THEORETICAL ASPECTS OF STUDYING THE MIGRATION PROCESSES

JEL Classifications: F22, J01

Key words: Labor-market, international migration of labor force, hard-working migrant, employment, remittances.

Abstract: In conditions of continuous growth of population in Uzbekistan the issue of managing the labor migration processes is becoming more important. Effective coordination of migration processes requires comprehensive study of theory and methodology of labour migration, particularly considering cases of transition countries. The paper considers some theoretic concepts that seem important for understanding the mechanism of migration processes, suggests practical recommendations for the associated decision-making.

Further development of national employment strategies in Uzbekistan requires taking into account the complex facets of ongoing globalization process. Studying the system of views connected with migration and developing employment policy needs to take into consideration territorial peculiarities in the social-economic and demographic development. Impact of labor force migration on activity of domestic labor market, employment, and the living standards of population is regarded as the vital problem. Theoretical studies in conditions of transitional economy in Uzbekistan are very important for the purpose of revealing case and effect relationships between migration and labour market and development.

A great attention has been paid to the theoretical-methodical factors of labor migration problems in the economic literature and research works of European and CIS states economists. Nowadays a number of theories and conceptions which could explain connection of causes and effects of labor force migration have been developed. Understanding migration implications would help to develop appropriate decision making both on micro- and macro levels.

For the first time theoretical explanation of migration causes is closely connected with the name of English scientist Ravenstein (1889). At the beginning of XIX century he proposed the theory of "migration laws". In accordance with these laws, migrants leaving this territory with limited opportunities dwell in other continents with great opportunities. The distance plays the key role in choosing new places, because migrants want to dwell in closer distances. As Ravenstein proposed, city population as compared with rural population is less active. In addition, development of transport and communication means, enlarging of trade and growth of industry increase migration.

In his analysis, Ravenstein considered economical factor as the main factor of migration and he proved the fact that the migration movements would rush towards more developed territories and the territories with highly developed technology, communication, and transport. At the same time, economical ground of migration could be various.

In accordance with the "new theory of economic migration" (Stark, 1991; Bartletti, 2005) considering the social structure is regarded as the family strategy, and this is directed to wisely spending of profit sources, reducing the risks of house economy, creating better opportunities to mobilize financial resources. This theory is important concept for explaining the reasons of the fact that majority of migrants in Southern and Western Asian countries make up women. In these countries the women share comprises 60-80% in the number of all labor migrants.

Widely spread explanation that the migration of population consist of totality of attracting and resettling factors which have demographic, social and political nature rises serious disputes. The theory of French scientist Lee (1966) laid the ground for this approach. According to him, the process based on the activity of attracting and receiving factors which have economic, demographic and social nature is the migration process and migration decisions are influenced of various motives and encouragements.

According to neoclassic economists as Sjaastad (1962), Todaro (1970) the expected profit from differences between wages is considered as the main factor for every person to move among countries. Various social, political factors as state of social environment, transport and service infrastructure are considered in the process of anticipating movement expenses. High wages in countries with lack of labour supply and high labour demand will pull migrants from countries with a surplus of labor supply. Trade of the goods and labor migration are the cases which supplement each other, i.e. labor force with certain experience strive towards countries where export oriented production is well developed. Theoretically, until the limits of production and the wages paid for this production are not get balanced, the process migration will continue to exist.

Indisputably, labor migration brings economic profit for the country and its members. It provides the country with currency flow, also helps for softening critical situation in the labor market, strengthening entrepreneurship ability, broadening the number of experts who is inclined to mobilization. The majority of migrants who return their homeland with the foreign funds spend them for opening their business, conducting entrepreneurship activities on a case-by-case basis or founding private enterprise. Studies show that one returning labour migrant could create in average 30 new work places.

Over the last decade the migration has become as important issue to be considered in connection with development policy. Academia and policy-makers today share common perception that migration from the developing to the developed world can play an important role in the development of the poorer countries of origin. Researchers, however, recognize the fact that focusing on international migration as a tool of development policy may not be the most effective approach, simply because most people in poor countries are not linked to international networks (Skeldon, p.6).
Understanding all sides of migration-development related theoretical issues are of great importance for stable performance of domestic labour market in Uzbekistan. The population of the country continues to grow and existing labour market could not satisfy fully capacity of available domestic labour supply. In 1970 yearly growth rate of population totaled 3%, in 1980 2.6%, at the beginning of 1990 2.2%, from the 2000 it is in range of 1.2-1.8%. The number of population in Uzbekistan may total 28-28.5 mln. people in 2010, 30 mln. people in 2015. In this case Uzbekistan remains as the country which consists of young population. Active demographic development in the country has brought to the increase of Uzbekistan population by 27 mln., 60% of them is the population at the age up to 30 (Maksakova, 2003).

Government implements complex strategies to provide sufficient work places to increasing labour force. These policies include: assisting to the rapid development of family business, little and private entrepreneurship; using microcredit system for independent entrepreneurs, particularly in the rural areas; developing service sector in the regions; etc. However, labour migration remains important pull factor for families’ welfare strategies. Remittances provides important social and economic impacts on domestic labour and economic activity of population.

In these conditions the state should develop effective infrastructure providing information and coordination services for people. It is necessary to found the state institution responsible for complex management of migration processes and having respective in type of migration service, which will have conforming rights and power. In this regard it seems relevant and well-timed to found the independent labor migration department under the auspices of the Ministry of social protection of labor and population. Such department could give opportunity to strengthen management system of labor resources employment outside the bounds of permanent dwellings. To control channels and scales in the impact process of migration to development the monitoring and valuation system is highly required. The country of origin should be involved more in close monitoring of the living conditions, working conditions, incentives and other forms of job guarantees. Following this way could enhance macroeconomic benefits of labour migration and minimize negative impacts on the economy.

All mentioned leads to conclusion that there grows a need to develop long-term vision for the role of labour migration in the country within the framework of the overall national development strategy. Such strategy might assume defining specific sectors and industries having potential source of labour migrants, setting infrastructure to train and improve workers’ skills to manage jobs in other countries, quality standards and the number of migrants; procedures for sending and settling these migrant workers in places; protecting the workers’ rights and obligations while abroad.

Migration appears as important domain in development of country and policy-makers should develop some coherent policy framework responding the scope of challenges which directly or indirectly related with migratory flows. In this framework the better and structured international and bilateral cooperation agreements ensuing legally and socially protected labor migration should be provided.

References


Klugman, J., Pereira, I. 2009. “Assessment of national migration policies: An emerging picture on admissions, treatment and enforcement in developing and developed countries”, Downloaded from http://mpra.ub.uni-muenchen.de/19231/1/MPRA_paper_19231.pdf


