

## ABSTRACT

This study sought to identify the social behaviour of secondary school children of migrant and non- migrant mothers. Further, it focused on the difference in the behaviour of the students of migrant and non- migrant mothers and attempted to find out whether the difference in the behaviour of students of migrant mothers was due to the migration of the mother.

This study involved 50 secondary school students (25 students of migrant mothers and 25 students who live with their mothers), 10 teachers, and 30 parents and guardians from the schools of Colombo North division. Data were collected using 4 types of instruments: an observational schedule for teachers to observe student's behaviour, an interview schedule for teachers, another interview schedule for mothers and caregivers, and an interview schedule for students. Data were analyzed following frequency analysis technique. The qualitative data were analyzed based on content analysis and narrative analysis.

The study revealed that secondary school adolescents in the sample had positive and negative behaviour. Positive behaviour included helping each other, working together in pairs as well as a team, sharing equipment building good rapport with teachers and peers, apologizing when they are wrong, respecting and helping teachers, and were not engaged in drug addiction or smoking. Negative behaviour revealed in the study were related the usage of obscene language, prioritizing friends, being stubborn, throwing temper tantrums, bullying others and frequent use of social networks and being addicted to them.

The findings further indicated that there were very few differences in the social behaviour of the students of migrant and non-migrant mothers. Behaviour such as caring about others, sharing equipment, being responsible in domestic work, wasting a plenty of time in entertainment activities, complaining about minor issues and frequent anger were identified to be possessed by the students of migrant mother. The study revealed that these behaviour were caused due to the migration of their mothers. The study further revealed that there is a huge difference in the academic performance of the students of migrant mothers in

comparison to the students of non-migrant mothers. The low academic performance was identified to be due to the migration of the mothers.

The study has recommended that fathers and caregivers should take the responsibility of their children and set limits for their behaviour. Moreover, schools should hold workshops for parents, guardians and students to provide proper guidance. Moreover, the study emphasized that the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment should take measures to provide guidance and counselling to the students and arrange seminars on how to handle the students of migrant mothers for teachers who deal with such students.