
UNIT 13 DIASPORA NETWORKS

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3.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After reading this Unit you will get an understanding of

- The phenomenon of diaspora network and its significance
- The nature and characteristics of diaspora networks
- Implications of diaspora networks

13.2 INTRODUCTION

An immigrant community always maintains connections with its real or putative homelands after its settlement in the destination countries. This social process or phenomenon is popularly known as 'diaspora'. Diasporas are forcefully or voluntarily dispersed, displaced and deterritorialized immigrant communities who live outside their homelands. The concept 'diaspora' has assumed a wider usage over the years since inception. It was initially used to refer only to the exile of Jews from their homeland to various parts of the globe; but today the concept is being used to any kinds of immigrants who are living outside their origin countries permanently or temporarily.

The formation of the diaspora community may be historical or contemporary. Global diasporas are very diverse in nature and characteristics, for instance Jewish diaspora, Chinese diaspora, Mexican diaspora, Tibetan diaspora, Indian diaspora and African diaspora. Since diasporas maintain real or psychic connections with their respective homelands, they are aptly called transnational communities. The advent of globalisation has fostered the transnational aspects of diasporas more than ever before. Further, globalisation accompanied by the advancement of transport, communication and information technologies has reinforced and sustained the national identification as well as the intensification of transnational practises of diasporas with the real or putative homeland.

They maintain socio-economic, cultural and political relationships with their cohorts in their respective locales or host lands as well as across the globe by

establishing ‘networks’ of different forms and kinds. These networks can be formal or informal. Diaspora networks are a social reality given their diasporic consciousness. With enhanced economic and social capitals of global diasporas, they have become an important stakeholder in origin and host countries in the era of globalisation. The growing diasporic triadic social relationships or networks have socio-economic and political implications in homeland as well as host land. However, it depends upon their socio-economic status and engagement policy of the host and origin countries. The concept ‘diaspora network’ has assumed significance given the fact of growing international migration in the era of globalisation in the recent decades. Let us discuss the phenomenon of diaspora networks, its nature and characteristics, forms and types and implications in this Unit.

13.3 THE MAIN FEATURES OR CHARACTERISTICS OF ‘DIASPORA NETWORK’

The concept ‘network’ can simply be defined as a web of social relationships or connections that exist between individual actors and groups. The members of the network will derive benefits from their participation in their respective networks. Diasporas tend to maintain links or bonds among themselves given their common origin, ethnicity and status in host lands. Though they might have integrated well in host lands, they maintain real and imagined links with their country of origin. This inherent nature of dual loyalty of diasporas has led to various kinds of diaspora networks within the members living in host and home lands. Hence, diasporas are a source and an instrument of networks.

With the help of diaspora networks, sustained connections or ties with home land as well as with cohorts living across the world are maintained. Further, the degree of diaspora networks can be determined through the status of its socio-economic position in host lands and diaspora engagement policy of homelands. Moreover, diaspora networks may be formal or informal. Diaspora networks are related to socio-economic, cultural, ethnic and political activities with homelands and co-ethnics living across the world. It can broadly be classified into social and economic networks. Social networks of diasporas include immigrant/ migrant, ethnic, religious, family, clan, kinship, and gender. Economic networks of diasporas include entrepreneurial, managerial, industrial and technological networks. The following network categories were identified among the skilled expatriates such as student/scholarly network, local associations of skilled expatriates, expert pool assistance through development agency and intellectual/scientific diaspora networks.

An advancement of transport and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) coupled with the advent of globalisation has strengthened ‘diaspora networks’ with home and co-ethnics living around the world in the recent decades. The phenomenon of transnationalism is an outcome of diaspora networks spanning across beyond home lands. Diaspora networks promote various kinds of flows between home and host countries and beyond. It is a tapping tool to channelise the resources of diasporas. Diaspora networks reduce the costs of brain drain by fostering cooperation and sharing knowledge and skills and business investment. It can also be a catalyst for entrepreneurship. It

has converted the brain drain into brain gain and brain circulation in the era of globalisation.

Diaspora networks can facilitate trade and investment links between their home and host countries. Members of diaspora networks often have a comparative advantage in providing goods and services given their linkages. Diasporas in itself are information channels to exchange information, market intelligence, capital and skills because of ethnic based networking. The networks help the new economic immigrants to adapt easily in host lands and are important for sharing information and participating in social and cultural activities. In order to strengthen diaspora networks, they establish various kinds of diaspora organisations in host lands. Apart from trade linkages, cultural assertion and ethnic identification is feasible because of the existence of diaspora networks.

In addition, they also accelerate diaspora engagement given its network members in home countries and elsewhere. The Diaspora Network Alliance (DNA) framework has identified six channels for diaspora engagement with homelands namely Diaspora Philanthropy, Diaspora Volunteerism, Diaspora Entrepreneurship, Diaspora Capital Markets, Diaspora Tourism & Nostalgic Trade, Diaspora Advocacy & Diplomacy. In general, these networks play a pivotal role in facilitating socio-economic developments of host and home countries. At the same time, given the inherent nature of long-distance nationalism of diaspora communities, aided by diaspora networks, they are involved in anti-colonialism, separatism, regime change and political participation in homelands. Thus, diaspora networks pave a way for positive and negative implications on home and host lands.

Check Your Progress: 1

- Note:** a) Write your answer in about 50 words.
b) Check your answer with possible answers given at the end of the unit

1. Define the concept of Diaspora Networks.
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2. How many types of diaspora engagement take place as identified by the Diaspora Network Alliance (DNA)?
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13.4 DIASPORA NETWORKS: A GLOBAL SCENARIO:

13.4.1 Formation of Diaspora Networks and Role of Information and

International migration has been on the rise since the last few decades. The World Migration Report 2020 states that the number of international migrants globally in 2019 was 272 million, about 3.5 % of the world's population. The United States remained the favourite destination country for international migrants, having 50.7 million international migrants. The prevalence of 'networks' among the immigrants facilitates adoption as well as to settle at ease in the destination countries. Over a period of time, they become a settled immigrant community or diaspora community. Given their diasporic consciousness, they sustain or maintain various kinds of flows between host and home countries and also with co-ethnics living across the world with the assistance of diaspora networks. Diaspora networks have become much wider, denser and stronger in the light of advancement of transport and information and communication technology. For instance, with the advent of ICT tools like email, discussion groups, blogs, WhatsApp groups and social networking platforms like Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn, the diaspora networks have further intensified. To cite an example, the Overseas Chinese Network (OCN) website (<http://www.overseaschinesenetwork.com>) includes sections for blogs, discussion forums, listings of events and job opportunities. With the expansion of digital infrastructure across the globe, there is an emergence of digital diasporas that resulted in intense diaspora networks for various interests and objectives. The proliferation of digital diaspora networks has closely bound the diaspora communities with homelands and with their co-ethnics around the world. After the advancement of ICT, the clout of diaspora has increased in host and home lands due to dense or increased network activities.

13.4.2 Skilled/Knowledge/intellectual/academic/ Scientific Diaspora Networks

The growing international migration of high-skilled human capital from the global South to global North in search of better opportunities or life chances has led to the depletion of human resources in the poor and developing countries. This social phenomenon is commonly known as 'brain drain' by migration scholars. Diaspora networks have reduced the phenomenon of brain drain by sharing or circulating gained knowledge and experience information to the members of the network in home countries with the assistance of ICT. Thus, it has converted 'brain drain' into 'brain gain' or brain circulation or brain bank in the era of globalisation.

Saxenian's study highlights the role of international, ethnic professional networks in facilitating knowledge transfer or brain circulation. Research by Meyer and Brown (1999) at the University of Cape Town identifies 41 expatriate knowledge networks around the world. Expatriate knowledge networks have been established around the world for mobilising highly skilled expatriates to contribute their skills and expertise to the development of their country of origin. Expatriate knowledge networks were classified into five categories: student/scholarly network, local associations of skilled expatriates, expert pool assistance through the Transfer of Knowledge Through Expatriate Nationals (TOKTEN) programme of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), developing intellectual/scientific diaspora networks and intellectual/scientific diaspora networks. These networks are specifically aimed at facilitating the

transfer of knowledge and expertise between highly skilled expatriates and their counterparts in their country of origin. Networks like the Association of Thai Professionals in America and Canada, the Philippines Brain Gain Network, the Polish Scientists Abroad, the Arab Scientists and Technologists Abroad (ASTA) and the Palestinian Scientists and Technologists Abroad (PALESTA), the Global Korean Network, the Colombian Caldas network and the South African Network of Skills Abroad (SANSA) are the classic cases of knowledge diaspora networks.

Barring a few networks, most of them are non-profit, independent entities which are not affiliated to any political party or the national government. Membership for most of the networks is open to researchers, scientists and students alike. Members are highly skilled and well qualified. For example, 57.2% of the network members of the Philippines Brain Gain Network hold advanced degrees (masters and doctorates). Members for most of the networks are highly dispersed; for instance, the members of the Caldas network are spread across in 23 countries and six main world regions with the majority of them drawn from the United States, United Kingdom and Spain. Network members are involved in various activities and organise different social, cultural and educational events. Events include conferences, seminars, workshops, focus group discussions as well as social events such as dinners, Christmas parties and picnics.

All the networks run a newsgroup or newsletter, periodicals, specific digests which are in either a paper or electronic version in order to foster communication between network members and to inform members about the latest developments at home. Scholarly articles and books written by network members are published by them. Network members engage in various joint developmental projects with government agencies and private and non-profit organisations so as to ensure the economic and social advancement of the country-of-origin. An executive committee or executive council which varies in size according to the size of the network manages the network.

13.4.3 South African Network of Skills Abroad (SANSA): A Case Study

South African Network of Skills Abroad (SANSA) was set up in 1998 with a joint initiative of the University of Cape Town's Science and Technology Policy Research Centre and a leading French agency, the Institute for Research and Development. It was launched to tap the expertise and skills of South African skilled expatriates living across the globe. The objective of SANSA was to establish tie-ups or collaborations beside skill transfers with highly skilled expatriates in the fields of science and technology with their counterparts in South Africa. The network has acted as a medium or platform to play a role in the development of South Africa without having to return home.

The network was formed by accessing the alumni networks of all major South African academic universities and technical universities in order to connect with the skilled South African expatriates with the researchers, scientists in South Africa. The web portal of SANSA (<http://www.sansa.nrf.ac.za>) provides information about the network, its stated objectives, and available opportunities for networking with other members, as well as general information about South Africa. SANSA is a non-profit, independent, non-political entity of highly

skilled South Africans who are involved with the socioeconomic development of South Africa.

The Website has features such as electronic bulletin boards and discussion groups, which facilitate exchange, networking, and communication among members. The bulletin board provides information about job offers, cooperative ventures, general announcements, available services, seminars and conferences. Discussion groups based on seven broad themes such as the arts, sports and recreation, engineering technology and architecture, humanities and social sciences, management and administration, natural sciences and health sciences are very active.

Network members are drawn from a wide range of professions such as management and administration (24 percent); the humanities and social sciences (23 percent); the natural sciences (18 percent); and engineering and related fields (15 percent); including from the health sciences, the arts, and sports and recreation. Network members were highly qualified in different disciplines, of which 82 percent had at least a bachelor's degree. Forty-seven percent obtained masters' degrees, and 29 percent received doctorates. While 85 percent of members obtained their undergraduate degree in South Africa, about half of them obtained their doctorates in their home country. SANSA plays a pivotal role in making South Africa emerge as a knowledge based economy.

In the case of Chinese Diaspora, the following web portals namely the China Scholar Abroad (www.chisa.edu.cn), China Overseas Talents (www.chinatalents.gov.cn) and CAS Overseas Study and Continuing Education (www.castalents.ac.cn) were founded to share or exchange the intellectual capital between the Chinese diaspora and homeland China. In fact, the digital knowledge network of Overseas Chinese professionals, academics and scientists has acted as a medium to exchange knowledge, information and to carry out transnational collaborations between the overseas Chinese community and homeland Chinese. The role of the Chinese knowledge diaspora is undeniable for the growth and development of the knowledge economy in China.

13.4.4 Role of Diaspora networks in Entrepreneurship and International Business and Trade

Diaspora networks facilitate international business and trade, entrepreneurship and ethnic business. Diasporas have acted as mediators or facilitators of international trade flows. They can forge trade and investment links with ease between their home and host countries. Direct Diaspora Investment (DDI) has more advantages than Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) because of the presence of network members who would be facilitators or channels for the flow of information, market intelligence, capital and skills. Further, given their emotional and psychic connection, they will not backtrack their investments at the time of economic downturn.

Saxenian's study found that Taiwan's (China) science-based industrial park in Hschinchu had forty per cent of the companies led by returned emigrants. In prevalence of mutual trust and aid, the immigrant associations or networks facilitated access to capital, marketing skills, and markets for Taiwanese start-ups. Further, a survey by Saxenian (1999) revealed that 74 per cent of first-

generation Indian immigrant respondents and 53 percent of first-generation Chinese immigrant respondents said they hoped to start a business back home because of their networks. The direct investment of the Chinese Diaspora has led to a remarkable investment boom over the past two decades. An estimate of 70 percent of foreign investment was provided by the Chinese Diaspora. Firstly, the important stimulus for investment of the Chinese diaspora was its quest to connect with the homeland. Secondly, as the Non-Chinese investors are at times upset over the Chinese language, cultural and legal barriers, the Chinese diaspora has an advantage to do business with China because of its entrepreneurial experience, specialised knowledge, and its wider networks.

Given the strong ethnic networks of the Chinese diaspora spanning across the globe, Chinese entrepreneurs were amongst the most significant sources of foreign investment in the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. During the post-World War period, the Chinese diaspora with the construction of a “bamboo network” extending from Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand to one another and to China diversified their economic activities from traditional trading and manufacturing, then in high-tech and finance. These international networks seem to exist much wider across many nations at present.

The South African Diaspora Network was launched in 2001 to develop knowledge and entrepreneurial connections between local South African firms and South African diaspora in the United Kingdom. It facilitated collaborations between influential business people from South Africa in key overseas markets and young high-potential start-up ventures based in South Africa. The South African Diaspora Network brought together University Alumni Associations and the South African Business Club, an organisation with members in the United Kingdom and the United States, to strengthen their ties and collaborations with business firms based in South Africa.

Gillespie and others (1999) surveyed some 572 U.S.-based first- and second-generation immigrants belonging to the investment-deficient economies of Armenia, Cuba, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the West Bank and Gaza. They were all interested in making investments in their native countries because they felt that their ethnicity would give an edge in understanding opportunities or conducting business than external investors. Countries like China, India, South Africa, Mexico and other developing economies in Asian and African regions have witnessed the investment booms from their respective diasporas. Diaspora networks have accelerated international business and trade, entrepreneurship and ethnic business due to the transition of the global economy in the era of globalisation.

Apart from positive impacts, diaspora networks have accelerated the long-distance nationalism of the dispersed diaspora community. It facilitated crowd funding by establishing diaspora organizations in the host lands in order to fund militant, insurgency movements and for the growth of global terrorism. Global diasporas have fought against multinational non-democratic empires around the world. For instance, the Greek, the Polish, Irish and Slovak diasporas in the nineteenth and twentieth century's, or the communities of Russian Socialists throughout Western Europe in the beginning of the twentieth century supported and were involved in creating democratic nation states. After the end of Cold

war, global diasporas have emerged as important actors and supporters of civil insurgencies, militant movements and terrorism around the world. The Palestinian, Irish, and Sri Lankan Tamil diasporas have played a substantial role in sustaining insurgencies and civil war in their respective homelands. The Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) received substantial funding from the Albanian diaspora in the West.

It is very important to note that diaspora networks not only promote ethnic nationalism but also civic nationalism by acting as bridges, mediators, facilitators, lobbies and advocacy groups for ensuring the primacy of national security and economic interests of their respective homelands. For instance the Indian American community has leveraged its soft power, political clout and lobbying efforts. The formation of diaspora network groups such as the Congressional Caucus on India and Friends of India Caucus in the Senate have paved the way for building positive perceptions and growing optimism in India. Indian-American lobbyists played a pivotal role in the historic passage of the 2006 “Hyde Amendment” to the Atomic Energy Cooperation Act and the 2008 Congressional approval of the US-India 123 Agreement enabling US-India cooperation in civilian nuclear-energy trade.

Check Your Progress: 2

- Note:** a) Write your answer in about 50 words.
 b) Check your answer with possible answers given at the end of the unit
3. What is the role of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in strengthening diaspora networks?

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4. Define the concept of Diaspora Direct Investment (DDI)?

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13.5 DIASPORA NETWORKS AND THE INDIAN DIASPORA:

13.5.1 Profile of Indian Diaspora

Indian Diaspora has assumed a great significance among the global diasporas given its volume, vast spread and changing profile in host lands. It is more than 20 million strong, spread across seventy countries. They are more than 40

percent of the population in Fiji, Guyana, Mauritius, and Surinam significant minority communities in Australia, Canada, Malaysia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Uganda, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Given the volume and economic clout of the Indian diaspora in recent times, it acted as mediators, and facilitators of international trade and investment. The Indian entrepreneurs, technocrats and management consultants have a high profile in the global economic order. The Indian diaspora has maintained its cultural and economic ties with India through informal and formal networks at different points of time.

As stated earlier, the profile of the Indian diaspora has changed significantly in various locations of the world. In the case of the United Kingdom, the Indian diaspora is represented significantly in various businesses and high-skilled occupations such as information technology (IT) and medicine. According to an estimate, there were more than 300 influential, non-resident Indian businesspeople and 150 other very rich and prominent Indians in the United Kingdom, including Gulu Lalvani (electronics industry), Manubhai Madhvani (sugar industry), Lakshmi Mittal (iron and steel industry), Lord Swaraj Paul (manufacturing and supply of steel and engineering products), and Jasminder Singh (hotel industry) and so on. In the Gulf region, the skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workers are playing a vital role for the growth and development of the Gulf region. Given their lack of citizenship status despite staying longer, they tend to send their earnings in the form of remittances to their families back home and make investments in various sectors of the economy. In other developed countries, particularly Canada and the United States, Indians have been very successful in most knowledge or white-collar professions, including engineering, IT, medicine, finance, business administration and accounting. The Indian diaspora occupies key positions in the various sectors of the US economy. A substantial number of executives in midsize and large companies were drawn from the Indian community. Around 15 percent of IT start-ups were created by Indians. In addition, Indian origin academicians are well-represented in US academia. Indian physicians are five percent of the total physicians of the USA. Given their prominence and visibility, they have been labelled as 'Model Minority' of the U.S.A.

13.5.2 The Skilled Indian Diaspora Networks and its implications for India

The boom of the IT and outsourcing industry in India was a result of the trust, reputation building and social capital of the Indian community settled in the United States, United Kingdom and Canada. Given their diaspora networks back home, the mid to late 1990s, several Indian professionals of Indian origin started their own companies in India. Cognizant and Mphasis Technologies are a few examples. Indian software professionals were "reputation enhancers" (Kapur 2010) which enabled them to lobby in the interests of India and outsource jobs. Further, the Indian community of U.S has played the role of "reputational intermediaries" (*ibid*) to boost the confidence of Multinational companies for getting their investments to India.

The Indian technocrats and engineers who were working in the research and multinational companies were able to influence decisions with regard to investment and location of centres for research and development. Companies like Texas Instruments, Hewlett Packard and General Electric were chief among

those who utilised the services of their employees of Indian origin to set up subsidiaries in India in the 1980s. The skilled Indian diaspora has also contributed to skill and technology transfer in the IT sector. A recent survey of 225 IT firms in India confirms that on the whole, migration of Indian IT professionals has created possibilities for brain gain through diaspora investment, networking for contacts and projects, technology transfer, information dissemination and exchange and various forms of collaboration.

Indian IT professionals provided venture capital for start-up companies in India. They have played a crucial role in shaping the regulatory structure of India's private equity and venture capital sector. Further, the diaspora networks of Indian diaspora have accelerated the development of IT and Business Processing Office (BPO) industry and have created 'brand name' for India in the global economy. Indian doctors and nurses have earned a good reputation in the health sector of different parts of the globe especially United Kingdom, United States and Gulf region. They transferred their skills and expertise for setting up world class corporate hospitals and super speciality healthcare systems in India. Escorts, Medicity, Apollo and L.V.Prasad Eye institute of Hyderabad are a few examples.

13.5.3 Indian Diaspora Network Organisations and its impact on India

Diaspora associations and networks have played an important role in the process of transfer of knowledge, skills and expertise for the promotion of business and trade, entrepreneurship and collaboration for various activities. In the field of health care, the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) is the largest Indian ethnic medical organisation in the United States and an umbrella organisation for about 100 professional associations. The American Association of Physicians from India, the Association of Indian Neurologists and the Association of Asian Indians in Ophthalmology in the United States have contributed to the transfer of skills and technology through medical research and training collaborations back in India. The overseas Indian medical community is outsourcing some segments of laboratory and diagnostic testing. The American Association of Physicians from India (AAPI) and its AAPI Foundation in India have been working with India's health authorities to improve the regulation of medical education in India.

There is a vast pool of Indian origin scientists and technologies who have been working in the well-known research establishments in the global North. The Scientists and Technologists of Indian Origin (STIO) is a forum of Indian scientists and technologists which has contributed for the development of higher education, research and training in India. The STIO community has helped Indian scientists to take part in the joint research projects. They have facilitated the establishment of the following higher educational and research establishments namely the Centre for Theoretical Physics at the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore, the Advanced Network Laboratory and IBM Research Centre at Indian Institute of Technology in Delhi and have established research chairs in reputed higher educational institutions. There have been many instances of inviting distinguished STIOs to India for research capacity building.

Many of the skilled Indian diaspora community members had graduated from

the top-notch institutions in India and maintained informal and formal ties with their alumni back home and elsewhere. The formation of non-profit associations, such as The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE) and the Silicon Indian Professional Association were set up to connect up or to tap for the promotion of business and trade. These organisations have emerged as a worldwide network of Indian professionals. In the year 2004, TiE had 42 chapters and more than 10,000 members worldwide. These organisations influenced the growth of the Indian IT Industry. The TiE and Silicon Valley Bank brought two delegations of venture capital companies to explore potential investment opportunities and some venture capitalists of Indian origin in the US who have funded Indian R&D companies that produce Intellectual Property and innovative products in the areas of wireless technology, semiconductor design technology and so on.

In the Gulf region there are various diaspora organisations which are engaged in networking for varied interests. For instance, the Indian Doctors, Engineers, Architects and Accountants Society (IDEAAS) based in Saudi Arabia are the world's largest network of Indian professionals abroad. It has been engaging in various socio - economic and cultural activities through their established networks back in India. As stated by the World Migration Report 2020, India received about USD 78.6 billion, followed by China about 67.4 billion and next Mexico about USD 35.7 billion.

Apart from growing economic remittances of the Indian diaspora, the Indian diaspora has accelerated trade and business flows in several sectors such as textiles, food products, entertainment goods (films, music and video), gems and jewellery, leather products, herbal products and handicrafts. The Indian diaspora has been taking part in philanthropic activities at the individual level or at the collective level through its networks.

Diaspora organisations like the Indo- American Charity Fund, the India Disaster Relief Fund and the Indian Doctor's Club Charity Fund have played a very important role in philanthropic activities with the help of local civil society groups. The India Service Corps formed by people of Indian origins supports projects in infrastructure, education, agriculture, micro credit, health sanitation and other rural development projects in cooperation with non-governmental organisations in India. The American Association of the Physicians of Indian Origin set up free clinics in India and donated equipment and engaged in AIDS prevention, medical education, rehabilitation and disaster management programmes through its own India based NGO called 'The Charitable Foundation of AAPI'.

Apart from these positive initiatives, a section of the Indian diaspora is also involved in separatism, political conflicts and fundamentalism through their established networks in India. For instance, Khalistan Movement of Sikh Diaspora, Hindu and Muslim fundamentalism and Kashmir political conflict were triggered by the respective Indian diaspora groups by funding and transfer of radical ideas to their networks in India. Further, there are socio-cultural diaspora organisations to promote their Indian cultural, caste, religious and regional interests. These organisations have established connections with homeland bound organisations for its assertion of ethnic and cultural identities. For instance, the Hindu Council of UK has strong ties with India-based Hindu

Check your Progress: 3

- Note:** a) Write your answer in about 50 words.
 b) Check your answer with possible answers given at the end of the unit

1) What is the profile of the Indian Diaspora?

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2) Name the Diaspora Organisations in the US that contributed to the growth of the Indian Software Industry?

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13.6 LET US SUM UP

From the above discussion we can clearly see that diasporas are sources of networks. Diaspora networks have become intense and have expanded wider than ever before because of an advancement of transport, information and communication technology in the era of globalisation. The formation of diaspora networks is a global reality today as we live in an interconnected world. Further, Diaspora networks have mitigated brain drain phenomena and made it possible to circulate ideas and information to a vast network. Diaspora networks are transnational in nature due to their expanded ties spread across more than one country. Moreover, it has not only promoted international business and trade, entrepreneurship and knowledge transfer, but also facilitated cultural assertion and ethnic identification.

Besides, it has enhanced emotional and psychic connections with homeland and co-ethnics living across the world. With the rise of racism, xenophobia and majoritarian nationalism in the recent years, diaspora networks are imperative to leverage upon to sustain oneself in alien lands. As discussed above, it has positive and negative implications for home and host countries. As diasporas are endowed with enhanced social and cultural capital, they have emerged as third actors in the comity of nations. Moreover, they are a viable means for diaspora engagement. Generally, diaspora networks have provided an impetus to socio-economic growth and development of home and host countries in contemporary times.

13.7 KEY WORDS

Diaspora Networks: It refers to ties or links or connections extending within the

members of diaspora community in a host land as well as with the members of home land and also co-ethnics living elsewhere in the World.

Expatriates or Expats: Someone who does not live in their own country.

Long Distance Nationalism: The term 'long-distance nationalism' simply refers to the transnational political practises of dispersed population towards their real or imagined homeland. Benedict Anderson coined the term 'long-distance nationalism'.

Brain Drain: It means the loss of human capital due to migration of highly skilled workers in search of better opportunities from a developing country to a developed country.

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13.9 CHECK YOUR PROGRESS – POSSIBLE ANSWERS

Check Your Progress: 1

1. It refers to ties or links or connections extending within the members of a diaspora community in a host land as well as with the members of home land and also co-ethnics living elsewhere in the World. For example, Indian Diaspora Networks.
2. The Diaspora Network Alliance (DNA) framework has identified six channels for diaspora engagement with homelands namely Diaspora Philanthropy, Diaspora Volunteerism, Diaspora Entrepreneurship, Diaspora Capital Markets, Diaspora Tourism & Nostalgic Trade, Diaspora Advocacy & Diplomacy.

Check Your Progress:2

3. Diaspora networks have become much wider, denser and stronger in the light of advancement of transport and information and communication technology. For instance, with the advent of ICT tools like email, discussion groups, blogs, WhatsApp groups and social networking platforms like Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn have intensified diaspora networks.
4. Direct Diaspora Investment (DDI) means making investments by the diaspora community in a home country. It has more advantages than Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) because of the presence of network members who would be facilitators or channels for the flow of information, market intelligence, capital and skills.

Check your Progress: 3

5. The Indian Diaspora is more than 20 million living in seventy countries. They are more than 40 percent of the population in Fiji, Guyana, Mauritius, and Surinam significant minority communities in Australia, Canada, Malaysia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Uganda, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The profile of the Indian diaspora is changing because of its socio-economic mobility of the members of the diaspora community in recent times.
6. The formation of non-profit associations, such as The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE) and the Silicon Indian Professional Association were set up to connect up or to tap for the promotion of business and trade. These organisations have accelerated the development of the IT and BPO industry and have created 'brand name' for India in the global economy.