

ABSTRACT

Labour migration from Sri Lanka has been increasing during past few decades. Especially with the opening of temporary contract employment opportunities for low – skilled workers particularly in the Gulf Region has generated substantial inflows of remittance to the country's economy over the past years. Having understood the responsibility of protecting and empowering of migrant workers, the government of Sri Lanka has introduced various legislations and mechanisms for the purpose of regulating and administration of matters relating to labour migration. Despite all these measures, Sri Lanka continues to face a number of challenges in the field of labour migration. Unfair recruitment practices are some of the main concerns of the authorities in regard to the recruitment of migrant workers. Low- skilled migrant workers such as domestic workers and factory workers are the most vulnerable group for these unfair recruitment practices. Inadequate mechanism for monitoring and compliance can be identified as a major obstacle. Therefore, it is essential that more efficient and effective legal framework and mechanism should be available to prevent unfair recruitment practices and to protect low-skilled migrant workers 'rights in Sri Lanka for the benefit of both economic growth and social justice. This study intended to critically evaluate the contemporary domestic legal framework and existing policy in relation to the protection of the rights of Sri Lankan low- skilled migrant workers and make suggestions to strengthen the prevailing policy and laws. This objective will be achieved by testing the following hypothesis; "The existing legal framework in Sri Lanka does not provide sufficient measures for the protection of low-skilled migrant workers' rights" A comprehensive study has been carried out for the purpose of identifying the unsettled areas and complexities in the field of protection of low-skilled migrant workers' rights. Relevant information from books, statutes, international legal instruments, journal articles and websites have been referred and in order to capture empirical reality on certain issues, statistics gathered by relevant authorities have been used as secondary sources.

Key words: labour migration, unfair recruitment practices, low-skilled migrant workers