Settlement Experiences of Iranian Migrants on Humanitarian and Non-Humanitarian Visas in Australia

Abstract—Over the past few decades, there has been a steady rise in the number of Iranian migrants settling in Australia under the humanitarian and non-humanitarian migration streams. As a result, these migrants face different challenges as they establish life in a culturally distant country. This proposed project aims to explore the ways in which Iranian migrants who settle in Australia under humanitarian and non-humanitarian visas overcome the challenges of settling in a new society; in particular, the barriers they face and factors affecting their integration or disengagement from the host country; what impact [if any] their settlement might have on their identity; and what challenges Iranian migrants (Humanitarian and non-humanitarian) face in the employment context. Data for this study was gathered qualitatively via a brief demographic survey and semi-structured interviews with approximately 40 Iranian migrants who were recruited via snowball sampling. Transcribed interview data were analyzed using a thematic analysis approach. The findings suggest that while Iranian migrants are highly integrated, they are confronted with various challenges in finding employment specifically those on humanitarian visas. In addition, Iranian migrants’ religious identity is impacted by migration either leading to the concealment of their religious identity or the modification of their identity as a result of settling in Australia.

Keywords—Employment, identity, iranian migrants, visa category.