

# **Culture and Population Movements with Emphasis on Migration trends in Iran and its neighboring countries**

**Mohammad Mirzaei<sup>1</sup>**  
**Nader Motie Haghshenas<sup>2</sup>**  
**Saeedeh Heydari<sup>3</sup>**

## **Abstract**

The aim of this paper is to find out the relation between culture and population movements with emphasis on migration trends in Iran and neighboring countries in the first decade of twenty first century. These countries are Azerbaijan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Armenia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Russian Federation, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Iraq, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, and Yemen. The main question of this paper is that do countries with different historical and cultural experiences (e.g., Iran, Pakistan and Turkey), and economic growth (e.g., Afghanistan vs. Pakistan) manifest similar patterns of migration change? More specifically, the study attempts to examine Hammel's theory on the relation between demographic changes and cultural traits in Iran and neighboring countries.

Research method is documentary analysis. National and international invaluable sources have been used in the present research that are mostly taken from the United Nations Population Division (2011 Revision) and the World Bank (WDI 2011) for the period 1990-2010 and Human Development Report (HDR) for 2011. This study supports Hammel's theory for those countries which are in parallel human development level .

## **Key Words:**

**Culture, Population Movements, Human Development, Cultural Development, Regional distribution**

---

<sup>1</sup> Professor and Faculty Member at University of Tehran, Department of Demography,

<sup>2</sup> Ph.D Student at University of Tehran, Department of Demography and Faculty member at Population Studies and Research Institution in Asia & the Pacific (PSRI),

<sup>3</sup> Researcher in Population Science,

## **Introduction**

Sociologists and anthropologists describe life style of people and model of collective behavior as a culture. Life styles, behavioral characteristics and human function include many activities in the routine life that can be seen in different contexts like work, education, life family, social management, play and entertainments. Stories, myths, arts, music, ceremonies, and customs ' are among cases that represent culture and increase the unity of the society.

Custom is considered essential part of the culture; in fact there is culture in people's mind, memory and understanding. People with the same culture have many similarities together because of the same understanding of styles and symbols of life. In fact their life song and method is similar. People with different cultures have not to learn one another's culture but by cultural symbols such as language they can have a better understanding of each other.

There is a popular culture of the society across the geographical boundaries but special cultures like national cultures and local groups are related to specific and more limited locations, different places have different cultures for themselves and people have to participate in those cultures because of social life.

Migration is an old phenomenon that takes place when people leave their country in order to live in another country. It is normal that host society asks migrants to respect the values and norms of that society. To conform to the hosted society and obey their rules is amongst the first conditions and steps needed to be accepted by the migrants. The quality of achieving a peaceful way in this interaction mostly depends on the two parties' performances (host and guest societies). Success in this stage causes the guest to be well adjusted in the host's culture.

In the course of history many of thinkers and scholars have been concerned with migration role in combination of cultures and cultural dynamism and a huge body of studies have been conducted in this field. Migration deserves to be studied from the historical, philosophical, religious, socio-economical and cultural point of views. For example from the cultural point of view the important point in all migrations is the similarity of the origin and the destination cultures. If there are cultural dissimilarities between the origin and the destination of migration, then the issue of migrants affecting on or being affected by the destination culture will be taken into the consideration.

Scientific study on the issue and explanation of its various aspects is very important from the of theoretic and practical as well as diplomatic points of view, especially regarding the experience of population movements in Iran and its neighboring countries.

The main purpose of this study is to find out the relation between culture and population movements with emphasis on migration trends in Iran and its neighboring countries in the first decade of the twenty first century.

This comparative study in line with constancy of culture and population theory in addition to study migration changes intends to clarify on issues such as do countries with different historical and cultural experience have similar levels and trends of migration? status assessment of cultural development index in Iran and its neighbor countries, Understanding migration trends in Iran and neighboring countries during the last 20 years and explanation of the relationship between cultural development index and population movements..

## **Research Methodology and Data Base**

Research method of this study is documentary-analysis. An analytical study is based on the geographical scope and recommended indicators of the UNESCO for measuring cultural development of world countries. Because of cultural data limitation specially panel data (time series 1990 - 2010), education index of the societies that is one of the cultural development indexes is used for measuring cultural index in this study. In order to obtain reliable data in this

area, we used the latest published human development report by the United Nations in 2010. For measuring migration index the latest and the reviewed data by the UN Population Division in 2008 and World Bank between 1990– 2010 have been used. We benefited from the newest work group meeting results for codification of cultural indicators (strategic indicators, dimension and cultural components for the purpose of defining the target indicators and operational index of international cultural exchange. Framework of the study is based upon the combination of cultural diffusion and migration social theories.

### **Key Concepts and Indices**

**Culture:** Culture is a system of beliefs, basic assumptions, values, customs, and long lasting behavioral patterns, symbols and artifacts constituting perceptions, relations and the identity of the society. According to theoretical basis of the views of scholars and institutions, culture definition is different from the anatomical, historical, normative, psychological and structural point of view.

UN experts believe that cultural development refers to increase of creativity, emphasis on arts, encouragement of handcrafts production, improvement of art educations, promotion of public participation, development of study, education, expansion of scientific publications, newspapers, copyrights compliance, and internal productions, cultural heritage, cultural development, mutual understanding of culture and publication of the masterpieces of public information and education exchanges.

**Migration:** Migration is departure from a mainland, in order to reside temporarily or permanently in other country. Based on the typology and definitions of migration indexes by the United Nations Population Division in 2007 and 2008, the following indicators have been studied:

**Net migration rate:** is the number of immigrants minus the number of emigrants over a period of time, divided by the mean population of that period per 1000. Migration rate might be positive or negative and if the number of immigrants equals to the number of emigrants, then migration rate would be zero.

**Net migration:** is the number of immigrants minus the number of emigrants per 1000.

### **Theoretical and Research Background**

In this section, we discuss on theories which explain the interaction between culture characteristics and migration. These are cultural, interpersonal adaptation and network theories.

#### **Cultural Theory**

Hammel believes culture can explain why people live in societies with similar economic circumstances, while they have different customs and languages, and operate differently in demographic fields. According to cultural diffusion theory, to understand current status and characteristics of a society, we must study the cultural history of a community regarding to its associations with other societies. This school postulates that cultures have been adopted from one or more diffusion centers and cultural similarities are the effects of social intercourse, trades, migrations, wars and etc.

#### **Interpersonal Adaptation Theory**

Many theories have attempted to describe interactions or important details of interactions, while adaptation theory proceeds to totally predict the concrete flow of interaction. For this reason, this theory is often referred to as the Interpersonal Adaptation Theory. Prediction is based on statuses and characteristics created by interactions arose from expectations, requirements, and desires. As it was stated earlier, people enter into interactions by combination of expectations, requirements, and desires; expectations referring to how they will respond in a given situation and requirements such as those a person has in case of reacting against the others. These factors are based upon a

mixture of biological, (most likely unconscious or pre assigned), and socially learned behaviors. Generally speaking, the theory is a response to interaction flows and protecting interpersonal relationships that is most needed for health and survival of the society.

### **Network Theory**

When migration begins, it may take different trend from the forces which had formed it in the first place. According to network theory, immigrants create a communication network among themselves. Because of the relationship, friendship and other common aspects, a link is made among migrants, former migrants and their countries of origin and destination. This relationship increases the possibility of international migration as reduces the cost and risk of migration. Migration remains stable when it begins by diffusion process till all the people who desire to migrate succeed.

In developing countries, such migrations may become a custom for entering to elderly world and wouldn't have anything to do with economic supply and demand. A study conducted by Erfani (2010) on Migration: opportunities and challenges, shows that nowadays personal and group migration- for any reason and motivation- is one of the most important reasons for nations to get familiar with each others, this is an important factor for cultural movement and Cultural dynamics of motion leads to the formation of civilizations.

Migration, binds communities together, migration develops elements, institutions, intellectual, art, cultural and political achievements of a nation and provides a condition for these achievements to be preserved and being dynamic. Mirzaie (2005) in his study namely population and cultural variables suggests, over the history there have been examples of immigrant minorities that could prevail their culture over the destination culture.

Cultural differences between the origin and destination can be the source of problems for immigrants and specially their children. The high rate of social anomies and education failure are examples of such problems. Thus, cultural adaptation is far more complex than economic adaptation for migrants.

## Quantitative Findings

Table 1 shows population changes in the world, Iran and its neighboring countries during 1990 to 2010. As the table illustrates the number of population in the world, Iran and neighboring countries, except for Russia and Armenia, has been increasing from 1990 to the beginning of 21 century. This increase can be the effect of factors such as high rate of fertility, mortality reduction and migration. As table illustrates the most changes in population size is apparent in UAE and Qatar which from 1,867,000 and 467,000 in 1990 successively have risen to 4,707,000, and 1, 508,000 in 2010. Turkey is the most similar country to Iran in population size and its changes.

**Table1. Population changes in World, Iran and neighboring countries (in thousand), 1990 – 2010**

Countries	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010
World	5290452	5713073	6115367	6512276	6908688
Iran.	56733	62205	66903	70765	75078
Azerbaijan	7212	7784	8121	8453	8934
Turkey	56086	61206	66460	71169	75705
Turkmenistan	3668	4187	4502	4843	5177
Armenia	3545	3223	3076	3065	3090
Afghanistan	12580	18084	20536	24507	29117
Pakistan	115776	130397	148132	165816	184753
Russian Federation	148065	148497	146670	143170	140367
United Arab Emirates	1867	2432	3238	4089	4707
Bahrain	493	578	650	728	807
Iraq	18079	20971	24652	28238	31467
Oman	1843	2172	2402	2618	2905
Saudi Arabia	148065	148497	146670	143170	140367
Qatar	467	526	617	885	1508
Kuwait	2143	1725	2228	2700	3051
Yemen	12314	15523	18182	21024	24256

Source: UN, World Population Prospects, [2008].

Table 2 demonstrates annual changes of population growth rate and sex ratio in Iran and its neighboring countries in 1990–2010. Available information clarifies that annual growth rate of population in the world and most of studied countries, has been reduced during 1990 to 2010. The highest annual change in population growth rate refers to Afghanistan which from 7.26 in 1990 has dropped to 3.45 in 2010. But the growth rate of population in Iran has been changing and the lowest annual population growth rate is shown in 2000 – 2005. Comparing this period with 1990 to 2000 and 2005 to 2010 indicates that growth rate has decreased; the same condition is dominant in Azerbaijan and Oman. Russia is faced with negative annual growth rate of population due to following an age structure with controlled fertility. Sex ratio changes were not significant in the world and Iran in 1990 – 2010. But the remarkable changes relates to Qatar where the sex ratio was 203 in 1990, it means that there are 100 women per 203 men and all available data of the years studied in this paper suggests that sex ratio was in favor of men that is overshadowed by migration factor. In Qatar, the sex ratio raised to 307 in 2010.

**Table2. Annual changes of population growth rate and sex ratio in Iran and neighboring countries in 1990- 2010**

Countries	Population growth rate				Population sex ratio				
	1990 1995	1995 2000	2000 2005	2005 2010	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010
World	1.54	1.36	1.26	1.18	101.5	101.6	101.6	101.7	101.7
Iran	1.84	1.46	1.12	1.18	106.2	103.5	103.6	103.9	103.3
Azerbaijan	1.53	0.85	0.8	1.11	95.8	95.6	95	95	95.8
Turkey	1.75	1.65	1.37	1.24	102	101.7	101.5	101.1	100.9
Turkmenistan	2.65	1.45	1.46	1.33	97.3	97.5	97.5	97.4	97.1
Armenia	-1.9	-0.94	-0.07	0.17	94.2	90.2	88.8	87.6	87.3
Afghanistan	7.26	2.54	3.54	3.45	107.8	107.6	107.5	107.5	107.4
Pakistan	2.38	2.55	2.26	2.16	108.3	107.5	106.8	106.4	106.1
Russian Federation	0.06	-0.25	-0.48	-0.4	88	88.2	87.7	86.5	85.8
United Arab Emirates	5.28	5.73	4.67	2.82	189.3	194.9	207.7	212.9	203.6
Bahrain	3.17	2.36	2.25	2.08	138.5	139.5	135.6	153.3	134.4
Iraq	2.97	3.23	2.72	2.17	101.7	101	101.7	102.4	102.3
Oman	3.28	2.02	1.72	2.08	125.6	143.7	137.7	131.5	129
Saudi Arabia	2.32	2.62	2.53	2.12	124.9	126.4	124	123.5	120.7
Qatar	2.35	3.2	7.23	10.65	203	193	185.1	272.6	306.9
Kuwait	-4.34	5.12	3.84	2.44	131.6	150.9	155.1	152	146.1
Yemen	4.63	3.16	2.91	2.86	101.6	102.9	102.7	102.5	102.2

Source: UN, World Population Prospects,[2008].

Sex ratio trend in Turkey, Afghanistan and Pakistan has declined, whereas in neighboring countries of Iran has been fluctuating but in Iran, it has been stable on 103 after 1995. The index in Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Armenia and Russia has been in favor of women, in other words the number of women has been more than the number of men.

**Table3. Changes in migration rate in Iran and neighboring countries in 1990 - 2010**

Countries	Net migration rate (per 1,000 population)				Net migration (per year)			
	1990 1995	1995 2000	2000 2005	2005 2010	1990 1995	1995 2000	2000 2005	2005 2010
Iran	-3.9	-0.2	-2.9	-1.4	-233	-11	-199	-100
Azerbaijan	-3.1	-3.2	-2.4	-1.2	-23	-26	-20	-10
Turkey	-0.2	0	-0.2	-0.1	-14	3	-14	-9
Turkmenistan	2.5	-2.3	-1.1	-1	10	-10	-5	-5
Armenia	-29.6	-14.3	-6.5	-4.9	-100	-45	-20	-15
Afghanistan	42.6	-3.8	7.2	7.5	653	-74	161	200
Pakistan	-4.2	-0.1	-1.6	-1.6	-522	-8	-248	-283
Russian Federation	3	3	1.3	0.4	444	442	193	50
United Arab Emirates	31.6	40.4	31.5	15.6	68	114	115	69
Bahrain	9.2	5.4	5.8	5.2	5	3	4	4
Iraq	-1.6	-0.2	-1.7	-3.9	-31	-4	-45	-115
Oman	2.2	-6.1	-4	1.4	5	-14	-10	4
Saudi Arabia	-5.8	0.7	2.6	1.2	-100	14	57	30
Qatar	5.7	15.1	58.4	93.9	3	9	44	112
Kuwait	-61.8	32.1	21.5	8.3	-120	64	53	24
Yemen	9.3	-1.2	-1	-1.2	130	-20	-20	-27

Source: World Bank,[2008].

Table 3 shows migration changes in Iran and neighboring countries in 1990 – 2010. From the table it is comprehended that the intensity of spatial displacements in a number of countries has been more fluctuating so that some of these countries such as Iran, Azerbaijan, Armenia and Pakistan were emigration countries during 1990 to 2010 and their net migration rates were successively - 3.9, -3.1, -29.6 and -4.2 per thousand from 1990 to 1995 that changed to -1.4, -1.2, -4.9 and -1.6 in 2005 - 2010.

Despite the increase of net migration rate in these countries, the amount of displacement in Russia, UAE, Bahrain and Qatar were successively 3, 31.6, 9.2 and 5.7 per thousand from 1990 to 1995 which successively declined to 0.4, 15.6, 5.2 and Qatar increased to 93.9 between 2005 and 2010 and they are considered as immigration countries. Probably the immigration rate for these countries will decrease in coming years. But the intensity of movements has had considerable variations in other countries like Turkey, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Oman, Iraq, Arabia, Kuwait and Yemen and the trend of migration rate shows significant changes in these countries in 1990 – 2010, so that they are sometimes considered as emigration and other times as immigration countries.

Based on available information, net migration has changed among countries in 1990 – 2010. Despite the fact that net migration rate has almost reduced among the most countries, the number of out-migrants is still greater than the number of in-migrants. Generally data available on net migration shows that emigration rate in selected countries except Afghanistan, Russia, UAE, Bahrain, Arabia and Qatar is more than immigration rate. The trend of net migration changes in Pakistan somewhat resembles that of Iran, as both countries sent many emigrations in 1990 – 1995 and 2000 – 2010. Figure 1 shows the average of net migration rate in Iran and neighboring countries in 1990 – 2010.

Figure (1) shows the average of net migration rate in Iran and neighbor countries between 1990 and 2010. It illustrates that on the average the highest rate of population movements among Iran, Turkey, Afghanistan and Pakistan that are culturally congenial relates to Afghanistan and other countries have to some extent the same level and trend of migration. In Russia and newly independent republics of Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Armenia who are more congruous in culture and customs, intensity of movements has had some fluctuations. The average net migration rate in Russia and Armenia (9.1) and (-13.7) successively are the highest rates of immigration and emigration. Furthermore, despite the similarities in their conditions, migration rate among Arab countries was different so that the average immigration rate in Qatar and UAE between 1990 and 2010 is higher than that in Bahrain and Yemen. Among other Arab countries studied in this paper the average of net migration rate shows that they are emigration countries.

**Figure1.The average of net migration rate in Iran and neighboring countries in 1990 - 2010**



### Evidences and Quantitative Findings of Measuring Cultural Development

Undoubtedly, concentration on culture and cultural development is considered as the deepest layer of social system in every country. Although migration itself is an important factor for communication among cultures, consideration of international cultural interactions as the strategic variable consisting of cultural relations dimensions, cultural trade and media is vital as well. Andrea Malro suggests that cultural development makes the culture public and eliminates cultural inequalities that are rooted in socio-economic circumstances of people.

It should be understood that culture is the basis of civilization, motivation for economic structure and it is responsible for inspiring ideological structure. Three indicators of life expectancy at the birth, GDP and education are considered in the UN annually published reports on human development of countries and their position, while the other cultural indicators are not taken into consideration.

According to the UNDP definition of human development in 2010, it's a compound index for measuring achievements in three main dimensions of human development including long life with health, knowledge with education and standards of life with welfare (income) and its range of changes is between zero and one.

Based on the latest classification, world countries have been divided into four categories consisted of countries with very high levels of human development (0.785 and more), high level of human development (0.670 to 0.785), medium level of human development (0.475 to 0.667) and low level of human development (0.475 and less).

The World Health Organization supposes that education index of communities is one of cultural development indexes and believes that in this content the best indicators are level of education and use of mass media.



Table 4 shows status of socioeconomic and health indicators of Iran and its neighboring countries in the first decade of the twenty-first century. As the table makes is clear there are significant differences between selected countries in terms of human development indicators. In comparison to other countries the Persian Gulf countries benefit from a better level of human development index. Yemen, Pakistan, and specially, Afghanistan have experienced a low level of HDI at this time.

**Table 4: Socioeconomic and Health Indicators in Iran and neighboring Countries at the threshold of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

Countries	Adult Literacy rate	Human Development Indicators			
		LE Index	EDU Index	GDP Index	HDI
Iran	82.3	0.822	0.659	0.640	0.702
Azerbaijan	99.5	0.805	0.613	0.734	0.713
Turkey	88.7	0.827	0.678	0.557	0.679
Turkmenistan	99.5	0.718	0.580	0.721	0.669
Armenia	99.5	0.859	0.542	0.722	0.695
Afghanistan	30.0	0.390	0.333	0.328	0.349
Pakistan	53.7	0.747	0.431	0.366	0.490
Russian Federation	99.5	0.747	0.699	0.711	0.719
United Arab Emirates	90.5	90.5	0.904	0.656	0.815
Bahrain	90.8	0.887	0.785	0.738	0.801
Iraq	77.6	0.714	0.401	0.695	0.583
Oman	86.7	0.841	0.906	0.790	0.850
Saudi Arabia	85.5	0.844	0.773	0.652	0.752
Qatar	93.1	0.886	0.952	0.613	0.803
Kuwait	94.5	0.917	0.898	0.556	0.771
Yemen	60.9	0.694	0.413	0.296	0.439

Sources: Human Development Report (HDR), [2010].

### Conclusion and Policy Recommendations

Findings of the world population projection show that regional balance of the world population is changing. The level and the trend of changes in population size of the world, Iran and its neighboring countries except Russia and Armenia shows an upward trend from 1990 to the beginning of 21 century. The annual growth rate of population has declined due to the convergence trend of the fertility reduction in the world and many of Iran's neighboring countries between 2000 and 2010. The drastic changes in the annual growth rate of population relates to Afghanistan that has dropped from the rate of 7.26 in 1990 to 3.45 in 2010. A gradual decrease in population size is predicted for this country in coming years as well. Sex ratio trend in the world and Iran's neighboring countries shows considerable fluctuations in this time interval. Qatar experienced the most significant changes. Data available in all years considered in this study indicates that in most of the studied countries, sex ratio was in favor of men, while in Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Armenia and Russia it was in favor of women, in other words the number of women was more than that of men in these four countries.

In some countries data analysis shows more variations for intensity of spatial displacements. It is noteworthy that the net migration rate for many of these countries such as Iran, Azerbaijan, Armenia and Pakistan who were emigration countries in 1990 to 2010 rose up.

Despite the increase of net migration rate in these countries, the amount of displacement in Russia, UAE, Bahrain and Qatar as immigration countries has declined. But the intensity of movements among the other countries like Turkey, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Oman, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Yemen had fluctuations so that they were some times considered as emigration and some other times as immigration countries. Statistics of net migration indicates that unlike the reduction of migration in many countries the number of out – migrants was more than that of in – migrants and emigration rate in studied countries, except for Afghanistan, Russia, UAE, Bahrain, Arabia and Qatar were higher than immigration.

Findings of this paper suggest that one of the main consequences of population movements is cultural exchange between different people and getting familiar with various cultures and civilizations. Therefore, it can be concluded that in addition to cultural and social incentives affecting migration intensity in Iran and neighboring countries, cultural factors have significantly influenced attracting migrants as well. Cultural incentives has had the greatest impact on migration in Russia. The reason for immigration in Russia must be searched in ethnic composition and cultural exchange between different ethnics of newly independent republics of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan, because after independence of these countries, Russians migrated to their territories. Moreover, migration and displacement, especially abandoning the motherland and going to a country where culturally is more similar to that can be somewhat peaceful and migrants would respect to values and norms of host society.

Despite the cultural similarities and common customs between Iran's neighboring countries, level and trend of migration has been different among them. These inconsistent levels of migration mostly are affected by economic and cultural status of societies. Even though Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Turkey are Muslim countries and culturally more convergence, population displacements have been different among them as the greatest migration can be seen in Afghanistan and Pakistan due to instability in political security and lack of economic and welfare possibilities in these countries.

Also population movements in Russia and newly independent republics including Armenia, Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan with common religion are not the same due to economical instabilities and somewhat ethnical, racial and linguistic differences after the collapse of Soviet Union in 1991, and migrant families account for the majority of movements towards Russia. The same situation is dominant in the Persian Gulf Arabic countries. Migration trends in these countries clarify that emigration in Iraq and Yemen is to some extent for the lack of political and economical stability of these countries in comparison to other Arab regions. Therefore the majority of migrations take place toward the UAE, Qatar, Bahrain and Saudia Arabia and this trend could be the result of favorable economic, welfare and political security in these countries.

In an explanation of migration changes in Iran's neighboring countries by theories proposed in the theoretical framework, it seems that migration interchanges in Iran and neighboring countries such as Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Azerbaijan would be mainly explained by cultural diffusion theory because of similar culture, religion and common language. In case of migration towards Iran that mostly has been from Afghanistan, it must be noticed that Afghanistan has had an undesirable economic and political condition and most of migrants migrate to Iran to ensure welfare for their families and rise their income. This fact is more consistent with network theory. Based on this study, it can be claimed that in spite of cultural similarities and common customs between Iran's neighboring countries, migration trend and their consequences were different among them.

Theories presented on the relation between culture and migration show that each one of theories has emphasized on a different dimension of this relation. Despite limitations for method and data resources, adopting a combined approach in this paper and its innovation for using comparative

method in the domain of demographic studies makes it more important. Therefore the study confirms Hammel's cultural theory in similar countries in terms of human development level.

Generally, it seems that level and trend of migration in countries with common norms, values, and languages continues to be the same in the future. Hence, these kind of orientations would be beneficial to make migrants more convergence with norms and values of host society, to reduce structural stress [societies in which there are usually ethnical and racial conflicts between migrants and the hosts], move labor force toward host countries and increase national security.

Collapse of the Soviet Union and its socio-economic instabilities, economic prosperity in Persian Gulf countries such as Saudi Arabia and UAE, political problems in Afghanistan and Iraq have been among the motivating factors of regional migration in studied countries. However, Iran and neighboring countries are not in similar condition in terms of regional migrations. A number of neighboring countries such as Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, and Kuwait are under populated and far from the main migration flows. Some other countries such as Pakistan, Russia and Saudi Arabia overpopulated and located at the center of migration. Nowadays passing the dominant host culture and entering to multiculturalism atmosphere is among important cultural achievements of migrants. Therefore, absorption and socialization in the new environment directs migrants towards a type of transition stage.

According to agenda of Cairo's population and development conference (1994) on importance of population issues in planning and its interconnection with cultural and social issues, it seems that appropriate mechanisms in this field are strongly needed. With regards to our foreign policy goals in the framework of cooperation with Muslim countries of the region, these mechanisms can be given priority, for being evaluated in cultural and social policy makings of Iran and other Muslim countries of the region. The main important mechanisms that can be referred to consist of:

**A:** Providing appropriate context to shape a scientific convention in order to supply the necessary guidelines for making the demographic database and refined cultural data in region with emphasize on pathology of data production,

**B:** Adopting appropriate mechanisms for migrants, especially middle - aged groups and adults, to make themselves compatible with host values and norms by education and mass media

**C:** Expanding the balanced spatial population distribution by promoting an integrated manner for sustainable development from the ecological point of view in major areas of sending and receiving migrants, with particular emphasis on socio-economic development and gender equality based on respecting human rights, especially the right to develop and progress for human beings;

**D:** Encouraging more cooperation and negotiation between origin and destination countries in order to maximize the benefits of migration for countries concerned and increasing the likelihood of migrations that have positive consequences for development of both sending and receiving countries;

## **Bibliography /References**

- Burgoon, J. K., Stern, L. A., & Dillman, L. [1995], *Interpersonal Adaptation: Dyadic Interaction Patterns*, New York: Cambridge University Press,
- Desjeux, D, [1990), *Essay on Training in Culture*, Paris, UNESCO Publication,
- Hammel. E.A.A,[1990], *Theory of Demography*, In *Population and Development Review*, vol.16 NO.3,P. 455,
- Erfani, M., [2010], *Migration: opportunities and challenges*, *New Idea Journal*, Vol.5,No: 22 Tehran, Iran, [Persian],
- Hofstede, G. [1997], *Cultures and Organizations: Software of the mind*. New York: McGraw Hill,
- Mirzaei, M., [2005], *Population and Development with emphasize on Iran*,[10 Essays] *Population Studies and research center in Asia and the Pacific*, Tehran, Iran, [Persian],
- Motie Haghshenas, N.,[2005], *A summary on Demographic and Development Indices for Iran and it's neighbors at the 21 Century*, *Population Studies and research center in Asia and the Pacific*, Tehran, Iran, [Persian],
- UNFPA, [1999],*Key Actions for the Further Implementation of the programme of Action of the ICPD*, New York,
- United Nations Division Population,[2008], *World Population Prospects*, New York, Available on-line at: <http://www.un.org/esa/>,
- UNDP, [2010], *Human Development Report, (HDR)*, New York, Available online at: <http://hdrstats.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/IRN.html>,
- Weeks, J.,[ 2005 ], *Population: An Introduction to Concepts and Issues*, Wadsworth Publication,
- World bank, [2008], *World Development Indicators*, Washington, DC: World Bank,
- Ziari, K., [2000], *Measurement development for cultural Characteristics of Iranian Provinces*, *Journal of Social Sciences*, Tehran University, P.P,91-104,[ Persian].

\*\*\*