

Migration Processes in the Municipal Divisions of the Republic of Bashkortostan

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Abstract

In the conditions of depopulation, the key factor that defines the dynamics and nature of the changes of the demographic characteristics of the population becomes relocation of the population – migration. Today, migration is the cause of significant transformations of demographic structures that define the future dynamics and qualitative composition of the population. Research of the migration processes is usually a complicated task. Assessment of the spatial mobility of the population is the weakest link within the system of demographic statistics and policy. There are certain peculiarities in studying the process on the level of separate national-territorial and administrative-territorial formations. The goal of this article is to analyze the monitoring of migration processes in a number of municipal divisions of the Republic of Bashkortostan. Based on the results of the monitoring, the author proposes some proven technologies that help deter occurrences of xenophobia, national and religious intolerance, and would promote a painless adaptation of the migrants into the social culture of the region. The author makes conclusion on the need to reevaluate the functions of regulating the migration in the area of formation of municipal policy, development of targeted programs of its realization, and complete information and organizational provisions.

Keywords: migration, monitoring, Republic of Bashkortostan, agglomeration, diagnostics, municipal divisions, xenophobia, religious intolerance, adaptation

1. Introduction

Migration of the population in the conditions of globalization plays a special role in the life of modern Russia, exerting a significant influence upon its demographic potential, economy, and socio-political sphere. Based on the official data, 10-12 million foreigners arrive in Russia each year, 70-80% of which are citizens of the CIS countries (Pitukhina, 2014). The illegal portion of this number consists of approximately 3.5 million people according to the Federal Migration Service of the Russian Federation (FMS), although according to some expert assessments that number can reach upwards of 10 million (Repyeva, 2015).

In the Republic of Bashkortostan, a rich industrial territory possessing a favorable natural, socio-economic, and cultural conditions for working environment, 154,099 foreign citizens were registered as migrants in 2013. This exceeds the previous year by 43% (Volkh, 2013).

According to the Report on the Results and Main Directions of Activity of the Directorate of the Federal Migration Service of the Republic of Bashkortostan for 2013 and planned period of 2014-2016 "... Work permits are issued to foreign citizens from 31 countries. Over the recent years there is a number of countries that are the most active in supplying workers to the republic's job market. They are as follows: Uzbekistan – 65.6%, Tajikistan – 7.8%, Azerbaijan – 7.1%, Armenia – 6.1%, Turkey – 4.0%, Kyrgyzstan – 2.9%, Ukraine – 2.1%, Vietnam – 1.1%. Foreign citizens and stateless persons who received work permits broken down by industries are as follows: construction – 61.4%, agriculture and forestry – 20.8%, manufacturing – 6.5%, corporate – 4.2%, transportation and communication – 2.5%, other – 4.6% (Lakomova, 2015).

2. Discussion

In V. S. Tsyryulnikov's opinion "...The concentration of a substantial number of foreign work migrants, coupled

with the difficulties of supporting the livelihood of a certain part of the region's population severely complicates the socio-economic and ethnic demographic situation, and increases the risk of emergence of sources of social tensions that could grow into an open conflict" (Гайдук, 2014). Although the Republic of Bashkortostan does not represent a place of social tensions between the migrants and the accepting side (Aleynikov, 2014) the specifics of the realization of migration policy within the region should still be constantly assessed.

In addition to this, the measures undertaken in order to adjust the migration processes and their negative consequences at various levels of government administration often do not produce the results expected, as they are conducted without thorough theoretic development, fragmentarily and are realized by the empirical method of trial and error (Mishunina, 2014). This situation has been acknowledged even within the highest political ranks: "It is clear that we need to raise the quality of migration policy of our nation to a new level" – notes Russia's President Vladimir Putin (Путин, 2012)

All of these things point to a pressing need for an in-depth complete analysis and theoretic evaluation of the current migration situation of a specific region in the interests of forming a new theoretic foundation for the government migration policy that would be capable to qualitatively change the migration situation for the better (Makarova, 2014)

Monitoring and determination of the trends and contradictions in development of regional migration processes in the Republic of Bashkortostan, analysis of the key principles of their forecasting and projecting, determination of the factors that increase the level of social planning and modeling, efficiency of administrative work, studying the regional experience and specificity of regulation of migration processes, spreading the positive experience in other constituents of the Federation (Akhatov, 2014) can impart a substantial contribution into the socio-political and economic modernization of modern Russia.

It is worth emphasizing that the migration processes are becoming a broader channel for relocation of population not only on the international and federal levels, but also on an intraregional – between towns. The results of the conducted monitoring allow us to speak of a growth in the population in the cities of the Republic of Bashkortostan due to migrant inflow. The municipal divisions, metropolises, especially the rapidly growing cities with an industrial potential that have the need for workforce represent the centers of attraction for migrants.

L. A. Glazkova proposes to highlight the following peculiarities of the migration processes on the territory of municipal formations:

(a). The process of forming of territorial mobility of the population:

- Motives, reasons for relocation;
- Sufficiency of human potential within a territory;
- Social mobility of the population – the readiness of the region's population to plan a model of their life depending on the expected gain and the ability to independently find the way to improve their welfare;
- The possibilities and limitations of migration process;
- The image of the accepting territory;

(b). Behavior of the migrants:

- Intensiveness and directions of migration flows;
- Pace of adaptation, and term of migration;

(c). Acclimation of migrants in a new place:

- Adaptability of the behavior of migrants and local population – adjusting behavior within the existing socio-cultural environment, and tolerance towards the differences in customs and traditions (Глазкова, 2014).

3. Methods

The conducted sociological analysis in a number of cities of the Republic of Bashkortostan, as well as the analysis of the statistical material on other regions of the Volga Federal Region confirms the fact that the population of the municipal formations differs by a fairly high level of territorial mobility. Internal migration results in intense expansions of agglomeration of the Republic of Bashkortostan, which is substantiated by the development of social infrastructure, socio-political stability, economic growth, and developing job market.

In the foundation of the monitoring of migration processes in the Republic of Bashkortostan were laid internal and external factors, which define the process of the social adaptation of migrants.

(a) *External factors:*

- *Economic:* housing availability; employment; material welfare;
- *Safety factors:* the state of law and order; the state of healthcare;
- *Motivational:* favorable conditions for migration;
- *Communicative:* the attitude of the accepting side towards migrants;
- *Educational:* access to education services;
- *Self-realization factors:* ability to find work in a desired field;
- *General:* place of residence; relatives on the territory of migration; length of stay on the territory of migration.

(b) *Internal factors:*

- *Economic:* level of satisfaction with material living conditions;
- *Safety factors:* presence or absence of feeling of protection on the territory of migration;
- *Motivational:* psychological readiness to migrate; dissonance between expectations of the migrant with the reality of the environment;
- *Communicative:* level of integration into the cultural environment;
- *Educational:* the need for education services, and self-improvement; satisfaction with the education services;
- *Self-realization factors:* the feeling of an ability to satisfy your needs in self-realization;
- *General:* self-identification with the territory of migration.

We have also determined the key problems in adaptation of the migrants (Steiner, Mason, & Hayes, 2012) to the new life conditions, namely: low level of material welfare of the migrants, problems with job search, housing problems, and mixed feelings of the city population towards the newcomers (Muraschenkova, 2014). Based on the acquired data we can say that the timeframe of adaptation to the new conditions does not depend on age. Within various age groups there is equal amount of successful and unsuccessful types of adaptation. The most substantial differences in adaptation to the local conditions are linked to the gender and geographic factors. Thus the monitoring has confirmed that the most successful in adjusting are the migrants who have relocated to the capital from other populated areas of Bashkortostan, while the least successful are those who have relocated to the metropolises of the Republic of Bashkortostan from the countries outside of the CIS (Blitz, 2014).

The diagnostics of the state and efficiency of the regulation of the migration process on the territory of municipal divisions of the Republic of Bashkortostan confirms the lack of effective practice of regulation on these processes, which manifests in the spontaneous nature of migration, potential emergence of anti-migrant attitude, and absence of cooperation between the government authorities and business in solving the problems of migrants.

We propose specific measures for overcoming these negative phenomena that would contribute to creation of a municipal system of regulation of the migration processes. As such we consider the following: stimulation of development of private enterprise that would deal with the issues of helping the migrants adjust to the new social environment – help with filing paperwork, finding housing, and assistance with employment; more strict rules for verifying the legality of the entry and departure of foreign citizens; creation of a “black list” of enterprises and organizations of the city who employ illegal migrants; creation of a unified inter-service information database on the work migrants and the condition of their health; incentives for the social organizations that contribute to detection of illegal migrants within the municipal formations (Goncharova, 2014).

It is hard not to agree with the fact that the main problem of regulating migration on the territory of municipal formations is related to the absence of a systemic approach towards development and realization of municipal migration policy, and ineffectiveness of the current mechanisms of regulatory effect upon the migration process (Гайдук, 2014)

4. Results (Testing)

At this point let us take a look at the empirical part of monitoring the municipal processes in the Republic of Bashkortostan. The monitoring was performed by Bashkirian Institute of Social Technologies (within a number of municipal formations of Bashkiria: Ufa, Sterlitamak, Tuymazy, Oktyabrsky, and others), and conducted over

the period of eight month (from May to December of 2014) alongside teaching the migrants the basics of Russian language and preparing for the language test. The results of the polling are presented below.

A total of 438 foreign citizens have been polled. Among them are representatives of various countries, predominantly people from Vietnam (244), then Tajikistan (75), Uzbekistan (74), Azerbaijan (25), Ukraine (19), and others.

The ages of the respondents range from 18 to 60 and above. Among them are 236 people age 25 to 40, and 104 were above 40. There were also 98 younger respondents among the foreign citizens with ages ranging from 18 to 25.

As to the gender identification, the predominant majority were men – 245 people.

Most of the migrants come without their families: 48% of them left their families behind and only 11% came with their families. The other 41% came to Republic with their friends.

To the question “What prompted you to leave your country (whether temporarily or permanently)” the answers were the following: low income (73%); inability to find work (68%); worsening of the political (economic, social) situation (16%); armed or other conflicts (8%).

The attractiveness of the Republic of Bashkortostan for foreign citizens lies in its socio-economic stability (55% of the respondents) and culture of inter-ethnic relations (29%); 2% of those polled have relatives living here, and 8% answered that they came on a recommendation of their friends. Amongst the respondents there are also those who have chosen the Republic of Bashkortostan by pure chance (3%).

To the question “Are you planning to stay in the Republic of Bashkortostan in the future” the answers break down in the following order: yes (18%); only for the duration of my work (48%); will move to another region of Russia (12%); no, I will return home (22%).

The quality of life in the Republic completely satisfies 17% of the respondents, and mostly satisfies 66%. There are also people who are unhappy with the living conditions – 14%, while 3% were hesitant to answer this question.

Since 11% of the migrants arrive with their families, the questionnaire also included questions related to the social well-being of the children of migrants. To the question whether or not the children of migrants enjoyed living in the Republic of Bashkortostan, 81% said yes, 17% said no, and 2% were hesitant to answer.

The results of the poll demonstrate that foreign citizens prefer to communicate not only with their countrymen, but also with the local population, as per 73% of the respondents. There are 18% of those who communicate only with their countrymen, and 5% only with the local population. Interestingly enough, there were also those who did not socialize with anyone – 4%.

A similar situation can be observed among the children of the migrants: 79% socialize with people of same age bracket and of same nationality, as well as with the local kids; only with kids of same age and nationality – 16%; only with the locals – 3%. Do not socialize with anyone – 2%.

At the same time, certain factors and situations cause concern among the foreign citizens (this was a multiple choice question): high rent prices, poor living conditions (67%); high food and clothing prices (61%); difficulties obtaining medical care (41%); low wages (29%); low level of legal protection (17%); crime (12%); arbitrary behavior of the employers (11%); inter-ethnic conflicts (8%); climate and environment (2%). In the “Other” field, the respondents filled in: crisis (2%); changes in migration policy (8%).

The overall situation in the area of inter-ethnic relations seems favorable to the migrants. To the question “How do the residents of Republic of Bashkortostan treat you”, the following answers were received: good – 70%; impartial – 24%. There was however 4% of the respondents who graded the attitude of the locals towards them as poor, while 2% hesitated to answer the question.

It is a pleasant fact that the conflicts between the local population and the migrants happened quite rarely according to 84% of the respondents; 2% believe that there are no conflicts whatsoever. An alarming fact however is that 14% were hesitant to answer this question.

In addition to that, there is a substantial number of people who feel unable to exercise their rights: always – 4%; from time to time – 46%; 14% of those polled hesitated with the answer (i.e. it would seem that they did experience some type of difficulty with exercising their rights). At the same time, 38% of the respondents unequivocally stated that they have never felt that their rights were infringed upon.

Another cause for concern is the fact that to the question of whether or not they were offered to join one or

another political or religious organization, 57% of the respondents answered affirmatively. At the same time, 19% have hesitated in answering this question, i.e. almost 1/5 of the respondents chose not to confirm nor deny the existence of such propositions.

Unfortunately, there are instances of unlawful acts against foreign citizens (it affected 39% of the respondents). In addition to that, 19% of the migrants against whom the unlawful acts were committed did not contact law enforcement; 21% did contact law enforcement agencies, and 18% received the needed help, while 2% did not.

To the question “How relevant are the problems related to terrorism” – a question that today concerns the entire planet – most of the migrants (57%) responded negative; 18% of the respondents stated that they did not think about this at all.

However, to the question “In your opinion, who do you think terrorism and international conflicts threaten the most”, 84% of the migrants responded: “Personal safety and safety of the loved ones”. The threat of terrorism and threats to the national security concern 12% of those polled, while 4% hesitated in answering this question.

The respondents were asked whether or not the mass media had any significant influence on how they felt about all current events: 79% gave an affirmative answer, 17% answered – from time to time, and 4% have chosen not to answer.

Since the migrants are living in the Republic, even if only temporarily, they were asked the question: “Are you interested in the culture and traditions of the Republic of Bashkortostan?” The answers were as follows: “Yes” – 41%, “No” – 55%, while 4% were unsure.

We were also interested in hearing the migrants’ opinion on what should be done in order to avoid terrorist acts and international conflicts. The following answers were received: act together, as one – 74%; have reasonable national policy – 23%; had difficulty responding to this question – 4%.

People who have come to Bashkortostan from other countries in their majority (72%) think that in addition to their own customs and traditions they should acknowledge the local way of life and adhere to it; 20% want to live only according to their own traditions, and 8% are willing to let go their traditions and live in accordance with those of the accepting country.

Of course, the most interesting question was whether or not the respondents would recommend their friends to come to the Republic of Bashkortostan, since this question fully reflects the comfort or discomfort in their stay here. The response has exceeded all expectations: 91% have answered “Yes”, 2% had difficulty answering the question, and 7% have answered a firm “No”. It would seem that *only* 7% is not that much, but it means that a *whole* 7%, or in this case over 30 people, feel uncomfortable in the Republic; this means that additional work needs to be done to ensure a full adaptation of the migrants into an environment that is new to them.

Thus, the conducted research revealed that overall the foreign citizens who have come to the Republic of Bashkortostan, whether permanently or temporarily, overall feel comfortable and inter-ethnic, inter-religious and other conflicts happen very rarely. Very few of them want to return home due to dissatisfaction, and according to their statements most people feel that they have adjusted and adapted to the local lifestyle.

Nevertheless, it is too early to relax. The adaptation of migrants remains necessary, which is a serious barrier in their social integration (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development [OECD], 2012), and it moves at a much slower pace than could be expected. Although majority of the local population continue to maintain a certain negative or impartial attitude towards the migrants, it is impossible to deny that migrants are needed in the area of public infrastructure, construction, and sales – the positions that the local workforce is not eager to fill.

Another interesting aspect of this topic is the gender. In addition to the presented poll, the Institute has also conducted a selective polling on female migrants throughout the same period. The results show that it was easier and quicker for women than men to adjust into the new socio-cultural reality, caring about their family, rather than about personal status, and are more geared towards adaptation. One of the components of female migrants’ integration into the accepting society is their relations with the local population. Majority of them feel that the locals are friendly towards them. The results of the research shows that having kinds in a family has a positive effect on the integration despite the fact that the living conditions of the migrant families with children are more difficult than those of the migrants that have come alone. The migrants who have relocated with their children display a higher level of involvement into the local society: the communication involves children, their school or preschool facilities, relations with friends, teachers and caregivers.

Most of the women who came without children answered that they socialize mainly with their own nationals –

migrants, just as they are, while among women living in the Republic of Bashkortostan with children this index is noticeably lower.

Since the ancient times the Republic of Bashkortostan is home to people of many nationalities and confessions, thus inter-ethnic conflicts and terrorist threats are much lesser of an issue than in other regions. But there are organizations of religious and antinational doctrine, who attempt to involve population, especially migrants as the most vulnerable social group into various types of illegal activities. This can only be counteracted by implementing smart policies in the area of national security, devising technologies that would contribute to developing tolerance towards other cultures, respect for others and their rights.

Taking into consideration the results of the polling by the Bashkirian Institute of Social Technologies within the framework of the UNESCO-UNEVOC Center the following changes have taken place in the Russian Federation:

(a). The Agency for Peacebuilding Technologies has been established, offering services by professional mediators:

- Educational seminars for heads of the departments on youth affairs in the municipal formations of the Republic of Bashkortostan, school teachers and counsellors of youth clubs in Ufa, including in the field of inter-ethnic relations: “Preventing extremism and terrorism among the youth”, “Effective methods of developing principles of tolerance among the youth”, and others;

- Training classes “Polycultural competency as a factor of developing tolerance”, “Harmonization of inter-ethnic relations”, and others;

- Development of peacebuilding technologies in the area of inter-ethnic relations and educational programs on these technologies for various age groups, including members of the Bashkortostan Children’s Public Law Chamber at the Bashkirian Institute of Social Technologies.

(b). A project “Socio-cultural adaptation of migrants in the Republic of Bashkortostan” has been developed and is currently being implemented.

The project includes:

Part 1. A program for educating municipal officials within the framework of carrying out their duties on preventing inter-ethnic conflicts and techniques of working with migrants and their families:

- Seminars and clinics (“Managing conflicts”, “Mediation”, “Legislation in the area of inter-ethnic and inter-confession relations”);

- Master classes on exchanging experience of working with migrants, which include invitations of leading specialists from Russia and other countries.

Part 2. Conducting monitoring among the local population and migrants on the issues of inter-ethnic relations:

- Conducting sociological polling among the students, youth, adult population, migrants, employers and government authorities dealing with the migrant issues;

- Compiling and publishing analytic reports;

- Acquiring recommendations.

Part 3. Working with migrants:

3.1. The program for socio-cultural adaptation of adult migrants includes the following:

- Teaching Russian language (oriented towards their profession);

- Introduction to the culture of the Republic of Bashkortostan, its history, traditions and customs;

- Increasing knowledge in the legal and financial areas;

- Training to develop tolerant attitude and readiness to work in a team;

- Psychological support throughout the process of adaptation.

3.2. Program for socio-cultural adaptation of children of migrants includes the following:

- Russian as a second language;

- Introduction to the cultural and historic elements of the Republic;

- Psychological and pedagogical support;

- Classes and training on tolerance.

Part 4. Integration program for social institutions, public organizations, and branches of authority in the sphere of migration policy:

4.1. Establishment of a common socio-cultural space:

- Raising the key migration issues in the mass media;
- Holding round-table talks, including online, on the issues of migration;
- Establishment of volunteer communities;
- Integration with the regional branch of the All-Russian organization “Russian Red Cross”.

4.2. Forming common cultural environment:

- Observing national holidays;
- National theme contests;
- Introduction to the culture of the country of origin of the migrants (literature, music, architecture, traditions, etc.).

Realizing this project, in our opinion would allow carrying out effective preventative measures against xenophobia, national and religious intolerance and most importantly, would contribute to promoting among the local population and the migrants an outlook on life that would support protection of rights of any person regardless of nationality or confession, place of birth, and would not stand for any intolerance. All of these things combined will provide a positive result – a painless adaptation of migrants into the socio-cultural environment of the region.

5. Conclusions

Monitoring the current migration situation in municipal divisions of the Republic of Bashkortostan leads us to believe that there is a need to reevaluate the functions of migration regulation in the area of forming municipal policy, devising targeted programs of its realization, complex information and organization management provisions. One of the most pressing issues is reorganization of the management towards reduction of bureaucracy, creation of conditions for improving the mobility of the management, timely reaction to the changes in the conditions of the internal and external environment. It is also necessary to improve the actual diagnostic procedure, its goal differentiation, and embolden in it both, independent and interconnected diagnostics:

- *Qualitative* diagnostics – aimed at determining the state of the migration processes at the time of evaluation;
- *Quantitative* diagnostics – oriented towards determining the quantitative parameters of the migration processes;
- *Dynamic* diagnostics – allowing tracking the migration processes within a specific timeframe;
- *Cause* diagnostics – allows determining and describing the causes for migration processes;
- *Functional* diagnostics – allows determining the social functions and consequences of the migration processes.

As a final thought I would like to suggest practical recommendations on improving the regulation of the migration process in the territories of municipal formations (Akhatov, 2013). Some of the recommendations are:

(a). *To the regional governing authorities:* to give the status of a primary social project of the work of Bashkirian Institute of Social Technologies on migration issues, and support its distribution throughout the municipal division of the region.

(b). *To the municipal authorities:*

- Together with companies of the city to devise a complex of measures on priority industries within the city, where it is possible to attract the workforce from the Republic of Bashkortostan and surrounding regions;
- Create and maintain a database on the vacancies within the priority industries and economic objects of the city;
- Insure creation of quotas for the entry of work migrants;
- Insure the balance within the job market with consideration of the principle of priority of employing the residents of the residents of the Republic of Bashkortostan and surrounding regions;

- Provide assistance in forming of a regional scientific community that would coordinate the research and scientific work on the migration issues.

(c). To the regional scientific community on the research of migration issues:

- Devise methods of organizing cooperation between the branches of municipal authorities, non-governmental organizations, and public migrant unions;

- Devise a system of monitoring the realization of municipal migration policy.

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