


Return Migration Tendencies and Return Motivations of Syrian Refugees: A Quantitative Analysis in the Case of Adana

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Abstract

The regime change that took place in Syria on 8 December 2024 has established a new ground for debate regarding the future and return migration processes of the refugee population. This study aims to examine the return migration tendencies of Syrian refugees residing in Adana after the regime change and the motivational dynamics that shape their intentions to return. In the methodological design of the study, a quantitative survey model and a cross-sectional design were adopted; a hybrid approach integrating snowball, quota, and purposive sampling techniques was preferred. The data obtained from the field research conducted in Adana were analyzed within the framework of Everett Lee's Push-Pull Theory, through an approach centered on the dialectical relationship between the push factors in the host country and the pull dynamics at the destination. Within this scope, the structural constraints that limit the sustainability of life in Türkiye and the functional bottlenecks in integration processes were addressed under the heading Impossibilities of Staying: Barriers and Vulnerabilities. On the other hand, the attractiveness of returning to Syria and the factors that nourish expectations and hopes regarding the country's reconstruction process were evaluated under The Attraction of Return: Expectations and Excitements. The results reveal that return motivation is not limited solely to the political transformation in Syria; instead, it is shaped dualistically by structural constraints within Türkiye.

Keywords

Return Migration, Syrian Refugees, Return Motivation, Hybrid Sampling, Adana

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