



INFLUENCING FACTORS OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS ON URBAN FEMALE MIGRANTS SRI LANKA

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Like in many other developing countries, Sri Lanka also, urban female migration becomes a common phenomenon in the internal migration process. With the introduction of open economic system in 1977, there was a huge trend of young females moving from rural areas to urban locations accessing employment opportunities in the Free Trade Zones. However, recent decades' females' migration to urban areas are shaped by number of social, economic and demographic factors. Hence, this study tries to identify what the factors are influencing on female migration to the urban areas in Sri Lanka.

The study is based on both quantitative and qualitative data gathered in three Urban Council (UC) areas of Kalutara district in Sri Lanka. The quantitative data related to socio-economic and demographic characteristics of migrants collected through a sample survey which consist of 639 female migrants. The factors related to the socio-economic, demographic characteristics of female migrants' and other environmental factors are analyzed by using descriptive analysis method (tabulation, graphs and charts). Logistic regression analysis was used to show the significant factors towards the female migration.

The findings of this study reveal that the approximately 15 percent women have migrated to urban areas due to their marriage, others have another reasons such as accompanied with family members, natural disasters, development programs induced migration and other reasons. Ethnic group of Sinhalese are higher (71%) among respondents related to marriage reason for migration. Although, the females who migrate to urban locations due to their marriage belong to middle aged between 31-35 years, approximately 36 percent females are in 41 -59 aged have migrated to urban areas related to other reasons such as seeking employment opportunities, to obtain better education for children etc. Moreover, results evident that most of migrated women (approximately two third females) in the survey area due to marriage reason engage in the informal sector economic activities such as service related employments and elementary employments. In addition, the results of logistic regression analysis suggested that the respondent's age, employment category related to elementary employments and marital status of are significantly affected on their cause of migration. Further, qualitative findings reveal that the most migrant females are vulnerable regarding their employments, living condition and left behind family members.

According to these reasons, it should be introduced some policies need to reduce generally urban ward migration especially women migration. The appropriate policies and programs are need to empower females who engage in the informal sector in rural and sub urban areas to prevent overcrowding due to illegal migration in urban council area.

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