

Recruitment of Temporary Migrant Workers & the Evolving Role of Sub-Agents in Sri Lanka

Program Action Committee (PAC) Meeting March 31, 2017
Ministry of Foreign Employment

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- **Title:** Recruitment of Temporary Migrant Workers & the Evolving Role of Sub-Agents in Sri Lanka
- **Type:** Pilot Project
- **Duration:** 12-13 months

Policy Context

Evolving Role of Sub-Agents in SL

Intro

details

context

Research Gap

Design

Survey

Qualitative data

Analysis

- In March 2016 SLBFE banned Sub-Agents and their ID cards were requested to be returned
- Changes to incentives paid by receiving countries
- \therefore there is new interest to regulate Sub-Agents

Research Gap

- Despite the significance of sub-agents in the recruitment process in SL, no systematic study has been devoted to the study of their involvement
- In this changing policy context, the project aims to investigate:
 - **Research Q:** How does the Sub-Agent's role in the recruitment process change with the March 2016 SLBFE circular and changes in the incentive/recruitment cost payments by receiving countries?

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- Given the informal nature of their operation, it is tedious to study Sub-Agents
- To overcome this empirical challenge, we collect information from the two groups that receive the services of sub-agents
 - migrants
 - licensed agents

Two waves of Surveys

- Each wave will survey
 - a cohort of potential migrants
 - a cohort of current migrant households

- 2 waves are spaced out by 6 months

Sample

Evolving Role of Sub-Agents in SL

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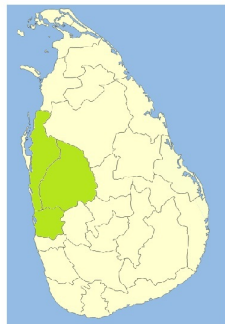
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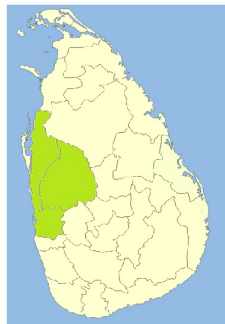
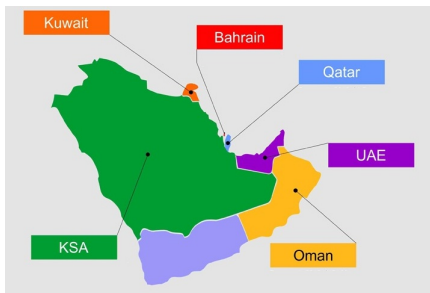
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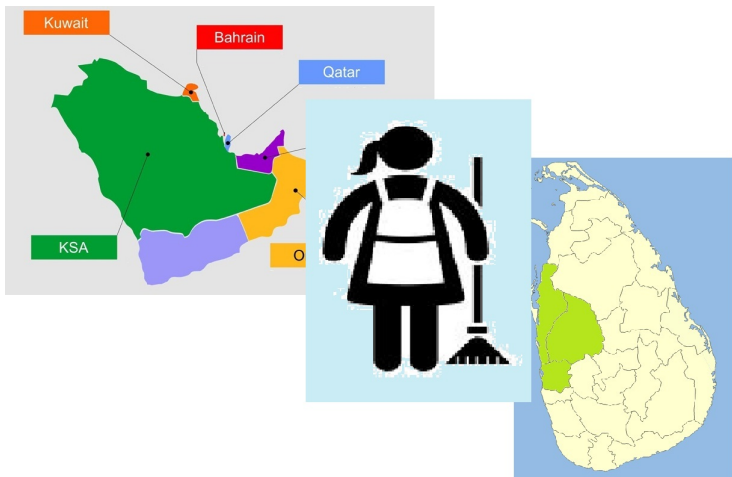
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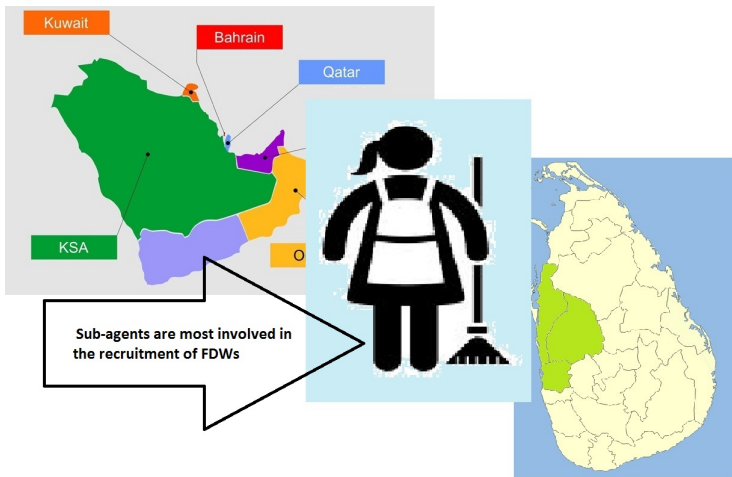
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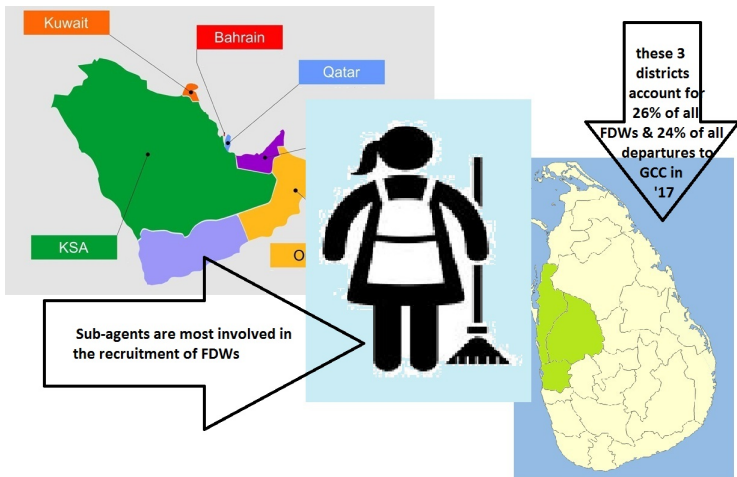
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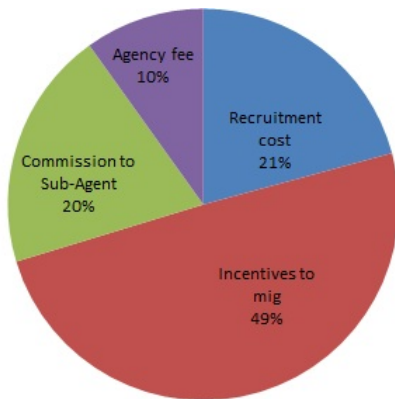
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Distribution of Recruitment Cost of FDWs

Approx. USD 5000 sent by employer to recruit a FDW



Sampling

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- From each district two DS divisions were randomly selected
- Within each DS division, respondents were randomly selected

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	First wave	Second wave
Potential Migrants	125	75
Current Migrants	75	125
Per District	200	200
TOTAL	600	600

Survey

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- Sub-contracted to a survey company - KANTAR TNS.
<http://www.tnsglobal.com/who-we-are>

- CAPI based survey is ongoing

▫field.jpg

Qualitative data

- Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)
 - with licensed agents and regulators and if possible with Sub-Agents also
 - to augment survey data and related findings
 - semi-structured face-to-face interviews
 - maximum variation sampling

Analysis

changes in migrants' perception about

- Sub-Agents' role
- SA's formal status

Examine the causal effect of mig's perception of "Sub-agent is formal" on incentives.

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Thank you