



A LIVELIHOOD ANALYSIS OF THE FISHING COMMUNITY IN BATHTHALANGUNDUWA ISLAND OF KALPITIYA, SRI LANKA

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ABSTRACT

The concept of livelihoods is being increasingly applied in research on regional development, poverty alleviation, rural agricultural development and rural resource management. The sustainable livelihood denotes people's capacity to maintain living by surviving shocks, stress and enhancing quality of life on long-term basis. This paper is based on a study of fishing community substantially depends on the harvest or processing of fishery resources in Baththalangunduwa Island. However the limitations were arisen for their sustenance as; lack of awareness about island, less attention by government and NGOs. Within the sustainable livelihoods framework, this study was geared to assess the livelihood assets and strategies of the fishing community, find relationship between fishery industry and development of Livelihood Strategies (LS), identify the problems of LS and examine institutional intervention and discuss how the LS relate to their asset base and vulnerability context. A sample of 14% out of 710 households was selected according to stratified random sampling method and five different methods were employed for data collection; questionnaire survey, semi structured interviews, direct observation, case studies and photographs. Data was analysed using qualitative and quantitative methods. The study found that 84% of households were undertaken fishing while 16% engaged in fish drying process as supplementary means of income. Conditions of houses were very low with 98% of cadjan huts. The majority had education level up to Ordinary Level while few of them had no education. The study further ascertained that people are generally deprived of basic utilities. The lack of intervention by government, NGO and geographical location of the island were the main cause for inadequate facilities. The study finally concluded with the suggestion that the relevant government institutes has to be taken action to overcome issues on a long-term basis to facilitate for the means of livelihood of fishing community in Baththalangunduwa.

Keywords: Fishing Community, Isolated Island, Livelihood Assets, Livelihood Strategies, Sustainable livelihoods framework