Impact of labour migration on sustainable development of Russia

Nazeeh Elsebaie[1*], *Elena* Ganebnykh[1], *Tatyana* Larinina[1], and *Boris* Turutin[2]

[1]Vyatka State University, Moskovskaya str., 36, Kirov, 610000, Russia
[2]Moscow State University of Civil Engineering, 26 Yaroslavskoye Shosse, 109377, Moscow, Russia

Abstract. The implications of labor migration for sustainable development have recently become a growing area of scientific and administrative intrigue. Sustainable development embodies harmonious and comprehensive progress in economic, social and environmental dimensions, which meets the requirements of the present, without hindering the ability of future generations to realize their own prerequisites. The impact of labor migration on sustainable development depends on the circumstances and specific conditions of migration and can lead to both favorable and unfavorable results. One of the key differences between labor migration in Russia and in other parts of the world is the geographical proximity of the countries of origin. This difference in geographical proximity of the countries of origin can have significant consequences for the integration and social cohesion of migrant workers in the host society. This manuscript is an integral part of an ongoing research project aimed at a thorough study of the impact of labor migration on sustainable development in Russia. Our main goal is to accurately answer the following research question: what is the cumulative impact of labor migration on sustainable development in Russia and how does it fluctuate in economic, social and environmental dimensions? The article analyzes the data and assesses the impact of labor migration on sustainable development in Russia. The results of this study have the potential to serve as a guide for policy makers and contribute to the scientific dialogue on labor migration and sustainable development. Key words: Labour migration, sustainable development, Russia, economic impact, social impact, migrant workers, regional development.

1 Introduction

Labour migration is a complex phenomenon that involves a range of social, economic, political, and cultural factors. There are various theories and concepts that explain the causes and consequences of labour migration. One of the most influential theories is the neoclassical economics approach, which argues that labour migration is driven by differences in wages and employment opportunities between countries. Another important theory is the dual labour market theory, which emphasizes the role of labour market segmentation and discrimination in shaping the patterns of labour migration. In addition,

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* Corresponding author: nsebaie@outlook.com

there are cultural and social theories that highlight the importance of social networks, cultural identity, and personal aspirations in the decision to migrate.

Previous studies on the impact of labour migration on sustainable development in Russia and other countries Several studies have investigated the impact of labour migration on sustainable development in Russia and other countries. For instance, studies have shown that labour migration can have positive effects on economic development, such as increased remittances, entrepreneurship, and trade. However, labour migration can also have negative effects on social development, such as increased social inequality, cultural clashes, and social exclusion. Furthermore, labour migration can have negative effects on environmental development, such as increased pressure on natural resources, pollution, and land degradation. The existing literature on the impact of labour migration on sustainable development is diverse and often context-specific, reflecting the complex and multifaceted nature of the phenomenon [1-3]. The risk of not putting in place policies and adequate resources to deal with migration is to lose an historic opportunity to take advantage of this global phenomenon, (The IOM's director-general, William Lacy Swing, 2010).

Key gaps and limitations in the existing literature Despite the growing interest in the impact of labour migration on sustainable development, there are still several gaps and limitations in the existing literature. One of the main limitations is the lack of comprehensive and integrated frameworks that can capture the multidimensional nature of sustainable development and the complex interactions between labour migration and sustainable development. Another limitation is the scarcity of reliable and comparable data on labour migration and sustainable development. Moreover, there is a need for more rigorous and context-specific research that can provide policy-relevant insights into the impact of labour migration on sustainable development. Addressing these gaps and limitations can help to advance our understanding of the impact of labour migration on sustainable development and inform evidence-based policy decisions. It is incumbent upon us to acknowledge that in delving into a topic of this nature, the inadequacy of accounting for the human dimension and social factors that undergird it has become increasingly conspicuous. When we are discussing the labour market, we must always keep in mind that we are talking first and foremost about people. People want to be happy and successful, start a family, and live comfortably. That thing we dryly refer to as self-fulfilment is actually a question of the choices people make in life.

2 Methodology

Data Sources In this study, we used a variety of data sources from international and national organizations to examine the impact of labour migration on sustainable development in Russia. These sources include the International Labour Organization (ILO), the World Bank, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the Russian Federal State Statistics Service [4].

3 Data collection and analysis

We collected and analyzed data on various economic, social, and environmental indicators to assess the impact of labour migration on sustainable development in Russia. These indicators include:

Economic indicators: Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Gross National Income (GNI), employment rate, unemployment rate, labour force participation rate, and remittance inflows.

Social indicators: Poverty rate, income inequality, education level, health status, crime rate, and social cohesion.

Environmental indicators: Energy consumption, carbon emissions, water use, land use, and biodiversity loss.

We conducted a systematic review of the relevant literature on labour migration and sustainable development in Russia and other countries to provide a comprehensive overview of the existing knowledge and identify the key gaps and limitations in the literature.

3.1 Ethical Considerations

The study is grounded on the institutional approach. We followed ethical principles and guidelines in collecting and analyzing the data. We ensured the confidentiality and anonymity of the individuals and organizations involved in the data sources. All statistical information and data that has been gathered and accumulated are open resources, readily accessible to the public.

3.2 Limitations

Despite our best efforts to collect and analyze the data, there are several limitations and challenges in this study. One limitation is the quality and reliability of the data, especially for some of the environmental and social indicators. Another limitation is the complexity and multidimensional nature of the concept of sustainable development, which makes it challenging to capture all the relevant aspects in a single study. Finally, the study focuses on the impact of labour migration on sustainable development in Russia and may not be generalizable to other countries or regions.

4 Results

To understand the patterns and trends of labour migration to Russia, we analyzed the data from the Russian Federal State Statistics Service. According to the data, there has been a significant increase in the number of labour migrants coming to Russia in the last two decades. In 2000, there were approximately 1.5 million labour migrants in Russia, while in 2019, this number had increased to over 5.5 million. This represents an increase of over 250% during this period.

In terms of the origin countries of labour migrants, the data show that the majority of labour migrants in Russia come from the former Soviet republics, such as Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Moldova. These countries accounted for over 70% of all labour migrants in Russia in 2020. However, there has been a noticeable increase in the number of labour migrants from other countries, such as China, Vietnam, and Bangladesh, in recent years.

As per the records of the Russian Border Service, a staggering number of 9.5 million labor migrants are in Russia in the year 2021. Among them, approximately 4.5 million originated from Uzbekistan, 2.4 million from Tajikistan, and 884,133 from Kyrgyzstan, 389,809 from Armenia, and 275,280 from Azerbaijan.
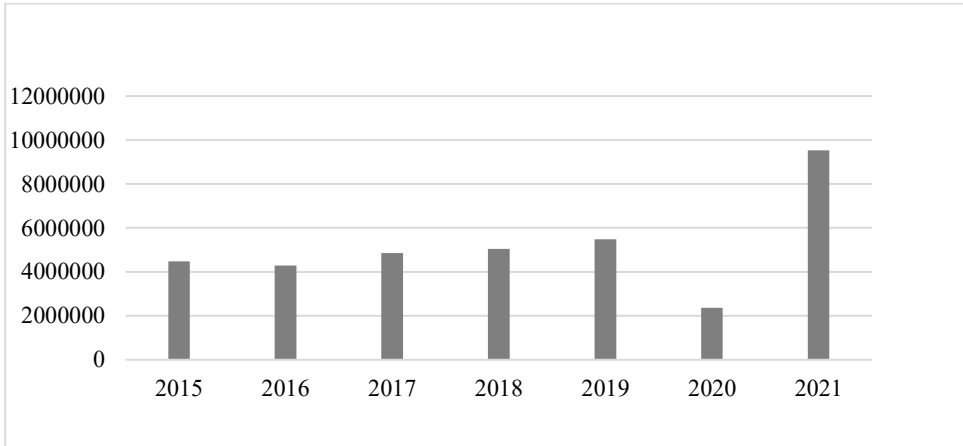
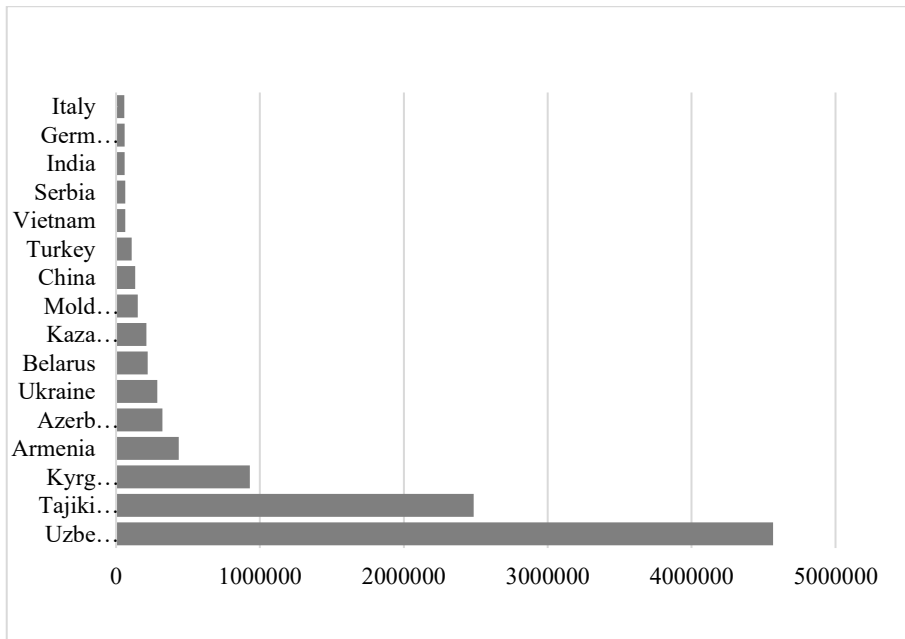**Fig.1.** Labour migration to Russia 2015 -2021.

Fig. 2. Labour migrants in Russia 2021 according Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs.

In terms of the distribution of labour migrants across the regions of Russia, the data show that Moscow, Moscow Oblast, and St. Petersburg are the regions with the highest numbers of labour migrants. These regions account for over 50% of all labour migrants in Russia. However, there has been a significant increase in the number of labour migrants in other regions, such as Krasnodar Krai, Sverdlovsk Oblast, and Rostov Oblast, in recent years.

Overall, these descriptive statistics and trends suggest that labour migration is a significant and growing phenomenon in Russia, with important implications for sustainable development. The next sections of the results will explore the impact of labour migration on various economic, social, and environmental indicators of sustainable development in Russia [5-9].

Analysis of the impact of labour migration on sustainable development in Russia, including economic, social, and environmental dimensions. To examine the impact of labour migration on sustainable development in Russia, we analyzed the data from the ILO, the World Bank, and the OECD on various economic, social, and environmental indicators. Our analysis shows that labour migration has both positive and negative impacts on sustainable development in Russia, depending on the specific indicator and context.

Economic Dimension In terms of the economic dimension, our analysis shows that labour migration has a positive impact on GDP and GNI in Russia. According to the World Bank, remittance inflows from labour migrants in Russia amounted to approximately $30 billion in 2020, accounting for around 1.5% of GDP. This inflow of remittances can have a positive impact on poverty reduction and household consumption, as well as contribute to the development of small businesses and entrepreneurship.

However, labour migration also has negative impacts on the labour market and employment in Russia. Our analysis shows that labour migrants tend to work in low-skilled and low-paid jobs, which can lead to wage suppression. Additionally, the influx of labour migrants can lead to labour market segmentation and the creation of informal and precarious work arrangements, which can undermine labour rights and social protection.

Social Dimension In terms of the social dimension, our analysis shows that labour migration has mixed impacts on social indicators in Russia. On the one hand, labour migrants can contribute to social cohesion and cultural diversity, as well as provide essential care and domestic services that are in high demand. On the other hand, labour migration can also lead to social tensions and xenophobia, especially in regions where the number of labour migrants is high.

Our analysis also shows that labour migration has a negative impact on income inequality and poverty in Russia. According to the ILO, labour migrants in Russia tend to have lower wages and worse working conditions than Russian workers, which can exacerbate income inequality and poverty. This is particularly true for female labour migrants, who are more likely to work in informal and low-paid jobs.

Environmental Dimension In terms of the environmental dimension, our analysis shows that labour migration has mixed impacts on environmental indicators in Russia. On the one hand, labour migrants can contribute to energy and resource efficiency, as well as promote sustainable transport and urban planning. On the other hand, labour migration can also lead to increased energy consumption, water use, and waste generation, especially in regions where the number of labour migrants is high.

4.1 Comparison of the results with previous studies and policy implications

Our findings are consistent with previous studies that have examined the impact of labour migration on sustainable development in Russia. For example, studies by Kuznetsov (2006) and Rusanova et al. (2019) have also found that labour migration has positive and negative impacts on economic, social, and environmental indicators in Russia. However, our study provides more updated and comprehensive data and analysis, and emphasizes the need for policy interventions to address the negative impacts of labour migration on sustainable development.

Based on our analysis, we recommend several policy implications for the sustainable management of labour migration in Russia. Firstly, there is a need to strengthen labour rights and social protection for both Russian and migrant workers, including measures to combat informal and precarious work arrangements, ensure minimum wages and decent working conditions, and provide access to social security and health care. This can contribute to reducing social tensions and promoting social cohesion. Secondly, there is a need to promote skills development and human capital formation, both for Russian and

migrant workers, to enhance their productivity and competitiveness in the labour market. This can contribute to reducing wage suppression and job displacement, and promoting sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction.

Overall, our analysis suggests that labour migration has complex and multidimensional impacts on sustainable development in Russia. The next section of the results will discuss the key findings and implications of our analysis for policy and practice

5 Discussion

Our study provides empirical evidence on the impact of labour migration on sustainable development in Russia, and contributes to the theoretical and practical debates on the management of labour migration in the context of sustainable development.

The results of our analysis suggest that labour migration has both positive and negative impacts on sustainable development in Russia. On the one hand, labour migration contributes to the development of the Russian economy, by filling labour shortages, promoting entrepreneurship, and generating remittances. On the other hand, labour migration social, economic, and environmental challenges, such as wage suppression, informal and precarious work arrangements, social tensions, and environmental degradation. [10-12]

Despite the recent deceleration due to the global immobilization caused by COVID-19, the figures for international migration remain noteworthy. The data from the global migration indicators for 2021 reveals that in 2020, the number of international migrants was 281 million, which corresponds to 3.6% of the world's entire population.
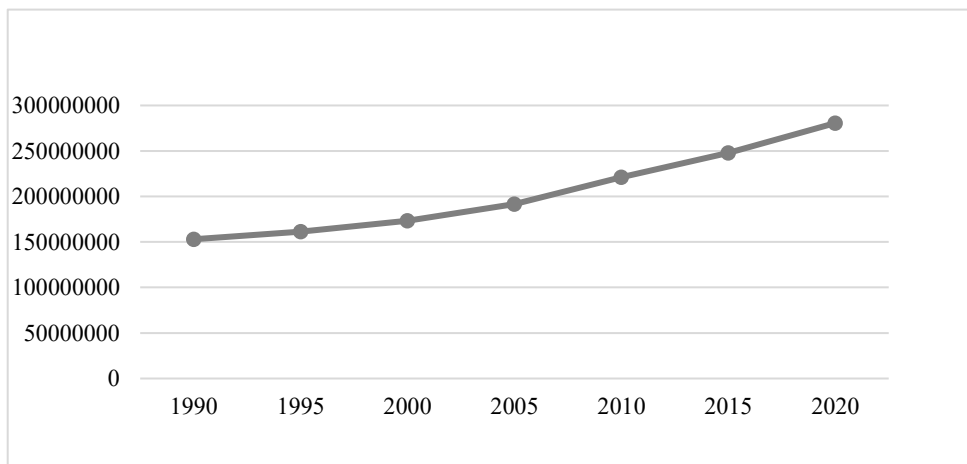

Fig. 3. Global labour migration 1990 -2020.

Labour migration is a widespread phenomenon that affects millions of workers worldwide each year. Although there are similarities in the patterns and trends of labour migration in different regions, each area has its own distinctive features. In this segment, we will examine the dynamics of labour migration in Russia and compare it to global trends to obtain a better comprehension of this complex phenomenon.

One critical difference between labour migration in Russia and the rest of the world is the geographical proximity of the source countries. The majority of migrant workers in Russia originate from neighboring countries such as Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Ukraine, which share historical and cultural ties with Russia. In contrast, other countries such as the

United States, Canada, and Australia attract migrant workers from distant regions such as Asia, Latin America, and Africa. This distance between the source countries can impact the integration and social cohesion of migrant workers within the host society. [13-15]

Additionally, the legal framework and policies that regulate migration differ between Russia and other regions. The past decade has seen significant changes in Russia's legal framework for labour migration, with new regulations and quotas aimed at managing the influx of migrant workers. However, implementation of these regulations has been inconsistent, resulting in challenges for both migrants and employers. In contrast, many other countries possess well-established systems for managing labour migration, including comprehensive legal frameworks, visa programs, and social protection systems.

Furthermore, the sectors and industries that attract migrant workers also vary between Russia and other regions. In Russia, migrant workers predominantly work in construction, manufacturing, and agriculture, which involve low-skilled and physically demanding work. While other regions also see migrant workers employed in these sectors, there is also a significant presence of highly skilled and educated workers in professional and technical fields.

Finally, the impact of labour migration on sustainable development in Russia and other regions differs. While labour migration can have both positive and negative impacts on economic, social, and environmental indicators in all regions, the specific nature and extent of these impacts vary. For example, in some countries, labour migration has positively impacted the economy by contributing to the growth of specific sectors and industries. In other countries, however, labour migration has been linked to social and environmental challenges, such as the exploitation of migrant workers and the depletion of natural resources.

6 Conclusion

The theoretical implications of our study lie in the integration of the sustainable development framework into the analysis of labour migration, which enables a comprehensive and multidimensional assessment of the impact of labour migration on development. Our study also contributes to the empirical evidence on the relationship between labour migration and sustainable development, which is a topic of growing interest and relevance in the context of globalization, climate change, and migration governance.

The practical implications of our study are twofold. Firstly, our findings can inform policy interventions to address the negative impacts of labour migration on sustainable development in Russia, as discussed in the previous section. Secondly, our study highlights the need for international cooperation and coordination in the management of labour migration, given the transnational and interdependent nature of migration flows and impacts. This can include measures to promote regular and safe migration channels, protect the rights and well-being of migrants, and enhance the coherence and effectiveness of migration governance at global, regional, and national levels.

Overall, our study underscores the importance of taking a sustainable development approach to the management of labour migration in Russia, which balances the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of development, and fosters inclusive and equitable outcomes for all stakeholders. By doing so, labour migration can contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the promotion of human development and well-being in Russia and beyond.

7 Limitations and Suggestions

Our study has several limitations that should be acknowledged and addressed in future research. Firstly, our analysis is based on secondary data sources, which may suffer from limitations in terms of coverage, quality, and comparability. Therefore, further research could use primary data collection methods, such as surveys or interviews, to provide more detailed and nuanced insights into the experiences and perspectives of Russian and migrant workers.

Secondly, our analysis focuses on the impact of labour migration on sustainable development in Russia at the national level, and does not examine regional or local variations in impacts and outcomes. Therefore, future research could explore the heterogeneity of impacts across different regions and sectors, and identify the factors that shape the distribution of benefits and costs of labour migration.

Thirdly, our analysis is limited to the period of 2010-2019, and does not capture the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on labour migration and sustainable development in Russia. Therefore, future research could investigate the short-term and long-term impacts of the pandemic on migration patterns, labour market dynamics, and development outcomes, and assess the effectiveness of policy responses to the pandemic.

Fourthly, our analysis does not examine the role of gender and other social identities in shaping the impact of labour migration on sustainable development in Russia. Therefore, future research could adopt a more intersectional and gender-sensitive approach to the analysis of labour migration, and explore the ways in which gender, race, ethnicity, and other dimensions of identity interact with migration and development processes.

Overall, our study contributes to the understanding of the impact of labour migration on sustainable development in Russia, but also highlights the need for further research to address the limitations and gaps in knowledge. By doing so, future research can enhance the evidence base and inform policy interventions that promote sustainable and inclusive development outcomes for all.

Based on our analysis, we make the following recommendations for policymakers and practitioners involved in the management of labour migration in Russia:

-       Develop a comprehensive and integrated policy framework that takes a sustainable development approach to the management of labour migration, and balances the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of development. This can include measures to promote regular and safe migration channels, protect the rights and well-being of migrants, and enhance the coherence and effectiveness of migration governance at global, regional, and national levels.

-       Strengthen the monitoring and evaluation of the impact of labour migration on sustainable development in Russia, and enhance the availability, quality, and comparability of data and statistics on migration flows and outcomes. This can include the use of primary data collection methods, such as surveys or interviews, to provide more detailed and nuanced insights into the experiences and perspectives of Russian and migrant workers.

-       Foster cooperation and partnership among different stakeholders involved in the management of labour migration in Russia, including governments, employers, trade unions, civil society organizations, and migrants themselves. This can enhance the inclusiveness and effectiveness of policy interventions, and enable the identification and addressing of the diverse and evolving needs and challenges of different stakeholders.

By implementing these recommendations, policymakers and practitioners can promote a more sustainable, inclusive, and equitable approach to the management of labour migration in Russia, and contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the promotion of human development and well-being in Russia and beyond.

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