PREFACE

Some of the major issues and problems of migrating population in all periods of times and in all countries are like adaptation, adjustment, unemployment or underemployment, economic exploitation and social discrimination by local people, cultural conflict, confusion, dilemma, cultural shock, feeling of alienation, preservation of separate ethnic identity and generation gap between first and second generation immigrants etc. These problems and issues are to be studied in terms of causes and consequences and explained specifically within socio-cultural context from sociological perspectives.

The diasporic studies incorporate aspects of identity, culture, conflicts, multiculturalism, power, ethnicity etc. Basic reason for the sociologist’s interest in the study of Diaspora and its emergence as the important discipline in sociology is its nature of influencing changes and adjustments in socio-cultural and economic life of migrant people and their family members left behind. International migration leaves an impact, which may be direct or indirect, on all the concerned family members. The movement of people across the international boarders has multiple impacts such as: demographic, economic and social in both the countries of the origin and destination. Moreover migration influences the lives of people in areas as diverse as the rural regions of developing countries and great metropolises of the industrialized countries.

Diaspora has great bearing upon the economy, social structure, culture and play significant role in socio-economic development and socio-cultural changes in area of origin at local, regional and national level. These immigrants also act as ambassador in the country of their immigration by representing culture and society of origin. In view of such numerical and functional significance, several Diasporic studies are conducted on Gujarati Diaspora. In the absence of sufficient sociological studies on Gujarati Diaspora, the present work is an effort to achieve a broader understanding of the study of Gujarati diaspora with special reference to England,
America and Canada, which will enable us to develop deeper insight and understanding about diasporic issues and problems.

This research work examines and understands Gujarati Diaspora by focusing on the socio-cultural and economic background of Gujarati Indians who have migrated to England, America and Canada, the socio-economic factors responsible for emigration, the interface between migrants and host-communities and Gujarati Diaspora’s contributions to the growth of the Indian economy and development of Gujarat. Present research work will add to the existing body of literature on Diaspora and contribute to great extent in our understanding of various issues and aspects of Diaspora which is emerging as an important field of research in Social sciences.

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