



***EXPLORING GENDER DISPARITIES IN MIGRATION
INTENTIONS AMONG KYRGYZ YOUTH: EVIDENCE
FROM THE LIFE IN KYRGYZSTAN DATA 2019 .***



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10/11/2025**

Overview

- **Introduction**
- **Problem Statement**
- **Justification: Aim**
- **Research Questions & Hypotheses**
- **Theoretical Framework**
- **Literature Review**
- **Empirical Methodology: Model and Data**
- **Descriptive statistics**
- **Results: Data Analysis**
- **Conclusion**
- **Policy Recommendations**





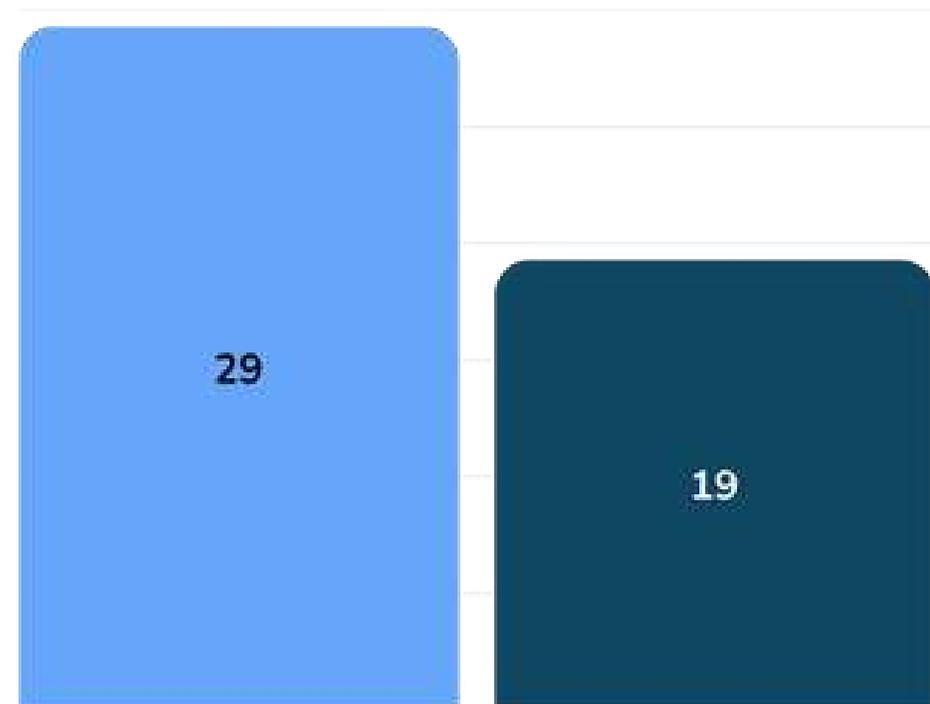
- The United Nations, for statistical purposes, defines **'youth'**, as those persons between the **ages of 15 and 24 years**, without prejudice to other definitions by Member States (1981).
- The number of young people who left the country, Kyrgyzstan, in 2018 was **2,090** (UNFPA).



- In the Russian Federation, for example, **about 40%** of migrants arriving from Kyrgyzstan are **women** (Integral Human Development 2021) .
- Young people with a strong aspiration to migrate are predominantly **male** and predominantly from the Osh region or from rural areas (Harring et al. 2021) .

Young people express a desire to migrate (Lamby & Harring 2024).

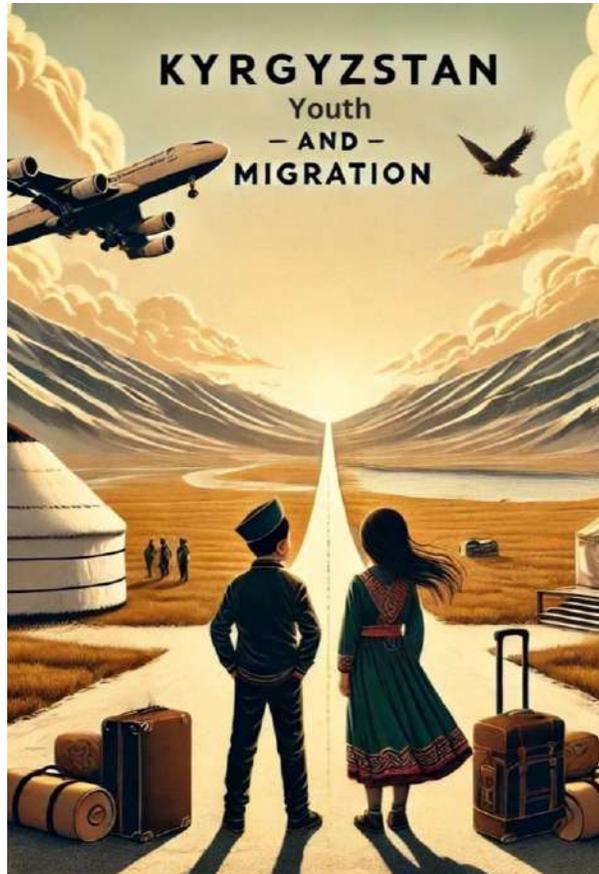
- Improve their standard of living (in %)
- Educational opportunities (in %)



- To **provide a comprehensive analysis** of the factors, with a particular focus on **gender disparities** and gender attitudes, that influence the migration intentions of young people in Kyrgyzstan, which are **beyond** the obvious **economic factors and poverty**.
- To use a **unique dataset**, Life in Kyrgyzstan (LiK) Study 2019.
- To address **empirical research gaps**.



Source: [UNICEF](#)



Source: Generated by ChatGPT

- **Main Research Question:**
Are there significant differences in the reasons for migration intention between young men and women in Kyrgyzstan?
- **Sub-Research Question:**
How do traditional gender attitudes, such as the belief that "a man's job is to earn money while a woman's job is to care for the home and family," influence young women's migration intentions in Kyrgyzstan?
- **Hypotheses:**
 - **Hypothesis 1:** Gender Differences in Migration Intentions.
 - **Hypothesis 2:** Influence of Traditional Gender Attitudes on Young Women's Migration Intentions.



EMERALD HANDBOOKS
**THE EMERALD HANDBOOK
 OF CHILDHOOD AND
 YOUTH IN ASIAN SOCIETIES**

GENERATIONS BETWEEN LOCAL AND GLOBAL DYNAMICS

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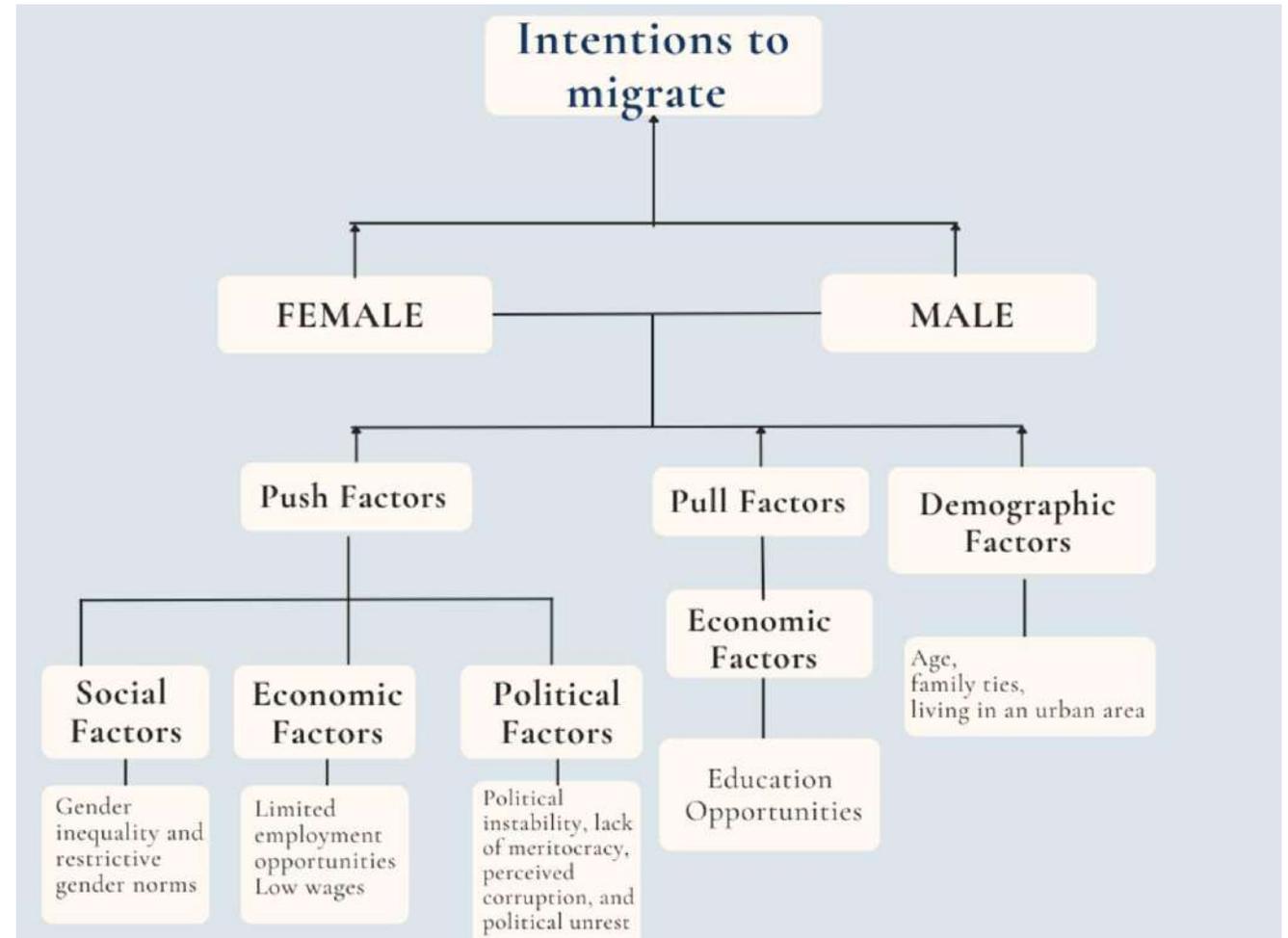
8 May 2024 | IZA Journal of Development and Migration | 11(2) | 11

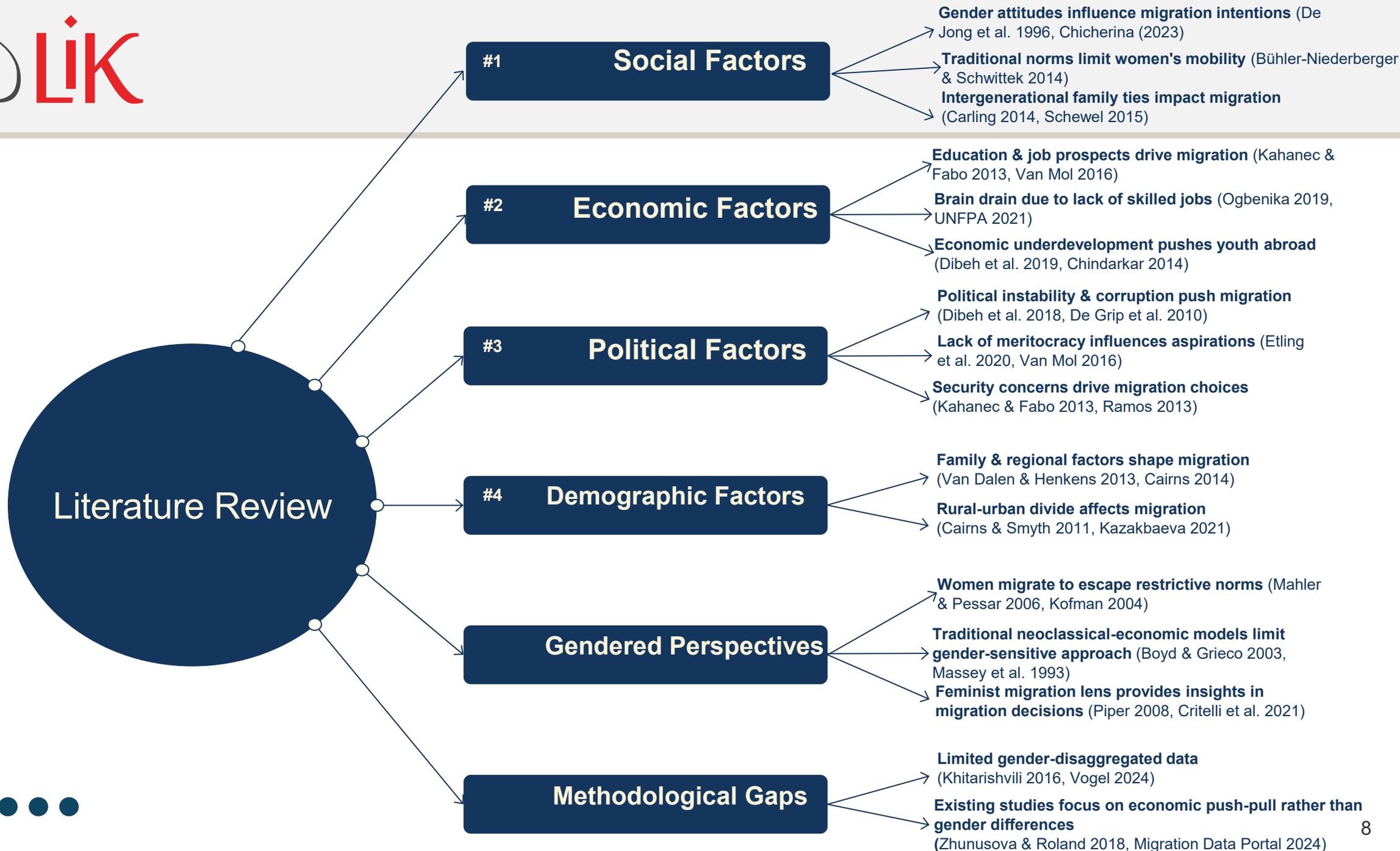
Samro Milasi*

What Drives Youth's Intention to Migrate Abroad? Evidence from International Survey Data

Abstract

Despite the bulk of international migrants being youth, little is known about the factors driving young people's migration behavior at the global level. Using the individual-level survey data from Gallup World Poll across 139 countries over the period 2010–2016, this study contributes to the literature by exploring a wide range of factors potentially shaping young people's (aged 15–34) desire, and a more concrete plan, to migrate abroad permanently. Results show that factors, such as holding post-secondary education, being unemployed, and working part-time involuntarily, are increasing the desire of youth to migrate abroad as well as the probability that they turn this aspiration into a more concrete plan over the following year. Similarly, having negative expectations about the economic outlook, the number of available job opportunities, and the prospects for upward career mobility are found to increase the propensity to migrate abroad, both among unemployed and employed youth. Results also show that material deprivation may represent a significant push factor behind youth migration, although budgetary constraints may prevent youth from transforming their migration desires into actual plans in low-income countries. Moreover, findings suggest that contextual factors, such as discontent with local amenities and national governments, increase the desire of youth to migrate abroad, but they have little or no influence on the probability that these dreams are turned into more concrete plans. Finally, this study shows that while youth's and adults' migration propensities are often driven by the same motives, the influence of education and labor market-related factors on migration intentions is considerably stronger among youth than adults.





▪ Empirical Model

Probit, Logit, LPM regression models -> robustly assess the impact of gender and traditional gender attitudes on migration intentions among Kyrgyz youth.



▪ Data:

- ✓ Secondary Data.
- ✓ Life in Kyrgyzstan Study 2019
- ✓ A cross-sectional data: several variables are recorded at the same time.
- ✓ Youth questionnaire: introduced in Wave 6 in 2019, individuals aged 14-17.
- ✓ Individual questionnaire: 2019, individuals aged 18-24

Logit and Probit Models:

For Female:

$$\Pr [Plan = 1]_i = G (\beta_0 + \beta_1(total_income_h) + \beta_2(hhsize_h) + \beta_3(migrants_hh_h) + \beta_4(education_i) + \beta_5(residence_h) + \beta_6(oblast_h) + \beta_7(job_prospects_discontent_i) + \beta_8(security_discontent_i) + \beta_9(discon_edu_inst_i) + \beta_{10}(govern_trust_lack_i) + \beta_{11}(uni_edu_gender_bias_i) + \beta_{12}(gender_roles_group_i)) + \varepsilon$$

For Male:

$$\Pr [Plan = 1]_i = G (\beta_0 + \beta_1(total_income_h) + \beta_2(hhsize_h) + \beta_3(migrants_hh_h) + \beta_4(education_i) + \beta_5(residence_h) + \beta_6(oblast_h) + \beta_7(job_prospects_discontent_i) + \beta_8(security_discontent_i) + \beta_9(discon_edu_inst_i) + \beta_{10}(govern_trust_lack_i) + \beta_{11}(uni_edu_gender_bias_i) + \beta_{12}(gender_roles_group_i)) + \varepsilon$$

LPM (standardized beta coefficients)

$$Plan_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1(total_income_h) + \beta_2(hhsize_h) + \beta_3(migrants_hh_h) + \beta_4(education_i) + \beta_5(residence_h) + \beta_6(oblast_h) + \beta_7(job_prospects_discontent_i) + \beta_8(security_discontent_i) + \beta_9(discon_edu_inst_i) + \beta_{10}(govern_trust_lack_i) + \beta_{11}(uni_edu_gender_bias_i) + \beta_{12}(gender_roles_group_i) + \varepsilon$$

Dependent Variable:

- young person's intentions to migrate (likelihood)

Independent Variables:

Variables of Interest:

- Gender Attitudes (Uni bias and Gender Roles)
- Trust in Institutions (Education and Government)
- Job Market Perceptions

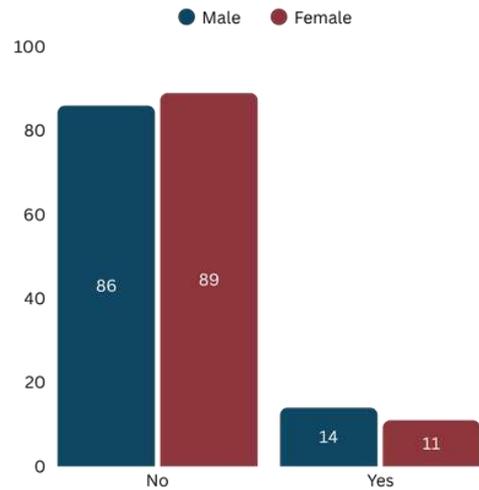
Control Variables:

- Household Income (TI)
- Education Level
- Household Size
- Migrants in Household: Migration History in Family
- Urban vs. Rural Residence
- Regional Disparities
- Security Discontent

LPM (standardized beta coefficients) -> allows to compare the relative importance of variables regardless of their original units or scales (sd=1).

Table 2: Summary Statistics of Independent Variables

Variable	Obs	Mean	Std. dev.	Min	Max
total_Income	1914	37838.91	72686.4	99	706000
hhsz	2363	6.82	2.60	1	20
migrants_hh	1323	0.94	1.15	1	6
education	1489	1.43	0.83	1	4
residence	2370	1.76	0.43	1	2
oblast	2375	5.95	3.84	2	21
job_prospects_discontent	1757	3.42	1.22	1	5
security_discontent	1757	4.11	0.99	1	5
discon_edu_instt	1757	3.02	0.57	1	4
government_trust_lack	1757	2.65	0.74	1	4
uni_edu_gender_bias	1757	5.97	20.20	1	99
gender_roles_group	1757	8.29	24.57	1	99



Gender versus Plan to Migrate

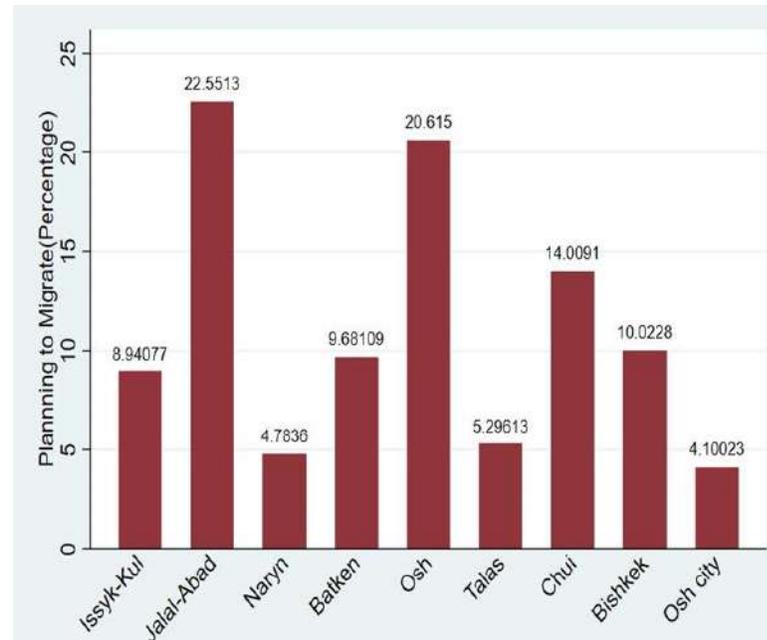


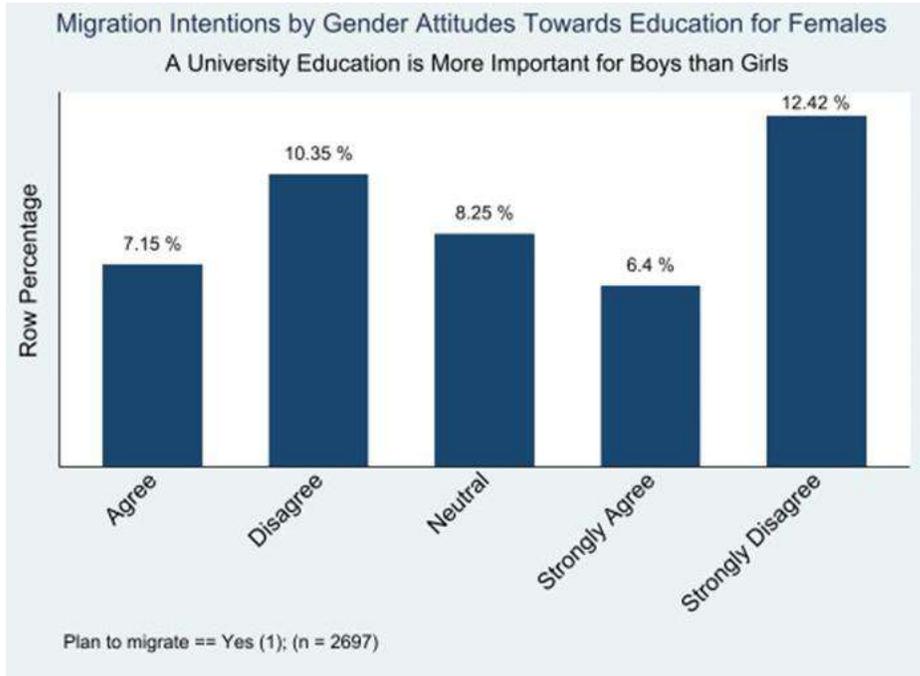
Table 4: Gender, Residence, and Plan to Migrate

Gender	Residence	Plan to Migrate		
		No (Freq %)	Yes (Freq %)	Total (Freq %)
Male	City	195 (6.48%)	26 (0.86%)	221 (7.35%)
	Village	532 (35.37%)	91 (6.05%)	623 (41.42%)
Female	City	220 (7.31%)	29 (0.96%)	249 (8.28%)
	Village	574 (38.16%)	72 (4.79%)	646 (42.95%)
Total	City	415 (13.80%)	55 (1.83%)	470 (15.62%)
	Village	1,106 (73.54%)	163 (10.84%)	1,269 (84.38%)

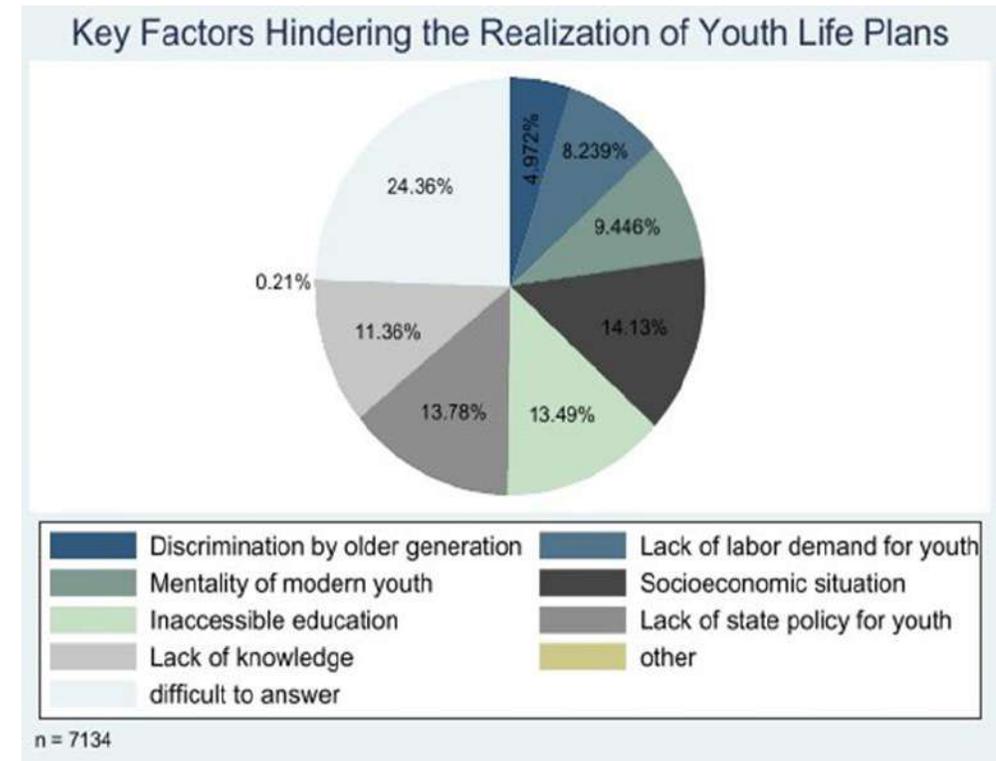
Table 5: Gender, Age Group, and Plan to Migrate

Gender	Age Group	Plan to Migrate		
		No (Freq %)	Yes (Freq %)	Total (Freq %)
Male	14–16	255 (29.73%)	39 (33.33%)	294 (34.75%)
	17–19	163 (19.67%)	21 (17.95%)	184 (21.75%)
	20–24	311 (36.90%)	57 (48.72%)	368 (43.49%)
Female	14–16	219 (27.44%)	31 (30.69%)	250 (27.81%)
	17–19	177 (22.18%)	22 (21.78%)	199 (22.14%)
	20–24	402 (50.38%)	48 (47.52%)	450 (50.06%)
Total	14–16	474 (30.88%)	70 (32.11%)	544 (31.25%)
	17–19	340 (22.26%)	43 (19.72%)	383 (22.01%)
	20–24	713 (46.67%)	105 (48.17%)	818 (46.75%)

Source: Ashurova (2025)



The analysis reveals a clear pattern: those who strongly disagree with the statement show the highest percentage of migration intention (12.42%), indicating that rejecting traditional gender norms may motivate women to seek better opportunities abroad.



Source: Ashurova (2025)

Table 6: Logit, Probit, and Linear Probability Model (LPM) Estimates for Determinants of Migration Intentions for Females

	(Logit) plan to migr	(Probit) plan to migr	(LPM, beta) plan to migr
total income	-0.00000346 (-0.95)	-0.00000208 (-1.03)	-0.000000303 (-1.19)
hbsize	0.0920 (1.15)	0.0565 (1.31)	0.00797 (1.02)
migrants hh	0.0778 (0.42)	0.0354 (0.34)	0.0104 (0.56)
education	-0.509 (-1.72)	-0.236 (-1.67)	-0.0390 (-1.91)
residence	0 (.)	0 (.)	0 (.)
village	0.196 (0.36)	0.124 (0.41)	0.0326 (0.57)
oblast	0 (.)	0 (.)	0 (.)
Jalal-Abad	0.748 (1.27)	0.426 (1.29)	0.114 (1.57)
Naryn	0.541 (0.75)	0.304 (0.73)	0.101 (1.10)
Batken	-1.739 (-1.51)	-0.843 (-1.58)	-0.120 (-1.42)
Osh	-1.497* (-2.03)	-0.787* (-2.11)	-0.122 (-1.78)
Talas	0 (.)	0 (.)	-0.183 (-1.73)
Chui	0.249 (0.40)	0.0961 (0.28)	0.0360 (0.49)
security discon- tent	-0.249 (-1.25)	-0.136 (-1.23)	-0.0261 (-1.31)
discon edu inst	-0.146 (-0.48)	-0.0572 (-0.33)	-0.0170 (-0.51)
government tru- st lack	-0.126 (-0.51)	-0.0815 (-0.60)	-0.0116 (-0.47)
uni edu gender bias	-0.0161 (-1.41)	-0.00770 (-1.37)	-0.00115 (-1.50)
gender roles gr- oup	-0.00908 (-0.78)	-0.00375 (-0.66)	-0.000752 (-0.95)
cons	0.162 (0.10)	-0.117 (-0.13)	0.339* (2.02)
N	342	342	355

t statistics in parentheses
* p < 0.05, ** p < 0.01, *** p < 0.001

The marginal effects confirm gendered differences in migration determinants. For females, financial stability and cultural constraints strongly shape migration intentions, with regional disparities like those in Jalal-Abad significantly influencing decisions. In contrast, males' migration is driven more by skill-based education and less by economic factors or societal norms.

Table 10: Average Marginal Effects for Females

Variable	dy/dx	Std. Error	z-value	P-value
Total Income	-0.000000442	0.000000153	-2.89	0.004
Education Group				
College, technical school, vocational	0.001	0.0389181	0.04	0.971
University	-0.02	0.0423892	-0.47	0.636
Other/not learning	-0.07	0.0387549	-1.89	0.058
Residence				
Village	0.01	0.0350385	0.16	0.873
Oblast				
Jalal-Abad	0.15	0.0634611	2.36	0.018
Naryn	0.05	0.0743569	0.62	0.533
Batken	-0.10	0.0484152	-2.11	0.035
Osh	-0.08	0.0465648	-1.67	0.095
Talas	-0.07	0.0627421	-1.09	0.276
Chui	-0.02	0.0527315	-0.37	0.708
Bishkek	-0.08	0.0558297	-1.37	0.170
Osh city	-0.04	0.0735894	-0.49	0.624
Gender Roles Group				
Agree	-0.01	0.026904	-0.51	0.612
Don't know	-0.11	0.0271359	-3.87	0.000

Note: The average marginal effects are calculated using the Delta-method. The regression is based on 648 observations with a robust model
Number of obs = 561, Model VCE: Robust Expression: Pr(plan to migr), predict()

Table 11: Average Marginal Effects for Males

Variable	dy/dx	Std. Err.	z-value	P-value
Total Income	-0.00	0.00	-0.21	0.832
Education Group				
College, technical school, vocational	0.1	0.05	1.81	0.070
University	-0.01	0.04	-0.20	0.838
Other/not learning	0.00	0.07	0.03	0.974
Residence				
Village	-0.01	0.05	-0.14	0.885
Oblast				
Jalal-Abad	0.12	0.06	1.92	0.055
Naryn	0.04	0.08	0.47	0.637
Batken	-0.08	0.05	-1.58	0.114
Osh	0.06	0.05	1.17	0.240
Talas	0.06	0.08	0.81	0.419
Chui	-0.00	0.05	-0.06	0.952
Bishkek	-0.04	0.06	-0.60	0.548
Osh city	-0.05	0.06	-0.78	0.435
Gender Roles Group				
Agree	-0.06	0.04	-1.60	0.110
Don't know	-0.04	0.06	-0.76	0.446

Table 9: Probit Regression Coefficients for Female and Male Migration Decision

	(Female) plan to migr	(Male) plan to migr
plan_to_migr		
total income	-0.00000251** (-2.93)	-0.000000228 (-0.21)
education	0 (.)	0 (.)
college, technical school, vocational school	0.00782	0.410*
Jalal-Abad	0.546* (2.23)	0.497* (1.82)
Naryn	0.197 (0.63)	0.188 (0.49)
Batken	-0.746* (-2.01)	-0.660 (-1.39)
gender_roles_group	0 (.)	0 (.)
Agree	-0.0736 (-0.51)	-0.285 (-1.71)
Don't know	-0.924* (-2.35)	-0.188 (-0.74)
_cons	-0.947*** (-3.42)	-1.068*** (-3.33)
N	648	561

t statistics in parentheses
* p < 0.05, ** p < 0.01, *** p < 0.001



Interpretation:

It suggests that ceteris paribus,

↑ in total household income

↓ the likelihood of a young woman planning to migrate.

This relationship is statistically significant at the 1% level.

Table 13: Cloglog Model Results for Determinants of Migration Intentions by Gender

Gender

	(Female) plan to migr	(Male) plan to migr
plan_to_migr		
migrants_hh	-0.0684 (-0.57)	0.154 (1.24)
gender_roles_group	-0.00848 (-1.11)	0.00223 (0.53)
job_prospects_discontent	-0.172 (-1.70)	-0.150 (-1.37)
discon_edu_inst	-0.529* (-2.51)	-0.308 (-1.66)
_cons	0.232 (0.32)	-0.657 (-1.10)
N	453	452

t statistics in parentheses
* p < 0.05, ** p < 0.01, *** p < 0.001

Cloglog [Binary Outcome with Rare Events] Results (Females & Trust in Edu)

- **Interpretation:** Lower trust in educational institutions significantly reduces migration intentions.
- **Possible Explanation:** Women with low trust in universities perceive fewer benefits from education-related migration opportunities, making them less likely to migrate.

- The study finds strong gender disparities in migration intentions (1:Ha).
- The findings confirm that societal and familial expectations serve as barriers to female migration (2:Ha).
- Women face social and cultural barriers limiting their intention to migrate.
- Men migrate primarily for economic reasons, driven by financial responsibilities.
- Economic hardship remains a key driver for male migration, reinforcing gendered labor expectations.



Source: UN, World Youth Report 2013: Youth and Migration

▪ Limitations of the Study

Data Constraints

- Cross sectional data - 2019 Life in Kyrgyzstan data may not reflect recent migration trends.
- Small sample size.
- Unobserved factors (e.g., personal aspirations, family dynamics) could influence decisions but are not directly measured.

A light blue magnifying glass icon with a circular lens and a handle, positioned over the 'Future Research Direction' section.

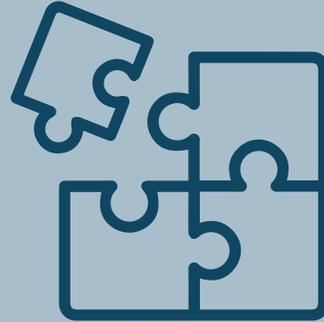
▪ Future Research Direction

- Expand Data (more waves in LiK).
- Use larger, more recent datasets for better representation.
- Incorporate panel data or instrumental variable (IV) methods to address endogeneity.



Economic Development & Institutional Trust

- Reduce regional disparities by investing in infrastructure, agriculture, and local industries.
- Engage more youth in policymaking to address their concerns and improve policy responsiveness.



Strengthening Research & Data-Driven Policy

- Expand migration datasets with gender-disaggregated, transparent, and open data for better policy formulation.
- Improve research methodologies.



Framing Migration as an Opportunity

- Shift the policy perspective from migration as a problem to migration as an opportunity for national development.
- Invest in youth innovation centers more in rural areas.

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Thank You!



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