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International Migration: Its Characteristics and Impact on Development in Khouribga- Morocco.

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الملخص: تعتبر الهجرة الدولية من الظواهر الاجتماعية التي يعرفها العالم والتي لها تأثير كبير على مختلف الميادين الاقتصادية والاجتماعية والديمقراطية والثقافية والسياسية وكذلك المجالية. بل أصبحت تعتبر من أكبر الظواهر التي تميز العالم في القرن 21، وتعتبر الجغرافيا من العلوم التي تهتم بالظاهرة عبر دراستها بشكل يسمح بفهم عميق لها في علاقتها بالتنمية ودينامية المجال.

وقد ركزت أغلب النظريات والأبحاث التي تناولت موضوع الهجرة الدولية على أهمية البعد الاقتصادي في رسم التحولات المجالية والسوسيو اقتصادية، انطلاقا من تلك العلاقة غير المتكافئة اقتصاديا بين مناطق الانطلاق أو الطرد، ومناطق الوصول أو الجذب، إلا أن عدم التوازن الاقتصادي، الاجتماعي، والسياسي بين بلدان العالم ضمن مبدأ التقسيم الدولي للعمل والعولمة زاد من وثيرة الظاهرة الهجرية المنطلقة من مناطق المغادرة الفقيرة الطاردة للعنصر البشري صوب مناطق الوصول الغنية المستقبلية له، رغم ما ثم سنه من قوانين منظمة ومقننة لهاته الظاهرة، ومن أهم البلدان التي شهدت حركات كبيرة للهجرة نحو البلدان الأوروبية خاصة نحو إيطاليا نجد المغرب. هذه الفئات التي هاجرت قصد العمل وتحسين أوضاعها الاقتصادية ستعمل على تنمية مناطق مغادرتها عبر خلق مشاريع تنمية انعكست إيجابا على مستوى التنمية بها، بل تحولت هذه الفئة إلى فاعل حقيقي داخل مناطق الانطلاق وأصبحت تساهم في التوسع العمراني بها كما هو الشأن بمدينة خريبكة بالشمال الغربي للمغرب، التي ارتبطت نشأتها بمناجم الفوسفات مطلع ق 20م، وتعدد طرق هجرتها بين ما هو شرعي وغير شرعي.

Abstract: International migration is one of the worldwide social phenomena which have a significant impact on various economic, social, demographic, cultural, political and spatial fields. It has become one of the biggest issues that characterize the world in the 21st century. Geography is a science that studies the phenomenon in a way that allows a deep understanding of the immigration and its relation to development and dynamic field. Most of the theories and research on the subject of international migration have focused on the importance of the

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economic dimension in drawing spatial, and socio economic shifts, based on the unequal economic relationship between the areas of departure or expulsion, and areas of access or attraction. But the lack of economic, social and political balance among nations, within the principle of the international division of labor and globalization, has increased the pace of migratory phenomenon emanating from poor areas of departure that repels human race towards the rich areas that receives it despite all the laws that restrict and codify the phenomenon. Among the most important countries that have experienced large movements of migration towards the European countries, especially Italy, we find Morocco. These categories of immigrants, who have migrated in order to work and improve their economic situation, will work on the development of their departure areas through the creation of dynamic projects. Moreover this group has turned into a real actor in the departure areas and has contributed to urban expansion as it is the case in the city of Khouribga , north-west of Morocco , which is associated with the inception of phosphate mines at the beginning of the 20th century , but the sherifian office of phosphates(OCP) didn't give a priority to the urban and social development of the city. This makes it live in a real sustainable crisis. However, thanks to the important remittances of employers living abroad, the city managed to find a new actor which activates its economic and urban vitality. We have adopted in this study a field questionnaire to measure some basic indicators in understanding the phenomenon of migration within this city

Keywords: immigration- Khouribga city- development.

Introduction:

Immigration is considered among the most important phenomenon that humanities had focused on because of its direct influence on the human being and his surroundings. Defining the term 'immigration' differs according to the wide range of scientific fields and domains. Some define it as a kind of complaint against poverty while others refer to it as a movement of individual and groups from the departure areas towards the host ones due to multiple political, economic, social and cultural causes (Paul Harson, 1986).

Morocco's geographical position, near the European continent, made it one of the countries which were greatly influenced by this phenomenon. This wave started in the 60s of the 20th century towards the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany and France. This was followed by new immigration waves in the recent few years towards Italy and Spain (High Commissioner for Planning- study- 2007).

These immigration waves are mainly due to geographical inequality and the successive years of drought along with the wide spread of unemployment. Fact which created new immigration spots such as Khouribga City. The latter experienced varied social and economical changes, linked to the local development and immigration, thanks to the immigrants money transfer.



If South East Asian Countries are ranked first in immigrants' money transfer, Morocco is considered the first among the Maghreb countries. This doesn't mean that Morocco has the largest rate of immigrants but this is because of the deep rooted relationship between Moroccan immigrants and their homeland. Hence, the interaction between the local community and the social development, on the one hand, and the increase of immigration phenomenon on the other hand.

Note: This research was done in Arabic.

The problematic:

Can we say that international immigration has lead to the development of Khouribga City while The Sharif Phosphate Office has denied its social and development obligations?

- The first Assumptions (hypothesis)

Global Immigration has lead to an enormous geographical change s in Khouribga city charactised by a new urban style more than that created by the Sharif Phosphate Office

- The second Assumption(hypothesis)

Immigrants' money transfer to their families has become an essential income despite its decline during the last few years.

- The third Assumption (hypothesis)

The more Immigrants' money transfer increases the better the local economy becomes; fact which leads to a lot of social changes.

- The fourth Assumption/hypothesis

Most of the investments are linked to the real estate.

The purpose of the study

- To highlight the different stages of the immigration in Khouribga city
- To know the immigration impacts on the economy, society and construction

Method followed in the study (methodology)

- In order to shed light on this topic and better understand it, we will rely on a theoretical method and practical one based on the 'On the field research.'
- Concerning the 'On the field study', we relied on a sample of 1% of the total population of the city: $166397 \times 100 = 1663$ immigrant interviewed

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1- Introducing the studied region:



Khouribga was established during the beginning of the last century and it is rich of Phosphate mines Khouribga was founded in 1923 by the French authorities few years after the inauguration of the first mine in 1921.

The city is divided into two parts:

- The North part which includes most of the administrative buildings where the economical and social activities are centred.

- The South part, called The European City, consists of outstanding residential buildings (villas) in addition to a residential area where The Sharif Phosphate Office workers live (accommodation)

The city has become a urban area since 1960 and its population is approximately 196196 according 2014 national census (High Commission for Planning, 2015 General population and housing census 2014).

2- The geographical diagnostic of Khouribga as a window to understand the global immigration emanating from it

Khouribga was the destination of the early immigration waves, either from the nearby small villages or from other Moroccan cities. Since its establishment in 1920, which coincided with the Phosphate discovery, most of those immigrants served as mine workers. Thus, the city became the preferred destination for the immigrants.

This phenomenon increased tremendously with the succeeding years of drought which negatively affected the farmers with regards to the dry climate of the region.

Khouribga's population represents one third of the total region's population and the city has known a lot of geographical changes fact which leads to an important urbanisation. As a result, the population density reached 61/km² whereas the national population rate is approximately 47/km². A long with this, the urbanisation growth in the region reached 67% due to the increase of the global immigration and its social impacts.

3-Khouribga as a unique model of global immigration

3.1-The Main stages of Khouribga's Global Immigration

✓ Stage 1:

Pre- 1968:

- The Global Immigration was not significant at that time because the social and economical conditions were favorable.

- No communication among immigrants because of the lack of communication tools

- The university graduates or what is known as the 'The unemployed crisis' was not yet known. (Alrfas Mohammed, 1993)

✓ Stage 2:

The period between 1968-1984:



The period was the real start of the international immigration waves in the region not only among Khouribga residents but it included individuals and families from different surrounding areas as well.

Immigrants were not fully integrated in their new host countries due to the traditions and customs differences.

✓ Stage 3:

The period between 1984-1990 was characterised by:

- International Immigration was greatly intensified and it directly influenced the inner immigration towards the city.
- A quick and dynamic shift in construction. This was mainly due to the immigrant quest for residence change as symbol of high social status.
- Most of these families' sons were settled down in Italy.

✓ Stage 4:

The period after 1990:

During this period, Morocco, especially Khouribga, has known a wide spread of thoughts advocating and calling for international immigrating which became the core subject of discussions.

As this period coincided with successive years of drought, many youths from the city and the suburbs were forced to risk their lives and sail towards Italy. Furthermore, the immigration to Italy was considered as a cultural element and the main concern of people's daily discussions at home, in cafes and even at schools. (Mohammed Khachani, 2007).

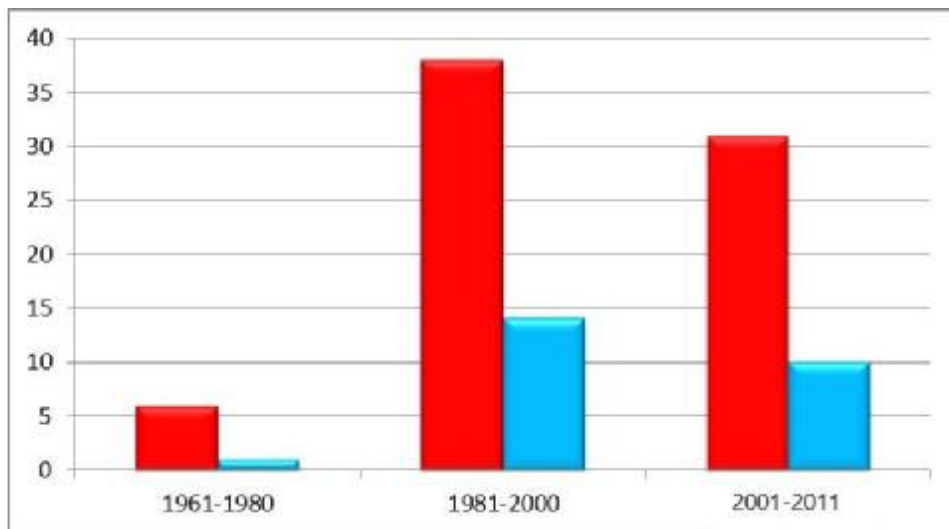
-3.2 The characteristics of the international immigration emanating from Khouribga

Italy was the preferred destination of more than 77% Khouribgi migrants whereas 15% (field study 2011-2012) went to Spain. There were two types of immigrations: Legal and illegal as the graph below shows

Graph 1: The nature of the immigration in Khouribga between what is legal and illegal (%)



مجلة جامعة الحسين بن طلال للبحوث ، مجلة علمية محكمة دورية تصدر عن عمادة البحث العلمي والدراسات العليا المجلد (4) ملحق (1) 2019



the source: field study 2011-2012

legal migration
illegal migration

60% of immigrants visit Morocco at least once a year and More than 30% visit Morocco from two to four times a year (field study 2011-2012)

4- The social and cultural status of Khouribga migrants:

- According to the field study, 57% of the immigrants are either illiterate or had completed primary school whereas middle and high school combined with university graduate represent 43%. 52% of them come from rural areas and 48% were from urban ones.
- 75% of people immigrating from Khouribga are male and 65% of them are married whereas 24% are either single or divorced.
- Italy and Spain are the most attractive countries for the immigrants from Khouribga. The former attracts about 63% of young immigrants while the latter attracts 10%.(field study 2011-2012)

5-Migrants' financial Revenues

In 2007, migrants' transfers reached up to \$ 4.2 millions whereas the estimated OCP's revenues reached only 2.8 in the same year (Mohammed Khachani, 2007 p17). This shows clearly the importance of the immigrants' revenues in Morocco's development in general and Khouribga in particular.

The urban Community of Khouribga is considered an important attractive center for the international immigrants' money transfers which are done in two main ways:

- ✓ 44 % of the total remittances is done on regular monthly basis
- ✓ 56% of the remittances are done on an irregular basis

As a conclusion of this field study, 77% of the immigrants support their families in their home country whereas 23% don't.



According to the study, immigrants' revenues consist mainly of material things which play an important role in increasing their incomes both in their home countries as well the in the host ones.

- 80 % of Khouribgi immigrants' revenues include mainly appliances and clothes that can be sold in the city flea markets. These goods are usually brought from abroad either in goods transporting vehicles or in personal touristic ones. According to the field study carried on in 2011-2012, 58% of the immigrants have their own cars whereas 42% resort to other means of transport. (field study 2011-2012).

6- The economical impacts of immigrants' revenues

6.1 Investments in real estate:

The main economical influence of immigration is the investments increase in real estate compared to other sectors.

Table 1: Distribution of completed investments in Morocco and in the host countries

Sectors	Completion rate in Morocco %	Completion rate abroad %
Real estate	83.7	63.0
Industry	1.3	3.7
Trade	3.9	17.4
Tourism	1.4	6.1
Other services	1.1	1.2
Agriculture	7.5	7.3
Other sectors	0.1	1.3
Total	100	100

the source: Field study 2011-2012

- The increase of investments reveals the importance of the real estate as a symbol of social success.
- The investment in real estate also has an emotional connotation because owning a house reveals the immigrants' pereptual quest for psychological stability and a reward for the long years spent abroad.

6.2- The investment in trade and services

Trade and services are logical results of investments in real estate, especially after the world economical crisis, since the immigrants rely mainly on material revenues. This can be easily seen in the large number of stores situated beneath immigrants' homes .Since most of these stores are large (52% of them are varies between 70 and 100 meters and 30% are more than 100



meters whereas 18% are less than 70) they are used as warehouses where material revenues are kept. 20% of these warehouses are situated in Al Fath neighbourhood and are used as places where engines and other car spare parts, coming in private from overseas, are sold or stored to avoid paying taxes, licenses and other administrative requirements.

6.3 The social effects of global Immigration in Khouribga city

- It is proved throughout history that economical transformation is automatically followed by a geographical change and ,hence, many social changes in different domains. This is exactly what we had noticed while carrying out the research. The number of immigrants from the same family has increased enormously. Families with seven immigrant members or more make up 37% whereas those with 4 to 7 members make up 22% and the remaining 41% consist of families with 1to 4 immigrants (field study 2011-2012).

6-4 International Immigration is a major factor in local development

Some people believe that immigrants' investment is so important for the country's economy since the majority of these investments are in real estate sector which is considered non-productive. Yet, these judgments are not always true with regards to the importance of investing in housing for many reasons:

- Providing better housing conditions for workers will inevitably lead to an increase in production.
- Ensuring better nutrition and education for workers' children
- Ensuring good living standards which are considered as an indicator of the human development.

Immigration leads to local economical mobility through flourishing other jobs and occupations related to it in addition to creating many micro-enterprises in different sector such as construction, carpentry, blacksmithing etc.....fact which encourages creating more direct and indirect jobs. According to the field study most of the interviewed people, from all walks of life, confirmed that the international immigration decline caused by the current world economical crisis has negative impacts on the local economy in the region. Therefore, many traders were forced to change their activities so as to adapt with the new situation. Along with this, investment in property sector has more or less alleviated the deficit in housing in Morocco since most of immigrants homes are either rent or given temporal ally to their homeless family members.

On the whole, the impacts of the investment in varied sectors remain generally positive since investment is a major engine in any economical development.



Conclusion:

-The urban community of Khouribga is considered a good model for carrying out immigration studies because it allows tackling this phenomenon within the local environment and it also allows a deep and a better understanding of immigration and all it stands for.

-The study also showed that the immigrants' revenues are a major engine for the economy and the development in Khouribga region.

-The social impacts of the international immigration, especially on the local level, is considered the most influential effects on people's culture, behaviour, social solidarity as well as the standards of living.

- Finally, it is worth mentioning that international immigration has greatly participated in Khouribga's development taking into account the increasing number of immigrants every year and the positive effects of their investments as it was stated beforehand in this field study.

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