



Economic Migration in Central Siberia and Ethnic Conflict Risks (Based on Krasnoyarsk Krai Analysis)

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ABSTRACT

Migration, be it free or forced, is an essential prerequisite of the dynamic development of many territories, Krasnoyarsk Krai inclusive. The territory of the region is irregularly and poorly populated: 84% of inhabitants are concentrated in the south of the region, in the territory comprising only 10% of the regional territory. Under the circumstances Krasnoyarsk Krai needs an increased flow of migrants for the participation in economic development of unpopulated areas of Krai. But on the other hand, economic need in migrants becomes the reason of the ethnic conflicts risks increase in Central Siberia through creation of various negative myths on migrants. The experts report an increase in social tension between migrants and host parties in the Siberian regions of the Russian Federation. The interrelations inside the social medium and cultural contacts are in many respects determinant for the economic development of the region because the main actors of the economics are people.

Keywords: Economic Migration, Tolerance Index, Siberia, Krasnoyarsk Krai

JEL Classifications: D8, R1, Z1

1. INTRODUCTION

Free and forced migration is one of the major phenomena of the modern time. It affects, in one way or another, the whole world community. Influenced by world economic and political developments, migration takes on a new quality. Migration processes are accompanied by complex economic, political, social and cultural interrelations, but the inflow of migrant workers to the regions of Central Siberia serves as a necessary condition of economic growth.

The main characters of the economy are people; the development of a region is directly predetermined by economic behaviour of the population. According to the strategy of social and economic development of Krasnoyarsk Krai for the period until 2020, despite an upward trend in the population dynamics, Krasnoyarsk Krai needs to solve the issue of population decline, aspire to stabilize

the population size and create the necessary prerequisites for further population growth. One efficient way of achieving this goal is to work in the sphere of migration policy, namely: Reducing the migration outflow, increasing the migration attractiveness to the territory by way of implementing an optimistic scenario of Krasnoyarsk Krai economic development, creating well-paid jobs, changing the structure of the migrants arrival to the territory by increasing the number of skilled personnel amongst the total flow of the migrants and providing conditions to enable the resettlement of the migrants together with their families.

In this case, one of the main ways of studying economic migration is the analysis of social, cultural and value peculiarities of migration processes. Since the interaction between the receiving party and the migrant workers can evolve into an ethnic conflict, it is required to monitor it constantly and coordinate the efforts in order to avoid any social tendencies to conflict, if necessary.

The purpose of this paper is to analyze the migration processes in Central Siberia through the study of the interrelations in the education environment between the children of the migrants and other Krasnoyarsk citizens. The results of the ethnic tolerance index measurement are presented. School students were chosen as respondents, since relatively soon they will become the main participants of economic activity, and they will determine what the actual migration and interethnic relationships will evolve into - prone to conflict or tolerant.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The scientific issue of migration processes study has a strong scientific tradition. In regard of the worldwide geopolitical situation and concentration of the bulk of the financial capital within a limited number of nation states and as a result, intensification of the labour and forced migration, it can be stated that the interest towards this subject matter has been raised significantly within the last 20 years. This is directly confirmed by the increase in the number of articles featured on this subject matter in the leading world scientific publications by almost three fold within the period from 2000 to 2016.

Economic migration evolved into a separate subject matter of research in the XX century as a result of the global geopolitical events which took place in the second half of the century on the Eurasian continent. In the first place, what predetermined the establishment of this scientific subject matter was the formation of the European Union in the 1950s and the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991 - both of these events changed substantially the state of the labour market worldwide.

As of today, five different concepts of economic migration have been established:

1. Population concepts (Hugo, 1998);
2. Neoclassical economics (Harris and Todaro, 1970);
3. Segmented labor market theory (Piore, 1979);
4. New economics of migration theory (Stark et al., 1988);
5. Migration transition theory (Zelinsky, 1971; Martin and Taylor, 1996).

Three more theories on migration processes which address complex systems of factors determining modern migration can be added to the above mentioned concepts: Microsystem analysis theory (Portes and Walton, 1981; Morawska, 1990 and others); a network theory, under which an institutional concept of migration is being developed (Hugo, 1998; Massey, 1990; Gurak and Caces, 1992); transnational migration theory (Glick-Schiller, 1999; Portes, 2003; Faist, 2000). An integrated approach to the study of international migration pursued by Massey (1990) can be singled out as a separate line of research. He believes that practicing the restrictive immigration policy is the consequence of conceptualization of the migration problems by means of neoclassical economics machinery.

International migration in the Russian regions is analyzed in the works of Iontsev (1999), Ivakhnuk (2005), Krasinets (1997), Ryazantsev (2001) and others. Economic consequences of international migration

are studied in the works of Denisenko et al. (2003), Inozemtsev (2003) and others. Ethnic mobility and labour migration in the Siberian Arctic in the context of the native research and the northern research (Ilbeykina et al., 2015; Kistova et al., 2014; Koptseva and Kirko, 2014a, Koptseva and Kirko, 2014b, Koptseva et al., 2015; Libakova et al., 2014; Zamaraeva et al., 2015). Historiography of the migration research was created by Zamaraeva (2010). Yuskova and Potemkin (2015) analyzed the topical issues of the state migration policy and its peculiarities in Central Siberia. In order to study how the migrant workers and the residential population of Krasnoyarsk city cooperate with each other, qualitative methods of social research, as well as analysis of statistical data were employed (Zamaraeva, 2011; Koptseva et al., 2015).

Historical aspects of economic migration are covered in the work of Margo (2016), van Houte et al. (2015), Low (2014), Collins and Wanamaker (2015), Gao (2015), Dahlstedt and Neergaard (2015), Quinsaat (2016).

Alteration of natural landscape in the context of migration processes was studied by Hartter et al. (2014) on the basis of analysis of the processes in Kibale National Park in western Uganda, where as a result of an active internal economic migration the territories around the park went from sparsely populated to densely populated due to favourable conditions for farming. Migration is viewed as one of the key factors.

Migration processes are connected with world climate change. Klaiiber (2014) emphasizes the way in which climate change influences farming and rational water resources management, which also entails resettlement of the people for the purpose of doing farming in more favourable regions.

The subject matter related to formation of national diasporas within the receiving territory and their influence on the process of democratization of society through the example of the Netherlands is researched by Quinsaat (2016). Fazakarley (2016) studies such processes through the example of the interrelations of the United Kingdom and the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

A significant line of research is concerned with the study of securitization of migration, which is being developed by Wæver (1989), who dedicates his work to the research of migration processes in the context of national security. Cochrane (2015) conducted an interdisciplinary research of the integrated aspects of the migration communities in the context of contemporary conflicts and security. The researcher shows that in the age of globalization the migrants have become the main characters who influence national security of the sovereign states.

Review of the scientific sources dealing with the issues of economic migration bespeaks the fact that efficient models of sociocultural inclusion of the migrants into the social space of the receiving party are being currently developed. Special topicality is assigned to the problems related to relieving ethnic tension in contemporary societies accommodating migrants. They need to be taken into consideration in the regional strategies of economic migration. It is the mechanisms of forming a tolerant society which determine the dynamics of labour

migration and ethnic mobility in Central Siberia, in Krasnoyarsk Krai, industrialization of which requires labour power attraction not only from other regions of the country, but also from abroad.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The key methods of tolerance level analysis in the presented research are surveying, monitoring and analyzing the measurements obtained from the survey conducted amongst senior school students of Krasnoyarsk city. The choice of school students as respondents is determined by the fact that it is the younger generation who will soon be defining economic situation in the region, and the nature of the future economic relations will be largely determined by the level of tolerance towards migrants.

For the purpose of the research the students of the school situated in Leninsky District of Krasnoyarsk city were chosen, where the contingent of the students is ethnically mixed, and the children of the native residents whose ethnic and cultural identity can be defined as “Russian” study for 11 years alongside the children of the migrant workers who came from Kirghizia, Tajikistan, Vietnam and other foreign states.

For the purpose of the research, an express survey “Tolerance Index” was chosen following the methodology proposed by Soldatova, Kravtsova, Khukhlaev, and Shaygerova, (p. 1, 46). This survey was developed for the purpose of determining the following aspects: The overall level of tolerance, the types of tolerance (ethnic or social). The questions are formulated in such a way that after the processing of the answers one can reveal the attitude of the teenagers towards the representatives of different ethnic groups, as well as determine just how tolerantly they treat such social groups as beggars, minorities and mentally ill people. Three subscales are provided for in the survey, with the help of which the level of ethnic tolerance, social tolerance and tolerance as a trait intrinsic to a separate individual is determined.

The authors suggest the following stages for assessing the overall level of tolerance: From 22 to 60 points corresponds to a low level of tolerance amongst the respondents; from 61 to 99 - medium level of tolerance; from 100 to 132 - high level of tolerance. At that, it should be taken into consideration that the index higher than 115 can be indicative of the fact that the respondent was giving answers which, to their mind, were conforming to the expectations, but did not reflect their personal viewpoint to the full extent, or as the developers of this method point out, it “can be indicative of the blurring of the lines of tolerance, which can be connected, for instance, with psychological infantilism, tendencies to connivance, leniency or indifference” (p. 1, 49).

The authors of the method propose to assess the level of tolerance under subscales in each individual case in accordance with the stages. For instance, the following stages were determined for ethnic tolerance and tolerance as an individual trait: Up to 19 points - low level, from 20 to 31 points - medium level, from 32 point and higher - high level; for the subscale revealing social tolerance: Up to 22 points - low level, from 23 to 36 point - medium level and 36 points and higher - high level.

4. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

A total of 155 school students took part in the survey, 97 of them were young women and 58 - young men aged 16-18. The respondents were offered sheets of paper with a number of statements to which they were to express their attitude ranging from absolute disagreement to complete agreement by ticking the appropriate item on the scale:

Absolutely don't agree - Don't agree - More don't agree than agree - More agree than don't agree - Agree - Completely agree.

After processing the obtained answers using the key developed by the authors of the express survey (Soldatova and Shalgerova, 2008), the results allowed us to classify the answers into three groups corresponding to the specific level of tolerance: High, medium and low.

The respondents primarily possess a medium level of overall tolerance, both in young men (7 - low level, 45 - medium level, 6 - high level), and young women (4 - low level, 84 - medium level, 9 - high level).

Classification of the answers given by the respondents according to subscales allowed to specify tolerance according to its types: Ethnic tolerance, social tolerance and tolerance as a trait intrinsic to an individual.

Let us turn to the results of the classification according to subscales. The indices of ethnic tolerance are primarily medium. 12 of the young men's survey forms entered the category of the low level of social tolerance, 32 forms - into the category at the medium level, 14 forms - into the category at the high level. Eight of the young women's survey forms got into the category at the low level of social tolerance, 69 forms - into the category at the medium level, 20 forms - into the category at the highest level.

4.1. Ethnic Tolerance

On the whole, the majority of the respondents have a positive enough attitude towards other ethnic and cultural groups. Even those school students who showed a rather low level of ethnic tolerance are willing to accept friendly terms with the representatives of other ethnic groups, of a different race. Both young women and men agreed with the statement “I want to have people of different nationalities in my friends circle.” Many school students also do not agree with the statement that some nationalities are difficult to treat decently, thus displaying a tolerant attitude. However, at the same time, many respondents, even those with a rather high level of ethnic tolerance, do not deem the situation of accepting the representatives of other ethnic groups as members of their family as acceptable. Both young men and women agree that mixed marriages usually entail more problems than those between the people of the same nationality.

The indices of social tolerance are primarily at the medium level. School students are willing to be tolerant towards beggars and tramps and do not judge them. They also do not agree to isolation of all mentally ill people. A 17-year-old man supported his absolute

disagreement with a remark on the margin of the sheet of paper containing the statements: “Why did you come to this conclusion? You clearly aren’t aware of the progressive movement!”

Six of the young men’s answers are indicative of the low level of social tolerance, 46 answers - of the medium level, 6 answers - of the high level. Nine of the young women’s answers are indicative of the low level of social tolerance, 71 answers - of the medium level, 17 answers - of the high level.

4.2. Social Tolerance

The third subscale reveals peculiarities of an individual, indicates the presence of tolerance as a character trait, a certain mindset that to a large extent determines the attitude of a person to the surrounding world as a whole. Many respondents also display tolerance as a character trait at the medium level. The results of the measurement of the tolerance level among the young men are as follows: Only six survey forms suggest the low level, 42 forms - the medium level, 10 forms - the high level. What is worthy of special attention is that the number of the young women’s survey forms which are indicative of the high level of tolerance is quite high - 40 forms, indicative of the medium level - 51 forms, the low level - 6 forms. School students do not agree with the statement that you need to take vengeance on your friend if they betrayed you, and are not always willing to be rude to somebody as a response to somebody being rude to them. At the same time, they agree with the statement that one needs to listen to different points of view and not become annoyed if a person has a different viewpoint. It is also worth mentioning that school students selected a positive answer to the following statement: I would like to become more tolerant to others.

5. CONCLUSION

The overall analysis of the answers provided by school students allows to draw the conclusion that within their environment tolerance towards the representatives of other ethnic groups lies within the medium level and the tendency towards the high level prevails. This way they reflect a positive attitude in relations towards both other ethnic groups and other people in general (differing in their appearance or inner world - their views and opinions). A broad variety of answers is indicative of the fact that school students were not intending to give the expected answers which, from their point of view, could be deemed as “correct,” and, consequently, reflects the actual state of things.

On the basis of the conducted measurements it can be assumed that the conflicts among school students on grounds of ethnic prejudice and stereotypes are a rare occasion; on the whole, interethnic relationships among school students are characterized as benevolent.

At the same time, the presence of the survey forms displaying the indices of the low level of tolerance indicates that it is necessary to hold a series of events which would contribute to the development of tolerance among the school students, as this quality is one of the key factors in the harmonious development of the school student and their further successful realization of life. Experts note that

our attitude towards migrants is often formed under the influence of myths and stereotypes which have nothing to do with real life, whereas what really needs our attention is common interests and values, namely family and its safety, which are important both for the migrants and for the receiving party. In the contemporary context, when the migration processes are only going to grow larger, be that, it is necessary for economic development of the region; existence of multinational schools can and should be the foundation for building a harmonious society based on the principles of humanism and tolerance.

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