

INTERNATIONAL CONTRACT MIGRATION AND CHILDREN LEFT BEHIND: IMPACTS ON CHILDREN'S SCHOOL ENROLMENT IN SRI LANKA

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The objective of this study to examine the impact of parental overseas migration on children's school enrolment in Sri Lanka. The analysis uses data from the Sri Lankan Population and Housing Census 2001. We estimate models of the effect of parental migration status on children's school enrolment controlling for children's individual and households characteristics. The unit of analysis is the child. The population average model method was used to adjust the standard errors for more than one child per household. The findings reveal that parental migration has positive impact on children's school enrollment in Sri Lanka compared to children of non-migrants. However, exploring a model using mother overseas as a reference category, results show that father migrated for overseas has a larger positive influence on children's enrolling school than mother overseas migration. Children's characteristics and household characteristics included in the models to contribute significantly in explaining children's school enrolment. The findings of this study suggest that policy makers should start looking at parental migration in a more positive light.