



International Migration- Causes, Impacts and Development

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Abstract- Migration from one area to another in search for a good life style is a key feature of human history. There are various reasons behind migration, which force people to migrate from one country to another. This paper makes an attempt to study the causes and factors behind international migration. It is noticed that there are mainly two factors behind the international migration are push and pull factors. This paper used the data of various national and international migration reports. International migration of highly skilled professionals from India is also discussed in this paper. Money sent by migrants play a crucial role to remove the poverty and improve the standard of living of that remittances receiving area, this paper throws light on the utilization pattern of remittances sent by emigrants. Impact of Covid-19 on remittances is also discussed in this study. This paper also examined the pattern of international migration from Indian Punjab.

Keywords- Migration, push and pull, remittances, India, Punjab.

I. INTRODUCTION

Migration is a movement when individuals move from one place to another with the aims of settling for permanently or temporarily in the new region. Individuals start moving to one region to another due to the different reasons, such as marriage, for higher education, to look for better business openings and for security. The historical backdrop of relocation traces all the way back to ages of movement of European clans, a pushing and squeezing of aggregate units from east to west which went on for quite a long time (Park,1928). Migration helps to improve the standard of living of

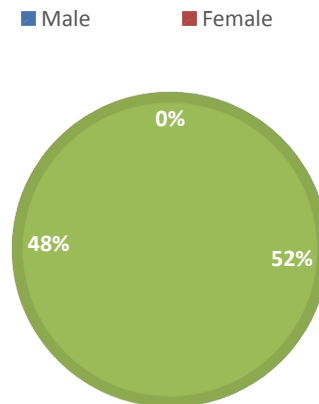
both host and home countries' citizens; it provided number of opportunities to a large proportion of people of the world for safe and healthy life in host countries. Changing environmental conditions, tiffs between people due to various political and social issues, oppression on some classes of the society are the various reasons which greatly increase the migration (IOM, 2018).

Since the mid-1990s due to regional conflicts, the proportion of migrants to the OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development) countries has increased. Out of these migrants, refugees and asylum seekers have a greater share. Migration plays an important role in population growth of host countries; they face a great proportion of foreign births in their total births. In year 1999, new migration trends have been observed in some destination countries, for example, a large proportion of persons migrated to United Kingdom rather than Japan and Canada. It is pointed out that Australia, Sweden, United States and France have received the family linked immigrants, while England and Canada have received the employment related immigrants (OECD, 2001).

Over the five decades, worldwide migration has been continuously increasing from developing to developed countries. According to the World Migration Report, in 2019 the total numbers of international migrants were 272 million, which was the 3.5 per cent of world's population. Out of these international migrants 48 per cent were females and 52 per cent were the males. The total number of refugees about 26 million was the highest on record in year 2020. Turkey was the largest host country for taking in millions of refugees, mainly from Syria (World Migration Report, 2020).



FIGURE1. CLASSIFICATION OF MALE AND FEMALE MIGRANTS



Sources- World Migration Report, 2020.

India has a long history of migration, large number of Indian migrants moved to different countries such as United Kingdom, Africa, many Arab countries and the Caribbean. Out of the total migrants, many of them moved due to their personal interests and matters but some of them migrated involuntarily, they moved due to their financial restraints. At present the top destination countries for Indian migrants are Canada, Australia, New Zealand, America and some Gulf countries (<http://www.pewresearch.org>, Accessed on 3-11-2019).

As per United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), in 2015, 3.3 percent of the world's complete populace was living outside their nation of beginning. Greater part of individuals moved for better life, for open positions and so on and others migrated because of emergency. The 64th round of National Sample Survey Organization tracked down that 0.38 percent of Indians have migrated out of the country. 67 per cent international migrants are living in only twenty nations and the largest numbers of international migrants (47 per cent) are living in the United States of America. Individuals' migration starting with one country then onto the next for their different intentions can help them in acquiring work on higher wages, improving their lives, even though it has some adverse consequences. Sometimes individuals face inclination, discrimination in destination country; they additionally need to forfeit the company of their relatives who are living in the country of origin. Besides, they have to work at lower wage rate than prevailing rates. Numerous workers are misused by the proprietors.

Notwithstanding this individuals continue moving, particularly from the agricultural nations to the industrial nations. It has been tracked down that 71 per cent of all worldwide migrants are living in top level salary nations and remaining 29 per cent are living in low pay nations. Worldwide, the median age of migrants has additionally been expanding; it was 39 years in 2015 when contrasted with 38 years in 2000 (United Nations, 2016).

In the period of globalization, privatization and liberalization, enormous migration occurred within the nations and just as within the regions. Migration is particularly valuable for the beginning region, when an individual migrates from one region to another (under developed region to developed region) then his/her entire viewpoint changes which is useful in bringing positive changes in the region they originally belong to, if they chose to revisit and/or come back to their native place. These changes might be financial, social, political as well as cultural. Subsequently, modern ways of every aspect of life starts replacing the orthodox ones. Migration is likewise useful for females in terms of better quality of living just as expanded freedoms for them because of changed perspectives as well as greater amount of the monetary assets (Boyd, 1989).

Data and Methodology- This paper is based on secondary data. The sources of secondary data used in this study are various research papers, Journals, Dissertations and Magazines and reports of the international organizations etc.

Objectives:



1. To examine the causes behind International migration and to analyze the advantages of international migration.
2. To examine the pattern of international migration from Punjab.
3. To measure the impact of remittances on remittances receiving area.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Hagen and Zanker (2008) analyzed various migration theories in his study, and the purpose of this study was to illustrate the similarities and differences among various approaches. This study explored various models related to labour migration, such as Lewis' dual economy model in 1954, Ranis and Fei in 1961, Todaro and Harris in 1970, etc. These different system theories explained that different sectors are not isolated, but often influence each other through social capital and cumulative causation. Migration is a dynamic process and the reasons behind migration and its outcomes are interrelated. The theory of the cumulative causal relationship of migration has shown that migration trends and characteristics can vary depending on the stage of migration. It can be noticed that by influencing the economic development, migration has affected the structural environment of the country of origin.

Gurucharan (2013) examined the future of migration from India. In this paper, the author tried to propose a broad outline for migration and also revealed some lacunae in the policies related to migration. The migration pattern from India which was based on the data provided by the Protector General of Emigrants has been analyzed in the paper. The main objective of this paper was to know about the government's migration policy and reforms related to that policy. The study also suggested some solutions to overcome the obstacles related to migration.

Keeping in view the impacts of migration and factors behind migration **Kapur** (2003) examined that people migrate from India due to number of factors. According to the policy of industrialized countries, low-skilled workers temporarily leave the country and after sometime return to their homeland. This study also argues that the implications of international migration are complex, especially when we try to study these implications for trade, investment and the balance of payments. This study states that if we try to calculate net effects or balance effects, we can find the deadweight loss of talented people who play a key role in institutional development. To illustrate

the positive and negative impacts of the migration, the study provides examples from some countries, such as China, Lebanon and several other countries in Central America, Africa and Central Europe. By studying the negative impacts of the Indian diaspora, the Indian government formulates a policy in which the negative impacts need to be eliminated, and the good ones must lubricate the natural tendencies of the Indian economy.

Rosenzweig (2005) examined the results of migration for developing economies. The study explored the relationship between migration from low income countries and the development of those countries. For the purpose of the study he used the primary data and secondary data, primary data has been collected through the survey of US immigrants. The study found that poverty was an important reason which encouraged the migration from the low income countries to high income countries. Migration of skilled and educated persons was also examined in this study; this skilled migration is known as brain drain. Many students went abroad for the purpose of higher studies and skilled education. The study also revealed that international flow of migration from developing countries to developed countries has been increasing from the last several years. This increasing flow of migration helped to increase the international trade, capital movement across countries and also improve the social and economic situations of the emigrants' households.

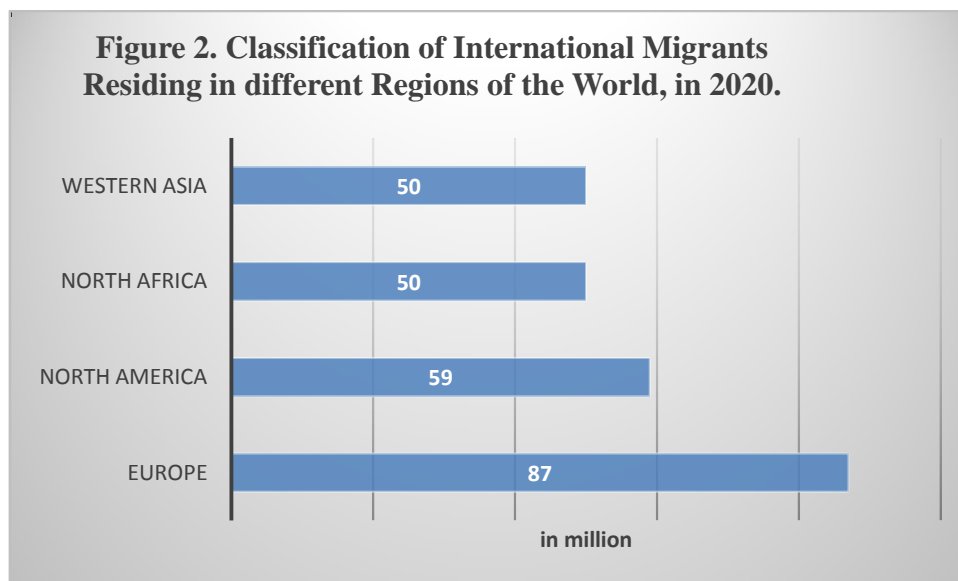
Sasikumar & Hussain (2008) observed that India is the world's largest recipient of migrant workers' remittances. In this study, they stressed the need to strengthen multilateral cooperation to transform migration into an efficient and humane process. They noted that international labour flows in India began in the 1900s. At the start, people with professional experience and technical knowledge migrated to developed countries such as the UK and Canada and USA, and then unskilled, semi-skilled and professional workers migrated as contract personnel to high-income Gulf countries. Now-a-days, professionals, especially young IT professionals, are migrating to countries in the continents such as Europe, Australia and East Asia.

Sasikumar and Hussain (2015) elaborated in their study that international labour flows from agricultural nations and the counter flow of remittances had increased drastically over the past two decades. The objectives of this study were to analyze the cost of remittances to India, to examine



the legal framework governing the flow of remittances, and to offer ideas for improving the effectiveness and development potential of remittances. Migrants send money to their country of origin via legal and illegal modes; legal modes include remitting money in bank accounts etc. while “hawala” is considered as illegal mode. This study also analyzed the case of Punjab state and stated that the Punjab Government had adopted a new policy to deal with NRIs. Some specialized institutions had been established to focus on the welfare aspects of migrants. It is suggested that, remittances should be managed properly to attain great laurels in terms of growth, human capital formation and investment.

A case study conducted on the Patiala district of Punjab (Kaur *et al.*, 2021) found that previously, Punjabi people migrated to British colonies such as New Zealand, Britain, Canada, the United States, Australia and Africa, especially East Africa. The key reasons for Punjabis to go abroad are a high birth rate, a limited amount of land and a desire to live a better life which encouraged the male offset of Punjabi farmers to go abroad. In the beginning, these migrants sought different ways to move out of Punjab and their success stories inspire others to imitate them.



Source- United Nations Report, 2019.

Among the major regions of the world, the largest number of international migrants about 87 million, in 2020 resided in Europe. North America hosted the 59 million, which is the second largest number of migrants, North Africa and Western Asia followed with 50 million (figure 2). About two-thirds of all international migrants live in high-income countries, compared to only 31% in middle-income countries and about 4% in low-income countries. India is the top source of international migrants, according to the data of 2020, with 18 million people born in India was residing in other countries (United Nations, 2019).

Migration and brain gain- Migration also results in brain gain. IOM (2011), defines brain gain as the movement of the human capital from the developing countries to developed countries. These emigrants have skills, savings and efficiency which they can

use in their developing (home) country. Due to some international crisis, 9/11 attacks, attacks on students in Australia and other related issues, many emigrants came back to India from developed countries. These talented emigrants can establish new industries in home countries, manage old and sick industries and earn profits. Savings of these emigrants can also be used for the better utilization of resources and help India in making a strong position in international market. Highly qualified emigrants also have the great knowledge of information technology; this knowledge can be helpful in the development of IT centre. They can improve the image of India in international market by transferring the knowledge and by expanding the new business networks. Migration changes the thinking of the emigrants' family members in many ways, when a person migrates from one country to another, then she/he learns a lot of things from the



new environment and culture. New culture and environment prevail over his thinking and his life style, after some time or years his family members also visit that foreign country where their family member is migrated. They also learn a lot of things from the new environment (Dubey & Mallah, 2015).

Factors & Causes behind Migration

Migration may be temporary or permanent; there are some factor and causes which affect the migration. Mainly there are two factors which affect the migration - these are the push and the pull factors. Push factors are those factors which force people to leave their home country. Unstable political environment, increasing crimes, conflicts and crisis, discrimination, rising population, lack of job opportunities, droughts, poverty and safety, all are the main causes behind the migration which comes under the push factors. Safety is the key cause of migration in some countries, because this factor can cause danger to individuals and insist them to migrate to another safe country. Discrimination based on race, religion, terrorist attack etc. also encourage people to migration. The core causes of migration from India are the huge population, economic & social causes and rigid education system. Migration related to economic causes may be seasonal or permanent, because in this type of migration people move to another country due to lower wages and lack of job opportunities, they move from poorer developing countries to richer developed countries. Better and high quality of life in western countries, more freedom and attractive environment, easy availability of basic needs and services etc. are pull factors which attract the people and elevate the migration from developing countries to developed countries (Wester, 2017). There are also social and physical factors that influence the push and pull factors of migration, such as active religious persecution and natural disasters are the push factors and principles of religious patience and beautiful environment are reasons of pull factors of migration. Another reason for migration is that many countries open their borders to refugees or tourists. Most of the world's refugees are in developed industrialized countries, and a small proportion of refugees are in Western Europe or the United States. Political forces are also an important factor in migration; if the political environment of a country is unstable, people choose to leave that country and move to a country whose political environment is peaceful and stable (Weiner, 1993).

People working in a foreign country, after meeting their needs from their earnings, usually try to send

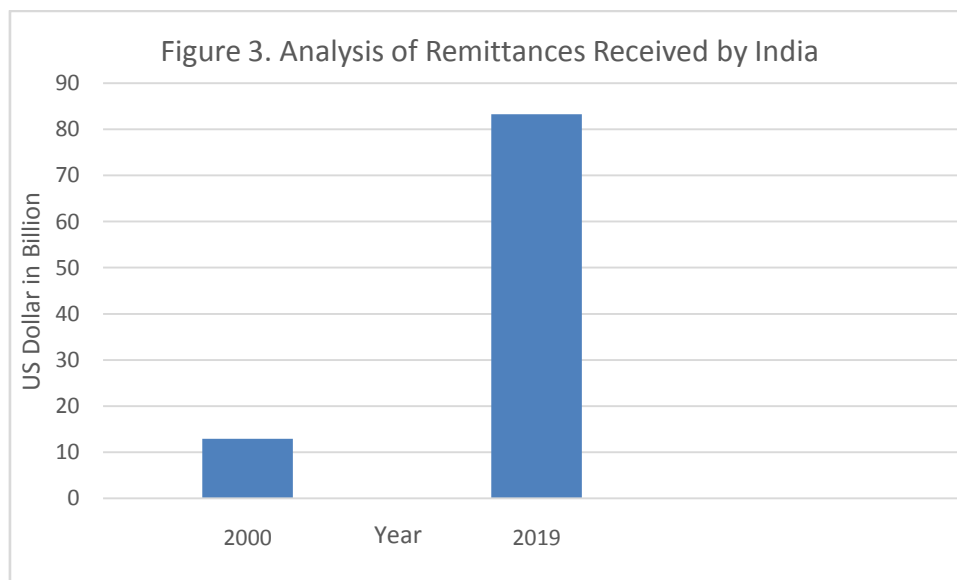
some money to relatives and friends in their home country. In economic terms, this money is known as remittances. Remittances are very helpful in solving a country's economic problems; this is an important part of the balance of payments for developing countries. Remittances to India have been increasing rapidly in the last few years and India has become the world's largest sender of human assets. Immigrants send money through various formal and informal channels. Informal channels are more attractive in rural areas due to their numerous functions and this may be due to the difficulties of waiting for banking services and other banking needs (Throat and Jones, 2011).

At micro level the remittances to developing countries increase the income of financial recipients, strengthen their ability to cope with external shocks, and increase their investments in health and education. Remittances also reduce poverty; motivate people to work, and increase consumer spending. However, remittances are also increasing inequality in provincial and metropolitan regions, the way of life of beneficiaries (recipients) has begun to rise in society, while the standard of living of non-beneficiaries (non-recipients) remains the same. Remittances are considered by migrants to be cross-border, voluntary and non-monetary remittances. An important concept of "reverse remittances" also exists today. Remittances flow in opposite directions, from non-migrants (family members/friends) to migrants abroad. This type of transfer is usually sent to emigrants to support them during their difficult times, such as for study purposes or to buy a new house, and so on. UNCTAD (2011) observed that the motive of the sender (remittances) may change over time. For the short-term needs like food, medicines and so on, remittances may be less and high for the needs related to long term such as expenditure on health and for family functions. At the macro level, remittances affect a country's economic development; this positively affects bank deposits and bank credit. But remittances also have a negative impact if they are treated as a permanent source of income, as it can reduce recipients' willingness to work and increase their consumption of imported goods rather than domestic goods. Remittances receiving families make higher interest in medical care than the individuals who are not receiving remittances (<https://www.europarl>, 2014). In 2017, low and middle income countries received US\$466 billion as remittances (World Bank, 2018).



Globally, India is the largest remittances receiving country. In 2020, 40 percent (115 million) of all international migrants worldwide were born in Asia, with about 20 percent mainly in six Asian countries, including India (the largest country of origin), China, Bangladesh, Pakistan, the Philippines and Afghanistan. The world migration report data shows the overall increase in remittances in recent

decades, from US\$ 126 billion in 2000, to US\$ 717 billion in 2019. In 2019, India and China were the top two remittances recipient countries, remittances received by India in the year 2000 were US\$ 12.9 billion, which increased significantly in two decades and in the year 2019 it was recorded as US\$ 83.3 billion (figure 3) (World Migration Report, 2020).



Source- World Migration Report, 2020.

Remittances likewise lead to monetary reliance; it increases investment and emphatically affects the country of origin. Remittances which are received by means of wire transfers and bank drafts chiefly utilized for family upkeep and remittances in NRI's bank balance utilized for venture intentions are for the most part utilized for investment in land, equity market etc. However in spite of its importance, the precise exploration on remittances is very limited in light of the fact that there is absence of broadly delegated and reliable information. At all India level, above 90 per cent beneficiaries use remittances for education, medical services, household goods and for social and family functions and so forth and around 10 per cent use it for obligation reimbursements. It is seen that Kerala, Punjab and Goa are the top remittances dependent states of the country which are getting over 40 per cent of the total international remittances flows in India(Tumbe, 2011).

The COVID-19 pandemic risks destructive effects on countries around the world, including extensive joblessness and lesser incomes. Due to COVID-19 pandemic the international migration

flows shows a dramatic drop in the immigration trends. For example in the first six months of 2020, the number of new permits issued decreased by an average of 45 per cent in the G20 OECD nations and more than 50 per cent declined in countries such as Japan, Korea, United States and Australia (<https://www.oecd.org>, Accessed on August 25, 2021).

This pandemic presented a mixed picture of the flow of international remittances that many of the world economies depend upon. In the first half of 2020, the total amount of remittances received in some countries of origin dipped while in other countries of origin, they recovered after a dip (Bank of Mexico, 2020).

Migration from Punjab

International migration from Punjab has started from the colonial time. The share of Punjabi migrants at the world level has been increasing continuously. Most of the Punjabi migrants preferred to move towards the developed western countries but some less educated and low income persons migrated to gulf countries. These migrants



also send money (known as remittances) back to their family members, which is very helpful for the development of that country (Kapuria&Birwal, 2017).

Punjab is a state in the northwest of India; it shares borders with Pakistan, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan. Many people have migrated from the Punjab over the years, especially from the Doaba region, which consists of four districts, namely Kapurthala, Hoshiarpur, Jalandhar and ShahidBhagat Singh Nagar (NawanShahar)(Saha, 2009). These districts have a long history of migration from rural areas, especially in the post-independence period. Originally, most of the people of this region preferred to migrate to UK, but gradually this trend changed and various skilled and semi-skilled people started migrating to other developed industrialized countries like Canada, USA, Australia etc. Individuals migrate from Punjab through different agencies; these agencies may be legal or illegal. Both skilled and unskilled persons migrate from Punjab to other countries for different reasons, for example, to discover better work options, accomplish advanced courses and furthermore for marriage. Whatever is the reason, the common factor among all types of migration is that the emigrants try to send money to their families back home from their earnings abroad. These remittances can have a significant impact on the standard of living of the families/regions receiving remittances in Punjab. Most of the recipients utilize these remittances to buy household goods, manufacturing and also for investment purposes. People also use remittances for charity; they donate to charitable trusts, to education, health or other welfare institutions. These remittances are also used to build luxurious homes, purchase luxurious cars, etc., which have a major demonstration effect on the non-recipients of the remittances. As a result, they also try to send their family members abroad (Saha, 2012).

In nineteenth-century abundant unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled persons migrated to other countries from India (Ferrie& Hatton, 2013). When highly skilled professionals like doctors, engineers, scientist, teachers etc. migrate to other countries, this type of migration is called brain drain. The 'brain drain' is an exodus of talented and skilled persons (Dodani&LaPorte, 2005). The recent skilled migration to the developed countries like US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand etc. is the migration of the IT workers and nurses whereas, the large number of unskilled and semi-skilled workers migrate to gulf countries in West Asia. Initially,

countries like USA, Canada and Australia were the three major attractive destinations for the Indian migrants but later these developed countries also joined by UK and EU countries that attract the highly skilled workers from India. Oil-rich countries are also an important destination for semi-skilled and unskilled labour for temporary settlement (Rizvi, 2006). Later on some South-East countries like Malaysia, Singapore etc. also became an important destination for skilled and unskilled workers. People who migrate to developed countries like USA, Canada etc. take over their families with them abroad. But migrants who went to Gulf countries like Dubai, Saudi Arabia etc. cannot take their families with them so their relatives have to stay in the origin country. This is the painful aspect for the families of gulf emigrants. But male migration is also having a good impact on women, who left behind in origin country. Women learn to adjust to new circumstances, because now in the absence of male members they have to do all those duties which were previously assumed to be done by males. Women face new challenges in their lives and also get more freedom than previous so they gain self-confidence, self-esteem within the family (Binod, 2006).

Women's migration has also a favourable impact on their lives, it is noticed that the way of living of women's is improved a lot after migration. Before migration they have to live in plenty of restrictions on mobility as well as employment and decision making on various aspects of life. Some women migrate to another country for employment purposes, because in the origin country they face poverty and lack of employment opportunities, so all these social and economic conditions compel them to migrate. Majority of the female emigrants are employed in service, management, business, science and arts and remaining are in production, transportation, construction and maintenance occupation etc. (Ruiz, Zong and Batalova, 2015).

Advantages of International Migration

International migration directly and indirectly affects the development of both host and home countries, it facilitated growth in the economy, helps to reduce labour shortages increased the tourism industry, change the orthodox thinking of migrants, exchange of new ideas and thoughts and also fills job vacancies in host countries. Taxes paid by the new migrants are also helpful to fill the pension gaps. The most voluminous benefit of international migration is the remittances, which have been sent by the migrants to their family members. Remittances have been increasing



expeditiously from the past few years (Kapuria&Birwal, 2017). It is noticeable that the maximum flow of remittances to India is from Gulf countries. People use these remittances for buying property, to raise their standard of living, for family functions, deposits in banks and for donations etc. According to the survey report published by Reserve Bank of India, in 2017, about 59 per cent international remittances was received by the four states of India namely Kerala, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu and the share of Punjab state in the total remittances was 1.7 per cent (<https://rbi.org>, 2018, Accessed on 07-10-2020).

III. CONCLUSION

From the above discussion it can be concluded that migration is a global phenomenon and people move from one country to another due to various reasons. It is difficult to say that why some people prefer to choose a particular country for migration rather than others. Thus, both push and pull factors play an important role in migration. The role of remittances is also crucial for the progress of the remittance receiving area; it helps to eliminate poverty and improve the standard of living of remittances receiving households.

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