

1 It is estimated that Switzerland is home to 70,000-180,000 illegal immigrants. One of them was Nadia, now 41, who comes from a very poor family. Her father suffered a fatal accident at the age of 49. This left the six-children family without an income or any prospects which made her mother work as a washerwoman – not with a machine, but with soap and a washboard. When she fell ill, Nadia had to drop out of school at an early age and get a job. Later a single mother herself, she wanted to secure a better life for her own daughter.



2 Nadia had emigrated illicitly and managed to live in Switzerland for 14 years before she received a much-desired residence permit 3 months ago. “This is the best gift ever – without it, you can neither rent an apartment nor see a doctor.” Yet the old fear of being discovered and deported still lingers. “If I pass a police officer or there’s an unexpected knock at the door, I still get jumpy. Illegal immigrants live in constant fright.” Thanks to the support of an organisation that helps this type of people, Nadia had health care for a couple of years.

3 In the beginning, Nadia could only afford to buy phone cards. Still, after exchanging just few words with her mother and daughter, the credit ran out. “Most of the time I thought about them which gave me strength. I cried a lot at the beginning, but having to rely on myself made me strong.” Though she admits that she doesn’t know much about politics, Nadia concedes that it would be hard to “legalise” all immigrants. In her view, each case should be examined individually: “We’re not just illegal immigrants; we’re people with hearts and families.”



4 It was work that brought Nadia to Switzerland 14 years ago. Her cousin, working as a cleaner here, was pregnant and she took her place – the women settled in a very small flat without a kitchen or a shower. Neither could speak the local language then. Thanks to her work as a cleaning lady for a doctor’s family, Nadia has been able to support her mother and send her daughter to school. She says that she doesn’t understand why migrants can’t do domestic and garden work, considering that so few Swiss people are willing to do it.

5 Switzerland isn’t for everybody, according to Nadia. She knows a lot of foreigners who are unable to cope with the changes in the weather and mentality; many suffer from depression. She finds that the Swiss don’t smile very often and that the streets are most of the time dead quiet. “Many people here have a lot of money but not much motivation to make something of their lives.” She denies that she was ever discriminated against as an illegal immigrant. But after a moment’s silence, she tells of others who had “under-the-counter” work but were not paid for their labour. She now sees her future in Switzerland rather than in Morocco, and dreams of owning her house somewhere near Bern – her adopted home.

I COMPREHENSION (15 POINTS)

{BASE YOUR ANSWERS ON THE TEXT}

A Complete the following table with information from the text. (3 pts)

Cause		Effect	
1	Nadia's mother was sick.	a
2	b	She feels scared.
3	Nadia was forced to count on herself.	c

B Answer the questions below. (3 pts)

- 1 Is Nadia an illegal immigrant? Why or why not?
- 2 How could the problem of immigration be tackled, according to Nadia?
- 3 Which type of work should migrants do, in her view? Why?

C Are these sentences TRUE or FALSE? JUSTIFY your answer. (3 pts)

- 1 Nadia got married and had a daughter.
- 2 Nadia lived with her cousin in a very small apartment with the necessary facilities.
- 3 Nadia doesn't intend to return to Morocco in the future.

D Complete the following sentences with information from the text. (2 pts)

- 1 Usually Nadia gained energy and vigour because of
- 2 Many Swiss people don't have the drive to do something important in their life despite

E Find in the text words that mean the same as the following. (2 pts)

- 1 persists (parag. 2) 2 deal with (parag. 5)

F What do these underlined words refer to in the text? (2 pts)

- 1 this (parag. 2) 2 her (parag. 4)

III WRITING (10 POINTS)

“Techno-Mag” is an e-magazine which tries to publish people’s views about technological inventions, their benefits and problems. Send your contribution to its editor to tell him / her about the most important device that has helped you much in your life. Try to state how you have tried to overcome its demerits.

(Approximately 250 words)

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