

# Socio-demographic Factors Affecting Migration Tendency of Iranians

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## Background

- Iran has experienced a negative rate of net international migration since the 1990s.
- The growing trend of emigration of highly educated and skilled people from Iran to other countries has received considerable attention from academics and policy makers.
- This study aims to examine the effects of socio-demographic factors on tendency to migration from Iran.

## Data & Method

- Data come from the “National Survey of Social Capital (NSSC)”, 2015
- The setting & sampling: The survey used multistage cluster sampling of people aged 18 and more residing in 31 provinces of the country, both of urban and rural areas.
- The dependent variable: “Emigration propensity” is measured by a question; How much would you do if you could migrate to another country?. The response ranging from 0 (none) to 3 (high) designed.
- The independent variables are of two categories;
  - “Demographic characteristics”: age, gender, education, marital status, religion, and residency place (city or village).
  - “Social trust”: Social trust is conceptualized in two dimensions; institutional and interpersonal. “Institutional trust” displays how people perceive trust to the 23 formal and informal institutions and how well are operating. Responses are designed in Likert-type ranging from 0 (very low) to 4 (very high). Internal consistency for the scale was very good ( $\alpha = 0.93$ ). “Interpersonal trust” is defined to confidence in another person. This variable is measured by 6 items that are designed in Likert-type ranging from 0 (very low) to 4 (very high). Internal consistency for the scale was good ( $\alpha = 0.74$ ).
- We fit ordinal logit regression models to test our hypotheses.

## Conclusion

- The results show almost one-fourth of respondents have high tendency to leave the country.
- Multivariable analysis indicate that high tendency of migration is significantly associated with various demographic factors, such as; age, gender, education, marital status, religion, and rural-urban residency.
- The findings show that high propensity to migration from Iran is significantly associated with various types of social trust, namely, interpersonal and institutional trust.
- In conclusion, the key and important factors on increasing tendency to migration from Iran is declining of interpersonal and institutional social trusts in recent decades.

## Results

Table 1. Demographic characteristics of respondents – the 2015 NSSC

Demographic characteristics	N	%	
Gender	Men	7074	50.4
	Women	6961	49.6
Age (Mean=38.9 years old)	<30	4545	32.4
	30-44	4878	34.8
	45-59	3226	23.0
	60+	1386	9.9
Marital status	Single	3501	24.9
	Married	9855	70.2
	Divorced/ Widowed	657	4.7
Educational levels	Illiterate	1352	9.6
	Primary	2293	16.3
	Secondary	2288	16.3
	High school or Diploma	4014	28.6
	University; undergraduate	3504	25.0
	University; postgraduate	554	3.9
	Not stated	30	0.2
Religion	Muslim, Shiite	12976	92.4
	Muslim, Sunni	908	6.5
	Non-Muslim	151	1.1
Residency place	Village	4149	29.6
	City	9886	70.4
Total	14035	100.0	

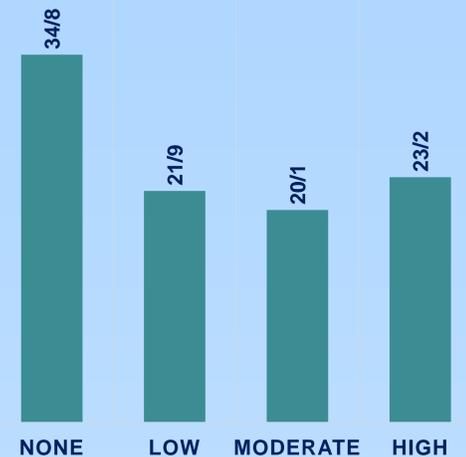


Figure 1. The migration tendency from Iran to another country (%)

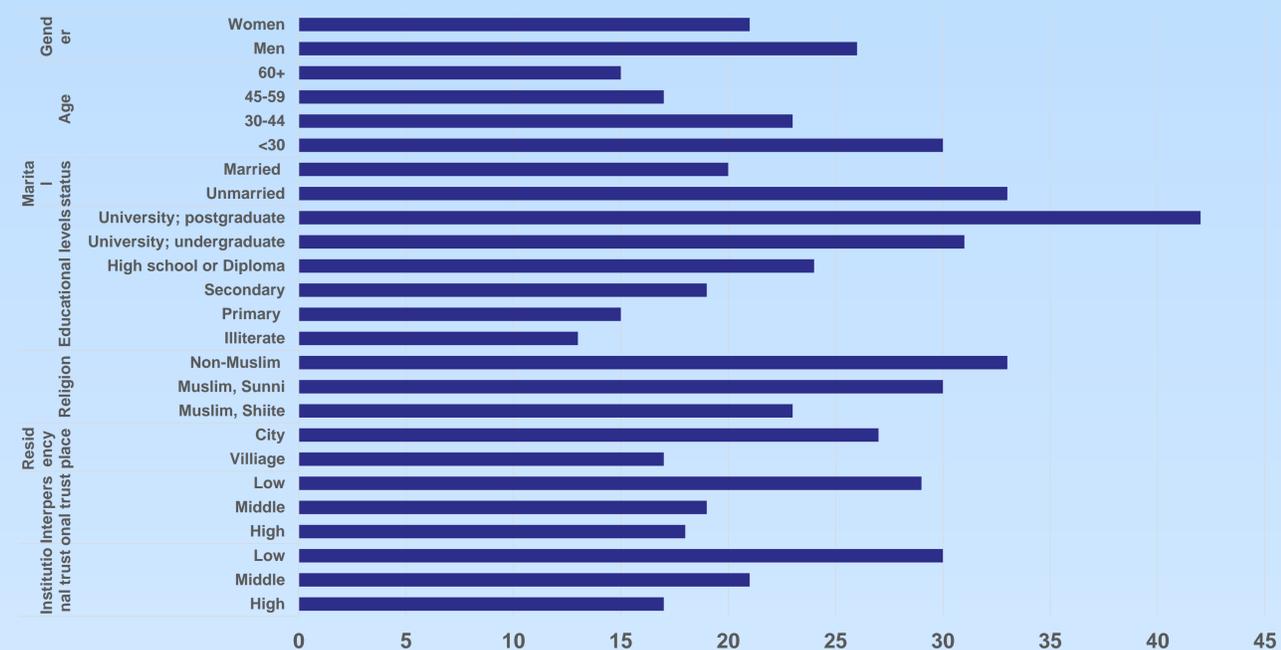


Figure 2. The relationships between socio-demographic variables and high propensity to migration from Iran(%)



Figure 3. The effects of socio-demographic variables on high propensity to migration; Odds ratio from ordinal regression