



***SPATIAL DETERMINANTS OF POVERTY IN RURAL SETTLEMENTS
IN SRI LANKA (WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO GALIGAMUWA
DIVISIONAL SECRETARIAT DIVISION)***

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As a developing country Sri Lanka always suffers from numerous social and economic problems. Therefore, it is important to have spatial studies on rural poverty to know about underlying causes. This study was carried out in three GN divisions namely Lahupana, Ranapana, and Bambaragama which are located inside the Galigamuwa Divisional Secretariat Division. Most of the inhabitants of these villages were re-settlers by the central government due to landslide hazard. Therefore, identification of factors behind the poverty and its spatial distribution were the main objectives of this study. According to the proportion of beneficiaries in Lahupana, Ranapana, and Bambaragama (17:13:13) 100 questionnaires were given randomly to the households of the study area. Overlaying and proximity techniques used as spatial analysis tools inside the study. Flow maps were used to recognize the significant facilities needed for residence of the study area. In addition regression model was used to determine women's role in poverty. According to the analysis it was revealed that study area comprises of a terrain of mountains 49 % and 21 % of steep slopes and other 30% with gentle slopes and flat lands. Seventy nine percent of respondents claimed that soil erosion lead to degradation of soil and it adversely affected cultivation. This study also revealed that 54% of population were women. According to regression analysis women who were engaged in agricultural activities and estate works lead to have a negative impact on income level rather than males but women with O/L education qualification lead for increasement of income compared to males by 2,565 rupees. Very poor road conditions with less accessibility and none of major roads, 4% of jeep and cart roads and 1% of minor roads were available compared to Kegalle district. With these difficulties, proximity analysis identified that people have to travel 18 km for rural banking facilities and 6 km to get basic health facilities. Flow maps identified police station, national schools, village fair and super markets are most needed facilities but located far away from the study area. Targeted pro-poor policies are required for poverty alleviation as well as investments in roads and improvements in soil fertility needed for potential poverty reduction.

Keywords: *poverty, proximity analysis, regression model, flow maps, accessibility*