

## **The Shifts of Migration Patterns in Sri Lanka: Analyzing the Impact of Ongoing Financial Crisis on the Growth of Out-migration**

### Abstract

It is an obvious fact that Sri Lanka is currently undergoing its worst financial crisis since the independence. This unprecedented economic turmoil has led to increase the out- migration of the country. Since the soaring inflation of the country has been badly affected the livelihoods of people, most of the people attempt to leave the country by searching new opportunities in other countries which can be identified as a significant shift of the migration patterns in Sri Lanka. This situation is followed by the shortage of foreign exchange, essential necessities such as fuel and medicine and the economic mismanagement of the leaders of the country, as a whole.

Within this context, the discussion of the paper mainly deals with two aspects namely legal and illegal migrants. Under the aspect of legal migrants, people who have become vulnerable from the economic downturn, seek to leave the country in order to work in the countries like Korea, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom etc. The Government has also issued a circular by allowing the public servants to work in other countries by considering it as one of the tools which increase the Dollar inflows to the county. Then in the case of illegal migrants, people have put their lives in a risk by leaving the country in illicit ways, with the aim of enjoying a good life that they can meet the basic needs. For an instance, a lot of illegal boat migrants who were crossing the borders to reach Australia were apprehended by the Sri Lankan Coast Guards. On the other hand, some of the people have already reached the Southern part of India as asylum seekers.

In this setup, the key objective of this paper is to examine how these out- migrations can create an impact on the Development of the country. In this regard how foreign remittances can contribute to regain the development of the country will also be focused. The qualitative methodology will be used in this study to analyze both Dependent and Independent variables of the study. The ongoing financial crisis of the country is considered as the Independent variable while the rise of out-migration is considered as the Dependent variable. The qualitative research methodology will be employed in this research to examine the data gathered from both primary and secondary sources.

Keywords: Migration, Financial Crisis, Illegal migration, Legal migration, Asylum seekers, Remittance