

STUDY ON THE WATER USE AND SANITATION CONDITIONS OF THE RESETTLED AREAS OF THE MANMUNAI WEST DIVISIONAL SECRETARIAT IN BATTICALOA DISTRICT

M. Sugirtharan¹ and S. Amuthenie²

¹*Department of Agricultural Engineering, Faculty of Agriculture, Eastern University of Sri Lanka;*

²*Department of Agricultural Chemistry, Faculty of Agriculture, Eastern University of Sri Lanka*

Corresponding author: amuthenie@yahoo.co.uk

The present study was conducted at resettled places in the Manmunai West Divisional Secretariat (DS) Area of Batticaloa District, Sri Lanka to find out the status of household water use and sanitation of rural community. One Hundred and fifty households were selected by random sampling method. A questionnaire based survey, field observations and group discussions were used to gather information. Collected data were statistically analysed using SPSS. Results showed that the socio-economic characteristics of households vary within the DS areas. About 52% of the people poses at least primary education and has a basic knowledge on water use and sanitation. However, the data also revealed that there were 36% of the household heads without any formal education. Most of the households had access to semi-protected wells (85 %) as the main water source and use Aluminium cans with lids (62 %) and plastic jerry cans (33 %) as main water storage containers at their houses. Nearly seventy six percentage of the households reported that they get good quality water by adopting water treatment practices such as filtering (55 %), boiling (37 %) and chlorination (< 4 %). As far as the sanitation and hygiene conditions are concerned, 23 % of the households in this study area were affected by water borne diseases. About 23 % of the resettles are washing the hands with soap after going to toilet and 10 % before consumption of food. Approximately, 95 % of the households have the habit of regular hand wash. Soap (89 %) was the commonest disinfectant material used to wash hands. Lack of water and poverty were the constraints for them to construct and use latrine in their houses. Therefore, it is recommended to provide water supply to these people as subsidiary scheme by considering their low income level and special attention should be given to use appropriate tools when conducting awareness or training programs because of the poor education level of the household heads in these resettled area.

Keywords: Sanitation, Water treatment, Water use