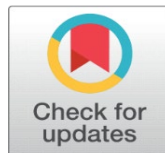
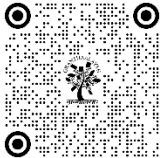


IMPACT OF MIGRANT LABOUR AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING ON GLOBAL ECONOMY WITH EMPHASIS ON INDIA

Ashok Kumar Pandey ¹, Dr. Komal Vig ²

¹ Ph.D. Candidate at Sharda University, India

² Dean, Department of Law, Sharda University, India



Corresponding Author

Ashok Kumar Pandey,
ashokpandey.bci@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT

Migrant labour and human trafficking exert contrasting influences on the global economy. Migrant labours, driven by workers crossing borders or relocating within countries, addresses critical workforce shortages in host economies and channels substantial remittances back home, thereby fostering development. Conversely, human trafficking exploits vulnerable populations for illicit profits, imposing heavy societal costs through enforcement, healthcare burdens, and diminished productivity. Focusing on India, a major exporter of migrant labour and a trafficking nexus; this paper quantifies migration's economic benefits against the losses wrought by trafficking. India's 139 million internal migrants and \$100 billion in remittances (2022) underscore migration's economic significance, while trafficking's estimated annual illicit revenues (\$30–343 billion) highlight urgent human and financial repercussions. Through comparative analysis, this study underscores the need for strengthened labour protections, targeted anti-trafficking measures, and international cooperation to reconcile economic growth with human rights imperatives.

Keywords: Migrant Labour, Human, Trafficking, India

1. INTRODUCTION

The intersections of migrant labour and human trafficking create profound economic ripples across the global landscape, with India occupying a position of particular significance. This paper explores these dual phenomena through an economic lens, examining how the legitimate movement of workers and the illicit trafficking of persons affect national economies, remittance flows, labour markets, and development trajectories. Recent data indicates that while India benefits from record-breaking remittance inflows (\$129.4 billion in 2024)¹, it simultaneously confronts challenges

¹ Economic Times, 'India receives over \$100 billion remittances for three consecutive years' (Economic Times, 18 February 2024) <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/nri/invest/india-receives-over-100-billion-remittances-for-three-consecutive-years/articleshow/119811159.cms?> accessed 17 May 2024.

related to labour exploitation and human trafficking that undermine economic potential. The complex relationship between migration, trafficking, and economic outcomes requires nuanced policy approaches that maximize benefits while minimizing human costs.

2. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK: MIGRATION, TRAFFICKING, AND ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

Defining the Economic Dimensions

Migration and human trafficking represent distinct yet interconnected phenomena with significant economic implications. Migration encompasses voluntary movement driven by economic opportunity, while trafficking involves exploitation through force, fraud, or coercion. Both processes interact with labour markets, capital flows, and development patterns through various mechanisms².

The economic analysis of these phenomena requires examination at multiple levels. At the macroeconomic scale, migration affects Labour supply, wage dynamics, productivity, and growth in both sending and receiving countries. Remittances funds transferred by migrants to their home countries, constitute a vital economic channel, with global flows reaching an estimated \$905 billion in 2024, a 4.6% increase from 2023³. These transfers exceed other forms of external finance to developing nations, including Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) which has decreased by 41% over the past decade while remittances have increased by 57%⁴.

In contrast, human trafficking operates as a shadow economy estimated at \$172.6 billion annually, generating profits through exploitation while imposing substantial economic and social costs⁵. This illicit market follows supply-demand principles but produces negative externalities including lost productivity, healthcare costs, and criminal justice expenditures.

3. THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES AND ANALYTICAL APPROACHES

Multiple theoretical frameworks help explain the economic dimensions of migration and trafficking. Neoclassical approaches emphasize wage differentials between regions as primary migration drivers, while new economics of migration theories highlight household diversification strategies. Network theories explain how migration pathways become self-sustaining through social connections, reducing costs and risks for subsequent migrants.

The economic analysis of trafficking draws from theories of illegal markets, incorporating elements of risk premium, information asymmetries, and rent-seeking behaviour. Traffickers exploit economic vulnerabilities, operating in contexts of poverty, inequality, and weak governance to generate significant profits through human exploitation.

For comprehensive analysis, this paper employs a mixed-methods approach incorporating quantitative economic data on remittance flows, Labour market impacts, and trafficking market size, alongside qualitative assessment of policy frameworks, institutional mechanisms, and human experiences.

4. GLOBAL MIGRATION FLOWS AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS

Remittances as Economic Drivers

Remittances represent one of the most tangible economic benefits of international migration, functioning as a stable source of foreign exchange and household income. In 2023, remittance flows to low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) reached \$656 billion, continuing their position as the largest source of external finance for these economies other than China since 2015⁶.

These monetary transfers demonstrate remarkable resilience during economic downturns. While FDI to developing countries contracted significantly during recent global crises, remittance flows quickly rebounded, highlighting their

² "Stopping Exploitation of Migrant Workers by Organized Crime", (International Labour Organisation), <https://www.ilo.org/media/454096/download> accessed 19 May 2024.

³ Migration Data Portal, 'Remittances' <https://www.migrationdataportal.org/themes/remittances> accessed 18 May 2024.

⁴ AP7AM, 'NRI remittances soar to record \$129.4 billion in 2024, India' (AP7AM, 1 April [2024]) <https://www.ap7am.com/en/97942/nri-remittances-soar-to-record-129-4-billion-in-2024-india> accessed 18 May 2024.

⁵ Our Rescue, 'The Dark Market Economics of Human Trafficking' <https://ourrescue.org/education/statistics> accessed 19 May 2024.

⁶ Migration Data Portal, 'Remittances' <https://www.migrationdataportal.org/themes/remittances> accessed 17 May 2024.

counter-cyclical nature. This stability makes remittances particularly valuable for economic planning and household consumption smoothing in recipient countries.

5. THE ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF REMITTANCES MANIFEST ACROSS MULTIPLE DIMENSIONS

- *Poverty reduction* - Recipient households typically experience improved living standards, with funds primarily directed toward food, education, healthcare, and housing improvements⁷.
- *Human capital development* - Studies indicate increased educational enrollment and healthcare utilization in remittance-receiving households.
- *Financial sector development* - Regular remittance flows encourage banking participation and financial inclusion.⁸
- *Macroeconomic stabilization* - Remittances provide foreign exchange, improve balance of payments positions, and enhance sovereign credit ratings.

However, remittances may also generate economic distortions through "*Dutch disease*" effects, reduced Labour force participation among recipients, and increased inequality between remittance-receiving and non-receiving households⁹.

6. LABOUR MARKET DYNAMICS AND HUMAN CAPITAL FLOWS

International migration plays a significant role in redistributing human capital across borders, with profound effects on labour markets in both origin and destination countries. For countries of origin, emigration can serve as a pressure valve by alleviating unemployment and reducing excess labour supply.

This outward flow of workers, particularly in low-employment regions, can provide short-term relief and contribute to remittance-driven economic stability. However, there are ongoing concerns about "brain drain," especially when highly skilled professionals, such as doctors, engineers, and educators, choose to leave. The departure of this critical talent can constrain long-term growth, particularly in sectors that are already underserved like healthcare and education.

In destination countries, international migration produces a range of labour market effects. One of the most prominent benefits is the provision of complementary labour supply, where migrants often fill sector-specific shortages, such as in agriculture, construction, caregiving, and technology, thereby increasing overall productivity and economic output¹⁰. Wage and employment outcomes for native workers vary depending on the local context, but most research suggests that in flexible labour markets, the impact on native wages tends to be minimal or neutral.

Furthermore, migrant communities are often at the forefront of entrepreneurship and innovation. Studies have shown that migrants frequently exhibit higher rates of business creation and patent generation compared to native populations, contributing to the host economy's dynamism. There are also important fiscal considerations¹¹. On average, working-age migrants tend to contribute more in taxes than they consume in public benefits, though this balance can vary based on factors such as age, education level, employment status, and the structure of the destination country's welfare system.

Beyond these direct economic contributions, the broader effects of labour migration include the transfer of knowledge, cultural exchange, and the creation of transnational business and social networks. These networks often become conduits for increased trade, investment, and international cooperation, making migration not just a labour market phenomenon but a key driver of global economic interconnectedness.

⁷ International Labour Organization, 'Labour Migration Highlights No. 5' (ILO, [2023]) <https://www.ilo.org/media/441251/download> accessed 19 May 2024.

⁸ Migration Data Portal, 'Labour Migration' <https://www.migrationdataportal.org/themes/labour-migration> accessed 19 May 2024.

⁹ United Nations, 'The global economic crisis and migrant workers: impact and response' (UN, [2009]) <https://www.un.org/development/desa/publications/the-global-economic-crisis-and-migrant-workers-impact-and-response.pdf> accessed 18 May 2024.

¹⁰ International Labour Organization, 'The Contribution of Labour Mobility to Economic Growth' (ILO, [2015]) <https://www.ilo.org/media/116566/download> accessed 19 May 2024.

¹¹ The Impact of International Migration on Economic Growth in the Global Economy, <https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-444-53768-3.00019-9>

7. THE SHADOW ECONOMY: HUMAN TRAFFICKING AS GLOBAL BUSINESS

Market Structure and Economic Scale

Human trafficking represents a significant illicit market operating within the global economy. Current estimates place its annual value at \$172.6 billion, deriving primarily from exploitation of approximately 49.6 million victims worldwide, including 12 million children¹².

This criminal enterprise follows recognizable market principles: traffickers identify vulnerable populations (supply), respond to demand for exploitable Labour or services, and develop sophisticated distribution channels to connect these elements while maximizing profits and minimizing risks. Private sector entities exploit approximately 17.3 million victims, traffickers force 6.3 million into commercial sexual exploitation, and state actors subject 3.9 million to forced Labour¹³.

The market structure varies by region and exploitation type but typically includes:

- Recruiters who identify and obtain victims through deception, coercion, or abduction.
- Transporters who facilitate movement across regional or international boundaries.
- Exploiters who extract economic value through forced Labour or commercial sexual exploitation.
- Facilitators including corrupt officials, document forgers, and money launderers.

Economic profits derive from multiple mechanisms: wage theft in Labour trafficking, service fees in sex trafficking, debt bondage arrangements, and sales of victims between traffickers. The business model's profitability stems from minimal investment costs, reusable "products" (victims), and limited risk of prosecution.

8. ECONOMICS AND SOCIAL COSTS

Beyond its morally reprehensible nature, human trafficking imposes substantial economic costs that undermine development and productivity:

- *Lost productive potential* - Victims typically work under conditions that prevent full utilization of their skills and capabilities.
- *Healthcare costs* - Physical and psychological trauma requires substantial resources to address.
- *Law enforcement and criminal justice expenditures* - Detection, prosecution, and prevention consume significant public resources.
- *Distorted market competition* - Businesses using trafficked Labour gain unfair advantages over legitimate competitors, undermining market efficiency.
- *Reduced human capital formation* - Trafficking disrupts education and skill acquisition, diminishing future productivity.

The aggregate economic impact extends beyond direct costs to include negative externalities like increased public health challenges, weakened rule of law, and foregone economic growth. These effects are particularly pronounced in regions with high trafficking prevalence, creating development traps that perpetuate vulnerability to exploitation.

9. INDIA'S MIGRATION PROFILE: PATTERNS AND ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS

Scope and Scale of Indian Migration

India represents one of the world's most significant sources of international migrants, with its diaspora expanding from approximately 6.6 million in 1990 to 18.5 million in 2024¹⁴. This community spans more than 200 nations globally,

¹²Press Information Bureau, 'Child trafficking' (PIB) <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1234567> accessed 20 May 2024.

¹³ International Labour Organization, 'Global efforts to end forced labour could increase global GDP by US ' (ILO, [2022]) <https://www.ilo.org/resource/news/global-efforts-end-forced-labour-could-increase-global-gdp-us> accessed 17 May 2024.

¹⁴ AP7AM, 'NRI remittances soar to record \$129.4 billion in 2024, India' (AP7AM, 1 April [2024]) <https://www.ap7am.com/en/97942/nri-remittances-soar-to-record-129-4-billion-in-2024-india> accessed 19 May 2024.

with particularly concentrated presence in Gulf Cooperation Council states, which host approximately half of all Indian international migrants¹⁵.

Domestic migration within India's borders is even more substantial, with approximately 140 million internal migrants contributing 10% to the national GDP¹⁶. This massive internal movement is driven by three primary factors: aspirations for economic mobility, socio-economic disenfranchisement, and accelerating urbanization¹⁷.

Indian migrants encompass a wide spectrum of socioeconomic backgrounds, educational attainments, and occupational skills, reflecting the country's demographic and economic diversity. Among them, high-skilled professionals such as those in technology, medicine, engineering, and finance, predominantly migrate to OECD countries, where they contribute significantly to knowledge-driven industries and innovation ecosystems¹⁸. These migrants often occupy roles in research, corporate leadership, healthcare, and advanced technical fields, making them key players in the global knowledge economy.

On the other hand, semi-skilled workers tend to migrate to Gulf nations and Southeast Asian countries, where they take up employment in sectors like construction, manufacturing, hospitality, and caregiving. Their labour is crucial to the infrastructure development and service economies of these regions¹⁹.

Meanwhile, low-skilled labourers often migrate within India's borders, primarily from rural, agriculture-dependent areas to urban industrial hubs in search of better livelihood opportunities.

This internal migration supports India's informal and industrial economy, although it often occurs under challenging and vulnerable conditions. Importantly, the demographic profile of Indian migration is undergoing notable changes. There is a rising trend of women participating as primary migrants, stepping beyond traditional roles as accompanying family members to pursue independent economic and professional opportunities²⁰.

Additionally, migration flows are now seeing greater representation from states and social groups that were previously under-represented. This shift signals a broadening of access to migration opportunities and highlights evolving social dynamics within India's migration landscape.

Economic Impact of Indian Migration and Remittances

Remittances to India have reached unprecedented levels, totaling \$129.4 billion in 2024, including a record quarterly inflow of \$36 billion in the October-December period²¹. These transfers contribute approximately 3.4% to India's gross domestic product, underscoring their macroeconomic significance²².

The economic impact of these inflows manifests across multiple dimensions:

- *Household welfare* - Recipient families typically demonstrate higher consumption, improved housing quality, greater educational investment, and better health outcomes than non-recipient counterparts.
- *Regional development* - States with high emigration rates, particularly Kerala, Punjab, Gujarat, and more recently Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, benefit from substantial remittance inflows that stimulate local economies.

¹⁵ United Nations Statistics Division, '3rd International Forum on Migration Statistics (IFMS 2023)' <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/meetings/2023/ifms2023/> accessed 16 May 2024.

¹⁶ Sattva Consulting, 'Indian Migrant Workers' (Sattva Consulting, [2023]) <https://sattva.co.in/ski/indian-migrant-workers> accessed 18 May 2024.

¹⁷ India has 139 million internal migrants. They must not be forgotten' (World Economic Forum, [2017]) <https://www.weforum.org/stories/2017/10/india-has-139-million-internal-migrants-we-must-not-forget-them/> accessed 18 May 2024.

¹⁸ OECD (2022), The Contribution of Migration to Regional Development, OECD Regional Development Studies, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/57046df4-en>.

¹⁹ Michelle BUCKLEY, Adam ZENDEL, Jeff BIGGAR Lia FREDERIKSEN and Jill WELLS, 'Migrant Work & Employment in the Construction Sector' (ILO, [2016]) https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/wcmsp5/groups/public/@ed_protect/@protrav/@migrant/documents/publication/wcms_538487.pdf accessed 18 May 2024.

²⁰ UN Women, 'AT WHAT COST? WOMEN MIGRANT WORKERS, REMITTANCES AND DEVELOPMENT' [2017], <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Library/Publications/2017/women-migrant-workers-remittances-and-development.pdf> accessed 19 May 2024.

²¹ AP7AM, 'NRI remittances soar to record \$129.4 billion in 2024, India' (AP7AM, 1 April [2024]) <https://www.ap7am.com/en/97942/nri-remittances-soar-to-record-129-4-billion-in-2024-india> accessed 19 May 2024.

²² 'Fueling the Engine: Economic Contributions of the Indian Diaspora' (LinkedIn) <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/fueling-engine-economic-contributions-indian-diaspora> accessed 20 May 2024.

- *Foreign exchange stability* - Remittances provide reliable foreign currency inflows that help offset trade deficits and support the rupee's stability.
- *Banking system liquidity* - Non-Resident Indian (NRI) deposits contribute significantly to banking system reserves.
- *Countercyclical economic buffer* - During domestic economic downturns, remittance increases often provide stabilizing effects for recipient regions.

The Indian diaspora's economic contribution extends beyond remittances to include direct investment, knowledge transfer, business linkages, and cultural exchange that facilitates international trade relationships. With a combined economic footprint exceeding \$3 trillion annually, this global community represents a powerful force for India's continued development²³.

10. HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN INDIA: ECONOMIC DIMENSIONS AND IMPACTS

10.1. PATTERNS AND ECONOMIC DRIVERS

Human trafficking within and from India reflects complex patterns driven by economic vulnerabilities and market demands for exploitable Labour. While comprehensive data remains challenging to obtain due to the clandestine nature of trafficking, available evidence indicates significant prevalence across multiple forms of exploitation.

Economic factors driving trafficking vulnerability in India include:

- Persistent poverty and inequality that create desperation among vulnerable populations
- Unemployment and underemployment in rural regions
- Rapid, unplanned urbanization that outpaces formal sector job creation
- Gender-based discrimination limiting economic opportunities for women
- Climate-related agricultural disruptions that displace traditional livelihoods

These conditions create fertile ground for traffickers who exploit victims' economic aspirations through false promises of employment. The trafficking economy operates across domestic and international dimensions, with internal trafficking particularly concentrated in construction, brick kilns, garment manufacturing, and commercial sexual exploitation.

Trafficked Labour exists within complex supply chains that may intersect with formal economic sectors. An estimated 62% of wage workers in India lack formal contracts, 49% receive no paid leave entitlements, and 53% have no social security benefits, creating conditions where exploitation can flourish with limited detection²⁴.

10.2. ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES AND DEVELOPMENT IMPACTS

Human trafficking in India produces a cascade of adverse economic effects that collectively undermine the country's long-term development trajectory. First, when workers are coerced into exploitative conditions, their productive potential remains unfulfilled, resulting in lost productivity that depresses overall economic output. Closely linked to this loss is the degradation of human capital: victims especially children, suffer interrupted education and disrupted skill development, which diminishes their lifetime earning potential and, by extension, the economy's future talent pool²⁵.

Trafficking also imposes heavy burdens on the health-care system; the physical injuries and deep psychological trauma endured by victims create long-term medical and mental-health needs that strain public resources²⁶.

²³ 'Unpacking the Impact & Opportunities of the Indian Diaspora: A Global Footprint' (The United Nations) <https://theunitedindian.com/news/blog?Indian-diaspora&b=445&c=2> accessed 19 May 2024.

²⁴ OECD, Ending child labour, forced labour and human trafficking in global supply chains' (OECD, [2019]) <https://mneguidelines.oecd.org/Ending-child-labour-forced-labour-and-human-trafficking-in-global-supply-chains.pdf> accessed 17 May 2024.

²⁵ ILO, 'Leave No Child Behind in the Fight Against Human Trafficking' (International Labour Organisation, [2024]) <https://www.ilo.org/resource/statement/leave-no-child-behind-fight-against-human-trafficking> accessed 19 May 2024.

²⁶ Zimmerman, C., & Kiss, L. (2017). Human trafficking and exploitation: A global health concern. *PLoS medicine*, 14(11), e1002437. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmed.1002437>

Beyond health costs, significant public funds are consumed by the law-enforcement and judicial apparatus required to detect, investigate, and prosecute trafficking networks, as well as to rehabilitate survivors. At the same time, market distortions arise when businesses that rely on trafficked labour gain unfair competitive advantages, undercutting legitimate enterprises and impeding efficient market functioning.

Taken together, these interlocking economic harms extend far beyond individual victims: communities with high trafficking prevalence often enter self-reinforcing cycles of vulnerability that perpetuate exploitation across generations, erecting persistent barriers to truly inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

11. POLICY FRAMEWORKS AND INTERVENTIONS

11.1. GLOBAL GOVERNANCE AND ECONOMIC APPROACHES

International policy frameworks addressing migration and trafficking have evolved significantly, reflecting growing recognition of these phenomena's economic dimensions. Key approaches include:

- The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), which acknowledges migration's positive developmental contributions while promoting rights-based governance.
- The UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons (Palermo Protocol), which establishes prosecution, protection, and prevention as core anti-trafficking pillars²⁷.

11.2. ECONOMIC INTERVENTIONS FOCUS ON MULTIPLE DIMENSIONS:

- Reducing remittance costs - Currently averaging 6.2% globally (fourth quarter 2023) compared to the SDG target of 3%²⁸.
- Financial inclusion initiatives for migrants and remittance recipients.
- Skill recognition frameworks to maximize migrant productivity and compensation.
- Supply chain transparency requirements to identify trafficking risks in global production networks.
- Development-focused approaches addressing root causes of irregular migration and trafficking vulnerability.

International organizations including the ILO have developed specialized interventions targeting both supply and demand sides of financial services related to migration, working with employers' and workers' organizations to enhance welfare outcomes²⁹.

12. INDIA'S POLICY LANDSCAPE AND ECONOMIC STRATEGIES

India has developed a multifaceted policy approach to migration and trafficking that increasingly recognizes these phenomena's economic dimensions:

- Emigration governance through the e-Migrate system and bilateral Labour agreements with major destination countries, particularly in the Gulf region³⁰.
- Remittance facilitation through specialized banking products, tax incentives, and digital payment infrastructure.
- Anti-trafficking measures including the Trafficking in Persons (Prevention, Care and Rehabilitation) Bill, which strengthens prosecution while expanding victim support³¹.
- Internal migration governance through portability initiatives for social benefits, particularly ration cards and healthcare entitlements.

²⁷ UN, 'Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime' [2000] <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/protocol-prevent-suppress-and-punish-trafficking-persons> accessed 20 May 2024.

²⁸ Migration Data Portal, 'Remittances' <https://www.migrationdataportal.org/themes/remittances> accessed 20 May 2024.

²⁹ International Labour Organization, 'Labour Migration Highlights No. 5' (ILO, [2023]) <https://www.ilo.org/media/441251/download> accessed 18 May 2024.

³⁰ N Ganesh Naik, 'E-Migrate: Emigration in the 21st- Century India Governance' (International Journal of Research Publication and Reviews [2023]) <https://doi.org/10.55248/gengpi.4.923.92457> accessed 19 May 2024

³¹ The Trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2018

- Skill development programs targeting potential migrants to enhance their economic outcomes abroad.

Recent policy innovations focus on comprehensive approaches that address both opportunities and vulnerabilities. The government has established convergent efforts "to drive a safe migration movement in India" with three primary interventions: "establishing a comprehensive policy framework, enhancing social security coverage, and developing skill-based credential systems"³².

Remaining challenges include fragmented governance across multiple ministries, implementation gaps between central policies and state-level execution, and difficulty reaching the most vulnerable populations with protective services.

13. CONCLUSION: INTEGRATED APPROACHES FOR SUSTAINABLE OUTCOMES

The complex relationship between migration, trafficking, and economic development requires integrated policy approaches that maximize benefits while minimizing harm. Evidence demonstrates that well-managed migration generates substantial economic gains, with remittances functioning as a powerful development tool. India's position as the world's leading remittance recipient (\$129.4 billion in 2024) underscores migration's potential contribution to economic advancement³³.

However, trafficking and exploitation represent the dark counterpart to legitimate migration, generating substantial economic costs while inflicting immense human suffering. With human trafficking constituting a \$172.6 billion global industry, the economic imperatives for addressing this crime extend beyond moral obligations to include practical development considerations³⁴.

For India, as both a major source of international migrants and a country confronting significant trafficking challenges, these considerations hold particular relevance. The nation's continued economic advancement depends partly on harnessing migration's positive potential while constraining exploitation's negative effects.

Future research should focus on developing more precise measurement techniques for trafficking's economic impacts, evaluating policy effectiveness across diverse contexts, and exploring innovative approaches to migrant financial inclusion and protection. Through evidence-based policies and international cooperation, countries can work toward migration systems that contribute positively to sustainable development while eliminating trafficking's economic and human costs.

³² International Labour Organization, 'Labour Migration Highlights No. 5' (ILO, [2023]) <https://www.ilo.org/media/441251/download> accessed 20 May 2024.

³³ TOI, 'Overseas Indians send home record \$129.4 billion in 2024', (Times of India, 2024), <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/overseas-indians-send-home-record-129-4-billion-in-2024-remittances-cross-100-billion-for-3rd-consecutive-year/articleshow/119851568.cms> accessed 19 May 2024.

³⁴ Our Rescue, 'The Dark Market Economics of Human Trafficking' (Our Rescue, April 2024) <https://ourrescue.org/education/statistics/economics-of-human-trafficking> accessed 20 May 2024.