



Sri Lankans on the Move

International Conference on Migration (ICSOM)
Colombo, Sri Lanka
January 23-25, 2013

Conference Proceedings



National Science Foundation
Sri Lanka



NATIONAL
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FOUNDATION



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Organized by

National Science Foundation
47/5, Vidya Mawatha
Colombo 07
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National Science Foundation
No. 47/5, Vidya Mawatha
Colombo 07
Sri Lanka

Phone: +94 11 2696771-3
Fax: + 94 11 2694754
E-mail: info@nsf.ac.lk
www.nsf.ac.lk

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FOREWORD

Prof. Sirimali Fernando
Chairperson, National Science Foundation,
Sri Lanka



“Sri Lankans on the Move”, scheduled to be held in Colombo from 23-25 January 2013, is an International Conference on Migration organized by the National Science Foundation (NSF) Sri Lanka with its National Committee on Social Sciences (NCSS). I warmly welcome all participants from more than 10 countries representing different stakeholders to this international event.

The National Science Foundation recognizing Social Sciences as a key branch of sciences has established a dedicated National Committee for Social Sciences. I am glad that the NSF National Committee on Social Sciences has identified migration as one of the themes to focus upon.

Migration has been an important social issue for Sri Lanka for many decades. On one hand it drains the country of its intellectual capital and on the other hand low skilled migrant remittances continue to be a vital source of foreign exchange for the Sri Lankan economy. This Conference will provide a platform to discuss many issues ranging from causes to impacts of migration through 5 plenary presentations and 54 oral presentations, generating a body of valuable knowledge.

The Conference aims at bringing together academics, researchers, policymakers and development practitioners from many countries in the world to discuss and debate on various issues relating to migration of the Sri Lankans including its policy implications. The expatriate scientists, social scientists and economists representing many countries such as Australia, Canada, UK, Japan, Switzerland, Italy, India, Singapore, Hong Kong, the Philippines, and Malaysia will present their work at the Conference.

I am pleased to write the foreword to this book of Conference Proceedings that carry fifty four (54) research abstracts under eight themes identified viz., i) Conceptual and theoretical issues and historical trends; ii) Migration and development; iii) Diaspora, political refugees, irregular migration and citizenship issues; iv) Migration and health; v) Migration and education; vi) Social impact of migration; vii) Economic implications of migration; and viii) Migration policies and governance. The oral presentations will be made by both local and international scientists under eight thematic sessions

I congratulate the authors for providing valuable information for the research community, policymakers and all other stakeholders. I take this opportunity to thank Prof. S T Hettige, Chairman and the members of the NSF National Committee on Social Sciences and appreciate the dedicated and hard work of the Director, NSF and the staff of the Science and Technology Policy Research Division of NSF for their untiring efforts and cooperation to make this international event a success.

PREFACE

Prof. S. T. Hettige,

Chairman, NSF National Committee on Social Sciences



Overseas migration of Sri Lankans both temporary and permanent has been a highly significant aspect of the socio economic landscape of the country for several decades. The number of Sri Lankans leaving the country to work abroad or to settle down in other countries permanently has increased steadily, at least since the 1970s. What is noteworthy here is the fact that the historical trends in overseas migration have been closely connected with the major shifts in the political, economic and social landscape. The exodus of different segments of society from time to time due to diverse circumstances has had significant impacts on the country in diverse terms. These impacts need careful study in order to determine the nature and extent of their diverse impacts and their policy implications.

The mass exodus of Sri Lankan labour over the last several decades has been one of the most significant and controversial aspects of overseas migrations of Sri Lankans. While the migrant families and the country have reaped economic benefits from labour migration, negative social impacts have also figured prominently in the academic literature as well as in the mass media, particularly when tragic incidents involving Sri Lankan workers overseas draw media attention.

This is not the first instance where a large group of academics, researchers and practitioners meet to discuss aspects of migration of Sri Lankans. Yet, this Conference aims to not only cover a much wider range of areas but also discuss policy implications of some of the key findings of researchers drawn from both Sri Lanka and a number of other countries. There are several countries across the world that have accommodated large groups of Sri Lankan migrants within their borders. These include countries like Canada and Australia. I am personally glad that we have several scholars from these countries presenting papers and their contributions will no doubt add an important dimension to the Conference. Many people from here and abroad deal with diverse aspects of labour migration, which is an important socio- economic phenomenon in the country today. All these contributions together are expected to provide a broader and deeper understanding of the themes of this Conference. In my capacity as the Chairman of the National Committee on Social Sciences of the National Science Foundation of Sri Lanka I wish the Conference all the success and hope it will not only facilitate the sharing of knowledge among the participants but also contribute to policy debate on key issues connected with overseas migration of Sri Lankans over the last five to six decades.

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THEME 1:
CONCEPTUAL AND THEORETICAL ISSUES
AND HISTORICAL TRENDS

Location based analysis of temporary external migration trends in Sri Lanka

D.W.Galewela^{1*}, Ranjith Premalal De Silva² and N.D.K. Dayawansa³

¹*Department of Immigration and Emigration, Colombo, Sri Lanka.*

²*Uwa Wellassa University, Badulla, Sri Lanka.*

³*University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.*

Sri Lanka opened its international labour migration regulations during the late 70s in the last century with the introduction of a more liberalized open economy. Since then, migrant workers have been contributing to national GDP growth prominently. The socio-economic impact of this large scale migration is a continuous and complex process and there are research opportunities to assess the outcomes. This study is expected to find explanations at Divisional Secretariat level on the migration trends, relationship between poverty level and migration and gender composition of migrant workers and its changes during 2000 to 2006 in Sri Lanka.

Migration patterns were illustrated using series of maps considering temporary external migration statistics at Divisional Secretariat level from 2000 to 2006. Total migration percentage at Divisional Secretariat level was calculated by considering total recorded temporary migration and the division's population. Housemaid migration composition was calculated on annual basis by dividing Housemaid migration from the total number of temporary migrants within the Divisional Secretariat division. Poverty headcount map was developed using census statistics of 2002. In the statistical analysis, comparison of migration pattern was carried out by using Spearman's rank correlation coefficient, Moran's I index and Chi-square test. Total temporary migration at Divisional Secretariat level as a percentage of its population is found to be randomly scattered within the considered seven provinces. The relative spatial pattern of the Housemaid migration composition remained unchanged during the period of 2000 to 2006. The female contribution in temporary migration was found to be gradually decreasing over the considered period and this reduction is uniformly distributed within the study area. Spatial association between poverty headcount index and Housemaid migration at DS level in 2002 was tested using Chi-square test under 95% probability level and the result confirmed that there is a strong spatial association between these two factors.

Keywords: *Housemaid migration, Poverty Headcount index, spatial association*

Stepping out of bounds in a globalizing world: Sri Lankan domestic migrant workers in Lebanon, same-sex desire and transgenderism

Monica Smith

Department of Geography , National University of Singapore, Singapore

This paper considers the intimate histories and quotidian experiences of Sri Lankan domestic migrant workers in Lebanon who have same-sex desire and/or are transgendered. These migrants transgress spatial and normative boundaries of conventional gender and sexuality roles. Their sojourns take them across geographic boundaries, and, at the same time, place them outside the limits of respectable familial roles. In the process, they step outside the strictures of normative femininities and challenge gendered power hierarchies. Following Abu-Lughod's (1990) dictum that resistance is diagnostic of power, I explore how women, and female to male transgenders in Lebanon (and Sri Lanka) rework and resist gender and sexuality roles. Globalization has brought far-reaching social change in Sri Lanka and Lebanon. Among the changes are the large-scale movements of workers to labor markets in the Middle East, inflows of capital, technology and consumer goods, and the introduction of western-inspired ideologies of women's rights, sexual freedom, and self-fulfillment. At the same time, Sri Lanka has witnessed a resurgence of nationalism, which, inter alia, has put forward images of ideal femininity that emphasize modesty, chastity, obedience, and self-sacrifice. Migrant women in particular are charged with preserving this ideal. The stage is thus set for collisions between ideologies and practice. There are pressures (e.g., homophobia and transphobia experienced at home) and enticements (e.g., spaces of anonymity in Lebanon, and access to community acceptance of GLBT rights) to violate norms of feminine comportment. Thus desirable possibilities for economic advancement and self-fulfillment may come at the price of class-based, intergenerational and intra-psychic conflict.

Keywords: *Domestic migrant workers, globalization, migration, transgenderism*

Theorizing gender and labour migration of Sri Lanka: issues and challenges

Manasi Mahanty

*Research Scholar and Guest Faculty, Khallikote Autonomous College,
Berhampur, State-Odisha india*

The paper presents a historical overview of the theories of migration. The theoretical and conceptual framework of migration is assessed through a literature review. Economic development, globalization, international flow of information, production and social networks are important in migration theories. In this context, the paper discusses the effects of these developments on migrants. It also tries to focus 'gender' as a relational concept and understand women's condition in migratory process.

The pattern of international migration is clearly linked to globalization. Changing labour markets globally have increased both opportunities and pressures for women and men to migrate internationally in larger numbers. From his perspective, the paper analyses the labour market positioning and experiences especially, gender segregated labour markets in the countries of origin as well as destination.

The paper analyses the impact of the post-1977 economic reforms and liberalization policies on Sri Lanka which facilitated migrant outflows. It highlights several common features of Sri Lanka with other Asian labour sending countries: predominantly temporary migration, migrant skill profile dominated by semi-skilled and low-skilled workers and feminization of migration. The paper discusses the feminisation of migration that affect women: the feminisation of poverty and the feminisation of work. The feminisation of migration gives rise to specific problematic forms of migration, such as the commercialised migration of women and girls as domestic workers and caregivers, often resulting in the trafficking of women for labour and sexual exploitation.

The paper addresses issues and challenges relating 'brain drain' and the protection of human rights of migrant workers from the free play of market forces. It also highlights governance issue concerning the role of private sector recruitment agencies with high costs of migration and vulnerability of migrant workers which is a major challenge confronting Sri Lanka's labour migration.

The paper emphasizes the need of careful coordination with local labour market needs and human resource development polices. It concludes that migration alone

cannot be considered a long term development strategy to solve the issues of underdevelopment, poverty and unemployment at home. In the long run, Sri Lanka needs to ensure sustainable growth and development at home and generate decent work opportunities to citizens.

Keywords: *Theories of migration, , international labour migration, gender, globalization, feminization of migration, Feminization of work, feminization of poverty, brain drain*

Migration trends and dimensions: conceptual and theoretical issues in measurement and estimation

Raja B. M. Korale

Former Director, Department of Census and Statistics, Sri Lanka

The demand for information on international migration has increased as the issues concerning migration for foreign employment has gained greater importance as a policy agenda item. The reported current levels of migration for foreign employment where over 250,000 persons including as many as 125,000 economically active females, also leave the country annually, would bound to have a wide range of socio-economic and demographic impacts. In addition the reported level of migrant remittances of over US\$5 billion annually would also contribute to significant impacts on a US\$60 billion economy.

The task of compiling information on international migration is indeed difficult and the data compiled are usually of inadequate quality and reliability. In Sri Lanka too, both conceptual and definitional issues, and data compilation problems and errors have impacted on the measurement of migration flows and stocks. In Sri Lanka, the primary sources of international migration data are the border control documents and data collected by the Department of Immigration and Emigration(DIE) and the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment(SLBFE). The available estimates on the dimensions of migration for temporary employment, return migrants, and the stock of migrant workers resident abroad as compiled from the different sources are not internally consistent and they reveal wide margins of errors. Further, dimensions reported by the international agencies are not consistent with our estimates.

The migration experience of Sri Lanka prior to the country gaining independence and more particularly thereafter when external migration from the country took more prominence will be briefly reviewed and discussed. The paper will examine the current conceptual and definitional frameworks used in the measurement of migration that were developed for the measurement of international migration by the UN Statistics Division; ILO; IOM, and the World Bank that have been adopted by the member countries. In this analysis the relevant concepts and definition from the data compilation considerations will be described and documented.

The methodology and documentation that are currently used by DIE and SLBFE for the compilation of data will be reviewed. The issues concerning the consistency of estimates from the different sources will be reviewed and the estimates realigned to the extent feasible, to produce as far as possible, consistent set of estimates of migrant flows and stocks abroad for a few recent years. The trends observed in the migration flows and its sub-components will be examined and analyzed. The concepts and definitions currently in use and the compilation procedures that are adopted will be reviewed and suggestions and recommendations for strengthening data quality and completeness will also be documented.

Keywords: *Demographic impacts, foreign employment migration trends and dimensions, socio-economic impact*

Understanding ethnic identity issues: a theoretical examination

Sarath Chandrasekera

University of Prince Edward Island, Canada

In the post-World War II period, the movement of people from economically less developed regions to advanced industrial countries has been a major feature of the world system. These migratory patterns involving a large number of migrants and a variety of host and sending countries also produced a diversity of social scientific literature connected with ethnicity, migration and social incorporation. This paper will be focussed on theoretical constructs developed and used in the North American context in order to understand the social incorporation of immigrants to the host society. Given the broad scope of the concept of social incorporation, in this paper, I will focus my attention on the most important aspect of this process : the ethnic identity construction of new immigrants to Canada.

Most of the theories in the 50s and 60s are based on the immigrant experience of the white European immigrants. Today, the majority of immigrants entering North America and other industrial nations are from non-traditional sources such as Asia.

My paper will examine how applicable the early ethnic identity theories are to understand current ethnic identity construction processes in the North American context. I will also examine what new theoretical constructs could replace the old theories. My supporting or refuting evidence will come from the process of identity construction experienced by the people of Sri Lankan origin currently living in Canada.

Robert Park in 1950s, studying immigrants flocking into the United States, proposed a theory of assimilation. It was asserted that ethnic groups will increasingly blend together and become more unified and indistinct. However, Canadian society does not seem to have experienced this. Sev Isajiw declared that ethnic identity is not a zero-sum phenomenon. The "Canadian identity is not necessarily gained to the extent that ethnic identity is lost and, vice versa, ethnic identity is not necessarily retained to the extent that Canadian identity is not acquired". The actual process of identity construction seems to be a negotiation between the objective aspects (language, food customs etc.) and the subjective aspects (feelings, attitudes, obligations etc.) of the culture of the ethnic group in question and that of its host society. For some theorists, ethnic culture is not a shopping cart that comes to us already loaded with a set of historical cultural goods. Rather, we construct culture by picking and choosing items from the shelves of the past and the present. There

are also instances where the governments have created new ethnicities in the US for peasant newcomers whose original identities and loyalties did not go much

beyond their local villages. My paper will critically examine many of the major theories popular in North America.

Keywords: *Ethnic identity, migratory patterns, social incorporation*

THEME 2:
MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Is emigration of workforce a foreign exchange earner or a modern slavery?

Alex A. A. Bruce

Department of Accountancy, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka

Foreign exchange substantiates a financial situation at which foreign currencies is earned through activities of trade to boost a country's foreign accounts and reserves. Such money is generated through the export of goods and/or services and trading securities on international capital markets. Although each of these accounts for a given percentage contribution to the reserve account yet much is required to peruse these sources in order to prioritize the most required and justifiable sources to achieve maximum advantage. This paper seeks to examine one aspect of these avenues, which entail the trade of services in the form of workforce migration from Sri Lanka to the western and other parts of the world in search of livelihood. The question posed is; does the government of Sri Lanka encourage these movements because remittances in foreign currencies are made to boost its reserves or it is selectively discouraged? If it is encouraged, which classes of workforce prominently migrate and how is it perceived in this modern world after many decades of the collapse of slavery? Data from the Central Bank of Sri Lanka annual report supplied by the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment is used to ascertain the average number of the workforce from 2009-2011 that migrated based on categories of professionals, skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workers so as to compare the percentage of persons probably engaged in foreign lands. Other related literature was obtained from articles, books and relevant websites. The study finds that the migrant base is made up of housemaids and unskilled-labor (66.3%), skilled (25.7%), Professionals (1.2%), middle level and clerical related (5.7%) and semi-skilled labor (1.9%), which shows that most emigrants are laborers like the slaves of the past, in Europe and other parts of the world who engage in servant-hood jobs, probable anti-morale economic activities and other menial jobs. This debunks the idea that the emigration rate in Sri Lanka is an important economic contributor of foreign exchange. The study identified the situation as a "modern and disguised slavery" where shops are opened up by businessmen and women who claim to seek foreign jobs for people at a price. This is tantamount to using ones money to buy slavery. It is suggested that, the government should quickly redeem its image in the international community by discouraging this dastardly act of slavery and train professionals who can be worth what the government needs for service exchange.

Keywords: *Emigration, foreign exchange, workforce and modern disguised slavery*

Acknowledgement: *Appreciations to the Central Bank of Sri Lanka for provision of the detailed report on remittances of foreign labour force; numerous authors on migration of workforce, foreign exchange sources/ utilization and slavery experiences of the African continent.*

Harnessing expatriate talent through brain networking: an effective mechanism of ICT-based collaborations for knowledge transfer

Geethika Yapa^{1*}, Sivagowry A.V. Moorthy¹ and J. Adam Holbrook²

¹ *National Science Foundation, Sri Lanka*

² *Centre for Policy Research on S & T, Simon Fraser University, Canada*

Being a small developing country which had been plagued with a civil conflict for over three decades, Sri Lanka has seen an exodus of skilled and trained personnel. The dearth of qualified research scientists has hampered the country's efforts to achieve economic success through innovation. The number of researchers in the country has dropped from 6000 in 1996 to 4520 in 2006 and those with Doctoral degrees have dropped to 1138 in 2008 from 1473 in 1996. The government has embarked on an aggressive effort to attract Sri Lankan professionals resident overseas, back to Sri Lanka to help develop the nation.

On a study based on Sri Lankan scientists resident in Vancouver, Canada, Cruikshank & Holbrook 2005 showed that the main reason why the respondents had left the country was the civil conflict and its impact on the economy and quality of life. Though the majority of the respondents were willing to return to Sri Lanka for short durations (04 months to 01 year), the logistics involved (current job to be available on return to Canada, family to accompany, perks such as a house, vehicle and driver for the full duration of the stay, in addition to remuneration etc.) cast a doubt on the viability of this process.

The current study conducted through a questionnaire survey on a wider sample, investigated the interest of a sample of skilled Sri Lankan residents in British Columbia, Canada, on "brain networking", the novel mechanism of ICT - based collaborations for knowledge transfer. This process would take advantage of brain drain and reinforce brain circulation by tapping the expertise of Sri Lankan professionals overseas with minimum disturbance to the recipient institutions in Sri Lanka as well as to the overseas collaborators. 91% of the participants responded positively, expressing interest in committing their time for the benefit of Sri Lanka. 33% of the total participants had Doctoral degrees. Out of these, 92% were interested in initiating collaborations. The study also highlighted the lack of on-going collaborations, since, although 79% of the respondents were interested in a brain networking programme, only 5% had on-going institutional or individual collaborations with Sri Lanka. Engineering and education were identified as the main areas for potential collaborations. The postgraduate students, about to complete Doctoral degrees, are a good reservoir of new knowledge and skills that could be tapped for the benefit of Sri Lanka.

Our study shows that brain networking is a viable and effective mechanism to harness the expertise of Sri Lankan professionals resident overseas. This finding is highly encouraging, specially in the context of the expertise needed in the high technology areas identified in the Sri Lanka Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy, 2011 – 2015, as being vital for the socio economic development of Sri Lanka. Given the practical difficulties of reversing brain drain and creating brain circulation (knowledge mobilization), brain networking is indeed an effective alternative for harnessing expatriate talent for national development.

Keywords: *Brain circulation, expatriate talent, Sri Lankan professionals*

Sri Lankan women on the move: social impacts of their migration

Swarna Ukwatta

Department of Demography, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

An increasing numbers of Sri Lankan women migrate for overseas employment as domestic workers leaving their families. Reason for migration is mainly economic and the impact is both economic and social. While the economic impact of female migration has been intensively studied from a number of perspectives, especially their contribution to the economic growth of the country and their families, the social impact on migrants themselves, and their families and children remains under-researched and indeed little understood. On one hand, social impact is positive because of the improvement in decision making power women, changes in gender roles of the family, changes in the social status of migrant women, improvement in the education of children, etc. On the other hand, social impact is negative due to changes in behaviour of children, family disruptions, etc. However, women's separation from their families due to migration does not always have negative consequences on migrants themselves, their families and children due to two reasons. Firstly, many migrant women do not totally abandon their families and children but continue to take the responsibility to take care of their families and children from abroad. Transnational communication is one of the methods used by these women to maintain intimacy with their family members. Secondly, many migrant families are able to cope with the challenges of family separation with the support of family members. This paper examines this issue using the data collected in a survey of 400 migrant families and focus group discussions conducted in Sri Lanka in 2008 and existing literature. I illustrate the importance of investigating the issue first, explaining the background information of migrant families and motivations for their migration as a survival strategy. The methodology used in the study is then explained. Next, I analyse the social impact of women's migration on families and children left behind and how these women negotiate care work from a distance. Finally, the perceptions of female migrants and their family members on migration of women are discussed followed by a discussion of policy implications.

Keywords: *overseas employment, transnational communication, women migration*

THEME 3:
MIGRATION POLICIES AND GOVERNANCE

International labour migration in Sri Lanka: issues of vulnerability, risks and resilience

Ramanie Jayatilaka

Department of Sociology, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka is known as a migrant sending country especially to West Asia. Approximately 1.7 million Sri Lankans are employed abroad and the foreign employment is the highest net earner of foreign exchange to the country. Globalization has given a greater impetus for the migration flow and has created new trends and dimensions. Within labour migration, the volume of migrant females is increasingly important due to the demand for unskilled and domestic labour in the Arab countries. While Sri Lanka has a number of protective measures to safe guard the migrants both by signing and ratifying a number of international instruments and harmonizing them with national laws and having a separate government institution for foreign employment still many migrants in the process of migration experience exploitative situations where all manner of human rights and dignity are violated. Such exploitation takes place in the social context of vulnerability of persons due to both economic and social disadvantaged positions and the structural factors that lead to risk behaviour. However, the victims of such exploitation are not completely passive but resort to both subtle and open resistance but get re-victimized once again due to same factors. The lack of victim protection increases the vulnerability of the migrant and the risk involved. The paper would argue that while protective measures through legal instruments and procedures need to be strengthened, the need to focus on and address the issue of the socio-economic and political context of vulnerability within labour migration is equally important. The nature of the vulnerability, the risk behaviour and the resilience, which leads to exploitation of labour in migration, is analyzed using an interactive approach through the experiences of migrants, their understandings and meanings and the author's interpretations.

Keywords: *Domestic labour, globalization, labour migration*

People on the move: dynamics of international labour migration of Sri Lanka

W. Indralal De Silva

Department of Demography, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka has always been a country of immigration: Sinhalese, Tamils, Muslims etc., have come from outside the country during different periods in history. However, today the country has emerged as a unique case of large scale emigration and growing remittance dependence. Apart from the international labour migration, some Sri Lankans continue to obtain tourist visas to visit countries such as India, from where they subsequently travel to a third country for economic well being. During the last many years, there was a large number of arrests of young men who attempted to sail out of the country illegally, by boats, largely to reach European countries. The volume of such tourists and irregular migrants who left the country could not be estimated. However, with an estimated population of 20.3 million, the total stock of Sri Lankan labour migrants abroad has been estimated at around 1.8 million.

There is also a growing tendency for the number of migrants to continue increasing each year and the destinations spreading to new and different countries. The reasons for this large scale emigration are complex but a combination of factors like the language policy in the 1950s, the poor economic performance in the later decades and the more recent armed conflict in the North and the slow growth of the economy have all contributed, in different ways.

Foreign employment of Sri Lankans has helped the economic situation back at home immensely. The worker remittances have played as major income revenue of the government in the mode of foreign exchange earnings. In 2011, the government has received USD 5,145 million (8% of GDP) as remittances compared to the USD 999 million received in 2000. Emigration of workers has eased the unemployment at home while encouraging the return of new skills to improve the standards of the outgoing workers. The earnings of migrant workers, used appropriately, have undoubtedly had a positive impact on certain aspects of family life; the higher rate of income results in higher living standards. However, once accustomed, some of the migrants are unable to maintain these standards that results in them ending up either migrating again or entering to the local labour markets. Undoubtedly, the trends and patterns of overseas labour migration have made a significant impact on the supply of male and female labour to the local labour market. It should be noted that in the case of female overseas labour migrants, only about 20-25 per cent was employed in the local labour market before their departure to the Middle-East.

Yet, migration's expected contribution in accelerating development and thereby reducing pressures to emigrate appear to be limited, although it has helped the government to obtain much needed foreign exchange and many individual households to improve their economic and social situation.

Keywords: *Foreign employment, labour migration, migrant remittances*

Problems of Sri Lankan domestic migrant women workers in Middle East countries: a discussion for providing a safe migration

U.A.T. Udayanganie

*Department of Public and International Law, Faculty of Law,
University of Colombo, Sri Lanka*

Migration has impacted on development in several aspects in the society. Annually, more than 100000 are migrated as domestic workers. Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kuwait, Qatar and Jordan have absorbed around 84 percent of Sri Lankan employees. Though it is increasing day by day, violent activities against domestic migrant workers have become an unpleasant and unavoidable trend today. Labor laws of many Middle East countries are not providing a satisfactory protection to domestic workers. The lack of legal protection for these women combined with the private nature of their working environment put them at even a greater risk of abuse than other foreign workers. Though the rights of migrant workers come in to play as a vital role, many host countries are not members of the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and their Families. In this backdrop, paper seeks to discuss and analyze the ways and means to ensure “safe migration” of Sri Lankan domestic migrant workers in Middle East countries. In terms of statistics, breach of employment contract, non-payment of agreed wages and physical and sexual harassments are three most problematic issues that need to be addressed. To overcome those problems, paper suggests that it is needed to be strengthened and enhanced raising awareness and providing assistance in terms of language, legal provisions, culture of host country and empowering them on enjoying their rights in line with international conventions and standards. In addition, proper training and enhance the quality of our workers are very important. In this context, author wishes to extend the idea of safe migration under three categories which are safe journey, safe stay and safe returning. For achieving this purpose, state sponsored monitoring mechanism should be restructured. Further, paper suggests that the necessity of amending Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment Act No.21 of 1985 for the purpose of giving protection to the rights of migrant workers. Amendment Act, No. 56 of 2009 does not provide the protection of the rights of migrant workers. Strengthening the legal protection of them is core of ensuring safe migration for Sri Lankan domestic migrant women workers. Therefore, the main concern of the author is to analyze ‘safe migration’ under the frame work of regularizing state sponsored monitoring mechanism and strengthening the legal protection. This research is basically based on both library and field research. The necessary information will be gathered from secondary sources and author expects to interview officers who has experiences in this issue.

Keywords: *domestic labour, migrant women, Middle East countries*

The relevance of social protection frameworks for regular international migrants

Tracy Swemmer

The British Council, 3, Supreme Court Road, Admiralty, Hong Kong

Since the 1980s social protection has increased in importance both at the international and national levels, and is now on the policy agendas of an increasing number of both middle and lower income countries. Conceptual thinking on the topic has evolved and frameworks for understanding different approaches have been developed, with different conceptual origins, key aims and justifications for social protection evident. Broadly, these frameworks view social protection either in terms of basic needs, risk, citizens' rights, or the transformation of society.

However, these frameworks have evolved against a backdrop of social protection which is predominantly provided to resident citizens at the national level. This raises questions about their relevance when it comes to international migrants. Against a backdrop of rising remittances, a number of governments have framed international migration as a means to development, and are acting to facilitate this. To what extent then are the conceptual frameworks able to inform the provision of social protection to people who leave their own countries in order to live and work elsewhere?

In order to assess this, the policies put in place by the Philippine government to support and protect international migrants were examined, with a particular focus on those migrating in the global care chain. The analysis reveals that, in the case of the Philippines, the frameworks are, to a greater or lesser extent, applicable. They do, however, differ in their usefulness. For countries like Sri Lanka therefore, it is concluded that while these frameworks can underlie policy-making, limitations need to be taken into account. Some contextual adaptation is necessary in order for them to be of use to non-resident citizens, and as will be shown, such adaptation is possible. The paper concludes by drawing out tensions inherent in their use and highlighting their limitations.

Keywords: *International migrants, social protection framework*

Changing profile of Sri Lankan migrant workers, causes and consequences

Siri Hettige and Asitha G. Punchihewa *

*Social Policy Analysis and Research Centre (SPARC),
Faculty of Arts, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka*

Overseas migration of labour is a highly significant aspect of the post 1977 socio economic landscape of Sri Lanka. There have been numerous studies both qualitative and quantitative on various aspects of the phenomenon. In this paper we intend to look at how the profile of the migrant population has changed over the last decade with a view to determine the possible causes and consequences of the changes. The available official survey data shows an increase in trend in overseas migration. It is also evident that there are certain positive trends. There appear to be some significant changes. Given the continuing significance of labour migration it is necessary to look at data more closely in order to find out what factors constitute to the changing patterns of migration and their possible socioeconomic consequences.

Therefore it is important to study the migrant labour market and its impact on local wage structure, labour migration and its direct links with unemployment rate and also movement of labour from plantation and garment sectors to the migrant labour market. For the above purposes, official sources such as Sri Lanka Bureau for Foreign Employment was used as the form of secondary data whereas the primary data source was derived from the survey on reintegration of returnee migrant workers in Sri Lanka. Studying closely the changing profiles of Sri Lankan migrant workers since 2000 it is evident that there is a transition of the nature of migrant labour workers from an unskilled to a more semi skill orientation. Age at which the migrant workers migrate has increase over the years along with higher educational attainment and enhanced technical skills. Although the absolute number of female migrant workers or the number of unskilled migrant workers has not changed by a significant margin, there is a considerable increase in the number of semi skilled migrant workers covering the urban as well as rural and plantation sectors, hence reducing the human resource availability to sustain the garment and plantation sectors. Furthermore the local employers feel the stress that the wage scales of migrant workers create among the local labour force.

Keywords: *Labour migration, labour market*

**THEME 4:
ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS OF
MIGRATION**

Employment status of return labour migrants of Sri Lanka

M.M.Alikhan

Department of Geography, Faculty of Arts, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

Today, foreign employment plays a major role in the country's economy by earning a large portion of foreign exchange and also reducing unemployment. Every year a large number of labour migrants return to their places of origin and impact the labour market in a number of ways. Finding employment in the local job market is one of the main issues faced by many returnees. Return and reintegration is one of the main features in the migration cycle, but it is an area that is least focused on. This study focuses on the employment status of return labour migrants from the Middle East. A total of 115 return migrants (71 women and 44 men) were included in the questionnaire survey from the Nachchadoowa village in the Anuradhapura District in the North Central Province. Data analysis revealed that before migration, 97 percent of women were unemployed, 2 percent were engaged in daily labour and one migrant was studying. Among the women returnees, 96 percent are unemployed and only 4 percent are engaged in self-employment. When considering the male returnees, before migration 43 percent were self-employed, 20 percent were employed and another 25 percent worked as daily labourers (Cooley work). After migration 66 percent of male returnees are engaged in self-employment and 4 percent are employed. 7 percent of them run businesses, 14 percent depend on daily labour and 9 percent of male returnees are unemployed. In the study area, Middle East labour migration helped both male and female migrants overcome immediate financial difficulties and poverty levels faced before migration. But economic reintegration is one of the major issues faced by both male and female returnees in post phase migration. Unemployment, wage differentiations, insufficient savings to invest in business and the difficulty of applying their work experience to the local job market are key issues faced in reintegration. Compared to men, women face more issues on economic reintegration due to gender barriers.

Keywords: *Migration, Return migration, Reintegration.*

Do low skilled migrants contribute to home country income? evidence from South Asia

Arusha Cooray

School of Economics, University of Wollongong, NSW, 2522, Australia

The stock of out-migrants from South Asia currently stands at 12.2 million or 0.7 percent of the population compared to 215.8 million or 3.2 percent for the world as a whole (Ratha et al. 2011). Labour migration from South Asia has primarily been temporary migration to the Middle East and Gulf Nations. In 2010, labour migration from Bangladesh to the Middle East and Gulf (ME hereafter) stood at 84% of total migration. The figures for the rest of the countries were 40% for India, and 93 % for Sri Lanka in 2009, and 97% for Pakistan in 2004. Remittances from the Middle East accounted for 71% of total remittances in Bangladesh, 60% in Sri Lanka, 58% in Pakistan and 22% in India. Unskilled labour makes up over 50% of the labour flows from these economies to the ME. The present study employs an integrated approach represented by a recursive equation system to investigate the indirect effects of out-migration on GDP through remittances. Second, given the significance of ME remittances and migration for South Asia, the study distinguishes between the ME and other destination countries, and investigates the effects of out-migration by destination on GDP through the mediating variable, remittances. Third, the study disaggregates the number of migrants by skill level and, consequently examines the effects of the skill level of the migrant on GDP through migrants' remittances. There is relatively little evidence in the *empirical* literature on how the skill level of the migrants affects home country income. Fourth, the effect of variables such as the rate of inflation, interest rate and exchange rate on remittances are examined, in an attempt to capture the motive of migrants to remit. Finally, the implications of the aforesaid aspects for policy are considered. The study covers Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka over the 1976 – 2010 period. Nepal is included only in the aggregate estimation due to the absence of data at a skill and destination disaggregated level.

Keywords: *Middle East, migration, skill level, South Asia,*

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A survey on housemaid migrants in Sri Lanka: the short-term economic benefits and the long-term social and economic costs

Rie Kage

Saga University, Japan

As we have seen from the development experiences of developing and developed nations, labour export policy becomes one of the cheapest and most effective development strategies in the early stage of economic development. Although economic gains from this policy exist as a short-term effective factor of the development process, it has been observed that most countries face serious social and cultural problems, at a high cost to future generations of the country. The present study attempts to examine the economic benefits and social costs of housemaid migrants in Sri Lanka, using macro and micro levels of data. The micro level data is based on a structured questionnaire administered in order to collect necessary socioeconomic information, through personal interviews with 500 women who have experience of working as housemaids in Middle Eastern countries. In addition, the economic benefits were measured using macro level data issued by the government authorities of Sri Lanka as well as survey data based on the surveyed people's remittances. The study recognized that the social cost of the migrant workers occurs in the following three stages: first, preparatory stage before migration; second, during the working period abroad; and third, the absent period of the worker which affects the country and family. The field survey found that although the economic benefits of the housemaid migrations remain at a significant level for the foreign exchange earnings of the country, the economic gains of migrants remain at an unexpectedly lower level. However, it contributes to solving the economic problems of the households in an ad hoc way, such as debt repayment and daily consumption. According to the survey data, about 90 per-cent of housemaids could not have a day off, and nearly 40 per-cent of employers forced them to overwork. Twenty per-cent of the housemaids were physically abused. Some of them even faced rape and sexual abuse which amounted to 8.7 per-cent of all housemaids. There is marital break down as well as family discord. The education and security of children is negatively affected by the mother's migration. These social problems at home will lead to another cost for the next generation. The problems due to housemaid migration pose an unexpectedly serious situation and remain as not only a long-term social cost but also a long-term economic cost. Thus, the social costs are uncountable and can cause social stigma and economic dilemma in the future development process of the country.

Keywords: *Housemaid migrants, migrant remittances, social and economic costs*

THEME 5:
DIASPORA, POLITICAL
REFUGEES, IRREGULAR MIGRATION AND
CITIZENSHIP ISSUES

Economic and social rights of Sri Lankan refugees in India

Y. Kathirgamathamby

Department of Legal Studies, The Open University of Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka

Every individual has the right to seek and to enjoy asylum from another country.¹ Even if a country is not a party to the Convention on Status of Refugees (CSR) 1951, all countries are obliged to protect basic rights of refugees as far as possible. Each state has its own policies with regard to non-citizens. The socio-political situation of the host country, its ability to absorb refugee population and ensuring rights of the refugee, the response of the host population and such other factors are to be considered with regard to rights of refugees.

In dealing with the refugee problem in India, examination of domestic provisions relating to foreigners are generally significant as they happen to be the only source of refugee rights. India is not a party to the (CSR) 1951 and has no specific law regarding refugees. Therefore the refugees may not be accorded the same standard or treatment encapsulated under the above convention.

This paper seeks to analyze and discuss the economic and social rights of refugees from Sri Lanka in India in a legal perspective. Although India is not a party to the CSR1951, nevertheless India has ratified several international human rights instruments, which in some way covers the rights of refugees. Therefore this paper seeks to explore and determine the rights of refugees within more general human rights while taking into account constitutional provisions and administrative mechanisms that have been adopted by the Indian government to safeguard the rights of refugees.

It is not possible to cover the wide range of rights that are contained in the Convention on the status of Refugees 1951 within the scope of this paper. Therefore, the paper has certain limitations. It focuses instead on the right to employment and the right to education in regard to Sri Lankan refugees in India.

This paper adopts the combination of analytical and descriptive methods in approaching the topic.

¹Article 14 of the UDHR

Keywords: *Political asylum, Sri Lankan refugees, education and employment of refugees*

Social and economic conditions of Sri Lankans in Australia: What do Australian censuses show?

Dharma Arunachalam ^{1*} and Siri Hettige ²

¹ *Monash University, Australia,*

² *University of Colombo, Sri Lanka*

The number of Sri Lankan migrants to Australia has multiplied in the last two decades. Compared to the period up to 1990, recent Sri Lankan migrants to Australia have tended to be better educated, highly skilled and with professional qualifications. Sri Lankans have also contributed substantially to Australia's refugee intakes. In this paper, we examine (i) the economic achievement of first and second generation Sri Lankans in Australia; (ii) their family structures; (iii) geographical dispersion within Australia; and (iv) the religious/ethnic composition and languages spoken at home. We address these issues by using the relevant information from the last 3 Australian censuses.

The paper investigates the occupational and educational distribution among Sri Lankan migrants compared to Australia-born. It also explores the income levels and home ownership among Sri Lankans in Australia. Given that living arrangements have changed significantly among the Australian-born population in the second half of 20th century, it would be interesting to examine the pattern of living arrangement among Sri Lankan-born. Finally, this paper looks at the geographical dispersion of Sri Lankan-born within Australia.

Keywords: *Geographical dispersion of migrants, socio-economic aspects of migrants*

Protecting rights of migrants within labor receiving country: special reference to the applicability of right to work in the host country

G.I.M. Liyanage

Department of Public and International Law, Faculty of Law, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Right to work is an important human right recognized by most major human rights instruments. These international human rights instruments elaborate the right to work in the context of freedoms, and social economic and cultural development. Therefore right to work directly influences the economic development of a country. But it is not clear whether and to what extent non-nationals enjoy the right to work in the host country. In the new era of globalization we can examine international migration more than ever, clarifying the personal application of the right to work which has important implications on the context of migrant's rights. But the applicability of principle of the right to work for migrants is restricted to a number of degrees according to the legal status of host country. Therefore, this study intends to clarify to what extent the right to work can be ensured and is applicable to migrants that include long legal migrants and illegal migrant workers. Furthermore, this context is discussed with the principle of right to work in the international perspective. The study is mainly constructed on the basis of human rights standards and is mainly based on the literature review in the areas of Human Rights law and International law. In Sri Lanka, particularly the research is based on statutes, Academic Expressions, Judicial Officers' ideas and recent judicial decisions. Further the study engages in the International Human Rights Principles as a whole. Consequently, establishing a globally recognized right to work among migrant workers is of utmost importance. As with civil and political rights, the right to work relates to non-nationals in general, although limitations are endorsed in current International Law. However, such restrictions imposed on non-nationals should be regarded as an exception on the right to work instead of a general rule and therefore should be subjected to strict scrutiny in accordance with established rules such as legitimate aims and the principle of proportionality. But unfortunately immigration control policy that states formulate and execute concerning migrants' the right to work is often treated as a right dependent on resident status.

Keywords: *Migrant labour, rights of migrants, socio economic development of migrants*

Much ado about nothing: reflections on irregular migration

Piyasiri Wickramasekara

Global Migration Policy Associates, Geneva

Irregular migration has come to the fore of the international agenda on migration. This paper takes the view that the issue has been blown out of proportion in international and regional discussions.

This paper reviews evidence on irregular migration particularly in Asia, causes of irregular migration, rights and protection of workers in irregular status and examines policies and good practices to deal with the phenomenon based on international experience. Objective estimates of irregular migration are hard to come by, and the issue is compounded by its links with human smuggling and trafficking in persons. While both push and pull factors interact in driving irregular migration, it is often the result of unrealistic and restrictive immigration policies in destination countries which are out of line with actual labour market needs of those economies. The paper highlights that the human and labour rights of workers in irregular status are protected by a number of international instruments widely ratified by nations across the world, but there is a major divergence between policy and practice. Increasing securitization of migration also has led to criminalization of irregular migration leading to serious human rights violations.

The final section collates available evidence on irregular migration from Sri Lanka, and the relevance of international experiences in dealing with it.

Keywords: *International migration, irregular migration, human smuggling and trafficking*

Youth in a digital diaspora: a study on an online forum

Laxmi Periyaswamy ^{1,*} and Kanak Lata Samal²

¹Department of Sociology, University of Mumbai, India

²Dept. of Sociology, Ket's V.G. Vaze College, Mulund, Mumbai, India.

Diaspora has been one of the most emerging topics in the modern world. Human beings have been moving since ancient times for several reasons like trade and occupation, travel, war or in search for a 'good life'. In order to deal with the changes in the new environment people try to rebuild their old ties. One such system found in the modern era through which the old ties can be maintained is through a digital sphere. *The present study is about Sri Lankan Tamil youth group connected with a forum called No.1 Tamil entertainment in which Tamil chat.com (NTC) exists. The study aims at capturing the activities of the forum and its impact on its users and will also try to analyze the workings of the digital communication system and how it successfully helps in coping with the problems, both social and psychological in nature caused by migration.* The methodological framework used for the study is that of *digital ethnography and content analysis of the website and the theoretical base used for the study is that of Diaspora studies.* NTC has various subsections like requesting songs, fm, birthday wishes, prayer groups, mobile group discussion, chat groups etc. Individuals can become members of the group by requesting with a mail which is free. Once a member he can visit the group and discuss endlessly on different topics. However his actions are monitored by some moderators (senior members of the team). These groups remain not only connected online but even offline through the medium of telephones or in rare cases even might end up meeting each other face-to-face. The researcher has captured the activities of the group by becoming part of the group i.e. a participant observation for a year. The researcher also confirms her findings with several case studies. It was noted that membership in the group helped to some extent deal with issues like loneliness, depression and anxieties caused by migration and other events. The study reveals how even with various diversities present in terms of birth, gender, class, caste etc. there still lies a general sense of unity among the youth of the forum. The study thus attempts to document the group dynamics, as well as the gender relations online and offline and tries to show how people who have never met or may never meet are still connected because of the common linguistic group – Tamil.

Keywords: *ethnography, digital communication systems, youth diaspora*

Boat people and humanitarianism: Sri Lankan illegal immigrants fleeing to Australia

Withanilage Dilini Madurangi

Department of International Relations, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

The migration and humanitarian programs of any given country has the potential to contribute to the country's economic, social and demographic sectors in numerous ways. One aspect of immigration policy that has gained enormous amount of significance during the past years is the admitting non-citizens as refugees on humanitarian grounds. Countries which receive the largest number of applications for refugee status are to be found primarily in the more affluent countries of the world. Although providing assistance for these migrants is strictly a humanitarian action based on humanitarian principles there is an evident tension between the right of people to seek asylum in another country and the right of states to regulate the arrival and admission of these foreign nationals. In this context the study attempts to identify the issue of Sri Lankan refugees entering Australia on humanitarian grounds and ways in which the Australian Government could address this asylum dilemma consistent with humanitarian standards.

In spite of these many policies and legislation adopted the study attempts to examine two major contradictory views which are crucial to broaden our understanding of the humanitarian agenda directed towards Sri Lankan refugees entering Australia in a coherent manner. Hence, the study focuses, on one hand of the rationality behind restricting humanitarian migration to Australia by simply treating it as economic migration and on the other hand it explores the arguments made by the refugee seekers to justify their stance appealing that Sri Lanka is not a safe place to live even in the absence of a civil war. The study also investigates how the Australian government can strengthen their support for international protection and assistance to refugees; what areas of legal framework and policy it can improve and what measure it undertakes to enhance the regional and international mechanisms that promote appropriate shared responsibility for the protection and assistance of refugees; what kind of procedures it establishes to assess large numbers of asylum applications, visa denials and repatriation procedures and how can the impartiality and integrity of the humanitarian action be presented.

Keywords: *Humanitarian standards, migration, Political asylum, Sri Lankan refugees*

Role of diaspora in home land conflicts and reconstruction: the case of tamil diaspora and Sri Lanka

Amba Pande

*Centre for South Central, Southeast Asia and South West Pacific Studies,
School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India*

The role of diaspora has come under a great scrutiny with their growing importance in the contemporary world. Their involvement in conflict and conflict resolution is one sphere where opposing views have prevailed as some studies have shown them as conflict promoters and peace wreckers while the others show them as peace promoters and agents for development. In reality, the 'conflict-generated Diasporas' with traumatic memories, on one hand, can feed and prolong the conflict but on the other, their strong sense of attachment to the homeland can plead for reconciliation and support post-war reconstruction.

The role of Sri Lankan Tamil Diaspora in the ethnic conflict of Sri Lanka, hitherto, has - willingly or unwillingly - been viewed mostly as that of a conflict promoter, but their role in the post-conflict development and reconstruction of Sri Lanka, remains equally crucial and calls for a multi-pronged strategy which engages the Tamil diaspora, the Sri Lankan government, the international community, private enterprise and civil society. The paper intends to investigate the role of Sri Lankan Tamil diaspora in the different phases of ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka and highlight, their role in peace-making and reconstruction activities in Sri Lanka.

Keywords: *Diaspora, ethnic conflict, development and reconstruction*

Diaspora engagement in the homeland: exploring household and community level engagement

Mohamed Munas

Centre for Poverty Analysis (CEPA), Colombo, Sri Lanka

Diaspora engagement takes place in various spheres. Diaspora groups maintain their ethno-national identities which are strongly derived from their homelands and engage in a variety of social, cultural, political and economic spheres and exchanges with their homelands (Potters, 2011). They also have a strong feeling of connectivity to their country of origin (Anteby-Yemini & Berthomiere, 2005). Therefore, it is important to study Diaspora groups in order to understand how a transnational community in one location can have or has an impact on their linkages with other locations in the homeland and host country, specifically since Diasporas are often found to have the ability to influence the home country.

This paper hypothesizes that Diaspora engagement – both at the household level and community level – varies according to their experiences of war and ethnicity. The first section of the paper will engage in a theoretical discussion on the nature of Diaspora engagement and the factors that affect transnational relations. Drawing on quantitative and qualitative empirical data from two districts in the Eastern province of Sri Lanka, the second section will explore how this engagement varies across Diaspora groups from different ethnicities - mainly Tamil and Muslim Diaspora.

Diaspora groups directly contribute to the improvement of wellbeing/the economy of the home country at household level by means of remittances, transfer of skills and knowledge. They also expand the Diaspora network by facilitating the migration of other household members. Community level engagement could vary among Diaspora groups from different ethnicities since the issues each community face are different. The consequences of the civil war has shaped the nature of Diaspora engagement and it adds an ethnic flavour in Diaspora formation. Given the nature of issues the Tamil community face in Sri Lanka, the Tamil Diaspora acts together as a collective towards a political settlement in the country, whereas the Muslim Diaspora acts collectively on the basis of needs and reacts to emergencies in the community.

Keywords: *Sri Lankan Diaspora, Community level engagement, diaspora engagement*

A sociological study of the construction of ethnic identity by immigrants to Ontario, Canada: the case of Sri Lankans

Sarath Chandrasekera

University of Prince Edward Island, Canada

Sociological analysis of the past 60 years comfortably assumed that immigrants to North America would eventually assimilate into the North American society. However, immigrants to Canada from non-traditional source countries, at least during the past 40 years, have shown a different path while adopting an “integration strategy” towards social incorporation. They have ventured into a process whereby they continuously redefined and reconstructed their identity in Canada. Canadian identity is not necessarily gained to the extent that original ethnic identity is lost and, vice versa, ethnic identity is not necessarily retained to the extent that Canadian identity is not acquired. This paper closely examines this process through the identity construction of a relatively new immigrant group from South Asia-the Sri Lankans. In light of new research evidence, this paper convincingly challenges once dominant Assimilationist Theories and examines newly developed concepts and models (such as Isajiw’s theory of social incorporation, John Berry’s Acculturation and Adaptation, and Portes and Rumbaut Segmented Assimilation) of social incorporation in Canada.

This is a pioneering piece of research on the people of Sri Lankan origin currently living in Canada. Three data sets, namely, 1991 Census data, 2001 Census data and a snow-ball sample of 50 respondents, have been used in the study. The sample includes people of two main ethnic stripes-the Sinhalese and the Tamils (39) and eleven Canadian born children of Sri Lankan parentage. People of Sri Lankan origins have identified themselves in six different ways and have shown different degrees of integration. Several indicators including language use, traditional food consumption, membership in both main stream Canadian and Sri Lankan organizations, and commitment towards fellow Sri Lankans have been used to examine the integration process. This study was executed during the heightened armed conflict between the LTTE and the Sri Lankan government forces. Many respondents reflected a movement towards an increasing polarization between the Sinhalese and the Tamils, and the host country responses to the conflict. This study provides meaningful concepts for understanding social incorporation in the industrial world of people from non-traditional source countries, and spells out implications on the Canadian immigration policies.

Keywords: *ethnic identity, immigration issues, social incorporation*

Issues of migration and expatriate Sri Lankan identity reflected in Sri Lankan literature in English

Lavanya Paramanathan

Department of Linguistics and English, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka

Over the last decade, Sri Lanka has witnessed a growing vitality of writings based on the issues of migration and the expatriate experiences captured by both the resident and expatriate writers. Their writings are directly connected to the socio-political, cultural and economic development and changes of Sri Lanka since it got its independence. The expatriate writers often focus their attention on the identity crisis that the Sri Lankan immigrants inevitably encounter when they find themselves unable to align with neither Sri Lankan nor western values. As a result, they exist only on the 'liminal space' and they are often identified with a kind of 'hybridized identity'. A host of other issues accompany the 'identity crisis' in the expatriate context such as the rift between the first and second generation immigrants. In this paper, I would like to analyse various reasons for migration discussed in literary pieces in English written by Sri Lankans. There is an increase in the number of Sri Lankan migration to the West. Even after the end of the Civil War people continue to leave the country. My paper embraces various communities in Sri Lanka and their migration to the West. For example, in "The Jam Fruit Tree", Carl Muller brings out a wide range of Burgher migration and the disintegration of families as a result of migration. Channa Wickremesekara, a Sri Lankan born Australian writer sheds light on the Tamil and the Sinhalese migration and their various objectives of migration in his novels "Walls", " Distant Warriors" and "In the Same Boat". Shyam Selvadurai in "Funny Boy" discusses the communal violence in Sri Lanka in 1983 as the reason for the migration of the main characters to Canada. This paper looks into the issues and purposes of migration of Sri Lankans and how the expatriate Sri Lankan identity is presented in a number of literary works produced by Sri Lankans in English.

Keywords: *expatriate writers, identity crisis, liminal space, hybridized identity, migration*

Smuggled migrants: victims or culprits?

Nazeemudeen Ziyana

Department of Private and Comparative Law, Faculty of Law, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Today migrant smuggling has become a deadly business. In response to improved border control measures more irregular migrants resort to services provided by profit seeking smugglers. Though smuggled migrants consented to be smuggled they may become victims of crime during or as a result of the smuggling process. They are also susceptible to exploitation and danger and their lives are often put at risk. The Smuggling of Migrants Protocol does not criminalize migrants who have been smuggled but in most countries very often they are treated as criminal at the time of detection. Moreover, law enforcement officers consider them as accomplices in the process of smuggling and would not be likely to investigate any complaints of abuse of their human rights. Again this background, the question arises about the status of smuggled migrants as to whether they are culprits or victims of migrant smuggling.

The problem of Sri Lankan migrating or attempting to migrate illegally has become more persistent. But there is no specific legislation in Sri Lanka recognizing the rights of smuggled migrants and there is no specific policy action taken to protect such victims or prevent them participating in this exit strategy. Sri Lanka failed in preventing people from being smuggled due to various factors including corruption in the administration which contributes to aggravate the situation.

With regard status of smuggled migrants the State of Origin has certain responsibilities in protecting rights of smuggled migrants while preventing them entering other countries illegally. The responsibilities of State of Origin are twofold; firstly, towards its citizens in protecting their human rights and secondly, towards international community specially, respecting sovereignty of other countries and protecting rights of their citizens. Therefore, deciding the status of smuggled migrants is crucial, because state has to balance the interest of various stakeholders while ensuring rights of smuggled migrants through law and policies established in both national and International legal strata.

Hence, this research aims at recognizing the importance of rights based approach in the protection of rights of smuggled migrants within the purview of responsibilities of State of Origin. It is also expect explore the legal responsibilities of a home state within its Constitutional framework in protecting the rights of their citizens who are in vulnerable position as smuggled migrants as well as taking precautionary action on potential undocumented migrants. In this endeavour Sri Lankan experience serves as a case study.

Keywords: *migrant smuggling, irregular migrants, migrant rights*

**THEME 6: SOCIAL IMPACT OF
MIGRATION**

In the absence of their wives: the impact of female migration on men in Sri Lanka

Mallika Pinnawala

Department of Sociology, University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

Since women are expected to perform “traditional women’s work” such as looking after the children, washing, cooking, etc. women’s place of work has been traditionally confined to the so called private sphere, namely, home. The husband was the provider of the family and his tasks were almost exclusively in the public sphere. Today, however, many women have become principal providers, sometimes even as sole income earners of the family. One modern context in which this traditional division of gender roles comes into question is when women become independent migrants requiring husbands to take over traditional household tasks. Research has shown that the migration of a wife affects the husband socially as well as economically even resulting in displacing the husband from the traditional role in the household which in turn leads to downgrading his position.

This paper discusses the situation of Sri Lankan men whose wives are in the Middle - East countries working as housemaids. The study shows that there are both negative and positive impacts of wives’ migration on husbands in economic and social terms. It was also shown that the migration of a wife leads to changes in gender relations in the household. One positive impact of changed gender relations is an enhanced level of respect for each other and increased levels of cooperation in household tasks. However, there is also a down-grading of the husband’s position and several other problems such as disruptions to marital relationships.

Three districts of Sri Lanka were selected for the study. The sample consisted of 150 household units (50 from each district) where wives are currently in the Gulf region, working as housemaids. The main respondents were migrants’ husbands who were non migrant. The methodology used in the study consisted of anthropological field work to collect qualitative data and collection of quantitative socio-demographic information. The secondary data for the study was obtained from reports and the database of the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE)

Keywords: *female migration, housemaid migrants, migrant family responsibilities*

Caring across distance: transnational eldercare from migrants in Australia to their elderly parents in Sri Lanka

Menusha de Silva

Department of Geography, National University of Singapore, Singapore

The migration of adult-children and the resulting neglect of parents during old age is a recurring theme within media accounts of elderly issues in Sri Lanka. Much of the Sri Lankan migrant literature concentrates on the difficult care experiences of unskilled migrants with parents from poor households. However, this study focuses on urban, middle income elderly parents with at least one adult-child who is a skilled, permanent migrant in Australia and examines transnational eldercare with a focus upon care negotiations, alternative sources of care (family, community, market and state), and the agency of the elderly parents. Through dual-sited qualitative interviews, the paper draws on thirty transnational family case studies which incorporate the care experiences of the elderly parents, their migrant children and their locally-based adult-children. Based on the analysis, the paper forwards two arguments. First, that the migrant adult-children are engaged in a constant process of adapting and strategizing to fulfill the changing care needs of their parents as they gradually shift from being generally healthy and independent (although with some healthcare needs), to being frail and dependent. Second, the elderly parents assert their agency to negotiate the forms of care they wish to receive (and even reciprocate if able) as they adapt to the migration of their adult-children.

Keywords: *eldercare of migrants, International migration, transnational eldercare*

Restructuring recruitment policies: enhancing employability of Sri Lankans as labour migrants

W. Indralal De Silva ^{1*}, K.O.D.Devseth Fernando ²

¹ *Faculty of Arts, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka*

² *Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment, Colombo, Sri Lanka*

Individuals and households select different livelihoods for their existence. There are various functionings one can select as her/his livelihood strategy. Moving for foreign employment is known as one such strategy. According to capability approach a person's life can be viewed in terms of a combination of doings and beings referred to as 'functionings' (Sen, 1999). In this respect, 'recruitment' also can be referred to as a functioning related to foreign employment.

Several studies concluded that the ability of a person in acquiring the available employment opportunities depends on the acquired 'level of competence' of the particular person. The level of competence is a relative factor and its appropriateness is situational and context dependent. However, two factors namely "experience gained" and "training undergone" by the person concerned, play a key role in assessing one's level of competence.

This paper introduces a 'recruitment matrix', which conceptualizes two determinants on recruitment namely, 'trainings' and 'experiences' inherited by prospective migrant workers in an environment where freedom of selection of a functioning is homogeneous. The recruitment matrix describes four different perspectives of recruitment, based on acquaintance of training and experience. These perspectives suggest four distinct policies on recruitment of prospective migrant workers.

Further, foreign employment cannot be considered as a simple functioning as it has an impact on local labour markets as well. The recruitment of people for foreign employment as well as the reintegration of returning migrants affects the local labour market. Hence the policies suggested by the recruitment matrix should be consistent with the existing policies of local labour market for better outcome. Therefore, the recruitment policies should be context dependent: local or overseas labour markets.

The nature of recruitment policies also depend on the period of recruitment, whether it is a short term or long term. Accordingly this paper suggests a three dimensional model on recruitment for foreign employment whose key determinants are capability, context and time frame. The proposed conceptual model will encapsulate existing recruitment policies while introducing new policies with short term and long term strategic directions.

Keywords: *migrant workers, foreign employment, recruitment matrix*

Social impacts on employment of Sri Lankan female labour migrants in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)

Najeewa Edirisinghe

Sri Lanka Army, Army Headquarters, Colombo 03, Sri Lanka

International Labour Migration is a subject that is in the rhetoric of research circles for a considerable time. The economic disparity among developed and developing countries has been a main route to encourage movement of people for looking greener pastures. In this context labour migration has alarmingly increased and it has played an important role in Sri Lankan economy since mid 1970s. The significant flow of female migrant workers to Middle East started during 1980's. According to the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE) statistics, the highest numbers of Sri Lankan female housemaid workers have chosen KSA as a destination and KSA's biggest housemaid supplier is Sri Lanka. Even though the contribution of migrant workers for national income remains at the top most rank, the difficulties that they encountered during their tour of duty have increased significantly. Consequently social cost incurred as a result of female labour migration could be higher than the financial gains from the industry. In general these problems can be categorized as problems faced by the female domestic workers in KSA, in their home front, issues that arise at national level and the problems faced by the SL Mission in KSA. SLBFE records highlight that there was a continuously increase of complaints from the migrant workers. This paper attempts to study the employment of Sri Lankan female migrants in KSA and proposes a conceptual strategy to minimize such problems. Genuine commitment of the all stakeholders is a vital and a critical condition to find solutions to these problems. The commitment of the society in terms of awareness of the issues and appreciating the services rendered by the Sri Lankan female domestic workers in KSA is also equally important.

Keywords: *Domestic workers, Human trafficking & smuggling, labour migration*

Social impact of migration

N. Gunasekera

*National Committee on Women, Ministry of Child Development and Women Affairs,
Colombo, Sri Lanka*

Migration is a phenomenon that shows the economic independence of the migrant workers, specially the women migrant workers in any country. They contribute to the development of a country. The remittances received from migrant workers account for the GDP of the sending and receiving countries. It can be called as monetary investment. In addition to the newly acquired skills of the returnees they contribute to the poverty reduction of the country also. Both Men and Women migrant workers face challenges during migration, before departure, during transect, at destination country and upon return. Especially the women are vulnerable to gender based violence, exploitation at the hands of recruiters. Many women work as domestic workers and Care givers that do not fall under national labour laws. Today the rising phenomenon of the world is that the women contest the traditional male breadwinner role. 49.6% of 190 million migrant workers in the world are women and 6.45 million international female migrants originated from South Asia. Meanwhile 90% of the female Domestic Workers migrated in South East Asia are engaged in Domestic Job Sector. This paper focuses the social impact of migration and issues of women migrant workers and solutions for them.

Keywords: *International migration, social impact of migration, domestic migrant workers*

Children looking-after children: a darker facet of mothers' migration

B. C. V. Senaratna

¹ *Department of Community Medicine, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka*

When mothers migrate for overseas employment, left-behind children are looked-after by the remaining parent and/or other close relatives. These substitute carers, sometimes, are not adults, but children themselves, who are the elder siblings or cousins of other left-behind children. This cross-sectional study was conducted in Colombo, Gampaha, and Kurunegala districts to determine the proportion of children who have become mother-substitutes for migrant women's children and to describe (1) circumstances which led to entrusting childcare to children and (2) perceived burden among carer-children resulting from childcare. Proportion of carer-children was estimated through a community survey involving 1905 migrants' families. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with twenty five carer-children, selected to represent their variability. Twenty semi-structured interviews were also conducted with religious leaders, social workers, and teachers in their communities. Data were analyzed using qualitative content analysis.

Proportion of carer-children was 9.8% (n=187), of whom, 10 (5.3%) were boys and 177 (94.7%) were girls. One hundred and seventy five (93.6%) were looking-after their own younger siblings while rest were caring for their cousins. Forty (21.4%) lived without an adult relative, while 29 (15.5%) and 118 (63.1%) had adult relatives living in their household or neighbourhood, respectively. Most carer-children have not had prior experience in childcare, and were not prepared to undertake such responsibilities. Circumstances leading to undertake childcare included family debt, death or imprisonment of father, divorce or separation of parents/grandparents, inadequate family income and death/illness of or negligence by adult responsible for childcare. Childcare has negatively affected educational and employment opportunities and social networking of carer-children. School attendance/ performance have become poor, and some have dropped out of school. Carer-children have been neglected and abused. Almost all children have self-perceived moderate to severe psychological stress. They have failed to uptake positive coping methods and demonstrate maladaptive behaviours, which make them vulnerable to abuse and negatively affect children they look-after.

Children who look-after the left behind children of migrant women are not skilled or prepared, either physically or mentally, for that task. National and policy level functional interventions with strong state sector involvement is warranted to

protect both the children looking-after other children and the children looked-after by them.

Keywords: *Migration, migrant women's children*

Determining migration: gender, parenting and the migration decision

Michael Collyer* and Rajith W.D. Lakshman

Department of Geography, University of Sussex, UK

Differences in migration decisions between men and women have generated very substantial interest in both applied and theoretical approaches to international migration. These differences are further complicated by parent hood and gender differences are further emphasized for mothers as compared to fathers. This paper uses a unique data set, gathered through a survey conducted across Sri Lanka in 2011 (n=3,000). This information is used to construct a Life History Calendar which supports an Event History Analysis to model individual migration decisions over time. The main dependent variable is the time between finishing school and the initial migration. We model the survival curves to examine differential effects for male/female migrants and mothers/fathers. Based on the literature on gender and migration, we hypothesize that there will be a difference and we go on to investigate the nature of that difference. We then move on to consider other covariates such as age and number of children.

Keywords: *migrant workers, migration decisions, migrant parenthood, migrant gender*

Female dominance to male dominance: a study of changing sex structure of the labour migrants and the remittance flow to Sri Lanka

Dinesha Siriwardhane^{1*}, W. Indralal De Silva² and Sampath Amaratunge¹

¹Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka

²Faculty of Arts, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Most of conventional theories in economics considered foreign direct investments and official development assistance as vital foreign exchange flows, which can be used to achieve economic development. However, during the recent past this place has been dominated by rapid increasing international remittances flowing from labour importing developed countries to labour sending developing countries in the world. Remittance flow, which largely consists of worker remittances, has become a significant foreign exchange flow of most of the developing countries in the world. Hence, migration and remittances has become an imperative phenomenon of discussion for researchers and policy makers.

Sri Lanka receives over US\$ 5000 million as worker remittances annually. It has become the second largest foreign exchange flow which is worth as 47 percent of the total export income of the country. At the moment about 23 percent of the labour force is employed in foreign countries. From 1988, female labour increased substantially and become the dominating part in the migrant labour force. Conversely, female proportion of labour migration has been continuously decreasing from 1997, increasing the male dominance in the migrant labour force.

This study aims to examine whether the changes in the sex ratio of the migrant labour force, has a significant impact on the remittance receipts to Sri Lanka. The study uses secondary data, drawn from the data bases of Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment, Central Bank of Sri Lanka and the World Bank. Descriptive statistical analysis is used for quantitative data analysis of migration and remittances. The study reveals that the impact of decreasing proportion of the female migration on the remittance flow has been surmounted by the increasing male migrant labour force.

Keywords: Labour migrants, migrant remittance flow

Everything in-between: Sinhalese dreams of a Sri Lanka - Sicily round trip

Mara Benadusi

Department of Political and Social Sciences, University of Catania, Italy

This paper draws on observations I gathered through recent fieldwork carried out among the Sinhalese community in Catania as well as the ethnographic research I have been conducting since 2005 in several coastal villages in Sri Lanka. The paper will triangulate these two experiences by integrating existing research on Sri Lankan migration to other Italian regions (Bacciocchi 2010; Morlicchio 1992; Martinelli et al 1998; Cologna 2003; Avola et al 2003; Näre 2008) and in particular studies whose fieldwork sites include the villages north of Colombo from which this flow originates. More specifically, these are coastal towns enclosed in the area with the highest concentration of Catholic Sinhalese in Sri Lanka: the area that stretches from the town of Chilaw (on the North-western coast of the island) to the western city of Negombo (several kilometers from the capital). Existing studies develop the hypothesis that, in this mainly Catholic area of Sri Lanka, the Diaspora's growing impact has contributed to strengthening a kind of *dream space* between Italy and Sri Lanka that serves to reproduce the desire for migration. It is this interpretational path that leads me to the hypothesis presented in my paper: that the pilgrimage sites and Saints that belong to the religious context of the host country (St. Anthony of Padua, the Tindari Madonna, St. Rosalia in Palermo, and St. Agatha in Catania) serve to increase Italy's symbolic value in the transnational sphere produced by migratory flows through the civic-religious practices of home-making enacted along the borders. The paper focuses on the metaphor of the saints' body/border as a means to analyze the social field of the migratory flows between Sicily and Sri Lanka. The saints' body is viewed as important on a symbolic-sacred level, but even more broadly as a center of what migrants experience in the in-between space spanning "here" and "there": as living simulacra of a civic-religious cult that crosses borders, the saints' relics function as a site of agency and a medium of communication. Taking these impressions as a starting point, we explore what, at this moment, is still the beginning of a finding: far from a rigid and pre-established container that constrains migrants' lives, the social field established by the flows between Sri Lanka and Sicily is an embodied and circular space forged in part through civic-religious practices that make migrants feel at home in the borders.

Keywords: *Diaspora migratory flows, migrant cross borders*

Labour out-migration and its impact on farming families in Sri Lanka

Roshini Jayaweera* and Parakrama Samarathunge

Institute of Policy Studies, Colombo 07, Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka's labour migration is dominated by unskilled workers, and at present this number lies around 65 per cent of the total departures. A large segment of these unskilled migrants come from the rural sector where the primary occupation is agriculture. Sri Lanka's non-plantation agriculture sector is almost entirely made up of smallholders. Their earnings are low and they are caught in the so called "poverty trap." This starts with low resource endowment leading to low income and circles back, though low output, to low income. Although these rural poor are "farmers," their food security situation may be poor due to various reasons. Out-migration is becoming a popular means of escaping this trap.

Out-migration of small farmers or their family members can have both positive and negative effects on rural agricultural production as well as consumption. It is possible to hypothesize that remittances may lead to increased consumption which ensures the households' food security. In addition, increased income will enhance production and productivity through the acquisition of land, machinery etc. On the other hand, migration of a farm operator or his family members directly reduces the labour available for work on farms. At the aggregate level, the resulting shortage in the rural labour force could drive wage rates up, directly increasing the cost of agricultural production. This may lead to the abandonment of agricultural lands or operating them at a lower level of productivity.

This study intended to formally examine the impact of out-migration on rural agricultural production and the food security situation in farm families and members of the rural agricultural sector in Sri Lanka. This study is based on the information gathered from (a) the survey of existing literature, (b) Focus Group Discussions (FGD) and key informant interviews, and (c) Household Income and Expenditure Survey (2009/10) conducted by the Department of Census and Statistics.

Out migration of rural population is substantial in Sri Lanka but the desired impacts on food security, poverty reduction and investment in rural agriculture have not taken place. There seems to be inconsistencies between the sectoral policy of retaining youth in agriculture and the macro policy of expanding youth migration even in unskilled category. They directly contradict each other. On the issues of migration of farmers and agricultural workers and the impact of remittances on

agricultural investment, food security, rural development and poverty reduction, the major observation is the presence of inconsistencies between objectives of increased migration and the sectoral policies for enhancing farm income and attaining food security through agriculture development.

Keywords: *Labour migration, unskilled migration farmer migration*

State's obligation towards children left behind: a Sri Lankan perspective

Ranjan Anno Helan Menaka

Department of Private and Comparative Law, Faculty of Law, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Mass scale Sri Lankan Labour export commencing from the late 1970's has become the main source of foreign exchange earning with over 250000 people migrating annually¹. According to Sri Lanka Bureau of foreign employment (SLBFE) up to 52% of females constitute the migrant workforce. Most of the women migrate in order to provide a better future to their children. According to Micro Studies of female migration, the ability to spend on children's education is one of major motives for migration. However, the question is whether migrant mother achieve their motive. In addition, many children face neglect as a result of mother's migration.

The research is mainly based on the literature review in relation to Child rights and Women's rights. The research is particularly based on International Conventions, 1978 Constitution of Sri Lanka and National statutes. Other Jurisdictions statutes are studied with a view to suggest recommendations to develop policy measures and introduce mechanisms that the government should adopt to protect the children of migrant women.

The object of this research is to describe the issues related to children left behind. For instance, recently the government banned mothers with children below five years from working overseas. However, this created lot of problems from a migrant rights perspective. Also recent increase of child abuse cases witnesses the truth that children's right cannot be ensured by the restriction of women's right to choice of employment. State has a duty to promote the protection of children and protect the rights of migrants. Therefore as an initial step governments should find the root causes for migration and the State should take measures to promote positive policies that increase local employment opportunities for women to ensure that women stay in Sri Lanka. The State should also develop programs for father's and old care givers to realize their responsibilities in child care.

Children are future pillars of a state. Early childhood development is a triggering factor that decides his or her future life. With the escalating numbers of child abuse cases reported, it is felt that as a nation our attention towards children has been neglected.

¹*Department of Census and Statistic Comparison of male migrant workers ,housemaids and other female migrant workers .Available from: <http://www.statistic.Gov.LK/ncms/repntab/tables/slbfe/tab3.Pdf.2010>*

Keywords: *Labour migration, left behind families of migrants*

THEME 7: MIGRATION AND EDUCATION

Factors affecting Brain Drain: a case of Sri Lankan engineers

K.G. Liyanagama*, S. D. S. Wijewardhana and A. Dharmasiri

Postgraduate Institute of Management, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka

Having observed severe brain drain among Sri Lankan engineers, researchers conducted this research to identify and assess the factors that affect brain drain among engineers and suggest recommendations to overcome the issue.

Researchers adopted a hybrid approach combining quantitative and qualitative methods as the research methodology with quantitative being the dominant method. Nine factors that affect intention to migrate were tested with a sample that comprised of 500 respondents, 305 living in Sri Lanka and 195 living abroad; all of whom graduated from local engineering faculties.

Research revealed that intention to migrate is positively influenced by low professional advancement opportunities in Sri Lanka, low job satisfaction in Sri Lanka, high living standards in foreign countries, low remuneration in Sri Lanka and political and economic instability in Sri Lanka. Further it was discovered that intention to migrate is negatively related with influence of family and friends to stay in the home country.

In addition to the tested hypotheses, low recognition and respect for engineers compared to similar professionals in Sri Lanka emerged as a key factor contributing to brain drain.

As per the research literature, patriotism, and alienation and discrimination experienced in foreign countries negatively influence the brain drain. However, the findings of this study did not substantiate the hypotheses for these two factors and they were rejected.

The group that has migrated and the group that is based in Sri Lanka were compared on various aspects. Both groups were found to be patriotic and contrary to the popular belief, it was found that the engineers who have left the country ranked higher in patriotism scale. Those who were based in Sri Lanka were under the impression that they would be feeling alienated and would be subjected to discrimination if they migrate.

Researchers have presented four main recommendations to reduce further talent outflow from the country; empowering entrepreneurship among engineers,

improving local post-graduate programs, improving HR practices, and perception management.

Keywords: *Brain Drain, Migration, migrant engineers,*

Brain Drain from Sri Lankan universities

N.M.R. Nawarathna¹ and G.I. Chandra Gunawardena^{2*}

¹*Department of Secondary and Tertiary Education, The Open University of Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka*

²*COL-UNESCO Chair in Distance Education, The Open University of Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka*

The phenomenon Sri Lankan university academics migrating for work after their postgraduate education appears to have increased over the years. Especially in view of the fact that those who proceed for postgraduate education and succeed in obtaining scholarships are among the brightest in the academic profession has a severe adverse impact on the quality of higher education. It is also noteworthy that the majority of these academics have proceeded for their postgraduate education using scholarships provided by donor agencies as grants or loans. The impact of the loss of these academics to the country should not be underestimated especially in the present scenario, where Sri Lanka attempts to produce educated youth who can demonstrate competencies needed for the twentieth-first century in a globalized labour market.

The study is an attempt to find out the reasons which motivated the academics to resign from their substantive positions, their distribution by University and Faculty and their future expectations with regard to returning to the country. The study will enable policy makers to identify the strategies that can be employed to reduce the brain drain from the Universities in the future.

The study used analysis of information obtained from universities and an e-mail and an online survey of the academics who had migrated.

This qualitative study employed descriptive statistics and content analysis for the analysis of information.

The study pinpoints that the country has invested much funding, on developing university academics for the future strengthening of our university system. Yet, as the migrant academics point out the decision to migrate is not merely a product of attractive prospects overseas, but also due to frustrations related to the difficulties in changing even minor procedures, a lack of collegiality and teamwork and a readiness to adapt and change. It is therefore, opportune for the higher education authorities to devote attention to consider feasible strategies such as removal of bureaucratic procedures, putting in place equitable and objective rewards schemes, elimination of political nepotism, and attempt to reverse brain drain to brain gain by working collaboratively with migrant academics, who are willing to work with Sri Lankan Universities and in Sri Lanka.

The major limitations of the study are the reluctance of some universities to provide requested data, the difficulty of obtaining email addresses and the low response rate of the university academics who have migrated.

Keywords: *Brain Drain, migration of academics, migrant professionals*

Migration for education: reasons and expectations of Sri Lankan university students in Malaysia (IIUM)

Kafayat Quadri^{1,3,*}, Kaouther Mechraoui², Sabeera Cader³, Amal Mechraoui⁴ and Halimah Nalugwa⁵

¹ *Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, Lagos, Nigeria; keefayahq@gmail.com*

² *Department of English Language and Literature, International Islamic University Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia*

³ *Ahmad Ibrahim Kulliyah of Laws, International Islamic University Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia*

⁴ *Department of Linguistics, Universiti Malaya, Malaysia*

⁵ *Department of Communications, International Islamic University Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia*

Migration is a brave step to the unknown. It may be a form of surreal passage to accomplishing a social, cultural or economic supplement but it usually results in a contest of identities and various social and economic challenges. Collecting information and understanding the expectations that individuals have is of critical importance in designing and evaluating policies in education, migration and many other areas in any given country. When Sri Lankan young adults leave their country to further their education in Malaysian Universities, they have varied reasons and expectations. Some have aspirations geared towards securing a better standard of living outside their homeland while others have the intention to return home after their education. This study is focused on Sri Lankan students in the International Islamic University Malaysia. The methodology for this research will employ the use of questionnaires and interviews. The objective of this study is to show the reasons why some Sri Lankans set off to study in Malaysian universities rather than in Sri Lanka or elsewhere. Apart from collecting information on the reason for their migration; this study also intends to measure the expectations of these Sri Lanka students so far, from their experience of being in Malaysia especially from the educational, economical and religious angles. Sri Lankans enjoy free education from kindergarten to university education. This is in fact one of the nation's great accomplishments that they are very proud of. In Sri Lanka, prospective students for tertiary education are selected on the basis of their performance at the G.C.E. (Advanced Level) Examination and due to the limited number of places available; the selection procedure for universities is very competitive. Our findings show that since the number of spaces available in Sri Lanka universities in terms of the population is very low; young adults are pushed to migrate to other countries for their education. In Sri Lanka only about 2% of students sitting for G.C.E. (A/L) examination gain admission to universities, which is by any standard very low. The common factor for the migration for education for these students is therefore the non-availability of space in the public universities in Sri Lanka for the most part.

Other factors include the Islamic background for education in Malaysia, a more comfortable living condition and modern facilities in Malaysia in general, cheaper school fees and living conditions compared to other countries and a comfortable standard of education. The meeting of the expectations of the Sri Lankan students varied from poor to average and excellent.

Keywords: *migration, educational, migrant expectations, religion, living standards*

Patterns and characteristics of international student migration in Sri Lanka

P. H. Premawathie

Zonal Education Office, Matugama, Sri Lanka

Global international movements for education purposes have been displaying an increasing trend. However, higher education is a yardstick used to measure social status of citizens despite of other barriers like ethnicity, religion and the like. However, there is a dearth of evidence pertaining to international student migration in Sri Lanka. Therefore, this paper explores the patterns and characteristics of individual students and respective family backgrounds. Data from a primary survey which was conducted in the Western Province of Sri Lanka in 2012 was used and a sample of 100 families with a student/s studying abroad has been selected by using snowballing technique. Data collection has been completed by means of an interviewer administered questionnaire. The results reveal that the majority of students are youth and unmarried and that the family plays a significant role in taking the migration decision. By and large, there is a male domination (60% and 40% respectively) though in recent times females' participation has been increasing rapidly. Moreover, a considerable proportion of student migrants have followed the A/L science stream (73%) and two thirds of migrants have achieved distinctions for English Language in their G.C.E. O/L examination. It was found that a significant number of student migrants intend to return and get employment in Sri Lanka after completing their higher education. These findings will draw policy makers' attention on international student migration and related issues in order to make better policies and programmes in future.

Keywords: *Student migration / migration for education, migration pattern*

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Factors affecting intellectual migration in the S&T sector of Sri Lanka: brain drain and brain gain

P. R. M. P. Dilrukshi *, Seetha I. Wickremasinghe and M. A. Lankathilake

*Science and Technology Policy Research Division, National Science Foundation,
Colombo 7, Sri Lanka*

The highly qualified and trained manpower is important component to the country economy. The contribution made by such an individual will direct the country towards revolutionary innovation, inventions and other discoveries. Therefore, loss of one such intellectual to another country makes a considerable impact on socio- economic development of the country compared to the migration of number of unskilled laborers.

Sri Lanka has been greatly suffering from the migration of intellectuals to developed countries such as USA, Canada, Australia, United Kingdom, New Zealand, etc. Out of these countries a large number of Sri Lankans are known to migrate to USA and Canada. In 2002-2007 Canada has issued employment visa to 86 number of Sri Lankan S&T professionals. This group included 12.6% medical personnel, 38% Engineers, 22.2% university academics, 12 % Scientists and 15 % IT professionals. Therefore, it is important to investigate the factors affecting intellectual brain drain to minimize the effect and also create a background for brain gain of expatriates.

During the period of 2008-2011, the Science and Technology Policy Research Division of the National Science Foundation undertook a study to investigate the causes and factors affecting intellectual migration and the possible suggestions that can minimize the process. The data collection was done using structured questionnaire mailing and interview based survey methodologies. The study was carried out in two phases. The first phase of the Survey was conducted to study the 350 sample of randomly selected expatriates engaged in S&T related occupations to learn their reasons and expectations on migration. The second phase of the Survey was conducted using a selected sample of intellectuals who come back to Sri Lanka after more than three years stay in another country during the period of 2006-2010 to find out the problems they faced when they re-settled their lives in the country.

332 expatriates permanently resided in various countries had responded to the survey. The sample included 54% scientists who are working in the areas of agriculture, biology, social sciences, physical sciences, chemistry, molecular biology, and earth sciences; 38% Engineers and Technologists; 5% IT scientists and 7% scientists representing other disciplines. According to their response 21.4% left the country due to economic reasons such as better salary or other remuneration packages offered by the respective foreign institutions, while 17.8% left the country to engage in employment that suited better to their educational qualifications. 11% of the scientists left the country for career advancements and another 10% to obtain further educational qualifications. The feeling that there was no recognition to the scientists compared to other professionals has led 9.3 % to leave country. 7.8% responded to the survey mentioned that they left the country to find any job since they did not have suitable job. Along with the views of scientists who returned to the country permanently, the detailed analysis of Survey and policy recommendations will be presented in the full paper.

Keywords: *intellectual migration, Brain Drain and Brain Gain, migration of scientific community*

The impact of parental overseas migration on education of the children left-behind in Sri Lanka

Rajith W. D. Lakshman¹, Sunethra Perera^{2*} and Rev. Pinnawala Sangasumana³

¹ *Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, UK,*

² *Department of Demography, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka,*

³ *Department of Geography, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka*

The link between migration and development is strongly emphasized on the relationship between remittance income and household consumption. Empirical studies view remittances as a transitory income which households spend either on investment goods or on consumption. The children left behind would potentially benefit if post migration household expenditure targets investment goods, especially for human capital investment. Though the macro economic impact of international migration has been extensively researched, micro level impacts especially on children left behind have not been adequately addressed. Parental migration impact on children's quality of life through a wide range of impact areas including, security, care, nutrition, health and education. This paper focuses on the impact of parental migration on the education of the children left behind in Sri Lanka. It uses data from the Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) 2009/10 conducted by the Department of Census and Statistics, Sri Lanka and further backed by qualitative data from in-depth interviews done in April/May 2012 with other stakeholders that are engaged in different programmes on migrant workers. The results reveal that the school dropout rate among children whose parents have internationally migrated is 9.9%. This rate is marginally lower than the rate for non-migrant households (10.2%); but higher than in households where parents have internally migrated. This suggests that international, as opposed to internal, migration of parents may be contributing to slightly higher dropout rates among children left behind. With regard to gender of migrant parent analysis found that father migration, reduces dropout rates where as mother migration increases it. These empirical results are further established using logistic regression methods and GIS techniques. The results suggest that future policies and programmes should focus on those disadvantaged children left behind by migrant parents to reduce school dropouts and improve their educational outcomes.

Keywords: *Children left behind, Parental migration, overseas migration*

THEME 8: MIGRATION AND HEALTH

HIV vulnerabilities of migrant women: from Sri Lanka to the Arab States

Monica Smith

Department of Geography, National University of Singapore, Singapore

Drawing upon research that was conducted in Sri Lanka and the Arab States from 2006-2008 on the vulnerabilities faced by Sri Lankan migrant women to HIV in Sri Lanka and abroad, this paper aims to aid the design of appropriate rights-based HIV prevention programmes. It also is intended to identify emerging challenges and trends in the response to HIV and migration issues in host countries, particularly in the area of human rights and public health.

The Arab States are the primary destinations for migrant workers from Sri Lanka. Of these migrants, many are women: in 2010, 49.8 percent of Sri Lankan migrant workers were women, of which 90 percent were domestic workers, largely in the Arab States. Current remittances by migrant workers from Sri Lanka amount to nearly \$3 billion. In terms of benefits to the host countries, female migrant workers supply much needed assistance in the domestic help sector while contributing to the countries' wealth generation process. Despite this substantial contribution, migrant workers, especially women, often migrate under unsafe conditions, live in very difficult circumstances, and are targets of sexual exploitation and violence. In addition, in all host countries studied domestic workers are formally discriminated against, falling outside the ambit of local labor laws that protect the rights of migrant workers in other sectors. Hence, legislation and enforcement governing the scope of work, number of working hours, minimum wages, and leave and other entitlements of these domestic workers are practically non-existent. Unsafe migration, duress in the workplace, sexual exploitation (both in the home and host country), lack of legal coverage, and limited or no access to health and social services tend to make female migrants, especially in the domestic sector, particularly vulnerable to HIV.

Note: *part of this work was published previously in a study produced by UNDP, UNAIDS, CARAM Asia, IOM, UNIFEM, and Caritas Migrant Centre in Lebanon.*

Keywords: *migrant women, health aspects of migrant women, migrant women exposure to HIV*

Malaria burden in Irregular migrants from human smuggling operations in West Africa and implications for a country reaching Malaria elimination

Kolitha Wickramage^{1*} and G.N.L. Galappaththy²

¹ *International Organization for Migration (IOM), Sri Lanka,*

² *Anti-Malaria Campaign. Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka.*

Malaria cases emerging from irregular migration routes from Sri Lanka have not been explored previously. We undertook an on-arrival malaria screening for all 287 irregular migrants that returned from seven West African nations to Sri Lanka from the period January to June, 2012. The attack rate for *Plasmodium falciparum* was 14 cases per 1000 people. Facilitation of a 'safe return' with active surveillance for such inbound migrant flows become important as Sri Lanka advances towards goals of malaria elimination. This is the first report to document the malaria burden among an increasing trend of irregular migrants through human smuggling operations in Sri Lanka.

Keywords: *Irregular migrants, human smuggling, Malaria screening for irregular migrants*

Assessment of mental health and physical wellbeing of 'Left Behind' family members of international labour migrants: a national comparative study in Sri Lanka

Kolitha Wickramage^{1*}, Chesmal Siriwardhana^{2,3}, Athula Sumathipala^{2,3}, Sisira Siribaddana⁴, Gayani Pannala², Anushka Adikari², Kaushalya Jayaweera², Puwalani Vidanapathirana², Sulochana Weerawarna², Buddhini Jayasekara², Sharika Pieris^{1,5}, Susie Perera⁵, David Mosca⁶

¹ International Organization for Migration, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

² Institute for Research & Development, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

³ Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London.

⁴ Department of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine & Allied Sciences, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka.

⁵ Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka.

⁶ International Organization for Migration, Geneva, Switzerland.

Nearly one-in-ten Sri Lankans are employed abroad as International Labor Migrants (ILM). Little is known about the impact of their migration on the health status of the families they 'leave behind'.

This national study utilized both quantitative and qualitative methods to study associations between the health status of 'left-behind' spouses, children and caregivers, and comparative non-migrant families. A cross-sectional study design with multi-stage random sampling was used. We surveyed a total of 1990 persons; 875 adults (from 410 migrant and 410 non-migrant families), 820 children from 410 migrant and 410 non-migrant families matched for both age and sex, and 295 school teachers linked to these children. Socio-demographic and health status data were derived using standardized pre-validated instruments. Univariate and multivariate analyses were used.

Nearly one-in-three migrant families were from single-parent households. Forty-four percent of left-behind children had some form of psychopathology, with over a quarter of those under 5-years being underweight or severely underweight (29%). Association of emotional, hyperactivity, conduct problems and having any psychiatric diagnosis was strongest in children from migrant family households [Odds ratio 1.62 (CI: 1.16-2.27)], and was exacerbated in families where the sole parent was the overseas based migrant worker. Significantly high levels of depression were found in caregivers [12.3% (CI: 12.23-12.31)] and spouses from left-behind families [25.5% (CI:25.47-25.60)], with physical health status showing similar trends.

Findings provide empirical evidence on health consequences of heavy out-migration for families 'left-behind'. These are relevant for many labour 'sending countries' in Asia relying on ILM remittances. Whilst cross-sectional studies can only suggest, but not prove a cause-effect relation, this study highlights a number of major challenges for policy makers at the nexus of balancing rights, remittances and health consequences. We advocate the adaptation of migrant sensitive health

policy frameworks guided by the 2008 World Health Assembly Health of Migrants Resolution, which promotes safe, healthy and economically beneficial 'migration for all'.

Keywords: *International migrants, left behind families of migrants, health of the left behind*

Crushed petals: sexually abused children of migrant women

B.C.V. Senaratna

*Department of Community Medicine, Faculty of Medical Sciences,
University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka*

Objectives of this cross-sectional and qualitative study conducted in Colombo, Gampaha, and Kurunegala districts were to describe (1) extent of sexual abuse among children of migrant women's (2) circumstances of such abuse and (3) outcomes of sexual abuse for children concerned. Fifteen focus group discussions were conducted with school teachers and community youth groups. Twenty semi-structured interviews were conducted with religious leaders, social workers, and primary health-care workers. Data were analyzed using qualitative content analysis.

Many children of all ages (mostly girls) have been victims of sexual abuse, ranging from sexual harassment through grave sexual abuse to rape, perpetrated mostly by immediate male family members of victims but at times also by neighbours, friends, boy-friends, and unknown persons. Circumstances of sexual abuses were embedded in socio-economically disadvantaged situations such as extreme poverty, living with unemployed fathers/male family members, living with males who abuse alcohol/narcotic substances, low educational level of the family, poor relationships with neighbours, living in families with marital infidelity, living in neighbourhoods of low socio-economic conditions, and living in communities which often witnesses violence. Getting involved in love affairs also was reported to be a risk factor. Sexual abuses have been either one-time occurrences or repeated abuses for prolonged periods, sometimes by multiple perpetrators. Although most incidents have been reported to law enforcement authorities, steps taken to provide protection to children were considered inadequate. All children have been psychologically affected and help provided to them were considered insufficient. Some have faced further physical and mental challenges (physical trauma, infections, pregnancies, illegal abortions, and under-age marriages). Community and school resources are considered to be insufficient to help victims. A quantitative study involving the children themselves is needed to quantify the proportion of children subjected to sexual abuse and to estimate the magnitude of the problem. Effective and comprehensive policy and policy instruments and efficient and functional interventions interlinking all state and non-state stakeholder-institutions and resources are required to protect migrant women's children from sexual abuse and rehabilitate already victimized children.

Keywords: *migrant women, left behind children, victimized children of migrant women*

Prospects and challenges of advancing the resolution on “Health of Migrants”: exploring policy options from a Sri Lankan perspective

C.L. Akurugoda

*Department of Private and Comparative Law,
Faculty of Law, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka*

Migration can be defined as “a process of moving, either across an international border, or within a State. It is a population movement, encompassing any kind of movement of people, whatever its length, composition and causes”. According to United Nations estimates, 120 million of the approximately 175 million migrants worldwide are migrant workers and their families. These migrants can be divided into several categories such as; long term and short term immigrants, internal migrants, international students, internally displaced people, asylum seekers, refugees, returnees, irregular migrants and victims of human trafficking. The health of migrants is at risk due to poverty, social exclusion, discrimination, barriers to access health services, exposure to new infections and lack of financial protection. Hence, importance of addressing migrants’ health issues has been receiving greater attention, at both international and national levels. In 2008 the 61st World Health Assembly Resolution on the Health of Migrants call upon participating nations to promote migrants- inclusive health policies and to promote equitable access to health promotion and care for migrants. Further ASEAN Declaration on the protection and promotion of the rights of migrant workers, and 2010 regional Multi-stakeholder Dialogue on addressing the Health Challenges of Asian Migrant workers both focused on the migrant related issues. Despite these progressive developments migrant workers, particularly Asians, continue to face challenges in accessing health facilities and services at all stages of migration-before departure, while in transit, at destination and upon return. Migration is not necessarily a health risk by itself. But they are more likely to expose to infections or situations that effect negatively on their health. So it is important to identify the health vulnerabilities and key stakeholders who can support these migrants at different stages of migration cycle. Since the WHA resolution was passed, the government of Sri Lanka has developed a National Agenda on Health of Migrants, which involved 12 government ministries. On that basis this paper, which is based on secondary sources, attempts to analyze the legal framework/government policy relating to promotion of health of migrants, in Sri Lanka and further it makes recommendations to enhance the law to meet challenges in advancing the resolution on health of migrants.

Keywords: *Migration, Health of migrants, policy options for migrants , WHO resolution on migrant health*

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