

Filipino Migrants' Resettling Journey: The Ups and Downs

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Abstract: This study aims to find out the reasons, experiences and the effects of migration to the Batangas migrants. The qualitative research approach is used in this study and interview is the data collection procedure utilized. The participants of this study are eight (8) migrants who reside in Batangas. The analysis and interpretation of data are inferred from the responses of the participants from the set of questions asked in the interview which concern about the reasons of migration, their experiences and the effects of these experiences in their way of living. The result of the study shows that the main reason of migration is financial stability and family support.

Keywords: migrants, international migration, resettling, experiences

1. Introduction

All individuals are entitled of their freedom of movement or the right to reside in their country of origin or leave that country. Over the years, the rate of people's movement to settle in another country has increased rapidly taking into account a great deal of factors. Obviously, people from all around the world seek and consider job opportunities, financial stability, career development, educational advancement and good social benefits, and sense of security in their place of settlement. However, not all countries have enough resources to meet their people's needs and demands. Sometimes, finding an ideal place or country to settle is a difficult task, especially when an individual primarily lives in a developing country, where opportunities are limited and the condition of living is unfavorable. This is one of the reasons why some people choose to immigrate to well-developed countries. A large number of reasons for migrating to another country can be attributed to push and pull factors, i.e. what pushes people out of a place or what pulls them to a new location. Often, these reasons do not depend to the discretion and choice of the migrants but they rather depend on the environment they settled in. International migration makes significant economic profit for migrants, their countries of origin, and the countries they choose to settle. Emigrants give off various benefits to the destination country such as doing jobs that people in that country will not, or cannot do; migrant workers often work longer hours for lower rates; they contribute to the diversity of that community, which can help with tolerance and understanding; for the host country's economy, migrants offer an increased talent pool, if they have been well educated in their country of origin or later educated in the destination country. The emigration of highly-skilled and well-educated individuals is known as human capital flight. More commonly, it is referred to as brain drain. This has both negative and positive effects on both countries of origin and destination. According to Beine, Docquier and Rapoport (2003), it refers to the international transfer of resources in the form of human capital. For the major migrant source countries, emigration is generally seen as making a net contribution to development yet it is set against the anxiety of losing their high-skilled and efficient workforce. Migration has also provided stability towards security and

political aspect by reducing poverty levels, curbing unemployment and expanding the experiences and opportunities to the population. Over the years, it has been absorbing large number of young people entering their labor markets from the sending countries, while also generating an increased flows of remittances. These remittances and potential 'brain gain' are beneficial to national development of both sending and receiving countries. The benefits derived from this movement has tremendously impacts on the well-being of migrants, their living conditions, and poverty alleviation of their love ones left in their motherland. According to Haas (2018), the new economics of labor migration, livelihood, as well as transnational approaches towards migration can all be situated within a broader paradigm shift in social theory towards approaches attempting to harmonize actor and structure approaches. This has all led to a more optimistic assessment of the development potential of migration as well as the ability of individuals and households to overcome structural development constraints through the agency as embodied in their choice to migrate as a strategy by households and other social groups to diversify, secure and improve their livelihoods. People move for a variety of reasons, they consider moving, over staying, as well as factors such as distance, travel costs, travel time, modes of transportation, terrain, and cultural barriers. They may also be experiencing various emotional, cognitive, psychological, physiological and social crises. Every human being shares the same needs especially those people who migrate. Those needs include, critical need such as place and job, security, the knowledge that critical needs will continue to be met, nurturing, exploring and bonding which lead to a sense of belonging as well as self-actualization or self-worth in the country where they live. This research aims to study the life of people who migrated to another country and their life experiences and perspectives of moving to another place with or without their family. This study is pivotal not only to the people who migrate but also to people who adapt to a new place. Interviews conducted shed information regarding their lives in other countries of migrants and their experiences as they migrated. The goal of the researchers is to develop a media material that can uncover the lives of migrants and to promote consciousness regarding their experiences.

2. Methods

This study utilized the phenomenological approach of qualitative research. This approach requires that the researchers center on the attempt to achieve a sense of the meaning that others give their own situations. The study covered the reasons of migration, experiences of the migrants and the effects of migrations among the Batangueño migrants. The study has eight (8) participants who have been residents of Batangas province. The researchers also administered interview using guide questions concerning the in-depth insights on the lived experiences of migrants that helped in analyzing and interpreting the respondents' words, attitudes, feelings, vocal and facial expressions, and other behaviors involved.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 Profile

3.1.1 Age

Majority of the respondents (3 out of 8) falls under the age brackets of 19 to 22 years old and 34 to 39 years old. Based on the data gathered, it can be implied that most of the respondents migrated at ages that do not exceed 50 years old as they needed to be young enough to seek for job opportunities which may require a robust and versatile worker. According to the findings of the study by Scullion and Morris (2009), majority of migrant workers that live in Peterborough were aged 25 to 36 years old. This supports the findings of the study because the ages of the respondents likewise cover these ages.

3.1.2 Country they migrated

The respondents' countries of migration varies. Two (2) respondents each resettle in Canada, Germany and USA. While one (1) respondent moved in Saudi Arabia and another in Italy. Scullion and Morris (2009), found out that the 36% of the migrants in Peterborough migrated because of opportunities in that place. It can be gleaned that migrants chose to leave their country or place of origin because they think that they have better opportunities in another place or country.

3.1.3 Length of Residence in Country of Migration

Based on the result of the study, the respondents stayed in the place where they migrated within the span of 6 months to 10 years. From the information elicited from the interview with the respondents, they mentioned that they considered stability, and peace and order in choosing their country of destination. Furthermore, Kirkegaard and Larsen (2011), found out that the feeling of security are still physical safety requirements that a self-actualized person needs to be able to accomplish to meet his/her safety needs.

3.2. The Reason/s Why Filipinos Migrate to Other Countries

Most of the reasons why Filipinos migrate to other countries is to support their family or to help their family financially. They want to find better opportunities for them to help their family to be financially stable and likewise they want to be with their family and relatives to live in the same place. The respondents' reasons imply that Filipinos migrate because of better opportunities in another country that offers higher compensation for employees and workers. In addition, Estoye and Hornilla (2013), stated that some Filipinos

migrate to acquire better work in the place of destination. Thus it may be inferred from the latter that migrants resettle because of the opportunities in other countries, as supported by the findings of their study.

3.3 Experiences of migrants in terms of:

3.3.1 Financial Status

Filipino migrants have plenty of experiences as far as improving their financial status is concerned. Most of them are well-compensated. Their allowance provide their daily needs. This implies that the respondents are well-compensated in the country of migration and are financially stable that they can support their personal needs, family and even relatives in the Philippines. According to Cameo (2006), job related aspects such as wage have been a primary push factor for migration among people. This may support the current findings as it implies that migrants are properly compensated in another country and this is the main reason why they opt to live in another country for good.

3.3.2 Social Interaction/ Belongingness

Filipino migrants are friendly. The information elicited from the respondents imply that they consider their co-workers as friends. They interact with them daily. They are helpful to other people regardless of race or nationality. According to Hong and Waheed (2013), working condition, referring to the environment and people, were found out to be the strongest motivation factor of migration among employees in the industries. The current findings imply that the migrants have been motivated and well-adjusted by the good social setting in their country of migration.

3.3.3 Security and Safety

The respondents believed that their countries of destination are safe to live because laws are followed and implemented. Likewise, safety regulations and devices like CCTV are established specifically in their workplace. Cameo (2006), found out that the safety of migrant's are important explanations for the propensity to migrate. Thus, it may be inferred from the latter that the security of destination country and possible threat are important bases of migration.

3.3.4 Health

The health insurance given by the government of the country of destination to migrants helps them when they need it the most. The government of the said country provides for the safety and security of migrants. According to Oxford (2009), the number of the world's migrants grow, collaboration across disciplines is key achieving high-quality migration health practices. Expanding the insurance of the migrants, prioritizing to address the health needs of the migrants is now an imperative.

3.4 Effects of migrants' experiences to their way of living in terms of:

3.4.1 Physiological Needs

Filipino migrants are adaptable and flexible for they can easily adjust and socialize to the people of other countries. They can easily absorb the culture and practices of other nationalities and likewise learn their language in order to communicate with them effectively. According to Hernandez (2009), acculturation outcomes have been of primary interest

within the field of psychology as they connect to the migrants' well-being.

3.4.2 Psychological Needs

In terms of handling their problems in the workplace, they are mindful of their actions. They likewise try not to bring their personal problems in their workplace as these may affect their performance. This finding is supported by Maslow's hierarchy of needs as regard to physiological needs which are considered the primary requirement for human survival. Human beings are compelled to address these physiological needs in order to attain higher level of needs.

3.4.3 Self-Fulfilment

The life of the migrants have extremely changed in various aspects such as mentally, socially, emotionally and financially. By living in another country, they are compelled to be independent. They considered themselves fulfilled and successful though living in another country. Suominen et al., (2010), found out that personal characteristics, individual priorities and internal psychological states were the main motivation factors of migrants. This may support the current findings as it implies that the achievement of self-fulfilment is derived from experiences brought by migration.

3.5. Media Material Developed to Promote Consciousness Regarding the Experienced Ups And Downs of Migrants' Resettling Journey

The output of the study is a combined blog and website (www.resettlingjourney.weebly.com) that can promote awareness regarding the participants' experiences in migration. Likewise contained in the blog are the effects of migration. According to Zimmerman (2013), a blog gives an opportunity to be heard and to share experiences. Blog topics differ from personal to professional. In recent times, more and more companies make business blogs for informal communication with customers in order to get closer. Thus, it may be inferred from the latter that a blog site is an effective material to attain the objective of the study. Moreover, the media material is presented in the following:

Objectives of the Output

1. To unveil the life of people who migrated to other countries as well as their experiences and perspectives of moving to another place with or without their family.
2. To better understand the significance of adapting to a new place.
3. To uncover the lives of migrants.
4. To raise awareness regarding migrants' experiences.

Significance of the Output

The blog could provide its viewers new ideas on how the migrants cope up and adapt to their new environment. Through the website, various information could be accessed about the respondents' countries of destination including the geographical features, culture, economic status and job opportunities. This website can also provide information to the viewers on possible countries of migration that prioritize health care system and services for its citizens. Through the blog site, other people will be able to share their experiences regarding their lives in other countries as migrants that may

result to shared experiences of migrants and promote a sense of belongingness.

4. Conclusions

The age brackets of the respondents are 19 to 50 when they migrated and considered job opportunities, good social benefits and personal interest for migration. The main reason of migration among Batangueños is family support and financial stability. The respondents are well-compensated in their countries of migration. They are well-adjusted and secured in their new environment, in terms of belongingness and security, and are well-assisted in terms of health needs. Their experiences as migrants greatly influenced their perspective in life and various aspects of their personality. The output of the study is a combined blog and informative website that may help the migrants, future migrants and audience to increase their level of awareness regarding the migrants' experiences. The output of the study likewise provides information regarding the countries of migration.

5. Recommendations

Conduct a similar study on the reasons, experiences and effects of migration with a greater number of respondents coming from different destination countries to yield variety of answers that may test the validity of the results of this study.

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Author Profile



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