Absolute and Relative Consumption Poverty in Sri Lanka

Evidence from the Consumer Finance Survey 2003 / 4

Dileni Gunewardena, Arunika Meedeniya and Shivapragasam Shivakumaran

December 2007

Working Paper Series No. 16 - 2007

First Published - 2007

ISBN: 978-955-1040-41-3

National Library of Sri Lanka - Cataloguing of Publication Data

Gunewardena, Dileni
Absolute and Relative Consumption Poverty in Sri Lanka: Evidence from the Consumer Finance Survey 2003/4 Dileni Gunewardena, Arunika Meedeniya, Shivapragasam Shivakumaran.-Colombo: Centre for Poverty Analysis, 2007.- p.90; 21cm

ISBN: 978-955-1040-41-3 Price:

i. 362.5095493 DDC 21 ii. Title
iii. Meedeniya, Arunika - jt. au. iv. Shivakumaran, Shivapragasam - jt. au
1. Poverty analysis - Sri Lanka

The CEPA Publication Series currently includes; Studies, Edited Volumes, Working Papers and Briefing Papers. The interpretations and conclusions expressed in this Working Paper are those of the individual author and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of CEPA or the publication sponsor.

Photographs used in this publication are attributed to CEPA staff.

All enquiries relating to this publication should be directed to:

Centre for Poverty Analysis
29 Gregory's Road, Colombo 7
Sri Lanka
Tel: +94 11 2676955-8, 2667967-8
Fax: +94 11 2676959
Email: info@cepa.lk
Web: www.cepa.lk

Printed by : Karunaratne & Sons Ltd.
67, UDA Industrial Estate
Katuwana Road, Homagama
Sri Lanka

Dileni Gunewardena (B.A. Peradeniya, Ph.D. American) is a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Economics and Statistics, University of Peradeniya. Her research interests include the analysis of poverty, inequality, and gender discrimination. She has over 14 years experience of analysing microdata from the Department of Census and Statistics' Household Income and Expenditure Surveys, Demographic and Health Surveys and Labour Force Surveys. She is the author of several CEPA publications on poverty measurement.

Arunika Meedeniya (B. A. Colombo) is a Junior Professional at the Centre for Poverty Analysis (CEPA). Her research interests include quantitative analysis, field data collection techniques and data management. She has worked on a number of small and large-scale quantitative data collection and analysis projects at CEPA.

Shivapragasam Shivakumaran is a Senior Professional at the Centre for Poverty Analysis (CEPA). He has over 25 years experience in applied statistics working for the Statistics Department of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka and was involved in most of the sample surveys conducted by Central Bank during that time. He has undertaken various analyses and estimates on poverty related issues based on the Consumer Finance and Socio Economic Surveys (CFS) 1996/97 and 2003/04 series. He has also worked as a consultant to the Welfare Benefits Board attached to the Ministry of Finance to develop a system with transparent criteria to identify the poor.

The **Centre for Poverty Analysis (CEPA)** was established in 2001 as an independent institute providing professional services on poverty related development issues. CEPA provides services in the areas of applied research, advisory services, training and dialogue and exchange to development organisations and professionals. These services are concentrated within the core programme areas that currently include: Poverty Impact Monitoring, Poverty and Conflict, and Poverty Assessment & Knowledge Management.

This report is a product of the Poverty Assessment & Knowledge Management Programme and sponsored by the Asian Development Bank through a technical assistance grant supporting the programme.

Acknowledgements

The Statistics Department of the Central Bank is gratefully acknowledged for providing the unit record (raw) data from the CFS 2003/04 on which the calculations in this study were made. They bear no responsibility for the analysis or interpretations presented here. Any errors in calculation and interpretation are the sole responsibility of the authors.

Thanks are due to Azra Cader who provided guidance to the study, to Priyanthi Fernando and Neranjana Gunatilleke for helpful comments and Fiona Remnant for editing the final version of the document. They bear no responsibility for any remaining errors and omissions.

Abbreviations and Acronyms

ADB	-	Asian Development Bank
CBN	-	Cost of Basic Needs
CCPI	-	Colombo Consumer Price Index
CFS	-	Consumer Finance Survey
DCS	-	Department of Census and Statistics
FEI	-	Food Energy Intake
FGT	-	Foster, Greer, Thorbecke measures of poverty
HCI	-	Headcount index
HIES	-	Household Income and Expenditure Survey
IGR	-	Income Gap Ratio
LFSES	-	Labour Force and Socio-Economic Survey
PG	-	Poverty gap index
SPG	-	Squared poverty gap index
SLCPI	-	Sri Lanka Consumer Price Index
WB	-	World Bank

Contents

Tables

Annex - 01

Figures

Executive Summary

This study is a profile of poverty, unique in that its estimates of poverty include a wider geographical coverage than many previous studies, and in that it uses a range of poverty lines rather than a single poverty line. It also provides information on the association between poverty and some characteristics for which evidence was not previously available.

This study is one of few recent studies to analyse poverty in the Northern and Eastern provinces of Sri Lanka, drawing as it does on household consumption information collected in the Consumer Finance Survey of 2003/04. It uses several poverty lines that provide a wide ranging picture of poverty, from the situation of the very poor who face absolute deprivation to the vulnerable non-poor who are in relative poverty.

The poverty profile includes poverty measures by locational characteristics such as sector and province, and by demographic, human capital and labour market characteristics, such as gender, educational attainment, employment status, industry, occupation, ethnicity and disability, and household assets such as land ownership.

The profile of poverty is presented in terms of these characteristics, not only as they relate to the household head, but also as they relate to the entire population. In some instances, three parallel definitions are presented, e.g. poverty by level of education of the general population, of the household head, and of the principal income earner.

The study finds that 13-28% of the population of Sri Lanka is poor depending on the poverty line used. Poverty measures based on the official poverty line indicated that poverty in 2004 was most likely lower than in 2002.

The study indicated that a large percentage of the population was clustered around the poverty line. A 1% increase in the poverty line led to a 3-4% increase in the incidence of poverty depending on the series used. In general, the average poor person's consumption lay at a distance of 19-24% below the poverty line.

The urban sector had the lowest poverty and the estate sector the highest, regardless of the poverty line or measure used. Estimates based on the official poverty line indicated that absolute poverty incidence in the rural sector was more than double that in the urban sector, and incidence in the estate sector was more than double that in the rural sector. The largest share of the poor population, at 85%, was in the rural sector.

Poverty was highest in the Uva province, and lowest in the Western and North Western provinces. According to the CFS-based poverty line, the Central and Northern provinces had the second highest incidence of poverty, followed by Sabaragamuwa and Eastern provinces. Official-based poverty lines indicated a higher incidence of poverty in Sabaragamuwa than in the Central province. The Southern province had less poverty than any of these provinces, while the North Central province had lower poverty than the Southern but higher poverty than the North Western and Western provinces.

Estimates of the shares of the poor population in Sri Lanka differ by poverty line series. According to the official-based series, the highest share of the poor was in the Central province while the next highest contribution was made by Sabaragamuwa province. The North Central and North Western provinces had the least poor population shares, while the percentage of the poor in the least poor Western province and the poorest Uva province were comparable. According to the CFS-based series, the highest shares of the poor population were in the relatively populous Western and Central provinces, followed by the Southern and Sabaragamuwa provinces. The share of poor population in the Eastern province was similar to that of Uva.

The study finds that females in Sri Lanka are not poorer than males unless they are breadwinners, or in households where a large percentage of wage earnings are earned by females.

Poverty among children under age 14 was higher than average, but these figures may be an overestimate resulting from the use of *per capita* consumption unadjusted for the relative needs of individuals of different ages. The presence of elderly in the household or being elderly was *not* associated with higher poverty. While all households with an elderly member had lower than average poverty, households with elderly members in their 70s and 80s were poorer than households with elders in a lower age category. Households with a pension-receiving older person tend to be less poor than others.

Poverty is markedly higher among the disabled and in households with a disabled member, regardless of poverty line or measure. The consumption levels of the disabled were also well below ¾ of the poverty line.

There were clear differences in poverty by ethnicity. Poverty among the Sinhala population was clearly below average, while poverty among Tamils and Moors was clearly above average, regardless of poverty line or poverty measure. Sri Lankan Tamils living outside the Northern and Eastern provinces had deeper poverty than other groups, as measured by the relative, official-based poverty line.

Education has a strong and inverse relationship with poverty, regardless of poverty line or poverty measure. A clear ‘jump' in poverty rates is observed among individuals who have completed the lower secondary level of education, and among households where head or primary income earner had completed the lower secondary level of education. Households with an illiterate member were also significantly poorer than average.

Land ownership is associated with poverty. Around one third to half of the population in landless households was poor, double the incidence of poverty among those who owned land.

While poverty rates do not differ greatly between the employed and the unemployed, households with over two unemployed individuals had considerably higher poverty rates than the average. Similarly, households with at least one member engaged in informal sector employment had higher than average poverty rates. Poverty was highest among households with casual employees, unpaid family workers and the self-employed, with the strongest association with poverty being with casual work. Households with members engaged in paddy or vegetable farming, tea, rubber or cinnamon growing, fishing, *beedi* manufacturing, brick manufacturing, carpenters or construction workers, had a high incidence, depth and severity of poverty, while those in the retail trade, transport, education and health sectors, and household service provideß had a much weaker association with poverty.

Households that received private transfers (remittances) had lower poverty rates than average while households that received public transfers (government payments) had much higher poverty rates than average. Households receiving remittance from abroad, roughly one tenth of the population, had the lowest poverty, i.e. one household in ten was poor. One third to one quarter of the population lived in households receiving remittances from within the country, with poverty rates very close to the national average. By contrast, households receiving Samurdhi or Janasaviya, or any other form of transfer from the government were much poorer, by any measure of poverty. Nevertheless, only 40% of those who receive a Samurdhi or Janasaviya transfer were below the official poverty line. Only half of Samurdhi or Janasaviya recipients consume below 75% of median consumption. This indicates considerable leakage of income transfer benefits.

පාරිභෝගික මූල්‍ය සමීක්ෂණය - විධායක සාරාංශය

දරිද්‍රතාව පිළිබඳ පැතිකඩක් ඉදිරිපත් කරන මෙම අධ්‍යයනය දරිද්‍රතාව තක්සේරු කිරීම් පිළිබඳව ඒකීයභාවයක් උසුලන්නේ ඒ තුළින්, පෙර කරන ලද බොහොමයක් අධ්‍යයනයන් අබිභවා, පුළුල් භූගෝලීය ආවරණයක් ඇතුළත් කරන අතරම තනි දරිද්‍රතා රේඛාවකට වඩා දරිද්‍රතා රේඛාවන් පරාසයක් යොදා ගන්නා නිසාය. එමෙන්ම මෙම අධ්‍යයනය දරිද්‍රතාව සහ සමහර විශේෂ ගුණාංගයන් අතර පවතින සම්බන්ධතාව පිළිබඳව පෙර නොතිබූ සාක්ෂි පිළිබඳ තොරතුරු ඉදිරිපත් කරයි.

මෙම අධ්‍යයනය ශ්‍රී ලාංකාවේ උතුරු සහ නැගෙනහිර පළාත් තුළ දරිද්‍රතාව විශ්ලේෂණය කරනු ලබන නූතන අධ්‍යයනයන් කිපයකින් එකක් වන අතර එය 2003/04 පාරිභෝගික මූල්‍ය සමීක්ෂණයේ එක්රැස් කරන ලද ගෘහස්ථ පරිභෝජන තොරතුරු යොදා ගනී. මෙම අධ්‍යයනය මගින් නිරපේක්ෂ දරිද්‍රතාවට මුහුණ දෙන ඉතා දුගී අයගේ තත්ත්වයේ සිට සාපේක්ෂ දරිද්‍රතාව තුළ සිටින දුප්පතුන් නොවන පිඩාවට පත් වුවන්ගේ තත්ත්වය දක්වා වූ පුළුල් පරාසයක විහිදෙන දරිද්‍රතාව පිළිබඳ චිත්‍රය සපයනු ලබයි.

මෙම දරිද්‍රතා පැතිකඩ තුළින් අංශ හා පළාත් ආදී ලෙස වූ ස්ථානීය ලක්ෂණ ජනගහනය අනුව සහ ප්‍රජා විද්‍යාත්මක, මානව ප්‍රාග්ධන සහ ශ්‍රම වෙළඳපොළ ලක්ෂණ වන ස්ත්‍රී පුරුෂ සමාජභාවය, අධ්‍යාපන සාමාර්ථයන්, සේවා නියුක්ති තත්ත්වය, කර්මාන්තය, රැකියාව, ජනවාර්ගිකත්වය සහ නොහැකියාව සහ ඉඩම් අයිතිය වැනි ගෘහස්ත වත්කම් යන සාධක මත දරිද්‍රතා මිනුම් දක්වා ඇත.

මෙම ලක්ෂණ මත දරිද්‍රතා පැතිකඩ ඉදිරිපත් කරනු ලබනුයේ එම ලක්ෂණ ගෘහ මූලිකයා වෙත සම්බන්ධ නිසා පමණක් නොව සමස්ත ජනගහනය සඳහාම මෙම ලක්ෂණ සම්බන්ධ වන නිසාය. උදාහරණ වශයෙන් දැක්වුවහොත් එකිනෙකට සමාන්තර වූ නිර්වචන තුනක් ඉදිරිපත් කරනු ලබයි. එනම් සාමාන්‍ය ජනගහනයේ අධ්‍යාපන මට්ටම අනුව, ගෘහ මූලිකයා අනුව සහ ප්‍රධාන ආදායම් උපයන්නා අනුව යනාදී ලෙස දරිද්‍රතාව ඉදිරිපත් කරයි.

මෙම අධ්‍යයනය මගින්, භාවිතා කරන ලද දරිද්‍රතා රේඛාව මත පදනම්ව ශ්‍රී ලාංකීය ජනගහනයෙන් 13% - 28% ප්‍රමාණයක් දරිද්‍රතාවෙන් පෙළෙන බව සොයා ගනී. නිල දරිද්‍රතා රේඛාව පදනම් කොට ගෙන කරන ලද දරිද්‍රතා මිනුම් මගින් පෙන්නුම් කරනුයේ 2002 වසරට වඩා 2004 වසර තුළ දරිද්‍රතාව පහළ බවය.

මෙම අධ්‍යයනයෙන් පෙන්නුම් කරනුයේ ජනගහනයෙන් ඉතා විශාල ප්‍රතිශතයක් දරිද්‍රතා රේඛාව වටා සංකේන්ද්‍රණය වී ඇති බවය. භාවිත කර ඇති රේඛාව අනුව දරිද්‍රතා රේඛාවේ 1% ක ඉහළ යාම, දරිද්‍රතා අනුපාතය 3% - 4% ප්‍රමාණයකින් ඉහළ යාමට බලපායි. සාමාන්‍යයෙන් දිළිඳු පුද්ගලයෙකුගේ සාමාන්‍ය පරිභෝජනය, දරිද්‍රතා රේඛාවට පහළින් 19% - 24% පරාසයක පවතී.

භාවිතා කර ඇති දරිද්‍රතා රේඛාව හෝ මිනුම නොසලකා බලන විට නාගරික අංශය තුළ පහළම දරිද්‍රතාව ඇති අතර වතු අංශය තුළ ඉහළම දරිද්‍රතාව ඇත. නිල දරිද්‍රතා රේඛාව පදනම්ව කරන ලද ඇස්තමේන්තු මගින් නාගරික අංශය තුළ මෙන් දෙගුණයකටත් වඩා නිරපේක්ෂ දරිද්‍රතාවක් ග්‍රාමීය අංශය තුළ තිබෙන බව පෙන්නුම් කෙරුණි. දරිද්‍රතා ජනගහනයේ වැඩිම දායකත්වය, එනම් 85% පමණ ග්‍රාමීය අංශ තුළිනි.

දරිද්‍රතාව ඉහළම ඌව පළාතේ වන අතර පහළම බස්නාහිර හා වයඹ පළාත් තුළය. පාරිභෝගික මූල්‍ය සමීක්ෂණය පදනම් කර ගත් දරිද්‍රතා රේඛාවට අනුව මධ්‍යම හා උතුරු පළාත් තුළ දෙවෙනි ඉහළම දරිද්‍රතා ආපාතය පැවති අතර සබරගමුව සහ නැගෙනහිර පළාත් පිළිවෙලින් ඊළඟ ස්ථාන ගනී. නිල දරිද්‍රතා රේඛාව පදනම් කර ගත් දරිද්‍රතා රේඛාව මගින් පෙන්නුම් කර ඇත්තේ මධ්‍යම පළාතට වඩා වැඩියෙන් සබරගමුව පළාත තුළ දරිද්‍රතාව ඉහළ බවයි. දකුණු පළාත තුළ මේ ඕනෑම පළාතකට වඩා දරිද්‍රතාව පහළ මට්ටමක තිබූ අතර උතුරු මැද පළාතේ දරිද්‍රතාව දකුණු පළාතේ දරිද්‍රතාවට වඩා පහළ මට්ටමක පවතින නමුත් බස්නාහිර හා වයඹ පළාත්හි දරිද්‍රතාවට වඩා දකුණු පළාතේ දරිද්‍රතාව ඉහළය.

දරිද්‍රතා රේඛාවන් වර්ග අනුව, ශ්‍රී ලාංකාවේ දිළිඳු ජනගහනයේ දායකත්වයන් පිළිබඳ ඇස්තමේන්තු වෙනස් වේ. නිල දරිද්‍රතා රේඛාව පදනම් කර ගත් රේඛාවන් අනුව දුගී පිරිසෙන් ඉහළ ම කොටස මධ්‍යම පළාතෙන් වන අතර අනෙක් ඉහළ ම කොටස සබරගමුව පළාත නියෝජනය කරයි. වයඹ හා උතුරු මැද පළාත්හි අඩුම දුගී කොටසක් සිටින අතර දරිද්‍රතාව අවම තත්ත්වයේ ඇති බස්නාහිර පළාතේ සිටින දුප්පතුන් ප්‍රතිශතය සහ දුප්පත්ම පළාත වන ඌව පළාතේ සිටින දුප්පතුන් ප්‍රතිශතයට සමාන විය. පාරිභෝගික මූල්‍ය සමීක්ෂණය පදනම් කර ගත් දරිද්‍රතා රේඛාවන් අනුව දුගී ජනගහනයේ ඉහළම දායකත්වය සාපේක්ෂව ජනාකීර්ණ වන බස්නාහිර හා මධ්‍යම පළාත් වලින් වන අතර දකුණු හා

සබරගමුව පළාත් තුළින් රැළඟට ඉහළම දායකත්වය තිබුණි. නැගෙනහිර පළාතේ දුගී දායකත්වය උඩ පළාතේ දායකත්වය හා සමාන වේ.

පවුලේ ප්‍රධාන ආදායම් උපයන්නා හෝ වැටුප් ඉපයීම් වලින් විශාලම ප්‍රතිශතය උපයන්නා කාන්තාව නොවන අවස්ථාවල හැර ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ කාන්තාව පුරුෂයින්ට වඩා දුප්පත් නොවේ.

අවුරුදු 14ට අඩු ළමුන් අතර දරිද්‍රතාව සාමාන්‍ය අනුපාතයට වඩා ඉහළ අගයක් ගන්නා නමුත් මෙය විවිධ වයස් කාණ්ඩවල සිටින පුද්ගලයින්ගේ සාපේක්ෂ අවශ්‍යතා සඳහා නොගලපන ලද ඒක පුද්ගල පරිභෝජන දත්ත භාවිතා කිරීමේ ප්‍රතිඵලයක් ලෙස ලැබුණු අධි-ඇස්මේන්තුගත සංඛ්‍යාතින් විය හැක. පවුල තුළ වයස්ගත වූවන් සිටීම හෝ වයස් ගත වීම යන්න ඉහළ දරිද්‍රතාව හා සම්බන්ධ නොවේ. වයස්ගත වූවන් සිටින සෑම පවුලකම සාමාන්‍ය දරිද්‍රතා තත්ත්වයට වඩා අඩු දරිද්‍රතාවක් තිබූ අතර වයස අවුරුදු හැත්තෑ සහ අසූ ගණන් වල පිරිස් සිටින පවුල් එම වයස් වලට වඩා අඩු වයස් වල වයස් ගත වූවන් සිටින පවුල් වලට වඩා දුප්පත්ය.

දරිද්‍රතා රේඛා හෝ මිනුම නොසැලකූ විට ආබාධිත පුද්ගලයින් සහ ආබාධිතයින් සිටින පවුල් තුළ දරිද්‍රතාව සැලකිය යුතු ලෙස ඉහළ මට්ටමක ඇත. ආබාධිත පුද්ගලයින් අතර පරිභෝජන මට්ටම්, දරිද්‍රතා රේඛාවෙන් 3/4 මට්ටමට වඩා පහළ වේ.

ජනවාර්ගිකත්වය අනුව පවතින දරිද්‍රතාවේ පැහැදිළි වෙනසක් තිබුණි. සිංහල ජනගහනය අතර පවතින දරිද්‍රතාව පැහැදිළි ලෙසම සාමාන්‍යයට වඩා පහළ අතර දුව්ඩ හා මැලේ ජනයා අතර දරිද්‍රතාව පැහැදිළිවම සාමාන්‍යයට වඩා ඉහළ අගයක් ගත්තේය. නිල සාපේක්ෂ දරිද්‍රතා රේඛාව මගින් මනින ආකාරයට උතුරු නැගෙනහිර පළාත් වලින් පිට පිවත් වන ශ්‍රී ලාංකික දුව්ඩ ජනයා අතර අනෙකුත් කාණ්ඩයන්ට වඩා වැඩි දරිද්‍රතාවක් පවතී.

දරිද්‍රතා රේඛාව හෝ මිනුම නොසලකා බලන විට දරිද්‍රතාව හා අධ්‍යාපනය අතර දැඩි සහ ප්‍රතිලෝම සම්බන්ධතාවක් පවතී. පහළ ද්විතියික අධ්‍යාපනය සම්පූර්ණ කර ඇති පුද්ගලයින් සිටින ගෘහයන්හි දරිද්‍රතා අනුපාතයන්හි පැහැදිළි පිම්මක් දැකිය හැකිය. සාක්ෂර හැකියාව නොමැති සාමාජිකයින් සිටි පවුල්ද සාමාන්‍ය අගයට වඩා වෙසෙසි ලෙස දුප්පත්ය.

ඉඩම් හිමිකාරත්වය යන්න දරිද්‍රතාව සමග සම්බන්ධ වේ. ඉඩම් අහිමි ගෘහයන්හි ජනගහනයෙන් ආසන්න වශයෙන් 1/3 - 1/2 දක්වා ප්‍රමාණයක් දුප්පත්ය. එය ඉඩම් හිමි අය අතර දරිද්‍රතා අපාතය මෙන් දෙගුණයකි.

සේවා නියුක්තිකයින් සහ සේවා වියුක්තිකයින් අතර දරිද්‍රතා අනුපාතයන් විශාල ලෙස වෙනස් නොවුණද සේවා වියුක්ත පුද්ගලයින් දෙදෙනෙකුට වඩා වැඩියෙන් සිටින පවුල් තුළ සාමාන්‍ය අගයට වඩා ඉහළ දරිද්‍රතා අනුපාතයක් පවතී. ඒ හා සමානවම, අඩුම වශයෙන් එක් පුද්ගලයෙක් හෝ අව්ධිමත් අංශයේ රැකියාවක නියුතු වන පවුල්වල දරිද්‍රතාව සාමාන්‍යයට වඩා පහළ වේ. අනියම් සේවා නියුක්තිකයින්, වැටුපක් නොලබන පවුලේ සාමාජිකයින් සහ ස්වයං සේවා නියුක්තිකයින් සිටින පවුල්වල දරිද්‍රතාව ඉහළම අගයක් ගන්නා අතර දරිද්‍රතාව සමග දැඩි සම්බන්ධයක් අනියම් සේවය සමග ඇත.

වී හෝ එළවළු වගාව, තේ, රබර් හෝ කුරුඳු වගාව, ධීවර කර්මාන්තය, බීඩි නිෂ්පාදන කර්මාන්තය සහ ගඩොල් කර්මාන්තය යනාදියේ නියුතු සාමාජිකයින්, වඩු කාර්මිකයින්, හෝ ඉදිකිරීම් ක්ෂේත්‍රයේ නියුතු සේවකයින් සිටින පවුල් තුළ ඉහළ දරිද්‍රතා ආපාතයක්, ගැඹුරක් සහ දැඩි බවක් තිබූ අතර සිල්ලර වෙළඳාම, ප්‍රවාහනය, අධ්‍යාපනය සහ සෞඛ්‍ය යන ක්ෂේත්‍ර තුළ සිටින්නන් සහ ගෘහස්ථ සේවා සපයන්නන් සමග දරිද්‍රතාවෙහි දුර්වල සම්බන්ධයක් පැවතුණි.

පෞද්ගලික සංක්‍රාම ලැබූ පවුල්වල, සාමාන්‍යයට වඩා පහළ දරිද්‍රතා අනුපාත පැවති අතර රජයෙන් සංක්‍රාම ලද පවුල්වල සාමාන්‍යයට වඩා තරමක් ඉහළ දරිද්‍රතා අනුපාතයන් පැවතුණි. විදේශීය රටවලින් සංක්‍රමණික ප්‍රේෂණ ලබන පිරිසගෙන් දළ වශයෙන් 1/10 අතර පහළම දරිද්‍රතාව තිබුණි. එනම් ගෘහයන් දහයකින් එකක් දිළිඳු වේ. රට අභ්‍යන්තරයෙන් සංක්‍රාම ලබන පවුල් වල පිවත් වන ජනගහනයෙන් 1/3 සිට 1/4 දක්වා වූ ජනගහනයක ජාතික මට්ටමේ සාමාන්‍යයට ඉතා කිට්ටු දරිද්‍රතා අනුපාත ඇත. මෙයට ප්‍රතිවිරුද්ධ ලෙස, සමෘද්ධි හෝ ජනසවිය හෝ රජයෙන් වෙනත් කිසියම් ආකාරයක සංක්‍රාමයක් ලබන පවුල් ඕනෑම දරිද්‍රතා මිනුමකට අනුව ඉතා දුප්පත් ය. කෙසේ වෙතත් සමෘද්ධි හෝ ජනසවිය සංක්‍රාම ලබන්නන්ගෙන් 40% ක් පමණක් නිල දරිද්‍රතා රේඛාවට වඩා පහළ සිටී. සමෘද්ධි හෝ ජනසවිය ලබන්නන්ගෙන් අඩක් පමණ මධ්‍යස්ථ පරිභෝජන මට්ටමෙන් 75% ක මට්ටමට වඩා පහළ මට්ටමක පරිභෝජනය කරයි. මෙමගින් පෙන්නුම් කරනුයේ සංක්‍රාම ප්‍රතිලාභ ආදායමෙහි සැලකිය යුතු මට්ටමක ගිලිහී යාමකි.

நிறைவேற்று சாராம்சம்

இவ்வாய்வு வறுமையின் ஒரு புறவரையாக உள்ளது. மற்றைய ஆய்வுகளை விட பரந்த புவியியல் பிரதேசத்தை உள்ளடக்குவதாலும், ஒரு வறுமைக் கோட்டை மாத்திரம் கொண்டிராது பலவித வறுமைக் கோடுகளை உபயோகிப்பதாலும் இது தனித்துவமானது. மேலும் முன்னர் சான்றுகள் காணப்படாத சில விடயங்களுடன் வறுமை சம்பந்தப்பட்ட தகவல்களையும் இது தருகின்றது.

வடக்கு, கிழக்கு மாகாணங்களின் வறுமை நிலை பற்றிய அண்மைக்கால சில ஆய்வுகளில் இதுவுமொன்றாகும். நுகர்வோர் நிதி அளவீடு 2003/04இல் சேகரிக்கப்பட்ட குடித்தன நுகர்வுத் தகவல்களின் அடிப்படையில் இது அமைந்ததாகும். வறுமை பற்றிய பரந்தளவிலான வெளிப்பாட்டை தரவல்ல பலதரப்பட்ட வறுமைக் கோடுகளை இவ்வாய்வு உபயோகிப்பதால், ஒருவித வசதிகளுமற்ற மிகவும் வறியவர்கள் உட்பட, வறுமையற்ற ஆனால் வறுமைக்குள்ளாகக்கூடிய அதாவது ஒப்பீட்டளவில் வறுமையில் உள்ளவர்களும் இங்கு ஆராயப்படுகின்றனர்.

இடம் சம்பந்தமான பிரிவுகள், மாகாணங்கள் என்பவற்றுடன் குடித்தொகையியல், மனித மூலதனம், தொழில்வாய்ப்பு என்பன சம்பந்தப்பட்ட குணாதிசயங்களான பால்நிலை, கல்விப் பேறுகள், உத்தியோக நிலை, தொழில், தொழில்சார்புத்துறை, இனம், அங்கவீனம் பற்றியவையும், காணி உரித்துரிமை போன்ற குடித்தன சொத்துக்கள் பற்றியவையுமான வறுமை அளவீடுகளை இந்த வறுமைப் புறவரை வெளிப்படுத்துகின்றது.

குடித்தனத் தலைவரோடு மாத்திரமன்றி முழு அங்கத்தவர்களுடனும் எவ்வாறு இக் குணாதிசயங்கள் தொடர்புடையன என்பது பற்றி இந்த வறுமைப் புறவரையில் விளக்கப்படுகின்றது. சில சமயங்களில் ஒரே மாதிரியான மூன்று எடுத்துக் காட்டுகள் கொடுக்கப்பட்டுள்ளன. உதாரணமாக குடித்தனத் தலைவர், பிரதான வருமானம் பெறுபவர், பொது அங்கத்தவர் ஆகியோரின் கல்வித் தரங்களும், வறுமையும் என ஆராயப்படுகின்றது.

பிரயோகிக்கப்பட்ட வறுமைக் கோடுகளுக்கேற்ப, இலங்கையின் சனத்தொகையில் 13-28% மக்கள் வறுமையில் உள்ளனர் என இவ்வாய்வு கண்டறிந்துள்ளது. உத்தியோகபூர்வமான வறுமைக் கோட்டின் அடிப்படையிலான அளவீடுகளின் படி வறுமையானது 2002இல் இருந்ததை விட 2004இல் குறைவடைந்ததாகவே பெருமளவில் சாத்தியப்படுகின்றது.

குடிசனத்தொகையில் பாரிய சதவீதமானோர் வறுமைக் கோட்டிற்கு அண்மித்த நிலையிலேயே கூட்டாக இருப்பதாக இவ்வாய்வு சுட்டிக் காட்டுகின்றது. ஆராயப்பட்ட தொடர்களுக்கேற்ப, வறுமைக் கோட்டின் 1% அதிகரிப்பானது வறுமை நிகழ்வில் 3-4% அதிகரிப்பை ஏற்படுத்துகின்றது. சராசரி ஏழை நபரின் நுகர்வுச் செலவானது வறுமைக் கோட்டிற்கு கீழே அதன் 19-24% தூர மட்டத்திலேயே காணப்படுகின்றது.

வறுமைக் கோடு, வறுமை அளவீடு எதுவாக இருந்தாலும் நகரத்தில் ஆகக்குறைந்த வறுமையும், பெருந்தோட்டப் பிரிவில் ஆகக்கூடிய வறுமையும் கண்டறியப்பட்டுள்ளது. உத்தியோகபூர்வ வறுமைக் கோட்டின் அடிப்படையில் முழுமையான வறுமையின் நிகழ்வு கிராமப் பிரிவில் நகரப் பிரிவினரின் இரண்டு மடங்கிற்கு கூடுதலாகவும், பெருந்தோட்டப் பிரிவில் கிராமப் பிரிவினரின் இரண்டு மடங்கிற்கு கூடுதலாகவும் உள்ளன. ஏழை மக்களில் பெரும்பங்கினர், அதாவது 85 சதவீதமானோர் கிராமத்திலேயே உள்ளனர்.

வறுமையானது ஊவா மாகாணத்தில் ஆகக் கூடியதாகவும், மேல், வட மேல் மாகாணங்களில் ஆகக் குறைந்ததாகவும் உள்ளது. CFS அடிப்படையிலான வறுமைக் கோட்டின்படி மத்திய, வடக்கு மாகாணங்களில் இரண்டாவது ஆகக்கூடிய வறுமை நிகழ்வும், அவற்றைத் தொடர்ந்து சப்ரகமுவ, கிழக்கு மாகாணங்களிலும் காணப்படுகின்றன. ஆனால், உத்தியோகபூர்வ வறுமைக் கோட்டின் பிரகாரம் சப்ரகமுவ மாகாணத்தில் மத்திய மாகாணத்தை விட கூடுதலான வறுமை நிகழ்வு உள்ளதாக சுட்டிக்காட்டப்படுகின்றது. இந்த மாகாணங்களை விட தென் மாகாணத்தில் குறைவாகவும் அதே வேளை வட மத்திய மாகாணத்தில் தெற்கை விட குறைவாகவும், ஆனால் வட மேல், மேல் மாகாணங்களை விட கூடுதலாகவும் வறுமை நிகழ்வு காணப்படுகின்றது.

இலங்கையின் ஏழை மக்களின் விகிதாசாரப் பங்கு கணிப்பானது வறுமைக் கோட்டுத் தொடர்களுக்கேற்ப மாறுபட்டுள்ளது. உத்தியோகபூர்வ வறுமைக் கோட்டிற்கிணங்க ஆகக்கூடிய பங்கு ஏழைகள் மத்திய மாகாணத்திலும், அடுத்தபடியாக சப்ரகமுவ மாகாணத்திலும் காணப்படுகின்றனர். வட மத்திய, வட

மேல் மாகாணங்களில் ஆகக்குறைந்த பங்கு ஏழைகளும் அதே நேரத்தில் ஆகக் குறைந்த வறுமை நிகழ்வு வீதத்தையுடைய மேல் மாகாணத்தின் பங்கும் ஆகக்கூடிய வறுமை நிகழ்வு வீதத்தையுடைய சப்ரகமுவ மாகாணத்தின் பங்கும் ஒப்பிடத்தக்கவை. CFS - ஆதாரத் தொடரின் படி ஏழை மக்களில் கூடிய பங்கினர், ஒப்பீட்டில் கூடிய சனத்தொகையுடைய மேல், மத்திய மாகாணங்களிலும், அவற்றை தொடர்ந்து தெற்கு, சப்ரகமுவ மாகாணங்களிலும் காணப்படுகின்றனர். ஏழை மக்களின் விகிதாசாரப் பங்கு கிழக்கு மாகாணத்திலும், ஊவாவிலும் ஒரே அளவாகும்.

பிரதான வருமானம் பெறுபவர் பெண்ணாகவோ அல்லது வருமானத்தில் பெரும் பங்கு பெண்களினால் பெறப்பட்டதாகவோ இருந்தாலன்றி இலங்கையிலுள்ள பெண்கள் ஆண்களை விட வறியவர்களல்லர் என இவ்வாய்வு கண்டறிந்துள்ளது.

பதினான்கு வயதிற்குட்பட்ட குழந்தைகளில் வறுமை நிகழ்வானது சராசரிக்கு கூடுதலாகவுள்ளது. ஆனால், இது வெவ்வேறு வயதினையுடைய நபர்களின் ஒப்பீட்டு தேவைகளை கருத்திற் கொள்ளாது கணிக்கப்பட்ட சீராக்கப்படாத தனிநபர் நுகர்வுச் செலவு அளவை உபயோகித்ததால் ஏற்பட்ட ஒரு கூட்டிக் கூறப்பட்ட மதிப்பீட்டினால் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கலாம். முதுமை அல்லது முதியோர் குடித்தனத்தில் இருப்பது என்பது கூடிய வறுமைக்கு சம்பந்தப்பட்டதாக காணப்படவில்லை. அதே வேளை வயது முதியவர்களையுடைய குடித்தனங்களின் வறுமை நிலையானது சராசரி வறுமை நிலையை விடக் குறைவானதாகும். இவற்றில் 70, 80 வயது முதியவர்களைக் கொண்ட குடித்தனங்கள் குறைந்த வயது முதியோரைக் கொண்ட குடித்தனங்களை விட வறிய நிலையில் உள்ளன. மேலும் ஓய்வூதியம் பெறும் முதியோரையுடைய குடித்தனங்கள் மற்றவற்றுடன் ஒப்பிடும் போது குறைந்தளவு வறுமைப்பட்டதாகவே விளங்குகின்றன. வறுமைக் கோடோ, அளவீடோ எப்படி இருந்தாலும் வறுமையானது ஊனமுற்றோர்களிலும், ஊனமுற்ற அங்கத்தவர் உள்ள குடித்தனங்களிலும் குறிப்பிடத்தக்க அளவு அதிகமாகவே உள்ளது. ஊனமுற்றவர்களின் நுகர்வு மட்டமானது வறுமைக் கோட்டின் 3/4 ஐ விட நன்கு குறைவாகவுள்ளது.

இனங்களுக்கிடையிலான வறுமையில் தெளிவான வேறுபாடுகள் காணப்படுகின்றன. எந்தவொரு வறுமைக் கோடு, அளவீடு குறித்து நோக்கிலும் சிங்கள மக்களின் மத்தியில் வறுமையானது சராசரியை விட குறைவாகவும், தமிழ் மற்றும் சோனக மக்களின் வறுமை சராசரியை விட கூடுதலாகவும் தெளிவாகக் காணப்படுகின்றது. உத்தியோகபூர்வ வறுமைக் கோட்டிற்கமையவுள்ள சார்புநிலை வறுமைக் கோட்டின் பிரகாரம் வடக்கு, கிழக்கு மாகாணங்களுக்கு வெளியே வாழ்கின்ற இலங்கை தமிழர்களது வறுமை நிலையானது ஏனைய குழுக்களை விட மிகவும் ஆழமானது.

வறுமைக் கோடு, அளவீடுகள் எதுவாக இருந்தாலும் கல்வியானது வறுமையுடன் ஆதாரமானதும், எதிர்மறையானதுமான உறவைக் கொண்டுள்ளது.

கீழ் இரண்டாந்தர கல்வி மட்டத்தை முடித்துக் கொண்ட தனிப்பட்டவர்கள் மத்தியிலும், கீழ் இரண்டாந்தர கல்வி மட்டத்தை முடித்துக் கொண்ட தலைவரை, அல்லது பிரதான வருமானம் ஈட்டுபவரைக் கொண்டுள்ள குடித்தனங்கள் மத்தியிலும் வறுமை வீதங்களில் தெளிவானதொரு முன்னேற்றம் அவதானிக்கப்பட்டது. படிப்பறிவற்ற உறுப்பினர் ஒருவருடனான குடித்தனங்கள் சராசரியை விட குறிப்பிடத்தக்க வறுமைப்பட்டதாகவே விளங்கின.

வறுமையுடன் காணி உரித்துரிமை இணைந்துள்ளது. காணியற்ற குடித்தனங்களில் சனத்தொகையின் அண்ணளவாக மூன்றிலொன்றிலிருந்து அரைவாசி வரையிலானவை வறுமைப்பட்டவையாகும். இது காணிகளைச் சொந்தமாகக் கொண்டவர்கள் மத்தியிலான வறுமையின் நிகழ்வை விட இரட்டிப்பானதாகும்.

தொழிலாற்றுபவர்களுக்கும், தொழிலற்றிருப்பவர்களுக்கும் இடையில் வறுமை வீதங்கள் பாரியளவில் வித்தியாசமாக விளங்காத அதே வேளை, இரண்டுக்கும் மேற்பட்ட தொழிலற்ற தனிப்பட்டவர்களுடனான குடித்தனங்கள் சராசரிக் குடித்தனங்களை விட கணிசமானளவு உயர்வான வறுமை வீதங்களைக் கொண்டிருந்தன. இதே போல, ஆகக்குறைந்தது ஒரு உறுப்பினராவது முறைசாராத் துறைத் தொழிலில் ஈடுபட்டிருந்த குடித்தனங்கள், சராசரி வறுமை வீதங்களை விட உயர்வானதையே கொண்டிருந்தன. சமயாசமய ஊழியர்கள், கொடுப்பனவற்ற குடும்ப உறுப்பினர்கள் மற்றும் சுயதொழில் புரிபவர்கள் ஆகியோர் மத்தியிலான வறுமை ஆகக் கூடுதலானதாகும். இதில் சமயாசமய வேலையுடனேயே வறுமை இறுக்கமான அளவுக்கு இணைந்திருந்தது. நெல் மற்றும் மரக்கறிச் செய்கை, தேயிலை, இறப்பர் அல்லது கறுவா வளர்ப்பு, மீன்பிடித்தல், பீடி தயாரிப்பு, செங்கல் உற்பத்தி ஆகியவற்றில் ஈடுபட்டிருந்த உறுப்பினர்களையும், தச்சு வேலை செய்பவர்களையும், அல்லது நிருமாண ஊழியர்களையும்

கொண்ட குடித்தனங்கள் வறுமையின் உயர்வான நிகழ்வினையும், ஆழத்தையும், மற்றும் தீவிரத்தையும் கொண்டிருந்த அதே வேளை, சில்லறை வர்த்தகம், போக்குவரத்து, கல்வி மற்றும் சுகாதாரத் துறை ஆகியவற்றில் இருந்தவர்களும், மற்றும் குடித்தன சேவையை வழங்குபவர்களும் வறுமையுடன் மிகவும் பலவீனமான இணைப்பினையே கொண்டிருந்தார்கள்.

தனிப்பட்ட கைமாற்றங்களை (அனுப்பீடுகள்) பெற்ற குடித்தனங்கள் சராசரியை விட குறைந்த வறுமை வீதங்களைக் கொண்டிருந்த அதே வேளை, அரசாங்க கைமாற்றங்களை (அரசாங்கக் கொடுப்பனவுகள்) பெற்ற குடித்தனங்கள் சராசரியை விட மிகவும் உயர்வான வறுமை வீதங்களையே கொண்டிருந்தன. சனத்தொகையின் அண்ணளவாக பத்திலொன்றாக விளங்கும், வெளிநாடுகளிலிருந்து அனுப்பீடுகளைப் பெறும் குடித்தனங்கள் ஆகக் குறைந்த வறுமையைக் கொண்டிருந்தன, அதாவது பத்தில் ஒரு குடித்தனமே வறுமையாக விளங்கியது. மூன்றிலொன்றிலிருந்து நான்கில் ஒன்று வரையிலான மக்களைக் கொண்ட குடித்தனங்கள், உள்நாட்டு அனுப்பீடுகளைப் பெறுபவையாக விளங்கியதுடன், இவற்றின் வறுமை வீதங்கள் தேசிய சராசரிக்கு மிகவும் கிட்டியதாகும். இதற்கு மாறாக, சமுர்த்தி, அல்லது ஜனசவிய, அல்லது அரசாங்கத்திலிருந்து கைமாற்றத்தின் ஏதாவது வேறு அமைப்பினைப் பெறும் குடித்தனங்கள் வறுமையின் எந்த அளவின்படி பார்த்தாலும் மிகவும் வறுமைப்பட்டவையாகவே விளங்கின. இருந்த போதிலும், சமுர்த்தி, அல்லது ஜனசவிய கைமாற்றமொன்றைப் பெறுபவர்களில் 40%இனர் மட்டுமே உத்தியோகபூர்வ வறுமைக் கோட்டின் கீழ் விளங்கினார்கள். அரைவாசியிலான சமுர்த்தி, அல்லது ஜனசவிய பெறுனர்கள் மட்டுமே நடுத்தர அளவிலான பாவனையின் 75%க்கு கீழானதை நுகர்கின்றனர். அது வருமான கைமாற்ற நன்மைகளின் கணிசமானளவு ஒழுக்கினைக் காட்டுகின்றது.

1. Introduction

The Consumer Finance Survey (CFS) of 2003/04 is unique among recent household survey datasets in its geographical coverage. The survey was conducted during the ceasefire between the Government and the LTTE which came into effect in February 2002 and used the sampling frame provided by the Census of 2001. As a result, it covered all districts in Sri Lanka except Killinochchi, Mannar and Mullaitivu.[1] This enables us to analyse poverty in the Northern and Eastern provinces, and provide a picture of poverty for Sri Lanka that is more comprehensive in coverage than ever before.[2]

While this alone is a sufficiently compelling reason to use the CFS 2003/04 to update the existing body of information on poverty in Sri Lanka for the early 2000s, the CFS has the additionally attractive feature of containing information on characteristics potentially correlated with poverty (e.g. disability) that are not available in other datasets.

Another unique contribution of the current study to the considerable existing amount of information on poverty in Sri Lanka in the same period (see DCS 2004a, DCS 2004b, DCS 2005a, DCS 2005b, World Bank 2007, Gunewardena 2007) is the use of *relative* poverty lines and *relative* poverty measures to supplement *absolute* poverty measures throughout the study.

The concepts and definitions of poverty measures and poverty lines used in the study are outlined briefly below. Annex 1 provides technical details of the poverty measures and derivations of the poverty lines.

1.1 Explaining poverty measurement: Poverty profiles and their uses

A poverty profile is a detailed description of poverty. Poverty profiles typically indicate associations between poverty and its correlates. They provide descriptive information and do not establish causal relationships. They provide answers to two main types of questions: (1) What are the chances that a group of people in a particular category (e.g. rural) or with a specific characteristic (e.g. they have no schooling) are likely to be poor? (2) What are the chances that the poor belong to a particular category, or have a specific characteristic?

Poverty profiles are best used for poverty comparisons. While poverty profiles are used for a variety of reasons, including knowing the ground situation regarding poverty in a country, and identifying its correlates, the best use of poverty profiles are to make consistent comparisons across time, space, or other categories. While some may consider it important to know with certainty that X or Y region has a certain percentage of its population in poverty, we take the view in this study that a more useful - and accurate - use of a poverty profile is to make poverty comparisons. Thus, we assert that it is more helpful to be able to say, for example, that based on a particular definition of poverty, X region has a higher incidence of poverty than Y region.

1.2 Explaining poverty measurement: Poverty lines

Poverty lines are thresholds for determining who is poor. Poverty lines are thresholds, typically, though not necessarily, defined in monetary terms. Any person consuming below this threshold is deemed to be poor. Thus poverty lines serve the purpose of identification,

[1] These districts were not covered as the Census of 2001 could not be completed in them due to the security situation prevailing at the time.

[2] World Bank 2007 also makes use of CFS 2003/04 data for this purpose, but with a somewhat different approach.

i.e. they enable us to identify who is poor. The location of this threshold depends on how we view or define poverty, and the data and methodology we use to define the poverty line.

Poverty lines can be defined in any dimension or space. Poverty lines, as thresholds, may be located in any dimension, or a combination of several poverty lines in several dimensions may be used for a multidimensional analysis of poverty. When the poverty line is defined in Rupees and cents it is by definition using the monetary approach, but this does not preclude it incorporating several dimensions.[3] The poverty lines used in this study are monetary poverty lines, located in the space of *per capita* household consumption expenditure which is a standard indicator used in poverty measurement (Deaton 1997).

The concept of poverty that a society adopts may be absolute or relative. An **absolute definition of poverty** is based on the idea that

> "there is an irreducible core of absolute deprivation... which translates reports of starvation, malnutrition and visible hardship into a diagnosis of poverty, without having to ascertain first the relative picture" (Sen 1981:17)

Absolute poverty exists when one or more persons fall short of a level of well-being deemed to constitute a reasonable minimum, in some absolute sense (Lipton and Ravallion 1995). In countries like Sri Lanka, where there is no doubt that absolute poverty exists, poverty measurement is based on the concept of absolute poverty. An absolute poverty line is then society's best attempt at defining this 'reasonable minimum' for the individuals who live and participate in it. We use the official poverty line derived by the Department of Census and Statistics as our primary official poverty line in this study (DCS 2004a).

Relative views of poverty may be either fully relative or primarily relative (Sen 1983). In a **fully relative** view of poverty, the poor are considered to be those in the bottom 10 or 20% of society. A problem with viewing poverty in this way is that it will never be completely eradicated. Similarly, if the standard of living in the entire society falls, with no change in the distribution, according to this approach, poverty would not have increased, although some people may even be starving.

In a **primarily relative** view of poverty, poverty is defined in terms of the living standards of the specific society to which it relates, but, can, in theory, be zero. Relative poverty lines are typically some fraction of a measure of central tendency. For example, the European Commission defines the poor as

> "persons, families or groups of persons whose resources (material, cultural and social) are so limited as to exclude them from the minimum acceptable way of life in the Member State in which they live" (Hagenaars *et al.* 1994:2).

It translates this definition into a relative poverty line of 60% of the median income, which replaced the previous threshold of half the mean income of the society. The number below this poverty threshold can, in theory at least, be zero.

The case for using the concept of relative poverty to measure poverty in a country where absolute poverty is prevalent is not very strong. On the other hand, a relative poverty concept could be used to supplement the concept of absolute poverty. The argument for doing so is typically based on the perception that there may be a considerable body of people whose consumption is above the absolute minimum, but is (a) close enough to the poverty line to risk falling into poverty in the event of a shock to their consumption (i.e. they are vulnerable),

[3] See Gunewardena (2004) for a description of the different approaches to poverty and the possibilities for incorporating multiple dimensions in a measure of poverty.

and (b) who may not be able to fully participate in the society they live in at the levels of consumption at which they are. In this study we use a relative poverty line that is 75% of the median.

This study uses both absolute and relative concepts of poverty in two parallel series. The first series, the *official based* series is based on the DCS derived official poverty line. The second, which we term *CFS-based*, derives poverty lines using a similar method to the DCS, from unit values from the consumption schedule in CFS 2003/04. The derivation of these different series are discussed briefly below, and in greater detail in Annex 1.

1.3 Explaining poverty measurement: Poverty measures

Poverty measures deal with the issue of aggregation. That is, once we identify the poor, using a poverty line, we are left with the problem of how to summarise all the information we have about their (consumption) poverty into a few simple and intuitive indicators. Poverty measures attempt to do this.

The **headcount index** provides a measure of the magnitude of poverty. A poverty profile typically answers the question "If an individual exhibits a particular characteristic (e.g. of educational achievement) or lives in a particular area (sector, province, district) what is the likelihood of this individual being poor?" In other words, what proportion of individuals (e.g.) with no schooling, or living in the rural sector, are poor? This measure is known as the *headcount index* and it is a measure of the magnitude of poverty, i.e. it provides an estimate to answer the question, *how much poverty is there?*

In addition to the *incidence* of poverty, which is what the headcount index measures, it is often useful to know the numbers of people in poverty. A high incidence of poverty in a group that is a relatively small proportion of the poverty could translate into a small number of poor people, while a low incidence of poverty in a group that has a large population share could translate into a large number of poor people. We use the concept of **contribution to poverty,** alternatively termed **share of poor population,** to measure this. This measure gives an idea of the proportion of (all) poor people who fall into a particular category and answers the question, "What proportion of the poor have no schooling, or live in a rural area?"

The **poverty gap index** and the **income gap ratio** provide measures of the depth of poverty. Often, in addition to knowing how much poverty there is, we would like to know the degree of poverty, or answer the question, *how deep is this poverty?* Or equivalently, *how poor are the poor?* The income gap ratio gives the answer in terms of the average consumption of the poor, presented in terms of the distance from the poverty line. Thus, if the average consumption of all poor people is a rupee equivalent of 75% of the rupee poverty line, the income gap ratio is 25%. The advantage of this measure is that it is a concept that is intuitively easy to grasp. The disadvantage of this measure as a stand-alone measure is that it does not reflect the magnitude of poverty.

The poverty gap index combines both the concepts of magnitude and depth of poverty. It is the multiple of the headcount index and the income gap ratio (and conversely, the income gap ratio is the poverty gap divided by the headcount index). Conceptually, it is the average distance from the poverty line for the entire (poor and non-poor) group that is being examined (e.g. rural) where the distance of the non-poor is considered to be zero. Thus, the larger the proportion of non-poor people in this category (or the smaller the proportion of poor people) the smaller will be the poverty gap index, whereas the income gap ratio will remain unaffected.

The **squared poverty gap** pays attention to inequality among the poor and provides a measure of the severity of poverty. Consider two groups of poor people (A and B) with the same average consumption level. Half of the first group (A) consists of people who are very, very poor, while the other half consists of people who are just below the poverty line. The second group (B) is quite homogenous with all its members' consumption very close to the average. Which group has a greater problem of poverty? If one agrees with the Rawlsian criteria that a society is better off if the situation of its poorest member is improved, then the second group (B) is an improvement on the first, although some of its less poor people are poorer than the less poor people in the first group (A). Thus, the squared poverty gap focuses more attention on the very poor, but it too combines the idea of magnitude with the idea of severity.

1.4 Official and CFS-based poverty lines

The official poverty line was derived by the DCS using consumption data from the Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) 2002. A detailed description of this derivation is given in DCS 2004a and Annex 1 of this study. This poverty line is actually a series of 17 poverty lines for each of 17 districts for which the original analysis was conducted by the DCS. The DCS updates these poverty lines regularly using the Sri Lanka Consumer Price Index (SLCPI) and this information is available on the DCS website (DCS 2007). We use a **(national) poverty line** of Rs.1599.25 that is a weighted average of the two poverty lines reported by DCS for 2003 and 2004 where the weights of 0.25 for 2003 and 0.75 for 2004 reflect the proportions of the CFS survey that were conducted in these two years (See Annex 1 for more details). We use the ratio of district to national poverty lines as a spatial price index with which to deflate consumption. This is equivalent to comparing each household's nominal consumption with the poverty line of the district in which it is located.

The official based relative poverty line used in this study was calculated simply as 75% of median *per capita* consumption where the consumption estimate used was spatially deflated using the district to national poverty line ratios. The **official based relative poverty line** is Rs.1870.58

The **CFS-based poverty line** was derived by us using unit values from the consumption schedule of the CFS 2003/04 data (Refer to Annex 1 for details of this derivation). The reason we needed to derive a poverty line from the CFS data was because the DCS official poverty line series (being based on HIES 2002) did not contain poverty lines for the Northern and Eastern provinces. One alternative available to us was to use the national poverty line. This would be equivalent to assuming that prices in the Northern and Eastern provinces in 2003/04 were similar to the national average of prices in those years. The evidence is unlikely to support this assumption, so we rejected this alternative.

Given that we had a rich source of data on prices in the CFS consumption schedule, we undertook the laborious but rewarding task of generating poverty lines for the Northern and Eastern provinces using unit values from the CFS data. It was necessary that we generated poverty lines for all the provinces in order to have a consistent series that could be compared across all provinces. Details of our methodology are found in Annex 1. A brief summary of our method and explanation of differences between our results and the DCS results is given below.

Although we term this poverty line CFS-based, it is anchored in the food poverty line derived by the DCS from HIES 2002 (DCS 2004a). This was Rs.973 in 2002. We then updated it using the same method used for updating the official poverty line. This resulted in a food poverty

line of Rs.1093.52 for 2003/04. We then converted this into 22 district food poverty lines by multiplying it by a food price index for each of these districts. These district level food price indices were obtained by using the district median value of food prices (unit values) for 39 categories of food and fuel items for a reference population of the lowest 40% of the population, ranked by *per capita* (nominal) consumption. The weights (budget shares) were derived from a basket common to the entire country.

We then use a regression-based method to derive the average non-food consumption of households whose consumption was at the food poverty line, controlling for household size and number of children less than 10 years of age. This was done separately for the 22 districts. We then added this non-food consumption to the food poverty line to obtain a lower-bound estimate of the absolute poverty line of Rs.1399.18

The CFS-based relative poverty line was derived as 75% of the median consumption, where *per capita* consumption figures were deflated by district to national poverty line ratios, using the CFS generated district poverty lines (see Annex 1). The CFS based national relative poverty line is Rs.1767.21

The **CFS-based poverty lines are generally lower than the official-based poverty lines**. The CFS based absolute poverty line of Rs.1399.18 is a lower bound estimate of poverty, while the DCS official poverty line is the average of upper and lower bound estimates of poverty (DCS 2004a). Thus, one should compare the CFS based poverty line not with the HIES poverty line in 2002 of Rs.1423, but with the lower bound DCS estimate of poverty in 2002 which was Rs.1267 (DCS 2004a).

Spatial price indices derived from the CFS-based district poverty lines differ from the official district poverty lines. The main difference is that the relatively urban districts of Colombo, Gampaha and Kalutara had higher poverty lines, relative to the national poverty line, than in the HIES derived official district poverty lines. These reflect estimates of higher prices (unit values) derived from CFS consumption data of households in these districts.

The reference population for the CFS-based poverty line is the bottom 40% of the population, whereas for the official poverty line it is the 2nd to 4th deciles (DCS 2004a). Different expenditure patterns of households may also reflect differences in prices which result in differences in spatial price indices between the two regions.

1.5 How to use this study

There are many different measures and poverty lines presented in this study, which should you use? This poverty profile presents poverty estimates for three (sometimes four) poverty measures for each of the four poverty lines (two series and two concepts). Which estimate the reader uses depends on their requirement.

We have highlighted the official-based absolute poverty line as our choice of the poverty series one would refer to if one wanted simply *one* series of estimates of poverty in 2003/04, that is also the most consistent with other estimates of poverty derived for Sri Lanka around the same time. This series *does not* include data from households in the Northern and Eastern provinces.

On the other hand, if the reader wanted to use a series that incorporates data from the North and East, the CFS-based series is the one to follow. It should be kept in mind, however, that absolute poverty measures in this series provides a lower bound estimate of poverty. Thus, if

one wanted a series of poverty estimates that give an idea of core poverty, or poverty among the very poor, this would be the series to use.

Relative poverty measures are the ones to use if the reader is interested in those who are just above the poverty line, as well as those who are absolutely poor.

While poverty estimates within a series can be compared with each other, and each series could be compared with the other series as a whole, it is not possible to compare one estimate from one series with another estimate from another series (e.g. urban poverty estimates based on the 'official absolute' series with rural poverty based on 'CFS official absolute' series).

The study is organised as follows. In Section 2, a spatial-sectoral profile of poverty for 2003/04 is constructed. Section 3 presents a poverty profile by demographic characteristics of individuals and households, Section 4 examines poverty by asset ownership, focusing on human capital and land while Section 5 examines the association between poverty and labour market characteristics. Section 6 looks at poverty and transfers.[4] Section 7 briefly summarises and draws out some policy applications.

2. Poverty Profile: A Regional Description

2.1 National trends in poverty

Overall poverty in Sri Lanka according to our analysis of data from the Consumer Finance Survey of 2003/04 ranged from 13-28% of the population depending on the poverty line used. The headcount index based on the official poverty line indicated that 19% of the population was absolutely poor in 2003/04. While this is a reduction of 17% from the incidence of poverty of 23% reported from the HIES 2002 (DCS 2004a, Gunewardena 2007, World Bank 2007), the two figures are not strictly comparable.[5] One can nevertheless surmise that poverty is unlikely to have risen, and most likely fell, between 2002 and 2004.

The estimate of poverty incidence using the CFS-based absolute definition, at 13.4, is about 29% lower than that using the official-based absolute poverty line. The CFS-based poverty gap is similarly one third lower, and the squared poverty gap 50% lower than the official-based counterpart. This is mainly because the CFS-based poverty line (which is about 13% lower than the official poverty line) is a lower-bound estimate of poverty. Thus, to some extent, the measures derived from the CFS-based series could be interpreted as referring to core poverty, or the very poor.

Relative poverty figures, by any definition, were considerably higher than absolute poverty figures. The results indicate that for the official based series, a 17% increase in the poverty line (from an absolute poverty line of Rs.1599 to a relative poverty line of Rs.1871) resulted in a 50% increase in the Headcount Index (HCI) and a corresponding 72% increase in the Poverty Gap (PG) and a 92% increase in the Squared Poverty Gap (SPG). For the CFS based series, the parallel increase in the poverty line (from Rs.1399.18 to Rs.1761) was 26% and this led to a 100% increase in the HCI and 138% and 163% increases in the PG and SPG respectively. This indicates that there are a considerable number of people clustered around the poverty line.

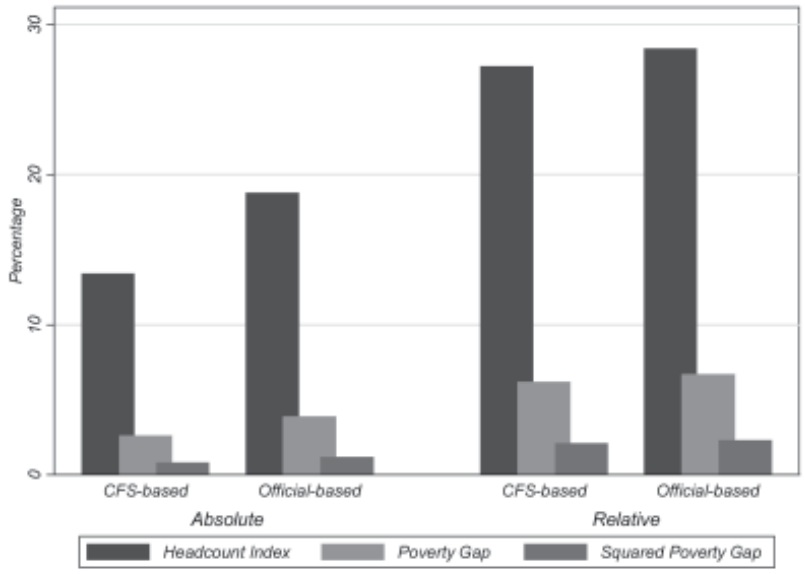
---

[4] Stata version 9 was used to conduct the data analysis. SPSS was used for data management.

[5] This is because the poverty measures are based on consumption estimates drawn from different questionnaires.

The income gap ratio (IGR), which is a measure of the average consumption of the poor, presented as the distance from the poverty line, ranges from 19-24%, depending on the definition used, indicating that the average poor person's consumption lies between 3/4 and 4/5 of the poverty line.

Figure 2.1: National poverty 2003/04, based on absolute and relative poverty, with official poverty line and CFS-based poverty line



Source: Authors' calculations from CFS data

Table 2.1: National poverty 2003/04, based on absolute and relative poverty, with official poverty line and CFS-based poverty line

Poverty Measure	Absolute		Relative	
	CFS-based	Official-based	CFS-based	Official-based
Headcount Index	13.4	18.8	27.2	28.4
Poverty gap	2.6	3.9	6.2	6.7
Squared poverty gap	0.8	1.2	2.1	2.3
Income gap ratio	19	21	23	24
Average *per capita* consumption	3039.417	3315.847	3039.417	3315.847
Sample size	50373	44761	50373	44761

Source: Authors' calculations from CFS data

2.2 Sectoral trends in poverty

According to the official poverty line, 8% from the urban sector fell into absolute poverty, which was similar to the poverty levels measured by the CFS-based poverty line. The gap and the severity of absolute poverty in the urban sector did not differ much between the two poverty lines. 19 people out of 100 in the rural sector were below the official poverty line while 38 people out of 100 in the estate sector were below the official poverty line.

Poverty in the urban sector was the lowest and estate sector poverty highest, regardless of the poverty line used. Official-based poverty lines indicated that poverty incidence in the rural sector was more than twice that of the urban sector while poverty incidence in the estate sector was more than double that of the rural sector. Sectoral differences are somewhat smaller according to the CFS-based series, but the ranking remains the same.

Relative poverty according to the CFS-based poverty line was close to double or more than double that of the absolute for all three sectors, and all three measures. This indicates that a large percentage of the population was clustered above the poverty line. A 1% increase in the poverty line led to a 3-4% increase in the incidence of poverty depending on the series used.

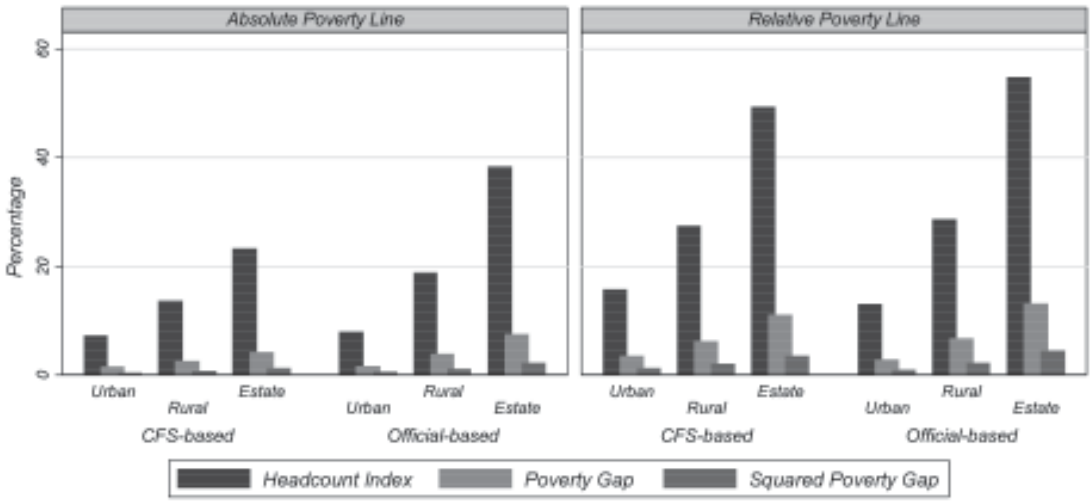
Sectoral disparities are evident in the poverty gap and squared poverty gap measures of poverty. However, these are largely driven by the difference in the Headcount Index which is one component of these indices. The Income Gap Ratio (IGR) measures the average consumption of the poor measured as the distance below the poverty line without weighting it by the number of poor, and thus eliminates the influence of the Headcount Index on the poverty measure. According to this measure, the average consumption of the poor ranges from 18% to 24% of the poverty line. Interestingly, the IGR is lowest in the estate sector at lower poverty lines indicating that the estate population, which is quite homogenous in terms of consumption, has an average consumption closer to the poverty line than in the other two sectors where consumption is more dispersed.

Table 2.2: Poverty by sector 2003/04, based on absolute and relative poverty, with official poverty line and CFS-based poverty line

Sector	Poverty Measure	Absolute		Relative	
		CFS-based	Official-based	CFS-based	Official-based
Urban	Headcount Index	7.3	8	15.8	13.1
	Poverty gap	1.6	1.7	3.6	2.9
	Squared poverty gap	0.5	0.6	1.3	1
	Income gap ratio	22	21	23	22
	Share of poor population	7	5	7	5
	Population share	13	12	13	12
	Sample size	1477	1229	1477	1229
Rural	Headcount Index	13.7	18.9	27.5	28.7
	Poverty gap	2.6	3.9	6.3	6.8
	Squared poverty gap	0.8	1.2	2.1	2.3
	Income gap ratio	19	21	23	24
	Share of poor population	84	83	83	83
	Population share	82	82	82	82
	Sample size	9650	8691	9650	8691
Estate	Headcount Index	23.3	38.4	49.4	54.8
	Poverty gap	4.3	7.6	11.1	13.2
	Squared poverty gap	1.3	2.3	3.6	4.5
	Income gap ratio	18	20	23	24
	Share of poor population	9	12	10	12
	Population share	5	6	5	6
	Sample size	595	595	595	595

Source: Authors' calculations from CFS data

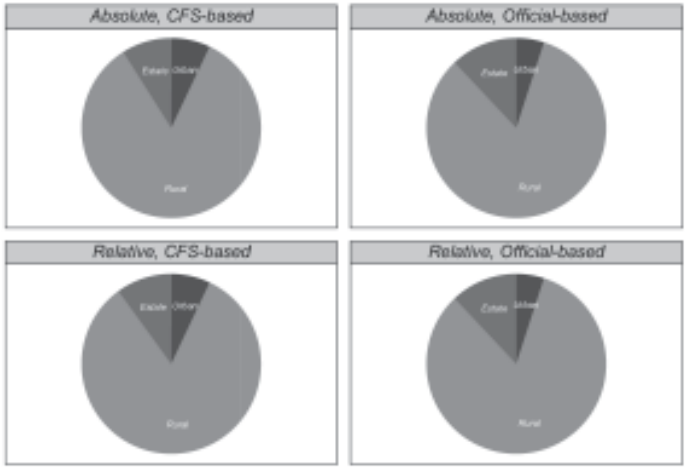
Figure 2.2: Poverty by sector 2003/04, based on absolute and relative poverty, with official poverty line and CFS-based poverty line



Source: Authors' calculations from CFS data

Although poverty in the estate sector is the highest amongst all three sectors in Sri Lanka the biggest contribution to poverty comes from the rural sector. The other two sectors contribute around 17% to poverty, whereas 85% of the poor come from the rural sector reflecting its higher population share. Thus, while the probability of being poor is highest in the estate sector, the probability is highest that a poor person in Sri Lanka will be located in the rural sector.

Figure 2.3: Contribution to poverty by sector 2003/04, based on absolute and relative poverty, with official poverty line and CFS-based poverty line



Source: Authors' calculations from CFS data

2.3 Provincial trends in poverty

Disaggregated measures of poverty by province show that poverty in the Uva Province is the highest among all the provinces in Sri Lanka. The Central Province and Sabaragamuwa Province take second and third place, while the rankings differ among poverty lines. Poverty is lowest in the Western and North Western provinces (rankings depend on the poverty line). The Southern and North Central provinces rank below (have lower poverty than) the provinces

in the centre of the country, but above the relatively industrialised Western and North Western provinces.

The CFS-based poverty line helped to develop poverty figures for Northern and Eastern provinces where the official poverty line did not facilitate the spatial analysis. The Northern Province reported slightly higher poverty than the Eastern province. While absolute poverty in the Northern province was similar to that in the Central province, poverty incidence in the Eastern province was close to that of Sabaragamuwa. In terms of relative poverty they ranked closer to the Central province than to Sabaragamuwa. In all the provinces except Uva, the incidence of relative poverty is double that of absolute poverty according to the CFS-based series, while relative poverty is 50% higher than absolute poverty according to the official-based series.

The CFS based absolute poverty measures can be considered an indicator of the very poor and ranking differences between the two CFS measures give an idea about where the poor are in terms of their consumption. Sabaragamuwa has lower poverty than Northern and Central provinces according to the absolute poverty line, but higher poverty than both these when the relative poverty line is used. This indicates that many of the poor in Sabaragamuwa are closer to the relative poverty line than those in the Northern and Central provinces.

Poverty gap figures give a more detailed intuition into the location of the poor. Income gap ratios derived from the poverty gap and headcount indices indicate three distinct clusters of poverty. Uva province forms a distinct group by itself, where the consumption of the poor is on average 3/4 of the poverty line (their gap is 1/4). When the poverty line rises, the gap widens to 28%, i.e. their consumption falls to 72% of the poverty line.

The Northern and Eastern provinces are the next with the average poor person consuming 4/5 of the poverty line. When the poverty line is raised this falls to 3/4. The Central, Western and Southern provinces are close behind, while the poverty gap is considerably smaller for the North Western and North Central provinces.

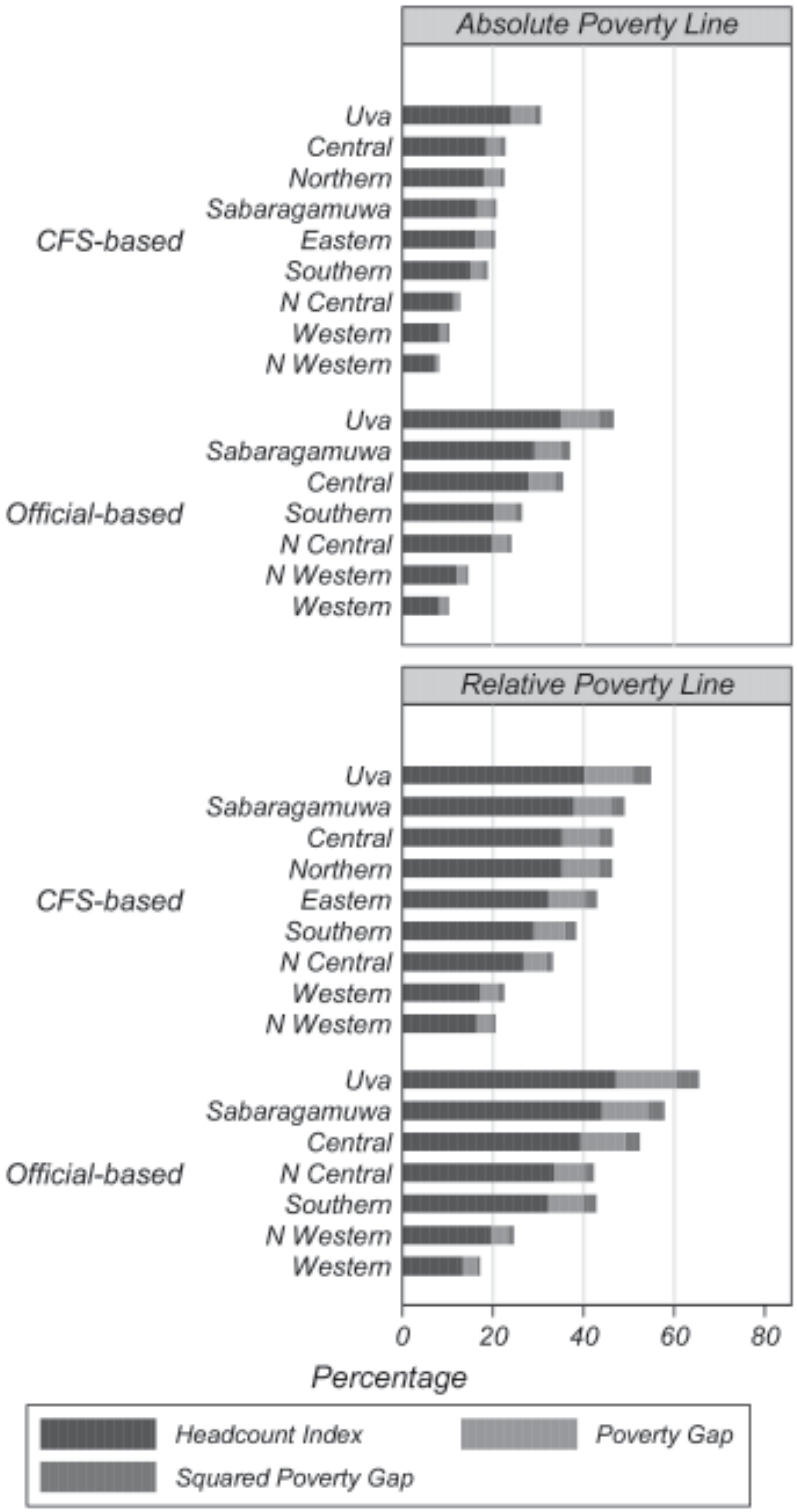
Table 2.3: Poverty trends by province 2003/04, based on absolute and relative poverty, with official poverty line and CFS-based poverty line

Province	Poverty Measure	Absolute		Relative	
		CFS-based	Official-based	CFS-based	Official-based
Western	Headcount Index	8.3	8.2	17.3	13.4
	Poverty gap	1.6	1.6	3.9	2.9
	Squared poverty gap	0.5	0.5	1.3	1
	Income gap ratio	19	19	23	22
	Share of poor population	17	13	17	14
	Population share	27	30	27	30
	Sample size	3215	3215	3215	3215
Central	Headcount Index	18.4	28	35.2	39.3
	Poverty gap	3.4	5.7	8.4	9.8
	Squared poverty gap	1	1.8	2.8	3.4
	Income gap ratio	18	20	24	25
	Share of poor population	18	22	17	21
	Population share	13	15	13	15
	Sample size	1532	1532	1532	1532

Southern	Headcount Index	15	20.3	29.2	32.3
	Poverty gap	2.9	4.6	6.7	7.7
	Squared poverty gap	0.9	1.5	2.4	2.8
	Income gap ratio	19	23	23	24
	Share of poor population	15	16	14	17
	Population share	13	15	13	15
	Sample size	1507	1507	1507	1507
Northern	Headcount Index	18	-	35.1	-
	Poverty gap	3.5	-	8.4	-
	Squared poverty gap	1	-	2.8	-
	Income gap ratio	19	-	24	-
	Share of poor population	5	-	4	-
	Population share	3	-	3	-
	Sample size	360	-	360	-
Eastern	Headcount Index	16.2	-	32.4	-
	Poverty gap	3.4	-	7.8	-
	Squared poverty gap	1	-	2.7	-
	Income gap ratio	21	-	24	-
	Share of poor population	9	-	9	-
	Population share	8	-	8	-
	Sample size	847	-	847	-
North	Headcount Index	7.1	12	16.6	19.7
Western	Poverty gap	1	2	3.2	3.9
	Squared poverty gap	0.3	0.5	0.9	1.2
	Income gap ratio	14	16	19	20
	Share of poor population	6	9	7	9
	Population share	12	14	12	14
	Sample size	1505	1505	1505	1505
North	Headcount Index	11.2	19.9	26.8	33.5
Central	Poverty gap	1.5	3.4	5.1	6.7
	Squared poverty gap	0.3	0.9	1.4	2
	Income gap ratio	13	17	19	20
	Share of poor population	5	7	6	8
	Population share	6	7	6	7
	Sample size	764	764	764	764
Uva	Headcount Index	24.1	35	40.2	47.1
	Poverty gap	5	8.6	10.7	13.3
	Squared poverty gap	1.5	3	3.9	5.1
	Income gap ratio	21	25	27	28
	Share of poor population	12	14	10	13
	Population share	7	8	7	8
	Sample size	783	783	783	783
Sabaragamuwa	Headcount Index	16.5	29.3	37.9	43.9
	Poverty gap	3.3	5.9	8.4	10.4
	Squared poverty gap	1	1.9	2.8	3.6
	Income gap ratio	20	20	22	24
	Share of poor population	12	18	14	18
	Population share	10	11	10	11
	Sample size	1209	1209	1209	1209

Source: Authors' calculations from CFS data

Figure 2.4: Poverty measures by province 2003/04, based on absolute and relative poverty, with official poverty line and CFS-based poverty line.



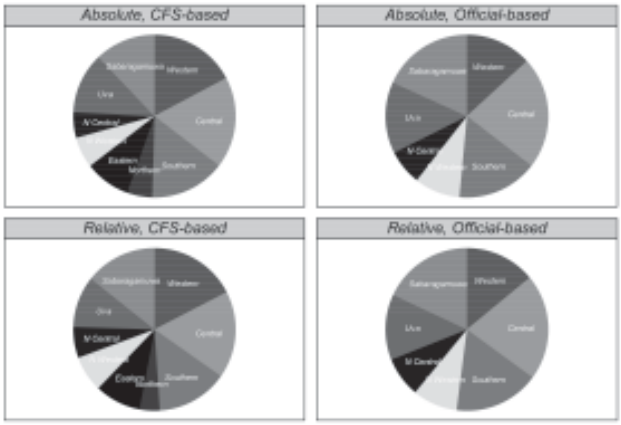
Source: Authors' calculations from CFS data

Severity is highest in the Uva province while Central, Northern, Eastern and Sabaragamuwa provinces recorded the same had levels of severity similar to each other. North Central and North Western provinces have the lowest severity compared to all other provinces.

Where do most poor people in Sri Lanka live? The largest share of the poor population in Sri Lanka is in the Central Province while the next highest contribution is made by Sabaragamuwa Province according to the official poverty line. The North Central and North Western provinces have the least shares of the poor population, while the percentage share of the poor located in the least poor Western province and the most poor Uva province are comparable.

Poverty figures derived from the CFS-based poverty line showed a different picture than that reported by the figures calculated based on the official poverty line. Northern and North Central provinces had the least contributions while the contribution of the Eastern province (9%) was close to that of the Uva province. Sabaragamuwa and Southern provinces had higher contributions reflecting their higher population shares.

Figure 2.5: Headcount index by province 2003/04, based on absolute and relative poverty, with official poverty line and CFS-based poverty line



Source: Authors' calculations from CFS data

3. Poverty Profile: By Demographic Characteristics

3.1 Gender

It is now accepted wisdom that poverty among females tends to be higher than among males. Poverty profiles, which typically calculate poverty measures by gender of household head, however, do not capture this feature (World Bank 2007, Gunewardena 2007). This may be because female heads who are impoverished owing to widowhood or desertion by their spouses, often return to their parents' home. Thus, the newly impoverished young family with its young female head is nested in the parental household, which could be headed by a male. Another explanation is that female headship may occur as a result of the male head migrating for employment; in this case if he remits earnings, the family is less likely to be poor.

For these reasons, we do not estimate poverty by gender of household head, but rather we calculate poverty estimates by gender for the entire population. This is done using the gender composition of the household, where each individual in the household is assigned the *per capita* consumption of the household. Admittedly, this measure does not capture intra-household inequality in consumption (which may take a variety of forms, an extreme example

of which is when an alcoholic father or drug-addict son has a disproportionate share of household consumption), but it will reflect if a higher proportion of females within the household has a depressing effect on consumption. However, the results, given below, indicate that the incidence, gap and the severity between male and female in Sri Lanka did not differ much from one another.

We also examined if poverty by age and marital status (discussed below) were affected by gender (see Annex 2 for all results). While we found no significant difference in the estimates of gender by age, nor by marital status, the sample of separated individuals (which had higher than average poverty) had a disproportionate share of females (see below). Thus, it appeared that gender *per se* was not a factor associated with poverty in Sri Lanka in 2003-04, but there is some evidence to support the idea that separated females experienced higher poverty (along with separated males).

Table 3.1: Poverty by gender 2003/04, based on absolute and relative poverty, with official poverty line and CFS-based poverty line

Gender	Poverty Measure	Absolute		Relative	
		CFS-based	Official-based	CFS-based	Official-based
All females	Headcount Index	13.1	18.4	27	28.1
	Poverty gap	2.5	3.8	6.2	6.6
	Squared poverty gap	0.8	1.2	2.1	2.3
	Sample size	26503	23482	26503	23482
Separated	Headcount Index	22.4	25.1	38.3	40.3
females	Poverty gap	4.8	5.7	9.9	9.6
	Squared poverty gap	1.5	1.9	3.7	3.4
	Sample size	303	263	303	263
All males	Headcount Index	13.6	19	27.1	28.5
	Poverty gap	2.6	3.9	6.3	6.8
	Squared poverty gap	0.8	1.2	2.1	2.3
	Sample size	24042	21451	24042	21451
All individuals	Headcount Index	13.4	18.8	27.2	28.4
	Poverty gap	2.6	3.9	6.2	6.7
	Squared poverty gap	0.8	1.2	2.1	2.3
All separated	Headcount Index	21.3	24	35.7	37.4
individuals	Poverty gap	4.6	5.6	9.4	9.2
	Squared poverty gap	1.4	1.9	3.5	3.4
	Sample size	403	358	403	358

Source: Authors' calculations from CFS data

We then used the concept of breadwinner, rather than headship, to further examine the association between poverty and gender. The breadwinner was defined as the principal income earner, using two definitions of income: (1) all sources, and (2) income from wage employment. We also expanded both these definitions to construct a category of households

where more than 50% of income was earned by females.[6] The results indicated that households with a high proportion of female wage earners, or with female breadwinners who were wage earners, tended to experience marginally higher poverty than average.

Table 3.2: Poverty and female contribution to household earnings 2003/04, based on absolute and relative poverty, with official poverty line and CFS-based poverty line

Gender and income	Poverty Measure	Absolute		Relative	
		CFS-based	Official-based	CFS-based	Official-based
Breadwinner (principal income earner) is female (Wage/Cash)	Headcount Index	15.4	20.8	29.7	30.2
	Poverty gap	3	4.3	7	7.4
	Squared poverty gap	0.9	1.4	2.4	2.6
	Sample size	1825	1705	1825	1705
Proportion of income from females in household > 50% (Wage/Cash)	Headcount Index	15	20.2	29.3	29.8
	Poverty gap	2.9	4.2	6.9	7.2
	Squared poverty gap	0.9	1.3	2.4	2.5
	Sample size	1831	1710	1831	1710

Source: Authors' calculations from CFS data

3.2 Age

Disaggregation by age gives an indication of poverty among children, youth, adults and the elderly. The results appear to indicate that child poverty is higher than average. Poverty among youth (15-24 years) and younger adults (25-44) was close to the national average, while poverty among those over 45 was relatively low. Poverty among the elderly (over 65 years) was higher than among the middle-aged, but nevertheless was lower than the national average.

Disaggregation of poverty measures by age and gender (see Annex 2) indicate that there was no significant difference between overall poverty rates and female poverty rates by age.

[6] See Annex 2 for all results

Table 3.3: Poverty by age 2003/04, based on absolute and relative poverty, with official poverty line and CFS-based poverty line

Age	Poverty Measure	Absolute		Relative	
		CFS-based	Official-based	CFS-based	Official-based
Below 5	Headcount Index	17.4	22.8	32.5	33.1
	Poverty gap	3.7	5.3	8.2	8.6
	Squared poverty gap	1.2	1.9	3	3.2
5-14	Headcount Index	19.6	26.8	36.9	38.2
	Poverty gap	4	5.8	9	9.7
	Squared poverty gap	1.2	1.9	3.2	3.5
15-24	Headcount Index	12.5	18.2	26.6	28.2
	Poverty gap	2.2	3.5	5.8	6.3
	Squared poverty gap	0.6	1.1	1.9	2.1
25-44	Headcount Index	12.7	17.6	25.6	26.9
	Poverty gap	2.4	3.6	5.8	6.3
	Squared poverty gap	0.7	1.1	1.9	2.1
45-54	Headcount Index	8.8	13.6	20.5	22.3
	Poverty gap	1.5	2.5	4.2	4.8
	Squared poverty gap	0.4	0.8	1.3	1.5
55-64	Headcount Index	8.2	12	18.3	19.4
	Poverty gap	1.5	2.3	3.9	4.3
	Squared poverty gap	0.4	0.7	1.2	1.4
65-74	Headcount Index	12	16.5	24.3	25.1
	Poverty gap	2.2	3.2	5.4	5.7
	Squared poverty gap	0.7	1	1.8	1.9
75-84	Headcount Index	11.7	16.9	24.2	26.6
	Poverty gap	1.9	3.2	5.2	5.8
	Squared poverty gap	0.6	1	1.7	1.9
85 and above	Headcount Index	10.3	15.9	25.1	24.9
	Poverty gap	2.4	3.5	5.6	5.8
	Squared poverty gap	0.9	1.3	2.1	2.2

Source: Authors' calculations from CFS data

These results indicate that households with small children may experience higher poverty. While this may be true, it also may be a result of our methodology. We use *per capita* consumption throughout this study, with no adjustments for the composition of households. *If* children's consumption is on average lower (in terms of expenditure) than that of adults, the unadjusted *per capita* consumption of these households will be an underestimate of the

true consumption of individuals in those households, and their poverty levels will be consequently overestimated.[7,8]

These results do not indicate that poverty among the elderly is disproportionately high. Once more, this may be because no adjustment is made for any differential consumption of the elderly - their consumption of health services, for example, may be higher than that of other household members. In order to examine this further we estimated poverty measures for several age groups, differentiated by whether they were working, had a pension, were (not) living with their children. Results are given in Table 3.4.

On the whole, poverty was not higher than average in households with an elderly person present, regardless of the age of the individual.[9] Some interesting, though largely unsurprising variations are evident. Households with elderly residents in their 70s and 80s appear to be poorer than households with elderly residents in their 60s. Among households with septuagenarians, the working elderly are poorer, while working octogenarians (a very small number) and pensioners of all ages, are definitely less poor.

Table 3.4 : Poverty by 60-80 age group with selected characteistics 2003/04, based on absolute and relative poverty with official poverty line and CFS-based poverty line

Age and category of elderly	Poverty Measure	Absolute		Relative	
		CFS-based	Official-based	CFS-based	Official-based
60-69	Headcount Index	9.8	13.8	20.1	21.1
	Poverty gap	1.8	2.7	4.5	4.8
	Squared poverty gap	0.5	0.8	1.5	1.6
	Sample size	3054	2782	3054	2782
60-69 with a pension	Headcount Index	1.8	1.7	4.3	3.3
	Poverty gap	0.2	0.3	0.8	0.6
	Squared poverty gap	0	0.1	0.2	0.2
	Sample size	400	361	400	361
60-69 working	Headcount Index	8.7	13.6	19.8	21.6
	Poverty gap	1.6	2.5	4.2	4.7
	Squared poverty gap	0.4	0.7	1.3	1.5
	Sample size	995	927	995	927
60-69 not living with children	Headcount Index	8.5	12.1	17.5	19.2
	Poverty gap	1.7	2.5	4	4.3
	Squared poverty gap	0.5	0.8	1.4	1.5
	Sample size	2189	1999	2189	1999

[7] While children may consume less food (quantity) than adults, their non-food consumption which includes schooling, health and clothing among other items, may be higher. Moreover, the food items they consume may be more expensive (e.g. milk) than those consumed by adults.

[8] The use of per capita measures also ignores economies of scale. As a result, our finding that larger households are poorer (Annex 2) needs to be treated with caution. It may be that larger households have more economies of scale, and per capita consumption estimates underestimate the actual consumption of individuals in these households, as a result overestimating their poverty levels.

[9] Households with working elderly who are in their 70s had poverty levels marginally above average, however, the margin is so small that these results are unlikely to be statistically significant.

70-79	Headcount Index	11.7	16.5	24.6	25.8
	Poverty gap	2.1	3.2	5.4	5.8
	Squared poverty gap	0.7	1	1.8	1.9
	Sample size	1721	1572	1721	1572
70-79 with a pension	Headcount Index	1.3	2.5	2.7	3.5
	Poverty gap	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.7
	Squared poverty gap	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2
	Sample size	223	200	223	200
70-79 working	Headcount Index	14.8	19.5	25.1	26.1
	Poverty gap	2.4	3.7	6.1	6.5
	Squared poverty gap	0.8	1.2	2.1	2.2
	Sample size	271	257	271	257
70-79 not living with children	Headcount Index	12.5	17.5	22.9	24.3
	Poverty gap	2.2	3.4	5.4	6
	Squared poverty gap	0.7	1.1	1.9	2.1
	Sample size	931	848	931	848
80 and above	Headcount Index	11.5	17.8	25.7	27.3
	Poverty gap	2.2	3.3	5.6	6
	Squared poverty gap	0.7	1.1	1.9	2.1
	Sample size	637	572	637	572
80 and above with a pension	Headcount Index	5.2	5.6	8.6	11.1
	Poverty gap	0.2	0.3	1.6	1.3
	Squared poverty gap	0	0	0.3	0.2
	Sample size	58	54	58	54
80 and above working	Headcount Index	0	3.6	13.8	25
	Poverty gap	0	0.1	0.7	1.7
	Squared poverty gap	0	0	0.1	0.2
	Sample size	29	28	29	28
80 and above not living with children	Headcount Index	8.3	14.8	21.7	25
	Poverty gap	1.4	2.2	4.2	4.5
	Squared poverty gap	0.5	0.6	1.3	1.3
	Sample size	217	196	217	196

Source: Authors' calculations from CFS data

3.3 Disability

Poverty is markedly higher among the disabled and in households with a disabled member, for all three measures of poverty. Income gap ratios indicate that these households are well below ¼ of the poverty line.

Table 3.5 : Poverty by disability 2003/04, based on absolute and relative poverty, with official poverty line and CFS-based poverty line

Disability	Poverty Measure	Absolute		Relative	
		CFS-based	Official-based	CFS-based	Official-based
Disabled individuals	Headcount Index	22.3	29.2	39.2	41.1
	Poverty gap	4.8	6.9	10.2	11
	Squared poverty gap	1.6	2.5	3.8	4.3
	Income gap ratio	22	24	26	27
	Sample size	1162	1049	1162	1049
Households with a disabled member	Headcount Index	24.3	31.5	42	43
	Poverty gap	5.5	7.8	11.3	12.1
	Squared poverty gap	1.9	2.8	4.3	4.8
	Income gap ratio	23	25	27	28
	Sample size	1016	910	1016	910

Source: Authors' calculations from CFS data

3.4 Marital Status

Poverty was above average among the group of people who are separated and single, but lower than average among those currently married, widowed or divorced. These results were evident for all measures, regardless of the poverty line used. Disaggregation by gender revealed that overall poverty levels by marital status did not vary significantly from poverty levels of females by marital status, although the number of separated females was more than double the number of separated males in the sample (see discussion under Gender).

Table 3.6: Poverty by marital status 2003/04, based on absolute and relative poverty, with official poverty line and CFS-based poverty line

Marital status	Poverty Measure	Absolute		Relative	
		CFS-based	Official-based	CFS-based	Official-based
Single	Headcount Index	15.6	21.4	30.4	31.6
	Poverty gap	3	4.5	7.2	7.7
	Squared poverty gap	0.9	1.5	2.5	2.7
Married	Headcount Index	11.2	16.2	23.7	25.3
	Poverty gap	2	3.2	5.2	5.7
	Squared poverty gap	0.6	1	1.7	1.9
Widowed	Headcount Index	10.9	15.3	24.4	24.8
	Poverty gap	2.1	3.1	5.3	5.5
	Squared poverty gap	0.7	1	1.8	1.9
Separated	Headcount Index	21.3	24	35.7	37.4
	Poverty gap	4.6	5.6	9.4	9.2
	Squared poverty gap	1.4	1.9	3.5	3.4
Divorced	Headcount Index	5.6	15.2	26.8	28.8
	Poverty gap	0.9	1.8	3.8	4.5
	Squared poverty gap	0.2	0.4	0.9	1.1

Source: Authors' calculations from CFS data

3.5 Ethnicity

Poverty among different ethnic groups showed a large variation. Poverty among the Sinhala population was clearly below average, while poverty among Tamils and Moors was clearly above average. While the 'other' category had the largest magnitude of poverty, the sample size was relatively small, indicating that these results may not be statistically significant.

The depth of poverty, when not weighted by the incidence of poverty has a similar pattern, except for Indian Tamils, who were on average less than one fifth below the poverty line. Sri Lankan Tamils on the other hand had deeper poverty than other groups when the relative official-based poverty line was used. This series of figures does not include households from the Northern and Eastern provinces and thus the measures refer to Sri Lankan Tamils living in the rest of the country. [10]

[10] Of the 421 Sri Lankan Tamils living outside the Northern and Eastern provinces, 116 were located in the Central province, and 173 in the Western province, with the rest dispersed among the other provinces. By contrast, of the 443 Indian Tamils living outside the Northern and Eastern provinces, 244 were in the Central province, 85 in Uva and 77 in Sabaragamuwa, with only 27 in the Western province.

Table 3.7: Poverty by ethnicity 2003/04, based on absolute and relative poverty, with official poverty line and CFS-based poverty line

Ethnicity	Poverty Measure	Absolute		Relative	
		CFS-based	Official-based	CFS-based	Official-based
Sinhala	Headcount Index	12.2	17.3	24.8	26.4
	Poverty gap	2.3	3.5	5.6	6.2
	Squared poverty gap	0.7	1.1	1.9	2.1
	Income gap ratio	19	20	23	23
	Share of poor population	71	79	71	79
	Population share	78	86	78	86
	Sample size	39236	38287	39236	38287
Sri Lankan Tamil	Headcount Index	18.2	26.6	35.3	34.4
	Poverty gap	3.7	5.8	8.6	9.3
	Squared poverty gap	1.2	2	3	3.5
	Income gap ratio	20	22	24	27
	Share of poor population	13	5	12	5
	Population share	9	4	9	4
	Sample size	4768	1667	4768	1667
Indian Tamil	Headcount Index	22.9	37.6	48.5	55.5
	Poverty gap	3.8	7	10.5	12.7
	Squared poverty gap	1	2	3.2	4.1
	Income gap ratio	17	19	22	23
	Share of poor population	7	9	7	8
	Population share	4	4	4	4
	Sample size	1950	1934	1950	1934
Moor	Headcount Index	14.5	21.2	29.5	33.3
	Poverty gap	3.2	4.9	7	8
	Squared poverty gap	1	1.7	2.5	3
	Income gap ratio	22	23	24	24
	Share of poor population	9	7	9	7
	Population share	8	6	8	6
	Sample size	4278	2782	4278	2782
Malay	Headcount Index	0.7	0.7	12.6	12.9
	Poverty gap	0.1	0	2.4	0.9
	Squared poverty gap	0	0	0.4	0.1
	Income gap ratio	14	0	19	7
	Share of poor population	0	0	0	0
	Population share	0	0	0	0
	Sample size	143	139	143	139

Burgher	Headcount Index	0	0	17.4	0
	Poverty gap	0	0	1.9	0
	Squared poverty gap	0	0	0.3	0
	Income gap ratio	-	-	11	-
	Share of poor population	0	0	0	0
	Population share	0	0	0	0
	Sample size	115	69	115	69
Other	Headcount Index	40	40	50.9	50.9
	Poverty gap	4.2	4	12.6	9.3
	Squared poverty gap	0.7	0.6	3.6	2.3
	Income gap ratio	11	10	25	19
	Share of poor population	0	0	0	0
	Population share	0	0	0	0
	Sample size	55	55	55	55

Source: Authors' calculations from CFS data

4. Poverty Profile: By Human Capital and Land

4.1 Education

In examining the relationship between education and poverty, we look at three sets of variables, an individual's own educational level, the education of his/her household head and the education of the main income earner in his/her household.[11]

All three variables indicate an inverse relationship between the level of education and poverty in Sri Lanka. The poverty incidence was highest among individuals with no schooling, while Individuals with post secondary level of education have the lowest level of poverty. A similar pattern is observed with the other poverty measures..

What level of education might be adequate to escape poverty? While our methodology does not strictly enable us to answer this question, it is quite clear that there is a 'jump' in poverty rates in all three tables, between primary education and lower secondary level. Thus, completing primary education appears to be insufficient to escape poverty in Sri Lanka, lower secondary education is necessary. It is interesting that while *passing* the General Certificate of Education (Ordinary Level) helps to reduce poverty further, it is not needed in order to take one (or one's household) above the average level of poverty in the country.

The association between education and poverty that is seen here is not necessarily causative. While education can and should reduce poverty either by making its recipients more productive, or by getting them into more secure better paying formal sector jobs, greater poverty can lead households to take their children out of school earlier in the educational cycle.

[11] Note that the first category includes children who are currently schooling and this partly explains the considerably lower poverty rates at lower levels of education when compared to the second and third categories.

If indeed, being educated in Sri Lanka reduces one's risk of being poor, there are several implications from our finding that primary education is insufficient to rise above the average level of poverty in the country. While Sri Lanka already has close to 100% enrolment at primary level, and thus can be said to have met the relevant Millennium Development Goal, this goal is clearly insufficient for Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka's secondary school enrolment rates are poor, especially among males who are more likely to participate in the labour force, and generate incomes that will help to reduce poverty. Illiteracy is also strongly associated with poverty as indicated in the results in Table 4.4.

Table 4.1: Poverty by level of education 2003/04, based on absolute and relative poverty, with official poverty line and CFS-based poverty line

Level of education	Poverty Measure	Absolute		Relative	
		CFS-based	Official-based	CFS-based	Official-based
No schooling	Headcount Index	20.7	28.3	38.5	40.6
	Poverty gap	4.4	6.5	9.7	10.5
	Squared poverty gap	1.4	2.3	3.5	3.9
	Sample size	7661	6538	7661	6538
Sub primary	Headcount Index	19.1	26.5	35.7	37.7
	Poverty gap	3.8	5.6	8.7	9.5
	Squared poverty gap	1.2	1.8	3.1	3.4
	Sample size	7996	6931	7996	6931
Primary	Headcount Index	16.4	23	33.1	34.5
	Poverty gap	3.1	4.7	7.6	8.2
	Squared poverty gap	0.9	1.5	2.5	2.8
	Sample size	12505	11021	12505	11021
Lower secondary	Headcount Index	9.8	14.5	22.3	23.8
	Poverty gap	1.6	2.6	4.6	5
	Squared poverty gap	0.4	0.7	1.4	1.6
	Sample size	12518	11623	12518	11623
O/L but not A/L	Headcount Index	5.3	8	13.1	13.6
	Poverty gap	0.9	1.5	2.6	2.8
	Squared poverty gap	0.3	0.4	0.8	0.9
	Sample size	5281	4612	5281	4612
A/L	Headcount Index	2	3.1	6.1	6.5
	Poverty gap	0.2	0.4	1	1.1
	Squared poverty gap	0	0.1	0.2	0.3
	Sample size	3785	3478	3785	3478
Post-secondary	Headcount Index	1.5	2.2	3.5	3.8
	Poverty gap	0.2	0.4	0.7	0.8
	Squared poverty gap	0	0.1	0.2	0.2
	Sample size	799	730	799	730

Source: Authors' calculations from CFS data

Table 4.2: Poverty by educational attainment of household head 2003/04, based on absolute and relative poverty, with official poverty line and CFS-based poverty line

Level of education	Poverty Measure	Absolute		Relative	
		CFS-based	Official-based	CFS-based	Official-based
No schooling	Headcount Index	32.6	45.3	54.5	61.2
	Poverty gap	7.1	11.1	14.9	17.1
	Squared poverty gap	2.3	4	5.6	6.7
	Sample size	939	741	939	741
Sub-primary	Headcount Index	21.3	31.2	40.6	44.7
	Poverty gap	4.2	6.6	9.8	11.1
	Squared poverty gap	1.3	2.2	3.4	4
	Sample size	1658	1437	1658	1437
Primary	Headcount Index	16.3	23.3	33.4	35.3
	Poverty gap	3	4.6	7.5	8.1
	Squared poverty gap	0.9	1.4	2.5	2.7
	Sample size	3657	3295	3657	3295
Lower secondary	Headcount Index	8.4	11.7	19.5	19.7
	Poverty gap	1.5	2.2	4	4.2
	Squared poverty gap	0.4	0.7	1.3	1.3
	Sample size	3094	2894	3094	2894
Ordinary Level	Headcount Index	2.8	5.1	9.5	9.6
	Poverty gap	0.4	0.8	1.5	1.7
	Squared poverty gap	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.5
	Sample size	1239	1096	1239	1096
Advanced Level	Headcount Index	1.3	1.9	3.9	4.6
	Poverty gap	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.6
	Squared poverty gap	0	0	0.1	0.1
	Sample size	891	827	891	827
Post-secondary education	Headcount Index	0.5	0.5	1.4	1.1
	Poverty gap	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.2
	Squared poverty gap	0	0	0.1	0.1
	Sample size	244	225	244	225

Source: Authors' calculations from CFS data

Table 4.3: Poverty by educational attainment of principal income earner 2003/04, based on absolute and relative poverty, with official poverty line and CFS-based poverty line

Educational attainment of principal income earner	Poverty Measure	Absolute		Relative	
		CFS-based	Official-based	CFS-based	Official-based
No schooling	Headcount Index	33.3	47.3	56.3	63
	Poverty gap	7.6	11.7	15.5	17.9
	Squared poverty gap	2.6	4.3	5.9	7.1
	Sample size	834	649	834	649
Sub-primary schooling	Headcount Index	22.9	33.9	43	48
	Poverty gap	4.5	7.2	10.5	12.1
	Squared poverty gap	1.4	2.4	3.7	4.3
	Sample size	1372	1189	1372	1189
Primary schooling	Headcount Index	17.9	25.9	36.8	39.1
	Poverty gap	3.4	5.2	8.4	9.2
	Squared poverty gap	1	1.6	2.8	3.1
	Sample size	3181	2827	3181	2827
Lower secondary schooling	Headcount Index	10	13.7	21.6	22.4
	Poverty gap	1.7	2.6	4.5	4.8
	Squared poverty gap	0.5	0.8	1.4	1.5
	Sample size	3407	3193	3407	3193
Ordinary Level	Headcount Index	4.4	7	12.1	11.9
	Poverty gap	0.7	1.2	2.2	2.3
	Squared poverty gap	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.7
	Sample size	1398	1241	1398	1241
Advanced Level	Headcount Index	1.5	2.2	5.1	5.7
	Poverty gap	0.1	0.2	0.8	0.8
	Squared poverty gap	0	0	0.2	0.2
	Sample size	1209	1121	1209	1121
Post-secondary education	Headcount Index	1	1	1.6	1.4
	Poverty gap	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.4
	Squared poverty gap	0	0.1	0.1	0.1
	Sample size	321	295	321	295

Source: Authors' calculations from CFS data

Table 4.4 : Poverty by literacy 2003/04, based on absolute and relative poverty, with official poverty line and CFS-based poverty line

Literacy	Poverty Measure	Absolute		Relative	
		CFS-based	Official-based	CFS-based	Official-based
Household has an illiterate member	Headcount Index	18.5	25.6	35.5	37.4
	Poverty gap	3.7	5.5	8.6	9.2
	Squared poverty gap	1.2	1.8	3	3.3
	Sample size	5826	5093	5826	5093

Source: Authors' calculations from CFS data

4.2 Land Ownership

Land is one of most significant determinants of poverty in a society where a large percentage of employment is still in agriculture. In this section we provide a description of poverty by land ownership, which helps confirm the perception that those who have land are more wealthy; those who do not are deprived.

Around one third of the population in landless households was poor according to the official poverty line whereas nearly a half of the same population is poor as calculated by the relative poverty line. By contrast, the incidence of poverty among those owning land was close to half of that among those who were landless.

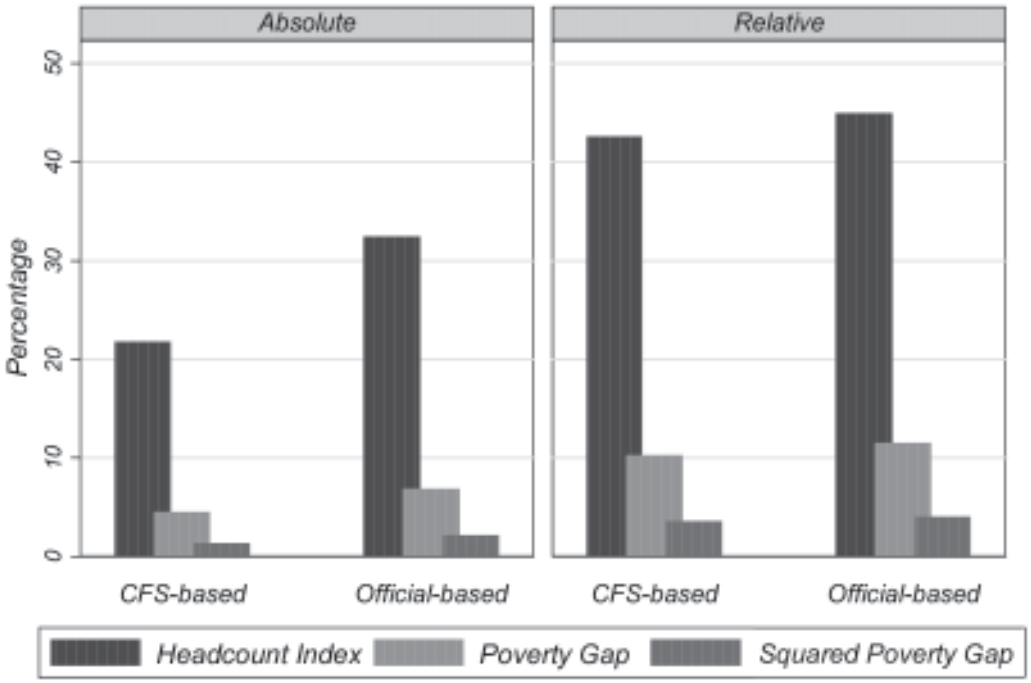
Similar patterns were observed for the depth and severity of poverty, however the income gap ratio indicated that when the depth of poverty is unadjusted for the incidence of poverty, it was similar (21-26%) for both landowning and landless categories.

Table 4.5: Poverty by land ownership 2003/04, based on absolute and relative poverty, with official poverty line and CFS-based poverty line

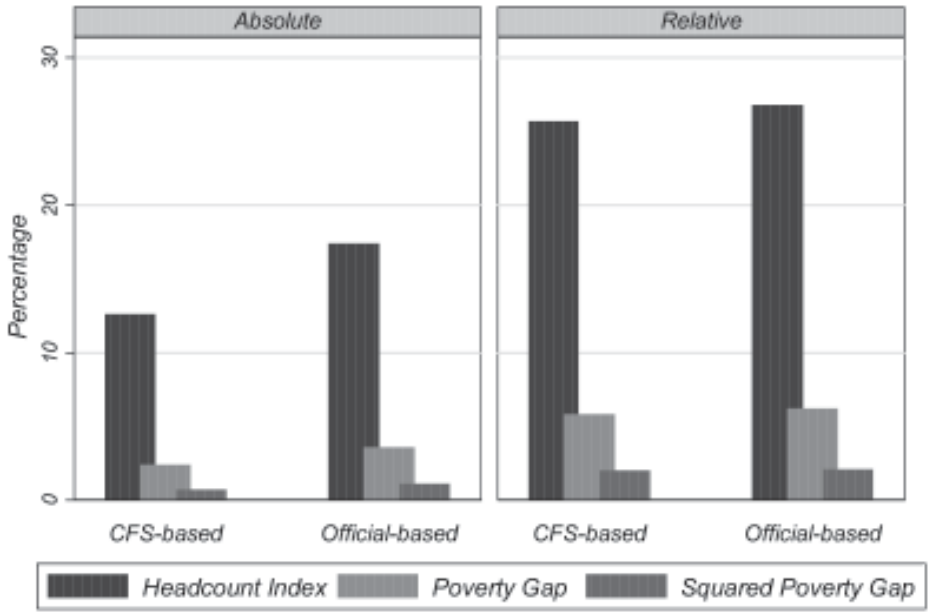
Land Ownership	Poverty Measure	Absolute		Relative	
		CFS-based	Official-based	CFS-based	Official-based
Household owns land	Headcount Index	12.6	17.4	25.7	26.8
	Poverty gap	2.4	3.6	5.8	6.2
	Squared poverty gap	0.7	1.1	2	2.1
	Income gap ratio	19	23	23	21
	Sample size	10671	9564	10671	9564
Household owns agricultural land	Headcount Index	11.8	18.2	25.2	28.4
	Poverty gap	2.1	3.6	5.5	6.4
	Squared poverty gap	0.6	1.1	1.8	2.1
	Income gap ratio	18	20	22	23
	Sample size	4146	3854	4146	3854
land area < 10 perches	Headcount Index	17.6	24	35	34.6
	Poverty gap	3.7	5.1	8.4	8.6
	Squared poverty gap	1.2	1.7	3	3.1
	Income gap ratio	21	21	24	25
	Sample size	2146	1937	2146	1937
land area 10-39 perches	Headcount Index	12.6	14.9	23.8	22.4
	Poverty gap	2.3	3.1	5.6	5.3
	Squared poverty gap	0.7	1	1.9	1.9
	Income gap ratio	18	21	24	24
	Sample size	3234	2795	3234	2795
land area 1/4-1 acre	Headcount Index	13.9	20.4	28.7	31.5
	Poverty gap	2.6	4.2	6.5	7.3
	Squared poverty gap	0.8	1.3	2.1	2.5
	Income gap ratio	19	21	23	23
	Sample size	3078	2804	3078	2804
land area > 1 acre	Headcount Index	11	17.3	23.8	27.1
	Poverty gap	2	3.4	5.1	6.1
	Squared poverty gap	0.6	1	1.7	2
	Income gap ratio	18	20	21	23
	Sample size	3264	2979	3264	2979
Household does not own any land	Headcount Index	21.8	32.5	42.6	45
	Poverty gap	4.5	6.9	10.3	11.5
	Squared poverty gap	1.4	2.2	3.6	4.1
	Income gap ratio	21	21	26	25
	Sample size	1051	951	1051	951

Source: Authors' calculations from CFS data

Figure 4.1: Poverty by household land ownership 2003/04, based on absolute and relative poverty, with official poverty line and CFS-based poverty line



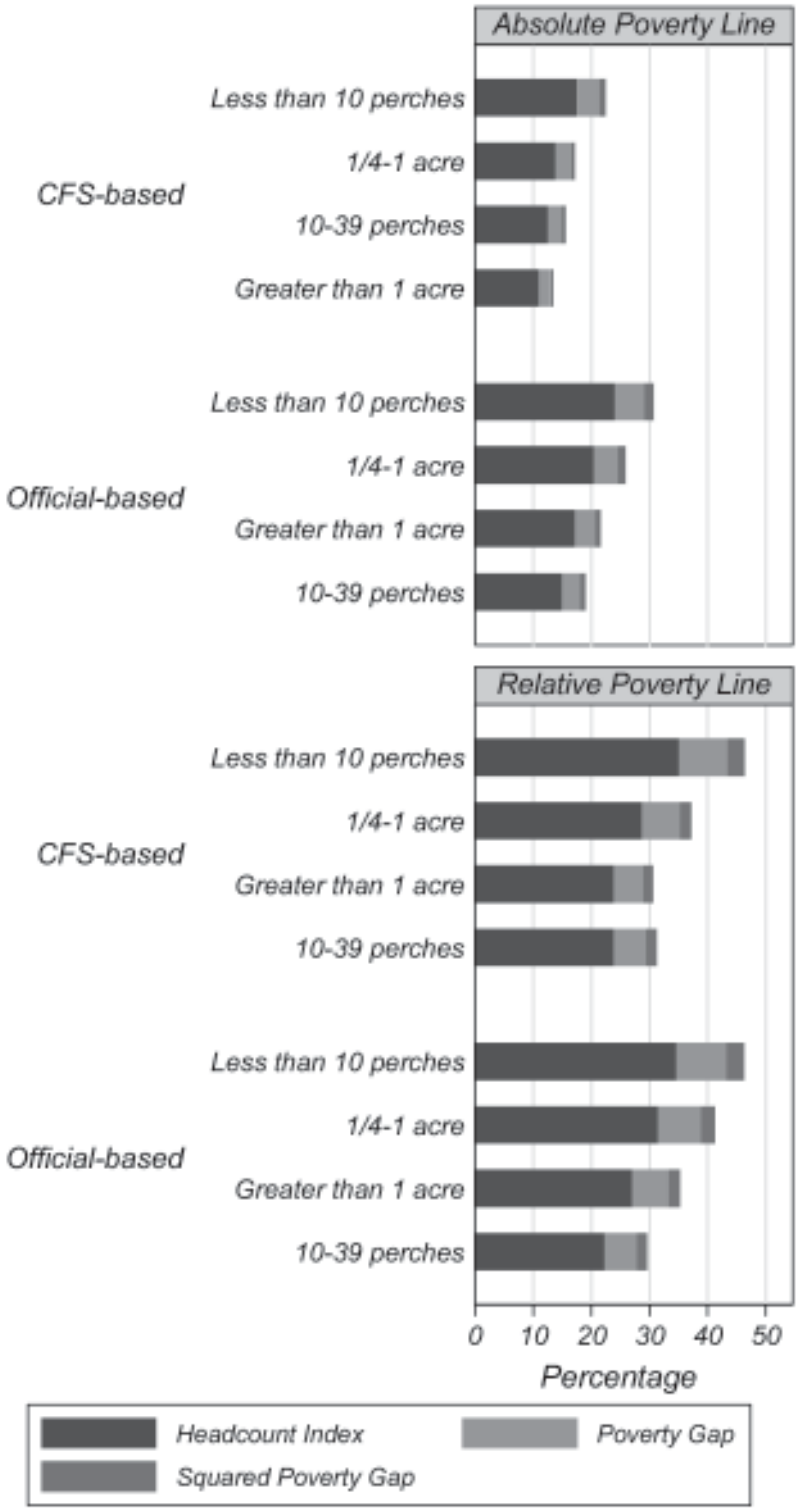
(a) Household is landless



(b) Household owns land

Source: Authors' calculations from CFS data

Figure 4.2: Poverty by the extent of land owned by household 2003/04, based on absolute and relative poverty, with official poverty line and CFS-based poverty line



Source: Authors' calculations from CFS data

We examine the relationship between land ownership and poverty by looking at poverty measures by four categories of land area. Among all four categories of land holding the lowest incidence, gap and severity of poverty could be seen in the category of families owning a land area of 10-39 perches, while the highest poverty incidence is recorded in households with a land area of less than 10 perches.

The distribution of land across sectors is given below and provides a solution to the puzzle of why households with smaller plots of land (10-39 perches) are less poor than households with larger plots of land - a greater proportion of this land is located in urban areas, and probably has higher value than the larger plots of land in rural areas.

Table 4.6 Sectoral distribution of landholdings by size

Land Area	Urban	Rural	Estate
Land area < 10 perches	29.79	43.57	26.64
Land area 10-39 perches	16.39	82.75	0.86
Land area 1/4-1 acre4.56	94.33	1.11	
Land area > 1 acre2.22	96.98	0.81	

Source: Authors' calculations from CFS data

5. Poverty Profile: By Employment

In this section we look at the association between poverty and employment status, occupational status and occupations and industries of employment. Poverty incidence, depth and severity were not very different between employed and unemployed individuals, indicating that unemployment is not strongly associated with poverty. Poverty indicators for the inactive, though slightly higher, were not very different from average poverty levels.

Table 5.1: Poverty by labour market status 2003/04, based on absolute and relative poverty, with official poverty line and CFS-based poverty line

Labour market status	Poverty Measure	Absolute		Relative	
		CFS-based	Official-based	CFS-based	Official-based
Employed	Headcount Index	11.3	16.4	24	25.4
	Poverty gap	2	3.2	5.3	5.8
	Squared poverty gap	0.6	1	1.7	1.9
	Sample size	313	16423	313	16423
Unemployed	Headcount Index	11.6	16.9	23.7	25.3
	Poverty gap	2.1	3.2	5.3	5.8
	Squared poverty gap	0.6	1	1.7	1.9
	Sample size	1753	1630	1753	1630
Inactive	Headcount Index	13.4	18.8	27.3	28.7
	Poverty gap	2.5	3.8	6.2	6.7
	Squared poverty gap	0.8	1.2	2.1	2.3
	Sample size	22721	19853	22721	19853

Source: Authors' calculations from CFS data

However, having a large number of unemployed persons in the household can be associated with poverty as Table 5.2 indicates.

Table 5.2: Poverty by unemployment 2003/04, based on absolute and relative poverty, with official poverty line and CFS-based poverty line

Number of unemployed members in household	Poverty Measure	Absolute		Relative	
		CFS-based	Official-based	CFS-based	Official-based
- None	Headcount Index	13.3	18.7	27.3	28.5
	Poverty gap	2.6	3.9	6.3	6.7
	Squared poverty gap	0.8	1.2	2.1	2.3
	Sample size	10261	9158	10261	9158
- One	Headcount Index	12.5	16.9	23.1	25.9
	Poverty gap	2.1	3.3	5.3	5.9
	Squared poverty gap	0.6	1	1.8	1.9
	Sample size	1204	1119	1204	1119
- Two or more	Headcount Index	19	27.8	38.2	37.3
	Poverty gap	3.5	5.4	8.7	9.4
	Squared poverty gap	1	1.6	2.9	3.2
	Sample size	257	238	257	238

Source: Authors' calculations from CFS data

The sector of employment is also strongly associated with poverty as indicated in table 5.3.

Table 5.3: Poverty by sector of work 2003/04, based on absolute and relative poverty, with official poverty line and CFS-based poverty line

Household employment and unemployment	Poverty Measure	Absolute		Relative	
		CFS-based	Official-based	CFS-based	Official-based
Household with at least one formal sector worker	Headcount Index	7.6	11.7	18.1	19.3
	Poverty gap	1.2	2	3.6	3.9
	Squared poverty gap	0.3	0.6	1.1	1.2
	Sample size	3903	3645	3903	3645
Household with at least one informal sector worker	Headcount Index	15.5	21.4	31	32.2
	Poverty gap	3	4.5	7.2	7.7
	Squared poverty gap	0.9	1.4	2.4	2.7
	Sample size	8375	7535	8375	7535

Source: Authors' calculations from CFS data

Table 5.4 gives a further breakdown of formal sector employees which indicates that households with public sector employees do better than those with private sector formal employees, but that neither is strongly associated with poverty.

Table 5.4: Poverty by sector of work, of formal sector employees 2003/04, based on absolute and relative poverty, with official poverty line and CFS-based poverty line

Sector of Work	Poverty Measure	Absolute		Relative	
		CFS-based	Official-based	CFS-based	Official-based
Central govt or provincial councils or local government employee in household	Headcount Index	3.2	4.5	8	8.2
	Poverty gap	0.5	0.8	1.5	1.6
	Squared poverty gap	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.5
	Sample size	1517	1364	1517	1364
Public corporation employee in household	Headcount Index	6.6	10.1	17	17.4
	Poverty gap	1.4	2	3.5	3.7
	Squared poverty gap	0.5	0.7	1.2	1.3
	Sample size	475	420	475	420
Formal private sector employee in household	Headcount Index	10	15.3	23.5	24.8
	Poverty gap	1.5	2.6	4.7	5.1
	Squared poverty gap	0.4	0.7	1.3	1.5
	Sample size	2216	2145	2216	2145

Source: Authors' calculations from CFS data

Informality can also be related to the type of employment, rather than to the sector of employment. Poverty incidence, depth and the severity were above average among households with casual employees, unpaid family workers and the self-employed, with the strongest association with poverty being with casual work.

Table 5.5: Poverty by individuals' employment status 2003/04, based on absolute and relative poverty, with official poverty line and CFS-based poverty line

Employment Status	Poverty Measure	Absolute		Relative	
		CFS-based	Official-based	CFS-based	Official-based
Regular employee	Headcount Index	4.4	7.4	11.6	13.2
	Poverty gap	0.6	1.2	2.1	2.5
	Squared poverty gap	0.1	0.3	0.6	0.7
	Sample size	3747	3490	3747	3490
Casual employee	Headcount Index	18	24.5	35.6	36.6
	Poverty gap	3.3	5	8.2	8.7
	Squared poverty gap	1	1.6	2.7	3
	Sample size	6079	5591	6079	5591
Contractual employee	Headcount Index	10.8	16.7	23.5	23.3
	Poverty gap	1.6	2.9	4.9	5.4
	Squared poverty gap	0.4	0.8	1.4	1.7
	Sample size	315	275	315	275
Employer	Headcount Index	1	1.9	5.4	4.1
	Poverty gap	0.2	0.3	0.7	0.8
	Squared poverty gap	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2
	Sample size	17902	267	17902	267
Self-employed	Headcount Index	9.4	13.9	21	22.2
	Poverty gap	1.7	2.7	4.5	4.9
	Squared poverty gap	0.5	0.8	1.4	1.6
	Sample size	5889	5339	5889	5339
Unpaid family worker	Headcount Index	11.2	18.1	24.4	27.7
	Poverty gap	2.1	3.6	5.4	6.4
	Squared poverty gap	0.6	1.1	1.8	2.1
	Sample size	1559	1461	1559	1461

Source: Authors' calculations from CFS data

Estimates of poverty by occupational category indicate a strong association with poverty in households where a member is engaged in elementary occupations, and skilled agricultural and fishery workers. By contrast, households with a family member who works as a clerk, a professional, technicians or legislators, senior managers and officials have a very weak association with poverty.

Table 5.6: Poverty by occupation of employment, 2003/04, based on absolute and relative poverty, with official poverty line and CFS-based poverty line

Occupational category of employment	Poverty Measure	Absolute		Relative	
		CFS-based	Official-based	CFS-based	Official-based
Legislators, senior managers, officials in household	Headcount Index	4	5.1	10	9.8
	Poverty gap	0.6	0.8	2	1.7
	Squared poverty gap	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.5
	Sample size	1434	1297	1434	1297
Professionals in household	Headcount Index	1.9	2.7	6	5.7
	Poverty gap	0.4	0.5	1.1	1
	Squared poverty gap	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.3
	Sample size	798	703	798	703
Technicians in household	Headcount Index	4.2	3.6	8.6	6.9
	Poverty gap	0.6	0.7	1.8	1.4
	Squared poverty gap	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.5
	Sample size	882	803	882	803
Clerks in household	Headcount Index	2.1	2.5	6	6.2
	Poverty gap	0.2	0.4	0.9	0.9
	Squared poverty gap	0	0.1	0.2	0.2
	Sample size	691	631	691	631
Service workers in household	Headcount Index	9.6	12.9	21.1	19.9
	Poverty gap	1.7	2.5	4.6	4.5
	Squared poverty gap	0.5	0.8	1.5	1.5
	Sample size	1057	926	1057	926
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers in household	Headcount Index	17.7	28.1	36.8	41.5
	Poverty gap	3.3	5.7	8.3	9.9
	Squared poverty gap	0.9	1.7	2.7	3.3
	Sample size	3123	2883	3123	2883
Craft and related trades persons in household	Headcount Index	12.2	16.2	27	27
	Poverty gap	2.1	3.1	5.6	5.7
	Squared poverty gap	0.6	0.9	1.8	1.8
	Sample size	2368	2197	2368	2197
Plant and machinery operators in household	Headcount Index	8.1	11.9	19.5	19.6
	Poverty gap	1.3	2.1	3.8	4
	Squared poverty gap	0.3	0.6	1.2	1.2
	Sample size	1253	1183	1253	1183
Elementary occupation workers in household	Headcount Index	24.8	33.6	45.7	47.1
	Poverty gap	4.9	7.2	11.2	12
	Squared poverty gap	1.5	2.4	3.9	4.3
	Sample size	2980	2664	2980	2664

Unspecified workers in household	Headcount Index	9.2	11	14.1	15.1
	Poverty gap	1.6	2.8	3.5	4.3
	Squared poverty gap	0.5	0.9	1.3	1.6
	Sample size	72	70	72	70

Source: Authors' calculations from CFS data

Further disaggregation of occupations in agriculture and fisheries and elementary occupations are given in table 5.7, along with other several other common livelihoods. Households with members engaged in paddy or vegetable farming, tea, rubber or cinnamon growing, fishing, *beedi* manufacturing, brick manufacturing, carpenters or construction workers, had a high incidence, depth and severity of poverty, while those in retail trade, transport, education and health sector, and household service providers had a much weaker association with poverty.

Table 5.7: Poverty by occupational category of employment 2003/04, based on absolute and relative poverty, with official poverty line and CFS-based poverty line

Occupational category of employment	Poverty Measure	Absolute		Relative	
		CFS-based	Official-based	CFS-based	Official-based
Paddy farmers in household	Headcount Index	20.3	29.1	37.3	41.1
	Poverty gap	4	6.8	9.3	11
	Squared poverty gap	1.2	2.3	3.2	4
	Sample size	1014	808	1014	808
Vegetable farmers in household	Headcount Index	17.9	31.1	39.4	45
	Poverty gap	3.7	6.6	9.1	11.1
	Squared poverty gap	1.1	2.1	3.1	3.9
	Sample size	519	483	519	483
Tea growers in household	Headcount Index	21.4	33.1	43.1	47.8
	Poverty gap	4	6.8	9.9	11.7
	Squared poverty gap	1.1	2.1	3.3	4
	Sample size	1142	1142	1142	1142
Rubber growers in household	Headcount Index	19	27.8	40.6	44.1
	Poverty gap	3.7	5.7	9	10.1
	Squared poverty gap	1.1	1.8	3	3.4
	Sample size	258	258	258	258
Coconut growers in household	Headcount Index	12.8	16.9	24.8	26.1
	Poverty gap	2.4	3	6	5.7
	Squared poverty gap	0.7	0.7	2	1.7
	Sample size	159	158	159	158
Cinnamon growers in household	Headcount Index	22.1	28.1	38.8	41.5
	Poverty gap	3	5.4	8.5	9.7
	Squared poverty gap	0.6	1.4	2.5	3
	Sample size	92	92	92	92
Fishing industry in household	Headcount Index	21.2	26.3	43.2	42.1
	Poverty gap	3.3	4.8	9	9.1
	Squared poverty gap	1	1.3	2.9	2.8
	Sample size	121	84	121	84
Manufacturing of *beedi* in household	Headcount Index	11.2	20.7	36.7	40.8
	Poverty gap	2.6	3.6	7.1	7.7
	Squared poverty gap	1.1	1.5	2.4	2.6
	Sample size	100	96	100	96
Apparel workers in household	Headcount Index	8.4	12.1	20.7	21.1
	Poverty gap	1.3	2.1	4	4.1
	Squared poverty gap	0.3	0.5	1.2	1.2
	Sample size	785	754	785	754

Carpenters in household	Headcount Index	14.4	21.4	29.6	32.7
	Poverty gap	1.8	3.3	6	6.7
	Squared poverty gap	0.5	0.9	1.7	2
	Sample size	185	172	185	172
Brick manufacturers in household	Headcount Index	21.2	28.4	36.2	35.7
	Poverty gap	3.5	5.7	8.7	9.4
	Squared poverty gap	0.9	1.7	2.8	3.3
	Sample size	125	121	125	121
Construction workers in household	Headcount Index	17.5	23.6	36	37.4
	Poverty gap	3.3	4.8	8.1	8.5
	Squared poverty gap	1	1.5	2.7	2.9
	Sample size	1040	972	1040	972
Non-specialised retail trade industry in household	Headcount Index	7.7	11.7	17.7	18.2
	Poverty gap	1.1	1.9	3.7	3.8
	Squared poverty gap	0.3	0.5	1	1.1
	Sample size	697	653	697	653
Specialised retail trade industry in household	Headcount Index	12.1	15.9	26.6	23.5
	Poverty gap	2	3	5.7	5.3
	Squared poverty gap	0.5	0.8	1.7	1.7
	Sample size	359	320	359	320
Transport service, three wheeler industry in household	Headcount Index	9.6	8.3	19.5	17.8
	Poverty gap	1.5	1.7	3.9	3.2
	Squared poverty gap	0.4	0.4	1.2	0.9
	Sample size	266	250	266	250
Transprt service-private transport providers in household	Headcount Index	5.2	9	14.3	12.9
	Poverty gap	0.7	1.4	2.6	2.8
	Squared poverty gap	0.1	0.3	0.7	0.8
	Sample size	189	179	189	179
Primary and secondary school teachers in household	Headcount Index	1.4	1.6	4.9	4.4
	Poverty gap	0.2	0.3	0.8	0.7
	Squared poverty gap	0	0.1	0.2	0.2
	Sample size	530	460	530	460
Health service providers in household	Headcount Index	4.6	5.9	6.9	8.5
	Poverty gap	0.9	1.4	1.9	2.1
	Squared poverty gap	0.3	0.5	0.7	0.8
	Sample size	187	170	187	170
Engaged in household service in household	Headcount Index	17.3	16.8	25.6	19.6
	Poverty gap	4.1	3.7	7.5	5.8
	Squared poverty gap	1.6	1.5	3.2	2.3
	Sample size	231	219	231	219
Workers not elsewhere classified in household	Headcount Index	35.1	48.2	61.3	65.2
	Poverty gap	7.1	11.1	15.8	17.6
	Squared poverty gap	2.5	4	5.8	6.8
	Sample size	347	316	347	316

Source: Authors' calculations from CFS data

6. Poverty Profile: Transfers

Public and private transfers that households receive can help to alleviate poverty. Since this poverty profile is a snapshot of consumption taken at one point in time, it is not possible to trace this effect of transfers. However this profile enables us to ascertain the poverty status of households that receive transfers which, in the case of public transfers, indicates if they are well targeted.

Households that receive receiving remittances from abroad have the least poverty. It is not possible to judge if this is a cause or effect from the given results - are they less poor because they receive remittances (and perhaps have been receiving them for a while), or are they remittance receivers because they could afford to send a family member abroad? Probably a combination of these factors is at work. The sample size indicates that one in ten households receives remittances, while poverty incidence indicates that a further one in ten of households receiving remittances is poor. Income gap ratios for this group indicate that on average their consumption is about 1/5 below the poverty line.

Sample size information conveys that one third to one quarter of households receive remittances from within the country. Poverty incidence, depth and severity for this group are very close to the national average.

By contrast, households receiving Samurdhi or Janasaviya, or any other form of transfer from the government are much poorer, by any measure of poverty. Nevertheless, only 40% of those who receive a Samurdhi or Janasaviya transfer are below the official poverty line. Only half of Samurdhi or Janasaviya recipients consume below 75% of median consumption. This confirms previous evidence that these income transfer programmes are badly targeted (Glinskaya 2000, World Bank 2007, Gunewardena 2007)

Table 6.1: Poverty by income and transfers, 2003/04, based on absolute and relative poverty, with official poverty line and CFS-based poverty line

Income and Transfers	Poverty Measure	Absolute		Relative	
		CFS-based	Official-based	CFS-based	Official-based
Household receives remittances from abroad	Headcount Index	6.8	10.5	15.4	16.4
	Poverty gap	1.1	1.9	3.2	3.5
	Squared poverty gap	0.3	0.5	1	1.1
	Income gap ratio	16	18	21	21
	Sample size	1176	964	1176	964
Household receives remittances from within the country	Headcount Index	12	17.4	26.4	27.6
	Poverty gap	2.4	3.5	5.8	6.2
	Squared poverty gap	0.7	1.1	2	2.1
	Income gap ratio	20	20	22	22
	Sample size	3828	3476	3828	3476
Household receives Samurdhi or Janasaviya	Headcount Index	26.8	38	49.4	53.2
	Poverty gap	5.4	8.4	12.3	13.7
	Squared poverty gap	1.7	2.8	4.4	5
	Income gap ratio	20	22	25	26
	Sample size	3862	3250	3862	3250
Household receive government transfer other than Samurdhi and Janasaviya	Headcount Index	17.7	25.1	34	36.6
	Poverty gap	3.1	5	7.8	8.7
	Squared poverty gap	0.9	1.5	2.6	2.9
	Income gap ratio	18	20	23	24
	Sample size	2277	2034	2277	2034

Source: Authors' calculations from CFS data

7. Conclusion

This study provided a profile of poverty for 2003/04. Its unique contribution to the existing body of poverty information on Sri Lanka around this period are that; its estimates of poverty included a wider geographical coverage than many previous studies, it used a range of poverty lines rather than a single poverty line, and it provided information on the association between poverty and some characteristics for which evidence was previously not available.

The analysis of data from Northern and Eastern provinces such that consistent comparisons could be made with the rest of the country was facilitated by our construction of a separate CFS data based series of district poverty lines and spatial price indices. We were able to conclude that there was considerable poverty in these provinces, comparable to that in the Central and Sabaragamuwa provinces. Moreover, spatial price indices (provided in Annex 1) indicate that prices in the Northern province districts of Jaffna and Vavuniya were higher than average (and were comparable to those in Kalutara), while Trincomalee, Batticaloa and Ampara in the Eastern province had prices that were close to the national average and in that respect were similar to Puttalam, Nuwara Eliya, Matara, Polonnaruwa and Ratnapura.

The analysis of poverty by ethnicity indicated that poverty among the Sinhala population was clearly below average, while poverty among Tamils and Moors was clearly above average - regardless of poverty line or poverty measure. While these results are consistent with those based on HIES 2002 (which excluded the Northern and Eastern provinces), the inclusion of households from the Northern and Eastern provinces now allows for more representative statistics on poverty by ethnicity.

The poverty lines and spatial price indices developed from CFS data in this study may be used as an alternative series to complement the official poverty line, and can be updated in a similar manner. While we have provided the bare minimum in relation to poverty statistics in the Northern and Eastern provinces, there is much more information that can be gleaned from the CFS data in this respect, and the poverty lines and spatial price indices generated here will facilitate further analysis.

Perhaps the most useful result of using several poverty lines in this study was that it revealed the existence of a considerable proportion of the population clustered above the official absolute poverty line who could be considered to be *vulnerable* to poverty. It was evident that a small increase in the poverty line could lead to large increases in the percentage poor. For example, an increase of the poverty line by Rs.200 (the difference between absolute and relative CFS-based poverty lines) led to a doubling, or more, of poverty incidence. This indicates that a large percentage of the population was clustered above the poverty line and was vulnerable to consumption shocks. Thus, relative poverty measures provide a rough indication of vulnerability, contributing in a very small way to the narrowing of the information gap in relation to vulnerability in Sri Lanka.

The availability of disability information on individuals in the CFS dataset further contributed to improving our knowledge on the association between poverty and a very vulnerable group. Poverty incidence among the disabled and in households with a disabled member, were close to double the incidence of national poverty, while the consumption levels of the disabled were also well below ¾ of the poverty line.

This study also went further than previous studies in examining associations between the demographic composition of households (especially potential vulnerable groups of children, women and the elderly) and poverty. While no strong associations were evident in terms of

sex composition *per se*, the 'feminisation of poverty' was evident in households where women were the breadwinners, or were the majority contributors of wage earnings. Similarly, separated individuals experienced higher poverty than others and a disproportionate number of these individuals were female. Although poverty among children (younger than 14 years) was higher than average, and the presence of elderly in the household or being elderly was *not* associated with higher poverty, we would be cautious about making inferences about child poverty and the association between the aged population based on these results as they may be biased by our use of *per capita* consumption unadjusted for potential differences in the needs of individuals of different ages.

The results on the spatial-sectoral nature of poverty in Sri Lanka, the association between poverty and assets (or the lack thereof), and the distribution of transfers are quite similar to previous results based on HIES data.

Estimates based on the official poverty line indicated that absolute poverty incidence in the rural sector was more than double that in the urban sector and incidence in the estate sector was more than double that in the rural sector. The largest share of the poor population, at 85% was in the rural sector.

Poverty is associated with the lack of, or low levels of, assets. In this study, this is evident in relation to land, human capital, and even the commonest asset of all, labour. It was seen that land ownership and possessing at least a lower secondary level of education were associated with lower poverty, while landlessness, illiteracy and possessing primary or sub-primary levels of schooling were associated with higher poverty, than average.

Households who were unable to use the labour of their members due to disability (discussed above) or severe unemployment were also markedly poorer. Poverty rates did not differ greatly between the employed and the unemployed, but households with over two unemployed individuals had considerably higher poverty rates than the average.

Higher poverty is associated with occupations that yield lower returns to labour. Households with at least one member engaged in informal sector employment had higher than average poverty rates. Poverty was highest among households with casual employees, unpaid family workers and the self-employed, with the strongest association with poverty being with casual work. Households with members engaged in paddy or vegetable farming, tea, rubber or cinnamon growing, fishing, *beedi* manufacturing, brick manufacturing, carpenters or construction workers, had a high incidence, depth and severity of poverty, while those in retail trade, transport, the education and health sectors, and household service providers had a much weaker association with poverty.

Households that received private transfers (remittances) had lower poverty rates than average. One third to one quarter of the population lived in households receiving remittances from within the country, although their poverty rates did not differ very much from the national average. On the other hand, households receiving remittances from abroad, roughly one tenth of the population, had the lowest poverty incidence, i.e. one household in ten was poor.

Households receiving Samurdhi or Janasaviya, or any other form of transfer from the government were much poorer than average, by any measure of poverty. Nevertheless, only 40% of those who received a Samurdhi or Janasaviya transfer were below the official poverty line and only 50% of Samurdhi or Janasaviya recipients had a level of consumption below

75% of median consumption. This is indicative of considerable leakage of income transfer benefits and reiterates findings of previous studies.

Poverty measurement is vital in order to increase knowledge, but knowledge must lead to action. It is hoped that at least some of the information presented here, whether it is new and surprising or simply reiterates what has been known for some time, will eventually lead to policy action so that the next poverty profile will reveal less poverty for all, no matter how we decide to measure it.

References

CENTRAL BANK OF SRI LANKA, 2005. *Consumer Finances and Socio-Economic Survey 2003/04*. Colombo: Central Bank of Sri Lanka.

DATT, G., GUNEWARDENA, D., 1997. *Some Aspects of Poverty in Sri Lanka*, Washington D.C.: World Bank. (Policy Research Working Paper No. 1790)

DEATON, A., 1997. *The Analysis of Household Surveys*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.

DEATON, A. and PAXSON, C., 1998. Economies of scale, household size and the demand for food. *Journal of Political Economy,* vol. 106(October), pages 897-930.

DEPARTMENT OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS, 2004a. *Announcement of the Official Poverty Line* [online]. Colombo: Department of Census and Statistics. Available from: www.statistics.gov.lk.

DEPARTMENT OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS, 2004b. *Poverty Statistics* [online]. Colombo: Department of Census and Statistics. Available from: www.statistics.gov.lk

DEPARTMENT OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS, 2005a. *Selected Millenium Development Goals (MDGs) Indicators* [online]. Colombo: Department of Census and Statistics. Available from: www.statistics.gov.lk

DEPARTMENT OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS, 2005b. *Poverty Maps* [online]. Colombo: Department of Census and Statistics. Available from: www.statistics.gov.lk

DEPARTMENT OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS, 2006. *Poverty in Sri Lanka: Issues and Options* [online]. Colombo: Department of Census and Statistics. Available from: www.statistics.gov.lk

DEPARTMENT OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS, 2007. *Updated District Official Poverty Lines* [online]. Colombo: Department of Census and Statistics. Available from: www.statistics.gov.lk

GLINSKAYA, E. 2000. *An empirical evaluation of the Samurdhi Programme.* Background paper for the Sri Lanka Poverty Assessment 2002, Report No. 22-535-CE.

GUNATILAKA, R., PERERA, R., SALIH, R., DE SILVA, C. 1997. *The Samurdhi Programme: A Preliminary Evaluation*. Colombo: Institute of Policy Studies.

GUNEWARDENA, D. 2000. *Consumption poverty in Sri Lanka, 1985-1996*. Paper written for the Policy Framework for Poverty Alleviation in Sri Lanka.

GUNEWARDENA, D., 2007. *Consumption poverty in Sri Lanka, 1985-2002: An updated analysis of household survey data.* Centre for Poverty Analysis Working Paper Series 14-2007. Colombo: Centre for Poverty Analysis.

LANJOUW, P., RAVALLION, M., 1995. Poverty and household size. *Economic Journal,* 105 (November), pp. 1415-1434.

RAVALLION, M., 1994. *Poverty Comparisons. Fundamentals of pure and applied economics*, (56). Chur, Switzerland: Harwood Academic Press.

RAVALLION, M., BIDANI, B., 1994. How robust is a poverty profile. *World Bank Economic Review,* 8(1), pp. 75-102.

SEN, A. 1981. Poverty and Famines: An Essay on Entitlement and Deprivation. New York: Oxford University Press.

SEN, A. 1983. Poor, Relatively Speaking. *Oxford Economic Papers;* 35(2), pp. 153-69.

WORLD BANK, 1995. *Sri Lanka Poverty Assessment.* Report No. 13431-CE. Washington, D.C.: World Bank

WORLD BANK, 2002. *Sri Lanka Poverty Assessment*. Report No. 22535-CE. Washington, D.C.: World Bank

WORLD BANK, 2007. *Sri Lanka Poverty Assessment.* Report No. 36568-LK. Colombo: World Bank

Annex 1: Measuring Poverty in Sri Lanka: Methodology

Poverty measurement typically involves four choices: the choice of poverty indicator, unit of analysis, poverty line and poverty measure. In this annex we set out the choices we made and explain the derivation of the poverty lines used.

1.1 Choice of poverty indicator and unit of analysis

Poverty can be defined as deprivation in terms of living standards or lack of access to basic needs. In this case the most appropriate choice of poverty indicator is current real total consumption i.e. expenditure on consumption plus home produced goods and services (Atkinson 1991, Ravallion 1994, Lipton and Ravallion 1995).

In this study we use data on (*per capita*) total household consumption as measured by the household surveys of the Central Bank's Consumer Finance Survey (CFS), which includes over 400 items of household consumption and is a close approximation of this definition.

Food consumption is reported calendar-style, for a week, while non-food consumption is obtained as the monthly average of consumption expenditure reported for the past month, six months or twelve months. Reported values are of the amount consumed, which includes purchased goods and services, as well as home-produced goods and services. The household is defined as "Either a person living alone or a group of persons living together in a housing unit and sharing common cooking arrangements." (CFS 2005: 9).[12] Boarders' and domestic workers' non-food consumption is not included, although their food consumption may be included if they are present for meals.[13]

The unit of analysis is typically the individual, in the sense that poverty measures are reported in terms of the population, rather than households. For example, sectoral poverty incidence will refer to the percentage of rural individuals, rather than the percentage of households, who are poor. We distinguish between the percentage of individuals with no schooling who are poor and the percentage of individuals who live in a household where the head has no schooling, but in both cases, the percentages are in terms of individuals, not households.

The equivalent scale we use is *per capita* consumption, which is a special case of the general definition:

equivalent consumption = total consumption / n^s

where n is the household size and s is equal to one. [14]

---

[12] The CFS Report definition goes on to say that the members of a household need not always be related, i.e. they could be boarders or domestic aides, and though treated as household members could form a separate independent spending unit that makes its own economic decisions within the household, although they share the same cooking arrangements.

[13] This is consistent with the CFS categorisation of all boarders, drivers and housemaids who were treated as members of the same household, but as separate spending units (CFS 2005, p.10).

[14] Deaton (1997:150) points out that the equivalent scale literature is still far from providing satisfactory answers to the theoretical and methodological problems involved, and that "the use of household [per capita expenditure] PCE assigned to individuals is still best practice." Another problem with using *per capita* expenditure is that it ignores economies of scale. Studies have shown that the effect of ignoring economies of scale is not negligible (Lanjouw and Ravallion 1995, Deaton and Paxson 1996). However, there are similar problems with measuring economies of scale (Deaton 1997:262-270). DCS (2004a) reports that "analysis on equivalence scales and economies of scale showed that there is no marked difference between (1) *per capit*a and (2) per adult equivalent, in terms of Head Count Index."

Note that in terms of indicator, unit of analysis and equivalence scale, the present profile is in line with current DCS measures of poverty and poverty profiles used in World Bank Poverty Assessments and other poverty profiles (WB 2007, Gunewardena 2007, WB 2002, Gunewardena 2000, WB 1995, Datt and Gunewardena 1997).

1.2 Poverty lines

Two series of poverty lines are used. One series is based on the official poverty line of Rs.1,423 in 2002 which is derived by the DCS from consumption data from the HIES 2002.[15] The other series is derived by the authors of the present study from consumption data from the CFS 2003/04, using information from all 11,722 households in the dataset.[16]

Absolute and relative poverty lines are derived for both these series.

1.2.1 Derivation of absolute poverty lines

The official-based absolute poverty line that was used was simply the DCS derived poverty line of Rs.1,423 in 2002, updated for 2003/04, while the CFS-based absolute poverty line was derived from CFS data in a manner similar to that of the official poverty line, i.e. using the *cost of basic needs (CBN) method* (Ravallion 1994).[17] The method is outlined below.

A food poverty line is first derived using the cost of a food bundle that satisfies the food-energy requirement, at given tastes. The food energy requirement that provides the nutritional anchor for the official poverty line is 2030 kcal per person per day (DCS 2004a).

The food poverty line is derived as the cost per calorie times the monthly nutritional requirement (cost per calorie x 2030 x 30 kcal). This is done by obtaining aggregate food expenditures and calorie intakes of the households in the second to fourth deciles of the population ranked by real *per capita* total consumption expenditure. The value of the food poverty line thus obtained from unit data from HIES 2002 is Rs.973 per person per month (DCS 2004a). **This HIES based food poverty line of Rs.973 provides the base for both absolute poverty lines used in this study.**

The second step is to scale up the food poverty line to a total poverty line. This is done by looking at the actual non-food expenditure of some group. The question is which group? Two approaches are commonly used: (1) determining the average level of total expenditure of those *people whose food expenditure is just equal to the food poverty line* and (2)

---

[15] DCS (2004a) provides a detailed description of how the official poverty line was derived. This section draws on that description.

[16] The only reason to construct a poverty line from the CFS data was that official poverty lines were not available for districts in the Northern and Eastern provinces. We derived poverty lines for all districts in order that consistent comparisons could be made.

[17] The cost of basic needs (CBN) method used here in deriving the poverty line is superior to the alternatives, the direct calorie intake (DCI) method and the food energy intake (FEI) methods for measuring poverty. The DCI method has an advantage in that it is a 'real' measure of consumption. If one uses this method, one does not have to calculate price indices to make comparisons over time and space. Its main disadvantage is that it ignores the fact that food consumption is only one aspect of well being, that poverty denotes a lack of access to basic needs other than food, such as clothing, housing, education and health. The FEI method is superior to the DCI method because it includes consumption on all items, not merely food. However, it is inferior to the CBN method in the manner in which it translates food energy requirements into consumption expenditure. The problem with the FEI method is that while it allows poverty lines to differ according to activity levels and relative prices, it also allows them to differ according to other factors which may not be relevant to poverty comparisons (Ravallion and Bidani 1994).

determining the non-food expenditure of *people whose total expenditure is just equal to the poverty line* and adding it to the food poverty line. Ravallion (1994) refers to the first as the typical non-food spending of those who *just attain* the food requirement, and the second as the typical non-food spending of those who can *just afford* the food requirement. The argument in favour of the latter is that if people whose consumption is just enough to afford their food spending divert some of it to non-food spending, then that non-food spending could be termed basic. Ravallion (1994:122-3) suggests that the two approaches represent an upper (Z_U) and lower (Z_L) bound of the poverty line, respectively.

In the estimation of the official poverty line, DCS (2004a: 4) calculates the lower bound definition as the "average non-food expenditure of households whose total consumption expenditure is within an interval of plus or minus 10% around the food poverty line" which is Rs.1,267 in 2002 prices. The upper bound definition of the poverty line is calculated by DCS (2004a: 4) as the "average non-food expenditure of households whose *food* expenditure is within an interval of plus or minus 10% around the food poverty line", which is calculated at Rs.1,579 in 2002 prices.

The official poverty line is then calculated as the simple arithmetic mean of the two estimates, Rs.1,423 in 2002 prices. We update this for 2003/04 using the weighted average of the official poverty lines given by DCS (2007) for 2003 (Rs.1,513) and 2004 (Rs.1,628), where the weights of 0.25 and 0.75 reflect the survey period from October 2003 to October 2004, to obtain an **official (absolute) poverty line of Rs.1,599.25.**

The CFS based absolute poverty line derives the non-food component as simply the lower bound poverty line obtained parametrically as the food share at the poverty line, by a regression controlling for household size and the number of children less than ten years of age, based on the reference group of the lowest 4 deciles. This non-food component is then added to the food poverty line which is the DCS derived food poverty line of Rs.973 updated by the SLCPI to Rs.1,093.52 in 2003/04. **The CFS-based poverty line thus obtained is Rs.1,399.18**, which is comparable to the DCS lower bound estimate of Rs.1,267 in 2002 and is conceptually and methodologically identical to the lower bound (reference) poverty line reported in previous poverty profiles (World Bank 1995, Datt and Gunewardena 1997, Gunewardena 2000).

1.2.2 Derivation of relative poverty lines

Throughout this study we supplement poverty measures based on absolute poverty lines with poverty measures based on relative poverty lines (for both series).

The view of relative poverty we use is a primarily relativised view rather than a fully relativised view (see section 1.2 in the main document for an explanation of the difference).

Relative poverty lines within the primarily relativised view are typically some fraction of a measure of central tendency. We use the definition of 75% of median consumption throughout this report. The measure of consumption used is spatially adjusted consumption, using spatial price indices derived from district/national poverty line ratios from (1) the updated official district poverty lines (DCS 2007) and (2) our own calculations of district poverty lines from the CFS data for this study (see below).

Poverty lines and poverty measures for this measure, and an alternative conservative measure of 66% of the median are given below. See Gunewardena (2007) for arguments for and against use of relative poverty lines, and for a detailed derivation of the definition adopted here.

Table A.1 Absolute and relative poverty lines and median consumption, 2002 and 2003/04 (at current prices in SL Rs.)

Poverty lines/consumption	Official 2002	Official-based 2003/04	CFS-based 2003/04
Absolute	1423	1599.25	1399.18
Median consumption	2155	2494	2356
Absolute as a % of median	66.0	64.0	59
RELATIVE1 (66%)	1423	1646	1555
RELATIVE2 (75%)	1616	1871	1767
Ratio of Absolute/RELATIVE1	1.00	0.97	0.90
Ratio of Absolute/RELATIVE2	0.88	0.85	0.79

Source: Authors' calculations from HIES and CFS data

Note: Comparisons may not be made between the first column and others as values (except for absolute poverty lines in the first two columns) are not at the same prices.

Table A.2: National FGT poverty measures using absolute and relative poverty lines, 2002 and 2003/04

Poverty measures	Official 2002			Official-based 2003/04			CFS-based 2003/04		
	H	PG	SPG	H	PG	SPG	H	PG	SPG
Absolute	23	5	2	19	4	1	13	3	1
RELATIVE1 (66%)	23	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
RELATIVE2 (75%)	31	8	3	28	7	2	27	6	2

Source: Authors' calculations from HIES and CFS data

Note: H - Headcount index, PG – Poverty gap index, SPG – Squared poverty gap index

1.3 Adjusting for price differences across districts and time

1.3.1 Adjusting the poverty line across time

Poverty line adjustments across time are only required for the official-based absolute poverty line. As noted above, this poverty line, which is derived by DCS (2004a) for 2002 using HIES household expenditure data from January to December 2002 is updated for applying to the 2003/04 dataset using a weighted average of the updated poverty lines for 2003 and 2004 obtained from the DCS website (DCS 2007). As the survey was conducted from October 2003 to October 2004, the weights are 0.25 and 0.75 respectively.

1.3.2 Adjusting the poverty line across districts

The cost of living may vary, at a given point in time, between regions of the same country. Adjustment for regional price variation is then necessary (and possible, using household survey data). One of two methods may be used. A regional cost-of-living index may be constructed, and expenditures adjusted by this index and then compared against a single, national, poverty line. Alternatively, and equivalently, unadjusted expenditures can be compared against region-specific poverty lines. Note, however, that these region-specific poverty lines are region-specific only in terms of prices, and not consumption patterns. This is known as the principle of *consistency*, or treating individuals with the same living standards equally.

When consumption patterns vary widely by region, should poverty lines be based on different (food) baskets? The question to be asked is whether the reason for different consumption habits is due to taste differences or differences in levels of wealth. Richer urban households may consume a more refined quality of rice than poorer rural households, because they can afford to do so. In this case it is difficult to justify different food baskets; a single consumption basket based on the consumption pattern of low-income households in the country as a whole is justified. However, if, in some region of the country, rice is not consumed at all, owing to some factor other than price, then there are problems with using a common basket. Budget share data across provinces does not appear to justify the use of different baskets.

Spatial price indices are computed by the DCS using implicit prices (unit values) from the survey data (DCS 2004a). These were obtained from a sub-sample of the data - the second to fourth deciles ranked by nominal per capita consumption. They are constructed at the district level. The DCS regional poverty lines derived following this method are used in this study to construct spatial price indices to standardise consumption across the country for the official-based series. We use the ratio of district to national poverty lines as a spatial price index with which to deflate consumption.[18] This is equivalent to comparing each household's nominal consumption with the poverty line of the district in which it is located.

We were faced with a problem with regards to households in the Northern and Eastern provinces, as district official poverty lines were not available for districts in these two provinces as the DCS series was based on HIES 2002 which did not survey these provinces.

One alternative available to us was to use the national poverty line. This would be equivalent to assuming that prices in the Northern and Eastern provinces in 2003/04 were similar to the national average of prices in those years. The evidence is unlikely to support this assumption, so we rejected this alternative.

Given that we had a rich source of data on prices in the CFS consumption schedule, we undertook the laborious but rewarding task of generating poverty lines for the Northern and Eastern provinces using unit values from the CFS data. It was necessary that we generated poverty lines for all the provinces in order to have a consistent series that could be compared across all provinces.

First we generated 22 food price indices for each of the districts, for 39 categories of food and fuel items for a reference population of the lowest 40% of the population, ranked by *per capita* (nominal) consumption. The weights (budget shares) were derived from a basket common to the entire country in order to maintain consistency. These food price indices were multiplied by the DCS derived food poverty line of Rs.1,093.52 updated for 2003/04 from Rs.973 in 2002 to generate district food poverty lines.

We then use a regression-based method to derive the average non-food consumption of households whose consumption was at the food poverty line, controlling for household size and number of children less than 10 years of age. This was done separately for the 22 districts. We then added these 22 estimates of non-food consumption to the 22 food poverty lines to obtain lower-bound estimates of the absolute poverty lines. Finally, the 22 district poverty lines were divided by the national poverty line to obtain price indices for each of the 22 districts. These were used to spatially adjust consumption expenditure data to obtain the CFS-based estimates of both absolute and relative poverty.

[18] e.g. The spatial price index for Colombo is the poverty line for Colombo district divided by the national poverty line. Nominal consumption figures are then converted to real (i.e. spatially comparable) consumption by dividing by the relevant spatial price index.

Table A3: District and national poverty lines from 1985-2002 in current prices (SL Rs.)

District	CFS-based Poverty line	CFS-based Price Index	Official-based Poverty line	Official-based Price Index
Colombo	1867.27	1.33	1727.00	1.08
Gampaha	1702.45	1.22	1694.75	1.06
Kalutara	1620.60	1.16	1711.25	1.07
Kandy	1471.72	1.05	1630.75	1.02
Matale	1314.62	0.94	1567.00	0.98
Nuwara Eliya	1416.92	1.01	1615.00	1.01
Galle	1461.67	1.04	1646.50	1.03
Matara	1408.93	1.01	1567.00	0.98
Hambantota	1313.63	0.94	1503.00	0.94
Jaffna	1597.98	1.14	.	.
Mannar	.	.	.	.
Vavuniya	1627.16	1.16	.	.
Kilinochchi	.	.	.	.
Trincomalee	1430.13	1.02	.	.
Batticaloa	1386.26	0.99	.	.
Amparai	1405.14	1.00	.	.
Kurunegala	1342.83	0.96	1518.75	0.95
Puttalam	1402.81	1.00	1599.25	1.00
Anuradapura	1308.92	0.94	1551.25	0.97
Polonnaruwa	1383.35	0.99	1535.50	0.96
Badulla	1372.21	0.98	1582.75	0.99
Monaragala	1274.31	0.91	1535.50	0.96
Ratnapura	1386.88	0.99	1630.75	1.02
Kegalle	1460.10	1.04	1615.00	1.01
National	1399.18	1.00	1599.25	1.00

Source: For the official-based series calculated as the weighted average of 2003 and 2004, from DCS (2007). For the CFS-based series, calculated by the authors as described in the text.

1.4 Poverty measures

A poverty profile typically answers the question "If an individual exhibits a particular characteristic (e.g. of educational achievement) or lives in a particular area (sector, province, district) what is the likelihood of this individual being poor?" In other words, what proportion of individuals (e.g.) with no schooling, or living in the rural sector, are poor? This measure is known as the *headcount index.* A shortcoming of this measure is that it ignores both the depth of poverty and inequality among the poor. The *poverty gap* and *squared poverty gap* indices remedy this. Together, these indices form part of a larger family of measures known as the FGT measures of poverty (Foster, Greer and Thorbecke 1984).

The formula to compute an FGT measure of poverty is

$$P_a = (1/n) S_{x<z} [(z - x_i)/z]^a \quad ; \quad a \geq 0$$

where *x* is *per capita* consumption expenditure, *z* is the poverty line, *n* is the size of the population, *P* is the poverty measure which is (a) the headcount index when *a* is zero, (b) the poverty gap index when *a* is 1 and (c) the squared poverty gap index when *a* is 2.[19]

All the analysis in this study uses these three FGT measures of poverty. While the headcount index is commonly used and has an intuitively appealing interpretation, the poverty gap index, and the squared poverty gap index are less intuitively appealing. It may help to think of the poverty gap in terms of its cousin, the income gap ratio, which is can be interpreted as the gap in consumption (distance between own consumption and the poverty line) of the average poor person. The difference between the income gap ratio and the poverty gap index is simply in the denominator, and the poverty gap index (PG) can be interpreted as an average consumption shortfall, where shortfalls in consumption for the non-poor are considered to be zero (Table A4)[20] Similarly, the squared poverty gap (SPG) can be interpreted as a weighted average of the consumption shortfall, where weights for poorer people (larger shortfalls) are larger.

Table A4: Definitions of poverty measures

P_0 Headcount Index (H) (The incidence of poverty)	The percentage of individuals in a given population whose standard of living lies below the poverty line
P_1 Poverty Gap index (PG) (The depth of poverty)	The average shortfall between an individual's level of consumption and the poverty line, where the shortfall for all individuals whose consumption falls above the poverty line is zero.
P_2 Squared Poverty Gap index (SPG) (The severity of poverty)	As for the poverty gap, but by squaring the shortfall between an individual's level of consumption and the poverty line, it places greater weight on poorer individuals.

Each of these measures increases if the proportion in poverty increases, while only the PG and SPG increase if the average distance from the poverty line increases, and only the SPG increases if inequality below the poverty line increases.

If the headcount index (incidence of) poverty answers the question "If an individual lives in a particular area (sector, province, district) what is the likelihood of that individual being poor?", the question "What is the likelihood of a poor person living in a particular area (sector, province, district)?" is answered by the percentage contribution to poverty, which we also term 'share of poor population'.[21]

[19] The squared poverty gap measure satisfies Sen's (1976) transfer axiom (transfers from a poor person to someone who is poorer will reduce measured poverty).

[20] It can be easily shown that the poverty gap index is the multiple of the headcount index and the income gap ratio (PG=H x I) and the latter can be derived by dividing PG by H.

[21] This is simply the relevant poverty measure for the sector/province/district divided by the same poverty measure at the national level and multiplied by the population share of that sector/province/district and converted to a percentage

1.5 Reliability of estimates

We do not provide standard errors of our poverty measures, thus, strict inference is not possible with these measures. However as the sample size increases, our estimates are more likely to be unbiased and consistent. We therefore provide sample size information in all tables and in the spreadsheet in Annex 2 and draw attention to results that are most probably not statistically significant due to small cell size.

Annex 2: Source Data

2.1 Absolute Poverty: Official-based

Characteristics	Description of variables	Absolute Poverty						
		Official-based						
		Headcount Index	Poverty gap	Squared poverty gap	Share of poor population (%)	Population share (%)	Sample size	Average per capita consumption (Rs.)
1. PROVINCE								
Western	No. Households	8.2	1.6	0.5	13	30	3215	4662
Central	No. Households	28	5.7	1.8	22	15	1532	2674
Southern	No. Households	20.3	4.6	1.5	16	15	1507	2768
Northern	No. Households							
Eastern	No. Households							
North Western	No. Households	12	2	0.5	9	14	1505	3246
North Central	No. Households	19.9	3.4	0.9	7	7	764	2770
Uva	No. Households	35	8.6	3	14	8	783	2313
Sabaragamuwa	No. Households	29.3	5.9	1.9	18	11	1209	2381
2. SECTOR								
Urban	No. Households	8	1.7	0.6	5	12	1229	5512
Rural	No. Households	18.9	3.9	1.2	83	82	8691	3091
Estate	No. Households	38.4	7.6	2.3	12	6	595	2046
3. INDIVIDUAL CHARACTERISTICS								
Gender								
Female	No. Individuals	18.4	3.8	1.2	51	52	23482	3393
Male	No. Individuals	19	3.9	1.2	49	48	21451	3322
Age								
Below 5	No. Individuals	22.8	5.3	1.9	9	8	3489	2919
5-14 years	No. Individuals	26.8	5.8	1.9	25	18	7935	2822
15-24 years	No. Individuals	18.2	3.5	1.1	18	18	8223	3271
25-44 years	No. Individuals	17.6	3.6	1.1	26	28	12527	3381
45-54 years	No. Individuals	13.6	2.5	0.8	9	13	5762	3705
55-64 years	No. Individuals	12	2.3	0.7	5	8	3648	4085
65-74 years	No. Individuals	16.5	3.2	1	4	5	2217	3979
75-84 years	No. Individuals	16.9	3.2	1	2	2	887	3638
85 and above	No. Individuals	15.9	3.5	1.3	0	1	245	3358
Gender and Age								
Males below 5 years	No. Individuals	24	5.5	1.9	5	4	1764	2942
Males 5-14 years	No. Individuals	26.4	5.7	1.9	12	9	3934	2848
Males 15-24 years	No. Individuals	19.1	3.8	1.1	9	9	4041	3204
Males 25-44 years	No. Individuals	17.5	3.6	1.1	12	13	5732	3386
Males 45-54 years	No. Individuals	14.7	2.7	0.8	5	6	2653	3517
Males 55-64 years	No. Individuals	11.7	2.4	0.7	2	4	1790	4102
Males 65-74 years	No. Individuals	15.2	3	0.9	2	2	1023	4032
Males 75-84 years	No. Individuals	17.7	3.3	1.1	1	1	400	3468
Males 85 years and above	No. Individuals	15.8	3.9	1.8	0	0	114	2913
Females below 5 years	No. Individuals	21.7	5.1	1.8	4	4	1725	2894
Females 5-14 years	No. Individuals	27.2	6	2	13	9	4001	2795
Females 15-24 years	No. Individuals	17.2	3.3	1	9	9	4182	3337
Females 25-44 years	No. Individuals	17.6	3.6	1.1	14	15	6795	3377
Females 45-54 years	No. Individuals	12.7	2.4	0.7	5	7	3109	3865
Females 55-64 years	No. Individuals	12.4	2.3	0.7	3	4	1858	4069
Females 65-74 years	No. Individuals	17.6	3.5	1.1	3	3	1194	3933
Females 75-84 years	No. Individuals	16.2	3	0.9	1	1	487	3777
Females 85 years and above	No. Individuals	16	3.2	0.9	0	0	131	3745
Education								
No schooling	No. Individuals	28.3	6.5	2.3	22	15	6538	2682
Sub-primary	No. Individuals	26.5	5.6	1.8	22	15	6931	2692
Primary	No. Individuals	23	4.7	1.5	30	25	11021	2910
Lower secondary	No. Individuals	14.5	2.6	0.7	20	26	11623	3355
Ordinary Level	No. Individuals	8	1.5	0.4	4	10	4612	4199
Advanced Level	No. Individuals	3.1	0.4	0.1	1	8	3478	5496
Post-secondary	No. Individuals	2.2	0.4	0.1	0	2	730	7144

Characteristics	Description of variables	Absolute Poverty						
		Official-based						
		Headcount Index	Poverty gap	Squared poverty gap	Share of poor population (%)	Population share (%)	Sample size	Average per capita consumption (Rs.)
Ethnicity								
Sinhala	No. Individuals	17.3	3.5	1.1	79	86	38287	3411
Sri Lankan Tamil	No. Individuals	26.6	5.8	2	5	4	1667	3699
Indian Tamil	No. Individuals	37.6	7	2	9	4	1934	2185
Moor	No. Individuals	21.2	4.9	1.7	7	6	2782	3066
Malay	No. Individuals	0.7	0	0	0	0	139	5652
Burgher	No. Individuals	0	0	0	0	0	69	7168
Other	No. Individuals	40	4	0.6	0	0	55	2873
Marital status								
Single	No. Individuals	21.4	4.5	1.5	54	48	21308	3142
Married	No. Individuals	16.2	3.2	1	40	46	20811	3546
Widowed	No. Individuals	15.3	3.1	1	4	5	2390	3702
Separated	No. Individuals	24	5.6	1.9	1	1	358	2937
Divorced	No. Individuals	15.2	1.8	0.4	0	0	66	4629
Marital status and gender								
Females never married	No. Individuals	21.2	4.5	1.5	26	23	10324	3162
Females married	No. Individuals	16.1	3.2	1	21	24	10799	3553
Females widowed	No. Individuals	15.2	3	0.9	4	5	2048	3746
Females separated	No. Individuals	25.1	5.7	1.9	1	1	263	2837
Females divorced	No. Individuals	14.6	1.3	0.3	0	0	48	5284
Other characteristics								
Disabled	No. Individuals	29.2	6.9	2.5	4	2	1049	2825
4. LABOUR MARKET CHARACTERISTICS								
Labour market status								
Employed	No. Individuals	16.4	3.2	1	32	37	16423	3587
Unemployed	No. Individuals	16.9	3.2	1	3	4	1630	3132
Inactive	No. Individuals	18.8	3.8	1.2	44	44	19853	3354
Occupational category of employment								
Legislators, senior managers, officials in household	No. Households	5.1	0.8	0.2	4	13	1297	5016
Professionals in household	No. Households	2.7	0.5	0.1	1	7	703	5432
Technicians in household	No. Households	3.6	0.7	0.2	2	8	803	4824
Clerks in household	No. Households	2.5	0.4	0.1	1	6	631	4888
Service workers in household	No. Households	12.9	2.5	0.8	7	10	926	3373
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers in household	No. Households	28.1	5.7	1.7	43	29	2883	2373
Craft and related trades persons in household	No. Households	16.2	3.1	0.9	19	22	2197	2933
Plant and machinery operators in household	No. Households	11.9	2.1	0.6	8	13	1183	3227
Elementary occupation workers in household	No. Households	33.6	7.2	2.4	48	27	2664	2606
Unspecified workers in household	No. Households	11	2.8	0.9	0	1	70	3038
Legislators, senior managers, officials	No. Individuals	3.7	0.6	0.2	1	4	1597	5520
Professionals	No. Individuals	1.7	0.3	0.1	0	2	829	6279
Technicians	No. Individuals	2.7	0.6	0.2	0	2	897	5447
Clerks	No. Individuals	1.9	0.3	0.1	0	2	675	5258
Service workers	No. Individuals	10.1	1.9	0.6	1	2	1047	3681
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	No. Individuals	24.9	4.9	1.4	12	9	4129	2460
Craft tradespersons	No. Individuals	13.4	2.5	0.7	4	6	2643	3135
Plant and machinery operators	No. Individuals	9.8	1.6	0.4	2	3	1312	3415
Elementary occupation workers	No. Individuals	29.6	6.1	2	11	7	3220	2933
Unspecified workers	No. Individuals	8.1	1.9	0.6	0	0	74	3209

Characteristics	Description of variables	Absolute Poverty						
		Official-based						
		Headcount Index	Poverty gap	Squared poverty gap	Share of poor population (%)	Population share (%)	Sample size	Average per capita consumption (Rs.)
Industrial category of employment - selected industries only								
Paddy farmers in household	No. Households	29.1	6.8	2.3	12	8	808	2338
Vegetable farmers in household	No. Households	31.1	6.6	2.1	8	5	483	2188
Tea growers in household	No. Households	33.1	6.8	2.1	21	12	1142	2277
Rubber growers in household	No. Households	27.8	5.7	1.8	4	3	258	2237
Coconut growers in household	No. Households	16.9	3	0.7	1	2	158	3192
Cinnamon growers in household	No. Households	28.1	5.4	1.4	1	1	92	2263
Fishing worker in household	No. Households	26.3	4.8	1.3	1	1	84	2313
Beedi manufacturers in household	No. Households	20.7	3.6	1.5	1	1	96	2286
Apparel workers in household	No. Households	12.1	2.1	0.5	5	8	754	3390
Carpenters in household	No. Households	21.4	3.3	0.9	2	2	172	2539
Brick manufacturers in hhousehold	No. Households	28.4	5.7	1.7	2	1	121	2560
Construction workers in household	No. Households	23.6	4.8	1.5	13	10	972	2740
Non-specialised retail trade worker in household	No. Households	11.7	1.9	0.5	4	7	653	3491
Specialised retail trade worker in household	No. Households	15.9	3	0.8	3	3	320	3007
Transport service - three wheeler industry in household	No. Households	8.3	1.7	0.4	1	3	250	3164
Transprt service - private transport providers in household	No. Households	9	1.4	0.3	1	2	179	3840
Primary or secondary school teachers in household	No. Households	1.6	0.3	0.1	0	5	460	5236
Health service providers in household	No. Households	5.9	1.4	0.5	1	2	170	4530
Household service workers in household	No. Households	16.8	3.7	1.5	2	2	219	7923
Workers not elsewhere classified in household	No. Households	48.2	11.1	4	8	3	316	1906
Paddy farmers	No. Individuals	26.3	6.1	2	3	2	1075	2464
Vegetable farmers	No. Individuals	27.9	5.4	1.6	2	2	716	2282
Tea growers	No. Individuals	28.9	5.6	1.6	6	4	1745	2352
Rubber growers	No. Individuals	24.6	5	1.6	1	1	325	2314
Coconut growers	No. Individuals	14.9	2.6	0.6	0	0	174	3308
Cinnamon growers	No. Individuals	23.8	4.4	1.1	0	0	122	2401
Fishing workers	No. Individuals	26	4.7	1.3	0	0	104	2394
Beedi manufacturers	No. Individuals	17.3	2.8	1.1	0	0	104	2443
Apparel workers	No. Individuals	9.7	1.5	0.4	1	2	872	3716
Carpenters	No. Individuals	19	2.6	0.6	0	0	179	2679
Brick manufacturers	No. Individuals	23	4	1.1	0	0	161	2670
Construction workers	No. Individuals	20	3.9	1.2	2	2	1041	2969
Non-specialised retail trade workers	No. Individuals	8.1	1.4	0.4	1	2	851	3800
Specialised retail trade workers	No. Individuals	13.8	2.4	0.7	1	1	363	3209
Transport service providers - three wheeler	No. Individuals	7.8	1.6	0.4	0	1	256	3347
Transprt service providers - private transport	No. Individuals	6.8	1	0.2	0	0	191	4072
Primary or secondary school teachers	No. Individuals	1.2	0.2	0.1	0	1	519	6040
Health service providers	No. Individuals	4.4	1	0.4	0	0	180	4828
Engaged in household service	No. Individuals	13.3	2.8	1.2	0	1	241	10654
Workers not elsewhere classified	No. Individuals	40.9	8.8	3	2	1	362	2043
Employment status								
Regular employee in household	No. Households	8.4	1.4	0.3	12	28	2721	4205
Casual employee in household	No. Households	27.1	5.7	1.8	62	43	4211	2762
Contractual employee in household	No. Households	17.7	3.4	1	2	3	249	4080
Employer in household	No. Households	16.4	3.3	1	39	45	4550	3166
Self-employed in household	No. Households	19.3	3.9	1.2	96	94	9603	3273
Unpaid family worker in household	No. Households	20.8	4.4	1.4	14	12	1209	2937
Regular employees	No. Individuals	7.4	1.2	0.3	3	8	3490	4620
Casual employees	No. Individuals	24.5	5	1.6	16	12	5591	2985
Contractual employees	No. Individuals	16.7	2.9	0.8	1	1	275	4287
Employers	No. Individuals	1.9	0.3	0.1	0	1	267	8626
Self-employed	No. Individuals	13.9	2.7	0.8	9	12	5339	3384
Unpaid family workers	No. Individuals	18.1	3.6	1.1	3	3	1461	3117

Characteristics	Description of variables	Absolute Poverty						
		Official-based						
		Headcount Index	Poverty gap	Squared poverty gap	Share of poor population (%)	Population share (%)	Sample size	Average per capita consumption (Rs.)
Sector of work								
Central govt, provincial council or local govt employee in household	No. Households	4.5	0.8	0.2	3	14	1364	4331
Public corporation employee in household	No. Households	10.1	2	0.7	2	4	420	3867
Formal private sector employee in household	No. Households	15.3	2.6	0.7	18	22	2145	3910
Informal private sector employee in household	No. Households	21.4	4.5	1.4	84	74	7535	3050
Central govt, provincial council or local govt employees	No. Individuals	3.5	0.6	0.2	1	4	1612	4721
Public corporation employees	No. Individuals	8.8	1.7	0.6	0	1	466	4368
Formal private sector employees	No. Individuals	13.9	2.2	0.6	5	6	2812	4277
Informal private sector employees	No. Individuals	19.1	3.9	1.2	26	26	11533	3229
Household employment and unemployment								
Number of employed members in household								
None	No. Households	10.9	2.5	0.9	4	6	912	3975
One	No. Households	19.1	4.1	1.4	42	41	4654	3237
Two or more	No. Households	19.4	3.9	1.2	54	53	4949	3302
Number of unemployed members in household								
None	No. Households	18.7	3.9	1.2	85	85	9158	3363
One	No. Households	16.9	3.3	1	11	12	1119	3195
Two or more	No. Households	27.8	5.4	1.6	4	3	238	2425
Household with at least one formal sector worker	No. Households	11.7	2	0.6	23	37	3645	3953
Household with at least one informal sector worker	No. Households	21.4	4.5	1.4	84	74	7535	3050
5. HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS								
Size of the family								
1-3 members	No. Households	7.5	1.2	0.3	8	19	3384	4412
4-6 members	No. Households	18.7	3.7	1.2	66	66	6308	3166
More than 6 members	No. Households	34.6	8.2	2.8	26	14	823	2519
Educational attainment of the household head								
No schooling	No. Households	45.3	11.1	4	17	7	741	1958
Sub-primary schooling	No. Households	31.2	6.6	2.2	23	14	1437	2296
Primary schooling	No. Households	23.3	4.6	1.4	39	32	3295	2702
Lower secondary schooling	No. Households	11.7	2.2	0.7	17	28	2894	3479
Ordinary Level	No. Households	5.1	0.8	0.2	3	10	1096	4305
Advanced Level	No. Households	1.9	0.2	0	1	8	827	5808
Post-secondary	No. Households	0.5	0.1	0	0	2	225	7909
Educational attainment of the principal income earner								
No schooling	No. Households	47.3	11.7	4.3	15	6	649	1964
Sub-primary schooling	No. Households	33.9	7.2	2.4	20	11	1189	2261
Primary schooling	No. Households	25.9	5.2	1.6	37	27	2827	2583
Lower secondary schooling	No. Households	13.7	2.6	0.8	23	31	3193	3273
Ordinary Level	No. Households	7	1.2	0.3	4	12	1241	4031
Advanced Level	No. Households	2.2	0.2	0	1	11	1121	5300
Post-secondary	No. Households	1	0.2	0.1	0	3	295	7164
Presence of elderly in the household								
60-69 years	No. Individuals	13.8	2.7	0.8	5	6	2782	4042
60-69 years with a pension	No. Individuals	1.7	0.3	0.1	0	1	361	6340
60-69 years working	No. Individuals	13.6	2.5	0.7	2	2	927	4146
60-69 years not living with children	No. Individuals	12.1	2.5	0.8	3	4	1999	4398
70-79 years	No. Individuals	16.5	3.2	1	3	4	1572	3909
70-79 years with a pension	No. Individuals	2.5	0.3	0.1	0	0	200	7196
70-79 years working	No. Individuals	19.5	3.7	1.2	1	1	257	4056
70-79 years not living with children	No. Individuals	17.5	3.4	1.1	2	2	848	4457
80 years and over	No. Individuals	17.8	3.3	1.1	1	1	572	3440
80 years and over with a pension	No. Individuals	5.6	0.3	0	0	0	54	4855
80 years and over working	No. Individuals	3.6	0.1	0	0	0	28	4636
80 years and over not living with children	No. Individuals	14.8	2.2	0.6	0	0	196	4097

Characteristics	Description of variables	Absolute Poverty						
		Official-based						
		Headcount Index	Poverty gap	Squared poverty gap	Share of poor population (%)	Population share (%)	Sample size	Average per capita consumption (Rs.)
Income and transfers								
Household receives Samurdhi or Janasaviya	No. Households	38	8.4	2.8	63	31	3250	2005
Household receives remittances from abroad	No. Households	10.5	1.9	0.5	5	9	964	4431
Household receives remittances from within the country	No. Households	17.4	3.5	1.1	29	31	3476	3133
Household receive govt transfer other than Samurdhi and Janasaviya	No. Households	25.1	5	1.5	28	21	2034	2646
Gender and income	No. Households							
Breadwinner (principal income earner) is female (All)	No. Households	17.6	3.7	1.2	16	17	2056	3472
Proportion of income from females in household > 50% (All)	No. Households	16.9	3.5	1.1	15	17	2087	3518
Breadwinner (principal income earner) is female (Wage/Cash)	No. Households	20.8	4.3	1.4	17	15	1705	3434
Proportion of income from females in household > 50% (Wage/Cash)	No. Households	20.2	4.2	1.3	16	15	1710	3464
6. OTHER SPECIFIC GROUPS	No. Households							
Household has a disabled member	No. Households	31.5	7.8	2.8	16	10	910	2636
Household has an illiterate member	No. Households	25.6	5.5	1.8	73	54	5093	2761
Land ownership	No. Households							
Household owns land	No. Households	17.4	3.6	1.1	84	91	9564	3388
Household owns agricultural land	No. Households	18.2	3.6	1.1	35	37	3854	3072
Land area < 10 perches	No. Households	24	5.1	1.7	24	19	1937	3056
Land area 10-39 perches	No. Households	14.9	3.1	1	21	27	2795	3881
Land area 1/4-1 acre	No. Households	20.4	4.2	1.3	28	26	2804	3039
Land area > 1 acre	No. Households	17.3	3.4	1	26	29	2979	3215
Household does not own any land	No. Households	32.5	6.9	2.2	16	9	951	2600

Characteristics	Description of variables	Absolute Poverty						
		CFS-based						
		Headcount Index	Poverty gap	Squared poverty gap	Share of poor population (%)	Population share (%)	Sample size	Average per capita consumption (Rs.)
1. PROVINCE								
Western	No. Households	8.3	1.6	0.5	17	27	3215	3951
Central	No. Households	18.4	3.4	1	18	13	1532	2644
Southern	No. Households	15	2.9	0.9	15	13	1507	2728
Northern	No. Households	18	3.5	1	5	3	360	2492
Eastern	No. Households	16.2	3.4	1	9	8	847	2659
North Western	No. Households	7.1	1	0.3	6	12	1505	3221
North Central	No. Households	11.2	1.5	0.3	5	6	764	2814
Uva	No. Households	24.1	5	1.5	12	7	783	2368
Sabaragamuwa	No. Households	16.5	3.3	1	12	10	1209	2382
2. SECTOR								
Urban	No. Households	7.3	1.6	0.5	7	13	1477	4457
Rural	No. Households	13.7	2.6	0.8	84	82	9650	2882
Estate	No. Households	23.3	4.3	1.3	9	5	595	2037
3. INDIVIDUAL CHARACTERISTICS								
Gender								
Female	No. Individuals	13.1	2.5	0.8	51	53	26503	3097
Male	No. Individuals	13.6	2.6	0.8	49	48	24042	3043
Age								
Below 5	No. Individuals	17.4	3.7	1.2	10	8	4016	2690
5-14 years	No. Individuals	19.6	4	1.2	27	18	9216	2599
15-24 years	No. Individuals	12.5	2.2	0.6	17	19	9327	3001
25-44 years	No. Individuals	12.7	2.4	0.7	26	28	13947	3098
45-54 years	No. Individuals	8.8	1.5	0.4	8	13	6348	3399
55-64 years	No. Individuals	8.2	1.5	0.4	5	8	4026	3714
65-74 years	No. Individuals	12	2.2	0.7	4	5	2417	3586
75-84 years	No. Individuals	11.7	1.9	0.6	2	2	977	3313
85 and above	No. Individuals	10.3	2.4	0.9	0	1	271	3084
Gender and Age								
Males below 5 years	No. Individuals	18.3	3.8	1.2	5	4	2006	2718
Males 5-14 years	No. Individuals	19.1	3.8	1.2	13	9	4573	2614
Males 15-24 years	No. Individuals	13.2	2.3	0.7	9	9	4561	2955
Males 25-44 years	No. Individuals	12.7	2.3	0.7	12	13	6325	3104
Males 45-54 years	No. Individuals	9.4	1.6	0.4	4	6	2927	3238
Males 55-64 years	No. Individuals	7.9	1.5	0.4	2	4	1983	3728
Males 65-74 years	No. Individuals	11.7	2	0.6	2	2	1105	3660
Males 75-84 years	No. Individuals	13.3	2.1	0.6	1	1	436	3156
Males 85 years and above	No. Individuals	10.3	3.3	1.5	0	0	126	2736
Females below 5 years	No. Individuals	16.4	3.6	1.2	5	4	2010	2663
Females 5-14 years	No. Individuals	20.1	4.1	1.3	14	9	4643	2584
Females 15-24 years	No. Individuals	11.9	2.1	0.6	8	9	4766	3045
Females 25-44 years	No. Individuals	12.6	2.4	0.7	14	15	7622	3093
Females 45-54 years	No. Individuals	8.3	1.5	0.4	4	7	3421	3537
Females 55-64 years	No. Individuals	8.4	1.5	0.4	3	4	2043	3699
Females 65-74 years	No. Individuals	12.3	2.4	0.8	2	3	1312	3524
Females 75-84 years	No. Individuals	10.4	1.8	0.5	1	1	541	3440
Females 85 years and above	No. Individuals	10.3	1.7	0.4	0	0	145	3386
Education								
No schooling	No. Individuals	20.7	4.4	1.4	24	15	7661	2504
Sub-primary	No. Individuals	19.1	3.8	1.2	23	16	7996	2524
Primary	No. Individuals	16.4	3.1	0.9	30	25	12505	2700
Lower secondary	No. Individuals	9.8	1.6	0.4	18	25	12518	3096
Ordinary Level	No. Individuals	5.3	0.9	0.3	4	10	5281	3794
Advanced Level	No. Individuals	2	0.2	0	1	8	3785	4849
Post-secondary	No. Individuals	1.5	0.2	0	0	2	799	6206

Characteristics	Description of variables	Absolute Poverty						
		CFS-based						
		Headcount Index	Poverty gap	Squared poverty gap	Share of poor population (%)	Population share (%)	Sample size	Average per capita consumption (Rs.)
Ethnicity								
Sinhala	No. Individuals	12.2	2.3	0.7	71	78	39236	3166
Sri Lankan Tamil	No. Individuals	18.2	3.7	1.2	13	9	4768	2788
Indian Tamil	No. Individuals	22.9	3.8	1	7	4	1950	2150
Moor	No. Individuals	14.5	3.2	1	9	8	4278	2848
Malay	No. Individuals	0.7	0.1	0	0	0	143	4769
Burgher	No. Individuals	0	0	0	0	0	115	4475
Other	No. Individuals	40	4.2	0.7	0	0	55	2471
Marital status								
Single	No. Individuals	15.6	3	0.9	56	48	24316	2876
Married	No. Individuals	11.2	2	0.6	38	46	23030	3248
Widowed	No. Individuals	10.9	2.1	0.7	4	5	2725	3346
Separated	No. Individuals	21.3	4.6	1.4	1	1	403	2693
Divorced	No. Individuals	5.6	0.9	0.2	0	0	71	4116
Marital status and gender								
Females never married	No. Individuals	15.4	3.1	0.9	27	24	11838	2886
Females married	No. Individuals	11.2	2	0.6	20	24	11960	3257
Females widowed	No. Individuals	10.8	2.1	0.6	4	5	2349	3374
Females separated	No. Individuals	22.4	4.8	1.5	1	1	303	2593
Females divorced	No. Individuals	3.8	0.5	0.1	0	0	53	4573
Other characteristics								
Disabled	No. Individuals	22.3	4.8	1.6	4	2	1162	2608
4. LABOUR MARKET CHARACTERISTICS								
Labour market status								
Employed	No. Individuals	11.3	2	0.6	30	36	313	3283
Unemployed	No. Individuals	11.6	2.1	0.6	3	3	1753	2950
Inactive	No. Individuals	13.4	2.5	0.8	45	45	22721	3063
Occupational category of employment								
Legislators, senior managers, officials in household	No. Households	4	0.6	0.1	4	13	1434	4397
Professionals in household	No. Households	1.9	0.4	0.1	1	7	798	4794
Technicians in household	No. Households	4.2	0.6	0.2	2	8	882	4227
Clerks in household	No. Households	2.1	0.2	0	1	6	691	4330
Service workers in household	No. Households	9.6	1.7	0.5	7	10	1057	3064
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers in household	No. Households	17.7	3.3	0.9	36	28	3123	2346
Craft and related trades persons in household	No. Households	12.2	2.1	0.6	20	22	2368	2687
Plant and machinery operators in household	No. Households	8.1	1.3	0.3	7	12	1253	2966
Elementary occupation workers in household	No. Households	24.8	4.9	1.5	50	27	2980	2381
Unspecified workers in household	No. Households	9.2	1.6	0.5	0	1	72	2891
Legislators, senior managers, officials	No. Individuals	2.8	0.4	0.1	1	3	1743	4845
Professionals	No. Individuals	1.3	0.3	0.1	0	2	936	5499
Technicians	No. Individuals	3	0.5	0.1	0	2	977	4788
Clerks	No. Individuals	1.6	0.2	0	0	1	735	4679
Service workers	No. Individuals	7.6	1.4	0.4	1	2	1187	3355
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	No. Individuals	15.2	2.8	0.8	10	9	4422	2439
Craft tradespersons	No. Individuals	10	1.7	0.4	4	6	2838	2876
Plant and machinery operators	No. Individuals	6.5	1	0.2	1	3	1385	3135
Elementary occupation workers	No. Individuals	21.7	4.1	1.2	12	7	3603	2653
Unspecified workers	No. Individuals	6.6	0.9	0.3	0	0	76	3077

Characteristics	Description of variables	Absolute Poverty						
		CFS-based						
		Headcount Index	Poverty gap	Squared poverty gap	Share of poor population (%)	Population share (%)	Sample size	Average per capita consumption (Rs.)
Industrial category of employment - selected industries only								
Paddy farmers in household	No. Households	20.3	4	1.2	13	9	1014	2334
Vegetable farmers in household	No. Households	17.9	3.7	1.1	6	4	519	2175
Tea growers in household	No. Households	21.4	4	1.1	17	10	1142	2240
Rubber growers in household	No. Households	19	3.7	1.1	3	2	258	2155
Coconut growers in household	No. Households	12.8	2.4	0.7	1	1	159	3000
Cinnamon growers in household	No. Households	22.1	3	0.6	1	1	92	2222
Fishing worker in household	No. Households	21.2	3.3	1	2	1	121	2151
Beedi manufacturers in household	No. Households	11.2	2.6	1.1	1	1	100	2157
Apparel workers in household	No. Households	8.4	1.3	0.3	5	7	785	3067
Carpenters in household	No. Households	14.4	1.8	0.5	2	2	185	2432
Brick manufacturers in hhousehold	No. Households	21.2	3.5	0.9	2	1	125	2450
Construction workers in household	No. Households	17.5	3.3	1	13	10	1040	2533
Non-specialised retail trade worker in household	No. Households	7.7	1.1	0.3	4	6	697	3228
Specialised retail trade worker in household	No. Households	12.1	2	0.5	3	3	359	2733
Transport service - three wheeler industry in household	No. Households	9.6	1.5	0.4	2	3	266	2822
Transprt service - private transport providers in household	No. Households	5.2	0.7	0.1	1	2	189	3447
Primary or secondary school teachers in household	No. Households	1.4	0.2	0	1	5	530	4708
Health service providers in household	No. Households	4.6	0.9	0.3	1	2	187	4165
Household service workers in household	No. Households	17.3	4.1	1.6	2	2	231	6357
Workers not elsewhere classified in household	No. Households	35.1	7.1	2.5	8	3	347	1839
Paddy farmers	No. Individuals	17.8	3.4	1	4	3	1336	2468
Vegetable farmers	No. Individuals	14.8	3	0.9	2	2	762	2280
Tea growers	No. Individuals	17.9	3.1	0.8	5	3	1745	2320
Rubber growers	No. Individuals	16.3	3.2	0.9	1	1	325	2228
Coconut growers	No. Individuals	10.3	1.8	0.5	0	0	175	3105
Cinnamon growers	No. Individuals	18	2.4	0.5	0	0	122	2359
Fishing workers	No. Individuals	21.9	3.1	0.9	0	0	146	2225
Beedi manufacturers	No. Individuals	9.2	2	0.8	0	0	109	2306
Apparel workers	No. Individuals	6.3	0.9	0.2	1	2	903	3348
Carpenters	No. Individuals	12.5	1.2	0.3	0	0	192	2565
Brick manufacturers	No. Individuals	17	2.6	0.6	0	0	165	2551
Construction workers	No. Individuals	14.6	2.7	0.8	2	2	1115	2747
Non-specialised retail trade workers	No. Individuals	5.2	0.9	0.2	1	2	899	3514
Specialised retail trade workers	No. Individuals	9.5	1.6	0.4	1	1	402	2921
Transport service providers - three wheeler	No. Individuals	8.1	1.2	0.3	0	1	272	3009
Transprt service providers - private transport	No. Individuals	4	0.5	0.1	0	0	201	3650
Primary or secondary school teachers	No. Individuals	1.2	0.1	0	0	1	590	5384
Health service providers	No. Individuals	3.5	0.6	0.2	0	0	200	4389
Engaged in household service	No. Individuals	13.4	3.3	1.3	1	1	254	8557
Workers not elsewhere classified	No. Individuals	29.6	5.6	1.8	2	1	395	1973
Employment status								
Regular employee in household	No. Households	5.4	0.8	0.2	11	27	2940	3793
Casual employee in household	No. Households	20.1	3.9	1.2	63	42	4610	2532
Contractual employee in household	No. Households	11.7	2.1	0.6	2	3	285	3583
Employer in household	No. Households	11.4	2.1	0.6	38	45	5039	2940
Self-employed in household	No. Households	13.8	2.6	0.8	96	93	10603	3001
Unpaid family worker in household	No. Households	13.4	2.6	0.7	12	12	1293	2807
Regular employees	No. Individuals	4.4	0.6	0.1	2	7	3747	4171
Casual employees	No. Individuals	18	3.3	1	16	12	6079	2727
Contractual employees	No. Individuals	10.8	1.6	0.4	1	1	315	3795
Employers	No. Individuals	1	0.2	0.1	0	1	17902	6952
Self-employed	No. Individuals	9.4	1.7	0.5	8	12	5889	3147
Unpaid family workers	No. Individuals	11.2	2.1	0.6	3	3	1559	2990

Characteristics	Description of variables	Absolute Poverty						
		CFS-based						
		Headcount Index	Poverty gap	Squared poverty gap	Share of poor population (%)	Population share (%)	Sample size	Average per capita consumption (Rs.)
Sector of work								
Central govt, provincial council or local govt employee in household	No. Households	3.2	0.5	0.1	3	14	1517	3953
Public corporation employee in household	No. Households	6.6	1.4	0.5	2	4	475	3525
Formal private sector employee in household	No. Households	10	1.5	0.4	15	20	2216	3500
Informal private sector employee in household	No. Households	15.5	3	0.9	86	74	8375	2810
Central govt, provincial council or local govt employees	No. Individuals	2.3	0.3	0.1	1	4	1794	4334
Public corporation employees	No. Individuals	5.7	1.2	0.4	0	1	523	3984
Formal private sector employees	No. Individuals	8.8	1.3	0.3	4	6	2885	3810
Informal private sector employees	No. Individuals	13.4	2.5	0.7	25	25	12700	2986
Household employment and unemployment								
Number of employed members in household								
None	No. Households	8.2	1.8	0.6	4	7	1119	3576
One	No. Households	13.9	2.8	0.9	44	42	5281	2963
Two or more	No. Households	13.7	2.4	0.7	52	51	5322	3032
Number of unemployed members in household								
None	No. Households	13.3	2.6	0.8	86	86	10261	3068
One	No. Households	12.5	2.1	0.6	11	11	1204	3008
Two or more	No. Households	19	3.5	1	4	3	257	2291
Household with at least one formal sector worker	No. Households	7.6	1.2	0.3	20	36	3903	3586
Household with at least one informal sector worker	No. Households	15.5	3	0.9	86	74	8375	2810
5. HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS								
Size of the family								
1-3 members	No. Households	4.5	0.7	0.2	6	19	3733	4077
4-6 members	No. Households	12.8	2.4	0.7	62	65	6972	2916
More than 6 members	No. Households	26.9	5.6	1.7	32	16	1017	2300
Educational attainment of the household head								
No schooling	No. Households	32.6	7.1	2.3	19	8	939	1930
Sub-primary schooling	No. Households	21.3	4.2	1.3	23	14	1658	2259
Primary schooling	No. Households	16.3	3	0.9	39	32	3657	2539
Lower secondary schooling	No. Households	8.4	1.5	0.4	17	26	3094	3201
Ordinary Level	No. Households	2.8	0.4	0.1	2	10	1239	3914
Advanced Level	No. Households	1.3	0.1	0	1	7	891	5087
Post-secondary	No. Households	0.5	0.1	0	0	2	244	6875
Educational attainment of the principal income earner								
No schooling	No. Households	33.3	7.6	2.6	17	7	834	1924
Sub-primary schooling	No. Households	22.9	4.5	1.4	19	11	1372	2244
Primary schooling	No. Households	17.9	3.4	1	37	27	3181	2440
Lower secondary schooling	No. Households	10	1.7	0.5	22	29	3407	3036
Ordinary Level	No. Households	4.4	0.7	0.2	4	12	1398	3674
Advanced Level	No. Households	1.5	0.1	0	1	10	1209	4672
Post-secondary	No. Households	1	0.1	0	0	3	321	6268
Presence of elderly in the household								
60-69 years	No. Individuals	9.8	1.8	0.5	4	6	3054	3665
60-69 years with a pension	No. Individuals	1.8	0.2	0	0	1	400	5595
60-69 years working	No. Individuals	8.7	1.6	0.4	1	2	995	3784
60-69 years not living with children	No. Individuals	8.5	1.7	0.5	3	4	2189	3966
70-79 years	No. Individuals	11.7	2.1	0.7	3	3	1721	3525
70-79 years with a pension	No. Individuals	1.3	0.2	0.1	0	0	223	6131
70-79 years working	No. Individuals	14.8	2.4	0.8	1	1	271	3692
70-79 years not living with children	No. Individuals	12.5	2.2	0.7	2	2	931	3974
80 years and over	No. Individuals	11.5	2.2	0.7	1	1	637	3135
80 years and over with a pension	No. Individuals	5.2	0.2	0	0	0	58	4287
80 years and over working	No. Individuals	0	0	0	0	0	29	4130
80 years and over not living with children	No. Individuals	8.3	1.4	0.5	0	0	217	3637

Characteristics	Description of variables	Absolute Poverty						
		CFS-based						
		Headcount Index	Poverty gap	Squared poverty gap	Share of poor population (%)	Population share (%)	Sample size	Average per capita consumption (Rs.)
Income and transfers								
Household receives Samurdhi or Janasaviya	No. Households	26.8	5.4	1.7	67	34	3862	1969
Household receives remittances from abroad	No. Households	6.8	1.1	0.3	5	10	1176	3864
Household receives remittances from within the country	No. Households	12	2.4	0.7	27	31	3828	2910
Household receive govt transfer other than Samurdhi and Janasaviya	No. Households	17.7	3.1	0.9	28	21	2277	2506
Gender and income	No. Households							
Breadwinner (principal income earner) is female (All)	No. Households	13.3	2.7	0.8	17	17	2318	3179
Proportion of income from females in household > 50% (All)	No. Households	12.5	2.5	0.8	16	17	2350	3215
Breadwinner (principal income earner) is female (Wage/Cash)	No. Households	15.4	3	0.9	17	15	1825	3156
Proportion of income from females in household > 50% (Wage/Cash)	No. Households	15	2.9	0.9	16	15	1831	3180
6. OTHER SPECIFIC GROUPS	No. Households							
Household has a disabled member	No. Households	24.3	5.5	1.9	17	10	1016	2436
Household has an illiterate member	No. Households	18.5	3.7	1.2	76	55	5826	2564
Land ownership	No. Households							
Household owns land	No. Households	12.6	2.4	0.7	86	91	10671	3099
Household owns agricultural land	No. Households	11.8	2.1	0.6	31	35	4146	2972
Land area < 10 perches	No. Households	17.6	3.7	1.2	24	19	2146	2722
Land area 10-39 perches	No. Households	12.6	2.3	0.7	26	28	3234	3348
Land area 1/4-1 acre	No. Households	13.9	2.6	0.8	26	26	3078	2867
Land area > 1 acre	No. Households	11	2	0.6	23	28	3264	3102
Household does not own any land	No. Households	21.8	4.5	1.4	14	9	1051	2426

2.3 Relative Poverty: Official-based

Characteristics	Description of variables	Relative Poverty						
		Official-based						
		Headcount Index	Poverty gap	Squared poverty gap	Share of poor population (%)	Population share (%)	Sample size	Average per capita consumption (Rs.)
1. PROVINCE								
Western	No. Households	13.4	2.9	1	14	30	3215	4662
Central	No. Households	39.3	9.8	3.4	21	15	1532	2674
Southern	No. Households	32.3	7.7	2.8	17	15	1507	2768
Northern	No. Households							
Eastern	No. Households							
North Western	No. Households	19.7	3.9	1.2	9	14	1505	3246
North Central	No. Households	33.5	6.7	2	8	7	764	2770
Uva	No. Households	47.1	13.3	5.1	13	8	783	2313
Sabaragamuwa	No. Households	43.9	10.4	3.6	18	11	1209	2381
2. SECTOR								
Urban	No. Households	13.1	2.9	1	5	12	1229	5512
Rural	No. Households	28.7	6.8	2.3	83	82	8691	3091
Estate	No. Households	54.8	13.2	4.5	12	6	595	2046
3. INDIVIDUAL CHARACTERISTICS								
Gender								
Female	No. Individuals	28.1	6.6	2.3	52	52	23482	3393
Male	No. Individuals	28.5	6.8	2.3	48	48	21451	3322
Age								
Below 5	No. Individuals	33.1	8.6	3.2	9	8	3489	2919
5-14 years	No. Individuals	38.2	9.7	3.5	24	18	7935	2822
15-24 years	No. Individuals	28.2	6.3	2.1	18	18	8223	3271
25-44 years	No. Individuals	26.9	6.3	2.1	27	28	12527	3381
45-54 years	No. Individuals	22.3	4.8	1.5	10	13	5762	3705
55-64 years	No. Individuals	19.4	4.3	1.4	6	8	3648	4085
65-74 years	No. Individuals	25.1	5.7	1.9	4	5	2217	3979
75-84 years	No. Individuals	26.6	5.8	1.9	2	2	887	3638
85 and above	No. Individuals	24.9	5.8	2.2	0	1	245	3358
Gender and Age								
Males below 5 years	No. Individuals	32.8	8.8	3.3	5	4	1764	2942
Males 5-14 years	No. Individuals	37.9	9.5	3.4	12	9	3934	2848
Males 15-24 years	No. Individuals	28.7	6.6	2.2	9	9	4041	3204
Males 25-44 years	No. Individuals	26.7	6.3	2.1	12	13	5732	3386
Males 45-54 years	No. Individuals	23.8	5.1	1.6	5	6	2653	3517
Males 55-64 years	No. Individuals	19.8	4.3	1.4	3	4	1790	4102
Males 65-74 years	No. Individuals	22.9	5.2	1.7	2	2	1023	4032
Males 75-84 years	No. Individuals	28.7	6.1	2	1	1	400	3468
Males 85 years and above	No. Individuals	24.6	6.2	2.6	0	0	114	2913
Females below 5 years	No. Individuals	33.4	8.3	3.1	5	4	1725	2894
Females 5-14 years	No. Individuals	38.6	9.9	3.6	12	9	4001	2795
Females 15-24 years	No. Individuals	27.6	6	1.9	9	9	4182	3337
Females 25-44 years	No. Individuals	27.1	6.3	2.1	14	15	6795	3377
Females 45-54 years	No. Individuals	21.1	4.5	1.5	5	7	3109	3865
Females 55-64 years	No. Individuals	19	4.2	1.4	3	4	1858	4069
Females 65-74 years	No. Individuals	27	6.2	2.1	3	3	1194	3933
Females 75-84 years	No. Individuals	24.8	5.5	1.8	1	1	487	3777
Females 85 years and above	No. Individuals	25.2	5.6	1.8	0	0	131	3745
Education								
No schooling	No. Individuals	40.6	10.5	3.9	21	15	6538	2682
Sub-primary	No. Individuals	37.7	9.5	3.4	21	15	6931	2692
Primary	No. Individuals	34.5	8.2	2.8	30	25	11021	2910
Lower secondary	No. Individuals	23.8	5	1.6	22	26	11623	3355
Ordinary Level	No. Individuals	13.6	2.8	0.9	5	10	4612	4199
Advanced Level	No. Individuals	6.5	1.1	0.3	2	8	3478	5496
Post-secondary	No. Individuals	3.8	0.8	0.2	0	2	730	7144

Characteristics	Description of variables	Relative Poverty						
		Official-based						
		Headcount Index	Poverty gap	Squared poverty gap	Share of poor population (%)	Population share (%)	Sample size	Average per capita consumption (Rs.)
Ethnicity								
Sinhala	No. Individuals	26.4	6.2	2.1	79	86	38287	3411
Sri Lankan Tamil	No. Individuals	34.4	9.3	3.5	5	4	1667	3699
Indian Tamil	No. Individuals	55.5	12.7	4.1	8	4	1934	2185
Moor	No. Individuals	33.3	8	3	7	6	2782	3066
Malay	No. Individuals	12.9	0.9	0.1	0	0	139	5652
Burgher	No. Individuals	0	0	0	0	0	69	7168
Other	No. Individuals	50.9	9.3	2.3	0	0	55	2873
Marital status								
Single	No. Individuals	31.6	7.7	2.7	53	48	21308	3142
Married	No. Individuals	25.3	5.7	1.9	41	46	20811	3546
Widowed	No. Individuals	24.8	5.5	1.9	5	5	2390	3702
Separated	No. Individuals	37.4	9.2	3.4	1	1	358	2937
Divorced	No. Individuals	28.8	4.5	1.1	0	0	66	4629
Marital status and gender								
Females never married	No. Individuals	31.6	7.7	2.7	26	23	10324	3162
Females married	No. Individuals	25.2	5.7	1.9	21	24	10799	3553
Females widowed	No. Individuals	24.5	5.4	1.8	4	5	2048	3746
Females separated	No. Individuals	40.3	9.6	3.4	1	1	263	2837
Females divorced	No. Individuals	22.9	3.7	0.9	0	0	48	5284
Other characteristics								
Disabled	No. Individuals	41.1	11	4.3	3	2	1049	2825
4. LABOUR MARKET CHARACTERISTICS								
Labour market status								
Employed	No. Individuals	25.4	5.8	1.9	33	37	16423	3587
Unemployed	No. Individuals	25.3	5.8	1.9	3	4	1630	3132
Inactive	No. Individuals	28.7	6.7	2.3	45	44	19853	3354
Occupational category of employment								
Legislators, senior managers, officials in household	No. Households	9.8	1.7	0.5	5	13	1297	5016
Professionals in household	No. Households	5.7	1	0.3	1	7	703	5432
Technicians in household	No. Households	6.9	1.4	0.5	2	8	803	4824
Clerks in household	No. Households	6.2	0.9	0.2	1	6	631	4888
Service workers in household	No. Households	19.9	4.5	1.5	7	10	926	3373
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers in household	No. Households	41.5	9.9	3.3	42	29	2883	2373
Craft and related trades persons in household	No. Households	27	5.7	1.8	21	22	2197	2933
Plant and machinery operators in household	No. Households	19.6	4	1.2	9	13	1183	3227
Elementary occupation workers in household	No. Households	47.1	12	4.3	45	27	2664	2606
Unspecified workers in household	No. Households	15.1	4.3	1.6	0	1	70	3038
Legislators, senior managers, officials	No. Individuals	7.4	1.3	0.4	1	4	1597	5520
Professionals	No. Individuals	3.6	0.6	0.2	0	2	829	6279
Technicians	No. Individuals	5.4	1.1	0.4	0	2	897	5447
Clerks	No. Individuals	5	0.7	0.2	0	2	675	5258
Service workers	No. Individuals	16.7	3.5	1.2	1	2	1047	3681
Skilled agricultural and fishery workers	No. Individuals	37.4	8.7	2.9	12	9	4129	2460
Craft tradespersons	No. Individuals	23.1	4.8	1.5	5	6	2643	3135
Plant and machinery operators	No. Individuals	16.6	3.3	1	2	3	1312	3415
Elementary occupation workers	No. Individuals	43	10.5	3.7	11	7	3220	2933
Unspecified workers	No. Individuals	12.2	3.1	1.1	0	0	74	3209

Characteristics	Description of variables	Relative Poverty						
		Official-based						
		Headcount Index	Poverty gap	Squared poverty gap	Share of poor population (%)	Population share (%)	Sample size	Average per capita consumption (Rs.)
Industrial category of employment - selected industries only								
Paddy farmers in household	No. Households	41.1	11	4	11	8	808	2338
Vegetable farmers in household	No. Households	45	11.1	3.9	7	5	483	2188
Tea growers in household	No. Households	47.8	11.7	4	20	12	1142	2277
Rubber growers in household	No. Households	44.1	10.1	3.4	4	3	258	2237
Coconut growers in household	No. Households	26.1	5.7	1.7	1	2	158	3192
Cinnamon growers in household	No. Households	41.5	9.7	3	1	1	92	2263
Fishing worker in household	No. Households	42.1	9.1	2.8	1	1	84	2313
Beedi manufacturers in household	No. Households	40.8	7.7	2.6	1	1	96	2286
Apparel workers in household	No. Households	21.1	4.1	1.2	6	8	754	3390
Carpenters in household	No. Households	32.7	6.7	2	2	2	172	2539
Brick manufacturers in hhousehold	No. Households	35.7	9.4	3.3	2	1	121	2560
Construction workers in household	No. Households	37.4	8.5	2.9	13	10	972	2740
Non-specialised retail trade worker in household	No. Households	18.2	3.8	1.1	4	7	653	3491
Specialised retail trade worker in household	No. Households	23.5	5.3	1.7	3	3	320	3007
Transport service - three wheeler industry in household	No. Households	17.8	3.2	0.9	2	3	250	3164
Transprt service - private transport providers in household	No. Households	12.9	2.8	0.8	1	2	179	3840
Primary or secondary school teachers in household	No. Households	4.4	0.7	0.2	1	5	460	5236
Health service providers in household	No. Households	8.5	2.1	0.8	1	2	170	4530
Household service workers in household	No. Households	19.6	5.8	2.3	1	2	219	7923
Workers not elsewhere classified in household	No. Households	65.2	17.6	6.8	7	3	316	1906
Paddy farmers	No. Individuals	38	9.9	3.6	3	2	1075	2464
Vegetable farmers	No. Individuals	39.9	9.6	3.2	2	2	716	2282
Tea growers	No. Individuals	43.7	10.1	3.3	6	4	1745	2352
Rubber growers	No. Individuals	40	9	3	1	1	325	2314
Coconut growers	No. Individuals	23.6	5	1.5	0	0	174	3308
Cinnamon growers	No. Individuals	34.4	8.1	2.5	0	0	122	2401
Fishing workers	No. Individuals	37.5	8.7	2.8	0	0	104	2394
Beedi manufacturers	No. Individuals	36.5	6.5	2	0	0	104	2443
Apparel workers	No. Individuals	17.1	3.2	0.9	1	2	872	3716
Carpenters	No. Individuals	29.6	5.8	1.6	0	0	179	2679
Brick manufacturers	No. Individuals	30.4	7.2	2.4	0	0	161	2670
Construction workers	No. Individuals	33	7.1	2.4	3	2	1041	2969
Non-specialised retail trade workers	No. Individuals	12.7	2.6	0.8	1	2	851	3800
Specialised retail trade workers	No. Individuals	22	4.5	1.4	1	1	363	3209
Transport service providers - three wheeler	No. Individuals	16.4	3	0.9	0	1	256	3347
Transprt service providers - private transport	No. Individuals	11	2.2	0.6	0	0	191	4072
Primary or secondary school teachers	No. Individuals	2.9	0.5	0.1	0	1	519	6040
Health service providers	No. Individuals	6.7	1.6	0.6	0	0	180	4828
Engaged in household service	No. Individuals	16.2	4.5	1.8	0	1	241	10654
Workers not elsewhere classified	No. Individuals	59.1	14.7	5.4	2	1	362	2043
Employment status								
Regular employee in household	No. Households	14.8	2.8	0.8	14	28	2721	4205
Casual employee in household	No. Households	39.6	9.7	3.4	60	43	4211	2762
Contractual employee in household	No. Households	23.4	5.9	2	2	3	249	4080
Employer in household	No. Households	25.6	5.9	2	40	45	4550	3166
Self-employed in household	No. Households	29.1	6.9	2.4	96	94	9603	3273
Unpaid family worker in household	No. Households	31.1	7.5	2.6	13	12	1209	2937
Regular employees	No. Individuals	13.2	2.5	0.7	4	8	3490	4620
Casual employees	No. Individuals	36.6	8.7	3	16	12	5591	2985
Contractual employees	No. Individuals	23.3	5.4	1.7	1	1	275	4287
Employers	No. Individuals	4.1	0.8	0.2	0	1	267	8626
Self-employed	No. Individuals	22.2	4.9	1.6	9	12	5339	3384
Unpaid family workers	No. Individuals	27.7	6.4	2.1	3	3	1461	3117

Characteristics	Description of variables	Relative Poverty						
		CFS-based						
		Headcount Index	Poverty gap	Squared poverty gap	Share of poor population (%)	Population share (%)	Sample size	Average per capita consumption (Rs.)
Sector of work								
Central govt, provincial council or local govt employee in household	No. Households	8	1.5	0.4	4	14	1517	3953
Public corporation employee in household	No. Households	17	3.5	1.2	3	4	475	3525
Formal private sector employee in household	No. Households	23.5	4.7	1.3	18	20	2216	3500
Informal private sector employee in household	No. Households	31	7.2	2.4	84	74	8375	2810
Central govt, provincial council or local govt employees	No. Individuals	5.8	1.1	0.3	1	4	1794	4334
Public corporation employees	No. Individuals	14.9	3	1	1	1	523	3984
Formal private sector employees	No. Individuals	21.4	4.1	1.1	5	6	2885	3810
Informal private sector employees	No. Individuals	27.6	6.2	2.1	26	25	12700	2986
Household employment and unemployment								
Number of employed members in household								
None	No. Households	16.9	4	1.5	4	7	1119	3576
One	No. Households	28.1	6.5	2.3	44	42	5281	2963
Two or more	No. Households	27.7	6.3	2	52	51	5322	3032
Number of unemployed members in household								
None	No. Households	27.3	6.3	2.1	86	86	10261	3068
One	No. Households	23.1	5.3	1.8	10	11	1204	3008
Two or more	No. Households	38.2	8.7	2.9	4	3	257	2291
Household with at least one formal sector worker	No. Households	18.1	3.6	1.1	24	36	3903	3586
Household with at least one informal sector worker	No. Households	31	7.2	2.4	84	74	8375	2810
5. HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS								
Size of the family								
1-3 members	No. Households	12.2	2.2	0.6	9	19	3733	4077
4-6 members	No. Households	27.1	6	2	65	65	6972	2916
More than 6 members	No. Households	45.3	12	4.4	26	16	1017	2300
Educational attainment of the household head								
No schooling	No. Households	54.5	14.9	5.6	16	8	939	1930
Sub-primary schooling	No. Households	40.6	9.8	3.4	21	14	1658	2259
Primary schooling	No. Households	33.4	7.5	2.5	39	32	3657	2539
Lower secondary schooling	No. Households	19.5	4	1.3	19	26	3094	3201
Ordinary Level	No. Households	9.5	1.5	0.4	4	10	1239	3914
Advanced Level	No. Households	3.9	0.6	0.1	1	7	891	5087
Post-secondary	No. Households	1.4	0.3	0.1	0	2	244	6875
Educational attainment of the principal income earner								
No schooling	No. Households	56.3	15.5	5.9	14	7	834	1924
Sub-primary schooling	No. Households	43	10.5	3.7	18	11	1372	2244
Primary schooling	No. Households	36.8	8.4	2.8	37	27	3181	2440
Lower secondary schooling	No. Households	21.6	4.5	1.4	23	29	3407	3036
Ordinary Level	No. Households	12.1	2.2	0.6	5	12	1398	3674
Advanced Level	No. Households	5.1	0.8	0.2	2	10	1209	4672
Post-secondary	No. Households	1.6	0.4	0.1	0	3	321	6268
Presence of elderly in the household								
60-69 years	No. Individuals	20.1	4.5	1.5	4	6	3054	3665
60-69 years with a pension	No. Individuals	4.3	0.8	0.2	0	1	400	5595
60-69 years working	No. Individuals	19.8	4.2	1.3	1	2	995	3784
60-69 years not living with children	No. Individuals	17.5	4	1.4	3	4	2189	3966
70-79 years	No. Individuals	24.6	5.4	1.8	3	3	1721	3525
70-79 years with a pension	No. Individuals	2.7	0.6	0.2	0	0	223	6131
70-79 years working	No. Individuals	25.1	6.1	2.1	0	1	271	3692
70-79 years not living with children	No. Individuals	22.9	5.4	1.9	2	2	931	3974
80 years and over	No. Individuals	25.7	5.6	1.9	1	1	637	3135
80 years and over with a pension	No. Individuals	8.6	1.6	0.3	0	0	58	4287
80 years and over working	No. Individuals	13.8	0.7	0.1	0	0	29	4130
80 years and over not living with children	No. Individuals	21.7	4.2	1.3	0	0	217	3637

Characteristics	Description of variables	Relative Poverty						
		CFS-based						
		Headcount Index	Poverty gap	Squared poverty gap	Share of poor population (%)	Population share (%)	Sample size	Average per capita consumption (Rs.)
Income and transfers								
Household receives Samurdhi or Janasaviya	No. Households	49.4	12.3	4.4	61	34	3862	1969
Household receives remittances from abroad	No. Households	15.4	3.2	1	6	10	1176	3864
Household receives remittances from within the country	No. Households	26.4	5.8	2	30	31	3828	2910
Household receive govt transfer other than Samurdhi and Janasaviya	No. Households	34	7.8	2.6	26	21	2277	2506
Gender and income	No. Households							
Breadwinner (principal income earner) is female (All)	No. Households	26.5	6.2	2.2	16	17	2318	3179
Proportion of income from females in household > 50% (All)	No. Households	25.5	5.9	2	16	17	2350	3215
Breadwinner (principal income earner) is female (Wage/Cash)	No. Households	29.7	7	2.4	16	15	1825	3156
Proportion of income from females in household > 50% (Wage/Cash)	No. Households	29.3	6.9	2.4	16	15	1831	3180
6. OTHER SPECIFIC GROUPS	No. Households							
Household has a disabled member	No. Households	42	11.3	4.3	15	10	1016	2436
Household has an illiterate member	No. Households	35.5	8.6	3	72	55	5826	2564
Land ownership	No. Households							
Household owns land	No. Households	25.7	5.8	2	86	91	10671	3099
Household owns agricultural land	No. Households	25.2	5.5	1.8	33	35	4146	2972
Land area < 10 perches	No. Households	35	8.4	3	24	19	2146	2722
Land area 10-39 perches	No. Households	23.8	5.6	1.9	24	28	3234	3348
Land area 1/4-1 acre	No. Households	28.7	6.5	2.1	27	26	3078	2867
Land area > 1 acre	No. Households	23.8	5.1	1.7	25	28	3264	3102
Household does not own any land	No. Households	42.6	10.3	3.6	14	9	1051	2426