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Sri Lankan female domestic workers overseas: the impact
Migration Journal. Scalabrini Migration Center.

Abstract

Sri Lanka, along with the Philippines and Indonesia, is a major source of migrant domestic workers. There has been little investigation into the impacts of the absence of women on their families and communities left behind. Contact migrant labour in Asia usually means leaving the family behind for two years or even longer. This paper firstly demonstrates how Sri Lankan women are increasingly becoming part of a global care chain. It draws on a survey and qualitative work among families and communities left behind by these migrant workers to explore the impacts on families and children. It examines the ways in which mothers seek to overcome the consequences of their absence on their families and children. A number of children policy recommendations are made to ameliorate the negative impacts of the absence of Sri Lankan migrant domestic workers.