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MIGRATION PLANS AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS AMONG UKRAINIAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

During 2006–2007 academic year the research group of sociology students under supervision of Yulia Martynova, the senior lecturer of sociology department, conducted a qualitative research concerning migration intentions and knowledge about abroad among Ukrainian high-school students. According to the results of 20 depth interview conducted in different regions of Ukraine it was determined that high-school students have very low level of awareness of mechanisms of conduction of a foreign trip, documents needed for such trip and procedures of getting these documents. It was ascertained that despite the fact that high school students love and would like to go abroad and admit that the problems they can face are quite serious, they do not what to do in case some problems arise during their stay in a foreign state. Low level of awareness is peculiar to both town-dwellers and countrymen, and it does not depend on gender or region. The problem of human trafficking, which is considered one of the most serious, seems to informants such that would not touch them personally. It was also found that passive position concerning gaining knowledge about abroad and ways to overcome problematic situation during stay abroad prevails among high-school students.

Introduction

Group of students of Kyiv-Mohyla academy under supervision of senior lecturer Yulia Martynova was offered to conduct a research of Ukrainian high school students for International Organization for Migration (IOM) as a research practice in 2006–2007 academic year. The students willingly accepted the offer and conducted the complete qualitative research. Its results are introduced in the following article.

Literature Overview

According to UN experts, human trafficking is almost as profitable as drug and weapon dealing [1]. However, risks of such enterprise are significantly lower.

Now, in the globalized world that fights against terrorism, narcotics, and irregular migration the issue of human trafficking moved this issue up the international policy agenda. So, adequate international law acts were introduced to regulate the problem. In 2000, states drafted two new protocols to the UN Convention on Transnational Organized Crime (UN TOC) dealing with trafficking and smuggling respectively. The Trafficking and Smuggling Protocols, more commonly known as the Palermo Protocols, came into force on December 23, 2003 and January 28, 2004 respectively.

It is important to distinguish between human trafficking and human smuggling. The first term refers to the situation when people are brought abroad by force. Smuggling, on the other hand, deals with people who are willing to live in a foreign country and cross the border of their own free will. The UN TOC Convention defines trafficking as: “...the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.” [2].

It is difficult to provide the accurate statistics for volume of human trafficking, as such activity is illegal and uncontrolled. However, the United States State department states that “estimated 600,000 to 820,000 men, women, and children [are] trafficked across international borders each year, approximately 80 percent are women and girls and up to 50 percent are minors. The data also illustrate that the majority of transnational victims are trafficked into commercial sexual exploitation” [3]. Citizens of Russia and other CIS countries are seen as the major source of women trafficked globally

for the purpose of sexual exploitation [4]. According to the research of La Strada-Ukraine in 2001–2003 based on a sample of 106 women who had been trafficked out of Ukraine it was found that 3% of them were under age of 18 [5]. And there is a global tendency for the number of underaged and minor victims of human traffic to increase. So, the problem of human trafficking is a burning issue in Ukraine, especially among young people, who are in risk group of human trafficking. This fact makes qualitative research of migration intentions and awareness of crossing of the border mechanisms among Ukrainian youth is needed in order to understand the lacunas of knowledge about potential dangers in foreign trips.

Methodology

The research was aimed to determine migration orientations and human trafficking awareness among Ukrainian high school students. The study made a particular emphasis on qualitative aspects of knowledge about human trafficking, lacunas of knowledge concerning going abroad, trust to the different sources of information, and the ideas of effective forms of presenting human trafficking prevention program. However, there were such additional objects of the research, as lifestyle orientations and migration intentions of the students.

The study put forward the following goals: to investigate the students' lifestyle orientations, migration intentions, an attitude towards human trafficking, the comprehension of possibility to become a victim, credence to different sources of information and definition the most effective of them. Also we tried to find out the information the student were lacking for travels abroad and define the most desirable forms of propagation of this information

For the effective realization of these goals and owing to specificity of the problem explored, the qualitative methodology was chosen. It allowed us to deal properly with the experience and practice of every single person, stereotypes of thinking, attitudes, subjective significances, values, aims and patterns of behavior, and even to become aware of decision-making process. As the main interest was thorough understanding rather than representative statistics, qualitative research was chosen as the most appropriate. Therefore, only usage of such methodology gives a complete view of the aspects informants' social practices.

Owing to the premises the qualitative semi-structured interview was chosen as a method of the research, for it is a flexible method which allows to follow a basic structure and at the same time gives an opportunity to modify questions,

depending on the circumstances; it is proper for dealing with opened questions and sensitive questions. Therefore, qualitative semi-structured interview is the most adequate to the topic of research instead of observation, document and historical analysis or focus-group.

Structure of Questionnaire

The questionnaire consisted of five blocks of questions. They were:

- Lifestyle Orientations where we asked about plans for future, values and convictions of students;
- Migration Intentions and Abroad that included questions concerning experience of foreign trips, knowledge of procedure of going abroad, and dangers connected with trips abroad;
- Human trafficking block that questioned about knowledge of the problem, its spread in Ukraine and possible actions that help not get involved in human trafficking;
- Questions concerning trust to different sources of information and the most proper method of presentation of information about abroad formed the fourth block.
- Socio-demographic block with questions of socio-economic status of the family and other personal information.

Sampling Procedure

Sampling procedure included four stages.

On the first stage Ukraine was divided into five regions according to KIIS division: West (Oblasts of Lutsk, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Ternopil, Zakarpattia, Chernivtsi), East (Oblasts of Kharkiv, Donetsk, Lugansk, Dnipropetrovsk), Center (Oblasts of Khmelnytsk, Vinnytsya, Kirovograd, Cherkasy, Poltava), North (Oblasts of Sumy, Chernigiv, Kyiv, Zhytomyr, Rivne), South (Oblasts of Odesa, Mykolaiv, Kherson, Zaporizhyya, and Autonomous Republic of Crimea).

During the second and the third stages one Oblast was randomly chosen from each region, furthermore, from each Oblast one town and one village were randomly selected. Therefore, we had Zakarpattia Oblast (town Hust and village Zaluzya) from the West, Donetsk Oblast (town Mariupol and village Konstyantynivka) from the East, Vinnytsya Oblast (town Nemyriv and village Luka-Barska) from the Center, Rivne Oblast (town Ostrig and village Bilka Volya) from the North, Odesa Oblast (town Odesa and village Vylkove) from the South.

During the fourth stage schools were randomly chosen (if there were options) in the selected towns and villages. Finally, a class was selected in each school, and one boy and one girl were picked from

the classes in such a way, that at the end we had an equal number of boys and girls from each grade (10th or 11th).

Pretest

Pretest of the questionnaire was held at two schools in Kiev. Two interviews were taken, focusing not only on the questions of the guide, but also on their understanding and informants' estimates of complexity of the questions. Corrected, the guides were given to interviewers.

Plans, Values and Convictions of Ukrainian High School Students

Ukrainian pupils of senior grades are oriented on obtaining higher education. Entering some higher educational institution is among immediate plans of all informants. Such co-ordination of intentions can be explained by peculiarities of a sample that included pupils of 10th and 11th grades. Only those who have plans to continue their studies prefer staying two more years at school to getting a profession and starting working soon after school. Such conclusion is especially relevant for rural areas, where pupils sometimes have to go to neighboring villages in order to study in 10th and 11th grades.

Still, most of the informants intend studying not far away from their native places. Region centers are seen as the most probable places of obtaining a higher education. It is important to mention that the list of desired professions of informants includes not only economists and IT developers, but also such occupations as doctor, technician, veterinary, technologist in food industry etc. Meanwhile, lawyer is not among wanted professions. So, it can be concluded that pupils in general have a realistic view on occupations needed and intend to have not only the most prestigious professions. But the decision of informants concerning their future professional life is in most cases not final. Their plans can be easily changed and their choice is very influenced by parents.

In personal sphere all the informants are oriented on creating a family. However, marriage is not among their immediate plans. Girls incline to plan marriage before 25 and boys prefer age range of 25-30. Most informants want to get a higher education and only then to marry. They believe that it will be possible to combine successful professional activities and family life. No gender differences in responses to this questions were detected.

Nearly all informants consider studying foreign languages very important for their future career stating that *“now it is difficult to find a job with-*

out knowing any foreign language, a mean a serious, prestigious job” (male, 11th grade, Odesa). But the priority for pupils in 10th and especially in 11th grade is to enter the institution of higher education. And if foreign language is not tested on entrance exams pupils are unlikely to learn it well. Still, all the informants study at least one foreign language, mostly English (sometimes German or French), and one third studies more than one foreign language.

Professional self-realization is a priority for all the informants. *“Now the most important zeal in life – to graduate from collage, a then, naturally, find a good well-paid job”* (female, 11th grade, Nemyriv, Vynnytsia region). The choice of future profession is motivated mostly by economic and moral factors. Informants often refuse from their “dream profession” in favor of more demanded specialty. Economic motivation includes building of a successful career, family maintenance, success in life. Moral motivation embraces the notion of call, the most important aim in life, dream of a childhood etc. It is typical for informants to say: *“First of all in future I would like to enter collage, among those I dream of, get a profession I dream of. And later we'll see”* (female, 10th grade, Bil'ska Volya village, Chernigiv district). It is typical that obtaining the “right” profession in “right” institution of higher education is highly wanted, but understanding of what is “right” is commonly vague. Commonly, future prospects are connected with parents' expectations.

Summing up, the core values of informants are family creation and professional development. In most cases family ranks first and profession second. However, one third of informants did not mention creation of own family as a priority. Most of them were males. Despite the fact that long-term plans are mostly connected with family, immediate plans are more professionally oriented, as all the informants would like to continue their studies.

Obviously, pupils of 10th and 11th grades would like to seem independent from their families. Still, they are too dependant on parents in terms of both material and moral support. Although informants insist that they take decisions about future plans themselves, but they consult with their parents who approve their choices in most cases. Parents are advisors when it comes to strategic planning, while friends are consulters in private life issues. There is too little material to investigate this question thoroughly, but this is the trend. It is important for informants to seem independent. Such trait may be partly explained by their age. Informants seek for approval of their “close circle”, but emphasize that they are ready to act regardless of others' opinion.

Informants state that parents are the most authoritative people. Famous people were named as cult figures only for few pupils. Schoolchildren do not trust celebrities in questions that go beyond their competence.

Information concerning core values, plans and convictions of the informants are extremely useful for understanding of their life position and attitudes toward different aspects of social reality including the problem of human trafficking.

Migration Intentions and Abroad

Attitude towards abroad and wish to go abroad is based on the previous experience of high-school students. It includes both personal experience of students and experience of their relatives, friends. The circle of former trips is mostly narrowed to former USSR. Students visited their relatives. Despite having met some negative stereotypes about Ukrainians, attitude towards abroad is mostly positive in all cases investigated. Students would like to broaden their traveling experience, to include countries of Europe in their "visited list". Still the unwillingness to go abroad was met among several village informants. It may be explained by their affection towards land they were brought up on. Informants from rural areas are more likely to consider going abroad as a hypothetical possibility. Nevertheless, most part of the students expressed the wish to get all necessary documents to go abroad. Still, the wish does not mean the presence of knowledge. Most 10-11 grade students do not know which documents they need to go in a foreign country. The demonstrated knowledge is only basic – informants do not know even where to go to get a foreign passport or visa. Even those who traveled abroad for many times may think that visas are got in banks or that all paper work for a trip to a foreign country can be done in nearest town. Such phenomenon does not depend on income of the family or previous personal experience of going abroad, because students have never been occupied with paper work or participated in preparation process. They know that the tourist agency or parents will arrange everything needed for foreign trip. Thus, students turn out to be in a vicious circle. On the one hand, they experience lack of knowledge in documents and organization that is explained by absence of such experience. On the other hand, the easiest way out in such situation is to turn to tourist agency. Such a point was mentioned by several students who have been abroad. The circle closes since students don't get necessary information when choosing such solution to

outflank their inexperience and may become potential victims of human trafficking.

Respondents demonstrated different attitude towards abroad. Well-to-do residents of towns showed more positive attitude comparing with residents of villages. Work abroad by almost all respondents was considered as a means to deal with critical economic situations. Another reason that makes it attractive is a belief that specialists are more appreciated and valued abroad. Attitude towards education abroad is rather positive. High-school students consider it as a good perspective. They also believe that education abroad is of higher quality in comparison with Ukraine.

Another important point raised up in investigation was attitude of the respondents towards illegal crossing of the border. Opinions were divided in three groups, showing negative attitude, neutral and positive. In cases of negative attitude the whole argumentation was narrowed mostly to two main points: 1) it is bad for people, because they may be caught and punished, and 2) it is illegal. It becomes obvious that argumentation is both internal and external. When respondents were speaking about harm for people, they mostly meant punishment phase. "Illegal point" is oriented on inner barriers, law-abiding orientation. Argumentation that supported neutral attitude had a single point that can be expressed this way: "*I can not judge other people*". Finally, arguments that were gathered in "positive" attitude can be summed up as: "*if people are not caught and punished – they can cross the border illegally*".

Respondents were asked to name dangers they can face abroad. These dangers were classified the following way: juridical exposure, possibility to become illegal, common dangers that are more difficult to fight abroad (e.g. loss of documents etc.), inconveniences of staying abroad (such as cultural differences, social isolation etc.). Still, only general recommendations were given how to prevent the named dangers, such as being attentive and giving no credence to anyone. Previous experience of staying abroad does not guarantee performance of these preventive rules. Thus, high-school students are not informed enough about safety behavior abroad.

Those students who have been abroad feel more safety about future possible trip. They believe that lack of information in sphere of necessary documentation can be easily solved with the help of tourist agency. At the same time students from villages or those students who have ever been abroad demonstrate higher realization of informational gap.

Human Trafficking: Definition and Associations

At this investigation phase we tried to find out how informants define a word-combination «human trafficking» and with what associate it. Many informants associate human trafficking with term «slavery» – «*Human trafficking is an illegal confinement a person in slavery*» (male, 11th grade, Nemyriv, Vinnyza region). The majority of definitions of human trafficking include the statement that human trafficking begins at the moment the person is violently forced to do something; human trafficking is defined as export of the certain people abroad without their consent. Here the accent put on absence of the consent to departure or execution of the certain works and use of compulsion (“*kidnap and force to work*” (male, 10th grade Konstantynivka, Donetsk region). Also there are informants which consider, that victims of human trafficking is stolen and forced to work, but some people voluntary agree on it (“*however, some people agree to do it voluntary*” (male, 10th grade Konstantynivka, Donetsk region). It was also specified that cases when people leave abroad and somebody takes away their passports pertain to human trafficking. There were some other versions of human trafficking, such as prostitution, job at black factories, “*ostarbeiten*”, organ trafficking. The majority of informants understands human trafficking as transportation people to other country, so that human trafficking within the limits of Ukraine is actually excluded. The countries which informants associate with human trafficking are Turkey and Russia. Girls in comparison with boys define human trafficking as an activity associated with sexual slavery, among associations there are words: prostitutes, prostitution, public houses, marriage agencies (“*...as models in brothels*” (female, 10th grade, Mariupol, Donetsk region); “*they [girls] are sold as prostitutes, they are made prostitutes*” (female, 11th grade, Luka Barska, Vinnytska district).

So, it is possible to sum up what actually informants consider as human trafficking. It is transportation people in other country where human trafficker take away documents and force to work against their will using compulsion.

Concerning distribution of the phenomenon of human trafficking informants have almost unanimously declared that it is not so the widespread problem in Ukraine, but there are such countries where this problem is much more prevalent. So, all informants recognize presence of such problem in Ukraine, but mark, that scales of human trafficking in Ukraine are considerably smaller than in

other countries. All informants have agreed that human trafficking is one of the most serious social problem in the world. So, they mark, human trafficking is a serious problem for Ukraine, but scales of human trafficking in Ukraine in comparison with other countries are considerably smaller.

Action Strategies of a Victim

Concerning actions of people who have already become victims of human trafficking the answers of informants can be placed into three groups:

1) active strategy of actions – in case of danger it is necessary to escape, seek safety in flight. It is not necessary to wait for help from outside, and it is necessary to act independently, a universal strategy of actions is flight (“*obviously, one has to run*” (female, 10th grade, Nemyriv, Vinnytska region); “*run, run, run*” (female, 11th grade, Odesa).

2) conditionally passive strategy of actions – in case of danger it is necessary to ‘contact relatives by telephone’ (female, 10th grade, Vilkovo, Odesa region) or “*address the embassy*” (ibid). That is, the person who finds himself in a complicated and terrible situation though declares infringement of the rights, but actually still hopes to the aid from the outside.

3) absolutely passive strategy of actions – sit and be silent. Some respondents consider, that if people have appeared in slavery, hardly to do something or it is impossible to do anything (“*if they [people] are enslaved, they hardly can do anything*” (male, 10th grade, Ostrig, Chernigiv region).

There is a strange tendency that boys are marked by greater passivity in actions in case of danger whereas a variant «to escape» is more inherent for girls. Probably, it is explained by the fact that girls don’t know what to do in case of fight.

Concerning militia and law enforcement bodies the majority of informants has specified that it is necessary to address to militia. It is needed to note, that a level of trust to militia and law-enforcement bodies is very high. But some informants have specified, that very often happens so, that the militia cooperated with groups of human traffickers (“*you should not put your trust in foreign militia, especially if you have no passport*” (male, 11th grade, Luka Barska, Vinnytska district).

Actions in case of danger vary from active escaping to passive perception of a reality. But it is important to notice that adherents of radical actions don’t have plan of their further actions. As for trust to militia the majority of informants have shown full confidence to militia as a source of validity, and only some of them have specified that the militia can be the factor of danger too.

The Image of Human Trafficker

The process of human trafficking is impossible without a person who recruits future victims. So, it is very important to understand how this person is seen by students who are in risk group of human trafficking. To reflect the image of human trafficker informants were asked to describe the trafficker's possible appearance and some specific traits of character.

The majority of the informants suppose that human trafficker doesn't have peculiar appearance and looks like ordinary person. As for them, it is hard to distinguish the trafficker from the rest of people. Only a couple of informants assume, that human trafficker differs in his appearance from the other people.

Concerning character, all of the informants think that there are some specific traits of the human trafficker. All the received thoughts on this occasion could be divided into three groups: low moral, mercenary, and advanced communicative skills. Informants often say that usually the trafficker has amoral principles, is angry, indifferent, disgraceful, self-centered and mercantile person, who has very well developed sociable skills. ("*...anger, indifference, no sympathy, no notion of honor, low moral merits*" (male, 10th grade, Vilkovo, Odeskiy region); "*a person who thinks only of money, cynical one*" (male, 11th grade, Luka Barska, Vinnytsa region); "*it is an egoistic person inside*" (female,

10th grade, Bilska Volya, Rivne district); "*delicate, kind, everything tells, everything is just brilliant*" (female, 11th grade, Konstantynivka, Donetsk region).

It is an interesting observation that no one of the informants assumes human trafficker presence among their friends or acquaintances.

In addition, there are no any correlations of these answers with sex, region or type of settlement.

Conclusions

The first and the most important finding of the research was the fact that Ukrainian students have almost no information concerning going abroad. In general they don't know what documents they need to get abroad, how to arrange all the paper work, how not to get in trouble and how to act if you are in trouble.

As for the problem of human trafficking, students do not feel that problem of human trafficking can touch them. They believe that all bad things will happen with some groups of exclusion, but not with them. In general, they do not show great desire to go abroad to work. Tourist trips and education are much more interesting for them.

The problem of human trafficking and illegal trips abroad is perceived almost the same by residents of different settlements, there are no visible gender or regional differences.

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МІГРАЦІЙНІ ПЛАНИ ТА ОБІЗНАНІСТЬ УКРАЇНСЬКИХ СТАРШОКЛАСНИКІВ ІЗ ПРОБЛЕМОЮ ТОРГІВЛІ ЛЮДЬМИ

У 2006–2007 навчальному році дослідницька група соціологів-бакалаврів під керівництвом старшого викладача Юлії Мартінової провела якісне дослідження міграційних намірів та знань стосовно закордону українських старшокласників. За результатами 20 глибинних інтерв'ю, проведених у різних регіонах України, було визначено, що старшокласники мають дуже низький рівень поінформованості стосовно механізмів поїздки за кордон, документів, потрібних для

виїзду, та процедури їхнього отримання. Також було з'ясовано, що, хоча старшокласники люблять та хочуть їздити за кордон і визнають, що проблеми, з котрими вони можуть зіткнутися за кордоном, є достатньо серйозними, вони не знають, що робити, якщо мають проблеми, перебуваючи в іншій країні. Такий низький рівень поінформованості притаманний як жителям міст, так і сіл, він не залежить від статі чи регіону. Проблема торгівлі людьми, котра вважається інформантами однією з найбільших серед тих, що пов'язані з закордоном, також здається їм такою, що не може стосуватися їх особисто. Також було виявлено, що серед старшокласників переважає пасивна позиція стосовно отримання знань про закордон, а також у проблемних ситуаціях за кордоном.