

Return Migration and Development in Morocco

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1-Introduction

- Important phenomenon in Morocco: Moroccan abroad=3.5/4 millions; more than 10% of the population; half of the Moroccan households involved.
- 85% to Europe; but more new emigrants and more skilled to North America.
- Remittances= 9% of GDP in 2007, but only around 7% in 2008-2012.
- Few returns in the past, but potentially more recently because of the effect of current economic crisis.
- Few initiatives to help integrate and reinsert returnees in the Moroccan labour market have been implemented.

This paper aims to analyse:

- The change in Moroccan migration and return**
 - Return migration : flows and profiles**
 - Return migration: activity and entrepreneurship**

2-International migration in Morocco: An overview(1)

- Moroccan emigration pattern to Europe changed since mid seventies ;
- from:
 - temporary and circular **to** permanent;
 - some main rural regions(North-East and South-West) **to** the whole territory;
 - the disadvantaged groups and young men **to** the whole population;
 - unskilled and non-educated **to** skilled and educated.

2-International Migration in Morocco:An overview(2)

- **Circular migration till mid Seventies:**

Migration duration for returnees was 9.2 years in average.

But re-emigration after return was possible:25% of returnees re-emigrate,12.3% once,5.2% twice and 7.5% three times or more.

The main reason for emigration was a higher income (and not to look for a job:54% vs 35%).

The two main reasons for return :to work/have an activity in Morocco(46%) and the end of the work contract (39%) .

2-International migration in Morocco: An overview(3)

- **Permanent migration from mid Seventies :**

Migration duration become longer: 18 to 22 years in average (for migrants who still abroad).

The main reasons for emigration are first economic ,69% (find a job 29% and higher salary 27%) and second familial, 11%(to join the family).

The main reasons for return are retirement (41%),familial problems (17%) and health problems (10%) .

3. Return Migration(1) : flows and profiles

Flows

- **Return migration is not important in Morocco...till recently.**
- **Return intention versus effective return** :the difference depends on migration pattern ; could indicate trend of return: intention,82% in 1998 and 65% in 2005; returns,less than 10%.
- **The 2004 Population Census** shows that return migration is stable since the 90s: around 33000 returnees a year, less than one percent of the Diaspora and slightly less than the new emigrants: 38000 a year.
-But the things are changing since 2008 :less emigrants , more returnees (but no evidence till now).

3. Return Migration(2) : flows and profiles

Profiles:Demography

- 63% of returnees are men
- 89% reside in urban areas
- Are older than the Moroccan population (22.3% versus 8% are 60 years and more) and have fewer children (1-14 years) 12.6% versus 31.3%.

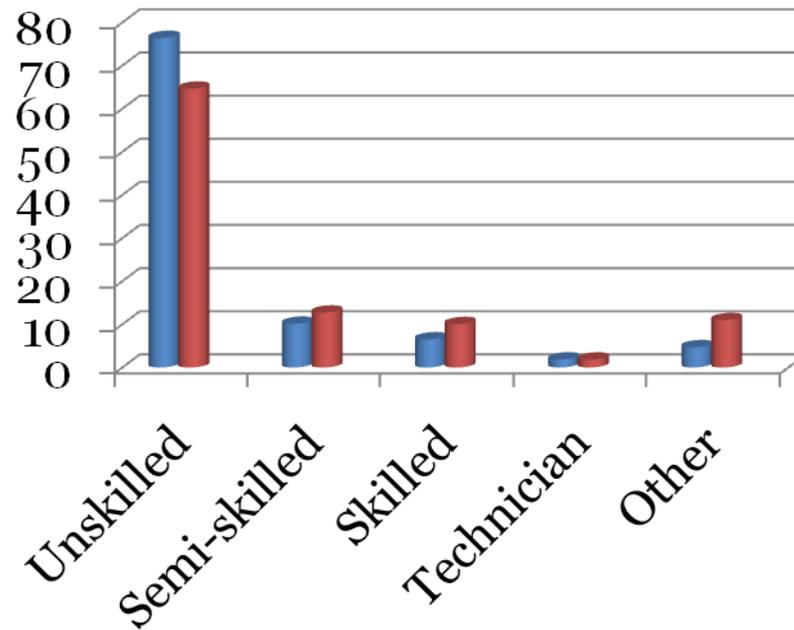
3. Return Migration(3) : flows and profiles

Better Profiles: Education

- **Have higher level of education than that of the population:**
- Less illiterates (21.7% versus 43 %);
- More with secondary level (35.2% versus 22.7%);
- Much more with higher education (38% versus 5%).

3.Return Migration(4): flows and profiles

Better Profiles: Skills (blue:before migration;red:after return)



4. Return Migration and Entrepreneurship (1)

- The activity rate of return migrants is definitely higher than the average of the Moroccan population: 46.8% against 35.9%.
- The employment status of returnees shows a significant proportion of entrepreneurs, 35.5% (12% employers and 23.5% self-employed) versus 31.9% (1.8% and 31.9 %) among non-migrants.

4. Return Migration and Entrepreneurship (2)

- 28.2 percent of returnees invested in a non-housing project (HCP2006; 86% of all Moroccan migrants invest in housing, HB2008).
- Sectors of investment: 70% in trade and services (39% & 28%), 15% in industry and 12% in agriculture.
- Micro and small projects: 90% less than 10 persons and 45% one or two persons.
- Self-financing rate: 86%; Bank credit: 9%.

4.Return Migration and Entrepreneurship(3): Determinants of entrepreneurship

- Main factors:
- 1. Individual characteristics before migration (employer or self employed; level of education and skills which usually become better during migration) ;
- 2.Migration duration and own savings.

5. Conclusion

- Contribution of return migration to the development of Morocco limited because return migration was limited till recent years.
- More returns in the last few years as an effect of the current economic crisis. Prospects ?
- Policy implications : need of a return migration policy (for the migrant project and for his family) to maximise the impact of return migration on development.