

WAVES OF MIGRATION IN KAZAKHSTAN AND ITS RAMIFICATIONS

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ABSTRACT

The history of migration of people is as old as civilization itself. Movement of people provided the vibrancy to the socio-cultural community of a nation over the years. Migration is a global phenomenon and Kazakhstan being a part of international system is impacted by it. The former Soviet Republics have faced variant waves of migration during different time period. The socio-economic and cultural ties among the countries and Russian language played an important role in determining migration streams specially in Central Asian region. Migration is an essential component of social processes and economic livelihood of a nation. It has been observed in Kazakhstan that migration has played an inevitable role in shaping both its society and economy. This paper is going to elaborate about various migration waves occurring in Kazakhstan and their implication for the state.

KEYWORDS: Migration, Kazakhstan, Emigration, Immigration, Soviet Union.

INTRODUCTION

"Migration is an expression of the human aspiration for dignity, safety and better future. It is part of social fabric, part of our very make-up as a human family" (Ban Ki-moon). A diverse culture has interacted with one another in this world and impacts their social lives that have shaped a certain degree of commonness. International migration is a multidimensional phenomenon that touches various aspects such as security, social, economic and cultural affecting our daily lives in this interconnected world. People used to leave their home due to reasons like poverty, inequality, lack of job opportunities and nowadays because of increasing conflicts, environmental issues and lack of security those are becoming frequent. Migration can contribute both host and home countries in their development. Migrants are the most dynamic members of the society that can forge new ways in growth and development process and enrich the communities by promoting cultural diversity. Migration has various dimensions as immigration and emigration continuing to provide many opportunities to migrants, societies and states.

Kazakhstan has experienced movement of people since ancient time. Since Tsarist period, Russians have been coming to central Asian region and during that period they came as peasants and military personnel. The region had practiced reverse migration during 1930s period. It had been estimated that about 15 to 20% Kazakhs migrated due to Stalin's 'forced collectivization' policy, those settled later in Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Mongolia and China. In later years the Soviet State sponsored many programs such as Kolkhozes (collective farms) and Virgin Land Campaign etc. in Central Asian region that brought Russians to this region. In this period Russians mainly engaged in industrial and service sectors as specialists that was the part of development strategy of Soviet state. The

concentration of Russians mainly occurred in industrial areas of the region. But in later years these development programs were abandoned and new development projects were started in Russia that attracted labour from the Central Asian states. Thus the process of immigration and emigration had been going on in this region since the very early period from Tsarist rule. With the independence of Kazakhstan new phase of migration processes has started and the new government is implementing independent policies and strategies to regulate the migration. The changing patterns of migration can be seen in the region in last twenty five years and these patterns are result of various factors and these have implications for the development processes of the state.

OBJECTIVE AND RESEARCH METHODS

The objective of the study is to describe the changing patterns of migration processes in Kazakhstan during 1991 to 2015 period and its implications for the society of the state. It will also look into the initiatives taken by government and their impacts. The present study will adopt both qualitative and quantitative methods those are descriptive and analytical in nature. The data that will be used for the study have different sources such as Agency of Statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan (www.stat.gov.kz) and various UN organisation publications like UN population division, IOM and ILO etc.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The construction of multi-ethnic population had been preserved during Soviet era and produced a potential source for outflow of population while sizable Kazakh diaspora was measured as prospective basis for immigration to Kazakhstan after independence. The substantial impacts of migration could be seen in terms of demographic, social, economic, political and

cultural dimensions. The migration trends those occurred in Kazakhstan after its independence could be divided into two chronological periods having specific patterns. The first period marked with the 1990s that manifested mass emigration of European population and for this various factors were responsible as socio-economic development processes and national building forces taking place in the state. The second period started with the beginning of 2000s that noticeable with the new trend in migration that is immigration of Kazakh ethnic people from CIS and other countries. These migration flows have huge repercussions for society and economy of Kazakhstan. (Saparbekova, A., Kocourková, J., Kučera, T. , 2015).

Migration has played an important role in identity formation and integration tendencies in the Central Asian region. Tatars had introduced Jadidism; Russians and other Slavic brought socialism, modernization and changed a section of population into Russified elite. Immigrants were also not immune from the local influences. The existence of non-indigenous people sharpened the boundaries of ethnic identity that sometimes leads to violent conflicts. However the integration processes were also taking place simultaneously through the contact route. Russians and Central Asians have shared a geographical space that also manifested various cultural linkages that gives strength to integration through mobility of people (Patnaik, A., 2005).

MIGRATION PROCESS IN KAZAKHSTAN (EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION)

Post 1991, the emergence of 'ethnic state' was taking place in Central Asia that resulted into isolation of Slavic population from conventional socio-economic development processes. This alienation among Slavic people produced resentment that led them to emigrate from the region. Due to cultural affinity and porous borders between Russia and Kazakhstan, emigration of Russians were much higher from Kazakhstan in comparison to other republics of region. Soviets focused on industrial sector based on heavy industries that was hit badly that led to bring down living standards that triggered emigration waves from the region to their homeland. As now new government is also giving preference to native people for employment in industrial sector that is based on light and food processing in which Russians were not trained.

Nationalism and nation building processes through the various government policies like language policies and preferential treatments of locals were the reasons that led Russians and other ethnic groups to emigrate from the region to their own native countries. The policies of newly formed states in Central Asia such as language and citizenship laws were aimed to formation of 'ethnic states' in this region. Even new education policies were brought in to promote nationalism and these new national-cultural policies in favour of natives were a sort of nationhood that brought Russian other ethnic groups

under pressure. Thus the fears of cultural alienation and religious activism in the region lead ethnic communities to leave or emigrate their region. After soviet fall Russian communities lost their materialistic privileges that changed their social status also and widened gap with locals that increased emigration process in the region. Thus psychological factor played an important role in emigration of Russians and other ethnic groups from the region. The rate of net emigration has enhanced from 3.5 per thousand in 1991 to 25.5 per thousand in 1994.

The trends of migration have transformed from the period of 2000s as now economic conditions are changing and government is also taking initiatives to promote immigration of Kazakhs as population vacuum has been created due to outmigration. Although immigration of Kazakhs started after independence because government implemented policies like "ethnic return" migration policy that attempted to bring back Kazakhs to their homeland but it was less in number compare to number of emigrants, only after 2000s it has positive migration. In 2009 the total number of immigrants is 41,485, out of which 18,790 people came from Uzbekistan and most of them came from the CIS countries. Among the other countries in recent years large number of migrants came from China and Mongolia. Kazakhstan has border with China and the border areas of China have Uighur minority people who illegally enter to Kazakhstan that creates problems in Kazakh society. Kazakh ethnic group constitutes about 72% of immigrants. From gender point of view the number of females in immigrants is more than that of males. Thus it can be drawn that the process of migration is balanced in country.

The table shows the changing trend of migration during the transition period (1991-2011) in Kazakhstan. It could be analysed from the table that emigrants outnumbered immigrants and it had negative net migration during the period 1991 to 2003. But later on because of development of hydrocarbon sector in Kazakhstan, economy improved while in Russia crises happened that led to decline in emigration rate from the state. It has also presented that after 2003 year net migration began to show positive trend so country has positive balance migration in later years. Even now it had become attractive destination for immigrants from other Central Asian countries after Russia due to its economic development.

Table 1
Changing Trend of Migration in Kazakhstan during 1991-2011

Year	Immigrants (thou.)	(in Emigrants thou.)	(in Net Migration
1991	170.8	228.5	-57.7
1992	161.5	317.8	-156.3
1993	111.1	330.1	-219
1994	70.4	477.1	-406.7
1995	71.1	309.6	-238.5
1996	53.9	229.4	-175.5
1997	38.1	299.5	-261.4
1998	40.6	243.7	-203
1999	41.3	164.9	-123.6
2000	47.4	155.7	-108.3
2001	53.5	141.7	-88.2
2002	58.2	120.2	-62
2003	65.6	73.9	-8.3
2004	68.3	65.5	2.8
2005	74.8	52.1	22.7
2006	66.7	33.7	33
2007	53.4	42.4	11
2008	46.4	45.3	1.1
2009	41.5	34	7.5
2010	42	26.5	15.5
2011	38.2	32.8	5.4

Source: Agency of Statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan

MIGRATION POLICIES AND THEIR IMPACTS

Migration policy is defined as rules, regulations, laws and measures that implemented by the state to influence composition and volume of migration. Since the independence Kazakhstan is implying regulations to regulate migration. The termination of cold war and subsequently disintegration of Soviet Union brought both division and reunion of ethnic communities those were dwelling within and beyond the borders

of soviet republics. On the one side ethnic groups came into contacts with their co-ethnic people while on the other side Soviet Republics now changed into international borders and people living in their own country found themselves as on wrong side.

After the disintegration of Soviet Union the political elite of Kazakhstan wanted to form a state truly for titular ethnicity by approaching the Kazakhs people living in abroad to "come back home" and granting them the full citizenship of the newly independent state. The policy was aimed to overcome the negative legacies under the Soviet regime as the minority status of Kazakhs in Kazakhstan and the linguistic as well as cultural Russification among the Kazakhs themselves. The migration policy of the government was aimed to balance the emigration of large number of other ethnic communities and populate their territories with members of titular nations. The first constitution of the country adopted in 1993 allowed "all the citizens of the republic who were forced to leave its territory and all Kazakhs residing in other countries to obtain Kazakhstan's citizenship without relinquishing one's current passport.

Kazakhstan was the one among the post Soviet republics that found to seek contact with its diaspora. The state has implemented "ethnic return" migration policy aimed to counter depopulation happening because of outmigration and to create ethno national exuberance through increasing share of Kazakhs. Through this government has been encouraging Kazakhs to return their own homeland. Migration law of 1992, conferred the rights of return to all "compatriots". The term "compatriots" apply to all former citizens of Kazakhstan, including non-indigenous people. The government has another migration law in 1997, that defined "Repatriates" and "Oralman". The difference is on the basis of their geographic location as the term oralman was used for Kazakhs returning from far abroad, whereas repatriates were used for Kazakhs coming from former Soviet Union Republics. From the last years of Soviet era "repatriation" of Kazakh ethnicity has started. Regarding the official statistics, about 860,000 Kazakhs have returned to Kazakhstan mainly from neighbouring countries of central Asia and from China and Mongolia. According to 2009 census, with the total population of 16 million, 10.1 million is Kazakhs and these "repatriates" and "Oralman" form the essential component of contemporary society of Kazakhstan.

In 1993, the government had introduced 'Quota System' for repatriates that, aimed to provide necessary living conditions to these returning Kazakhs. Under this quota system the government identified certain households and set quota for them in terms of financial benefits and the levels of these quota has been raised gradually.

Table 2 : Number of Allocated Quotas and immigrated Families in Kazakhstan

Year	Allocated Quotas	Immigrated Families
1993	10000	9090
1994	7000	6017
1995	5000	5742
1996	4000	4810
1997	2200	3278
1998	3000	3130
1999	500	2668
2000	500	5515
2001	600	9105
2002	2655	10270
2003	5000	16026
2004	10000	18955
2005	15000	28239
2006	15000	20498
2007	15000	22518
2008	15000	15000
2009	20000	15534
2010	20000	10406

Source: Agency of Statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan

It can be analysed from the above given table that number of immigrants are more than allocated quotas for them. This system was aimed for repatriation of Kazakhs to their homeland through the assisting in resettlement but it is not possible to provide all immigrants quota due to economic conditions of the state. The migration law of 2011, stipulates that the ethnic affiliation of a claimant for the status of 'Oralman' is determined by the information in the person's identification document (Oka, 2013). This law has emphasized the skills of immigrants. These skilled people will be given preferences in the quota system and other financial facilities. Earlier the migration policies of government were politically motivated mainly aimed to establish the superiority and majority status of Kazakh ethnic people. The large out migration of Russians, Germans and other ethnic people automatically brought victory to Kazakh ethnicity, but now government has realized that they

need skilled people for economic growth and development and they have started attracting the skilled population through their industrial policy. On the day of independence December 16, 2011 there were clashes between the police of the state and striking oil workers at the Zhanaozen in Mangistau oblast in oil rich western Kazakhstan who were demanding higher wages and improved working conditions. After this incident the government has decided to suspend the quota system for the Oralman because in the striking workers the large proportions were of these Oralman immigrants.

IMPLICATIONS OF MIGRATION PROCESS FOR KAZAKHSTAN

Migration can be seen in different dimensions in terms of its implications for the society and economy of the country. The emigration has adversely impacted society and economic development and security of the Kazakhstan. In terms of social outcomes; migration has contributed to the fragmentation of families consequently draws into loosening the societal value and all those aspects have vital ramifications over 'securitization' processes in region. The industrial cities such as Karaganda and Pavlodar faced crises due to emigration of Russian skilled manpower. The large scale emigration of Russians even has generated structural imbalances in the social structure of the society. The emergent isolation of Russians from mainstream development processes produced secessionist tendencies among them. This resulted in appearance of movements like Lad movement that is an association of Slavic population and formation of union like Federation of Independent Trade Union which were fighting for their rights. These movements were aimed for the demands of Russians like recognition of Russian language, opening of Russian schools and dual citizenship etc. The local Cossacks are also building close links with radical Russians groups and taking extreme steps to achieve their goals. Even the bitterness of clashes forced the government to shift the capital from Almaty to Astana in northern part. Thus it could be observed that appearance of 'ethnic state' brought the phenomenon of clash of identity that is 'we' vs 'them' (Mohapatra, 2013). The emigration was taking place of not only Russians but also of native people of Central Asian Republics due to lack of employment opportunities, weakening economy and in search of green pastures.

Kazakhstan is experiencing immigration of native Kazakhs as promoted by government because of fulfilment of population vacuum generated by emigration. These returned Kazakhs known as Oralmans and most of these settled in the northern part of the country where Russians are also in majority that created clashes between them as government failed to provide Oralmans their basic amenities which was promised by the state. It has been also observed that immigrant labourers facing racist attacks and unfair treatment at their workplaces. It has been observed that isolation of immigrants from their

families could lead them to fall in the prey of religious radical groups which promised them to meet their social and spiritual needs that in turn in long run can lead to growth of radicalization in region. The labour immigration brings the issue of rising narco-trafficking cases and porous borders between Kazakh and Russia and with other Central Asian republics is giving impetus to these trafficking, so it is creating problems in society as anti-societal crimes are rising. Even organized criminal groups are taking advantage of blurred boundaries between countries of the region. Thus it is forming a nexus between illegal migration and drug-trafficking in the region which is a serious social as well as security issue.

Most of the immigrants are having lack of access to proper health care system and have to face inhumane working conditions led them to die in the Kazakhstan. The lack of proper legal system led the most of the illegal immigrants to face discrimination with locals and has to work in harsh conditions. The prominent implication of this migration is that country is not able to take advantage of potential of 'human capital'.

EMERGING CHALLENGES OF MIGRATION IN KAZAKHSTAN

A recent analysis of the Kazakhs return migration shows that initial open arm welcome and excitement towards the Kazakh ethnics has been replaced by warning that they should not expect too much from the state. The immigrants having issues in integration with the local people as many social problems also raised because the local people think that the government gives preferences to these Oralman people in employment opportunities. The assimilation of Kazakh immigrants with the local community people has not been easy and it has produced new separations or divisions in society and expand the social problems in society of Kazakhstan. The local people considered them as "other" and "not authentic" co-ethnics because these have lived under the influences of various cultures for generations, local people also complained that they were unfairly treated as immigrant people were receiving fund and economic incentives, even in job opportunities government gives preferences to immigrants rather than local people. Thus though the government policies were aimed to integrate the ethnic Kazakhs with local people but it has emerged as new dilemma in society. Kazakhstan is main country for illegal migration, for labour migrants and ethnic Kazakhs which mainly came from other Central Asian republics. Thus the government policies regarding migration aimed to take measures to combat illegal migration by stepping up border and immigration control, executing programs for integration of Kazakhs and protecting the labour market.

CONCLUSION

Thus to sum up, it can be understood that Kazakhstan has faced various migration processes during its long history. Migration always play an important role as it is base of

population change of a country. Human capital provides potential for growth and development of a nation. The relationship between communities and migrants is an integral part of migration processes as this relation form of sociological and psychological processes of adaptation between migrants and their interacting communities. It can be observed that the feeling of insecurity in the state stems from the lack of societal cohesion and proliferation of social fault lines from independence of Kazakhstan. Thus migration in long run has an adverse impact for the overall socio-economic development if country is unable to harness the potential of human capital.

The formation of human capital in positive way can transform negative impacts of migration into positive ones. State has immense role to play in this as if it can invest in building human capital in terms of providing basic amenities to coming migrants and giving them opportunities for their own development. Thus in turn these migrants will contribute in economic growth and development of the nation. Kazakhstan is the country that having lack of human resource in comparison to natural resources so if state can take measures for building human capital and transform migrants into positive demographic dividend then it will have a huge impact on development of the state. The adverse impacts that are seen nowadays due to migration can be changed into positive if it properly managed and policies are implemented by the state for cohesive integration between migrants and local people it will bring new development highs for the nation.

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