

**IMPACT OF LABOR MIGRATION ON INCOME
DISTRIBUTION IN TEA ESTATE HOUSEHOLDS IN
BADULLA DISTRICT**

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the impact of labor migration on income distribution in tea estate households in Badulla district. The social and economic determinants of both internal and international migration were investigated. Potential household income of migrant households are simulated, as are the earnings of non-migrants households, in order to construct if the members of migrant households would not migrate predicted per capita household income excluding remittances to compare with the actual per capita income distribution including remittances for all households. The predicted per capita income function for both migrant and non-migrant households is estimated from parameters of non migrant households income function. For the sample of households in tea estate households in Badulla district, migration and remittances increase income inequality when compared with income if they would not migrate situation.

Key Words: Labor Migration, Remittances, Income Distribution, Badulla District