

## CHANGING FAMILY STRUCTURE IN SRI LANKA

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**Abstract:** *This paper discusses the influence of demographic and socio-economic factors on the changing family structure in Sri Lanka. Sri Lankan family has undergone significant changes during the post-independence period as a result of variety of demographic and socio-economic transformations that the country was exposed to. The family transformation experienced over the years in the changes of the nature of family from the extended to nuclear family system eroded the traditional roles and responsibilities of the family and its members. Equally, mortality decline leading to the increased longevity extended the number of living generations while fertility decline has reduced the number of children in the family. Implications of marriage patterns also have made marked changes in the family structure. Moreover, the urbanization and migration especially international labour migration made structural changes of the family in Sri Lanka because of the volume for migration observed after late 1970s. The out-migration has also been more heavily contracted among females, leading to a slight shift sex ratio of the working age population. Generational inequalities of the population have occurred as a result of the changing age-sex structure of the Sri Lankan population. Its impact on the family structure is substantial. The age-sex structure of the population has changed considerably by increasing aging of the population and decreasing the population in the younger age cohorts.*

**Key words:** Family transformation, family composition, intergenerational relationships, modernization, value of children