

INTERNATIONAL LABOR MIGRATION PROCESSES IN UZBEKISTAN

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Abstract. After gaining independence, Uzbekistan carried out economic reforms with profound structural changes in the economy by implementing advanced technologies and equipment into the production process and these factors have provided sustainable growth in the country. Although this creates a good opportunity to resolve the problem of unemployment, the latter still remains one of the critical challenges for the country. The present article is dedicated to the trends in international labor migration in Uzbekistan under globalized world. The scientific article analyzes the formation and development of labor migration processes in the country from the beginning of 1990s, regulation of labor migration by government, labor export from Uzbekistan to Russian Federation and Korean Republic, as well as it brings forth the conclusions in this field.

Keywords: integration, international labor market, labor migrant, migration in Uzbekistan, illegal migration, labor export, illegal migration.

INTRODUCTION

Currently, the world's nearly 200 countries are participating in international labor market which is an integral part of the global labor market. International labor market while being an international flow of labor force, reflects integration of labor markets and functions in close dependence on world labor market. According to earlier forecasts of International Migration Organization, the total number of international migrants was expected to reach 230 mln people by 2050[1]. However, this number had already been achieved in 2013 accounting for 3,2% of world population.

The total number of international migrants in the world in 2017 reached 258 mln people, and out of \$ 601 bln transferred by migrants, \$ 429 bln were sent to developing countries.

If in the earlier stage, labor migration emerged as a temporary social case which was caused by economic factors, later under globalization, it became an important factor influencing socio-economic development and structural changes of the participating countries. Researches show that international labor migration under globalized world possesses specific features which include the following[2]:

1. Scale and geography of international labor migration is extending (Graph.2.);
2. The share of temporary migrants among international migrants is increasing, and their skill and gender composition is changing;
3. Illegal migration is increasing, and the impact of international labor migration is increasing, both in positive and negative ways.

In general, while globalization creates new and wide opportunities for people to move around the world, one can observe an unprecedented increase in migration processes and extension of international labor market.

During the transition of the economy of Uzbekistan to a market economy, socio-economic problems inherited from the Soviet Union led to increase in unemployment, decrease in demand for labor force, especially for low skilled labor, imbalance between demand and supply to labor force, and subsequent emergence of international migration from the country (Sobirov, 2018).

LITERATURE REVIEW

Formation and development international labor migration in particular, specific features of external labor migration in Uzbekistan and some aspects of these issues have been researched by Uzbek scholars. Particularly, formation and development factors of international labor migration, their connection with demographic processes by L. Maksakova, evolution of the concept of labor migration and its necessity in developing labor market and economy, specific features of labor migration in CIS, especially in Uzbekistan by D. Rasulova, modern tendencies of labor migration development in Uzbekistan, its normative and legal bases, related problems, the problems of pension guarantee for migrants scientifically by B. Umrzakov, O. Ata-Mirzaev and D. Djunaidullaev¹, we can see that the issues like the integration of Uzbekistan into international labor market, its modern directions, comparative analysis of

¹ Maksakova L.P. Uzbekistan in the system of international migration. Post-Soviet Transformations: Reflection in Migrations, Ed. Zayonchkovskaya J.A. and Vitkovskoy G.S. -M.: IT "Adamant". 2009. Maksakova L.P. Export of labor from Uzbekistan / Center for Migration Studies 2004-2010 —<http://migrocentr.ru/publ/trudm/07.php>; Rasulova D.V. Ishchi heaps of migration rivozhlanishining Nazariy Assoslari. Monograph. T., 2010.; Umrzakov B. Organizational and legal framework for the regulation of labor migration in Uzbekistan. Halqaro Munosabatlar T., 2008. No. 2.C.52-59.; Umrzakov B., Irnazarov F. Access of labor migrants from Uzbekistan working in Russia to the pension savings system / Access of labor migrants from Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan working in the Russian Federation to the pension savings system. Bishkek.2011.C.29- 37.; Ata-Mirzaev OB Population of Uzbekistan: history and modernity. T., 2009.; Ata-Mirzaev OB, Gentshke V., Murtazaeva R. Uzbekistan is a multinational: historical and demographic aspect. T. 2011 Dzhunayduullaev D. Ёекизбекистон минтақаларида аҳоли migration and uni martibga tacho snowshit. T., 2012.

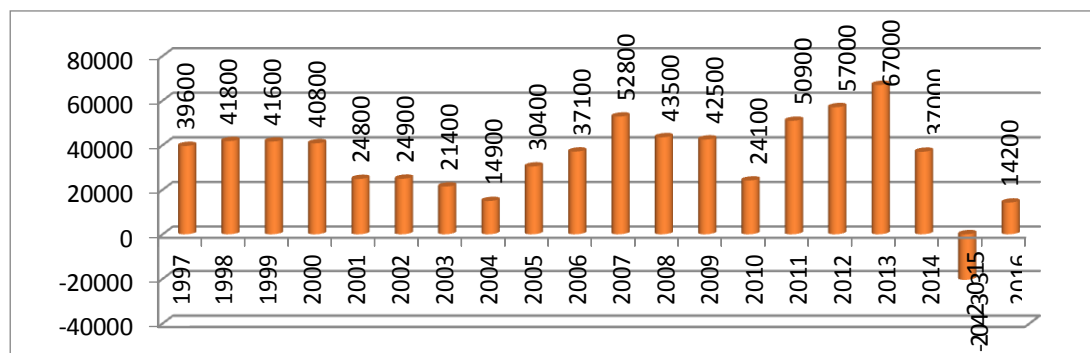
integration by foreign experience, and the matters of improving regulation of external labor migration in the country have not been solved in them.

The analysis of scientific research conducted in this problem raises the necessity of analysing new directions of labor export from Uzbekistan from the beginning of 1990s till now.

MAIN CONCEPT

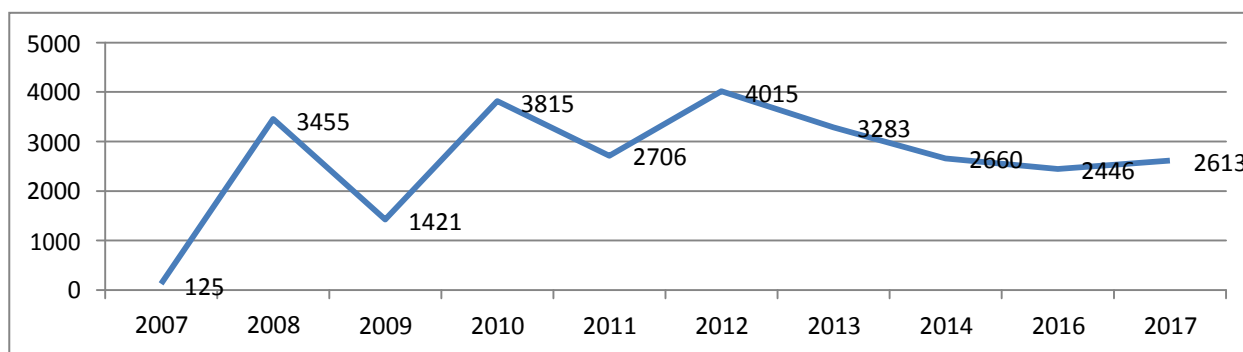
In order to increase the efficiency of the job creation, a particular emphasis was paid to the regulation of migration processes, which has become an integral part of the integrated global economic space in Uzbekistan's growing role in the international labor market.

Migration in the 1990s comprised ethnic Russians and Belarussians (45-48%), Tatars (16-17%), Ukrainians (5-6%), Jews (5-9%), Germans (2-3%), and Uzbeks (7-8%) who were mainly returning to homeland, turned into labor migration of predominantly ethnic Uzbeks in 2000s to Russian Federation, which soon turned into main migration destination[3].(Graph 1)



Graph-1. Net migration from Uzbekistan to Russian Federation, people (2001-2016)

Absence of strict restrictions for migrants coming to Russian Federation, no-visa entrance for Uzbek citizens, their ability to speak and understand Russian language and culture paved the way to increase the number of migrants from Uzbekistan to Russia. Uzbek migrants usually work in light and food industry, engineering, construction and service sector. In fact, 45.2% of them work in construction, 12.9% in services, 8.6% in processing, and 8.2% in agriculture[4]. Enacting the Intergovernmental agreement dated 21st Dec 2017 “About centralized involvement of the citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan for carrying out a temporary work in the territory of the Russian Federation” creates a mutually beneficial opportunity to determine the number of migrant workers, their qualifications and the actual needs in the recipient country, as well as establish the legally guaranteed mechanism for providing minimum wage, decent living conditions, medical and social insurance, and pension payments for citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan(BOBUR et al., 2015). According to the information of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs, the number of labor migrants from Uzbekistan working in Russia has approximately reached 1 million people and accounts for 10% of the total number of migrant workers in the country. Moreover, half of the labor patents registered in Russia during 2017 were issued to workers from Uzbekistan and numbered 800 thousand. If the number of Uzbekistan citizens sent by the Foreign Employment Migration Agency in a centralized way stood at 922 in 2017, in 2018 this number reached 50 thousands[5]. The other major destination of labor migration from Uzbekistan is oriented towards far abroad, specifically to Korean Republic. According to the agreement signed between Uzbekistan and Korean Republic, citizens of Uzbekistan left for work under “Program for Industrial Training”[5]. During 1995-2007 for 19 thousand citizens of Uzbekistan were given opportunities to work in Korean Republic under the “Program for Industrial Training”[6]. From 2003 Korean government began to employ foreign labor under Employment Permit System –EPS[7]. During 2007-2017 48 thousand migrants from Uzbekistan were sent to Korean Republic under Employment Permit System –EPS[5]. (Graph 2)



Graph-2. Number of migrants sent to Korean Republic by FEMA, people (2007-2017)

Memorandum of Understanding signed by Foreign Employment Migration Agency and the Personnel Development Institute of South Korea, adoption of the program for “Developing the personnel and employment support”, as well as the launch of the “Comprehensive test center” play an importance role in raising the cooperation between countries to a higher level (Baxtishodovich, Suyunovich, & Kholiqulov, 2017).

Moreover, as per the Agreement signed between Foreign Labor Migration and “Chuo Sangyo Shinko” agency on 26th June 2015 under the “Program for preparing technic interns”, 17 citizens of Uzbekistan were sent to Japan for undertaking technic internship. During 2017 over 3500 citizens from Uzbekistan took pre-departure and orientation training before going to Korean Republic, Russia and Japan under centralized labor exports. Currently, migration cooperation is being setup with countries like Germany, Kazakhstan, Turkey, Sultanate of Oman, Czech Republic, Poland, and UAE.

CONCLUSIONS

According to the researches in the field of international labor migration processes in the country, closeness of language and the culture of the receiving country is very important for labor migrants. That is why labor migrants from Uzbekistan prefer to work in Russian Federation or other CIS countries. Long common history, mutual trade, economic and cultural relations, ability to speak Russian will continue to serve as main factors in a stable cooperation between these countries on labor migration in years to follow. However, recent strengthening of requirements for labor migrants envisaged in the new immigration policy of the Russian Federation and poor Russian language skills of the younger generation of Uzbekistan citizens may lead to decrease in the rates of labor migration to Russian Federation. In turn, changes in the mindset of people with increased globalization is causing them to work in countries with unknown language and culture, and yet demonstrating high development and living standards, like USA, South Korea, UAE and Japan. In the near future, it serves the purpose to send the youth graduated from technology colleges in Uzbekistan after attending the special courses for jobs in advanced countries which are short in labor like Japan and South Korea. To manage the integration of Uzbekistan into international labor market in a more effective way it is necessary to develop a national strategy about employment abroad, improve its legal regulatory basis, apply international standards in national legislation and diversify labor migration flows. Moreover, it is important to improve the activity of Foreign Employment Migration Agency, increase its influence level and authority, increase the propaganda of legal labor migration and open consulting centers, extend the organized form of labor migration, develop teaching in training courses for migrants for the purpose of increasing their competitiveness in the international labor market, study alternative labor markets and cooperate with them.

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