

The changes of social structure and migration in cities in Albania

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ABSTRACT

Dramatic revolution in Eastern Europe were culminated with the most 'in self closed' country Albania that started to protest against the communism government's power. At 1986's in Eastern Europe started to live in a new pool of thoughts that the fundamental one was liberalism. Liberalism thought gets revolutions that were not be seen before. These revolutions did not contain only political aim, but also their aim was to get new changes in social, cultural and economic structures.

Also in Albania liberal movements started after 1986, and had aim to collapse the system of communism and to create a new democratic-liberal political system. In this paper we will explain the political and social changes, urbanization and social problems that were appear in Albanian society after 1990's. Also the effect that have appear to social values by the change of the social structure and the formation of new conscious in Albanian society.

Introduction

Collapse of the Berlin's wall gave courage to Albanian intellectuals and students to protest for the collapse of communism system and to get new political, social and cultural system.

The main structure of these protests is the students, because always the youth has a dynamic structure to get changes in the society.

Most of the time this protests was trample down from the polices, but they resisted until intellectuals and students got that they wanted: Collapse the

system of communism and totalitarian cultural model, for forming a new liberal, social, cultural and modern society model.

The success of these protests got new liberal system (political, cultural and economical) , democratization, a democratically assembly, liberalization of market and the liberalization of enter to Western and Eastern countries. But here we must remember that liberal consciousness has been forgotten from Albania people.

The pass form a 'closed society' to a liberal one the Albanian society and also the entrance of new political system, new presentations with the values of other cultures got troubles in the existing conscious. But also we can say that these troubles were the first step of transformation of conscious.

The new system got new social change even in the values. We have to remember that is not possible to clean all the values that Albanian people had for a decade and to get new one. All the changes got new changes and sometimes trouble on living, on perception of the regulation of social and individual life.

Albanian society was not prepared on passing on a new social system. All this unprepared situation got new unknown problems and sometimes shock in Albanian society.

These situations effects strongly structure of cities and villages, structure of families, norms, values, traditions etc. These metamorphoses (changes) got social anomies in society, which got major changes in economic, social and cultural structured and in their own values.

Migration of People from Rural to Urban Place

In sociology cities are not supposed only like large and very populate places. City has always an attractive situation, because it contains all types of people, activities cultural-economic and social services. Also it has a structure that contains industry, trade, transportation and communications networks. These all create an attractive power for cities.

In the cities urbanization take an important place, not only by getting modern standards but also it gets a growth of population and changes in many structure of societies. Sometimes these get renovation and sometimes reorientation for a new urban structure. It contains a dynamic structure that

mean that is pre orientated to get changes on the urban structures. That's why many times in social science like sociology concept of urbanization is called as a dynamic structure that gets physical and social changes.

Changes that come from urbanization, affect all structure of society like norms, values, traditions, way of life etc. Urbanization gets a renovation of a social structure by changing social structure. Sometimes it creates a situation that is called anomy. The Albanian society lived this situation on the first years of new democratic system.

In this paper will be explained the changes on social structure and change of values on the Albanian cities after 1990s.

Urbanization is one of the most important process for modern cities and societies. Also it is the most effected factor in the increasing population and also gets so many changes in the dynamic structure of the cities. In the social sciences urbanization is labeled as new dynamic structure on development of modern societies, because it gets changes factors on the social structure. The main changes on a social structure happen by change of values and norms. A rapid urbanization gets a rapid change on norms and values. But most of the time this changes gets an anomic situation.

After 1990s in Albania started major changes in the social, cultural, politic and economic structures. This process was affected from a new and modern civilization and also was called as transition. A part of transition was migration and emigration waves. These kind of waves were causing form the collapse of communisms laws (In communism was forbidden to pass form a country, city, village to another one without having a strong reason). People needed something new in their life style and they tried to find it by changing the place where they lived.

In the Albanian society after 1990 were so many factors that caused the processes of migration and emigration. In this paper we will try to explain only some of the factors of migration and some of the social changes.

Migration was a wave of movement of people from village to small or big cities, from small cities to big cities etc. Migration is one of factor that works fast or slowly mechanism of social-cultural structure.

New wave of migration from rural zones to cities, were searching for a new life style, a new social-cultural environment, for a better economy, for new

place of work or another words for a better social economical and cultural future.

Since the structure of a cities is different from a country migrate people have difficulty to integrate in that society. A social structure of an urban zone contains different values and norms from rural zones. This situation is new and strange for the new inhabitants of cities, and mostly causes on anomic situation to migrated people. Only after the passing anomic situation people can be integrated to cities and can be civilized.

The changes on the Albanians politic get changes in economy, society and culture. Mostly these changes create crises on all institutions like family, education, religion etc. Migration of people from village to cities, founded a new and different culture that was created on the city's own values.

Migrated people try to integrate on this type of social and cultural structure of cities societies. Integration is formed from the process of transformation of their own values to values that they found in this new society's culture. Also integration is a long process and gets so many changes in this society and also in urban one. New people that were placement in cities were not welcomed from the society of those cities. Because for a long time they had their own culture structure and (since they live in communism) and were not prepare to share their culture with others.

Urban citizens life style, relationship with each other, dressing etc is different from *others* or *villagers*. But people that have migrated are interested on their culture, values and norms. To integrate in their societies sometimes they are obligated to get urban citizens values. Sometimes they want to be away from their own values and norms that controlled their lifestyle, behavior and morals. They wanted to be free from these types of social controls by choosing new values of the cities culture.

Another factor of changing the values in social cultural structures is *Europeanization* and *Modernization*. These get new values in urban society's culture and new social and cultural changes. Because urban citizen and people that just migrate on the urban places started to be effected from the new values. New values are different from their own values and create a new situation that can be called as an *identity crisis*. These types of problems are

new for all urban citizens. But the migrated people have more difficulties on the integrated of these new values.

In few words migration gets so many changes in a social structure but we can say that get also a *renovation* and a *reorientation* of social structure.

The Change of Values

Collapsed of communism system got not only a new political system but changed social, cultural and economical structure of society.

Also this change got the collapse of some values and formation of new ones. The importances of many values were disposed by this change. For example voting for only one political party is a values that came from the communism system. By these changes forming a new social structure means get new value to that structure. Western European countries were a utopia model for all Albanian people. This model has a utopia form in the cultural structure (modern) and also in a political one. Like Elias said that utopia makes society to be orientated in a new way and to consider this was as the ideal one. These get a development on a society.

Most of values that were formed in the communism system started become old and unimportant value. Sometimes this was consider as the ideal conscience (Tushi;2006:352)

This ideal conscience brings new oscillation and a chaotic situation in social-cultural structures. Because the values that existed for a decade and was broken up in a shortly time and the entrance of new values in society gets a new situation that was difficult for Albanians people to accept them in a short period of time. These were one of the main factors in forming an anomic situation on the society's structure.

For a long time Albanian cultures were influence from Western and Eastern cultures. These influences reach the structure of Albanian culture. By forming of communism system the only most important traditions, values and norms of this culture were taken to form a monist culture. The monist culture structure was completed by the new value and norms based on the communist mentality. This type of culture can be called as mono culture too, because it is formed only on one society without effecting from other cultures.

After 1990's Albanian culture was influenced from many cultures and also it forms a contradictory situation in itself. To be so much influenced from other cultures means that there is a 'lack of drainage filters' said Albanian sociologist Dervishi (Dervishi; 2003:14). After the collapse of communism Albanian cultures were so influenced from Italian and Western European cultures. These cultures influenced almost at all institutions, relationships between people, lifestyles, mentality of people etc.

These influences of other cultures have affected mostly the Albanian youth. As we said before the youth has a dynamic structure and social changes are influenced from them. The 'ideal one' is important for them too. Western culture was an ideal culture for the youth and that is the reason that young people made changes on the values, traditions and customs.

Ethnocentrism that was formed in the communism's culture was exchanged with xenocentrism after 1990 in Albanian society. In social science xenocentrism means to be a fan, to admire and love other country's cultures by being away from own culture.

Xenocentrism got an identity crisis in Albanian society after 1990's, because it was the first step of changing culture and the collapse of values. Like Sartre said, people that come from villages to western European countries try to become a part of that culture by forgetting their culture. Also they repudiate their own values. This happened because their own communism's culture and values were cultivated by using a psychological oppression (Sartre; 1986: Dervishi; 2007: 209).

The change of values in the short time effect conception and moral of persons. This forms an 'identity search' situation that mostly gets a chaotic situation on the identity of that culture. The acceptance of some western's values like equality, success, liberty and democracy in a short period of time, bring a new confused situation.

Sometimes the value of liberty is considered as a value of 'doing what a person wants'. This creates a confused situation that sometimes gets social anomy in social order. One of the values that create a confused situation was 'Individualism'. This value got a new mentality and new behaviors on youth, and also got changes in social order and relationships between people.

A rapid urbanization and migration from rural to urban zone's got important changes on the value. First of all a rapid urbanization get economical, social and cultural changes. Also people that come from rural zones get different social, economical and cultural structure that most times create a type of anomie in urban society. To integrate in the urban society this group of people most of the times try to be away from their cultural values. This creates an anomy in their identity and also gets difficulty to integrate on the urban society.

After 1990 the transition in the Albania affected all structures of society. One of these was family's structure. In a family are founded more than two generation with different mentality. This difference was expressed by values that many time got conflict between generations. Albanian youth were and are still influenced from Western European culture in a life style, people relationships, dressing etc. All these are factors that get new values on youth's lives and formation of a new mentality. We can explain it by giving example of 'dressing'.

'Dressing' like Western people for Albanian youths is new value that they admire. In communism system this kind of value did not exist because it was totally forbidden. But after 1990 for Albanian youth was a prestige to have that value as the most important values.

This type of dress was not only to demonstrate that they are like western people, but it gets a 'modernization' value and it is a part of western culture. Also youth that comes from rural zones, by dressing in that manner thing that is an important point to integrate easily in that society. But it is seen that kind of dressing is getting anomy not only in the norms of that young people, but also in the society where they live.

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