



The Population Association of Sri Lanka celebrated its Silver Jubilee: 1997 – 2022

The Inaugural Ceremony of the Silver Jubilee Celebrations, panel discussion on *Population Dynamics in the Context of Current Economic Crisis in Sri Lanka* and launching of the Sri Lanka Journal of Population Studies (SLJPS) Volume 22 Number 2 and Volume 23 Number 1, together with the AGM of the Association was held on 26 November 2022 at the Senate Hall, University of Colombo. The event was graced by the Chief Guest, Senior Professor H.D. Karunaratne – Vice Chancellor, University of Colombo, Guest of Honour, Mr. Kunle Adeniyi – Officer in Charge, UNFPA Country office, Sri Lanka, Dr. Indu R. Bandara, President/PASL and Ms. Samanthi Bandara, Secretary/PASL.

President's Message

It is a great pleasure to welcome you all to the first issue of the 2022-2023 PASL newsletter. The Population Association of Sri Lanka (PASL) was founded on 8th February 1997 and celebrated its Silver Jubilee in November 2022. Over the last twenty-five years PASL has been making a significant contribution in addressing population and development issues in the county as well as in the Asian region. We are thankful to the UNFPA, Sri Lanka that has generously supported the PASL activities from its inception. The 25th Council commenced its tenure on 27th November 2022, and we have been planning a series of activities in recent months such as guest lecture series, networking, community outreach activities, workshops, scientific communications, and policy discussions among our members and collaborating organizations. The PASL Life Membership currently stands at 324. I would like to thank all members who have contributed to the activities of the 25th council. I wish to thank the Editor of the newsletter, Dr. Kumudika Boyagoda for her active contribution for publishing this newsletter. Finally, I am looking forward to your continuous contribution and active involvement in PASL activities.



Sunethra J. Perera - President, Population Association of Sri Lanka
February 2023

25th Council – Population Association of Sri Lanka (PASL) – 2022-2023

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Population Dynamics in the Context of Current Economic Crisis in Sri Lanka



Chairperson: Emeritus Professor KAP Siddhisena, Department of Demography, University of Colombo

The inauguration of the Silver Jubilee Celebrations was followed by a panel discussion. Given the present situation in the country and to capture how it can impact the demographics of Sri Lanka, the panel discussion was titled Population Dynamics in the Context of Current Economic Crisis in Sri Lanka. The discussion was Chaired by Emeritus Professor K.A.P. Siddhisena, a nationally and internationally acclaimed demographer and the founder Secretary of the PASL.

Speakers and Synopses

Economic crisis and its impact on population dynamics (Population change, Politics & Policies)

The World's population is rapidly changing, so is Sri Lanka's situation. In an extremely volatile economic backdrop, demography cannot be studied or used in isolation, though it has its distinct qualities. Addressing challenges on Demographic dividend and demographic disparity needs to be discussed with in the broader parameters of political demography and how unpacking of such phenomena would provide better opportunities to find solutions for public policy making processes while addressing emerging insecurities among different population groups to build sustainable communities that live in harmony with dignity & equality.

Ms Madusha Dissanayake
Regional Programme Specialist
Asia-Pacific Regional Office (APRO)
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)



Demographic change, Economic Crisis, and Health (Aspects of mortality, morbidity and nutrition)

Sri Lanka is in an economic crisis, worst since the independence. The current crisis is surfacing at a crucial time in the demographic transition, where the child dependency is changing to old age dependency. This time the country needs a major economic boost to mark a sustainable economic development to cater to the growing older population. Policy decisions that are short sighted, politically biased, based on personal interests and ulterior motives have detailed the aspirations of the country. High inflation, threat to food security, depleted foreign reserves, and austerity measures adopted as solutions has heavy impact on the day to day lives of the people, especially on health and nutrition. The emerging evidence reveals those basic nutritional indicators of most vulnerable segments in the population, is heading to alarming levels of malnutrition, which could lead to a vicious cycle for generations. Escalations of medicinal prices has serious consequences for the growing elderly population, who are on lifelong treatment for chronic non-communicable diseases. Within this context several concerns can be raised on the possible directions: Is the IMF Loan a magic tool?, Can the Budget Proposals show us a way out? How trustworthy the statistics presented by CBSL and DCS?, What is the role of professionals?

Professor Manuj C. Weerasinghe
Department of Community Medicine, University of Colombo

Economic crisis and its impact on vulnerable groups (Aspects of women and children)

Crisis can be defined as a time of intense difficulty or danger, and certainly the economic crisis affecting Sri Lanka in 2022, following the two years of hardship created by the global Covid-19 pandemic has created a time of intense difficulty for all, as the stagflation that characterizes the economy afflicts the population in two ways: low or negative growth creating stagnation, reducing opportunities for employment and micro enterprise activities, and reducing incomes and earnings on the one hand and hyperinflation, fueled further by exchange rate depreciation, decreasing household welfare as food and medicine prices rise incessantly, on the other. Vulnerability is defined as the quality or state of being exposed to the possibility of being harmed, either physically or emotionally, and an economic crisis when it adversely affects affordability and household wellbeing threatens physically in terms of malnutrition and ill health, and emotionally with rising uncertainty and hardship generating greater stress and mental health issues. While everyone is affected by the economic crisis this presentation will focus on the impacts confronting the most vulnerable: women, children, workers in the informal sector and the poor, as these groups will face the most severe temporal and inter-generational impacts. With children afflicted, future human capital is challenged by this economic crisis, which in turn could result in low economic growth in the future undoing the gains in the past that have been built up on the solid foundation of growth in human capital. Much negative anecdotal evidence exists, though not much



Senior Professor Amala de Silva
Department of Economics,
University of Colombo



SRI LANKA JOURNAL OF POPULATION STUDIES

VOLUME 22 NUMBER 2

AUGUST 2021

K.P.K.R. Karunagoda, P.K. Perera and H. Senanayake

Demography and Clinical Characterization Pattern of Uterine Fibroid Patients attending the National Ayurveda Teaching Hospital, Sri Lanka

M.G.D.I.D. Wijerathne

Changing Employment Characteristics among the Internally Migrated Youth: Special Reference to Estate Sector in Sri Lanka

K.G.J. Nishadini and R.A.B. Abeygunawardana

Part-time Employment and Students' Academic Performance: A Case Study of the Undergraduates in the Faculty of Science, University of Colombo

Indu R. Bandara

Psychological Violence from Intimate Partners against Sri Lankan Women

Book Review



Certificates of Membership

Certificates of Membership were awarded to the new members who obtained Life Membership of the Population Association of Sri Lanka during the tenure of the 24th Council at the Inaugural ceremony held on 26 November 2022. The Life Membership of the PASL stood at 318 on 26 November 2022.

New Life Members

LM 316 Dr. Harischandra Yakandawala

Medical Director, Family Planning Association of Sri Lanka

LM 317 Ms. Mihirani Dissanayake

CEO/Director, Survey Research Lanka (Pvt) Ltd.

LM 318 Dr. Jayamali Rajapaksha

Senior Lecturer, Institute of Indigenous Medicine, University of Colombo

Sri Lanka Journal of Population Studies (SLJPS)

Sri Lanka Journal of Population Studies (SLJPS) Volume 22 Number 2 & Volume 23 Number 1 (The Silver Jubilee Celebratory Issue) was launched in 2022. The SLJPS is a scientific refereed journal by the Population Association of Sri Lanka to promote research and disseminate knowledge on demography and population studies from a multi-disciplinary perspective with major reference to Sri Lanka.



SRI LANKA JOURNAL OF POPULATION STUDIES

The Silver Jubilee Celebratory Issue of the Population Association of Sri Lanka

VOLUME 23 NUMBER 1

FEBRUARY 2022

K.A.P. Siddhisena and Deborah S. DeGraff

Status of Young Married Women in the Household in Sri Lanka: The Roles of Patrilocal Residence and Education

Lakshman Dissanayake

Improving Women's Labour Force Participation in Sri Lanka: An Exploratory Analysis

T.P.C. Dilrukshi and E.L. Sunethra J. Perera

Demographic and Socio-Economic Determinants of Stopping Behaviour of Fertility after the Second Childbirth among Married Women in Sri Lanka

G.R.S.R.C. Samaraweera and M.D.A.L. Ranasinghe

Moonlighting Choice in Labour Market Decision Making in Sri Lanka

Manori Kaluthantiri Weeratunga

Inequalities in Mortality in Sri Lanka

Indralal De Silva and Kumudika Boyagoda

Underestimated Trends in Urbanization: Population Disparities among and between Urban and Rural Localities of Sri Lanka



Recipient of Gold Medal – Deshabandu Emeritus Professor Lakshman Dissanayake

BDevS(Honors)(Colombo); PG Diploma (Colombo); MA (Brussels); PhD (Adelaide); FRSA (United Kingdom)

The Population Association of Sri Lanka felicitated Emeritus Professor Lakshman Dissanayake in recognition of his contribution to the field of demography both locally and internationally.

Professor Lakshman Dissanayake was former Vice Chancellor, and former Chair Professor of Demography, University of Colombo where he served for more than 40 years. He has been honoured with esteemed positions and awards nationally and internationally for his contributions to the field of Demography. He was honoured by the UNFPA when Sri Lanka celebrated their 50th year by allocating a section on him as a leading personality in the field of population in their main publication, "Perspectives: reflecting on the five decades of sexual and reproductive health and rights in Sri Lanka". He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts (FRSA), UK. In 2019, he received National Honours- Deshabandu for his meritorious service to the nation (lifetime title). He was an Independent Expert at the SAARC Secretariat and functioned as the Lead Consultant to the UNFPA and various international organizations. He served as a member of 'Irregular Migration Research International Reference Panel' and is a member of the Research Advisory Group of the Department of Immigration and Border Protection of the Australian Government. He is a Member of the Migration Research Leaders Syndicate of the International Organization of Migration, Geneva, Switzerland. Professor Dissanayake is an Honorary Professor of the Yunnan University of China, Visiting Professor of the Leeds Metropolitan University, United Kingdom and Adjunct Member of the Hugo Centre for Population and Migration Research. Professor Dissanayake's expertise includes international and internal migration, population ageing, regional demography, and health demography. He has published books, book chapters and numerous research articles in local and internationally reputed journals. His research as well as related community extension work has provided a significant benefit, especially to the vulnerable communities in Sri Lanka and abroad.



PASL Guest Lectures

Ms. D.D.G.A. Seneviratne, Additional Director General (Statistics) and Dr. W.A. Chandani Wijebandara, Director (Statistics) from the Department of Census and Statistics conducted a lecture on "Population Censuses of Sri Lanka" on 4 January 2023 at the Faculty of Arts, University of Colombo. The lecture targeted undergraduates, and more than 100 students participated.




University Guest Lecture Series for
Undergraduates
organized by
Population Association of Sri Lanka
All Undergraduates are invited

Date : 2023.01.24
Time : 8.00 a.m. -10.00 a.m.
Venue : Lecture Hall 128

Topic: Population Censuses in Sri Lanka


Dr. W. A. Chandani Wijebandara
Director (Statistics)
Department of Census and Statistics
Sri Lanka


Ms. D.D.G.A Seneviratne
Additional Director General (Statistics)
Department of Census and Statistics
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