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EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN IN THE CONTEXT OF MIGRATION IN KAZAKHSTAN: A FINAL MONITORING STUDY

Today, women constitute a significant part of migration processes and at the same time face a complex set of social, economic, and gender-related risks associated with adaptation to the host society. The purpose of the study is to transform attitudes toward women in migration, their problems, and their opportunities for adaptation in the host country. The scientific significance of the research lies in the comprehensive analysis of the current problems related to the situation of migrant women in the Turkestan region and in identifying manifestations of gender discrimination in migration contexts. The practical significance of the study is determined by the possibility of applying the obtained results to improve migration policy and migration legislation taking into account the gender factor. The methodological basis of the research is a comprehensive sociological approach combining theoretical and empirical methods. The empirical part of the study included a survey of migrant women and an expert survey of representatives of state institutions, law enforcement agencies, media, and public organizations. The monitoring study was conducted in two stages and involved 60 migrant women and 42 experts.

The results of the study showed that migrant women represent one of the most vulnerable social groups. The majority of respondents reported experiencing various forms of domestic violence, including psychological pressure, threats, and physical abuse. Expert analysis also revealed the presence of discrimination in employment, limited access to social services, and pressure from the surrounding social environment. The value of the conducted research lies in identifying socio-psychological and institutional factors influencing the situation of migrant women, as well as in expanding the scientific understanding of the gender dimension of migration processes. The obtained results contribute to the development of gender sociology and demographic studies of migration. The practical significance of the research consists in developing recommendations aimed at strengthening the protection of migrant women's rights, developing a system of crisis centers and social support services, increasing awareness of migrants' rights, and improving government programs for the prevention of violence and discrimination in the migration environment.

Keywords: migrant women, women rights in migration, domestic violence, gender stereotypes, labour migration, abusive relationships, host and origin countries.

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Қазақстандағы көші-қон жағдайында әйелдердің құқықтары мен мүмкіндіктерін кеңейту: қорытынды мониторингтік зерттеу

Бүгінгі таңда әйелдер көші-қон үдерістерінің маңызды бөлігіне айналып отыр және сонымен қатар қабылдаушы қоғамға бейімделумен байланысты әлеуметтік, экономикалық және гендерлік тәуекелдердің кешенімен бетпе-бет келеді. Зерттеудің мақсаты – көші-қон жағдайындағы әйелдерге, олардың мәселелеріне және қабылдаушы елдегі бейімделу мүмкіндіктеріне деген көзқарасты өзгерту. Зерттеудің ғылыми маңыздылығы Түркістан облысындағы әйелдер-мигранттардың жағдайына қатысты өзекті мәселелерді кешенді талдауда және көші-қон жағдайында гендерлік кемсітушіліктің көріністерін анықтауда көрінеді. Жұмыстың практикалық маңыздылығы алынған нәтижелерді гендерлік факторды ескере отырып көші-қон саясаты мен көші-қон заңнамасын жетілдіру мақсатында қолдану мүмкіндігімен айқындалады.

лық негізін теориялық және эмпирикалық әдістерді ұштастыратын кешенді социологиялық тәсіл құрайды. Зерттеудің эмпирикалық бөлігі әйелдер-мигранттар арасында жүргізілген сауалнама мен мемлекеттік органдар, құқық қорғау құрылымдары, бұқаралық ақпарат құралдары және қоғамдық ұйымдар өкілдері арасында жүргізілген сараптамалық сауалнаманы қамтыды. Мониторингтік зерттеу екі кезеңде жүргізіліп, оған 60 әйел-мигрант және 42 сарапшы қатысты.

Зерттеу нәтижелері әйелдер-мигранттардың ең осал әлеуметтік топтардың бірі екенін көрсетті. Респонденттердің басым бөлігі тұрмыстық зорлық-зомбылықтың әртүрлі түрлеріне, соның ішінде психологиялық қысымға, қорқытуға және физикалық зорлыққа ұшырайтынын көрсетті. Сараптамалық талдау сонымен қатар еңбек саласында кемсітушілік бар екенін, әлеуметтік қызметтерге қолжетімділіктің шектеулі екенін және әлеуметтік ортаның қысымын анықтады. Жүргізілген зерттеудің құндылығы әйелдер-мигранттардың жағдайына әсер ететін әлеуметтік-психологиялық және институционалдық факторларды анықтауда, сондай-ақ көші-қон үдерістерінің гендерлік өлшемін ғылыми тұрғыдан терең түсінуді кеңейтуде көрінеді. Алынған нәтижелер гендерлік әлеуметтану мен көші-қон демографиясы саласындағы зерттеулердің дамуына үлес қосады. Зерттеудің практикалық маңызы әйелдер-мигранттардың құқықтарын қорғауды күшейту, дағдарыс орталықтары мен әлеуметтік қолдау қызметтерінің жүйесін дамыту, мигранттардың құқықтары туралы ақпараттандыру деңгейін арттыру және көші-қон ортасында зорлық-зомбылық пен кемсітушіліктің алдын алуға бағытталған мемлекеттік бағдарламаларды жетілдіру бойынша ұсыныстар әзірлеуде көрінеді.

Түйін сөздер: мигрант әйелдер, мигрант әйелдердің құқықтары, тұрмыстық зорлық-зомбылық, гендерлік стереотиптер, еңбек көші-қоны, абыюзивті қатынастар, қабылдаушы ел, шыққан ел.

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Расширение прав и возможностей женщин в условиях миграции в Казахстане: итоговое мониторинговое исследование

Сегодня женщины становятся значимой частью миграционных процессов и одновременно сталкиваются с комплексом социальных, экономических и гендерных рисков, связанных с адаптацией в принимающем обществе. Цель исследования – изменить отношение к женщинам в миграции, их проблемам и возможностям адаптации в принимающей стране. Научная значимость исследования заключается в комплексном анализе актуальных проблем положения женщин-мигранток в Туркестанской области и выявлении проявлений гендерной дискриминации в условиях миграции. Практическая значимость работы определяется возможностью использования полученных результатов для совершенствования миграционной политики и законодательства с учетом гендерного фактора. Методологической основой исследования выступил комплексный социологический подход, сочетающий теоретические и эмпирические методы. Эмпирическая часть включала анкетный опрос женщин-мигранток и экспертный опрос представителей государственных органов, правоохранительных структур, СМИ и общественных организаций. Мониторинговое исследование проводилось в два этапа и охватило 60 женщин-мигранток и 42 эксперта.

Результаты исследования показали, что женщины-мигрантки являются одной из наиболее уязвимых социальных групп. Большая часть респонденток сталкивается с различными формами бытового насилия, включая психологическое давление, угрозы и физическое насилие. Экспертный анализ также выявил наличие дискриминации в сфере занятости, ограниченный доступ к социальным услугам и давление со стороны социального окружения. Ценность проведенного исследования заключается в выявлении социально-психологических и институциональных факторов, влияющих на положение женщин-мигранток, а также в расширении научного понимания гендерного измерения миграционных процессов. Полученные результаты вносят вклад в развитие гендерной социологии и демографических исследований миграции. Практическое значение исследования состоит в разработке рекомендаций по усилению защиты прав женщин-мигранток, развитию системы кризисных центров и социальных служб поддержки, повышению информированности о правах мигрантов и совершенствованию государственных программ профилактики насилия и дискриминации в миграционной среде.

Ключевые слова: женщины-мигрантки, права женщин-мигранток, бытовое насилие, гендерные стереотипы, трудовая миграция, абыюзивные отношения, страна принимающая, страна происхождения.

Introduction

An analysis of current statistical data on international labor migration, including female labor migration, reveals crucial mobility impact on the economies and societies of countries of origin, as well as on the migrant women themselves. In its training manual, “The Gender Agenda in Migration: Linking Labor Migration and Development in a Gender-Based Context,” UN Women Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women in Central Asia (Kazakhstan) notes that “gender determines the reasons for migration, influences on the decision about who will migrate, the social networks migrants form during their migration to another country, their experience of integration and entering the labor market in the destination country, and their ongoing relationships with the countries of origin.” (The Gender Agenda in Migration, 2015) Furthermore, the 2009 UN Human Development Report, “Overcoming Barriers: Human Mobility and Development,” stated that “ensuring women’s equal opportunities, rights, and guarantees should be a goal of migration policy reform in both developed and developing countries” (Overcoming Barriers: Human Mobility and Development, 2009).

The objective of the monitoring sociological study was to transform negative beliefs, values, attitudes, behaviors, norms, and practices at the community level in relation to women affected by migration.

In accordance with this objective, the following research objectives were formulated:

1. To conduct self-assessment and analysis of the social status and prospects of migrant women.
2. To analysis of manifestations of domestic violence against migrant women.
3. To provide expert assessment of public perceptions of domestic violence against migrant women.
4. To assess, from an expert perspective, changes in knowledge, attitudes, and behavior in support of gender equality and respect for the rights of migrant women.

The purpose of this article is to provide a comprehensive analysis of the main factors that drive discrimination against women in migration contexts and to formulate evidence-based recommendations for adjustment of gender-sensitive migration policies.

The practical significance of the study lies in the fact that the theoretical and practical results will significantly expand our understanding of female

migration and the gender context of migration. The findings offer insights not only into power relations within families but also into gender-related factors operating at the meso- and macro-levels of migrant-receiving states.

Literature review

This systematic review of existing literature focuses on current issues of women migrant empowerment at the international level and also examines the challenges faced by women migrants in the Republic of Kazakhstan as migrant-receiving country.

The international review begins with the work of Brazilian and American researchers who focused on examining quantitative indicators of women migrant empowerment (Costa et al., 2023). According to the researchers, the degree of women’s empowerment is determined by gender relations in society, making it highly culturally and contextually specific. The key dimensions of women’s empowerment, according to them, include economic, sociocultural, educational, and health care. These indicators of women’s empowerment represent progress in monitoring gender issues and development.

Researchers Tasneef Nav; Kripa Shanker Jaiswal, in a review of the field of financial inclusion and women’s empowerment, identifies a conceptual framework consisting of three main clusters: 1) empowerment through financial inclusion; 2) institutional mechanisms such as self-help groups; 3) policy-driven goals, including gender equality and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) developed in 2015 by the UN General Assembly (Tasneef et al., 2025). As the authors note, financial inclusion contributes to women’s economic empowerment by providing them with the means to save, invest, and obtain credit. Women are more likely to invest in their families’ health and education when they have more control over finances, which improves their overall socioeconomic status. However, the authors emphasize that the scope and effectiveness of financial inclusion in women’s empowering vary across national and cultural contexts and are influenced by various factors, such as social norms, policy frameworks, and the availability of supportive infrastructure.

Australian researchers note that adult women’s knowledge of reproductive health, particularly from socially vulnerable groups, including migrant women, remains lower than expected due to various Personal, cultural, and social factors (Hansen et al., 2025). They believe that the development of educational and awareness-raising activities on health

issues is crucial for improving women's knowledge about reproductive health worldwide.

Of particular scholarly interest is the work of Umam K. & Waskito M.A. (2022), who analyze women's empowerment in Islam. The Islamic model of women's empowerment, according to scholars, represents a holistic approach to empowering women, encompassing four key dimensions: religious, social, political, and economic. This new approach to women's roles includes economic empowerment from an Islamic perspective, which means efforts to enable women to maintain, manage, use, and develop property for the benefit of themselves, their families, and society, in order to fully realize their potential in society.

According to Bachan A. (2018), the feminization of labor migration is a key development of the 21st century. Although female migrants are often insufficiently addressed in migration policy frameworks, they have become powerful agents of change and key figures influencing the socioeconomic development of their countries of origin. Moreover, the migration experience and subsequent return of women to their countries of origin lead to positive and sustainable social and economic changes of both household and national levels. However, Bachan argues that such outcomes largely depend on the active role of governments in supporting and protecting female migrants throughout all stages of migration cycle – prior to departure, during migration, and upon return – while simultaneously creating conditions that facilitate voluntary reintegration into their home countries.

Researcher Bello-Bravo J. (2015) believes that female migration can indirectly contribute to poverty reduction by increasing productivity, education, and the health of women and their families, which is a key factor in reducing inequality and family poverty. As the author notes, migration has both positive and negative aspects. Positive aspects include the opportunities associated with marriage or remarriage for single, divorced, or widowed women. Negative aspects include the fact that migration can also disempower women due to isolation and dependence in the destination country.

Similarly, Ceballos F. (2024) conceptualizes migration as an adaptive strategy that can help improve living conditions, strengthen resilience, and mitigate women's vulnerability. Empowerment is a multidimensional phenomenon; therefore, the links between empowerment and migration may vary depending on different aspects of empowerment and migration patterns.

According to Nahid, M.S. & Rinti, T.R. (2024), the concept of change in women's empowerment lies in the ability to exercise choice, expressed in three interrelated dimensions that constitute choice: 1) resources, which determine the circumstances where choices are made; 2) agency that underlies the decision-making process; and 3) achievements, represented the outcomes of choices. Within these dimensions, the phenomenon of migrant women's empowerment can be characterized by the perception that migrant women are inherently disenfranchised. However, through their participation in economic activity, particularly through employment opportunities, they can initiate transformational change.

Exploring new economic strategies and trends, researchers Lodhi R.N. & Parveen Z. (2025) identify key issues related to migrant women's empowerment: labor migration, gender discrimination, marriage-based migration, cultural norms, socioeconomic mobility, and structural barriers, which are the main factors determining women's agency in migration contexts.

Russian researchers Peskova D.R. & Abreu Bastos O.P. (2014), noting that female labor migration is a multifaceted modern phenomenon that remains poorly understood, highlight the social and psychological consequences of migration. The authors cite the following as key factors: forced separation from family, depression and breakdowns, and difficulties reintegrating in the home country (the donor country).

Jurayeva I. (2025), exploring the empowerment of migrant women, noted that negative factors such as the undervaluation of women's work and potential prevent them from fully realizing their potential. Many women experience psychological or physical trauma in their work and family lives. The author proposed effective measures to protect women's rights and legal guarantees, as well as to improve legal literacy.

Florinskaya Yu.F. (2022) in their study highlights the concept of "working in the shadow sector," which is a forced measure for female migrants, as many reside illegally in low-paying jobs in the host country. Consequently, statistical estimates of women's participation in the labor market are "shifted" upward from official figures.

A group of Russian researchers (Osadchaya et al., 2021) propose areas for further development of scientific knowledge on female migration: the adaptation of female migrants in host societies and their readaptation in countries of origin; their integration

strategies, individual practices, and identities; comparative studies of women's status in countries of origin and host societies, social health, social well-being, and social sentiment; and the impact of the feminization of migration on integration processes in the Eurasian space.

In the context of studying the role of female migrants, researchers Ledeneva V.Yu. and Mishchuk S.N. (2023) highlight the relevant area of influence of gender stereotypes in society on the different population groups migration. Moreover, the authors note that migrant women are more likely than men to experience rights violations if they are involved in unlawful economic practices with employers.

Researcher Demintseva E.B. (2023) uses the concept of "transnational motherhood," where mothers are forced to leave their children in their country of origin to work in the host country, or live in different countries with their dependent children and maintain emotional, economic, and communicative ties across geographic borders.

A review of articles by Kazakhstani authors focuses on the effectiveness of state migration policy, as well as the creation of economic, social, and psychological conditions for migrant women's adaptation to the social environment of the host country.

According to Moldakhmetova Zh., to reduce the social vulnerability of migrants. (2025) and strengthening social stability, it is necessary to expand state and NGO projects on the social dimension, informing migrants about their rights and responsibilities, creating accessible channels for filing complaints, involving non-governmental organizations and trade unions in protecting workers' rights, and developing language and adaptation programs.

Another group of Kazakhstani researchers emphasizes the need to develop active migration forecasts and realistic scenarios for the future socio-economic development of each state, taking into account migration factors (Kappassova G. et al., 2024).

The following group of researchers (Khamzin et al., 2023) defines the initial task in solving the problems of migrants as increasing the migration attractiveness of settlements and cities in receiving territories through the development of infrastructure and services, and providing state support to migrants for their initial adaptation.

According to Bodaukhan K. (2020), the practical resolution of challenges arising during the resettlement process requires the establishment of specialized center (service) within local executive authorities. The main functions of such cen-

tres should include: monitoring migrants and their families for their resettlement and normal housing conditions; provision of social infrastructure (kindergartens, schools, medical services); assistance in solving employment problems; assistance in social and labor adaptation; raising public awareness of state support measures.

Bolatov A. (2024) together with a group of researchers formulate the current social problems of migrants that need to be addressed by psychologists, government services, and civil society: 1) language and cultural barriers; 2) mental health issues; 3) discrimination and social exclusion; 4) limited access to healthcare; 5) infectious diseases and health risks; 6) nutritional issues; 7) trauma and past experiences.

Aman R.'s article explores the experiences of female migrant entrepreneurs, where their unique experiences manifest in the complementarity of participants, while the goal of achieving a perceived joint value proposition acts as a unifying tool between elements of the entrepreneurial ecosystem (Aman et al., 2021).

Overall, an international and country-specific meta-analysis of existing publications on the research topic defines the issue of women migrant empowerment as a multidimensional social phenomenon that needs to be measured in the context of political, social, economic, and psychological processes.

Materials and methods

The research project's methodology was based on the following algorithm: 1) a survey of migrant women; 2) an expert survey of government and law enforcement officials, media representatives, and community leaders. The methodological basis of the study is a comprehensive, combined approach, incorporating theoretical and empirical methods. The theoretical part of the study includes a developed concept based on systemic and comparative approaches, modern concepts of social development, and incorporates the principles of objectivity, logic, consistency, and scientific validity of the results.

The selection of experts for the comprehensive study was based on the following criteria:

1) the expert's level of competence in the given subject matter. Indicators include the level and profile of education, work profile, relevant work experience, the level of problems solved, and the number and quality of previous expert assessments.

2) the degree of objectivity and impartiality of the expert in analyzing and evaluating phenomena

in the given subject matter. Dates of the second final stage: November 2024 – January 2025.

Algorithm of the comprehensive sociological research in monitoring mode:

1. Survey of migrant women (stages 1 and 2): 30 respondents (August 2024), 30 respondents (January 2025). Total: 60 respondents.

2. Expert survey of government and law enforcement officials, media representatives, and community leaders (stages 1 and 2): 23 respondents (August 2024), 19 respondents (January 2025). Total: 42 experts.

Object of study: the impact of migration on the rights and opportunities of migrant women.

Subject of study: the specific manifestations of domestic violence among migrant women.

Characteristics of the overall sample:

Survey of migrant women – “snowball” method.

Expert survey – quota, structured sampling.

Analysis of the socio-demographic characteristics of respondents in the final 2nd survey:

Female migrants:

Ethnic distribution of respondents in the 2nd survey:

1. Kazakh (Kandas) – 33.3%
2. Uzbek – 53.3%
3. Other nationalities (Tajik) – 6.7%.

Educational level of respondents in the 2nd survey:

1. Secondary education – 66.7%
2. Incomplete secondary education – 10.0%
3. Secondary vocational education – 3.3%
4. No education – 20.0%.

The educational level of respondents in the second survey differs significantly from the first: over 66% of respondents to the final round of the survey have a secondary education, while 20.0% have none.

Age range of respondents for the 2nd survey:

1. 18-25 years old – 10.0%
2. 26-35 years old – 20.0%
3. 36-45 years old – 43.3%
4. 46-55 years old – 23.3%
5. 56 years and older – 3.3%.

Socio-professional group membership (social status) of respondents in the 2nd survey:

1. Housewives – 50.0%
2. Blue-collar workers – 36.7%
3. Female retail workers – 6.7%
4. Temporary workers (self-employed) – 6.7%

The representation of socio-professional groups of respondents in the survey also underwent significant changes: in the second survey, 50.0% were housewives, 36.7% were blue-collar workers in var-

ious industries, and 6.7% were female retail workers and 6.7% were self-employed.

Countries of origin of respondents in the 2nd survey:

1. Uzbekistan – 80.0%
2. Kyrgyz Republic – 10.0%
3. Tajikistan – 10.0%.

Marital status of respondents in the second survey:

1. Married, legally married to a citizen of the Republic of Kazakhstan – 3.3%
2. Married, legally married to a citizen of another country – 3.3%
3. Single – 10.0%
4. Religiously married – 60.0%
5. Divorced – 13.3%
6. Living separately from their husband (guest marriage) – 10.0%.

According to the results of the second survey, more than half of respondents (60.0%) are in a religious marriage. A significant portion of the remaining women are either divorced, living de facto separately from their husbands, or are in sham marriages. Survey experts:

Social and professional group membership of respondents in 2 surveys:

1. District police departments – 52.6% (10 experts)
2. District family support centers – 15.8% (3 experts)
3. District education departments – 21.1% (4 experts)
4. Regional health department, regional hospital – 10.5% (2 experts).

Social status of experts in 2 surveys:

1. Deputy head – 5.3%
2. Head of department, regional hospital – 5.3%
3. Chief specialist – 15.8%
4. Senior police lieutenant – 15.8%
5. Psychologist – 10.5%
6. Specialist – 10.5%
7. Methodologist – 5.3%
8. Social worker – 15.8%
9. District police inspector – 5.3%. The representation of socio-professional groups of experts in the second survey was significantly expanded, including employees of district police departments (52.6%), as well as district health support centers (15.8%), district education departments (21.1%), the Regional Health Department, and the Regional Hospital (10.5%).

Experience of the experts in the second survey:

1. 1-6 years – 36.8% (7 respondents)

2. 7-8 years – 31.6% (6 respondents)
3. 10-11 years – 15.8% (3 respondents)
4. Over 20 years – 15.8% (3 respondents).

Overall, the comprehensive monitoring study, which included questionnaires from female migrants and expert questionnaires from specialists in the field of migration policy, was divided into the following thematic blocks:

The questionnaire for female migrants included:

- 1) social status and conditions before migration;
- 2) changes in status during migration;
- 3) status in the host country.

The expert questionnaire included:

1) the impact of labor migration on changes in family and marital patterns;

2) an assessment of the level of domestic violence in migrant families;

3) the development of migration models for regional development, taking into account the gender socio-demographic structure of migration.

Results and discussion

Gender, as one of the ways in which social stratification occurs in traditional societies of the post-Soviet space, manifests itself primarily in the socioeconomic, psychological, and physical marginalization of women, leading to illegal migration. The main reason women decide to migrate – whether alone or with their husbands or other family members – is the need to earn a living wage and provide financial support for their families. Migration is often seen as the only way to improve a family's standard of living, leading to an increase in the participation of not only men but also women in migration flows. A comprehensive monitoring study allows us to analyze and assess socioeconomic and cultural trends, including gender stereotypes, in key social institutions such as family, marriage, the marital system in the context of illegal migration, and the status of migrant

women in the host country. Migrant women, especially those without secure immigration status and those with strict skill requirements in the labor markets of host countries, are particularly vulnerable to domestic violence. Migrant men respond with violence not only to the stress of relocation and lack of permanent employment, but also to the changing social norms and gender roles that occur in such situations. All of these factors are the main triggers for violence perpetrated by spouses, parents-in-law, and relatives.

While 20.0% of migrant women report no domestic violence, 70.0% of respondents responded positively. Moreover, domestic violence is committed not only against women but also against children. 3.3% report violence against relatives in the woman's family. 6.7% of respondents were undecided, clearly demonstrating fear of their spouse and family. Stigmatization and stereotyping began in the country of origin and continued in the host country, as migrant communities experience a certain lack of communication and interaction. Respondents report various forms of domestic violence: over 46% report psychological violence, expressed through humiliation of a woman's dignity and personality, insults, and attacks. Twenty-six percent of respondents report threats of violence as an extreme form of physical violence. Twenty-three percent of migrant women report beatings as a common form of physical violence. Only 3.3% of respondents reported no domestic violence.

Monitoring of two surveys shows an increase in violence in migrant families from "two or more incidents" from 43.3% to 60.0%. Rates of systematic domestic violence and one-time violence decreased slightly, respectively, from 23.3% to 16.7% and from 26.7% to 13.3%, but remain significant. Overall, 8.4% of respondents report no domestic violence. A certain proportion of respondents are divorced or in formal, guest marriages, which is consistent with these figures.

Table 1 – Monitoring of Respondents' Actions in Response to Domestic Violence

№	Answer options	I stage	II stage	Monitoring
1	Yes	0.0	3.3	1.6
2	No, I'm afraid of my husband and his relatives	16.7	33.3	25.0
3	No, because I don't trust law enforcement	0.0	10.0	5.0
4	I haven't reported it because I don't know the procedure	26.7	0.0	13.4
5	I called the police on 102	6.7	0.0	3.4

Continuation of the table

№	Answer options	I stage	II stage	Monitoring
6	I spoke verbally with the local police officer	6,7	0,0	3,4
7	No, because of the death threats I've received	3,3	20,0	11,7
8	No, I don't believe the police will help me.	23,3	13,3	18,3
9	No. We can resolve this issue ourselves.	36,7	23,3	30,0

As Table 1 shows, filing written complaints with law enforcement agencies is considered unacceptable in migrant families. Only 3.3% (essentially one woman) filed a written complaint against abusive parents. However, there is an increase in fear and anxiety about persecution from spouses and their relatives.

An analysis of respondents' responses to the second survey revealed that the primary abusers in migrant families are primarily:

1. Spouse – 56.7%
2. Husband's relatives – 16.7%
3. Spouse's parents – 10.0%
4. All together – 10.0%
5. No violence – 10.0%.

As modern researchers note, women, unlike men, are relegated to the background due to their unique gender-based vulnerabilities that impact their safety, such as economic and labor inequality, and gender discrimination. It's worth noting the growing trend of divorce, sham marriages with host-country citizens, and separation, which was uncommon in traditional societies until the first decade of the 21st century. An increasing number of women, especially respondents to the second survey, are in religious marriages, which creates objective risks for women and children. Parties to such unions have no legal obligations to each other, which can lead to men neglecting their responsibilities.

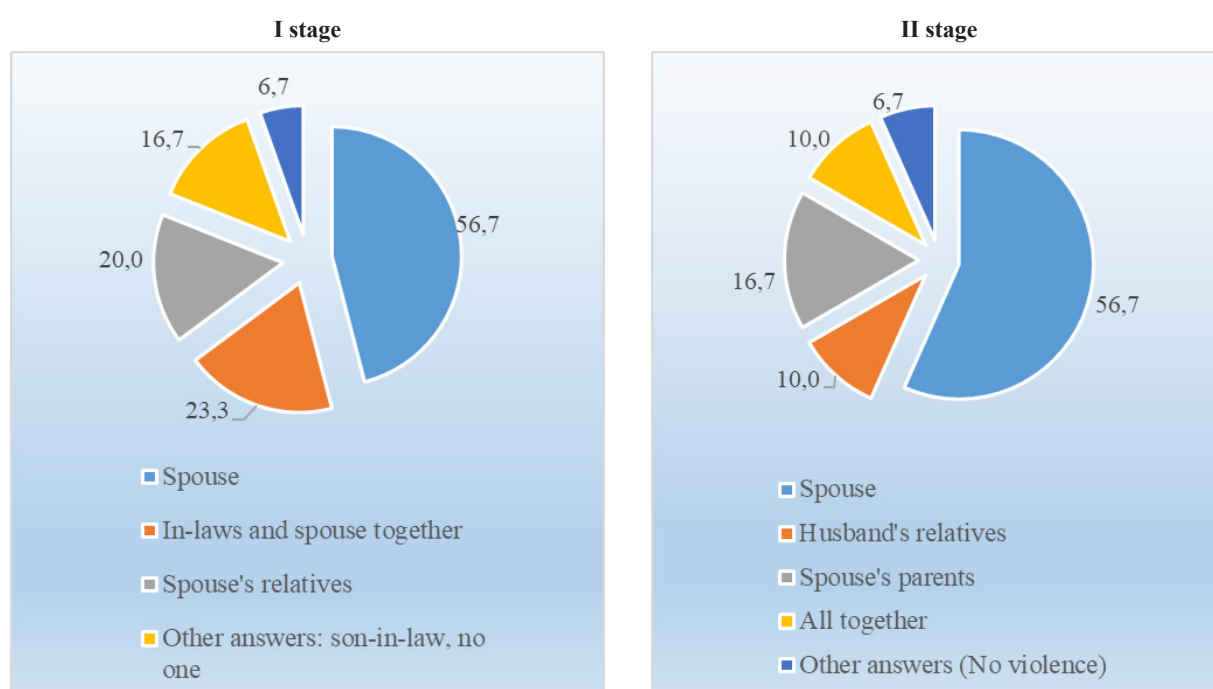


Figure 1 – Monitoring of the rating indicators of the main migrant families abusers

In response to the question “How has migration influenced changes in your family relationships?”, respondents to the second survey identified one dominant response: “Yes, very strongly,”

with a range of dominant indicators. Furthermore, for the “Yes, very strongly” response, almost all indicators, ranging from 53.3% to 66.7%, were identified.

Table 2 – Monitoring the Migration Impact on the Family Relationships Transformation in Migrant Families

№	Answer options	Yes, very much		
		I stage	II stage	Monitoring
1	Family relationships	20.0	66.7	43.4
2	Attitude toward marriage	16.7	53.3	35.0
3	Desired number of children	6.7	60.0	33.4
4	Attitude toward you	10.0	53.3	31.7

More than 66% of respondents in the second survey noted changes in family relationships and the desired number of children (60%). On a psychological level,

women noted a transformation in their spouse’s attitude toward marriage and their personal attitude toward their spouse, sometimes even leading to indifference.

Table 3 – Monitoring expert opinions on the main areas of discrimination against migrant women

№	Answer options	Yes, definitely		Partly		No	
		I stage	II stage	I stage	II stage	I stage	II stage
1	In the workplace – employer attitudes toward migrant women	13.0	42.1	34.8	31.6	43.5	21.1
2	Access to services: healthcare, employment, education, host country language training	39.1	26.3	43.5	52.6	17.4	15.8
3	Risk of pressure from law enforcement	17.4	15.8	21.7	21.1	56.5	52.6
4	Risk of pressure from local residents (neighbors, acquaintances)	17.4	21.1	47.8	42.1	34.8	31.6

According to the experts in the second survey, the main areas of discrimination against migrant women are:

1. Workplace – 42.1% (definitely)
2. Access to services: healthcare, employment, education, and language training in the host country – 52.6% (partial)
3. Risk of pressure from local residents (neighbors, acquaintances) – 42.1% (partial).

Experts note the “partial” presence of the following deviant behaviors in migrant families:

1. Domestic violence – 57.9%

2. Increased conflict – 47.4%

3. Divorce – 42.1%

4. Children left without paternal care, raised solely by their mother – 42.1%. Although the second survey significantly increased the number of responses, including “yes, definitely” and “partially,” compared to the first, experts still tend to “partially” acknowledge the presence of the aforementioned manifestations of discrimination and deviance in migrant families. This is directly related to the families’ social status, employment status, and successful adaptation in the host country.

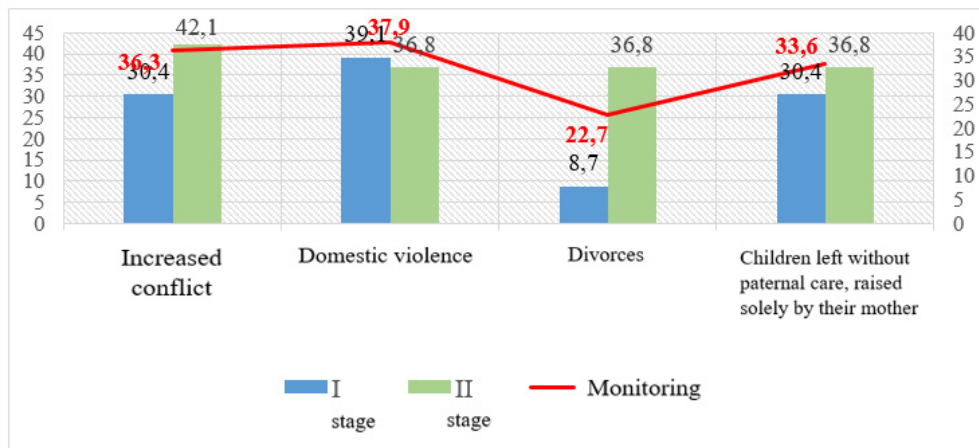


Figure 2 – Monitoring expert analysis of the presence of deviant manifestations in migrant families

More than 57% of experts in the second survey believe that the emergence of new forms of marriage that arose with migration – temporary/guest marriages; sham marriages for migration; early marriages; polygamy; and interethnic marriages-partially impact society as a whole. This figure remains high since the first survey (52.2%). Experts are confident that migration processes, not only within the region and country, but also globally, are influencing traditional marriages, disrupting stereotypical attitudes. However, migrants typically prefer to migrate not alone, but with families of blood relatives, so the influence of tradition is supported by the social en-

vironment. 31.6% of experts believe that marital relations are definitely changing with migration. Only 10.5% responded negatively.

It should be noted that a greater number of migrant women require temporary shelters, assistance and understanding from law enforcement agencies regarding gender discrimination, as well as legal assistance from authorities and political parties. Awareness of rights and access to crisis centers and safe shelters for migrant women has dropped sharply, with more than half of respondents in the second survey (56.7%) unaware of the availability of such resources and laws.

Table 4 – Monitoring of priority types of assistance to migrant women who are victims of abusive relationships

№	Answer options	I stage	II stage	Monitoring
1	Consultations with public organizations (psychological, legal, and social assistance)	70.0	53.3	61.7
2	Access to crisis centers for safe housing and protection	60.0	86.7	73.4
3	Law enforcement protection	40.0	70.0	55.0
4	Information on jobs available to migrant women	33.3	56.7	45.0
5	Medical assistance	46.7	56.7	51.7
6	Return to the homeland	23.3	13.3	18.3

As Table 4 shows, respondents prioritize the following types of assistance for women victims of domestic violence: access to crisis centers (73.4%), consultations with public organizations (psychological, legal, and social assistance) (61.7%), protection from law enforcement agencies (55.0%), timely medical

care (51.7%), information about job opportunities (45.0%), and assistance in returning home (18.3%).

The expert survey's monitoring ranks the key measures taken by government agencies and law enforcement agencies to prevent domestic violence against migrant women:

Table 5 – Ranking of Key Measures to Prevent Domestic Violence Against Migrant Women (Monitoring)

№	Answer options	I stage	II stage	Monitoring
1	Introduce a registry and visits to migrant families	13.0	36.8	39.9
2	Inform about the rights of migrants, and in particular, the rights of migrant women	8.7	26.3	17.5
3	Providing temporary housing/shelter for migrant women in cases of domestic violence	13.0	10.5	11.8
4	Taking legal measures against domestic violence	17.4	26.3	21.9
5	Informing families about their rights and employment opportunities	13.0	15.8	14.4
6	Informing about crisis centers in the city/region for the rehabilitation of women	13.0	21.1	17.1
7	All of the above	78.3	47.4	62.9

Overall, according to experts (Table 5) from the monitoring study, the main measures to prevent domestic violence against migrant women include the implementation of state programs and initiatives on gender statistics for migrant women, awareness-raising through social media and public institutions, legal action against abusers, and the creation of city/

regional crisis centers not only within NGOs but also within clinics and law enforcement agencies.

The monitoring study experts generally note that information about discrimination against migrant women, including cases and statistics on domestic violence in this environment, is obtained primarily from the following sources:

Table 6 – Monitoring expert analysis of current sources of information on migrant women subjected to domestic violence

№	Answer options	I stage	II stage	Monitoring
1	Self-Appeal	47.8	0.0	23.9
2	Women's NGOs	26.1	10.5	18.3
3	Media, Social Networks	39.1	31.6	35.4
4	Law Enforcement Agencies	43.5	57.9	50.7
5	Public Opinion	13.0	0.0	6.5
6	Other Answers (all listed above)	8.7	0.0	4.4

According to the survey experts (Table 6), the primary sources of information on migrant women who have experienced domestic violence are law enforcement agencies (50.7%), which must constantly monitor the places and living conditions of

migrant families. The media and social media play a significant role, through which public and government agencies should not only mobilize public opinion but also provide women with a "pathway" for action in emergency situations. Along with the

media and social media, the experts emphasize the role of women's non-governmental organizations in raising awareness of this issue at the state and public levels, as well as in shaping migrant women's understanding of their situation, self-esteem, and

concrete plans for the future, including finding permanent employment.

The monitoring study experts were informed of the following additional changes in national legislation on women's rights and children's safety:

Table 7 – Informing experts on additional changes in national legislation on women's rights and children's safety (monitoring)

№	Answer options	I stage	II stage	Monitoring
1	Intentional infliction of minor bodily harm and battery have been criminalized. Penalties for intentional infliction of moderate and serious bodily harm have been increased.	65.2	47.4	56.3
2	Transition from a declaratory to a detective nature of offense registration.	43.5	15.8	29.7
3	Criminal liability has been introduced for incitement to, and assistance in, suicide, as well as for promoting suicide.	52,2	15,8	34,0
4	Administrative liability for bullying (cyberbullying) of minors has been introduced for the first time.	47.8	26.3	37.1
5	Reconciliation procedures have been tightened.	21.7	26.3	24.0
6	Administrative liability for offenses in the domestic sphere has been increased.	52.2	26.3	39.3
7	Other answers: An expanded amendment to the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated April 15, 2024, No. 72-VIII on the protection of the rights of women and children is needed.	8.7	0.0	4.4
8	I don't know	0.0	31.6	15.8

As Table 7 shows, over 56% of the experts in the monitoring study overall believe the following measures are necessary:

1. Tightening penalties for intentional infliction of minor, moderate, and serious bodily harm;

2. Strengthening administrative penalties for offenses in the family and domestic sphere (39.3%);

3. Strengthening administrative penalties for bullying (cyberbullying) of minors in migrant families (37.1%);

4. Introducing criminal penalties for incitement to, assistance in, and promotion of suicide (34.0%);

5. Officially transition from a declarative to a detective approach to registering offenses by law enforcement agencies (29.7%)

6. Tighten the procedure for reconciliation of parties in court (24.0%)

7. Taking into account the above, an expanded amendment to the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated April 15, 2024, No. 72-VIII on the protection of the rights of women and children is necessary (4.4%).

According to experts, strengthening and tightening measures against domestic violence will not only create a responsible attitude among families, but also ensure monitoring by government and law enforcement agencies, civil society representatives, and the social environment of migrant women and employers.

Conclusion

The institution of the family is undergoing significant changes under the influence of migration. These changes are triggered by new forms of marital and family relations, including distant (sometimes sham) marriages, families with guest wives, and the strengthening of religious marriage practices. Pragmatic tendencies are emerging among men, who, without being officially married, are virtually free of responsibility for their wives and children. Furthermore, it should be understood that women find it difficult to leave abusive relationships due to the nature of the rela-

tionship and subordination within the family and kinship hierarchy.

A notable trend is emerging among unmarried, divorced, or cohabiting women who choose not to formalize their relationships, as their partners are unable to ensure the financial well-being of families with children. This phenomenon, reflecting a form of “forced” female independence, is atypical for traditional communities in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan, yet it is increasingly observed among migrant populations.

Women in migrant families who approach government agencies, public bodies, women’s NGOs, and centers often struggle to navigate the maze of public services, the judicial system, and interactions with the police. Therefore, systemic support services are needed to urgently resolve or assist women who have experienced discrimination in family relationships and employment.

Women migrant workers are doubly vulnerable: as women and as individuals involved in migration. Due to their generally low or even complete lack of skills, women migrants are primarily forced to work in the informal sector, retail, and as service workers.

Women migrants, especially those without secure immigration status, and those with strict skill requirements in the labor markets of host countries, are particularly vulnerable to domestic violence.

According to the survey’s experts, the primary sources of information on migrant women who have

experienced domestic violence are law enforcement agencies (50.7%), which should constantly monitor the location and living conditions of migrant families.

The comprehensive monitoring study as a whole made it possible to form the main directions of changes in migration policy, taking into account the gender component.: 1) implementation of a state program to combat discrimination and violence against migrant women; 2) organization of special language courses for migrants, as well as vocational training courses. Promising areas include the development of migration models for the development of regions, taking into account the gender demographic structure of migration, as well as the consideration of the gender component in border control.

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