Health issues prevalent among female FDWs

New report highlights problems of migrant workers in Asia

As the demand for domestic help rapidly increases in the developed world, migration of FDWs in 11 different countries between 1995 and 2010, investigated health problems related to adverse working conditions, mental health and infectious diseases. Studies on knowledge and attitudes towards health were also reviewed. According to the scientists, the results indicate that more research into the occupational health hazards and health of FDWs is needed. They noted however that working conditions have improved slightly through new legislation in countries like Singapore, where some of the largest number of female FDWs are employed.

“As the demand for domestic help rapidly increases in the developed world, migration of FDWs is on the rise,” said Dr. Torsten Oemus, Editor in Chief of Dental Tribune Asia Pacific. “The demand is especially high in Asia, where millions of female FDWs are employed.”

The report, which was published online ahead of print in the International Journal of Occupational and Environmental Health, concluded that the safety and health of FDWs should be important to both the host and labour-sending countries. "J.

Owing to economic development, demand for domestic workers has increased by 50 per cent over the last 15 years, according to labour organisations. Besides Singapore, Hong Kong and Taiwan are currently the countries with the largest numbers of FDWs.