

## Migration trends in current Sri Lanka: perspectives of university undergraduates

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Migration is an enduring process in the development of human history. As a consequence of rapid globalization process, impact of migration has become more complex. Being a developing country, Sri Lanka is also highly influenced by the various scales of migration such as local, regional and international. Development of a country highly rely on its "educated citizens" who are the spirit of the "human capital". According to current experience in Sri Lanka, after having higher educational qualifications, majority of youths are not ready to contribute their knowledge, labour and patriotism for the development of the country due to various pull and push factors. Hence, the major objective of this study is to identify the future plans of the university undergraduates relating to migration.

The sample consists of 50 randomly selected undergraduates of final year Arts Faculty in the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. Sample survey, in-depth interviews and case studies were done to reach the objectives of the study. Secondary data were collected from books, magazines, research reports, some useful records and websites etc.

It was found that over 4/5<sup>th</sup> of undergraduates who are from rural areas don't like to go back and reside their hometowns. More than 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of them (from the above 4/5<sup>th</sup>) intend to migrate overseas for further education and/or job opportunities. Nearly 1/5<sup>th</sup> of them wish to settle down abroad while 1/10<sup>th</sup> is already planning to go immediately after obtaining the degree. Taking into consideration these figures, it can be concluded that the inability of absorbing the well educated human capital for national development, the country would be in a great problem in her way to the future.

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