

EXPLORATIVE STUDY ON THE ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF INCOME AVAILABLE IN HOUSEHOLDS IN THE BATTICALOA DISTRICT: A POST WAR PERSPECTIVE

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Developed and developing countries are more concerned about the development of the livelihood of households. Households need sufficient income for their livelihood development. Sri Lanka is one of the developing countries which suffered from civil war over 30 years. The Batticaloa District is one of the areas of the country affected by the war. The households in the Batticaloa District traditionally depend on traditional agriculture and fishing. The income generated from these traditional income sources is not adequate to achieve the livelihood development objectives, and the continuous use of the natural resources via traditional mechanisms will lead to resource depletion and the other development goals will get affected. Therefore, there is an essential need to identify alternative sources of income generating activities to achieve the livelihood development in the district. The Objective of the study is to find out the alternative income generating sources available in households in the Batticaloa District after the end of the war. For this study, availability of physical, financial and human resources were used as independent variables. Primary and secondary data were used for this study. Primary data were collected through a field survey by using questionnaires and interviews from the sample of 200 households in the district. District statistical reports obtained from the Kachcheri was used as secondary data. Collected data were analyzed through descriptive statistics to find out mean, median, etc. The study reveals that though there are plenty of resources available in the Batticaloa District, households depend on fishing, paddy cultivation, home gardening and livestock management. However, as per the study, there are large numbers of alternative sources of income generating activities, which are not yet touched by the households in the area. The study identified income sources such as tourism industry, sewing /weaving, pottery making, coir works, reed production, cashew processing, milk based value added products and food processing as alternative sources to the existing traditional sources. Poor financial support, marketing opportunities, technical know-how and knowledge are the reasons for not considering alternative sources. If actions are taken to achieve the full potential of alternative sources, the livelihood will increase through the increase of households' income.

Keywords: Financial, Livelihood development, Physical, Sources