

This month's highlights:

- Lakshila Wanigasinghe, writing for the IPS blogsite Talking Economics (TE) examines barriers hindering Sri Lankan women's access to technology and ways to overcome them.
- Dr Nisha Arunatilake, in a TE blog, discusses how facilitating women's access to decent work can drive economic growth and empower Sri Lankan women.
- New IPS Policy Discussion Brief by Dilani Hirimuthugodage and Nimesha Dissanayaka calls for a ban on single-stick cigarettes to reduce tobacco consumption in Sri Lanka.
- In an article to International Organization for Migration's (IOM's) Migration Policy Practice, Dr Bilesha Weeraratne explores the effects of relaxing the ban on female migration policy in Sri Lanka during the economic crisis.
- Latest videos from the climate change and mobility series based on IPS' in-depth research to understand climate change-induced mobility and its implications in Sri Lanka.

We hope you find this issue insightful. Your feedback is, as always, welcome!

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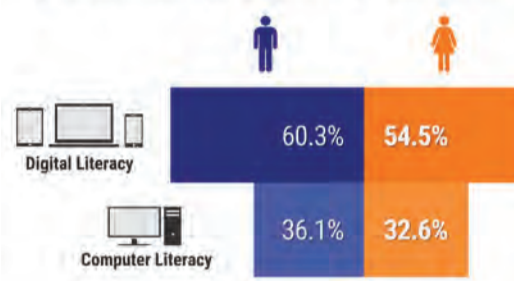
Blogs

DigitALL: Are Sri Lankan Women Abandoned in Digital Transformation?

By Lakshila Wanigasinghe

Technology plays an important role in modern society. It connects, innovates, and transforms economies and societies at large. Yet, women and girls continue to have limited access to technology. This gender bias is also present in Sri Lanka, where women comprise of over 50% of the population. This year, the United Nations marks International Women's Day with the theme "DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality", focusing on the digital gender gap's impact on widening socio-economic inequalities. This blog explores the factors hindering Sri Lankan women's access to technology and discusses some ways to overcome them.

Gender Gap in Sri Lanka's Digital and Computer Literacy Rates, 2021



Source: Labour Force Survey - Annual Report, (2021)

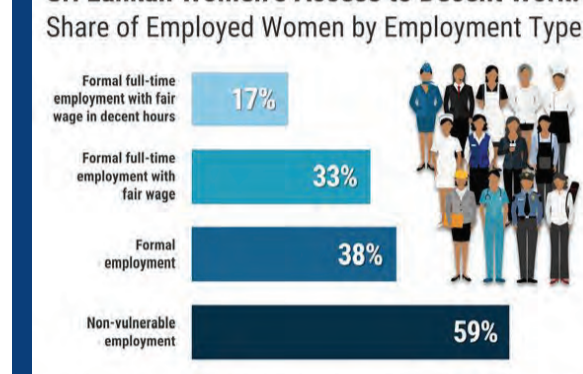
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Policy Discussion Brief

Why Promoting Decent Work Matters More Than Just Any Job for Sri Lankan Women?

By Dr Nisha Arunatilake

Sri Lankan Women's Access to Decent Work: Share of Employed Women by Employment Type



Source: Author's compilation based on Labour Force Survey 2018, Department of Census and Statistics.
Note: Non-vulnerable employment - jobs other than self-employment and unpaid family work; and formal employment - employment covering social security.

Improving Sri Lanka's low female labour force participation (FLFP) rate is crucial for empowering women, reducing gender disparities and promoting economic growth. Over the years, a popular strategy for promoting FLFP by successive governments has been to encourage self-employment opportunities or entrepreneurship. However, FLFP has remained below 35% for years. Self-employment jobs are highly vulnerable to economic fluctuations as social safety nets do not cover them.

Furthermore, on average, self-employment income is lower than other types of income. This blog argues that to empower women and drive economic growth, policy should focus on facilitating women's access to decent work over access to any job.

[See more >>>](#)

The Case for Banning Single Stick Cigarettes: Options for Effective Implementation

by Dilani Hirimuthugodage and Nimesha Dissanayaka

Despite Sri Lanka's progress in implementing most of the tobacco control measures, there are some critical demand and supply reduction measures that Sri Lanka has not introduced yet. One such important measure is banning the sale of single-stick cigarettes. Against this backdrop, this Policy Discussion Brief finds that implementation of a ban on single stick cigarettes would have a significant impact on reducing smoking prevalence in Sri Lanka as it will likely reduce smoking amongst minors, lower income groups and the 'last mile' of smokers in Sri Lanka.

[See more >>>](#)

External Publication

Relaxing the Ban on Female Migration: Will it Help Solve the Economic Crisis in Sri Lanka?

by Dr Bilesha Weeraratne featured on IOM's 'Migration Policy Practice'

Practice'



Although the Family Background Report policy was relaxed to boost female departures for foreign employment, the immediate impact on remittances may not be positive due to exchange rate dynamics and informal remittance channels. This article by Dr Bilesha Weeraratne featured in the latest issue of the 'Migration Policy Practice' argues that to ensure long-term stability and increased remittances, Sri Lanka must focus on improving its economic situation.

[See more >>>](#)

Panel Discussion

Current Trends in Migration and Skilled Worker Migration



Dr Bilesha Weeraratne spoke on the recent trends in migration and the exodus of skilled workers migration at the Sunday Times Business Club discussion on 'Migration and the Flight of Human Capital'. Discussing the recent migration trends in Sri Lanka, Dr Weeraratne noted that temporary migration is common among lower-skilled workers who leave their families behind, while better-educated and skilled migrants tend to bring their families along. She also discussed the impact of recent policy measures aimed at improving migrant remittances in Sri Lanka.

[See more >>>](#)

Featured Videos

The Impact of Sea Level Rise on Farming Communities in Coastal Regions

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Droughts and Human Elephant Conflict Push Temporary Migration in Sri Lanka

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