

Population and Development in Sri Lanka: Some Emerging Issues

Dr. U V Somayajulu, TNS India, CICD Towers, Institutional Area, Huz Khas, New Delhi
Fax: +91-11-52566677 email: somayajulu.uv@tns-global.com

Ms Ayoma Abeyasuriya, TNS Sri Lanka, #32/4, Narahenpita Road, Nawala, Sri Lanka,
Fax : +94-11-2808017; e mail : ayoma.abeyasuriya@tns-global.com

Mr Tilak Mukherji, TNS India, CICD Towers, Institutional Area, Huz Khas, New Delhi
Fax: +91-11-52566677 Email: tilak.mukherji@tns-global.com

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1. INTRODUCTION

There are fundamental links between population, health and economic development. The ultimate goal of economic development is to improve the quality of human life and increase people's longevity.

The ICPD programme of Action seeks to integrate population concerns fully into development strategy and into all aspects of development planning at all levels. The programme also seeks to raise the quality of life for all people through population and development policies and programmes that seek to eradicate poverty, sustain economic growth in the context of sustainable development. This manifesto of ICPD program of Action is also applicable to developing countries and an attempt is made here to look into the available data of one particular country viz, Sri Lanka. The national health policy of Sri Lanka aims at reducing infant mortality rate, neonatal mortality rate, crude birth rate, increasing use of contraceptive methods, providing access to safe drinking water at home or immediate vicinity and toilets to every household.

The Island Republic of Sri Lanka, formerly known as Ceylon, got independence in 1948. The island nation's economy was predominantly agricultural and heavily depending on the export oriented plantation sector, Tea, Rubber and coconut plantation. Post the adoption of open economic policy in 1977, private sector has been growing significantly with considerable contribution to the island country's economy.

About three fourth of the Sri Lankans (74%) are Singhalese while one tenth (13%) are Sri Lankan Tamils, with less than one tenth (6%) being Indian Tamils. One fifth of the Sri Lanka's population live in urban areas, while three fourth (72%) live in rural areas, with 6% living in the Estate Sector.

Sri Lanka has 9 provinces. Of these, Northern province is predominated by Tamil Hindus, while the Eastern province has significant presence of Tamils. The Eastern province has Tamils, Singhalese and Muslims, through Tamils are slightly higher. Indian Tamils are descendents of labourers brought from South India by the British in 19th century to work on tea and coffee estates in parts of Central, Uva and Sabaragamuwa Provinces.

The present paper aims at observing the population and development trends in Sri Lanka, through an analysis of the available secondary data.. The paper also looks in to the relationship between population variables and development variables and the geographic differentials within the island viz., province, district etc.

The province and district level comparative analysis is presented in the paper so as to understand the differentials between the provinces and districts with effective administration and the provinces and districts with weak administration or less Government control. The paper lists out the various policy or programme implications.

2. DATA

The present paper mainly makes use of the available secondary data such as Census and DHS, apart from other data such as published reports. Non availability of data for northern and eastern provinces is one limitation.

3. POPULATION AND ITS GROWTH

Population Trends at the National Level

The trends of population and annual growth rate for the island nation can be examined from table 1. The country's population rose from 2.4 millions in 1871 to 12.7 millions in 1971 i.e., around six fold increase in a century. In the circa 1871-1953, the growth population growth was fluctuating with higher growth rate recorded in 1901 and 1931. The highest population growth rate was recorded in 1953 and 1963. The Sri Lanka's population recorded considerable growth during 1948-1953, but started declining after 1963.

Table 1 Population and Growth Rate Trends for Sri Lanka, 1871 – 2001

Year	Population (Million)	Average Annual Growth Rate (%)
1871	2.4	-
1881	2.8	1.4
1891	3.0	0.9
1901	3.6	1.7
1911	4.1	1.4
1921	4.5	0.9
1931	5.3	1.7
1948	6.7	1.5
1953	8.1	2.8
1963	10.6	2.8
1971	12.7	2.2
1981	14.8	1.7
2001	18.7	1.1

Population Trends at Province Level

The population trends at province level presented in Table2 indicate wide differentials across the different provinces. During 1992-2001, the western province recorded an increase of 1 million in its population. The two provinces viz., Northern and Sabargamuwa recorded decline in population during the reference period.

Table2: Population Trend for Provinces, 1992-2001

(In Millions)

Province	1992	1995	1998	2001
Western	4.4	4.7	4.8	5.4
Central	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.4
Southern	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.3
Northern	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.0
Eastern	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.4
North Western	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.2
North Central	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
Uva	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2
Sabargamuwa	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.2
Total	17.4	18.1	18.8	18.9

Land and Population Share of Provinces

Table 3 gives the land area, population and population density at the province level. Northern central province, which has the largest land area, is the 2nd least populated province, while the western province recorded the lowest land area and highest population, and consequently the highest population density.

Of the total land, 15% is arable (14% under food crops and 1% under cash crops) 11% under plantation and permanent crops while 26% is forest area.

Table3: Land Area and Population at Province Level, 2001

Province	Land area	%	Population (2001)	%	Density
Western	3593	6	5.4	28	1492
Central	5575	9	2.4	13	433
Southern	5383	9	2.3	12	423
North Western	7506	12	2.2	12	287
Sabargamuwa	4921	8	1.2	10	363
Northern	8290	13	1.0	5	126
Eastern	9361	15	1.4	7	171
Uva	8335	13	1.2	6	140
North Central	9741	16	1.1	6	114
Total	62705		18.9		299

District Level

Population Trends

Table 4 gives the trends of population at District Level. The Districts, which account for major share of the island nation's population include Colombo, Gampaha, Kurunegala, Kandy, Ratnapura and Galle.

Table 4 Mid Year Population of Districts 1967 – 2002

(In 000's)

District	1967	1972	1977	1982	1987	1992	1997	2002
<u>Western</u>								
Colombo	2047	2708	2926	1737	1867	1999	2167	2266
Negombo	367	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gampaha	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kalutara	684	739	795	846	903	951	996	1069
<u>Central</u>								
Kandy	1150	1204	1273	1144	1200	1249	1332	1288
Matale	287	319	347	367	398	423	451	448
Nuwara Eliya	432	456	467	517	520	531	555	707
<u>Southern</u>								
Galle	698	745	802	833	897	961	1021	1000
Matara	574	594	648	663	731	789	846	770
Hambantota	309	345	380	438	486	523	554	529
<u>Northern</u>								
Jaffna	676	711	786	852	836	880	911	532
Mannar	88	79	88	111	122	130	137	98
Vavuniya	79	97	108	100	109	116	126	146
<u>Eastern</u>								
Batticaloa	225	260	291	343	386	425	467	522
Ampara	243	276	307	402	452	496	544	596
Trincomalee	159	191	216	267	297	319	349	358
<u>North Western</u>								
Kurunegala	953	1039	1137	1245	1354	1445	1528	1461
Puttalam	111	384	426	510	562	608	658	713
<u>North Central</u>								
Anuradhapura	321	394	444	608	671	729	788	754
Polonnaruwa	130	166	185	271	299	325	348	363
<u>Uva</u>								
Badulla	583	624	660	649	678	716	771	787
Monaragala	153	196	221	291	327	359	388	401
<u>Sabaragamuwa</u>								
Ratnapura	600	670	727	815	885	951	1011	1020
Kegalle	628	664	708	694	727	752	777	784
Sri Lanka	11705	12861	13942	15196	16347	17426	18567	19007

Population Growth Rate

Table 5 gives the population growth rate at district level during 1981 – 2001. Vavuniya, Mullaitivu, Jaffna, Ampara, Batticaloa, Mannar, Puttalam and Monaragala recorded higher population growth rate (1.6 to 2.2%)

Table 5 Population Growth Rate at District Level, 1981-2001

District	1981	2001	Avg. Annual Growth rate (%)
<u>Western</u>			
Colombo	1699241	2234289	1.3
Gampaha	1390862	2066096	1.9
Kalutara	829704	1060800	1.2
<u>Central</u>			
Kandy	1048317	1272463	1.0
Matale	357354	442427	1.1
Nuwara Eliya	603577	700083	0.7
<u>Southern</u>			
Galle	814531	990539	1.0
Matara	643786	761236	0.8
Hambantota	424344	525370	1.1
<u>Northern</u>			
Jaffna	738788	490632	2.0
Mannar	106235	151577	1.7
Vavuniya	95428	149835	2.2
Mullaitivu	77189	121667	2.2
Killinochchi	91764	127263	1.6
<u>Eastern</u>			
Batticaloa	330333	486447	1.9
Ampara	388970	589344	2.0
Trincomalee	255948	340158	1.4
<u>North Western</u>			
Kurunegala	1211801	1452369	0.9
Puttalam	492533	705342	1.8
<u>North Central</u>			
Anuradhapura	587929	746466	1.2
Polonnaruwa	261563	359197	1.6
<u>Uva</u>			
Badulla	640952	774555	0.9
Monaragala	273570	396173	1.8
<u>Sabaragamuwa</u>			
Ratnapura	797087	1008164	1.2
Kegalle	684944	779774	0.6
Sri Lanka	14846750	18732255	1.1

Urbanisation

One fifth of the Sri Lanka's population is urban, with vast majority living in rural areas. However the urbanisation has serious implications. The development of infrastructure necessary for the smooth functioning of private and public institutions, as well as economic and social life of the community, has become a challenge in the face of **rapid urbanization**, technological improvements and increasing needs. Although modernization has been carried out from time to time, most urban centers in the country are experiencing inadequate economic and social infrastructure, environmental and waste disposal problems, urban poverty and unemployment (Central Bank of Sri Lanka Annual Report 2001).

Natural Growth Rate

Table 6 gives CBR, CDR and natural growth rate (defined as difference between CBR and CDR) for the island nation during 1871-1996. While CBR declined from 35.4 in 1946 to 18.6 in 1996, CDR decreased from 14.3 to 6.5 during the reference period. CBR recorded increase during 1946- 1953 and started declining then. Natural growth rate recorded increase up to 1953 but declined steadily since then and reached the lowest by 1996.

Table 6 CBR, CDR and Natural Growth Rate for Sri Lanka, 1871 – 1996

Year	CBR	CDR	Natural Growth Rate
1871	28.5	20.0	8.5
1946	35.4	14.3	21.1
1953	48.0	10.4	37.6
1963	34.1	8.5	25.6
1971	30.4	7.7	22.7
1981	28.2	5.9	22.3
1991	21.0	5.5	15.5
1995	19.3	5.8	13.5
1996	18.6	6.5	12.1

Ageing

As on 2000, 7% of the Sri Lanka's population was 65+yrs. The proportion of elderly population increased from 4% in 1971 to 7% in 2000. The proportion of working population increased during 1971-2000 (from 57% to 67%). The median age of the population also increased from 19.7 years in 1971 to 28 yrs in 2000. The young age dependency ratio declined while that of old age dependency ratio increased.

By 2016, 15% of the country's population is estimated to be 60+ yrs, and by 2026 this is expected to reach 20%.

Table 7 Percentage Distribution of Population by Functional Age Groups for Sri Lanka, 1971-2000

Year	<5 yrs	<15 yrs	<18 yrs	Women 15-49 yrs	Working 15-64 yrs	≥65 yts	Median Age	Dependency ratio	
								<15	>65
1971	13.1	39.0	-	49.0	56.8	4.2	19.7	68.6	7.5
1981	12.5	35.2	-	52.2	60.5	4.3	21.4	58.2	7.2
1993	9.0	30.3	-	53.0	63.5	6.1	25.0	47.8	9.6
2000	7.9	25.8	31.9	34.6	67.1	7.2	28.0	38.3	10.7

Dependency Ratio by District

Table 8 Dependency Ratio by District, 2001

District	Dependency Ratio
<u>Western</u>	
Colombo	40.1
Gampaha	42.9
Kalutara	49.5
<u>Central</u>	
Kandy	49.9
Matale	47.1
Nuwara Eliya	52.2
<u>Southern</u>	
Galle	40.4
Matara	41.2
Hambantota	40.2
<u>North Central</u>	
Anuradhapura	51.1
Polonnaruwa	50.8
<u>Uva</u>	
Badulla	53.8
Monaragala	57.0
<u>Sabaragamuwa</u>	
Ratnapura	51.3
Kegalle	49.9
<u>North Western</u>	
Kurunegala	48.1
Puttalam	55.0

Female Headed Households

As on 2000, one fifth of the households across the nation, were headed by females. Between 1981 and 2000, this proportion increased from 17% to 20%. The northern and eastern provinces recorded the highest proportion of female headed households. This could be due to migration of the males or civil war casualties. (DHS, 1994, 2000 and Census 1981)

4 FERTILITY TRENDS

The ICPD Programme of Action defines reproductive health as a state of complete physical, mental and social well being in all matters relating to the reproductive health, system and to its functions and processes.

Fertility Trends at National Level

The fertility trends for the island nation presented in Table 10 in terms of mean number of CEB indicate, as expected, steady decline in fertility over the past few decades. Mean Number of CEB declined from 6.0 in 1975 to 3.1 in 2000 while TFR declined from 3.4 to 1.9 in the same reference period. TFR recorded sharp decline during 1967 – 1975.

The ASFR also recorded decrease over the reference period in case of all ages. The age group 25-29 yrs recorded the highest fertility followed by 30-34 yrs, while 45-49 yrs recorded the lowest fertility. (Table 9)

Table 9 Trends Mean No. of CEB for Sri Lanka, 1975-2000

Source /Year	EMW	CMW
WFS 1975	6.0	6.3
CPS 1982	5.8	5.8
DHS 1987	5.1	5.1
DHS 1993	4.0	4.0
DHS 2000	3.1	3.2

EMW=Ever Married Women, CMW=Currently Married Women,
CPS = Contraceptive Prevalence Survey; WFS = World Fertility Survey
DHS=Demographic Health Survey

Table 10: Age Specific Fertility Rate and TFR 1967-1995

Period/ Source	Age(years)							TFR
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	
1967	52	228	278	240	157	46	7	5.0
1974 WFS 1975	31	146	161	158	126	43	6	3.4
1981 CPS 1982	34	172	222	177	99	37	0	3.7
1982-1987 DHS 1987	38	147	161	122	71	23	3	2.8
1988-1993 DHS 1993	35	110	134	104	54	14	4	2.3
1995-2000 DHS 2000	27	83	118	98	40	8	1	1.9

Fertility Differentials by Sector

Table 11 gives the fertility differentials by sector in terms of TFR and Mean No. of CEB. The estate sector recorded the highest fertility in terms of TFR (2.4), while the rural sector recorded lower TFR than the urban sector. During 1982-93, the estate sector recorded the maximum decline in TFR, while the rural sector recorded so during 1993-2000. In terms of CEB also, the estate sector recorded the maximum fertility, while Colombo metro recorded the lowest fertility. The mean No. of CEB for the estate sector remained same during 1993-2000.

Table 11 Fertility Differentials by Sector

Sector	TFR			Mean CEB (Women 15-49)			% Decline			
	82-87	88-93	95-2000				TFR		CEB	
	1	2	3	87	93	2000	82-93	93-2000	87-93	93-2000
Colombo Metro	2.2	2.0	1.9	4.3	3.0	2.8	9.1	5.0	30.2	6.7
Other Urban	2.3	2.4	2.1	4.9	3.5	2.9	-4.3	12.5	28.6	17.1
Rural	2.9	2.3	1.8	5.0	4.0	3.2	20.7	21.7	20.2	20.0
Estate	3.4	2.6	2.4	4.9	3.6	3.6	23.5	7.7	26.5	0.0

Fertility Differentials by District

The fertility differentials by district can be understood from Table 12. Colombo recorded the highest CBR, followed by Badulla, while Hambantota recorded the lowest CBR. Eight of the 25 districts recorded CBR higher than the national average. The fertility levels are higher in the districts from Northern and Eastern provinces.

Table 12 CBR at District Level, 2002

District	CBR
Sri Lanka	19.1
<u>Western</u>	
Colombo	27.0
Gampaha	12.6
Kalutara	15.2
<u>Central</u>	
Kandy	22.8
Matale	19.5
Nuwara Eliya	16.3
<u>Southern</u>	
Galle	19.1
Matara	18.7
Hambantota	12.8
<u>North Central</u>	
Anuradhapura	20.7
Polonnaruwa	20.0
<u>Uva</u>	
Badulla	23.1
Monaragala	17.2
<u>Sabaragamuwa</u>	
Ratnapura	19.2
Kegalle	13.0
<u>North Western</u>	
Kurunegala	17.1
Puttalam	19.9
<u>Northern</u>	
Jaffna	14.1
Killinochchi	23.5
Munnar	17.9
Vavuniya	23.1
Mullaitivu	26.6
<u>Eastern</u>	
Batticaloa	23.5
Ampara	19.3
Trincomalee	24.7

5 MORTALITY

Section B of the ICPD programme of action contains specific targets viz. countries shall strive to reduce their infant and U5MR by one third, or to 50 to 70 for 1000 live births respectively by 2000.

Mortality Trends at National Level

Trends in mortality in terms of Crude Death Rate (CDR), Child Mortality Rate (CMR) and Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) for the country as a whole are presented in Table 13. The trends indicate decline in mortality – 50% reduction in CMR, which is a good sign. Boys had higher levels of CMR and IMR, compared to girls.

Table 13 Trends in CDR, CMR, and IMR for Sri Lanka, 1970-2002

Year	CDR	CMR (Per 1000 live births)			IMR (Per 1000 live births)	
		All	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys
1970	7.5	69	-	-	-	-
1980	6.2	44	49	34	40	25
1990	5.7	24	38	27	31	20
2000	5.8	20	24	17	23	16
2002	5.8	-	-	-	-	-

CDR at District Level

Twelve of the 25 districts recorded CDR, which is higher than the national average. The districts from Northern and Eastern provinces recorded higher levels of mortality perhaps the ongoing civil war could be a contributing factor for this (Table 14).

Table 14 CDR at District Level, 2002

District	CDR
Sri Lanka	5.8
<u>Western</u>	
Colombo	9.0
Gampaha	5.0
Kalutara	5.8
<u>Central</u>	
Kandy	6.9
Matale	5.0
Nuwara Eliya	5.1
<u>Southern</u>	
Galle	6.8
Matara	5.8
Hambantota	4.0
<u>North Central</u>	
Anuradhapura	5.5
Polonnaruwa	4.9
<u>Uva</u>	
Badulla	5.3
Monaragala	3.1
<u>Sabaragamuwa</u>	
Ratnapura	5.3
Kegalle	5.6
<u>North Western</u>	
Kurunegala	6.3
Puttalam	4.8
<u>Northern</u>	
Jaffna	14.1
Killinochchi	23.5
Munnar	17.9
Vavuniya	23.1
Mullaitiru	26.6
<u>Eastern</u>	
Batticaloa	23.5
Amapara	19.3
Trincomalee	24.7

Deaths rate of male as well as females has dropped down to one third of the initial values within the 20 years period from 1935 to 1955. This decline can be largely attributed to the introduction of aggressive campaigns against “Malaria”, the fatal epidemic disease in that era. With the improvement of health and social conditions, a gradual decrease in death rates can be observed in the latter years.

Gender differentials related to mortality reveal an interesting feature. Females have been associated with a higher probability of dying in the first half of the century, but this pattern has reversed in favour of them from 1965 onwards, with males showing relatively higher death rates. The progress in pre and post antenatal care of women may be a major reason for this achievement.

Another noteworthy fact that is visible during the last quarter of the 20th century is the relatively high death rates among young and middle aged males. It may be a consequence of the civil disturbances that raged the country from time to time since early nineteen seventies. Which incidentally recorded higher levels of mortality in terms of CDR.

Trends in IMR at District Level

Table 15 gives the trends in IMR at the district level. As on 2001, 11 of the 27 districts had IMR higher than the national average. Annuradhapura, Badulla, Kandy and Colombo recorded higher levels of IMR. Across the districts, the IMR recorded significant decline over 1967 – 2001. Some of the districts which recorded low IMR include Trincomalee, Moneragala, Kalutara, Jaffna, Gampaha and Hambantota.

The continuous decline in infant mortality in the aftermath of the independence reflect the impact of the health programmes that were implemented with special focus on child care, through the extensive network of medical institutions across the country. Emphasis is laid on preventive as well as curative care, with attention paid on awareness programmes to educate mothers on environmental sanitation, control of diarrhoeal diseases, healthy habits, growth monitoring and child care.

Table 15 Trends in Infant Mortality Rate at District Level, 1967-2001

District	1967	1972	1977	1982	1987	1992	1997	2001
<u>Western</u>								
Colombo	47.1	43.6	40.5	50.0	25.6	28.0	18.8	15.9
Negombo	35.4	25.2	24.4	-	-	-	-	-
Gampaha	-	-	-	22.0	17.2	10.6	8.8	5.2
Kalutara	49.8	32.8	35.2	20.0	20.5	19.6	5.4	4.3
<u>Central</u>								
Kandy	60.5	65.5	62.6	39.0	31.2	27.6	21.6	17.3
Matale	45.6	57.2	53.1	29.0	18.0	9.0	14.9	7.9
Nuwara Eliya	79.5	84.5	75.7	49.0	43.6	26.9	20.2	20.7
<u>Southern</u>								
Galle	43.3	40.8	44.1	34.0	19.5	15.5	16.4	13.5
Matara	41.9	34.9	40.3	33.0	26.2	22.9	17.8	7.6
Hambantota	37.9	33.6	39.2	18.0	9.3	4.9	5.9	5.6
<u>Northern</u>								
Jaffna	30.9	26.8	21.0	17.0	17.9	19.8	11.4	5.1
Killinochchi	-	-	-	-	9.1	2.2	25.2	7.3
Mannar	48.4	39.7	29.9	27.0	22.9	5.3	8.7	7.5
Mullaitivu	-	-	-	21.0	12.7	2.6	21.5	14.4
Vavuniya	35.1	21.7	34.5	16.0	22.2	4.9	10.9	10.0
<u>Eastern</u>								
Batticaloa	58.3	53.3	50.8	27.0	13.8	12.2	9.8	14.6
Ampara	51.2	40.9	33.3	20.0	14.3	6.9	2.7	5.9
Trincomalee	36.7	38.6	21.7	18.0	13.4	5.9	1.6	2.0
<u>North Western</u>								
Kurunegala	40.5	40.3	37.1	29.0	21.3	15.1	13.9	13.1
Puttalam	41.4	38.5	23.9	24.0	21.4	16.9	10.9	6.8
<u>North Eastern</u>								
Anuradhapura	33.8	38.2	22.1	26.0	25.9	22.4	21.0	22.5
Polonnaruwa	36.4	28.3	29.0	14.0	11.7	12.9	19.0	13.1
<u>UVA</u>								
Badulla	55.0	57.9	60.9	34.0	21.0	14.3	45.1	20.9
Monaragala	47.8	34.5	27.7	13.0	8.3	5.0	4.9	3.2
<u>Sabaragamuwa</u>								
Ratnapura	63.7	60.9	56.1	43.0	31.4	20.5	20.9	12.4
Kegalle	46.7	48.9	42.2	29.0	18.0	13.9	14.2	10.0
Sri Lanka	47.7	45.6	42.4	31.0	22.6	17.9	16.3	12.2

Full Immunisation

This is one area with substantial improvement, as it increased from 7% in 1920 to 95% in 2002. The countrywide immunization programme launched by the health authorities to prevent six dangerous childhood diseases, yielded the anticipated results. The coverage for BCG, DPT, and polio has almost reached the universal level while immunization cover for Measles stands at 94%. However full immunization coverage against these communicable diseases is found to be lowest in the Estate sector.

Life Expectancy at Birth

The results presented in table 16 indicate considerable improvement in life expectancy at birth for Sri Lankan males and females. Females recorded higher life expectancy, compared to males.

Table 16 Trends in Life Expectancy at Birth by sex in Sri Lanka, 1970-2002

Year	Males	Females
1970	64.1	66.9
1980	67.2	72.1
1990	69.5	74.2
2000	70.7	75.4
2002	71.7	76.4

Tsunami Casualties

Table 17 gives the casualties due to Tsunami disaster in the districts affected. The Northern and Eastern provinces recorded maximum loss of life due to Tsunami.

Table 17 Tsunami Disaster Casualties (Dec 2004)

Province/District	No of familiars		Deaths	Injured	Missing
	Affected	Displaced			
<u>Western</u>					
Kalutara	9433	7089	279	401	69
Colombo	9047	8140	79	64	12
Gampaha	6827	308	6	3	5
<u>Northern</u>					
Jaffna	14767	10827	2640	1647	540
Killinochchi	229	407	560	670	0
Mullaitivu	6745	6007	3000	2590	421
<u>Eastern</u>					
Trincomalee	30547	30545	1078	1328	45
Batticaloa	63717	12494	2975	2375	346
Ampara	58729	38866	10436	6581	161
<u>Southern</u>					
Hambantota	14069	3334	4000	434	1341
Matara	19398	2235	1342	6652	612
Galle	24583	23278	4248	312	527
<u>North Western</u>					
Puttalam	232	18	4	1	3
Total	260991	143518	31147	23054	4082

6. DEVELOPMENT

The development scenario in Sri Lanka, its provinces and districts is discussed in terms of Adult Literacy, Income, Poverty Ratio and Labour force participation.

Literacy Rate

National Level

Table 18 gives the trends and gender differentials in literacy rate for Sri Lanka. The literacy rate in Sri Lanka is higher for males as well as females though males had higher literacy rate, compared to females. But the increase in literacy rate is significantly higher in case of females, than males. The gender gap reduced from 35% points in 1921 to 5% points in 1996. This is remarkable.

Table 18 Trends in Literacy Rate by Gender for Sri Lanka 1921-1996

Year	Female	Male	Total
1921	21	56	40
1946	44	70	58
1953	56	81	69
1963	67	86	77
1971	71	86	79
1881	83	91	87
1994	88	93	90
1996	89	94	92

Literacy Rate by Sector and Sex

Estate sector had the lowest literacy for males as well as females. The gender differentials are also significant in this sector as Table 19 reveals.

Table 19 Literacy Differentials by Sector and Sex, Sri Lanka, 1963-2001

Sector and sex		1963	1981	1990/91*	2001**
All Island	Total	77	87	87	91
	Male	86	91	90	92
	Female	67	83	83	89
Urban	Total	88	93	92	-
	Male	92	95	94	-
	Female	82	80	84	-
Rural	Total	75	85	87	-
	Male	84	89	90	-
	Female	64	80	84	-
Estate	Total	-	-	66	-
	Male	-	-	79	-
	Female	-	-	53	-

* Northern & Eastern Provinces were excluded

** Only Ampara district is included from the Northern and Eastern Provinces

District wise Differentials in Literacy Rate

District Level literacy situation can be understood from table 20. Of the 17 districts, 11 had an adult literacy rate of 90 or more. Males had higher literacy, than females. The districts from Uva province recorded low literacy rates, compared to the districts from other provinces.

Table 20 Literacy Rate by Gender and District, 2001

District	Adult Literacy Rate	
	Male	Female
<u>Western</u>		
Colombo	94	93
Gampaha	96	95
Kalutara	93	92
<u>Central</u>		
Kandy	93	89
Matale	90	86
Nuwara Eliya	87	77
<u>Southern</u>		
Galle	94	92
Matara	92	88
Hambantota	91	87
<u>North Western</u>		
Kurunegala	93	91
Puttalam	92	90
<u>Uva</u>		
Badulla	88	80
Monaragala	88	84
<u>Sabaragamuwa</u>		
Ratnapura	89	85
Kegalle	93	90
<u>North Central</u>		
Anuradhapura	92	89
Polonnaruwa	91	89

Educational Attainment

Education is a key factor in sustainable development and is a component of well-being and a means to enable the individual to gain access to knowledge. It also paves way for reduction of fertility, morbidity and mortality rates, and leads to empowerment of women.

The trends in educational attainment of males and females of 30+ yrs, presented in Table 21 indicate considerable improvement in educational status of men and women as well. For instance, proportion who had no schooling decreased from 16% to 5% in case of males and 45% to 14% in case of females during 1963-1994. The analysis indicates improvement in completion of secondary education, GCE/SSC and GGE/HSC. But in case of degree, not much of improvement could be noticed.

Table 21 Educational Attainment in Sri Lanka, 1963-2000 (30 Yrs +)

Education	1963			1994 *			2000 *		
	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F
No schooling	29	16	45	10	5	14	9	5	12
Primary	40	47	31	25	26	25	26	27	26
Secondary	20	25	15	40	43	38	37	39	35
GCE/SSC	4	5	3	17	18	17	18	18	17
GGE/HSC	1	2	1	6	6	6	8	8	8
Degree +	<1	<1	<1	2	2	2	2	3	2
Others	6	6	5	-	-	-	-	-	-

**Excludes Northern and Eastern provinces*

The granting of free education facilities to the entire population has made a rapid upliftment in literacy levels, and given an opportunity for both the rich and the poor alike to pursue higher education. Mid-day meal programme, and the supply of free school books and uniforms for school children, are the most recent programmes launched by the Government to further enhance the welfare package, implemented to improve the quality of education in the country.

Employment

Trends in Employment at National Level

Table 22 gives the trends in labour force participation rate of males and females at the national level. Males had higher labour force participation rate but the female labour force participation rate increased substantially from 20% to 36% during 1963-2002 while that of males ranged between 65% and 69%.

Table 22 Labour force Participation Rate Trends for Sri Lanka, 1963-2003

Year	Total	Male	Female	Gender Gap
1963	46	69	20	49
1981	44	65	23	42
1997	49	66	32	34
2002	50	68	36	32
2003	49	67	31	36

* Excluding Northern Province

Trends in Employment at Province Level

The trends in labour force participation rate at province level, presented in Table 23 indicate marginal differentials at province level - 47% to 59%.

Table 23 Labour Force Participation Rate by Province, 1996-2000

Year	Total	Western	Central	Southern	North Western	North Central	Uva	Sabaragamuwa
1996	48.7	47.4	48.5	48.4	48.0	52.1	52.4	49.7
1997	48.7	47.4	50.0	47.0	49.3	49.0	53.5	48.6
1998	51.7	49.0	54.4	49.3	52.3	55.1	61.9	48.7
1999	50.7	47.7	52.9	48.3	51.0	54.3	61.0	50.1
2000	50.3	50.3	47.1	53.2	47.0	51.3	58.6	50.3

The figure for Northern province (part) and Eastern province (Labour Force Survey in Northern and Eastern province 2002) is 34% and 40% respectively. Thus these two provinces seem to be having low labour force participation rate.

Foreign Employment

Table 24 indicates significant increase in the share of women who opted for foreign employment over a period of time. This also indicates improvement in mobility of women and one must be aware of its implication on the health status and freedom enjoyed by the women.

Table 24 Trends in Foreign Employment by Gender, 1986-2002

Year	Total	% of Women	% of Men
1986	16,456	33	67
1987	16,127	34	66
1988	18,428	55	45
1989	24,724	65	35
1990	42,625	64	36
1991	64,983	67	33
1992	44,652	65	35
1993	48,753	65	35
1994	60,168	73	27
1995	172,489	73	27
1996	162,576	74	27
1997	150,283	75	25
1998	159,816	63	33
1999	179,735	65	35
2000	182,188	67	33
2001	184,007	68	33
2002*	203,710	65	35

Type of Employment

As table 25 indicates, sizable proportion of women are housemaids, followed by skilled and unskilled workers.

Table 25 Distribution of Women by Type of Work, Sri Lanka 1999-2002

	1999		2000		2001		2002	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Professionals	1253	0.69	935	0.51	1218	0.66	1459	0.71
Middle Level	3161	1.76	3781	2.07	3776	2.05	4555	2.23
Clerical	6210	3.45	5825	3.19	6015	3.26	7239	3.55
Skilled	37277	20.73	36475	20.02	36763	19.97	45468	22.31
Unskilled	43771	24.35	35759	19.62	33385	18.14	36475	17.9
Housemaid	88063	48.99	99413	54.56	102850	55.89	108514	53.26
Total	179735		182188		184007		203710	

Unemployment Rate

At National Level

Table 26 indicates higher unemployment rate among females. Though there is a decline in unemployment rate for males as well as females during 1999 – 2000, it started increasing since then.

Table 26 Unemployment Rate by Sex, Sri Lanka, 1999 - 2002

Gender	1999	2000	2001	2002
Males	8.9	7.6	7.9	8.8
Females	6.7	5.8	6.2	6.6
Total	13.0	11.0	11.5	12.5

At Province level

The country as a whole had an unemployment rate of about 8% with the Southern province having the highest (11%) and Uva province having the lowest (4.5%). At the national level, the unemployment rate declined from 11.4% to 7.6% during 1996-2000. But increased during 2000 – 2002 for most of the provinces.

The estimate for Northern (Part) and Eastern Province for 2002-2003 is 13% and 16% respectively. This indicates higher level of unemployment in these two provinces.

Table 27 Unemployment Rate by Province, 1996-2002

Province	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2002
Western	12.2	10.7	9.3	8.9	8.0	8.9
Central	10.6	12.3	10.0	9.6	8.5	8.9
Southern	14.8	13.6	13.6	12.7	11.1	10.6
North Western	8.3	8.5	7.0	7.0	5.0	7.8
North Central	8.1	6.7	6.5	6.6	5.2	8.4
Uva	9.1	7.8	5.9	6.8	4.6	6.0
Sabargamuwa	12.2	10.0	9.3	8.3	8.0	9.8
Sri Lanka	11.4	10.5	9.2	8.9	7.6	8.8

At District Level

Table 28 gives the unemployment rate at the district level. Some of the districts like Kandy, Matara, Polonnaruwa and Kegalle recorded an unemployment rate of more than 10%.

Table 28 Unemployment Rate at District Level, 2002

District	Unemployed
<u>Western</u>	
Colombo	9.1
Gampaha	8.2
Kalutara	9.8
<u>Central</u>	
Kandy	11.6
Matale	7.6
Nuwara Eliya	5.4
<u>Southern</u>	
Galle	8.8
Matara	11.0
Hambantota	13.3
<u>North Western</u>	
Kurunegala	7.9
Puttalam	7.5
<u>North Central</u>	
Anuradhapura	7.1
Polonnaruwa	11.7
<u>Uva</u>	
Badulla	
Monaragala	5.2
<u>Sabaragamuwa</u>	
Ratnapura	9.2
Kegalle	10.6

Income

Income Differentials by sector and Province

Table 29 gives the household and per capita income in terms of mean at sector and province level. Estate sector recorded the lowest income, while urban areas recorded the highest income. The western province recorded the highest income, while the Eastern province recorded the lowest income.

Thus Eastern, Northern and Sabargamuwa provinces seem to be having low levels of income at household level. The analysis also indicates significant income differentials across the provinces.

Table 29 Mean Household Income and Per Capita Income

Sector/Province	Mean Household Income (Rs.)	Mean Per Capita Income (Rs.)
<u>Sector</u>		
Urban	22420	4997
Rural	11712	2835
Estate	7303	1663
<u>Province</u>		
Western	17732	4187
Central	11175	2623
Southern	11229	2598
North Western	10918	2717
North Central	9926	2437
Uva	10388	2528
Sabaragamuwa	8439	2036
Northern (Part)*	8155	1852
Eastern *	7640	1777

* Household Income and Expenditure Survey 2002-2003
(Carried out in Northern and Eastern Provinces)

Income Differentials by District

The district wise analysis presented in Table 30 indicates wide ranging differentials in terms of mean household and per capita income. Colombo recorded the highest income, while Nuwara Eliya recorded the lowest income.

Table 30 Mean Household Income and Per Capita Income by District, 2002

District	Mean Household Income (Rs.)	Per Capita Income (Rs.)
<u>Western</u>		
Colombo	21088	4923
Gampaha	16794	4013
Kalutara	12907	3046
<u>Central</u>		
Kandy	12674	2956
Matale	10390	2568
Nuwara Eliya	8973	2061
<u>Southern</u>		
Galle	12724	2975
Matara	10529	2406
Hambantota	9392	2165
<u>North Western</u>		
Kurunegala	10771	2695
Puttalam	11222	2761
<u>North Central</u>		
Anuradhapura	10496	2602
Polonnaruwa	8724	2098
<u>Uva</u>		
Badulla	10377	2544
Monaragala	10411	2498
<u>Sabaragamuwa</u>		
Ratnapura	8518	2004
Kegalle	8342	2079

Poverty by Ethnic Group and Province

Poverty seems to be slightly higher among Sri Lankan Tamils and Indian Tamils. Uva and Sabaragamuwa provinces recorded higher levels of poverty, while the Western province recorded the lowest level of poverty.

Table 31 Poverty by Ethnic Group and Province, 2002

Ethnic Group	Poor	Non Poor
Singhalese	19	81
Sri Lanka Tamils	22	78
Indian Tamils	21	79
Sri Lanka Moor	21	79
Province	% Poor Households	
Western	9	
Central	21	
Southern	24	
North Western	22	
North Central	18	
Uva	32	
Sabaragamuwa	29	

Excluding Northern and Eastern Provinces.

Amenities

Table 32 gives the results on access to basic amenities in terms of access to drinking water, toilet and use of firewood for cooking. Access to safe drinking water, toilet facility and use of firewood for cooking seems to be low in some of the districts. In some of the districts, from Sabaragamuwa, Uva, North Central and North Western provinces use of firewood for cooking is very high.

Table 32 Household Level Environment

Province/ District	Safe Drinking Water	Latrine Facilities	Fire wood for cooking
<u>Western</u>			
Colombo	96	88	32
Gampaha	91	97	66
Kalutara	84	96	82
<u>Central</u>			
Kandy	83	96	85
Matale	79	96	92
Nuwara Eliya	69	82	89
<u>Southern</u>			
Galle	82	96	86
Matara	78	98	89
Hambantota	88	96	95
<u>North Western</u>			
Kurunegala	86	93	95
Puttalam	93	83	88
<u>North Central</u>			
Polonnaruwa	84	87	92
	77	93	95
<u>Uva</u>			
Badulla	69	94	92
Monaragala	65	91	95
<u>Sabaraganuwa</u>			
Ratnapura	57	96	94
Kegalle	70	96	94

Correlation Analysis

With a view to understand the relation between development variables and population variables, correlation analysis has been carried out and the results indicate negative correlation between literacy rate (male as well as female) with CBR, IMR and negative correlation between safe drinking water and IMR. This clearly demonstrates the impact of development variables on the population variables.

7. SRI LANKA VS OTHER SAARC COUNTRIES

Greater investments in health and education services for all people, in particular women, to enable further participation of women in civil, cultural, economical, political and racial life are expected to help in achieving the objectives of the ICPD programme of action.

A comparative profile of Sri Lanka and other SAARC countries is presented in Table 33, 34 and 35 in terms of Human Development Index, Demographic indicators and Social Indicators.

The HDI of Sri Lanka recorded steady increase during 1975-2000. Sri Lanka is better than India and Indonesia in terms of HDI. (Table 33)

Sri Lanka's population growth rate is lower than that of other SAARC countries and has higher population density. It also recorded lower fertility and mortality, compared to other SARC countries. Sri Lanka recorded higher literacy rate but lower labour force participation rate for males as well as females. Though population per hospital bed is lowest in Sri Lanka, population per physician is very high indicating low access to physicians.

Table 33 HDI of Sri Lanka and Other SAARC countries

Medium HD Country	1975	1980	1985	1990	1998	2000	HDI Rank 2000
Sri Lanka	0.605	0.641	0.671	0.694	0.714	0.741	89
Thailand	0.604	0.647	0.678	0.717	0.746	0.762	70
Malaysia	0.614	0.654	0.691	0.718	0.755	0.782	89
Indonesia	0.471	0.533	0.586	0.630	0.665	0.684	110
Maldives	-	-	-	-	0.683	0.743	84
India	-	-	-	-	-	0.577	124

Table 34 Social Indicators- Sri Lanka and other SAARC countries

Indicator	Year	Sri Lanka	India	Maldives	Malaysia	Thailand	Indonesia
HDI	2000	0.74	0.58	0.74	0.78	0.76	0.68
Male literacy rate	2000	94	68	99	91	97	92
Female literacy rate	2000	89	45	99	83	94	82
Male labour force participation rate	2000	78	85	83	80	86	82
Female labour force participation rate	2000	43	42	66	48	73	55
%Population Below Poverty Line	1984-00	25	35	NA	16	13	27
Population/physician	1999	3132	1916	1358	1465	3670	6195
Population/hospital bed	1999	329	1493	765	500	500	1429
Daily per capita supply of							
Protein	1999	54	58	88	77	53	64
Calories	1999	2411	2417	2298	2947	2411	2931

Table 35 Demographic Indicators for Sri Lanka and other SAARC countries

Indicator	Year	Sri Lanka	India	Maldives	Malaysia	Thailand	Indonesia
Mid year Population (Millions)	2001	18.7	1017.5	0.3	23.8	62.9	213.5
Population growth	2001	1.4	1.5	1.8	2.3	0.8	1.4
Population density	2001	299	342	1	72	123	118
Population by Age (%)							
0-14 yrs	2001	26	33	43	33	24	30
15-64 yrs	2001	68	62	53	63	70	65
>65+ yrs	2001	6	5	4	4	6	5
Urban Popn. (%)	2001	33	28	28	58	20	42
CBR (/ 1000)	2001	18	25	NA	25	17	22
CDR (/1000)	2001	6	9	NA	4	7	7
TFR	2000	2.1	3.2	5.6	3.1	2.1	2.5
IMR	2000	17	69	59	8	25	35
MMR	1985-99	60	440	390	39	44	470
Exp of life at birth	2000	73	63	68	72	69	66

9 Concluding Remarks

Across the island nation, less than three fifth of the households had availability of electricity and less than one third have access to pipe borne water, with considerable province wise differentials. The estate sector recorded the lowest use of electricity for lighting.

The level of poverty in Sri Lanka has shown significant reduction due to the overall economic growth. Considerable progress has been made in improving the health and education status of the population. But some of the issues such as school attendance of children, malnutrition, access to pipe borne water and having the toilet facility still need attention.

Sri Lanka is far ahead of its South Asian neighbours in the accomplishment of human development goals. On the demographic front, Sri Lanka experienced significant out migration in the past three decades. This has been mainly due to the flow of workers mostly females as domestic aid to the Gulf and South East Asian Countries for employment. Though this has contributed partly to decline in population growth rate and added to the foreign exchange receipts, the migration of females led to social and health problems. A significant number of return migrants have been tested positive for HIV. And a number of young female children left behind, have been subjected to sexual harassment.

Aging of the population is one of the major challenges the island nation will face in the coming decades as the population of '65 + years' is estimated to increase to 18% by 2021, and 20% by 2010. This will be accompanied by decline in proportion of <14 years population to 20% by 2021 and 19 % by 2026. The consequential need that arises for health care and social support to this group needs special attention.

The second emerging issue pertains to urbanisation as by 2030, 40 per cent of the total population is estimated to be urban. Provision of infrastructure and environment related implications of urbanisation need attention.

The Northern province and Eastern Province districts recorded higher population growth. The district wise analysis of fertility and mortality data also indicates wide-ranging differentials. For instance, the districts from Northern and Eastern province recorded higher fertility and mortality levels.

Proportion of female headed households is increasing in Sri Lanka and this needs to be addressed in view of its Social implications. These females are poor and widows with low educational levels.

The proportion of working age population is also increasing. This requires work opportunities to be created.

The estate sector recorded highest fertility while the urban areas recorded higher fertility. The Northern and Eastern provinces recorded higher levels of mortality and the prevailing situation in these provinces could be a contributing factor.

Implications

In view of the rapid urbanisation, there is a need to pay attention towards provision of infrastructure necessary to ensure quality of life.

Further decline of fertility can be achieved through focus on high fertility districts viz., Colombo, Kandy, Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa and Badulla.

Efforts are needed for further mortality decline (including IMR) in high mortality districts – Colombo, Kandy, Galle, Kurunegala, Anuradhapura, Badulla and Nuwara Eliya.

Efforts are needed to provide basic amenities such as safe drinking water and toilet and provide alternate fuel for cooking, in place of firewood.

Uva Province (Badulla and Monaragala districts) and Sabargamuwa province (Ratnapura district) recorded low female literacy rate and specific efforts are needed to increase the female literacy rate in these provinces/districts.

Though literacy rate is very high, educational attainment needs attention to ensure that people get higher levels of educational attainment, as only 2-3% of males and females completed degree level of education. As this has a bearing on type of employment, specific initiatives can be thought of to enhance the educational attainment of men and women.

Improvement in female labour force participation is a good sign but the province wise differentials are a concern. Increase in share of women in foreign employment is another concern as most of these women could be involved in domestic help abroad. This might be responsible for increase in HIV prevalence among women particularly return migrants.

The Northern and Eastern provinces and the estate sector perhaps need specific strategies to correct the imbalance between the provinces in terms of development as well as demographic indicators. This would pave the way for overall development of the island nation and achievement of Millennium Development Goals (MDG). Normalcy has to be restored in the island nation to achieve higher levels of development and improve quality of life of the people irrespective of residence, religion and ethnicity.

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