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# **FEMALE LABOUR MIGRATION IN SOUTH INDIA: INSIGHTS FROM NSSO DATA**

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## **Abstract**

*Over the years the literature on migration has grown in volume and variety in response to the unfolding complexities of migratory processes. Though women's employment oriented migration is on the increase, only few studies discuss the movement of women in detail especially in relation to poverty. As per the objective set up of the study, the study found out that Female migration is more than male migration in all south Indian states. Among the south Indian states Andhra Pradesh ranks first in attracting women from other states and Karnataka is the least for the same. Kerala has the highest number of 'never married' category of women than other states in south India.*

## **Introduction**

Of late labour migration is getting feminized especially in developing countries. (U.N., 2004, Karlekar, 1995, Fawcett et al, 1984, Fernandez Kelly & Patricia, 1983) female economic migration is more pronounced in the recent ten to fifteen years. Changes in the rural economy also have contributed to this increased female migration. Increasing productivity in agriculture has been associated with decreasing opportunities for wage employment in agriculture for women when compared to that of men. Literature pertaining to India as well as South-East Asian Countries clearly indicates that the initial opposition to women's migration had been overcome after seeing the remittances from women who migrated earlier, and the crucial role played by such remittances in the survival of rural households in this age of consumerism and commercialization.

## **Types of Female Migration**

The real world phenomenon indicates three distinct types of female migration (Fawcett et al, 1984) (a) Autonomous female migration: Many middle and upper middle class women migrate to cities for improving their educational credentials and also to get suitable employment apparently in a quest for social advancement and also to enhance their status in the marriage market. 3 Among the semi-literate, young girls migrating to towns/cities to work in export processing units, garment industry, electronic assembling and food processing units is continuously on the increase in the recent years; (b) Relay migration: To augment family