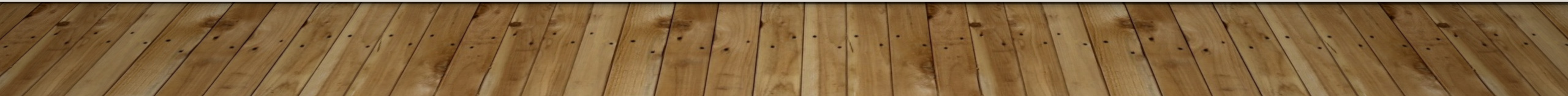


MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN MOROCCO, A REALITY OR A MYTH!

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- The issue here is not that of a life story of migrants, or that of a migratory adventure such as would be told by thousands of migrants for decades. This communication is about the story of a public policy which placed a lot of hope on the migration of part of the population, but which is today entangled in the various effects - internal as well as external - of this same migration.

MIGRATION AS A COMPONENT OF AN OPEN ECONOMY

- To goods Market
- To capital, mainly loans
- To services, including tourism
- To the labor market, through the facilitation of emigration...

MIGRATION A DEVELOPMENT CHOICE

- It solves part of the labor market problems
- It allows access to financial resources for both poverty reduction and investment.
- It allows exchanges of experiences – lifestyles as well as knowledge
- It facilitates social, political, and cultural contacts and exchanges between nations.
- In the end, it is a factor likely to promote/support the development of developing countries.

MIGRATION, AN “ASYMMETRIC” PHENOMENON

- The analysis of the effects of migration is different depending on the country, even though all countries around the world are concerned by this phenomenon as much as a country of origin is a country of destination/reception...

MIGRATION, AN “ASYMMETRIC” PHENOMENON

- Thus, the Maghreb countries, for example, know and experience the migration issue in a position that is not that of the OECD countries.
- Among these countries, Morocco began a policy of facilitating emigration in the early 1960s, just after its independence.

MOROCCO AS AN EXAMPLE

Specifically,

- a/ Migration would generate remittances to migrants' households, which will at the same time benefit the whole country, supporting domestic development policies;
- b/ It will ease the pressure on the local labor market, thus reducing the unemployment rate nationwide;
- c/ While responding to labor shortages in destination countries, it will increase Morocco's political influence in these same countries, and therefore in Europe in general.
- d/ It will drive positive social change

MOROCCO AS AN EXAMPLE

Initially, until the mid-1990s, there was no methodical monitoring of, and therefore no accurate statistics on, emigration from Morocco to Europe, which until then had been the main, if not the only, destination for Moroccan migrants. However, according to estimates provided by the World Bank, the number of Moroccans born in Morocco and living abroad was around 650,000 in the 1960s, rising to almost 800,000 in the following decade before reaching just over 1.5 million in 2000, 3 million in 2010, and about 4,5 million in 2019 representing almost 12 percent of the total population in that year. The observation that emerges from the evolution of this data is that of a very strong acceleration of the migration of Moroccans from the beginning of the 21st century since 150,000 Moroccans would have left Morocco annually between 2000 and 2020.

MOROCCO AS AN EXAMPLE

Present mainly in Europe, which hosts nearly 9 out of 10 Moroccans living abroad (86.4%, including 31.1% in France, 23.4% in Spain, and 18.7% in Italy), the Moroccan migrant community is mainly male, with men accounting for 68%. The community is also relatively young, with nearly 60% under the age of 40. It is also increasingly well-educated, not only compared to the first waves of migrants in the 1960s and 1970s but also compared to the Moroccan population as a whole. Thus, one out of three current migrants (33.5%) has attained higher education, another third (33.7%) completed secondary education, and 16.9% completed primary education. However, in Morocco itself, nearly a third of the adult population is illiterate, and 60% of the working population has no level of education (HCP,2018).

MOROCCO AS AN EXAMPLE

- More than 60 years after the start of this migration process:
- 1st, Not only the migration flow from the country has not diminished, but it has become stronger over the years.
- 2^d, While remittances have helped reduce poverty among many migrant families, they have not turned into productive investments.
- 3^d, New migrants are no longer young men with limited educational attainment but are increasingly highly skilled men and women, whose departure deprives the country of the human skills necessary for its development.
- 4th, Returning migrants, for a time or permanently, have in many cases become agents of negative change in Moroccan society, especially about religiously inspired radicalization.
- 5th, Migration management has become a subject of political tension with many host countries, particularly regarding return/readmission or visa issues.