

# Exploring Migration Economy – Understanding the Loss of the Arab World

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## Abstract

Migration economy has been getting more attention in the last two decades and specially in the last few years due to the huge migration movements around the world, but specifically from South to North. Lots work have been written about the economics of migration and how they create positive and negative impacts on the hosting countries and societies, however few literatures focused on exploring the loss of the migrants' countries of origin and quantifying the benefits for the hosting countries.

The Arab world suffered lately more than any other region in the world lots of traumas that led to make its push factors much more than its pull factors for people with the ambition of change and creating a legacy. In this study, we shall explore the level of loss that Arab world have reached and what is the foresighted migration decisions for pulling successful people in the future, especially if the same conditions and practices exist in such countries. The data collected for seventy screened successful Arab Migrants helps to clarify what type of precious human capital the future carries towards the hosting countries. A tabulation of the level of the contribution of the successful Arab migrants is evaluated and lead for sharper conclusion about the value of these precious assets.

**Keywords:** migration, migration economy, human capital, Arab world, future foresight, Arab Migrants, inspiration economy, innovation

## 1. Introduction

Recent history and specially in the last one decade has shown that despite the civilisation development of many countries, humans would always look for places where they live freely, feel safer, live with dignity and more of all feel a balanced quality of life. been on the move. Human have been migrating throughout history for new opportunities or avoiding challenging harsh conditions, however this human related phenomena still need to be explored by both academics and practitioners to observe and then understand of how it could be managed to the benefits of humanity.

The importance of this study is that it targets to address a gap of literature of why migrant are important to hosting countries and why countries of origin should care about its human capital in the coming future. The context here would on the Arab migrant due to few studies have covered their importance in migration economy specially in recent history.

The International Organization for Migration (2013) estimated 214 million migrants managed to leave their countries in that year, which is a dramatic jump of more than 40% from 150 million just over a decade ago in 2000. This number stands for 3.1% of world's population, suggesting one in every 33 persons in the world's population is a migrant (International Organization for Migration, 2013). In the Arab world specifically in the last one decade 3 in every 33 persons would be a migrant, accounting that most of the migrants was from countries as Syria, Iraq, Libya, etc. This continuous expansion of movement of Arab Human Capital bring more exciting opportunities for the hosting countries besides challenges for both the hosting and Arab countries of origin. It even sends a message for the rest of the Arab world to have plans of how to increase their pull factors, instead making their push factors be the norm.

The researcher looks at Arab migrants impact on the socio-economic development of hosting countries as USA, Europe, Canada and Australia. The impact of socio-economic development extends to contribution areas as innovation, creativity, community development, creating waves of inspiration. The focus is to see how such human capital are participating in developing more resilient economy and even renewed spirit of youth economy.

Since the last two decades USA had 47% migrants increase despite strict measures. Same happened in Europe where migrant increased by 70%. This paper shows how developed countries seen migrants as benefit not a burden. The focus here on Arab Migrant. OECD (2016).

## 2. Literature Review

### 2.1 Defining Successful Migration

Migration can be defined as the movement from one permanent place or country into another. Once people manage to enter into the targeted country or enter its borders they are considered to be immigrants.

The reasons people leave a place are called the push factors. The reasons people are attracted to new places to live are called the pull factors. When the pull factors are much stronger than the push factors people (migrants) tend to contribute more to the host country.

Push factors might be employment conditions, socio-economic or socio-political instability, or even wars. While pull factors would be more employment opportunities and aspirational besides inspiring opportunities as better education and well fare system that ensure the quality of life. With the influence of globalization, migration mark the rhythm of contemporary societies. On-going movement and mobility across boundaries and borders would be the norm for many of today and future generations as emphasised by Kuo (2014).

### 2.2 Understanding Mechanism of Successful Migrants

OECD (2014) seen that public antagonism towards migration is mainly due to not being able to see the benefits of migration to the hosting countries. This paper touch upon how migration could be good for the economy of the hosting country and a loss for the countries of migrant origin.

Successful migration for any host country means that the features of socio-economic practices are transferred along with valued knowledge. The variation of migrants' profile in reality is a source of strength for the hosting country where it would create resilient based solutions, Buheji (2018a). In developing countries Germany, France, Australia, Canada and New Zealand, management of migrants plays an important role in these countries economy. Successful migration has shown over the years to have clear impacts on societies and then its economic impact (Khasru , 2018; Glover et al, 2001). Successful migrants fill important niches both in fast-growing and declining sectors of the economy. Studies even show that young migrants can enhance the educational outcomes like the natives and would help to compensate for the high retiring work force. (OECD (2016; Cabaniss and Cameron, 2017).

Once the migrants good enough access to fair jobs, they are found to contribute with ideas, skills and participate in vibrant development of their organisations and the hosting country. Therefore, Ebmer (1994) and Hunt (2010) believes that migrants economic contribution in taxes and social contributions much exceed the social benefits they get when they or their family arrive at the hosting country. Migrants also contribute to technological progress. Understanding these impacts is important and clarify the importance of keeping the flow of controlled migration for the future of the world socio-economy and in ensuring that the countries of origin take care more about its human assets.

### 2.3 Contribution of Migrants to Societies

OECD (2014) seen that migrant workers make important contributions to the labour market in both high- and low-skilled occupations. Over the past ten years, immigrants represented 47% of the increase in the workforce in the United States, and 70% in Europe (OECD, 2012).

To mitigate the loss of the Arab Human Capital more essential policies are needed in the areas of like education and employment that maximise the benefits of those inspiring generations. But the fundamental question of how to maximise the benefits of migration, both for host countries and the migrants themselves, needs to be addressed by many OECD countries in coming decades, especially as rapid population ageing increases demand for migrants to make up shortfalls in the workforce. (Jauer et al, 2014; Laicak, 2018).

Contribution of migrants can be seen when we see that they represent 31% of the increase in the highly educated labour force in Canada and 21% in the United States, followed by 14% in Europe. Even though most migration is not directly driven by workforce needs, immigrants continue to lead a significant role in the most dynamic sectors of the economy. (OECD, 2016).

Migrant found to play a main role in the development of education and industries that are relevant to STEM occupations (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). At the same time, immigrants represented about a quarter of entries into the most strongly declining occupations in Europe (24%) and the United States (28%). (OECD, 2016).

In many countries as Germany, Switzerland and Luxembourg the success of migrants started to effect the % of GDP directly. In most countries, except in those with a large share of older migrants, migrants contribute to the financing of public infrastructure, even though they don't match yet the native-born (OECD, 2014).

#### *2.4 Migrants Budget Impact*

One of the most important determinant of migrants' contribution in countries with generous welfare states is employment as per OECD (2016). Migrants in Belgium, France and Sweden, have a budget impact of more than 0.5% of GDP. Such countries found to also help immigrants meet their own goals. Most immigrants, after all, do not come for social benefits, but to find work and to improve their lives and those of their families. Studies show that all the efforts to integrate migrants can be considered as investments rather than a cost. (Khasru, 2018).

Almost all countries that had managed to get the best out of its migrants, they managed to increase their innovation index and their socio-economic development. Studies of OECD shows that when migration expands the workforce, aggregate GDP can be expected to grow. However, the situation is less clear when it comes to per capita GDP growth. OECD population statistics database shows that migrant has a demographic impact on the pension system and per-capita allocation of collectively accrued revenue and expenditure items. (Glover et al, 2001; Cabaniss and Cameron, 2017).

#### *2.5 Describing Successful Migrants*

Migrants tend to be more concentrated in the younger and economically active age groups compared with natives and therefore contribute to reduce dependency ratios (Gagnon, 2014). Migrants arrive not only with skills and abilities, but with passion and ambitions to create a major life change. This stock of human capital feeds in the host country with persistence and perseverance. In countries as USA, successful killed migrants contributed to boosting innovation that came through research and technological development (Hunt, 2010).

The proportion of highly educated immigrants in OECD countries is rising sharply. The number of tertiary-educated immigrants in OECD countries showed an unprecedented increase in the past decade (up by 70%), reaching a total of almost 30 million in 2010/11. Of these, about 5 million, or 17%, arrived in the past five years. This trend is mostly driven by Asian migration – more than 2 million tertiary educated migrants originating from this region arrived in the OECD in the past five years (OECD-UNDESA, 2013).

Ebmer (1994) that the motives for migration play a major role in the development and achievement of migrants and thus lead to their influence on the economic success. Economic motivation of migrants is driven by the search for success and fear of failure.

Till today there are few empirical evidence about net migration economic growth. However, OECD (2012, 2014) did a study on the impact of migration on economic growth for OECD countries between 1986 and 2006 demonstrates how migrant have a positive impact of the human capital that helps develop the economic growth. This type of contribution if continuously empirically proven would show the importance of immigrants' success to human capital differentiation which leads to overcoming the mechanical dilution effect (i.e. the impact of population increase on capital per worker). Jean and M. Jimenez (2007).

The earlier United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan seen that if countries have the right policies for managing migrant all the parties could create a mutual development both of countries of origin and destination. Therefore, Anan proposed establishing a permanent forum for sharing of experiences and ideas on migration management issues. Khasru (2018).

#### *2.6 Case of Refugees as Future Successful Migrants*

Today people are moving more than ever before. There are presently around 258 million international migrants. That figure has grown rapidly since the turn of the millennium, when there were 173 million (OECD, 2015).

Many of the Arab refugees of today are highly potential future successful migrant. Some actually are already educated as doctors, lawyers, accountants and teachers in their country of origin. The refugees who plan to return home, find inspiration when comparing their country with Germany. The opportunities and the challenges associated with migration continues to evolve as long as human societies continue to develop and certain societies continue to fall far behind. Migrants from instable socio-economies entering developed hosting countries in search for a better life would have more possible alternatives of successes than those staying behind. (Cabaniss and Cameron, 2017).

From an economic perspective, the influx of migrants into Europe provides an opportunity, as the region faces the major demographic challenge of an ageing population. The EU's fertility rate is 1.5 children per woman and working age population would be shrinking if it were not for migration. The German economy is a good example,

as it is creating jobs faster than natives can fill them. In the UK, the period of high immigration, which started in 1997 and peaked in 2004, had a positive impact on GDP and employment.

Immigrants bring various skills and aptitudes, catalysing the locals to improve their own. While the difference in performance in the UK between immigrants and the natives is marginal, it is significantly higher in Spain, Greece, Belgium and Sweden. Jauer et al (2014).

### *2.7 Arab Migration Success Stories*

There are many arguments about the advantages and disadvantages of migration and specially on host countries. Arab migrants filled not only human capital gaps but also created a major change in the socio-economic development in the countries they have been accepted in. Through their efforts technical, social, political and economic development in many communities were either developed or sustained.

With Arab Successful migrants host countries are enriched by cultural diversity. This study indicates that Arab migrants not only have facilitated growth in the economy; brought benefits to the different industries through the development of new air routes. Successful Arab migrants had also a positive influence on the productivity of the host countries and contributed new ideas with fresh approach to their organisations and developed greater cultural links with developing nations.

Successful Arab migration brings social and cultural pressures that need to be taken into account in planning for future services. Arab migration also has the potential for bringing peoples together culturally but friction occurs if efforts are not made to dispel the myths held by local people. Ebmer (1994).

### *2.8 Arab Migrants, More than Brain Drain*

'Brain drain' happens when many potential successful people who create positive change in the socio-economy leave the country to another host country or community. Due the number of obstacles that the migrant may need to overcome, he/she excel than their colleagues of host countries native citizens.

Arab migrants' success goes beyond their contribution in socio-economic development, they are participating today, directly and indirectly, in reduction of inequalities and enhancing the positive effect of the diverse societies. Despite the majority of Arab migrants live and work legally, still there are some desperate migrants who are putting their lives at risk every day to enter their targeted countries, or where still they couldn't settle effectively to start to contribute.

Zahlan (1979) examined the causes and consequences of the migration of Arab human capital who have the potential to become high-level manpower, with emphasis on the need to determine means of increasing the productivity of available human resources and developing Arab institutions. Analysis of migrants according to professional groups and country of origin is provided and was linked to causalities of not being able to control the brain drain by the Arab countries.

In another study by Zahlan (1980) seen that the total body of knowledge calculated for Arab Migrants is more than brain drain, it clearly reflects when we see the socio-economic, the technological, the knowledge development they have created. As per Zahalan there are more 50% of the reputed Medical Physicians outside the Arab world, and 23% of the successful engineers and 15% of the successful natural scientists. The numbers as per Zahlan calculation reached more than 50,000 in 1979. This number of course can be multiplied by 5 times since that last four decades carried lots of wars and instability in the Arab World which create great push factors for many high intellectual human capitals to take the decisions to migrate in countries as Iraq, Syria, Libya, Yamen and Egypt, instead of being non-effective or non-employed.

Many of these successes achieved by the migrants could have been maintained in the Arab World, if those successful Arabs were attracted by minimum facilities and pull factors. Such loss of such migrants means loss of economic development and loss of opportunities in filling gaps in fast-growing sectors the human capital of high contribution and working age. They are a type of migrants who could have paid more taxes than receive benefits. With the advances of social psychological today we are realising more today that interactional processes between push and pull factors can play even further role in the future migration and specially in instable countries as the Arab World. Cabaniss and Cameron (2017).

Today, it is more possible to encounter people who are able to trace their roots back to Arab countries in almost every nation of the "New World." That also includes approximately four million citizens of the United States, who live primarily in large metropolitan areas and in the eastern part of the country. These Arab migrants helped to leverage many opportunities in their hosting societies and helped in their prosperity and further development. Escher (2008).

### *2.9 Understanding Human Based Economies*

The author in his previous publications in (2016), (2018a) and (2018b) shown the importance of Inspiration, Resilience and Youth Economies in replacing materialistic capital based economies in many practices and mindset.

The studies of Oleynick et al (2014) support the later work of Buheji (2016, 2018a and 2018b), where better operating capacity (comes from within and limitless). This means when we evaluate the success of any individual we can see that their differentiation in creating better return on investment, being less external resource dependent besides being able to utilise inter-disciplinary approaches would make them more capable of creating a differentiation in their socio-economies. Such people are also considered to be having unique capability for self-renewal and high learning with unique successes and high capacity to utilise failures.

### **3. Methodology**

Seventy successful Arab migrants were studied through different documentaries that was reached from downloaded videos on YouTube of international TV channels as Al-Jazeera documentary, BBC Arabic News and CNBC Arabia. The purpose was to identify the top master criterions of those successful Arab migrants and their type of contributions in order to reflect and see how they created waves of inspiration, resilience and positive unique youth economies on the hosting countries. The objective of the study had deeper meanings as exploring how migration can create positive economy and what are the losses of the countries of origin as those of the Arab World that need to be counter-measured in the future to avoid more catastrophic loss of very precious human capital in the coming years where human mobilisation is expected to increase.

As shown in the tabulated sample used in Appendix (A) which represent 6 out of the seventy sampled successful Arab Migrant; all the seventy screened successful Arabs migrants were evaluated the presence of practices that lead to Inspiration Economy, Resilience Economy and Youth Economy. The criterions for these human intrinsic driven economies were intentional chosen to show the precious assets that both the hosting country got and the country of origin lost. These criterions were summarised from the research earlier work of Buheji (2016, 2018a, 2018b).

A summary of the bibliography of the success Arab Migrants as their countries of origin, speciality, position, current country of residence, i.e. the hosting country were collected. Then each of the seventy screened migrants were checked for the availability of the Inspiration Economy Criteria's, as per Appendix (A).

### **4. Results**

83% of those screened mentioned that they developed over the years the capacity to observe and capture hidden opportunities utilising intrinsic powers which contributed to their hosting community socio-economic developments, directly or indirectly. 65% of the migrants claim that they managed to utilise failures and challenges through selective mindset that benefited their success outcomes. Even though the awareness or the intention of targeting to influence without power or with minimal resources could not be traced in most of the screened migrants, 9 out of the seventy Arab migrants shown that they had this intention at some time in their success journey. 40% of the migrants mentioned that solving different problems specially during education time created for them more opportunities for a differentiated change and outcome. 87% of the migrants shown adequate and even strong entrepreneurial spirits that they tried to spread in the society.

The Arab migrants were screened also for their role in creating Resilience Economy in the hosting countries. Since most of the screened are very humble in presenting their contribution to the community, only 45% given hints and evidence that they participated in pushing and/or optimising the benefits of unity and coexistence in their hosting communities. Few also (20%) shown how they participated in mitigating socio-economic risks and minimising negative impacts in their hosting countries. However, 65% of these Arab migrants shown that their success extended to optimising the opportunities that recessions and instabilities brought to them since they arrived to the hosting country through utilising all resilience economy enablers and overcoming different barriers. About 90% shown that these migrant are unique human assets in management of transformation and adaptation of change to the benefit of humanity and sustainability.

When Youth Economy parameters that represented in both spirit and energy of youth that bring renewed change to any community were projected on the successful Arab migrants, lots of amazing results found. 90% of those screened shown they contributed heavily in optimising youth energy and productivity of their community and organisations. Almost also 87% used their youth assets wisely. More than 60% integrated with their generation trends to optimise their socio-economic benefits, using the spirit and energy of youth. None have shown clear understanding of south economy and how it might have an effect on their socio-economic life strategies.

Through reviewing the videos of the successful Arab migrants we can claim that they have a type of success that came through their unique ability for self-renewal and innovation. These keywords could be seen in 60% of those screened. Only 30% shown to carry social entrepreneurship spirit and 43% shown to have the ability to attract funds from self-capacity.

Many of the successes of these Arab migrants come from their unique world class contribution that made them compete for Nobel Prizes, or similar awards or have the ability to attract funds, or get many patents or innovations. Some managed to develop new products that helped to develop humanity. About 25% of those screen shown a multi-disciplined approach for dealing with their life achievements.

## 5. Discussion & Conclusion

This paper targets to clarify the economies of migration through the experience of successful Arab migrants. This clarification should help countries of host to appreciate this precious human capital contribution to the countries of host and the loss of the countries of origin, especially if this is repeated in large-scale migration in the future.

Almost all the seventy screened successful Arab migrants shown unique strength in generating human based economies with great detail shown in the example Appendix (A). Literature review and results also show how much the Arab World could loss more of its intellectuals in the coming generations through migration, if such human based factors couldn't find a proper pull factors in countries of origin.

The results show that the success of such Arab migrants might encourage more youth to migrate to such developing host countries, unless many pull factors are activated in the countries of origin. The success of the Arab migrant show also that many coming ambitious youth could enrich their hosting cultures and communities with new skills and ideas, if these contributions are not well incubated in their countries of origin.

With the increasing volume of changing youth demographics, gap in advancement of technologies, un address needs in labour markets and continued challenges posed by wars and shortages of human rights environment many Arab countries could continue to be a potential source for future successful migrants. It is really a warning bill for all the Arab countries, to avoid huge loss to come.

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**Appendix (A)**

Table of New Economy Criteria’s  
“Inspiration Economy”

	<b>Prof. Majdi Bayomi</b>	<b>Prof. Mohd. Erhoma</b>	<b>Prof. Nourdeen Meleksha</b>	<b>Prof. Tariq Gazawi</b>	<b>Prof. Shukkri AlSherif</b>	<b>Prof. Muhideen Muateeq</b>
Bibliography	Egypt	Libya	Algeria	Egypt	Tunisia	Libya
Country of Origin/	Electrical	Clinical	Physics	Super-Computer	Professor in	Cardiac Surgeon
Speciality/Position/Current	Engineering	Pharmacology	Professor	Professor	Mechanical	Cincinnati-USA
Country of Residence (Migration)	Professor & Dean – Louisiana Univ - USA	Professor-South Africa	-Kennedy Science Academy Dean-USA	-George Washington Univ-USA	Engineering (Fabrics) Germany	

“Inspiration Economy”

**Criteria**

Observe and capture hidden opportunities utilising intrinsic powers to socio-economic developments.	√	√	√	√	√	√
Utilising failures, challenges with selective mindset that benefit better outcomes.	√	√		√	√	√
Utilising influencing without power with minimal resources to create socio-economic legacy or models.	√	√	√			√
Using advanced problems solving techniques to create more opportunities and differentiated change.	√		√	√		√
Ability to create inspiration currencies that leads to more entrepreneurial spirits within the society.	√	√	√	√	√	

“Resilience Economy”

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Prof. Majdi Bayomi</b>	<b>Prof. Mohd. Erhoma</b>	<b>Prof. Nourdeen Meleksha</b>	<b>Prof. Tariq Gazawi</b>	<b>Prof. Shukkri AlSherif</b>	<b>Prof. Muhideen Muateeq</b>
Pushing and optimising the Benefits of Unity and Coexistence towards more prosperity	√		√		√	
Mitigating socio-economic risks and instabilities to minimise negative impacts to recover quickly from incidents affects.		√				
Management and Optimisations of the opportunities that Recessions and Instabilities bring.				√		
Utilising all resilience economy enablers and overcome all its barriers.			√	√	√	
Consistent Engineering, Planning, Nurturing transformation and adaptation of change to the benefit of humanity and sustainability.	√	√	√	√		

## “Youth Economy”

Criteria	Prof. Majdi Bayomi	Prof. Mohd. Erhoma	Prof. Nourdeen Meleksha	Prof. Tariq Gazawi	Prof. Shukkri Sherif	Prof. Muhideen Muateeq
Optimising Youth Productivity	√	√	√		√	
Youth independence ratio through Appreciating Youth Assets	√					
Utilisation of Generation trends to the socio-economic benefits	√	√	√	√	√	
Using Spirit and Energy of Youth						
Implementation of Youth Economy and Socio-Economy Strategies						
<b>Type of Success Created by the Arab Migrant</b>						
Ability for Self Renewal and Innovation	√	√	√	√	√	√
Social Entrepreneurship Spirit	√	√	√	√	√	√
Ability to attract Funds from Self-Capacity	√	√	√	√	√	√
Main World Class Contribution	Patented Engineering Innovations	Development of New Pharmaceutical Drugs	Developing of Multi-Disciplined Science Labs	Developing of UPC & Ugas Super Computers language	Developing Optical Fabrics Abnormal Machines	Cardiac Surgery Robotics

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