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Research Article

IMPACT OF TRANS-NATIONAL SOCIAL RELATIONS ON THE FABRIC OF SOCIETY

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ABSTRACT

The social transformation is a dynamic process which involves changes in all segments of the society. Trans-nationalism helps in creating social relations among people living across borders. It initiates social transformation which consists of changes in social, cultural, economic and political areas of society. It also fosters friendship ties between different countries. The present paper highlights the increasing tendency among migrants to maintain social relations with their country of origin and destination. These social relations created by migrants' results in social transformation which needs to be understood in the present scenario as we are moving towards creating a social world beyond geographical boundaries. The key component of social transformation process is the creation and maintenance of balanced self and the channels of interaction, communication and awareness. By facilitating interaction and developing social relationships, the migrants create better understanding of different cultures and social norms. The paper also highlights the various social and psychological challenges faced by migrants. When the social relationships are maintained through consistent social interaction by using different channels of communication then it increases the adaptive capacities of the people leading to social transformation. IUAS² Model proposed in the paper highlights various stages of the formation of the trans-national social relations.

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INTRODUCTION

In today's era of globalization mobility across nations is a normal part of social life and is considered as an important factor in reshaping societies. Trans-nationalism is considered as a social phenomenon. Migration results in movements of people across the border. In certain nations migrants are categorized into different categories and based on the nation interest certain types of mobility are encouraged while others are restricted. The migration results in international co-operation and it create awareness of culture diversity. Due to migration the social world is undergoing important social transformations resulting in redefining of social relationships.

Understanding of social transformation process is necessary in understanding the shifting patterns of human mobility. According to Schuerkens (2001) social transformation cause the movement of a society from one particular situation to another. Social transformation results in institutional, cultural changes, economic changes, change in social network, shifts in social dynamics and in reshaping of social interactions. In the opinion of Vertovec (2004) social transformation due to migration refers to the restructuring of existing social system

which includes economic, political, technological and cultural changes. Thus it is evident that the process of social transformation requires the creation and maintenance of balanced self and it also redefines existing social relations.

Migration results into changes in the structure and performance of state institutions which are responsible for decision-making and control. In his research Genov (1999) highlighted that due to migration new technological patterns of participation is forming thus resulting in the development of new kind of the international workforce which is dependent on global information technologies. It is clearly evident that in business sector change is taking place with respect to ownership rights, investments, production and marketing.

Role of Migrants in Redefining Social Relationships

Migrants act as a link between the host country and the migrated country. According to Buell (1994) migrants play very important role in establishing social relationships between countries. Their role as social activist can help in raising awareness about their country of origin. Thus it has been seen that migrants are involved in raising awareness in protection of human rights thus contributing through actions as well as funds

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for the development of their country of origin. With their better insight and in-depth understanding of different cultures they also act as ambassadors of friendship for the country of origin and destination country. The social transformations results into the change in social relationships. In the opinion of Snell and Leerkes (2006) now people are not living their entire life in a single country rather they move from one country to other to fulfill their educational, professional or personal goals. Thus we are dealing with the generation who create their own social world beyond boundaries. This results into innovation and social transformation in the life of migrants as well as in the population of host country. Trans-nationalism not only promotes the socio-cultural exchanges but it also has an impact on economic aspect as it promotes tourism and trade. The research and development area also strengthens due to trans-nationalism. Trans-nationalism promotes friendship and also the interaction among people creates awareness about arts, music, cuisine, etc. of different countries.

Increasing Tendency among Migrants to Maintain Social Relations with Their Country of Origin and Destination

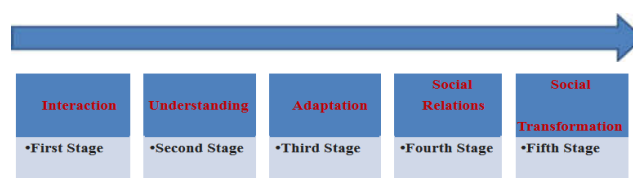
Due to recent developments in communications and technology trans-nationalism is seen as beneficial for the countries of the origin and destination as migrants are able to maintain social relations with their family, friends and local communities. They contribute socially as well as economically to both the countries. It also brings changes in the personality and behaviour of the migrants and their family members as they come into contact with different culture people which results into the enhancing of their adjustment and adaptive skills. They also get varied educational and professional opportunities to increase their social status. Living in different countries also enhances one's language abilities and social skills (Waldinger, 2008).

Channels of Interaction and Communication

According to Eisenstadt (2004) communication plays vital role in the process of social transformation. The development in communication, transport and information networks due to globalization has great impact on channels of interactions among the migrants. The channels of interaction plays vital role in the communication and thus awareness is created which accelerates the adaptive capacities of individuals. The interaction across borders among migrants and their family members and friends helps the migrants to cope up the loneliness and stress. The interaction helps in creating and transforming the mutual relationships. These relationships according to Levitt and Waters (2002) results in formation of new social structure. With the increase use of social media and latest technology developments we are living in an era where a social world is created beyond boundaries. The groups thus formed have changed the concept of learning and communicating thus resulting into friendly collaborative networks which is essential for social development.

IUAS² Model: Trans-National Social Relations

Trans-nationalism as a process creates a new world in which boundaries are non-existent. IUAS² Model presented in the paper highlights various stages of the formation of the trans-national social relations.



First Stage: Interaction

The interaction of migrants can be divided into two types. The first type in which interaction takes place between the migrants and the people of destination country and the other which takes place between the migrants and the family, friends and community of country of origin. The interaction is driven by the need to establish social relationships with the people of destination country and to maintain social relationships with the family and friends living in the country of origin. The role of technology is changing the kind of interactions taking place as the migrants are able to interact through social media like facebook, whatsapp, twitter, etc. The kind of interaction and the efforts put into it influence on the kind of social relationship which one wants to maintain as it decides whether the people involved in it want to have friendly or conflict social relationship. These interactions may take the form of ideas, values and practices.

Second Stage: Understanding

Based on the interaction the information is processed for better understanding of each other's view. This stage is very necessary as to develop social relationship. If the people involved in this stage are able to develop understanding about each other's culture and diverse background then the next stage comes or else the interaction never reach this stage. The understanding stage determines the onset of next stage i.e. Adaptation as it lays ground for enhancing adaptive capacity.

Third Stage: Adaptation

The understanding of the people makes them ready for adaptation so as to maintain various aspects of social system's culture or structure to survive in the new country. It helps in coping with, managing or adjusting to the changing conditions, stress, loneliness, risk or opportunity faced by the migrants.

Fourth Stage: Social Relations

As the adaptive capacity enhances people are motivated to establish new social relationships. They are guided by friendship gained from understanding and by becoming aware of each other's diverse social backgrounds. They start in sharing and engaging in fruitful interactions

Fifth Stage: Social Transformation

The social relationships developed results into formation of social groups who are closely networked and bring significant changes that positively impacts the people involved thus social transformation takes place in the social, political, economical and cultural aspects of the society. This results into creation of social world beyond boundaries.

Social and Psychological Challenges Faced By Migrants

According to Kim (1988), migrants always faced the socio-psychological dilemma of 'neither here nor there'. The feeling of loss of sense of identity issue also raises self doubt and

increases role conflict. The loyalties of migrants are questioned because of their trans-national activities and on many occasions they are under security surveillance as they are suspected to harm the national interest.

Migration affects the migrants at individual as well as family level (Baldassar, 2007). At times family disruption also arises as the primary caregiver migrates. The family disintegration resulting in the separation of parents or children results into the vulnerability of family as an institution. Intergenerational conflict also arises when children feel more attachment to a country than their parents (Benhabib, 2003). This results into incompatible social and cultural practices. Most of the time the older parents are left behind and they have to be dependent on secondary groups for their care.

Family is considered as primary group and the most important social institution so if any kind of disturbance in family affects the society adversely. Migration is a local as well as global phenomenon or at times in-between of both. According to Waldinger (2008) the activities by migrants across borders have forced the nations to frame, formulate and implement the policies in the interest of transnational connections.

CONCLUSION

To understand the trans-nationalism and its impact on society it is necessary to have in-depth understanding of the socio-economic and cultural dynamics of migration. Role of migrants is significant in the national development. Many times the issues related with migrations raise the national security agendas. It is the need of the hour to involve all stakeholders from home as well as host country to create the best outcomes for both the countries. Focusing on sustainable development the strategies need to be evolved which is friendly for the nations so as to ensure migration process smooth and beneficial for both the nations and also protects the human rights of the migrants as well as to promote friendly relations of the migrants and populations of migrant-receiving areas. In order to avoid the conflict and to promote better understanding of different cultures and social norms the existing differences between the functions of different social institutions need to be explored.

As we are living in a global society the global dynamics affecting the regional dynamics should be taken into consideration. The concept of globalization should be understood so as to gain better understanding of social change and social transformation. Trans-nationalism leads to economic, political, social and cultural integration among different countries and it had great impact on fabric of the society.

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