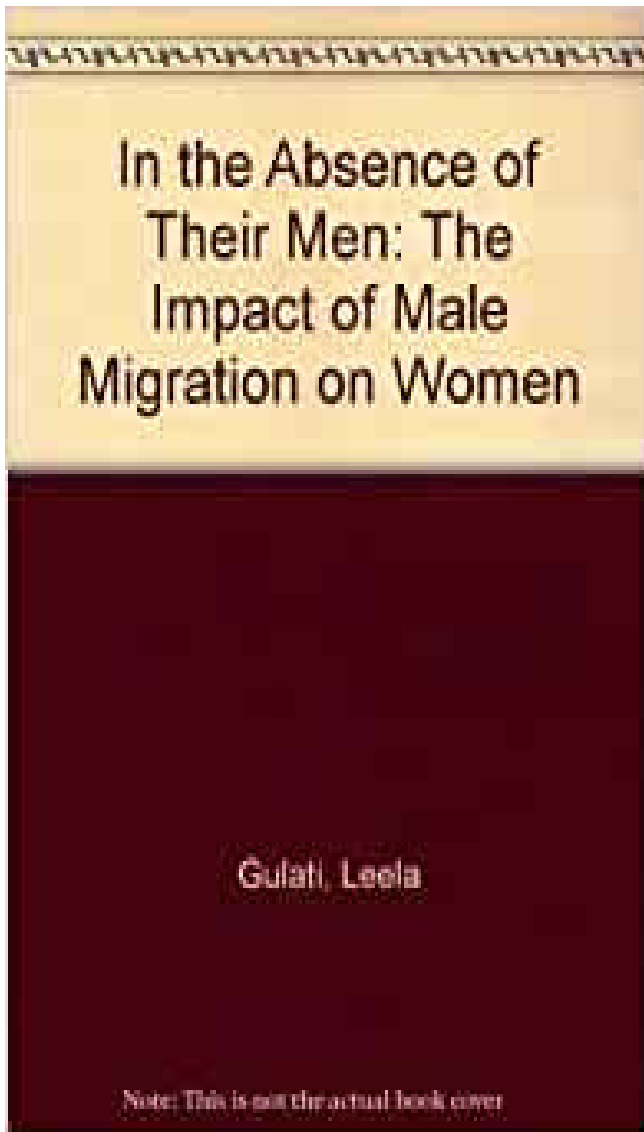


ROOTS & ROUTES

Vol 12, No. 10, October 2023



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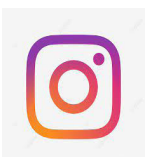
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Dear Readers,

Greetings!

War between two countries not only impacts the economy but also creates a situation of deep panic among people, unsettling them and making them concerned for the safety of their lives and their loved ones. In the age of the digital world, where social media appears to connect individuals with communities and other social groups, it may act as a beacon of hope for displaced people seeking safe places. Furthermore, digital applications and websites also seem to serve as guiding sources for migrants affected by the Russia-Ukraine war. The current issue attempts to highlight the role of digital platforms during the Russia-Ukraine war.

In this edition, we bring you an insightful article that explains how digital platforms were used by people during the war. The article "Perceived Exposure to Migration Amidst Perilous Stalemate in Ukraine: Predicting Migration Using Google Trends" by Sila Mishra contributes to understanding migration patterns in crisis situations, offering innovative methodologies and important insights for policymakers and researchers in the field of migration and humanitarian response. This issue also shares special coverage of the "4th International E-Conference on Migration, Governance, and COVID-19: Session on Internal Migration in India," by Simran Dhingra. Additionally, this issue includes a book review titled "In the Absence of Their Men: The Impact of Male Migration on Women, Trivandrum: Centre for Development Studies," reviewed by Rekha J.

We invite readers to participate and share their experiences with us to have a meaningful engagement. You can communicate with us through email at editorinchief@grfdt.com. We wish you happy reading and look forward to your suggestions and comments.

Feroz Khan

PERCEIVED EXPOSURE TO MIGRATION AMIDST PERILOUS STALEMATE IN UKRAINE: PREDICTING MIGRATION USING GOOGLE TRENDS

“.....The migration itself, like the pilgrimage, is the hard journey: a ‘leveller’ on which the ‘fit’ survive and stragglers fall by the wayside. The journey thus pre-emptly the need for hierarchies and shows of dominance.”

(The Songlines)

The sites of deaths, collapsed walls, rubbles of kindergarten, shops, public utilities, and agricultural machines as well as Ukrainian students posing among the rubble whilst marking their graduation, demonstrate an unprecedented humanitarian crisis. The war that broke out on [24th February](#) has ravaged the economy of Ukraine with a “freefall into poverty”. Ukrainian people are facing an estimated \$349 billion repair cost for infrastructure and \$252 billion for disruption in economic flows and production. (World Bank, 2022). Lasting for more than six months, the war in Ukraine has displaced numerous people, caused an unimaginable toll and pushed an entire generation on the brink of survival. More than 16 lakh refugees from Ukraine have registered themselves for temporary protection or similar national protection schemes and 1,707,455 refugees from Ukraine have been recorded in Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, Poland and the Republic of Moldova ([UNHCR](#)). Further, 7,536,433 refugees from Ukraine were recorded across Europe as of [30th September 2022](#) and 4,183,841 refugees from Ukraine registered for Temporary Protection or similar national protection schemes in Europe. To comprehend the lives on hold, following the first intentions survey, UNHCR conducted the [second round of the survey](#) and found that the majority of refugees intend to stay in their current host country because of safety and socio-economic issues in Ukraine. Given this backdrop and understanding the scarcity of migration data this article demonstrates how geo-referenced online search data (Google Trend Index, GTI) using both Ukrainian and English keywords can be used to examine the migration

intention in Ukraine. This would facilitate real-time prediction of migration trends across the Ukraine regions.

The escalation in Ukraine has caused considerable damage in Ukraine, compelling people to displace from their homes, thus, making it a policy issue at a global level. Data on migration has the potential to aid in academic research, and effective policymaking. However, the huge cost associated with the collection of high-frequency nationally representative migration data and variability in the definitions of data sources across the world still pose an obstacle to migration research. Given this backdrop, to obtain high-frequency data on a real-time basis, Google Trends as shown by Choi & Varian (2012) could be a better indicator in ‘*predicting the present*’, considered as a form of ‘*contemporaneous forecasting*’ or ‘*nowcasting*’. Google Trends is a georeferenced online search data which has become increasingly important in applied economic research. Prior to using Google Trends to measure the perceived exposure to migration, from the World Bank statistics, it may be observed that there has been a significant surge in internet users, and internet connections in Ukraine (Table 1). It is also worth mentioning that before the crisis, there was an uptick in migration and remittances.

Table 1 Internet accessibility in Ukraine

Variable	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Individuals using the Internet (% of the population.)	53.00	58.89	62.55	70.12	75.04
Secure Internet servers	85755	177005	268976	349187	395092
Mobile cellular subscriptions (per 100 people)	133.17	131.36	127.75	130.63	129.34
Fixed broadband subscriptions	5125499	5239743	5405125	6784185	7769401

Note: Data sourced from the World Bank

Google Trends Index

Collecting the data for the keywords mentioned in Table 2, a Google Trends Index (GTI) has been created. Each trends index is calculated as:

$$GTI_t = \left(\frac{\sum_{j=1}^n \text{search term value}_t}{Max_t \times K_i} \right) \times 100$$

$$\text{where } K_i = \sum_{j=1}^n \text{number of search terms} > 0$$

and Max_t = Maximum search term value

Author has used Google Trends to track the frequency of search terms for migration in Ukraine. The purpose ranges from the assumption that those who are considering migration are inclined towards consulting the internet before moving because it is less influenced by perceived societal judgements simultaneously protecting their anonymity and privacy. Google supplies insights on the intended trip and intention of the people from the place of origin to migrate. Further, these queries don't even require high-level programming skills and record extremely high-frequency data and could be accessed virtually free. Though Ukraine has experienced migration in the past too, Google Trends supplies insights into the last 12 months' Google search and interest across regions.

Table 2 List of keywords

English	Ukrainian	English	Ukrainian
Applicant	Заявник	Nationality	Національність
Arrival	Прибуття	Naturalization	Натуралізація
Asylum	Притулок	Deportation	Депортація
Benefit	Вигода	Diaspora	Діаспора
Border control	Прикордонний	Earning	Заробіток
Business	Бізнес	Economy	Економіка
Citizenship	Громадянство	Embassy	Посольство
Compensation	Компенсація	Emigrant	Емігрант
Consulate	Консульство	Emigrate	Емігрувати
Contract	Договір	Passport	Паспорт
Customs	МИТНИЦЯ	Payroll	Нарахування
Emigration	Еміграція	Pension	Пенсія
Employer	Роботодавець	Quota	Квота
Employment	Працевлаштування	Reservation	Бронювання
Foreigner	Іноземець	Recession	Рецесія
GDP	ВВП	Recruitment	Вербування
War	Війна	Refugee	Біженець

Crisis	Криза	Remuneration	Винагорода
Hiring	Наймання	Required documents	Необхідні
Illegal	Незаконний	Salary	Зарплата
Immigrant	Іммігрант	Smuggler	Контрабандист
Immigrate	Іммігрувати	Smuggling	Контрабанда
Immigration	Імміграція	Tax	Податок
Income	Дохід	Tourist	Туристичний
Inflation	Інфляція	Unauthorized	Несанкціонований
Internship	Стажування	Undocumented	Бездокументований
Job	Робота	Unemployment	Безробіття
Labor	Праці	Union	Спілка
Layoff	Звільнення	Vacancy	Вакансія
Legalization	Легалізація	Visa	Віза
Migrate	Мігрувати	Waiver	Відмова
Migration	Міграція	Wage	Заробітна
Minimum	Мінімум	Welfare	Добробуту

Note: English keywords borrowed from Böhme et al. (2020).

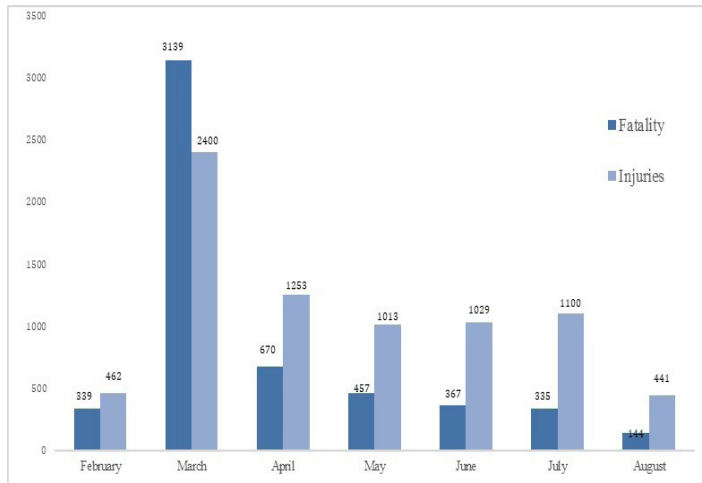
Ukrainian Keywords are derived from Google Translator being used for each English keyword.

The real-time monitoring of migration intentions through Google Trends for the past 12 months shows three-fold insights. Firstly, shortly after the unprovoked invasion in Ukraine on 24th February, there has been a surge in the Google search for the list of keywords presented in Table 2, indicating the uptick in the perceived exposure to migration. The trend seems to be rising in both English and Ukrainian language, however, it is prominent for Ukrainian keywords. Secondly, the trend of migration intention closely follows the fear arising from casualties and injuries recorded in Ukraine. As the casualties shot up in Ukraine (Refer to Figure 1), people's intention to migrate also rose in the form of Google searches. This surge in searches for migration was repeated across the period following the unrest. Thirdly, over the last 12 months, the lowest-ever migration search was recorded on 27th February (Ukrainian language) and the highest was recorded on 25th September 2022. The variation across Google searched in English and the Ukrainian language isn't much different (standard deviation hovering around 5) implying are less indifferent over the usage of these languages while searching for migration related keywords.

Google search for the list of keywords as reported in Table 3 across regions shows that people living

in Kyiv city and Ivano-Frankivs'ka oblast have held the top spot in the interest-by-region list for the last 12 months in English and Ukrainian language the most. The minimum was recorded in Chernihivs'ka oblast and Luhans'ka oblast in English and Ukrainian language respectively.

Figure 1 Casualties recorded in 2022 due to the invasion



Note: Based on the information provided by the Office of The High Commissioner for Human Rights

Figure 2 Google search for the migration keywords in the English language

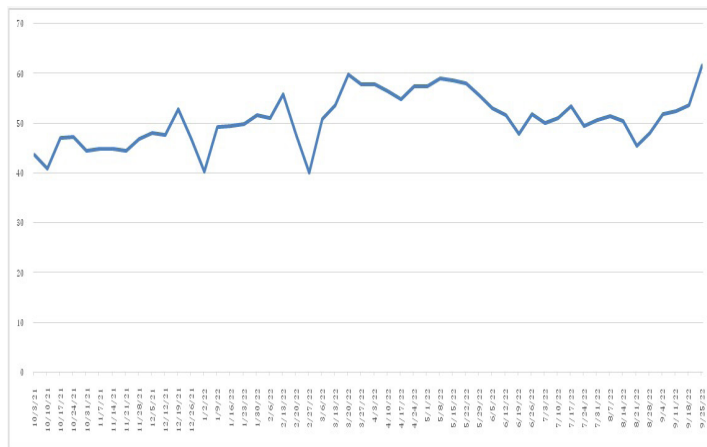
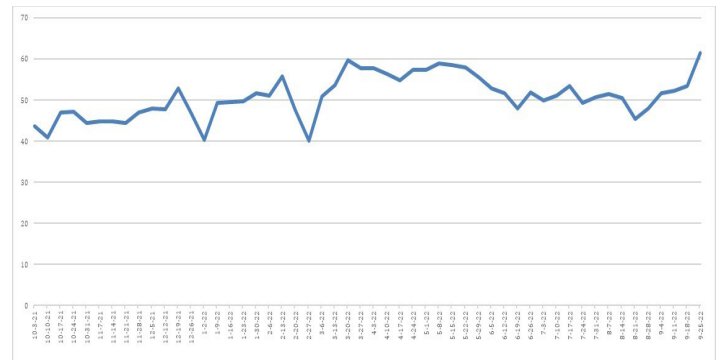


Figure 3 Google search for the migration keywords in the Ukrainian language



We find that following the invasion there has been a surge in Google Searches for keywords related to migration in the past 12 months in Ukraine which closely follows the casualties recorded (Figure 2 and Figure 3). From the policy perspective, this real-time data on migration intention could be used to deliver aid across regions in Ukraine in this humanitarian crisis. The study could be complemented with other tools to match the robustness of the prediction with the official statistics. It can improve the performance of conventional models of migration flows. Further, as shown by the earlier studies these data could be used for an interesting empirical test for future work to investigate the impact of an exogenous shock on migration-specific GTI and on migration flows in a region.

Table 3 Interest in migration search by region

	Ukrainian language	English language
Top 6	Ivano-Frankivs'ka oblast	Kyiv city
	Temopil's'ka oblast	Lviv Oblast
	Volyns'ka oblast	Vinnys'ka oblast
	Lviv Oblast	Zakarpats'ka oblast
	Rivnens'ka oblast	Chernivets'ka oblast
	Khmel'nyts'ka oblast	Sevastopol' city
Bottom 6	Luhans'ka oblast	Chernihivs'ka oblast
	Donetsk Oblast	Zaporiz'ka oblast
	Kharkiv Oblast	Dnipropetrovsk Oblast
	Zaporiz'ka oblast	Khersons'ka oblast
	Dnipropetrovsk Oblast	Donetsk Oblast
	Odessa Oblast	Crimea

The escalation in Ukraine has caused considerable damage in Ukraine compelling people to displace from their homes. Millions of vulnerable refugees who have

crossed borders with their elderly parents, children, and differently-abled dependents are in dire need of aid at their origin and destination. In addition to the findings, it can be said that along with the support from inter-government agencies, this volatile and unpredictable situation in Ukraine demands data-driven policy formulation which could be made possible with the assistance of real-time big data. Therefore, any effort in this direction should be a welcome step.

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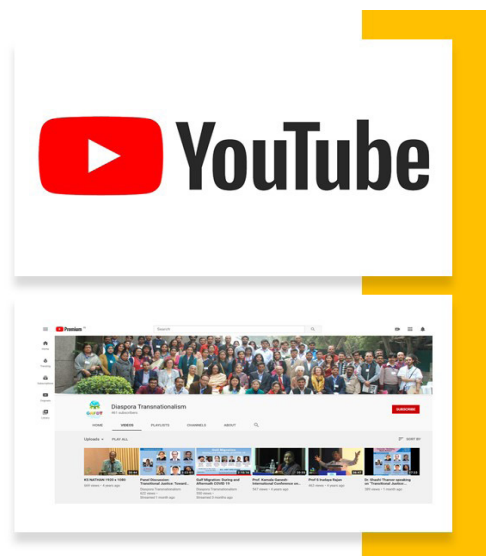
Sila Mishra is a research scholar in the Department of Economic Sciences at IIT-Kanpur and her research interest primarily lies in Applied Microeconomics.

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4TH INTERNATIONAL E-CONFERENCE ON MIGRATION, GOVERNANCE AND COVID-19: SESSION ON INTERNAL MIGRATION IN INDIA

The fourth session of the 4th International E-Conference on “Migration, Governance, and COVID-19: Perspectives, Policies, Opportunities, and Challenges”, was held on November 3, 2022. The theme of the session was “Internal Migration in India”. The session was chaired by **Dr. Ruchi Singh**, who is a Postdoctoral Fellow at Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore (IIM-B).

The first speaker of this session was **M. Rekha**. In her paper titled “A comparative post-pandemic study of native and migrants among the construction workers in North Chennai region”, she discussed the dynamic industry of the Indian construction sector while conducting a comparative analysis of factors affecting the worker’s choices. The COVID-19 pandemic negatively impacted the economy. The paper attempted to develop a pragmatic approach towards understanding the problem of economic and social vulnerability amongst the migrant informal workers in urban settings, particularly Chennai. The migrants from Andhra Pradesh come to Tamil Nadu, particularly North Chennai due to lower living costs. Her paper focused on the push and pull factors that influence the migrants. By using indicators of gender, wages, promotion, work experience and changes due to the pandemic the study aimed at examining the socio-economic variables to understand the influence on migrant construction workers. She analysed the mean difference in wages of native and migrant workers during pre and post pandemic times. The study depicts that there is a significant relationship between factors such as age, income, education, size of family in influencing job preference.

Bharati Maurya presented her research paper on “Push and pull mechanism of textile migrant workers in urban regions of India”. Her paper highlighted a rarely studied area of push and pull factors that impact migration to Surat, Gujarat, in the textile industry. Interestingly through her study she brought to light

that amongst textile workers in Surat the “silk city”, only 10% are from Gujarat and 90% from other Indian states, bringing forth the massive flow of migrants in the city. Her paper analyzes the factors influencing these migrant workers to move to a new city. The study identified factors such as poverty, high rates of unemployment in native cities, lower socio-economic status and inadequate land push the migrant workers to seek pathways of better employment and income generation opportunities. In the migratory movements these workers chose to come to Surat motivated by the large number of industrial development which provides quick employment to skilled, unskilled and semi-skilled people. Families and relatives emerged as the prominent support systems for migration that encourage and assist workers to get jobs in the city through contacts. She concluded the presentation by observing that income remains the major factor and the workers professed that they would move elsewhere for better remuneration opportunities.

Alyssa Selma Martins through her paper “Internal migration discourse in Goa: An analysis of print media” discussed the issues of how migration is perceived by the media and the Goan community. Her research analyses the dimension and direction of how the media covers migration in Goa. By conducting a Content Analysis, she examined the media framing, placement of articles in national and local newspapers such as Times of India and Oheraldo, the tone of the article; whether it was positive, negative or neutral, along with other variables. The local newspaper had more articles regarding migrants than national newspapers covering a range of issues such as the debate in parliament for strengthening migration laws. The study found that out of 137 articles there was not a single article that spoke of migrants in a positive light, using the frame of labelling them as criminal and economic threat, whereas national daily highlighted the positive impact on migration on economy. There were very few articles on struggles or issues faced by migrants. The national



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daily focused more on fact-based reporting whereas the local daily catered to the native and government sentiments, disregarding the narratives of struggles of migrant workers during COVID-19 pandemic. The presentation concluded with Ms. Martins shedding light on the statement by the Chief Minister of the state requesting migrants to stay back post pandemic to rebuild the economy, highlighting the vital roles they play in society.

Presenting her paper on “Change in economy and development in tribal area: A study among the Gaddis of Dharamshala and Bharmour region of Himachal Pradesh, India” **Shivanshi Nehra**, who conducted an Ethnographic study on the pastoral Gaddi tribe of Uttarakhand, examined their development and transformation over the years. While 30% of the Gaddi’s are fully nomadic, about 70% have adopted sedentary lifestyle. Underlying factors behind it is that the Forest Department of Himachal Pradesh put restrictions on pastures, implementing taxes on them. Hardship in traditional occupation, theft of livestock during winter migration, climate change reducing the pastures, development programmes, reservations and policies for their education and upliftment formed some of the influences. Economic development and increase in tourism, along with arrival of 14th Dalai Lama, led the location of Dharamshala to become a famous Buddhist sanctuary and pilgrimage. Tourism brought immense opportunities to Gaddis, rise in economic status, improved lifestyle aided them in entering the political sphere where they acquired a seat on the table.

Anvita Singh, a PhD scholar at Centre for Studies of Social Systems, Jawaharlal Nehru University, spoke on Out-migration: Sociological analysis of “ghost villages” of Uttarakhand, India. The phenomena of out migration, brought forth the popularisation of the term “Ghost Villages”. Amusingly this has nothing to do with supernatural elements but these are construction made by the print media and social media, that led to widespread sensationalisation. However, these are simply uninhabited villages (called so by the Census), where people are not found to be residing, which can be found in other countries as well. In conclusion she shared that healthcare and education were the major factors influencing migration by tribes to bigger districts in Uttarakhand.

Presenting his paper on “An analysis of socio-economic status of construction workers: Evidence from Faizabad (Ayodhya), Uttar Pradesh, India”, **Mr. Shyam Narayan Bharti** examined the socio-economic status of construction workers in Ayodhya by addressing the question of how and why they chose to come to the city and the major problems faced by them. He adopted the case study methodology, along with exploratory study, interviewing and interacting with over 200 labourers in the Labour Mandi. After analysis he found that majority of workers are from the OBC (Other Backward Castes) community, low educational attainment, low literacy and deplorable conditions impacted their family. The workers are primarily unskilled and the main issues faced by them are lack of documentation and poor health conditions. The work is inter-generational as it continues from one generation to another. They receive their wages according to their skills, therefore highly skilled labourers receive more wages. In conclusion, he highlighted the government’s failure in implementing social welfare schemes, shortage of project activities and healthcare welfare schemes for the workers. Therefore, he recommended that there is a need of proper regulation regarding working hours and good working conditions.

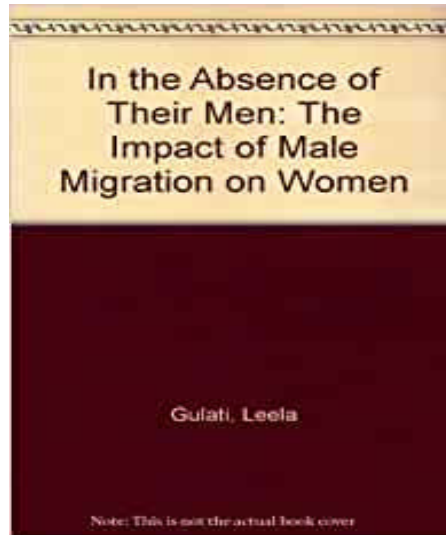
Simran Dhingra is pursuing a Master’s in Conflict Analysis and Peacebuilding. She is a delegate, advocating for a nuclear weapons free world at Member State Party Youth Conference in Vienna, 2022 organised by Youth4TPNW. She has worked as Communications and Engagement intern with United Nations Climate Change, Germany and contributed to the COP26 held in Glasgow. She has interned with National Human Rights Commission India. Her commitment to gender, peacebuilding and human rights led her to be selected as one of the Young Ambassadors by Initiatives of Change, Switzerland (2021). She received a scholarship in recognition of her peacebuilding work to attend the Summer Peacebuilding Programme, organised by Middlebury Institute of International Studies USA. Her main areas of interest are gender, migration, peace and memory studies.

LEELA GULATI (1993) IN THE ABSENCE OF THEIR MEN: THE IMPACT OF MALE MIGRATION ON WOMEN, TRIVANDRUM: CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES. ISBN: 978083991286. 176 PAGES

The book 'In the absence of their men: The impact of male migration on women' was written by Leela Gulati, born in Mysore, India. She began her teaching career at Maharaj Sayajirao University. Later she moved to Trivandrum and worked with the Centre for Development Studies. In recent years she has been working on the female dimension of aging and widowhood. This book comprises five chapters. The book focuses on the women of migrant households of Kerala. The author chose two neighboring villages in Trivandrum, Kerala, where migration to West Asia largely prevails. The study is based on the biographies of the wives of ten migrants from the villages of Alakad and Bhimapally of Trivandrum district in Kerala. The author tried to examine the various health, psychological, financial, and family issues that arise when the men from the family leave the house. The author has attempted to use case studies as a research methodology for conducting her research and later to publish a book. She attempts to articulate how women whether it is the migrant's mother or wife gets affected by the migration of their son or husband. Thus, the book covers the narration of the effects of women, who are often left behind on account of the absence of men, who went to work in the Middle East nations like Saudi Arabia, Oman, and Kuwait.

In Chapter 1, the author tried to introduce readers to how she came into the research of these women, what all factors led to this, and how those case studies molded into a book. Chapter 2 describes the region to which these migrants belong. Chapter 3 explains ten autobiographies of women from migrant households which is the substance of the book. This chapter deals with the core ideas of the study she conducted throughout her research. Readers can see that this chapter covers almost half of the book and outlines how the migration of one or more male members affects household activities. Chapter 4 deals with the

observations and findings that the researcher has made from her study. Chapter 5 is a short observation of the all findings.



The households she selected during the studies were middle-low-income groups. When the author and her husband's family moved to Trivandrum because of her husband's work, the author got interested in the lives of women who used to sell fish and were also working on construction sites. Through her visit to their homes, she realized something is lacking in the earlier studies conducted by various economists including her husband. So, Gulati decided to conduct a study and write a book about the effect of

migration. Each woman described their life and how they cope with various situations. They belong to low-income families and many of them are illiterate too but it does not make them any lesser. They gained working knowledge in many fields and even started small businesses of their own and through that, they were occupied by themselves. Some of them wrote letters to their migrant husbands, paid loans, operated bank accounts and broadened their vision on financial matters, raised their children, and even looked after their family and managed household chores. Women in those migrant households also became very anxious about the education of their children. They gained these abilities and knowledge through money sent back by their son or husband. Women in migrant households having new and additional responsibilities become more mobile than others in the region. Thus, most of them become learned to manage things on their own by becoming self-reliant and decisive. The general awareness of developments around the world enhanced a lot when compared to other non-migrant households. They also seem to be able to produce a much greater result on the decisions taken by husbands than before because of the regular communication with them through letters.

Leela Gulati reached the conclusion that had impacted those migrant households on a larger scale, including the impact of migration that happens even before a migrants' journey overseas for a job. Also, the decision-making process is vested in the hands of women of the migrant household and has a crucial influence on migration. The impact on the family is a dynamic process because the degree of change in the women left behind depends on the length of the migrant's stay abroad. When we are analyzing the successes, there are only fewer failures. The author has an overall impression that women from migrant households start from failures but they overcome these with considerable support not only from close family members but also from relatives, close friends, and neighbors. Their network with those will increase to do various activities and needs of their home because of the absence of the migrant of the family. From the author's observation, it is noticeable that women become able to cope with the situations or matters like running households, managing funds, and so on. Thus, it has been observed in the book that male migration has resulted in a large amount of women empowerment in certain areas of Trivandrum.

Overall, this book is a simple read, making it more available in the literature. This will be useful for those who are involved in migration studies, women studies, and sociology. Most of her works mainly focus on the issues of women, work, and poverty, and are also

known for using case studies as a research methodology. Through this book, Leela Gulati has put her suggestions for further studies in the field of migration, particularly to the West Asian region. Though the book is based on in-depth case study, the number of cases studies are still very less. The book provides very deep insights in to the family of the migrants and has many policy suggestions toward dealing with socio-psychological and economic aspects of the many states currently experiencing international migration. The book is beneficial for students and scholars who are interested in learning more about women's mobility and the issues associated with it.

Book Review by Rekha J

Rekha J is currently pursuing my masters in International Relations and Politics from School of International Relations and Politics. I am an active social worker. Currently working as a Content Curator in The International Prism. Also volunteering in Sex Education Kerala (SEK) Foundation.

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