

## Analysis of social ties and its reasons in Iran provinces

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**Abstract**—Immigration and its consequences in recent years have been considered as one of the important social issues in the Iran, so it is a challenging problem for public administrators. Analysis of the net immigration in the last three decades, major demographic links of west Azerbaijan province with other provinces in the recent decades, and the reasons for urban and rural immigration in this province have been discussed in detail. More than 65 percent of population exchange of the province is only with three provinces: East Azerbaijan, Tehran and Kurdistan. In this research the role of distance as a key influential factor in the quantity and quality of population exchange between the West Azerbaijan Province and other provinces has been observed statistically. The results of Pearson and Pearson regression coefficient indicate a reverse and meaningful relationship between distance and population exchange.

**Keywords:** *immigration West Azerbaijan, interprovincial immigration, the reasons of immigration.*

### I. INTRODUCTION

Generally Immigration is a part of human history. Continuous Immigration of tribes, mobility of labor in industrial societies, the search for new places and geographic mobility of population are subjects for geographers, sociologists and planners. (Taghavi, 2004:22) Early people for various reasons, including improving living conditions, seeking a sense of diversity, political security factors, and etc had to change their places of residence. These displacements were quite different from what is happening today. Since the population growth, resulting from displacement of people was in a much smaller scale, the impact of this movement in economic, social and demographic structures of immigrant accepting and emigrant sending areas was not so remarkable, even it was seen normal and useful. But immigration in recent years as an important social issue of cities is one of the main concerns of urban planners and managers; its negative consequences on the origin and destination, particularly over large cities have made it necessary to study the main links between the origin and destination.

#### 1- Problem

Internal immigration and population displacement between regions of a country is an important social process in many countries that is a reaction against factors such as regional and economic inequality, social failures and dissatisfaction in many aspects of life. Massive immigration

that began 300 years ago in the European societies appeared in developing countries in direct contact with development programs in 1960. Dominant form of immigration in these years was rural to urban leading to rapid expansion of cities which was followed by numerous consequences: stagnation of rural areas, over crowded cities, poor social services, rising crime and deviations, poor environmental quality, lack of sanitary facilities and safe drinking water. Negative and destructive impact of immigration on urban development in the third world regions is stunning. Some of these communities by adopting specific policies such as compulsory rules and by establishing facilities in rural centers and converting them to small towns try to control the internal immigration and prevent cities from growing rapidly. In our country massive immigration appeared after Land Reformation which had three objectives: Political, economical, and social. (mashadzadeh, 1994, 75) And thus in the 1960s and the 1970s a large massive of the rural immigrated to cities. These immigrants were two groups who had negative impact on social – economical development of cities. First group were those workers, farmers, and poor peasants who for the hope of good work and living immigrated to cities. The consequences of these immigrations were: marginalization, unemployment, social disorderments, increasing poverty, health problems, lack of social facilities, and false work. Second group were those capitalists that entered cities after getting compensation from government but instead of investing on industry and production, they began to work on real estate that ended in difference between rural and urban salaries, increasing the cost of families, housing, and land.

After 1978 and the conditions of the first years of the revolution which was helping the poors of cities, large groups of rural people immigrated to cities. Until 1986 dominant form of immigration was rural to urban, but in the 1980s a new form of immigration appeared that was often from small cities to big ones.

The fluidity of Iran's population and its rapid increase in the last decades has caused dramatic problems for the rural and urban systems. In the current situation due to lack of balanced development between urban and rural areas immigration continues in the country and it is increasing so that 17 percent of the population have displaced in the 1990s. This was %22 in the 1970s and %13.3 in the 1980s that had its specific social and economic consequences.

According to statistics 35000 villages out of 85000 villages were left abandoned in the 1996s and now the number of villages has decreased to 46000 villages.

According to the same statistics immigration increased by 1/8 times in years 1986 to 2006. And 93/8 of immigrants was destined for central and non- border provinces.

TABLE I. THE MACRO – CONDITION OF IMMIGRATION IN THE RECENT THREE CENSUSES

Decade of census	Number of immigrations	Percent of the population	Trend of the immigration
1976-1986	11 m. people	22%	Central provinces
1986-1996	8 m. people	13.3%	Central provinces
1996-2006	12 m. people	17%	Central provinces

Statistics show that west Azerbaijan had a negative immigration balance in the last three censuses and it has missed 42000 of its people during these years.

Although immigration has become a serious problem in all provinces, those accepting or sending immigrants, but West Azerbaijan for its geographical importance in relation with neighboring foreign countries and keeping its population to protect borders needs a special attention to immigration.

## II. THEORETICAL BASES

Immigration theory is a relatively complete and logical system that tries to analyze immigration in social and historical context. The theory explaining development regulation and valid theorem helps planners to control and guide immigration. ( Tagavi, 2003, 30)

First theoretical explanation about the laws of immigration was by George Ernest Ravenstein. According to his view immigration is not accidental but has its own special laws such as Laws like: inverse relationship between immigration and the distance of two places; immigration from villages to cities and then from cities to cities; reverse immigration from cities to villages; technological and economical impact on increasing immigration.

According to the theory of attraction-repulsion marked difference in developments and level of livings between two places – immigrant transmitter and taker - causes immigration. In this model, geographic distance is important that is when the distance is less, the immigration is more. (Cliggett, 2000).

Theorists of dependency school see immigration inevitable because of lack of development of a place comparing to another one and dependencies of poor sector to capitalist sector. They believe it is mere unfair and capitalistic that leads to expanding growth refardation. (Lhahsayizadhe, 1989, 22)

In the view of functionalism any change in the communities is a response to the current status. Immigration is also a response to an imbalance state in order to achieve a balance in the society. This view assumes immigration as an

important obstacle for social harms and believes satisfying the needs of immigrants weakens social discontentment and unjustness.

It seems that although it may have some positive consequences for immigrants in Iran, but on the whole the immigration is a main worrying concern for planners and managers. The great tendency of immigrants to locate in big cities like Tehran, Isfahan, Shiraz, Mashhad, and Tabriz abandons the places from their social resources and experts. And on the other hand it forms social, economical, and cultural marginalization in big cities. We may mention Herberle's traction and propulsion theory. It says the main reason of immigration is the imbalance development of village comparing city, and the conflict between these two areas. (Quoting Loshayizadeh, 1989, 149)

Researchers believe generally that the main reason of immigration of rural people is the imbalance and conflict between rural and urban areas. (Ayramlu, 1986, 32)

## III. METHODOLOGY

Method In this study is secondary analysis of data from Population and Housing census between years 1986-2006-Statistical Center of Iran. The study population included those who between years 1996 to 2006 have changed their town or village of residence. In this essay, besides general immigration streams in the country, flow and population displacements in West Azerbaijan province have been considered and important social ties of this province with other provinces have been discussed. Pearson correlation and two-variable regression methods for two variables were used to investigate the association between distance and immigration. Independent variable of this relationship is the distance of the centers of the two provinces and dependent variables are the immigrants entered and exited. Data analysis software is SPSS.

## IV. ANALYSIS OF NATIONAL AND REGIONAL IMMIGRATIONS

### A. Marco Analysis of population displacement in the country

Between the years 1986 to 1996 8,718,870 people of the country have moved or entered from abroad. Previous residence of 8435865 of those were inside the country and 238331 of them were in abroad and 44574 people did not state their previous place of residence. 2939921 people out of 8435865 who have changed their place of residence during the years 1986 to 1996 were interprovincial immigrants and 5495944 people have moved within their own province.

A survey in 1996 shows that 6 provinces out of 26 ones are immigrant takers, which are: Tehran, Isfahan, Khuzestan, Goom, Semnan, and Yazd respectively. The rest 20 provinces were immigrant senders.

According to population and housing census between the years 1996 to 2006; 12148148 people have left their residence and stayed in a place other than their previous one. 11783772 out of these (97%) were from the inside of the country and 260495 (2/14%) were from the abroad, and 103881 ones didn't say about their previous residence.

4774041 ones of those who have changed their place of living inside the country were interprovincial immigrants (%40.5) and 7009731 ones (%59.49) were immigrants within their own provinces.

TABLE II. THE CONDITION OF IMMIGRATION IN THE YEARS 1986-2006

Decade	1986-1996		1996-2006	
	number	percent	number	percent
Total displacement	8718770	100	12148148	100
Inside the country	8435865	96.76	11783772	97.0
Outside the country	238331	2.73	260495	2.14
Wilt out comment	44574	0.51	103881	0.86
Immigration inside the country	8435865	100	11783772	100
Intern – provincial	2939921	34.85	4774041	40.51
Inside the province	5495944	65.15	7009731	59.49
Inside – province immigration	5495944	100	7009731	100
Cities of the census	3188753	58.02	3898043	55.61
Ether cities of the provinces	2307191	41.98	3111690	44.39
Kind of immigration	8533485	100	11783773	100
City to City	4112248	48.19	6385665	54.19
City to village	1574976	18.46	2004011	17.01
Village to city	1849142	21.67	2330054	19.77
Village to Village	997119	11.68	1064043	9.03

Source : SC 1

Previous residences of 3898043 immigrants (%55/61) out of 7009731 who immigrated inside the province during years 1996 to 2006 were in the city of census and 3111690 ones (%44.39) were in the other cities of the province.

The study of immigrants according to their rural or urban source shows that 8389676 ones (%71/20) out of 11783732 displaced immigrants within the country had urban source and 3394096 once (%28/80) were from rural areas (rural source).

From 8389676 immigrants who stated their previous city, 6385665 once (%76/11) moved to other cities (immigrant from city to city) and 2004011 ones (%23/89) moved to rural areas (immigrants from city to rural areas). From 3394097 immigrants who stated their previous place of residence as rural areas, 2330064 ones (%68/65) moved to cities (immigrants from rural areas to urban areas) and 1064043 ones (%31/35) moved to other rural areas (immigrant from

rural to rural areas) The last two decades comparison of source – destination immigration in the country shows that in the 1996s immigration from city to city increased comparing to the 1986s and at the same time immigration from village to village and village to city decreased.

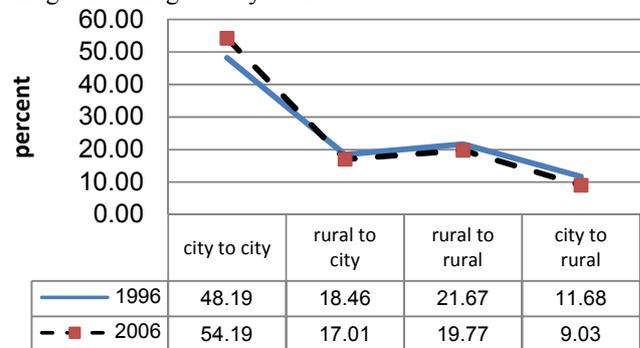


Figure 1. comparing of immigration in the 1996 s and 2006s

### B. Analysis of immigration flow in west Azerbaijan

Statistics shows that in Western Azerbaijan province in each census from 1986 to 2006 there is a negative migration balance and during this period more than 42 thousand people, more than migrants entered, have left the province.

This change means that the flow of immigration is from small cities to big cities and metropolises and inclination to villages even in immigration from village to village have decreased gradually. Statistics of the census in 1976 shows that immigrants entered the west Azerbaijan in the 1976s were 30881 and immigrants exited the province were 44695 that means net- immigration was -13814. In the 1986s, 94861 immigrants entered the province and 96258 ones exited it. Net – immigration was - 1397. The status changes considerably in the 1996s and 121620 ones immigrated to the west Azerbaijan province from their one and 148441 ones immigrated from the province. The net- immigration was – 26821.

TABLE III. IMMIGRATION BALANCING OF WEST AZERBAIJAN IN THE RECENT 3 DECADES

Decade	interead	exited	Net imig.	Condition
1976-1986	30881	44695	-13814	transmitter
1986-1996	94861	96258	-1397	transmitter
1996-2006	121620	148441	-26821	transmitter

### C. Basic population ties of west Azerbaijan.

According to statistics provided by SCI in 2006, 121620 ones immigrated to the west Azerbaijan who were mainly form: East Azerbaijan, Tehran, Kurdistan, Kermanshah, and Ardabil. Population ties of the province are formed with these provinces in the recent decade. Although immigrations do not indicates population ties alone. But they can be

considered as an indicator to show the trend and rate of social ties of rural or urban centers.

On the other hand, reversed population ties of the province in the 1996s is almost with the same province in the figure above, and Tehran and East Azerbaijan have strongest population ties with the west Azerbaijan. There is just a difference: It has been influenced by Kermanshah; but considering immigrant transmission, besides other provinces, it had more relationship with Zanjan than Kermanshah.

East Azerbaijan because of its social and cultural closeness has the most population tie with west Azerbaijan. Kurdistan has deep social and cultural ties with this province too, so that social relationships show that. East Azerbaijan, Tehran, Kurdistan, Kermanshah, Ardabil, Khuzestan, and Isfahan absorb %80 of the immigrants from West Azerbaijan. West Azerbaijan has the least population ties with south, southeast, and east provinces. So that immigrant transmitting to these provinces (15 provinces) is less than %8.

The overall result is that: population tie of the province is mainly with province with the same language, neighboring ones, and Tehran.

West Azerbaijan in terms of balance and population exchange has a positive population exchange with 12 provinces including Kermanshah, Kurdistan, Sis tan and Baluchistan, and East Azerbaijan. This means that they had 10000 immigrants more than those who immigrated to west Azerbaijan. On the other hand the province had a negative population exchange with 18 provinces including Tehran, Zanjan, and Golestan. More than %32 of negative net-immigration belonged to Tehran and more than %73 of negative balance belonged to 5 provinces. This means that people of west Azerbaijan are more willing to immigrate to these 5 provinces than the people of them to come to west Azerbaijan.

Considering source of the immigrants , %67/1 immigrants were from urban areas and %32/9 were from rural areas . immigrants from Hormozgan, Kurdistan, Tehran, and East Azerbaijan were mainly from urban areas and immigrants from Khorasan Razavi, Kermanshah, North Khorasan, Golstan , and South Khorasan were mainly from rural areas.

Total immigrants entered to urban areas of the west Azerbaijan consist of %38/4 from east Azerbaijan , %21/8 from Tehran , %9/7 from Kurdistan , %4/7 from Kermanshah , and %2/2 from Ardabil . The lowest number of immigrants entered to urban areas are from: South Khorasan, Kohgiloye and Boyerahmad, Chahar Mahal ve Bakhtyari, Yazd, Semnan, Bushehr, and Kerman.

In the province just 5 cities: urumiyeh , Khoy , Miandoab , Bukan , and Piranshahr has positive net immigration and other cities are immigrant transmitters with a negative population displacement in the recent decade . Maku, Tekab , Nagadeh, Shahindej and Chalderan are main immigrant transmitters and urumiyeh , piranshahr and Bukan are main immigrants takers .

On the other hand , total immigrant entered to the province from rural areas consist : %32/2 from East

Azerbaijan , %17/5 from Tehran . %8/2 from Kermanshah , %7 from Kurdistan . and %3/3 from Ardabil .

These 6 provinces consist nearly %70 of immigrants from rural areas. South Khorasan, kohgiloyeh ve Boyer Ahmad, North Khorasan, Chahar Mahal ve Bakhtyari, Yazd, Bushehr, and Semnan has the lowest immigrant from rural areas.

On the other hand, reverse population ties of the province are nearly with above provinces in the 1996s, and Tehran and East Azerbaijan have strongest population tie with west Azerbaijan. Considering immigrant taking, it has impact from Kermanshah; but in terms of immigrant transmitting it has more relationship with Zanjan instead of Kermanshah.

Chart 4 shows a strong interregional relationship between northwest and west. Other than Tehran, because it is the capital, the west Azerbaijan has more population relationship with its neighboring provinces. East Azerbaijan because of its close cultural and social aspects has the most population tie with the province. After that, Kurdistan has the most population tie with the provinces.

TABLE IV. BASIC POPULATION TIES OF WEST AZERBAIJAN

Interred from ...	East Az.	Tehr an	kurdis tan	kermans hah	Arda bil	Gaz vin	Tot all
Percent	36.4	20.4	8.8	5.9	2.6	2.6	76.7
Exited to	East Az.	Tehr an	kurdis tan	Zanjan	Arda bil	Guil an	Tot all
Perent	29.4	25.5	5.5	5.2	4.9	4.1	74.6

#### D. main causes of immigration to west Azerbaijan

Unlike the previous censuses, the census of 2006 had some questions about the reasons of the immigration so it helped very much to find the causes of immigration in the country. There were 8 reasons to immigrate : searching for a job ; searching for a better job , job transfer ; studying ; graduation ; military service; fulfilling military service , and following the family are main reasons of the population displacement in west Azerbaijan. According to this census, most immigration were compulsory immigrants who followed their families. %44/7 of immigrants were of this kind. %10/6 were because of fulfillment military service , %7/9 of immigrants were for education , %7/3 of immigrants were for searching jobs , %4/9 of immigrants were for searching better jobs. There is a little difference between rural and urban areas in immigration. In rural areas after following the family factor, militancy service and fulfillment of it are most important reasons of immigration to rural areas. In urban areas after following the family factor, searching for jobs and studying are most important reasons for immigration. There certainly are differences among cities. Immigrations in those cities that have military garrisons or universities and higher education institutes are consequently affected by them. Searching for a job is a most important goal. Immigrants of cities: Urumiyeh, Piranshahr, Bukan, and Sardasht were searching for jobs. In other words, about %60 of immigrants of these 4 cities wanted to find a new job.

Immigrants to Urumiyeh, Bukan, Khoy, Mahabad, and Miandoab were in search for a better job. And Chaldran, Ushnaviyeh, Tekab, and Shahindej had fewer immigrants for better job.

Urumiyeh, Khoy, Mahabad, and Piranshahr had most immigrants for job transfer reasons and Chaldran, Ushnaviyeh, Tekab, and Shahindej had lowest immigrants for this reason.

Universities and higher education institutes in cities are main reasons for study immigration. Urumiyeh absorbs %39/1 of immigrants for study, Khoy, Bukan, and Mahabad are next. These 4 cities absorbed nearly %70 of immigrants for study.

Urumiyeh, Mahabad, Miyandoab, and Bukan absorbed the most graduated immigrants from those cities. This could have two meanings: first they may immigrate for searching for a job or they were originally from these cities and they came back after graduation.

Military centers like universities have great rolls to absorb immigrants. According to Statistics %6 of immigrants were to do military service. %26 of these immigrants were in Urumiyeh, %18/6 in Piran shahr, %9/5 in Khoy, %8/9 in Salmas. %10/6 of immigrants entered to the province were for fulfillment military service reason who returned mainly to Urumiyeh, Khoy, Maku, Miyandoab, and Bukan.

Perhaps family immigrations are most important ones. Immigration of father of a family for job or study has at least 3 other immigrants. According to SCI a large number of immigration were for following the family reason.

#### E. Relationship between distance and volume of immigration

Social ties between provinces show that the distance between two places affects the volume of population displacement. So that people prefer to immigrate in a minimum distance. To test his hypothesis: Does the distance affects the volume of immigration? We used statistics of immigrants entered and exited the province and the distances of the center of west Azerbaijan with other centers of the provinces. The rate of relationship between distances and immigration is tested by person correlation and one and two variables regression. Data analysis shows there is a %95 of correlation coefficient between the distances of the places and number of immigrants. The impact of distance in increasing or decreasing the number of immigrants in and out of the province is approved. Another important point is a strong relationship between the number of entered and exited between two places; this relationship is meaningful at the level of %99. This implies that there is a relative balance in entering and exiting immigrants between two places.

TABLE V. PEARSON CORRELATION BETWEEN DISTANCE AND MIGRATION FOLLOW

varia	index/sig	Outmig	Arrivemig	Distanc
Out mig.	Pearson. co	1	.955**	-.453*
	Sig. (2tailed)		0	0.014
Arrive	Pearson co.	.955**	1	-.463*

mig.	Sig. (2tailed)	0		0.011
Distance	Pearson co.	-.453*	-.463*	1
	Sig. (2tailed)	0.014	0.011	

To ensure the accuracy of the results and to generalize it to the country, two-variable regression is established between dependant variable "distance" and independent variables "entered immigrants" and "exited immigrants". The results show that there is a meaningful relationship at the level of %95 between distance and volume of immigration. Although the analysis show that the volume of population displacement between two places does not depend on distance only, but there are other unknown factors, but regression model approved this relationship at the level of %95. Another point is that regression like Pearson correlation coefficient show the direct relationship between entered and exited immigrants at the meaningful level of %99. As a result the above correlations imply that:

First, a population exchange between two places is not a one-way movement and there is a relative balance in the volume of displacement. Second, the distance between two places affects the volume of immigration that is the closer is two places the more is immigrations and the farther is the distance the less is immigrations.

TABLE VI. REGRESSION BETWEEN ARRIVE & OUT MIGRATIONS BY DISTANCE

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	1766237.674	2	883118.837	3.582	.042 <sup>a</sup>
Residual	6410135.292	26	246543.665		
Total	8176372.966	28			

a. Predictors: (Constant), Distance b. Dependent Variable: Outmigration & Arrive migration

R=.465 R Square = .216 Significant: .042

#### 5- Aggregate and Conclusion

In our contemporary society that one sixth of the population has experienced the immigration process as well as a majority of their relatives and friends, it can be said that immigration is an important social event and because of its popularity it influences and gets impact form social events.

Considering the destination of the immigration show two basic points: first, Tehran attracts the largest group of the immigrants. Second, other than Tehran, the destination of the most interprovincial immigrants, are neighboring province which are nearer. The general trends in immigrations are form villages to cities, and form small cities to large cities. In some cases a reverse immigration from city to village, happens too. At the period of study the flow of immigration from inside the province changes to interprovincial. In 1996 about %35 of immigration were inter provincial and the rest were inside the provinces. But in 2006 the inter provincial immigration increases to %41.

These changes show that moving in long distances increases. It seems that the advantages of immigration for people have changed from inside the provinces to outside.

It is certain that cost of interprovincial immigrants is more than those inside-province immigrations. Considering the cost and distance it is clear that immigrant prefer neighboring provinces. In 2006 most entered and exited immigrants, with the exception of Tehran, were from near provinces. This is verified by the theory of attraction and repulsion. Geographical distance is very important in this theory. The less is the destination, the more is the immigration. Correlation coefficient and regression analysis in this essay prove this in west Azerbaijan. In the attraction and repulsion model, difference in living standards and development between origin and destination causes immigration. This is justified in immigrations to the capital. In the 2006 census about %25 of immigrants were destined to Tehran and %20 of immigrants were from Tehran province.

Another feature of 2006 census is the increase of city to city immigrations and decrease of other kind of immigration flows. City to city immigration has increased by %6 in 2006 comparing to 1996. City to village, village to village, and village to city has decreased by %45/1, %66/2, and %9/1 respectively. City to city immigration is in majority in Iran. According to Ravenshtayn's stage immigration fact immigration is done first from villages to near and small cities and then to big cities. It seems in previous periods immigration was taken place from village to small cities and in recent years the immigration from small cities to big cities has increased. On the whole, immigration in west Azerbaijan as a bordering and immigrants transmitting province is not in a good condition. Most cities in this provinces are immigrant transmitter and only some cities like Urumiyeh, Piranshahr and Bukan have a positive immigration balance. Piranshahr is mentioned in this list because of its military barracks.

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