

## Categories of International Migration

Shashikala Aloka Kumari Madanayaka

Assistant Lecturer, Department of Economics, University of Kelaniya

shashikalamdnk61@gmail.com

---

### Introduction

The concept of “international migration” has gained contemporary importance in the International Relation discipline. Simply, international migration refers to change of residence over national boundaries. An international migrant is someone who moves to a different country leaving their origin country permanently. International migrants are further classified as legal immigrants, illegal immigrants, and refugees. The distinction between internal and international migration is crucial because they happen for different reasons and internal migration occurred within the national boundaries or within the country, but international migration occurred between international boundaries or countries. Today in the universal world, international migration became a core concept which influence to the population growth, economy and security of a country. Today the **estimated number of international migrants in worldwide is 214 million**. The total number of international migrants has increased over the last 10 years from an estimated 150 million in 2000 to 214 million persons today in 2010 (Massey, 2012) . One of out of every 33 persons in the world today is a migrant (whereas in 2000 one out of every 35 persons was a migrant). The present paper is intended to lineout the categories of international migration.

### Categories of International Migration

- **Refugee Migration**

Refugee and migration were long viewed as separate issues by Governments, asylum policies are now at the core of the discussions on migration in many parts of world. Refugee migration in recent year has become a main phenomenon in international arena. And also asylum seekers are performing a significant role in refugee migration. Some of the major countries in the world are following very strict policies regarding the refugee & asylum seeker migration, because it affects the country in various ways. Under the United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees of 1951, a refugee is more narrowly defined (in Article 1.A.2) as a person who "owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country, or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence, is unable, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it" (Wickramasekera, 2008) . According to this definition it is clear that the refugees are involuntary migrants who migrate in the fear of persecution and **have no clear idea about their destination place, that mean they have not decided their destination by themselves. But the condition of asylum seeker is different from refugees. Asylum seekers are extremely marginalized and vulnerable**

people. They have ceased to be under the protection of the governments of their own countries, and are unable to return home through fear of persecution. "Asylum seeker" means a person who has applied for asylum under the 1951 Refugee Convention on the Status of Refugees on the ground that if he is returned to his country of origin he has a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, political belief or membership of a particular social group. He remains an asylum seeker for so long as his application or an appeal against refusal of his application is pending. The difference between asylum seeker and refugee is the asylum seekers are voluntary migrants and they seek political protection from a particular country and if that country decided to not to provide the political protection for the asylum seekers then they have to return their origin country.

- **Labor Migration**

Labor migration can be simply defined as people migrate to other countries in search of employment. This phenomenon also has a great history. According to the ILO (International Labor Organization) Convention on Migration for Employment 1949, (No. 97) labor migrant or migrant worker defined as, in its Article 11 "migrant for employment means a person who migrates from one country to another with a view to being employed otherwise than on his own account and includes any person regularly admitted as a migrant for employment". Migration flows are characterized by a basic distinction between skilled labor (professionals, technicians, etc.) and unskilled labor. This distinction is highly relevant because the two groups interact with the labor market differently and receive differential treatment in host countries. Skilled workers face few problems overseas given their qualifications and bargaining power. Most protection issues relate to unskilled migrant workers.

**Unskilled Migrants** – Unskilled migrants mean the people who migrate to other countries in search of employment, but they have no skills about particular area to work. As mentioned above unskilled migrants have to face many more problems in the destination place than skilled migrants. When the unskilled migrant are illegal migrants then the difficulties on them are higher. Illegal, unskilled migrants mostly were used for the 3D jobs (dirty, dangerous and difficult) which are not doing by the native worker of the destination place.

**Skilled migrants** - Migration of highly skilled persons from developing to developed countries has increased over the past decade. On the one hand, there has been accelerating demand for skilled workers in developed economies experiencing labor shortages. On the other hand, better wages and employment conditions, better information, better living conditions, recruitment, and cheaper transportation are encouraging skilled migrants to seek jobs in developed economies.

Migrant workers have generally made a positive contribution to the host countries, both in terms of socio-economic development and in providing labor for jobs which the local people did not want to do. Migrant workers are an asset to every country where they bring their labor. Migrant workers provide valuable services with their labor and furnish an often invisible subsidy to the national economies that receive them. The possible disruptive socio-cultural and economic consequences of having a large foreign worker

population, is evident in the attitudes of Japan towards entry of unskilled and semi-skilled labor from Asian countries. Foreign workers pose a risk to the maintenance of socio-cultural homogeneity of the host country population. There is no evidence to back this up, especially since the share of foreign worker population in Japan is insignificant compared to the shares of countries such as Malaysia and Singapore. And also there is a kind of a phobia in the natives of the destination place that due to labor migrants they may lose their jobs and because of that reason the public of the destination place have a very narrow mind regarding the foreign labors. Migrant workers are attractive by the major countries which are suffering by lack of labor capacity. And also the International Labor Organization is a universal body that protects the labor migrants in the world (Lucas, 2008).

- **Family Reunification**

Family reunification refers to the situation where family members join another member of the family who is already living and working in another country in a regular situation. Since the 1980s, family reunification has become a major cause for legal immigration in a considerable number of countries, and particularly in Europe. The significance of this phenomenon has progressively led countries of employment of migrants to recognize – in the presence of specific circumstances – the legal possibility of family reunification for members of the families left behind<sup>1</sup>. In fact, with the exception of the Gulf countries, most migrant-receiving countries have now some basic provisions for family reunification in their legislation. Family reunification is very important for migrant workers. Family reunification allows them to consistently improve their living conditions, to deal with the problem of social adjustment in a smoother way and to better integrate in the host society. In addition, family reunification has also positive effects on the working capacity of the migrant workers. Family reunification is often limited in practice, within the conflict between the human rights of the individual and the security and economic needs of the State. Although the importance and value of family reunification is universally acknowledged, it is not yet recognized as a full-fledged right and it is usually to a great degree left to states' discretion and granted only under strict requirements and on a case by case basis. Potentially, the recently established Committee on Migrant Workers being the monitoring body of a UN Convention on the very subject of migrants' rights is the most authoritative panel in determining the extent and the significance of the rights of migrant workers and members of their families, including family reunification. However, so far the Committee has not yet had an opportunity to apply the Convention in practice (Hatch, 2010).

- **Tourism Migration**

Another major form of migration is business and leisure travel. By some measures the world's largest industry, accounting for 11 percent of global gross domestic production and a similar proportion of world employment. The reason for migrate in this form is different from other form of migration and the reason is to visit the destination place for the purpose of tourism or business travel. For the tourism purpose visit visas are issued for the maximum period of 3 months. But the duration depends on the will of the migrant

(Carlos, 2008). That means to these tourist migrants there is a specific time to return to the origin country. Tourism and business travel are temporary migrations with a growing global environmental impact. International tourism displaces the environmental impacts of rich nations to the often poorer destinations favored by holiday-makers. Those impacts can sometimes be beneficial. In many parts of the world, tourism sustains natural ecosystems and populations of wildlife by providing a strong financial incentive for their preservation. Examples include the elephant and gorilla parks of Africa and the coral reefs of the Caribbean.

- **Regional Migration**

Regional migration means the migration of people within the region. International migration is happened in between the countries, but regional migration is happened within region. Refugee migration, labor migration, family reunification, tourism migration and illegal migration can be occurred in regional migration. It means regional migration can be applied to those categories like; refugee migration can be happened by regional migration. In regional migration, the most common illegal methods of travelling are crossing the border by foot and by boats. But some people use to migrate by legal in this category. In the same region people can be attracted to another country which is more developed than their living place. In that situation people migrate to their destination within the region. Due to the regional migration large sum of labors may migrate to another country and that may be make an effect on their origin place. And also in this situation brain drain can be occurred due to the migration of skilled migrants within the region. Ex-The importance of cross-border migration points out the central role of economic factors in explaining the size and the direction of international labor flows, particularly within the European economic area. According to a recent document by the European Commission (2001), 83% of cross-border movements of workers are concentrated in the border regions of France, Germany, Belgium and Italy. French cross-border workers alone represent about 50% of total cross-border movements (Staver, 2008). Another regional migration pattern occurred between United States and Mexico and also in African region.

- **Forced Migration**

Definition of ‘forced migration’ promoted by the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (IASFM) which describes it as ‘a general term that refers to the movements of refugees and internally displaced people (those displaced by conflicts) as well as people displaced by natural or environmental disasters, chemical or nuclear disasters, famine, or development projects’. Jay Weinstein and Vijayan Pillai (2001) classified forced migration as “Forced migration exists when a person is moved against their will (slaves), or when the move is initiated because of external factors (natural disaster or civil war).” According to this classification people who moved without their will can be considered as forced migration. Forced migration can be viewed as a complex, wide-ranging and pervasive set of phenomena. Forced migration can be happened as regional migration and international migration. It can be focused on three separate, although sometimes simultaneous and inter-related, types of forced migration (Sarvimäki,

2009). These three types are categorized according to their causal factors: conflict, development policies and projects, and disasters. They are,

1. Conflict-Induced Displacement
2. Development-Induced Displacement
3. Disaster-Induced Displacement

- **Illegal Migration**

Illegal migration is migration to a country/state in violation of the immigration laws and sovereignty of that country/state. Illegal immigration raises many political, economic and social issues and has become a source of major controversy in developed countries and the more successful developing countries. In 2010, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) estimated that 25.5 to 32.1 million people (or 10%–15%) of the world's total 214 million international migrants are unauthorized immigrants, though the IOM notes that it is difficult to make accurate estimates (Koser, 2005). Illegal immigration occurs principally from countries with lower socio-economic circumstances to countries with higher socio-economic circumstances, where illegal immigrants perceive greater economic opportunities and quality of life. This has typically been viewed as driving people from developing countries to developed countries, but as economic conditions improved in a number of developing countries, illegal immigration to these more successful developing countries has also increased significantly. Illegal migration is often happen with smuggling and trafficking in person. Illegal migrants also known as illegal aliens and clandestine workers. A migrant can be illegal by three main measurements such as, entry, residence and employment. Although a person migrate to another country legally, after the legal entry he or she can become a illegal migrant by his residency or employment. Most of people become illegal migrants because of lack of economic capability to afford a legal transportation. In the case of illegal migration we can identify several ways that a migrant can become an illegal migrant such as,

- **Undocumented Migration**

Undocumented migration means the migrants don't have the particular legal documents such as passports, visas to prove that they are legal migrants. So the people who migrate without legal documents called undocumented migrants. The magnitude of undocumented migration, by its very nature, remains difficult to quantify. The exact dimension of the undocumented migration phenomenon is therefore difficult to define. Nevertheless, it is widely believed that undocumented migration has been on the rise since the mid-1970s, particularly in developed countries (Koser, 2005). A relatively new and salient dimension of undocumented migration is that of trafficking and smuggling in persons. Large sum of specially trafficked people are including to the undocumented migrants category. In recent years, large numbers of "undocumented" migrants are believed to have entered countries using bogus documents consisting of counterfeit or altered documents, as well as forged, unissued passports stolen from consular facilities. It means migrants traveled to the destination country through legal method with false documents. As an example in the Rizana Nafeek's case she also altered her age in her birth certificate to apply for the

passport to migrate to Saudi Arabia. Although the documents are legal, due to the altered details it becomes false documents and the migrant becomes an illegal migrant. Following a recommendation adopted by the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), a number of Governments have introduced machine-readable travel documents, a technology that is considered to offer strong safeguards against the tampering of official travel documents.

- **Overstaying a Visa**

Many unauthorized immigrants are migrants who originally arrive in a country lawfully but overstay their authorized residence (overstaying a visa). For example, most of the estimated 200,000 unauthorized immigrants in Canada (perhaps as high as 500,000) are refugee claimants whose refugee applications were rejected but who have not yet been expelled from the country (Guriev, 2010). A related way of becoming an unauthorized immigrant is through bureaucratic means. For example, persons can be allowed to remain in a country or be protected from expulsion because they need special pension for a medical condition, deep love for a native, or even to avoid being tried for a crime in their native country, without being able to regularize their situation and obtain a work and/or residency permit, let alone naturalization. Hence, categories of people being neither unauthorized immigrants nor local citizens are created, living in a judicial "no man's land". Another example is formed by children of foreigners born in countries observing jus soli ("right of territory"), such as was the case in France until 1994 and in Ireland until 2005. In these countries, it was possible to obtain French or Irish nationality (respectively) solely by being born in France before 1994 or in Ireland before 2005 (respectively). At present, a French born child of foreign parents does not automatically obtain French nationality until residency duration conditions are met.

- **Illegal Entry**

This means migrants use illegal methods to enter their destination place such as border crossing and smuggling. Most of smuggled migrants entered to their destination sailing by boats. Some migrants used legal methods to enter their destination and after the entry they become illegal migrants due to certain things. As an example students migrate to another country for their studies under student visas. Sometimes they can't join to a job due to their visas. But those migrants used to join a job and then they become illegal migrants. In that case although they have used the legal process to enter their destination place they became illegal migrants due to their actions.

- **Smuggling of Human**

Human smuggling is defined as "the facilitation, transportation, attempted transportation or illegal entry of a person or persons across an international border, in violation of one or more countries laws, either clandestinely or through deception, such as the use of fraudulent documents" (Friebel, 2002). The practice of people smuggling has seen a rise

over the past few decades and today now accounts for a significant portion of illegal immigration in countries around the world. People smuggling generally takes place with the consent of the person or persons being smuggled, and common reasons for individuals seeking to be smuggled include employment and economic opportunity, personal and/or familial betterment, and escape from persecution or conflict. In looking at the relationship between illegal migration and human smuggling, Friedrich Heckmann stresses that smuggling of migrants plays a crucial role in facilitating irregular migration, as smugglers may provide a wide range of services, from physical transportation and illegal crossing of a border to the procurement of false documents. Often, human smuggling is conducted in order to obtain a financial or other material benefit for the smuggler, although financial gain or material benefit are not necessarily elements of the crime. For instance, sometimes people engage in smuggling to reunite their families. Frequently, at the end of the journey, smuggled aliens are held hostage until their debt is paid off by family members or others. It is also possible that a person being smuggled may at any point become a trafficking victim.

#### ▪ **Human Trafficking**

Human Trafficking is a crime against humanity. It involves an act of recruiting, transporting, transferring, harboring or receiving a person through a use of force, coercion or other means, for the purpose of exploiting them. Every year, thousands of men, women and children fall into the hands of traffickers, in their own countries and abroad. Every country in the world is affected by trafficking, whether as a country of origin, transit or destination for victims. As guardian of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and the Protocols there for, assists States in their efforts to implement the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons (Trafficking in Persons Protocol). Article 3, paragraph (a) of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons defines Trafficking in Persons as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation (Guriev, 2010). Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.

The purpose from the beginning of the trafficking enterprise is to profit from the exploitation of the victim. It follows that fraud, force or coercion all plays a major role in trafficking. Trafficking often includes an element of smuggling, specifically, the illegal crossing of a border. In some cases the victim may believe they are being smuggled, but are really being trafficked, as they are unaware of their fate. For example, there have been cases where women trafficked for sexual exploitation may have knowingly agreed to work in the sex industry and believed that they would have decent conditions and be paid a

decent wage. What they did not realize is that the traffickers would take most or all of their income keep them in bondage and subject them to physical force or sexual violence.

## Conclusion

International migration covers a vast area which can't be marginalized to certain topics. International migration is only a one category of migration patterns and as per the paper presents it is important to identify what is the nature and scope of international migration. The paper only focused on the categories of the international which were mainly identified as refugee migration, labor migration, family reunification, tourism migration, regional migration, forced migration and illegal migration. As per the explanations mentioned above, each category has been elaborated to some extend which gives a clear picture of the nature of such migration. At the same time, it has tended to explain some sub divisions of the migration patterns. In the modern world, international migration has performed a negative impact due to the rapid incensement of the population. Due to this reason, most of the people are engaging in the illegal patterns of migration which they choose as easy to enter into a country without following the legal process and then they ended up with facing tragedies.

## References

- Massey,Douglas.(2012), *Patterns and Processes of International Migration in the 21st Century*, available at: <http://pum.princeton.edu/pumconference/papers/1-Massey.pdf>, accessed on 28.03.2015.
- Wickramasekera,Piyasiri.(2008) *Asian Labour Migration: Issues and Challenges in an Era of Globalization*, International Migration Programme, International Labour Office, Geneva , available at: <http://oit.org/public/english/protection/migrant/download/imp/imp57e.pdf>, accessed on 15.03.2015.
- Lucas,Robert.(2008) *International Labor Migration in a Globalizing Economy*, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Publications , 1779 Massachusetts Avenue, NW Washington.
- Hatch,Patricia.(2010) *U.S. Immigration Policy: Family Reunification*, League of Women Voters, available at: [http://lww.org/files/ImmigrationStudy\\_FamilyReunification\\_Hatch.pdf](http://lww.org/files/ImmigrationStudy_FamilyReunification_Hatch.pdf), accessed on 25.04.2015.
- Staver,Anne.(2008) *Family Reunification: A Right for Forced Migrants?*, University of Oxford, available at: <http://www.rsc.ox.ac.uk/files/publications/working-paper-series/wp51-family-reunification-2008.pdf>, accessed on 20.04.2015.
- Carlos,Nuno.(2008) *Migration and Tourism Demand*, Polytechnic Institute of Santarém and CEFAGE University of Évora, Portugal, available at: <http://store.ectap.ro/articole/687.pdf>, accessed on 15.04.2015.



Sarvimäki,Matti.(2009) *Long-Term Effects of Forced Migration*, Institute for the Study of Labor, available at: <http://ftp.iza.org/dp4003.pdf>, accessed on 22.04.2015.

Koser,Khalid.(2005) *Irregular migration, state security and human security*, available at: [https://www.iom.int/jahia/webdav/site/myjahiasite/shared/shared/mainsite/policy\\_and\\_research/gcim/tp/TP5.pdf](https://www.iom.int/jahia/webdav/site/myjahiasite/shared/shared/mainsite/policy_and_research/gcim/tp/TP5.pdf), accessed on 23.04.2015.

Guriev,Sergei.(2010) *Irregular Migration, Migrant Smuggling and Human Rights: Towards Coherence*, 2010 International Council on Human Rights Policy, CH-1207 Geneva, Switzerland.

Friebel,Guido.(2002) *Human Trafficking and Illegal Migration*, Stockholm School of Economics, available at: [http://www.nes.ru/NES10/cd/materials/guriev\\_isnie\\_paper.pdf](http://www.nes.ru/NES10/cd/materials/guriev_isnie_paper.pdf), accessed on 27.04.2015.