ANALYZING SOCIAL EXCLUSION, DISCRIMINATION AND RACIAL SEGREGATION OF MUSLIM IMMIGRANTS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

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Abstract

The primary objective of this research article is to investigate the implications of social exclusion, discrimination and racial segregation of Muslim immigrants in the European Union. Muslim immigrant terrorists represent a significant threat to public safety and implicitly to the values and principles of democracy which attest the identity itself of the European Union. Permanent immigration in the European Union countries is a global challenge considering the impact of social exclusion, marginalization, stigma, discrimination and racial segregation on Muslim immigrants. Despite the fact that certain developed countries of the European Union still attract massive waves of Muslim refugees, the attitude of indigenous citizens is increasingly skeptical about the opportunity of this phenomenon. Consistently, the opposition to Muslim migrants was significant in certain member states of the European Union.

1. Introduction

The main objective of this research article is to rigorously investigate relevant aspects regarding social exclusion, discrimination and racial segregation of Muslim immigrants in the European Union. The recent massive immigration waves have divided the European population into two major antagonistic categories, ie pro and con illegal immigration. However, it is inevitable to raise a rhetorical question. What is the most efficient solution to illegal Muslim immigration in European Union? Patently, the radicalization of approaches can not provide an optimal perspective on Muslim immigration in European Union. The positive and negative effects of the Muslim immigration in European Union are very heterogeneous. The receiving country have a moral obligation to provide proper immigration policy in order to integrate Muslim immigrants. Nevertheless, a severe labor shortage can be alleviated precisely because of immigrants due to a massive but inexpensive labor force.

On the other hand, the association of Muslim immigrants with the imminent danger of terrorist attacks is a very controversial theory. In recent past, the Islamic State claimed responsibility for a very violent series of terrorist attacks. Certainly not all immigrants are terrorists but statistical data regarding terrorist attacks can not be ignored. Terrorism is a social-political and criminal phenomenon with dangerous and fulminant international impact. Serious terrorist attacks were committed in the most developed European Union countries but the analogy between Muslim immigration and the risk of terrorist attacks is not quite realistic. The particular causes of this issues are much more complex and require an exhaustive approach based on interdisciplinary methods.

2. Literature review

In recent past, various research studies have been conducted in order to provide a relevant insight on social exclusion, discrimination and racial segregation of Muslim immigrants in the European Union as well as in other states of the world. Verkuyten (2013) investigated relevant issues regarding discrimination against Muslim immigrants and suggested that sociological research should focus much more on the "distinction between

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person categories and ideological categories, and to political leadership". Berg (2015) provided an interesting approach on immigration attitudes based on an elaborate review of the theoretical literature. Givens and Luedtke (2004) have conducted research on European Union immigration policy and provided a very documented perspective. Martin (2015) analyzed discrimination of Muslims in health care in the United States and provided a documented perspective. Berry (2001) has conducted a revealing review on the psychology of immigration in order to provide an optimal solution for better understanding of this complex phenomenon. Birău (2016) discussed issues on social integration of immigrants in European countries and highlighted the importance of awareness the link between immigration policies and radical Islamic terrorism. Khan and Ecklund (2012) investigated attitudes toward Muslim americans subsequent the terrorist attacks in September 11, 2001, and suggested that "negative attitudes appeared to be specific rather than global". Isani and Schlipphak (2017) investigated European Muslim attitudes toward the European Union using a two-step argument based on a transfer of satisfaction logic.

3. Theoretical approaches to the phenomenon

For the purpose of this article, it is required a complex analysis on Muslim immigration effects in the European Union. Labour mobility is an important factor contributing to the prosperity of the European Union, especially in the case of certain developed and most industrial countries from Western Europe. European Union countries are vulnerable in the context of terrorist attacks, especially considering the free movement of persons. However, labor market policies influence the initial option of immigrant workers. Illegal immigration in the broadest sense, has a negative effect on indigenous workers in the European Union. Consequently, migration and immigration policies has to achieve a balance between poverty reduction, alleviate unemployment, counterterrorism, eradication of social exclusion and discrimination, increase the standard of living, health care and education access.

Muslim immigrant stereotypes are generally related to social exclusion, discrimination and racial segregation based on identification with the idea of terrorism. However, a clear demarcation must be made between the concepts of refugee and immigrant. The terrorist threat is a deep concern for the population of the European Union. However, the focus is especially on certain Muslim-majority countries such as Syria, Iran, Libya, Sudan, Iraq, Somalia and Yemen. It is very important to highlight the true religious, cultural and social background of Muslim immigrants in the European Union. The basic reasons are very complex and it is essential to be thoroughly analyzed in order to understand the fundamental differences between terrorists and Muslim immigrants or refugees who are not terrorists.

Synthesising, the concept of terrorism is by its inherent nature an eloquent explanation for the high rate of public opposition to Muslim immigration in many countries of the European Union. ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria), Afghanistan's Talibans, Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda, Muslim Brotherhood and many others are international islamic terrorist groups. In other words, these terrorist groups are based on Muslims and their radical followers.

Despite government policies on social integration, unemployment rate is still high among Muslim refugee and immigrant communities in the European Union. The European Union's economic and social policies are very attractive to Muslim refugees given the poor conditions and severe poverty in their own country. Unfortunately, this attractive perspective encourage illegal immigration. The immigrant population considers the European Union a beneficial alternative taking into account the massive armed conflicts in their native areas.

4. Conclusions

Analyzing social exclusion, discrimination and racial segregation of Muslim immigrants in the European Union represents a challenge of great current interest for

academics, policy makers and ordinary people. The increased immigration in the European Union is due to multiple causes with a significant negative impact, but the positive aspects should not be ignored. Despite criticism, immigration is an attractive alternative in the case of a labor shortage. A conceptual approach can provide an optimal solution for implementing sustainable social policies in order to integrate Muslim immigrants. In this sense, the distinction must be made between a refugee and an immigrant. However, social exclusion, discrimination and racial segregation of Muslim immigrants in the European Union is a sociological reality caused especially by terrorist attacks and other violent criminal acts against civilians.

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