

Return migration and its impact on rural settlements (Case study: Barough district in Miandoab County)

Reza Manafi Azar*

PhD. student of Geography & Rural Planning, Kharzmi university, Tehran, Iran

Abdollah Abdollahi

Assistant Professor, of Geography & Rural Planning, Payam noor University of Miyandoab, Iran

Teimour Alizadeh

MA student of Geography & Rural Planning, Tabriz University, Iran

Mohammad valaei

Ph.D student of Geography & Rural Planning, Tabriz University, Tabriz, Iran

Ali Gasemi Ardehayi

Demography assistant professor, Payam noor University of Ahar, Iran

Received: 2015/09/11

Accepted: 2017/05/20

Extended Abstract

Introduction

Return migration is a process of migration from village to city and relatively long inhabitancy there and then returns to birthplace. Rural attraction factors (land and housing cheapness, inherited land, clean air, lack of urban problems) and repulsion factors (expensive land and housing, psychological pressure, racism, air pollution) and the development of transportation network result in mobility in the form of return migration (Afrakhteh et.al 2017: 86). Return migration has been less studied in scientific society in Iran. While this phenomenon is a reaction to economic cycle and has spatial, social-economic effects on origin and destination and returned immigrants can often facilitate the process of rural development with financial assets, technical skills, and new knowledge.

The lack of welfare facilities, educational and services in villages (especially before the 2000s) and annual incomes' fluctuation of dry land farming, and city attraction such as job and employment opportunities and expected income, welfare and infrastructure service of cities cause urban-village migrations in Barough District of Miandoab County and lead to inappropriate usage of space, movement of labor and capital. However in recent decade, following the development of agricultural production and creating attraction in rural areas (such as the increase of agriculture tools and mechanization, delivery of infrastructure and welfare service ...) with the phenomenon of emigrants' return the ground has been built for spatial-economic development. The study of aforementioned action factors of spatial-space has been one of notable issues and will help considerably in understanding the migration types and population movements at this area. So, the present research is seeking to answer the following questions:

- What aspects and factors play a role in the emigrants' return to their village's origin?
- What effects and consequences do the returned emigrants have on their village's origin?

* Corresponding Author:

Email: rezamanafiazar@yahoo.com

Methodology

Regarding the aim, the present research is applied, and its method is analytical- descriptive. The foundation of studies is based on field survey and data collection tools are questionnaire and interview. The spatial domain is Barough District of Miandoab County that had 23014 people and 6321 family according to the census of 2012. (Iran Census center, 2014). The population of this research is the number of returned emigrants' families to this district during the recent decade (2005-2014) that it has studied the research variables with the census of 96 returned families to rural areas. The questionnaire validity is formal and its stability has achieved 0.83 with using of Alpha Cronbach. The data analysis has conducted by qualitative method (includes descriptive statistics and inferential statistics (the factor analysis with analyzing of components, sample t-test, kendall, path analysis)).

Discussion and Results

The results of factor analysis indicated that effective factors and aspects on return migration include 5 groups :(economic, social- infrastructure, agriculture development, health, skeletal and culture- ethnic). The most important factor of return migration is economic factor. As if the repulsive factors such as losing job opportunities at city, the problem of housing supply or renting at city and imbalance of income and cost at city and attractive factors like the increase of agriculture incomes and facility of agriculture tasks with mechanization of that aspect has provided the condition of migrations' return to village. The second effective factor on emigrants' return is called infrastructure- social factor that includes the construction of welfare and infrastructure services (water, electricity, and road), the increase of life quality in village, cultural humiliation at city and security at village. The third factor is the agriculture development and the increase of agriculture income and the process of mechanization. The fourth factor should be placed under the group of health that its indices are the increase of health services in villages, medical and retirement advices. Among the five factors, the fifth factor (cultural –ethical factor) has had the least effect on emigrants' return.

The most effect of return migration was on constructive-skeletal index (financial and manual partnership in implementation of guidance plan, improvement or renovation of housing, widening of passage) and in economic index, they have conducted actions as the changing of dry lands to wet ones, agriculture mechanization, the changing of traditional husbandry to industrial one, creation of changing industries, initiation of under pressure irrigation.

Conclusion

The phenomenon of emigrants' return is human action in geographical space. And it becomes possible with making attraction in rural areas especially with economic indices like agriculture income and facilitating of its processes, and the reduction of infrastructure shortage and the increase of life quality. On the other hand, urban repulsive, like high cost of renting or securing of housing, and the lack of emigrants' skill, and false employment or unemployment in city, urban humiliation, ... have undeniable effect on emigrants' return. Therefore, the findings of this research are along the attraction and repulsion theory of Everett S. Lee. Returned emigrants also have had various effects and consequences on rural settlements. Some of these effects are economic and related to returning of human and financial capitals to villages, and some of them are reflected in villages' skeleton and housing renovation and sometimes the appearance of architecture is different from traditional architecture of villages. So, return migration causes to spatial reconstitution and spatial redistribution of population.

Key words; Return migration; Urban- Rural migration; Rural development; Barough District