

## **Scientific Approaches to the Study of External Labor Migration**

**Uktamov A.N.**

Independent Researcher National University of Uzbekistan

**Abstract:** The article examines the theoretical foundations of international labor migration research. It provides terminological definitions and theoretical models of labor migration, as well as various scientific approaches to this aspect. The typology, mechanisms, classification criteria, and the impact of external labor migration on the demographics and economies of donor and recipient countries are presented. Both macro-level and micro-level factors influencing labor migration, along with specific factors driving the movement of the workforce are demonstrated.

**Keywords:** external labor migration, migration process, division of labor, migrant, socio-economic factor, labor resources, globalization, human capital, employment, labor force migration, donor country, recipient country, social micro-environment.

Key factors determining external labor migration include the persistence of unresolved socio-economic issues within a country, a steady growth of the working-age population (primarily among the youth), and a rate of demographic growth that outpaces job creation. The way migration processes evolve and the vectors they take determine not only political stability but also the country's socio-economic development, living standards, the realization of national and geopolitical interests, participation in the global division of labor, and, ultimately, rational integration into the global economy.

In this regard, researchers across various disciplines - political scientists, sociologists, experts in geopolitics and international relations - are focusing their attention on external labor migration as a complex and dynamic phenomenon. Research is being conducted into its legal regulation, influencing factors, mechanisms for social support and protection of migrants in host communities, and the challenges they face in destination countries.

From a conceptual standpoint, most researchers define migration as the movement of people from one country to another, often in large groups and over long distances. Z. Tolametova and P. Khoshimov in their scientific article note that the word "migration" derives from the Latin "migrans", denoting a person moving from one territory to another for permanent or temporary residence [1]. In turn, external labor migration is the movement of labor force that occurs during organizational or social shifts worldwide, driven by interconnected economic, demographic, social, and political factors.

Impact factor 9

V. Perevedentsev points out that labor migration is a type of migration where the decision is made either independently or under the influence of socio-economic factors. Such a decision is typically based on the desire to satisfy personal needs. The contradiction between needs and the possibilities for satisfying them in a specific locality becomes the driver of labor migration. In other words, human need serves as the primary factor in the decision to migrate. The author emphasizes that if individuals cannot realize their abilities to meet their needs in their place of living, they are forced to migrate to another territory in search of conditions that allow for such realization [2].

Labor migration has been examined within various theoretical models, including the “Lewis-Fei-Ranis” model, W. Zelinsky’s “Mobility Transition”, M. Piore’s “Dual Labor Market theory”, I. Wallerstein’s “World-Systems theory”, and D. Massey’s “Migration Network theory”. However, in the context of international labor migration, the research of S. Castles and S. Sassen is of particular interest; they argue that the increased mobility of labor moving toward more favorable economic conditions is a direct result of globalization [3].

The term “human capital”, introduced by L. Sjaastad, allowed international labor migration to be viewed as a ratio of investments aimed at increasing the productivity of human resources against the incurred costs, both material and non-material [4].

M.A. Burda defines the mechanism of external labor migration as a regulated by international legal instruments process for the targeted recruitment of foreign labor force to a definite employer in the host state for a fixed term (equal to the duration of the employment contract), followed by departure to the country of origin upon its expiration [5].

L.A. Morozova notes that external labor migration, having a complex nature and multi-faceted dependence on the environmental conditions surrounding an individual, can be classified as a highly diverse social process. She attributes its distinctive features to the mass nature and social content of both its sources and outcomes [6].

A.N. Ryzhkova defines external labor migration as the movement of labor resources for the purpose of employment under more favorable conditions, determined by the balance of supply and demand in the labor market, than in the migrant’s country of origin or region of permanent residence [7].

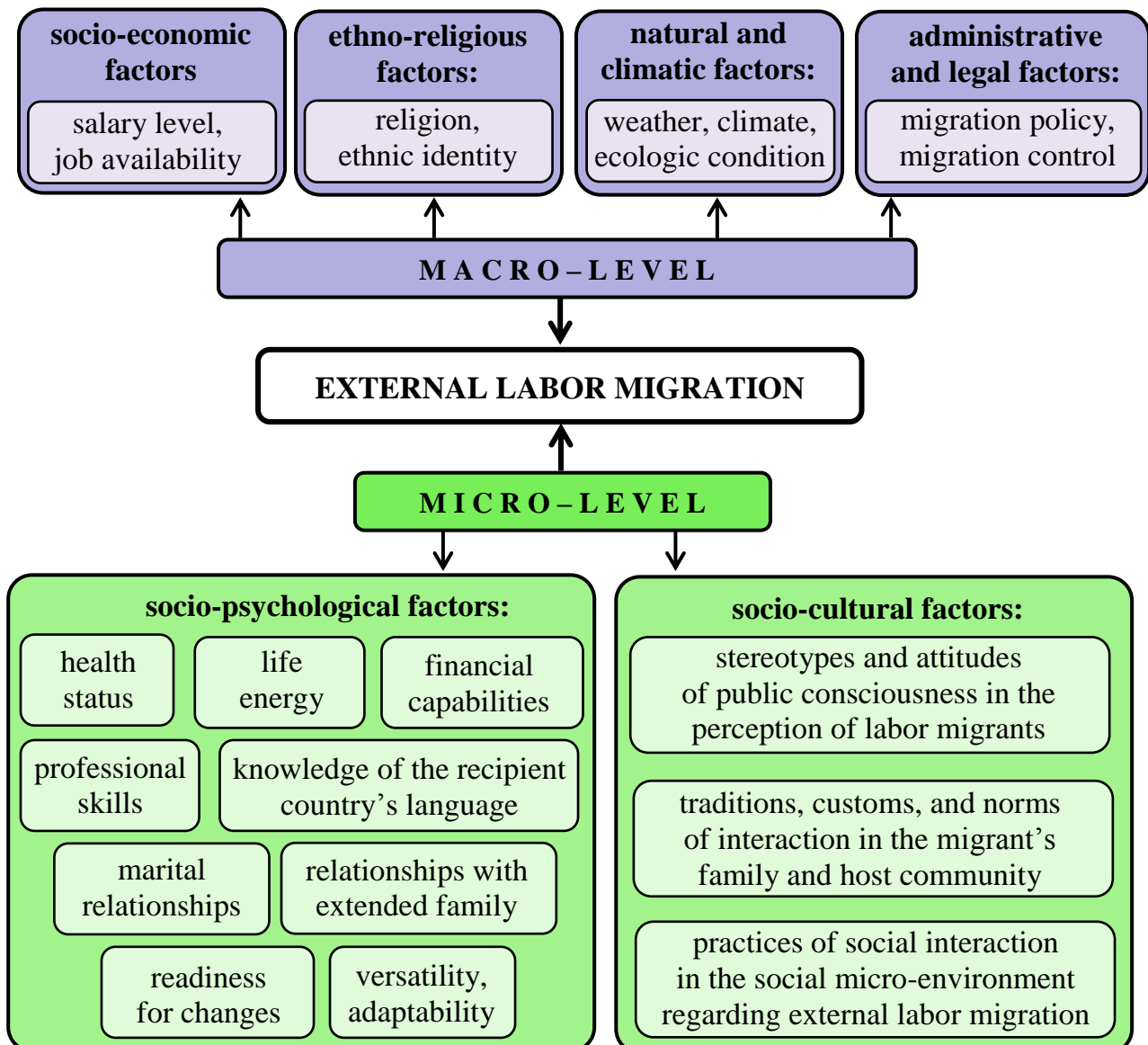
Classifying by the causes of movement, A.I. Fedorako divides external labor migration into economic, political, environmental, recreational, familial, and ethnic categories [8].

R.A. Mullerson justifies the absence of a unified typology of external labor migration by stating that this process, being a type of population movement,

Impact factor 9

undergoes qualitative changes at each stage of its development [9]. The author points out that new technological capabilities, production methods, and means of communication, alongside global social and geopolitical changes, give rise to new trends in external migration. These trends are reflected in changing causes, geographic redistribution of populations, as well as the decline and activation of migration processes, the regulation of which is subject to legal governance at the national, regional, and international levels.

External labor migration is a central component of international relations, involving all countries in the world; therefore, its impact goes far beyond the demographics and economies of both sending and receiving countries. At the same time, according to applied research conducted by the International Organization for Migration, the process of external labor migration itself is affected by a number of macro-level and micro-level factors (Figure 1) [10].



***Figure 1. Macro-level and micro-level factors influencing external labor migration.***

Macro-level factors allow us to analyze global aspects and economic conditions in donor and recipient countries, but the decision to migrate is made taking into account social factors in the social micro-environment - the immediate space and social background where a person lives, and which directly influences his development and behavior.

Factors determining labor migration include:

- *economic factors:*

- different levels of economic development in countries, which entails various labor costs and the search for higher wages;

- the state of the national labor market (in underdeveloped and densely populated countries, the national market develops under conditions of chronic unemployment, which motivates people to seek work in other countries);

- economic restructuring;

- scientific and technological progress, which is accompanied by an increasing need for skilled labor;

- *non-economic factors:*

- the unification or disintegration of states;

- natural disasters;

- environmental problems;

- man-made disasters;

- wars;

- personal reasons.

Each of the above non-economic factors can act as a driver for spontaneous, sudden, and mass migration and can lead to large-scale national labor movements, which will have the same economic consequences as international labor migration for economic reasons.

According to the scientific views of scientists conducting research on current issues of migration processes in the Republic of Uzbekistan (K. Abdurakhmanov, M. Akhunov, S. Gulomov, B. Islamova, Zh. Kakharov, M. Mukhammedov, Z. Parpiev, I. Sulaimanov and others), the social micro-environment has a significant impact on the choice of migration country, attitudes toward migrant adaptation options in the host country, the way in which received financial resources are spent, and subsequent changes in the behavioral attitudes of migrants themselves at various stages of migration.

Impact factor 9

At the micro-level, factors are subject to scientific analysis less frequently than at the macro-level. According to K.A. Bondarenko's opinion, this is due to their uniqueness for each individual region, which has its own specific socio-cultural characteristics of perception and behavior, formed over a long period of time. Therefore, in order to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the specifics of external labor migration, it is necessary to consider the combination of factors at different levels and analyze their influence. This systems approach provides a key to understanding how these factors together shape people's propensities and opportunities to migrate, and allows us to analyze subsequent stages of the economic life of the migrant and his family [11].

Concluding this review of scientific approaches to studying external labor migration, it should be noted that this process is multifaceted and dynamic worldwide and occupies a key place among the new forms of cultural, social, and business processes of the modern era. As a multinational country, the Republic of Uzbekistan actively participates in managing migration processes, the role of which in the lives of various states and their populations continues to grow in the 21st century. This is due to globalization, national and regional economic crises, people's living standards, quantitative and qualitative indicators of the labor force, geopolitical processes, and changes in the spiritual sphere.

Current issues related to external labor migration are a priority area of scientific research in the Republic of Uzbekistan, which in recent decades has become a full-fledged participant in the global system of migration flows and a leading donor of labor resources in the global labor market. The current migration situation in Uzbekistan is determined by a complex set of factors, including the specific demographic situation, which directly impacts the country's socio-economic, political, social, professional, and cultural development.

Currently, the Migration Agency under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan informs citizens to a certain extent about available job openings abroad, but it is physically unable to continuously collect and share information on millions of job openings worldwide. This task essentially belongs to the market, which is capable of providing the necessary information quickly, accurately, and comprehensively. Therefore, in addition to intensifying its current work, the Migration Agency should create conditions for citizens to develop the skills to independently search for suitable vacancies and find employment.

Impact factor 9

## References

1. Tolametova Z.A., Khoshimov P.Z. Features of international labor migration // *Iqtisod va moliya / Ekonomika i finansy / Economy and Finance*, 2019, 3(123). - pp. 34-41.
2. Perevedentsev V.I. Methods of studying population migration. - Moscow, 1995. - 231 p.
3. Fei J., Ranis G.A model of Growth and Employment in the open Dualistic Economy: The Case of Korea and Taiwan // *The Journal of Development Studies*, 1975. Vol. 12, No. 1. - pp. 32-63; Zelinsky W. The Hypothesis of the Mobility Transition // *Geographical Review*, 1971. No. 61. - pp. 219-249; Piore M. Birds of passage. Migrant labour and industrial societies. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1979; Wallerstein I. The Modern World-System. Vol. III: The Second Great Expansion of the Capitalist World-Economy, 1730-1840's. San Diego: Academic Press, 1989; The Modern World System I. Capitalist Agriculture and the Origins of the European World Economy in the Sixteenth Century. New-York: Academic Press, 1974. 410 p; Massey D., Joaquin A., Koucouci A., et al. Theories of International Migration: A Review and Appraisal // *Population and Development Review*, 1993. Vol. 19. No. 3. - pp. 431-466; Castles S. International Migration // *International Social Science Journal*, 2000. Vol. 165. - pp. 269-281; Sassen S. The Mobility of Labor and Capital. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1988.
4. Sjaastad L.A. The Costs and Returns of Human Migration // *Journal of Political Economy*. Vol. 70. N 5. Oct., 1962. Part 2: Investment in Human Beings. - pp. 80-93.
5. Burda M.A. Migration policy of Russia: organized recruitment as an effective mechanism of international labor migration // *Administrative Consulting*, 2025. No. 2. - pp. 18-28.
6. Morozova L.A. Migration and law in modern Russia (towards a methodology of general theoretical analysis) // *Migration, Human Rights, and Economic Security of Modern Russia*. Nizhny Novgorod, 2004. - p. 67.
7. Ryzhkova A.N. The concept and types of labor migration / <http://moluch.ru/archive/80/14376>
8. Fedorako A.I. Population migration: concept, causes, consequences // *International Law and International Relations*, No. 4, 2012. - p. 3.
9. Mullerson R.A. Human Rights: Ideas, Norms, Reality. Moscow, UNITY-DANA, 2001. - p. 34.
10. Ryazantseva S.V. Return migration: international approaches and regional features of Central Asia. International Organization for Migration (IOM) - UN Migration Agency, Almaty, 2020. - p. 69.
11. Bondarenko K.A. The influence of the transformation of socio-cultural factors on the processes of external labor migration in Uzbekistan // *Spatial Economics*, 2020, Vol. 16. No. 3. - pp. 76-108.