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Poverty and Migrations: Dynamics of Global Economic Development

Óscar González Azuela

Independent Researcher, Zacatecas, Mexico

Corresponding Author: Óscar González Azuela

Abstract

This is a review of the book; Poverty and migrations: Dynamics of global economic development (2022), by the authors Imelda Ortiz, Jorge Martínez and Marlen Hernández, published in 2022 by the University of Almería, Spain. In this work, the authors briefly recount the characteristics and meanings that migration has had in the history of humanity but focus, above all, on contemporary

migration. They define migration essentially as a product of poverty and, through a detailed statistical analysis by continental regions and subregions, they show us the contemporary flows and monetary remittances that take place in the current world as a product of the phenomenon described.

Keywords: Poverty, Migration, Monetary Remittances, World System

Introduction

In academic studies on different topics, not only the authors and the works they produce are important, but also the analysis by third parties of the impact that such works and authors have in said fields. In this work we set out to study, criticize, highlight, and disseminate the book, Poverty and Migration.

Here the causes and effects of migration in the contemporary globalized world are examined. The three stages through which migration studies have gone are stated; In the first, only the migratory patterns are described, in the second, the analysis of economic theory based on rational choice becomes relevant, and in the third, not only what is being investigated is analyzed but also the researcher and the categories used for his study. It is clearly stated that there are several causes that generate migration, but the main one is poverty. It is stated that migration is not an atypical, sporadic, or abnormal phenomenon of the global system, which has a beginning and an end, but rather it is a structural and permanent element within the current world. All of this is demonstrated through a detailed statistical analysis with tables and graphs that sufficiently expose, exemplify, and support the analytical approaches presented.

Materials and Methods

This work is a brief review of the book; Poverty and migration, for which the relevance of the work, its contribution to the field it analyzes and the academic value that said study has been evaluated.

Results and Discussion

In the book "*Poverty and migrations*" Imelda Ortiz Medina, Jorge Martínez Pérez, and Marlen Hernández Ortiz present a work in which they analyze causes, effects, and their relationships in the current world from the birth of the Modern World in Renaissance Italy, in which Of course, the economic factor is the main trigger. The work establishes as its main objective the presentation of the general panorama of the behavior of migration and its correlation with poverty within the panorama of the contemporary world. It is based on the hypothesis that poverty is the main reason why people emigrate, at the same time, it infers that countries with higher poverty rates have a greater migratory flow and, consequently, those with the highest level of development are the ones. recipients of that same flow.

The multidisciplinary analysis of the work establishes that, caused by the inequality of social classes, which produces the impoverishment of some and the enrichment of others, large conglomerates of individuals are generated and detected who, in a discreet and constant manner, are forced to emigrate in search of better and greater opportunities for sources of employment and life.

Individuals and families have the need to emigrate because of social impermeability, violations of human dignity, crime, disintegration, and uncertainty, among other factors, which are factors in making the decision to go on pilgrimage, so well-known in the history of Mexico, if we are talking about the local level, a common practice since time immemorial.

On the other hand, the need to analyze the government's strategy to combat poverty is established, having determined that, of course, neither globalization nor the sending of remittances are the panacea to trigger growth or development in poor countries, but rather palliative that, by way of encouragement, mitigates pain and abandonment in the distance. It is then a matter of determining which social policies should generate protection, security, medical and educational services, and decent housing, among others, so that individuals avoid the need to emigrate.

The book begins the analysis with a generic description of migration at a global level and since prehistoric times, from which it defines it as the geographical displacement of individuals or groups, generally bordered by economic and social causes, citing Eva-María Geigl, who establishes that the history of humanity is the history of migrations and Alan Simmons who defines migration as the change of residence, the change of employment and the change of social relations.

On the other hand, within the theories on migration three moments are detailed:

First, that tries to discover the patterns that govern the movement of migratory flows, although it is not very interested in explaining the causes. The second; that since the post-war period (1946), economic science is taken as a basis, based on the theory of rational choice, to explain how migrants, when weighing the salary differences between their places of origin and those of destination, decide to migrate to access higher levels of income and, the third approach; which analyzes not only the migratory phenomenon itself, but also the researcher who studies migration, what is investigated and the categories used for the research, since it is considered that these three elements are influenced by the historical context. From the above, it is concluded that migrations should not be seen as a starting point, as something exceptional with a beginning and an end, but rather because of permanent historical processes that are part of a complex whole, such as the global world system.

As a result of all these approaches, in the end the answer emerges that the background that predominates in most migrations is the economic factor, whether only the individual aspect, group or social aspect is considered. Proof of this is that the individual, before emigrating to another country, weighs the costs—monetary and non-monetary—as well as the benefits that migration will bring, since he previously assesses the destination within an economy that, in official terms, is declared as free market.

On the other hand, macrostructural approaches explain the decision to migrate, not as a product of a personal choice but as a product of the globalization existing in the contemporary economy. It should also be mentioned that, within the analysis established for the motivations of emigration, in addition to pointing out the economic, social, and political factors, emphasis is placed on indicating that this migration often increases poverty and inequality in the regions of origin of the migrant. Seen from the macro level,

migration is produced by structural factors, such as: deficient public policies, levels of inequality between countries and the salary difference between neighboring regions or countries.

At an intermediate level, motivations are based on the relationships built by individuals based on the communication and interaction between migrants in their destination and people who have not yet migrated and remain in their places of origin. The micro level, for its part, bases the decision to migrate on personal or family strategies to face and overcome the difficulties encountered in places of residence.

This establishes the panoramic model that explains migratory flows as the historical process that changes the economic, social, and cultural structure of both the societies of origin and the societies of destination. He also points out as main factors of migration, the search for better job opportunities, political asylum, climate changes, academic preparation, lack of opportunities or insecurity in places of origin.

Regarding unequal economic growth, the market economy is conceived as a scenario where the theory of natural selection of species is recreated in which strong countries are recipients of the population of weaker ones; Europeans receive migrants because of the humanitarian crises in Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America. The United States receives, above all, Mexicans, and Central Americans. Within migration, the so-called “brain drain” is also contemplated, which occurs when the person has a higher educational level and decides to emigrate in search of better job opportunities, thereby favoring the host countries by influencing the culture of the destination society. Forced migration is also contemplated, which generally occurs due to violations of Human Rights.

About the effects of immigration, the study conveniently divides them into economic, political, and social. For economic effects, there are methodological controversies to determine their degree of positive, negative, or uncertain level. Regarding the sociopolitical effects, its analysis generally refers to voluntary migrations, although not to involuntary ones, as is the case of refugees that can ultimately cause diplomatic problems with the sending countries due to political conflicts.

It is mentioned that migratory processes have evolved, which in the past were generally carried out by the male population, although now that has changed thanks to modern support networks. The analysis carried out on migratory destinations is important, highlighting cities such as Sydney, London, or New York, where migrants represent a third of the population. It is noted that the preferred destination to migrate, by the inhabitants of Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru, is the United States of America, while Bolivians, Chileans, Paraguayans, and Uruguayans choose to migrate, mainly, to Argentina. Venezuelans do so to Colombia, Spain, Italy, and Portugal.

Regarding the behavior of migration in recent years, the respective statistical tables are presented regarding the highest and lowest migration analysis by continent, in which the countries with the greatest growth and economic development are those that register the highest reception of international migrants. It is also stated that those with less development become the expellers of labor, whether skilled or unskilled.

Poverty is defined in the work as a fundamental reason for emigration, so it is essential to reach a definition of its concept, which has as a common denominator the evidence of a lack that denies access to levels of well-being that reach attack dignity and human rights under the variables of the ever-changing space at different times.

The various methods of measuring poverty are discussed, which is defined as limiting the minimum basic needs of the individual for their survival, interrelating the sets of factors such as poverty itself, physical weakness, isolation, vulnerability and lack of power with the different communicating vessels that give context to the very concept of poverty. The need to establish a multidisciplinary vision is then established around the areas of social anthropology, economic sciences, social psychology, sociology, and political sciences. Once the basic needs of the individual have been fully identified, it is necessary to conceptualize poverty through the corresponding regional studies with the different social groups, considering the relativization of the term poverty.

The conceptualization of chronic, temporary, recurrent, and circumstantial poverty is then declared, also confronting it with the concept and possibility of well-being, seeing both concepts as dynamic states.

Within the typology of poverty, the authors focus on the definition of the threshold for each variable, assessing the concepts of the possibility of the resource in terms of functioning and the capacity to achieve poverty scenarios, health, security, education, and employment among others, to overcome the expectation of birth, death and will in a state of poverty. The concepts of absolute and relative poverty are established, the first being the one that is applied for simple survival while the second already indicates a minimum necessary for the acquisition of the basic basket of regional goods and services, traditionally the World Bank being the one that establishes the indices of absolute poverty, while ECLAC focuses on relative poverty, which represents levels of extreme poverty for those who cannot afford a basic food basket.

Also, poverty is analyzed in the work as quantitative and qualitative, the first being the one that shows the number of people who live with less monetary income than what is required to cover their minimum expenses based on a decent life and, the second; which considers the enjoyment and access to services in a free and timely manner, making it necessary to analyze both concepts for their complementation within a comprehensive result.

The work exposes the statistical table of thirty countries with the highest and lowest indices of economic inequality, through which and with the help of geopolitics, quite logical conclusions can be reached. In addition to determining poverty levels, the person's capabilities to subsist, ensure reproduction in a biological and cultural sense, healthy living, social interaction, knowledge and freedoms of expression and thought are indicated as important factors for achieving social permeability, also weighing the degree of defense or violation of Human Rights in the context of the person.

The factor of dissatisfaction regarding human needs is indicated as a fundamental part of establishing the level of emotional stability; The approach called, Culture of Poverty, considers this as a matter in which the individual has a set of prefabricated solutions to solve their problems, imposed by the system under which it will be extremely difficult for

them to escape their state of poverty. Coupled with the anthropological, social, and religious vision of seeing poverty as a virtue, oriented towards liberation from dependence on the possession and accumulation of goods to fill that gap with social, family and peace values.

Once the term poverty has been defined, we then proceed to measure it, always initially valued from economic science, comparing it with employment and salary in the best of cases. The methods for measuring poverty are defined in the unidimensional model, which has personal monetary income as its main variant; Those who have a level higher than that established by the World Bank, but who still live in a state of poverty, are analyzed through the multidimensional method, which is carried out through the table that shows the countries with the largest and smallest poverty gaps. poverty in the world, which is complemented by the Unsatisfied Basic Needs Indicator (INBI) that identifies the five basic needs that are: housing and components, access to water and drainage, levels of overcrowding, degree of dependency and schooling in childhood. Likewise, the Poverty Line (LP) is analyzed, making it possible to compare levels of indigence.

Multidimensional poverty is measured through the variants of educational lag, access to food, health, social security, quality, spaces, and housing services. This multidimensional study also addresses the threshold that seeks to synthesize the total number of deprivations to weight the individual's poverty qualifier.

On the other hand, mention is made of the Human Development Index (HDI), which is established as the methodology developed by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), being the method that shows the human development of a country and in a manner implicitly its level of poverty, determining the indicators of health, education and standard of living for its weighting, counting on the tables that show us the thirty countries with the highest and lowest human development index in the world.

This work contains the Alkire-Foster Methodology, an initiative for the study of Poverty and Human Development originated at the University of Oxford, which identifies poverty based on contrasts with the thresholds of the respective indicators with algebraic weights, thus delimiting the proportion of deprivation that the individual or household must have to be classified as poor or not. The analysis is complemented with tables that show the thirty countries with the lowest and highest Multidimensional Poverty Index.

Once the concepts of migration and poverty have been defined, the work then focuses on the approach to combating poverty and migration, starting with the former.

Just as it has already been said that there are many types of poverty, there are also different ways to combat it, with different approaches, from structural change to humanitarian aid. It is highlighted that public policies are generally implemented based on the identification of the number of poor people so that, in the best of cases, actions and selection of programs can be focused on combating said poverty while, within neoliberalism, the channeling of the respective supports is negotiated.

Welfare is one of the mechanisms that is most used for the apparent reduction of poverty, but it generally leads to leisure or even the use of this population for electoral purposes, in a vision totally unrelated to overcoming the state of poverty. Another mechanism is the sale of services

and products focused through said assistance, which leads to the use of credits that become eternal and unpayable debts. From the impact on the concepts of poverty and migration, within the phenomena that make up the aggravated context of misery and inequality, the need of people who have been forced to migrate because of human trafficking is projected, this phenomenon is shown the figures containing the top thirty countries with the highest and lowest rates of international migration.

The issue of remittances is also discussed, the product of cash transfers sent by migrants - with legal or illegal residence in the destination country -, same remittances that recipient governments often boast as economic achievements of their economic policies. There are those who consider remittances as beneficial, mitigating poverty and inequality for those who receive them, although there are also those who speak of the dependency that they produce and classify them as generators of social backwardness, as also indicated by the tables that they show us. Thirty countries with the highest and lowest remittance outflows.

Among the possible solutions analyzed, the migration policies of the countries involved in these problems are detailed, given that on the one hand, the receiving countries increase their labor capacity, which is the same as what they reduce because of a greater supply in the face of a lower demand. This is how the regulation and control of migratory flows can direct, encourage, or mitigate their flows through appropriate policies that allow them to control these flows for the benefit of all the actors involved. Within the body of the work, a detailed analysis of the existing correlation between poverty and migration is made, where the relationship of the migratory processes within poor families is exposed, the dependent variable being migration and the independent variable being poverty and where the first is produced in countries with a lower degree of development.

The graph that the study presents to us covers almost thirty years, from 1990 to 2019, in which the statistics are shown continentally and seasonally, both at the national level and by gender.

The poverty gap at the continental level is displayed in the corresponding graph in which extreme poverty is also detailed to, based on these data, establish the statistical correlation between migration and the poverty gap in detail in Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, Latin America, and the Caribbean. The time series for continental migration is contained in graphs that clearly and concisely show these phenomena to complement the chaptering of the body of the work with the analysis of the largest and smallest outflows and inflows of remittances in the world, which is evidenced that individuals who migrate from underdeveloped countries to developed ones are in search of opportunities and greater income, therefore, it is categorically stated that poverty and migration are nothing other than the product of the structural imbalances of the global economy generated by the capitalism.

Step by step and in detail, this study shows us the concepts of migration and poverty, the possible ways to combat it, as well as its correlation, its history, the violation of human rights as well as the serious conflicts that when exposed in detail. in a clear and erudite manner, they deserve analysis and decision-making regarding their possible solutions. Finally, it is clear, because of reading this work, that the amount of effort deployed in the fight against poverty has

been nothing more than a simple catalog of good intentions, which have remained far from achieving the goals. Expected objectives to reduce it. As a final point, this academic work is completed with the obligatory bibliographical references in which the reader will find all the reference material to expand, if necessary, their vision of poverty and migration.

Conclusion

Poverty and Migration is, without a doubt, a very valuable work that contributes greatly to the field of migration studies due to its timeliness, originality, and relevance. It uniquely develops both the qualitative and quantitative aspects of the phenomenon, which is why it represents an interesting, didactic, easy, and essential work to read. The edition is of optimal quality due to the excellent materials used for the cover, flaps and content pages and the cover shows images very consistent with the theme. The suggestion is that the continuation of a second volume that continues to deepen the study of global migration, by region and country in contemporary society, is very necessary.

References

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