

## **Migration Intentions of Post War Youths in Sri Lanka: A Systematic Review of literature on Causes of Migration**

A. Pingama (*anuradhapingama@gmail.com*)

*University of Colombo, Sri Lanka*

### **Abstract**

This is a conceptual paper to understand the migration of youth population from Sri Lanka. The study reviews recent migration literature. Many actors have taken many initiatives to create a better future for youth in Sri Lanka. This includes provision of free and/or affordable education, skill development opportunities, and integration to development process, to shape the future. But there is a significant segment of the youth population who are not satisfied about the available opportunities and choices within Sri Lanka. They are not convinced for a better and safer society in future. In this research, the migration drivers and tendencies are examined and researched from a theoretical point of view with a special importance to perspectives and causes for migration of youths of post-war Sri Lanka. Objectives of this study are to understand reasons for youth migration and to understand the expected future relationship with home country. Many international migration theories have been proposed to assess and explain the underlying phenomena of international migration. Conventional findings suggest that migration can be explained with Neo-classical Theory of Migration, Theory of Economics of Migration, Dual Market Theory, Social Capital Theory, Cumulative Causation Theory and Trans-nationalism. However, international migration is a complex issue with multiple facets. One single theory may only explain a particular aspect of international migration. This study indicates that most of youth migrate to different countries due to perceived uncertainty placed upon their future and it cannot be explained with a single theory. This study makes major contributions to the existing theory in International Migration of Youth Population of Sri Lanka. The paper concluded with propositions, and recommendations on future research on understanding migration of youth.

**Keywords: International Migration, Youth, Decision Making, Development, Globalization**

## INTRODUCTION

In this conceptual paper, the migration drivers and tendencies are examined and researched with a special importance to perspectives and causes for migration of youths of Sri Lanka within contemporary economic, social, political and cultural backgrounds and its consequences on the country. Migration is the physical movement of humans from one area to another, sometimes over long distances. Migration has continued under the form of both voluntary migrations within one's region, country or beyond and involuntary migration (Castle, 2002; Hammar, Brochmann, & Tamas, 1997). In the past, only men migrated from their place of origin to new places, mostly for their jobs or economic reasons. However, as time passed, women also started to follow for similar reasons. Ultimately, not only men or women, but the whole family started to migrate permanently (Lucassen, Lucassen, & Manning, 2010). Men and women who migrate to seek short-term jobs are normally temporary residents of the destination country. It is most common in the Middle East where thousands of men and women from developing countries migrate for short-term jobs mainly as domestic workers, janitors, industrial helpers and similar types of jobs. In contrast, highly educated, skilled and professional people from developing countries migrate permanently with their families to developed regions such as Europe, North America, Australia and New Zealand. (Haque, 2005).

In this study, migration decisions of youth population are addressed and researched in comprehensive and scientific manner. For the clarity of segmentation, youth are defined as the population segment of aged between the 15 to 29 years in the Sri Lankan context as per Ministry of Youth. Approximately 23 per cent of the Sri Lankan population, which is 4.5 Million is comprised of youth as per census conducted in 2010 by Department of Census and Statistics of Sri Lanka. These youth populations are the future contributors of economic development to the country, hence it is important to make sure that their needs are met and ensured by overall development policies in all sectors. The youth population by sex indicates that there is an almost equal distribution of 50.23% for males and 49.76% for females. Youth unemployment remains a critical issue for policy makers, youth and their families in Sri Lanka. Unemployment rates in the age group 15-19 years was 20% in 2010. Female unemployment in this age group is also higher than male unemployment. (The national youth policy of Sri Lanka, 2014). Setting goals is essential if an individual is to work towards achieving his or her objectives. According to an adolescent survey in Sri Lanka, 72 per cent of adolescents (aged 14-19 years) had goals for the future. However, many students

discontinue school education or do not qualify for university education due to poor performance at the national level examinations or due to economic and social limitations of family backgrounds.

	Total Population			Youth Age 15 -29		
	Male %	Female %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
<b>Percentage, Total Population</b>	48.4	51.6	100	23.4	23.0	23.2
Urban	18.4	18.2	18.3	24.5	23.4	23.9
Rural	77.3	77.4	77.3	23.2	22.9	23.1
Estate	4.4	4.4	4.4	21.7	22.2	21.9

Source: Sri Lanka Human Development Report 2014 (UNDP)

Both skilled and unskilled migration is high in Sri Lanka, where it has shown an increasing trend over the past few years as per Ministry of Youth Affairs and Skills Development. The youth comprise a significant component of those who migrate under both these categories. Youth who migrate under the unskilled category made up the majority during last few years, however, the skilled migration proportion is catching up. With trainings and certifications given by many private organizations and the institutes attached to Ministry of Youth Affairs and Skills Development, youth are finding more opportunities to work abroad under the skilled migration category.

## **PROBLEM STATEMENT**

The increasing trend of migration from developing countries to developed countries brings positive consequences such as remittances and knowledge but in the same time poses a threat to the economies of developing countries in the form of lost human capital. The issue is especially crucial when qualified professionals and manpower migrate to developed countries. The challenges arise because in the absence of qualified human resources, other resources cannot be utilized efficiently to enhance the economic development of the nation (Chen, 2009; Lowell & Findlay, 2001; Wong & Yip, 1999).

The relationship between international migration and economic development in the migrant origin country has been traditionally explained from two contrasting theoretical approaches: the convergence point of view and the divergence point of view (Papademetriou and Martin,

1991; Appleyard, 1992; Battistella, 1992; Fischer et al., 1997; Sørensen, 2004; Cohen, 2005; Faist, 2008). The convergence school, rooted in neo-liberal economic theory, states that sending areas obtain major benefits from out-migration for their development process (Hermele, 1997). This approach primarily posits that emigration leads to an improvement in 'resource availability' and 'income distribution' in origin areas. (Spaan et al., 2005). On the other hand, the divergence school argues that out-migration hinders development of the sending regions because it perpetuates a state of economic dependency that undermines prospects for development (Hermele, 1997). Apart from these two perspectives, there exists a third approach called the 'time perspective'. According to this perspective, negative factors dominate the impact of migration in the short-term, while positive factors will come to stimulate development in the long run (Russel et al.1990; Appleyard, 1992b; Hermele, 1997).

Sri Lanka is a developing country with a substantial amount of potential businesses and industries. There is tremendous potential for the future economic growth and development of Sri Lanka. A large number of qualified Sri Lankan people are working under various professional capacities all over the world, but the Sri Lankan organizations still hires international consultants and pays higher fees to plan, develop and execute major development projects. In recent years, hundreds of professional Sri Lankans have migrated permanently to different countries such as Canada, Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom, Western Europe and United States of America. In the meantime, thousands of semi-skilled and young people including both men and women temporarily migrated to gulf countries, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore and other countries to work as farm laborers, housewives, factory workers, and some as skilled laborers. This resulted in the shortage of workers for local businesses, agricultural sectors, industrial sectors and other areas of economic development. In addition to that such migration has created a huge social problem as a result of family member separation.

The migration of Sri Lankan people clearly shows two trends of migration. First is the permanent migration of professional man powers to developed countries, such as doctors, engineers, experts, intellectuals, IT professionals, economists, social scientists, and so on. The second is the temporary migration of semi-professional or non-professional man-powers to gulf countries, Korea, Malaysia. Out of these two types of migration patterns, migration of professional manpower seems to pose more serious threat to the long term economic development. Professional manpower is created after long investment and rigorous training.

This group of migrants is highly educated, visionary and with leadership capability. When they migrate to another country they send minimum contribution towards Sri Lanka since they fully settled in new country with their families. Therefore, it is highly crucial to manage the migration of this group and to get their service back to homeland. Many countries of the world such as China, India, Kenya, Malaysia, Thailand and other countries are seriously working to address the same issue. Given the continuing loss of qualified manpower and country's inspiration for economic growth and development, it is extremely crucial for Sri Lanka to formulate policies and programs to analyses and manage the uncontrolled outflow of qualified professionals.

Having said that, this move is only possible if policy makers fully understand the motivating forces that are encouraging people to migrate to developed countries. Even though many countries have examined this crucial issue and formulated many policy measures, no systematic study has been carried out to understand or analyze the background behind the migration of Sri Lankan youth. The existing literature on the migration of Sri Lankan mainly focuses on remittance issues. Therefore, this paper analyzes literature with regard to factors that are influencing the migration. The study covers youth who take efforts to migrate under the different migration opportunities as regular migrants and also youth trying to migrate as irregular migrants who cause many problems for sourcing and receiving countries.

Many governmental and non-governmental institutions have taken many create a better future for youth in Sri Lanka. This includes provision of free and/or affordable education, skill development opportunities, and integration to development process, to shape the future. But there is a significant segment of the youth population who are not satisfied about the available opportunities and choices within Sri Lanka. They are not convinced for a better and safer society in future. Therefore, research problem in this study is that **“why do Sri Lankan youths trying to migrate in despite of available opportunities in Sri Lanka”**. Objectives of this conceptual paper are that:

1. To understand what makes Sri Lankan youths look for opportunities overseas (push and pull causes) and what are the costs and perceived benefits of migration at the household and national level.
2. To understand to what extend do they expect to maintain the relationship with Sri Lanka

Therefore, following research questions are formulated to guide the study.

1. What makes Sri Lankan youths look for opportunities in overseas (push and pull causes) and what are the costs and perceived benefits of migration at the household and national level?
2. To what extent do they expect to maintain the relationship with Sri Lanka?

### **SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

Most of researches are based on the economic migration and refugee crisis. But Sri Lankan situation has many unique characteristics in this regard. Further this research predominantly focuses on Youth. This study will help to understand the basis of decision for migration and which point makes the equilibrium on “stay at homeland” and “leave to new country”. Many countries share the land borders where people can move easily, thus making opportunity for youth to take the decision of migration after having seen the destination. However, most of Sri Lanka youth do not have such background, but they take migration decision on unseen and unfamiliar destinations and cultures with great satisfaction. The background for such phenomena also addressed in this research where previous studies have not addressed so far. And also, there were many cases reported on migration as a result of civil war prevailing for more than Three decades. This study will also address the situation in war free country as well.

### **THEORETICAL REVIEW**

There is no single “general” theory that can explain international migration processes. Main Theories on International Migration are discussed below.

**Neo- Classical Theory** -Developed by Ranis and Fei (1961) and Todaro (1969), the equilibrium theory or neoclassical theory is one of the earliest theories on international migration. According to this theory, international migration is a result of wage differences between two countries. This process of international migration continues until the wages reach an equilibrium point. According to the authors, such wage differences are due to geographic differences in labor demand and supply. This theory argues that an individual makes a rational decision on cost-benefit analysis and migrates to a new destination when he realizes a positive net return.

**The New Economics of Migration** -This theory was proposed, discussed and elaborated by Stark & Bloom (1985), Katz & Stark (1986), and J.E.Taylor (1986). The theory claims that the decision to become a labor migrant cannot only be explained at the level of individual workers. Therefore, the theory considers the household as a factor of migration and suggests that households tend to calculate and avoid risk when household income is involved. One way of reducing the risk of insufficient household income is the labor migration of a family member. Family members may send remittances from working abroad. The theory believes that these remittances have a positive impact on the economy of poor countries. The theory further believes that economic development in a new area may increase pressure on people to migrate. International migration is typically a strategic behavior undertaken by families and households to reap new opportunities, manage risk and overcome market failures.

**The Dual Market Theory** - Developed by Piore (1979) and D.S. Massey et al (1998), this theory is a segmented labor market theory. The theory mostly argues that international migration results from the intrinsic labor demand of modern industrial society. International migration is mainly caused by pull factors in developed migrant-receiving countries. The authors also argue that push factors (unemployment, low income) are not the major determinants of international migration. They consider a chronic and unavoidable need of foreign workers to be the main cause of international migration. According to this theory, segments in the labor markets in these countries can be classified as primary and secondary. The primary segment of a labor market is characterized by capital-intensive production methods and predominantly high skilled labor. Meanwhile, the secondary segment is characterized by labor-intensive methods of production and predominantly low-skilled labor. The dual labor market theory assumes that international labor migration arises because of the labor demand in the labor-intensive segment of modern industrial societies.

**Historical Structure Theory**- This theory completely opposes the ideas of the equilibrium theory. While interpreting international migration, this theory adopts a Marxist view, linking international migration to the macro-organization of socio-economic relations, geographic division of labor and political mechanisms of power and dominations. The theory believes that international migration is a product of the penetration of capitalist economic relations into non-capitalist or pre-capitalist societies. According to Wallerstein (1974), direct foreign investment creates an emerging market economy and displaces people from traditional livelihoods, creating a mobile population likely to migrate.

**The Social Capital Theory-** This theory examines the causes of continuing international migration, specially focusing on the determinants of international migration such as migrant networks and institutions that support transitional movements. This theory proposes that as a result of large inflows of international migrants, a migration network is developed. This network builds interpersonal linkages between migrant populations in origin and destination countries. A migrant network may help potential migrants of the same ethnic origin to migrate. The idea proposes that a network of kinship and friendship promotes international migration (Massey et al 1998). Several research findings show positive impacts of social networking in promoting international migration. D.S. Massey et al (1998) identifies migrant networks as a form of social capital.

**The Cumulative Causation Theory -** The idea of the cumulative causation theory was first proposed by Myrdal, (1951) and further elaborated by Massey, 1990. The theory argues that migration changes social and economic contexts leading individuals or households to international migration. According to the theory, the cumulative effect may be seen in several areas such as the expansion of networks, distribution of income, distribution of land and noticeable lifestyles. The social, economic and cultural changes brought by international migration create momentum, promoting further international migration. According to this theory, the awareness of other members or households about income difference in the sending society is an important factor with regards to migration. Therefore, the incentive to emigrate will be higher in countries that experience economic inequality.

**Trans-Nationalism -** This concept is proposed by Glick, Schiller, Basch, & Szaton-Blane (1992). Transnationalism is a social movement grown out of the heightened interconnectivity between people. Trans-nationalism is an economic process involving global reorganization of the production process, in which various stages of production of any product can occur in various countries, typically aiming to minimize costs. Proponents of trans-nationalism seek to facilitate the flow of people, ideas and goods among regions. They believe it has increasing relevance with the rapid growth of globalization. They contend that it does not make sense to link specific nation-state boundaries with, for instance, migratory workforces, global corporations, global money flow, global information flow and global scientific cooperation. Trans-nationalism also refers to a recent shift in migration patterns since the 1980s. Migration used to be a rather directed movement with a point of departure and a point of arrival. Today, it is increasingly turning into an ongoing movement between two or more social spaces or



locations. Facilitated by increased global transportation and telecommunication technologies, more and more migrants have developed strong transnational ties to more than one home country, blurring the congruence of social space and geographic space.

## **EMPIRICAL REVIEW**

### **Modern Literature on Migration**

Drettakis (1976) examined the migration of migrant workers from Italy, Greece, Spain, Turkey, Portugal and Yugoslavia to the Federal Republic of Germany during the period 1962 to 1972. He finds a one-month lag in the migration of women, who follow earlier migrating men. Changes in the economic climate of Germany rapidly reflected the flow of migrants into the country, suggesting that employment information in Germany was quickly disseminated from migrants to others still in source countries. In 1970, Chapin, Vedder and Gallaway examined the push and pull factors of migration from Great Britain, the Netherlands and West Germany to South Africa over the period 1950-1967. They made conclusions based on an alternative regression analysis on wage rates of both origin and destination countries, but not unemployment rates.

Several studies examining bilateral immigration in regards to Canada come to different conclusions. Wage differentials are found to be relatively inconsequential. Green (1976) found that only a small number of source countries where Canadian job opportunities were a significant determinate, and no evidence that wages in either country were significant. Berger and Webb (1987) examined the significance of manufacturing wages from 37 source countries with the US as the destination from 1969-1976. Examining dependent variables, they concluded that average manufacturing wages in the source country compared to the U.S. greatly discourages migration to the U.S. In his study of lag migration from Greece to West Germany, Australia, Canada and the United States, Lianos (1972) concluded that "potential migrants respond to monetary incentives with a lag" and estimates that other lags may exist. His data pool is small, but the direction of his studies is appropriate and points the way for other international migration studies. DeVoretz and Maki (1983) found similar conclusions to those of (Green, 1976; Needham, 1968; & Parai, 1969) when they examined highly skilled immigrants in Canada from 16 less-developed source countries from 1968-1973. They found that migrants were positively influenced by occupation-specific job opportunities in Canada, but not by occupation-specific income opportunities at home.

More recent studies have focused on specific migrant groups, from more skilled to less skilled workers. Huang (1987) studied professional immigration to the US and found that the difference in income between the US and the source country is a significant determinant. He also found that the amount of tax on income and wealth plays a significant role in relation to a country's GNP. DeVoretz and Maki (1983) and Hassan (1988) focused on the migration of professional and technical workers from less-developed countries to Canada and the United States, such as professors, teachers, physicians, scientists, engineers, and nurses. In every case, labor demands in the host country were the most significant factor effecting migration flow. Hassan therefore argues that pull factors are more significant than push factors for these types of jobs.

Gani and Ward (1995) studied the migration of skilled professionals from Fiji to New Zealand from 1987 and 1990, dividing migrants into 19 job sections. In Fiji, the outcome depended on political instability and real income in New Zealand. Gani (1998) looked at similar data from these countries from 1970 to 1994. He found that unemployment and wage differentials are the most significant factors on migration, while living standard and political stability were insignificant.

### **Contemporary Literature on Migration**

With the development of the society, changes of economic dynamics, social trends and globalization migration also have taken a quite different background in this century. Therefore certain new developments and tendencies have emerged. Some of such changes might have arisen with the global political uncertainty, especially with the crisis in Middle East, Syria and Afghanistan and Soviet block of countries.

Following authors have shown in their researches about the causes for migration in contemporary world.

Author(s)	Contribution and/or causes identified
Czaika (2015)	Future general economic and unemployment prospects, networks, foreign employment, income gap, unemployment rates, job vacancy ratio
Czaika and Vothknecht (2014)	Current subjective well-being; (economic) aspirations for the future
Polgreen and Simpson (2011)	Happiness; GDP (per capita real gross domestic product); GDP growth (growth rate in real GDP)
Bonasia and Napolitano (2012)	Employment rate; relative income (using per capita regional income); educational level (low/high); house prices; carbon dioxide emission; juvenile delinquency
Tupa and Strunz (2013)	Unemployment; number of new jobs created; self-esteem and need for fulfilment; learning and practicing language skills; new knowledge; having a job with higher salary; social status; motives of migrant's needs
Jennissen (2004)	Real wage; real GDP per capita; unemployment; shortages at the bottom of the labour market & unemployment; the certainty of sufficient household income; the degree of (income) inequality; material and cultural linkages between countries; the size and quality of the network of the migrant population in destination country; the number and quality of organization that facilitate migration to destination country
Cattaneo (2008)	Wage; unemployment rate; personal characteristics (gender, age, education, experience, marital status) and other info as occupation and industries
Van der Gaag and van Wissen (2008)	GDP per capita, unemployment, employment; inflation, lending interest, real interest; female labor force participation, employment in services, ageing of the labor force
Kurunova (2013)	GDP per capita; unemployment rate; consumer price index; minimum wages; social protection expenditures; natural increase/decrease of population; fertility rate

Polgreen and Simpson (2011) implements happiness variable in research of migration. The work of Polgreen and Simpson (2011) reveals that happiness has a U-shaped relationship

with migration, showing that people from very happy and unhappy countries are tend more for migration while from middle happiness countries having less tendency. Authors propose explanation using prospect theory. Also, optimism aspect explaining relationship between level of happiness and migration decision is highlighted. In a study of Czaika and Vothknecht (2014) indicates the framework of analysis based on individual's current and aspired future levels of well-being. The indication is therefore that individual can be willing to migrate in order to achieve aspired future level of well-being. Czaika (2015) extend analysis based on economic prospects, outlining migration prospect theory. Analysis consists the main two indicators about the future general economic and unemployment prospects. Also networks, income gap, unemployment rates and job vacancy ratio were analyzed. The analysis of Czaika (2015) shows that aspects of behavioral economics is valid in the context of migration process.

The increasing attention and emphasis on remittances has been part of a broader shift from regarding migration as a fairly permanent process involving the severing of the ties that link the migrants with their areas of origin to a transnational approach that instead emphasizes dual identities and belongings, as well as actions and practices that straddle different areas and countries (Levitt and Nyberg-Sorensen 2004). Money remittances constitute the most visible and economically relevant form of migrant transnationalism, but migration scholars and researchers have also highlighted other forms of transnationalism undertaken “from below” as a ‘by-product’ of migration that have a potential impact upon economic development (Guarnizo and Smith 1998). Most significantly, these have included transfers of technology and know-how, most notably in the case of so-called diaspora knowledge networks (Meyer and Wattiaux 2006); the role of diaspora business networks in fostering foreign investment and business partnerships (Newland and Patrick 2004); and the specific development-inducing effects of the projects and activities undertaken by migrant hometown associations (HTAs) (Mercer et al 2008). However, it has been noticed that there is not sufficient literature to theoretically explain, especially in Sri Lankan contents, why youth are trying to migrate within globalized contents. Therefore, extensive research is now required to understand and to academically contribute to discipline of migration with special attention to youth segment.

#### **ANALYZING LITERATURE.**

This conceptual paper is based solely on a review and analysis of research and data from the literature. Initial study was done with internet survey and regular publications by

International Organization of Migration (IOM). Then, specific studies published in journal articles were reviewed.

## **FINDINGS FROM THE LITERATURE AND APPLICABILITY OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION THEORIES IN THE CONTEXT OF SRI LANKA AND CONCLUSIONS**

As discussed above, many international migration theories have been proposed to assess the determinants or explain the underlying phenomenon of international migration. However, international migration is a complex issue with multiple facets. Patterns of international migration change in different communities or countries and continue changing with time and priorities. Therefore, none of the above theories seem capable of addressing the issue completely. One single theory may only explain a particular aspect of international migration. No theory provides a comprehensive answer to the factors or complex phenomenon of international migration. International migration has a short history in Sri Lanka. This issue has received recent attention mostly because of the growing outflow of Sri Lankans to different countries in Asia Pacific, Europe and North America. Even though the trend of international migration is short in Sri Lanka, no particular theory seems capable to fully assess the migration issue of the country. For example, the equilibrium theory assumes wage differences as a prime cause of international migration. If we examine the issue on the surface, we may assume Sri Lankans are migrating to developed countries mostly because of poverty or unemployment. However, many rich and high-level professionals with social prestige and income have also left Sri Lanka. Therefore, the equilibrium theory may not address the issue fully. The new economics of migration argues that economic development in a new area may increase pressure on people to migrate. International migration is typically a strategic behavior undertaken by families and households to reap new opportunities to manage risk and overcome market failures. However, in the case of Sri Lanka, international migration is more a personal decision rather than family or household's collective decision. Moreover, a majority of Sri Lankans have been living in a sustainable type of economy. Businesses or the market are not fully developed and functional in Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka's stock market is also in the infancy stage, giving little chance for market failure. Therefore, the new economics of migration also pose serious limitations in the context of Sri Lanka. The segmented market theory argues that international migration is mostly the result of the intrinsic labor demand of model industrial society. The main cause of international migration

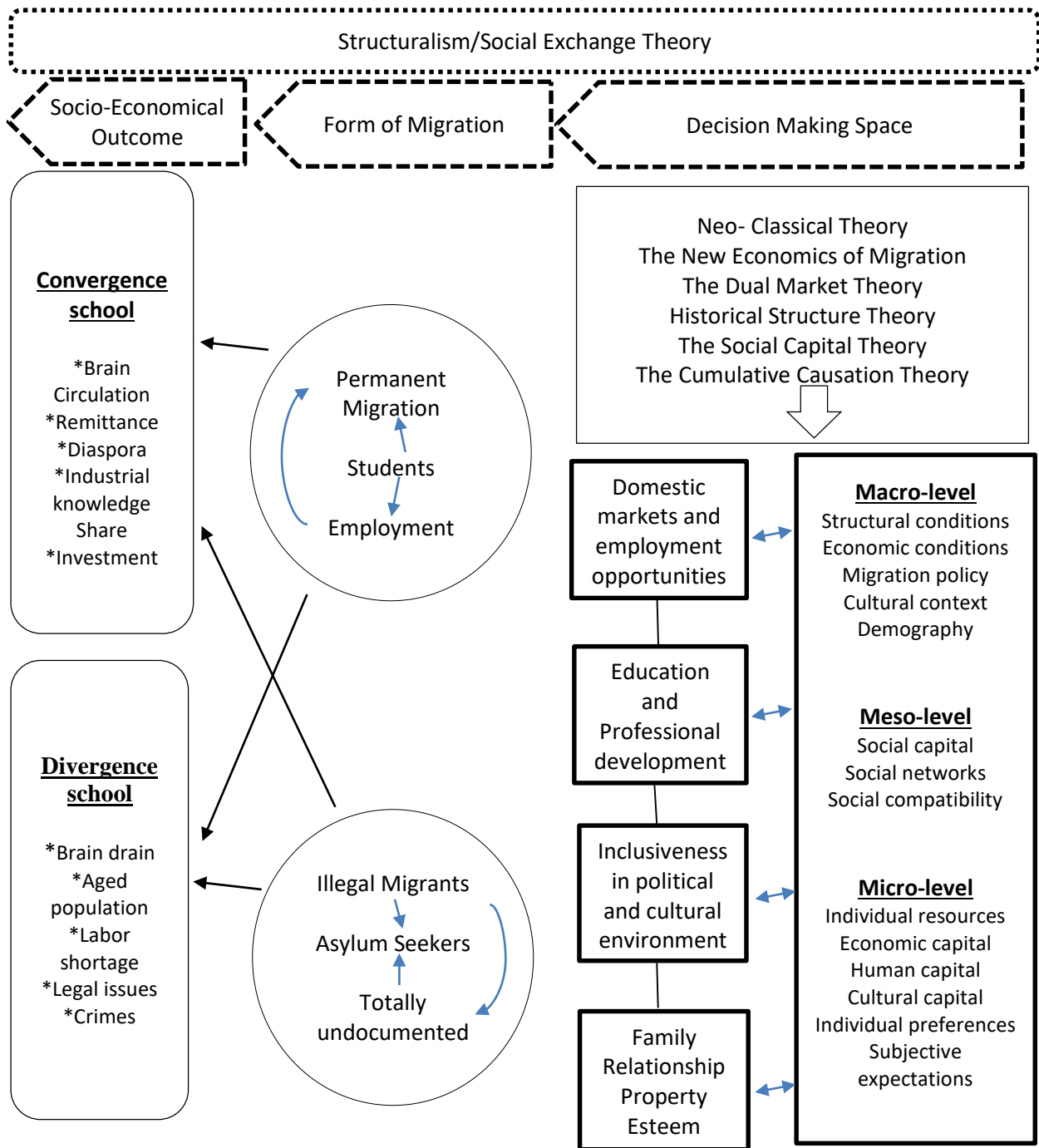
in this theory is the chronic and unavoidable need of foreign workers. However, this theory does not equally apply to all migrated workers of Sri Lanka.

The Historical Structure Theory believes that international migration is a product of the penetration of capitalist economic relations into non-capitalist or pre-capitalist societies. According to Wallerstein (1974), direct foreign investment creates an emerging market economy and displaces people from traditional livelihoods, creating a mobile population likely to migrate. Sri Lanka is a small agricultural economy and foreign investment is not that significant in Sri Lanka, therefore, the scope of the historical structure theory is very limited. Similarly, the social capital theory, the cumulative causation theory and trans-nationalism do not seem to fit into the present social, economic, political, demographics, technological and other factors of Sri Lanka. International migration consists of a group of receiving countries that are linked to sending countries by relatively large flows and counter flows of migrants. Countries in the migration system are not only connected by people, but also by various kinds of historical, cultural, colonial, language and other linkages. Therefore, the validity and usefulness of the above theories depends on their predicting power. In the event of close observation of the international migration pattern of Sri Lanka, it can be realized that different theories are playing a role in international migration. Sri Lankan people are migrating to different developed countries because of wage differences (neo-classical theory), collective household decisions (the economics of migration), pull factors of developed countries (the dual market theory), social network of migrants (social capital theory), economic, social, and cultural changes brought by migrants (the cumulative causation theory), and recent globalization (Trans-nationalism). As no single theory is perfect to explain the migration pattern of Sri Lanka, we consider economic (higher wage, employment, job growth opportunities), social (standard of living, physical infrastructure, child education, children's futures, social order, social security, unstable economy, corruption measures), political factors (political stability, democratic government), personal (personal privacy, personal freedom) etc to capture the core essence of the major international migration theories. Therefore, the theories of international migration reviewed will form the basis for the study. In this study main aim is to understand the reasons for the migration of Sri Lankans. The finding led to draw conclusion about key elements which motivate youth people for migration. It is obvious that no single reason is responsible to create a migration decision in general. We live in a society where we are constantly receiving information and opinion are being formed accordingly.

**Limitations**

In the management and behavioral areas, it is not always possible to conduct investigations that are pure accurate and fully scientific, in the sense that, unlike the physical sciences, the result obtained will not be exact and error-free. (Sekaran & Bougie, 2014)

**Identifying the phenomena in Migration of Youths**



Source: Author

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