Forced migration is referred to as the forcible displacement of people to new regions. When highly educated professionals are forcibly displaced, they need to cope with the challenge of integrating into the host country’s economic system. Unfortunately, being a well-educated immigrant does not automatically guarantee a professional job in most host countries. Barriers such as lack of work permits, unfamiliarity with the system, incomplete professional certifications, language limitations, and limited networking prevent them from incorporating into the host economy. Under these circumstances, many high-skilled new immigrants are practically forced to take low-skill and low-payment jobs, that are physically demanding. This phenomenon is known as downward mobility.

This phenomenological study focuses on understanding downward mobility’s negative effects among well-educated immigrants. It provides recommendations to cope with the phenomenon. A Downward Mobility Readiness Survey (DMRS) is included to create awareness about this topic.
References


Dear Educational Researcher:

The Downward Mobility Readiness Survey (DMRS) has been developed to assess the readiness of professionals to cope with downward mobility and creating awareness about this topic. Imagine yourself experiencing any of these situations in your country: armed conflicts, civil unrest situation, environmental disasters and change, political persecution, weak economy and oppressive poverty, or threat of physical safety. Based on the conditions mentioned above, you are forced to move to another country. Check one response answer (Yes = 1 / No = 0) by each item statement you agree/disagree with or willing to do. If you score more than 7 points, you might survive a downward mobility situation. However, resilience is a key trait among migrants who successfully cope with downward mobility challenges and acculturate and integrate into a host country.

Questions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimensions of Downward Mobility</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. If my credentials and degrees are not recognized in the host country, I am willing to get my degree again.</td>
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<td>2. If necessary, I am willing to work at any lower-ranking low-pay job available.</td>
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<td>3. If I cannot work in my professional field, I have the skill-set to perform labor-intensive jobs.</td>
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<td>4. I can tolerate that my work's supervisor (s) is/are people with less education than mine.</td>
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<td>5. I am willing to work overtime in a low-paying job or have two or three jobs just to make a more decent payment.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. I can tolerate being discriminated against every day and treated with prejudice because of my lower-ranking low-pay job.</td>
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<td>7. If I do not speak the local language, but my kids have learned it at school, I am willing to allow them to become my translators at most interactions.</td>
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</table>
8. I can get by without a car and know how to use public transportation systems.

9. While settling down in the host country, I am willing to accept government support and live with less income than than the average income I used to have in my home country.

10. I am willing to share a living space with other people or families in the host country, whereas in my country, I live in my own home.

11. What is your actual educational level?
   a. I have completed my graduate studies Masters/Ph.D. / EdD/
   b. Pursuing or completed undergrad studies
   c. High School or GED
   d. Less than High School

12. What is your working experience?
   a. No working experience
   b. 1-2 years of working experience
   c. 3-5 years of working experience
   d. 6-10 years of working experience
   e. 11 years or more of working experience

In advance, thank you for disseminating this survey and use it as reference material for further research on the topic of downward mobility.

Author’s statement: This survey can be used as a reference for further research on the topic of downward mobility.

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