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Semantic Reconstruction of Inverse Immigration by Grounded Theory: Case of Divandarreh District, Iran

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Abstract:

Migration, as an integral component of both regional and international processes, significantly impacts the contemporary world and the spatial mobility of societies, influencing family, social bonds, economy, politics, culture, and communication. This research aimed to examine the social reconstruction of reverse migration based on the interpretations and mental meanings of those who have experienced it. Grounded theory and semi-structured interviews were used for this purpose. The participants included 16 individuals who had returned as migrants from the city of Saqez to the village of Abbareh in Iran. These individuals were selected through theoretical sampling and the criterion of theoretical saturation. The data were coded into 145 concepts, 15 major categories, and 1 core category encompassing the axial category. The categories include: economic advantages of the village over the city, unfavorable social conditions in the city, favorable social conditions in the village, unfavorable psychological states in the city, favorable psychological states in the village, facilitated communication, rural attractions, improved village services, attachment to village nature and community, physical incompatibility with the city, emphasis on consuming local products, increased potential and changing attitudes, new rural repulsions, trust and intimacy, and the factor of migration to the city. These categories are presented in a paradigmatic model based on three dimensions: causation, strategies, and outcomes. Ultimately, the core category identified was “perceived relative advantage of the village.” The findings indicate that reverse migration resulted from the perceived social, economic, and leisure benefits of village life compared to the city. The return of migrants was driven by dissatisfaction with urban living and the presence of job opportunities, leisure attractions, intimacy, and trust among friends, relatives, and village residents.

Keywords: Grounded Theory, Reverse Immigration, Iran, Relative Advantage of The Village.

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INTRODUCTION

Since the 1970s, migration from urban centres to peripheral areas has been conceptualized as counter-urbanization, typically involving middle-aged and relatively well-off individuals (Kordel et al., 2018). Today, however, immigration to peripheral areas is marked by a greater degree of heterogeneity in the socioeconomic, socio-demographic, and ethnic backgrounds of migrants (Camarero & Oliva, 2016).

Rural areas are commonly characterized by low population density, limited public services, relatively homogeneous economic activities, and close-knit social relations, creating a distinct context for incoming populations (Skaptadóttir et al., 2024). As a result, the integration of migrants in rural settings may differ from that in urban environments (de Lima, 2012). Similar to urban areas, many rural regions have been transformed by their gradual integration into the global economy and processes of neoliberal restructuring

(Rye & O'Reilly, 2021). A growing body of research has shown that migrants often replace out-migrating local populations and help sustain essential services and local economic activities in rural areas (McAreavey & Argent, 2018).

Immigration is not a new phenomenon and occurs in both developed and developing countries in various forms. In Iran, most rural-to-urban migration took place between 1986 and 2006. However, since 2006, significant migration from cities to villages has been observed across much of the country (Aslani, 2006; Ghasemi Ardahani et al., 2008). According to the 2011 census, urban-to-rural migrants outnumbered rural-to-urban migrants by 100,000. Specifically, 655,251 individuals migrated from villages to cities, while 755,546 migrated in the reverse direction (Iran Statistical Center, 2011).

As in many other countries, the dominant trend in internal migration in Iran has historically been from rural to urban areas, with fluctuations in volume since 1966 (Mohajeri, 1992). A growing form of migration, reverse migration, involves a return to the place of origin. It refers to individuals returning to their previous place of residence for various reasons and with diverse motivations (Shokouhi et al., 2017).

Given that reverse migration is a relatively new field of study, it lacks a precise, specific, and standardized definition in both national and international laws (Ali Babaei & Juma Pour, 2016). In Iran, the term generally refers to the return from large cities to smaller towns or from urban to rural areas, a trend that has recently emerged in various regions. In Kurdistan Province, based on the 2011 General Census of Population and Housing, 21,453 individuals migrated from urban to rural areas. This study explores the meaning of reverse migration from the perspective of 16 residents of the village of Abbareh who returned to their original village after a period of urban migration.

Reverse migration is a global phenomenon and is not inherently viewed as a problem. According to UN data from 1990, 141 out of 169 countries had implemented policies to reduce or reverse prevailing migration trends. However, in Iran, this phenomenon presents distinct characteristics and has led to certain social challenges (Lucas & Mir, 2002; Moshfeq & Eidi Terkameh, 2012; Shams et al., 2011). Okali et al. (2001) describe reverse migration as a reaction to urban living difficulties and the appeal of rural life. In the study area, the dominant migration trend from 1981 to 2011 was village-to-city, with approximately 78 individuals leaving the village. However, in recent years, about 45 individuals have returned, suggesting that reverse migration may also reflect underlying social issues. This raises key questions: What are the causes of return? What consequences might follow?

Therefore, studying the meaning systems and conceptions of individuals involved in the issue is crucial (Layder, 1997; Turner, 2003; Ritzer, 2004), as the foundation of all social reality lies in the human mind (Strauss & Corbin, 2015). The main objective of this study is to examine the phenomenon of reverse migration—from city to village—from the perspective of those who have experienced it, in

order to provide a basis for interpreting and understanding its meaning, context, conditions, and consequences as a social issue. This requires attention to the semantic frameworks and linguistic codes used by the individuals involved. Thus, formulating a theoretical framework to uncover and understand participants' perspectives is possible only through grounded theory within a specific cultural and social context.

The central research question is: How do individuals with reverse migration experience interpret it?

The specific objectives are:

To analyze the causes and context of reverse migration from the participants' viewpoint,

To examine the consequences of reverse migration and the strategies adopted by individuals, and

To explore the coping strategies employed by migrants in navigating their return migration experience.

Immigration, in its general sense, is defined as “*the abandonment of the mainland and temporary or permanent residence in another land*” (Sheikhi, 1990). The Encyclopedia of Social Sciences describes immigration as the movement of people from one place to another, influenced by social, economic, political, religious, and ethnic factors. This process often weakens the norms, values, and identities of the migrant group, leading to incomplete acceptance of the normative patterns at the destination (Ottoit et al., 2013). In general, studies on reverse migration can be divided into two areas: the factors influencing reverse migration—which may be social, economic, cultural, natural, psychological, organizational, or administrative—and the impacts of reverse migration on these same factors. In a review of return migration literature, Bilecen (2020) argues that it cannot be explained through a one-dimensional approach and notes that, in the modern era, return migration often takes a circular rather than permanent form.

Moshfeq and Eidi Terkameh (2012) found a weak but significant relationship between government incentives (across social, economic, administrative, and organizational dimensions) and reverse migration among employees. Ghaffari et al. (2012), in identifying and evaluating economic variables affecting reverse migration, concluded that investment in administrative and welfare infrastructure significantly influences it. Sood and Bala (2020) identify COVID-19 as a major catalyst for increased return migration, as migrants returned to their villages amid crises of livelihood. Abrahizadeh Asmin et al. (2020) highlight the importance of cultural and identity factors. Some researchers emphasize economic factors, viewing reverse migration as driven more by rural attraction than urban push (Rabbani et al., 2011; Afraqtat et al., 2016), while others, such as Norouzi and Mahdian (2022), stress both urban repulsion and rural attraction. Other studies incorporate natural variables, such as climate; economic variables, including income, type of occupation, job necessity, proximity to the workplace, cheap land and housing, and rural employment opportunities; and social variables, such as urban disadvantages, rural services and infrastructure, and local attachments (Taheri, 2011;



Figure 1. Map of the Study Area.

Ghasemi et al., 2014; Ali Babaei & Juma Pour, 2016; Ghasemi Ardehayi & Nobakht, 2016; Yeonjae Lee et al., 2015).

Finally, some researchers examine the human, financial, physical, social, and natural capitals of returnees, arguing that these resources enhance the welfare and social status of migrants and their families, and even contribute to increased civic participation (Farrell et al., 2012; Ma, 2001; Motiai Langroodi et al., 2011; Von Reichert et al., 2014).

Theoretical foundations

Numerous academic disciplines, including sociology, economics, and psychology, have demonstrated a strong interest in the dynamics of population migration and mobility. Many researchers have endeavored to synthesize and explain the principles governing migration and its influencing factors. These efforts provide both theoretical foundations and practical insights that enhance the understanding of return migration.

Neoclassical economic theory suggests that wage differentials between in-migrants and out-migrants, along with the potential for higher income for in-migrants, are key drivers of migration. Return migration occurs when migrants fail to reach expected income levels, thus being viewed as unsuccessful in the labor market of the destination.

According to the new economics of migration, migration decisions are made at the household level, with migration seen as a “livelihood strategy” whereby families send some members out to work in order to maximize household utility. Within this framework, migrants often aim to accumulate savings and return once they meet their financial goals (Ma et al., 2024).

Theories of reverse migration emerged in the 1960s and gained broader recognition among scholars during the 1980s (Cassarino, 2004). According to Larry Shasstad’s human capital theory, individuals migrate when the perceived benefits outweigh the costs. These benefits and costs encompass all dimensions of life, including imagined

or subjective evaluations. Employment opportunities, improved social status, better mental well-being, and proximity to relatives and acquaintances may all motivate migration. As immigrants gradually adapt to their new environment, they also encounter unforeseen challenges that reshape their original assessment of migration, influencing their decision to either settle or return. Based on this theory, individuals return to their place of origin when they perceive greater opportunities for prosperity there (Wang, 2004). The new economics of migration theory typically focuses on individual and household-level decisions. It suggests that migration serves not only to increase income but also to reduce the risks and uncertainties of living conditions. Households diversify income sources to enhance their economic stability. This theory emphasizes income disparities between origin and destination and frames migration as a rational choice made by individuals and families to improve their financial well-being (Zanjani, 2001).

The social perspective views migration as a means of escaping unfavorable conditions at the place of origin while seeking more favorable environments—such as better climate and healthier living conditions—within the context of one’s community, ethnicity, and culture. Everett Lee’s push-pull theory identifies migration drivers as both attractions at the destination (e.g., higher levels of education, employment, and income) and pressures at the origin (e.g., high cost of living, separation from family, and environmental degradation). According to Lee, four categories of factors influence the decision to migrate: (1) factors related to the area of origin, (2) factors related to the area of destination, (3) intervening obstacles, and (4) personal factors. From Lee’s framework, key influences on migration can be identified as individual characteristics, family ties, natural, political, and religious factors, employment and income opportunities, access to welfare services, education, healthcare, and transportation infrastructure, environmental conditions, and housing availability.

METHODOLOGY

The present study employed a qualitative grounded theory approach, originally developed by Glaser and Strauss in 1967. In this method, data collection, analysis, and theory development are interrelated. Relationships between variables and research categories emerge from empirical observations and are explained through comparative analysis, providing the foundation for theory construction (Strauss & Corbin, 2015). The study population consisted of individuals who had returned from the city of Saqez to Abbareh Village in Divandareh County. Using qualitative and theoretical sampling, and guided by the principle of theoretical saturation, 16 participants aged 16 and above were selected for interviews. The choice of participants balanced the need for both coverage and depth in the field (Flick, 2015). Through open, axial, and selective coding, concepts, categories, and the core category were extracted. The findings were organized into conditions, causes, strategies, and consequences of reverse migration.

Divandareh is a county in Kurdistan Province, located in the northern part of the province, with its administrative center in the city of Divandareh. According to the 2016 national census, the population of the county was 80,040, with 43,942 residing in rural areas and 3,698 in urban areas. A total of 186 villages were inhabited (Statistics Center of Iran, 2016). Abbareh Village is located 34 kilometers west of Divandareh and is a mountainous area with a cold climate, situated along the Zarrineh River. Most residents are engaged in agriculture and livestock (Razm Ara, 1952). Based on the 2016 national census, the village had 54 households with 220 inhabitants, while local government records in 2018 reported 68 households and 262 inhabitants.

RESULTS

The data analysis resulted in more than 145 initial concepts. In the second stage, these were organized into 15 major categories. Finally, during the third stage, the core category and the paradigmatic model were developed. The major categories are: economic advantage of the village over the city, unfavorable social conditions in the city, proper social conditions in the village, unfavorable psychological state in the city, favorable psychological state in the village, facilitating communication, rural attractions, improvement of village services, sense of belonging to village nature and community, physical incompatibility with the city, emphasis on consumption of local products, increasing potential and shifting attitudes, new rural repulsions, trust and intimacy, and the factor of migration to the city.

Through selective coding, the core category that emerged was “Perceived Relative Advantage of the Village.” This category integrates and explains the contents of the other categories. In summary, reverse migration is driven by the perception that the village offers more advantages than the city, making it a more suitable place to live. The following section describes the categories in detail and presents the paradigmatic model in terms of conditions, strategies, and outcomes.

The economic privilege of village to city

The presence of economic attractions and repulsions in both urban and rural areas is a key factor shaping migration patterns. Returning migrants tend to favor rural areas after assessing the relative costs and benefits of urban versus rural life. Economic constraints and employment-related challenges—such as lack of job opportunities, insufficient income, unemployment, and unstable income sources—combined with rural advantages like access to farmland and the multifaceted benefits of livestock production, encourage return migration. Individuals, faced with economic hardships in urban settings, selectively opt for their native villages, which they perceive to offer better job and income prospects. In this context, SA states:

“I was motivated to find a good job in the city. I went, but during the time I was there, I did not find the right way to manage my family. So, we decided to go back to the village. We could use the agricultural land and also rent out our house in the city.”

The unfavorable social conditions in the city

Urban quality of life reflects citizens’ satisfaction with urban living on both social and individual levels, encompassing both objective and subjective dimensions. It involves concepts such as social interaction, social trust, life satisfaction, emotional well-being, and access to opportunities (Mostafa, 2012). Immigrants often perceive the city as a barrier to accessing resources and opportunities, as their mental image of rural life prevents them from adapting to urban conditions. Consequently, they view urban living as unfavorable. As “A.S” explains: *“In the village, everyone helps you with no expectation, but in the city, we see something strange. Here is a wedding party; just behind the alley is a mourning. But you cannot know everyone in such a large environment—just your alley and maybe your neighborhood.”*

He further states:

“Although the city is expansive, you cannot really connect with anyone. It’s busy, and all kinds of people are there. You have to be cautious in your interactions. When I see my friends, they tell me to come back to the village—there, you won’t be so worn out.”

These statements suggest that migrants struggle to integrate into the urban environment, viewing it as unsuitable for personal and familial development due to insufficient social capital.

Proper social conditions in the village

The experience of rural life makes it difficult for some migrants to accept and adapt to urban culture. A rural lifestyle and interaction with people who share similar values and maintain more sincere relationships feel more appropriate to them. This perception fosters the belief that the village offers a more favorable social environment. As “S.K” puts it:

“...Most of the people in the village are the same; they’re not of any different kind or model. Although the spirit of cooperation has weakened in recent years, there are no thieves or swindlers here... you know everyone, and you have good interactions with all of them...”

Thus, since these individuals' identities are shaped by rural life, they place greater value on similarity and coherence than on difference and diversity.

The unfavorable psychological state of the city

Immigrants did not find their social, occupational, and economic status in the city aligned with their expectations. As a result, they began to consider changing their environment, as poor mental conditions—such as depression, stress, anxiety, job insecurity, humiliation, and fear—negatively affected their quality of life and disrupted their social functioning. To avoid these concerns and regain a sense of calm, they viewed the village as more compatible with their identity. In this regard, “R.S” states:

“I personally do not agree with the busy urban environment, but I was always worried. I was comfortable with my work and life in the village; I was my own boss. Why did I come to the city to labor for others, not even knowing if I'd have work the next day?”

Another participant, “S.M.,” adds:

“What's the point of the city? Everyone has lost themselves, not even knowing what they're looking for day and night. There's no peace, neither at home nor at work. I couldn't endure it anymore. Even the people felt artificial.”

The favorable psychological state in the village

As a result of the problems associated with urban living, the desire to escape its pressures has led immigrants to view returning to the village as a suitable option for restoring their psychological well-being. The village is seen as a place offering advantages such as relief from constant profit-and-loss concerns, reduced exposure to urban instability and income fluctuations, and a sense of freedom, security, self-worth, and a healthy, simple lifestyle. In this regard, “F.M” stated: *“Rural life is really enjoyable. Everything is simple and free from trouble.”* Similarly, “J.K” emphasized:

“Isn't it a pity to leave the village with all its freedom and comfort, where you don't have to worry about costs and benefits? You're always occupied, never bored or depressed, and you can live in peace.”

Communication facilities

Another rural attraction for immigrants is the improvement of communication routes and easier transportation compared to the time when they initially migrated to the city. Today, better roads and the availability of transport vehicles make living in the countryside more feasible. In this regard, “A.A” states:

“When we moved to the city, there were only one or two damaged cars in the area. The road wasn't asphalted like it is today. If you wanted to go to the city to buy basic goods, it would take two or three days to return.”

Rural attractions

Depending on the geographic features of the region, various activities are carried out. The vast open land, natural beauty, growth of medicinal and spring plants, and local production alongside agriculture and livestock farming have added recreational and leisure dimensions to rural life. This perception stems from the lived experience

of rural life, as “M.Z” confirms:

“It's true, rural life has its own hardships, but you enjoy everything—milk, yogurt, buttermilk, and all of it is healthy here.”

Improving the village's service status

The use of new agricultural technologies has facilitated farming and reduced its hardships. In other words, the reliance on human labor has decreased, encouraging individuals to make optimal use of land for higher productivity. Additionally, improved and faster access to health services has alleviated concerns about medical care. As “A.Z” states:

“...Previously, I was not able to do agricultural work alone because the number of tractors and necessary equipment was low, and you had to wait your turn. But now, thankfully, there are many tractors. If you aren't present on your land, others can manage it...”

Similarly, “S.S” highlights the improvement in healthcare access in recent decades:

“The health center here is more symbolic—doesn't really have anything. But now they give you a referral letter so you can quickly go to the health center in Ebrahim Abad Village, which is nearby and offers good service. If needed, they refer you to the city. In the past, we didn't even have that...”

Belonging to the village nature and community

The sense of belonging to nature and community reflects the deep emotional connection people have with their place of residence and hometown. It channels their emotions toward the land, nature, customs, and the local community, reinforcing their bond with the environment (Sharif Zadeh et al., 2016). This attachment to friends, relatives, the land, trees, and even water springs plays a significant role in motivating people to return to their villages. As “S.Z” states:

“Coming to the village, visiting relatives, enjoying the environment and my land—it inspires me and brings back memories. Being away from such an environment is hard for anyone...”

The feeling of incompatibility of the physical condition with the city

As age increases and physical strength declines, some migrants perceive their condition as incompatible with urban life and feel unable to cope with the demands of city living. Although they are still capable of performing daily activities, they find them difficult or even undignified in an urban context, while the same tasks feel acceptable or natural in the countryside. As “F.Z” noted:

“In the village, I go to a bakery, but I know it's seen as ugly here in the city. If I go for a walk, it's considered an honor here, but there I tried to hide myself.”

In essence, they feel such activities are inconsistent with their age and perceived social status in the city.

The emphasis on consumption of local products

The experience of rural life has shaped specific

consumption preferences, leading migrants to favor local and traditional products over industrial goods. They find industrial items less enjoyable and believe them to be less beneficial for health. As a result, they consciously prefer producing, supplying, and consuming local products and spring plants, even if it involves more effort. They perceive these products as more economical and valuable. As “S.K” stated:

“Consciously, milk and yogurt or vegetables or fruit that you yourself produce here are worth a thousand times more than these groceries and packaged... Here everything is medicine and cure, safe and healthy. Those goods are just glamorous without any taste and pleasure.”

Increasing potential and changing attitudes

Immigration to the city leads to changes in lifestyle, values, and skills acquisition. These experiences reshape migrants’ perspectives on rural life and encourage creativity and innovation upon their return. Equipped with urban knowledge, they often initiate new activities and adapt by creating employment opportunities within the village. As “A.M” shared:

“During the few years that I was in town, I learned a lot about building work. When I came back to the village, I thought about why I don’t do here the same things that I’ve been achieved in the city. Now, with one of my friends, we produce building blocks that people from everywhere come and buy.”

Similarly, “T.Ch” added:

“It’s better to reintegrate our rural lives, there’s no problem with it, is there? It makes no difference within urban life. We ourselves don’t know how to live, that’s the problem.”

New rural repulsions

Villagers migrate to cities attracted by education, skill acquisition, job opportunities, higher income, housing, recreation, and cultural activities, while rural push factors include unemployment, inadequate educational and health services, poor transportation, lack of facilities, and low income. Urban problems such as psychological stress and socio-economic disadvantages push migrants back to villages, where they face new challenges like overgrazing, pasture degradation, excessive river water use, loss of biodiversity, and pollution. As “S.Z.” noted:

“There is too much animal husbandry, which destroys pasture and vegetation. Many, especially young people, uproot spring plants and sell them cheaply. I am also very worried about poor supervision and cooperation in garbage management, particularly its disposal into the river.”

Trust and intimacy

Socioeconomic interactions with fellow villagers help returning migrants adapt to rural life by reducing concerns and risks through cooperation with relatives, friends, and community members. The intimacy, trust, and mutual support in the village increase immigrants’ motivation to return. “T.Q.” states:

“Our villagers promised to help us upon return, and they did; it greatly improved our mood. This support extends

beyond me to all immigrants here. Family interactions and mutual help during absences make life enjoyable.

These continuous efforts create a connected network where social relations serve as social capital, helping solve problems and achieve common interests.

The factor of migration to the city

Important factors such as access to health and livelihood facilities—including welfare, transportation, motivation to find a new, easier, and better-paying job, escaping unemployment, and meeting socio-cultural needs like education and cultural development—force individuals to migrate from villages to cities (Taherkhani, 2001). According to the present study findings, immigrants also cited a lack of education, health, and communication services, along with concerns about their children’s future education and the search for better jobs, as reasons for moving to the city. In this regard, “F.M.” says:

“Obviously, the village does not have city facilities. Many children leave school because they cannot tolerate being away from family.”

Elsewhere, “A.A” emphasized:

“When we went to the city, living here was really difficult. There were no facilities, the road was closed during winter, and village work was very hard. Your whole life was limited to the village.”

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

Model and core category

Building grounded theory is a spiraling and iterative process rather than a linear one. Most hypotheses and concepts emerge directly from the data, ensuring the research flow remains systematically connected to the data (Mohammadpur, 2013). Grounded theory is structured around the paradigm model. As shown in Figure 1, the paradigm model consists of three sections: causal conditions, strategies, and consequences.

Causal conditions explain the reasons for choosing reverse migration and include eleven categories: unfavorable social conditions in the city, unfavorable psychological state of the city, favorable psychological state in the village, economic advantage of the village over the city, proper social conditions in the village, facilitating communication, rural attractions, improvement of the village’s service status, belonging to the village’s nature and community, emphasis on consumption of local products, and trust and intimacy. These factors are divided into two parts:

Causal conditions: The most immediate and influential causes, including unfavorable social conditions in the city, unfavorable psychological state of the city, economic advantage of the village over the city, proper social conditions in the village, and favorable psychological state in the village.

Contextual conditions: The broader context of the phenomenon, including facilitating communication, rural attractions, improvement of the village’s service status, belonging to the village’s nature and community, feeling of incompatibility of physical condition with the city,

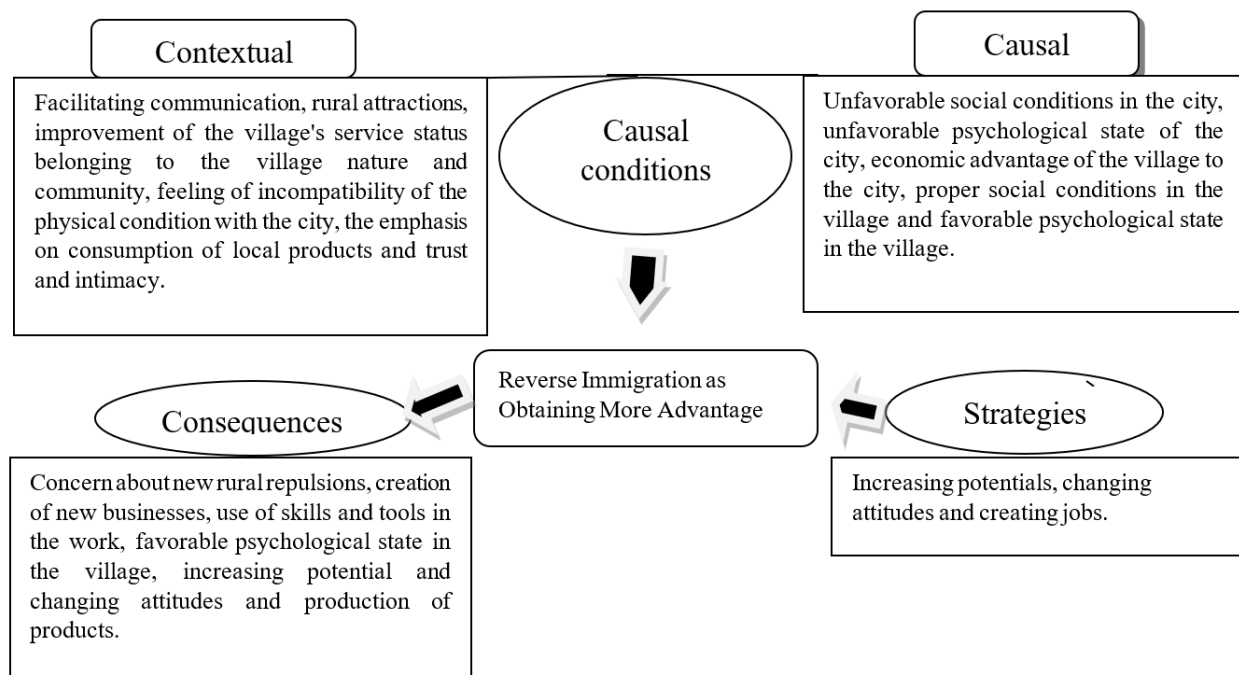


Figure 2. The Paradigm Model of Inverse Immigration.

emphasis on consumption of local products, and trust and intimacy.

The second section presents strategies, which represent immigrants' responses to control the situation. These include increasing potential, changing attitudes, and creating jobs—strategies migrants use to better adapt to the rural environment.

The third section outlines the consequences of these strategies and causal conditions, including concerns about new rural repulsions, creation of new businesses, use of skills and tools in work, favorable psychological state in the village, increased potential and changing attitudes, and product development.

The core finding of this research indicates that reverse migration results from the perception that the social, economic, and leisure benefits of the village outweigh those of the city. In other words, reverse migration is a response to unfavorable urban conditions combined with the attractions, intimacy, and trust found among friends, relatives, and villagers. In summary, reverse migration is a choice to seek a better life in the village, the immigrants' place of origin. When progress in social aspects (communication and interaction), economic factors (occupation and income), and recreation (crowds and harsh environment) is lacking in the city, immigrants prefer the village. Additionally, attractions such as leisure work, favorable nature and scenery, business opportunities, easier communication and health services, transportation, and community cooperation motivate their return. These findings align with cost-benefit theories, viewing migration as driven by higher perceived utility relative to costs.

According to the research findings, immigrants returned to their origin due to perceived benefits such as higher income, a quiet environment, favorable social and psychological conditions, and a sense of belonging to friends and relatives.

However, they faced new push factors in the village. Their acquired skills helped them adapt to these conditions and improve their welfare.

Furthermore, based on the new economic theory of migration, immigrants prefer to return to avoid urban risks and increase their income. This aligns with Lee's theory, which identifies factors like personal characteristics, ties to relatives, natural conditions, job opportunities, income, access to social services, welfare facilities, education, sports, transportation, and environment as migration push-pull factors.

Thus, immigrants view returning to the village as a better choice for a more favorable and prosperous life, believing the village offers more advantages than the city.

According to the study findings, the following suggestions are proposed to control and reduce rural-urban migration, remove new repulsions, encourage immigrants to return, and help them adapt to new conditions: strengthen, reform, and invest in rural health and education infrastructure; provide facilities and incentives in agriculture and livestock sectors; improve communication routes; manage the use of rural natural resources; and design training courses on business and entrepreneurship aligned with regional potential.

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CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

AUTHOR(S) CONTRIBUTION

Kaveh Salimi: Writing – original draft, Formal analysis. Hossein Ghodrati: Writing original draft, Writing – review and editing project administration. Sahfieh Ghodrati: Validation, Methodology.

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