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Migration and Women; A gendered Perspective

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Introduction –

Migration is one among the well-written topic of popular literature . It is a feature and byproduct of globalisation. Factors encompassing adverse changes of climate, rise of sea level, ethnic and political conflict across the world are some notable factors which triggers the flow of migration. Broadly speaking, migration has always been at the core of Human civilisation and men and women equally effected by migration related issues like displacement, nostalgia, uprootedness, cultural hybridity, prejudice, marginality etc. Yet, the gendered notion of migration has been paid scant attention by theorists and policy-makers. The process of migration does not occur in in vacuum. It is informed, influenced, and determined by Economic political geographical and social factors, structure and circumstances although in some cases they are usually rich away from individuals control. Yet the prevailing humanitarian organisations and laws invokes masculine and salmon role in two different specific ways which results the further nourishment of gender subordinations. But gender travel along with bodies. The question of gender along with the issues and consequences related to female migrants cannot be overlooked because at one hand females are more vulnerable to sufferings associated with migration yet at the same time they too play a significant role in the process of growth and transformations .

Review of Literature

Migration leaves both positive and negative imprints on the countries and individuals involved. Piper (2020) argues that gender is one of the prime areas of the whole process of migration. His essay specifically focuses upon gendered analysis of politics, governance and migration. The author, by considering the work of another author i.e. Hollifield, he stated that it is not only politics which shapes migration (Hollifield;2000) , but migration in turn shape the architecture of politics. The century long practices of women's subjugation leads to the production of literature which maintain silence over the issue of gender. The author noted that female migration mostly occurred as domestic workers sex workers etc. With the increasing concern of terrorism migrants are sometimes appeared as a threat to national security, though international scholars still consider migration is a soft security threat instead of viewing and considering through the lenses of traditional sources of security concerns. Author considers the Hardy Fanta's work of 'Latina politics ,' (1993) in order to mention the public-private dichotomy in context of migrant domestic workers. The essay on the book 'Gender, Conflict and migration' author Navnita Chandra Behera basically focuses upon changes in status, identities and power-relations among

women and men as they moved from a conflict situation at home to migrant camps to the post-conflict and peace-building phase, when they return home. This volume urged to go beyond subaltern and downtrodden conceptualisation of conflict affected migrant women and urges the need for national and gender-asylum laws in view of the gendered nature of refugee laws. Migration questions the geographic and territorial boundaries. Females migration recreate gender identities, it produces differences. The volume of Behera talks about the uneasy relationship between state citizenship and national honour on one hand and women on the other, during and after conflict.

Another piece of work, an article authored by Urvashi Butalia encompasses the history of partition; the consequence of the British decision to partition the country and it is written in the history as a largest human migration. Butalia spoke about terrible violence inflicted upon during the process of migration, where women were either subjected to death by their own families or raped /assaulted in the hands of strangers. “ The gendered narrative of partition thus rehearses the age old patterns of males of actors and decision makers and females as passive accepters,”Butalia, 2016) . The dislocation process does not end only with the process of migration. It results the camouflage of other socio-political issues (as happening in Assam and other north-eastern states)

Central question = Why in an era of technological advancement and active multilateral organisation, women issues are still alienated from the table of decision-makers? Why especially women and Children are needed to incur huge cost (in terms of suffering) in the process of migration? When does migrant cease to be a migrant? Does the traditional design of family pragmatically provide protective web during the time of crisis? Is migration and toils associated with it an inherent condition for female migrants?

Hypothesis = In the process of migration, women are more vulnerable than men because century-long male-centric mechanisms.

Methodology = This work primarily deploys quantitative analysis as the aims and objectives of the respective research work is exploratory in nature. The respective research proposal also rely upon authentic sources. Analysis of selective migration related literature along with textual analysis is employed here.

Sources = For the conduct of respective work, here secondary sources are employed.

Tentative Chapterisation

The present study “Migration and Women: A gendered analysis ” will be divided into six chapters.

The introductory chapter discusses the causes and factors behind the process of migration. Concept and role of socio-economic factors, the role of gender , vulnerability of women in the flow of migration will get prime focus.

Introduction

It includes introduction of the topic. This chapter covers social, economic and political factors associated with migration. It talks about the central question followed by supplementary questions of this research proposal. Along with research methodology and objective of research, hypothesis of the work is also included in Introductory chapter.

What is meant by Home? The distance between ‘Citizens’ and ‘migrants’

This chapter talks about the gendered inequality within the family and what happens, when occurrence on conflict results displacement and disintegration of this heterosexual family.

This chapter mentions the official definitions of migrants.

Laws and Migration

The third chapter entitled ‘laws and migration’. It traces the factors responsible for the process of migration along with different domestic and international law in relation to migrants. The absence of gendered approach in International law as well as domestic regulations in state system is discussed vividly. Here, a detailed study of the tussle over the welfare responsibilities of a state in respect to its own citizens and humanitarian factors of migrants are presented .

Factors responsible for migration

A detailed analysis of push and pull factors responsible for migration is written here.

Vulnerability of women migrants and existing social system ; who gains and losses by whom

This chapter talks about the underlying causes behind the gendered disadvantage of migration. Lack of information and skill, lack of gender sensitive approach of existing social mechanisms are mentioned here. Return and reintegration process and the difficulties associated with it along with the problem of ‘xenophobia’ related to female get special mention in this chapter.

Limitations of existing research and legal and official framework

Several reasons are responsible for the persistence of vulnerability of women. Government lack a clear gender-sensitive policy framework with regard to migrant workers. Limitations of current statistics is also quite visible. Existing research articles, despite their vivid portrayal of the toil of female migrants through textual and comparative analysis, a way for token solutions is hardly visible.

Role of multilateral organisations

Here, the role and task of non-governmental organisations including the works of United Nations towards the way to bring equality between citizens and non-citizens, protective networks of migrants are reviewed.

Way Forward

Here, the possible capacity building measures to reintegrate and empower migrants are mentioned. This chapter encompasses the significance of more detail and systematic analysis of

gendered process of migration is highlighted to devise adequate policies for tackling the issue of migration.

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