



Main factors and types of external labor migration of the population of in the Uzbekistan post-Soviet period

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ABSTRACT

This article analyzes the main problems, factors and types of external labor migration of the population of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the post-Soviet period. In particular, inadequate government policy in terms of regulating the flow of labor migrants, social protection and creating conditions for their legal activities has caused migrants to become victims of trafficking.

Keywords:

Migration, traffic, illegal labor migration, migration policy, remittances, legal acts

Introduction.

Due to the complex, sometimes contradictory processes that have taken place in the socio-economic life of Uzbekistan over the past three decades, associated with the transition to market relations, they have had a negative impact on the level of unemployment and an increase in the flow of illegal migrants from the republic to countries with more favorable conditions for earning money. The gradual increase in labor migration for the most part became illegal. As is known, illegal migrants are often hired for casual work, often working in dangerous conditions, without any legal protection, putting their personal safety at risk.

If by the beginning of 2003 up to 500 thousand residents of Uzbekistan left their homeland in search of work [1], then by the beginning of 2023 this figure amounted to 2 million 346 thousand people [8]. However, it should be noted that unofficial figures for the number of labor migrants are an order of magnitude higher than official data. Thus, according to information from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Central Bank of the Russian Federation

for 2016-2018, about 4 million citizens of Uzbekistan were registered in Russia for migration every year. Moreover, approximately half of them entered Russia for the purpose of "work" [9].

Until now, the government of Uzbekistan has taken significant measures to eliminate negative trends both in the country's economy and in migration policy, especially to streamline illegal labor migration. However, despite the measures taken, significant changes in the issue of illegal migration cannot be expected in the near future. Moreover, the flow of migration from Uzbekistan will apparently increase, and in the future it may be reoriented to new countries. This is explained by the fact that in the context of globalization, opportunities for entering international labor markets are expanding, especially for young people who have received a modern education, speak foreign languages and market skills [6; 110]

Typology of the problem of external labor migration.

In general, studying the problems of labor migration allows us to divide it into three main groups:

The first is official, that is, carried out through official bodies involved in organizing work on the employment of citizens of Uzbekistan abroad. The first legal acts regulating legal labor migration were adopted back in the mid-1990s. In particular, Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers No. 353 of July 14, 1993 "On regulation of the import and export of labor" and No. 408 of October 19, 1995 "On the professional activities of citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan abroad and foreign citizens in the republic", in accordance with which in 1993 the Republican Agency for Migrant Workers was created under the Ministry of Labor (in 2001 this Agency was transformed into the Agency for External Labor Migration).

This Agency carries out organized (legal) export of labor in accordance with quotas established by General Agreements between countries. However, the scale of organized labor migration from Uzbekistan, carried out in a civilized form, is relatively small. The Republic of Korea has remained the main partner for many years, according to the Agency's data for 1995-2021. Over 55 thousand people were sent from Uzbekistan to the Republic of Korea.[7]

According to independent sources, remittances from Korea to Uzbekistan in 2018 amounted to 106.7 million, in 2019 - 120.5 million, and in 2020 - 258.2 million US dollars [2; 200-211].

The second is illegal labor migration, which is the independent or voluntary departure of citizens of the republic to other countries to earn money. This group can be divided into two subgroups, depending on the availability of a visa regime and interstate agreements on labor migration with certain countries.

The first subgroup includes the departure of citizens of Uzbekistan to countries with the mandatory preparation of necessary documents and obtaining exit visas, for which various pretexts are used: tourism, study, by invitation, etc. Such preparation of documents is a

violation of the rules for travel of citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan abroad.

The second subgroup is illegal labor migration to CIS countries with which there is no visa regime (Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, etc.). Thus, the international report on migration notes that "one of the features of the situation in Central Asia is the existence of illegal migration, although the exact number of illegal migrants is difficult to establish" [4, 95].

And finally, the third group is human trafficking, which consists of organizing illegal travel outside the republic for the purpose of further forced labor exploitation or use in the field of sexual business, etc. To take effective measures to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, on April 17, 2008, the Law of Uzbekistan "On Combating Trafficking in Persons" was adopted, which defines the concept of "trafficking in persons." In accordance with the Law, Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PP-911 dated July 8, 2008 "On measures to increase the effectiveness of the fight against human trafficking" was adopted. In addition, this act provides for criminal liability under Article 135 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Main reasons for external labor migration

The problem of external labor migration is aggravated by a number of reasons:

Firstly, labor migration, and especially illegal migration, has a significant social basis and tends to increase. Data from some studies indicate a high level of migration sentiment, especially among young people [4], and therefore, in the future, an increase in people leaving Uzbekistan is predicted. Thus, the bulk of those leaving may join the ranks of illegal labor migrants.

Secondly, due to a significant number of people wishing to leave and their ignorance of the procedure for leaving and finding employment abroad, a kind of "migration services business" has arisen, whose representatives, in pursuit of excess profits, taking advantage of the vulnerability of illegal migrants, resort to deception, coercion and economic exploitation, and also sexual exploitation and slavery. In doing so,

they violate basic human rights. Since organizing traffic brings great profits, it is in the sphere of interests of organized transnational crime [5].

Thirdly, studies indicate poor awareness of the population of Uzbekistan about the procedure for legally leaving the country for the purpose of employment. Naturally, they can easily fall into the sphere of activity of organized criminal groups involved in recruiting people through deception for illegal labor or sexual exploitation.

Fourthly, in the context of the transition to market relations, the basic social principles, moral values and orientations of modern youth are changing. They develop such qualities as pragmatism, sober calculation, freedom of choice with an orientation, first of all, to their desires, interests and needs. In this connection, young people began to rely more on their own strengths, while taking full responsibility for the freedom to choose their future. Along with this, an ideology is being formed - for a good life you need a lot of money, which you need and can earn by any means [6,7,8].

It should be noted that over the past few years, the leadership of Uzbekistan has adopted a number of regulatory legal acts aimed at eliminating the accumulated problems in the state's migration policy. So, for example, starting from 2018, a number of relevant legal documents: these are Presidential Decree No. 3584 of March 5, 2018 "On measures to ensure the safety of citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan during their travel by transport outside the republic to carry out temporary work activities", No.-3743 dated May 28, 2018 "On the opening of foreign representative offices of the Agency for External Labor Migration under the Ministry of Employment and Labor Relations of the Republic of Uzbekistan", No.-3839 dated July 5, 2018 "On additional measures to further improve the external labor migration system Republic of Uzbekistan", December 26, 2018 - Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On ratification of the Constitution of the International Organization for Migration (Brussels, October 19, 1953)", as well as Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 5785 dated Au-

gust 20, 2019 "On measures to further strengthen guarantees of protection for citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan carrying out temporary labor activities abroad and members of their families" and Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 5205 dated July 30, 2021 "On additional measures to encourage citizens going on organized labor migration abroad." However, despite the solid list of adopted regulations, the provisions contained in them have little impact on changes in the situation with the legalization of labor migration [9,10].

Conclusion.

So, having studied the main reasons and factors of external labor migration from the republic, we can conclude that the above circumstances create conditions for illegal or semi-legal activities of traffic organizers. Firstly, the problem exists and requires an immediate solution. In this regard, it is necessary to solve a set of problems related to forced migration of the population in the near future. And for this, first of all, it is necessary to resolve the issue of effective economic development using domestic resources and attracting foreign investment, which will create conditions for self-development, self-affirmation, social status and material well-being of the population.

Secondly, it should be noted that organized labor migration also has certain positive aspects, such as: employment of part of the active population; import of currency from abroad[In 2022, Uzbekistan received remittances worth a record \$16.9 billion, which is 2.1 times more than in 2021. Most of it is in Russia. Source: The volume of money transfers to Uzbekistan in 2022 amounted to a record \$16.9 billion // <https://www.gazeta.uz/ru/2023/01/26/transfers/>]; partial solution to a number of financial problems of migrant families; training of national personnel working in more developed industrial countries, etc. These factors indicate some interest of the state in temporary labor migration.

Thirdly, taking into account the current and expected demographic burden on the economy, also on the basis of a number of regulatory le-

gal acts adopted in the legislation of Uzbekistan, it is necessary to develop a National Labor Migration Program designed until 2040.

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