Measuring the rate of socio-cultural adaptation if Iranian Immigrants (Case study: inhabitant Iranian Immigrants in Vienna city, Austria)

Mahmood Moshfegh[1], Reza Moeini[2], Nastaran Frozadneh Tabrizi[3]
[1]Associate Professor in the Center of Asia and Oceania Studies and Researches
[2]Associate Professor, Islamic Azad University, Central Branch, Tehran
[3]MA, Islamic Azad University, Central Branch, Tehran

*Corresponding Author: Nastaran Forouzandeh Tabrizi

Email: forusande.nastaran@gmail.com

Abstract: The purpose of this study was measuring the rate of socio-cultural adaptation in Iranian Immigrants (Case study: inhabitant Iranian Immigrants in Vienna city, Austria). Research hypotheses contain duration of migration, type of migration, having friends and family, rate of intention to return to the homeland, age, gender, family and national belongings. Also this study aims at answering to three questions. The considerable population was Vienna inhabited Iranians in the Austria that were selected and interviewed by accidental sampling method. While studying cultural and educational places like schools and universities or monthly celebrations by Iranians these questionnaires were completed. Respecting hypotheses and research questions we can say that Vienna inhabitant Iranians had higher adaptation based duration of their inhibition and we can say that they were content with the entire socio-cultural services of this country and Vienna city, and it seems to be an appropriate place for migration. Finally based on hypotheses in this research the most influential factors on socio-cultural adaptation of immigrant Iranian in the Vienna city was income, education, duration of inhibition, housing status, job satisfaction, Austrian mutual behavior, national belongings and rate of intention of returning to Iranian problems, and on the other hand it is observed that to the extent that customers are relative adaptation is lower that represents the reverse result of what has been seen. Finally we can say that Iranians in Vienna city are adaptive people and simply accepted socio-cultural rules of that country. So that if an Iranian person even without previous information wanted to live in this country simply he/she can live in there with satisfaction.
Keywords: adaptation, migration, Iranian immigrants

INTRODUCTION

Migration and people's spatial displacement as a common subject is studied in different fields of human and social sciences. We can see that even in geographical studies the migration phenomenon is analyzed, and on the other hand migration is one of the influential factors on demographic changes and has positive and negative impacts in long and short term and these changes causes in the economical, social, and cultural structure of the home and destination country for immigrants [1]. On the other hand international migrations were the most important characteristics of twenty century and signs showed the continuing of challenges and opportunities for home and destination countries of immigrants in 21 century [2]. These statements and hypotheses in this research are seen based on definitions of adaptation and migration as a subject and issue for Iranians and the world that are intended to migration.

According to descriptions about migration in our country while 8 years war with Iraq a lot of Iranian exiled the country. Of the other reasons that influenced on Iranian migration is increasing the level of education, and changing in customs that in turn happened in social structure of the country. In this study based on the home country (Iran) that is developing and the rate of Iranian adaptation in one European country is studied it should be stated that Austria that its capital is Vienna is of the countries that is 83855Km2 wide with 8315000 population. The hypothesis that is used in migration studies widely is adaptation hypothesis. Based on this hypothesis as immigrants adopt the destination society their productivity, level of education and so one becomes similar to destination population. Social adaptation is defined as follow: " it is a process that one group or person adjust his/her behavior for coordination with social environment such as other groups or the entire society" [3]. Berry also the term adaptation is used for reference to strategies that are applicable in acculturation and its result is applied [4]. Acculturation is a part of phenomena that is the product of continuous straggle of groups of people with different cultures in close communication and finally changes in primary cultural patterns of a group or two groups will be the result".

Migration is displacement of people from a place to another for work or living. People often migrate because of inappropriate situations such as poverty, lack of food, natural disasters, war,

unemployment and lack of security. The second reason can be situation and attractive suitable factors like greater hygiene possibilities, better education, higher income, better house in the destination country.

As accepting immigrants in the Europe has different positive and negative consequences and social policies of those countries are affected and as there were little studies on Iranian Immigrants in European countries the researcher analyzed the adaptation life of Iranian immigrants of Vienna that against other countries do not consider a specific place for immigrants and decision for analyzing the style and type of the life of homeland to see which cases more influence on adaptation of these individuals and also studies new acculturation and different social roles to see how they are adopted with their religious and cultural beliefs. The main question is: to what extent changing the place of life and by means of which strategies influence on changing behaviors and adaptation. Of the purposes of this research is arriving at the answer of questions like:

1. How are the situation and rate of socio-cultural adaptation and its components among Iranian immigrants inhibited in Vienna?
2. Is there any difference between adaptation among Iranian Immigrants and components that exist between two social and cultural environment and also educational environment?
3. Is there any significant relationship between adaptation and culture of the homeland country of migration?
4. Which dimension and component of socio-cultural adaptation is more dominant among Iranian Immigrants?
5. Whether tendencies of returning to the home country have significant relationship with the rate of adaptation?
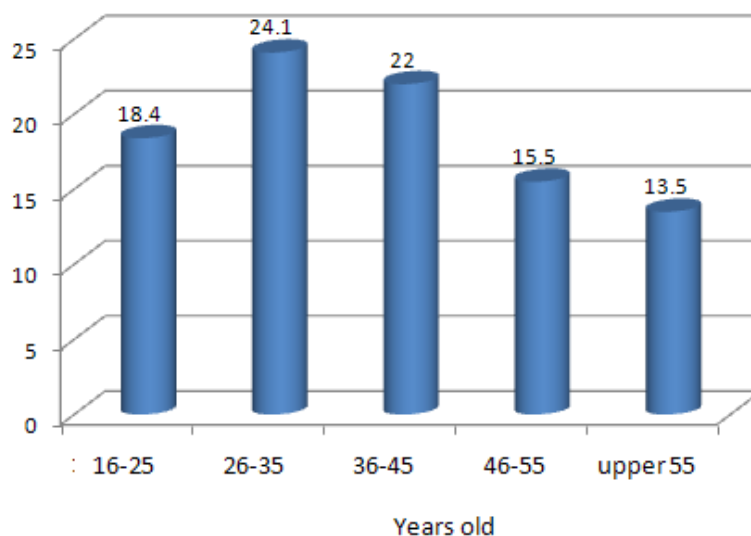
METHODOLOGY

In this research we analyze and specify the rate of socio-cultural adaptation among Iranian immigrants in the Vienna, Austria that we used the survey method for the study. Using the questionnaire is the most common means of measuring values and attitudes in survey researches [5]. Marsh believes that survey precisely don't mean a specific technique in gathering information. Though most of the time questionnaire is used but other technologies such as deep and structured interview, content analysis and other things are applied. The main feature of survey is the method of data collection and method analyzing them. The feature of survey is the structured or disciplined category of data, so that information about variables or similar features at least for two cases are collected and we reach at a data matrix[6].

Based on the completed questionnaire and using statistical techniques and SPSS program for description of samples we applied the test of hypotheses and analyzing relationship between variables. Population of this research refers to the entire group of people, events, or materials that researcher wants to find the subject of analysis through them. Population of this study contains Iranian immigrants that are inhibited in Vienna that are totally 3000 individuals consisting male and female. The method of sampling in this research is based on the relative category method. Therefore, according to the nature of population, sampling should be based on duration and type of immigrants' residency.

RESULT

Based on considerable hypotheses in this research respondents from 26 to 35 years old were the most frequent respondents, and 22 percent of respondents were from 36 to 45 years old that is offered based on the following diagram. In this population 42.9% were male and 51.8% were female that most of them have Shiite religion (80%) and 4.5% have Sonny religion and 2% are Christianity.

Diagram 1: Frequency distribution for age of respondents

In this society the job status of respondents is shown based on table 1that the greatest item with 33.1% belongs to the students and employed individuals were31.4% of the society.
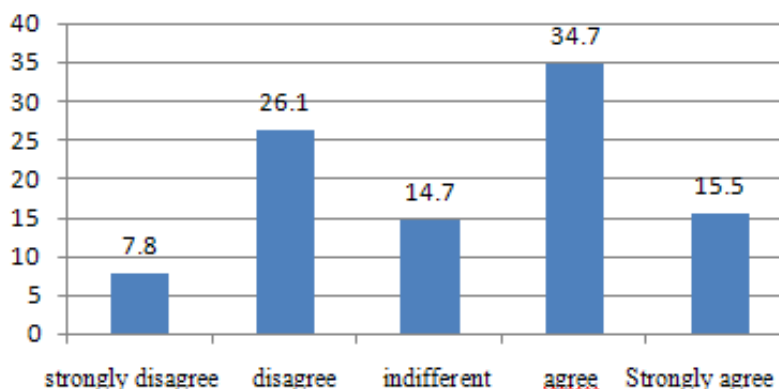
Table 1: Respondents frequency distribution based on the type of job

Percentage	Frequency	Job status
31.4	77	Employed
4.9	12	Unemployed
33.1	81	Student
7.8	19	Housekeeper
7.3	18	disablement
7.8	19	Others
7.8	19	Without answer
100.0	245	Sum

Based on studies level of education for population was high and most of them had license degree and about 23% of individuals were diploma and lower. Based on the level of education among population it is observed that level of their income is average and higher that these two items of hypotheses had specific impact on life satisfaction and adaptation with the environment of the destination country for migration.

As the level of education and income are more than average it is seen that unemployment insurance is not considered for most of the individuals that is shows their job is not insured for the time of unemployment and only 18.7% of individuals can get unemployment insurance, while 47.3% of the society are Austrian and 7.8 percent of them have temporary residency and 24.5% of them have students residency. Of the other hypotheses that was analyzed is the rate of national dependency and sensing Iranian identity for immigrants that 49% of respondents had average dependency and 23.3% were weak and 24% had high national dependency. Another subject that shows the rate of immigrants' dependency is nostology that is shown based on diagram 2.

Diagram 2: respondents' frequency distribution based on nostology

Based on the studies that show the rate of using Austrian media is higher more than 44.5 percentages of people uses this media and 38 % of population averagely uses the average collective cultural and collective programs of the Austria country. One of the problems that immigrants may have in the destination country is the attitude of the people in the destination country that are 56.7% and rated this type of attitude average and also 24.9% considered this attitude high that shows it is one of the main problems of Iranians in this city (Vienna) that it can have a high impact on the rate of adaptation.

The rate of Iranin tendency for coming back to Iran was analyzed and it was observed that 50% have no intention to come back and only 30.6% like to come back that it is because of being far away from families or visiting relatives.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

In 21th is an era that great activities of the scale of migrations whether optionally or obligatory are not anticipated and migration patterns are more regional though ultra-regional migrations are common [7]. On the other hand because of multi-cultural identity of most of the regions of the world migration becomes a common worldly phenomenon: most of the national societies and our societies in the cities are multi-cultural for widespread migrations of human forces or labor [8]. In this regard, while Iran is one of the most destination place for immigrants of the world and neighbor countries (Iraq and Afghanistan) meantime itself is a country that sent about 3 to 5 million immigrants to Europe, USA and countries around Persian Gulf and other places of the world. The population of immigrant Iranians consists of economical, scientific, and technical elites that emphasized on them culturally and economically [9-10]. Shortly and according to result of this study, similar studies and researcher observations immigrant Iranians have appropriate scientific and economical status than other immigrant groups and even sometimes the scientific and economical indexes are higher or in line with the host society. One of the reasons of this phenomenon was the characteristics of immigrant Iranians such as being younger, illiteracy, modernism and elite selection. A number of Iranian with academic education that are member of "Organization of economical and development cooperation" are residents that are equal to 25% of the entire people in Iran with higher education.

Generally it is observed that most of the respondents were satisfied of their life is Austria. But about 13% were not satisfied generally and using the rate of intention to return to the country we found that about 50% of people did not like to return to Iran and they were satisfied with their life.

About 45% of respondents of this research showed average cultural adaptation. About 27% showed high adaptation and only 14.75of respondents had weak cultural adaptation. Totally the society of Iranian immigrants in Austria showed higher cultural adaptation that results was about life satisfaction and lack of intention to return to the homeland was emphasized. By analyzing social adaptation it was shown that the rate of cultural adaptation is lower. Generally Iranian adaptation culturally and socially is average.

Finally based on hypothesis it is observed that in this research the most influential factor on cultural and social adaptation among Iranians in Vienna income, education, duration of residence, housing status, job satisfaction, mutual behavior of Austrians, national dependency and rate of Iranian tendency to come back are problems, on the other hand to the extent that rate of relatives is higher, the rate of adaptation is lower that shows reverse result of what was observed by others.

Finally we can say that Iranian in Vienna society are adaptive people and easily accepted social and cultural rules and regulations of that city. This study shows that if someone without previous information likes to migrate to Vienna easily can be satisfied with that society.

REFERENCES

1. Schiller NG;A global perspective on migration and development. Social Analysis, 2009; 53(3):14-37.
2. Pries L. (Ed.); New transnational social spaces: international migration and transnational companies in the early twenty-first century. Routledge. 2002.
3. Theodorson GA, Theodorson AG; A modern Ditionary of Sciology, New York, Crowell Company. 1969;5.
4. Berry JW; Acculturation and Adaptation in a new Society. International Migration ,1992; 30 : 69-86.
5. Schuman H, Presser S; Questions and answers in attitude surveys: Experiments on question form, wording, and context. Sage. 1996.
6. Cavaye AL; Case study research: a multi-faceted research approach for IS. Information systems journal, 1996; 6(3):227-242.
7. Zohry A; Immigration to Egypt. Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies, 2006; 4(3): 33-54.
8. Oxford B; Global system: economy, policy and culture. Translated by Homaira Moshirzadeh . The office of political and international studies, Tehran. 1999; 233.
9. Ershad F, Hemaiatkhoah JM; Analyzing the migration factors of Iranian elites. Human development periodical. 2007; 3: 7-30.
10. Sharifi M; Analyzing intention to migration from country in Tehran University Professors and Sanati Sharif University. The articles of second conference of Iran's demography. Publications of the center of studies and research in Asia and Oceania, 2004;487-504.