

Community Activity Participation by Enclave and Non-Enclave Residents: A Case Study of Japanese in the Netherlands

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Liberalization, Globalization and Privatization (LPG) wave unleashed and unveiled by the Iron Lady and famous visionary, Margaret Thatcher, former British PM in the 1980s, triggered large scale inter-country migration, especially of skilled workforce and quickened the pace of exchanging skilled force between developed and developing countries all over the world. Europe also offered opportunities to the skilled immigrants. It might be useful to analyze this cross-border pattern, delve into pressing issues, outline strategies for better quality of life and interaction between the native residents and the immigrant skilled workers.

This study aimed to show how living environment of enclave and non-enclave residents affected community activity participation in a foreign country. In this paper, we show the result of community activity participation by the enclave and non-enclave Japanese residents in the Netherlands. This paper highlights our findings that community activities promote face-to-face communication and reinforce further bonding, thereby mitigating slightly the deprivation and feeling of alienation in the foreign country.

In sum, community activities provide both enclave and non-enclave Japanese residents useful psychological support. Through community activities, mainly females tried to develop personal relationships with others who were under the same situation both an expatriates' wife and international marriage wife. Using newly constructed personal relationship in Holland, they exchanged information related to their daily life issues and educational matters for their child. Such face-to-face information exchanges removed discomfort and engendered a sense of reassurance with empathy in a foreign country.

Keywords: enclave, non-enclave, community, activity, Japanese, the Netherlands

I Introduction

Globalization brings a large number of migrant labours that fall into two categories; low-skilled labour and skilled labour (Sassen, 1988). Gould (1988) categorised the international migrant population into four types; 1) from a developing country to a developed county, 2) from a developing country to a developing country, 3) from a developed country to a developing country, and 4) from a developed country to a developed country. By the 1990s, majority of the researchers focused

on low-skilled migrant labour from the developing to the developed countries where low-skilled workforce is available in plenty. Low-skilled labour tends to live in segregated area, also termed as 'ethnic enclave.' Major reason for triggering movement of low-skilled migrant labour is huge knowledge gap between countries, while main reason for skilled migrant labour is the transfer of personnel within a multinational company or between corporate office and oversee branches of a company (Salt, 1988; Glebe and White, 2001). Studies by several researchers (Özüekren, 1992; Blanc, 1993; Glebe,