

Labor Migration: Scientific Views, Research Results

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Abstract: This article examines the scientific views of scientists from various fields on population and migrant migration, as well as their attempts to define these concepts. Based on the analysis of the literature, he provides his own author's definition of the concept of "migration". The author also cites the results of his research, analyzes the opinions of teenagers whose loved ones went into labor migration, and provides his personal conclusions and suggestions.

Keywords: Population, Migration, Humanity, Social, Displacement, Sender, Receiver, Country, Territory, Distribution, Migrants, Illegal Immigrants, Border, State

1. Introduction

In the early 1990s, when I began working at the Academy of Sciences, the construction of the "Tata" hotel (now the Le Grand Plaza Hotel) was underway. Indian construction and installation workers were transported in large foreign buses; they were neatly dressed, and transportation was provided for them after work as well. At that time, I held a firm belief that everyone who went abroad lived and worked under similar conditions.

As time passed, access to the Internet expanded, and people in both my close and distant social circles began leaving to study and work abroad. My understanding of labor migration gradually deepened, which ultimately led me to select migration as the focus of my scientific research. Experience had shown that this phenomenon is extremely large in scale and characterized by diverse consequences.

Since the emergence of humankind, people have lived in constant movement. More specifically, such movement can be classified as follows:

natural (birth and death);

social (changes in social status, profession, or sphere of activity);

migratory movement (relocation in physical and geographical space).

Population migration should be understood not merely as the mechanical movement of individuals in space, but as a complex and multidimensional social process. Like any social process, it represents a system of interrelated and structured phenomena.

A defining characteristic of the migration process is the presence of successive and interrelated stages.

The **first stage** involves the emergence of conditions and determinants that shape the nature of migration, including its motives, structural causes, and enabling circumstances.

The **second stage** comprises departure from the country of origin, movement through possible transit states, and entry into the destination country.

The **third stage** includes settlement, access to employment, integration into the receiving society, acquisition of citizenship, or, alternatively, return to the homeland.

All stages of the migration process are closely interconnected and mutually conditioning. Understanding migration as a complex social phenomenon that affects multiple domains of public life in both sending and receiving countries is essential for the effective functioning of migration governance mechanisms.

It should be emphasized that migratory movements of populations have historically led to the discovery of many territories and their transformation into inhabited spaces. Migration produces both quantitative and qualitative changes in the population of particular regions and states and, consequently, influences multiple dimensions of social life.

Today, population migration represents a complex social phenomenon encompassing nearly all countries of the world. It has therefore become a subject of inquiry across numerous disciplines, including political science, geography, economics, history, philosophy, sociology, pedagogy, psychology, and law.

Geographers primarily examine migration as a process of spatial redistribution of populations. Demographers focus on changes in population size and sex–age structures. Sociologists analyze its impact on social development and social stratification. Economists study the reallocation of labor resources and implications for economic growth. Legal scholars approach migration from the standpoint of compliance with legal norms, maintenance of public order, and the safeguarding of national security.

As a scientific discipline, psychology addresses not only the issues of psychological adaptation among individuals moving across cultures, but also investigates similarities and differences in psychological characteristics manifested within diverse cultural contexts. In addition, psychological research increasingly focuses on the adjustment of the families left behind in the country of origin and on the socialization of children growing up in transnational households.

Ongoing global processes—including armed conflicts, economic hardship, as well as the rapid development of tourism and telecommunications—have intensified intercultural interactions to an unprecedented degree. As a result, contemporary migration experience has begun to transcend the traditional notion of clearly bounded groups that was characteristic of classical social psychology. Instead, migration now reflects more fluid, dynamic, and multilayered forms of social belonging and identity construction [1].

Literature Review

To begin, it is necessary to clarify the terminology associated with the concept of *migrants*. Over time, a wide range of labels has been used at both international and national levels to describe individuals who enter or remain in a country without the appropriate authorization. Among the most common are “illegal migrants,” “illegal immigrants,” “migrants with irregular status,” and “persons in an undocumented situation.”

Numerous attempts have been made to establish a unified term for this category. For instance, the International Conference on Population and Development endorsed the designation “undocumented persons.” However, this formulation cannot be considered entirely satisfactory, since a migrant may enter a country in full compliance with legal requirements—possessing a national passport, entry visa, and other necessary documentation—and become “irregular” only after failing to depart once the authorized period of stay has expired.

Later, at the International Symposium on Migration held in Bangkok in 1999, the expression “persons with irregular status” was recommended for use [2]. Although this term offers greater legal precision, it has not achieved universal or consistent application in global practice.

Turning to the concept of migration itself, the term derives from the Latin *migratio*, meaning movement or relocation. However, scholarly interpretations of migration vary considerably.

According to the well-known Kyrgyz economist N. Kh. Kumskova, migration constitutes an extremely complex process because it directly concerns human beings, their interests, and the consequences that arise from mobility. In this view, migration is defined as the relocation of the working-age population beyond national borders for a period exceeding one year in search of more favorable employment conditions than those available in the country of origin [6].

Sociologist A. R. Dimaev proposes a broader interpretation, suggesting that migration should encompass any territorial movement of the population between settlements within one or several administrative units, regardless of duration, regularity, or purposive orientation [3].

Similarly, N. N. Filippov and V. A. Sukov define migration as a specific form of population movement within a state, associated with subsequent settlement in a locality different from the previous place of residence [4].

From a legal perspective, G. N. Chebotarev and A. A. Mishunina define population migration as the aggregate of migrants' movements that, regardless of their causes, purposes, or regularity, involve crossing territorial (including administrative-state) boundaries and result in either permanent or temporary changes of residence [5].

Candidate of Sociological Sciences M. S. Blinova considers migration to be an integral component of contemporary global processes of globalization [6].

In turn, Candidate of Economic Sciences L. L. Shamileva interprets migration as one of the forms of population mobility [7].

From the standpoint of political science, I. N. Isroilov conceptualizes migration as a set of mechanical, professional, and intersectoral movements of individuals relative to territorially fixed social structures [8].

The literature review demonstrates that many scholars associate migration with processes of redistribution. In particular, Candidate of Political Sciences S. V. Taskaeva defines migration as a form of spatial movement that ultimately leads to temporary or permanent territorial redistribution of the population [9].

A similar position is advanced by N. N. Filippov and V. A. Sukov, who argue that population movement across a country, in a broader sense, also reflects sectoral, territorial, professional, and social redistribution [10].

According to Russian scholars M. B. Denisenko, V. A. Iontsev, and B.S.Khorev, population migration in the **narrow sense** refers to an irreversible form of population movement (relocation), whereas in the **broad sense** it includes relocation, pendular mobility, and seasonal migration [11].

Candidate of Economic Sciences V. I. Perevedentsev interprets migration broadly as any movement of people across space, while in the narrow sense it denotes movements associated with a relatively long-term change of residence [12].

Kazakhstani scholar E. Yu. Sadovskaya defines migration as the movement of the population across state borders accompanied by a change in place of residence [13].

On the basis of the reviewed scholarship and the materials analyzed in our own research, we formulated the following working definition: **migration** is the movement of an individual from one state or country to another for a short or long period in order to change living or working conditions, achieve material and spiritual advancement, and improve one's status in the place of origin [14].

2. Methodology

The study employed a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods, including interviews, systematic observation, and an author-designed questionnaire. In addition, several standardized diagnostic instruments were administered, namely the *Family Anxiety Analysis* developed by E. Eidemiller and V. Yustitsky, the *Differential Emotions Scale* by Carroll Izard, and the method for diagnosing irrational beliefs proposed by Albert Ellis.

3. Results

The empirical study entitled "Psychological Development Characteristics of Children Growing Up in the Families of Labor Migrants" involved 762 participants drawn from the Navoi, Samarkand, and Fergana regions of the republic.

The Figure 1 presented below indicates that 22.8% of respondents reported that at least one member of their family had left for labor migration.

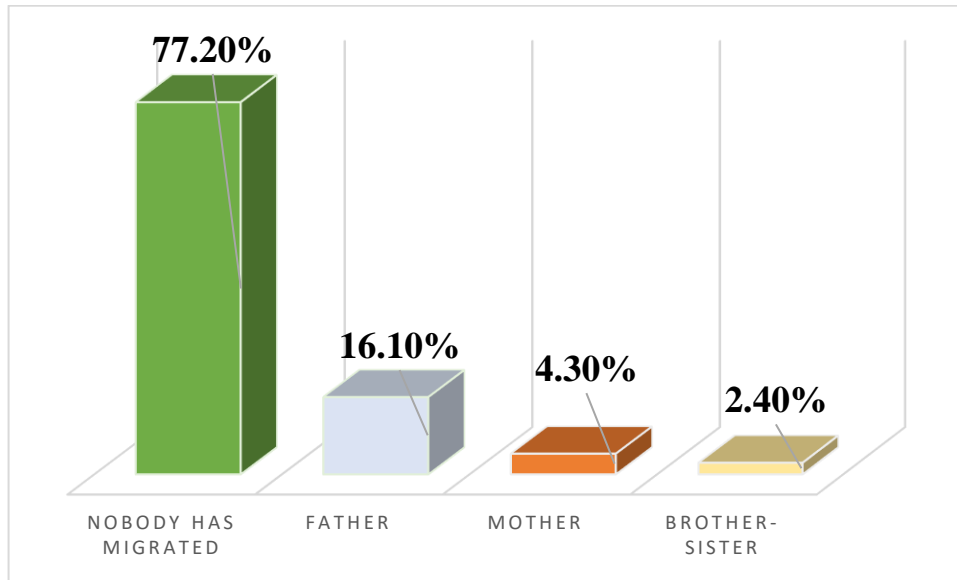


Figure 1. Share of respondents reporting at least one family member engaged in labor migration (22.8%)

Within the author-designed questionnaire, we paid close attention not only to the responses themselves but also to participants' behavior while selecting answers or requesting clarification regarding items they found difficult to understand. These observations provided valuable qualitative insights into the adolescents' emotional states [15].

"I do not want to talk about my mother," said a girl from Navoi. Her eyes revealed not hatred but sorrow. Further conversation clarified that her reaction stemmed not from rejection of her mother, but from the pain of having been left in the care of relatives after her mother's departure for labor migration.

"If our father comes back, everything will be fine," remarked two cousin girls studying in the same class. Their mutual emotional support and solidarity may be viewed as evidence of the continuing strength of traditional family values and kinship ties, which in certain cases serve as compensatory resources in situations of parental absence.

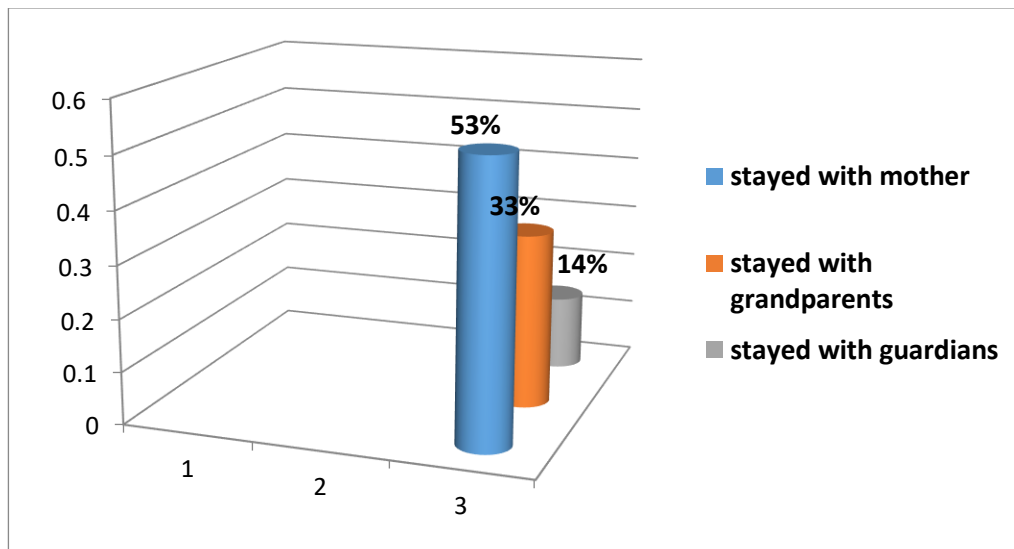


Figure 2. Living arrangements of children left behind by labor migrant parents (mother 53%, grandparents 33%, guardians 14%)

An appeal voiced from the perspective of children is also vividly reflected in a poem circulating widely on the Internet, whose authorship remains unknown: "You may choose not to buy me ice cream, you may choose not to give me a bicycle, father. You may even refuse to arrange big celebrations for me—just please do not leave for Russia, father."

This emotional plea illustrates a fundamental conclusion: children value the physical

presence of their parents above any material benefit [16]. Emotional closeness, attachment, and the sense of security derived from parental proximity outweigh economic gains associated with migration.

4. Conclusion and Recommendations

Even while acknowledging that, in an era of advanced technologies, children in transnational families may maintain frequent communication with relatives through digital means, it is essential to emphasize that no material resource can replace the experience of warmth, physical presence, and the confidence that loved ones can be relied upon when necessary.

In light of the need to enable citizens to support their families while remaining in their home country, we consider it important to propose the following measures:

- Given that current governmental policies and reforms are aimed at promoting domestic employment, it is crucial to foster citizens' competencies in effectively utilizing these opportunities. Such measures may include establishing small enterprises through grants or subsidies, as well as access to education and professional development when required.
- In order to mitigate economic and social crises within families, it is advisable to strengthen social partnership mechanisms, particularly cooperation with local community institutions and specialists.
- Considering that children represent the foundation of the nation's future, further scientific research into the psychological characteristics of those growing up in labor migrant families remains both necessary and socially significant.

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