

The determinants of Sub-Saharan migration in Morocco

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Abstract- *Ce The migration has often been studied through Moroccan emigrations to the Europe. It is recently that studies have focused on Morocco as a host country, especially for Sub-Saharan. Indeed, Morocco has tried through its new migration policy to create a favorable and warm welcome context for the sub-Saharan migrants. Through our article we seek to define the factors that influence settlement decision of sub-Saharan migrants in Morocco. we try to understand what differentiates sub-Saharan migrants who intend to settle permanently in the Kingdom of Morocco from those who take Morocco as a country of transition. In this sense, our article attempts to describe and explain the differences and specificities that may exist between migrants from different sub-Saharan countries in terms of the choice of Morocco as a country of residence. This is to detect the homogeneity or heterogeneity that may exist between different groups of sub-Saharan migrants in terms of socio-cultural and economic integration. To define factors of permanent residence decision in Morocco, we conducted a survey with a sample containing 200 individuals. We concluded that several variables may explain the Sub-Saharan residence decision in Morocco (age, gender, educational level, membership in ethnic association)*

Key words: Morocco, Sub-Saharan, Migration, Residence,

INTRODUCTION

Ce Morocco has now become a country of immigration. The 2014 general population and housing census counted 86,000 migrants established in Morocco. Immigration from the

south, especially from sub-saharan countries, has tended to increase. this has led morocco to adopt a national immigration policy since the end of 2013 and in particular to carry out two operations to regularize some 50,000 foreigners between 2014 and 2018.

this new policy marks a new hope for sub-saharans living in morocco in an irregular situation. it marks the kingdom's international commitment to protect the rights of migrants.

morocco is part of this migration strategy to meet the requirements of the new constitution of 2011 which confirmed morocco's commitment to international conventions relating to the protection of human rights and the prohibition of all forms of discrimination.

this new policy is also part of the new geopolitical role that morocco currently plays as an african leader. the kingdom is today, for

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several african countries, a country of solidarity and a true economic and financial partner.

The issue of migration has given rise to a lot of research and has given rise to a wide theoretical debate. These researches were chosen for their original contributions to the discipline. They represent benchmarks for demographic and socioeconomic thought and provide new perspectives for analyzing and understanding the processes of international migration. This is how we can distinguish a diversity of approaches applied to understanding the issue of international migration: depending on the country of origin or destination; according to Micro, Meso and Macro levels; according to individual and collective behavior, according to migration policies, etc.

Our article searches to identify the causes of sub-Saharan migration in Morocco. our document is divided into two parts: in a first step, it is a question of recalling the main theories on the determinants of international migration. in a second step, to verify through the survey that we conducted with a sample containing 200 individuals, the determinants of sub-Saharan migration in Morocco.

1. Theories on the causes of migration

1.1 Neoclassic macroeconomic theory

With neoclassical macroeconomic theory, conceives international migration by the differences in labor output in all markets. The neoclassical model suggests that international migration results from real wage differentials across these markets. That is, migration is driven by geographic differences in the characteristics of labor supply and demand and the resulting wage differentials between capital-rich and capital-poor countries.

The central argument of this neoclassical approach thus focuses on wages. This simple and compelling explanation of international migration offered by neoclassical theory has strongly shaped public thought and provided the intellectual basis for much of the study of immigration policy.

1.2 The world system theory

The world system theory presents international migration as the result of political and economic relations between the countries of the center and the periphery. In this context, the search for new markets, raw materials and labor has created a global system that requires international migration. In this sense, international migration is a result of the socio-economic disturbances of the

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capitalist system. However, international labor migration creates both a movement of income and capital transfer, but also a transfer of technology and knowledge in the opposite direction leading to a reduction in the gaps between these countries (R. Chaabita 2016).

Basically, world system theory explains international migration not only according to wage rates or employment gaps (as explained above through neoclassical theory) between countries, but also through labor dynamics, market and the structure of the world economy (Massey et al., 1993).

1.3 Network theory

Network theory is an approach that highlights the importance of family and friends in migration decision. This entourage constitutes, in a way, a social capital available to individuals. In otherwise, networks constitute a set of interpersonal links that connect migrants, former migrants and non-migrants in countries of origin and destination through relationship and friendship ties, and which make migration easier or better. more desirable (Massey et al., 1993).

The notion of migratory networks became central in migration theories from the 1980s (Boyd, 1989; Massey, 1990). This approach has become widespread in research on migration in developing countries.

Social network theory fits within the framework of approaches to social capital. An approach that takes into consideration non-economic elements such as the presence of family members, friends, professional contacts, etc., in the host country (Lemieux, 2004). These elements are considered essential factors of the social network and as a facilitator in the process of finding a job. Several authors have demonstrated the influence of social networks on the professional integration of immigrants. To this end, Granovette (1973) observes that weak ties (professional contacts, distant relatives, classmates) have more influence than strong ties (family, spouse, friends) when looking for a job. According to the author, Weak ties allow the acquisition of relevant information which leads to more stable and better paid jobs.

1.4 The microeconomic model

The microeconomic model considers every individual as a rational person who seeks to maximize his satisfaction. In this sense, the migration decision is a function that seeks to optimize the expected net returns from migration under the constraint of the costs associated with the movement. It is therefore an individual calculation between revenue and forecast charges. In other words, it is the internal factors linked to the individual that influence their choice to migrate. These factors include personal

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characteristics (age, gender, level of education, etc.) as well as the circumstances related to the individual. While the role of other external factors remains secondary Douglass S. et al. (1994). The notion of rationality is strongly present in the neoclassical microeconomic approach to international migration. The migrant is therefore considered as an individual who makes mathematical calculations to optimize his choice. In this context, the decision to migrate is also conceived as an investment through which the migrant seeks to improve his productivity. This choice takes into account the different risks associated with changing countries. That is, a choice based on the calculation of the costs of traveling to find a new job, the effort of learning a new language, the effort of adaptation and integration.

1.5. The New Economics of Labor Migration

The New Economics of Labor Migration (NELM) is developed to overcome the weaknesses of the human capital model. This theory shifts the unit of decision from the individual to the family. It is the family that decides whether or not a member should migrate so that the objective function of the family is maximized.

NELM theory not only changes the unit of analysis from individual to household, but it also

elicits new motives for migration other than income maximization.

Among other things, diversification of risk within the family-households want to minimize risk by varying their sources of income.

NELM theory also poses the issue of migration in a broader context and postulates that households are concerned about their relative position in their community.

That is, they send household members abroad to improve their relative position in the community (Stark, 1984).

Basically, the theory of the New Economics of Labor Migration deals with the phenomenon of migration from a socio-economic perspective. Compared to other theories on the determinants of international migration, the NELM studies this question mainly based on the contribution of the family as a social decision-making unit as well as the expected socio-economic impact of migration.

2. Methodology

We used the quantitative approach to answer our problem. Several migration researchers have been inclined to argue that it is the quantitative approach that could offer enough guarantees to make research on migration issues a serious and reliable study.

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To identify the determinants of sub-Saharan migration in Morocco, we conducted a survey on a sample of 200 sub-Saharan migrants in Morocco.

Our questionnaire contains 30 questions divided into three axes. The first to detect and identify the profile of the Sub-Saharan migrant. The second contains questions relating to the determinants of the choice of Morocco as the country of final installation. While the last retraces all the factors likely to influence the integration or otherwise of the immigrant in question.

2.1 Descriptive statistics

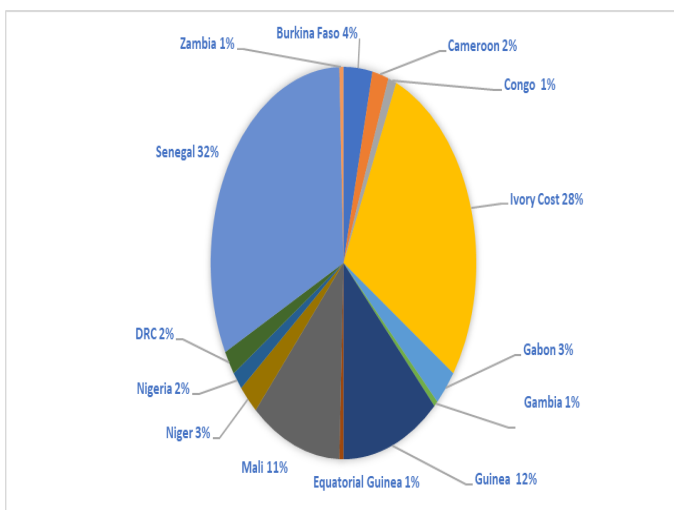


Figure 1 Country of origin of respondents in%

32% of our sample is made up of Senegalese, the Ivorians come in second place with 28%, followed by Guineans and Malians, respectively 12% and 11%.

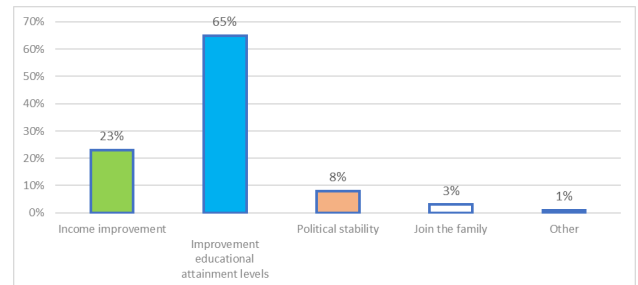


Figure 2 Reasons for settling in Morocco in%.

Source : Autors

65% of respondents plan to stay in Morocco to improve their income or employment, 23% for improving their level of education, 8% for political stability and 3% to join their family and friends.

Gender of migrant and incentive to stay in Morocco

Gender \ Reason for staying in Morocco	Improvement educational attainment levels	Income improvement	Other	Join the family
Women	23,53%	70,59%	0,00%	2,98%

The study of the link between the gender of the Sub-Saharan migrant and the variable relating to the reasons for settling in Morocco shows that among women 70.59% are encouraged to stay in Morocco to improve their income. For men, this percentage is only 62.52%.

On the other hand, the quest to improve the educational attainment level is also an important incentive factor to stay in Morocco. For women

this percentage is 23.53%, while for men it is 22.73%.

2.2 Model result

To complete our article, we tried to translate our effort into an econometric model about the causes of sub-Saharan migration in Morocco.

For this, we set up a binary logistic regression (Logit model). This choice is established after several preliminary analyzes¹. It is a regression model where the dependent variable takes two modalities. In our case, the dependent variable is "Choice of Morocco": This variable takes two modalities; "1" if the migrant chooses to settle in Morocco (choice of residence), "0" Otherwise.

The explanatory variables used are: the reasons for migration, the country of origin, gender, presence of the network, age group, level of education.

2.2.1 Error distribution

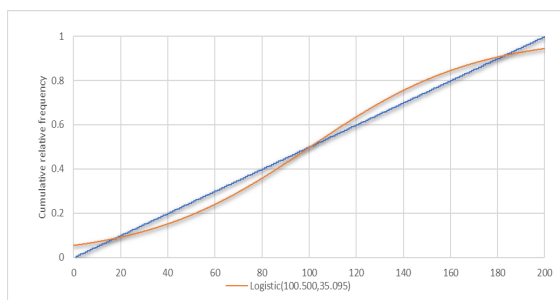


Figure 3 Error distribution

Source : Autors

Jarque Bera test

JB (Observed value)	33,425
JB (Critical value)	5,991

The Jarque-Bera is a hypothesis test that seeks to determine whether data follows a normal distribution. The Jarque-Bera test is a derivative of the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test, and it is based on the asymmetry and kurtosis coefficients.

As for each test, it is necessary to retain two hypotheses, the Jarque-Bera test retains the hypotheses below:

← H0: The data follow a normal distribution

← H1: The data does not follow a normal distribution

Since the observed value is greater than the critical value, we conclude a non-normal distribution of the residue. The curve reveals a logistic distribution of the error.

¹ Normality test and correlation test.

2.2.2 Estimation result

Source	Valeur	Erreur standard	Khi ² de Wald	Pr > Chi ²
Networks-0 (No)	0,206	0,116	3,188	0,0
Reasons for migration-0 (Other)	-0,024	0,112	0,046	0,8
Reasons for migration-1 (Political stability)	-0,078	0,108	0,528	0,4
Reasons for migration-2 (Study)	0,257	0,108	5,696	0,0
Gender-0 (Women)	-0,315	0,103	9,390	0,0
Native contry-0 (Other)	0,023	0,118	0,037	0,8
Native Contry-1 (Guinea)	0,121	0,111	1,193	0,2
Native Contry-2 (Mali)	-0,195	0,147	1,773	0,1
Native Contry-3 (Ivory Coast)	0,222	0,121	3,394	0,0
Age range-0 (< 25)-	-0,422	0,276	2,337	0,1
Age range-1(25 à 30)	-0,080	0,251	0,101	0,7

The estimation result show that's the migrants who are not members of an ethnic association are most convinced to settle permanently in Morocco. This result remains significant at the 5% level.

Regarding "reason for migration variable", only the "study modality" which seems to have a significant effect on the choice of residence or not in Morocco. This modality acts positively on the dependent variable (Choice of residence).

According to gender, the result shows that it is men who are more likely to settle permanently in Morocco. This variable acts significantly at the 5%. This result is consistent with Sjaadstad's idea that the decision to migrate takes into account the individual characteristics of the migrant, including gender.

Regarding the country of origin, we note that compared to the reference modality (migrant from Senegal), only migrants from Ivory Coast who express a desire to settle permanently in the Kingdom of Morocco (this result is only significant at the 10% threshold).

The modalities associated with the Age group variable do not seem to significantly explain the choice of Morocco as a country of residence. In other words, given our results, age does not seem to explain the preference for settling in Morocco.

Compared to the last variable "Level of education" we notice that this variable acts significantly on the response variable "Residence". More explicitly, we find that sub-Saharan migrants with a primary or secondary level are more likely to choose Morocco as country of residence. Finally, we know that religion can be a motivating factor in the migration decision. In our case, the relationship between religion and settle decision of sub-Saharan migrants in Morocco is not verified. Religion does not seem to act significantly to justify the choice of Morocco as a country of residence.

Conclusion

Through our article we have tried to model the phenomenon of sub-Saharan migration in Morocco using data processing and statistical analysis techniques. To succeed in this modeling test, we selected a sample of 200 sub-Saharan migrant individuals living in different Moroccan cities.

To understand the migration decision of sub-Saharan migration to Morocco. we were led to come back to the theoretical literature review to identify the different approaches and studies that tried to provide an explanation, both explicit and implicit, of the phenomenon of international migration.

we focused on the determinants of international migration by dissecting the passage and the relationship between the macro structural level of analysis and the individual micro level. we have looked at the migrant as a rational individual who seeks to maximize his utility in a new setting different from that of the country of origin.

We concluded that several variables may interact to explain the decision to migrate from one country to another (age, gender, educational level, membership in ethnic association).

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