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Exits in human life

I was the member of the Educators Award Committee, Delta, Kappa, Gamma — International Society for Key Women Educators during 2012–2014. In this Committee we got lots of books from the international publishers each year to evaluate and select the winner of the annual Educators Award. The committee chose for the 2013 award recipient, Exit: The Endings That Set Us Free, written by a MacArthur prize-winning sociologist and the Emily Hargroves Fisher Professor of Education at Harvard University, USA.

Exit stresses the importance of recognizing and celebrating those times in life when one leaves the known to embark on the unknown. All people must handle their own exits during their lifetimes, and, in varied roles, all must also support others and even strangers through their own exits as they sashay or stumble toward new beginnings.

Exit is very much connected to migrants when they change their living space within a local community, moving to the other part of the country or moving abroad. Exits can be thus small and big. Even a short-distance movement can be a remarkable change for a migrant depending on the person's adjustment to the new locality. To the change it is connected leaving one thing and move on to the next. How people anticipate, define and reflect on their departure and what factors and feelings motive them to leave. The personal stories are varied. The exit both opens up and closes the paths forward bringing new opportunities and sometimes disappointments. The exit doesn't mean that the door is totally closed to the past since migrants

leave behind the familiar places, relatives and friends who they contact with and visit after starting the new life somewhere else.

We are free when we are able to exit from those circumstances, regions, and countries which hold us down. It can be connected to forced migration because of war and other disruptions. Also for example facing unemployment and seeing no better future prospects in the local labour market can be the main determiner for the person to move out to another region within the country or abroad. These kinds of migration events we have seen even as an earlier mass migration to the United States, so-called American fever, and to Sweden.

Every exit begins with "disengagement" accompanied by a process of "disidentification" and concludes with "resocialization". These processes are faced when there is a yearning to something new and it is time to exit the old and enter the new.

Sources

- International Society for Key Women Educators, DKG (2019). DKG — Leading Women Educators Impacting Education Worldwide. Available from: <https://www.dkg.org/> Accessed: 31.10.2019.
- Lawrence-Lightfoot, Sara (2012). *Exit: The Endings That Set Us Free*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.