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# A comparative study of the quality of urban life between the first- and second-generation of Afghan immigrants residing in Iran: A case study of southeast of Tehran

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## ABSTRACT

Islamic Republic of Iran hosts the largest refugee populations in the world. According to the statistics officially announced in 2007, there are 1,025,000 refugees in Iran, among whom 940,400 refugees are Afghan and 54,400 refugees are Iraqi. After a period of settling and living in the host community, changes begin to occur in the immigrants' quality of life over time and the lives of the second generation of immigrants undergo greater changes than those of the first generation. The present study aims to explore the differences between the two groups of first- and second- generation of Afghan refugees living in Iran in terms of their quality of life in general and their job quality in particular. The present study has been carried out using a descriptive-analytical approach and the required data have been collected using questionnaires, interviews and field investigations by the researchers. Using Cochran's formula, the researchers randomly selected 404 refugees from the study area. In order to analyze the research variables, they used one-sample t-test, Pearson correlation test and multivariate regression analysis in SPSS. The findings revealed that job differences between the two generations of immigrants were such that the majority of the first-generation migrants were mostly engaged in non-specialized jobs such as construction, cattle breeding, agriculture, waste purchases, and sales. However, most youths of the second generation tend to be involved in jobs such as sewing, car engine repairs, bodywork repairs and even electrical work. Therefore, the clear job differences between the two generations of Afghan immigrants are the immigrant youths' tendency toward highly specialized and freelance jobs and they are in a better position rather than the first-generation immigrants in terms of income and job security. In general, due to the great progress having occurred in the first-generation immigrants' lives, neither the first nor the second generation of Afghan immigrants tend to migrate and return to their country, although the second generation immigrants, unlike the first generation ones, tend to emigrate to European countries.

**Key words:** Immigration, quality of life, job satisfaction, southeast of Tehran Province

## INTRODUCTION

Immigrants generally seek a safe place for living, working, economic motivation and struggling for survival are the most important causes of immigration, as confirmed by many researchers. Studies have shown that immigrants fleeing their war-torn countries usually migrate to the borders of their

neighboring countries. They first get settled in the border areas and then move to cities and states where they are more likely to find jobs with better wages (Karimi Moghari, 2004: 59). Meanwhile, immigration has different effects on the immigrants' source community, the population of their target community,

and their characteristics and position. Immigration can lead to population growth and reduction in the target and source communities, respectively. Moreover, capital transfer and impact on economic production capacity (through changes in the rates of activity and employment) are some economic consequences of immigration. Actually, immigration has a major impact on the characteristics of immigrants (Mahmoudian, 2007). Iran has hosted hundreds of thousands of immigrants so far due to its stable security in comparison with its surrounding countries, its economic prosperity and the availability of employment opportunities (especially after the start of oil extraction), a high degree of commonality in terms of language in comparison with its surrounding countries, and so on. Most of the immigrants who have come to Iran have been Afghan refugees, as shown by the Population and Housing Census conducted in 2011, according to which there were 1547679 immigrants in Iran, out of whom 1452513 people, the greatest number of the immigrants, were Afghans. A 900-kilometer common border of Afghanistan and Iran, the two countries' having a high degree of commonality in terms of language and religion, high job opportunities in Iran and the lack of special immigration laws in this country, insecurity and economic recession in Afghanistan, the proximity of Iran to the immigrants' hometowns and the possibility of their easy return to their hometowns have led to the massive migration of Afghans to Iran. Thus, secondary to Pakistan, Iran is the largest country having hosted Afghan refugees (Zahedi Asl and Tarzari, 2013). Afghan immigrants quickly arrived in Iran, settled in different rural and urban areas of this country and established various economic relations with the Iranian population. At first, it was thought that they would stay in Iran for a short period, but the continuing political turmoil in Afghanistan, the recession and the halt of economic growth in that country forced the immigrants to remain longer in Iran. The prolongation of their residence extended the interrelations between them and Iranian

population (Ahmadi Movahed, 2003). The majority of Afghan refugees generally have low levels of literacy and lack specialized skills, and they work illegally in Iran. They have to do hard work with relatively low wages. They cannot complain about the bad conditions or long hours of work. This is why many employers prefer to employ Afghan workers rather than Iranian workers. A number of Afghan workers are involved in various activities, such as construction works, work in poultry houses, cattle-breeders, etc. They always have a fear of being repatriated from Iran and returned to Afghanistan by force. For this reason, they prefer to work in workshops outside the city centers to hide themselves from the inspectors of the Ministry of Labor and Social Security of Iran (Karimi Moughari, 2004: 60). However, after years of living in Iran, Afghan immigrants have experienced many social, economic and cultural changes as compared with when they were living in Afghanistan. Having been born in Iran, these immigrants' children have experienced even more social, economic and cultural changes in their areas than their parents have. Indeed, several decades of Afghans' presence in Iran well justifies studying the different aspects of their lives in this country, and since immigration can have many effects on the immigrants' lives, the social and economic characteristics of Iran-born Afghans can be significantly different from those of their countrymen born in their original country as well as from the lives of the first generation of Afghan immigrants to Iran. Due to its proximity to Tehran and its high capacity of employment in the areas of agriculture, industry, construction, the use of Tehran's market, and employment and its proximity to the capital, the south, and southeast of Tehran Province has, over years, hosted Afghan refugees including the first and second generation refugees. This study aims to compare the differences in the quality of life of the first and second generation Afghan refugees from the socio-economic point of view, especially their career changes and their degree of progression, quality of life and employment with a case study of the first

generation Afghan immigrants of the southeast of Tehran Province.

### Literature review

Various studies have been carried out on different aspects of the lives of Afghan immigrants in Iran and other countries. What makes this study different from other studies is that this is a comparative study of the urban quality of life between the first and second generation of Afghan refugees residing in Iran. Among the most important studies conducted in this area are: Wickramasekare et al. (2006) studied the cultural, economic and social impacts of the presence of Afghan immigrants in Zabol city, concluding that economic poverty, cultural poverty, health poverty, and the process of the identity change of Afghan immigrants to Iran (through purchase of Iranian ID cards) are among the results of Afghans' emigration to Zabol. In his article entitled "Afghan refugees: Current status and future prospects", Margasson (2007) concluded that the presence of Afghans in Pakistan and Iran, in addition to creating security, economic, and political considerations, has increased the number of crimes and the rate of unemployment in these countries. Mahmoudian (2008) conducted a research entitled "Afghans' immigration to Iran: Change in socio-economic and population features corresponding with the target community", in which he concluded that as the link between immigrants and the target community increases, their similarities to the target community will increase. It also showed that there is a fundamental difference between the two generations of immigrants in Iran, so that the second generation has a better status than the first generation. In a paper entitled "The effect of Afghans' immigration on the socio-economic situation of Kashan", Shaterian and Ganjipour (2011) concluded that the purchase of land and housing by Afghan immigrants has caused housing shortages and increased rental rates in the city of Kashan. The social impacts of the presence of Afghan immigrants include increased population of the city of Kashan, increased poverty and class differences, an increased rate of

illiteracy and the crisis of collective identity due to immigrants' marriage to Iranian women. Pekkala and Kerr (2011) conducted a study entitled "Economic impacts of immigration", in which they concluded that immigration, in addition to reducing the wages, causes labor restrictions for indigenous people. On the other hand, immigration reduces the welfare level of the host country. In a paper titled "The status of Afghans in Iran 9 years after the collapse of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan, Kopak (2011) found that while the voluntary return policy was in progress, the Iranian government took positive steps regarding the problems created by illegal Afghan immigrant workers. The international community has had great participation about the responsibility of the vast Afghan population in Iran, and Iran has received little funding from related international organizations over the past three decades. The European Union (2013) has also investigated *maximizing the development impact of migration* and concluded that migration has positive effects on the source country and negative (economic, social and environmental) effects on the target country. Pourahmad et al. (2014) conducted a research entitled: "Measuring quality of urban life of immigrants residing in Iran with a subjective approach (Case study: Robat Karim City) and concluded that the lowest level of satisfaction with quality of life is related to the economic failure, recreation, leisure time, and socio-cultural variables, with a rate of 0.884 have more effects on improving the quality of life in Robat Karim. Hatami-Nejad et al. (2016) conducted a similar research in Firoozabad village of Ray City, in which they came to a similar conclusion.

### Case study

Tehran Province has more than 483,774 legal and illegal immigrants, out of whom 283,774 immigrants are legal and approximately 200,000 immigrants are illegal (Abdolvand, 2010). In fact, the large population of the southeastern regions of Tehran is due to extensive immigration from all parts of the country to

this region, filled with foreign immigrants, especially Afghan immigrants, who have settled mainly in the southern parts of the province and in Varamin, Pakdasht, Pishva, Qarchak and other cities of the province and have brought about significant population changes in the demographic structure of these areas. According to the last table of banned areas of foreign immigrants (2012), the residence of Afghan

immigrants is totally prohibited in 16 provinces of Iran, has limitations in 13 provinces, has a little limitation in one province, and is allowed in two provinces. Moreover, the most restrictions for the residence of foreign immigrants belong to the border provinces of Iran (Rasti and Ashrafi, 2014). Map 1 shows the location of the scope of the study and the prohibited areas for the residence of foreign immigrants in Iran.

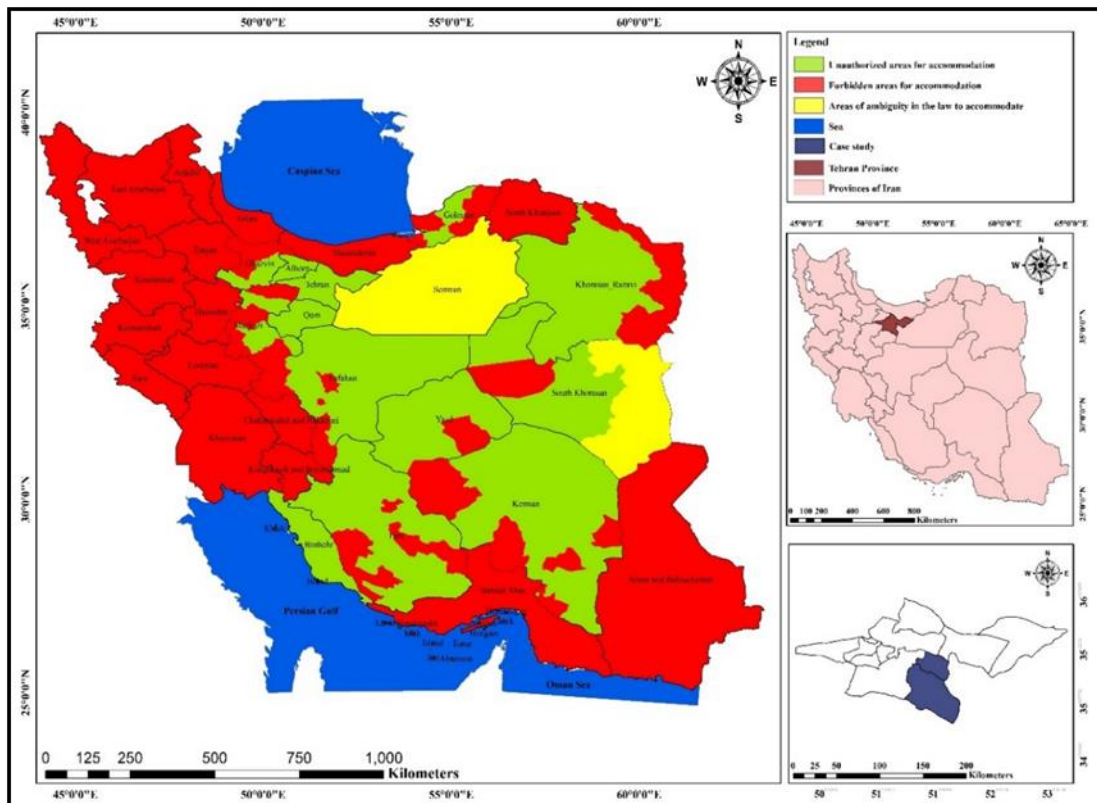


Fig.1. The study area and the banned areas of foreign nationals

**Methodology**

A descriptive-analytical research method was used in this study and the required data were collected using a questionnaire and interview. The population included the first and second generation Afghan immigrants in Iran, that is, the early Afghan immigrants in Iran (the first generation immigrants) and those Afghans born in Iran (the second generation of Afghan immigrants). The purpose of this study is to identify the social and economic characteristics of the

two groups of Afghan immigrants, especially in terms of employment and job quality. The two groups of immigrants were surveyed on the components of job quality, quality of housing, health, security and education, and the data collected from them were then analyzed by descriptive and inferential statistical tests and SPSS software. Figure 1 shows the conceptual model of the research. Table 1 lists the number of Afghan immigrants residing in Tehran Province and cities of this province.

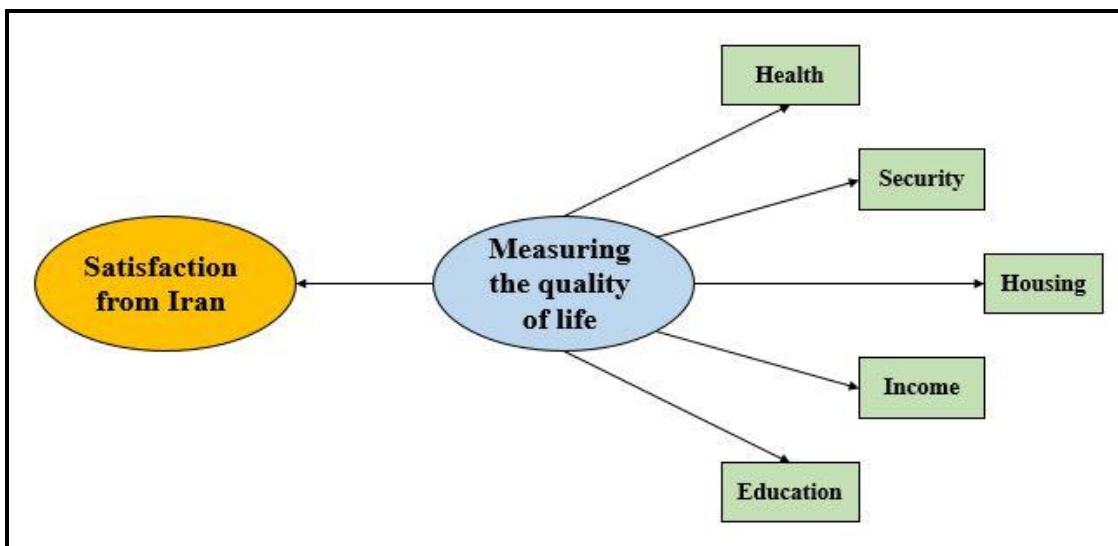


Figure1. Conceptual model of the study

**Table1. Afghan immigrants resident in Tehran province and suburban cities**

Tehran	Damavand	Rey	Shemiranat	Varamin	Shahriyar	Islamshahr	Robot Karim
160198	15996	77618	2290	48197	39966	19382	13396
Pakdasht	Firoozkooh	Qods	Malard	Pishva	Baharestan	Pardis	Qarchak
42258	1160	3904	23015	21079	14441	9406	23261

Total Afghan immigrants resident in Tehran province: 515567

Source: Statistical Center of Iran, 2017

We used the Cochran formula to determine the sample size. The required sample size for a population of 92537 people (the total population of Afghan

immigrants in the cities of Varamin, Pishva, and Qarchak) is 384 people, but this number was increased to 404 people for more validity.

**Relationship1. Cochran method and how to calculate sample size**

$$N=92537, t=1.96, d=0.05, p=0.5, q=0.5$$

$$N = \frac{\frac{t^2 pq}{d^2}}{1 + \frac{1}{N} \left( \frac{t^2 pq}{d^2} - 1 \right)}$$

Source: Hafeznia, 2010: 87

$$N = \frac{\frac{1.96^2 * 0.5 * 0.5}{0.05^2}}{1 + \frac{1}{92537} \left( \frac{1.96^2 * 0.5 * 0.5}{0.05^2} - 1 \right)} = 384 \approx 404$$

To determine how many questionnaires to distribute in Varamin, Pishva and Qarchak Cities, for more accuracy and balance of the questionnaire, the number was determined according to the population size of these cities by using two equations. This way, according to the proportion of urban population to the total population of the study area, 210 persons are questioned in the city of Varamin, 92 persons in the city of Pishva and 102 persons in the city of Qarchak.

Between the 404 persons, 256 persons in the original migrants, and 148 persons in the secondary migrants were selected in a completely random manner, due to the limited number of secondary migrants. Equation 2:

The number of required questionnaires in the target

$$\text{area} = \frac{404 * \text{The population of the city studied}}{\text{Total population studied}}$$

The number of required questionnaires in the city of

$$\text{Varamin} = \frac{404 * 48197}{92537} = 210$$

The number of required questionnaires in the city of

$$\text{Pishva} = \frac{404 * 21079}{92537} = 92$$

The number of required questionnaires in the city of

$$\text{Qarchak} = \frac{404 * 23261}{92537} = 102$$

**Findings**

**First and second generation Afghan refugees**

We first reviewed the historical roots of Afghans' immigration to this region, focusing on the years of their arrival and settlement. The research showed that 76 percent of the immigrants entered this region during

the interval between 1976 and 1996, and that immigration rate has gradually been reduced since that time up to the present time, but the general implication is that the presence and residence of Afghans in this region dates back to around 40 years and more.

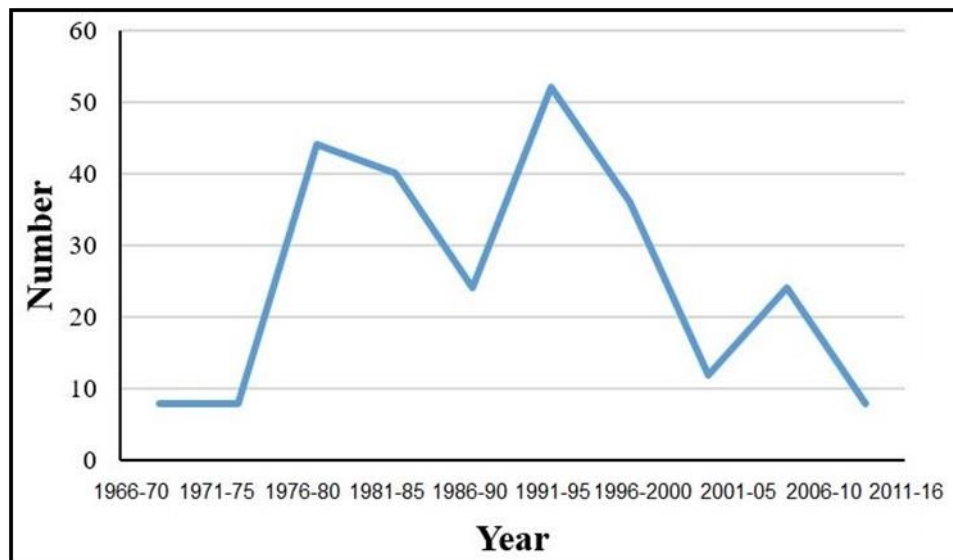


Figure2. Immigration process for early migrants to Iran. Source: Field Studies Writers, 2018

Figure 3 shows in detail the original location and place of birth of Afghan immigrants in the region. This table indicates that the majority of immigrants entering the southeastern region of Tehran Province mainly come from Mazar-i-Sharif, Daikundi, Uruzgan and even Bamiyan. The findings also show that 62.5% of these immigrants immigrated to this region along with their

families, while 37.5% of them entered the region individually, so that more than 92% of the Afghan immigrants are now living with their mostly large families, with at least 5 members, and this figure makes up over 73.5% of the study population. Obviously, this has influenced the immigrants' quality of life and level of income and expense.

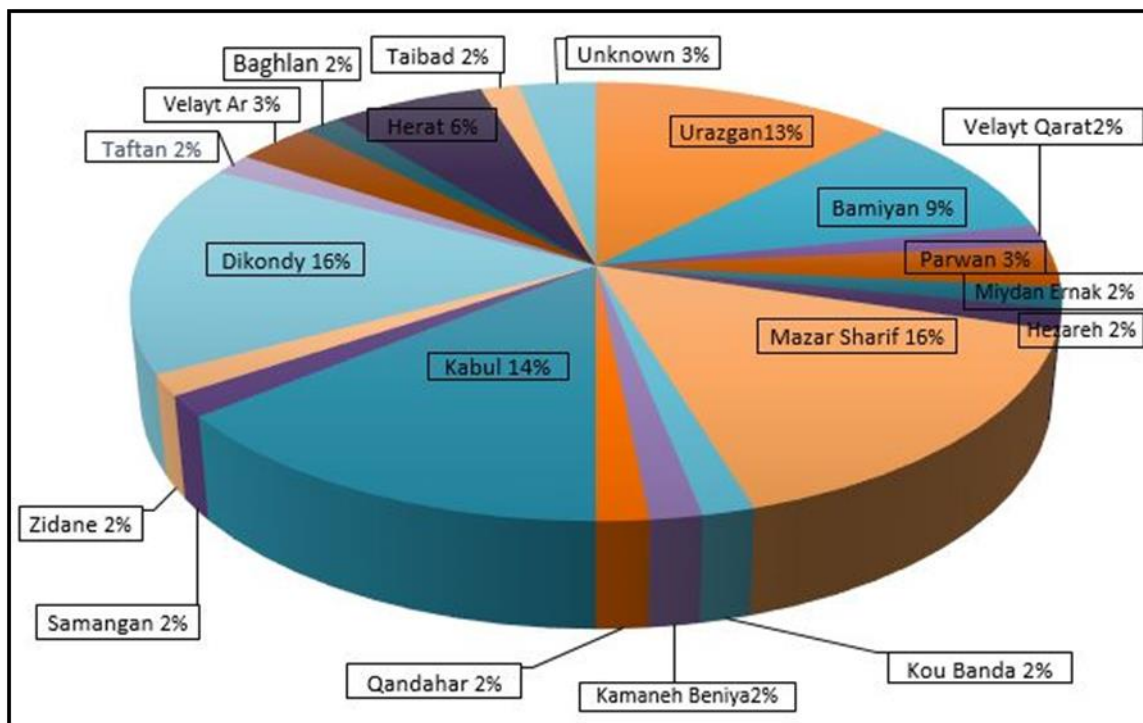


Figure 3. Percentage of immigrants arriving from cities in Afghanistan to Iran according to a case study

Moreover, according to surveys and the respondents' views (Table 2), more than half of the immigrants have entered and settled in Iran illegally. Such illegal entry

and residence has negatively influenced different areas including employment, housing, education, and so on.

Table 2. How to enter and obtain a work permission from the Iranian government

<i>How to enter Iran</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Legal	124	48.4
Illegal	128	50
No response	4	1.6
<b>Duration of work permit</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
1- 5 years	96	37.5
6- 10 years	68	26.6
11- 15 years	12	4.7
16- 20 years	8	3.1
More than 25 years	8	3.1
No response	64	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Studies Authors, 2018

To examine the types of jobs carried out by the Afghan immigrants in Iran, we need to review these immigrants' job backgrounds in Afghanistan, which certainly has had an impact on the quality and type of employment in Iran. Actually, the Afghan immigrants were engaged in different activities in Afghanistan to earn their living, and the research findings (Table 3) show that they were mainly workers, farmers, or had free jobs. Regarding job and income satisfaction, about

34.4 percent of the respondents expressed moderate satisfaction, about 42.1 percent expressed low and very low satisfaction, and only 14 percent expressed high and very high satisfaction, and the high percentage of those expressing their low and very low satisfaction about their jobs and level of income indicates the poor quality of life in Afghanistan.

It was impossible for the researchers to interview Afghan women and have them fill out questionnaires in



the field study due to the researchers' lack of access to these women in specific and general occupational environments. Therefore, the researchers had to take the sample size only out of the male population and

obtain the women's job information using the interviews conducted with the male community, as mentioned at the end of the article.

**Table3. Type of occupation and skills acquired by primary migrants**

<i>Previous job in Afghanistan</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Type of skills acquired in Iran</i>	<i>Percent</i>
<b>Construction worker and factory</b>	54.7	Mechanical	3.1
<b>Market and vending</b>	10.9	Crystallization	3.1
<b>Herds and shepherds</b>	3.1	Shoemaker	4.7
<b>Building construction</b>	1.6	Sewing	1.6
<b>Bakery</b>	1.6	Building construction	25
<b>Student</b>	7.8	Carpentry	1.6
<b>Guard</b>	1.6	Car ironing	1.6
<b>Welder and blacksmith</b>	4.7	Driving a tractor	3.1
<b>Unemployed</b>	3.1	No assignment	56.3
<b>No response</b>	10.9	Total	100
<b>Total</b>	100		

Source: Field Studies Authors, 2018

Following their previous patterns of life, the Afghan immigrants, upon their arrival in Iran, were mainly engaged in simple and non-specialized jobs including construction, livestock and agriculture, which were relatively common jobs in this area. As the respondents claimed, the revenues they obtained from these jobs could respond their cost of living on average. Due to their illegal entry, they had to obtain and get engaged in jobs without obtaining any legal certificate. This status has shown its great negative impact on these immigrants' wages, insurance and prevented them from taking government jobs. Although over 70% of the respondents have now asserted that they have legal employment certificates. As the findings (presented in Table 4) show, the majority of the Afghan immigrants have got their legal employment licenses since the last decade.

Similarly, in response to the question asking whether or not they had acquired any specific skills in Iran, 57.8% of the respondents selected the item "No", while 42.2% of them chose the option "Yes", indicating the fact that the majority of the first generation of Afghan immigrants have chosen non-specialized occupations in which they had already been engaged in their own

country, and the few new jobs and skills they had acquired in Iran were mostly related to construction-related jobs, such as architecture, tile work, and so on. However, they have obtained these job skills mostly through their own experience rather than through formal training. In addition, regarding the second-generation immigrants' educational level, the findings show that about 60% of the Afghan immigrant youths have obtained elementary school degrees, and only 8.1% of them have high school diploma and higher academic degrees, indicating their low tendency towards academic education and the immigrants' preference of occupation over education for the sake of economy. It is noteworthy, however, that the existence of certain educational and occupational barriers for these immigrants in Iran should be considered as an important influential factor in this regard.

### **Comparison of job quality between the two generations of the immigrants**

In order to investigate the differences between the two groups of immigrants in terms of job quality, we will compare them in terms of the following aspects in order to determine the differences, the rate of economic



and social changes having occurred in the study population. As shown in Table 4, there is no significant difference between the first and second generation of Afghan immigrants in terms of the type of job, although there is an obvious transition from simple to more specialized jobs so that the first generation immigrants were mainly busy working in construction and building-related jobs or engaged in sales and purchase of waste, whereas the second generation immigrants have turned to more specialized and higher-income jobs such as car engine repairs,

bodywork repairs, sewing, and even have become electricians and blacksmiths. This shows that the first generation immigrants have been looking for specialized and self-employed jobs so that they cannot only achieve autonomy in employment, but also can earn more money. However, this is not the case about the all first generation of Afghan immigrants', rather, we can find many young Afghan immigrants working in urban factories and rural farms in Iran, but in general, the second generation immigrants have chosen and got engaged in specialized jobs.

**Table4. Primary employment type with secondary immigrants**

<i>Job Type (Secondary Immigrants)</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Job Type (Primary)</i>	<i>Percent</i>
<b>Construction worker and factory</b>	16.2	Construction worker and factory	34.4
<b>Mechanical and auto-cooled</b>	24.3	Mechanical and auto-cooled	1.6
<b>Seller</b>	13.5	Seller	7.8
<b>Waste purchase</b>	2.7	Waste purchase	6.3
<b>Shoemaker</b>	2.7	Shoemaker	4.7
<b>Carpentry</b>	2.7	Carpentry	3.1
<b>Sewing</b>	13.5	Sewing	1.6
<b>Building construction</b>	10.8	Building construction	18.8
<b>Farmer</b>	2.7	Guardian and janitor	3.1
<b>Casting and forging</b>	8.1	Driver (pick up truck)	1.6
<b>electrician</b>	2.7	Poultry and Dairy	1.6
		No response	10.9

Source: Field Studies Authors, 2018

Now considering the differences in the type of employment of the immigrants of the two generations and the differences between them in terms of quality of life, we have sought to compare the two groups of immigrants in terms of job satisfaction and to determine whether there exists a significant difference between them in this respect or not. According to the findings (Table 5), the job satisfaction of the first-generation immigrants at the low and very low range is about 40.7%, while that of the second-generation is about 32.4%. In addition, the job satisfaction of the first-generation immigrants at the high and very high range is about 12.5%, while that of the second-generation is about 21.6%., indicating the first-generation immigrants have a lower rate of job satisfaction than do the second-generation immigrants.

However, regarding the immigrants' satisfaction with their levels of income, it was shown that although the second-generation immigrants had higher job satisfaction than the first-generation immigrants, this was not the case about their satisfaction with their income levels, as it was shown that it was the first-generation immigrants were more satisfied than the second-generation immigrants in terms of income level. According to the findings, the income satisfaction of the first-generation immigrants at the low and very low range is about 45.9%, while that of the second-generation is about 40.7%. In general, having examined and compared the first- and second-generation Afghan immigrants in terms of job and income satisfaction, we conclude that the two generations have a low satisfaction level.

**Table 5. Job satisfaction and income of secondary immigrants**

<i>Satisfaction with Income (Secondary Immigrants)</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Satisfaction with Income (Primary Immigrants)</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Job Satisfaction (Secondary Immigrants)</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Job Satisfaction (Primary Immigrants)</i>	<i>Percent</i>
<b>very little</b>	8.1	very little	20.3	very little	10.8	very little	26.6
<b>Low</b>	37.8	Low	25	Low	21.6	Low	14.1
<b>medium</b>	35.1	medium	43.8	medium	35.1	medium	17.2
<b>Much</b>	16.2	Much	4.7	Much	13.5	Much	7.8
<b>Very much</b>	0	Very much	3.1	Very much	8.1	Very much	4.7
<b>No response</b>	2.7	No response	3.1	No response	10.8	No response	4.7
<b>Total</b>	100	Total	100	Total	100	Total	100

Source: Field Studies Authors, 2018

After examining the two generations of Afghan immigrants in terms of job quality and finding out the poor status of their job and income satisfaction, we explored the causes of their dissatisfaction and livelihood problems, the main occupational problems of whom are presented in Table 6. According to the findings, the existing problems are found among the two generations but one generation has come to find a better and more important position than the other generation in terms of some parameters. The first

generation immigrants have considered their main problem to be their unemployment and low level of income, while the second generation immigrants have claimed that lack of employment insurance is their major problem. Besides, one of the stated major problems of the second generation of Afghan immigrants is their impossibility of obtaining a business license in various businesses such as working in supermarkets, grocery stores, bakeries, etc., which has caused their dissatisfaction.

**Table6. Occupational problems of primary and secondary migrants**

<i>Job Problems (Secondary Immigrants)</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Job Problems (Primary Immigrants)</i>	<i>Percent</i>
<b>Unemployment and low income</b>	21.6	Unemployment and low income	43.8
<b>Not having insurance</b>	32.4	Not having insurance	21.9
<b>Hard work</b>	8.1	Hard work	3.1
<b>Failure to obtain a license</b>	24.3	Failure to obtain a license	14.1
<b>No problem</b>	2.7	No problem	12.5
<b>No response</b>	10.8	No response	4.7
<b>Total</b>	100	Total	100

Source: Field Studies Authors, 2018

Considering the mentioned problems, especially regarding the employment insurance status of the two generations (Table 7), both generations have no social security and retirement insurance, thus they are in a very poor status in this regard. They have expressed dissatisfaction about this issue, which may have greatly

influenced the quality of healthcare facilities used by them. In addition, the lack of retirement insurance for immigrants has created financial problems for them at older ages and their reliance on their children has added to the importance of their male children.

**Table7. Covered by the insurance of primary and secondary migrants**

<i>Under the cover of insurance (Secondary Immigrants)</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Under the cover of insurance (Primary migrants)</i>	<i>Percent</i>
<b>Yes</b>	13.5	<b>Yes</b>	20.3
<b>No</b>	86.5	<b>No</b>	79.7
<b>Total</b>	100	<b>Total</b>	100

Source: Field Studies Authors, 2018

In addition to comparing the Afghan immigrants in terms of the job quality and its related issues, we used the four indicators of satisfaction with housing, health, education, and security in order to have a detailed evaluation of the factors affecting the immigrants' quality of life. As presented in Table 8, the present survey shows that the two generations are highly satisfied with the security index and the first generation immigrants have expressed a higher degree of satisfaction than the second generation of immigrants in this regard due to their experience of living in

Afghanistan and comparing the current situation with their life status in their original country. There has been a similar case in the health index and a high degree of satisfaction obtained in terms of this index. However, a relatively different result was obtained in terms of the two indicators of satisfaction with housing and satisfaction with education, so that low and moderate levels of satisfaction with housing have a higher frequency due to the high cost of housing as well as the Afghan immigrants' impossibility of obtaining the ownership of houses.

**Table8. The degree of satisfaction of primary and secondary migrants from housing, education, health and safety indicators**

<i>Satisfaction with education (Secondary Immigrants)</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Satisfaction with education (Primary migrants)</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Housing Satisfaction (Secondary Immigrants)</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Housing Satisfaction (Primary migrants)</i>	<i>Percent</i>
<b>very little</b>	10.8	very little	0	very little	10.8	very little	6.3
<b>Low</b>	32.4	Low	18.8	Low	27	Low	20.3
<b>medium</b>	37.8	medium	34.4	Medium	48.6	medium	59.4
<b>Much</b>	5.4	Much	34.4	Much	8.1	Much	14.1
<b>Very much</b>	2.7	Very much	10.9	Very much	2.7	Very much	0
<b>No response</b>	10.8	No response	1.6	No response	2.7	No response	0
<b>Total</b>	100	Total	100	Total	100	Total	100
<i>Satisfaction with security (Secondary Immigrants)</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Satisfaction with security (Primary migrants)</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Satisfaction with health (Secondary Immigrants)</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Satisfaction with health (Primary migrants)</i>	<i>Percent</i>
<b>very little</b>	2.7	very little	0	very little	0	very little	1.6
<b>Low</b>	10.8	Low	6.3	Low	10.8	Low	6.3
<b>medium</b>	19.9	medium	17.2	Medium	45.9	medium	45.3
<b>Much</b>	54	Much	26.6	Much	37.8	Much	35.9
<b>Very much</b>	13.5	Very much	50	Very much	5.4	Very much	10.9
<b>No response</b>	0	No response	0	No response	0	No response	0
<b>Total</b>	100	Total	100	Total	100	Total	100

Source: Field Studies Authors, 2018

In addition, a significant difference is observed between the views of the two generations in terms of the education satisfaction index in such a way that the second generation of immigrants are less satisfied with the education process in Iran due to the high tuition fee received from immigrants when enrolling in universities and the many restrictions imposed on them to be admitted in academic settings.

Regarding the job quality of the first generation of immigrants and consequently the quality of life of immigrants in Iran, attention should be paid to the employment status of Afghan immigrants when living in their own country. In this regard, statistics (Table 4) show that the majority of Afghan people migrated to Iran were engaged in non-specialized jobs in their own country, which has led to their turning to Iran to simple, mostly non-specialized jobs due to their poor status in human development indicators, such as low levels of illiteracy and also due to their illegal entry to Iran, although nearly half of the early Afghan immigrants have gained special skills in Iran. Regarding the immigrants' rate of having social security insurance, it should be stated that there is no codified law concerning employment insurance for the two generations of immigrants in Iran, and the labor insurance has been issued for the immigrants only in recent years. Considering the employment of a high percentage of the first generation of immigrants as workers, this rate was higher in the case of the first generation of Afghan immigrants than the second

generation immigrants were. Immigrants face many limitations regarding occupational problems such as the rigid bureaucratic rules for obtaining a license in health care and service jobs, which has caused this issue to be considered a major work-related problem of the second generation of immigrants. In general, no significant changes has occurred in the job quality of the second generation of Afghan immigrants in Iran due to problems including government-set limitations for the immigrants' higher education levels, limitations in their employment in administrative and public jobs, non-issuance of legal employment licenses for the immigrants for many years, and their deprivation of equal citizenship rights to them.

**Inferential statistics**

To determine the quality of life index of Afghan immigrants in Iran, we used the parametric student's t-test by calculating the variable of quality of life indicators and assuming the normal distribution of the data, the results of which are presented in Table (9). By comparing the test statistic with the value obtained from the probability distribution of the student's t-test at 95% confidence level, we find that the data show sufficient evidence to reject the null hypothesis because the values of the test statistic are larger than the T values of the T table. Accepting the alternative hypothesis means that the mean score of quality of life indicators has distance from the average.

**Table9. Single sample t-test results for quality of life indicators**

Indicator	One-Sample Test				
	T	Mean	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Test Result
First-generation immigrants- Satisfaction from Iran	4.301	3.359	127	.000	<b>Reject H<sub>0</sub></b>
Satisfaction of health	6.585	3.484	127	.000	<b>Reject H<sub>0</sub></b>
Satisfaction of security	14.448	4.203	127	.000	<b>Reject H<sub>0</sub></b>

Satisfaction of education	4.650	3.381	125	.000	<b>H<sub>0</sub></b> <b>Reject</b>
Satisfaction of housing	-2.827	2.812	127	.005	<b>H<sub>0</sub></b> <b>Reject</b>
Satisfaction of Income	-6.405	2.435	123	.000	<b>H<sub>0</sub></b> <b>Reject</b>
Second generation immigrants- Satisfaction from Iran	.715	3.081	73	.477	<b>H<sub>0</sub></b> <b>Confirm</b>
Satisfaction of housing	-3.432	2.638	71	.001	<b>H<sub>0</sub></b> <b>Reject</b>
Satisfaction of education	-4.383	2.515	65	.000	<b>H<sub>0</sub></b> <b>Reject</b>
Satisfaction of security	5.919	3.648	73	.000	<b>H<sub>0</sub></b> <b>Reject</b>
Satisfaction of health	4.322	3.378	73	.000	<b>H<sub>0</sub></b> <b>Reject</b>
Satisfaction of Income	-3.815	2.611	71	.000	<b>H<sub>0</sub></b> <b>Reject</b>

Source: Field Studies Authors, 2018

**Correlation analysis of quality of life indicators with life satisfaction rate in Iran**

The results of the Pearson correlation test about the correlation between quality of life indicators and satisfaction rate in Iran, as presented in Table 10, reveal that there exists some kind of positive correlation between the quality of life indicators and the level of satisfaction with life in Iran among the first generation of Afghan immigrants, while there is no relationship between satisfaction with security, health, and satisfaction with life in Iran among the second generation Afghan immigrants. Regarding the correlation between satisfaction with income and

satisfaction with life in Iran among the first group of immigrants, it can be stated that this index has the highest rate among the other indicators, so that the correlation between these two indicators based on the Pearson test is 0.389, indicating a direct and positive correlation between them. Moreover, the Sig. value, which is equal to 0.00, indicates that the relationship between these two variables is significant at a confidence level of 99%. However, this relationship is much weaker in the case of second generation of Afghan immigrants and the housing satisfaction index has achieved the highest correlation and confidence level.

**Table10. Correlations of quality of life indicators with life satisfaction in Iran**

Indicator	Satisfaction of Income	Satisfaction of housing	Satisfaction of education	Satisfaction of security	Satisfaction of health
First-generation immigrants- Satisfaction from Iran	.389	.118	.297	.147	.077
Second generation immigrants- Satisfaction from Iran	.000	.185	.001	.097	.386
Second generation immigrants- Satisfaction from Iran	.137	.449	.241	-.028	-.042
Second generation immigrants- Satisfaction from Iran	.251	.000	.051	.812	.720

Source: Field Studies Authors, 2018

**Multivariate regression analysis**

The main goal of the application of multivariate regression is to create a linear combination of independent variables that shows the maximum correlation with the dependent variable. As a result, the linear combination can be used to predict the values of the dependent variable and evaluate the importance of each of the independent variables in the prediction. The

researchers have used the simultaneous method in this study, in which all independent variables are simultaneously entered into the model to determine the effect of all important and non-important variables on the dependent variable. This multivariate relation between independent and dependent variables is presented in Table (11).

**Table11. Multivariate regression analysis of satisfaction from Iran**

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square
First generation	.507 <sup>a</sup>	.257	.225
Second generation	.535 <sup>a</sup>	.286	.222

Source: Field Studies Authors, 2018

According to Table (11), the correlation coefficients (R) between the variables are 0.507 and 0.535 for the first generation and the second generation respectively, indicating a relatively moderate correlation between the set of independent variables (quality of life

indicators) and the dependent variable (satisfaction with life in Iran). The *adjusted R-squared* values are 0.257 and 0.286, which indicates that 25.7% and 28.6% of the total life satisfaction in Iran is related to the quality of life indicators.

**Table12. Significance level of independent variables on dependent variables**

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
	<b>First generation immigrants</b>				
Satisfaction of Income	.418	.084	.420	4.957	.000
Satisfaction of housing	.067	.105	.053	.643	.522
Satisfaction of education	.275	.094	.262	2.928	.004
Satisfaction of security	.148	.088	.146	1.685	.095
Satisfaction of health	-.215	.110	-.185	-1.959	.052
<b>Second generation immigrants</b>					
Satisfaction of Income	-.015	.143	-.013	-.102	.919
Satisfaction of housing	.538	.142	.501	3.790	.000
Satisfaction of education	.240	.131	.208	1.831	.072
Satisfaction of security	-.102	.128	-.091	-.797	.429
Satisfaction of health	-.220	.177	-.152	-1.240	.220

a. Dependent Variable: Satisfaction from Iran

Source: Field Studies Authors, 2018

Based on the standardized regression coefficient (Beta coefficient) in Table (12), we can determine the relative contribution of each independent variable in the model. The beta coefficient shows that among the independent variables in the first-generation group of Afghan immigrants, the level of income variable, with a regression coefficient of 0.420, has the greatest impact on the dependent variable. The next variables affecting the dependent variable are education and security with coefficients of 0.226 and 0.416 respectively, while the independent variable of health satisfaction, with a regression coefficient of -0.185, has a negative effect on the dependent variable. However, there is much difference regarding the effect of the variables of the second-generation group of Afghan immigrants, so that the income satisfaction index, with a coefficient of 0.013, has a negative effect on the level of satisfaction with life in Iran, and positive indicators have been transferred to the housing and education group.

### **Conclusion:**

Large populations from neighboring countries, especially from Afghanistan, have entered Iran's territory during the last decade. The Afghan immigrants have settled in villages and cities of Iran after decades of living in Iran, getting married in this country and finding various jobs. Considering this point and after many years of these immigrants' living in Iran, a new generation of these immigrants has appeared in Iran and this generation's individuals, who are mostly youths, have found jobs, families, housing, and so on. Exploring the differences between the first and second generation of Afghan immigrants in terms of the quality of life, particularly in the field of employment on which many parameters of quality of life including access to higher income, high-quality housing, etc. depend, the present study has come to the conclusion that the difference between these two generations of immigrants is just a relative difference

in the area of employment. According to these findings, the majority of the first generation of immigrants is engaged in non-specialized occupations, such as construction, cattle breeding, poultry, agriculture, waste purchases, etc. However, it is noteworthy that the first generation immigrants are also found working in construction jobs and building-related specialized occupations such as plastering, stonework and tile work and have mostly acquired the required specialty from their experience and life in Iran. However, the significant difference between the two generations lies in the second generation immigrants' tendency to have primarily specialized, higher income, and free jobs.

The majority of the Afghan immigrant youths of the current generation tend to be employed in jobs such as sewing, car engine repairs, bodywork repairs, electricity, and so on. They are reluctant to follow the construction jobs of their previous generation and their fathers, and if they do so, they tend to be involved more in the construction-related jobs such as stonework, plastering, and less as simple workers. Moreover, the research findings show that the second generation immigrants have higher job satisfaction than the previous generation, although they are in a moderate position in terms of satisfaction with their income. The Pearson test and regression analysis also showed that satisfaction has the highest impact on relationship with the level of satisfaction with life among the first generation of Afghan immigrants in Iran. This group of immigrants are relatively satisfied with their income, while income negatively affects the level of satisfaction with life among the second generation Afghan immigrants in Iran, meaning that the latter group of immigrants is looking for better job opportunities and higher income. Concerning other indices of quality of life, satisfaction with the health and safety index has also been high for both generations. However, in the education and housing index, the first generation showed a higher satisfaction rate than the second generation. The second generation



is looking for higher standards in this regard, but taking the objective and subjective conditions of the quality of life of Afghan refugees in both generations, we find that the first generation of immigrants have little tendency for migration or even return to Afghanistan. Conversely, the second generation immigrants tend to emigrate to technologically advanced countries. Thousands of Afghan immigrants leave Iran mostly illegally every year, seeking a better quality of life.

Considering the aforementioned issues, the noteworthy point on the analysis of the job quality of Afghan immigrants is the spatial and geographical analysis of the difference in job quality of the cities under study. A high percentage of the Afghan refugees residing in the city of Pishva are primarily involved in agriculture, while the majority of Afghan immigrants in the cities of Varamin, Qarchak and Pakdasht are involved in construction and manufacturing jobs. In addition, the majority of the residents of these cities who are engaged in the agricultural sector reside in the villages of these areas. It goes without saying that the Afghan women residing in these cities seasonally make up a significant portion of the labor force of the agricultural sector in these cities and are used to harvest the agricultural crops. Moreover, a significant portion of Afghan women are engaged in home-based jobs, often helping the economy of their families by peeling pistachios and fava beans, but this cultural and economic pattern is much less visible among the younger generation of Afghan girls. Finally, by examining the two generations' willingness to return to their original country, we can find out that both the unfavorable conditions of living in Afghanistan demotivate the two generations to return to their homeland. Although the first generation immigrants prefer to stay in Iran rather than migrate to other advanced countries due to their higher rate of satisfaction, lower risk, and greater life problems. The first generation of immigrants regard the existence of security and the Shiite Sect in Iran as two factors affecting their decision to stay in Iran, although the

young or second generation of immigrants tend to migrate to other countries so that a vast majority of young Afghans have emigrated to European countries in recent years, claiming that they were seeking higher income and trying to improve their quality of life.

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