

REASONS FOR THE MIGRATION FROM AFGHANISTAN TO TURKEY: AEGEAN REGION EXAMPLE

AFGANİSTAN'DAN TÜRKİYE'YE GÖÇÜN NEDENLERİ: EGE BÖLGESİ
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Abstract

This study aims to determine the views of the Afghan people regarding the migrations as a result of the problems experienced in Afghanistan between 1979-2019. For this purpose, the study uses a quantitative method approach and was conducted by scanning method. In accordance with the purpose, a socio-demographic survey was used to determine the socio-demographic characteristics of the Afghan migrants and a migration survey was used to determine the reasons for migration. Considering the results of the analysis made in the research, according to the findings; When the answers given regarding the reason for migration to Turkey are examined; Considering the answers to the situation of experiencing security problems in Afghanistan, the majority of them have security problems; Considering the answers given according to the state of feeling safe in Turkey, almost all of the participants felt safe; When the distribution according to the level of satisfaction with the Turkish society is analyzed, more than half of the participants agreed; Considering the distribution according to the helping situation of Turkish neighbors, nearly half of the participants received help from their Turkish neighbors; When the answers given to the situation of living in another country were examined, it was determined that almost all of the Afghan individuals who participated in the research who migrated to Turkey answered yes.

Keywords: Migration, Afghanistan, Turkey, Migrant.

Özet

Bu çalışmanın amacı 1979-2019 yılları arasında Afganistan'da yaşanan sorunlar sonucunda Afgan halkının yaptığı göçlere ilgin görüşlerinin belirlenmesidir. Bu amaç doğrultusunda çalışma nicel bir çalışma olup tarama yöntemiyle yapılmıştır. Amaca uygun olarak arařtırmada göç eden Afgan halkının sosyo demografik özelliklerinin belirlenmesi adına sosyo-demografik anket ve göç nedenlerini belirlemeye yönelik göç anketi kullanılmıştır.

Arařtırmada yapılan analiz sonuçlarına bakıldığında elde edilen bulgulara göre; Türkiye'ye göç etme sebebine ilişkin verilen cevaplar incelendiğinde arařtırmaya katılan

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Türkiye'ye göç etmiş Afgan bireylerin genel olarak savaş ve düşmanlıktan ötürü göç ettiği; Afganistan'da güvenlik problemi yaşama durumuna ilişkin cevaplara bakıldığında büyük çoğunluğu güvenlik problemi yaşadığı; Türkiye'de güvende hissetme durumuna göre verilen cevaplara bakıldığında katılımcıların tamamına yakını kendi güvende hissettiği; Türk toplumundan memnun olma durumuna göre dağılım incelendiğinde katılımcıların yarısından fazlasının katıldığı; Türk komşuların yardımcı olma durumuna göre dağılıma bakıldığında katılımcıların yarısına yakını Türk komşularından yardım aldığı; başka bir ülkede yaşama durumuna verilen cevaplar incelendiğinde arařtırmaya katılan Türkiye'ye göç etmiş Afgan bireylerin hemen hemen tamamı evet cevabı verdiği belirlenmiştir.

Anahtar kelimeler: Göç, Afganistan, Türkiye, Göçmen.

Introduction

This article was produced from the master's thesis titled "Afghanistan's Migration Problems in the USSR, Taliban and NATO Periods Between 1979-2019" prepared at Ege University Social Sciences Institute. The source of the study is quantitative research aimed at determining the migration problems of Afghanistan during the USSR, Taliban, and NATO periods between 1979-2019 and was carried out with a scanning model. Necessary permissions were obtained from the ethical committees and institutions required for data collection.

“The researches conducted on larger samples than the other researches in which characteristics of the participants' views on a subject or event, or their interests, skills, abilities, attitudes, etc. are called survey research. In survey research, it is aimed to collect data to determine certain characteristics of a group. Survey studies provide us with a lot of information obtained from a sample consisting of a large number of individuals.” (Büyüköztürk, 2011).

The sample of the research consists of Afghan individuals who had migrated from Afghanistan and are living in the Aegean region. In line with the purpose of the research, twenty-one Afghan migrants, who were determined by the simple random sampling method and accepted to participate in the research, constitute the sample of the research.

In the research, questions about the reasons formigration from Afghanistan and socio-demographic characteristics form were used. The form prepared by the researcher consists of a total of 19 questions to learn the personal information of the individuals who make up the study group. In the form of socio-demographic characteristics; age, gender, education level, marital status, number of children, ownership of the house they live in, the closeness of the individuals they live in, the number of household members in the house they live in, the year they live in the country of origin, how many years they have been living in Turkey, how many years they have been living as migrants, their immigration status in Iran, their immigration status in Pakistan, period of migration from Afghanistan, the reason for migration from Afghanistan, individual who provides a living in the house, the data to determine the monthly income were collected.

Necessary permissions were obtained from the ethical committees and institutions required for data collection. After obtaining the necessary permissions, the forms of reasons for migration and socio-demographic characteristics were applied to Afghan immigrants. Before starting the survey, necessary explanations and information were given to the participants by the researcher, and the participants were asked to read the instructions correctly and completely and to fill in the questionnaire with sincerity and sincerity. And within this scope, the questionnaires were completed by taking the written and verbal consent of the individuals who participated.

Analysis of the data: The data obtained from the sample group included in the research were entered into the Excel program and analyzed by transferring them to the SPSS 24.00 Windows package program. Within the scope of the study, the socio-demographic characteristics of the individuals participating in the research and the distribution of their answers regarding the reasons for migration were determined according to percentage and frequency analysis.

1. History, Geographical Position of Afghanistan

Afghanistan was called Ariana in ancient times, Khorasan in the Middle Ages, Afghanistan after 1838 and is now defined as the "Islamic Republic of Afghanistan". Located at the intersection of Central Asia, South Asia, the Middle East, and the Caucasus, it is an important country in the Eurasian continent (Büyükbaş, 2006). Afghanistan has historically been strategically important due to its location and has been the focus of attention of both regional and unincorporated parties.

The names of 14 ethnic groups are included in Article 4 of Chapter 1 of the Afghan Constitution, which came into force on 28 January 2004 (Kevanini, 1388). These; Pashtun, Tajik, Hazara, Uzbek, Turkmen, Kyrgyz, Baluch, Peseyi, Nuristani, Aymak, Arab, Qizilbash, Gujar, Berahevi, and others (Kazakh, Kipchak, Karluk, Hindu, Cet, Parachi, Cogi, Ashashimi, Gaverbati, Gorbat, Kotana, Maveri, Moncani, Vahi, Vangovali, Zori, Tirhi, Shadibaz, Urmori, Pikrac, Rusani, Sanglichimishmast, Tahiri, Sikh, Mongolian, Jewish, ...). Pashtuns, Tajiks, Turks, and Hazaras make up the four major ethnic groups. Pashtuns are 42%, Tajiks are 27%, Hazaras are 9%, Uzbeks are 9%, Aymaks are 4%, Turkmens are 3%, Baluch 2%, and the remaining 4% is composed of other minor ethnicities

2. Migration History of Afghanistan

Afghanistan is a country where radical organizations such as Al-Qaeda, the Taliban, and DAESH, which bring the "global terror" phenomenon to the agenda, set up their bases. Corruption, bribery, socio-cultural religious erosion, religious, ethnic, and ideological favoritism have become a part of this country. On the other hand, the 'drug problem', which the Taliban administration was able to fight for a while but then liberalized production on the condition that the Afghan people would not use it, had a profound impact on everything from trade. From politics to international relations to the fight against terrorism. Drug lords and war actors have an important place in the country. About 80% of the world's pharmaceutical raw materials are produced in Afghanistan. Considering these features, Afghanistan is constantly

on the agenda of international organizations such as NATO and the United Nations. The most important reason for the problems Afghanistan is facing is that it is among the top five countries in the world in terms of the richness of its underground resources. Oil, natural gas, diamond, gold, copper, etc. In addition to underground resources, 30 percent of the world's lithium and uranium reserves are located in Afghanistan (Turton and Marsden, 2002).

Afghanistan is a country located in South-Central Asia and strategically located on the North-South and West-East trade routes. The country, whose capital is Kabul, borders the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and China. The country with Afghanistan's longest border is the Islamic Republic of Pakistan with 1,240 km; The smallest border country is China with 565 km. Located in the middle of the country and dominated by high mountains, this region is also the region where the famous Khyber Pass and deep valleys are located. This mountain pass is located between Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and connects the cities of Kabul and Peshawar. The pass has historically been an important trade route between Central and South Asia and an important strategic location for military purposes. The region, which has a very hot climate in summer and a very cold climate in winter, has semi-desert, plain, and topography unsuitable for agriculture. For this reason, migration takes place due to various reasons such as climate, seasonal natural conditions, landslides, and weather conditions. The plateau region in the south of the country consists of barren deserts and high plateaus with many streams. Although the region has a temperate climate, its contribution to the country's agricultural production is limited due to the low rainfall (Afghan Public Health Institute, 2011). Migration mobility has been an important part of Afghan history. Records show migration from Afghanistan to Iran and Pakistan over the centuries. In the 1850s, thousands of Hazara immigrants migrated to the Islamic Republic of Iran to escape natural disasters and other crises. It is known that between 1880 and 1903, 15,000 Afghan families settled in the Torbat-e-Jam region east of Mashhad in Iran. (Abbasi- Shavazi, 2005).

Afghanistan is truly among the undeveloped countries. The majority of the country is engaged in agriculture. Since it is far from the sea, drought is generally dominant. Therefore, people have to migrate from one place to another, and they choose the surrounding or nearby provinces. Another reason for inter-provincial migration in Afghanistan is war and unemployment. The people, who have been exposed to the attacks of the Taliban in Faryab and its surroundings in recent years, had to migrate to neighboring and nearby provinces due to the fear of war and terrorism. Immigrants have become accustomed to the settlements they visit over time. They have also established new businesses or are engaged in their old occupation of farming. These migrations can be permanent or temporary. If the war ends in the provinces where they live, some will return, while others will not return to their old places by getting used to the socio-cultural conditions of their provinces. In addition, they continue their lives in the province where they moved because they got married in new places and thus established new kinship ties. (Watandar, 2020).

Afghanistan has been a low-income country for over a century. Industrialization was neglected, especially in the 1960s and 1970s. As a result, the Afghan population faced insufficient employment opportunities. As a result, the 1973 oil boom led to many migrations

of Afghan workers to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and other Middle Eastern countries (Kronenfeld, 2008). Due to the increase in the number of workers in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Afghan immigrants had to migrate to the oil-rich Gulf countries. This has provided Afghans with suitable employment opportunities in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan (International Crisis Group, 2009). Relatively high wages in the Islamic Republic of Iran and rising government taxes in Afghanistan were also decisive factors for Afghans seeking employment abroad at that time. As a result, hundreds of thousands of Afghan workers emigrated from Afghanistan to the Islamic Republic of Iran before the Soviet invasion. It is known that there were migrations from Northern Afghanistan to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan during the winter before the Soviet occupation, and seasonal migration examples between the two countries confirm this (Stigter, 2006). The spike in oil prices in 1973 caused many Afghan migrant workers to move to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and other Middle Eastern countries. This is why labor migration from Asian countries to the Middle East has accelerated (Castles and Miller, 2003). Legal immigration of Afghans to the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan during the rise in oil prices was welcomed in both countries as they benefited from cheap labor. Afghans in the Islamic Republic of Iran worked in construction, brick factories, and farms and earned much lower wages than in the Islamic Republic of Iran (Ashrafi and Moghissi, 2002). In these periods, migrations came mostly for economic reasons. This factor continued to be one of the main reasons for Afghan migration in later periods. However, due to large-scale occupations and conflicts, the speed of migration has increased, and the amount and results have changed (GeyikYıldırım, 2018).

In Afghanistan, people are forced to leave their settlements voluntarily or in exile for economic reasons and to protect their life security. Although exile migration to Afghanistan is generally due to socio-economic reasons, war is another reason. In addition, these escapes are carried out by force or intimidation, and threats are usually made by armed people. Although there are different reasons for this, marriage or land disputes are more prominent among them. According to Kolukırık (2011); Although exile migration is a difficult process, the common past and culture in exile allow immigrants to create more suitable and livable places, to continue their lives, and to create a new social structure. Pakistan and Iran did not welcome the fleeing Afghans and this situation faced by the people of Afghanistan did not attract the attention of the international community (Marchand et al., 2014). Pakistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan, which closed their borders to the displaced Afghans during the Taliban attacks in late 1996, were the countries that applied this method (UNHCR, 1997). Immigration due to persecution also includes migration for social reasons. “The divisions and conflicts caused by sects and communities in the world in general, and in the Islamic world in particular, remain among the causes that disrupt social peace and stability, and even pave the way for bloody conflicts today, as in history. There are still heavy losses due to sectarian divisions in Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Bahrain, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and Afghanistan” (Gubar, 1995: 235). There are two main sects in Afghanistan, Sunni, and Shia. Although Sunnis generally prefer a city where Sunnis live during migration, the place where they settled is important for Shiites, not where people from the same sect are.

3. Research Findings: Afghans Living in Aegean Region

3.1. Quantitative Research Findings

A survey was conducted with 21 people among Afghans living in the Aegean region. Questionnaires consisted of questions regarding the socio-demographic appearances, reasons for coming, the problems they encountered in the country they lived in before and in Turkey, and their integration (social/system). The data obtained within the scope of the research were analyzed with SPSS. The analyzes were applied in the form of analyzes that are mostly described as descriptive statistics.

71.4% of the individuals in the research group are male and 28.6% are female. Within the scope of the research, a survey was conducted with a total of 21 people, including 15 men and 6 women.

38.1% of the individuals in the research group are 18-25 years old, 42.9% are 26-35 years old, 14.3% are 36-45 years old, and finally, 4.8% are 46-55 in the age range. Approximately 81% of the individuals in the study group are between the ages of 18-35. This shows that the people interviewed and surveyed within the scope of the survey generally belong to the younger age group.

4.8% of the individuals in the study group declared that they are illiterate, 4.8% declared that they are literate, 9.5% declared that they could not go to primary school, 4.8% declared that they are secondary school graduates and 4.8% declared that they dropped out of secondary school. 57.1% of the refugees stated that they were high school graduates, 14.3% of them stated that they could not complete their university education and 14.3% of them are university graduates.

47.6% of the individuals in the research group stated that they were single, 42.9% were married, and 9.5% stated that their spouses had passed away. There is no official divorce among those who say they are divorced here, but there are women who had to flee to Turkey due to the violence of their husbands. However, some women who said that their husbands died stated that they were killed by the Taliban.

38.1% of the individuals in the research group stated that they live with their spouse and children, 23.8% with their family, and 23.8% with their friends. Among the asylum seekers, 14.3% chose the other option. On the other hand, some people stated that they live in the houses of people who are related to their mother or father. However, there are also fragmented families. Although they are married and have children, one of the parents, all or some of the children remained in the country from which they left.

38.1% of the individuals in the research group came from Iran, 4.8% from Uzbek, and 57.1% from other countries. People come to Iran from Afghanistan and after living for a while, people immigrate to Turkey for various reasons.

14.3% of the individuals in the research group stated they have lived in Turkey for 1 year, 28.6% have been in Turkey for 2-3 years, 28.6% have been in Turkey for 4-5 years,

14.3%' ü Have lived in Turkey for 6-7 years, 4.8% have lived in Turkey for 8-9 years, 4.8% have lived in Turkey for 10 years, and finally 4.8% have lived in Turkey for 12 years.

3.2.Reasons for Migration of Afghans Participating in the Study

38.1% of the individuals from the sample stated that they migrated due to war, 28.6% due to war and enmity, 23.8% for other reasons, 4.8% for enmity, and 4.8% for economic problems. In the research, "What is the main factor that causes Afghans to migrate to Turkey?" In the light of the data obtained for the question, it can be stated that there is war and hostility.

52.4% of the individuals in the research group earn their own, 19% take money from their relatives, 9.5% take money from their spouse, 9.5% take money from their father, 4.8% take money from charities, and 4.8% from other people to make their life.

While 90.5% of the individuals in the research group had security problems, 9.5% stated that they did not experience security problems. It has been stated that security problems arise not only from civil wars but also from divisions between different ethnic and religious groups within the country. People stated that especially members of the Taliban organization oppress and persecute Shiites and that these people are portrayed as infidels at every opportunity. Due to this situation, individuals migrate to another country with the hope of survival rather than the hope of a better life. In the research conducted on Afghans, they stated that because they are both Shia and Hazara, they are under pressure from other ethnic groups, especially the Taliban, while those living in rural areas have their lands forcibly confiscated, their animals are taken away, and girls and boys are kidnapped. People who chose the option "other" stated that the Taliban threatened especially the students, that the children could not complete their education, and that they migrated for a better future for their children.

The question of "How did the people working in the public institutions and organizations of the country you lived in treat the Afghans?" asked the participants and 7% of the individuals stated that they were treated well, 38.1% moderately (neither good nor bad, sometimes good and sometimes bad), 42.9% badly and 19% very badly treated. About 62% of the people said that they were treated badly, that they were exposed to discrimination, especially in public institutions and organizations (hospitals, schools, etc.), sometimes they could not be treated or behaved well in hospitals, they could not enroll their children in school, and they were asked to bribe in the institutions they applied to the editorial office.

The question of "Have you been exposed to discrimination in any matter in the country you have lived in before?" was asked and 66.7% of the people answered yes and 33.3% answered no. Most of the individuals have been exposed to discrimination for different reasons. "For what reasons do you think you are exposed to discrimination?" The question was asked and 14.3% of the individuals stated that they were not discriminated against because of their religious belief (because they belonged to the Shiite sect), 23.8% because of their ethnic identity, 9.5% because of their gender, and finally, 33.3% were not discriminated against. . As stated in the theoretical framework of the research, the fact that the majority of Afghans are Shiite (there are also Khazars who are Sunnis) and the Sunni population in

Afghanistan is more, as well as the pressure of the Taliban forces (Predominantly Pashto-Sunni), are the main factors that cause individuals to be discriminated against.

The question of "Do you feel safe in Turkey?" was asked and approximately 90.5% of the individuals stated that they felt safe in Turkey, and 9.5% did not. In particular, individuals who do not feel safe stated that they had personal hostilities (relatives, spouses, etc.) in the country they lived in before (Iran, Afghanistan) and that there is a high probability that they will come here after learning that their enemies live in Turkey, as Iran and Turkey are bordered.

The question of "How are the employees working in public institutions and organizations (Provincial Immigration Administration, hospital, school, etc.) treated in Turkey" was asked and 9.5% of the participants were very good, 28.6% well, 57% moderately and finally 4.8% stated that they were mistreated. "How did the Turks treat you?" to the individuals in the research group. The question was asked and 54.2% of the individuals stated that they were treated moderately (neither good nor bad, sometimes good and sometimes bad), 28.6% well, 14.3% very well and 4.8% badly. Asking the individuals, "Have you been exposed to discrimination in any matter in Turkey?" A question was asked and 71.4% of the individuals stated yes (they were exposed to discrimination) and 28.6% stated no (not).

The question "Do you have any integration problems in Turkey?" was asked and 52.4% of the individuals answered yes and 47.6% answered no to the question. These data obtained show that although the refugees want to stay in Turkey for a temporary period, they experience serious integration problems. To the individuals in the research group, "Which subject do you have adaptation problems?" If the question was asked, 23.8% of the individuals who stated that they had adaptation problems experienced problems in official affairs, 14.3% had language problems and

14.3% of them stated that they have problems of adaptation to cultural values and issues. 47.6% of them stated that they did not experience adaptation problems. "Do you speak Turkish?" was asked to the individuals in the research group and 81% of the individuals stated that they knew Turkish and 19% did not. The important point here is to determine the level of Turkish knowledge of individuals and whether they are at a level that will contribute to the integration process.

The question of "Do you have negative thoughts towards Turkish society?" was directed to the participants. 9.5% of the answers to the question were yes and 90.5% were no. Some people say that they did not know Turks when they immigrated, but that their friends who had come to Turkey before said, "Turkey is good, Turks are good." They stated that they migrated taking into account their comments.

The question of "What was your purpose of migrating to Turkey?" was asked to participants in the research group. The question was asked and approximately 85.7% of the individuals stated that they migrated to go to other countries after staying in Turkey for a while, and 14.3% to stay in Turkey. "Do you think about going back?" to the individuals in

the research group. The question was asked and 95.2% of the individuals answered no, and 4.8% answered yes.

3.3.Identity and Belonging Status of Afghans

Under this title, the data of the people in the research group regarding their belonging to their community and Turkish society were analyzed.

In this study, which was conducted in the Aegean region, the focus was on the identity/identification, communication/interaction, dimension and system integration of social integration, and a Likert scale was prepared in this direction, and firstly, Afghan Afghans were asked questions about their identity and belonging status. In this direction, 9.5% of the individuals in the research group agreed with the statement "I am happy to be a member of the Afghan community", 42.9% agreed, 23.8% were undecided, and 23.8% disagreed. Approximately 52.4% of the participants stated that they were satisfied and that they had a strong bond with their ethnic group.

The participants in the research group stated that 14.3% strongly agreed, 57.1% agreed, 14.3% were undecided, 14.3% did not agree with the statement of "We have a close bond with Afghan people". There are many ethnic groups in Afghanistan and there are conflicts between these groups to maintain authority in both political and social fields. The discriminatory policies between ethnic groups, sometimes supported by governments and sometimes by religious terrorist organizations, prevented the formation of a supra-identity called "Afghanistan" and the formation of national consciousness among ethnic groups within the country. For this reason, conflicts between ethnic groups and their leaders, tribal chiefs, and clergy still continue today.

38.1% of the individuals in the research group stated that they were undecided, 33.3% agreed, 19% disagree and 9.5% strongly disagreed with the statement of "I feel a close bond with the Turks". In this graph, it was seen that the participants were largely undecided and did not agree.

3.4.Communication with Turks and Intercultural Interaction

Under this title, there is an analysis of the data obtained on the status of individuals who have Turkish friends and neighbors, participate in socio-cultural activities together, and participate in cultural and religious rituals of the host society.

57.1% of the individuals agreed with the statement "I have Turkish friends", 23.8% strongly disagreed, 14.3% disagreed, and 4.8% were undecided. Those who say that they have friends among Turks also stated that they greet each other when they see each other at work, outside, or in similar places, and their communication is not very advanced. For this reason, some people stated that although they had friends, they were undecided and did not agree with this statement because there was not much communication between them.

52.4% of the individuals in the research group agreed, 23.8% disagreed, 19% strongly agreed, and 4.8% strongly disagreed with the statement "We participate in cultural activities

such as cinema-theatre with my Turkish friends". There is no organization or joint participation in socio-cultural activities, which is an advanced dimension of communication between people in the host society and asylum seekers. However, some refugees stated that instead of going to the cinema and theater, they went to the beach with their Turkish friends and sat in cafes/tea shops.

47.6% of the individuals in the research group agreed, 23.8% were undecided, 14.3% disagreed and 14.3% strongly disagreed with the statement of "I go to our Turkish neighbors' weddings". In general, approximately 47.6% of individuals stated that they participated because they were invited by their Turkish neighbors. In this context, the necessary interaction environment has been found for the exchange of cultural elements between the two societies.

42.9% of the individuals in the research group agreed, 23.8% were undecided, 19% strongly disagreed and 14.3% disagreed with the statement "I attend the funerals of our Turkish neighbors". This situation, where the participation in funeral events is higher than weddings, is due to the invitation of the guests to the weddings, but this is not the case at the funeral. In addition, employees stated that they attended to convey their condolences in case of the loss of relatives of their bosses or colleagues.

Conclusion

It is noteworthy that there are significant changes in the size, scope, and quality of the phenomenon of migration, which is a phenomenon as old as the history of societies. Accordingly, the spread of factors such as the development of technology and the increase in transportation capacity has made the phenomenon of migration a dynamic and complex process. In the current situation, the phenomenon of international migration is defined as a multidimensional phenomenon that needs to be addressed in terms of both cause and effect. Currently, Turkey is becoming an important country in international migration mobility day by day due to factors such as its proximity to the countries of origin and destination due to its geographical location and the EU's attitude towards migration flows. Looking at the migration movements in Turkey in the last twenty years, it is seen that Turkey's singular position, which initially gave labor migration, was added to the positions of migration and transit countries over time. It is stated that individual asylum requests to Turkey mostly come from migrants originating from Iran, Iraq, and Afghanistan. At this point, Afghanistan continues to exist as a source country for refugees in the thirty years from the 1970s to the early 2010s in the context of international migration mobility; Immigrants from Afghanistan are one of the largest groups of refugees who want to reach Europe. It is stated that Turkey, which has hosted many Afghan migrants since the early 1980s, is positioned as a transit country for these immigrants to reach European countries. The phenomenon of migration from past to present affects the military, economic, political, and cultural structure of countries. Located in both Asia and Europe, Turkey has been affected economically and socio-culturally due to the increasing number of refugees and asylum seekers. In this study, which is specific to the Aegean region, the migration experience of Afghan individuals, why they came to Turkey, the reasons for choosing Turkey and belonging to the Turkish society, communication with Turks, returning

home, thoughts about the future, and integration (social system integration) tendencies were examined.

Based on the result of this work which is specific to the Aegean region of Turkey, majority of Afghan immigrants living in the region are male immigrants. The reason is that they have to first cross the borders of Islamic Republic of Iran so that to reach Turkey. It is a very hard path to come to Turkey. Beside physical hardship of the path, Afghan immigrants have to bear heavy financial burdens too. That is why Afghan families have to borrow money first then to select thier young male members of thier family for sending to the route. Another reason lies in the fact that sending male members of the family can be safer than the female ones. According to the analysis of this survey, most of Afghan immigrants coming to Turkey either are high school graduates or dropped school. At the result of more than 40 years of ongoing war in Afghanistan, the country's economic basis have been totally dysfunctioned and it makes the situation harder for people to survive. Thus they have no choice but to send thier young boys out. There is not much options for those who do not leave the country. They either attend Afghan national army or gets a member of the terrorist Taliban group or go to neighboring countries for working. Islamic Republic of Iran and Republic of Pakistan are the two most-preferred destinations to them. Recently these two countries have put in place some sort of obstacles and difficulties. In recent years due of Turkey's economic and political development, Afghan immigrants have started choosing it as a destination. Afghan families are coming to Turkey because they have safety of life, property and dignity in Afghanistan. War is another reason Afghans leaving thier country. More than 40-year long war in Afghanistan causes the outbreak of other problems. While leaving the country, Afghans have to sell all what they have in order to cover their expenses occurred on the way to the desination. The remaining of their properties get lost as they do not get back to the Afghanistan. Some of the target group members of this survey encompasses second Afghan generation who are living in Turkey. Majority of afore-mentioned people declare that they are feeling safer and happier in Turkey. Due to similarities in culture and religious rituals, Afghan families could establish better relationship with thier Turkish neighborhoods. During this survey I realized that younger members of Afghan families help thier parents with interpretation while being outside home. Therefore, it indicates that young members of the family are easily getting adopted to the society. Coming from different etnical background, Afghan families have established strong ties between themselves. In the Aegean region most of Afghan immigrants are working in construction, agricultural fields and industrial firms as daily labors. Great number of female Afghan immigrants do not work. But those who are working are mostly working as tailor, cook, dishwasher, and cleaner. Some of the families have their younger sons or daughters work because of poor economic condition. Even though Afghan immigrants living in the Aegean region say that they feel good and safe in Turkey, they do not want to stay here, because they want to go to another countries. They have chosen Turkey as temporary destination because Turkey is used as a bridge for reaching other countries. To reach other countries from Turkey, they have two ways; legan and illegal. Since legal ways require a lot of effort and time, immigrant families have to pick illegal ways through giving considerable money to human smugglers and taking huge risk of life. As Immigrants accepting countries are very selective, peole have to wait a long time till they are

out of patience. Afterward, they have to find another ways. If security, economic and political situations in Afghanistan do not get better, flow of Afghan immigrants will definitely affect the neighboring and other countries in a great deal. Afghan people are suffering a lot and it will leave a deep trace on them.

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