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Investigation of the Role of Reverse Migrations in Reconstruction of Northern Ardebil Province Villages

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ABSTRACT

The present research tries to investigate the impacts of reverse migration on sociocultural, economic, spatial-texture and policymaking reconstruction of northern Ardebil province villages (Pars Abad, Bileh Savar and Moqan cities) which were considered as one single area. In this research, main reasons for reverse migration and its impacts on villages' reconstruction (sociocultural impacts, economic impacts, spatial-texture impacts and strategic policymaking impacts)were investigated. Further, descriptive data analysis used library-document secondary data for analysis and national Iranian Center for Statistics data were also used. Field study (direct observation, questionnaire filling) was used by. Quota sampling method was used to pick sample members from among 333 governors (city governors and section governors), Housing Foundation experts, village governors, members of villages Islamic Councils and villagers. Pearson correlation test and SPSS software was used for data analysis. Results showed that there is a positive and significant relationship between reverse migration and sociocultural, economic, spatial-texture and strategic policymaking variables.
KEYWORDS: Pars Abad, Bileh Savar, Moqan (Germi), reverse migration, rural development

INTRODUCTION

Abundant problems concerned with urban areas like sociocultural abnormalities, expensiveness of property, spiritual and mental pressures, air pollution and higher costs are unattractive factors and in contrast, inexpensive land and housing, air cleanliness, absence of urban problems and so on are attractive aspects in villages and rural areas and these may direct city residents towards their original villages. Sometimes, this migration from city to village is so intense (reverse migration) that the village function changes and it turns into a second housing and permanent residential area. The present research tries to investigate the reasons for reverse migration from cities to villages and its impacts on reconstruction of villages. In this research, we assume that factors like presence of appropriate communicational facilities, inexpensive housing and land in villages, job type and villagers occupation in farming and agriculture sector, problems like economic, social, environmental (noise, air pollution and …) problems influence reverse migration. Migration is one of the main demographic phenomena and one of the aspects of demographic analysis. It is concerned with displacement of human from one place to another. People usually migrate from areas with undesirable economic, political, social and cultural conditions to areas with better occupational attractions, higher wages and more favorable social and economic conditions (Iranian Center for Statistics, 2006). Considering the research subject, migration means displacement of population from village to city and vice versa. Migration of city residents to villages is considered as reverse migration. Although this procedure is not something new but it has been heightened recently. This phenomenon is observable in the area under study factors like elevation, water reserves, meteorological conditions and roughness are important in reverse migrations. In the present research, we investigate the influence of some factors on reverse migration and also investigate the mutual interactions between reverse migration and other variables.

RESEARCH THEORETICAL LITERATURE

Reverse migration

Migration means leaving one's land, homeland and original residence to live in another land (city or country) in order to achieve some targets. These targets include political, economic, social, and cultural and so on. Migration is sometimes voluntary and is sometimes mandatory. Considering migration concept, return of migrants to their original homeland for living on different reasons results in a phenomenon called reverse migration. In Iran, reverse migration usually refers to return of people from large cities to small cities or from cities to rural areas. This is while in international level, reverse migration refers to one's return to his or her original homeland. The present research studies the impacts of reverse migration on reconstruction of target

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villages in northern Ardebil Province in Iran. immigrants who entered the studied villages, whether those native immigrants who had migrated before or new immigrants who had selected villages for living on different reasons like occupation, residential, recreational resort, relaxing place and so on, were selected for investigation.

Rural reconstruction

Reconstruction is a phrase which contains all economic, social and … processes. Rural reconstruction means spatial and structural repairs and changes like physical-structural, cultural-social, strategic and changes. Migration is a complex phenomenon which not only affects the volume and population growth in a society but also it exerts considerable changes to place structure and population distribution. Migration has always been an effective factor in workforce volume, distribution of workforce based on skill, education, expertise and occupation, occupational opportunities, saving, investment and production. Further, migration is a factor which has had a lot of social and psychological results on destination and origin of migration (Keshtkar, 1999). Migration is a socio-economic phenomenon which is the result of combination of social, psychological, economic and political factors. Migration has always been an important element of urbanization, economic development, social changes and political organization. Migration is people's displacement from one place to another for life or work. People usually migrate in order to get away from undesirable factors like poverty, food shortage, natural calamities, war, unemployment, and shortage in security. The second reason may be attractive factors and conditions like more hygienic facilities, better education, more income and better housing. In UN demography dictionary, migration has been defined as: migration is a form of population displacement which takes place between two geographical units. This displacement is in the form of changing residence from origin towards destination. Such migrations are called permanent migration and must be distinguished from other forms of population displacement which do not involve permanent change in residence (Zanjani, 1997). Migration is individuals' movement from origin to destination and is of two types: one of them is population movement from a lowly-developed area, country or city to another geographical area which is usually more developed. This is done from one city to another city, metropolitan and so on and even in the form of displacement from one village to another village (Taghavinejad Deilami, 1978). Migration is a demographic phenomenon because different aspects of population movement can be evaluated in terms of age, gender, race, nationality, education and so on. Migration has a lot of impacts on population growth and economy and development (Tavassoli, 1995). Rural migration and returning migrationis also another type of migration in which an individual is born in a village, migrates to a city and lives there for a while and then returns to his or her village and lives his or her final years of life over there (Piteh, 1990). Therefore, reverse migration is mainly concerned with the elderly and retired. However, some young people may also prefer to live in villages for sanitary reasons (absence of air, water, noise … pollution) and may enter cities only for work (Rabbani, 2010). Since city is a place for growth and development, migrations are usually from villages to cities.

Economic factors which affect migration

Many studies over the past few decades conducted on rural-urban migrations indicate that most individuals migrate due to economic reasons. When people are asked why they migrate, they mention better economic visions as the main reason. Migration flows between regions depend on differences in income between the regions and changes in economic conditions in destination can change migration.

Revanstein calls migrants as individuals who are displaced for achieving better economic conditions. He believes that immigrants emigrate frompoor areas to areas with more opportunities. Selection of destination takes place considering distance between cities and smaller villages to larger cities (Findli, 2009). Functionalists believe that disturbance in a system balance results in migration which establishes balance in society. Therefore, migration turns into a mechanism for compatibility with changes and on the other hand, it brings balance to a society. Todaro was the pioneer of individuals who believe that migration has special economic motivations and defines economic motivations in terms of observed differences between rural-urban incomes, assuming that migration seeks for maximum income (Findli, 2009). Poverty is the villagers' main motivation for migration. Poverty is usually resulted from inequality in distribution of economic resources (water, property) in villages and also inequalities in city and village. When economic balance is established between a city and a village, villagers produce agricultural crops and give their excess production to cities. In case of such a balance, there is an insignificant difference between urban and rural income and products prices and a rural family is not confronted with inequality in comparison with an urban family. However, there is usually a lot of income inequality between city and village and income inequality has increased over the past few decades. Village-city migrations have also increased correspondingly (Lahsaee Zadeh, 2009).

Sociocultural factors influencing migration

Small cities and villages are domains for obligation and restriction where individuals are surrounded by family, neighbors and groups restrictions. It is clear that when such restrictions exist in America and Europe,

they are also present across the world. Investigations reveal that most immigrants are young people aged 15-29. This age group can attend cities and market and seize opportunities for higher wages.

Reasons for migration in developed and developing countries

In developing countries, migration from villages to cities has become a great concern. In fact, migration is a cause for more imbalances in social, economic and political issues. Third-world countries are not able to create a balance between employment and work supply &demand. Migrants who travel from villages to cities agitate the balance in workforce supply and demand and this is one of the main issues concerned with migration (Mashahdizadeh Dehaghani, 2008). In fact, in developing countries, population growth is one of the main factors in migration of rural young people to cities. Rural families have more children than before due to reduction in their children mortality and because water reserves and land is scarce and inadequate in villages, families cannot meet their needs. Migration, especially from villages to cities, is now a serious concern. In fact, migration disturbs social, economic and political balance. Areas which send migrants become void of workforce and inappropriate concentration of workforce in cities is an important consequence of runaway migration.

This trend facilitates migration to larger cities. Therefore, considering the workforce in villages and unemployment in rural areas, some youths migrate to cities. This is while in developed countries, reduction in mortality and slow population growth and reduction in traditional childbirth have led to increase tendency to give birth in the medium class of society. In Britain, for instance, population growth was accompanied by migration to colonies and the large number of individuals in medium urban class in comparison with total population reduced childbirth in this class (Shokui, 2009).

In developed industrial countries, mechanization of agriculture and release of workforce in villages and also development of industrial and service hubs in cities and increase in workforce in such sectors are considered as main attractions for migration from village to city. However, in developing countries, annihilation and disappearance of local and traditional farming has occurred as a result of hegemonic culture and economy attack is the main reason for migration to cities (Hosein Zadeh Dalir, 2008).

In Iran, considering the restrictions in fertile lands and high level of childbirth, rural community has experienced a population growth and must become compatible with the new conditions. This compatibility is important from two aspects: one of them is production of food for national population and the other is production of new jobs for young people entering employment market (Lahsaee Zadeh, 2009). In fact, internal migrations in Iran are mainly resulted from unequal distribution of population with respect to natural resources, unequal distribution of civil credits and national investments in exploiting natural resources. This caused some geographical regions which have workforce surplus to send their excess workforce to other regions which have demand surplus. This migration is harmful and not only reduces production force in immigrant-sending areas but also results in production reduction in the areas. In immigrant-accepting areas, further, employment balance is disturbed and low-productive activities are increased (Javan, 2008). in spite of this, it can be said that migration to cities in Iran can be avoided. Evidence shows that the present migrations will be continued in Iran for a long period of time. In general, it can be said that social, economic, cultural and political transformations especially within the past decade have changed hierarchy of production in farms and villages. Further, ignorance of villages and concentration on urban development has produced a deep economic gap between life in city and village and this increases migration to cities. On one hand, villages lose their workforce and on the other hand, cities cannot absorb the migrated workforce. This trend results in emergence of disguised unemployment in cities, false employment and open unemployment in villages. Failure to implement civil and development programs in villages is an important factor in this problem. Adoption of policies like provision of housing for the poor and migration of villagers to cities in hope for such advantages and also absence of specific policies in economic areas like agriculture is another factor which results in migration of villagers to large cities. In fact, migration is the result of a chain of wrong policies. Sometimes, these wrong policies are resulted from presence of immigrants in one region and reduction of population in another region (Mashhadi Zadeh Dehaghani, 2008).

Impacts and outcomes of migration and urbanization

The main advantage of migration of villagers to cities in developing countries is inexpensive workforce supply to production and service firms in cities. This inexpensive workforce brings huge added value for owners of firms (whether public or private). Production and service firms also are developed increasingly as a result of accumulation of capital in cities. Development means more absorption of workforce from villages and then, more accumulation of capital becomes accessible. Further, an increase in population of cities due to migration of villagers and concentration of population in and around cities contributes to increase in demand and development of market. This, in part, results in development of production and service firms. Another advantage of migration of villages to cities can be found in benefits beyond restricted urban benefits. In fact, these benefits are national benefits which are achieved in concentration of population in cities. Immigrant villagers learn more about citizenship rights when migrate to cities which is impossible in rural life. In other words, when sporadic rural population (geographically) is focused in special urban areas, access to services is facilitated in national,

regional and local scale. In fact, rural immigrants affect national economy via reproduction and this is sometimes t national benefits and sometimes harmful. Training of immigrants in non-professional jobs is not costly and acceleration of rural migrations to cities results in imbalanced urban development and increases need for urban services (Shokuee, 2009).

Development of urbanization and increase in urbanization population

The main impact of migration is development of urbanization and increase in urban population. In developing countries during 1960-1970, the population of cities over 20000 people has increased 4.6% annually. This is while rural areas haveexperienced a 1.8% growth. Furthermore, population of cities in developing countries over 1920-1970 has increased 2.5 times as much as population of cities in developed countries (Findli, 2009: 8). Increase in urban population and development of urbanization without any program has many adverse consequences like emergence and growth of marginalization. Therefore, migration of villagers results in reducing average age in suburban areas because migrants are mostly young people. When migration increases, age group 20-30 dominates. A secondary impact of young people migration is that their children are born in a new area which is usually an apartment building or a house in suburban area. Living in suburban areas is dominated by young people and there are few old people in such areas (John Piteh, 1990). Practically, urban population increases when migration from villages to cities increases. Migration increases urban population and high rate of villagers women fertility increases urban population. Newly-migrated single men are also young and considered as a productive force (Mashhadi Dehaghani, 2008).

Reverse migration and development of rural communities in Iran

Rural communities are small communities in which groups of humans have similar lifestyle, language, customs and common social needs and live together. Relationships among members of rural communities are strong and are characterized by special traditional behavioral models. Villages are built on areas which have natural resources and facilities for human residence. Water and land are two important factors. In Asian communities, water has been more important. Limitations in water reserves make it possible for every village to have a particular number of populations. Moreover, low level of technology and the type of owner-serfdom system and job division has given special form to villages and this has made rural life similar in all villages (Taleb, 2008). In villages, place, job and class displacement is rare. There is a weak privacy and social entities are not separated in villages and family implements the duties of other entities. In villages, interactions are fewer than that of cities and this results in self-regulating public centers in villages which have roots in nomadic and emotional texture of villages.in contrast, cities have civil entities and NGOs.

Reverse migrations in Iran

increase in life costs in cities and housing price growth in suburban areas has led to reverse migration in some Iranian cities. According to deputy of Ministry of Road and urban development in 1990, 800 suburban areas have been identified in Iran. Estimations show price ascend in these areas. More than 18 million people of 21 million populations of rural areas have Asphalted road. Government intends to construct Asphalted road for all villages above 20 households and above 100 residents. Development of villages roads contribute to national economy. Agricultural activities require roads and roads development reduces transportation costs. On the other hand, high life costs in urban areas impose some difficulties on migrated rural population. Roads development helps migrants to work in neighboring cities and return to their home. Trend of migration from villages to cities has been considerably increasing over the past three decades. Estimates of Iranian Center for Statistics show that employment activities like carpet weaving decreased by 60%. In Shiraz, for example, the number of rural carpet weavers has decreased from 120000 to 40000 people. Further, a 1100000 million Tomans poverty line in urban areas has caused reverse migration (Center for Statistics, 2012).

Northern Ardebil Province villages

Geographical domain of our study includes Pars Abad, Bileh Savar and Germi (Moqan) citiesin Northern Ardebil Province. Germi (Moqan) is one of the old cities in Ardebil Province and center of Moqan City. Moqan city included Germi, Pars Abad and Bile Savar cities until early 1990s. After changes in political classifications and when Ardebil became a province in early 1990s, this city turned into three new cities. Germi is 100 kilometers away from Aredibil city, which is the center of Ardebil Province. Germi texture is of two types: even and mountainous. Bileh Savar is one of the border cities in Iran and is located in the middle of Pars Abad amd Moqan cities in northern Ardebil province. Historical evidence show that the old name of Bileh Savar was Bileh in Albans government. Its name changed to Bileh Savar (=rider) after horse rider Turks take residence in the area. Pars Abad is one of the cities in northern Ardebil province. This city is the largest city in Moqan area. According to 2011 census conducted by Center for Iranian Statistics, Ardebil Province had 1696 residential villages and these three cities had 814 villages altogether: (Pars Abad city: 247 villages, Bileh Savar city: 252 villages, Moqan city(Germi): 315 villages.

Research hypotheses

After literature review and studies on identification of factors affecting reverse migration, the following factors were considered as the main factors which affect reverse migration phenomenon: social and cultural reconstruction, economic reconstruction, spatial-texture reconstruction, and government strategic policies. Therefore, research hypotheses are as follows:

- There is a relationship between reverse migration and sociocultural reconstruction in the villages under study.
- There is a relationship between reverse migration and economic reconstruction in villages under study.
- There is a relationship between reverse migration and strategic policy-making in villages under study.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present research is an applied study. In terms of nature and methodology, it is a descriptive-analytical method. The research is a field study which uses data surveyed from city governors, section governors, Foundation of Housing managers and experts, village governors and village councils and individuals resident in villages (Pars Abad, Bileh Savar, Moqan) in northern Ardebil Province. In this research, quota sampling was used for picking sample members. From each section of a city, three villages (one village above 1000 residents, one village between 500 and 1000 residents and one village below 500 people)were selected by means of quota sampling. Finally, 27 villages were selected for study.

Questionnaire was used for data collection. Direct sampling method was used for data collection.

Data analysis

Descriptive and inferential statistics were used for data analysis. In inferential analysis, Pearson correlation coefficient was used for hypotheses analysis.

Descriptive findings

Explanation of the role of reverse migrations in villages reconstruction

Studies show that 187 households have returned to their original villages in the 27 villages. It must be mentioned that after evaluation and investigation of reverse migrations in the studied area, we conclude that in this area and especially in the northern area, villagers have signed agreements with agriculture and industry companies in the area and have migrated to villages. Further, development of horticulture and farming in the area and also higher financial efficiency has resulted in migration of households to their villages.

Table 1: the number of reverse migrations in the studied area

Outside province	Inside province	Inside area	Sum of immigrants	Village name	row
1	3	15	19	Iran Abad	1
0	5	3	8	Parivatlou	2
1	2	34	37	Mahmoud Abad Taleghani	3
1	3	14	18	Hallaj Abad	4
0	2	5	7	Ozun Ghoyu 1	5
0	3	19	22	New Islam Abad	6
2	4	9	15	Topragh Kandi	7
0	2	10	12	Omran Abad	8
2	5	14	21	Babak	9
0	1	3	4	Rouh Kandi	10
5	3	1	9	Ziveh	11
1	1	14	16	Other villages	12

Inferential findings and hypotheses test

In this section, hypotheses are analyzed and we aim to test the hypotheses. As it was mentioned, Kai-squared correlation test was used for testing the hypotheses. Results are summarized in table 2.

Table 2: hypothesis test

conclusion	sig	X^2	item	hypothesis
supported	0.000	45.7	There is a relationship between reverse migration and sociocultural reconstruction of villages.	First hypothesis
supported	0.000	34.9	There is a relationship between reverse migration and economic reconstruction of villages.	Second hypothesis
supported	0.020	46.4	There is a relationship between reverse migration and texture-spatial reconstruction of villages.	Third hypothesis
supported	0.000	98.11	There is a relationship between reverse migration and government policies reconstruction of villages.	Fourth hypothesis

First hypothesis analysis: considering the above table, it can be seen that significance value is smaller than 0.05. Therefore, H1 is rejected and the statistical hypothesis is supported with 95% of certainty. Therefore, the result can be generalized to population. In other words, reverse migration impacts on sociocultural reconstruction of villages.

Second hypothesis test: considering the above table, it can be seen that significance value is smaller than 0.05. Therefore, H1 is rejected and the statistical hypothesis is supported with 95% of certainty. Therefore, the result can be generalized to population. In other words, reverse migration impacts on economic reconstruction of villages.

Third hypothesis test: considering the above table, it can be seen that significance value is smaller than 0.05. Therefore, H1 is rejected and the statistical hypothesis is supported with 95% of certainty. Therefore, the result can be generalized to population. In other words, reverse migration impacts on spatial-texture reconstruction of villages.

Fourth hypothesis test: considering the above table, it can be seen that significance value is smaller than 0.05. therefore, H1 is rejected and the statistical hypothesis is supported with 95% of certainty. Therefore, the result can be generalized to population. In other words, reverse migration impacts on policy-making and strategic reconstruction of villages.

The most effective factor on reverse migration

Considering the above results and in order to compare the factors which influence reverse migration mean points of the hypotheses questions were calculated. Table 3 indicates the result of this analysis:

Table 3: statistical analysis of factors affecting reverse migration

Sociocultural reconstruction	Economic reconstruction	Spatial-texture reconstruction	reconstruction of government policies	Effective factors
3.21	3.88	3.32	3.42	**Mean value of sum of questions**

As it can be seen in table 3, economic reconstruction is the most important factor. The figure also verifies that income (economic power) is the most important factor in migration from village to city.

Conclusion

Results of empirical studies reveal non-optimum investment in agriculture, inefficiency of production material and presence of negative significant relationship between per capita capital and capital productivity in agriculture sector. In other words, investment quality is low and agricultural crops have not increased well as expected.

According to the results of the present research, public investments have had positive role in growth of production of agricultural products. However, factors like inadequate income of farmers, inefficiency in the system of mechanization, shortage in infrastructural installations, illiteracy of farmers who have small plots and are not familiar with investment, inappropriate use of water and soil and environmental destruction resulted from inappropriate use of resources and absence of participation of villagers in design, implementation and supervision on civil projects are barriers ahead of agriculture and rural development. Iranian villages, especially remote villages, still have serious shortages in potable water system, electricity, roads, water channels and smoothing farmlands, hygienic problems, schools and medical centers.

It seems that the results of implementation of civil projects are very smaller than planners and people's expectations. Civil projects which are executed with low efficiency and without villagers' participation waste resources. Top-down planning and absence of villagers' participation in civil projects bring corruption in implementation process and reduce quality of management. Planners must know that all projects must be implemented by people participation.

Villagers are the main development factors of villages and projects must be designed by their participation so that real requirements of people are met. If so, people will try to protect and keep the equipment and installations. Moreover, villagers' participation in designing policies concerning subsidy and loans is very important in success of government policies for development of villages and agriculture sector.

Now that we are in the Fifth Development Plan period, authorities are expected to pay special attention to villages and do not repeat former planning mistakes and try to provide balanced living conditions in villages. Therefore, authorities should try to develop villages and make way for migrants' return. Results of the present research also showed that reverse migration has had significant impacts on sociocultural reconstruction, economic reconstruction, spatial-texture reconstruction and policymaking reconstruction.

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