

MIGRATION DURING THE PERIOD OF GLOBALIZATION

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Abstract

Globalization has led to a marked increase of migration to all corners of the world, supported by several factors, either economic, social, environmental or political instability, the development of sophisticated modern transport systems and networks that have facilitated much travel. easier, cheaper and faster than at any time in human history. Characteristic for the migration phenomenon from the end of the 20th century and the beginning of the 3rd millennium is the change in the structure, size and typology of the migration flows, in the last years, the demand on the labor market in the countries of origin being addressed especially to the highly qualified immigrants.

The determinants of international migration are diverse and complex. From the reasons classified as "push" or "pull", globalization has introduced a third set of motivations called "network", which includes free flow of information, improved communication worldwide, faster and with lower transport costs. in recent decades. These latter factors, in fact, are not a direct cause of migration, but are favorable elements of migration. It is also worth noting that modern globalization is not only determined by technological progress, but also by political and ideological changes.

The paper presents a brief analysis of the main features of globalization and its impact on the volume, structure and trends of migration flows.

Keywords: globalization, migration, urban immigration, economic and social effects

Classification JEL: F22, J10, J21, J24, J61, O15, R23

1. Introduction and context of the study

Globalization has increased the interconnection of national states, accelerating the flow of goods, services, ideas and people beyond national borders. International migration manifested well before globalization, but the speed, scale, complexity and volume of global migration in the global era are unprecedented.

Transnational flows of goods and capital in recent decades have been made possible by the gradual reduction of barriers to trade and investment beyond national borders, thus allowing the expansion of the world economy.

The World Bank's report "Globalization, Growth and Poverty" shows that while countries have sought to promote integrated markets through trade and investment liberalization, they have developed a series of policies that are largely opposed to migration liberalization. However, despite the reluctance of governments to liberalize immigration policies, the number of people living outside their countries of origin has increased from 120 million in 1990 to 244 million in 2015, representing 3.3% of the total population of the world.

The increase of social, economic and cultural connections between countries has facilitated the migration of an increasing number of people, with diversification of this phenomenon regarding the composition of immigrant populations, not only in the countries of origin, but also in terms of the categories of migration: for work, studies, family and asylum, temporary and permanent migration coexisting more and more.

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As far as the contemporary geography of labor migration is concerned, it reflects the globalization of the world economy and labor markets, in which a growing number of countries have become participants in migration systems worldwide. There is a globalization of international labor migration, and the increase in the number of countries involved in migration systems causes an increasing diversity of flows.

As a result of globalization, enterprises grow and become more internationalized and often outsource their production to developing countries where labor costs are lower. This movement of jobs from developed to developing countries alleviates some economic factors that are migration generators.

The effects of migration are complex, bringing benefits and disadvantages for both host and home countries. Immigration provides a source of cheap labor for the host countries, a source of diminishing the effects of population aging, while remittances of migrant workers can be an important source of income for the remaining relatives in the country of origin. On the other hand, immigration can generate resentment and fear of newcomers to new communities. For the economies of the nations of origin, the emigration leads to a loss of the young citizens, able to work, well educated and to the accentuation of the aging of the population.

Quantifying the direct or indirect impact of globalization on international migration is a difficult and complex task. The studies carried out for this purpose show that globalization has favored both legal and clandestine flows of migrants, generating benefits and problems / pressures, both in the countries of origin and in the receiving ones.

All these combined trends suggest that global migration patterns have become increasingly complex.

2. General characteristics of globalization

Globalization, an extremely complex and controversial concept, is not a new phenomenon, but a continuation of current socio-economic developments. Among the most important features of globalization in the current structure can be mentioned:

- i) the internationalization of the production accompanied by changes in its structure;
- ii) the expansion of international trade and services;
- iii) expanding, diversifying and deepening international capital flows.

The phenomenon of globalization is synonymous with that of acceleration, which is found in the vast changes in technology, global economic integration, but also in the massive changes in the production systems and labor markets.

Globalization places great emphasis on opening borders between countries, and the economic one encourages free trade agreements between countries, multinational corporations and a free flow of goods around the world.

Technological changes in the last decades affect the technological parameters and the flows of products between countries. Improvements in transport networks and technologies have reduced transportation costs, and information and communication technology performance has made it easier for many people to access a larger amount of available information at lower costs. These have important implications regarding the nature of the production activities, the flow of knowledge, but also on the commercialization of the realized products. Thus, economic globalization thrives on advanced digitized technology, which facilitates the global expansion of companies, allowing them to optimize their operations and their accumulation on the world market

and to save the cost of these operations. Also, the economic globalization also aims to incorporate the peripheral regions into a unique global economic system unhindered by national borders.

However, the phenomenon of globalization is controversial. Supporters of this process assert that the globalization supported by the liberalization of economic policies and technological progress is reaping significant benefits, such as improving the allocation of resources, increasing competitiveness, wider options for consumers, increasing the opportunities to access international capital markets, investment, as well as access to high-performance ideas, technologies and products.

There is, however, little evidence in favor of these arguments. Thus, if we look at the growth rates of GDP worldwide, in the last decades of the twentieth century and the beginning of the 3rd millennium, these are lower than those of the early 1970s, when the financial liberalization began. Also, the share of investments in global GDP was generally low, indicating the desire to make long-term investments.

The promoters of globalization support the idea that the liberalization of the commercial markets and the capital account have led to a greater efficiency of the allocation of resources. If, as far as the liberalization of trade flows is concerned, there are numerous studies that provide strong empirical evidence in support of this claim and their benefits, however, the analyzes regarding the significant benefits generated by the liberalization of the capital account do not provide systemic evidence. The fact that the liberalization of the capital account is a much more complex process than the liberalization of the commercial flows was also evidenced by the experiences of many developing countries that have faced financial crises in recent years.

Some specialists consider globalization to be an extremely unequal process. For example, growing trade is not leading to more equitable distribution of underlying comparative advantages. Inequalities also exist in terms of foreign direct investment inflows, in generating “new knowledge (a relatively small number of countries continuing to dominate innovation).

The "winners" and "losers" of the process of globalization are found both at the level of different countries of the world and at the level of some population groups within the same country. The growing inequality between countries generated by the globalization process is also highlighted by the difference between per capita income from the richest and poorest countries. Thus, according to World Bank statistics, in 2015, gross domestic product (at purchasing power parity) per capita, in the first two richest countries, Qatar and Luxembourg, was 141543 Int \$, respectively 11497 Int \$, while in the poorest countries, Central African Republic and Burundi, it was 619 Int \$, respectively 727 Int \$.

The fact that some countries are "winners" and others "defeated" in the process of globalization, indicates that there are significant differences in their ability to cope effectively with the challenges of globalization.

All of these rapid increases in transnational flows of capital, trade and technology have led to global economic restructuring with disruptions in less developed or developing economies. All of these phenomena are generating unemployment, falling wages or job insecurity in dominant market economies (Helfti, 1997).

At present, globalization is a powerful process, and its reversibility is unlikely. Globalization involves a set of changes, not a single dimensional change. Many of these changes are social, cultural and political rather than purely economic.

3. Migration during the period of globalization

Migration is not a new phenomenon. People have always left their homes in search of better economic opportunities, both inside and outside their own country. Because economic globalization accentuates inequality between nations, migration for many does not become a choice, but an economic necessity.

In 2015, worldwide, there were 244 million migrants, of which about 58% were incarcerated to the developed regions. Almost two thirds of the total migrants went to Europe (76 million people) and Asia (75 million people). North America hosted 54 million migrants, followed by Africa (21 million), Latin America and the Caribbean (9 million) and Oceania (8 million). Worldwide migrants, in 2015, represented 3.3% of the world's population, up 0.4 pp compared to 1990. The United Nations statistics indicate that in the period 1990-2015, the number of migrants worldwide increased by over 91 million people.

Increases in volume, diversity, geographic extent, and the overall complexity of international migration in recent decades are, in most cases, determined by advances in the field of transport and information and communication technology, or in other words by the phenomenon of globalization, which according to Held et al. (1999) can be defined as "expanding, deepening and accelerating interconnections worldwide in all aspects of contemporary social and economic life".

Technological changes in the last decades have reduced the constraints related to resources on mobility by reducing travel and communication costs. They also allowed migrants to stay in touch with family and friends, send money to the remaining family in the country of origin, move between the countries of destination and those of origin much easier, thus strengthening the networks of migrants and transnational links.

As a result of the development of new technologies and communication, the degree of literacy and education has increased, which, together with improved access to "global" information via television / satellite, mobile phone and internet, has led to increased aspirations and awareness several people, both from the "traditional" countries of emigration and from other countries. Thus, over the last 5 decades, international migration has accelerated and diversified in terms of countries of origin and destination. In this context, Vertovec (2007) coined the term "super-diversity" to indicate the unprecedented degree of migrant diversity.

The motivation of migration varies widely between countries. In some countries, such as the United States and France, the main cause of emigration is family reunification. In other countries, such as Australia, Canada and the United States, most immigrants come to settle permanently. In a free zone of labor movement, as it is in the European Union, migration is most often temporary, for profit.

One of the effects of globalization is the increase of the degree of urbanization of the countries. Over 54% of the world's population lived in the urban area in 2014. The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs forecasts indicate an increase in the urban population from 3.9 billion at present, to 6.4 billion by 2050.

One of the growth factors of urbanization is migration. Immigration and its impact on the ever-changing urban landscape are important parts of the globalization process. The difficulties in estimating the impact of migration on the growth of the urban population consist of the lack of standardized institutional data on immigration in cities around the world. These are destination points for an increasing number of migrants, either international or domestic. Thus, in cities like Sydney, London and New York, migrants account for over one third of the population, in Brussels and Dubai, they represent over 50% of the population, and in Seoul the number of foreign residents has doubled in the last ten years. Also, in Asia and Africa, there is a rapid growth in the population of small cities.

The increase of the number of migrants in the urban environment is also determined by the aging of the population, by the unequal economic development between the regions of a country or between states, by the environmental and climatic instabilities, etc. In many cities, migration has become a more important factor in population growth and age structures than fertility and mortality. In addition, the fact that the social networks used by migrants, whether for integration, survival or economic opportunities, are located in cities. Cities are also the areas that offer greater opportunities for education.

Another aspect of urban migration is the concentration of specialized international workforce within transnational corporations. The studies of Beaverstock (1994), Friedmann (1986) and Castells (1996) have shown that highly skilled migrants from international corporations are a vital ingredient for them, and the flows of skilled migrants between cities of the world can be considered as having the result "a world city".

The urban environment offers migrants higher employment opportunities, both for those with higher qualifications, but especially for those with low qualifications. Migrants make significant and essential contributions to the economic, social and cultural development in the new communities in which they arrive. World Bank data indicate that over \$ 585 billion was transferred by immigrants to their countries of origin in 2015. Remittances are just one example of how immigration contributes, among other things, to raising the standard of living in the US the countries of origin, the creation of links between cities and other localities in the world, the creation of new socio-economic networks.

However, the strong growth of the urban population represents a great pressure on the infrastructure, the environment, but also on the social structure of the city.

When urban migration is well managed, it can induce an economic and social dynamic that leads to increasing the capacity of urban migrants to cope with shocks and pressures. Otherwise, migrants face legal, cultural and social barriers, but also with obstacles to accessing a full range of resources, services and opportunities that cities can offer: formal housing, employment, healthcare, education and social support systems. As a consequence, they are often forced to live in conditions of exclusion, segregation and vulnerability.

Another important dimension of globalization is the growth of cross-border flows of any kind: financial, commercial, ideas, ideologies and knowledge about democratic and economic, cultural and media governance, people. Cross-border flows are interconnected. Thus, the increase of international aid links in trade, investment, communication, etc., reinforces, at least in the short term, the migration links and / or vice versa (Schiff, 1994; Czaika and Mayer, 2011).

4. Conclusions

The phenomenon of globalization appeared in the second half of the twentieth century, as a result of the acceleration of the connections between the states of the world, of the flows of goods, services, ideas, in the conditions of the new discoveries in the field of science, technologies and communications.

Globalization is a complex system or phenomenon, sometimes ambivalent, even contradictory. This phenomenon has induced and imposed new movements in the international space, and among the most important are the relatively free movement of people, goods and capital. If the economic effects of international trade and capital flows have been analyzed, quantified and can be well specified, the net effect of migration has been much less studied and understood, even though migration flows have appeared well before the flows of goods and capital.

Although per capita output has increased significantly over the last few decades, however, the distribution of income across countries is uneven, with differences in living standards of rich and poor countries increasing steadily. That is why, in general, those from developing countries migrate to developed countries.

In recent years, migration has become the subject of public debate and economic analysis, and today is one of the key words for visionary entrepreneurs and decision-makers.

The globalization and internationalization of the markets determine new dimensions and components of the migration flows, an increased fluidity of the movements, and the temporary migration phenomenon increases in significance.

Worldwide, migration is on the rise, yet only 3.3% of the world's population participates in this phenomenon.

Given the fact that important migration flows are found in a relatively small number of countries, it can be said that almost all countries are affected by this phenomenon, they can be countries of origin, transit, destination or all three.

One of the effects of globalization and migration is the increase of the degree of urbanization. The urban environment offers migrants greater opportunities for employment, social networks to which access can be called in order to integrate into the host country, greater economic and social opportunities.

The consequences of migration can be economic, social and psychological in nature, affecting both migrants and natives. Migration can be beneficial to all parties, whether it is the issuing countries, the recipient countries or the migrants themselves. There is no denying the winners and losers of the process, but the overall net effect is positive.

In recent years, there has been an increase in labor migration of human capital and of young people with high performance and higher qualifications, brain migration remaining an area of interest for transnational companies or international scientific research.

In the current situation, the migration patterns are constantly changing: i) the departure zones dissipate as the ethnicity criterion loses ground; ii) the distance criterion becomes minor and the flows of migrants to more distant destinations gain ground, being preferred destinations that offer greater professional opportunities and relative conditions of integration in the new communities; iii) the temporary migration is fluctuating, its determining factors being given by the labor market situation in the country of destination.

Globalization and migration are two of the world's most dynamic, highly interdependent processes, but each with specific leaders and dynamics. Globalization can be considered a potential powerful facilitator of international migration: it has increased the scope of action and played an important role in changing the nature and patterns of migration. While the rise or decline of globalization is far from clear, its impact on migration issues will remain significant.

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