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**Features of social adaptation of ethnic migrants (repatriates) to the social and cultural environment as a new marginal group in the structure of kazakh society**

Relevance of the research problem is determined by the fact that the repatriation of ethnic Kazakhs to their historical homeland greatly affect the demographic structure and social structure of Kazakh society. The process of social adaptation of ethnic immigrants proceeds differently. The degree of social adaptation process depends, first of all, the motives, the reasons for the exodus from the country, the degree of relationship with the local people in the places of settlement and the desires of the immigrant. After returning to a new location, difficult to adapt to the external and internal conditions of social reality, which leads to drastic changes in lifestyle that have occurred to them after their repatriation, as well as experienced by the material, cultural, psychological, occupational difficulties. All this requires a focused study of the process of social adaptation of ethnic immigrants to modern Kazakhstani society in terms of an integrated approach.

The object of the research is ethnic immigrants as a new marginal group of Kazakh society structures and identify the level of indicators for measuring success and entry into a new socio-cultural environment, the subject – the adaptation of ethnic immigrants. The level of social adaptation was measured by parameters such as assessment of the economic situation of the family, the assessment of the material situation, relations with the local population. Accordingly, there is a need to review all stages of the return of ethnic immigrants to their historic homeland, the step of forming motives, returnees process of adaptation to the new location as well as the process of self-identification in Kazakhstan society. Sociological research methods in the study of the causes of repatriation of compatriots will understand the underlying motives and factors affecting the desire to immigrate. Accounting for the motivational structure of the return of ethnic Kazakhs to their historical homeland increases the number of potential immigrants to immigrate to Kazakhstan.

**Key words:** repatriates, social adaptation, migrants.

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**Этникалық мигранттардың (репатрианттар) қазақстандық қоғам құрылымының әлеуметтік-мәдени ортасындағы жаңа маргиналды топ ретінде әлеуметтік бейімделуінің ерекшеліктері**

Зерттеу мәселесінің өзектілігі қазақ ұлтының тарихи отанына қайта оралуы Қазақстан қоғамының демографиялық құрамы мен әлеуметтік құрылымына әсерімен анықталады. Әлеуметтік бейімделу процесінің деңгейі, біріншіден, елден шығатын мотивтеріне, себептеріне, көшуіші орындағы жергілікті халықтық қарым-қатынас деңгейіне және оралманның өз ықыласына байланысты. Тарихи отанына қайта оралуда барлық өмір сүру саласындағы өмір салттары өзгеріске түсуі мүмкін. Жаңа жерге оралған кезде әлеуметтік шынайылықтың ішкі және сыртқы жағдайларына қиын әсер етеді. Бұл оралғаннан кейін болатын материалдық, мәдени, психологиялық, кәсіби қиындықтарды бастан өткізіп, өмір салтының түбегейлі өзгерісіне алып келеді. Бұның барлығы кешендік бағыттың көзқарастарына сәйкес, заманауи Қазақстан қоғамына оралман ұлттардың әлеуметтік бейімделу процесін мақсатты түрде зерттеуді талап етеді.

Зерттеу нысаны этникалық оралмандар Қазақстан қоғамының құрылымындағы жаңа маргиналды топ ретінде және жаңа әлеуметтік-мәдени ортаға ену жетістігі мен деңгейін өлшеу индикаторын анықтау болып табылады, пәні – этникалық оралмандардың бейімделуі. Әлеуметтік бейімделу деңгейі отбасының экономикалық жағдайын бағалау, материалдық жағдайын бағалау, жергілікті халықпен қарым-қатынасы секілді параметрлерімен өлшенді. Осыған сәйкес, тарихи отанға қайтып келген этникалық оралмандардың барлық деңгейін қарастыру қажеттілігі туындады – мотивтердің қалыптасу деңгейі, оралмандардың жаңа жерге бейімделу процесі, сонымен қатар Қазақстан қоғамындағы өзін-өзі тану процесі. Зерттеудің әлеуметтанулық әдістері отандастарымыздың қайтып оралу себептерін зерттеуде көшіп келулеріне әсер етуші негізгі мотивтері мен факторларын түсінуге көмектеседі. Қазақ ұлтының тарихи отанына қайта оралуының мотивациялық құрылымын есепке алу Қазақстанға көшіп келуші оралмандар санының өсуіне септігін тигізеді.

**Түйін сөздер:** әлеуметтік бейімделу, репатрианттар, оралмандар.

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**Особенности социальной адаптации этнических мигрантов (репатриантов) как новой маргинальной группы в структуре казахстанского общества к социально-культурной среде**

Данная статья посвящена проблемам адаптации и интеграции этнических репатриантов к современному казахстанскому обществу. Актуальность проблемы исследования определяется тем, что репатриация этнических казахов на историческую родину сильно влияет на демографический состав и социальную структуру казахстанского общества. Объектом исследования является этнические репатрианты как новая маргинальная группа структуры казахстанского общества и выявления индикаторов измерения уровня и успешности вхождения в новую социокультурную среду, предметом – адаптация этнических репатриантов.

**Ключевые слова:** репатрианты, социальная адаптация, оралманы.

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**Introduction**

RK concept of migration processes provides the early integration of migrants into the society. Now, the situation is such that many migrants and immigrants increase the marginal sectors of modern Kazakhstan society. This is due to the factors that are originate from socio-economic, psychological and socio-cultural spheres of life of Kazakh society.

The concepts of «repatriation» and «immigration» reflect the process of resettlement of people from one country to another. In this case, the repatriation, unlike the immigration, refers to the return of ethnic Kazakhs to their historical homeland. While determining its migration policy, Kazakhstan has created system of attracting the compatriots, while having its own specific feature that distinguishes it from the Soviet past. Here, the focus was given to ethnic immigrants. Today, the repatriation of compatriots living abroad is one of the ways of solving demographic problems, which is used, for whatever reasons, by a number of countries. The repatriation of migrants is classified according to two criteria: the first – the duration of stay abroad and the second – the reasons because of ethnic immigrant to return home. In each scheme, the basic distinction was made between those migrants who consider their emigration temporary and those who moved for permanent residence. Usually immigrants return to the country of their origin after reaching any goals, most often associated with the accumulation of money. The second type is characterized by emigrants, who hoped to leave their homeland forever for various benefices abroad, however, due to various serious reasons forced or to return to their historical homeland.

Thus reparation, in addition to solving demographic problems, aims to solve the problem of restoration of historical justice.[1]

Today we witness a situation where this impressive power is a critical step on the social ladder, adding to the poorest and marginalized sectors of our society. This is due to the contradictions and the difficulties faced by almost every ethnic migrants in adapting to the realities of Kazakhstan. Migration includes the necessary adaptive mechanisms, as during the process of migration, the migrant faces a completely new and unfamiliar conditions that cause not only stress, but also the need to actively interact with the environment,

change it to suit your needs, and at the same time change himself in the process of interaction.

### Basic part

Adaptation of a living organism is a stressful experience, which causes discomfort and requires the mobilization of all the energy resources of the body. Under the conditions of migration, the adaptation is complicated by a large number of factors, such as climate, cultural, social, linguistic, ethnic and religious differences, material and domestic problems and others. All these factors are included in a difficult process of adaptation and affect the individual as a whole, which creates the conditions which may be called extreme.

Returnees – heterogeneous group in the social structure, not only by their socio-economic, cultural and political characteristics, but also by the degree of development of social orientations, attitudes, intentions, underlying social behavior accumulated in the process of living in the countries of the «exodus».

The social status of ethnic immigrants, their place in the system of social relations, the social nature are ambivalent and self-contradictory. From one point of view, this social position is unstable, mobile and is subject to change. On the other hand, their social behavior includes not only attribute and normative signs expressing personal belonging to this group, but estimation aspect (social prestige,

but rather an «inferiority» in this situation), and behavioral aspect. Regard the traditional norms, ethnic immigrants also occupy an ambivalent position – firstly, following these standards helps them in solving the current life situations, on the other hand – holds back the process of social adaptation, social reality. Social behavior is characterized by a focus on different norms and values. How G.S. Abdirayymova mentions, in the system of conscious human activity, values are generalized goals and means of achieving them perform a regulatory function, enabling the integration of society, helping individuals to carry out socially approvable choices of their behavior in important situations. The system of values forms the inner core of culture, historically arranges the needs and interests of individuals and social communities, determines their value orientation which have the opposite effect on the needs and social interests, being at the same time a social motivator for the activity of individuals [2, p.245].

Motivation is a very important factor for successful adaptation. Our research has shown that those who pointed out the opportunity for professional growth and future of the children as reasons for coming to Kazakhstan, appear to be more active in learning the language (Russian, Cyrillic, laws), job search. Those who decided to return to their historical homeland following the example of their acquaintances, friends, relatives, with the hope to quickly acquire material wealth, are not inclined to be active.

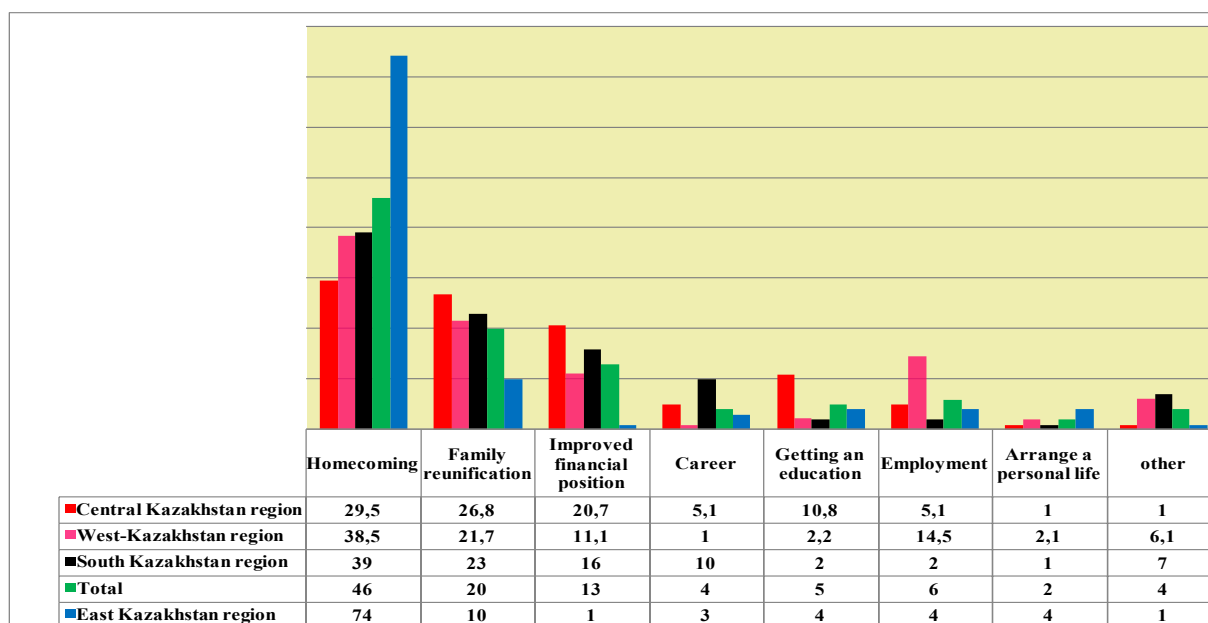


Figure 1

To group social and cultural factors of adaptation, characteristics of interacting cultures is related. The similarities and differences between cultures are defined as «cultural distance». The differences between cultures in the language, religion, family structure, level of education, financial situation, and so on. For example, a more successful adaptation is common with immigrants from the CIS countries, if compared to repatriates arriving from countries near and far abroad.

The study of the social behavior of ethnic immigrants may be conducted from two sides. Firstly, how the established norms and values affect social behavior of the individual. And secondly, the study of individual relations, personal norms, attitudes and beliefs, and their compatibility to patterns of behavior accepted in the society.

The results of sociological studies of adolescents of ethnic immigrants in the city of Shymkent, have shown that they often do not share the goals of their parents, they are much inferior to the children of the indigenous population in the social and professional spheres, may be discriminated (immigrants who arrived from China called – «Chinese» Uzbekistan – «Uzbek»), they may live in a state of uncertainty about their status and identification, characterized by disappointment [3 s.289-291]. This situation confronts the returnees with many difficulties, with which they cannot cope on their own, which could lead to deviant behavior.

Psychologically adequate are those teenagers do not stick to one culture, but follow the path of integration. According to the observations, it was found that if teen's three closest friends were from ethnic immigrants, he kept most belonging to the culture in which he was born and raised, if all three friends are from the local population, the teen has a large preference for that culture. For elderly people change the socio-cultural environment is becoming an ordeal, they are not able to adapt to different social environment and don't need to learn the social reality, the cultural environment, the modern view of Kazakhstan's society – culture and language, in particular the Russian language, if they have no internal needs to do it. In this situation, the older person can develop a depreciation of their identity, ie reduction of the sense of self being, loss of influence on the younger generation. In their thoughts, they often return to the previously passed stages of life, this age is characterized by a focus on the past.

Cultural spheres of life embodies the attitude that to a large extent is focused on the problem of the relationship between cultures of immigrants and

the local population. The situation of immigrants often refers to the formation of multiculturalism, ie along with the emergence of the dominant culture of the local population they develop a culture of migrated groups. Territorial rehabilitation and social integration of migrants should be complemented by acculturation. Without it we cannot talk about integration. From multiculturalism, in the normal course of naturalization, rehabilitation and adaptation, the transition to integration is made. Much depends on the level of tolerance of the host society and migrants themselves. Tolerant society treats immigrants as individuals or groups of people differing in their culture, which is perceived as quite normal to a natural phenomenon regulation [4, s.59-60]. Thus, ethnic immigrants, falling into a new socio-cultural environment, are influenced by the culture of Kazakh society. If culture is close enough, then there is no multicultural situation. This leads to a successful acculturation and integration into Kazakh society. This category includes immigrants who arrived from the CIS countries. If there are differences of cultures, there is a difficulty in the process of acculturation and integration, it is typical to immigrants who arrived from the abroad countries (China, Mongolia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and others.). Voluntary integration of ethnic immigrants must not be contrary to the preservation of their own cultural identity with relationship to Kazakhstan as the historical homeland.

An important fact in the study of the process of repatriation of compatriots to their historic homeland is a theory of social networks, which treats the network as a set of links connecting migrants, migrants and «non-immigrants» in the country of origin and host countries, through family connections [5, p.128]. According to this theory, the network constitutes a unique form of social capital, through which people reduce the risks associated with adaptation to a social environment. These networks for ethnic immigrants are important spheres in which they find work, get housing, and become fully aware of the laws of the receiving side of immigration policy. This theory refers to migration as a family decision-making process. Such movements of immigrants leads to the formation of specific villages, where they are compactly settled and thus can form a cultural autonomy. Such a close settlement is based on the fact that it is easier to find common ground, to feel comfortable in their environment, where there are no problems with the language. As for the «cultural autonomy», it is a public organization whose main goal is the maintenance of mutual cultural traditions and language.

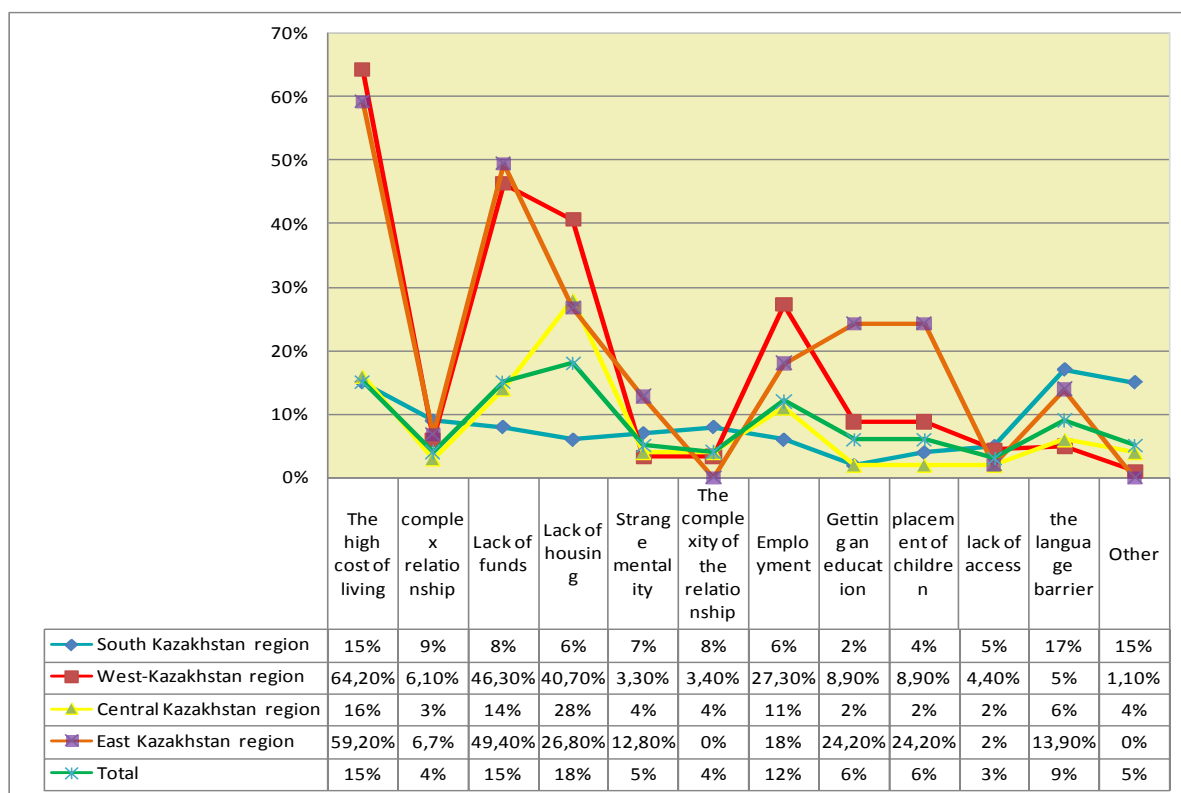


Figure 2

Arriving to their historical homeland, and engaging with ethnically akin Kazakh population who are the the host territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan, ethnic immigrants at first aware of being «different» and are experiencing the so-called stress of acculturation. The basis of which is, firstly, ethnic and cultural differences, which are the result of long-term interethnic contacts and interaction of ethno cultural groups of the Kazakh population living outside the Republic of Kazakhstan. Secondly – the socio-cultural differences associated with the different formations the social structure of the Kazakh people in the modern Kazakh society and its local groups abroad [6, p.46-57]. It should be noted, that it is not necessary to develop the Kazakh traditions and customs, but it is necessary to develop the socio-cultural environment in the process of adaptation of ethnic immigrants to the modern Kazakh society. We believe that the most acceptable way is the integration through the development of values and norms in a different socio-cultural environment and the preservation of their traditional Kazakh cultural customs, which in turn is a regulator of norms and behavior. In connection, this happens that psychological, cultural distance between the Russian-speaking local population

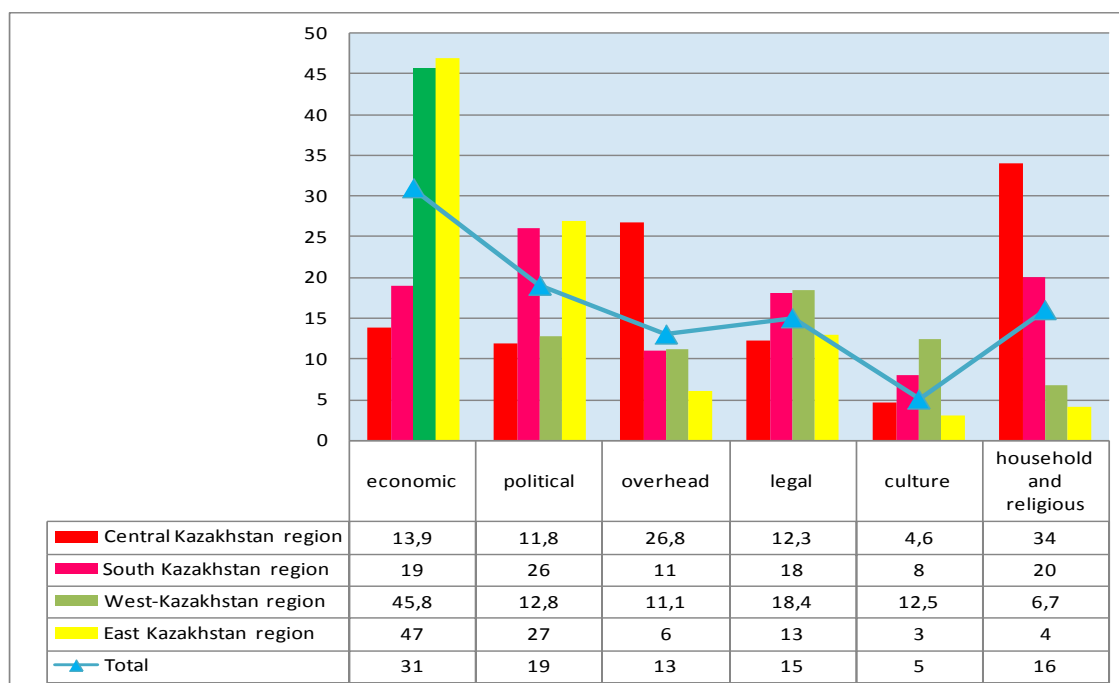
and ethnic returnees focused on traditional values. This fact proves the presence of such cultural and psychological gap, that is exacerbated by the imposition of its large extent on the objective social differences between the above two groups. This «syndrome incoherence» of the Kazakh cultural and spiritual space in our view is the actual main obstacle for the formation of a common civic consciousness of Kazakhstan [7, p.257].

Closed compact settlements called «ghetto», and the process of their formation – ghettoization. For residents of the ghetto, it is characterized by distrust, hostile, aggressive attitude towards the strangers. The inhabitants of open type are friendly to outsiders and interested in dialogue. Such settlements are forming by the over-tolerance of the local population and returnees to each other. In this way, there occurs a cultural exchange and interaction of ethnic immigrants with the local population. Here, an important role is played by the similarities and differences in any parameters. For example, in religious grounds, and other. Open type of compact settlement leads to the partial or the complete assimilation. To the partial assimilation related the cases in which the individual lives like in two spheres: the outer sphere completely assimilates



the behavior of others, but in the inner sphere, he with his family retains traditional customs. The local population perceives the emergence of different cultural new-formations as an occupation. Avoiding

the efforts for assimilation, acculturation of ethnic immigrants will increase the ethnic intolerance and lead to the fundamentalization of nature of cultural values.



**Figure 3**

According to S.K. Bondyрева, D.V. Kolesov, compact settlements can be open and closed [8, p.53].

The existence of such settlements leads to a significant burden on local governments. Therefore, it is necessary to take measures for the restriction of the growth of such settlements, because it leads to the secondary resettlement of ethnic immigrants already in the territory of Kazakhstan (with the Northern regions in the South, and so on). It is increasingly difficult for the government to control migratory flows, because the formation of social networks process is out of its control. Moreover, the direction of immigration policy allowed the reunification of families and relatives living abroad, which, in turn, strengthen and expand the network of migrant, as it guarantees to family members, relatives, preferential right of entry to their historical homeland. Repatriation of Kazakhs to their historical homeland is one of the priorities of the migration policy. During the years of independence, a comprehensive program of repatriation of compatriots abroad has been developed and consistently implemented. A system of appropriate mechanisms, including the complex of the Republic of Kazakhstan legislation,

policy documents, and rather extensive set of legal instruments of international format has been established and operates for the implementation of the state policy in the field of migration in the country. As well as a system of state executive bodies, which are responsible for the control and supervision of compliance with the requirements of the laws of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the field of migration. While acknowledging the undoubted success of Kazakhstan's model of repatriation, it should be noted that in this area is maintained sufficiently large number of problematic issues [9, p.85].

Considering the levels, types of social adaptation, should be paid attention to the factors affecting the ethnic immigrants adaptation process during electing adapting person of varying models of adaptation to the new social environment. Adaptive capacity is the degree of open possibilities of the individual for adaptation in the new conditions of the environment, the formation of which is influenced by factors that can be divided into high, medium and low level of adaptation.

A high level of adaptive capacity is affected by all external factors of the social life (social, political, cultural, and economic). On the medium level of adaptive capacity influences external socio-cultural environment, Kazakh-Russian bilingualism, values and norms. At low levels of adaptive capacity, affect socio – psychological factors of personality, as well as the environment, where occurs the formation of personality and adaptive capacity.

Studies in 2005 and 2008 of the problems of adaptation of ethnic immigrants allowed to reveal the feature in connection with the change of residence:

First, changing the place of residence, ethnic returnees are trying to learn from the pattern of behavior, which is most common among the majority of the local behavior because such behavior does not appear uncomfortable relationship. This category includes all compatriots, who came from the CIS countries.

Second, ethnic immigrants carry elements of lifestyle they have chosen under the previous experience, and introduce her to a new life (internalization). Such behavior is not only the competitiveness of the local population, but also more efficient in terms of socio-economic adaptation. Such processes, which are perceived by the local population, in terms of competition are painful, irritating and forming a negative attitude to ethnic Kazakhs, it provokes conflict.

The third feature is the deviant adaptation model, which leads to antisocial behavior of adapting. First of all, it is connected with collusive problems associated with a reluctance fully to accept the socio-cultural environment of Kazakhstan's society, which is inherent in the ethnic immigrants, who arrived from foreign countries, because they came from virtually monocultural communication environment, where most settled compactly in order to preserve the Kazakh culture and language. Between the local population and ethnic settlers manifested factor of cultural distance. From the point of view of social security, it is necessary to consider the problem as maladjustment. Ethnic immigrants in the process of adaptation are tended to the cruelty, illegal ways of earning.

## Conclusion

The sociological and socio-psychological research also confirmed the theoretical principles of social and psychological problems of returnees, their psychological features of adaptation, features in stressful conditions. Analysis of the study revealed that returnees enough resistant to stress

conditions in the metropolis, with the exception of the representatives who came from foreign countries. Perhaps this is due to the peculiarities of the local cultural and social conditions in which the immigrants grew and brought up, and of course, change in the region, which is slightly different in its socio-psychological plan requires additional resources to adapt, which will undoubtedly affect the reduction of stress thresholds. At the same time, the threshold dynamically declines among youth. In this regard, it should be noted, that not less important condition of social and psychological adaptation of immigrants is the fact that they are going to have the re-adaptation, they have to break the old, familiar forms of interaction with the environment and to develop new ones. They must also generate new opportunities for themselves values, beliefs, behaviors, specific to new environment, but also to find the strength to give up the former, that is sometimes much more difficult. Therefore, immigrant's adaptation process takes a long period, requiring a quality adjustment is not only the individual, but also external adaptation conditions. In connection with the above, it is logical to understand the difficulties of adaptation to the new immigrant's socio-cultural environment, especially those who come from distant countries. It is important to understand that the country of departure, from which come the returnees are different enough from the culture and mentality, in which there are rules of «life», often more complex, highly competitive, which need to develop new forms of behavior and to establish new social networks in order to adapt . The success of the adaptation of ethnic Kazakhs in a new place depends on their relationships with local residents. An important socio-economic factor that affects the process of adaptation of immigrants and the nature of their relationship with the local population is primarily the availability of jobs. If in the area exists a need for labor, it is shown as a positive adaptation factor. If job places are insufficient, the local population perceives the ethnic migrants as competitors that potentially contains a social tension in the regions. It follows their special relationship to each other.

Therefore, the repatriation of ethnic Kazakhs to their historical homeland – is a form of extreme influence on the person requiring coping behaviors to overcome stressful situations, solve new problems that the immigrant has not previously encountered in their lives. He needs to readapt, to form a new values, beliefs, behaviors, specific to the specific environment, but also to find the strength to forget the old ones.

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