



**Migration in Uzbekistan: Threat or Opportunity? Analyzing social
and economic impacts of migration in changing society**

Baydarova Sabina Baxtiyarovna

Tashkent State University of Economics

TDIU-UrDIU International Joint

Education Program 2nd -year student

Phone: +998 99 901 89 77

Email: sbaydarova@gmail.com

Abdullayeva Iroda Makhmudjanovna

Scientific Supervisor, Tashkent State University

of Economics PhD in Economics, Professor of

the Department of Finance and Digital Economy

Phone: +998 98 303 20 36

Email: i.abdullayeva74@gmail.com

Abstract: This paper explores the complex role of migration in Uzbekistan's current social and economic context. It discusses how migration can bring positive outcomes—such as remittances, professional growth abroad, and the return of skilled workers—while also raising concerns like brain drain, labor market pressure, and infrastructure strain. Based on recent data and policy directions, the paper suggests that with a more balanced and targeted migration policy, Uzbekistan can reduce associated risks and use migration as a tool for sustainable development.

Keywords: Migration, Emigration, Brain Drain, Labor Migration, Remittances, Uzbekistan, Migration Policy



Аннотация: В работе рассматривается роль миграции в современном развитии Узбекистана. Автор анализирует, какие положительные эффекты может принести миграция — от денежных переводов до возврата специалистов с новым опытом — и какие угрозы могут возникнуть: утечка умов, давление на социальную сферу, нестабильность на рынке труда. На основе свежих данных делается вывод о том, что грамотная миграционная политика способна не только снизить риски, но и превратить миграцию в ресурс устойчивого развития страны.

Ключевые слова: Миграция, Эмиграция, Утечка мозгов, Трудовая миграция, Денежные переводы, Узбекистан, Миграционная политика

Annotatsiya: Ushbu maqolada O'zbekistonda migratsiya jarayonlarining ijtimoiy va iqtisodiy ahamiyati o'rganiladi. Muallif migratsiyaning ijobiy tomonlarini — xorijdagi tajriba, pul o'tkazmalari, malakali fuqarolarning qaytishi — va ayni paytda yuzaga keladigan muammolarni, jumladan, "miyalarning sizib chiqishi", infratuzilma yuklamasi va mehnat bozori bosimini tahlil qiladi. So'nggi yillardagi statistik ma'lumotlar va davlat siyosatiga asoslanib, maqolada migratsiyani to'g'ri yo'naltirish orqali uni mamlakat rivojiga xizmat qiladigan omilga aylantirish mumkinligi ko'rsatiladi.

Kalit so'zlar: Migratsiya, Emigratsiya, Miyalarning sizib chiqishi, Tashqi mehnat migratsiyasi, Pul o'tkazmalari, O'zbekiston, Migratsiya siyosati

Migration has always been integral to human history as a primary driver of human persistence, adaptation and flourishing from our inception to the present day. This is evident in humankind journey, from the relocation of Homo sapiens from the African continent to parts of Europe and Asia, to contemporary migration flows originating from the Middle East, Africa and Asia. Taking into consideration that the International Business Management programme covers a wide range of disciplines as Marketing and Finance that teach students the importance of understanding the macroeconomic environment, strategic decision making and effective resource management in global business environment, the



theme of migration becomes one of the most crucial topics from year to year for IBM students.

According to the International Organization (IOM) migration defines as movement of a person or group of people, either across an international border (international migration), or within a state (internal migration), encompassing any kind of movement of people, whatever its length, composition and causes. [EU,2024]. Along with other Central Asian countries, migration is also a critical issue for Uzbekistan, as a significant number of its active population is engaged in labor migration abroad. The country is also experiencing a high level of internal migration from rural to urban areas for employment and educational reasons. [IOM,2024]. Immigration has a significant impact on the economy compared to emigration. From 2000 to 2020, 1.107.854 citizens left Uzbekistan for permanent residence in foreign countries. The number of foreigners who moved to the country over 20 years is 11 times less – 99.341 people. [Gazeta.uz,2021].

Migration can be considered as opportunity for my country, being an instrument for declining the figures of unemployment, the level of poverty and improving the quality of life. Government is not able to provide workplace for every citizen, due to a high birth rate, a presence of various issues and weaknesses and current state of economy connected with transition from planned to a market economy. Also according to the preliminary data of UzStat, the total number of populations in the country reached almost 36,8 million as of 1 January 2024 [IOM,2024], making this task more difficult and almost impossible, given present reality. Moreover the total money transfers to Uzbekistan from abroad was equal to 11,4 billion USD and made up almost 12.5 per cent of the estimated GDP (90.8 billion USD) of the country in 2023 (IOM, 2024). In addition, migration broadens horizons, international networks, expand investment and develop human capital in a result citizens return with new contacts, skills and knowledge gained abroad that might be advantageous for economy and country, in general.

In contrast, emigration implies the alleged threats to the economy of Uzbekistan as “brain drain”, meaning a process of emigration of intellectual part of population as



scientists and qualified specialists of various realms. For instance, the total registered migration outflow in 2023 was equal to 233,200 individuals, which was made up of 135,400 females (58.1%) and 97,800 males (41.9%) for the whole year [UzStat, 2024]. This was 5.1 per cent increase compared to the total migration outflow in 2022 (221,498 individuals) [UzStat, 2023]. Also the economy of Uzbekistan may become more vulnerable to external changes such as recessions in countries where migrants work, if remittance continue to constitute a significant portion of GDP and demographic problems as ageing population, shrinking labor force the future .While immigration lead to pressure on infrastructure, social services and stick competition for jobs with inhabitants that have a negative effect on social and economic state of country.

Furthermore, considering changes in the country migration policy connected with the legalization of migration and reintegration programs along with statements by the headquarters of the External Migration Agency represented by Davlatnazar Matrasulov, Muhammadzokir Mamatkhanov and Odiljon Komiljonov about external labor migration is a financial donor that has a significant impact on the development of the economy. Also, since achieving independence, our country has always been export-oriented, and migration is the export of labor. Through legal migration it will increase the economic potential of Uzbekistan. The evidence of changes in migration policy is the fact that over the last two years they were able to achieve payment of wages and compensation to our citizens in the amount of 823 thousand dollars. We can assume that government understands the importance of improving weaknesses of migration policy to minimize possible threats in future.[UzREPORT TV,2020]

To summarize, Uzbekistan have a potential to use migration as an opportunity for the economy via advancing migration policy and shortcomings in the system, in spite of threatening factors indicated above.

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