

# Migrant Organizations and Networks in the Joint Development of Social Protection

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## Abstract

Migration is a complex phenomenon that affects not only the individuals who migrate but also the societies they leave and the ones they join. Among the many facets of migration, the role of migrant organizations and networks in the development of social protection is increasingly significant. These organizations and networks serve as vital intermediaries that facilitate the integration of migrants into host societies while maintaining connections with their countries of origin. This article explores how migrant organizations and networks contribute to the joint development of social protection, enhancing the well-being of migrants and fostering socio-economic development across borders. This theory emphasizes the cross-border connections and activities that migrants maintain. It highlights how migrants engage in social, economic, and political activities that span their countries of origin and destination. Introduced by Bourdieu and Putnam, this theory focuses on the resources embedded in social networks. It posits that social capital, derived from relationships and networks, can facilitate access to resources and opportunities. This framework encompasses policies and programs designed to reduce poverty and vulnerability by promoting efficient labor markets, diminishing people's exposure to risks, and enhancing their capacity to manage economic and social risks.

**Keywords:** Socio-technical factors • Social organization • Social fabric

## Introduction

These grassroots organizations often focus on providing immediate support to migrant communities, such as legal assistance, language training, and cultural orientation. These organizations are typically formed by migrants who maintain strong ties with their home countries. They often engage in philanthropic activities, economic investments, and advocacy for better policies affecting migrants. These organizations connect migrants based on their professional backgrounds. They facilitate networking, professional development, and integration into the labor market of the host country. These organizations focus on policy advocacy and the protection of migrants' rights. They work to influence public policy and raise awareness about issues affecting migrant communities. Migrant organizations advocate for the rights and needs of migrants, ensuring their voices are heard in policy-making processes. They represent migrants' interests in various forums, from local councils to international platforms. Many migrant organizations provide essential services, such as legal aid, healthcare, and education. These services are crucial in helping migrants navigate their new environments and access social protection mechanisms. Through initiatives like remittances and investment projects, migrant organizations contribute to the economic development of their home countries. They also support the economic integration of migrants in host countries by facilitating access to job opportunities and entrepreneurial resources. Migrant organizations help preserve cultural identities while promoting social integration. They organize cultural events, language classes, and community gatherings that foster a sense of belonging and mutual understanding. Migrant networks consist of social ties between individuals and groups across borders. These networks can be formal or informal and vary in size and scope [1,2].

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## Literature Review

Mexican Hometown Associations are a prime example of how migrant organizations can contribute to social protection. HTAs are formed by Mexican migrants in the United States who come from the same town or region. These associations engage in a variety of activities. HTAs collect remittances from their members to fund development projects in their hometowns, such as building schools, healthcare facilities, and infrastructure. These projects improve the quality of life and social protection for residents in the migrants' home communities. HTAs advocate for the rights of Mexican migrants in the United States. They work with local governments and organizations to influence policies that affect migrants, such as labor rights, access to healthcare, and immigration reform. HTAs provide support to their members in the United States, including legal assistance, educational programs, and cultural events. This support helps migrants integrate into their new environment while maintaining their cultural identity. Filipino migrant organizations, particularly in countries like the United States, Canada, and the Middle East, have played a significant role in social protection for Filipino migrants. Organizations such as the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration provide welfare assistance to Filipino migrant workers, including insurance, health services, and reintegration programs upon return to the Philippines. Organizations like the Philippine Overseas Labor Office offer training programs to enhance the skills of Filipino migrants, improving their employability and career prospects in host countries. Filipino migrant organizations advocate for the protection of migrants' rights, addressing issues such as labor exploitation, abuse, and human trafficking. They work with host country governments and international bodies to ensure fair treatment and access to justice for migrants. Despite their significant contributions, migrant organizations and networks face several challenges. Many migrant organizations operate with limited financial and human resources, hindering their ability to provide comprehensive support. Migrant organizations often encounter political and legal barriers, such as restrictive immigration policies and lack of recognition by host governments [3,4].

## Discussion

This information is vital for migrants to access social protection mechanisms and integrate into the host society. Migrant networks provide mutual support, including financial assistance, housing, and childcare. This support system

reduces vulnerability and enhances migrants' capacity to cope with challenges. Networks enable the mobilization of resources for collective initiatives, such as community projects, business ventures, and advocacy campaigns. These initiatives contribute to social and economic development in both host and home countries. Migrant networks maintain transnational linkages that facilitate the flow of remittances, knowledge, and skills. The diversity of migrant organizations and networks can lead to fragmentation and lack of coordination, reducing their overall effectiveness. There are several opportunities to enhance the role of migrant organizations and networks in social. Investing in the capacity building of migrant organizations can enhance their ability to provide effective support and advocate for migrants' rights. Supportive policies from host and home country governments can facilitate the work of migrant organizations and networks, ensuring migrants have access to social protection. Strengthening partnerships and collaboration between migrant organizations, governments, and international bodies can enhance the impact of social protection initiatives. These linkages contribute to social protection by enhancing the livelihoods of migrants' families and communities in their countries of origin [5,6].

## Conclusion

Migrant organizations and networks play a crucial role in the joint development of social protection, bridging the gap between migrants and the resources they need to thrive. By providing advocacy, service provision, economic support, and cultural integration, these entities contribute to the well-being of migrants and foster socio-economic development in both host and home countries. Addressing the challenges and leveraging the opportunities can further enhance the contributions of migrant organizations and networks, ensuring that migrants have access to comprehensive social protection and are able to lead fulfilling lives. Family-based networks are among the most common, providing emotional and financial support to migrants. These networks are formed based on shared community or ethnic backgrounds. They offer solidarity and assistance in navigating the host society. Migrants often form networks based on professional or educational affiliations. These networks facilitate career advancement and skill development. Networks facilitate the exchange of critical information about job opportunities, legal rights and available services.

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## Conflict of Interest

None.

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