Immigration movement for Brazil in the 21st century

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ABSTRACT

The economic crises that developed capitalist countries are at the moment cause thousands of Americans and Europeans to leave their countries in search of better working conditions. These new immigrants are heading to emerging countries like Brazil that by presenting a more solid economy and little affected by the crisis is attracting more and more professionals from developed countries that are likely to fill the gap of lack of qualified professionals in the country.

The objective of this article is to study the high-skilled immigration in Brazil in the 21st century. Through survey data obtained from the Ministry of Labour of Brazil (2012) the largest contingent of immigrants comes from Japan, United States and Europe. However, Europeans make up the largest group of skilled immigrants in Brazil today. We intend to analyze these immigrants, professional activity, in which areas they work in Brazil, gender and salary average. We use reports on the life history of these immigrants with personal accounts about the advantages and disadvantages of working in a country so distant and multiethnic as Brazil.

Although the phenomenon of skilled immigration is not recent, it is little studied and the paper will enrich that study by presenting a single fact in the history of Brazilian immigration with a wealth of amazing data about this new international migratory flow which begins in the 21st century.

Key Words: Brazil, European Immigrants, High-skilled migration.
INTRODUCTION

The broader conceptual framework on the causes of international migration known as the theory of "push and pull" consists in meeting economic, social and political factors that would force people to leave their countries. (Piore, 2008)

As shows Soares (2004), the main factors that favor the migration flows are: a) political instability as dictatorships b) disrespect of human rights that lead to a destabilising effect of society that can lead to forced migration c) high population growth in developing countries – there is no absorption of manpower in those countries, which leads to the emigration to developed countries d) poverty with its structural economic deprivation and income imbalance.

Therefore, the expulsion factors define the areas from which migration flows originate, but are the attraction factors that determine the direction of these flows and the areas which they are intended. Among the factors of attraction, the most important is the demand for workforce, not just industrial but also forces generated by the resulting from the expansion of services, both capitalist undertakings as those that are provided by government agencies.

De uma forma geral, interpreta-se esta demanda por força de trabalho como proporcionado “oportunidades economicas”, que constituem um fator de atração na medida em que oferecem uma remuneração mais elevada que a que o migrante poderia perceber na área de onde provem. (SINGER, 1973, p.41).

During the second half of the 20th century the Brazil underwent severe economic and political crisis. The military coup of 1964 that caused Brazil to live the foundations of a dictatorship for 20 years that resulted in social inequality, inflation and lack of competitiveness were harmful to the Brazilian society. The Brazil has become an immigration country, leading thousands of Brazilians abroad in search of better working conditions.

According to Piore (2008), the ontological question of international migration is primarily labor migration from developing countries to work in developed countries where there is a shortage of workers in the secondary market.

On the other hand there is also the phenomenon of the high-skilled migration.

Although not much studied, the phenomenon of international migration flows of qualified people is not new. There has always been a brain drain from developing countries to the developed.

Skilled immigrants are people with good educational level, generally with higher level or have a wide professional experience in a certain area.

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1 In general, understands this demand for labour force as providing "economic opportunities", which are an attraction factor to the extent that they offer a higher return than the migrant could realize in the area where he stems from.
Kõu et. al (2009) defines 5 areas where these professionals work: executives and managers, engineers and technicians, academics and scientists, entrepreneurs, students. The concept of "push and pull" shows that these professionals feel attracted to regions where there is an increased wage-earning or income and also a great international experience gain.

This brain drain, or rather saying, this brain circulation in the world brings benefits to both the migrants themselves and to the receiving countries, but also the sending countries can profit from the initial outflows of knowledge migrants.

The countries which receive skilled immigrants benefit by the concentration of high-value human capital which generates an increase in productivity and innovation in their economies. On the other hand the countries that "export" these professionals benefit by remittances which provide a high rate of investment in these countries. According to the World Bank (2006), the amount of money that comes in these countries is two times greater than the amount of money received for programs of social assistance. (KÕU et. al. 2009)

Currently, the economic crises that developed capitalist countries are going through at this time are causing thousands of Americans and Europeans to leave their countries in search of better working conditions. These new migrants are heading to emerging countries like Brazil that with a more solid economy and little affected by the crisis is attracting more and more professionals from developed countries that are likely to fill the gap of lack of skilled labour in the country.

The main objective of this work is to analyze this new international migratory flow that happens at the beginning of the 21st century. The fact that Brazil attracts so many experienced professionals of the United States, Europe and Japan is unique in the history of international immigration. Begins a new era where high professional qualification requirement determines the human mobility on the world stage.

Brazil used to be seen in the history of immigration as a major supplier of cheap labour to rich countries and now it is one of the most coveted destinations of skilled immigrants from industrialized countries.

The "push and pull" phenomenon repeats itself once more but the difference is that this time the immigrants are professionals with high educational level from industrialized countries attracted by better job opportunities in developing countries, in this case, the Brazil comes attracting these immigrants by offering good rates of pay and new challenges to increase Brazilian productivity and work in a country where economic activity is expanding and with an unemployment rate of 5.5% which puts Brazil in a situation of full employment.

**METHODS**

We use an extensive bibliographic research on the panorama of international migration with concepts drawn from books like The Birds of Passage by Piore (2008) that points
to the main reasons that lead a person to immigrate to another country. We use the concept of "push and pull" as the main explanatory factor in the history of world immigration.

We start from the book of Paul Singer (1972), Political Economy of Urbanization to give an introduction to capitalist economy which started the immigration process more intense. The book indicates that with the advent of industrialization in the 20th century, population migrate from rural areas to urban areas for better working conditions. This phenomenon lasted to the present day.

To enter the discussion of the focus of our work on Brazilian immigration in the 21st century, we have a qualified immigration concept. Because as we've said it is not a recent phenomenon, because developed countries attract skilled professionals from developing countries by providing better wages and job opportunities. For this we discussed the academic thesis of Anu Kou, A life course approach to high-skilled migration (2009) from Groningen University.

Through an intensive survey data obtained with the Ministry of Labour of Brazil and employment of Brazil and scientific journals, we have exact numbers that demonstrate who they are these new Brazilian immigrants. The work has become richer with data tables that show the exact number of immigrants who arrived in Brazil in the year 2012, where they came from and which positions that they work. We did a survey of comparative wage averages offered in Brazil and in other countries.

RESULTS

When using as primary tools data collected by the Ministry of Labour of Brazil and journals we can sketch a panorama on Brazilian immigration in the 21st century.

It is a skilled immigration and mainly formed by engineers of chemical industry, oil and gas and also specialized in technological innovation. Most of it is made up of men (89.5%) and higher level (54.4%) (FREIRE, ZAIA, 2012).

According to Freire & Zaia (2012), the Brazil has been attracting more and more foreigners to work in the country. From 2008 to 2011, there was an increase of 60% of visas issued to foreign professionals.

| Table 1-authorization granted by the Ministry of Labour |
|-----------------|---------|
| 2008            | 43,993  |
| 2009            | 42,914  |
| 2010            | 56,006  |
| 2011            | 70,524  |

The main destination city is Sao Paulo for being the country's industrial park. It is in Sao Paulo that focuses 51.1% of foreigners in the country.
Following the collected data about the countries where the main immigrants come from, Americans are at the top of the list but when it comes to great executives with leadership positions in companies, Europeans establish a strong presence.

Table 3- 10 countries that sent professionals in 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Professionals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>9,936</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>7,797</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>4,861</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>4,243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>3,079</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>2,682</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>2,362</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>2,111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>2,015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>1,937</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ministry of Labour of Brazil (2011)

The result of a comparative research between the average salaries paid to great Brazilian executives overcomes offered in several countries:

Table 5-average salaried Brazil and from other countries (in brazilian currency) (1U$ = R$2,10)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Commercial Manager</th>
<th>Marketing Manager</th>
<th>Commercial Director</th>
<th>Chief Marketing Officer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>R$ 18.153</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td>R$ 21.977</td>
<td>UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>R$ 15.672</td>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>R$ 13.261</td>
<td>Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>R$ 16.073</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>R$ 15.069</td>
<td>Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>R$ 20.326</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>R$ 15.602</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>R$ 20.000</td>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>R$ 19.500</td>
<td>Brazil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ministry of Labour of Brazil (2011)
According to the report published by the newspaper O Estado (2012), the number of foreigners in Brazil could be much higher if the country diminished the bureaucracy during the process of withdrawal of work visa for foreign professionals. The candidate must be employed in their country of origin and your company needs to send a request to the national immigration Council of Brazil. The possession of this document, the candidate must apply for the entry visa in Brazil but if you come with family, his wife and children may not work. You also need to go through the process of validation of foreign diploma which is very time consuming because the professional must pass exams to test your qualification. This whole process lasts for about two years and costs US $2,500.00 to the foreign worker.

CONCLUSION

We can say that at the beginning of the 21st century, the world faces with a new international skilled migratory flow: Professionals from developed countries migrate to Brazil, an underdeveloped country but that presents a greater economic growth than foreigners and consequently better wages and opportunities for business.

The survey results show that with the lack of the high-skilled labour in the domestic market, Brazil attracts professionals from overseas who are fleeing from the global crisis. Over the past four years the number of work visas has grown by 60%.

The most developed market crisis explains the exodus of skilled professionals from the United States, Europe and Japan. In addition, the growth of the Brazilian economy has raised salaries, in comparison to the rest of the world. According to the data collected by our research, currently Brazil offers compensation and professional growth prospects. Today, commercial or marketing directors are better paid in Brazil than in other countries, as the table 5 shows.

What draws attention in the study is in spite of the Americans and Japanese have excellent professionals and are also undergoing financial crises, Europeans are the champions in number of foreigners settled working in Brazil as well as are those who occupy the highest positions in companies. We conclude that in certain european countries such as Portugal, Spain and Italy the crisis had a greater negative impact on the lives of their population and clearly Europeans benefit from cultural similarities due to rich cultural heritage left by the European colonization in the distant past but that still remains today. The portuguese immigrants get greater benefit from the ease of the use of the Portuguese language than the others which eases the adaptation to work and live in Brazil.

However, some problems threaten the high-skilled immigration flow for Brazil as the lack of an immigration policy as the most developed countries have. The delay for the granting of temporary and permanent visas as well as the foreign diploma validation process that is time-consuming and costly to the professional, are obstacles that do not contribute anything in the process of innovation of Brazilian industry mainly in the
fields of energy and transport, where the presence of these foreign skilled workers is crucial to improve its competitiveness.

REFERENCES


PIORE, Michael J. Birds of Passage: Migrant Labor and industrial societies. Cambridge University Press. 2008, New York, USA.


