

The Assimilation of Zimbabwean Immigrants in South Africa

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Abstract

The aim of this study is to assess the causes, and factors that facilitates on the assimilation of Zimbabweans immigration in South Africa. This study is prompted by the necessity to establish the challenges faced by the Zimbabwean in the assimilation process into the mainstream of South Africa. In this case, the study will adopt the neo-classical realism theory of international relations. The theory helps to explain the antagonistic relations which is sometimes witnessed between Zimbabwean immigrants and South African natives. Furthermore, the study adopts a qualitative design wherein documentary analysis is used. Documentary analysis entails the critical analysis of the existing literature. It provides insights on the level of assimilation of Zimbabweans in South Africa and the data is analyzed thematically. Basing on the analysis and interpretation of data, the article realized that fear of persecution, proximity, search for employment, food insecurity, among others are some of the causes of Zimbabwean migration. Notwithstanding a myriad of challenges faced by immigrant in the assimilation process such as xenophobia. It also realized certain factors that determine the assimilation process in South Africa that ranges from education levels, recourses, documents, skill, and experience possessed by the migrant. The study concluded that although Zimbabwean were once welcomed in South Africa, the continued increased influx has led to a negative response. The study recommends that South Africa should come up with long- term sustainable and effective way to deal with the ever-increasing numbers of Zimbabwean immigrants.

Keywords: Assimilation; Zimbabwean Immigrants; South Africa

INTRODUCTION

Assimilation of immigrants is one of the major political and economic matter of our time. Gang, Landon-Lane, & Yun (2018) state that with globalization the world is becoming smaller and easily reachable. As such, globalization is contributing to an increased exodus of varied international migrants everywhere. Modern development of this literature suggests migration is caused by both push and pull factors. Likewise, Ultimate Visa Corporation, (2019) stresses that push factors include war, food shortages and lack of services. Moreover, prime examples of pull factors range from a dream or aspiration of something, including higher employment, political stability and better services.

Immigrants refers to individuals who migrate and become residence in another country. Traditionally, immigrants have been of great economic, social and cultural benefit to both sending and host states. Assimilation is a process by which various cultural groups of people become more and more similar. Studies have shown numerous benefits of assimilation of immigrants. For instance, Angelini, Casi & Corazzini, (2015) affirm that immigrants' experiences, skills, resources, education, and habits, from their home country could generate substantial economic returns for the receiving country. Thus, migration contributes to diversity and large economic benefits (Murphy, 2016). In this respect, assimilation happens when an immigrant becomes indistinguishable from the natives. This is achieved unintended during interactions (communication, contact and accommodation) between the immigrants and the natives in the new territory. However, Parry, (2020) argues that in recent days immigrants are contested. In the same view, Cole, (2018) also claims that assimilation might be impeded by interpersonal roadblocks and institutions that manifest from xenophobia, uneven provision of services and employment opportunities. Furthermore, Fouka, Mazumder, & Tabellini, (2020) argues that assimilation is hindered by native prejudice and lack of preparation to receive and accommodate new entrants. Goings (2017) highlights that most parts of Europe, immigrant communities are living separate lives with the natives. Assimilation is slow and rarely smooth because immigrants have been left to their own devices. The

article notes that immigrants face several hurdles, and the first and steepest is language, new rules and customs.

Jager & Musuva (2016) suggest that the meltdown of the Zimbabwean economy of the year 2000, reinvigorated migration of Zimbabweans specifically to South Africa. The dream of Zimbabwean immigrants to South Africa was that of a drastic improvement in their families' quality of lives. However, for many, it remained a pipeline dream. The reason for this was that, there was no guarantee of safety and protection. No policy was put in place for this purpose (Kupakuwana, 2017).

The article examines on the assimilation of Zimbabweans immigrants in South Africa. To be precise the article seeks to, identify the causes of migration of Zimbabweans to South Africa. Secondly, the article assesses the factors that contribute to the assimilation of Zimbabwean migrants in South Africa. Lastly, the study examines the challenges faced by Zimbabwean immigrants in the assimilation process. Basing on these aims the study also aims the study test on the hypothesis that increased influx of Zimbabwean immigrants influences on the assimilation dynamics.

Methodology

This study is based on qualitative design, which refers to the gathering and analyzing of the non-numerical data, such as text to have a deep understanding of concepts, opinions, and experiences. On the same note, qualitative research is applied to gain new ideas and in-depth insights of a phenomenon under study (Bhandari, 2020). The qualitative design is selected because of its ability to offer a complete picture of the studied phenomenon (Almalki, 2016). Furthermore, Gaille, (2018) suggest that qualitative research allows the researcher to learn the problem in detail in the study.

Document analysis denotes to a systematic procedure of assessing electronic and printed documents to gain empirical knowledge (Bowen, 2009). The documents that are consulted range from reports, journal, published books, research papers, and newspapers. In this regard, qualitative technique in the form of document analysis is more appropriate than quantitative approach cognizant of the fact that immigrants are difficult to quantify. Moreover, immigrants are also difficult to interview and some are illegal migrants and offer misleading information. Likewise, this makes

the method more applicable to dealing with numerous realities. Therefore, the document analysis enables issues of validity and reliability to be taken care of since secondary sources applied in the study were revealed and published. The collected data is analyzed by the technique of thematic data analysis. The themes as well as concepts contributes to a complete explanation. The researcher group data from the literature according to same theme or concept. Likewise, data are compared within the categories to realize connections and variations between concepts. The analysis process will be complete when the researcher feels that the interpretation can be shared with others such as policy making.

The study will be confined to South Africa, which is one of the largest states in Africa. It covers an area of approximately 0.471 million square miles and a land border length is almost 3,021 miles. The country's bordering states include six countries. These are Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Namibia, Botswana, and Swaziland (Kiprop, 2018). World Population Review (2020) denotes that the population of South Africa is nearly 59,579,818. Administratively it is divided into 9 provinces. As such South Africa attracts many migrants from across Africa as it presents more business and employment opportunities. Furthermore, it provides opportunities in information technology and commercial infrastructure (Black Pen Immigration, 2017). However, Masikati (2017) argues that the increased influx of illegal migrants is contributing to the uncertainty of the assimilation process.

An overview of assimilation of immigrants

Literature informs us of successful assimilation of immigrants. Equally, Cushman G. C (2019) elucidates on the assimilation of foreigners in Germany native culture. The results show successful assimilation despite the numerous potential confounding factors such as migrants' individual socioeconomic and demographic characteristics. The study asserts that Germany opened its borders to refugees and immigrants from Syrian and Hungary, among others to increase its declining population. Furthermore, the study affirms that Germany spends \$6.8 billion on housing, care, and training for refugees and migrants and the immigrants were encouraged to integrate into a new society. The results are coincided with other research that proves that immigrant absorption has presented opportunities to millions of people.

For example, some studies realized that migrants' absorption is embedded in social, cultural, and technology exchange. While these studies usually note assimilation to be easy in Germany other studies argue that immigrants in Germany face persistent earnings difficulties (Hughes, Akkök, Arulmani & Zelloth, 2019)

Considering the afro said, other works investigated on the assimilation and argues that it is increasingly becoming a challenge. For instance, Angelini et al., 2015 cite that receiving countries worries about the immigrants' flow on their social security leading to social conflict between host and immigrants, including in the UK and Norway. Similarly, Potarca & Bernardi (2018) add that France in 2011 deported 33,000 immigrants without the required documents. On the same note, America imposed strict immigration policies in northwest and Midwest as a response to the allegations that migrants were causing diseases and conflict (Abramitzky & Boustan, 2017). Switzerland also imposed restrictive migration policies to emigrants from ex-Yugoslavia, and Turkey. As such, these migrants were exposed to antagonism, low levels of social and cultural inclusion in Switzerland (Potarca & Bernadi, 2018). However, Nowrasteh (2016) adopted a different approach and revealed that immigrants as well as their offspring are assimilating well into US society.

Several scholars have documented that the influx of the migrants is responsible for the assimilation challenges. For example, a study pointed out that the African immigrants in the U.S. have continued to grow and the numbers have quintupled to 4.4% from 0.8% in 1970. The study notes that the immigrants are now considered a threat to available resources (Adida & Robinson, 2018). This was echoed by another other study, which realizes repeated waves of hostility towards immigrants as they are perceived as intimidators to the integrity of a state's culture. The author cited that fear is derived from the belief that foreigners can make Americans less Americans. However, the same article argues that migrants from Latin America and Asia, or who possess money, education, and higher skills integrated quickly in the U.S. society. The author asserts that the immigrant sense of separateness weakens with time, and their identification with U.S. cultures deepens. As such, migrants apply for citizenship, give their children American names, marry outside their cultural group, eat hamburgers, became a fan of baseball and become fully assimilated (Stanford institute for economic policy research, 2017).

In Africa, assimilation of immigrants has been recognized by scholars as a potential problem. The study indicates several factors that undermine the integration of migrants in Africa, such as negative attitudes by host populations, restrictive prohibitive citizenship laws and immigration policies. The Africa in Fact (2016) maintains that the immigrants are sometimes treated with hostility, violence, and exclusion, such as in the Democratic Republic of Congo (D.R.C.), Nigeria, Côte D'Ivoire, Libya, Uganda, and South Africa. However, the article argues that the citizenship status might be granted to long term refugees and immigrants. For instance, Rwandans in Tanzania and Banyamurenge people in the D.R.C.

Faced with such contests in the assimilation process this study is an attempt to investigate the determining factor on the assimilation of Zimbabwean immigrants in South Africa. Despite the well-known significance of the assimilation of migrants there has been little effort to a comprehensive study on the assimilation of Zimbabwean immigrants. The following research aims will also be pursued; To investigate the reasons of migration, contributing factors of assimilation of immigrants in South Africa, and to explore the challenges encountered.

The current study may have potential practical and theoretical contributions in the field of international relations. Theoretically, the research concerns a very significant but under-study phenomenon on the assimilation of migrants in South Africa. The study offers a deep understanding of assimilation and its determinants among Zimbabwean immigrants in South Africa. With the inclusion of reasons of migration, influencing factors of assimilation and challenges encountered this study, therefore, will contribute to the limited available literature on the assimilation of immigrants. Additionally, the study will serve as a significant study framework that might enhance our understanding of assimilation as well as its influencing factors in immigrants. Moreover, the study findings will be of great importance to the Zimbabwean migrants themselves. Some significant elements such as influencing factors might have a positive influence on their assimilation. The migrants need to constantly improve their skills and professional development for their own benefit in the assimilation process. Furthermore, the study possesses practical importance. For instance, the study will provide important information to guide and inform the South African government on assimilation policies that they

would like to implement. If successfully implemented, South Africa might act as a model for other African countries on how the assimilation of migrants can be improved.

Neo Classical Realism

The present study will be guided by the neo-classical realism theory coined by Rose in 1998. The goal of the neoclassical realism is to explain the behavior of state in the international system. The theories integrate classical realist and neorealist variables in explaining countries' foreign policy decisions Rose (1998). The theory is grounded in the following main concepts. The first and main concept is that states struggle for power. This means that states with higher power further increase their influence and decrease their enemies' power. According to Thucydides (1954) "The strong do what they have the power to do and the weak accept what they have to accept." Power is a means of maintaining autonomy, allows for a broader range of actions and far-reaching foreign policies (Rose 1998). The second component is that nation states are sovereign states which signifies the national authority of a state in the international arena. The next concept is that states act according to their national interest and the highest interest is power and security not the economy and human rights. The other component is that states' interaction in international relations is characterized by mistrust and states live in a security dilemma (Wikipedia, Neoclassical realism) Furthermore, states are rational and unitary actors. Lastly, the neoclassical realism suggests system-level variables on top of national-level analysis, which also shapes foreign policy actions of the states within the international system. A system refers to interacting units within a structure which is anarchy and lack a sovereign body that administers the interactions between nation-states or establishes rules (Naji & Amiri, 2015)

The Neo-Classic Realism Theory is specially selected to guide the present study that focuses on the assimilation of immigrants and factors that influencing it. It has been argued that the explanation of states' foreign policies requires integrating state level and system-level variables (Firoozabadi & Ashkezari, 2016). Therefore, the Neo-Classic Realism provides a suitable theoretical approach that integrates a domestic and state level in the analysis of the assimilation immigrants Więclawski (2017). In this study this theory is adopted so as to gain full understanding of assimilation determinant factors. Specifically,

neoclassical realism guides the study in establishing the reasons, influencing factors of integration and challenges.

From Neo-Classic Realism struggle for power in an essential aspect in informing states foreign conduct. The way in which host nations choose to treat migrants is influenced by the struggle for power. Most receiving countries are eager to remain powerful and this affects the assimilation level of migrants. Indeed, these concepts of neoclassical realism, such as sovereign states affect the assimilation process of an immigrant because host states intend to maintain their national authority. The aspects of national interest of neoclassical realism, such as power and security means that the host countries normally consider their own national interest before economics and human rights of migrants. This will affect the social inclusion of an immigrant.

Learning about the theory that states are rational and unitary actors we were also reminded that the way states react to immigrants is based on the fact that the world is anarchical and lacks world government. This is informed by a lack of international rules and regulations to govern state action. Lack of anarchy entails self-help, survival, and preservation of power. These led to the development of conflicts between natives and immigrants in an anarchical world. For instance, xenophobic violence against immigrant can be understood from neoclassical realism aspects of self-help, struggle for power and security dilemma. This might influence the assimilation process an immigrant in a new territory. Therefore, regarding this study neoclassical realism seems to offer a useful theoretical framework that could provide us with concrete answers to understand and analyze the assimilation of Zimbabwean immigrants.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

Assimilation concepts

In its broadest sense, assimilation refers to various cultural groups resembling each other. When full assimilation is reached, there will be no major difference between the previous different groups as they progressively share the same values, attitudes, interests, outlook, sentiments, and goals. Assimilation also entails immigrants abandoning their personality and conform to social classes instead of an ethnic group (Cole, 2018). Furthermore, assimilation is the mental

process of adjusting to new information, whereby people take in new experiences, interpret, and incorporate them into our existing knowledge. Consequently, the assimilation process can be spontaneous, forced, rapid, or gradual. Nevertheless, the process of adaptation for some racial, ethnic, and religious minorities can be interrupted by institutional barriers built with a bias (Cherry, 2020). Multiculturalism has also weakened assimilation process and the majority of the immigrants remain outsiders rather than integrating into cultural and economic mainstream. Although, migrants are faced with major challenges, however, migrants can steadily assimilate in areas such as income, education and home ownership due to increased stay in the host country (Paper Masters).

The assimilation of migrants

Various researches on immigrants' assimilation resulted in a wide range terminology to describe it. Some scholars note a variety of terms that can replace it such as integration (Migration Data Portal, 2020). Furthermore, Ncube, (2019) reveals that assimilation is the same as adoption. Some studies have also revealed four benchmarks used to evaluate assimilation. Firstly, the socioeconomic status (occupation, educational attainment and income) which is used to determine if the migrant eventually catch up with natives on issues related to capital. Second, is spatial concentration (residence patterns) which entails that the immigrant longer stay in the host country, improved socioeconomic status contributes to the attainment of better houses. Third, language attainment refers to the ability to speak host language. Finally, high rates of intermarriage are regarded as an indication of assimilation since they are intimate relations between persons of different ethnic, and racial groups. Intermarriage decreases the ability of families to transfer to their children a consistent ethnic culture, hence encouraging assimilation (<https://courses.lumenlearning.com/cochise-sociology-os/chapter/assimilation/>).

Reasons for the migration

Many studies inform us that Zimbabwean have migrated to South Africa since immemorial time due to the search for employment. Hovhannisyan Helidah, Ogude, & Sarkar, (2018) fostered that the discovery of gold and diamond in Witwatersrand (1867) and Kimberly mines (1886) in South Africa led to increased demand for labor.

Consequently, male workers from countries such as Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Mozambique willingly migrated to South African gold mines in search of labor. An agency called the Witwatersrand Native Labor Association (WENELA) recruited and exploited labor from the whole of Southern Africa. However, Guild & Mantu 2016 argues that the assimilation process was difficult because these mines were dangerous, exposed immigrants to worst working conditions and abuse. Later, in 1980s and 1990s Zimbabweans preferred to migrate to South Africa rather than other African countries, as it was perceived as the most developed country (Ncube, Bahta, & Jordaan, 2019).

Other works suggest that the major attributing factor for the Zimbabwean migration to South Africa is the continued decline of the Zimbabwean economy and political crisis. Ngomane (2008) insist that the Zimbabwe high inflation rates make basic commodities unaffordable. The author also adds that the land reform program also led to food shortages as farms are currently underutilized. Furthermore, some have cited that the economic crisis in Zimbabwe is contributing to the shortages in materials for the printing of passport hence delaying the whole process. The pressing issue was to search for employment in the neighboring Southern African country. As such some potential migrants who cannot wait or afford passport fee are resorting to illegal migration. The same article also noted that some Zimbabwean migrants flee to South Africa due to the political turmoil that faced the country. Resultantly majority of the migrants had to seek asylum in South Africa.

These results concur with that of Swain (2019) which shows that the world is faced with a huge uncertainty as far as the number of international migrations is concerned. Swain also contends that increased interconnectivity, political challenges, instability attributed to poverty and climate change, migration has contributed to increased international migration. However, the article show that the influx of migrants has led to the decline of bilateral relations as well as an increase in antimigration political mobilization. In support of the above, Justice for immigrants, (2014) stress that some migrants are forced to migrate due fear of persecution based on their religion, political beliefs, or membership of political parties. Furthermore, danger, such as war or widespread gang activity will also prompt potential migrants to move. For instance, almost 10% of the population of the Northern Triangle, migrated due to extreme violence in El

Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras in 2016. The author also underlines that economic migrants move from poorer developing areas towards richer areas that offers better job opportunities. Therefore, the article shows that the desire for improved quality of lives, better health care and better education attract migrants to new areas. In the same stream, Kolbe et al (2016) highlights that assimilation is a serious and contentious issues in modern welfare states.

Contributing factors of assimilation

Many scholars have documented that the flood of migrants in search of refuge negatively influences on the assimilation capacity. For instance, Mawire, Mtapuri, Kidane, & Mchunu, (2020) have fostered that South Africa is currently the major destination, particularly from SADC countries since it is the second largest economy in Africa. The article adds that many countries such as Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia, Mozambique, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Zimbabwe are attracted to South Africa. However, the authors note that the major proposition of these migrants is economic migrants. Zimbabweans economic meltdown also contributed to the flooding of migrants. As a result, some migrants are exposed to violence with the natives which compromises on the assimilation process.

Literature cites that the assimilation process of Zimbabwean has been largely contested because of growing number low quality immigrants. Likewise, Crush & Tawodzera (2014) pointed out that Zimbabwean migration to South Africa have encompassed a growing number of children. In addition, the article shows that these children face a range of difficulties, such as difficulties in accessing the educational system in South Africa. Resultantly, the School attendance rates are lower amongst migrant in comparison to South African children. In addition, other researchers note that prior, the migrants from Zimbabwe used to consist of young people immigrating to seek employment; however, since 2000 trends shifted and recently included the elderly, and women. Some of these depended migrants are unable to work and need humanitarian assistance (Wikipedia, Zimbabwean in South Africa).

The status of migrants has been cited by literature to be responsible for determining the assimilation of a migrant. Regarding this issue, Mutambanengwe, (2012) suggests that the legal status of migrants plays a pivotal role in determining their level to access

employment and other societal amenities. Furthermore, the socioeconomic background, such as educational accomplishments also influences their access to specific services, for instance in the health sector. Therefore, migrants with less qualification experience difficulties in getting a safe working environment and jobs that promise job security. On the same note, Dzimwasha, (2014) highlights that some low-quality migrants entering South Africa have low academic qualifications, no documents and skills required to contribute to exploitation, withheld wages and difficulties in assimilation. Several works have also noted that some Zimbabwean migrants are not assimilated because of lack of the required documents. Similarly, Hungwe (2013) insists that there have largely been no attempts by the South African government to assimilate undocumented Zimbabweans into the South African society. As such, Hungwe explains that the policy of deportation of undocumented migrants is continuing in South Africa. However, some illegal migrants' brides the immigration officers and the so as not to get deported.

This is in accordance to the neo classical realism guiding this study, which stipulates that states live in security dilemma and self-help is important. The neo classical theory entails that struggle for power, and mistrust which is applicable in the case of South African natives and authority's antagonistic relations towards the ever-increasing Zimbabwean migrants. Therefore, it is difficult for South Africa to continue to entertain the ever-raising influx of the illegal Zimbabwean migrants due to struggle of power over resources and mistrust.

Challenges encountered

The assimilation process of immigrants in South Africa has been a challenge due to the fact that it continued to receive the largest concentration flow of economic migrants from Zimbabwe in the previous years. Resultantly, the actual number of Zimbabwean living and working in South Africa is not known as many are illegal migrants, but the estimated range of is from 2 to 3 million (Immigration South Africa in South Africa, 2019). The reason for this is because of Zimbabwe's proximity to South Africa and other reasons such as current economic and social-political problems facing Zimbabwe (Ncube, beta, & Jordaan 2019). Therefore, Zake (2020) suggest that the

high influx of Zimbabweans in South Africa is contributing to low levels of assimilation and some are victims of rape and killings.

The assimilation process is supposed to be obtained through the support from the natives, especially at the initial phase of the settling process of the migrant in the new territory. This period is crucial as the transformation process takes place and also guides the future of an immigrant as far as assimilation is concerned. However, with underlined anomalies such as host prejudice and allegations that immigrants steal natives' jobs, are drug dealers and fuels prostitution, it is certain that the process is compromised. Moreover, Masikati (2017) reveals that some South Africans believe that companies favor foreigners based on the claims that immigrants are hard-working. These beliefs contribute to xenophobic violence and attacks of immigrants (University of Pennsylvania, 2019). As, neoclassical realism guiding this research specifies that security dilemma and power struggles that influences states behavior in international relations.

Xenophobia has been identified in this literature review as a challenge in the assimilation process. Psychologenie, (2015) purports that the security dilemma may originate from the fear of foreigners. Xenophobic attacks are usually ignited by negative attitudes towards foreigners. These include, allegations that immigrants contribute to crime, chaos and also increase the competition to available resources including jobs, threats to local heritage and legacy leading to clashes. The works argue that xenophobia is a component of political struggle used to attain political goals and service delivery related violence is attributed to the nature of man who is selfish. In this view, it is a fight for shared goods for modern states which is unreal and stereotyped (Wikipedia, Xenophobia). In addition, Mutambanengwe, (2012) adds that wearing unfamiliar dress attire, skin tone, different language or accent, spiritual practices are some of the factors that led to discriminatory practices and the chauvinistic behavior toward migrants.

These findings were replicated in another study. The Human Rights First, (2012) finds out that many migrants are prone to verbal abuse by natives and in various parts of the world. Other works also highlight ethnic conflicts and physical abuse as an element of xenophobia. It states that many countries with more diverse societies are experiencing incidents of increasing violence, murders, arson

attacks and physical assaults (Albania, 2020). However, United Nation Human Rights, (2013) shows that some of these xenophobic violence and verbal abuse go unreported. Moreover, University of Pennsylvania, (2019) further, asserts that immigrants are regarded as a threat to available jobs leading to discrimination in employment opportunities and a gap in wages between natives and immigrant. Nevertheless, the same study argues that the difference in wages is caused by incomplete assimilation of immigrants, a lack of qualifications and experience. Likewise, Findling et al., (2019) realized that immigrants are discriminated in service provision by host authorities such as in health care delivery.

These findings concur with that of other scholarship that have also provided challenges faced by migrants elsewhere. Likewise, Metcalfe-Houghhttps (2015) underscores that many immigrants are fleeing violence and conflict from their countries. However, some of these migrants are faced with serious challenges such as in Syria. Moreover, Metcalfe-Houghhttps suggests that more than 12 million migrants and refugees in Syria are in deep need the humanitarian assistance. The author also underlines that refugees and migrants from Somalia, Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, South Sudan and Mali in Europe, but there is little real security and prospect of integration. This is attributed by the fact that host governments are overwhelmed by the large volumes of arrivals leading to tightening of borders, hostility and, residency restrictions. The author also demonstrates deteriorating conditions such as the contemporary insecurity in Lebanon and bomb attacks in Turkey.

In this respect, other scholarship also shows that immigrants are also faced with inequalities in health care. Similarly, Brandenberger et al., (2020) notes that immigrant face inequalities in their health care delivery in most high-income countries. This is in accordance to the neo classical realism guiding this study, which stipulates that states live in security dilemma and self-help is important. The neo classical theory entails that struggle for power, and mistrust which is applicable in the case of South African natives and authority's antagonistic relations towards the ever-increasing Zimbabwean migrants. Therefore, it is difficult for South Africa to continue to entertain the ever-raising influx of the illegal Zimbabwean migrants due to struggle of power over resources and mistrust. In addition, Soltani F, Naji S, Amiri. E.R., (2015) adds that power

struggles are also attributed to the structure of the international system which is anarchy and self-help important.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Building on the analyzed data, the study working hypothesis that the increased pour of Zimbabwean immigrants in South Africa affects on the assimilation process has been fully confirmed. Basing on the above discussion, the article has documented several pushes and pull factors that causes of Zimbabweans to migration to South Africa. It has shown that proximity reasons, fear of persecution, food insecurity, unemployment, search for better living standards and better health care force or attract potential migrants to move. Despite this move, Zimbabwean migrants are also faced with major challenges. These include, xenophobia, discrimination, clashes on available resources among others. The study also realized that factor such as education levels, skill, experience, documents and recourses possessed by the migrant also determines the level of assimilation. The article concludes that although South Africa welcomed Zimbabwean immigrants; however, the influx of migrant due to the continued meltdown and political challenges in Zimbabwe is contributing to assimilation challenges. For this reason, the paper recommends that Zimbabwe must come up with home grown solutions so as to discourage unnecessary migration to South Africa. On the same vein South Africa should come up with long- term initiatives to deal with increasing numbers of migrants. We also recommend that future studies are a mixed study.

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