

CITIZENS FROM SERBIA AS A FOREIGN WORKERS IN CANADA IN THE TIME OF CRISIS

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***Summary:** Foreign workers or immigrants were always attracted by countries such as Canada, Australia New Zealand or USA. Many of them did not even think about consequences or are they capable to adapt themselves and their families in foreign country. Immigrants need first of all to learn a new language, adapt to a new way of living and also to learn and follow new laws and legislations. Through a survey the authors probe into how immigrants from Serbia and others ex-Yugoslav Republics such as Croatia, Bosnia or Montenegro live and work in Canada, are they feel protected in this country as a foreign workers, is their level of education recognized, do they have benefits that are free of any charges, whether their knowledge of the language creates a barrier during the work and daily life in Canada. The objective of this study is to explore the correlation between cultural adjustments and the level of awareness of life conveniences for foreign workers in Canada.*

***Keywords:** Immigrant, foreign workers, benefits, correlation, Canada*

1. INTRODUCTION

Canada is a country in North America consisting of ten provinces and three territories. Amongst Sweden, Australia and New Zealand, Canada is the most social secure country in the world. In the time of economic crises ,when people lose their jobs in their own countries or they are just seeking for better life many people have only one wish and that is to leave their homeland and go to some other country that is consider as a better place to live than their own country .Serbian government does not control the outflow of its own citizens. Certain attention is given to higher educated people but not to trade/craft people like mechanics, electricians, welders, locksmiths. Government does not control or ban any foreign employer from taking our employees. Even there is no control of contracts and conditions that may be given to our employees. Sometimes people are so desperate and want to leave their own country that they do not even think about what they can expect or where they are going to work or how high their salary is going to be. In this study, we report our findings and insights from an exploratory survey conducted among immigrants from Serbia and some other Republics such as Croatia, Bosnia and Montenegro who live and work in Canada and we also research correlation between cultural adjustments and the level of awareness of life conveniences for foreign workers in Canada We have been studying the relationship between the scope of their language knowledge , and their level of awareness what benefits do they

have in Canada. The main question is do they feel safe as a foreign workers and do they have certain rights that are similar do the rights that Canadian citizens have. According to Berry individuals can exhibit a high level of integration in both cultures; it is not essential for the individual to lose contact with one culture while adapting to another [1]. In countries, most immigrants tended to undergo a predictable process of identity loss or sacrifice followed by assimilation within their host countries, having left cut of ties with their home countries behind for all practical purposes, as most immigrants never returned [2]. Those who try to adapt to the Canadian system are mostly attracted with social security that this country is able to provide. Canada tries every year to improve its own laws by which they will protect foreign workers even more from any abuse of frauds. This year Canada has launched new immigration system called Express Entry, according to which Canada will choose the best candidates in the future time and give them a chance to live permanently in Canada.

2. PURPOSE OF STUDY

Country like Canada has been attractive to huge number of people from many countries all over the world .People tend to leave their homeland, their families and go to Canada seeking for new life opportunities even as a foreign workers or as a new immigrants. This study looks at four well understood measures or indicators of the immigration process- benefits that our citizens have in Canada, which services are free of any charges for them, why they decided to leave their own country, and go abroad even if they do not know what they will find there or are they going to be able to adapt themselves to the new cultural environment. This research also looks at the preferences of how are our people able to use English language in their daily life and is their level of education officially recognized in Canada. This research has been devoted to the understanding of do our citizens feel safe as a foreign workers and are they respected from Canadian employers equal as the Canadian citizens. Many people has the second language as a barrier in their daily life but according to Canadian government foreign workers or immigrants need to pass certain language tests to be able to demonstrate their language knowledge. IELTS (International English Language Testing System) [3]. is a test that is recognized worldwide and is required for immigration purposes in many countries such as Australia, UK, New Zealand, etc. CELPIP is an English Test only provided and accepted in Canada [4].. Adults need to have certain level of English Language even before they apply for certain job in Canada and for immigration purposes those two tests are essentials. With young children who move to a new country and go to school there, situation is a little bit different they seem to 'pick up' the new language with incredible ease and adapt easy specially if they are between five and twelve years old [5].

3. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Why citizens from ex-Yugoslav Republics specially from Serbia leave their homeland and go to live and work in Canada and do they feel safe and respected there?

In our research we set four main areas and devoted them into four main questions:

1. Main reasons why people go to Canada from their homeland?
2. Do people feel safe as a foreign worker in Canada more than an employees in their own country?

3. What benefits do they have as a foreign workers in Canada?
4. Correlation between how well do they communicate in English language and is the level of their education officially recognized in Canada?

We defined four Hypotheses:

Hypothesis 1

There is a many different reasons why people decided to leave their own country and go to Canada.

Hypothesis 2

There is a positive response do they feel safe in Canada as foreign workers and are they protected more than they were as an employee and citizens in their own country.

Hypothesis 3

There is a positive relationship and correlation between what benefits do they have as a foreign workers and are those benefits free of any charges.

Hypothesis 4

There is a positive relationship between their level of language knowledge and their level of education and how it is officially recognized in Canada.

4. POPULATION

The population consisted of the Serbian, Montenegrin and Croatian immigrants in Canada and their members of family who are employed with Canadian employers. Those people are mainly educated from secondary school to high school level diploma, they are mainly trade/craft people such as mechanics, electrician, long haul truck driver and their spouses who mainly work in Canada as an administrative workers, nannies or cleaners. The following figures representing the results of our research.

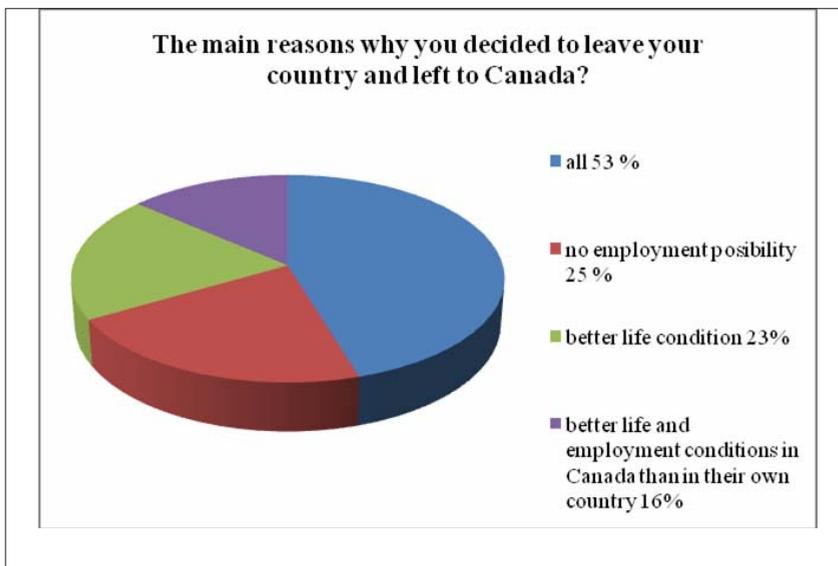


Figure 1: Main reasons why our citizens leave Serbia

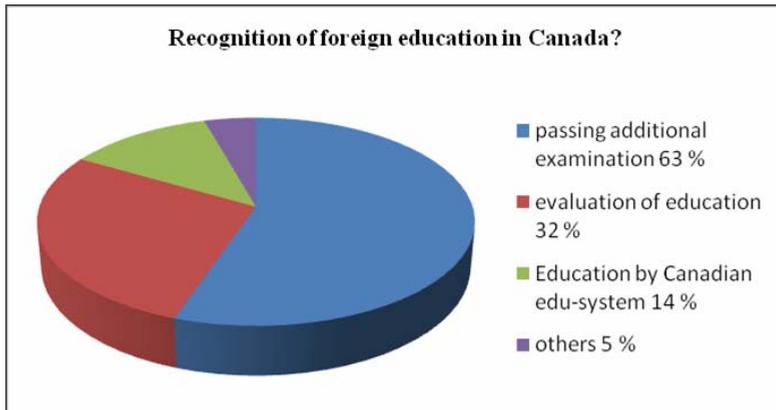


Figure 2: Foreign education recognition in Canada

Table 2: Correlation between knowledge of foreign language and people’s daily life and do they feel safe and protected in Canada

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS YES (%)	ANSWERS NO (%)
Does knowledge of foreign language presents problem in your daily life?	28 %	72 %
Do you feel protected in Canada as a foreign worker?	93 %	7 %
Do you feel safe as a foreign worker and immigrant in Canada?	95 %	5 %

This correlation is clearly presented in a table above, it shows how does knowledge of foreign language in this case English affects daily life of our people in Canada. It give us a clear picture who they cope with every day job that they do and do they feel protected in foreign country, are they manipulated by a foreign employers or not, and do they have descent life conditions. These correlations clearly present the response to the question “Do they feel safe as a foreign worker or immigrant in Canada?”

5. RESULTS

All participants were informed that the participation was voluntary, and that all responses were anonymous. Total number of participants were 56 in total. The questionnaire assessed a wide range of variables related to people from ex-Yugoslav Republics specially from Serbia, 54% of all answered that they left their own country because they were not able to find adequate employment so they left searching for better life conditions and that they have chosen Canada because they consider that Canada has better life conditions for immigrants and foreign workers than they have it in their own country as a citizens.25% said that they left because they couldn’t find descent job,23% left searching for better life conditions and 14% left because they thought that Canada has better life conditions for immigrants and foreign workers than they have as the citizens in their own country.93% of all participants said that English language knowledge isn’t a problem for them and that they are capable to use it in everyday life and only 7% has language problems and barrier. When we talk about

benefits that are free of any charges for foreign workers and immigrants in Canada all participants agree that social security is the main reasons why they are in Canada. They all said that medical insurance is fully covered and also children's education and work safety. When certain person entered Canada it is necessary for him/her to have certain level of education, and to be able to do job legally it is necessary to pass some additional exams so that his/her level of education can be recognized by the Government of Canada and also to be able to get official license to live and work in Canada. 63% of all participants said that it is necessary to pass additional exams in almost every Canadian province, 30% said that they needed to do official recognition of their diplomas (in Serbian it is called "nostrifikacija"), 14% had to do the education according to the Canadian system, and 5% said they needed to take some other type of educational recognition. When we talk about safety 96% feel safe in Canada thanks to Canadian legislation and national security system and only 5% answered that they do not feel safe. In many provinces there are language school that provide free English classes for immigrants and newcomers.

6. CONCLUSION

All four hypothesis gave their positive relationship between those who participated in this survey and how they answered to the survey questions. The fact that they left their own country because they were searching for a better life conditions, even they think that they are more protected in Canada as a foreign workers than they were in their own country make us think that some things need to be changed soon in Serbian employment politics. Majority of the participants feel safe in Canada more than they were in their homeland. Many countries like Russia, Ukraine, Byelorussia, etc. do not care much about safety and life conditions of foreign workers that's why many people many people have experienced an accident during their work, but Canada is not certainly one of them. Canada takes care about foreign workers and immigrant, country with almost the best social security system in the world improves its laws and legislations every day. Fortunately many people are familiar with English language so they do not have language barrier in their daily life. for recognition of their education credentials Canada has additional exams according to their employment politics, when people take these exams and pass it successfully they can verify their diploma and get certain license that are necessary to obtain certain job in provinces across Canada. As a conclusion we my give suggestion that our government should pay more attention to those people who are leaving our country, because when man as a head of the family go abroad after a while his family will leave country, too. We should try to keep this people here, specially trade people since in our education system we almost do not have vocational training schools and if we do not obtain strict rules for that we may be in a position very soon to import foreign workers from other countries to do that kind of jobs since all are trade/craft people will be already abroad.

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