



THE DREAM OF EMIGRATION: WHY ARE YOUTH INCREASINGLY
DRAWN TO LIFE ABROAD?

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Annotation: *This article explores the rising aspiration among youth to emigrate and build their futures abroad. It analyzes the economic, social, cultural, and psychological factors that drive young people—especially from developing countries—to pursue education, employment, and lifestyle opportunities overseas. The paper also investigates the impact of globalization, digital exposure, and domestic dissatisfaction on youth migration intentions. Through a multidimensional lens, the study sheds light on whether emigration is a form of escape, ambition, or necessity for the new generation, and what it means for their home countries in terms of brain drain, identity, and national development.*

Keywords: *youth migration, emigration aspirations, brain drain, globalization, foreign education, unemployment, digital influence, diaspora, national identity, future planning*

In recent years, there has been a noticeable surge in the number of young people expressing a strong desire to leave their home countries in search of better opportunities abroad. This trend is particularly visible in developing and transitional economies, where limited career prospects, social dissatisfaction, and political instability create a sense of frustration and restlessness among the youth. The dream of building a life in countries perceived as more prosperous, democratic, or advanced has become both a personal goal and a cultural phenomenon.

The emigration dream is often fueled by a combination of practical needs and idealistic expectations. On one hand, young individuals seek quality education, higher income, modern lifestyles, and better healthcare. On the other hand, social media and global pop culture paint a picture of the West or developed nations as places of freedom, opportunity, and fulfillment. As digital access expands, even those in remote or disadvantaged communities are exposed to a constant stream of content showing what life could be like elsewhere.

However, this desire to emigrate raises important questions. Are young people seeking growth, or are they fleeing problems at home? How realistic are their expectations, and what are the long-term implications for the countries they leave behind? With rising youth migration intentions, nations face the double challenge of addressing the root causes of dissatisfaction and managing the social and economic consequences of a potential brain drain.

This article aims to explore the motivations behind youth emigration, examine the influence of digital exposure and globalization, and consider the societal impacts of this





growing trend. Understanding why young people want to leave is the first step toward creating conditions where they feel motivated to stay.

Youth migration and emigration aspirations have become significant global phenomena, particularly in developing and transitional countries where economic and social conditions often fail to meet the expectations of the younger generation. The desire to emigrate is driven by a complex interplay of factors, including economic hardship, limited educational and professional opportunities, political instability, and the pervasive influence of globalization and digital media.

One of the primary drivers of youth emigration is the search for better economic prospects. High unemployment rates, underemployment, and low wages in home countries compel many young people to look abroad for jobs that promise financial stability and career growth. In many cases, the domestic labor market cannot absorb the increasing number of educated youth, leading to frustration and the perception that success is only attainable elsewhere.

Education also plays a critical role in fueling emigration dreams. Access to quality higher education is often limited or costly in many countries, prompting students to seek admission in foreign universities that offer more advanced curricula, international recognition, and better future career prospects. The internationalization of education has facilitated this trend, with scholarship programs and student exchanges increasing youth mobility worldwide.

Globalization and the digital revolution have further intensified youth aspirations for emigration by exposing them to diverse cultures, lifestyles, and possibilities beyond their local environments. Social media platforms, online communities, and international news provide constant glimpses into the lives of those living in developed countries, often idealizing foreign societies and creating a strong allure for young viewers. This exposure shapes their perceptions, making migration appear as a pathway to personal freedom, social prestige, and self-fulfillment.

However, alongside these positive motivations, some youths view emigration as a form of escape from socio-political problems such as corruption, lack of transparency, limited civil liberties, or ethnic tensions. In these cases, migration is less about opportunity and more about seeking safety, stability, and dignity.

Despite the strong desire to emigrate, many youths face significant challenges and uncertainties in the migration process, including legal restrictions, cultural adjustment, discrimination, and the risk of exploitation. Additionally, the loss of young talent and skilled labor, known as "brain drain," presents serious implications for the countries of origin, affecting their economic development, innovation potential, and demographic balance.

Addressing youth emigration effectively requires comprehensive policies that improve domestic conditions, such as creating quality employment, enhancing educational infrastructure, ensuring political stability, and fostering inclusive societies. Moreover, empowering young people with realistic information about migration prospects and





preparing them for global citizenship can help align their aspirations with achievable outcomes.

In conclusion, the emigration aspirations of youth reflect both the challenges they face in their home countries and their hopes for a better future. Understanding these complex motivations is essential for policymakers, educators, and community leaders seeking to engage with youth constructively and to design interventions that reduce forced migration while promoting sustainable development at home.

The increasing aspiration among youth to emigrate is a multifaceted phenomenon shaped by economic challenges, educational limitations, political concerns, and the pervasive influence of globalization and digital media. While many young people seek better opportunities, safety, and personal growth abroad, their motivations are also deeply rooted in dissatisfaction with conditions at home.

Addressing the root causes of youth emigration requires comprehensive efforts to improve domestic economic prospects, expand access to quality education, and promote political and social stability. Providing realistic information and guidance on migration can help youth make informed decisions and better prepare for the complexities of living abroad.

Ultimately, the goal should be to create environments where young people can envision fulfilling futures within their own countries, thereby reducing the compulsion to emigrate solely as a means of escape. A balanced approach that respects youth aspirations while strengthening national development is essential for sustainable progress.

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