

Research Article

# Analysis of Liquid Migration as a Manifestation of Migration-based Lifestyle in the Third Millennium Using a Qualitative Approach

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#### **ABSTRACT**

Immigration, as a social phenomenon, has always held a significant place in the sociology literature. The migration phenomenon has been extensively studied within the scope of industrialization, urbanization, wars, and global development challenges. However, contemporary consumer society values, globalization, and ongoing social crises have added new dimensions to migration. Hyperreality images, fluid society values, advancements in communication technologies, and evolving work environments have transformed migration into a way of life. Recent research has increasingly focused on these aspects. This study operates under the assumption that migration engenders a unique lifestyle. In this study, liquid migration is explored as a manifestation of the migration-based lifestyle of the third millennium. This study employed a mixed methodological approach. For the quantitative component, 116 students from Tabriz University were selected by random sampling. Drawing from previous studies, six factors (economic, social, educational, environmental, political, and demographic) were assessed. The quantitative results indicated that according to Tabriz University students, economic and educational motives rank highest among the factors influencing the desire to migrate. Moreover, a significant and positive correlation was observed among the six migration-influencing factors. This study contributes to the growing body of literature on migration by shedding light on the evolving nature of migration as a lifestyle choice, particularly in the contemporary context of fluid societal values and global interconnectedness.

**Keywords:** Immigration, Liquid migration, Lifestyle, Economic reasons, Educational motivation, Ravenstein's hypothesis, Migration

#### Introduction

#### 1. Problem Statement

Migration, as a rational consequence of population distribution and movement within geographical locations, stands as a crucial aspect of societal evolution throughout history (Raheshkho et al, 2012). Economic, political, social, demographic, and environmental factors have been considered as its primary causes (Black et al., 2011). Notably, economic disparities between developed and developing countries, population imbalances, the rapid expansion of science and technology, and enhanced global communication infrastructure have emerged as fundamental drivers of contemporary migration trends. According to UN statistics, more than 212 million individuals currently reside outside their birthplace, accounting for over 2% of the global population (Isazadeh & Mehranfar, 2015).

Migration has consistently been a fundamental aspect of social life throughout history, prompting social scientists to develop theories to explain its complexities since the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. For example, during the formulation of Ravenstein's theory on immigration laws, he encountered criticism from William Farr, who argued against the notion that immigration could be governed by fixed law (Corbet, 2005). However, Ravenstein countered this criticism by proposing that immigration adhered to certain laws shaped by the socioeconomic conditions of 19<sup>th</sup>-century England. Ravenstein's hypothesis, known as migration laws, posited that migration unfolded gradually, predominantly from rural to urban areas, covering relatively short distances (Grigg, 2004).

The migration phenomenon, which poses significant challenges for developing countries, is rooted in diverse social, psychological, economic, cultural, and political factors, manifesting in several forms with multifaceted implications. In Iran, migration, particularly emigration, has emerged as a pressing concern, drawing attention from researchers and authorities alike.

According to investigations, a consistent trend is observed in which young people migrate to Asian and European countries, influenced by a variety of social, cultural, and economic factors. These include the lack of favorable educational opportunities and income prospects, pervasive advertisements, religious, fashion trends, and personal beliefs (Rahshekho et al., 2012). Conversely, opponents of immigration control argue that migration is predominantly propelled by economic and political structural factors, such as labor market demands, income disparities, and conflicts in the countries of origin (De Haas et al., 2019). They contend that unregulated and unplanned migration leads to detrimental consequences, including high rates of urban unemployment, overcrowded houses, inadequate water and electricity infrastructure, poor sanitation facilities, limited transportation options, heightened pollution levels, traffic congestion, increased crime rates, and an overall decline in urban quality of life, all stemming from the migration phenomenon.

Conversely, some scholars hold an optimistic perspective on immigration, positing that impoverished nations can experience rapid economic development and modernization through policies that facilitate large capital transfers and industrialization (Vosoughi & Hojjati, 2012). By using labor migration to developed countries, these countries can propel their national development forward. Additionally, they argue against viewing migration solely as an attempt to escape from economic, social, and cultural challenges. Instead, they advocate considering migration as a deliberate lifestyle choice for some individuals. Indeed, migration can be considered a means to achieve personal or familial aspirations, such as accessing higher income, education, and improving living standards (De Haas, 2021). Given the abovementioned challenges, this study provides a comprehensive understanding of contemporary immigration trends in the third millennium, specifically seeking to answer the following questions: What are the reasons driving immigration today, and what goals do individuals accomplish through immigration?

The concept of liquid migration emerged as a framework for understanding the dynamics of intra-EU mobility, particularly following the EU enlargements of 2004 and 2007 (Engbersen & Snel, 2013). Liquid migration represents a departure from traditional sociological theories and discussions surrounding migration, introducing new dimensions to the discourse. Notably, it has challenged conventional notions related to citizenship, integration, ghettoization, and ethnic discrimination. While initially a Europe-centered sociological concept, we hypothesize that the phenomenon of liquid migration may manifest in the Iranian migration context over time. This expectation arises from the pervasive influence of globalization, advancements in communication technologies, evolving work patterns, shifting consumption habits, and changing settlement preferences. These factors are likely to contribute to the diffusion of liquid migration tendencies among Iranian migrants.

## 2. Conceptual and Empirical Framework

In the field of immigration studies, various theoretical frameworks have been proposed, each offering unique perspectives on the phenomenon. One such theory is the pull and push theory, which attracted the attention of

scientific circles at the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This theory examines migration dynamics through two main factors: a) Push factors that compel individuals to leave their residences. b) Pull factors that compel individuals to leave their place of origin and attract them to destination countries. Push factors typically include unfavorable economic, social, and physical conditions, whereas pull factors include better opportunities and living conditions elsewhere (Haj Hosseini, 2006). Functionalist migration theory underscores the role of government policies in shaping migration patterns, recognizing the effectiveness of push and pull models in explaining migration dynamics. It posits that societal changes, including migration, aim to restore equilibrium, often resulting in the movement of individuals from low-income to high-income areas and facilitating capital flow. Among functionalist economic theories, neoclassical economics theory is particularly renowned (Mottaghi, 2015).

At the microlevel, neoclassical economics aligns with rational choice theory, emphasizing the individual's perception of utility as a buyer. At the macro level, it examines wage rate disparities across countries and their impact on the labor market (Massey et al., 2009). However, structuralist theorists challenge neoclassical ideas, rejecting the notion that immigration decisions are solely driven by rational considerations of cost-benefit analysis.

New economists, who approach migration through the lens of labor force dynamics, posit that migration often occurs in conditions of poverty and high risk, viewing it as a response to market failures. This perspective explains migration in contexts in which wage differentials are not the primary drivers. According to this theory, income inequality, relative deprivations, and inadequate social security provisions within societies serve as primary causes of migration (Mottaghi, 2015). Additionally, the new economics of migration posits that migration decisions are not solely individual choices but rather strategic actions aimed at minimizing family income risks and maximizing expected income for the household unit (Massey et al., 2009).

Alternatively, modernization theorists, operating within the realm of development sociology, argue that the diffusion of values from developed to developing countries fosters new aspirations among the populace. To fulfill these aspirations, individuals migrate to urban centers or other countries. They contend that population movement, in the form of migration, contributes to the economic development of countries by facilitating social transformation that creates local mobility, subsequently leading to economic growth (Vosoughi & Hojjati, 2012).

The Dual Labor Market Theory posits that international migrations are not merely individual decisions but are instead influenced by the demands of modern industrial societies (Massey et al., 2009). Wallerstein's World Systems Theory further delves into the origins of international migration and the movement of specialists, linking them to the structure of the global market that has evolved since the 16th century (Saroukhani & Jahani, 2009). This theory suggests that the spread of capitalist economic relations into peripheral and non-capitalist societies plays a significant role in shaping migration patterns and population mobility (Massey et al., 2009). Conflict theorists argue that migration is closely tied to inequality in development.

Migration is viewed both due to unequal development and as a catalyst for the expansion and exacerbation of such inequalities. Advocates of the nationalist model liken the analysis of the benefits and drawbacks of international migration of skilled individuals to that of international trade. They emphasize the importance of understanding the methods of production, relations of production, and theories related to the development of the capitalist system and imperialism in examining the exogenous factors driving skilled migration from developing countries (Saroukhani & Jahani Daulatabadi, 2009).

Indeed, among the various theories explaining migration, network theory stands out as a socially oriented perspective. While many migration theories primarily emphasize instrumental or economic dimensions, network theory focuses on the role of social capital in migration dynamics. This theory underscores the importance of interpersonal relationships, such as kinship and friendship, in facilitating migration processes. By using social connections, individuals can reduce costs and minimize risks associated with migration (Massey et al, 2009).

The conceptual framework provides valuable theoretical insight into migration in other countries, which can be empirically examined based on previous research findings. Some studies validating the content of the conceptual framework are discussed below. (Kennan and Walker, 2011) found that the primary motivation for immigration among individuals is to earn higher wages and increase their income. Similarly, Chowdhury et al. (2012) concluded that immigration leads to improvements in the socioeconomic status of immigrants, including higher household income, savings, living expenses, housing quality, access to water, healthcare services, and social participation. Notably, the poverty status of immigrants tends to improve compared with their premigration condition.

The findings of Farah et al. (2012) underscore the significance of "pull factors" in influencing the migration behavior of respondents, with individuals migrating in pursuit of a "better lifestyle." Similarly, Ortega and Peri (2013) concluded that international migration flows are influenced by per capita income levels and immigration acceptance laws in destination countries. Joseph and Wodon (2013) highlighted the predominance of socioeconomic factors, such as employment and

education, over weather conditions in shaping the migration patterns of Yemeni individuals. Moreover, the research conducted by Zanabazar et al. (2021) revealed that Mongolian migration to South Korea is primarily driven by factors such as higher wages, welfare opportunities, the potential for savings, and social aspects, including access to quality education and exposure to the culture environment. These empirical findings complement the theoretical framework presented earlier, providing further insights into the motivations and determinants of migration behavior. By integrating these empirical backgrounds with the theoretical concepts discussed previously, the researcher can effectively address the research questions at hand.

Furthermore, lifestyle migration has emerged as a significant concept in migration literature in recent years, yielding compelling and thought-provoking findings. Studies in this area suggest that individuals do not migrate solely for traditional reasons such as employment, urban attraction, education, industrial opportunities, or social security contributions. Instead, factors such as increased leisure time resulting in prosperity, interest in tourism, early retirement, and flexible work arrangements have played crucial roles in driving mass migration. These shifts in lifestyle preferences have not only fueled migration but have also transformed into a way of life for many (O'Reilly, 1995).

## 3. Methodology and Sample

The methodology employed is a mixed method that integrates qualitative phenomenological inquiry and quantitative survey methodology. In the qualitative section, interviews were conducted with women who had migrated to America and possessed essential insights related to the research subject. The selection of participants was guided by principles such as theoretical saturation and triangulation techniques to ensure comprehensive coverage of the research topic (Padash, 2022).

Purposive and theoretical sampling were employed to select the data. Purposeful research involves defining target groups of informants based on the subject, problem, and research context. The theoretical nature of the sample ensures that it possesses the requisite sufficiency to achieve the desired level of theoretical abstraction (Farastkhah, 2016: 135). Data analysis was conducted using the seven-step method outlined by Colaizzi and Dickelman, which is rooted in Husserl's perspective and adheres to the Epoché principle. This involves setting aside prior information or intentions and employing a triangulation approach for validation.

To ensure reliability, triangulation techniques were employed, including confirming references, researchers, and multiple methods during data collection and analysis. Additionally, detailed parallel information, such as presenting data analysis and results to experts and using the member control technique by providing data analysis and results to respondents, was used (Abbaszadeh, 2012: 23-24). Furthermore, to simultaneously address the validity and reliability of the findings, the Rigor technique was considered (Abbaszadeh & Shamsi, 2020).

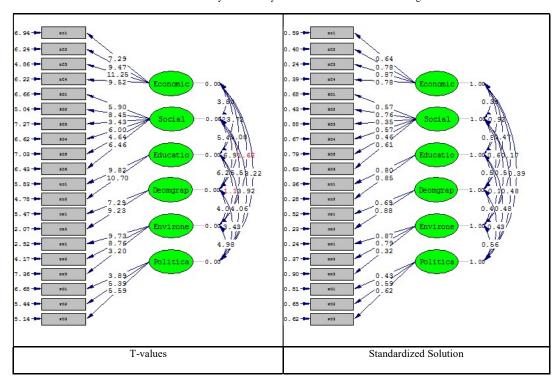
In the quantitative section, 116 students at Tabriz University (43.8% men and 56.2% women) from all academic fields were selected for the study by random sampling. To measure the reasons for the desire to migrate, six factors economic (4 items), social and cultural (6 items), educational (2 items), demographic (2 items), environmental (3 items), and political (3 items), were identified as influencing people's desire to migrate abroad (all in the form of a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 indicates very little importance and 10 indicates very high importance). Data were collected using questionnaires and analyzed using SPSS version 22 and LISREL software. Cronbach's alpha statistic was employed to evaluate the questionnaire's reliability, yielding favorable results among the items of the six components of the desire to migrate. Confirmatory factor analysis was used to evaluate the questionnaire's validity.

To ensure the homogeneity of the scale components regarding content and underlying dimensions, six-factor confirmatory factor analysis was conducted. The results indicated a good fit of the data, with all items demonstrating a suitable factor load above 0.3. Additionally, all six latent factors exhibited eigenvalues higher than one. This suggests that the scale effectively measures the reasons for the desire to migrate, confirming the validity and reliability of the measurement instrument.

### 4. Findings

The findings of the qualitative research highlight traditional views on marriage as a perceptual constraint on individual freedoms, leading some individuals to consider migration as a reaction. Traditional marriage norms, deeply ingrained in cultural traditions, often dictate that individuals must marry against their inner desires, potentially leading to discontent. Consequently, some individuals opt to migrate to countries with different cultural norms to escape this traditional pressure. In explaining this phenomenon, it is evident that the modernization process brings about changes and evolutions, with marriage being no exception.

These transformations include shifts in attitudes toward family formation and its functions, criteria for an ideal



**Table 1.** Confirmatory factor analysis of reasons for the desire to migrate.

spouse, and the preferred age of marriage. Changes in marriage age, for instance, reflect changes in the values and attitudes of young people influenced by modernism. As a result, young men and women may choose to migrate to a country whose culture aligns with their preferences, thereby circumventing the need to conform to traditional marriage expectations. By migrating to such a destination, individuals can pursue lifestyles that resonate with their aspirations, free from the constraints of traditional marital norms.

Furthermore, this situation fosters a growing tendency to establish a living environment aligned with the newly adopted modern culture, thus initiating the processes of lifestyle migration and liquid migration. In other words, the desire to distance oneself from traditional institutions and customs catalyzes participation in fluid migration.

Another significant aspect of the research findings pertains to the influence of socioeconomic factors on migration decisions. Access to new job opportunities and higher income prospects in destination countries are key drivers of migration. Indeed, securing employment with satisfactory payment is a primary concern for many individuals considering work migration. This notion finds support in functionalist perspectives, which posit that migration typically occurs from low-income to high-income areas, with economic disparities serving as the primary catalyst. Structuralists underscore income inequality, relative deprivations, and lack of social security as prominent drivers of migration, whereas development theorists highlight development indicators as key migration determinants.

Moreover, the theory of relative deprivation posits that individuals' perceptions of lacking desirable values and resources, under specific circumstances, can precipitate migration. According to this theory, when a society fails to meet the needs of its members, the likelihood of collective action, such as migration, increases. Migration, in this context, represents a form of collective response to address the perceived deprivation of material and spiritual amenities.

According to the interviewees, the sense of discrimination in social and cultural fields within the country of origin stands out as a primary driver of migration. The perception of unequal resource distribution fosters feelings of discrimination within society, prompting some individuals to opt for migration as a response. This finding can be examined by recognizing that discrimination and inequality across various economic, political, and societal realms hinder equitable access to resources and opportunities. Disparities in access to essential amenities, such as employment, education, healthcare, and other essential services, contribute to the perpetuation of inequality. While social and economic well-being is widely regarded as a fundamental entitlement, instances of discrimination and inequality effectively exclude individuals from realizing this inherent right.

Indeed, a society's level of social equality plays a crucial role, as increasing inequality and discrimination can breed disillusionment and ultimately spur migration, particularly among elites and young individuals, toward other countries. In addition, individuals interested in immigration often perceive a lower standard of living in their home country

(Padash, 2022) compared with potential destinations, prompting them to seek alternatives that better align with their preferences. Migration, therefore, represents a quest for a lifestyle that mirrors the social identity they felt and lost in their home countries. Applying Amartya Sen's capabilities approach to migration, it becomes evident that migration can serve as a potential means to enhance well-being and empower individuals. Despite potential incentives to remain in their home country, people opt for migration to improve their living standards freely (De Haas, 2021).

In line with the findings of the quantitative section, the prioritization of the six components of reasons for the desire to migrate, as perceived by Tabriz University students, revealed that economic and educational motivations ranked highest. This indicates that students are more inclined to migrate for economic and educational opportunities. Meanwhile, political, social, demographic, and environmental factors are categorized as secondary considerations.

Causes of migration	Mean
Economic	8.71
Education	8.7
Political	7.47
Social	6.52
Demographic	6.32
Environmental	5.41

Table 2. Prioritization of reasons for the desire to migrate

The correlation matrix (Table 3) of the causes of the tendency to migrate shows that, except for the correlation between economic and educational motivations and environmental factors, all other relationships exhibit statistical significance. Furthermore, the direction of these correlations is positive, suggesting that these factors co-occur in driving migration decisions. Notably, the correlation between economic and educational motivations emerges as the strongest among all relationships.

	Social	Economic	Education	Demographic	Environmental	Political
Social	1					
Economic	0.39*	1				
Education	0.52*	0.92*	1			
Demographic	0.62*	0.47*	0.57*	1		
Environmental Environmental	0.52*	0.17	0.13	0.41*	1	
Political	0.48*	0.39*	0.48*	0.43*	0.56*	1

Table 3. Correlation matrix of reasons for the desire to migrate

<sup>\*.</sup> Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level

#### 5. Discussion

The qualitative findings underscored the significance of access to suitable job opportunities, education, and favorable economic conditions as crucial drivers of immigration. Similarly, the quantitative analysis revealed that economic and educational factors ranked highest among students' motivations to migrate. These findings are consistent with existing research. For instance, Libanova (2019) observed that Ukrainian immigrants primarily migrate for economic reasons, whereas Bernzen et al. (2019) identified better job prospects and education as key motivations for migration in Bangladesh. Sarkar (2020) also noted that economic factors, such as employment opportunities, predominantly drive migration in certain regions. Urbański's (2022) study in Romania and Poland further corroborates these findings, highlighting economic considerations as primary influencers of migration decisions. Thus, the outcomes of this study align with previous research, emphasizing the centrality of economic and educational factors in migration dynamics. Migration research requires a multidimensional approach. Early migration theories, such as Lee's Migration Theory, Mabogunje's Migration Systems Theory (1970), Zelinsky's Mobility Transition Theory (1971), and Ravenstein's theory of immigration laws, provided foundational frameworks for understanding migration phenomena. Additionally, theories like migration transitions proposed by Skeldon (1990) and the Neoclassical Migration Theory developed by Harris and Todaro (1970) have contributed to the evolving discourse on migration dynamics. The Dual Labor-Market Theory proposed by Piore (1979), the New Economics of Labor Migration advanced by Stark (1978, 1991), and the Cumulative Causation Theory articulated by Massey (1990) have significantly contributed to our understanding of migration. While these theories have significantly advanced our understanding of migration, there has been a lack of systematic theorizing beyond the models and assumptions of the 19th century.

The meaningful interpretation of social realities concerning migration processes, particularly ethnic and gender groups, is increasingly rejecting hyperrealities in postmodern literature. Recent works by anthropologists and sociologists, along with conceptualizations on multicultural issues, underscore this shift.

Migration and immigration have been enduring processes throughout human history, with theories evolving in response to industrialization, urbanization, modernization, and nationalism. However, this study hypothesizes that these traditional migration theories have underscored transformation. The advent of globalization, the pursuit of welfare, and shifting consumption habits are shaping a new form of migration. The ongoing flux of migration and displacement is reshaping social structures toward a more liquid social order.

Liquid immigration transcends individual desires to relocate. Postmodern phenomena such as digitalization, global corporations, tourism, consumption habits, financial instruments, and smart technologies have reshaped lifestyles, blurring the lines between immigrant and non-immigrant experiences. Nomadic tribes historically embody migration as a lifestyle prevalent in regions like the Sahara, Central Asia, Iran, Anatolia, and the Middle East until the 20th century. Comparing this contemporary "liquid immigration" to pre-modern migration forms offers valuable insights into societal shifts and human mobility patterns.

Macro-functionalism, neoclassical, and positivist approaches in migration studies have been criticized for their reductionist tendencies. Similarly, interpretive approaches, while focusing on micronarratives, have sometimes overlooked structural factors, favoring individual experiences. Recent trends in migration studies continue to exhibit reductionism by prioritizing macro perspectives. However, a balanced approach that integrates both micro and macro narratives, as advocated in postmodern ideas, is essential. Moreover, traditional quantitative and qualitative methods have failed to fully grasp the influence of structural factors such as inequality and government policies on migration dynamics. Recognizing the nonlinear relationship between societal development, individual aspirations, and migration experiences is crucial for a comprehensive understanding of migration phenomena.

Political decisions regarding international migration have gained significance in the context of increasingly diverse and multi-ethnic societies worldwide. Sociologists and demographers must consider these factors in their analyses of migration dynamics (Massey et al., 2009).

In the analysis of international migration, it becomes imperative to prioritize non-hegemonic sociology within the framework of Post-Western sociology. Post-Western sociology emerges from the decentralization and renewal of global discourse, stemming from both the Eastern and Western spheres. Post-Western sociology embodies a relational, dialogue-driven, and multi-situational relationship. Within the realm of Post-Western sociology, a keen awareness of hegemony reveals transnational knowledge spaces where the diversity of existing knowledge and shared understanding are prominently featured. The overarching goal is to broaden perspectives by embracing multiple self-directed narratives originating from communities worldwide, thereby offering insights into the interplay between the "East" and "West." It is within this context that both "Western" and "non-Western" sociology contribute to a richer understanding of the underlying subject (Roulleau-Berger, 2021).

Furthermore, in addressing the feminization of migrations, it is crucial to expand migration approaches beyond a predominantly male-centric lens. There exists a pressing need to integrate gender perspectives into migration studies (Beck & Edgar, 2010).

The theories of structuralism and functionalism depict most individuals as passive agents, assuming their preferences to be predictable and predetermined. However, it is crucial to acknowledge the agency of individuals in freely choosing their destinations and aspirations within the context of the migration phenomenon (De Haas, 2021).

During industrialization, migration movements were intertwined with familial, communal, and tribal identities. Migration entailed encounters with various social identities, and fostering group consciousness. Immigrants and residents often coexisted, maintaining parallel identities.

In the classical era of industrialization and the establishment of modern nation-states, migration predominantly occurred within the confines of national borders, often in mass migration waves. This era witnessed the demining presence of local identities as parallel community identities within immigrant settlements and urban centers. Immigrants swiftly urbanized and assimilated into the societal norms propagated by national institutions such as schools and newspapers. Consequently, they became aligned with the national community identity, leading to the erosion of local social identities through migration.

In the era of modernization, migration has become almost completely restricted by citizenship regulations and the delineation of geographical boundaries tied to citizenship. In pre-modern times, national borders and identities did not impose stringent restrictions on immigration.

In the modern age, the enforcement of citizenship laws, which govern migration between continents and nations, has proven highly effective, nearly halting immigration altogether. However, in times of conflict and war, mass migration can still occur despite these barriers.

Migrations sanctioned by contemporary national identities and legal frameworks typically occur for purposes such as employment, education, tourism, and healthcare. Conversely, the status of refugees grants immigration rights to individuals fleeing extraordinary circumstances, particularly political conflicts, as stipulated by UN conventions. Notably, unrestricted immigration is not recognized as a fundamental right.

The challenge inherent in traditional lifestyles concerning contemporary social and cultural dynamics, along with the proliferation of hyper-realities and realities in today's society shaping ideals within health and job domains, constitutes a compelling issue. Inspired by Amartya Sen's theoretical framework, the authors advocate a nuanced analysis of migration, one that transcends simplistic push-and-pull factors to embrace the concept of a lifestyle oriented toward freedom. In other words, in the analysis of immigration, both elites and nonelites challenge existing theories. They introduce post-Western immigration theories, dismissing the dichotomy inherent in European and American perspectives. Instead, they consider the importance of Eastern theories and present a nuanced portrayal of the positive and negative aspects of immigration in our diverse world. Termed "liquid migration in the third millennium," this concept describes migration regardless of time, place, and homeland. In this fluid migration paradigm, individuals seek opportunities aligned with their interests and aspirations. If they perceive a promising opportunity that aligns with their goals and dreams, they embark on the migration journey.

The slogan "everywhere is our homeland" signals a shift away from entrenched biases and fixed attachment to a particular place of residence. Globalization, driven by cultural assimilation, has fostered uniformity among people globally and diminished borders, evoking various hopes and fears. In essence, a crucial solution to address the challenge of migration abroad lies in the interaction between structure and agency. This entails the elimination or reduction of social discrimination while paying attention to individual desires and interests. Additionally, the endurance and coherence of social capital play a crucial role. Social capital can act as a driving force for migration abroad, particularly in contexts where national social capital is lacking. Conversely, it can serve as a compelling factor for individuals to remain in their homeland when national social capital is present.

## **Ethical Considerations**

In this study, adherence to ethical research codes was prioritized. Interviews were conducted with an appointment and with the consent of the subjects. Throughout the data collection process, emphasis was placed on the voluntary and conscious participation of each subject. Additionally, audio recordings were used only after obtaining permission from the participants.

**Ethics Committee Approval:** Ethics committee approval was received from Tabriz University for the study. Date: 27.08.2023. Number: 1R. T ABRIZU.REC.1402.065.

**Informed Consent:** Interviews were conducted with an appointment and with the consent of the subjects.

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