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**SOCIAL SECURITY ISSUES AMONG INTERNAL MIGRANTS:
A CASE OF URBAN COMMUNITIES IN KALUTARA DISTRICT IN
SRI LANKA**

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Abstract

Over the past three decades urban migration in the Western Province of Sri Lanka has been increasing. Most urban migrants who live in urban areas have been suffered from social insecurity due to the lack of health facilities, sanitary facilities, future life security and other welfare benefits. Hence, this paper attempts to identify the social security issues of internal urban migrants. Both qualitative and quantitative data gathered from the selected urban communities with representing three Urban Council areas in the Kalutara District were used for this study. The quantitative data was collected from a sample survey using an interviewer administered questionnaire covering 414 migrant households. Moreover, in-depth interview method was used to collect qualitative information on highlighting family wellbeing problems, environmental and sanitary issues related to social security of migrants. Multivariate analysis was used for the quantitative data while discourse analysis was used for the qualitative information. The findings of this study identify that approximately half of households plan to save money by joining a pension scheme or provident fund and other investments for their for their future life security. The migrant people those who are in urban communities are more likely to save their money in legally recognized institutions, whereas less educated migrants tend to use illegal saving methods. Moreover, around one third households has been rented and encroached. More than two thirds of employed household heads have low wages due to their engagement in informal employments. Logistic Regression results also revealed that people who are engaged in informal sector employments are 4.3 times as likely as people who work in formal sector employments. The qualitative findings

also discovered that several community and environmental factors such as lack of sanitation facilities and lack of awareness and future life planning largely contribute to increase social security issues within these urban communities. These results suggest that future employment opportunities and awareness programs regarding the importance of future life planning should focus on empowering, especially informal employees. Further, policy implications to improve urban migrants' social security status should be introduced.

Keywords: *internal migrant, social security, Sri Lanka, urban communities*

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