

Gendematters



Gendered Patterns of International Migration

Gender matters in migration

Estimated stock of international migrants
1990, 2000, 2010

International migrants as percentage of the population

Source: United Nations (2011)

Percentage distribution of international migrants

Source: United Nations (2011)

Percentage of females among international migrants
world regions

Source: United Nations (2011)

Percentage of females among international migrants

Source: United Nations (2011)

Percentage of females among international migrants in Asia, 2010

Source: United Nations (2011).

International migrants from selected countries of origin in Southeast Asia by sub region of destination, 2010

Percentage

Country of Origin

Region of Destination

Sources: Ratha and Shaw (2007) updated with additional data for 71 destination countries

Gender matters!

Migration is a gendered process that impacts on the family

It's not just about the individual migrant, it's also about family
**Who migrates in the household has
gender implications and impacts on the
family**

Husbands,wives,sons,daughtersmigrate leavingfamily behind
**Transnationalfamilies a commonfeature
of international migration**

Effectson families left behind may be positive or negative

**Studieson families left behind in Asia
revealsimilarities and differences**

Family Structure and Gender Roles

Effects on family structure and gender

Family Unity, Cohesion and Well being

Impact on family unity, cohesion and well being in migrant households varies across Asia, between and within countries:

- Effect on spousal relations
- Effect on children
- Effect of computer mediated communication on family cohesion
- Gender and remittances
- Reintegration into the family

Effect on Spousal Relations

- The longer the separation, the more detrimental to the spousal relationship
- Stable marriages are better able to cope with separation
- Migration does not necessarily cause marital dissolutions, can serve as an escape route out of troubled and abusive relationships

Effect on Children

Research on effect of parental absence on children is limited and shows that impacts are mixed:

- Education
 - Education outcomes of children more negatively affected by mother's absence than father's absence
 - Father's absence can even have positive effect in some cases
- Psychological well being
 - Children of migrant fathers in some countries are more likely to have poor psychological well being
 - In other countries, children of migrant parents had no difference or better psychological well being

Effect on Children

- Behaviour
 - Young children more likely to exhibit conduct problems than older children in some countries
 - Girls are less likely to exhibit conduct problems in most countries studied
- Physical Health
 - Physical health of children left behind better than children of non migrants in the Philippines
- Identity and citizenship
 - For children born out of cross-cultural relationships or in the few countries of destination where family reunification is possible, there are mixed impacts on identity and citizenship issues

Effect on Health of Other Family Members

- Absence of husbands for long periods can lead to widened birth intervals and can lead to better health seeking behavior
- Migration of children can have a positive effect on the health of elderly parents
- Wives of migrants can experience more stress than non migrants, feel vulnerable to harassment and abuse, and feel lonely and depressed

Communication and Family Cohesion

Maintaining communication among members of transnational families is important

- New media or computer mediated communication is important in maintaining and strengthening family ties and allow mothers to continue their parenting role more intensively
- However, it can also be used as an instrument for control by migrant husbands of their wives left behind

Gender and Remittances

Remittances benefit migrant families, important to understand the gender dimension as gender affects:

- The amount and frequency of remittances sent home
- Who the recipients are and how it is used
- How relationships within families are affected

Return to and Reintegration into the Family

Returning and reintegrating into home and family “requires reworking traditional relationships between men and women, husbands and wives, parents and children” and carry with them varying degrees of difficulty depending on other factors like length of absence.

Return to and Reintegration into the Family

There can be challenges for example:

- Readjusting to traditional family life and inadequacy of a single migratory cycle to meet goals (Sri Lanka)
- Adjusting to traditional family life has led to conflict

Mitigating the negative effects on migrant families and promoting family welfare

Support of social networks of family and kin as well as the state, non government and civil society organizations at both origin and destination crucial

- Provide support for different transnational members
- Enact migration legislation and social policies that are gender-sensitive
- Integrate migration, gender and the family perspective into development planning at the national and local levels of countries of origin.
- Pursue bilateral and /or multilateral agreements/arrangements

Good research informs policies, programs and services

Research

Maraming Salamat!