

2.31 Trend of decreasing children in sub-urban areas: with special reference to Ja-ela divisional secretariat division

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ABSTRACT

The open economy is playing a pivotal role in social, economical and political structures in the Sri Lankan society. Although participation of women in the economic activities was less in the early society, post 1977 era facilitated them to integrate with the emerging economy. As a consequence, employment opportunities and the access for education were created. At the same time, attitudes were forced to change. The identified foremost trend of this situation is the delay of marriage and the orientation of women to limit the number of infants per family. Although this is identified as a trend in urban areas, the same phenomenon is pervading in sub-urban localities too.

Identification of this recent trend becomes the main objective of the research. A random sample composed of 50 women between the ages of 18-45 was selected from Ja-ela divisional secretariat division, for whom questionnaires and interviews were used. The study collected information from families. Interviews were taken from MOH and officials from the department of registrar general. Secondary data was collected from books, magazines, periodical publications, visual media and the internet.

The research found out that the number of children per family is decreasing during the post 1977 period. And the majority of the women gave birth to only one child during their time of fertility. Most of the women in free trade zone are unmarried and majority of those who are married have only one child.

Key words: sub-urban, decreasing, fertility