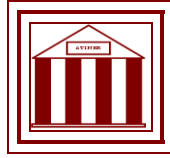


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Oman (1993-2010)**

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Damietta University
Egypt**

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Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Indian Immigrants in the Sultanate of Oman (1993-2010)

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Abstract

There are many temporary Asian immigrants (TAI) in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, who have come along with the massive waves of Asian labor since the seventies of the twentieth century. Temporary Indian Immigrants (TII)' numbers are estimated to be the largest among Asian labor force in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states in general and in the Sultanate of Oman in particular.

The study aims to analyze the growth of the size as well as geographical distribution of the TII within Omani governorates. The study also examines their gender, age, and educational level, as well as their marital and work status. The study makes use of the results of three Omani census data (1993, 2003, 2010), and labor force data, using a quantitative and cartography method.

The study showed that the historical relations between India and the Sultanate of Oman have played a significant role in increasing the numbers of Indian workers in the Sultanate, where their numbers increased from 267584 in 1993 to 465660 people in 2010 (representing 13.3% of Omani population and 50.0% of the expatriates body and 16.8% of Omani population and 57.1% of the expatriates in Oman).respectively The study also revealed that Indian labor force controls many sectors of the Omani labor market, such as the construction, household workers, agriculture, retail trade and motor vehicles repair sectors, thus it is difficult to dispense them at least in the near future.

Keywords: Asian Labor - Gcc Countries - Oman - Indian Immigration - Socio-Demographic Characteristics.

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Introduction

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries (including Oman) have been receiving huge waves of foreign workers (especially Asians) since the mid-seventies until the present time. This wave started in two phases: in the seventies of the twentieth century with Arab labor migration from North Africa, and in the eighties with the flood of immigrants from Asia, which has not slowed down until the present time (Mohammed, N., 2003, pp: 160-61). Since then, the Arabian Gulf region has become one of the largest recipients of labour migration flows in the world (Jureidini, Ray. 2014)

The large numbers of foreign workers in the GCC states occurred due to the oil boom, which has had a significant role in financing constructing infrastructure, economic structures, and various development projects. Additionally, the development and modernization processes in the Arabian Gulf region offered thousands of job opportunities in many sectors and at varying levels of skill and experience (Hendawy, August 2008, p 18).

The proportion of expatriates in the Sultanate of Oman; henceforth Oman, and Saudi Arabia, compared with the total expatriate population in the other GCC states are considered the lowest. This proportion is more than 50.0% in Bahrain and Kuwait, and more than 85.0% in Qatar, and it reached about 88.6% of the total population of the United Arab Emirates (Table 1).

Table 1. Population of the GCC Countries by Nationality (2010)

Country	Citizens		Expatriates	
	Person	%	Person	%
Oman	1957336	70.6	816143	29.4
Saudi Arabia	18973615	68.8	8589817	31.2
Bahrain	568399	46.0	666172	54.0
Kuwait	1056900	39.5	1616026	60.5
Qatar	243073	14.3	1456362	85.7
United Arab Emirates	947997	11.5	7316073	88.5
Total GCC	23425157	53.7	20146165	46.3

Source: - Co-operation Council (GCC), the Secretariat 0.2011.
 - De Bel-Air, Françoise. 2014 (Qatar data).
 - General Census 2010, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
 - The Ministry of National Economy, 2011 (Oman).

Indians moved to the GCC states in large numbers following the oil boom of the 1970s, and their numbers grew further as the economies of the GCC states expanded in the subsequent decades. Currently, there are approximately six million Indians living and working in the six Gulf States (Kohli, Neha, 2014, pp: 115-116).

The Study Area

Oman is located in the southeast coast of the Arabian Peninsula, and lies between latitudes 16° 40' and 26° 20' N, and longitudes 51° 50' and 59° 40' E. It is bordered by Saudi Arabia to the west, Yemen to the southwest, and the United Arab Emirates to the northwest, and shares marine borders with Pakistan and Iran. With an area of 309501 Km² mostly covered by gravel desert plain (in the center) with mountain ranges along the north and southeast coast. Oman is administratively divided into 11 governorates (Figure 1), and each governorate is also divided into a number of Willayats (districts).

According to 2010 census, the population of Oman was 2773479 people, of whom 1957336 were Omani and 816143 were expatriates. The latter represented 29.4% of the total population, mostly Asians. The average of annual population growth in Oman was 2.4% (2003-2010), with total fertility rate of 3.3 child/woman. The average population density is nine persons/km², with various rates among governorates, where in Muscat (the capital), it was 150, while in Al-Wusta region (mostly desert) it was less than 1 persons/km².

About 75.4% of total population live in urban areas, and the most important cities are: Muscat (the capital), Sohar and Sur in the north, and Salalah in the south. The rest of population live in rural areas: around Al-Aflaj and wells' water in Al-Batinah coast, mountain and desert oases and Bedouin in the desert areas.

Figure 1. Location and Administrative Areas of Oman



Source: According to Royal Decree No. 114/2011

Objectives:

The study aims to monitor and analyze the development of the Temporary Indian Immigrants (TII) in Oman, in terms of size, growth rates and geographical distribution throughout the Omani governorates. The study also monitors their characteristics in terms of gender, age, education level, marital and work status, in order to clarify the preference of Omani labor market for TII. It also aims to identify the future of TII in Oman.

Methodology:

The study focuses on the TII in Oman, excluding the Indians who have gained Omani citizenship. In order to reach a deeper analysis of the characteristics of TII in Oman, the study made use of the data derived from three Omani censuses (1993, 2003, 2010), and of labor force data, using the quantitative and cartography methods. It also used data from Arab and international organizations such as the Arab Labor Organization and the United Nations as well as other international and regional organizations. The study also used some related geographical and non-geographical research. The process of data analysis of TII has two levels: first, data analysis at the level of the country (Oman) in comparison with the GCC countries, second, at the governorates level.

Data analysis related to the future of TII in Oman depends on their annual growth rate scenarios (Projected population calculated according to the prediction equation which: *Projected population = Log (latest census) + No. of years × Log (1 + growth rate)*). It was found out that most of TII in Oman are married and they had come to Oman without their wives. Thus, the levels of fertility scenarios become inadequate to indicate their future in Oman.

Hypotheses:

There are two affirmative hypotheses and two null hypotheses

1. Omani labor market prefers Indian workers to other expatriates.
2. Omani labor market does not prefer Indian workers to other expatriates
3. Oman might dispense all expatriate workers, including Indians due to adopting Omanization policy.
4. Oman might not dispense all expatriate workers, including Indians due to adopting Omanization policy.

Expatriates in Oman

In the beginning of the seventies the number of expatriates in Oman was about 107000 people representing approximately 14.8% of its total population (Al-Zhlol, & Ali, 2003, p 372). The number increased in 1993 to be 534848 people, representing 26.5% of its total population.

According to the 2010 census, the number of expatriates was 816143 people, representing 29.4% of the total population. This meant that the flow of foreign

labor increased significantly in recent years due to comparatively high salary levels that attracted foreign work force (Deffner & Pfaffenbach, 2011).

The census also showed that the annual growth rate of the expatriate population peaked in the period 2003-2010, reaching 5.4% (Table 2), which exceeded the annual growth rate of Omani population, despite the optimistic expectations of Omanisation policy in public and private sectors. This could be ascribed to the expansion of economic and service projects such as the Port of Sohar project in North Al-Batinah and Duqm Port in Al-Wusta governorate, as well as the growth of the private sector, which had a major role in increasing the number of expatriates in that period.

Table 2. *Size and Growth Rate of Omani & Expatriates (1993-2010).*

Year	Size of Population			Growth Rate %	
	Omani (Person)	Expatriates		Omani	Expatriates
		Person	% of total pop.		
1993	1483226	534848	26.5		
2003	1781558	559257	23.9	1.80	0.45
2010	1957336	816143	29.4	1.34	5.40
1993-2010				1.63	2.50

Source: - Ministry of Development, General Census of Population 1993.
 - Ministry of National Economy, 2005, and 2011.
 - Own calculation

The relations of Oman and Indian have had a clear impact in increasing the number of TII in Oman, where they comprised 13.3% of the total population of Oman in 1993, representing about 50.0% of the total expatriates. In 2003, the number of TII in Oman reached 300693 people, representing 53.8% of the total expatriate. The 2010 Census data showed that the number of TII was nearly half a million (465660 people), representing 57.1% of the total expatriate. While the proportion of Egyptian immigrants (who are the most among Arab immigrants in Oman) did not exceed 3.7% of the total expatriates (Table 3).

Three Omani census data indicated that Asians immigrants represented the largest and most important expatriate population group in Oman, and their size grew from 455588 people (85.1%) in 1993 to 721511 people (88.4%) in 2010 (Table 3). In contrast, the proportion of the Arab immigrants decreased from 12.2% of the total expatriates in 1993 to 8.5% in 2010.

Table 3. The Main Nationalities of Expatriates in Oman (1993-2010)

Nationalities	1993		2003		2010	
	Person	%	Person	%	Person	%
GCC	5607	1.1	9605	1.7	7997	1.0
Egyptian	32995	6.2	23711	4.2	29877	3.7
Other Arabs	26324	4.9	28750	5.1	31112	3.8
Indian	267584	50.0	300693	53.8	465660	57.1
Other Asians	188004	35.1	180439	32.3	255851	31.3
British	7473	1.4	415	0.7	4054	0.5
Other Europeans	2960	0.6	3603	0.7	4487	0.5
African	1169	0.2	Within the other nationalities			
USA	Within the other nationalities				1540	0.2
Other nationalities	2732	0.5	8341	1.5	15565	1.9
Total of Arabs	64926	12.2	62066	11.0	68986	8.5
Total of Asians	455588	85.1	481132	86.1	721511	88.4
Total of expatriates	534848	100.0	559257	100.0	816143	100.0

Source: - Ministry of Development, Census 1993.

- Ministry of National Economy, 2003; and 2011.

- Own Calculation.

Factors leading to favoring Asian to Arab labor force in the Omani labor market

- Asian workers' wages are generally lower than national and Arab workers, as they are more accommodating and more tolerant to hard working conditions and also capable of doing diverse work.
- The simple mechanism of recruiting Asian labor in Oman plays an important role in increasing the numbers of Asians labor, where recruiting workers in Oman is done by the Omani private sector. However, in Asian countries, there are government and private recruiting agencies in India, Pakistan, Philippines, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka.
- The historical relations between India and Oman contributed to preferring such laborers (Al-Harthy, 2000).
- The political decision of the GCC states authorities to limit the number of Arab workers and use labour force from other countries, especially from the India and South-East Asia (Kapiszewski, A. 2004).
- Preference of Global and international companies in Oman such as the Asian construction companies to recruit large numbers of non-Arab labor force.
- Vagueness of Labor marketing training policies in the non-GCC Arab countries, in addition to the fact that their training programs are unable to provide highly qualified and well trained labor force meeting the requirements of contemporary technological age.

- Reluctance of Omani workers to work in the private sector their preference of the government one, due to its higher wages and job security.
- Lack of enthusiasm of private sector business owners to employ national workers and their preference to the Asian labor (Hendawy, 2012, pp: 594-597).

Geographically, expatriates population are distributed throughout all the governorates of Oman with different proportions according to the nature and needs of each governorate. The total number of expatriates in 2010 was 816143 people, of whom 86.7% lived in urban areas and 13.3% in rural areas, which meant that most of the expatriates lived in its urban areas.

Muscat governorate, being the capital city, had most investments projects and services and it attracted most expatriate workers. In 2010 the number of expatriates was 368872 people, representing 47.54% of the total population of the governorate (Table 4), and 45.2% of the total expatriates in Oman.

Table 4. Size and Percentage of Expatriates in Oman (2003-2010).

Governorate	2003		2010	
	person	%	person	%
Al-Wusta	6141	26.35	23068	54.78
Muscat	250461	39.63	368872	47.54
Al-Buraymi	38724	50.40	29891	40.99
Dhofar	65001	30.10	85656	34.30
Musandam	8054	28.38	9527	30.32
Adh-Dhahirah	20602	15.83	32787	21.62
North Al-Batinah	57720	14.11	97047	20.07
South Al-Batinah	31378	12.83	54593	18.89
Adh-Dakhliyah	31803	11.90	57582	17.63
South Ash-Sharqiyah	32106	18.49	30751	16.35
North Ash-Sharqiyah	17267	12.35	26369	16.23
Total	559257	23.90	816143	29.40

% = % of total governorate's population.

Source: - Ministry of National Economy 0.2005; and 2011.

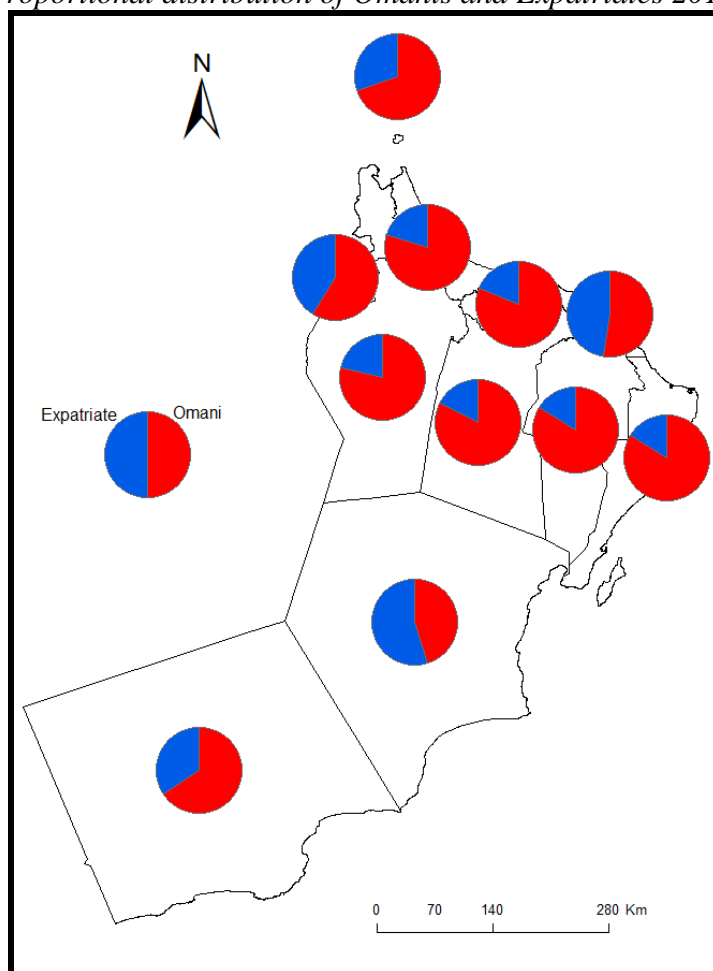
- Own calculation

Expatriates proportion varied throughout the governorates of Oman. In 2010, the proportion of expatriates in Al-Wusta governorate was more than half of its population (54.78%), (Figure 2), where it had many economic projects such as oil mining, in addition to the Duqm port project, which attracted a lot of foreign workers.

According to the 2010 census, the proportion of expatriates rose more than 30% of the total population in the governorates of Muscat, Dhofar, Al-Buraymi and Musandam (Table 4). This was attributed to the fact that Muscat being the

capital city (as mentioned earlier), Dhofar being the capital of the South, and the possession of many tourist attractions and activities such as *Khareef* (summer) Salalah, that had attracted a large number of expatriates to work in the field of tourism.

Figure 2. *Proportional distribution of Omanis and Expatriates 2010*



Source: By the researcher according to 2010 Census data.

Al-Buraymi shares the border with the UAE, making it as a transit for expatriates, especially those who wish to enter the UAE from Oman and vice versa. The proportion of expatriate ranged between 20% and 30% in the governorates of North Al-Batinah and Adh-Dhahirah, and less than 20% of the total population in the rest of the governorates.

As shown above, the expatriate population is spread all over Oman and concentrated in urban areas. In some cases, they live in their own communities which are not of their own choice, but they were imposed on them by the nature of their work, for example, in labor camps, farms, poultry and animals farms or industrial areas and mining operations.

Temporary Indian Immigrants (TII) in Oman: History, Growth and Distribution

TII constitute a major figure in the equation of population size of GCC states. Where their size in these countries exceeded six million people in 2012, of whom 2.5 million in Saudi Arabia, 2.2 million in the United Arab Emirates, and 466 thousand in Oman, in addition to those in other GCC states. Money remittances of these workers constituted a significant portion of India's foreign exchange income. According to the World Bank statistics, in 2012, India received US\$ 29.69 billion as remittances from their workers in the GCC countries (Pradhan, P. Kumar 2014, p: 3).

It is worth mentioning that Omani-Indian relationship is very old and backdated to the Middle Ages. This was in trade relations between the state of Gujarat on the west coast of India and Omani ports: Qalhat, Sur and Muscat. The oldest Indian family migrated to Oman dates back to eighth generations (Ginu Zacharia Oommen & Khurshid Imam, 2010, p: 92-93; Pasha, 2003).

India is considered to be the largest façade for Omani exports (India imports from Oman almost all the production of urea fertilizer). Non-oil trade relations have developed and made substantial growth where it became close to 2 billion US dollars (Vaidya, 2008). Additionally, there are other areas of cooperation such as strategic cooperation in the military training and information technology (Lefebvre, 2011). In 2013 the total bilateral trade between India and Oman was doubled to 4.55 billion US\$ (Pradhan, P. Kumar 2014, p: 7), where India exported to Oman at about US\$ 2.6 billion and imported from Oman at about US\$ 1.95 billion (Rizvi, M. Mahtab A., 2014, p. 99).

This relation has played an important role in increasing the number of TII in Oman. At the beginning of the seventies of the twentieth century, the number of Indians in Oman, was about 38500 people, and then increased to 220000 in early nineties (Kohli, Neha, 2014, pp:119). In 1993 the size of TII was 267584 people, and increased to 300693 in 2003 (Table 5). The average annual growth rate of TII in that period (1993-2003) was 1.2%, due to the low annual growth rate of male Indians, who reached only 0.4%, while the growth rate of female Indian was 4.6%. This was due to the significant thrust of Omanisation policy of that period, which led to reducing dependence on male labor force in general. On the other hand, there was an increase in the number of female Indians due to using them many new health and educational facilities in addition to miscellaneous services and working as housemaids.

In the period 2003-2010 there was a significant growth in the size of TII in Oman, where it reached 465660 people in 2010, resulting in a higher annual growth rate of the TII population to 6.2%, which was very high compared with the growth rate of Omani population (1.34%). In 2012 the number of TII was estimated by 718642 immigrants (Kohli, Neha, 2014, p: 119).

Table 5. *Size, Growth Rate by Gender (1993-2010) of TII, and their weight (2010)*

Governorate	1993			2003			2010			% of TII 2010.
	Total	% M.	% F.	Total	% M.	% F.	Total	% M.	% F.	
Muscat	147215	80.64	19.36	154453	74.57	25.43	239383	78.95	21.05	51.5
Dhofar	30292	87.82	12.18	34573	81.98	18.02	41839	81.48	18.52	9.0
Musandam	2855	85.71	14.29	4445	83.82	16.18	3915	84.80	15.20	0.8
Al-Buraymi	18464	91.31	8.69	8876	82.33	17.67	7929	81.94	18.06	1.7
Adh-Dhahirah				10713	87.63	12.37	17387	92.48	7.52	3.7
Adh-Dakhliyah	14713	91.33	8.67	17695	84.84	15.16	33824	90.82	9.18	7.3
North Al-Batinah	35000	89.05	10.95	25195	76.03	29.97	50245	81.60	18.40	10.8
South Al-Batinah				13804	79.68	20.32	29281	87.86	12.14	6.3
South Ash-Sharqiyah	17319	89.72	10.28	18658	82.72	17.28	14620	73.04	26.96	3.1
North Ash-Sharqiyah				8715	83.35	16.65	10739	82.81	17.19	2.3
Al-Wusta	1726	97.04	2.96	3566	96.41	3.59	16490	98.76	1.24	3.6
Total	267584	84.62	15.38	300693	78.23	21.77	465660	82.10	17.90	100.0
AGR %				1.2	0.4	4.6	6.2	6.9	3.5	

Notes: - Al-Buraymi within Adh-Dhahirah governorate in 1993 and the North Al-Batinah and South Al-Batinah were one province, as well as the south and north Ash-Sharqiyah.

AGR = Annual Growth Rate.

Source: Ministry of Development, General Census of Population, 1993.

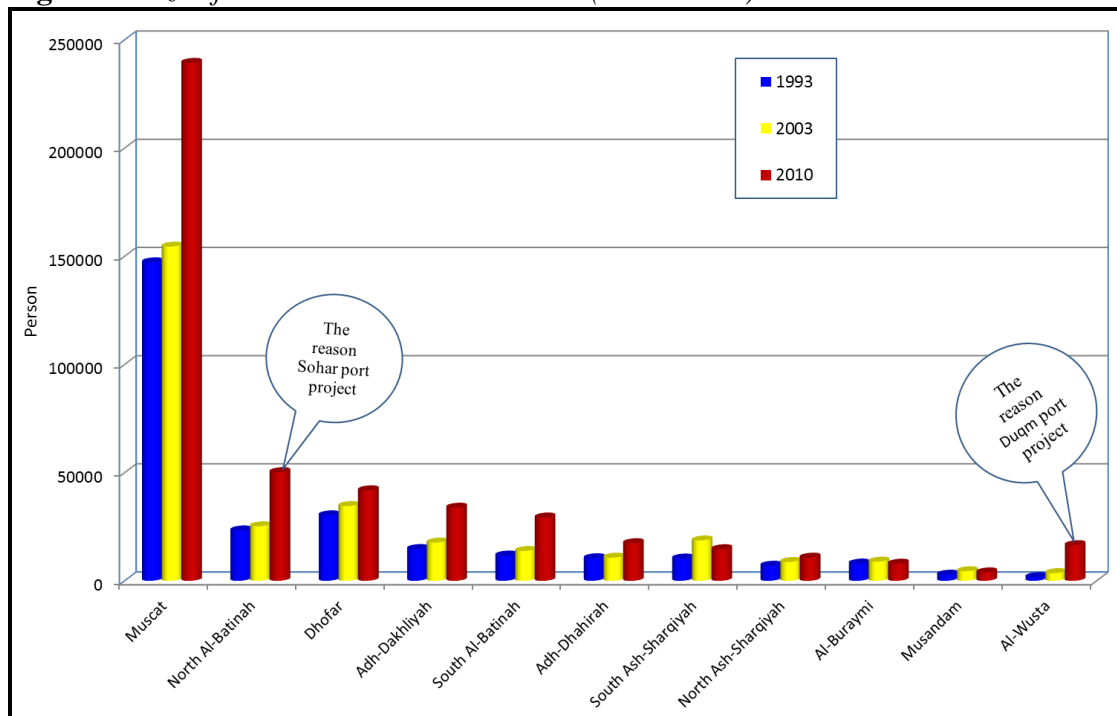
- The Ministry of National Economy 2005; and 2011.

- National Center for Statistics and Information 2013, unpublished data.

This is due to the increase of male TII in Oman in that period, which led, in turn, to an increase in their annual growth rate to 6.9%. The major projects adopted by the Omani government, such as the Sohar Refinery and Sohar Port in the north, Duqm Port and City in the middle, played a great role in bringing large numbers of male temporary immigrants, especially Indians.

TII spread in all Omani governorates, and their numbers ranged between 239383 people in Muscat governorate in 2010 and 3915 in Musandam governorate (Figure 3).

Figure 3. *Size of TII in Omani Governorates (1993–2010)*

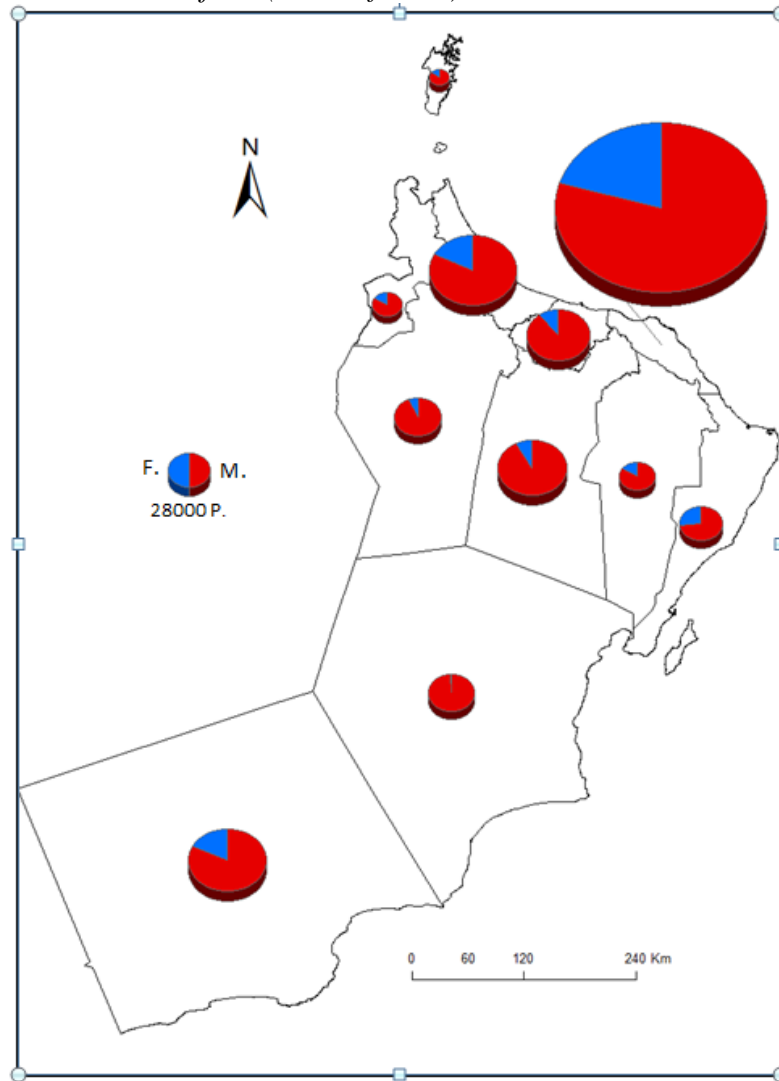


Source: By the researcher according to 2010 Census data.

Muscat had more than half (51.4%) of TII in 2010 (Figure 4), as there were large groups of families of Indian traders, especially in Muscat and Mutrah (Allen, 1981; Peterson, 2007). This was due to its being the administrative capital of Oman, and having many industrial areas such as: Ghalla, and Rusail, and Almabaelh. Muscat also has big companies in Ruwi and Al-Wadi Al-kabeer.

As shown above, it can be clearly seen that TII are distributed in all governorates of Oman, but with variant sizes depending on the nature of each governorate and the extent of the need for expatriate workers.

Figure 4. *Distribution of TII (male & female) in Oman 2010*



Source: By researcher according to 2010 Census data

Results

TII Gender and Age Groups

Gender (sex) Ratio

There is a high proportion of gender ratio in all GCC countries, and the ratio varies from one country to another according to the nature of its developmental projects. However, the average gender ratio rose unprecedentedly in Qatar (338.7 male/100 female) , UAE (293.1) in 2010, and ranged in the rest of the GCC states between 164.8 in Bahrain and 132.4 in Saudi Arabia (Hendawy, 2012, p: 603).

According to Omani census data, TII masculine immigration is higher than its corresponding female ratio among expatriate population and total

population of Oman. The gender ratio among TII was 550.5 in 1993, while it was 337.7 among expatriates and 140.2 for the total population of Oman (Table 6), this was due to significant dependence on masculine labor force in general and presence of many Indian construction companies in Oman.

Table 6. *Gender Ratio of Total Population, Expatriates, and TII (1993–2010).*

Gender Ratio (Male / 100 Female)	1993	2003	2010
Total population	140.2	127.8	138.9
Total expatriates	337.7	281.6	320.0
TII	550.5	359.5	458.7

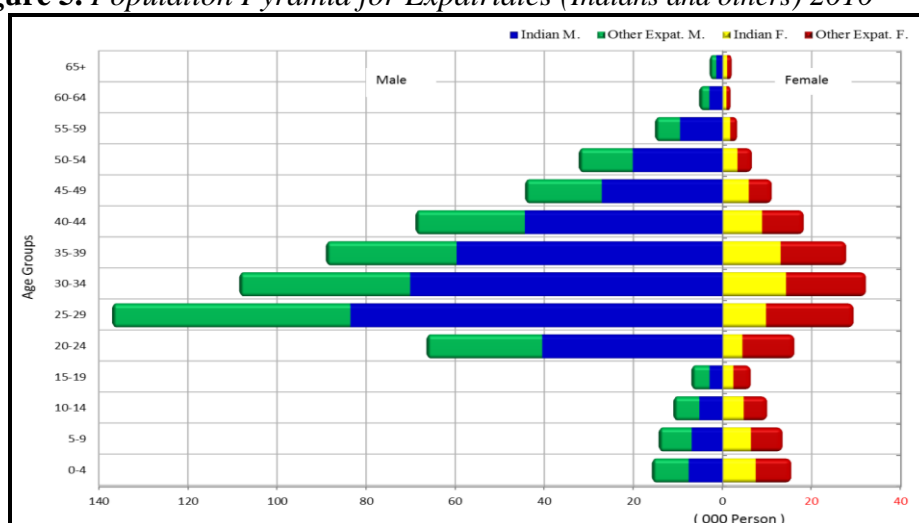
Source: - Ministry of Development, General Census of Population, 1993 .
 - The Ministry of National Economy 0.2005; and 2011.
 - National Center for Statistics and Information 2013, unpublished data.

In 2003, gender ratio among TII decreased to 359.5 as a result of Omanization policy and increasing of female TII. Later it increased to 458.7 in 2010 (Table 6) due to the adoption of major projects (as mentioned early), which led to recruiting large numbers of males to work in these projects.

Age-Gender (sex) Structure

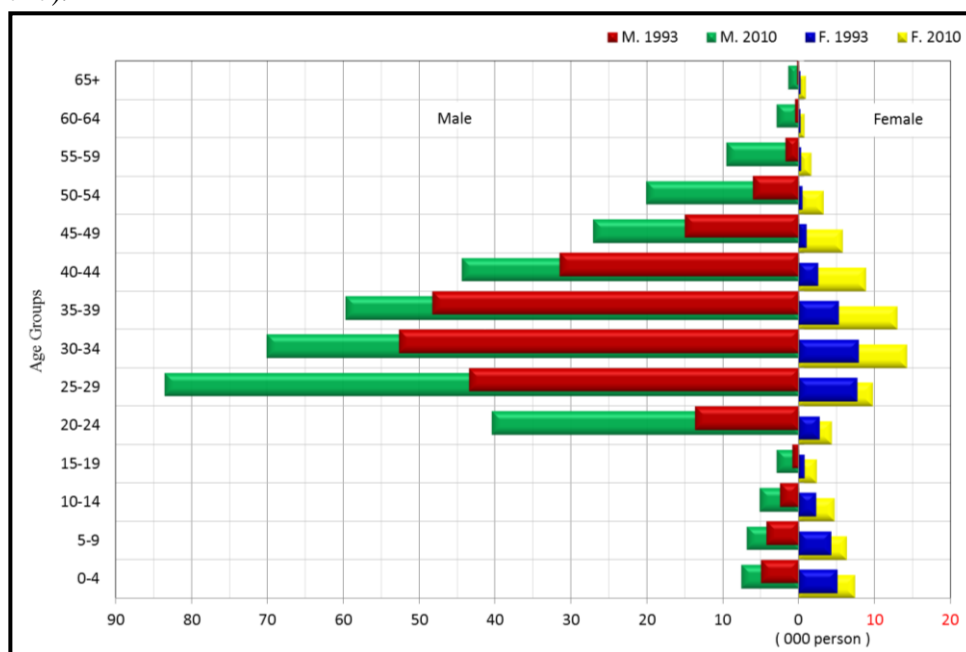
The impact of immigration terms on expatriate's population pyramid pattern in Oman is obvious, where immigrants are selected by age groups (work age) and gender (male). Therefore, the population pyramid of expatriates in Oman is dominated by the age groups (20-50 years), and also by males more than females (Figure 5), so, the proportion of the young and elderly is less among expatriate population in Oman. TII population represents the bulk of the expatriate population in most age groups, particularly among males.

Figure 5. *Population Pyramid for Expatriates (Indians and others) 2010*



The number of TII has increased in all age groups in both sexes from 1993 to 2010 (Figure 6). However, the big increase was in the male ones especially in age groups (20-30 years). This could be attributed to the introduction of major projects (mentioned early) which lead to recruiting large numbers of males. This shows that the Omani labor market still prefers Indian workers to other nationalities workers.

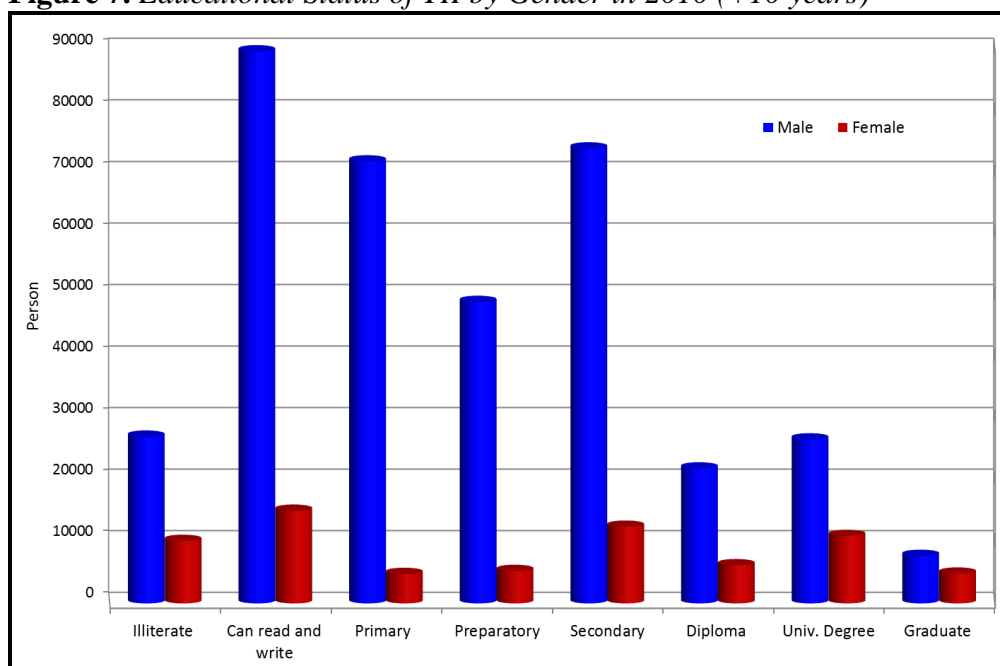
Figure 6. Population Pyramid of TII in Oman, (a comparison between 1993 and 2010).



Educational Status of TII

The nature of development projects attracting immigrants plays an important role in selecting TII level of education. For example, work in agriculture, the environment (cleanliness) and a construction sectors does not require high levels of education. Therefore, there is a large number of illiterate workers as well as those who have basic reading and writing skills and others who hold high educational certificates among TII (Figure 7).

Figure 7. *Educational Status of TII by Gender in 2010 (+10 years)*



The data also indicated that TII holding university degree were not less than 37 thousand people, these are medical doctors at government and private hospitals, engineers and managers. Additionally, there are more than 12 thousand people who have postgraduate qualifications (Figure 7), they are university professors and experts in ministries, government and private institutions.

TII Marital Status

In general, the majority of TII (15 years and above) were married (77.29%) in 2010 (Table 7), while the proportion of those who were not married was only 21.22%. This is due to the fact that most of TII were over the age of 15 years (age of marriage).

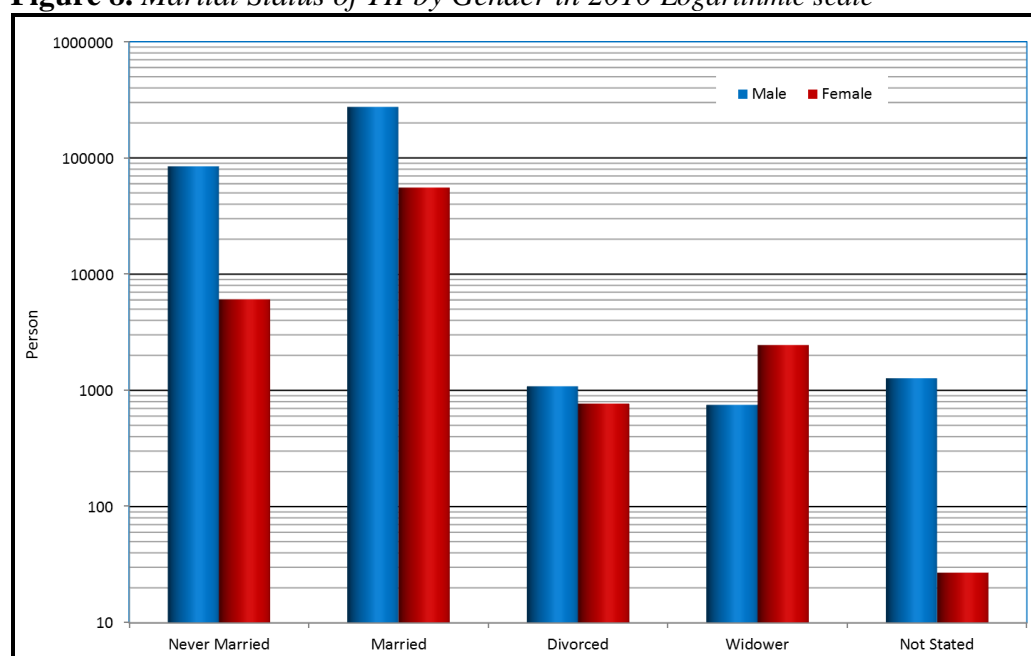
The marital status of TII data in 2010 indicated a strange inconsistency where the number of married males was more than the number of married females by about 219161 people (Figure 8). This was due to the fact that the majority of married male TII migrated to Oman without their wives and families.

Table 7. Marital Status of TII in Oman by Gender 2010.

Marital Status (15 years & over)	Male		Female		Total	
	Person	%	Person	%	Person	%
Never Married	84642	23.30	6067	9.34	90709	21.22
Married	274784	75.80	55623	85.66	330407	77.29
Divorced	1084	0.30	770	1.19	1854	0.44
Widower	750	0.20	2455	3.78	3205	0.75
Not Stated	1273	0.40	27	0.03	1300	0.30
Total	362533	100.00	64939	100.00	427472	100.00

Source: - National Center for Statistics and Information 2013, unpublished data.

Figure 8. Marital Status of TII by Gender in 2010 Logarithmic scale



Work Characteristics of TII

Work characteristics include study of the work population from multiple angles, such as: work status (employer, paid work, self-employed, and unpaid work), and work sectors (government, private, family, and communal). It also includes economic activities (agriculture, manufacturing, services, and others), and professional occupations (managers, professionals, technicians, specialists, sales and service occupations, etc.).

TII in GCC states can be divided into the following categories:

- Unskilled workers, employed in construction companies, municipalities, agricultural farms and as domestic workers;
- Skilled and semi-skilled workers;

- Professionals, such as doctors, engineers, accountants, nurses and paramedics, employed in government and private sectors; and
- Businessmen/entrepreneurs (Kohli, Neha, 2014, p: 120).

Work Status

The number of Indians businesses owners in 2010 in Oman was 1681 employers, representing 51.5% of the total expatriate business owners, and 12.9% of the total business owners in Oman (Table 8). This shows the influence of TII in the Omani labor market. They own car repair workshops, and electrical appliances, textiles, and golden jewelry stores, as in Ruwi (Figure 9) and Mutrah of Muscat governorates.

Table 8. *Work Status of TII among Expatriates and Total Workers in Oman in 2010*

Work Status (15 years & over)	TII		% of the total expatriates	% of total workers in Oman
	Person	%		
Employer	1681	0.4	51.5	12.9
Own Account Worker	1248	0.3	41.1	4.0
Paid Employee	382350	99.1	59.3	36.1
Unpaid worker	764	0.2	60.0	29.1
Total	386043	100.0	59.2	35.1

Source: Ministry of National Economy, 2011; and the National Center for Statistics and Information 2013, unpublished data.

The number of Indian paid workers was 382350 in 2010, representing 99.1% of the total Indian workers, 59.3% of the total expatriate paid workers, and 36.1% of the total paid workers in Oman in 2010. Most of them are working in the private sector, where they work in all retail stores, cafes and homes even in farms, and they control many sectors of the Omani labor market, for the reasons mentioned earlier, such as low wages .. etc.

Figure 9. *Friday (Indian day) in Ruwi (Muscat Governorate)*

Source: by researcher December 2014.

Work Sectors

The number of TII in Omani government institutions in 2010 was 12837 workers, representing 45.5% of the total expatriate workers in the government sector, and 4.8% of the total workers in the same sector (Table 9). While the number of TII in the private sector in Oman was 344770 workers, representing 89.3% of the total Indian workers, and 67.5% of the total expatriates working in the Omani private sector, and 50.1% of the total workers in the private sector in Oman in 2010.

Table 9. *Work Sector of TII among Expatriates and Total workers in Oman in 2010*

Work Sector (15 years & over)	TII		% of the total expatriates	% of total workers in Oman
	Person	%		
Public	12837	3.3	45.5	4.8
Private	344770	89.3	67.5	50.1
Family	27087	7.0	24.9	19.9
Communal	304	0.1	25.9	9.7
Others	491	0.1	23.1	11.3
Not stated	554	0.2	49.6	48.8
Total	386043	100.0	59.2	35.1

Source: Ministry of National Economy, 2011; and the National Center for Statistics and Information 2013, unpublished data.

It also shows that about 7.0% of the total Indian workers, representing 24.9% of the total expatriates in the Family sector and 19.9% of the total workers in the same sector in Oman in 2010.

It can be concluded from the aforementioned data that most Indians work in the private sector, and they occupy half of the positions in this sector in Oman. This indicates that Indian workers in the Omani labor market enjoy privilege. It turns out that there is quite a number of Indians work in family sector, which shows that there is a number of Indian families owning projects and institutions in of Oman.

Economic Activity

Indian labor force occupies a number of economic activities in Oman, including: construction sector, which has 196840 workers, representing 51.0% of the total Indian labor (Table 10), 75.4% of the total expatriates and 70.1% of the total workers in the said sector in 2010.

There are about 14746 Indians work in hotels and restaurants, representing 60.1% of the total expatriate workers and 49.5% of the total employed in this activity in 2010. It can be seen that the Indian labour exists in large proportions in activities such as: Wholesale and retail trade; motor vehicles repair, manufacturing, real estate and business activities, and electricity, gas and water supply (Table 10), in addition to some other miscellaneous activities.

It can be concluded from the above data, Indian labor force occupies several sections of economic activity in the Omani labor market.

Table 10. *Economic Activity of TII among Expatriates and Total Workers in Oman in 2010*

Economic Activity (15 years & over)	TII		% of the total expatriates	% of total workers in Oman
	Person	%		
Agriculture, hunting and forestry	4672	1.20	10.50	9.40
Fishing	396	0.10	40.40	5.30
Mining and quarrying	15905	4.12	76.70	35.10
Manufacturing	23640	6.12	52.40	38.20
Electricity, gas and water supply	6425	1.70	73.30	37.50
Construction	196840	51.00	75.40	70.10
Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles, and personal & household goods	48330	12.52	64.00	40.30
Hotels and restaurants	14746	3.82	60.10	49.50
Transport, storage and communications	7478	1.94	51.90	15.90
Financial intermediation	1992	0.50	70.10	14.00

Real estate, renting and business activities	13540	3.50	74.60	39.20
Public administration and defense; compulsory social security	8538	2.20	48.00	4.10
Education	3581	0.90	30.30	6.40
Health and social work	6145	1.60	64.40	25.40
Other community, social and personal service activities	3951	1.00	44.10	33.20
Activities of private households as employers and undifferentiated production activities of private households	25360	6.60	31.50	30.80
Extra-territorial organizations and bodies	151	0.05	27.40	20.30
Not stated, not sufficiently defined	4341	1.13	64.40	48.80
Total	386031	100.00	59.20	35.10

Source: Ministry of National Economy, 2011; and the National Center for Statistics and Information 2013, unpublished data.

Main Occupation

The data showed that 28.2% (14540 employees) were Indians, representing 63.2% of the total number of expatriates workers occupying administrative directors, managers businesses and investors in Oman in 2010 (Table 11).

However, the principle and secondary engineering occupations are considered the main occupations of Indians in Oman, where their number in 2010 was 207827 workers (53.8% of the total Indian workers) representing 71.5% of the total number of expatriate and 58.5% of the total employees occupying the said.

A large numbers of Indians also work in occupations such as: technical, scientific and facilities specialists, sales occupations, industrial, chemical and food industries occupations.

We can conclude from the above that the Indian labor force occupies important and influential occupations such as all kinds of engineering occupations, services, technicians, sales and others in the Omani labor market.

Table 11. *Percentage of main Occupations of TII and Expatriates and Total Workers in the Oman in 2010*

Main Occupation (15 years & over)	TII		% of the total expatriates	% of total workers in Oman
	Person	%		
Administration Directors, Managers and Working Investors	14540	3.80	63.20	28.20
Scientific, Technical and Human Matters Specialists	25558	6.60	53.30	22.10
Scientific, Technical and human Subjects Technicians	24686	6.40	72.20	27.60
Clerical Occupations	4968	1.30	70.70	9.20
Sales Occupations	17852	4.60	66.60	33.80
Services Occupations	68183	17.60	47.90	33.60
Agriculture, Stock-Breeding, Aviculture and Hunting Occupations	6104	1.60	12.60	10.00
Industrial, Chemical and Food Industries Occupations	14315	3.70	52.00	35.40
Principal and Auxiliary Engineering Occupations	207827	53.80	71.50	58.50
Not Classified/Unknown Occupations	2010	0.50	43.50	2.60
Total	386043	100.00	59.2	35.10

Source: Ministry of National Economy, 2011; and the National Center for Statistics and Information 2013, unpublished data.

The Future of TII in Oman

The projection of population provides a great deal of data about the future of population, which helps decision-makers to formulate economic and social policies scientifically. Government institutions need these kinds of studies to use in planning to satisfy the needs of various sectors of society, such as education, health care, workforce, housing and other services.

The process of projection of the size of TII in this study depends on the method of annual growth rate scenarios (as mentioned early in methodology).

Therefore, the projection of TII according to annual growth rate depends on three scenarios, such as: optimistic scenario (low growth rate), moderate scenario (average), and pessimistic scenario (high).

TII in Oman has reached 465660 people in 2010, with annual growth rate of about 6.2% in (2003-2010 census), (while the Omani population annual growth rate was 1.34%). Based on these data, the size of TII in Oman has been predicted in the future (2020-2050) according to three scenarios as shown at the table: 12.

Data projections indicate that if Oman continued to depend on Indian labor with the current growth rate (6.2% pessimistic scenario), the size of TII will rapidly exceed 1.5 million by 2030 (Table 12). It can also go up to more than five million by 2050, if the current status continues which leads to attract large numbers of Indian workers.

Table 12. *Prediction Scenarios of TII in Oman (2020-2050) (People)*

Year	Optimistic scenario (AGR 2.2 %)	Moderate scenario (AGR 3.2 %)	Pessimistic scenario (AGR 6.2 %)	Difference between O & P
2020	578866	638066	849795	270929
2030	719593	874304	1550813	831220
2040	894532	1198007	2830118	1935586
2050	1112000	1641558	5164755	4052755

O & P = Optimistic and Pessimistic. AGR = Annual Growth Rate

Note: Projected population calculated according to the prediction equation which:

Projected population = Log (latest census) + No. of years × Log (1 + growth rate)

Source: Own calculation using Excel 2010.

However, in case that Oman adopts the policy of reducing relying on Indian labor and expanding Omanization policy (optimistic scenario, growth rate 2.2%), the size of TII will not exceed one million before 2050 (Table 12).

The data indicates that the difference in the size of TII in Oman in 2050, between the adoption of the pessimistic scenario (6.2%) and the optimistic scenario (2.2%) will reach about four million people (Table 12)., which is considered to be a very large number and it will lead to more demographic imbalance in population size, age, gender, workforce, and unemployment levels.

Discussion

The results show that TII enjoy a significant preference in the Omani labour market, where:

Indians are the largest among all communities working in Oman, and their size reached nearly half a million in 2010, representing 57.1% of the total expatriates.

Indian labor force occupies a number of economic activities in Oman, including: construction sector where about 51 % of the total Indian labor, representing 70.1% of the total workers in the same sector in 2010.

In addition, Indian labor force occupies a great number of positions in the Omani labour market such as, the primary and secondary engineering occupations, where about 53.8% of the total Indian labor force, representing 58.5% of the total workers in the same occupations in this sector in 2010.

Indian labor force controls the private sector in Oman, where 50.1% of the total workers in the private sector in 2010 were Indians.

Moreover, the study shows that Indians business owners in Oman represented 12.9% of the total business owners in 2010.

Therefore, the study accepts the affirmative hypothesis that “Omani labor market prefers Indian workers to other expatriates” and refute the null hypothesis that “Omani labor market does not prefer Indian workers to other expatriates”.

The study also showed that: despite the Omanization policy, the number of expatriates in Oman continues to increase, where it was 534848 people in 1993 and became 816143 people in 2010, and the number of Indians also rose from 267584 in 1993 to 465660 people in 2010. The major projects adopted by the Omani government, (as mentioned early) continued to play a great role in bringing large numbers of male immigrants, especially Indians.

Therefore, the study asserts the null hypothesis that “Oman might not dispense all expatriate workers, including Indians due to adopting Omanization policy”, and refute the affirmative hypothesis that “Oman might dispense all expatriate workers, including Indians, due to adopting Omanization policy”.

To sum up, it can be seen from the above results and discussions that it is obvious that the Omani labor market cannot do without Indian labor force, at least in the foreseeable future. On other hand, the large increase in the number of foreign workers in general will lead to more demographic imbalance in population size, age, gender, workforce, and it will, in turn, lead to a considerable increase unemployment rates among Omanis.

Recommendations

The study recommends adopting a long-term of Omanisation policy, where it can replace expatriate labor force, especially Asians, by nationals after striking a balance between education outputs and the Omani labor market requirements.

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