

LABOR MIGRATION IN UZBEKISTAN: CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES

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ANNOTATION

At a time when the process of globalization is gaining momentum, migration processes, especially external migration flows, are intensifying. This article analyzes the issues of migration, labor migration, which has always played an important role. Especially in the modern globalized world, the reasons for the transformation of many of our compatriots into foreign labor migrants, as well as the social situation of labor migrants from Uzbekistan, and their problems are considered in detail.

Keywords: migration, internal and external migration, labor migration, illegal labor migration, economically active citizen, Uzbek labor migrants, social status of labor migrants, remittances, Uzbek Agency for Labor Migration, Uzbek Diaspora.

INTRODUCTION

In most countries of the world, the population is growing (with the exception of Western Europe) and, accordingly, the share of job seekers who are forced to earn money after some kind of work is also increasing. It is no secret, therefore, that unemployment, the creation of new jobs, has become the most pressing social problem in many places. Especially in countries where the majority of the population is young and there are not many large industrial enterprises, the solution to the problem is much more complicated. In addition, the growing environmental crisis, in particular, global warming, declining rainfall from year to year, and the regularity of droughts are depriving many people of their livelihoods. Norman Mayer, a professor at Oxford University, predicts that by 2050, "150 million people will be forced to flee their homes as a result of rising sea levels and changes in agriculture."¹

If we add to this the armed conflicts taking place in different regions of the world, the scale of the problem will increase. Unfortunately, in the 21st century, cruelty, violence and bloodshed have not stopped. In recent years, the turbulent situation in Iraq, Syria, and Afghanistan has deprived millions of people of property, jobs, and income, and many of them have been forced to wander abroad. The current Russian-Ukrainian conflict has had a negative impact not only on the balance of the region, but also on the whole world. Many sanctions imposed on Russia by developed Western countries and international organizations against Russia, which employs many migrant workers, will have an impact on the country's financial and economic sphere. This, in turn, indicates the worrying consequences for migrant workers, such as job losses, money shortages, and rising prices.

The sharp increase in the pace of urbanization also has a significant impact on the growth of the number of labor migrants. Most of the people who leave their villages and come to the cities cannot find work. While some of them found it difficult to adjust to city life, some lacked the skills to work in urban areas.

At the same time, the intensification of the globalization process is leading to an increase in the flow of external labor migration. Today, it is difficult to find any country that is not to some extent involved in labor migration. The problem of unemployment in developing and poor countries is as relevant as the need for labor in developed countries.

As a result, many countries have large "armies" of migrants. They are scattered all over the world in search of work. And depending on the countries that pay better for their work, they will go on a rampage. Even if the child has not seen his parents for years, even if the foreign lands await them with hard work. Nachora, you have to make a living. So today there is a huge influx of labor migrants around the world and millions of people are forced to work in other countries. It is estimated that an average of 232 million migrants live in different countries around the world.¹

Unfortunately, this problem is not unfamiliar to us either. At present, the population of Uzbekistan is growing by 640,000-650,000 people a year, and the number of able-bodied people is growing by 360,000-370,000. This means that almost as many new jobs need to be created each year. Such a rapid growth in labor resources is currently weighing heavily on our economy. Naturally, accomplishing such a large-scale task is not an easy task for any country. It is also not a task that can be easily resolved by a single decree or order or by someone's will. If it were, it would not have become such a painful issue today. It requires a comprehensive approach, the development and implementation of consistent programs based on precise calculations, large sums of money and many other tasks. That is why inhumanity is on the agenda. Employment of the population, especially youth employment, which is a key factor of social stability, is still vital in our country.

First of all, due to the lack of jobs, millions of our compatriots, mainly young people, are working in near and far abroad. "According to the data, more than 2.5 million Uzbek labor migrants work abroad. The volume of remittances sent to their families varies from 5% to 23% of the total income of the population, depending on the regions of the country.¹

According to statistics, 80-85% of Uzbeks working abroad work in Russia. Although most of our compatriots work in Russia, the situation has changed a bit in the last 5 years. As the geography of migration expands, the flow of workers to the United States, Turkey, Israel, South Korea, the UAE, and Kazakhstan is growing. According to the US State Department, between 1990 and 2016, 6,000 to 7,000 Uzbeks obtained an immigrant visa (green card) each year. According to this indicator, we are in 3rd place after the citizens of Russia and Ukraine.

Naturally, along with the increase in the economically active population of Uzbekistan, the number of people leaving the country in search of work is also growing¹. Interestingly, the correlation between these numbers has remained virtually unchanged at around 10 to 11 percent for several years. In other words, every tenth economically active citizen of Uzbekistan goes abroad every year to find work.

It is obvious that many of our energetic young people are becoming labor migrants. So what situations are they facing abroad? What are the main occupations of our labor migrants? What are the main problems they face? How does the new environment affect the spiritual and moral image of young people, who are especially vulnerable to various influences and out of the control of their loved ones? also raises a number of important questions, which can be used to gain a

clearer picture of the social status of migrant workers in the search for answers to these questions.

At first glance, there may be no need to worry, and even everything may seem ideal. After all, most of our labor migrants earn a lot of money, earn a living, solve their economic problems, and no one can deny it. Most of them are relatively low-skilled - they are happy to earn money while working in construction, repair, loading, landscaping, restaurant waiters, market vendors.

It should also be acknowledged that the problems faced by our migrant workers today are many, and some of them are caused by them. According to many officials and experts, the problems facing our compatriots today are:

- The majority of migrant workers still travel, believing in risk or acquaintances. Organized and targeted recruitment by the state and various agencies is now being organized.
- Most of our compatriots, especially young people, who go abroad to earn money, are not masters of any profession;
- Most labor migrants do not know the language of the country where they are going to work;
- As a result of not knowing the profession and language, they have no choice but to agree to low-paid, "dirty work";
- Many are unaware of the labor laws of the country where they work and do not know and cannot claim their rights;
- The mechanism of protection of the rights and interests of persons working abroad is being formed and is still not in demand.
- Organized sending of labor migrants abroad has been under state control only in recent years.
- It is also often said that the shortcomings of our national mentality, such as a deep ignorance of the law and attempts to circumvent them, in some cases justify them abroad.

Many of these problems are due to the fact that migrant workers have been working abroad for many years, lacking legal guidance and even recognition of their benefits to the country's economy, treating them only as "illegal labor migrants" and reacting accordingly.

However, it is gratifying to note that in recent years, attitudes towards citizens working abroad have changed radically. First of all, it was acknowledged that they work honestly and hard to earn a living, and thus a large amount of foreign currency enters the market of our country. Their problems were felt and taken seriously within the government to help solve them. The first steps in this direction were the establishment of the Fund for Support and Protection of the Rights and Interests of Persons Working Abroad, and the establishment of the Agency for External Labor Migration.

In particular, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev's Resolution No. PP-4829 of September 15, 2020 "On measures to introduce a system of safe, orderly and legal labor migration" provides social, legal, material and cultural support to our compatriots working abroad, systematic solution of pending problems. specific tasks are defined in terms of functions.

We have reason to believe that the new system has begun to bear fruit. "In 10 months of 2021, 314.1 thousand labor migrants working abroad were provided with legal, material and social assistance, and their salaries in the amount of 892.1 thousand US dollars were collected from

employers. The bodies of 302 people in critical condition, as well as 408 civilians who died of various causes, were brought back to the homeland.

In order to expand the geography of external labor migration, 382 cooperation agreements were signed with employers from 25 countries, including Germany, Japan, Slovakia, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Bulgaria, Latvia and Lithuania.

In 2017, 922 people were sent to work in Russia in an organized and targeted manner, and in 10 months of 2021, 84,598 people were employed. But most importantly, the beginning of the movement, the continuation of the research.

The above-mentioned resolution sets out the main directions for the introduction of a safe, orderly and legal system of labor migration, including the development of international cooperation in the field of external labor migration; vocational training and foreign language training for those wishing to work abroad; with financial and social support for labor migrants; a number of important aspects, such as insuring their lives and health, have been reflected. The consistent implementation of these tasks will undoubtedly help our compatriots to get rid of many problems. Then our compatriots will not feel helpless even when they are in a difficult situation, they will be proud of the fact that they have a powerful defender behind them, a Motherland and a government that will always support them.

In short, labor migration is a necessary phenomenon from which no country can turn away or stop this process. However, it can organize it systematically, creating a mechanism of legal protection for its citizens. For a long time, our labor migrants, deprived of this protection and support, did not face any problems. Now the situation is changing, for sure. After all, where labor migration is properly organized, it is clear that employment, family income, and skilled workers will increase.

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