

**F-08 : PARENT PARTICIPATION AND ITS EFFECT ON FORMAL  
EDUCATION AT PRIMARY LEVEL IN THE PLANTATION SECTOR  
SCHOOLS IN TEA GROWING AREAS IN SRI LANKA**

*Siron Rajaratnam and Dieneke Van der Wijk\**  
*Cotta Rd, Colombo and \*Klaprooslaan, Groningen, The Netherlands.*

Before 1977 the plantation schools lay outside the state system of education and were run by their respective state managements. The Ministry of Education took over the schools in two stages in 1977 and in 1980 and has invested substantial resources for the development of Primary Schools in this sector with local and foreign funds.

This study attempts to find out the role and contribution of parent participation at the primary level in plantation sector schools in tea growing areas in Sri Lanka.

Sixty families at random were interviewed and an indepth study of 20 selected families was carried out for a period of over 5 months to 2 estates in the Talawakelle region.

The study showed that parents took an initiative in participating indirectly by stimulating school activities. The parents are aware of their limitations, their financial resources, time and educational shortcomings but were not aware of their possible contribution towards the development of the schools.

This study shows that by preventing communicational misunderstanding, and prejudice concerning the interest and knowledge of parents it was possible to intensify the relationship between parents, teachers and principals and in consequence increase the level of parent participation in formal education at primary level.