

Abstract

Gender and international migration: comparing the role of man and woman in the migration process – the case of Chinese migrants in the Czech Republic

Gender is one of the main factors influencing individuals' chances, activities and lives in general. Therefore, it is very important to consider gender in the process of international migration. Women and men may experience the whole process differently, that is from its beginning (i.e. decision-making) to the post-migration stage (i.e. adaptation process). Though, gender was in the international migration research neglected for a long time.

The first aim of this thesis is to identify the importance of gender in migration studies from the end of the 19th century until present. The author focused on theories and concepts in regard to their approach to gender. The second aim is to indicate the gender roles and differences in migration experiences of Chinese women and men using qualitative research method. The author of this thesis accomplished 10 semi structured interviews with Chinese (half women and half men) who came to the Czech Republic after the year 1989. The interviews focused on the decision-making process, motivations to migrate, gender roles and family organization. Findings of the research can not be generalized on the whole Chinese population in the Czech Republic, yet they provide very valuable information.

The research revealed that the reasons of migration for men and women were (surprisingly) quite similar. Both women and men decided to come to the Czech Republic because of economic reasons and because they wanted to make their living conditions better. Couples made their decisions together (that confirms the „new economics of migration“ theory). Participants expressed their opinion that gender roles in the family do not change as a result of migration process. The division of labour in Chinese families is quite equal prior the migration and it remains unchanged after coming to the Czech Republic. The power shift concept was not confirmed in this case.

Information gained in this research contributes to better knowledge of migration experiences of men and women. This can be useful while incorporating gender into migration policies and programs.