



# Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies-BILS

## *Social Reintegration of Returnee Female Migrant Workers in Bangladesh*

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### **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**“Development of a short drama (campaign video) for changing the social misperception towards the returnee female migrant workers and their family”**

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Deadline for proposal submission:  
14 May 2021 at 17:30 hrs.

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## **2. Background:**

Being one of the top five migrant-sending countries in the world, migration is a big phenomenon in Bangladesh. Official figures show that from 1991 to April 2019, a total of 842,985 Bangladeshi females travelled abroad in search of employment, among which 36.58% workers migrated to Saudi Arabia. From 2018 to April 2019, a total number of 146,985 female workers migrated to different countries from Bangladesh. However, this figure does not reflect the overall number of undocumented female migrants working in South Asia and the Middle East, which is believed to be much higher.

A positive outcome arising from migration is that these migrant workers come back with skills and experience, which they can utilize on the domestic employment market. Moreover, they have sent home remittances to their family and hence, and some has been able to save up money. The remittance sent by the migrant is most important for our country as remittance is one of main pillar of Bangladesh economy.

A negative outcome arising from migration are all the cases of especially female migrant workers, who have been harassed, deprived of their rights, assaulted and raped, which have been the same for years and which are still ongoing. The female migrant workers are also target for negative social attitude and social stigmatization. While male migration is linked to appreciation and pride for both family and community, the societal reaction towards female migration is just the opposite.

Most of the returnee female migrant find themselves in place of low status within their community. In many cases, the female migrants are neglected by the society, even by their family and neighbor. The society shows negative attitude towards the returnee female migrant workers and even towards the family members of the returnee female migrant workers. The returnee female migrant workers and their family members are generally

neglected in social events like marriage event, birthday party, festival events, cultural activities, social gathering etc. Specially in developing new relationship between families by marriage, female migration considered very much negatively in regard to the status of the family. Most of the community people and families are not comfortable to develop a marriage relationship with the boys/girls of female migrant workers.

Overall social perception on female migrant workers is very much negative, the society thinks that the female migrant workers were alone in a foreign country and exposed to outside influence, they were engaged in unethical activities like prostitution or they were physically/sexually harassed in the destination country. So, the female migrant workers placed in lower status in the society/community.

The remittance sent by the migrant workers is the main pillar of our economy and national development. In this regard the female migrant workers are contributing in our economy and national development. In most of the cases, the females migrate to the overseas countries with a view to support their family. A female migrates leaving behind her family which is a great sacrifice. The migration period of female migrant workers is not full with recreations, rather they have to face many difficulties/sufferings. Keeping in view contribution/sacrifice/sufferings of the female migrant workers, they deserve respect from society instead of social stigma.

Some female migrant workers become victims of physical/mental/sexual harassment in the destination country, where the females are not responsible for the harassments. In case of harassment, the society should stand beside be victim female migrants and support them in their reintegration process. But the practical situation is just opposite, the society shows negative attitude towards the returnee female migrant workers. After returning in the country the female migrants face different types of social stigma.

In these circumstances, it is very important to create awareness among the community/society, so that the society can respect the female migrant workers instead of showing negative attitude. In this connection, a short-drama (campaign video) could be useful in changing the negative social attitude. So BILS is going to develop a short-drama (campaign video) on changing the negative attitude of the society towards the female migrants.

### **3. Objectives:**

The overall objective of assignment to develop a Short drama (campaign video) to change the social misperception towards the female migrants' workers and their family so that the society and community respect the female migrant workers as a contributor in national development and support the returnee female migrant workers instead of showing negative attitude.

Through an attractive short drama, the following message should be given to the viewers;

- The females migrate to the overseas countries for legal employment with a view to support their family, not for engaging in any illicit activities. They earn money by legal work for their family as well for the development of our country. However, some female migrant workers become victims of physical/mental/sexual harassment in the destination country, where the females are not responsible for the harassments. So, there is nothing to dishonour the female migrant workers, rather they deserve respect from society. Moreover, the society should stand beside the victim migrants who had been tortured/harassed in the overseas countries during their job tenure.
- A female migrates leaving behind her family which is a great sacrifice. The migration period of female migrant workers is not full with recreations, rather they have to work hard and face many difficulties/sufferings. Keeping in view the contribution/sacrifice/sufferings of the female migrant workers, they deserve respect from society instead of social stigma.
- The remittance sent by the migrant workers is the main pillar of our economy and national development. In this connection, the female migrant workers are contributing in our economy and national development. Hence, the female migrant workers are more respectable than others.

#### **4. Use of the short drama (campaign video):**

The drama will be broadcasted in local cable network as well as in social media to change social misperception toward female migrant workers.

#### **5. Length and language of the drama:**

5 to 10 minutes or a suitable length for broadcasting in local cable network. The language will be Bengali.

#### **6. Eligibility Criteria for the proposal:**

- The firm/production house should have legal identity as per the rules regulations of the country.
- The firm should have 5-years experiences of developing campaign video/video documentary.

#### **7. Time Frame of the assignment:**

Maximum 10 working days for after finalizing the agreement. The broadcasting must be started by the 1<sup>st</sup> week of May 2021.

#### **8. Proposal submission criteria:**

- The proposal should include the technical and financial proposal covering all elements mentioned in the background and objectives of the proposal.

- The technical proposal should be an idea (could be a story) to visualize the objectives. The plot of the drama must be a village.

## **9. Deadline and contacts for submission:**

The proposals in hard copy with a cover letter to be submitted to:

The Executive Director  
Bangladesh Institute of Labour studies-BILS  
House # 20, Road # 32 (old) 11 (new)  
Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1209

Or

In soft copy to the email [bils@citech.net](mailto:bils@citech.net) with a copy to [mazid1971@yahoo.com](mailto:mazid1971@yahoo.com)

Proposal shall be reached to the above-mentioned address or email on or **before 14 May 2021 at 15:30 hrs.** (BD time).