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CASE STUDY:

Employment of Return Migrants in Turkey: Evidence from the Labour Force Survey

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Abstract

Based on Labour Force Survey data conducted by Turkish Statistical Institute, this study aims at discussing economic integration of return migrants in general and determining whether there are significant differences between return migrants and non-migrants in terms of the effects of demographic factors and work-status nominators on their employment. The study argues that the returnees face far more employment challenges compared to non-migrants. The results of the study suggest that holding a university or postgraduate degree facilitates the employment of returnees to a certain degree. However, lower levels of educational attainment, employment lacking social security and micro-sized establishments pose several challenges.

Keywords: International migration; return migrants; Turkish nationals; Turkish labour market; economic integration.

Introduction

Since the 1940s, immigration has become a main dynamism throughout the world. The volume of migration has grown in traditional migrant-receiving countries such as Canada and Australia and immigrants' home countries have shifted away from Europe toward Asia, Africa, and Latin America (Massey et al., 1993). In a broad sense, the literature on international migration discusses 'the experiences of individuals leaving their homeland, on the losses involved, and on the complex process of acculturation' (Tannenbaum, 2007).

The return migration, yet, has been rarely studied.¹ It is generally assumed that return migrants come back to their home countries as 'additional human capital'

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¹ Beside of political and sociological studies, there are also antropological studies focusing on international migration and return migration. For example, see Jansen.¹ Beside of political and sociological studies, there are also antropological studies focusing on international migration and return migration. As an example see Jansen, Stef, and Staff and Löfving eds. 2009. Struggles for Home. Violence, Hope and the Movement of People. New York: Berghahn Books (focusing on the meaning of home for immigrants). For further studies about international migration, see, for instance, Sirkeci, I. and Yüceşahin, M.M. (2014). Editörden: Türkiye'de

