

Research findings on

Empowering Women Migrant Workers Challenges in Service Delivery System

83% new migrants said they did not incur any cost for migration. This **improvement in awareness** needs to be continued.

54% of the returnee women migrants did not invest for future. A **reintegration plan** and **financial literacy** is essential for them.

Almost all of the women are unaware of the conditions of contract, even after signing MUSANED. Awareness with **Bangla Contract** needs to be made mandatory.

25% of the women migrated due to one or more **climate related issues**. This growing trend needs to be monitored carefully.

Bangladesh is one of the major labour sending country in the world. Although labour migration is very important source of remittance for Bangladesh, it often 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. 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

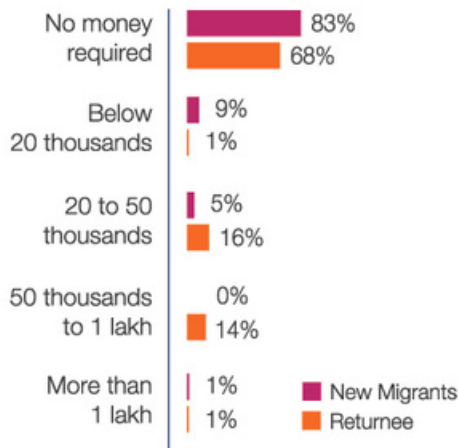
workers. Many Bangladeshi women came back with horrifying experiences of abuse, ill treatment and discrimination. It has become critical to ensure a safe and fair migration for women workers of Bangladesh.

Bangladesh Nari Sromik Kendra (BNSK) has conducted a study titled 'Empowering Women Migrants: Challenges in Service Delivery' with an aim to investigate service delivery gap 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 draft policy brief highlights major findings of the research.

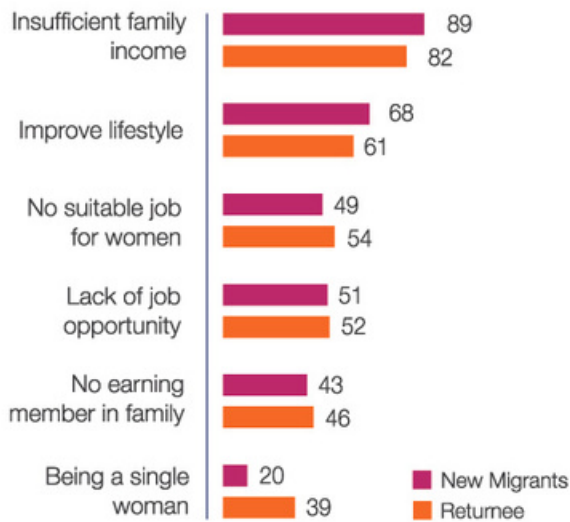
Most of the female migrants do not incur any cost for migration now

Amount of money paid by new and old (returnee) women migrants for migration. The change between old and returnee migrants also show improvement.



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

Reasons for going abroad (multiple response, %)



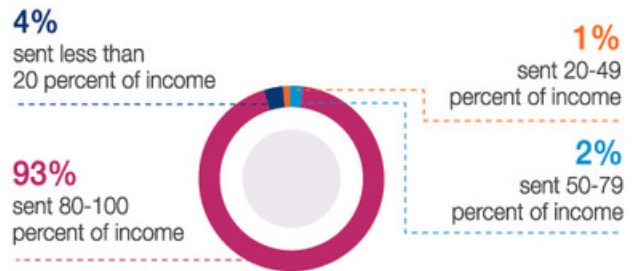
More than half of the returnee migrants did not invest any part of their income for future

Percentage of returnee migrants invested



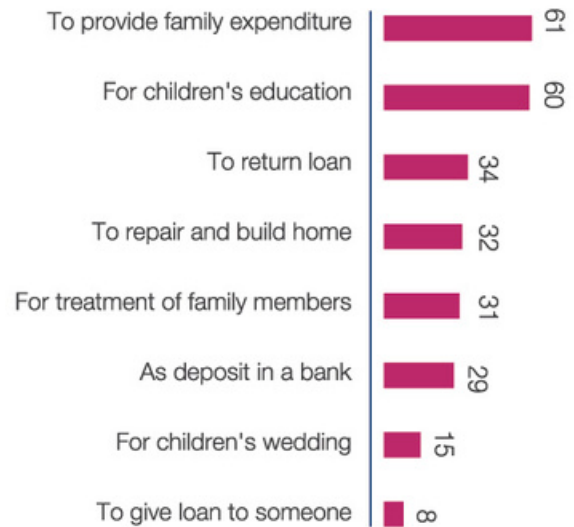
Women migrants send almost all of their income as remittance

Percentage of income sent to home by returnee women migrants



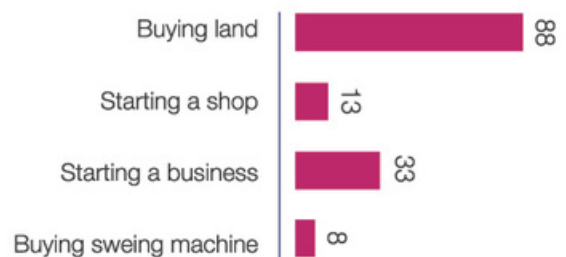
Earnings of women migrants are used mostly on family expenditures, children's education, loan repayment and building or repair of house

Trend in spending income of women migrants (multiple response, %)



For those who invest for future, buying land and starting a business are most popular kinds of investment

Investment by returnee female migrants (multiple response, %)



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

MUSANED system requires the women migrant workers to sign a digital contract. However, this study has found, that most of the workers were not aware that what they were signing were the 'contracts' and are unaware of the terms and conditions.

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



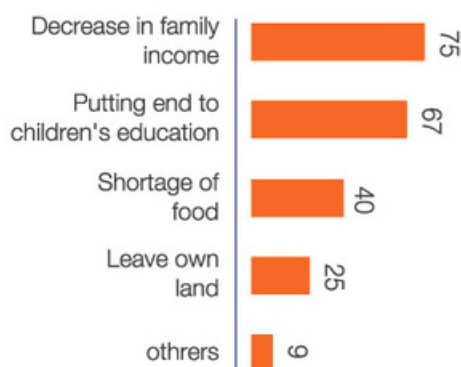
Climate change affected half of the migrant's family

Climate change affecting migrants family



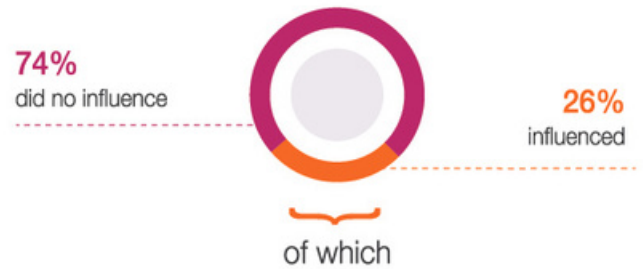
Major effects of climate change are reduction in family income and ending children's education.

Effect of climate change on migrant's family. (multiple response, %)



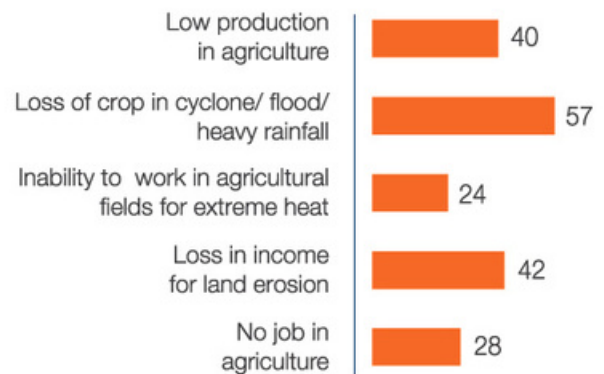
Around one-fourth of the respondents are migrating due to climate change related reasons

Influence of climate change on decision to migrate



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



Major problems of living abroad as highlighted by returnee migrants

What problem bothered them the most (multiple response, %)

- 58% Denial to move freely
- 49% Denial to communicate with family
- 26% Not receiving salary as promised
- 26% Being abused verbally
- 25% Having mobile phone confiscated
- 21% Not getting rest time
- 19% Feeling like a slave
- 16% Not receiving salary regularly
- 14% Not getting clean and sound place for living

Methodology

Extensive desk research was conducted exploring government policy documents and scholarly literature on women migrants.

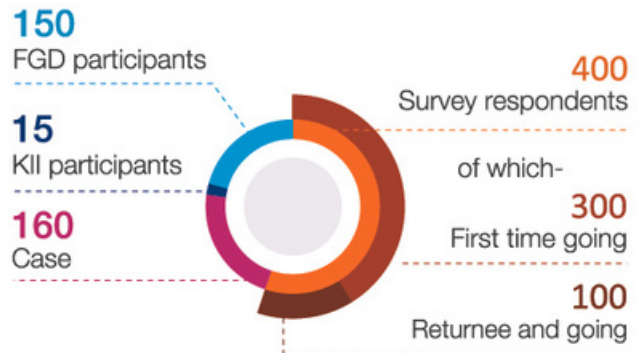
Surveys were administered with two different question sets to collect experiences of a large group of women migrants -both returnee and first time migrants.

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.

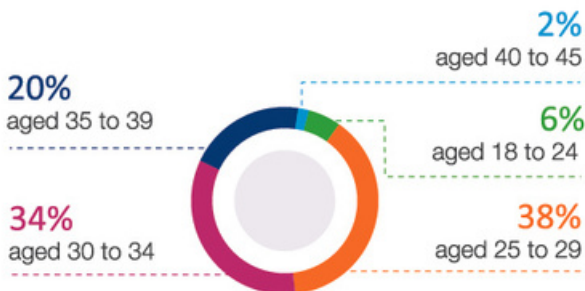
Several FGDs were conducted to understand the views and experience of women migrants.

Respondents of the study

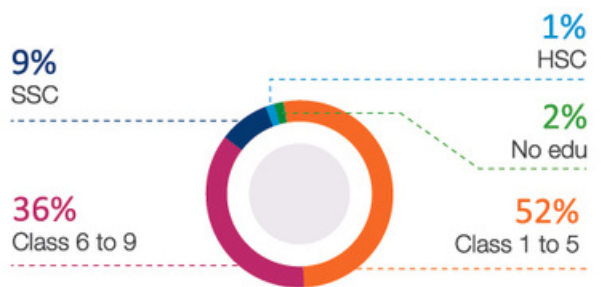


Demographic information of the survey

Age of surveyed respondents



Education Qualification of surveyed respondents



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.

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