

Female Migration as a Tool for Development: The Case of Migrant Women in Senegal

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Abstract

My thesis explores the relationship between migration and the development of migrant-sending countries. My research aim is to explore the phenomenon of *labor migration* of women specifically, and determine their contribution to the socioeconomic development of Senegal and generally less developed countries. The purpose of my study is to demonstrate how the migration experience and subsequent return of migrant women to their home countries can lead to positive social and economic impacts at the household, community and national levels. However, in order for this to occur, I argue that adequate socio-economic structures must be in place in their country of origin to support these women prior to, during, and after their migration experience. Through my case study on Senegal, rather than focusing on the women themselves, I analyze the system and infrastructures in which they live, work, and migrate. I will examine programs initiated by both Senegalese and international government bodies, non-governmental organizations, and multilateral institutions and uncover their strengths and deficiencies. In conclusion, I aim to propose recommendations for how actors in the field of ‘Migration and Development’ (M&D) in Senegal, and globally, can better integrate the gender approach into their programs and policies to more effectively empower and protect migrant women as agents of development.