

ABSTRACT

Historically cross-border migratory labour has been, and still is, a significant factor in the socio-economic development of Sri Lanka. Since the outset of the large scale control, female labour migration from Sri Lanka to oil riched Middle East countries, a vast amount of studies have been dedicated to this phenomenon. Predominantly many studies have focused on the economic benefits both to the migrants as well as to the country. Unfortunately up to now few in-depth researches have been undertaken on the nature of its social cost. While some tend to emphasize the negative outcomes, others point to the gains of economic and social status ideological and interests constantly influence empirical investigation and their outcomes.

With the introducing of open economy in 1977, the rate of labour migration from Sri Lanka has been increased significantly, especially to Middle East countries. There upon slowly but steadily, many social problems started to rise in our society in all aspects of ethnical, religious and class segments.

Especially in present complex society, many Sri Lankans are trying to migrate in order to have better living standards. But carefully analyzing the last three decades it clearly shows us many social implications in our society due to migration of labour from Sri Lanka as such, the study that I undertake will be identified and analyzed. Some of these implications in detail, the study considered four districts to represent all communities, Sinhalese, Tamils and Muslims and Colombo district to represent combination of all communities. Findings of this study could enable to give measures to see whether migration to be promoted or other wise.

Findings of this study could also further diverted to see the possibilities of how to sustain our social values and have strategic social plan to protect our social values in far with great history which nourish our culture with regard to the labour migration.

In this research attention is focused on social implication of labour migration (Urban and rural female labour migration) to Middle East countries, the government policy and support mechanism, roles of trade union in Sri Lanka, and deeply examine how government mechanism and non-government organizations have addressed these issues. More attention extended toward the depth of the social impact of present labour migration and data analysis in Sri Lanka.