INTRODUCTION

Humans have been migrating since their evolution, in search of better living conditions and resources. In the remote past these population movements were free in the sense that there were no defined geographical boundaries. "Uneven distribution of population and resources, unbalanced utilization of resources, and variations in economic and cultural developments have influenced the mobility of men from one region to another (Sinha and Ataullah 1987: 1). The emergence of institutions like family, religion, polity and government have made these moving populations to settle into communities with defined geographical areas. This has resulted in the birth of city- states and later on, the nation states with definite territorial boundaries.

The process of migration is a continuous one, whether it is within a nation state or across the nations. Though it is the migratory laws of the both sending and receiving nations which control the moving populations, other issues like the push and pull factors, opportunity cost of migration, diversities in the division of labor in the place of destination act as barriers to free migratory flows.

The rapid changes in the contemporary global economic and technological spheres have further increased the magnitude of migration overseas. This has a significant effect on the division of labor in both the sending and receiving nations.
The nature and extent of contemporary international migration has been well described by Castles and Miller (1993:3) as follows:

"... People migrate as manual workers, highly qualified specialists, entrepreneurs, and refugees or as family members of previous migrants. Whether the initial intention is temporary or permanent movement many migrants become settlers. Migratory networks develop, linking areas of origin and destination, and helping to bring about major changes in the both. Migrations can change demographic, economic and social structures, and bring a new cultural diversity, which often brings into question national identity."

According to the I.L.O reports (Economist, Nov1, 1997: 91), international migration has reached a magnitude of 80 million migrants and another 20 million refugees outside their countries of origin. The report further says that every year, nearly one and a half million emigrate away from their motherland and another one million seek temporary asylum in the place of destination.

The overseas migrants not merely take with them their skills and expertise, but also their culture, styles of their life and ideologies to the place of destination. This has resulted in the long run, the birth of ethnic communities, which have become a part and parcel of the host social systems. The initial process of migration and the settlement of ethnic communities in due course in the host nations occur in various stages. Castles and Miller (1993:25) speak of a four-stage model when they discuss on the dynamics of migration pattern:

Stage1: temporary labor migration of young workers, remittances of earning and continued orientation to, the homeland,
Stage 2: prolonging of stay and the development of social networks based on kinship or common area of origin and the need for mutual help in the new environment;

Stage 3: family reunion, growing consciousness of long-term settlement, increasing orientation towards the receiving country, and emergence of ethnic communities with their institutions (associations, shops, cafes, agencies, professions).

Stage 4: permanent settlement which, depending on the policies of the government and the behavior of the population of the receiving country, leads either to secure legal status and eventual citizenship, or to political exclusion, socioeconomic marginalisation and the formation of permanent ethnic minorities.

It is in the context of formation of communities away from their motherland that the word Diaspora finds a place in the literature. A brief conceptualization of the term is attempted below.

**Definition of Diaspora**

Diaspora may be broadly defined as the migration of a population or a section of it, along with their ways of life to the place of destination or the receiving nation(s). They generally maintain their ways of living and cultural patterns, and get integrated into the host society.

The term Diaspora has its context of origin in the forceful expulsion of Jews from their motherland. Etymologically dia means through and speiro means to scatter, and is used to refer the dispersion of Jews after the Babylonian exile in 586 BC. The New Oxford Encyclopaedia Dictionary defines the term Diaspora (n) as the dispersion of the Jews after the exile, among Gentile nations; Jews so dispersed.
The Webster Dictionary (in the United States), defines 'Diaspora' as referring to a dispersal from and thus embodying a "... notion of a centre, a locus, a home from where dispersion occurs. It invokes images of multiple journeys" (Brah 1996: 181). Elaborating on the concept of multiple journeys, Brah notes that "...diaspora journeys are essentially about settling down, about putting down roots elsewhere." And that "these journeys must be historicized if the concept of Diaspora is to serve as useful heuristic device" (Brah, ibid: 182). The ideas of a home, with a defined border, dispersal and the formation of new identities form important aspects of a Diasporic community.

Robin Cohen (1996:515) analyses the concept of 'Diaspora' and brings out certain significant contexts under which Diaspora communities emerge. For him, Diaspora communities are formed as a result of

(a) Dispersal from an original homeland, often traumatically, to two or more foreign nations
(b) Expansion from a homeland in search of work, in pursuit of trade or to further colonial ambitions
(c) Entertain collective memory and myth about the homeland, including its location, history and achievements
(d) Possess idealization of the putative ancestral home and a collective commitment, its maintenance, restoration, safety and prosperity, even to its creation
(e) The development of a return movement which gains collective approbation
(f) A strong ethnic group consciousness sustained over a long time and based on distinctiveness, a common history and the belief in a common fate
(g) A troubled relationship with the host societies, suggesting a lack of acceptance at the least or the possibility that another calamity might befall the group and

(h) A sense of empathy and solidarity with co-ethnic members in other countries of settlement.

The Diaspora communities are a result of the transnational migration of certain populations beyond their geographical boundaries, and the resultant formation of ethnic communities when they try to trace their origin to the motherland. The concept of 'Diaspora' has been increasingly employed today to understand the process of dispersal. Transnational migration and settlement. There is considerable literature on the Chinese and African Diaspora besides the Jewish Diaspora. It is only recently that a few studies of Indian Diaspora are available and there is much to be covered to understand the dispersal of people of Indian origin across the globe.

**Objectives of the Study**

The present work seeks to explain the phenomenon of the migration of Telugus (Andhras) to the United States in the post 1965 era and the related socioeconomic and political aspects of the migration. The immigrant Telugu population in the U.S. is treated as a Diaspora community in light of their acquiring citizenship and evolution of regional and linguistic associations through which they maintain the Telugu culture and identity. The present work on the Telugu Diaspora in the United States is an explorative study with the following objectives-

(a) To examine the reasons that lead to the migration of the Telugus to the United States: the causes for their migration, the conditions of their life in
the States and their opinions on the differences of working conditions in the United States and India

(b) To analyze various socioeconomic and political implications of migration on the Telugu migrants and their families back at home in the place of origin in Andhra Pradesh.

(c) To examine the views of the Telugu community in the United States on the role of Telugu Associations in maintaining their social and cultural heritage.

Sources of Data

The study includes a description of the Indian Diaspora in general, Indian Diaspora in the United States and finally the Telugu Diaspora in the United States. The study is based on the data collected through both primary and secondary resources. The Primary data is collected through the responses to the questionnaire sent to 50 Telugus residing in the United States (temporary or permanent). Out of the 50, 22 respondents were kind enough to respond.

The Secondary resource for information is from the Internet and the published literature on the Indian Diaspora. Information on various socio-cultural and political aspects of the Telugus in the United States is obtained from various web sites, which are maintained by the emigrant Telugus and the Telugu Associations in the United States. The data on Asian Indians in the United States is obtained from various archival (U.S. Census Reports), and documented (published and unpublished books, articles and papers presented at Conferences) sources.
Research Techniques

The research techniques used here are 'questionnaire' and the 'survey'. Since the study is first of its kind on the Telugus in the United States, a questionnaire is administered to get the information on various aspects of their life in the United States. It contained both open and closed ended questions. There were more open-ended questions to allow the respondents to freely express their views.

This explorative study took the help of the Internet for information on Telugus in the United States, from various web sites on Telugu culture, Telugu Associations, and web sites on Andhra Pradesh.

Types of Data

(a) Data on the respondent- Information with regard to the age, sex, marital status, educational qualifications, occupation, place of origin and destination, year of departure to the United States, Place of destination and Income is collected. The age and marital status informed are at the time of answering the questionnaire. The status of the stay of the migrant is asked to distinguish the respondents from actual Telugu Diaspora and the Potential Telugu Diaspora. It is to be noted that, in no case the information thus collected can be generalized for the whole of Telugu Diaspora in the United States, "although a representative of a whole population, they are unlikely to be generalized to other populations at different times and places" (Sayer 1992: 243).

(b) Information on the process of the migration and consequent formation of the Diaspora community is collected. Information on the causes for the migration, the mode of help, is also obtained from the respondents.
(c) Opinions with regard to the differences in the working conditions between the Indian and American context, the impact of the migration on the socioeconomic and political, cultural lives of the migrants as well as on the family back home, are collected.

The respondents are also requested to express their views on the nature and functions of the Telugu Associations.

The tabulation and analysis of the data is done manually, as the number of respondents is small. A comparative analysis has been tried with the help of percentage is done.

**Chapterization**

The dissertation comprises of three chapters besides an introduction and a conclusion. The second chapter provides a general description of the Indian Diaspora. The chapter also examines some of the theoretical approaches employed in the analysis of the Indian Diaspora.

The third chapter explores the nature and extent of the Indian Diaspora in the United States. Data is obtained from various census reports and the published and unpublished works on the Indian Diaspora in the United States. The chapter also deals with process of migration of Indians to the United States. An attempt is made to look into geographical dispersal and cultural continuity among the Indians in the United States.

The fourth chapter explores the Telugu migration to the United States, in terms of the causes for the migration, the place of origin, destination, year of departure to the
United States. Information on initial contact, the socioeconomic and political impacts on the family back home are also dealt with. The chapter further examines their participation in the Telugu associations and their views towards such associations. The respondents were also asked to express their opinions on the existing conditions in the state of Andhra Pradesh and the policies towards the Non Resident Indians. The conclusion is an attempt to frame some theoretical propositions, and to indicate areas of further research on the Indian Diaspora.