

Push and Pull Factors on Fisher's Migration to Baththalangunduwa Island in Sri Lanka

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Fisher's migration to other areas in searching livelihoods has a long history and it has become one of the debatable issues in recent past due to many social and economic factors observed. This study explores the push and pull factors of migration and socio-economic status of migrated fishers in Baththalangunduwa Island of Sri Lanka. Baththalangunduwa is one of the inhabitant Islands with a total land area of 145.53 hectares in Kalpitiya Peninsula which is located in the North West coast of Sri Lanka. A survey was administered with a random sample of 93 fishing households during the time period of January to February in 2018. Descriptive statistics were used to analyse the collected data using SPSS software package. Inherent linkage in fisheries, unemployment and non-availability of land ownership were major push factors from the origin while livelihood and income generation, lifestyle experience and sense of the place were major pull factors to the destination. Study results revealed that out of migrants 95.7% were Sinhalese while 4.3% of migrants were Tamil. About 47.3% of migrants

have gained their secondary education while 39.8% of migrants have gained their education up to primary level. The no schooling percentage was considerable and that of about 12.9% percentages. Fisheries were year-round and the average daily catch of a craft was 30 Kg while the monthly income of a fisherman was in the range of LKR 20,000- 50,000. Besides fisheries, dried fish processing that female dominated activity was the alternative livelihood for fishers in the Island. Migratory fishers were facing hardships from lack of safe drinking water, sanitary facilities, formal education opportunities and basic infrastructure facilities that need to be addressed. Managing multi-dimensional issues associated with migration will be potential for the social inclusion and development of the fishing community of Baththalangunduwa in Sri Lanka.

Keywords: Baththalangunduwa island, Fisheries, Income, Migration, Socio-economic

Milking practices, Milk production