

A Study on Attitudes, Reasons and Goals of Iran's PhD Students for Migration to Europe and American Countries

Shahla Kazemipour Sabet, *Population Studies and Research Center in Asia and the Pacific*

Mohammad Mirzaie, *University of Tehran*

Mahmoud Moshfegh, *Population Studies and Research Center in Asia and the Pacific*

Nader Motie Haghshenas, *Population Studies and Research Center in Asia and the Pacific*

Overview

One of the most important problems in developing countries is brain drain which has been started after Second World War and it consists of experts and capitalists' migration. Experts and educated individuals' migration to Europe and USA is one of the demographic and social problems of Iran and many developing countries as well, which affects both origins and destinations countries.

Therefore this research deals with analysis and description of attitudes, goals and reasons of highly educated individual's migration of Iran to Europe and American countries.

Statement of the Problem

Human capital is the basic capital and it plays a major role in countries' development. This kind of investment changes the experts to national capital. In spite of costs and capitals invested for training in developing countries, they are facing a phenomenon named expert migration or brain drain which can lead to irreparable social, cultural, political and economical damages. Iran is ranked first among 61 developing countries

for experts' migration. Statistics show that 12000 educated individuals migrate to other countries each year.

Literature Review

Brain drain in Iran has started since 1950 and it is divided to 3 periods:

- 1- From 1960 until revolution.
- 2- From 1972 until Cultural Revolution.
- 3- From 1988 by now.

According to "International Education Institute" out of 9623 Iranian student who were studying in USA at 1973-74, 71% held bachelor degrees 22% held Master degrees and 2% as scholarship studied in special courses and the others were in other courses.

Census data of USA in 1990 showed that out of 220000 Iranian individuals 77% were educated.

Also statistic center of USA at 1991 approved that 46% of Iranian migration held Master and PhD degrees, 42% were skillful, and 22% were the owner of business companies, industrial factories, hospitals and stadiums.

Theoretical Framework

There are different theories for determining factors affecting experts and educated people migration from third world countries toward developed countries. Theories such as pull and push, New Classics, New Growth theory, and Brain Drain, Brain Exchange Brain Drain examine migration and each one look at the problem from a different angle. Moslow's theory is another theory based on human needs including:

1. Physical needs
2. Security needs
3. Social needs

4. Respect, promotion, position and autonomy.
5. Crystallizing talent

According to this theory experts choose migration because they can not meet their needs in their own country. Second theory is "globalization" which refers to extended social relation throughout the world level. This theory explains that the flow of economical migration is from places with less flourish to places with much flourish. Another theory is "pull and push" that emphasis on pull factors in destination and push factors in origin. As the mentioned theory "pull and push" explains push factors for Iranian migrants are undesirable socioeconomic and politic condition, lack of attention to researches, low standards of living, unemployment, low wages, population growth, weak training system at universities, social condition of women, low level of technology, and lack of planning for attracting experts and educated individuals. Also there are some pull factors in destination countries such as increasing quota of Asian countries citizens, industrial facilities, and job opportunities, better salaries for researches, better training chances, political stability, and modern life.

Research Objectives

The most essential objective of this study is recognizing internal push factors like economical, cultural, social and political condition of the country as well as external pull and attractive factors affecting students and expert's migration from Iran. Attitudes, goals and the reasons of migration among the sample are important and considered as well.

Methodology

This research is based on both survey and secondary analysis. Population of the study was all students and statistic sample includes 200 PHD

students of Tehran University which was attained by simple random sampling and cookran formula. Also we hope by using other researcher results and analyzing them the study will be more comprehensive.

Finding

Findings of the research show that generally there is an overall tendency for migration to be higher for highly educated individuals. Wage differentials, differences in the quality of life, educational opportunities for children, and job security play a key role. Another important issue is the extent to which the benefits of education acquired by citizens of developing countries are externalities that individuals cannot be expected to take into account when making their private decisions. Lack of support for researches, low income and wages, discrimination in the society, spiritual pressures job insecurity, injustices, limited access to scientific sources and finally the future of children are the other attained finding. Specifically in our sample younger individuals, males, singles, and unemployed, had more tendency for migration.