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## **Migration, Gender, Employment: Comparative Perspective on the Status of African Female Migrants**

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This paper examines the association between migration, gender and market employment, with a particular focus on the status of female migrants with African ethnic origin. The substantial changes in gender roles reflected in women's paid work is identified as part of a more important social revolution, a revolution in sex roles (Davis 1984) and as one of the fundamental facts of gender relations in this century (Cotter et al. 2001).

This paper is based on the results of two studies conducted in the multiethnic and multicultural settings of Australia and New Zealand where approximately a quarter of population is overseas-born with a substantial ethnic diversity including those from African region (Foroutan 2007, 2011). Using logistic regression analysis, the paper examines the patterns and determinants of the market employment (that is, both employment status and occupational level) of African female migrants. It also highlights their work differentials relative to both native-born and other groups of female migrants. It is worthwhile to state that the status and success of migrant groups in the labour market has been observed as a key indication of migrants' settlement in the destination country (VandenHeuvel and Wooden 1996). Accordingly, the multivariate findings of this study also provide a multicultural basis to assess the settlement and integration of African female migrants from a comparative perspective.

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## **The author's short biography**

Dr Yaghoob Foroutan completed his doctoral degree in Demography at the Australian Demographic and Social Research Institute, The Australian National University (ANU), Canberra, Australia. His doctoral dissertation focusing on the effects of migration and religion on women's employment has been awarded The W. D. Borrie Essay Prize by The Australian Population Association. Dr Foroutan also has a MA in Sociology and a MA in Demography from Tehran University. His research interest is mainly in gender issues and labour force from a socio-demographic perspective. Dr Foroutan published widely in peer-reviewed journals including *Journal of Population Research*, *International Migration Review*, *Australian Religion Studies Review*, *Immigrants and Minorities*, *Fieldwork in Religion*, *South Asia Research*, and *Asian Journal of Women's Studies*. Currently, Dr Foroutan is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the National Institute of Demographic and Economic Analysis, The University of Waikato in New Zealand. Email: [y\\_foroutan@yahoo.com](mailto:y_foroutan@yahoo.com) OR [foroutan@waikato.ac.nz](mailto:foroutan@waikato.ac.nz).