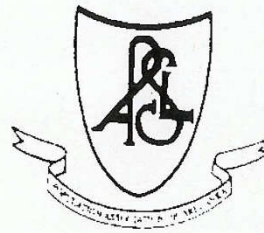


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PROGRAMME AND ABSTRACTS

The emerging patterns and issues of internal migration in Sri Lanka

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Internal migration has made a significant contribution in unequal distribution of population in Sri Lanka for many decades. The direction, pattern and volume of migration have been influenced by a number of socioeconomic and political forces. Several epidemics hit in dry zone districts, colonization schemes, resettlement policies, and urban lead industrial and commercial infrastructure development programmes have made important roles in determining the pattern of country's inter-district population movement during the 19th and 20th centuries. The recent patterns and determinants of inter-district migration have not been adequately examined in postwar context. Therefore, this paper examines the recent patterns, dynamics and reasons associated with the population movement, using data from Population and Housing Census 2012 to identify emerging issues of internal migration in Sri Lanka. The findings indicate that dramatic transformations in socioeconomic dynamics with the end of the 30 year civil war in the country has made significant impact on growth of internal migrants in non-traditional locations in districts of Northern and Eastern provinces, and Hambantota district in the Southern Province. The former is driven by the resettlement /relocation programmes for the internally displaced populations while the latter is led by economic and infrastructure development projects. Additionally, traditional urban districts such as Colombo and Gampaha still remain as employment and education related migration destinations. Furthermore, migrant's socio-cultural characteristics are closely related to their reasons for migration. The findings suggest that future policies should focus on internal migrants particularly those in non-traditional locations.

Key words: Internal Migration, Resettlement/Relocation programmes, Reasons for migration