

**SOCIAL FACTORS OF MIGRATION IN SOCIETAL DEVELOPMENT IN
UZBEKISTAN**

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Abstract

This article provides a scientifically grounded analysis of the essence of the concept of migration, the formation of migration processes in Uzbekistan, the social factors that determine these processes, their impact on societal development, and the institutional reforms being implemented by the state.

Keywords

migration, labor migration, sustainable development, social factors, demography, social justice, technological progress, modernization, urbanization.

Annotatsiya

Ushbu maqolada tushunchasi mohiyati, O'zbekistonda migratsiya jarayonlarining shakllanishi, ularni belgilovchi ijtimoiy omillar hamda jamiyat taraqqiyotiga ta'siri va davlat tomonidan olib borilayotgan institutsional islohotlar ilmiy asosda tahlil qilingan.

Kalit so'zlar

migratsiya, mehnat migratsiyasi, barqaror rivojlanish, ijtimoiy omillar, demografiya, ijtimoiy adolat, texnologik taraqqiyot, modernizatsiya, urbanizatsiya.

Аннотация

В данной статье на научной основе проанализированы сущность понятия, формирование миграционных процессов в Узбекистане, определяющие их социальные факторы, а также их влияние на развитие общества и проводимые государством институциональные реформы.

Ключевые слова

миграция, трудовая миграция, устойчивое развитие, социальные факторы, демография, социальная справедливость, технологический прогресс, модернизация, урбанизация.

Introduction

In today's context of globalization, labor migration stands at the center of the international agenda not only as an economic phenomenon but also as a significant political factor. As migration flows expand on a large scale and their structure becomes more complex, the movement of labor from different regions is accelerating, and the factors shaping labor-migrant flows are becoming increasingly active.

At a time when migration processes are intensifying globally, Uzbekistan has also become an active participant in this trend. Population growth, demographic pressure, economic opportunities, the level of social welfare, and modernization policies are directly influencing the formation of migration in the country. Proper governance of migration processes is one of the key factors of societal development. In particular, protecting migrants abroad from political, economic, cultural, and social restrictions, ensuring decent living conditions for them, and guaranteeing their rights and freedoms in accordance with international and national legal norms are matters of pressing importance.

Materials and Methods

The term “migration” is associated with the Latin word *migratio*, meaning “movement” or “relocation” [1, p. 247]. Migration refers to people’s relocation from their place of residence to another place for various reasons. Migration occurs when individuals move outside a specific territory to a permanent or temporary place of residence. Migration driven by social, economic, ecological, political, religious, military, and other reasons may be organized (with the participation of the state and other social structures) or unorganized (initiated by migrants themselves) [2].

In sociology and the social sciences, migration is interpreted as a “social process associated with changing a permanent or long-term place of residence.” Migration is one of the most dynamic and multifaceted socio-demographic processes in modern societal development. Deep integration of the global system, transnationalization of labor markets, and rapid development of transport and communication technologies have not only intensified migration processes but have also made them more complex, structured, and systemic. An analysis of the theoretical foundations of migration is essential for understanding the social, economic, demographic, and cultural nature of this phenomenon.

Uzbekistan is among the fastest-growing countries in Central Asia in terms of population. More than 60 percent of the population are young people, and the abundance of labor resources is a natural factor contributing to external labor migration. Attitudes toward labor migrants in foreign countries vary, and migration policies also differ from one state to another. This, in turn, affects the situation of labor migrants in the migration process in different ways.

Labor migration is linked to socio-economic factors such as a shortage of jobs, economic disparities between regions, uneven development of social infrastructure, and differences in population incomes. These factors intensify external migration flows—primarily toward Russia, South Korea, and Türkiye. In contemporary society, Uzbekistan’s cities—especially Tashkent, Samarkand, and the centers of the Fergana Valley—have become hubs of urbanization, and internal migration from rural areas to cities continues.

Results and Discussion

In Uzbekistan, the following normative-legal acts serve, to a certain extent, to regulate migration-related activities and implement the tasks established therein, including: Presidential Decree No. PQ-4829 dated September 15, 2020 “On Measures to Introduce a System of Safe, Orderly and Legal Labor Migration”; Presidential Decree No. PQ-149 dated March 1, 2022 “On Additional Measures to Support Citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan Temporarily Engaged in Labor Activities Abroad and Their Family Members”; and Presidential Decree No. PF-60 dated

January 28, 2022 “On the Development Strategy of the New Uzbekistan for 2022–2026,” as well as other relevant legal documents.

A range of scientific studies has been conducted in Uzbekistan to examine the social, cultural, legal, and gender dimensions of migration processes. In particular, M. Bekmurodov studied the impact of internal and external migration processes on public opinion and analyzed the role of migration in shaping social consciousness. A. Kholbekov examined the theoretical approaches of Western thinkers to migration processes.

In addition, M. Ganieva focused on organizing social work with migrants and their families and revealed the transformation of family relations under migration conditions. T. Matibaev studied issues of developing cooperation between the state and civil society institutions in regulating citizens’ labor relations, while researcher F. Parmanov scientifically substantiated trends in the transformation and integration of migration processes.

Moreover, M. Gafforova explored trends in changes in the socio-cultural profile of women under conditions of migration transformation; N. Imomova investigated the influence of social factors on labor migration; F. Abduvaliev studied the social causes, structure, and current state of youth educational migration; and S. Djoldasova conducted research on improving the legal regulation of the migration sphere.

In summary, scientific research conducted by scholars in Uzbekistan clearly demonstrates that migration processes constitute a multifaceted and complex social phenomenon. These studies systematically analyze migration’s impact on social consciousness, its theoretical and methodological foundations, changes in family and labor relations, as well as trends in the transformation and integration of migration processes.

At the same time, special attention has been paid to the social factors of labor and educational migration, the participation of youth and women in migration processes, changes in their socio-cultural profile, and the improvement of legal regulation mechanisms. This substantiates the need to manage migration processes effectively, strengthen cooperation between the state and civil society institutions, and improve migration policy on a scientific basis.

As a result, these scholarly works not only contribute to a deeper understanding of the social essence of migration processes but also serve as an important scientific foundation for supporting reforms being implemented in this sphere both theoretically and practically.

Migration processes are among the key aspects of modern societal development, exerting a significant influence on socio-economic, cultural, and demographic development. First of all, migration contributes to the redistribution of labor resources across regions and countries and mitigates imbalances in labor markets. It helps meet labor demand to a considerable extent and creates conditions for increased production efficiency in regions and the formation of a competitive environment.

Migration is an important factor of economic growth: remittances sent by migrants have a positive impact on raising living standards, improving households’ material well-being, and expanding the domestic consumer market. In this regard, directing these funds toward education, healthcare, and entrepreneurship contributes to the development of human capital. Consequently, economic stability and the level of social protection in society are further strengthened.

Knowledge and experience exchange also plays an important role in migration processes. Professional skills, modern technologies, and management experience acquired by labor migrants abroad can be brought back to their home country, contributing to the development of innovative activities. This supports increases in labor productivity, introduction of new industries, and expansion of elements of the digital economy.

Migration is also significant for the social and cultural development of society. Interaction among different civilizations strengthens tolerance, cultural diversity, and social adaptability, while migrants' experiences can stimulate the emergence of new values, work culture, and forms of social activism. This, in turn, contributes to the development of civil society institutions and the strengthening of social integration.

From a demographic perspective, migration helps address imbalances in population size and structure. An increased share of working-age youth supports the sustainability of pension systems, slows demographic aging, and reduces the social burden. In particular, the migration activity of youth and women strengthens their economic independence and positively influences the process of ensuring gender equality.

At the same time, migration processes may also have negative impacts on social life. "According to statistical data, approximately 1.5–2 million citizens each year temporarily or permanently carry out labor activities abroad. This figure is about 5 percent of Uzbekistan's population, and without an in-depth study of the impacts of such large-scale demographic movements, it becomes difficult to pursue sustainable socio-economic policies. Today, in some regions, phenomena such as a reduction in labor resources, an increase in the number of divorces, and a rise in households without men indicate the demographic consequences of labor migration" [3]. Therefore, reducing the negative demographic and social consequences of labor migration, maintaining a regional balance of labor resources, and ensuring family stability by developing and consistently implementing a comprehensive and long-term state policy remain urgent tasks.

Conclusion

In Uzbekistan, the abundance of labor resources and relatively low demand in the domestic labor market are leading to an increasing need for labor migration. Demand for labor in industry, construction, manufacturing, services, transport, agriculture, and foreign trade is shaping the intensification of migration processes. As a result, challenges such as shortages of skilled personnel in domestic and foreign markets, limited access to decent working conditions, and a narrow geography of migrant-receiving countries are emerging.

To address these challenges, it is necessary to expand access to economically stable foreign labor markets, regulate migration legally and organizationally, and strengthen the social and legal protection of migrants on the basis of international agreements. At the same time, developing migrants' professional and cultural potential, ensuring safe working conditions, and improving mechanisms to encourage remittances will help amplify the positive socio-economic impact of external labor migration.

If migration processes are governed properly and harmonized with effective social policy, migration becomes a crucial factor of societal development. It accelerates economic growth, the development of human capital, social stability, and cultural enrichment, playing an important role in ensuring the long-term and sustainable development of society.

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