

Journal of Action Research

JOURNAL OF ACTION RESEARCH

Journal of Action Research which is published annually is the journal of the Social Development Policy, Research and Publications Division of National Institute of Social Development. The vision of this journal is to offer an academic platform to researchers to publish their researches in a high quality at national and international level. It proposes to encourage doing Action Research which is very much useful to today's world. As a journal with a broad disciplinary readership, the journal aims to publish papers accessible to this readership.

Copyright © November 2017, Social Development Policy, Research and Publications Division, National Institute of Social Development.

ISBN: 978-955-8003-18-3

PAGE DESIGN

A.H.I Sanjeewa

COVER PAGE

H. M. S. B. Herath

PRINTERS

Kaleidoscope Print & Media Solutions (Pvt) Ltd

No. 125, Nawala Road, Narahenpita,
Colombo 05

PUBLISHER

Social Development Policy, Research and Publications Division,
National Institute of Social Development,
No.488 A, Nawala Road,
Rajagiriya.
0112882506/07, 0112368180
E-mail : nisd@slt.lk
Web : www.nisd.lk

JOURNAL OF ACTION RESEARCH

November 2017

ADVISORS

Dr. Riddley Jayasinghe
Shamini Attanayake

EDITOR

Aloka Manamudali

EDITORIAL BOARD

Senior Professor Sarath Amarasinghe
Rev. K. Rewatha Thero
M.S.M Asmiyas

Preface

I would like to convey my heartfelt appreciation for publishing the first edition of Action Research Publication 2017 of the Social Development Policy, Research and Publications Division of NISD for creating an opportunity to make an Academic Discourse.

The Action Research deserve the first place for practical implementation of recommendations to the Society. Such research is important to NISD as they create the Social Workers for the society. Identifying people's needs by visiting them and empowering them to overcome obstacles are prime duties of a social worker. Therefore, I believe that identifying such issues and providing them practical solutions through Action Research would be very important. In that case Action Researches helps to motivate the desires and objectives of the social worker. Since providing new knowledge to National and International fields of education and research as well as to design policies for social Development are the main goals of NISD this timely appropriate Action Research Publication would be really helpful to NISD in achieving the above said goals.

According to my belief this academic publication will be a great benefit to all the researchers' and scholars in the field of research to enhance their knowledge and understanding.

Dr.Riddley Jayasinghe
Director General
National Institute of Social Development

Acknowledgement

I am delighted of this opportunity to provide suggestions for the 1st edition of the Action Research Publication published by the Social Development Policy, Research and Publication Division of National Institute of Social Development. This division always attempts to introduce new programmes and publications with national importance. Therefore, we consider this as a great achievement to publish such timely appropriate research publication in year 2017.

Action researches are considered as a timely appropriate research method. In this we would be able to apply a procedure to execute final recommendations after the research and to implement, observe the progression of the procedure as well as to measure the effectiveness. However in modern era many social sciences researches are concluded after providing recommendations are not implemented. Therefore it is a timely important matter to raise a social discourse with such research method.

My sincere gratitude conveyed to Ms. Aloka Manamudali as she was able to publish such a contemporary publication successfully with academic co-operation of researchers that have practical experiences. Moreover, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Ms. Shirani Weerakoon the Secretary of the Ministry of Social Empowerment, Welfare and Kandyan Heritage and the chairperson of the Governing council of NISD as well as to the all members of the Governing council and all academic affairs board members. And also I am thanking to our Director General Dr. Riddley Jayasinghe, Additional Director General Ms. Shamini Attanayake and the editorial board of this publication. Moreover I am grateful and thankful to all academic and non-academic staff of the Social Development Policy, Research and Publications Division for the dedication shown in order to make this a success.

M.S.M Asmiyas

Director

Social Development Policy, Research and Publication Division

National Institute of Social Development

Content

	Preface	v
	Acknowledgement	vi
1	A Study on Service Delivery Systems in Yatiyanthota Divisional Secretariat <i>Rev.Omalpe Somananda Thero</i>	1-8
2	වෘත්තීය සමාජ වැඩ මැදිහත්වීම තුළ කාර්ය සාධන පර්යේෂණ න්‍යාය හා භාවිතාවන් <i>කරුණාරත්න ගමගේ</i>	9-22
3	Industry Strategies to Undermine Alcohol Policies in Sri Lanka <i>Shakya Nanayakkara</i> <i>Ironne Jayasekara</i>	23-38
4	Situational Analysis on Living Conditions of Gunasighapura Housing Scheme <i>Ishari Gunarathna</i> <i>Sharanee Fernando</i>	39-46
5	Enhancing Self Employment Opportunities through PRA Techniques in Rural community Development for Poverty Alleviation <i>Subodhini Herath</i>	47-53

1

A Study on the Service Delivery System in Yatiyanthota Divisional Secretariat

Rev.Omalpe Somananda Thero

Lecturer

School of Social Work

National Institute of Social development

Email : somanandaomalpe@gmail.com

Abstract

This research article aims to explain one of the researcher's own experience from where we conducted the camp (service delivery programme) in 2017 to fulfill BSW-324 Human Settlement and Service Delivery subject for the 2nd semester of the third year. It provides the students exposure to the rural life style, problems and an issue related to the social development and enables them to organize a camp and study the community needs. In this survey, students collected data regarding different levels of service provided by the government and nongovernment organizations such as Health, Education, and Social – Cultural, Livelihood, and Public services. But this article explains only about the education and health service indeed other services which are available in this area are explained in brief. During the camp for need assessment, students stayed in the homes of the villagers and shared their daily lives to make assessment in service delivery.

It provides an excellent opportunity to the students to practice and learn the use of different techniques and social work methods, etc. It also provides the knowledge to identify the strengths in the community and the issues prevail in the community, such as health issues, educational issues, legal issues and welfare issues. As per the syllabus, this programme was conducted from 12th to 22nd of February 2017 (10 days) in Kegalle District, with an objective to create a platform for the students to understand and analyze the rural social system and strategies used by the Government and Non-Government Agencies. During this camp, the students were encouraged to organize and carry out programmes and events for social awakening and development of the people and they conducted a survey on socio -economic and educational status of the people in Yatiyanthota DS division.

Key words: *Service delivery system, rural life style, Social work methods, Social system*

Introduction

The main objective of this research article is to summarize the gap between available services and service delivery system in Yatiyanthota DS Division. This article will further contribute to increase the effectiveness of service providers including field officers in the area and in advance can be used as a supporting document for policy makers.

Research Area

This participatory research was conducted by Yatiyanthota Divisional secretariat at Kegall District. Kegall, a District, which is located in the Sabaragamuwa province. The physical information about Kegall district, it's situated in between the central highlands and western southern plains and has an enchanting environment. The height of the western region is 50 m (160 ft) above sea level while the eastern region exceeds 1,800 m (5,900 ft). Rubber cultivation has stretched over most of the area of the District and minor export crops from the district include coffee, cocoa, pepper, clove and nutmeg. Sri Lanka's best graphite mine is situated at Bogala in Kegall District. The extent of the District is 1,692.8 km² (653.6 sq mi). The population of this district is Female 521,683 and Male 504, 54, total Population is 1026,224 and number of families 296,348. Most of the populations are Sinhalese. Indian Tamils were brought by the British to work in tea estates makes a significant minority.

Key Administrative Unit and Proposed Selected Study Areas

One key administrative unit has been selected for the study. It is the district of kegall and the Divisional secretariat of Yatiyanthota.

Tabal 01: Ethnic Distribution of Kegall District

Ethnic groups	Population	%
Sinhala	674,665	85.89%
Sri Lankan Tamil	14,908	1.90%
Indian Tamil	44,202	5.63%
Sri Lankan Moors	50,419	6.42%
Burger	191	0.02%
other	1,139	0.14%
Total	785,524	100.00%

(Source: 2001 Census, District census reports 2001)

Yatiyanthota Divisional secretariat

Yatiyanthota is surrounded by beautiful hills, and has a cooler climate. Total population is 60176.

Tabal 02: Population based on the Nationality

D.S Division	Sinhala	Sri Lanka Tamil	Indian Tamil	Sri Lanka Muslim	Burger	Malay	Sri Lanka Wetti	Other
Yatiyant hota	44260	3283	9950	2600	21	39	2	21

(Source: 2011 Census, District census reports 2011)

Yatiyanthota DS is divided in to 32 GramaNiladari Divisions.

Tabal 03: The Statistical information about the total population in the Gramaniladari Divisions

S.No	GN division number	GN division	Male	Female	Total population
1	106	Yatiyanthota	1400	1548	2948
2	106A	Parussella	1375	1467	2842
3	106 B	Kabulumulla	1636	1759	3395
4	106 C	mahawila	762	826	1588
5	107 B	Galpatha	1104	1276	2380
6	108	Maththamagoda	2251	2625	4876
7	115 C	Garagodapahala	1106	1336	2442
8	115 D	Garagodahala	659	697	1356
9	115 E	Meegasthenna	1111	1150	2261
10	115 F	Palelegama	1051	1076	2127
11	131 A	Amanawala	777	800	1577
12	131 D	Berannawa	557	577	1134
13	131 E	Seepoth	809	884	1693
14	132	Dobepola	1040	1024	2064
15	132 A	Malalpola	770	794	1564
16	132 B	Jayawindagama	1297	1418	2715
17	133	Gonagamuwa	749	817	1566
18	133 A	Theligama	927	1032	1959
19	133 B	Neluwathukanda	524	584	1108
20	134	Kithulgala North	762	847	1609
21	134 A	Mahabage	577	620	1197
22	134 B	Kiyhulgala South	658	791	1449
23	134 C	Malwaththa	673	726	1399
24	134 D	Kalukohuthenna	761	818	1579
25	134 E	Dunukedeniya	483	580	1063
26	134 F	Kirikohuthenna	599	672	1271
27	135	Ganepalla	967	1010	1977
28	135 A	Welihelathenna	882	965	1847
29	135 B	Plpitiya	525	580	1105
30	135 C	Weeragalla	585	589	1174
31	135 D	Nawata	551	615	1166
32	135 E	Hakbellawaka	857	891	1748
		Total	28785	31394	60179

Research Methodology

This section explains the methodology which was adopted in this rural camp placement. 113 students were placed in the community for about 4 days to collect data. The observation, formal and informal interviews, home visits and focused group discussions were adapted to gather data from the community. The students were conducted focus group discussions and interviews

with the stake holders like GramaNiladhari, Divineguma development officer, Principals, midwives, and other related stake holders who were working under the Yatiyanthota D.S.divisions, and other relevant government and non-government offices.

Survey

Under the method of survey, student social workers provided unstructured questionnaires to the community as well as they used other techniques such as focused group discussion, interview, observation and informal discussion (individual and groups) and gathered the data under the thematic areas of:

- Health
- Educational
- Social – Cultural
- Livelihood
- Public services

In – depth Interviews

Student Social Workers used the method of in-depth interviews to collect data which go beyond a formal interview of the community.

Focused Group Discussions

Student social workers used this method to collect data and discuss certain difficulties with the administrative figures in the community such as GramaNilladari, Head of the temple, the schools teachers, Midwife, Economic development officer and Pre-school teachers

Observations

Student Social workers initially used this method of observation to collect the basic and important data from the community.

Needs Assessment

With the help and guideline from faculty of School of Social Work, the Student Social Worker assessed the needs of the community people under the five topic areas, which are mentioned below.

1. Health assessment
2. Educational assessment
3. Social and cultural assessment
4. Livelihood assessment
5. Public services assessment

Health Assessment

Primary, divisional and district level of health care services and system are available in Yatiyanthota. Midwives, PHI and veterinary Sargent are the available health care providers at primary level. Karawanella Divisional hospital is the only health care provider in the divisional level. In Yatiyanthota the knowledge on reproductive health is comparatively poor among the people and therefore the rate of teenage pregnancy is significant highlight in the rural area such as Mahabage and Seepoth (village name). Even though the veterinary services are available in the community, it didn't reach the people in the properway.

Health Related Issues

Tabal 04: Identified Health Related Issues of Yatiyanthota Divisional Secretariat

GS Codes	GN divisions	Identified issues
132 B	Jayawindagama	Identified TB patients/ Environmental pollution Lack of hospital facilities/ They don't have mid wife/PHI services
134 C	Malwaththa	Identified people with kidney diseases (There are seven patients)
134 E	Dunukedeniya-	Malnutrition issues/ Lack of child and motility clinic/ Dumbing Garbage to the for spring
135 A	Welihelathenna	Children with malnutrition/ Early marriages
133 A	Theligama	lack of toilet facilities/ There is a hospital but the problem is lack of doctors and staff
135 D	Nawata	Lack of midwife service
133 B	Neluwathukanda	There is one hospital and not enough doctors Child marriage/ Toddy/ domestic violence
108	Maththamagoda	lack of hospital facilities
131 E	Seepoth	Drug addiction/ Health facilities are not enough
133	Gonagamuwa	These villagers get water from springs. There are about 2 water projects that provide water to the people. But these projects are not working systematically. So the villagers face many issues regarding drinking water. There is water, but no proper system to store the water.

Assessment on Education

Based on the field visit collected the data of educational services and needs in Yatiyanthota DS. Home visits, Questioners, interviews, Observation and focus group discussion were used as techniques for collection necessary information. Both formal and informal education systems are available in Yatiyanthota DS Division. Schools and Preschools are considered as formal education services. The Zonal education office provides services such as vocational training for school leavers, literacy classes, career guidance, counseling services and school attendance committees in order to enhance the education status of children. There is a shortage of human resources such as teachers available in division. But the participation of the students is very rare due to poor parental motivation on education. It is visible that poor motivation / awareness on non-formal education services like technical college courses, vocational training courses, vocational training centers and professional training educational centers.

Some students are interested in making their professional careers in different fields such as mechanical field, A/C fitting, JCB driving etc. The available facilities are very poor. There are numerous reasons for school dropouts such as no commitment to the school teacher's conflicts between teachers and students and sub groups within the staff, very poor parental motivation on education and very rare contribution for their children's education and there is no any professionals trained counselors in the schools. The common suggestions that should be facilitated, suitable and proper way mechanisms should be introduced by educational

administration sectors and proper infrastructure, stake holdes and other resources should be provided.

These are data which was collected by students social worker from different areas within limited period of time and different type of problems such as transportation, environmental issues, and health problems regarding on education, were faced.

Tabal 05: Identified Education Related Issues of Yatiyanthota Divisional Secretariat

GS codes	GN divisions	Identified issues
133 B	Neluathukanda	Not enough teachers (grade 1/5 only) Not enough school facilities (library / IT and lab) Schools dropout is high
108	Maththamagoda	Not enough teachers(for library, English, IT Schools dropout is very highs
134 A	Mahabage	This school is Tamil medium. The class only for 1/9 grate. There are 4 teachers only. They also coming from outside. School isn't properlyfunctioning.
131 E	Seepoth	This GD, Sinhala and Tamil people living together. But they have only Sinhala medium school. There for Tamil students should be study in Sinhala medium. Not enough teachers
131 A	Amanawala (Wewatthalawa)	Wewatthalawa is a one of the village in Amanawala GD. It is a estate area. They don't have proper education facilities in their school. (K/G Dehi- wewatthalawa Tamil Viddyalyaya) It is up to grade 6, and only 3 staff. / Schools dropout is very highs
135 B	Polpitiya	Lack of staff for ICT/ English and Sinhala Not water facilities for toilet One child abuse case
135	Ganepalla	Not enough teachers for grade 6 to 11/ (mathematics/ English/ art and health science) / Broken relationship
135D	Nawata	Schools dropouts
133	Gonagamuwa	Less infrastructure in the school (no playground, labs for science and IT, no canteen and library)
133A	Theligama Igriyawaththa school	Lack of teachers (Tamil, agriculture, IT, English and home science)
106C	Mahawila Mahawila primary school	There are 2 building and one is very old should be rebuild as soon as possible.
135 A	Welihelathenna Mukunuwala primary school	Lack of teachers and students (there are 3 teachers and 18 students)
134	Kithulgala north	Children are suffering from various mental problem (Autism, slow learners, hyperactive...) They don't have training counselor

135 E	Hakbellawaka	Lack of teachers for Art and sports, lack of recourses (chairs, tables and computer for lab)
132	Dobepola	Conflict among the principle and parent. (The principle is working more than 25 years in same school.)
134 E	Dunukedeniya	Schooldropout/ attendant problem Lack of train counselor

Assessment on Public Services

The available public services were legal services, transportation, water and sanitation, poverty alleviation programmes, and security. Issues such as unequal distribution, dilemmas in monthly basis and no transparency in work were found in the Samurdhi Programme. Identified land ownership problems were not being eligible for government loans, the inability to receive fertilizers, subsidies. The community faced difficulties in preserving their lands and there is a life threatens due to the disasters. Water pollution and environmental pollution were also observed. Insufficient transport facility was identified as a major problem of the community and it prevented people accessing other services.

Issues on Public Services

Tabal 06: Identified Health Related Issues of Yatiyanthota Divisional Secretariat

Unequal distribution	Hygiene issues	Can't get drinking water facilities
Dilemmas in monthly basis	Water pollution	Affect for day to day activities
No transparency in reductions & awareness	Safety issues	Hard to travel on rainy days
Unable to take government loans	Toilets & electricity	Can't carry patients specially pregnant mothers, elders,
Unable to take fertilizers	Environment pollution	People due to highly damage road and hill
Unable to take Subsidies	Threaten to animal life	Damage for houses/ Lands
Life threaten from disasters	Spreading insects	
	Bad smell	

Livelihood Status

The main livelihood activities in Yatiyanthota were farming, animal husbandry, tourism, toddy. Kithulhanny. Government and private services were available for supporting and promoting livelihood activities. In farming sector tea cultivation was prominent. Suggestions for promoting livelihood activities in Yatiyanthota are to Provide low interest loans through strengthening the CBO's, to promote savings systems among small scale farmers, to increase the minimum price for tea.

Conclusion

Rural camp is a platform to experience the real social work practice. It gave students a wonderful opportunity to learn the real social work as working with the people. It was a very new to be in a new unknown community where the students are not much aware about, and

adapt the new environment and understand their life practices. Even though they are poor compare these urban people their hospitality is an important area to be mentioned as their most positive thing about them. Through this rural camp, students were able to learn and understand many things such as the attitudes of the people, the individuality; their view of the lives differs person to person, their feelings, real life situation in rural, hospitality, what villagers think about service and service providers, and gap between service and their needs. It was really helpful to apply the social work principle into practice while working with different types of people in the community. Students developed their skills in terms of practicing in a professional way. It was really a wonderful opportunity for the students to identify their own strength and weaknesses in working with people.

References

Bachelor of Social Work – 2013/2017, *Rural Camp Report*, Assessment on Service Delivery Systems and Awareness, (Social Work Rural Camp – from 27th March to 5th April 2016), National institute of Social Development (NISD)

Sampath Pethikada (2016). Planning division - Divisional secretariat of Yatiyanthota.

Students hand book (2016-2020). *Bachelor of Social Work (BSW)*.National Institute of Social Development (NISD).

2

වෘත්තීය සමාජ වැඩ මැදිහත්වීම තුළ කාර්යසාධන පර්යේෂණ හෘදය හා භාවිතාවන් (උතුරුමැද පළාත් හුරුළු වැව / යාන් ඔය ජලාධාරය ඇසුරින්)

කරුණාරක්ෂන ගමගේ
හිටපු අතිරේක අධ්‍යක්ෂ ජනරාල් (අධ්‍යයන)
ජාතික සමාජ සංවර්ධන ආයතනය
විද්‍යුත් ලිපිනය : gamagecms@gmail.com

සාරාංශය

ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ උතුරුමැද පළාතේ අනුරාධපුර දිස්ත්‍රික්කයේ පිහිටි හුරුළු වැව යාන් ඔය ජලාධාර ප්‍රදේශය හෙක්ටයාර 15000ක් පමණ වපසරියක් ඇති ජලය හිඟකමින් කෘෂිකාර්මික කටයුතුවල පසුබැසීමක් පවතින ප්‍රදේශයකි. මෙම ප්‍රදේශයේ වාරිමාර්ග ව්‍යාපාරයට අමතර ව සුළු වාරිමාර්ගවලින් පෝෂණය වන හේන් හා ගෙවතු වගාව ප්‍රධාන කොටගෙන ජීවත්වන ජන සමූහයක් සිටී. ජනතාව මහ කන්නය පමණක් වගාකටයුතුවලට ජලය ලැබෙන බොහෝ අවස්ථාවල දී යල කන්නය තුළ විවිධ දුෂ්කරතාවන්ට මුහුණදෙති. විශේෂයෙන් ම ඉඩම් හා ජලය යන ප්‍රධාන සම්පත් පරිහරණයේ දී ඇතිවී තිබූ ගැටලුවලට තිරසාර විසඳුමක් ලබාගැනීමටත්, සංවිධාන හා කණ්ඩායම් සමඟ රාජ්‍ය ආයතනත් ඒකාබද්ධ වී අදාළ සම්පත් කළමනාකරණය කිරීමට සුදුසු ආයතනික ව්‍යුහයක් සැකසීමටත් අවශ්‍ය රාමුවක් සැකසීම මෙම අධ්‍යයනයේ මූලික පරමාර්ථය විය. මෙම අධ්‍යයනය සඳහා ප්‍රශ්නාවලි ක්‍රමය, සහභාගීත්ව සිතියම් කාර්යය හා නිරීක්ෂණ යන පර්යේෂණ උපකරණ මඟින් තොරතුරු ලබාගන්නා ලදී. පුහුණු කරන ලද විපරිකාරකවරුන් එකොලොස්දෙනෙකු යොදාගනිමින් ක්ෂේත්‍ර පර්යේෂණ කටයුතු සිදුකරන ලදී. සම්පත් පරිහරණ කණ්ඩායම්, සංවිධාන, ව්‍යාපාර කමිටු හා පළාත් සම්බන්ධීකරණ කමිටු වැනි ආයතනික රටාවන් ඇතිකිරීමටත් ස්වාභාවික සම්පත් රාජ්‍ය ආයතන හා ඒකාබද්ධව කළමනාකරණය කිරීමට සුදුසු යාන්ත්‍රණයක් සැකසීමටත් ජලාධාර, ප්‍රාදේශීය තිරසර සංවර්ධන සැලසුම් ඒකකයක් ලෙස අනාගතයේ දී යෙදාගත හැකිදැයි සොයාබැලීමට අවශ්‍ය වන අධ්‍යයන කටයුතු සිදුකරන ලදී. එහි දී ස්වාභාවික සම්පත් කළමනාකරණයේ දී මානව සංහතියට හිමි භූමිකාව හඳුනාගැනීමට හැකිවිය. එමෙන් ම ස්වාභාවික සම්පත්වල අයිතිය හා පරිහරණය පිළිබඳව නව කළමනාකරණ ව්‍යුහයක් ස්ථාපිත කිරීමටත් කාර්යසාධන පර්යේෂණ ක්‍රියාවලියෙන් ඔබ්බට ගොස් සහසම්බන්ධව කාර්යසාධන පර්යේෂණ ප්‍රවේශයක් දක්වා උක්ත පර්යේෂණ ක්‍රියාදාමය පරිවර්තනය කිරීමට ද මේ තුළින් අවස්ථාව උදාවිය. ජලාධාරවල ඉහළ හා පහළ ප්‍රදේශවල භෞතික, ජෛව හා සමාජීය සාධක ඒකාබද්ධ කොට සැලසුම් සකස් කිරීමටත් මෙම අධ්‍යයනය තුළින් අවස්ථාව ලැබුණි.

මූලික පද: වෘත්තීය සමාජ වැඩ, කාර්යසාධන පර්යේෂණ, සම්පත් කළමනාකරණය, සම්පත් පරිහරණය, විපරිකාරකවරු

හැඳින්වීම

හුරුළු වැව ජලාධාරය තුළ කාර්යසාධන පර්යේෂණ ක්‍රියාවලිය

විශේෂයෙන් ම එවැනි කාර්යසාධන පර්යේෂණයක් ලෙස ජාත්‍යන්තර ජල කළමනාකරණ ආයතනය (IWMI) හා ශ්‍රී ලංකා රජය ඒකාබද්ධව ක්‍රියාත්මක කරනු ලැබූ අනුරාධපුර දිස්ත්‍රික්කයේ ගලෙන් බිඳුණු වැව ප්‍රාදේශීය ලේකම් කොට්ඨාශයේ දියත් කරනු ලැබූ “ස්වාභාවික සම්පත් සාමූහිකව කළමනාකරණය කිරීමේ ව්‍යාපෘතිය” දැක්විය හැකිය.

ඇමරිකානු එක්සත් ජනපද ආධාර වැඩසටහන යටතේ (USAID) ක්‍රියාත්මක වූ එම ව්‍යාපෘතිය 1993-1998 දක්වා වසර පහක කාලයක් ක්‍රියාත්මක විය. අනුරාධපුර දිස්ත්‍රික්කයේ හුරුළු වැව ජලාධාර ප්‍රදේශය ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ වියළි කලාපය තුළ පිහිටි වාර්ෂික වර්ෂාපතනය මි.මී. 1500 ක් පමණ ලැබෙන හෙක්ටයාර 15,000ක ප්‍රදේශයක් පුරා පැතිර ගිය ප්‍රදේශයකි. සීගිරිය ප්‍රදේශයෙන් ආරම්භ වන යාන්මය හරස් කොට හුරුළු වැව නිර්මාණය කර ඇත. 1950 දී පමණ එය ප්‍රතිසංස්කරණය කරන ලද අතර, හුරුළු වැවට අයත් කුඹුරු අක්කර හෙක්ටයාර 5000ක් පමණ වේ.

එහිදී සහභාගීත්ව කාර්යසාධන පර්යේෂණවල තිබිය යුතු සියලු ම මූලධර්මයන් අනුගමනය කරමින් අදාළ පර්යේෂණ ව්‍යාපෘතිය ක්‍රියාත්මක කරන ලදී. එම පර්යේෂණ ව්‍යාපෘතිය සඳහා සමාජවැඩකරුවන් එකොලොස්දෙනෙකු (විපර්යකාරකවරුන්) පත්කරන ලද අතර, ඔවුන්ට මූලික පුහුණුවක් ලබාදෙන ලදී. පර්යේෂණයේ මූලික අරමුණ වූයේ ප්‍රදේශය තුළ තිබෙන සම්පත් ප්‍රජා සහභාගීත්වය මත කළමනාකරණය කිරීමයි. ඒ සඳහා සම්පත් පරිහරණ කණ්ඩායම් (Resource User Groups) සම්පත් පරිහරණ සංවිධාන (Resource User Organization) ඇති කරන ලද අතර, ඒවායේ ගැටලු හඳුනාගැනීමටත් ඒවාට ප්‍රතිකර්ම යෙදීමටත් කටයුතු යොදන ලදී.

ජාත්‍යන්තර වාරි කළමනාකරණ ආයතනය (IWMI) විසින් 1993 දී ආරම්භ කරනු ලැබූ අනුරාධපුර දිස්ත්‍රික්කයේ හුරුළු වැව ජලාධාර ප්‍රදේශය (Watershed) තුළ ක්‍රියාත්මක කරනු ලැබූ SCOR ව්‍යාපෘතිය මඟින් ස්වාභාවික සම්පත් සාමූහිකව කළමනාකරණය කිරීමේ කාර්යසාධන පර්යේෂණ ව්‍යාපෘතිය තුළින් ක්‍රියාත්මක කිරීමට උත්සහ කරනු ලැබුවේ ඉහත කාර්යභාරයයි. ප්‍රජාවගේ හා රාජ්‍ය හා රාජ්‍ය නොවන ආයතනවල පූර්ව දායකත්වය මත ප්‍රදේශය තුළ විශේෂයෙන් ම ජලය හා පස සංරක්ෂණය කිරීම තුළින් තිරසාර සංවර්ධනයක් කරා ලඟාවීමට ඇති හැකියාව මේ තුළින් සොයාබැලීමට කටයුතු කරන ලදී.

පර්යේෂණ අවශ්‍යතාවය

වියළි කලාපීය කෘෂිකාර්මික ගැටලු අතර ප්‍රමුඛත ම ගැටලුවක් වූයේ නිෂ්පාදන ඵලදායිතාවය පහල මට්ටමක පැවතීමත් ඊට සමානුපාතිකව පරිසරාත්මක අභියෝගයන් මතු වීමත් යන කරුණුය. විශේෂයෙන් ම පාරිසරික සාධකවලට අවම බලපෑමක් වන ආකාරයට නිෂ්පාදන ඵලදායිතාවය ඉහල මට්ටමකට ගෙන ඒමත් ඒ සඳහා රාජ්‍ය හා ප්‍රජාව යන අංශ ද්විත්වයේ ම සක්‍රීය දායකත්වය

ලබාගෙන අපේක්ෂිත ඵලයන් වෙත ලඟාවෙන්නේ කෙසේද යන්න උක්ත පර්යේෂණය මගින් සොයාබැලීමට උත්සුක වන ලදී.

වියළි කලාපීය කෘෂිකාර්මික ප්‍රදේශවල ජලය හා පස යන සම්පත් මනා ලෙස කළමනාකරණය කරමින් දීර්ඝකාලීන ප්‍රතිඵල ප්‍රතිලාභීන්ට ලබාදීම සඳහා ශ්‍රී ලංකාව තුළ දියත් කරනු ලැබූ ප්‍රමුඛ ම පර්යේෂණය මෙයයි. සම්පත් පරිහරණය කරන්නා වූ කණ්ඩායම් හා සංවිධාන සජීවීකරණයට ලක්කොට ඒ තුළින් ඔවුහු සක්‍රීය ලෙස ස්වාභාවික සම්පත් සාමූහිකව එනම් අනෙකුත් පාර්ශවකරුවන් සමඟ මනා ලෙස කළමනාකරණය කිරීමට මේ තුළින් උත්සහ කරන ලදී.

සම්පත් අයිතිකරුවන් හා පරිහරණය කරන්නන් අතර තිබෙන නොගැලපීම් හා විරෝධතා සැලකිල්ලට ගෙන දෙපාර්ශවය ම එකතු වී තම නිෂ්පාදන ඵලදායිතාවය කිසියම් සැලකිය යුතු මට්ටමකට උසස්කරලීමත් ඒ සඳහා රාජ්‍ය ආයතන, රාජ්‍ය නොවන ආයතන හා පුද්ගලික අංශය යන සියලු පාර්ශව වල මැදිහත්වීම මගින් තිරසරසංවර්ධනයක් කරා ගමන් කිරීමට හැකියාවක් තිබේ යන උපකල්පනය පදනම් කොටගෙන උක්ත පර්යේෂණය දියත් කරන ලදී.

යාන් ඔය ජලාධාරය පදනම් කොටගෙන කරන ලද ජල හා පාංශු විද්‍යාත්මක අධ්‍යයන වල දී පාංශු බාදනය හා ජල දූෂණය සිදුවන අතර එය දැඩි ලෙස විවිධ නිශ්පාදන ඵලදායිතාවය ඉහල නැංවීමට ගත් ක්‍රියාමාර්ගවල ප්‍රතිඵලයක් ලෙස උද්ගතවූවක් බව ද පෙන්වා දී ඇත. වගා ලිංවල, ගංගාවල හා ඔයවල්වල ජලය කෘෂි රසායන ද්‍රව්‍ය හා අනෙකුත් රසායන පෝරවල භාවිතය වැඩිවීම තුළින් එම තත්ත්වය සිදු වූ බවට කිසියම් සැක සංකාවක් තත්ත්වකාලීන සමාජය තුළ මතු වී ඇත. එබැවින් ජලාධාරය තුළ තිබෙන වගා ලිං, කුඩා වැව් හා හුරුළු වැව් මහා වාරි ව්‍යාපෘතිය තුළ ක්‍රියාත්මක වන කෘෂිකාර්මික කටයුතු වඩාත් අනාගතය පිළිබඳව සැලකිල්ලට පදනම්ව කිසියම් සජීවීකරණ ක්‍රියාවලියක් ඔස්සේ නැවත සැකසීමට කටයුතු කිරීම ඉතා අගනේය.

විශේෂයෙන් ම ඉහල ජලාධාර ප්‍රදේශයන් තුළ සිදුවන මානව ක්‍රියාකාරකම්වලින් පහල ප්‍රදේශවලට වන පරිසර හානිය වැලැක්වීමත්, කෘෂි රසායන ද්‍රව්‍ය, රොන් මඩ, රසායනික පොහොර භාවිතය නිසා සිදුවන ජලයේ ගුණාත්මක මට්ටම පහල වැටීම වළක්වා ගැනීමට ද මේ මගින් අපේක්ෂා කෙරේ. පවතින භෞතික හා ජෛව සම්බන්ධතා, සමාජ ආර්ථික ව්‍යුහයන් වල හා ආයතනික රාමුව තුළ තිබෙන ගැටලු හා අභියෝග අවම කිරීමට ද විසඳුමක් සෙවීමට උක්ත පර්යේෂණය මගින් සැලසුම් කරන ලදී.

භූමි හායනය නිසා කෘෂි පාරිසරික පද්ධතිවල සිදුවන අසමතුලිතතාවය අවම කිරීමට ද ජලාධාර සංකල්පය තුළින් අධ්‍යයනය කිරීමට කටයුතු බවට ද අවශ්‍යතාවයක් මතු විය.

පර්යේෂණ ක්‍රමවේදය

කාර්යසාධන පර්යේෂණවල භාවිතා වන ක්‍රමෝපායන් හා උපකරණ උක්ත පර්යේෂණය ක්‍රියාත්මක කිරීම සඳහා යොදාගන්නා ලදී.

සහභාගීත්ව ගැමි විමසුම

මේ යටතේ සහභාගීත්ව සිතියම භාවිතා කරන ලදී. මෙහි දී බඳවාගනු ලැබූ විපර්යකාරකවරුන්ට සහභාගීත්ව සිතියමකරණ ක්‍රියාවලිය සහ සහභාගීත්ව ගැමි විමසුම පිළිබඳව විධිමත් පුහුණුවක් ලබාදෙනු ලැබිණි.

ව්‍යුහාත්මක සම්මුඛ සාකච්ඡා පත්‍රය

සම්පත් පරිහරණය කරන කණ්ඩායම් හා සංවිධානවල සහයකයන් හා නියෝජිතයන් ගෙන් අදාල තොරතුරු ලබාගැනීමට මෙය යොදාගන්නා ලදී.

සහභාගී නිරීක්ෂණය

සහභාගීත්ව නිරීක්ෂණය කරන සාමාජිකයන් හා නායකයන්ගේ ක්‍රියාකාරකම් වලදී ඔවුන් සමඟ කටයුතු කරන විපර්යකාරකවරුන් විසින් සියලු ම කාර්යයන්ට අදාල සිදුවීම් නිරීක්ෂණ මඟින් වාර්තා කරන ලදී.

ද්විතියික දත්ත රැස්කිරීම

පළාත් සභාවේ අදාල අමාත්‍යාංශ, දෙපාර්තමේන්තු හා ආයතන වල තිබූ පර්යේෂණයට අදාල තොරතුරු ලබාගත් අතර ගලෙන් බිඳුණු වැව, දඹුල්ල, නාඋල ප්‍රාදේශීය ලේකම් කාර්යාලය, වාරි මාර්ග කාර්යාලයන්, කෘෂිකර්ම දෙපාර්තමේන්තුව, ගොවිජන සේවා දෙපාර්තමේන්තුව, මහවැලි කොට්ඨාශ කාර්යාලය සහ අනෙකුත් සියලු ම අදාල රේඛීය දෙපාර්තමේන්තුවල තිබූ ව්‍යාපෘති වාර්තා, ලිපි ලේඛන හා සංඛ්‍යා ලේඛන පරිශීලනය කරන ලදී.

කාර්යසාධන පර්යේෂණ අරමුණු

1. පවුල් කළමනාකරණ මූලධර්ම භාවිතා කරමින් සංවර්ධනය හා සංරක්ෂණ ක්‍රියාවලිය විධිමත් කරනුයේ කෙසේදැයි සෙයාබැලීම.
2. සම්පත් පරිහරණයකරන්නන්, කණ්ඩායම් හා සංවිධාන හා රාජ්‍ය ආයතන හා දෙපාර්තමේන්තුවල ඒකාබද්ධ ප්‍රවේශයක් තුළින් සේවා සැපයීම් පද්ධතිය වඩා ඵලදායී කරන ආකාරය විමසා බැලීම.
3. සම්පත් කළමනාකරණයේ දී ඉඩම් හා ජලය සාමූහිකය කළමනාකරණය කිරීමට අවශ්‍යවන විධිමත් ආයතනික රාමුවක් ගොඩනැංවීම.
4. ප්‍රාදේශීය සංවර්ධන ඒකකයක් ලෙස ජලාධාරය කොතෙක්දුරට දිගුකාලීන සංවර්ධන ප්‍රතිපත්ති සම්පාදනයේ දී යොදාගත හැකිදැයි විමර්ශනය කිරීම.

න්‍යායාත්මක පසුබිම හා සංකල්ප

කාර්යසාධන (Action Research) යන පද වලින් ප්‍රධාන වශයෙන් ගම්‍ය වන්නේ “කාර්යයක්” එසේ නැතහොත් “ක්‍රියාවක්” පදනම් කරගත් අදහසකි. එමෙන් ම සමහරු මෙය විද්‍යාත්මක පර්යේෂණයක් ලෙස විග්‍රහ කිරීමට ද මැලිකමක් දක්වති. කාර්යසාධන පර්යේෂණ සම්බන්ධව නිර්වචන රාශියක්

දක්නට ඇත. විශේෂයෙන් ම ඉන් ප්‍රධාන වශයෙන් නිර්වචන කිහිපයක් ප්‍රථමයෙන් ම විමසීමට ලක් කරමු.

“Essentially, Action Research, as we define it, involves engaging in repeated cycles of diagnosing, planning, implementing, collecting and analyzing data on outcomes, disclosing outcomes with system members, reaching conclusions and defining new sets of action steps”.

(Hisholm R.Rupet, 2004)

කාර්යසාධන පර්යේෂණවල දී අත්‍යවශයෙන් ම විමර්ශනය කිරීම, සැලසුම් කිරීම, ක්‍රියාත්මක කිරීම, දත්ත එකතු කිරීම හා විශ්ලේෂණය, නිමැවුම සාමාජිකයන් සමඟ සාකච්ඡා කිරීමටත් ක්‍රියාත්මක අවධිය පිළිබඳව සමාලෝචනය කර නැවත අර්ථකථනය කිරීමත් ඒ තුළින් නව ආකෘතීන් ගොඩනැගීමත් කළ යුතු වේ.

“The principle features of an action research approach are change action or collaboration between researchers and researched. Action researches are concerned. Improve a situation through active intervention and in collaboration with the parties involved”.

(Hitchcock and Hughes 1995:27)

මෙහි එන ප්‍රධාන අදහස වන්නේ “කාර්යසාධන පර්යේෂණ ප්‍රවේශයේ ප්‍රධාන ලක්ෂණය නම් පර්යේෂකයන් හා පර්යේෂණයට භජනය වන්නන් අතර ක්‍රියාකාරීත්වය හෝ සම්බන්ධතාවය අවධාරණය කිරීමයි. එම ක්‍රියාදාමයේ අරමුණ වන්නේ පර්යේෂණයට සම්බන්ධවන දෙපාර්ශවය අතර අන්තර් සම්බන්ධතාවය හා සහයෝගීතාවය දියුණු කිරීමේ අවස්ථාවක් මතු කරගැනීමයි”.

“කාර්යසාධන පර්යේෂණ යනු ප්‍රධාන වශයෙන් සහභාගීත්ව මැදිහත් වීම තුළින් තමා නියැලෙන ක්ෂේත්‍රයේ වර්ධනය සඳහා ගනු ලබන්නා වූ ක්‍රියාකාරී ක්‍රියාමාර්ගයක් වනු ඇත”.

(Kemmis,1990)

“සමාජීය තත්ත්වයන් පිළිබඳව ඒවා වැඩිදියුණු කිරීමේ මූලික පදනමින් කරනු ලබන්නා වූ අධ්‍යයනයක්” බව ඇල්ට්‍රිච්ටර් ප්‍රකාශ කළේය. “තථ්‍ය ලෝකයේ ක්‍රියාත්මක වීමේ දී, කාර්යය කිරීමේ දී සුළු පරිමාණයේ මැදිහත්වීම හා එම මැදිහත්වීමේ ප්‍රතිඵල සමීපව විභාග කර බැලීම” කාර්යසාධන පර්යේෂණයක් බව ඒ එච්. හැල්සේ ප්‍රකාශ කළේය.

(Halsey, 1972)

මේ අනුව බලන විට කාර්යයසාධන පර්යේෂණ හඳුනාගැනීමට සරල නිර්වචනයක් සකසා ගත හැකිය. “ගැටලු සහිත පුද්ගලයන්, කණ්ඩායම්, සංවිධාන, ප්‍රජාවන් හා එවැනි ආයතන වල පවතින තත්ත්වය හොඳින් ගැනීමටත් ඒ සඳහා විකල්ප විසඳුම් ක්‍රියාමාර්ග වලට යොමුවීමත් ඉන් පසුව ක්‍රියාමාර්ග වල බලපෑම සියුම් ලෙස අධ්‍යයනය කිරීමක්” ලෙස අපට හඳුනාගත හැකිය.

කෙසේවෙතත් කාර්යයසාධන පර්යේෂණ වලට භාවිතා කරන විවිධ නාමයන් පර්යේෂණ ක්ෂේත්‍රය තුළ දක්නට ඇත. එනම්, කාර්යයමූලික පර්යේෂණ, කාර්යයබද්ධ පර්යේෂණ, කාර්යයමූල පර්යේෂණ, ක්‍රියාමූලික පර්යේෂණ, සහයෝගී පර්යේෂණ, (කැටර් වි. ගුඩ් 1963) කාර්යයසාධන පර්යේෂණ, ක්‍රියාකාරී පර්යේෂණ ආදී නම් පර්යේෂකයන් විසින් මේ වන විට භාවිතා කරමින් සිටී. විශේෂයෙන් ම අපගේ සාකච්ඡාවට භාජනය වන්නේ කාර්යය සාධන පර්යේෂණ හා ප්‍රජා පාදක කාර්යයසාධක පර්යේෂණ (Community Base Action Research) පිළිබඳවය.

Action Research යන පදයෙන් මූලිකව හඳුන්වනු ලබන්නේ ක්‍රියාවක් නැතහොත් කාර්යයක් පෙරටු කරගත් පර්යේෂණයක් යන්නයි. සමහර පර්යේෂකයන් කාර්යය මූලික පර්යේෂණ, ක්‍රමයක් නොව පර්යේෂණ ප්‍රවේශයක් ලෙස Judith Bell (1993) හඳුන්වයි. 1972 දී හැල්සි කාර්යයසාධන පර්යේෂණ අර්ථ දක්වන්නේ ස්වාභාවික තත්ත්වයන්හි ක්‍රියාකාරීත්වය තුළ දී කරනු ලබන ඉතා කුඩා ප්‍රමාණයේ මැදිහත්වීමක් හා එම මැදිහත්වීමේ බලපෑම ඉතා සමීපව පරීක්ෂා කර බැලීමක් වශයෙනි. එම නිර්වචනයෙන් පැහැදිලි කරන ආකාරයට පර්යේෂකයා තම පර්යේෂණය මෙහෙයවන්නේ ස්වාභාවික තත්ත්වයන්හි ක්‍රියාකාරීත්වය තුළදීය.

එමෙන් ම “ඉතා කුඩා ප්‍රමාණයේ මැදිහත්වීම” “කාර්යය” නැතහොත් “ක්‍රියාව” ලෙස ද එම මැදිහත්වීම පිළිබඳව සොයාබැලීම “පර්යේෂණය” ලෙස ද හඳුන්වාදිය හැකිය. carr and kemmis (1986) පෙන්වාදෙන ආකාරයට කාර්යයමූලික පර්යේෂණ එක්තරා අන්දමක “ස්වයං ප්‍රත්‍යාවේක්ෂණ විමසුමකි”. එම ස්වයං ප්‍රත්‍යාවේක්ෂණයේ අරමුණ වන්නේ එම අවබෝධයන් සමාජ හා අධ්‍යාපන භාවිතයන්හි, එම භාවිතයන් ක්‍රියාත්මක කළ අවස්ථාවන්හි යුක්ති යුක්ත බව වැඩිදියුණු කිරීමය. carr and kemmis (1986)ට අනුව කාර්යය මූලික පර්යේෂණයක් තුළින් පවත්නා තත්ත්වයන්හි ධනාත්මක වෙනසක් අපේක්ෂා කරන බැව් පැහැදිලිවේ.

කාර්යයමූලික පර්යේෂණ වල මූලික ලක්ෂණ

Cohen and Manion (1994) පෙන්වා දෙන ආකාරයට “කාර්යයමූලික පර්යේෂණ අවස්ථානුගතය”. ඒ මඟින් උත්සහ කරනු ලබන්නේ යම් සුවිශේෂී සන්දර්භයක් තුළදී ම ගැටලුවකට විසඳුම් ඉදිරිපත් කිරීමටයි. දෙවනුව කාර්යය මූලික පර්යේෂණ සහයෝගී ශීලී අධ්‍යයනයක් ලෙස ක්‍රියාත්මක කෙරේ. එනම් පර්යේෂණ කණ්ඩායමක් විසින් සහයෝගී ශීලීව ක්‍රියාවට නංවනු ලබන පර්යේෂණ වර්ගයකි. තෙවනුව පර්යේෂකයන් කාර්යය මූලික පර්යේෂණ සඳහා කරන ඍජු සහභාගීත්වය එයට ආවේනික ලක්ෂණයක් (Cohen and Manion 1994) වශයෙන් දක්වා ඇත. හතරවෙනි කාරණය වන්නේ කාර්යය මූලික පර්යේෂණවල ඇති ස්වයං ඇගයීමකට ලක් කිරීමේ ස්වරූපයයි.

කාර්යයසාධන පර්යේෂණ අත් පොතට (Handbook of Action Research) අනුව කාර්යයසාධන පර්යේෂණයක තිබිය යුතු ප්‍රධාන ලක්ෂණ පහක් හඳුනාගෙන ඇත. එය පහත සඳහන් ආකාරයට අපට හඳුනාගැනීමට හැකිය. හුසේ හා හුසේට අනුව කාර්යයසාධන පර්යේෂණවල ප්‍රධාන ලක්ෂණ පහකි. (Hussey and Hussey, 1997,65) එනම්,

1. කිසියම් ගැටලුවක් විසඳාගැනීමට අනුග්‍රාහකයාට විද්‍යානුකූලව උදව් කිරීම.
2. පර්යේෂකයා සහ සහභාගීවන්නන් ක්‍රියාත්මක කරන අධ්‍යයනයේ, නව දක්ෂතා අධ්‍යයනය කිරීමට හා සංවර්ධනය කරගැනීම.
3. පවතින සංකීර්ණ ගැටලු සොයාබැලීම හා එය සරලව අවබෝධ කරගැනීම.
4. පර්යේෂකයා සහ සහභාගීවන්නන් අතර මනා සහයෝගීත්වයක් තිබීම හා නව තොරතුරු හා අංශ අනුව එය නැවත සකස් කෙරේ.
5. මූලික වශයෙන් තත්කාලීන සමාජ පද්ධතීන් අවබෝධ කරගැනීමට හා සැලසුම් කිරීමට උදව් කිරීම.

මීට අමතරව ඇල්ට්‍රිච්ටර්ගේ බෙදාදැක්වීම අනුව කාර්යයසාධන පර්යේෂණවල මූලික ලක්ෂණ පහක් හඳුනාගනී. එය පහත දක්වා ඇත.

අනෙක් පර්යේෂණ වලට වඩා කාර්යයසාධන පර්යේෂණයකදී අපට දකගත හැකි සුවිශේෂී ලක්ෂණ (cohen and Manion - 1994)

- කාර්යයසාධන පර්යේෂණවල අවස්ථානුගත තත්ත්වයක් ඇත.
- සහයෝගීභීලී අධ්‍යයන වර්ගයකි.
- පර්යේෂකයන්ගේ සෘජු සහභාගීත්වය ලැබෙනු ඇත.
- ස්වයං ඇගයීමට ලක්වීමේ ස්වරූපයක් ඇත.

මීට අමතරව තවත් ලක්ෂණ කිහිපයක් ඇත.

- ලිහිල් ඵලමුමක් දක්නට තිබේ.
- නම්‍යශීලී ක්‍රියාපිළිවෙතක් දකගත හැකිය.
- නිරීක්ෂණ ක්‍රමය ප්‍රධාන දත්ත රැස්කිරීමේ ක්‍රමය වේ.
- අනාවරණය ඉතා ම ඉක්මනින් පරිවර්තනය කළ හැකිය.

කාර්යයසාධන පර්යේෂණයක වැදගත් වන මූඛ්‍ය කරුණු හඳුනාගැනීම

- පර්යේෂකයාට / ප්‍රතිලාභීන්ට දකගන්නට අවශ්‍යවන්නේ කුමක්ද?
- අදාළ ගැටළුවට අවශ්‍යවන්නා වූ දත්ත හා තොරතුරු ඇත්තේ කුමන පුද්ගලයන් / ආයතනයන් / ස්ථානවලද?
- ගවේෂණයට ගතවන කාලය හා තිබෙන සම්පත් මොනවාද?
- දත්ත රැස්කරන්නේ කෙසේද?
- දත්ත රැස්කිරීමට අවශ්‍ය කාලය කොපමණද?

- දත්ත රැස්කිරීමේ දී හා භාවිතයේ දී සැලකිය යුතු ආචාරධර්ම කවරේද?
- දත්ත විශ්ලේෂණය හා වාර්තාව ඉදිරිපත් කිරීම.
- අනාවරණය වූ කරුණු මත වෙනස්කම් කිරීමට හැකියාව තිබේද?

විස්තරාත්මක පර්යේෂණ ක්‍රමය

සන්දර්භය යටතේ (Structure) විස්තර

ප්‍රජාපාදක කාර්යයසාධන පර්යේෂණවල දී තොරතුරු ලබාගැනීම සම්බන්ධව භාවිතා කරනු ලබන්නේ විස්තරාත්මක පර්යේෂණ ක්‍රමවේදයයි. පර්යේෂණ ක්‍රියාවලියේ දී විස්තරාත්මක ක්‍රම යටතේ ක්‍රමානුකූලව එම ගැටලුව විසඳාගැනීම නිර්වචනය කිරීමට ඉලක්ක ප්‍රජාවට අවශ්‍ය අවබෝධය විකල්ප ලබාගැනීමයි.

පහත සඳහන් කරන ලද විකල්ප හතර මට්ටමින් පර්යේෂකයන් අදාළ තත්ත්වය පිළිබඳව එම කණ්ඩායමට සහයවීමට කටයුතු කරයි. එය ජනවර්ග විද්‍යාවට අනුව සහ වෙනත් ප්‍රජාවක පර්යේෂණ ඉතා සාර්ථකව විවිධ ජන සමාජවල, සංවිධානවල, කණ්ඩායම්වල සන්දර්භය විස්තර කිරීමට යොදාගෙන ඇත. පහත දක්වන ලද විකල්ප හතරක් වන්නේ යොදාගෙන විස්තරාත්මක පර්යේෂණ ක්‍රමය සංවර්ධනය කිරීමට භාජනය කර ඇත.

විකල්පය 01 වාර්ෂිකත්වය අනුව වැඩ කිරීම

මේ යටතේ විවිධ කණ්ඩායම් අනුව තොරතුරු ලබාගනී. තනි කණ්ඩායම්, විවිධ කණ්ඩායම් එක් තැනකට රැස් කරමින් පවතින රැස්වීමක දී හෝ ක්ෂේත්‍ර අධ්‍යයනයක දී හෝ ප්‍රශ්නාවලී නමින් තොරතුරු ගැනීමේ දී මෙම ක්‍රමය යොදාගනී. පර්යේෂණ පහසුකම් විසින් කණ්ඩායමක් සමඟ වාචික තොරතුරු ලබාගැනීමේ දී ඒ අයගෙන් බහුවිධ ප්‍රතිචාර ලැබෙනු ඇත. එහිදී, සාරාංශ වාර්තා සකස්කරගත හැකිය. ඒ යටතේ විස්තරාත්මක තොරතුරු ලබාගත හැකිය.

විකල්පය 02

මේ යටතේ ඉහත එක එක ප්‍රශ්නය යටතේ පිළිවෙලින් අදාළ ප්‍රශ්න වලට පිළිතුරු ලබාගනී. උදාහරණයක් ලෙස පහත සඳහන් කරුණු අපට ගෙනහැර දැක්විය හැකිය.

- ඇයි අද රැස්වීම පවත්වන්නේ කුමක්ද කාරණය?
- කුමක්ද ගැටලුව ගැටලු කුමක්ද සිද්ධ වුණේ?
- එය කානටද අපගේ වැඩවලට ජීවිතවලට බලපෑවේ?
- කවුද එහි බලපෑමට ලක්වූයේ?
- කොහෙද එය සිද්ධවුනේ?
- කවදාද ඒ ගැන සිතුවේ?

මෙම ප්‍රශ්නවලට පිළිතුරු ලබාගැනීමේ දී අදාළ ගැටලුවට ක්‍රියාවන්, ක්‍රියාකාරකම් සහ සිද්ධීන් සම්බන්ධව මූලිකව අවධානය යොමුකළ යුතුය. නමුත් සහභාගිකයින් ඒ ඒ පුද්ගලයන්ගේ කණ්ඩායම්වල වර්ගව ගැන තීරණදීමට හෝ ඇගයීමට ක්‍රියාකළ හැකිය. අදාළ ප්‍රශ්න මගින් මූලික විස්තර ලබාගැනීමට හැකි අතර පසුව විස්තරාත්මක තොරතුරු වලට සිද්ධියට අදාළ ඉතිහාසය, ප්‍රජාව අදාළ ගැටලුවලට සම්බන්ධවී ඇති ආකාරය, ගැටලුව කොතරම් දුරට බලපා තිබේද අනෙක් පුද්ගලයන් අතර තිබෙන සම්බන්ධතාවය සම්පත් මිනිසුන්, අවකාශය, කාලය, අරමුදල් භාවිතය, සුගමතාවය, හැකියාවන් සිහින හා අපේක්ෂාවන් ආදී තොරතුරු වේ.

විකල්පය 03

සමකාලීන සිතියම්කරණය (Tempord Mapping)

සමාජ විද්‍යාඥ Morman Denzin (1989) විසින් උක්ත “සිතියම්කරණය” ගැන මුල්වරට හඳුනාගන්නා ලදී. ඒ යටතේ කිසියම් සිද්ධීන් අනුපිළිවෙල මත කරන සිතියම්කරණය මේ නමින් හැඳින්වේ. එහිදී සහභාගිකයන් විසින් ගැටලුව හා ඊට අදාළ කරුණු පිළිබඳව විස්තර මෙහිදී වාර්තා කරන ලදී. ඒ යටතේ ගැටලුවට අදාළ තොරතුරු ගවේෂණය කිරීමේදී අත්‍යවශ්‍ය ලක්ෂණ හා මූලික සංරචකයන් සම්බන්ධව තොරතුරු හඳුනාගනී.

අදාළ ක්‍රියාවලිය දියත්කිරීමෙහිලා සහභාගිකයන් විසින් පහත සඳහන් කරුණු කෙරෙහි වැඩි අවධානය යොමුකළ යුතුව ඇත.

- ගැටලුව හා ගැටලුවට අදාළ සන්දර්භය විධිමත් කිරීම.
- එම විස්තරය තුළ ප්‍රධාන ප්‍රකාශනය කෙටි වැකියකින් ස්ථානගත කළ යුතුය.
- එම ප්‍රකාශන හා කෙටි වැකිය පිළිබඳව තේරුම අර්ථකථනය කිරීම. ඒ යටතේ සහභාගිකයන්ට උක්ත ගැටලුවට අදාළ කෙටි වැකිය හා ප්‍රකාශයේ සැබෑ අර්ථය පැහැදිලිව ලබාදිය යුතුය.
- ගැටලුවට හා එම තත්ත්වයට අදාළ මූලික කරුණු හෝ අත්‍යවශ්‍ය කරුණු හඳුනාගැනීම.

එහිදී ප්‍රජාවගේ දායකත්වය ලබාගැනීම සඳහා පර්යේෂකවරුන් විසින් සම්පත් පරිහරණ කුඩා කණ්ඩායම් (RUG), සංවිධාන (RUO) ආරම්භ කර ශක්තිමත් කරන ලදී. කාර්යයසාධන පර්යේෂණවල ඇතුළත්විය යුතු හා මැදිහත්වීම් මනා ලෙස ගලපා ගන්නා ලදී.

1. අදාළ පුද්ගලයන් සැමදෙනාගේ ම උපරිම මැදිහත්වීම් අනිවාර්ය අංගයකි. කාර්යයසාධන පර්යේෂණයක දී විවිධ පාර්ශවයන් එයට දායක වේ. පර්යේෂණ කණ්ඩායමට අමතරව විශේෂඥයින්, සමාජ සවිච්චිකාරකයන්, ග්‍රාමීය නායකයන්, රජයේ නිලධාරීන් විශේෂයෙන් ම ක්ෂේත්‍ර මට්ටමේ සිට දිස්ත්‍රික් මට්ටම දක්වා වූ නිලධාරීන්, රාජ්‍ය නොවන ආයතන, අදාළ කාර්යයන්ට සෘජුව දායක වන අය , පුද්ගලික අංශය, ජනමත ප්‍රධානීන්, ඉලක්ක ප්‍රජාව, මුදල් සපයන ආයතන, ප්‍රතිපත්ති හා සැලසුම් ආදී සියල්ලක් ම අදාළ කාර්යයට සක්‍රීයව දායකවීම ඉතා වැදගත්ය.

2. (SCOR) පර්යේෂණ ව්‍යාපෘතියේ කාර්කික රාමු විග්‍රහය (Logical Frame Analysis) අනුව මැදිහත්වීම් එසේ නැතහොත් “ක්‍රියාත්මක වන” කොටසට අයත් ක්‍රියාකාරකම් මේ ව්‍යුහය යටතේ විග්‍රහ වේ.

SCOR කාර්යයසාධන පර්යේෂණ ව්‍යාපෘතියේ තිබූ මූලික උපකල්පනයන් කිහිපයකි.

1. නිෂ්පාදනය හා සංරක්ෂණය (Production and Prtoection) අතර සමතුලිතභාවයක් පවත්වාගැනීමට සහ කළමනාකරණ ක්‍රමෝපායයන් හඳුනාගැනීම හා ආයතනීකරණය කිරීම (Institulization) මූලික අවශ්‍යතාවයක් ලෙස හඳුනාගැනීම.
2. ඉහළ ඵලදායිතාවයක්, ලාභදායී, සාධාරණ සහ තිරසාර කෘෂි නිෂ්පාදනයක් ඇති කිරීම සඳහා සම්පත් ප්‍රමුඛ සාධකයක් වන අතර එය පරිහාරකයන් විසින් සාමූහික කළමනාකරණය කිරීම තුළින් වර්ධනයක් දැකිය හැකිවීම.
3. ජලාධාර ප්‍රදේශය (Watrshed Area) තුළ තිබෙන්නා වූ ස්වාභාවික සම්පත් කාර්යක්ෂමව භාවිතය, කළමනාකරණය හා සංවර්ධනයේ දී ඒ ඒ උප ජලාධාර දෙස සමස්ථයක් ලෙස බැලීමත්, ඵලදායී හා තිරසර කෘෂිකර්මය හා අදාළ කෘෂිකාර්මික නිෂ්පාදනයන් වර්ධනය කිරීම.

වගු අංක 01: කාර්යයසාධන පර්යේෂණ ව්‍යාපෘතිය තුළින් ලඟාකරගත් ප්‍රතිඵල හා බලපෑම

ප්‍රතිඵල	බලපෑම
නියාමක ජලාධාර බල ප්‍රදේශය තුළ සෘජුව හා අනෙක් ප්‍රදේශවල වක්‍රව සැලසුම්ගත ව්‍යාපෘතිය තුළින් ජල හා භූමි සම්පත්වල නිෂ්පාදන ඒකකය වැඩිකිරීම.	නිෂ්පාදනය හා සංරක්ෂණය අතර යෝග්‍ය තුලනය පවත්වාගෙන යාම.
කුඩා ගොවි සම්පත් පරිහාරකයන්ගේ ආදායම් වැඩිදියුණු කිරීම.	ගුණාත්මකභාවය වර්ධනය කිරීම.
පාරිසරිකත්වය මත නිර්මාණය වූ නිෂ්පාදන ක්‍රියාකාරකම් කිහිපයක් වර්ධනය කිරීම.	ජීවන මට්ටම ඉහළ දැමීම.
පාරිසරිකත්වය පිළිබඳව තීරණාත්මක සාධකය, තීරණ ගැනීමේ ක්‍රියාවලියට ආයතනීකරණය කිරීම.	
ඉඩම් හා ජල සම්පත් වර්ධනයේ ගුණාත්මකභාවය වැඩිදියුණු කිරීම.	

උක්ත කාර්යයසාධන පර්යේෂණයේ දී පරීක්ෂාවට භාජනය කරන ලද ඉතාමත් වැදගත් කාර්යයක් වූයේ “ආයතනික ආකෘතියයි” (Institutional Model). විශේෂයෙන් ම සහභාගීත්ව සම්පත් කළමනාකරණයේ දී රාජ්‍ය පාලන ක්‍රමය තුළ ක්‍රියාත්මක කළ හැකි ආයතනික ව්‍යුහයක් ඇතිකර එය ප්‍රායෝගිකව අත්හදා බලන ලදී. එය සම්පත් පරිහරණ කණ්ඩායම් (RUG) වල සිට දියුණු මට්ටමක් හා පලාත් මට්ටමේ ජලාධාර සවිබලකරණය දක්වා පැතිරී පවතී.

එමෙන් ම හවුල් කළමනාකරණ යාන්ත්‍රණයක් (Junjned Management Mechanism) ග්‍රාමීය මට්ටමේ සිට ජාතික මට්ටමේ ක්‍රියාකාරී කමිටුව දක්වා ම පුළුල් ලෙස ව්‍යාප්ත වූ ජාලයක් ක්‍රියාත්මක කරන ලදී. එය විපර්යාසකාරකවරයෙකුගේ සිට ජලාධාර සම්පත් කළමනාකරණ කමිටුව, ජල ක්‍රියාකාරී කමිටු හා ජාතික ක්‍රියාකාරී කමිටුව දක්වා සැලසුම්කර තීරණ ගනිමින් ක්‍රියාත්මක කරන සංවිධාන ව්‍යුහයක් දියත් කරන ලදී. එමඟින් ස්වාභාවික සම්පත් හවුලේ කළමනාකරණය කිරීමට සියලු ම පාර්ශවවල දායකත්වයක් සිදුකළ හැකිබව එහි දී සකස් කරන ලදී.

පර්යේෂණයක් කරනු ලැබුවේ ස්වාභාවික සම්පත් සාමූහිකව කළමනාකරණය කිරීම පිළිබඳව නව අත්හදාබැලීමකි. මෙතෙක් වියළි කළාපීය ස්වාභාවික සම්පත් අතර ප්‍රධාන තැනක් ගනු ලැබුවේ ජලය හා පසයි. එම සම්පත්වල මෙතෙක් අයිතිය තිබුණේ රාජ්‍ය අංශයටයි. එහෙත් ප්‍රථමවරට එම සම්පත් උක්ත කාර්යසාධන පර්යේෂණ ව්‍යාපෘතිය මඟින් ස්වාභාවික සම්පත් පරිහරණය කරන්නන්ට (Resource users) ඒවායේ අයිතිකරුවන් වන රජය හා ඒකාබද්ධ වී සාමූහිකව කළමනාකරණය කිරීමට අවශ්‍ය පසුබිම සකස් කරන ලදී. විශේෂයෙන් එහිදී නව ආයතන ව්‍යුහයක් (New institutional Structure) අවශ්‍යතාවය තදින් ම දැනුණි. ඒ නිසා පර්යේෂණ ව්‍යාපෘතිය මඟින් ප්‍රථමවරට ප්‍රදේශය තුළ පවතින රාජ්‍ය පරිපාලන ව්‍යුහයන් සම්පත් පරිහරණය කරන්නන්ගේ කණ්ඩායම්, සංවිධානත් සමඟ ඒකාබද්ධ කර සාමූහිකව කළමනාකරණය කිරීමේ ක්‍රමවේදයක් ස්ථාපිත කර ඇත. ඒ සඳහා සුදුසු ආකෘතියක් (Model) ගොඩනගා ගන්නා ලදී. එය ක්ෂේත්‍රය තුළ පරීක්ෂාවට භාජනය කිරීමට අවශ්‍ය පියවර ගන්නා ලදී.

එහිදී අදාළ ආයතනවල ක්‍රියාකාරීත්වය පිළිබඳව ඇගයීම් කරන ලදුව පසුකාලීනව ඒවායේ අවශ්‍ය වෙනස්කම් සිදුකරන ලදී. විශේෂයෙන් ම එම ආයතන බිහිකිරීමේ දී පරිහාරකයන්ගේ, රාජ්‍ය ආයතනවල නිලධාරීන්ගේ , පුද්ගලික අංශයේ, රාජ්‍ය නොවන ආයතනවල නිලධාරීන්ගේ, ප්‍රදේශයේ නායකයන්ගේ ද අදහස් හා යෝජනා මත ඒවා බොහෝවිට යොදාගනු ලැබුවේ සිතීම (Think), සැලසුම්කරණය (Plan), ක්‍රියාකිරීම (Act) යන ක්‍රියාවලියට අනුව ද ක්‍රියාමාර්ග දියත් කරන ලදී.

පර්යේෂණ ව්‍යාපෘතිය දියත්කිරීමට පෙර කලින් ඒ පිළිබඳව නිරීක්ෂණය කොට අවශ්‍ය සැලසුම් ක්‍රියාත්මක කිරීම කරන ලදී. විශේෂයෙන් ම මිගස්වැව ගම්මානයේ දැනට සම්පත් පරිහරණය කිරීමේ දී පරිහාරකයන්ට බලපාන ගැටලු ආශ්‍රිතව සිතියමක් සකස්කරන ලදී. “සහභාගීත්ව සිතියම්කරණය” භාවිතා කරමින් අදාළ සිතියම් නිර්මාණය කරන ලදී. එහිදී අපට පැහැදිලි එක් කාරණයක් නම් අදාළ කාලය වන විට එම ගම්මානයේ ස්වාභාවික සම්පත් පරිහරණයේ ස්වරූපය මැනවින් සිතියම තුළ දක්වා ඇත. ඒ සමඟ ම පර්යේෂණ ව්‍යාපෘතිය ක්‍රියාත්මක කිරීමෙන් පසුව අදාළ ගම්මානය තුළ විය හැකි පරිවර්තනය දෙවන සිතියමෙන් දක්වා ඇත. ඒ තුළින් ද පැහැදිලි වන්නේ ස්වාභාවික සම්පත් සියලු ම පාර්ශව වල දායකත්වයෙන් සාමූහිකව කළමනාකරණය කිරීමේ ප්‍රතිඵලයක් වශයෙන් වසර පහකට පසුව ඇතිවන තත්ත්වය දෙවැනි සිතියම මඟින් මතුකර දැක්වීමයි.

අනාගතයේ දී අදාළ පර්යේෂණය සිදුවන ප්‍රදේශය තුළ කිසියම් මැදිහත්වීමේ ක්‍රියාවලියක් (Intervention Process) තුළ වගා නොකළ කුඹුරු වගා කිරීමටත්, අසංවර්ධිත ගෙවතු සංවර්ධනය වීමත්, වන බිම් නොමැති වන සංරක්ෂණය තුළ වන වගාව ඇත්වීමත්, පාංශු බාදනය නිසා නිසරු වී

ගිය භූමිය තුළ පාංශු සංරක්ෂණ වැටී නිර්මාණය කිරීම තුළින් පස ආරක්ෂාවීමත්, පළතුරු වගාව ඇරඹීමටත්, සත්ව පාලනය නොකළ බිම්වල නව උසස් වර්ගයේ සතුන් ඇති කිරීමත් දක්නට ලැබේ. උක්ත ක්‍රියාදාමයෙන් සිදුවන්නේ හඳුනාගනු ලැබ පර්යේෂණ ගැටලුවට අදාළව කරන ලද නව අත්හදාබැලීම් සමුදායක් හඳුනාගැනීමට හැකිවීමයි.

ඉහතින් දැක්වූ “සහභාගීත්ව සිතියම්කරණය” (Participatory Mapping) සහභාගීත්ව ගැමි විමසුම (PRA), පර්යේෂණ ක්‍රමවේදය භාවිතා කරමින් ප්‍රදේශයේ සම්පත් පරිහරණය කරන සාමාජිකයන්, නායකයන් සමඟ කරන ලද අභ්‍යාසයක ප්‍රතිඵලයකි. එහිදී විපර්යාසකාරකවරයා (Catalist) සමඟ ප්‍රතිලාභීන් අදාළ මැදිහත්වීමේ නිරත වන අතර කාර්යයසාධන පර්යේෂණවල දී ඉහතින් අප සාකච්ඡා කළ සියලු ම න්‍යායාත්මක කරුණු මත පදනම්ව වැඩසටහන් ක්‍රියාත්මක කරනු ලැබේ. ප්‍රජාවගේ සහභාගීත්වය ලබාගැනීමේ දී ඔවුහු දැනුවත් කිරීම තුළින් සජීවී ඔවුන්ගේ දායකත්වය ලබාගන්නා ලදී. ඒ සඳහා කුඩා කණ්ඩායම් අටක් ස්ථාපනය කරනු ලැබූ අතර “සම්පත් පරිහරණ සංවිධානයක්” ද ආරම්භ කර ශක්තිමත් කරන ලදී. විශේෂයෙන් ම ඔවුන් සමඟ ජීවත්වීමෙන් හා ඔවුන් සමඟ වැඩ කිරීමෙන් ලද අත්දැකීම් පදනම් කරගෙන ඔවුන්ට සමානව සැලකීම, සමගිය ඇතිකිරීම, වැඩ බෙදාදීම, පිළිගැනීම, උනන්දු වීම, සහයදීම, සංවේදීවීම ආදී සබඳතාවයන් ගොඩනගාගැනීමට අත්‍යවශ්‍ය කරුණු වලට ප්‍රමුඛත්වයක් දෙන ලදී.

විශේෂයෙන් ම ඔවුන් සමඟ කටයුතු කිරීමේ දී සන්නිවේදනය යොදාගන්නා ආකාරය, සහභාගීත්වය ලබාගන්නා ආකාරය, අන්තර් සම්බන්ධතාවය වර්ධනය කරගැනීම සඳහා ප්‍රජාපාදක කාර්යයසාධන පරීක්ෂණවල දී යොදාගනු ලැබූ ආකෘති (Model) හා සංකල්පයන් ද භාවිතයට ගනු ලැබේ.

එමෙන් ම ඒ සඳහා භාවිතා කළ හැකි කාර්යයන් සඳහා යොදාගනු ලැබූ කොටුදැල් ක්‍රමය ද භාවිතයට ගනු ලැබේ. එය “ක්‍රියාත්මක සැලැස්ම” ලෙස අප භාවිතයට ගනු ලැබේ. එහිදී ඉදිරි වසරක් තුළ දී අදියරෙන් අදියර කළයුතු වැඩ කොටස් හා ඒවායේ වගකීම් භාරගත් අයගේ නාමලේඛනය, ස්ථානය හා ඒ සඳහා යොදාගන්නා කාලය ද පැහැදිලිව දක්වන ලදී. ඒ තුළින් ගම්මානයේ සියලු ම කණ්ඩායම්වල නායකයින් හා සංවිධානයේ නිලධාරීන්ටත්, ක්ෂේත්‍ර මට්ටමේ රාජ්‍ය නිලධාරීන්ටත් කිසියම් වගකීම් සම්භාරයක් පවරන ලදී. එහිදී අදාළ කාර්යය කොටස් නියමිත කාලය තුළ දී එය සිදුවන්නේ ද යන්න පරීක්ෂා කිරීමට හෝ ඇගයීමට විපර්යාසකාරක විසින් වැඩපිළිවෙලක් සකස් කරන ලදී. එම නිසා එම කාර්යයන් නියමිත කාලසීමාව තුළදී ම කිරීමට සියලු ම පාර්ශවයන් උනන්දුවන ලදී.

අදාළ කාර්යයන් ඉටු කිරීමේ දී අවශ්‍ය වන සම්පත් (මානව, භෞතික හා මූල්‍ය) මොනවාදැයි හඳුනාගෙන එය ලබාදීමට විපර්යාසකාරකවරයාගේ මැදිහත්වීමෙන් වැඩපිළිවෙල සකස් කරන ලදී.

බලමින්, සිතමින්, හා ක්‍රියාකරමින් වසර පහක කාලයක් තුළ අදාළ ග්‍රාමීය ඒකකය තුළ වැඩසටහන් අගය කරමින්, වැරදි නිවැරදි කරමින්, අත්දැකීම් යොදාගනිමින් යළි සැලසුම් කිරීමත් ඒ තුළින් ක්‍රියාකාරකම් වලට යැමක් දක්නට ලැබුණි. එය ප්‍රජාවට සංජානනය වන ආකාරයට ප්‍රතිඵල අත්දැකීමන් ඉදිරියට දියත්වන ක්‍රියාවලියක් බවට පරිවර්තනය විය. මෙහිදී බොහෝදුරට යොදාගනු

ලැබුවේ ක්‍රියාව තුළින් අධ්‍යාපනය යන සංකල්පයයි. ඒ අනුව විද්වතුන්, පර්යේෂකයන්, විපර්යාකාරකවරුන්, ප්‍රතිලාභීන්, නායකයන්, ක්ෂේත්‍ර නිලධාරීන් ආදී බොහෝ පාර්ශවකරුවන්ගේ සාමූහික ක්‍රියාවක ප්‍රතිඵලයක් ලෙස උක්ත පර්යේෂණ ව්‍යාපෘතිය තුළින් නව දැනුම් සම්භාරයක් පර්යේෂණ ක්ෂේත්‍රයට එකතු විය. එය විෂයානුබද්ධව සලකාබැලුවහොත් පරිසර අධ්‍යයනය, සංරක්ෂණය, ග්‍රාමීය සංවර්ධනය හා සහභාගීත්ව සංවර්ධන අංශයට නවමු අත්දැකීමක් එකතුවිය.

නිගමන හා නිර්දේශ

ස්වභාවික සම්පත් සාමූහිකව කළමනාකරණය කිරීමේ ව්‍යාපෘතිය සහභාගීත්ව කාර්යයසාධන පර්යේෂණ ව්‍යාපෘතියකට ශ්‍රී ලංකාව තුළ ක්‍රියාත්මක කරනු ලැබූ විද්‍යාත්මකව සනාතකරනු ලැබූවක් බව බොහෝ විද්වතුන්ගේ අදහසයි. (විජේකෝන්, 1995) මෙහිදී, සමාජවැඩ වෘත්තිකයෙකු ලෙසත් සමාජවැඩ අධ්‍යාපනඥයෙකු හා පර්යේෂකයෙකු ලෙසත් මේ තුළින් උකහාගැනීමට තිබෙන නිර්දේශයන් හා නිගමනයන් කිහිපයක් ඉදිරිපත් කිරීමට අපේක්ෂා කරයි. එය ඉදිරියේදී මෙවැනි පර්යේෂණයන්හි නිරතවන්නන්ට, සැලසුම්කරුවන්ට, ප්‍රතිපත්ති සම්පාදකයන්ට හා සමාජවැඩ අධ්‍යාපනඥයින්ට කිසියම් ආලෝකයක් ලැබෙනු ඇත.

ස්වභාවික සම්පත් (Natural Resource) හැමවිට ම මා හට සාධකයක් සමඟ එකට ගැටගැසී ඒකාබද්ධව ක්‍රියාත්මක වන එකිනෙකට යැපෙන අන්තර් සම්බන්ධතාවයකින් යුතු ක්‍රියාදාමයකි. ඒ නිසා ස්වභාවික සම්පත් හා ඒවා නිරීක්ෂණය කරන්නන් පිළිබඳව මානුෂවාදී දෘෂ්ටිකෝණයකින් බලා පර්යේෂණ කිරීම ඒ තුළින් මතුවන්නා වූ අවියෝජනීය සබඳතාවය කොතරම් දුරට විග්‍රහවූයේ ද යන්න මේ තුළින් පැහැදිලි වේ. පාරිසරික සමාජවිද්‍යාව (Environmental Sociology) ප්‍රවර්ධනයත් සමඟ ම පාරිසරික ගැටලුවලට අදාළ සමාජමය බලපෑම ගැන වැඩි අවධානයක් යොමු වූ අතර ඒ තුළින් මෙම විෂය ක්ෂේත්‍රය පුළුල්විය. විශේෂයෙන් ම පරිසරය හා සම්පත් පිළිබඳව පර්යේෂණවල දී එය පරිහරණය කරනා කොටස් පාරිභෝගිකයා අමතක කරදමා තිබුණි. එහෙත් SCOR ව්‍යාපෘතිය තුළින් සම්පත් පරිහරණයත් ඒ ඒ පාරිසරික තත්ත්වයන් තුළ දී හැසිරෙන ආකාරය, ඔවුන්ගේ වර්ගයාගේ ගොඩනැගෙන ආකාරය, ආකල්ප හා විශ්වාස පිළිබඳව වැඩි අවධානයක් යොමු කරනු ලැබීය. ඒ තුළින් සම්පත් පරිහාරකයෙකුගේ හැසිරීම් රටාව ඉතා ම ගැඹුරින් අධ්‍යයනය කොට වෙනස් කළ යුතු හා වර්ධනය කළ යුතු ආකල්ප හා දැනුම හඳුනාගැනීමටත් ඉහත පර්යේෂණ ව්‍යාපෘතිය තුළින් ඉඩකඩ ලැබිණි.

එබැවින් ඕනෑම පරිසරයක් තුළ සිටින ප්‍රජාවක් විසින් එම පරිසරය තුළ පවතින ප්‍රධාන සම්බන්ධතා ජාලය හා වැඩසටහන් භාවිතා කිරීමේ දී ඔවුන් තුළ ඒ සම්බන්ධව පවතින සංජානනය හඳුනාගෙන ඒ තුළින් වර්ගයා රටාව හැඩගැසෙන ආකාරයට අනුව ව්‍යාපෘතියේ වැඩසටහන් ක්‍රියාත්මක කිරීම ඉතාම යෝග්‍යය. එය තවදුරටත් වැදගත් වන්නේ සම්පත් පරිහාරකයාට වඩාත් සංවේදී සම්පත් පිළිබඳව දැඩි අවධානයකින් කටයුතු කිරීමටත් ඒ සම්බන්ධව ඔවුන් තුළ තිබෙන සමාජ විද්‍යාත්මක දැනුම උපරිම ලෙස සම්පත් ප්‍රවර්ධනයට යොදාගැනීමට කටයුතු කිරීමත් තුළිනි. ස්වභාවික සම්පත් කළමනාකරණය හා නිශ්පාදන කාර්යය අතර තිබෙන්නා වූ සාපේක්ෂ සම්බන්ධතාවය මනා ලෙස සංජානනය කරගැනීමට ප්‍රතිලාභීන් ගත් උත්සාහය මෙම කාර්යයසාධන පර්යේෂණ ව්‍යාපෘතිය තුළින්

මොනවට පැහැදිලිවේ. එහිදී පරිසරය තුළ ස්වාභාවික සම්පත්වල මූල්‍යමය වටිනාකම් වලට වඩා අනාගත පරම්පරාවට තිබෙන ශුද්ධ වූ අයිතිය හා වඩවඩාත් සිතීමට පුරුදුවීමක් ඒ තුළින් පාරිසරික යුක්තිය (Environmental Justice) පිළිබඳව සංවාදයක් ගොඩනැගීමට ඉවහල් වූ බව ද පෙන්වාදිය හැකිය.

සම්පත් පරිහරණය කරන්නන්ට සංවර්ධනය කෙරේ වඩාත් හරිත සංකල්පයන් තුළ තම ක්‍රියාකාරකම්වල යෙදීමට අවශ්‍යවන විෂය මූලික දැනුම ලැබුණේ ප්‍රායෝගිකව යොදාගනු ලැබූ විවිධ කාර්යයන් නිසාමය. එය තිරසර සංවර්ධනයකට යන මාවත එළිකරන්නක් වූ අතර පරිසරවේදීන්ගේ දැඩි අවධානය යොමුවිය යුතු ප්‍රවේශයක් බව ද පෙන්වා දිය යුතුය.

හරිත සමාජවැඩ (Environmental Social Work) විෂය ක්ෂේත්‍රයට ඇතුළත් වන උක්ත පර්යේෂණ ව්‍යාපෘතිය තුළ අත්හදා බැලීම් කළ බොහෝ සංකල්ප හා න්‍යායන් තුළින් අපේක්ෂා කරනු ලැබුවාටත් කලින් ඒ ඒ පාරිසරික ගැටලු වලට ක්‍රියාව තුළින් විසඳුම් ක්‍රියාවන් දැකගත හැකිවිය.

පරිසරය හා මානව ක්‍රියාකාරකම් අතර තිබෙන අවියෝජනීය සබැඳියාව පුළුල් ධනාත්මක ප්‍රවේශයකට පෙරලීමට ඉඩකඩ මේ තුළින් විවර විය. තම ගොවිපල තුළ හෝ වැව හෝ ඔය ආශ්‍රිතව නිරන්තරව කෙරෙන ක්‍රියාකාරකම් වල තිබෙන විනාශකාරී ප්‍රතිඵල අවම කරගැනීමටත් විකල්ප ක්‍රියාමාර්ග තේරීමටත් ඔවුහු පෙලඹුණු ආකාරය මොනවට පැහැදිලි වේ. එය සාධනීය ප්‍රවේශයක් වන අතර නිර්මාණශීලී මැදිහත්වීම් ඒ මගින් දැකගත හැකිය. අවම භූමි යෙදවුම් වල තිබෙන අනාගත බලපෑම් ගොවියා තුළ අවම හැගීමක් ඇති සාකච්ඡා ප්‍රවේශය යොදාගැනීමට උත්සුක වීමෙන් මනාව පැහැදිලි වේ.

ආශ්‍රිත ග්‍රන්ථ නාමාවලිය

Bradbury H. and Reason P. (2005). *Handbook of Action Research*. Sage Publication, London.

Fleming W.M. (1992). *Watershed management Policies Sri Lanka - Staff working paper*. No73, IMPSA, Colombo.

IIMI – SLFO – Sri Lanka – *Sri Lanka Field Operation 91994) SCOR – MONITOR- volume 01*. No 2nd 03, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Somarathne P.G, Merrcy D.J and Jinapala.K .(1997). *Institutions for shared Management of Land and Water on Watersheds (A case study from Sri Lanka)*

3

Industry Strategies to Undermine Alcohol Policies in Sri Lanka

Shakya Nanayakkara

Director General

National Secretariat for Non Governmental Organizations

E-mail : shakya@fisd.lk

Ironne Jayaseraka

Training Officer

National Institute of Social Development

E-mail : prasad.iron@gmail.com

Abstract

The National Authority on Tobacco and Alcohol (NATA) was established by the Government of Sri Lanka in 2006 for the implementation of the NATA Act that was passed in parliament during the same year. With the aim of controlling the problem of alcohol and tobacco use, which is a burning issue in the country, the NATA Act prohibits the sale of alcohol and distribution to minors, the advertisement and free distribution of these products, and the smoking of cigarettes in places to which the public have access.

However, due to various reasons, the proper implementation of the act has not yet been achieved due to various reasons. In order to study the extent to which the NATA Act is adhered to across the country, Foundation for Innovative Social Development (FISD) and Healthy Lanka Alliance for Development (HLAD), conducted a study in nine districts in Sri Lanka during the months of June to September 2012. The study focused specifically on the sale of alcohol and tobacco to persons below the age of twenty one, which is prohibited under Section 31 of the NATA Act.

The methodology of the study involved sending young volunteers from the districts to randomly selected sales outlets to make purchases of alcohol and tobacco products. Responses received by the volunteers in each outlet were then recorded. Findings of the study revealed that approximately seventy nine percent of the outlets visited sold cigarettes to the volunteers and approximately ninety eight percent sold alcohol products. The study further revealed fourteen ways in which the NATA Act is undermined so that its proper implementation is hampered. For instance, when legal action is taken representatives from the industries appear on behalf of the accused and lawyers hired by the industries present challenges which the government is unable to counteract due to the lack of resources. It was also revealed that the NATA institution has been made completely defunct as the government has not allocated sufficient man power and resources for its maintenance. Following the study, a meeting was organized by FISD and HLAD with the participation of several experts working in the field of alcohol and drug prevention at which a list of ten recommendations was prepared through discussion. The list was eventually submitted to the Minister of Health.

Key Words: Industry Strategies, Alcohol Policies, National Authority on Tobacco and Alcohol

Introduction

Strategies towards undermining actions to prevent alcohol use in Sri Lanka are as old as the preventive actions themselves. The first initiatives towards preventing the sale and use of alcohol in the country were taken during the latter stages of the British Colonial rule which lasted from 1796 - 1948. Though Sri Lanka was more or less alcohol free prior to European colonization, the situation began to change gradually with colonization which began in 1515 with the arrival of the Portuguese, who were followed by the Dutch and finally, the British. Throughout the centuries of European rule, alcohol became a part of life, even a passion, especially among the Sri Lankan elite. It was during the British rule that the use of alcohol began to spread throughout the country to reach a broader segment of the population. The introduction of the Excise Act in 1912 which despite claiming to regulate the sale of liquor, in actuality facilitated the proliferation of liquor sales outlets by providing traders throughout the country with licenses to buy and sell alcohol legally. At the very outset, it became obvious that public health was not an area of concern in this venture and that the Excise Act was intended mainly for the purpose of collecting revenue for the government.

Early national level campaigns opposing the trade of alcohol in the country began in the final stages of the British colonial period. While the Excise Act was still on the agenda of the British rulers, a section of the elite of Sri Lanka (then Ceylon) united to form a campaign in protest of its implementation. The thus formed Temperance Movement backed by Buddhism and anti-colonialism also became a frontline movement of the National Independence Movement, a larger movement taking place during the time demanding independence from Britain. The Temperance Movement, which resulted in a significant reduction in the number of taverns throughout the country, was seen by the governing British as a direct attack on their imperialist regime which benefited greatly from the revenue generated by the alcohol industry. Activists involved in the Movement, including the first Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, Honorable D. S. Senanayake, faced severe opposition which on the part of the British backed by institutions working to their benefit such as the police force. Activists if caught met with serious consequences that often consisted of imprisonment lasting up to six months. Activists were also attacked physically during demonstrations and many were killed. In the early temperance movement was somewhat successful in drawing attention to the need for action towards preventing alcohol and tobacco use. In the latter half of the 20th century activists in the field of alcohol prevention were of the opinion that the work of the Temperance Movement was slow when taken in a more contemporary context and requested the organizing of a new, more active movement. In response to this request, President Ranasinghe Premadasa, then President of Sri Lanka, appointed a special committee to inquire into the need for the prevention of alcohol and tobacco use during the year 2014. The action of this committee came to an abrupt end with President Premadasa's sudden demise.

The succeeding President of Sri Lanka, Mrs. Chandrika Kumaratunga, appointed a new committee in 2014 to continue the work of the previous committee. The report submitted by this committee received approval from the Cabinet of Ministers and the prevention of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs became a component of the national policy. An act to enforce the policy directives was prepared by then Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs and a gazette to this effect was published though there was no further processing took place. There is evidence to prove that the lack of action that followed the initial enthusiasm and the treating of alcohol as

a matter of low priority on the part of the government was the result of interference and manipulation from the alcohol and tobacco industries. It was revealed that industry giants such as the biggest shareholder of the alcohol industry in Sri Lanka, the chairman of the Sri Lanka Distilleries Corporation and the chairman of the Sri Lanka Tobacco Company personally influenced President Kumaratunga into following a course of action favourable to them. The alcohol and tobacco industries also presented shares to family members of the ruling dynasty through whom it was possible to manipulate the government.

Following a prolonged period in which alcohol, tobacco and drug prevention received scant attention at national level, in the year 2005, a Member of Parliament, Dr. Rev. Omalpe Sobitha brought a bill with the same content as the aforementioned act addressing the enforcement of policy directives. This bill met opposition almost immediately with the alcohol and tobacco industries taking quick action to undermine it by filing charges against it on the grounds that it infringes on the rights of the industries guaranteed by the provisions of the Constitution of Sri Lanka. The actions taken by the industries were however quashed by the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka with some amendments to the bill. At this juncture, the Minister of Health took on the responsibility of presenting a new bill on the prevention of alcohol and tobacco, with the new amendments added, before the parliament. When the new bill was included in the gazette for public information in accordance with the law, the industries took legal action claiming that some of its provisions did not conform to the guarantees assured by the Constitution of Sri Lanka and placed activists as intervenient petitioners for the case. Though the Supreme Court nullified the petition on the grounds that the provisions of the act did not infringe the rights of industries and individual users, the process of the case was by no means smooth. It was noted that though the original bill defined an alcoholic beverage as any drink containing at least 1% alcohol, when the Minister presented the bill in parliament, the permissible alcohol content had risen to 4% thereby exempting beer and other drinks with low alcohol content from being subject to legal action. This was undoubtedly a result of manipulation of the Minister of Health on the part of the Alcohol industry. This misguided interpretation of alcohol appearing in the amended bill was pointed out to the Supreme Court and corrective measures were taken.

National level action on alcohol, tobacco, and drug prevention continued since then and as a result, the National Authority on Tobacco and Alcohol (NATA) was established under the purview of the Ministry of Health and the act pertaining to the authority, the NATA Act No. 27 of 2006, was passed in parliament in the year 2006. As indicated in its preamble, the NATA Act was intended as an act that provided for the identification of the policy protecting public health for the elimination of tobacco and alcohol related harm. As stated clearly in its preamble, the NATA Act aims at the elimination of tobacco and alcohol related harm through the assessment and monitoring of the production, marketing, and consumption of tobacco and alcohol products and making provision to discourage individuals, especially children, from using these products by curtailing their access to them. This paper discusses the national level policies towards the prevention of alcohol and tobacco use, particularly the NATA Act, focusing on the strategies employed by the alcohol and tobacco industries towards undermining this Act.

The National Authority on Tobacco and Alcohol and the NATA Act

The National Authority on Tobacco and Alcohol, or NATA, is composed of fourteen members, six of whom represent the Ministries of Health, Justice, Education, Media, Trade, Sports, and Youth

Affairs. Other members of NATA consist of the Chairman of the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board, a representative of the Commissioner General of Excise, a representative of the Inspector General of the Police, and five other members appointed by the Minister of Health from among persons with experience and knowledge in the field of medicine, and other fields related to alcohol and tobacco products. The NATA has been given the authority to conduct several functions such as the appointment of officers and servants necessary for the implementation of the NATA Act. Much to the dismay of all interested parties however, no such officer or servant has been appointed yet making the authority almost dysfunctional. Though there is no direct evidence to prove this, circumstantial evidence shows that the failure to appoint officers and servants to the NATA is a result of the influence of the alcohol and tobacco industries on the responsible senior officials.

The NATA Act consists of thirteen provisions covering the prevention and elimination of both alcohol and tobacco, four of which focus specifically on tobacco products. While one of these provisions concentrates solely on alcohol in relation to the Motor Traffic Act, the other eight provisions deal with both alcohol and tobacco products.

Section 31 of the Act prohibits the sale, the offer for sale, and the permission and promotion of the sale of alcohol and tobacco products to persons below 21 years of age. This provision is envisaged to reduce the chances of youngsters accessing these products towards the ultimate objective of bringing about the delay in the initiation of the use of alcohol and tobacco.

Section 32 of the NATA Act prohibits the installing of vending machines for dispensing alcohol and tobacco products. This section aims at further restricting the availability of these products especially among children and adolescents which in turn is expected to result in the delay in the initiation of the use of alcohol and tobacco as well as the reduction of the use of these substances among the existing users. It must be noted however that neither the alcohol nor the tobacco industries have ventured to install vending machines in the country to date and that Section 32 is more or less a precautionary measure.

Section 35 of the NATA Act, dealing with the prohibition of the advertising of alcohol and tobacco, is a measure taken towards minimizing the promotion of these products in the country. This section describes advertisements as any form of distinctive writing (still or moving), pictures, signs, and symbols or other visual images, audible messages, or combination of the aforementioned methods that promote or are intended to promote the purchase and consumption of alcohol and tobacco products. The section also covers the use of symbols registered as trademarks representing alcohol or tobacco products or brand names of these products or the names of their manufacturers.

Section 36 of the NATA Act prohibits the obtaining of sponsorships from the manufacturers of alcohol and tobacco products with the aim of avoiding activities that promote alcohol through educational, social, cultural, or sporting events. It is expected that this action would play a part in tarnishing the image of alcohol as perceived by the audience and organizing committees as supportive materials for special events. The provision targets the human tendency to become linear towards sponsors whom they perceive as making special events possible which in turn acts as an indirect form of advertising for alcohol and tobacco products.

Section 37 of the Act prohibits the free distribution of alcohol and tobacco products. The prohibition is effective for the direct distribution of these products by the traders themselves as well as for subsequent distribution through other parties. Free distribution may also take place at the events described in Section 36 and within military motor cross events. Such indirect promotions are yet another example of the shrewd undermining strategies employed by the alcohol and tobacco industries.

Section 38 of the NATA Act deals with offences committed pertaining to trademarks, characteristic symbols, distinctive logos, or brand names of tobacco and alcohol products. This section prohibits the sale of products (that are not tobacco and alcohol products) that bear the trademarks, characteristic symbols, logos, or brand names of the latter, aiming at further restricting the indirect advertising of tobacco and alcohol products. Examples of the products referred to in Section 38 include T-shirts, hats, caps shirts, bags, etc, that bears the aforementioned symbols and marks of tobacco and alcohol products.

The above description of the NATA Act proves that it is as a whole a far reaching act that aims at eliminating the use and trade of alcohol and tobacco products as well one that takes precautionary measures to prevent the direct and indirect promotion and the availability of these products. The Act is in itself comprehensive and could bring about significant positive changes if properly implemented. It has been found however that there have been several lapses and discrepancies in the implementation of the NATA Act. This is discussed further in the following sections.

Implementation of the NATA Act

The organizations HLAD and FISS are currently in the process of undertaking studies to assess the efficacy of the implementation of the provisions of the NATA Act and to identify the subtle strategies employed by the industry to undermine the implementation of the Act. The first of these studies was conducted by these two organizations from June to September 2012 exploring the extent to which Sub-sections I and II of Section 31 of the NATA Act, concerning the sale of alcohol and tobacco to persons below 21 years of age, are implemented. The study aimed at addressing concerns that regarding discrepancies in the implementation of this section based on reports of alcohol and tobacco products being sold to all customers regardless of age. FISS and HLAD conducted the study in many districts across the country from which samples of sales outlets for alcohol and tobacco products were selected.

Both organization surveyed total of 95 alcohol selling outlets and total of 507 tobacco selling outlets. A group of youth, all males below the age of 21 years, was used as decoys to purchase relevant products. These decoys were volunteers working with the two organizations for the cause of the reduction of supply and demand of alcohol and tobacco products. The data shows that an overwhelming majority of the outlets sold tobacco and alcohol products to the decoy thus revealing major drawbacks in the implementation of the NATA Act. The findings of FISS's and HLAD's studies are described below.

Aims and Objectives

The main objective of the study is to measure the extent to which the NATA act is being adhered to in day to day circumstances by observing whether or not the rule that "cigarettes and alcohol

should not be sold to persons below twenty one years of age” as per Subsections I and II under Section 31 of the NATA act.

Apart from the main objective, the study also aims at:

1. Assessing the ways in which the age of the customer is ascertained when selling cigarettes and alcohol
2. Finding whether or not age is a deciding factor when selling cigarettes and alcohol
3. Proposing solutions for the instances in which the laws regarding the sale of cigarettes and alcohol to minors are not followed

Field of Research

The study was conducted in nine provinces in Sri Lanka from each of which one district was randomly selected to represent the entire province. Two District Secretariat (DS) divisions were then randomly selected from each district. A total of eighteen DS divisions were thus selected as the field of study representative of Sri Lanka as a whole.

Table 01: The Breakdown of the Research Field

Province	District	DS Division
Southern	Hambantota	Angunakolapelessa/Tangalle
Western	Gampaha	Gampaha/Meerigama
Sabaragamuwa	Rathnapura	Rathnapura/Kuruwita
Wayamba	Kurunegala	Kurunegala/Giriula
Northern	Jaffna	Jaffna/Nallur
North Central	Anuradhapura	Mihinthale/Anuradhapura
Uwa	Moneragala	Moneragala/Buththala
Central	Matale	Raththota/Matale
Eastern	Trincomalee	Trincomalee

The Sample

The sample of the study comprised an opportunistic sample which included twenty shops selling cigarettes and five shops selling alcohol in each DS division. The rationale behind using an opportunistic sample is that in terms of achieving the objectives of the study, such a sample would be more likely to ensure accuracy and reliability. It is also understood that the given sample size would be sufficient to achieve the intended objectives as well as effectively manage the cost of the study. The number of cigarette and alcohol selling outlets (i.e. twenty of the former type and five of the latter type in each DS division) was selected in proportion to the actual number of these outlets distributed throughout the country.

Methodology

The field survey method was employed in the collection of data and the data thus collected was recorded on Information Collection Forms. A group of youth, all males, below twenty one years of age was selected as Field Investigators. They were given the task of going in to selected

outlets and purchasing cigarettes or alcohol. The study was based on the reactions they faced at these outlets when making the purchase. Here it must be mentioned that there were instances when even seventeen year old youths who are active participants in alcohol prevention activities at community level volunteered to participate in the survey and were included in the group on request.

Thus, the youth included in the survey as Field Investigators, participated voluntarily, and belong to FISSD's Action Groups that function towards the prevention of drugs, tobacco and alcohol. All aspects of the study were explained to the volunteers prior to the survey and a workshop was held to make them aware of alcohol, tobacco, and other addictive substances.

Following the visit the outlets, the Field Investigators were required to fill in an Information Collection Form, stating whether or not they were successful in making their purchase, and recording their observations on the outlet. Immediately after the purchase and the completion of the Information Collection Form, the former was put into an envelope and sealed, and the latter was attached to the envelope. The process was supervised by an officer from the organization who also endorsed the information given on the Information Collection Forms.

The rationale behind the selection of youth of Field investigators between 17 and 21 years of age was that not only would they be more likely to provide a more accurate picture of the sale of alcohol and tobacco to youngsters, this age group is particularly susceptible to alcohol and tobacco use. The rationale behind including only males in the group of investigators is that in Sri Lanka, males are more likely to use alcohol and tobacco than females. It must also be added that this study would be beneficial to youngsters below 21 years of age as well as it would create a deeper understanding of that age group which would facilitate better informed and more efficient activities in preventing and curing youth from addiction to these substances. It is expected that the methodology, the field of research, the sample, and the objectives would be appropriate and effective in understanding the way in which laws regarding alcohol and tobacco are followed in Sri Lankan Society.

Findings of the Studies

The study Conducted by FISSD revealed that out of the total 213 outlets in the sample, 169 outlets sold cigarettes to decoys. This data shows that on average 98.7 % of the outlets sell alcohol and 79.32 % of the outlets sell tobacco products, namely cigarettes to persons below the age of 21 years.

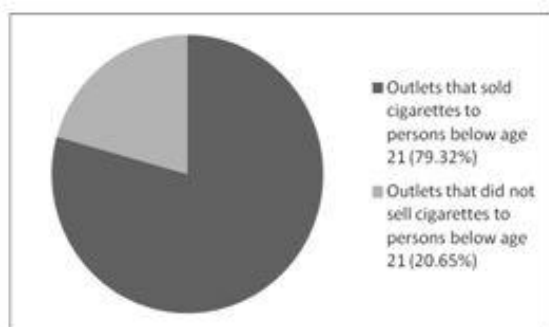


Figure 01: The sale of cigarettes to minors. (FISSD)

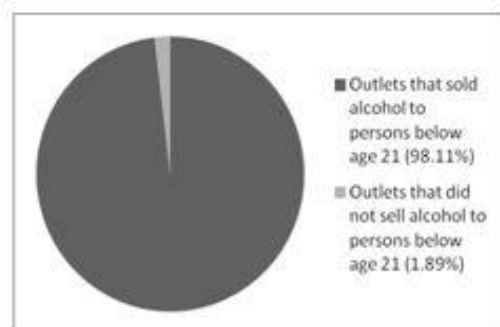


Figure 2: The sale of alcohol to minors. (FISSD)

Survey data of HLAD visualize a similar trend with only slight variation. HLAD’s findings indicate that 93.3 % of the sell alcohol and 77.32 % of cigarette selling outlets sell tobacco products, namely cigarettes to persons below the age of 21 years



Figure 03: The sale of alcohol to minors. (HLAD) Figure 04: The sale of cigarettes to minors (HLAD)

The data shows an alarming rate of ineffectivity of the implementation of the law relating to the section 31 of the NATA Act.

The findings of the studies were used to develop a discussion on the implementation of the NATA Act with other civil society representative and relevant parties. Through the discussion FISS and HLAD were successful in revealing eight ways in which the Act is undermined.

Undermining Strategies of the Industry

There are several hidden yet highly efficient strategies adapted by the industry to weaken or nullify the successful implementation of the NATA Act. Some of those strategies are as follows.

1. Filing cases against the enactment of laws and against the revisions of laws in the country arguing some sections of such acts infringes the rights of the industry in particular and the economy of the country in general.

When the first bill for the NATA act was submitted to the Order Paper of the Parliament of Sri Lanka, the alcohol and tobacco industries and some distributors filed cases challenging the enactment of the Act on the grounds that it infringed their rights guaranteed under statute 10, 12 (1) and 14 (1) (g) of the Constitution of Sri Lanka. As per Statute 10, “Every person is entitled to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, including the freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice”. The industries argued that freedom of thought and conscience were infringed upon. However, the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka decided otherwise. Statute 12 (1) states that “All persons are equal before the law and are entitled to the equal protection of the law”. Arguments based on this statute put forward by the industries were also quashed by the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka. Statute 14 (1) (g) states that “Every citizen is entitled to the freedom to engage by himself or in association with others in any lawful occupation, profession, trade, business or enterprise”. Supreme Court of Sri Lanka did not accept the arguments made by the industries under this statute as well. That the alcohol and tobacco industries were working together in presenting these arguments became clearly visible during this time.

A perfect example of the undermining strategies used by the alcohol and tobacco industries is seen in the tactics used against the printing of pictorial warnings of cigarette packs. Following the enactment of the NATA Act which contains provisions for any minister to bring about regulations through a gazette notification, the Minister of Health issued a gazette stating that pictorial warnings should be printed covering 80% of the surface area of all packs of cigarettes sold in the country. Opposing the administrative division of the Court of Appeal, the tobacco industry filed a petition opposing this gazette. This result in a long series of legal proceedings which delayed the implementation of pictorial warmings. During this period it was clearly visible that the alcohol and tobacco industries were working in support of each other. This became even more obvious when it was noted that lawyers representing the alcohol industry were also present among lawyers representing the tobacco industry at court hearings regarding the printing of pictorial warnings. Delaying tactics, for example filing appeals at the Supreme Court and the Court of appeal regarding trivial matters and technical issues, were also used by the industries to prolong the legal proceedings thereby delaying the printing of pictorial warnings. The industries however were unsuccessful in maintaining their stance and the court ruling was infavour of the NATA Act. However, it became obvious that the alcohol industry was observing the tobacco industry's actions and failings carefully and learning from them.

2. Providing legal assistance to violators of the law provisions during the hearing of cases.

Since the authorised officers responsible for the implementation of the NATA Act are not experts on legal systems, evidence law, the penal code, the criminal procedure code etc, all of which are required in successfully arguing a case in the court. At every attempt made by these authorities in taking legal action against perpetrators of the NATA Act however, the alcohol and tobacco industries take steps to jeopardize the prosecuting officers by employing leading lawyers to represent the violators of the NATA Act. Another tactic employed by the industries was to hire a group of lawyers to compile a book of misleading false interpretations of the NATA Act whilst posing as independent lawyers. . This This book was then published and distributed before the any other book could be released resulting in the general public, the judiciary, and the prosecuting officers becoming biased towards the NATA Act. At this time, the NATA was also in the process of compiling a book of guidelines in implementing the NATA Act. The industries bought over the more active lawyers among those hired by NATA to include false information and distort the existing information in the book so that the resulting publication contained more errors than the previos book released by the industries.

FISD and HLAD worked relentlessly towards undoing the damage caused by these actions conducting training programmes on proper legal procedures for prosecuting officers and awareness programmes on the NATA Act to educate the general public. Both organizations also provide assistance to any implementing officer seeking to file a case against violators of the Act.

3. Raising objections in court based on trivial grounds by lawyers retrained by the alcohol and tobacco industries claiming that authorised officers cannot implement the NATA act without the consent of the police.

The alcohol and tobacco industries have been known to attempt to make use of any linguistic ambiguities in the NATA Act, interpreting it to their advantage. Objections were raised in courts as stated above by creating an argument on a grammatical error in Sinhala Language version of the printed Act and making objection of the validity of a raid conducted by one category of officers. Fortunately, most of the judges of the Magistrate Courts made judgements citing the preamble of the Act in which its purpose is indicated as the prevention and reduction of the supply and demand of alcohol and tobacco while preventing the access to persons below 21 years of age.

4. Misinterpreting the provisions of the NATA Act through industry sponsored lawyers.

The misinterpretation of the Act presented by lawyers sponsored by the industries was that as per section 43 (4) of the NATA Act a letter from the chairperson of NATA was a compulsory requirement for all authorised officers pressing charges against violators. Contrary to these claims however, it was made clear that all authorised officers appointed under section 16 of the act are public officers as defined by Statute 170 of the Constitution of Sri Lanka and Establishment Code of Sri Lanka for State Officers according to which all public officers have the power to file a case at the Magistrate Court as provided in sub Section 136 (1) of the Criminal Procedure Court of Sri Lanka.

HLAD and FISS are in the process of clarifying such misinterpretations to authorised officers and improve their confidence to implement the law.

5. Installing notices at sales outlets indicating the prohibition of selling of alcohol products to persons below the age of 21 years of age.

These notices had the hidden motive of attracting the attention of youth by making alcohol and tobacco symbolic of adulthood. It was expected that through these notices youngsters would be deceived into perceiving the use alcohol and tobacco products as a daring feat and viewing those who attempt it as being at a psychological advantage over other non-using youngsters of the same age group. Awareness programmes especially targetting youth are thus an important component of FISS's and HLAD's prevention programmes.

6. Providing sponsorships and alcohol free of charge and at events such as the motor cross races organized by the military forces.

Although the providing of sponsorships and the distribution of alcohol free of charge at social events were stopped almost completely following the initiation of the NATA Act, the alcohol industry still play a major role in the motor cross events organized by the security forces i.e. the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force. It is very rare that an authorised officer attends this type of event and takes legal actions against the

organizers within a military premise. This is again a cowardly, undermining strategy of the industry to sponsor and advertise their products.

7. Getting the support of the artists such as the producers of TV Serials and films to include scenes depicting the use of alcohol so as to develop positive expectations on it in their productions claiming that such scenes are essential in maintaining the quality of the production.

While TV serials and films often contain scenes depicting alcohol and tobacco use, some may not show such scenes directly but would instead contain words or sentences generally associated with occasions at which alcohol is generally consumed.

Although the direct advertising of alcohol and tobacco products are curtailed by the provision under section 35 of the NATA Act, the application of this in films and television dramas is yet to be seen. This has given rise to an argument between artists and activists. Certain TV series and films are funded by the industries so as to promote their products among viewers using popular artists. The industry also influences TV stations to televise programmes that target children such as cartoons, that depict alcohol use positively. This is yet another example of the subtle advertising strategies used by the alcohol and tobacco industries at present.

8. The infiltration of lawyers on the payroll of the alcohol and tobacco industries into the panel of lawyers appointed by NATA to provide training on the NATA Act to the implementing authorities. The infiltrating lawyers discourage those receiving training from filing cases concerning violations of the Act.

9. The influencing of some senior officials to take steps towards making the NATA Authority defunct.

As a result of these actions no support staff have been recruited to the NATA to date. The authority also receives limited funding to conduct its activities. Though an office premises has been purchased the premises remains closed and unused. Also notable is the absence of officials representing the NATA Act despite there being provisions for such officials in the Act. It is very likely that such negligence on the part of the responsible senior officials is a result of manipulation on the part of the alcohol and tobacco industries.

10. The buying over of some of those in the panel of authors appointed by NATA responsible for compiling the book of guidelines on the implementation of the NATA Act. The panelists under the influence of the industries included false and misleading information in the book that would result in the misinterpretation of the NATA Act.

11. Lobbying with the Ministry of Finance towards ensuring that increases in the price of alcohol would not exceed the increase in the cost of living thereby maintaining the cost of alcohol at a relatively cheap price.

12. Developing an image of the NATA Act among the authorities and the general public, as weak and containing errors. This has created a disadvantageous situation for those filing cases against violators of the NATA Act. The industry has been successful influencing senior officials responsible for activities pertaining to the NATA using this image to create a reluctance among them to act on the provisions in the NATA Act. Senior officials have been led to believe that the NATA Act is weak and ineffective when in reality it is strong and powerful, and they therefore treat it as a matter of low priority. Implementing officers are thus unable to file cases under the NATA Act as a result of inaction on the part of their seniors.

13. The setting up of branches of “Machang”, a supposedly affordable chain of pubs especially targetting youth.

Machang is a recently established chain of pubs that has branches emerging in the suburban areas surrounding Colombo. The attractive advertizing that claims to offer alcohol and high quality food at very reasonable prices and emphasizes the “convenient” location of the pubs clearly indicate that Machang targets the middle class residing in suburban areas. Promotions of the pubs also boast a predominantly male setting in which smoking is allowed freely. Though evidence has emerged revealing that the chain of pubs is owned by Lion Breweries, a major company belonging to the local alcohol industry, the industry itself maintains a notorious silence on Machang’s ownership.

14. Organizing events under proxy organizations at which alcohol is freely distributed.

It has come to be known that the alcohol industry is actively involved with hotels and other major companies in organizing events targetting highly commercialized international holidays such as Valentine’s Day and Oktoberfest. The organizers of these events offer special packages, for example tickets priced at 5,000 with which special benefits including for example, two complimentary bottles of beer are offered. When inquiries are made from the organizers taking into account the NATA Act’s prohibition of the free distribution of alcohol at public events, the response is always that the cost of the ticket is inclusive of the alcohol and that the latter is therefore not distributed free.

Policy Advocacy

The findings of FISC’s and HLAD’s studies shown above were then conveyed to the Honourable Minister of Health with the participation of one Member of Parliament, and the Chairman of the NATA. Also included were the recommendations of the two organizations compiled through a forum spearheaded by local communities with whom the organizations worked towards reducing the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. The Minister of Health accepted the recommendations favourably and promised to work with FISC and HLAD in fulfilling the requirements indicated in the alcohol policy on alcohol, tobacco and drug prevention as well as in implementing the laws and regulations with respect to the prevention and reduction in the supply and demand of the alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.

The recommendations submitted to the Honourable Minister of Health are as follows.

1. The implementation of the provisions of the act and prosecution of violators of the provisions appears to occupy a relatively low priority in the list of official duties of the authorised officers appointed under the section 16 of the NATA Act. As such, it has become imperative to change this existing situation, and therefore it is recommended that steps be taken by the authority to issue orders, to make this activity a priority in the job descriptions of these officers, and to devise a methodology to monitor the progress of implementation of the NATA Act especially regarding litigation in courts.

This lack of interest in the implementation of NATA act is due to the fact that the authorised officers are not officers of the NATA but rather, belong to 3 external agencies. While the Public Health Inspectors (PHIs) and Food and Drug Inspectors (FDIs) are under the purview of the Director of Health Services, the excise officers come under the Commissioner General of Excise, and police officers come under the Inspector General of Police. These officers therefore do not bear a sense of ownership concerning the NATA Act and therefore treat it as secondary to their other responsibilities which they see as more important. It is therefore necessary to develop a mechanism so as to improve the sense of ownership of the NATA Act among these officers and to give priority to its implementation among authorized officers as appearing in section 16 of the Act.

2. As indicated above, officials responsible for enforcing the NATA Act belong to several departments and ministries as there is no group primarily responsible for its implementation. As a result, there is reluctance among all departments and institutions concerned to bear total responsibility for implementing the NATA Act. This was further hampered by the delay in recruiting the officers and servants necessary for the proper functioning of the NATA. It is therefore necessary to take action to curb this situation by strengthening the NATA. Until then, it is recommended that special units in each department be established dedicated to the implementation of the NATA Act (units similar to for example, the environment special units set up at all police stations to work exclusively in matters related to environment).
3. Officers and servants could be appointed to act on Section 15 (d) and Section 21 of the NATA Act. This process may however, be time consuming. Therefore, it is recommended that public sector officials be appointed as specified in the Act. The officers thus appointed could take legal action in cases concerning the violations mentioned in the Act with the powers vested in them through a written statement issued by the relevant authorities as per Section 43 – (4). This could be done by employing Development Officers from among the experienced graduates recently recruited to the public sector who are currently working in various government offices including offices including the Ministry of Health.
4. It is often reported that when a case of violations concerning alcohol or tobacco is taken up in courts, on many occasions the industry sponsors lawyers to represent the defendants (violators) and that these lawyers make objections to the charges on technical reasons thereby postponing or refuting the case. While it is necessary to arrange for the relevant officers to receive the knowledge required in presenting counter objections to the objections made by the opposing party, an organized process

should be established at particular departments where authorised officers get the necessary advice from the Attorney General's Department as quickly as possible whenever they require assistance.

5. While a system to encourage and promote officers and provide incentives should be established, a secure environment should also be created in order to enable these officers to carry out their duties without any fear of opposition.

In fact, provisions for protection of authorised officers were included in the bill. The provision under Section 25 is short titled in the bill as "Protection for action taken under this act or on the direction of the Authority" which reads as follows.

(1) No action or prosecution shall be instituted –

(a). against the authority, for any act, which in good faith is done by the authority under this act; or

(b). against any member, officer or servant of the authority for any act which in good faith is done or purported to be done by him under this act or on the direction of the authority.

(2) Any expenses incurred by any such person as is referred to in sub section (1), in any action or prosecution instituted against him in respect of any act which is done by him under this act or on the direction of the authority shall be paid out of the fund of the authority, if the Court holds that such act was done in good faith.

However, when the final bill was submitted to the parliament, only subsection (2) was included with the omission of sub section (1). In addition, it was noted that another protection provision included under Section 26 of the Act is also omitted in the final bill. The provision is short titled in the previous bill as "No writ to be issued against a member, officer or servant of the authority" and reads as follows:

"No writ against the person or property shall be issued against any member of the authority or any officer or servant of the authority in any action brought against the authority. "

It is possible that these omissions are an undermining strategy of tobacco and alcohol industries involving the influencing of the relevant officers engaged in the preparation of the NATA Act. The omissions negatively affect the successful implementation of the Act as authorized officers are reluctant to take action against offenders due to inadequate protection provisions included in it.

Sections 25 and 26 in fact do not protect authorised officers who are not members, officers or servants of the authority although they were appointed by the Minister of Health to implement the NATA Act. Therefore, it has become necessary to include additional sections to the Act that include such authorized officers into the description.

6. In studying the required facts to take legal action against those who violate certain sections of the NATA Act especially in violations concerning the sale of alcohol and

tobacco products to persons below the age of 21 years it was necessary to use decoys. This shows a necessity for children and youth trained in prevention activities and in investigating the implementation of preventive measures. It is therefore essential to form child and youth groups under the relevant offices at which personnel authorized to implement the NATA Act. Prevention activities should be initiated through these groups.

7. While much advocacy has been carried out for the National Authority on Tobacco and Alcohol Act No. 27 of 2006, it may be said that the Act is as a whole, fairly strong. Nevertheless, various forces are involved in spreading the idea that it is a weak act and publicizing the false unfounded notion that it is incapable of strongly imposing effective legal action. This image is spread especially by industry sponsored lawyers due to whom the authorities responsible for taking action become discouraged. While there is evidence to show that the alcohol and tobacco companies were involved in putting together a petition to be presented at the Supreme Court against the NATA Act when a draft of the Act was presented to the parliament, it has also been reported that officers engaged on the preparation of laws and their superiors in command have occasionally faced threats of various forms for which the alcohol and tobacco industries are undoubtedly responsible. It is therefore essential to strongly establish the Act and provide the necessary motivation to implement the relevant laws effectively. FISS and HLAD are currently working towards this by conducting training and awareness programmes for the authorised officers.
8. The Ministry of Health must take steps to revise the existing act looking for and correcting the errors within it, for example such as sub Section 17 (9) and sub Section 38 (1), with the help of the parliament. Steps should also be taken to include provisions such as provisions that ensure protection to those responsible for implementing the Act. This would greatly help to boost the NATA and strengthen the NATA Act. It must be noted that though action in this direction was taken in the past, the efforts were unsuccessful. Once again, this was most probably the result of undermining tactics on the part of the alcohol and tobacco industries.
9. The Honourable Minister of Health to publicly requested from the legislative and commercial unions, via the mass media, that the prevention of alcohol and tobacco be considered a legal, health and religious issue and that the sale of these substances in any form to persons below the age of 21 be avoided expressing that it the participation of the public is important in implementing the political will in the country.
10. The Minister of Health should take leadership in enforcing the NATA Act, making Sri Lanka an example to other countries in alcohol and tobacco control activities.

Conclusion

Over the years since the NATA Act was introduced, it has become clear that the alcohol and tobacco industries have made and continue to make constant effort to search for ways and means to undermine its implementation. Industry strategies expand from weakening the enactment of the laws and regulations to creating obstacles to their implementation. The industries have to date, filed cases on two occasions during the enactment of the NATA Act when the government inserted the bill concerning alcohol, tobacco and drug prevention into the

order paper of the Parliament of Sri Lanka. The Ministry of Health, with the assistance of the Attorney General's Department and activists' organizations, vehemently works to nullify the arguments brought before the Supreme Court by the industries and fortunately. The stance of the Supreme Court has so far been in favour of the objectives of the NATA Act.

HLAD and FISD continue to scrutinize and peruse the Act carefully and have discovered some errors and omissions some of which indicated above. The two organizations are in the process of forwarding these lapses to the relevant authorities. Further, FISD and HLAD continue to work tirelessly to make the communities aware of the industry strategies to undermine the implementation of the NATA Act. This is done by keeping the communities abreast of the new trends introduced by the industries from time to time and raising their awareness of the real harm of alcohol to health, to the economy, and to personal as well as family happiness. The organizations also strive to make communities aware of the social injustices of alcohol use in society. Guidance is also being given to the communities towards unlearning the commonly accepted beliefs on alcohol and viewing alcohol as it is in reality, an unpleasant and tasteless substance. Whilst the above steps are being taken at community level, at national level there is a necessity to strengthen the NATA by appointing relevant officers and servants and allocating adequate funds to implement the law more effectively than at present while facing and defeating undermining strategies and actions of the alcohol and tobacco industries.

References

- White D., Pitts M. (1998). *Educating young people about drug: a systematic review*, University of York, New York
- Mcbride N. (2003). *Systematic literature review of the school drug education*, Drug Research Institute, Western Australia, Australia
- De Silva, D. G. H. & Hobbs, C. (2000). *Child abuse: A manual for medical officers in Sri Lanka*, The National Child protection Authority of Sri Lanka, Colombo.
- Fernandopulle S., Thalagala N.I, Barraclough S. (2002). *Mental health in Sri Lanka: Challenges for Primary Care*. Australian Journal of Primary Health, Australia
- Thalagala (2003). *Physical, Emotional, & Sexual Abuse of Children in Sri Lanka - Parents' and children's perspectives*. Unpublished report. Unicef. Colombo.
- Belcher HM, Shinitzky HE. (1998) *Substance abuse in children: prediction, protection, and prevention*, Arch Pediatr Adolescent, Med Journal, Australia
- Black DR, Tobler NS, Sciacca JP. (1998). *Peer Helping/involvement: an efficacious way to meet the challenge of reducing alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use among youth?* Journal of School Health, India
- Bryan A, Moran R, Farrell E, O'Brien M. (200). *Drug-Related Knowledge, Attitudes and Beliefs in Ireland: Report of a Nation-Wide Survey*. Dublin: The Health Research Board, Ireland

4

Situational Analysis on Living Conditions of Gunasinghapura Housing Scheme

Ishari Udeshika Gunarathne

Lecturer

School of Social Work

National Institute of Social Development

E-mail: udeshi_gunarathna@yahoo.com

Sharanee Fernando

Counselling and Communication Executive

Management and Science University

E-mail : sharaneefernando@gmail.com

Abstract

In Sri Lanka people migrate internally from rural and remote areas to urban areas in search employment, education, and to fulfill other personnel expectations. The highest internal migration is reported in Colombo metropolitan in Sri Lanka. As a result variety of consequences occurred and diverse socio, economic, cultural problems are visible.

This study was conducted in Gunasinghepura housing scheme located in Wellavidiya of Colombo 12. The Housing scheme consisted of 10 main housing blocks. Out of the total housing blocks 05 housing blocks were selected on random basis and there were 200 of families within these housing blocks and out of this 1/3 which is 65 of families represented the sample. Data were gathered by using Questionnaires , Home Visits , Discussions with formal & Informal community leaders , Focused group Discussions (FGD) and community meetings.

According to the findings of the study mainly four higher agreed needs were identified and implementation was done with the assistance of DS office, Social Worker and the Volunteer Group formed in the community. Mainly three needs were prioritized by the community on awareness on available services at DS office, awareness on education, family planning and income management and increase of low income families. During the period of 06 months to address the needs expressed by the community members, 06 activities were carried out. During the process of implementation following recommendations were derived. Education on Income Management and Personal and Public Hygiene, Empowerment & Career Guidance for the Youth, Awareness on Human rights and Strengthening the link between Gunasinghepura Community and DS Office

Key Words: *Planned Settlements, Community Work, Living Condition, Resource Identification*

Introduction

Due to rapid growth of economic, political and social activities in the recent decades, there has been a movement of population from rural to urban areas in search of employment opportunities and better living. Internal migration together with the natural increase of population in urban areas increased the demand for housing. In 1965, the government first recognized the importance of providing housing especially in urban areas where the problem is acute and attempted to give Immediate solutions by implementing multi story and single story housing projects. The government of 1970 viewed the magnitude of the problem from different dimensions. While giving consideration to socio legal aspects such as the ownership of housing, considerable attempts have been taken to increase the number of housing for people with housing need. In 1977, the new Government ventured into significant and ambitious attempts to increase the existing housing in the island aiming at a house owning society. A distinct and separate Authority, "The National Housing Development Authority "was established to implement and promote massive housing programs such as One Hundred Thousand Housing Program and One Million Housing programs.

The next government elected in 1994 viewed at solving this problem at a different dimension. Realizing the need for high density housing in urban areas with increasing land scarcity and the government stopped assistance given to slums and shanties upgrading and initiated a programme to relocate slum and shanty dwellers in flats built by the government. Multi story apartments or 'flats' as they are popularly known have become one of the commonest public housing types in Sri Lanka in fulfilling the need of housing in urban areas especially within the city of Colombo and its suburbs. This has become necessary due to the increased demand for land resulting in increased prices for them. Thus the availability of limited resources pushed governments and authorities to invest in these vertical residential buildings.

It was completed in 1985 by the housing development authority which has 312 houses and 316 shops. The housing scheme is consisted of 10 housing blocks from 'A' to 'K' including groceries and shops in the basements of each block. The urban poor of Colombo area who are settled in flats and housing schemes including Gunasinghapura , are mainly consists of those engaged in informal sector activities and the blue collar workers of the city's main establishments such as the Port, industries, railway, city markets, municipality and hundreds of other formal and informal establishments.

As reported in the findings and observation done during the project identified both positive and negative consequences of the settlement, the reported positive consequences are; Health Services, Educational and Transportation Facilities ,Access to wage labor and other sources of employment facilities (Self – employment and enterprise), Public & Private utilities.

In contrast the constrained space within the schemes, size of housing units, number of families living together and lack of public space is considered as the critical negative features of these types of housings. At the community level: •Lack of space inhibits recreational activities and movements, Exacerbates diseases, Lack of space constraints social occasions (Funerals, wedding and other gatherings), Limits Privacy. The following consequences have adversely impact on developing the social, economic, political and other related aspects of Gunasinghapura people. Governments ruled have taken initiatives to uplift the living standards of slums and shanty dwellers physically, the rest of the social, cultural, political and environmental challenges are

prevail within the system. The community work project implemented with the basic aim of improving the living conditions of urban poor at Gunasinghapura housing scheme in the aspects of economic, education and social.

Methodology

The study was conducted in the Gunasinghapura housing scheme. The Housing scheme consisted of 10 main housing blocks. Out of the total housing blocks 05 housing blocks were selected by random basis and there were 200 of families within this housing blocks and out of this 1/3 which is 65 of families were represented the sample. Data were gathered by using Questionnaires , Home Visits , Discussions with formal & Informal community leaders and community meetings.

Questionnaires were filled and home visits were conducted due to the low literacy rate of the people. Structured Interviews and discussions were implemented aim at the both formal and informal leaders. Focused group discussions were conducted for the volunteers while the communities meeting were conducted with the community. Secondary data was gathered from reports and documents from Housing Development Authority, Urban Development Authority, GramaNiladari Office and Divisional Secretariat Office.

Result and Discussion

Origin and Development

The Gunasinghapura Housing Scheme established in 1985 by “The Housing Development Authority’. This was consisted of 312 houses and 316 shops .The housing scheme consisted of 10 main housing blocks named according to the alphabetic order as A,B,C,D,E,F,G,H,J,K . It included groceries and shops in the basement. The initial construction by the Housing Development Authority was done through the ‘Janasevana’ and ‘NagamuPurawara’ programs and led to establish Gunasinghapura Housing Scheme. According to the information gathered from Grama Niladhari the majority of the settlement are engaged in Business. As majority of the houses are women headed houses, their basic income limited to a variety of self – employment categories. Most of the women used to cook foods, snacks and food packets, selling target for small scale shops which are situated inside and outside of the housing scheme. The specialty is that the people of Gunasinghapura are used for a daily income procedure means for a wage system. They earn daily and spend the collected daily amount within a day. This proves their lack of work ethics.

Table 01: Associations in the Community

Formal Institutions	
Schools	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A.E.GunasingheVidyalaya 2. Al-Hikma College 3. Harward Girl’s School
Religious Institutions (Buddhists)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Purvaramaya Buddhists Temple 2. Sri-Bodhi Rukharamaya Buddhists Temple
Religious Institutions (Christian)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Methodists Church 2. St.Paul’s Church

Religious Institutions (Islamic)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 'MasjidhulHidayath' Islamic Church 2. 'Umbichchi' Islamic Church 3. 'SaaliyaHaakiya' Islamic Church
Police Stations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Aaduruppu Street Police Station 2. Keselwatta Police Station 3. Wellaweediya Police Station

Table 02: Community Based Organizations

Community based Organizations
1. 'Ran- Liya' Women Society
2. Village Development Society
3. Community – Police Society
4. Elder's Society
5. Gunasinghapura Management Corporation

2. Common Problems & Issues Discussed

2.1.Lack of awareness on Welfare Programs / Services rendered by D.S.Office

The data collected from the need assessment process proved that, there was a gap between the community and the Divisional Secretariat Office. This keeps the community people distance from the welfare services, which are completely targeted welfare recipients. This was strengthened by the low literacy rate and lack of education to depart them with available services. Therefore bridging the gap between community members and D.S Office was identified as a need an involvement of a third party was reported during the study. Therefore it was highlighted the need of Social Work Intervention together with the volunteer group and activities were planned to aware the community on government services and to build a rapport between these two parties. The implemented activities were:

1. Linking the needy with elder's welfare programs of D.S.Office
 - I. 60+ elder's identity
 - II. 70+ elder's allowances
2. Linking the needy with vocational training program of D.S.Office
3. Facilitate the community to participate for the seasonal programs organized by D.S.Office Colombo.
 - I. Awrudu Festival
 - II. Vesak Celebrations

2.2. Lack of awareness on family planning and related family/women health problems

Low literacy rate and the lack of awareness had created a condition with no family planning. This has resulted more than four children in a family and diseases among family members. Women have become the major victims of this situation as the majority of the community consisted from women headed families. The medical camp implemented in the community, together with the 'Ran-Liya' women society and women development officer sponsored by the Family Planning Association of Sri Lanka (FPASL) targeted the women to aware on Family Planning Methods and Sexual and Reproductive Health. It benefited the majority of the families

of Gunasinghapura by providing the knowledge on how to maintain the personal hygiene, and prevention and awareness on Family Planning.

2.3. Low Income Families

This has resulted not only in the aspect of income but also in the Health, Educational, Cultural, and Political. The generations of people have become the victim of vicious circle of poverty. The most expressed need in the need assessment was the women self-employment assistance and housing renovation. Apart from these two basic programs further it was highlighted the community need of housing deeds from the 'Housing Development Authority' and the 'Urban Development Authority'.

3. Implementation

3.1. Identification and Implementation of Community Activities

According to the need prioritization done in the community with the participation of 65 members from the selected sample the first prioritized need of the Gunasinghapura community was the 'employment opportunity for the youth. Initial project was planned and implemented according to the prioritization of needs. The first task was to gather the basic information about the needy. It included the name, age, address, educational qualifications and preferred area to work / learn. The gathered information proved that the majority of the needy are not eligible for an employment due to their low level of education and age. The next step was to find out the internal and external resources to meet the employment need of the respondents. After the community facilitation and interaction with formal leaders of the Gunasinghapura community attitudes towards government services were changed.. It was assisted to plan the rest of activities through the involvement of both the community and the Formal leaders of the Divisional Secretariat Office. Accordingly Self-employment assistance for women, Housing Renovation, and welfare services from the Divisional Secretariat Office are arranged with the full support of Social Service Unit of D.S.Office Colombo. Following activities were further listed and planning was done for the implementation. One activity focused on housing deeds which were planned with the combination of both housing development authority and urban development Authority (UDA). The other was the Medical Camp which was organized through the Family Planning Association of Sri Lanka (FPASL).

3.1.2. Finding out Resources

The used methods for finding out the internal and external resources are as follows.

Community meetings, Direct Observation, Focused group Discussions, Resource Mapping, Secondary sources, Venn diagram .These methods were applied to educate them about the available resources and also empower them towards achieving these resources for the fulfilling of their own needs.

3.2. Employment Opportunities for youth

15 households have mentioned the need of youth employment opportunity in the given questionnaire. According to the discussion with the requested families preparation was done at preliminary stage on three levels.

1. Information of respondents
2. Availability of Internal Resources
3. Availability of External Resources

Under the first stage of the preliminary stage the volunteer group gathered information about the needy, in the areas of: name, age, address, educational qualification and preferred area to work / learn. Then a survey was conducted to find out the internal and external resources related to the employment need. The gathered information is as below.

Table 03: Internal and External Resources

Internal Resource	External Resources
Vocational Guidance and Counseling Officer – D.S.Office ; Colombo	Colombo Municipal Council- Colombo Department of Technical Education and training – Maradana
Human Resource Development Officer – D.S.Office(Colombo)	Vocational Training Authority - Narahenpita

Implementation of Youth Employment Program

Resource identification and networking leads to organiza a vocational training programme in the community. The main objective of this was to set a goal for youth, by providing them the knowledge of career pathways.

Housing Renovation and Self Employment Assistance

The main resource provider for the above requirement was the D.S Office- Colombo and volunteer group in collaboration with the Social Service Unit engaged in planning and implementation of the activities. The process was categorized into sectors as given below.

1. Discussion with responsible officers to aware on the process
2. Calling Applications
3. Making Quotations / Estimations
4. Submission

Initially the discussion to aware about the process was conducted with the Head of the Social Service unit. The application offered had to submit back with estimation for the relevant task. Therefore it was significant to take actions to aware the community people on how to make the estimations for their related needs. After the submission of application it is mandatory to have an interviews session together with home visits. The needy will get the needed assistance only if they selected as eligibles by the responsible officers only.

Housing Deeds

Housing deeds were planned and implemented through the main institutions of Housing Development and Urban Development Authority (UDA). At the initial stage home visits were done on pilot basis, two pilot visits were made to discuss about the process in which they can have their own housing deeds. Several sessions with the responsible persons, the authority had

informed the people that it will get late as the authority will complete the whole process of analyzing the total population in Colombo with housing needs.

Welfare Services by the D.S.Office

The 60+ elder's identity cards and the 70+ elders allowance were the main services planned and implemented under this section. As above mentioned activities, this also included a application taking and submitting back with the relevant documents. Initially identified the key responsible persons of these tasks, for the community in order to facilitate their own to take actions by themselves. The submission and the follow up phase was conducted by the both community and the Social worker.

Medical Camp

The final activity was the medical camp which was implemented with the community and the Family Planning Association (FPASL). It was planned through the support of 'Ran Liya' women society of Gunasinghapura area. It was difficult to conduct a medical camp especially with the tag of 'family planning' in an area where the majority was Muslims. Social worker had to conduct several sessions, even by participating for the meetings of Ran Liya women society to understand them the intention of this medical camp. SSW and the volunteer group asked them to pass the message to their known ones. The main objective of this medical camp is to link the needy with the available free medical services of FPASL. It is not only functioning towards the family planning, but also provides the services of counseling, Blood checking, BMI checking, tastings for Diabetics, Cholesterol and Blood pressure, breast cancers and treatments for other related women diseases. Social worker initially educate the volunteer group on this, and through them Social worker approached the needy of the community. Social worker together with the volunteer group by cooperating with the Ran Liya women society organized the medical camp, successfully.

4. Conclusion and Recommendations

The urban poor of Colombo area settled in flats and housing schemes including Gunasinghapura, are mainly consists of those engaged in informal sector activities and the blue collar workers of the city's main establishments such as the Port, the industries, the railway, the city markets, the municipality and hundreds of other formal and informal establishments. This urban planned settlement carries both negative and positive consequences together. As residents are well placed to access a wide range of services and facilities can be taken as advantages. Such as Access to Health Services, Educational and Transportation Facilities, Access to wage labor and other sources of employment facilities (Self – employment and enterprise) and Access to Public & Private Resources. In contrast to the constrained space within the schemes, size of housing units, number of families living together and lack of public space are considered as the critical negative features of these types of housings. At the community level the lack of space inhibits recreational activities and movements, exacerbates the spread of disease, Lack of space constraints social occasions (Funerals, wedding and etc.), undertaking of home based income generation, limits privacy. These people had to live with these conditions for life time due to the circumstances of 'chronic poverty' & 'Intergenerational Poverty'. These conditions effect on the social, economic, political and other related aspects of Gunasinghapura people. The root causes for this situation are: Family size (Number of Children), Parental Education, Family Income

,Health and nutrition of mothers .Even the government initiated programs to uplift the living standards of slums and shanty dwellers physically, the rest of the social, cultural, political and environmental challenges of them are still prevail. The community work project implemented with the basic aim of improving the living conditions of urban poor at Gunasinghapura housing scheme in the aspects of economic, education and social aspects of them, urban residence, adolescent motherhood and natural disasters. The project which was implemented in the Gunasinghapura was about 6 months and therefore the addressed needs and its scope is limited, therefore systematically planned long term project is recommended to implement in the Gunasinghapura Housing Scheme. Considering the findings of the study of this study, the following recommendations are made: Education on Income Management and Personal and Public hygiene Improvement of the settlers, Empowerment & Career Guidance for the Youth, Awareness on Human rights, Strengthening the link between Gunasinghepura Community and DS Office.

Referances

Bandara,R.(2002). Economics Ecology and the Environment. The University of Queensland. Australia

Challis,D.(1989). Case Management Problems and Possibilities. University of Kent. Canterbury

Maleka,F.(2007).A Handbook for Community Development Workers. Ministry of Public Services and Administration. South Africa

Mendes,P.(2008). Teaching Community Development to Social Work Students. Oxford University Press. Community Development Journal

Pradeck,J,T.(1988). An Ecological Approach for Social Work Practice. The Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare;Volume 5,Issue 2.Western Michigan University

Rothman,J and Mizrahi,T. (2014). Balancing Micro and Macro ; A Challenge for Social Work. National Association of Social Work

Subasinghe,W. (2015).Quality of Life Study on Slum Dwellers in Sri Lanka . International Journal of Scientific Research & Innovative Technology, 2(3), pp 36-65

Tan,A.(2009).Community Development Theory and Practice. NACSW.org

5

The Application of PRA Techniques into Poverty Alleviation in Rural Community Development

Subodhini Herath

Lecturer

School of Social Work

National Institute of Social Development

E-mail: darshika.herath7@gmail.com

Abstract

A community gives a sense of homo-geniality, linguistic affiliation, ethnic values, caste, norms, and religion. The common needs, problems and aspirations give a sense of collectivity and commonality to the people who live in the community. Social capital is a very essential ingredient of a community because it is obligatory for production, relationship with each other, sense of neighborhood and sense of kinship. As Robert Putnam states, the social capital is the base of reciprocity in any community. Social capital is a co-ingredient of community work. It is a process of helping people understand the shared problems they face while encouraging them join together to fight back. Organizing builds on the social linkages and networks that bring people together to create firm bond for collective action. It creates a durable capacity to bring about change (Ruben & Rubets, 2005).Poverty is a social-economic phenomenon in which a section of society is unable to fulfill even its basic necessities of life. The minimum needs are food, clothing, housing, education and other basic minimum human needs. Humanity faces pains and miseries if it does not attain a subsistence level of such needs. It is generally agreed that only these would fail to reach a certain minimum consumption standard should be regards as poor. Poverty is about contradiction of opportunities and fulfillment of human potential. Poverty and inequality are closely related and inequality appears to have been on the rise worldwide in recent decades at both national and international levels (Sreedhar.M, 2015). The main objective of this study is to identify the existing resources within the community to enhance economic development by generating self employment opportunities for women. In order to eradicate poverty, it is essential to conduct action research as a tool for poverty alleviation and this paper examines the features of rural poverty, past and present programmes for poverty alleviation, application of PRA techniques for poverty alleviation in rural communities as well as the strategic interventions designed for rural households and livelihood with URMUL in Bikaner, Rajasthan.

Key Words: *Homo-geniality, Linguistic affiliation, Social capital, Poverty alleviation, URMUL (Uttar Rajasthan Milk Union Limited)*

Introduction

Community work is a process, by which a community identifies its needs and objectives, gives priority to them, develops the confidence and will to fulfill their needs meanwhile linking internal and external resources to take actions towards achieving community goals (Murray G. Ross, 1967). A community is a collectivity of people comprised of individuals with shared elements can be considered as the structural function of any community and it also can be defined as a group of people united with common needs, interest, values and norms. According to Bill lee (1992) community is a group of people who have something in common. Roberts (1979) sees a community as “a collection of people who have become aware of some problem or some broad goal, who have gone through a process of learning about themselves and about their environment, and have formulated a group objective”. Community is often composed with set of systems such as values, belief system, culture, economic, politics and social interactions. Once systems collapsed within the community they need a professional support to solve their problems. Thus Community work is the pre-eminent remedy for community problems in the context of social work profession. Further macro practice is one of the best methods in social work to empower vulnerable people.

Introduction about the Organization

URMUL Dairy (Uttar Rajasthan Milk Union Limited) was set up in the arid 6 region of Bikaner district in 1972 as a part of the Operation Flood II. Professionally the URMUL Dairy acted as district unit of Rajasthan Cooperative Dairy Federation that was under public sector. The milk procurement at the village dairy cooperatives increased from 200 liters per day in 1972 to 1,50,000 liters a day in 1984. Farmer members of the dairy co-operatives gave the mandate for the creation of URMUL TRUST 1984 to reach out to the under privileged in the rural areas especially women and children. The aim was to facilitate access to good health care. Initial financial support to the Trust was in the form of a corpus created from a subsidy of three paise per liter of milk collected by the milk unions. Health services the TRUST were primarily meant for the members of the village level milk societies in the northern Lunkaransartahsil of Bikaner district. URMUL has been working tremendously as a CBO (Community Based Organization) for the rural Rajasthan through its networks as:-

1. URMUL Jyoti
2. URMUL Khejari
3. UMBVS
4. URMUL Setu
5. URMUL Semant
6. Vasundhara

Urmul Setu (lunkaransar)

URMUL Setu is a member of URMUL network of organizations, working in western Rajasthan. For twenty-five years, URMUL has been innovating approaches for inducing community driven development by devising and sustaining programs in the harsh and inhospitable Thar Desert.

URMUL Setu's endeavors focus on drought mitigation and disaster management, livelihoods, women empowerment, child rights, early childcare and development, improving access to basic

amenities, with priority emphasis on food, fodder and water. The activities of Setu have so far concentrated on primary education, health care, group organization, agriculture and animal husbandry, income-generation, water and sanitation, capacity building of local governments as well as advocacy. Further, Setu has established a number of Sangathans (Organizations) as participatory platforms for people, especially women, with a common interest to come together and engage in collective action to improve their living conditions.

The overall approach has been inclusive of

- Supporting the government in planning and implementation of its programs more effectively and with better coverage reaching out to the most marginalized groups;
- Establishing strong district and state level networks to bring focus on block and village level issues and for advocating better programs and policies for the community.

Objectives and Socio-cultural Background of the Community

The main objective of the project is to use PRA techniques for to identify the existing resources within the community to enhance their economic development through providing self-employment opportunities for women and the sub objectives of this project were the establishment of active volunteer group to overcome from common community issues like Drought Water Management and improving access to basic amenities with priority emphasis on food, fodder and water. The social worker identified the socio-economic structure of the Sadarpura village through a transect walk and community socio-resource mapping. Sadarpura is a rural community bordering around the perimeter of Rajasthan, which constitutes 100 households and population of 800 inhabitants. The social worker spent an adequate period of time studying about this village, gaining knowledge about the local lifestyles, the demographic features, the occupational structure of the average residents and social features which commonly existent there. The village constitutes of only Muslim population which is generated consecutively from a grand Raj Put family and scheduled caste families including Megwar, Nayak, Satiya, Garg etc. The community school has a unique pattern of teaching for children. To control and reduce dropouts the school has its unique way to encourage children through making an executive body of children like “Balmanch” or “Children Parliament” where the children themselves decides its members and functioning. Moreover the school has a management committee which includes teaching staff and representatives from the community. There is less drop out observed in the school because of some socio-economic reasons such as during October, November and December children were absent in school because they were send to field to protect the agricultural productions as these are the harvesting seasons. The missed hours were covered through conducting extra classes. The commonly observed livelihood patterns of the community which is dependent on the existing natural resources as:

Agriculture: - Dal mot, Bajra, Til, Gwar, Chudi, Sewan etc.

Animal Husbandry: - For Milk, Flesh and Fur

The frequently found resources for the villagers are school, grain bank, water tank, agricultural land and camels (for transport services) and the housing pattern in the village is in a transition phase where modern houses are coming up with the hut settlements. The most important visit was made to Grain Bank of the village where the social worker became aware of the functioning of the bank as an SHG and how the meetings do take place. Understanding this model was very

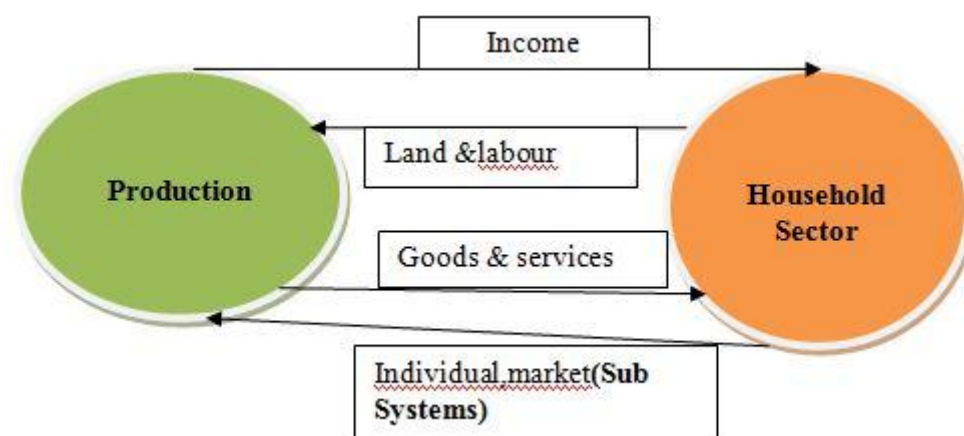
informative. One of the important features of the implementing strategy of the 10th Five Year Plan is the crucial role given to the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in the delivery of TPDS (Targeted Public Distribution System). Till the end of 11th plan, Govt. of India aims at bringing down people below poverty line to the extent of 10%. Therefore the community work project was conducted to reduce economic constraints of community people through maximizing the existing resources for generating self employment opportunities in poverty alleviation within six month duration.

Methodology

According to Bradshaw's taxonomy of social needs there are four types of needs; such as felt needs, expressed needs, normative needs and comparative needs. The desire of the community can be refer to felt need. Expressed Need means when felt need is conveyed and when people put into action for fulfill their need; referred as expressed need. Normative need defines a need which emerges with state standards and norms. Comparative need refers to a need of one party which emerges through a comparison of another individual or group. Need assessment was momentous to identify the needs of the community and investigate the feasibility for the community project. Community needs and strengths were identified through different strategies and tools such as interviews with community leaders, survey, mass rally, transect walk, home visits and observations. Home visits were done specifically to draw the benefits of individual communication with households. There are two SHG's has been formed for both men and women of the community. Initial SHG has been formed two and half years before named as "Khwaza". There were a union made with 40 people and later a male SHG group has been formed with 11 members. It provides loans to individuals only, who are the members and the interest is added in SHG account. The S.H.G member returns the amount in total or in installment. It also provides loan to non- S.H.G members but through a member as the guarantor for the repay and responsibility of the money given. The expressed need was identified through PRA techniques as using existing resources within the community to enhance their economic development through providing self-employment opportunities for women. The felt need was identified as establishment of active volunteer groups and formation of strong collective groups to overcome from common community issues like Drought Water Management and improving access to basic amenities with priority emphasis on food, fodder and water for ensuring better livelihood opportunities and to build up the links between CBOs and local authorities. Community mobilizing was commenced through women in the community. As vulnerable group of the community was children, it was easy to approach children through women. Strength base approach was used since student social worker could identify inner strengths of women while dealing with them. Therefore women were manipulated to mobilize the community by organizing activities with the support of community leaders. PRA is one of the techniques in community work. It is distinguished at its best by the use of local graphic representations created by the community that legitimize local knowledge and promote empowerment. PRA was applied during the rural visits that helped us to integrate the traditional knowledge systems held by the community and the external technical knowledge in the development process. In this community work project PRA techniques were used to mobilize their human and natural resources, define problems, evaluate priorities and opportunities and prepare a systematic and site specific plan of action. After identifying the survey results needs prioritizing was conducted through a community meeting.

Planning and Implementation

Since the community is enriched with agricultural crop production the SHG for women were encouraged to start self-employment on making various confectionary items from different grains and using dairy products. The CBO “URMUL” has played a key role in making this project a successful one. Numbers of 50 women were randomly selected for the initial starting of the project. Six community meetings were conducted with the support of community leaders and SHG members. In each meeting social worker organized different sessions conducted for community mobilization, aware about existing loan schemes provided by SHG, practical cookery sessions through a resource person from URMUL, awareness on income management, awareness on savings and provide necessary equipments for the initial beginners of self-employment through a loan system. As Roland L. Warren explains in her Community Model, there are five major functions which exist in a community when we consider community as a social system. They are Production-distribution and consumption, Socialization, Social control, Social participation and Mutual support. This model was majorly practiced throughout the community work project. As many ladies started to find self-employment opportunities by themselves student social worker conducted a motivational session using made up stories and true stories to encourage them. The model helped in facilitating for increasing income generation activities through formal and informal subsystems. The basic steps carried out during implementation were make the community aware, form the volunteer group and selected the responsible community leaders, Organized the group of women who engaging in making various confectionary items from different grains and using dairy products, facilitate the self – employment group to the small entrepreneurs to get the loan facilities through rural banks.



Data Analysis and Results

Results of the entire project illustrate through monitoring and evaluation using different methods. Evaluation and monitoring can be carrying out using several methods. Such as pre data analysis and final data analysis utilize to measure the progress of the implemented activities by the community. Observations and home visits can use for thoroughly monitoring of the community activities. Pre data analysis was carried out through in-depth interview sessions, formal and informal interview sessions, monthly progress review meetings and a FGD. Post analysis was carried out through feedback sessions. Social worker was responsible to get

evaluations from all the participants of the community activities. There were community members, community leaders, the pioneer implementing CBO, other resources agencies, local authorities etc. The researcher conducted FGDs, formal and informal interviews and discussion, observations with each party separately by playing interviewer's role. The social worker played the role as an organizer by organizing review meetings with the community members, community leaders, the implementing agency, other resources agencies, local authorities etc. The researcher organized separate meetings for community members and leaders, with the implanting Community Based Organization (CBO) as it was easy to conduct the meetings that way. In the meetings, social worker played her role as a facilitator and a representative. Before each discussion, researcher had to introduce the community practice and the planned and implemented activities, negative, positives aspects, problems occurred, and the outcome of the activities and how researcher terminated the work and plan to continue the follow-ups of the ongoing programmes and completed programmes. The social work intervention methods were used to aware the villagers knowledge, information and suggestions for reducing the related issues and concerns through better community participation and mutual co-operation. Based on the above data analysis the following recommendations can be suggested.

Recommendations

1. There should be a proper system to distribute resources within the community since the resources are not distributed equally among the community members.
2. The loopholes in implementing government schemes and policies should be minimizing through ensuring sustainability, continuous monitoring and continuous consideration given to rural communities.
3. The government should pay more attention on livelihood development and introducing effective income generation activities to reduce poverty level of people in rural communities.
4. The government and non-government organizations need to enhance their welfare services for rural communities through an effective service delivery techniques and methods.

Conclusion

The practice of social work requires knowledge of human development and behavior, of social, economic and cultural institutions, and of the interaction of all these factors. Professional social workers contribute individuals, groups, or communities to restore or enhance their capacity for social functioning, while creating social conditions favorable to their objectives. As Jim Ife stated **“A community worker is consistently moving backwards and forwards between tasks and stages”**. Therefore this community work project comprised the basic steps in community workprocess through identifying needs, prioritizing needs, developing confidence, finding resources and taking action over implementation. Community work requires knowledge and skills. Conducting this community work project in “Sadarpura” village Rajasthan, ensures the necessity of conducting action research technique for poverty alleviation and more over the PRA techniques used throughout the community work project for poverty alleviation in rural community development. Moreover it traces the practicality of PRA techniques which can be used and recommended as imperative asset in enhancing poverty reduction and poverty alleviation in Sri Lankan rural communities.

References

Batten, T.R. (1957). *Communities and their development*. London: Amen House. Oxford University Press.

Gupta, J.D. (1981). *Authority, Priority and Human Development*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press

Ife, J. (2006). *Community Development*. Australia: Pearson Education Australia.

Madan, G. R. (1990). *India's Developing Villages*. New Delhi: Allied Publishers Limited.

Maheshwari, S.R. (1995). *Rural Development in India*. New Delhi: Sage Publications India Pvt Ltd.

Ross, M. G. (1967). *Community Organization Theory, Principles and Practice*. New York: Harper & Row.

Singh, K. (1986). *Rural Development*. New Delhi: Sage Publications India Pvt Ltd.