

The role and potentials of rural organizations on infrastructure development: a case study of Ekiriyankumbura village in Ridimaliedda DS Division in Badulla District

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Governmental and non governmental rural organizations were established under the rules and regulations before and after the independence of Sri Lanka island-wide. However, there has been a large number of village base societies formulated at national and local level since 1970s at the rural society in remote areas for the upliftment of rural life through infrastructure development. In the recent past, most of the South Asian and East Asian countries achieved a satisfactory economic growth and development through infrastructure development of their economies. The main aims of the establishment of rural societies are: poverty reduction, agriculture development, income generation, employment creation and sanitation through the infrastructural development via rural organizations. Even so, the expected targets have not been achieved at rural economy as a result of different reasons. The main objectives of the study were: identifying reasons for not reaching the said targets, studying the role of village societies and the evaluating economic value of the projects conducted by the village societies in the study area. Primary and secondary data were used for the study. The data were collected from fifty heads of the households, and five heads of the societies through structured questionnaires and group discussions with the villagers at Ekiriyankumbura village in Ridimaliedda. The study reveals that some of the rural societies had functioned efficiently for infrastructural development in the study area, like community base water supply, minor road constructions, irrigation supply, pre- school & school development and health care.

Key words: Infrastructure development, Economic growth, Agriculture, Irrigation, Water supply

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