

Illegal Immigration From The Perspective Of Young University Students In Algeria: The Example Of Oran Universities

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Abstract:

Since the late 1980s, Algeria has undergone several political and economic transformations, accompanied by an increase in the number of Algerians who have emigrated abroad. According to the United Nations, the number of Algerians who emigrated abroad reached nearly 7 million in 2023 (2024ONU), compared to 1,770,000 in 2013 and 930,000 in 1990 (ONU.2014). This number is expected to continue to increase due to the decline in purchasing power and rising unemployment rates, as well as the worsening of the phenomenon of illegal¹ immigration (harragas), which has become widespread in recent years and affects different social and ²age groups, including young people and especially university students. Young people, especially educated youth, are considered essential human capital for the overall development of the country, as they are the expected return after years of training, education and significant financial expenditure.

This study aims to monitor the trends and opinions of university youth towards illegal migration abroad, using a quantitative approach through a field study by questionnaire in the universities of the wilaya of Oran, the second largest wilaya in the country. The results of the study showed that more than half of the sample had a positive attitude towards emigration abroad, with statistically significant differences between the sexes in terms of destination, in favour of males. The study also demonstrated that Europe remains the preferred destination for immigration.

Keywords: Youth, University youth, Emigration, Secret immigration, Illegal immigration.

Introduction:

If, since the beginning of human history, migration has been a method and approach used by people to change and improve their standard of living for the better, it has become a phenomenon with a highly reciprocal impact on the migrants, the countries from which they emigrate and the countries to which they immigrate, especially as it has taken on unique dimensions and forms in recent years.

Recent statistics show that the number of people living in a country other than the one in which they were born has reached unprecedented levels. The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) estimates the number of international migrants at around 281 million. These migrants represent about 3.5% of the world's population, a significant increase compared to 2000 (2.8%) and 1980 (2.3%). Women account for about

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48% of the total number of international migrants. Data show that three out of four international migrants are aged between 20 and 64, while the number of migrants under the age of 20 is around 41 million.

Statistics from the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) show that the number of deaths of undocumented migrants reached 3,170 in December 2019, a 34% decrease compared to previous years. The Mediterranean region has seen the highest number of deaths in recent years. Over the past six years, the number of migrants leaving North African countries and Turkey has reached 100,000, with more than 13,000 migrants entering Europe. The year 2019 was the sixth consecutive year in which more than 1,000 deaths were recorded in the Mediterranean (IOM, 2024).

International migration, including irregular migration, is one of today's most pressing issues, attracting the attention of many researchers, policy-makers and international organisations because of its particular implications for both sending and receiving countries, as well as its potential negative impact on the lives of individuals and their families.

Migration can have a serious impact on the social and economic development of any country, especially when it involves the emigration of its most skilled and educated population, a phenomenon known as 'brain drain'. This represents a significant loss for the state, which has invested considerable time, effort and resources in educating, training and developing this segment of the population, as their departure deprives the country of its most valuable human resources, which are essential for driving development and ensuring future projects.

Recent scientific and technological advances, particularly in information and communication technologies, transport and globalisation, have played a significant role in encouraging people, especially young people, to migrate abroad.

Youth migration is considered one of the most important social phenomena of our time, as many young people seek to travel to developed and wealthy countries, attracted by the lure of a better life, progress and higher incomes. This youth migration can be driven by the search for employment opportunities or the desire to continue their education, or it can be the result of coercive factors (Bel. F. 2012).

Algeria, like many other countries in the world, has not been immune to this historical pattern and has experienced waves of migration both into and out of the country. In recent years, however, Algeria has seen a particular increase in the number of young people, including educated ones, migrating both legally and illegally.

In the first decade of this century, Algeria and a number of Arab countries experienced one of the highest rates of skilled migration in the world. Several youth surveys have shown an increase in the number of young people seeking to migrate, which is most common among university graduates (United Nations Development Programme, 2016).

As university youth are generally classified as a skilled young population, their migration is a concern for governments. This research aims to provide a picture of the views and attitudes of university youth towards migration and irregular migration abroad through a field study conducted at the level of the province of Oran, the second largest province in the country in terms of economic and demographic importance.

The research problem:

The phenomenon of irregular migration is spreading to a large number of countries in the world, making it a global phenomenon. However, migration to Europe is considered one of the most important issues of the time due to its high intensity, especially with the deterioration of economic, social and security conditions in neighbouring countries, which has made it a subject of great interest for European countries and countries that export

migrants. As a result, the concept of migration has changed from a normal social phenomenon to a phenomenon that threatens the stability of societies and governments because of the demographic, social, political and economic risks it poses, making it a top priority for national and international concerns. The negative impact of this phenomenon has led most countries, including Algeria, to sound the alarm.

In addition to its negative impact on the individual, society and the future of the state, the high incidence of migration and irregular migration in Algerian society, which mainly affects the foundation of society, i.e. the youth population, makes it one of the most important social phenomena of our time, especially since it no longer affects only the uneducated youth but has also spread to the educated classes. In recent years, Algeria has witnessed an increase in the number of young migrants with university degrees, using both legal and illegal means.

The phenomenon of illegal migration has taken on a contradictory form in our time, combining hope and tragedy. Some resort to unsafe boats, called “death boats”, in order to reach the other shore. As a result, this phenomenon has become a problem for the receiving countries, especially the European countries, which are the main destination for illegal migrants from North African countries. It should be noted that illegal migrants have been present in America and Europe for many years, but the recent increase in their numbers has led to increased attention, making it an issue that can no longer be ignored (Leman, 1995, p. 11).

Thus, the image of illegal migration has changed and it is no longer treated as a mere migration, but rather as a human resource that has brought about changes in the demographic data of the expelling and attracting countries. Those who have entered clandestinely, known as “les clandestins”, are now classified as criminals (Leman, 1995, p. 12). This has forced some governments, including the Algerian government, to criminalise and punish the unauthorised departure from national territory. However, this decision has not prevented the population, especially the young, from resorting to illegal migration, as the reality shows that the phenomenon, in its various forms and methods, is still ongoing and today affects all sectors of Algerian society, men and women, old and young, as well as Algerian talent and intellect.

In Algerian society, a number of factors have contributed to the spread of this phenomenon, especially during the political and security crisis that Algerian society experienced in the 1990s, the effects of which are still being felt today. In addition, the pragmatic, utilitarian doctrine that dominates the youth has led them to take the easiest ways to make a lot of money. Consequently, they have found migration to Europe as a means to achieve this, regardless of whether the method is legal or illegal and regardless of the consequences. Migration abroad has become an obsession for many young people, including university students, managers and professionals. This is evidenced by the massive number of attempted migrations by boat in pursuit of dreams that they believe are impossible to realise in their home countries.

This study aims to understand the views of university students on this phenomenon, which attracts society’s most important human resource. It has become a magnet for all segments of society, regardless of gender, age or level of education. Based on a field study of university youth in the province of Oran, the aim is to address this issue and find solutions to limit its spread, especially among educated youth, by answering the following questions:

- What are the opinions of university youth on external and illegal migration?
- What are the characteristics of university youth who want to migrate abroad?
- What are the main motivations and reasons for external and illegal migration from the perspective of university youth?

Importance of the study:

The importance of this research lies in addressing a pertinent issue that is currently of concern to all countries, especially Algeria. It also aims to provide a clear picture of the reality of migration and illegal immigration through the views and attitudes of university youth

Aims of the study:

This study aims to:

- To shed light on the phenomenon of migration and illegal immigration among university youth, which has taken a serious turn in recent years.
- Understand the views and perspectives of university students on migration and illegal immigration.
- Identify the main socio-demographic characteristics of young people who support migration abroad, especially illegal migration.
- Understand the reasons and factors that lead to migration from the perspective of university students.
- To explore students' opinions and attitudes towards illegal migration.

Conceptual framework of the study:**- External migration:**

External migration is defined as the movement of a person from his or her home country to another country for livelihood or other reasons. When this movement takes place across political or international borders, it is considered external migration, as opposed to internal migration, which takes place within the borders of a single country.

- Illegal immigration:

Illegal immigration is a compound term made up of the words 'migration' and 'illegal', indicating a violation of the laws and regulations governing the entry of foreign nationals into the sovereign territory of a state. Thus, illegal immigration refers to any movement of an individual or group across borders that is not permitted by law, which has occurred since the beginning of the 20th century. Illegal immigration is also referred to by other terms, such as clandestine migration, illegal migration, and "haraga", which refers to the burning of official documents as young men and women attempt illegal immigration by boat, as well as the burning of travel and border laws that prevent them from trying to reach Europe.

Adolescence:

Youth can be broadly described as the period when a person transitions from dependence (childhood) to independence (adulthood). According to the United Nations, this phase spans the ages of 15 to 24. However, the Middle East Youth Initiative defines the youth population as those between the ages of 15 and 29 years (United Nations Development Programme, 2016).

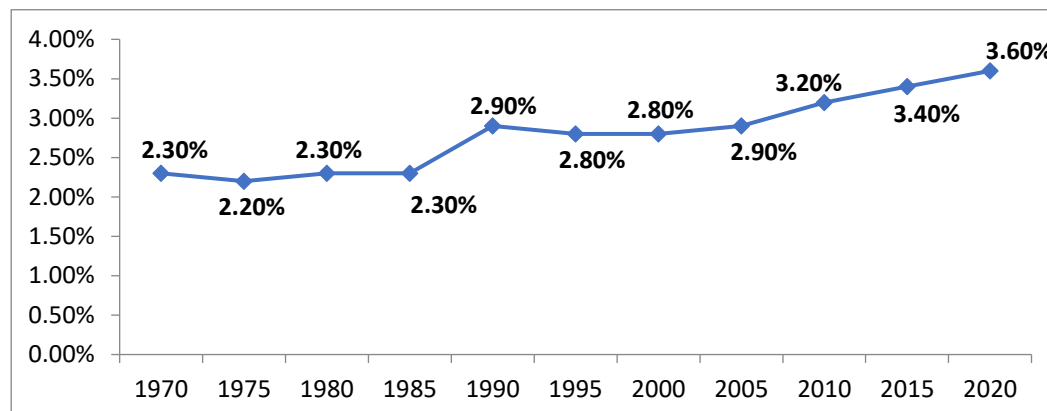
University age youth:

This segment of the population is those who are pursuing higher education at the university level after obtaining their secondary school (baccalaureate) certificate. They are between the ages of 18 and 35 (Kan'an, 2005, pp. 409-439).

Theoretical framework of the study:**International migration from the perspective of statistics and global reports:**

According to the United Nations 2024 report on global migration, there were 281 million international migrants in the world in 2020, up from 258 million in 2017, 153 million in 1990 and, according to the same source, 84 million in 1970, representing 3.6% of the world's population, an increase of 34%.

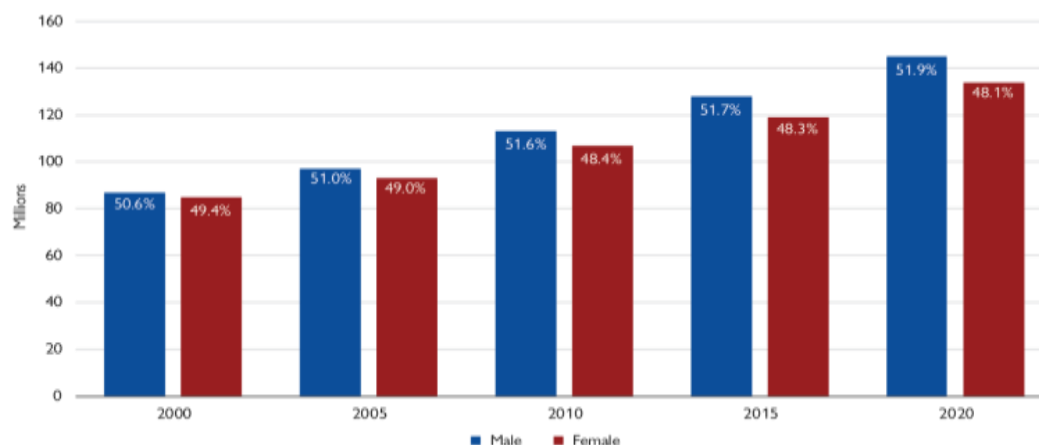
Figure 1: Evolution of the international migration rate in the world from 1970 to 2020



Source : DAES de l'ONU, 2008 et 2021.

According to the same source, female migrants will represent 48.04% of the total number of migrants in 2020 (135 million female migrants). The proportion of female migrants is higher towards Europe and North America, such as the United States, Canada, France, Spain and Italy, as well as towards India. Conversely, the proportion of male migrants is higher towards Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates. The proportion of migrant children does not exceed 10% (28 million children).

Figure 2: Distribution of international migration by sex in the world from 1970 to 2020



Source: UN DESA, 2021a.

In terms of age, the category of working-age migrants comprises 169 million people, which is more than half of the number of migrants (60.14%), with a decrease compared to 2017 (74%), as it is considered the most targeted group for migration. The average age of migrants has also increased from 38 years in 2000 to 39 years in 2020 (UN DESA, 2021).

In 2022, the number of people displaced due to conflict, violence, disasters and other reasons will reach 117 million, indicating that the migration phenomenon is an international crisis. The number of asylum seekers will rise from 4.1 million in 2020 to 5.4 million in 2022, an increase of more than 30% (World Migration Report, 2024).

Demographic, economic, social, geopolitical, environmental and technological changes have contributed to an increase in the pace of migration from developing to developed countries, through both formal and informal (illegal) channels.

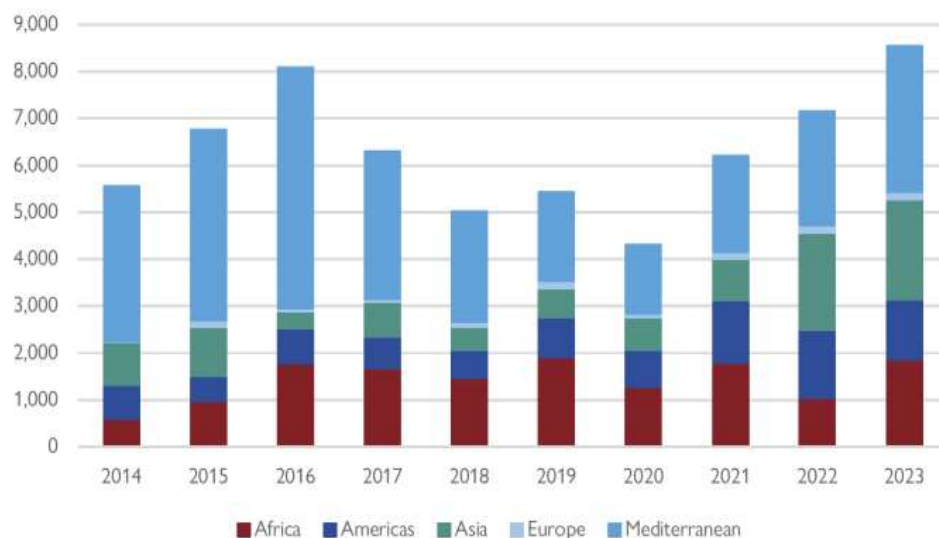
International migration also contributes to the demographic development of several regions of the world. Between 2000 and 2020, international migration will contribute a net 80.5 million people to population growth in high-income countries, exceeding the balance of births and deaths (66.2 million). The World Migration Report (2024) shows that in the coming decades, migration will be the main and only driver of population growth in high-income countries, while in middle- and low-income countries, population growth will continue to be driven by a surplus of births over deaths. Between 2010 and 2021, 40 countries will have a net inflow of more than 200,000 migrants, and 17 of these will have an inflow of more than one million migrants.

Dangerous Migration Flows:

Dangerous migration flows pose numerous challenges for both migrants and authorities. Some migrants' journeys are characterised by dangerous outcomes that can even lead to death. These journeys are often the result of a combination of social, political, economic and environmental factors that significantly influence the mode or type of migration.

Statistics show that in 2013, 360 people died when two boats sank near the Italian island of Lampedusa, drawing attention to the number of deaths and missing people due to dangerous migration. According to the International Organisation for Migration's Missing Migrants Project, 61,867 migrant deaths have been recorded worldwide since 2014 (UN DESA, 2021). Based on official and unofficial data sources for the year 2023, the number of recorded deaths exceeded 8,500, the highest number since 2016 and a significant increase compared to the previous three years. The COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 led to a decrease in the total number of deaths from 2014 to the end of 2023 due to movement restrictions (UN DESA, 2021).

Figure 3: Trend in migrant deaths and missing persons by region from 2014 to 2023.



Source : DAES de l'ONU, 2021a

According to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) 2021 report, the Mediterranean migration route is considered the deadliest, with at least 22,871 people losing their lives trying to cross it (Abu Fulgha, 2022). Similarly, the US-Mexico border is one of the most dangerous land migration routes, with numerous deaths reported due to the harsh conditions and risks faced by migrants during the crossing.

Internationally, the majority of migrants live in Asia and Europe, which each account for around 31% of the world's migrant population. North America follows with 21%, Africa with 9%, Latin America and the Caribbean with 5% and Oceania with 3% (Abu Fulgha, 2022).

2- Algerian migration abroad:

After Algerian independence in 1962, Algerian migration continued as a continuation of the colonial era. Most migrants were unskilled male workers, driven by high unemployment in Algeria and France's need for labour. This migration stopped in 1973 due to a government decision, but resumed in the first decade of the 21st century to other countries (United Nations, 2014). After 1973, labour migration shifted to family migration and student migration for education and training (Hammouda & Mussette, 2006).

Algerian law allows student migration for education and training purposes. In the past, most Algerian students went to France because of geographical proximity, historical ties and linguistic links. In recent years, destinations have diversified, with increasing numbers of Algerian students opting for Canada, the United States, other European countries and Asian countries.

Algerian law allows student migration for the purposes of study, training and improving skills. In the past, the majority of these students travelled to France because of geographical proximity, historical ties and linguistic links. However, the destinations of Algerian students have shifted in recent years, with increasing numbers opting to study in Canada, the United States, other European countries and Asian countries.

After 1986, with the decline in oil revenues, the number of student grants fell and unemployment rates rose. This situation led graduates, from 1992 onwards, to seek employment opportunities outside the country, i.e. to attempt migration, similar to the rest of the non-university youth. As the social and political situation in the country deteriorated, both legal and illegal migration movements increased and new destinations emerged (Hammouda N. and Mussette M.S., 2006).

Table 01: Algerian migration abroad, 1990-2020.

Region	European	Tunisia	CANADA	United States of America	Other countries	Total number	Percentage of migrants in total population	Percentage of female migrants
1990	816509	13757	-	-	19544	921665	3,6	43,5
1995	851272	13669	-	-	25514	979641	3,4	43,8
2000	880799	-	20571	-	30056	1037985	3,3	44,1
2005	1404632	-	34754	-	36950	1599647	4,8	47,8
2010	1427514	-	51080	-	44292	1655264	4,6	44,8

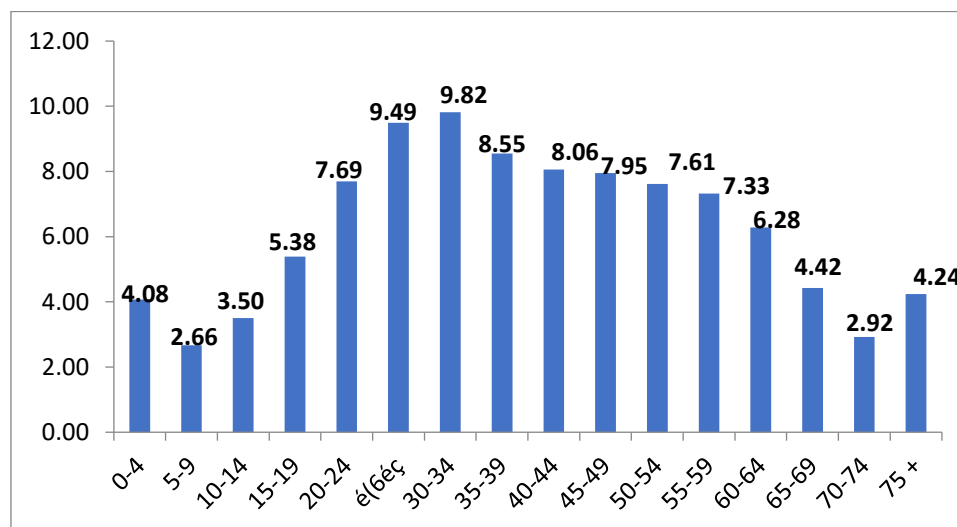
2015	1570855	-	64223	-	45680	18365 02	4,6	46,3
2020	1698822	-	59587	28531	44358	20223 37	4,6	46,3

Source: United Nations, International Migration Report 2021

According to the United Nations International Office for Migration, the number of Algerian migrants will reach 2,022,337 in 2020, up from 1,770,000 in 2013 and 930,000 in 2000. Algerian migration has increased significantly since the early 1990s due to the security situation and has not stopped since 2000, despite the stabilisation of the security situation and the national reconciliation initiative. The number of migrants increased by 110,000 between 1990 and 2000. Europe, particularly France, is the main destination for Algerians, followed by North America (Canada).

In terms of age, the child population (0-14 years) will represent 10.2% of the total number of migrants in 2020, compared with 13.1% for young people aged 15-24. The proportion of active people, i.e. those aged between 25 and 60, is more than half (58.8%), which is a very significant percentage. It is worth noting that the year 2020 recorded the highest proportion of older migrants (17.9%). Female migrants account for 46.3% (DESA, 2022).

Figure 04: Distribution of Algerian migrants by age in 2020



Source: United Nations, International Migration Report 2021

At the same time, Algeria receives a number of migrants from Western Sahara, Palestine, Somalia and, in recent years, various countries in the south (Africa) and the Syrian Arab Republic, albeit in smaller numbers.

In most Arab countries, including Algeria, the migration of university graduates (higher education) represents a significant proportion of the segment wishing to migrate abroad permanently, and this type of migration continues to grow, especially in the Maghreb countries. According to a study by the Arab Conference on Social and Human Sciences (Doha, 2017), the proportion of Moroccans with university qualifications has increased significantly, from 9.2% to 17.6% between 1990 and 2000, and to 22.3% in 2010. These studies show that the migration of skilled workers from Maghreb countries accounts for about 52% of the migration of Arab skilled workers in search of better professional and economic prospects (Omran Journal, 2017). This is due to the high unemployment rate

among university graduates, in addition to the migration policies of destination countries such as Canada and Europe (DI BARTOLOMEO et al. 2010).

3- Causes and Factors of External Migration:

The causes and factors of external migration vary from one region to another and from one period to another. Theoretical approaches to explaining these causes differ between the psychological, social, political and economic domains. One of the most prominent theories in this regard is the push-pull theory developed by Ernest George Ravenstein (1889), who analysed migration data in England and Wales and concluded that the pull factors that attract migrants to host countries are different from the push factors that drive them out of their countries of origin. The desire to improve one's material standard of living is often a stronger motivation than the desire to escape a poor situation in the home country (Manaa & Khabazi, 2011). This theory fits well with the aims of the present study, as it allows for the interpretation of the reasons and perspectives of university students towards external migration.

Migration is closely related to the prevailing economic, social, cultural, political and psychological conditions in both the countries of origin and the host countries (Abboud, 2016).

For university students, several factors may lead them to migrate if they are unable to utilise their skills in their home countries. These factors may include the inability of the national economy to integrate highly skilled young professionals, socio-economic conditions that create barriers for young people, and political or religious discrimination against them. In addition, migration can result from a climate that lacks active citizenship, where young people do not have equal opportunities for development and self-realisation in their home countries (United Nations Development Programme, 2016).

5- The Arab Index 2022 - Algerian perceptions and attitudes towards external migration

The Arab Index was conducted between May and December 2022 in 14 Arab countries, including Algeria. The survey was conducted among a sample of 33,300 people, with 2,400 respondents from Algeria representing different age groups and social categories.

The Arab Index aims to present citizens' assessments of their general circumstances, the conditions in their countries and the performance of key official institutions, as well as their opinions on various issues, including migration.

With regard to external migration, the results of the Arab Index 2022 survey indicate that Arab attitudes towards migration have not changed significantly since 2011 (the year of the first Arab Index report). The 2022 Index shows that 28% of respondents want to migrate abroad, compared to 25% in 2016, suggesting that the desire to migrate continues and is likely to increase if the trends governing the migration process continue. In other words, migration has become a societal phenomenon in several Arab countries.

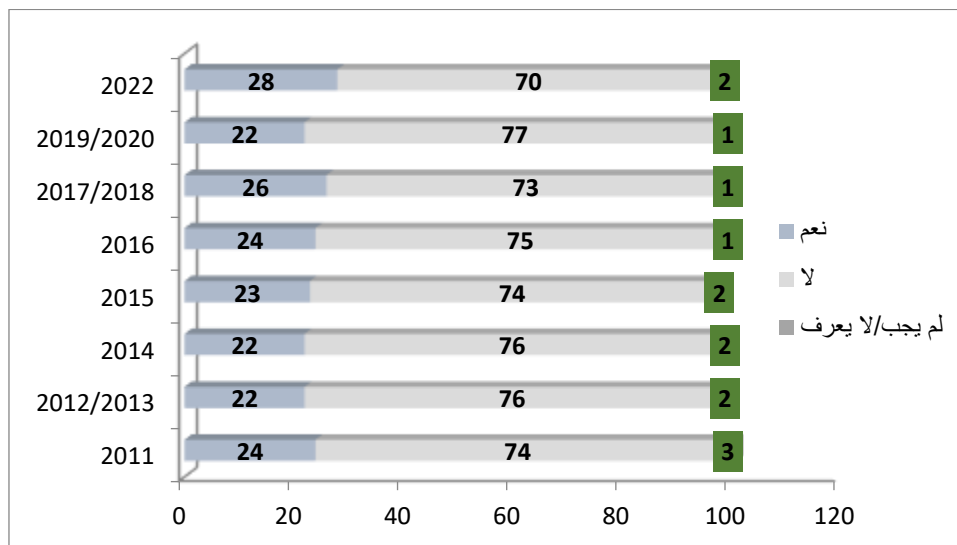
The results according to the countries surveyed show that the Lebanese recorded the highest percentage of those wishing to migrate with 63%, followed by Sudan with 49%, Tunisia and Jordan with 44% each. The rates ranged from 30% to 37% in Morocco, Mauritania and Iraq, and were estimated at 23% in Egypt, 22% in Palestine, 21% in Libya, 12% in Kuwait, 10% in Algeria and less than 10% in Saudi Arabia and Qatar (4% and 3% respectively). These results show that Algerians have the least desire to migrate abroad compared with the rest of the Arab countries, including neighbouring Tunisia and Morocco.

These results show a 6% increase in the desire to migrate in the Arab countries compared to the results of the 2020 survey, which showed that the percentage of those wishing to migrate over the past ten years ranged between 22% and 24%. The highest percentage of

those wishing to migrate was recorded in the 2022 survey, reaching 28%. Although this increase is statistically limited, it indicates that more than a quarter of the sample would like to migrate abroad.

Looking at the changes in the percentage of those wishing to migrate abroad, we see an increase in Sudan, reaching 49% in 2022 compared to 38% in 2020, and a large increase in Lebanon, from 29% to 63%. This change does not exceed 10% in Tunisia, Jordan, Egypt, Libya, Mauritania, Iraq and Palestine. In Morocco, the percentage of those wishing to migrate abroad decreased by around 2%, while Algeria recorded the largest decrease of 12%.

The graph 06: Trends in public opinion on the desire to migrate abroad according to the results of the Arab Index surveys over the years



Source: The Arab Index 2022.

The analysis of the reasons given by the respondents as their motivation for emigrating shows that the main motivation is to improve economic conditions at a rate of 58%. This is followed by emigration to pursue studies (16%). In addition, 7% of respondents said they were considering emigrating because of a lack of security and stability, and the same percentage (7%) cited family reasons, while 4% cited political reasons.

Looking at the motivations of respondents in each society separately, improving economic conditions appears to be a common factor, with the exception of Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq and Libya, where security and political stability remain a concern for Iraqi citizens.

74% of Qataris believe that education and better educational opportunities are the main reasons for emigration, compared with 38% of Algerians, 24% of Kuwaitis and 13% of Moroccans. Half of the Lebanese said they wanted to emigrate for economic reasons. The motivations and reasons for emigrating have not changed from previous years, as improving economic conditions remains the top priority in most countries, with the exception of Qatar and Kuwait.

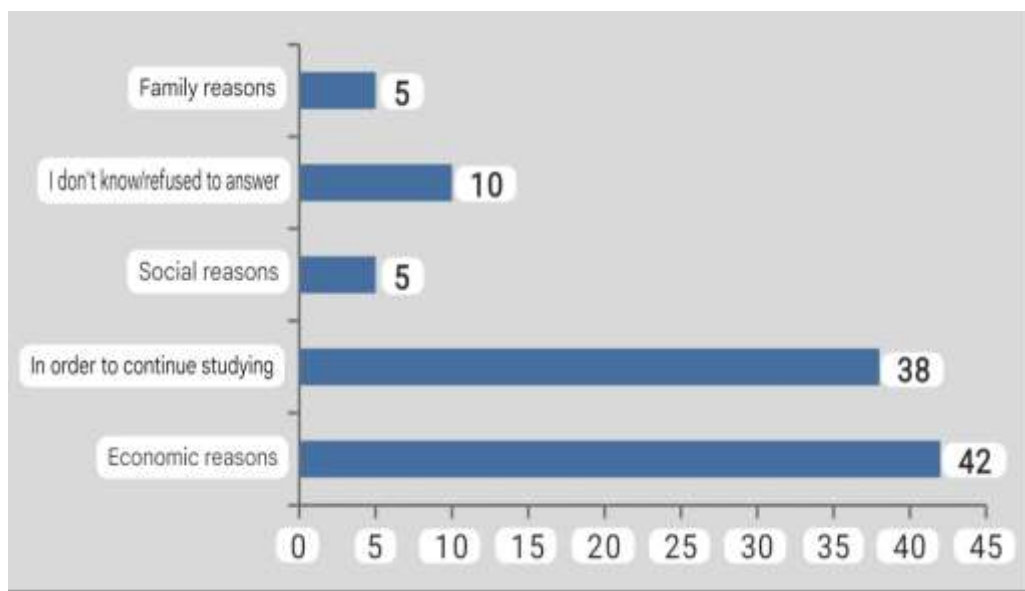
The results also show that European countries are the preferred destination for respondents (37%), followed by Gulf countries (13%), the United States (10%) and Canada (9%). 8% expressed a desire to emigrate to Turkey and 1% to Australia. Permanent emigration is not the goal for all respondents.

1- Opinions of Algerian respondents on external migration:

According to the Arab Index report for the year 2022, 10% of Algerian respondents want to migrate abroad. 44% of them prefer European countries and 6% Turkey, in addition to the Gulf countries (6%).

In terms of the factors that would motivate them to migrate, economic reasons (unemployment, rising prices, etc.) came first (42%), followed by the pursuit of further studies in second place (38%), as shown in the following figure:

Figure 7: Main factors motivating people to migrate abroad.



Source: The Arab Index 2022.

Field Study:

1. Methodology and sample of the study

This study belongs to the field of exploratory studies, which aim to provide a picture of the reality of the phenomenon under study and to reveal the surrounding conditions. This type of study is based on a sample survey as a method and the questionnaire as a data collection tool, which includes three main axes:

- Desire to migrate abroad
- Reasons for migration of young university students
- Attitudes of university students towards migration

As for the study population, it included students from the universities of Oran (University of Oran 2 Mohamed Ben Ahmed, University of Oran 1 Ahmed Ben Bella, and University of the 1st of November) from different specialisations and educational levels for the academic year 2023/2024. The sample size, which was a non-probabilistic purposive sample, was estimated at 350 students.

The following table shows the distribution of the sample units according to their socio-demographic characteristics:

Table 2: Distribution of sample units by socio-demographic characteristics

		Number	%
Gender	Males	110	31.4

	Females	240	68.6
	Total	350	100
Marital status	Single	331	94.57
	Married	16	4.57
	Divorced	03	0.86
	Total	350	100

The number of female students who participated in the survey represents two thirds of the sample, which is significantly higher than the number of males. This is due to the fact that the number of female students is much higher than the number of male students (64%), as female students tend to continue their university education after high school much more than male students. The average age of the respondents is 22.61 ± 5.13 years and the majority of them are single (94.57%).

2- Results of the field study:

We have divided and analysed the results of the study according to its objectives as follows:

2-1 Students' views on migration abroad:

Approximately three quarters of the students surveyed expressed a desire to migrate abroad, with a gender difference in favour of males. In the past, migration was a purely male issue, which confirms that society is changing and that individual behaviour is constantly evolving.

Table 03: Distribution of respondents according to their views on migration abroad

	Msles	Females	Total
Approved for immigration	92 (% 83,64)	170 (%70,83)	262 (%74,85)
Disapproved	18	68	66
Not specified	00	02	02
Total	110	240	380

2-2 Reasons and factors leading to emigration from the perspective of university youth

The results of the field study show that the economic, social and security conditions in Algeria are the main reasons that lead young people to emigrate. The harsh living conditions, unemployment, housing problems and other such problems make emigration the only way out, especially for university students. About 26% of the respondents expressed the desire to emigrate for the purpose of studying, followed by work (19.08%), and then to improve the standard of living (17.94%), with the remaining reasons following in varying degrees.

Table 04: Reasons and motives for emigration from the perspective of university students

Reasons and motivations	Males		Females		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Improving living standards	20	21,74	27	15,88	47	17,94
Education	21	22,83	46	27,06	67	25,57
Seeking stability	13	14,13	18	10,59	31	11,83
Seeking employment	24	26,09	26	15,29	50	19,08
Tourism and exploration	2	2,17	11	6,47	13	4,96
Securing the future	11	11,96	32	18,82	43	16,41
Reuniting with family	1	1,09	5	2,94	6	2,29
Other	0	00	4	2,35	4	1,53
No response	0	00	1	0,59	1	0,38
Total	92	100,00	170	100,00	262	100

2-3 Type of migration:

Although most students want to emigrate abroad, they end up returning to their home country, as shown by the results of this field study. Only 35.11% of university students want to emigrate permanently, with a difference of around ten percentage points between the sexes, with men more likely to do so.

Table 05: Respondents' views on the type of migration desired

	Females		Males		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Permanent	53	31,18	39	42,39	92	35,11
Temporary	117	68,82	52	56,52	169	64,50
No response	00	00	01	01,09	01	0,38
Total	170	100	92	100	262	100

2-4 Destination of migration:

The results of the study show that more than half of the students surveyed (54.58%) choose Europe as their destination for migration, with France being the first choice. This is due to

the geographical proximity and historical links between the two countries. Canada and the Asian region follow. The rest of the world is chosen to a much lesser extent.

Respondents indicated that their choice of these countries was the result of several factors, including

- Because they love the country: 15.5%
- Beautiful countries: 4.65%
- Developed countries: 17.37%
- To meet family and friends: 11.91%
- Availability of work: 20.01
- For study and education: 30.56%

In addition to other reasons, the most important of which are: mastering the language of the country and historical proximity.

Table 06: Views of interviewees on desired destination of migration

		Number	%
Europe	France	36	37,74
	Germany	22	08,40
	Italy	27	10,31
	Spain	21	08,02
	England	17	06,49
	Other	20	07,63
	Total	143	54,58
America		16	06,11
Canada		37	14,12
Asia	China	2	00,76
	Japan	1	00,38
	Korea	3	01,15
	India	1	00,38
	Malaisia	04	01,53
	Arab counties	25	09,54
	Total	35	13,36
Turkey		18	06,87
Australia		01	00,38
Any county		03	01,15
Other		02	00,76

I don't know		07	02,67
Total		262	100,00

2-5 Students' views on illegal migration:

81.13% of students who want to migrate do not consider illegal migration as a solution, and there are no differences between genders or age groups. Furthermore, 44.3% of the respondents do not believe that the phenomenon of illegal migration will disappear after the political changes that have taken place in Algeria.

Of the 262 students who are considering migrating abroad, 83 students (31.68%) are considering illegal migration. It is striking that young people between the ages of 19 and 24 are the most likely to consider illegal migration, with an average age of 22.3 years. European countries are the main destination for Algerian youth.

The results show that concern about illegal migration affects both sexes and is no longer limited to men. 31 young people admitted that they had tried to migrate illegally, the majority of them not older than 22, including 3 women. 71.3% of them tried to do so between 2021 and 2023, and 96.1% of them tried to migrate to Europe illegally, often by boat.

The interviewees were unanimous in their rejection of illegal migration as a means of leaving their homeland, seeing it as a path to death. They cited unemployment and deteriorating economic and social conditions as the main reasons for migration. Male respondents in particular noted that migration abroad, including illegal migration, has become more difficult for Algerian youth.

Respondents, regardless of age and gender, expressed that

- Illegal migration is not the solution.
- Improving social, economic and political conditions will help curb this phenomenon.
- Paying attention to university students and providing them with job opportunities will help reduce the phenomenon.
- Young people do not fully understand the seriousness of this phenomenon.
- The influence of modern life is a strong driving force for migration.

Conclusion:

The results of this study show that the young people interviewed have a positive orientation towards emigrating abroad due to the strength of the push factors, which include the economic, political and social conditions in the country. On the other hand, they have a negative attitude towards illegal migration. The study also revealed that most of them do not intend to stay permanently in the host country, as they plan to return to their home country one day, with differences observed between the sexes, with men showing a stronger inclination towards this tendency.

In light of the study's findings, the relevant authorities need to pay more attention to young people at university level by providing them with job opportunities and improving their social and economic conditions. This would help to reduce the phenomenon of brain drain.

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