

Skilled Based Migration from Sri Lanka -A Descriptive Analysis

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Skilled based migration has gained importance in recent years reflecting the impact of globalization, revival of growth within the economy and rapid growth in information and communication technology. By now, migration of skilled workers from developing countries has become a persistent trend. In Sri Lankan context, the most pressing issue is the mismatch of number of workers demanded by the foreign countries and supplied from Sri Lanka according to the level of skill. For this research, secondary data were obtained from SLBFE (Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment) annual reports for 12 countries over the period of 2009-2017. The results indicate that, total migrant flow has increased considerably after 2012 with the highest flow recorded in 2014. However, after the year 2014, a gradual of total migrant flow is observed. Moreover, in every year the number of male migrants is higher than that of female. Qatar has become the most preferred destination for skilled migrants and the highest number of migrants were from skill-level category throughout all the years. Population, unemployment rate, dependency ratio of destination and distance between destination and Sri Lanka were found to be moderately negatively correlated with the migrant flow whereas GDP growth of destination was moderately positively correlated with the migration flow. The findings of this research suggest that Sri Lankan migrants more concern about the conditions of the destination country rather than the conditions of the origin country.

Keywords: Descriptive analysis, Skill-based Migration, Sri Lanka