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Empowerment as a Multi-Dimensional Process:
Filipinas and Their Social Activities in Japan

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It has been pointed out that organizational or any type of social activities of migrant women, who tend to be made 'invisible' in the host society, could be the first step of resistance against the host society. However, this process of 'self-visualization' is not independent from the social, economic and cultural conditions around them. Especially Filipino women in Japan, who have to live the life as 'only one foreigner in the family' through intermarriage in most cases, and, who are usually socially stigmatized as 'entertainers' or '*Filipina*' in terms of race/ethnicity and gender, this process is non linear.

With portraying the nonlinear process of their empowerment, this paper will approach the reality of migrant women's social activities, taking a stance from the simple optimistic way.

It will explore how the various aspects and factors of migrant women's empowerment, such as the class consciousness within the migrant Filipina community in Japan, the invisible pressure of 'assimilation' from the Japan society, migrant women's strategy for their mixed children in the global scale, multi-purpose collaboration with local government and women's self-realization through the whole processes, are embedded in the context of 'feminization of migration' in Japan. The aspects of transnationalism of Filipino women's activities in Japan will be discussed as well.