

## Chapter 6

## SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Summary

The population of Sri Lanka is maldistributed with a greater concentration of population in the wet zone and especially in Colombo Region. The dry zone is basically thinly populated and NCP has the lowest density of all the provinces. This study has dealt with the internal migration patterns of Sri Lanka and specifically NCP and Colombo Region, because these two areas currently have the leading development programs of the nation. Many policies and programs have been formulated to relieve population pressure in the wet zone and to repopulate the dry zone. Other programs initiated in Colombo Region, in the wet zone, such as the IPZ's, have adversely affected the desired redistribution of the population.

Migrants have been defined in this study in two ways: lifetime and recent migrants. This has helped to evaluate the time factor involved in the migration process, and to determine the directions of migration flows. Census data used in the study have not provided any information about the determinants and consequences of the observed migration flows. However this study has attempted to interpret the relationship between migration patterns and the leading development programs and therefore to provide some guidelines for policy makers in understanding the impact of the development programs on population redistribution.

## 6.2 Major Findings and Conclusion

The pattern of internal migration observed in Sri Lanka, using two different definitions from the 1981 census, is simple: there are two dominant net-migration areas, one in the wet zone, Colombo Region, and another in the dry zone, NCP. Therefore the major hypothesis of the study, that "in Sri Lanka the pattern of net-migration is towards the leading development programs", was substantiated. Lifetime net-migration volume was highest in Gampaha District in Colombo Region, where the Investment Promotion Zones (IPZ) were located, followed by Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa Districts (NCP) and Colombo District. Recent net-migration (1976-81) was also highest in Gampaha District followed by Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, and Colombo Districts.

Adopting <sup>broader</sup> geographical localities--provinces or regions-- for the analysis revealed a higher volume of lifetime net-migration to NCP than to Colombo Region. However estimates of recent migration (1976-81) show the opposite pattern. Therefore one of the major conclusions would be the new-found attraction for migrants of Colombo Region. This may not be desirable because Colombo Region already has the highest concentration of population in the country and this situation could further increase the maldistribution.

Examining the migration trends (1966-71, 1976-81) in NCP and Colombo Region, an increasing trend of in-migrants for both the areas was found. However, out-migration was found to be accelerating more from NCP than from Colombo Region. It is interesting to note that though out-migration was increasing more rapidly in NCP, the percentage increase of net-migrants in the period of 1966-71 to 1976-81 of NCP was considerably higher than Colombo Region. The main

reason for this attraction was the Mahaweli program.

Migrant turnover, which is the sum of in-migrants and out-migrants measured by using both lifetime and recent migration (1976-81), was twice as high in Colombo Region than in NCP. However, a separate "migration effectiveness ratio" computed for both areas and was greater for NCP. Therefore NCP was found to have been more capable of retaining migrants than Colombo Region. However in absolute terms Colombo Region's net-gain (1976-81) was more voluminous than that of the former. The question remains as to which area was the most attractive to migrants.

The highest proportion of in-migrants in both periods (1966-71, 1976-81) to NCP originated from Central Province, an area where the limited availability of land for peasant agriculture operates as a factor promoting out-migration. A majority of Colombo Region's in-migrants originated from Southern, Central and Sabaragamuwa Provinces. Population transfers between the two most popular migration destinations of the country, NCP and Colombo Region, showed a net gain to the former for both periods under examination.

In- and out-migration trends in 1976-81 of NCP and Colombo Region indicated that the highest concentration of movers was in the year immediately preceding the 1981 census. Another important finding of the study is a significantly higher number of lifetime return migrants in Colombo Region than NCP. However these two findings should not be given too much weight because of the possibility of errors in the data.

The study indicated a strong relationship between migration and socio-economic characteristics such as age, sex, marital status, education and labour force participation. The census data make possible an analysis of the characteristics of the migrants only after migration takes place, therefore the analysis of the characteristics of migrants (1976-81) and differences with non-migrants was limited to the place of destination.

A majority of the in-migrants of NCP and Colombo Region were males and concentrated in the working age groups. A higher proportion of children in the migration stream to NCP indicates the movement of families to that province where land settlement and colonization programs were more common.

A majority of male in-migrants of NCP and Colombo Region (15 years of age and over) were never married while among in-migrant females this was true only in Colombo Region. The main conclusion of the marital status analysis was that marriage occurs earlier in NCP than in Colombo Region, and also the female in-migrants of NCP were more likely to be married than were the non-movers. The study indicates that higher levels of education were associated with migration in both NCP and Colombo Region.

Higher proportions of in-migrants to NCP and Colombo Region of both sexes (except females in NCP) were found to be employed compared with the non-movers. In general, crude and standardized labour force participation rates were also higher among the in-migrants. Crude activity rates of younger age groups (15-29) of NCP and Colombo Region clearly indicate this difference.

Higher unemployment rates for both sexes of in-migrants in NCP may have some relationship with the increasing trend of out-migration from the province. Since unemployment was higher among the in-migrants in NCP, expected future movers to the province may also have more difficulty in finding employing there. This situation may lead to heavy out-migration from NCP in future and therefore could destroy the main efforts of the Mahaweli program.

It is interesting to note the significantly higher contribution of migrants to the future population of NCP. The expected future population growth rate of NCP is expected to decline over time, however the absolute numbers would double just before the next 20-year period. Within the projection period of 1981-2001, the labour force of the province is expected to increase at a faster rate than the total population because of the age structure of the net-migrants.

In summary, the two leading development programs of the country, the Mahaweli and the GCEC, appear to have had significant impacts on population redistribution. But it is evident that the current population redistribution patterns are not sufficient to achieve at least a moderately even distribution of Sri Lanka's population in the foreseeable future. Population redistribution policies and national development policies should be integrated towards such an effort in the initial stages of planning. Nevertheless such policies will not be easy to formulate without in-depth information on the determinants and consequences of migration with special reference to its economic aspects.

### 6.3 Some Suggestions for Further Research

The interrelationships between national development programs and migration are complex. The present study attempted to examine these relationships, but was handicapped by inadequate data from population censuses and other sources. However further in-depth research should be carried out on the relation between national development programs and population redistribution because the leading development programs are large enough to redistribute Sri Lanka's population. The question remains, however, as to whether or not this redistribution will be in the appropriate directions.

The Mahaweli area (NCP) will be important because in the recent past the estimated out-migration trends from this region have increased considerably. The factors responsible for this out-migration could be determined through in-depth studies. This will be important for policy makers because the government had attempted to retain peasants in rural areas through regional development programs such as the Mahaweli. Data collection for such studies should not be restricted to the migration destination areas but also should include the non-migrants at major areas of origin and destination. In terms of methodology, a combination of participant observation and semi-structured interviews would be valuable.


In all there are many topics to study regarding internal migration and redistribution in Sri Lanka:

- (1) Migration trends and patterns (rural-rural, rural-urban, and urban-rural) with special reference to their determinants and consequences.
- (2) Contribution of urban-rural migration in relation to recent declines in urbanization in Sri Lanka.
- (3) Internal migration and rural development in Sri Lanka.
- (4) Migration decision making.

These research aspects of internal migration and redistribution should be analysed using sample surveys to supplement census-based information. Such surveys can collect more in-depth information and also try to assess those types of movements that are not captured by the population censuses. However census information on internal migration should be utilized because it provides a better framework for in-depth analysis and also provides the total national picture to explain understand the directions of internal migration and redistribution.



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In the most recent period 1976-81, the population transfer which took place between NCP and Colombo Region resulted in a net gain of 792 persons by NCP. This is more than twice as high as in 1966-71. Interestingly in-migrants to NCP from the Colombo Region also increased by more than 50 percent. NCP sent more or less the same number of out-migrants to Colombo Region in both periods. This illustration implies that though Colombo is the most urbanized and developed region of the country it was not a very popular destination for migrants compared with NCP.

### 3.3 Urban vs Rural Destination

There is no information as to whether migrants to NCP and Colombo Region came from urban or rural areas. Consequently, the analysis of migration patterns to these two areas is limited only to the urban and rural areas of destination.

In the 1981 population census urban areas were defined to include all municipalities, urban councils and town councils. Thus all village councils are defined as "rural". A United Nations (1980b:13) report commented that the designation of any area as an urban locality in Sri Lanka is "basically a politico-administrative definition and does not take the size of the population or any other characteristics into consideration". Most writers consider that there are no definite guidelines for the Ministry of Local Government to follow in making changes in rural-urban classification. However as Jones and Selvaratnam (1970:200) stated, "According to the Department of Town and Country Planning, ministerial discretion in the creation of new town councils, in the absence of such criteria, seems to be based on



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## APPENDIX A.1

## NET INTERNAL MIGRATION BY DISTRICT \* (1971-81)

District	1971 Population (P <sub>0</sub> )	1981 Enumerated Population (P <sub>1</sub> )	Mid year population $\frac{P_0 + P_1}{2}$	Net-migration (1971-1981) P <sub>1</sub> - (P <sub>0</sub> + B-D)	Rate of Net Migration %
Colombo	2,672,265	3,087,812	2,880,039	- 51,694	- 1.8
Kalutara	729,514	827,189	778,352	- 32,913	- 4.2
Kandy	1,096,737	1,126,296	1,111,517	-196,166	-17.6
Matale	314,841	357,441	33,141	- 31,617	- 9.4
Nuwara Eliya	450,278	522,219	486,249	- 4,662	- 1.0
Galle	735,173	814,579	774,876	- 46,492	- 6.0
Matara	586,443	644,231	615,337	- 69,000	-11.2
Hambantota	340,254	424,102	382,178	+ 608	+ 0.2
Jaffna	701,603	838,409	770,006	- 30,376	- 3.9
Mannar	77,780	112,593	95,187	+ 11,138	+11.7
Vavuniya	95,243	160,466	127,855	+ 32,187	+25.2
Batticaloa	256,721	330,899	293,810	- 5,618	- 1.9
Amparai	272,605	388,786	330,696	+ 48,854	+14.8
Trincomalee	188,245	256,790	222,518	+ 2,249	+ 1.0
Kurunegala	1,025,633	1,212,755	1,119,194	- 24,317	- 2.2
Puttalam	378,430	493,344	435,887	+ 13,346	+ 3.1
Anuradhapura	388,770	587,822	488,296	+ 70,223	+14.4
Polonnaruwa	163,653	262,753	213,203	+ 52,762	+24.7
Badulla	615,405	642,893	629,149	- 100,508	-16.0
Moneragala	193,020	279,743	236,382	+ 20,457	+ 8.7
Ratnapura	661,344	796,468	728,906	- 20,599	- 2.8
Kegalle	654,752	682,411	668,582	- 76,464	-11.4

Note : \* Figures are given according to the district boundaries before the delimitation in 1978

Source: Department of Census and Statistics, (1983a: 43).

APPENDIX A.4

QUESTIONS ON INTERNAL MIGRATION - EXTRACTED FROM 1981  
POPULATION AND HOUSING SCHEDULE (SAMPLE)

<p><b>P 24—PLACE OF BIRTH</b></p> <p>91—Born in this district If any other place then state the District/Country and enter its code.</p>	<p>91—Born in this Dist.</p> <p>.....</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 20px; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20px;"></td> <td style="width: 20px;"></td> <td style="width: 60px;"></td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: right;">District/country.</p>			
<p><b>P 25—PLACE OF USUAL RESIDENCE</b></p> <p>91—This Town/Village 92—Outside this Town/Village but within the district If another district/country state the district/country and enter its code.</p>	<p>91—This T/V. 92—This Dist.</p> <p>.....</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 20px; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20px;"></td> <td style="width: 20px;"></td> <td style="width: 60px;"></td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: right;">District/country.</p>			
<p style="font-size: small; color: blue;">University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka Electronic Theses &amp; Dissertations <a href="http://www.lib.mrt.ac.lk">www.lib.mrt.ac.lk</a></p>				
<p><b>P 26—PERIOD OF STAY IN THE TOWN OR VILLAGE OF USUAL RESIDENCE</b></p> <p>Enter the number of years ignoring fractions. If less than one year enter '00', If living since birth circle 91 and end interview</p>	<p>91—Since birth (End interview)</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 20px; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20px;"></td> <td style="width: 20px;"></td> <td style="width: 60px;"></td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: right;">Years go to P27.</p>			
<p><b>P 27—DISTRICT OF PREVIOUS RESIDENCE</b></p> <p>(Immediately before coming to live in this Town/Village) If previous residence was also in the same district circle 91, Otherwise write the district/country and enter its code.</p>	<p>91—Same District.</p> <p>.....</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 20px; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20px;"></td> <td style="width: 20px;"></td> <td style="width: 60px;"></td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: right;">District/Country.</p>			

Source: Population and Housing Schedule (Sample),  
Form F 10.

## APPENDIX B.1

AGE STRUCTURE OF MIGRANTS, NON-MIGRANTS (1976-81) OF NCP AND COLOMBO REGION AND TOTAL POPULATION OF SRI LANKA

Age	North Central Province						Colombo Region						Sri Lanka Population 1981	
	In-migrants %	Out-migrants %	Non-migrants %		In-migrants %	Out-migrants %	Non-migrants %		In-migrants %	Out-migrants %	Non-migrants %			
<b>MALE</b>														
0-4	308	3.7	130	4.9	5228	8.1	331	2.1	425	4.8	14,084	5.5	6.4	
5-9	264	3.2	164	6.2	4522	7.0	349	2.3	443	5.0	13,731	5.4	5.8	
10-14	361	4.3	199	7.6	4091	6.3	708	4.6	453	5.1	13,909	5.5	5.8	
15-19	739	8.8	164	6.2	3704	5.7	1260	8.2	566	6.3	13,700	5.4	5.5	
20-24	1040	12.4	157	6.0	3332	5.2	1942	12.6	641	7.2	12,724	5.0	5.1	
25-29	862	10.3	154	5.9	2861	4.4	1527	9.9	658	7.4	11,014	4.4	4.3	
30-34	569	6.8	123	4.7	2356	3.7	996	6.5	537	6.0	10,184	4.0	3.8	
35-39	358	4.3	85	3.2	1514	2.3	583	3.8	384	4.3	7,731	3.0	2.8	
40-44	263	3.1	71	2.7	1394	2.2	387	2.5	257	2.9	6,710	2.6	2.4	
45-49	199	2.4	50	1.9	1,200	1.9	242	1.6	192	2.1	5,646	2.2	2.1	
50-54	132	1.6	22	0.8	1,085	1.7	187	1.2	162	1.8	5,395	2.1	1.9	
55-59	102	1.2	27	1.0	810	1.3	139	0.9	126	1.4	4,436	1.7	1.5	
60-64	85	1.0	8	0.3	613	0.9	123	0.8	116	1.3	3,631	1.4	1.2	
65+	106	1.3	19	0.7	1,027	1.6	164	1.1	154	1.7	6,691	2.6	2.3	
<b>FEMALES</b>														
0-4	314	3.8	140	5.3	5,207	8.1	301	1.9	417	4.7	13,537	5.3	6.1	
5-9	276	3.3	177	6.7	4,222	6.5	343	2.2	413	4.6	13,029	5.1	5.6	
10-14	234	2.8	152	5.8	3,818	5.9	540	3.5	396	4.4	13,624	5.4	5.6	
15-19	370	4.4	182	6.9	3,580	5.5	888	5.8	355	4.0	13,207	5.2	5.3	
20-24	563	6.7	201	7.6	3,198	5.0	1,382	9.0	493	5.5	12,017	4.7	5.1	
25-29	434	5.2	143	5.4	2,645	4.1	1,102	7.1	543	6.1	10,288	4.2	4.3	
30-34	276	3.3	99	3.8	2,012	3.1	668	4.3	416	4.7	9,763	3.9	3.7	
35-39	140	1.7	60	2.3	1,450	2.2	324	2.1	247	2.8	7,532	3.0	2.8	
40-44	88	1.0	33	1.3	1,212	1.9	204	1.3	137	1.5	6,111	2.4	2.3	
45-49	70	0.8	21	0.8	1,129	1.7	145	0.9	92	1.0	5,532	2.2	2.0	
50-54	63	0.8	19	0.7	801	1.2	163	1.1	98	1.1	5,193	2.0	1.7	
55-59	37	0.4	11	0.4	537	0.8	116	0.7	59	0.7	4,238	1.7	1.4	
60-64	33	0.4	7	0.3	363	0.6	101	0.6	43	0.5	3,432	1.3	1.1	
65+	72	0.9	13	0.5	649	1.0	210	1.4	104	1.2	6,748	2.7	2.0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,358</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2,631</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>64,562</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>15,425</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>8,927</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>253,842</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	
<b>I<sub>D</sub></b>		<b>24.6</b>		<b>13.6</b>		<b>7.2</b>		<b>27.4</b>		<b>13.4</b>			<b>3.9</b>	

Note : I<sub>D</sub> = Index of Dissimilarity.

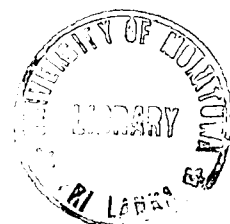
Source: Derived from 10 percent sample tapes of 1981 census.

## APPENDIX B.2

PROPORTION OF NEVER MARRIED OF IN-MIGRANTS AND NON-MIGRANTS  
OF NCP AND COLOMBO REGION BY AGE AND SEX, 1976-81

Age	North Central Province				Colombo		Region	
	In-Migrants		Non-Migrants		In-Migrants		Non-Migrants	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
15-19	.991	.658	.990	.847	.993	.886	.991	.928
20-24	.840	.302	.763	.393	.920	.658	.869	.633
25-29	.599	.214	.334	.159	.720	.463	.584	.369
30-34	.339	.141	.158	.073	.361	.280	.310	.183
35-39	.168	.071	.088	.032	.201	.241	.159	.104
40-44	.137	.068	.066	.020	.176	.162	.109	.075
45-49	.075	.014	.045	.014	.145	.076	.091	.060
15-49	.602	.290	.478	.325	.680	.535	.542	.419
Number	4030	1941	16361	15226	6937	4713	67709	64450

Source: Derived from 10 percent sample tapes of 1981 census.



## APPENDIX C.1

ASSUMPTIONS USED FOR PROJECTION OF POPULATION OF NCP,  
1981-2001

Components	Period			
	1981-86	1986-91	1991-96	1996-2001
Total Fertility rate	3.9	3.7	3.4	3.1
Expectation of Life at Birth				
Female	69.1	70.7	71.6	72.4
Male	65.7	68.2	69.0	69.6
Net-migrants for Five Year Periods (in thousands)				
Female	19.5	27.5	37.5	47.0
Male	42.5	52.0	66.5	78.5

Note: Ten percent sample estimates of net-migrants of NCP of 1976-81 inflated to total population.  
Coale and Demeny west model life tables were used.

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## APPENDIX C.2

## FERTILITY AND MORTALITY INDICATORS OF NCP

Year	Crude Birth Rate	Total Fertility Rate	Infant Mortality Rate	Crude Death Rate	Expectation of Life at Birth	
					Male	Female
1971	34.0	5.2	37.6	5.5	65.7	68.7
1972	35.8		35.4	5.5		
1973	34.2		33.7	5.6		
1974	33.8		33.5	5.7		
1975	34.6		34.6	6.5		
1976	35.4		32.8	5.9		
1977	35.9		33.7	6.4		
1978	37.2		21.2	5.4		
1979	37.2		20.2	5.4		
1980	37.6			4.9		
1981	36.2	4.1*		4.8	66.5	69.9

Note: \* Estimated by using 1981 total births and female population in age groups 15-19 to 45-49, distribute the total births of 1981 among female age groups using the pattern observed in 1971.

Source: Derived from reports of census and statistics and vital statistics.

## APPENDIX C.3

DISTRIBUTION OF NET-MIGRANTS BY AGE, 1976-81, AND  
LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATES OF NCP, 1981

Age	Age structure of Net-migrants (%)		Labour Force Participation (%)	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0-4	4.4	10.2		
5-9	2.5	5.8		
10-14	4.0	4.8	4.8	1.4
15-19	14.3	11.0	45.3	12.5
20-24	22.0	21.1	83.1	24.5
25-29	17.6	17.0	93.1	26.0
30-34	11.2	10.3	96.5	25.8
35-39	6.8	4.7	96.9	25.2
40-44	4.8	3.2	96.5	25.9
45-49	3.7	2.9	95.2	27.9
50-54	2.7	2.6	94.4	26.8
55-59	1.9	1.5	88.6	23.3
60-64	1.9	1.5	80.6	17.4
65+	2.2	3.4	59.3	11.8

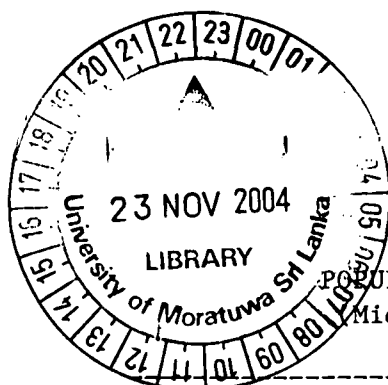
Total


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100.0 100.0

Note: Labour force participation rates derived from total population of NCP of Sri Lanka.

Source: Derived from 10 percent sample tapes of 1981 Census.



## APPENDIX C.4

POPULATION PROJECTION OF NCP, 1981-2001  
(Mid year population in thousands)

AGE	1981	1986	1991	1996	2001
FEMALES					
0-4	63.5	67.2	79.0	87.4	94.9
5-9	51.7	64.7	69.1	81.7	90.9
10-14	46.3	52.6	66.0	70.9	84.1
15-19	46.3	47.7	54.6	68.8	74.5
20-24	44.7	49.2	51.9	60.4	76.1
25-29	36.1	48.1	54.2	58.8	69.1
30-34	26.7	38.5	51.5	58.9	64.9
35-39	18.0	27.9	40.2	54.0	62.0
40-44	15.3	18.5	28.7	41.3	55.3
45-49	13.7	15.6	19.1	29.3	42.1
50-54	10.2	13.9	16.0	19.6	30.0
55-59	6.7	10.2	13.9	16.1	19.9
60-64	4.7	6.6	10.0	13.6	16.0
65-69	3.5	4.7	6.6	9.9	13.5
70-74	2.5	3.2	4.4	6.2	9.2
75+	2.5	3.1	4.0	5.3	7.4
Total	392.4	471.7	569.0	682.4	809.7
MALES					
AGE	1981	1986	1991	1996	2001
0-4	64.1	70.0	82.1	90.7	98.2
5-9	54.8	65.1	71.4	84.0	93.0
10-14	51.5	56.0	66.6	73.3	86.3
15-19	53.8	55.1	60.5	72.4	80.2
20-24	54.3	61.0	64.1	72.2	86.2
25-29	46.3	62.1	70.8	76.8	87.2
30-34	36.0	51.9	69.1	79.8	87.6
35-39	22.9	39.4	56.1	74.4	86.2
40-44	19.7	25.0	41.8	59.2	78.1
45-49	16.8	21.0	26.6	43.8	61.4
50-54	14.5	17.5	21.9	27.9	44.9
55-59	10.8	14.6	17.7	22.3	28.3
60-64	8.4	10.6	14.3	17.5	22.0
65-69	5.6	8.1	10.2	13.8	16.9
70-74	4.2	4.9	7.0	8.9	12.0
75+	3.7	4.6	5.6	7.6	9.9
Total	467.4	567.0	685.9	824.5	978.2
G. Total	859.8	1038.7	1255.0	1507.0	1787.9

Note: FIVFIV/SINSIN computer program was used to project the population. Assumptions used in the projection were fertility, mortality and net-migration.

