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Re-thinking Integration in the South

Jason Gagnon
OECD Development Centre

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Context

Why discuss South-South migration?

- **Typical story: Southern migrants to Northern countries**
 - immigrants have tendency to form enclaves
 - policy-makers: assimilation *versus* multiculturalism

- **The shift in wealth has changed traditional migration corridors, particularly in the South**
 - revealing a new world order
 - inequality decreasing between regions in the world
 - Increasing within countries
 - Increasing within regions
 - world will soon hit a population of 7 billion and is still growing
 - will probably keep growing until 2050 when it will hit 9 billion

- **Migrant stock**
 - larger than South-North migration, increasing
 - 80% of emigration from West Africa staying in Africa

What about integration in South-South migration contexts?



Immigrant Integration

Why better management of immigrants? Why better integration systems?

Diagnosis: **poor integration = poor social cohesion**

➤ **Affects social cohesion**

- may lead to decrease in xenophobia, violence, tension, conflict, scapegoating
- impacts neighbouring countries' social cohesion (spillover, contagion)
 - current examples: Cote d'Ivoire, South Africa

➤ **Helps fight against creation of pockets of extreme poverty**

- vectors of new disease epidemics
 - AIDS, H1N1, avian flu
- vectors of growing angry sentiment, broken social contract
 - organized crime

➤ **Increases labour productivity, labour force capacity**

- new skills and skills in shortage
 - seasonal, food security

➤ **Improves policy in other policy fields**

- labour, agriculture, detection of illicit goods



(Re-)thinking Integration

Why would it be different than in the North (industrialized countries)?

➤ In some ways it is not...

- labour migration, many potential workers looking for better employment opportunities, seeking more dynamic labour markets
- refugees, fleeing conflict or failed states
- integration in the North (MIPEX)
 - labour market access
 - family reunion
 - long-term residence
 - political participation
 - access to nationality
 - anti-discrimination
 - public perceptions

➤ But in many ways it is...

- high rate of Informal employment
- borders split groups (even family members) with similar languages, religions, customs
 - level of social contract with the state is often unclear
- high rate of seasonal and circular migration
 - push and pull factors differ (labour demand, type of occupations)
- SS migration is often a second-best choice
- capabilities to develop and maintain sophisticated surveillance
 - resources and priorities are already stretched



A Focus on Social Cohesion

What does it mean to be integrated?

➤ Economically? Socially? Culturally?

- for who?
- where does the social contract with the region lie? with the state? with the locals?
- *de jure vs. de facto* regulations

➤ Documentary citizenship vs. citizenship rights (Sadik, 2009)

- *jus soli vs. jus sanguis*
 - naturalization (rare in developing countries)
- what is the impact on politics?
- do immigrants care? do nationals care?

➤ Whose role is it to ensure integration?

- the national government?
- local governments? municipal/city administration? regional chiefs?
- NGOs and international organizations?
- migrants themselves?

“[...] they were Bangladeshis posing as Indians. They spoke the same language, wore the same type of sari, and preferred fish curry with a distinctive smell. They too, like us, would become Dilliwallas, citizens of Delhi. However, while we were from other parts of India, they were from across the international border. [...]”
(Sadik, 2009)



A Focus on Social Cohesion

Insiders vs. Outsiders

- **How do countries in the South exclude or include people?**
 - what defines outsiders vs. insiders?
 - does the *distinguishability assumption* hold?
 - is it based on something different than immigrant vs. national?

- **Why do some immigrants integrate while others face rejection and hostility?**
 - what is the relevant society to compare?
 - what “society” are immigrants integrating into?
 - would the same individual integrate the same way in Accra and Kumasi?
 - in the cocoa fields or in the mines?
 - does it require an active part on behalf of the immigrant?

- **Concept of local citizenship**
 - local integration
 - role of social networks



Discussion

How are immigrants integrated in Ghana?

➤ **Integration in the South requires a different approach**

- need for basic services: short term health and accommodation
- equality of opportunity: anti-discrimination, public perceptions, human rights
- the context is not the same for any two countries, or even for any two regions within a country

➤ **In particular we can ask ourselves:**

1. Do immigrants in Ghana have particular integration challenges? Are they the same for all immigrants?
2. Does it depend on ethnicity (and/or language, culture) or rather on citizenship (and/or “legality”)?
3. Does integration depend on the type of occupation or the job performed by the migrant?
4. Does it matter which country they are coming from? How long they stay?
5. Are there hidden dimensions of immigrant integration which are typically not considered?



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Jason Gagnon
OECD Development Centre

jason.gagnon@oecd.org

www.oecd.org/dev/migration

