

WOMEN AND MIGRATION

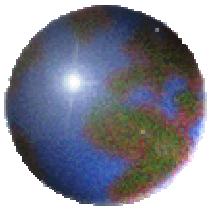
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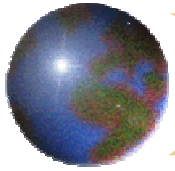


Academic research



clear message:

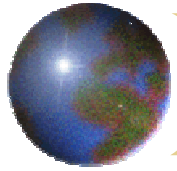
GENDER MATTERS



Academic Research

✿ GENDER MATTERS

- ✿ But: context specific
- ✿ Intersection of class/caste, migration status, ethnicity, race, skill etc.
 - Gendered axes of stratification
 - Dynamics of exclusion/inclusion

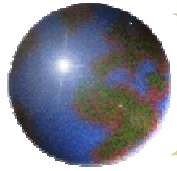


Global Policy Debate

- Dominated by two major themes:

- ❖ *Management of migration*

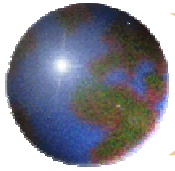
- ❖ *Migration as a tool for development*



Global Flows & Major Policy

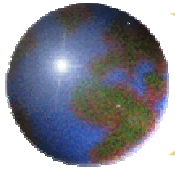
CONCERNS

- ✚ 1. rising nos. of irregular/undocumented
 - ✚ 2. shift toward temporary and circular migration
 - ✚ 3. 'bifurcation' between skilled and unskilled in the ease of migrating
 - ✚ 4. continuing human displacement
 - ✚ 5. impact of migration on development
- = gender dimensions/implications not fully grasped



Feminisation of Migration

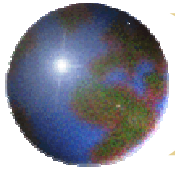
- Linked to at least four phenomena:
 - Improved statistical visibility (changed perception)
 - Rising participation of women in all migration streams
 - Dominance of family reunification in the 'North'
 - Dominance of temporary contract schemes or irregular channels in the 'South'
 - Increasing inability of men to find employment
 - Growing demand for feminized jobs in destination countries (esp. domestic and care work)



Feminisation of Migration

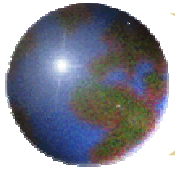
🌐 Statistics still limited:

- ❑ Underestimation of irregular/undocumented and circular migration
 - ❑ Women migrants highly represented in informal and unregulated sectors/types of jobs
 - ❑ Restrictions on their right to work
 - ❑ Women's involvement in activities deemed criminal offences or against public order
 - ❑ Shifting roles/status (from wife to worker, worker to wife)
- = still high levels of statistical invisibility



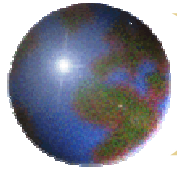
Feminisation of Migration

- Gender analysis to raise awareness of broader social factors
 - Access to resources, services, facilities
= gendered entitlements, livelihoods
 - 'transnational social sphere'
= extending analysis to the "left behind"



Feminisation of Migration

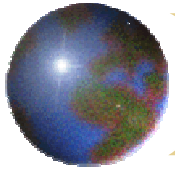
- Feminisation ≠ increased freedom of movement or independence
 - Practice of temporary contract schemes
 - Legal work permit for specific job & period
 - Tied to a specific employer
 - Debt bondage (excessive recruitment fees)
 - Limited social upward mobility



Feminisation of Migration

Trafficking

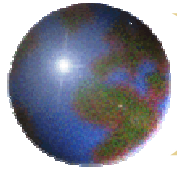
- ❑ For purpose of sexual exploitation
- ❑ Other forms of 'forced labour'
 - But under-researched under "trafficking frame"
 - Under-targeted by international organizations (except for ILO)



Feminisation of Migration

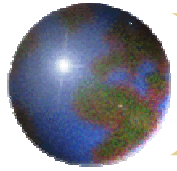
- Professional/skilled in feminised jobs
 - Health, education

- Gender issues:
 - Fewer perks/benefits (than in private sector)
 - Subordinate position/entry point
 - No guarantee of permanent residence



Management of Migration

- ➊ About control of exit and entry
- ➋ Government policies favour economic interests
- ➌ Social, political and distributional consequences of migration and implications for gender often not sufficiently addressed



Management of Migration

✦ Destination countries concerned with:

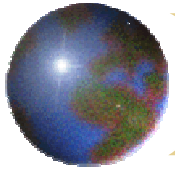
- ✦ Attracting the highly skilled
- ✦ Maintaining flexible workforce
- ✦ Cracking down on "illegal" migrants

✦ Origin countries concerned with:

- ✦ Brain drain/gain/circulation
- ✦ Remittances/investment/skill transfers

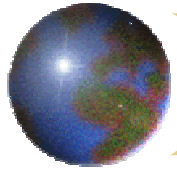
= both prefer temporary migration

= implications for family reunification and formation



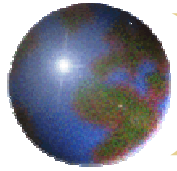
Management of Migration

- ❁ Questioning of definition of skill through gender lens
 - ❁ De-skilling because of lacking legal channels for certain jobs
 - ❁ Up-skilling
 - To circumvent political or social sensitivities
 - Example of 'entertainers' and Bangladeshi factory workers
 - ❁ Feminist critiques of "skill"



Management of Migration

- State Co-Operation
 - Resistance to multilateral agreements on migration
 - Except for UN Protocol on Trafficking
 - Bilateral agreements preferred
 - Gender sensitive clauses rare
 - Rights issues rare
 - A few 'good practices' (on paper; in practice?)
 - Trend to shift migration to trade agendas
 - GATS/Mode 4
 - FTAs

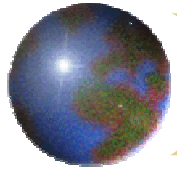


Migration & Development

Two main elements (UN, 2004)

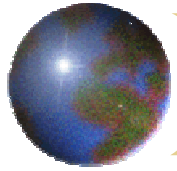
- 1. ways in which development reduces pressures to migrate in the first place
- 2. ways in which migrants can be resource for poverty alleviation in home communities





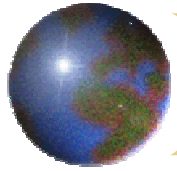
Migration & Development

- ✦ Main focus on economic dimensions (macro, community levels)
 - ✦ Context of feminised migration streams?
- ✦ Social and political dimensions under-researched:
 - ✦ impact of “social remittances” i.e. ideas and behaviour on gender equity and equality
 - Longitudinal studies needed
 - ✦ Transnational political activism (advocacy networks)



Migration & Development

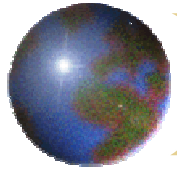
- ❖ Improvements of skills important to guarantee “successful” migration
 - ❖ Work skills (language, job training)
 - ❖ ‘survival skills’ (info on support structures, rights etc.)
 - ❖ Financial skills (budgeting, planning)
 - ❖ Skill acquisition prior to migration
 - ❖ Skill acquisition while working abroad
 - Role of trade unions
 - NGO programmes/projects



Rights of Migrants

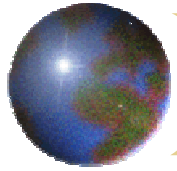
- ❖ Migrant specific instruments not most useful
 - ❖ Lowest ratification records
 - ❖ Not gender sensitive or relevant

- ❖ Exploration of, and lobbying for, use of other documents
 - ❖ CEDAW etc. (UNIFEM project)



Rights of Migrants

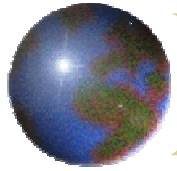
- Linking RBA to migration (ILO) to RBA to development
 - To address the two main areas of concern in the debate on migration-development nexus
 - To highlight migrants having rights as individuals, women and agents of development



Rights of Migrants

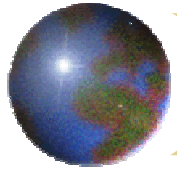
Future direction to be taken:

- Linking gender sensitive and rights-based approach (UNFPA 2006)
 - Migration poses new challenges in area of women's rights, development and citizenship
 - Conceptual and normative linkages
 - Policymaking implications/recommendations
 - Implications for social movements/political activism and coalition building



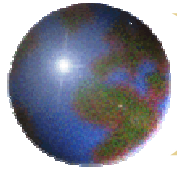
Concluding Remarks

- ✦ Analysis of diversification and stratification of gendered migratory streams highlights key axes of differentiation
 - ✦ between male and female migrants
 - ✦ Among female migrants
 - Skill, legal status = rights, entitlements



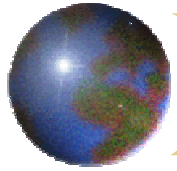
Concluding Remarks

- ✦ Multiple levels of unevenness reg. gendered migration on global level
 - ✦ In terms of data/research
 - ✦ Uneven in terms of rights, entitlements
 - ✦ Uneven political activism



Concluding Remarks - Management and Development

- ❖ Issues of concern for migrant women not necessarily best dealt with via migration policies
 - ❖ Tackling analysis and problem solving from migration perspective not always best
 - ❖ link to other social policy areas



Concluding Remarks -

Management and Development

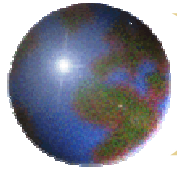
- ❖ Need for more comparative research on gender and migration

- ❖ Cross-regional

- ❖ Cross-sectoral

= to find out why certain policies work here but not there

(example: live-in versus live-out schemes for FDWs)



Concluding Remarks - Management and Development

✦ Need for longitudinal studies

- ✦ To assess gender and development issues over time
and the real transformative potential of women's out-migration

= message to funders