Abstract
The flow of women migrants in the Gulf region from South Asia has been on the increase in the last two decades, and they account for 20-40% of the growing migrant workforce in the various Gulf States. Being largely low-skilled female migrants from South Asia, they generally concentrate in a relatively small number of occupations, including domestic work, manufacturing and nursing. Whilst women’s migration opens up better opportunities in terms of employment and incomes compared with those available in the home countries; yet it poses many challenges. The main purpose of this presentation is to focus on the major issues involved with regard to the impact of women’s migration, particularly health and family predicaments of migrant women, drawing on a large number of empirical research materials. The paper argues that despite direct economic gains some women face deprivations and maltreatment in the work situation causing various physical and psychological disorders. This can involve substantial treatment costs and, together with accidents at work abroad, can deplete energy, creativity and even lead to disability, jeopardising work prospects both at home, and thus may be considered as one of the major reasons for failed migration. The presentation outlines a proposal that aims to examine migration and health interface of refugees and recently arrived culturally and linguistically diverse migrants at the onset of the economic downturn.

When: Tuesday 28th April 2009
Time: Lunch Presentation from 12.30-1.30pm
Where: Health Sciences Boardroom 400:405
RSVP: By 21 April to c.sams@curtin.edu.au
Please bring your own lunch. Tea and coffee will be provided.

About the Presenter
Dr. Rita Afsar, a Senior Research Fellow at the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), is currently involved with Centre for International Health (CIH) and Women’s Health Service (WHS). For the last twenty-eight years she has researched in the areas of Labour Migration, Policy-Oriented Research in International and Rural-Urban Migration, Urbanization, Globalization and Regional Development and Immigration; Poverty, Labour (including Decent Work) and Governance Issues, Rights based approach and CRC; PRSP Role of Human and Social Capital in Development Discourse, Gender analysis, Changes in Women’s Employment, Roles and Status, Empowerment and related issues in a number countries of Asia (more particularly Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and United Arab Emirates), Africa (Kenya) and Australia.