ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACTS OF
THE MIGRATION OF
SRI LANKAN TRANSNATIONAL DOMESTIC WORKERS
ON FAMILIES AND CHILDREN LEFT BEHIND

SWARNALATHA UKWATTA

MA (Demography), PGD (Cartography), PGD (Population Studies),
B.Dev. (Statistics)

Thesis submitted for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy
Discipline of Geographical and Environmental Studies
The University of Adelaide
January 2010
ABSTRACT

Some of the world’s largest flows of temporary migrant workers originate in Asian countries. Almost all of these migration flows involve the separation of the migrant from their families whether extended or nuclear. Consequently, transnational families in which one or more members are out of the country for several years are increasingly common in the Asian region. Moreover, there are increasing numbers of migrant families with one or both parents being overseas for work for a significant part of the growing up of their children. In the Asian region, a large proportion of absent mothers are found in countries like the Philippines, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka. While the issue of the families and children left behind by migrant women has been intensively studied from a number of perspectives in the Asian Region, especially in the Philippines, it remains under-researched and indeed little understood in Sri Lanka, which is one of the major suppliers of overseas domestic workers.

Currently, the Sri Lankan government faces a dilemma. On one hand, remittances from overseas migrant workers overseas are the second largest source of foreign export earnings, and 60 per cent of this is from the migrants in Middle East countries where the majority of domestic workers are employed. On the other hand, there is a growing concern with the social effects of that movement on the children left behind by migrant women. Some countries in the region have banned the deployment of women migrant workers, but this has simply channelled them into undocumented flows. Although the government of Sri Lanka had several discussions to restrict the migration of females, it was found such a decision would be unworkable. A virtual vacuum of empirical evidence regarding the effects of the absence of mothers on their families and children left behind is recognised. Therefore, by examining how the families and children left behind are influenced by the migration of the “light of the home”, this thesis provides valuable information that is urgently required by policy makers.

The thesis reports on a field survey of 400 Sri Lankan families where the mother has gone to work in a foreign country as a domestic worker and detailed discussions with key stakeholders in the study area. It examines the effects of the migration of domestic workers on the economic and social situation of their families and children. On one hand, the effects of increased money on the overall economic well-being of their families and the education of children are positive. On the other hand, there are several negative impacts on the behavioural
patterns and health of the children left behind and the family as a whole. This study also reports on the arrangements that are made by the migrant women for taking care of the children while they are away and how they maintain intimacy with their families from a distance. Differences in the impacts are investigated between urban, rural, and estate based households as well as according to the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the migrants. In addition, the thesis discusses the demographic and socio-economic context of Sri Lanka and the improvement in socio-economic levels and international migration patterns of females to provide a comprehensive picture of domestic worker migration. It also develops a theoretical framework of transnational domestic worker migration in Sri Lanka.

Finally, it explores some of the policy implications of the findings, and suggests some recommendations in maximising the positive effects and minimising the negative effects of women’s migration on families and children. It further argues that there is a need to explore best practice models, which support the families of migrant workers but also facilitate regular intimate contact between migrant and family while gaining economic advantages of migration. There is every indication that migration of this type will continue and indeed increase as the drivers of it are intensifying, and banning the movement of women domestics has been attempted in several Asian contexts with negative results for the women involved.
DECLARATION

This thesis contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in any university or any other tertiary institution, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it contains no material previously published or written by another person, except where due reference is made in the text.

I give consent to this copy of my thesis being made available in the Discipline of Geographical and Environmental Studies/The University Library for loan and photocopying.

Swarnalatha Ukwatta

January 2010
DEDICATION

To my father who passed away during my PhD candidature, mother, husband, son, daughter-in-law, and daughter for their unconditional love and support
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

For the successful completion of this thesis, several people and organisations have contributed in numerous ways. My thanks and acknowledgements go to all of them. First, I would like to thank the Vice Chancellor of the University of Colombo, Prof. Kshanika Hirimburegama for granting leave enabling me to read for my PhD in the University of Adelaide, Australia. I am also thankful to the Head of the Department of Demography of the University of Colombo for releasing me from my academic and research work, my colleagues who assumed my work during the period of my absence, and all staff members for their generous support in various tasks.

I am indebted to my principal supervisor Professor Graeme Hugo, for his guidance, inspiration, and encouragement from the beginning to the completion of the study. My sincere thanks go to him as his support and supervision helped me to complete my thesis before completing three years in my PhD candidature. I am also grateful to Dr. Dianne Rudd, my co-supervisor, for her valuable feedback on my chapters, and the guidance and support provided in developing the questionnaire. I thank Christine Crothers at the Discipline of Geographical and Environmental Studies of the University of Adelaide and S. D. Rajapaksa at the Department of Census and Statistics, Sri Lanka for their painstaking task of the preparation of maps for the thesis. My sincere thanks also go to all colleagues and staff at the Discipline of Geographical and Environmental Studies for providing me with a good working environment. I really appreciate the moral support and inspiration given by my roommates Mosharefa Shahjahan, Judith Coxell, and Emily Moskwa, and thank them for their understanding throughout all the rough times.

I am thankful to the Divisional Secretaries of Colombo, Hanwella, Kurunegala, and Mawatagama for their valuable support in organising and conducting fieldwork. Conducting the fieldwork would not have been easy without their support. I offer my gratitude to their subordinates and Grama Niladharies who helped me in numerous ways to make my data collection a success. I am so grateful to my interviewers Achala, Deepthi, Dilani, Nandana, and Rohan for their hard work in the field to make my data set valuable and error-free. Without their support, I would have not been able to complete my data collection within the scheduled time. My gratitude is also extended to all the respondents and all the participants of
focus group discussions for their contribution to the study by providing information that I required.

Officers of the Department of Census and Statistics, Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment and the Save the Children provided me with relevant information at every stage of my study. I thank them sincerely. My special thanks also go to Mrs. Suranjana Vidyaratne, Mr. W. D. P. de A. Goonatilleke, Ms. Isharika Wickramasinghe, and Mr. Madhawa Deshapriya for their cooperation.

I would like to thank the National Centre for Advanced Studies (NCAS) Sri Lanka in providing financial support to start my PhD in the University of Adelaide, and Professor Graeme Hugo in providing support with a tuition fees scholarship. I also thank Dr. Dianne Rudd for her support in obtaining some funds from the GES Postgraduate Fund of the Department of Geographical and Environmental Studies to purchase the air ticket to travel to Sri Lanka for the field survey. My thanks also go to the Adelaide Graduate centre for awarding me the Research Abroad Scholarship and the Australia Population Association for providing financial assistance from the J. C. Caldwell Grant contributing to the completion of my data collection.

I thank my daughter Asanthi Perera and her friend Lochana Maldeniya for proof reading my chapters. The support given by them is greatly appreciated in the face of their heavy workload of the last semester of their degree.

I am so grateful to my father (late) and mother for their encouragement and support rendered in my academic achievements throughout my life. Finally, I thank my husband Austin, son Shanaka, daughter-in-law Mahesha, and daughter Asanthi who have been encouraging me all the way through, and provided me with all the support to complete this task. All of them were dreaming of this day for a long time.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACRONYMS</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CBSL</td>
<td>Central Bank of Sri Lanka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRC</td>
<td>Convention on the Rights of the Child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DC&amp;S</td>
<td>Department of Census and Statistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DS</td>
<td>Divisional Secretariat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FDI</td>
<td>Foreign Direct Investment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FGD</td>
<td>Focus Group Discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCC</td>
<td>Gulf Cooperation Council countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCE O/L</td>
<td>General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GCE A/L</td>
<td>General Certificate of Education Advanced Level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDP</td>
<td>Gross Domestic Product</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GN</td>
<td>Grama Niladhari</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDI</td>
<td>Human Development Index</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICMR</td>
<td>UN Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILO</td>
<td>International Labour Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMI</td>
<td>International Migration Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMPP</td>
<td>International Migration Policy Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IOM</td>
<td>International Organisation for Migration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIEs</td>
<td>Newly Industrialised Economies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCW</td>
<td>Overseas Contract Worker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SL Rs.</td>
<td>Sri Lanka Rupees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLBFE</td>
<td>Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPSS</td>
<td>Statistical Product and Service Solutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TFR</td>
<td>Total Fertility Rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UAE</td>
<td>United Arab Emirates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNFPA</td>
<td>United Nations Fund for Population Activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHO</td>
<td>World Health Organisation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABSTRACT</td>
<td>II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DECLARATION</td>
<td>IV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEDICATION</td>
<td>V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</td>
<td>VI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACRONYMS</td>
<td>VIII</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TABLE OF CONTENTS</td>
<td>IX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIST OF TABLES</td>
<td>XIV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIST OF FIGURES</td>
<td>XVII</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction ......................................................................................................................... 1
1.2 Objectives of the study .......................................................................................................... 6
1.3 Research questions .................................................................................................................. 7
1.4 The demographic and economic context of Sri Lanka .......................................................... 7
1.5 International migration and remittances .............................................................................. 12
1.6 Increasing scholarly attention towards the international mobility of women working overseas .......................................................... 16
    1.6.1 International labour migration and the Asian region ............................................... 17
    1.6.2 Increasing female labour migration from Asia .......................................................... 22
    1.6.3 Domestic workers in international migration ............................................................... 25
1.7 The study of the families and children left behind by Sri Lankan migrant domestic workers .............................................................................................................. 27
1.8 Organisation of the thesis .................................................................................................... 30

## CHAPTER 2 SRI LANKAN WOMEN, INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION, AND THE TRANSNATIONAL FAMILY

2.1 Introduction ............................................................................................................................. 33
2.2 International migration flows ............................................................................................... 33
2.3 Changing role of women in Sri Lanka.................................................................35
2.4 Improvement in socio-economic status of women in Sri Lanka.................37
2.5 Migration of domestic workers.................................................................41
2.6 International female labour migration and the family..............................47
   2.6.1 The family in Sri Lanka.................................................................47
   2.6.2 The family in transformation.......................................................49
   2.6.3 The emergence of transnational families.......................................50
2.7 Conclusion..................................................................................................51

CHAPTER 3 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY.................................................................52
3.1 Introduction.................................................................................................52
3.2 Ontological, epistemological, and methodological issues.......................53
3.3 Mixed methodological approach: justification for the choice................55
   3.3.1 Triangulation..................................................................................58
   3.3.2 Mixed methodological approaches in migration studies...............58
3.4 Theoretical framework of the study ........................................................59
3.5 Data collection.............................................................................................61
   3.5.1 Survey research..............................................................................61
   3.5.2 Selection of the study area.........................................................63
   3.5.3 The context of the study area......................................................69
   3.5.4 Sample selection...........................................................................72
   3.5.5 Preparatory work for data collection............................................73
   3.5.6 Field work......................................................................................77
   3.5.7 FGDs.............................................................................................78
3.6 Data analysis and presentation..................................................................80
   3.6.1 Quantitative data analysis............................................................80
   3.6.2 Qualitative data analysis..............................................................81
3.7 Reflections of the research process..........................................................84
3.8 Conclusion..................................................................................................85
CHAPTER 4 TRANSNATIONAL THEORISING OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

4.1 Introduction..................................................................................................................86
4.2 The transformation of global migration system.........................................................86
4.3 Traditional theoretical approaches to labour migration.............................................89
4.4 Bringing women in: an overview of current theory....................................................95
4.5 From migrant to transmigrant: theorising transnational migration.........................99
4.6 Bridging gender, transnationalism, and domestic worker migration.......................102
4.7 Conclusion..................................................................................................................106

CHAPTER 5 MIGRANT DOMESTIC WORKERS: BEFORE DEPARTURE AND AT THE DESTINATION

5.1 Introduction................................................................................................................107
5.2 The institutional structure of labour migration in Sri Lanka....................................109
5.3 Female domestic workers before the departure........................................................111
   5.3.1 Recruitment procedure.........................................................................................113
   5.3.2 Financing foreign employment..........................................................................115
   5.3.3 Training..............................................................................................................118
   5.3.4 Arrangements for childcare..............................................................................120
5.4 Female domestic workers at the destination.............................................................122
   5.4.1 Migrant destinations........................................................................................123
   5.4.2 Living and working conditions.........................................................................124
   5.4.3 Exploitation and abuse......................................................................................126
5.5 Complaints from domestic workers ........................................................................128
5.6 Conclusion..................................................................................................................130

CHAPTER 6 THE DECISION TO MIGRATE AND THE CHARACTERISTICS OF MIGRANTS

6.1 Introduction................................................................................................................131
6.2 The decision making process .................................................. 132
6.3 Characteristics of migrant domestic workers .......................... 139
   6.3.1 Area of residence ....................................................... 139
   6.3.2 Age ........................................................................ 140
   6.3.3 Ethnic groups .......................................................... 142
   6.3.4 Marital status ........................................................... 143
   6.3.5 Education ............................................................... 145
6.4 Conclusion ........................................................................... 147

CHAPTER 7 TRANSNATIONAL MOTHERING ................................. 148
7.1 Introduction .......................................................................... 148
7.2 The children left behind by migrant mothers ......................... 150
7.3 Leaving their children to care for the children of other mothers .. 153
7.4 Consequences of distant mothering ...................................... 159
   7.4.1 Education of children ................................................... 161
   7.4.2 Emotional strains and behavioural changes in children .... 165
   7.4.3 Health of children ....................................................... 169
   7.4.4 Child abuse ............................................................... 169
7.5 Negotiating care work in the transnational family .................. 171
   7.5.1 Transnational communication ....................................... 172
   7.5.2 Reciprocal visits ........................................................ 175
7.6 Conclusion ............................................................................ 176

CHAPTER 8 ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACTS OF MIGRATION ON
   FAMILIES ............................................................................ 178
8.1 Introduction .......................................................................... 178
8.2 Economic impacts on families .............................................. 181
   8.2.1 Household income ....................................................... 182
   8.2.2 Remitting behaviour .................................................... 193
   8.2.3 Living condition and household consumption ............... 195
8.2.4 Investments and savings ...................................................... 200
8.3 Social impacts of migration ...................................................... 203
  8.3.1 Changes in gender roles .................................................... 204
  8.3.2 Skills acquired ................................................................. 208
  8.3.3 Marital stability ................................................................. 209
8.4 Respondents’ views on female migration overseas ....................... 212
8.5 Conclusion ............................................................................. 215

CHAPTER 9 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS .................... 217
9.1 Introduction ........................................................................... 217
9.2 Findings related to the study’s objectives .................................. 217
  9.2.1 The demographic and socio-economic context and the trends and patterns
       of international female migration ........................................... 219
  9.2.2 Migrant domestic workers before their departure and in destination
       countries ............................................................................. 221
  9.2.3 Reasons for migration and the characteristics of migration ......... 224
  9.2.4 Theoretical framework in incorporating gender and transnational
       migration ............................................................................. 226
  9.2.5 Transnational mothering .................................................... 226
  9.2.6 Economic and social impacts of migration on families ............ 231
9.3 Policy implications and recommendations ................................... 237
9.4 Limitations and suggestions for future research ........................... 246
9.5 Future prospects of female migration in Sri Lanka ....................... 247
9.6 Conclusion ............................................................................. 248

REFERENCES ............................................................................... 250
APPENDIX I ................................................................................. 268
APPENDIX II ............................................................................... 271
APPENDIX III .............................................................................. 273
APPENDIX IV .............................................................................. 306
APPENDIX V .............................................................................. 336
LIST OF TABLES

Table 1.1 Population, average annual rate of growth, proportion of females, and sex ratio, 1871-2010 .............................................................. 8
Table 1.2 Changes in TFR in South Asian countries, 1970-1975 to 2005-2010 ............. 10
Table 1.3 Changes in life expectancy at birth in South Asian countries by sex, 1975-1980 to 2025-2030 ................................................... 10
Table 1.4 Migrant remittance inflows in US $ billion, 2000-2008 ............................. 15
Table 1.5 Percentage distribution of female migrants to the total international migrants by area, 1960 – 2005 .............................................. 19
Table 1.6 Proportion of female international migrants in selected Asian out-migration Countries ................................................................. 23
Table 2.1 Percentage distribution of educational attainment by sex, 1971 and 2006 ....... 39
Table 2.2 Percentage distribution of the total departures for foreign employment by manpower levels, 1994-2008 ........................................ 43
Table 2.3 Average household size by sector, 1963-2003/04 ........................................ 49
Table 3.1 Paradigms: nature of reality along three elements .................................... 54
Table 3.2 Registered departures for foreign employment by district, 2001-2006 ......... 64
Table 3.3 Percentage distribution of total departures by sex, 2001-2006 ..................... 65
Table 3.4 Percentage distribution of the registered male and female departures for foreign employment and domestic workers by district, 2006 ....................... 66
Table 3.5 Some key indices of population and socio-economic characteristics: Colombo and Kurunegala districts ...................................... 70
Table 3.6 Thematic framework for analysis .......................................................... 84
Table 4.1 The validity of the observations of Massey et al. (1998) in the analysis of female labour migration ................................................. 92
Table 5.1 Whether the migrant women had any problem in finding money to finance migration by sector and ethnicity .................................. 116
Table 5.2 Number and percentage distribution of women who sought money in securing work abroad by source ..................................... 117
Table 5.3 Number and percentage distribution of women who agreed to repay loan by the period specified ........................................... 118
Table 5.4  Number and percentage distribution of the persons who agreed to provide childcare support in the absence of mothers………………………………122
Table 5.5  Number and percentage distribution of migrants in the study and total female departures in 2008 by the country……………………………………124
Table 5.6  Number and percentage distribution of migrant women by the nature of work overseas…………………………………………………………125
Table 5.7  Number and percentage distribution of migrant women by the nature of abuse they faced…………………………………………………..128
Table 5.8  Number and percentage distribution of the nature of complaints by sex, 2007...129
Table 6.1  Number and percentage distribution of migrant women by the main reason for Migration……………………………………………………133
Table 6.2  Number and percentage distribution of migrant women by the reason for migration - multiple responses………………………………….135
Table 6.3  Percentage distribution of respondent households in the study and the population distribution of Colombo and Kurunegala districts and Sri Lanka by sector…………………………………………………………139
Table 6.4  Percentage distribution of the total females in Sri Lanka in 2006 and the migrants in the study by marital status and age……………………144
Table 7.1  Number and percentage distribution of migrant women by two sample groups and number of children………………………………………151
Table 7.2  Number and percentage distribution of women by number children and sector..152
Table 7.3  The nature of work of migrant women overseas…………………………154
Table 7.4  Distribution of the type of migrant families by sector: at the time of migration and at the time of the survey……………………………………155
Table 7.5  Main person responsible for childcare in the absence of mother by sector……..156
Table 7.6  Opinion of the respondents on children’s happiness with caregivers………...158
Table 7.7  Number and percentage of migrant families by the persons who supported children’s education in the absence of their mothers…………………163
Table 7.8  Problems faced by the children in the absence of their mothers………………166
Table 7.9  Changes in the behaviour of children in the absence of mother………………167
Table 7.10 Whether the behaviour of children was affected by mother’s migration……168
Table 7.11 Mode of communication with family members by sector……………………172
# LIST OF FIGURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Figure</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>Population growth and change in the sex ratio, 1871-2010</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>Departures for foreign employment by sex, 1986-2008</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>The share of garments, private remittances and other earnings to the total export earnings, 1990-2008</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>Chapter outline of the thesis</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>Literacy rates by sex, 1881-2006</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>Employed persons by employment status and sex, 2006</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>Departures for foreign employment by different occupational categories and sex, 2008</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>Estimated stock of Sri Lankan OCWs by the country of destination and sex, 2007</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>Domestic worker departures by district, 2007</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>Methods and methodological approach used in the study</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>Theoretical framework of the study</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>Departures for foreign employment by district and sex, 2006</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>Sample selection procedure of the study</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>Analytical procedure of qualitative data</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>Inter-related arenas of global migration transition</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>Theoretical framework for the explanation of the migration process of Sri Lankan domestic workers overseas</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>Age distribution of the children of migrant women</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>The decision making process of Sri Lankan migrant domestic workers</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>Persons mainly responsible for making the decision to work overseas</td>
<td>138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>Age distributions of the migrants in the sample and the total female population in Sri Lanka</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>Age distribution of the total female departures for foreign employment in 2008 and the migrants in the study</td>
<td>141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>Age distribution of the departures for foreign employment by sex, 2008</td>
<td>142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>Distribution of migrant women by ethnicity</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 6.7  Marital status of the migrants at the time of the survey by sector………………..144
Figure 6.8  Educational attainment of migrants in the study and the total female
Population……………………………………………………………………………………145
Figure 7.1  Percentage distribution of migrant women by number of children and sector...152
Figure 7.2  Percentage distribution of migrant families who reported the requirement for
institutional childcare support by sector………………………………………………157
Figure 7.3  Opinion of respondents on the happiness with caregivers…………………158
Figure 7.4  Impacts of mothers' earnings on children's education………………………162
Figure 7.5  Proportion of households reported a change in the behaviour in children……167
Figure 7.6  Number of migrant families who reported an illness of children and type
of illness…………………………………………………………………………………..170
Figure 8.1  The impacts of women's migration on families……………………………179
Figure 8.2  Income of the migrants’ husbands by sector and ethnic group………………184
Figure 8.3  Sufficiency of monthly household income before and after migration by
sector and ethnic group………………………………………………………………….186
Figure 8.4  Income distribution of the respondent households whose monthly income
was sufficient to support their families as a result of migration…………………187
Figure 8.5  Sufficiency of monthly household income by the duration of work abroad…..188
Figure 8.6  Main source of monthly income of the household by sector……………….190
Figure 8.7  Main source of the monthly income of the household by ethnic group……191
Figure 8.8  Household opinion of the increase in household income by ethnic group……192
Figure 8.9  Household opinion of the increase in household income by the duration of
work abroad……………………………………………………………………………193
Figure 8.10 Monthly income distribution of migrants while working overseas and their
husbands at home……………………………………………………………………..205
Figure 8.11 Changes in the decision making power of migrant women in financial matters
and household activities as a result of migration……………………………………208
Figure 8.12 Marital status of migrant women - at the time of initial migration and at the
time of the survey……………………………………………………………………209
Figure 9.1  Research questions and the objectives of the study…………………………218