

Petronela Daniela FERARU

Social Costs of the External Migration in Romania



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ROMANIA

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Basic concepts: *social cost, material cost, human capital, social capita, symbolic capital*

Argument

The present research intends to approach in an explicative manner the migration phenomenon, mainly to test which are the social costs of external migration in Romania. We have tried to find some answers by relating to this specific type of migration, especially to external or international circulatory migration, of to-and-fro type which registered a constant increase in Romania in the last years. Travelling for work abroad is part of a life strategy with major effects on the person/household. In this sense, the social costs of the phenomenon become ample, with effects at the national level.

The present study was based on the questions: which are the reasons that determine more and more Romanians to leave for work abroad, how do they leave legally or illegally, what is the Romanians' perception about the situation of present Romania, their perception about the emigration area, which are the costs, which are the benefits and losses of external migration?

The approaching manner is mainly a qualitative one but has in view a quantitative approach of the phenomenon at the level of a community of Romanians situated in the north of Italy, in Torino. In this paper, migration is studied from a broader perspective, tackling

both the persons in the hypostasis of immigration (entrance) and emigration (exit); both forms of migration are considered since any migratory act is at the same time a migration and an emigration.

The interest manifested for this phenomenon is based on the fact that, in most of the cases, mobility is accompanied or generates a social mobility, namely the changing of the social status of the migrant persons. The object of study is the external migration without making the temporary or final specification, a reconstitution of migration being usually necessary, after a period of time beyond which they can be considered final.

The important aspect of the research is that when initiating the project, the external migration takes place under a few important forms: the work force migration, the migration of members belonging to families of previously emigrated workers, legal or clandestine migration. This takes place since illegal migration (clandestine) has often dimensions difficult to evaluate.

The external migration determines a large set of social phenomena but those characterizing this research are the macro social phenomena in which the determinant factors of external migration act on the humans like structural elements; the human individuals as social conscientious and rational actors take into account these elements when taking into account the possibility of migration.

During the study the external migration was imagined as being the result of a multitude of individual actions of rational social agents, which evaluate the costs, the benefits and the risks not only in economical terms.

Another major component of the study is the problem of external migration effects or consequences, the investigation direction is contoured towards the effects of origin and adoption population or of destination on the migration itself.

Another aspect of the research is the situation of migrant families, of those remaining home, especially whether the situation of those remaining home is ameliorated, whether the migrants send material goods and money at home.

A starting point for elaborating the investigation of external migration phenomena and the social costs that it involved was the situation of the population in the receiving area and how it is influenced by the presence of immigrants; if they are found in the period of economic increase then the emigrants contribute to completing the work force necessity ; in exchange, during the period of recession, they participate to the increasing of the number of unemployed , being subject to dismissing thus determining a further resource consume.

Another interesting aspect in the research is the anthropological one that focuses on the integration of migrants in the receiving communities taking into account the fact that there is contact between two different cultures. I also monitored the manner in which the social cultural contact is manifested in the individuals' process of receiving, interiorizing and applying values, norms, behaviour models or live styles specific to the cultural space they are into contact with, and on the other hand the psychological cultural contact in which the individual also encounters new elements in the process of integration

(information, experiences) in the pre-existent structures, having now the receptor role.

I also monitored the manner in which family and migration influence each other, which are the spent economical and non-economical resources that lead to achieving the act of migration. The resources spent are accompanied by the secondary negative effects related to the migration of individuals.

I carry on by developing the analysis of external migration as an answer to the current social problems of Romania, by relating them to cost/benefit analyses and social efficiency by proposing solutions under the form of social politics.

The dimensions through which the research data were radiographed are the psychological, cultural and economic ones. The demarche conceived for the research is deductive, constructing hypothesis and trying through the study of the empirical reality to discover whether they are confirmed or not.

The theoretical space used is inter-theoretical since the study of this social phenomenon implies several approach angles. I used both theoretical instruments that involve the reality at the macro social and micro social level, both from the determinist and from the constructivist point of view.

The basic conclusion that we reached presents family as a key factor in initiating and signing a migration project; another important element is the one that impels emigration, the material and economic one respectively, being the main motivational source. Another detail of the

research refers to the feeling of belonging and identity built in relation with the original society.

The final aspect of the research implies the emergency of solving the social problems by proposing some social politics and intervention projects that generate the economical exploitation of all types of availabilities in the origin society in view of fighting the migration phenomenon in the future and attracting Romanians from abroad to come and invest and establish themselves definitively; national projects and programs which involve also children of emigrant families.

This project attempts to see an immigrant with well-defined reasons and purposes at the arrival point, before and after leaving the country of origin. The constraints and opportunities of economical and communicational nature are very important in most of the cases. The status indicators are significant for different forms of capital (human, economical, social or vital, symbolic capital). From the functional aspect point of view we distinguish development/surviving, conversion/maintenance elements of different forms of capital.

Pagin 1 sat goal inten ionat

I. Theoretical Background

The theoretical frame is presented under the form of a corpus of concepts, objectives and hypotheses that guided and organised the whole empirical demarche. By explaining and communicating the theoretical arsenal, we enable the evaluation of the instruments validity, of the results accuracy, of the coherence and knowledge value of the final discourse by the scientific community.

The research was conducted towards the accomplishment of some objectives, such as:

- Identifying the causes of migration
- Identifying the effects of migration on the immigrants' families.
- Identifying the relation between migration and development.
- Emphasizing the role of church in the process of integrating the immigrants in the adoption country.
- Identifying the socio-economical consequences of the external migration.
- Creating the emigrant's profile.
- Proposing some solutions under the form of social politics.

Also, the demarche was tailored according to the existence of the following hypotheses:

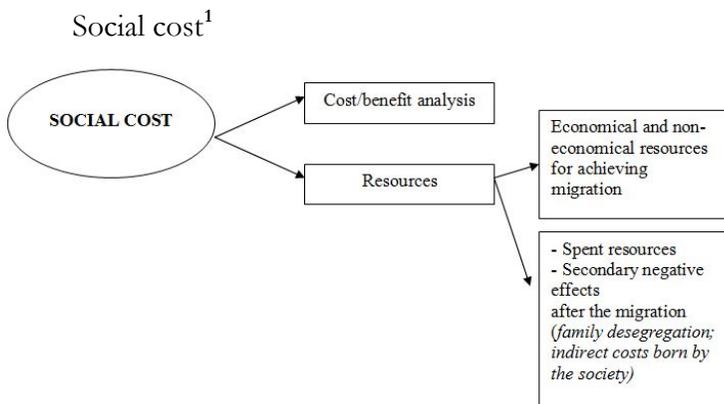
- In mediating the work force, the majority of migrants prefer the alternative of relations and family network from the provenience environment.

- The migrants' families concentrate their economical practices in investments and less in consume.
- The financial capital obtained is used in investments that have as a purpose improving the living standard, acquiring houses and fields, protecting the family for a long period of time.
- There is an unequal distribution of wins and losses between the issuing regions and the receiving ones.

I.1. Conceptual-operational Apparatus

Basic concepts: social cost, material capital (physical), social capital, human capital, symbolic capital.

I.1.1. Presentation of concepts



¹ Zamfir, Cătălin, Vlăsceanu, Lazăr (coord.), *Sociology dictionary*, Babel Publishing House, Bucharest 1993.

The cost/benefit analysis (a.c.b) is a vital analysis technique for the optimal distribution of resources in view of maximizing the benefits, more exactly:

- the relationship between the benefits brought (positive consequences) and special costs (resource expenses) plus those negative effects;
- indirect negative unintentional effects (costs).

Resources (r):

psychological – psychic and intellectual capacities

- motivation
- social (individual motivation, of the community, common action capacity)
- economical
- specific (belonging to any activity)
- common (free time, financial means “capital”)

Material (Physical) Capital

- from the material point of view, Romania is a poor European country;
- Romanians have lower living standards, have smaller incomes and salaries than the majority of the European countries;
- In Romania, the individuals are preoccupied with satisfying their basic needs

Human capital \implies *educational (school) -> formal and informal*

\implies *biologic (the health state)*

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