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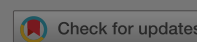
Articles

Migration, debt and resource backwash: how sustainable is Bangladesh-Gulf circular migration?

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counterbalance income uncertainty, the migration system itself creates extreme precarity, as households become riddled with migration related debt. Tragically it often takes the entire migration episode to service the debt. This argument has profound implications for the debate about migration’s role in supporting sustainable development.

Keywords:

- International migration
- resource backwash
- debt
- migration cost

Notes

1. Precautionary savings and assets are resources that protect against risk. Precautionary savings and assets result from the knowledge that the future is uncertain (Carroll & Kimball, [2006](#)).
2. Some surveys of migrants earning in GCC countries show that Bangladeshi migrant workers earn significantly less than migrant workers of other nationalities. For example, using survey data from 1189 migrant workers in Qatar, Gardner et al. ([2013](#)) shows the mean earnings of Bangladeshi migrant workers (Qataris) is \$1,000 (USD 1,000), which is the lowest among all nationalities surveyed.

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