

Women's Integration in Migration Contexts: Violence, Digital Vulnerabilities and Hybrid Social Policy Responses in Türkiye

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Abstract

Women's integration in migration contexts is often framed through indicators such as employment, language acquisition, and social participation. However, these approaches frequently overlook the gendered risks and structural inequalities that shape migrant women's lived experiences. Violence against women, digital vulnerability, economic dependency, and fragmented institutional responses constitute major barriers to sustainable integration, particularly for migrant women exposed to multiple forms of exclusion. This chapter examines migrant women's integration in Türkiye through the lens of hybrid social policy responses, a framework that conceptualises integration as a multidimensional and interconnected process. Drawing on qualitative document analysis, the chapter synthesises international migration and gender literature with Turkish empirical studies on violence against women, digital violence, institutional protection mechanisms, social work practices, civil society organisations, and women's employment. The analysis demonstrates that integration outcomes are deeply influenced by the interaction between protection mechanisms, labour market participation, digital environments, and multi-actor governance structures. The chapter argues that addressing migrant women's integration requires coordinated and gender-sensitive policy frameworks that move beyond fragmented and crisis-oriented interventions. By integrating protection, empowerment, and participation across institutional, economic, and digital domains, hybrid social policy responses offer a holistic and context-sensitive approach to women's integration in migration settings. The chapter contributes to migration and gender studies by providing an analytical model that is both theoretically grounded and policy relevant for Türkiye and comparable contexts.

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Aim, Scope and Methodology

Aim and Scope of the Chapter

The primary aim of this chapter is to analyse migrant women's integration in Türkiye through a gender-sensitive and multidimensional perspective. The chapter seeks to move beyond conventional integration frameworks by foregrounding gender-based violence, digital vulnerability, institutional protection mechanisms, and economic participation as interrelated dimensions shaping integration outcomes. By adopting the concept of hybrid social policy responses, the chapter aims to provide an analytical framework that captures the complexity of migrant women's integration experiences.

The scope of the chapter encompasses migration and integration policies, violence against women, digitalisation, employment, and the role of social policy actors in Türkiye. While the analysis is grounded in the Turkish context, the chapter engages with international theoretical debates, enabling broader conceptual relevance.

Methodology

This chapter adopts a qualitative research approach based on document analysis. The analysis draws on academic literature, policy reports, and empirical studies focusing on migration, gender, violence against women, digital violence, institutional protection mechanisms, social work practices, civil society organisations, and women's employment. In particular, the chapter synthesises findings from Turkish graduate theses and peer-reviewed international studies to develop a comprehensive and context-sensitive analysis.

Document analysis was selected as a suitable method for examining complex social phenomena that cut across multiple policy domains and institutional settings. The collected materials were analysed thematically, with particular attention to recurring patterns related to violence, digital vulnerability, economic dependency, and institutional coordination. These themes were then interpreted through the lens of hybrid social policy responses to explore how fragmented interventions might be integrated into more coherent and sustainable policy frameworks.

Limitations of the Study

Despite its contributions, this chapter has several limitations that should be acknowledged. First, the study is based on qualitative document analysis and does not include primary empirical data such as interviews or surveys with migrant women or policy actors. While this approach enables a comprehensive

synthesis of existing literature and policy documents, it limits the ability to capture lived experiences and subjective perspectives in depth.

Second, the analysis primarily draws on secondary sources, including academic studies, policy reports, and graduate theses conducted in Türkiye. Although this allows for a context-sensitive examination of migrant women's integration, the findings are shaped by the scope and focus of existing research and may not fully reflect the diversity of migrant women's experiences across different legal statuses, nationalities, or regional contexts.

Third, while the chapter integrates international and Turkish literature, the conceptual framework is developed mainly within the Turkish migration and social policy context. As a result, the applicability of the proposed hybrid social policy responses to other national settings may require further contextual adaptation and comparative analysis.

Recognising these limitations does not diminish the analytical value of the chapter; rather, it highlights the need for continued empirical and comparative research to deepen understanding of migrant women's integration processes.

Implications for Future Research

Building on the findings and limitations of this chapter, several directions for future research can be identified. First, empirical studies based on qualitative interviews with migrant women could provide deeper insights into how violence, digital vulnerability, and employment intersect in everyday integration experiences. Such research would allow for a more nuanced understanding of agency, coping strategies, and barriers faced by women in different migration contexts.

Second, future research could examine the implementation of hybrid social policy responses through case studies of local governance initiatives, social service programmes, or civil society interventions. Evaluating how coordination among institutions, digital platforms, and labour market actors operates in practice would contribute to translating the proposed framework into actionable policy tools.

Third, comparative studies across different national or regional contexts would be valuable in assessing the transferability of the hybrid social policy framework. Comparing Türkiye with other migration-receiving countries could reveal how variations in welfare regimes, migration governance, and gender norms shape integration outcomes for migrant women.

Finally, further research could explore the role of digital technologies in greater depth by examining digital literacy programmes, online support

networks, and technology-facilitated violence prevention strategies targeting migrant women. Such studies would strengthen the integration of digital dimensions into gender-sensitive migration and social policy research.

1. Introduction: Rethinking Women's Integration in Migration Contexts

Migration has become one of the most defining social and political phenomena of the contemporary world, reshaping societies, institutions, and welfare systems across national contexts. In this process, *integration* has emerged as a key policy concept, generally framed around access to education, labour markets, language acquisition, and civic participation. However, dominant integration approaches have often treated migrants as a homogenous group, overlooking the differentiated experiences shaped by gender, class, legal status, and exposure to violence. As a result, the specific vulnerabilities and capacities of migrant women frequently remain marginal within integration debates.

For migrant women, integration is not only a matter of economic participation or cultural adaptation but also a deeply gendered process shaped by structural inequalities, insecurity, and multiple forms of violence. Experiences of domestic violence, institutional exclusion, labour market segmentation, and digital forms of control and harassment significantly affect migrant women's ability to access social services, participate in public life, and achieve economic independence. These factors indicate that integration cannot be adequately understood without addressing issues of safety, protection, and gender-based power relations.

In recent years, digitalisation has further transformed integration processes, introducing new opportunities as well as new risks for migrant women. Digital platforms may facilitate access to information, social networks, and support mechanisms; at the same time, they can reproduce exclusion, surveillance, and digital violence. Online harassment, digital monitoring, and technology-facilitated abuse increasingly intersect with offline forms of violence, creating hybrid vulnerability spaces for migrant women. This dual nature of digital environments challenges conventional social policy responses that focus primarily on physical spaces and formal institutions.

Within the Turkish context, migration governance and integration policies have largely prioritised employment, basic service provision, and social cohesion, while gender-based risks and violence remain insufficiently integrated into policy design. Although institutional protection mechanisms such as women's shelters, guesthouses, social services, and civil society organisations

play a critical role in supporting women exposed to violence, these mechanisms often operate in fragmented ways. Limited coordination between digital support networks, institutional protection systems, and labour market policies constrains their capacity to provide sustainable integration outcomes for migrant women.

This chapter argues that migrant women's integration requires a multidimensional and gender-sensitive policy framework that goes beyond traditional integration indicators. It introduces the concept of hybrid social policy responses to analyse how digital spaces, institutional protection mechanisms, employment policies, and civil society actors interact in shaping migrant women's integration experiences in Türkiye. Rather than treating violence, digital vulnerability, and economic participation as separate policy domains, the chapter conceptualises them as interconnected dimensions of a broader integration ecosystem.

The chapter is based on a qualitative, document-based analysis drawing on academic literature, policy documents, and empirical findings from previous research on violence against women, digital vulnerability, institutional protection mechanisms, social work practices, civil society interventions, and women's employment in Türkiye. By synthesising these strands of research, the chapter aims to contribute to migration and gender studies by offering an integrated analytical framework that foregrounds women's safety, agency, and economic empowerment within integration processes.

The remainder of the chapter is structured as follows. Section 2 outlines the conceptual framework linking gender, migration, and integration. Section 3 examines violence against migrant women, focusing on structural and institutional dimensions. Section 4 explores digital vulnerabilities and the ambivalent role of digital spaces in women's integration. Section 5 analyses the relationship between employment, economic independence, and integration. Section 6 discusses the roles of social workers, civil society organisations, and local governance actors. Section 7 proposes a hybrid social policy response model for women's integration in Türkiye, followed by a concluding discussion in Section 8.

2. Conceptual Framework: Gender, Migration and Integration

Migration and integration have long been conceptualised within policy and academic debates as processes primarily concerned with labour market participation, language acquisition, and social cohesion. Classical integration frameworks often emphasise structural indicators such as employment rates, educational attainment, and civic participation, assuming a relatively linear

transition from arrival to incorporation into the host society. However, such approaches tend to obscure the differentiated experiences of migrants and overlook how integration is shaped by gendered power relations and social inequalities (Castles et al., 2014, pp. 271–273).

From a gender perspective, integration is neither neutral nor uniform. Feminist migration scholarship has consistently demonstrated that women experience migration and integration processes in distinct ways due to their positioning within both patriarchal family structures and gendered labour markets (Kofman et al., 2011, pp. 7–9). Migrant women's access to employment, social services, and public space is often mediated by caregiving responsibilities, informal work arrangements, and exposure to gender-based violence. Consequently, integration for migrant women cannot be reduced to economic indicators alone but must be understood as a multidimensional process involving safety, autonomy, and agency.

A widely used framework in integration studies is Ager and Strang's (2008) conceptual model, which identifies key domains of integration such as employment, housing, education, health, social connections, and rights and citizenship. While this framework has been influential in shaping integration policies, it has been criticised for its limited engagement with gendered risks and violence. The model implicitly assumes access to services and institutions without sufficiently addressing how insecurity, discrimination, and abuse may restrict women's ability to benefit from these domains (Ager & Strang, 2008, pp. 169–171).

Gender-based violence represents a critical yet often marginalised dimension of migrant women's integration. Experiences of domestic violence, institutional neglect, and social isolation not only undermine women's physical and psychological well-being but also disrupt their access to employment, education, and social networks. Studies on violence against women highlight that exposure to violence functions as a structural barrier, constraining women's participation in public life and reinforcing economic dependency (Walby, 2004, pp. 4–6). In migration contexts, these effects are intensified by language barriers, precarious legal status, and limited awareness of support mechanisms.

In recent years, digitalisation has further reshaped the conditions of integration, introducing new layers of vulnerability and opportunity. Digital technologies can facilitate access to information, support services, and transnational networks; however, they also enable new forms of surveillance, control, and digital violence. Technology-facilitated abuse, online harassment, and digital monitoring increasingly intersect with offline forms of gender-based violence, producing what scholars describe as hybrid spaces of harm

(Henry & Powell, 2018, pp. 3–5). For migrant women, digital exclusion or exposure to digital violence can significantly hinder integration by limiting access to resources and reinforcing social isolation.

Within this context, social policy responses to migration and integration must move beyond sectoral and fragmented approaches. Feminist social policy literature emphasises the need for integrated frameworks that link protection, empowerment, and participation (Lister, 2004, pp. 37–39). From this perspective, integration is not solely an outcome to be measured but a process that must be actively supported through coordinated interventions across institutional, economic, and digital domains.

Building on these debates, this chapter adopts a gender-sensitive and multidimensional understanding of integration and introduces the concept of hybrid social policy responses. This concept refers to policy frameworks that recognise the interconnected nature of violence, digital vulnerability, institutional protection, and employment in shaping migrant women's integration experiences. By situating integration within a broader ecosystem of social policies and actors, the hybrid approach provides an analytical lens to examine how fragmented interventions can be transformed into more coherent and sustainable responses.

3. Violence Against Migrant Women: Structural and Institutional Dimensions

Violence against migrant women constitutes one of the most significant yet under-recognised barriers to integration. While gender-based violence is widely acknowledged as a structural problem affecting women globally, migrant women experience heightened risks due to intersecting factors such as legal insecurity, language barriers, economic dependency, and social isolation. These structural conditions do not merely increase exposure to violence; they also limit women's access to protection mechanisms and undermine their capacity to engage in integration processes on equal terms.

From a structural perspective, violence against migrant women is embedded within broader systems of inequality that combine patriarchy, migration regimes, and labour market segmentation. Feminist scholars have emphasised that migration policies often reproduce gendered power relations by rendering women dependent on family-based residence permits, informal employment, or care responsibilities (Kofman et al., 2011, pp. 10–12). Such dependency reduces women's ability to leave violent relationships and reinforces cycles of abuse that directly obstruct social and economic integration.

Institutional responses to violence play a critical role in shaping migrant women's integration trajectories. Access to women's shelters, guesthouses, social services, and legal support constitutes a key protective factor; however, these mechanisms are frequently characterised by limited capacity, fragmented coordination, and insufficient sensitivity to migrant women's specific needs. Research on women's shelters highlights that while these institutions provide essential immediate protection, they often function as temporary solutions that do not adequately address long-term integration challenges such as employment, housing, and legal security (Hagemann-White et al., 2010, pp. 25–27).

In migration contexts, institutional fragmentation is further intensified. Migrant women exposed to violence may encounter multiple barriers when seeking support, including lack of information, fear of deportation, and mistrust of authorities. Studies indicate that concerns over residence status and potential repercussions for family members discourage many migrant women from reporting violence or accessing institutional protection (Erez et al., 2009, pp. 537–539). As a result, violence remains underreported, and integration policies fail to engage with one of its most destabilising dimensions.

Empirical research on repeated applications to shelters and guesthouses demonstrates the cyclical nature of violence and institutional dependency. Women who lack access to stable employment, independent housing, and sustained social support are more likely to return to violent environments after leaving protective institutions. This pattern reveals that institutional protection mechanisms, when detached from broader social policy measures, risk becoming revolving-door solutions rather than pathways to integration and empowerment (Walby et al., 2017, pp. 14–16).

Within the Turkish context, institutional frameworks addressing violence against women have expanded in recent years; however, their integration with migration governance remains limited. Protection mechanisms are primarily designed around citizenship-based assumptions, often overlooking the legal and social vulnerabilities faced by migrant women. This disconnect constrains the effectiveness of institutional interventions and highlights the need for policy frameworks that explicitly link violence prevention, migration governance, and integration strategies.

Taken together, these dynamics suggest that violence against migrant women cannot be addressed solely through crisis-oriented interventions. Instead, it must be understood as a structural and institutional issue that directly shapes integration outcomes. Effective integration policies require coordinated responses that combine protection, legal security, economic

empowerment, and access to social services. This perspective underscores the importance of moving toward hybrid social policy responses that bridge institutional protection mechanisms with broader integration frameworks.

4. Digital Vulnerabilities and Digital Spaces in Women's Integration

Digitalisation has become an integral component of contemporary migration and integration processes, reshaping how migrant women access information, social networks, and support services. Digital platforms offer potential opportunities for social inclusion by facilitating communication, access to rights-related information, and engagement with civil society organisations. At the same time, however, digital environments generate new forms of vulnerability that disproportionately affect migrant women, particularly in contexts marked by gender inequality, precarious legal status, and social isolation.

From a gendered perspective, digital vulnerability refers not only to limited access to digital resources but also to exposure to technology-facilitated forms of violence and control. Research on digital violence highlights that online harassment, cyberstalking, non-consensual dissemination of images, and digital surveillance frequently mirror and extend offline power relations (Henry & Powell, 2018, pp. 4–6). For migrant women, these practices are often intensified by linguistic barriers, dependency on digital communication for transnational family ties, and restricted access to offline support networks.

Digital spaces can function as sites of both empowerment and harm in women's integration trajectories. On the one hand, digital tools enable migrant women to access information about social services, employment opportunities, and legal rights, thereby reducing informational asymmetries that hinder integration. Online networks and digital feminist initiatives may also foster solidarity, collective awareness, and informal support mechanisms, particularly in contexts where institutional access is limited. On the other hand, digital platforms can reproduce exclusion by amplifying hate speech, xenophobia, and gender-based discrimination, which further marginalise migrant women in public and semi-public online spaces (Citron, 2014, pp. 31–33).

The intersection of digital vulnerability and gender-based violence presents a critical challenge for integration policies. Technology-facilitated abuse often remains invisible within institutional protection frameworks that prioritise physical violence and face-to-face interactions. As a result, migrant women experiencing digital violence may find limited recognition and inadequate support from social services and legal institutions. This gap reinforces isolation

and undermines women's ability to participate in social, economic, and civic life, thereby weakening integration outcomes.

In migration contexts, digital vulnerability is closely linked to structural inequalities in access to digital literacy and secure technologies. Migrant women engaged in informal employment or care work often rely on shared or monitored devices, increasing the risk of digital surveillance and control by partners or family members. Studies indicate that such practices restrict women's autonomy and limit their capacity to seek help or access institutional support without fear of retaliation (Woodlock et al., 2020, pp. 6–8).

Within the Turkish context, digitalisation has expanded rapidly across public services and civil society initiatives, creating new opportunities for outreach and support. However, digital integration strategies have largely focused on efficiency and accessibility, with insufficient attention to gendered risks and digital violence. This oversight highlights the need for gender-sensitive digital policies that recognise migrant women's specific vulnerabilities and integrate digital safety into broader protection and integration frameworks.

Taken together, these dynamics suggest that digital spaces must be understood as hybrid integration environments that simultaneously enable participation and reproduce harm. Addressing digital vulnerability requires coordinated interventions that combine digital literacy, legal protection against technology-facilitated violence, and institutional awareness of gendered digital risks. Such an approach aligns with the concept of hybrid social policy responses by bridging digital environments with institutional protection mechanisms and empowerment-oriented integration strategies.

5. Employment, Economic Independence and Integration Processes

Employment constitutes one of the most central pillars of migrant integration, frequently framed in policy debates as a primary indicator of social inclusion and self-sufficiency. Access to paid work is commonly associated with economic independence, social participation, and long-term settlement. However, for migrant women, labour market participation is shaped by intersecting gendered and structural constraints that complicate this linear understanding of integration. These constraints include caregiving responsibilities, informal employment, legal insecurity, discrimination, and exposure to gender-based violence.

Feminist migration research highlights that migrant women are disproportionately concentrated in low-paid, precarious, and informal sectors such as domestic work, care services, and agriculture. While these

forms of employment may provide short-term income, they often lack social protection, labour rights, and opportunities for skill development, thereby limiting women's long-term integration prospects (Kofman et al., 2011, pp. 14–16). Moreover, informal employment increases women's vulnerability to exploitation and violence, reinforcing economic dependency rather than promoting sustainable integration.

The relationship between violence and employment is particularly significant in understanding migrant women's integration trajectories. Studies on violence against women demonstrate that exposure to violence negatively affects women's ability to maintain stable employment, resulting in absenteeism, reduced productivity, job loss, and withdrawal from the labour market (Walby, 2004, pp. 5–7). In migration contexts, these effects are intensified by limited access to support services and fear of institutional consequences, such as loss of residence status or income instability. Consequently, violence functions as both a cause and a consequence of economic dependency.

Economic independence plays a critical role in enabling migrant women to exit violent relationships and engage more fully in integration processes. Research indicates that women who have access to stable employment and independent income are better positioned to seek institutional support, secure housing, and make autonomous decisions regarding their social and economic lives (Kabeer, 1999, pp. 437–439). However, integration policies often fail to recognise that employment alone is insufficient when unaccompanied by supportive measures such as childcare, legal protection, and access to education and training.

Within the Turkish context, migrant women's labour market participation remains limited and highly stratified. Structural barriers such as language constraints, non-recognition of qualifications, and restricted access to formal employment channels confine many migrant women to informal and insecure jobs. These conditions undermine the potential of employment as a pathway to integration and highlight the need for gender-sensitive labour market policies that explicitly address migrant women's vulnerabilities.

Furthermore, employment policies are rarely integrated with institutional protection mechanisms addressing violence against women. This policy fragmentation means that women who access shelters, guesthouses, or social services often face significant challenges in transitioning to stable employment. Empirical evidence shows that the absence of coordinated employment support increases the likelihood of repeated reliance on protection mechanisms and return to unsafe environments (Walby et al., 2017, pp. 15–17). Such patterns

underscore the limitations of treating employment and protection as separate policy domains.

Taken together, these dynamics suggest that employment should be understood not merely as an economic outcome of integration but as a process deeply embedded in gendered power relations and institutional arrangements. Effective integration strategies must therefore link employment policies with measures addressing violence, care responsibilities, legal security, and social support. This integrated approach aligns with the concept of hybrid social policy responses by recognising economic empowerment as a necessary, but not sufficient, condition for migrant women's integration.

6. Actors of Integration: Social Workers, NGOs and Local Governance

Migrant women's integration is not solely shaped by individual capacities or policy frameworks but is deeply influenced by the actors involved in delivering, mediating, and coordinating integration-related services. Social workers, civil society organisations, and local governance structures constitute key actors within the integration ecosystem, particularly in contexts marked by gender-based violence, digital vulnerability, and economic insecurity. Their roles are critical in translating policy objectives into everyday practices and in bridging gaps between institutional systems and migrant women's lived experiences.

Social workers play a central role in supporting migrant women exposed to violence and exclusion. As frontline professionals, they are often the first point of contact for women seeking assistance through shelters, guesthouses, social services, and community-based programmes. Feminist social work literature emphasises that effective intervention requires not only procedural knowledge but also gender-sensitive and trauma-informed practices that recognise the complex intersections of migration, violence, and inequality (Dominelli, 2002, pp. 42–45). For migrant women, trust-building, cultural sensitivity, and confidentiality are particularly crucial in facilitating access to protection and integration pathways.

However, the capacity of social workers to support migrant women's integration is frequently constrained by institutional pressures, heavy caseloads, and limited resources. Research indicates that professionals working in violence-related services experience high levels of emotional labour, secondary trauma, and occupational stress, which may affect the sustainability and quality of support provided (Figley, 1995, pp. 7–9). These challenges are intensified in migration contexts where legal uncertainty, language barriers, and fragmented service provision complicate intervention processes.

Civil society organisations (NGOs) represent another vital actor in migrant women's integration. Women's organisations, migrant associations, and advocacy groups often operate as intermediaries between migrant women and formal institutions, providing legal advice, psychosocial support, language assistance, and information on rights and services. Feminist scholarship highlights that NGOs play a transformative role by politicising gender-based violence and challenging the exclusionary assumptions embedded in mainstream policy frameworks (Healy, 2014, pp. 110–112).

In many contexts, NGOs compensate for gaps in state-provided services, particularly in addressing the specific needs of migrant women. Their flexibility and community-based orientation enable them to reach women who may be reluctant to engage with formal institutions due to fear of stigma, deportation, or bureaucratic complexity. At the same time, the effectiveness of NGOs is often constrained by project-based funding, limited institutional recognition, and uneven coordination with public authorities (Payne, 2014, pp. 211–213).

Local governance structures play a crucial role in shaping the integration environment for migrant women. Municipalities and local service providers are increasingly responsible for delivering integration-related services, including housing support, social assistance, and community programmes. Local-level interventions have the potential to address gendered integration challenges more effectively by responding to specific community needs and fostering collaboration among social workers, NGOs, and public institutions (Lister, 2004, pp. 38–40).

Despite this potential, coordination among integration actors remains uneven. Fragmentation between social services, NGOs, employment agencies, and digital support platforms limits the capacity of local governance structures to offer coherent and sustainable integration pathways for migrant women. This fragmentation is particularly problematic for women exposed to violence, who require simultaneous access to protection, legal support, and economic opportunities.

These dynamics highlight the importance of adopting a multi-actor and coordinated approach to migrant women's integration. Social workers, NGOs, and local governance actors must be understood not as isolated service providers but as interconnected components of a broader integration ecosystem. Strengthening collaboration, institutional support, and shared accountability among these actors is essential for addressing the complex and gendered barriers that shape migrant women's integration experiences. This perspective directly informs the development of hybrid social policy

responses, which seek to align protection, empowerment, and participation across multiple institutional and societal domains.

7. Hybrid Social Policy Responses for Women's Integration in Türkiye

The analysis presented in the previous sections demonstrates that migrant women's integration cannot be effectively addressed through isolated policy interventions. Violence, digital vulnerability, economic insecurity, and limited institutional coordination are deeply interconnected dimensions shaping women's integration experiences. Addressing these challenges requires a policy framework capable of linking protection, empowerment, and participation across multiple domains. In this context, this chapter proposes hybrid social policy responses as an analytical and practical approach to women's integration in Türkiye.

Hybrid social policy responses refer to coordinated interventions that operate simultaneously across institutional protection mechanisms, labour market policies, digital environments, and civil society initiatives. Rather than treating these domains as separate policy areas, the hybrid approach recognises their interdependence and emphasises the need for integrated governance structures. Turkish social policy literature has increasingly highlighted the limitations of fragmented service provision in addressing complex social problems such as gender-based violence and migration (Koray, 2015, pp. 92–95; Şahin Taşgın & Tekin, 2020, pp. 48–50).

Within the context of violence against women, Turkish empirical studies underline that institutional protection mechanisms—such as women's shelters and guesthouses—play a crucial role in providing immediate safety but remain insufficient in supporting long-term integration and empowerment. Research on shelter experiences indicates that women frequently return to violent environments due to economic dependency, lack of employment opportunities, and limited access to social support networks (Kaya, 2019, pp. 54–57; Aydın, 2020, pp. 62–65). These findings resonate with international literature while also revealing context-specific institutional constraints in Türkiye.

Digitalisation adds another layer to the integration landscape. Turkish studies on digital violence and digital feminist networks demonstrate that digital spaces function as both risk environments and potential empowerment arenas for women. While digital platforms can facilitate access to information and solidarity networks, they also reproduce patriarchal control mechanisms and technology-facilitated violence (Demir, 2020, pp. 68–71; Yılmaz, 2021, pp. 49–52). Hybrid policy responses must therefore incorporate digital safety,

digital literacy, and gender-sensitive digital governance as integral components of integration strategies.

Economic participation represents a further cornerstone of hybrid integration policies. Turkish labour market research consistently shows that women's employment is characterised by informality, precarity, and gender segregation, conditions that are exacerbated for migrant women (Öztürk, 2022, pp. 31–34; Toksöz, 2016, pp. 115–118). Studies focusing on violence and employment highlight that economic dependency significantly increases women's vulnerability to violence and limits their capacity to benefit from institutional protection mechanisms (Aydın, 2020, pp. 66–68). Consequently, employment policies must be designed in coordination with protection and social service systems rather than as standalone integration tools.

Actors operating at the intersection of these domains play a critical role in enabling hybrid responses. Turkish research on social work practice emphasises that social service professionals require institutional support, inter-agency coordination, and specialised training to address the complex needs of women exposed to violence (Çelik, 2021, pp. 73–76). Similarly, studies on civil society organisations underline their bridging role between migrant women and public institutions, particularly in contexts where trust in formal systems is limited (Arslan, 2018, pp. 41–44).

Drawing on these insights, hybrid social policy responses for women's integration in Türkiye can be conceptualised around three interrelated pillars. First, integrated protection mechanisms that link shelters, legal support, social services, and digital safety measures. Second, gender-sensitive employment policies that combine labour market access with childcare support, skills training, and protection from workplace exploitation. Third, multi-actor governance frameworks that enhance coordination among public institutions, local authorities, social workers, and civil society organisations.

By bringing together Turkish empirical research and international theoretical debates, the hybrid social policy framework proposed in this chapter offers a context-sensitive yet transferable model for addressing migrant women's integration. Rather than positioning women as passive recipients of protection, the hybrid approach foregrounds agency, participation, and long-term empowerment. In doing so, it contributes to both migration studies and gender-sensitive social policy literature by demonstrating how integration can be reimagined as a holistic and inclusive process.

8. Discussion and Conclusion

This chapter set out to rethink migrant women's integration by foregrounding gender-based violence, digital vulnerability, institutional protection, and economic participation as interconnected dimensions of the integration process. Drawing on international scholarship and Turkish empirical research, the analysis demonstrates that integration cannot be reduced to labour market participation or cultural adaptation alone. For migrant women, integration is deeply shaped by structural inequalities, insecurity, and access to coordinated support mechanisms.

The discussion highlights that violence against migrant women constitutes a central yet insufficiently addressed barrier to integration. Consistent with both international and Turkish studies, the findings indicate that exposure to violence undermines women's access to employment, social services, and public participation, reinforcing cycles of dependency and exclusion (Walby, 2004, pp. 5–7; Kaya, 2019, pp. 54–57). Institutional protection mechanisms such as shelters and guesthouses play a critical role in providing immediate safety; however, when detached from long-term social and economic support, they risk functioning as temporary and repetitive interventions rather than pathways to sustainable integration (Aydın, 2020, pp. 62–65).

The chapter further demonstrates that digitalisation has transformed integration environments into hybrid spaces where empowerment and vulnerability coexist. While digital platforms can facilitate access to information, solidarity networks, and civil society support, they also enable new forms of surveillance, harassment, and control that disproportionately affect migrant women (Demir, 2020, pp. 68–71; Henry & Powell, 2018, pp. 4–6). The persistence of digital violence and exclusion underscores the need to integrate digital safety and literacy into mainstream integration and protection policies.

Economic participation emerges as another critical axis shaping migrant women's integration experiences. Both international and Turkish literature confirm that economic dependency significantly increases women's vulnerability to violence and limits their ability to exit abusive environments (Kabeer, 1999, pp. 437–439; Öztürk, 2022, pp. 31–34). However, the analysis reveals that employment alone does not guarantee integration when labour market participation is characterised by informality, precarity, and lack of social protection. This finding reinforces feminist critiques of integration models that treat employment as a singular indicator of inclusion.

The role of actors operating within the integration ecosystem further illustrates the complexity of migrant women's integration. Social workers,

civil society organisations, and local governance structures function as critical intermediaries between migrant women and institutional systems. Turkish studies emphasise that these actors often compensate for gaps in public service provision, particularly in addressing gender-based violence and digital vulnerability (Çelik, 2021, pp. 73–76; Arslan, 2018, pp. 41–44). Nevertheless, limited coordination, resource constraints, and institutional fragmentation continue to undermine their effectiveness.

In response to these challenges, this chapter proposed the concept of hybrid social policy responses as an analytical and practical framework for migrant women's integration in Türkiye. Hybrid responses recognise that protection, empowerment, and participation cannot be addressed in isolation but must be pursued through coordinated interventions across institutional protection mechanisms, employment policies, digital environments, and civil society initiatives. By integrating these domains, the hybrid approach moves beyond crisis-oriented and sectoral policies toward more sustainable and gender-sensitive integration strategies.

From a policy perspective, the findings suggest several key implications. First, integration policies must explicitly incorporate gender-based violence prevention and protection as core components rather than ancillary concerns. Second, digital safety and literacy should be recognised as essential dimensions of integration, particularly for migrant women exposed to technology-facilitated abuse. Third, employment policies targeting migrant women must be designed in coordination with childcare provision, legal protection, and social services to promote genuine economic independence. Finally, strengthening multi-actor governance and institutional coordination is essential for translating policy commitments into effective practice.

This chapter contributes to migration and gender studies by offering a context-sensitive yet transferable framework that repositions migrant women as active agents within integration processes rather than passive recipients of protection. By combining international theoretical debates with Turkish empirical research, the hybrid social policy approach provides a holistic lens for understanding and addressing the complex challenges shaping migrant women's integration. Future research could build on this framework through comparative studies, primary data collection, and policy evaluations that further examine how hybrid responses can be operationalised across different migration contexts.

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