

**The Impact of Rural Poverty on Human Development in
Kandy District in Sri Lanka: A case Study from a Village in Udadumbara
Divisional Secretariat Division.**

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Abstract

The study was focused on the rural poverty and human development in Sri Lanka. The main attention was paid to the present poverty alleviation and identifying the present poverty and human development context of the study area. The study area was rural and remote village form main cities of the district and mainly agricultural society.

The concepts of poverty and human development are closely connected to each other. Rural poverty and low human development adversely affects on county's development process. The study has examined the impacts of rural poverty on human development in Kandy district. The village Madugalla (North) is located in the Udadumbara Divisional Secretariat Division in Kandy district and it is a remote and rural village. Most of the villagers' main economic activity is agriculture and at the moment they have faced a number of difficulties due to various socio economic and environmental conditions. Therefore people of the village have used to use diverse livelihoods strategies. But most of those livelihoods are not sustainable. According to the study the study area has a high level of poverty. The living condition of the area revealed characteristics of the chronic poverty situation of the people in the village. Because it was identified that many poor people of the area those who are still considered as poor have been in the same condition since long period and their situation has not changed much during the last few decades. At the time being two generations have been suffering from poverty and now the third generation is also facing the problem of poverty.

The study revealed that the many of the studied households are very poor quality and they don't seem any sign of escaping poor condition of their families. When considering the housing units of the interviewed families many housing units were in bad quality and they have no more chances to upgrade their housing units than demolish them. Though housing is a basic human need, many of the villages do not have proper housing units to live. Further though they have a house, they do not have enough rooms for all the family members.

The study revealed that the main reason for poverty condition of the study is related to the income scarcity of the villagers. Many of the villagers do not have enough money to overcome their poverty situation. Low income is connected to the employment opportunities of the village. Many of the villagers main income source is agriculture and at the present they have faced many difficulties due to unfavorable climatic condition of the area. Some have abandoned their agricultural activities at the moment. Others who are still engaged in agricultural activities gain low harvest and low income.