

## **IMPACT OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION ON REDUCING RURAL POVERTY IN SRI LANKA. (WITH REFERENCE TO GAMPAHA DISTRICT)**

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*Migration from Sri Lanka is predominantly towards the Middle East by female migrants employed as domestic workers. The government encouraged registration with Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE) so that migrants can avail of welfare benefits. Two main streams of migration flows are identified: labour migration and political migration. The former is mostly Sinhalese to the Middle East and the latter, predominantly Tamils to the West. Both flows have intensified due to protracted conflict and war affected economic development since the early 1980s.*

*Both primary and secondary data has been used for this study. Primary data was collected from 100 families in the Gampaha district. The objective of the study are to identify reasons for labour migration, to identify the impact of migration on reducing rural poverty, to identify social problems of migration and to recommend solution to mitigate these problems.*

*There is an impact of migration on reducing rural poverty in Sri Lanka, but, some problems are also created. Therefore, following recommendations are made to protect the migrants from vulnerability. Migrants should be motivated to go abroad through the government Sri Lanka Foreign Employment Bureau. An insurance scheme can be established for migrant workers. They can be trained before migration to protect from fraud and to motivate to save the earned money and commence self-employment. Family member of the migrant also should be trained to use their money intelligently. Laws should be amended to protect migrant workers. These policies can be implemented with the help of the government, policy making bodies and the non- government organizations of Sri Lanka.*