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The Origins of Human Migration: an Environmental Consequences

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Abstract

The migration problem had appeared since the early 90th of XX century due to the crucial influence of human migration on the ecosystem, social well-being, age structure, and labour market in Primorskiy Krai, a region in the Russian Far East. The region is located in the core of the North-East Asia region, on the cross-borders ways from/to China, Japan and the Korean peninsula, with approximately over 310 million population. Possessing less than 1.9 million populations. Primorskiy suffers more and more growing migration losses. The reason for outer migration is stipulated by contradiction of the human needs and attitudes to the social and economic environment, especially in the rural municipalities. The origins are associated with an inability to satisfy socio-cultural needs and with the lack of job opportunities, especially for young people. Ongoing migration processes have a destructive impact on various professional groups. It is most likely, that number of the skilled workers will not exceed 40% of the market demand, due to the forecast of graduates. That implies a gap between employees offering and demand in the labour market, which may result in the lack of specialists in agriculture, home building, engineering and other economical spheres. Due to the current dynamics, by 2025 the population in Primorskiy krai may vary some about 1.8-1.85 million people. This indicator is approximate and does not take into account the impact of immigration stimulus programs, the cyclical nature of economic processes, social, climate and other factors.

Introduction:

The human migration origins in Primorskiy, in general, are identical to most Far Eastern regions of the Russian Federation. Migration connects not only with the crises of economic development but with the changing needs, interests and aspirations of people. The migration occurs, on one hand, under the influence of external circumstances and incentives, on the other – due to the needs of individuals (Brettell & Hollifield, 2007). For Primorye, which is the key Russia's region in North-East Asia, the migration losses have crucial importance, bearing a serious problem not only for age, gender, family, the ethnic-confessional structure of population but for the geopolitical and economic status of the Russian Federation in this region (Aleksandrovna *et al.*, 2017).

The public opinion¹ research shows, a quarter of the questioned, who have been planning to leave the region,

had a low income. In other words, migration was caused by economic factors, such were restriction or inability to achieve the appropriate level of well-being in the current economic situation in the region. A large group of the respondents (47%) aged over 41, noticed, they could not afford a vacation off the region, because it's too expensive for the family. Thirty-seven percent of respondents ages 19-30 and 53 percent of respondents over 41 years were unable to get a mortgage loan due to lack of personal savings (Andreev *et al.*, 2019)..

Another factor is an inability to achieve the affordable level of social well-being. The state of social well-being may be characterized by sufficiency and accessibility of social benefits for all members of society, which must be viewed as a result of the authorities' policy in the socio-economic sphere of the Russian Far East.

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An analysis:

For Primorskiy Krai, in addition to the economic methods, the sociological methods might deliver a precise result, giving a deeper understanding and more complete interpretation of the social origins of migration. Possibly use not only the objective economic factors, but to investigate a decision-making mechanism of shifting a place of residence. Considering a model of human migration behaviour, it is not just to pay attention to statistics indicators that characterize these processes in the Primorskiy krai. The data analysis on the human migration/immigration, and the population drop in Primorskiy Krai for the period from 2009 to 2019, gives an only indirect picture of these processes.

Studies on the migration processes had taken in some municipalities of the Primorskiy Krai shows that one or another type of human migration behaviour can be explained by several reasons. Economic related reasons reflect the threat of loss or deterioration of the material status or the risk to fail to achieve financial status or social status. The causes and effects of human migration are associated with an inability to provide a decent financial status due to limitations of the external environment.

The economic approach follows the theory of arational choice. Individuals play a significant role in making decisions regarding to migration advantages, but the impact of external circumstances on an individual's choice was not taken into view. The most important issue of migration behaviour for the population of Primorskiy Krai, according to this theory, is the interest of any individual or a household in improving their situation, primarily to increase their incomes. The information obtained through analysis allows us to build a typology of social characters based on the motivations of specific people, as well as to present options that characterize possible ways of adaptation (Dustmann *et al.*, 2011).

The theory of "human ecology" scrutinizes the impact of industrialization and urbanization on human social behaviour. In the context of this theory, migration is considered as a social adaptation process to changes in the internal organization of the population and/or the external environment. The essence of the concept is the explanation the causes of migration by comparing the characteristics of different places in the settlement system, based on studying the whole complex of socio-economic, environmental and demographic factors (Chakraborty & Maity, 2020). For Primorskiy krai, the core of this concept is important at the point of view of the settlements, the distinctive feature of which is an uneven nature of settling over the territory. When the population density is relatively high in the south of the region and in the border zone, then in the north and northeast the nature of settlement and economic activity has an "isolated" character.

The theory of push-out (in other versions, pull-out),

delivers a deeper understanding of the human's motives to change a commonplace of residence and move to other cities, regions or countries. These factors are usually divided into three main groups: ejection, attraction, and migration paths. At the same time, in the countries of migration, as a rule, the role of "pushing" factors, which are considered as determining factors in the migration movement, particularly highlighted, while in the countries of immigration, on the contrary, a similar role is assigned to attracting factors (Hoffmann *et al.*, 2020)..

Ejection is associated with unsatisfactory or difficult conditions for humans in their native places. The displacement of large masses of people primarily occurs due to serious social upheavals (interethnic conflicts, dictatorships, wars), economic crises, natural disasters (earthquakes, floods, *etc.*) (Fleischmann & Dronkers, 2011). For Primorye, with its relatively comfortable climate conditions and opportunities for decent employment, it is no need to mention a mass migration of the region. A probable type of individual migration is a pushing force, which can serve as a failure in a career, the death of relatives, loneliness, *etc.*

The difference in the social, economic or political conditions in two or more comparable regions causes migration due to the influence of attraction forces to areas with better conditions (Friedberg & Hunt, 1995; Koren *et al.*, 2020).. Following the highlights of this concept, it can be assumed that there are no critical pushing factors for the population of Primorye and, rather, the reason for migration is the factors of attraction – the prosperity, the quality of education and housing affordability.

Factors facilitating human migration include the increasing opportunities for moving migrants to another region, the lack of barriers, information, financial and language opportunities. This standard model of analysis of the migration process is also used in studies, mainly the factors affecting the migration of people in the new developing countries. This type includes, for example, the ethnic-sociological approach, which arises and helps solve migration problems. It is not just taking into account the number of migrants, their personal characteristics and attitudes. It is necessary to take into account, that people's migration behaviour is stipulated not only by their individual preferences but also by the social groups they belong to, as well as the professional groups whose norms they are guided by (Zhang & Wang, 2020).

We found:

The results of analysis from 2009 until 2019 show a negative trend of migration processes, excepts for 2011 when a positive migration growth was declared by the statistic office – 1083 people (Fig.-1). The dynamic of the migration process does not show any cyclical trend but rather takes the character of a steady negative progression. Since 2012,

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people who have left the region have begun to increase and amounted to average of 80.0 thousand people per year. The number of arrived people was also steadily growing - about 76 thousand people per year. Assessing the dynamic of the population downturn in Primorskiy for the period 2009-2019, it appears obvious, that number of arrivals cannot compensate for the losses of people, which migrate, off the region (Fig.-2, Table-1).

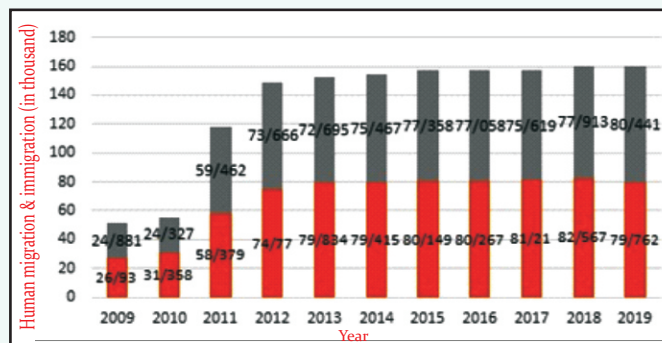


Figure-1: Humans' migration & immigration in Primorskiy Krai

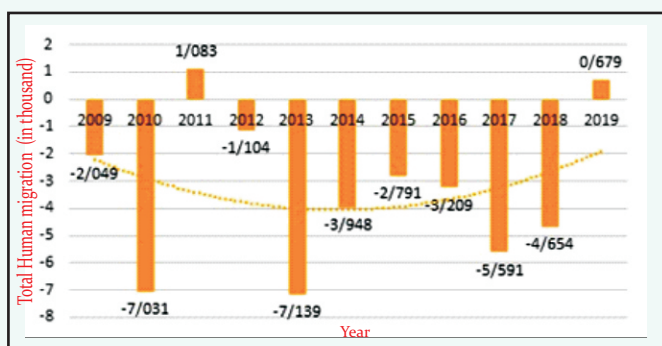


Figure-2: Net human migration in Primorskiy Krai, thousand

Table-1: Migration and immigration in Primorskiy Krai, 2009-2019 (unit- thousand)

Year	Population	Migration	Immigration	Net migration
2009	1969,6	26,930	24,881	-2,049
2010	1956,5	31,358	24,327	-7,031
2011	1953,5	58,379	59,462	1,083
2012	1950,5	74,770	73,666	-1,104
2013	1947,3	79,834	72,695	-7,139
2014	1938,5	79,415	75,467	-3,948
2015	1933,3	80,149	77,358	-2,791
2016	1929,0	80,267	77,058	-3,209
2017	1923,1	81,210	75,619	-5,591
2018	1913,0	82,567	77,913	-4,654
2019	1902,7	79,762	80,441	0,679

The factors of migration from Primorskiy include deterioration of the socio-economic environment in the rural municipalities, inability to satisfy socio-cultural and household needs, as well as the lack of opportunities, especially for young people for self-realization and professional development. A predominant motive for migration within the region is the lack of jobs with appropriate income for 50% of the young people group and

for 36% of middle-aged people. Identifying the ratio of mobility for Primorye's residents, it was noted, that among within-group of age 18-25 years and over 56 years, the predominant number of respondents (48 and 100%, respectively) not planning to move off in the nearest future, and among the residents of age group 26-37 years, 44.4% are willing to move, but do not have any opportunity, finance on their own at first.

According to the census data in 2019, it must be noticed a slight migration growth - 679 people, the largest growth (2,891 people) was recorded in Vladivostok and in the municipal city district Bolshoy Kamen - 1,328 people. Comparing the ratio of population and migration growth allows us to build a trend of the population downturn. At the beginning of 2020, the permanent population of the region was 1895.9 thousand people (Fig.-1,3).

Due to the current dynamics, by 2025, the population of Primorskiy krai may be accounted in the range of 1.8-1.85 million (Fig.-3). The indicator is approximate and does not take into account the impact of the state support measures for moving the region back, the cyclical nature of economic processes, and other factors.

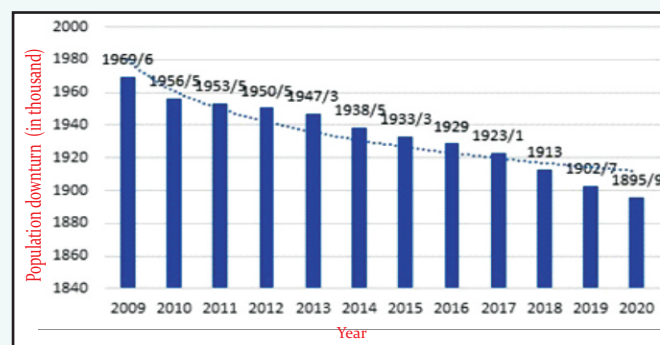


Figure-3: Population downturn in Primorskiy Krai, thousand

The share of the immigration arrivals to Primorskiy from other regions of Russia over the entire period is quite steady- 30.5%. It may be assumed, generally, motivation of those who have arrived in Primorye since 2009 did not change. The share of those who have left Primorskiy, moving to other regions of the country is significantly higher; it amounts to an average of 41.1%. These figures indicate the degree of consolidation of the indigenous population in the region that remains relatively low.

The processes of population downturn which is stipulated by the skilled workers' migration of the region may limit the offering of well-trained, qualified employees in the labour market in the nearest future. In accordance with the forecast data, a declared demand on employees, which prospectively could engage on the projects in the region in the sphere of the «new economy», will be 35-40 thousand people. Taking into account migration, in fact, offering skilled specialists in the medium term will amount to 18.0-18.2 thousand people annually, providing, that applicants will actively promote themselves in the labour

market. The region self-procurement with skilled workers will not exceed 40%, due to the forecast of the graduates. A gap between offer and demand in the labour market is extending, which may result in a significant deficit of specialists by 2024 and an increase in the average age of the economically active population of the region. To prevent the processes of depopulation in the Primorye region, the population of the region should grow by 22-25 thousand people annually.

The problem of migration in Primorskiy, as well as most regions of the Russian Far East, is a physical sense of discomfort due to the lack of appropriate social and economic benefits, or threats of loss or deterioration of the social status. The purpose of migration is viewed as changing and improving social status or reaching better social well-being. Climatic and geographical reasons can also affect the physical feeling of discomfort due to the impact of a severe climate and spatial detachment with the core of Russia's cultural and historical centres. In this case, the purpose of migration is to overcome spatial isolation, to move to regions with a comfortable climate (Pashuk, 2018).

Discussion:

It is noted above, that human migration is determined by a group of economic and social factors. In the context of the study, the conception of "migration behaviour of the population" in relation to Primorskiy Krai is considered as a conscious attitude or conscious feeling a necessity for moving in order to change their place of residence due to impact of economic, social, climatic and other external and internal causes and factors.

The concept of "social comfort" is rather subjective and includes own individual's feelings and awareness of the value of social goods in relation to their own needs. Migration behaviour can be considered as a result of the government responsibility and involvement in the socio-economic policy in the region, aimed at creating facilities and infrastructure for social well-being and retaining (preserving) the population in the region.

Applying sociological methods, it should be taken into account that the assessment, or rather self-assessment of migration behaviour, is largely subjective because it is based on the fixation of migrants' own opinion on the circumstances leading to their motivation for moving towards a certain destination. The causes of internal migration, both in Russia and in the Primorskiy territory, could be classified into four main groups:

- 1) Personal and family reasons;
- 2) Education, short-term training;
- 3) Professional activity;
- 4) Returning to the previous place of residence.

Any other reasons, which not disclosed by Rosstat statistics, is minimal, those are the migrants who did specify no reasons for migration. Significance of other causes of migration, for example, aggravation of interethnic

relations, criminal and environmental problems, non-compliance with natural and climatic conditions, is extremely low and is within the statistical error.

According to the study results, it should be noted, that model of migration behaviour for Primorye is characterized by two important features. The share of those who left Primorskiy to other regions of the country is 41.0 %. This figure may indicate a low degree of consolidation of the indigenous population in the region. The population in Primorskiy has greater migration mobility and activity than in other regions of the Russian Federation. Migration mobility is determined not only by socio-economic factors but also by the region remote location from major Russia's business and cultural centres.

A group of the society, which is active in migration, in fact, possesses a migration passion, *i.e.* a stable sense for moving to obtain a positive change in the social and material status, is 43-58%. That is generalized data for all ages groups, especially for young people age 22-35 who have the greatest migration activity. Young people are distinguished by migration passion or migration fatalism, that is, a conscious desire for moving due to a belief in change, or a sense of social discomfort, or restrictions on the external environment for the status of a citizen to be legally capable from the point of view of economic freedom.

The part of the population of Primorye that has no intentions to migrate due to their commitment to their place of residence for ethnic, cultural, physiological and other reasons is approximately 25-38%.

Conclusion:

Since the 19th century, when the Primorskiy region was continuously settling by immigrant waves, the impact of social or family groups on migration processes was critical. The presence of family ties created a socio-migration network, which contributes more and more to push people towards another region of Russia and abroad. According to the results of the study, a migration network appears as a set of interpersonal exchanges that connect migrants, former separate groups of migrants and non-migrants to following the common social rules, cultural and historical origins. Networking facilitates the migration processes because it reduces the costs and risks of moving and increases the expected returns and benefits on a new place. Being connected to someone who has a positive experience in a new place, a migrant improves own social and economic abilities in another region or abroad.

In Primorskiy Krai, as mentioned, the migration process is typical for the Russian Federation and for most developing countries. The age structure of migrants is traditionally characterized by a higher proportion of workers in economically productive ages from 18 to 40 years, contrary to the sedentary population. It is obvious, that population of under 18 years and over 41 years is not willing to join a chaotic migration activity. The older generation - following

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commitments to the traditional way of life. The younger generation under 18- due to the lack of conscious social and professional experience.

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