

Impact of Human Trafficking on Economic Expectations of Migrant Labour: A Case of Sri Lanka

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Human trafficking has become a more critical problem since more people are migrating as labour migrants (ILO, 2005). As a labour supplying country, Sri Lanka is identified as a TIRE two country in trafficking context. This study examines the impact of human trafficking on economic expectations of labour migrants. It is based on qualitative data collected using case studies. The cases were selected out of 115 complains of family members left behind by trafficked persons logged at the Repatriation Division of the Ministry of Foreign Employment in Sri Lanka. The selection was done using a purposive sampling method. The results revealed that economic hardship (91 percent) and unemployment (43 percent) were the main causes for the expansion of trafficking in a foreign country and many labour migrants ended up in 3 D jobs (Dirty, Dangerous and Difficult) at the destinations. The study further revealed that 9 percent of trafficked are unemployed from the day that they arrived in the destination countries due to, (i) the employers not having access to find a job due to illegal migration (24 percent), (ii) getting arrested by police (29 percent), (iii) remand by agencies and other people (24 percent), and (iv) not being in an employable condition due to unhealthy condition (18 percent). Working under a minimum wage or not receives a wage at all was a result of breaching their employment contract. Trafficking also creates an economic impact on the households in two ways - migrants not being able to send money due to labour exploitation (97 percent) and households should give tribute money to the destination (20 percent). The study suggests that appropriate mechanisms need to be established in order to control human trafficking and gain labour migration expectations.

Key words: *Economic impact, Human trafficking, International labour migration*