

## Unemployment and its Relationship to illegal immigration among Algerian youth

Sadik Hattabi \* Djilali Mezaini

<sup>1</sup> Faculty of social sciences, university of Khemis Miliana

<sup>2</sup> Faculty of social sciences, university of Khemis Miliana

**Abstract:** Illegal immigration is one of the social phenomena that have known a wide spread, especially in the recent period, and this phenomenon has spread especially among young people, which expresses their desire to overcome the difficulties of life and lead a well-off life.

Illegal immigration means the movement of young people from the country of origin to another country secretly and without a visa in order to work. Algeria is one of the countries that suffer of this phenomenon, and that is due to many reasons most important of which is unemployment. This made us wonder whether unemployment may be one of the factors that give rise to illegal immigration among Algerian youth?

**Keywords:** cyclical unemployment, frictional unemployment, clandestine immigration, delayed marriage age, environmental pressure .

### 1- Introduction

Unemployment is one of the most acute economic problems that caused severe consequences to all governments and societies because of its negative effects on society and the individual, and among the challenges that have been related to this complex phenomenon is the problem of illegal immigration that has overburdened the Algerian government and all the other North African countries. This rapid growing phenomenon prompted the researchers to investigate the relationship between unemployment and illegal immigration, and try to uncover the most important types of unemployment that affect the emergence of illegal immigration?

#### Introduction:

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### 2. What is Unemployment ?

#### 2.1. Unemployment:definition

##### 2.1.1. Definition of Unemployment

The common definition of unemployment recommended by the International Labor Organization (ILO) states that the unemployed is that individual who is above a specified age who were: a) without work during the reference period, i.e. were not in paid employment or self-employment; b) currently available for work, i.e. were available for paid employment or self-employment during the reference period; and c) seeking work, i.e. had taken specific steps in a specified recent period to seek paid employment or self-employment.

- The definition of unemployment in sociology :In sociology,however,the concept of unemployment is defined as ; “The state of the worker’s being vacant despite his ability to do work, due to a reason beyond his control.” (درويش، 2007/2006، ص95)

And it is also defined as: “Unvoluntary unemployment that is due to lack of work.” (درويش، 2007/2006، ص95)

### 2.1.2.Secondly:Evolution of unemployment in Algeria

The Algerian society has experienced the phenomenon of unemployment for many years with varying rates ranging from rise to decline.The highest unemployment rate reached one million unemployed during independence. (Ageron) .

The issue of employment has been one of the major problems where the Algerian government has spared no effort , and this is indicated by the high rates of investments in the national economy, which led to the rise of number of jobs. The employment rate saw remarkable progress, estimated at about 5% annually, (Temmar,1983)

during the period (1976 - 1978 ),on the one hand,and a significant decrease in the unemployment rate, which moved from 33% in 1966 to 22% in 1977 until it reached 8.7% in 1984, on the other. In addition to the contribution of immigration to France in 1973 to reduce pressure on the labor market, as the number of immigrants living in France only reached about 800,000 people in 1973. (سني، 2001-2000)

As available evidence of the 1998 general census of population and housing there was decline in employment dynamics by the mid-eighties, causing a gradual rise in the unemployment rate, which moved from 16% in 1985 to 21% in 1987, until it reached 43% according to the results . (المجلس الوطني الاقتصادي)،2000)

And under such worsening circumstances , successive governments have worked since the beginning of the nineties to take special measures in order to reduce the severity of unemployment and try to integrate as many unemployed as possible into the professional life. All the attempts, however, were in vain and fell short of the mark .The unemployment rate kept increasing and reached 30 % in 1997 and that is due to several factors.One of which (سني) is terrorism that destroyed profoundly the infrastructures, and imposed insecurity through the crimes committed that terrified the Algerian people.

### 2.1.3. Types of unemployment

There are several types of unemployment, including:

- Cyclical unemployment

Cyclical unemployment is a type of unemployment which is related directly to economic cycles,.The term economic cycle refers to the fluctuations of the economy between periods of expansion and contraction.Unemployment typically rises during recessions and declines during economic expansions. Business cycles are identified as having four distinct phases:

expansion, peak, contraction, and trough. An **expansion** is characterized by increasing employment, economic growth, and upward pressure on prices. A **peak** is the highest point of the business cycle, when the economy is producing at maximum allowable output, employment is at or above full employment, and inflationary pressures on prices are evident. After this point, once employment numbers and housing starts begin to decline, leading to a contractionary phase begins.The lowest point on the business cycle is a trough, which is characterized by higher unemployment, lower availability of credit, and falling prices.

- **Frictional unemployment**

Frictional unemployment is a type of unemployment that arises when workers are searching for new jobs or are transitioning from one job to another. It is part of [natural unemployment](#) and hence is present even when the economy is considered at full employment. This type of unemployment arises due to the lack of information among workers on the one hand, and among employers on the other hand, and the more information is available, the shorter the duration of this type of unemployment.(Marcel,taieb,1991)

- **Structural Unemployment:**

Structural unemployment means the kind of unemployment that affects part of the labor force due to structural changes occurring in the national economy, which lead to creating a state of mismatch between the available employment opportunities and the qualifications and experiences of unemployed workers who want to work and are looking for them. This type of unemployment can occur as a result of a decrease in demand for certain types of labor, due to the depression in the industries in which they were working, and the emergence of a demand for certain types of skills that are required to produce certain goods for industries that thrive.

(زكي، 1998، ص27) Unemployment in this case is due to structural changes in demand.

#### - **Open and Disguised Unemployment**

Open unemployment refers to the situation when a person is willing to work, is educated but is unable to get a job and work. This kind of unemployment is clearly visible in the society. People's unemployment will affect the production of goods and services in an economy. As for disguised unemployment, it represents a situation in where people are apparently working but all of them are made to work less than their potential. In this situation, the person considers himself employed but is actually not working and utilising his skills in the job. i.e. the withdrawal from the production cycle does not affect the volume of production, and therefore it is unproductive employment (زكي، 1998، ص29).

#### - **Voluntary and Unvoluntary Unemployment**

Involuntary unemployment occurs when an able person is unemployed despite being willing to work at the prevailing wage. It is distinguished from voluntary unemployment, where a person refuses to work because their reservation wage is higher than the prevailing wage.

Such people are physically and mentally fit to work and are willing to work at the going rate but are out of job.

## **2.2. theories explaining unemployment and its effects**

### **2.2.1. the modern theories explaining unemployment (ناصر، العايب، 2010، ص32)**

Several modern theories have emerged that are developing and modifying and are more capable of explaining modern phenomena.

#### **2.2.1.1. Human Capital Theory**

One of its founders, Beher, Shult, during the sixties, specifically in 1964. It explains the choice of a job on the basis of the benefits that the worker derives from it in order to improve his productivity and benefit from the largest possible income. Thus, individuals will sacrifice the time necessary for training in order to raise their capabilities and qualifications, given that the labor market is looking for qualified labor. Therefore, attention is focused on the job and not on those who supervise it (ناصر، العايب، 2010، ص32).

#### **2.2.1.2. Labor Market Segmentation Theory**

This theory, which appeared at the hands of D.B. Doernberg, MPiore, is based on a field study of the American labor market during the sixties, which explains the American labor force subjected to a kind of fragmentation on the basis of race, gender, age and educational level. The theory aims to explain the rise in unemployment, and to reveal the reasons for its rise in certain sectors and the existence of a scarcity of the labor component in other sectors. On this basis, the theory distinguishes between five types of labor markets: (ناصر، العايب، 2010، ص32-33)

The internal market: It includes human resources within the organization in a close relationship with wages.

The external market: in which labor is sought from outside the organization's perimeter, due to the lack of the necessary conditions in the required exhaustion, with the possibility of promotion.

The primary market: includes the most highly paid, stable and stable jobs, which provide the best conditions, including the privilege of promotion. In Algeria, the hydrocarbon sector for

permanent labor provides this market, as it provided permanent jobs and high wages compared to other sectors, but in recent years it has become inclined to the approach of non-permanent employment.

The secondary market: It includes the lowest-paid and stable jobs, and mostly includes women, the youth component, the elderly and low-skilled workers, meaning that this market distinguishes between workers in terms of age groups, and in terms of gender. It includes small productive enterprises, which use labor-intensive production methods, and are affected by economic fluctuations. Which means that the workers are more vulnerable to unemployment.

The main market: includes large-sized enterprises, which use capital-intensive and skilled production arts. And due to the control of these institutions on the markets for goods and services, they enjoy a high degree of stability in demand for their products, and therefore this is reflected positively on employment. (ناصر، العايب، 2010، ص33)

### 2.2.1.3. Job search theory

According to this theory the rise unemployment rates is due to the fact that individuals prefer to leave their current jobs in order to search and gather information about the best job opportunities available and that fit their abilities and the wage structure associated with them. These theories stem from the following assumptions: (ناصر، العايب، 2010، ص33)

- The job seeker is fully aware of the probability distribution of different wages.
- The existence of a minimum wage, that is, the wage above which job offers are accepted

The theory tried to reveal the reasons for the increase in unemployment rates among certain categories of the labor force, especially young people who are new to the labor market, as a result of their lack of knowledge of market conditions, and moving from one job to another would raise the unemployment rate. Thus, the theory concludes that the prevailing unemployment in the economy is voluntary unemployment.

### 2.2.1.4. The theory of structural unemployment

This theory appeared to explain the high rates of unemployment in the seventies and the increase in technical development that occurred in the industry. Some groups of workers were exposed to the phenomenon of unemployment due to their inability to conform with modern theories in the productive arts, while a surplus of job opportunities appeared in other businesses and professions. The theory explained the mismatch between what companies need and what available workers offer and that is due many reasons that include. (ناصر العايب، 2010)

- Inability to afford relocation.
- Personal considerations in favoring workers over each other.
- Inability to afford or decision not to pursue further education or [job training](#).

### 2.2.1.5. Efficiency Wage Theory

This theory assumes that pay higher wages than the equilibrium wages can lead to increased labour productivity. As a result of this rise, there is a surplus in the supply of work, and then the emergence of unemployment. According to this theory, raising wages results in a rise in productivity, in other words, the cost of wage reduction is a decrease in the productivity of workers, and as a result, institutions seek to keep wages at a constant level so that productivity is not affected. (ناصر، العايب، 2010، ص33)

### 2.2.1.6. Imbalance theory

The imbalanced theory was pioneered by the French economist E.Malinvad, who attempted to explain the high unemployment rates in the industrialized countries during the seventies of the last century. The theory assumes that prices are fixed in the short-term and that changes in the market can happen with unbalanced prices. His analysis of unemployment is based on two markets: the goods market and the labor market. This theory adopts imposing rigidity in prices

and wages in the short term, due to its inability to change quickly enough to achieve the desired equilibrium. As a result, the labor market changes to a state of imbalance represented in the presence of an excess of labor supply over demand, which leads to forced unemployment. The theory is not limited to searching for the causes of unemployment within the framework of the study of the labor market, but also seeks to analyze it by studying the relationship between the labor market and the market for goods, which gave rise to different two types of unemployment: (ناصر، العايب، 2010، صص 34-35)

The first type: It is characterized by the presence of an excess in the supply of labor over the demand, and consequently the employers can not employ additional labor force, which is consistent with the Keynesian analysis.

The second type: in this case, unemployment in the labor market is associated with a shortage of goods exposed to the demand for them, and the causes of unemployment are in the high rate of real wages for workers, which leads users not to increase both the supply of goods and the level of operation due to the low profitability of investments , which corresponds to the classical analysis.

### 2.2.2. the effects of unemployment

1. The delay in the age of marriage for young people and their inability to start a family.
2. Resorting to drug abuse and drinking alcohol to forget the bitter reality in which they live and live in a false reality, which leads to crime committing.
3. The bad psychological impact of unemployment on young people who suffer from bouts of anxiety and depression, in addition to feeling helpless in achieving their demands, which sometimes leads them to commit suicide.
4. Youth unemployment is linked to many crimes, and this was confirmed by a number of studies that dealt with this issue, such as theft and murder, in addition to smuggling and fraud crimes.....etc.
5. The low rate of development in society due to the inability of the youth segment to work in the absence of job opportunities in addition to their being a burden on the state.
6. The spread of illiteracy and school dropout as a result of the lack of job opportunities.
7. One of the major problems of unemployment is the young people's booming interest in illegal immigration in search of a better life. This phenomenon gave rise to death boats that carry immigrants, ignoring the fact that they have been a source of tragedies, as scores of bodies of illegal immigrants recovered now and then from the Mediterranean. (ناصر، العايب، 2010، صص 35)

## 3. Illegal Immigration Among Algerian Youth

### 3.1. What is illegal immigration and the theories that explain it

#### 3.1.1. the definition of illegal immigration

Migration means alienation or moving from one place to another or moving from one land to another to gain living. (معجم الكافي، 1994)

Emigration is a noun for the verb emigrate .Emigration is leaving one's place of residence to another or leaving one's country to live elsewhere. (بن يعقوب، دون سنة)

And illegal immigration refers to the migration of people into a country in violation of the [immigration laws](#) of that country. It appeared at the beginning of the twentieth century and became known to flourish after the decision of border closure policies in Europe during the seventies of the last century.. (Mourice, 2000)

#### 3.1.2. Theories explaining illegal immigration

A number of theories have tried to explain the phenomenon of illegal immigration by focusing specific factors. The most prominent theories are as follows: (ساعد، 2011/2012)

##### 3.1.2.1. Economic theory

Ernest Ravenstein (1885; 1889), is widely regarded as the earliest migration theorist. He was the author of the first theory explaining immigration through his development of immigration laws in his article in which he formulated his "laws of migration". He concluded that migration was governed by a "push-pull" process; that is, unfavorable conditions in one place "push" people out, and favorable conditions in an external location "pull" them in.

As for the neo-classical theory, explained migration in the context of the relationship between supply and market demand with the development of a reciprocal relationship between the development of labor migration and economic development.

### **3.1.2.Social theory**

Sociological analysis sees that the phenomenon of illegal immigration is linked to the following dimensions:

- Environmental pressures and the accompanying disintegration in the rules of social control and social ties.
- An imbalance between the means and the objectives available to achieve the objectives by legitimate means.

Migration can be classified according to Durkheim's theory into three types:

- Clandestine immigration as a selfish suicide: It occurs because of the extreme individualism and the separation of the individual from the culture in which he lives, where the clandestine immigrant does not find someone to support him when he solves any problem, and thus clandestine immigration becomes one of the vital strategies that he sets for himself.

- Secret immigration as altruistic suicide: It occurs when the individual is closely linked to groups or people imbued with the idea of illegal immigration.)
- Clandestine migration and its being an anime suicide: migration occurs when the social, cultural and moral systems in society are dissolved, in addition to the disruption of the political and economic life in society.

### **3.1.3.Network theory or migration permanence:**

In the 1990s, the old sociological notion of "networks" began to be considered in formulating a new approach to explaining migration. Tendency to migrate is established in families. The family is linked in motivating young people to emigrate and develop their education. Sarah Harrison explained the complexity of family structures that characterize the immigration process, because the family is the mediator between the individual and society. She presented three factors that give the family unit importance in the migration process:

- The family is the main supporter of the immigrant through the provision of resources for travel and accommodation.
- The family owns its economic and social network.
- Considering the family as the main point of orientation for the young man and working to develop and protect him.

### **3.1.4. The theory of attraction and repulsion:**

Where the main reasons for migration were attributed to two factors: communication and the multiplicity of relations existing between the countries of sending and receiving migrants. Boh considered that the characteristics of expulsion and attraction that characterize the countries of origin of migrants or the countries to which they migrate are variables that help in choosing certain groups to migrate from one place to another.

The expulsion factors are represented in: poverty, persecution, social isolation, wars, natural disasters, famine, and the attracting factors are the increased demand for work.

## **3.2. the recorded statistics on the number of cases related to illegal immigration.**

### **3.2.1. The number of Algerians arrested in the context of illegal immigration from 2000 to 2006**

**Table No(1): shows the number of Algerians arrested in the context of illegal immigration from 2000 to 2006**

Years \ Gender	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Sum
Males	42	21	33	09	12	57	707	881
Females	0	01	00	01	00	00	07	09
Sum	42	22	33	10	12	57	714	890

**Source:** National Gendarmerie Command of Cherraga - Algeria –

This table shows that the number of arrested immigrants has reached 881 males, with the largest number of illegal immigrants reaching about 707 persons in 2006, which is a high number compared to the previous years, where the lowest number was recorded in 2003, which amounted to 09 persons.

As for the arrested girls, we note that the number of immigrant immigrants reached 809, and the largest number was recorded in 2006 with 07 immigrant women, to know the absence of immigrant women in the previous years.

From this we conclude that the phenomenon of illegal immigration has witnessed a significant increase among young people in the year 2006, especially as it included females as well.

This is due to the high rate of unemployment and the lack of job opportunities in addition to their possession of university degrees, but they do not comply with the requirements of the labor market, which makes them feel marginalized and humiliated in their countries.

### 3.2.2. Statistics on cases registered in the field of illegal immigration in Algeria from 2001 to 2010

**Table (2): Shows statistics on cases registered in the field of illegal immigration in Algeria from 2001 to 2010**

Years	Registered cases	Number involved
2001	880	1432
2002	1205	2052
2003	1790	2966
2004	1651	3086
2005	1985	3485
2006	1693	3155
2007	2155	3073
2008	2217	4757
2009	2769	7457
2010	2065	7308
2011	1875	5818

**Source:** Directorate of the Judicial Police - Algeria - from 2001 to 2011

The table shows the discrepancy in the number of cases registered in the field of illegal immigration in Algeria from 2001 to 2010, but the number of those involved rises from year to year, as the largest number of cases related to illegal immigration was recorded in 2009 with 2769 cases, which resulted in about 7,457 people were involved, which is also the largest number of those involved compared to the years before and after 2009.

We conclude that the discrepancy in the number of cases related to illegal immigration with the increase in the number of those involved is due to a number of social, economic and security transformations that Algerian society has witnessed, which had repercussions on the Algerian youth who knew a number of problems that come in the forefront of unemployment, family disintegration, The black decade that Algerian society witnessed, all these factors and others had negative effects on the psyche of young people and also contributed to the creation and spread of this phenomenon among them and considered as a means of escaping from the bitter reality in which they live.

## 4. Conclusion

The Algerian society has become suffering from the spread of the phenomenon of illegal immigration among its various groups, especially the youth group, where the reasons for its spread are numerous and differed, including poverty, family disintegration, unemployment, which is one of the most important reasons that prompted young people to illegal immigration in search of work in order to earn money and achieve themselves. However, in many cases, the dream of young people to migrate to other countries ends with death at sea, in the absence of the simplest safe means to migrate without problems.

The phenomenon of illegal immigration has also been linked to other phenomena, such as drug and human trafficking, in addition to the mafia gangs, etc., and accordingly, illegal immigration has become a ghost that threatens the lives of young people, and the efforts of the various state institutions must be combined in order to eliminate it.

### Recommendations

Through this research, we decided to formulate some recommendations, in order to stand in the face of this phenomenon, which led to the exodus of huge numbers of young people to European countries, which are as follows:

- Attempting to encourage the private and public sector to create jobs for young people and give them the opportunity to work in their countries.

Educating the unemployed youth to create productive projects in their countries, with the state's assistance to them in implementing them.

- Mobilizing media institutions in order to educate young people and instill hope in the possibility of stability in Algeria and the realization of their dreams.

- Educating young people about the dangers of illegal immigration and the possibility of losing life as a result.

The government's move to listen to the youth and integrate them into the country's economic and social development plans.

Opening a dialogue with European countries in order to facilitate movement between the countries of the North and the South, for people, so that the idea of adventure is eliminated, and an opportunity to get to know the other is concluded.

- Moving research laboratories in order to study the phenomenon of illegal immigration in depth and try to build systems that meet the demands of young people in their countries and re-plant hope in them.

And in the end, it is not possible to address illegal immigration through discipline and deterrent laws only, but it needs concerted efforts between countries in order to improve the conditions of young people.

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