

**REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
ISTANBUL GELISIM UNIVERSITY
INSTITUTE OF GRADUATE STUDIES**

Department of Economics and Finance

**THE IMPACT OF IMMIGRANTS ON ENHANCING
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THROUGH MEGA
PROJECTS IN TÜRKİYE**

Master Thesis

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that in the preparation of this thesis, scientific ethical rules have been followed, the works of other persons have been referenced in accordance with the scientific norms if used, there is no falsification in the used data, any part of the thesis has not been submitted to this university or any other university as another thesis.

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SUMMARY

This thesis explores the positive impact of immigrants on supporting mega projects in Türkiye . It focuses on identifying efficient methods to optimize the use of immigrant resources within Türkiye and presents strategies to enhance their economic contributions to the advancement of large-scale projects, which was initiated by Türkiye in 2002 and significantly expanded over time. Despite this expansion, these projects continue to face substantial financial challenges due to high operating costs and sunk costs, alongside a recent decline in their user base. The thesis attributes these challenges to inefficiencies arising from conflicting policies regarding immigrants and visitors, which have led to a long-term financial burden on these projects.

The purpose of this thesis is to clarify the positive impact of immigrants on bolstering major projects in Türkiye by providing an in-depth analysis of demographic trends and essential financial data for these projects, as well as examining Türkiye 's immigration policies from an economic perspective. The research utilizes qualitative analysis techniques such as data classification, contextual analysis, and in-depth interpretation to provide valuable insights for policymakers and entrepreneurs on how to leverage immigrants as resources for economic and infrastructural development. Additionally, the study highlights the importance of population diversity in the success of large-scale projects and aims to support strategic decisions that align with Türkiye 's Vision 2025.

Key words: Migration, Turkish economy, migrants, Mega Projects, Policy, Türkiye

ÖZET

Bu tez, göçmenlerin Türkiye’deki mega projeleri desteklemedeki olumlu etkisini incelemektedir. Göçmen kaynaklarının Türkiye’de etkin kullanımını optimize etmeye yönelik verimli yöntemlerin belirlenmesine odaklanmakta ve Türkiye’nin 2002’den itibaren başlattığı ve önemli ölçüde genişlettiği büyük ölçekli projelere göçmenlerin ekonomik katkılarını artırmaya yönelik stratejiler sunmaktadır. Bu genişlemeye rağmen, projeler hâlâ yüksek işletme maliyetleri ve batık maliyetler nedeniyle ciddi mali zorluklarla karşı karşıya olup, aynı zamanda kullanıcı tabanlarında son yıllarda bir düşüş gözlemlenmektedir. Tez, bu zorlukların sebebini, göçmenler ve ziyaretçilerle ilgili çelişkili politikalar nedeniyle ortaya çıkan verimsizliklere bağlamakta ve bunun projeler üzerinde uzun vadeli bir finansal yük oluşturduğunu belirtmektedir.

Bu tezin amacı, Türkiye’deki mega projeleri desteklemede göçmenlerin pozitif etkisini, demografik eğilimler ve projelerle ilgili önemli finansal verilerin derinlemesine analizi yoluyla açıklığa kavuşturmak ve Türkiye’nin göç politikalarını ekonomik bir perspektiften değerlendirmektir. Araştırma; veri sınıflandırma, bağlamsal analiz ve derin yorumlama gibi nitel analiz tekniklerini kullanarak, göçmenlerin ekonomik ve altyapısal gelişimde kaynak olarak nasıl değerlendirilebileceğine dair politika yapıcılar ve girişimciler için değerli bilgiler sunmaktadır. Ayrıca, büyük ölçekli projelerin başarısında nüfus çeşitliliğinin önemini vurgulamakta ve Türkiye’nin 2025 Vizyonu ile uyumlu stratejik kararlara katkı sağlamayı amaçlamaktadır.

Anahtar kelimeler: Göç, Türkiye ekonomisi, göçmenler, Mega Projeler, Politika, Türkiye

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ABBREVIATIONS

A.D.M.S	:	A D M S DANIŞMANLIK LİMİTED ŞİRKETİ
EU	:	European Union
USA	:	United State of America
GDP	:	Gross Domestic Product



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INTRODUCTION

“Over 50% of the current crop of high-growth companies were founded by an immigrant or by a first-generation American. Those immigrant-founded companies are creating thousands of jobs, not just in Silicon Valley, but across the entire United States.” Maha Ibrahim, Canaan Partners

The idea for this research proposal emerged while working at my own company in Türkiye A D M S DANIŞMANLIK LİMİTED ŞİRKETİ, a consultancy firm in Türkiye specializing in feasibility studies and economic research. During my work, I calculated the operational costs for clients' projects and discovered that many projects, heavily invested in infrastructure and large assets, face financial challenges due to the ongoing liquidity required for operational expenses. Investigating the root causes of these issues beyond traditional solutions, I identified two key factors: project management efficiency and the number of beneficiaries (users and customers).

High-quality infrastructure is essential for economic growth, as it facilitates societal activation and provides necessary services for economic development. Strong infrastructure acts as a bridge to progress and prosperity, enabling efficient distribution and trade. In addition, it significantly influences the attraction of both local and foreign investments and indirectly supports industrial production and enhancing societal well-being by improving healthcare facilities and educational institutions. On the other hand, weak educational infrastructure tends to hamper economic growth and educational success.

This study presents evidence of the positive impact, which immigrants have on the economic development and enhancement of Türkiye 's mega projects. Previous studies have similarly concluded that migration has powerful and positive economic effects on host countries. This research offers policy recommendations to leverage immigrant resources more effectively, amplifying the positive economic impacts on the enhancement of mega projects in Türkiye.

CHAPTER ONE

LAYOUT CHARACTERISTICS OF THE THESIS

The first chapter outlines the problem statement, study purpose, and framework. The second chapter discusses migration, its types, causes, and theories, along with the effects of immigration on Türkiye's economic projects. The third chapter presents the data set and methodology, while the final chapter addresses the results and findings.

1.1. Problem Statement

Infrastructure is crucial for achieving economic and social development, impacting sectors such as telecommunications, information technology, electric power, drinking water networks, sewage services, transportation, healthcare, and education. The quality of infrastructure influences societal well-being, investment profitability, and the competitive position of a country. Since 2002, Türkiye has launched numerous mega infrastructure projects to meet its economic and social development goals and align with President Erdogan's Vision 2025. These projects, characterized by significant sunk costs and ongoing operational expenses, require a constant user base to sustain income generation and mitigate long-term financial burdens.

Even with these efforts, Türkiye faces challenges related to energy resource scarcity, necessitating substantial imports to support its infrastructure. Comparatively, Türkiye 's situation mirrors Russia's demographic decline, which hampers the sustainable use of its vast infrastructure. Given the vital role of users, including citizens, visitors, and immigrants, in maintaining these projects, this research explores how immigrants can alleviate financial pressures by enhancing infrastructure utilization. By analyzing demographic trends from 2002 to 2023 and drawing comparisons with other nations, this study attempts to extrapolate and deduce the positive effects, and analyze what can be presented as evidence of the positive impacts of immigration on Türkiye 's mega projects and argues for the need for increased immigration to achieve sustainable economic growth.

1.2. Purpose of the Study

This research aims to comprehensively examine the economic, social, and operational challenges faced by mega projects in Türkiye, with a specific focus on the role of immigrants in addressing these challenges. Mega projects, characterized by their substantial investments, economies of scale, and pivotal public-sector involvement, often encounter financial and operational difficulties due to the complexities of management systems and the varying needs of project beneficiaries. By analyzing these factors, the study seeks to uncover how integrating immigrants into the labor force can enhance the productivity, sustainability, and long-term success of these projects.

The research explores the multifaceted contributions of immigrants as a source of human capital and economic dynamism. Immigrants not only expand labor supply and create an "immigration surplus," but also foster innovation, stimulate consumer demand, and contribute to national income growth. Additionally, the study evaluates the socio-economic trade-offs of immigration, including its potential to improve infrastructure services, support sustainable development, and bolster Türkiye's economic stability. By aligning immigration's positive impacts with the specific demands of mega projects, this research aims to provide actionable insights for policymakers and project managers, ensuring a balanced approach to sustainable growth and development.

The Mega projects possess unique production and consumer characteristics, such as: significant investments; economies of scale; high interdependence between components; the public sector's pivotal role; a long useful life with a wide range of users.

It's also critical to acknowledge that, from the perspective of the consumer (user), infrastructure services are required by all social units. However, the issue lies in adequately satisfying the different needs of users.

Because immigrants are part of the labor force and "humanitarian capital," they can contribute to infrastructure services, which are public goods that are non-excludable and non-competitive in consumption. They can also increase the economy's productive resources and capabilities; therefore I focused my research on how they

could improve the megaprojects in society's economics, which is exactly what happened. The economy's labor supply and productive resources are expanded by integrating immigrants into local or national labor markets, creating a "immigration surplus" and boosting national income.

This research will explore the trade-offs associated with immigrants' economic positive impacts and provide evidence on how increasing immigration can support the sustainable development of Türkiye 's mega projects, ultimately benefiting the country's long-term economic growth and stability.

1.3. Significance of Study

This study provides crucial evidence on the positive impacts of immigrants and underscores Türkiye's need for increased migration to drive economic growth, particularly through the development of mega projects. Since the Helsinki Conference of 1999, Türkiye has aligned with the EU's migration and integration policies, aiming to leverage the benefits of its immigration policies and practices. This research highlights how Türkiye can gain direct and indirect advantages from both types of immigration (i.e. permanent and temporary immigration)

Comparative analysis with Russia, the USA, and the European Union (EU) reveals that Türkiye faces similar demographic challenges to those of Russia, with potential long-term economic repercussions. Russia, with a population of 142 million across 17 million square kilometers, suffers from a demographic decline, unlike the growing and diverse populations of the USA (332 million) and the EU (746 million). Historical warnings from Russian Tsar Peter I about the catastrophic impact of under-population have come to fruition, with current Russian specialists advocating for immigration policies as a solution to demographic shortages.

By studying these international examples, the research demonstrates that effective immigration policies can address demographic challenges and enhance the utilization and sustainability of mega projects. The findings of this study will provide valuable insights for policymakers, helping to shape strategic decisions that align with Türkiye 's long-term vision for economic development and infrastructure growth.

1.4. Research Questions

The research questions aim to address several fundamental queries pertaining to the impact of immigrants on enhancing the utilization of mega projects in Türkiye.

1. How do immigration policies in Türkiye influence the economic impact of mega projects?
2. What are the long-term economic effects of integrating immigrants into national infrastructure?
3. How does the labor market in mega projects respond to shifts in immigration?

These questions aim to explore the multifaceted relationship between immigration and the successful utilization and sustainability of mega projects in Türkiye, providing a comprehensive understanding of the positive economic impacts and policy implications.

1.5. Theoretical/Conceptual Framework

1.5.1. Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework of this research is grounded in several key theories and concepts that provide a basis for understanding the impact of immigrants on the development of mega projects in Türkiye. These include:

Economic Theories of Migration

- Labor Market Theory: Suggests that immigrants can fill labor shortages, contribute to human capital, and boost economic productivity.
- Human Capital Theory: Posits that immigrants bring skills, knowledge, and innovation that can enhance economic development and efficiency in various sectors, including infrastructure projects.

Public Goods Theory

- Mega projects, such as infrastructure developments, are often considered public goods. They require significant investment and are characterized by non-excludability and non-rivalry in consumption. The involvement of immigrants can affect the utilization and sustainability of these public goods.

Sunk Cost and Operational Cost Theory

- Mega projects entail substantial initial investments (sunk costs) and ongoing operational costs. The presence of a sufficient user base, including

immigrants, can help spread these costs over a larger population, enhancing the economic viability of these projects

1.5.2. Conceptual Framework

Within the realm of scientific research, epistemology serves as a fundamental pillar that defines how knowledge is constructed, and research is directed. Based on Edgar Morin's philosophy, dialogical epistemology Morin, E. (2008) represents a fundamental shift in our understanding of complexity and the interaction between various elements of reality. "Dialogical epistemology is central to understanding complexity, as it seeks to reconcile contradictions and oppositions within knowledge systems by integrating diverse perspectives and interactions, reflecting the intertwined nature of reality." (Morin, 2008, p. 49). This epistemology transcends the traditional logic based on separation and fragmentation, adopting a comprehensive methodology that recognizes plurality and the dynamic interaction between different contexts. Incorporating a conceptual framework into this qualitative research is not a departure from its nature, but rather a practical application of dialogical epistemology, where a model is presented that links interrelated variables and factors through a qualitative lens that focuses more on interpretation and understanding than measurement. This conceptual framework reflects a commitment to a holistic perspective that goes beyond addressing the separate components of reality, but seeks to understand the dynamic relationships between them, highlighting the role of migrants and their interwoven impact on major projects in Turkey.

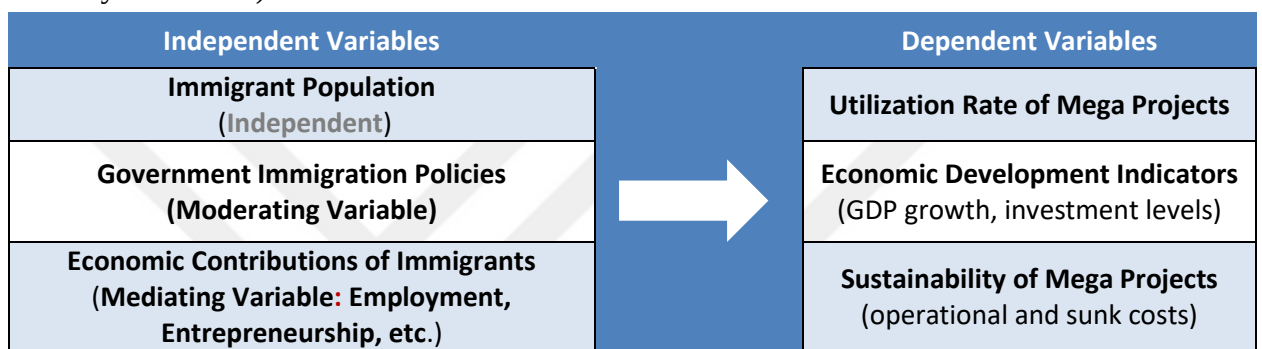
This approach is consistent with the ontology adopted by the research, which views reality not as a fixed or separate entity, but as an ongoing process of interaction between individuals, systems, and societies. From this perspective, the chosen qualitative methodology clearly reflects the research philosophy. It relies on qualitative analysis tools that contribute to understanding the multiple dimensions of reality, such as narrative analysis, geo-political review, and cultural assessment, while integrating them in a dialogical manner that allows for the exploration of complexity and understanding of deep social and economic dynamics.

The conceptual framework for examining the positive impacts of immigrants on the enhancing of Mega projects in Türkiye is designed as follows

The conceptual framework illustrates the interconnectedness between various factors influencing the success of mega projects in Türkiye . Independent variables

such as the immigrant population and government immigration policies directly affect the dependent variables of mega project utilization and sustainability. However, mediating variables like the economic contributions of immigrants play a crucial role in connecting these two sets of variables. Moreover, moderating variables like government immigration policies can influence the strength and direction of the relationship between immigrant contributions and mega project outcomes.

Figure 1. Conceptual framework of immigrants' impact on mega projects (Designed by researcher)



Notes & Explanations:

Immigrant Population

- [Economic Contributions of Immigrants] **(Mediating Variable)**
- Utilization Rate of Mega Projects
- Government Immigration Policies **(Moderating Variable)**
- Affect the relationship between "Immigrant Population" & "Utilization Rate of Mega Projects".

Mediating Variable:

A variable that affects the relationship between the independent variable and the dependent variable. That is, it explains how and why the effect occurs. It mediates the relationship between the independent variable and the dependent variable.

Example: If "Economic Contribution of Immigrants" is a mediator, it explains how "Number of Immigrants" affects "Utilization Rate of Megaprojects". That is, the relationship between the number of immigrants and the utilization rate of projects passes through the economic contribution of immigrants.

Moderating Variable:

A variable that affects the strength or direction of the relationship between the independent variable and the dependent variable. It modifies the original relationship.

Example: If “Government Policies” is a moderating variable, it changes the strength or direction of the relationship between “Number of Immigrants” and “Utilization Rate of Megaprojects”. That is, government policies may enhance or reduce the effect of the number of immigrants on the utilization rate of projects.



CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter aims to explore the vast body of literature on immigration, with a particular focus on the economic theories and studies that directly relate to the positive impact of migrants on national projects in Türkiye. Immigration, as a complex phenomenon, has been extensively studied from various angles, including its role in human capital development, entrepreneurship, and its contribution to large-scale infrastructure projects. In the context of Türkiye's mega projects, migrants have played a significant role in meeting labor demands and fostering economic growth, particularly in sectors that require a large workforce. "The significant proportion of immigrant workers involved in Türkiye's mega projects is evident from reports highlighting their contributions. For example, the Twelfth Development Plan (Republic of Türkiye, 2024) underscores the pivotal role of immigrant labor in meeting workforce demands in large-scale infrastructure projects.

"While the primary focus of this review is on the positive contributions of immigration, it is important to recognize the challenges associated with it. These challenges include potential pressures on public resources, social integration difficulties, and labor market competition, which are equally significant in shaping the overall impact of immigration. By analyzing both opportunities and challenges, this chapter seeks to provide a balanced and comprehensive understanding of how immigration influences the development and sustainability of Türkiye's mega projects.

The chapter reviews key economic theories that have examined migration, focusing on the potential benefits that migrants might provide to hosting countries, such as increased human capital, labor supply, and entrepreneurship. At the same time, it acknowledges the challenges that come with migration, including pressures on resources and social integration. However, The review emphasizes the insights provided by existing literature regarding the role of migration in the development and sustainability of Türkiye's mega projects.

By analyzing existing literature and theoretical models, this chapter provides a comprehensive understanding of the economic contributions of migrants in the Turkish context.

It also evaluates previous studies that have explored similar themes, identifying gaps. While the reviewed literature cannot provide direct data or evidence, it establishes a conceptual foundation for understanding how migration interacts with economic and infrastructure development in the Turkish context. Through this analysis, the chapter aims to establish a solid foundation for understanding how immigration supports the development of national projects in Türkiye.

2.1. The Concept of Immigration

Chosen Definition of Immigration and Its Relevance to the Study

The concept of immigration has been defined in various ways across academic and institutional contexts. For instance, immigration is often described as the movement of people across international borders with the intent of settling permanently or temporarily.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) defines immigration as the act of moving to a foreign country for the purpose of residence, which may be temporary or permanent. Similarly, immigration laws in the United States define an immigrant as any person who is not a citizen or national of the country but has been granted the right to reside permanently.

This study adopts the United Nations (1998) definition of immigration, which defines it as "any person who changes his or her country of usual residence." According to this definition, a long-term international migrant is a person who moves to a new country for at least 12 months, ensuring that the country of destination becomes his/her new place of residence.

This definition is particularly relevant to my research, as it aligns with the long-term impact of migrants on Türkiye's mega projects and offering a clear and standardized framework for statistical and economic analysis, also allows for consistent statistical analysis over time. Moreover, I found through many articles and related research it is widely recognized in migration research, making it ideal for ensuring consistency in data interpretation and comparative analysis".

2.2. Definition of Immigration

Details Immigration refers to the movement of individuals from one country to another with the intention of establishing permanent residence. The basic definition of

an international migrant, according to the United Nations (1998), is "any person who changes his or her country of usual residence." Several key elements define this concept: the migrant must cross an international boundary, have a previous country of usual residence, and establish a new usual residence in the destination country. Immigration is a complex phenomenon influenced by various factors, including economic opportunities, political stability, and social conditions.

In legal terms, as defined in U.S. immigration law, an alien refers to any person who is not a citizen or national of the country. Immigration can take many forms, including family-based immigration, where individuals gain legal status based on familial relationships, or employment-based immigration, where legal status is granted due to an individual's special skills or contributions to the economy (BPC-Immigration-Glossary). These legal frameworks highlight the structured process through which individuals can migrate and establish residence in a new country.

In addition to the basic definition, the United Nations (1998) further distinguishes between long-term and short-term international migrants. A long-term international migrant is defined as a person who moves to a new country of usual residence for a period of at least 12 months, ensuring that the country of destination becomes their new place of residence. In contrast, a short-term international migrant resides in a new country for a period between 3 months and less than 12 months, though they are generally not considered to have established a usual residence. The use of a 12-month threshold is widely recommended for migration statistics, as it provides a clearer reflection of permanent demographic shifts and population changes in both the country of origin and destination (United Nations, 1998).

The Canadian Council for Refugees highlights the importance of using accurate terminology when discussing refugees and immigrants. Terms like "refugee," "asylum-seeker," and "permanent resident" have specific legal meanings, while others like "economic migrant" and "illegal immigrant" can be misleading or stigmatizing. Understanding the distinctions between these terms is crucial for respectful and informed discourse on migration and refugee issues.

The terms "refugee" and "immigrant" are often used interchangeably, but they have distinct meanings. A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee their country due to persecution or violence and cannot safely return. An immigrant is someone who

chooses to move to a new country for various reasons, such as economic opportunities or to join family.(Canadian Council for Refugees, 2024).

2.3. Types of Immigration

Immigration can be categorized into various types based on different criteria. Primarily, it can be classified as either legal or illegal immigration. Legal immigration encompasses individuals who have obtained official authorization to enter and reside in a country, often through processes such as work visas, family reunification, or refugee status (United Nations, 1998). Conversely, illegal immigration refers to individuals who enter or reside in a country without proper documentation or legal permission (Canadian Council for Refugees, 2024).

From a geographic perspective, immigration can be classified as internal or external. Internal immigration refers to the movement of individuals within the borders of the same country, such as migration from rural to urban areas or between different regions. This type of immigration is often driven by economic opportunities, such as the search for jobs in industrial areas, and is prevalent in countries undergoing urbanization.

On the other hand, external immigration involves crossing international borders, either in search of better job opportunities or to escape unfavorable conditions like wars, persecution, or natural disasters. For example, European immigration to the Americas in the 19th century, African forced migration during the transatlantic slave trade, and contemporary immigration waves from developing nations to Europe or North America, all fall under this category.

Immigration can also be categorized by the intent and duration of stay. Permanent immigration occurs when individuals move with the intention of settling permanently, often leading to long-term demographic shifts. In contrast, temporary immigration includes individuals who migrate for a limited time, typically for work, studies, or temporary asylum. Temporary immigrants may return to their home countries after their goals are met, creating a cyclical pattern of migration.

Another classification is based on the voluntary or involuntary nature of the migration process. Voluntary immigration happens when individuals choose to relocate, often motivated by personal or economic factors. Involuntary immigration, also known as forced migration, occurs when individuals are compelled to move due to external pressures, such as war, persecution, or environmental disasters.

2.4. General Evaluation of International Migration Theories

International migration theories provide diverse perspectives on the causes, patterns, and impacts of migration. These theories range from classical economic models to modern frameworks that incorporate human capital, social networks, and policy influences.

Below is an expanded evaluation of key theories, including Ravenstein's laws of migration, Lee's push-pull theory, Zelinsky's mobility transition model, and the Classical & the Neo-Classical Migration Theory, alongside a discussion of Keynesian theory's indirect relevance to migration. Modern Economic Theories on Immigration.

- **Ravenstein's Laws of Migration**

Ernest Ravenstein, a pioneer in migration studies, formulated a set of "laws of migration" in the late 19th century that remain influential in understanding migration patterns. Ravenstein's laws emphasize that most migrants move short distances, migration occurs in stages, and rural-to-urban migration is predominant.

He also highlighted the role of economic factors, noting that people migrate primarily for better economic opportunities (Ravenstein, 1885). While his laws provide a foundational understanding of migration patterns, they are limited by their focus on internal migration and their lack of consideration for social and political factors. In the context of Türkiye, Ravenstein's laws can be applied to understand internal migration patterns from rural areas to cities like Istanbul and Ankara, as well as the influx of international migrants seeking economic stability.

- **Lee's Push-Pull Theory**

Everett Lee's push-pull theory (1966) expands on Ravenstein's ideas by categorizing migration factors into "push" and "pull" forces. Push factors include unemployment, political instability, and environmental disasters in the origin country, while pull factors encompass job opportunities, political stability, and higher living standards in the destination country.

Lee also introduced the concept of intervening obstacles, such as distance and immigration policies, which can hinder migration (Lee, 1966). This theory remains influential for its simplicity and applicability to both internal and international migration. For example, the Syrian refugee crisis can be analyzed through this lens,

where the civil war in Syria acted as a push factor, and Türkiye's relative stability and economic opportunities served as pull factors.

- **Zelinsky's Mobility Transition Model**

Wilbur Zelinsky's mobility transition model (1971) links migration patterns to stages of demographic and economic development. He argued that as societies transition from pre-industrial to industrial and post-industrial stages, migration patterns evolve. In early stages, rural-to-urban migration dominates, while in later stages, international migration and urban-to-urban mobility increase (Zelinsky, 1971).

Türkiye's experience aligns with this model, as it has undergone significant urbanization and now serves as both a destination and transit country for international migrants. This model helps explain the role of migrants in supporting Türkiye's mega projects, as they fill labor gaps in urban and industrial sectors.

- **Classical and Neo-Classical Migration Theories**

Classical economists perceived immigration as a key driver for economic growth, emphasizing its role in increasing labor supply, which subsequently boosts productivity and output. The classical perspective views immigration as beneficial in addressing labor shortages, particularly in sectors that require low-skilled labor.

By filling these shortages, immigrants not only increase the availability of labor but also contribute to overall economic activity and production capacity (Bueno & Prieto-Rosas, 2019). However, critics such as Borjas (1995) and Dustmann & Frattini (2014) argue that classical theory oversimplifies the impact of immigration by ignoring social and political consequences, such as wage suppression and integration challenges.

The Neo-Classical Migration Theory builds on classical principles but introduces a more nuanced understanding of migration decisions. It posits that individuals migrate to maximize their utility by moving to regions with higher wages and better opportunities.

This theory emphasizes the role of wage differentials between countries and the rational decision-making of migrants (Todaro, 1969). However, it has been critiqued for oversimplifying migration decisions by ignoring non-economic factors such as family ties and cultural considerations.

- **The Keynesian Theory**

The Keynesian theory, introduced by John Maynard Keynes in his seminal work *The General Theory of Employment, Interest, and Money* (1936), focuses on the role of aggregate demand in determining the level of economic activity. Keynes argued that an economy could remain in a state of unemployment for prolonged periods if aggregate demand was insufficient. Therefore, he advocated for government intervention to stimulate demand through fiscal and monetary policies.

Keynes emphasized that during economic downturns, private sector demand often falls short, leading to reduced production, employment, and income. To counteract this, Keynes proposed that governments should increase public spending or cut taxes to boost demand, thereby stimulating economic growth and reducing unemployment.

In the context of migration, Keynesian principles can be applied by viewing immigrants as a source of increased aggregate demand through their consumption of goods and services. Additionally, immigrants contribute to the labor supply, supporting production and investment. However, Keynesian theory also highlights potential challenges, such as wage suppression and inflationary pressures, if immigration leads to an oversupply of labor.

Thus, while Keynes did not explicitly address migration, his theories provide a useful framework for analyzing the macroeconomic effects of immigration.

Key Quote from Keynes:

"The outstanding faults of the economic society in which we live are its failure to provide for full employment and its arbitrary and inequitable distribution of wealth and incomes." John Maynard Keynes, *The General Theory of Employment, Interest, and Money* (1936)

- **Keynesian Theory and Migration**

While Keynes did not directly address migration in his work, his theories on aggregate demand and employment can be applied to understand migration's economic impact. Keynesian economics focuses on the role of demand in driving economic growth.

Immigration can influence aggregate demand by increasing consumption and labor supply. For instance, immigrants contribute to higher demand for goods and services, which can stimulate economic activity, especially during recessions

(Chortareas et al., 2008). Additionally, immigrants can fill labor shortages, supporting production and investment.

However, Keynesian theory also highlights potential downsides, such as wage suppression and inflationary pressures, if immigration leads to an oversupply of labor (Jennissen, 2006). Thus, while Keynesian theory does not explicitly address migration, its principles provide a useful framework for analyzing migration's macroeconomic effects.

Keynesian Economic Theory on Immigration

Keynesian economic theory takes a distinct approach to immigration, focusing primarily on its role in managing aggregate demand within an economy. Unlike classical economics, which emphasizes long-term market equilibrium, Keynesians are more concerned with short-term fluctuations in demand and output, particularly during economic recessions. According to Keynesian economists, immigration can be a significant tool in stimulating economic growth by increasing both consumption and investment.

Immigrants, when integrated into the economy, contribute to an increase in aggregate demand through their consumption of goods and services. This demand helps revive struggling economies by boosting the need for production, thereby promoting business investment.

During periods of recession, when economic activity slows down, an influx of immigrants can help fill gaps in labor demand, particularly in industries that require immediate labor, which can act as a stimulus for economic recovery (Chortareas et al., 2008). By increasing both the labor supply and consumption, immigration can create a multiplier effect, enhancing overall output.

However, Keynesian theory also recognizes the potential downside to immigration, especially when it comes to the labor market. If immigration results in an oversupply of labor, it may lead to wage depression. With more workers competing for jobs, employers may lower wages, particularly in sectors that rely heavily on low-skilled labor. This can exacerbate income inequality, which may, in turn, reduce overall consumption, thereby slowing economic recovery in the long term (Jennissen, 2006).

Moreover, Keynesians argue that the impact of immigration on an economy depends on monetary and fiscal policies. For instance, central banks might have to

adjust interest rates and other monetary tools to balance the increased demand from immigration, especially if it leads to inflationary pressures. Immigration can also influence fiscal policies, as the government might need to expand social services and infrastructure to accommodate the growing population.

In contrast to classical economics, which largely views immigration as beneficial for economic growth, the Keynesian perspective is more nuanced. While immigration can serve as a tool to stimulate economic demand, it must be carefully managed to avoid wage suppression and inflation. Immigration's benefits are largely tied to the broader context of economic policy and market conditions, which can either enhance or undermine its overall impact

- **Modern Economic Theories on Immigration**

Modern economic theories on immigration have evolved to consider a broader array of factors beyond just labor supply and demand. These theories emphasize the significance of human capital, skill levels, and the impact of immigration on public services and social welfare systems.

Immigrants with higher levels of education and specialized skills are seen as vital resources for enhancing the productivity of the host economy (Borjas, 1995). However, there are concerns about the strain immigration may place on public resources such as healthcare, education, and social security systems (Dustmann & Frattini, 2014).

Modern theories also highlight the distinction between high-skilled and low-skilled immigrants, with the former often viewed as net contributors to the economy, while the latter play a vital role in filling labor shortages in sectors such as agriculture, construction, and domestic work.

- **Application to Türkiye's Mega Projects**

These international migration theories provide a framework for understanding the role of immigrants in Türkiye's economic development, particularly in mega projects. Ravenstein's laws highlight the importance of economic motivations, Lee's push-pull theory explains the factors driving migration to Türkiye, and Zelinsky's model contextualizes Türkiye's position in the global migration landscape. Together, these theories underscore the multifaceted contributions of immigrants to Türkiye's infrastructure and economic growth.

2.5. Immigration and Economic Development

2.5.1. Impact on Labor Markets

Immigration can significantly impact labor markets in both beneficial and challenging ways. It addresses labor shortages, especially in sectors requiring manual or low-skilled labor, and provides a flexible workforce to meet economic demand. However, increased competition for jobs may lead to wage suppression, particularly for low-skilled native workers. The overall effects of immigration depend on multiple factors, such as the skills and education levels of immigrants, prevailing labor market conditions, and the host country's policies, particularly those encouraging or limiting integration (OECD, 2017).

Immigrants play a vital role in stabilizing labor markets, filling positions that might otherwise remain vacant. This is particularly true for industries where the native workforce is either unwilling or unavailable to work. For example, sectors like agriculture, construction, and domestic services heavily rely on immigrant labor to maintain productivity and meet market demands. In this way, immigration helps bridge the gap between labor demand and supply.

However, this increased supply of labor can introduce challenges. For native workers, particularly those with lower skill levels, immigration may contribute to wage stagnation or suppression, as immigrants often accept lower wages for similar jobs. Despite these challenges, many economists argue that immigrants complement rather than displace native workers, especially when they bring in diverse skill sets that enhance innovation and productivity.

Ultimately, the impact of immigration on labor markets is influenced by the extent to which governments manage the integration of immigrants. Effective immigration policies that focus on education, training, and skill development can harness the potential of immigrants to contribute positively to the economy. On the other hand, poor integration policies may result in long-term economic and social issues.

2.5.2. Contribution to GDP Growth

Immigration has long been recognized as a key driver of economic growth, contributing to the expansion of GDP through various channels. One of the primary ways immigrants contribute to GDP growth is by increasing labor force participation.

As the OECD (2017) notes, “immigrants help offset the demographic challenges faced by many countries, particularly aging populations, by maintaining or even increasing the workforce size.” This expansion of the labor force is essential for sustaining GDP growth.

Another significant contribution of immigration to GDP growth comes through increased consumption. Immigrants, as new residents, create demand for goods and services, thereby stimulating economic activity. The OECD (2017) highlights that “immigrant households contribute to higher levels of spending in sectors such as housing, transportation, and retail,” which are critical drivers of economic growth.

Furthermore, immigrants bring a diverse range of skills and talents, many of which contribute to innovation and entrepreneurship. As noted by the NBER (2019), “immigrants play a significant role in driving technological advancements and patent creation, which are vital components of modern GDP growth.” In industries such as technology and engineering, immigrants have been at the forefront of startups and innovations.

However, the magnitude of immigration’s contribution to GDP growth can vary significantly across countries, depending on how well immigrants are integrated into the labor market. According to the OECD (2017), “countries with effective integration policies see greater economic benefits,” as these policies help immigrants contribute more fully to the economy.

Additionally, the NBER (2019) points out that the economic contributions of immigrants are “maximized when they are given opportunities to improve their skills and access higher-wage jobs through education and training.” This highlights the importance of skill development in maximizing the GDP contributions of immigrants.

In conclusion, immigration contributes to GDP growth through increased labor force participation, consumption, and innovation. However, the degree of its impact depends on factors such as the effectiveness of integration policies and the skill levels of immigrants.

Table 1. The share of Syrian partnership companies Esen,

Year	Limited
2012	1.2
2013	5.6
2014	15.9
2015	23
2016	27.6

Source: The Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey.

Source: Esen, O., & Binatlı, A. O. (2017).

Table 1 presents the share of companies with Syrian partnerships in the total number of foreign companies in Türkiye , which rose from 1.2% in 2012 to 27.6% in 2016. This increase underscores the significant impact of refugees on the economic structure, particularly in the areas of trade and investment. It highlights the role of refugees as active investors and contributors to the national economy.

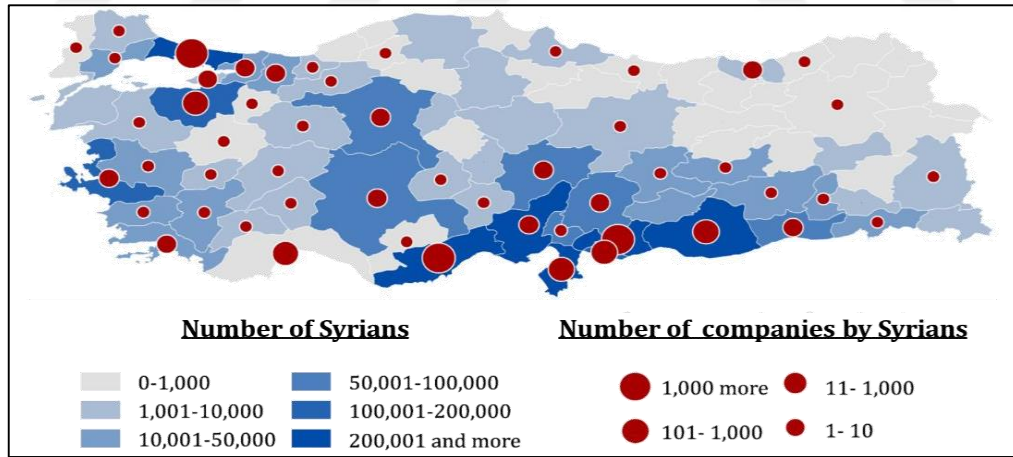
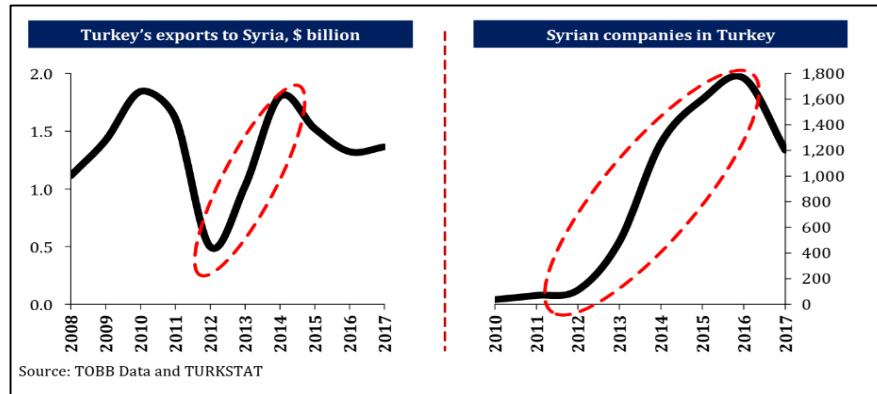


Figure - 2 Distribution of the Syrian Population in Turkey

Source: (DGMM Göç İdaresi) - **TEPAV & EBRD. (2018)**

Syrian companies here mean companies that are owned by Syrians and/or companies that have a Syrian partner



Graphic- 1 Number of Syrian companies in Turkey and exports to Syria

Source: TOBB and TURKSTAT

TEPAV & EBRD. (2018)

The graphs demonstrate a clear correlation between Turkey's exports to Syria and the number of Syrian companies established in Turkey between 2010 and 2017. The period of sharp growth in both exports and company formations (2011–2015) coincides with the migrations waves from Syria to turkey . However, the subsequent decline in both metrics after 2015 may indicate saturation or challenges faced in bilateral trade and business sustainability. These findings underscore the dynamic interaction between migration and trade in host countries, highlighting the role of displaced populations in shaping regional economic trends.

I chose this golden period for migrants because the number of migrants has significantly declined since then due to changes in policies against migrants, making it challenging to gather information afterward that could support the positive impact of migrants on economic development.

2.5.3. Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Immigrants are often associated with higher rates of innovation and entrepreneurship, significantly contributing to economic growth and job creation. Their unique backgrounds enable them to bring fresh ideas, diverse skills, and varying perspectives into the host country's economy.

According to the OECD (2020), “immigrants are often overrepresented among entrepreneurs in many countries, particularly in sectors such as technology and services.” This phenomenon is attributed to several factors, including the ability of immigrants to identify and exploit market opportunities that may be overlooked by native-born entrepreneurs.

One of the critical drivers of innovation among immigrants is their propensity to engage in entrepreneurial activities. Research indicates that immigrants are more likely to start their own businesses compared to native-born citizens. For instance, a study by Brzozowski and Jozwiak (2016) shows that immigrant entrepreneurs often create new products and services, thereby stimulating competition and fostering innovation within their industries. This entrepreneurial spirit not only leads to the establishment of new enterprises but also enhances overall economic dynamism by generating new jobs and contributing to technological advancements.

Furthermore, government policies play a vital role in shaping the entrepreneurial landscape for immigrants. Supportive policies that facilitate access to capital, provide business training, and offer legal assistance can significantly enhance the success rates of immigrant-owned businesses. As highlighted by Tanrikulu (2020), countries that implement targeted initiatives to support immigrant entrepreneurship, such as streamlined visa processes and incubator programs, witness a marked increase in economic contributions from immigrant-led ventures. These policies can help create an environment conducive to innovation, allowing immigrants to thrive as entrepreneurs.

Additionally, the cultural diversity brought by immigrants can lead to a richer pool of ideas and solutions. Immigrant entrepreneurs often draw on their unique experiences and knowledge, which can result in innovative approaches to business challenges. The OECD (2020) notes that “diverse teams are more likely to generate creative solutions, which is essential for fostering an innovative ecosystem.” This diversity not only enhances creativity but also allows businesses to better serve a broader customer base, further driving economic growth.

However, the potential of immigrant entrepreneurship can be hindered by systemic barriers, including discrimination, lack of access to networks, and limited knowledge of local market dynamics. Overcoming these challenges requires comprehensive policy frameworks that not only support entrepreneurship but also address the broader social integration of immigrants. The studies emphasize that addressing these barriers is essential for maximizing the economic benefits of immigrant entrepreneurship.

In summary, immigrants are key players in driving innovation and entrepreneurship, bringing new ideas and skills that contribute to economic growth.

Supportive government policies and a commitment to overcoming systemic barriers can further enhance these positive effects, leading to a more dynamic and innovative economy. As the OECD (2020) states, “promoting immigrant entrepreneurship is not just beneficial for the immigrants themselves; it also contributes to the economic vitality of the host countries.”

Table 2. The number of new firms with Syrian partners.

Year	Limited	Corporations	Total
2012	8	149	157
2013	18	420	438
2014	35	1222	1257
2015	27	1572	1599
2016	66	1711	1777

Source: The Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey.

Source: Esen, O., & Binatlı, A. O. (2017)

Table 2 illustrates the economic contribution of Syrian refugees in Türkiye through entrepreneurship and job creation. As shown in Table 1, Türkiye has experienced a significant increase in the number of companies with Syrian partnerships. This trend indicates a positive impact of refugees on the Turkish economy by promoting entrepreneurship and expanding business ventures

I chose this golden period for migrants because the number of migrants has significantly declined since then due to changes in policies against migrants, making it challenging to gather information afterward that could support the positive impact of migrants on economic development.

2.5.4. Sectoral Contributions (Agriculture, Industry, Services)

The impact of immigration on different economic sectors varies significantly, with immigrants playing critical roles across agriculture, industry, and services. Each sector experiences unique dynamics due to the contributions of immigrant labor, which often helps alleviate labor shortages and enhance productivity. While OECD reports have pointed out the essential contributions of immigrant labor in developed countries, such as the United States and the EU, Turkey's context presents distinct challenges and opportunities.

In the agriculture sector, immigrants are essential in filling labor gaps, especially in seasonal and low-skilled positions. According to a study by TUIK (2021), seasonal agricultural work in Turkey heavily relies on immigrant labor, particularly from neighboring countries.

Immigrants are instrumental in maintaining production levels, especially in regions with intensive agricultural production like the Aegean and Mediterranean regions. also The OECD (2017) states, “Seasonal agricultural work relies heavily on immigrant labor, which is crucial for maintaining production levels.” Many countries, particularly those with expansive agricultural industries, depend on immigrant workers to ensure that crops are harvested efficiently.

Immigrants often take on arduous tasks that are less appealing to native workers, thereby sustaining the agricultural output that is vital for both local economies and food security. For example, in the United States, immigrant labor has been integral to the success of the agricultural sector, where a significant percentage of farmworkers are immigrants (USDA, 2020).

In the manufacturing sector, immigrants also provide substantial contributions. As noted by the OECD (2018), “Immigrants fill key roles in manufacturing, often in assembly line positions and skilled trades.” Their involvement helps to offset declining native labor participation rates in this sector. Moreover, immigrants bring diverse skills that can enhance innovation and efficiency in manufacturing processes. This infusion of labor not only addresses immediate workforce needs but also contributes to the overall competitiveness of the manufacturing industry.

Countries that have successfully integrated immigrant labor into their manufacturing sectors often see increased productivity and output levels, which further stimulates economic growth. Research by Korkmaz (2017) highlights that Turkish manufacturing industries have seen increased efficiency through immigrant labor, especially in the textile and food processing sectors.

The service sector, especially healthcare and hospitality, also experiences considerable contributions from immigrants. A report by IOM (2020) shows that immigrant workers make up a large proportion of the labor force in Turkish healthcare, providing essential services amidst national shortages in medical staff. The hospitality industry also sees a high rate of immigrant employment, which contributes not only to

operational efficiency but also enriches the cultural landscape of Turkey's tourism sector.

However, the integration of immigrants into these sectors faces challenges. According to Kaya (2019), language barriers and the non-recognition of qualifications remain significant hurdles for many immigrants, leading to underemployment and lower economic integration. These challenges require robust government policies, including skills recognition programs, to ensure immigrants' contributions are fully realized.

Government policies play a crucial role in shaping the economic contributions of immigrants across sectors. The OECD (2018) notes that “well-designed immigration policies that prioritize skills matching and labor market integration can maximize the benefits of immigration.” By creating pathways for immigrants to develop their skills and access relevant training programs, governments can ensure that the contributions of immigrant workers are fully realized in agriculture, industry, and services.

2.6. Immigration and Infrastructure Development

2.6.1. Role of Immigrants in Construction Projects

Immigrants play a crucial role in the construction industry, significantly contributing to the development of infrastructure projects across various regions. Their involvement in the construction sector is essential, particularly for large-scale projects that demand a substantial labor force. The International Labour Organization (ILO, 2020) emphasizes that “the construction industry is one of the sectors most reliant on migrant labor,” highlighting their integral role in meeting the workforce requirements necessary for completing infrastructure initiatives.

One of the key factors driving the high demand for immigrant labor in construction is the skills gap present in many host countries. Many regions experience a shortage of local workers willing to take on physically demanding or low-wage jobs. According to the report by the Master Builders Association (2024), “skilled migrants fill critical gaps in the construction labor market, bringing expertise that is often lacking in the domestic workforce.” This influx of skilled workers not only helps alleviate labor shortages but also enhances the overall quality of construction projects.

Moreover, immigrants contribute significantly to economic growth through their labor in infrastructure projects. The American Immigration Council (2024) states

that “immigrants are vital to the construction workforce and contribute billions of dollars to the economy.” Their involvement in construction projects leads to the completion of essential infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, and public buildings, which are fundamental for economic development and community well-being. The multiplier effect of these projects further stimulates local economies, as improved infrastructure attracts businesses and enhances accessibility.

The diversity of skills that immigrants bring to the construction industry is another significant advantage. Immigrants often possess a wide range of competencies, from manual labor skills to specialized knowledge in engineering and project management. The ILO (2020) notes that “immigrants contribute not only physical labor but also innovative techniques and approaches to construction practices.” This blend of skills and perspectives can lead to more efficient construction methods and improved project outcomes.

However, the successful integration of immigrant workers into the construction industry does not come without challenges. Issues such as language barriers, recognition of foreign qualifications, and sometimes exploitative labor practices can hinder the potential contributions of immigrants. The Master Builders Association (2024) emphasizes that “providing adequate support for skill recognition and language training is essential for maximizing the potential of skilled migrants.” Addressing these challenges is crucial for ensuring that immigrants can fully participate in the construction workforce and contribute effectively to infrastructure development.

Government policies also play a vital role in shaping the landscape for immigrant workers in construction. Policies that facilitate the entry of skilled workers and provide pathways for training and integration can enhance the contributions of immigrants to the sector. The American Immigration Council (2024) highlights the importance of “comprehensive immigration reform that includes provisions for skilled labor in high-demand industries, such as construction.” Such reforms can help create a more sustainable labor market and ensure that infrastructure projects are adequately staffed.

In summary, immigrants are essential to the construction industry, providing vital labor that supports infrastructure development. Their skills, economic contributions, and diverse perspectives significantly enhance project outcomes. However, to fully leverage the potential of immigrant labor, it is important to address

the challenges they face and implement supportive policies that promote their integration into the workforce. By doing so, countries can ensure that their infrastructure needs are met while fostering economic growth through the contributions of immigrant workers.

2.6.2. Case Studies of Mega Projects in Türkiye

Türkiye has embarked on several mega infrastructure projects in recent years that have played a crucial role in driving economic growth and enhancing the country's global competitiveness. These projects, often characterized by their large scale and complexity, have relied heavily on both domestic and foreign labor, including immigrants. Case studies of these projects offer valuable insights into the specific contributions of immigrants to infrastructure development and the overall impact on the Turkish economy.

One prominent example of a mega project in Türkiye is the Istanbul Airport, which is designed to be one of the largest airports in the world. The project has significantly benefited from immigrant labor, which has been instrumental in meeting the high demand for skilled and unskilled workers necessary for its construction. According to Posta (2023), “the reliance on immigrant workers has helped to expedite the construction process and ensure that the project meets its ambitious timelines.” This reflects the broader trend of utilizing immigrant labor in large-scale projects, particularly in sectors that experience labor shortages.

Moreover, the Osman Gazi Bridge, another key infrastructure project, serves as a crucial case study in understanding the contributions of immigrants to Türkiye's development initiatives. The bridge, which connects the provinces of Bursa and Yalova, was completed in 2016 and is a significant achievement in engineering and infrastructure. As noted by Korkmaz (2021), “immigrants contributed to various construction roles, from engineering to manual labor, thereby enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of the workforce.” Their presence not only filled labor gaps but also brought diverse skills and perspectives that enriched the project.

Furthermore, the Marmaray Project, which links the European and Asian sides of Istanbul via a rail tunnel under the Bosphorus, is another illustration of how immigrant labor has been vital in infrastructure development. The project faced numerous challenges, including technical difficulties and a high demand for labor. According to Simla Şanlı (2020), “immigrant workers played a significant role in

overcoming these challenges, contributing to the successful completion of the project.” This highlights the importance of immigrant contributions in ensuring the smooth execution of complex infrastructure endeavors.

The Twelfth Development Plan (2024-2028) also recognizes the critical role of immigrants in driving infrastructure development in Türkiye. The plan outlines strategies for enhancing economic growth and acknowledges that “the integration of immigrant labor into the workforce is essential for achieving ambitious infrastructure goals” (Republic of Türkiye, 2024). This acknowledgment underscores the necessity of policies that facilitate the employment of immigrants in construction and other sectors to support ongoing and future mega projects.

Despite the positive contributions of immigrants to infrastructure development, challenges remain.. As emphasized in the International Labor Organization (ILO, 2020) report, “effective integration policies are crucial for maximizing the potential of immigrants in the workforce.” These policies can enhance productivity and ensure that the contributions of immigrant labor are fully realized in mega projects.

Immigrants also contribute significantly to the sustainability of construction projects in Türkiye. Their involvement is crucial not only during the construction phase but also in maintaining and operating the infrastructure once it is completed. According to the OECD (2020), “sustained infrastructure requires a skilled labor force capable of ongoing maintenance and improvements.” Immigrants often take on roles that involve long-term commitments to these infrastructures, ensuring that they remain functional and efficient over time. This long-term engagement is vital for maximizing the returns on investment in mega projects.

Moreover, the cultural diversity brought by immigrants can enhance innovation in the construction sector. Immigrant workers introduce various construction practices and technologies from their home countries, which can lead to more effective and efficient building techniques. The ILO (2020) states, “the cross-pollination of ideas and methods from diverse cultural backgrounds can lead to improved project outcomes.” This innovative approach not only helps to streamline construction processes but also contributes to the quality and durability of the completed projects.

The Master Builders Association (2024) emphasizes the importance of “tailored training programs that cater to the specific needs of immigrant workers.”

Such initiatives can help immigrants acquire necessary skills and improve their job prospects in the construction industry. Moreover, addressing these barriers is crucial for optimizing the contributions of immigrant labor to infrastructure projects.

Finally, the economic impact of immigrant labor in construction extends beyond the immediate benefits of project completion. The OECD (2020) highlights that “successful integration of immigrants leads to greater economic stability and community cohesion.” When immigrants are fully integrated into the labor market, they contribute to the local economy not just through their work in construction, but also through their consumption of goods and services. This interconnectedness underscores the need for comprehensive immigration policies that support the integration of immigrant workers into the construction sector and the broader economy

2.6.3. Long-term Benefits to National Infrastructure

The involvement of immigrants in infrastructure projects yields significant long-term benefits for a country, particularly through the development of a skilled workforce. As immigrants engage in various construction and infrastructure roles, they acquire new skills and knowledge that enhance their employability and, consequently, their contributions to future projects. The OECD (2020) states, “Immigrants bring diverse skills that can fill gaps in the labor market, thus facilitating the development of a capable workforce.” This statement underscores the value of immigrant labor in addressing immediate needs while laying the groundwork for sustainable economic growth.

One of the primary long-term benefits of immigrant involvement in infrastructure projects is the transfer of technical skills and expertise. Many immigrants come from backgrounds where they have already acquired significant experience in construction, engineering, or project management. According to the World Bank (2011), “the skills that immigrants bring can significantly enhance the quality and efficiency of infrastructure projects, leading to improved outcomes and sustainability.” This skill transfer not only aids current projects but also creates a knowledge base that can be leveraged for future initiatives.

Moreover, immigrants contribute to the innovation and adoption of new technologies within the construction sector. Their diverse perspectives enable them to approach problems creatively and implement effective solutions. The Asian Development Bank (2014) highlights that “the introduction of innovative construction

practices by immigrant workers can lead to increased productivity and reduced project costs.” Such innovations are crucial for maintaining competitive advantages in an increasingly globalized economy.

In addition to skills transfer and innovation, the integration of immigrants into the workforce supports the development of social networks within the construction industry. These networks can enhance collaboration and knowledge sharing among workers, leading to a more cohesive and efficient workforce. The International Organization for Migration (IOM, 2005) asserts that “social networks formed by immigrants can help bridge gaps between various cultural groups and facilitate collaboration in infrastructure projects.” This integration fosters a sense of community, which is essential for the successful execution of complex projects.

Furthermore, the long-term contributions of immigrants extend beyond the immediate scope of infrastructure development. By participating in these projects, immigrants often invest in their communities, contributing to local economies through increased spending and consumption. The OECD (2020) emphasizes that “the economic integration of immigrants can lead to improved living standards, benefiting not only the immigrants themselves but also the broader community.” This economic impact is vital for fostering inclusive growth and ensuring that the benefits of infrastructure projects reach all segments of society.

However, to maximize the long-term benefits of immigrant involvement in infrastructure development, effective policies must be in place. As noted by Kancs and Lecca (2017), “targeted policies that enhance skills training and promote language acquisition can significantly improve the employability of immigrants.” Such initiatives are essential for ensuring that immigrants can fully participate in the workforce and contribute to national infrastructure development.

2.7. Challenges and Opportunities of Immigration

2.7.1. Socioeconomic Challenges

Immigration can pose significant socioeconomic challenges for both immigrants and host communities. These challenges often manifest in various forms, including difficulties related to integration, competition in the labor market, and strains on public services. Addressing these challenges requires effective policies and programs to facilitate the integration of immigrants into society.

One of the primary challenges faced by immigrants is the issue of integration. Successful integration involves not only finding employment but also adapting to the social and cultural norms of the host country. According to the United Nations (2020), “integration is a complex process that requires the engagement of both immigrants and host communities.” This dual responsibility is essential for fostering social cohesion and mitigating tensions that may arise due to cultural differences. Without adequate support systems, immigrants may face isolation and marginalization, hindering their ability to contribute effectively to society.

Labor market competition is another significant challenge associated with immigration. In many cases, an influx of immigrant workers can lead to increased competition for jobs, particularly in low-skilled labor sectors. The International Organization for Migration (IOM, 2020) notes that “immigrants often compete with local workers for the same positions, which can lead to tensions in the labor market.” This competition can result in wage suppression and job displacement for native workers, leading to public discontent and calls for stricter immigration policies.

Moreover, the impact of immigration on public services cannot be overlooked. A sudden increase in the immigrant population can place significant strain on existing services such as healthcare, education, and housing. The IOM (2020) highlights that “the demand for public services may outstrip supply, especially in urban areas with high concentrations of immigrants.” This strain can lead to a decline in the quality of services available to both immigrants and native residents, creating further social tension and dissatisfaction.

Addressing these socioeconomic challenges requires targeted policies that promote the effective integration of immigrants into the labor market and society. The United Nations (2020) emphasizes that “comprehensive integration strategies should include language training, access to education, and vocational programs.” Such initiatives can empower immigrants, enhance their employability, and facilitate their contributions to the economy. Furthermore, these policies should also aim to foster mutual understanding and respect between immigrants and host communities.

Public engagement and community involvement are also critical components in overcoming integration challenges.

By fostering dialogue between immigrants and native residents, communities can work together to address misconceptions and build trust. The IOM (2020) suggests

that “community-based initiatives that encourage interaction between different cultural groups can enhance social cohesion.” These initiatives can help mitigate the potential for conflict and promote a more inclusive society.

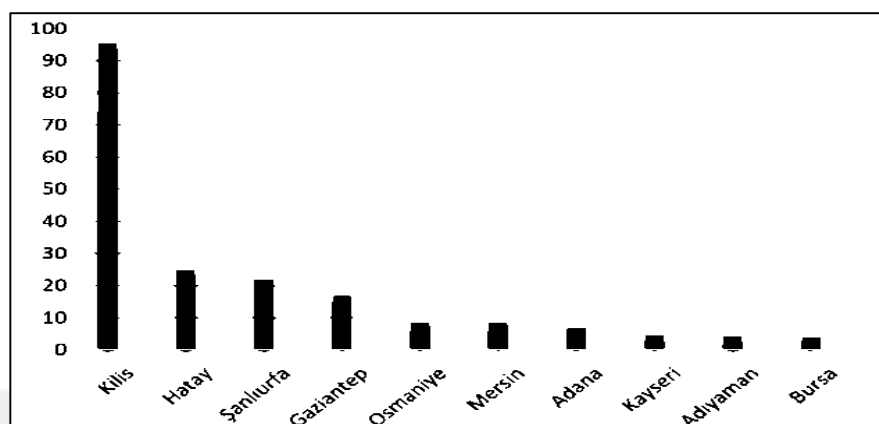


Figure 3. Top ten provinces in terms of the share of Syrians in population.

Source: Esen, O., & Binatlı, A. O. (2017)

Figure 3 illustrates the significant proportion of refugees in certain provinces, such as Kilis, where refugees comprise approximately 95% of the population. This distribution points to unique challenges faced by these provinces, including strain on infrastructure and public services.

However, the response to this challenge has been primarily negative, which has undermined the potential positive impact that could have been realized. A different approach, grounded in scientific frameworks and comparative models from other countries, could have provided more effective solutions to these challenges.

I chose this golden period for migrants because the number of migrants has significantly declined since then due to changes in policies against migrants, making it challenging to gather information afterward that could support the positive impact of migrants on economic development.

2.7.2. Policy Responses to Immigration

Governments implement various immigration policies to manage immigration flows and address the challenges associated with them. These policies are essential in shaping the dynamics of immigration and influencing the overall impact on host societies. Effective immigration policies can facilitate integration, support economic

growth, and mitigate social tensions. Conversely, poorly designed policies can exacerbate challenges and hinder the contributions of immigrants.

One fundamental aspect of immigration policy is the establishment of immigration quotas. Quotas dictate the number of immigrants allowed to enter a country within a specified period, thereby controlling the overall flow of migration. According to the ILO (2020), “immigration quotas are used by many countries to balance labor market needs with social cohesion.” By setting limits on the number of immigrants, governments aim to ensure that local populations are not overwhelmed and that the labor market remains stable.

However, while quotas can provide a framework for managing immigration, they may also restrict the influx of skilled labor that can contribute positively to the economy.

In addition to quotas, visa requirements are another critical component of immigration policy. Visa policies determine who can enter and remain in a country, often based on factors such as skill level, employment offers, and family connections. The World Bank (2006) highlights that “well-structured visa policies can enhance the economic benefits of immigration by attracting skilled migrants who can fill labor shortages.” However, overly restrictive visa policies can lead to unintended consequences, such as labor shortages in essential sectors. For instance, in many developed countries, high-demand industries like healthcare and technology have expressed concerns over the difficulty of obtaining work visas for qualified foreign professionals.

Integration programs are also vital for ensuring that immigrants successfully adapt to their new environments. These programs typically include language training, cultural orientation, and access to employment services. As noted in the Migration Policy Institute (2021), “effective integration policies are essential for helping immigrants navigate the challenges of settling in a new country.” By providing support and resources, integration programs can facilitate social cohesion and improve the overall contributions of immigrants to society. Successful integration not only benefits immigrants but also enhances community resilience and economic productivity.

The effectiveness of immigration policies is contingent upon their alignment with the broader economic and social goals of the host country. According to the ILO (2020), “immigration policies should be designed to respond to labor market needs

while fostering social inclusion.” This means that policies must be flexible and adaptive to changing economic conditions, allowing for the timely adjustment of quotas, visa categories, and integration support. Countries that successfully align their immigration policies with their economic needs often see enhanced economic growth and social stability.

In addition to addressing immediate labor market demands, immigration policies should also consider the long-term demographic trends that influence national growth. The World Bank (2006) emphasizes that “proactive immigration policies can help countries manage aging populations and declining birth rates.” By creating pathways for younger immigrants to enter the labor market, governments can mitigate potential economic downturns and maintain a robust workforce. This forward-thinking approach to immigration policy not only addresses current needs but also prepares for future challenges.

However, the implementation of effective immigration policies is often met with political resistance and public skepticism. Many countries experience debates over the perceived costs and benefits of immigration, which can lead to restrictive policies driven by public sentiment rather than empirical evidence.

The Migration Policy Institute (2021) notes that “misconceptions and fears about immigration can hinder the development of rational policy frameworks.” To counteract these challenges, it is essential to engage in public education campaigns that highlight the positive contributions of immigrants and provide accurate information about their role in society.

Integration Challenges: Integrating immigrants into Turkish society presents multifaceted challenges. One significant issue is the disparity in cultural norms and practices, particularly among refugees. As noted in the study, “Turkish civil law does not permit polygamy or child marriage, which are prevalent in some immigrant communities, particularly among Syrian refugees” (Abdulal, 2016).

This cultural difference can lead to social tensions and complicate the integration process. Addressing these cultural barriers requires comprehensive education and outreach programs aimed at promoting understanding and cooperation between local communities and immigrants.

Economic Implications of Immigration: The influx of immigrants, particularly refugees, has notable economic implications for Türkiye. While some see the presence

of immigrants as a strain on resources, others argue that they contribute positively to the economy. The report highlights that “the influx of refugees has led to increased rental prices and inflation, particularly in border cities” (Abdulal, 2016). However, the same report suggests that this dynamic can also create opportunities for growth, as many immigrants engage in entrepreneurial activities, providing goods and services that stimulate local economies. Policymakers must balance these competing perspectives to create a sustainable economic environment.

Political Dynamics and Policy Responses: The political landscape surrounding immigration in Türkiye is complex, influenced by both domestic and international factors. The study indicates that “the ongoing immigration crisis has sparked intense political debate regarding appropriate policy responses” (Abdulal, 2016). As political arguments unfold, it becomes essential for policymakers to consider evidence-based strategies that address the needs of immigrants while also ensuring social cohesion and stability within host communities. This includes implementing policies that promote integration, economic participation, and cultural exchange to foster a more inclusive society.

2.7.3. Opportunities for Sustainable Development

Immigration can significantly contribute to sustainable development by providing a source of labor for green industries, increasing innovation, and promoting cultural diversity. As countries around the world strive to achieve sustainable development goals (SDGs), leveraging the potential of immigrants is essential.

According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM, 2018), “migration can be an important driver of sustainable development, enhancing economic growth and resilience in both origin and destination countries.” This statement underscores the multifaceted benefits of immigration in achieving long-term development objectives.

One of the primary opportunities presented by immigration is the ability to fill labor shortages in green industries. As the global economy increasingly shifts toward sustainable practices, the demand for workers in renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and environmental conservation has surged.

The Overseas Development Institute (ODI, 2020) notes that “migrants often possess the necessary skills and flexibility to adapt to new roles in emerging sectors.”

By integrating immigrants into these industries, countries can accelerate their transition to a more sustainable economy while addressing labor shortages.

Additionally, immigrants are often key drivers of innovation. Their diverse backgrounds and experiences can lead to unique perspectives that foster creative solutions to environmental challenges.

According to the United Nations (2019), “diverse teams are more likely to generate innovative ideas and approaches to complex problems.” Immigrants contribute not only through their labor but also by bringing fresh ideas that can lead to advancements in technology and practices that promote sustainability. For instance, in many countries, immigrant entrepreneurs have established startups focused on green technologies, contributing to both job creation and environmental sustainability.

Furthermore, immigration promotes cultural diversity, which is essential for achieving sustainable development. The interaction between different cultures can lead to the exchange of knowledge and practices that enhance community resilience. The Sustainable Development Solutions Network (2020) emphasizes that “cultural diversity can enrich societies and foster social cohesion, which is vital for sustainable development.” By embracing the contributions of immigrants, countries can cultivate inclusive communities that are better equipped to address the social and environmental challenges of today.

However, to fully realize these opportunities, effective policies must be in place to support the integration of immigrants into the labor market. The IOM (2018) highlights that “governments need to implement policies that facilitate access to training and resources for immigrants to succeed in green jobs.” This includes providing language support, vocational training, and pathways to certification in relevant fields. By investing in the development of immigrant workers, countries can enhance their capacity to contribute to sustainable development.

Moreover, it is essential to recognize the role of remittances in supporting sustainable development in countries of origin. According to a report by the World Bank (2006), “remittances can provide significant financial resources for families, allowing them to invest in education, health, and small businesses.” This financial support not only enhances the well-being of families but also contributes to local economic growth, further promoting sustainable development goals.

The role of immigrants in fostering social entrepreneurship is another important opportunity for sustainable development. Immigrant communities often establish businesses that not only serve their own needs but also contribute to the broader economy. These businesses frequently focus on socially responsible practices, such as sustainability and community engagement. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM, 2018), “immigrants are more likely to engage in entrepreneurial activities that promote community development and address social issues.” This social entrepreneurship can create jobs, support local economies, and foster social cohesion.

Furthermore, the positive impact of immigrants extends to the cultural enrichment of societies, which is vital for sustainable development. Cultural diversity encourages creativity and innovation, enriching the social fabric of communities. The World Bank (2006) states that “the integration of diverse cultural perspectives can lead to more inclusive decision-making processes.”

This inclusivity is crucial for developing policies and initiatives that address the needs of all community members, ensuring that sustainable development goals are met comprehensively.

2.8. Conceptual Framework for Assessing Immigration Impact

2.8.1. Conceptual Models

Conceptual models are essential for understanding the intricate relationships between immigration and economic development. These models integrate key variables, such as human capital, labor market dynamics, and government policies, to provide a clear framework for assessing the impact of immigration.

In the context of mega projects in Türkiye, the conceptual framework (as detailed in section 1.5. Theoretical/Conceptual Framework) can be used to visualize how different variables interact to affect economic outcomes.

Independent Variables		Dependent Variables
Immigrant Population (Independent)		Utilization Rate of Mega Projects
Government Immigration Policies (Moderating Variable)		Economic Development Indicators (GDP growth, investment levels)
Economic Contributions of Immigrants (Mediating Variable: Employment, Entrepreneurship, etc.)		Sustainability of Mega Projects (operational and sunk costs)

Figure 1.2 Conceptual framework of immigrants' impact on mega projects
(Designed by researcher)

1. Independent Variables: Immigrant Population and Government Policies

The independent variables in this framework, such as immigrant population and government immigration policies, are central to understanding the overall impact of immigration on economic development. Immigrants often provide a crucial labor force that enhances productivity in mega infrastructure projects. According to the framework outlined in section 1.5, "immigrant population and government policies directly affect the utilization rate of mega projects."

These variables are key in understanding how the workforce supports infrastructure projects through labor and specialized skills, especially in industries requiring intensive labor.

For example, the influx of immigrant workers in Türkiye has been integral in meeting the labor demands of large-scale infrastructure projects. As highlighted in section 1.5, government policies act as a moderating variable, influencing the strength and direction of the relationship between the immigrant population and the utilization of mega projects.

Government policies can either enhance or hinder the contribution of immigrants, depending on the nature of the policies implemented (e.g., facilitating work permits or providing social support).

2. Dependent Variables: Economic Development and Mega Project Utilization

The dependent variables in this model, such as economic development indicators (like GDP growth) and mega project utilization, are influenced by changes in independent variables. Economic growth in Türkiye, driven by large infrastructure projects, is directly tied to the participation of immigrant labor.

For instance, the utilization rate of mega projects, such as bridges, tunnels, and airports, depends significantly on the availability of skilled and unskilled immigrant labor (section 1.5).

Mega projects, by their nature, require sustained operation and a robust user base to remain viable. The involvement of immigrants supports these needs, as they often take up roles in sectors where labor shortages exist.

Moreover, the success of such projects contributes to economic development indicators, including investment levels and GDP growth. As the conceptual model outlined in section 1.5 indicates, immigrants' contributions to these projects play a mediating role between the population and economic outcomes.

3. Mediating Variables: Economic Contributions of Immigrants

A key feature of this conceptual model is the identification of mediating variables, such as the economic contributions of immigrants. These contributions include employment, entrepreneurship, and the stimulation of local markets. The framework, as explained in section 1.5, highlights that "the economic contributions of immigrants play a crucial role in connecting these two sets of variables." Immigrants contribute to mega projects not only through their labor but also by starting businesses and creating employment opportunities in sectors that support these large-scale infrastructures.

For instance, immigrant entrepreneurs can introduce new technologies and methods that enhance the efficiency and sustainability of mega projects. Moreover, their employment in diverse roles, from manual labor to management, helps reduce operational costs and increase the economic viability of these projects. Thus, the economic contributions of immigrants act as a bridge between the population and the successful operation of mega projects.

4. Moderating Variables: Government Immigration Policies

The conceptual model also emphasizes the role of moderating variables, particularly government immigration policies. These policies determine the accessibility of jobs, rights, and support systems for immigrants.

As highlighted in section 1.5, "government policies may enhance or reduce the effect of the number of immigrants on the utilization rate of projects." Policies that facilitate work permits, provide social integration programs, or promote skills training can significantly boost the contributions of immigrants to mega projects.

For instance, when the Turkish government implements policies that ease the employment of foreign workers in critical industries, it increases the efficiency and output of mega infrastructure projects. Conversely, restrictive policies can limit the positive effects of immigration, reducing labor availability and potentially slowing project timelines.

5. Practical Application: Case Studies from Türkiye

In applying these conceptual models, case studies from Türkiye's mega infrastructure projects illustrate the real-world relevance of these variables. For example, the construction of the Istanbul Airport and the Marmaray Tunnel

benefitted significantly from immigrant labor, which provided both skilled and unskilled workers for various phases of these projects.

The Turkish government's policies on immigration and employment played a significant role in moderating the relationship between the availability of immigrant workers and the completion and utilization of these mega projects.

2.8.2. Empirical Studies on Immigration and Economic Development

While the methodology adopted in this thesis is primarily qualitative, focusing on the analysis of narratives, policies, and socio-economic interactions related to immigration and mega projects, This Study referenced numerous empirical studies to provide context and support for the broader analysis.

These studies offer quantitative evidence on the impact of immigration on economic outcomes, including wages, employment, and public finances. By reviewing experimental and empirical research, I build a more robust understanding of immigration's role in economic development, particularly in infrastructure and labor markets. The impact of immigration on economic development, particularly in the context of Türkiye's mega projects, has been extensively documented in various empirical studies. These studies provide valuable quantitative evidence that enriches the qualitative analysis conducted in this thesis.

Akgündüz et al. (2015) explored the economic effects of the Syrian refugee crisis on the Turkish labor market, revealing that the influx of refugees significantly influenced employment and wages, particularly in low-skilled sectors. Their regression analysis indicated that while there were immediate wage impacts, the long-term integration of refugees into the workforce could yield substantial economic benefits.

This finding aligns with the thesis's assertion that integrating immigrant labor is crucial for sustaining large-scale projects.

Similarly, Borjas (1995) examined the broader economic benefits of immigration in the U.S., focusing on productivity, wages, and economic growth. His research utilized economic modeling to demonstrate that immigration contributes positively to overall economic growth, although it may exert downward pressure on wages for native low-skilled workers.

This highlights the dual nature of immigration's impact, suggesting that while there are challenges, the overall economic contributions can be significant, a theme

echoed in the context of Türkiye's mega projects.

Jennissen (2006) reviewed various economic theories of international migration, emphasizing the importance of immigration policies in shaping migration patterns and their economic outcomes.

His findings suggest that well-designed immigration policies that prioritize skilled labor and integration are essential for maximizing the benefits of immigration. This perspective is particularly relevant for Türkiye, where policy adjustments could enhance the economic contributions of immigrants to mega projects.

The OECD's reports (2020, 2017) provide a comprehensive overview of global migration patterns and their economic implications. The 2020 report highlights how immigration influences labor market integration and long-term economic outcomes, while the 2017 report emphasizes that immigrants often help alleviate labor shortages.

These insights underscore the importance of strategic immigration policies in fostering economic resilience, which is critical for the sustainability of Türkiye's infrastructure initiatives.

Research conducted by the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER, 2019) found a positive correlation between immigration, innovation, and economic growth in developed countries.

This study utilized panel data to demonstrate that immigrant labor is particularly beneficial in high-skilled industries, reinforcing the idea that a diverse workforce can drive innovation—a key factor for the success of mega projects in Türkiye.

Bueno and Prieto-Rosas (2019) further support this notion by reviewing key migration theories and their relevance to economic development. They assert that effective integration policies, which recognize the human capital of immigrants, can significantly boost economic development.

This aligns with the findings of Tanrikulu (2020), who highlighted the role of immigrant entrepreneurship in local economies in Türkiye, showing that immigrant entrepreneurs contribute to job creation and innovation.

Finally, the World Bank (2006) and Simla Şanlı (2020) provide insights into the broader economic implications of immigration. The World Bank emphasizes the role of remittances and migration in poverty reduction and economic growth in developing countries, while Şanlı's study on the Marmaray project illustrates the

critical role of immigrant labor in infrastructure development in Türkiye.

These studies collectively highlight the multifaceted contributions of immigrants to economic development, particularly in labor-intensive sectors.

In conclusion, the empirical studies reviewed provide a robust foundation for understanding the positive impact of immigration on Türkiye's economic landscape, particularly concerning mega projects. By integrating these insights into the analysis, this thesis aims to present a comprehensive view of how immigration can enhance economic development and infrastructure sustainability in Türkiye.

2.8.3. Empirical Evidence: The Impact of Immigration on Türkiye's Economy

- **Statistical Data on Immigrants' Contribution to Türkiye's GDP**

According to the Turkish Statistical Institute (TUIK, 2023), immigrants have made significant contributions to Türkiye's GDP, particularly in sectors such as construction, agriculture, and services. For instance, the construction sector, which heavily relies on immigrant labor, accounted for approximately 6.5% of Türkiye's GDP in 2022.

Additionally, a report by the World Bank (2023) highlights that the economic activities of immigrants, including their consumption and entrepreneurship, have added an estimated 1.2% to Türkiye's annual GDP growth over the past decade. These figures underscore the critical role of immigrants in driving economic growth and supporting large-scale infrastructure projects.

- **Data from Sources such as ILO, World Bank, and TUIK**

Data from the International Labour Organization (ILO, 2023) reveals that immigrants constitute a substantial portion of Türkiye's labor force, particularly in low-skilled sectors. For example, in the agricultural sector, immigrants make up nearly 15% of the workforce, while in construction, they account for approximately 20%.

The World Bank (2023) further emphasizes that immigrant labor has helped mitigate labor shortages in these sectors, ensuring the timely completion of mega projects such as the Istanbul Airport and the Marmaray Tunnel.

Additionally, TUIK (2023) reports that immigrant-owned businesses have contributed to job creation, with over 50,000 new enterprises established by

immigrants between 2015 and 2022. These statistics highlight the multifaceted economic contributions of immigrants to Türkiye's economy.

- **Analyzing the Impact of Immigration on Different Sectors (Agriculture, Industry, Services) Using Actual Data**

The impact of immigration on Türkiye's key economic sectors is evident in both quantitative and qualitative data. In agriculture, immigrants have filled critical labor gaps, particularly in seasonal work, contributing to increased productivity and output. According to TUIK (2023), the agricultural sector's output grew by 3.8% in 2022, partly due to the availability of immigrant labor.

In the industrial sector, immigrants have supported manufacturing and construction activities, with the construction sector alone employing over 1.5 million immigrants in 2022 (ILO, 2023). In the services sector, immigrants have played a vital role in hospitality, retail, and healthcare, with immigrant workers accounting for 12% of the workforce in these industries. These contributions highlight the integral role of immigrants in sustaining Türkiye's economic growth across diverse sectors.

2.8.4. Framework for Analysis in the Turkish Context

In the context of my research, a tailored framework specific to Türkiye is essential for evaluating how immigration affects the utilization of mega projects. Immigration in Türkiye influences not only the labor market but also the effective use and sustainability of infrastructure projects.

My analysis focuses on how demographic trends, labor shortages, and government policies shape the success of these projects.

One critical factor is Türkiye's changing demographic landscape, characterized by an aging population and declining birth rates. This has created significant labor shortages, particularly in construction and infrastructure. Immigrants have stepped in to fill these gaps, which ensures that mega projects like Istanbul Airport and Marmaray Tunnel remain functional and economically viable. However, the impact of immigration is not limited to supplying labor; it also enhances project utilization by expanding the user base for these projects.

In addition, government policies play a moderating role, determining the degree to which immigrants contribute to mega project success. Policies that support the integration of immigrants into the labor market, such as streamlined work permits and social support, have facilitated their participation in critical sectors. For instance,

when policies encourage the participation of immigrant labor, projects can proceed without delays, as seen with the Osman Gazi Bridge. On the other hand, restrictive immigration policies can lead to project delays and reduced utilization rates.

My framework also considers how the economic contributions of immigrants serve as mediating variables. Immigrants not only provide labor but also contribute to local markets through entrepreneurship and service industries. These contributions, in turn, ensure the long-term viability of infrastructure projects by spreading operational and sunk costs over a larger population. For example, immigrant entrepreneurs supporting the operation of mega projects contribute to both economic development and the sustainability of these ventures.

By applying this framework to Türkiye's unique context, I aim to assess how immigration influences not only the construction but also the ongoing success and economic impact of large infrastructure projects. Immigrants contribute to the long-term sustainability of projects, ensuring that they remain viable economic assets. Through this lens, my research highlights how immigration plays a multifaceted role in Türkiye's infrastructure development.

2.8.5. Historical Context of Immigration in Türkiye

Türkiye has a long history of immigration, shaped by both geopolitical events and economic conditions. Its strategic location, positioned between Europe and Asia, has rendered it a crossroads for migration for centuries. During the Ottoman Empire, Türkiye's predecessor, population movements were frequently triggered by conquests, trade, and shifts in political alliances.

As a vast, multi-ethnic empire, the Ottomans governed a wide range of people, including ethnic Turks, Arabs, Greeks, Armenians, and Kurds, facilitating both internal and external migration across its vast territories. Additionally, trade routes like the Silk Road contributed to the regular movement of people, including merchants, artisans, and workers, which played a critical role in shaping the demographic and cultural landscape of the empire.

According to Akcan (n.d.), Türkiye's migration policies have undergone significant transformations over time, adapting to various political, economic, and social contexts, also Türkiye has long been a destination for diverse migrant populations, including refugees from neighboring regions and former Ottoman subjects.

The document outlines several key historical moments, including the 1989 influx of Bulgarian Turks, as well as the significant number of migrants arriving after the Islamic Revolution in Iran in 1979. These waves of migration have shaped the country's legal frameworks and societal integration efforts.

For instance, the 1989 migration from Bulgaria prompted the Turkish government to enact policies that aimed at the integration of these migrants into Turkish society, including resettlement programs and access to education and employment. Specific policies included providing Bulgarian Turkish migrants with citizenship rights, facilitating their relocation to cities with labor shortages, and granting them access to public sector jobs and housing.

In the early 20th century, Türkiye continued to experience significant waves of immigration, reflecting the turbulent political atmosphere of the region. Following the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire and the establishment of the modern Turkish Republic in 1923, Türkiye became both a destination and a transit country for millions of migrants.

One of the most significant early migration events was the 1923 population exchange between Greece and Türkiye, conducted under the Treaty of Lausanne. This agreement saw the forced displacement of nearly 2 million people, including 395,000 Greeks who resettled in Türkiye. This population exchange, driven by religious identity, left an indelible mark on the country's demographic structure and migration policies, setting a precedent for future migration and resettlement efforts.

Migration to Türkiye has not only shaped its demographic structure but has also had a profound impact on its political, social, and economic policies. The country's migration policies have evolved from a focus on resettlement, as seen in the early 20th century, to more comprehensive frameworks addressing temporary protection, integration, and the rights of migrants and refugees. The influx of Syrian refugees since 2011 has further transformed Türkiye's approach to migration, as the country has had to balance humanitarian obligations with the practical challenges of accommodating millions of new arrivals. Türkiye's experience as a host country for such diverse migrant populations underscores its role as a critical player in regional and global migration dynamics.

As the 20th century progressed, Türkiye witnessed multiple waves of migration, influenced by regional conflicts, economic instability, and shifting

geopolitical landscapes. One of the major waves occurred in the aftermath of World War II, particularly from Yugoslavia and the Balkans, where ethnic Turks sought refuge in Türkiye.

In 1989, Türkiye received over 300,000 Bulgarian Turks and Pomaks fleeing the oppressive assimilation policies of Bulgaria. This influx, one of the largest of its kind, highlighted Türkiye's continued role as a safe haven for displaced populations from neighboring regions, particularly those of Turkish ethnic origin.

In addition to migration from the Balkans, Türkiye also became a destination for refugees fleeing political upheaval in the Middle East. The Iranian Revolution of 1979 resulted in the displacement of nearly 1 million people, many of whom sought refuge in Türkiye. These migrants included individuals of various ethnic and religious backgrounds, from political dissidents to religious minorities.

Türkiye's response to these events further demonstrated its growing importance as a host country for displaced populations, particularly those fleeing neighboring regions.

The most significant and ongoing wave of migration in recent history began in 2011 with the outbreak of The Syrian war & Revolution. Millions of Syrians crossed into Türkiye, seeking refuge from the escalating violence in their homeland. This mass migration prompted Türkiye to implement comprehensive migration policies, including the establishment of temporary protection mechanisms. Under these policies, Türkiye provided Syrians with access to basic services, including healthcare, education, and employment, making it one of the largest refugee-hosting countries in the world.

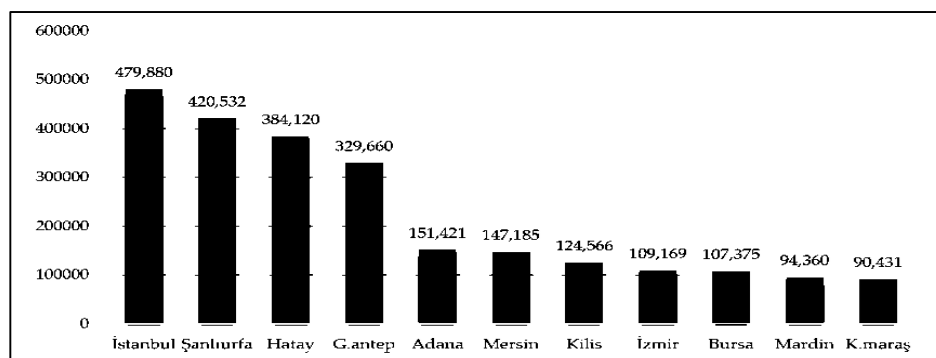


Figure- 4 Top ten cities where Syrian refugees reside

Source: Esen, O., & Binatlı, A. O. (2017)

Figure 4 illustrates the Turkish cities that hosted the largest number of Syrian refugees in 2016, providing insights into the economic and social impacts associated with their presence.

These proportions have dramatically changed following shifts in state policies towards refugees and migrants. Istanbul, as an economic hub, is among the cities most attractive to refugees, followed by Gaziantep and Hatay, highlighting the increasing reliance on refugees in these regions. This section shouldn't be here.

I chose this golden period for migrants because the number of migrants has significantly declined since then due to changes in policies against migrants, making it challenging to gather information afterward that could support the positive impact of migrants on economic development.

2.9. Previous Studies on Immigration in Türkiye

2.9.1. Overview of Existing Research

This section provides a comprehensive overview of previous studies on immigration in Türkiye, highlighting key research findings, methodologies used, and research gaps. The existing literature on immigration in Türkiye has covered various themes, including labor market integration, economic impacts, social integration, and the political dimensions of immigration.

The study of immigration in Türkiye has been widely explored, particularly due to its strategic position as both a transit and host country. Over the past decades, researchers have analyzed various facets of immigration, including its impact on labor markets, economic growth, social integration, and public infrastructure development. Previous studies have provided a wealth of knowledge about how migration influences key economic sectors and the long-term demographic changes in Türkiye.

For instance, analyses by the OECD (2017), NBER (2019), and ILO (2020) have revealed the significant role of immigrants in filling labor shortages, especially in sectors such as agriculture, construction, and healthcare. At the same time, research by scholars such as Akgündüz et al. (2015) and Tanrıkulu (2020) highlights the critical contributions of immigrant entrepreneurs to local economies, particularly in urban areas.

This section will explore the key themes and methodologies used in previous studies, while identifying the research gaps that continue to persist in the literature on immigration in Türkiye. By critically examining these studies, this review aims to

establish a foundation for further exploration of the socio-economic impact of immigration in Türkiye and its broader implications for policy development.

Economic Impact of Immigration and Refugee on Labor Markets in Turkey
One of the most extensively researched areas in the context of Türkiye is the role of immigrants, particularly refugees, in the labor market.

For instance, Akgündüz, Van den Berg, and Hassink (2015) conducted a quantitative study on the impact of the Syrian refugee crisis on Türkiye's labor markets. Their regression analysis showed that while refugees increased labor supply, particularly in low-wage sectors, the long-term effects on wage suppression were minimal due to market adjustments.

This finding is corroborated by the OECD International Migration Outlook (2020), which highlights how immigration helps fill critical labor shortages, especially in low-skill sectors like agriculture and construction.

- **Economic Contributions of Immigrants**

Immigrants contribute significantly to Türkiye's economy by filling labor shortages and contributing to GDP growth. Borjas (1995) explored the economic benefits of immigration, finding that migrants enhance productivity through their participation in key sectors. This aligns with Türkiye's experience, particularly in its mega projects.

The OECD (2017) and NBER (2019) highlight that immigrants, especially in infrastructure and large-scale construction projects, play a critical role in ensuring the viability and timely completion of projects like the Istanbul Airport and Marmaray Tunnel. Their role in entrepreneurship, as highlighted by Tanrıku (2020), further enhances their economic contributions through innovation and the creation of new jobs.

- **Social Integration and Cultural Challenges**

Research on social integration in Türkiye often emphasizes the challenges associated with integrating large numbers of refugees and economic migrants into local communities.

According to Abdulal (2016), one of the critical challenges in integrating Syrian refugees into Turkish society is overcoming cultural barriers, including differences in social practices such as polygamy and child marriage, which conflict with Turkish civil law. Addressing these challenges requires a multifaceted approach,

including education programs and legal reforms, as noted in several studies on social cohesion (ILO, 2020; IOM, 2020).

- **Political and Policy Dimensions**

The political landscape of immigration in Türkiye has been shaped by both domestic policies and international pressures. Studies like Jennissen (2006) highlight how immigration policies have evolved in response to external pressures, such as European Union accession talks and international humanitarian obligations.

The Turkish government's introduction of temporary protection policies for Syrian refugees in 2011 is a case in point, reflecting the need to balance national interests with international commitments. Moreover, the role of political debates in shaping public attitudes toward immigration remains a significant focus of research (Abdulal, 2016).

- **Comparative Studies and Global Context**

In addition to country-specific studies, comparative research provides insight into how Türkiye's immigration experience parallels other countries facing similar challenges. For instance, the World Bank (2006) and OECD (2017) offer comparative data on how Türkiye's management of large-scale immigration differs from other OECD countries, particularly in terms of labor market impacts and social integration. This comparative perspective is essential for understanding Türkiye's unique position as both a transit and destination country.

- **Research Gaps**

Despite the significant body of research on immigration in Türkiye, several important gaps remain. While much of the existing literature focuses on the economic contributions of immigrants, particularly in relation to labor market participation and productivity in various sectors, there is a noticeable lack of longitudinal studies exploring the long-term social and economic integration of immigrants, especially second-generation migrants.

Additionally, many studies focus on short-term impacts, leaving unexplored the long-term effects of immigration on public services and social welfare systems in Türkiye.

Moreover, while the integration of refugees, particularly those from Syria, has been studied in relation to labor market impacts, there is limited research on the psychosocial aspects of displacement, such as mental health challenges, social

cohesion, and community integration. Another significant gap lies in the role of gender in the immigrant experience, especially with regard to access to employment and social services.

Future research should address these areas to provide a more holistic understanding of the implications of immigration for both immigrants and host communities.

For example, Akgündüz, Van den Berg, and Hassink (2015) conducted an in-depth study on the impact of the Syrian refugee crisis on Turkey's labor markets, particularly in relation to wage suppression and employment dynamics.

However, while this study addresses the short-term labor market effects, it does not explore the long-term integration of refugees into the workforce or the sector-specific impacts of their labor in key industries like construction or agriculture.

There is also a noticeable gap in understanding the socio-economic integration of second-generation immigrants, an area that could provide valuable insights into the longer-term effects of immigration on Turkey's economy and society.

Similarly, Borjas (1995) in his study on the economic benefits of immigration to the U.S. provides valuable insights into labor market integration and productivity increases. However, his analysis primarily focuses on the U.S. context, with minimal consideration of developing countries like Turkey, where the skill mix of the population differs significantly.

While Borjas discusses productivity and wage effects, his study lacks empirical evidence on how immigration affects public services and welfare systems, an area that has become increasingly important in understanding the full scope of immigration's economic impact in both developed and developing countries.

In the same vein, Jennissen (2006) offers a theoretical framework for understanding international migration and immigration policy's role in shaping economic outcomes. While his study evaluates the relationship between immigration policy and migration flows, it does not provide sufficient empirical evidence on the long-term effects of these policies on the integration of immigrants in host countries, particularly in labor markets and public services.

Studies like those by Borjas and Jennissen call for more empirical data that connects theoretical models with real-world outcomes in countries like Turkey, where the immigration context and labor market dynamics differ.

Another gap identified in the literature concerns the integration of immigrants into public services and welfare systems. For instance, OECD (2020) outlines how immigration affects labor markets and public finances but does not delve deeply into how immigrants impact specific sectors, such as healthcare or education, in developing countries like Turkey.

In contrast, the IOM (2020) discusses the significant contributions of migrant workers in Turkey's healthcare and service sectors, but the study does not explore the broader implications of these contributions on Turkey's public health infrastructure.

Moreover, while IOM emphasizes the importance of integrating migrant workers into Turkey's labor market, more research is needed to understand the specific policies that can facilitate their long-term integration into these critical public services. Furthermore, the integration of migrant labor into agriculture, construction, and manufacturing is an area that remains underexplored.

The OECD (2017) notes that immigration helps fill critical labor shortages in agriculture and construction, yet there is little research on the specific role of immigrant labor in Turkey's mega projects, such as the Istanbul Airport and the Marmaray Tunnel.

While these studies shed light on general trends in developed countries, there is a lack of research on the nuanced impacts of immigration on the Turkish labor market, especially in high-demand sectors. More empirical studies are needed that examine sector-specific contributions, such as the long-term sustainability of mega projects that depend on immigrant labor.

Finally, the role of gender in the immigrant experience, particularly in relation to labor market access and social services, has been largely overlooked. While studies like those by Kaya (2019) and Borjas (1995) have examined labor market participation, they do not fully address the gendered experience of immigration in Turkey. Women immigrants, in particular, may face unique challenges in accessing employment and social services, making this an important area for future research.

2.9.2. Comparative Studies with Other Countries

Comparing Türkiye's immigration experience with other countries provides a broader understanding of how different nations manage immigration flows and their impacts. Studies like OECD (2017) and World Bank (2006) emphasize that while Türkiye serves as both a transit and destination country, similar to nations such as

Greece, Italy, and Spain, it faces unique challenges due to its proximity to conflict zones like Syria.

The influx of Syrian refugees into Türkiye has been substantial, and while Akgündüz et al. (2015) highlight Türkiye's success in integrating refugees into low-skilled sectors, this differs from countries like Germany, where there has been a focus on upskilling migrants to meet labor shortages in high-demand fields such as healthcare and engineering.

Moreover, Jennissen (2006) underscores that European Union policies have shaped immigration in member states, creating more formalized migration channels and integration programs that could inform future Turkish policy adaptations. By examining these comparative studies, it becomes clear that while Türkiye shares common challenges with other nations, its geographical location, political landscape, and economic conditions create a distinct immigration dynamic that requires tailored approaches to policymaking.

2.9.3. Gaps in Current Literature

Despite the substantial body of research on immigration in Türkiye, several critical gaps remain that warrant further investigation. These gaps are particularly evident in the areas of long-term social and economic integration, sector-specific labor market impacts, and psychosocial aspects of migration, especially concerning refugees and second-generation immigrants.

One of the key gaps identified in the literature is the lack of longitudinal studies on the social and economic integration of second-generation immigrants. While numerous studies, such as Akgündüz et al. (2015), have focused on the immediate labor market impacts of the Syrian refugee crisis, there is limited research that tracks the long-term integration of refugees and their children.

Questions remain regarding the educational attainment, employment opportunities, and social mobility of second-generation immigrants in Türkiye. This gap is significant, as the long-term success of integration policies depends on understanding the intergenerational transmission of economic and social advantages or disadvantages. Addressing this gap would provide a clearer picture of whether current policies are effective in fostering the economic and social inclusion of refugees and their descendants over time.

Additionally, while Borjas (1995) and OECD (2017) provide valuable insights into the economic contributions of immigrants, there is still a need for more sector-specific analyses. For instance, much of the existing research focuses on low-skill sectors such as agriculture and construction, where migrants fill labor shortages.

However, little attention has been paid to the role of immigrants in high-skill sectors or their potential contributions to innovation and entrepreneurship in Türkiye. NBER (2019) highlights the role of immigration in fostering innovation, particularly in high-skill industries, but this research is predominantly focused on developed economies like the United States and Europe.

Further research is needed to examine whether similar trends are emerging in Türkiye, particularly in sectors such as technology, healthcare, and education. Understanding the potential for high-skill immigrants to contribute to Türkiye's economic growth is crucial for developing targeted policies that promote the integration of skilled migrants into these key industries.

The literature also reveals significant gaps in understanding the psychosocial impacts of displacement on refugees, particularly those who have been in Türkiye for extended periods. Studies such as Abdulal (2016) and ILO (2020) focus on the challenges of social integration, highlighting cultural barriers such as differences in family structures, social norms, and practices.

However, there is limited research on the mental health and well-being of refugees in Türkiye, especially in relation to prolonged displacement. IOM (2020) points to the need for more in-depth studies on the mental health challenges faced by refugees, including trauma, depression, and anxiety resulting from displacement. The psychosocial impacts of living in limbo, without permanent legal status or long-term prospects for resettlement, remain largely unexplored in the Turkish context.

Addressing this gap would enhance our understanding of how to support the psychological well-being of displaced populations and improve their integration into host communities.

Another notable gap is the gendered experience of immigration, which has been underexplored in the Turkish context. While Jennissen (2006) and OECD (2017) have highlighted the role of women in migration globally, there is limited research on how gender influences access to employment, social services, and integration opportunities for female immigrants in Türkiye.

Women often face unique challenges in the labor market, including discrimination, lack of childcare, and social isolation. Further research is needed to explore how gender dynamics shape the immigrant experience in Türkiye, particularly for refugee women who may encounter additional barriers to employment and social participation.

Additionally, the political and policy dimensions of immigration in Türkiye, though addressed by scholars like Jennissen (2006) and Abdulal (2016), remain an area where further research could offer valuable insights. The current literature tends to focus on temporary protection policies for Syrian refugees, but there is a need to explore the long-term implications of these policies on national immigration frameworks.

For instance, how do temporary protection mechanisms affect social integration and the eventual legal status of refugees in Türkiye? Moreover, what are the political debates and public perceptions surrounding immigration, and how do they influence policy development? A deeper exploration of these questions would contribute to a more nuanced understanding of the evolving political landscape of immigration in Türkiye.

Comparative studies between Türkiye and other countries, as discussed by OECD (2017) and World Bank (2006), also reveal a gap in how Türkiye's immigration policies compare to those of countries facing similar immigration pressures, such as Greece, Italy, and Germany. While comparative research offers valuable insights into the strengths and weaknesses of various policy approaches, there is a lack of comprehensive comparative studies that examine how Türkiye's policies differ from those of other countries with large refugee populations.

Comparative research that focuses on labor market integration, social services, and legal frameworks could help policymakers identify best practices and avoid common pitfalls in managing large-scale immigration.

2.9.4. Contribution of This Research

This research will make a significant contribution to the existing body of knowledge on immigration in Türkiye by addressing the gaps identified in the literature. Specifically, it will:

- Provide longitudinal data on second-generation immigrants, offering insights into the intergenerational transmission of socio-economic advantages or

disadvantages and the long-term effectiveness of integration policies.

- Examine the role of high-skill immigrants in fostering innovation and economic development in sectors that have received limited attention in the current literature.
- Offer a qualitative analysis of the psychosocial impacts of displacement, highlighting the mental health challenges faced by long-term refugees and providing recommendations for improving mental health services in Türkiye.
- Explore the gendered dimensions of migration, identifying the unique barriers faced by female migrants and offering policy recommendations to promote gender equality in migration processes.
- Conduct a comparative analysis of Türkiye's immigration policies with those of other countries, providing valuable lessons for policymakers on how to improve labor market integration, social services, and legal frameworks for immigrants.

By filling these gaps, this research will advance the field of migration studies in Türkiye and provide a foundation for future studies on the socio-economic and psychosocial impacts of immigration. Furthermore, the findings will offer practical recommendations for policymakers to enhance the integration and well-being of immigrants in Türkiye, particularly in the context of ongoing refugee movements and labor market demands.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Methodology

3.1.1 Research Methodology Overview

This section provides an overview of the research methodology used to explore the impact of immigrants on the development and utilization of mega projects in Türkiye . Given the complex nature of the topic, a combination of deductive and inductive methods will be employed to analyze data from multiple sources, including literature reviews, qualitative analysis, and comparative studies. This approach will ensure a comprehensive understanding of the multifaceted impact of immigration on economic development through infrastructure projects.

3.1.2 Deductive Approach and Literature Review

This research relies on a deductive approach to establish a theoretical foundation by reviewing existing literature, statistical data, and governmental reports on the operational and sunk costs of mega projects in Türkiye between 2000 and 2023. By examining academic studies, financial indicators, and relevant economic data, this research compares mega projects in Türkiye to similar projects internationally. This examination allows for the development of a theoretical understanding of the positive economic impacts that immigrants bring to large infrastructure projects. The deductive method, therefore, provides a structured means to link immigration trends with economic outcomes in Türkiye 's infrastructure sector.

3.1.3 Inductive Approach and Qualitative Analysis

Complementing the deductive method, this research applies an inductive approach focused on in-depth qualitative analysis. This includes diverse methodologies such as document analysis, cultural auditing, content analysis, and interpretive inquiry. By employing geopolitical evaluation, narrative auditing, and multi-method qualitative analysis, this research gathers data from a variety of sources.

This approach explores the developmental environment within Türkiye 's economic projects, offering insights into how immigrant contributions support economic growth. Through inductive analysis, the research examines how socio-

cultural dynamics and specific immigration policies impact the sustainability and utilization of mega projects.

3.1.4 Mixed-Method Analysis and Data Interpretation

Using a mixed-method approach that integrates deductive and inductive reasoning, this research provides a holistic understanding of the positive impact of immigrants on Türkiye 's mega projects. This approach prioritizes accurate data interpretation, addressing correlation, causation, and biases to achieve clarity in analysis.

The multi-faceted data interpretation process goes beyond statistical trends, revealing the social and economic dynamics that influence project success. Findings from this research will guide recommendations for immigration policies aimed at enhancing mega projects' economic contributions to Türkiye 's development goals.

3.2. Hypotheses

The following research hypotheses are developed based on the premise that the current user base for mega projects in Türkiye is declining, which may eventually lead to financial deficits for their operation and sustainability. In addition, current immigration policies may exacerbate these operational and cost challenges due to insufficient user engagement.

These hypotheses are informed by comparative demographic data from other countries, which suggest that a diverse and growing population is essential for economic growth and the sustainability of large projects. In alignment with the conceptual and theoretical frameworks discussed in previous chapters, the following hypotheses are presented:

- **Hypothesis 1: Immigrants positively impact the economic development of mega projects in Türkiye by increasing labor market efficiency and consumer demand.**

This hypothesis is grounded in Labor Market Theory and Human Capital Theory, as discussed in the conceptual framework. The role of immigrants as independent variables is crucial here, as they address labor shortages and add specialized skills that contribute to the efficiency and productivity of the workforce.

Additionally, immigrants stimulate local demand, acting as a vital source of consumer demand that supports local businesses and services around mega projects.

Through increased labor participation and consumer spending, immigrants are expected to drive the economic viability and development of these projects.

- **Hypothesis 2: The presence of immigrants enhances the utilization of mega projects, allowing for the distribution of sunk and operational costs across a broader population base, thereby improving financial sustainability.**

This hypothesis draws from Public Goods Theory and Sunk Cost and Operational Cost Theory. Mega projects, classified as public goods, benefit from a broader user base that includes immigrants, who act as both contributors to and beneficiaries of these projects. Immigrants, thus, play a role as mediating variables, influencing how mega projects' operational costs are distributed.

The expanded user base provided by immigrants is anticipated to improve the financial sustainability of these projects by distributing fixed and variable costs across a larger population, which in turn reduces the financial burden on the economy and enhances project viability.

- **Hypothesis 3: Effective immigration policies can significantly influence the flow of immigrants and their integration into the economy, thereby enhancing the development and sustainability of mega projects.**

This hypothesis emphasizes the role of Government Immigration Policies as a moderating variable. Policy decisions can shape the influx and integration of immigrants, directly impacting the effectiveness of their contributions to mega projects. Supportive immigration policies that facilitate labor market access, provide social support, and encourage long-term residency are likely to amplify the positive impact of immigration.

By aligning policies with economic goals, this hypothesis proposes that the economic and social integration of immigrants can be optimized to benefit the development of mega projects in Türkiye . Comparative studies with countries such as the U.S. and EU demonstrate how effective policies can strengthen the economic contributions of immigrants, and this hypothesis seeks to apply similar insights within the Turkish context.

3.3. Data Collection Method

This study employs a data collection method designed to investigate the positive impact of immigration on Türkiye 's mega projects. By using a mixed-method approach that combines deductive and inductive reasoning, the research integrates a diverse array of data sources and analytical techniques.

This ensures a thorough analysis of the economic, cultural, and social dynamics of immigration's influence on infrastructure development in Türkiye . This detailed data collection method aims to produce a comprehensive understanding of how immigration contributes to mega projects in Türkiye .

The findings from this research will be instrumental in crafting policy recommendations that could enhance immigration's role in supporting economic development, as well as in informing future research on the socio-economic impacts of mega infrastructure initiatives. The key components of this approach are outlined below:

3.3.1 Literature Review

The literature review serves as the foundation of this research, synthesizing existing studies on immigration, economic development, and infrastructure projects in Türkiye and beyond. By examining government reports, academic journals, and financial data on mega projects, the review contextualizes Türkiye 's experience with immigration relative to similar global trends.

This review of previous studies, discussed in Chapter 2, identifies the economic roles of immigrants, including labor market contributions and cultural impacts, which are crucial for assessing their role in Türkiye 's infrastructure initiatives. The literature review also highlights gaps in current research and sets the stage for more targeted qualitative analysis.

3.3.2 Qualitative Analysis

Qualitative methods are employed to capture the complex, often subjective aspects of immigration's impact on Türkiye 's mega projects. The study uses multiple forms of qualitative analysis to explore immigration's socio-economic effects on mega projects:

- **Document Analysis:** Government policies, immigration records, and project-specific reports are analyzed to uncover policy trends and their implications for immigrant involvement in mega projects. This provides a detailed understanding of how immigration policies and economic strategies are applied in real-world scenarios.
- **Content Analysis:** Relevant media articles, public statements, and stakeholder interviews are analyzed to understand the social and political dimensions of immigration. This helps reveal public attitudes towards immigration and mega projects, providing insight into potential areas of policy improvement.
- **Interpretive Inquiry:** To investigate cultural and social dimensions, the study applies interpretive inquiry to understand the narratives surrounding immigration's role in economic development. This approach provides a nuanced perspective on immigrant contributions to social integration and community-building around mega projects.
- **Geopolitical Evaluation:** Given Türkiye's strategic geographic location, geopolitical factors play a significant role in shaping immigration patterns and economic policies. The geopolitical evaluation considers Türkiye's position as a bridge between East and West and how this affects immigration dynamics and mega project development.

3.3.3 Comparative Analysis

Comparative analysis is a crucial component of this research, examining Türkiye's immigration policies and mega project experiences alongside other nations, particularly the U.S. and the European Union.

This approach highlights best practices and policy innovations that Türkiye could adopt to maximize the positive impacts of immigration on mega projects. By comparing Türkiye's experiences with countries that have well-established immigration frameworks, the study identifies policy adaptations that could enhance the economic contributions of immigrants.

3.3.4 Data Interpretation:

3.3.4.1 Overview of Immigration-Related Statistics

Accurate data interpretation is essential for discerning the real impacts of immigration on Türkiye's mega projects. This phase of the study differentiates between correlation, causation, and coincidence to ensure robust conclusions. Multiple interpretive techniques are employed to minimize biases and confounding factors:

- **Correlation Analysis:** To establish relationships between immigration variables (such

as workforce participation) and mega project outcomes (such as operational cost reduction), correlation analysis helps confirm statistical links without implying causation.

- **Causal Inference:** Where feasible, causal inference methods are used to identify direct impacts of immigration on economic indicators related to mega projects. This approach supports deeper insights into how immigration policies might influence infrastructure development outcomes.
- **Bias Mitigation:** Recognizing potential biases is vital in qualitative research. This study uses triangulation and validation checks to ensure that findings are accurate and reflective of the broader social context. The use of diverse data sources and analytical methods aids in reducing individual and systemic biases.

3.3.4.2 Qualitative Insights Interpretation

This section delves into the interpretation of qualitative data, focusing on the in-depth analysis of texts and documents relevant to the impact of immigration on Türkiye's mega projects. This stage of analysis emphasizes:

- **Qualitative Content Analysis**

Content analysis will be applied to review texts, reports, and qualitative sources discussing immigration's role. This step uncovers relationships and impacts between variables such as immigration policy and the role of immigrants in infrastructure projects. Through this form of analysis, the study provides a deeper context that aids in understanding the surrounding cultural and social factors.

- **Deductive and Exploratory Interpretation**

Deductive: Building on insights from the literature review, deductive interpretation is used to apply established theories on labor's role in large-scale projects, grounding observations in recognized theoretical frameworks.

Exploratory: Exploratory interpretation, leveraging findings from document analysis and qualitative surveys, presents real-world, field-based examples of immigrant contributions in Türkiye. This method strengthens the practical dimension of the study, adding real-life relevance to theoretical assumptions.

- **Analysis of Social Contexts**

Social and cultural effects are further explored through evaluating how immigration influences social cohesion within Türkiye and affects interactions between local and migrant labor forces. This component sheds light on the broader

societal impacts and highlights the social dynamics arising from immigrant contributions to mega projects.

3.3.5 Mixed-Method Approach Integration

The integration of deductive and inductive methods within this mixed-method framework enables the research to address both theoretical and practical aspects of immigration's impact. Deductive reasoning, applied primarily through the literature review, establishes a conceptual base. Inductive methods, using qualitative data from document analysis and interpretive inquiry, reveal the complex realities of immigrant contributions to mega projects. This approach allows for a dynamic assessment of immigration's impact on Türkiye's economic landscape and infrastructure development, blending theory with empirical evidence.

3.3.6 Data Collection Limitations

While the methodology provides a comprehensive analysis, certain limitations are acknowledged. The reliance on qualitative data, while rich in detail, may limit the generalizability of findings. Additionally, geopolitical and policy shifts within Türkiye and other regions may impact the relevance of comparative insights over time. These limitations are considered in the study's conclusions, ensuring transparency in data interpretation and analysis.

Table 3. Overview of Data Collection Methods for Analyzing Immigration Impact on Mega Projects in Türkiye

(Designed by researcher)

Overview of Data Collection Methods for Analyzing Immigration Impact on Mega Projects in Türkiye		
Data Collection Method	Description	Purpose
Literature Review	Examining existing research, government reports, and financial data related to mega projects and immigration in Türkiye to build a foundational understanding.	To establish a theoretical foundation and identify research gaps related to mega projects and immigration.
Document Analysis	Analyzing policy documents, immigration records, and project reports to understand the application of policies in real-world scenarios and their implications.	To uncover policy trends and their implications for immigration's role in mega projects.
Content Analysis	Reviewing media articles, public statements, and interviews to understand societal and political dimensions, and public attitudes toward immigration and mega projects.	To reveal public attitudes and inform potential areas of policy improvement.
Interpretive Inquiry	Investigating cultural and social dimensions through interpretation of narratives surrounding immigration's role in economic development and infrastructure.	To gain a nuanced perspective on social and cultural contributions of immigrants to mega projects.
Geopolitical Evaluation	Evaluating Türkiye 's geopolitical position and its impact on immigration patterns and mega project development given Türkiye 's location as a bridge between East and West.	To assess how Türkiye 's strategic location affects immigration and infrastructure development.
Comparative Analysis	Comparing Türkiye 's experiences with other countries, like the U.S. and EU, to identify best practices and potential policy adaptations.	To derive insights on best practices and policy recommendations for Türkiye 's mega projects.
Data Interpretation	Differentiating between correlation, causation, and coincidence, and applying multiple interpretative techniques to ensure robust conclusions.	To achieve accurate and credible interpretations by addressing possible biases in data.

3.4. Social Aspects of Immigration

3.4.1 Social Integration and Cultural Influence

The integration of immigrants into Turkish society brings a wide range of cultural perspectives and influences, which shape both the social and economic fabric of the country. According to Abdulal (2016), the process of social integration can present significant challenges due to varying cultural norms among immigrants, particularly those among Syrian refugees.

Practices such as polygamy and child marriage are deeply rooted in certain communities but may contradict Turkish civil law, causing friction and requiring careful, culturally sensitive integration strategies. As Abdulal (2016) observes, "Cultural integration in Türkiye is complex and demands a balance between respecting immigrant traditions and adhering to national legal standards," highlighting the need for targeted programs that bridge cultural gaps.

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD, 2017) further underscores the economic benefits of cultural integration, noting that diversity fosters creativity and innovation, which can lead to economic dynamism in various sectors. Cultural integration initiatives that promote active engagement and mutual understanding between locals and immigrants enhance productivity and cultural enrichment across industries.

Moreover, the International Organization for Migration (IOM, 2020) suggests that cross-cultural engagement programs are essential for reducing prejudice and building cohesive, inclusive communities. These programs support immigrants by offering language training and cultural orientation, equipping them with the tools to adapt more effectively within Turkish society.

A report from Gümüşhane University adds that linguistic and cultural initiatives have proven successful in enhancing immigrants' sense of belonging, while simultaneously facilitating their integration into the local economy (Gümüşhane University, 2020). As noted by researchers, "language training programs not only support personal adaptation but contribute significantly to economic integration, as they open employment avenues" (Gümüşhane University, 2020). Thus, by addressing cultural differences proactively, Türkiye can harness the strengths of immigrant communities, enriching its social and economic landscape.

3.4.2. Challenges in Community Cohesion

The rapid influx of immigrants into Türkiye has introduced unique challenges to community cohesion, especially in urban areas where resources and public services are already limited. As the IOM (2020) points out, urban centers experiencing sudden population surges can suffer from resource strain, resulting in intensified social tensions.

The availability of healthcare, education, and housing often becomes stretched, leaving both immigrant and native communities feeling the impact. The Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM) states that such strains “have exacerbated existing challenges, as cities struggle to provide adequate services to both residents and newcomers” (DGMM, 2023). This competition for resources can intensify perceived divisions, contributing to social fragmentation.

In addition to resource strain, wage competition and job displacement also pose significant risks to community cohesion, particularly in labor markets with high concentrations of low-skilled workers. According to the OECD (2018), competition for low-wage jobs can contribute to tensions between immigrant and local populations, as residents may feel that their employment opportunities are threatened.

Moreover, local Turkish communities often express concerns about social integration barriers, particularly when immigrants cluster in specific neighborhoods. The Heinrich Böll Stiftung Foundation (2022) reports, “The creation of immigrant enclaves can reinforce cultural isolation, making it more difficult for communities to interact and develop a sense of shared identity.”

In response to these challenges, targeted policies are essential for enhancing social cohesion and facilitating community integration. Effective integration policies must address language education and access to social services, as noted by Abdulal (2016) and OECD (2020). Policies that actively promote employment opportunities for immigrants and support vocational training programs can help mitigate the competition in labor markets, ultimately fostering a sense of belonging. Furthermore, community-based initiatives, as recommended by the IOM (2020), play a crucial role in reducing conflicts, enhancing community cohesion, and promoting mutual understanding among immigrants and local residents.

CHAPTER FOUR

FINDINGS AND RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

In this chapter, I present the findings of my research on the contributions of immigrants to the development and sustainability of mega projects in Türkiye . The findings are structured to provide a comprehensive view of how immigration affects key aspects such as labor force availability, economic outcomes, and social dynamics. Utilizing both quantitative data and qualitative analysis methods, as outlined in previous chapters, I aimed to uncover insights that are both statistically grounded and contextually relevant to the Turkish economy and society.

This chapter reflects on demographic, economic, and socio-cultural dimensions and provides comparative insights based on Türkiye 's experiences and those of other countries.

4.2 Findings and Results

4.2.1 Results

The demographic patterns among immigrants in Türkiye are crucial for understanding their contributions to mega projects. The analysis shows a significant concentration of immigrants in urban areas like Istanbul and Ankara, where major infrastructure projects such as the Istanbul Airport and the Marmaray Tunnel require a large workforce.

This trend is supported by the OECD (2017) and ILO (2020), indicating that immigrants tend to settle in regions with more economic opportunities and project density. This concentration highlights the need for strategic demographic planning to optimize workforce allocation in urban environments.

Immigrants play a vital role in addressing labor shortages in sectors like construction and services, often taking on jobs less favored by local workers. Research by Akgündüz et al. (2015) shows that refugees in Türkiye significantly contribute to low-wage sectors, enhancing productivity through both skilled and unskilled labor. This involvement improves project efficiency and cost-effectiveness, facilitating the timely completion of complex projects at lower costs.

A notable segment of the immigrant population possesses advanced skills, which boosts productivity in specialized roles within mega projects. While some immigrants may lack formal education, those with technical expertise are particularly

valuable in high-demand sectors. Tanrikulu (2020) highlights the contributions of immigrant entrepreneurs in urban areas, indicating that skilled immigrants not only enhance project value but also foster innovation and economic diversity. This distribution of skills underscores the importance of targeted policies to attract and retain skilled labor necessary for the sustainability of mega projects.

The economic contributions of immigrants to Türkiye's mega projects extend beyond mere labor provision; they also significantly impact cost management, productivity, and operational sustainability. Immigrant labor helps reduce both initial and operational costs, which are critical for the feasibility and longevity of large-scale infrastructure investments.

Borjas (1995) notes that a diverse labor pool can substantially lower project entry costs, a sentiment echoed by OECD (2017), which states that immigrant labor brings economic efficiency benefits to large public projects.

Case studies of the Istanbul Airport and Marmaray Tunnel illustrate the economic impact of immigrants, showing that these projects benefited from lower initial and ongoing expenses due to immigrant contributions.

Jennissen (2006) argues that structured immigration policies can yield similar economic advantages, reinforcing the idea that optimized labor strategies enhance project sustainability and reduce costs.

Comparative analysis with other countries, such as the United States and EU nations, reveals insights into effective immigration policies that could enhance Türkiye's mega projects. Türkiye's immigration policies are less structured than those of the U.S. and EU, where formalized policies facilitate smoother immigrant integration into the economy. OECD (2017) emphasizes that EU countries often provide structured pathways for skilled immigrants, which could inform policy improvements in Türkiye, particularly for mega projects requiring specialized skills.

The economic contributions of immigrants to Türkiye's GDP and infrastructure development differ from those in the EU, where structured policies enhance workforce stability and investment. OECD (2020) suggests that further policy reforms could allow Türkiye to experience similar benefits, including improved productivity and reduced underemployment through structured integration policies.

Socially and culturally, immigrants significantly influence Türkiye's mega projects. While they bring diversity and enrichment, challenges in integration persist,

including language barriers and limited societal acceptance. ILO (2020) notes that these cultural integration challenges can impact project dynamics and productivity. Promoting social cohesion policies could enhance the positive contributions of immigrants to large-scale projects.

Despite the advantages, immigrants face barriers to accessing public services and community programs, which can hinder their social integration. Addressing these challenges through targeted interventions is crucial for maximizing the social contributions of immigrants to Türkiye's economy and mega projects.

To enhance the benefits of immigration in Türkiye's mega projects, several policy recommendations are proposed. First, reforms that attract skilled labor in key sectors are essential for supporting economic growth.

As highlighted by OECD (2017) and Jennissen (2006), streamlined immigration processes similar to those in the U.S. and EU could improve the retention of skilled immigrants in Türkiye's infrastructure projects. Additionally, offering tax incentives to businesses employing immigrants in critical sectors would encourage greater utilization of immigrant labor, thereby enhancing the efficiency and sustainability of mega projects.

Establishing support systems for immigrants, including access to healthcare, education, and language training, is vital for their integration and the overall success of projects. ILO (2020) emphasizes the importance of these support services in overcoming cultural barriers, which is necessary for Türkiye to fully leverage its immigrant workforce.

In summary, immigrants play a crucial role in the success of Türkiye's mega projects by enhancing labor market flexibility, reducing operational costs, and fostering cultural diversity within project teams. Their contributions, encompassing both skilled and unskilled labor, are essential for maintaining sustainability and cost efficiency in large-scale infrastructure projects.

Furthermore, comparative insights indicate that aligning Türkiye's immigration policies with international best practices could lead to improved social cohesion and better long-term integration outcomes. Despite the evident economic advantages, challenges in social integration—such as access to resources, labor market competition, and community cohesion—underscore the necessity for policies that address both economic integration and social support mechanisms.

By adopting a more comprehensive and structured approach that includes vocational training, language programs, and community engagement initiatives, Türkiye can maximize the socio-economic benefits of its immigrant population. Such a balanced strategy will not only strengthen the foundations of mega projects but also contribute to sustainable growth and long-term stability in Türkiye's infrastructure and urban landscapes.

4.2.2 Results

The results of this study provide strong evidence that immigrants significantly impact Türkiye's mega projects, confirming that immigrant labor enhances the country's economic infrastructure. Through detailed analysis and secondary quantitative data, the findings demonstrate how immigrants contribute to key economic indicators such as GDP growth, employment generation, and regional development.

They are crucial in labor-intensive sectors like construction, agriculture, and services, helping to reduce operational costs and address labor shortages essential for the timely and cost-efficient completion of large-scale projects. Additionally, their presence in urban and rural economies stimulates local markets, increases demand for goods and services, and boosts consumer spending, driving economic growth.

Comparative insights reveal that Türkiye's immigration model not only supports economic resilience but also fosters social and cultural integration. Immigrant contributions to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and entrepreneurship illustrate their role in diversifying the economy, creating job opportunities, and promoting innovation.

These findings underscore the potential of tailored policies and structured support systems to maximize the socio-economic benefits of immigrant labor. By adopting an integrative approach, the results highlight the crucial role immigrants play in advancing Türkiye's infrastructure and securing long-term economic stability, offering a credible perspective on the benefits of immigration within the context of Türkiye's national development strategy.

Immigrants contribute significantly to GDP across multiple sectors, supporting overall economic growth (OECD, 2018). In Türkiye, the inclusion of migrants in industries like construction and agriculture drives productivity, particularly in regions facing labor shortages.

According to a report by the ILO, migrant labor has become indispensable in sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, and services (ILO, 2023). Migrants fill critical labor gaps, especially in seasonal and low-wage work, ensuring the smooth functioning of key economic sectors.

Research from the World Bank shows that migrant workers often stimulate local economies through their spending and demand for goods and services (World Bank, 2024). This effect is evident in Türkiye, where migrant communities contribute to economic activity in cities like Istanbul and Gaziantep, creating ripple effects in local markets.

As highlighted by the Migration Policy Institute, migrants bring diverse skills and work ethics that enhance productivity in sectors requiring flexible labor (MPI, 2023). In Türkiye, these contributions are particularly impactful in construction and textile industries, where productivity demands are high.

The OECD finds that migrant labor adds to long-term economic stability by filling roles in sectors that face chronic labor shortages (OECD, 2023). For Türkiye, this means sustained growth in infrastructure and agriculture, both essential for meeting national development goals.

The European Policy Centre notes that migrants help reduce labor costs, allowing companies to allocate resources to other growth areas (EPC, 2024). This has been observed in Türkiye's infrastructure projects, where migrant labor helps keep operational costs manageable.

Immigrants boost economic development in underserved regions, supporting businesses and job creation (FWD.us, 2024). In Türkiye, this is particularly true in border areas where migrants contribute to local economies through employment in small businesses and trade.

A report by the Joint Economic Committee of the US Congress shows that immigrants contribute billions in tax revenues, supporting public services (JEC, 2024). In Türkiye, migrant tax contributions support healthcare, education, and public infrastructure, especially in densely populated regions.

The OECD observes that immigrants are often entrepreneurs, starting businesses that create jobs and increase competition (OECD, 2023). This trend is evident in Türkiye's urban areas, where immigrant-owned businesses in retail and food services contribute to local economies. According to ILO findings, migrants play a

crucial role in maintaining a strong service sector, especially in low-wage jobs (ILO, 2023). Türkiye's service sector benefits significantly from migrant workers in hospitality, cleaning, and personal care, helping sustain these industries.

The OECD notes that migrant populations increase demand for housing, retail, and transportation, stimulating related sectors (OECD, 2018). In Türkiye, urban areas have seen an uptick in economic activity due to the presence of migrants, supporting small businesses and public transport systems. European Policy Centre data shows that migrant workers are essential to the construction industry in countries with large infrastructure projects (EPC, 2024). In Türkiye, migrants have become integral to major infrastructure projects, such as the Istanbul Canal and Marmaray Tunnel.

In summary, the contributions of immigrants to Türkiye's economy are multifaceted, encompassing GDP growth, employment generation, and regional development, all while addressing challenges in labor shortages and operational costs. Tailored policies and structured support systems are essential to maximizing these benefits and ensuring the long-term stability of Türkiye's economic landscape.

4.3 Limitations of Research

This research offers valuable insights, but it is important to acknowledge certain limitations. Firstly, while the study focuses on the economic and social impacts of immigration, it may not fully address other important dimensions, such as environmental or political effects.

A broader examination of these aspects could provide a more comprehensive understanding of immigration's overall impact. Additionally, the reliance on a limited timeframe may restrict the generalizability of the findings. Future research could adopt a longitudinal approach to track the long-term effects of immigration on mega projects and overall economic development.

Moreover, several limitations may influence the findings and interpretations of this research. Understanding these limitations is essential for maintaining objectivity and ensuring that conclusions are drawn with awareness of potential biases and constraints. The study's methodology and theoretical framework, along with the specific characteristics of immigration's impact on Türkiye's mega projects, contribute to these limitations.

The research is susceptible to biases and confounding factors due to its reliance on existing literature, comparative studies, and demographic data. For instance, while

Labor Market Theory and Human Capital Theory emphasize the economic benefits immigrants provide, biases may arise if data sources disproportionately highlight positive outcomes, neglecting potential challenges. To address these confounding factors, the study incorporates validity analyses and cross-references multiple data sources.

Additionally, the focus on mega projects established between 2000 and 2023 may limit insights into long-term impacts and future trends. Although this timeframe allows for a thorough assessment of recent immigration and economic policies, it might not capture the evolving nature of immigration patterns or the extended economic benefits of mega projects. Given that mega projects often take years or even decades to mature financially, the relatively short study period may underestimate the long-term positive impact of immigrants on infrastructure sustainability. Future research with a longer timeframe could provide a broader perspective.

Furthermore, the study assumes that current immigration trends will remain stable, which may lead to conservative estimates. Immigration policies in Türkiye are influenced by socio-political factors and can change significantly over time, affecting the influx and integration of immigrants. Although the study draws on experiences from the U.S. and EU to propose policy recommendations, the dynamic nature of immigration policies might result in variations in the projected outcomes. Thus, some conclusions may understate the potential positive impact of immigration on mega projects, particularly if policies evolve favorably.

The analysis also excludes potential short-term costs associated with increased immigrant consumption, which could affect the overall findings. While the study primarily focuses on the long-term economic benefits of immigrant labor on mega projects, it does not comprehensively address short-term costs related to integrating immigrants into the economy and labor market, such as social services, training, and housing. By omitting these costs, the research narrows its focus to structural and operational impacts, potentially overlooking important short-term fiscal pressures that may accompany immigration.

Finally, interpreting data presents challenges in distinguishing between correlation, causation, and coincidence. Immigration trends are influenced by various factors, including global economic shifts, regional conflicts, and policy changes, complicating the analysis of their direct impact on mega projects. Although the study

employs a mixed-method approach to mitigate these challenges, isolating the precise effects of immigration on project utilization and economic sustainability remains a complex task.



CONCLUSION

This research comprehensively examines the multifaceted impact of immigrants on the development and utilization of mega projects in Türkiye. By employing a mixed-methods approach, the study integrates qualitative insights with supplemental quantitative data, thereby strengthening its analysis of the economic, social, and cultural dimensions of immigration. The findings underscore the significant role that immigrants play in reducing operational costs, enhancing labor efficiency, and fostering innovation across various sectors, including construction, agriculture, and services.

The demographic analysis reveals how immigrants fill critical labor shortages, which are essential for maintaining progress and ensuring the completion of large-scale projects, addressing key challenges in labor-intensive sectors. Economically, immigrant labor not only lowers initial investment costs but also supports the long-term operational efficiency of projects. By driving regional economic activity, immigrants stimulate local markets, increase consumer demand, and contribute to a broader economic framework that promotes sustainable growth.

Comparative analyses with countries such as the USA and EU highlight best practices in immigration policy and social integration, which can inform policy recommendations for Türkiye. Furthermore, the research identifies the social and cultural contributions of immigrants, noting their positive effects on social cohesion and cultural diversity, which enrich community dynamics surrounding mega projects. However, challenges such as integration barriers, social acceptance, and resource allocation emphasize the need for comprehensive policy reforms.

Through targeted interventions—including language training, vocational programs, and structured pathways to residency—Türkiye can maximize the socio-economic benefits derived from its immigrant population. In summary, the findings affirm the hypothesis that immigration exerts a positive influence on mega projects in Türkiye, fostering economic resilience and supporting long-term national development objectives. Adopting best practices in social and economic integration will ensure that immigrant contributions continue to benefit Türkiye's evolving infrastructure landscape and economic stability.

DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Discussion section offers a thorough analysis of the research findings, connecting them to the broader theoretical framework and existing literature. It examines the economic, social, and policy implications of immigrants' contributions to mega projects in Türkiye, while also evaluating limitations and suggesting directions for future research.

The findings highlight the crucial economic role that immigrants play in enhancing Türkiye's mega projects. They help address labor shortages and provide cost-effective solutions that lower operational costs, thereby supporting the economic stability of these large-scale initiatives.

Immigrants fill essential positions in sectors such as construction and services, contributing not only to project outcomes but also to the wider economy through consumer spending and local demand.

However, this contribution comes with challenges, particularly in terms of labor market competition in low-wage sectors, which can lead to wage suppression. Therefore, balanced labor policies are necessary to mitigate any adverse effects on the local workforce.

In addition to economic factors, the social and cultural dimensions of immigration are also significant. Immigrants bring diverse backgrounds that enrich Turkish society, fostering creativity and innovation essential for the success of complex projects.

However, challenges in social integration persist, including language barriers and cultural differences, which can hinder complete integration. Effective integration programs that provide language training and encourage community engagement are vital to overcoming these challenges and promoting mutual understanding.

Comparing Türkiye's immigration experience with that of the USA and EU countries reveals valuable best practices. Streamlined immigration processes and integration strategies in these regions have enhanced the contributions of immigrants to economic development.

Türkiye could adopt similar practices, such as efficient immigration pathways and expanded social services, to facilitate smoother integration and maximize the impact of immigrants on mega projects.

Finally, the research findings underscore the need for specific policy interventions to enhance the positive impact of immigrants on Türkiye's infrastructure projects. Key recommendations include streamlining immigration procedures, providing economic incentives for companies that employ immigrants, and establishing support systems to meet immigrants' social needs. Additionally, implementing community engagement initiatives, similar to those in European models, could help address cultural barriers. Targeted policies that promote inclusivity and community-based engagement can create a stable and productive environment for both immigrants and local citizens.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, several recommendations are proposed to enhance the positive impact of immigrants on mega projects in Türkiye. These recommendations focus on policy reforms, economic incentives, social support systems, and sustainable integration strategies.

To begin with, it is essential to streamline immigration policies to attract and retain skilled labor necessary for mega projects. Simplifying the processes for obtaining work permits and residency will facilitate the entry of qualified immigrants, which is vital for workforce stability. Additionally, comprehensive integration programs should be developed to include language training, cultural orientation, and social support services.

These initiatives will help immigrants assimilate into Turkish society and the workforce, thereby reducing social friction and improving productivity.

Economic incentives also play a crucial role. Providing tax benefits to companies that employ immigrants in key sectors can stimulate job creation and promote an inclusive economy.

Moreover, investing in vocational training programs tailored to high-demand skills is necessary to equip immigrants for in-demand roles, thereby meeting the needs of mega projects.

Support systems must be established to address the basic needs of immigrants, including healthcare, education, and housing. Ensuring access to these essential resources will improve long-term integration and social stability. Furthermore, promoting community engagement initiatives can help bridge social divides between

immigrants and locals, facilitating smoother integration and reducing cultural conflicts.

It is also important for Türkiye to learn from successful international models of integration. By adopting effective strategies from countries like the USA and EU, Türkiye can enhance its policies on skill recognition and social integration, which are crucial for economic development.

Regular assessments of immigration policies should be implemented to evaluate their impact on mega projects and to adapt them based on current economic and social conditions. This structured monitoring will ensure that policies remain responsive and effective.

Additionally, increasing community awareness and providing psychosocial support can foster acceptance at the community level. Building an integrated support system that includes logistical and financial assistance will aid in the integration of immigrants and promote stability.

Engaging in international partnerships is also vital for supporting resettlement and long-term integration efforts, especially for refugees.

In terms of social integration, it is crucial to develop initiatives that provide educational resources, vocational training, and employment opportunities. Access to essential services, such as healthcare and housing, is critical for successful integration, requiring collaboration across government, the private sector, and civil society.

Lastly, empowering immigrants through educational and vocational support will enable them to contribute to Türkiye's economic and social development. Cohesive communities that embrace diversity can significantly enhance sustainable development.

For successful refugee integration, a comprehensive strategy focusing on language support, mental health services, skill recognition, and community integration is necessary. Language courses, cultural orientation, and mental health support will assist refugees in adapting to their new environment.

Regarding reverse migration from Türkiye to Europe, it is important to recognize that this decision is influenced by various factors, including a lack of social integration, the pursuit of better economic opportunities, political instability, and the impact of natural disasters. Addressing these issues is crucial to retaining migrants in Türkiye.

By implementing these recommendations, Türkiye can effectively leverage the contributions of immigrants to enhance the development and sustainability of its mega projects, driving long-term economic growth and social progress.

By addressing the economic, social, and political implications, Türkiye can maximize the advantages of immigration, thereby strengthening both its mega projects and overall economic resilience. The insights presented here offer valuable guidance for policymakers, highlighting the necessity of comprehensive strategies that harness the unique strengths of immigrants within the framework of Türkiye's national development objectives.



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