

Investment in Small Business among International Migrants in the Estado Deméxico

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Abstract

This work analyzes the productive inversions of the international remittances, the constraints that the migrants face. A non-random sample of migrants that invested remittances in business is taken in the Estadode México. The results show various types of investments, in which have influence, the family, the migratory experiences, the previous experience in business, the knowledge they brought to the return. All of them want to find an income source and not migrate again, but is noted that only who have sustainable income business, are who can build better livelihoods, while owning an unstable business causes instability in the livelihood, as well as intentions to return to abroad, Duel features are also observed, and other traits.

Keywords: remittances, investments, migrants, México

1. Introduction

In the Estado de México, located in the Center of the country of the same name, the international migration began from early last century in the rural villages, but from the years 1990's it becomes in a work option for the urban people; in recent years, two thirds of international migrants in this State comes from this area. The fieldwork detected that who migrated to abroad between the years (2005-2010), had 28 years old on average, as well 9.2 degrees of schooling and diverse work experience. On average, in this State the eighty percent of the international migrants are males. Different economic and social causes, push and pull the international migration, but in some places like in the State's South, the migration is an activity that is performed on a daily basis, as part of the local culture.

The mexiquenses migrate in diverse ways, but almost all of them carry intentions of improve their livelihoods. The evidence shows that the remittances they send their houses, are spend in welfare (clothing, cars, furniture, house), and less than one third is invested in productive assets (business, animals, livestock, productive infrastructure). Some migrants invest in small business to strengthen their business spirit that had before of migrate, others do it for have an income source and have not to look for a job when they return. Sometimes they only can invest in activities that environment allow them, so, even if they wish to invest in something else they cannot do it for lack of suitable conditions. Some investments are made when migrants return, they take advantage of their experiences and learnings, other migrants invest while abroad, and some investments are made directly by the family in the village.

A research performed in Tlalámac, in the Estado de México, indicates that between the years 1960-1970, there the red tomato was harvested in the backyards, but when migrants returned, they boosted this small production in commercial size. Now they hire immigrant workforce that comes from other States (Estrada, 2008). In Tenancingo, located at State's South, most households have international migrants and there, eighty percent of the migrant households receive remittances; half of these are spent on food, education, health, housing and debt, but at least ten percent are invested in small business (Iglesias, 2014). In Tonatico, community in the State, which have a long history of international migration, where half its population is living in the United States. There, one-third of migrant households receive remittances.

Eighty percent of these are spent on food, clothing, footwear, payment services; education is allocated eight percent, business investment, savings and property purchase is allocated thirteen percent. Investments are basically made in family-run businesses: hotels, miscellaneous, guesthouses, restaurants. In another community, remittances cover the basic households needs, and are used to buy trucks and vans for agricultural and livestock use, because that is the communal vocation and because the dirt roads do not allow another transport (Álvarez, 2009).

The literature agrees that the decision to migrate is linked to the search for work, better income and improve livelihoods, accumulate assets and others. The economic theory argues that migration is decided within the home, where the members choose who could be most successful abroad and send more income to home, income that could be invested in productive activities in the origin places, likewise the migrants could accumulate other assets (savings, knowledge, work experience, prestige, culture) that could be used to live to return (Lucas and Stark, 1985; Kirdar 2007; Khadria 2006), and migrants could escape their poverty (Chambers and Conway 1992, World Bank, 2001).

The explanations do not clearly explain how specific individuals invest their remittances, what problems they face, and the supports they require. This paper tries to contribute in these gaps, with this purpose this research analyzes how the migrants productively invest their international remittances. It takes as reference the international migrants of the Estado de Mexico, a State in the Center of the country of the same name and the second that contributes the most to the country's gross domestic product.

2. Decision Making

To know how people make their decisions is important in different areas. In marketing, helps to design characteristics, times, prices and presentations of products and services; in business, political and commercial strategies, could be used to take advantage of the negotiations. In economics, is expected that the development of poor countries could to improve with programs according to what the population wants and where it participates more actively (World Bank, 2015). In the case of migrants, to understand how they decide to invest their remittances and the things, events and actions that discourage them, as well could help to develop incentive programs, remove barriers, and build environments that motivate the investment and entrepreneurship in them. Knowing this is important because small investments, create jobs and absorb salaried and family workers, facilitate also the formation and transmission of financial, productive and mercantile knowledge, something that is needed in small localities that lack jobs and investments. As Peyrefitte (1997) points out, an entrepreneurial culture is basic to develop a society, as big as Germany but it could works in small environments that are not attractive to large investments.

Unlike rational theory, which proposes that people are thoroughly rational, new approaches conceive the population interacting in groups, where their actions affect and are affected by others. There is also a consensus that people do not have the capacity, nor the willingness to analyze all the options of a situation, they prefer to search solutions that are well known within their comprehension (World Bank, 2015; Simon, 1962; 1995; Robbins and Judge, 2009). In other cases, decisions are made intuitively and could be better ones if the people could have additional information and evidences, even if they do not have. As Domjan (2010) points out, most of a person's life is not governed by conscious purposes, but by mental processes that are set in motion by characteristics of the environment and operate outside the supervision of consciousness. In any case, intentional decisions influence the attitudes, motivations, interests and experience of the person, but it is impossible for him to assimilate everything he observes and the information that exists. This is called bounded rationality. When the people need to make a decision, they select and concentrate on certain stimuli, they disaggregate the problem in parts, perform a quick reading and on this image, with experience and intentions make the first decisions (Simon, 1962).

When identifies a problem, the person first locates solutions that operate as a general framework in the environment, then analyzes those that differ a little, in the end, choose one that considers good. The World Bank (2015) points out that people are more emotional than rational, decisions are influenced by social norms, networks, mental models, concepts, stereotypes and worldviews of their environments, also by what other actors think and do, because all of them share values, customs and beliefs. In this way, is important when we want to change something, apart from changing the subject of action, we must also work with social practices and institutions that give it support.

In sum, people make decisions under a bounded rationality, they first review solutions within the reach of their comprehension according to their interests, emotions and training, but under the influence of other actors. In this way, migrants are linked to larger social groups, with other beliefs and demands in their homes. But, share the economic gaps, violence, labor dissatisfaction, values, however only a small part of the population migrates abroad and of them, a smaller one manages to accumulate assets that could invest to live better. By knowing under what conditions their remittances invest, a program incentives could be designed to motivate more investment, this could retain the population in their origin's places. In small localities, small scale entrepreneurship is useful and must be supported with incentives, because the amounts they invest are all their capital. As well, this activity is sometimes not valued by the investors themselves, some choose it in the absence of options. In any case, their work, their actions, their ideas, could help to create and sustain the culture and entrepreneurship values (Gries and Naude, 2011, Zoltan and Storey, 2004).

3. The method

For this paper, 110 mexiquenses migrants were interviewed, previous verification that they had invested remittances in business. The non-random sample includes 95 men (86.4%) and 15 women (13.6%), who live in 28 rural and urban localities. The identification of the migrants was made by snowball, as the migrants were located, they were interviewed, about why they migrated, the processes that followed, the motivations that led them to invest their remittances, how they have had the social and productive reintegration, the problems they faced. The fieldwork was carried out in February 2013. This sample can help to understand the reasons, circumstances, beliefs and others that influence the decisions to invest remittances, also what encourages and restricts the investment, the supports they require and others.

4. Results

The results of the analysis are presented in three sections. The first, discusses migration and return, explains the migration process they had and the effect this had on their investments; the second, reviews their investments and the influence of the family environment, as well as other sources of inspiration, the third paragraph discusses the perspectives that migrants have and the benefits they receive from their investments.

4.1. The migration and the return of Mexiquenses

The migrants interviewed, left for the United States in an undocumented way, they had, on average, 25 years of age and a range between 15-33 years, had 8.9 school grades, a higher number than the average that had their origin's localities, almost all of them had work experience. They migrated abroad, between the years 1991-2010 (83 percent). These were years of economic crisis and unemployment in the State and Country. At this time, more highly skilled workers and students, including women, increased their presence and became more visible in this flow. Although economic need and lack of employment have a high influence on migration, interviewees point out other circumstances, such as the family relationships mixed with economic, labor and emotional problems, also had relatives and friends migrants who supported them. Some did not see work options before leaving, others saw poorly paid options, some women were discriminated because they were single mothers or have a disability, some women and men only wanted to meet with their partner, some young people migrated due to immaturity. As noted: I lived in an adobe house, the economic situation was bad, I worked as a seamstress, but they paid very cheaply and I could not afford to keep my partner and daughters. Before, I worked in construction, building bridges in Sonora, Coatzacoalcos, Morelos. A man from here encouraged me, he told me that he was winning many dollars there and I decided to go, I thought about it a week. I got money from my employer, then simply with the God in the mouth I to leave, in this situation even the one who is not a believer speaks to God. My wife first did not want me to leave, she preferred that I stayed in Mexico, time after she let me to go for two years to finish my house... (Félix, S., 49 years old)

Economic and social pressures induce emotional problems that lead people to seek advice, which allows additional actors to intervene with other visions, values and actions about how to improve the livelihoods. Go abroad as a way to live better was one of them, another was to earn money, save and invest. In this case of the mexiquenses migrants, one in five had intentions to save and to have a business before leaving, half of them had worked in family business and knew in which to invest, others did not have clarity in their business's intentions. The other 80 percent, migrated looking for work, heritage, build a home, help their family, better life, buy cars, get married abroad, travel and learn languages. This group did not want to have business, however they established it with their remittances and some have two.

Since all the interviewees invested, this suggests that other actors, conditions, experiences, values, have influence on the decisions of productive investment. Between who intended to save and invest, their experience in family businesses it allowed them to see benefits in this activity. In this case, Julio Cesar (32 years old), says that, “Before leaving, I was dedicated to livestock and agriculture, leaving the high school I put a vegetables business with the little money I had, but it broke because it was little, on the other hand I had no support from my parents... I felt worry and stress, for the business that did not work... I thought, I had to seek to make my own money to establish my own business, to build my house. I felt that here I was going to take a lot of time achieve all that, and that is why I decided to leave”.

The return to the Estado de México, was also for a mix of reasons. The intention to see the family (46.4 percent) was the feeling that most influenced their return, but in communion with the work shortage and earn little money (13.6 percent), have sick relatives (10.0 percent), loneliness and boredom of life abroad (8.2 percent), fear of being deported (8.2 percent), because they met their previous goals (7.3 percent), to raise their children in Mexico (2.7 percent). The rest wanted to return for get married, take care of their parents, to obtain a visa. As they point out: I went with visa, with my brother-in-law and two friends, we went to Boston, but I returned to two years because every time my mother spoke to me, she cried and I return... what I saved I invested in my shop of imported products, I do not want to go abroad again (Fernando A., 54 years old).

Other migrants had achieved their goals, some became ill and others were encouraged by the boredom and the desire to start again in Mexico. I returned because I had already achieved the main objective that was to build my house and a place to work, also I wanted to come to see my family... I returned with my wife and my two children who were born there (Julio Cesar, 32 years old). The economic crisis broke out in the US, the work was falling a lot, I was tired of there, I wanted to return and that encouraged me, I was working but I knew that in a while I was not going to have it, I thought if I wait maybe I spent the money I had saved and said myself, better return (Gerardo R., 23 years old). After their return, more than half have worked in their business as their main activity (56.4 percent), but they perform other productive activities. That is, most businesses are family-run, some investments do not generate stable income, although it serves to keep the family occupied. Thus, 15.5 percent of them work as salaried workers, almost 22 percent work in trades (mechanics, stylists, electricians, cooks), few study (0.9 percent) and some more work at home (1.8 percent) and another 6 percent were looking for work when were interviewed.

4.2. The investments of Mexican migrants

As mentioned, 20 percent of the migrants had the idea of investing in some business since before migrating, half of them already had commercial experience (chicken sales, shops, passenger cars, taxis, sewing workshop, cargo trucks and materials store, clothing trade, agriculture). The other 80 percent were employees, trade technicians and other work experiences. Is visible that in some people the ideas of investing are forged before migrating, in others it born during stays abroad, in others occurs until when they return, in other cases the decision is taken by the family. In this way, some migrants invested remittances based on the previous experience, others imitated their relatives or neighbors who have invested, and others tried to fulfill the commitments they had made with their relatives about to start a business, others invested in businesses of similar activity to what they worked abroad. All the migrants interviewed invested productively, but they also spent remittances on welfare things (house, cars, furniture). As Table 1 shows, their houses absorbed 48.5 percent of international remittances, their businesses attracted more than a third, a smaller part was destined to the purchase of cars, animals, social activities and others. The sum in business and animals accounts for 42 percent of remittances inverted.

Table 1.-Expenditures and investments of international remittances, according to headings

Expenditure in dollars	%
Home, living place	48.5%
Business	35.3%
Cars, vans	6.6%
Household equipment	2.4%
Animals, saving	5.1%
Partys, wedding,	2.1%
Total	100.0%

Source: own elaboration

The greater expenditure on welfare assets may suggest that migrants lack the experience and skills to detect opportunities, are afraid of risk, could reflect a lack of connection between investment opportunities and intentions, lack of support in their decisions. It is also reflected that migration theories and those that discuss decision making, little help to understand the particular behavior of an actor in a specific environment. In this sense, the approach to the investment practices of the mexiquenses migrants serves to give an idea of what happens to other migrants in other environments.

In the set of investments, 44 migrants (40 percent), invested even in two businesses, although, ten businesses had already broken. In addition, only 15 businesses had hired 28 employees, the others did not hire staff, because they are family-run. The investment in taxis and transportation represent 21.8 percent of business units and absorb a quarter of the remittances invested. The possession of stores, groceries, miscellaneous includes 17.3 percent of businesses units and 12 percent of investment. Food preparation and sales include nearly 9 percent of business; they follow cyber, computers, video games, shoe sales, perfumes, plots, sewing, material trucks, ice cream business, beauty shop, sewing workshops. Construction trucks and material stores are few business units, but they absorb almost 12 percent of investment; less percentages represent the animals, ice cream, tortillas, purchase of orchards and plots, houses to rent.

Aside from 20 percent of migrants seeking to be an entrepreneur (12 percent had committed to their family to start a business), another 25 percent wanted to buy material things, car, houses, land, savings, do not mention business itself, but they wanted to accumulate. The other half developed their ideas of investment abroad, some indicate that it was by the labor knowledge they learned (34 percent), others because they relied on their experience before migrating in the management of family businesses (18 percent). In any case, it is clear that being an entrepreneur requires more than resources. In the businesses that had closed, they ran out of economic resources, they were demotivated because in some cases bankruptcy is not due to their lack of effort: I was a worker, wanted to work, save, finish my house and start a business. I borrowed my sisters' husbands to pay for the coyote, I crossed the hill, walking... it's hard, but my motivation was my family, to have something... at the end, I open a grocery, but then my business went bankrupt... my daughter was beaten by girls classmates, they almost left her invalid, I was carrying her with a chiropractic four years, I spent a lot of money... now I work in masonry and tap tile, what I learned there I do not use because here everything is different (Ubaldo R., 46 years old).

In general, businesses are small investment, in some cases it was for the family to have something to do, in other cases it was to test, others were looking for additional source of income. Only two migrants invested heavily (machinery and construction shops), the others did not dream of making big profits or forming a big company. Even some investments were in family businesses, they obtained no more benefits than personal satisfaction. A migrant says: It was not that I wanted to go abroad, but we were living with so much needs, it was what forced me, the economy was bad... we all carry in mind that your family live better. My Aunt supported me, encouraged me and gave me the money... with the savings, I could buy furniture, washing machine, oven, room, table, remodel the house and put roof and floors. I supported my mom with money to trade and my dad on things for his business. Now I work in a store, I sell cleaning products, the north is over, I should make my effort here, the north is nice, comfortable life, but it is not so easy (Angélica G., 22 years old).

Table 2.-Businesses where remittances were invested

Business type	% of business	% of investment
Cab, passenger truck	21.8	26.8
Groceries	17.3	12.2
Food, restaurant	9.1	9.6
Butcher shop	5.5	3.0
Cyber, computers	5.5	2.8
Animals	3.6	8.2
Shoe shop, perfumes	2.7	1.9
Smithy, welding	2.7	1.0
Clothing store	2.7	0.65
Pallets, snows	2.7	3.6
Construction truck	3.6	11.8
Tortillería	2.7	3.9
Beauty shop	1.8	0.77
Sewing workshop	1.8	2.7
Mechanical workshop	1.8	1.2
Street vending (silver, cleanings)	1.8	0.2
Orchard, plot, nursery	2.7	4.05
Others*	10.0	5.54

Source: own elaboration * includes: bakery, table rentals, photography, dry cleaning, agrochemicals, and candy sales.

The objectives of migrants to go abroad are geared to cover their own economic needs and other family members. In this sense, investment decisions are also influenced by these. Economic theory points out that remittances and their expenditure link the reasons and economic effects of migration (Lucas and Stark, 1985). The family is the one who receives the remittances, it is the reason for the migration, it is the one that presses the migrants to invest, to spend them in one way and another. In the Mexiquense case, more than eight in ten, consulted their migration in family (84.5 percent), the rest migrate on their own. The interviewees say that their relatives had tensions, sadness, tears, other actors intervene, make commitments and other reactions; one in five Mexiquenses mentions that their family did not want to let them go, one third received support, almost another third (31.2 percent) gave their support until they agreed that the migrants would only work, send money and return, another 17 percent of them received advice and made other agreements

The table 3, shows the investment intentions that carried from Mexico, materialized in the investment of approximately \$197,600 dollars, the 14.2 percent of the total investment of remittances. These migrants, like the others, synthesize their intentions in order to live better, not to migrate again, to have a heritage, to have a source of income. It is noted that, in general, those who migrated with family consent have an average investment of \$11,558.7 dollars, while those who left on their own, have an average investment of \$9,522 dollars. It is also observed that three in four who consulted their departure and made commitments with their homes sent remittances. Migrants who committed to their families to save and put business, managed to invest \$168,100 dollars, the 12 percent of the investment and an average of \$14,008 dollars. The family reaffirms its influence in investment decisions. In their concerns for the life and safety of the migrant, push the idea of a business to have supplementary income. In addition, migrants who pledged to help the family purchase material things (car, house) invested \$390,400 dollars, or 28 percent of the total investment, averaging \$15,015. It is undeniable that the family influences, but also the experience and memories of how they lived before migrating. In sum, the investment amounts that come from the objectives, commitments and intentions to buy material things, which are aspects where the family intervenes more, the sum total about 54 percent of the total investment of remittances.

Table 3.-Inversion of remittances in businesses, according to sources of the idea

Origin	Nominal	% Total	average
Experience of the abroad	344,700	24.8	9,848
Objectives of doing business	197,600	14.2	16,467
Previous mercantile experience	288,100	20.7	16,005
Migrant commitment	168,100	12.1	14,008
Buy material things	390,400	28.1	15,015

Source: own elaboration

Those who invested in businesses related to their previous work experience, achieved an investment of \$288,100 dollars, the 20.7 percent of the total and an average of \$16,005 dollars; that is, one in five migrants invested remittances in businesses they had known since before migrating. A migrant left with the idea of put a kind of business but in the end invested in other things. He points out: My parents did not support me, nor had they told me that they would give me an inheritance, so I decided to migrate for save money, and do my own life... I got money with my sister, she was in the United States, she lent me six thousand dollars, I went with my wife... when I came, I put my business of vegetables and I also started a hatchery on the ranch, now I have 80 goats (Julio Cesar, 32 years old).

A migrant who has a food street vending post, comments her problems: I used to sell fruits and vegetables in Toluca. When I got married, he took me there. It's a good place to sell, but if you do not have a space then is difficult... when I migrated I had 20 years separated from my husband, he was drunk and beat me often, I had children, that's why I migrated. The first time I did not send money because it was a little time, but I save it and I brought with me. When I came, I spent all my money in burying my mom. In the second time, I sent my son 200 dollars, just to be saved... when I returned I made this food stand, but I would like that government let me sell tamales, atole, antojitos, but they told me that there is no place... I remove and put the tables, is heavy and the

profits are small and I cannot afford an employee (Raymunda, 58 years old). A migrant who had in mind to start a business and become a big businessman, managed to buy construction trucks. He says that: With my family I got along well, but at work the competition began to grow, the work began to fall, we needed better dump trucks and we have not capital. That was my goal, to buy better construction trucks, but that they were mine. I always thought to own trucks because I worked with my dad... I was even about to get married, in the end I did not marry, I left. My parents did not want to let me go, it is typical... I achieved bought two trucks, 2 land, I made a house and invested in a house materials together with my dad (Gerardo R., 23 years old).

The experiences abroad, the labor knowledge learned, the attitudes associated with their jobs, the new social and cultural norms also influenced their investment. For example, 35 migrants (32 percent) invested in similar businesses where they had learned some work knowledge. This group invested \$344,700 dollars, 24.8 percent of total remittances and an average of \$9,848 dollars. The 98 percent of this group believes that the experiences of migration helped them to think better, mature in the personal and familiar. A migrant points out: Go abroad makes you an independent and responsible person, because there you are alone and you have to work if you want to eat, to dress. Look, one day, some friends told me, let's go to a party, but I did not go with them, so another friend went, but that night he was killed. That affected me and realized that tomorrow we do not have it bought... I wanted to return to my country because my mother became ill with sadness... when I returned a friend invited me to a custodial job, but it was risky and they paid little, I could not live the salary I earned, then I decided to be my own boss, maybe I would earn the same but without risk... I started my restaurant business. Now, I want to work here, I do not want to return as undocumented abroad (Irving, 28 years old).

Table 4, shows the businesses where migrants invested to take advantage of their labor skills obtained abroad. In mechanical workshops and the sale of chemicals, knowledge is related to one hundred percent; in the sewing, butchery, food vending and street trading, half of the business is related to the activities that the migrants carried out abroad. Also, in the sale of shoes, welding, pallets, plots, beauty shops, a good part of them are related to labor knowledge brought from abroad. On the other hand, in taxis, groceries, and miscellaneous business, the labor knowledge is little involved.

Table 4.-Application of knowledge and experience in own businesses

Business	Brought from EU	%	business	Brought from EU	%
Beauty shop	1	½	Welding	2	2/5
Construction material	2	2/8	Plots	3	3/7
Groceries	2	2/19	Mechanic	2	100
Sewing workshop	4	50.0	Street vending	1	50.0
Cyber, computers	3	3/5	Ice creams	1	1/3
Shoe store	1	1/3	Foods	5	50.0
Cab, passenger truck	1	1/22	Agrochemicals	1	100
Butcher shop	3	50.0	Others*	2	2/6

Source: own elaboration * businesses unspecified are 6 ** in businesses such as bakery, sale of clothes in street vendors, rent of chairs, preparation of tortillas, photography, sale of sweets and dry cleaners, no migrant carried out similar activities abroad, nor had the knowledge to start the business.

4.3. The perspectives of the migrants in the entity

In a subjective assessment of migrants themselves, 76.3 percent believe that upon return lives better. In the economic part, they value having a house, the material goods, greater well-being, their businesses and labor skills (mechanic, mason, chef), to have supported the studies of sons or relatives; 3.6 percent affirmed they had family separation and lived worse, another 20 percent highlighted the survival skills they developed in migration, maturity and improved social and family relationships, also mention the habits of respect, care of the environment, be sociable, respect social norms and others.

In general, the migrants feel comfortable in their localities, but 46.3 percent have had a difficult reintegration and they would like to migrate abroad again, however this will happen when they have some unforeseen, when the economic necessity is strong, to take the children born there, if the business is bankrupt, among others. The other part of migrants prefer to remain in the State, they mention that life abroad did not like them, is dangerous, some are over 50 and feel old, also, one in five migrants already has economic stability.

Life is not as one believes, some things seem very easy but you have to put a lot of effort to make life easy, if you do not put effort, life becomes difficult, but which opportunities is there here? There is not, the salary of a worker is 60 pesos, but you need spend 100 of food each day, what opportunities? There is not... (Gerardo R., 23 years old). To illustrate the benefit of having business, migrants were questioned about how was the year in their domestic economies. More than half considered it was good (56 percent), a third, considered it was regular and the rest believe that it was a bad economic year. Who mention a good domestic economy, it was because they had stable income, in this group, more than 80 percent of their businesses contribute daily income (groceries, taxis, butchers, food, tortillas, bakery). Among who indicated a regular economy, the businesses that contribute money daily account only for 67 percent, although they own the biggest investment business (building materials, animal farms, chemical stores, mechanical shops, nurseries, photography, dry cleaners). The higher the investments, the higher the income expectancy, but if it is unstable, perceptions can be skewed even when they earn more than small businesses. Who perceived to have had a good year in their economies, more than 95 percent could apply all their labor knowledge brought from abroad, while who had a bad year, the greater proportion are those who do not apply their knowledge.

Investing their remittances, as well as accumulating labor skills and could apply them in productive activities in the localities, in the case of Mexiquenses migrants, it seems a good strategy to overcome the economic difficulties presented to the return. Somehow, the results support the thesis that, accumulating productive assets, in environments where they can be used, allows households to generate employment, income and better face adversities and even jump their circle of poverty (World Bank, 2001, Chambers and Conway, 1992). The results also show that, in addition to the resources that migrants brought, they require additional support: economic resources, courses in business, personal finance, motivation, all of them could reduce the fears of potential entrepreneurs. As pointed out (Peyrefitte, 1997), the formation of friendly entrepreneurial environments attracts small investments, and could improve the entrepreneurial culture and the society.

5. Final Comment

This work aimed to analyze investment decisions in international migrants, taking as reference the investments of the international migrants of the Estado de Mexico. They invest their remittances in small businesses under family pressure, their commitments, migration goals, previous work experience, influenced by other actors that push them to invest, and by the social models of their environment that pressure them to acquire assets and show success in the migration, the labor knowledge they brought from abroad and the intention to apply them, dreams of improve their livelihoods and not having to migrate again, acquired maturity, imitating other migrants and investors, among others.

In the Mexiquense migrants case, only one in twenty businesses was driven by family pressures or to have their families occupied, without the migrant wishing to do so; the rest somehow shared the restlessness of having a business. The migrants point out that they are not looking to be great entrepreneurs, at most to have an additional source of income to live better. Really, some migrants try to avoid more migrations and have to leave the family, others because before migrating they committed themselves to their homes to live better. As well, a good part of the business is related to the labor knowledge that they acquired abroad, these promote the investment of remittances in similar activities.

Other businesses are related to the activities that migrants carried out before migrating, which shows that having a business idea and knowing how to manage it is a very important factor in investment, but also the fact that business ideas remained in effect during their migrations. As well, it should be noted that the events of unemployment, discrimination, violence, fears, work habits and new ways of living and behaving, faced abroad, gave them lessons that motivate them to take care of their resources and invest instead of wasting remittances.

In this research and in others (Gries and Naude, 2011; Zoltan and Storey, 2004), it is shown that migrants who invest require additional supports, especially in early stages. Some migrants invest not because it is their vocation, rather because they do not find or do not like local jobs, because they find nothing else to do. Although entrepreneurship has a high impact on regional development strategies, it is a little driven activity in small-scale. Supports (economic resources, business management courses, personal finance, motivation) can be useful to sustain the stage of the learning curve between non-vocational investors who could to give up. While other strategies such as ensuring that migrants have access to employment options without being discriminated against by age, sex, disseminate information on employment opportunities, support for recognition and certification of

labor skills among those who do not have formal proofs (Padilla and Jardón, 2015), could support migrants who just want to find a job.

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