

Forum: Economic and Social Council

Issue: The Question of Social and Economical Effects of Emigration

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Introduction

Emigration is a choice many people make due to the world's globalization. The UN estimates there are 232 million immigrants in the world today. In fact the trend shows that this number is going to continue to increase. Since the year 2000 to 2013 the number of immigrants has increased by 33%, but to put in perspective, only 3.2% of the world's population has emigrated to another country.¹

Human migration can be split into two categories, economic and non-economic reasons.² The UN says "The majority of migrants cross borders in search of better economic and social opportunities." Therefore the first category is definitively larger. The most common example of migration is looking for better-paid work and at the same time better quality of life. Secondly, non-economic reasons for migration include political, environmental (e.g. natural disasters), and religious persecutions. In these cases, migrants will most likely try to return home when treat is gone. For example, the current war in Syria is causing enormous amounts of people to migrate to neighboring countries for safety.

Immigrants can then fall in one of two more categories, either they are legal or illegal immigrants. A legal immigrant is one that has permission for residence, unlike illegal immigrants who do not have the correct documentation. Unfortunately, there are millions of illegal immigrants in the world. Partly due to immigrants not appealing to the locals, and therefore being refused residency. In the US alone, there are 11.3 million illegal immigrants³. There are many dangers to being an illegal immigrant. First of all, these migrants face lots of risk entering their new countries. Traveling through wilderness or deserts without the correct survival skills could lead to death⁴. Illegal immigrants are also extremely vulnerable to human traffickers and drug cartels. Not to mention the punishment they may receive if caught staying in a country without permission.

¹ <http://www.unfpa.org/migration#>

² https://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/monograph_reports/2006/MR244.pdf

³ <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2015/11/19/5-facts-about-illegal-immigration-in-the-u-s/>

⁴ <http://www.visaplace.com/blog-immigration-law/us-entry/dangerous-risks-illegal-immigration/>

Key Terms

Migration:

Migration is the movement of people from one place in the world to another for the purpose of taking up permanent or semi-permanent residence, usually across a political boundary. An example of semi-permanent residence would be the seasonal movements of migrant farm laborers. There are two types of migration, either voluntary where people choose to move or involuntary where people are forced to move.⁵

Emigration:

Emigration is the act of leaving one's place of residence or country to live elsewhere. Not to get confused with immigration which is the act of arriving at a foreign country.⁶

Brain drain:

Brain drain is a term to describe a situation where there is a significant emigration of well-educated and talented individuals. Usually these individuals are doctors, scientists, engineers or financial professionals. There are two main results from a brain drain situation; one, expertise is lost and the country loses skill and knowledge. Two, these people who earn large salaries leave which hurts the economy as less spending occurs.⁷

Remittance:

Remittance refers to the funds immigrants send back to their country of origin. The money is sent to friends and family by mail or online transfer to help them economically.⁸

Background

Emigration is leaving the sending country to go to another country, called the host country. Both sides, sending and host, are affected economically and socially. However, the effects of emigration only affect the sending countries. The effects can be both positive and negative, as well as be immediate or develop over time.

⁵<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions/lessons/09/g68/migrationguidestudent.pdf>

⁶ <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/emigrate>

⁷ http://www.investopedia.com/terms/b/brain_drain.asp

⁸ <http://www.investopedia.com/terms/r/remittance.asp>

Emigration can be a great thing for a country's economy. It can positively impact growth and reduce poverty, because with less people, there is less unemployment. This is one of the greatest impacts emigration has. Less people will be going for each job and therefore less people to get refused. In other words, less competition for the same job. Additionally, for those that stay behind, they will experience a rise of wage, because there is less people unemployed that can do their job. Emigration's best impact on the economy of the sending country is on employment.⁹

Especially in developing countries, a lot of pressure is put on resources. Buildings are over saturated with people for example, and this damages it. However, with emigration and the decrease in population that follows, it results in less pressure on resources. The production of food is another resource where pressure could decrease. For example, the pressure on food is so high that any less produced might lead to people going hungry or even potentially starving. But with less people, there is more room for mistakes and quality of life increases. Also, emigrants returning may bring new skills that the country could benefit from.

Less pressure on resources is an immediate benefit; in the long run the economy is weakened due to the decreased population. The decrease in population decreases the production, because there is less labor in the country available. This may not sound bad for the average person; however, their economic spending is also going to decrease. So everyone is affected. If the average person experiences less spendable money, then investments are also going to decrease and businesses are going to suffer.

Not all the affects are negative; socially emigration has some positive effects. Emigration will result in a less dense population. Therefore, cities will benefit as they will be much more comfortable to live in. Life quality increases in the home country. Also noteworthy, the home country's culture is being spread in other countries. The home country's immigrants educate others on their culture; this could have effects like more tourism.¹⁰

There are some drawbacks socially. Usually, females are left behind while the males expatriate. The United Nations Refugee Agency reported that 13% of the migrants making illegal trips into Europe were women. This causes an imbalanced population pyramid. Also, families could be split, which can impact children. Religion suffers from a spiritual decline due to emigration, as the migrants may not have places to worship.¹¹

⁹ Interview Mr. Weise, Economiste

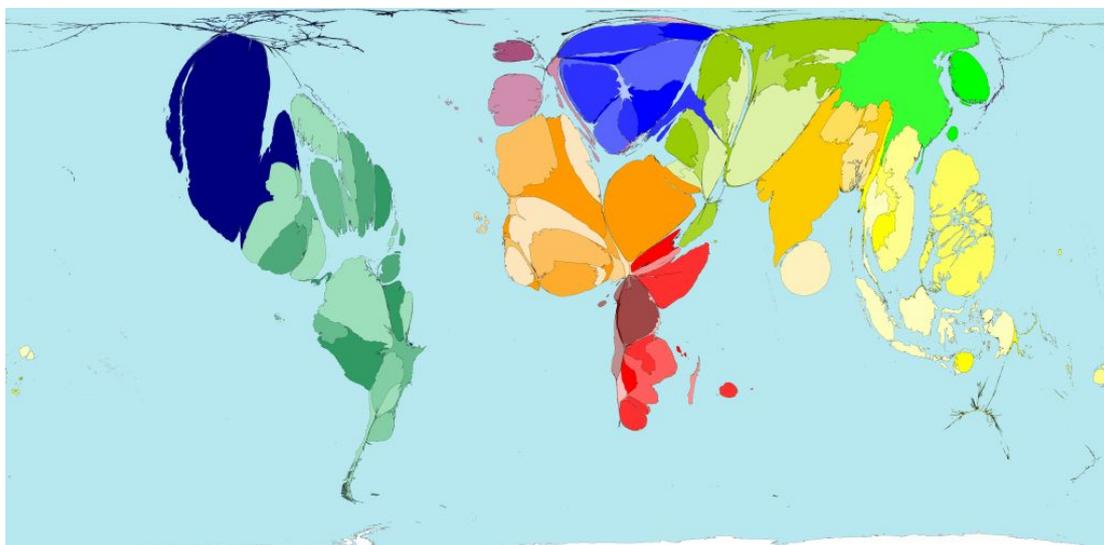
¹⁰<https://www.boundless.com/economics/textbooks/boundless-economics-textbook/immigration-economics-38/introduction-to-immigration-economics-138/impact-of-immigration-on-the-host-and-home-country-economies-546-12643/>

¹¹ <https://www.embraceni.org/migration/the-pros-and-cons-of-migration/>

As one can see, there are pros and cons for emigration both for economically and socially. However, there is one more factor to think about with emigration, which is remittance. Remittance refers to the funds immigrants send back to their country of origin. For example, labor is Mexico's biggest export and their amount of remittance has quintupled in a decade, to \$18 billion. Also, The World Bank estimates that developing countries received \$167 billion last year.

Remittance can be one of the largest financial inflows for developing countries. GDP increases as the economy grows thanks to the inward flow of money. Remittance is much more likely to reach the poor that need it in developing countries than government programs, due to corruption. Another positive point is that even if your family doesn't receive "mail money" as it is often called, the local businesses that you encounter do receive it through other people. Businesses will have more money and that benefits everyone as they will invest it and/or decrease prices. Remittance targets the people and families that really need it and positively impact everyone in the home country.¹²

Remittance is not without flaws, the most obvious being that it is "easy money" for the people who receive it and can rot out the economy. Studies show that recipients invest little in farm equipment but instead go on shopping sprees. Over the long term, people can grow dependent on the mail money. Remittance does benefit everyone in the economy but socially it worsens social inequality for those that don't receive it. Other less significant problems include that it could slightly increase inflation and there is a tracking problem, so remittance could sometimes fund terrorists.¹³



Territory size is relative to net emigration, where more people are leaving than are coming in.

¹²http://economistsview.typepad.com/economistsview/2006/03/the_economic_ef.html

¹³http://economistsview.typepad.com/economistsview/2006/03/the_economic_ef.html

Relevant areas and NGO's

Mexico

Mexico is the country with the highest net emigration. In fact, it is estimated that 10 000 migrants cross the Mexican border every week, heading to the United States. The problem is that the majority of these immigrants do not have the correct documentation and are therefore illegal immigrants. In 2012, the United States deported about 34 000 illegal immigrants every month. Another controversial issue is that crossing this border is extremely dangerous due to the desert and many people die on the journey.¹⁴

Syria

Syria is currently experiencing a civil war from multiple sides. It started in March 2011, with the opposition group against Assad's government. Later ISIS joined the war and some international countries have sent help the different sides. This complicated conflict has resulted in more than 4 million refugees leaving the country. Most move to neighboring countries such a Turkey and Jordan, as well as European countries. This emigration will have a huge impact on Syria at the end of the war if the refugees decide to not return to their home country.¹⁵ Currently, emigration doesn't impact Syria, because they are shaken by the war.

Asia

Many countries in the diagram are blown up, demonstrating many people leave these countries. This is because Asia is a huge exporter of labor all over the world. China for example, sends most of its migrants to the United States, while India sends most of it's migrants to the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Nearly 90 000 Chinese workers were granted US permanent residence in 2011 alone. Indians consist of 40% of the UAE's population. As discussed in the background, this extreme immigration has a huge impact on the home countries and could cause lots of problems in the future if the trend continues.¹⁶ However, economically remittance is huge in these countries and greatly benefitting them.

Migrants Rights International (MRI)

The Migrants Rights international is an NGO that focuses on helping the migrants sustain their human rights or to re-obtain their rights if they were taken away.

¹⁴ <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/guides/z8g334j/revision/2>

¹⁵ <http://syrianrefugees.eu>

¹⁶<http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/regions/asia-pacific/china/121220/chinese-immigrants-america-united-states-schools-education>
http://iussp.org/sites/default/files/event_call_for_papers/naresh%20IUSSP%20Full%20paper%202013.pdf

Immigrants and especially illegal immigrants are vulnerable to be taken advantage of by people wanting to make profit of them. This can be in the form of forced labor for example, which many of their fundamental human rights are ignored.¹⁷

International Organization for Migrants (IOM)

The International Organization for Migrants is an NGO that focuses on resolving all the problems that migration creates. They believe migration is a benefit to society and solve problems caused by migration in order to promote migration. For example, one of the problems they help solve is facilitating migrants (finding jobs, and homes).

Timeline

- 1700 – 1800 AD, African slave trade from Africa to Americas forced migration of 12 million people¹⁸
- 1820 – 1940, Settlement in European colonies around the world
- 1940 – 1960, Labor migration to rebuild Europe after second World War¹⁹
- 1949, Partition of India. Due to religious conflicts Muslims in India migrated to Pakistan, while Hindu & Sikhs in Pakistan moved to India. Around 14 million people

UN resolutions and reports

International migration and development

Official UN documentation code: [A/RES/69/229](#)

http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/69/229

[Migrant children and adolescents](#)

[A/RES/69/187](#)

http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/69/187

[Protection of migrants](#)

[A/RES/69/167](#)

http://daccess-dds-ftp://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/69/167

[Violence against women migrant workers](#)

[A/RES/66/128](#)

http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/66/128

¹⁷ <http://www.migrantwatch.org/aboutus.html>

¹⁸ <http://images.huffingtonpost.com/2013-02-28-MigrationsBig.jpg>

¹⁹ <http://www.the-map-as-history.com/maps/5-history-europe-colonization.php>

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 3 October 2013 on Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development
A/RES/68/4

http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=%20A/RES/68/4

International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families

A/RES/58/166

http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=%20A/RES/68/166

Possible solutions

Emigration in large quantities has a huge impact on the sending country's society. Economically and socially, the society will change for better or worst. Is the impact more positive than negative, depends on the point of view. To decrease emigration, both sending and receiving countries can take action. Sending countries can limit citizenship to one country, therefore making the emigrant choose to keep his/hers original citizenship or to change it to their new country. Receiving countries have many options. An example of a possible measure is installing a visa system. To increase emigration, international cooperation would be effective. Making the process of leaving and entering another easier would increase the number of migrants. Sending and receiving countries can promote migration, with economic incentives for example.

Sources

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