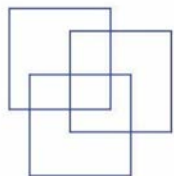




International
Labour
Organization



REINTEGRATION OF RETURNEE MIGRANTS INTO THE NATIONAL LABOUR MARKET IN NEPAL



CONTEXT

- Close to **half a million** labour permits issued in last fiscal year
- Majority of migrant workers **between the age of 15 to 29** years of age
- While 36.5% of migrants have at least **secondary level education**, 22% only have **primary education**
- Skills categorization of Nepali migrant workers
 - **73.67% as “unskilled”**
 - **11.96% as semi-skilled**
 - **14.34% as skilled**
 - **0.02% as professional**

OBJECTIVES

- To explore transferability of skills and experience of returnee migrant workers in the national labour market:
 - Review the existing policy and programmatic frameworks to support the reintegration of returnee migrants in the labour market
 - Analyse the existing challenges and opportunities to recognize the skills of returnee migrant workers

METHODOLOGY

- Secondary research using datasets and researches conducted to analyse the research propositions
- Qualitative research methodology
 - Policy and programmatic review
 - Key informant interviews and stakeholder discussions
 - Purposeful sampling of returnee migrant workers to carry out in-depth interviews

LAWS AND POLICIES ON RETURNEE MIGRANTS

- Fourteenth National Development Plan (2015/16–2017/18):
 - Provision on trainings and counselling for self-employment and entrepreneurship
 - Social mobilization to utilize skill and capacity of returnee migrants as part of their reintegration
- Foreign Employment Policy 2012:
 - Effective social and economic reintegration packages with stress on productive investment
 - Utilization of returnees as trainers for orientations and skills training
- Foreign Employment Act 2007:
 - Employment-oriented programs for returnee migrants workers

SKILLS TESTING

- Skills testing initiated in 1983 and being conducted by the National Skills Testing Board
- Based on corresponding 284 occupational skills standards
 - Missing link with occupations of migrant workers
- 81 skills testing centers located in 51 districts
- Requirements for skill test participation
 - Citizenship card, age 16 and above
 - Letter from either VDC/municipality or government registered private firm or trade union

FOCUS ON THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR

- Post Disaster Needs Assessment after the earthquake in 2015 pointed out huge requirement of labour for reconstruction
 - Estimated 700,000 workers needed for reconstruction
 - 46% of the labour force required has to be skilled
- Expected to grow by 11.7% in the current fiscal year
- Share of contribution to GDP expected to be at 7.2%
- Prevalence of employing labour through subcontractors

KEY REFLECTIONS

- Awareness
 - Lack of information about skills testing
 - Lack on awareness that skills gained through informal setting can be formally recognized
- Accessibility
 - Cost of the process
 - Prerequisites of getting tested
- Demand for skills recognition
 - Limited recognition by employers
- Informality of the sector
 - Limited job matching
 - Recruitment of workers

KEY REFLECTIONS

- Perception towards returnee migrants
 - No differentiation in skills of returnee migrants
 - Challenges in retaining returnee migrants
- Mobility within the hierarchy of workers
 - Returnee migrants found to be more mobile
- Labour market information
 - No demand data from employers
- Impact of skills recognition
 - Limited understanding of the impact on various levels



International
Labour
Organization

Thank you!

Niyama Rai
ILO Country Office for Nepal
E-mail: niyama@ilo.org