

The Influence Of Labor Migration On The Citizen Identity Of The Population

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Annotation

This article explores the impact of labor migration on the civic identity of the population. The study analyzes the cultural, social, and political factors faced by labor migrants during their adaptation to a new social environment, and assesses how these factors influence their civic consciousness and sense of belonging. Special attention is given to changes in identity resulting from migration, attitudes toward national values, and issues of civic engagement. The topic is further examined through sociological research and practical examples. The findings of the study hold practical significance for migration policy, social integration, and the development of a civic society.

Keywords: Labor migration, identity, personality, culture, selfhood, international labor market, country, standard of living, needs.

Introduction

In today's world, globalization trends are increasingly influencing the lives and lifestyles of every individual on Earth. In this context, migration processes are also having a notable impact on regional security.

Therefore, to effectively organize state policy aimed at regulating migration processes and improving the legal protection of labor migrants and their family members, it is essential to systematically analyze the structure and dynamics of labor migration, as well as the role and function of state governance mechanisms in these processes.

In this regard, the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 321, dated July 31, 2023, outlines a series of measures to improve migration and citizenship registration processes, including reforms within the internal affairs bodies.

This situation introduces new tasks requiring the involvement of various state institutions, including international organizations working in the field of migration, as well as non-governmental and public structures.

Labor migration flows have led to a classification of countries as either *recipient states*—those receiving labor migrants—or *donor countries*—those supplying labor to the international market. In some cases, a country may simultaneously serve as both a recipient and a donor state.

Within this context, it is possible to observe how labor migration affects civic identity, including changes in people's worldview, political orientation, and their sense of belonging within society.

Main Part

In the early years of independence, due to problems such as unemployment, economic hardship, and deficiencies in the social protection system, labor migration in Uzbekistan was viewed as one of the solutions to these economic and social challenges. Accordingly, changes in civic identity did not receive significant political attention during that time.

According to official data, approximately **13.3%** of Uzbekistan's working-age population has left the country as labor migrants.

Unfortunately, to this day, Uzbekistan lacks a dedicated strategic document addressing the impact of migration processes on changes in civic identity. Moreover, there is no centralized database or reliable statistical report analyzing the exact number of outbound labor migrants.

In recent years, the government has adopted a number of decisions aimed at regulating migration processes, particularly labor migration. These measures have helped manage certain aspects of migration; however, many other critical issues remain unaddressed. These include resolving refugee-related problems,

determining the number of foreign migrants and establishing quotas for them, regulating the employment of migrants in Uzbekistan, and ensuring the reintegration and adaptation of returning labor migrants.

Additionally, issues such as healthcare access for migrants, social support for migrant families, addressing their existing challenges, reducing the negative effects of labor migration, and ensuring the safety and rights of migrants are often overlooked in policy discussions.

Moreover, One of the Key Negative Influences on Our Regional Socio-Cultural Environment

One of the factors negatively impacting our national socio-cultural environment is the growing tendency of the population to leave the country under the influence of various external factors — that is, external migration. This, to a certain extent, affects the moral and spiritual transformation of our society.

When individuals migrate to other countries and are exposed to a new social and moral environment, processes of assimilation begin to occur. These changes in the moral values and personal qualities of migrants not only represent individual transformations but also impact the social and ethical environment of their families, including their children.

For this reason, in the framework of the “New Uzbekistan,” systemic efforts have been made to organize migration processes. New approaches have been developed to regulate the living and working conditions of citizens abroad, ensure their safety, and manage their educational migration as well.

The state’s migration policy is now being built on the principles of both universal and national moral values — such as respect for human dignity, patriotism, interethnic harmony, nationalism, and tolerance. Civic identity issues have been given increased attention within the country’s legal framework, ensuring that in all circumstances — especially in migration contexts — the safety and dignity of individuals are prioritized.

In New Uzbekistan, the regulation of migration is being organized in harmony with the development of a legal and regulatory system that protects the civic identity of labor migrants. Based on this system, stricter discipline and structure have been introduced in the implementation of labor migration processes.

Special attention is being paid to strengthening the political and moral responsibilities of citizens, providing targeted and individualized support for those going abroad, offering language and skills training through mono-centers, and ensuring employment for returning migrants. These measures aim to support the reintegration of citizens and minimize the social disruptions caused by migration.

State Policy and Legal Framework in the Field of Labor Migration

Among the official documents adopted by the government of Uzbekistan are the following key legal acts:

- Presidential Decree No. **PQ-3839** dated **July 5, 2018**, “*On Additional Measures to Further Improve the System of External Labor Migration in the Republic of Uzbekistan*”;
- Presidential Decree No. **PF-5785** dated **August 20, 2019**, “*On Measures to Further Strengthen Guarantees for the Protection of Citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan Temporarily Working Abroad and Their Family Members*”;
- Presidential Decree No. **PQ-4829** dated **September 15, 2020**, “*On Measures to Introduce a Safe, Orderly, and Legal Labor Migration System*”;
- Presidential Decree No. **PQ-5205** dated **July 30, 2021**, “*On Additional Measures to Encourage Citizens Traveling Abroad for Organized Labor Migration*”;
- Presidential Decree No. **PQ-5220** dated **August 11, 2021**, “*On the Establishment of the ‘Vatandoshlar’ Public Foundation.*”

In line with these decrees and the ongoing institutional reforms led by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the effectiveness of newly established institutions must be ensured through a clear functional analysis of their activities. In addition, strong inter-agency cooperation must be fostered, and efforts must be directed toward training highly qualified personnel capable of fulfilling their duties efficiently and serving the interests of the population.

As a result of our research and analysis of the effectiveness of state policy and the regulation of labor migration in Uzbekistan, the following key challenges have been identified:

- The **lack of a fully developed legal framework** to adequately regulate internal and external migration, including issues related to forced labor migration and refugees;
- The **absence of complete statistical data** on various parameters and indicators related to external and labor migration processes;

- The **incompleteness of structured modules, programs, and action plans** to manage migration processes effectively;
- **Weak coordination** between government agencies and non-governmental/public organizations in addressing the challenges faced by labor migrants abroad.

In addition to studying the problems listed above, this research also highlights the **main factors driving labor migration** in the country.

Sociological Analysis of Labor Migration and Its Impact on National Policy

In this section of our research, we attempted to identify the main factors that either intensify or restrict migration processes. We believe that a thorough examination and precise analysis of these factors can contribute to shaping a well-defined state migration policy that takes into account the national interests of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Furthermore, a sociological analysis of the above-mentioned factors affecting labor migration in our country is not only relevant for Uzbekistan, but also holds significance for other countries. The interaction and concentration of these and other identified factors have a considerable impact on the dynamics and movement of labor migration processes.

It should be emphasized that sociological studies related to labor migration are regularly conducted in Uzbekistan. In particular, through national population censuses, it becomes possible to forecast social and economic changes in the country, develop employment programs, create social policy strategies, and identify public health challenges at an early stage.

Population censuses also provide accurate data on the total number of citizens (including age and gender), citizenship status, ethnic composition, family structure, levels of social support, housing availability, employment and unemployment statistics (including professions and specializations), sources of household income, and the exact number of persons with disabilities. These data help institutions such as the Agency for External Labor Migration, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and border services, as well as scientific institutions, not only to have precise information about migration trends in the country, but also to design targeted measures to reduce poverty and ensure employment.

The migration policy of Uzbekistan is closely linked to the spiritual and ideological views of individuals. Its essence is grounded in the worldview, patriotism, moral principles, and ethical values of each migrant, and in protecting their life, health, dignity, and human worth.

Unfortunately, among the various problems associated with migration processes, it is necessary to highlight the ideological influence of international extremist groups on some migrants. There is a growing concern about cases in which Uzbek citizens have been recruited by such groups and involved in armed conflicts in foreign territories — for example, in Syria, Lebanon, Afghanistan, Ukraine, and other conflict zones.

In this regard, the existing migration management system in Uzbekistan not only reflects the social and moral essence of the work being carried out in the field of labor migration but also encompasses the full cycle of state responsibility: from granting permission for citizens to travel abroad, maintaining communication with them during their stay overseas, providing necessary social assistance, to supporting their reintegration into society upon return. In all circumstances, the state is committed to protecting the interests of its citizens.

As an example, during the COVID-19 pandemic, which affected the entire world, the Republic of Uzbekistan took urgent measures to protect the interests of its citizens abroad. These efforts included organizing their repatriation, ensuring comprehensive healthcare support, and providing both material and moral assistance to uphold their well-being.

Based on the above analysis, it is important to emphasize that until now, Uzbek diasporas in foreign countries have not been organized as independent institutional “Associations.” There has not been a structured organization in which both state and non-governmental bodies of Uzbekistan — including relevant divisions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs — are actively and consistently involved.

The establishment of a dedicated organization is crucial, as it would serve as a reliable institution to protect the rights of our compatriots abroad, particularly labor migrants, by providing social and economic support while also safeguarding the honor and dignity of the Uzbek nation.

Given the rapidly evolving political and economic changes worldwide, the need for such support structures for labor migrants living in foreign countries is more urgent than ever. Therefore, in-depth sociological research is required to explore and address these issues systematically.

- - To study and comparatively analyze the social-political status, financial-economic, and organizational capacity of the Uzbek diaspora abroad;
- To conduct research on the possibilities of expanding Uzbekistan's cultural and educational image and environment abroad by leveraging the potential of the diaspora;
- To carry out sociological research aimed at developing mechanisms for cooperation between the Uzbek government, public organizations, business entities, and national diasporas abroad;
- To investigate the opportunities for strengthening cooperation with migrants abroad and uniting them from a complex of separate national diasporas into a unified national cultural structure;
- To identify types of mutually beneficial cooperation with the diaspora abroad, taking into account the national interests and ideology of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- To ensure the freedom of mass media (newspapers, magazines, radio, television) in Uzbekistan regarding the life and activities of our compatriots abroad, aiming to protect Uzbekistan's interests;
- To analyze the opportunities and types of material and moral assistance provided by the "national diaspora structures" abroad.

In conclusion, the Uzbek diaspora active abroad can be viewed as a significant demographic, intellectual, economic, financial, and socio-cultural resource that contributes to the rapid socio-political development of our country's image. Through the diaspora, it is crucial to effectively conduct foreign policy and develop economic relations with foreign countries. Moreover, the diaspora plays an important role in addressing various issues, ideological threats, and risks encountered in labor migration processes by finding appropriate solutions.

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