

**Inclusion and Sustenance of International Students in the GTA:**

**What do we know about Indian Students?**

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- ▶ BCS for inviting me to this workshop
- ▶ Funders
- ▶ All Research Participants in India and Canada for sharing your stories and life experiences with us!
- ▶ Research Team

SSHRC  
CRSH



Canada



# Research Team (2017...)

## Graduate Research Assistants Ryerson University:

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## Undergraduate Research Assistants Ryerson University:

**Anish Sarkar** (BCom, TRSM)

## Non Student Research Partners:

**Ena Ghosh**

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# International Student Migration to Canada

**Mobile Agents:** over 4 million globally

**Canada: 3<sup>rd</sup>** most popular destination (UK and USA) – **TEMPORARY MIGRANTS\*\***

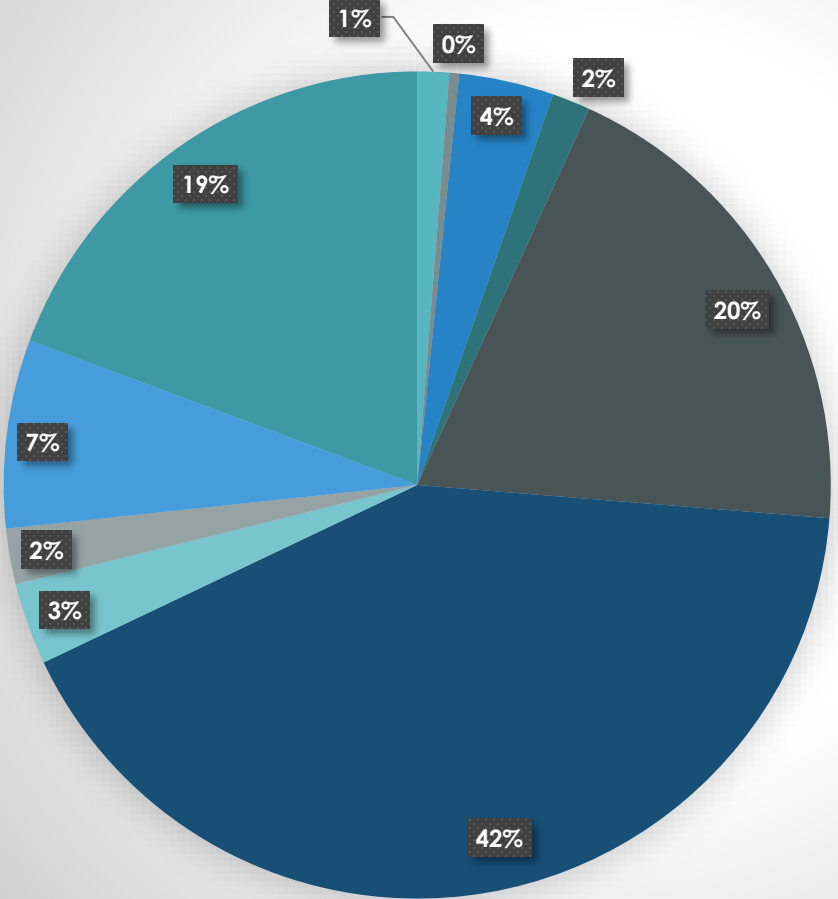
- ↪ Since 2014: Target -- more than 450,000
- ↪ 2019: **642,482** at all education levels (150% increase since 2010) (CBIE, 2019)
- ↪ **12%** of all post-secondary students in Canada
- ↪ 2019: A contribution of **\$12.8 billion** to Canada's GDP

**Most seek college diplomas, rather than university education: “Bachelorization” (Bozheva, 2018) -- one in four attend colleges (2019)**

**The College System in Canada is different --USA/India/Bangladesh**

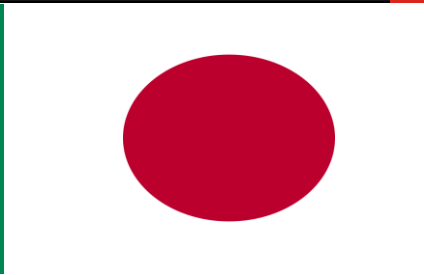
- ↪ Community College and Private Career College
- ↪ Scope is less
- ↪ Tuition Fees Vary
- ↪ Admission Processes and Regulations Vary

# International Students to Canadian Provinces in 2018



- Newfoundland and Labrador
- Prince Edward Island
- Nova Scotia
- New Brunswick
- Quebec
- Ontario
- Manitoba
- Saskatchewan
- Alberta
- British Columbia

	EMPLOYMENT	% OF TOTAL
India	172,625	30.16%
China	142,985	24.98%
South Korea	24,195	4.23%
France	22,745	3.97%
Vietnam	20,330	3.55%
United States	14,620	2.55%
Brazil	13,835	2.42%
Nigeria	11,290	1.97%
Iran	10,885	1.90%
Japan	8,365	1.46%
Mexico	7,835	1.37%
Bangladesh	6,520	1.14%
Saudi Arabia	5,100	0.89%
Philippines	5,070	0.89%
Taiwan	4,700	0.82%
Turkey	4,385	0.77%
Hong Kong	4,045	0.71%
Colombia	4,035	0.70%
Pakistan	3,965	0.69%
United Kingdom	3,415	0.60%



# Previous Research Tells Us:

They are coming because...

- Lower tuition fees compared to the US and the UK, easier transition to PR

The face many problems....

High tuition fees, housing, employment, language, and insecure pathways to permanent residency

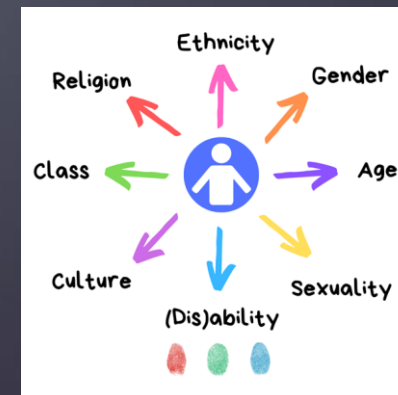
They need to be supported





# Gaps in Previous Research

- Focuses overwhelmingly on **university** students -- no systematic study on the experiences of College students\*\*
- Primary focus is on **Chinese** students, triumphs and challenges of others are still unknown
  - Recent media focus on Indian truck drivers ....
- Lack of **comparative research** (e.g., institutions, source countries, demographics and social identities)
- Lack of understanding the **Transnational Linkages** (between **educational institutions, agencies** in Canada and India)
- Structural Determinism -- Need for **Intersectional Lens**





# Why Study Experiences in Colleges?

- ▶ Canadian Post-Secondary System
  - ▶ Universities
    - ▶ Government Funded (Ryerson) and Private (OCAD)
  - ▶ Colleges
    - ▶ Community (George Brown) and Private/Career (Canadian Academy)
- ▶ Amount of Tuition Fees
- ▶ Admission Requirement and Processes
- ▶ Permitted Work Hours and Regulations
- ▶ “Value” of Diploma and Employment Opportunities



# EXPLORING RESILIENCE AMONG INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ATTENDING COLLEGES IN THE GREATER TORONTO AREA



WHAT IS THIS  
RESEARCH ABOUT?



- ▶ **Indian Students** in Community and Private Career Colleges in the GTA
- ▶ The study compared their resilience by focussing on three inter-related themes:
  - ▶ **Migration, Settlement Challenges, and Service Provision**
- ▶ 45 in-depth interviews including key informants and students....

# What Have We Learned So Far:

- Transnational Linkages in Recruitment – “education agents” and their role in creating unique “eduscapes”
- Migration (**why they come, how they come, and where they come from**) is closely linked to settlement challenges and the need for services
  - Where students come from matters – not just by country of birth, rather, socio-economically and culturally – affects academic success, quality of life, sense of belonging ....



# What Have We Learned So Far: Contd.

- ▶ Families in India take on **huge financial loans** to send International Students
- ▶ The **responsibility to repay** these loans rest on the shoulders of the students
- ▶ The need to **earn extra money** compound several settlement challenges -- including academic successes – may not have much to do with “merit” per se
- ▶ Many students suffer from **food insecurities** – societal discrimination plays a major role
- ▶ **Housing** and **employment** affect and are affected by food insecurity
- ▶ Institutional needs assessment and support are **limited**

# The “COST” of Studying in Canada

- ↓ *I wish I could buy whatever food I want, but I can't. After paying for tuition, rent, and transportation, then I also have phone costs....after all that, I have very little left. My goal is always to keep the expenses to a minimum, and earn more. This has been my motto since day 1. If I make some extra dollars, I'd rather send home to repay loan. Eating is not essential – it is just something I need to do now to keep going (Sagar)*





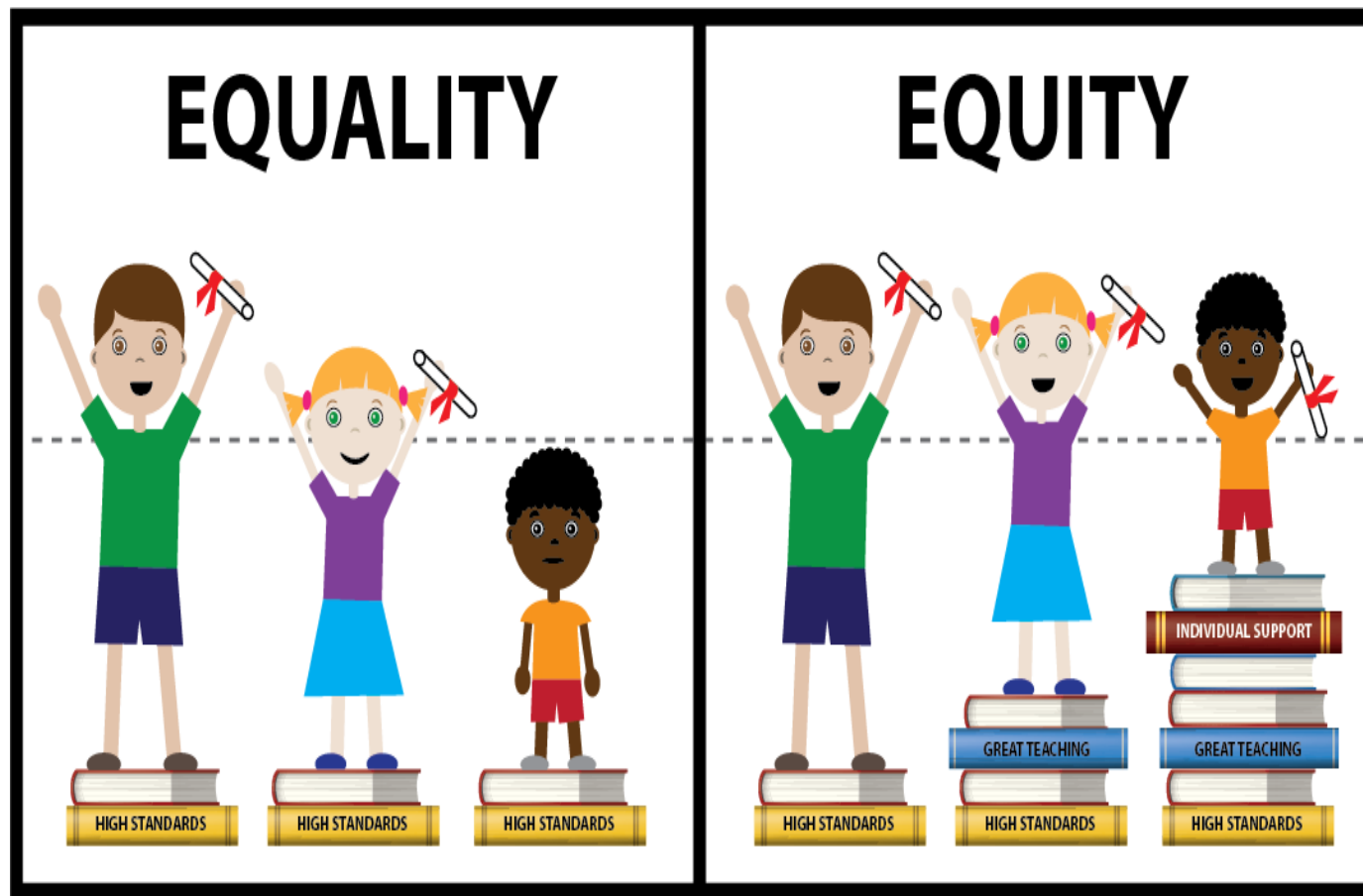






# What Should We Do?

- ▶ “**Temporary Migrants**” – should status matter when they are also tax payers?
- ▶ Practice **equity** -- the amount of help students need and receive
- ▶ **Reduce discrimination** -- not just by passing a law, rather, by education and awareness
- ▶ **Increase awareness** – with public announcements and seminars



Thank you

