

A STUDY ON THE MIGRATIONS' REASONS IN THE SOUTH WESTERN PART OF REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

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Abstract: There is probably no country in the world that has not been affected by migrations. Migrations as a process of peoples' movement from one place to another due to different reasons and different circumstances are a well known term for everyone. As such, we can say that the history of mankind itself starts with some kind of migration because even the first people in the world have moved to different places until they have found better conditions. However, people move to other countries every time they can today, due to better job conditions, religious beliefs, political reasons, and economical ones. Globalized economies enhance different opportunities and people want to seize them. Migrations not always negatively affect the economies of countries but in most of the cases yes. The focus of the study is on the reasons why citizens in Macedonia would choose to move to another country. The study is based on a survey which was conducted with 200 participants, both Albanians and Macedonians. Their age varies from under 20 to over 40, as it will be presented in the results below. Most of the respondents are female without a prior choice of the author. The results of the study show clearly that the number one reason why habitants in Macedonia choose to migrate in more developed countries is related to better economical conditions. This is based on the answers given by them in the question where the respondents are asked to choose the reasons why they would migrate. However, this is also supported by the answers in other questions which have to do with the number of family members and the monthly incomes. The majority of the respondents chose 3-5 family members, and answered that their family incomes are less than 500 hundred euro monthly. Another following reason according to them is the political situation in the country, which according to them instead of getting better keeps getting worse. In the end of the study, there are some recommendations for further and more fruitful research.

Keywords: migrations, Macedonia, reasons, politics, economic

INTRODUCTION

Migration as a term is used and easily understood by people, but when it comes to definitions it appears to be hard to define them without leaving space for questions. International organization for migration (2005) defines migration as “a multifaceted and complex global issue, which today touches every country in the world (13). A simple definition is given by Bhugra and Becker, who define migrations as “..the process of going from one country, region or place of residence to settle in another.” (2005). According to Britannica Online, human migrations are defined as “the permanent change of residence by an individual or group;],” which according to the editors “...it excludes such movements as nomadism, migrant labour, commuting, and tourism, all of which are transitory in nature” (2016). International Organization for Migration in 2005 reported that by the end of 2005 the number of migrants worldwide was expected to reach 185-192 million. According to UN statistics of 2015, the number of worldwide migrants achieved 244 million. This means that year by year there is a huge increase of people living abroad. Skenderi (2009), states that the reason for human migrations are different, but in the Balkans, economical and political have always been within main reasons. Schnell and Monmonier (1983) state that if it is very important to make a distinction between mobility and migration. If you move from one city to another within your country, you do not migrate. That is mobility. According to them, migrations should be seen with three characteristics: adjustment, development and selective. As an adjustment process, people choose to migrate from less desirable places to more desirable ones. Migration is also a development process where people move from very poor zones to highly developed places. Last, as a selective characteristic of migration can be found in religious reasons, sexual, social etc. Migrations caused by religious and political reason are happening in many parts of the world. A very popular example is the Syrian refugees who have turned their hopes to Europe. According to a report of REACH, only in 2015-2016, over a half million refugees from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq have passed through Western Europe to go to Europe. While, on the other hand Bonifazi and Mamolo (2004) claim that 663,000 people from the Balkans have immigrated in Germany, 198,000 in Austria and 141,000 in Switzerland (524). However, beside many divisions in migrations, the most used one about international migrations should be: immigrations and emigrations. We are focused in emigrations in Macedonia, which means the movement of citizens of Macedonia outside of the

country. According to a survey conducted in 1998 by the State Statistics in Macedonia, 25.174 citizens have emigrated from Macedonia in the period 1990-1998. (Janeska, 2001) While, in a deeper analysis, from 1994-1996, Janeska publishes data from the European Council, according to which 41.449 habitants of Macedonia have emigrated towards Germany (20.2019 citizens), Switzerland (11.469) and Italy (9.761). Today, there is also a high flow of emigrations in Macedonia, and needless to say, the reasons are mostly economical. Needless to repeat, migrations have affected almost every country in the world. Developed countries are “invaded” by the migrants while developing countries have less and less citizens year by year due to this process. The following part of the research will present the results of the questionnaire and some discussions and analysis about those answers.

The purpose of the study and methods

The purpose of the study is to see what citizens in South Western part of Macedonia think of emigrating. Furthermore, it aims to see whether those citizens would emigrate themselves if they had the chance to. It is a qualitative study and due to time constraints, and other circumstances the survey was conducted with a convenience sampling. The questionnaire started with two main variables of age and gender. The number of respondents is 200 and they are mainly from Tetovo, Gostivar and Skopje. Their age varies, but there given only four groups starting from younger than 20 and the oldest group was older than 40. Respondents were of both Macedonian and Albanian ethnicity.

Results and discussions

As mentioned before, the respondents made a total number of 200 people. The gender and marital status are shown in the tables below:

Gender	In number	In %
Female	133	66.5
Male	67	33.5

Marital status	In number	In %
Yes	115	58
No	83	42

The majority of them were females, without consent or choice of the author. Related to their status, 58 % of them were married contrary to 42% who are not married. The following table shows the values of the respondents age, where four options were given:

Age	In number	In %
Younger than 20	24	12
20-30	110	55
30-40	44	22
40+	101	11

Younger citizens, in this case the first group of the respondents can not easily decide to emigrate because they need someone to support, a place where to stay and of course enough courage to change the life direction. The majority of the answers fall in the second group, 20-30 years old which also complies with the statistics of Eurostat in 2015. According to those statistics, the median age of the migrants toward Europe is 27-28 years old. This means that people choose to get a degree in their homeland and then if they can’t find good job opportunities they choose to leave. Here we can easily relate to employment. Unemployment rate is high in Macedonia, and of course, this could be a good reason for people to start thinking of emigrating and finding a better place with more job possibilities. As we can see from the results, the percentage of the unemployed within the 200 people who took part in the study is 125, or 57 %. According to the state statistics in Macedonia, as of the second trimester of 2017, out of 955 699 active population, 739 892 were employed contrary to 215 807 who were registered as unemployed. While, according to Statista.com, Austria has unemployment rate of 5.4 % while Germany only 3.9 %.

Work status	In number	In %
Employed	85	43
Unemployed	125	57

Beside the four groups in age, the following table shows the answers of the level of education of the respondents which was also divided into 4 groups of answers:

Education	In number	In %
High school	71	36

Graduated	93	46
Mr.Sc	60	15
PhD	3	3

According to the results, most of the participants already have obtained a degree. 36 % of them are probably students since they circled the option of having a high school education. Sixty out of 200, or 15 % have a master degree and only 3 of the total number have a PhD degree. The 2016 statistics in Macedonia report that 2 021 citizens have obtained a Master degree, with a fall of 17.02 % from 2015. When it comes to migrations caused by war conflicts, migrants are usually more educated because they had no choice. This is also stated in the report of REACH for the period of 2015-2016 “Many migrants are educated, with experience of stable, skilled employment.” (REACH, 2016). According to state statistics in Macedonia, only in 2016, 440 educated people have emigrated from Macedonia. The number includes educated but unemployed people too, but out of these 440, 55 are professionals, managers and associate professionals. Migrations are closely related to the financial stability of people and one of the questions was related to the monthly family incomes. The options given were under 500 euro, 500 -1000, and over 1000 euro monthly incomes.

Job	In number	In %
Under 500 euro	98	49
500-1000 euro	66	33
1000 +	35	18

However, these incomes are per family, which is also connected to the number of family members who live together:

Number of members	In number	In %
3-5 members	111	56
5-7	83	46
7+	4	2

State statistics in Macedonia, report that the average salary of the employee is 22.912 denars, which is not enough for the monthly expenses of a family made of four members. With a correlation value of 0.96 it can be said that the more members families are made of the higher incomes they have.

The table below shows the results of the questions whether respondents are satisfied with their job or studies, and another one where they are asked if they have ever thought of emigrating.

Are you satisfied with your job/studies?	In number	In %
No	101	51
Yes	97	49
Have you ever thought of emigrating?		
Yes	173	86
No	27	14

The correlation value between these two variables is 1, and this tells clearly that the more they don't like their job or studies, the more they think to emigrate outside the country. When the statistics show that there are unsatisfied people it is not a surprise that the rate of the people who migrate or plan to migrate will raise. Participants were also asked if someone from their family circle or friends has emigrated the last five years and their answers are shown in the table. Not very often we see completely same results in two questions. There is a possibility that these people who plan to emigrate, or have thought of emigrating have someone close who has already emigrated. Those who don't have close relatives or friends who have emigrated recently haven't thought of leaving the country. There is space for us to guess whether they like the life in Macedonia or they don't have anyone who could or would encourage them to do so.

Has someone from your family emigrated in the last five years?	In number	In %
Yes	173	86
No	27	14

There are always different reasons why people would choose to emigrate and in our survey the respondents listed economical reasons in the first place followed by other reasons as seen below. The majority of them, respectively 58% chose the economical reasons, followed by 24% who choose political reasons. Only 3% of them chose family reasons and 15% of the total chose other reasons, which could include different reasons.

Reasons to emigrate	In number	In %
Economical	152	58
Political	63	24
Family	7	3
Others	38	15

As seen in the table the political reason is also listed and the following questions are related to it. Respondents were asked if they like the political situation in Macedonia, and if they think it could improve or get worse? Their answers are as presented in the table:

Do you like the political situation in Mk?	In number	In %
Yes	5	98
No	195	2
Do you think the political situation will:		
Improve	38	19
Get worse	162	81

With an obvious correlation value of 1, the number of those who don't like the political situation in Macedonia increases together with those who think the situation of the politics in Macedonia won't change. Even though is a small sampling group of only 200 people, it is disappointing to see that there is such a high percentage of unsatisfied people with the politics; and what is worse, don't hope for better days. The last question of the survey was if respondents think migrating to another country would solve their problems:

Do you think emigrating would solve your problems?	Number	%
Yes	122	58
No	58	14
I don't know	29	28

It is disappointing to see that out of 200 people, young and old, 122 people see solutions of their problems in moving outside of their homeland. A smaller percentage, 14 % respectively, said that migration wouldn't solve their problems, and only 29 of them were not sure about the answer.

Conclusion and recommendations for further details

Migrations are not happening this year for the first time, but as said few times in the study, migrations have happened from the very beginning of life on Earth. People as intelligent beings have always tried to find better places for living, starting from settlements where there has been more food or other primary conditions for living. Migrations as a process have been an ongoing process, therefore the reasons that make people leave their homelands and settlements are of different nature. The study revealed that not surprisingly the citizens of the Balkans choose to

emigrate mostly due to better working conditions, always related to economic background. The unemployment rate in the Balkan countries is approximately between 25-35% and more. This speaks of high rate of people who don't have incomes. Unfortunately, even those who have a job don't make enough money for a decent life. The results of the survey showed that besides the economical reasons, citizens of Macedonia would choose to migrate because of political reasons. The political reason, according to the survey results was not going toward improvement, so that adds more disappointments and reasons for people to leave. There is no sign that migration flow will stop, because the good living conditions in European Countries are a major reason for people's movement. However, it is important that the government of developing countries like Macedonia focus on new investments which would decrease the rate of unemployment. Furthermore, the wages should be raised in order to stop the flow of people who migrate.

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