

Migrants' Attitudes from Samarkand, Uzbekistan. A Generalized Q Analysis

Atitudes dos Migrantes de Samarcanda, Uzbequistão. Uma Análise Q Generalizada

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Abstract

The article highlighted the analysis of attitudes with regard to migration from migrants' point of view. The main purpose of the research was to identify major reasons why people migrated from Samarkand, Uzbekistan to other countries. A generalized q analysis, which was designed to incorporate both qualitative and quantitative data, was used to find out common patterns in migrants' attitudes. The outcomes of the research add to results from previous studies that those who migrate are not the poorer and the less educated but those that have enough income and education to migrate.

Keywords: migration, education, q-analysis, attitude, wellbeing, living conditions, low wage.

JEL Codes: O15; R23; F22.

Resumo

O artigo analisa as atitudes dos migrantes. O principal objetivo da pesquisa é identificar as principais razões pelas quais as pessoas migram do Samarcanda, Uzbequistão para outros países. Uma análise Q generalizada, que incorpora e integra dados qualitativos e quantitativos, permite descobrir padrões comuns nas atitudes dos migrantes. Os resultados da pesquisa corroboram os resultados de estudos anteriores de que aqueles que migram não são os mais pobres e menos educados, mas aqueles que têm renda e educação suficientes para migrar.

Palavras-chave: migração, educação, análise q, atitude, bem-estar, condições de vida, baixos salários.

Códigos JEL: O15; R23; F22.

1. INTRODUCTION

Migration is an essential process of the dynamically changing world demography. The overall number of migrants is rapidly increasing; for instance, in 2020, about 281 million people moved from their home country to other countries worldwide (World Migration Report, 2022). There are many factors that push and pull migration from country A to country B. According to Zanazabar et al. (2021), migration could be caused by certain aspects of the economy, natural disasters, socio-political factors, urbanization, wars, family reunification, and others. Migration usually occurs from a poorer country to a wealthier one. But low wages and bad living conditions are not always the strongest factors. As society is becoming more globalized traveling becomes easier, and sometimes people want to stay longer or move to the destination country permanently. So, it is necessary to research the impact of various factors that drive migration.

Among other countries, Uzbekistan is considered a low-income country with a GDP per capita of less than 2,500 USD in 2022 (World Bank, 2022). At the end of 2022, 35.2 million people lived in the Republic of Uzbekistan (World Bank, 2022). Migration is a critical issue, as more than 3 million Uzbek people work abroad (World Bank, 2022). More than 70% of migrants go to the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan (International Organization for Migration, 2022). Other popular destination countries include Turkey, the Republic of Korea, the United States, Germany, and other European countries.

According to Bondarenko (2021), migration in Uzbekistan developed in four stages. The first stage took place in the 90s. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, many ethnic Russians and other minor nationalities started leaving the country (Bondarenko, 2021). In the second stage, from 2000 to 2009, the so-called migration networks, primarily in former Soviet countries and Israel, were formed. In the third stage, from 2010 to 2015, as GDP growth slowed down, the unemployment rate went up, thereby stimulating migration (Bondarenko, 2021). The period from 2016 is marked as the fourth stage, and it is characterized by the government's greater attention to migration issues.

Studying migration is important due to its far-reaching impacts on societies, economies, and individuals. Scholars and researchers have conducted extensive studies and produced a vast body of literature that highlights the various dimensions and significance of migration.

Castles and Miller (2003), in their book "The Age of Migration", provide a comprehensive analysis of the causes and patterns of migration worldwide. They emphasize the importance of studying migration as a response to globalization, economic disparities, conflicts, and environmental factors. Massey et al. (1998) conducted seminal research on the "Theory of Reasoned Action" and the "New Economics of Labor Migration." Their work highlights the role of economic factors, such as wage differentials and employment opportunities, in shaping migration decisions. Stark and Bloom (1985) introduced the concept of "networks" in migration studies, emphasizing the importance of social connections and information flows in migration processes. Understanding these factors helps in explaining migration patterns and designing policies that facilitate migration flows.

Research on the economic impacts of migration included works of Borjas (2003), Card (2005), and others. Borjas (2003) conducted extensive research on the economic impacts of immigration in the United States. His work emphasizes the positive effects of immigration on the economy, including increased labor market flexibility, innovation, and productivity growth. Card (2005) conducted a landmark study on the economic effects of immigration on native-born workers. His research challenges the notion that immigration has significant negative impacts on wages and employment opportunities for native-born workers, highlighting the complexity of the relationship between immigration and labor markets.

Studying migration with regard to social and cultural dynamics, Vertovec (2007) explores the concept of "super-diversity" and the implications of migration for social and cultural dynamics. His work highlights the importance of studying migration to understand the formation of transnational communities, the negotiation of identities, and the intercultural interactions that emerge in diverse societies. Alba and Nee (2003) examine the integration processes of immigrants in the United States. Their research underscores the importance of studying migration to understand the social integration of immigrants, the formation of ethnic enclaves, and the factors that contribute to successful integration outcomes.

The impact of political dimensions also is huge. In his work, Freeman (1995) examines the political implications of migration, particularly in the context of immigration policy. His work

emphasizes the need to study migration to understand the political debates, public opinion, and policy responses surrounding immigration. Favell (2008) discusses the European Union's migration policies and their implications for national sovereignty, citizenship, and regional integration. His research highlights the importance of studying migration to analyze the complex interactions between migration, politics, and governance at different levels.

Security and conflicts can significantly increase the number of outgoing migrations. Martin and Radu (2012) explores the relationship between migration and security, emphasizing the need to move beyond securitization frameworks and consider the human security dimensions of migration. His work underscores the importance of studying migration to address security concerns while upholding the rights and well-being of migrants. Betts (2013) examines the role of forced migration in conflict-affected regions. His research highlights the importance of studying migration to understand the dynamics of displacement, the challenges refugees face, and the potential for refugee crises to impact regional stability and security.

Recent reforms by President Mirziyoyev were directed to improve the wellbeing of the wider population, and as a first step, the government carried out liberalization of the foreign exchange market. As a result, the country's national currency devaluated fast (Rakhimov & Yokubov, 2022). This, in turn, triggered a sharp increase in inflation and thereby a decrease in the real wellbeing of the population. However, at that moment, people receiving foreign transfers had an advantage. Consequently, labor migration developed further.

Today, almost 60% of all Uzbekistani labor migrants go to the Russian Federation (Rakhimov & Yokubov, 2022). The flow of Uzbek migrants into Russia has increased in the last 10 years. One of the reasons was that Uzbekistan could not provide enough jobs. Meanwhile the Russian population was also declining, and the demand for foreign labor steadily increased.

This research is dedicated to identifying the reasons behind migration, most of all, labour migration. The article contributes to the state-of-the-art literature by applying generalized Q method to the data obtained from migrants at railway station in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. The results reveal interesting patterns in the motivation of men and women for migration. The literature review part highlights various theoretical approaches, factors, and the reasons behind women migration.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. General theoretical approaches

Migration issues concerned many scholars for centuries. According to Lee (1966), migration is influenced by factors that can be classified into two categories: push and pull factors. By push factors, he meant lack of jobs, natural disasters, political fear, poor medical care, slavery or forced labor, landlord issues, bullying, discrimination, wars, and other factors. The pull factors include job opportunities, better living conditions, political or religious freedom, enjoyment, better medical care, security, better chances of marrying, and others (Lee, 1966).

Another interesting approach, Stouffer's (1940) theory of intervening opportunities, assumes that the amount of migration is directly proportional to the number of opportunities at the place of destination and inversely proportional to the number of opportunities between the place of departure and destination. According to Petersen (1958), migration is divided into five classes: primitive, impelled, forced, free, and mass. Each class, in turn, is divided into two subclasses: conservative migration, when the migrant changes residence to keep his/her standard of living, and innovative migration, when the move is made to improve the living standards. The model proposed by Harris & Todaro (1970) assumed that income differentials influence migration in rural and urban areas. Some researchers use the gravity model to explain migration. For example, in the article of Rodrigue et al. (2009), they state Newton's law "Any two bodies attract one another with a force that is proportional to the product of their masses and inversely proportional to the square of the distance between them". Rodrigue et al. (2009), mention that if the words "bodies" and "masses" are replaced by "locations" and "importance" respectively, where importance can be measured in terms of population numbers, gross domestic product, or another appropriate variable, the method can be applied to explain migration processes.

2.2. Factors affecting migration

Factors and motivations behind migration from developing countries can be classified in various ways. For example, it is possible to explore the motivations for migration by gender. The research carried out by De Haas (2010), and Massey et al. (1998) outlines the following economic factors affecting migration for men:

- a. Limited job opportunities: High unemployment rates and insufficient employment opportunities in developing countries can push men to seek better job prospects abroad.

- b. Wage differentials: Significant wage disparities between developing and developed countries motivate men to migrate for higher wages and improved living standards.

- c. Economic instability: Political and economic instability, including factors such as inflation and currency devaluation, can encourage men to migrate in search of more stable economic conditions.

Castles et al. (2003), and Koser (2007) specify following social and cultural factors:

- a. Family obligations: Men often migrate to financially support their families, fulfill societal expectations, and meet traditional gender roles as breadwinners.

- b. Peer pressure and social networks: Influence from friends, relatives, and community members who have successfully migrated can encourage men to follow suit.

- c. Aspiration for a better life: Men may be driven by the desire for improved living standards, access to better education, healthcare, and social welfare for themselves and their families.

Black et al. (2011), and Hugo (2012) argue that following political and environmental factors have considerable effect on migration:

- a. Conflict and instability: Political conflicts, civil wars, and regional tensions can prompt men to migrate as a means to escape violence, persecution, and insecurity.

- b. Environmental degradation: Natural disasters, climate change, and environmental degradation can lead to resource scarcity and loss of livelihoods, compelling men to seek alternative options elsewhere.

Migration of men in developing countries is driven by a complex interplay of economic, social, cultural, political, and environmental factors. Economic considerations, including limited job opportunities and wage differentials, often play a central role. Additionally, social expectations, aspirations for a better life, political instability, and environmental challenges contribute to men's decision to migrate in search of improved livelihoods and opportunities.

Migration issues in developing countries present unique challenges and require special attention due to the specific socio-economic contexts and vulnerabilities. Numerous studies and literature shed light on the complexities and importance of understanding migration in developing countries.

De Haas (2010) explores the push and pull factors that drive migration in developing countries. His research emphasizes that poverty, inequality, unemployment, political instability, and lack of opportunities are common push factors, while better economic prospects, educational opportunities, and family reunification serve as pull factors. Stark (1991) and Taylor (1999) explored the role of remittances, highlighting how they act as pull factors for migration in developing countries. Remittances, or the money sent back home by migrants, often play a crucial role in poverty reduction and economic development in migrant-sending regions.

Docquier and Marfouk (2006) investigate the brain drain phenomenon, which refers to the emigration of highly skilled individuals from developing countries. Their research highlights the adverse effects of brain drain on developing countries' human capital, economic growth, and capacity-building efforts.

UNHCR's (2022) Global Trends Report provides comprehensive data and analysis on forced displacement worldwide. It highlights the challenges faced by developing countries as major hosts of forcibly displaced populations and the need for international cooperation and support to address their protection and humanitarian needs.

Collier and Betts (2018) examine the complexities of forced displacement and propose a new framework called "comprehensive refugee response" to enhance the self-reliance and inclusion of refugees in developing countries. Their research underscores the importance of addressing the protracted displacement and fostering sustainable solutions.

Todaro (1969) introduces the concept of rural-urban migration and the dual-sector model in developing countries. His work highlights the economic motivations and challenges associated with internal migration and urbanization, including informal employment, slums, and urban poverty.

Mberu & Pongou (2010) discusses the dynamics of urbanization and internal migration in sub-Saharan Africa. Her research emphasizes the need for inclusive urban planning, access to essential services, and social protection programs to address the challenges migrants face in rapidly growing cities.

Castañeda and Buck (2011) examine the social protection needs of migrant workers in developing countries. Their research highlights the importance of comprehensive social protection policies that address the vulnerabilities and rights of migrant workers, including access to healthcare, education, and social security.

The research carried out by Oltman and Renshon (2017) shows that socio-political, economic, and ecological factors are the most vital forces driving migration. In the study focusing on the movement of international students, Arenas (2021) illustrated that multilateral diploma recognition significantly boosts student migration. According to Friedberg (2000), the national origin of an individual's human capital plays a crucial role in migration because education and experience obtained abroad are substantially less valued than domestically acquired human capital. This is the reason why migrants earn less than the native population.

Some researchers, such as Novotna et al. (2013), showed that the lack of established healthcare systems significantly affected migration flow. Doerschler (2006) stated that political factors also influence people deciding on migration. Nejad and Young (2016) found that economic freedoms significantly affected migration. Gautam (2021) explored the impact of regional and global trade integration on international migration and its effects on the home country. He also found evidence of the negative effect of migration on the home country's economic institutions. Another important factor in migration, such as family reunification, was explored by Charsley and Shaw (2006), and it was illustrated that, indeed, a significant reason for migration. Safety concerns are also attributed to the rise of migration in some countries such as Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador (Abdou, 2020). In their research, Eraliev and Urinboyev (2020) explored the living and working conditions of Central Asian migrants in Russia, particularly in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, they did not specifically focus on migration attitudes from Samarkand, Uzbekistan. Dadabaev and Soipov (2020) carried out a pilot survey including face-to-face interviews with Uzbek migrants in Japan and South Korea. They tried to learn about the motivations of migrants in the broader context. Also, the study by Rakhimov (2022) investigated the migration of Uzbeks to South Korea and emphasized the role of cultural and educational exchanges between the two countries.

2.3. Gender inequality and migration

While regarding women, it differentiates a little bit. According to Piper and Roces (2012) and Sassen (2002), women in developing countries often face restricted access to formal employment and job opportunities, which can drive them to migrate for better economic prospects. Gender wage gaps and disparities between developing and developed countries motivate women to migrate for higher wages and improved financial stability. Economic hardships, including poverty and lack of income-earning opportunities, push women to migrate as a means of improving their living conditions and earning for themselves and their families.

The research of Kofman et al. (2000), and Parreñas (2001) found that gender-based discrimination and inequalities in access to education, employment, and resources can push women to migrate in search of better opportunities and empowerment. Women also may migrate to reunite with family members who have already migrated and to access social support networks that facilitate their integration into the new country. Arranged marriages, cultural expectations, and the desire to support or join a spouse can influence women's migration decisions.

Some researchers studied the sociocultural expectations and gender roles that could shape women's migration decisions (Chant (2013), Ehrenreich & Hochschild (2003)), as they might seek greater autonomy, independence, and opportunities for personal and professional development. Women may also be forced into migration due to human trafficking, forced labour, and exploitative practices, making their migration a result of coercion rather than choice.

Female migration in developing countries is influenced by a variety of factors, including economic considerations, gender inequalities, social expectations, and political circumstances. Limited job opportunities, wage differentials, gender discrimination, and aspirations for a better life play significant roles in women's decision to migrate. Additionally, family reunification, cultural norms, political instability, and issues such as trafficking and forced migration contribute to the complexity of female migration in developing countries.

International Labor Organization (ILO) (2022) presents a comprehensive report on labour migration and social protection in Asia. It emphasizes the need for legal frameworks, labour rights, and social security provisions to protect the rights and well-being of migrant workers in the region.

These selected literature references provide insights into the migration issues specific to developing countries. By understanding these issues, policymakers, researchers, and practitioners can develop targeted strategies, policies, and interventions to address the challenges migrants face in these contexts. It is crucial to recognize the multidimensional nature of migration and consider the socioeconomic factors that shape migration patterns and outcomes in developing countries.

3. METHODOLOGY

The data was collected in the airport and railway station of Samarkand city, Uzbekistan. It took nine days to survey 83 respondents of various ages, whose purpose was to leave Uzbekistan, mainly for working purposes. The data was analysed by using the generalized Q method. Q methodology is widely used in qualitative research. According to Churruca et al. (2021), q-methodology involves Q-sorting, where individuals articulate their viewpoint by ranking a set of statements (the Q-set) about a particular issue based on some defined dimension, for example, level of agreement or perceived importance (Watts & Stenner, 2012).

Each respondent's final ranking of statements is called 'Q-sort', and analysed using inverted factor analysis techniques; 'inverted' because each participant (or their whole Q-sort) is treated as a variable, unlike factor analysis of surveys, where the items are variables. The analysis aims to identify patterns of similarity and differences in how participants have ranked and therefore understood, the Q-set. Factors emerge as the commonalities across participants' viewpoints and are qualitatively interpreted (Churruca et al., 2021). The change from Q Analysis to Generalized Q Analysis involves the creation of rankings of combined statements from the combination of the ranks of simple statements (Dentinho, 2023).

Below, we present the descriptive statistics of data obtained during the survey. In Table 1, we can see that most of the respondents were males (77%), aged around 31, had language knowledge at beginner level, had education at high school level, and had monthly income below 500 USD. Most of the respondents felt their life quality was poor (table 1).

Table 1. The descriptive statistics of the data obtained by survey

Respondent Features	Average	Deviation
Gender	0.77	0.35
Age	31.20	4.53
Language Level	1.16	0.52
Education Level	2.00	0.36
Monthly Income	1.42	0.51
Life Quality	0.81	0.76

Table 2 presents the structure of responses to the respective questions. For instance, most migrants would not migrate if wages were high. Also, low income played a massive role in departure reasons, and Russia was the most popular travel destination. Most of the respondents preferred to stay more than 180 days in the destination country.

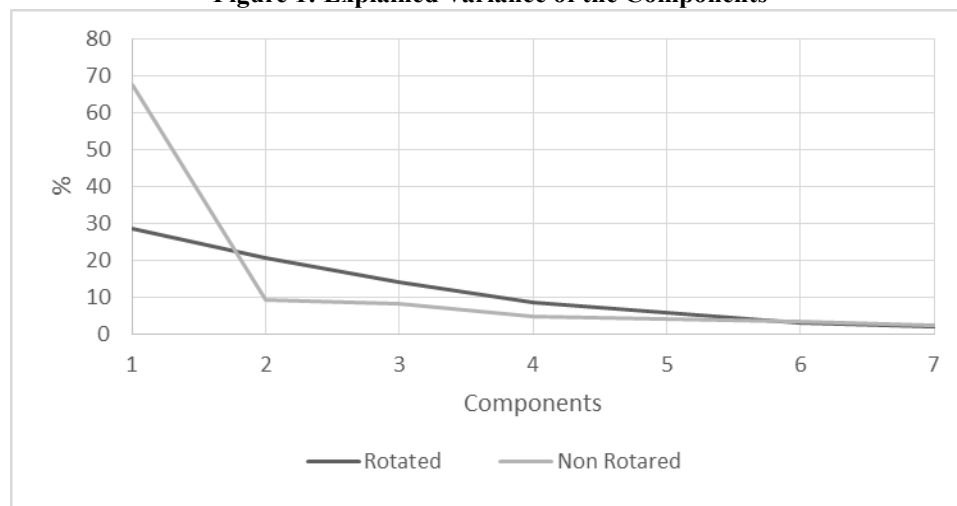
Table 2. Survey questions and each question's response probability

Responses	
Would you migrate, if wage were high? (0-No, 1-Yes)	0.30
Departure reason (low wage 1; other 0)	0.87
Destination country (Russia 1; Other 0)	0.89
planned stay- 0 (30-180 days),1(more than 180 days)	0.76
Reason to leave Uzbekistan (injustice 1; other 0)	0.66
On what you spend money? (1 House; 0 Other)	0.35
On what you spend money? (1 throw wedding party; 0 Other)	0.43
On what you spend money? (1 Other)	0.22

Respondents claimed that injustice in their home country was one of the reasons causing their leave. In general, 83 respondents participated in the survey, most of whom were labour migrants. Most of them indicated that low wage was the main reason for leaving Uzbekistan.

4. RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

The results of the Generalized Q method imply enlarging the responses from simple statements to combined statements and thereby allowing the non-redundant inclusion of more questionnaire (Dentinho, 2023). Q-methodology clarifies the variety in what people think, as well as common viewpoints (Annex 1). Accordingly, suitable topics are those complex and socially contested subject matter where we expect to find both variation and commonality, for which we want to “hear many voices” (Stainton, 1995). Q-methodology was described as an ideal method for exploring complex or controversial topics and topics that were likely to elicit strong opinions and differing perspectives.

Figure 1: Explained Variance of the Components

The Principal Component Analysis of the Expanded Questionnaire resulted in 7 components with eigenvalues higher than one that explains 100% of the Variance of the data, 68% for the 1st component, 9 % for the 2nd component, and 8% for the 3rd component, indicating strong commonalities between respondents. With varimax rotated axes, the 1st component represented 34% of the variance, the 2nd component 25%, and the 3rd Component 17% (Figure 1).

The regression of the extracted values with the dummy variables (Table 1) allows the naming of the different components or attitudes.

On the other hand, the regression of the factors per component with the features of the respondents facilitates the understanding of the type of persons behind each component / attitude (Table 2).

Table 3: Naming of the Principal Components

	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7
Cumulative Explained Variance	34	59	76	86	93	97	100
Explained Variance	34	25	17	10	7	4	2
Would you migrate, if wage were high? (0-No, 1-Yes)	-0.132	-0.055	0.032	0.893	0.032	0.232	0.342
Departure reason (low wage 1; other 0)	0.273	0.156	0.185	0.227	0.185	0.309	-0.679
Destination country (Russia 1; Other 0)	0.346	0.180	0.325	-0.167	0.325	-0.100	0.589
planned stay- 0(30-180 days),1(more than 180 days)	0.236	0.278	0.414	0.249	0.414	-0.622	-0.210
Reason to leave Uzbekistan (injustice 1; other 0)	0.409	0.496	-0.077	-0.117	-0.077	0.566	0.124
On what you spend money? (1 House; 0 Other)	-0.271	0.719	-0.204	0.101	-0.204	-0.209	0.065
On what you spend money? (1 throw wedding party; 0 Other)	0.684	-0.297	-0.237	0.170	-0.237	-0.179	0.078
On what you spend money? (1 Other)	-0.155	-0.113	0.764	-0.089	0.764	0.241	0.068

Table 4: Personal Features of the Identities associated to each Principal Component/Attitude

	Model for Component 1			Model for Component 2			Model for Component 3		
	Coefficient	t	Sig.	Coefficient	t	Sig.	Coefficient	t	Sig.
(Constante)	-0.474	-1.191	0.237	1.137	4.464	0.000	-0.146	-0.642	0.523
Gender	0.196	3.118	0.003	-0.130	-2.089	0.040			
Education	0.504	2.105	0.039						
Education2	-0.126	-2.147	0.035						
Income	0.662	1.975	0.052	-0.737	-2.299	0.024	0.663	2.166	0.033
Income2	-0.239	-2.383	0.020	0.223	2.294	0.025	-0.198	-2.138	0.036
Language				-0.063	-1.699	0.093			
R2	0.251			0.123			0.055		
Sig.	0.000 ^b			0.035 ^b			0.230		

The 1st component/attitude favours spending remittances on a throw wedding party. They migrate because they feel injustice. They are male with medium levels of income and medium levels of education.

The 2nd component/attitude favours spending remittances on acquiring a house. They migrate because they feel injustice, and their main destination is Russia. They are females with lower and higher levels of income and with low language skills.

The 3rd component/attitude migrates for health reasons. They are male and female with medium levels of income and medium levels of education.

5. DISCUSSION

The primary purpose of this research was to find out common patterns in the attitudes of migrants. As we proceeded with analysis, it became clear that most surveyed migrants were young (on average 30 years old) and poorly educated. These findings correspond to the results of Dzvimbo (2003), which showed that the motivation for a better life was the primary reason for migration.

According to Urbanski (2021), social factors such as education and satisfaction with living conditions significantly affected the decision-making process in favor of migration. The results of our research come in line with the results of Urbanski's work.

Based on the provided information, an analysis of the motivations, preferences, and demographic profiles of individuals related to migration and remittance spending patterns reveals distinct attitudes

and characteristics. Attitude 1 encompasses individuals who migrate due to a sense of injustice and tend to spend their remittances on wedding celebrations. This group primarily consists of males with moderate income and education levels, indicating a motivation for change and better opportunities. Attitude 2 comprises individuals who migrate in response to perceived injustice and prioritize remittance spending on acquiring a house. Most of this group are females, suggesting a potential gender-specific motivation for migration. Their income levels vary, encompassing both lower and higher brackets, indicating a desire for improved living conditions. Attitude 2 also exhibits a preference for migrating to Russia. Attitude 3 involves individuals who migrate primarily for health reasons. Both males and females with moderate income and education levels are represented in this group, indicating a motivation for seeking improved healthcare facilities or access to medical treatments.

This analysis underscores the significance of socio-economic factors, gender dynamics, cultural values, and personal circumstances in shaping migration choices and the utilization of remittances. Socio-economic factors such as economic opportunities, poverty and inequality, education and skill levels, and labor market conditions influence migration decisions. Gender dynamics play a role in shaping migration patterns, with gendered division of labor, caregiving responsibilities, and gender discrimination impacting migration choices. Cultural values centered around family and kinship ties, as well as social networks and community support, influence migration decisions. Personal circumstances, including health conditions, education, and career aspirations, and political instability or conflict, also play a role in shaping migration choices.

These findings align with existing research on migration dynamics and provide valuable insights into the motivations and preferences of individuals in CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) countries. By considering the interplay of socioeconomic factors, gender dynamics, cultural values, and personal circumstances, policymakers and stakeholders can develop targeted strategies and interventions to support migrants and effectively harness the positive impact of remittance utilization.

CIS countries exhibit varying levels of economic disparities, with some countries facing high poverty rates and limited job opportunities. Economic migration is often driven by the search for better economic conditions and higher wages (IOM, 2019). The transition from centrally planned to market-oriented economies in some former Soviet countries resulted in economic instability and unemployment, prompting individuals to migrate for employment opportunities.

Female migration from CIS countries, mainly from Central Asia, is prominent in sectors such as domestic work, care work, and hospitality. Women often migrate to countries in the CIS region or to Western countries for employment and better income to support their families (UN, 2018). Male migration from CIS countries is often motivated by economic factors, including employment opportunities in sectors like construction, manufacturing, and agriculture. These individuals may migrate to other CIS countries or countries in Western Europe.

Cultural values emphasizing family cohesion and support play a significant role in migration choices in CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) countries. Migration often occurs to join family members who have migrated, seeking economic opportunities and providing financial support through remittances (Levitt & Jaworsky, 2007). Regional ties, such as common language and cultural similarities, may encourage migration between countries with shared cultural heritage, such as Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus.

Personal circumstances related to conflict and political instability have led to forced displacement and migration from countries such as Ukraine and the Caucasus region. Individuals may seek refuge or economic opportunities in neighboring countries or further afield. Additionally, personal circumstances, including aspirations for higher education or career advancement, can drive migration from CIS countries. Students often migrate to pursue higher education in countries with renowned educational institutions, such as Russia or Western Europe.

In Uzbekistan, the motivations, preferences, and demographic profiles of individuals related to migration and remittance spending patterns align with the broader trends observed in CIS countries.

Uzbekistan faces economic challenges such as limited job opportunities and income disparities. These factors can drive individuals to migrate in search of better economic conditions and higher wages, both within the country and in other CIS countries (IOM, 2019). The transition from a centrally planned to a market-oriented economy has resulted in economic instability and unemployment, further influencing migration patterns (IOM, 2019).

Gender dynamics play a significant role in migration patterns. While both men and women migrate, there are distinct gender-specific motivations. Male migration is often driven by economic factors, with men seeking employment opportunities in construction, manufacturing, and agriculture (UN, 2018). On the other hand, female migration is prominent in sectors like domestic work and care work, both within the country and abroad (UN, 2018). Women may migrate to countries in the CIS region or to Western countries, such as Russia, for employment and income to support their families.

Cultural values emphasizing family cohesion and support are deeply ingrained in Uzbek society. These values influence migration decisions, with individuals often migrating to join family members who have settled in other countries. Migration is driven by the desire to provide financial support to their families through remittances, which serve as a vital source of income for many households (Levitt & Jaworsky, 2007). Additionally, cultural ties and linguistic similarities within the CIS region may encourage migration among Uzbekistan and other CIS countries, particularly Russia.

Uzbekistan has experienced political stability compared to some neighboring countries, reducing forced displacement as a primary driver of migration. However, personal circumstances related to education and career aspirations can influence migration choices. Uzbek students often migrate to countries with renowned educational institutions, such as Russia or Western Europe, to pursue higher education and enhance their career prospects.

Overall, in Uzbekistan, migration and remittance spending patterns are shaped by socioeconomic factors, gender dynamics, cultural values, and personal circumstances. Economic challenges, gender-specific migration patterns, cultural emphasis on family ties, and personal aspirations for education and career advancement contribute to the motivations and preferences of individuals regarding migration and the utilization of remittances.

6. CONCLUSION

In the research, we mainly considered three components: Component 1 was spending remittances on throwing a wedding party; Component 2 was spending remittances on the acquisition of a house; and Component 3 was the decision to migrate for health reasons. Table 4 shows the results of the analysis. As we can see, the impact of gender on spending on wedding party is significant. The research results show that men often migrate to pay for the wedding parties of their offsprings, while women migrate mostly to buy a house. Also, the analysis revealed that many middle-class Uzbeks travelled often for health reasons. However, the results mentioned above are based on a limited number of survey results, so they should be applied to a larger population cautiously. Moreover, as the survey is carried out only in one place, further research is needed to verify whether it is true for wider population in other locations.

In conclusion, the motivations, preferences, and demographic profiles of individuals related to migration and remittance spending patterns in Samarkand, Uzbekistan are influenced by a combination of socioeconomic factors, gender dynamics, cultural values, political, and environmental factors, as well as personal circumstances. Economic disparities, gender-specific migration patterns, cultural emphasis on family ties, and personal circumstances related to conflict and education play significant roles in shaping migration choices and the utilization of remittances in Uzbekistan. The outcomes of the research add to results from previous studies that those who migrate are not the poorer and the less educated but those who have enough income and education to migrate.

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Annex 1: Data and expanded Data

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