A report released by the Ministry of Expatriates’ Welfare and Overseas Employment (MEWOE), Bangladesh, has brought to the fore the exploitation of Bangladeshi women workers in the Gulf Kingdom. The report says, 35 percent of returnee Bangladeshi women migrants were victims of sexual and physical abuse, while 43 percent received irregular wages. Women domestic workers primarily faced a range of abuses. The report has identified 11 fundamental reasons for women to flee from their workplace.

Though the legal system is in place, it is of not very effective, making migrants situation more vulnerable.

Indian construction industry provides job to about 10 percent of workers who are women migrants. Though the industry has been the largest employer of women, it has serious implications for health and educational outcomes of children. A study of 131 migrant children living in various construction sites in Ahmedabad showed that half of the children surveyed were underweight (low weight for age), 41% were stunted (low height for age) and 22% were wasted (low weight for height).

Poor dietary intake, unhealthy living environment and inadequate access to healthcare is attributing to the malnutrition among children. New born babies are deprived of exclusive breast feeding for first six months after birth, as women worker find working condition and environment as inappropriate and uncomfortable to feed their children.

Suggested Reading

Dhaka Tribune, Bangladesh's latest Challenge: Securing migrant women's rights

Scroll.in, https://scroll.in/article/938248/how-labour-conditions-at-construction-sites-are-leading-to-higher-rates-of-child-malnutrition, September 30th, 2019