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## **Marxist Point of View on Migration, Consumption, and Class: In the Perspective of Islamic Teachings**

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### **Abstract**

This paper has been written about migration and the consumption culture in the society and the country. The purpose of this paper is to describe the different aspects of migration, i.e. political, economic, social and cultural on the origin home country and on the country in which the persons are migrated. No doubt, employment is considered the biggest purpose of migration. Besides this, education and training also has the strong objective of migration. And these are affecting and playing a key role in the economy of the original home country and also in the economy of the migrated country. Effects of migration may be positive and negative also. Its positivity and negativity depends upon the ability and role of migrants. Because of migrants, shortage of goods occurs due to increased population( migrants), demand for goods increases. Therefore, as a result of increased demand and shortage or fixed supply, prices of goods hike. Furthermore, the country from which people migrate, and if they are educated and skillful, their home country has to bear loss in real terms, that is, shortage of educated and technical experts and brain drain , while foreign remittances may be increased because of sending money to the home country. Besides this, the effects of migration on family life in absence of migrants can't be ignored. Especially in those families, where the only male person has been migrated while the children are under the teen ages or in the teen ages, their chances to flee from education increases than those whose heads are not migrated. In short, this paper presents the Marxist point of view and Islamic teachings' point of view regarding migration, consumption and labour in very brief manner.

**Keywords:** Migration, Consumption, Educated, Effects, Social, Cultural, Inflation, Islamic Teachings

### **Introduction**

Karl Marx has its own point of view and economic theory in Economics. And the scholars and thinkers who favours Marxist point of view, they are also considered as Marxist also. In this paper, his three key concepts Migration,

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consumption culture and class / section are being discussed in brief manner. And with Marxist point of view about Migration, consumption & class, the Islamic point of view is also added with migration, consumption and class sections. Anyhow, after presenting Marxist point of view about concerned topics, the Islamic point of view have been presented about discussed topics.

#### **Migration**

Shifting from one place to another place is called migration. But, generally migration is considered shifting from one city or country to another city or another country. Many writers pointed out many points of view about migration. Some presented points of view in favor of migration but many others presented against the migration. Therefore, many theories have been presented regarding its positive and negative effects on the migrated countries as well as to that country from which they are migrating to the other.

There may be many objectives and purposes of migration. The most powerful purpose of migration is economic activity or earning livelihood. Besides this, learning skills or getting higher education from the universities of the developed countries. This is why we may consider the purpose of migration is learning and earning. Marx also considered migration as because of economic forces.

If technical or educated persons are migrated from their home country to another country, this type of migration will be useful to that country, to which they are being migrated. Because skilled and educated persons can play a beneficial role in the way of development. Skilled & educated persons can teach and train the people of migrated countries. Besides this, if unskilled or lazy persons are migrated, these types of people can become a burden for the country to which they are being migrated. But from which country they belong, that country and its inhabitants remain in benefit as they have gotten rid of unskilled & lazy persons. Moreover, if criminal or killer persons are being migrated, this migration is more serious and must be banned or controlled by those countries to whom they are migrating or have been migrated. The reason is that the criminals or thieves or robbers will indulge in their activities by adopting different ways in different places. These activities will create disturbance for those countries to which they have migrated.

Migrants contribute more in taxes and social contribution and in migration, employment is the biggest determinant of migrants. No doubt, migration boosts working skills and working age also.

Marxist theories of migration examine the relocation of people from one region or country to another in response to the economic forces at play in a specific historical context. These theories are based on historical materialism, a method of inquiry developed by Karl Marx in his early work and applied rigorously to wide array of economic & political issues.(Richard D. 2013). It is a fact that Migration takes place from one country to another country where people have been attracted to migrate. This attraction may be monetary or the other of recreation or about increasing the status. In the present world, the chances of higher income and employment have strong attraction for the people of

developing and the developed ones. But the developing people are more attracted than the developed ones. But unfortunately, developed countries have more flexible policies for the developed countries while strict policies for the people of developing countries.

Marxist are critical of the fixed aspect of borders because they create relations of dependency & inequality between people by restricting and controlling there access to resources and labour.

Some Marxists argue that we need a global concept of citizenship to counter how states exclude non-citizens from benefits and access labour & resources. After all, from Marxist point of view, people of all nations are united in their oppression by capitalism and the modern state system that separates them and sets them against each other, so people should be freed (or emancipated) from this status. (Maia pal, 2019) In this way, it may be stated that some Marxist consider as united people local and migrants but by other Marxist it is considered that unitedness is practically impossible by the different governments in different countries.

The issue of immigration has been central to the Brexit debate. Unfortunately, some on the left have pondered to anti-immigration sentiments. Marxists must call for workers' unity, organization & internationalism. (Niklas Albin Svensson, 2019) Niklas point of view is better for the people and for the state as removal of differentiation regarding behaviour is better for unity and for equality also.

According to Marxist our life choices are not completely free and self dependent, therefore the capitalist structure limits our freedom of choice, i.e. to different degrees and our actions are also based on the historical structure that we have inherited. (Equipe 2021) As concerned with the choices of the people, these are also not the same as some people it is considered.

In actuality our decisions are bound to some restriction these may be prices, quality and availability of things also.

### **Islamic point of view about Migration**

As concerned Islamic point of view about Migration, if some one is in problem of living, problem of health, problem of atmosphere, problem of employment or problem in performing religious worships or problem in spending life easily or problem of respect or honor is in danger or life of oneself or his offspring or family then it is better to migrate from one place to the other place considering that Allah's earth is vast. And Allah will create the causes of bounties for his survival.

Holy Quran witness about the commandment of Holy prophet's Migration from Makkah to Medina. And the whole world knows the incidents after this migration. And with the central command of Medina, different messengers and ambassadors were sent to the other countries of the world for preaching of Islam and then from this Center different armed troops were sent to non-Muslim

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countries to conquer them. And after Islamic control, these accepted Islam or lived under Islamic command as Zimmi.

In many Ahādīth, it has been commanded that in case of a problem in one place, it is better to shift from the other. As Allah's earth is vast and Allah's creature is of different types and different traits also. In human beings, there are such human who seem cruel but after knowing keenly, it will become clear that these have a soft and kind heart for humanity.

No doubt, migration has some positive and some negative impacts also according to the area and the people where you have been shifted. Anyhow some positive impacts are discussed in a brief manner.

#### **Positive impacts on host countries**

These are as under:

**Job vacancies & skills:** Migrants arrive in a place, due to these migrants, the empty vacant houses have a chance to be sale or agreed on as rented. In this way, the income and consumption level increases because of these migrants.

**Economic growth:** For the development of any society or country, its economic growth is essential for promotion of economic development of concerned sectors. By which employment opportunities and circulation of wealth also increases. Economic growth is essential for increasing the standard of living and for changing quality of life.

**Energy & innovations:** In the present era, it is necessary to find alternative resources of energy. In this era, technological innovations are also important but it is important to stress on research and innovations by which the leadership of the whole world awaits those who will come first in this field. By innovations, different types of techniques for development may be adopted with the help of technology advancements.

**Cultural Diversity:** In the globalised era the cultural diversity is also increasing due to mutual efforts of mutual living together. And because of this diversity, many types of new employment opportunities are also created with some new problems also. Cultural diversity remains in every society and this can not be removed at any cost.

#### **Negative impacts**

Some are as under:

**Depression of wages:** Wages depression in some cases and by some companies disturb the persons to survive his life in a better way. Wage is the main thing by which persons survive their lives. Low wages or uncertain situations about the wage rate also disturb the survival of life. Contract systems rather than permanent jobs also create depression of wages in the employees. This uncertainty condition dissatisfy the workers then how the dissatisfied workers can work in a better way.

**Exploitation of immigrants:** After the migration, sometimes companies offer big wages in advertisements for call the persons but practically they give less than the agreement or in the advertisements.

After shifting from one country to the other country is not easy to shift or return back.

**Population pressure:** With the migrants, population level increases, this will create many living and food problems at first. But if the expert of any skill are migrated, these will create and train more people with that skill which they possess. In reverse, if the migrants are dull and negative minded, these people will disturb the society in which they are living. And these will not prove useful for country where they migrated.

**Cultural problems with locals;** With immigrants, cultural problems increase for persons of other religions and cultures. Cultural increases by some individuals when they hate other cultures. Therefore, mutual harmony is necessary for resolve the matters. With the diaspora, problems of different habits and different cultures disturb the diaspora and also with the local people.

**Security problem:** By migrants, security problems may increase. In this way intelligence and security personnel have to do more work for the security of their residents. Security issue increases always increase in the presence of migrants and diaspora. The main problem is that if any person is involved in criminal activities, the people know about these activities after a period of span.

**Danger of organized crimes;** There is also a danger of organised crime with the new migrants. It is also possible migrants have shifted from one country to the other because of rescue from the cases of crime. In this way, by meeting or gathering together, they become a group of criminals to do crimes. This thing will be a dangerous thing for the local residents. (Editor, 2023) In migration, or in case of diaspora, the dangerous thing for the country is the migration of criminals, intoxicant people or idle people who do wrong and illegal activities in the country where they have been migrated. This thing not only creates disturbance in the country but also involves negative activities. In this way, security and intelligence agencies have to keep eye especially on those migrants.

### **Consumption**

Consumption occurs because of demand for goods & services. Therefore if demand increases, consumption level increases. It encourages the investors to supply more goods to meet the increased demand. In this way, shopkeepers' profit increases by increasing the sale of goods. And investors' profit also increases with the increase in sales. As far as the level of ? consumption is concerned, it depends upon the locality in which he is living or working also. If the person belongs to the middle class or working with the rich class, his consumption style will be more than that of a common middle class person. This is because of the tendency of consumption to impress others.

Marx viewed consumption negatively because it led to alienation among people. The more you consume, the less human you are. In a nicely paradoxical

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relationship, each act of consumption eats away at the soul. How? Marx explains, in his well-known discussion of commodity fetishism. (Marx, 1896/1977)& (Sett G. Mc Nall, 1990) From this point of view, it has been stated that more consumption is dangerous for the soul and for moral values. This means extra consumption makes the people proudful.

The conventional critique misses important changes in consumption patterns that have occurred over the past several decades.(Richard McIntyre, 1992).

Concerning consumerism, it is a sociological and economical belief that goes hand in hand with the never ending cycle of the acquisition of goods & services in a surplus way. Actually, the concept of consumerism started after the 2nd world war & then intensified with the start of the industrial revolution. It describes the effect of paralleling one's happiness with materialistic possessions & consumptions. (Riwa K. , 2021)

As concerned the effects of consumerism, in it the deletion of natural resources and pollution of the earth. The consumer society works, it may not be declared as suitable and sustainable. The reason is that Earth's resources are being used in a very careless manner.

#### **Islamic Point of view about Consumption.**

As concerned Islamic point of view about consumption is concerned, Islam dislikes the hoarding of money and encourages spending but within given limits. As excessive spending is disliked and miserable behaviour is also discouraged. This means that the middle way between the miserable and the spendthrift behaviour must be adopted.

#### **Class Concept**

A class for itself is a class that develops consciousness of itself, knows its position and capabilities within society and is able to take actions in its own interest using this knowledge.(Editor, 1999) In this way, it may be stated that the class has the purpose of mutual working up for the whole members. And this is to learn about the mutual members' problems.

Marxist opine that in class all members have relation among them whether iconic or social.

As Marx sought to define classes embedded in relations rather than social status. (Kuhn, 2018) Marxist point of view declare that classes are formed not on the base of social but on the base of economic status. And the rich people try to have relations with the rich rather than their relatives who are poor. This is why the poor remains in poverty because they are poor.

For Marxists class inequalities and class struggles are primary features of the structure of any society and play a key role in the development of these structures. (Editor, 1999) From inequalities and class differences, the level of societal development may be imagined because inequalities and developments have a negative relationship with each other. Higher the inequality in the country will reflect that the lower will economic level of the country. While if

inequalities will be lower in the country then it will reflect that higher will be per capita income. Then living standard will be higher of the people.

Class is understood as a relationship between people in which surplus is extracted and distributed. Each process in the society is understood to be "over determined", i.e. each process exists only as the effect of all other social processes. (Richard McIntyre, 1992). Anyhow the understanding and cooperation between the rich and the poor will change the economic condition in to better condition. But practically, the rich have relations with the rich people so they become useful for one another. As concerned developed countries like America, Russia, Japan and UK 's residents have quite different way regarding people of developing countries.

Americans are class- conscious, all right, but the dividing line is not the traditional one between a class- conscious, all right but the dividing line is not the traditional line between a class conscious proletariat the middle classes and the bosses. It is between the "haves" and the "haves not." As Ernest Hemingway once explained to F.Scott Fitz Gerald's plaintive question about the rich: "The difference is that they have money". (Scott G McNall, 1990) In societies, the real issue is that the rich consider the poor as not good in hearts. And most of the poor do about the rich in same manner. Therefore class difference remains between the both classes but if the wealthy and rich person share their wealth with the poor in *sadqat* and *zaka*, or help the needy, feed the hungry and give clothes to those who have not clothes. Definitely these emotions will create better sensation with each other.

Moreover, class exploitation, even during the periods of intensive economic crises, does not necessarily result in the development of class consciousness among the exploited classes. (Jeff G.2008)

Exploitative behaviour must be ended or decreased as more exploitation will create more hatredness and behaviour of brotherhood will create fraternity also. And it is also main purpose of Islamic teachings to make the people of different levels into brotherhood just on the base of humanity whatever the religion, caste or creed they possess.

The working class movement will always fight against racism and exploitation too. And trade unionists will know that our strength always needs underpinning by control of the labor - supply - demand deregulated free market for labor power works, no better than it does in another point of life. (Niklas Albin Svensson, 2019) As Niklas have stated, the working class will be against the exploitative class because both have different styles of life and different purposes. Any how the economic development will depend on the more working class than exploitive class but if working class is less, this will reflect that economic development will be in less speed due to more idle and exploitive class.

Marxist & Neo- Marxist perspectives, Marxist & Neo- Marxist theories of revolution identify the material or economic organization of a given society that is the forces & revolutions of production, as the principle context determining

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revolutionary conflicts which are understood as particularly acute struggle between social classes. For Marxist, revolutions are the result of class struggles between the dominant ruling class on the one hand and rising or revolutionary on the other. (Jeff G. & etal. 2008). If we think about class differences and about dominance, it becomes clear that the point of view of ibne khaldoon, is also true that the poor and lower class always imitate the class who is being dominated. Similarly the customs and traditions also develop in the societies. In this regard, Marxist point of view is also favored by many years before about the styles and tendencies of the upper class and the lower class. Besides the regional and the country level, within the families and within the societies, the dominant people are being imitated.

### **Labour Concept**

Marx borrowed his concept of laboring human beings realizing her / himself through work & transformation of the material world, from Hegel. Marx did not mean factory labor. (Scott G McNall, 1990) Before the Marx, Hegel has described about the concept labour working in labour market.

Niklas A. (2018) argues that Marx recognized the problem, that employers are using national divisions and borders in order to pit the working class against itself. However, his solution is not "managed migration", but international organization.

### **Islamic point of view about the class or Sections**

Islamic point of view regarding class is that Allah made the classes and tribes just for identification. No one is preferable over the other on the basis of creed, colour and wealth over the other. The Holy Prophet P.B.U.H. also stated in last sermon at Hajjatuwidaa, that no Arab has superiority over non Arab, and no non-Arab has superiority over the Arab, and no white has superiority over the black and no black has superiority over the white except because of piety.

Similarly social and economic status and wealth is not the cause of superiority in Islam. Superiority in Islam will be because of piety not wealth or other worldly things.

### **Concluding Remarks**

In a nutshell, it may be stated that Marxist point of view regarding consumption is similar to the Islamic teachings to some extent. As Islamic concept dislikes the storing of wealth and encourages the circulation of wealth. Anyhow, in the concept of labouring, Islamic teachings also encourage working with one's own hands. This is why the holy prophet's famous commandment can be quoted as "the labourer is the friend of Allah." Migration will also be useful for the person if the person has been bound in earning the livelihood or has compulsion in survival of life. The ability of migrants will determine that the country will get benefits if these diaspora are skilled and able persons. This type of skilled migrant will be useful for both parties. But if the migrant are criminal and idle people in majority this situation will be dangerous for development therefore, agencies and security personnel have to do more care about these new criminal



migrants. Any how, the migration is useful totally as it increases demand for goods which encourages investors to do more investment regarding concerned products which are being demanded. In short, migration, consumption and labour are key concepts for development of any economy if these are beneficial for the concerned economy.

### **Suggestions**

1- it is suggested that to settle the migrants, probe about their character and criminal activities must be done before issuing any legal paper or identification letter.

2- Such steps must be taken to promote that laborers must be encouraged rather than just giving money on interest.

3- Consumption level must be moderate in spending life.

4- Miserliness and spendthrift behaviour must be discouraged.

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