

The Impact of Female Migration to Middle-East on their Family's Social and Economic Development

K.G.M.H. Premasiri¹

Abstract

As a developing country in the Third World, Sri Lanka pursued foreign employment without any discrimination between men and women to alleviate poverty after the 1977 Open Economic Policy. to lift itself out of poverty. But the traditional woman who worked in the family got rid of it and joined the labor force and went abroad for employment in the Middle East. In such a context the main problem here is to study whether emigration for employment in the Middle East has had a social and economic impact. The main objective of applicable this problem is to identify the household income status of married women before and after going abroad for employment. To achieve these objective, the study was conducted on 100 women migrants based in 45 Grama Niladhari Divisions in the Medirigiriya Divisional Secretariat Division in the Polonnaruwa District, which is a poorest in Sri Lanka. Here a simple random sampling method is used to select the sample from the desired population. Questionnaire method was used to retrieved the data from the sample. Accordingly, this study confirmed that there is a difference between the income status of married women before and after going abroad. That is, their income has increased with the emigration. Therefore, better results can be achieved by creating local employment opportunities for women or establishing activities to uplift the families and children of women migrant workers.

Key words: *Children's education, Economy, Migration, Women,*

1.Introduction

Foreign employment is one of the major section to the development of Sri Lanka, an emerging third world country, as an economically viable country (Dasanayake & Jeewanthi, 2015). The family can be called the smallest unit in society. Here the woman is the main role who works most in the family. In the face of globalization and the inability to meet the complex needs and that

¹ Department of Social Statistics, University of Kelaniya
kgmadara97@gmail.com

wants of the rapidly industrializing Sri Lankan society, women were seen moving away from the traditional role in their families to jobs. That is, over the past three decades, the female workforce has become a turning point in the Sri Lankan economy (Munas & Mohomad, 2015). The majority of Sri Lankan women who go abroad for employment belong to the lower income group. Many of them go into domestic service as well as unskilled labors because they have no proper education or training. As the majority of women who go abroad are mothers, young children face various difficulties and their schooling is being neglected. Accordingly, going abroad for work is an it's solution for both women and men to get rid of the unfortunate situation of poverty and unemployment in their family. Thus, women often go abroad in the hope that their children will have a better future with the economic strength they receive. But it largely deprives a child of the ability to live happily and to be educated. Often those children ignore social planning principles (Amarathunga, 2007).

Sri Lankan women have focused on going abroad for work and very little attention has been paid to the factors that contribute to it as well as the economic and social factors that arise from it. Many of those studies have been analyzed qualitatively. Accordingly, few studies have focused on the economic impact of married women going abroad. In particular, there is little quantitative research on this. The study of the resulting economic and social conditions is a very important topic from time to time.

That is, the big question is whether they are using the foreign exchange that contributes to the growth of the Sri Lankan economy in the right way to uplift their family corporation. Although the woman went abroad with the intention of making the family corporation a success, that purpose seems to have failed in many families. That is to say, the misuse of that foreign exchange by the families and the deterioration of the family corporation is an unresolved issue. Therefore, it is important to conduct such a study in the light of the current global crisis.

1.1 Objectives of the Study

The key objective is to the identification of the pre- and post-economic status of Sri Lankan married women families going abroad for employment in the Middle East. In addition, the sub objectives are to Identify the educational status and safety of children in families where women have emigrated,

Identification the tendency of rural women to go abroad for employment in the Middle East.

2. Literature Review

Internationally, Sri Lanka is an Asian country that has been maintaining various relations with other countries in the world for decades, and remittances from foreign workers can be identified as a major source of income for Sri Lanka (Central Bank Report, 2020). That is, labor migration began as a result of British plantations cultivation in 1840, and then with the rise in oil prices in Middle Eastern countries, migration for employment continued to grow. That is, due to the shortage of human labor in the Middle Eastern countries, migration began to provide labor without distinction between men and women. Currently, a large percentage of migrants' employment in Sri Lanka are unskilled Workers, unemployed and housemaids, whose incomes are very low. These people, who inherit such a low Standard of living are Seeking employment abroad as a way out of their economic hardships (Silva, 2020).

Over the past two decades, emigration to foreign countries has greatly increased. According to the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment, more than one million Sri Lankans are employed overseas. Although in the early day foreign employment was considered in urban areas, there are now reports of foreign employment spread to all provinces. Foreign employment can be pointed out as a solution to the existing foreign exchange deficit and unemployment in the country. As foreign employment has become a major source of foreign exchange earnings in Sri Lanka, the Government has focused on these foreign employment opportunities to earn the foreign exchange required by the country (Central Bank Report, 2020).

Silva (2020) conducted a study on the emigration of married women to Middle Eastern countries and its socio-economic impact. With the Commencement Open Economic Policy Sri Lankans got the more opportunities for abroad employment and due to that many urban as well as rural People tend to move for abroad jobs. Specially, according to this study, the main reason for women to go abroad as an unskilled worker is the Severe to economic Crisis in their families. They have moved to foreign employment as a result of finding a Solution for those difficulties. It can be concluded that they have go abroad with the aim of enhancing the economic well-being of the family while making their Children's education Success. Thus, many women who have gone abroad

have chosen Middle Eastern countries for emigration. That is, the father is often addicted to drugs and the grandmother is getting older, so there are problems with child custody. It is then recognized that children engage in bad behavior due to the people they associate with and the lack of responsibility for their children's education. That is, it can be concluded that their lack of proper guidance within the family is a great threat to future well-being. The research also shows that if the mother takes proper action regarding the safety of according to the study, a large number of expatriate women have opted for Middle Eastern countries.

3. Research Methodology

This study has been conducted on the basis of both primary and secondary data. Questionnaire method was used to collect primary data and secondary data was collected from previous research, published annual reports and Sampath Pathikada. Simple random sampling method was used in selecting the sample. The study was conducted by including 100 women selected among the 1231 women who migrated abroad during the period 2016-2022 in 45 Grama Niladhari divisions belonging to Medirigiriya Divisional Secretariat Division of Polonnaruwa District. As well as, Paired sample T-test, Chi-square test and Time-series analysis were used to analyzed the data.

4. Data Analysis

Analyzes have been conducted based on the study objectives in studying the migration of Sri Lankan married women for employment in the Middle East and its social- economic impacts. For that, have been used which Paired Sample T-test, Chi-square test and Time Series analysis.

4.1 Economic Status of Women Before and After going Abroad

Table 1: Economic status of women before and after going abroad

Description	t value	P value
The relationship between Economic status of women before and after going abroad.	-3.031	0.003

Source: Field survey data, 2022

The main purpose of this study is to identify the pre- and post-economic status of families of women who went abroad for employment in the Middle East.

Here, the focus is on the economic status of the woman before and after she goes abroad, for which Paired Sample T-Test.

Accordingly, Paired sample T-Test, ($P = 0.003 < 0.05$) so the null hypothesis under the 5% significance level is rejected. Therefore, it can be concluded that there is a difference between the family economic status before the woman goes abroad and the economic status after. That is, according to this sample a woman had an economic level that made it difficult to meet even her basic needs before going abroad. But with the migration of women, their economy has grown. Therefore, the overall sample demonstrates that there is a difference between the economic status of the woman pre-and-post their emigration.

4.2 Testing the Relationship of Emigration by Chi-square Testing

The hypotheses used to test by the chi-square test are as follows;

H_1 : There is no significance between the education level of the children and the time spent in education while the mother is abroad.

H_2 : There is no significance between the monthly income and the children's participation in the tuition class of the household where the mother was abroad.

Table 2: Testing the relationship between emigrated by chi-square testing

Description	Chi-square value	P value
The education level of the children and the time spent in education while the mother is abroad.	92.387	0.000
The monthly income and the children's participation in the tuition class of the household where the mother was abroad.	9.660	0.008

Source: Survey data, 2022

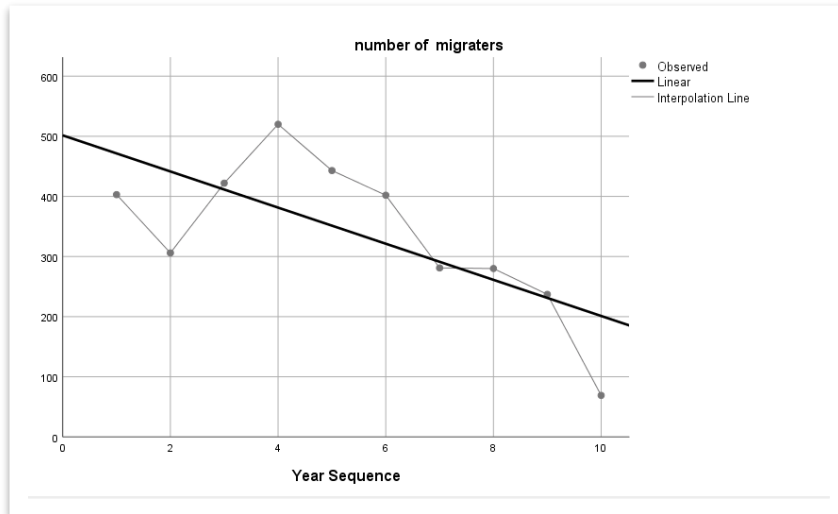
According to the chi-square test performed to test whether there is a relationship between the level of education of the children while the mother is abroad and the amount of time they are engaged in education, ($P = 0.000 < 0.05$) the null hypothesis is rejected. There is statistical significance between the education level of the children and the time spent in education while the mother is abroad at 5% significance level.

According to the chi-square test performed to test whether there is a relationship between the monthly income of the households where the mother was abroad and the amount of children attending external tuition classes, ($P = 0.008 < 0.05$) therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected, showing that there is statistical significance between the monthly income and the children’s participation in the tuition class of the household where the mother was abroad at 5% significance level.

4.3 The Tendency of Rural Women to go Abroad for Employment in the Middle East

The following information can be obtained from the interpretation of rural women went abroad for employment during the period of 10 years 2011-2020.

Figure 1: The tendency of rural women to go abroad for employment



Source: Survey data, 2022

According to the Time-series analysis, the number of rural women went abroad for employment has shown growth rate of -30.042. As shown in the figure above, when analyzing the tendency of rural women to go abroad for employment during the period 2011-2020, the highest number of women went abroad in 2014. The lowest number of emigrations by 2020 has been reported. The main reason for this is the spread of covid-19 virus. It can be seen that with the fluctuations from 2011- 2014 there has been a shift towards foreign employment.

5. Conclusion

Overall, according to the study, it is clear that the migration of women abroad has economic and social implications. Economic hardship can be cited as a factor that can have a powerful impact on a woman's emigration. This means that women who go abroad in the face of economic problems have improved their economic status after going abroad than before going abroad. Accordingly, it is confirmed that due to the insufficient income earned to meet the household needs, they have resorted to foreign employment.

That is, it shows that there is a difference between the income before and after the woman goes abroad. That is, it can be concluded that their income level has increased compared to before after going abroad. Accordingly, their economic status has improved after going abroad. That is, according to the overall study, it can be concluded that the income level has improved compared to before women went for foreign employment.

Another purpose of this study is to study the impact of women's emigration on their children's education. Accordingly, the educational status of the children concludes that their education has declined somewhat with the departure of the mother from home. That is, there is a relationship between the level of education of the children while the mother is abroad and the time spent study. According to when the mother is abroad the children spend less time on education. It can also identify the status of sending children to tuition classes from emigrated income. Although, the mother paid for the children's education, it was concluded that with the Mother's departure, the children would turn to outdoor activities and out of school.

Further, according to the study objectives, considering the tendency of rural women to seek employment abroad in 2011-2020, the majority of married women in 2015 went abroad for employment. but with the spread of the covid-19 virus in 2020, the number of people going abroad is very low.

In other words, providing local employment opportunities to women going abroad or following legal measures to ensure that the family environment and children's responsibilities are properly planned while going abroad will be more successful.

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