

Review

The role of migration its implications for household welfare and rural development in Kosovo

*Ekrem Gjokaj

*University of Pristine, Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary, Department of Agriculture Economics,
Street "Bill Clinton" 10000 Pristine, Kosovo

Accepted May 21, 2013

This paper tries to give a thorough explanation of Sustainable Development and its conceptual framework based on the field study and views of several scholars. Recent studies have proved the relation and impact between migration and Sustainable of household welfare rural development and its impact. The paper is divided into three sections, and ends by the conclusion. The first section, review the short introduction different usages of the terms "Migration and remittance" from different theories and dimensions. The second section deals with the results of 225 households' survey conducted in all around Kosovo. In order to avoid any mistakes or any useless question initially the questionnaire was prepared and tested in advance. The questions try to figure out the types, reasons, and the purposes of using the remittances, and the aim of reflection and challenges on migration issue. The exercise concludes with some personal reflections and conclusions drawn on this regard.

Keywords: Migration, remittance, sustainability, rural development.

INTRODUCTION

There are a variety of definitions, opinions and views on migration, but the one which may grasps its very essence is the one provided by the group of authors: those argues that migration patterns are often observed to correspond more closely to historical and cultural criteria than to short-term economic calculation. Likewise, the nature of implicit compacts between migrants and their resident families is deeply rooted in culture and society. Several recent reviews and collections have emphasized this aspect (de Haan, 1999; de Haan and Rogaly, 2002)

If we refer to Fidrmuc (2002), he argues that all the while migrants move from regions with high unemployment and/or low incomes to more prosperous regions, attracted by higher wages and better employment prospects. In this manner, migration helps facilitate regional adjustment to asymmetric shocks such as an idiosyncratic fall in demand for the region's products, or technological progress that renders productive facilities in the region obsolete (Fidrmuc 2002, p.5).

While remittances, broadly defined as monetary transfers made by migrants to their countries of origin, they are private funds and not substitutes for national development efforts, comprehensive development strategies, or official development aid. They have, however, the potential to contribute significantly to economic development at household, local, national and regional levels. At the household level, remittances can help reduce the poverty of recipients, supplement their income and provide them with funds that can be used for consumption, savings, or investment in areas relating to development e.g. education, health, agriculture and entrepreneurial activities.(ARDP 2007/13, 2006). On the other hand, by definition, all of the earnings of a circular migrant, net of costs associated with traveling and residing away from home, are remittances. As circular migrants intend to return to their home countries, they tend to minimize expenditures while abroad, (Mustafa, et al., 2007).

From other hands remittances may play an important role in sustainable development especially in rural are and since they are private funds, measures to enhance their development impact should be in the form of incentives. First, concrete opportunities and vehicles for investments can be made available: for instance,

*Corresponding Author E-mail:ekremgjokaj@gmail.com

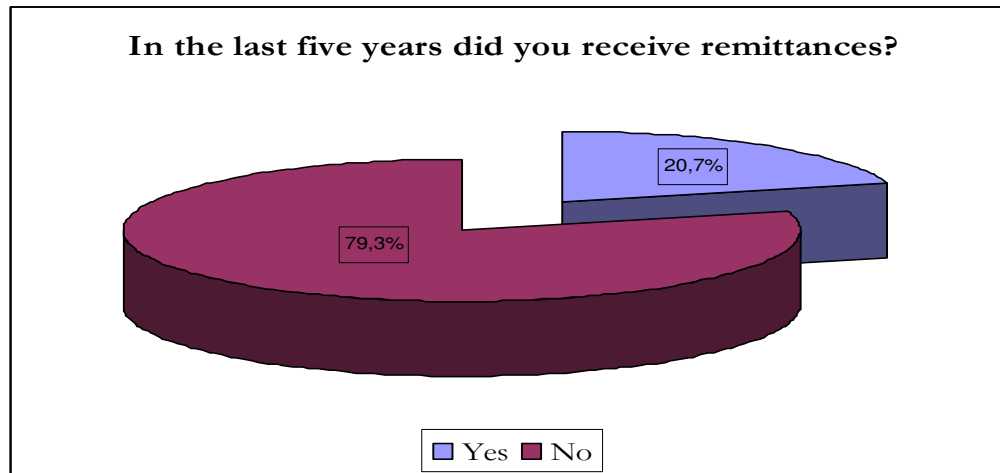


Figure 1. The share of receiving remittances in % in last five years
Source; Own compilation

migrants can invest remittances in their place of origin in (say) the planting of an orchard (ARDP 2007/13, 2006, annex 10).

Migration at household level in Republic of Kosovo

Between October – November, 225 households were interviewed in the five study areas, 45 from each of them. In addition a standardized questionnaire was used designed to capture all sources of income, in order to be more precise and having detailed information about the income sources and other household characteristics, we gathered the data for every household member during the interviews. First the data was analyzed with the help of descriptive statistics, we tried to find out which are the main determinants that caused migrations and income at household level.

Based on study results one may conclude that most of households in Republic of Kosovo are strongly affected by migration. Continuously the analyses show that in every third farm household is at least one person is absent. The economic reason is the primary motivation for emigrating from Kosovo towards other countries. More than half of those hoping to emigrate indicated dissatisfaction with the current economic situation of their family as the main reason and another 21.5% stated that the general economic situation in Kosovo was the major reason for their readiness to emigrate. The last but not the least was dissatisfaction with political situation. Having in mind the economic, social and political situation of the country, migration was a bitter and altogether the best way to survive from the reprisal, and the cause that send many people abroad for family reasons, especially in rural areas.

In Kosovo, like in other countries, migration was not only toward other countries but also internal migration is

not a recent phenomenon in Kosovo. However, detailed data on the direction or intensity of movements are missing. Internal movements were dominated by rural-urban migration, although the number of those moving between rural areas was also high. Internal migration appears to have increased further during the post-conflict period. Indeed, several major international organizations working in Kosovo have spoken about the high pace of 'brain-drain' from rural to urban centers and overcrowding in the education system in urban areas (ILO and IPEC 2005; UNDP 2005b; VATHI et al., 2007).

Characteristics of the migrants

The main characteristic of the absent household members, who work in waged employment, is that, they send part of their income to their family. Based on available data from different sources the emigration from Kosovo has been started in the late 60s and early 70s, it can be divided into four phases: 1) 1960-1988, 2) 1989-1997, 3) 1998-1999, 4) 2000 -2007. Meanwhile after the post war period the immigration policies in other countries towards Kosovars have been changed, it became more restrictive due to the fact that Kosovo was considered to be a safe country. And the flux of migration was decreased rapidly. According to the 2007 household survey, about 73% of the Diaspora emigrated before the war and 27% during the post-war period, (MUSTAFA et al., and 2007).

The household members, who work abroad in waged employment, send part of their income to their family at their origins. In the sample roughly 80 % of households received money in cash or in kind in the last five years (see Figure number 1 above).

In addition remittances are difficult to measure in an interview. Among others the transfers are irregular during

the year the respondents often seemed to lose path of the amounts they actually receive. As well as the relatives might happen to send also goods to their homes, like machinery, motor vehicles or construction material. Due to the facts mentioned above, the values might be exaggerated.

At the same time if we do further analysis on receiving remittances and the target population is asked about spending of remittances, one may observe that this rate is higher than it seems to be at the first glance. Namely, the next answers show that more than one third (35,7%) of the households realized some spending coming from remittances. The most popular investment in this sphere is building up or renovating a family house. The weight of both other household consumption and business investment is considerably lower, these scarcely exceed 10%. If we go again deeper on remittances used for investments, we find a higher value for a second time that is 22% of the valid answers affirm the respondents invested into farm or non-farm activity. The non-farm investment is more than two times frequent than the farm business outlay. While, concerning the remittances,

according to our results roughly one fifth (20,7%) of the respondents stated that they got some in the last five years.

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Anex 1. Questionnaire

1. In the last five (5) years did you receive remittances? **Yes =1** **No=0** **If 'Yes', proceed with questions 1.3**

1.3 Where did you spend the remittances?

- a) Family House
- b) Other household consumption
- c) Business investment

1.4 If you have used remittances for business investment, where did you invest?

- a) In family farm
- b) Non- farm family business
- c) Others

Dear Sir/Madam, thank you very much for your time and your cooperation. We remind you that your answers are anonymous and strictly confidential. Your name and address will never be used to identify the answers given by you.

Name of respondent: _____
Address: _____

It is possible that this study will need to be followed up by a short re-visit or a phone call sometime within the next 3 years. In case there will be a future follow up on this study, would you give your consent to us contacting you again?

No Yes

If yes, please ask the respondent for the household's phone number:

Date _____
Enumerator _____