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Why Turkey? Afghans heartwarming migrating destination

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Abstract. In the latest year, Turkey is the destination country for illegal Afghan migrants, as Directorate general of migration management of Turkey report shows that Afghanistan has a high number of the illegal migrants in Turkey in 2019. (7) This study concentrated to determine the factors associated with the area of destination (pulling factors), social demography of immigrants, income compare, satisfaction, and re-integration of Afghan illegal migrants in Turkey in the last five years. The data collected by a well-structured questionnaire and applied to 384 illegal Afghan immigrants in Turkey (Istanbul, & Ankara) during June, 2019. The finding shows that Security 4.67, rights (women rights 4.39, human rights 4.37) and desire of having more regular life are the main reasons that attracts migrants. Dis-satisfaction of being in Turkey and being dis-agree to re-integrate back to Afghanistan is the finding of this research.

Keywords. Migration, Illegal migrant, Immigrants, Lee theory, Turkey, Afghanistan

Literature

Turkey has a unique geographical location its bridge between Asia and Europe. (1) It's suited between Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Iran, Iraq, and Syria. (2) After the collapse of the Ottoman Empire, and establishing the new state (Republic of Turkey) by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, Turkey becomes the target destination to immigrants due to religion (Islam) and ethnics (Turk). (3) In different periods of time, Turkey was the destination of immigrants. Between 1922-1938, 384 thousand migrants immigrated from Greek to Turkey, between 1923-1945; 800 thousand migrants emigrated from Balkan countries to Turkey, in 1988, 51.542 people emigrated from Iraq to Turkey, in 1989, 345 thousand people emigrated from Bulgaria, after the first Gulf war in 1991, 467.489 people emigrated from Iraq to Turkey, about 20 thousand people emigrated from Bosnia between 1992-1998, in 1999, 17.746 people from Kosovo and in 2001, 10.500 people from Macedonia immigrated to Turkey. Between 2011-2019, around 3.6 million Syrian immigrated to Turkey due to internal conflicts. (4)

Turkey has the 12th position worldwide as a target destination country. (5) Syrians with 3.6 million refugees have a huge number of refugees in Turkey, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Iran respectively have the huge numbers of refugees in Turkey. (6) Although, Directorate general of migration management of Turkey report shows that in 2019, Afghanistan had 201.437 illegal migrants in Turkey. Pakistan, and Syria respectively have a large number of illegal migrants in Turkey. (7)

Afghans have practiced migration for a long time. The first registered immigration of Afghans' is in 1850 which natural disasters caused the migration of Afghan and between the

1960s-1970s low-income and unemployment caused the migration of Afghans (8) After the invasion of the Soviet Army (1979-1989) war and internal conflict caused afghan migration. After the Taliban regime in 1994, other wave migration started in Afghanistan which internal conflict was the reason for the migration. (9)

This study concentrated on finding factors which are related to the destination country, as Everett S. Lee defines factors of migration, which are four: 1. Factors associated with the area of origin. 2. Factors associated with the area of destination. 3. Intervening obstacles. 4. Personal factors. (10) This research studies the factors associated with the area of destination (pulling factors), Social demography of immigrants, income compare, satisfaction and re-integration of Afghan illegal migrants in Turkey in the last five years.

Materials and methods

The main material of this case study was information provided by administering questionnaires to 384 Afghan migrants in Istanbul and Ankara, Turkey. The minimum sample size was determined by using the formula developed by Cochran based on Likert type questions. This formula for a five-point Likert scale (1 = Least effective, 5 = Most effective) is expressed as follows (11):

$$N0 = t^2 s^2 / d^2$$

$$N0 = (1.65)^2 (1.25)^2 / (0.025 \times 5)^2$$

$$N0 = 3.8416 \times 1.5625 / 0.015625$$

$$N0 = 384.$$

Where “N0” is the minimum sample size, “t” (t = 1.65) corresponding to the accepted alpha level of 0.1, “s” is the standard deviation in the accessible population (there are four intervals in a five-point Likert scale and the standard deviation was calculated as 5/4 = 1.25), “d” shows the error limit accepted from the mean (11, 12). Using a 5-point Likert scale, 2.5% error limit, and 0.1 alpha level (t = 1.65), the minimum sample size was calculated as 384. Since a total of 384 respondents were selected and all questionnaires were usable for the researchers, data analyses.

A well-structured questionnaire was prepared to find out the socio-demographic characteristics of the immigrants, Factors associated with the area of destination (pulling factors), satisfaction, and re-integration. The questionnaire contains socio-demographic information of the respondents in the first section. The second section contains, Factors associated with the area of destination (pulling factors) in 5-points of a chart rating scale from 1= low affection to 5= high affection. The last section contains the satisfaction and re-integration of immigrants in Turkey in two options of answers as Yes and No (13). The questionnaires were applied by arranging informal meetings with the respondents between July and September 2019.

Descriptive statistics including frequencies, percentages, means, and standard deviations were used to analyze categorical and continuous data. An interpretive scale was developed by researchers to classify the effectiveness of each Likert item which forced respondents to immigrate illegally to Turkey. According to this scale, the Likert items which had a mean of 0-1 were classified as “low effective”, 2-3 “medium effective”, and 4-5 “highly effective”. Different researchers have used similar scales to interpret various Likert items in social and behavioral sciences (14).

Table 01. Interpretation scale of personal and individual work satisfaction items

Mean	Satisfaction level	Codes
0-1	Less Affection	LA
2-3	Mid-affection	MA

4-5

High Affection

HA

Results:

Social-economic

The social demographic characteristics of the immigrant are presented in beneath Table02. The following data shows that 84.1% of respondents are male and 15.9% are female. The large part of the interviewee was married (51.8%) and the others were single (48.2%).

41.1 % of the interviewees' were graduate from school which is the most part, 7.6% of the interviewees' were illiterate. 58.9% of the migrant's family size was between (6-12) person with an average of 7. 70% of interviewee's family workers' were between (0-2) people and other 30% of the interviewee's family worker was between (3-5) person and the average of family worker is 1.98.

The minimum income of interviewees before immigration was 0 dollars per month however 200 dollars per month was the maximum income. 39.1% of interviewee's income before immigration was between (500-800) dollars per month which contains a huge number of migrant incomes. The average income of interviewees is 311.81 dollars per month.

After the immigration income of the migrants has been changed. However, the minimum income of migrants after the migration was 0 dollars per month but the maximum income is 350 dollars per month. The huge number of migrants (55%) income was between (100-300) dollars per month with an average of 428.85 dollars per month.

Table02. Socio-demography of migrants

Variables	N	%	Variables	N	%
Gender of migrants'			Marital status of migrant's		
Female	61	15.9	Married	199	51.8
Male	323	84.1	single	185	48.2
Total	384	100.0	Divorced	0	0
Education level of migrants'			Widow	0	0
Illiterate	29	7.6	Total	384	100.0
Primary School	91	23.7	Family Size of migrant's		
Secondary School	76	19.8	2-5	131	34.1
High School	158	41.1	6-12	226	58.9
Bachelor Degree	30	7.8	13-22	27	7.0
TOTAL	384	100.0	Total	384	100.0
Family worker of migrant's			Family income before migration (US/month)		
0-2	271	70.6	0-190	33	8.6
3-5	113	29.4	200-280	78	20.3
Total	384	100.0	300-490	115	29.9
Family income after migration(US/month)			500-800	150	39.1
0-80	44	11.5	1000-2000	8	2.1
100-300	213	55.5	Total	384	100.0
320-500	87	22.7			
600-1000	33	8.6			
1050-3500	7	1.8			
Total	384	100.0			

Why Turkey

This part of the research contains twenty-two factors that influenced Afghans to choose turkey as a target. Findings show that security is the most effective factor with (4.67) which influenced Afghans to consider turkey as a target to migrate. Women's rights, human rights, the desire of having more regular life, economic opportunities, being more job opportunities, and affected by the positive status of families preciously moved to Turkey are considered as a highly effective influencing factor on Afghans' repeatedly.

Freedom of speech, better housing, better health service, better healthcare, better education, the desire to find a non-agriculture job, access to food, access to shops, food safety, access to the internet, access to media and clean water are considered as mid-effective influencing factors on Afghans' migration to Turkey.

Table03. Influencing factors' on Afghans' migration to Turkey.

Σ ε	Influencing factors (N=384)	Mean	Std.Deviation	Satisfaction Category
1	security	4.67	0.5398	HA
3	women rights	4.39	0.9850	HA
4	human rights	4.37	0.9508	HA
5	desire of having more regular life	4.08	0.7428	HA
6	Better income	3.79	0.9819	HA
7	being more job opportunities	3.83	1.2879	HA
8	affected by the positive status of families previously moved to Turkey	3.74	1.3211	HA
9	freedom of speech	3.67	1.0290	MA
10	better housing	3.56	0.7050	MA
11	better health service	3.50	1.0863	MA
12	better healthcare	3.42	1.0191	MA
13	better education	3.34	0.8062	MA
14	the desire to find a non-agriculture job	3.34	1.0874	MA
15	access to food	3.13	1.1558	MA
16	access to shops	2.92	0.9460	MA
17	food safety	3.01	1.0496	MA
18	access to internet	2.78385417	1.1160	MA
19	access to media	2.75	1.1077	MA
20	clean water	2.317708333	1.2105	MA

Comparing incomes

Income is one of the highly effective factors which influenced Afghan migration to Turkey (Table 03). The findings of this research show that the income of Afghans' before migration was more 39.1 percent of respondent's income is 21.6 \$ per day, 29.9 percent of respondent's income is 13.16 \$ per day, 20.3 percent of respondent's income is 8 \$ per day, 8.6 percent of respondent's income is 3.16 \$ per day and 2.1 percent of the respondent's income is 50 \$ per day (Table 04). However, the poverty line rate is 1.9\$ per day (15) but even the less-income group (0-190) has more income than the poverty line.

Table 04. Income before migration

INCOME (\$)	PERCENTAGE (%)	Average (\$)	Income per day (\$)
0-190	8.6	95	3.16
200-280	20.3	240	8
300-490	29.9	395	13.16
500-800	39.1	650	21.6
1000-2000	2.1	1500	50

Total average of income is 311.81\$ which their daily income is 10.39\$.

The income of migrants has been changed after migration. The daily Income of migrants has been decreased than the poverty line rate (1.90 \$) (15). Findings show that 55% of respondent's daily income is 6.6 \$ per day, 22.7% of respondent's daily income is 13.6 \$ per day, 11.5 % of the respondent's daily income is 1.3 \$ per day which is less than the rate of the poverty line, 8.6 % of the respondent's daily income is 26.6\$ per day and 1.8 % of the respondent's daily income is 75.83 \$ per day (Table 05).

Table 05. Income after migration

INCOME (\$)	PERCENTAGE (%)	Average (\$)	Income per day (\$)
0-80	11.5	40	1.3
100-300	55	200	6.6
320-500	22.7	410	13.6
600-1000	8.6	800	26.6
1050-3500	1.8	2275	75.83

Total average income is 428.85\$ which their daily income is 27.62\$.

However, the total average daily income of migrants has been increased after the migration (10.39\$ per day before migration and 27.62\$ per day after migration) but 11.5 percent of migrant's daily income after migration decreased than the poverty line rate.

Satisfaction and re-integration

The findings show that 79.2 percent of migrants are dis-satisfied with being in Turkey and they targeted to immigrate to European countries. The dis-satisfaction reasons are discrimination, less salary, not having citizenship cards (kimlik), not having the same opportunities' as Syrian and Iraq's migrant, being under pressure of work owners, not having access to hospitals and medical needs and working more than 12 hours per day.

However, 20.8 percent of migrants are satisfied with being in Turkey. Having a job, income, better lifestyle, and being in an Islamic environment are the reasons that make them satisfied with being in Turkey.

Re-integrating back to Afghanistan is a big issue for all Afghan migrants'.69 percent of migrants' don't want to re-integrate back to Afghanistan. War, lack of job opportunities', insecurity are the major problems' that prevent them to re-integrate. 31 percent of migrants are agreeing to re-integrate back to Afghanistan. Having better income in Afghanistan, having a better Lifestyle than Turkey, and being free in society are the reasons for re-integration.

Table06. Satisfaction and re-integration of migrants'.

Are you satisfied of being in Turkey?	N	%
Dissatisfaction	304	79.2

Satisfaction	80	20.8
Total	384	100
<hr/>		
Do you want to reintegrate back to Afghanistan?	N	%
No	265	69.0
Yes	119	31.0
Total	384	100

Discussion

The research's aim is to find influencing factors of Turkey on Afghan migrants', satisfaction (willingness to stay in Turkey) and dis-satisfaction, re-integration, comparing the income of migrants before and after migration in the last five years (Istanbul and Ankara).

The finding shows that 84.1 percent of the interviewees are male and 51.8 percent of them are married. 48.9 percent of the respondents are literate (41.1% high school graduated, 7.8% bachelor) (Table.02). However, the rate of illiteracy in between women in Afghanistan is 90% and men 63 % **(16)**. As UNESCO office in Kabul report shows that 31 percent of the adult population in Afghanistan (over 15 years of Age) are literate (female rate 17%, Male rate 45%). **(17)**

Findings show that the high influencing factors on migrant's immigration are Security, Women's rights', human rights', the desire of having a more regular life, better income, being more job opportunities and being affected by the positive status of families previously moved to Turkey (Table 03).

As the SIGAR report shows that in November 2015 insurgent groups had control of 7% of Afghanistan's districts, 21% was contested zone between government and insurgent groups, and 72% of districts were under the control of the government. But in October 2018 the insurgent groups controlling areas raised to 12% however in January 2018 it was 15%, the contested zone raised to 34%, and districts under government control decreased to 54% **(18)**.

Civilian casualties have increased from 10535 casualties (3701 deaths, 6834 injured) in 2014 to 10993 casualties (3804 deaths, 7189 injured) in 2018. The types of incidents that caused civilian casualties are 42% combined improvised explosive device, 31% ground engagement, 9% aerial operation, 8% target killing, 4% the explosive remnant of war, 6% other (suicide and complex Attacks) **(19)**.

Better in-come is one of the highest effective factors that effected Afghans' migration (Table 03). Although, the finding shows that the daily income of 11.5% of migrants are 1.3\$ (Table 05) which is less than the poverty line rate 1.90\$ **(15)** but the total Average of migrants' income has been raised from 311.81 \$ per month before migration to 428.85\$ per month. As the findings show that 39.1% income before immigration is between 500-800\$ per month (Table.04) but after immigration, the vast majority's income 55% is between 100-300 \$ per month (Table.05) which show that income after immigration is less than GDP per capita 520.89\$ **(20)**.

79.2 % (Table 06) of the respondent isn't satisfied with being in Turkey they would prefer to leave turkey and search for the new living place. The reason that causes dis-satisfaction of migrants are discrimination, less salary, not having citizenship card (kimlik), not having the same opportunities' as Syrian and Iraq's migrant, being under pressure of work owners, not having access to hospitals and medical needs and working more than 12 hours per day. As one of the respondents said that "when I got sick his boss didn't give him permission to get rest" or other one said, "I can't take my salary on time even if they fire him he can't take the salary of those days that he worked even they get warn to arrest the to the police". The other 20.8 percent

(Table 06) of respondents are satisfied with being in Turkey. They believe Turkey is a better place to live than other countries. Having a job, better income, better lifestyle and being in the Islamic environment are the satisfaction reasons as one of the respondents said: *"I do prefer to live in Turkey than European countries", in there at least I can't listen to Azan but in here I can apply all Islamic practices"*. Re-integration is one of the biggest issues for migrants. 69% of respondents (Table06) don't want to re-integrate back to Afghanistan. The Afghanistan situation will not get better for a long period of time. Although, 31 percent of the respondent (Table06) agreed to re-integrate back to Afghanistan.

Conclusion:

Turkey has a unique geographical location being a bridge between Asia and Europe. (1) which led a lot of migrants to flee to the country. As the research revealed that the attracting factors of Turkey on migrants are Security, rights (women rights and human rights), desire of having a more regular life, better income, being more job opportunities and affection by the positive status of families previously moved to Turkey are the highly effective factors of the illegal migrants. As mentioned at top better income considered as high effective attracting factor to immigrate to Turkey. The finding shows that income of illegal migrants after settling in Turkey increased than before.

Considering Turkey as corridor to go to European countries is most of illegal migrant's idea. As the findings show that the majority of illegal migrants are dis-satisfied of being in Turkey and living in Turkey isn't in their long-term plan. Meanwhile, they prefer to stay in Turkey than re-integrating back to Afghanistan.

As result, living in Turkey for long period of time isn't plan of illegal migrants however the reason of choosing Turkey as the country to stay for short period of time are security, better income, job opportunities, desire of having a more regular and affected by positive status of families previously moved to turkey.

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