

## The Relationship Between Refugee Movements and Labor Market: A Case Study On Van Province, Turkey

### Mülteci Hareketleri Ve İş Gücü Piyasası İlişkisi: Van İli Örneği

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*Abstract: Turkey is a critical geography in global and regional crisis on international migration and mobility. The population of refugees coming to Turkey affect various fields such geographic distribution, education, health, security, shelter, which result in both social and economic problems. The aim of this study is to investigate the effects of refugee movements on employment and labor market conditions in Van province, Turkey. A 555-person sample from different nationalities were interviewed using face to face interviews. In the study, four main factors; satisfaction, adaptation, health and income were determined and the relationship between these factors and demographic variables was analyzed statistically. According to the results obtained from the study; Syrians, 46-60 year olds, married, graduate students and refugees who earn 4000 Liras or more are satisfied with the working and living conditions in Van. On the other hand, Syrian refugees were the most satisfied group in terms of adaptation and health conditions, while Iraqi immigrants were the most satisfied group in terms of income conditions*

*Keywords: Migration, Refugees, Turkey, Van, Labor Market, Factor Analysis*

*JEL Classification: C14, C83, J15, J61*

*Öz: Göç, insan ve toplum bilincinde derin izler bırakan ve insanlık tarihi kadar eski olan bir olaydır. Tarihin her döneminde, değişen siyasi, çevresel ve sosyal faktörlerin yanı sıra yaşam koşullarındaki farklılıklar nedeniyle gönüllü veya zorunlu göçler meydana gelmiştir. Birden fazla alana ve sosyal yaşam katmanlarına yayılmış ve küresel bir sorun haline gelen ulus ötesi göç hareketliliği, ülkeleri işbirlikleri geliştirmeye ve kapsamları ve boyutları ile örgütlenme temelinde buluşturmaya zorlamaktadır. Türkiye, küresel ve bölgesel krizlerde ve uluslararası göç hareketliliğinde kritik bir coğrafyadır. Türkiye'ye gelen mülteciler gittikleri yerlerdeki nüfusu ve coğrafi dağılımı; eğitim, sağlık, güvenlik, barınma ve ekonomi gibi çeşitli alanları etkileyerek hem toplumsal hem de ekonomik problemlere sebep olmaktadır. Bu hususlardan biri de, küresel rekabetin sonucu olarak işgücü piyasalarının ihtiyaç duyduğu ucuz ve güvencesiz emek ihtiyacının mülteci işgücü ile karşılanmasıdır. Çalışma kapsamında mültecilerin Van'daki istihdam ve işgücü piyasası üzerine etkileri araştırılmıştır. Farklı uyruklardan oluşan toplam 555 kişi üzerinde yapılan anket çalışmasına göre mültecilerin çoğunun İranlı (n=249) olduğu tespit edilmiştir. Bunu sırasıyla Suriye (n=240), Afgan (n=39), Irak (n=15) izlemiştir ve geri kalanı ise (n=12) diğer ülkelere ait mülteciler olduğu tespit edilmiştir.*

*Anathar Kelimeler: Göç, Mülteci, Türkiye, Van, İşgücü Etkileri*

*JEL Sınıflandırması: C14, C83, J15, J61*

## 1. Introduction

On average, 42,500 people around the world are forced to leave their countries due to conflicts, pressures, and unemployment. According to the report of the UNHCR, the total

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number of refugees worldwide has reached 68.5 million (UNHCR, 2018). This large number of displaced persons creates a global refugee crisis, both socially and economically, especially for countries where they have to migrate. Finally, the Syrian civil war that began in March 2011 has caused a tremendous flow of refugees from Syria to other countries. According to the United Nations (UN), more than 5 million Syrian people have migrated from their countries.

Today, millions of people migrate legally or illegally to certain countries every year, even though governments have taken strict measures to control of foreign nationals entering or leaving their country or within their borders. These migrations occur as a result of economic factors, social and political factors. Because of these factors, migrants mostly prefer to go to European countries or the more developed countries close to the European region. However, both the target and also countries like Turkey are impressed significantly by the flow of migration as transit countries (Duruel, 2017: 207).

In addition to hosting nearly 3.5 million Syrian people, with its current number of immigrants, Turkey has become the largest refugee-hosting country. Concern about the refugees is how these people who are forced to leave their countries will affect the labor market in Turkey (Aygul, 2018: 68).

The demonstrations that began in Daraa on March 15, 2011, spread throughout Syria and resulted in the Syrian regime attacking civilians causing a civil war. The Syrian civil war began eight years ago, causing thousands of civilians to die, and millions of Syrian citizens in need of humanitarian aid, and many of them turned to be a refuge in neighboring countries. The majority of Syrian refugees fleeing the civil war have taken refuge in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt. 3.5 million refugees who fled from Syria fled to Turkey (UNOCHA, 2016). When this number is added to existing refugees in Turkey, it becomes important to evaluate how this affects the economy of the hosting countries and refugee analysis of the current living conditions.

Apart from Syrians, there are also more than 300 thousands of refugees who have temporary protected status in Turkey. The majority of these refugees consist of refugees from countries such as Africa and Asia. Therefore, as a result of the huge population of refugees in Turkey, economic costs in terms of education, health care, public housing have been affected negatively. In this study, the effects of refugee mobility on the economy of Van province and in particular the labor market of Van province are emphasized. The study was conducted on a total of 555 refugees working in Van and agreed to participate in our study.

## **2. Research Outline**

According to UNHCR's report, the total number of refugees worldwide has reached 68.5 million. This large number of displaced and persons creates a global refugee crisis, both socially and economically, especially for countries where they have to migrate. One of these countries is Turkey. In this study, the demographics of the workforce refugees residing in Van, in the east of Turkey, and whether their preference is of significant impact on the labor market were investigated.

The population of the study consists of refugees living in Van. Among these refugees, 555 people working in Van constitute the sample of the study. Refugees living and working in Van constitute the scope of the research. For this purpose, it was aimed to reach all the working refugees and obtain more data, but 555 of them agreed to participate in our study.

Today, millions of people migrate legally or illegally to certain countries every year, even though governments have taken strict measures to control the control of foreign nationals entering or leaving their country or within their borders. These large-scale human migrations have improved in recent years as a result of the country's economy, social deprivation, social conflict and political factors, and have caused some major problems in the countries where they go. One of these countries is Turkey. Therefore, refugees have serious impacts on the Turkish labor market.

### **2.1. Data Collection and Evaluation Tools**

To conduct a questionnaire on the sample of the refugees residing in the city center of Van, the practical way to reach them was investigated and it was determined that they should sign the Van Provincial Department of Migration once a week on Wednesday. Upon this, the institution was contacted and official permissions were obtained for the survey. Since the sample group consists of individuals migrating from different countries, the translators were contacted and necessary explanations were made to the sample group. In this respect, the biggest problem was to convince the sample group that "the study was not aimed at obtaining personal information". For this reason, the study lasted one month longer than the planned period. No specific information was asked on the questionnaire, including the names of individuals. Afterward, questionnaires prepared in Arabic, Persian and English languages and then were started to be applied. After the application, the missing or incorrectly answered measurement tools were left out of the scope of the research.

The questionnaire, which is used as a data collection tool in the study, aims to obtain information on the demographic information consisting of 10 questions and 40 5-point Likert type questions about the local employer, job security, income and living conditions and satisfaction levels of the refugees. 5-point Likert-type questions were formed as (1) agree, (2) partly agree, (3) strongly agree, (4) disagree and (5) strongly disagree.

The data obtained through the scale was analyzed with SPSS 24.0 packet program. The data were analyzed by t-test for 2 independent groups and Mann-Whitney U test equivalent to the abnormal distributions in the parametric binary comparisons with a 5% significance level. Kruskal-Wallis test was performed for nonparametric data in groups 3 and above. Participation in the study was entirely voluntary and attention was paid to ensure that the participants were in the working age.

### **2.2. Estimation Results**

The study was conducted on 555 people of different nationalities. The distribution of the refugees by nationality is given in Table 1.

Table 1. Distribution of Participants by Nationality

<b>Nationality</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Current Rate %</b>	<b>Cumulative Total %</b>
Syrian	240	43,2	43,2	43,2

Persian	249	44,9	44,9	88,1
Iraqi	15	2,7	2,7	90,8
Afghan	39	7,0	7,0	97,8
Other	12	2,2	2,2	100,0
<b>Total</b>	<b>555</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>

*Source: Authors' own calculations*

The distribution of the refugees according to their nationality is given in Table 1. When Table 1 is examined, it is found that the majority of the refugees participating in the study are Iranians (n = 249). This was followed by Syrians (n = 240), Afghans (n = 39), Iraqi (n = 15), and the rest (n = 12) were refugees from other countries

Table 2. Distribution of Participants by Age

Age Range	N	%	Current Rate %	Cumulative Total %
15-25	123	22,2	22,2	22,2
26-35	273	49,2	49,2	71,4
36-45	132	23,8	23,8	95,1
46-60	27	4,9	4,8	100,0
<b>Total</b>	<b>555</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>

The age distribution of the refugees included in the study is given in Table 2. According to the table 2, it was found that most of the refugees (49.2%) participated in the study were between 26-35 years old. This rate is followed by 15-25 young refugees in the age range with 22.2%. When both age groups are taken into consideration, people of this age can be considered as working age in general.

Table 3. Distribution of Participants by Gender

Cinsiyet	N	%	Current Rate %	Cumulative Total %
Female	207	37,3	37,3	37,3
Male	348	62,7	62,7	100,0

<b>Total</b>	<b>555</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,00</b>
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The distribution of the refugees included in the study by gender is given in Table 3. According to the Table 3, 62.7% of the refugees are male and 37.3% are female.

Table 4. Distribution of Participants by Marital Status

<b>Martial Status</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Current Rate %</b>	<b>Cumulative Total %</b>
Single	267	48,1	48,1	48,1
Married	288	51,9	51,9	100,0
<b>Total</b>	<b>555</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>

The distribution of marital status of the refugees included in the study is given in Table 4. As can be seen in the table, the ratio of those with marital status is married (%51.9) and the proportion of those with marital status is single (%48.1).

Table 5. Distribution of Participants by Education

<b>Education Status</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Current Rate %</b>	<b>Cumulative Total %</b>
Secondary School	102	18,4	18,4	18,4
High School	93	16,8	16,8	35,1
Associate Degree	120	21,6	21,6	56,8
Bacheolar Degree	165	29,7	29,7	86,5
Master Degree	75	13,5	13,5	100,0
<b>Total</b>	<b>555</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>

The distribution of the educational status of the refugees included in the study is given in Table 5. As can be seen in the table, the ratio of refugees with university degree and associate degree is highest with 51.3%. Therefore, it was found that the majority of the participants were educated individuals. This rate is followed by secondary school with 18.4%. According to their educational background, the lowest rate is master degree with 13.5%.

Table 6. Distribution of Participants by Income Level

<b>Income Level</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Current Rate %</b>	<b>Cumulative Total %</b>
0-1404 TL	330	59,5	59,5	59,5
1405-2000 TL	144	25,9	25,9	85,4
2001-3000 TL	57	10,3	10,3	95,7
4001 TL ve üstü	24	4,3	4,3	100,0
<b>Total</b>	<b>555</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>

As seen in Table 6, the majority (59.5%) of the refugees included in the research stated that they had earned 0-1404 TL. The rate of those who stated that they earn 1405-2000 TL is 25.9. The lowest number of refugees with income of TL 4001 or more (4.3%).

Table 7. Distribution of Participants by Highest Expenditure

<b>Expenditure Items</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Current Rate %</b>	<b>Cumulative Total %</b>
Rent	456	82,2	82,2	82,2
Health	12	2,2	2,2	84,3
Education	36	6,5	6,5	90,8
Clothing	6	1,1	1,1	91,9
Other	45	8,1	8,1	100,0
<b>Total</b>	<b>555</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>

The distribution of the refugees in the scope of the research according to their expenditure items is given in Table 7. As can be seen in the table, the majority of the refugees included in the study (82.2%) stated that they spent money on rent. This ratio is followed by other expenditures with 8.1% and Education expenditures with 6.5%. Only 1.1% of the participants stated that they spend on clothing.

Table 8. Distribution of Participants by Reason of Work

<b>Reasons of working</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Curent Rate %</b>	<b>Cumulative Total %</b>
Covering education costs	57	10,3	10,3	10,3
Buying/Renting Home	357	64,3	64,3	74,6
Covering Health / Pharmaceutical Costs	9	1,6	1,6	76,2
Other	132	23,8	23,8	100,0
<b>Total</b>	<b>555</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>

The distribution of the refugees included in the scope of the study according to their working reasons is given in Table 8. According to table, the majority of the participants (64.3%) stated that they are working for Buying / Renting a house. Apart from the reasons given in the table, 23.8% of the people stated that they were working for “Other” reasons. Only 1.6% of the participants stated that they were working for “Covering Health / Drug Expenses olarak as the reason for the study.

Table 9. Descriptive Statistics of Items of the Scale

<b>Items</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Standard deviation</b>
I'm suffering from a shortage of livelihoods.	555	<b>3,7622</b>	1,35441
I'm happy with my workplace.	555	2,8703	1,48706
I am satisfied with the employer	555	2,9081	1,43223
There is a parallel between the place where I work and my profession	555	2,6865	1,53548
I'm having trouble with my colleagues	555	2,8108	1,30296
The working hours are the same as the other employees	555	3,1568	1,48992
I feel safe where I work	555	3,0054	1,43897
I get the same fee as my colleagues	555	2,4865	1,44879
I was getting more where I came from	555	3,2649	1,67790
There are enough sectors in Van where refugees can work	555	2,1027	1,34133
I work seven days a week	555	3,1676	1,48874
Because of economic difficulties, more than one person should work in a household.	555	3,7351	1,37924
Since I am an immigrant / refugee, I find it difficult to find a job	555	3,5459	1,53909
The people of Van are sensitive to the economic problems of refugees	555	3,2378	1,55258

I am paid more than the minimum wage where I work.	555	2,7351	1,40268
My family's monthly income is enough to make a living	555	2,4595	1,36323
My family's monthly income is not enough to cover my expenses	555	3,2541	1,43152
Most of our monthly expenses go to rent and food	555	<b>3,9514</b>	1,30334
Where I migrated, my monthly income was higher	555	3,5730	1,56605
Job opportunities are better in Van where I migrated.	555	3,3459	2,54723
While the artisans of Van provide jobs, we give priority to refugees	555	2,5135	1,51839
In Van, employers provide us with the same opportunities as their citizens.	555	2,5135	1,33151
I think my situation will be better in the future.	555	2,9676	1,52124
I think my situation will be better in the future.	555	2,9676	1,52124
Life is more expensive than the city of Van where I migrated	555	2,4054	1,39213
I have trouble at work due to my nationality.	555	3,1946	1,43897
After migrating to Van, I have a problem of adaptation where I live.	555	3,4541	1,31434
I find it difficult to find a job because of where I migrated.	555	3,3838	1,50317
I often get aid from government agencies.	555	2,3297	1,43876
The people of the neighborhood I live in provide financial support to us.	555	2,5568	1,54929
The services where I migrated were better than here.	555	3,3892	1,31459
Speaking Turkish offers refugees better job opportunities in Van.	555	3,6973	1,36144
I can save due to the economic development of Van province.	555	2,0811	1,27642
I have the opportunity to do the same job in Van.	555	2,4432	1,47378
The place where I work meets my food and travel expenditures	555	2,4432	1,33851
My children have to work because of the economic hardship.	555	3,0162	1,51971
I do not have difficulty in adapting to the socio-cultural structure of Van.	555	3,4811	1,30672
I am benefiting enough from the health services in Turkey.	555	<b>3,8595</b>	1,37593
I am satisfied with the health services in Turkey.	555	3,7351	1,31054



I can supply medication when I have a health problem.	555	3,6919	1,32992
I take advantage of the Psychological support service when I need it.	555	3,0432	1,63131

Participant averages and item standard deviations regarding the scale items are given in Table 9. According to the scale the three highest average values were determined as “The biggest part of our monthly expenses goes to rent and food” (avg. = 3.95)", "I am benefiting enough from the health services in Turkey "(avg. = 3.85) and "I'm suffering from a shortage of livelihoods"(avg= 3.76). The lowest average value among the items of the scale was determined to be “I can save due to the economic development of Van province” (average value = 2.08).

Table 10. Kruskal-Wallis Test Results Regarding Whether Factors of the Scale Are Different According to the Largest Spending Item

	What is your biggest spending item?	N	Rank avg.	Chi-square	prob
Satisfaction	Rent	456	273,57		
	Health	12	200,00		
	Education	36	229,25	<b>34,206</b>	0,000
	Clothing	6	169,25		
	Other	45	397,20		
	Total	<b>555</b>			
Adaptation	Rent	456	284,66		
	Health	12	287,75		
	Education	36	171,75	<b>22,214</b>	0,000
	Clothing	6	151,25		
	Other	45	309,80		
	Total	<b>555</b>			
Health	Rent	456	271,15		
	Health	12	110,00		
	Education	36	277,50	<b>49,432</b>	0,000
	Clothing	6	144,50		
	Other	45	410,40		
	Total	<b>555</b>			
Income	Rent	456	269,57		
	Health	12	73,25		
	Education	36	317,50	<b>43,902</b>	0,000
	Clothing	6	278,00		
	Other	45	386,40		
	Total	<b>555</b>			

According to the results in Table 10, it was concluded that the sub-factors of the scale differed statistically according to the “biggest expenditure item” item (all Chi-Square values were determined as significant at 1% statistical significance). According to this result, for example, the biggest expenditure item, rent spending, greatly affects the foreign workforce satisfaction, compliance with the business conditions and income level. That is, it is possible to say that while high rents have a negative correlation with the scale items, otherwise a positive correlation will occur between them.

### 3. Discussion and Conclusion

Migration is a phenomenon that leaves deep marks on human and social awareness and is as old as human history. In every period of history, voluntary or compulsory migrations occurred due to changing political, environmental and social factors as well as differences in living conditions (Deniz, 2008: 3). Transnational migration mobility, which has spread to multiple fields and social life layers and has become a global problem, forces countries to develop cooperation and bring them together on the basis of their scope and dimensions and organization. Located in the center of the turbulence, Turkey is a critical geography in global and regional crisis on international migration and mobility. The refugees coming to Turkey leads to both economical and social problems by affecting geographic distribution, education, health, security, shelter where they go. One of these issues is to meet the need of workforce with cheap and precarious labor done by refugees as a result of neoliberal flexibility policies and ultimately global competition. Within the scope of the study, the effects of refugees on employment and labor market in Van were investigated.

In addition to the Syrians are under the temporary protected status in Turkey, there are also more than 300 thousand refugees from the countries such as Africa and Asian countries. Due to its impact on many areas of social life as well as being a global problem, transnational migration mobility forces countries to develop policies and collaborate on the basis of local and national, regional and international scales. The size of the refugee population in Turkey, education, health and economic burden of various public social services such as housing, due to the refugees regional concentration of national security in terms of risks, such as permanent settlements and experienced compatibility problems due to increased social interaction are issues that need to be addressed. One of these areas are refugees, particularly the impact on Turkey's economy and job market. Refugees, one of the main actors of the cheap and precarious workforce, cause countries to change their current employment relations.

- Turkey located in the center of international migration, is seen as a source of destination and transit country. A sending country with immigration of workers between the years 1950-1970, Turkey is now a country that has most refugee population. The migration waves that caused the process are as follows:
- Asian countries such as Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar and African countries such as Somalia, Sudan, Nigeria are the waves of migration involving people leaving their countries for survival. In order to go to United States, Canada and European Countries, in both waves of immigration (East-West, North-South) Turkey serves as a transit country.
- Another migration mobility because of Turkey's strong economic structure is the "shuttle trade", being made by the people who have taken a work permit or are people

who have entered Turkey through illegal ways. Especially migrant from Moldova, Ukraine, Romania, Georgia, the Eastern Bloc countries or people from Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan in Central Asia chose Turkey as a country of destination for various reasons.

- With the international integration process that occurred as a result of globalization and the shorter distances between countries, individuals and groups were provided with the freedom of communication and travel.

On the other hand, Syrian refugees who are temporarily under protection and emigrate due to the Syrian Civil War are another of these waves of migration.

Because of migration, Turkey's economy has been influenced both positively and negatively. Our study investigated how the refugees in Van province had an impact on the Van market and in what ways they caused negative results. The research was carried out on a total of 555 people of different nationalities. When the distribution of the refugees included in the study is analyzed according to their nationalities, it is determined that most of the refugees are Iranian (n = 249). This was followed by Syria (n = 240), Afghan (n = 39), Iraq (n = 15) and the rest (n = 12) were found to be refugees from other countries. Considering the age distribution of the refugees included in the research, it was found that most of the refugees (49.2%) were between the ages of 26-35. This rate is followed by 22.2% with young people aged 15-25. Considering both age groups, it can be concluded that people at this age are generally working-age. According to scale items "Most of our monthly expenses go to rent and food" (avg. = 3.95), "I am benefiting enough from health services in Turkey" (mean = 3.85) and "I'm suffering from a shortage of livelihoods" (mean = 3.76) were determined as to have the highest average value. When the opinions of the participants are evaluated in line with these three statements; it is seen that the participants are the most important determinants in their working preferences. The lowest average value among the items of the scale was determined to be "I can save due to the economic development of Van province" (average value = 2.08).

Although studies have been conducted in the literature about the effects of refugees on the labor market of the countries they visit, the studies have been conducted on optional compulsory migration in general rather than forced migration. The common conclusion of these studies is that their effects on the countries they visit are limited. Due to the prediction that the Syrians will stay on temporarily to Turkey, it has been pondering a lot on this subject at first. However, with the transience becoming permanent and the number of Syrian refugees exceeding millions in the following periods, their effects have started to be felt in every field and academic studies have been started in this field. Especially in 2015, Syrian refugees studies began to emerge since Syrian refugees to Turkey's labor market effects. Studies reveal substantially similar findings (Binatlı and Esen, 2016: 5).

In a study made by Ceritoğlu et al. on the effects of refugees on the Turkish labour market in 2017, they found that they had some effects, though limited, on the labor market, but did not have a significant impact on wages, and limited employment losses were observed in the local population working as a result of the refugee flow. In the study, there was a slight increase in unemployment rates and registered employment, and labor force participation. Informal employment rates also decreased in line with this. According to the study,

unregistered refugees in Turkey has affected the labour market adversely (Ceritoğlu, et al., 2017: 1).

Balkans and Tumen made a study on the effects of Syrian on Turkey economy. According to this study, they found that refugees supply cheap, informal labor, hence pushing unregistered local workers, especially in sectors where the informal workforce is intense, and they face the risk of unemployment (Balkan ve Tumen, 2016:2). Similar results were obtained in our study.

Akgündüz et al. examined the effects of Syrian refugees on food, housing prices, domestic migration movements and employment in the 10 cities in which they live intensively, and it was determined that there was no significant change in food prices, but housing prices increased in the studies that used the remaining 71 cities as control variables (Akgündüz , et al., 2015: 2). Similar results were obtained in our study. Looking at the expenditure items of the refugees, 82.2% of the refugees stated that they spent the money they earned on rent, and it can be concluded that the increase in renting and buying home in the recent years in the province of Van is associated with the population of refugees.

In ORSAM's 2015 study to determine the effects of net internal migration, foreign trade, unemployment, wage level, food and rent inflation, education and health services in the provinces of Southeast and South Anatolia, where the number of refugees is high. In the study, it was determined that foreign trade volume in some provinces increased, education services were negatively affected, unemployment rate increased in the informal sector, and it caused food and rental inflation (ORSAM, 2015: 9).

In studies about whether refugees exercise their profession in their host countries in Turkey or not, they have stated that they can not do their jobs in Turkey. Unable to continue their profession in Turkey, migrants have been forced to work in jobs rather than their profession (Aksoy, 2012: 294-295 ). Similar results were obtained in our study. In our study, most of the refugees included in the research stated that they could not perform their professions here and worked in jobs other than their own qualifications. When we look at the nationalities of the refugees who participated in our study, it was found that Syrian refugees were in the second (n = 240).

However, the situation of immigrants who are perceived as a threat due to the deterioration of the structure of the labor market due to their cheap labor force is not unique to Syrian refugees. The main point of the theory, migration is driven by the demand for a low level of workforce for jobs that local workers do not accept (Lordoğlu and Aslan, 2016: 789). In this context, it has been determined that Syrian refugees are an opportunity for Turkish industrialists. As stated above, asylum seekers mostly carry out jobs that Turkish citizens do not accept and in this sense make a significant contribution to the economy. For this reason, Syrians do not eliminate the job opportunities of the local people, but on the contrary, they close the gap in sectors that require unskilled labor (Koyuncu, 2016: 115).

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