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M.A. Degree Thesis

REASONS FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION IN THE ECO REGION: A CASE STUPY OF THE ILLEGAL AFGHAN IMMIGRANTS IN IRAN.

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February 2008

To my parents and my brother that was martyr in the holy defense

Abstract:

Immigration is not a phenomenon relevant only to the modern and contemporary world; rather it has existed throughout the history of mankind. In fact immigration is a way for the people to leave a territory where they face problems to another place where they can improve their lives.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights in its Article 15 states: "Every body has the right to a nationality and no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality ordained the right to change his nationality.

Today, already in the 21st century or the so called "age of information", scholars use not only their own judgments, but also more pragmatic instruments: facts and statistical data, in order to make empirical calculations of the scales, as well as benefits (and losses) of human movements. Moreover, scholars philosophers, based on the relevant facts and statistics, distinguish nations by their mobility and dynamism, calling the "passion Aries" that either by fate, or by their own will are scattered all around the world, are also considered to be one of these nations-passion Aries.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Dr.Sadraddin Moosavi Jashni my supervisor, for his sentence guidance and support during this research. I am also thankful to Dr.Ghadir Mahdavi, my advisor, for his helpful consideration and consulting. Finally I am appreciative of Dr. Jafar Dehghani Firouz Abadi, my referee, for his views on my research and notifying me about the problems of the thesis.

Of course, I am grateful to my friends Behrouz Khadem Rabe and Mrs. Atefeh Salavati.

Tehran, Iran

Feb.2008   Ali Asghar Dastjerdi

Contents

Chapter I

Introduction

1-1 –Introduction

A fundamental characteristic of people is their movement from place to place. People move for a variety of reasons. They consider the advantages and disadvantages of staying versus moving, as well as factors such as distance, travel costs, travel time, modes of transportation, terrain, and cultural barriers.(1)

Push Factors:

Reasons for emigrating (leaving a place) because of a difficulty (such as a food shortage, war, flood, etc.).

Pull Factors:

Reasons for immigrating (moving into a place) because of something desirable (such as a nicer climate, better food supply, freedom, etc.).

Several types of push and pull factors may influence people in their movements (sometimes at the same time), including :(2)

1. Environmental (e.g., climate, natural disasters)
2. Political (e.g., war)
3. Economic (e.g., work)
4. Cultural (e.g., religious freedom, education)

Immigration is not a phenomenon relevant only to the modern and contemporary world; rather it has existed throughout the history of mankind. In fact immigration is a way for the people to leave a territory where they face problems to another place where they can improve their lives.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights in its Article 15 states: "Every body has the right to a nationality and no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality ordained the right to change his nationality."(3)

We witness that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights stipulates the protection of immigration and emigrants, but with growth of the world population and the consequent growth of immigration in contemporary world, many countries and organizations have enacted laws for emigration and emigrants that create some problems for people who want to emigrate from their country to other countries.

Under the circumstances the people who want to emigrate may resort to illegal ways for immigration. As noted in the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, orderly international migration can have positive impacts on both the communities of origin and the communities of destination. (4) Migration also has the potential of facilitating the transfer of skill and contributing to cultural enrichment. Today the number of people residing outside their country of birth is at an all-time high of about 175 million, (5) more than double the number a generation ago. The vast majority of migrants are making meaningful contributions to their host countries. At the same time, however, international migration entails the loss of human resources for many countries of origin and may give rise to political, economic or social tensions in countries of destination. International migration, with its intricate web of demographic, social, economic and political determinants and consequences, is a topic that has moved to the forefront of national and international agenda. In the last few years, immigration has become a major issue of concern in an increasing number of countries. More recently, in the aftermath of the events of 11 September 2001, some countries have further tightened their policies towards immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers. (6)

The flow of illegal emigration is more from the third world countries to the modern countries.

Illegal immigrants are foreign-born people who are in this country without the proper authorization. They don't have a valid visa or other necessary documentation to be in a country legally. Some of the other terms used to refer to illegal immigrants include: "undocumented immigrants," "undocumented migrants," "undocumented aliens," and "illegal aliens."(7)

In addition to the term "illegal immigrant," another term frequently used is "no citizen." A no citizen is not necessarily an illegal immigrant. A no citizen is anyone residing in a country who is not a citizen of that country. The term no citizen refers to various foreign-born people who are in a country temporarily or permanently, legally or illegally. (8)

Typically, illegal immigrants are in the country because they have entered the country in an unauthorized manner, they have overstayed their nonimmigrant visas, or they have otherwise violated the terms under which they were admitted to the country.

Today, already in the 21st century or the so called "age of information", (9) scholars use not only their own judgments, but also more pragmatic instruments: facts and statistical data, in order to make empirical calculations of the scales, as well as benefits (and losses) of human movements. Moreover, scholars philosophers, based on the relevant facts and statistics, distinguish nations by their mobility and dynamism, calling the "passion Aries" that either by fate, or by their own will are scattered all around the world, are also considered to be one of these nations-passion Aries. According to data from the UN for the year 2000, around 3 percent of the world's population did not live in their countries of origin. (10)

The ECO region, all of them third world countries, also is the place of illegal migration. Knowledge of the reasons for illegal emigrations and prevention of this phenomenon is an important subject to provide a congenial ground for peaceful coexistence and mutual cooperation between the regional countries.

The illegal emigration has many adverse affects including economic, social, and political effects on the host country. Lack of accountability of the illegal immigrants is the most crucial problem, preparing the grounds for them to resort to illegal means. One of the outstanding examples of illegal emigration is that of immigrations of Afghans to Iran that has created many problems for the Iranian people and government.

In fact through identifying the reasons for illegal emigrations and finding logical solutions to prevent them, many consequent problems like employment, social crimes....in Iran and other countries that are the host of refugees could be solved.

Afghan illegal migrants and refuges are one of the main refugee and illegal migrants in ECO region of course in Asia and in the world that have many problems for their country

and other countries specifically for countries that are near to Afghanistan like Iran, Pakistan and .

In the present research two major questions about afghan illegal immigration are dealt with:

1 - Why many people from Afghanistan migrate to other countries?

 Some of the answers to this question may be:

* Civil war in Afghanistan

* Economic problems, unemployment and lack of industrial activities.

* Camlet problems.

2 – The second question is: Why Afghan illegal migrants select Iran for immigration?

Thinkers and scholars maintain that common language, common religion, and protection rendered by the Iranian government to the Afghan illegal immigrants are among the main reasons for the Afghan illegal migrants to select Iran for immigration.

In the present paper attempts have been made to find out the reasons for the immigration of the Afghan illegal immigrants to other countries, specifically to Iran.

1-2 -Research Objectives/Purposes

A – To find out the reasons for the immigrations in the ECO region.

 B - To find out the reasons for immigration of the Afghan illegal immigrants to Iran.

1-3- Key Question(s)

Main question:

What are the reasons for the illegal immigration of Afghan to Iran?

1-4- Hypotheses

The main hypothesis is:

War in Afghanistan; foreign occupation, Hospitality of Iran; Language and cultural affinity, lack of expertise and working as unskilled labor in Iran, geographical affinity.

1-5- Data Gathering Methods

The data for the present study have been gathered through questionnaire as from the well as primary and secondary sources.

The primary sources include the documents, agreements, and pacts among the member states of the ECO.

The secondary data include books, journals, internet materials, statistical annuals and reports. As mentioned above the basic data have been collected through questionnaires administered to the illegal Afghan migrants residing illegally in Iran.

The present study was conducted on the basis of descriptive and analytical method. The tools used in this research include questionnaire which were prepared by modification of existing questionnaires in this field to make them compatible with the Iranian milieu.

The methods for gathering information have been:

Library, Interview and questionnaire.

The sample for the present study includes Afghans staying in Tehran, Karaj.

The methods of data analysis are random sampling. The data collected have been processed with the help of the SPSS.

1-6 - Questionnaire structure

The questionnaire for the present study consists of two parts:

1- First part tries to find out the reasons for the immigration of Afghans to other countries, especially the Islamic Republic of Iran and Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

2- Second part tries to find out the reasons for selection of Iran by the Afghan immigrants.

1-7 Research methodology

In order to analyze the reasons for the illegal immigration in the ECO region and in the ECO member countries as well as the reasons for the immigration f the Afghan illegal immigrants to other countries, especially Islamic Republic of Iran in the first place attempts have been made to study the case from theoretical point of view. Also in order to find out the practical reasons for immigration of the Afghans to Iran, questionnaires have been used by distributing them among, some of Afghans in Karaj and Tehran.

The sample of the present research constitutes, some of illegal Afghan immigrants, that is, the Afghan immigrants who don't have any document and or stay permit to live in Iran, but live in Tehran and Karaj. These two cities were selected because they are industrial and agricultural cities where many illegal Afghan immigrants live and where the residents have lesser sensitivity about the presence of illegal Afghan immigrants in these cities.

The sample has been selected randomly. Random sampling has been used because this method would make the sample more representatives of the illegal Afghan immigrants living in Iran. Overall, 100 illegal Afghan immigrants have been chosen to fill the questionnaires in Tehran and Karaj.

1-8 Independent variable and dependent variable

The main independent variable of the present study is:

Immigrants of Afghan illegal immigration to Iran.

The main dependant variables are:

The geographical features of Afghanistan like famine, harsh weather conditions, landlocked ness,

Particular conditions inside Afghanistan like civil war, foreign occupation, underdevelopment, and political instability,

The Islamic Republic of Iran's policy for accommodation of the Afghans after the collapse of Pahlavi regime;

Almost total absence of any control and limitation on the presence and free movement of the Afghans in Iran,

Also the common language, culture, religion, and history of the two countries; employment of the Afghans as unskilled labor in Iran.

1-9- Key Terms

Migration (human):

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. Migration occurs at a variety of scales: intercontinental (between continents), intercontinental (between countries on a given continent), and interregional (within countries). One of the most significant migration patterns has been rural to urban migration—the movement of people from the countryside to cities in search of opportunities.

Internal Migration:

Internal migration is moving to a new home within a state, country, or continent.

External Migration:

External migration is moving to a new home in a different state, country, or continent.

Emigration:

Emigration is leaving one country to move to another (e.g., the Pilgrims emigrated from England).

Immigration:

Immigration is moving into a new country (e.g., the Pilgrims immigrated to America).

Population Transfer:

When a government forces a large group of people out of a region, usually based on ethnicity or religion. This is also known as an involuntary or forced migration. (11)

Emigrant:

A person who is leaving a country to reside in another.

Immigrant:

A person who is entering a country from another to take up new residence.

Refugee:

A person who is residing outside the country of his or her origin due to fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.

Internally Displaced Person (IDP):

A person who is forced to leave his or her home region because of unfavorable conditions (political, social, environmental, etc.) but does not cross any boundaries.

Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)

Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO is an intergovernmental regional organization established in 1985 by Iran, Pakistan and Turkey for the purpose of promoting economic, technical and cultural cooperation among the Member States.

ECO is the successor organization of Regional Cooperation for Development (RCD) which remained in existence since 1964 up to 1979.

In 1992, the Organization was expanded to include seven new members, namely: Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz

Republic, Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Republic of Uzbekistan. The date of the Organization's expansion to its present strength, 28th November, is being observed as the ECO Day.

Afghanistan country:

Afghanistan is a country in northwestern Asia with continental climate, confronting civil war and foreign occupation (by former Soviet Union) from 1979 to 2001, facing economic destitution, devastating drought, and political instability.

1-10 - Background(s)-(Review of Literature & Bibliography)

Although there are a number of researches about the immigration and illegal emigration, the research on the illegal immigration of the Afghans to Iran is very limited. However, the existing research overlooks the reasons for the Afghan illegal immigration to Iran.

1-Hakimi, Mohammad Hadi (1975), in his study titled "Afghan refugees" studies the impact of the Afghan refugees on the security of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The findings of his research indicate that …..

2-Safavi, Shadi, (2005), in his study titled" Recognition of emigrants in international law", studies situation of immigration in international law.

3-Ghanbari, Afsane, (2005), in his study titled "Reasons for immigration of Iranian experts to the United States" studies the reasons for emigration of Iranian experts to the United States.

4- Zokai, Mohammad Saeed, (2006), in his study titled "Adults, Globalization and International Immigration" studies the impact of globalization on international immigration specifically among the adults.

1-11- Organization of the present research

The present research has been organized in four chapters:

1- Chapter I – Introduction, The first chapter discusses a brief history of migration, the research objectives/purposes, the key questions, hypotheses, basic concepts, research methodology, review of related literature, and a brief introduction of Afghanistan.

2- Chapter II- History of research, that is about: Immigration in the ancient time, Immigration in early time, immigration in middle ages, Immigration in contemporized period, Illegal immigration, and history of Afghan illegal immigrants in Iran

3-Chapter III- introduces the ECO organization and studies the reasons for illegal immigrations in this region as a pattern for Afghan illegal immigration.

4- Chapter IV- Introduces Afghanistan and its features which specifically lead to immigration of its people to other countries. In fact the geographical, political, economic and cultural features of every country have important impacts on shaping the immigration pattern– legal or illegal immigration.

5- Chapter V –In this chapter discuss about the reasons for Afghan illegal immigration to other countries. Also the reasons for selection of Iran by the Afghan illegal immigrants have been discussed.

The findings and conclusions of the present study are briefly reproduced and summarized in this chapter.

6-Chapter VI- Results and Discussion.

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2- UNHCR, Human Migrants Guide, National Geographic, Society, page 48.

3- Movahed, Mohammad Ali, Tehran, Karname publication, page 144.

4- U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI), World Survey 2003 Country Report, page 18.

5- Department of Economic and Social Affairs, International Migration Report 2002, United Nations, page 22.

6-Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Previous, page32.

7- Urban Institute, "Undocumented Immigrants: Facts and Figures," page 12.

8- Minnesota House Research "No citizens and Minnesota Law: A Guide for Legislators,"page48.

9-Asteghik Mirazakhanyan, Labour Migrants in the globalization world, page 54.

10-Asteghik Mirazakhanyan, Previous, page 62.

Chapter II

History of research

History of Legal and Illegal Immigration

And presence of Afghan immigrants in IRAN