THE IMPACT OF THE "BEATEN PATH" MODEL ON ROMANIAN MIGRATION

Elena Raluca CRISTIAN
Romanian-American University, 012101, Bucharest,Romania
cristianraluca@yahoo.com
Laura - Georgeta BĂRĂGAN (TĂNĂSOAICA)
Romanian-American University, 012101, Bucharest,Romania
lauratanasoaica@yahoo.com

Abstract
The migrations process is influenced by a series of factors such as: degree of employment, migrant's salary level in the origin and destination countries, age, gender, education and professional training, economic development, unemployment, prices and purchase power.
The migrations flows originate especially from the poor or very poor countries, believed to be underprivileged, the migrant choosing, obviously, developed countries. International migration involves a series of effects and consequences (positive and negative) for both countries involved - the origin and the destination - for undetermined periods of time.

Key words: *„beaten path" mode; labor market; opportunity cost; migrations phenomenon*

JEL Classification: *D61; F22; J21.*

I.   INTRODUCTION

The studies have shown that there are two main factors influencing the migration decision: subjective and objective factors. Among the objective factors we may mention the economic and political situation, which may cause, in time, psychological pressure on the individual (to search for a new place that would fulfill all his aspirations and frustrations, present in the origin country)

The migrations phenomenon is based on several factors, among which we may mention (Miftode, 2006):
- cultural model (family and community);
- the education (foreign languages, profession, acquired skills);

social and financial status, the way the population of various countries understands poverty (in our case, the Romanians),
- economic crisis, or even the title of „poor man", which, for many, generates a feeling of exclusion from the society;
- the relation with society, the origin communities of the migrant;
- the perception of the global society, between „much too conservative and conformist, in most of the cases"; individual, family and community experience;
- age and gender; the latest statistics have shown that the migrants are especially young and men.

The factors determining the internal and external migration are a network of economic, social end ecologic elements; these take the most diverse forms at micro and macro levels in both origin and host countries.

The reason behind the migrations act is the main tool that gives the individual involved in the process the possibility to pass through or to move to one place. The destination place or country offers more opportunities for work, education, professional training, political and social rights, and health. All these changes offer the people the motivation to migrate, by increasing the social, economic and political freedom. (Hein de Haas, 2009)

Many migrants choose to live in other countries for better jobs, significant financial and professional opportunities, and a better lifestyle.

Migration is often connected to the economic and social situation in the origin country of the migrant. Unfortunately for the states involved, the migrations phenomenon does not bring only benefits for the origin and destination countries.

Migration causes competition on the labor force market, social conflicts between the migrants and the population in the host country.

At micro (individual) level, the migration decision is the result of a private process, through which the future migrant evaluates the money gains and the possibility of obtaining a job in the destination country, compared to the job and salary in the origin country. (Cristian, Moise and Dârzan, 2013).

The migrant is faced, at micro level, with the opportunity cost, which includes the cost of travelling, of living in a new country, finding the means to survive until finding a job, the effort of learning a new language, of adapting and assimilating a new culture and tradition.

Depending on the cost of opportunity, the event and the result of the decision to migrate or to move permanently to another region will happen when the benefits of the new place are higher than the sacrifices of the migrant.

At macro level, migration leads to imbalances on the labor force market, by creating a surplus of supply in some areas of the host country, and at the same time it leads to a deficit in certain sectors and regions in the origin country. (Cristian, Moise and Bărăgan, 2013)

A model of migration's behavior mentioned the social interactions between individuals, these being seen as the main reason behind the migrating decision in certain countries or regions. This model was developed by MacKinnon R. and P. Rogerson (1980), after analyzing the data flows on salaries and job opportunities from new to old areas, these being one of the main reasons justifying the migrating decision. This model analyzes the persons that moved to other places, these people exchanging information about those places with their former neighbors, the latter ones taking the same migrations path, known as the „beaten path". According to the authors, the whole process of convincing the individuals is based on an informational system (formal and informal, shared by the groups of migrants.

II.   SAMPLE STRUCTURE

The purpose of this research is to identify the influence of the „beaten track model" and its contribution to the growth of the migrations phenomenon in Romania. The method used was questionnaire based quantitative research.

The observation unit is the country or origin and destination of the Romanian migrants and the survey unit is the population of Focsani (Vrancea County).   A quantitative research has advantages and disadvantages.

The main advantages are reaching a large surveying group, fast and with relatively low costs. At the same time there is a high flexibility, allowing the respondents to fill in the questionnaire in an environment where they feel comfortable. The most significant disadvantage is the difficulty in guaranteeing the representatives of the sample population, which makes it difficult to generalize the topic (migrations phenomenon) for the entire population of Focsani: 79.868 inhabitants.

The research timeframe was September 2014 – November 2014. The data were input and processed using quantitative processing software – SPSS, in order to provide an analysis of the research.

In total, 543 questionnaires were filled, but 23 questionnaires were cancelled because of errors in filling the information. Therefore, the sample to analyze was 520 valid questionnaires for SPSS.

The sample population was formed by Romanian citizens, residents of Focsani. A small part was represented by 28 former Romanian migrants returned from Italy or Spain.

III.   RESEARCH RESULTS

In this research we analyzed a series of migrations behaviors, between the main variables:
- gender – intention to migrate to another country
- having relatives of friends that migrated – intention to migrate to another country
- marital status – intention to migrate to another country
- age – intention to migrate to another country

Table 1. Parametric correlations between the Q16 and Q17 questions

relatives of friends that migrated	Pearson Correlation	1	0,186**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.	0,000
	N	520	520
Intention to emigrate to another country	Pearson Correlation	0,186**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0,000	.
	N	520	520

Source: SPSS Processing

In this case we may notice that the Pearson coefficient (r=0.1) is 1 for the variable *relatives or friends that migrated*, which means there is a positive relation for the variable.

The beaten path model believes that the ones remaining home will later on become migrants, as long as in their family or entourage there are people that migrated and experimented or a period of time the migrations phenomenon. According to the „beaten path" theory, the migrants that moved to a destination country exchange a series of information about those places with their fellow citizens in the origin country.
The latter ones follow the same „beaten path".

For this model the Pearson Coefficient (r) was 0,186, meaning that in the analyzed model we have a very strong correlation for determining the connection between the two variables, accepting and confirming at the same time the „beaten path" theory.

The significance degree (p) 0,000 is lower than the normally accepted one, 0,05, which proves that there is a very strong connection between the analyzed variables.

The beaten path model represents a specific characteristic of Romanian temporary migration. The kinship or friendship is a form of attracting potential migrants, creating a network between the migrants and the people from home.

Researching the migrations phenomenon from the beaten path (imitation model) point of view implies that, once certain paths have been established, the migration flow will function in a similarly with wild animals that migrate between water sources and other destinations during the year, without falling off the path used for long periods of time. The convincing process is based on a formal and informal informational system. (Vasile and Zaman, 2006)

The ones that intend to migrate are often influenced by relative, friends, and acquaintances. For the research, we chose to keep the dependent variable the intention of migrating to another country and bringing another independent variable – gender (male and female).

Table 2. Parametric correlations between the Q1 and Q17 questions

gender	Pearson Correlation	1	,112[*]
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.	,011
	N	520	520
Intention to migrate to another country	Pearson Correlation	,112[*]	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	,011	.
	N	520	520

Source: SPSS Processing

Pearson coefficient (r) is 0,112 for the variable *intention to migrate in another country*, which means there is a very good and strong correlation in order to establish a connection between the two variables.

The significance degree (p) 0,011 is lower than the normally accepted one 0, 05 which proves that there is a very strong connection between the analyzed variables.

In conclusion, the model was verified; there is a strong positive correlation between the two variables.

The intention to migrate differs for each of the two groups (male and female), being stronger for women than for men. The studies have shown that young single women are more likely to migrate than men.

The migrants, having access to information, create a series of relationships or social connections based on common interests, which, eventually, lead them to a safe and cheap destination, a house, job, moral support and decent living. Once arrived at the destination, the migrant networks attract, after a while, the persons remaining in the origin country, increasing the accessibility of the area or country, in other words, contributing to the continuation of the „beaten path" phenomenon. (Vasile and Zaman, 2006)

For the third case we analyzed the correlations between the intention to migrate and the civil status of the migrant.

The purpose of this correlation is to verify the causality relation and the intention to migrate (not married, married, divorced, widowed)

Table 3. Parametric correlations between the Q4 and Q17 questions

Intention to migrate to another country	Pearson Correlation	1	-,093[*]
	Sig. (2-tailed)		,034
	N	520	520
Marital status	Pearson Correlation	-,093[*]	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	,034	
	N	520	520

Source: SPSS processing

For the variable *marital status,* the Pearson correlation coefficient (r) is negative, -0,093, which shows a weak connection between the two variables.

The significance degree (p) 0,034 is lower than the normally accepted one, 0,05, which proves that there is a very strong connection between the marital status and the intention to migrate.

Weak points of the model are (Constantinescu, 2002):

1. the persons migrating for purely economic reasons are in general young people, before starting a family

2. they do not belong to an ethnic and religious community, the integration process is a slower one.

For the last case we analyzed the connection between the variables: intention to migrate and the age. The purpose of this correlation is to verify the relation between the intention to migrate and age.

Table 4. Parametric correlations between the Q2 and Q17questions

Intention to migrate to another country	Pearson Correlation	1	-,104[*]
	Sig. (2-tailed)		,018
	N	520	520
age	Pearson Correlation	-,104[*]	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	,018	
	N	520	520

Source: SPSS processing

Table 4 shows that for the variable a*ge,* the Pearson correlation coefficient (r) is negative -,104 which shows a weak connection between the two variables.

The significance degree (p) 0,018 is lower than the normally accepted one, 0,05 which proves that there is a significant connection between the age and the intention to migrate.

The intention to migrate in another country is stronger for the group of not married or single (more determined to migrate) unlike the married, divorced or widowed group

The migrating decision may be often seen as an individual option, a way for the migrant to have a better life for himself/herself and the family, and the persons responsible for the public policies must consider the impact of migration as a social phenomenon, at community, regional, area and national level, and the connections created between the origin and destination countries. (Stănculescu, Stoiciu et al, 2012),

Regarding the age, we may notice that, same as in the case of not married people, the young people, between 18 and 44 years old are more willing to migrate, unlike the ones over 50 years old.

Any event, internal or external, is seen as the result of the migrations phenomenon, by including a new person in the migrations network and increases the probability of a new future similar event. The development of the migrant network will lead to creating colonies or Diasporas in those areas.

IV.   CONCLUSION

Hen de Haas (2008) believes that the migrants are not homogenously distributed in the communities they come from. They are seen as multiple personality's individuals, with different knowledge, physical and psychological abilities, coming from various environments. They come from different social classes, age or gender groups, which makes them different in their own communities or Diaspora. Hein de Haas (2008) believes that all these things make the migrations process a selective and subjective one**.**

The current external migration can no longer be seen as a spontaneous and unpredictable contemporary phenomenon. Migration has various reasons: historic, behavioral, economic, social, taking the most diverse and complex forms, which makes us realize that the current European structure cannot exclude this phenomenon, including informational migration, communication**. (**Sigmirean, 2011)

The factor that influence the migrations phenomenon are numerous and complex. One may easily notice the size of this phenomenon, in an era of speed, when the socio-economic and cultural changes have a rapid impact on the reaction of the individuals.

The changes in the business environment together with all the changes in the life of the individual have been studied throughout the time in order to understand them as singular events, as well as to notice their impact on other phenomena.

As a consequence, the main factors that influence the migrating decision we may also mention others, such as the quality of public education, a decisive factor for the families with children under the university age and the quality of the environmental factors, which become more and more important in the social mobility.

Migration represents a very actual problem, with multiple issues, consequences, for origin and destination countries, communication and image impacts.

The migrant is the representative of the origin country in a new cultural environment, a new civilization and the origin country is responsible for both his social and cultural condition as well as for his image, for the way it is presented in the mass media of the adoptive country. **(**Sigmirean, 2011)

The consequences of migration are multiple; therefore a more thorough investigation is in order, for each country and period involved in the process

The labor force migration is focused on a series of psychological social and financial factors, the desire of increasing the income, of improving the lifestyle in another country.   External migration is generally caused by a series of income and living standard major discrepancies occurring between the countries, especially between the developed and ongoing development countries.

V.   REFERENCES

1. Constantinescu, Monica (2002), ''*Teorii ale migraţiei internaţionale''*, Revista Sociologia Românescă, Bucureşti, pp.93-114
2. Cristian, Elena, Raluca; Moise, Elena; Dârzan, Mihaela (2013), ''*A Contemporary Approach on Migration''*, Vol.8, Special Issue   3.1, pp.9-10.
3. Cristian, Elena, Raluca; Moise, Elena; Bărăgan, Laura, Georgeta (2013), ''*The Emigrant   Identity in the Curent Global Context''*, p.474.
4. Burloiu, Petre (2009), *Managementul mondial al resurselor umane. O provocare,*   Editura ASE, Bucureşti, p.26.
5. Hein de Haas (2008),''*Migration and Development.A theoretical perspective''* Working   Papers, International Migration Institute, James Martin 21 st Century School, University   of Oxford, p.6
6. Hein de Haas (2009), ''*Mobility and Human Development''*, Research Paper, United   Nations Development Programme, Human Development Reports Research Paper, p.22.
7. MacKinnon, R.; Rogerson,P.(1980), ''*Vacancy Chains, Information Filters and   Interregional   Migration''*,   Environment   and Planning A12, pp.649-658
8. Miftode,Vasile (2006), ''*Migraţia, caracteristici ale fenomenului,* Migraţia şi efectele ei   în plan familial''*, Iaşi, pp. 13 -1
9. Rusu, Valeriu (2003),*"Migraţia forţei de muncă în Europa,* Editura Arvin, Bucureşti,pp.13 -14.
10. Sigmirean, Corneliu – Cezar (2011), ''*Românii în presa spaniolă de limba română''*, (Working paper), Cluj – Napoca, p.816.
11. Stănculescu, Manuela; Stoiciu, Victoria; Alexe, Iris; Moţoc, Luminiţa (2012), *Impactul crizei economice asupra migrţiei forţei de   muncă românşsti,* Editura Paideia Bucureşti,   p.59
12. Tare.J.Eldomiat,Chong Ju Choi, Philip Cheng (2007), ''*Intercultural relations în the   European Union: Economic convergences   versus mobility''*, The Social Science Journal 44, pp.167 – 171.
13. Vasile, Valentina; Zaman, Gheorghe (2006), *Migraţia forţei de muncă şi dezvoltarea durabilă a României. Abordări teoretico –   metodologice. Sistem de indicatori şi modele de analiză,* Editura Expert, Bucureşti, p.33