



## Labour Migration Causes and Consequences: Case of Uzbekistan

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### Abstract

The article is based on the idea of the need for fundamental changes in the state policy in the field of labor migration, based on the large-scale economic reforms implemented under the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan and their practical results. It is proposed mechanisms for the effective organization of labor migration in the country and ways to improve these processes.

**Keywords:** world economy, globalization, labor market, unemployment, employment, migration, labor migration, socio-economic development.

### Introduction

Labor migration has become a peculiar phenomenon in the development of the world economy at the present stage. With the expansion and activation of interstate integration ties, labor migration is also expanding; in the future these processes will develop even more rapidly. The collapse of the command-administrative totalitarian regime, the beginning of democratic processes in independent countries, including Uzbekistan, gave a powerful impetus to the emergence of international labor migration. At the present stage of development of human society, labor migration is a special type of migration aimed at obtaining decent work and high incomes, which has become one of the main tools for solving acute problems of unemployment and low wages in countries with a difficult economic situation.

The state participates in the formation and coordination of labor migration, in the development of mechanisms for its regulation, taking into account the situation and fundamental changes in the country and in the world economy. The large-scale reforms carried out in Uzbekistan within the framework of the Action Strategy laid the foundation for the implementation of a new policy in this area. In particular, measures aimed at a sharp increase in GDP per capita and the reduction of poverty in the country have created a real opportunity and need for a radical change in government policy in this direction. In our opinion, the new state policy in the field of external labor migration at the present stage should reflect three important points. This is, first of all, the new socio-economic situation and opportunities in the country that have developed as a result of reforms; secondly, the strategic tasks set in the Development Strategy for the accelerated development of the national economy, and, thirdly, the complex processes in the field of external labor migration associated with ongoing changes in the world economy.

### Research Methodology

The purpose of the study is to analyze the impact of labor migration on the goals and ways to achieve them by the parties (exporter of labor force and its importer), as well as on the socio-economic development of the countries participating in these processes. migrations.



## Analysis and results

In the first years of independence, at the starting point the formation of free market relations in Uzbekistan to prevent the growth of unemployment caused by the natural difficulties of the transition period had only two practical ways.

The first way is to build factories and factories, create new jobs and thus provide employment for all those who have lost their jobs due to the difficulties of the transition period and structural changes. As a solution to the problem, the state in the early stages of economic reforms pursued a policy of stimulating and supporting small and private businesses. However, in a country that had just become independent and was experiencing a crisis of transition, the state's financial capabilities to solve the problem of unemployment were extremely limited. In addition, our people have not yet had the experience of entrepreneurship and earning money from it. Therefore, it was necessary to open new plants and factories focused on the production of high-quality and modern products, provide these enterprises with highly qualified personnel, and attract large amounts of investment. No matter how this path met the interests of the republic and no matter how promising it was, in real life it was impossible.

The second way was to allow the population to leave for other countries to earn money and support their families, more precisely, to open the way for labor migration. In the process of transition to a market economy in a difficult and unstable situation, those who received wages formally or were unemployed were forced to choose the second path. For the young state, which at this stage was not able to quickly solve economic problems, build factories, create new workers places and support the most disadvantaged, labor migration was the only way out of the current situation.

At the same time, if we objectively evaluate labor migration and its causes from the point of view of social justice, then for many of our compatriots, work in other countries was the only way to earn money and be responsible for their families.

In the early stages of independence, external labor migration arose as a necessary measure to alleviate the plight of both migrants who chose to work abroad and the young state that provided them with such an opportunity. The measures currently taken by the state in the field of external labor migration are aimed at a sharp increase in the economic efficiency of labor exports, and are an improvement in the social and economic efficiency of the previous policy in this area.

In our opinion, in the current socio-economic situation in New Uzbekistan, the export of labor should be viewed as a process that slows down the development of the national economy and does not meet the interests of society in the long term. That is why it is necessary to find ways to return our compatriots working abroad to their homeland, to sharply reduce their number in foreign labor markets, and in the future to completely abandon this practice. In the near future, the transformation of Uzbekistan from an exporter of labor into its importer should play a central role in the state policy in the field of labor migration, for the achievement of which effective organizational and economic mechanisms must be created.

Indeed, the emphasis on the labor export policy ensures the elimination of the imbalance between the demand and supply of labor in the labor market of Uzbekistan and additional support for the national economy through income received by labor migrants.

Naturally, Uzbekistan will not be able to provide such a number of labor migrants with jobs and decent incomes. Therefore, even if a policy of refusing to export labor is chosen to solve the problem of labor migrants, it should be implemented gradually and decisively, using a variety of highly effective organizational and economic instruments in a certain sequence.



The problems of reducing external labor migration in Uzbekistan cannot be solved by administrative means on the basis of prohibitions. The reason is that on December 18, 1990, the UN General Assembly adopted the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Their Families. Now this date is celebrated as the International Day of Labor Migrants. Article 9 of this document states that the rights of all labor migrants and members of their families are protected by law [3]. As a full member of the UN, Uzbekistan is obliged to adhere to the principles of this document when resolving issues of labor migration in the country.

Thinking about the complex processes associated with the prevention of labor migration in the future, we should not lose sight of one important aspect: human society, as an economic reality, appeared a very long time ago. Everything related to this issue is a legacy of the distant past. In ancient times, people sought refuge from natural disasters, famine, wars and other life troubles in other, more prosperous territories. They chose places where conditions were relatively better as their permanent place of residence. One of the features of the modern stage of the development of human society is that labor migration, which arose in these ancient times, is becoming more and more intense.

In recent years, labor migration in the global economy has been growing exponentially. If in 1970 the number of international labor migrants in the world was 84.5 million people, then by 2020 this figure was 281.0 million people. During this period, the number of international migrants increased by more than 3.4 times. The growth rate of the number of labor migrants around the world significantly exceeds the growth rate of the total population (during this period, the world population increased by 2.1 times). Since the number of international labor migrants is growing at a much higher rate than the total population, their share in the total population also tends to increase. Just half a century ago, this figure was 2.3%, and as a result of steady growth from year to year, it has risen to 3.6% in 2020.

We consider it necessary to present some of our views and proposals for solving the problem of labor migration.

Consider the export of skilled labor in limited quantities as a temporary measure. In the future, pursue a policy of gradual reduction.

Solving the problem of unemployment in the country, ensuring decent wages for those employed in the economy directly depends on the rate of economic growth. Therefore, it is necessary to introduce a procedure for increasing the salaries of civil servants, officials, party leaders, professors and scientists in accordance with the pace of economic growth in the country.

Radically improve the quality of education in Uzbekistan. In order for goods and services created in the national economy to be competitive in the world market, they must be, firstly, of high quality, and secondly, low-cost.

A draft resolution on labor migration should be developed and adopted. This measure can play an important role in regulating the processes of external labor migration and, ultimately, in increasing its effectiveness.

### **Conclusion/Recommendations**

It is necessary to implement the following measures to achieve the forecast indicators of foreign labor migrants and increase their direct impact on reducing informal employment:

- to strengthen organizational, economic and legal relations with foreign employers who offer guaranteed jobs and high salaries and to conclude relevant agreements (contracts) with them that meet international standards;



- materially improving the quality of foreign language learning, professional development and retraining of future foreign labor migrants;
- organizational, economic and legal support for providing foreign labor migrants with guaranteed places of residence and socially insured health care services;
- high-quality implementation of organized export of surplus labor force to demanding foreign countries;
- organization of external labor migration departments within regional employment assistance centers and providing them with qualified specialists;
- increase the quality of activities of private employment agencies and ensure their legality;
- increasing the efficiency of practical-organizational-legal assistance of relevant organizations in solving the main problems such as registering foreign labor migrants, providing them with living and working places, resolving disputes with employers, preventing racial discrimination, collecting wages;
- Development of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Foreign Labor Migration" and ensuring its quality implementation.

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