

**THE PROCESS OF ADJUSTMENT/ACCULTURATION OF
FIRST AND SECOND GENERATION OF MIGRANTS:
THE CASE OF NOMAD QASHQAEI TURKS IMMIGRANTS IN
SHIRAZ-IRAN**

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THE PROCESS OF ADJUSTMENT/ACCULTURATION OF FIRST AND SECOND GENERATION OF MIGRANTS: THE CASE OF NOMAD QASHQAEI TURKS IMMIGRANTS IN SHIRAZ-IRAN

Abstract

Studies on the adjustment of immigrants played an important role in the sociological, demographic, and psychological literature. With proliferation of migration flow most of societies, face adjustment/ acculturation challenges. In recent years, many of province centers in Iran are confronted with the movement of people from nomadic and rural areas. One of these centers is Shiraz, known as a city which has hosted a lot of nomad immigrants. Briefly the objectives of this study include: 1- to explore the correlation between the socio-cultural and demographic factors and the adjustment process. 2- to explanation of the adjustment process in terms of the influencing factors. 3- to compare the adjustment of the first and second generations. The current study emphasizes viewpoints on migration and adjustment deriving from the cross-cultural and acculturation approaches especially Kim (1988) and Berry's theories (1992) and also identity theory. In addition, this research is conducted based on the survey method. The technique that is used in this study for data collection is a self-administrated questionnaire. The population under study in this study consisted of two age groups of immigrants who are settled in Shiraz. Group one is assumed as second generation (age group 15-29 years old) and the other group are assumed as first generation (age group 45-59 years old). Sample size in this study is 292 nomad immigrants. The results of the study indicates that the cultural adjustment/acculturation process is affected by different factors such as language, tolerance of host society, satisfaction, different occupational opportunities, social support, length of residence and finally the degree of orientation toward origin as the most effective factor of cultural adjustment.

Introduction

Studies on the adjustment of immigrants play an important role in the sociological, demographic, and psychological literature. Wherever there is an immigration flow, immigrant's adjustment should also be discussed. With proliferation of migration flow most of societies, face adjustment/acculturation challenges. This is mainly an urban phenomenon and relates to various social, cultural, and economic aspects. When immigrants settle down in new circumstances, they encounter two main alternatives. One is adjustment to the new environment and the other is alienation and separation. This study focuses on the adjustment/acculturation

of immigrants. This process is affected by different factors such as language, new normative system, different occupational opportunities, loss of social support, insecurity, and so on.

One of the earliest formulations by a literary figure of precisely what the experience of being foreign consists it can be found in a story by Jack London, entitled "In a far country". The opening paragraph offers the following account of what a person should expect to confront when undertaking a sojourn in another culture:

When a man journeys into a far country (another culture), he must be prepared for forget many of the thing he has learned, and to acquire such customs as are inherent with existence in he new land; he must abandon the old ideals, and oftentimes he must reverse the very codes by which his conduct has hitherto been shaped. To those who have the protean faculty of adaptability, the novelty of such change may even be a source of pleasure; but to those who happen to be hardened to the ruts in which they where created, the pressure of the altered environment is unbearable, and they chafe in body and in sprit under the new restrictions which they do not understand. This chafing is bound to act and react, producing divers evils and leading to various misfortunes. It were better for the man who cannot fit himself to the new groove to return to his origin; if he delay too long, he will surly die(London, 1986).

On the other hand, adjustment to the new circumstance is different across generations. That is, this reaction is different among parents (first-generation) and children (second-generation). It must be pointed out that in this field different terms have been used by different researchers including, integration, assimilation, acculturation, adaptation, accommodation, coping, resocialization, and amalgamation (Sadrossadat, 1995).

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Immigration flow and its consequences is a key factor in social change. In recent years, many of province centers of Iran are confronted with the movement of people from rural areas or small cities. One of these centers is Shiraz, known as a city which has hosted a lot of immigrants. This phenomenon usually leads to cultural, social, economic and psychological problems and helps the cultural diversity of the urban regions. Furthermore, literature on immigrant families suggests that an acculturation gap between children and parents increases over time. It means that the process of adjustment may differ across generations. Since the beginning of the settlement policy of nomads in Iran, many of the nomad qashqae turks in Fars province and neighborhood provinces gradually settled down in Shiraz

(center of Fars province). They created some community and nomadic towns especially in outskirts of Shiraz like Kushan town, Abiverdy, Shikh Ali chopan and so on. Therefore, because of different backgrounds, they are destined to redefine their cultural identity. With the settlement of these new migrants in a new circumstance, a lot of problems may be occur, such as cultural confusion, cultural conflict, cultural alienation, identity crisis, mental disorders, marginality, and so on. Hence, this study is an attempt to investigate this phenomenon.

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

Briefly the objectives of this study include:

- 1- To explore the correlation between the socio-cultural and demographic factors and the adjustment process.
- 2- To explanation of the adjustment process in terms of the influencing factors.
- 3- To compare the adjustment of the first and second generations.

MEHTOD

In this study, a quantitative analysis method was applied. From the quantitative methods family, a survey method was selected as suitable for this study. In doing so at the primary step, a pilot study which consisted of 50 cases was carried out to examine the questionnaire. This was used to recognize the weak and ambiguous items in the questionnaire and then omit them especially those related to cultural adjustment scale. The technique in this study was a questionnaire as instrument which made of two parts; demographic characteristics and questions about socio-cultural characteristics and adjustment statements. In other words, the questionnaire of this study has some nonparametric variable (qualitative variable) which consist of nominal and ordinal variables (e.g. adjustment process items) and some parametric variables (e.g. length of residence). In addition, it has two kinds of questions. Closed or forced-choice questions (e.g. adjustment items) and open-ended questions (e.g. financial status). To develop a questionnaire which permits adjustment to be inferred through a measure of individual attitudes, the investigator traces the following stages: primary interviews,

primary questionnaire and pilot study and measuring the reliability of the instrument.

Population in this research consists of two age groups of immigrants who are settled in Shiraz. Group one is assumed as second generation (age group 15-30 years old) and the other group are assumed as first generation (age group 45-60 years old). According to the 1996 census, the number of the migrants who settled down in Shiraz was 171961 during the period of 1986 to 1996. The target sample (N= 292) by the use of multistage cluster sampling method was obtained.

ADJUSTMENT MEASUREMENT

To measure adjustment, the researcher first considered those techniques which have been used in the measurement of attitude. Scales are good techniques for assessing the attitudes and typically are ordinal measures. Adjustment could be measured by the use of a series of questions, with the alternative answers being ranked in ascending or descending order. The ordinal scale which is used in this study serves three main functions: (1) to measure (2) to provide an operational definition, (3) to prevent bias by covertly measuring a sensitive topic, so the respondent doesn't realize, for example, that his/her level of adjustment is being measured, and so cannot manipulate his/her answer. Therefore, in measuring adjustment, we used an ordinal scale with a unidimensional characteristic which means that all items in the scale should fit together, measuring a single construct that is cultural adjustment. Based on these attributes, the best scale for this study was the Likert scale which is widely used and is very common in survey research. All items were rated on a 5-point Likert-type scale.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Most of the assumptions of this study are deduced from the cross-cultural approach in which Kim's (1988) and Berry's (1992) theories are used. Therefore, a model on the basis of acculturation factors is adopted as the conceptual framework. These factors are harmonious with the cultural realities of the society. This model has been adopted since it assumes that immigrants can both accept socio-cultural domains of a new society and also retain some values of their previous society. More accurately, taking on a

domain of a new society does not necessarily lead to a relinquishing of an original domain. In addition, it is necessary to point out that this research has combined elements of Berry's conceptual framework (1992) for the analysis of acculturation attitudes with those of comparison, competence, stigma and identity theories.

Generally, cultural adjustment process can be related to a wide variety of variables:

According to the cross-cultural approach and cultural competence theory *mass media* and *interpersonal communication channels* have a considerable role in adjustment process. Among many forms of human communication, interpersonal communication and mass media consumption are the two most salient forms in the cultural learning process. Kim's theory (1988) of acculturation maintains that increasing interpersonal communication within the new host environment will result in increased acculturation. Her theory also maintains that increasing use of the host environment's mass media will increase acculturation. In order to accomplish interpersonal communication within the indigenous resident community of the new host culture, language competence is necessary. In a similar way, *language competence* is also required to fully utilize *the host culture's mass media* (Kim cited in Wichert, 2000).

According to the identity theory, identities each consist of a complex of role-related phenomena, including expectations, performance, competence, enactment, behavior, and meanings. *The identities are situated in networks of relationships among actors, for example, father and daughter, or teacher and student.* Hence, this variable plays a crucial role in adjustment process. Furthermore, both quantitative and qualitative characteristics operate in identity theory. Thus, identity theory, in both its major variants, has at its core three elements: (1) personal quantitative characteristics, in the form of role-related skills, competence, performance, as well as other ordinal and cardinal characteristics such as honesty and wealth; (2) *personal qualitative characteristics, such as membership in groups or networks within which identity processes occur;* and (3) primordial outcomes, such as self-esteem, self-efficacy, self verification, self-worth, and status (Stryker 1980, 2001; Stets and Burke, 2000).

According to the comparison theory, *Satisfaction* is the other main factor which affects the acculturation of migrants. Comparison theory begins with the classic idea that humans compare their holdings of goods (levels of ordinal characteristics or amounts of cardinal characteristics) to the levels or amounts they think just or appropriate for themselves, and thereby experience happiness, wellbeing, self-esteem, the sense of justice, and a

variety of other outcomes. The larger the actual holding of a good, the greater the happiness or other comparison outcome, and *the larger the comparison holding, the lower the happiness or other comparison outcome*. Comparison theory, like identity theory, has at its core three elements: (1) personal quantitative characteristics, about which comparison processes are experienced; (2) personal qualitative characteristics, which provide the group within which comparison processes occur (required in every case save one) and give rise to subgroups within groups; and (3) primordial outcomes, such as happiness, well-being, and self-esteem. Early formulations of the self-esteem, *happiness*, and *satisfactions* members of the comparison family are found in William James and Marx (Jasso, 2002).

Language and accent are the next important factor that can affect the adjustment process. This can deduce from stigma theory. A dimension of social stigma of critical importance in understanding the subjective experience of stigmatized individuals is visibility. Visible stigmas such as race, certain physical handicaps, *accents*, or severe malnourishment due to poverty cannot be hidden easily from others. Thus, for people with visible attributes, the stigma can provide the primary schema from which others make assumptions about the person (Goffman, 1963; Jones et al., 1984). The awareness that others judge us because of our visibility may influence our thoughts, feelings, and behavior (Steele & Aronson, 1995).

Orientation toward destination is the other important factor that can facilitate the adjustment process. The bi-dimensional model of acculturation has described it in detail. Namely, there is positive relationship between orientations toward host culture and cultural adjustment.

Length of stay in host society is the other important factor. It is clear that a longer stay in the host community increases interaction with the host people. As a result, migrants learn more, feel well-being, obtain more basic survival skills, get more used to local climate, make more friends, accept local lifestyle and food, etc (Otmene et al).

MAIN RESULTS

In this study the investigators used both descriptive statistics and inferential statistics for analyzing data and for computing the statistics in this study, the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (*SPSS 11.5 for Windows*) was employed. By the use of multivariate analysis, only six variables remain in the model for the first generation. That is, ethnic identity as most determinant

of adjustment, social satisfaction, local mass media, Shirazi accent, familiarity with destination and place of origin (breeding). In the first step, ethnic identity is recognized as the most powerful determinant of adjustment. In the second step, ethnic identity and Shirazi accent are identified as determinants of adjustment. In the third step, ethnic identity, Shirazi accent and social satisfaction are recognized as determinants of adjustment. In the next step, ethnic identity, Shirazi accents, social satisfaction, use of local mass media are recognized as determinants of adjustment. In the fifth step, ethnic identity, Shirazi accent, social satisfaction, use of local mass media and familiarity with destination (Shiraz) are recognized as determinants of adjustment and finally in the sixth step, ethnic identity, Shirazi accent, social satisfaction, use of local mass media, familiarity with destination and place of origin are recognized as determinants of adjustment.

The results of multivariate analysis for the second generation indicate that the most powerful determinants of adjustment are as follows: ethnic identity, use of local mass media, tolerance of the host society, length of residence and social capital.

CONCLUSION AND DISCUSSION

This study builds on past works by employing a variety of adjustment indices. In addition, this study focuses on the comparative study of first and second generations of migrants who settled in the outskirts of Shiraz. The findings of the present study reveal interesting results about the adjustment process and its determinants. The findings of this study reflect the importance of ethnic identity, length of residence, ethnic affiliation, satisfaction, social capital, socio-economic class and so on. The findings of this study indicates that for the first generation, there is a significant relationship between orientation toward origin (ethnic identity) and cultural adjustment of the migrants ($r = -0.64$, $p = 0.000$). In addition, there is a significant correlation between the following factors and adjustment process: Shirazi accent ($r = 0.30$, $p = 0.000$), Social satisfaction ($r = 0.47$, $p = 0.000$), Familiarity with Shiraz before migration ($r = -0.27$, $p = 0.000$), Use of local mass media ($r = 0.27$, $p = 0.000$), Place of origin ($r = 0.13$, $p = 0.039$).

By contrast, the results for the second generation indicate that there is a significant relationship between the following factors and cultural adjustment process:

Orientation toward origin ($r = -0.62$, $p = 0.000$),

Social capital ($r = -0.22$, $p = 0.000$),

Length of residence ($r = 0.11$, $p = 0.024$),

Use of local mass media ($r = 0.16$, $p = 0.002$),

Tolerance of the host society ($r = 0.31$, $p = 0.000$).

The multiple regression analysis shows that approximately 42% and 44% percent of adjustment variation is explained by ethnic identity for the first and second generation respectively. This is an interesting result, because the orientation of the second generation toward origin is more than the first generation. Comparison theory can justify this result. According to this theory, there is a relationship between satisfaction and happiness in new circumstance and the degree of adjustment or tendency toward origin. Namely, more satisfy with new condition lead to more adjustment and vis-à-vis. Strictly speaking, less satisfaction promotes the tendency toward origin. Hence, we can claim that the origin of difference between the first and second generation is a third factor that is satisfaction. The second generation is known with more expectation and less satisfaction with status quo.

The other side of coin is the identity. The identities each consist of a complex of role-related phenomena, including expectations, performance, competence, enactment, behavior, and meanings. These factors can affect the satisfaction and adjustment process. For example meeting the expectation is an important factor in motivating the migrant to have tendency toward origin or destination. In addition, the findings of this study reveal that duration of stay in the host community affects the adjustment of migrants. It shows that about 2 % of adjustment variation is explained by this factor. It supports this proposition that a longer time period spent in the host community induces the migrants to loosen their ties with his/her homeland and hence may lead to adjustment. To explore this question; why length of stay influences the adjustment process? The following answers may be relevant:

1- Acquisitions of necessary skills help them overcome their problems.

2- Familiarity with different institutions and organizations.

On the basis of the above analysis, it is clear that a longer stay in the host community increases interaction with the host people. As a result, migrants learn more, feel well-being, obtain more basic survival skills, get more used to local climate, make more friends, accept local lifestyle and food, etc.

The use of local mass media is the next factor affecting the adjustment process (for the first generation: $\beta = 0.124$ and for the second generation: $\beta = 0.165$). According to the cross-cultural approach and cultural competence theory mass media and interpersonal communication channels have a considerable role in adjustment process. Among many forms of human communication, interpersonal communication and mass media consumption are the two most salient forms in the cultural learning process. Kim's theory (1988) of acculturation maintains that increasing interpersonal communication within the new host environment will result in increased acculturation. Her theory also maintains that increasing use of the host environment's mass media will increase acculturation. In order to accomplish interpersonal communication within the indigenous resident community of the new host culture, language competence is necessary. In a similar way, language competence is also required to fully utilize the host culture's mass media (Kim cited in Wichert, 2000). In addition, the justification for the accent of migrants who their mother's tongue is different with those of host community is this statement of stigma theory: The awareness that others judge us because of our visibility may influence our thoughts, feelings, and behavior (Steele & Aronson, 1995).

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