Influence of Immigration Laws in the United States

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**Introduction**

Immigration has been a popular concept within the realm of humanity. Throughout the history of humanity, people have been migrating for trade, war, and other medieval reasons. However, the development of civilization and globalization has led to people migrate in search of further education, better employment opportunities, better living conditions, better healthcare, and escaping the effects of war, among other major economic, psychological and social reasons on both the United States and the immigrants themselves.

Due to the rising culture of migration, countries have resulted in designing and enacting laws to regulate the rate of immigration in a country. Among the countries that have recently focused on the issue of foreign settlement within the America borders, once regarded as the “Land of Opportunity,” but currently closing its doors for non-essential immigrants who turn to the United States for better living conditions, among other reasons suggested above.

Immigration can be linked with several diverse effects, including the acquirement of talent, heightened innovation, better occupational specialization, and increased rate of economic productivity. These factors affect a country, such as the United States, positively contributing to the gross domestic product (GDP) of the country. However, immigration can also affect a country adversely relating to the rise in population and the various factors that emerge from the rise in the population without a corresponding rise with the country’s resources or productivity.

One major factor that has contributed to such adversity includes the immigration of unskilled, or persons that can politely be regarded as non-essential immigrants who benefit from the resources of the country, but altogether, have less effective influence in the productivity of the country. For instance, unskilled or uneducated immigrants moving in the United States benefits from the resources the country has to offer to its citizens, however, due to their inefficiency in contributing to the economy, these persons prove a burden to the government of the United States due to the dependency of these immigrants to the government and other institutions for survival. Such has been the greatest grievance to Trump’s administration, demanding the regulation of the rate of settlement in the country. However, this regulation is not a recent trend in the United States. Regulation of immigration in this country began after the Immigration Act of 1882 was passed by the United States legislature after a unanimous vote by 47 congresspeople deliberated for regulating the rate of immigrants settling in the States.

Presently, the United States hosts the highest population by immigrant count, who are approximately 49.8 million, gradually shifting downwards within the last decade. For instance, the total number of visas given out by the ministry of immigration in 2018 was 7468 compared to 9130 visas granted in 2004. The current record of visas granted falls way below the set target of 675000 visas the United States planned to offer non-citizens in a year. Such shows the major effect the United States immigration laws on the country. Given such a winning momentum, this paper attempts to examine the influence emanating from the laws and policies regarding foreign settlement in the States.

**Analysis**

One of the policies employed to regulate the population of immigrants living in the States is the use of Executive Order. An executive order is a presidential decree over a specific issue. Specifically, such laws do not include congress and are effective as common laws. For instance, the EO13768 law regulates the extradition of any illegal immigrants living within the borders of the United States. Another fundamental law is the EO 13767, derived in 2017 with a principal objective to construct a brick wall that would separate the United States and Mexico at the border. Another noteworthy Executive Order, EO 13789, looks to limit the H-1B visa platform that disallows Organizations from importing talent and employees from outside the United States.

The major roles of these policies set by the United States are to divert the focus of national resources from being dedicated to aiding the immigrants. Instead, these resources get directed to improving the living conditions of the legitimate citizens in the United States (Krogstad, Passel & Cohn). Therefore, it can be assumed that American immigration laws improve the living conditions of the American citizens by limiting the population of immigrants who shares the public resources with locals. Such is achieved from the frustrations the United States government places on immigrants, preventing the population swell of this country. However, an executive order such as EO13767, to mark the U.S.-Mexico border with a brick wall, has been greatly criticized following the huge budget such a project would attract.

**Loss of Vastly Expert Immigrants and Deleterious Economic Effects.**

On the same point, such Executive Orders from the presidential administration may also act as a hindrance to the growth of the American economy, especially with regards to the informal sector. According to (Krogstad, Passel & Cohn), Mexico has been providing the United States with immigrants who work on low-wage jobs in both the unskilled and semi-skilled labor market. Such a factor affects the United States economy negatively, following that the low-wage jobs offered to immigrants, especially from Mexico, would have to find other alternatives for human resources. This element would increase the cost of production for such organizations. Given both the pros and cons, the American laws on immigration provide both adverse and beneficial effects on the country, as has been described above.

Khanna & Morales, (2017) explains that the HB-1 structure, a scheme that allowed hiring proper working conditions for foreign employers, which is a policy that allowed hiring and enabling the working conditions for foreign employers. Such provided an industrial boom in the country by increased the degree of skilled workforce, specifically with the computer science-related grounds. The results of this technological boom promoted a significant development of the information technology segment in the country for several decades following the huge leaps in technological development. Before the United States placed stricter regulations in immigration, Indians provided their expert market to many business organizations in the United States given their diverse skills and knowledge in the I.T. sector that was greatly inspired by the apparent refined life in terms of job, political and financial stability that the United States has to offer.

However, the current administration implemented strict laws that limit people, skilled or not, to immigrate to the U.S. Given so, it is clear that the United States lost some credible source of skilled and expert talent that was greatly contributed by the Indian labor market. These critical talents were lost to countries such as Germany, Canada, China, and the United Kingdom, and that favors the growth of these countries over the United States in matters regarding technological innovation (Khanna & Morales, 2017).

According to Hill & Wiehe (2017), skilled or semi-skilled immigration are among the main drivers of the financial development of a country in terms of revenue and the gross domestic product. For instance, the immigrants registered under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) funds approximately 1.7 billion USD as revenue in the form of disposable income, excise duty, and sales to support the local and federal authorities. Since immigrants residing and operating in the United States are taxpayers, applying stringent laws on immigration in the United States, have led to adversative economic implications since both the unskilled, semi-skilled, and skilled look to immigrate to other countries except the United States given its employment on the strict immigration policies. For instance, people immigrating to the United States as children but differed from deportation have the right to work in this country without having to be deported (Hill & Wiehe, 2017).

However, the current government disregards that immigrants provide substantial contributions in the country and has, therefore, chosen to curtail the already existing legal structures that safeguard the immigrants by pressuring these “legal” immigrants. Such has then led to the reduction of the country’s revenues at the local and federal levels by 700 million USD, as DACA pronounces (Hill & Wiehe, 2017).

It is agreeable that the elite immigrants are a contributing factor to the advancement of local populations, especially in their areas of residence. For instance, the immigrant engineers, scientists, and environmentalists actively contribute to the residents, thus making a generalized contribution to the economy of the states, as well as the throughput provided by the indigenous communities. The current immigration laws of America have been reported to discriminate between racial diversity in the States. This bracket also includes the allowed settlers who face discriminative challenges during the application of work permits (Mayda & Pen, 2017).

The employment sector also faces severe challenges of discrimination, given that the corporations in the United States are restricted from employing foreigners regardless of their skills or knowledge. Such leads these contributive persons to seek other prospects from other countries that provide accommodative policies regarding the rights of immigrants. These countries include but not limited to Canada, the United Kingdom, China, et cetera. Such results to the United States losing grand amounts of productivity and revenue, further worsening the economic performance of the country (Mayda & Pen, 2017). Probably, several decades in the future would have these countries enjoying more productivity than the United States due to their welcoming policies to immigrants.

Skilled immigrants are great contributors to a country’s development. The same has been proven by the United States in the past due to the great development in innovation and businesses that employ many people in the United States. After foreigners are allowed the H-1B visas, especially to the Chinese and Indians entrepreneurs who invest their businesses in America. Much of the growth in the United States economy can be attributed to the contributions foreign investors make in this country through diverse, innovative activities that positively contribute to the economy of the United States. The bottom line remains that skilled entrepreneurs from other nations contributed to the growth of the United States economy. Therefore, the stringent immigration policies recently adopted by the American government are elements of limitation that deteriorate the economy of this country following the marginalization of the employment opportunities foreign investors make on the economy of this country. Such is due to the decrease of the patent that was registered under the U.S. jurisdiction by foreign entrepreneurs (Stone & Bryant 2018/2019).

The highly expert labor provided by immigrants in the United States adds value to consumers of products sold in the United States. According to (Bound & Morales, 2017) argues that immigrants can provide quality, cheap, and abundant labor for organizations. Here, most shoppers acquire products and services at moderately low prices that are generated from the meager wages paid to foreign workers. The H-1B scheme introduced in the 1990s allows the employment of expert foreign workers. This scheme generated financial benefits for the tech sector, as well as the end consumer due to increment in the profit margin made by organizations from the sidelined wages paid to immigrants working in the I.T. sector in America. However, things have changed after the immigrant laws got enacted, leaving immigrants to relocate to other countries with more accommodating. Such countries include Canada, where there are open doors for skilled immigrant entry (Bound & Morales, 2017).

The human capital provides by immigrants consists of experience, skills, and education. Following the swell of the foreign Immigrants in the States, most of these individuals tend to assume that they stand better chances of work through acquiring education to refine their expertise. Therefore, the United States experienced the rise of immigrants holding college certification from 3.1 million in 1990 to 11.1 million in 2015. Although the majority of the students choose to remain in the United States regardless of the strict immigrant laws, current times have made matters worse for them as the Trump administration applied stricter immigration policies. Such increases the likelihood that students tend to seek refuge from other countries with more lenient immigration laws from where they can put their skills into practice. Therefore, the current immigration decrees in America is leading this country to lose its hold on the skilled and educated human capital (Batalova & Fix, 2017).

Following that, expert students made a great impact in America; the current immigration laws have pushed these students to move to other countries such as the United Kingdom, China, and Canada. (El-Bawab, 2019) explains that these laws have drained the interest foreign students had to learn and work in the U.S. which resultantly declined intercontinental scholar applications and matriculation to the various institutions in the United States from 2018.nFollowing the nativism attitude such as "Buy American, Hire American," denies students the abilities to overstay their visas in the country. El-Bawab continues that the majority of these students enquire from lawyers on how Canadian life would favor them. Canada is currently accommodative, giving express admission of workers and students who give quick residency and work permits. Therefore, it gets evident that the United States loses quality and educated students who would make profound employees that would steer the United States economic-wise (El-Bawab, 2019).

Molla (2019) has the same opinion regarding the loss of students to other friendlier countries. While nativism is considered to reduce the competition for jobs between the native employees and the skilled immigrants by deporting some immigrants, the loss of the United States becomes a gain to countries such as Canada who is currently developing into a tech hub from the innovation these students bring in the country. For instance, Toronto got ranked as position four in 2018 in technological innovation following the “Coldwell Banker Richard Ellis tech talent list.” It is only a matter of time and a little effort before Toronto subdues Washington DC, Seattle, and San Francisco as the leading region with extensive tech workers. Molla (2019) gives an example of Das, an Indian engineer formerly working in the United States. When asked where he wants to work, he chose Toronto over New York due to the accommodative laws in Canada (Molla, 2019).

**Undermining the Efforts Asserted by Various Resettlement Agencies**

The immigration edicts adopted in America have also remained seen to frustrate the diverse determinations made by various philanthropic organizations to refuge people fleeing from life-threatening situations such as political instability, war, et cetera. For instance, people from countries experiencing civil unrest tend to escape to peaceful countries such as the United States. Before, the United States assumed a vital role in the accommodation of immigrants searching for a haven from their countries. Contrariwise, the current American administration has implemented laws that change the positive development earlier administrations made in resettling the war afflicted immigrants, among others who come into the states for economic or social reasons (Kaba, 2019).

Therefore, reducing the visas for entry in the United States has worsened the situation for immigrants within war-stricken countries by denying them what they consider a haven. Worse, the government of the United States has been pushing other governments such as European nations to lessen their accommodation of immigrants, as well as deporting the ones already residing in these countries. Such deeds can be attributed to the employment of nativism attitudes among countries that have a conservative attitude towards immigrants, as well as the philanthropic efforts that look to resettle immigrants in countries that are war-stricken or have unstable living conditions (Kaba, 2019).

After the Displaced Persons Act of 1948 was signed, the United States was on the front line in welcoming immigrants in the country. However, nativism has resulted in the United States placing legislative restrictions on immigrants, both currently immigrating and those that immigrated before. Especially in the 19th century to the present, the concept of nativism in the U.S. has strived to frustrate the efforts that have been made by various organizations in resettling immigrants in the United States. Often, the concept of nativism has currently been focused on specific groups, strategically targeted by the government. For example, Young (2017) explains that persons from the Islamic society and Mexicans are the most affected by the current wave of nationalism implemented through the country’s legislation.

Additionally, Young mentions that nativism does not disappear absolutely. Rather, this concept is suppressed and resurfaces when there is a need to reduce the immigrant population in a country over time. Therefore, the majority of the people, including the immigrants, get inclined to implement the attitude of nativism with time. Such moves to further hinder the various efforts asserted by civic organizations in resettling immigrants, following that the nativism attitude remains ingrained within the country’s belief system (Young, 2017).

The administrative police of the United States have also been posted under a restrictive stance given that the fundamental grievance given by the Trump government is to reduce the security threat immigrants have on the citizens of the United States. For instance, immigrants from Islamic backgrounds are generally related to terrorism. They, therefore, pose a threat to the United States, either realistically or psychologically, where residents feel uncomfortable and threatened just by the presence of Islamic persons. Such has violated the core values of Americans, which underlines justice and freedom for all people regardless of race, ethnicity, or religion. The administration of President Eisenhower was a perfect example of the former inclination of the United States campaign for justice and freedom by welcoming immigrants who manage to flee from oppression and war from their native communistic countries. However, the current administration in the United States has curtailed such a fundamental privilege the United States government had offered these immigrants by denying them entry into the country while preventing further entry of non-citizens in the country. Such shows that the current administration under the immigration laws is not welcoming to people from particular countries, citing the loosening security measures that are adopted to curtail the safety of U.S. residents Nardini (2018).

According to Nardini (2018), The Eisenhower administration had validated the impression of strength and confidence in readiness to associate with foreign countries to protect the people fleeing from the effects of their communist governments. Therefore, certain security threats such as terrorism can be overwhelmed through joint forces with terrorism refugees by providing a haven for these persons by accommodating them in America.

**Family Separation**

The new immigration edicts in America have led to physical family separation. Given that some immigrants moved to the States as young children and have lived there long enough to establish family ties. However, these immigration laws have ignored the communal and family ties established by the immigrants. At the same time, in their stay in the U.S. Such destroys the communal relationships that immigrant children raised in the United States and considering this country as their home. Such trends have significant effects on children given that when their parents get deported, they choose to carry their children to a country that their children are not familiar with or can choose to leave their children with trusted guardians in the States instead. Either way, this procedure is not taken lightly since a child’s psychological standpoint remains within the confines of familiar environment Hill & Wiehe (2017).

The strict immigration laws of the United States also affects individual immigrants, their families, and family principles. Gubernskaya & Derby (2017) explains that immigrants often experience overwrought familial connections between parents, especially fathers and their children, given that the likelihood of men getting deported is higher than women. Such forms of separation prove a psychological effect of both short-term and long-term psychological effects on the children I the event their parents get deported. Such then lead these children to develop behavioral defects such as sleep and diet changes, anxiety, and discomfort. Such leads the immigrants to hinge on family networks for housing, employment, schooling, childcare, and transportation.

In 2018, the U.S. government introduced strict policies and non-tolerance to the unlawful entry of foreigners into the country. Such developed a strategy for the U.S. and Mexico border issue that saw many Mexicans (illegal) getting detained. Such created separation of children from their parents after children were accommodated in child shelters while their parents were detained. Wood provides that approximately 2300 migrant children got disjointed from their paternities by June 2018. Such led to the development of mental well-being by these children as a consequence of the new and strict immigration policies derived by the U.S. government. Such then poses a prompt to countries to erect different measures to counter child-parent separation as a way to counter stress and depression with children after their parents are detained due to their illegal residence in the United States (Wood, 2018).

**Conclusion**

In conclusion, the immigration laws, much provided by Executive Orders, have recently limited immigrant accommodation in the United States of America. Worse, immigrants that were prior recognized to have gained legal residency have faced deportation back to their native countries following several grievances claimed by the United States government. Such include the competition of resources between immigrants and natives.

Due to the implementation of the immigrant laws, the United States has suffered grave consequences such as the loss of cheap labor, technological innovation, and skilled talent that was readily offered by the immigrants working in the States. Such is set to reduce the rate of growth in this country as the economy is set to decline and the development, especially technological, lost to other countries such as China, Canada, and the United Kingdom who are willing to accommodate immigrants for their contribution in the country’s economy and technological innovation. More, this paper has identified the various psychological effects on children in the event they get separated from their parents after deportation. Specifically, Hill & Wiehe (2017) explain that these children, accustomed to the American lifestyle, are either taken to their parent’s motherland or left with trusted guardians to look after them.

Despite the economic and psychological effects caused by the American immigration laws, there is also an effect on the deterrence to the efforts made by philanthropic organizations to resettle immigrants who escape their home countries in search of a haven in America. Such has been acknowledged to curtail the efforts of the United States in fighting global terrorism.

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