



Subjective Well-Being as a Measure of Economic Welfare and Its Impact on the Integration and Socialization of Migrants

Ekonomik Refahın Bir Ölçüsü Olarak Öznel Refah ve Göçmenlerin Entegrasyonu ve Sosyalleşmesi Üzerindeki Etkisi

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Öz

Bir ekonomik refah ölçütü olarak Öznel İyi Oluş (ÖİÖ), göçmenlerin entegrasyonu ve sosyalleşmeleri üzerinde oldukça etkili olmaktadır. Bu çalışmanın amacı ve konusu, göçmenlerin ÖİÖ'sunun onların; sosyal umutları, sosyal sermayeleri, sosyal uyumları ve ekonomik beklentilerini ne yönde ve ne düzeyde etkilediğinin tespit edilmesidir. Çalışmanın nicel veri seti, Türkiye'nin doğusunda yer alan Erzincan'a yerleştirilen Ahıska Türkleri ile 2022 yılında yapılan anket çalışmasından elde edilmiştir. Çalışmanın nicel analizleri Yapısal Eşitlik Modellemesi kullanılarak yapılmıştır. Yatay veri seti, 269 Ahıska Türkü ile yapılan anketlerden elde edilmiştir. Çalışmanın bulguları, Ahıska Türkleri'nin yüksek derecede ve pozitif yönde ÖİÖ'ya sahip olduklarını göstermiştir. Yine bulgular, göçmenlerin yüksek derecede ve pozitif yönde ÖİÖ'larının onların sosyal umutlarını, sosyal sermayelerini, sosyal uyumlarını ve ekonomik beklentilerini de yüksek derecede ve pozitif yönde etkilediğini ortaya koymuştur. Küresel bir sorun olan göçün nedenleri, sonuçları ve maliyeti göz önüne alınarak sorunu kaynağında çözme yollarının araştırılması gerektiği sonucuna varılmıştır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Erzincan, Göç, Öznel İyi Oluş, Sosyal Uyum, Sosyal Sermaye, Sosyal Umut, Ekonomik Beklenti

ABSTRACT

Subjective Well-Being (SWB) as a measure of economic well-being has a significant impact on the integration and socialization of immigrants. The aim and subject of this study is to determine in what direction and to what extent the subjective well-being of immigrants affects their social hopes, social capital, social harmony and economic expectations. The quantitative data set of the study was obtained from the survey conducted in 2022 with Meskhetian Turks settled in Erzincan, located in the east of Turkey. Quantitative analyzes of the study were conducted using Structural Equation Modeling. The horizontal data set was obtained from surveys conducted with 269 Meskhetian Turks. The findings of the study showed that Meskhetian Turks have high and positive subjective well-being. Likewise, the findings revealed that the high and positive subjective well-being of immigrants also highly and positively affects their social hopes, social capital, social harmony and economic expectations. Considering the causes, consequences and costs of migration, which is a global problem, it has been concluded that ways to solve the problem at its source should be investigated.

Keywords: Erzincan, Migration, Subjective Well-Being, Social Cohesion, Social Capital, Social Hope, Economic Expectation

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INTRODUCTION:

As a multidimensional concept, Subjective Well-Being (SWB) is becoming a criterion in the public sphere as a measure of welfare that encompasses various aspects of social life and is not material but economic. SWB is defined as the totality of individuals' positive reactions to life (Diener, 1994). In addition, SWB includes the following meanings for individuals: evaluating their lives, having a positive mood, being free from anxiety and depression, being satisfied with their marriage, being satisfied with their work and social conditions, and feeling inner peace in their place of residence (Diener et al., 1997). Individuals evaluate their happiness or satisfaction with their lives through individual value judgments. Positive affect, connectedness, and meaningfulness are considered the three fundamental elements of life satisfaction or True Happiness (Seligman, 2011). Individuals' subjective well-being, or the actions and feelings they perceive as positive and beneficial for themselves, is evaluated within the scope of "Positive Psychology," and subjective well-being is defined as: It is seen as a cause, not merely a consequence, of desired outcomes at work, school, health, relationships, and aging (Seligman, 2019). If individuals have a positive and high subjective well-being, they are satisfied with their lives. Individuals with high subjective well-being have positive emotions and are joyful. Conversely, individuals with low subjective well-being experience sadness, anger, and dissatisfaction with life. Self-governance, a non-material measure of well-being with personal criteria, encompasses various aspects of life in the public sphere (Diener & Chan, 2011). Traditional indicators of well-being, such as per capita income, purchasing power parity, and inflation, cannot explain non-parallel dimensions of individuals' quality of life, such as health, social cohesion, social fragmentation, and environmental problems (Held et al., 2018). SWB helps explain non-parallel dimensions of quality of life that traditional indicators of well-being cannot explain.

Individuals' high levels of SWB affect their high levels of socialization. The same causal relationship is also valid in the opposite direction, and high sociability also leads to high SWB (Diener & Biswas-Diener, 2011). Individuals with a wide social circle have the chance to have a high level of well-being since they have more friends, family members, acquaintances. Likewise, it is highly likely that individuals with a high level of well-being at the beginning will have more friends, acquaintances and social circles.

This causal relationship is valid for all layers and classes of society, as well as for immigrants. In particular, it is possible for forced immigrants to establish high levels of social relations with the host society in their new settlements with a high level of SWB. If immigrants do not act atomically outside of a social context or do not make individual decisions, they will not be imprisoned within the behavioral patterns that society has categorically determined for immigrants (Granovetter, 2018). Immigrants can also achieve their goals by establishing and maintaining concrete social relations.

The integration process of immigrants with the host society in the place they migrate to is affected by many factors. Demographic characteristics, economic, psychological and social factors of immigrants in the integration process have been the subject of many studies in terms of both immigrants and the host society (Amit & Riss, 2014). Recent migration studies have emphasized the importance of subjective well-being (SWB) in the integration process of immigrants in the host country, in acquiring social capital, and in gaining social hope and economic aspirations. SWB has a significant weight in the social adaptation of immigrants in their new place of residence, beyond economic parameters. And this issue is receiving more and more attention (Amit, 2010; Massey & Akresh, 2006). There are not enough studies comparing SWB before and after migration.

The basic desires of forced migrants are as follows: To meet their economic needs, to look to the future with hope, to develop social relations and to integrate with the people in the new settlement. The SWB of migrants will be effective in achieving these basic desires. This study aims to investigate the relationship between the SWB of forced migrants and social capital, social hope, social cohesion and

economic expectations. Within the framework of this purpose, Meskhetian Turks who have migrated from the Russian Federation to Turkey and settled in the Erzincan Province of Turkey have been selected as the universe of the study. The basic hypothesis of the study is determined as “the SWB of migrants positively affects their social capital, social cohesion, social hope and economic expectations”.

1. Conceptual Framework

1.1. Migration and Subjective Well-Being

SWB is defined as individuals' positive or negative subjective evaluations of their own lives, feelings and judgments such as joy of living, health, entertainment, work, values, emotions, life satisfaction, interest and responsibility. SWB is an umbrella term used to describe the level of well-being that people experience according to their subjective evaluations of their own lives. Several civil society organizations in Türkiye provide psychosocial and humanitarian assistance to migrants, thus contributing positively to their subjective well-being (İçduygu & Aksel, 2012). SWB has taken an important place in the economic literature since the 1990s. These studies have emphasized the importance of individuals' health status, income, and non-income social and psychological factors. However, research on the SWB of immigrants is relatively new and limited (Posel & Casale, 2011; Mulcahy & Kollamparambil, 2016). Migration describes the movement of people living in any geography of the world to another country or city, leaving their country or the city they live in, in order to survive or to reach relatively better living conditions (Hoesch, 2018). Forced migration means that people leave their places of residence due to reasons such as war, armed conflict, political uncertainty, global climate change, natural disasters. And this means taking refuge as a refugee or asylum seeker in another geography where there are no negative conditions. (Castles, 2003).

In the 21st century, over 200 million people live outside their country of birth (Stillman et al., 2015). Due to climate change, war, poverty, and other reasons, people are forced to leave their countries either in masses or individually. Most migrations are from an underdeveloped or developing country to a developed country. Sometimes, internal migration movements also occur within the same country. For example, China's internal population movement from rural areas to cities where industry and trade are intense is the largest migration flow in history (Zhao, 1999). Most of the time, both international and domestic migrants can achieve material prosperity by moving to places where income is relatively higher. However, studies on the happiness and SWB of both domestic and international migrants show that they cannot achieve the life satisfaction they desire (Safi, 2010; Bartram, 2011; Stillman et al., 2015). Individuals who have been subjected to forced migration in particular may face many physical and psychological traumas such as homesickness, longing for relatives and friends. There are also uncertainties and concerns such as not being able to socially adapt to the places migrants migrate to, being excluded, being subjected to violence, and being marginalized. These uncertainties and concerns affect migrants' SWB. The SWB of migrants affects their acquisition of social capital, social integration, social hopes, and economic activities for survival.

1.2. Subjective Well-Being and Social Hope

Migration refers to the movement from difficult living conditions, hunger and misery to perceived opportunities and good living conditions (Mar, 2005). For this reason, social hope increases human flows between countries or continents by encouraging migration. Moreover, social hope reflects expectations that better living conditions will be achieved. In other words, social hope for immigrants is the belief that there is social mobility from lower to upper classes. And the belief that it is possible despite existing structural constraints and inequalities (Hage, 2003). The individual hope of each immigrant produces, develops, distributes and sustains social hope for all immigrants (Narotzky and Besnier, 2014). However, social hope for immigrants is questioned in two areas. The first is the wars

that separate people from their lives, loved ones and homelands, and the precarious living conditions created by long-term economic and political crises; the second is the extreme deterioration of income distribution and wealth among countries to the detriment of developing and underdeveloped countries, which turns into hunger and misery (Cole & Durham, 2008). International migration, one of the most important problems of our age, cannot be stopped despite all kinds of physical, cultural, military and political obstacles for a better life (Yavan, 2022). However, social hopes may not always turn out as desired. For example, migration flows towards developed countries, especially to escape the misery caused by wars and climate change and to obtain better living conditions, often turn not into social hopes but into social disasters, mass deaths by drowning in the seas and global suffering.

SWB and hope are closely related (Bailey et al., & Snyder, 2007). Hope increases individuals' subjective well-being. Social hope, in turn, strengthens individuals' hope for a better future (Pleeging et al., 2021). A generally positive relationship between social hope and social hope is known.

1.3. SWB and Social Capital

Studies conducted particularly in Western Europe have shown that immigrants typically exhibit lower levels of SWB than their host populations (Tegegne & Glanville, 2019). Language and cultural barriers hinder the integration of immigrants, disruptions in social networks make it difficult for immigrants to acquire social capital, and constitute a possible source of immigrant-host wealth inequality. Another study investigated the relationship between the life satisfaction levels and social capital of Eastern European immigrants and showed that social capital has a limited effect on immigrants' life satisfaction (Popa, 2018).

Social capital allows individuals to develop relationships based on trust and mutual recognition. Therefore, it has an impact on immigrants' hope and life satisfaction. Similarly, immigrants' SWB also greatly affects the acquisition of social capital. Social capital is often a private good for immigrants who are in a disadvantaged category, and its acquisition is difficult compared to the host population. However, social capital can be effective in facilitating social integration between immigrants and host populations about reducing economic, ethnic and class inequalities and contributing to the SWB of all individuals (Bourdieu, 1986; Bourdieu & Wacquant, 2013; Fine, 2000). On the side, thanks to social capital, immigrants can gain the opportunity to move up the social ladder and have the economic and social opportunities of the upper classes. Social capital plays an important role in ensuring fair income distribution and social justice. In addition, it contributes to the general life satisfaction of society by eliminating social and economic inequalities. (Hope Cheong, 2006). Social capital helps to explain the reasons for economic development differences between regions on a macro scale (Putnam, 1994). On a micro scale, it provides individuals with the ease of finding a job (Granovetter, 1983). The components of social capital, which consists of many dimensions, or the content of social capital are still being debated (Keskin & Keleş, 2018). Social capital controls radical behavior through the networks it creates between individuals and society. Social capital plays a role in stimulating collective action that benefits society. It also prevents labor exploitation and fosters trust, which fosters trade.

Facilitating access to resources, controlling radical behavior, mobilizing collective actions beneficial to society, activating social norms, limiting labor exploitation, and providing trust that encourages trade. (Putnam, 1994). The basis of social capital is the trust that individuals have for each other, society, and institutions, interaction originating from social relations, social norms, and values (Coleman, 1988). If social capital is based on in-group trust and relationships, it occurs in a closed-to-the-outside binding situation. If a trust and bond is established based on relationships with other individuals outside the group, bridging social capital is formed (Narayan & Cassidy, 2001). Binding social capital, which is based only on trust in the in-group, does not always have a positive effect on immigrants and can prevent

the establishment of social and commercial relations with the host people outside the group (Woolcock, 1998).

In this context, social capital, which acts as a bridge for migrants, has an instrumental role in facilitating life in the new host country by providing valuable information about it. Thanks to social capital, forced migrants and low-skilled workers from rural areas obtain positive results from their social networks. By acquiring social capital, immigrants gain both SWB and ease of finding a job. They also act as intermediaries between their former country of residence and their new country of residence (Faist, 2009; Arpino & De Valk, 2018).

1.4. SWB and Social Cohesion

It is possible to define social cohesion as the absence of social conflict. Social cohesion has been defined as the existence of strong social ties among individuals who constitute a society despite differences in class, religion, sect, gender, race or ethnicity (Durkheim, 1897). Likewise, social cohesion is defined as cooperation among members of a society (Cooley, 1909), identification of individuals with each other through common characteristics in society (Freud, 1921), maintenance of ties with the group that members of the community are in within the framework of their common desires and a sense of commitment (Festinger et al., 1950), a sense of belonging to the community and having common values (Coleman, 1988).

Social cohesion has been an "old" area of interest for sociologists and economists since Durkheim. In the 1990s, the idea that it is related to the "new" topic of quality of life or subjective well-being emerged. In recent years, the devastation caused by wars in the Middle East, the ongoing war in Eastern Europe and Ukraine, globalization and economic crises have caused economic inequalities and mass migrations between countries. In public discourse for the solution of the problems caused by mass migration, social cohesion is generally valuable in and of itself because it increases solidarity and social integration (Delhey & Dragolov, 2016). It is also considered an important collective resource for the economic success and individual quality of life of migrants. It is known that social cohesion contributes positively to SWB. However, how SWB affects social cohesion has not been investigated much.

Migration is not only a change of place because of moving from one geography to another, but also a common struggle for life in and with a new society. In this struggle for life, the quality of life of each individual is embedded in the relationships that individuals establish with each other and is built on networks of relationships that are not independent of each other. SWB as a measure of quality of life includes philosophical values framed by normative, moral and religious norms in a society (Diener & Suh, 1997a). SWB is also affected by the difference between the wealth and happiness levels of immigrants before and after immigration (Stiglitz et al., 2009). This situation shows the effect of economic conditions on the happiness level of individuals in SWB. SWB refers to the general satisfaction of individuals with their lives, specifically the living space that makes life valuable and enjoyable (Veenhoven, 2000). This living space can be realized through the social harmony that immigrants will establish with the host people living in the new geography they migrate to (Bottoni & Addeo, 2024). The SWB of individuals also indicates the general quality of life of the society.

1.5. SWB and Economic Expectations

Studies on SWB and economic expectations reveal four replicable relationship between income and SWB. First, there is a large correlation between the wealth of countries and the average SWB of citizens living in these countries. Second, there is often a small correlation between income and SWB in poor countries, and the risk of unhappiness is much higher for poor people. Third, despite the economic growth of most economically developed societies over the last decade, individuals have shown little

increase in SWB. Fourth, people who value material goals more than other values tend to be less satisfied with life (happiness) unless they are wealthy (Diener & Biswas-Diener, 2002). Accordingly, there is a relationship between SWB, economic expectations and migration. Because the main reasons of migration are living in better social, economic and political conditions.

Neoclassical economic theories emphasize that migrants move to improve their economic situation. However, after migration, the effects on the SWB of immigrants may differ (Melzer, 2011). Factors such as the labor market in the country of migration, the length of stay in the country of migration, and meeting economic expectations determine the correlation between SWB and economic expectations.

2. Data and Method

2.1. Data

This study examines the effects of subjective well-being of immigrant individuals on their social capital acquisition, social integration, social hopes and economic expectations. The quantitative data of the study were obtained from a survey conducted with Meskhetian Turks who settled in the Erzincan province of Türkiye in the 2000s. The universe of the study consists of Meskhetian Turks consisting of 528 families and 2312 individuals who were settled in Erzincan province (Anonymous, 2024). The sample size was determined as 255 with calculations made according to the random sampling method and this number was increased to 269 by accounting the margin of error (Çiçek & Erkan, 1996). 269 participants were determined from these families with the random sampling process. 138 of the survey participants were male and 131 were female. 24.5% of the survey participants were single and 75.5% were married; 17.5% have no children, 14.5% have one child, 21.6% have 2 children, 25.3% have 3 children and 21.2% have 4 or more children. The educational backgrounds of the participants are; 9.3% have a bachelor's degree, 2.6% have a postgraduate degree, 8.9% have an associate degree, 31.2% have a high school degree and 48% are primary school graduates. Likewise, the participants have different vocational training and qualifications. 82.4% of them started working in agricultural production after settling in Erzincan. Meskhetian Turks who are not employed in agriculture work as workers in construction, trade and industry. Quantitative data analyses of the study were performed using LISREL 8.72 and SPSS 21 Package Programs.

2.2. Method

Structural Equation Model (SEM) is used to examine the relationships between structures consisting of many parameters and containing multiple causalities. Data obtained with different research techniques, especially the survey method, are investigated in a hypothetical model using observed (measured) variables and causal and correlational relationships between latent (unmeasured) variables (Keskin & Keleş, 2018). The main purpose of SEM analyses is to test research hypotheses. Hypotheses express the direction and effect of the relationships between the parameters that are included as latent variables in the hypothetical model and are accepted to exist in real life. Thus, SEM focuses on measuring and understanding the causal structure that exists between latent variables by reducing the relationships accepted to exist in real life to a fictional model. In SEM analyses, the means, variances and covariances of each observed variable are used. SEM are also expressed as simultaneous equation models. Unlike traditional multivariate linear models, the dependent variable in one regression equation can appear as an independent variable in another equation (Keleş & Kaya, 2023). LISREL, one of the package programs used in Structural Equation Modeling analyses, operates within a 5% margin of error and a 95% confidence limit. A 5% margin of error is taken into account when determining the sample size.

2.3. Hypothetical Model, Latent Variables and Relationships Between Variables

Many studies have examined the SWB of individuals and the factors affecting SWB using different parameters. This study has addressed the relationships between the SWB of immigrants and their social capital acquisition, social integration, social hopes and economic expectations in the new settlements they migrated to. The basic hypothesis of the study was determined as “SWB positively affects the social capital, social cohesion, social hopes and economic expectations of immigrants”. That is:

H1: SWB positively affects the social hopes of immigrants.

H2: SWB positively affects the social capital of immigrants.

H3: SWB positively affects the social cohesion of immigrants.

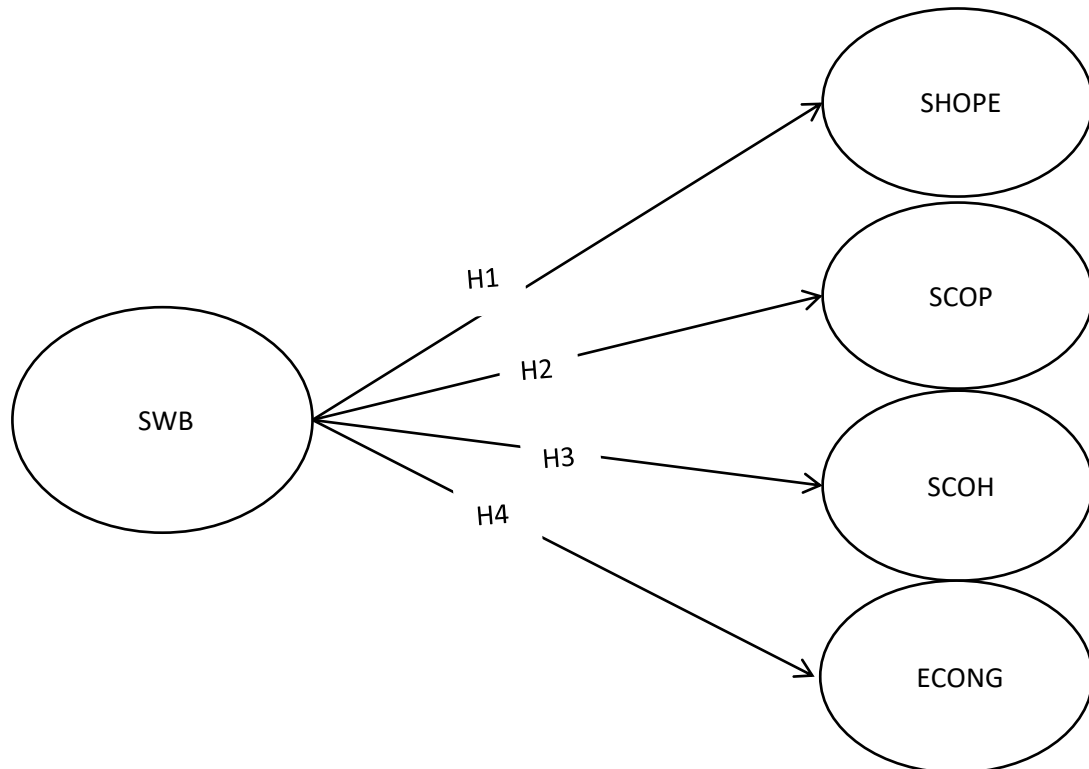
H4: SWB positively affects the economic expectations of immigrants.

The external independent latent variable of the hypothetical model was determined as: SWB

The dependent internal latent variables were determined as: “Social Capital [SCOP]”, “Social Cohesion [SCOH]”, “Social Hope [SHOP]” and “Economic Expectations [ECONG]”.

The observed variables in the measurement of the latent variables in the hypothetical model are given below, respectively. The hypothetical model of the research is shown in Figure 2.1. The formation of scales and scale questions is listed below.

Figure 2.1: Hypothetical Mode



2.3.1. SWB Scale

Scales that include a general assessment such as individuals' life satisfaction or how much they experience certain emotions are used to measure SWB. In these scales, individuals' subjective perspectives, emotions and sensitivity levels on situations such as their expectations, reactions and satisfactions are measured (Delhey & Dragolov, 2016). In this study, while creating a scale to determine

SWB, the most commonly used and cited ones in the literature were the Self-Anchored Effort Scale (Cantril, 1965), the Sixty-Second Happiness Scale (Fordyce, 1977), the Positive and Negative Affect Scale and the Life Satisfaction Scale (Watson et al., 1988), and life satisfaction and subjective well-being (Diener et al., 1985; Pavot & Diener, 2008). Likewise, self-report measurements are the most used method to measure SWB.

In this study, the Positive Affect, Engagement, Relationships, Meaning, and Achievement (PERMA) model (Seligman E., 2011; Seligman M., 2019) were used to measure subjective well-being. A 5-point Likert scale was used to measure subjective well-being in immigrants and received the scores “Strongly disagree = 1, Disagree = 2, Moderately agree = 3, Agree = 4 and Strongly agree = 5.

The questions on the scale are given below:

WB2 I think life is quite rewarding

WB6 I find many things enjoyable

WB7 Life is beautiful

WB8 I do not think the world is a good place

WB9 I am quite happy with everything in my life

WB10 I am very happy

2.3.2. SHOPE Scala

Social hope refers to the state of individuals being optimistic about their current lives and the future and believing that a better life is possible (Pine, 2014). After post-industrial and post-Fordist globalization, the organized movements of workers in post-modernity have increased hope that social inequalities experienced in the world will be eliminated (Harvey, 1989). Organization that feeds social hope is important for immigrants to hold on to their new settlements (Brown, 2013). Social hope refers to immigrants not feeling anxious or worried about the future and an optimistic expectation. Based on the above literature, the scale questions were originally created by the author. The social hope scale is also a 5-point Likert-type structure, and the questions are given below:

H2 I hope that I will be happy with my life in Erzincan

H3 My life in Erzincan will change positively over time

H4 I will not have anxiety about the future in Erzincan

H7 I am very optimistic about my future

2.3.3. SCAP Scala

Social capital refers to the solidarity and cooperation formed by trust-based togetherness, reciprocity, emotional ties, common values, norms and relationship networks among individuals (Putnam, 1995). Social capital enables individuals to get to know each other in public and civil areas through official and private relationships. It provides civil participation in formal and informal structures through networks of relations. Social capital turns into a stock resource that is useful to each individual who forms the society, whether the host community or the immigrants (Krishna, 2000), and this stock resource increases as the resource is used and evolves into a public resource (Ostrom, 1996). Social capital enables individuals to get to know each other in public and civil spheres through official and private relationships, and to participate in official and informal structures through networks of relationships. Social capital increases mutual trust, belief in institutional structure and system, general confidence and self-confidence (Mohan & Mohan, 2002). Based on the above literature, the scale questions were originally created by the author. The social capital scale was adapted to the original structure of the study area by taking into account the literature cited and is a 5-point Likert type question. Scale questions are listed below:

- SC3 I feel safe in Erzincan.
 SC5 The people of Erzincan are truly honest and trustworthy.
 SC6 The people of Erzincan keep their promises.
 SC7 The people of Erzincan do not violate anyone's rights.
 SC11 I trust the Turkish State.
 SC12 I trust the Turkish legal system.
 SC13 Most people are honest and trustworthy.

2.3.4. SCOH Scala

It is stated that there are two individual indicators of social cohesion for immigrants (Friedkin, 2004). The first is the belonging attitudes of immigrants, which indicate their identification with the local community in the settlement they have newly settled in and their commitment to the community, their desire and intention to live together. The second is the sincerity in the relationships with the community and the individuals who form the community, which shows the loyalty immigrants feel towards the local community, and the satisfaction felt from being together. The study measured social cohesion with questions indicating immigrant individuals' compliance with the group norms they are included in, their commitment and their desire to live together. Based on the above literature, the scale questions were originally created by the author. The social cohesion scale questions are in a 5-point Likert structure and consist of 6 questions:

- SOC4 I borrow my needs from my new neighbors in Erzincan, and I have good relations with my neighbors.
 SOC5 I feel like I belong to Erzincan.
 SOC6 I want to live in Erzincan for the rest of my life.
 SOC8 I feel valuable in Erzincan.
 SOC9 I feel a strong sense of loyalty to the people of Erzincan.
 SOC10 I feel loyalty to Erzincan and its people.

2.3.5. ECONG Scala

Labor migration from underdeveloped or developing countries is evaluated based on high economic welfare expectations and social status acquisition, and it is assumed that the migration decision is based on information such as the wage level, employment opportunities and labor market conditions of the country to which migration is desired (Jung, 2021). According to neoclassical economists, migrants make migration decisions by comparing the wage and employment opportunities of their own countries and the countries they want to migrate to and considering the expected net return. Thus, migrants will want to migrate to the place with the highest expected net return (Harris & Todaro, 1970). However, forced migrants are not after wealth or status. Having enough income to survive and get by is enough for them. Based on the above literature, the scale questions were originally created by the author. Like other scales, the Economic Expectations scale has a Likert structure and the questions on the scale are given below:

- EC1 It is easier to make a living in Erzincan.
 EC2 The welfare level is high in Erzincan.
 EC3 Erzincan will contribute more economically and socially to me and my family.
 Take advantage of EC4 Erzincan's job opportunities

3. Findings

3.1. Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA) Findings

The study findings were obtained through Structural Equation Model applications consisting of confirmatory and explanatory factor analyses. Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA) is performed to explain multiple regression and causal relationships between latent variables and observed variables (Bordens & Abbott, 2014). Theoretical relationships shown with the hypothetical model with confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) tests the relationships between observed variables and latent variables consisting of cross-sectional data obtained through surveys or secondary data (Weston & Gore Jr, 2006).

LISREL 8.72 package program was used for Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA), which is a part of the structural equation model. "Standardized factor values" and "t" values of each observed variable in the model were determined. Cronbach's Alpha Coefficient, Likert scale response average and standard deviation of the observed variables were calculated with SPSS 21 Package Program. Table 3.1 shows the code of each observed variable, the arithmetic mean of the responses to the survey, their standard deviation, the standardized factor loading values measured by CFA, "t" and Cronbach's Alpha Coefficient values collectively.

Table 3.1: CFA measurements and statistical values of observed variables.

Observed Variable	Mean	Standard deviation	t value	Standardized factor value	Cronbach's Alpha value
SWB					
WB2	3,1469	1,08021	10,98	0,64	0,770
WB6	3,0735	1,02565	9,92	0,59	
WB7	3,3755	1,15136	12,41	0,70	
WB8	3,2204	1,14537	3,67	0,24	
WB9	3,0735	1,16415	11,48	0,66	
WB10	3,1959	1,09506	13,25	0,74	
SHOPE					
H2	3,2078	1,11889	9,57	0,57	0,799
H3	3,3333	1,10237	13,56	0,75	
H4	3,0235	1,12218	13,86	0,76	
H7	3,1922	1,15966	12,94	0,72	
SCAP					
SC3	3,7295	1,13701	12,07	0,69	0,811
SC5	3,0820	1,33697	11,47	0,67	
SC6	2,6516	1,15361	8,61	0,53	
SC7	2,6270	1,19164	10,15	0,61	
SC11	3,8156	1,21496	10,18	0,61	
SC12	3,6926	1,30833	11,06	0,65	
SC13	2,4221	1,36010	7,56	0,47	
SCOH					
SOC4	3,7863	1,09780	5,77	0,36	0,800
SOC5	3,3750	1,03409	11,20	0,64	
SOC6	3,2258	1,18928	13,17	0,72	
SOC8	3,3871	1,07009	11,82	0,66	
SOC9	3,0927	1,11098	12,47	0,69	
SOC10	3,2137	1,09780	11,28	0,64	
ECONG					
EC1	2,9377	1,08434	14,10	0,77	

EC2	3,0545	1,07026	12,86	0,72	
EC3	3,1712	1,12234	14,67	0,79	0,782
EC4	3,8988	1,14798	7,13	0,44	

Chi-Square=931.40 df= 314 p-value=0,00000 RMSEA= 0,085

The “*t*” values of the observed variables in the CFA model were found to be greater than ± 1.96 and were found to be statistically significant at a 95% confidence level. The chi-square/degree of freedom (X^2/df) value was found to be 2.96, the p value was $p < 0.0000$ and the RMSEA value was found to be 0.078 and it was determined that there was a good fit between the model and the observed variables. The Cronbach’s Alpha values of the observed variables were found to be over 0.700 and the scales were found to have high reliability. Table 3.2 shows the correlational relationship of the latent variables in the model. The CFA analyses also calculate the correlation, “ R^2 ” and “*t*” values between the latent variables. In the calculation, it was seen that there was a strong correlation between the latent variables and that this correlation was significant within the 95% confidence limits.

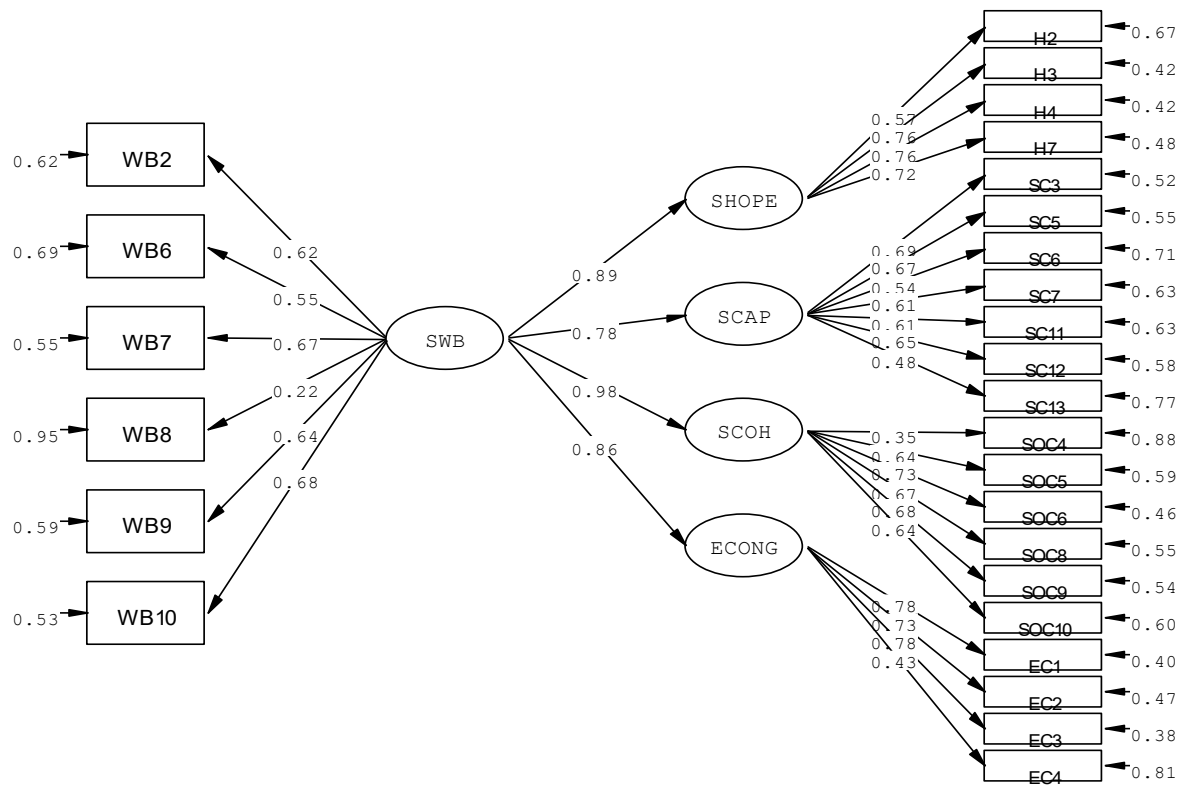
Table 3.2: ‘Correlation’ and ‘*t*’ values of latent variables

	SWB	SHOPE	SCAP	SCOH	ECONG
SWB	1.00				
	0.86	1.00			
SHOPE	(0.03)				
	25.25				
	0.71	0.63	1.00		
SCAP	(0.05)	(0.05)			
	15.35	12.16			
	0.90	0.88	0.82	1.00	
SCOH	(0.03)	(0.03)	(0.04)		
	29.77	27.34	22.24		
	0.75	0.77	0.72	0.89	1.00
ECONG	(0.04)	0.04	(0.05)	(0.03)	
	17.34	18.95	15.73	28.89	

3.2. Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA) Findings

The explanatory and causal relationships between latent variables are analyzed with Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA). With EFA, observed and latent variables are combined in a model. The regression values showing the relationship between latent variables in the model are determined by the observed variables (Raykov & Marcoulides, 2006). EFA; as an integrated model, includes the canonical correlation direction by including dependent and independent variables and the regression analysis direction by defining the causal relationships between variables (Tabachnick et al., 2007). Subjective Well-Being [SWB] was measured with six observed variables in the model. There are four internal latent variables affected by Subjective Well-Being in the model. These internal latent variables are predicted as Social Hope [SHOPE], Social Capital [SCAP], Social Cohesion (Adaptation) [SCOH] and Economic Expectations [ECONG]. It has been determined in which direction and how strongly the four internal latent variables predicted by the model are affected by the "Subjective Well-being" latent variable, which is considered external. The structural equation model EFA results are given in Figure 3.1

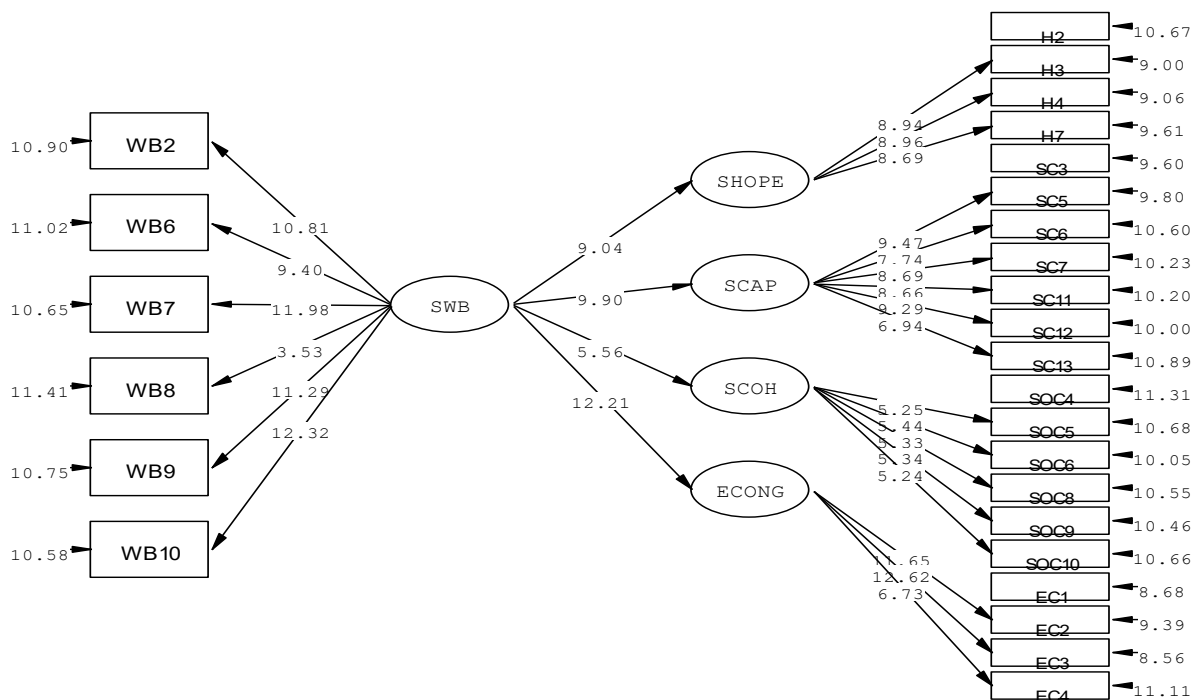
Figure 3.1: Subjective Well-Being EFA Results



Chi-Square=967.12, df=320, P-value=0.00000, RMSEA=0.087

Figure 3.2 shows the Subjective Well-Being EFA structural model “*t*” values. Since the “*t*” values of all latent and observed variables in the EFA model were greater than ± 1.96 , the relationship between the variables was found to be statistically significant at the 95% confidence level.

Figure 3.2: Subjective Well-Being Structural Equation Model (EFA) “*t*” values



Chi-Square=967.12, df=320, P-value=0.00000, RMSEA=0.087

The results of the SEM Explanatory Factor Analysis show that the Subjective Well-Being (SWBE) of Meskhetian Turks who are forced to migrate to Turkey is high. The most important observed variables of the "Subjective Well-Being" external latent variable are; "WB10 I am very happy ($\lambda = 0.68$; $t = 12.32$), "WB7 Life is beautiful ($\lambda = 0.67$; $t = 11.98$)", "WB9 I am quite happy with everything in my life ($\lambda = 0.64$; $t = 11.29$)" and "WB2 I think life is quite rewarding ($\lambda = 0.62$; $t = 10.81$), respectively. The coefficient and λ (lambda) values of the observed variables vectors of the external latent variable Subjective Well-Being (SWBE) and the " t " values indicating whether it is significant or not are positive and high.

The Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA) results in Figure 3.1 and Figure 3.2 show that the subjective well-being of immigrants affects their social hope, social capital, social cohesion and economic expectations positively and to a high degree. The Structural Equation Model analysis results show that the external latent variable "Subjective Well-being" has a linear and strong effect on all internal latent variables. So, hypotheses H1, H2, H3 and H4 are accepted.

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{SHOPE} = 0.89 * \text{SWB}, \text{Errorvar.} = 0.21, R^2 = 0.79 \\ (0.097) \quad (0.059) \\ 9.04 \quad 3.49 \end{array}$$

The exogenous latent variable "Subjective Well-being (SWB)" positively and at a very high level ($\gamma = 0.89$; $t = 9.04$) affects the endogenous latent variable "Social Hope (SHOPE)". Here (γ = gamma) is the coefficient of the vector showing the relationship between the latent variables and the direction of the relationship. The most important observed variables of the endogenous latent variable "Social Hope" were determined as "H4 I will not have anxiety about the future in Erzincan ($\lambda = 0.76$; $t = 8.96$)", "H3 My life in Erzincan will change positively over time ($\lambda = 0.76$; $t = 8.94$)" and "H7 I am very optimistic about my future ($\lambda = 0.72$; $t = 8.69$)".

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{SCAP} = 0.78 * \text{SWB}, \text{Errorvar.} = 0.39, R^2 = 0.61 \\ (0.079) \quad (0.079) \\ 9.90 \quad 4.97 \end{array}$$

The exogenous latent variable "Subjective Well-being (SWB)" positively affects the endogenous latent variable "Social Capital (SCAP)" at a very high level ($\gamma = 0.78$; $t = 9.90$). The most important observed variables of the endogenous latent variable "Social Capital" are "SC3 I feel safe in Erzincan ($\lambda = 0.69$; $t = 8.96$)", "SC5 Erzincan people are really honest and trustworthy ($\lambda = 0.67$; $t = 9.47$)" and "SC12 I trust the Turkish legal system ($\lambda = 0.65$; $t = 9.29$)".

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{SCOH} = 0.98 * \text{SWB}, \text{Errorvar.} = 0.032, R^2 = 0.97 \\ (0.17) \quad (0.035) \\ 5.56 \quad 0.90 \end{array}$$

The external latent variable "Subjective Well-being (SWB)" affects the internal latent variable "Social Cohesion (SCOH)" positively and at a very high level ($\gamma = 0.98$; $t = 5.56$). The most important observed variables of the internal latent variable "Social Adaptation" are "SOC6 I want to live in Erzincan for the rest of my life ($\lambda = 0.73$; $t = 5.44$)", "SOC9 I feel a strong sense of attachment to the people of Erzincan ($\lambda = 0.68$; $t = 5.34$)" and "SOC8 I feel valued in Erzincan ($\lambda = 0.67$; $t = 5.33$)".

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{ECONG} = 0.86 * \text{SWB}, \text{Errorvar.} = 0.26, R^2 = 0.74 \\ (0.070) \quad (0.056) \\ 12.21 \quad 4.64 \end{array}$$

The exogenous latent variable "Subjective Well-Being (SWB)" positively and at a very high level ($\gamma = 0.86$; $t = 12.21$) affects the endogenous latent variable "Economic Expectation (ECONG)". The most important observed variables of the "Economic Expectation" endogenous latent variable are "EC1 It is easier to make ends meet in Erzincan ($\lambda = 0.78$; $t = 12.63$)", "EC3 Erzincan will contribute more

economically and socially to me and my family ($\lambda = 0.78$; $t = 12.62$)” and “EC2 The welfare level is high in Erzincan ($\lambda = 0.73$; $t = 11.65$)”.

In Structural Equation Modeling, the fit indexes are used to test the fit between the model and the data set. The closer the fit indices of the model obtained as a result of the analyses to the reference values, the better the fit between the model and the data set used to measure the model (Kline, 2015). Table 3.3 shows the fit indices of the Subjective Well-Being Structural Equation Model.

Table 3.3: Subjective Well-being Model fit indices

Fit index	Reference Values	Value found in the model
χ^2/df	$0 \leq \chi^2/df \leq 5$	3.02
RMSEA	$0.00 \leq RMSEA \leq 0.10$	0.087
GFI	$0.90 \leq GFI \leq 1$	0.90
AGFI	$0.85 \leq AGFI \leq 1$	0.87
NFI	$0.90 \leq NFI \leq 1.00$	0.92
NNFI	$0.90 \leq NNFI \leq 1.00$	0.94
RFI	$0.90 \leq RFI \leq 1.00$	0.94
CFI	$0.90 \leq CFI \leq 1.00$	0.95
IFI	$0.90 \leq IFI \leq 1.00$	0.95

CONCLUSION:

In this study, SWB, which is a multidimensional concept, was considered as a measure of well-being and how it affects immigrants' participation in social life in their new settlements was investigated. SWB is defined as the totality of individuals' positive reactions to life and expresses the scope of positive moods and emotions such as how individuals evaluate their lives, positive moods, being free from anxiety and depression, satisfaction with work and social conditions, and peace felt in the place they live. Since individuals evaluate whether they are happy with their lives or their satisfaction with life with individual value judgments, positive emotion, commitment and meaningfulness are accepted as the three basic elements of life satisfaction or authentic happiness. Individuals' SWB or the actions and emotions they see as positive and good about themselves are evaluated within the scope of "Positive Psychology" and SWB is seen as a cause, not a mere result, of desired situations at work, at school, in health, in relationships and in aging.

High levels of socialization of individuals contribute to their high levels of SWB. The same causal relationship is also valid in the opposite direction, and high SWB also causes high sociability. Individuals with a wide social circle have the chance to have a high level of well-being because they have more friends, family members and acquaintances. Likewise, it is highly probable that individuals with a high level of SWB at the beginning will have more friends, acquaintances and social circles. This causal relationship is also valid for immigrants. Especially forced immigrants can establish high levels of social relations with the host society in their new settlements with a high level of SWB.

The process of adaptation of immigrants to the host society in the place they migrate to is affected by many factors. SWB carries an important weight beyond economic parameters in ensuring social cohesion of immigrants in their new living places and is receiving increasing attention. The basic desires of forced immigrants are to meet their economic needs, have hope for the future, develop social relations and integrate with the people in the new settlement. The effect of SWB of immigrants in achieving these basic desires is worth investigating and has been investigated within the scope of this study.

This study investigated the relationship between the SWB of forced migrants and their social hope, social capital, social cohesion and economic expectations using an empirical method. The universe of the study was Meskhetian Turks who were forced to migrate from the Russian Federation to Turkey

and settled in Erzincan Province. The quantitative data of the study was obtained from a survey conducted with Meskhetian Turks. The survey participants were 269, 138 of whom were male and 131 were female. The analyses of the study were conducted using the Structural Equation Modeling method and LISREL 8.72 and SPSS 21 Package Programs were used in the analyses.

Structural Equation Model (SEM) is used to examine the relationships between structures consisting of many parameters and containing multiple causality. Causal and correlational relationships between latent (unmeasured) variables are investigated within a hypothetical model using the observed (measured) variables with data obtained through different research techniques, primarily the survey method. In the study, SWB was measured with six observed variables and four internal latent variables were predicted under the names of social hope, social capital, social cohesion (adaptation) and economic expectations, which are affected by SWB. It was determined in which direction and how strongly these four internal latent variables predicted by the model affected the “SWB” latent variable, which was accepted as external.

The findings show that the SWB of Meskhetian Turks who were forced to migrate to Turkey is high. SWB includes positive or negative subjective evaluations of individuals about their own lives, feelings and judgments such as joy of living, health, entertainment, work, values, emotions, life satisfaction, interest and responsibility. The structural equation model EFA results showed that Meskhetian Turks settled in Erzincan were “very happy”, “they found life beautiful”, “they were quite satisfied with everything in their lives” and “they thought life was quite rewarding” with their subjective evaluations.

Likewise, the EFA results showed that the swb of immigrants positively and highly affected their social hope, social capital, social cohesion and economic expectations.

The findings determined that swb, as a measure of individual welfare at the microeconomic level, positively and highly affected social hope. Social hope reflects expectations of having better living conditions. In other words, social hope is the belief that there is a social mobility from the lower classes to the upper classes and that it is possible to happen, despite the existing structural restrictions and inequalities. The study findings showed that Meskhetian Turks have a high level of social hope. The subjective evaluations of Meskhetian Turks settled in Erzincan state that they “will not have concerns about the future in Erzincan”, “their lives in Erzincan will change positively over time” and “they are very optimistic about their future”.

SWB also positively and highly affected the social capital of immigrants. Social capital, which is born from mutual recognition and acquaintance and allows individuals to develop relationships in trust, is particularly effective on the hope and life satisfaction of immigrants. The basis of social capital is trust, and Meskhetian Turks settled in Erzincan have great trust in the place they are located, the host people, the country and institutions in general. According to the findings of the study, Meskhetian Turks “feel safe in Erzincan”, “find the host people really honest and reliable” and “trust the Turkish legal system”.

The findings revealed that SWB positively and to a very high degree affects social cohesion. Social cohesion is defined as the absence of social conflict. Social cohesion refers to the existence of strong social ties among the individuals who constitute a society, despite differences in class, religion, sect, gender, race or ethnicity. Cooperation among the members of a society, identification of individuals with each other, the sense of commitment of community members to each other, the sense of belonging to the community and having common values are all achieved through social cohesion. The findings showed that Meskhetian Turks “want to live in Erzincan for the rest of their lives”, “feel a strong sense of commitment to the host community” and “feel valued in Erzincan”. It was determined that Subjective Well-being positively and to a very high degree affects Economic Expectations. One of the main reasons for migration is to escape poverty and achieve economic prosperity. The findings revealed that Meskhetian Turks settled in Erzincan “get along more easily in Erzincan”, “they believe

that Erzincan will contribute more economically and socially to them and their families” and “Erzincan has a higher level of welfare than the countries they came from”.

As a result of the study, the question “If the reasons for the migration of the immigrants are resolved in their own countries, wouldn’t there be a more positive situation for both the sending country, the receiving country and the immigrants?” was reached. In the 21st century, more than 200 million people are migrants outside their own countries. Ecological, economic, social and political problems trigger migration. More precisely, drought caused by climate change, ongoing wars and civil unrest in some underdeveloped and developing countries, economic inadequacy and poverty, political oppression and violence constitute the main reasons for migration. Developed countries accept thousands of immigrants to their countries every year and incur millions of expenses for their integration. Although it may be a utopian situation, if the driving factors that cause migration are resolved at their source, migration will also stop. Investments and developments that will increase the subjective well-being of migrants, which is a measure of welfare in their own countries, will discourage them from migrating. This is possible if developed countries that receive migrants support peace rather than war, aim to protect nature rather than destroy it, provide economic support to underdeveloped countries and make investments that will increase welfare, and resolve political problems in developing countries. Those who will conduct research on migration can reach more objective conclusions if they compare the homelands to which immigrants migrated and the new homelands they settled in after migration in economic, democratic, social and political terms.

Compliance with Ethical Standards

Conflict of Interest: *The study is a single-authored study, and the author declares that he/she has no conflict of interest with other third parties or institutions.*

Ethics Committee Approval: *Erzincan Binali Yıldırım University, Social and Human Sciences Ethics Committee gave approval for this study with its decision dated 25 July 2022 and numbered 07/05.*

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