

LANGUAGES AND MIGRANTS: FOCUS ON PAKISTANI COMMUNITY IN FRANCE

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Some points to begin with ...

- Geographical Areas
- Kind of Migrants
- Languages
- Identity

Pakistan

Why Pakistan ?

Arrival of migrants every month

Country profile :

Language : Urdu (national) & English (official), other 120 languages of them Punjabi, Sindhi & Pachtoun are important.

Population : 207 millions (2017)

People : Punjabi (44 %), Pashtun (15%)

Sindhi (14%)

Religion : Sunni Muslim (96%)

Literacy : 57% (2015)

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Language status and its role for Pakistanis

In Pakistan

- Urdu > 8% speakers. National language. Widely spread on TV, Radio, Press. Language of Prestige & Elite. Taught in schools & University.
- Punjabi > 44% speakers. Widespread particularly in the Punjab province. Not taught not at school nor at University level. Language attitude not positive.
- English > Compulsory in school.
- French > Compulsory in school and university.

In France

- Urdu > Parents speak to their children but speaks Punjabi or other languages among themselves. Exam subject in 12th grade. Teaching at university level.
- Punjabi > Language practiced among parents and less transmitted to their children. Not taught in France.
- French > Second-generation and forth on are enrolled in French public school.
- English > Competency is not adequate. Compulsory subject from First grade (6 years).

Kind of immigrants from Pakistan

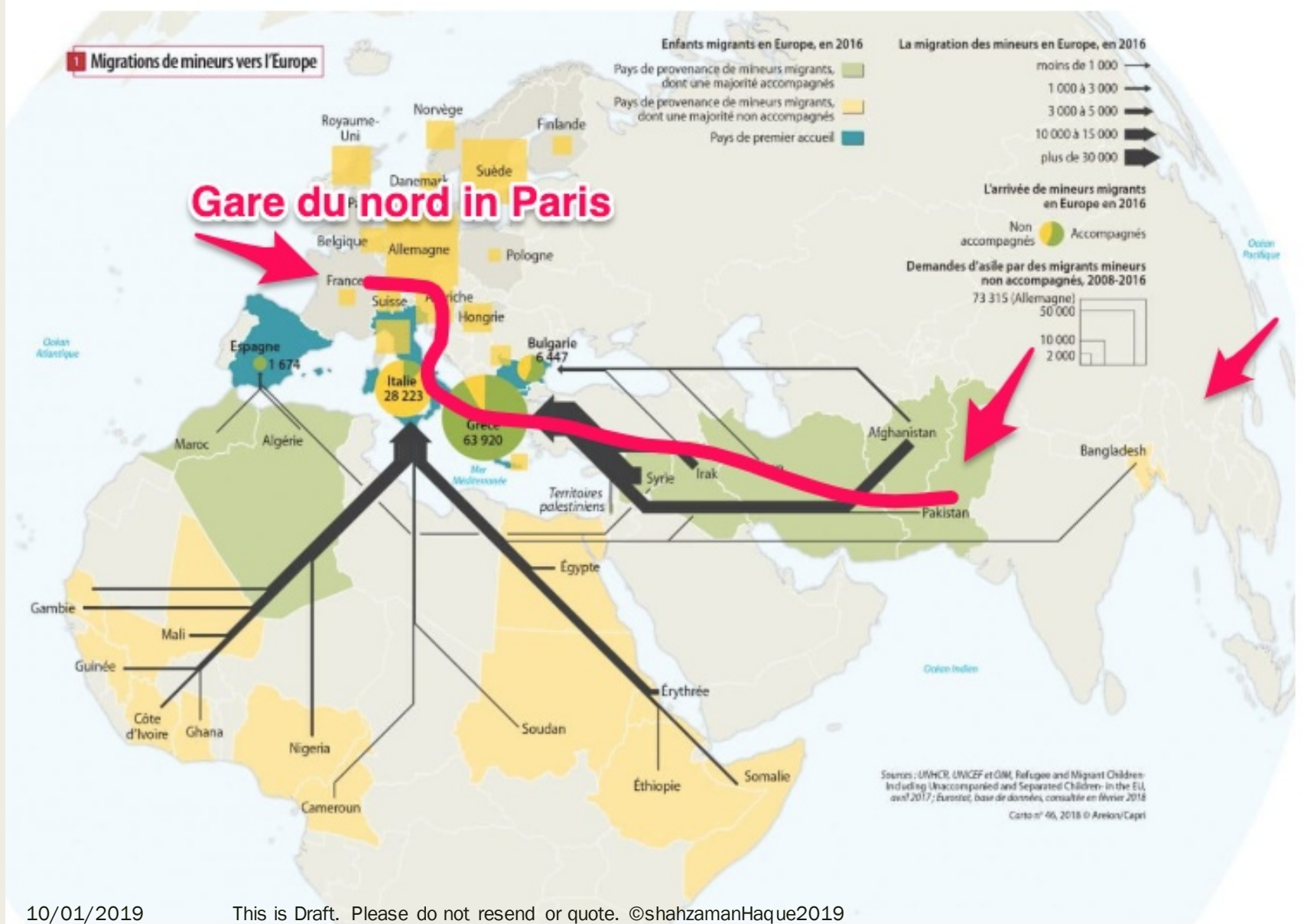
Asylum-seekers



Kind of immigrants from Pakistan

Isolated minor children





Kind of immigrants from Pakistan

Family reunification



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Profile of Pakistani migrants in France

Asylum Seekers

- Age : 18-55 mostly
- Who are they ? Any one who fears of being persecuted for reasons related to religion, nationality, race, political opinion or membership of a social group.
- Mostly are for economic reasons too. (Kriger-Krynicky 1989)
- Education : No schooling, little bit of schooling, Madarsa or under X class
- Languages : Punjabi, Urdu, Pashtoun, Baloch, English

Minor isolated children

- Age : under 18. As young as 13 or 14 years.
- Who are they ? Minor children given to traffickers. Parents are told that their children will be taken care by French govt. Minor migration for better life.
- Mostly for economic reasons but some file the demand for asylum later.
- Education : No schooling, little bit of schooling or up to class VIII
- Languages : Punjabi, Urdu, other regional languages, English

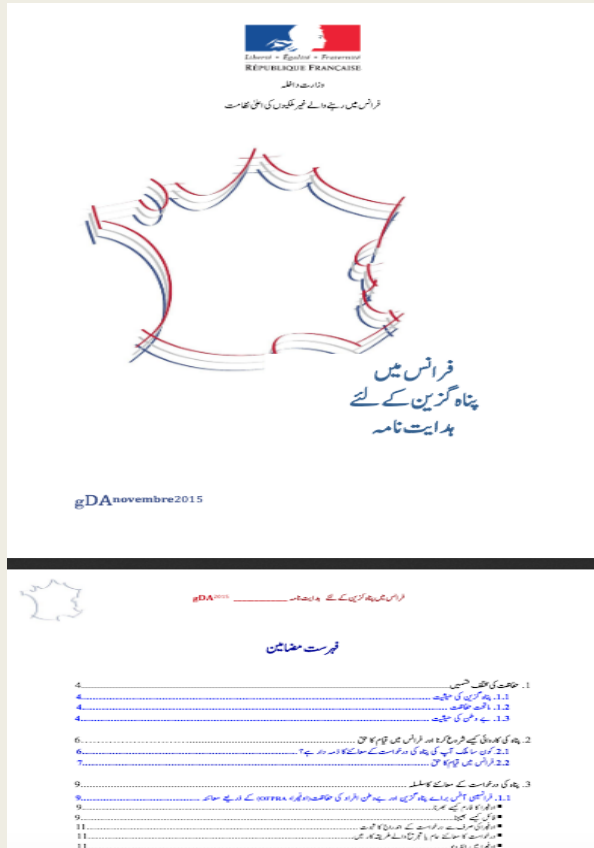
Family reunification

- Age : Between 18-25
- Who are they ? Mostly married women whose husband migrated to France for economic or asylum purposes. They may be also husband or children.
- Reasons : To reunite with spouse.
- Education : No schooling, little bit of schooling or up to graduation.
- Languages : Punjabi, Urdu, other regional languages, English.

Language usage in different organisms related to migrants

Organisms	Migrants	Language	Translation demand
EMMAÜS	Asylum Seekers	French	Yes Little bit English lingua franca & volunteering
OFPRA	Asylum Seekers	French	Yes, Urdu & Punjabi
CNDA	Asylum Seekers	French	Yes, Urdu Punjabi
CADA	Asylum seekers	French	Yes Urdu & Punjabi
ASE	Minor children	French / English	Yes Urdu & Punjabi
Ecole	Minor children	French	No
Entreprise	Minor children	French	No
OFII	Family Reunion	French	Yes Urdu mostly Punjabi
Prefecture	Family Reunion, AS, Minor children	French	No
Mayor Hall	All above	French	No

Translated documents in Urdu for migrants



Urdu versus Punjabi

Language attitude among Pakistanis

Source : Mansoor 1993 A sociolinguistic Study

Urdu

- ❖ National language, national identity
- ❖ Important for unity
- ❖ Vehicular language for Pakistan
- ❖ Developed language.
- ❖ Many literary works

- No career prospects without English
- Limited to Pakistan only
- No scientific or humanities teaching at higher level

Punjabi

- ❖ Identification with the mother tongue
- ❖ To understand the ancestral heritage
- ❖ To know the culture, literature and works of sufi poets

- No career prospects
- Not linked to development
- It will ruin my Urdu pronunciation
- Impolite, barbaric and rural language

Language attitudes among migrants from Pakistan

Asylum Seekers (AS)

- Language become the source of identity and personal development
- Urdu is associated with the positive attitude
- Demand of Urdu interpreters even if Urdu is not the mother tongue
- Punjabi is chosen by uneducated AS
- Choice of language depends upon the story

Inalco Urdu students

- Urdu is privileged among communication with the professors
- French remain the language of communication among peers
- Punjabi identity is hidden
- Students report that they speak only in Urdu in home whereas the parents speak in Punjabi

Status of Urdu in France

- Considered as a “rare language” in France.
 - *High demand in the translation of documents and interpretations in organisms*
 - *Important language for French researchers focusing on India and Pakistan*
 - *Important language for military personnel and staffs in Embassies if working with India or Pakistan*
- Urdu in Hindustani form was taught as language since 1828 in Inalco, formerly known as Ecole speciale des langues orientales.
- Garcin de Tassy (1794-1878) was the first Hindustani professor. An orientalist & expert of Hindustani language.
 - *He has published over 20 works on Hindustani language.*
 - *André Guimbretières was officially the first professor of Urdu in 1962.*
- Urdu is an optional subject for Twelfth grade. Only exams are allowed.
 - *Exam Copies are checked by Urdu professors of Inalco.*

Language and identity

- Sociolinguistics of mobility
- Identity stress versus identity crisis

Case of Pakistani second-generations

- Affinity with own culture
- Consumption of Pakistani TV serials in home in Urdu
- Punjabi dramas on Youtube or TV channels
- Do not want to identify themselves only with France
- Regional identity & religious identity (Abou-Zahab 2007)
 - > Punjabi, Mujahir etc & Sunni, Shia, Ahmadi etc.
- Discrimination in jobs
- Arrange marriage
- Sense of duty toward Pakistanis who are not migrated
- Islamic identity & Pakistani identity
 - Detached with the national French identity debate
 - Not feel represented by the French Council of Muslims
 - Pakistani Islam marked by ethnicity (Abou-Zahab 2007)

Sources and references

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