



Indian IT specialists in the international market

180 For the industrialized countries, the expansion
of the Indian IT business and the access to
unlimited numbers of Indian IT specialists has
led to a significant increase in profits. The
industrialized countries are neither involved in
185 funding the expensive educational training of
their potential employees, nor do they have to
pay salaries like those offered to equally edu-
cated IT specialists in the West. This explains the
Western markets' great demand for Indian IT
190 specialists. While for an Indian IT professional a
salary of about Rs 30.000 a month is a high
salary, converted into Euros this amounts to a
mere € 530 – a salary which even in unqualified
sectors of society is considered to be less than a
195 minimum wage.

While leaving their country in search of
higher salaries has been an option for many
Indian professionals for decades now, their
favourite countries continue to be the USA,
200 Great Britain, Australia and the Middle East.
Germany has been late to recognize the con-
tribution of Indian software professionals on
the international market. Only few Indians are
willing to go to Germany because of Germany's
205 extremely restrictive visa regulations (for

example, companies can only employ IT special-
ists for five years; it is difficult to get visas for
their families, etc.). Moreover, Indian news-
papers' regular reports about racism in Ger-
many and attacks on foreigners by German 210
skinheads worry most Indians and make a visit
to the country a non-option. Most Indians are
therefore hesitant to learn German, since they
feel that a stay in Germany is not possible on a
215 long-term basis.

- ▶ What is meant by the 'digital divide'? Do you feel that there is such a divide in Germany too, e. g. between city and country, between rich and poor or between males and females?
- ▶ Find out more about Indian IT-experts working in Germany.