

Life Satisfaction and Migration Intention of Youth

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Abstract— The article focuses on the empirical study of within-country migration intention in young age. 136 people, aged 17-35, who live in the city Komsomolsk-on-Amur, Russia, took part in the study. This study examines the role of satisfaction with different life domains in desire to leave the city and move to another region. We asked respondents about their intention to migrate by posing the question "Would you like to leave the city?". Life satisfaction is examined by measuring satisfaction with life in general and with ten life domains. The difference between two groups (who intend to migrate or not) was found through the use of Mann-Whitney U test. The research results have shown that those who intend to migrate tend to be less satisfied with their life in the city, and some domains of life in the city, such as: government, economic situation and social conditions, opportunity of education in the city. Those who intend to migrate are less satisfied with their profession and opportunity of self-realization in it, and also their income level. The findings suggest that those who have no migration intentions tend to be much more satisfied with the area where they live than those who intend to move.

Keywords— *Intention to Migration, Life Satisfaction, Youth.*

I. INTRODUCTION

In recent years the Far Eastern Federal District stands out against all other districts of Russia for the most unfavorable tendencies in migration processes, which has a very negative effect on this region development. [1-4]. The leakage of young people is of a particular danger for the region, since it is the younger generation that is a strategic resource and source of development. According to the statistical data, the number of Komsomolsk-on-Amur residents has been constantly decreasing from 1993 to the present, during this period the population has decreased by 65 thousand people. In 2016 Komsomolsk-on-Amur lost 1.4 thousand people, 342 people of which was a natural loss, but the main part of the "loss" is the people who left the city. The same tendency continued in 2017 – migration loss was 549 people. The current number of the city population (dated 01/01/2018) is – 248,5 thousand people. Since 2011 the share of youth in the total city population has decreased from 31% to 26%. According to research findings by Yu.V. Berezutsky [5], Yu.A. Tyurina [6], G.G. Ermak [7] it was revealed that about 50% of young people intend to leave the territory of the Far East. In our survey, we study the peculiarities of migration activity of

Komsomolsk-on-Amur youth and on the basis of the analysis of the data obtained, we denote the main "nodes of discontent", pushing young people out of the city. Achieving this goal has a high practical significance, since it will allow us to work out the priorities of the youth and migration policy implemented in the city.

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In Russian science there is a large number of research papers devoted to the socio-psychological problems of migrants, these studies can be conditionally divided into several groups. The first group includes the researches in which the motives of migratory behavior are studied, its types are identified [8-11]. The next group includes the studies analyzing the relations between life quality and migration intentions [12-15]. A separate group is made up of works in which the conditions and specific character of socio-psychological adaptation of migrants are determined [16-19]. [20-21]. Demographic studies of the dependence of youth contingents migratory mobility on the administrative rank of the city, its size, remoteness from the center of the region are of special interest [22].

Foreign research papers devoted to the study of the migration causes focus more on studying economic predictors and designing economic models of migration processes based on the economic well-being of regions, the difference in economic opportunities with different countries and regions, and the incomes of the population in different regions. However, recent studies show that migration processes are mostly explained by psychological reasons, rather than by economic ones, since people can stay even in low-income regions and leave economically safe places. [23-24].

It has been repeatedly revealed that the factors restraining migration activity are close ties with people in the residence place, the presence of family, friends, high value of the existing relations [25-28]. Some scientific studies point out a desire for career growth [29-31], improving their education, entertainment opportunities [32] as motives for migration. Researchers studying migration motives use the following proposition as basis: the decision to change a place of

residence is made when people believe that they can realize their motives in another country or in another region to a greater extent [33].

Despite the abundance of studies devoted to migration processes, there is very little literature devoted to the intentional migration of young people, aimed at finding internal mechanisms for making of a migration decision and external factors that influence the formation of appropriate migration behavior among young people.

The migration factors must be divided into two groups: controlled and not controlled or condition-factors and regulator-factors. Condition-factors are not directly controlled (natural conditions, geographical location, demographic, ethnic, etc., etc.), and regulator-factors can be directly planned and changed (the level and quality of the population life: wages, city infrastructure, etc.) This proposition served as the basis for the development of a research plan. In our study, we proposed that migration, as a form of social behavior and type of social activity, is directly related to the criteria of subjective well-being of an individual.

The interconnection of migration intentions with dissatisfaction with life and its separate spheres was repeatedly revealed in scientific researches.

Thus, N. Chindarkar, examining the impact of life satisfaction on the intention to migrate abroad using the survey data conducted in 18 Latin American countries, showed that, regardless of the effect of other factors, life satisfaction is negatively related to the force of migration intentions [34].

V. Otrachshenko и O. Popova, summarizing the data of 27 countries of Central, Eastern and Western Europe, found that people tend to migrate when they are dissatisfied with their lives. At the same time, socio-economic variables and macroeconomic conditions affect the intention to migrate only indirectly, contributing or hindering the subjective well-being of a person [35].

A study conducted by the Italian research center Centro Studi Luca d'Agliano showed that people who intend to move are much less satisfied with the place in which they live than those who do not have such intentions. It concerns dissatisfaction with the degree of security in the place of residence and the social infrastructure to a greater extent (local amenities – a desirable or useful feature or facility of a building or place), rather than with the possibilities of finding a job, earning one's living and maintaining a standard of living [36].

W. Stinner и M. Van Loon, studying internal population migration in the USA, found out that dissatisfaction with economic opportunities (steady employment, career advancement and higher income) and social framework (public services such as schools and health service providers) produce negative impact on the formation of migration intentions [37].

B. Nowok, M. van Ham, A. Findlay и V. Gayle note that migrating most people expect improvement in their subjective well-being, they are focused on using the opportunities available elsewhere. A person with pronounced migration intentions often views migration as a means of restoring a

standard of living, especially if the cause of migration is a stressful event that has violated a person's habitual life [38].

The objective of our study is to compare the satisfaction with various aspects of one's life and life in the city among young people with different migration intentions.

The hypothesis is that young people with pronounced migratory intentions have a lower level of satisfaction with life. The formatter will need to create these components, incorporating the applicable criteria that follow.

II. METHODS

The study involved 136 respondents, young people aged 16-35 (average age 20.1 years), residents of Komsomolsk-on-Amur. The research was carried out in 2017-2018.

To study the migration intentions, respondents were asked to answer a direct question: "Are you going to leave the city?". Depending on the answer all the respondents were divided into two groups, depending on the migration intentions: young people who are going to change their place of residence (65 people) and young people who do not intend to leave the city (71 people). The respondents who belonged to the first group were additionally asked questions: "To which country, or part of Russia, would you like to move?" And "For what reason do you want to leave?"

At the second stage, to measure satisfaction with life, respondents were asked questions about their satisfaction with life in general and in individual life spheres. The survey used scales developed on the basis of a personal index of subjective well-being [39]: respondents were asked to assess how satisfied they are with their life in general, their level of living, their level of professional self-realization, their choice of profession, their achievements in life, their level of income, their degree of confidence in the future, their satisfaction with life in the city, the activities of the city administration, the economic situation, the social situation in the city, the level of education in Komsomolsk-on-Amur. Each of the suggested items subjects were assessed on a scale from 0 to 10 points.

Differences between young people with and without migration intentions were determined using the Mann-Whitney U test.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Migration intentions of the city's youth

Having analyzed the migration intentions of young people, we can say that the number of respondents who want to stay in the city (52.2%) prevails over those who want to leave (47.8%). The youth migration vector analysis is presented in Table 1.

The analysis of the migration vector of the city young residents has shown that 32.3% would like to leave the country, 67.7% intend to change their place of residence within the country. Of those who wish to stay in the country, but intend to leave the city, the greater part (72.5%) aims at the west of Russia, and only 27.5% of young people want to stay within the region (The Far East of Russia). As reasons for

migration young people indicate: a low level of life comfort (73%); low quality of life (63%); low-paid and not interesting work (63%); adverse climatic conditions (15%), family moving (15%). The "real usefulness" of the conditions for self-development and career occupies the first place in the motivation for migration of this part of the youth, the priority of material values over others is clearly expressed.

TABLE I. MIGRATION VECTOR OF KOMSOMOLSK-ON-AMUR YOUTH.

MIGRATION VECTOR	SAMPLE PERCENT
<i>I. MIGRATION VECTOR: INTERNAL OR EXTERNAL</i>	
Abroad	32,3 %
Russia	67,7 %
<i>II. Migration Vector: within Russia</i>	
The Western part of Russia	72,5 %
Within the Far East	27,5 %

B. The level of satisfaction with the quality of life of young people with different migration intentions

The results of the study of life satisfaction in the city and the parameters of the per-sonal well-being of young people are presented in tables 2 and 3.

TABLE II. AVERAGE VALUES AND DIFFERENCES IN SATISFACTION WITH ONE'S OWN LIFE AMONG YOUTH WITH DIFFERENT MIGRATION INTENTIONS.

INDICES	YOUTH WITH MIGRATION INTENTIONS	YOUTH WITH INTENTIONS TO STAY	U
Satisfaction with one's life as a whole	7,0	7,0	2263
Satisfaction with one's standard of living	6,6	7,0	1976,5
Satisfaction with one's level of professional self-realization	5,7	5,8	2259,5
Satisfaction with one's life achievements	6,2	6,2	2204,5
Satisfaction with one's degree of confidence in the future	6,4	6,2	2185,5
Satisfaction with one's income level	4,3	5,3	1712**

** - significant differences at $p \leq 0,01$

The research results analysis has revealed that young people are satisfied with their life in general and its separate aspects: the standard of living, their professional self-realization, their achievements, the degree of confidence in the future. Young people are satisfied with their income level to a lesser extent.

Significant differences in life satisfaction among young people with different migration intentions were obtained from the "income level" parameter. Young people who want to

leave the city are much less satisfied with their incomes than those who want to stay.

TABLE III. AVERAGE VALUES AND DIFFERENCES IN SATISFACTION WITH LIFE IN THE CITY AMONG YOUTH WITH DIFFERENT MIGRATION INTENTIONS.

INDICES	YOUTH WITH MIGRATION INTENTIONS	YOUTH WITH INTENTIONS TO STAY	U
Satisfaction with life in the city	4,4	6,1	1248,5**
Satisfaction with the economic situation in the city	3,6	4,6	1608,5**
Satisfaction with the education level in the city	4,6	5,5	1810*
Satisfaction with the social situation in the city	4,2	5,0	1721,5**
Satisfaction with the activities of the city administration	3,5	4,7	1498,5**
Satisfaction with the opportunity to choose a profession	3,9	4,7	1814,5*
Satisfaction with the possibility of professional self-actualization in the city	3,8	4,7	1658**

** - significant differences at $p \leq 0,01$

* - significant differences at $p \leq 0,05$

The analysis of the indices of satisfaction with the life of young people in the city has shown that the most discontent is caused by the activities of the administration and the economic situation in the city. Low satisfaction was found in the following do-mains of city life: "the possibility of choosing a profession" and "the possibility of professional self-realization." Since the acquisition of professional competencies and self-realization in the profession is one of the main tasks of the age, dissatisfaction in this area plays an important role in shaping the migratory intentions of the youth. The economic factor is very important in the sense of well-being among the residents of the Russian Far East [40] and, as a result, it is a factor that increases the migration activity of young people.

To detect the differences between the two groups of respondents, Mann-Whitney U criterion was calculated (Table 3). The results of the analysis demonstrate reliable differences in the satisfaction with life in the city among young people with different migration intentions. The young people who tend to migrate have significantly lower level of life satisfaction in comparison with those who tend to stay in the city. The analysis was carried out on all evaluated spheres of life, such as: the city administration activity, the economic situation, professional self-realization and the choice of a profession, the social situation, the level of education in the

city. A group of young people who want to change their place of residence believes that their hometown does not sufficiently satisfy their need to choose the desired profession, professional self-realization and good material income. Most likely, young people consider moving to another city as a way to increase their own subjective well-being.

IV. CONCLUSION

The survey results show that the number of young residents of the city who want to change their place of residence (47%) is high enough, which leads to negative trends in migration processes and reduction in Komsomolsk-on-Amur population.

In our research two vectors of migration activity of young people have been discovered: internal and external. The predominant vector is internal migration: young people tend to move to the west of Russia or to large regional cities that have highly diversified labor markets, with high wages, developed social infrastructure, which together provide a higher quality of life.

The analysis of subjective well-being indices has shown that young residents of the city are least satisfied with the activities of the administration and the economic situation in the city. Significant differences were found between young people with different migration intentions in all spheres of life in the city (less satisfied are those who want to change their place of residence).

Young people are satisfied with their life in general and with its individual aspects to a greater extent than with life in the city. The lowest index was obtained when assessing the level of their income. At the same time, young people intending to leave the city, are significantly less satisfied with their incomes than those who want to stay.

The study has shown that young people with pronounced migration intentions have a lower level of satisfaction with life in the city as a whole and in some of its domains, while satisfaction with their own life does not significantly differ among the identified groups of respondents. Thus, satisfaction with life in the city, rather than personal well-being, is more significant for predicting the migratory activity of young people.

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