

Gender Dimension of Remittance Behavior: Towards a New Remittance Estimation Method

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Background

Gender dimension of labour migration and remittance behavior has become a center for discussion in labour emigrating countries like Sri Lanka. Since the social cost of female labour migration is relatively high, proper evaluation of the costs and benefits of migration is important in designing an appropriate foreign employment policy to the country. However, lack of comprehensive data of remittances prevents us studying the gender dimension of remittance behavior. Theoretical Framework

Remittance theories suggest that migrants send remittances for different purposes. Altruism, self interest motive and insurance motive of remittance behavior show that the remittances are determined by different economic, demographic and social factors. However estimating bilateral remittance flow, stock of migrants and the level of income between host and home countries are considered in the literature. Ratha and Show (2007) use three allocation rules to calculate weights for each country. First, they use migrant stock abroad. Second, they use migrant stock and the migrant income and third, migrant stock, migrant income in both destination and country of origin. They assume that, each migrant send similar fraction of the income as remittances irrespective of their gender or the skill level.