THE EFFECTS IMPOSED ON A CHILD'S SOCIALIZATION BY THE MIGRATION OF THEIR MOTHERS

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Abstract - The traditional Sri Lankan woman had been one who did not go beyond the horizon of the house in the extended family structure. However, with the implementation of the open economic system back in 1977, these women were blessed with the opportunity of stepping into society and work through certain multiple job sectors. One such opportunity they acquired was going abroad to work as housemaids. With the cumulative trend of this by today, there have been much debauched influences as well as commendable results. The mother is considered as the center figure who plays a major role in the family. There are four major functional aspects can be taken in to the consideration regarding family as a social institution. Family is the most influential social institution which provides primary socialization to the children. Socialization is the process of acquiring parental accepted norms, which can beneficially help children attain a peace of mind. Since Sri Lanka is a country which highly appreciates the culture and the tradition, it has been the mother who's responsible in facilitating this basic task of 'socialization'. This research was conducted on the basis of the problem, "How does mothers' migrating abroad effect on their child's socialization?" This main purpose of this study was to elaborate above matter under a sociological view point. Both quantitative and qualitative methods used for the study. Moreover, in relation to the approach of the research, the Survey Method and the Case Study Method were used. Furthermore, the collection of data was performed through series of questionnaires and interviews, selecting a section of hundred families representing all the sixteen divisional secretariats in the Puttalam district. Data analysis was revealed according the basic research methodologies so as to be based on the conclusions. The hypothesis that "Mothers' going abroad effects on the socialization of the children in that families" was proved in the research. The research made it evident and possible to come into conclusion that mothers migrating abroad have impacts on children in both in terms of positive and negative aspects.

Keywords - Migration, Socialization, Open Economic System, House maid, Role

I. INTRODUCTION

With the increase of the fuel prices, the Middle Eastern labour market got widely opened for the foreigners, due to the availability of development projects of different nature.The Sri-Lankan migration takes place in different ways, which includes the form of settlement, the refugee purposes and the independent and informal migration. In terms of the Sri-Lankan labour migration, the agreement, based migration, done on the contractbasis has been the most outstanding feature of the last four decades. Few regulations were imposed by the Sri-Lankan government in order to restrict the women labour migration. Circulations were issued by the Ministry of Foreign Employment Development and Welfare in 2013. The first of the same was issued to the foreign employment agents, while the second was issued to the Divisional Sectaries.

The submission of a report on the family background by any woman, seeking for the foreign employment, has been made compulsory by the above circulations, issued in 2014. This particular report emphasizes and draws its attention on the protection and the sponsorship of the children of the women foreign domestic labours, while ensuring its ability of making decisions, based upon the information, received. With this particular move, the women whose children are below five years were barred from seeking foreign employment. Further to that, the women whose children are above five years are also permitted to get the foreign employment, provided that there is a comprehensive programme, which is able to look into the custody and the care of their children. And also, only the women who are below 55 years are permitted to get the first time foreign employment. Similarly, only the women who are above 25 years are permitted to find the employment in Saudi Arabia. The minimum age for the other Middle Eastern countries is 23 years, while 21 years being the stipulated age for the other countries. The report, given on the family background requires the permission of the GramaNiladhari, the public health officers, the employment agent, the custodian of the children (unless father is the custodian) and the husband.

But, the authority of taking the eventual decision lies with the development officer (migration) based at the Divisional Secretariat. As per the media briefing, done by the media spokesman and the Deputy Director of the foreign employment bureau, it has been found out that compared with the year 2013, the migration of women for the foreign employment has relatively decreased by 6.4%. He further, commented that the women's participation in the pro-foreign employment training has also decreased by 34%. Due to several reasons, the tendency of women, flying aboard as the domestic labours is criticized. It is questioned whether the foreign exchange, earned by the untrained women labours is able to compensate

with the grave impact, which it does on the national economic and social aspects of the country.
Discussions are held on the issues, risen, particularly, on the aspect of nutrition, security, social and cultural segments, during the time in which the mother is away from the home. Another issue is the fact that the rights of the woman who goes aboard as a domestic servant are violated. But, it should not be forgotten that the women, employed abroad are economically and socially empowered. The women also have the equal rights in order to arrive at a decision by herself, as much as their male counter parts are entitled with. When there are no legal barriers and the other relevant issues, with regard to the report on the family background, still a prospective female migrant, looking for the foreign employment finds that relatively her chances are much lesser than that of her male counter parts.And such a situation is directly linked with the gender discrimination.Likewise in this way, the role of the women, the family and the motherhood is usually restricted within this particular traditional and conservative structure, where the major emphasis is given on the fraternal based structure. The above situation is not in consistent with the Sri-Lankan constitution, the international covenant on civil and political rights to which Sri-Lanka is a signatory. And also, this is inconsistent with the 2009 national treaty of labour migration of Sri-Lanka, based on male and female equity and the right for the jobs.

And, in terms of the same aspect, the female percentage by 2013, within the national labour force stood at 35.5%. Even towards the later partof 1990, the foreign labour force comprised of 75% of women. And this percentage started to decline with the encouragement of the government, extended on the skilled labours and the males. FranshusKepora, the United Nation's special mediator of the migrants who came to the island in 2004 May, also requested the abolition of the report on the family background. It is true that the women who go abroad as domestic servants are the mothers of very young children and also they are sexually abused and their rights are violated. It is clear that the purpose of the Sri-Lankan government in imposing these regulations is to protect both the women and the children. But, those regulations should not be applied in order to violate the rights of the women, endorsed in the international covenant on the civil and the political rights to which Sri-Lanka is a signatory.

II. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

As far as the basic characteristics of the labour migrant and the labour migration are taken into account, within the recent history, it is understood that the women's participation in the process of the labour migration, has stood beyond that of the same of the males.

The women's foreign domestic employment has brought out both positive and negative impact on the society. Mentioned below are some of the social and economic issues, associated with the labour migration.

01. Not receiving the salary, agreed upon.
02. The difficulties in communication.
03. Falling sick.
04. Both physical and sexual harassment.
05. Sudden death and suicides.
06. Not being responsible for the repatriation.
07. Facing with issues within the domestic environment.

Saudi Arabia is the forerunner in the Sri-Lankan labour market. And also around 40% of the complains, made by the entire number of people who are employed abroad from 2006 to 2009 was reported in Saudi Arabia.

The complains of this caliber has been reported not only from Saudi Arabia but also from the other countries as well, which indicate on the status of their gender and also that of the nature of the complaints, made. Poverty is the central reason for a migrant laborer in migrating from one country to another. Both the male and the female go abroad, looking for greener pastures, since they are unable to remedy the status of poverty back in the island. On this context, within the Gulf region, the female migrant's possibilities of getting sexually abused are much higher than their male counter parts. As per the results of the research, the mother was replaced by a member of the family in the process of socialization. Though this particular substitution has taken place either voluntarily or as a responsibility, it could be concluded that they hardly had a concrete idea on this particular process.

As per the social and cultural aspects of the families, the children have learned the basics of the initial socialization such as partaking in meals, having a shower, sanitary, sleep and the physical cleanliness.
The family structure has been able to assist the children by means of the alternative influences, done on the contribution, extended on the verbal communication and physiological aspects of the child, while improving their conversational patterns. As a whole, the children's inter-relationships with the other members of the family were in a relatively lower position which was understood as a negative aspect, during the process of the research. A special characteristic of the sample is the availability of the most needed aspect of the socialization,such as extending love and kindness to the child, being the most closestentityof the child, while spending a considerable period of time with him and also making sure that the child is well looked after. It was able to conclude that the children were able to have a considerable degree of socialization, specifically the situation such as the company of the siblings and the

friends, understanding their own role and that of the religious prospective, even at a time where the presence of the mother is not available.

CONCLUSION

The personality of the child was adjudicated by means of the socialization aspects, such as the unwanted fear, apprehensiveness, stubbornness, curiosity, questions on the good and bad aspects, social phobia, backwardness, the reluctance to have a relationship with the society, the reluctance for education as well as that of the unwanted disputes among the family members. Due to the positive economic factors, the structural changes of the familywere evaluated with several components. Likewise, since the income of the family got relatively increased, it could be concluded that certain effective changes were able to be seen among the children and the family. In Sri-Lanka, it is clearly known that the women, flying over to the Middle East as the domestic servants have faced with numerous difficulties in their lives. The husbands of these women are used to maintain adultery relationships, while those women themselves, getting involved with another man in order to get rid of the sense of isolation. Alcoholism of the father, the adultery relationships and that of the unavailability of the mother negatively affect with the process of the socialization of the children. Hence, it could be identified that the foreign employment of the mother directly affects with the socialization of the mother.

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