

**IMPACT OF PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTORS ON JOB INVOLVEMENT OF
FARMERS AT PADAVIYA AREA IN ANURADAPURA DISTRICT WITH
SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE OF
UNKNOWN ETIOLOGY (CKDUE)**



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ABSTRACT

Increased incidence of Chronic Kidney Disease of Un-known Etiology (CKDUe) since late 1990s in the dry zone agriculture regions like the North Central Province in Sri Lanka has become a national issue. The social, cultural and environmental changes occurred due to various development activities in the region since 1980s may have contributed significantly to change the livelihood of people including their food habits, lifestyle and directly or indirectly have influenced the emergence of CKDUe as the main mortality factor. So far no detailed studies have been done to document, behavioral and psychological changes of the residents in areas where the prevalence of CKDUe is very high (in Anuradhapura District). Hence with the help of a structured survey questionnaire, a detailed study was carried out among 200 individuals in Padaviya Area to determine the level of stress, marginalization and depression of CKDUe affected farmers; farmer-families with CKDUe patients, relations, neighbours and farmer-families assuming that they have a potential for CKDUe. The survey revealed that 33.5% of the respondents are suffering from CKDUe. In addition, 36% respondents reported that their neighbors have family members with CKDUe and 30.5% reported that they are among the risk group with a potential for CKDUe infection. The survey also revealed that CKDUe has influenced negatively on the occupation of the farmers in that area. The driving force, satisfaction, happiness and enthusiasm for farming have been influenced negatively not only on those who are suffering from CKDUe but also on those farmers whose neighbors, relations and those who assume that they have a potential for CKDUe infection. The relationship between depression and farming activity (Job Involvement) of respondents indicated that farming activity decreases in parallel to their increased depression levels. This outcome reflects that the pleasure and

satisfaction gained in farming has declined within the community which is residing in CKDUe affected area. The survey revealed a significant strong negative relationship between the stress level of the respondents and their involvement in farming. It indicated a negative relationship between the marginalization level and respondents involvement in farming and farmers have become helpless when they understood that they have infected with CKDUe. The effect of CKDUe on psychology and behavior of the community as shown by the indicators like – stress, depression and marginalization – very clearly indicates a disquieting situation. As it is emphasized that farming has been a way of lives of the Sri Lankans over centuries; the influence of CKDUe on the farming community needs to be taken very seriously in government development agendas. A holistic approach is an urgent and national requirement to re-establish the farming communities in the CKDUe affected areas in the North Central Province, Sri Lanka. Remedial measures to improve the living standard should include - not only upgrading the environment qualities, health facilities and financial benefits to upgrade the lives but also counseling to heal the behavioral and psychological trauma of CKDUe.

Key words: Chronic Kidney Disease of Un-known Etiology (CKDUe), North Central Province, psychological changes, marginalization, stress, depression