





**International Conference on  
Promoting Socio-economic Equity in South Asia:  
Challenges and Prospects  
Colombo, Sri Lanka**

**July 15-16, 2015**

**Conference Proceedings**

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## FOREWORD

Prof. Sirimali Fernando  
Chairperson, National Science Foundation,  
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South Asia being home to well over one fifth of the world's population and covering 3.3% of world's land area, is both the most populous and the most densely populated geographical region in the world. According to a World Bank report published in 2015, based on data from the last quarter of 2014, South Asia appears to be the fastest-growing region in the world at present.

However, it still possesses the largest number of people who need to overcome extreme poverty. The data for year 2014 of the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific carried out by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP) shows a worsening of the rich/poor gap in many of its countries. Widening disparities and inequalities is a serious concern for the countries in the region and should be addressed urgently.

It is in this backdrop that this 2-day International Conference on Promoting Socio-Economic Equity in South Asia: challenges and prospects, is organized by the National Science Foundation (NSF), Sri Lanka jointly with Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR). This Conference which will be held on 15-16 July 2015 in Colombo, marks the first programme conducted under the auspices of a joint agreement signed between the NSF and the ICSSR.

In addition to addressing economic aspects of inequality, impact of neoliberal policies on poverty trends, social polarization, Interactions and intersections between caste, class and gender inequalities in South Asia, impact of egalitarianism, democratic politics and current social policies on changing patterns of social inequality, I am happy that a special theme on implications of Science and Technology on socio-economic inequality has been included. I hope the vital role of science, technology and innovation in promoting socio-economic equity and the need for the hard and soft sciences to work together would be a highlight of this Conference.

I have no doubt that the forty eight papers that will be presented and the Policy Dialogue on 'Challenges and Prospects for Reducing Socio-Economic Inequity in South Asia' scheduled to take place with the participation of wider group of stakeholders will enrich the deliberations and proceedings of the conference.

On behalf of NSF, Sri Lanka, I warmly welcome all international and local resource persons and participants to the Conference and appreciate the contribution made through sharing information, knowledge and experience. I deeply appreciate the sponsorship provided by the United Nation Development Programme (UNDP).

I take this opportunity to thank Prof. Hettige, Chairman and the members of the Working Committee on Social Sciences of the NSF for their advice, support and guidance in organizing the Conference. I extend my appreciation to the Actg. Director General, and the staff of the Science and Technology Policy Research Division of the NSF for their dedication and hard work in organizing this Conference.

I wish it all success!

Prof. Sirimali Fernando  
Chairperson, NSF  
July 2015

## **MESSAGE FROM THE ACTG. DIRECTOR GENERAL**

*Dr. Seetha I. Wickremasinghe*

*Acting Director General, National Science Foundation,*

Despite the significant progress made with globalization and trade liberalization, South Asia still faces challenges in equity and poverty. Hence it is timely that we discuss this subject at length towards promoting socio-economic equity in South Asia to understand and identify gaps in research and re-look at the policies that are already available towards the economic progress and social justice.

Most importantly, the National Science Foundation of Sri Lanka has been unique compared to other funding agencies in the country that it not only promotes research and development in science and technology, but also in social sciences. In this context, the NSF has established a Working Committee on Social Sciences (WCSS), which has been instrumental in organizing the International Conference on “Promoting Socio-economic equity in South Asia: challenges and prospects” to be held from 15-16 July 2015. This is the second International Conference on a currently important topic organized within two years by the same expert Committee. As for the subjects to be discussed at this Conference, a few broader themes such as: Economic aspects of inequality; Interactions in intersections among caste, class and gender inequalities; Impact on egalitarianism, democratic politics and social policies; and Implications of science and technology in socio-economic equity etc., have been identified in general, and the sub-themes in particular, that cover a range of disciplines to meet its objectives. The Conference aims at bringing together multi-disciplinary researchers to present their findings on one platform and views to help developing and strengthening research and decision making with evidence based data to come up with suitable policies that the governments may formulate and implement.

Further, this Conference is one initiative of various activities to uplift R&D in Social Sciences that are lined up to be conducted based on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in 2014 between the National Science Foundation, Colombo and the Indian Council of Social Science and Research (ICSSR) in New Delhi. The technical sessions scheduled for the 15th July will be followed by a Joint Advisory Committee Meeting (JACM) representing NSF and ICSSR that will discuss and plan the future activities. Besides, it needs to be emphasized that an interesting Policy Dialogue entitled “Challenges and prospects for reducing socio-economic inequity in South Asia” will be held on the 16th July, with the sponsorship of the UNDP that will bring together academics, researchers, policymakers and development practitioners to discuss and debate on various issues of relevance.

I take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to the Chief Guest, Keynote Speaker, Chairmen of Technical Sessions, Resource Persons, Referees and the Paper Presenters for their invaluable contribution rendered. I thank the NSF Board of Management,

and also the Chairman and all the members of the NSF Working Committee on Social Sciences for their support and close guidance provided. I congratulate the staff of the Science and Technology Policy Research Division (STPRD) of the NSF for their commitment, dedication and hard work towards materializing a successful event. I wish all the participants a fruitful and enjoyable time of two days at a pleasant atmosphere in Colombo.

Dr Seetha I. Wickremasinghe

14th July 2015

## PREFACE

*Prof. S. T. Hettige,  
Chairman, NSF National Committee on Social Sciences*

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Overseas migration of Sri Lankans both temporary and permanent has been a highly significant aspect of the socio economic landscape of the country for several decades. The number of Sri Lankans leaving the country to work abroad or to settle down in other countries permanently has increased steadily, at least since the 1970s. What is noteworthy here is the fact that the historical trends in overseas migration have been closely connected with the major shifts in the political, economic and social landscape. The exodus of different segments of society from time to time due to diverse circumstances has had significant impacts on the country in diverse terms. These impacts need careful study in order to determine the nature and extent of their diverse impacts and their policy implications.

The mass exodus of Sri Lankan labour over the last several decades has been one of the most significant and controversial aspects of overseas migrations of Sri Lankans. While the migrant families and the country have reaped economic benefits from labour migration, negative social impacts have also figured prominently in the academic literature as well as in the mass media, particularly when tragic incidents involving Sri Lankan workers overseas draw media attention.

This is not the first instance where a large group of academics, researchers and practitioners meet to discuss aspects of migration of Sri Lankans. Yet, this Conference aims to not only cover a much wider range of areas but also discuss policy implications of some of the key findings of researchers drawn from both Sri Lanka and a number of other countries. There are several countries across the world that have accommodated large groups of Sri Lankan migrants within their borders. These include countries like Canada and Australia. I am personally glad that we have several scholars from these countries presenting papers and their contributions will no doubt add an important dimension to the Conference. Many people from here and abroad deal with diverse aspects of labour migration, which is an important socio-economic phenomenon in the country today. All these contributions together are expected to provide a broader and deeper understanding of the themes of this Conference. In my capacity as the Chairman of the National Committee on Social Sciences of the National Science Foundation of Sri Lanka I wish the Conference all the success and hope it will not only facilitate the sharing of knowledge among the participants but also contribute to policy debate on key issues connected with overseas migration of Sri Lankans over the last five to six decades.

## KEYNOTE ADDRESS

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The question of equity has been front-loaded in the global economic and developmental agenda for the past few years. Recall the US President Obama's statement in December 2013, when he saw 'inequality' as the 'defining challenge of our time'. In June 2015, both the IMF and the OECD have come out with special reports on ways and means to fight economic inequality. This reflects that inequality that characterized the developing countries has also started haunting the rich and the developed world. The IMF Chief Christine Lagard addressing a conference in Brussels on June 17, 2015, said: 'If you want to see more durable growth, you need to generate more equitable growth.'

For those who are concerned with global growth, attention on South Asia is inevitable. South Asia today is the world's fastest growing region. It has the world's largest working age population and houses a quarter of its middle class. It also has the distinction of holding the world's largest number of poor and under nourished people governed by a number of fragile and failing states.

In order to meet the global challenge of inequality, economic pundits and policy makers, have been advancing a number of policy interventions in critical areas of fiscal prudence and macroeconomic stability. They have been pushing for 'smart' structural reforms in the vital areas of education, health care, labour market, gender equality, infrastructure and financial inclusion. Many of these policy packages are not new and the Bretton Woods Institutions have been pursuing them with the developing countries for long. What is new however is the heightened concern for the lower strata of society, the bottom 20% and the middle classes. They, and not the top class, are seen as the drivers of growth if lifted economically.

We in South Asia have been struggling with many of these policy packages for the past nearly four decades. Some of our innovative measures for providing social security and entitlements like Bangladesh's Grameen Bank, Pakistan's Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), India's Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and Sri Lanka's Jansaviya and Smrudhi schemes have been globally appreciated. But obviously our efforts have not been enough. They have not been effectively implemented and have not often delivered expected outcomes. We need to streamline them and explore more. A lot needs to be done in the areas of education, health care and employment mobility, specially for the poorer and marginalized sections of our societies.

South Asia is a region full of diversities; even extremities, both between and within its constituent countries. For meeting local and regional specificities in evolving policy packages, adequate and authentic data on socio-economic conditions are lacking. Considerable investments and efforts are required to assess the ground reality and frame appropriate policies for targeted social groups. Such policies could be for short, medium and long-term spans.

The present sets of approaches to address the issues of equity deserve to be revamped and pursued continuously. They have been useful and we need more of them. But they are piecemeal and incremental. They take the bull of inequality by its tail at best. We need to take the bull by its horns. The roots of South Asian inequality are entrenched in our stratified societies, distorted politics and imported growth strategies. We need to target these roots by raising basic, though uncomfortable questions. May I draw your attention to two such areas?

One, we must revisit our neo-liberal growth strategy. This strategy caters to the demands of the market forces and the market only favours those with assets and endowments. Markets are generating and expanding inequality. It may however not be possible or even advisable to discard the neo-liberal framework of growth as it has huge potential to sustain South Asia's growth trajectory. But then, can we innovate on this policy to redefine it. May we also evolve and reinforce cushions to absorb the persisting and predictable regressive fall out of this strategy.

The second question is about our politics and political cultures. They are not inclusive either in their structures, or in their practices. How can we then create inclusive societies and deliver inclusive and equitable growth? For instance, most of the South Asian constitutions are not inclusive. They have acquired sectarian identity or ethos - of majoritarian, religious or ethnic nature. They have created and reinforced the social cleavages of minorities, marginalized and excluded groups. The politics flowing out of such politics has been playing upon these cleavages. How can they promote equity and pursuit of over all well-being? Political reforms are therefore intrinsic to the struggle for socio-economic equity.

These questions are tough and volatile. Shying away from them in the interest of a safer and convenient approach would amount to pursuing only a half-hearted fight against inequality.

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## PLENARY SESSIONS

## **From the Centre Stage to the Margins of Society: Struggle for Upward Social Mobility among Rural Youth in Sri Lanka**

**Siri Hettige**

*Faculty of Arts, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka*

Sri Lanka's post colonial, 'nationalist' development project facilitated by 1956 political transition and the economic and social reforms that followed not only led to an expansion of the rural land-owning peasantry but also created opportunities for upward social mobility of a large and growing rural youth constituency, mostly belonging to the majority Sinhala community. An expanding state sector accommodated and provided employment to many of these upwardly mobile youth. Political mobilization of rural youth by radical youth political parties from the late 1960's onwards brought this youth constituency to the center stage of politics in the country. However, more recent economic and social reforms have curtailed opportunities for upward social mobility of rural youth, making the conventional avenues of social mobility such as education increasingly irrelevant for many of them. The expanding areas of employment such as the informal sector, migrant labour, labour-intensive urban industries and construction work rarely provide opportunities for much desired upward mobility. These developments appear to have marginalized rural youth in an increasingly globally integrated economy which is largely dominated by a transnationally oriented urban business elite and a western educated intellectual elite, both ideologically and materially.

This paper is based on data derived from both recently completed national youth surveys and secondary sources such as the Department of Census and Statistics and The Ministry of Education. The paper argues that many disadvantaged rural youths have adapted to the new economic realities under neo-liberalism but their politically active brethren continue to struggle to regain lost political ground and social influence by advocating a return to the pre-liberalization moral economy or an increasingly unrealizable utopian socialist society, at least in the near future.

## Science, Technology and Innovation for Equitable Economic Growth

### Sirimevan Colombage

Being in the lower middle-income category, the South Asian countries have experienced relatively high economic growth in the recent past as a result of pro-growth policies. This has significantly contributed to a reduction in unemployment and poverty. Nevertheless, 40 percent of the world's extremely poor people (around 400 million) live in South Asia. Widening income inequality also remains a major socioeconomic problem in the region. This reflects unequal distribution of the benefits emanated from economic growth among different income groups. Acceleration of equitable or inclusive economic growth is essential to reduce poverty and income inequality. In this regard, science, technology and innovation (STI) could play a major role as evident from the economic success of East Asian countries. The objective of this study is to analyze the prospects and challenges in harnessing STI for equitable economic growth in the region. The high economic growth achieved so far has been largely driven by cost-effective factor inputs and production efficiencies. However, in the context of intense global competition, countries cannot rely any longer on low production costs and efficiency improvements as drivers of economic growth. Uplifting the economies to a higher growth trajectory and thereby to escape the 'middle-income trap' inevitably requires 'innovation-driven' growth with greater knowledge inputs. Following the unprecedented global advancements in STI, particularly in the field of information and communication technology, knowledge has become the key driver of economic growth. Knowledge economy has been the major source of rapid socioeconomic progress achieved by several countries in the East Asian region. South Asia, however, is handicapped by poor knowledge economy attributes. Improvements are necessary specifically in the areas of human resources, science and technology, innovation, business environment, economic regimes and institutional structures. Therefore, it is essential that STI be integrated into public policies as a major national goal so as to ensure sustainable and equitable growth in the region.

**THEME 01:  
ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF INEQUALITY:  
IMPACT OF NEOLIBERAL POLICIES ON  
POVERTY TRENDS, SOCIAL POLARIZATION**

## An Analytical Study of Poverty, Consumption and Asset Inequalities in South Asia: A Case Study of India

**M.P. Rao**

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Despite South Asia's remarkable economic progress over the last decade, social and economic inequalities remain a problem in the region. Inequality in access to basic social services such as education and health has worsened and income inequality also persists. Rising inequality is an emerging challenge for South Asia. About a third of developing South Asia economies including India have shown worsening Gini Coefficients in recent years as per the available data. The objective of this paper is to look at Indian situation (across the states and social category wise in terms of i) the asset inequalities ii) poverty trends and iii) to further analyze consumption inequalities. We have analyzed asset position based on land ownership among social groups such as ST, SC, OBC, OTHERS and all using 59<sup>th</sup> NSSO round for 2003. Also we have analyzed operation holdings using the data of agriculture census. We also analyzed value of assets, average asset value, average debt and incidence of indebtedness for all social groups and by rural and urban also. We also dealt with employment situation for all India level for different social groups over the period 1983 to 2009-10 for rural and urban and male-female as well. We also examined changes in consumption pattern among social groups: 1990-00, 2004-05 and 2009-10 for all the social groups. We have also analyzed poverty ratio all India from different rounds of NSS data by social groups 1993-94 to 2011-12 by Rural, Urban and Combined (R+U) classes as well. The empirical results show that in rural areas the landlessness is the highest among STs (Scheduled Tribes) with 12.8 percent of the households not owning land, followed by SCs (Scheduled Castes) (11.3 percent), OBC (9.5 percent) and OTHERS (8.7 percent). Data reveals that throughout the periods among STs, the share of operated area is higher than that of operation holdings. Among SCs the average size was less than that of all groups throughout the periods. Other categories, maintained a marginally higher average size of area than that of all groups over these periods. The results relating to the value of total assets and two major components (land and buildings) along with respective shares, among social groups at rural and urban levels reveals that in rural areas, average value of total assets among STs is Rs.1,36,640 which is 8.5 percent higher than the average of SCs (Rs 1,25,954). However, OBC and OTHERS have 94.7 and 214.3 percent respectively higher average values than that of STs. Regarding employment situation, work participation rates of both rural males and females among STs being located in forest areas mostly, are higher than those of their counterparts among SCs, OBCs and others as the earning of livelihoods are precarious and time consuming along with manual work. Regarding consumption and poverty, the gaps between the monthly per capita consumption expenditures of STs and those of SC, OBC, Others and all groups rose in the first phase (1999-00 to 2004-05), but in the second phase (2004-05 to 2009-10), the gaps have narrowed down. Regarding poverty, data points out that the second period (2004-05 to 2011-12) has been more favorable in reducing the rates of poverty than the first period (1993-94 to 2004-05). This is because the second period due to its better economic growth acceleration could bring in broad based benefit to all sections of the society.

**Keywords:** *Inequality, Poverty, Social groups*

## Growth, Inequality and Poverty in India

**Amaresh Dubey**

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In this paper, we examine the impact of growth on level and changes of inequality and poverty in India. The motivation for this paper is the changed structure of the growth that has mainly come from growth in the non-primary sector activities after the changes in the economic policies that encouraged investment in some sectors first since the early 1980s. Subsequent significant changes in economic policies have accelerated the growth during 1990s and 2000s. The paper covers the period 1983-2012, arguably the highest growth phase of the Indian economy. Given the heterogeneous socio-cultural and religious structure of the Indian society, in this paper we examine how different populations groups have benefited from the growth. Paper also delves into the impact of growth on reduction of poverty across different geographical domains. We find that the growth rate achieved in recent times has been both more poverty reducing and inclusive. However, at the sub-national level the different socio-religious groups have not benefited equally from the higher growth.

**Keywords:** *Economic growth, Poverty incidence, Inequality, Socio-religious groups.*

## Provincial Economic Inequalities in Sri Lanka: Challenges and Opportunities

**Muttukrishna Sarvananthan**

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There is growing concern about the regional economic disparities in Sri Lanka which has experienced three insurgencies in the North and South of the country since 1971 until 2009. In spite of attempts by governments to close the economic gap between different provinces in the country, the most prosperous Western Province accounts for over 40% of the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

This paper attempts to map the provincial economic inequalities in Sri Lanka between the period 2006 and 2014 in terms of per capita income, poverty, provincial gross domestic product, unemployment, and any other socioeconomic indicators where data are available and thereby identify the 'leading' and 'lagging' regions in the country. The plausible causes for the status of 'leading' or 'lagging' regions will be descriptively analysed and policy suggestions mooted to rectify the situation. The framework of analysis will be drawn from the sub-discipline of spatial economics. This policy oriented paper will make suggestions to mitigate the politico-economic impact of the economic disparities and promote shared prosperity in Sri Lanka.

**Keywords:** *Economic geography, Economic inequality, Spatial economics, Sri Lanka*

## Disability and Poverty in Sri Lanka: A Household Level Analysis

P.H.T. Kumara<sup>1\*</sup> and D.N.B. Gunewardena<sup>2</sup>

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Sri Lanka has recorded a significant reduction in poverty in recent times, yet, as in many other developing countries, little or nothing is known about poverty levels and reduction of poverty among the disabled or their households. The disabled and their families encounter different hardships than the usual sufferings of the poor. The recent literature questions the ability of the monetary approach in measuring poverty in general and especially among different groups like the disabled. Therefore, this study estimates both monetary and multidimensional poverty among the households with disabled persons using the Household Income and Expenditure Survey data of 2006/07 and 2009/10. In estimating monetary poverty, the standard Foster Greer Thorbecke indexes are estimated while their multidimensional counterparts are estimated using the Alkire-Foster method. The study specifically attempted to find out whether there are differences in estimated poverty levels between households with and without disabled, and thereby contribute to develop a poverty profile for households with disabled persons.

The study found that monetary and multidimensional poverty among households with disabled persons is higher than among other poor households. This was true for incidence, depth, and severity of poverty for both surveys and in all regions. Nevertheless, poverty among households with disabled persons is significantly higher in the estate areas as compared to other areas. Even though multidimensional poverty is relatively low in Sri Lanka, the difference in multidimensional poverty levels between households with and without the disabled is high. This suggests that households with the disabled encounter problems other than low monetary earnings. Depth and severity of poverty among households with the disabled is also higher than the other households. This suggests that the living condition of the disabled poor is worse than that of the other poor.

Poverty decreased significantly between the two surveys, irrespective of the analytical method applied. Nevertheless, the reduction in monetary poverty among households with disabled persons is less than in other poor households while the opposite is true for multidimensional poverty. This suggests that though the earning ability of the disabled (and their households) has not improved, the provision of other facilities such as housing, health and education have improved. Importantly, contributions from the three dimensions considered in this research to the incidence of poverty is almost equal, suggesting that further reduction of poverty in Sri Lanka requires improvements in all three dimensions - health, education and living standards- among poor households, with and without disabled persons.

**Keywords:** Poverty, Dimensions of poverty, Disabled households

## Economic Consequences of Urban Migration on Households: A Case Study of Urban Locations in Sri Lanka

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Since more than three decades, urban wards migration in Sri Lanka is gradually increasing due to various kinds of reasons such as socio-economic problems, natural disasters, political and ethnic issues, cultural requirements etc. As a result of urban migration, economic consequences are affecting the households as well as the entire society. This study aims to explore and estimate the economic consequences of urban family migration at destination. This study is based on a sample survey collected through an administered questionnaire covering 414 migrant households from three urban areas of Kalutara district while qualitative data were gathered by using case studies. The factors related to economic consequences of migrants are analyzed by employing the multivariate analyses method.

Analyses found that around two thirds of household heads have below secondary level of education. More than two thirds of migrant household heads were engaged in informal economic activities and more than half of households have no economic security. Results from the linear regression analysis also revealed that the migrant households have been able to significantly improve their household assets within the living time at destination. Furthermore, current savings of the household, household heads' education and migration pattern (temporary or permanent) were positively related with improvement in their household assets while household head's occupation and spouse occupation that belonged to the informal sector were negatively affected. In addition, the qualitative findings also shared that urban migration influence tended in the increase of the negative social and economic consequences such as traffic congestion, alcoholism and drug abuse, health issues from pollution of air, water, noise and inadequate disposal system. This study suggests that future employment programs and awareness programs should focus on empowering especially migrant informal employees in urban communities.

**Keywords:** Economic consequences, Urban, migration, Household, Sri Lanka

## Study of Immigration and Water Issues in Rideemaliyadda Divisional Secretariat in Badulla District

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A study was conducted to investigate the immigration of population and its relatedness to the availability of water resources in Rideemaliyadda Divisional Secretariat in Badulla district of Uva province Sri Lanka. Major economy of this area is based on agriculture and it's come mainly cultivation. The Agriculture in this area mainly depends on rain water and area face long dry period during May to September every year which greatly affect the income level of the population. The unemployment is a great issue during the drought season. Half of the population account by females and there are high ups and downs in the income of the population as considerable percentage of the population are Samurdi recipients (8% of population in this area gets Samurdhi beneficiaries). A person in this area is vulnerable to some water-born infections as well as chronic kidney diseases due to lack of availability of pure drinking water and poor sanitary facilities. Piped water (3.03%), protected wells (14.9%), unprotected wells (3.17%) and tube wells (0.4%) are the water resources that widely used although most of the wells are dried during dry season. There is only less number of toilets with water sealed facilities. To come across with suggestions and solutions for these issues data was collected from the Divisional secretarial office in Rideemaliyadda and further by field survey. According to the data analyzed, it appears that the considerable immigration is due to unemployment during dry period, lack of job opportunities, lack of higher education facilities, drinking and sanitary water problems basically. In this division poverty rate is 51.8%. It is the second place of poverty rate in Sri Lanka. Mostly peoples are low incomes in this division. The main problem is that not enough water facilities for agriculture and also not enough opportunities for the job market.

**Keywords:** Unemployment, Water resources, Immigration, Dry season

## Socio – economic and Environmental Impacts of International Cricket Stadium at Sooriyawewa

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Sooriyawewa International Cricket Stadium is located in Sooriyawewa area in Hambantota district which established under mega project in Sri Lanka. Though it is 8 kilometers from the Hambantota town, the stadium stands 204 kilometers away from the commercial capital of Sri Lanka – Colombo. To study the socio-economic and environmental impacts of the Sooriyawewa international cricket stadium for the communities in project area, Meegahajandura (88.33%) and Sooriyawewa (11.64%) GN divisions were selected to take sample for the study. After reviewing secondary data and doing case study, different forms of data collection methods were used to collect primary data to study about above impacts. The youth, business and farming populations were selected near to the stadium by complete randomize method because those populations were affected as a result of project. Simple random sampling method was used to get a sample from each population and sample size was 20 for each. To represent the farming population samples were taken from the Meegahajandura area and to represent the business population samples were taken from the Sooriyawewa area. Both Meegahajandura and Sooriyawewa areas were used to collect the samples from youth population. Pre tested questioners were used for data collection. To investigate the social impacts three populations were questioned as the impact of the ground to the education of the schools near the ground, the changes in social status of the people in this area, the cultural changes, and the changes in land ownership after implementing this ground separately. According to the results there is no significant impact for the education of the schools near the stadium after implementing the ground. Most of the people have agreed that they get more income sources and new job opportunities through this project and it directly enhance the social status of the communities. The result revealed that social problems, food habits and youth dressing fashion were changed due to the impacts of the stadium. As the impacts of the ground there is no significant change in the land ownership. To identify the economic impacts of the communities, data were collected by focusing job opportunities, extra income sources and loss of income sources. According to the result young population have got new job opportunities, farming and business populations got extra income sources. Nevertheless Chena cultivators have lost their income sources as an impact of the stadium. To the purpose of investigating the environmental impacts data were collected. According to secondary data information land was a bushy type land and Chena cultivated land of total 46.51 ha. According to most of the people's idea density of animal population and vegetative cover, density of medicinal plants were reduced due to the stadium establishment. After analyzing all data of the survey, it can be concluded there are both negative and positive impacts occurred due to this project. While some clusters of the population have enhanced socio-economic status, few clusters of the population have diminished.

**Keywords:** Socio-economic, Environmental impacts, Sooriyawewa stadium



## Developing a Strategy for Financial Inclusion in Sri Lanka

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An inclusive financial system is able to reduce poverty, boost shared prosperity and support inclusive and sustainable development. Given the importance of finance for growth, countries are pursuing active strategies to develop financial institutions and markets as well as enhance financial inclusion. Financial inclusion can be broadly defined as the access to appropriate financial products and services at an affordable cost by all sections of society in general and to low income groups in particular who are underserved or have been excluded from formal financial services. Financial inclusion aims to, broaden the reach of financial services to those who do not currently have access, to deepen financial services for those who have minimal access and to increase financial literacy and consumer protection so that those who are offered financial products can make an informed choice. Based on general measures of financial inclusion such as account penetration, which measures the ownership of accounts at financial institutions, the level of financial inclusion in Sri Lanka is very high for a country categorised as a lower middle income country. However, in relation to other measures such as access to credit, the use of electronic forms of payment and the use of insurance products for health care and agriculture, there is still much room for improvement. The penetration of banking services into rural areas has helped promote banking habits among the people. Developments on the technological front and the adoption of electronic banking systems have also helped expand the reach of financial services in the country. The widespread coverage of the mobile phone network in the country provides an opportunity to further expand access to financial services in the remotest parts of the country through the use of electronic retail payment methods such as payment cards and mobile phone based payment mechanisms. Using a probit model, we examine the determinants of financial inclusion in Sri Lanka as access to credit may be affected by socio economic factors such as gender, household income, education, earnings, ownership of land and houses as well as access to infrastructure facilities. Given the important role that financial inclusion can play in achieving sustainable development, reducing poverty and boosting shared prosperity, it is necessary to develop a formal strategy of financial inclusion including developing the financial infrastructure, strengthening the regulatory framework, maximising the use of technology in the country.

**Keywords:** *Financial inclusion, Financial institutions, Poverty*

## Supporting Micro and Small Enterprises to Promote Socio-economic Equity: Challenges and Drawbacks

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Supporting micro and small enterprises have been identified as an effective tool to uplift the living conditions of the poor and thereby to achieve socio-economic equity. This paper attempts to identify the factors that do not contribute to not achieving the expected impacts of such projects.

The paper is based on an evaluation of such project implemented in Anuradhapura, Kurunegala, Badulla and Monaragala districts with the objective of improving the incomes and living standards of the poor. The evaluation was based on data and information collected through a sample survey, focus group discussions and key informant interviews.

The project has identified entrepreneurship development training, technical training, financial facilities or credit facilities, market linkages, business registration and trade associations as activities to achieve the objectives. However, when implementing the project, the priority had been given only for the entrepreneurship development training, and other activities had received less attention. This is proved by the fact that 95% of beneficiaries had completed the entrepreneurship development training while only 33%, 21%, 4% and 14% of beneficiaries had received technical training, credit facilities, market linkages and business registration respectively.

Of the beneficiaries, 79% were existing entrepreneurs and only 21% were new entrepreneurs. Just over half of the beneficiaries (56%) were women achieving the gender equity. The highest percentage of beneficiaries were working as traders (18%), processors (18%) and in agro-based enterprises (17%). The other categories were garment and textile (13%), livestock and fisheries (8%) and bakery and food items (7%). The balance 18% was other service providers such as welders, caterers, photographers, printers and other producers. The study found that only 86% of existing entrepreneurs and only 39% of new entrepreneurs were in operation. Only about half the beneficiaries (46%) had experienced increase in their income. Only 1% of enterprises had created paid employment opportunities as a result of the intervention. Therefore, there was a gap between the expected and achieved impacts. Study reveals that lack of capital and market linkages were major reasons for beneficiaries to be unsuccessful.

This study therefore, confirmed that providing only entrepreneurship development training would not be sufficient to develop an entrepreneur. Technical training, arranging financial or credit facilities, arranging market linkages are essential to develop entrepreneurs and this can be achieved if those specific activities would be implemented with much focus. More resources, time, efforts and strategies have to be allocated to such components in order to achieve success from this type of interventions.

**Keywords:** *Micro and small enterprises, Entrepreneurship development training, Technical training, Financial or credit facilities, Market linkages*

## Factors Affecting on Job Satisfaction in Garment Sector: A Case Study in Hirdaramani Group (Pvt) Ltd, Kuruwita

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Job Satisfaction is a major factor which affects the productivity and efficiency of the factory as well as to the organization. 85% of employees are terminated from their jobs due to less job satisfaction basically in garment sector. Most of those employees are less satisfied about some situations in the factory such as compensations, leave and holidays, working conditions and personal conditions in garment sector. With the main intention of studying the socio economic factors which are affecting job satisfaction in garment sector, a case study was carried out with 58 employees in Hirdaramani (Pvt) Ltd, Kuruwita. They were selected from simple random sampling and the data collection was done with the help of a structured questionnaire as well as using secondary sources. Results showed that most of the employees in the factory are males and they hold the top posts in the factory as well. In addition majority of employees are married and educated with more than Ordinary Level. Also both experience of employees and distance from the factory is increased, the number of employees in the factory declines. It means that most of the employees' job satisfaction is low and turnover is high. Wilcoxon analysis of several data obtained through the survey showed that the significantly affecting various factors ( $p < 0.05$ ) to the job satisfaction of the employees in the factory as well. Out of all those factors, negatively and positively affecting factors are separated using mean values [ $\mu = (-)$  means negative,  $\mu = (+)$  means positive] which are taken from the whole selected sample. Pearson correlation analysis [Bold values - significant at the 0.01 level, *italic* value - significant at the 0.05 level] showed that the degrees of contribution of each factors under Compensation, Welfare and Facilities, Leave and Holidays, Training and Development, Working Conditions and Personal Factors with the descriptive analyzed factors such as age, gender, income, expenditure, education level, also. It was concluded as some factors are related to the job satisfaction and some factors are less related to the job satisfaction. At the end some recommendations are put forward.

**Keywords:** Job satisfaction, Socio-economic factors, Pearson correlation analysis

## Use of Development Communication in mitigating negative social, economic and environmental effects caused by Deduru Oya Reservoir Project in Kurunegala District

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Specific use of communication in development is identified as "Communication for Development" or "Development Communication." Proper flow of information and in return proper participatory communication among the stakeholders are essential in development projects. Sensitivity to social, economic and environmental effects caused by a development project and mutual understanding among the stakeholders to mitigate those are important for the sustainability of development projects. As evidenced by the "Environmental impact assessment report" of Deduru Oya Reservoir Project (DORP) in Kurunegala, North Western Province in Sri Lanka, miscommunication about the project has been a crucial issue affecting the people in the area. The objective of this research is to evaluate the use of Development Communication to mitigate negative social, economic and environmental effects caused by DORP. Which is Sri Lanka's 6<sup>th</sup> largest reservoir implemented by the Irrigation Department. Improvement of livelihoods of farmers in part of the North Western province, enhancement of reliable sources for domestic and industrial water supply schemes and control of downstream floods are the aims of this project.

This is an ongoing research. A few interviews conducted so far identified the issues such as people's ignorance of key information of the project and the issues caused by resettlement was not heard well by the decision makers or political influence in it. Collection of information via a household survey, in depth interviews and observations are yet to be completed. The research will identify the negative social, economic and environmental effects caused by implementation of DORP and as to how the stakeholders used Development Communication process during planning, implementation and maintenance of project and to mitigate social, economic and environmental effects. This research also will identify the effectiveness and also the drawbacks of the use of Development Communication in the above mentioned processes. In Sri Lanka wide application of Development Communication in planning, implementation and maintenance of development projects is not popular, though the other Asian countries such as Philippine practice it. This affects the sustainability of development projects. Thus with the conclusion of the research a contextualized Development Communication model will be developed and introduced, which can be used in development projects.

**Keywords:** Development communication, Participatory communication, Stakeholders

## Gender Issue and the Socio-Economic Status of Women in Bangladesh: A Study on the Last Three Decades (1980-2010)

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Gender issue is globally addressed as a vital factor in ensuring socio-economic stability in human life. The state of women is an important paradigm to raise the standard and quality of living. This is because numerically women represent around fifty percent of the world population and their contribution is immense in all sectors of development. The worldwide movement for the socio-economic emancipation of women has got the impetus particularly in the last three decades and no country today is free from its influence. Bangladesh too is no exception and the dignity and status of women in this country is stepping ahead with their socio-economic development. However, compared to other developing countries of the world, the women of Bangladesh were backward due to various impediments for a long time, especially in socio-economic sectors. Even then with the evolution of time, the thoughts and consciousness of female section of the society is now going through rapid transformation and change. This paper will explore the main issues related to socio-economic status of women in Bangladesh during the last three decades. Hence, the main social institutions including marriage, family, law, education, jobs, social rights, security, religion, economy, culture etc. will be brought under the scope of the study. The study will also find out the main obstacles responsible for gender discrimination in Bangladesh. The whole study is based on contemporary source-materials of different government and non-government agencies. It may be expected that the findings of the research would help to identify the challenges that function as barriers in the advancement of women. Some suggestions will also be recommended to overcome the barriers in order to promote the socio-economic conditions of women in Bangladesh.

**Keywords:** *Gender discrimination, Socio-economic stability, Social institutions*

## Gender Disparities in Balancing Work Life and Home Life

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Gender differences in work have been experienced by mankind from time immemorial and these have evolved in many forms throughout the human history. In primitive societies, males went out of home to find food while females stayed at home and looked after their children and performed other household duties. After many thousand years of the human development process, development of female's education and their contribution to wellbeing of individuals and families, efforts have been taken to recognize female participation in almost all social development activities.

In Sri Lanka with the improvement in educational opportunities, there is an increasing proportion of females in the labor market. However, female's labor force participation is still significantly lower at 35 per cent in Sri Lanka compared to males. As less number of female take up jobs, there is a difficulty in assigning of males for comparatively hard jobs in the economy. If females can take up jobs in the service sector, males can be assigned with jobs in industry and agriculture. Increasing of labor productivity has become a problem as a result and realizing benefits of youth bulge for economic growth is delayed. Is this difference due to gender disparities in balancing their work life and home life? This on-going research attempts to find answers for this question. During stage one of data collection, ten professionals were interviewed to gather most relevant themes for the study and a questionnaire had been developed to collect detailed information. During stage two, a sample of 600 professionals will be selected from the formal sector, which includes government, semi government and private sector to collect data on problems faced by them on balancing work and life. Professionals will include senior level staff working in education, health, banking and statistics fields.

Literature on the issue reveals the balancing work and home life is more critical among dual working married professionals in Sri Lanka. According to data collected, some professional females preferred to withdraw from labor and find jobs with flexible work hours as they do not have support to look after their young children and to facilitate other household duties and due to problems in work domain. Most of the respondents reported that they are fed up with the distance from home to their work places and of traffic jams. Initial findings show that there are intra domain problems in work and home due to time and behavior based problems among them. Some respondents reported that they have issues which affect their family life due to office work. Therefore providing employment is not the only solution for people. Their issues should be addressed.

**Key words:** *Gender, Labor force, Work-life balance, Married professionals, Sri Lanka*

## Women Participation in Agriculture in Vavuniya District of Sri Lanka

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Women play a critical role in agriculture all over the world. Although in addition to their daily routine activities, their participation in agriculture improves their living standard, women's contribution to agriculture is often unrecognized. An attempt was made to assess the women's contribution towards agriculture. The objectives of this study were to identify the factors that contribute to women participation in agriculture, the constraints faced by the women in participating in agricultural activities and to evaluate the women's role in decision making in agricultural activities. Vavuniya district was purposively selected for this study since rural and urban households are involved in agricultural activities in this district. 30 households involved in agriculture in each urban and rural were randomly selected and the data were collected using a constructed questionnaire. Minitab 15 and MS excel were used for data analysis. The level of women participation in agricultural activities was found using chi-square test, and the factors contributing for women participation in agricultural activities were identified using multiple regression analysis in urban and rural areas separately ( $\alpha=0.05$ ). The results revealed that 90% of the rural women respondents participated in agricultural activities whereas it was only 50% in the urban area which is a significant difference ( $p=0.001$ ). The mean values of women's participation in agricultural activities in urban and rural areas were 77 hours and 836 hours per annum respectively. The multiple regression model for women's participation in the urban area found that the participation of women negatively correlated with status of employment, age and education level ( $p=0.000$ ). In the rural area, age and educational level were negatively influencing on women participation in agricultural activities ( $p=0.000$ ). R-square values of fitted regression models were 72 % and 91% in urban and rural areas respectively. 72% and 91% variation in respective women participation were explained by these models. The obstacles for women's participation in agricultural activities were reported as lack of knowledge and training in agriculture, family burden, cultural and social barriers and physical constraints. 60% of women from rural areas and 90% of women from urban areas were involved in decision making especially in the selection of crops and varieties for planting and livestock rearing. Enhancing the knowledge and skills of women in the field of agriculture would contribute to the increase income from agriculture at household level, district level and finally at national level.

**Keywords:** Agriculture, Rural, Urban, Women participation

## Liberalization and Wage Inequality in India

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Following Picketty (2014), income inequalities can be decomposed into inequalities from wealth-based income and those due labour earnings (wages). Economic liberalisation in India was expected to have resulted in greater labour-intensive production and demand for low-skilled labour, increasing the income of such labour relative to skilled labour. But contrary to this expectation, the wages/earnings of high skilled workers in India have risen much faster than that of low skilled workers, rapidly increasing wage inequality during the period of liberalisation. This impact has been concentrated in (organised) manufacturing and in urban wages. Overall wage inequalities are however a product of several factors - rapid economic growth which has raised the demand for workers in non-agricultural sectors; the nature of labour institutions (embedded in social institutions), rising skill and capital intensity, both in manufacturing and in services, capital accumulation processes, and state policies. These factors have affected urban and rural inequality differently, and have also impacted on social groups in different ways.

This paper is an attempt to explore the trends in wage inequality in India in the post liberalisation period. It is based on an analysis of quinquennial employment-unemployment surveys carried out by the National Sample Survey Organisation since 1993-94, and the Annual Survey of Industries data for organised manufacturing.

**Key words:** Income inequalities, Economic liberalization, Labor

## Effects and Outcomes of Institutional Environment on Women-led SMEs in Asia

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Small and Medium-scale Enterprises (SMEs) led by women play a pivotal role in developing economies (Birley, 1989). However, the problems encountered by them in succeeding their businesses are not minor or negligible. Empirical findings have revealed several areas that impede the success of women-led SMEs. Most of previous studies have examined the effect of demographic factors, individual motivation, experiences, availability of resources etc. on the business performance and/or success of women entrepreneurs. However, it has revealed that regulatory forces, risky or uncertain environmental conditions, and changing cultural and normative dimensions of the society play a pivotal role in impeding or expediting the success of SMEs in developing economies. Thus, institutional perspective has been helpful in studying numerous effects on SMEs. Accordingly, present study examines the challenges of institutional environment on the women-led SMEs in terms of regulatory, normative, and cognitive dimensions at the macro level. It is conducted as a review of existing literature. The insights drawn are extended for policy makers, practitioners, researchers, and theorists for further actions.

**Key words:** *Institutional environment, women, SMEs, Asia, challenges*

**THEME 02:  
INTERACTIONS AND INTERSECTIONS  
BETWEEN CASTE, CLASS AND GENDER  
INEQUALITIES IN SOUTH ASIA**

## Caste, Class, and Gender: Intersecting Inequalities

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South Asia, in general, and India, in particular, has been home to multiple forms of inequality, the main among these being based on caste, class, and gender. The essence of these forms of inequality is the hierarchical distribution of the population into identifiable groups and the hierarchical relations among individuals belonging to different groups. The hierarchical distribution of the population may be across the country or in specific geographical locales like villages or urban centres. However, the hierarchical relations between individuals belonging to different groups are, by and large, specific to geographical locales or socio-economic contexts.

It is, no doubt, possible to analyse the nature and dynamics of these different forms of inequality in isolation of each other. However, the understanding resulting from such an analysis would be one-sided and inadequate theoretically and infructuous for policy formulation. This is so because, in reality, these forms of group inequality do not exist independent of each other; they intersect and interact with each other. Thus, the nature and dynamics of inequality in South Asian societies is understandably complex. The complexity of inequality is further confounded by the differences in the ontological basis of different forms of inequality: *caste* is based on the religious ideology of purity–pollution and membership in a caste group being determined by birth into it, which, in turn, is guarded by the principle of caste (and even sub-caste) endogamy; class is based on the secular ideology of achievement, though under conditions of transmission of privileges or disabilities across generations; and gender is based on the ideology of patriarchy, which views and treats women as being inferior to men. Moreover, the different forms of inequality as also the intersection and interaction among them do not remain static; they change over time, making for both changing patterns of inequality among a population and changing degrees of severity. This also implies that social dialectics is characterised by forces maintaining status quo in patterns of inequality and those striving for change in it. All this has theoretical significance for social sciences and for formulating policies for reducing, if not, eliminating inequalities.

Based on a review of the empirical literature on inequality in India, this paper delineates the intersections and interactions between caste, class, and gender inequalities. While the paper is based on available empirical evidence on the subject, it goes beyond portraying the nature of inequality today. The effort here is to arrive at theoretical propositions which may help capture the nature of social dynamics in the South Asian region.

***Key words:*** *Inequality, Caste, Gender, India*

## Access to Services in Jaffna: Perceptions of Caste

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The equitable provision of and access to basic services to traditionally marginalized communities is a concern in post conflict contexts. One particular concern is discrimination based on caste. In Sri Lanka, caste is a taboo subject and the subsequent silence around issues of caste and how it continues to exclude, marginalize and discriminate people in Sri Lanka need to be urgently addressed through dialogue, debate and research.

This paper will be the second in a series that looks at the role of caste in accessing and delivering basic services with a particular focus on health, education and water and sanitation. It explores the ways in which caste shapes the provision and access to education in a low caste community in post war Jaffna.

In Jaffna, caste identity continues to shape access to educational institution- both government and private. Barriers to entry to better schools not only limit options in further studies or employment but also prevent school going children from completing secondary education; and reinforce historical legacies of marginalization and exclusion. I will show how access to education in a low caste community is shaped by the intersection of caste with local and national factors. At a local level caste intersects with communities' livelihood and location while at the national level the phenomenon's of nationalism, globalization, class and religion intersect with caste and create opportunities and barriers to access education.

Using ethnographic tools (staying in Jaffna for 3 months), coupled with unstructured and informal interviews with service providers at district, divisional and local level; focus group discussions with men, women and children in the community; and participant observation, I have been able to unpack some of the ways caste shapes access to education.

**Key words:** Caste discrimination, Education, Jaffna

## Socio-economic Status of Inland Fishermen: Case of Anuradhapura District in Sri Lanka

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Inland fishing is the main source of income of many rural people who live adjacent to most of the tanks in Sri Lanka. The objective of this study was to find out the present status of socio economic factors affecting inland fishermen in Anuradhapura district in Sri Lanka. According to the statistics, there are 4083 fishermen in Anuradhapura district. Out of them, 96 fishermen were randomly selected for this study. Data was collected using a household survey with the help of a pre-tested questionnaire during August-October 2014 and was analyzed using MS Excel software.

This research is descriptive in nature. According to the results, out of the total fisherman population, 98% were male fishermen and female participation was very low. Furthermore, majority of the fishermen (46%) belonged to middle age category (35-50years). The involvement of young people in fishing activities is considerably low at present. The main reasons for becoming a fisherman were unemployed situation, poverty, government training programs, and family backgrounds. A majority of the fishermen (55%) had education up to GCE O/L. Therefore, they have a considerable level of education. However, a significant number of fishermen (53%) hadn't got any training or additional education regarding fishing. Although most of the fishermen (39%) had 5-7 of family members, one or two members from each family were doing fishing. Nevertheless, some fishermen (19%) earn Rs. 41,000-50,000 per month from fishing. This is a significant level of monthly income when Anuradhapura district is taken in to account. However, while 26% fishermen were doing only fishing as their one and only source of income, 18% of fishermen were earning 41%-50% of their total monthly income from fishing. In off seasons especially during rainy seasons (October to April), fishermen have to find other income sources as fish harvest drastically go down. The cost of fishing has significantly increased at present compared with the past five years. The majority of fishermen had sold their harvest to middlemen at a low price like Rs. 200-250/kg. Although there was a significant demand for inland fish, there was not enough supply to fulfill that demand. Therefore, it is important to motivate fishermen to increase their supply. Also there should be a mechanism to maintain a fair price for the fishermen. Most of the fishermen had problems regarding the high prices of essential equipment, getting those equipment from the government due to the influences of political parties, poor extension service on inland fishing of the area. Therefore, finding solutions for these problems, motivate fishermen to gain higher production which would lead to better socio-economic status.

**Key words:** Inland fishing, Inland fishery industry, Fishermen, Anuradhapura district, Sri Lanka.

## The Livelihood Issues Faced by a River Shrimping Community in Urban Sri Lanka

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Catching river shrimp as a livelihood is not a very popular income source in contemporary urban Sri Lanka even though there are communities who still do this as their livelihood living in riparian areas. There is one such small, low-income community living near Bolgoda Lake who catches river shrimp as their livelihood. The research field is located in the Kesbewa Urban Council area. At present, it is the third generation who lives in this riparian and follows this livelihood. There are 32 households in this community. Though the research field is well-known as a river shrimp livelihood community, after a few visits, the researcher was able to identify that the number of households which are permanently engaged in river shrimping has reduced to four (4) from the earlier 20–25 households that primarily engaged in catching river shrimp apart from other work. Today in almost all the families, at least one member is involved in fishing as the livelihood but not in river shrimping. This was the driving factor for the researcher to conduct research in the area. The main research problem is related to the livelihood issues faced by the river shrimping community in urban Sri Lanka. The main objective was to identify livelihood issues faced by the river shrimping community. The other objectives were to identify the social exclusion faced by the particular community as a low-income settlement in the area and to identify how to enhance the social inclusion of the particular community through their livelihood. There were three research questions related to what the livelihood issues faced by particular community were, what the social exclusionary practices they face in the city were, and the ways to enhance their social inclusion. I used in-depth interviews and participant observation (during certain events that took place in the river shrimp livelihood community) to collect data and information. I conducted 22 interviews covering different age groups in the community. The major findings are elaborated under the sub themes the issue of informal/formal separation, economic instability and livelihood insecurity, the issue of Beraliya population, water pollution, and garbage, the issue of finding a reasonable market to sell, not having reasonable equipment to develop their livelihood, unwillingness of the third and next generations to continue in the same livelihood, and finally, the issue of social stigma, discrimination, and social exclusion. The main argument in this paper is that the livelihood issues faced by the river shrimping community are the reasons for the decrease of river shrimping or the shift to fishing and the social exclusion experienced by them as a low-income settlement in the area.

**Key words:** *Urban, Formal, Informal, Exclusion, Inclusion*

## Mining Closure and the Issue of Livelihood in India

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“Mining Communities” around the world share several common characteristics. They are similar in nature, in the impact sharing mechanisms, as they may be associated through environmental, social, economic or some other impact. Apart from this, another very important issue where homogeneity in the character has been observed among the mining communities is the issue of mining closure and the associated socio-economic impact. Of the several mining issues, an important issue which has not received proper concern over a period of time is mining closure and the issue of livelihood in India. It is the mining communities who suffer a lot due to the closure as they derive their livelihood from it directly or indirectly. Also the local economy in the vicinity area largely depends on the mining activities. Hence, mine closure may affect the communities in a large number of ways - environmental plan of the mine, employment and education of the youth and continuation of social services, such as water, power, and health care. Government of India’s National Policy 1993 emphasizes only on the issue of rehabilitation of mine closure whereas the New National Mineral Policy 2008 is an extension of the earlier one in a broader sense. Both policies are almost silent about the mining communities. Largely it can be said that the institutional frameworks should give more rooms to the livelihood aspect of mining communities as these are the people who always bear the cost where the other group shares the benefit of development. With this background, the study attempts to analyze the shift in the livelihoods of people during and post-mining operations.

The results based on data collected from a sample of 500 different types of stakeholders of Hindustan Zinc Limited, Sargipalli of the state Odisha, India of 24 mining villages; and on the basis of available evidence of documents and reports, interviews with officials of coal mine, show negative impact of closure in terms of decreased purchasing power of the people; under employment (e.g. a skilled labour working as a daily wage earner); the middle and upper age group people are commuting from their villages in search of livelihood and largely became the victims of vulnerability; the major impact is found to be on the losses of livelihood of small businesses like cycle repairing shops, grocery shops, weekly market and hotels; the paper also gives an indication of a special voluntary retirement scheme (VRS) of the employees which was a conspiracy and some middlemen were confusing the common man. All this happened because of the lack of transparency between the planners and the villagers. Lastly, the study has attempted to analyze the various key factors that bring difference in outcome, which have a bearing on policy.

**Key words:** *Mining communities, Mining issues, Socio-economic impacts*



## Globalization and Modern Development Practices under the Indigenous Authenticity: Experiences of South India and Sri Lanka

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This research reconsiders how ethno archaeologists find indigenous people, particularly Veddhas of Sri Lanka and Todas of South India under the globalization circumstance. Significant progress has been made in studying indigenous living areas associated with developed communities but not in recovering evidence for different native groups living in the above areas. In the present world, indigenous people face many challenges due to modern economic development, especially, the lack of space and material culture. The main objective of this study is to investigate the importance of indigenous knowledge for their authenticity within the ethno-archaeological and the development context. Data was collected from the available literature as well as by a field survey of the settlement site at Dambana, Sri Lanka and Nilgiri plateau of South India. It appears that they have changed their traditional hunter and gathering life style to money earning modern subsistence patterns such as animal husbandry and entertaining visitors by selling their traditional and cultural activities. Some charters and rules developed by national governments without concern for them may also results into change their subsistence pattern. Living prehistoric culture and the identity of Veddahs and Thodas appear to be changed by these social agents.

**Keywords:** *Ethno-archaeology, Globalization, Development, Veddhas, Todas, Authenticity*

## Gender, Peace and Security in South Asia: A Case Study of Violence against Women

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There has been of late, a great deal of discussion on issues concerning women, peace and security in South Asia with reference to the innumerable global resolutions, especially UNSCR 1325, the landmark resolution on women, peace and security that is due to celebrate its fifteenth anniversary on October 30, 2015. Yet, the main focus of these discussions on women, peace and security has largely remained on women in conflict and post conflict zones.

What remains largely unattended is serious examination of routine violence that women undergo in regions that do not fall strictly under either of the above two zones (of conflict and post conflict) i.e. the family, the society and of course the civic space. My paper will attempt to cover this gap and explore the everyday violence that routinely takes place in these spaces and the various initiatives that have been taken to mitigate such violence and bring justice and security to the quotidian lives of women.

My paper will also focus on the tools adopted by the state and society to make the society safer for women. The bearing that global declarations and conventions have on the lives of women will be examined too. In particular, protest as a tool for ensuring women's security and empowerment will be analyzed and the various strategies and stages of such movements will be highlighted. The formation, development and impact of these measures will be assessed and their frequency and popularity across states in the region will be traced. However the relative selectivity of the protests made against such violations will be analyzed too. Where as in India, there is a long history of protests against unfair treatment of women, be they against a court ruling in a custodial rape, or a bride burning or more recently sexual violence against a young paramedic, in Nepal it could be the robbery and rape of a tribal returnee, and in Bangladesh protests against the violence that was perpetrated on the 'Beeranganas'. Does this phenomenon imply that there is a certain blurring of the state boundaries when it comes to women and security, or there is still a long way to go before the personal could become political, as there are yet innumerable episodes where similar events occur across south Asia with virtually no consequence whatsoever. The lack of identification that mostly a 'well educated', middle class, urban, younger generation has with women sufferers who come from diverse religious, caste, class and rural groups will form the final segment of this paper.

I will attempt to formulate some policy perspectives for initiatives that would address the needs of the most marginalized women's groups in society. Thus, I will examine the inter sectionality of gender, caste, class and religion with conflict, violence and security and attempt to bring it from the margins of academic theorizing, to the centre of policy priority and practitioner perspective in South Asia.

**Key words:** *Gender, Peace, Security, Global resolution*

## Feminization of Ageing in Sri Lanka and Its Socio-economic Impacts

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The population ageing is one of the serious demographic issues in Sri Lanka and it directly influences the economic growth of the country. Root cause of population ageing is rapid decline in fertility. The process of population ageing is a by-product of a decline in fertility and the significant rise in longevity. The number of females of the elderly population is high than males. As female life expectancy is higher than male life expectancy, the socio-economic impact of population ageing on women is relatively high. Thus, this study attempts to examine the socio-economic impacts of population ageing with special attention on female elderly. The study uses secondary data from several World Bank reports and reports of the Department of Census and Statistics. Bivariate and univariate analysis have been used for the analysis. Females are less privileged segment of elderly than their male counterparts. Among elderly women, there are a significant proportion of unmarried females. Women are more likely than men to be widowed and less likely to remarry. In addition to women's higher life expectancy, they are often vulnerable to have health issues than elderly males. Since the probability of occurring male partners' death before the female partner is high, a significant number of widowhood among elderly women can be seen. Thus, more aged females have to live nearly about 8 to 9 years without getting their partners' security. It is found that mental disability is also much higher among the aged females. When considering the literacy rate, older women are low achievers than their male counterpart. Top of all, most of the female elders do not have permanent income source to meet their day today needs. Therefore, while enjoying a longer longevity, elderly females are more likely to have various types of socio-economic issues. Few policy implications and recommendations have been discussed in this paper. Providing some incentives to elderly females, increasing the retirement age, establishing elderly day care centers, identifying special health needs of older women and giving proper training to elderly care providers are some possible policy needs for the issues related to elderly women in Sri Lanka.

**Key words:** Ageing in Sri Lanka, Elderly women, Feminization, Old age, Longevity

## Work Family Conflict and Well-being of Women Employees in Gampaha District in Sri Lanka

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Because of increase in the living cost, whatever the job is, both husband and wife have to engage in jobs to sustain in Sri Lanka. In foreign countries, both husband and wife contribute to the increase in the family income. In those countries, luckily both of them share the spouse responsibilities between them. However, our tradition is very different. In Sri Lankan culture, with man-centered family and all other responsibilities and family affairs managed by the wife. Therefore, work family conflicts are generated in most of these families. In this context, this research was conducted to find out the factors generating work family conflict situations. The research was conducted in Gampaha district and 115 families were selected as the sample using multi stage random sampling. Data was collected using a household survey using a pre-tested questionnaire from August to November 2015. The data were analyzed using SPSS 20 statistical package. Correlation analysis, descriptive analysis, graphical analyses were used to find the relationship with work family conflicts. Results revealed that characteristics such as stress, non-flexibility of work, long working hours, age of children and lack of spouse support were the most significant factors for work family conflict. Furthermore, flexible work schedules, greater family support, transport facilities, good marital life and reduction of bulk of responsibilities in work were the significant factors to reduce spouse and family conflict. Thus, they help to increase the well-being of family of women employees. Government should pay high attention to this issue and get necessary action make relief for the women employees.

**Key words:** Women employees, Work family conflict, Spouse support, Sri Lanka.

**THEME 03:**  
**IMPACT OF EGALITARIANISM, DEMOCRATIC  
POLITICS AND CURRENT SOCIAL POLICIES ON  
CHANGING PATTERNS OF SOCIAL INEQUALITY**

## Triggering Socio-Economic Equity in the Highlands of South Asia: Emerging Challenges and Opportunities

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Hill and mountain regions constitute a significant part of geography, eco-system, natural resources and socio-cultural structures of South Asia. Being located in crucial geo-strategic regions, hill and mountain regions serve as water towers, a source of huge biodiversity reserves and provides energy security to a vast portion of low lands in South Asia. However, this geographical landmass also constitutes among the most development deprived regions and confronts with both intense locational disparity and in-built socio-economic inequity. Political systems have to a large extent made the protracted policy and development interventions ineffective in these geographies where infrastructural backwardness and institutional laggardness have been highly conspicuous. The outward migration of productive human resources have only added to this alienation syndrome. At the same time, bringing deeper and wider development in the highlands and ensuring human security therein could also change the national security dynamics based on orthodox variety of security thinking.

There are definite changes both in the development thinking related to the highlands and also on the approaches to policy interventions across South Asia. The economic reforms and the instruments of globalizations have opened several newer opportunities particularly in areas of raising rural productivity, re-orienting mountain agricultural heritage and injecting newer occupational ventures. The fresh initiatives on connectivity triggered by sub-regional and regional cooperation, technological refurbishments and more critically market access to the produces of the highlands could bring about visible social mobilization. These connectivities could reopen the borders for trade, tourism, and other commercial activities and the subsequent borderlands development could further change the basic structures of the livelihood and income generation patterns in the region. This could bring the geo-strategic stability. The traditional livelihood support and commercial cultivations like tea could be supplemented by huge global demands of high value organic products and floriculture and horticulture supply chains.

However, the emerging challenges are of very serious dimensions. The first being the likely impact of climate change on the livelihood practices and pattern in the highlands. The changing nature of calamities in these highly disaster prone areas and the trans-border environmental injuries topped by unregulated flows of forces and agents and their commercial ventures under the globalization process could in fact adversely affect the very sustainability of these fragile geographies. These could threaten the carrying capacity, pull apart the traditional institutions, trigger disharmony among the communities and instabilities in the political economies.

Against this backdrop, this paper also examines the development efficacy enhancing roles of regional organization like SAARC and international development agencies like the UNDP, ADB and the World Bank.

**Keywords:** *Socio-economic inequity, Political systems, Highlands*

## Political Economy of Reforms, Redistribution and Change in South Asia: Role of Regional Cooperation

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South Asian region stands at a rather paradoxical location in terms of its economic evolution seen from a regional perspective. On one hand, the region is identified as a test case for enormous human development challenges that the region faces, being home to nearly half of the world's poor and having nearly one fifth of the world's total population. Most of the South Asian countries have human development indices which typically characterize a region which has failed to ensure basic standards of health, education and employment to its teeming millions. Yet, it is also regarded as a region of potential and opportunity having witnessed nearly two decades of steady economic reforms and fairly decent pace of economic growth at the macro level, leading to emergence of a vibrant middle class constituting an attractive market opportunity for domestic and foreign investors alike. South Asia's failure therefore has been clearly in terms of its inability to translate its reform-led growth into an appropriate redistributive framework which would enable horizontal spread of the benefits and mitigation of the inherent inequalities that exist.

The present paper tries to analyze this dichotomy by looking at the regional situation and explores whether regional cooperation offers an instrument for the countries to share each other's experiences and implement programmes which could lead to collective well being and human development in South Asia. It looks at the frameworks which have been attempted under the auspices of the South Asian Association for regional Cooperation (SAARC), which have not really led to meaningful interventions so far and suggests alternative regional strategies to address the issues of poverty, inequity and redistribution in South Asia. It argues that there may not be a singular framework which could be adopted for South Asia as a whole, but a more specific approach factoring in the local scenarios which could be a building block for a regional effort to address the challenges of human development in South Asia.

**Keywords:** *Economic evolution, Regional perspective, Human development*

## Social and Economic Policy Options to Reduce Social and Economic Inequalities

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The paper discusses multi-dimensional aspects of inequality and how social and economic inequalities often lead to environmental and political inequality. The paper further discusses the options for linking economic and social policy framework for addressing the causes and consequences of social and economic inequalities in the context of South Asia. Paper also highlights the role of democratization of governance, social accountability, rights based and sustainable development approach in addressing social and economic inequalities, with specific reference to Kerala in India as well as the experiences in Nordic countries. There is a widely shared concern about the causes and consequences of increasing trend of social and economic inequalities across the world. Inequality has implications for public policy and citizens rights. Inequality is not merely about income or wealth distribution within a society. Various analysis and researches have indicated that there are multiple forms of inequalities – social, economic and political. This often leads to conflict over resources which lead to societal tension and violence. The attention gained by the book 'The capital in the twenty first century' by Thomas Piketty has shifted the global focus back on the growing income disparity.

By next year, 1% of the world's population will own more wealth than the other 99%. The share of the world's wealth owned by the top 1% has increased from 44% in 2009 to 48% in 2014, while the bottom 80% currently own just 5.5%. The working of neo-liberal policies is primarily responsible for this anomaly. According to Joseph E. Stiglitz, the markets have failed as they are neither efficient nor stable. At the same time, the political system remained ineffective in correcting the failure of the markets. Moreover, the existing economic and political systems are basically unfair to the poor.

Jean Dreze and Amartya Sen, in their book, 'An Uncertain Glory - India and its Contradictions' discuss India's multiple inequalities and the mutual reinforcement of different inequalities. As a result, actual disparities between 'haves' and 'have-nots' in India are much more glaring than what is shown by the standard measures of economic inequality like Gini coefficient of the income distribution. In India, the top 5 per cent of the households possess 38 per cent of the total assets and the bottom 60 per cent of households owns a mere 13%. The economic growth in the last twenty years has not benefitted a vast majority of marginalized and poor sections in India. The jobless economic growth created more opportunities for the privileged section of the society with consequent economic inequalities reinforcing the already entrenched social inequalities in India. The lingering impact of social hierarchy is still felt in many places. Unlike many other countries, India has extreme inequalities in both economic and social spheres.

Gender inequality is a cause of grave concern in India. The falling sex ratio (933 per 1000 males in 2011) gives a glaring evidence of gender inequality prevalent in the society. The political representation of women is low which deprives women of voicing their opinion in a patriarchal society.

Inequalities need to be corrected through progressive taxation and public spending to benefit the majority of the citizens. While economic growth is important for improving people's living conditions, it is equally important that the fruits of economic growth reach the lower rungs of the society. Therefore, the distributional aspect of economic growth needs to be given more importance. Social Protection policies have to be designed in such a way to ensure social as well as economic empowerment of socially and economically marginalized communities. Governments need to ensure more accountability delivery of essential public services and basic entitlements for the most disadvantaged sections of the society. Markets have to be regulated to ensure that majority of the citizens stand to gain from the growth process.

**Key words:** *Socio-economic inequality, Policy framework, Gender*

## Collective Ritual as a Way of Transcending Ethno-religious Differences: In Case of Pāda Yātra in Sri Lanka

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For anyone who heard about the brutal ethnic war continued for last three decades, it is difficult to envisage that disagreeing ethnic groups in Sri Lanka essentially unite in everyday interactions in different spheres and situations. During this presentation I will explain why and how this happens in a background where essentialisation of ethno-religious labels prevail and relations between groups are still tense following years of conflict. My participation in pilgrimage on foot or *Pāda Yātra* to Kataragama during PhD fieldwork in the rural village of Pānama shows that people belonging three different ethnic groups; Sinhala, Tamil and Muslim, tend to overcome their differences in the context of rituals that blend Hindu and Popular Buddhist traditions. I will focus how members of diverse ethno-religious groups take part in pilgrimage wherein religious rituals provides a situation for conflicting groups to unite building through which their aspirations for well-being on the whole will be fulfilled based on Victor Turner's idea of liminality and *communitas* (1969) as recently linked to the lived religion of pilgrimages (Hermkens, Willy Jansen, and Notermans 2009). In the Sri Lankan context communities is established through the power of rituals which unites people according to their concerns: prosperity, security and safety. Multi-religious people around the country make an annual pilgrimage to worship mainly Hindu (and now Buddhist) god Kataragama or Murugan in the sacred city Kataragama. People in the north and east make a special ritual namely pilgrimage on foot or *Pāda Yātra* to Kataragama. Those devotees start their walk on foot from the Nallur temple in Jaffna and come via eastern coast passing Muslim, Tamil and Sinhala areas. This paper will be based on my personal experience as a researcher by walking to Kataragama through Yāla forest for about 105 kilometers for about six days in the month of July 2011. Paper will explain how the liminal conditions and devotional worshipping culture of the god Kataragama (or Murugan) provide equal or basically unquestionably fair condition to achieve their well-being in general.

## War-Affected Children and Psycho-social Rehabilitation

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The main purpose of this paper is to examine the inception, developments, functionalities and new trends of psycho-social rehabilitation in war-affected contexts. There is limited conformity among experts over the elements that need to be inherent to a psycho-social rehabilitation programme on war-affected children. Specially, there is a huge debate regarding the western medical rehabilitation approach in healing war-affected children worldwide. Therefore, in this paper, it is expected to explore the basic elements that need to be considered before applying any psycho-social rehabilitation methods of rehabilitating war-affected children. This paper provides a theoretical discussion regarding the relationship of war-affected children and psycho-social rehabilitation, and therefore, this paper is solely based on a literature review on the relevant subject. According to literature, the impact of war on children was mainly given attention after the Second World War. Initially, most researchers focus their attention on negative psychological effects and the 'risk factors' of war. Later, they found that all children are not affected equally and was not subjected to mental trauma in the same manner, but varied levels of other effects. The main cause for this has been identified as the differences in coping mechanism of each child and these mechanisms either depend on their personality traits or the social context. Therefore, in later years, the researches focused on identifying those mechanisms as 'protective factors' that prevail in war situations. However, the different viewpoints in research findings on 'war-affected children' enable to re-strategise psycho-social interventions.

As a result, three main components were identified as an important determinates when conducting a psycho-social rehabilitation process in the war context. First is the diagnosis of the impact of war on affected children, there can be varied levels of impact which needs different methods of rehabilitation. Second is analysis on 'social context', which refers to the immediate physical and social setting, including culture, religion, traditions, beliefs, people, structures and institutions. Third is the concept of 'healing', which refer to mental, social and spiritual restoration of an individual.

Finally, this study concludes that in order to heal war-affected children in a successful way, three main components should be taken into account. The first one is the level of war impact on children. The second one is the rehabilitation methods that are available and the third one is resources (human and material) available to conduct the healing activities.

**Keywords:** *War-affected children, Psycho-social rehabilitation, Healing, Social context*

## Socio-Economic Impacts of Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) in North Central Province (NCP) in Sri Lanka

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The CKD of unknown aetiology is an incalculable healthcare problem in the NCP in Sri Lanka. This is a community based study conducted to identify socio-economic impacts of CKD, that cannot be identified in NCP in Sri Lanka. According to the WHO [1], more than 12.9 percent of the population aged 15–70 years in the North Central and Uva provinces are affected with CKD. Over 22,000 deaths from the disease have been recorded in the Anuradhapura district in the NCP since CKD was first identified in 1991. Anuradhapura is the main, district with 22 DSDs [2] and with is the largest amount of CKD patients reported in NCP. The district population was 856,232 according to the last census in 2011. Medawachchiya and Padaviya are the DSDs which had the highest reported cases of CKD and Rajanganaya which had a relatively low effect of CKD. Medawachchiya was the selected DSD for this study. There are 37 DNDs in Medawachchiya DN with 46,743 population according to the census report in 2011. Using cluster sampling technique, a sample size was generated. Sample size was 287 and sample size means the number of households. According to the systematic sampling technique 17 DNDs were selected. Family density, population density, number of CKD patients, number of deaths causing CKD and also food insecurity are the main factors that were considered. Numbers of households were selected systematically in proportion to the family density in each GND [3]. Those households were randomly selected from the voters list with an interviewer administrated structured questionnaire. The sample consists of 282 householders and there were 915 family members. Most of (30.85%) those people do farming as their main occupation. CKD affected householders' percentage is 79.795%. Also CKD affected 2.18% of the females out of total female population, 458 and 10.28% of males out of total male population, 457. There is statistical significance among CKD patients and their gender, farming behavior and other socio-economic aspects such as economic impact, economic deduction, disturbance to farming, deviation from employment, borrowing, disturbance in education of children. It can be concluded that there is no association with marital status, smoking, usage of liqueur, in the above mentioned area, Medawachchiya.

**Key words:** Socio-economic impacts, CKD, North Central & Uva Provinces

**THEME 04:  
IMPLICATIONS OF SCIENCE AND  
TECHNOLOGY ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC  
INEQUALITY**

## High Malnutrition Rate among Young Women Working in Wearing Apparel Industry; Impact of Food Consumption and Life Style

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Female contribution in labor force of Sri Lankan wearing apparel industry has been noteworthy during last two decades. Proper nutrition at young age of women determines the healthy pregnancy and the risk of developing non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in later life.

This study was aimed to assess the nutritional status, and food consumption and behavioural factors of young women working at wearing apparel manufacturing factories. A random sample of 340 participants age ranging 18 – 30 y were included. A self-administered structured questionnaire, qualitative food frequency questionnaire and physical activity records were used to collect information. Anthropometric measurements, namely, height, weight, triceps skin fold thickness and waist circumference (WC) were obtained to assess the nutritional status.

Sixty three percent of the participants were malnourished. Body fat levels had a positive correlation with body mass index. Age, marital state, snacks consumption and special dietary practices were significantly associated with nutritional status. Unmarried women were more likely to be underweight and be in the normal BMI category than those of married women who were obese. A significant proportion (58%) of participants had sedentary lifestyle. Only 19% were consuming fruits at least once a day. Underweight women were less likely to follow special dietary practices and more likely to consume snacks compared to obese participants. The findings of the study showed that underweight was a severe problem than overweight or obesity prevalence. Participants consumed fast foods or bakery products as snacks, which may lead to low fruit consumption.

High proportion of young working women in wearing apparel industry has under nutrition as well as over nutrition problems due to improper food consumption and physical activity behaviour. Therefore, awareness and interventional programs are necessary to improve the nutritional status of this important segment of the labour force in Sri Lanka.

**Keywords:** *Body mass index, obese, sedentary lifestyle, underweight*



## Infrastructure Management in Science and Technology for Socio-economic Equity

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Science and Technology (S&T) are widely recognized as most important factors that contribute to economic development and social well-being of people in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. However, despite all these developments, socio-economic inequalities are still prevailing, especially in South Asian countries. Mere advances in S&T will not contribute to socio-economic development, if the activities of S&T are not properly managed. Therefore, there is a need to identify strategies for proper management and benefits-sharing of S&T.

Four major facets of infrastructure contributing to proper management of S&T are proposed as: (i) Policies and legislations, (ii) Organizational collaborations, (iii) Financial instruments, and (iv) Capacity building. Advances in S & T should be incorporated in preparing policies relevant to areas such as health, energy, environment and natural resource management. This knowledge could be used in providing equal access to health facilities and safe drinking, generating renewable energy, as well as in controlling air and water pollution, preventing land degradation and waste management etc. through proper legislations.

Collaboration among institutions/organizations that are relevant to environment, energy, land and water resources will ensure proper management of these resources using new techniques. Government intervention is a must in disseminating agriculture-based knowledge such as new varieties, pest and disease management etc., and information on weather patterns and market trends.

Development of proper criteria for allocation of limited resources, especially finances for Research and Development (R&D) activities will ensure maximum benefits to the society. Applied research should be identified and funded, based on their potential to contribute to socio-economic development of the country. Technology transfer will not bring expected results unless the technology is accessible to intended users. Financial instruments such as tax concessions and credit facilities are needed to encourage SMEs to use advanced technology to increase productivity and quality of products while generating jobs in rural areas. Access to technology or new knowledge should always be coupled with capacity building to use that. Distance learning facilities supported by ICT can be used to take new knowledge to rural areas. University curricula should be adjusted to produce graduates for the needs of the country. Fundamental research should be encouraged to enhance knowledge while establishing tertiary education institutes/ technical colleges to train the youth for technical jobs.

It is expected that proper management of these infrastructure in S&T will contribute to equity in benefits sharing of S&T to overcome socio-economic inequalities.

**Key words:** *Infrastructure, Policies and legislations, Organizational collaborations, Financial instruments, Capacity building.*

## Innovation Systems, Inequality and Exclusion: Evidence from Innovation in Low Carbon Energy and ICT Diffusion in India

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Going by the empirical evidence that since 1950, 13 economies have grown at an average rate of seven percent a year or more for 25 years or longer (Commission on Growth and Development 2008), it may be inferred that under globalization, high growth may not be beyond the reach of many developing countries. Evidence also suggests that episodes of high growth under globalization have not been inclusive *inter alia* on account of the co-evolution of growth and inequalities at different levels. It appears that while the recipe for high growth is presumably ready, what is missing is a credible cookbook of inclusive development - an issue of current concern not only for Nobel Laureates like Amartya Sen and Joseph Stiglitz and development scholars in general but also for many of the scholars who approach development from innovation system perspective. Yet, our understanding on the ways to achieve inclusive development by addressing inequalities at different levels, at best, remains rudimentary. Like the earlier schools of thought from Adam Smith and Schumpeter to new growth theorists, innovation system perspective, which by now has emerged as the most widely used approach in innovation studies (Fagerberg and Sappasert 2011), considers innovation as the key to growth and development process.

Since innovation breeds development, the nature of developmental outcomes, equal or unequal for example, would be influenced by the underlying innovation system and the capabilities and competence that it generates at the level of individuals and organizations. There is much in common between Amartya Sen's call for capabilities and freedoms and the innovation system perspective that underline the need for interactive learning, innovation and competence building at the level of individuals and organizations. In a seminal contribution, Amartya Sen (2000) articulated different forms of social exclusion which stands in the way of capabilities and freedom. Drawing insights from the innovation system perspective and social exclusion, the present study presents empirical evidence for different forms social exclusion (active exclusion, passive exclusion, constitutive and instrumental exclusion) in the innovation system. The study also articulates, new analytical categories of exclusion/inclusion (transient and sustained exclusion; subordinated inclusion and illusive inclusion), in the innovation systems and provides empirical evidence from case studies of innovation in low carbon energy and ICT diffusion in India wherein multiple spaces of exclusion have contributed towards the generation and sustenance of inequalities.

**Key words:** *Globalization, Innovation System, Low Carbon Energy*

## Tapping the grass root innovation for inclusive socio-economic development

J. G. Shantha Siri

Grassroots innovation is defined as innovative product or process created at the bottom of the pyramid, usually due to necessity, hardship and challenges (Hilmi M. F., 2012). Grass root innovations are important as low cost and locally sustainable, offer new problem solving techniques which can be applied in different contexts, it can be blended with the scientific and technological knowledge of formal sector to develop value added products and services.

In the recent past, technological innovation has led to increased productivity, higher economic growth, improved living conditions and poverty alleviation around the world. However, access to the benefits of this rapid development has been uneven, with a large share of the world's population not benefiting from these advances. Nearly 2.5 billion people live on less than US\$2 a day. More than 35 percent of the population does not have access to basic sanitation facilities and 22 percent do not have access to electricity (World Bank, 2013). These data indicates that innovation is not sufficient to improve living standards and it is not inclusive. Inclusive means that it must be accessible and affordable to those at the base-of-the-pyramid (BoP) or help create better economic opportunities for them. Inclusive innovation refers to the "knowledge creation, acquisition, absorption and distribution efforts targeted directly at meeting the needs of the low-income or the BoP population in order to improve their welfare and access to better economic opportunities.

Large corporations have now been realized that mere reliance on market forces will not fill gaps in innovation or successful positioning innovative products/processes in the market especially among disadvantaged segment in the population. Therefore it seems to be lack of sourcing of ideas which can add value to existing knowledge, disseminating innovations in a manner that users can adapt to their local context and innovating for social equity.

The emerging consensus in the discourse on development is that poor people are not just *sink* of aid and assistance but can also be a powerful *source* of ideas and innovation.

"Any country that aims at harmonious and inclusive development will have to draw upon innovations at grassroots level which are clearly distinguished from innovation for grassroots applications" (Gupta Anil K., 2006)

Initiatives taken by emerging economies such as India and China to harness grass root innovations have demonstrated unambiguously, that the innovator at grassroots can indeed become an instrument of decentralized, diversified and dynamic development, locally as well as globally. The g2G model (grassroots to global) in India has become evident in which queries are received for innovation based products and services from more than 60 countries and products were sold in all the five continents.

This review paper aims to mine secondary data published in regard to initiatives, models & policy frameworks towards tapping grass root innovations and to stimulate a discussion on how grass root innovation be promoted for inclusive socio-economic development in the local context. The structure of the paper is as follows. Section I presents initiatives, models & policy frameworks implemented by other countries towards tapping grass root innovations. Section II summarizes lessons learnt of inclusive development based on grass root innovation case studies (successes and failures). Section III draws out implications for governments seeking to promote harnessing grass root innovation and finally Section IV discusses implications for other key stakeholders in bring in grass root innovation for inclusive development.

**Keywords:** Innovation, Grass root innovation, Inclusive development, Socio-economic development, Social equity

## Socio-economic Impact of Biodiesel Production from Oil of Sri Lankan Freshwater Algae

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Environment pollution is one of the drawbacks of fossil fuel burning. Many countries have been looking for alternative energy sources substitute to fossil fuel. Biodiesel is used as an alternative source for fossil fuel. When compared to other terrestrial crops micro algae has high potential to produce bio energy. Sri Lankan fresh water algae have good potential to be a source of bio diesel production. The objective of the study was to evaluate the potential and socio-impact of biofuel production from fresh water micro algae using different growing media such as the Guillared and Ryther's modified F medium, two concentrations of Albert solution and fresh water (Tap water). All the media were sterilized using UV light. The three samples of algae were used for the experiment. The sample A consists majorly with algae spp *Scenedesmus bijuga* and *Selenastrum quadricaudum*. The algae spp *Hormidium* and *Netrium interruptus* are more prominent types in sample B and Sample C consists with algae spp *Spirotoenia* and *Closterium parvulum*. The treatments were replicated three times and the experiment was designed according to the RCBD. The better growth performances were observed in algae sample A grown in half concentration of Albert solution compared to other sample as it observed highest absorbance value. The significantly highest dry matter yield was observed in sample A as 0.3941 g/l in half concentration of Albert solution. The highest dry matter yield in sample B and C type B were shown in Guillared and Ryther's modified F medium (0.3603 g/l) and full concentration of Albert solution (0.3507 g/l) respectively. The above results reveal that, Sri Lankan fresh water algae can be used as feed stock to produce biodiesel., Zero emission of Nitrogen (NO, NO<sub>2</sub>) will affect for green house effect, low Environmental Hazards, low rate of Human Health Getting Affected, alternative for Rising Prices of fossil fuel, Zero emission of Sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) is cause for avoid of acid rain, zero impact on Aquatic Life by Oil Spill, zero Coal Mining, no need huge amount of reserves. Discovered socio impacts of bio diesel are critically influence to social and socio-economy.

**Key wards:** Socio economic impact, Biodiesel, Green house effect

## Present Status and Future Scenario of Floriculture Industry in Sri Lanka

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Floriculture industry is considered as a high income generating agribusiness and it can potentially be harnessed as a means of socioeconomic development in Sri Lanka. Uses of flowers in the country are blooming with the development of living standard of Sri Lankans and people use flowers in many events in their life such as for greetings, weddings and funerals and the usage of flowers in religious places is also very high (in Buddhists temples and Hindu Kovils). By exporting floriculture products to foreign markets, the country earns around 14.0 billion in year 2014. However, Exporters inform they earn profits by selling their products in local markets instead of exporting cut flowers. Limited literature and the lack of data are the main barriers to develop policies in this sector. Sri Lanka is a home to an enormous botanical diversity and has a wide range of floricultural items. However, the potential has not been used properly. The business is handled by few exporters, middle level growers and small scale growers. The National Policy Framework, Government of Sri Lanka, 2010 aims to develop floriculture sector as a source of income generating pathway to unemployed women in the country. It is expected that Sri Lankan floriculture products will be recognized as one of the best quality floriculture production centers in the world. Therefore, this research examines the present status of the floriculture industry in Sri Lanka and the future needs.

The observation and analysis presented in this paper are based on a questionnaire survey and interviews conducted during the period April – August 2014 in Colombo and Gampaha Districts of Sri Lanka and growers' views in the workshop on "Setting new horizons in horticulture 2020" held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at Colombo. Data were collected for qualitative analysis through direct questions and open ended questions. The evidence of this research acknowledges that collective actions of growers drive the development of floriculture in the country. Indirectly the growers highlighted that the increased utilization of flowers in the country, created a favorable demand for their products and therefore, growers need more market expansions. The main constraints of the growers are financial difficulties to purchase land to expand their productions. This is because many growers start their home-based business and with their success they try to increase the cultivation. Therefore, growers as well as the government need to develop a proper market for the floriculture products at national and international levels. Institutional support is one of the crucial factors to promote this industry. This was also highlighted by the growers in the process of interviews. Thus, it is important to establish a strong institutional framework for the expansion of the floricultural industry in Sri Lanka.

**Key words:** *Floriculture industry, Institutional framework, flower, growers, Sri Lanka*

**THEME 05:  
EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCE  
DEVELOPMENT**

## The Role of Sri Lankan University Education in Achieving Social Mobility: Life Histories of Graduates from 1954-2010

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Sri Lanka is an exception among most developing countries in that access to state subsidized free education has been offered in the country for almost 70 years. However, since the 1970s, Sri Lanka's university education system has faced a barrage of criticism over inadequate resource allocation and the quality of university education provided. Focusing on narrow economic aspects, the current debate has largely neglected the wider social objectives of university education including its facilitating role in social mobility.

Furthermore, there is a dearth of empirical evidence on how a university degree confers social mobility in Sri Lanka. Most studies have concentrated on economic returns to the graduate and been limited to graduates from a specific year/discipline. Hence, this study explores the impact of university education through a much wider scope and time.

The specific objectives of this qualitative study were to: understand how graduates from different decades may have used university education to change their life circumstances (in both economic and social dimensions); identify key policy changes regarding university education which influenced access to and impacts of university education.

The study captures intergeneration changes through multiple dimensions: economic class, individual earnings, household income and assets, and occupational status. It also analyses individual and household mobility in terms of human and social capital: communication skills, self-confidence, occupational mobility, health and wellbeing, networks, social cohesion, etc.

Data was gathered from 26 graduates via interviews using the life history method. Graduates were chosen according to criteria, such as year of graduation, gender, degree programme, university and their socio-economic background. Nvivo software was used to analyze qualitative narratives with a basic analytical framework allowing room to generate findings through a grounded theory approach.

The nature of social mobility created through the university system is evidenced in the change of student attendance overtime, mainly from elitist to working class (rural) family backgrounds. The data suggests that access to free university education has had a direct impact on intergenerational and intra-generational social mobility among graduates. Compared to their parents, graduates show a movement from blue collar to white collar employment, higher and more stable pay and greater employment options. Moreover, graduates also noted that the degree contributed to higher social recognition/status in their communities. This study also provided evidence on how female graduates made their choices between family relationships and occupation.

This study shows that free university education had a profound effect on several generations of Sri Lankans, creating greater social mobility. This paper provides new evidence to identify the impact of free university education both in social and economic terms.

**Key words:** *Human capital, Social capital, Social mobility, Life histories*

## Relationship between Remittance and Rural Primary Education: A Case Study on Sampath Bank Remittance Beneficiaries

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In many developing nations around the world, remittances have come to play a significant role in the development process in numerous ways: as a source of valuable foreign exchange, poverty reduction as well as enhancement of human capital. Referring to the Sri Lankan context, the situation is also same as nearly two million Sri Lankans are occupying in foreign countries at present generating a remarkable amount of remittance accounts for nearly 8.3 percent to the Sri Lankan Gross Domestic Production which is second only to total export earnings. In Sri Lanka, most of the studies are confined to the benefits of migration on rural communities and members left behind by increasing household income but less is focused on the impact of remittance on educational productivity.

In this context, this study is conducted with the main objective of investigating the impact of remittance on primary education in rural community. This study also reveals the contribution of remittances for primary education, the productivity of remittance investments on education, comparison of the level of primary education among migrant and non-migrant families and factors affecting the productivity of primary education. The data collection was conducted using a pre-structured questionnaire in Galewela Divisional Secretariat with a sample of 45 each from remittance beneficiaries of Sampath Bank and non-remittance beneficiaries including children obtaining primary education.

The findings of the study reveal that migrant households spend more receipt of remittance on primary education than non-migrant households. Using Wilcoxon Sign Rank Test, it has been measured that according to the parental perception of migrant families, the productivity of rural primary education has been increased after the investment of remittance. But according to the statistical comparison using two sample t- test focused on the level of primary education among migrant and non-migrant families, it has been revealed that remittance has no significant impact on the productivity of rural primary education. Through the regression analysis conducted to find the factors affecting rural primary education, it has been concluded that parental absence and time allocation of mother for children education plays an important role than the share of remittance on education.

**Key words:** Remittance, Rural, Primary Education

## Opening up Access to Education: Role of Open Educational Resources

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Access to reliable and useful learning resources and the costs of these learning resources are often observed as substantial obstacles to education and training in developing contexts. Emphasizing the need of universal access to high quality education, UNESCO identified the significance of Open Educational Resources (OER) as a strategic opportunity in this regard (UNESCO, 2015). OER are teaching, learning and research materials in any medium, digital or otherwise, that reside in the public domain or have been released under an open license that permits no-cost access, use, adaptation and redistribution by others with no or limited restrictions (UNESCO, 2012). Open licensing of materials opens up access to educational resources through providing users with rights to use them in different ways, at no cost. The use of OER has also been recommended as a very cost-effective way to invest in curriculum development and quality teaching-learning material development in an Asian context (Dhanarajan & Porter, 2013).

This paper presents an investigation on the perceptions of Sri Lankan school teachers on the adoption of OER in their teaching-learning situations in terms of enhancing access to quality educational materials in a cost effective manner, as part of a project implemented by the Faculty of Education at the Open University of Sri Lanka. A design-based research approach is used in this project that involves design and implementation of a professional development intervention program in several stages for teachers on the integration of OER in the teaching-learning process. During Stage 1 of the project, a preliminary survey was conducted among 230 teachers representing nine provinces of the country. Data was collected through questionnaires, concept maps, focus group discussions, self-reflections, and documentary analysis. Teachers' awareness on OER was found to be minimal where only 10% had even heard the term OER before, and none using OER. However, once their awareness was raised through the intervention, the teacher perceptions signified that OER increase accessibility, flexibility, equal opportunity, adaptability, and cost-effectiveness in the use of learning resources. Teachers were highly motivated about having free access to quality educational materials which they can reuse/revise/remix/redistribute without any legal issues. Several challenges were faced by them too, mainly the language issue, since the materials are mostly in English language. However, they were happy about the opportunity available for them to translate quality materials into their local languages – Sinhala and Tamil, without any restrictions. Limited Internet access and connectivity issue was another challenge where the teachers need support. Increased availability of high quality learning materials free of charge, and with flexible access to adopt, adapt and use them, is expected to result in gradually making these teachers becoming more productive professionals who can effectively cater to the learning needs of their students. Developing capacity of teachers on the adoption and creation of OER will undoubtedly strengthen the school education system in the country through popularizing the use of freely available quality learning materials in a cost-effective manner. It can also provide insights to make recommendations to formulate evidence-based guidelines to support creation and the use of OER as cost-effective learning materials in educational systems in Sri Lanka.

**Key words:** Open Educational Resources, Open Access to Education, Cost-effective learning materials

## Improving Quality of University Education Sri Lanka: An Analysis of Quality Assurance Agency Reviews

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Knowledge economy demands a highly educated citizenry enabled by development of a strong system of education at all levels. It also requires institutions with the ability to discover new knowledge, develop innovative applications of these discoveries, and transfer them into the marketplace through entrepreneurial activities. Knowledge Economy ranking is the simple average of four sub-indexes: economic incentive and institutional regime, innovation and technological adoption, education and training and Information and Communications infrastructure. Out of 145 countries surveyed in 2012, Sri Lanka's ranking was 101, above all the other South Asian countries'. However, according to CISC Ranking Web, the best performing Sri Lankan University, University of Colombo's rank is 2135. Thus, it is clear that Sri Lanka's future in the global knowledge economy in the 21<sup>st</sup> century depends critically on the country's intellectual and human capital, and on the quality of its universities.

Three recent initiatives: the IRQUE (Improving Relevance and Quality of University Education) Project, the QAA (Quality Assurance Agency) initiative under the University Grants Commission and the Distance Education Modernization Project (DEMP) under the Ministry of Higher Education were attempts to address the need to improve relevance and quality.

The Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) was established in 2007 to review programmes of study offered by various departments of study (Subject reviews) and the quality of higher education institutions (Institutional Reviews).

By 2015, QAA had completed 16 institutional reviews and 318 Subject reviews. The Institutional Reviews were of the 15 universities and the Gampaha Wickramarachchi Ayurveda Institute. All the institutions, except for South-Eastern University, University of Visual & Performing Arts and Eastern University (which received Limited Confidence) others received Confidence in the overall evaluation.

This paper presents an analysis of the institutional and subject reviews carried out by the QAA, University-wise and discipline-wise in order to get an overview of the quality of university education in Sri Lanka at present. This analysis will enable us to understand the strengths and weaknesses of the universities and their Faculties, so that future action can be planned to improve the quality of university education in Sri Lanka.

## Determinants of Human Resources Development among Youth in Urban Settlement Communities in Sri Lanka

**Sunethra Perera**

In many societies, youth are identified as core of the socio-economic and cultural development of a society. In Sri Lanka, 23.64 per cent of population is consisted of young people between the ages of 15-29 years. Urban youth, who live in low economic settings, are the most vulnerable group in terms of education, employment, health and social integration and participation. This paper examines the factors that influence the human resource development among youth in urban settlement communities in Sri Lanka. The systematic sampling procedure was used to draw the sample from youth aged 15-29 and sample size was comprised of 150 youth representing three urban settlement communities in Colombo. The research instruments used for data collection were the questionnaire and in-depth interviews. Multiple regression was the main tool for analysis. The analysis reveals that the key factors that impact significantly on the human resources development among youth are, sex of the youth, parental education, household income, number of children in the family, marital status, and employment status of parent. The results from in-depth interviews show that parents' negative attitudes towards children's education are a common problem faced by the youth in these urban areas. In addition, lack of infrastructure facilities, insufficient awareness on vocational education, and community level discouragements have emerged as negative factors influencing human resource development among youth in urban settlement communities. These results suggest that policy makers should make considerable attention in developing effective mechanisms to enhance opportunities for youth to develop their knowledge and skills. Special attention should be given to introduce vocational educational services within easy reach in the urban community. Special programmes need to be implemented to educate parents and empower youth with regard to continue their tertiary education, vocational training and skills development.

**Keywords:** *Youth, Urban youth, Human resources development, Skill development, Youth education*

## Pre-primary Education in Sri Lanka: How Inclusive Is It?

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It is undebatable that pre-school education contributes vitally for the mental and physical development of the 4-5 year olds. Scientific and systematic exposure of children to pre-primary education helps building the necessary foundation of their formal education later on. Pre-primary education in Sri Lanka is provided by pre-schools (Pre-schools function as Montessori, kindergarten, nursery school, early childhood centre) also known as early childhood development centers (ECCD) as a devolved function of Provincial Councils and maintaining quality entirely falls on local authorities under them. Though national Children's Secretariat (CS) has set minimum standards for preschools, there are serious doubts whether pre-schools provide an inclusive and quality pre-primary education to all 4-5 year olds. The main objective of this paper is to examine the overall inclusiveness of pre-school education in Sri Lanka, specifically focusing on the status of enrolment across districts, training and competency of teachers. Secondary data of national survey of pre-schools in 2008-09 and Census 2012 and data collected by state agencies have been analyzed following descriptive methods.

The study has found a high concentration of functioning pre-schools (over 40-50 per cent in five provinces, namely, Western, Central, North Central and North Western. Western province account for 1/5 of the total while the share of each of the other eight provinces is around 10 per cent. Contrary to formal education, the great majority (62 per cent) of pre-schools are managed by private individuals. The district wise distribution of pre-school children shows high concentration within Colombo, Gampaha, Kurunegala and Kalutara districts, accounting for 32.8 per cent. Number of pre-school teachers in 2008-2009 was 23,525. Of the total of 23,525, 17.5 per cent teachers had no training while another 14.0 per cent had only less than 3 months of training. 6.9 per cent of pre-school children suffer physical and or mental disability; of them 2.9 per cent fall to the category of slow learning. There is neither properly coordinated organizational arrangement to train pre-school teachers nor proper arrangement to regulate pre-schools. Gender equality is present at pre-school level similar to primary, secondary and collegiate levels. Overall, gender is not a significant factor in non-attendance with the exception of estate sector where the proportion was 71.5 per cent and 88.5 per cent of female and male children respectively. Serious issues pertaining to pre-school education compel a re-visit of the vital aspects of pre-school education by the policy makers.

**Keywords:** Inclusive education, pre-primary education, pre-school quality standards, Sri Lanka

## Are Girls Better Learners Than Boys? An Analysis of Gender Imbalance in Higher Education in Sri Lanka

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The generalist and widespread assumption is that 'girls are better language learners than boys' and that 'language' is a 'girls' subject, belonging to the feminine domain. Since recently researchers have attempted to question this assumption and argue that such assumptions are based on generalist and commonsense notions which form stereotypes (Schmenk 2004). However, despite this endeavor to revisit and disentangle the long-held belief that girls are better language learners in comparison to boys, the facts and figures related to learning in general, which is inarguably related to language learning, reiterates the long-held stereotypical assumption of the difference between the two genders regarding both language learning and learning in general, especially in the context of Sri Lanka, because, the majority of students, enrolled for most study programs at the higher education institutes are girls. Therefore, the current research attempted to question this paradox: that is, if the traditional assumption that girls are better learners than boys is a mere social construction, then why is that, our higher education institutions are more populated by girls in most of the subjects? Is it because girls *are* better language learners that they outperform boys in most of the other subjects? Is it then invariably linked to the fact that language competency is crucial for all other forms of learning. The current study attempted to find answers to these research questions in order to gain a wider and a deeper understanding of the issue. Using stratified random sampling data was collected from both learners and teachers engaged in higher education in Sri Lanka. Data was analyzed qualitatively and the findings reveal that the majority of the participants believe that the gender stereotypes regarding language learning and learning in general are true. The majority of the participants also believe that girls are better motivated than boys for learning and motivation could be one of the main reasons for this gender imbalance prevalent in higher education. About 30% of the samples are of the view that there is no distinct difference between girls and boys in relation to learning. Thus, the results imply that educators need to pay attention to this widening imbalance in gender in achievement in education and take necessary measures to both improve motivation in boys and also to amend teaching methods to improve participation of both girls and boys in education.

**Key words:** gender stereotypes, language learning, education.



## Education and female labour force participation in Sri Lanka

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Female labor force participation is an indication of the economically active female population of a country. Recently, interest of researchers to study female labour force participation has been widening and most of these studies in the literature have focused on female participation and factors contributing towards it. Cultural aspects and the limited access for the female education have been found in many countries as explaining the low labor force participation of females. Among South Asian countries, Sri Lanka has shown remarkable achievements in female education, during past four decades. As per the human capital theory, education is one of the most important human capital variables that empowers and encourages the people to enter into the labor market. This view has been confirmed by empirical studies too. However, there are hardly any study that focuses on education and female labor force participation in the Sri Lankan context. Hence the present study aims to fill this literature gap by examining the effect of the education on female labor force participation and exploring key factors that affect female labor force participation in Sri Lanka. The study analyses both primary and secondary data to achieve the objective. Descriptive statistics together with the quantitative tools are used to analyze data.

Results of the study shows that the female education and labor force participation are not consistent with the human capital theory in the context of Sri Lanka. During past decades, females in Sri Lanka have achieved a remarkable level in terms of education. Their performance at primary, secondary and tertiary level education is at a higher level in Sri Lanka. This has resulted in narrowing the gender gap in literacy rate, access for education as well as the performance in the general education. However, the stagnation and slow shrinking trend in the female labor force participation confirms that the education of the females has not encouraged them to participate in the labour market. Narrow choices of females in the education and labor market; labour market structure including structural rigidities and wage discriminations; multiple roles of females in Sri Lankan context and availability of child caring facilities are the other key factors that affect the female labor force participation in Sri Lanka.

**Keywords:** Female labor force participation, Female education, Sri Lanka

## Changing Academic Profession: Perceptions of a Sample of Sri Lankan University Academics

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Open University of Sri Lanka

The environment in which higher education operates is experiencing rapid change. The emergence of a knowledge-economy, skills demand, market forces, globalization, and technology are potent forces leading to change. The contribution at universities can make for socio-economic development of a country is therefore immense. The study investigated perceptions of a sample of Sri Lankan academics on their own career roles, governance and management of the institutions in which they work and the infrastructure support for their academic work. A questionnaire was used for data collection. Academics from eight state universities responded to the survey.

The majority of respondents were lecturers and probationary lecturers. Their highest degrees were from nine broad academic disciplines with the majority being from Humanities, Arts, Education and Law. The percentage of females with doctoral degrees was smaller.

The highest percentage of academics expressed a leaning towards research with an interest in both teaching and research. Around 30 % had responded as satisfied regarding library, classroom, and computer facilities and office space. A high majority responded that they consider their affiliation to academic discipline and the Department as important but to the institution as lower. Negative statements regarding their university career were totally rejected by the academics.

Research collaboration of academics with local and international colleagues was low. The contribution for scholarly books, research reports/monographs was extremely low. Academics felt that in key areas of selecting key administrators, making faculty promotions, determining budget priorities, and establishing international linkages, institutional managers played the primary role. Individual faculty was important in evaluating teaching and setting internal research priorities. Students were not considered as important in any of the above areas. The study indicates the low contribution of university academics to activities other than teaching. Inadequacy of facilities such as laboratories, research equipment, library facilities, telecommunications (Internet, networks, and telephones), teaching and research support staff and research funding, in all universities. The study indicated the importance of developing a sense of belongingness to the institution in all staff and students. It is imperative for university academics to contribute to the activities on which universities are ranked (Citation, Industry income, Innovation and International outlook) if their institutions are to become world class universities to contribute to the socio-economic development of the country.

**Key words:** Socio-economic development, Higher education, Perceptions

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