

# GenderSpeak

This issue focuses on the challenges faced by women in migrant care work

## Lack of Data Biggest Obstacle for Female Migrant Care Workers

While the rising female labour force participation in developed countries is a reason to celebrate, it is coming at a hidden cost. A report by the ILO on migrant care work shows that this rise brings with it the increasing demand for migrant domestic care workers, a majority of whom are women from developing countries. The inherent feminisation of domestic work coupled with a lack of recognised terms of employment put these female workers in a precarious condition. The latest ILO 2013, estimates that migrant workers are disproportionately concentrated in high-income countries. These countries host almost 80% (9.1 million) of global migrant domestic workers, 73.4% of whom are female. The lack of data on the nature and magnitude of female domestic work and the channels of migration are two key gaps that require immediate attention for effective policies.



Source: Flickr

## Challenges of Care Migration in South Asia

The varying nature of migration between men and women is best observed in the South Asian economies. This is fuelled by the differences in the nature of work undertaken by both genders. Women migrants from South Asian countries are primarily employed as care workers who work within the confines of the homes of their employers. In most cases, these women have no access to social security and are under paid. Since the care industry remains unaffected by cyclical shifts in the economy, women migrants tend to send in more remittances. In the case of India too, female migrants tend to dominate in numbers but in terms of contribution through remittances, there exists differences. This is attributed to the low skilled work women migrants undertake which results in lesser pay and subsequently lower contribution to remittances. What this calls for is the protection of the rights of women migrant workers who are stuck in the cycle of low skilled jobs and feminisation of occupations.



Source: Flickr

## Recommended Watch

'When Mother comes home for Christmas', directed by Nilita Vachani is a poignant take on the life of a female migrant care worker from Sri Lanka. The film expertly highlights the humanness of the struggles faced by care workers abroad and back at home.



Source: Nilita Vachani