

## **Culture as a Factor of Migration: A Case Study of Sri Lankan Migration to India**

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Migration has been happening since ancient times and due to various reasons, ancient men started to change their location from time to time. These leading reasons are categorized as a push & pull factors in the migration field. Further, irregular migration has become a prominent topic in this era because it has various implications for the home and host country. Migration makes a significant impact on cultures and as same similar cultural background works as a pull factor on migration. Paper works to identify whether similar cultural identities lead communities to migrate to some specific territory or country and the role of upon mentioned fact as a pull factor for irregular migration. The Sri Lankan Tamil community also descended from India, with two major segments, the former being Jaffna Tamils - the migrants from Kerala and Tamil Nadu states of India, and the latter was the up-country Tamils who were brought as state workers by the British during the colonial period. Since then Sri Lankan Tamil community has shared cultural values with India and especially with the South part of India (Tamil Nadu). But the ethnic conflict which prevailed for 30 long years was a push factor for most of the Sri Lankan Tamils to migrate to a safe zone. Due to the civil war, the Sri Lankan Tamil community migrates mostly to South India as refugees and even to regain their identity as repatriates. The Paper discusses how culture works as a main driving force in deciding the location to migrate whilst taking the IV Elam war as a case study of the paper.

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