

### Punjabis in Italy

People across the globe have different visions of Europe. Everyone perceives this continent in their own way, whether in their perceptions of languages, culture, food, economy, beauty and above all of borderland countries. When Europe becomes the home of non-European people the idea of what Europe is becomes even more interesting. In the present scenario many European countries like Italy, France, Austria, and Switzerland are not only tourist attractions but the home of many migrants who work in private companies or as labour. Both the country and the migrant seem to be fulfilling each other needs. On one side the European nation receives cheap labours especially where Europeans are not available for specific work and on the other side migrants earn good amounts of money for satisfying the needs of their families and also to send back to their homelands.

In this paper I will discuss the Punjabis settled in Italy. Unlike the older destinations of the UK and Canada which have a longer history of migration and settlements, Italy as a destination has emerged over the last couple of decades. Initially a majority of the migrants I met and interviewed migrated illegally to Italy, but eventually some of them were granted a legal status as resident. Others however, are still struggling with their illegal/unsettled/ undocumented status. Punjabi migrants in Italy originated from the different places in Punjab. In Italy, their settlements are scattered in different villages of two provinces, Bergamo and Reggio Emilia. In terms of occupation migrants are largely engaged in manual labour like working in agricultural fields, and metal factories. Some of them are self-employed. Migrants mostly migrated with their families. It was interesting to note that most migrated in the years of 1991-2000. Some migrants arrived in the decade of 1980-1990 and others arrived between the years of 2001-2010, demonstrating the recent migration to Italy. If I look at the type of permit they had at the time of migration, it's clear that majority of them illegally migrated to Italy but they got legal permission of residence and work permits later on.

For the field research I selected two very important places of Sikh settlement in Italy- Bergamo and Reggio Emilia. During my research I observed that the Sikh community was not residing in cities but in very small villages of these regions. The reason for this was that work places like factories,