

## Impact of international migration of women on family: a case study of Wariyapola DS Division

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Sri Lanka promoted migration after 1977 with the introduction of the open economic policies for the country and it contributed to widen the international relationship among nations. The changing pattern of international relationships has affected the rural social structure also. As a result of this change the gender role of the family has also changed. It reduced the dependency of the male dominance of the family. The previous role of the women limited to the role of wife, mother and housewife but the involvement of the women in economic activities has widened the current role of the women in the rural society. Even if the women bring more benefits to her family economically, as a result of migration, some problems faced by them in abroad such as disability, sexual harassment, accidents, venereal diseases like HIV/AIDS and sometimes even death affect the family directly and the whole society indirectly.

The main objective of this study is to discuss views and the problems faced by the husband and children due to the international migration of women. The purposive sampling was used to collect primary data by the study because the international migration is not common for the all households of the society. Sample was taken from the Wariyapola DS division in Kurunagala district, which records high international migration rates in rural sector in 2005. 50 households were selected including 38 cases from the women who returned back after the migration and 12 cases from the family members who have migrated women at the moment.

In view of the husbands about the migration of wives, altogether 68% husbands disliked that. The nature of the problem faced by the husband was identified as alcohol addiction, sexual problems and mental depression. Considering the response of children on their mother's migration, 64% do not like this at all. The main problems faced by the children due to mother's migration are isolation, neglecting education, sexual harassment and loitering. The research identified the expected goals of the migration as to get rid of economic problems, to build a new house, to buy a land, to save money, to solve the problems of the children and to achieve the economic status of the others respectively. Finally the study discusses about the achievability of the expected goals due to migration. 30% of female migrants achieved their expected goals while 10% are much satisfied. 40% majority are unsatisfied while 20% were highly unsatisfied.

**Key words:** Migration, Gender, Family, Role, Conflict

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