

## MIGRATION AND URBANIZATION IN SRI LANKA: AN OVERVIEW.

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**Abstract:** International migration contributed the greater share of the increase in the population of Sri Lanka, between 1871 and 1901. Thereafter, natural increase has been the major determinant of population growth. Internal migration has played a significant role in population redistribution as well as in urbanization. The analysis of recent patterns of migration and urbanization is handicapped by the paucity of data. Therefore, this paper is an attempt to briefly examine past trends and patterns of international migration, internal migration and urbanization in Sri Lanka. Movements of people from wet zone districts to Colombo, long distance movement from Jaffna to Colombo, short distance movements between contiguous districts, and movements to the dry zone districts, especially to Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa have been observed during the period 1946-1981. Within the limitations of analyzing the urbanization process, the proportion of urban population had increased from 10.8 per cent in 1981. In the future, it is very essential to adopt a definition of "urban area", so that comparative as well as in-depth studies could be done.