷ MHA, GoI. (2018). *Regulation Applicable to Foreigners in India*, retrieved from

https://www.mha.gov.in/PDF_Other/Annex%20II_01022018.pdf

³⁸ MoT, GoI classifies Research Visa holders and Student Visa holders either in the category of Education or Other in its visit statistics. See: MoT, GoI. (2019). *India Tourism Statistics 2019*. P.45. Retrieved from

<https://tourism.gov.in/sites/default/files/2020-04/India%20Tourism%20Statistics%202019.pdf>

Also See: MoT, GoI. (2013). *India Tourism Statistics 2013*. P.38. Retrieved from

https://tourism.gov.in/sites/default/files/2020-04/IndiaTourismStatics2013_1.pdf

³⁹ MoT, GoI classifies Missionary Visa holders in the category of Other in its visit statistics. See: MoT, GoI. (2019). *India Tourism Statistics 2019*. P.45. Retrieved from

<https://tourism.gov.in/sites/default/files/2020-04/India%20Tourism%20Statistics%202019.pdf>

⁴⁰ MoT, GoI. (2019). *India Tourism Statistics 2019*. P.45. Retrieved from

<https://tourism.gov.in/sites/default/files/2020-04/India%20Tourism%20Statistics%202019.pdf>

⁴¹ The authors in Guangzhou conducted Interviews with nine Korean diaspora respectively through E-mails, phone calls, social software chatting while the interviewees were in different places in different date according to [Table 2](#).



in the Leisure Holiday & Recreation, and Visiting Friends & Relatives categories) constitute at least half of the visits from Korea to India. Based on Table 6, it could be concluded that, in the available years of recorded data, the number of visits to India from Korea in the Business & Professional category is approximately five times (4.68-6.60 times) the number of the Korean diaspora members in India. According to our survey⁴² in Table 2, the cost of frequent visits to India is much higher than that of long-term stay, and additional time costs and inconveniences must also be considered for frequent visits. The Korean diaspora typically choose to travel between India and Korea 2-3 times a year. Assuming an average of two trips per year, the Korean diaspora accounts for 2/5 of the visits to India by Business & Professional visitors, while the remaining 3/5 are short-term visitors. Therefore, the Korean diaspora engaged in expatriate work and business holds a significant share even among the total number of visits to India.

Table 6: Population of Korean Diaspora in India and Visits of Koreans to India

(Unit: number, percentage)

Year	No. of Korean Diaspora	No. of visits	Business and Professional	Leisure Holiday & Recreation	Visiting Friends & Relatives	Medical Treatment	Educational	Indian Diaspora	Others
2009	8,337	70,485							
2010		95,587	43.1%	19.9%	12.4%	0.1%	0%		14%
2011	9,887	108,680	53.3%	21.8%	5.7%	0.1%	0%		11%
2012		109,469	49.0%	25.3%	5.5%	0.1%	0%		20%
2013	10,397	112,619	43.2%	35.1%	4.7%	0.1%	4.1%		12.8%
2014		106,870							
2015	10,178	102,993							
2016		111,076	46.18%	45.18%		0%		5.61%	3.03%
2017	10,390	142,383	41.07%	52.12%		0%		4.37%	2.44%
2018		150,536	46.8%	46.6%		0.3%		4.2%	0.7%
2019	11,273	149,445	49.79%	37.12%		0%		2.06%	11.03%

Notes: The column left blank means either the data in the column is not available, or it changes the way of classification.

Source: MoFA, RoK. (2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2021a). *The Status of Korean Overseas Compatriots 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2021*. Retrieved from https://www.okf.or.kr/portal/info/pg_knt.do

MoT, GoI. (2009-2019). *India Tourism Statistics 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019*. Retrieved from <https://tourism.gov.in/market-research-and-statistics>

7.4 The Driven Force Making Koreans to Disperse to India

Giving that the expatriate and business groups constitute the majority of the Korean diaspora in India, this Study specially investigates the motivating factors behind their dispersal to India. To achieve this, the Study employs the theory of economic rational choice and conducts a small-scale survey to provide insights into the driving forces behind their decision to disperse.

⁴² The authors in Guangzhou conducted Interviews with nine Korean diaspora respectively through E-mails, phone calls, social software chatting while the interviewees were in different places in different date according to Table 2.



The current Study conducted a small-scale survey involving nine Koreans who have either worked or operated their own business in India for an extended period (see [Table 2](#)). Additionally, information was gathered from online sources pertaining to the experiences of seven Korean businesspersons in India (see [Table 3](#)). Among the total sixteen Koreans, thirteen were businesspersons, two were expatriates in Korean companies and one was an expatriate officer in Korean Embassy to India. It was revealed that all the businesspersons cited better prospects as their primary motivation for dispersing to India, while the three expatriates were assigned to India with the expectation of higher remuneration and future career advancement⁴³. Common observations were expressed by all interviewees⁴⁴:

- 1) The majority of the Korean diaspora is composed expatriate and business groups, although precise data is not available.
- 2) India is considered the “next China” in terms of economic growth, manufacturing capacities, and a vast domestic market, whereas Korea, as an economy, offers limited opportunities. This is why Koreans have dispersed to India search of economic prospects.
- 3) Koreans have chosen to dispersed to India not with the intention of obtaining permanent residency but rather to improve economic income. It is likely that they will either return to Koreans or relocate to other advanced countries after their time in India.

According to Li Ming-Huan, western diaspora theories ‘can be categorized into three main orientations: the theory of economic rational choice, which emphasizes market orientation; the conflict theory of civilization, which explores political connotation; and the theory of trans-nationalism, which highlights the impact of globalization’ (Li M.H. 2010)⁴⁵. In this Study, the theory of economic rational choice provides theoretical foundation for explaining the driving force behind the Korean diaspora in India. Seen as an economically rational choice, the diaspora can be viewed as a ‘business’ (Salt, J. & Stein, J. 1997)⁴⁶, or a ‘family business’ (Herman, E. 2006)⁴⁷, wherein individuals or families carefully evaluate the costs and benefits associated with their human resource investment. In our small-scale survey, all Koreans who had lived in India expressed that they were seeking better economic opportunities. Given that the majority of the Korea diaspora

⁴³ The authors in Guangzhou conducted Interviews with nine Korean diasporas respectively through E-mails, phone calls, and social software chatting while the interviewees were in different places on different dates according to Table 2. And the survey objects who were interviewed by the mentioned reporters respectively updated on different dates according to Table 5.

⁴⁴ The authors in Guangzhou conducted Interviews with nine Korean diasporas respectively through E-mails, phone calls, and social software chatting while the interviewees were in different places on different dates according to Table 2.

⁴⁵ Li M.H. (2010). *A Reflection on Contemporary Western International Migration Theory* (Doctoral dissertation)

⁴⁶ Salt, J. & Stein, J. (1997). Migration as A Business: The Case of Trafficking. *International migration*, 35(4), 467-494

⁴⁷ Herman, E. (2006). Migration as A Family Business: The Role of Personal Networks in the Mobility Phase of Migration. *International migration*, 44(4), 191-230



in India primarily consist of expatriate and business groups, it strongly indicates that economic rational choice is the driving force behind their dispersal to India.

7.5 The Density of Korean Diaspora in India:

In the context of Korean investment in India, it is worth considering the density of the Korean diaspora in India. When compared to the vast scale of the Korean diaspora worldwide, it becomes evident that the population of the Korean diaspora in India is relatively small. According to statistics from MoFA, RoK, in 2021, there were over 73 million Korean diaspora members, primarily concentrated in Northeast Asia (43%), North America (39%), and Europe (9%) (MoFA, RoK. 2021a)⁴⁸. Among all the countries where Koreans have dispersed overseas, India ranks 25th, falling behind the countries listed in Table 6, such as, China, Vietnam, the Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Mexico (MoFA, RoK. 2021c)⁴⁹. Korean Scholar Kim Eung-Gi suggests that Korea's diaspora presence in India is relatively insufficient compared to other Asian countries. In light of India's potential, the efforts made by Koreans to disperse to India are considered inadequate (Kim Yeung-Ki. 2022)⁵⁰.

It is important to note that the Korean diaspora in India primarily consists of expatriate and business groups, driven by Korean investment led by large companies. Therefore, the situation of the Korean diaspora in India differs significantly from that of other top 25 countries (MoFA, RoK. 2021c)⁵¹ attracting Koreans, such as Japan, the United States, Canada, Singapore, and other developed countries in Europe and Oceania, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries, and certain South American countries. These countries have different characteristics that contribute to their historical appeal to the Korean diaspora (Bergsten, C. F. et al., (Eds.) 2003)⁵². However, the remaining countries not mentioned above in the top 25 countries (China, Vietnam, the Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Mexico) share significant similarities with India in terms of their Korean diaspora. Firstly, they all are developing countries that have become major destinations for Korean investment, benefiting from their late-mover advantage. Secondly, Koreans disperse to these countries mainly driven by economic rational choice, influenced by Korean investment. The infrastructure and life quality in these countries are generally not on par that with Korea, so Koreans seek economic opportunities rather than permanent settlement. Thus,

⁴⁸ MoFA, RoK. (2021a). *The Status of Korean Overseas Compatriots 2021*, P.106-111. Retrieved from https://www.okf.or.kr/portal/info/pg_knt.do

⁴⁹ MoFA, RoK. (2021c). *The Countries Where Most Koreans Live*. Retrieved from https://www.mofa.go.kr/www/wpge/m_21509/contents.do

⁵⁰ Kim Yeung-Ki. (2022). *Overseas Koreans Living in India*, updated 2 February 2022. Retrieved from <https://blog.naver.com/ykim57/222658294465>

⁵¹ MoFA, RoK. (2021c). *The Countries Where Most Koreans Live*. Retrieved from https://www.mofa.go.kr/www/wpge/m_21509/contents.do

⁵² Bergsten, C. F., Choi, I. & Ch'oe, I. B. (Eds.). (2003). *The Korean Diaspora in The World Economy* (Vol. 15). Peterson Institute.



it is reasonable to infer that the main groups within these diasporas are also expatriate and business groups. However, there are also identifiable differences within these shared characteristics, which will be further elaborated on later. To enable effective and straightforward comparisons with other countries that shares similarities with India in terms of the Korean diaspora, this Study introduces a Diaspora Power Index (DPI). The DPI is calculated as the number of general non-permanent residents divided by the cumulative investment amount, represented by the formula:

$$\text{Diaspora Power Index} = \text{number of general non-permanent residents} / \text{cumulative investment amount}$$

The DPI serves as a measure of Koreans' dispersal efforts towards specific countries driven by investment. A larger DPI value signifies stronger dispersal efforts by Koreans towards that country, driven by investment. Conversely, a smaller DPI value indicates insufficient efforts in terms of dispersal.

Table 7: The Comparison of Diaspora Power Index of Korea Diaspora

(Unit: number, 100 million KRW, person/100 million KRW)

Country	No. of general non-permanent residents*	Accumulated investment amount**	Diaspora Power Index	Significance of other diaspora groups
China (Mainland)	269,947	7,118	38	Chinese Koreans
Vietnam	122,713	2,549	48 ↑ ***	
The Philippines	79,876	451	177 ↓ ***	missionary group****
Thailand	16,660	271	61	
Indonesia	27,895	1,154	24	
Malaysia	11,494	548	21	
Mexico	7,169	603	12 ↑	permanent residents
India	9,503	643	15	

Notes:

* The category of general non-permanent consist various of group of diaspora except from permanent residents, international students and foreign passport holders with Korea (Korea & North Korea) origin. And the number of general non-permanent residents is calculated on the overage of the survey data in 2015, 2017 and 2019, given by MoFA, RoK. Firstly, the data in 2021 is not considered because it might be unrepresentative due to Co-vid 19 Pandemic, which makes international travelling in disorder. Secondly, the data earlier than 2015 and other year between 2015 and 2019 is not considered because the relevant data is unavailable.

** The accumulated investment amount is taken from the accumulation during 2009 to 2019 given by Koreaexim.

*** The symbol of '↑' indicates that the value should be adjusted upward, while the symbol of '↓' indicates inversely.

**** The number of missionary people is included in the number of non-permanent residents.

Source: MoFA, RoK. (2021c). *Definition and Status of Korean Overseas Compatriots*. Retrieved from

https://www.mofa.go.kr/www/wpge/m_21507/contents.do and

MoFA, RoK. (2015, 2017, 2019). *The Status of Korean Overseas Compatriots 2015, 2017, 2019*. Retrieved from

https://www.okf.or.kr/portal/info/pg_knt.do

Koreaexim. Retrieved from <https://stats.koreaexim.go.kr/en/enMain.do>



The comparison results are shown in Table 7, indicating the DPI values in descending order: the Philippines (177), Thailand (61), Vietnam (48), China (38), Indonesia (24), Malaysia (21), India (15), and Mexico (12).

The DPI values in the Philippines shows a significantly compared to all other countries. It should be noted that in the context of the Philippines, apart from the expatriate and business groups, the missionary group is another significant segment within the Korean diaspora. Due to the favorable religious environment and English-speaking education, many Koreans have dispersed to the Philippines, resulting in the formation of a diverse and larger diaspora community (Miralao, V. A. 2007)⁵³. Therefore, to ensure a fair comparison, the DPI value of the Philippines should be adjusted into a lower number. On the other hand, In the case of China, the DPI value should be increased. This is due to the presence of a large number of Chinese Koreans residing in China, 2.15 million in 2021 according to MoFA, RoK (MoFA, RoK. 2021a)⁵⁴. These individuals form a substantial human resource database for Korean investment in China, potentially reducing the number of Korean expatriates significantly. In the case Mexico, the DPI value should ideally be increased by more than 70% due to the significant number of permanent residents, 5,328 in 2021 according to MoFA, RoK (MoFA, RoK. 2021a)⁵⁵. This represents over 70% of the number of general non-permanent residents. To summarize, while the DPI value of the Philippines may decrease, given its already high score of 177, it cannot be reduced to less than 15, the DPI value of India. Similarly, after a reasonable increase of 70%, the DPI value of Mexico would exceed 20, surpassing the DPI value of India. Hence, after careful consideration and investigation, India ranks the lowest in terms of the DPI value compared to all other countries analyzed.

What are the reasons behind India's inability to attract a significant density of Korean diaspora despite Korean investment in the country? There could be several factors contributing to this phenomenon. One possibility is that the majority of investment flowing into India is led by large companies, which may not require a significant number of Korean expatriates compared to investment by small and medium companies. Another reason could be the living conditions and cultural environment in India, which may not be as comfortable or appealing to Koreans compared to countries like China and Southeast Asian nations. As a result, India may not be a preferred

⁵³ Miralao, V. A. (2007). *Understanding the Korean diaspora to the Philippines*. Retrieved from <https://www.pssc.org.ph/wp-content/pssc-archives/Philippine%20Migration%20Research%20Network/Exploring%20Transnational%20Communities%20in%20the%20Philippines/Understanding%20the%20Korean%20Diaspora%20in%20the%20Philippines.pdf>

⁵⁴ MoFA, RoK. (2021a). *The Status of Korean Overseas Compatriots 2021*, P.66-75. Retrieved from https://www.okf.or.kr/portal/info/pg_knt.do

⁵⁵ MoFA, RoK. (2021a). *The Status of Korean Overseas Compatriots 2021*, P.157. Retrieved from https://www.okf.or.kr/portal/info/pg_knt.do



destination for Koreans seeking economic opportunities. Furthermore, the geographical distance between Korea and India, as well as between Korea and Mexico, may play a role. Although the distance from Korea to Mexico is greater than the distance to India, Mexico has a larger number of permanent Korean residents (5328 in 2021), compared to India (21 in 2021). This discrepancy suggests that the immigration policies in India may not be as favorable as those in Mexico, which could impact the density of Korean diaspora in India. Further research is needed to explore these reasons in more details and gain a deeper understanding of why India has not been able to attract a significant density of Korean diaspora despite Korean investment.

8. Conclusion:

Based on quantitative analyses using firsthand data from Indian and Korean authorities, as well as interviews, online reports, and the support of the theory of economic rational choice and prior studies, the current study identifies four distinctive features of Korean diaspora in India. Firstly, the growth of the Korean diaspora in India is closely linked to the growth of Korean investment in the country. As Korean companies expand their presence in India, the population of the Korean diaspora also increases. Secondly, the concentration of the Korean diaspora is notable in industrial clusters formed by Korean companies. These industrial clusters, primarily located in NCR, Chennai, Bangalore, Pune, and Mumbai, attract a significant number of Korean diaspora due to the presence of large-scale investment led by Korean large companies, such as Hyundai Motor, Samsung Electronics, and LG Electronics. Thirdly, the main groups within the Korean diaspora in India are predominantly expatriate and business groups, which play a vital role in driving the Korean diaspora's presence in India. Lastly, the decision to disperse to India by the Korea diaspora is primarily motivated by economic rational choice. Individuals and families value the potential benefits and opportunities in India and choose to relocate based on economic considerations.

In the context of Korean investment in India, it is worth to considering the density of the Korean diaspora in India. By introducing a Diaspora Power Index (DPI) to assess the dispersal efforts of Koreans driven by investment, and drawing upon insights from prior studies, this study reveals that the Korean diaspora in India, despite experiencing some growth in parallel with Korean investment, falls significantly behind the Korean investment-driven diaspora in other major late-mover advantage countries. When compared to countries like the Philippines, Vietnam, China, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, and even Mexico, the Korean diaspora in India demonstrates the least sufficient dispersal efforts. Several factors could contribute to this disparity, such as the domination of large companies' investment, the less appealing living environment, the unfavorable immigration policy. Further research is needed to explore these reasons in more details and gain a deeper understanding.



9. Suggestions:

The current study provides an overview of the Korean diaspora in India within the context of Korean investment in the country. However, further research is needed to explore the specific reasons behind the insufficient density of the Korean diaspora in India, which remains a gap in this Study.

Nevertheless, this study highlights the significance of promoting the dispersal of Koreans to India, particularly for enhancing India-Korea economic and trade relations. To achieve this, it is crucial for more small and medium-sized Korean companies, including independent enterprises, to establish a presence in India, thereby fostering a more comprehensive investment ecosystem. Additionally, it is also crucial to fostering people-to-people exchanges between the India and Korea to promote mutual understanding and eliminating perceived barriers, ultimately attracting more Koreans to consider dispersing to India.

Furthermore, the India government could play a role by improving its immigration policies to attract Koreans to live in India and potentially obtain permanent residency. This would encourage the Korean diaspora to make more greater contributions to Indian society. Collaboration between Indian and Korean authorities, along with relevant institutions, could establish a platform to serve as a bridge for attracting more Korean investment and fostering the growth of the Korean diaspora in India.

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