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Impacts of Immigration on New York City Growth

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Impacts of Immigration on New York City Growth

The growth of cities is attributed to significant factors such as an increase in population that will provide the required workforce and economic upsurge. Hence, the population increase in New York City was associated with both pull and push factors. Considering that New York City started welcoming immigrants long before the days of Ellis Island, it has achieved a lot from the diversity of its culture to the growth of businesses due to the emergence of entrepreneurs and increased tax collection. Immigration is the process where individuals become permanent residents of another city or country. The United States has benefited immensely from immigration, including economic, cultural, and social. Despite all the benefits, the city is also faced with adverse effects due to immigration, such as overcrowding and increased cost of amenity services. Immigration has more benefits to New York City's development because it increased the population base, provided labor force, and yielded revenue for the city through tax. This paper will focus on data and ¹analysis of the impacts of immigration on New York City Growth.

Data and Analysis

New York City is regarded as the most outstanding cultural center, brought about by diverse artists brought about by immigrants. Immigrants account for almost a quarter of the city's population. In contrast, nearly one-fifth of the individuals are United States native-born with a minimum of one parent who is an immigrant (American Immigration Council, n.d). The same source added that in 2018, the immigrants accounted for 4.4 million of the population in New York City, which resulted in twenty-three percent of the total population. The immigrant population was distributed with two million men, 2.3 million women population, and approximately two hundred and six thousand children (American Immigration Council, n.d).

According to Pfeffer & Stycos (2002), argued that New York City suffered extensive population decline in the 1970s; however, immigration resulted in increased population by 1980 (92). Similarly, population variation results from two rudimental demographic mechanisms; migration and natural intensification. Therefore, natural augmentation is brought by the stability between the individuals who perish and those born; at the same time, migration is the steady number of individuals leaving the city and those entering. Therefore, immigration has a crucial role in the growth of the town because it increases the population.

The components of population variation between 2000 and 2004 led to the development of New York City. Although the number of individuals leaving the city was still higher than those entering the city, immigration played a vital role in sustaining the population base of the city (McPhearson et al. 2014, 509). Many large cities emerged in the 1950s; however, they declined later due to economic situations that led to a high rate of job losses, resulting in significant migration of people leaving the cities. Although New York City was among the cities that faced population decline, it was sustained by the pull factors which made people move in and attained its peak in the year 2003. Currently, New York City comprises immigrants coming from one hundred and forty-eight different countries, with the majority being the Dominican Republic, then Jamaica, Haiti, China, Mexico, and Russia.

Immigrants comprise thirty-one percent of the New York City labor force. Thus, immigration is essential in the provision of enough workforce for the city. Generally, this population is employed in various essential industries in New York City, such as the manufacturing sector, which comprises of about 64% of immigrants, the construction sector includes of around 58%, and the accommodation, nutrition, and other services are involved with nearly 54% of the immigrant workforce (DiNapoli & Bleiwas, 2016, 15). Similarly, the most

significant commercial sector in the city's economy is social services, health, and education. According to American Migration Council, stated that most of the immigrants were involved in the following occupations such as sales and related fields, healthcare sustenance, management, transportation, and office and administrative provision in 2018.

Moreover, despite the immigrants adding to the workforce of New York City, they are also part of the city's consumers, thus generating revenue. According to the American Immigrant Council, the New York City resident in immigrant population household consumption accounted for 120.5 billion dollars in 2018. The average household income for immigrants almost doubled from 1990 to 2000 because it was 23 900 dollars to 45,000 dollars, respectively (DiNapoli & Bleiwas, 2016, 15). This surpassed the inflation growth by nearly fifteen percent. Furthermore, these developments allowed an augmentation of immigrants to own homes, and thus increased by twice in the previous number between 1991 and 2008.

Considering that 43% of the households in New York City were managed by non-native individuals, current participants included fourteen percent of the home leaders. Similarly, immigrants who had stayed for long in the city comprised of 29% (DiNapoli & Bleiwas, 2016, 15). Therefore, immigrants' homeowners were not fully represented amongst individuals who owned homes. To have a home, individuals needed to have both capital and acquaintance concerning the housing market. Nevertheless, foreign individuals that had stayed for long in the city were well represented and had thirty-five percent of the share; at the same time, foreign individuals who had come recently had six percent of the share. Additionally, recent immigrants were unreasonably represented in the market rate rentals holding more than one-fifth of the housing. In contrast, the immigrants who had stayed for longer had more than a quarter. Holding houses is essential in the city as it will boost the development because many people with capital

and housing market knowledge will continue developing modern houses that will encourage people to come to the city and invest.

New York City's growth is also facilitated by immigrants because of the enormous taxes generated. For example, immigrants obtained 145.9 billion dollars in 2014; however, they were left with 103.3 billion dollars for spending after all the taxes were deducted. The total amount earned by immigrants in 2014 accounted for 23.2 percent of all the revenue obtained by New York residents that year (Pfeffer & Stycos, 2002, 192). The immigrant tax was separated into state and local taxes and federal taxes which included 15.9 billion dollars and 26.5 billion dollars respectively. Furthermore, the majority of the immigrants are business-oriented and entrepreneurs; therefore, when they establish a new business, they increase the job opportunities for New York City residents as well as pay taxes.

Immigration also has negative impacts on New York city growth despite the positive that has been indicated above. Immigration results in increased population, thus interfering with the service provider because the number of amenity services being provided does not meet the high population (Card, 2009, 181). Consequently, this will increase the cost of the services brought about by supply and demand forces. Similarly, natural resources have been found to make the city more desirable to live in because it is projected to intensify people's well-being. Also, natural amenities such as good weather have contributed to population reorganization; however, with the increase in population in the city, such amenities are destroyed, making it challenging to maintain the amenities.

Moreover, immigrants have also resulted in overcrowding in New York City, and this has led to challenges in the quality of life because of the amplified physical contact, insufficient sleep, poor hygiene experiences and absence of privacy. Although population density is an

impartial measure of individuals living in a certain unit area, overcrowding is the individual's psychological reaction to density. Overcrowding results in reduced well-being as it increases the risk of transmission of communicable diseases (Kim et al. 2018, 8). In 2018, 14.3% of immigrants lived in overcrowded houses. Also, immigrants contribute to about a half of the working individuals living in overcrowded households with the majority working in healthcare sustenance, food and preparation, transportation and delivery of goods as well as sales and marketing. Overcrowding may have significant shortcomings to city development because it will interfere with infrastructure development and city planning (Harris, 1968, 192). City planning is essential in the future preparation of the urban design including the industrial and residential places, therefore, although immigrants have contributed to workforce availability in city growth, they also affect the growth of town in some ways.

City development requires individuals who will provide labor because as business and infrastructures progress, more workers will be required. Although immigrants provide a wide variety of workforces in New York City, they also impact the resident's workforce. The majority of the immigrants are less skilled than the native residents; thus, when there are inadequacies in discerning outflows, more immigrants will have to decrease the general skills of the native population (Harris & Batty, 1993, 190). Even though local individuals of many cities that pull immigrants are comparatively skilled, counteracting local population stream tends towards being low hence making the city to have a high number of individuals who are not skilled. Therefore, these results in increased work competition with the local population.

The precarious balance between the population development for native individuals and the tower of the economy results in significant gaps between the immigrants who are skilled in the workforce market and the development of the comparative wages. The difference in the gap

between the least experienced locals is the one facing increased competition in the labor market with the immigrants. For example, in New York City skill allocation gap is three to five percent (Card, 2009, 167). Due to increased labor competition between the low skilled immigrants and native residents, it resulted in reduced wages. According to Harris, argued that although different conditions and factors were being controlled, such as city size effects, the economy of the city, and human capital spillovers. This resulted in benefits for the employers because there was availability of cheap labor. However, the less skilled native individuals were facing significant challenges as they had to sustain themselves with the prevailing wage level.

In summation, immigrants have both negative and positive effects on New York City's growth. Considering that many cities developed and declined from 1950-1980. New York City was among them but, it later developed due to population increase from immigrants that increased population. Also, an increase in population resulted in the provision of the city's workforce and thus lead to the development of revenue. Similarly, immigrants are also part of the city consumers and thus spend a lot of their income in the city. While other immigrants are entrepreneurs they contribute to the city's tax. However, immigrants also lead to high cost of amenity services as well as overcrowding in households. Wage level was also affected because of the increased competition between the less skilled native individuals and the immigrant population. While the gap was low, significant effect was raised as it resulted in low wage rate.

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