

Exploring experiences of children of migrant workers in military service – A case study in the Israel Defense Forces



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Short Background

- **Migrant workers and the military**
- **Immigration to Israel and the military service**
- **Migrant workers' children in Israel – Permanent residence and a possible path for citizenship**



Process of receiving an Israeli citizenship

Israeli ID



Permanent residence



Temporary residence

Compulsory Military Service

Israeli Passport



Citizenship



Permanent residence

Study 1 – Preliminary qualitative research

- Method – Interviews and netnography
- Aim – preliminary study
- Data Collection – Snowball sampling
- Coding and Analysis



Findings

- **Native perspective**
 - **"We were all together...nobody really cared too much. I had an Ethiopian sleeping above me, a Georgian to my left and one from the Caucasus on the other side... People knew who you are" (Aron, Combat Unit).**
- **Motivation**
- **Reflection of the Military System**

Motivation – Support of families



Vh...
23h · 🌐

The pride of PILIPINOS here in ISRAEL!!
CONGRATULATIONS bro. C...
as a COMMANDER in CHIEF!!
GLORY TO THE ALMIGHTY FATHER,
MAZAL tov also to proud mommy /sis IME...
PTAFTTS&K PACQ
April 11, 2021
VICTORY IS OURS!!



Study 2

- **Research hypotheses**
 - **H1:** Year of enlistment would be positively correlated with adaptation to the military, with later recruits reporting better adaptation. **Not Supported**
 - **H2:** National identity would be positively correlated with adaptation to the military. **Supported**
 - **H3:** Ethnic identity would be negatively correlated with adaptation to the military. Participants with higher reported affiliation to the people of their motherland would display lower adaptation to the military. **Not Supported**

Method

- **Participants**

154 Soldiers, children of Migrant Workers (SCWM) participants (year of collection 2020, All junior soldiers now reservists, Qualtrics questionnaires in Hebrew)

- **Comparison**

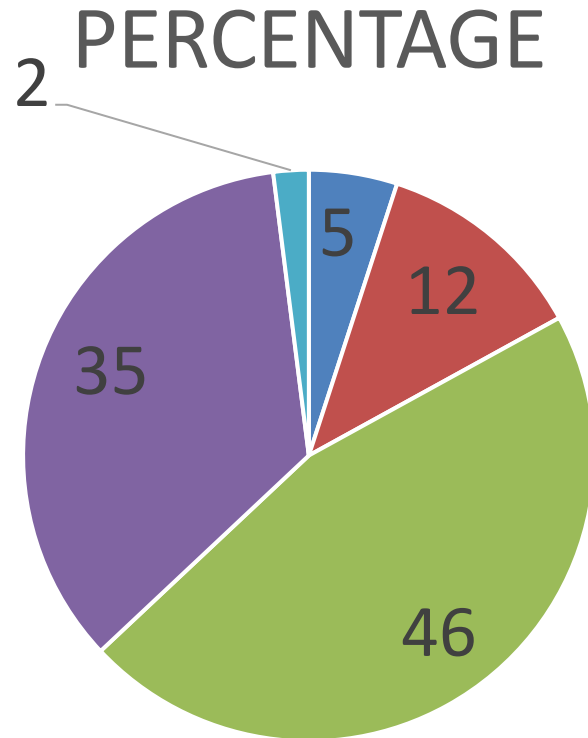
588 Soldiers, Immigrated from the Former USSR (SIFU) soldiers (year of collection 2000, 4 samples: basic training, combat, support, cadets, face to face questionnaires in Russian)

- **Measures**

Ethnic and national identity, unit multicultural climate, adaptation and will for promotion and excellence in the military.

Distribution of Rank and Profession

35% Combat
50% Technical & Support
1% Academic



■ Private ■ Corporal ■ Seargents ■ First Seargent ■ Other

Table 5.2: Pearson's r Correlations Between Year of Enlistment, Identity, and Adaptation to the Military Among SCMW

	Year of enlistment	National Identity	Ethnic Identity
Army satisfaction	-0.222*	0.293**	n.s.
API	-0.150	0.304**	n.s.
HC	-0.279**	0.321**	n.s.
ZPC	.024	0.248**	n.s.
ZNC	.006	-0.212**	n.s.

Table 5.2: Pearson's r Correlations Between Year of Enlistment, Identity, and Adaptation to the Military Among SCMW

ASI= Army Satisfaction Index; API= Army Promotion Index; HC = Horizontal cohesion; ZPC= Z-score Positive Climate; ZNC= Z-score Negative Climate

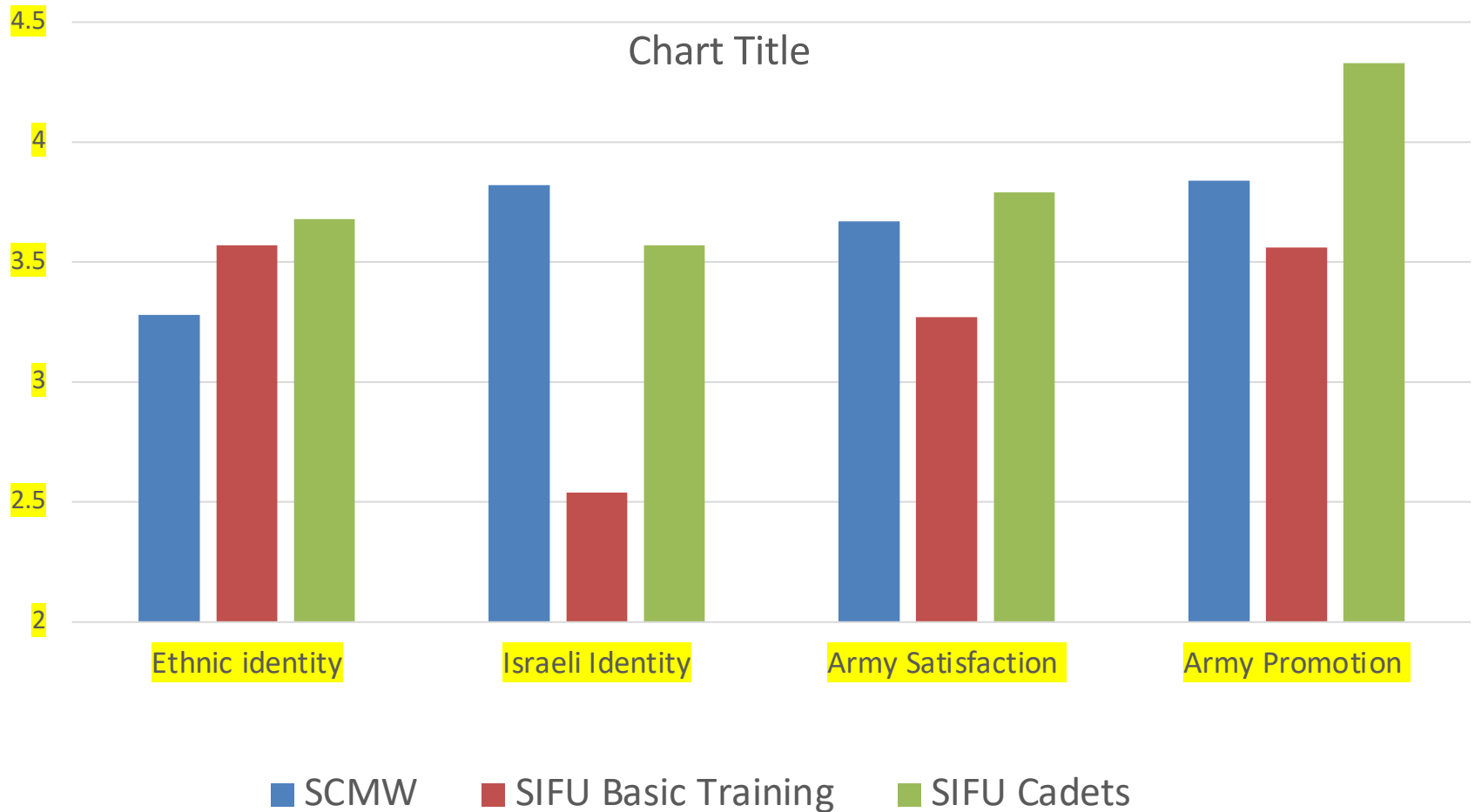
* < 0.05; ** < 0.01

N= 153

Compare of SCMW and SIFU

	SIFU Basic training n=194	SIFU Combat units n=159	SIFU Rear Units n=179	SIFU Cadets n=56	SCMW n=154	F (4, 741)
ASI	M=3.27, SD=.79, ab	M=3.35, SD=.78, b	M=3.07, SD=.81, a	M=3.79, SD=.76, c	M=4.06, SD=.88, d	36.1**
API	M=3.56, SD=1.16, c	M=, 3.21 SD=1.16, b	M=2.79, SD=1.23, a	M=4.33, SD=.82, d	M=3.67, SD=1.01, c	26.8**
HC	M=3.37, SD=.91, b	M=3.51, SD=.79, bc	M=2.93, SD=.86, a	M=3.61, SD=.76, c	M=3.84, SD=1.00, d	23.4**

Adaptation to the military



	Christian n=97	Jew n=25	Non-Religious n=19	Muslim n=4	Other n=9	F (4, 153)
ASI	M=4.01, SD=.89, ab	M=4.28, SD=.84, b	M=4.52, SD=.77, b	M=3.25, SD=1.30, a	M=3.86, SD=.76, ab	1.65 n.s.
API	M=3.46, SD=1.05, ab	M=, 4.24 SD=.68, b	M=4.10, SD=.72, b	M=2.83, SD=1.23, a	M=3.74, SD=.81, b	4.99**
HC	M=3.76, SD=.1.05, ab	M=4.14, SD=.82, b	M=4.17, SD=.81, b	M=3.62, SD=.82, ab	M=3.00, SD=1.36, a	2.12*

ASI= Army Satisfaction Index, API= Army Promotion Index, HC = Horizontal Cohesion
 * < 0.1; ** < 0.01

Conclusions & Implications

- Tolerated “new” IDF?
- Adaptive soldiers – Why? How?
- Limited access – Possible remedies?
- Limitations and further research

