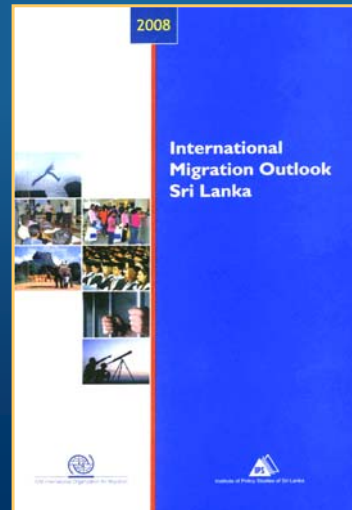


International Migration Outlook -Sri Lanka: 2008

Tilani Jayawardhana and Ruwan Jayathilaka

Co-Authors

Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka



Collaborative Initiative of:



Structure of the Report

- Introduction
- Institutional Framework for Migration in Sri Lanka
- Labour Migration
- Tourist Arrivals
- Student Migration
- Irregular Migration
- Way Forward

Chapter 01 - Introduction

- The reasons that stimulate people to migrate are numerous and operate in complex and interactive ways at individual, family and socio economic levels.
- 3 % of the world's population (191 million) live in a country other than the one in which they were born in 2005.
- United States leads the world as a host country.
- Europe's migrant population 64 million in 2005.
- Western Asia hosted 22 million migrants in 2005.

Introduction..... contd

- Migration has become an increasingly significant and potentially beneficial component of the socio-economic fabric of Sri Lanka.
- Significant welfare gains
- Migration from Sri Lanka broadly categorized, based on the reason for migration:
 - For settlement – mostly the skilled personnel
 - For economic reasons (for work)- skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled personnel
 - For political reasons -refugees or asylum seekers
 - For educational purposes – mainly for undergraduate and postgraduate studies
 - For tourism purposes
- Numbers migrating from SL have increased more than ten folds during the past decades.



Introduction..... contd

- The total number of out from Sri Lanka on employment abroad at present is estimated to be 1.8 million.
- Over 250,000 persons migrate annually from Sri Lanka
- Foreign Employment → 23% of total employment
21% of the Labour Force
- Remittances → 7% of GDP
36% of Export earnings
36% of current receipts in the BOP



Chapter 02 - Institutional Framework for Migration in SL

- Main Government body - Ministry of Foreign Employment and Welfare
- The Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE) is the primary regulatory body for overseas employment.
- Key Government institutions and agencies - Ministry of Labour Relations and Manpower, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice and Law Reform, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Healthcare and Nutrition, Ministry of Child Development and Women Empowerment, Department of Immigration and Emigration, National Child Protection Authority and Department of Registration of Persons.
- Recruitment Agencies
- International Conventions
- The Sri Lankan diplomatic missions



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Institutional Framework contd

The National Labour Migration Policy for Sri Lanka

- Launched in February 2009 by the Ministry of Foreign Employment & Welfare.
- Aims to promote opportunities for all men and women to engage in migration for decent and productive employment in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity.
- Three broad areas of this policy
 1. Governance of the migration process
 2. Protection and empowerment of migrant workers and their families
 3. Linking migration and development process
- The present Government has placed special emphasis on the promotion of high skilled workers as against the low skilled categories of labour migrants.



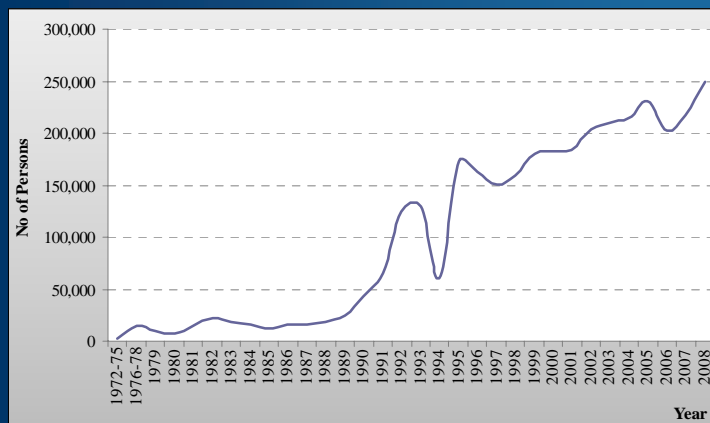
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Chapter 03 - Labour Migration

Trends

- Pre 1970s –Domination of professional and technical personnel migrating to developed countries.
- Post 1970s - temporary contract work on low skilled jobs, targeting the Middle Eastern countries.
- Migrant workers originate not only from the unemployed and underemployed categories but also from the employed workforce.
- Migration does not offer a permanent solution to the unemployment issues of SL.
- Social concerns
- Several positive implications to the macroeconomic variables.

Sri Lanka Labour Migration -1972-2008



Profile of Migrants for Employment

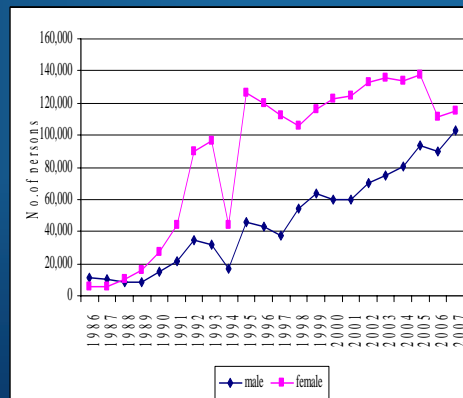
- Sri Lankan migrants predominantly belong to unskilled and housemaid categories.
- Female migrants have been dominating the foreign employment market over several decades.
- Mostly aged 25-39 years
- Lately other skilled categories have gained prominence – but still Middle East housemaids dominate the market.



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Profile of Migrants for Employment

- Sri Lankan housemaids possess a higher level of educational attainment compared to many other countries that export housemaids.
- Skilled categories - more male participation.
- Decline in the rate of growth in the female departures.



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Estimated number of Sri Lankan Overseas Contract Workers by Manpower Levels and By Gender -2007

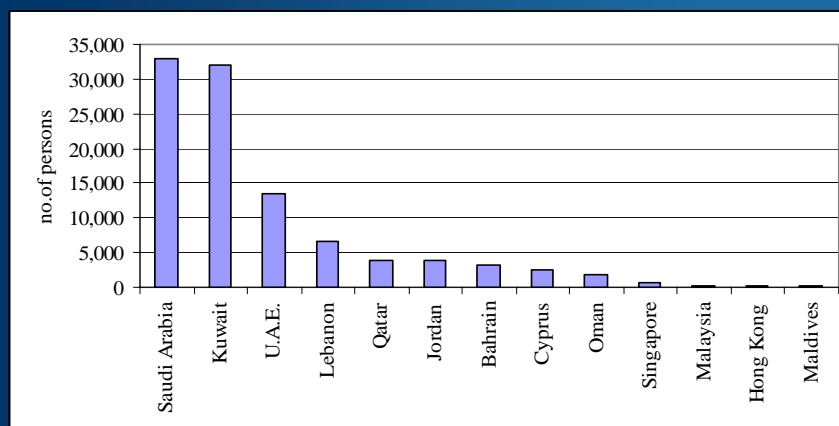
Manpower level	Male	Female	Total	%
Professional Level	12,200	2,550	14,750	0.9
Middle level	36,500	10,000	46,500	2.8
Clerical and related	59,300	11,780	71,080	4.3
Skilled	260,400	107,100	367,500	22.4
Semi Skilled	3,100	235	3,335	0.2
Unskilled	250,800	77,990	328,790	20.0
Housemaid	-	810,500	810,500	49.3
Total	622,300	1,020,155	1,642,455	100.0

- Growth in the labour migration in SL is driven by unskilled categories.
- Skilled categories together contributed 27.4 % to the total departures for employment abroad.
- Unskilled categories remit over 80% of their income back home.
- Present policy emphasis in Sri Lanka.

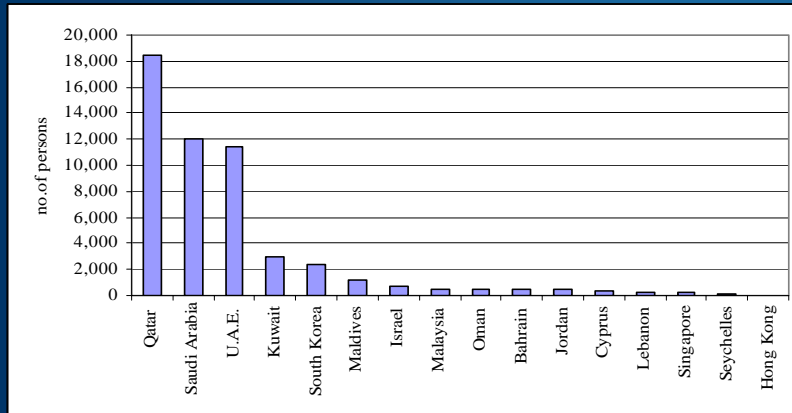
Destinations for Foreign Employment

- Saudi Arabia – 27.7%
 - Kuwait – 18.8%
 - U.A.E. – 17.8%
 - Qatar – 17.8%
- } 82%
- GCC Countries – 86.3% (UAE, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar and Kuwait)

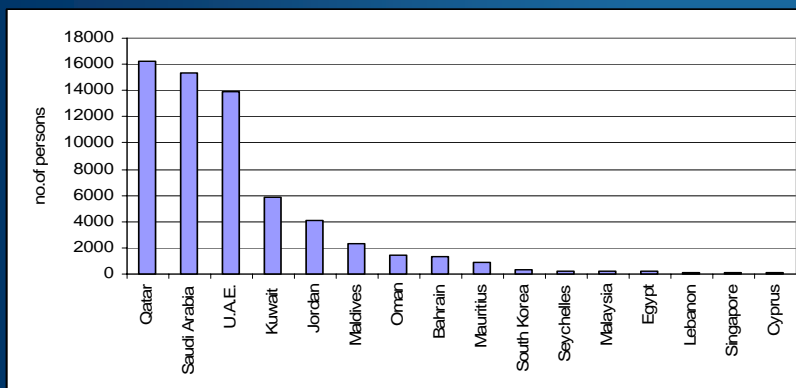
Top Destinations for Housemaids in 2007



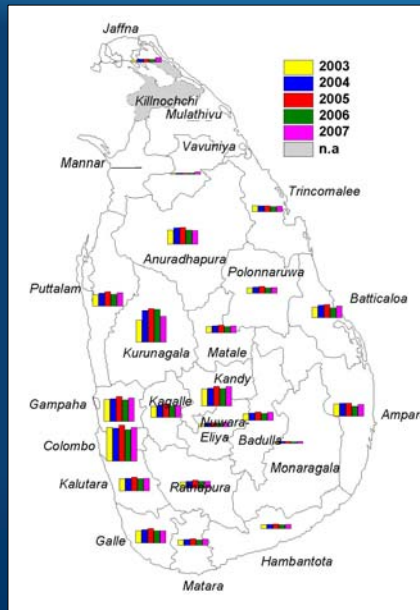
Top Destinations for Unskilled Workers in 2007



Top Destinations for semi-skilled, skilled, clerical, middle level and professional Workers in 2007



Departures for foreign Employment by Districts 2003-2007



Demand and Supply of Jobs for Sri Lankan Workers Abroad

- Sri Lanka has a huge miss-match between the international demand for jobs and its supply capabilities.
- Skills Mismatch
- Present demand – Skilled and professional categories.
- Supply gaps in the domestic labour market.

Supply Gap of Sri Lankan Labour Abroad

Year	Job Orders Received	Departures	Supply Gap	%
1990	183,175	42,625	140,550	76.73
1991	521,615	64,985	456,630	87.54
1992	334,789	33,025	301,764	90.14
1993	242,000	48,753	193,247	79.85
1994	236,590	60,168	176,422	74.57
1995	553,450	118,720	434,730	78.55
1996	505,682	115,446	390,236	77.17
1997	588,574	115,050	473,524	80.45
1998	780,628	112,565	668,063	85.58
1999	667,889	120,627	547,262	81.94
2000	779,716	127,615	652,101	83.63
2001	739,324	132,467	606,857	82.08
2002	309,577	152,974	156,603	50.59
2003	348,079	154,697	193,382	55.56
2004	366,226	156,146	210,080	57.36
2005	418,032	165,707	252,325	60.36
2006	722,267	141,177	581,090	80.45
2007	901,682	146,031	755,651	83.80



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Supply Gap by Skill Level

Manpower Level	2007		
	Job Orders	Departures	% Unutilized
Professional Level	4,789	386	91.9
Middle Level	8,534	741	91.3
Clerical and Related	18,107	1,590	91.2
Skilled	322,934	30,510	90.6
Semi-skilled	12,640	1,967	84.4
Unskilled	148,607	32,373	78.2
Housemaid	386,071	78,464	79.7
Total*	901,682	146,031	83.8



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Brain Drain or Brain Gain?

- Sri Lanka has experienced the shortage of skilled personnel in many fields.
- Health and construction services, the shortage is already being felt.
- Sri Lanka has the highest expatriation rate of doctors and the third highest expatriation rate of nurses to OECD countries.
- 4,668 Sri Lankan doctors and 2,032 nurses working in OECD countries.
- Presently there are over 5,700 job vacancies in the BOI job bank which is unfilled.
- in 2007 there were 84,207 total number of vacancies in both government and private sectors. Of which, 16,650 vacancies were in highly skilled jobs, 26,312 were in skilled occupations while another 39,358 were semi and elementary occupations.

Evidence of Harassment of Migrant Workers

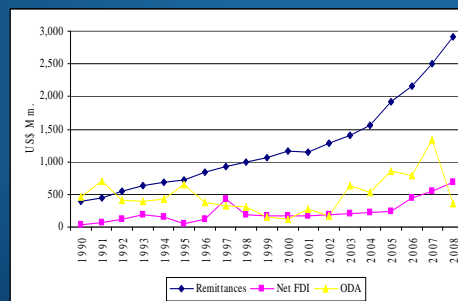
- Low skilled categories are subject to high levels of abuse.
- Due to lack of education, training and awareness of the host country laws and working conditions.
- In 2001, 10 % of the female migrant workers from Sri Lanka have been victims of some form of physical, psychological or sexual abuse.
- In 2007 there were 8,445 complaints
- The most common complaint by the migrant workers is the lack of communication of the vital information, Non payment of agreed salary, Physical and sexual harassment, breach of employment contract etc.

Impact of Remittances

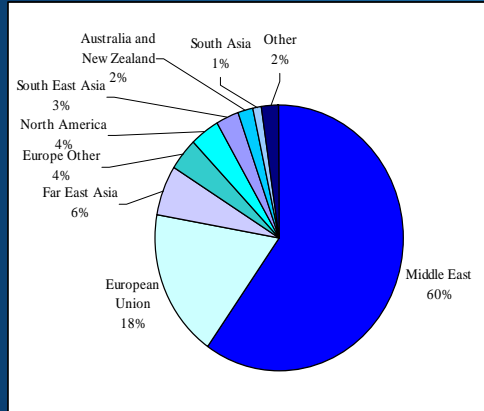
- Remittances are person –to-person capital flows, well targeted to the needs of the recipients who are often poor.
- It is also an important source of external finance for many developing countries including Sri Lanka.
- Remittances have overtaken the inflows of official development aid (ODA) and foreign direct investments (FDI) to SL.
- Reported worker remittances increased at an average annual rate of 10 per cent over the last 30 years.
- Since the mid 1992 remittances constitute the largest source of foreign financing of the country.

Foreign Capital inflows

- Remittances have been one of the more stable forms of capital inflows to Sri Lanka.
- Bulk of the remittances originate from the Middle Eastern housemaids and the unskilled workers.
- Remittances consisted –
 - 7 % of the GDP
 - 36% of Export Earnings
 - 21% of import payments
 - 36% of Current Receipts of the BOPs

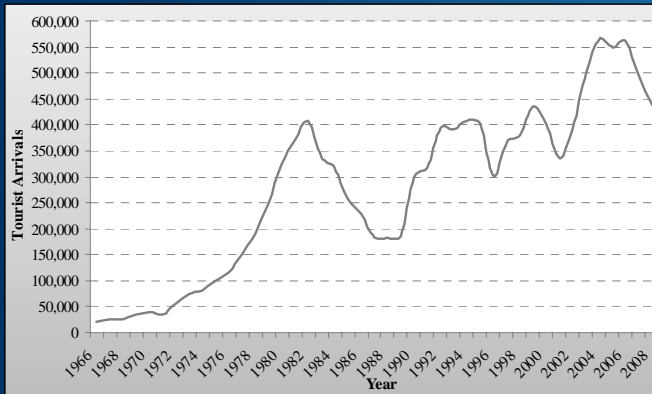


Remittances to Sri Lanka by region -2007



Chapter 04 - Tourist Arrivals

Tourist Arrivals – 1966 to 2008



Source: Based on Sri Lanka Tourist Board, various annual reports

tsunami – 2005

uncertain security situation – 2007 - 2008

Tourist Arrivals contd

Composition of the tourist arrivals in Sri Lanka as a % of total arrivals in each year (2000 to 2008)

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
North America	4.33	4.84	5.05	5.02	5.26	8.46	6.31	5.74	5.54
Canada	1.88	2.32	2.11	2.23	2.58	3.86	2.61	2.40	2.34
U.S.A	2.46	2.52	2.94	2.79	2.67	4.60	3.70	3.34	3.20
Latin America & the Caribbean	0.09	0.12	0.14	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.14	0.80	0.85
Western Europe	65.19	60.72	50.94	50.97	50.24	41.36	40.82	39.36	38.13
France	6.52	6.23	5.08	5.71	5.30	4.85	4.06	1.64	2.42
Germany	17.64	17.92	14.03	11.77	10.29	8.44	8.47	7.09	6.98
Netherlands	5.65	3.34	2.99	3.63	3.79	2.76	3.46	3.55	2.97
U.K	21.18	20.35	17.18	18.63	18.84	16.86	15.78	19.04	18.55
Eastern Europe	1.71	2.09	2.05	2.12	2.52	1.69	2.54	5.16	6.69
Russia	0.89	0.75	0.75	0.74	0.88	0.67	1.43	2.76	3.60
Middle East	1.09	1.59	1.64	1.35	1.68	1.86	1.82	2.75	3.81
Africa	0.22	0.27	0.39	0.38	0.31	0.43	0.57	0.61	0.54
Asia	22.83	26.53	36.26	35.43	34.62	40.57	43.24	40.63	40.13
India	7.95	10.08	17.79	18.10	18.57	20.63	22.94	21.47	19.44
Maldives	1.98	2.66	2.51	2.31	2.65	4.47	4.44	5.98	7.20
Australasia	4.55	3.85	3.39	4.61	4.93	5.38	4.45	4.65	4.88
Australia	4.11	3.36	2.85	3.99	4.11	4.73	3.90	4.10	4.46

Western Europe

Asia

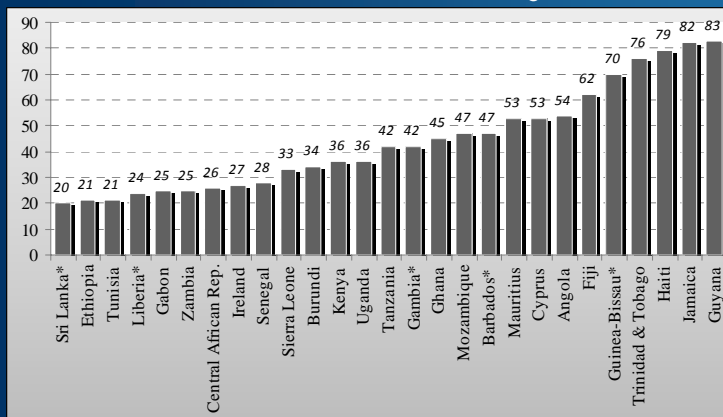
Volume & Value of Tourism - 2000 to 2008



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Chapter 05 - Student Migration

Countries with over 20 % of their Graduates Living in an OECD Country



Note: Calculations using the Barro and Lee database on the human capital stock. The Cohen and Soto database is otherwise used for all countries for which data are available. The findings from the two databases are not perfectly comparable. It should be noted that the data reflect (accumulated) stocks, not flows.
Source: IOM (2008) report based on the OECD migration data base

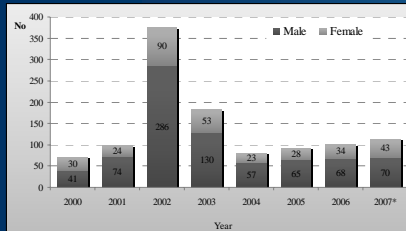
Sri Lanka places the 27 position



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Student Migration contd

Student visa issued to Sri Lankans by High Commission of Canada 2000-2007



Student Visa Grants by High Commission of Canada by Type of Study 2000-2007

Year	Type of Study			
	Vocational/Technical	Undergraduate	Postgraduate	Other
2000	16	13	24	18
2001	31	21	20	26
2002	251	60	40	18
2003	135	21	18	9
2004	24	30	24	2
2005	35	22	26	9
2006	4	6	6	85
2007*	13	5	9	86

UK , USA , Australia
Bangladesh, Pakistan and India

Note: * only include 1st and 2nd quarters
Source: High Commission of Canada in Sri Lanka

Student Migration contd

Number of Student Visa issued by Country

Nationality	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009*
American	1	1	3	1	1
Australian	3	3	3	4	2
Bangladesh	7	4	7	4	6
Bhutan	2	2	3	3	0
British - Citizen	5	16	7	4	1
Canadian	2	4	6	3	1
Chinese	11	14	14	15	4
Democratic Republic Korea	2	1	0	0	0
Denish	1	1	0	0	0
Deutsch	0	5	2	1	0
Indian	7	13	22	13	2
Irish	3	2	1	0	0
Italian	2	2	3	0	1
Japanese	4	5	3	3	0
Maldivian	58	104	147	67	27
Myanmar	2	1	2	3	2
Netherlands	1	0	0	0	0
Nepal	5	3	2	1	0
New Zealand	1	1	2	1	0
Norwegian	0	1	0	0	0
Pakistani	4	7	4	3	2
Polish	1	0	0	0	0
Republic Of Korea	8	14	14	13	5
Russian	1	0	0	1	0
South African	0	2	0	0	0
Z.Moldavian	3	3	1	0	0
Zbritish	2	2	0	0	0
Austrian	0	0	2	0	0
French	0	0	1	1	0
Ghanaian	0	0	2	1	0
Taiwanese	0	0	1	0	0
Thai	0	0	1	0	1
Austrian	0	0	0	0	1
Total	136	211	253	142	56

Inflow of Foreign Students to Sri Lanka

In 2007 there were 253 foreign students in the country and in 2008 it was 142 students.

47 % of the foreign students to Sri Lanka are of Maldivian origin.

11 % - China

9 % - Indian

Note: * from 2009 January to March
Source: Department of Immigration and Emigration

Permanent Resident visa

Data limitation – Canada, UK, USA and Australia

From 2000 to 2007 second quarter 26,411 people have migrated to Canada on permanent basis.

6,670 settlement visas were granted by the British Mission Worldwide in Sri Lanka (2004- 2008)

Australian embassy issued 803 family visas in 2008



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Chapter 06 - Irregular Migration

10-15 % of migration today involves migration under irregular situations (ILO, 2006)

largest number of irregular migrants is hosted by less developed countries in Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa (GCIM 2005).

It is estimated that about half of all irregular migrants are smuggled and that smuggling as a business, generates about US\$ 10 billion a year (IOM 2003).

IOM(2006) highlighted Kazakhstan is a transit country for irregular migrants from South and Southeast Asia (especially from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka)



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Irregular Migration contd

No of arrests at BIA by Reason

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Total
Forged Visa	13	11	8	17	35	84	55	70	109	402
Forged Passport	20	64	78	57	83	202	175	135	162	976
Forged Document	23	33	18	9	15	39	23	18	10	188
Facilitator	6	11	6	3	2	43	4	5	12	92
Total	62	119	110	86	135	368	257	228	293	1,658

Source: Criminal Investigation Department, Sri Lanka



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Irregular Migration contd

No of arrests at BIA by Sex and Age

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Male	55	100	82	80	100	320	201	170	253
Female	7	19	28	6	35	48	56	58	40
Under 30 years	49	98	102	70	105	345	210	200	253
Above 30 years	13	21	8	16	30	23	47	28	40

Source: Criminal Investigation Department, Sri Lanka



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Irregular Migration contd

Top twenty deported countries

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Total
Malaysia	161	443	358	643	754	404	2,763
Japan	98	361	537	445	603	397	2,441
Singapore	203	266	222	454	388	237	1,770
Korea	111	216	364	298	225	216	1,430
Hong Kong	135	219	488	195	83	38	1,158
U K	165	157	140	304	226	59	1,051
UAE	26	62	160	114	254	187	803
Thailand	62	123	195	140	58	55	633
Germany	150	132	104	104	28	7	525
Egypt	-	151	140	18	20	53	382
India.	27	86	46	51	73	61	344
Qatar.	13	22	64	90	98	49	336
Switzerland.	105	65	70	23	40	2	305
France.	11	58	71	72	40	10	262
Canada.	31	81	47	17	43	20	239
Saudi Arabia.	76	-	13	12	76	46	223
Kuwait.	7	5	23	35	58	30	158
Italy.	21	37	11	36	33	15	153
USA	29	31	13	36	26	10	145
Maldives.	19	2	24	41	23	28	137
Rest of the world	168	145	179	175	246	120	1,033
Total	1,618	2,662	3,269	3,303	3,395	2,044	16,291

Source: Criminal Investigation Department, Sri Lanka.



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Chapter 07 - Way Forward

- Data problems – All sub-sectors have data problems → need to establish an integrated migration data collection system for both immigration and emigration data as most of the data go unrecorded under the present scenario.
- The occupational categorization adopted by the SLBFE is not in line with the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO) which makes international comparisons further difficult.
- Challenges in migration are mainly related to those who migrate for employment and among them most hardships are faced by those who go to Middle East and particularly the female domestic workers and the unskilled workers.
- The protection and welfare of the Sri Lankan migrant workers is a shared responsibility of both Sri Lankan authorities and the authorities in the host country.



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Way Forward contd

- In the efforts for better migration management, it is necessary to identify whether or not high skilled emigration ends up being a medium to long term drag on Sri Lanka's economic growth.
- In order to find the correct balance of skilled migration, Sri Lanka needs to focus on education reforms, targeted training and economic development in order to gain best results in the long term.
- It is important to identify the existence of many social problems associated with migration, particularly the impact on the families left behind
- The potential contribution of the Sri Lankan Diaspora community in rebuilding Sri Lanka after three decades of war against terrorism- The Diaspora can either come back to the homeland to join the development efforts or contribute via funding; both would have positive economic gains for the country.
- With regard to the inflow of remittances, there is a tremendous need to make formal remittance channels more accessible to the rural areas in Sri Lanka including the northern and eastern parts of the country.



Way Forward contd

- Another challenge faced by Sri Lanka is that although it has ratified to many international conventions on labour and migration and also has entered into many bilateral agreements → most crucial destinations being the Middle Eastern countries have signed only MOUs with Sri Lanka which needs to be tightened to gain the best results
- Student Migration- strengthening the higher education and training and increasing the quality and capacity in university degree programmes to minimize the adverse effects of student migration and skill shortages.
- Positioning and promoting Sri Lanka as a safe tourist destination in the post-war era.
- Tracking irregular migration – strengthening the institutional capacity of the IED, BIA and Airlines to monitor illegal movement of persons.



Thank You



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