DETERMINANTS INFLUENCING MIGRATION DECISION AMONG SCHOOL LEAVERS IN SRI LANKA (WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO COLOMBO DISTRICT IN SRI LANKA)

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Abstract

The increasing trend of migration among young individuals in Sri Lanka needs a comprehensive understanding of the factors driving this phenomenon. This research investigates the factors that impact migration decision among school leavers in Sri Lanka, including demographic characteristics, economic, social, technological push and pull factors, as well as personal opinions. Data was collected from 146 school leavers through a questionnaire distributed in Colombo and Sri Jayawardenapura educational zones using a two-stage cluster sampling technique. Factor analysis and binary logistic regression were employed to identify the factors. The findings revealed three key factors influencing migration intention. The findings suggest that school leavers with an intention to return have a notably higher likelihood (91.87%) of also intending to migrate compared to those without a return intention. Additionally, for each unit increase in social pull factors, the odds of having a migration intention rise by approximately 6.355 times (or 86.40%), when other variables are controlled. Similarly, an increase in economic pull factors raises migration intention odds by about 6.233 times (or 86.17%), indicating that both social and economic motivators significantly impact school leavers' migration aspirations. Based on these results, recommendations are that efforts should be made to create a supportive environment that encourages school leavers to consider returning to Sri Lanka. Addressing social aspects that attract migration, stimulating economic development, investing in education and skills development, providing accurate information, and implementing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are crucial steps to effectively manage migration intentions among school leavers.

keywords: Binary Logistic Regression, Migration Intention, Push-Pull Theory, School Leavers

INTRODUCTION

The way people view the world has changed because of globalization. People's perceptions about lifestyles and wellbeing have changed significantly as a result of increased access to information via social media and other forms of global communication. This increased awareness of the disparities and drawbacks of living in developing nations has in turn changed people's aspirations, hopes and dreams (Zanabazar, Kho, & Jigjiddorj, 2021). Human migration is the movement of individuals with the purpose of relocating to new locations on our globe (Hofmann, Jolivel, Huss, & Ambiaux, 2020). According to Pingama (2016), human migration is the movement of people physically from one place to another, sometimes across great distances.

Most people understand migration as a process that benefits both the sending and receiving regions. However, it may come with costs and trade-offs for the migrants, their families, and the societies in which they live. Moreover, it can lead to disparities and vulnerabilities, especially when not everyone has access to chances for normal travel and when migration is compelled by dire circumstances (Dissanayake, 2017).

Sri Lanka has invested significantly in free education during the past 70 years. As a result, Sri Lanka became known as a place where brilliant professionals could grow up (Samaraweera & Upekshani).

However, as labour migration grows daily, why do undergraduate students choose to study abroad? The intense competition that exists among people in the modern information economy is driving up demand for higher education. To maintain their businesses and get a competitive edge over their rivals in the market, employers are looking for more educated and experienced staff (Weerasinghe & Karunarathne, 2022).

A significant portion of teenagers are currently migrating to other nations in search of jobs or opportunities for higher education. Recent years have seen an increase in the movement of newly graduates to Australia, often within the first two years following their graduation (Wijesinghe & Jayawardane, 2021).

According to Migration Data Portal (2020), 2 millions emigrants have been in 2020 and 21.1% of 2 millions are young migrants who are between age 15 to 24. In six nations - the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, France, Germany, and the Russian Federation - more than half of them enrolled in educational programs.

Weerasinghe and Karunarathne (2022) showed that, for master's programs, international students make up 14% of all students enrolled, while for Doctorate programs, they make up 24% of all students enrolled. Asians make up more than 50% of all overseas students. The variety of educational options available to students is growing as a result of the rising demand for higher education. Even though there are many more higher education institutions than in previous decades in developing countries, the demand for higher education cannot currently be satisfied.

According to the UGC data, 8% or less of Sri Lankan students go overseas for higher education. According to the British Council, more than 32,000 students will leave Sri Lanka soon. School leavers who completed their 13 years of school life, have seen and experienced the economic crisis and other circumstances that occurred in Sri Lanka. They have a huge knowledge about the current situation in Sri Lanka due to the communication and technology in this era. Based on that they have more tend to leave the country because of the economic, political and social factors mainly.

People frequently think about emigrating in search of security and well-being as a result of these changes. Younger generations are more interested in the idea of moving away since it offers ways to avoid daily struggles. The desire of students to enrol in tertiary education institutions in wealthy countries for a shorter or longer period, as well as wage disparities across nations, are major drivers of international labour migration (Zanabazar et al., 2021).

At the moment there's a huge brain drain of professionals in Sri Lanka mainly including educational sector. Because of that school leavers tend to migrate because they believe that there's an insecurity in education sector in near future. Particularly in a developing country like Sri Lanka, migration can have a range of repercussions. Additionally, migration has a direct impact on the future generation that is prepared to employ their abilities in Sri Lanka.

Currently, 61,447 people left for overseas jobs in the last quarter of 2021, which is the biggest number ever reported since the third quarter of 2016 (Central Bank of Sri Lanka [CBSL], 2021). This notable rise in departures for foreign employment was primarily driven by loosened travel restrictions, an increase in employment opportunities in labor-receiving nations, the large number of potential migrant workers waiting to travel abroad for jobs, and the quick vaccination of potential migrant workers. Based on skilled and unskilled categories, 32.8% and 25.9% have migrated to foreign countries in 2021 (CBSL, 2021).

They are given more opportunities from international nations due to their high skill levels. Even while this generates foreign exchange for the nation, there are now professionals who relocate abroad permanently and do not help Sri Lanka gain foreign exchange. While this is happening, the school leavers of Sri Lanka refer to migrate for education purpose or household work. This situation is highly increased after the economic crisis in Sri Lanka according to Migration Data Portal (2020).

The collapse of every sector, especially the medical and educational sectors, will start as soon as the professionals from all these areas begin to leave the nation. One of the worst things that can happen to a nation is this circumstance, which can be described as a brain drain. Rapid brain drain is a sign of the declining Gross Domestic Product. Due to a lack of specialists, the collapse in the education sector may cause more young people to leave the country.

According to the CBSL (2021), unemployment rate between ages 15 to 19 is 31.4% in 2020 and in 2019 it has been recorded as 26%. The unemployment of Sri Lanka by the education level, especially for A/L and above category it was 9.8% in 2020 and

it's the highest percentage in that category since 2001. The unemployment rates of Sri Lanka affect to the most of the people's decision who are under age 25 to migrate and it can be shown according to the percentage of departures for all occupations (7.4%) in 2020. Year by year, the percentage of departures for another countries in age group below 25 years has been increased gradually (2019 – 6.2% and 2020 – 7.4%).

With the current situation in Sri Lanka, the migration rate may has increased for under age 25 and school leavers are included in that category. The labour force is getting decreased and most of the foreign companies have stopped the operational work in Sri Lanka. Mainly there will be a huge unemployed labour force in Sri Lanka. When the large-scale companies leave country, the school leavers will try to migrate from Sri Lanka.

Based on those facts, it shows that there is a problem regarding school leavers' migration decision. And recently government has supported students to migrate and study in foreign countries. If they return to Sri Lanka again or not returning is their decision and it has an effect on this problem.

Objective of this research is to analyze the influence of economic, social, and political factors on the migration decisions of school leavers in Sri Lanka, considering the current economic and social climate of the country. This analysis will involve identifying and quantifying the relative importance of key determinants shaping migration intentions within this demographic.

Despite the fact that earlier researchers in Sri Lanka conducted studies based on doctors, engineers, and young people working in the IT industry, no research has ever used school dropouts in the Colombo district. Additionally, the majority of those studies used qualitative research methods; nevertheless, this study hopes to close that gap by taking into account the variables that affect school dropout migration in the Colombo district (2021 A/L pupils). Therefore, after performing this study, anyone from any part of society can use it to learn more about the attitudes and propensities for migrating among school leavers in the Colombo district. Additionally, this study may be able to identify the contemporary elements that influence migration. As a result of several expert research, there are numerous viewpoints regarding migration in the modern day. Additionally, several groups are still looking at the impact of migration. These kinds of fields will find this study useful for their research. Different tactics have been employed by some nations to stop their own citizens from migrating abroad. In situations like this, the study will aid in the process of enacting regulations. Researchers who are planning to conduct out future studies based on the migration of Sri Lankans will also be assisted by the findings of this study.

LITERATURE REVIEW

In order to distinguish the key ideas used by researchers and to provide theoretical security for both dependent and independent variables, this chapter reviews existing both national and global literature on comparable studies. It also reviews empirical and methodological literature to help identify research gaps. The development of the

conceptual research model and the technique to investigate the contributing elements to the decision of migration among school leavers in Sri Lanka would be further aided by a thorough evaluation of the empirical and methodological literature. The dependent variable of this study, the influence of variables on decision of migration, theories that used in the history of researches in migration such as neo-classical theory, the laws of migration by Ravenstein, the new economics of migration, the dual market theory, historical structure theory, the social capital theory, the cumulative causation theory, push-pull theory and the other identified factors that influence the decision of migration which also gives theoretical security. The actual items of research by other academics that relate to the causes of migration decision will be discussed and by concentrating primarily on methodological approaches in the research domain and the rest of the second chapter will develop the methodological literature using the research designs, methodologies and processes. The final section of this chapter will focus on the illuminated literature of earlier researches and gaps.

According to Oxford English Dictionary (n.d.),

"The seasonal movement or temporary removal of a person, people, social group, etc., from one place to another; an instance of this. Also (occasionally): a journey".

Migration is broadly described as a change of residency that is either permanent or semi-permanent. There are no constraints on the length of the journey, on whether it was voluntarily or not, and there is no distinction between internal and foreign migration. Hence, moving from one apartment to another down the hall is considered to be a form of migration just as much as moving from Bombay, India, to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, even though the reasons for the migrations are obviously very different. Unfortunately, this definition does not cover all forms of network are connected (Lee, 1966).

Student migrants are generally thought of as intelligent migrants. In essence, there are four ways to look at student movement. Based on survey evaluations and statistical methods, the first group of studies investigate factors that influence student migration. The second investigation looks at students who haven't moved yet but are considering it in terms of their migration intentions. The third type of investigation looks into how students become globally mobile and the fourth study group, in conclusion, looks at the experiences of students who have already migrated and how their lives have changed. This kind of research focuses mostly on the cultural history of the homelands (Weerasinghe & Karunarathne, 2022).

According to Sriskandarajah (2002), there are two different sorts of migration in Sri Lanka: political migration and labour migration. Whereas political migration is a fored movement brought on by conflicts, labour migration is a voluntary movement that occurs for economic reasons.

According to (Fernando, 2019) two factors: 1) whether the migration is permanent or temporary; and 2) the skill levels of the migrants, govern the effect of cross-border migration on the growth of home countries.

In migration theory, "migration aspirations" is a catch-all term for various expressions of the conviction that leaving would be preferable to remaining. In other words, it alludes to a set of mental and emotional perspectives on potential future migration in people's lives. As well as the seeming more hesitant, uncertain, or neutrally oriented notions of considerations, imaginings, needs, necessity, obligations, and willingness to migrate, they include ambitions, attitudes, expectations, intentions, plans, preferences, wants and wishes, desires, dreams, hopes, longings, and yearnings (Aslany, Carling, Mjelva, & Sommerfelt, 2021).

First-rate scientists from nations like the United Kingdom, Canada, and the former Soviet Union began migrating to the United States in the 1950s, giving rise to the phrase "Brain Drain." It is now used more broadly to refer to the movement of human capital, or persons with higher education, from poor to industrialized nations (Gunawardena & Rasika, 2017).

The broad phenomena of migrants leaving their home country, obtaining a higher degree of education or training abroad, and then choosing not to return home has given rise to ideas known in academic contexts as “brain drain” (McGill , 2013).

A significant portion of state university engineering graduates are currently migrating to other nations in search of jobs or opportunities for higher education. Recent years have seen an increase in the movement of newly graduated engineers to Australia, often within the first two years following their graduation. In other words, the aim of this study was to identify the factors that motivated young Sri Lankan engineers to migrate to Australia and what kept them there, resulting in a permanent migration. The results of this introductory study concentrate on more deeply exploring the migration issue and show that there is an engineering brain drain. Across nations, human capital is flowing at an astonishing speed (skilled workers and tertiary graduates). The brain drain brought on by internationalization is causing problems in underdeveloped countries right now (Wijesinghe & Jayawardane, 2021).

As Fernando (2019) said, Brain drain has numerous detrimental effects on the country where it originates. First, brain drain lowers the home country’s productive capacity by reducing its stock of human capital. The home country’s finances become unbalanced as a result of brain drain. If a country invests in education and delivers education at a subsidized price seeking to enhance the stock of human capital of the country, government expenditure grows. The country might lose the potential income tax from the migrants, which would have a negative impact on government revenue, if the talented workers left their native country. Thus, efforts to reinvest in human capital while experiencing brain drain could cause the budget deficit in the home country to grow ever larger. Third, brain drain causes social cost to the home nation when specialists like structural engineers, university professors, and heart surgeons leave for other nations since they produce positive externalities for the society.

Families and students face unique challenges when they immigrate to another nation to live and pursue their education. Several nations around the world are witnessing a rise in migration, which has broad effects on educational institutions (Wirén, 2013).

Weeraratne et al., (2022) said that a growing number of Sri Lankans are migrating abroad for educational opportunities. According to secondary data that is currently available, there was an increase in student migration from Sri Lanka between 2013 and 2017. The exodus of students has a wide range of effects, including positives like relieving pressure on Sri Lanka's higher education system and bringing in social remittance like skills and knowledge, as well as long-term effects like brain drain and a loss of foreign exchange.

Many individuals look for possibilities to study abroad because university admittance in Sri Lanka's higher education system is very demanding. For instance, in 2020, the number of students who sat for the GCE Advanced Level examination was 277,625, of which 62% were qualified for state university entrance. Due to a lack of available seats, just 23% of students who qualified for admission were given admission to one of Sri Lanka's 15 state institutions.

Massive obstacles have been presented to individuals working in international education by the current COVID-19 outbreak. Foreign students and colleges have been required to re-evaluate their academic objectives as a result of mobility constraints brought on by the pandemic, according to the (International Organization for Migration [IOM], 2020).

Sri Lanka was listed by the (World Bank, 2011) as one of the top five South Asian destinations for emigrants with tertiary degrees. In 2005, the estimated stock of emigrants as a proportion of the population was 4.5. In South Asian nations, Sri Lanka had the greatest rate of emigration of those with a university degree (27.5%), followed by Afghanistan (13.2%), Pakistan (9.2%), Bangladesh (4.7%), and India (4.2%). 1.663 medical professionals left Sri Lanka in 2005, or 17.4% of the medical professionals trained there.

The majority of industries have now undergone significant change to adapt to pandemic conditions, and higher education is no exception. For instance, many courses are now offered online or virtually, enabling students to study at their convenience. Universities have therefore swiftly reacted and adjusted to the new normal conditions, doing everything from closing higher education institutions to investing in online learning and assisting isolating students and staff (Weeraratne et al., 2022).

The Department of Examinations under Sri Lanka's Ministry of Education administers the Advanced Level (A-level) exam each year. After passing the GCE Ordinary Level, students typically take this qualification, which is recognized as a General Certificate of Education (GCE) qualification. Students must finish the last two years of collegiate level to qualify for an A-level (grades 12 and 13). The majority of pupils register for the tests through their local schools, however candidates with a diploma may also apply privately. The qualification used as the entrance requirement

for state universities in Sri Lanka. Exams are given in three languages: Tamil, English, and Sinhalese.

Before taking the test, candidate should complete two years of college-level coursework. There are five main areas of study covered by the examinations; physical science stream, the biological science stream, commerce stream, arts stream and technology stream (Wickramasurendra, 2020).

According to Oxford English Dictionary (n.d.), a person who has just left school, especially when they are looking for a job can be known as a school leaver.

When it comes to the theories in migration, the equilibrium theory, also known as the neoclassical theory, was created by Ranis and Fei in 1961 and Todaro in 1969. It is one of the earliest theories on global migration. This idea contends that salary disparities between nations are what cause migration abroad. International migration will keep happening until wages are at their equilibrium level. The authors claim that these wages disparities are a result of regional variations in labour supply and demand. According to this idea, when a person discovers a positive net return, he or she migrates to a new location in accordance with a cost-benefit analysis (Pingama, 2016).

The Laws of Migration by Ravenstein

The "Laws of Migration" stated by Ravenstein in 1885 and 1889 must be acknowledged, if not revered, in any analysis of migration theory. The position of the laws in the history of migration is a topic of debate. They are "dreadfully antiquated," "economically deterministic," and "methodologically individualist".

According to ([Theories-of-migration], n.d.), after Ravenstein's suggestions, the following list became the standard between 1834 and 1913.

The following are the laws:

1. Every migration flow results in a counter migration or return migration.

2. Most migrants only go a short distance.

3. Long-distance migrants typically select big-city locations

4. Those who live in cities tend to migrate less than people who live in rural areas.

5. Families are less likely than young adults to relocate internationally.

The New Economics of Migration

Stark & Bloom (1985), Katz & Stark (1986), and J.E. Taylor all put out and developed this concept (1986). According to the notion, it is not possible to fully understand why a worker decides to migrate for job. As a result, the theory considers the household as a factor in migration and contends that when household income is at stake, households have a propensity to calculate and avoid risk. The relocation of a

family member for employment is one method of lowering the danger of inadequate household income. Remittances from family members who are employed overseas are possible. According to the notion, these remittances have a beneficial effect on the economies of underdeveloped nations.

According to the concept, the temptation to relocate may increase if an area experiences economic growth. Families and households frequently engage in international migration as a strategic action to take advantage of new opportunities, manage risk, and bypass market imperfections (Pingama, 2016).

The Dual Market Theory

The divided labour force concept was proposed by Piore in 1979 and D.S. Massey and colleagues in 1998. The concept primarily argues that global migration is a function of the inherent labour need of an idealized industrial society. Pull factors in developed foreign nations are mostly responsible for international migration. The authors contend that the main drivers of international migration are not push factors like unemployment and poor income. They view a persistent and inescapable need for foreign labour as the primary driver of global migration. This hypothesis states that there are primary and secondary labour market groups in these nations. A labour market's main sector is distinguished by wealth production techniques and a majority of highly skilled employees. The second sector, on the other hand, is defined by employment production techniques and primarily low-skilled employees. According to the dual labour market concept, the demand for labour in the employment sector of contemporary industrial economies is what leads to international labour migration (Pingama, 2016).

Historical Structure Theory

Pingama (2016) said that the concepts of the equilibrium theory are utterly at odds with this theory. This theory takes a Socialist approach to understanding emigration, connecting it to the macro-organization of social economic connections, the geographical labour distribution, and authoritarian rule and power systems. According to the concept, the introduction of capitalist economic ties into non-capitalist or pre-capitalist countries caused a rise in global migration. Direct investment from abroad, in accordance with Wallerstein (1974), produces a developing market system and uproots people from their previous way of life, resulting in a specific subgroup that is more willing to move.

The Social Capital Theory

As Pingama (2016) said this theory investigate the factors that contribute to recurrent global migration, praying particular attention to the institutions and migrant networks that facilitate transitory movements. According to this idea, a migration network develops as a result of significant international migrant inflows. This network creates connections between the migratory communities in the countries of origin and destination. Potential migrants from the same ethnic background may receive assistance from a network migrant. According to the theory, a network of relatives

and friendship encourages global migration. Several studies have found that social networking helps to promote global mobility. Migration networks are classified as a type of social capital by D.S. Massey et al.

The Cumulative Causation Theory

According to the concept, social and economic settings are altered by migration, which prompts people or households to go abroad. The idea states that the cumulative effect can be observed in a number of domains, including network growth, income distribution, land distribution and observable lifestyles. International migration is encouraged by the social, economic, and cultural changes brought about this mobility. This theory contends that one key aspect of migration is the awareness of other individuals or households of the existence of wealth disparities in the sending society. Hence, in nations that have economic inequality, there will be a greater motivation to emigrate (Pingama, 2016).

Push-Pull Theory

The push-pull framework is one of the most enduring conceptual frameworks used in migration studies because to the theoretical contribution of Lee in 1996, whose underlying theory of migration identified four categories of forces that drive population mobility (EASO, 2016).

In order to forecast migratory trends, Lee's migration model takes push/pull variables and intermediate constraints into consideration. It supports the theory that push and pull factors can encourage migration out of an old location and into a new one while intervening barriers can prevent migration. To display migratory trends, the model is used in conjunction with other models such as the Migration Transition Model and Ravenstein's "Laws of Migration" (Howell & Paturi, n.d.).

The push-pull framework created by Lee has to be further investigated because of how it has influenced later studies. According to Lee's theory of migration, mobility is influenced by four different categories of factors:

1) Origin-area- related factors

2) Destination-area-related factors

3) Intervening barriers

4) Personal factors

There may be elements in both the place of origin and the destination that serve to keep, maintain, or draw people (pull elements), as well as elements that drive people away (push factors). These variables differ for each person, whose ensuring mobility choices will be influenced by a varied experience and perception of variables (EASO, 2016).

Factors that Influence the Decision of Migration

Economic factors

The majority of studies show that economic factors are essentially what drive migration. Low agricultural income, agricultural unemployment, and underemployment are fundamental elements in developing countries that drive migration to richer regions with more work projects. So, the majority of migrants have moved in quest of improved economic possibilities, according to practically all research. The fundamental economic drivers of migration can also be divided into "Pull" and "Push" economic components.

The push factors are things that cause someone to leave one area and go to another area for various reasons. Low productivity, unemployment, underdevelopment, unfavourable economic circumstances, a lack of opportunity for progress, the depletion of natural resources and natural disasters are common push factors. Mechanization of some processes and the introduction of capital-intensive production methods into agriculture have reduced the need for labour in rural areas. Another significant driver for migration is the lack of other sources of income in rural areas. The pull factors are elements that draw migrants to a region. Pull factors of an area include facilities, greater income, better working conditions, and opportunities for better jobs (Thet, n.d.).

Political factors

According to (Samaraweera & Upekshani) the country's political climate and politicians' actions have been the key factors in the growth of brain drain. Characterize socio-political push factors as having a high crime rate, a desire for urgent situations, and a high prevalence of HIV/AIDS. Further analysis reveals a substantial correlation between the socio-political push factors and the brain drain of physicians. In addition, Tahir indicates that brain drain is positively correlated with socio-political push factors such political turmoil, poor health, and the use of quacks, hakims, and religious healer. The main reason that contributed to the brain drain of doctors from South Africa after 1990, according to the Arnold and Lewinsohn, was the amount of crime and violence. According to the investigation, a higher quality of life causes a socio-political pull factor that causes doctors to leave the field. Socio-political pull factors like socialization chances and public recognition have had a significant impact on the brain drain phenomena. Also, the host nation's immigration policy can be seen as a key component of the socio-political pull forces. Political aspects include political instability, military takeovers, discernment, the lack of political freedom, social roots, or political persecution. Migration can be significantly influenced by investments in children's human capital and the desire to provide children a better future. Parent's relocation may be advantageous in the long run if they aim to relocate for a better opportunity to invest in their children's education (Pranka, Elksne, & Koroleva, 2021).

Social factors

The desire to solve or better economic difficulties is frequently the primary driver of emigration, but social concerns are also frequently cited as important drivers. Global migration patterns are occurring from less developed nations in search of better living conditions, in response to the need for labour in developed nations, as well as the aging and demographic decline in such nations (Pranka, Elksne, & Koroleva, 2021).

Technological factors

Cross-border network links in immigrant groups seem to serve as launching platforms for entrepreneurs in both the destination and the home nations. Diaspora networks support the dissemination of information and technology, and they encourage investment and innovation in the receiving nations. Aside from that, there is something novel about contemporary migrant transnationalism, including its scope and intensity as well as the politics and institutionalization of the phenomena, even though there is no reason to reify transnationalism as a whole new phenomenon. The Internet, affordable air travel, and the globalization of media have made it easier for migrants to maintain connections with their place of origin. The extent to which migrants may stay informed of and participate in social, economic, or political activities in both their place of origin and nation of settlement depends on new technologies. Other state and non-state players in both countries have started a variety of programs to tap into migrant transnational resources, and it is this intensity that makes migrant transnationalism more intriguing to them (Rath, 2012).

With a focus on prior research findings, the paper discusses the interaction between the influencing factors and migration decision in the empirical literature. The empirical research on migration primarily highlighted influencing factors, including the impact of demographic, economic, political, social and technological aspects.

According to the analyzed data in Kumari (2017) research, it shows that pull factors are more important than push factors in influencing Sri Lankan IT workers' migration decisions. Lastly, the original conceptual framework was adjusted to take into account the findings of the data study. It concludes factors under high, medium and low influenced categories. Opportunities for permanent residency, skill migration opportunities, openness to foreigners, better pay scales, openness to innovation, exposure and experience, opportunity for career development/higher education, relaxed working conditions, perceived quality of life, peer communications, accessibility to modern technology and better education system have ranked as high influence to migration among IT workers.

To investigate if there are any noteworthy findings for particular subgroups of the sample, additional research was done on the factors of migrant target country, sexual identity, age range and job role. Maimly focused on three countries; Australia, Singapore and USA based on acceptance of immigrants, opportunities for migration, possibility of higher education or professional adcvancement, exposure and experience, accessibility to contemporary technologies, flexibility in working conditions, openness to innovation, improved pay scales, more opportunities for

permanent residency, a better education system and perceived high quality of life. According to the research done by gender, no appreciable variations were found in the driving forces behind migration. The analysis conducted by the age group revealed no appreciable differences in the driving forces behind migration (Kumari, 2017).

Patnaik, Satpathy and Mandal (2014) attempted to comprehend numerous internal forces that contribute to the huge movement of rural people to metropolitan regions through this essay. They include economic factors, improved access to education, health care and entertainment, better employment opportunities, anticipated income growth, the presence of a lab or shortage in rural areas, the nature of some jobs being temporary or seasonal, lowering the risk of income loss, individual migration due to less land ownership and family migration due to marriage and less land ownership, pursuing higher education, receiving social protection, and women migrating for increased employment, weather, business motivation, violence, famine fear, strict loan repayment to microcredit organizations during the lean period, and lower class people's international migration are all factors that affect migration. These factors include poverty, socioeconomic disparities between rural and urban areas, and limited employment opportunities in rural areas.

In conclusion of EASO (2016), the examination of consensus versus in the literature on migratory factors appears to strongly support three primary arguments. The effects of demographic and environmental variables typically appear to depend on larger economic and political processes at play, in line with what some scholars have argued. Second, economic and political factors generally seem to be more important than demographic and environmental factors in explaining international mobility patterns and migration decisions. Second, recent studies emphasize the significance of communication between migrants and members of their (formal and informal) networks in a highly interconnected world with persistent cross-country inequalities. These studies focus specially on the domains of irregular and forced migration, highlighting the important role played by migrant formal and informal networks in facilitating migration. Nonetheless, it is challenging to measure or empirically test the phenomenon.

Most importantly, migration decisions are never static because migrants are a highly diverse group. Depending on a migrant's age and stage in life, gender, family circumstances, education and skill levels, and relationships to the household and community of origin, different factors play a different role in influencing migrating decisions. A person's migration trajectory can be influenced by a variety of variables, some of which may not have been obvious when making the initial migration decision. These variables may also vary over the course of the trip.

The causes and effects of youth migration in Africa have been investigated in this essay. It was stated that a significant portion of African migrants are young people. This results from the fact that there are numerous factors supporting youth migration throughout the continent. The only motivation, however, is the need for a higher standard of living brought about by better social and economic prospects. The

movement is primarily between states that are neighbours (Mlambo & Mpanza, 2019).

The first and most important factor that influences migration to Monywa Township with the highest percentage of variance is a better quality of life. Better public service, which has the second-highest variance percentage and is also a driving force behind migration because of the low quality of service in their prior location, is the second-most significant factor. Also, the subjects expressed dissatisfaction with the public transit system and lack of safety in their prior locations. Better environment is the third important element, which includes moving because of unfavourable cultural or recreational amenities or a neighbour's behaviour.

This study attempts to look at the socioeconomic situation of immigrants who moved to the Monywa Township's urban region. 90% of migrants, it was discovered, had come from various rural Sagaing Area locales. The majority of immigrants were between the ages of 50 and 59, had little formal education, and worked for themselves. The main drivers of migration were an improvement in living conditions and access to better public services. It demonstrates the necessity of raising rural resident's living standards and meeting greater societal needs (Thet, n.d.).

Mayda (2005) find that pull factors, or improvements in the economic prospects in the destination country, are particularly important in driving up emigration rates. Given the extremely severe immigration laws of the sample's destination nations, this result—which seems to be particularly resilient to changes in the empirical model's specification—surprises. Push factors, or diminishing levels of GDP per worker in the origin nation, rarely have an effect that is consistent with the theoretical expectations of the model. When they do, the effect is typically less than for pull factors and almost never substantial. Distance appears to be one of the factors that has the biggest impact on the costs of migrating.

The study's methodological literature will give readers a comprehension of the subject matter based on relevant disciplines, research methodologies, data collection procedure and analytical approaches.

EASO (2016) has conducted the research as qualitative research and the first identification of the literature was followed by the selection of specific literature for a more in-depth review. Certain items from the initial database were chosen for fuller description based on their direct relevance to identifying push/pull factors that affect migration connected to asylum. Patnaik et al., (2014) conducted the research based on secondary data.

An approach to qualitative research was used in this paper by Mlambo and Mpanza (2019). This methodology, which finds every nuance of judgment making, is primarily used in social science research. According to Creswell, researchers that conduct qualitative investigations advocate obtaining a robust viewpoint on human behaviour and the causes of it. The relationship and arrangements between dynamics or the setting in which the event takes place must be conveyed using this manner. The

information that has been obtained and analysed in this regard comes from secondary sources.

In Kumari (2017)'s research the following step involved, gathering information about the deciding factors for migration of Sri Lankan IT experts who had already migrated. The data for this study were gathered through an online survey. With reference to the conceptual framework, the survey was created. Using an online sample size calculator, the sample size was determined by setting the confidence level at 95% and the confidence interval at 5%. The sample size is predicted to be in the range of 181 to 256 for the given population. The snowball sampling method was employed to contact prospective survey participants. The conceptual framework's factors were used to develop the research questionnaire. Each element was rated by the respondents on a five-point Likert scale to reflect on their own opinions. Also, it has inquiries for gathering the respondent's migration, their present perspective on migration, and their intents to return, certain open-ended questions were also added. Descriptive statistics and expert judgment approaches were used to analyze the data that had been gathered. The tools for data analysis employed were R and Microsoft Excel. According to the data analysis, it is clear that pull factors have a greater influence on Sri Lankan IT professionals' migration decisions than push factors do. The preliminary conceptual framework was then improved to reflect the findings of the data analysis.

This study examines the push and pull factors that influence migration and draws conclusions from a sample of migrant populations. The necessary data is gathered using a two-stage stratified cluster sampling procedure. The first stage using a proportional to size with replacement and the second stage using a basic random sampling method. The significant migration push and pull factors are found via factor analysis. 44.5% of the 389 sample homes, or households, were migrants, indicating they were not Monywa Township natives. 18 assertions about the push and pull forces affecting migration were examined to see how significant they were for each subject. Using this data, factor analysis was used to identify the crucial components. The socioeconomic traits of migrants were then examined using descriptive statistics (Thet, n.d.).

Wijesinghe & Jayawardane (2021) has done their study based on migrations to Australia and the unit of analysis was engineers. With Australia as a case study, this research sought to determine the push and pull variables that lead young engineers from Sri Lanka to immigrate there. The researchers used Facebook to compile a sample of young Sri Lankan engineers who were living in Australia, and then gave them an online survey on a 5-point Likert scale. The researchers have used only descriptive statistics for the data presenting and analysing. Ukwatta (2010) used mixed method for the data collection and used sample as female migrant households in GN divisions of Colombo and Kurunegala districts. Further more, the researcher used a non probability sampling method which is snowball sampling method to collect data. For the data presenting and analysing Ukwatta (2010) used frequencies, cross tabulations and thematic analysis as quantitative and qualitative analysis methods.

Pranka, Elksne, & Koroleva (2021) conducted a research on Social factors that affect emigration and factor analysis has used to identify the social factors that affect.

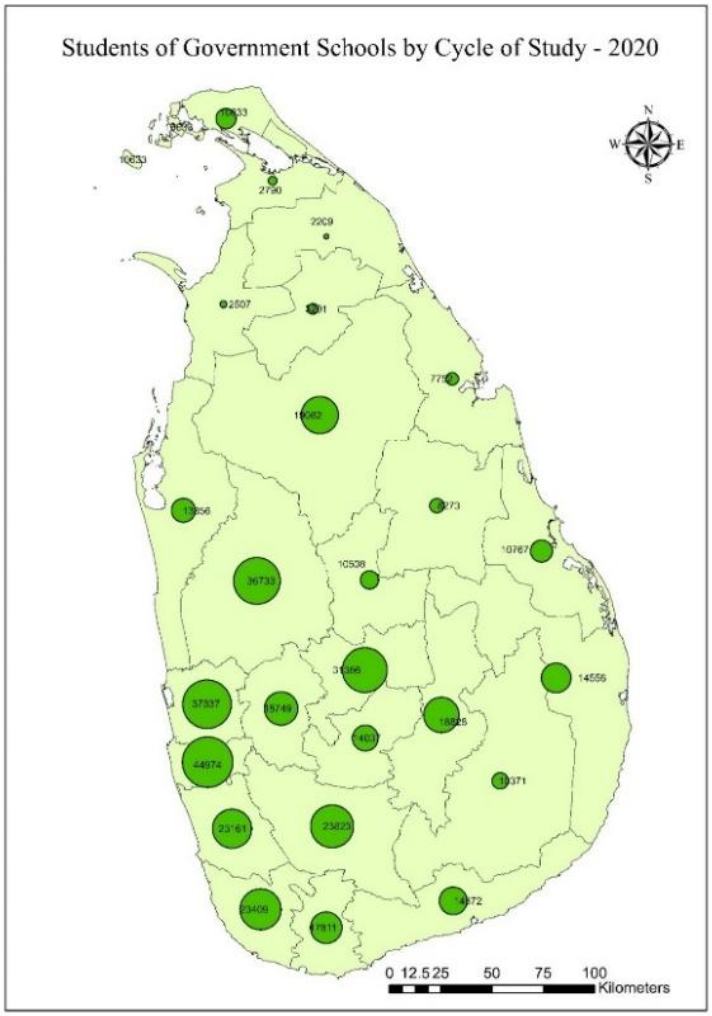
Kumari (2017) conducted a research for migration of IT professionals and the sampling method was snowball sampling. Descriptive statistics and summary statistics used in data presenting and analysing section. Gunawardena & Rasika (2017) have done a research based on qualitative methods for brain drain in Sri Lankan universities. Based on these, there is a gap by not taking school leavers (Advanced level students) as a sample in Sri Lankan migration. Most of the researchers based on the professionals in different field but not the students who expect to migrate immediately after completing advanced level examinations. Another gap is most of the researches are based on charts, descriptive statistics and qualitative methods to identify the factors that affect the migration of related unit of analysis.

METHODOLOGY

The main emphasis of this research is on examining what kind of variables that affect the migration decision among school leavers in Sri Lanka. This study, which focuses on a specific group of people-school leavers in the Colombo district of Sri Lanka who were in Grades 13 in 2021, has discovered a specific study area—influence of variables for migration—that has not before been investigated and is relatively poorly recognized. The study focuses on the main ideas that explain how factors are determined. Then, anticipate that several hypotheses will be used to identify the precise elements influencing migration among school dropouts. As a result, this study entitles as an explanatory one because it primarily aims to improve existing theories by highlighting their significance, offering unique ideas, and identifying the key variables that significantly influence migration decision as a significant player in the student population. Investigating explanations for observed facts, situations, or attitudes is the goal of explanatory study. Lee's push-pull theory is the foundation of this work, and the study can be characterized as data-based study, and the findings and conclusions can be observed to confirm it. Additionally, this study was carried out using a quantitative method, and it can be viewed as an explanation. In this study, the questionnaire is the primary function to gather information on a wide range of variables by taking into account 106 A/L students (Year 2021) in Colombo district of Sri Lanka. A quantitative technique has been used in the study because it is the best methodology for this research. This method gives the researcher the chance to establish hypotheses based on the body of existing research and then plan the research to test them. As a result, the researcher will be able to identify the factors that affect the migration decision among school leavers advanced in Sri Lanka. The current study is based on a deductive method since it develops research questions, designs research strategies, and answers them as appropriate. Both qualitative and quantitative data are used in the current investigation. Also, there are two main categories of data: primary data and secondary data; although, both categories are used in this research. In order to achieve the goals of this research, the researcher used a questionnaire to collect primary data from the Colombo district's A-Level (Grade

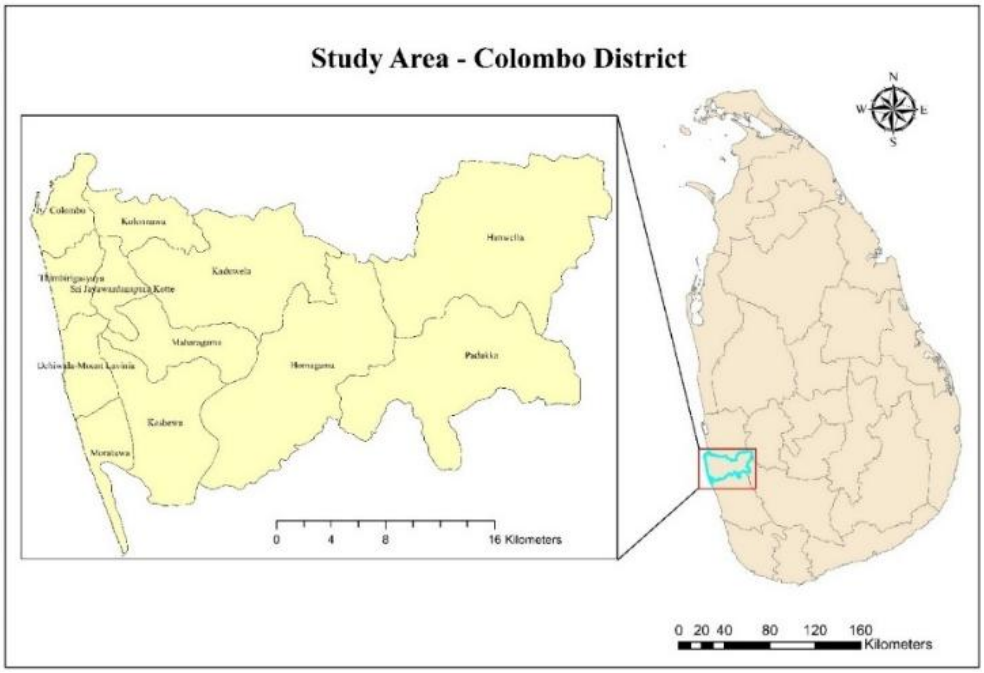
13 in 2021) students. Secondary data are used in this study from government-issued statistical data, website statistics, journal material, newspaper stories, and research articles, both manually and electronically. The sampling design process was defining the target population, determine the sampling frame, select sampling techniques, determine the sample size and execute sampling process. According to the MOE (2020), the total number of A/L students (2021) in Sri Lanka is 202,923. Due to the inconvenience of collecting data researcher has taken a target population from the population. Based on the district, Figure 1 explains the highest number of students in senior secondary (A/L cycle) is recorded in Colombo district as 44,974. The researcher chose the study area as Colombo district based on that criteria.

Figure 1: Students of Government Schools by Cycle of Study-2020



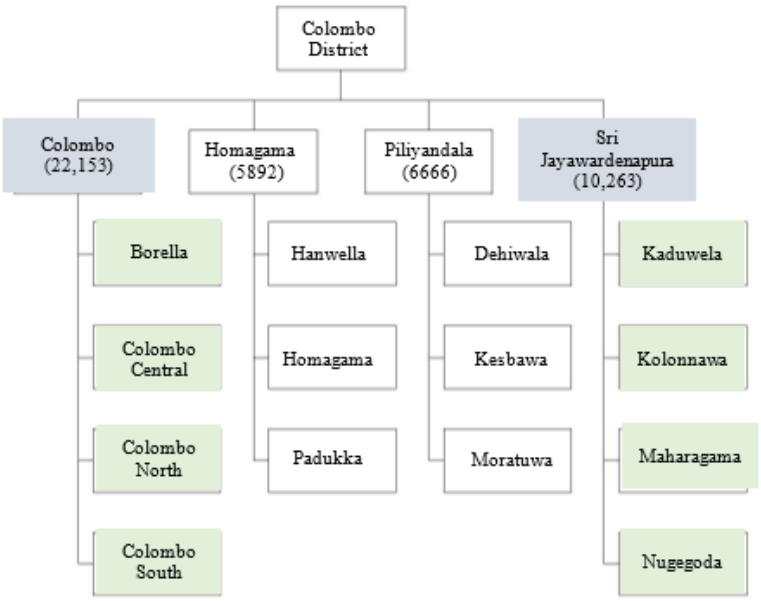
Source: School Census 2020

Figure 1 Study Area – Colombo District



Source: ArcGIS

Figure 0 Sampling Procedure



Source: School Census (2020)

This study defines the target population as all advanced level students in 2021 (Grade 13) enrolled in relevant Government schools in the Colombo district. The Colombo district has especially chosen because it has the largest frequency of advanced level students in 2021 of any districts in Sri Lanka as 21,724 students overall (MOE, 2020). All advanced level students in the five streams of bio science, physical science, commerce, arts and technology will be taken into account in this strategy.

The two-step cluster sampling has been used in this study to pick a sample from the population. According to the Figure 2, Colombo district can be separated into four subgroups depending on the educational zone as Colombo, Sri Jayawardenapura, Homagama, and Piliyandala as the first stage of clustering. Based on the distribution of schools, the student cycle of grades 12 and 13, two educational zones are anticipated to be chosen for the first stage: the Colombo zone and the Sri Jayawardenapura zone. That indicates that 10,263 A/L students are associated to the Jayewardenepura zone and 22,153 A/L students are related to the Colombo educational zone (MOE, 2020). As the second stage of clustering Colombo and Sri Jayawardenapura educational zones have been divided into sub-groups based on the education division.

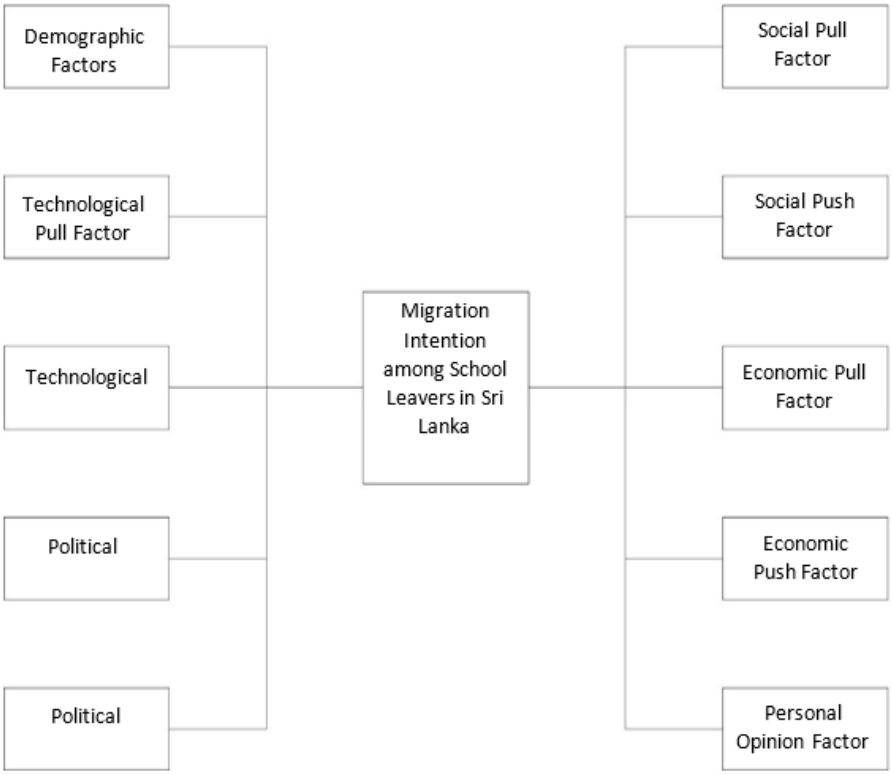
The selected Colombo education zone has 4 education divisions which are Borella, Colombo Central, Colombo North and Colombo South. The Sri Jayawardenapura education zone has Kaduwela, Kolonnawa, Maharagama and Nugegoda education divisions.

Among the whole population of G.C.E. A-level students (2021 A/L Examination) in the Colombo area, a sample of 146 students has been selected as the study's sample size. Using the two-stage cluster sampling approach, the sample was taken from 8 education divisions and questionnaire was distributed among school leavers using simple random sampling method to collect data. Total 146 sample was collected as 100 responses from Colombo educational zone and 46 responses from Sri Jayawardenapura educational zone. 19, 34, 17 and 30 responses are from Borella, Colombo Central, Colombo North and Colombo South education divisions respectively from Colombo educational zone. And from Kaduwela, Kolonnawa, Maharagama and Nugegoda education divisions got 7, 6, 13 and 20 responses respectively.

Conceptualization

The conceptual framework demonstrates the connection between the push/pull factors of economic, social, political and technological and demographic variables.

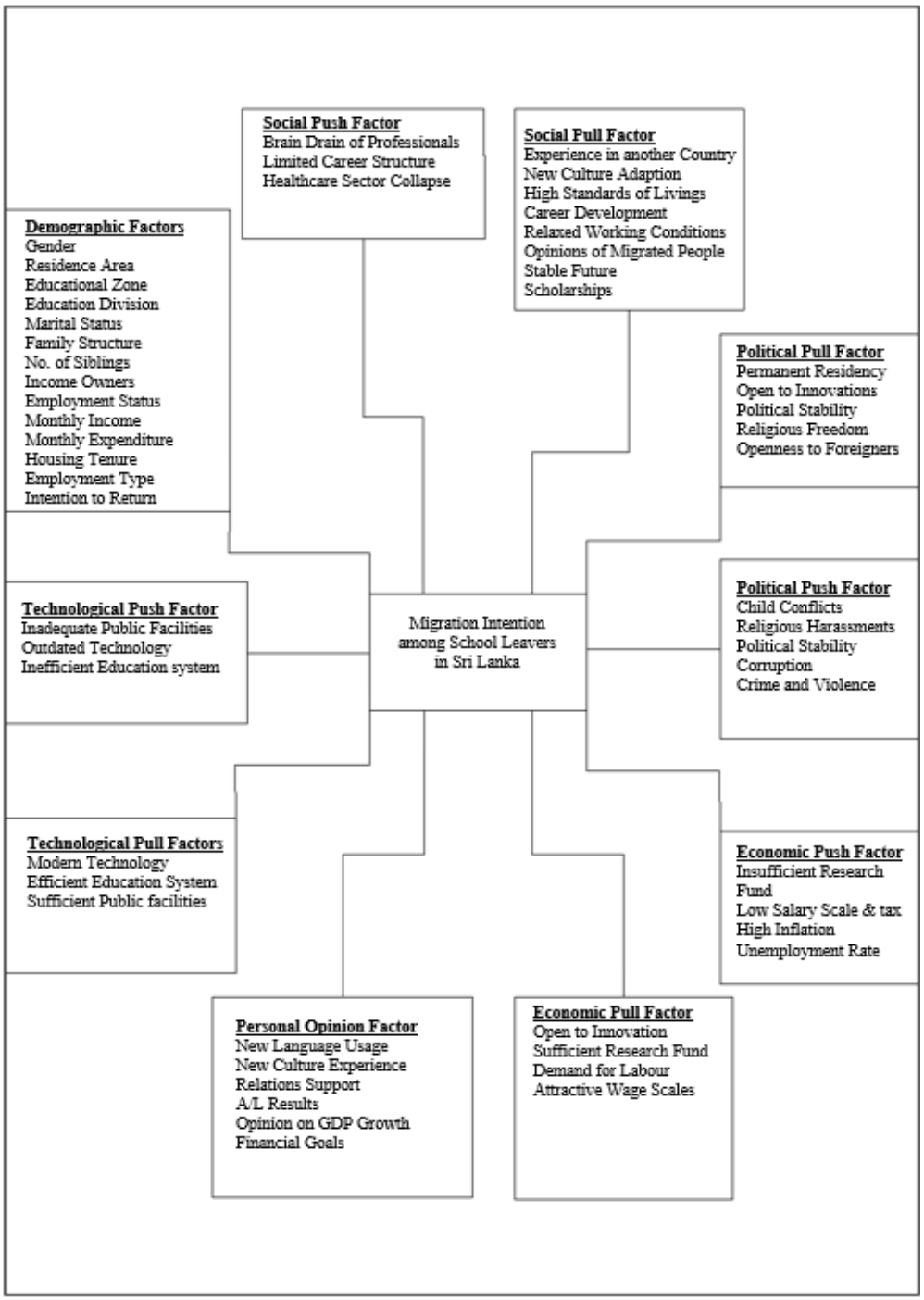
Figure 4: Conceptual Framework



Source: Sample Survey (2023)

Conceptual Framework with Items

Figure 5: Conceptual Framework with Items



Source: Survey Data (2023)

Following the creation of the research plan, the data collection process is begun. In the current study, the primary goal of the researcher was to employ a structured questionnaire to gather primary data from the chosen sample. Interviews were done to make survey revisions before the questionnaire was finalized, along with a similarly extensive trial survey.

To ensure the accuracy of the results and avoid misrepresentation among respondents, a pilot survey was tested on a small group of school leavers in Colombo to identify any uncomfortable or misunderstood questions and determine the order of the questions.

In this research, descriptive statistics are frequently used to identify and describe the features of a data set. The data can be summarized using descriptive statistics, which can also reveal on emerging pattern and trends. Measures like mean, median, mode, standard deviation, and correlation coefficients could be among the statistics.

In this research there were 41 items to measure the total 9 variables. Creating a single variable was done by using factor analysis. Based on the literature, items were grouped and run a factor analysis to create components and where 80% of cumulative variance explained, the number of components factor scores were used to create the main variable.

Chi-square test is used to check the association between categorical explanatory variables and dependent variable.

Hypothesis

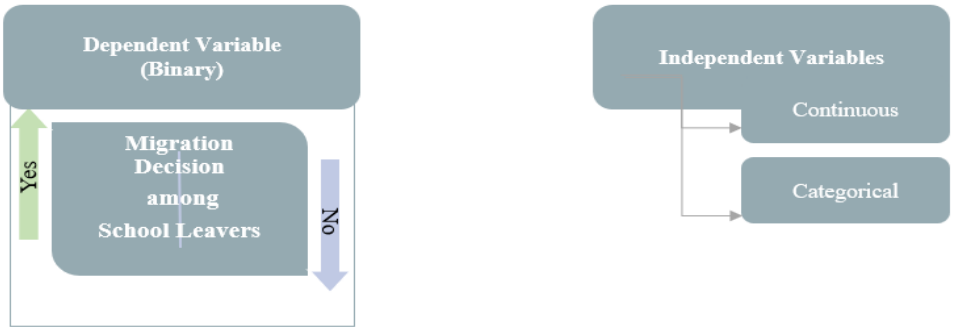
H_0: There is no relationship between migration intention and explanatory variables

H_0: There is a relationship between migration intention and explanatory variables

Binary Logistic Regression

In this research the dependent variable has a binary outcome as the school leavers already decided to migrate or not. Based on that main analysing tool is binary logistic regression to see which factors influenced the decision of migration among school leavers.

Figure 2: Binary Logistic Regression Variable Types



Source: Survey Data (2023)

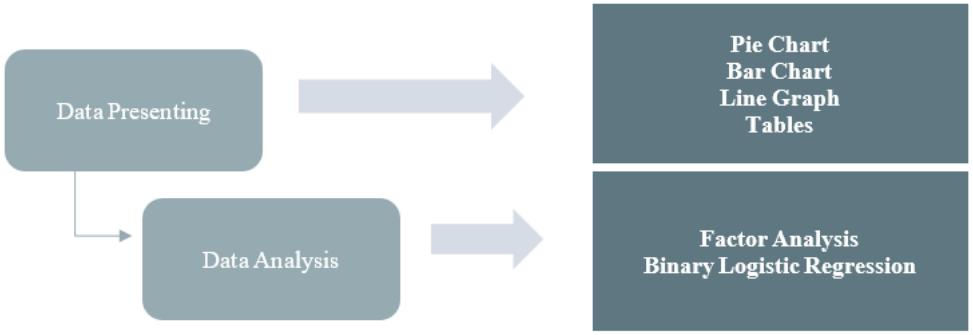
The odds ratios and corresponding confidence intervals for each factor were looked at in order to understand the findings of the logistic regression model. The completed model was shared together with any pertinent model diagnostics and goodness of fit metrics.

Overall, the binary logistic regression allowed to examine the relationship between the predictor variables and the target result variable while reducing the dimensionality of the predictor variables and better understanding the underlying structure of the data.

To check the significance of binary logistic regression model, researcher used odds ratio and Hosmer-Lemeshow goodness of fit statistics.

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

Figure 7: Data Presenting and Analyzing



Source: Survey Data (2023)

Sample Profile

Table 1: Demographic Distribution of Sample

Demographic Factor	Category	Frequency	Percentage
Gender	Male	44	30.1
	Female	102	69.9
Residence Area	Urban	111	76
	Rural	24	16.4
	Estate	11	7.5
Educational Zone	Colombo	100	68.5
	Sri Jayawardenapura	46	31.5
Education Division	Borella	19	13
	Colombo South	30	20.5
	Colombo North	17	11.6
	Colombo Central	34	23.3
	Kaduwela	7	4.8
	Kolonnawa	6	4.1
	Maharagama	13	8.9
	Nugegoda	20	13.7
Marital Status	Unmarried	144	98.6
	Married	2	1.4
Family Structure	Living with both parents	35	24
	Living with one parent	4	2.7
	Living with both parents and siblings	94	64.4
	Living with one parent and siblings	12	8.2
	Living with only siblings	1	0.7
Housing Tenure	Own	131	89.7
	Rental	15	10.3
Intention to Return	No	43	29.5
	Yes	63	43.2
	Not answered	40	27.4

Source: Survey Data (2023)

Gender

According to the Table 1, 69.9 percent of the students who contributed to the survey identified as female, while only 30.1 percent identified as male. The imbalance of gender proportions can be seen clearly in this sample.

Residence Area

The given data in Table 1, indicates that out of a total number of students, 76.1% of students live in urban areas, while 16.4% of students live in rural areas. Additionally, it is notable that out of total percentage of students, only 7.5% live in estates.

Educational Zones and Education Divisions Distribution

The data in Table 4 -1 shows the number of responses received from each zone, namely Sri Jayawardenapura and Colombo and education divisions in those two zones. The Colombo educational zone had 100 responses, while the Sri Jayawardenapura educational zone had 46 responses. The education division with the

highest number of responses was Colombo Central with 34 responses, while the education division with the lowest number of responses was Kolonnawa with only 6 responses. This information is useful in understanding the distribution of respondents across different education divisions in Colombo and Sri Jayawardenapura educational zones.

Marital Status

Students who did A/Ls in 2021 and their marital status is shown from Table 1 and currently 1.4% of them are married and the rest of 98.6% of students are unmarried in 2023. Most of the school leavers haven't taken the decision to get married and the current situation of Sri Lanka may be a reason for that.

Family Structure

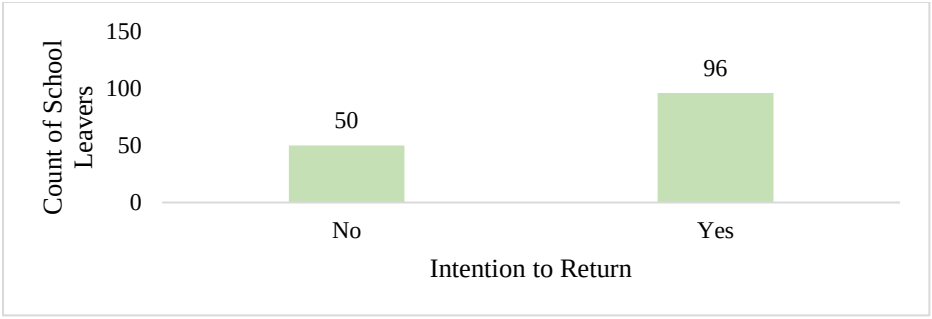
According to Table 1, 94 students live with their both parents and siblings and 35 students live with their both parents only. Four students live only with one parent while 12 students live with one parent and siblings. And also, there is one student who lives with only siblings.

Housing Tenure of Respondents

Table 1 presents a comprehensive overview of the housing tenure distribution within the surveyed population. The data reveals that 10.3% of the respondents reside in rental housing, indicating a significant portion of individuals who have opted for leased or rented properties. On the other hand, the vast majority, comprising 89.7% of the respondents, are homeowners, either having purchased their properties outright or in the process of paying off a mortgage. This finding highlights the prevalent culture of homeownership among the surveyed individuals, reflecting the importance placed on property ownership and long-term investment in housing. Owning a home provides stability, financial security, and the potential for building wealth over time. Additionally, homeownership often offers greater control and freedom in terms of customization and personalization of living spaces.

Intention to Return

Figure 8: Intention to Return

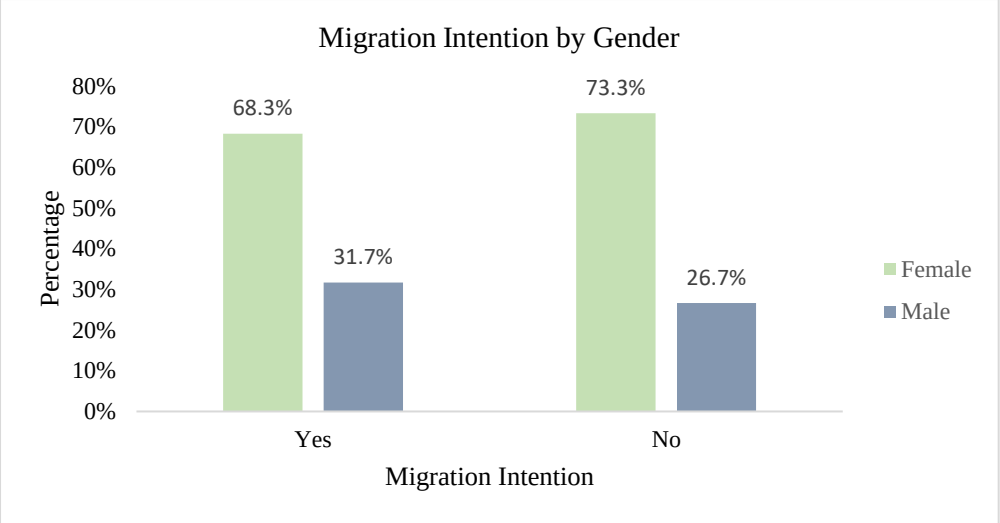


Source: Survey Data (2023)

Figure 8 shows if there is any opportunity to migrate and if they migrate, then there is an opportunity to return to Sri Lanka or not. There are 96 school leavers who are willing to return to Sri Lanka if they get any chance to migrate and there are 50 school leavers who are not willing to come back to Sri Lanka.

Migration Intention by Gender

Figure 9: Migration Intention by Gender

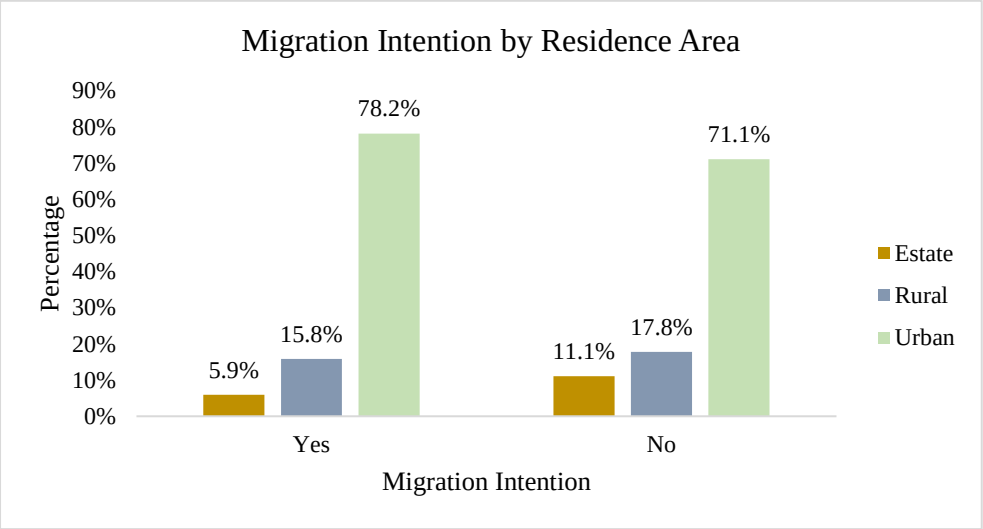


Source: Survey Data (2023)

Figure 9 provides valuable insights into the migration intentions of the surveyed population, specifically categorized by gender. The data reveals distinct patterns and disparities between males and females. Among the male respondents, a significant proportion of 73.3% expressed a desire to migrate, indicating a strong inclination towards seeking opportunities in different locations. On the other hand, 26.7% of males indicated that they do not have any migration intentions and prefer to stay in Sri Lanka. In contrast, the majority of female respondents, comprising 68.3%, expressed a migration intention, suggesting a significant desire for relocating and pursuing opportunities elsewhere. However, it is worth noting that 31.7% of females indicated that they do not have any migration intentions, possibly indicating a preference to remain in Sri Lanka.

Migration Intention by Residence Area

Figure 10: Migration Intention by Residence Area



Source: Survey Data (2023)

In the Figure 10, the distribution of migration intentions among school leavers, categorized by residence area (urban, rural, and estate), reveals interesting insights when considering the "Yes" and "No" intentions: In urban areas, a significant majority of 78.2% express a "Yes" intention to migrate. This high percentage suggests that a large portion of urban school leavers desires to relocate, possibly in pursuit of better opportunities, education, or living conditions.

Conversely, 71.1% of urban residents choose "No," indicating that there is still a considerable number of individuals who do not intend to migrate. This group may be content with their current urban lifestyle or may have personal or family reasons for not pursuing migration.

In rural areas, the distribution is more evenly balanced. Here, 15.8% of respondents express a "Yes" intention to migrate, indicating that some rural school leavers aspire to seek opportunities outside of their hometowns. In contrast, 17.8% of rural residents select "No," suggesting that a similar percentage is not inclined to migrate. This balance could be influenced by factors such as attachment to their rural roots or local opportunities. Estate areas present a distinctive pattern. Only 5.9% of school leavers in these regions express a "Yes" intention to migrate. This lower percentage indicates that fewer estate residents have immediate plans for migration.

However, a significant 11.1% still choose "No," meaning they have no intention to migrate. This suggests that despite a smaller desire to migrate, there is a substantial portion of estate residents who are content with their current living situation.

Migration Intention and Intention to Return

Table 2: Intention to Return and Migration Intention

	Migration Intention	
Intention to Return	Yes	No
No	47%	7%
Yes	53%	93%

Source: Survey Data (2023)

Table 2 presents migration intention based on the intention to return. Among those who do not intend to return, 47% have a migration intention, while only 7% do not. On the other hand, among those who intend to return, 53% have a migration intention, while the remaining 93% do not. The table highlights the strong association between the intention to return and migration intention, suggesting that individuals who do not intend to return are more likely to consider migration.

Data Analysis

Factor Analysis

There were 41 Likert Scale questions to measure 9 explanatory variables and the items were highly correlated to each other. Researcher performed a factor analysis for 41 questions and 9 variables have been occurred as the result.

This factor analysis generated nine variables which are technological pull factor, technological push factor, social pull factor, social push factor, political pull factor, political push factor, economic pull factor, economic push factor and personal opinions factor from the original 41 items.

Together these nine variables which are four continuous variables and ten categorical variables were continued to the data analysing part.

Fitting Binary Logistic Regression Model for Migration Intention among School Leavers

Identifying the Association between Explanatory Variables and Dependent Variable

Hypotheses

H_0: There is no relationship between migration intention and explanatory variables

H_1: There is a relationship between migration intention and explanatory variables

Decision Rule

If the P-value is less than 0.05, reject null hypothesis.

Chi Square test to check the association between Categorical Explanatory variables and Migration Intention variable

Table 3: Results of Chi Square test

Variable	P-value	Conclusion
Gender	.542	There is no relationship between gender and migration intention
Residence Area	.501	There is no relationship between residence area and migration intention
Educational Zone	.482	There is no relationship between educational zone and migration intention
Education Division	.988	There is no relationship between education division and migration intention
Marital Status	.342	There is no relationship between marital status and migration intention
Family Structure	.000	There is a relationship between family structure and migration intention
Current Employ Status	.751	There is no relationship between current employment status and migration intention
House Tenure	.121	There is no relationship between housing tenure and migration intention
Future Workplace Arrangement	.856	There is no relationship between future workplace arrangement and migration intention
Intention to Return	.004	There is a relationship between intention to return and migration intention

Source: Survey Data (2023)

The explanatory variables of family structure and intention to return have P-values below 0.05. Consequently, the null hypothesis is rejected, indicating that these variables should be continued to the model.

One-Way ANOVA test to check the association between Continuous Explanatory variables and Migration Intention variable

Table 4: Results of One-Way ANOVA test

Variable	P-value	Conclusion
Number of Siblings	.000	There is a relationship number of siblings and migration intention
Household Size	.739	There is no relationship between household size and migration intention
Household Monthly Income	.080	There is no relationship between household monthly income and migration intention
Household Monthly Expenditure	.409	There is no relationship between household monthly expenditure and migration intention

Technological Pull Factor	.007	There is a relationship between political pull factor and migration intention
Technological Push Factor	.004	There is a relationship between political pull factor and migration intention
Social Pull Factor	.002	There is a relationship between technological pull factor and migration intention
Social Push Factor	.004	There is a relationship between technological push factor and migration intention
Political Pull Factor	.146	There is no relationship between economic pull factor and migration intention
Political Push Factor	.006	There is a relationship between economic push factor and migration intention
Economic Pull Factor	.003	There is a relationship between social pull factor and migration intention
Economic Push factor	.004	There is a relationship between social push factor and migration intention
Personal Opinions Factor	.000	There is a relationship between social push factor and migration intention

Source: Survey Data (2023)

The explanatory continuous variables which are number of siblings, technological pull factor, technological push factor, social pull factor, social push factor, political push factor, economic pull factor, economic push factor and personal opinions factor have p-values less than 0.05, implying that there is a relationship between those variables and migration intention. Those nine variables will be continued to the model.

Then, all the 11 variables which are family structure, intention to return, number of siblings, technological pull factor, technological push factor, social pull factor, social push factor, political push factor, economic pull factor, economic push factor and personal opinions factor will be continued to the model fitting.

Checking Multicollinearity among Explanatory Variables

Spearman Rank correlation, One-way ANOVA, and Pearson correlation test were utilized to check multicollinearity. Among eleven variables, family structure was highly correlated with other independent variables therefore the variable was omitted.

According to that intention to return variable as the categorical variable and, number of siblings, technological pull factor, technological push factor, social pull factor, social push factor, political push factor, economic pull factor, economic push factor and personal opinions factor will be continued to the model fitting as continuous variables.

Model Fitting for Migration Intention among School Leavers

The binary logistic regression model was fitted using the enter method to determine the significant factors influencing migration intention among school leavers.

Null Model

Table 5: Null Model

	B	Sig.	Exp(B)
Step 0 Constant	1.176	**.000**	3.240

Source: Survey Data (2023)

In Table 5, the null model (Step 0) includes only the constant term. The coefficient for the constant is 1.176, and it is statistically significant with a p-value of .000. The null model is adequate enough to describe the best fitted model.

The Best Fitted Binary Logistic Regression Model

Table 6: Binary Logistic Regression Output

Variable	B	Sig.	Exp(B)
Number of Siblings	.565	.116	1.760
Intention to Return (Yes)	1.865	**.019**	6.458
Technological Pull Factor	.302	.541	1.352
Technological Push Factor	-.006	.990	.994
Social Pull Factor	1.849	**.019**	6.355
Social Push Factor	.746	.278	2.108
Political Push Factor	-.354	.660	.702
Economic Pull Factor	1.830	**.007**	6.233
Economic Push Factor	-.428	.381	.652
Personal Opinions Factor	.530	.385	1.699
Constant	1.319	.018	3.739

Source: Survey Data (2023)

According to the above Table 6, the binary logistic regression analysis revealed several significant predictors of the outcome variable. Among the variables included in the model, intention to return (yes), social pull factor and, economic pull factor showed statistically significant associations with the outcome by p-value is less than 0.05.

Binary Logistic Regression Model with Interactions

All the two-way interactions are insignificant and interaction caused insignificant based on that model are insignificant. Based on that, the best fitted Binary Logistic Regression model will be the main effect model.

The Best Fitted Binary Logistic Regression Model for Migration Intention among School Leavers

Table 7: Best Fitted Model

Variable	B	Sig.	Exp(B)	95% Confidence Limit for Exp (B)	
				Lower	Upper
Intention to Return (Yes)	1.865	.019	6.485	1.358	30.699
Social Pull Factor	1.849	.019	6.355	1.349	29.936
Economic Pull Factor	1.830	.007	6.233	1.647	23.595
Constant	1.319	.018	3.739		

Source: Survey Data (2023)

Equation 1: The Best Fitted Binary Logistic Model for Migration Intention among school leavers

$$log\left(\frac{\pi i}{1-\pi i}\right) = 1.319 + 1.865^{Intention\ to\ Return\ (yes)} + 1.849^{Social\ Pull\ Factor} + 1.830^{Economic\ Pull\ Factor}$$

Coefficient, Exp (B) Odd Ratio and Confidence Interval for Exp (B)

Intention to return is associated with an increase of intending to migrate among school leavers.

When all other factors are held constant, school leavers who have the intention to return, if they have the opportunity to migrate, are estimated to have 6.485 times (91.87%) higher odds of having migration intention compared to those who do not have the intention to return. The 95% confidence interval indicates that the true population parameter lies between 1.358 and 30.699.

A higher social pull factor is associated with an increase in intending to migrate among school leavers.

When all other factors are held constant, for each additional unit of social pull factor, the odds of having migration intention among school leavers are estimated to increase by approximately 6.355 times (86.40%). The 95% confidence interval indicates that the true population parameter lies between 1.349 and 29.936.

A higher economic pull factor is associated with an increase of intending to migrate among school leavers.

When all other factors are held constant, for each unit increase in the economic pull factor, the odds of having migration intention among school leavers are estimated to

increase by approximately 6.233 times (86.17%). The 95% confidence interval indicates that the true population parameter lies between 1.647 and 23.595.

Goodness of Fit of the Model

Hypothesis:

H_0: The model is adequately fitted.

H_1: The model is adequately not fitted.

Decision Rule:

If the P-value is less than the significant level, then reject the null hypothesis. (P < 0.05).

Test Statistic

Table 8: Goodness of Fit: Hosmer Lemeshow Test

Hosmer and Lemeshow Test		
Step	**Chi-square**	**Sig.**
1	2.953	.937

Source: Survey Data (2023)

Decision

P-value α value

0.937 0.05

The P-value of Hosmer and Lemeshow goodness of fit test is greater than 0.05. Therefore, researcher has no enough evidence to reject H_0 at 0.05 significance level.The model is adequately fitted.

CONCLUSIONS

Conclusions drawn from the Data Presenting

The survey reveals diverse migration intentions among school leavers, influenced by factors such as gender, residence, family structure, and employment status. A majority (69%) express a positive intention to migrate, with males (73%) more inclined than females (68%). Urban students (71%) display stronger migration intentions than those in rural (67%) and estate areas (55%). Family dynamics also play a role, with lower migration intention among students living with both parents and siblings, indicating familial stability. Unemployment correlates with higher migration aspirations (70%), while economic factors such as income stability affect intentions, with households having more earners showing lower migration interest. Additionally, those without siblings or with fewer siblings tend to have stronger migration and return intentions, reflecting family responsibilities and attachments.

The study highlights how individual circumstances shape migration aspirations, with notable variations across gender, location, and family structure.

Conclusions drawn from Data Analysis

Intention to Return

In the current situation in Sri Lanka, the analysis reveals that among school leavers, having the intention to return is strongly linked to a higher likelihood of intending to migrate if given the opportunity. The findings indicate that school leavers who express the intention to return, if given the opportunity to migrate, have 91.87% higher odds of having a migration intention compared to those who do not have the intention to return. It may indicate that they have aspirations for temporary migration to pursue educational, career, or personal opportunities in other countries. The high percentage of 91.87% indicates a strong association between the intention to return and the inclination to migrate. It highlights the complex decision-making process and the influence of multiple factors on migration aspirations among young individuals in Sri Lanka. It also underscores the importance of understanding the motivations and aspirations of school leavers in order to develop appropriate policies and support mechanisms that address their needs and aspirations.

Social Pull Factor

The analysis reveals an interesting relationship between the social pull factor and the intention to migrate among school leavers. The findings indicate that for each additional unit increase in the social pull factor, school leavers are estimated to have approximately 6.355 times (86.40%) higher odds of having a migration intention, when controlling for other factors. This finding holds significance in the context of Sri Lanka, where various social factors can influence migration decisions. The social pull factor represents includes getting experience, experiencing a new culture, higher standards of living, good career development opportunities, relaxed working conditions, opinions of migrated people, stable future and availability of scholarships as the social aspects in potential destination countries. The 6.355 times higher odds suggest a strong association between the social pull factor and the inclination to migrate among school leavers.

Economic Pull Factor

In the current situation in Sri Lanka, the analysis reveals a significant relationship between the economic pull factor and the intention to migrate among school leavers. The findings indicate that for each unit increase in the economic pull factor, school leavers are estimated to have approximately 6.233 times (86.17%) higher odds of having a migration intention, when controlling for other factors. This finding holds particular relevance in the context of Sri Lanka, where economic opportunities and prospects play a crucial role in migration decisions. The economic pull factor represents the innovation opportunities, sufficient research fund, and high demand for labour and attractive wage scales in potential destination countries. The high odds

of 6.233 times suggests a strong association between the economic pull factor and the inclination to migrate among school leavers.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings regarding the relationship between intention to return, social pull factor, economic pull factor, and migration intention among school leavers, the following suggestions can be made:

Encouraging Return: Efforts should be made to create a supportive environment that motivates school leavers to consider returning to Sri Lanka after their overseas education or work experience. This can be achieved by promoting career growth, facilitating knowledge transfer, and supporting entrepreneurship.

Enhancing Social Factors: Addressing social aspects that attract school leavers to migrate is crucial. This involves improving social welfare systems, providing access to quality healthcare and education, and promoting community engagement.

Economic Development and Opportunities: Policies should focus on stimulating economic growth, attracting investments, and creating job opportunities. This can be done through industry promotion, infrastructure development, and support for small businesses.

Education and Skills Development: Investing in vocational training, technical education, and higher education is important to equip school leavers with relevant skills for the local job market. Collaboration between educational institutions and industries can help align skills training with industry needs.

Information and Awareness: Providing accurate and comprehensive information about local and international economic opportunities, migration processes, and potential challenges is crucial. Access to reliable information can help school leavers make informed decisions.

Monitoring and Evaluation: Regular monitoring of migration trends and factors influencing migration intentions is important. This allows policymakers to adapt strategies based on emerging trends and changing aspirations of school leavers.

By implementing these suggestions, Sri Lanka can create an environment that offers attractive economic prospects, social well-being, and educational opportunities. This will reduce the inclination for migration among school leavers and contribute to the country's sustainable development.

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