Research findings sharing on
Empowering Women Migrant Workers
Challenges in Service Delivery System

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>83%</td>
<td>of new migrants did not incur any cost for migration</td>
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<tr>
<td>93%</td>
<td>of women migrants sent most of their income to their home</td>
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<tr>
<td>54%</td>
<td>of the returnee women migrants did not invest for future</td>
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<tr>
<td>25%</td>
<td>of the women migrated due to one or more climate related issues</td>
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<tr>
<td>89%</td>
<td>of women decide to migrate as their family income was insufficient</td>
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<tr>
<td>58%</td>
<td>of the women migrants were denied to move freely while working abroad</td>
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Bangladesh is one of the major labour sending country in the world. Although labour migration is very important source of remittance for Bangladesh, it comes at a great cost.

Female migrants, especially domestic workers, frequently remain vulnerable to various kinds of exploitation and abuse in the home country and in the destination country at every stage of migration. Every year many Bangladeshi women are coming back from abroad with horrifying experiences of abuse, ill treatment and discrimination. Since 2015, Bangladesh has sent 5,23,47 women workers in different parts of the world. Among 2,93,588 women who went to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 8507 came back to Bangladesh through the safe homes which shelter distressed women migrant workers. It has become critical to ensure a safe and fair migration for women workers of Bangladesh.

Bangladesh Nari Sromic Kendra (BNSK) has conducted the study titled ‘Empowering Women Migrants: Challenges in Service Delivery’ with an aim to investigates service delivery gap for returnee women migrants in Bangladesh and protection mechanism for women migrant workers in the country of origin and country of destination. The study was funded by PROKAS, a project of British Council.

This policy brief highlights major findings of the research.
Most of the female migrants do not incur any cost for migration

Payment for migration process made new and returnee women migrants

Insufficient income and lack of income opportunities are the major reasons for women migration

Reasons for going abroad

Insufficient family income
Improve lifestyle
No suitable job for women
Lack of job opportunity
No earning member in family
Being a single women

More than half of the returnee migrants did not invest any part of their income for future

Percentage of returnee migrants invested

Women migrants send almost all of their income as remittance

Percentage of income sent home by returnee women migrants

Investment by returnee female migrants
Almost one fourth of the migrants to Saudi Arabia who are leaving in one month said that they did not receive contract

Among the Saudi Arabia bond women migrants who said that they did not receive contract

- 9% are leaving 1 to 2 weeks
- 17% are leaving within 2 weeks to 1 month
- 33% are leaving sometime after 3 months
- 41% are leaving in 1 to 3 months

MUSANED system requires the prospectus worker to sign a digital contract before taking part in the training. However, this study has found, that most of the workers were not aware that the papers they are signing before training were the 'contracts'

Climate change affected half of the migrant’s family

- 53% did not affect
- 47% affected

Major effects of climate change are reduction in family income and ending children’s education.

Effect of climate change on migrant’s family.

- 75 Decrease in family income
- 67 Putting end to children’s education
- 40 Shortage of food
- 25 Leave own land
- 9 others

Around one-fourth of the respondents are migrating due to climate change related reasons

Influence of climate change on decision to migrate

- 74% did no influence
- 26% influenced

Loss of crop and low production in agriculture due to climate change are major reasons for women migration

Decision of migration influenced by changes in agriculture

- Low production in agriculture 40
- Loss of crop in cyclone/ flood/ heavy rainfall 57
- Inability to work in agricultural fields for extreme heat 24
- Loss in income for land erosion 42
- No job in agriculture 28

Problem faced by returnee migrants

- 58% Denied to move freely
- 49% Denied to communicate with family
- 26% Did not receive salary as promised
- 26% Were abused verbally
- 25% Had mobile phone confiscated
- 21% Did not get rest time
- 19% Felt like a slave
- 16% Did not receive salary regularly
- 14% Did not get clean and sound place for living
Methodology:
Extensive desk research was conducted exploring government policy documents and scholarly literature on women migrants.

Surveys were administered with two different question sets to collect experiences of a large group of women migrants - both returnee and first time migrants.

Several case studies on aspirant and returnee women migrant workers were prepared.

Consultation through key informant interviews with policy makers, experts and activists provided critical insights about policies and practices.

Several FGDs were conducted to understand the views and experience of women migrants.

Respondents of the study

- 150 FGD participants
- 15 KII participants
- 160 Case

Survey respondents of which -
- 400 First time going
- 300 Returnee and going

Demographic information of the survey

Age of surveyed respondents

- 20% aged 35 to 39
- 34% aged 30 to 34
- 2% aged 40 to 45
- 6% aged 18 to 24
- 38% aged 25 to 29

Education Qualification of surveyed respondents

- 9% SSC
- 2% No edu
- 52% Class 1 to 5
- 1% HSC
- 2% Class 6 to 9
- 20% aged 35 to 39

About BNSK

BNSK is working to promote and protect rights of the migrant workers especially for women migrant workers. BNSK was founded in 2010 and got registration in 2012 from the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs.

BNSK’s programs are – (i) Mass awareness campaigns for safe orderly and regular migration; (ii) Capacity building for potential migrants and socioeconomic reintegration of returnee migrants; and (iii) advocacy to promote and protect rights of the migrants and victims of trafficking.

see more at www.bnsk.org.bd