

## ABSTRACT

It is evident that destination countries like Saudi Arabia have a lesser capacity to protect domestic worker's rights within their borders as they are governed by the Sharia'h law. Large proportions of migrant domestic workers are from lower income classes and employed as housemaids in Saudi Arabia. The main purpose of their seeking foreign employment is to achieve economic stability which they lack in their countries of origin. Generally, domestic workers are faced with plenty of vulnerabilities in Saudi Arabia such as, non-payment, late payment or lower payment of wages, withholding of passports, long working hours, no rest time, limited freedom of movement and verbal, physical, and sexual abuses.

As a migrant-sending country, though Sri Lanka has introduced some national laws and policies, the rights of the women migrant domestic workers are still violated which lead to vulnerability at the destination countries. Therefore, this research is intended to critically evaluate the contemporary national laws and existing policies of both countries with regard to the protection of the rights of Sri Lankan women migrant workers in Saudi Arabia. In this context, the researcher essentially explores as to why most of the Arabian States do not adhere to the internationally recognized labour laws and migrant workers' rights through their domestic laws.

**Key words:** women migrants, domestic workers, rights of migrant workers