

Migration Potential of Vietnam in the Context of Educational Migration in Russia

Elena E. Pismennaya *

Nguyen Canh Toan **

Sergey V. Ryazantsev ***

Artem S. Lukyanets ****

Abstract: The article examines trends in educational migration in the Russian Federation in the dynamics of the countries of origin for the years 1998 - 2014. The paper examines factors and features of the distribution of foreign students on regions of Russia. The authors consider the situation of foreign students in the Russian labor market, including issues of their legal employment. The evolution of Russian legislated in regulating the employment of foreign students. The features of the legislative amendments of 2014 allowed foreign students to work in the Russian labor market. It revealed educational migration in the migration policy of Russia, designed possible migration potential of Vietnam to the Russian system of higher education.

Key words: Migration potential; Vietnam; educational migration; Russia; migration policy; international students; universities.

1. Trends in educational migration in Russia

Educational migration is one of the most desirable of migration flows to the Russian Federation. It has several positive socio - economic impacts: replenish working-age population, “rejuvenates” the age structure of the population, increasing the number of highly qualified professionals, encourages cultural exchanges and the development of the education system. The flow of educational migrants includes foreign students, graduate students, doctoral students, interns coming to training and internships.

During the 2000 - 2010, there was a steady increase in the number of foreign educational migrants in the Russian

Federation. According to official data of the Ministry of Education and Science of Russia, which are based on statements of universities in the 2013 - 2014 academic years in the country were trained about 206 thousand foreign students, graduate students, doctoral students, interns (Fig. 1).

(*) Prof., Ph.D., Finance University, Government of the Russian Federation.

(**) Assoc Prof., Ph.D., Institute for European Studies, Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences.

(***) Prof., Ph.D., Center for Social Demography and Economic Sociology, Institute of Social and Political Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences.

(****) Ph.D., Center of Social Demography and Economic Sociology, Institute of Social and Political Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences.

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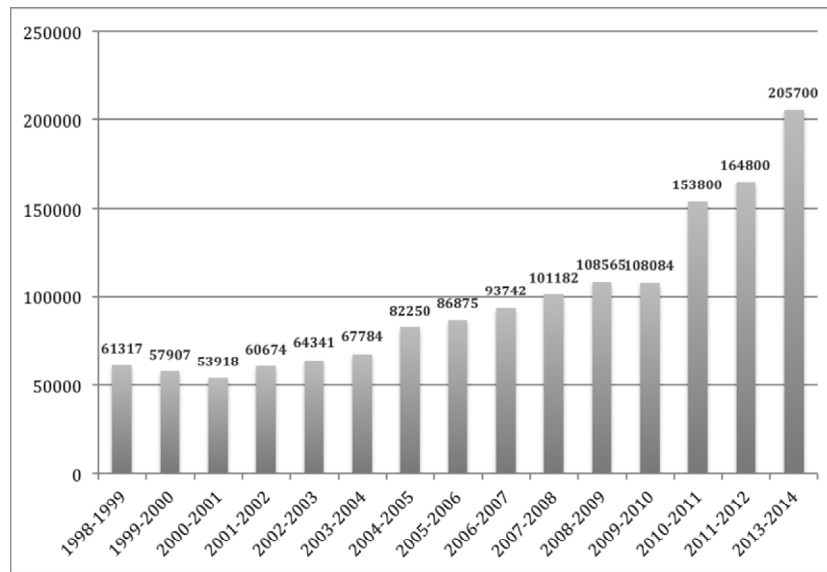


Fig. 1. Dynamics of the number of foreign students in the Russian Federation in the years 1998-2014.

The main countries of origin of educational migrants in Russia were Kazakhstan (16,600), China (16,500), Turkmenistan (5,300), Ukraine (4,900), India (4,500), Belarus, Azerbaijan (by 4,200), Vietnam and Tajikistan (by 3,600) (Fig. 2). About 40% of foreign educational migrants in the Russian Federation were the citizens of the former Soviet Union. However, studies show that

in recent years the flow of educational migrants from the CIS countries gradually shifted towards other states, which Russia loses in the competition in the education market. For example, students from Central Asian countries are increasingly go to study in the country and the Middle East; Vietnamese and Chinese - in the US, Canada, Western Europe, and Australia.

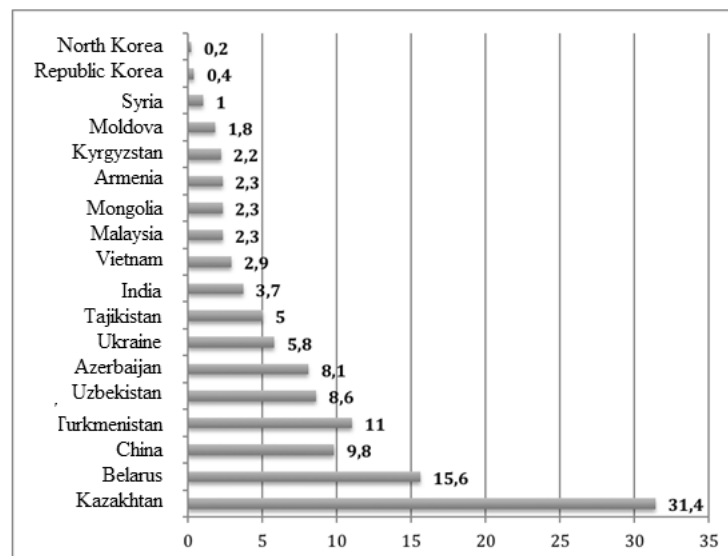


Fig. 2. The countries of origin of foreign students studying in the Russian Federation in 2013-2014

Foreign students studying in more than 600 Russian universities and unevenly distributed on the territory of the Russian Federation. About 49% of foreign students studying in the Central Federal District, 17% - in the North West, 12% - in the Siberian, 8% - in the Volga, 6% - in the Southern Federal District. Inequality in the distribution of foreign students happens due to several factors. *Firstly*, the “capital” provisions cities. Most foreign students (over 58%) are trained in Moscow and St. Petersburg, as well as in the capital, provincial and regional centers of Russia. For example, about 54% of students from Uzbekistan study in Moscow and St. Petersburg. Also, significant numbers of Uzbek students studying in Tomsk, Novosibirsk and Samara. About 77% of students from Ukraine, receiving education in Russia, trained in Central Russia, including Moscow. *Secondly*, it is the population of cities. The greater the population of the city, the more the number of students in these international students and graduate students register. In the list of 30 Russian cities with the highest number of foreign students is 12 cities - “millionaires”, 10 cities with a population of 500 thousand to 1 million people, 7 cities with populations ranging from 300 to 500 thousand people. For example, Moscow is the largest city in the country, accumulating more than 42% of foreign students. *Third*, cross-border arrangements regions receive foreign students. For example, 16 cities with the highest number of foreign students are located in the border regions. Thus, more than half of the students from Kazakhstan are studying at universities in Siberia and the Urals (56%), while in Moscow and St. Petersburg are learning only about 30% of students from

Kazakhstan. For example, the majority of Kazakh students in the universities of Novosibirsk, Omsk and Chelyabinsk regions come from the border regions of northeast Kazakhstan (Aktobe, Kokshetau, Kostanai, Pavlodar, Petropavlovsk, Karaganda and other areas). *Fourth*, it is the existence of special education profile, strong reputation of these institutions and special forms of recruitment. *Fifth*, the increased number of foreign students in some cities and regions is due to the specialization of individual universities in the teaching of the Russian language in the preparatory departments. For example, in Tomsk, Belgorod, Krasnodar, Moscow, St. Petersburg, some institutions specialize in preparing foreign students to study in Russia. For example, the St. Petersburg State University, students of the preparatory department account for 46% of all foreign students of this university.

2. Foreign students at the Russian labor market

For a long time unsolved problem was the inability of legal employment of foreign students in the Russian Federation. Russian migration and labor law rather strictly regulated the matter. Employment was possible only within the university in which students learn. Outside the university, foreign students were not allowed to work officially. However, as the case studies about one-third of foreign students and graduate students, about half did so informally, on the basis of a verbal agreement with the employers, which significantly reduced the degree of their social security (Fig. 3). The range of industries employing foreign students in Russia is quite wide. However, in most cases, their work does not coincide with a future occupation.

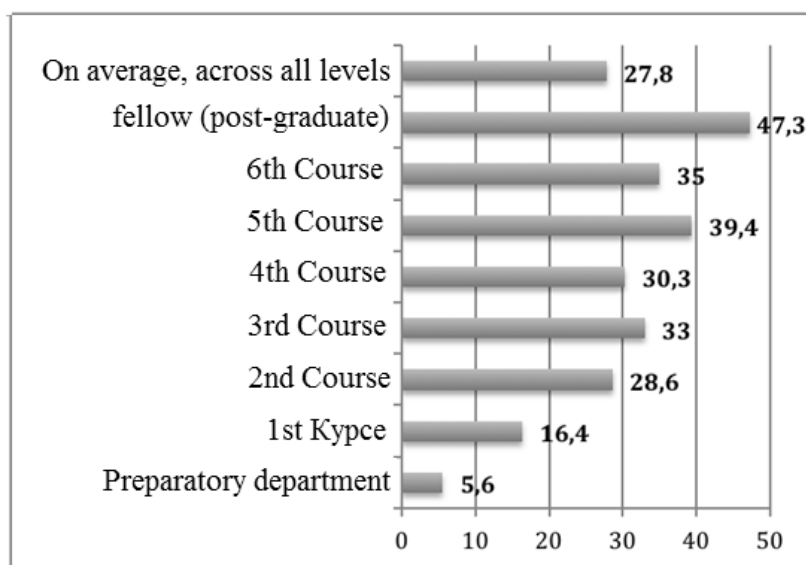


Fig. 3. The share of foreign students working in the Russian Federation during studies, % respondents (results of sociological poll)

Labour motivation of foreign students due to the low level of scholarship, learning disabilities on a budgetary basis, the high cost of food and life in large Russian cities. Work, many young people are trying to get at least a degree of independence from their parents and their own funds for the “pocket” costs. In addition, some students, thus secures the future of the search for the workplace, believing that it is better to try before different professions and areas after graduation to stay in a specific, most appropriate for their activity. The share of foreign educational migrant workers rises to senior years and reaches its maximum in graduate school. The wage level of foreign students is low, because the employment of many of them part, they work part - time. The wages of the majority of foreign students ranged from 10 to 25 thousand rubles a month. In the regions, the level of wages of foreign students is from 7 to 12 thousand rubles. Many deliberately compromise between part - time and relatively low wages in order to combine work with study. A small number of

students cannot find work on the profile of the profession.

Many companies, businesses and organizations that are ready to accept foreign students could not arrange them labor relations official. This problem also existed in the period of student practice. In the senior years, many students looking for their own space for practice, which could potentially become a place of permanent employment. Some companies and organizations are ready to take on senior students practice time to paid work, but the Russian law, the opportunity was not provided for a long time. Meanwhile, studies show that many foreign students could and want to work in the Russian Federation. With regard to access to the labor market of foreign educational migrants in Russia, there have developed a contradiction between the desire of employers and migrants on the one hand, and immigration and labor legislation on the other side.

Although from experts repeatedly made proposals on the liberalization of the Russian legislation in respect of employment of

foreign students. Until 2014, in accordance with the law “On the Legal Status of Foreign Citizens in the Russian Federation”, foreign students studying in Russian universities were exempt from obtaining for them a work permit only in two cases: if they worked for a vacation or leisure time study at universities in which they were trained. In all other cases, foreign students had to obtain a permit to work in the framework of the standard procedure for three to four months, if the quota for the employer. Considering that the Russian quota system was imperfect, many foreign students have not been able to get permission to work and could not work legally. Limited access of foreign educational migrants on the Russian labor market leads to the following negative consequences. *First*, it contributes to the preservation of informal practices and shadow relations in the Russian economy. *Second*, many foreign students have been deprived of the opportunity to earn additional funds for training and life apply their knowledge in practice while studying at university. *Third*, the informally employed foreign students perceive their work as temporary, without tying her any prospects. Companies could not make out foreign students, and eventually received although cheap, but the time and, ultimately, ineffective employees.

On January 1st, 2014, amendments to the law “On the Legal Status of Foreign Citizens in the Russian Federation” (Article 13.4 of the law), which simplified the hiring of foreign students in Russia in a simplified mode. Foreign students studying full - time in the Russian universities may self - refer to the bodies of the FMS for a work permit. And, a quota does not apply to them. In addition, the employer is not required and obtaining permission to hire foreign workers. In practice, these changes

contributed to substantially increasing the recruitment of students. These changes have improved the situation of foreign students in the Russian labor market.

3. Educational migration in the migration policy of Russia

If we consider the educational migration in the context of the state migration policy of Russia, we can distinguish the following contradiction. On the one hand, many government documents are declared the importance of attracting foreign students. For example, in the concept of demographic policy (2007) states: “The need to attract skilled foreign professionals, including graduates of the Russian higher education institutions to take up permanent residence in the Russian Federation, the young people from foreign countries for education and training in Russia with the possibility of granting benefits in obtaining Russian citizenship after graduation”. The concept of long-term socio - economic development of Russia (2008) as the other targets spelled out: “The need to increase the proportion of foreign students studying in Russia, up to 5% of the total number of students, creation of conditions for training in educational institutions, students of the states - participants CIS”. The Concept of State Migration Policy (2012) recorded: “Poor use the migration potential of the Russian education system. Education (teaching) migration - a source of qualified and integrated into the country of foreign nationals”.

On the other hand, the idea of bringing international students has not yet received practical development at the national and regional levels. For example, initially the need to attract foreign students was not spelled out in the government stimulus programs of resettlement of compatriots (2006). Only in the new edition of the State Program (2013) and regional programs to

promote the resettlement of compatriot's issue of attracting students was strengthened. Although Russian universities are trying to enter the education market to foreign countries at the national level in Russia there is no single state policy for attracting foreign students. Steps universities are fragmented; sometimes they compete with each other or face vigorous competition from universities in other countries. Also there is no state support for educational infrastructure migration: the Russian language poorly promoted abroad, there is no large-scale government program of internships and exchanges of students, teachers and scientists, are not funded scientific and educational projects, that is not the policy of forming contingents students abroad.

4. Vietnamese students in Russia: the trends and potential

The Government of Vietnam in an organized manner is actively sending to training and internships abroad for students, graduate students, doctoral students, interns and scientists. Until the 1990s the main destination countries were the Soviet Union and Eastern European countries - partners in the socialist bloc. After the 1990s, learning the geography of Vietnamese citizens significantly expanded. Currently, a significant number of Vietnamese students studying in the United States, Canada, Australia, the Republic of Korea, Taiwan, China, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia. In the Russian Federation in 2013 - 2014 academic year studying in Russia, only about 3 million Vietnamese citizens, which is much smaller than in Soviet times. Vietnam now occupies only the tenth place in the list of the main countries providing Russian students.

The population of Vietnam is different young demographic structure, which is a good foundation for the export of labor and educational migrants. Evaluation of the

migration potential of the population of Vietnam can be made by combining the data of sociological surveys and official statistics. The results of a sociological survey in 2009 conducted on a representative sample showed that 13% of the population of Vietnam had the experience of working and studying abroad. About 36% of respondents expressed a desire to work abroad, including a little more than 3% - in the Russian Federation. Calculations show that Vietnam has significant migration potential - about 2.6 million people. In the provinces of northern Viet Nam, migration potential was about 720 thousand people, including about 200,000 in Hanoi. Realization of the potential migration of Vietnamese plans will depend upon a number of factors such as the Vietnam, and in the host countries. The Vietnamese economy is now being actively developed and "absorbs" a significant portion of the labor force. Countries that attract migrant workers from Vietnam have different economic and geopolitical priorities, which may change. In addition, much will depend on the migration policy of the host country, the activity of state bodies, companies, private employment agencies.

Migration potential in Vietnam, focused on Russia is about 85 thousand people. In the provinces of Northern Vietnam migration, the potential is about 24 thousand people, including 6000 people in Hanoi. However, Russia has practically exhausted the possibilities of the Vietnamese migrants to receive the current level of immigration policy. The "peak" in 2009, Russia accounted for about 100 thousand labors and educational migrants from Vietnam, and then their number has been decreasing. The main reasons were the economic downturn and the rigidity of migration policy in Russia (in particular, Vietnam in

some documents regarded “migration dungeons” country). Although the migration potential is significant in Vietnam, no conceptual change migration policy towards Vietnam, as well as without the transition to the active form of migration flows in Vietnam. Russia will not be able to attract and get the Vietnamese migrants in the labor market and universities.

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