

Chapter 12. Attitudes of Tradesmen Towards Somalian Asylum Seekers

Veli Duyan, Tuba Yüceer Kardeş, Münevver Göker¹

Introduction

Turkey has increasingly asylum seeking movements from Asia and Africa as a destination country. Asylum seeking movements has created the necessity to reorganization of the personal and social space for the asylum seekers and local people of the hosting country. In the scope of the open door policy of the Turkey, temporary protection and residence permit have been provided in accordance with political and humanitarian obligations. Turkey allow for the temporary asylum seekers freely reside in some cities which is called ‘satellite city’. Isparta as a satellite city have good practice examples and social aids and services for asylum seekers.

The asylum seekers from other countries are referred to as temporary asylum seekers and they perceived as quests. These people are called "Applicant for asylum status" or "temporary asylum seekers and they are subjected to freely reside in the cities called "satellite city" which are determined by the Ministry of the Internal Affairs until these people are resettled in a third country. Although the State of Republic of Turkey consider them temporary, third-country operations takes quite a long time and waiting periods of asylum-seekers might be 7-8 or even 10 years (Kahya and Gül, 2013). Somalian asylum seekers has been participated to asylum seeking movement by fleeing from their land after they had lost their family members, social support system and some compelling circumstances because of war. As a results of the long civil war, many Somalians have migrated to live outside the country. As the Connor and Krogstad (2016) stated, between 1990 and 2015 the total number of people born in Somalia but living outside the country more than doubled from about 850.000 to 2 million. Nearly two-thirds of the world's Somali migrants lived in neighboring countries such as: Kenya, Ethiopia and Yemen in 2015. According to report of UNHRC (2016) total 3.849 asylum-seeker and refugees are from Somalia.

Researches on the analysis of the experience of asylum seekers have been emerged that multiple and complex problems such as: loss of identity, loss of social roles, loss of plans for life, loss of social support systems, social, psychological, economic, cultural problems and adaptation problems to new cultures, social exclusion, discriminatory before and after migration process (Miller, 2002;

¹ Veli Duyan is Professor in Social Work Department of Ankara University Faculty of Health and Science. Şükriye Mah. Plevne Cad. Aktaş Kavşağı No:5 Altındağ/Ankara-Turkey. E-mail: duyanveli@yahoo.com; Tuba Yüceer Kardeş is Research Assistant in Social Work Department of Ankara University Faculty of Health and Science. Şükriye Mah. Plevne Cad. Aktaş Kavşağı No:5 Altındağ/Ankara-Turkey. E-mail: yuceer.t@gmail.com; Münevver Göker is Research Assistant in Social Work Department of Ankara University Faculty of Health and Science. Şükriye Mah. Plevne Cad. Aktaş Kavşağı No:5 Altındağ/Ankara-Turkey. E-mail: munevvergoker@gmail.com.

Khawaja etc., 2008). During process of adaptation to new culture, it is need to be clarified that nature of local people's attitudes towards asylum seekers.

Attitudes to asylum seekers are complex and cannot be encompassed by any single explanatory factor (Haslam and Holland, 2012). Research about attitudes towards asylum seekers shows that unfavourable attitudes toward asylum seekers might have ethnic and racial components; may reflect suspicious about foreigners relating to their otherness or outsider status. In short attitudes may layered antagonistic and there are widespread antagonism and prejudice towards asylum seekers (Betts, 2001; Saxton, 2003; Goodman and Burkner, 2010). Reasons why local people might not want asylum seekers can be classified into economic. The non economic reasons include racism, xenophobia and milder forms of nationalist sentiment such as, Social norm or cultural preferences. Anti immigrant attitudes may result from strong feelings of national identity (Rourke and Sinnott, 2006). The current studies demonstrate that unfavourable attitudes toward asylum seekers might have ethnic and racial components; may reflect suspicious about foreigners relating to their otherness or outsider status (Haslam and Holland, 2012).

Research Purpose

The aim of this research is to discuss the social, economical, societal and cultural dimensions of Turkish tradesman's opinions and attitudes towards Somalian asylum seeker in Isparta as a satellite city and to learn about general point of view related to Somalian seekers.

The sub-objectives under the general purpose were as follows:

1. What are the characteristics of the tradesmen in Market in Isparta in terms of socio-demographic status (age, education level, marital status, employment status and income level)?
2. Do tradesmen have knowledge about that Isparta is a satellite city?
3. What are the opinions of the tradesmen about that integration in Isparta of Somalian asylum seekers?
4. What are the opinions of the tradesmen about which problems Somalian asylum seekers have?
5. What are the opinions of the tradesmen about whether Turkey's economy is strong enough for financial aids for Somalian asylum seekers?
6. How often do Somalian asylum seekers make shopping from tradesmen?
7. Have tradesmen ever been given assistance to Somalian asylum seekers?
8. What are the opinions of the tradesmen about granting citizenship of Somalian asylum seekers?
9. What are the opinions of the tradesmen about what are Somalian asylum seekers' effects on the Isparta's economy, Turkish culture and family structure. of the?
10. Do tradesmen have individual and social interactions with Somalian asylum seekers?
11. What are the opinions of the tradesmen about marriages between Turkish citizens and Somalian asylum seekers.

12. What are the opinions of the tradesmen about repatriation of Somalian asylum seekers.
13. What are the opinions of the tradesmen about briefing projects related Somalian asylum seekers?

This research is important because it will help us to evaluate Turkish tradesman's attitudes about Somalian asylum seekers as a specific group and shed light on the nature of their attitudes; Determination of the participation to social, financial and political fields and cultural integration has great importance for policies to be developed for asylum seekers.

Methodology

In the scope of the study, quantitative research methodology is employed. This study is aimed to be a descriptive study. Descriptive studies are used to describe the basic features of the sample in the study conducted. They summarise the whole data and depict the current situation about the sample (Creswell, 2003). The target population of the study is the tradesman in Isparta province of Turkey, which is the oldest and the busiest market in Isparta. The objective of this study is to describe the attitudes of these tradesmen towards Somalian asylum seekers. The questionnaire is designed by the researchers and it is composed of 2 sections. The first section consists of 9 socio-demographic questions and the second includes 16 attitudinal questions which aim to investigate the attitudes of small tradesman towards Somalian asylum seekers. A pilot study is conducted with 10 tradesmen before the questionnaires are applied to the whole population. In regard to the responses and feedbacks, the questionnaire is revised. The researchers distributed questionnaires to all tradesmen in Isparta, which ended up being 100 questionnaires. The objective of the study is explained to the participants and their informed consent is taken.

Since Isparta is a small city and it is hard to establish contact with the tradesmen, 3 gate keepers are used to distribute the questionnaires. These 3 gatekeepers helped the researchers in explaining the objectives of the study and their mediation and facilitation has increased the response rate to the questionnaires. Out of 100 questionnaires, 64 questionnaires have been returned. Data entry is done by the researchers. The data is analysed with the SPSS software. The researchers formed a database using the responses to the questions. Data entry and coding is done by the researchers. The data is analysed with the SPSS software. Descriptive analysis is employed and frequency tables are formed.

Findings and Discussion

According to the descriptive statistics, the average age of tradesmen who participated to research is 37; 89.1% of them are man and 10.9 % of them are women. Most of tradesmen are graduated from high school and have bachelor's degree (39,1 %). When we look at marital status of participants, 70,3 % of them are married and 29,7 % of them are single. According to answers to question about position in the market, 29,7 % of tradesmen are employee and 56.2 % of them are employer. According to sectoral distribution, 28.6 % of tradesmen work in the food sector; 23.7 % of them work in production sector, 12.5 % of them work in clothing

sector and 35.2 % of them work in service sector. Mean income of the tradesmen are mostly between 700 and 3000 Turkish liras. The official minimum wage of workers is between 1000 and 1600 in Turkey. So, it can be said that tradesmen have medium socio-economic status.

Table 1. The characteristics of tradesmen

Sex	Number	Percentage
Male	57	89.1
Female	7	10.9
Age	Number	Percentage
18-37	37	57.9
38-47	18	28.8
52-65	9	14.3
Level of education	Number	Percentage
Primary school	7	10.9
High school	25	39.1
Associate degree	6	9.4
Bachelor's degree	23	35.9
Masters degree	3	4.7
Marital Status	Number	Percentage
Married	45	70.3
Single	19	29.7
Positions	Number	Percentage
Employer	36	56.2
Employee	26	29.7
Income Level	Number	Percentage
700-1500 TL	18	28.4
1501-3000 TL	24	37.5
3001-5000 TL	5	7.8
5001 TL +	10	15.8

Most of tradesmen (65,6 %) do not know that Isparta is an integrated province within satellite city project; 34,4 % of them have heard about satellite city. 62.5 % of the tradesmen have been stated that somalian asylum seekers have been adapted to Isparta and due to local people's religious beliefs and cooperation and helpfulness; 35.9 % of them think that they have not been adapted to live with local people because of cultural differences and language barriers. When tradesmen have assessed the order of importance of problems experienced by Somalian asylum seekers in Isparta. %64,1 % of them think that the most common problems are economic problems; the second most common problems are physical problems; the third most common problems are psychological problems; fourth most common problems are social problems.

A high rate of tradesmen (76.6 %) stated that Turkey's economy is not strong by itself for financial aids for asylum seekers because they think that economic burden will increase due to increasing the number of asylum seekers. Local citizens could perceive the Somalian asylum seekers threatening competitors for resources and employment area and this led to prejudices and xenophobia among natives.

Threat and fear play a key role in hostility to asylum seekers. It can be said that tradesmen have perception that Somali asylum seekers pose a threat to Turkish economic and social standing is associated with antagonistic attitudes towards asylum seekers. Most of tradesmen have belief that Somali asylum seekers receive more financial aid and benefit than local people in need and that is unfair.

Tablo 2. Tradesmen's opinion related to integration of Somali asylum seekers in Isparta

Having knowledge of Isparta as a satellite city	Number	Percentage
Yes	22	34.4
No	42	65.6
Opinion about adaptation of asylum seekers to Isparta		
Adapted	40	62.5
Not adapted	23	35.9
Reasons for non- adaptation		
Language barriers/ Cultural differences	15	23.4
Reasons for adaptation		
Cooperation and helpfulness	19	29.7

Table 3. Tradesmen's opinions about whether Turkey's economy strong enough for financial aid, Somali asylum seeker's shopping frequency and giving assistance them

Opinion about sufficiency of national economy	Number	Percentage	
Strong enough	15	23.4	
Not strong enough	49	76.6	
Opinion about Somali asylum seeker's shopping frequency			
Never	43	67.2	
Weekly	8	12.5	
Monthly	12	18.8	
Giving assistance to Somali asylum seekers			
Yes	37	57.8	
No	27	42.2	
Purpose of giving assistance			
Social responsibility	Yes	31	48.4
	No	32	50.0
Cultural	Yes	16	25.0
	No	47	73.4
Emotional	Yes	21	32.8
	No	42	65.6

Most of the tradesmen (67.2 %) stated that Somali asylum seekers had never make shopping; 57.8 % of them stated that they gave assistance to asylum seekers (monetary assistance, clothes etc). When the tradesmen are asked why they were helping Somali asylum seekers 48.4 % of them stated that they are doing it for social responsibility; 32.8 % of them stated that they give assistance asylum seekers

because of emotional reasons and around a quarter of them (25 %) because of cultural reasons.

Table 4. Tradesmans' opinions about granting Turkish citizenship to Somali aslyum seekers; Somali aslyum seekers' contributions to Isparta's economy, family life and social order.

Opinion about granting Turkish citizenship	Number	Percent
Should be granted	18	28.1
Should not be granted	46	71.9
Opinion about Somali aslyum seekers' positive contribution		
Positive contribution to Isparta's economy	Yes	14
	No	50
Positive contribution to Family structure	Yes	15
	No	37
		57.8

Table 5. Social and individual interactions with Somali aslyum seekers; tradesmans' opinions about marriages between Somali aslyum seekers and local citizens

Having interaction with Somali aslyum seekers	Number	Percent
Have interaction	18	28.1
No interaction	46	71.9
Opinions about marriages		
Positive	27	42.2
Negative	19	30.7
No idea	8	12.5

When the tradesmen are asked if Somali aslyum seeker should be granted Turkish citizenship, a higher number of tradesmen (71 %) expressed the opinion about not granting citizenship for aslyum seekers; 28.1 % of them stated that they should be granted Turkish citizenship because of the human rights and equality. 26.6 % of tradesmen justify their opinion about not granting citizenship for aslyum seekers by nationalist and xenophobic discourse. A high rate of tradesmen (78.1 %) stated that somalian aslyum seekers have not positive effect on Isparta's economy. The reasons why they think that Somali aslyum seekers live with social aids; could not participate labor force and seen as cheap workforce and economic burden. When the tradesmen are asked whether Somali aslyum seekers have positive contributions to Turkish culture and family structure. 57.8 % of tradesmen thinks that Somali aslyum seekers have negative effects on Turkish family structures because they have cultural and moral differences. Majority of tradesmen who perceived the Somali aslyum seekers as a threat to cultural unity and social order and have negative attitudes towards Somali aslyum seekers' culture.

A high number of tradesman (71.9 %) stated that they do not have individual and social relationship with Somalis because of language problems and insecurity. Considering that some Somali aslyum seekers live in the pensions which is provided by social assistance and solidarity foundation; these pensions are away from the central settlements. Another major obstacle is language barrier and thus it can be

said that Somali asylum seekers and local people don't have very strong social and individual relationships. 43.8 % of tradesmen have positive view about marriages between local people and Somalis because it is a personal choice; 29.7 % of them have negative views for marriages.

Table 6. Witnessing any discriminative and dismissive behavior; opinions about Turkey should be a temporary transit place or a permanent living place; opinion about briefing project

	Number	Percent
Witnessing discriminative dismissive behavior		
Witnessed	3	4.7
Not witnessed	61	95.3
Opinion about Turkey should be temporary or permanent living area		
A temporary transit place	54	84.4
A permanent living place	10	15.6
Opinion about briefing project		
Should be done	35	54.7
No necessary	29	45.3

The findings show that only 4.7 % of the respondents stated that they came across such behavior whereas the remaining 95.3 % did not witness such action. This finding is rather positive regarding the degree of rejection at the attitudinal level. A high number of tradesmen (84.4 %) stated that Turkey should be a transition area; 31.2 % of tradesmen think that Somali asylum seekers will be economic burden and Turkey primarily must help its citizens. 84.4 % of tradesmen stated that Turkey should be a transition area; 15.6 % of them stated that Turkey may be a permanent living area because it is a human right. 31.2 % of tradesmen think that Somalian asylum seekers will be economic burden and Turkey primarily must help its citizens; tradesmen think that local people do not want to share resources with asylum seekers and economic resources are not enough for both sides. When the participants are asked if there should be a briefing project about the status of Somali asylum seekers/migrants in Isparta slightly more than half (54.7 %) of the respondents, tradesmen think briefing project needs to be done for ensuring efficient contact between asylum seekers and local people. However, the rest (43.3 %) of them think they do not need to such a project.

Conclusion and Recommendations

In conclusion, it can be said that Some negative attitudes are often founded on false beliefs about asylum seekers like terrorism, disease, economic competition. Rather than simply trying to make perceptions of asylum seekers less negative and denigrating, we should also try to make them more human. Humanising perceptions of asylum seekers could be done in several ways, all of which increase the chances of public empathy and compassion and decrease the tendency to see them as one-dimensional abstractions (Haslam and Holland, 2012).

Although local peoples have positive attitudes about social assistances, the lack of participation in the labor force and maintaining life as dependent on financial aids led to negative thoughts in public. The population density of Somali women

and children are more than Somali male population due to the deaths in war and working abroad. The lack of women's participation in working life due to the cultural and religious beliefs have caused them to be seen as an economic burden. Profile of asylum seekers should not be ignored in integration studies to be done. Integration studies should not make asylum seekers dependent on social assistances. On the contrary these studies have to be organized so as to allow asylum seekers to maintain their lives independently. It can be said that overcoming language and cultural barriers will decrease xenophobia and increase humaneness. In this sense it is believed that taking local people's opinion and giving information to local people about asylum seekers will ensure social order and support to asylum seekers to fit into society. There is a failure to ensure the flow of information and awareness among government, civil society and citizens may lead to attitudes that cause hostility, chaos and social unrest. Thus we have the need of common live awareness; empathic approach and integration have been arisen. On contemporary immigrant-host country relationship, Turkey needs to carry out comprehensive social, economical, cultural integration policies. To improve the public's attitudes towards asylum seekers, government and local governments should promote "emphatic contact" between Somalian asylum seekers and local citizens and ensure the sustainable and inclusive international aid system. It is vital that coalition of local citizens, government and non profit agencies has to be provided.

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