



The Syrian Refugees' Entrepreneurship Activities in Turkey: Gaziantep Case

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Abstract

After a civil war that started with street demonstrations in Syria and the end was uncertain, millions of people left their countries and migrated to different countries. All the countries of the world are witnessing one of the most serious migrations in human history. The majority of the people who emigrated from Syria took refuge in Turkey. The Syrians were given temporary protection status in Turkey. As the world's most refugee-hosting country, Turkey has maintained its humanitarian attitude towards Syria's the human tragedy. Syrians entrance to Turkey, stay, some legal regulations related to their official status have been made. Education policies have been strengthened to ensure the integration of Syrians into social and economic life. By solving the problem of language and through vocational courses improving the employment policy in Turkey, the doors of business and investment world are opening for Syrian refugees in Turkey. The national and international business activities, investments, and bank deposit accounts of Syrian entrepreneurs play an important role both in terms of contributing to the country's economy and normalizing the life of Syrians.

Keywords: Syrian Refugees, Entrepreneurship, Integration

1. Introduction

Migration is a fact that affects human life in all aspects. Moving people to a different region or country by leaving their country for political, social, economic, religious, and other reasons explain the concept of migration.

Nearly 8 million Syrians, who escaped from the civil war that started in Syria in 2011, are trying to survive in the countries where they migrated to meet their basic needs such as housing, nutrition, health, and education, especially security. Migration in Syria is one of the biggest movements of migration in the history of the world. Nearly 4 million Syrians emigrated to Turkey, Jordan, Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, and Europe.

The geographical distribution of Syrian refugees in Turkey varies. For this reason, living conditions, commercial activities, and social integration of Syrians varies according to the region where they live. Most of the Syrians who immigrated to Turkey have settled in the Southeastern Anatolia Region because this region is close to Syria, and they have economic, social, and cultural relations coming from the past. Southeastern Anatolia Region, where intensive migration is experienced, has been affected by the social, economic, and cultural consequences of migration.

Within this study's scope, migration of the Syrians to Turkey, the reasons and consequences of this migration, effects on the economy of Turkey, which started to develop especially as of 2011, and views of local people on the social and economic conditions of Syrian refugees are examined. In Gaziantep, where the Syrian migrants are heavily settled and engaged in commercial activities, how businesses have been affected by migration, the marketing policies, and trade strategies implemented by the Syrians are examined. The effects of migration on the commercial activities of local tradespeople were also examined. This study consists of 3 chapters:

In the first chapter, the definition of entrepreneurship concept, its importance, scope, advantages in global competition, economic development, social and economic dimensions in development are examined.

In the second chapter, by evaluating migration reasons of Syrian refugees in Turkey, general assessments about the conditions and refugee profile, commercial activities in Turkey, economic initiatives, investments, and threats on the Turkish economy, opportunities, and impacts on local communities are examined.

In the third chapter, the trade of Syrian refugees in Turkey, the employment areas, the employment conditions, the effect of this subject on the local people's working conditions, and both positive and negative effects on the Turkish economy and employers are examined. The marketing policies and strategies that Syrian refugees use in their commercial activities in Gaziantep, where Syrians

emigrate heavily, are examined. This research concluded that if the Syrians' commercial activities are managed with the right policies, they can be an opportunity rather than a threat to the Turkish economy. However, it is concluded that Syrians' employment, in general, has positive and negative effects on the labor market.

Chapter A

2.1. Entrepreneurship

The concept of entrepreneurship is examined in an individual and conceptual meaning. In particular meaning, entrepreneurship is establishing one's own business and the realization of a business idea and turning it into an investment. In an organizational sense, a business can adapt to change, to innovate, to lead change and innovation, to love the competition, and to have the ability to take risks. These characteristics are extremely important for a company to maintain continuity in the sector, strengthen its corporate identity by maintaining its current structure, ensure sustainability in quality, and gain competitive advantage. In today's world, especially in developing economies, entrepreneurship is an issue that companies with corporate identity give great importance. Entrepreneurship is a social, economic, cultural, and social value. Entrepreneurship has different meanings as a concept as it is shaped according to these characteristics of societies. In an organizational sense, entrepreneurship gains meaning according to each country's cultural, social, economic infrastructure and social needs. In the individual sense, entrepreneurship is shaped by the environment in which the person grows, the family environment and the profile of entrepreneurs in the family, the education system, the values, traditions, and culture of the society (Ahmadi, 2018: 2-5).

The concept of entrepreneurship is defined in many different ways, and day by day, new definitions are emerging. Technology is developing day by day, and as a result, different concepts related to entrepreneurship such as digital entrepreneurship and innovative entrepreneurship emerge. Encouraging our environment in business and transforming the existing opportunities to start a business is about the entrepreneurship concept. Entrepreneurship starts primarily in mind. The desire of individuals to work individually, the need to create a working system according to their own rules, the idea of creating social value, and the desire to create opportunities for himself and his environment economically increase the number of entrepreneurship activities in the society.

Entrepreneurship may be defined as producing a new product or service with the idea of starting a different business with existing resources. It is also part of entrepreneurship to offer consumers an innovation by adding a new feature to the existing product. In this sense, it is necessary to know the market's requests and needs and society well for the realization of entrepreneurship (Özeroğlu, 2018: 1-6).

As the concept of entrepreneurship gained importance in society, the encouraging feature of this concept on individuals, especially on children and young people, was started to be examined by academicians. Comments and observations made as a result of researches conducted by different people have caused to different definitions of entrepreneurship concept. When the reasons that lead to entrepreneurship are examined, it is stated that the geographical structure, the family structure in which the individual grows, the presence of entrepreneurs in the family, the financial situation of the family, the education system and environmental conditions play a very important role. In addition to these factors, personal characteristics, gender, age, dreams and goals of the individual seem to be important.

However, one's creative thinking skills, motivation for innovation and change is one of the issues raised by different researchers that it is an effective factor in the realization of an initiative. Entrepreneurship ecosystem is expected to have new factors and determinants day by day because with the effect of globalization, technology is entering more and more in our lives, our living conditions and expectations are changing and the communication speed is increasing. When the relationship between target behavior and the entrepreneurship activities of individuals in society is examined, it is seen that the concept of entrepreneurship has different definitions in theory and practice. All of these increase the potential of entrepreneurship to realize in economic and social terms. However, in addition to the realization numbers of entrepreneurship, when the sustainability of the initiatives is examined, it is seen that there is not the same success performance. As well as, there are many different reasons for this, one of the most important reasons is that entrepreneurs have problems in managing finance and human resources (Ekici, 2016: 7-10).

When the balance of power of the global economy and its effects on economic and social development are examined, it becomes evident that entrepreneurship is one of the most important building stones. Enterprise with high added value changes the current economic structure and plays an important role in the positive development of the economy.

Entrepreneurs, which determine the size of the economy and increase the competitiveness of the countries in economic success, will make more exports, create corporate vision and act as role models for the development of countries with their national and international commercial activities (Taş, 2016: 2-7).

2.1.1. Definition and Scope of Entrepreneurship

The concept of entrepreneurship, which can be examined in different ways in the literature, has different meanings. Entrepreneurship is a process that consists of different activities and processes, realized and managed by individuals with the idea of entrepreneurship, and which entrepreneurs implement with the idea of taking risks and observing opportunities and creating social and economic value. This process, which entrepreneurs plan by implementing and controlling after providing the necessary financial and human resources by planning, is affected and influenced by different factors.

Today, the rapid expansion of technological developments, the rapid transformation of the world into a small market and the impact of globalization, forces entrepreneurs to change, transformation, development and innovation because entrepreneurs are the most important part of this global change and structuring (Sağtaş, 2013: 1-8).

Realized initiatives create value for countries and economies. Entrepreneurship is an important process about being an alternative solution to unemployment, in management, creativity and innovation, and in gaining competitive advantage of companies in national and international market. When the history of the concept is examined, it is seen that it comes from the French word "entreprendre". The concept of entrepreneurship, which means "undertaking, initiating, attempting", was used by John Stuart Mill for the first time in English literature while describing the person doing business during the Middle Age. The concept of entrepreneurship that the British first used in the 19th century was defined as; "to follow the opportunities, to realize the ideas by facing the risk factors" (Sezgin, 2014: 1-9).

Entrepreneurship activities that increase as a result of globalization and technology development create social value with the impact on economic development, but also reveal that enterprises create social benefits. In this sense, it is possible to state that some of the enterprises are compulsory and some of them are realized by considering opportunities. When the relationship between entrepreneurship and social welfare is searched, it is seen that one or two approaches are examined. One of them is that entrepreneurship takes place within the framework of mandatory measures and provides economic and social

satisfaction; the other one is an enterprise that focuses on satisfactions related with job in line with general criteria (Wiklund, 2019: 582-584).

In brief, entrepreneurship literature covers sub-disciplines of sciences such as economy, sociology and psychology, and subjects of economics and business science such as management, human resources, organization. Since this is a wide range of subject, many researchers, writers and academicians have studied the concept of entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurship, which is the implementation process of the idea of starting a business, consists of important stages such as producing, changing existing production, developing, innovating, developing by supporting development and employment (Beybur, 2009: 5-10).

2.1.2. Importance of Entrepreneurship

Economic growth and development are closely related to the development of industry. However, entrepreneurship to develop the economy depends on the specialization of individuals in their areas of interest, the increase in their knowledge, skills and experiences and the development of competencies. There are many factors to consider when trying to understand the importance of entrepreneurship.

While starting an enterprise it is necessary to observe opportunities, to benefit from these opportunities, to take steps by making plans at the point of implementation, to run rules and procedures, and entrepreneurship needs to be motivated by developing skills. The most important benefit of entrepreneurship is the role of these factors on the economic development of countries and their impact on increasing the competitiveness of enterprises by increasing the capacity of businesses (Kapur, 2018: 1-6).

The importance of the entrepreneurship concept has increased with the transformation of the industrial society to a scientific society. The concept, which has been tried to be defined by many different theorists, is a subject that has drawn attention and that has been studied in literatures such as business and economics. With entrepreneurship, individuals realize their goals and dreams. Entrepreneurship contributes to increase the self-confidence of individuals by providing social motivation, to provide solutions to individuals' own unemployment problem, to create jobs for other people and to decrease unemployment and increase employment.

However, it contributes to the creation of qualified manpower in the society by enabling enterprises to increase their competitiveness, to start production with

high added value, to increase their production and foreign trade capacities and to train expert personnel in their fields (Güner, 2010: 5-15).

When the entrepreneurship is examined with its socio-economic, political and cultural dimensions and results, it ensures that the economic infrastructure of the countries is formed on the right ground, and that the existing structure develops and reaches world standards. In this sense, issues such as state policies, relations with other states, financial support and education system are important in the development of entrepreneurship. It is very important for young people and women to transform their business ideas into initiatives, and to raise awareness of children's groups about creativity and innovation through the education system. These factors, which are important in carrying out the initiative, ultimately affect the nature of the initiative and the economy, development and elimination of inequalities between regions. Starting from this point of view, it is necessary to take into account the benefits and damages of enterprises by evaluating in terms of quality and quantity together (Bozkurt et. al., 2012: 230-238).

2.1.3. Definition of Entrepreneur

When we look at the researches about the concept of entrepreneurship, we see that there are different definitions of entrepreneurship. For this reason, it is possible to say that entrepreneur has different definitions. An entrepreneur is the person who realizes the need and combines all the necessary factors during the production to meet that need and makes them ready for production and service. Entrepreneur creates economic and social value while trying to meet the needs. An entrepreneur can produce a new product or service, as well as can make an improvement in existing product or service conditions. As well as entrepreneur has necessary personal characteristics to accomplish these, there are external factors that direct the entrepreneur to realize the initiative (Çırpan, access date: 15.05.2019).

The concept of entrepreneurship is as old as the history of humanity and has been a decisive factor in the development of people and the changing of living conditions. People who have been hunting, gathering, farming, trading and farming to survive since the early ages show that entrepreneurship begins with human history. Entrepreneurship has gone through many different processes until today's modern techniques are reached.

Theoretically, anyone can start an enterprise. An entrepreneur is a person who decides to do his or her own business, focuses on a specific problem and tries to find a solution, and decides to change something about this problem.

It is stated that every individual who has an idea may be an entrepreneur, but when the characteristics of the entrepreneurs are examined, it is noteworthy that they have some innate features. When we examined the individuals, who searches the unknown and tries to understand it, who loves to solve problems, and who is able to solve the problems, we see that they have some innate features (Aşkın et. al., 2011: 57-66).

2.1.4. Features of Entrepreneur

In today's world, with the increasing awareness of entrepreneurship, the number of initiatives is increasing. When the initiatives are evaluated qualitatively, it is seen that the quality of the entrepreneur also shapes the quality of the initiative. It is observed that entrepreneurs have common characteristics as well as specific characteristics and these are an important factor in the success and continuity of enterprises. First of all, entrepreneur is a person who has high perception sense of opportunities, can take social risks and decisions, is brave, not content with the existing, curious, searches, can analyze problems, think analytically and is willing to meet the needs by solving the problems (Bozkurt et. al., 2012: 9-11).

Entrepreneurs are in all areas of life. Entrepreneurs are people who start their own businesses. Those who choose to work independently and freely have difficulty accepting to work under the direction of someone else. Entrepreneurs also tend to take the initiative to create a social and economic benefit by considering the benefit of society.

There are different types of entrepreneurship, such as women entrepreneurship, academic and social entrepreneurship, strategic and artistic entrepreneurship, and therefore an entrepreneur definition and feature emerges according to each type of enterprise. The features of the entrepreneur can be listed as follows (Özdevecioğlu and Cingöz, 2009: 81-92).

- They recognize a problem and need in the society, they eliminate the need by solving the problem and they turn it into a profitable business,
- They organize a team while carrying out the initiative and their team spirit and communication are strong,
- They can provide the necessary resources.
- They can solve the problems patiently and wisely.
- They can take risk and decision.
- They have the ability of process management.

2.2. The Role of Entrepreneurship in Global Competition

When the concept of globalization is examined, it is seen that it is based on ancient times. Globalization is an advantage for businesses around the world in terms of competition, which follows the latest technology and makes it necessary to compete national and international rival companies about creativity and innovation. In this system, to protect the current situation of enterprises, not to lose in the competitive environment and to avoid inefficiencies as a result of competitors' pressures, is possible for the enterprises which pay attention and manage the change.

Globalization is not a new concept, but it has started to be important with the beginning of the capitalist system. Economic conditions have become difficult, consumer demands have changed dramatically, businesses have had difficulty in finding new markets as well as having difficulty in maintaining the market share of the products they produce.

With the renewal of technology every day and the advancement of different technological products and artificial intelligence technology, enterprises have almost the same technological infrastructure. For this reason, competition conditions have changed and its negative impact on enterprises has been felt more clearly. To challenge in these conditions, it is very important for enterprises to increase corporate entrepreneurship of enterprises, enter the process of change in the definition of vision and mission value, supply the needed human resources and increase the quality of the existing human resources. Entrepreneurship, innovation and research and development is a concept that strengthens businesses and economies against globalization (Aslan and Atabey, 2007: 181-190).

Entrepreneurship is an economic as well as a social phenomenon. It has an active and active role in the strengthening of the economy and also plays an important role in the realization of social welfare and socio-economic development in the society. It is seen that conscious entrepreneurship is remarkably important in social integration of people, development of personal characteristics, increase of added value and quality in production.

Entrepreneurship contributes to the economic and social development of countries. Entrepreneurship requires taking risks. These risks are not only economic but also social risks. Entrepreneurs spend time and effort to create value. In this process, businesses and individuals need to have innovative attitude. Entrepreneurship has continued in different forms to maintain its

existence since history. Nowadays, there are many various forms which shape entrepreneurship.

If entrepreneurship, which is accepted worldwide, is focused on the right needs at the right time, the countries will not be dependent on foreign economies, become active in foreign trade, export increases and foreign trade deficit will be narrowed. For this reason, societies should establish their economic systems with the right strategies, and should be organized and institutionalized by considering the balance between production and consumption (İlhan, 2004: 71-80).

2.3. Importance of Entrepreneurship in Regional Development

Entrepreneurs have very important roles and responsibilities about improving the social and economic conditions of societies and balancing the development rate between regions. For the above mentioned developments, qualified and need based entrepreneurial activities should increase. With entrepreneurship, new jobs and working areas emerge and employment is provided. In this sense, it can be stated that entrepreneurship can be considered as an alternative policy to unemployment.

Since entrepreneurship has such a significant positive impact on development, governments should support to develop entrepreneurship. Government promotions in providing financial resources are among the factors supporting entrepreneurs. However, the education system plays the most important role in creating a culture of entrepreneurship in a country.

The balance of investments to be made in the country is an important factor in explaining the impact of entrepreneurship on development. Development, growth, structural reforms in production, technological production, technological change, creating and strengthening corporate identity, sustaining improvement and change; all of these are possible if entrepreneurship has required qualifications (Pektaş, 2014: 472-480).

Today, day by day, there are many changes in production conditions, social, political, economic relations and economic mentality. Concepts such as labor and capital are the forces of the economy. However, these forces which are not sufficient today are completed by entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation features. As of the 20th century, entrepreneurship is having new developments. These developments have shaped production and led to the emergence of work types and labor needs in different fields. In micro and macro economies, entrepreneurship is an important concept that reduces unemployment, strengthens production, causes countries to start commercial activities in the

international arena and even prepares the ground for increasing the existing capacity and supports development in every sense.

With entrepreneurship, social differences and riches are experienced. Another important feature of entrepreneurship is that individuals gain self-confidence, gain experience in process management, and become a role model for other entrepreneurs (Topkaya, 2013: 31-40).

Chapter B

3.1. Syrian Refugees in Turkey

Turkey is an Asian and European country because of its geographical location. Turkey has taken a strategic task between two important continents since history. Connecting Europe and Middle East countries to each other increases the economic and political importance of our country. Attitudes and reactions of our country about internationally important events are carefully monitored, and it is affected by the events in the surrounding countries. Due to its strategically important position, Turkey has been affected by international crises socially, politically and economically, and had to produce strategic policies in times of crisis. Throughout history, Turkey, affected by the crisis, is a country experienced in what kind of policy it should follow.

War in Syria, which is one of Turkey's most important neighbor, has economic, social, political and cultural impacts over Turkey. The political stability in Syria has shaken especially after the Arab Spring. The political structure is one of the most important determinants of the political stability within a country. A democratic regime, constitutional frame and relative income equality are the elements feeding the political stability (Akbiyik and Özek, 2019: 1745). Since most of these elements were inadequate in terms of modern democracy, the upheavals in Syria turned in to a civil war. Due to the civil war, a great number of Syrians emigrated to Turkey. This migration is one of the most painful migrations in human history, and it has many consequences about the future of Syria, Turkey and other counties. The number of Syrians migrating to our country is increasing every day due to the lack of hope of a political solution in the near future, the continuation of the same political attitude by the Syrian administration, and the inadequacy of the policies of the major international countries in providing solutions for the Syrian problem (Neccar, 2016: 185-190).

Turkey is implementing the Open Door Policy. Because of this policy, Syrians who comes to Turkey from the border, has "Temporary Protection Status " Syrians who immigrated to Turkey has a low chance to turn back, because the

civil war which is hoped to finish is becoming more violent day by day. Because of the reasons such as the uncertainty about when the civil war will end and the inadequate international policies to prevent uncertainty about the fate of the civil war, it requires detailed analysis of migration from Syria in all aspects of socio-economically, legally and socially.

With the policy it implemented, Turkey protects nearly half of the refugees migrated from Syria. According to the data of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the number of Syrian refugees in 2014 is as follows;

Table 1: Distribution of Syrian Refugees by Country, UNHCR, November 2014

Country	Number of Syrian Refugees
Lebanon	1.132.601
Turkey	1.065.902
Jordan	618.508
Iraq	223.923
Egypt	140.289

Reference: TÜİK (Turkish Statistical Institute)

The social and economic dimension of Syrian refugees is closely related. Especially a great majority of Syrians who migrated into big cities of Turkey has better financial possibilities. Those who have financial difficulties have been settled to the refugee camps which established in some regions of Turkey. These policies also affected the economic and social life of Turkish citizens. Large scale researches show that the point of view about Syrians varies in Turkey. Some groups define Syrian refugees as “religious fellows”, while others define them as “temporary guests” (Kap, 2014: 30-35).

Syrians who leave their country in the hope of a better and safer life and migrate to different countries continue their lives according to the opportunities offered to them in the countries they migrated. Within that period, in which Syrian refugees struggle against difficulties such as change of geographical conditions, different language, changing eating habits, cultural differences and economic difficulties, and refugee policies and economic and social structure of the countries where they emigrated also shape their living standards. On March 15, 2011, after arising of the Syrian crisis, hundreds of Syrians migrated to Turkey, and they created their living conditions with their own means. Some of them solved

their own unemployment problem by establishing business in Turkey, and some of them settled in the refugee camps with their own means. Syrian refugees have created different effects in the countries they migrated in the political, socio-economic, cultural and traditional terms. In Turkey, where nearly half of the migrating Syrians live, many researches done by many national and international organizations, and these researches are continuing with field works. It is necessary to analyze the migrating of Syrian refugees, the war that is going on in Syria and the reflection of the crisis to Turkey with a right strategy. Reactions coming from other countries about the policies which determined by Turkish Laws, internal effects, consequences of migration in Turkey and the conditions of Syrians in Turkey, has changed the general economy, growth rate, development, living standards of Turkish citizen and the cultural structure of the society (Tunç, 2015: 29-35).

3.1.1. Entrepreneur Profile of Syrian Refugees in Turkey

Since international migration is mostly because of a compulsory reason, the acceptance of immigrants is considered as a humanitarian situation. With migrations as old as human history, people have migrated from their countries for different reasons. They been accepted by the world's countries, including Turkey. International migration has consequences such as unemployment, economic contraction, increased incidents of social violence and socio-cultural conflict. All countries that accept immigrants have these concerns. Returning of the Syrian refugees to their country who migrated to Turkey seems to be quite difficult in the short term. For this reason, human resource profile of the existing Syrian refugees and future refugees must be determined. It is important to search the positive and negative effects of this about national economy and to transform this existing human resources into human capital that will create added value. In this direction, by doing field works, it is necessary to analyze the profile of the Syrian refugees in Turkey, their specialties must be determined, and by directing them to the right working areas economic and social benefit must be gained.

By employing the Syrian refugees in the right area, economic benefits and development will be ensured, living conditions will be improved, their quality of life will be improved and positive results will be gained about their integration with social life.

A great majority of Syrian refugees in Turkey live in Gaziantep. Gaziantep is the 6th most populated city in Turkey, almost 18% of the Syrian refugees live in Gaziantep. Gaziantep, where agriculture, industry and service sector is

developed, is the right place for research and fieldwork to learn about the general profile of Syrian refugees (Sönmez and Mete, 2015: 235-239).

Turkey is the host country of the many Syrians who fled from the war in their country. According to the United Nations, the number of Syrians in Turkey is more than 1.7 million as of March 2015, and when unrecorded Syrians added to this number it is thought that this number will be much higher. Foresight of the Turkey about Syrian refugees was that the war would end soon, but after the conditions in Syria worsened Turkey is forced to do more long-term and strategic policy regarding the Syrian refugees. In the period when conflict in Syria began, immigration laws works to meet EU standards was on the agenda of Turkey. Turkey's managing performance of migration from Syria to Turkey is affected negatively from this situation. As a result, in the beginning, this process could not be managed with strong policies. Some refugee policies, whose number is increasing day by day, about the conditions and social integration of the refugees in Turkey must be analyzed by Turkish authorities. At the beginning of the crisis there was not so many refugees migrating to Turkey. After crisis grew, the policies followed by the governments accelerated the migration from some regions. Because it is not estimated that Syrians would stay in Turkey for a long time, they did not focus on permanent solutions, and the refugees have been settled to the camps. At the beginning of 2013, the majority of Syrian refugees lived in camps, the number of people outside the camps increased as conditions changed and migration increased (İçduygu, 2015: 2-7).

3.2. Entrepreneurial Activities and Impacts of Syrian Refugees in Turkey

Today, cross-border movement of migration, which has become a global problem, forces countries to cooperate and develop their cooperation in terms of its effects and consequences. Turkey, due to its geographical location, is in the center of regional crises and cross-border migration, as well as global crises. For this reason, Turkey has been affected by the crises and their consequences throughout history.

Although the people who migrate from the conflicting environment in Syria are granted temporary protection status, the endless conflicting environment in Syria obliges them to establish a new life in their new places. Economic and social conditions of the Syrians, the geographical distribution of the population, education and social integration shape their commercial activities in Turkey. Effects of Syrian's entrepreneurial activities in the labor market and employment areas on "labor force of Turkish citizens" and Turkey economy are being searched.

Table 2: Labor Force Statistics of Immigrants

Year	Unemployment Rate (%)	Employment Rate (%)	Labor force Participation Rate (%)
2012	11.4	46.1	52
2013	11.1	46.6	52.4
2014	12.7	46.3	53
2015	12.8	44.4	50.9
2016	12.6	43.9	50.2

Reference: Compiled from OECD data set. (Organisation for European Economic Cooperation)

Syrian migrants should be classified according to their education, expertise and technical competencies and qualified human resources should be created. In this manner, Syrians will create added value to Turkey economy instead of being a financial burden (Aygül, 2018: 29-72).

Table 3: Household Labor Force Statistics

Year	Unemployment Rate (%)	Employment Rate (%)	Labor force Participation Rate (%)	Unregistered Employment Rate (%)
2010	11.9	43	48.8	43.2
2011	9.8	49.9	49.9	42
2012	9.2	45.4	50	39.2
2013	9.7	45.9	50.8	36.7
2014	9.9	45.5	50.5	34.9
2015	10.3	46	51.3	33.5
2016	10.9	46.3	52	33.4
2017	10.2	48	53.4	34.7

Reference: Compiled from TUIK data set. (Turkish Statistical Institute)

It has been prepared by using different indicators that the refugees who are employed should be considered as threat or opportunity;

- Refugees working with low wages negatively affected the wage perception in the market by employers and caused wages to fall.
- As it is understood from Table 3, there is no big fluctuation about unemployment rate between 2010-2016. Before the civil war began in Syria unemployment rate is %11.9, as of June 2017 unemployment rate is %10.2. However, unregistered employment decreases with each passing year. In summary, employment of refugees limitedly effected Turkey's labor market.

Table 4: Household Labor Force Statistics in Gaziantep, Hatay and Şanlıurfa Provinces

%	Gaziantep			Hatay			Şanlıurfa		
	Unemployment Rate	Employment Rate	Labor force Participation Rate	Unemployment Rate	Employment Rate	Labor force Participation Rate	Unemployment Rate	Employment Rate	Labor force Participation Rate
2010	13,4	39,3	45,4	13,9	43	50	12,4	31,1	35,5
2011	14,4	37,2	43,4	12,7	43,4	49,7	8	32,1	34,9
2012	11,2	39,2	44,2	11,4	43,1	48,6	6,2	28,5	30,4
2013	6,9	43,6	46,8	12,2	40,3	45,9	16,3	32,4	38,7
2014	8	39,7	43,2	15,4	36,7	43,3	17,4	35	42,3
2015	9,9	38,8	43,1	16,4	35,8	42,8	17,5	36,1	43,7
2016	14,3	38,7	45,2	14,4	39,4	46	17,2	37,4	45,2

Reference: Compiled from TUIK data set. (Turkish Statistical Institute)

• When Table 4 is analyzed, the indicators in terms of labor statics in Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa and Hatay (provinces with high numbers of refugees) between 2010-2016 are not positive. Employment rates of Syrian refugees have negatively affected the unemployment rate in Gaziantep. The evaluation of Kilis within the scope of the relevant region has a great impact. Unemployment rate of Hatay and Şanlıurfa is above average of Turkey. The economic and social structure of the region also has an impact in this sense.

Table.5: Unregistered Employment Rate in Turkey

	Agricultural	Non-agricultural	Industry	Service	Construction	General
2010	85.47	29.06	32.68	27.11	0	43.25
2011	83.85	27.76	31.5	25.71	0	42.05
2012	83.61	24.51	27.89	22.73	0	39.02
2013	83.28	22.4	25.23	20.9	0	36.75
2014	82.27	22.32	20.26	21.09	36.61	34.97
2015	81.16	21.23	19.13	20.05	35.58	33.57
2016	82.09	21.72	20.2	20.35	35.75	33.49

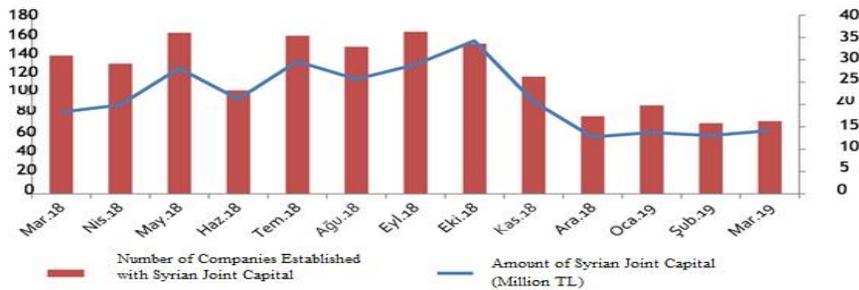
Reference: Compiled from the data of the Social Security Institution (www.sgk.gov.tr)

•When Table 5 is analyzed, unregistered employment is the highest in the agricultural sector. Generally, unregistered employment rate in 2010 is %43.25, but this rate decreased every year, and it is %33.49 in 2016.

•When global competition is taken into consideration, qualified human resources and safe employment areas can be created with the right policies and effective strategies about cross-border migration movement (Aygül, 2018: 73-79).

Due to it's location, Turkey "is" tend to be affected by crises. Therefore, it is crucial to state that the Syrian crisis gave experience to Turkey about producing policies on cross-border migration and implementing policies effectively and efficiently in accordance with existing laws. Commercial activities and employment areas of Syrian refugees change according to their distribution in Turkey. Regionally, economic and social development also affects the commercial activities and initiatives of refugees. The opinions of the universities, official institutions, authorities in the region and institutional or individual efforts about refugee employment also affect the refugees about being a threat or opportunity.

Figure 1: Number of Companies Established with Syrian Joint Capital and Amount of Syrian Joint Capital (Million TL) (March 2018 - March 2019) (Source: TOBB, TEPAV Calculations)



In March 2019, 73 companies were established in which Syrians are shareholders (capitalist). Total Syria joint capital amount of this companies is TL 14.1 million. In March 2018, the number of Syrian companies in which the Syrians were shareholders was 139, while total Syria joint capital amount of the companies was 18.5 million TL.

Table 6: Number of Companies Established with Syrian Joint Capital by Provinces (March 2019)

	Company Number	Total Capital (Thousand TL)	Syria Joint Capital (Thousand TL)
İstanbul	49	12,2	8,303
Mersin	17	4,75	3,515
Bursa	2	1,6	1,6
Hatay	2	450	50
Adana	1	300	300
Yalova	1	300	300
Antalya	1	150	75

Reference: TOBB, TEPAV Calculations (Turkish Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges, Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey)

According to March 2019 data, the highest rated city in the number of companies established with Syrian joint capital is Istanbul.

Note: In March 2019, companies with Syrian joint capital were established in only 7 provinces.

The cost of refugees is increasing. As the need for humanitarian aid increases, so does the expenses of Turkish institutions. Considering the moral benefits that cannot be explained in numbers, Turkey's humanitarian attitude should be taken as an example by other major countries.

When wealthy refugees and those who has saving came to Turkey, they also brought their commercial relations by using a legal or illegal methods. Investments of these refugees in Turkey, their bank deposit accounts and their commercial activities is an opportunity for Turkey. The need for labor in skilled or unskilled working areas and in areas where local people do not want to work is also met by Syrians. However, refugees are seen as financial burden to Turkey economy, they contribute to the regional economy mobility, because the necessary goods and services about humanitarian aid are met from the country market, it contributes to the economy (Aygül, 2018: 77-79).

Syrians who came to Turkey to escape the war, are struggling for life in different cities of Turkey. Some of them live in camps with the help of government, while others are trying to gain ground with their commercial activities and investments in the economy of the cities where they live.

Table 7: Ratio of Companies Established with Syrian Joint Capital to foreign Joint Capital Companies by Provinces (March 2019)

	Syria Joint Capital Number of Companies	Foreign Joint Capital Number of Companies	Rate (%)
Mersin	17	39	43.6
Yalova	1	4	25.0
Adana	1	5	20.0
Hatay	2	22	9.1
İstanbul	49	688	7.1
Bursa	2	43	4.7
Antalya	1	64	1.6

Reference: TOBB, TEPAV Calculations (Turkish Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges, Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey)

When we look at the ratio of companies established with Syrian joint capital to foreign joint capital companies by provinces, we see that %43 of the foreign joint capital companies in Mersin are Syrian joint capital companies.

Syrians who took refugee from the civil war in Syria to Turkey and who wants to turn their cash resources into an investment, they provide employment opportunities for refugees as well as local people. Syrians, who started commercial activities with service and production in textile, construction and

logistics sectors, are mostly carrying on activities in İstanbul, Mersin, Şanlıurfa, Bursa and Gaziantep.

When analyzed on sector basis, it is seen that Syrian joint capital companies are concentrated on wholesale trade sector.

With the land allocation protocol between Syrian Businessmen and Entrepreneurs Association (SIAD) and Şanlıurfa Organized Industrial Zone, Syrian investors will establish many factories in Şanlıurfa Organized Industrial Zone and contribute to Turkish economy (Hürriyet, 2018)

Table 8.: Sectors in which Companies Established with Syrian Joint Capital (March 2019)

Activity Description (Nace Rev. 2)	Number of Companies	Total Capital (Thousand TL)	Syria Joint Capital (Thousand TL)
Wholesale Trade	23	6,700	5,400
Real estate activities	9	3,500	2,685
Administrative center activities; Administrative consultancy activities	7	1,120	540
Retail Trade	6	1,420	1,250
Building construction	5	700	600
Wholesale and retail trade and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	3	1,600	950
Manufacture of clothing	3	1,400	497
Travel agency, tour operator and other reservation services and related activities	3	1,000	670
Manufacture of leather and related products	3	250	225
Food and beverage service activities	2	500	275
Manufacture of fabricated metal products	2	250	250
Installation and repair of machinery and equipment	1	300	300
Rental and leasing activities	1	300	150
Special construction activities	1	200	100
Storage and supportive activities for transport	1	200	100
Other professional, scientific and technical activities	1	200	100
Manufacture of furniture	1	100	50
Manufacture of textile products	1	10	1

Reference: TOBB, TEPAV Calculations (Turkish Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges, Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey)

Turkey economy had a good period between 2000-2012. During that period per capita income grew 3 times, and Turkey became a up middle income country.

Poverty decreased by half. After the global financial crisis ended in 2008, Turkey has created 6.3 million jobs, but the increase in the labor force, including the active participation of women, unemployment was around 10%.

Because of its location, the biggest factor affecting economic growth in Turkey is regional geopolitical tensions and political environment in the country. In conjunction with Syrian refugees, unemployment rate in Turkey changes over the years. The unemployment rate in Turkey in September 2016 has increased from 10.30% to 11.3%. Non-agricultural unemployment also increased by 1.3% and the unemployment rate between the ages of 15 and 24 increased by 1.4%. While refugee camps are being established, 85% of Syrian refugees in Turkey left these camps and has found a job in the formal and informal markets. Turkey did not allow refugees to work legally until January 2016. Since most of the Syrian refugees were regarded as temporary protected foreigners, they did not have the necessary work permits to work in official industries.

Especially, refugees with highly specialized professions, such as doctors or lawyers, had to seek low-skilled jobs in the informal market that paid less than the minimum wage because they did not have a license to perform their profession.

Low-skilled Syrians in the informal market have blocked similar skilled Turkish workers and have increased unemployment by about two points in the areas where they worked. The government's restrictive work permit policy and the policy of issuing regional permits that only force refugees to work in their communities have accelerated the increase in labor supply to a particular area, rather than allowing workers to work to different markets and sectors. Refugees who are not employed in their specialized areas have to rely on state aid or find illegal employment.

However, the net impact on the demand for official labor is uncertain. Assuming that the formal and informal workforce are substitutable, the increase in the supply of informal workers will reduce wages, lead to more companies to employ informal workers and reduce the demand for informal labor. On the other hand, lower production costs will lead to higher demand for registered workers. The reason of this is; because there will be more demand for specific products, which is the result of more procurement needs, and this will cause formal workers (Kuyumcu and Kösematoğlu, 2017: 78-81).

3.2.1. Entrepreneurship Activities of Syrian Refugees in Southeastern Anatolia – Example of Gaziantep

Hundreds of thousands of people have lost their lives and hundreds of thousands of people have emigrated from their countries with the influence of global powers and the surrounding countries in the process of street conflicts in Syria, which started with demonstrations, and became an endless war. Gaziantep, Hatay, Mardin, Kilis, Şanlıurfa and Kahramanmaraş, which borders Syria, have been subjected to intensive migration. Gaziantep and Kilis are the cities most affected by this civil war which is a great human drama. These two cities, their population is mostly Turkmen, are different from Antakya, Şanlıurfa and Mardin.

When the commercial activities of the Syrians are examined, it is seen that at least one of the migrant family members is working. Family members, many of them are children, work part-time or full-time in daily, weekly or monthly works to cover housing costs and to cover basic nutritional costs. It is easier for people who has professions such as tailoring and plumbing to find a job and earn money.

The commercial activities of Syrians in Turkey is in accordance with different strategies. One of these strategies is to work as peddlers, this job does not need a regular place. Since the commercial activities of the Syrian refugees living in Gaziantep are informal, their way of employment is; temporary, irregular and low-wage. Syrians who are in the position of employers make their living by renting small places, and working as doner shop, grocery store, telephone service or repair shop.

In addition, there are Syrians selling Syrian bread, cigarettes, handkerchiefs, sugar and food products on the sidewalks. Although they do not open a stall on the sidewalk, there are also those who earn their income with daily jobs. Some of the Syrians started to use Latin letters when the Arabic signs were banned by the municipalities, and they fly Turkish flags in their workplaces, and they started businesses, usually restaurants, only serving for Syrians (Deniz & al. 2016: 1077-1084).

Refugee entrepreneurship is a subtitle of entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurship, regardless of its type, is a concept that has economic, social and cultural consequences. Refugee entrepreneurship is not a concept that has been widely researched and studied in the international literature. In Turkey, there are no detailed studies on this topic, after Syrians lost their hope to turn back to their country, they started businesses, they made investments and they took active role

in business life, and as a result of this refugee entrepreneurship is started to be studied (Deniz, 2017: 7-11).

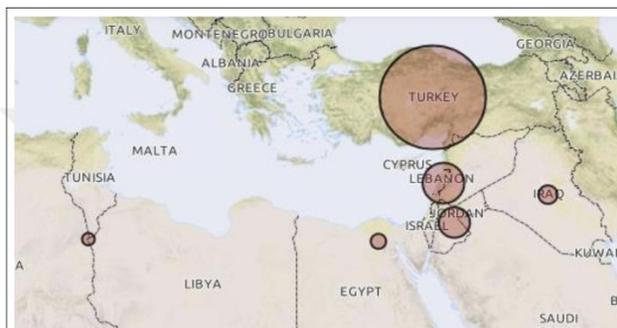
Table 9: Purpose of Syrians to Come Turkey

	Total	Total Percentage	Men	Women
Escape From War And Internal Disturbance	192	72,3	73,4	57,5
Job	36	13,6	16,1	7,5
Education	26	9,8	7,0	18,7
Treatment	5	1,9	2,0	6,2
Visiting relatives	6	2,3	1,5	10

Gaziantep and Kilis are the provinces where the Syrian refugees live the most and where they do business actively. The fact that Gaziantep is close to Syria and the opportunity to work is seen as reasons for Syrians to prefer Gaziantep to live and work.

As it is understood from Table 9 the reason of intensive migration to Turkey is to escape the war. The number of people coming to Gaziantep due to education is approximately 10%. The high number of universities in Gaziantep also has an effect (Gümüş, 2018: 45-60).

Figure 2: Regional Distribution of Syrian Migrants



Reference: [Http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php](http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php) Date fo Access: 17.05.2019

The majority of the Syrian refugees who have moved from Syria to Gaziantep have a profession. When the distribution of professions is examined, craftsmen, tailors, teachers and shoemakers rank first among the 154 profession types. When

we look at the profile of Syrian refugees working in Gaziantep, it is understood that they are insufficient about the motivation and adaptation to Turkish economy, and they started to trade in this way. Since border provinces such as Gaziantep are heavily affected by the transnational migration movement, workers are employed in these provinces with low wages and their purchasing power is negatively affected.

When the economic dimension of the Syrian migration crisis, which is one of the most dramatic crises of the 21st century, is examined, Turkey has made 4.5 billion dollars expense from the beginning of the crisis until November 2014. On the other hand, refugees, who has capital, moved their capital and savings to the countries to which they migrated. A research report has revealed that Syrian businessmen moved their factories to Turkey. In 2013, Syrians' businesses in Turkey increased three times. While the number of Syrian firms registered in Gaziantep Chamber of Commerce was around 60 before the war started, this number has increased to 209 today (Sandal et. al., 2016: 462-471).

Chapter C

4.1. Social View to Syrian Entrepreneur Refugees in Turkey

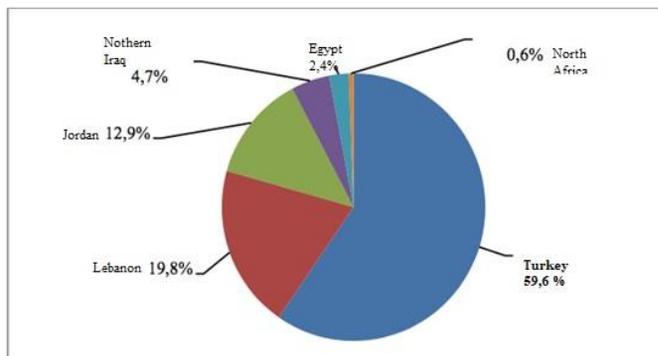
Because of its geographic location, Turkey is an experienced country about transnational migration that took place certain periods. As of 2011, in Syria the conflicts that started with street demonstrations turned into a civil war. Mass migration which is the result of these conflicts has socio-economic, social and political consequences, and these consequences affected the Turkish people in all regions where Syrians emigrated. The main areas of life such as the development of the Turkish economy, per capita income, social welfare, and cultural activities changed after the coming migration wave from Syria. Syrian refugees have had negative effects on the Turkish economy and social life, and Turkish people are concerned about the high number of refugees and the low chance of returning to their countries in a short time.

Syrians cost to Turkey are very high about the main areas of life such as housing, nutrition, education and health. The silence of Great powers such as the United States, United Nations and European Countries about the humanitarian drama in Syria, is caused this issue to be perceived as Turkey's internal matter, and Turkey is left alone in a difficult situation. Humanitarian attitude of Turkey is about migration issue is accepted by Turkish people, but, the reasons such as uncertainties about the end of the war, negative reflections on the economy, unregistered employment of refugees, low wages and security problems and

violence causes Turkish people to take a negative attitude towards the Syrian refugees (Canyurt, 2015: 129-131).

Turkey is not the only country which has been affected by transnational migration from Syria, neighboring countries of Syria also has been affected from this. According to UNHCR data of 2017, total Syrian refugee population migrated to in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Northern Iraq and North Africa countries, is 5.116.097. Within those countries, Turkey has the most intensive immigration rate.

Figure 3: Distribution of Syrian Refugees by Country in the Region, (Source: UNHCR, 2017)



As a result of the research conducted to reveal the problems of the Syrian refugees who do not prefer to live in the camps and their social, economic and political effects on the life of the Turkish people;

- There were increase of price in housing and rent in the provinces where the Syrians are intensively populated and this situation disturbed the local people.
- In a house, 3 or more families had to live together and this affected the public negatively.
- Nutritional problems have arisen due to insufficient financial conditions, which endanger public health.
- There has been an increase in the number of patients in hospitals as Syrians, benefiting from health services free of charge, go to hospitals intensively, and the insufficient technical staff and physical conditions of the hospitals affected the local people negatively. Their health expenses are also a burden on the economy.

•Syrian children living outside the camps and who have a residence permit are enrolled in public schools. Only one third of Syrians can go to schools, but even this number has created economic, cultural and social problems. Local people are not pleased with this situation.

•In accordance with the Law No. 4817 about Work Permits, Syrians who have work permits are employed in different sectors. The fact that the Syrians who are able to work dependently or independently, without registering, and working at low wages caused Syrians to be preferred by employers. The cheap labor force negatively affected the employment of local people and caused the unemployment rates to rise. Local people who can not find a job after graduating from university, are concerned about their future, and they are uncomfortable with this situation (Yılmaz, 2017: 29-42).

4.1.1 Marketing Strategies and Integration of Syrian Refugees into Economic Life

Interior Ministry Immigration Authority General Directorate has announced that as of August 2018 the number of Syrians granted temporary protected status in Turkey is 3 million 542 thousand. Most of the refugees coming from Syria have settled in Turkey. The adaptation of migrants to social and economic life will be possible only by solving the language problem. In this sense, although there are Turkish courses initiated by different institutions such as universities or private schools, it is not enough to achieve adaptation. It is thought that solving the communication problem or granting work permits are not enough for holistic integration.

The ease of integration in a country where a migrant community settles depends on whether all people living in that country are ready for it. When considered from this point of view, Turkey is not ready for the situations such as mass migration of Syrians and getting citizenship and work permit. Because of that, Syrian's adaptation to the economic, social and cultural life in Turkey is difficult.

However, for Syrians, who has capital and saving, it is not difficult to establish a new life in Turkey. It is possible to say that adaptation of Syrians, who start their own business, start trade and invest, is easy to the socio-economic life (Karakaş, 2018).

The fact that prejudgment against Syrian refugees rises mostly on the economic background, leads researchers to examine the strengths and weaknesses of Syrians integration. When the reasons of the opinion that the refugees have negative effects on the economy are examined, it is concluded that this cannot

be achieved with a unilateral assessment. Information about the positive or negative effects of refugees on the economy should be analyzed and interpreted correctly. When field studies, analyzes and reports about this subject are examined with a holistic approach; it is seen that there will be contradicting and matching consequences about the impact of refugees on unemployment, inflation, public expenditure, economic growth and development. Detailed and extensive research on refugee initiatives, investments, commercial activities and its economic and social impacts on society has recently been conducted. As a result of these studies, the integration of refugees into economic life and the results of their commercial activities are as follows;

- With the migration of Syrians, demand for services and products increased in the Turkish economy and the economy recovered.
- The Syrian people have strong emotional ties with Iraq. After the migration, Syrians' establishment of businesses or working in existing jobs, especially in border provinces such as Gaziantep, increased trade with Iraq.
- Since gap of labor force on unqualified business lines in Turkey are met by Syrians, this has a positive impact on the growth of the Turkish economy.
- Employment of Syrians, who have a bachelor's or master's degree and are fluent in Arabic and English, in the exporter companies of Turkey, which turned it's direction to Middle East counties, has affected the exports of companies positively.

In general, we can say that, Syrians' employment, who are forced to leave their countries because of a civil war, with the right policies and investment incentives, may be an opportunity for Turkey's economy not a threat (Özipek, 2018: 14-20).

4.2. Problems of Syrian Refugees in Entrepreneurship

Turkey is subjected to transnational migrations which are the results of global crises. Most recently, in 2011 after the civil war in Syria, there has been a mass migration to Turkey. The main problems faced by Syrians are that they do not know the language spoken, that their living standards are different, that the socio-cultural economic conditions of the country they migrated are very different, and that they have to create financial resources by holding on to life. Adaptation of Syrian male refugees to life is easier because they can get a job, and the children do not have big problems about adaptation because of the education they received in schools.

Therefore, it is possible to state that women face the biggest integration problem. It can be said that the refugees who establish a bond with the social life easily overcome the language problem and their adaptation is easier. Those who do not have language problems earn their living by doing business, solve their unemployment problem and create working areas.

As well as communication problems, Syrians have problems in health, education, housing and employment. When the commercial activities of the Syrians are examined, their working sectors in Turkey is different from Syria. In addition to this, Syrians, who were working in their field of expertise in Syria, usually works in agriculture and construction sectors in Turkey.

The problems faced by Syrian refugees in commercial activities vary according to the conditions and economic development of the region and cities they lived. But since the main problem is to make their living by creating cash resources, starting to trade or being employed is the basic need. The most important problems of the refugees are their low wage unregistered employment and their inability to seek legal solutions about the problems they faced (Duruel, 2017: 59-63).

5. Conclusion

The crisis after the civil war in Syria and the problems arising as a result of this crisis have reached serious dimensions at national and international levels. About half of the Syrian population has been exposed to internal and external migration. Since the current situation in Syria does not give a clear idea about when the war will end, the current situation is not expected to be resolved soon. The number of people emigrating from Syria is increasing day by day due to insufficient international policies to solve the problem.

Since the start of the war in 2011, Turkey still maintains its humanitarian stance, and make improvements about the existing laws related to policies regarding refugee crisis.

It is possible to say that refugee policy of Turkey get changed extremely as a result of the migration from Syria. Social and economic integration of Syrian refugees changes according to the area they settled in Turkey. In this sense, Turkey aims to accelerate the adaptation of refugees to life by reviewing policies about improving conditions related to education, health, employment and housing. It is concluded that Syrian refugees will contribute to economic development of Turkey and solve their unemployment problem by obtaining official status and work permit, and turning their capital into investment. In addition to this, it is

observed that Syrians want to create economic value in their commercial activities with proper marketing and commercial strategies.

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