

PENANG SANGAM HIGH SCHOOL
P.O.BOX 44, RAKIRAKI
YEAR 13 HISTORY WORKSHEET 7 – WEEK:19-20-21

LESSON NOTES & ACTIVITIES

Strand	Change and Continuity in the Pacific and Beyond
Sub Strand	Fijians in Australia
• Introduction • Historical Background	At the end of this unit you should be able to: • Identify the periods where Fijians migrated to Australia. • Identify the factors that contribute to the movement.
Content Learning Outcome	Political influence into Fijian’s movement to Australia.

Political Effects on Migration

Fiji’s recent political turbulence or upheaval had laid the underline reason for high number of emigration to Australia. There have been two coups in 1987, another in 2000 and another in 2006. Between 1978 and 1986, 20,703 citizens emigrated at an annual average rate of 2,300. Between 1987 and 1996, the number increased to 50,050 at an annual average rate of 5,005. Between 1997 and 2000, 16,825 migrated. And the numbers increases daily. The bulk of emigrants – about 90% - have been Indo-Fijians.

In other cases more recently reasons behind emigration are,

- Educated and skilled indigenous Fijians and other ethnic minority of the middle class have left. Eary1980s, about 60% of the Fiji emigrants went to Canada and the west coast United States, and the bulk to Australia and New Zealand.
- North American emigration policies were more open, transparent, and welcoming of emigrants with skills.
- By 1990s about two thirds of people emigrating to Australia under the emigration policies there were more open, transparent and welcoming of emigrants with skills.
- Other than that many common reasons are opening up of skills based emigration, family reunion, chain migration, and an increasing perception of greater employment opportunities.
- In addition factors include the proximity of Australia and New Zealand, the ease of communication and travel, the educational, sporting, cultural, and economic links are also important.
- Also there has also been much intermarriage between Fijians and Australians. The departure of Fijians of Indian descent in large numbers can be explained in terms of political insecurity. This is the most important factor. The 1970 constitution had promised the possibility of more inclusive politics and power sharing. However, this promise was compromised by the ethnic based elections with communal and national based rolls and voting. People began leaving because they saw few prospects of personal advancement and their children.
-

Impacts of migration to the host country

The cost of emigration to Fiji is well known. Fiji is estimated to lose, on average, \$F44.5 million annually due to emigration, mainly:

- through loss of skill,
- Re-training individuals in respective governmental sectors which very costly.
- Delayed appointments. The figure is much higher - \$F274.7 million – if account is taken of the output lost if the emigrants work is not carried out by a replacement. The migrants come from the skilled and educated sector of Fiji. According to Manoranjan Mohanty at the University of South Pacific in Suva, between 1987 and 1996, 5,100 Indo-Fijian professionals emigrated. Of these 21% were architects, engineers, and related technicians, 15% ,31% teachers, 12% medical, dental and veterinary workers, and 21% other professionals. The impact of their loss on Fiji is visible and acutely felt, particularly in the health and education sectors.

Activity

1. Apart from Australia, state two other destinations of Fijian migrants.

2. Explain how the coups influenced the rate of migration.

3. Name the ethnic group that dominated the emigrants. _____

4. Provide two reasons for their departure.

5. State two negative impacts of emigration to Fiji. _____

SUMMARY

Australia introduced a migration policy after WWII to increase population and boost the economy. That gave an opportunity to Fijians to migrate to Australia for greener pastures. The migration of Fijians to Australia increased in the 1960s and increased further after Fiji was granted independence in 1970. There were push factors like political upheavals, low standard of living, limited higher education opportunities and unemployment. Australia offered a wide range of pull factors which accelerated the rate of Fijian immigration into Australia. Fijians with Indian descants dominated the Fijian population in Australia. Fijians adapted well into Australia, represented well into the different work areas and also attained better education qualifications.

End of Unit Questions

1. What is the difference between push and pull factors?

2. State two push factors for Fijians to Australia.

3. State two pull factors that attract Fijians to Australia.

4. How does population growth boost economic activities?

5. How do Fijians benefit from living in Australia?
