

A STUDY OF CAUSES OF MIGRATION IN GLOBALIZATION: A BRIEF OVERVIEW

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Abstract

This study discusses the need to better define and quantify the an economic characteristics of globalization that is free movement of labour in order to provide a better understanding of this complex phenomenon. The meaning of migration as well as various attempts at quantification of these characteristics is discussed. *Since globalization has become an area of widespread public interest, much effort has been devoted toward understanding its characteristics. This may help the world to view globalization through a common lens.* Such a common view could be instrumental in understanding and formulating acceptable policies which bring about the desired consequences for the newly integrated world. Even though globalization is about *connectedness*, there seems to be a big disconnectedness between the fundamental concepts of globalization and quantifying its characteristics.

Key Words: *Globalization, Economic Characteristics of Globalization, Free movement of Labour, Migration*

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Introduction

Globalization promotes expansion of economic activities across political boundaries of nation states through *free movement of labour, free trade, free capital mobility* (Kohlar, 2003) and therefore helps the process of increasing economic integration and growing economic interdependence between countries in the world economy. Globalization can thus be defined as the intensification of worldwide social relations that link distant localities in such a way that local happenings are shaped by events occurring many miles away and vice versa. In other words we all increasingly live in *one world*, so that individuals, groups and nations become more interdependent (Giddens, 1990, 2001).

The International Monetary Fund also refers globalization as the increasing integration of economies around the world, particularly through trade and financial flows and movement of people across international borders (Scholte, Jan Aart, 2000). It views economic globalization as an increasing integration of economies around the world.

Globalization is one of the most powerful forces shaping the world. However, there is no widely accepted system of measure for the phenomenon (Prakash, Assem and Hart, Jeffrey A, 1999). *Since the term is all-inclusive, it is also difficult to employ empirical evidence to support hypotheses concerning globalization.* This study discusses the need to better quantify one of the most important economic characteristics of globalization that is labour movement in order to provide a better understanding of this complex phenomenon.

Migration

Migration denotes any movement by people from one district to another, sometimes over long distances or in large groups. The term economic migrant refers to someone who has emigrated from one country to another country for the purposes of seeking employment or improved financial position. People who migrate are called migrants, or, more specifically immigrants depending on historical setting, circumstances and perspective. Human migration is one of the most important studies and is viewed not only as a simple physical movement of people but also as a complex social process that affects many aspects of economic life (OECD, 2007). Immigration is a phenomenon that owes its existence to the needs of an ever more intensely integrated global economy to have people move around for the purpose of work.

The ILO Convention on Migration for Employment (ILO, 1949), states migrant for employment means a person who migrates from one country to another with a view to being employed otherwise than on his own account and includes any person regularly admitted as a migrant for employment.

The Social Charter for Democratic Development has referred to migrant workers as *economic migrant workers* (P, Stalker, 1997). While the Charter does not define the term, the reference is probably to those migrating for overseas employment.

Literature survey

By the end of the 20th century, all developed nations had become countries of immigration (Douglas S. Massey, 2003). The only question was whether or not they chose to recognize this fact officially. Given the emergence of sizeable migratory flows throughout the world, policies governing the number, characteristics, and terms under which foreigners enter nation states have become controversial and politically divisive. Since an enlightened consideration of policies necessarily begins with hard facts and objective knowledge about the phenomenon in question, an attempt to lay the foundations for a comprehensive understanding of international migration, first by describing the modern history of international population movements, then by delineating the size and structure of the world's leading migratory systems today, and finally by developing a multi-level theory to account for the initiation and perpetuation of migratory flows in the contemporary world. Lessons from this review are then applied to consider policies for the 21st century.

Migration is a central challenge of our time. International human mobility has become a key feature in meeting economic, labour market and productivity challenges in a globalized economy. Migration serves as an instrument to adjust the skills and sectoral composition of national and regional labour markets. Migration provides responses to fast-changing needs for skills and personnel resulting from technological advances, changes in market conditions and industrial transformations. Migration offers a potential to replenish declining work forces as well as to inject younger workers, potentially increasing dynamism,

innovation and mobility in work forces. According to, Juan Somavia, Director General, ILO if *any one looks at globalization from the point of view of peoples' concerns, its single biggest failure is its inability to create jobs where people live (ILO, 2008)*. According to the International Organization for Migration there are more than 200 million migrants around the world today. The reliability of immigrant censuses is, however, lamentably low due to the concealed character of undocumented labour migration (WDR, 2006).

The fundamental difference between the two phases of Globalization is in the sphere of labour flows. In the late 19th century, there were no restrictions on the mobility of people needed and immigrants were granted citizenship with ease. For example, between 1870 and 1914, 50 million people left Europe which was about 1/8th of its population in 1990's, but in the second half of the 20th century, there was a limited amount of international labour migration from the developing countries to the industrialized world due to some draconian immigration laws and restrictive consular practices. So, the present phase of Globalization has found substitutes for labour mobility in the form of trade flows and investment flows. So, the first phase of Globalization in the late 19th century was characterized by an integration of markets through an exchange of goods which was facilitated by the movement of capital and labour across the national boundaries. The second phase of Globalization during the late 20th century is characterized by an integration of production with linkages that are wider and deeper, except for the near absence of labour movements.

Is migration a new phenomenon?

Migration of people to other countries in search of employment has occurred all through history and it is by no means a new phenomenon (Wickramasekara, Piyasiri, 2000).

As capitalism developed, the size of human migrations increased throughout the 19th century. Interstate migrations caused by the relative overpopulation of certain countries and a shortage of manpower in others became more common. Emigrants were attracted primarily to the USA and Canada, and to a lesser degree, to Australia, New Zealand, and certain South American countries, specially Argentina and Brazil and South Africa. During the period of capitalism the migration stream was initially (until the 1890's) heaviest from the industrially

developed countries of Europe—Great Britain, the Netherlands, Germany, and the Scandinavian countries. Later, from the end of the 19th century an even greater stream came from the less industrialized countries of Southern and Eastern Europe, which had suffered agrarian crises (Italy, Poland, Hungary, and Russia). V. I. Lenin called these two stages the *old immigration* and the *new immigration* (Lenin, V. I., 1979). Emigration from Europe reached its peak between 1900 and 1914, a period during which about 20 million persons emigrated. Almost three-fifths of them settled in the USA. After World War I, as the general crisis of capitalism expanded and deepened and as a permanent army of unemployed emerged, migrations fell sharply, hindered by restrictive legislation passed by a number of countries, especially the USA and Australia.

Considerable migrations took place during and after World War II. After the defeat of Germany approximately 9.7 million Germans were transferred in an organized manner from Poland and Czechoslovakia and resettled in the German Democratic Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany and West Berlin. In return, about 5 million Poles and 2.3 million Czechs were resettled in the liberated regions. An exchange of population took place between the newly formed independent states of India and Pakistan, which had been carved out of the British colony of India. Motivated primarily by religion, the exchange involved about 16 million Muslims and Hindus. After World War II approximately 6.3 million Japanese were repatriated from China, Korea, and other parts of Asia.

After the war restrictions on interstate migration were made even stronger. In particular, the term *undesirable alien* appeared for the first time. In the early 1970's annual immigration from Europe to the USA did not exceed 100,000–150,000 persons, and to Canada and Australia, 100,000 apiece. A unique migration known as the *brain drain*, which is associated with the luring of highly skilled specialists from one country to another, began in the 1930's, when the USA had a monopoly on the opportunity to select refugee scientists from fascist Germany. In the 1960's and early 1970's migrations from the less developed countries of Europe to the more developed ones (the FRG, France, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Switzerland) became common. The number of migrants, most of whom are unskilled laborers, ranges from 5 to 8 million per year. As a rule, immigrants to the capitalist countries are the lowest paid and most exploited group among the working people. For example, Indians in the Republic of South Africa, Mexicans and Puerto Ricans in the USA are in a particularly difficult position (International Migration, 1959).

The largest migration in history was the so-called Great Atlantic Migration from Europe to North America, the first major wave of which began in the 1840s with mass movements from Ireland and Germany. In the 1880s a second and larger wave developed from eastern and southern Europe; between 1880 and 1910 some 17 million Europeans entered the United States. The total number of Europeans reaching the United States amounted to 37 million between 1820 and 1980. From 1801 to 1914 about 7.5 million migrants moved from European to Asiatic Russia called as Siberia and between World Wars I and II about 6 million more. Since World War II the largest voluntary migrations have involved groups from developing countries moving to the industrialized nations. Some 13 million migrants became permanent residents of Western Europe from the 1960 and 1980 and more than 10 million permanent immigrants were admitted legally to the United States in that same period (International Migration, 2005).

The period from 1800 to 1929 represents the first period of economic globalization, characterized by massive flows of capital, and goods through trade back and forth between Europe, America, Asia, and the Pacific. Associated with this expanding global economy was the large-scale movement of people, itself rooted in structural transformations that overtook successive European nations as they industrialized and were incorporated into the global trading regime. During the first era of globalization, European emigrants went to a small number of settler societies—former European colonies that were themselves in the throes of rapid industrialization and development (Encyclopedia Britannica, 2005).

The *post-industrial migration* emerged during the middle of 1960s and constituted a sharp break with the past. Rather than being dominated by outflows from Europe to a handful of settler societies, immigration became truly global in scope, as the number and variety of both sending and receiving countries increased as the global supply of immigrants shifted from Europe to developing countries of the Third World (Castles and Miller, 1993). Whereas migration during the industrial era brought people from densely settled, rapidly industrializing nations into sparsely settled, rapidly industrializing countries, migration in the post-industrial era brought people from densely-settled countries in the earliest stages of industrialization to densely-settled post-industrial societies.

Causes of Modern migrations

Causes of migrations have modified over hundreds of years. Some cases are constant, some of them do not carry the same importance as years ago. *For example in 18th and 19th centuries labor migration did not have the same character like today.* The causes of modern migration are:

Industrialization

While the pace of migration had accelerated since the 18th century already it would increase further in the 19th century. Industrialization encouraged migration wherever it appeared. The increasingly global economy globalized the labor market. Atlantic slave trade diminished sharply after 1820, which gave rise to self-bound contract labour migration from Europe and Asia to plantations. Moreover, migration was significantly eased by improved transportation techniques.

World War II

The United Kingdom and Germany have seen major immigration since the end of World War II and have been debating the issue for decades. Foreign workers were brought in to those countries to help rebuild after the war, and many stayed.

Push-pull theory

In general we can divide factors causing migrations into two groups of factors: Push and pull factors. One theory of immigration distinguishes between push factors and factors. Push factors refer primarily to the motive for migration from the country of origin. In the case of economic migration (labour migration), differentials in wage rates are prominent. If the value of wages in the new country surpasses the value of wages in one's native country, labourers may choose to migrate. Other push factors of migration are higher standards of living, low opportunity cost. The availability of jobs is the related pull factors (Lee, Everett. 1966).*

How does globalization promote migration?

Globalization is a major driving force of international labour migration. It stands to reason that globalization with its associated liberalization policies would result in a massive increase in mobility of labour across borders as in the case of capital and technology. Castles (1999) maintains that globalization tends to erode the sovereignty and autonomy of the nation-state and that international migration is an integral part of globalization (Piyasiri, W, 2000).

According to Sassen noted for her analyses of *globalization and international human migration* (Sassen, Saskia, 2006) explores recent human migrations and attempts to elaborate a theoretical framework that will clarify the causes of human migration. Central to her argument is the concept that the need for capital re-composition during a crisis of accumulation entails a corresponding re-composition of labor. In other words, when capitalist corporations are unable to sustain a sufficient level of surplus extraction, they are forced to re-organize the productive process in order to maintain levels of profitability and necessarily causing great spatial shift in the arrangement of labor (human migration). This could include disciplining labor by breaking the strength of industrial unions, producing technological innovations that cut the costs of production (by lowering the dependence on labor, deskilling labor, or increasing the speed of production), or finding alternative sources of labor. This final strategy includes both the attraction of immigrant labor from the global periphery to the industrialized world to serve as workers as well as the physical decentralization of industrial production.

During the 1980s and 1990s, Sassen studied the impacts of globalization such as economic restructuring, and how the movements of labour and capital influence urban life. She also studied the influence of communication technology on governance. Sassen observed how nation states begin to lose power to control these developments, transnational human migration. She identified and described the phenomenon of the *global city*.

Under contemporary globalization, international labour mobility has increased, while levels of exploitation and deregulation have accelerated (Patrick, A, Taran, Stalker, P, 2000). Lack of legal protection for migrant workers heightens their attractiveness as instruments of maintaining competitiveness because they are obliged to work in situations where decent work conditions are not enforced. Current practices regarding labour migration represent fundamental policy dilemmas for States. Many States have placed increasingly strict barriers on legal entry of labour migrants, yet appear to tolerate the presence of large numbers of migrants, especially those working in low-paid sectors lacking offer of national workers. Whether deliberate or not, increasing application of restrictive policies has corresponded in many countries to increasing vilification of migrants. Democratic governance depends on the rule of law; governance of migration and requisite regulation of the labour market are viable only to the extent they derive from a legislative foundation in turn based on sound international standards. If the rule of law and democracy are to be strengthened under economic and social conditions of

globalization, regulation of migration and of the labour market must be strengthened. The complementary existing international instruments for migration should serve as coherent global guidance for both national and international migration policies.

Conclusion

While these are possibilities, the actual extent of mobility of labour under globalization has been seriously curtailed by restrictive immigration policies of labour-receiving countries, particularly in the West. Barriers to the international movement of unskilled labour are widespread and 'borderless states' are still to be realised. Keith Griffin refers to this as a curious asymmetry of globalization and argues that it has no basis in actual economic fact (Piyasiri, W, 2000)

Growing economic interdependence of states has been a widely acknowledged component of globalization. The immediate effects on global population movements have been less easy to determine.

So I am trying to raise some important questions those are raised in the present study:

First, what are the trends of international migration in the globalization in the twenty first century? Is it between south-south, south-north, north-south or north-north?

Second, is any further study possible to do the cost benefit analysis of international migration which is a powerful symbol of global inequality which in turn depends on the *distribution* of both within and between sending and receiving countries and regions? (World Development Report, 2006)

Important Notes

* Push and pull factors are those factors which either forcefully push people into migration or attract them. A push factor is forceful, and a factor which relates to the country from which a person migrates. It is generally some problem which results in people wanting to migrate. Different types of push factors can be seen further below. A push factor is a flaw or distress that drives a person away from a certain place. A pull factor is something concerning the country to which a person migrates. It is generally a benefit that attracts people to a certain place. Push and pull factors are usually considered as north and south poles on a magnet. Both are economic, political, cultural, and environmentally based.

It shows some push and pull factors that drive the migration flows. But what are the push and pull factors? Lee's text never states such wording as push-pull factors. According to him *that hold and attract or repel people* which he defines as: *In every area there are countless factors which act to hold people within the area or attract people to it, and there are others which tend to repel them. (...) There are others, (...), to which people are essentially indifferent. Some of these factors affect most people in much the same way, while others affect different people in different ways.*

So the pull factors are those factors that attract someone to a territory and the push factors those that drive someone out from a territory. According to Mr. Lee, the territories will often present these push and pull factors that, at some point, the potential migrant worker will assess on its decision to go abroad. What will finally influence the decision of the potential migrant worker are the perceptions and the obstacles related to the migration process, meaning that if the combinations of the push-pull factors are strong enough to justify going through the difficulties inherent to the process the potential migrant will migrate. Despite the rational this process seems Lee recognizes that there are personal non-rational influences to the decision.

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