



**Session 76:
Linkages between internal and international migration**

Does Rural Outflow of Labour Contribute to Inflow of Immigrants?

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Extended Abstract

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At first glance, regarding migration in general, two layers of concepts surrounded the available models. There is macro/micro dichotomy as well as internal / international dichotomy. To date, there have been a few studies that attempt to bridge these two levels or to explore the linkage between the different categories of mobility. This case study is an attempt to highlight the linkage between the internal / international dichotomy.

In what context some people move out (internally) in order to take the manual jobs in the cities and some others move in (internationally) to take their place and to do the manual jobs in the rural sectors that have been left behind? Or how over time the gap created by the out migration is filled by those who are not domestic? Why the villagers, who experienced migration, despite the relative economic perspectives, have no desire to come back? How does this phenomenon can be explained with available theories? These are the questions that deserve attention.

Internal migration occurs at varying rates in every country. When we talk about internal migration in Iran, it means mainly the rural-urban migrations, and when we talk about international migration influx, it mainly refers to the immigration of the citizens of neighboring eastern countries, particularly from Afghanistan. In this study, we focus on an internal site (Bouinzahra county and Khiaraj village (figure 1), which is located in the province of Qazvin in Iran) as one of the origins of internal outflows and as an attractive region (even clandestinely) for low-skilled immigrants.

Drawing on the quantitative and qualitative data, the study aimed to treat the migration flows across this site over the past four decades. Therefore, it is conducted at county and rural level.

Figure 1. Field study location: Bouinzahra and Khiaraj in Qazvin province - Iran

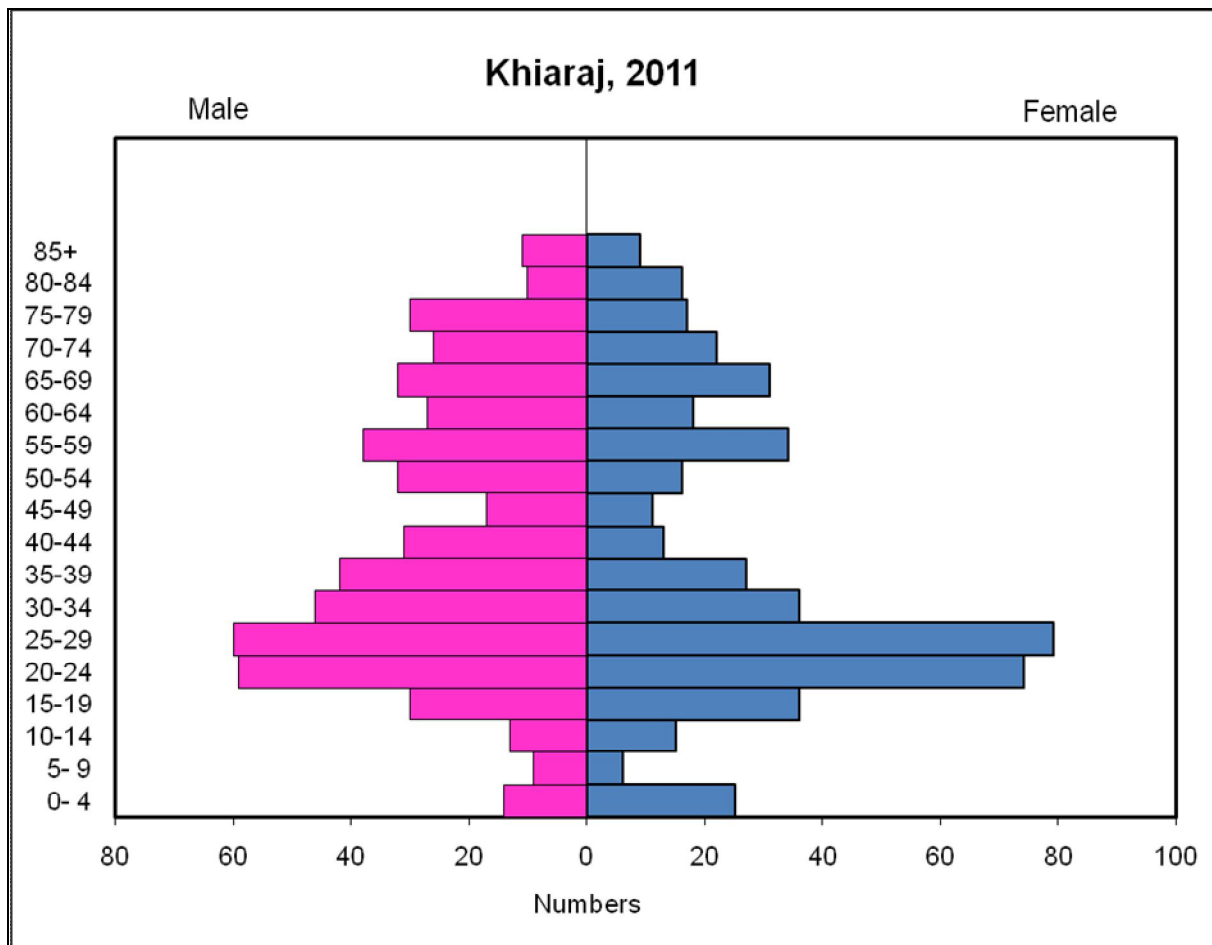


Given that there are some evidences (the site of this study and in some other regions the world) that internal and international migrations intersect somewhere or contribute to the inflows of low skilled immigrants into the rural regions, We argue that the processes of rural out migration in the long run, can cause immigrants inflow in opposite direction to rural area.

Demographically speaking the findings demonstrate that the population under study faces significant demographic changes. Since the majority of rural migrants are male, young, and better educated, the remaining population has concentrated in women and the elderly; to extent that according to the last

census (2006), the sex ratio is about 92 males per 100 females and even some primary and secondary schools have closed due to the population decline of this village. (See figure 2).

Figure 2. Population pyramid of Khiaraj, 2011 (A typical example)



As Weeks (2007) has pointed out, age pyramids show how the age and sex distributions in an area reflect the history of that area and reveal important socio-economic differences. The Population in the Bouinzahra villages and especially Khiaraj village experienced out-migration and certainly its age and sex structure has altered to varying degrees as a consequence. As shown in figure 2, women outnumber men. When one looks at the last pyramid of

Khiaraj in 2011 (a typical example in this study), the first thing which attracts attention is a huge indentation around the three first age groups and middle age groups. However, this indentation does not correspond to the mortality but to the adults who depart. The impact of migration is feeling also directly and indirectly through its influence on reproduction, because these young adult migrants have been of prime childbearing age. The narrow base built of pyramid shows this history. In other words, this fact brought about a substantial reduction in birth rates.

A major finding is that while the predominant reasons of the outflow from rural areas are declared as unemployment or the search for better jobs and the desire to improve the conditions of life, on the other side an interesting phenomenon has appeared and surprisingly this site became attractive to immigrants not for the relative prosperity of the region but to fill employment openings. In other word, the gap left by rural workers moving out is filled by workers not from other parts of the country but remarkably by afghan immigrants.

In the end, we argue that where there are evidences of the linkage between the rural outflow and the inflow of immigrants, there is a potential for creating new category of study of internal and international migration, both at the theoretical and the empirical level. Is this a multistage issue that first occurs within the country and then occurs between the countries?