

Determinants of inter-district and intra-district migration in Sri Lanka: the case study of Gampaha District

Kanthi Manel¹

Similar to many other developing countries, Sri Lanka's internal migration can be classified into two types - inter-district migration and intra-district migration. Literature on internal migration often emphasizes that these migration patterns are mainly determined by a number of socio-demographic, economic and political factors. However, there is a lack of micro level research on what factors determine such migration patterns. Hence, this study explores the determinants of inter-district and intra-district migration in Gampaha district. The study is based on survey data gathered from three urban areas in Gampaha district. Data were gathered through a random sample of 400 respondents. Both descriptive analysis and logistic regression model were employed in this study. The findings reveal that around 12 per cent of migrants had experienced inter-district migration while a large majority, approximately 82 per cent had experienced intra-district migration. It is identified that more than three fourth of intra-district migrant were ever married (82%). Majority of intra-district migrants were in the 30-54 age group while the highest proportion of inter-district migrants was from the age group 25-29 years. Logistic regression results further demonstrated that migrant's ethnicity, main economic activity and household size positively affected intra-district migration. However, the selection of migrant's destination differed significantly by the economic activities that the migrant engaged in and the reasons for migration. These results suggest that the consequences of inter-district and intra-district migration need to be investigated separately when addressing internal migration related issues in Sri Lanka.

Keywords: *Internal migration, intra-district migration, inter-district migration*

¹ Department of Demography, University of Colombo

Acknowledgement: Author would like to thank Dr. E L Sunethra J Perera, the supervisor and the University of Colombo for providing research grant (AP/3/2012/CG/07) to undertake this research.

Proceedings of the Annual Research Symposium, University of Colombo, October 3-4, 2013