

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

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

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