

A Critical Analysis on the Exploitation of Asian Migrant Women Workers

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The application of human rights in the discussion of marginalization and oppression and the way it affects migrant women is pertinent because the purpose of human rights is to define what rights are essential if all people are to live lives in a secure and healthy environment in whatever communities they belong.

It is critical to articulate that migrant women facing human rights violations do share many common experiences of gender based violence, marginalization, exclusion, oppression, discrimination and gender inequality. Policy and practice responses to address the emancipation of migrant women are inadequate. Understanding and responding to violence against migrant women necessarily requires an understanding of why these issues are occurring.

Social isolation from friends and family; and emotional alienation as a result of self-blame and low self esteem, commonly affect migrant women. Isolation is particularly acute for migrant women and requires an analysis of culture, racism, gender, economic status and psychological status. Women are known to depend more on social networks but those social networks are often absent.

The largest obstacles facing them are their lack of language skills, which are essential for their assimilation into mainstream culture and societies in the country of residence. Therefore, they are unaware of their basic rights, state laws, governmental allowances and financial entitlements. They are often exploited in the sector of employment, social acceptance and in personal lives. Consequently they resort to marriage as a form of security and sustenance, which sometimes perpetuates the practice of monogamy. This paper shall highlight the victimization and violence against them which often tantamount to Human Rights violation primarily due to lack of awareness stemming from language barrier.

This paper shall discuss the significant dilemma of Asian migrant women workers in Western countries with regard to their social, cultural and economic status. It shall also underscore their ability to seek redress for their legal rights and awareness of their social and employment facilities. It shall conclude with the recommendations and proposals regarding the role of government both in the home country and the country of residence to improve the quality and expertise of women migrant worker.

