

Trade off between health condition and socio economic condition by working women in UAE: A case study

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Abstract:

Dynamism in labour markets along with globalisation has impact on the labour market especially the female labour migration, it expanded the horizon of opportunities as well as intensified the challenges. In one hand the relocation process as well as employment in a host country has increased their freedom, earning and self respect. It leads to gender equality. On the other hand they also expose women torisks and challenges, in some cases it also became the cause of violation of human rights. Since recruitment stage, the journey or living and working in another country, women migrant workers, especially those in irregular situations, are vulnerable to harassment, exploitation, humiliation to them and their families. The exploitation is multidimensional I.e., economic and physical exploitation, discrimination on the base of race, culture, caste and literacy. The effect of xenophobia, unhealthy and unsafe working environments, increased health risks and different forms of exploitations like compulsion to change the religion, trafficking, debt slavery, involuntary enslavement . The Women migrant workers are subject to exploitation easily in comparison to the female of the host country and the males. Gender based discrimination intensified with other factors i.e. race, ethnicity, religion, economic status which aggravated the situation. To enhance the knowledge base and to justify as tools for protecting and promoting the rights of female migrant workers, A case study is undertaken. The case study is exclusively based on the health cost and socio economic condition.

Aim: The objective of the study is to find out the health cost of working women. The cost and benefit analysis of working women in UAE. Abu Sagara area is taken for the collection of Primary data. It is a place in Sharjah where maximum working people are there. Maximum work in Dubai and stay in Abu Sagara due to low cost of housing. In the case study 100 primary data is taken to find out the relation between health cost and socio economic condition.

This report elaborates the authenticity of the female workforce migrated from different part of the world to the United Arab Emirates as domestics helps and working community. Maids and domestic help occupies an important segment of the workforce in the united arab emirates. The United Arab Emirates is a newly emergent oil economy (1971) in the middle east. It has peculiar social and national features. Its work force is predominantly foreigner, a reality that brings paradoxes to the issue of contribution and the treatment of the foreign labour forces in these regions. Domestic maids, helpers share the same level of exploitation and vulnerability. In fact, they are supposed more subject to exploitation due to their privacy status in the UAE region. The study focuses on the reality of foreign female domestic workers , who in

many international occurrences have been recounted as victims of maltreatment, sexual abuse and other type of exploitation.

The United Arab Emirates is a federation consist of seven Emirates: Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ajman, Umm-al-Quwain, Ras al-Khaimah, al-Fujairah. The federation was established in the year 1971, just 9 years after oil began to be exploited as well as exported. Before that , the Emirates had no boundaries, no roads, no newspapers, no telephones, and no electricity , no tall buildings. Even today u will get the boundry less divisions.

Within a brief gestation, oil has made the United Arab Emirates one of the richest countries in the world. During 1980s, the United Arab Emirates were rated the richest country in the globe with a per capita GNP of US\$28'000 in fact, closer to US\$100'000 for citizens . "Oil income accounted for 88 per cent of total Government revenue over the period 1975–85" . Oil has given the United Arab Emirates the prospect to break regional and global records in urban development and economic growth. People in the form of tourists and workers in flowed in large numbers to UAE for job and other plea. The OPEC has crucial role in the conversion of the economy from nomadic tribes to richest economies. On the socio-economic level, the United Arab Emirates is not a significant country, rather a country of contradictions. It has urban population (80–90 per cent of the population) coincides with some of the oldest social systems with traditional and tribal beliefs and faiths. In the United Arab Emirates today tribalism, welfare, religious dogma some peculiar beliefs are all vital components of the socio-institutional structure. The development in human resources is remarkable but lopsided.

In the sphere of education the things has been changed .The United Arab Emirates that, during 1950s and 1960s the pupils used to travel to different countries to learn and educate themselves, but in 1990s the things changed. According to the 1995 UN Development Report, the United Arab Emirates has the "highest level of female literacy in the Arab world 68 per cent and overall illiteracy fell from 56.55 per cent in 1975 to 16.8 per cent in 1992. The Government targeted to achieve universal literacy by 2020. Women dominated over 80 per cent of literacy due to the state support of the literacy. In 1970, females literacy represented around four per cent of the population; in 1993, the proportion had reached 80 per cent . The number of female students registered at United Arab Emirates schools has increased 14fold (1972-1996). This indicates a commendable improvement in the field of education.

Conventionally, the role of women is delimited by certain traditions and beliefs.The role of male and female is clearly demarcated, the ladies will take care of the works inside the house and the male will take care the works outside . Before the OPEC era, the jurisdiction of the private versus public was clearly divided. Nowadays, women increasingly contribute in the work place and share the public sphere with men. The women participation in the public work domain in UAE started in 1970s and it increased in 1980s but it is still less in comparison to the workers from the rest of the world. However, the labour force participation of women is still only 11.6 % in comparison to 88.34 % for men.

United Arab Emirates women are mostly employed in the federal and local Government sector, holding over 40 per cent of the total jobs. In 1980, 68 per cent of the United Arab Emirates female work force was working in the public sector. By 1990, this average rose to 94.1 per cent . Irrespective of Government provision, the number of female nationals lags behind women migrants workers in the United Arab Emirates due to their efficiency and productivity. In behaviour they are relatively adamant and insensitive in comparison to the expatriate workers. An profusion of capital on one hand and a scarcity of domestic

labour force on the other have considered the developmental need of United Arab Emirates for foreign workforce. Imported labour compensates for poor human resources but this compensation has stunned the demographic feature of the country and created a very typical social structure.

In UAE maximum women are not aware of their health condition. Around 60 percent of the working women are suffering from bone related disease as they are neither getting the morning sun rays due to odd working hours and after noon due to tired from work. During weekly off days they work for home and for the society. The lack of sunrays and continuous use of Air conditioner reduced their capacity to fight with small environmental change. 60 percentage have the problem of over weight. 75 percentage face the problem of eye. Around 80 percentage face the problem of constipation. Nose and throat infection is common among 50 percentage of the population. 25 percentage of the population face the skin disease.

Few of the women knows that their working in the office which is in the basement has impact on heart and lungs but still they compromise. Due to high cost of living they try to support the income of the family by working either part time or full time. To improve the socio economic condition of the family they have to work.

The trade off between the health and socio economic condition of the working women in UAE is peculiar in nature.