

Migration Intentions in Mauritius

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ABSTRACT The objective of the paper is to investigate the migration intentions in the small island economy of Mauritius. The researchers innovate on existing literatures by modelling the social and economic dimensions of migration intentions. The paper concentrates on two important perspectives in the migration literature, namely, the influence of social networks and social capital. In addition to these measurable factors, the paper probes further into the qualitative dynamics of migration intentions. The methodology rests on a mixed approach with a survey of 190 respondents and life history interviews of four Mauritians. Using logit regression techniques, the results reveal strong links between migration intentions and demographic factors like gender, education, age and income levels. The main thrust of the paper, however, resides on the social dimensions where the perceptions of wellbeing of foreign networks act as a pull factor on migration intentions while greater social capital and socialisation at home represent a deterrent.