

## Economic Adaptation of Refugees in Algeria: A Comparative Study of Syrian and Malian Emigrants<sup>1</sup>

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### Abstract

This study aims to compare the economic adaptations of Malian and Syrian emigrants living outside of government shelters in Algeria, and its association with their personal and occupational characteristics. Data were collected using Semi-directed interviews with 127 emigrants living in urban areas for a period of nine months (from April to December 2016). In addition, the analysis is based on the Montgomery model, which includes monthly income, best monthly pay, average hours of work per month, average monthly work per year and the number of appliances they own at home. The results show that emigrants from Syria have higher net wages and incomes, work longer days, and hold more appliances than Malian emigrants. Meanwhile, the number of working months is similar for both. Moreover, the findings indicate that Syrian men are more preferred than Malians at work. In addition, findings reveal that there is no significant difference between genders to obtain a job. According to evidences, Syrian emigrants with low education and self-employment are expected to face difficult economic adaptation. The results should help policy makers to make suitable decisions that push to raise the emigrants' economic adaptation levels in Algeria.

**Keywords:** Syrian emigrants; Malian emigrants; economic adaptation.

### التكيف الاقتصادي للاجئين في الجزائر: دراسة مقارنة للمهاجرين السوريين والماليين

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### ملخص

يهدف هذا البحث إلى إجراء مقارنة بين التكيف الاقتصادي للمهاجرين الماليين والسوريين الذين يعيشون خارج الملاجئ في الجزائر، وعلاقتها بخصائصهم الشخصية والوظيفية. تم جمع المعلومات باستخدام مقابلة نصف موجهة مع 127 مهاجراً يعيشون في مناطق حضرية لمدة تسعة أشهر) من شهر نيسان إلى شهر كانون أول 2016). كما تم تطبيق البحث بالاعتماد على نموذج مونتغومري والذي يضم عناصر العائد الشهري، أفضل عائد شهري، متوسط عدد ساعات العمل في الشهر، متوسط عدد الأشهر في السنة، وعدد أدوات الترفيه التي يحوزها المهاجرون. بينت النتائج حصول المهاجرين السوريين على أجرة صافية وعوائد أكبر، أنهم يعملون عدد أيام أكبر، ويملكون عدد وسائل ترفيه أكبر بالمقارنة مع نظرائهم الماليين. بالمقابل، تم تسجيل وجود تقارب في عدد الأشهر التي يشتغلونها في السنة لدى كل من المهاجرين السوريين والماليين. بالإضافة إلى ذلك، بينت النتائج بأن المهاجرين السوريين الرجال أكثر تفضيلاً في العمل مقارنة بالماليين. بالإضافة إلى ذلك، تم تسجيل عدم وجود فروق دالة في الحصول على العمل لدى الجنسين. في نفس الاتجاه من النتائج، أوضحت البيانات بأن المهاجرين السوريين الذين يحوزون على مستوى تعليمي أدنى ويعملون كعمال يتكيفون بصعوبة. من شأن هذه النتائج أن تساعد واضعي السياسات من اتخاذ القرارات المناسبة التي تدفع إلى الرفع من مستوى التكيف الاقتصادي للمهاجرين في الجزائر.

الكلمات الدالة: المهاجرون السوريون، المهاجرون الماليون، التكيف الاقتصادي

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## **Introduction**

A significant number of Malian (UNHCR, 2013) and Syrian emigrants arrived in Algeria (UNHCR, 2016) since March 2011 till 2012, respectively, as a result of the rising armed conflict in their home countries. By the end of 2016, 4.8 million Syrians had left their country for Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey, as well as for Europe, North Africa, North America and Australia, as a consequence of the difficult security, economic and social conditions resulting from the military conflict in Syria (IOM, 2016). Furthermore, by the end of 2015, the number of Syrians looking to immigrate to Algeria had increased, and a significant number of Malians were still living in Algeria's southern provinces (UNHCR, 2015).

Emigration challenges have confronted the Algerian authorities with many unprecedented and complex problems. The authorities have had to deal with it in respect to the countries' mutual historical relationships and in agreement with the approved international conventions and protocols on displacement and emigrants. Meanwhile, the Algerian law does not acknowledge the refugees' status, which could protect their rights and guide the authorities' interventions (UNHCR, 2015).

As a consequence of the new influx of Syrian and Malian families to Algeria, the Algerian government continues to consider the new arrivals as emigrants living in exceptional conditions. In addition, the Algerian government has adopted a crisis management approach based on the quick response to the urgent needs of the emigrants in order to cope with the new economic and social conditions. With an open-door policy and a reorganisation of Syrian and Malian travel to Algeria, the government has introduced visas for Syrians to access the country (Benhbilass, 2015). Meanwhile, the right to the free visa extension, collective shelters, education in public schools until the medium level, and free access to the public health care establishments for all emigrants in Algeria is still guaranteed.

Nevertheless, employment is still an illegal action for Syrian and Malian emigrants (UNHCR, 2015), and the law bans both employers and employees from any type of access to the labour market. Meanwhile, these special conditions pushed an important number of Syrian and Malian emigrants to access the informal labour market and work on daily, occasional and seasonal jobs to provide for their families' needs. These new conditions incentivise emigrants to cooperate with Algerians in order to create new business cooperation and to work long hours without a work contract, which could protect their moral and professional rights and help them to achieve better professional adaptations.

Furthermore, some Malians have preferred to stay with the local population (UNHCR, 2015), while the majority of Syrians have preferred to stay outside of government shelters since their arrival in 2011. Therefore, many emigrants were responsible to pay for rent, goods, transport and medicine costs, which put them in unprecedented conditions, further affecting their professional adaptation levels.

Adaptation is defined by Montgomery as a person's ability to cope efficiently with changes, through acceptance and appropriate reactions (So-Hee Lim, Sang-Sook Han, 2016). According to this perspective, Malian and Syrian emigrants' professional adaptation in Algeria mean that the emigrants' consequences of the continuous interaction with the labour market and life conditions occurred from different levels of assimilation with their new conditions.

## **Objectives of the study:**

Little research efforts have been allocated for the new Syrian and Malian emigration phenomena in Algeria. This study aims to compare the Malian and Syrian emigrants' adaptations with a Montgomery model based on their net income per month, best monthly pay, average hourly work per month, average monthly work per year and the number of appliances they possess at home as the professional adaptation variables (Montgomery, 1996).

## **Questions to address:**

The current study examines the phenomena of forced migration in Algeria. This problem has been increasingly addressed by both government and society, especially with the growing flux emigrants. A new situation that push to shed the light on the emigrant's economic adaptation aspect and explain how they cope with their new life conditions. Therefore, this study deals with similarities and differences in the economic adaptation of Syrian and Malian emigrants in Algeria, and seeks to answer on the questions below:

1. What is the level of Syrian and Malian economic adaptation in Algeria?
2. Are there significant differences in the degree of economic adaptation of Syrian and Malian immigrants in Algeria due to their social characteristics?

### **Significance of the Study:**

The importance of this study is to address a recent topic in the lives of migrants in developing countries, the economic adaptation of Syrian and Malian emigrants in Algeria. It considers that a high level of monthly income, the best monthly pay, average hourly work, average monthly work, and the number of appliances that emigrants hold should lead to a higher level of economic adaptation. In addition, it gives researchers and decision-makers a practical view of personal and professional characteristics that can lead to a high degree of economic adaptation. This study will, however, enrich the body of knowledge in the field of migration.

### **Emigrants Status in Algeria:**

Marking the largest emigrant influx since during the Second World War, four million Syrians have escaped to neighbouring countries (Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey) since March 2011. Moreover, more than 140,000 Malian refugees have been smuggled into Niger, Mauritania and Burkina Faso, according to recent statistics of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR, 2016).

Algeria received emigrants from both countries and takes responsibility to protect the emigrants from dangerous conditions in their home countries. For that, many decisions have been made to deal with this new situation. These are a set of similarities and differences about the Syrian and Malian economic conditions, competencies and aspirations have been observed. These conditions put the Algerian authorities in a more flexible situation to develop appropriate adaptation politics and interventions. The sections below present the different economic, social, educational, and legal arrangements adopted by neighbouring countries and Algeria to cope with the Syrian and Malian emigrants' influx phenomena.

### **1-Entry:**

Since the beginning of the conflict in early 2011, the Algerian government has received many Syrians with valid tourism visas of 90 days and has continued to guarantee their legal statuses with a two-month renewable residency certificate. This situation permits the emigrants to stay in legal statute and benefit from the government's health, education and accommodation arrangements. In addition, Syrian emigrants registered in the United Nations bureau can benefit from a renewable six-month residence certificate, which give the right to access different government services.

### **2-Housing**

In Algeria, the government provided shelter for all vulnerable refugees (UNHCR, 2013). The Majority of Malian and Syrian emigrants were living in urban places (UNHCR, 2015). With difficulties to pay rent, the majority of Syrians are living in modest homes in Jordanian towns and villages (Ababsa, 2015). In Lebanon, 55% of Syrian refugees were living mainly in substandard accommodations (Ostand, 2015) (21), whereas 75% of Syrians in Turkey were living in houses and flats, and 25% were living in temporary shelters or in informal arrangements (World Bank group, 2015).

### **3-Education**

Both Malian and Syrian emigrants benefit from different measures for their children's education in the receiving countries. Approximately 44% of Syrian students were registered at schools in neighbouring countries in the early of 2014 (Culbertson and Constant, 2015) (24) For example, Jordan provided equal access to school for all Syrian children in 'second shifts' classes (Bidinger et al, 2014), but the poorness of refugees since 2015 has decreased the children's education by half (Ababsa, 2015). Additionally, Lebanon guaranteed a free access to public schools (Bidinger et al, 2014) (27). However, only 25% of Syrian children had registered in 2014 (Culbertson and Constant, 2015). Furthermore, Turkey adopted a wider approach by providing teaching in public schools, teaching Syrian education programs, and providing learning inside temporary centres (World Bank Group, 2015) (29). Nonetheless, many students left schools because of language difficulties

(Bidingier et al, 2014).

The Algerian authorities continue to guarantee free education at the primary and medium levels for all Syrian children (UNHCR, 2015). Moreover, Malian children can profit from the free Algerian education, and a collaboration with Malian authorities is installed to determine their educational level. Therefore, local authorities are charged with providing free school bags, official books, programs, and suitable places to all Syrian and Malian children living in Algeria.

#### **4-Healthcare**

Different healthcare policies and measures have been adopted in neighbouring countries. Although Syrians living in Jordan profit from free access to public health services (Shannon et al, 2016), since 2015 they must pay for most medical interventions as uninsured Jordanians citizens (Elkhatib et al, 2013). Moreover, Syrian patients in Lebanon had access to both public and private healthcare facilities (Ammar et al, 2016), but it was a complex environment characterised by weak rules and private health providers (Parkinson and Behrouzan, 2015).

In Turkey, Syrians living inside and outside camps have free access to primary and secondary healthcare services. In addition, public hospitals provide free of charge services for registered refugees (Ekmekci, 2016). In Algeria, healthcare authorities continue to allow Syrian and Malian emigrants to access the public health establishments for free (UNHCR, 2015) , as is guaranteed in Algerian law (Irrirla, 2013), with the exception of access to medical analysis, chirurgurgical intervention services, and all interventions that require a social security agreement.

#### **5- Employment**

Malians and Syrians faced many barriers when searching for a job in the neighbouring countries. In Jordan, the government rarely issued work permits for Syrian refugees. Similarly, Syrian refugees in Lebanon must obtain a work permit to access the labour market. In practice, however, the law was not respected (Bidingier et al, 2014). In Turkey, only Syrians who have a residence permit can demand a work permit and benefit from a job in the official labour market (World Bank group, 2015). However, in Algeria, immigrants do not have the right to access the labour market (UNHCR, 2015).

#### **Economic Adaptation Strategies for Syrian and Malian Emigrants in Algeria:**

The majority of Malians in neighbouring countries live in camps and settlements managed by United Nations agencies (IOM, 2013), where the emigrants benefit from free shelter, food, water and sanitation, health, nutrition and non-food items (European commission, 2016). Meanwhile, 80% of official Syrians live outside of governmental shelters (Ostand, 2015).

##### **1-Entry:**

These arrangements permit the Algerian government to assess the situation of official Syrian families in every region and to control their movements. In the case of the Malian emigrants, special bureau points have been installed across the Algeria-Malia border and in the large southern provinces to assess the volume of emigrants and gather their personal information, which permits the Algerian authorities to provide suitable accommodations and conditions inside camps and organise their movements.

##### **2-Housing:**

Living with their small families was the most preferred situation for the majority of Syrian refugee families in Algeria, which permits them to preserve their social relationships. Literature show that almost Syrian emigrants preferred to live outside the government shelters and rent individual apartments or common houses in urban areas to have a better residence and escape the movement control. In addition, an important number of Malians stayed inside the government camps, while part of them rent common garages, which permits them have more freedom of movement. Therefore, difficulties in paying rent have been recorded, which in line with the rising rent charges since 2015. These difficulties have pushed Syrian emigrants to change their residences several times and search for cheaper accommodation in the countryside. In contrast, an important number of Malian emigrants decided to live in common garages or homes in the countryside and accept to take a common responsibility for the rental cost. This situation permits them to settle in these accommodations.

##### **3-Healthcare:**

The health care arrangement adopted by the public health institutions pushed both Syrian and Malian emigrants to demand the private clinics services, which put other charges on their economic situation.

#### **4- Employment:**

Because of the lack of refugee laws, emigrants in Algeria do not have the right to access the Algerian labour market without official permission. As a consequence, the majority of Syrian and Malian emigrants accept work informally without official contracts to protect their rights. Because emigrants live under the pressure of finding a job to cope with their families' demands and there is a lack of legislation that could protect their rights, the informal sector was the most attractive for emigrants. As a result, working independently under an Algerian or Syrian manager for long hours, without a social security agreement, and with different salaries constituted a bulk of work conditions for Syrian emigrants in Algeria. In addition, several work conflicts about salary, fixed work hours, a clear indemnity system for additional, and occasional work and protection from the managers' abuse have been recorded.

#### **Method:**

##### **1- Participants:**

We collected data from Malian and Syrian emigrants working informally as blue-collar workers with Syrians and Algerians managers based on an oral convention in trade, textile, and construction sectors. The samples were randomly selected from emigrants living and working in three different regions of Algeria (Algiers [the capital] and Jijel in the north of the country for the Syrian sample, and Tamenrasset in the south for the Malian sample). Semi-directed interviews have been used to collect data using five semi-open questions about the emigrant's monthly income, best monthly pay, average hours of work, average monthly work, and the number of appliances they hold. The instrument of the study is translated from English into Arabic and French languages and conducted with the selected emigrants for a period of nine months (from April to December 2016). In addition, a randomly selected samples using the snowball method have led us to choose 127 male and female emigrants (we saved 82.46 %), and interviews were directly conducted with the two samples.

##### **1-1- Malian sample:**

55 samples from the Malian emigrants were collected, they are living in Tamenrasset province (south of Algeria), including six females (10.9%) and 49 males (89.1%) between 12 and 52 years (with 78.1% of them under 25 years old). Their years of education varied from 1 to 11 years (with 9.1% of them having more than five years of education).

##### **1-2- Syrian sample:**

Data of the second sample were collected in Jijel and Algiers provinces (north of Algeria) among 72 Syrian emigrants. The majority of interviewees were male (72.2%) and 20 were female (27.8%). Their ages ranged between 19 and 57 years old (with 2.80 % of them under 25 years old), and different educational levels, from one to 16 years (with 88.8% having more than five years of education).

#### **2- Measures:**

We recorded emigrants' sex, age, education level, language, and the type of work in the first part of the research using a constructed scale, as shown in Table 1. In addition, we determined the five economic adaptation elements in line with a Montgomery cluster in the second part of the questionnaire (Montgomery, 1996) (42), and the respondents were asked to answer the questions according to the model, as shown in Table 2. Moreover, the economic adaptation cluster was measured and classified according to the formal work conditions in Algeria (40 working hours per week, 11 working months per year). Finally, we ran correlations between the economic adaptation elements and the two samples of personal and professional characteristics to identify both similarities and differences between the samples, which lead to a comparison between their economic adaptation levels.

#### **Limitations:**

The study faces many challenges as a matter of generalization. Further research should also be carried out to better understand the processes of migration in Algeria and shed light on other economic adaptation elements such as working conditions, additional work, and insurance.

## Results and Discussion:

In sections below, the empirical part of this research is presented. Firstly, we show the participants' statistics that describe and compare their personal and professional characteristics, including sex, age, education, language and type of work, using means and t-tests findings. Then, we focus on the comparison between the economic adaptation of the Syrian and Malian participant emigrants in this research on the basis of salary, income, working hours, working months and appliance numbers using means and t-test results. Finally, we compare the emigrant characteristic correlations with the economic adaptation of emigrants, which permits us to test the influence of aptitudes and competences on their ability to cope with the economic conditions in Algeria using a person test.

### Samples Characteristics:

A survey analysis with Syria and Mali as independent variables leads us to conclude a significant difference into all samples' characteristics. The results revealed that the differences existed among the emigrants' education ( $t = 9.59, p = .000$ ), language ( $t = -20.98, p = .000$ ), age ( $t = 11.81, p = .000$ ), type of work ( $t = -17.15, p = .000$ ) and sex ( $t = 2.48, p = .014$ ). Additional comparison revealed that the Syrian emigrants in our study appeared to have higher levels of education (an average of eight years of schooling for Syrians and four years of school for Malians) as well as a higher average age in comparison to the Malians. Furthermore, all Malians have a French language background acquired in public school and work as dependents. On the contrary, the majority of Syrians received their education in Arabic language and run their own business independently or in collaboration with Algerians. Finally, due to incomplete interviews, female sizes in the two samples have been reduced in favour of the Syrian emigrants.

**Table 1: Mean, standard deviation, t-tests significant of the sample's characteristics**

| Variables         | 1.Syria Mean | (SD) | 2. Mali Mean | (SD) | t- test sig |
|-------------------|--------------|------|--------------|------|-------------|
| Sex*              | 01,27        | 0,45 | 01,10        | 0,31 | $p < .05$   |
| Age**             | 04,50        | 1,60 | 02,07        | 0,60 | $p < .01$   |
| Education***      | 08,18        | 4,15 | 02,03        | 2,44 | $p < .01$   |
| Language****      | 01,13        | 0,34 | 02,00        | 0,00 | $p < .01$   |
| Type of work***** | 01,27        | 0,45 | 02,00        | 0,31 | $p < .01$   |

\*Sex (nominal scale): male= 1, female = 2, \*\*Age (nominal scale): number 1 for every year.

\*\*\*Education (nominal scale): number 1 for every year, \*\*\*\*Language (nominal scale):

Arabic =1, French = 2, \*\*\*\*\*Type of work (nominal scale): independent work = 1,

dependent work = 2

Source: (The Authors).

### Economic Adaptation across Countries:

Table (2) shows the results of the economic adaptation using home country as an independent variable. The best monthly pay and incomes per month of Syrians were higher than those of their counterparts ( $t = 18.93, p = .000$ ). While Syrians earn between 300 and 780 US dollars per month, Malian emigrants' monthly incomes range from 130 to 420 US dollars. Furthermore, Syrians work longer days, usually for eight hours per day ( $t = 14.12, p = .000$ ), then do their Malian counterparts. Moreover, the number of owned appliances for Syrians was higher than that of their counterparts ( $t = 8.23, p = .000$ ). Many Syrians have private TVs and a number of games for their children, compared to a few common games for all the Malian emigrants living in common garages, homes or at work (i.e., separate from their families). Meanwhile, the number of working months was similar for both ( $t = -.751, p = .482$ ), because of the living costs and the emigrants' intentions to have a higher income to improve their families' conditions.

**Table 2: Mean, Standard deviation, t-tests significant of economic adaptation elements.**

| Variables                 | 1.Syria M (SD) | 2. Mali M (SD) | t- test sig |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| Net income per month      | 03,56 0,81     | 01,45 0,89     | p < .01     |
| Best monthly pay          | 06,08 2,43     | 01,81 1,27     | p < .01     |
| Average hourly work month | 03,79 0,96     | 02,07 0,32     | p < .01     |
| Average monthly work year | 04,93 0,30     | 04,96 0,18     | Ns          |
| Number of appliances      | 01,48 0,60     | 00,70 0,45     | p < .01     |

Source: (The Authors)

**Association of Economic Adaptation with Sample Characteristics:**

Table (3) shows the correlation between the economic adaptation and Syrian and Malian emigrants' characteristics. The most remarkable scores are those related to sex, age, educational level, and type of work.

**Table 3: Correlation between the economic adaptation elements and the sample's characteristics**

| Cluster      | Economic adaptation |         |
|--------------|---------------------|---------|
|              | Syria               | Mali    |
| Sex          | -.322**             | -.140   |
| Age          | .152                | .066    |
| Education    | .465**              | -.342** |
| Language     | -.104               | .150    |
| Type of work | -.366**             | -.68    |

\*\* p &lt; .01, \* p &lt; .05. Source: (The Authors)

The economic adaptation elements in the Syrian sample were negatively associated with the sex and type of work variables. In addition, the activities income is more likely related to males rather than females, to independent rather than dependent employees, and particularly to years of education, which facilitate finding and maintaining a better job. On the other hand, for the Malian sample, none of the economic adaptation elements were significantly correlated with the emigrants' personal and professional characteristics, except for the years of education variable, which revealed a negative correlation. This means that Malian emigrants without previous education or have only a year or two of formal education found more difficulties when trying to adapt in comparison to their counterparts with more than five years of education.

**1- Sex:**

A review of Portes and Stepik's study showed that gender difference is an essential predictor for Cuban and Haitian refugees' employment in the USA (Portes and Stepik, 1985). Along the same lines, Montgomery revealed that Vietnamese male emigrants in Alberta are more economically adapted than females (Montgomery, 1996). In addition, Hartag and Zorlu suggested that the income of immigrant men in the Netherlands is approximately twice as much as that of female counterparts (Hartag and Zorlu, 2007). These results are in congruence with our findings about the economic adaptation of Syrian male and female emigrants in Algeria, which showed that there is a significant negative correlation between sex, monthly income, job status and working hours ( $t = -.332$ ,  $p < .01$ ).

This means that Syrian males are more favoured at work, because they possess greater abilities and technical experience than do Syrian females. In addition, males can work for longer hours, contribute to more profit and can earn a greater income than can females. Meanwhile, females work independently, inside their homes, or as dressmakers or confectioners for a limited time. This type of work permits Syrian female emigrants to balance their work with their domestic responsibilities. In contrast, the results of both male and female Malian economic adaptation demonstrate that there is no significant difference between the two genders, which means that both of them have the same opportunity to obtain manual work with similar incomes and work conditions.

## **2- Age:**

No significant correlation has been registered between emigrants' age and their economic adaptation elements for both Malian ( $t = .066$ ,  $p < .01$ ) and Syrian emigrants ( $t = .152$ ,  $p < .01$ ) in Algeria. This means that emigrants' monthly incomes and work time are not impacted by age and factor. In addition, this result shows that working informally in Algeria is open for both males and females. Along the same lines, the findings demonstrate that finding and maintaining a job on the basis of an oral agreement with the community mainly depends on the emigrants' ability to fulfil the work tasks and provide the required performance. These findings are supported by Hartag and Zohlu's study, which demonstrated that there were no important influences of refugees' age on their economic adaptation in the Netherlands (Hartag and Zohlu, 2007). However, these results are in contradiction with Kibria's findings, which revealed that household refugees' age are an influencing variable in their economic adaptation (Yamanaka, 1994).

## **3- Education:**

The economic adaptation results revealed a strong positive relationship with Syrian emigrants' level of education ( $t = .465$ ,  $p < .01$ ). Syrians with eight or more years of education have more opportunities for obtaining a better occupational status and earning higher incomes in comparison to their counterparts with primary school certificates or without any previous education. According to these findings, Syrian refugees who received professional education and training are more likely to find a job and earn higher salaries in comparison to those who only attended primary school.

In line with these results, Richmond (Richmond, 1974) and Woloski (Woloski, 1985) found education to be a predictor of the economic adaptation of refugees in Canada. In addition, Tripodi concluded that the economic status is strongly influenced by education in the USA (Tripodi, 2001). Finally, Tripodi showed that education had a strong influence on the economic adaptation in United States of America (Tripodi, 2003). There is no significant correlation for the Malian emigrants in Algeria ( $t = -.342$ ,  $p < .01$ ), because the majority of them joined schools for only two or three years and received any professional training on their career.

## **4- Language:**

Mastering the Arabic language with an Algerian accent is not significantly correlated with the emigrants' economic adaptation. As a consequence, language is not a predictor of Syrian ( $t = -.104$ ,  $p < .05$ ) and Malian ( $t = .150$ ,  $p < .05$ ) emigrants' economic adaptation in Algeria. This revealed that finding and maintaining manual work have no relation with the Arabic and French-language backgrounds for both Syrians and Malians. According to these findings, communication with the local community to make conventions about work and realise a set of missions does not require a high level of Arabic language, especially considering that the majority of emigrants worked with Syrians.

These results are in accordance with Takeda's findings, which showed that Japanese language proficiency was not a significant influencing factor on the economic adaptation of Iraqi refugees in Japan (Takeda, 2000). Moreover, Morton and Hou demonstrated that finding a job in Canada during the first years of refuge was not related to English-language speaking ability (Morton and Hou, 2001). Similarly, Hartog and Zorlu reported that speaking fluent German was not a vital factor for refugees' employment in Germany (Hartog and Zorlu, 2007).

## **5- Type of work:**

A significant negative correlation between working independently and the economic adaptation of Syrian emigrants in Algeria ( $t = -.366$ ,  $p < .01$ ). This means that working as a boss or a worker in the trade or textile sectors, whether independently or in collaboration with Algerians, put them in difficult conditions as a lack of social security, a loss of salary and budget because of working informally or on the basis of the Algerians work permit according to the majority of emigrant's opinions. And making some obstacles to get job opportunities, especially with the austerity measures recently adopted by the government to cope with the oil prices crisis.

These results agree with findings that revealed that professional Iraqi refugees in Japan faced longer periods of unemployment (Al-rasheed, 1992). However, there is no significant correlation between working as a daily worker and the economic adaptation of Malian emigrants in Algeria ( $t = -.068$ ,  $p < .05$ ), because the majority of them work within the same work conditions (manual type of work, daily working hours, daily incomes, no social security, a lack of work contract) and live in common houses and garages to save money for their families living in Mali, according to their responses.



### Conclusion:

Since the beginning of the armed violence in 2011 and 2012, an important number of Syrians and Malians have escaped their countries looking for a better life condition. Therefore, a new economic and social conditions have been confronted in order to adapt. This study deals with the comparison between the economic adaptation level of Malian and Syrian emigrants living in Algeria since March 2011 and its association with their personal and occupational characteristics. The study reached several results, the most prominent of which are:

1. The overall economic adaptation of Syrian and Malian migrants in Algeria is substantially different. This means that Syrians have greater chances to enter and benefit from the labour market compared with Malians. The economic and social condition of Malians therefore need to be improved to be properly adapted.

2. There are significant differences between Syrian and Malian migrants as a result of variation in the economic adaptation elements named: income, best salary, number of working hours per month, and the number of appliances at home in the favour of Syrians. These results mean that Syrian refugees in Algeria work under better working conditions and earn higher incomes compared to what Malian emigrants earn. Therefore, the study recommends that the Malian working conditions (salaries, working hours) should be strengthened to increase their degree of economic adaptation.

3. The number of yearly working months findings show that both Malians and Syrians work between 11 and 12 months to cope with their new living conditions.

4. There has been a significant correlation between sex, level of education, type of work and economic adaptation for Syrian migrants. These findings show male emigrants with a higher education and self-employment have greater opportunities to get a better and secure job. It also proves that men are better adapted economically compared with women with poor education employed as blue-colour workers. These findings indicate that the status of a female at work should be consolidated and conditions should help to develop her own enterprise.

5. The Syrian emigrants' age and Arabic language background were not predictable variables for their economic adaptation level. That means language does not impede the rise in the unemployment rate of the Syrians and Malians who emigrate to Algeria.

6. The level of variable education results show that higher education emigrants have greater opportunities to get a better and secure job. This result shows the importance of migrant skills in terms of access to the labour market. Furthermore, it shows that the skills needed can help to increase a stable job for the emigrant. This finding recommends preparation for emigrants from Syria and Mali who are struggling to find a job. There is no significant relationship between the personal and professional characteristics of Malian emigrants and their economic adaptation elements.

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