

LABOUR MIGRATION AS A FACTOR OF LABOUR MARKET DEVELOPMENT

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Key words: labour migration, labour market, national labour market.

Labour is the most important factor of production; it creates the basis of national wealth, and its rational usage is of great importance.

Rise of the market economy in Russia brought about a ground-breaking transformation of all the combination of labour relations as well as a new understanding of economic theories from the point of view of the processes which are underway on the modern labor market.

One of the factors which impacts considerably on the development of the national labour market is labour migration.

Lately the migration processes have acquired a previously unseen scale. Due to the globalization of migration streams, the process of migration has involved practically all countries of the world.

No doubt, Russia has accumulated substantial experience in examining the migration issues; scholars research multiple facets of the migration processes at their various historical stages. Yet, the essence proper of migration, its manifestations during the process of state regulation have not been sufficiently studied.

Western scientific literature suggests an array of theories of migration movements which explain the rise and development of migration streams as well as the price for the participating countries; the migration processes proper have been within the concern of foreign scientists since the end of the 19th century.

The most complete classification of major foreign scientific approaches to the examination of migration has been done by V.A. Iontsev. In his paper which addresses the theory and the history of the population international migration, he defines 17 main scientific approaches to the migration studies which contain 45 scientific trends, theories and concepts¹.

Analysis and generalization of the above approaches allows us to draw a conclusion, that the majority of theories sometimes name contradictory factors as the major reason for migration.

At that, in real life all the above approaches and explanations complement each other and are intertwined; and presently an ideal migration theory is non-existent.

Besides, of paramount importance as a theoretical aspect is a delimitation by the above theories of home and international migration.

We trust that the planned Russia economic growth, even under efficient usage of the achievements of scientific/ technical and social progress is impossible without a considerable labour replenishment at the expense of international migration. Many regions of this country even now experience a shortage of labor. By 2015, the country's workforce will decrease by 8m; by 2025 - by 18-19m.

Maximum decrease in the able-bodied-age population will happen in 2010-2014, when an average per-annum diminution of the population in that age-group exceeds 1.300.000. At that, the population categories, which will be comprised into the able-bodied age in the first quarter of the 21st century, have been already born; so, it will be impossible to set off the gap at the expense of the incipient growth of birth rate².

Russia can partially replenish the labour during that period utilizing the measures set to decrease mortality in the able-bodied age; to ameliorate the population's health; to ensure a general increase in standards and quality of life. We believe that in this process the achievement of goals set by the President of the Russian Federation in Strategy of Russia's Development by 2020, is to be crucial.

Yet, such measures, even if they are effective, will not be able to bring immediately the expected result. As world experience shows, migration (if properly regulated by the state) can give a faster and greater response to the challenges of the next decade. For example, currently, according to expert estimates, migrants produce no less than 8-10% of Russia's GDP³.

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On the whole it is possible to say that the situation with the lack of labor develops in Russia approximately in the same way as in other countries of the world comparable by the level of development. Published in March 2007, a report by the UN experts about the future of the world migration testifies that by 2050 the biggest population diminution is expected in the East European countries: Bulgaria- by 35%; Ukraine- by 33%; Russia- by 25%; Poland-by 20%⁴.

In connection with this, we share the opinion of those scientists who claim that in the long-term period Russia will need human resources even under a sufficiently effective usage of the achievements of the scientific / technical and social progress.

One should keep in mind the geopolitical aspect, since the average density of population in Russia is 8 per square km, which is 4-fold less than in the USA, 15-fold than in EU, 17-fold than in China, and 43-fold than in India⁵.

Foreign and home practice shows that in order to solve these problems one needs an efficient migration policy which should be aimed to impact the dynamics of the human potential; to direct the population migration as well as to integrate labor migrants bearing in mind the interests of this country's territorial development. Here, to regulate migration streams, various economic, administration and social-psychological methods can be used.

Russia should cast a more thorough glance at the positive, as well as the negative experi-

ence accumulated by the European countries that earlier than Russia had encountered with the rapid growth of the migration stream. The more so, that the migration situation in Russia, according to the opinion of some scholars, resembles that of Western Europe countries in the 1950s-1970s⁶.

In other words, the necessity to adopt an efficient state migration policy is ripe, since the task is not only a competent regulation of these processes but getting prepared to new challenges connected with the expected decrease in able-bodied population as well as with the decrease in supply of labor on the labor market.

¹ *Iontsev V.A.* International Migration of the Population: Theory and History of Studies . - M: Dialog-MGU, 1999. - p. 85

² *Russian Economic Miracle. Forecast of the Russian Economy Development Till 2020.* - Moscow: Center of Macro-Economic Analysis and Short-Term Forecast, 2007. - p. 155.

³ Interview by V.Tishkov, Chairman of the Commission on the Issues of Tolerance and Freedom of Conscience of the RF Public Chamber <http://www.oprf.ru/rus/members/appearances/article-512.html>

⁴ UN Report 'On Prospects of the World Migration' http://www.un.org/esa/population/publications/wpp2006/wpp2006_highlights.pdf

⁵ *Ilyshev A., Bagirova A., Pavlova L.* Demographic Program: Priorities and Implementation Mechanisms // *Economist* , 2008. No. 6. p.47.

⁶ *Gevorkyan A.* Issues of Regulating Temporary Labor Migration // *Economic Issues*, 2007, No. 9. p. 147.