

**Name:** Hassan Ahmad

**Notification No:** 594/2026

**Supervisor:** Prof Pankaj Kumar Gupta

**Dated:** 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2026

**Department:** Department of Management Studies

**Topic of Research:** Trade in Educational Services: A Study of Trends in Students Mobility and their Implications

**Keywords:** International Student Mobility, Trade in Educational Services, General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), Foreign Exchange Outflows, India's Higher Education Policy, Push-Pull Model of Student Mobility, Human Capital Theory

### **Findings**

The international student mobility (ISM) has become a characteristic aspect of the higher education environment in the world, with the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) as a commodity of service. This research fills a major gap in the literature because it combines the discussion of inbound and outbound flows with the patterns of domestic enrollment and economic consequences, including foreign exchange outflows which are usually discussed separately. Based on a quantitative and non-experimental design, the methodology uses the secondary data of 2000 to 2022, where it uses Python scripts to run descriptive statistics and Spearman correlation and time-series forecasts to assess the mobility trends and the economic implications of mobility to India, where inbound mobility rose at 5.5 percent compound annual growth rate (CAGR) with dramatic changes to postgraduate programs and better gender equity. The results indicate that, although inbound mobility to India improved by 5.5 percent compound annual growth rate (CAGR), the on the other hand, outbound mobility increased by a 13.1 percent CAGR due to the desire to be in high-income countries with better research centres, which generated high foreign exchange outflows which increased to more than 3.4 billion as compared to 217.8 million. Though these outflows have a major effect on the balance of payment, they do not seem related to the volatility of INR-USD exchange rates. To become a net importer of talent, the study suggests improving the inbound attraction by increasing scholarships, simplified visas, and infrastructure project investment to India. It is also necessary to control outbound trends by building domestic capacity and the hybrid model of education to reduce financial pressure and convert brain drain into brain circulation.