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Immigrants and the Labor Market

Over the years, the United States has witnessed an influx of both legal and illegal immigrants who seek to live and work in the country. This movement has been a major subject of interest that has attracted debate across the nation. Some sections of the population claim that continuous immigration is likely to cause job losses while lowering the wages, especially for the poor American workers. On the other hand, other people argue that immigration is good for the nation basing their argument on the idea that continuous immigration will increase production activities leading to higher wages as a result of an expanded economy. Therefore, this study seeks to support the argument that immigrants will take jobs meant for the American workers and lower their wages, especially for the societal poor people, by researching on articles that support the paper’s argument.

Agreeably, the population of immigrants moving into the United States has been increasing over the years. According to Procon.org (2016), there are approximately eleven million illegal immigrants living and working in America. Also, the nation admits an estimated one million legal immigrants every year. These immigrants often compete with the Native Americans for the available jobs. Ideally, the supply of labour is inversely proportional to the price that employers are willing to offer as wages in exchange for labour. Therefore, as the population of immigrants increases the amount of labour supply increases leading to decreased wages. From an economics viewpoint, an increase in the immigrant population will increase the demand for consumer products leading to the expansion of the economy that favours the creation of jobs for newly developed industries. However, this increase is disproportionate since statistics often reveal that an increase in the population of workers by say 10 percent may only cause a slight adjustment in the industrial growth while the negative effect on the jobs and wages for the native Americans is immense, (Procon.org, 2016).

Soderlin (2017) claims that the influx of foreign workers has enabled the growth of agricultural firms in Nebraska since the immigrants provide cheaper labour that allows different companies to maximize on production while saving on the basic costs of production. On the other hand, opportunities for the poor American workers are taken by the immigrant workers. For instance, Soderlin notes that should Trump’s administration implement its immigration policies, decreased numbers of immigrants will move to areas such as Nebraska to offer their unskilled labour in agricultural work that would in turn create higher demand for the native American workers causing a rise in the wages, (Soderlin, 2017). Therefore, immigration takes jobs from the Native Americans, reduces the wages, and hurts the poor citizens.Importantly, most of the immigrants are less educated and less skilled, and therefore, their net effect is on the lowly skilled and less educated Americans. Besides, economists feel that the low skilled and uneducated immigrants often consume more public resources as compared to the amount of taxes they contribute as a result of engaging in cheap labour, (Jaynes, 2009). Therefore, the immigrants cause an overall negative effect on the labour market by taking away jobs from the American workers, reducing the wages, and affecting the poor American. According to Nowrasteh (2016), the immigrants cause a slight increase in the wages of a few senior workers, but create significant competition for jobs that require less skills and education. In this case, the agricultural companies in Nebraska might require employing immigrants that provide cheap labour in their farms as opposed to employing the educated and skilled Americans.

In conclusion, the influx of immigrants into the United States will not only take away jobs from the American people, but will also decrease the overall wages since immigrants are willing to provide cheaper labour owing to their low skills and levels of education. Therefore, this will hurt the poor American citizen because he or she will be forced into either remaining unemployed, or performing involving tasks at a lower compensation.

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