

SYRIAN REFUGEE ENTREPRENEURS IN LABOUR MARKET: THE CASE OF ISTANBUL

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ABSTRACT

The mass migration movement started in April 2011 in Syria due to the civil war. Turkey is the country which hosts most Syrians because of “open door policy”. Over 3.5 million Syrian people live in Turkey. One of the multidimensional positive / negative contributions of refugees to the country is economic development. It is possible to see refugees as a fresh power that increases the economic dynamism, contributes to the economy as a producer and consumer. There is significant economic activity in the regions where Syrian refugees live. At the same time it is clear the Syrian refugees coming to Turkey have created economic, legal, political and social problems. But besides these problems, perhaps worst of all, over 3.5 million refugees’ integration of Turkey, is the lack of a structured and formal plan. In this study, the literature part will be examined under the title of migration and refugees which form the first part of the research. In the second part of the study, it will focus on the concepts of entrepreneurship and entrepreneurs. In this manner, an inductive method will be followed by trying to reach the whole parts. After discussing the concepts, face-to-face interviews with Syrian refugees living in Istanbul will be evaluated. The positive and negative experiences of Syrian entrepreneurs in the labour market will be discussed. The obtained data show that there are many obstacles that make it difficult for entrepreneurs to enter the labor market of Turkey. In response to the negative experiences of Syrian entrepreneurs, suggestions are offered as solution.

Keywords: Syrian refugee entrepreneurs, positive experience, negative experience, Istanbul labour market

İŞGÜCÜ PİYASASINDA SURIYELİ MÜLTECİ GİRİŞİMCİLER: İSTANBUL ÖRNEĞİ

ÖZ

Suriye’de iç savaş nedeniyle kitlesel göç hareketi Nisan 2011’de başladı. Türkiye, “açık kapı politikası” nedeniyle en çok Suriyeliyi ağırlayan ülkedir. Türkiye’de 3,5 milyondan fazla Suriyeli yaşamaktadır. Mültecilerin çok yönlü olumlu / olumsuz katkılarından biri ekonomik kalkınmadır. Mültecileri, ekonomik dinamizmi artıran, ekonomiye üretici ve tüketici olarak katkıda bulunan yeni bir güç olarak görmek mümkündür. Suriyeli mültecilerin yaşadığı bölgelerde önemli ekonomik faaliyetler var. Aynı zamanda, Türkiye’ye gelen Suriyeli mültecilerin ekonomik, yasal, politik ve sosyal sorunlara sebep olduğu açıktır. Ancak bu sorunların yanı sıra, belki de en kötüsü, 3,5 milyondan fazla mültecinin Türkiye’ye entegrasyonun, yapılandırılmış ve resmi bir planın olmamasıdır. Bu çalışmada, literatür kısmı araştırmanın ilk bölümünü oluşturan göçmenler ve mülteciler başlığı altında incelenecektir. Çalışmanın ikinci bölümünde girişimcilik ve girişimci kavramlarına odaklanacaktır. Bu şekilde tüm parçalara ulaşmaya çalışılarak endüktif bir yöntem izlenecektir. Kavramlar tartışıldıktan sonra İstanbul’da yaşayan Suriyeli mültecilerle yüz yüze görüşmeler değerlendirilecektir. Suriyeli girişimcilerin işgücü piyasasındaki olumlu ve olumsuz deneyimleri tartışılacaktır. Elde edilen veriler, girişimcilerin Türkiye’nin işgücü piyasasına girmesini zorlaştıran birçok engel olduğunu göstermektedir. Suriyeli girişimcilerin olumsuz deneyimlerine yanıt olarak, çözüm önerileri sunulmaktadır.

Anahtar kelimeler: Suriyeli mülteci girişimciler, pozitif deneyim, negatif deneyim, İstanbul işgücü piyasası

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INTRODUCTION

Turkey opened its doors to refugees from other countries in almost every period and has comprised a country that welcomes them. Turkey befall the country with the most expanded border with Syria and increasingly becoming a global wave of migration has been one of the most affected countries. As the number of refugees extended massive numbers, camps established in cities near the border were insufficient. Therefore, the migration has begun spreading to other cities. In this manner, these migrations caused a refugee crisis affecting the whole country. Since April 2011, Turkey has experienced the most serious mass human mobility in its history. Basically this forced migration which originated in Syria, has led many refugees to move to Turkey.

The first Syrian refugees reached to Turkey on April 29, 2011. From this date, the number of Syrian refugees in Turkey has increased substantially. Syrians entering Turkey with "Open door" policy framework and have never sent back to their country also "temporary protected status" is given. Syrian refugees have caused a multidimensional crisis such as economic, cultural, social and security. Turkey has directed the refugee crisis by taking the initiative to hand over the Syrian refugee crisis. Turkey has conducted in good faith throughout the crisis. In this context, refugees are registered at the border and then placed in camps. However, as the capacity of the camps is insufficient, refugees outside the camps live in deplorable conditions.

Turkey population is 82 million and currently 3 million 695 thousand 944 people Syrian refugees live in Turkey. Of these people, 2 million 2,880 (54.2%) were men and 1 million 693 thousand 64 (45.8%) were women (Refugees Community Centre, 2019). While some part of Syrian refugees living in camps on the border of Turkey and Syria, a significant part of them, continued to live in big cities (Yıldırım, İslamoğlu, & İyem, 2017). This situation has demanded the replacement of the policy for unusual crisis management for Turkey. Because of this unforeseen process, local governments had to provide services even in areas that do not have intervention powers. Such a process can not last long predicted, studies have been initiated to evaluate the status of Syrians refugee entrepreneurs in Istanbul. The prolonged war process has shown refugees should not be seen as guests and that sustainable policies should be produced. Central government and local governments carry out many harmonization efforts. As a matter of fact, since the supports provided in the projects are in reasonable amounts, it cannot sufficiently meet More than 3.5 million Syrians' economic needs literally. In this concept, the evaluation of Syrians' efforts to enter the labor market and their experience in this field is important in terms of providing a basis for the studies to be carried out in these fields.

Migration and Refugee

Migration is temporary or permanent individuals resettlement from one country/region to another country/region. Migration remain the resettlement of individuals to a various and remote location from their current location. Basically, immigration is first and foremost a geographical phenomenon (Davutyan, Pierre, & Marista, 2019). As the three essential factors that make this change; the decision to immigrate is considered as the processes of leaving the current settlement and cultural convergence (Akan & Arslan, 2008). Based on the concept of migration, various definitions have been made in the literature on the concept of migrants. However, there is no globally approved immigrant definition (Asylum Law Dictionary, 2013). The concept of immigrants encompasses individuals and families who move to other country/region, both to improve socio-economic living conditions and to provide better opportunities to attain their or their families' future ideals (Asylum Law Dictionary, 2013). "A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war or violence. A refugee has a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group. Most likely, they cannot return home or are frightened to do so. War and ethnic, tribal and religious violence remain leading causes of refugees fleeing their countries" (UNHRC, 2019). At this point, some sources in the literature that do not relate immigrant and refugee concepts.

In summary, Refugee; it is he who is under pressure due to some political, social, economic and cultural problems in his own country, disregards his trust in his state or other authority sources, so he leaves his country and desires to seek asylum in another country and responds to his request.

Immigrant; contrary to the description produced in the concept of refugee, it is the person who voluntarily leaves another country for economic reasons and clings to another country with the approval and license of the authorities of that country (Vardar, 2015). According to Anthony Giddens there are four main immigration models;

1. Classical Migration Model: When there is a positive expectation in the financial sense.
2. Colonial/Colonialist Migration Model: Countries prefer migrants from colonies such as France and Britain.
3. Guest Worker Model: This model has been adopted in Germany. After the 2nd World War, many Turkish workers migrated to Germany to have better living conditions.
4. Illegal Migration Model: People who live secretly in the country (Giddens, 2017).

“In an examination of root causes that drive people to migrate it is helpful to fully understand global migration. A root cause is the fundamental reason for the occurrence of an event, in this case, migration. Often, in the migration context, there are both push and pull factors with “push factors” being reasons why people would want to leave their home country and “pull factors” being reasons why people would want to come to a new country. In migration, push and pull factors can be economic, environmental, social and political” (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2017). They include some of the following as in Table 1;

Table 1. Migration Push and Pull Factors

PUSH		PULL
Persecution Violence War	➔	Safety and Stability Freedom
Poor wages Lack of jobs	➔	Higher wages Job prospects
Crop failure and famine Pollution Natural disaster	➔	Food availability Better environment
Limited opportunities Lack of services Family separation	➔	Family Reunification Better quality of life Availability of services

Source: <http://showcase.laurea.fi/blogiarkisto/exerting-influence/am-i-home/2019/migration-or-salvation/#respond>, (date of access 12.02.2020).

Push factors may include persecution, war, pollution, natural disaster, limited opportunities, lack of services. Lack of jobs, poor wages are also strong push factors. Pull factors are in the destination countries which make people to leave their home country. Safety and Stability, Freedom, Higher wages, better environment, better quality of life are strong and attractive pull factors.

With the direct or indirect effects of globalization, regional problems and conflicts, poverty, improved transportation and communication opportunities along technology have caused an increase in the number of immigrants (Akan & Arslan, 2008). Along with the income gap, a migration in the form from east to west and from north to south is observed (Mutluer, 2003).

Figure 1 represents the distribution of the Syrians under Temporary Protection by the first ten cities. Considering the numerical distribution of Syrians by provinces, significant populations are outstanding. It is perceived that 556,289 Syrian refugees in Istanbul. Syrian density is 3,69 % compared to Istanbul population which is 15.067.724 (Refugees Community Centre, 2019).

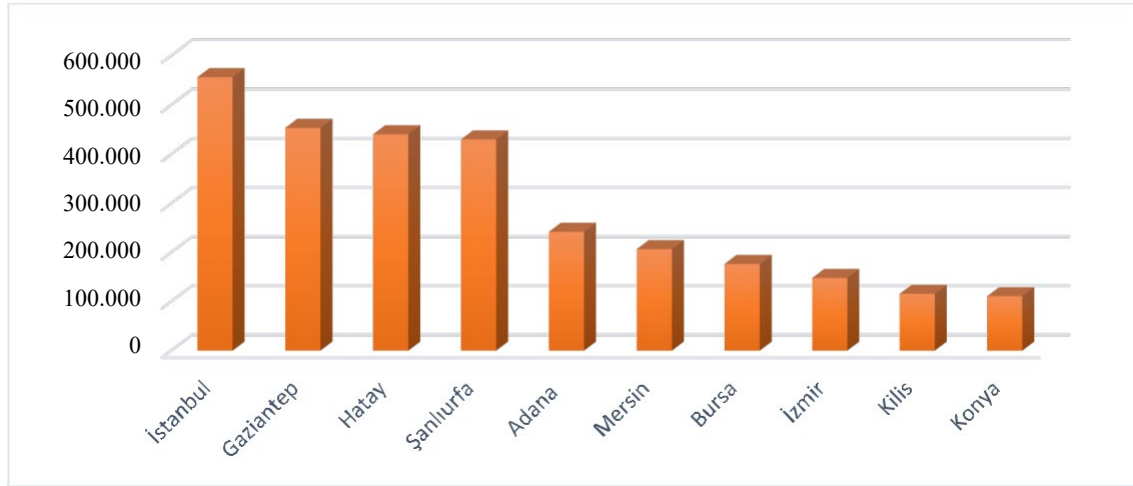


Figure 1: Distribution of Syrians under temporary protection in top 10 provinces
Source: <https://multeciler.org.tr/turkiyedeki-suriyeli-sayisi/>, (date of access 12.02.2020).

According to the official data of the Ministry of Interior, Directorate General of Migration Management, the number of Syrians living in Temporary Protection in Istanbul has increased by 227 thousand in the last 5 years. This change was included in Figure 2 below.

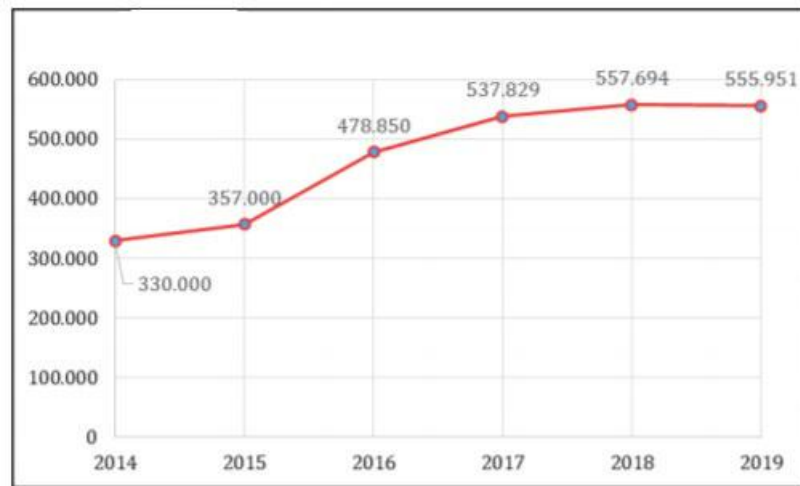


Figure 2: Number of Syrians registered in Istanbul by years
Source: (Kavas, Avsar, Kadkoy, & Bilgic, 2019) .

Entrepreneurship and Entrepreneur

“Entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial facts are among the most important issues in recent years. Entrepreneurship is the act of creating a business or businesses while building and scaling it to generate a profit. However, as a basic entrepreneurship definition, it’s a bit limiting. The more modern entrepreneurship definition is also about transforming the world by solving big problems. Like initiating social change, creating an innovative product or presenting a new life-changing solution” (Ferreira, 2020). Entry of the concept of entrepreneurship into the economic literature begins in the 19th

and 20th centuries. The concept brought the economy to the French economist Cantillon. With French Economist J.Baptiste Say, this concept has reached the meaning we use today. According to Say, the concept of entrepreneur is the person who produces a product thought to be valuable by bringing together all the factors of production and takes the risk for the profit to be obtained (Aytaç & İlhan, 2007).

Hisrich and Peters, who made significant contributions to the entrepreneurship theory, define the entrepreneur as the person who brings together labor, raw materials and other assets in a way that creates greater value and opportunities (Aytaç & İlhan, 2007). The entrepreneur can be defined as the person who brings together the factors of production in order to realize the production of economic goods and services required to meet some needs (Durmaz, 2015).

In Turkey, generally it is the entrepreneurs in the following ways: According to the production and marketing of state goods and services, according to the operating environment in size, according to the state having Entrepreneurship capital, to lead the development and changes in the market or monitoring according to the state and finally, virtual entrepreneurship (Durmaz, 2015). When the reasons why individuals want to start a business are examined, it is seen that reasons such as social status acquisition, desire to prove themselves, gaining power in economic-financial sense, career planning, desire to work free, realizing their own thoughts and projects, and no other options are revealed (Bozgeyik, 2015). The desire to succeed (McClelland, 1961), the desire to take control and the tendency to take risks (Brockhaus, 1980), the values (eg self-confidence, competitive, determined, versatile etc.) (Hornoday and Aboud, 1971) are reasons for being entrepreneurs (Taş & Çitçi, 2009).

Some sociologists emphasize the importance of opportunities in the enterprise process. Reynolds, for example, states that the attempt to make decisions and engage in entrepreneurial activity depends on when opportunities will occur. The more opportunities the society provides, the more open a social environment for entrepreneurship is created (Aytaç & İlhan, 2007). Local and immigrant entrepreneurs possess different motivations and impulses. The literature points to unemployment and discrimination as a driving force for an entrepreneur with a migrant background. Again, the need for advice and support to start a business differs between local and immigrant entrepreneurs (Özkul & Dengiz, 2018). “However, the major effect of immigrant entrepreneurship is the role it plays in resolving the unemployment situation among other group of immigrants. Furthermore, it has the potential for the revitalization of local economies (Masurel et al., 2002). Furthermore immigrant entrepreneurship leads to an increase in the aggregate supply of jobs and the employment of immigrant workers without crowding out indigenous work force (van Delft et al., 1999)” (Afewerki, 2015).

8 thousand 100 Syrian companies is established in Turkey with foreign capital status. They were founded with an average capital of 50 thousand dollars. The investment amount is approaching 500 million dollars. While 71 percent of them in Syria, also was to have a job, 29 percent of the first-time employer in Turkey (Basoz, 2018). Syrians, who have made a total investment of \$ 334 million since 2011, are ranked first among foreigners who have established companies since 2013. Respectively; wholesale and foreign trade, real estate, textile, restaurant & food and passenger transportation are the areas where the refugee entrepreneurs operate (Basoz, 2018).

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Data Collection

The study was prepared as a result of long-term, meticulous preparations. For the study purpose both primary and secondary data are used. The primary data collected from Syrian refugee SMEs owner. The research has completed between July-December 2019. Face to face interviews have been made with 10 Syrian refugee entrepreneurs who are owner of small or medium enterprises in Istanbul. Interviews were conducted with semi-structured questions. It took approximately 30 minutes. The interviewed group was determined by the snow ball technique. Individual information was unshared due to the participants'

request. Face to face interviews have done in Turkish and English. Their voices were unrecorded because of their request. The data were recorded by handwriting.

Research questions in the study:

- The tendency of immigrants to set about businesses,
- Integration processes of immigrant entrepreneurs,
- Positive and negative experiences of migrants during the process of launching a business

These research questions will be limited within the scope of Syrian Refugee Entrepreneurs in Istanbul. The secondary data collected from books, journals, web pages The primary and secondary data have been collected to cover every aspect of the study.

The main objective of the research is to examine Syrian refugees entrepreneurs positive and negative experiences on the Turkish labour market in Istanbul. How the entrepreneurial Syrians are involved in the labor market, their experiences and their advice to others who want to enter the labor market will be determined in the light of the interviews.

RESEARCH RESULTS AND FINDINGS

In this section, to begin with defining the research problem, basic research questions and results will be discussed.

In the research, demographic information of 10 Syrian refugee entrepreneurs who participated in the face to face interviews were examined. In the enterprises recognized in the research area by the snowball method, there was no female business owner. As it is seen in Table 2, 100% of Syrian refugee entrepreneurs are men. In terms of age range; while the most crowded group is between the ages of 25-34, the least group is over 50. When entrepreneurs are evaluated in terms of marital status, it is perceived that 80% are married, 10% single and 10% divorced. When evaluated in terms of education, 40% of entrepreneurs received high school education, while 50% received university education. Only 10% of them are primary school graduates. When the entrepreneurs are evaluated in terms of the languages, they know, the mother tongue of the participants is Arabic. The most known language other than Arabic is Turkish. Accordingly, 70% of the entrepreneurs speak Turkish.

Table 2. Demographic Findings

Gender	Women	0 %
	Men	100 %
Age	18-24	20 %
	25-34	50 %
	35-44	30 %
	45-55	0 %
	55+	10 %
Marital Status	Single	10 %
	Married	80 %
	Divorced	10 %
Education Status	Primary School	10 %
	Secondary School	0 %
	Highschool	40 %
	Bachelor	50 %
Spoken languages	Arabic	100 %
	Turkish	70 %
	English	30 %
	German	10 %

The most substantial reason for entrepreneurs to migrate to Istanbul endure civil war in Syria. Other factors in their immigration to Istanbul are; being a metropolitan city, more job opportunities, more opportunities to open for a business than other cities, proximity to Europe. When asked whether the refugees possess a desire to return to Syria, 80% of the entrepreneurs did not want to return to Syria again.

In Table 3 demonstrate participants situation in Turkey and Syria. Most of them continue to their previous jobs. 40% of participants were in food and beverage sector in Syria. Currently, 70 % of them in food and beverage sector in Turkey.

Table 3. The Situation of Syrian refugees in Syria and Turkey

Participant	Interview Dates	Job in Syria	The situation of the workplace in Syria.	Job in Turkey	Activity Time
Participant 1	19.07.2019	Restaurant	Closed	Restaurant	2 years
Participant 2	22.07.2019	Bookshop	Bombed	Restaurant	6 months
Participant 3	10.09.2019	Coffee Shop	Bombed	Coffee and water pipe	5 years
Participant 4	05.09.2019	Parfum shop	Closed	Restaurant	2 years
Participant 5	16.09.2019	Restaurant	Closed	Syrian Restaurant	2,5 years
Participant 6	18.10.2019	Trade	Closed	Transport and Logistic	1 year
Participant 7	08.11.2019	Sweet Shop	Open	Sweet Shop and cofee shop	1 year 3 month
Participant 8	17.11.2019	Textile	50% closed	Textile	1,5 year
Participant 9	17.11.2019	Chemist	Bombed	Restaurant	3 years
Participant 10	20.12.2019	Public officer	Closed	Textile	7 months

As it can be perceived in Table 4, 100% of the companies are private enterprises considering the official structure of the companies established by Syrian refugee entrepreneurs. When the Syrian refugee entrepreneurs are analyzed in terms of the sectors, they operate, 70% operate in the food and beverage sector, 20% in the textile sector and 10% in the transportation and logistics sector. Considering the general nature of the companies established by Syrian refugees, it is identified that 60% are family businesses. When the situation of refugee entrepreneurs doing a similar entrepreneurship activity in their own country before migration, it is found out that 90 % of them have a similar entrepreneurship activity in Syria. 10% stated they turned to entrepreneurship with the force of their family and friends. When the amount of investment made by Syrian refugee entrepreneurs' firms during the establishment phase is analyzed, it is seen that 60% of them make an investment between 20.000TL-30.000 TL (€ 3000-4500). The average investment amount of Syrian refugee entrepreneurs participating in the research is approximately 23.500 TL.

Table 4. General Characteristics of Refugee Entrepreneurs

Legal structure of companies	Private	100 %
	Limited company	0 %
	Food and beverage	70 %

Sector	Textile	20 %
	Transportation	10 %
Family Business	Yes	60 %
	No	40 %
Similar entrepreneurship activity	Yes	90 %
	No	10 %
Investment Amount	10.000 - 20.000 TL	30 %
	20.000 – 30.000 TL	60 %
	30.000 – 50.000 TL	10 %

Most of the participants came to Turkey with their capital and have established their businesses in the latest 1-2 years.

Syrian entrepreneurs stated they encountered many legal obstacles in the process of being included in the Istanbul labor market, especially because of the difficulties they experienced at the language point, they had to struggle with some difficulties in the process. Individuals stated they tried to deal with lawyers who speak Arabic and Turkish. As a result of the interviews, the most fundamental problem confronting Syrians in the labor market is the language barrier. Most of the entrepreneurs said they could not attend the Turkish language courses organized by the municipalities regularly. According to the information conveyed, their children and wives currently attend courses. When asked to the participants who do not speak Turkish how affects their working lives, they stated they learned enough Turkish in their working life but that it was insufficient for communication in social life. Business owners wish to overcome the language barrier to expand the customer profile.

A participant (32), whose main profession is a chemist, complains about the difficult progress of obtaining diploma equivalence in his statements.

“I was a chemist in Syria, but I cannot carry out my job. It takes a long time to get the equivalence certificate. I did not want to establish a business, but my family forced me. I have to take care of my family. I have to make money. Restaurant fastest way to earn money and life is very expensive in Turkey.”

Another participant (40) who is owner of transportation and logistic company said that; “I opened my first business in Hatay, but I knew I could make more money in Istanbul. We moved to Umraniye with my wife and children, established our life here. My kids are going to highschool. We are happy to live in Istanbul.” He stated they received different reactions because the point of view towards Syrians was not the same in every society. Another participant (36) owns a business in Esenyurt region. He said he was living in Esenyurt more than 5 years. He is extremely delighted to have Turkish customers who speak Arabic with him.

One of the participants who is a restaurant owner (25) said that “I do not feel myself in a foreign place in Istanbul. The streets look like Damascus. There are many tourists in Istanbul. I receive good income here to support my family. My father is old he can't work. My brother and I continue to our family business. I have a Turkish fiance, I'll marry and live in Turkey”

From the participants, the cafe manager (33) explored his cultural experience on the market as follows: “The sweet preferences of Turks and Arabs are marginally different. I was selling sweets in Syria only to the taste of the Arabs. When I came here, I also learned Turkish sweets. I receive Turkish customers constantly coming.”

A participant (40) who is owner of coffee shop said; “ I was containing coffee shop in Aleppo, when I came to Turkey I knew I could not work under a person. I brought my money with me. After very complex procedures, I started running my business in Küçükçekmece. It's very important that I have already experience, in 2 years I have started to earn more money. I have a wide range of customers from all over the world. If I hadn't come to Istanbul, it would never have been like this.”

The entry of Syrians into the labor market increases the product range in the market. Beyond the diversity in the market, successful economic integration also supports intercultural integration. Even if the Syrian civil war has ended, the majority of respondents stated they wanted to keep the job they have established in Turkey. When asked to compare Syria and Turkey labour market majority of participants stated that Turkey wants greater effort to enter the market because of legal procedures, high rents of the stores, lack of sufficient capital.

The most basic suggestions of Syrian business owners to those who want to open a business; first of all overcoming the language problem, working hard and most importantly being able to respond to the cultural diversity.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Migration is containing socio cultural and socio economic value. It becomes more and more important. Immigration brings along some entrepreneurial activities like innovation, change, growth and development in the immigrant country. There is a large potential in terms of refugee entrepreneurship in Turkey due to over 3.5 million Syrian population especially in Istanbul.

Within the scope of this study, interviews were held with 10 Syrian refugee entrepreneurs from different sectors in to examine the business environment of Syrian refugee entrepreneurs and their experience to start a business. The reasons of Syrian refugees to become entrepreneurs were examined and pull factors found out like potential jobs, safer environment, better services, greater wealth, political security, friends and family. In the interviews, the decision to migrate due to conditions such as civil war, poverty, low wages, unsafe environment was frequently emphasized. It is noteworthy immigrants strive to start their own business after integration into socio-cultural life. Improvement of social integration for Syrians living in Turkey; it is by developing social relations and providing social protection to those who want to invest.

Within the scope of the research, suggestions for the solution of the problems were developed. The recommendations listed below cover the main problems and needs of the field;

- Increasing the staff who speak Arabic in local governments, municipalities, public offices or having interpreters in institutions to solve the language problem.
- Policies that accelerate diploma equivalence should be made.
- Economic integration should be made for Syrian refugees who have capital.
- Conducting regular business inspections and enforcing deterrent penalties for those who open an informal business
- Reducing the registration costs reduces the number of unregistered Syrians.
- Giving the necessary funds to the municipalities in the works to be carried out for the integration of refugees
- Social integration studies should be increased.

As a result, it has been revealed that economic, social and cultural situations have some effects on the Syrian refugees being entrepreneurs. The integration of education and capitalist entrepreneur refugees into the labor market is a win-win situation for the entrepreneur and the country. Directing refugees to entrepreneurship will achieve socio-economic success at the macro level. Providing socio-cultural developments like cultural cohesion and social integration, conducting business establishment processes that provide employment growth is among the important results of the Syrian refugee entrepreneurs' business establishment processes within the scope of the study.

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Türkiye 20. yüzyılın başından beri mültecileri kabul etmiştir, 1990'ların başından beri bu gelenek daha belirgin hale gelmiştir. Suriyeli mültecilerin Türkiye'ye girişi Nisan 2011'de başlamıştır. Türkiye o tarihte Suriyeli mülteciler için bir “açık politika” uygulayacağını açıklamıştır. İçişleri Bakanlığı Ekim 2011'de, Türkiye'de kayıtlı Suriyelilerin “geçici koruma statüsü” almalarına karar verdi. Geçmişte, mülteci statüsü çatışmanın kısa vadeli bir sonucu olarak görülüyordu. Ancak orta ve uzun vadeli bir durum olduğu kesinleşmiştir. Mültecileri desteklemek için uzun vadeli ekonomik, sosyal ve politik planlarının yapılması gerektiği anlaşılmıştır. 2020 yılı itibarıyla, Suriyeli mülteciler dünya genelinde 125 ülkede sığınmacı olmuşlardır. Avrupa ile Asya arasında göç yolunda olan Türkiye, tampon bölge olarak görülmektedir. Türkiye mültecilerin çoğunluğuna ev sahipliği yapmaktadır bu durum da Türkiye'yi çok yönlü bir mülteci sorunuyla karşı karşıya getirmektedir. İnsan hakları ihlalleri, şiddet, çatışma vb. ortamlarının son bulması için tedbirler alınmalı. Önleyici diplomasi geliştirilmelidir. Son yıllarda göçmen girişimciliği konusu Amerika ve Avrupa'da ele alınmaya başlanmıştır. Türkiye'de henüz istenilen noktaya gelmemiştir. Geldikleri toplumda teknik bilgilerini, tecrübelerini iş'e dönüştüren göçmen girişimciler, hem kendilerine hem de bulundukları ülkeye pozitif katkı sağlamaktadır. Her ne kadar Suriyelilerin uzun süreli sığınmacı dönemi ekonomide büyük kayıplara neden olsa da, mülteci girişimciler sayesinde iş gücü piyasası canlılık kazanmıştır. Ekonomiye etkisi yoğun olarak hissedilen Suriyeli mülteci göç hareketine hazırlıksız yakalanan Türkiye, Geçici Koruma altındaki Suriyelilerin hukuki statüleri, hak ve yükümlülüklerine dair yasal düzenlemeleri süreç içinde gerçekleştirmiştir. Belediyeler Suriyelilere yapılan hizmetlerden sorumludur. Şehirdeki mültecilerin sayısını ve nüfusun ihtiyaçlarını bilmek, kapasite ve hizmet planlaması açısından yerel yönetimin gelişimi için çok önemlidir. Bu çalışma kapsamında, İstanbul'daki Suriyeli işletme sahipleriyle işgücü piyasasına dair deneyimleri üzerine mikro düzeyde araştırma yapılmıştır. Türkçe ve İngilizce olarak Haziran -Aralık 2019 tarihlerinde yüz yüze yapılan mülakatlar ile Suriyeli mültecilerin işyeri sahibi olması; ekonomik, sosyal ve kültürel olarak irdelenmiştir. İşletme sahibi Suriyelilerin bu alandaki deneyimlerinin işgücü piyasasına nasıl yansıdığı araştırılmıştır. İşyeri sahibi olmak isteyen Suriyeli mülteciler öncelikle belediyeler ile görüştüğünden, ilgili kamu kurumlarında arapça bilen personel sayısının artırılması gerektiğinin farkına varılmıştır. Bireyler, bürokratik engellerden ziyade, dil engeline takılmaktan yakınmaktadırlar. Hem işletmeci hem müşteri bakımından dil problemi çözüm bekleyen en önemli sorunların başında yer almaktadır. Mülakata katılan işletmecilerin 70 %si orta seviyede Türkçe bilmektedir. 30 % lik kısmı ise öğrenmeye çalışmış fakat belediyelerin ve yerel yönetimlerin sağladığı Türkçe dil kurslarına yeteri kadar vakit ayıramadığından öğrenememiştir. Katılımcıların belirttiğine göre, eşleri ve çocukları Türkçe kurslarına düzenli devam etmektedir. Suriye'de işletme sahibi olmaları, başkalarının emrinde çalışmama isteği, diploma denkliklerinin alımında yaşanan güçlükler, maddi kaynakların yetersizliği, iş bulamama gibi nedenler mültecileri işletmeci olmaya yönlendirmiştir. Suriyelilerin göç ettikleri topluma uyum sağlama konusunda ciddi çaba gösterdikleri gözlemlenmiştir. Topluma kendilerini kabul ettirme çabasında oldukları, çocukları ve kendileri için iyi bir gelecek kurmak istedikleri açıkça anlaşılmıştır. Suriyelilere ait sermayenin, Türkiye işgücü piyasasına girmesi yeni istihdam alanları oluşturacağından, işgücü piyasasında hareketlilik yaratacaktır. Dolayısıyla girişimci potansiyeli taşıyan mültecilerin bu alana teşvik edilmesi büyük önem arz etmektedir. Kayıt altında yaklaşık 4 milyon Suriyelinin, Türkiye'de uzun süre kalacağı düşünülürse geleceğe yönelik sürdürülebilir ekonomik planlamalar yapılmasının gerekliliği anlaşılmaktadır. Suriyeli mültecilerin kendi kendine yetebilmesi sağlandığında Türkiye üzerindeki ekonomik maliyet giderek azalacak ve entegrasyon başarıya ulaşacaktır. Girişimcilikte bulunan bireylerin ise devlet tarafından desteklenmesi ve sürdürülebilir politikaların uygulanması gereklidir. Girişimci olan mülteciler yine aynı şekilde kendileri gibi mülteci olan işçilere istihdam sağlamaktadır. Mülakata katılan girişimciler, İstanbul'u çok sevdiklerini, kendilerini çok boyutlu, gelişmiş bir metropolde gördüklerini belirtmiştir. İstanbul'u tercih etmelerindeki en büyük neden ise bir çok iş fırsatının olmasıdır. Girişimcilerin çoğunun bu kararı alırken cesur, atılgan ve risk almayı seven karakterde oldukları gözlemlenmiştir. Katılımcıların büyük bir çoğunluğu, savaş bitse bile Suriye'ye geri dönmeyeceklerini, İstanbul'da yaşamaya devam edeceklerini söylemişlerdir. Ataerkil bir toplum olan Suriye'de erkeklerin aileyi geçindirmeyi üstlendikleri ve eşlerinin çalışmadıkları gözlemlenmiştir. Bu sebeple kadın girişimciye rastlanmamıştır. Kadın girişimcilerin sayısının artması için eşitlik sağlanıncaya kadar ayrıcalıklı haklar verilmelidir. Mültecilerin en çok şikayet ettikleri konu ise iş yeri açarken gerekli evrakların uzun sürede alınması ve yasal prosedürün uzun sürmesidir. Ayrıca Suriye'de aldıkları

diploma için Türkiye’de denklik almaları normalden uzun sürmektedir. Bu sebeple bazı mültecilerin devlet dairesinde ya da kamu kurumlarında mesleğini icra edemeyip, hayatını idame ettirmek için kendi işini kurmaya karar verdikleri görülmektedir. Düzenli denetim yapılmalı ve kayıt altında olmayan Suriyeliler için cezai yaptırımlar uygulanmalıdır. Kayıt altında olmadığı takdirde, belediyenin sağladığı hizmetlerden yararlanamamaktadır. Kayıt ücretlerinin azaltılması, mültecilerin kayıt dışı iş yeri açmasını azaltır. Bu durum da devlet politikası açısından güvenliği arttırır. Belediyelere yeterli oranda fon sağlanmaası ve yetki verilmesi gerekmektedir. Bu çalışma akademik alanda katkı sağlamak ve sonraki çalışmalar için yol göstermek amacıyla yapılmıştır. Sonuç olarak ekonomik, toplumsal, kültürel durumların Suriyeli mültecilerin girişimci olması üzerinde birtakım etkiler olduğu ortaya konulmuştur. Eğitim ve sermaye sahibi girişimci mültecilerin işgücü piyasasına entegre edilmesi girişimci ve ülke adına kazan-kazan durumudur. Mültecilerin girişimciliğe yönlendirilmesi, makro düzeyde sosyo-ekonomik başarıya ulaşılmasını sağlayacaktır. İmkan verildiği takdirde Suriyelilerin ekonomik olarak kendi kendine yettiği görülmüştür.

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