

Migration matters: mobility in a globalizing world

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Deskripsi Lengkap: <https://lib.ui.ac.id/detail?id=20470443&lokasi=lokal>

Abstrak

This book is about migration futures: the transnational movement of people and the portability of skills in a globalizing world. It explores why in recent decades, development has produced outcomes so different from what was proclaimed to be its goal resulting in the Great Divergence—a world unequal as never before. International migration must be seen in the context of the political economy of development and as the natural corollary to international trade and capital. In the post 2015 development context, sustaining global economic growth rates, expanding economic opportunity, democratizing human welfare, and progressing towards an equitable and just global order will be predicated substantially on the free movement of people. Over time, the policy and practice on international migration of most countries has only become more restrictive. The consequence has been high costs—both fiscal and human. The barriers to freer economic migration have distorted development outcomes globally. There is urgent need for a global framework that is rule based, non-discriminatory, and democratic to govern the transnational movement of people. The scale and spread of the Indian experience in migration as well as development and the intimate interplay of these two complex processes is matchless. International migration is as important for the world as for India to be left to uninformed debate or fragmented interventions. The challenge is to articulate a coherent policy framework and undertake coordinated modes of engagement. Failure to mainstream economic migration will jeopardize the basis of a modern, progressive, and democratic future for all.