


Chapter 2

The Impact of COVID–19 on the Vulnerable Groups: Refugees and Labor Migrants–Based View

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ABSTRACT

The chapter deals with the most acute situation of the 21st century caused by a new type of infectious disease called COVID-19. It highlights the situation of such vulnerable groups of society as refugees, asylum seekers, and labor migrants, which even worsens their tough living conditions. In an alarming time of global crises like the COVID-19 pandemic, major international actors are calling for increased protection of the most vulnerable groups, including victims of trafficking, migrants, and refugees, and advocate greater access to healthcare for all people regardless of their social and migration status.

INTRODUCTION

Millions of people cross state borders in search of a new place of residence or work, for study or various types of internships, for rest or medical treatment, fleeing political, national, racial, etc. persecution or environmental disasters. Here, it is important to note that migration between countries includes not only irretrievable migrants, migrant workers, and refugees, but also students, businessmen, etc., including tourists, given that short trips usually precede subsequent long-term migrations. These and other types of migration movements are often combined into the concept of international migration of population. There is hardly any country which managed to escape from migration flows and sharp modern contradictions between national and foreign citizens expressed in the growth of social tension in places of concentration of migrants, caused, in particular, by the intensification of competition in national labor markets, increased racial and national hostility, xenophobia, etc.

The relevance of the topic is also explained by the great impact of international migration on the population, and will be one of the important demographic processes for the demographic development

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of individual countries and regions of the world. At the same time, we are talking not only about the impact on the dynamics of the total population of a particular region of the world, or an individual state but about deeper demographic changes, including for humanity as a whole (Iontsev, 1999). Since ancient times, the population has been characterized by the desire to migrate, or relocations from one country to another, from one continent to another, in other words, from one place of residence and employment to another. From the very inception of human history, these migrations were considered one of the most important types of population movement, the essence of which was that a certain part of the people or tribe stood out from a more or less closed union and created a new center of human culture.

Here we have to say that international migration of the population is one of the factors in improving the health of the world's population, which is achieved as a result of the "mixing" of nations and nationalities, thus improving the genetic fund of all mankind. However, these people are in great danger and appear in a very tough and insecure situation during the new and very dangerous challenge which faces the modern world, the unknown for mankind disease called COVID 19.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The tutorial *Methodology and Study Methods Migration Processes* edited by Zh. Zayonchkovskaya, I. Molodikova, V. Mukomel (2007) and published by the Center for Migration Studies focuses on methodological and methodological issues in the study of population migration. Moreover, it shows the Western approaches to the study of migration and describes the sociological approaches to the study of migration, and as well as the highly developed migration theories; highlights the methodological and practical aspects of studying integration migration, with its legal aspects of interdisciplinary study. The book is focused on the migration policy, its management, and the proper ways to represent migration processes.

The book *Migration Processes in the European Union: Contemporary Problems and Challenges* edited by O. Trofimova (2019) examines the existing situation in European countries, as well as the impact of high migration, flows on individual structural components. The book shows national features of the regulation of migration processes in each European country. Moreover, it assessed the effectiveness of the EU supranational policy. It deals with the social, economic, and political challenges associated with the growth of migration from the Middle East and the problems of their adaptation and integration into the host communities. Here the most important is that the authors explain certain theoretical approaches such as classical migration theories, modern and European theories of migration.

Policy Brief: COVID-19 and People on the Move the report issued by United Nations (2020) describes the tough situation of such vulnerable groups of people as migrants, refugees, asylum-seekers, and internally displaced persons (IDPs) which is worsened by the COVID 19. The study is mostly focused on the three aspects of their lives: a poor health care situation and their limited access to health services. The first is due to the following obstacles: legal, because many of them have entered the country illegally, and language, as most of the newcomers do not know the language of the hosting country). Then second is cultural aspects and their severe socio-economic conditions; and the third is insecure lives.

United Nations Development Program, *Human Rights Due Diligence, and COVID-19: a Rapid Self-Assessment for Business* (2020) gives us a valuable review and assessment of the socio-economic upheavals caused by the global spread of COVID-19, which occurs in times of acute inequality and environmental volatility. The study highlights that the pandemic strongly affects especially vulnerable

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