

CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

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Abstract: In the new context of integration and globalization processes, as well as in recent developments in international relations, migration has become a major topic, especially due to the economic, social and cultural impact it has not only on countries of origin, but also on those of destination. The phenomenon of mobility is particularly important for all countries of the world because it influences both the country of origin and the country of destination. The motivations of an individual to leave his/her country of origin are varied: economic, political, social, cultural or ethnic. But there are also a number of pull factors that can influence migrants in making the decision to leave their country of origin, these influencing factors can be: security and safety, the right to benefit from laws and freedom, improving their lifequality, personal development. The factor that weighs the most in making the decision to migrate is the economic one. A determining factor of this process is represented by the wage differences between two geographical regions, namely the country of origin and the country of destination of the migrant. The migrant will analyze all the opportunities and will choose the one that will maximize its utility and will satisfy his/her needs. The drive to increase their income is the main reason why migrants choose to leave their country of origin permanently or temporarily.

JEL classification: F22, O15

Keywords: migration, influencing factors, life quality, motivation, wage differences

1. INTRODUCTION

In this novel context of the developments in globalization and incorporation of the states of the world, as well as recent developments in international relations between them, migration has become a chief subject, mainly due to its economic, cultural and social impact that it exerts on countries of destination but also on those of origin. Migration has become a key word for decision makers in any state, the consequences caused by this phenomenon being multiple: demographic, economic, psychological and social.

2. OBJECTIVES

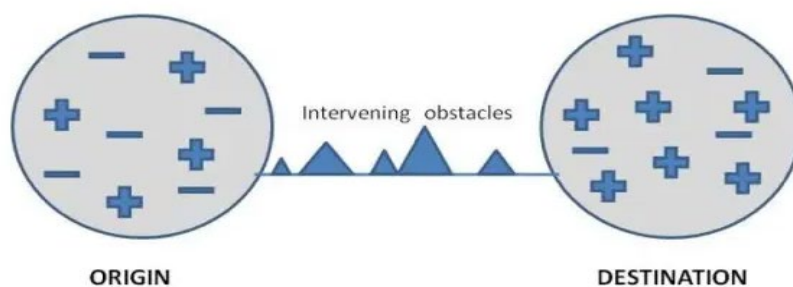
The objectives of the article are to identify the main causes that source people to migrate from one country to another, as well as the effects that these migrations have on the countries of the world. A particularly complex, multidimensional and dynamic phenomenon, migration is an essential percentage in human progress and in a particular

way, international migration constitutes "a reality that will continue to exist as long as there are discrepancies in terms of well-being and development between the different regions of the world, as long as there are economic, political or social problems." (Grosu, R.M., et. al, 2017: 433) Because it allows individuals to attain their aspirations and it is an important factor of economic and human change, this phenomenon can represent a remarkable opportunity for development. These traits arouse interest in this theme of numerous authors such as: Das A. (2012), Hass H. (2011) and Hatton T.J. (1995) who mention in their work the determining factors in approaching the decision to migrate to another country that offers more economic advantages compared to the country of origin, given the behavior of the migrant and the effects it has on the macroeconomic level. The economic models of migration developed by Todaro, M.P. and Harris, J.R. (1970) are considered reference works in the study of migration and open the gates of a new universe of knowledge.

3. METHODOLOGY

One of the leading representatives of the literature, Everett Lee, highlighted the features of the push-pull model from an individualistic perspective. Lee discovered four factors that determine migration (Everett, S.L., et al., 1966: 50):

- Characteristic factors of the country of origin;
- Characteristic factors of the country of destination;
- Existential barriers;
- Individual factors.



Source: <https://rashidfaridi.com/2018/04/05/migration-theories-lee-push-pull-theory/>

Figure no.1 Lee's Push-Pull Theory

Lee Eventt's approach is integrative and includes traditional microeconomic and macroeconomic features. For instance, the following can be recognized-employment, salaries, and other macroeconomic features such as the social security system, the education system, the climate.

Lee identified that objective conditions themselves do not lead to migrant behavior. What leads to this behavior is the effect of what the migrant thinks about them. The decision to migrate or stay in their country is the result of a comparison made

by the potential migrant between the various characteristic factors of the country of destination and the country of origin (Everett.S.L.,et.al, 1966:50).

The factors leading to the decision can be divided into two groups(Everett.S.L.,et.al, 1966:50-52):

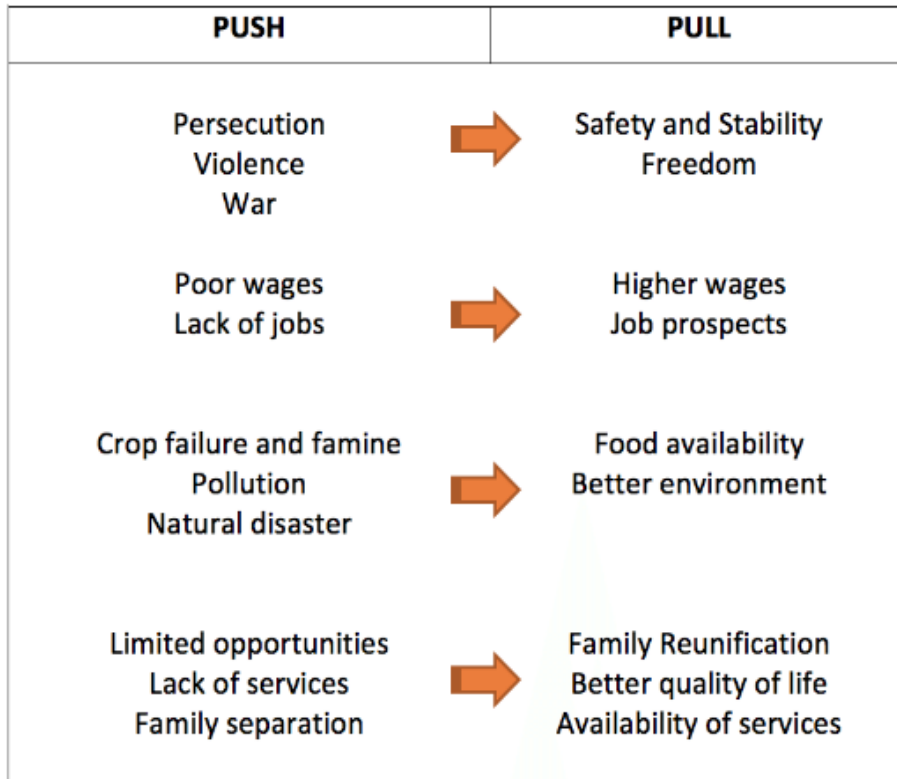
Push factors

Pull factors

Attraction or pull factors are political and institutional models that are implemented in the host country, the factors that generate immigration benefits and costs. The claim shows several features of this mechanism: developed economies have a major shortage of low-skilled labour in the trade and services sector as a form of adjustment of international competition; the need for seasonal workers in agriculture. If the differences in labour productivity between the two groups of domestic workers and immigrants are large, there is a tendency to set the wage according to the level of average productivity of the group. Conceptually and theoretically migration is expected to increase with the level of training of immigrants, but the ratio between earnings and competition is the most important factor of self-selection(Avram, C., et al, 2007). The selection mechanism is triggered in the area of low-skilled workers.

Push or push factors act on the supply branch and have as determinants of migration the following: higher standard of living in the country of destination, wage differences, crises caused by natural disasters, terrorism, financial, political crises or social conflicts. The selection of destination countries can be made on the basis of economic factors but a very big influence is rendered also by non-economic factors such as: culture, history, tradition, language, relief.

There have been individualized a lot of features that bring about the push effect and make potential migrants leave their countries for the more attractive host countries. Among the most treasured are *the differences in income* or in the *supply of goods* and the promise of the *accumulation of human capital* (Verdugo,2016; Triandafyllidou, 2018); *environmental shocks, including epidemics and natural disasters* (Beine and Parsons, 2015); *migration costs*, such as geographical and linguistic distances (Adsera and Pytlikova, 2015); *population and immigration control policies*(Czaika and Parsons, 2017; Helbling and Leblang, 2019); and the presence of migration networks and other uncertainty-reducing infrastructures (Clark et al., 2007; Beine et al., 2019).



Source: <https://justiceforimmigrants.org/what-we-are-working-on/immigration/root-causes-of-migration/>

Figure no.2 Main causes of migration

In an extreme global mobile economy, the causes that origin this event are extremely important. This is because they cause effects both in migrants' country and in the country of destination. As a consequence, a domino effect is created. (Bădîrcea, R. et al, 2016:320). Push and pull factors are recognized in this background of international and contemporary migration. Push factors embody the motives why people decide to exit their country. On the other hand, pull features are the motives why they choose to migrate to a certain country. These factors are: economic, environmental, social and political.

Safety Factors - These factors can cause danger to individuals, causing them to follow the migration phenomenon. Persecutions and discrimination based on nationality, religion, race, political beliefs or membership in a particular social group will cause people to leave their country in search of a safer place to live in and have their rights acknowledged (Pîrvu, G., et. al, 2011: 260).

Economic factors – They represent aspects that are analysed from an economic point of view that contribute significantly to the decision to migrate from their native country. These issues relate to: low wages, poverty, lack of jobs, high taxes (Włodarczyk, B. et al, 2018: 575). Attractive elements of labour migration in another

country are aimed at the potential to improve living standards - the prospect of higher wages, technology, economic growth.

Environmental factors - represent an increasingly common cause among migrants leaving their country of origin for various reasons such as:

Air, water and soil pollution in countryside and inner-city parts can cause a high risk to human health, leading them to look for a better place to live for themselves and their families.

Natural disasters: earthquakes, landslides, hurricanes.

Climate is a determining environmental factor of migration because, through the changes it causes to environmental conditions, human health and the economy, it determines the progress or regression of an area, as it can generate many jobs and a climate conducive to a prosperous life or, on the contrary, many jobs can disappear and the area can be an unfavorable climate to live in.

Social factors – Factors pushing towards migration, "push factors", from a social point of view, include: lack of services, separation of family, limited opportunities, etc.; and the attractive "pull" factors are the network of friends, family reunification, a better life, freedom of expression (Pirvu, R. 2011:7).

4. ANALYSES

Table no.1 Key facts and figures from the World Migration Reports, 2000 and 2020

	2000 report	2020 report
Estimated number of international migrants	150 million	272 million
Estimated proportion of world population who are migrants	2.8%	3.5%
Estimated proportion of female international migrants	47.5%	47.9%
Estimated proportion of international migrants who are children	16.0%	13.9%
Region with the highest proportion of international migrants	Oceania	Oceania
Country with the highest proportion of international migrants	United Arab Emirates	United Arab Emirates
Number of migrant workers	-	164 million
Global international remittances (USD)	126 billion	689 billion
Number of refugees	14 million	25.9 million
Number of internally displaced persons	21 million	41.3 million
Number of stateless persons	-	3.9 million
Number of IOM Member States*	76	173
Number of IOM field offices*	120	436*

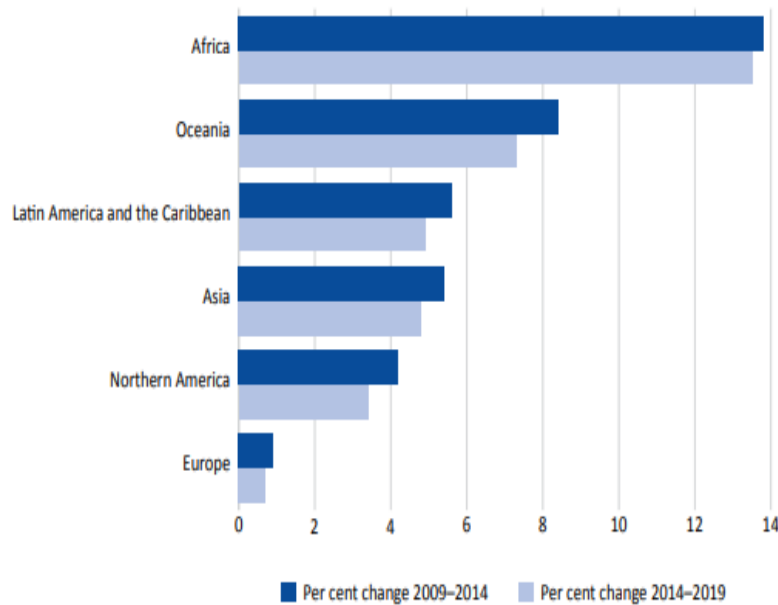
Source: https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/wmr_2020.pdf

Table 1. provides an overview of the statistical data recorded in the World Migration Report 2000 compared to the data recorded in the World Migration Report 2020. The statistical data in Table 1 show that some data have remained fairly constant: the amount of women who have migrated, in addition to the over-all amount of

people who migrated, but there are also statistics that have changed dramatically. For example, international remittances have increased from 126 billion in 2000 to 689 billion in 2020, highlighting the position of worldwide migration as a trigger for progress for all economies.

The rank of worldwide migration and its size can also be seen through data on the estimated number of people who have migrated globally, this number increased by about 85%. Also the amount of refugees augmented by about 80%, and the number of internally displaced persons reached 97%.

These statistics show the evolution of migration over the last 20 years drawing a parallel between the data recorded in 2000 and 2020. The evolution of the phenomenon is most clearly identified by the most important statistics- the amount of individuals who have migrated and the money they sent, the influence that migrants exercise in the country of destination constitutes an engine of development for that country. On the other hand, the money they sent to their countries also create for the country of origin an element of prosperity.



Source: https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/wmr_2020.pdf

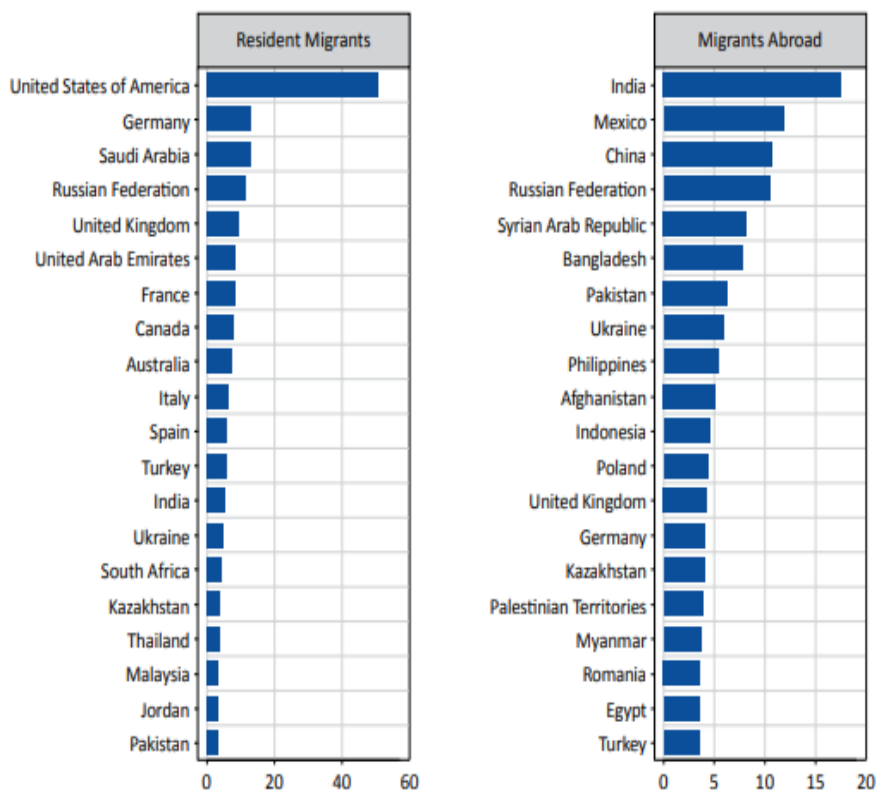
Figure no.3 Proportional population change by region, 2009 - 2019

In some areas, the increase in international migration has had a decisive impact on population structure. Figure 3 illustrates the change in the population of each of the six continents of the world between 2009 and 2019.

The European continent has traditionally been one of the main destination areas for international migrants and recorded the slowest rate of population that moved in the period 2009-2019, with a percentage of about 1%. However, the population rate would be much lower without international migration, which has been blamed on by the forceful decline in Europe's aging population. Compared to Africa which has undergone

the most significant population change which has increased by about 30% in the period 2009-2019. This was caused, namely, by the high fertility rate in that area of the globe and increasing life expectancy. The effect seen was that the high rate of emigration from Africa and Asia to Europe put a stop in the increase in population .

The African inhabitants are the most mobile because of push factors such as poverty, corruption, joblessness and the poor social protection system. African countries face a very low standard of living and many other problems that push citizens to seek a better life in another country.



Source: https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/wmr_2020.pdf

Figure no.4 Top20 destinations (left) and origins (right) of international migrants in 2019

The World Organization for Migration offered statistical information. The top states of destination and origin are shown in the above table. Analyzing Figure 4 we see that United States of America has been the main destination country for international migrants since 1970, and since then the number of people born abroad but living in the country has increased 4 times from less than 12 billion in 1970 to about 51 million in 2019. The second top destination for migrants was Germany, which also saw a significant increase over time, from 8.9 million in 2000 to 13.1 million in 2019.

On the right side of Figure 4 is shown the list of the largest countries of origin of international migrants. More than 40 percent of international migrants worldwide in 2019, that is 112 million, were born in the Asian continent, with India being the main

country of origin for migrants, followed by China, as well as southern Asian countries such as Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan. Mexico was the second country of origin for international migration and Russia the fourth. Many other European countries have considerable numbers of citizens engaged in the flow of migration, such as Ukraine, Poland, the United Kingdom and Germany.

5. CONCLUSIONS

Although migration is not a new phenomenon, *sociological interest* in migration is quite new and linked to recent increases in domestic and international migration, especially those that have taken place in recent decades. Borrowing and incorporating micro and macro theories, the researchers tried to answer the question of why some people move, while others do not, even when they experience the same conditions? Another question concerns the reason why human movement continues and how it could be stopped. Although push-pull and neoclassical theories explain certain characteristics of these flows (mainly those of migrants for work), there is no comprehensive approach to answering these questions, and *the gender factor* was not involved in classical theories. Thus, existing theories have been criticized for circling international labour markets, ignoring other types of migration and migrants, but also for the fact that they are genderless in the migration process and for their male-dominated perspectives.

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