The impact of family models on spatial mobility and integration of immigrants in Spain (2007)

INTRODUCTION

Spain has experienced a recent but very significant migratory inflows, becoming a host country for people coming from an ever-increasing number of countries. It is possible to study the important consequences of this phenomenon thanks to a new micro database, the National Survey of Immigrants ("Encuesta Nacional de Inmigrantes", ENI), sample size 25,500 people) carried out by National Statistic Institute (InE) in 2007. The aim of this poster is to analyse the predictive factors of the foreign immigrant’s integration in the Spanish society.

METHODOLOGY

Target population: Foreign born immigrants aged 25 to 65 years having arrived to Spain between 1990 and 2007.

Approach: Quantitative using logistic regression techniques (SPSS 15.0).

Dependent Variable: Integration. This variable has been built combining three characteristics: to have legal papers, fluency in Spanish, and to have a job. We consider integrated population those having these three positive aspects.

HYPOTHESIS

1. Integration process needs time. So, the number of years lived in the host country would have strong relationship with the possibility of developing integration strategies.

2. To have high education level seems to be a good background to start a new life in a new country.

3. People coming from Latin American countries would have higher probability of being integrated than those coming from other parts of the world. Cultural aspects –historical ties, language, etc. – are behind this hypothesis.

4. To have a network in the host country would help immigrant to reach a successful process of integration. The closer is this network to the person (family, friends, acquaintances), the easier is the arrival and the first period of staying in the host country.

5. An immigrant with little vital trajectory (single and young) would have more probabilities of developing in it in Spain. But in the case of a person with family (partner and/or children), the integration process would be better if the whole family lived together in the host country.

6. To be married to a Spaniard would help in the integration process.

7. An integrated person would present some of the following features: to make investments in Spain, to own his/her house, to have good household quality, to participate in associations together with native people.

DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

1. The multinomial logistic regression model of integration allows to confirm all the hypothesis excepting (a) the role of being married to a Spaniard; this factor only explain the integration of immigrants not born in Latin American countries, and (b) the geographical contrast in the integration within Spain. This analysis shows that immigrants living in Madrid have more probabilities of being integrated than those living in the rest of the Spain. It would be necessary a deeper analysis to contrast this hypothesis.

2. In the three models, the more explanatory factors of integration are: being qualified, being man, and to have arrived before 2001.

3. Being single, being married with a Spaniard, having Spanish nationality, and the place where the minor children live, have no effects in immigrant born in the Latin American countries’ model. In the other models, these four factors are quite important. On the other hand, to have plans to remain in Spain is important in the Latin American model, but not in the immigrants not born in Latin American countries.

4. This paper shows: (a) the necessity to follow the studies related to integration in Spain, and (b) the importance of taking into account in the design of integration policies the heterogeneity of immigrants living in Spain, due specially to the different places of origin.