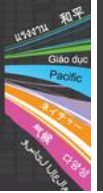


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The Dark Side of Labor Migration

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Villagers in far-Western region Nepal are mostly uneducated and backward. They lack sufficient arable land for food production and there are no other sources of income. As they are uneducated they have no opportunity for any kind of lucrative jobs in the local level. Most of the male members go to neighboring Indian cities for employment. The Olani settlement in Godavari VDC of Kaisssslali district is an example of this. This village is a typical Dalit (so called low caste people) community, so is disadvantaged and marginalized in every sector because of its backwardness.

Men who go to India for the employment return home not only with some cash and clothes for the family members but also with HIV/AIDS. The worst thing about them is that migrant workers do not know what HIV/AIDS is and how they are infected. They transmit HIV to their wives and children are born HIV-infected. Thus, this feature highlights dark side of migration to raise public awareness on HIV/AIDS. In recent years some NGOs have been trying to address the problem at local level but the effort has not been effective as it should. So the vicious cycle is continuing.

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