

External migration and its positive and negative impacts on Host Countries

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الهجرة الخارجية وآثارها الإيجابية والسلبية على الدول المستقبلية

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المستخلص

تبحث هذه الدراسة في مفهوم الهجرة عموماً، والهجرة الخارجية خصوصاً، وكيف لهذه الهجرة ان تؤثر على الدول المضيفة او المستقبلية للمهاجرين القادمين من دول أخرى، سواء من الناحية الإيجابية وما يتضمنه هذا الجانب من تأثير ملحوظ -من خلال تناول مجموعة من الأمثلة- على مختلف جوانب الحياة لتلك الدولة بدءاً بالجانب الاجتماعي وكيف للمهاجرين ان يحسنوا بل ويكونوا جزءاً من تطوير وتنمية القطاعين العام والخاص في ذلك المجال، مروراً بالجانب الاقتصادي وكيف للمهاجر ان يساهم في دفع عجلة التنمية من خلال تطوير البنى التحتية بما يخدم الصالح العام وزيادة الطلب على العمالة وزيادة عائدات الاستثمار، انتهاءً بالجانب السياسي اذ من الممكن ان يؤدي المهاجر دور هام في نجاح العملية السياسية ويكون مثال يحتذى به في الدولة المضيفة وغيرها. اما من الناحية السلبية فهناك بالمقابل مجموعة من الآثار السلبية التي يسببها المهاجر منها الفجوة الثقافية التي من الممكن حدوثها بين المهاجر والمواطن، الضغط على الخدمات العامة والاحتفاظ السكاني في مناطق دون أخرى، كل هذا ممكن ان يسبب توترات اجتماعية والعنصرية بين الطرفين، اضافة الى التأثير على توظيف فئة معينة دون أخرى، ناهيك عن تأثيرهم على العملية الانتخابية وتغيير نتائج الانتخابات لصالح حزب دون اخر. الكلمات المفتاحية: المهاجرون، الآثار الاجتماعية، الآثار الإيجابية، الآثار السلبية، الدول المستقبلية.

Abstract

This study searches the concept of migration in general, and external migration in particular, and how such migration can affect host countries receiving migrants from other nations. It examines both the positive aspects—highlighting significant impacts through a set of examples—and how migration influences numerous aspects of life in the host country. These include the social dimension, where migrants can improve and even contribute to the development and enhancement of both public and private sectors; the economic dimension, where migrants can help drive development by improving infrastructure in ways that benefit the public interest, increase labor demand, and raise investment returns; and the political dimension, where migrants can play a role in the success of the political process and become role models within the host society. On the other hand, migration can also have negative effects. These include cultural gaps that may arise between migrants and citizens, pressure on public services, and overpopulation in certain areas, all of which may lead to social tensions and racism. Migration may also affect employment opportunities for specific groups and influence electoral outcomes by altering the results in favor of one party over another.

Keywords: the migrants, the social effects, the positive effects, the negative effects, the host countries.

Introduction

No doubt that the migration in general and external migration especially is one of the most significant subject particularly nowadays with increasing the numbers of migrants and leaving their place.

Plethora causes stands behind the external migration and push people to leave their cities, which includes political, social, economic and demographic reasons.

We will discuss in this study the essence of external migration which includes concept and causes of it, this is in the first section. In the second section we will discuss the positive and negative impacts on the hosting countries with many examples.

The first section: the conceptual framework

We will cover in this section the essence of external migration which includes the concept and the reasons behind that migration.

1-The concept of external migration

First we have to know what do we mean exactly by migration and external migration, as a theoretical foundation for this study.

"External migration involves the movement of individuals across international borders, either permanently or temporarily, often driven by factors such as economic opportunities, political instability, or social factors".(Edukemy team, p21, 2024).

The others define the external –international- migration by define the international migrant. They define it as "any person who changes his or her country of usual residence" and there Are a number of elements in this superficially simple definition:

- 1- The migrant must across an international boundary.
- 2- He or she must have a previous country of usual residence.
- 3- He or she must establish usual residence in the country of destination. (UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT, 2007, p 6).The others define migration as a "form of geographical mobility or spatial mobility between one geographical unit and another, generally involving change in residence from the place of origin or place pf departure to the place of destination or place of arrival". (egyankosh.ac.in,p30)Some define migration from define a migrant, they define a migrant as a "any person who is moving or has moved across an international border or within a state away from his/her habitual place of residence regardless of the person's legal status, whether the movement is voluntary or involuntary, what the causes for the movement are or what the length of the stay is".(tsegay , volume(7), issue(3), 2023).Consequently, we can define migration as the leaving by person or citizen , leave his or her place where inside or outside the country for many reasons, while the external migration refer to totally leave by the citizen the country .

2- The reasons of external migration There are plethora reasons that stand behind the external migration, some call them as push factors – that are push people to leave their country- are the following: (www.embraceni.org)

- a- Lack of prospects for career advancement.
- b- Poverty and low incomes.
- c- High unemployment rates.
- d- Persecution and poor human rights.
- e- Internal conflict and war.
- f- Climate change, natural disasters and famine.

some indicates for many pull factors: (AL Imran, 2023, p3).

- a- Social: Tolerance, security, education, welfare, and peaceful environments attract migrants.
- b- Political: stability, political rights, and strong institutions encourage migration.
- c- Economic: better jobs, higher wages, and improved living standards are key motivators.
- d- Environmental: safer areas with fewer natural disasters draw people away from risky regions.

Some confirming that there are many reasons behind external migration, as the following: (European parliament, 2024, p2).

1-social and political factors, one of the most crucial factor that push person to migrate is a social and political factors which includes discrimination due to race, religion or ethnicity beside wars, human rights violations and persecution.

2-demographic and economic, these factors have also significant impacts on migration. For instance, growing or shrinking, youthful or aging population, in addition high unemployment, poor labor standards plus the inconsistency in the economic policies that followed by the state.

3-environmental and climate change, migration could be due to environmental and climate changes like natural disasters (floods, earthquakes and hurricanes) etc. this mean more people could be on the move.

Then, we notice there are multiple reasons that push the person to migrate, it depends on the status of each home country, that means It could be one reasons or more than one to make citizens leave their country and seek for what they want.

The second section: how external migration affect the host countries: positive and negative aspects

For sure that migration in general and external migration in particular has plethora advantages and disadvantages, we are here to highlight the countries that receive migrants, and how those affect these countries.

1- **The positive impacts** It's the known that the migrants affect hosting countries by numerous aspects for instance the social, the economic and the political facet.

A-**The social aspect**When we talk about the social facet we must focus on two crucial things the first one is the educational facet and the second is the healthy facet. In educational facet the migrant could be a student or a teacher, in both cases somehow will affect positively.Migrants to the United Arab Emirates possess very high skills and competencies. There are approximately one million Filipino migrants in the UAE, and at least 35% of them are highly skilled. They work across various sectors in the country, including nursing, medicine, engineering, and others. Meanwhile, highly skilled Egyptian migrants, who have long been recognized as a key part of the development of both the public and private sectors—including teachers, nurses, and doctors—also contribute significantly. According to statistics, around 400,000 highly skilled Egyptians live and work across various sectors in the country. (F.Jr, 2025, p5).We can say also if the migrant is a precise and disciplined student that will affect strongly many of native students, by making them more hardworking student and create a sense of competition among them, consequently improve their educational level.

B- **the economic aspect**Migrants or people with a migrant background contribute to the economic development of a country through construction and infrastructure work, which serve the public, for instance the Iraqi architect Zaha hadid who achieved numerous accomplishments in various Arab and foreign countries. Her first project was in the united kingdom known as the Evelyn Grace Academy , that project involved integrating four schools with their ports facilities into one building , which operated by a charity, she did that despite the building's very limited and narrow space, she managed to design a separate entrance for each school, thus ensuring comfort for students, and that was between 2006 and 2010. (GMBH, n.d, p13-14).consequently this work improve the quality of public service.Another example is the large influx of Syrian migrants to Turkey, which boosted formal sector employment and wages for men due to increased labor demand. By the end of 2015, migration had also contributed to higher investment, productivity, consumption, and product prices in the affected regions. (Aksu, Erzan and Kidar, 2022, p4).

C-**the political aspect**An example of the positive impact migrants can have on host countries is the case of Alina Habba, the legal advisor OF former U.S. President Donald Trump. She is of Iraqi descent; her parents migrated to the U.S. in the 1980s, Due to her migrant background and hard work she emerged as a distinguished lawyer and an active figure in the Republican Party. She participated in Trump's election campaign and supported his re-election efforts. Habba became known for her strong defense of her clients and her high legal skills. (Matza and Gerald, 2024, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-68014329.amp>).

This example shows how migrants can be influential and active contributors to political and legal life, helping to improve host countries.

2- The negative impacts

We will highlight here the three aspects that can affected by migration but from negative perspective.

A-**The social aspect**Even if the migrant affect positively, he also affects positively the same aspect,

We can summarized the social negative impacts as follows: (<https://www.internetgeography.net/igcse-geography/population-and-settlement-igcse-geography/what-are-the-impacts-of-migration/>)

- Pressure on public services such as education, housing, and healthcare.
- Overcrowding in the host country
- Language and cultural barriers between migrants and local populations.
- Racial tensions and discrimination either against migrants or from them.
- Gender imbalance due to a higher proportion of male migrants.
- Job competition between migrants and local residents, which may lead to social tension.Moreover, some migrants —not all — contribute to the distortion of the urban landscape through activities such as begging, which negatively affect the aesthetic and social image of the host cities, then all these social factors maybe led to social tension and difficulties in adapting to each other.

B-**The economic aspect**

As mentioned earlier, migration has positive effects on the economy. However, we will now focus on its positive effects. In Turkey, migration has positive effects men's employment However, many researchers report that it has had a negative impact on women's jobs. Specifically, older and less-educated women tend to lose more jobs than men, especially in the services and agricultural sectors. This trend was particularly noticeable by the end of 2015. (Aksu, Erzan and Kidar, 2022, p4-p5) And thus, we notice that migration affected men more than women. Plus, we can mention another example about this point, it was observed the negatively effects by Iraqi migrants on purchasing buildings as well as the rent of apartments in all regions in Syria especially the place of residence of Iraqis, that in itself reflected negatively on the ability of Syrians to purchase or even rent residential apartments.

C- The political aspect Migrants could be effect on host country negatively by participate in election in it, even if they don't have a right to vote, then affect the political process at all, let's take the migrants in USA as an example. The seats of the representative's house and votes in electoral college among the states is not based on just citizen, but it includes also not citizen, and that will change the balance in political process, that's mean the state who has large numbers of migrants will win and vice versa, The inclusion of non-citizen affect California, which gain 8 seats due to the amount of migrants in it. (<https://nypost.com/2024/11/01/opinion/immigrants-already-tip-scales-of-us-elections-without-even-voting/>).

So, the migrants will affect the political representation in USA, while they don't actually vote, Consequently, the citizen feel that his vote not benefit in election, then nominate who want not win Due to the migrant take his place in voting, we think that will lead in somehow to political disengagement and low voter turnout.

Conclusion

In the end turns out that the international migration is not just a movement of individuals from one place to another; It's not that simple, it is a complex phenomenon including social, economic, and political dimensions that affecting host countries as deeply as it affects the migrants themselves. This research has explored these aspects in detail, supported by real-life examples.

As migration keeps increasing while the world is changing rapidly, the greatest challenge remains: can host countries strike a balance between preserving their cohesion of the social structure and protection migrants' rights? Will they succeed in formulating comprehensive policies that account for these difficulties and contribute to building more inclusive societies marked by political, economic, and social stability? The answer to this question will shape the future of the relationship between migrants and host countries in the coming up years.

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