

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF MIGRATION CONCERNING THE FAMILY

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Abstract: *The family is the institution that has suffered greatly due to the migration phenomenon because, by the migration of one of the family members, the intra-family relations and the basic functioning of the society have sometimes deteriorated very seriously. In this survey we used theoretical, descriptive and sources and also empirical data gained from the analysis we made. The survey among people who wanted to answer was based on a sociological investigation, using a questionnaire that included easy questions designed to understand the lifestyle, the family composition, the family welfare, some behaviors and values. In determining the space of the social survey, the questionnaire was administered during the months of February 2014 to May 2014, using an online platform, the respondents completing the questionnaire on this platform.*

Key words: *migration, familial crisis criza, socio-economic consequences, education*

Introduction

Migration has the strongest negative effect on family, by phenomena visible in our country: misunderstandings, intra-family tensions, not taking care of the children partially or completely, juvenile delinquency, the incapacity of the parent who takes care of the child to supervise him correctly, the situation of the grandparents without authority or with too much love, absenteeism, school drop, school failure, alcohol, smoking, drugs, and not least, family breakdown, divorce.

Children were the most affected both in the family and in their school status, in the public perception and in the emotional state. Most times, the family rupture caused stress, the emotion and even the shock of the parental love deprivation.

The belief that the assurance of acceptable conditions in Romania is impossible increases more and more, children themselves aspiring to emigrate. Hypothetically, the phenomenon may be part of the globalization process or the natural circulation of persons and goods between countries and continents.

There was even a chain reaction of migration flows and migration and contagion phenomenon:

- The most courageous who emigrated left from 1990-1991, assuming all risks: no visa, lack of information and even arrest risk and immediate deportation;

- There were some migrants who were winners, managing to establish and to reunite their families, by offering help to their partner, other relatives, friends and some losers in finding a job;

- The social polarization deepens more and more in communities affected by the external migrations, between the richer migrant families and poorer non-migrant families. The first have modernized villas and houses, luxury cars, Western goods, while the others sank further into poverty. From a psychical point of view, there is a non-migrants reaction against migrants, in which they are devalued and branded. Previous sociological research has shown many points of view regarding Romanians departure abroad: to earn money, to steal, to beg, to prostitute. These views do not reflect the reality, but it is significant that the public has such a picture about the strawberry men working hard.

The most serious problem caused by the migration of Romanians abroad is linked to the situation of children left behind (temporarily abandoned): what will happen to these children, who will help them and if anyone can replace the real parents. The public opinion, mass-media and some investigations have shown that the role of migrant parents is substituted by relatives, especially grandparents, or children were placed under the state protection in very low percentages.

The migrants who succeeded abroad take their children to their new households in the destination countries so that Romania loses annually samples of children and through them, the social values.

The occurrence of some migrant networks in the largest destination countries causes the appearance of a diaspora, because migrants fail to find a job easier and safer, establish contacts and have concrete information about working and living conditions. The external migration flows attenuates the population growth rhythm in Romania and causes population aging phenomenon. Basically, by making this social survey, we wanted to know what types of parents choose to migrate temporarily and to abandon their children, what makes these parents do so; if the economic crisis is a key issue in determining the desire to go abroad, if parents going abroad is a way to improve the material problems of families, if parents migration solution disagrees or not with the view of other parents, if the family functionality is affected and which are the consequences in the educational and emotional plan on children.

1. The effects of economic crisis and migration on family

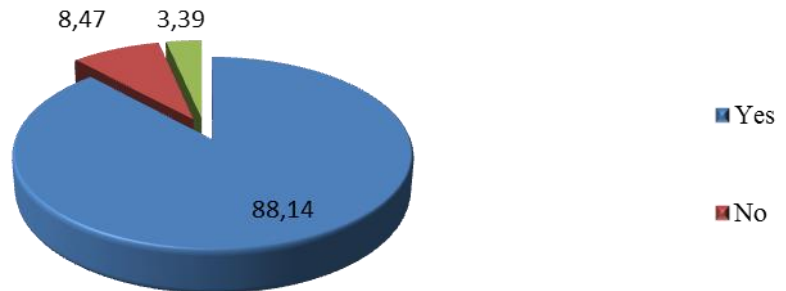
The first section of the survey was dedicated to the economic crisis and migration on the family. We sought to find out if the respondents know: such situations of children who have one or both parents working abroad, if they think that the family has been affected by the economic crisis, which is the situation of the family in such a crisis, which are conditions of the families with children and if they think that something will improve their life style.

Of the 118 respondents who participated in the sociological survey, 88.14% said they were aware of cases in which one or both parents of a child are left to work abroad.

1. Do you know cases in which one or both parents of a child are left to work abroad?

<i>Respondent options</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Frequencies</i>
Yes	88.14	104
No	8.47	10
Not knowing/Not answering	3.39	4
Total	100%	118

Because of the large number of temporarily abandoned children and the subjects' willingness to respond to the questionnaire, respondents have embraced the idea that this phenomenon is already a social problem that should be in the specialists' attention and of those willing to establish and contribute to the establishment, analyze, prevent and combat of this phenomenon.



Maybe the wish of making known their situation, maybe the fact that they realized the importance of raising and educating their children in appropriate circumstances have led to such views. Those 8.47% who said they don't have such families in their entourage probably appreciated how important it is for our society that all children in the family grow with their parents.

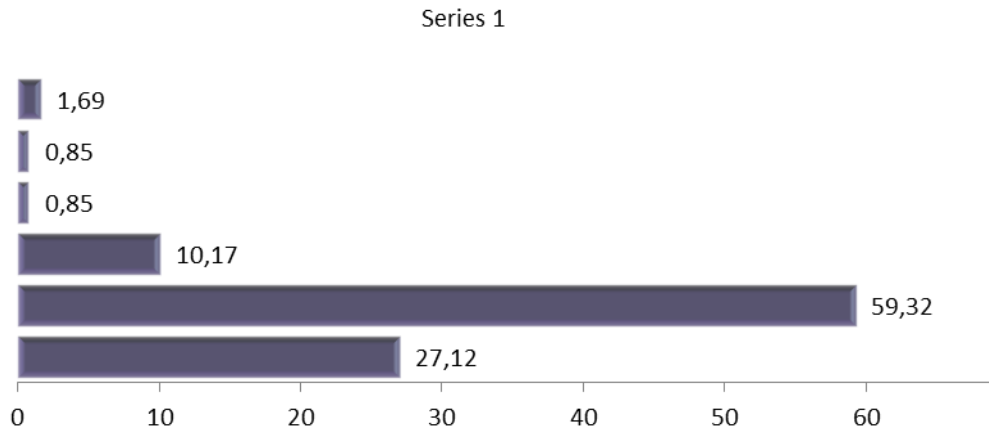
The next question we addressed aimed to get information about their opinion about the extent of the economic crisis in Romania, how far our country has been affected by this crisis.

2. Probable you have heard about the economic crisis which affects many countries for the moment. How much do you think Romania is affected by the economic crisis?

<i>Respondent options</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Frequencies</i>
Very much	27.12	32
Too much	59.32	70
Too little	10.17	12
Very little	0.85	1
Not at all	0.85	1
Not knowing/Not answering	1.69	2
Total	100%	118

59.32% of respondents, meaning more than half of them felt that Romania was quite affected by the economic crisis, 27.12% answered

that we were very much affected, and very little the rest (10.17%), very slightly (0.85%).



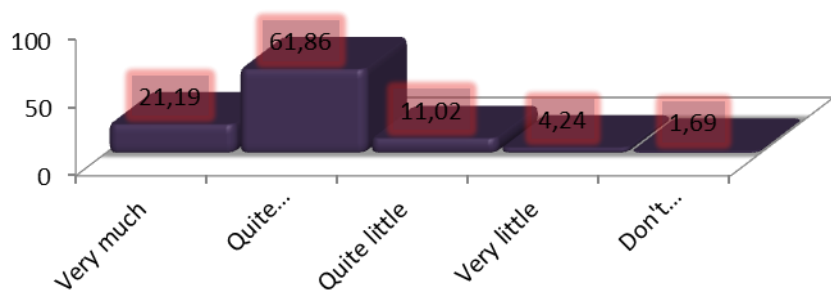
Therefore, more than three-quarters of them said they know about the economic crisis, I believe that it is known in our country. Of course, we cannot find out how much every respondent knows about this subject and to what extent they have acquired knowledge of the causes, factors, effects, consequences and dimensions of this crisis in different areas of business and society. It is, however, obvious that in some way they had the opportunity to feel the social crisis in their activities and social level. By restricting the area in the social plan, we wanted to find out their opinion about the families in their acquaintances circle, if they have been affected by the economic crisis.

3. How many of the families you know who have been affected by the economic crisis?

<i>Respondent options</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Frequencies</i>
Very many	21.19	25
Too many	61.86	73
Too few	11.02	13
Very few	4.24	5
Not knowing/Not answering	1.69	2
Total	100%	118

61.86% said that they know quite a few families who have been affected by the crisis, 21.19% of families are affected by the crisis very grave, and 11.02% knew quite a few families affected by the crisis.

To this question, three quarters of the respondents are of the opinion that there are many and quite a few families who have been identified with significant economic consequences on financial and life quality aspects in Romania.



The social assistance, as an essential part of the social protection, represents an operative implementation of social protection programs for these types of families. We refer to any non-contribution financial or social service, financed from general taxes or special social funds. The support given to these families in need through the social welfare system is only specified by general limits specified by law, intending to be specified by analyzing the case of concrete situations, based on surveys conducted by experts. Next, we wanted to find out from those who said that families were affected by the economic crisis more details about the circumstances in which they are located.

Migration focuses around it a very broad set of social phenomena, so that it is a subject for many disciplines: demography, geography, economy, legal sciences, economics, etc. Researchers in these areas try to draw diagrams and explanatory theories of the phenomenon. From this perspective, migration is considered as the result of a multitude of individual actions of rational agents that assess the costs, benefits and risks not only in economic terms. Another major

component of the theoretical and empirical studies on migration is the issue of the consequences and its effects.

When asked about how Romania is adversely affected by migration, 44.92% of the respondents answered that it is pretty much affected negatively and 13.56% felt that it is very much affected by this.

4. Do you think Romania is negatively affected by migration?

<i>Respondent options</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Frequencies</i>
Very much	13.56	16
Too much	44.92	53
Too little	20.34	24
Very little	13.56	16
Not at all	5.93	7
Not knowing/Not answering	1.69	2
Total	100%	118

So, more than half of those surveyed believe that Romania is negatively affected by migration. Negative aspects as diverse and general opinion leans more to this aspect. Regarding the question whether the number of children who lost a parent or both parents has increased because their departure to work abroad, respondents agreed that more than a half were affected, 43.22% -pretty much and 16, 95% - very much.

5. Compared to the last year, do you think that the number of children who lost a parent (or both parents) because of their departure to work abroad has risen?

<i>Respondent options</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Frequencies</i>
Very much	16.95	20
Too much	43.22	51
Too little	28.81	34
Very little	7.63	9
Not knowing/Not answering	3.39	4
Total	100%	118

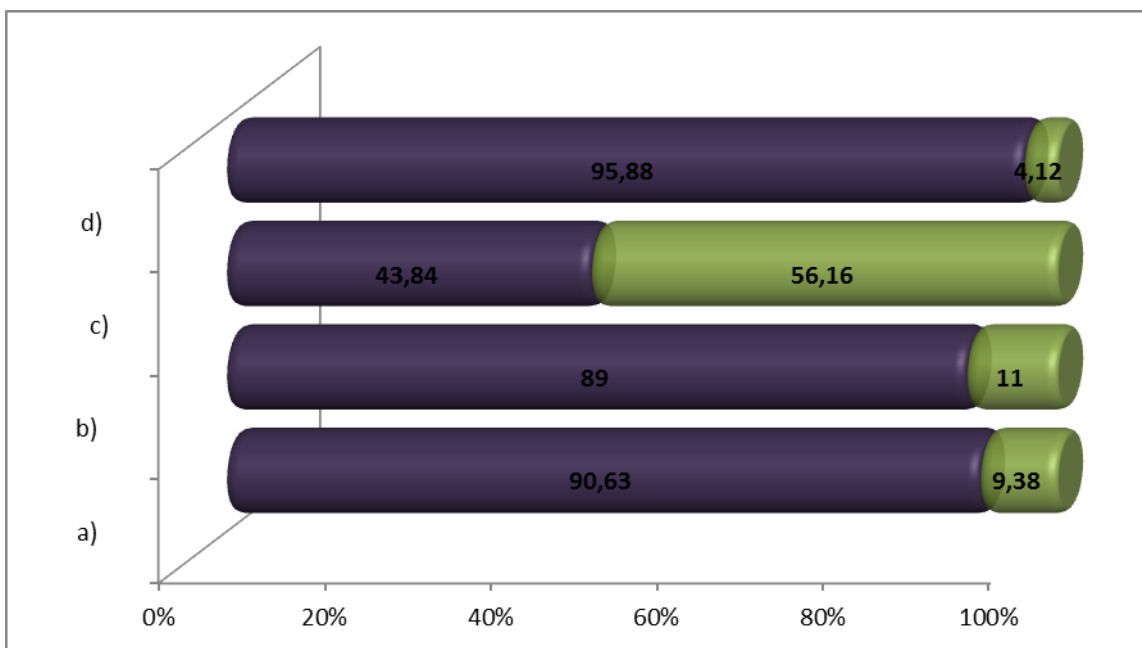
From the statistical analyzes performed by some experts, the higher number of children abandoned by their parents results. Among the negative effects, it is interesting to note that the departure of one of their parents in some cases causes damage to the child's relationship with the parent left behind. The family is the main source of support for children when faced with a problem.

The next question presented several possible answers. Regarding what caused the overseas departure and what the reasons were, the respondents said they were the main migration determinants: the worsening economic situation in Romania (90.63%); job loss (89.00%); disappointments with life and opportunities in the country (95.88%).

6. Thinking about the cases you know, the reason for leaving abroad was*:

<i>Respondent options</i>	Yes	No
a) worsening economic situation in Romania due to crisis	90.63	9.38
b) job loss or unemployment	89.00	11.00
c) family reunification	43.84	56.16
d) life and country opportunities' disappointments	95.88	4.12

“Differences in the particularities of individuals and their families can influence the mobile worker according to his preferences and demands, large or small, to travel abroad... The availability and the capacity to respond to the incentives mobility depend on the worker's age, social position, level of training, etc. The differences in economic, social and environmental conditions influence a number of opportunities and challenges for the mobile worker who expects to exceed the expected benefit of random obstacles.”(Vasile et al, 2014, p. 98)



3. Consequences of migration on child raising and education

Parents' working abroad causes a number of significant direct effects on the functionality of the families affected by this phenomenon and, in particular, of the children who remain at home. Due to the problems related to the lack of effective supervision, and the absence of a real family environment, the children left behind are vulnerable to abuse, labor exploitation and other similar situations. This category of children has been and is increasingly affected by lower school performance, with the increasing climax to dropout school at early ages. (Cruceru, 2010, p. 16)

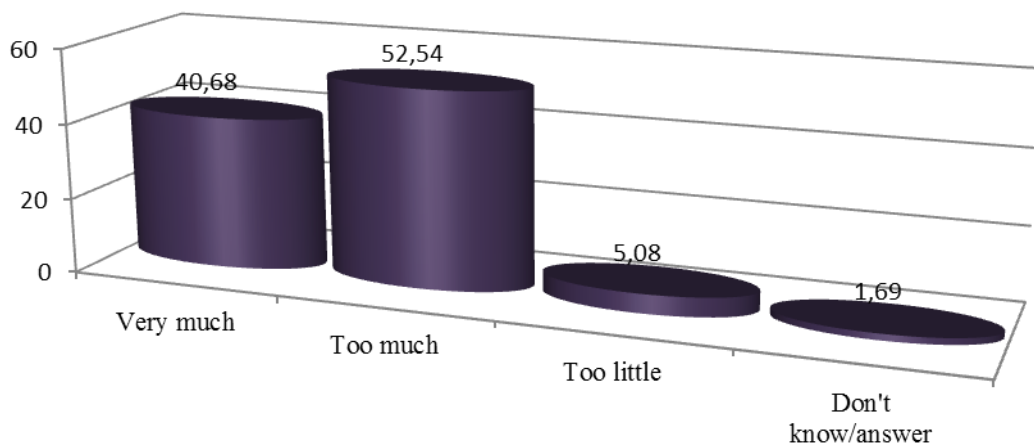
Individual cases of children with migrant parents are extremely diverse and difficult to be categorized. Certainly an important factor in the effects on children left behind is the length of time they are left home without one or both parents. The specific pattern of labor migration from Romania refers to, in most cases, men /fathers who have gone first, and then women /mothers went too.

Asked *How much they think migration affects family life*, 52.54% of respondents felt that family life suffers a lot and 40.68% think it is very much affected.

7. How much do you think migration affects family life?

<i>Respondent options</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Frequencies</i>
Very much	40.68	48
Too much	52.54	62
Too little	5.08	6
Not knowing/Not answering	1.69	2
Total	100%	118

Moreover, most of the respondents said that migration greatly affects family life.



It is considered that the atypical families (broken by divorce or single parent ones) are not a contributing factor of delinquency than to the extent that impedes basic functions: education and socialization of children. If a disorganized family is characterized by a psychological, pedagogical and moral inability, due to lack of parental authority and control, it is in a context that fosters socialization failure. Thus, it is essential for the minor's need to have a space at home where he can feel safe. Every child needs to feel that his parents takes care about him, they take part in his life events and challenges, in a framework in which he

should learn discipline, self-control and the responsible use of his freedom.(Banciu and Puşcaş, 2012, p. 8)

Referring on how the children were affected by the departure of a parent or both parents working abroad, the respondents answered that they were very much affected (59.32%) and much enough (33.05%).

8. Were children affected by the departure of a parent or both parents working abroad?

<i>Respondent options</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Frequencies</i>
Very much	59.32	70
Too much	33.05	39
Too little	5.08	6
Very little	0.85	1
Not knowing/Not answering	1.69	2
Total	100%	118

It is obvious that the children's lack of guidelines, lack of communication, breaching of ethical and moral principles, lack of appropriate models within the origin family, often combined with the frequent absence of parents, develops a range of problems associated with the parents' lack of transmitting the ethical and social values which seriously affect children's growth and education.

The visits' frequency of the migrant parents in the country is largely determined by the time that they spend abroad. Parents, better integrated into the labor market in the destination country, can therefore afford more frequent visits to the country. Children put family first, so it is expected that psychological or behavioral negative effects should appear in the absence of parents.

Conclusions

Many times, money coming from migration is not a consequence of plans, projects and a desire to help the family. They are a result of the constraints and opportunities.

This study explains that: "The remittances sent in the country are heavily dependent on projects like re-migration and of migrant type. Those who do not return home sooner or later, send the most money in the country. At the other extreme, there are the migrants who are determined to return home. Even for this group, gender differences are

significant: the immigrant women transmit large amounts of money in the country in conditions that are sure of their turning back home in the next five years; for men, the maximum recorded remittances is also registered for the security return situation, but on a longer situation, which could last more than five years. Building a financial return seems to be structured on a long-term for men and on a short term for women.” (Sandu, 2010, p. 156)

The “feminization” of migration aspect is specified in statistics. An increasing proportion of women migrate on their own, without following her husband or family. On the other hand, despite the recession, the economic migrants do not want to go back to their home country. One of the reasons is the difficult situation in the home country than in the country of destination; on the other hand, it is about the state public services of social assistance.

The negative impact which migration phenomenon has on family is special, its effects being multiple:

- Effects on parental relations;
- Effects on children left behind;
- Effects caused by deprivation of parental affection;
- Effects on children’s involvement in school activities;
- Effects that lead to abuse or a deviant behavior;
- Effect on the rest of the family left home.

On a long term, this generation of children, deprived of parental love and family harmony, can become one of adults- problem. Psychologists do not exclude the possibility that some of them should become delinquents. Aggressiveness of many children of this “Home Alone” generation, their refusal to accept that they have problems, the pain caused by the absence of parents turn them to a generation of socially non-integrated adults. The child who grows up without parents or with only one of them will become an adult who does not understand the meaning of marriage, do not trust the institution of marriage and, in general, people.

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