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Abstract

Internal Migration of Women and Development in India: A Case Study of a Vulnerable Group

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There is preponderance of females in Indian's internal migration scenario as they outnumber male migrants in several categories. Despite the increasing participation of women in the migration process, migration research remains gender blind. Migration policies and programmes in India where they exist are rarely gender sensitive. Furthermore, the process of globalisation of the Indian economy has a strong implication on mobility pattern of labour, particularly those engaged as casual labour. The paper assesses and identifies changes in mobility of women migrant workers in the post-reform period in India along with the working conditions of women migrant workers in an unorganized sector. The study leads us to rethink and reconceptualise the migration process of women entering into labour markets in India. Their roles in the decision-making process, building and maintaining of migration networks redefine their familial roles and social and economic status. Gender-segregated labour markets and migrant women employed in any informal/un-organized sector of the economy suffer from a dual vulnerability - first being a woman and then being a migrant.