

The Effect of Migration of Villages to Towns; Case Study of Shahedshar, a City in Shahriar, Iran

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ABSTRACT: Besides its positive impact on economy, society and culture, the development of large villages into towns can leave unintended harmful consequences against the residents of those regions. One of the most important issues of major cities involves the migration management in small towns surrounding the metropolitan areas. The population has dramatically grown in the wake of intensified migration to rural villages in the outskirts of metropolitan areas. As the population surpasses the limit specified by the Iranian Ministry of Interior, the rural villages gradually become a city. Located in Shahriar (Tehran), Shahedshahr is one of such new cities emerging as a result of expanded villages bordering Tehran. On the basis of the Iranian geographical divisions in 1997, Shahedshahr turned from a small town in the outskirts into a rural identity close to the metropolis of Tehran. This study attempted to discuss the effects of urbanization on increased migration to such regions and the mutual effects of migration on the development of Shahedshahr. Moreover, the consequences of urbanization and migration in the region were evaluated from the perspectives of two spectra of Shahedshahr citizens (natives and migrants to the city) covering several problems such as economic, social, geographical and cultural benefits. Finally, it was analyzed how incentives such as access to employment, better incomes and access to facilities, services, education etc. have escalated the trend of migration to the region. This is an applied, descriptive-analytical, field research, where the data were collected through desk review. The data were then analyzed through descriptive statistics (mean, standard deviation, etc.) and inferential statistics (Chi-square, Cramer V_T_TEST). The population comprised the entire household inhabiting Shahedshahr according to Iranian Census 2013, i.e. 21,503 citizens. Based on the Cochran's formula, the required sample size was obtained to be 400 households. The findings demonstrated there is a relationship between migration in the area and several factors such as demographic variables, geographical origin of migrants, the problems of regions of origin and expectations involving hopes for access to employment, welfare, educational, service facilities etc. A better understanding of the relationship may harness the unwanted trend of migration to the city and provide actions for tackling the problems caused by soaring migration to Shahedshahr.

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INTRODUCTION

Migration is one of the most important demographic challenges of today's urban communities. Migration not only affects the size and growth of the population, but it also leaves significant changes in the construct and distribution of the population (Ghasemi Ardhayee and Hosseini Rad, 2008). The rural-urban migration in recent years has been grown unprecedentedly. This trend has created numerous problems for societies of origin and destination. The rural-urban migration is one of the most important types of migration. This type of migration is a major factor contributing to urban sprawl and urbanization growth, leaving significant impacts on rural economy, social life and labor markets in the cities (Abbasi 2008). According to experts, one of the most important reasons for the ever-increasing growth of migration lies in the extreme concentration of job opportunities and the higher level of social welfare in the host city, since agriculture as the dominant activity in rural areas alone cannot supply

sufficient employment and income for the rural population (Langroodi Motee and Najafi Kani, 2011). In most communities, the villagers are in less desirable condition than the urban settlers in terms of employment and welfare. The villagers during childhood had less access to education, food and health care. During adulthood, they seldom received proper education and training (Langroodi Motee and Shamsaie 2009). Despite the shortage of work, income, poverty and destruction of grounds for agricultural and livestock production, there are no other choices for the villagers but to migrate to cities. Fragmentation of land ownership, unequal distribution of land and other productive assets (e.g. agricultural loans and bank credit) have been effective in increasing poverty and migration to cities (Oberoi, 1991). In addition, rapid and inappropriate use of capital-intensive technology rather than user-friendly technology in the villages of the Third World has played a key role in escalation of migration. The concentration of employment-generative manufacturing units in the cities, and lack of attention to

"localization of development" have led to a situation where the development achievements are made based on the experiences of other countries go, while development must rely on the native resources and local individuals, i.e. harmonious with the environment and relying on the capability of a society responsible for promoting the development (Langroodi Motee, 2003).

According to statistics available from 1957 to 2006, a total of 819 cities have emerged in Iran. From 2006 until 2011, 319 villages turned into cities. Of this number, 25 cases were newly constructed cities emerging around metropolitan areas aiming to attracting surplus population, but the rest were villages upgraded to cities for several reasons, such as: Demand of the local population, unique geographic location, political situation, population growth and approval of the Ministry of Interior and the government political-defense commission. Under Article 4 of the Iranian Geographical Divisions Law, "the district centers and the villages qualified under Article 4 and other regulations can be recognized as a city, no matter what population size, so long as they entail 4000 citizen at low density and over 6000 citizen at average density "(Office of Divisions, 2006). In another legislation, certain large villages functioning as center to other villages can under certain conditions become a city. At the end of 1999, according to the same legislation, 100 central villages across the country became a city regardless of the criteria of population size. The region under study is also one of the newly constructed subsidiary cities in Tehran. It officially became a city back in 1997. Shahedshahr began to benefit from municipal services, turning into a center for migrants receiving in recent years a portion of the surplus population from Tehran.

Statement of problem

Before becoming a city, the region under study was a rural area belonging on map to Shahriar. By reaching the threshold of the target population specified by the Ministry of the Interior, however, it became a city in pursuance of the Development Policy for small towns across the outskirts of metropolises in 1997. The geographical changes led to an unprecedented growth in migration rate into the region. The opportunities for employment in manufacturing and service centers around Tehran and Karaj, the industrial parks, factories and workshops on the outskirts of the metropolis inevitably left an impact on the growth of the migrant population. It ultimately made migration the most important challenge for urban planners in Shahedshahr. This study attempted to examine the dimensions and impact of migration on the trend of urbanization of Shahedshahr, seeking to answer the following questions:

1. To what extent has the migration flow over the last few decades changed the size and physical structure

of the city? And how have these changes left implications for the study area?

2. What factors have contributed to the tendency of migrants to move into this area, and how migration and urbanization have influenced the lifestyle of the natives and migrants to Shahedshahr?

3. What are the opportunities and challenges of migration and urbanization in the region, and what is the capacity of the region for accepting new migrants?

Review of Literature

In recent years, the phenomenon of migration and its role in the demographic shifts of towns and villages in Iran have constituted the subject matter of numerous studies. For instance, H. Taherkhani in his research titled "transforming villages into city (glance at a policy)" divided the criteria stipulated by law concerning the rural-urban transformation into four categories as follows: 1. Population 2. Structural 3. Service availability, and 4. Range and mechanism of connection with the sphere of influence (Taherkhani, 1999). In a thesis titled "village to city transformation and its role in rural development", Hassan Izadi Kharameh concluded that cities as the result of conversion of rural areas entail potential and actual development, capable of increasing employment opportunities and reducing undesirable migration and provision of services needed by the rural people (Izadi Kharameh, 2001). Mohammad Hossein Ziaee Tavana and Shahram Amir Entekhabi composed an academic paper titled "The process of transforming village into city", where it was found out Expansion of rural-urban have to a certain extent filled the gap between urban service centers, and the newly constructed cities have been effective in non-agricultural employment and reinforcement of business services, education and health administrative within their sphere of influence (Ziaee Tavana and Entekhabi, 2007).

In another study, researchers concluded that the conversion of Ajieh into city was effective in the consolidation of its population and attracting population of surrounding villages (Seifollahi, 2008). Ghadir Fayrouznia et al. wrote in an academic research that the integration of villages has consequences such as marginalization, destruction of agricultural lands, urban population growth, rupture of physical textures, environmental problems and urban disorganization across the metropolitan areas (Fayrouznia et al., 2011). The findings of another study suggested that transformation of rural areas into city increase the satisfaction of the living location, increased interest in staying at the residence, higher hope to improve the living conditions and increase resident satisfaction with services provided and population stabilization and reduction of migration to these areas (Barghi et al., 2011). In another study titled "analysis of the effects of rural-urban trend", the conclusion was that

development of small towns and villages into cities as a place-based strategy can play an important role in maintaining social justice and providing the villagers with basic services and infrastructure (Taheri et al., 2011). Furthermore, the researcher figured out in a PhD-adapted article that the highest social and environmental factors contributing to stability of rural population are lack of motivation and hopelessness, lack of irrigation water, lack of educational and cultural facilities, inadequate and affordable housing, respectively (Langroodi Motee et al., 2012). Migration is an interdisciplinary subject within many branches of humanities, sociology and economics. There are various views and opinions, each focusing on specific examples in the field of migration not as in its entirety but rather as in the abstract form and through specific perspectives (Zanjani, 2001).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

This was a descriptive-analytical study in methodological terms. The population included all residents of Shahedshahr, composed of residents prior to urbanization and people who moved in the city from the surrounding villages. The permanent settlement in Shahedshahr was considered as a criterion for membership in the population. According to the latest official statistics, the population of the region in 2013 was 21,503 people. The sample size was determined based on Cochran's formula to be a total of 377 people. In order to lift possible shortages in returning the questionnaires and strengthening the credibility of the findings, 23 individuals were added to the total number, i.e. 400 questionnaires were distributed among respondents. Having been gathered through survey, the data were analyzed by descriptive statistics, the inferential results of which were then presented in distribution tables and graphs. In the section involving the hypotheses testing, the first two hypotheses were compared in a descriptive procedure). The statistical relationship between migrants and natives was examined through the chi-square test. Moreover, the mean values of the two group *migrants* and *natives* were compared through the T-test. The correlation level and consistency between the minor variables were evaluated through the V Kramer, phi consistency index and F test.

Geographical area under study

Shahedshahr is a newly constructed city belonging to Shahriar, about 40 kilometers southwest of Tehran (Azadi Square). Adjacent with the urban boundaries of District 18 and 19 in Tehran, the city is located 12 kilometers south of Shahriar. It is regarded as one of the eight newly established central cities becoming a city according to national divisions and demographic traits in 1997. Shahedshahr is located in the south of Shahriar and south-

west of Tehran, at latitude 34-35 degrees north and 51 degrees east. Until 1998, Shahriar was considered one of the major parts of Karaj. In the same year, it was recognized as an independent city under government legislation (Hojabri and Faraji, 2006).



Figure 1. The geographical location of Shahedshahr

The study area consists of several villages including Darazeh, Shahsavari, Aliabad, Mahmoudabad and Khalajabad. As the mentioned villages joined together, the core of the city was formed; the rural area obtained an urban identity and eventually turned into a city called Shahedshahr, where migration began to take place. The demographic texture of the city is composed of both natives and migrants. The natives are mostly residents of villages that built the initial core of the city, while the migrants are composed of residents of Tehran, Alborz and other regions in Iran.

Table 1. How demographic traits evolved in Shahedshahr over population census in 1977, 1986, 1996, 2006 and 2011

Span	1977	1986	1996	2006	2011
(Shahedshahr)	2141	5560	14950	18855	21503
	people	people	people	people	people

Source: Authors (2014)

Currently, the area is still considered one of the most marginalized demographic hubs for attracting overflow of immigrant population from metropolitan Tehran and Karaj. Owing to its advantage for economic, social and cultural situation, Shahedshahr is more attractive in terms of migration as compared to other cities.

DISCUSSION

The statistical results obtained from the research tool were processed through SPSS, indicating that 56.3% were male and 43.4% were female. Of these, 77% were married and 19% were single and 4% were divorced or widows. The age composition of the population shows that 7.3% ranged 15-20 years, 31.2% ranged 21-30 years, 32.2% ranged 31-40 years, 21.2% ranged 41-50 years, and 8.1% ranged 51-70 years. The education level of the sample indicated that about 30.6% had university degrees (Diploma to Ph.D.), about 60.8% were educated within

secondary to Diploma, and 7.3% had primary school education, and only 1.3% was illiterate. The examination on income status as one of the most important parameters revealed that about 65% of the sample has a monthly income below a million tomans and only about 5% of people has monthly income of 2 to 4 million tomans. The monthly income of 29.8% of migrants was 1 to 2 million

tomans. The results of the previous location of the migrants indicated that the greatest and smallest portion of the migrants to Shahedshahr were from Azarbaijan and Ardebil (21.9%) the Northern provinces (4.3%), respectively. The previous residence of other migrants can be seen in Table 3 below.

Table 2. Frequency distribution of sample migrants examined based on previous residence (Source: authors, 2014)

No.	Previous residence of migrant - previous province	Number	Percentage
1	Tehran	32	17.1
2	Tehran and Alborz	27	14.4
3	Yazd and other central Iranian provinces	28	15
4	Zanjan and Hamedan	20	10.7
5	Azerbaijan and Ardebil	41	21.9
6	Northern provinces (Gilan and Mazandaran)	8	4.3
7	Khorasan provinces	10	5.35
8	Kermanshah and Lorestan	11	5.9
9	Other Iranian cities	10	5.35
	Total	187	100

Examination on the migration history of the sample in Shahedshahr revealed that 65.5% of the people had migrated 10 to 28 years ago, considering themselves already the natives. The migration history of about 21.8% of the samples was 5-10 years, while 12.7% had migrated to the city about 1 to 5 years ago. The results of evaluating the previous origins of migrants in Shahedshahr indicated that 33.3% of the sample used to live in a village, while 66.7% used to reside in another city.

About 40.6% of the sample considered their intention as to settle permanently in the city, while 3.22% of them viewed the city as a temporary residence planning to finally return to their hometown. The main purpose of 37.1% of them was eventually to settle in Tehran and Karaj.

As for the pattern or practice of migration, 20.3% of the sample migrants considered their decision optional, while 45.7% of them migrated to abide by and comply with the householder. Moreover, 14.2% of the sample considered them migration due to marriage and 12.2% included people who migrated to the city in other ways such as education, employment, administrative transport, etc. Evaluation of the effect of obedience to family's migration to the city showed that 60% of these people were consequential migrants. Examination of education level demonstrated that 67.4% of the sample migrants have secondary school literacy, while 24.5% of them had high school to Diploma level. The share of people with bachelor and higher education was 7.7%.

As for the marital status of migrants moving to the city, almost 82.7% of migrants were married during migration, while 17.3 were single during migration. The results suggested that more than 67% of migrants to this

city are facing lack of amenities, services, education, health etc. Also, more than 10% of them are grappling with poverty and unemployment. More than 14% of these people are faced with cultural problems and insecurity.

Concerning the effects of increased migrant population in Shahedshahr, 52.6% of respondents saw problems such as relentless population growth, shortages and reduced access to amenities, the spread of unemployment, lack of drinking water, rising rents and the price of housing and land, cultural and social problems of insecurity and disorder, while 47.2% deemed the increase in population due to migration as a factor contributing to prosperity and growth for development of the region.

As for the capacity to absorb new migrants, 51.3% of respondents believed that Shahedshahr can accommodate more migrants. However, 25.7% of them believed that the city does not have the capacity to absorb more migrants. The remaining 23% were unaware of the situation. In relation to the impact of construction cost and price of rental housing in the city (compared to Tehran and Karaj) on increasing migrant population, 32.5% of the sample estimated the impact of such issue on their migration and continued stay in the city quite improbable, while 67.5% of the samples considered the impact of these variables on migration or continued residence in Shahedshahr at medium, high or very high levels.

About 13.3% of the sample considered the impact of increased migration to the region very low and low, while approximately 14.6% of the subjects considered it average. Nevertheless, about 72.1% of the sample considered the impact of increased migration to the region high and very high. In relation to the impact of urbanization on the increased land prices, housing and

rent, 80.4% of the sample considered the impact of these factors on the price of land, housing and rent high and very high, while 8.6% considered it very low and low. Moreover, 11% of these people considered the impact of these factors on the price of land, housing and rent at average level. In terms of satisfaction with transformation of the region into city, about 68.3% of the sample was content with the urbanization, while 11.1% were dissatisfied with the trend. As for the remaining 20.6% of

the respondents, it made no difference whether Shahedshahr became a city or persisted as a rural area at outskirts of Tehran. Concerning the impact of urbanization on employment in the city, the family members were asked within three-option question whether or not urbanization of Shahedshahr increased the chance of having a job for them or their family members. About 52.7% of respondents answered yes to this question and 47.3% gave negative response.

Table 3. Frequency distribution of the urbanization effect of Shahedshahr on the indicators of citizen welfare

No.	Satisfaction level	Effect of urbanization on higher accessibility to employment inside Shahedshahr		Effect of urbanization on higher welfare and urban services		Effect of urbanization on accessibility to financial and credit services, banks, funds, etc.	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
1	Very low	70	17.7	47	11.8	29	7.3
2	Low	108	27.3	127	32.1	126	31.9
3	Average	76	19.3	64	16.2	67	17
4	High	109	27.6	119	30.1	128	32.4
5	Very high	32	8.1	39	9.8	45	11.4
6	Total	395	100	396	100	395	100

Source: Authors (2014)

The effects of migration on urbanization of the area were evaluated through several factors and indicators formulated within three main hypotheses. The results were provided descriptively in the form of the first two hypotheses and the third hypothesis involved statistical analysis as follows:

Evaluation of first hypothesis

Approximately 14.1% of the sample considered marriage the reason for their migration to the city, whereas 86.9% of these people mentioned this factor ineffective in their migration. Therefore, it can be said that although marriage was not an important factor in the migration to this area, it certainly had a positive effect on migration of 14.1% of the sample. As for the consequential migration of approximately 45% of the sample who had no role in the decision to migrate and had to comply with the family, there were mostly women and children who were adolescents during migration. Therefore, it can be argued that obedience from the householder is one of the migration factors of women and children in Shahedshahr.

Concerning the impact of jobs and income on migration on in Shahedshahr, 29.2% of the samples considered the role of job prospect very low in migration and 20.3% considered it low. However, 50.5% of the people mentioned the impact of this factor on their migration at medium, high or very high levels. Hence, hopes for better jobs and higher incomes in Tehran or Karaj was one of the migration factors to Shahedshahr,

impacting on half of the migrants at average to very high levels.

In relation to the role of continuing education in urban migration, about 46.8% of the sample considered the role and impact of these factors on family migration at moderate to very high, whereas approximately 53.2% considered the role of this factor in their migration as low or very low. Therefore, access to higher education is one of the factors that influence the migration of more than 46% of the people living in Shahedshahr.

About 39.8% of the sample considered the role of the benefiting from welfare, health and medical care in Tehran or Karaj on migration as very low or low, about 18.8% considered the impact at average level, and about 41.4% considered it at high or very high levels. According to the results of the statistical data mentioned in the first hypothesis, migration to Shahedshahr was associated with economic, social and cultural factors respectively as the following;

- A) Taking advantage of welfare, health care in Tehran and Karaj;
- B) Education and access to higher education (university) in Tehran and Karaj;
- C) Obtaining better jobs and higher incomes in Tehran and Karaj;
- D) Obedience by the head of household (women, children);
- E) Getting married (mostly for women)

Evaluation of the second hypothesis

About 9.9% of the sample under study mentioned the cheaper the price of land, housing and rent in the city (compared to Tehran and Karaj) in their preference as very low, while 12% of the samples considered role of these factors at low level. However, about 78.1% considered the role of this factor in the decision and choice (preference) for migrating to Shahedshahr at medium to high levels. Hence, cheaper prices of housing, land and rent in Shahedshahr (compared to Tehran and surrounding towns) was one of the preferences of the migrants to this city.

Approximately 32.6% of the samples estimated the role of "cheaper land prices and housing rent" for their continued settlement in Shahedshahr at low or very low levels. Nevertheless, about 67.4% of these people considered the role of this factor in their continued stay in Shahedshahr at moderate to very high levels. Hence, the role of this factor in persistence of migrants in residence was approved.

About 43% of the samples considered the role of this factor in their migration to the region as low and very low, while 57% of them believed it plays an important role in their migration to the region is at very high level. As a result, those who deemed the factors convenient commute to metropolitan Tehran and Karaj contributing to their migration as medium, high and very high are about 0.14 more than those who considered such factor at lower levels. Therefore, the role of these factors in the migration of migrants to this city was approved.

About 64.4% of the samples considered the role of convenient commute from Shahedshahr to the city of origin for migrating at low or very low level, while 35.6% considered the impact at moderate to very high levels. Hence, convenient commute and traffic of migrants to the cities of origin plays no key role in their decision-making on migration to Shahedshahr, although it influenced the decision of the minority migrants.

About 56.9% of the sample under investigation regarded the above factor in their migration to Shahedshahr at high and very high levels, while about 9.1% of them mentioned the role of this factor at moderate level. About 34% of the sample under investigation considered the impact of these factors on their migration as low or very low. Therefore, this factor contributed to the decision made by about 66% of the sample.

According to the analytical results obtained by comparing the frequency distribution tables in the second hypothesis, it becomes clear that preference of Shahedshahr over other cities by the migrants was associated with the following factors:

A) Cheaper land prices, housing and commercial real estate and residential rent as compared to Tehran and Karaj;

B) Easy access to Tehran, Karaj, Shahriar and other nearby towns

C) Promoting and encouraging the relatives of migrants and those who had previously migrated to the region;

D) Ease of access to areas of origin for migrants with regard to communication facilities (such as the highway network, railway and airport facilities) available in Tehran and surrounding areas.

E) low-cost of housing, land and rent in persistence of migrants

Third hypothesis testing

As for evaluating the minor variables of the third hypothesis, 7 indicators were chosen, including age, marital status, education level, employment status, level of income, tendency to migrate from Shahedshahr and the level of satisfaction with life in the city. The following table shows that about 80% of migrants were aged less than 40 years old and 20% over 40 years old. Nevertheless, the native inhabitants of Shahedshahr were about 53% under 40 years and 47% over 40 years. Hence, the percentage of people under 40 years of age among migrants was 27% more than the natives. According to the chi-square test, the chi obtained at 4 degrees of freedom was 32 which is much higher than alpha level at 0.1. According to the statistics, there is a significant relationship between age and migration to Shahedshahr at probability of 99%. Concerning the marital status of migrants and natives, the natives over 14 years were about 17% and migrants over 17% were about 26% living in celibacy. This represents the higher percentage of celibacy among migrants. Since the single individuals can more easily migrate, the celibacy could be effective in compelling people to migrate to Shahedshahr. According to the chi-square test, however, the chi-square value obtained at 1 degree of freedom is was 3.271, which is lower than the Chi at 1 degree of freedom and Alpha of 0.5 (i.e. 3.841). The relationship between marriage and migration is not statistically significant and H_1 is rejected.

Concerning the relationship between indigenous or migrant and education level, the natives hold a high school degree by approximately 23.8%, while the migrants are below high school education by about 35.2%. Furthermore, the share of people over high-school degree among natives and migrants were 76.2% and 64.8%, respectively. This represents a slight difference in educational levels between the two groups. According to the chi-square test, the number obtained at 1 degree of freedom was 4.56, which is greater than the Chi value at 1 degree of freedom 1 and Alpha of 0.044 (i.e. 3.841).

In relation to permanent employment, about 55.8% of migrants had permanent jobs and 44.2% had temporary jobs. Nevertheless, the natives had permanent jobs by about 72.3% and 27.7% had temporary jobs. In other words, the natives of Shahedshahr had more permanent jobs by 16% than the migrants. According to the chi-

square test, the number obtained at 1 degree of freedom was 5.258, which is greater than the Chi value at 1 degree of freedom 1 and Alpha of 0.5 (i.e. 3.841). Therefore, there is a significant relationship at probability of 0.95 between migrant or native residents in Shahedshahr and their access to permanent employment.

Concerning the relationship between the indigenous or migrants and income level, about 68.9% of the migrants who had a monthly income of 200 to one thousand tomans, while about 31.1% of them are a million and one hundred thousand tomans to a monthly income of 4 million tomans. However, about 56.8% of the employed natives earned two hundred tomans a month up to one million tomans, while 43.2% earned more than a million and one hundred thousand tomans to 4 million tomans. Hence, the natives had more income by 12.1% than migrants ranging from one million and one hundred thousand tomans to 4 million tomans. According to the chi-square test, the number obtained at 1 degree of freedom was 3.953, which is greater than the Chi value at 1 degree of freedom 1 and Alpha of 0.5 (i.e. 3.841). Therefore, there is a significant relationship at probability of 0.95 between migrant or native residents in Shahedshahr and their access to income over one million and one hundred tomans.

In relation to migrants who have a tendency to migrate from Shahedshahr, those with high and very high tendency to migrate from the city are almost 59.3%, which is 31% more than the natives who are willing to migrate at high and very high levels. Conversely, the natives who want to migrate at low or very low levels from Shahedshahr to elsewhere be about 52.5%, which is

about 26% more than the percentage of migrants who want to migrate from Shahedshahr at high and very high levels. According to the chi-square test, the number obtained at 2 degree of freedom was 26.5, which is far greater than the Chi value at 2 degree of freedom 1 and Alpha of 0.1 (i.e. 9.21). Accordingly, there is a significant relationship with a probability of 99% between "indigenous or immigrant," and tendency to migrate from Shahedshahr.

The evaluation of the relationship between indigenous or migrants and satisfaction with life in Shahedshahr indicated that satisfaction among 7.1% of the natives and 17.3% of the migrants were at low and very low levels. Nevertheless, 93.4% of natives and 82.7% of migrants were satisfied with living in Shahedshahr by average, high and very high levels. According to the chi-square test, the Chi value obtained with 2 degrees of freedom was 26.5 2, which far larger than the square with 2 degrees of freedom and alpha of 0.1 (i.e. 11.228) Accordingly, there is a significant relationship with a probability of 99% between "indigenous or immigrant," and satisfaction with living in Shahedshahr. According to the V Cramer, the two variables "indigenous or immigrant" and "life satisfaction in Shahedshahr" are correlated with a probability of 99% at about 0.30.

Assessment of third hypothesis

As shown in the table for assessment of the statistical indicators, all the indicators except for marital status are correlated with being whether migrant and native in Shahedshahr:

Table 4. Assessment of third hypothesis

Variables	Results of Chi-square test						
	Chi-square number	Alpha coefficient	Value	df	Sig	Lower expected frequency	Proved hypothesis
Age	13.277	0.1	32	4	0.000	7.35	H ₁
Marital status	3.841	0.5	3.271	1	0.071	23.23	H ₀
Literacy	3.841	0.5	4.056	1	0.044	31.65	H ₁
Employment status	3.841	0.5	5.258	1	0.022	25.59	H ₁
Income	3.841		3.953	1	0.047	33.53	H ₁
Tendency toward migration	9.210		26.500	2	0.000	15.32	H ₁
Satisfaction with life	9.210	0.1	11.228	2	0.004	12.72	H ₁

CONCLUSION

The results show that demographic and physical shifts in Shahedshahr were influenced by the urbanization of villages and migration, which have led to a dramatic increase in rural to urban migration over recent years, to

the extent that a significant percentage of migrants now originate from Tehran. The most important factors affecting the migration process to Shahedshahr were examined through gaining information about demographic composition of migrants to the city based on the regions of origin. Without considering such a parameter, any

understanding of the nature of migrations to the city would be insufficient. The composition (Table 5) makes it clear that Shahedshahr was attractive for what migrants

from what provinces, and where the current population will head in the future.

Table 5. Demographic composition of migrants to Shahedshahr sorted by region of origin (Source: authors, 2014)

Age composition of migrants to Shahedshahr	Previous residence of migrant - previous province										Number and cumulative percentage	
	Tehran		Tehran Province minus the city		Yazd and the Iranian central provinces		Azerbaijan, Ardebil, Zanjan, Hamedan		Other provinces			
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Over 30 years	7	4.4	8	5	9	5.7	27	17	21	13.2	72	45.3
Under 30 years	24	15.1	13	8.2	8	5	34	21.4	8	5	87	54.7
Total	31	19.5	21	13.2	17	10.7	61	38.4	29	18.2	159	100

- The migrants of over 30 years constituted 45.3% of total sample migrants.

- The approximate percentage of migrants under 30 years was 54.7%.

- More than 70% of Tehranian migrants fell under 30 years old, which implicitly suggests the tendency of younger people for migrating to the city.

- The Zeri provinces with 38.4% made up the greatest portion of migrants to Shahedshahr.

- More than 60% of migrants from other provinces were above the age of 30 years, suggesting that their history of migration was longer than others and had relatively older population.

- The share of migrants from Tehran was 19.05% which is a remarkable figure, indicating that Shahedshahr is not categorized as a *dormitory* city, but is rather regarded as a place for permanent residence.

Many of the migrants to Shahedshahr mentioned the reason for migration as vicinity to Karaj and Tehran. This advantage is not viewed merely from the economic perspective. The adjacency of the city to Tehran and Karaj was significant to the migrants in terms of social, cultural, political, geographic, educational and other aspects. The migrants to Shahedshahr believed that adjacency to Tehran facilitates employment, education, welfare, access to organizations and government agencies, brightening the future of their children and removing the obstacles they faced in the region of origin. The connection between Shahedshahr and the Tehran highway and ease of access to terminal facilities, airport, train and subway stations have enabled rapid and low-cost commute to Tehran, Karaj and other subsidiary regions, which are the major reason why the migrants tend to settle in the city. The prospects for developing in Shahedshahr (with advantages such as proximity to Tehran and Karaj) are appealing for those who think the city will soon merge into Tehran. The environmental factors and non-pollution of water and air in this city (as opposed to Tehran) is among the other reasons regarded important by migrants to Shahedshahr. Most of the people are composed of migrants from

Tehran, natives of the city and other provinces, enjoying relatively high welfare. Lower population density, less traffic problems, less sound pollution, the proximity of the city to privacy of natural resources (closeness to open nature) and other such factors play a key role in migration to Shahedshahr as viewed by some migrants. However, the physical development of the city is limited because of the influx of migrants to the region. Even now the amenities and services of the city and its urban infrastructure are barely enough to fulfill the current population. Therefore, it is expected that the migration trend to Shahedshahr will diminish over the upcoming years.

The findings suggested that two factors of urbanization and migration in the study area interacted and mutually reinforced each other. In other words, as the region transformed into a city, the manufacturing and service centers, facilities and amenities, roads and water and electricity, gas, terminal facilities quickly attracted the attention of residents from other areas. As the welfare, services and employment opportunities developed, migrants from higher number of cities were attracted.

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