A Study on Social Factors Affecting Development with Emphasis on Immigration- Case Study of Gorgan city in IRAN

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ABSTRACT

This paper has investigated the effect of social factors on development with special emphasis on immigration in the city of Gorgan. The factors being studied are the level of education, the type of job, and quality of housing between two groups of emigrant and native. This study has been conducted using the documentary research method; the survey research method; the stratified and disproportionate sampling, and random sampling done by means of Cochran Formula by choosing a sample of 400 people, and using a semi-standardized questionnaire to be filled up by the head of the families in Gorgan.

The findings of the survey indicate that:

There are significant differences between the means of immigrant and native groups in T- test.

There is a meaningful correlation between migration and the level of education ($r=0.423$), the kind of job ($r=0.337$), and the housing quality($r=0.271$) which are the sub hypotheses for measuring the related variable of this research.

The macro hypothesis of research, the relationship between the migration and social development of the city of Gorgan, has been approved with a high meaningful correlation coefficient ($r=+0.440$).

The obtained Chi-square in regression analysis of these two variables shows that $R^2=+0.182$, so it can be concluded that immigration explains 18.2 percent of the changes of the correlated variable i.e., development.

And finally, some suggestions and solutions have been presented in order to control migration and increase development.

Keywords:
Development, Social Development, Immigration

I. INTRODUCTION

Development which is synonymous with terms such as expansion, improvement, advancement, evolution, reform, and social changes (Safi, 2001, p.11) began with the Industrial Revolution in West. After World War II, it attracted the attention of the United Nations because of its significance and importance throughout the world and mostly the third world countries. The years from 1960 to 1970 were announced as the first decade of development (Lahsaeezadeh, 1993, p.7). Although this is a multifold process, in the early years of UN’s implementing the development programs, it meant sheer economic and the development aimed at reaching 6% GNP annual growth. It was expected that the policy of the trickledown effect of the overall per capita GNP growth, ensuring more benefits supplied by development, would provide more employment, and economic opportunities and facilities (Dub, 1998, p.13-14). To this end, industrial development was taken into consideration in urban areas, based on which the developmental strategies demanded the vast migration of the jobless farmers to cities to be utilized for industrial movements. In the early years of 70s it became clear that this strategy was not responding as preplanned; while the efficiency experienced a real growth, the benefits of the development were not obtained and particularly the cities suffered unemployment. The immigrants came to the cities, but could not find the expected jobs. Many nations, rather than enjoying the fast growth of industries, encountered vast poverty in rural and urban areas (Lahsaeezadeh, 1993, p. 7-8). In fact, the sheer pursuit of growth not only failed obtaining the achievements, i.e. increasing growth at the level of the standards of public life expected from development, but also widened the gap between poor and rich classes; as a result gradually other dimensions of development as its social aspects captured the attention of academic societies and development found a new significance.

Nowadays, development in its best definition means reaching a sustainable development based on the four economic, social, environmental, and cultural elements (Gharaguzlu, 2001, p.113) which are defined in interaction, and if any of these elements fails to reach efficient growth in a society, development won’t be fulfilled.

II. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Domestic immigration is an important process in many countries and reflects the people’s reaction toward factors such as regional economic inequality, social failures, and dissatisfaction in many aspects of life.

The vast migrations that had started in European societies about 300 years ago, took place in developing countries directly affected by development programs (particularly economic development) in 1960s (Locus, 2002, p. 156-163). The most frequent form of immigration, from
villages to cities, in these years has rushed a swelling crowd into cities, and brought uncountable consequences; stagnation in rural areas, overcrowded cities, inefficient social services, increase in crimes and corruptions, poor environmental standards, poor health facilities, safe drinking water, etc are among the aftermaths of immigration (Sheikhi, 2001, p.107).

The negative and destructive impact on urban development was stunning in the third world countries; some of these countries as China, Cuba, etc, controlled their domestic migration by imposing specific policies of mandatory laws, and providing facilities in rural centers and changing them to small towns, and preventing overcrowded cities (Vosoughi, 1987, p.58), but unresponsiveness of some societies like Iran toward this problem has made migration one of the complicated setbacks to its socio-economic development.

In Iran, vast migration followed territorial reforms which were based on the three political, economic, and social aims in the third development programs (1963-1967) (Mashhadizadeh, 1994, p.75) as a result of which great numbers of villagers immigrated to cities. These immigrants were of two groups, each in its own turn affected the socio-economic development of the cities:

First group: It included Workers, ordinary or poor farmers set out to cities hoping to find a job and earning living. Among the effects they left were outskirt lives, unemployment, social disorders, increase of poverty, health and social services problems, growth of false jobs, etc.

Second group: They were the rich who received the indemnity from government for territorial reforms, and moved to cities, but instead of investing the money in production and industry, turned to trading, dealing, land and stock exchanging which led to high inflation in cities causing a great gap between the wage level in cities and villages; the cost of living inflated, and the price of lands and dwellings increased (Vosoughi, 1987, p.75). In the early years after the Iran Revolution, new welfare services, and the government’s providing facilities for the poor attracted more villagers to cities (The case study on controlling and leading immigrants in Iran, 1989, p. 10). The years 1986 to 1996 were the time for new type of immigration in Iran which was immigrating from a city to another city frequently from small cities to big ones (Iran Mahbub, 2004, p.219).

Still these migrations are going on in Iran due to an unbalanced development in cities and villages.

III. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY
Passing the fifth post-revolution socio-economic program, still Golestan Province is among the less-developed provinces of Iran.

Undeveloped industrial sectors; dominant traditional method of agriculture, farming, and animal husbandry; low index of human development; shortage in drinking water reservoir, in welfare, healthcare, educational, and cultural environment; social disorders caused by differences and conflicts between the existing subcultures; etc were some of the main issues and obstacles in the way of the province’s development (The national document of the development of Golestan Province, 2010, p.2-3)

Although many different factors prevent the province’s development, population growth is among the variables which have had a direct effect on it, and cannot be ignored. Studying the Province’s population statistics, scholars found that beside natality, immigration had a determining effect on this province’s population growth especially during 45s and 55s, making demographic studies in general and immigration studies in particular necessary in achieving the aims of socio-economic development and utilizing the human and financial resources of this province.

IV. AIMS OF RESEARCH
Based on what has been discussed the aims of the research are as follows:

- Analyzing the relationship between immigration, and social development through measuring the indexes of literacy, job opportunities, and housing.
- Recognizing the effect of immigration on social development of the city of Gorgan
- Providing solutions and suggestions to control immigration and increase the social development of the province

V. BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY
Researchers have shown that there are lots of obstacles on the way of development. In this regard, migration, especially intense migration following the development programs in the third world countries is among the main factors that explain these societies’ remaining undeveloped.

Todaro’s investigations in African, Asian, and Latin American societies reveal that despite their differences in their cultures, economic conditions, and social and political structures, they have some features in common that restrain them from being developed; he categorizes them under “group six” and introduces the migration surplus to the existing job opportunities as a sign of underdevelopment in the third world countries, and claims
it to be a factor intensifying these countries’ lagging behind (Todaro, 1989, p.155,366).

Sally Findley argues that the economic impact has a close relationship with the level of participation of the migrants. Those immigrants with higher education and salaries had more active economic participation while less-active immigrants consisting unskilled laborers and the poor had less job opportunities and hence would live a life with lower standard of living. (Lahsayeezadeh, 1989, p.65-68)

In a research conducted by Mohseni (2001) on a sociological study of the crimes of the ethnic groups in Gorgan, it is concluded that there is a significant relationship between the ethnic groups and crimes, and immigration as an effective factor on crime, and one of the indexes of social development is considered to be an independent variable. (P.156-36)

Ganji (2002) investigating the differences between the three Torkman, Sistani, and Mahali, considering the economic, social, and cultural aspects in Golestan province, discovered the social non-acceptance, and the gaps between different ethnic groups which are called The Crisis of Social Integration by the scholars in human science. This crisis of social integration is among the negative outcomes of multi-ethnic societies’ experiencing the transition period from tradition to modernization and a sustainable development.

VI. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This research is based on Dependency Theory which claims that the cause for underdevelopment of developing countries (satellites) is the dependency of these societies to developed (mother) countries. (Lahsaezzadeh, 1989, p.22)

According to this point of view, based on the existing documents and evidences, before revolution immigration happened as a result of territorial reforms and was based on western models, and also after revolution immigration was affected by recession factors (population growth in villages because of improved health and hygiene which led to surplus workforce), and the amount of immigrants was increased in that area. Considering this point of view such kinds of immigrations will intensify the uneven regional development, and its consequences will protract the way to achieve development.

VII. RESEARCH HYPOTHESES

Based on the dominant theory in this research (Dependency Theory) a macro hypothesis is posed and to investigate the effect of migration on the social development of this province, the relationship between immigration and different aspects of social development, suggested as micro hypotheses, have been analyzed.

A. Macro hypothesis

There may be a significant relationship between immigration and social development in the city of Gorgan.

B. Micro Hypotheses

1) There seems to be a significant relationship between migration and the level of education of the people in the city of Gorgan.
2) There seems to be a significant relationship between immigration and the type of job of the people in the city of Gorgan.
3) There seems to be a significant relationship between immigration and the type of housing of people in the city of Gorgan.

VIII. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research is among the Basic and applied researches which are conducted through the documentary and survey methods. The tools used in this study were questioners and interviews. The statistical sample of this research was all the members of households in the city of Gorgan whose population was 241085 based on the latest census in the year 2006, and based on the number of household (of 4.08 members) the number of household of this city was 59090 families (Statistical Center of Iran, Detailed results of 2006 census of the city of Gorgan); 397 members were chosen based on Cochran Formula and out of this approximately 400 individuals, 200 natives, and 200 immigrants were surveyed. The statistical unite was all the heads of the households of the city of Gorgan which were chosen through Non-proportional stratified, and simple random sampling.

IX. DATA ANALYSIS

The data achieved from the survey part was analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics suitable to the level of measurement in this research. In one-dimensional tables, percentage, mode, mean, standard deviation, variance, etc were presented and in two-dimensional tables, the Chi-square test, Cramer's coefficient, Kendall's rank correlation coefficient, T-test and Regression were assessed. Finally, all derived information was analyzed by SPSS software.
X. RESEARCH FINDINGS

Investigation of the hypothesis to answer the research question, the effect of immigration on the development of the city of Gorgan, has shown the results presented in the following tables:

**TABLE 1. THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE MEANS OF TWO NATIVE AND IMMIGRANT GROUPS IN RELATION TO SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Birth Place</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Std. Deviation</th>
<th>Std. Error of Mean</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Native</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>31.20</td>
<td>4.562</td>
<td>0.323</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immigrant</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>26.34</td>
<td>5.704</td>
<td>0.403</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TABLE 2. THE AMOUNT OF INFERENCEAL STATISTICS IN HYPOTHESES TEST**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hypothesis</th>
<th>N2 Table</th>
<th>df</th>
<th>N2 Formula</th>
<th>Cramer’s Coefficient</th>
<th>Kendall Tau</th>
<th>Sig</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The relationship between migration and social development</td>
<td>68.70</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5.99</td>
<td>0.414</td>
<td>-0.440</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The relationship between migration and the level of education</td>
<td>70.31</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5.99</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>-0.423</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The relationship between migration and the type of education</td>
<td>27.46</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5.99</td>
<td>0.262</td>
<td>0.277</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The relationship between migration and the type of housing</td>
<td>24.75</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5.99</td>
<td>0.249</td>
<td>0.271</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TABLE 3. THE MAIN FACTORS OF SIMPLE REGRESSION ANALYSIS FOR PREDICTING THE DEPENDENT VARIABLE OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Independent Variable</th>
<th>R</th>
<th>R Square</th>
<th>Adjusted R Square</th>
<th>Std. Error of Estimate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emigration</td>
<td>0.427</td>
<td>0.182</td>
<td>0.180</td>
<td>5.165</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

XI. DATA INTERPRETATION

A. The figures in Table 1 show the differences between the means of immigrant and native groups in relation to social development of the city of Gorgan. Comparison of the mean of immigrant and native groups in the T-test with significance level (sig = 0.000) indicates a great difference between the means of the two groups.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Levene’s Test for Equality of Variances</th>
<th>T-test for Equality of Means</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Equal variances assumed</td>
<td>Equal variances not assumed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.722</td>
<td>9.410</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. The figures in Table No. 2 show that the macro hypothesis of the research i.e. the relationship between immigration and social development in the city of Gorgan has been confirmed with the significant level of (sig=0.000) at 99% of certainty, and as the direction of the relationship is negative, it can be concluded that increase in the amount of migration leads to decrease in social development. The macro hypotheses of the research, the relationship between immigration and the level of education, type of job, and housing, are also confirmed with the significance level of (sig= 0.000) and at 99% of certainty.

C. The figures in table No. 3 show the regression analysis between the two variables of immigration and social development. Based on the figures listed in this table, the following results can be inferred:

1) Considering the calculated f at the significance level of 0.000 and the percentage of 99, the calculated regression is significant.
2) The T-test of the regression co-efficiency shows that this co-efficiency is significant and hence effective in calculating the amount of Y.
3) The coefficient of determination shows 0.182, based on which it can be argued that the independent variable explains 18.2 % of the changes of the dependent variable and the other changes are related to those variables which are not the concern of this study.
4) Based on the obtained Beta it can be said that the variable, immigration, has been effective on the social development and this effect is negative i.e., the increase of migration decreases the social development of the city of Gorgan.
5) Considering other factors to be constant, it can be said that each unit of change in immigration causes 42.0 units of change in the social development.

XII. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Regarding the existing theories, a sustainable development has different aspects of which social development is only one. Sustainable Development with its new approach to development has centered on men, protecting environment and its destruction, and social development is related to the lifestyle of the people of a society in its objective dimensions is mostly observing to raise the level and standard of public life through providing better and more favorable conditions for poverty reduction, nutrition, health, housing, employment, education, leisure time, etc. (Azkiya, 2003, p.47) of which the three indexes of education, employment and housing has been investigated in this study.

Based on the result of data analysis the followings are found:

- There is a significant difference between the means of the two groups of immigrants and natives in T-Test.
- The relationship between immigration and level of education is $r = -0.423$.
- The relationship between migration and the type of job is $r = -0.337$.
- The relationship between immigration and the quality of housing is $r = -0.271$.
- Considering all the three indexes, the relationship between migration and social development is analyzed. The correlation coefficient between these two variables shows that immigration has an impact of $r=0.440$ on the social development of the city of Gorgan.
- By controlling the variables of the level of education and age in this hypothesis, it was found that those immigrants who have had less education, and also those immigrants at the age of 22 to 55 have had the most effect on the social development of the city of Gorgan.
- The obtained coefficient determination in the regression analysis of the two variables of immigration and social development shows that immigration explains 18.2% of the changes of the dependant variable of which the rural immigrants with 17.6 percent, compared with other immigrants have had the most impact on the social development of the city of Gorgan.
- With regard to the new population movements (intra-provincial migration) in the city of Gorgan in Golestan province, it is necessary to investigate the social and economic factors in rural areas of the province which are different according to their climate condition. Hence, villages should be divided into different groups and each should be studied separately.
- It is recommended to consider the role of agriculture economy in socio-economic structure of the villages of Golestan Province and to establish balance between the incomes earned through activities related to agriculture sector with the incomes earned through activities in other economic sectors and consequently the decrease in the migration of the villagers to urban areas.
- The role of handcrafts such as carpet industry, silk industry, etc as the second source of income in villages should be considered; the financial support of these activities and developing the centers in service of encouraging and improving these activities can add up to the income of the villagers and in turn decrease their motivation to migrate.
- Decentralizing and decreasing economic and social inequalities between urban and rural areas are also significant.
- Implementing the defined applications for the suburb lands to prevent building in them by new immigrants is also considerable.
- More attention has to be paid to welfare services and facilities in smaller cities of the province to decrease the gradual migration to bigger cities of the province.
- Founding centers for research, planning, training, and academic studies is also of high priority.
- Increase public awareness of development in general through mass media and seminars, exhibitions, free education, advertising, etc is highly recommended.

XIII. SUGGESTIONS

Based on what was discussed, the following approaches and methods are suggested to control immigration and increase development in the city of Gorgan.

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