

**FERTILITY DIFFERENCES AMONG THE POOR AND NON-POOR: A STUDY IN THE KALUTARA DISTRICT.**

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**Abstract:** Sri Lanka has achieved replacement level fertility within a context of high social development. However, compared to other Asian countries in this situation, Sri Lanka lacks a high income level, with around one quarter of the population being poor. In the literature of social sciences, poverty is considered to fuel high fertility. Therefore, an attempt was made in this paper to compare the level of fertility among the poor and the non-poor to observe whether fertility differs among the poor and the non-poor in a national context of a below replacement level. The study reveals that although the fertility levels among the women who have been married for a longer period of time show a significant difference, the fertility of the women who have been married for shorter duration of marriage is not significantly different. This is within a context where poor women marry at younger ages, have longer duration of marriage and is of a low level of education compare to the non-poor in the same category.