

**RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LIVELIHOOD ASSETS AND ECONOMIC SECURITY OF
RURAL HOUSEHOLDS IN SAMURDHI PROGRAMME, AMPARA DISTRICT, SRI
LANKA**

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ABSTRACT

The thesis presents the outcomes of a study on rural poor population in a remote district of Eastern Sri Lanka called Ampara district. The study examines the economic characteristics and factors determining economic security of this studied sample in a development aspect. The study is based on the livelihood approach and its framework. Availability of food and access to income are the prime indicators of economic security considered during model building. The analysis was based on data obtained from 100 households selected using proportional stratified random sampling technique. Firstly, economic situations of studied sample were analysed. Then, econometric models were developed to identify the factors determine economic security. The study found that there were remarkable differences based on economic security assessment measures among the households. Non-farm wage employment activities were found to be important livelihood strategy. Among the livelihood assets components, there were high deviations in value of those holdings. The ownership of specific asset holding had impact on type of livelihood strategies. Gender differences in livelihood strategies reflect that female headed households were mostly included in self employed group. Most of the male headed households were included under non-farm wage employment. It was also found that male headed households had significantly higher value of assets than that of the female headed household.

The calculated gini-coefficient index was 0.44 (which showed a rather high inequality). Based on the national official poverty line for 2008, Sixty six percent of the households were below this official line. These results were may be due to the higher inflation and bad weather effects on paddy farming and related activities. Based on the food sufficiency score of each household, 28 percent of the households were food insecure and 62 percent of the households bought rice for consumption. Resource poor households went through several coping mechanisms. Income diversification including farm, nonfarm wage employment and

livestock production was adopted as some coping strategies. Forty eight percent of the households carried out more than one type of income activities. Ninety percent of the households adopted certain coping strategies. Those coping strategies include expenditure strategies of 41 percent, consumption strategies of 33 percent, increasing income strategies of 23 percent and strategies on creative future plans and ideas of 4 percent for the studied samples. The household types resulted from cluster analysis constituted partially commercialized (Household type 1) and subsistence (Household type 2) nature of households. Partially commercialized households showed higher mean of borrowing capacity and ownership for higher money value of job- related equipments and continuous income earning.

The multiple regression results show that level of income is positively correlated with education of household head, male headed household, and household type 1 at 5% significant level ($p < 0.05$). Logistic regression results reveal that food sufficiency is positively correlated with education of household head, and household type 1 at 5% significant level ($p < 0.05$) and income sufficiency is positively correlated with education of household head and household type 1 and negatively correlated with age of household head and young adult ratio at the same significant level. This study identified several key areas having direct implications for designing development and research intervention with the objective of ameliorating poverty. People's awareness, skill trainings on selected livelihood strategies for identified groups and initial provision of job-related equipment or materials for continuous employment are important means to ensure economic security in this area.

PREPARATION OF MANUSCRIPTS

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Book

Little, T.H. and F.J. Hills (1978) *Agricultural Experimentation*. John Wiley and Sons, New York, 350 pp.

Sections of Book

Gregg, B. R. (1982) Soybean seed quality and practical storage pp. 52- 56. In: *Soybean seed quality and stand establishment* (Eds. J. B. Sinclair and J. A. Jacobs), INSTOY series NO. 22, University of Illinois, Illinois.

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