Examining the boom of youth migration

This audio documentary tackles the current issue of the boom of youth migration focusing more on their desire to migrate after the revolution by two years. The fact that migration has been a trend recently opened many doors for discussion with several youths as it’s reviving again after the desire has faded away at the revolution time.

*Music: “Ya Aziz Einy by Rowan Maher- Fade In” (0:15)*

*Music: “Ya Aziz Einy by Rowan Maher- Fade-Out” (0:15)*

Home… a word of four letters but with a thousand meanings, but when immigration came in the way HOME became variable and the definition changed. In the recent couple of years Immigration left no boundaries for youth to look for other homes outside of Egypt, still the desire is hindered by fear of losing origins.

*SFX: ”News beginning-Fade In” (00:22)*

From here the boom of the desire for migration has started to rise again.

*Male ANNCC: “According to the Daily news Egypt, in July2013, fifteen percent of those who were working before the revolution became unemployed. July2014: Rate of Egyptians leaving country increases 17%. October 2015: Egypt is to launch special court for illegal immigration.” (00:18)*
Okay so basically now it seems like migration is becoming a trend especially amongst male youth. As for the stimulus behind that,

(RM) Radwa Mohamed: “it was a huge pressure for a boy like him to be hit by police man for no reason, so he was the first one in the family to think about immigration and trying to convince us” (00:13)

Woww, woww wait, first that is

(RM): “I’m Radwa Mohamed, Architecture student, senior.” (00:03)

Music: “Ya mesfaer Wahdak by Oud Professional- Fade-In” (1:00)

In Radwa’s case, it was insecurity because of violence against youth: with what her brother, a 15 year old, experienced while just breaking up a clash between two people in a bowling center, he himself was brutally hit by police officers without any kind of investigation about who did what, and his right as a human being or a kid wasn’t returned. So that’s what it’s all about, not feeling secure, feeling underestimated, feeling,

Rana Khaled (RK):” discriminated somehow, that you’re veiled means you’re beaa or balady, or you know this kind of mentality was really affecting me and was really annoying me.” (00:15)

It’s not just violence then. Rana Kaled, an Egyptian with a green card who studies law at AUC and currently a new mother always felt a sense of discrimination INSIDE of Egypt, more surprisingly inside the walls of AUC: seems like the culture of the country dominates the whole societal classes after all.
Music: “Ya Mesfaer Wahdak by Oud Professional- Fade-Out” (01:00)

Not just Egyptians who live in the country have disappointments, but also returning immigrants who came after the revolution as well, I would just love to know what captured their attention the time she stepped a foot into the country.

Music: “Ana Msh Menhom by Cairokee- Fade-In” (00:48)

SFX: “Street Nat. sound- Fade-In” (00:22)

Fatema Elsayed (FE): “the traffic of course. You come down and then the first thing you ride a taxi and zooming in and out of lanes which is of course is illegal in the US, and you try to tell the taxi driver you know stay in your road, lane and he’s like what’s a lane. “Hara, mafeesh haga esmaha hara f masr asln”. That’s the first shock you get.” (00:21)

SFX: “Street nat. sound- fade-out” (00:22)

That was.

(FE): “Fatema Al sayed an AUC alumni and an Egyptian American” (00:4)

She’s just a returning immigrant but she’s got I point, I personally was driving my car the other day, and this taxi driver got out of nowhere scratching my car crossing my road and started calling me names when I refused to apologize, which was definitely his fault by the way, and I was really boiling inside and wanted to just go out and punch this guy in the face, but then it hit me:

Music: “Ana Msh Menhom by Cairokee- Fade-Out” (00:48)
What if I just left the country, there would be no traffic, no silly taxi driver guy. Unfortunately that’s the direct response to most youth right now. It can’t just be traffic, filthy air, blablabla stuff, there must be main reason for really wanting to leave,

Dr. Ibrahim Awad (IB): “So unemployment has increased and with the depreciation of the Egyptian pound, it means that cost of living has also increased.” (00:11)

Music: “Ya mesfaer Wahdak by Oud Professional- fade-in” (00:45)

Dr. Ibrahim Awad, professor at the public policy at AUC, also the director of the center for migration and refugee studies got it straight to the point, Unemployment, which is the most common reason for wanting to leave. Eventually what these disappointments lead to is

(RM): “Nowadays I don’t feel any loyalty to Egypt” (00:12)

ANNC: ”why is that?”

(RM): ” Egypt nowadays with the political events happening here are forcing me to hate this country.” (00:12)

Yeah, unfortunately that’s the case. Eventually it gets to disloyalty, hatred, exhaustion, which in our case here leads to the desire for migration. Now looking to the subject from another angle, what really makes a difference when the time comes for a real answer… what are they leaving for not what are they leaving here?

Music: “Ya mesfaer Wahdak by Oud Professional- fade-out” (00:45)

(RK): “you as an individual, you’re respected, you are free to do what you want, you have all the opportunities if you prove yourself you can do what you want, where this is not the case in Egypt in Egypt, In Egypt you know unless you have a “wasta”, unless you have someone to help you unless, you can’t do anything you want by yourself.” (00:22)
Another thing is the trend that I personally find quite cool is travelling abroad during the pregnancy time enough before the delivery time to have babies abroad in order to provide their little ones with citizenships, like to the U.S for example. Not all moms do that of course, but Rana’s citizenship was a bonus for her girl.

(RK): “I already go there, I already have an insurance and everything is setup so why not have her there and let her have the opportunity of having the Passport, such that when she’d grow up she’d have, the opportunity to go to the University that she wants, It’s like opening opportunities for her.” (00:17)

Music: “Ya Aziz Einy by Rowan Maher- fade in” (00:15)

Music: “Ya Aziz Einy by Rowan Maher- fade-out” (00:15)

As in any rise or trend that happens among people there’s always an essence from where it all started.

(IB): ”Mass migration in Egypt for employment purposes started in the mid 1970’s” (00:7)

Music: “Ya Mesfaer Wahdak by Oud Professional- fade-out” (01:29)

And that’s when it all began.

(IB): ”certainly there was migration before to the gulf countries but also as of the late 1960’s to the new world, to the United States to Canada to Australia.” (00:13)

Funny enough we weren’t like that in the past, meaning in the 40’s 50’ 60’s. We weren’t this “I want to get of here country” we were the “I want to go there country”.

(IB): “Egypt received migrants in the 19th century from around the Mediterranean, from Greece for instance, from Italy, it received migrants from Europe, Egypt was not very heavily populated, it was, in fact it was very lightly populated.” (00:17)
At the end of this flow, there’s this snap of rationale that woke those who wanted to leave up when the call for leaving is real. It could be Longing, Commitment, or most importantly,

(RK): “It’s very different it’s not home, you’re status as an immigrant is not simply a status on paper it’s, it’s your feeling, you always feel like an immigrant.” (00:11)

HOME. Yes. It’s this word again; it always comes down to home when deciding to leave. It’s how we define it that triggers our decision whether to leave or to stay. For the ones I talked to, it was origins and identity that stopped them from leaving. They just remembered where their roots came out to spread its branches all over the place they originated, the place where their existence is rated,

_Music: “Ya Mesfaer Wahdak by Oud Professional- Fade-Out” (01:29)_

And home is where they decided to stay.

_Music: “Ya Aziz Einy by Rowan Maher- Fade In” (00:29)_

This documentary was produced by Mariam Sherif for the Audio production course taught at the American University in Cairo by Professor Kim Fox. Special thanks to my interviewees, Dr. Ibrahim Awad, Radwa Mohamed, Rana Khaled, Fatema Al-sayed, and for the newscast announcer Abdelhamid Mahmoud. Music: “ya azeez 3eeni”, performed at the AUC radio studio by Rowan Maher, “Ya mesafer wahdak Oud” by Oud professional, “Ana msh mnhom” by Cairokee. Sound effects: royalty free all brought from YouTube. Nat sound, collected by Mariam Sherif.
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