

3.5 SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACT OF CKDu: A PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS

Liyanage C₁, Jayathilake R₁, de Silva A₁, Kasthuriratne A₂, Jayasinghe S
University of Colombo₁ and Kelaniya₂
sarojoffice@yahoo.com

Introduction: CKDu is estimated to affect 8 to 9% of adults in rural NCP, and led to NCP having the highest number of deaths due to CKD in the country. The present study describes the socio-economic impact of the disorder in these areas.

Methods: Studies included a community-based study to describe social impact and estimate costs at the household and community level, and a hospital-based study to estimate costs to the health system. The community-based study consisted of interviewing 200 patients with CKDu patients selected from registers.

Results: Most were poorly educated (12.5% had passed GCE O-Level) and from poor socio-economic group. 131 (65.5%) were males and 184 (92%) above 40 years. 157 (78.5%) found that CKDu reduced their contribution to household income. Costs of agriculture increased because of shortage of labour, costs of hiring workers and machinery. However, medical costs increased due to laboratory tests, medication and transport. Allowances from social service sector were meager and families were stigmatized as a result of the diagnosis.

Conclusions: CKDu is devastating rural communities in NCP. Its national impacts could include slower economic growth and depopulation of areas. The aetiology appears to be linked to water. Focus on biomedical aetiologies and interventions to tackle it should work at least in parallel or perhaps take a back seat and instead the government should invest in a massive development effort to provide safe water and social protection. Irrespective of CKDu, safe water is immensely beneficial and rights of this voiceless group should be respected