


Reverse Migrations and Returns: A Sociological Qualitative Research on the Settlers of Iğdır from Germany

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ABSTRACT

In the current age of migrations in which each wave of migration is likely to result in an opposite wave of migration, it is essential to consider the phenomenon of reverse migration on a sociological basis. In foreign literature, reverse migration, which was put forward only as an idea in the 1880s and began to be discussed in the 1970s, has reached very different dimensions today. There are sociological studies on migration starting in the 1970s, although an increase is observed in these studies in the 2000s. Migration is likely to occur through every type of migration, but it takes place on the axis of its dynamics. This study tried to understand and explain migration processes and dynamics underlying those who returned from Germany to Iğdir. The type of external migration observed in Iğdir is considered reverse migration. Hence, dynamics underlying this migration process are evaluated in a sociological framework. The study is based on field research. Conducted in Iğdir, a qualitative research pattern characterized by semi-structured interviews was applied to people who made a final return. Based on the experiences of those who exemplified reverse migration, the process of reverse migration was examined. The data obtained from the interviews held through June and May 2021 were deciphered, and categories were created. Depending on these categories, interpretations and analyses were made. The fundamental dynamics underlying this process were evaluated. The results obtained shed light on their first migration (external migration) habits, their intentions, and decisions regarding their return, the problems they encountered, including incompatibility, exclusion, discrimination in the country of destination after migration, and immigrants' ties with their homeland including their investments.

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