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DETERMINANTS OF CURRENT ATTITUDES TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AMONG FEMALE LABOUR MIGRANTS: A STUDY OF KATUNAYAKE EXPORT PROCESSING ZONE.

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Abstract: Multiple transitions including the economic transition occurring in Sri Lanka and in other Asian countries, have caused important changes in traditional concepts and attitudes of the society, particularly in the sphere of reproductive health and behaviour of younger generations. Accumulation of negative attitudinal changes to reproductive health, among these groups, eroded the protection tended by the traditional conventional value systems. Consequent to liberalization of the Sri Lanka economy in 1977, a rapid expansion of the manufacturing sector occurred, creating employment opportunities for young females in the Export Processing Zones (EPZs). The findings of the study reveal that there are positive as well as negative aspects of community development associated with female labour migration to EPZs. This paper investigates the current attitudes and attitudinal changes of female labour migrants towards their reproductive health issues. The study is based on the Export Processing Zone of Katunayake.