Future of Egyptian Labor Migration after the Arab Uprising

By

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Abstract:

The present study is an attempt to predict the future of Egyptian labor migration in view of the socioeconomic and political changes associated with Egyptian uprising of 25 of January 2011. The study noted that current instability in the political and economic situations, lack of security, increasing unemployment among new graduates as a result of shortage of investments and early retirements as a result of closing many of existing investments may represents a new push factors which increase the intention of migration among Egyptians in the near future. The rise of the Islamic movement after the 25 January revolt may represents a another new push factor increasing the tendency of migration among specific groups of Egyptian, who are in disagree with the views of these movements, such as Christians, businessmen, and ultra modern Moslem. Arab countries are still the most potential destination for temporary migration, while United States and West Europe are the most preferred destinations for permanent migration. Level of competition with cheap labor of South Asia, the supply of national employment and their skills, wages and productivity levels, the impact of political instability in the region on growth rate (mostly oil prices) of Arab Gulf countries are the most important determinates of the future of Egyptian labor migration. The political tension between Egypt and many of Arab Gulf Countries, especially UAE and KSA, as a result the political rapprochement with Iran; the risks that faced many of Gulf investments in Egypt; and the cancellation of contracts of many projects due to illegal procedures or non-optimal use of land granted to these projects, may lead to changes in the migration or labor policies of these countries, and consequently could affect the current and potential flows of Egyptian migrants. On the other hand, the new political and economic relations with African countries, especially Nile Basin countries after the 25 January revolution, may lead to opening new and promising labor markets for the future Egyptian labor migration. Strengthen the economic, political, and commercial relations with neighbor countries, especially Arab gulf and African countries, is recommended to keep the traditional labor markets and opening new markets to the surplus of Egyptian labors.

Keywords: Egypt, Arab uprising, Arab Gulf countries, Labor migration, unemployment, labor markets, remittance, Diaspora

1. Introduction:

The term of “Arab uprising” was commonly known and frequently used during the past two years to describe the public revolutions that rose in Arab countries, mostly in sending countries of labor migrants. These revolutions were and still cause many of the social, economic, and political instability and changes. Labor migration from Arab uprising countries is one of human activities that would be affected by these revolutions. Forecasting the future of labor migration from Arab uprising countries is hard unless the Features of the new socioeconomic and political system is appeared and the required time period of achieving the targets of these revolts are estimated.

For instances, after two years of Egypt’s revolution, the country is still suffering from severe economic crisis, lack of investments, political instability, Loose of security, social inequality, and deterioration in tourism. Of sure the future of Egyptian labor migration cannot be determined in separation of the mutual effect of these variables. The future of Egyptian labor migration after the revolt of 25 January is the main concern of this study. Historical trend of Egyptian labor migration, with focus of the main push factors will be discussed. Furthermore, the future of Egyptian Labor migration in view of the socioeconomic and political changes associated with Egyptian uprising of 25th of January 2011 will be predicted. A discussion to the views of receiving countries toward Egyptian labor migrants after the revolt and the potential new destinations to Egyptian labor migrants will be presented. A set of recommendations and policy implications will be provided.

2. Trend in Egyptian Labor migration:

2.1. Trend in numbers:

Many studies dealt with the subject of historical trend of Egyptian migration (Zohry, 2003; Nassar, 2005; Hassan, 2009 and Roushdy, 2009). Egyptians didn’t know migration before the 19th century. Across their history, they stayed in stable communities around the Nile River. Agriculture was the main occupation of the majority of population and the production was enough to feed the all. The first stream of Egyptian migration was a temporary movement and consisted of students who directed to Europe in the beginning of 19th century, with the early establishment of Egypt's modern state. After 1952 revolution, another stream of temporary movement of Egyptian professionals, mostly teachers and doctors to Arab countries, especially Arab Gulf countries was initiated. After 1973 war and the increase in oil prices, Arab oil-producing countries (Arab Gulf Countries and Libya) adopted ambitious development plans but faced with shortage in supply of national workers and consequently the demand for foreign workers is started and expanded.

Egyptian working in the Arab region was estimated by about 370 thousand in 1975 (Brinks and Sinclair, 1980). They represent about 56% of total Egyptian abroad (about 655 thousands). Egyptian migration policies at this time were viewed as a solution for unemployment; a source for extra fund through remittances; a treating for the deficits in payments balance; and served as political tool in achieving Arab integration through supplying Arab countries with the required labors. Egyptian migrants to Arab countries during this period were professional, skilled and unskilled laborers.

The number Egyptian working abroad increased to be about 1 million in 1980. The number doubled during the next six years to reach about 2.25 million by 1986 (CAPMAS, 1989). Late 80's was associated with many changes in the political, economic, and international factors in Arab Gulf countries. These factors represented in end of the first Gulf War; fall in oil prices; decline in economic activities, and adopting of nationalization policies (replacing foreign labor with national labor force). Consequently, the trend of Egyptian labor migration was slowed, but the number of Egyptian workers abroad still exceeded 2.2 million by the early of 1990s. The second Gulf War of Iraq-Kuwait directly influenced the conditions of migrants in these two countries. Almost, all the Egyptian migrants in Iraq and Kuwait returned to Egypt. Findings of 1996 census indicated that the number of migrants abroad reached 2.8 million (CAPMAS, 1999).

Despite the difference in figures from one source to another as shown in Table 1, the major phenomena can observe is increasing the number of Egyptian labor migrants over time. This increase was associated with a reduction in the percentage of Egyptian labor migrants to Arab countries (mostly Gulf countries). This reduction was estimated by about 10 to 15% of the initial percentage of 80's decade (estimated by 87%). According to the Egyptian Ministry of Manpower and Emigration, the total number of Egyptians living abroad in 2008 was approximately 6.5 million, 74% in Arab states. The reduction in Egyptian labor migrants to Arab countries was associated with increasing in Egyptian labor migrants to European and American countries and Australia. A new trend of Egyptian labor migrants to Asian and African labor markets is started to appear during the last few years (see Table 1). Two-thirds of Egyptian migrants are assumed to be

Table 1: Egyptian emigration by region of destination and type of migration, years 2006, 2008

(Numbers in thousands)

Region of destination	2006 (1)			2008 (2)
	Type of Migration		Total No. (%)	Total No. (%)
	Temporary No. (%)	Permanent No. (%)		
Arab countries	1,928 (95.4)		1,928 (67.8)	4,789 (74.0)
European countries	76,4 (3.8)	326,0 (39.6)	402,4 (14.1)	790,8 (12.2)
Australia	12.0 (0.6)	70,0 (8.5)	82.0 (2.9)	106,0 (1.6)
American countries	0.8 (0.0)	428,0 (51.9)	428,8 (15.1)	780,8 (12.1)
African countries	2,4 (0.1)		2,4 (0.1)	2,4 (0.0)
Asian countries	1,2 (0.1)		1,2 (0.0)	6,1 (0.1)
Total	**2,021 (100)**	**824,0 (100)**	**2,845 (100)**	**6,476 (100)**

Source: (1) Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS).

(2) Egyptian Ministry of Manpower and Emigration

temporary, while the other third are permanent. Temporary migration is mostly directed to Arab countries, while permanent residency and citizenship possibilities are closed to foreign nationals.

2.2. Trend in destinations:

During the 1970s and most of the 1980s, the demand on Egyptian labor was concentrated in four markets: Saudi Arabia, Libya, Jordan, and Kuwait. During the last three decades, number of Egyptian labor migrants to Iraq and Libya was fluctuated as a result of political and economic instability associated with the Gulf Wars and decisions of old regime in Libya. Saudi Arabia was and still absorbing the highest percentage of temporary Egyptian labors abroad (46.7%) followed by Kuwait (20%), Jordan (15.4%), and UAE (11.4%). These four countries currently absorbing about 94.4 % of temporary Egyptian labor migrants to Arab countries in 2007 (See table 2).

Egyptian labor migrants to Arab countries are comprised of both highly skilled and unskilled persons, and majority of migrants are male. The early streams (mid 70's) of Egyptian labor migrants to Gulf countries were construction workers, while the percentage of scientists and technicians in the current streams have increased. Percentage of scientists and technicians increased from 20.4% of all professions in 80's to 40.2% in 90's and remained constant at this level through 2000's decade. Due to new streams of cheap labor migrants coming from South-East Asia, unskilled Egyptian labors face a high level of competition in the traditional markets of Arab Gulf countries (Hassan, 2008).

The flow of Egyptian migrants to America and Europe is started with the beginning of 1960's and characterized by permanently. According to CAMPAS, 2006 estimates, the total number of Egyptian migrants to America and Europe countries was about 824 thousands (Table 1). About 50% of those migrants went to USA and Canada while the other 50% directed to Europe countries and Australia, especially Italy, Greece, Holland, France, England, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, and Spain.

Table 2: Egyptian temporary workers* in Arab countries by country of residence and sex, 2007

(Numbers in thousands)

Countries	Sex				Total	
	Male		Female			
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
KSA	477,4	47.8	12,1	40.4	459,5	47.6
Kuwait	183,0	19.6	10,1	34.0	193,1	20.0
Jordan	148,6	15.9	0,1	0.3	148,7	15.4
U. A. E.	105,5	11.3	4,6	15.4	110.1	11.4
Qatar	31,6	3.4	0,9	2.9	32,5	3.4
Oman	7,9	0.9	1,9	6.2	9,8	1.0
Lebanon	6,9	0.7	0,09	0.1	6,99	0.7
Bahrain	2,6	0.3	0,2	0.6	2,8	0.3
Other Arab countries	2,6	0.3	0,06	0.2	2,7	0.3
Total	**936,2**	**100**	**30,0**	**100**	**966,2**	**100**

Source: Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS).

***:** People holding a valid work permit.

3. History of receiving countries with Egyptian labor migrants:

Time of discovering oil in the GCC countries was associated with shortage in national manpower required for progress. GCC countries tend to employ a large number of migrant workers to meet the needs of labor-market. The first streams of labor migrants to the Gulf countries came from neighboring Arab countries. Egypt and Yemen were the largest labor-sending countries, while Saudi Arabia was the largest recipient country of this labor. Compatibility in cultural, ethnic and religious with national populations made them highly acceptable with the local socio-cultural atmosphere and the mostly required source to fulfill the gab in labor supply. After 1973 war and the rise of oil prices, new waves of Arab labor from Palestine, Jordan, Sudan and Syria arrived to the GCC countries. Finally, workers from many Asian countries including

India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Philippines and Indonesia started to come to the Gulf countries. As a consequence, the percentage of the expatriate workforce in Gulf countries increased from 39% in 1975 to about 70% in 2005 (Shakoori, 2005 and Hassan, 2009). The period between 1980 and 1995 represented the peak period of employing foreign workers in Gulf countries. Asian workers were less expensive to employ, easier to withdraw, and thought to be more efficient (Girgis, 2002, Kapiszewski, 2006, and Hassan, 2009). Another advanced point for Asian workers that they were used to leaving their families in their home countries and migrate alone, while Arab workers usually tend to brought their families to the Gulf with the hope of permanent staying, which was against the policies of many of the Gulf authorities. After 1995, the percentage of foreign workers began to gradually decrease as a result of the increasing pressures of national unemployment.

The major change in the composition of foreign labor in gulf countries occurred with the first Gulf War 1991, where many of Arab workers were forced to leave the Gulf countries. Approximately 2 million of Arab workers and their dependents have been dislocated from their residences in Gulf countries (Fergany, 2001). The labor markets of gulf countries started to replace the jobs that were originally held by Arab migrants with Asian migrants.

In 1985, the size of emigrant labors in Gulf labor markets was 4.4 million, represents about 70% of total labor force in these countries. By 1999, foreign labor in Gulf countries comprised 64% of the total labor force. Approximately no change in the share of emigrants the total labor force between 1999 and 2008 (65%). Percentage of emigrant’s labor in Qatar, Kuwait and UAE exceeded 80% in 2008. KSA and Oman had the lowest rates, but even there labor emigrants constituted at least 50% of the labor force. The rate in Bahrain reached 75.8% (see Table 3).

The current composition of foreign workers in Gulf countries indicates an obvious decrease in the percentage of Arab workers, to be only 23% by 2008. The reduction in the percentage of Arab workers associated with the increase in the percentage of Asian

Table 3: Percentage of expatriates in the labor markets of Arab Gulf countries, 1985-2008

(Numbers in thousands)

Country	Years		
	1985 No. (%)	**1999 No. (%)**	**2008 No. (%)**
Bahrain	101 (58.0)	194 (63.2)	438 (75.8)
Kuwait	544 (81.2)	1005 (82.0)	1780 (80.0)
Oman	300 (64.2)	503 (61.7)	795 (68.0)
Qatar	156 (89.7)	244 (97.1)	766 (92.5)
Saudi Arabia	2662 (64.9)	4003 (55.9)	4280 (50.1)
U. A. E.	612 (89.5)	1165 (90.4)	2588 (85.0)
All Arab Gulf Countries	4375 (69.8)	7114 (64.1)	10647 (65.3)

Source: Winckler, 2010. Labor Migration to the GCC States: patterns, Scale, and Policies, in Migration and the Gulf, The Middle East Institute, Washington, DC.

workers to reach approximately 70%. UAE and Oman are highest among Gulf countries in employing non-Arab labor emigrants, where the percentage of Arab workers less than 10% of foreign workers in these two countries. Although, Qatar, KSA and Kuwait employs the highest number of Arab workers but their percent to the total foreign workers not exceed 40% (Table 4).

Half of the labor emigrants in Gulf countries have little or no education, one-fourth have low education level, and the remaining one-fourth have either intermediate or high education levels. Previous studies indicated to higher levels of education among Arab workers in Gulf countries compared with non-Arab counterparts, especially Asian migrant workers (Shamsi, 2006 and LAS, 2006).

Table 4: Major Communities of emigrant workers in Gulf countries, 2008

Gulf Countries	Emigrant workers by communities						
	Total of Emigrant workers	Arab		Asian		Others	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
KSA	4,894,000	1,527,000	31.2	2,902,000	59.3	465,000	9.5
UAE	2,738,000	238,000	8.7	2,386,000	87.1	114,000	4.2
Kuwait	1,302,791	403,000	30.9	851,000	65.3	48,791	3.7
Oman	605,000	34,000	5.6	559,000	92.4	12,000	2.0
Qatar	315,034	126,013	40.0	144,915	46.0	44,106	14.0
Bahrain	306,000	38,000	12.4	245,000	80.1	23,000	7.5
Total	10,160,825	2,366,013	23.3	7,087,915	69.8	706,897	7.0

Source: Arab Labor Organization (ALO) database.

Despite the large reduction in the number of Arab workers employed in Gulf countries, Arab workers still hold the majority of the highly skilled occupations (Girgis, 2002). For instance, 40% of the Arab emigrants in labor market of Kuwait participate in highly skilled occupational categories (professionals, technical, managerial, and clerical positions). On the other hand, 86% of Asian emigrants participate in lower skilled occupational categories (services, agriculture, and production). The semi-skilled occupations did not show such visible disparities between these two groups. The disparities in the occupation classification are even more apparent among female foreign workers than male in Kuwait. While more than 80% of Arab female workers participate in technical, managerial, and clerical jobs, only 10% of Asian females are employed in these categories. Majority of Asian female workers are employed in the services sector (85.8%), comparing with less than 10% of Arab female are participate in this sector (Hassan, 2009).

4. Future of Egyptian labor migration after the uprising:

It is hard to reach an accurate prediction to the future of Egyptian labor migration after Egypt's revolt of 25 January 2011. Such prediction is depending on several economic, political and social factors. Part of these factors is related to country of origin (Egypt) and the other part is related to countries of destinations. Countries of destinations are also varying by type of migration they received. While Arab Gulf countries and Libya is the major receiver for temporary Egyptian labor migrants, USA, and Europe is the main receiver for permanent Egyptian labor migrants. In general we can summarize the main determinates of future of Egyptian labor migration in the two set of factors as following:

4.1. Factors related to the country of origin (Egypt):

4.1.1. Economic factors of origin:

The reduction in economic, social and political situations of Egypt and Egyptians during the past three decades, corruption in almost all governmental institutions, high unemployment rate, and inflation were the most important reasons of 25 January 2011 Egyptian's revolution. With the election of new authority and shifting to the new regime, many of problems faced them. Economic conditions became worse; inflation and unemployment reached unprecedented rates (8.2% and 13% respectively) (Economic Freedom Score, 2013), the GDP drooped to 1.2%. The foreign currency reserves dropped from $36 billion to $15 billion at the end of December 2012, Exports dropped 40% and industry was working by only 50% of its capacity. Economic instability and lack of security discouraged the new investors and forced the old investors from entering and/or continuing in the Egyptian market.

With the prevalence of these doubtful situations, the issue of emigration is greatly appeared, given the fact that, as the economic pressures increases the thoughts of emigration becomes high. As these burdens and levels increases, the tendency among unemployed to emigrate for work opportunities even with low wages and less benefits will increases.

4.1.2. Political factors of origin:

The rise of the Islamic movement after the 25 January revolt may represents a new push factor for specific categories of Egyptian such as Copts and Christians, businessmen, and ultra modern Moslem, these groups of Egyptian are not in agreement with changing their life pattern according to the new scheme. Number of visas to Europe, Canada and the U.S. is increasing and they are mostly Christians (Hafez et al., 2012).

4.1.3. Social factors of origin:

Social factors included household and individual characteristics can consider as influencing factors may increase or decrease the intention or aspiration of migration especially among young generation. Migration intention or aspiration can be used as a predictor of future migration outflows. Based on the results of studies conducted on migration intention or aspiration among Egyptian youth, potentially or previously migrants, either before or after Egypt revolt of 2011 (Zohry, 2003; IOM, 2003; PC, 2009; and IOM, 2011) we can conclude that:

Approximately, no change in intention of migration among Egyptian, before and after the revolt is observed. This may reflect the hope among youth in improving the economic and political situations after the revolution in the way that lead to the improving the labor market conditions and increasing the job opportunities. Work-related reasons were the most pull factors of potential migration (more than 80% of the reasons of potential migration are economic).

Table 5: Distribution of the reasons of potential migration by previous migration experience, 2011

Reasons of migration	Migration Experience		Total
	Return	Non	
Work-related reasons:			
Unable to find job	8.6	6.7	7.6
Income insufficient to support family	26.0	13.4	17.5
Seeks job and/or income	4.0	6.0	5.5
Increase opportunities to save money	1.7	2.2	2.2
Improve standards of living	44.4	50.0	48.8
Family-related reasons:			
Need of money to get married	2.3	5.2	4.2
Need of money for the family	1.8	0.7	1.3
Accompany fellow/spouse	0.8	4.2	2.0
Other reasons:			
Educational purposes	0.4	1.8	1.4
Desire to go abroad	2.9	4.5	3.2
Other:	7.1	5.4	6.3
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**
Number	**269**	**375**	**644**

Source: IOM, 2011. Egypt after January 25: Survey of Youth Migration Intentions.

2011) (see table 5).

Insufficient income to support their family is the second most important economic reason for potential migration. Need for money to assist in marriage is the most family-related reason of migration (IOM, 2011).

Reason of migration is differ by sex of migrant. While intentions of emigration for economic reasons are higher among male (89%), social reasons (mostly family-related reasons) represents the general reason of emigration among female (75%). Only onefifth of female intend to move abroad for economic reasons (IOM, 2003). Intention of migration among Egyptian (15%) is lower than some similar countries such as Ghana, and Senegal (40%), Turkey (27%), and Morocco (20%). Tendency of migration increases as the level of education of potential migrants increases. Migration intentions decrease with age. Social networks play an important role in facilitating migration (Zohry, 2003).

4.1.4. Future destinations to Egyptian labor migration:

It is important to note that new generation of Egyptian youth becomes more opening on and contacting with the culture of the West as a result of new communication facilities and globalization process. America, Australia, and Europe became the most preferred destinations for future labor's migration. As a result of increasing the aspiration of migration among youth to these destinations and due the strict regulations of entrance to Europe, especially in front of migrants from developing countries, the expectation of irregular migration from south to north Mediterranean Sea will be increases, especially among semi skills and no-skills workers. Legal process of entrance to Europe and UAS may be relatively easier for professional and highly skilled persons.

African countries (especially in Nile basin and West Africa countries) may represent promising new destinations for Egyptian labor migration; if the political and economic integration with these countries is strengthen. The emphases of Egypt's new political and economic policies after the revolt of 25 January 2011 go in this direction but its impact on opening the labor market of these countries to Egyptian labor migrants not formulated or appeared until now.

4.2. Factors related to the countries of destination:

No change in target destinations among potential Egyptian migrants. While Arab countries still the most favored destination for those who seek temporary migration, USA and Europe are the most preferred destinations for permanent migration seekers.

The current preferred destination countries may be changed in the near future due one or more of the following factors:

4.2.1. Economic factors of the countries of destination:

Level of competition between Egyptian labor and the cheap labor of South Asia in the labor markets of Arab Gulf countries is an important determinant of the future of Egyptian labor migration. As the demand for labors exceeds the supply of nationals in Arab Gulf countries, the need for foreign workers will still exist. Skills, wages, and extra cost such as travel, housing, leaves, etc. are the most important economic considerations in preferring between workers from different nationalities. As long as the Arabic language is still the official language for governments, the demand for highly skilled of Arab workers will continue given the shortage of highly skilled of national workers. The choice between Arabs and Asians workers will be against Arab side. The prospective of Arab migrants to Gulf countries will follow one or more of the following scenarios:

- **Growing demand for Arab labor emigrants:** this scenario is more likely to be occurred if the demand for labor is greater than the supply of national employment and if the required skills are matched with Arab labor rather than Asians workers, the demand of highly skilled Arab migrants will continue.

- **Moderate demand for Arab labor emigrants:** this scenario is more likely to be occurred if the demand for labor is greater than the supply of national employment and the required skills are matched by Asian workers rather than Arab workers, the demand of for Arab labor will be moderate. Given that if Arab and Asian are equal in regard to skills and experience, Asian are more likely to be appointed due to the marked wage differential between them.

- **Low demand for Arab labor emigrants:** this scenario is more likely to be occurred if the demand for labor is less than the supply of the national employment and if the required skills are not matched by national workers but are matched by Arabs or

Asians. This scenario represents the current transitional stage in Gulf countries where new national entrants exceed the number of new jobs created by economy, which delay withdraws of emigrants.

- **No-demand for Arab labor emigrants:** this scenario is more likely to be occurred if the demand for labor is less than the supply of national employment and if national workers rather than Arabs match the required skills. Greater substitute of Arab and Asian workers by national workers will occur and the demand for Arabs will stop.

4.2.2. Political factors of the countries of destination:

Saudi Arabia and UAE are the main countries of destination for Egyptian migrants in the Gulf region. Any change in the migration or labor policies of these two countries, would affect the current and potential flows of Egyptian migrants. In the course of the 25 January revolution, UAE stopped receiving new Egyptian migrants and stopped renewal work permits of existing Egyptians workers. This decision was based on political situations rather than to be based on only economic factors.

The change in Egyptian foreign policy; the risks that faced many of Gulf investments in Egypt and the need for insurance against these risks, and cancellation of contracts of many projects due to illegal procedures or non-optimal use of land granted to these projects were the main factors that caused tensions between Egypt and many of Arab Gulf Countries, especially UAE and KSA.

Labor laws of some Arab countries especially Saudi Arabia achieved serious changes after the Egyptian revolution. These changes caused a long debate and putting many of Egyptian migrants at risk of losing their jobs. Preventing renewing the contracts of foreign workers who spent 6 years or above in a certain company, and grantee at least 10% of the available work in any private sector campaign to Saudi’s workers are two examples of the laws that caused long debate . Many politicians believe these changes are essentially anti-Egyptian, after the attempts to restart relations with Iran. Other politicians claim that, these modifications in labor laws will have slight effect on Egyptians.

As the political instability in the Middle East in general and gulf region in particular increases (as in countries like Bahrain), the prices of oil will be fluctuated and possible to have a dropping direction. Consequently, the ability of Gulf economics to generate new jobs will go down and the demand for foreign workers will decrease given that the dropping ability of economic sectors in creating labor-intensive activities and increasing supply of national entrants to labor markets.

There are worries among Arab Gulf countries that Arab migrants, with the longest of their stays, may consider themselves as settlers rather than being temporary workers, and begin to assert claims even for citizenship.

Another political implication of the Arab uprising on Arab Gulf countries is that the expulsion of certain individuals and groups who protest to support democracy in front of embassies outside their home countries. This has already happened in some cases, but it is unexpected to extend to include mass expulsion to certain nationalities.

4.2.3. Social factors of the countries of destination:

The supply of Arab Gulf nationals, their skills, wages, productivity level and commitment of work are among the social and cultural factors may affect the future of Egyptian migrants to these countries. As long as the number of Arab Gulf nationals entrants to the labor market increases, the opportunity of Arab and non-Arab workers in getting work will decrease. Government efforts to address the unemployment among nationals may expand to apply nationalization programs in private sector, which would affect the future of Arab labor migrants to these countries.

5. Importance of labor migration to the future of Egypt:

5.1. Impact of remittances on the future of Egypt:

The impact of the revolutions in the Middle East on the volume of remittances to Egypt is ambiguous. However, it was expected that the value of remittances will decline due to the returns of Egyptian migrants from areas of revolutions, especially Libya. The opposite was happened where the remittances of Egyptian working abroad increased to $12.6 billion in 2011 comparing with $9.8 billion in the previous year. In 2012 Egypt recorded the highest level in its history where came the sixth in the list of top recipients of remittances among developing countries with an estimated $18 billion of migrant remittances (World Bank, 2012).

Violence in Libya has resulted in returns many of Egyptian workers. There is no estimate about the number of return migrants but the official authorities estimated them by one-fourth of Egyptian residents in Libya (about 200 thousands). Of course the return of those migrants has a negative impact on the size of remittances transferred to Egypt during the year 2011. It is important to note that 75% of the size of annual Egyptian remittances comes from countries are out of the frame of instability (America, Australia, and Europe countries). The available explanation of the increase in remittances during the difficult times of Egypt's economy is as positive reaction and feeling from Egyptian Abroad toward the revolution, increase in the support of migrants to their families in the times of political instability, or savings brought by returning migrants.

5.2. Impact of Egyptian Diaspora on the future of Egypt:

Egyptian Diaspora scattered all over the world, the positive role was expected from them in the past was to support their families and Egypt's economy through their remittances. The expectation of their future role will be extended to include establishment of new channels for knowledge and technology transfer to promote development, investment in untraditional sectors such as clean energy. The idea of returns of Egyptian experts abroad is not presented, since many of them still insist to be abroad, and from our point of view, the benefits that Egypt can gain from their being abroad may exceed the benefits gain from their returns.

6. Policy implications:

In view of the results of study, the following policy implications are worth to be considered:

6.1. Short-term policies:

- Strengthen the socioeconomic, political, and commercial relations with neighbor countries, especially Arab gulf countries in the way that increase the trust in the new regime in Egypt after the revolt. Serious messages should to be send to governments and leaders of these countries is required, explains that the new management of Egypt is not intended to transfer the revolution, and the Egyptian revolt is a special case, happened as a result of the unfavorable socioeconomic and political policies implemented during the past 30 years, which is not applicable for many of neighbor countries.

- Enhancing the socioeconomic and political relations with many of African countries, especially countries of West Africa and Nile Basin region. Many of these countries have many of economic resources and opportunities and suffer from shortage in modern technical experience. Strengthen the mutual economic relations with these countries will lead to opening new markets to the surplus of Egyptian laborers (unemployment).

- The issue of liberalization of labor flows should be addressed by the new government of Egypt, especially with Euro-Mediterranean countries, aiming to formulate new migration policy to facilitate the movement of labor of specific talents and experience and limit the illegal migration flows from one south-side of the Mediterranean to the north-side.

6.2. Medium-term policies:

- Implementing a package of economic procedures aiming to maximize the benefit from the available economic resources. For example, stopping the export of raw materials without adopting some industrial transactions, to turn it into a manufactured materials or semi-manufactured products. Such procedures will raise the economic and financial value of export and creating more job opportunities, to absorb more of the surplus of manpower.

- Expanding the loans programs to finance the youth small and medium projects. Such programs will contribute in creating new job opportunities; increase the revenue of domestic products (GDP); enhancing the value of national exports; and treating the defects in Balance in Payments.

- In-depth analysis of the current and future needs of external labor markets. This will help in formulating advanced training programs for the surplus of Egyptian labor force and those who aspire to migrate or work abroad, and consequently enhance the ability of Egyptian workers in the competition with workers of other nationalities in the international labor markets.

6.3. Long-term policies:

- Reform of the structure and content of higher education, pre-university and technical education in Egypt to be inconsistent with the international standers in this regard is an important policy to enhance the capability of future graduates to meet the international standard of jobs requirements.

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