

EMIGRATION OF WOMEN FROM RUSSIA: CHANNELS OF DEPARTURE AND POTENTIAL

Russian women became very active participants of international migration processes. Accordingly to Ministry of Internal Affairs data women were about 53 per cent of all the emigrants left abroad from Russia for permanent residence. By the way the proportion of women among emigrants left to the countries of Far Abroad is quite higher – about 55 per cent. The proportion of women in labour migration outflow from Russia was from 6 till 17 per cent in different periods, although the proportion is relatively low, but there is tendency for stable growth. If scales of female emigration from Russia for permanent residence abroad have tendency for reduction lately, that scales of temporary labour migration of Russian women increase permanently. In a whole about 790 thousands of women have left Russia for abroad and about 60 thousands of women have left for temporary earnings abroad recently.

However the given data are only “visible part of ice-mountain”, because great part of women leave abroad as tourists and stay there to work illegally. Illegal flow of Russian women may be estimated only approximately, by indirect data.

There are several basic channels which Russian women use to leave abroad: regular, semiofficial and illegal. Regular channels is organized export of female labour to various economic sectors of developed states or self search of job (in this case regular exit demands for labour visa which is granted on the basis of labour contract), marriages with foreign citizens and exit for permanent residence to relatives (regular exit on the basis of real visas).

Semiofficial channels – exit of women who got married foreigner fictitiously, and also exit by tourist visa to work abroad. In both cases women have hard risks, because being abroad they are in full dependence from husband, organizers of trip or employers and can't prove their rights, because they are deprived of passport, overstay visas, haven't reasons for job in the country. As experience shows, several “married” women are forced to work at home, or to service of old parents of fiancée and etc.

At last illegal channel is traffic of girls and women abroad, including by forged documents. Usually mediators conceal age of minor girls not to take consent of parents to exit. As a rule, these girls are involved in sex-service sector.

As statistical data say, the major part of women left abroad is girls and women at the age of from 18 till 29. As our surveys showed, the main contingent of women who leave abroad is two aged groups. The first one is very young women at the age of from 16 till 20, as a rule without or not finished their education; the second one is young women at the age of from 25 till 35. There is tendency of female exit at the older ages but it is less important.

All the women who leave Russia for abroad taking into account motivation and migration aims may be divided into the next groups.

The first group is women who leave to work abroad in their profession by economic reasons primarily.

Major part of women, who leave abroad, search for job thinking of their professional preferences. It's true but there are serious limitations in occupation of Russian women abroad – it's very difficult to find professional job without knowledge of language in many countries, it's often necessary to get extra education, to verify Russian diploma.

The second group – is women whose main aim is getting married foreigner. As research shows the intension “to stay for long time abroad” is important for about a half of female labour migrants including about 20 per cent of them hope to do it to get married. Married emigration of girls and women became enough spread migration flow from Russia. By approximate data, about 1000 married agencies give help to potential Russian fiancée. Although it's improbably to account their size exactly, because this information usually spreads through Internet, and license system is absence in this sector. By the US Embassy estimates 10-15 thousand of Russian women leave abroad by fiancée visa annually. About 80 thousand of Russian women have left for the USA by fiancée visa for ten years.

The third group is women who dream to see the world and get if it is probably extra (“easy” in their mind) earnings. They have emotional and psychological orientations primarily, than rational and material reasons. They are oriented for advertisement and information from friends about “great opportunities of easy earnings abroad” allegedly. As rule these women work as waitresses, striptease dancers, dancers and hope to earn money quickly and easy and return home. Four countries – Switzerland, Japan, Republic of Korea and Canada - decided to legalize this migration flow and entered special visa of a worker of entertainment sector, giving migrants who work in bars, restaurants, places of entertainment.

We made a sociological survey of women – potential migrants (selection is 400 persons). The survey discovered quite high potential of female labour migration from region. About 40% of women-respondents said about their hypothetic opportunity of leaving abroad to work there. About a half of women from this proportion is “active potential of migration”, i.e. they are ready to leave in the nearest future and made real steps for this – they gathered information, went to firms, asked re-emigrants. Despite of quite high potential of migration, it may be expected that no more than 10-12% of all the women-respondents can realize their active potential of migration.

In real time Russia should realize planned and widespread activities on prevention of negative (“push”) conditions of emigration. Despite of negative aspects it's improbably “to ban” emigration abroad, it's in competence of state to regulate this process. There should be realized to blocks of measures.

Firstly, there is need in strategic activities in economic and demographic sectors. It should be created conditions for female employment stimulation in Russia, to suppress discrimination of women in labour market harshly, to control

observation of employers of labour legislation, to activate programs for occupation and labour for women, to create new job places specially for women, to make propaganda of family values, maternity and childhood, to realize measures on birth stimulation.

Secondly, there is need in legislation perfection in labour migration abroad regulation (to sign bilateral agreements with countries on guarantees of labour migrants rights observation, agreements about acknowledgement of diploma), transfer of this kind of migration in legal field, prevention of activity and introduction of criminal punishment of mediators who recruit women in traffic and illegal occupation (first of all, sex industry).