

Demographic and Socio - Economic Characteristics of Married Male Migrants in Sri Lanka

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Since the late 1970's Sri Lanka's international labour migration can be seen as a method of employment providing higher incomes. This study is an attempt to understand the demographic and socio - economic factors that have influenced the character of the international migratory flow of labor in Sri Lanka. This study is mainly based on the primary data collected from the Kochchikade North Grama Niladhari Division which has been randomly selected from the Colombo District Divisional Secretariat to carry out the research. This was purposive sample which is regarded as a non-random sampling method. A sample of the study was 103 spouses, whose husbands have migrated to a foreign destination for labour employment. One major characteristic that could be identified is that, the majority of the male migrants are married (ILO, 2013). When considering the age distribution of migrants, the majority of male migrants are in 35-49 age group (64.1 per cent). According to this study the age group of majority of male migrants who migrated first time is in the 30- 39 age group (53.4 per cent). This study shows that 27.1 per cent of male migrants have studied up to Advanced Level. According to findings of the study, country of destination of the majority of migrants (22.3 per cent) is South Korea. It could be revealed through the study that 50.5 per cent of migrants migrated to raise social status of the family and 47.6 per cent of migrants migrate to find higher income employment. In conclusion, it is clear that Sri Lanka is facing a mobility transition at present as some specific changes in the current mobility flow is seen with International Labour migration.

Key words: Migration transition, labour migration, foreign destination