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Experiences of Social Reproduction among Migrant Women in the Brong-Ahafo Region of Ghana

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Region of Ghana

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Abstract:

Extreme poverty and worsening environmental conditions have led to poor livelihood outcomes among agrarian communities in the Upper West Region (UWR) of Ghana, with most residents migrating to the Brong-Ahafo Region (BAR) as a coping strategy. These migrations are becoming permanent which has resulted in the relocation of entire nuclear families. Despite these trends, no studies have looked at the gendered dynamics of reproduction among migrants in destination regions. Using qualitative methods, I explore the experiences of cultural and social reproduction among migrant women in BAR. My findings reveal that migrant women are concerned about limited support in childcare, the absence of parental figures to maintain social control, generational culture loss, and the loss of economic resources, particularly land, due to migration. Interestingly, these concerns, though raised by women, centre on the effects on male actors. The findings highlight the implications of increasing agrarian migrations on the reproduction of inequalities.

Key words: Migration, sociocultural reproduction, gender, Brong-Ahafo Region, Ghana