



Post Migration Living Difficulties (PMLD) of Returned Women in Kyrgyzstan

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Introduction

- Migrants represent approximately 3% of the world's population. An estimate 258 million people are international migrants (UN, 2017)
- Over 700 000 labor migrants from Kyrgyzstan work in Russia (IOM,2017)
- Women comprise slightly less than half (48%) of all international migrants Kyrgyzstan has the highest share of women in migration (around 40%) Uzbekistan and Tajikistan having less than 20% (IOM,2017)
- Migrant women's contributions to host and origin communities is significant
- Migrant women earn less than male migrants do, but they tend to remit larger share of their earnings to their home communities (IOM et al., 2007)
- Migrant women face significant and specific challenges after return to their home communities (Thieme, 2014) They experience post migration living difficulties (PMLD)(Silove et al., 1997)

Theoretical frameworks

There is no uniform process of return migration and that competing theories might therefore be partly complementary

International Migration

- World system theory(Network theory and transnationalism)
- Push and Pull models
- Migration systems theory
(Macro and Micro structures)
- Social network theory

Return Migration

- Neoclassical economics
 - The new economics of labour migration (NELM)
 - Structural approach
 - Transnationalism
 - Social network theory
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Theoretical frameworks

The conceptual framework on return migration depends on different situations:

Return of achievement

Return of completion

Return of setback

Return of crisis (Battistella, 2014)

There is no uniform process of return migration and that competing theories might be partly complementary



Literature review

Most literature on return migration has focused on men or has not addressed gender differences, and relatively little is known about women's experiences and motivations behind decisions to return.

While some research has suggested that the likelihood of wishing to stay in the host country is higher among women than among men (Grasmuck & Pessar, 1991; Reagan & Olsen, 2000; Ravuri, 2014)

Migrant women feel stronger social pressures to return than do men because of the responsibility to look after children and other relatives in the home country (Nyberg-Sorensen, Van Hear, and Engberg-Pedersen, 2002; Parrenas, 2005).

Literature review

Migration can expose women to new skills and lead women to start their own businesses (Petrozziello 2013).

Migration can provide important opportunities for women. It can contribute to their empowerment, leadership and skills development (Thieme, 2014)

Migrant women can bring with them skills, innovation and cultural diversity when they return (World Bank Group, 2016)

There is little or no official statistical data allowing returnees' patterns of reintegration to be compared and assessed (Amcoff, 2011)

Women migrants typically face greater difficulties in reintegration into their communities of origin (Constable, 1999)

Literature review

Well-being of and prospects for children affect intentions and decisions to return home or to stay in the host country (Parreñas, 2005); (Djajic, 2008).

Research focusing on women migrants shows women's struggles with the returning versus staying dilemma as the desire to go back to their children or parents in the home country often clashes with the need to generate income to support them and often to maintain high social prestige associated with migration status (Hondagneu-Sotelo and Avila, 1997; Parrenas, 2001; Zontini, 2004; Sri Tharan, 2009; Akesson, Carling, and Drotbohm, 2012; Boccagni, 2012; Vlase, 2013).

Literature review

IOM's regional assessments conducted in 2016 and 2017 on returned migrants with re-entry ban status to the Russian Federation in Kyrgyzstan have identified women to be one of the most vulnerable groups of returned migrants.

A joint research report by UN Women, UNIFEM and IOM (2017) documented that migrant women who returned to their communities in Kyrgyzstan are also facing stigmatization, status loss and estrangement from their spouses and children. These in turn create behavioral, emotional and social difficulties (BESD).

Data and Methods

Primary data

In depth interviews with returned migrant women

Key informant interviews with representatives of state ministries and agencies at the regional and city level, NGOs, focusing on migrant women

Semi structured interviews with family members of returned migrant women

Secondary Data

National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic

LiK data, 2016, 2019.

Annual reports, social indicators databases, working documents of the UN agencies, UNFPA, IOM, ILO, OSCE, World Bank

Data and reports of local non-governmental organizations on the issues of migrant women in Kyrgyzstan

Research questions

What was the post- return experience of female returned migrants in Kyrgyzstan? Some related questions will be:

Why did migrant women return?

Was it difficult to adapt/ integrate upon return?

Did the family benefit from the migration of a female spouse/mother?

Were the family members of returned female migrant supportive?

Did the women face stigmatization upon return?

What factors contribute to return home for these women?

What factors hinder to return home for these women?



LiK appropriate questions to be analyzed

How many adult members of your household have worked abroad during the last 5 years (for more than one month) and have returned by today?

How many adult members of your household are currently staying abroad (for more than one month, excluding business trips, vacation and visiting)?

What is the highest certificate / diploma / degree [NAME] obtained so far?

In which year/month did [NAME] leave the HH the last time?

LiK appropriate questions to be analyzed

In which sector is [NAME]'s main activity?

In this work, which position is [NAME] holding?

Who provided information on where to go and/or how to find work?

What was the main source of funding for [NAME] going abroad?

How often were you in contact with [NAME] during the last 12 months? (while he/she was abroad)

What was the main means of communication you used?



LiK appropriate questions to be analyzed on remittances

During the last 12 months, did you receive any money from abroad sent by migrants who are members of this household?

How much money did the migrant(s) send during the last 12 months, for example, carried by migrant himself, by friends/relatives, or sent via bank/money transfer agencies?

How many times within the last 12 months did the migrant(s) send/bring money?

Did you receive regular the money sent by the migrant(s)?

LiK appropriate questions to be analyzed on remittances

What did you spend the money on?

Do you rely more or less on remittances today than you did one year ago?

For how many years has this family been receiving money from abroad sent by migrants who are members of this household?

Within the last 12 months, did the migrant(s) send/bring goods to this household Yes from abroad?

How much would it cost to buy the goods sent by the migrant(s) here?

Thank you!

