FACTORS AND MODELS OF LABOR MIGRATION

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A R T I C L E I N F O.	Abstract
Keywords: labor migration, employment, migrants, abroad, socio-economic landscape, methods of labor migration.	This study explores the various methods employed by labor migrants from Uzbekistan to migrate abroad for employment, both temporarily and permanently. It provides a comprehensive analysis based on data from a survey conducted by official sources. The research reveals the significant presence of Uzbek migrant workers in countries such as the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, Turkiye, and Korea, with construction being the primary sector of employment. It also examines the role of the Foreign Labor Migration Agency (FLMA) in facilitating overseas employment and highlights Uzbekistan's efforts to diversify its labor migration destinations amidst growing concerns regarding migrants in Russia. The findings underscore the need for a comprehensive review incorporating data from both Uzbekistan and the receiving countries to understand the full scope of labor migration dynamics.

Introduction

Labor migration is a critical component of the socio-economic landscape in Uzbekistan, with a substantial portion of the workforce seeking employment opportunities abroad. This movement is driven by various factors, including economic conditions, job availability, and bilateral agreements between Uzbekistan and receiving countries [1]. The methods labor migrants use to migrate vary, encompassing both formal programs organized by government agencies and informal channels. This paper investigates these methods and provides a detailed overview of the distribution of Uzbek migrant workers across different countries, based on recent data [2]. It also discusses the role of the Foreign Labor Migration Agency (FLMA) under the Ministry of Employment and Poverty Reduction of the Republic of Uzbekistan in organizing and facilitating these migrations. Additionally, the study examines Uzbekistan's strategic efforts to diversify its labor migration destinations in response to challenges faced by its migrants, particularly in the Russian Federation [3].

Methods

Several methods labor migrants use to migrate to another country to work permanently or temporarily [4]. The following figure illustrates the methods that are used for migration to another country by the respondents of the survey that was conducted by Evgeniy Abdullaev [5].

Results

The number of existing Uzbek migrant workers abroad is highly variable depending on the availability

of work opportunities and seasonal jobs in the receiving countries [6]. According to the last published public data, as of September 1, 2023, the number of Uzbek migrant workers working abroad reached almost 2.1 million people. The main part of labor migrants from Uzbekistan is in the Russian Federation (62%, 1 million 300 thousand people), followed by 223 thousand in Kazakhstan, 113.1 thousand in the Republic of Turkey, 113.1 thousand in the Republic of Korea 66.8 thousand (3%) and 379.9 thousand (18%) labor migrants were registered in other countries. Among these migrant workers, 521,800 (24.6%) were women and 1,596,000 (75.4%) were men. Most of the migrant workers (52.7%) worked in the construction sector [7][8]. Most of the labor migrates to the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan. The following figure illustrates how many percentages of labor migrants go to which countries [9].

In January-August 2023, 28,207 people were helped to find work abroad through the programs of sending them to work abroad organized by the Foreign Labor Migration Agency (FLMA) under the Ministry of Employment and Poverty Reduction of the Republic of Uzbekistan [10]. Most of them went to the Russian Federation (20,450 people), the Republic of Korea (3,184 people) and Great Britain (1,809 people) for employment [11]. According to the research of the Caspian Policy Center (CSPC), the Uzbek side is actively exploring the possibilities of diversifying the countries of labor migration due to growing concerns about Uzbek migrants in the Russian Federation [12]. Uzbekistan is expected to expand bilateral cooperation with several countries on labor migration, including Great Britain, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Turkey, and Japan, and create a basis for cooperation with new countries such as Canada and Sweden [13].

Discussion

Observations that were conducted by the International Organization for Migration (2023) show that the other main destinations for Uzbek migrants are Kazakhstan, the Republic of Turkiye, and the Republic of Korea, with a small number of migrants going to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the United States of America (USA) and countries of the European Union (EU) for labor migration, education and other purposes [14][15]. It is worth noting that the statistical data provided by the receiving countries on the number of Uzbek migrants may differ from the statistical data provided by the relevant official organizations of Uzbekistan due to differences in the methodology and approach used. Therefore, in a more comprehensive review of these processes, it is of particular importance to supplement the statistical data provided by the relevant official organizations of Uzbekistan with the official statistical data of the national statistical offices of the receiving countries.

Conclusion

The study highlights the significant scale and complexity of labor migration from Uzbekistan, with a large number of migrants working primarily in Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkiye, and Korea. The data underscores the dominance of the construction sector in employing these workers. The role of the FLMA is pivotal in managing and supporting overseas employment, demonstrating the Uzbek government's proactive stance in labor migration management. Furthermore, Uzbekistan's initiatives to diversify its labor migration destinations reflect a strategic response to geopolitical and socio-economic challenges. To enhance the understanding and management of labor migration, it is crucial to integrate statistical data from both Uzbek authorities and the national statistical offices of receiving countries. This comprehensive approach will help in formulating effective policies and programs that safeguard the interests of Uzbek labor migrants and optimize the benefits of labor migration for the country's development.

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