

Social Problems of Migrants in Tyumen Region: Sociological Aspect

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Abstract: The paper presents the results of secondary analysis of the data obtained in the public opinion poll dealing with social problems of migrants arriving to the Tyumen Region from countries of Central Asia. The data were collected by questionnaire survey of 1200 responders living in the Tyumen Region and experts' answers. The analyzed data include statistics characterizing arrival and departure of foreigners and the amount of crime committed by newcomers. The results of the public opinion poll provided the conclusion that situation in the labour migration is better than the public opinion poll statistics concerning migrants in Russia as a whole.

Key words: Tyumen Region • Migration • Migrants • Migration processes

INTRODUCTION

The huge migration of people between societies has become an important feature of the second half of the 20th century. This movement of people throughout the world is an important component of world economy globalization [1]. A substantial part of migration was due to the labour shortage in economically advanced host societies in combination with unemployment in the societies with less dynamic economy, which are exporting migrants [2].

Historically, some countries encouraged the influx of migrants [3]. In this case, migrants planned to settle down in the host country on a permanent basis and got all citizenship rights of the host society [4]. The society was ready to accept migrants only during a particular limited period when this was demanded by economic circumstances. In this case, migrants did not receive full rights of citizenship and they were not expected to be integrated in this society [5].

The specifics of migration into the Tyumen Region is largely determined by the multiethnic type of population. Representatives of 143 nationalities reside in this region including Russians, Tartars and Ukrainians. The last decade witnessed increase in the number of people coming from Central Asia countries for seasonal work and for permanent residence (Table 1). To elucidate the specific features of migration processes in the Tyumen Region, a questionnaire survey covering 1200 responders was undertaken in the early 2013. The responders comprised 43.8% males and 56.2% females.

Table 1: Distribution of the total and sampled population of the research according to the ethnic composition, %

Ethnonym	All-Russian census data of 2010	Sampled population in 2013
Russians	79.52	79.1
Tatars	7.65	8.3
Ukrainians	1.27	3.0
Kazakhs	0.99	1.8
Germans	0.90	1.7
Chuvashes	0.64	0.2
Azerbaijani	0.62	0.5
Armenians	0.57	0.3
Byelorussians	0.33	0.2
Bashkirs	0.20	0.7
Tajiks	0.23	0.6
Uzbeks	0.22	1.2
Moldavians	0.12	0.2
Georgians	0.08	0.6
Kirghizs	0.14	0.7
Khantys	0.05	1.0
Chechens	0.05	0.2
Persons who indicated nationalities other than listed above	6.27	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0

The ethnic composition of the population of Tyumen Region formed gradually during several centuries. The Yugor people living in the Urals were first mentioned in the Tale of Bygone Years (1096), while Siberian Chronicles mention the Samodiisky and Ugrian tribes.

About a thousand years ago, Turkic tribes of Kiochaks appeared in the Tyumen Region. The local Ugrian population moved to northern regions and some of the Ugrians was assimilated with incoming population. Gradually, the ethnos called Siberian Tatars has formed, who absorbed Turkic, Ugrian, Mongolian and other ethnic components [6].

Later, the West Siberia was populated by Russians and this was accompanied by development of natural resources of the region. In the 18th century, Old Believers appeared in Siberian villages and in the late 19th century, after serfdom was abolished, peasants from different regions of Russia moved to West Siberia.

In 1939, forcibly displaced persons started to arrive to the Tyumen Region, in particular, those from Ukraine and Byelorussia and in 1941, also Germans. In 1943 and 1944, deported Chechens, Ingushes and Kalmyks moved beyond the Urals.

In 1964, oil and gas fields started to be developed. This provided the basis for the formation of the fuel-and-power complex and enhanced the migration. During the period from 1964 to 1970, the total number of migrants reached 1.8 million people. These were residents of the Volga region, North Caucasus, Far East and people coming from Ukraine, Tatarstan, Bashkiria and Azerbaijan. Just before the oil and gas field development, the Region was populated by Russians (81.4%), Tatars (7.3%), Ukrainians (1.8%), Germans (1.5%), Chuvashs (1.2%), Komi (0.7%), Khantys (1.4%), Nenets (1.3%), Mansi (0.5%), Selkup (0.1%) and other peoples (2.8%) [7].

The intensive construction of towns and workers' settlements resulted in urbanization of the Tyumen Region. The percentage of urban population in the Tyumen Region increased from 35 to 76% in the 1961-1989 period. Whereas in the beginning of 1960, the Tyumen Region was among the least urbanized in Siberia, by the beginning of 1990, it was the second most urbanized being inferior only to the Kemerovo Region.

The population reached 1341.1 thousand people by 2011, which was 12.2 thousand or 0.9% greater than a year earlier. The average age of residents was 36.7 years, that for males being 34.5 (34.4 by the beginning of 2009) and that for females being 38.7 (38.6) [3]. The group of population 20 to 34 years of age rapidly increases in the Tyumen Region [7].

In the beginning of the 21st century, migrants from the former USSR countries continue to arrive to the Tyumen Region; altogether 3341 people came in 2010.

Note that the greatest number of newcomers have moved from Kazakhstan (26.7%), Tajikistan (18.7%), Uzbekistan (13.6%), Armenia (9.7%) and Azerbaijan (8.4%).

According to official data, in the first 6 months of 2012, 104 800 foreign residents and persons without citizenship crossed the border entry points of the Tyumen Region. This is 52% greater than during the similar period of the previous year when the Tyumen Region border was crossed by 68965 people. Out of these 104800 people, 61421 (51.4% more than the previous year) entered the Tyumen Region, while 43379 (52.8% more) left the Region.

These values were presented at the briefing session of the Tyumen Region Department of the Federal Migration Service on July 12, 2012, in Tyumen. It was noted that the major part of the foreign newcomers (99%) came from the CIS countries. During the first half of 2012, the Tyumen migration service registered 69019 foreign residents and persons without citizenship, which is twice greater than the number of the first half of 2011 (34744). Of these, 85% (58 690) came from former Soviet republics. Among those who came to the Tyumen Region for long and was registered by migration service, most are citizens of Tajikistan - 18771 (32.0%), Uzbekistan - 15942 (27.2%), Kazakhstan - 6514 (11.1%), Kyrgyzstan - 6040 (10.3%), Azerbaijan - 4886 (8.3%), Armenia - 2881 (4.9%), Ukraine - 1895 (3.2%), Byelorussia - 780 (1.3%) and Moldova - 773 (1.3%). Of countries outside the former Soviet Union, most people came from Turkey - 4352, Germany - 1209, Democratic People's Republic of Korea - 439, USA - 400, Serbia - 360, Italy - 349, UK - 329, France - 297, China - 282, Korea - 193, Netherlands - 135, Turkmenistan - 111 and India - 107 [8].

Simultaneously, the amount of crime committed by people who came from abroad increases. Since the beginning of January to the end of September, 2012, foreign citizens and persons without citizenship committed 314 crimes, 5 murders, 16 cases of severe bodily injury and 37 crimes against sexual immunity in the Tyumen region. During this period, the labour migrants committed 68 thefts, 19 cheatings, 6 armed assaults and 34 criminal deeds related to illegal drug trafficking. The police detected 33 cases of false immigration documents [9].

The responders who evaluated the interethnic situation as strained were asked to name the reasons for such evaluation. Out of the 1200 participants of the questionnaire survey, 304 noted instability in the ethnic relations. Table 2 gives the reasons for the strained situation in the ethnic relations in the Tyumen Region.

Table 2: Responders' opinions about the reasons of strain in ethnic relations in the Tyumen Region collected in the first 6 months of 2013, in percent to the total number of responders

Responders' opinions	Fraction
Predominance of migrants and foreign labour from Central Asia in the labour market.	
Lots of Asians who obey no laws	14.9%
Many newcomers from Caucasus	
People coming from Caucasus bring about strain	
Impudent and provocative behaviour of newcomers from Caucasus	14.8%
High growth rate of the "non-Russian" population	
Multiethnic population of the Tyumen Region	
Large number of ethnic nationalities and controversies between them	13.5%
The lack of general communication standards	
Ill-breeding and failure to obey common rules of conduct by newcomers	12.4%
Lack of common understanding and agreement between people of different ethnic nationalities. Hostile and intolerant attitude to representatives of other ethnic nationalities	
Mutual dislike of representatives of different ethnic nationalities	9.9%
Different mentalities, traditions and levels of education of people of different ethnic nationalities	
Different behavioural culture, character and the mode of life of people of different ethnic nationalities	8.8%
Disrespectful attitude of newcomers to Russians and their traditions	7.3%
Aberrant behaviour of Russians toward other ethnic nationalities	4.2%
National policy of the Tyumen Region is attractive for newcomers	3.7%
Inefficient control and regulation of the labour behaviour of migrants	
Dissatisfaction with the migration policy in the region	
Indifferent attitude of regulatory bodies to this problem	3.3%
Provocative propaganda of the ethnic dissension from the mass media and TV	2.3%
Aggravation of the opposition between ethnic communities and groups	2.2%
Criminal activity of newcomers (drug selling business. etc.)	1.5%
Violent behaviour of children, teenagers and youth toward representatives of other ethnic nationalities	0.8%
Enhancement of nationalistic feelings among local population	0.4%
Total	100.00%

While analyzing the responses of participants of the questionnaire survey, one can conclude that most of them consider the continuing influx of migrants to be responsible for aggravation of the interethnic situation. Also, many of them indicate " *Inefficient control and regulation of the labour behaviour of migrants*", " *Dissatisfaction with the migration policy in the region*" and " *Indifferent attitude of regulatory bodies to this problem*".

The same concern was expressed by participants of All-Russian surveys. According to the opinion poll made by the company "Bashkirova and Partners" in September, 2012, more than a half of participants (55.7%) welcome a visa requirement between Russia and Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, considering that this measure would restrict the number of illegal migrants in Russia; one-third of responders think that this will be of no use and finally 15% of Russians did not give a definite answer¹ [10]. Nevertheless, the results of the survey made in the Tyumen region are still more favourable than the polling statistics concerning the migrants in Russia as a whole.

The concern with migration flows was revealed in experts' answers collected in the survey performed in the beginning of 2013. The expert survey covered 30

participants including 56.7% males and 36.7% females. Out of the participants, every fourth (26.4%) was the head of a state or commercial enterprise; the same number of pollees (24.5%) were heads of Chairs of Tyumen higher education institutions; every fifth expert (20.1%) headed a religious public organization, every sixth responder (15.8%) headed a scientific research institute; and every tenth (13.2%) held an executive position in a government authority.

We will consider some answers of the experts that mention the problems of migrants in the same order in which they were given in the questionnaire. While analyzing the answers to the first question "How would you describe the ethnic relations in the Tyumen Region as a whole? How is this manifested?", one can see that along with positive opinions, experts expressed negative opinions.

Negative opinion was expressed by 36.0% of the experts, stating that the situation in the region is strained, which is manifested as the dislike of newcomers from Asian and Caucasian countries from local population, everyday ethnic intolerance relative to the newcomers from North Caucasus. Tatars and locals are intolerant to Uzbeks and Tajiks, who occupy job positions [11].

¹The survey was performed in September, 2012, according to an All-Russian representative sampling of adult population (18+) as personal interviews in the residence places. The survey covered 1500 responders in 8 federal districts, 46 RF constituent entities, 100 populated localities (168 inquiry points). The sampling error is 2.5%.

While answering the next question of whether today's youth is tolerant to people of different nationality and confession, some experts evaluated the behaviour of youth as tolerant, while the other group of experts (30.0%) stated the opposite opinion. The experts believe that young people are aggressive, embittered, are able to bully and kill and dislike Caucasian and Central Asia migrants. Youth tends to form ethnic and confessional groups or pseudo-groups. The state does not pay attention to fostering cultural awareness in young people.

In conclusion, we would like to note that the main sources of preservation and growth of the population in the Region are still external (Azerbaijan, Byelorussia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova and Ukraine) and internal migration together with the natural population growth, which is especially significant in the Tyumen Region where birth rate sharply increased after measures for support of young families had been taken.

Moreover, the region experiences shortage of specialists in industry and has job vacancies that should be evaluated as socially low-level (low wages, hard and non-prestigious work). Hence, social problems of labour migrants are also to be solved.

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