
HIGH SKILLED MIGRATION FROM SURINAME TO THE NETHERLANDS

ABSTRACT

Suriname witnesses a brain drain, in particular to the Netherlands. We study the determinants of high skilled emigration and return migration, where we rely on an adaptation of the survey constructed by Gibson and McKenzie (2011). We managed to interview 283 former top students, who studied in Suriname and now work and live either in the Netherlands or in Suriname. This unique database is informative in various dimensions. We find that important determinants for skilled emigration are (1) education level and the social economic status of the migrant's parents, (2) the place of residence of the migrant's parents and family, (3) whether the student enjoyed education in the capital city of Suriname, (4) the pure science courses taken at high school, and (5) patience. Return migration is mainly motivated by patriotism and the urge to contribute to the development of the home country. High skilled workers whose education was funded by a scholarship or by the parents are more likely to return. They tend to choose for the country where their parents, life partner, and children live. Workers who perform management tasks and who are in touch with clients exhibit higher chances to live in the home country. One might think of consultants or business managers. Furthermore we find that preferences towards the Netherlands regarding salaries, job contentment, and safety, lower the likelihood of opting for Suriname in the future. Facilitating high skilled migrants of Surinamese origin and their household members in the country of origin (home country) may increase return migration. Scholarships and supply of tertiary education in Suriname are also important.

Abstract derived from:

- 1) Dulam, T., & Franses, P. H. (2014). *Microeconomic determinants of skilled migration: The case of Suriname* (No. EI 2014-21). Econometric Institute Research Papers, Erasmus University Rotterdam.
- 2) Dulam, T., & Franses, P. H. (2015). *Return migration of high skilled workers: The case of Suriname* (No. EI 2015-03). Econometric Institute Research Papers, Erasmus University Rotterdam.