

Economic Re-integration of Return Migrants in the Construction Sector in India

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Objectives

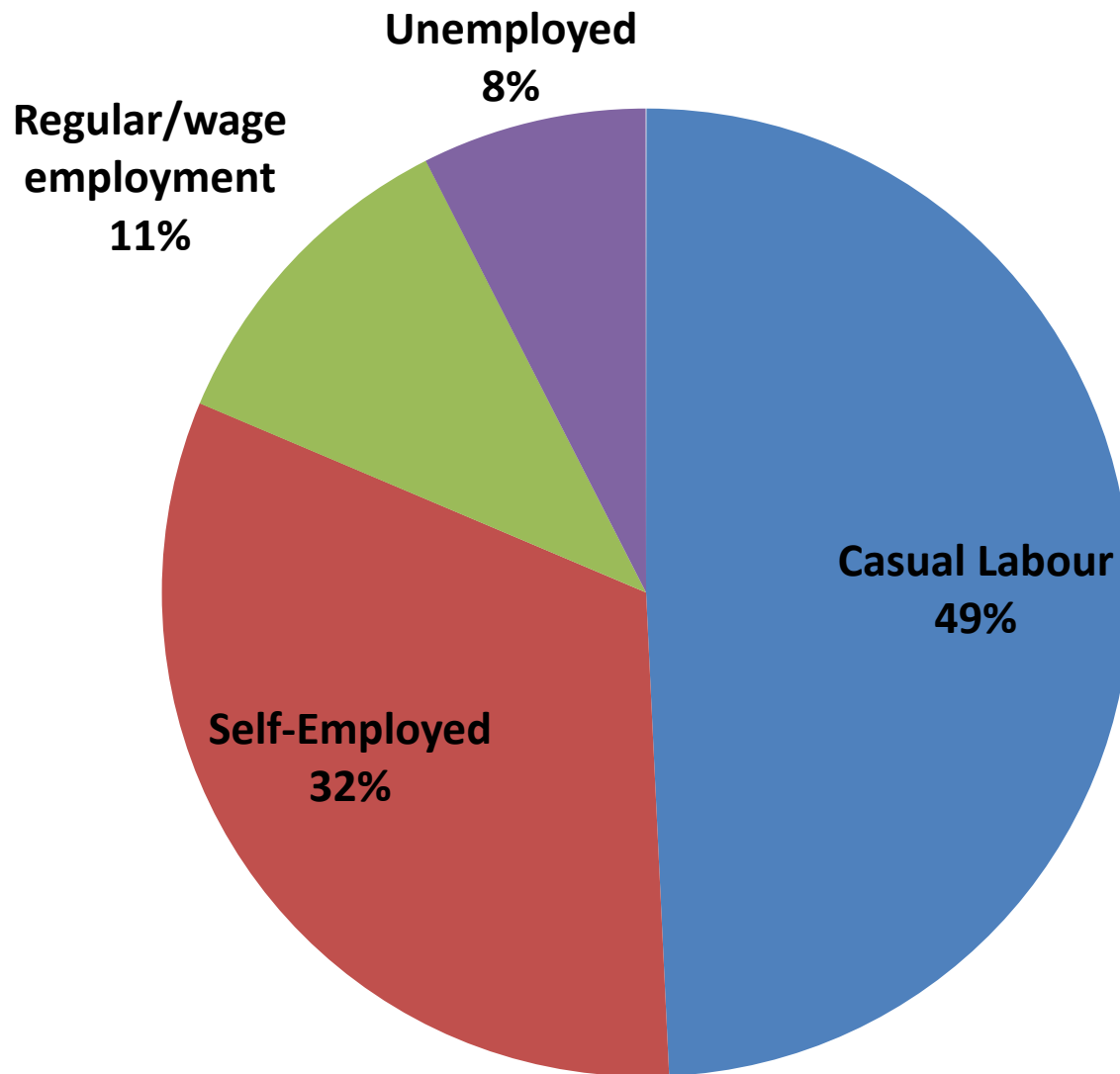
- Whether the return migrants get re-integrated in the construction sector.
- Whether the skills acquired in Gulf increases their employability .
- Whether the skills acquired fetch them better wages/jobs.
- Are they able to get better working conditions.
- What are the difficulties that the returnees face in finding decent work and what are the coping mechanisms that they adopt.
- Whether the construction industry in India values the skills, knowledge and experience of return migrants.
- What role do return migrants play in enhancing the skills of the other workers.
- What role do social, political and economic institutions play in the re-integration of the return migrants.

Sample Profile

- 252 returnees from NCR, Gorkhpur, Jagtiyal and East Godawari.
- 7.1 % technical education; 42.1% vocational education
- 73% with work experience more than 2 years in the Gulf. 48% more than 5 years; mean period of stay in Gulf is more than 5 years (5.23).
- The mean age of the migrants at the time of first episode of migration was 27 years and the current mean age is 37 years.
- 54% had been to Gulf twice or more than that.

Trends and Patterns of Re-integration of Return Migrants

Distribution of Return Migrant by Current Usual Activity



Average Duration of Unemployment after Return

58% of the return migrants remain unemployed at least for three months to find a job upon their return

7% have of the sample were unemployed for prolonged periods

The distribution of unemployment by current usual activity looks like the following:



Current Usual Activity V/s Usual Activity Before Migration

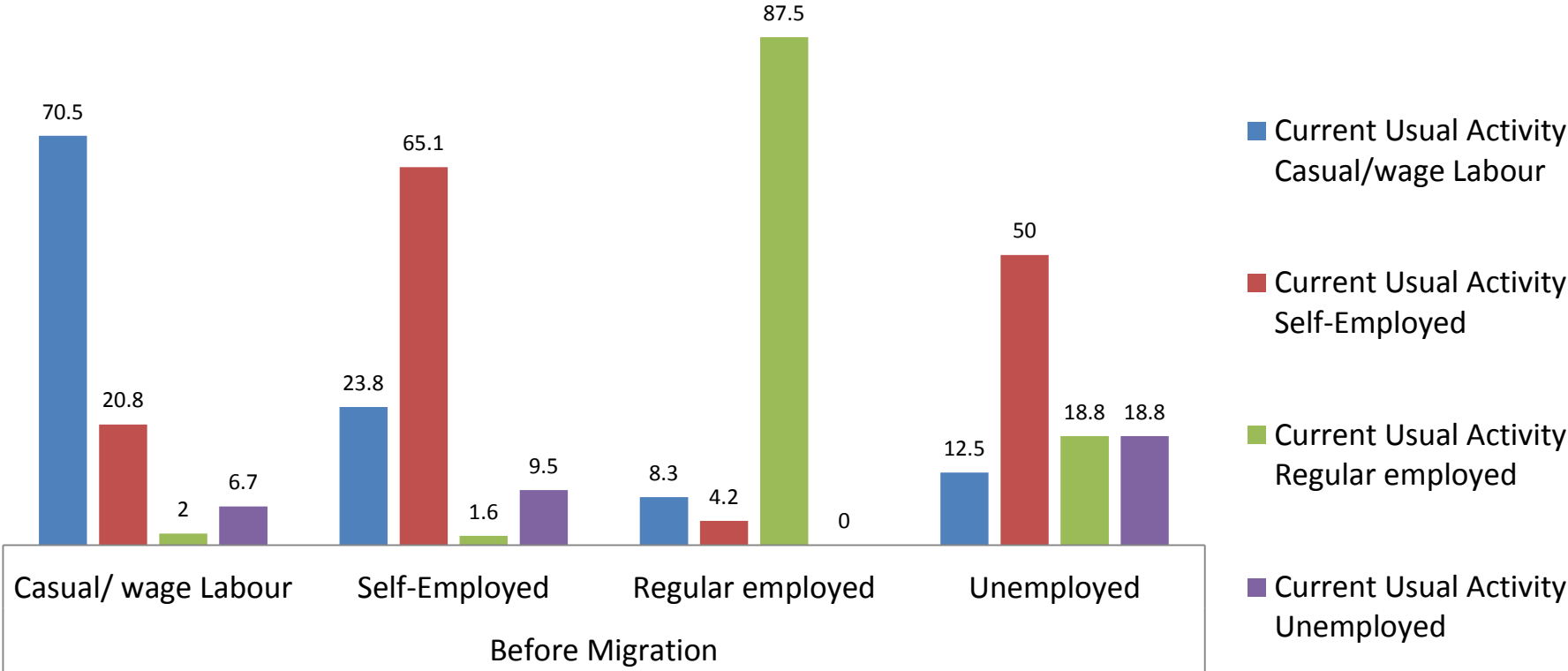
Percentage Distribution of Workers



■ Before Emigration ■ Current

Impact of Human Capital (SKILLS) acquired in Gulf on Usual Activity before migration

Percentage Distribution of Current Usual Activity by their Usual Activity before Migration

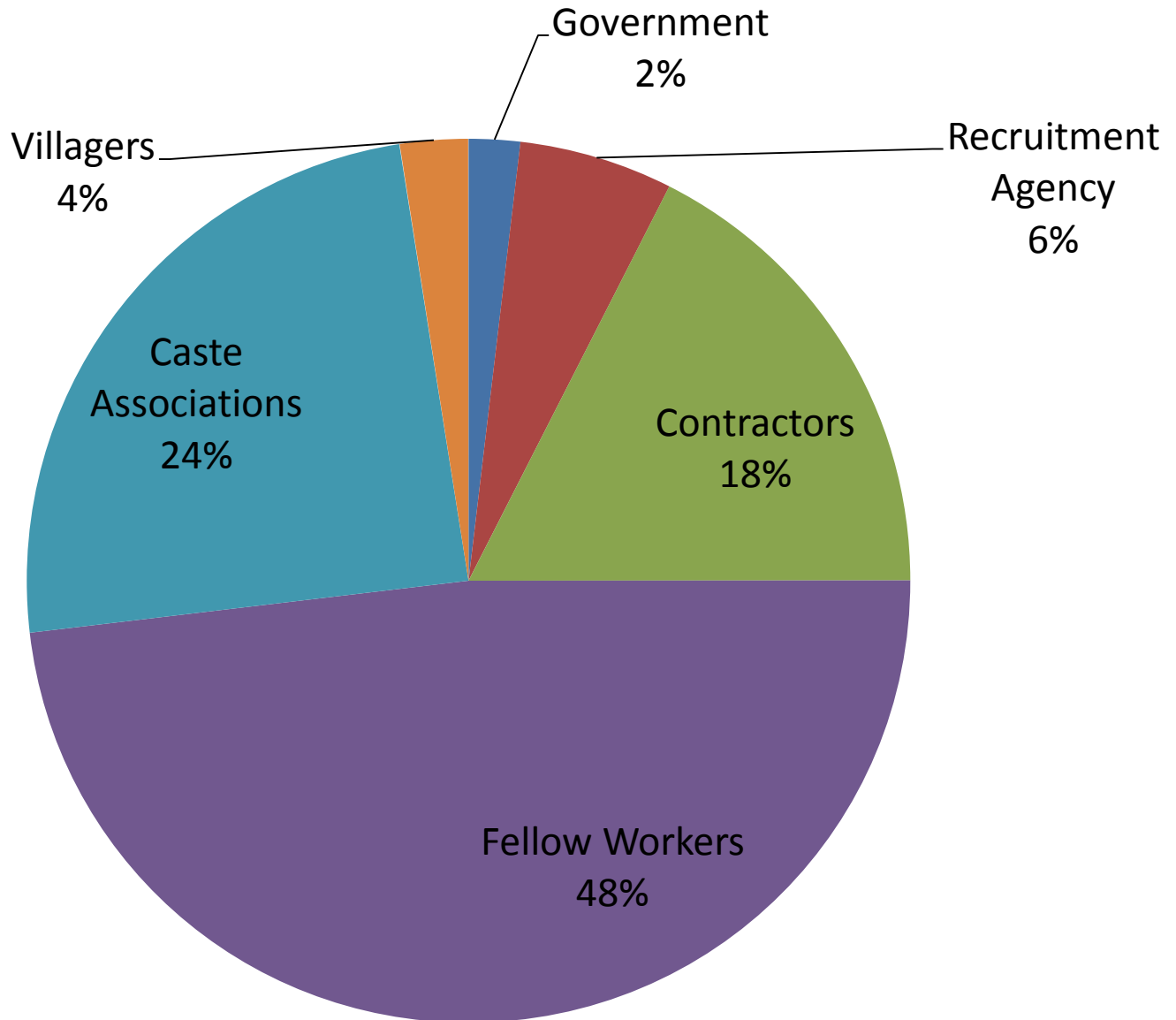


FINDINGS

Most returnees are forced to choose between casual labour, work in the informal sector or self-employment or remain unemployed.

- 21 percent the casual labourers have shifted to self-employment after migrating.
- However, higher proportion of those engaged in self-employment before migration, i.e. 34 percent have now shifted either as casual labour or are unemployed (24 % and 10 % respectively).
- There is hardly any change in the share of regular salary/wage employment.
- 90% found employment through the informal networks of contractors, family and co-workers. Only 10% are directly employed by the employer or through recruitment agencies.
- It clearly shows that the workers move back and forth between casual labour and self-employment. And due to this uncertainty in the job market, nearly half of the respondents i.e. 46% still are willing to re-migrate to Gulf.
- While the shift from casual labour to self-employment seems encouraging, it is important to note here that among those who are engaged in self-emp currently; 89% are Own-Account Enterprises and 60% of them have taken credit from informal sources (money-lenders, property-mortgage and friends and relatives)

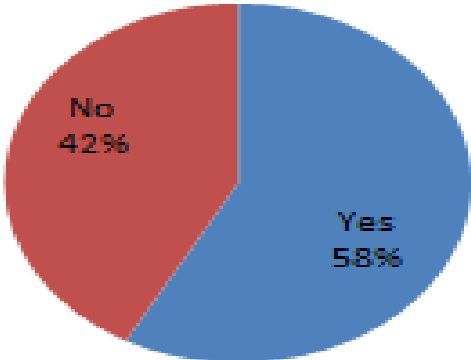
Role of various Agencies in Economic Re-integration



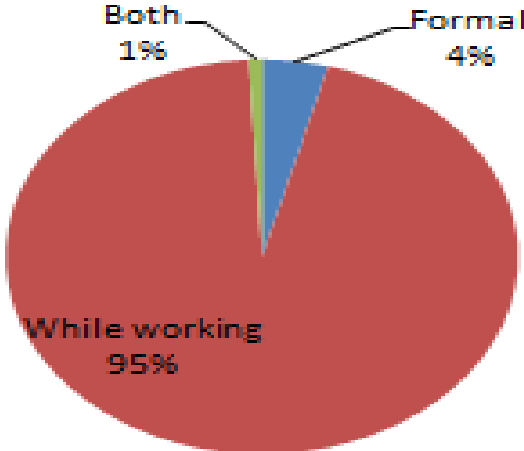
Skills Acquired in Gulf and Spill-Over in India

Human Capital Acquired during the period of Gulf Emigration

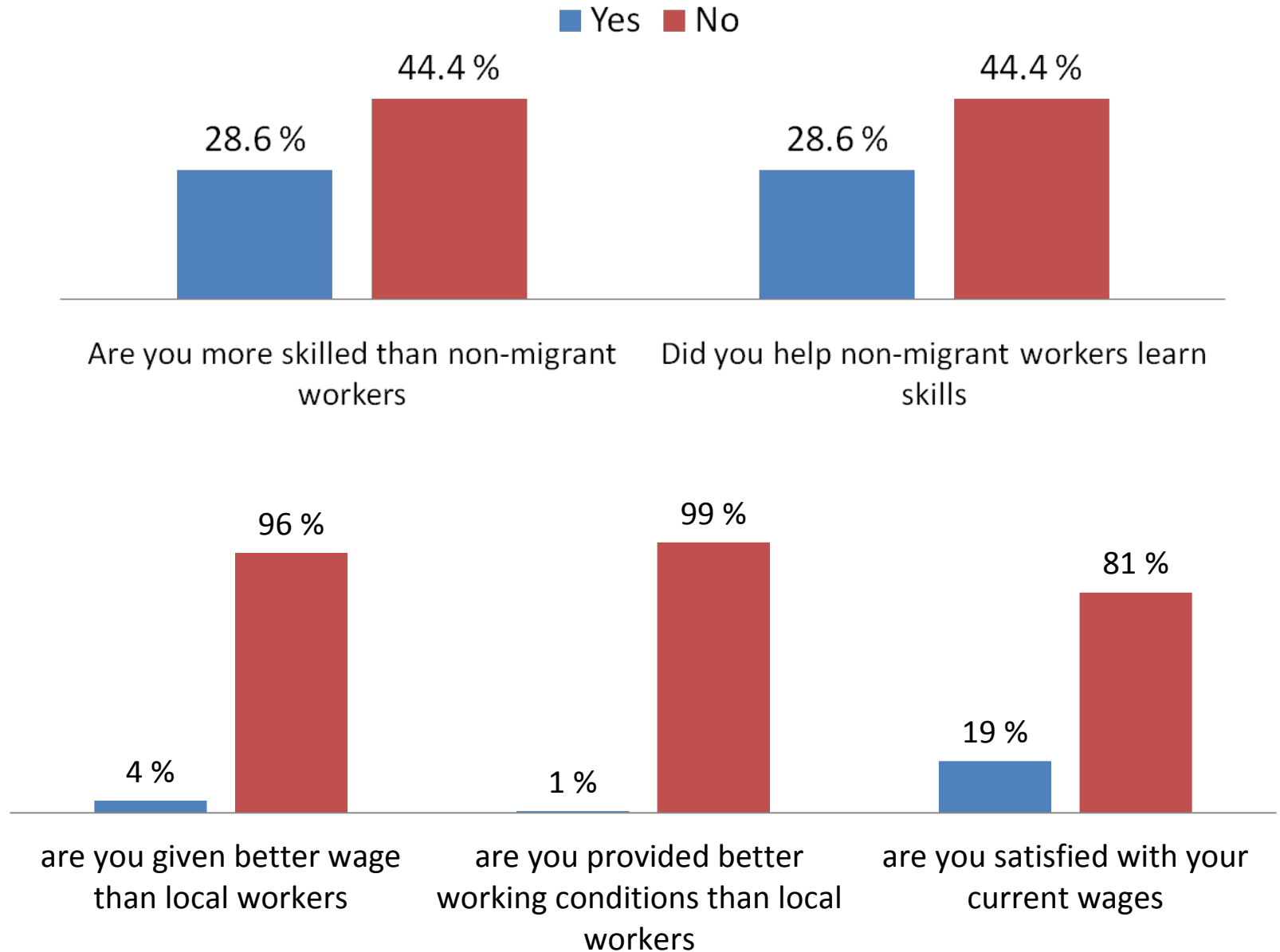
Did you Acquire New Skill in Gulf



How did you Acquire New Skill



Perception about Skill and Skill-Premium



IMPORTANT OBSERVATIONS and Recommendations

- That the employment status of the return migrants presently is worse off than in their host country.
- That the skills acquired during their work at Gulf have hardly enhanced their employability after return in the local market.
- That the skills acquired during their work at Gulf have no positive impact upon their work profile/status of the period before migration.
- That due to very limited labor market opportunities, return migrants from Gulf, are forced to choose from unemployment, self-employment in the informal sector, and casual labour.
- The formal regular employment for the return migrants remains limited.
- Hence, it is very unlikely that the human capital gained by them during their stay at Gulf has given them higher returns or have enhanced their employability after return in the local market.