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Determinants of Youth Migration to Europe and Its Societal Implications for Afghanistan

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Article Info

Abstract

The issue of migration has deep roots in human history, and it is an important and difficult issue, especially for Afghan society. The concept of migration has been of considerable importance since the beginning of Islamic history, and today migration is still a major issue for the future of the young generation. The aim of this study is to identify the main factors driving Afghan youth migration to Europe and to analyze the social, political, and economic impacts associated with it. This study is a literature review based on secondary data. The results of the study show that insecurity, unemployment, poverty, poor educational opportunities, and the hope for a better life are the main factors that force Afghan youth to migrate to Europe. Although these migrations have some economic benefits, the loss of human capital, social instability, and economic weakness of families are among their negative aspects. In conclusion, it can be said that migration is a multifaceted crisis that requires effective management. It is recommended that the government pay serious attention to ensuring security, providing employment opportunities, raising public awareness, and taking measures against human trafficking to reduce youth migration.

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Introduction

The phenomenon of migration has been going on since the beginning of human societies, and its form, causes, and effects have changed over time. Especially in modern times, migration has become a growing global problem due to wars, poverty, unemployment, and political instability. Afghanistan, which is facing long-term conflicts, social crises, and economic problems, is considered a major source of refugees. In recent years, thousands of Afghan youth have migrated from the country to Europe in search of security, work, and educational opportunities. In this context, the main question of this study is: What factors drive Afghan youth to migrate to Europe, and how do these migrations affect Afghan society? The importance of this topic is high because the future of Afghan society is linked to the presence, skills, and intellectual capital of the younger generation. When this generation is forced to migrate, the country faces a serious shortage of human resources. Therefore, analyzing the factors of migration, identifying its positive and negative impacts, and finding solutions is not only of scientific, but also of practical and national importance. This study attempts to expand understanding of the roots of this problem and provide a scientific basis for effective policies. Migration, especially youth migration, is a widely studied topic that many international researchers have written about (Bucken-Knapp & Zelano, 2023) [9]. Existing works have analyzed the topic from various angles, such as economic migration, political asylum, human rights violations, and international migration processes (Gul, 2023) [13]. Among these works, studies by Düvell (2012) [10], Modrzewska (2020), and Badr *et al*. (2023) [8] have assessed the situation of Afghan refugees, the reasons for their departure, and their impact on host societies. These studies have mostly focused on international migration in

general, not specifically on Afghan youth migration to Europe. Studies by Yar (2025) [31], among the major theoretical foundations, the Push-Pull theory is the most widely used, which divides migration factors into two types: push factors (such as poverty, war, and and political instability. Afghanistan, which is facing long-term conflicts, social crises, and economic problems, is considered a major source of refugees. In recent years, thousands of Afghan youth have migrated from the country to Europe in search of security, work, and educational opportunities. In this context, the main question of this study is: What factors drive Afghan youth to migrate to Europe, and how do these migrations affect Afghan society? The importance of this topic is high because the future of Afghan society is linked to the presence, skills, and intellectual capital of the younger generation. When this generation is forced to migrate, the country faces a serious shortage of human resources. Therefore, analyzing the factors of migration, identifying its positive and negative impacts, and finding solutions is not only of scientific, but also of practical and national importance. This study attempts to expand understanding of the roots of this problem and provide a scientific basis for effective policies.

Migration, especially youth migration, is a widely studied topic that many international researchers have written about (Bucken-Knapp & Zelano, 2023) [9]. Existing works have analyzed the topic from various angles, such as economic migration, political asylum, human rights violations, and international migration processes (Gul, 2023) [13]. Among these works, studies by Düvell (2012) [10], Modrzewska (2020), and Badr et al. (2023) [8] have assessed the situation of Afghan refugees, the reasons for their departure, and their impact on host societies. These studies have mostly focused on international migration in general, not specifically on Afghan youth migration to Europe. Studies by Yar (2025) [31], among the major theoretical foundations, the Push-Pull theory is the most widely used, which divides migration factors into two types: push factors (such as poverty, war, and unemployment) and pull factors (such as good economy, security, and educational opportunities). In addition, the theory of order and disorder, and the theory of modernization have also been used to explain the migration of the youth generation, which mention the desire of young people towards the values of modern life (Wickramasinghe & Wimalaratana, 2016) [30]. However, the review of the existing literature also shows that there are the following gaps and differences in previous writings: Most writings are general and do not have a specific focus on the specific problems of Afghan youth (Scalettaris et al. 2021) [26]. The specific factors of migration to Europe and their social impacts have been little studied. The balance of positive and negative aspects of migration has not been analyzed in detail. Specific and realistic recommendations for policymakers have been rarely provided (Shafaq & Shuaa, 2024) [27]. Therefore, this study is an attempt to fill a gap by examining the specific factors driving Afghan youth migration to Europe, analyzing their impacts, and proposing scientific solutions.

History of Migration
Migration is a phenomenon associated with the emergence of mankind, which means the movement of people from one place to another, these movements can be temporary or permanent, short or long distances (Bucken-Knapp & Zelano, 2023) [9]. Human migration dates back more than 1.75 million years, when humans moved from Africa to Eurasia, and about

20,000 years ago they also migrated to the Americas, where most people migrated to the coasts or islands (Aksu et al. 2022) [3]. Historically, migration has occurred at various times due to natural disasters, climate change, food shortages, lack of drinking water, and environmental problems (Aslany et al. 2021) [6]. Migration also has special significance from the perspective of Islamic history, where the great prophet of Islam, Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH), migrated from Mecca to Medina, which also forms the basis of the Hijri year (Qarchanloo, (2001). Throughout modern history, especially after World War II, Europe has become a major destination for refugees (Aksu et al. 2022) [3]. At that time, Europe was suffering from severe losses due to wars, so it attracted workers from Turkey, Africa, and the Middle East to rebuild (Aslany et al. 2021) [6]. As a result, many European cities such as London, Berlin, and Rome faced a large presence of Muslim immigrants, which also provoked reactions from some European conservative groups (Bucken-Knapp & Zelano, 2023) [9]. In addition, the number of illegal immigrants entering Europe via the Mediterranean has increased sharply since 2014 (Aslany et al. 2021) [6]. In 2014 alone, 267,344 people entered Europe via the Mediterranean, which is twice as many as in 2013 (Gladwell, 2021) [12]. Current international reports show that in addition to Afghans, citizens of Syrians, Somalis, and African countries are also migrating to Europe due to war and poverty (Majidi, 2021) [17].

Theoretical Framework
The theoretical framework of this study is based on the scientific theories used to analyze the process, causes, and effects of migration. The most important theory used as a basis in this study is the Push-Pull Factors Theory. This theory is the most famous and widely used theory of migration, which divides the causes of migration into two main categories: Push Factors are factors that force people to leave their country of origin. These factors are often negative and create a sense of pressure, danger, or deprivation (Wickramasinghe & Wimalaratana, 2016) [30]. The key push factors for Afghanistan in this study are: Insecurity and conflict, Unemployment and economic crisis, Limited educational opportunities, Human rights violations, Political instability and poverty, and Domestic pressures and unrest (Yar, 2025) [31]. Pull Factors are the conditions that attract people to the destination country of migration. These factors are perceived as positive and promise a better life, opportunities, and stability (Sherzad, 2016) [28]. For European countries, these pull factors include: Employment and income opportunities, Education and vocational training opportunities, Political stability and the rule of law, Respect for human rights, and Improved living conditions, health services, and social security (Yar, 2025) [31]. In addition to the Push-Pull theory, the study also draws on other theoretical perspectives, such as; Modernization Theory believes that young people leave their traditional environment in search of a more advanced lifestyle, technology, and contemporary values (Abbasi & Monsutti, 2023) [1]. World System Theory considers migration to be a result of the inequality of the global economic system, where low-income countries become a source of labor for high-income countries (Aziz, 2021) [7]. Neoliberal theory discuss that due to the increase in the free market economic system, citizens of poor countries are encouraged to migrate to richer countries, where personal opportunities are greater (Yar, 2025) [31]. This theoretical

framework is consistent with the purpose of the study and helps to analyze the phenomenon of migration not only in terms of numbers, but also in a deeper social, political, and economic dimension (Abbasi & Monsutti, 2023) [1]. This framework provides a systematic scientific basis for interpreting the findings and drawing conclusions (Wickramasinghe & Wimalaratana, 2016) [30].

The factors of migration to Europe can be analyzed in terms of multifaceted social, economic, political, and climatic conditions. First, economic factors are very important in this regard, because in many countries, high unemployment rates, low incomes, and economic instability make living conditions difficult for people and force them to migrate to Europe in search of better economic opportunities. Lack of employment and low incomes are among the drivers that force many migrants to move to Europe. Second, political factors such as civil wars, disasters, and human rights violations have made living conditions difficult for people in many regions. Due to this situation, people migrate to Europe in search of peace, freedom and democracy, where they are guaranteed basic rights to live. Thirdly, social and cultural factors also play an important role in the migration process. Improved education and health services, social assistance and asylum facilities, and opportunities for family reunification encourage people to move to Europe. Fourth, climate change and natural disasters such as droughts, floods and other environmental problems, along with the destruction of the living environment, force people to leave their original areas and migrate to Europe in search of better life opportunities. Finally, Europe's geographical location and legal asylum facilities for migration also make Europe a suitable destination for refugees (Majidi, 2021 [17]; Kuschminder et al. 2015 [16]; Gladwell, 2021 [12]; Karimi, 2008) [15]. For the purpose of escaping insecure and conflict-ridden areas, Europe is the best choice for a safe and stable life (Majidi, 2021) [17]. In summary, the factors of migration are interconnected and constitute a set of social, economic, political, and climatic pressures that drive people to migrate to Europe in search of a better life.

Factors of Migration from Afghanistan to Europe
The migration of young people from Afghanistan to Europe is a complex, profound, and multifaceted phenomenon, which is not limited to an economic need or a war situation, but is also associated with the collapse of political, social, educational, and cultural institutions, the trend towards disaster, and the shattering of hopes for the future (Majidi, 2021) [17]. This phenomenon has not only affected the lives of the young generation of Afghanistan, but also has a profound impact on the political stability, economic growth, and social structure of the country (Kuschminder et al. 2015) [16]. The continuous wave of insecurity, suicide attacks, explosions, and the targeting of civilians have severely affected the emotional and physical security of the people of Afghanistan (Gladwell, 2021) [12]. According to the United Nations, more than 5,000 civilians were killed in the first half of 2015 alone, a number that has led to fear, anxiety, and forced displacement (Majidi, 2021) [17]. The rise of ISIS, the spread of ethnic conflicts, and the lack of strong government institutions are all factors that are forcing people to flee their country (Akhtar, 2024) [2].

The lack of job opportunities in Afghanistan is a major factor in migration (Ghasemi-Tafreshi, & Lafortune, 2023) [11]. According to the World Bank, around 400,000 people enter the labor market each year, but only a limited number find jobs (Abbasi & Monsutti, 2023) [1]. These economic problems force young people to migrate to Europe via dangerous routes, although the journey often ends in drowning, detention, or exposure to harsh conditions (Yar, 2025) [31]. Countries such as Germany, Sweden, France, and Italy have had relatively liberal policies for some periods, which has strengthened the spirit of "hopeful migration" among Afghans (Ghasemi-Tafreshi, & Lafortune, 2023) [11]. More and more young people from Afghanistan believe that the rule of law, educational opportunities, human respect, and better living conditions will be the same in Europe (Kuschminder et al., 2015) [16].

The lack of educational opportunities in Afghanistan, the low quality of the education system, and the lack of advanced vocational training are among the hidden but important factors that drive many young people to migrate to other countries (Zandi-Navgran et al. 2024) [34]. Young people's journey to Europe is often undertaken in an attempt to gain knowledge, expertise, and a career. The deep psychological factor that drives many young people to migrate is the hope for a better life (Yawar, & Muhsini, 2024) [32]. The expectation that a peaceful, stable, rights-respecting, and prosperous life will be possible in Europe further strengthens the motivation to migrate. This desire is often accompanied by family pressures, which expect the young person to go abroad and reduce the economic burden on the family (Zachariah et al., 2001) [33]. Families, especially elders, force young people to go abroad in order to build their own future on the one hand and to meet the financial needs of the family on the other. These pressures sometimes conflict with individual will, but the decision to migrate is implemented (Badr et al., 2023) [8]. Youth migration from Afghanistan to Europe is a multidimensional, complex, and profound phenomenon, which is intertwined with history, psychology, economics, and politics (Karimi Moughari, 2008) [15]. The continuation of this migration not only means the loss of human capital for the country, but also risks the decline of social structures, economic growth, and national identity (Zandi-Navgran et al. 2024) [34]. Therefore, there is a need for the government, civil society, and international organizations to take effective measures to reduce these factors.

The Situation of Afghan Refugees in European Countries
Over the past two decades, Europe has become a place of last hope for Afghan refugees, but this hopeful destination has often proven to be a playground of disaster, hopelessness, and political interests under the banner of humanitarianism. Afghan refugees, fleeing war, poverty, political instability, and hardship, face difficult conditions at the gates of Europe (Safi & Czaika, 2025) [25]. After being accepted, refugees often fall victim to instability, lengthy legal processes, psychological pressures, cultural alienation, and social isolation (Akhtar, 2024) [2]. The asylum process for Afghan refugees, although related to human and international rights, is in practice a long, complicated, and unreliable process (Safi & Czaika, 2025) [25]. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), more than 120,000 Afghans applied for asylum in European countries in 2022 alone, but many are still awaiting a decision or have been rejected (Yar, 2025) [31]. Delays in the asylum process, poor translation, and lack of cultural understanding put Afghan refugees under severe psychological stress. According to research, this situation forces many Afghans to isolate

themselves from social and educational services, which ultimately leads to isolation, depression, and identity confusion (Modrzejewska-Leśniewska, 2020) [19]. Afghan refugees in many European countries face poor housing conditions. Overcrowded camps, limited access to health services, and poor food security are factors that pose a risk to their physical and mental health. In particular, migrants in Greece, Bulgaria, and Italy often live in informal camps, forests, or old buildings. This situation becomes even more dangerous in winter, where frostbite, illness, and even deaths have been recorded (Verelst *et al.* 2022) [29].

Although some countries, such as Germany and the Netherlands, provide employment opportunities for migrants, the majority of Afghan migrants remain deprived of legal employment due to the lack of work permits, lack of skills verification, and lack of knowledge of the language. As a result, many are either unemployed or work in abusive conditions in informal markets. This situation leads to exploitation, trafficking, and even human trafficking of migrants (Karimi Moughari, 2008; Badr *et al.*, 2023) [15, 8]. Another serious problem for Afghan refugees is that they are left behind in social participation due to their lack of conformity with the values of the host societies (Nicolle, 2022) [21]. Muslim Afghan refugees are particularly affected by Islamophobia, prejudice, and discrimination, which also creates an identity crisis for second-generation Afghans. Integration programs for asylum seekers by European communities are limited, and cultural gaps further hinder social cohesion (Wickramasinghe & Wimalaratana, 2016) [30].

According to a 2021 report by the European Union, approximately 40% of Afghans who applied for asylum were rejected, with many of them facing deportation (Zandi-Navgran *et al.* 2024) [34]. These displacements, which are controversial from legal, humanitarian, and security perspectives, have a direct impact on the lives of people who not only lose hope for the future, but are also subject to the threat of war, terrorism, or persecution (Kuschminder *et al.*, 2015) [16]. With legal channels blocked, many Afghans are drawn into networks of smugglers, which is not only dangerous but also often leads to economic exploitation, sexual abuse, and even death. The International Organization for Trafficking in Persons reports that Afghans are among the most vulnerable victims of exploitation across Europe's borders (Nicolle, 2022) [21]. The situation of Afghan refugees in Europe is caught between international humanitarian principles, European values, and political expediency (Badr *et al.*, 2023) [8]. Afghan refugees are victims of a tragedy that is visible to the international community, but solutions require political will. For a lasting solution, it is important that: The asylum process is made transparent, fair, and expedited; Housing, education, health, and employment opportunities are expanded; Social integration programs for host communities are expanded; The process of expelling refugees is assessed in accordance with international conventions; And the Afghan government must play an active diplomatic role with European countries to support and defend its citizens (Yawar, & Muhsini, 2024) [32].

The Impact of Migration on Afghan Society
Migration, although considered a means of survival, development and the beginning of a new life, has not only caused economic and social harm to Afghan society over the past few decades, but has also shaken the foundations of identity, nationalism and national cohesion (Yawar, & Muhsini, 2024) [32]. It is a phenomenon whose effects range from the individual level to social structure, from economic problems to political instability, and from cultural isolation to academic decline (Nicolle, 2022) [21]. The continuous process of migration in Afghanistan has damaged the legitimacy, accountability and national unity of governments. The young generation that should be part of the country's political participation, reform demands and civic activities is currently living in border camps, refugee settlements and unknown fates outside the country (Zandi-Navgran *et al.* 2024) [34]. This situation has not only led to a decline in the politically active generation, but has also become a means of pressure for foreign countries. European countries and regional powers are demanding political concessions from Afghan governments in exchange for controlling migration (Kuschminder *et al.*, 2015) [16].

Thus, migration is seen as a new threat to Afghanistan's political independence, as foreign powers use the migration crisis as a tool for political influence (Verelst *et al.* 2022) [29]. At the economic level, the greatest loss of migration is the loss of professional, technical, and educated people. This type of migration, known as brain drain, has led to a decline in Afghanistan's human capital, stagnation of innovation, and stunted economic growth. Every year, thousands of young people, doctors, engineers, teachers, and technologists migrate abroad, and this gap slows down the country's reconstruction and development process (Badr *et al.*, 2023) [8]. Although remittances sent by refugees contribute to the domestic economy, this contribution is temporary and does not replace the existing capacities at the national level (Zandi-Navgran *et al.* 2024) [34]. According to a 2021 World Bank report, approximately 4% of Afghanistan's gross domestic product is based on remittances from refugees, but this economic breathing cannot guarantee sustainable development (Badr *et al.*, 2023) [8].

Family structures have also been disrupted by refugees. When a family member migrates abroad, the emotional ties between the remaining members weaken (Zandi-Navgran *et al.* 2024) [34]. Often, children grow up separated from their fathers or elders, women live apart from their husbands for long periods of time, and this distance leads to social isolation (Nicolle, 2022) [21]. In addition, migrant families are often excluded from social responsibilities, which leads to a weakened civil society and a lack of social participation (Modrzejewska-Leśniewska, 2020) [19]. Migration, especially for the new generation, is a source of cultural and identity crises. Children who grow up with migrant families in Europe or other countries are close to losing their mother tongue, religious values, and national identity, on the one hand, and are also poorly integrated with the values of the host society, on the other (Badr *et al.*, 2023) [8]. This situation creates an identity crisis for second-generation Afghans, reducing their sense of belonging to the nation (Wickramasinghe & Wimalaratana, 2016) [30].

Generations that are disconnected from their homeland, culture, and language face a major challenge in building national unity (Royan, 2016) [24]. Migration, especially forced migration, causes mental illness, stress, and depression. Unstable journeys, atrocities by smugglers, harassment by border guards, lack of shelter, and a sense of hopelessness are all factors that seriously damage the mental health of migrants (Zandi-Navgran *et al.* 2024) [34]. The cold winter nights of Europe, the deaths of young migrant children, and

the tragedies of shipwrecks are all examples of the inhumane experiences that Afghan migrants have experienced (Yar, 2025) [31].

Another profound impact of migration is the obstacles to the realization of social justice (Qawam, 2012) [23]. In many cases, those who are victims of economic, educational, or political inequality are forced to migrate (Safi & Czaika, 2025) [25]. This situation not only deepens inequality, but also leads to the destruction of the power of society that could raise its voice for reform (Yar, 2025) [31]. Migration, although it is another door to life for some, has become a national crisis for Afghanistan. This crisis has political, economic, cultural, and psychological aspects, which, if not addressed in time, will further damage the foundations of the nation (Zandi-Navgran *et al.* 2024) [34].

Ways to Prevent Migration
Migration is a dual reality that, on the one hand, opens up avenues for escaping poverty, insecurity, educational limitations and poor living conditions, and on the other hand, destroys human potential, national unity and opportunities for the country's development (Mubarez, 2017) [20]. In order to achieve long-term development, political stability and social justice in Afghanistan, it is necessary to prevent the fundamental factors of migration (Meloni, 2021) [18]. These ways of prevention require not only administrative or legal action, but also a national determination, a general mindset of the community, and a strategy of regional and international cooperation (Yar, 2025) [31]. Security is not only the physical safety of life, but also the root of confidence in the future (Jafari, 2011) [14]. After the Taliban regime, although the war has subsided, the shadow of general security, human freedoms, and control over people's lives still creates an atmosphere of fear. Security must ensure the safety of people's lives, thoughts, beliefs, and work (Akhtar, 2024) [2]. For a lasting solution, attention must be paid to the concept of social, psychological, and economic security beyond military security (Mubarez, 2017) [20]. A transparent justice system, listening to people's opinions, and creating solutions to social problems are part of the fundamental pillars of security (Ghasemi-Tafreshi & Lafortune, 2023) [11]. A country that does not have a market for its young talents has no other option but to migrate (Amin, 2013) [4]. Afghanistan's economic structure is based on raw materials, natural resources, and agriculture; but these capacities have not yet been activated (Arinzi, 2011) [5]. Encouraging the private sector, providing an investment environment, promoting new technologies, and employment programs can pave the way for the young generation to stay (Meloni, 2021) [18].

According to the World Bank's 2024 report, nearly 60% of Afghanistan's population is under the age of 25, making it one of the youngest nations in the world. If these capacities are not managed, the unemployment storm will lead to migration and conflict (Yar, 2025) [31]. Education is not only a vaccine against poverty, but also a force against migration. A nation that provides its youth with advanced, modern, and competitive educational services will not be forced to migrate under the pretext of studying abroad (Safi & Czaika, 2025) [25]. Expanding educational institutions, establishing vocational training centers, removing barriers to education for women and girls, and harmonizing the curriculum with international standards are strategies that can prevent academic flight (Wickramasinghe & Wimalaratana, 2016) [30]. The proliferation of human trafficking in Afghanistan is

a direct result of injustice, legal vacuums, and poverty. Thousands of young people are lured by the false promises of traffickers, spend money, make dangerous journeys, and ultimately die or are imprisoned (Yar, 2025) [31].

To prevent these networks, the following measures should be taken: Public awareness campaigns; Capacity building of border security forces; joint cooperation with international organizations; Anti-poverty development programs; Victim recovery and reintegration strategy (Yar, 2025) [31]. Migration largely stems from a breakdown in trust. People are willing to migrate when they are disappointed with the state, face corrupt political structures, discriminatory systems, and injustice (Meloni, 2021) [18]. Therefore, to rebuild trust, the government must: Have a transparent administration; Listen to the voice of the people; Ensure social justice; Seriously combat corruption; Revive a sense of participation, identity, and justice (Ghasemi-Tafreshi & Lafortune, 2023) [11]. Afghanistan cannot solve its migration crisis through domestic measures alone. Regional cooperation (with Iran, Pakistan, and Central Asia), support from European countries, and coordination with international organizations are essential. Cooperation between IOM, UNHCR, and the European Union must be kept within the framework of sustainable development, not just emergency assistance (Badr *et al.*, 2023) [8]. Preventing migration is not just a ban, but a transformation—in mentality, politics, economics, and society (Yar, 2025) [31]. The Afghan government, civil society, religious scholars, the media, and international partners all have a responsibility to bring about this transformation (Ghasemi-Tafreshi & Lafortune, 2023) [11]. If these factors are effectively organized and implemented, Afghanistan will transform from a country of flight to a country of stay and growth.

Materials and Methods
The aim of this study is to investigate the factors that drive Afghan youth migration to Europe and to analyze the social, political, and economic impacts of this process. For this purpose, the study is based on the following methodology: This study is library-based and descriptive-analytical in nature. The study is based on secondary data and attempts have been made to analyze existing documents, articles, books, and international reports related to migration. In this study, data was collected from libraries, academic journals, reports of international organizations (such as IOM, UNHCR, and human rights organizations), and reliable sources on the Internet. Data collection is based on secondary data, therefore, no fieldwork or primary surveys were conducted. Since this study is a bibliographic study, statistical sampling was not used. However, an attempt has been made to use information and evidence from different countries and regions for a sample assessment to present a general picture of youth migration. The analysis of the collected data was based on qualitative analysis. The researchers made a comparative assessment of various sources and analyzed the factors, effects, and consequences of migration in the light of a theoretical framework. According to the Push-Pull theory, all factors have been categorized and arranged to present a clear picture. Finally, for the validity of the study, an attempt has been made to avoid bias, personal tendencies, and bias, and to adhere to all accepted scientific principles.

Results
The findings of this study show that the reasons for Afghan

youth migration to Europe are multifaceted and complex, with security, economic, social, and educational problems being the main factors. Data analysis shows that insecurity, unemployment, poverty, limited educational opportunities, hope for a better life, and family pressures are the fundamental factors that force young people to decide to migrate. In this study, all factors are classified in the light of the Push-Pull theory. Push factors (such as war, poverty, government weakness) push people out of the country, and Pull factors (such as job opportunities, a better life, and ease of asylum) attract people to Europe. The interpretation of the data shows that for many young people, migration to Europe is not just an economic decision, but also an emergency strategy that involves the hope of survival, development, and a stable future. Furthermore, the data analysis also shows that this youth migration, on the one hand, leads to economic assistance, skill transfer, and expansion of international relations, but on the other hand, it causes a loss of human capital, social instability, and economic weakness for the country. These findings are consistent with the main research questions, and show that migration is not only an individual life decision, but also a national crisis. The study concludes that if the underlying factors of migration are not controlled, the political and social stability of the country will face serious threats.

Discussion
The results of this study show that the most fundamental factors driving Afghan youth migration to Europe are insecurity, unemployment, economic hardship, limited educational opportunities, hope for a better future, and family pressures. These findings are analyzed according to the Push-Pull theory, which, on the one hand, pushes people out of Afghanistan, and on the other hand, attracts them to Europe. The results of this study are in many respects consistent with existing international literature and studies. For example, Düvell (2012) [10]. studies show that young people from Middle Eastern and Asian countries, especially Afghans, migrate to Europe due to war, poverty, and political instability. Also, according to Modrzejewska-Leśniewska (2020) [19], Iran, Turkey, and Europe are the main destination countries for Afghan migrants, but human rights violations and precarious living conditions force them to move further afield in search of better opportunities. On the other hand, the uniqueness of this study is that it focuses on Afghan youth, while most existing studies assess refugees in general, rather than being specific to a specific age or nationality. Therefore, this study fills a gap in the existing literature and analyzes the experiences of a specific social group – Afghan youth. A major limitation of this study is that it is a literature review and lacks field research (such as interviews or surveys). Therefore, it cannot gain a deep understanding of the individual experiences and emotional aspects of migration. In addition, the limitations of existing statistical data and the dissemination of incomplete information by governments can also undermine the credibility of the data. However, the implementation of the study is valuable in providing an analytical framework for the Afghan government, civil society, and policymakers to take practical steps to prevent and manage migration. Providing employment opportunities for youth, ensuring security, and expanding educational opportunities are areas that require practical application of the findings of this study.

Conclusion
This study reveals that the main reasons for Afghan youth migration to Europe are insecurity, economic hardship, unemployment, limited educional opportunities, hope for a better future, and family pressures. Although these migrations have some positive aspects, such as financial transfers and skills development, their negative consequences – such as loss of human capital, social instability, and economic vulnerability of households – are considered serious threats to national stability. The findings of this study have deep connections with the academic framework of political science, sociology, and public policy. This study can help policymakers develop national policies and effective solutions based on the causes of migration. In addition, this study provides an important basis for analyzing social change. Future researchers are encouraged to explore the individual experiences, emotions, and psychological effects of migration through field research. Furthermore, the specific aspects of migration of women and the unskilled, the problems of reintegration of refugees, and the attitudes of host communities should be analyzed in depth in future research. Such scholarly work will form an important foundation for a deeper understanding of migration, effective management, and national development.

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