

According to the latest C.I.O. figures, Bahrain population stood at 1,106,509 out of which more than 568,790 were non-nationals. It estimate the number of Indians at around 300,000 as on 2008.

Today, it is estimated that the number is around 1.2 million.

Both, C.I.A. World Factbook-updated September 29, 2010 and Oxford Business Group Country Report 2009, estimate Bahrain population at 1.1 million for 2010.

Euromonitor International on a report published in June 2010 said that Bahrain population will double by the year 2030 and will reach 2.6 million, an increase of 102% compared to this year.

This increase will be driven by the growth of the live birth and the inflows of expat's work force. The report said that the number of Asians living in Bahrain over took that of the local population for the first time this year and the gap would go up by the year 2030.

Euromonitor International said that foreign expatriates currently make up 51.7% of the total population and this would rise to 53% by the year 2030.

This study also said that in spite of the government's declared policy of tightening immigration control as part of its Bahrainization policy, foreigners make up nearly 2/3 of the labor force.

Expats working in the country typically drive remittance outflows of about \$1.5 billion per year.

However, the percentage of the expatriates in Bahrain is actually smaller compared to other GCC Countries such as the UAE where foreigners account for over 80% of the population.

According to a report published by Construction and Industry News on 26 May 2010, the annual rate of growth in foreign workers employed in Bahrain reached 17% in 2008. The following year 2009 saw a decline of that percentage to 7%.

According to same source, the total expat's work force in Bahrain grew by 28,740 to reach 467,000 last year compared to an increase of 65,000 in 2008.

Estimated number of Indian expatriates community is 410,000. Out of these numbers (Indian Embassy):

283,000 : are Labourers (skilled/unskilled)

1,000 : are Doctors in all medical disciplines (in addition to support medical staff)

1,000 : are Engineers including civil, mechanical, electrical, etc.

550 : are Chartered Accountants in addition to Accounting Clerks, Bookkeepers, etc.

1500 : are Senior Executives

120 : In senior positions in the banking industry

819 : In education

860 : are Investors

1,321 : are Tailors for ladies

Other sources confirm that the number of Indians in Bahrain are 400,000 (i.e. 37% of the total population estimated at 1.2 million, more than half of the Indian community in Bahrain are Keralites (280,000)).

LMRA latest figures show that the number of Indians in the labour market is 203,082 (197,025 males and 6,057 females). As on May 2010, the biggest numbers are employed by the construction sector 74,616 followed by wholesale and retail trade over 49,500, manufacturing 31,437. There are 12,903 illegal workers as on that date. Bahrain and in fact, the rest of the GCC Countries are fortunate enough to have within their reach such a huge reservoir of human resources and talents. With over 1.2 billion population, India constitutes 1/6 of the world's population.

But for how long we can rely on this source of supply?

India increasingly requires its best talent and work force to be mobilized in moving its growing economy.

Some indicators:

India is in the forefront of the fast growing economies of the world. From over 9% rate of growth, today the rate is 7%.

A double digit growth being targeted.

India would soon be the 5th largest consumer of the world. The retail sale for this year stood at \$353 billion and will reach \$543.2 billion by 2014.

Indian exports are growing at 15% annually and it is today standing at around \$200 billion per year.

Foreign exchange reserves reached \$272,783 billion as on June 11, 2010.

R.B.I. (Reserve Bank of India) has the 10th largest gold reserves in the world valued at \$19.4 billion as on June 04, 2010. India is the 3rd largest recipient of D.F.I. (Direct Foreign Investment) from April 1991 – March 2010. The accumulated D.F.I. equity inflow to India stood at \$134.4 billion.

India is targeting another \$500 billion of D.F.I. during the next decade.