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Migration processes and sustainable development: brief analysis of key linkages and gaps

Migration processes acquire a new shape in the context of globalization and sustainable development. The migration and sustainable development nexus is one of the disputable issues in contemporary academic migration discourse. The key linkages of these processes are seen in the increasing role of international human rights of migrants, the role of remittances for the economy of the host countries and the contribution of migrants to the development of the recipient countries. All these elements are an important part of defining the migration and sustainable development nexus. Analysis of the key linkages of migration and sustainable development is the most promising in view of a positive vision in which the migration in the context of globalization are seen as contributing to the development, and not as a whole range of threats and challenges, both in host countries and in the countries of origin. The weakness of the nexus is seen as key gaps that need to be rethinking and fill out.

Key words: sustainable development, international migration, remittances, the rights of migrants.

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Көші-қон үрдістері мен тұрақты даму: негізгі байланыстар мен кемшіліктерді талдау

Көші-қон үрдістері жаһандану мен тұрақты даму мәселесінде жаңа көрініске ие болып отыр. Көші-қон мен тұрақты даму арасындағы өзара байланыс – заманауи академиялық көші-қон дискурсындағы жиі талқыға түсетін мәселелердің бірі. Екі үдеріс арасындағы негізгі байланыс халықаралық мигранттардың құқық рөлінің артуынан, қабылдаушы мемлекеттер экономикасы үшін ақша аударымдарының рөлінен және мигранттардың реципиент-мемлекеттер дамуына қосқан үлесінен көрініс табады. Бұл элементтердің барлығы көші-қон мен тұрақты даму арасындағы байланысты анықтаушы құрылымның маңызды бөліктері болып табылады. Көші-қон мен тұрақты даму арасындағы байланысты позитивті болжамдармен талдау – ең перспективті талдау жолы, себебі, осы көріністе жаһандану жағдайындағы көші-қон үрдістері жіберуші де, қабылдаушы да мемлекеттерге төніп тұрған қауіп-қатер ретінде емес, дамытуға қосылған үлес ретінде саналады. Ал бұл байланыстар тұрақтылығының жетіспеушілігі кемшілікке жатады және оны қайта ой елегінен өткізіп түзету қажет.

Түйін сөздер: тұрақты даму, халықаралық көші-қон, ақша аударымдары, мигранттардың құқықтары.

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Миграционные процессы и устойчивое развитие: краткий анализ основных связей и пробелов

Миграционные процессы приобретают новые очертания в контексте глобализации и устойчивого развития. Взаимосвязь миграции и устойчивого развития является одним из дискуссионных вопросов в современном академическом миграционном дискурсе. Основные взаимосвязи данных процессов видятся в возрастающей роли прав международных мигрантов, роли денежных переводов для экономики принимающих государств и вкладе мигрантов в развитие стран-реципиентов. Все эти элементы являются важной составляющей, определяющей связь миграции и устойчивого развития. Анализ связей миграционных процессов и устойчивого развития представляется наиболее перспективным с учетом позитивного видения, при котором миграционные процессы в усло-

виях глобализации воспринимаются как вклад в развитие, а не в качестве целого комплекса угроз и проблем как в принимающих странах, так и в странах исхода. Недостаточная устойчивость данных связей видится в качестве пробелов, которые необходимо переосмыслить и заполнить.

Ключевые слова: устойчивое развитие, международная миграция, денежные переводы, права мигрантов.

Migration and sustainable development: brief analysis of key linkages and gaps

Realities of globalization define migration as an important resource for development on the national, regional and global levels. One of the most disputable and controversial questions in the expert's community concerned migration and development issues of recent years relates to the linkages and remaining huge gaps between migration and sustainable development. The question covers a number of aspect including social, economic and environmental dimensions.

The study of international migration and development is characterized by contradictions between the perspectives that are seen in the outflow of the population, not only as a sign of degradation and backwardness of the nation state, but also regarded as the development, and those who are considering a short-term migration as a safety valve, and a long-term sustainable development tool [1]. It is really vital issue which needs detailed research by using new and effective approaches.

The migration process itself is a comprehensive phenomenon and it is suggested to have at least two sides: the country of origin and country of destination. The most important question for countries of origin is whether migration promotes or hinders development. Migration may hinder development by siphoning of qualified personnel (the 'brain drain'), removing dynamic young workers and reducing pressures for social change [2].

Migration often involves a transfer of the most valuable economic resource – human capital – from a poor country to a rich one. Both labour-importing and labour-exporting countries often pursue mostly short-term aims which contain many open questions requires responds. This problem has been discussed for a long time in the UN in the context of globalization processes. It has become an urgent issue. It led to the first-ever plenary session of the UN General Assembly on migration issues opens September, 14, 2006 at the United Nations in New York, with a focus on ways to maximize the development benefits of migration and to reduce difficulties [3].

In understanding the linkages and gaps between migration and development modern academic community focuses on Sustainable Development.

Sustainable Development has got an intensive push for development in the period of increasing globalization. It reflects all the positive and negative trends of globalization process. International migration has grown considerably, and taken on forms which were not anticipated by governments and planners. In the scientific literature «Sustainable Development» is defined as a concept, which became the theoretical basis of the development strategy of the international community.

There are many definitions of sustainable development, including this landmark one which first appeared in 1987: «Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs» [4].

The main points here are to improve the main spheres of mankind and provide some long lasting suitable or sustainable conditions for living and development. It is necessary to find the best way for all states, taking into account the huge gap in their social, economic development and environmental potential. To achieve the sustainable development means to have a kind of balance between these three main fields. It is clearly expressed by the experts even in the end of twentieth century [5]. Within the first decade it was the main issue. But one decade later there have been great advances in both the theoretical aspects of sustainable development and the ways in which that development might be indicated. There also discussion about «weak» and «strong» sustainable development [6].

During the second decade it was also evolution and had an opinion that «Sustainable development is a bridge concept connecting economics, ecology and ethics» [7]. The challenge was to connect and integrate various sectoral policies, such as agriculture, energy, trade or investment. The key message here is to cover economic, social and environmental issues on different level. On the other hand, Sustainable Development concept which means long-lasting development will be changed over the time and have new and different details.

The understanding of migration and sustainable development nexus needs to analyze current processes in the field which could help to maximize

the advantages and minimize the disadvantages. Some experts look at these «advantages» and «disadvantages» through the «optimism» and «pessimism» paradigm and evolution of this [8]. According to the optimistic point of view, migration can be good for the country of origin, the destination country and the migrants themselves. Migration can have a positive impact as sending countries and migrants themselves benefit because migrants find jobs, develop their skills, earn money and remit part of it to their countries of origin, while destination countries benefit from the skills and labour they receive from migrants.

Moreover, increasing financial remittances are evaluated as a new and additional source of finance for development. Through remittances migration has a direct effect on the reduction of poverty. Furthermore, a positive effect is also attributed to social transfers in form of the flow of information, ideas, values etc. and countries of origin benefiting from brain gain. Migration is also viewed as a positive factor because it leads to more balanced supply and demand dynamics in the labour market, and because international migration is expected to contribute to erasing inequality and to lead to a better distribution of the advantages of globalization [9].

Pessimistic point of view emphasizes a number of negative aspects and threatening dangers including poverty, inequality, political instability and conflicts, social pressure both in sending and receiving countries.

It is also necessary to point the emerging «compromise» that international migration can contribute to poverty reduction and development provided that appropriate policy measures are taken. Nevertheless international migration does not automatically imply favourable effects. Several institutions on the global level (UN, IOM, ILO, etc.), on EU-level and on the national level (mostly NGOs) work toward maximising the link between international migration and national development. This activity improves linkages between migration and sustainable development. Speaking generally on «optimism» and «pessimism» it should be noted some concrete links showing migration-sustainable development nexus. It seems quite evident to point two dimensions- the human rights of international migrants and international migrants' remittances. In our vision they reflect both key linkages and gaps.

The human rights of international migrants

Respect for migrants' human rights is one of the most basic determinants of migrants' well-being and

essential to the achievement of greater social and economic development. It is important that migrants of all ages have access to affordable basic social and health services, including reproductive health. The continued deterioration of the human rights of migrants, especially discriminatory and exclusionary practices and the increasing tendency to restrict the human rights of migrants is cause for concern. While it is the sovereign right of States to make laws and regulations concerning the entry of aliens and the terms and conditions of their stay, international human rights instruments call on States to abide by international humanitarian and human rights laws [3].

In this regard, it becomes extremely important to identify possible approaches to the development of mechanisms for the transition of the international community on the way to sustainable development, to determine the correlation between global and regional factors in this transition. Moreover we can tell about the clear understanding that sustainable development concept will vary over the time and political component will be stronger and more influenced. Social component including human dimension, in our case migrants and their position in both donor and receiving countries is still weak point but it requires new approaches.

Remittances

Remittances are important for households and communities, but for many years they were often ignored in development policies. Better support in the form of services, training and infrastructure improves the capacity of migrants and their households to make productive investments in their home areas. Moreover remittances is important point for GDP in number of states [3].

Recorded remittances received by developing countries, estimated to be US\$325 billion in 2010, This is even more than the volume of official aid flows and constitute more than 10 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) in many developing countries [10]. Based on recent data released by the IMF and central bank sources, international migrant remittances to developing countries are estimated to have reached \$404 billion in 2013. The outlook for remittances remains strong. Growth may accelerate to an annual average of 8.4 percent a year in 2014-2016, bringing remittances to developing countries to \$516 billion in 2016. Global remittance flows, including to higher income countries, are estimated at \$542 billion in 2013, and could rise to \$680 billion by 2016 [11].

The list of countries, where remittances are important for development is quite impressive. India remains the largest recipient of officially recorded remittances in the world, and received about \$70 billion in remittances in 2013. Other large recipients include China (\$60 billion), the Philippines (\$25 billion), Mexico (\$22 billion), Nigeria (\$21 billion), and Egypt (\$17 billion) (figure 3). Revised estimates suggest that remittances as a share of GDP were 52 percent in Tajikistan, 31 percent in the Kyrgyz Republic, and 25 percent in both Nepal and Moldova. Remittances to many smaller developing countries tend to be equivalent to a larger share of their respective GDP [11]. The data shows the real importance of the remittances in the migration-sustainable development nexus. At the same time the real role of remittances is reduced by national agencies which weakens the linkage and could be considered as a gap.

Globalization itself and new trends in migration as acceleration of migration, increasing human dimension and becoming labor migration as a key trend makes important to mention Kapur's notion of a «new mantra» to include the whole range of benefits that migration is said to bring for development [1]: These are the following:

- Migrants transfer home skills and attitude – known as «social remittances» – which support development.

- «Brain drain» is being replaced by «brain circulation», which benefits both sending and receiving countries.

- Temporary (or circular) labour migration can stimulate development, and should therefore be encouraged.

- Migrant diasporas can be a powerful force for development, through transfer of resources and ideas back to sending countries.

- Economic development will reduce outmigration, encourage return migration, and create the conditions necessary to utilize the capital and know-how provided by diasporas.

These trends help to understand migration and development in dynamic of the process. The understanding of the linkages between migration and development is constantly changing and has a certain evolution.

In the beginning of 21 century with appearance of Sustainable Development as a part of development expert community faces to explain its linkages with migration.

The linkages of migration and sustainable development is disputable and difficult but it is evident the necessity of studying this phenomena.

Although migration is usually seen as problematic, it contributes to sustainable development. For households in poor areas, remittances improve security and, with the support of appropriate policies, can contribute to local economic growth. In industrial countries with ageing populations, migrant workers are an increasingly important part of the labour force and support national welfare systems. National and international policies need to reflect the contribution of migration to sustainable development, and to explicitly protect the rights of migrants which are all too often ignored in attempts to curb their movement [12].

The analysis of linkages and gaps between migration and development are extremely significant, as the studies on migration and sustainable development show it is new and perspective field [13] for both migration and sustainable development studies. But to fill the gaps it is necessary to use comprehensive approach including national, regional and global cooperation in the field of migration management.

Migration is recognized mostly as a domestic issue but the consequences and problems of the linkages and interdepends with development are international and global.

Sustainable development as a part of development and separate process still needs to be studied more in the context of migration and population studies. It is still weak point to explain the role of migration in the context of sustainable development and even reorientation of migration and development. Positive conclusions can contribute to solve the problems on the national, regional and global level and develop new vision and understanding in the field.

Understanding the linkages between migration and sustainable development have evaluated over the time. Several decades ago it was mostly pessimistic and focused on weak features of the process. Nowadays when globalization simplifies some aspects and adds some new dimensions like innovations, the role of migrants' rights and changing role of remittances and this allows confirm the increased importance of migration and its impacts on sustainable development process.

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