

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF URBAN IN-MIGRANTS IN THE GAMPAHA DISTRICT.

R.A.S.B. Ranabahu

Abstract: The paper examines the demographic characteristics of urban in-migrants in Gampaha District. Human migration is the major population component, which influences redistribution of people. In recent years, the most popular migration stream has been urban-ward migration. In this study the term “urban in-migrants” has been used for the migrants who have either moved from a rural area or from another urban area. Five urban centres from the Gampaha district have been selected for this study. A two-stage sample was formulated and the relevant data was drawn through an interviewer-administered questionnaire survey conducted in 600 households. The sample comprised 49 per cent males and 51 per cent females. Place of Birth (POB) method used in order to identify the urban in-migrants in the study area. The total number of lifetime in migrants in the five centres of Gampaha District was 1128 and this amounts to 49 percent of the total population. The selectivity of migrants was attempted by comparing the characteristics of in-migrants with the characteristics of non-migrants at the same urban destination. The characteristics compared are age, sex, marital status, educational attainment and employment status. The findings reflect some areas which merit careful attention in the task of planning urban policies.