

# Country WID Profile

## (Sri Lanka)

November 2002

Japan International Cooperation Agency  
Planning and Evaluation Department

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Abbreviations  
(Sri Lanka)

ADB	Asian Development Bank
BOI	Board of Investment
BCG	Bacillus Calmette-Guérin
B/P	Birth Spacing Program
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CENWOR	Center for Women's Research
DPT	Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization, UN
GDI	Gender Development Index
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEM	Gender Empowerment Measure
GNI	Gross National Income
GNP	Gross National Product
HIV/AIDS	Human-Immunodeficiency Virus/ Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome
ILO	International Labor Organization
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
NWC	National Women's Committee
ORT	Oral Rehydration Therapy
PMO	Prime Minister's Office
SNA	System of National Accounts
STD	Sexually Transmitted Diseases
UNDP	United Nations Development Programs
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WDR	World Development Report
WFP	World Food Program
WID	Women in Development

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## 1. Basic Profiles

### 1-1 Socio-Economic Profile

#### Economic indicators source: 1)

GNI/Capita (US\$)	Growth rate of real GDP	GDP Implicit deflator	Gini index	Aid/GNI
820 ('99)	5.3% (90-99)	9.4% (90-99)	34.4 ('95)	1.6% ('99)
640 ('94)	4.0% (80-90)	11.0% (80-90)	30.1 ('90)	5.2% ('94)

Note: World Development Indicator 2001 replaced GNP with GNI in line with the 1993 SNA.

#### Demographic indicators source: 1), \*2), \*\*3)

Total (millions)	% of female population	% of urban population*	Population growth rate**	Total Fertility Rate**	Life Expectancy*	
					Male	Female
19 ('99)	49.2% ('99)	23.3% ('99)	1.0% (90-99)	2.1 ('99)	69.3 ('99)	75.0 ('99)
17.9 ('94)	NA	22% ('95)	1.4% (80-95)	2.4 ('95)	70.3 ('95)	74.8 ('95)

#### Public Sector expenditure to sectors source: 1)

	Health	Education	Social Welfare	Defense	Others
1997	3.5%	4.7%	0.6%	13.9%	NA
1991-5	5.5%	10.2%	16.9%	11.8%	55.6%

#### Industry/GDP source: 1)

	Agriculture	Industry	Service
1999	21%	27%	52%
1995	23%	25%	52%

#### Labour indicators source: 1)

total	Total No.	Unemployment Rate	Minimum wage
1999	8 mil	10.6%(96-98)	NA (95-99)
1995	8 mil	NA	NA

female	% of total	Unemployment Rate	Minimum wage
1999	36.4%('99)	16.2%(96-98)	NA
1995	35% ('95)	NA	NA

#### Proportion of workers source: 1)

male	Agriculture	Industry	Service
1996-98	38%	23%	37%
1980	44%	19%	30%

female	Agriculture	Industry	Service
1996-98	49%	22%	27%
1980	51%	18%	28%

#### Decision-making source: 2)

	Member of parliament	Ministries	Deputy	Managers	Technicians
1999	9/225	1/20	0/20	22.80%	30%
1995	5.3%('90)	13.0%	8.0%	16.9%('90)	11.9%('90)

#### Law for women

Maternity Allowance law(1985)	84 working days are given for the first two deliveries
Widow's Pension law(1983)	

#### Ratification and signature of international law for women

Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)	ratified in 1981
The law of the same wage for the same work	ratified in 1993
the article 32 of night work	ratified in 1984

#### Policy of WID

The Women's Charter of Sri Lanka (1993)	National policy for women's affairs as the plan and guideline of activities
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#### Governmental organization of WID

National Machinery	Women's Bureau in the Ministry of Women's Affairs/ Government Organization
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#### References

- 1) World Development Report, World Bank, 1996, 1997, 2001
- 2) Human Development Report, UNDP, 1996, 1997, 2001
- 3) The State of the World's Children, UNICEF, 1996, 2001

## 1-2 Health Profile

### Expansion of health service

source: 1), \*2)

No. of physicians	No. of Hospital Beds	Public expenditure on health* (% of GDP)
(per 1,000 people)		
0.2 (90-98)	2.7 (90-98)	1.4 ('98)
0.1 ('80)	2.9 ('80)	1.5 ('90)

### Child health

source: 3)

	Mortality Rate		% of the vaccinated (1-year-old children)			
	Infant (per1,000)	Under-5 (per1,000)	BCG	DPT	Polio	Measles
1999	17	19	97%	99%	99%	95%
1995	15	19	90%	93%	92%	88%

### Family planning

source: 3), \*1), \*\*4)

Contraceptive prevalence rate	Births attendance rate	Maternal mortality rate (per100,000 )*	Age at first marriage (years old)**	Total fertility rate
66% (95-00)x	94% (95-00)x	60 (90-99)	NA	2.1('99)
66% (90-96)	94% (90-96)	30 (89-95)	27('93)	2.4 ('95)

### HIV/AIDS

source: 1)

% age 15-49	Women (No.of age15-49)
0.07% ('99)	2,200 ('99)
NA ('95)	NA ('95)

### Nutrition

source: 3)

% of infants with low birth weight	Oral re-hydration therapy use rate
25% (95-99)x	34% (95-00)x
25% (90-94)	34% (90-96)

### Community health service

source: 3)

	Access to safe water		Access to adequate sanitation	
	urban	rural	urban	rural
1999	91%	80%	91%	80%
90-96	88%	52%	68%	62%

## 1-3 Education Profile

### Commitment to education

source: 2) \*6)

Education system (years)		Public expenditure on education (as % of)	
Compulsory	Primary	GNP	gov. expenditure
9	9	3.4(95-97)	8.9(95-97)
		2.7(85-87)	7.8(85-87)

### Adult literacy rate

source: 2)

	Total	Male	Female
1999	91.4%	94.3%	88.6%
1995	90.2%	93.4%	87.2%

### Enrollment ratio

source: 3), \*2)

	Primary education (Net enrollment ratio)			Secondary education (Gross enrollment ratio)			Higher education (Gross enrollment ratio)*	
	Male	Female		Male	Female		Male	Female
95-99	NA	NA	95-97	71%	78%	94-97	6%	4%
90-95	NA	NA	90-94	71%	78%	90-95	NA	NA

### Female ratio of higher education

source: 5)

	Education	Humanities	Social Sciences	Natural Sciences, Engineering	Medicine
1999	71.6%	56.3%	14.6%	30.3%	NA
1995	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

## References

- 1) World Development Report, World Bank, 1996, 1997, 2001
- 2) Human Development Report, UNDP, 1996, 1997, 2001
- 3) The State of the World's Children, UNICEF, 1996, 2001
- 4) Demographic Health Survey 2000
- 5) University Grant Commission
- 6) Annual Health Bulletin 1999

X:indicates data that refer to years or periods other than those specified in the column heading, differ from the standard definition, or refer to only part of a country

## **2. General Situation of Women and Government Policy on WID/Gender**

### **2-1 General Situation of Women in Sri Lanka**

#### **General Situation of Women in Sri Lanka**

- 1) The socio-economic indicators such as medical and educational systems are relatively higher than other South Asian countries.
- 2) In relation to the civil law, each religious and ethnic community has different legal structures.
- 3) Labor force participation of women has risen to 37% in 2000. In the industrial sector, women constitute 70% of the total workforce, pre-dominantly in skilled and semi-skilled grades. However, the unemployment rate for female (11.1%) is much higher than that of male (5.8%) in 2000 (Labor Force Survey, 2001).

The Gender Development Index (GDI) for Sri Lanka is 70<sup>th</sup> among 146 countries (UNDP, 2001), which is the average of international standard. Gender Empowerment (GEM) is 56<sup>th</sup> among 64 countries (UNDP, 2001), which is in the lower level of comparable countries. The low empowerment measure is a reflection of limited participation of women in politics and in the senior levels of decision making in government and the private sector.

As the result of life improvement programs and the development of education for females, the social economic indicators are relatively higher than other South Asian countries. The health indicators continue to be favorable for women. On the other hand, in addition to malnutrition among children below five years of age, anemia among pregnant mothers is a matter to be reckoned with. This situation could be attributed to poverty and lack of awareness among women on nutrition. Around 60% of women earn less than the monthly minimum wage. The expanding feminization of poverty is seen in the composition of the vulnerable groups such as single mothers, ageing women and women victims of armed conflict.

From 1995 onwards women have begun to outnumber men in the population figures (49% men: 51% women). Women have a longer life expectancy than males. The conflict in the North and East has affected the population as the number of female heads increased. Women in these areas are confronted with problems such as refugees and resettlements.

Laws on civil rights provide that women have equal rights as men in society, but the paternal system still remains in the family law (JICA&PMO, Ms Elegod age K. Fernan,1996). In relation to marriage, divorce, custody of children, maintenance and inheritance of family property, each religious and ethnic community has different legal structures (for example, The Muslim Law, The Thesawalamai law for Tamil). Violence against women is a form of discrimination, and its causes are the conflict in the North and East, poverty, alcoholism etc. As domestic violence accounts for 60% of the incidences, the Ministry of Justice is drafting legislation to deal with this situation.

In education, unlike in other sectors, there is gender equality at all levels in accessibility, but where educational attainment is concerned there is much disparity district-wise. Another area where gender disparity is more pronounced is Technical Education. As the result of equal education for female, there are some highly educated women. On the other hand, most of women actually have to work to support their family income.

Labor force participation rate of women has risen to 37% in 2000 as a result of structural adjustment policies and globalization trends. The private sector has become the major

contributor to employment generation as its economic activity has grown faster. In the industrial sector, women constitute 70% of the total workforce, pre-dominantly in skilled and semi-skilled grades. However, the unemployment rate for female (11.1%) is much higher than that of male (5.8%) in 2000 (Labor Force Survey, 2001).

Globalization has enabled unskilled rural women to work as house-maids and factory workers in the Middle East and Far Eastern countries. Women constitute 66% of the total migrant population. Despite the social security and welfare measures adopted by the Sri Lanka Foreign Employment Bureau, women are faced with labor exploitation, sexual abuse, physical violence and lack legal protection.

### **[Cultural/social background]**

Sri Lanka is a multi-racial nation and consists of Singhalese (74.0%), Sri Lanka Tamil (12.6%) Indian Tamil (5.5%) and Sri Lanka Moor (7.1%), Others (0.8%) (Central Bank of Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka Socio-Economic Data, 2000). The proportion of population based on religion is Buddhist (69.3%), Hindu (15.5%) and the rest are Christians 7.6%, Muslims 7.5%, Others 0.1%. Official languages are Singhalese and Tamil. But English is also a common language in the commerce sector and government offices.

Although women of Sri Lanka are subordinate to men, they are respected and play an important role at home and in the society. Marriage system is basically monogamous but polygamy is permitted for the Muslim males in the eastern rural area. In this area, the school enrollment ratio of females is less than males.

## 2-2 Government Policy on WID/Gender

### Government Policy on WID/Gender

- 1) Government policy on WID is laid down in the Women's Charter based on CEDAW in 1993.
- 2) The Policy of Women's Affairs is to improve the quality of life of women.

#### [Women Policy of Government]

Government policy on WID is laid down in the Women's Charter based on CEDAW. The Policy of Women's Affairs is to improve the quality of life of women by:

- 1) Initiating, formulating and monitoring policies, programs and projects to facilitate mainstreaming gender
- 2) Ensuring human and fundamental rights, gender equality and advancement of women
- 3) Coordinating with public and private sectors, international agencies and NGOs

#### [Main Issues on Women]

Main issues of the Ministry of Women's Affairs are as follows:

- 1) Equal property rights at home (property, acquisition, management, co-ownership, and disposal).
- 2) Equal selection of children's educational language, Equal opportunities of education and revision of the textbooks to correct the fixed idea of gender roles.
- 3) Equal opportunities in employment, assignment, promotion, working conditions, vocational training, retraining, in-service training, apprenticeship etc.
- 4) Equal consideration for the land and agricultural reform, Equal rights for economic activities such as financing and loan, Securing the interest of female emigrant workers, Securing the labor rights to organize and support the self-protecting organization.

#### [National Plan of Action on Women]

The National Plan of Action was drawn up after the Beijing Conference by taking up eight critical areas given in the Beijing Platform for Action. The Plan was updated in 2000/2001 with the participation of both Government and NGOs. Unlike the previous Plan, the new Plan has been made more comprehensive by taking up all critical areas given in the Beijing Platform for Action, stating the current situation on the issues and giving indicators, making it possible to monitor the progress.

#### **The Women's Charter of Sri Lanka (1993)**

##### • Rights at home

- Rights of children's number and interval of each birth.
- Equality on the selection of name and address.
- Equal property rights (acquisition, management, co-ownership, disposal).

##### • Rights to have education and training

- Equalization of every educational opportunity.
- Equality on the selection of children's educational language.
- Revision of the textbooks to correct the fixed idea of gender role.
- Implementation of program for the school dropout.

##### • Rights for economic activity and benefit

- Equal opportunities in employment, assignment, promotion, working conditions and securing job.
- Equal opportunities in vocational training, retraining, in-service training, apprenticeship.
- Equal consideration for the land and agricultural reform.



- Equal rights for financing and loan.
- Labor's rights
  - Minimum age for the employment is 15 years old.
  - Securing the interest of female emigrant workers.
  - Securing the labor rights to organize and support the self-protecting organization.
  - Direct supply of the reward, salary and benefit.

## 2-3 National Machinery

### Women's Bureau

- 1) The Ministry of Women's Affairs was found in 1997, but with the restructuring of the ministries in September 2001, this Ministry was merged with the Ministry of Development and Reconstruction of the East & Rural Housing.
- 2) The Women's Charter of Sri Lanka is a very important policy and it is also the policy implementation guideline for the Women's Bureau.
- 3) National Women Committee (NWC) was established in the Women's Bureau and it is an organization consisting of leaders and well-informed persons to be a mediator to correct female discrimination and provide legal support.

#### [Background]

In 1978, the government formed the Women's Bureau in the Ministry of Policy Planning and Implementation for the first time with Norwegian assistance. In 1989, the Women's Bureau was transformed into the Ministry of Health and Women's Affairs. In 1994, the bureau was this time transformed into the Ministry of Transportation, Environment and Women's Affairs. In 1997, the Ministry of Women's Affairs was found. With the restructuring of the ministries in September 2001, the Ministry of Women's Affairs was merged with the Ministry of Development and Reconstruction of the East & Rural Housing. Presently it remains in the Ministry.

#### [The Women's Bureau]

The mission of the Women's Bureau is the improvement of women's socio-economic status, empowerment of women by providing knowledge, opportunities and resources for them to realize their full potential, and ensuring equal rights in the educational, socio-economic, political legal and cultural fields.

The four main tasks of the Women's Bureau are as follows: 1) Formation and implementation of National Development Policy/ Plan on women, 2) Planning and monitoring of the National Action Plan, 3) Networking with related ministries and NGO's, 4) Coordination of foreign assistance.

The activities in order to achieve Bureau's objectives are: 1) Organizing women, 2) Enterprise development, 3) Kitchen gardening, 4) Counseling service, 5) Awareness raising on women's issues, 6) Reproductive health, 7) Programs to combat violence against women.

#### [National Women Committee]

The National Women Committee (NWC) was established in 1993 within the Women's Bureau, consisting of leaders and well-informed persons. The Women's Bureau formulates and implements the National Development Policy/ Plan on Women, but on the other hand, NWC's task is to be a mediator to correct female discrimination and provide legal support. NWC also coordinates with related ministries and promotes legal amendments in order to upgrade the status of women.

In May 1999, the NCW established a Gender Complaint Center within its premises. By the year 2000, 571 complaints on domestic violence, sexual harassment, employment problems, land disputes, maintenance and divorce had been received by the center. NCW has been carrying out awareness raising programs on the Women's Charter, advocating for inequalities of women through forum discussions, meetings, and media programs.

### **3. Current Situation of Women by Sector**

#### **3-1 Education**

##### **Education**

- 1) Sri Lanka is ranked relatively high in its educational level among developing countries, and its girl enrollment ratio is also high.
- 2) Adult literacy rate, male: 94.7%, female: 88.3%. In all, the average illiteracy rate is 91.5% (2000), considerably high compared to its income level.
- 3) In the secondary school level, the enrolment rates were more for girls: Grades 6-9 being 50.4%; Grades 10-11, 52.1% and Grades 12-13, 57.5% in 1998.
- 4) Female students admitted to Universities amounted to 51.7% in 1999/2000.
- 5) The main issue is appropriate employment opportunities for educated women.

#### **[General Situation]**

Since 1945, the government has followed a general policy of free education from kindergarten to university. Free education is widespread as 94% of schools are run by the state. There were 10,338 government schools having a student population of 4,190,657 at the end of 2000. In January 1998, regulations were imposed making education compulsory for the age group 5 to 14 years. During ten years of compulsory education, school uniforms and textbooks are distributed for free. Sri Lanka is ranked relatively high in educational levels among developing countries and girl enrollment ratio is also high. The student population in 1999 was composed of 50% males and 49.99% females. Wide varieties of vocational/technical education have been offered, though the jobs are restricted only to the traditional occupations for females.

#### **[Literacy education]**

Adult literacy rate, male: 94.7%, female: 88.3%. In all, the average literacy rate is 91.5% (WDR, 2000), higher than the average literacy rate of 91.2% in other Asian countries. However, the literacy level of Muslim women is low compared to other ethnic groups. Gender disparities in literacy rates are becoming minimal with the progress of free education. However, Sector-wise literacy rates point out the high concentration of illiterate women of South Indian origin – employed in plantations.

#### **[Primary and secondary education]**

According to the educational law, compulsory education is from first grade to tenth grade. The government has promoted scholarship systems, school lunch program, free textbook provision program (started from 1980) and free uniform provision program (started from 1990). As school district system was introduced, 90% of primary level pupils were able to have access to their schools within 2 miles.

In 1997, the enrolment rate in schools for all grades showed a 49.9% of girls. Among the Grade 5 scholarship winners in 1999, 56.2% (Sinhala medium) and 53.8% (Tamil medium) were girls. In secondary school level, the enrollment rates are more for girls as Grades 6-9 being 50.4%; Grades 10-11, 52.1% and Grades 12-13, 57.5% in 1998. The number of girls who qualified for advanced level studies reached 55% in 1998. The drop out rate for males was higher at the secondary level. The number of girls who qualified for admission to Universities was as high as 62.6% in 1998. Therefore, in the field of education, gender does not seem to be a stumbling block as in other areas.

#### **[Vocational and Technical Education/ Higher Education]**

It is pointed out that there are no gender gaps in non-traditional vocational training courses and should be provided on equal conditions for admission and use of facility. The percentage of women enrolled in technical and construction-related courses have increased only marginally to 20.8% in 1999. But female students enrolled in sewing, commerce and secretarial courses, stood at 72.5%. In the 34 State Technical Colleges women student population declined from 44.7% in 1994 to 37.2% in 1999 (CENWOR, 2000).

There were 13 national universities including the Open University in 2000. The proportion of women entering universities has increased from 10% in 1942 to 51.7% in 1999/2000 and the percentage of female students of the total enrolment increased to 45.7% in 1998 (CENWOR 2000). The female ratio in each department: medicine (41.4%); dentistry (52.5%); agriculture (45.4%); architecture (36.1%); management (45.1%); law (63.1%); humanities and social science (59.2%) and engineering (11.8%) in 1997/98. The percentage of female enrollment is quite high in the departments of education and kindergarten teacher education in Open University courses (TEAMS, 1997).

### **[Non-formal education]**

Six major governmental offices offer nation-wide vocational training for both females and males. Women's Bureau and NGOs for women offer vocational training for women. There are many technical courses provided by the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labor (Vocational Training Center), and National Institute of Technical Education etc. But 90% of female students in these non-formal educations take sewing or dressmaking courses.

The non-formal literacy centers established in the 1980s for out-of-school children in the age group of 5-14 were not successful due to inconsistencies in policy and inadequate resources. At present they attend to the needs of less than 5% of out-of-school children. More than 50% of those enrolled in these centers were girls.

## 3-2 Health

### Health

- 1) Sanitation and health situation is relatively good compared with Sri Lanka's income level as the medical care is free of charge.
- 2) The maternal mortality rate is 60 (UNICEF, 2001) and the rate of childbirth attended by trained personnel is 94% (UNFPA, 1999). But maternal anemia rate is 45% and infant with low birth weight is 17.6%.
- 3) As the result of the spread of family planning, total fertility rate is 2.1 (1999) and population growth rate is 1.2% (2000).
- 4) By the end of 1999, an accumulative total of 105 cases of AIDS were reported and 75 of these have died.

#### [General Situation]

Since Sri Lanka government has taken on public and medical health as the first political priority, the medical health environment for women has improved significantly after 40 years of independence. The goal of Sri Lanka's health policy is to increase the quantity and quality of life through systematically planned health promotional activities and by controlling preventable diseases.

Sanitation and health situation is relatively good if it is compared with Sri Lanka's income level, as the health and medical costs became free of charge. The Health expenditure for 1999 was Rs. 18,018 million, which is an increase of 13.0% over the previous year. During 1999 the proportion of public expenditure on health services was 1.8 % of the GNP and 5.6% of the national expenditure.

#### [Medical Health]

Life expectancy for male is 70.7 years and 75.4 years for female (2000). Major causes of death are circulatory organ disorder, respiratory organ disorder, and tumor. Major diseases are respiratory organ disorder, digestive organ disorder, genitals/urinary organ disorder and nerve disorder. Accordingly, in 1999, the population per Medical Officer decreased to 2,739 from 2,921 in 1998. However, the number of nurses per 100,000 population decreased from 77 in 1998 to 74 in 1999.

#### [Children and Maternal Health]

Maternal health has been given a high priority both in the prevention and curative sectors of the Ministry of Health at the grassroot level. Trained Family Health Workers monitor the health of pregnant and lactating mothers and children during home visits. Pregnant mothers are referred to antenatal clinics. Although medical care is free of charge, the qualities of facilities provided are not equal in all areas. In the areas of armed conflict, it is reported that the quality of health care is poor.

Maternal mortality rate is 60 (UNICEF, 2001). It is getting lower as the result of the preferable birth period program (B/P) and the health program. The rate of childbirth attended by trained personnel is 94% (UNFPA, 1999). But the maternal anemia rate is 45% and the infant with low birth weight is 17.6%.

#### [Family Planning]

As the result of large emigration to other countries and the penetration of family planning, the total fertility rate is 2.1 (1999) and the population growth rate is 1.2% (2000). Since 1965, the government has been promoting family planning as a national policy. Family

planning is not done for population control but for the health of the mother and child. In Sri Lanka, the family planning is completely voluntary.

The percentage of married women using the traditional methods of contraception is 58.8%. Of the contraception method, injection (46.2%) and oral pill (22.9%) are the popular methods. During the year of 1999, 104,158 new acceptors were recruited by the National Program, and increase of 3.5 percent in the number of new acceptors is evident, compared with the corresponding period of 1998. Contraception methods for male are not popular and very few men participate in the reproductive health programs conducted by the Women's Bureau. Only 3.7 % resorted to vasectomy and only 3.3 % use condoms.

Reproductive health is considered as a women's right for equality of women. However, in poorer and uneducated sectors, women have no control over her body. About 700 abortions take place in the country per day despite the relatively high awareness on reproductive health.

#### **[HIV/AIDS]**

By the end of 1999, an accumulative total of 105 cases of HIV/AIDS were reported. Of these, 75 have died. During the year under review, 42 new cases of HIV positive people (24 males and 18 females) were reported. Of these 12 were diagnosed as having AIDS(STD/AIDS Control Program).

### 3-3 Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

#### Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries

- 1) With the recent changes of Ministries, the Ministries of Agriculture and Forestry have been combined together, and the Ministry of Fisheries was brought under the Ministry of Ports and Shipping.
- 2) Satisfying the basic needs at home is regarded as a woman's task, while performing a productive role by engaging in their own agricultural pursuits.
- 3) Women are not regarded as policy makers, administrators, employers and there is no mention of women in the Development Plan so far.
- 4) Half of the people engaged in fisheries are women, but the role of women in fisheries differs from each region.

#### [General Situation]

Different ministries were in charge of agriculture, forestry and fisheries. With the recent changes of Ministries, the two Ministries of Agriculture and Forestry have been combined together and Fisheries brought under the Ministry of Ports and Shipping.

Around 1.8 million families are engaged in agriculture. The percentage of female labor force engaged in agriculture is 39.8% and male labor force is 34.6% in 1997. Agriculture accounts for 20% of GDP, approximately 37% of total employment and 24% of exports. The overall growth rate of the agricultural sector declined from 4.5% in 1999 to 1.8% in 2000 (Central Bank Report 2000).

The strategy of the Agriculture Ministry to achieve its policy goal of being competitive in production and marketing is by increasing productivity, lowering production costs and increasing value-added by transforming traditional agriculture into commercialized profitable economic ventures. The new policy is to encourage private sector involvement in production, processing, and the state to limit its role to more regulatory functions.

#### [Ownership of Farmland and Agrarian Reform]

According to the common law in Sri Lanka, women are allowed to own and manage land. But after introducing Roman-Dutch law, which is based on paternal land inheritance, it is said that females are permitted to have limited legal-economic rights (TEAMS, 1997). According to findings of certain field studies, women's land ownership is in the range of 8%-10%.

As the result of the Land Development Ordinance of 1935, agricultural resources became to belong to males. Although the law of inheritance determines equal inheritance rights for females, it is customary for males to own land in most cases (TEAMS, 1997). Another gender issue evident in the Land Development Ordinance is that if the husband dies the land is automatically given to the eldest son but not to the eldest daughter. The Land Development Ordinance is highly bureaucratic, reflecting the colonial thinking and it does not suit the present day context of development.

#### [Rural Life and Gender]

It is regarded as a women's task to satisfy the basic needs at home like obtaining food, water, fuel, sanitation, housing and so on. Gender roles like this also affect the agriculture in the rural area. In time use studies, women spend around three to four hours in agriculture while their work in domestic sphere amounted to nine to ten hours. But in most cases, household works are not shared by the spouses. Although women play an important

role at home and on farm, they still only have subsidiary status as workers.

Besides, females are not regarded as policy makers, administrators, employers and there is no shadow of women in the Development Plan so far. Altogether Senior women officials constitute 11% while in professionals category the number is 44.3%. Women's position in Plant and Operation management is as low as 0.1%. Predominance of females is evident only in clerical services. Among 1,699 extension officers 395 or 23% are women.

#### **[Expansion of agriculture]**

Farm Women Extension Program of the Ministry of Agriculture promotes better home environment and initiate income generation activities for women farmers. The activities of the program cover staff training, initiating economic activities, promoting food technology, training of farm women in organizing and managing of household activities.

Ministries of Agriculture, Industries, Women's Affairs, Samurdhi, Youth and Sports are engaged in entrepreneurship development where around 60-70% beneficiaries are women. In addition Agromart, Sarvodaya, Lanka Mahila Samithi and district based NGOs such as Women's Development Federation of Hambantota conduct entrepreneurship development programs for women.

#### **[Fisheries]**

In Sri Lanka, 500,000 people are engaged in fisheries and half of them are women. The role of female in fisheries differs by regions. In the West coast, women catch fish with net but only a very few women own fishing boats. Women are employed in the fish processing industry and prawn farming. In the South coast, they are the main managers of income. Women in the migrant fishing communities have a crucial role. Fisherpersons' union support female fishery related activities with various incentives.



### 3-4 Economic Activities

#### Economic Activities

- 1) In Sri Lanka, 22% of the total workers are engaged in industry, 21% in services and 41% in agriculture, forestry and fisheries.
- 2) Due to the global economic trends and macro economic policies introduced since 1997, female labor force participation rate has increased from 36.1% in 1998 to 37% in 2000, which is faster than men.
- 3) The female migrant population amounts to 67% (2000) of the total migrants, which is a lesser number compared with previous figure of 71% in 1999 (Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment Statistical Handbook 2001).

#### [Situation of Employment]

Unemployment rate for females declined from 13.0% in 1999 to 11.0 % during the first three quarters of 2000. The male unemployment rate fell from 6.7% in 1999 to 5.9% during the same period. The unemployment rate has come down as a result of growing employment opportunities for females in manufacturing, agriculture, trade and hotel sectors. However, unemployment among the educated females is high compared to 9.1% of male unemployment with similar qualifications. Around half of the unemployed are within the ages of 15-24 years.

There is no open policy for equal opportunities on the employment of women and men though there is a provision in the Constitution for filing petitions in the Supreme Court on any allegations on the violation of fundamental rights. Discriminatory practices against women employed in the private sector have not so far been challenged in courts as a violation of Constitutional guarantee.

In Sri Lanka, 22% of total workers are engaged in industry, 21% in services and 41% in agriculture, forestry and fisheries. Due to the global economic trends and macro economic policies introduced since 1997, female labor force participation rate has increased more rapidly than men. It has increased from 36.1% in 1998 to 37% in 2000. The Board of Investment (BOI) generated direct employment to 32,700 during the year 1995 of which 85% was in the Textile and Garment Industry dominated by female employees. When export promotion zones are taken into account, 90% of the workers are females and only 10% are males, but percentage of male is very high in both executive levels and in technical jobs. Nearly 70% of the administrative posts are dominated by male employees.

Patriarchal attitudes of the society are reflected in the occupational hierarchy where men dominate the top and women occupy the middle and lower levels. The percentage of women senior officials and managers in all major occupational groups was 0.9% and that of professional women was 10% in 1997. This indicates that the access of qualified women to highest decision making levels in both private and public sectors continues to be blocked by the “glass ceiling” created by gender bias.

#### [Emigrant Workers]

The female migrant population amounts to 67% (2000) of the total migrants, which is a lesser number compared with the previous figure of 71% in 1999 (Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment Statistical Handbook 2001). Most of them are Sinhalese and they go abroad alone leaving their family behind. Majority of women has been migrating to the Middle Eastern countries as housemaids and now there is a shift towards the Far Eastern countries like South Korea and Singapore.

It is the government that has promoted migration of women with the objective of reducing unemployment and solving balance of payment problems. Foreign employment as a percentage of total labor force was 2.7%. Remittance is the source of acquiring foreign currency for Sri Lanka. Migrant workers (both men and women) have remitted Rs.25,231 million in 2000. These remittances amounted to 5.9% of the GDP.

#### **[Small Scale Credit System]**

Private and state banks have their own credit programs for providing credit to small scale business. Regional Rural Development Banks of the Central Bank is an example for providing credit for those interested in starting micro enterprises. Government has its own poverty alleviation programs through such institutions as the Samurdhi.

Women's Bureau established the fund management coop to provide loans to women. This is for the self-employment program for poor women. Once the woman select the small-scale enterprises scheme, Rs.200,000 are allocated to the Divisional Secretary Officers depending on the availability of funds. However, this program is not running as a cooperative society and the collection of loan installment are done by the Women's society of the Bureau.

#### **[Labor Related Laws and Women]**

Equal remuneration for men and women is enforced in the public sector except in some cases. Workers in the formal sector, including laborers and unskilled workers, are covered by existing labor laws and are entitled to such benefits as employment provident fund, sick leave and maternity leave. Formal sector women workers are also entitled for 84 days leave for the first two pregnancies. Before and after the birth, a woman cannot be given tasks which are dangerous to the mother or child for three months.

Women who work as domestic workers in Sri Lanka are not covered by any labor legislation and they are categorized as informal sector workers. Domestic helpers do not have regulated working hours, holidays, medical facilities and employment benefits enjoyed by other workers. Although women working in Free Trade Zones are exploited, they hardly go for labor tribunal cases. These workers are compelled to sign contracts that are clearly illegal both according to Sri Lanka Labor Laws and ILO standards. The employers cannot be sued under the constitutional guarantee because the private sector is not covered by it.

The Ministry of Labor has taken action to have a standard labor contract for prospective migrant workers with job agents in two labor receiving countries in 1998. However, it is reported that these contracts are not effective due to the ignorance of the migrant workers on the clauses in the contracts. The Law of the country does not apply to the aliens even though Sri Lanka has ratified six ILO conventions and Sri Lanka Labor Legislation in general conforms to international practice.

#### **[Support for Working Women]**

After the birth, the problem is who to take care of the baby. Usually, mother, relatives or caregivers look after the baby. Regulations made under the Young Persons, Children and Women Employment Act make provisions for childcare facilities in work places. However this section of the ordinance is not in operation.

Of the children below 5 years of age, only 40% attend either a pre-school or a day care

center. However, there is a big demand for such facilities as more women of child bearing age enter the labor force. Day care centers are available for working women in the estate sector managed with state funding. Even so, very few day care centers are available for working mothers in the cities.

#### 4. WID/Gender Projects

Project/Programs	Implementing Agency	Donor	Duration	Budget (1,000US\$)	Gender-related Issues/contents
<b>Women/General</b>					
Women's Rights	Ministry of Women Affairs	UNICEF	1 year	Rs. 10,000,000	Violence Against Women
<b>Health</b>					
Awareness Raising on Reproductive Health	Women's Bureau	UNFPA	4 years	Rs. 500,000	Program for Rural Women
Productivity Health	Ministry of Health	UNDP / UNFPA	1997-2001	Not provided	Financial Support to Preparation the Training Manual on Reproductive Health and to Conduct Awareness Program on Reproductive Health
Productivity Health	Health Education Bureau	ADB	2001	Not provided	Training on Reproductive Health
<b>Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery</b>					
Sri 4521.01 Community Manage Rehabilitation of Minor Irrigation in Sri Lanka	Ministry of Forestry Agrarian Development Agriculture Department	WFP, FAO	Jan. 2000-Dec. 2002 2 <sup>nd</sup> Stage	10,533	Women Focus Project
Model farm Horticulture, Bee Keeping & Dairy Development Program	Ministry of Forestry Agrarian Development Agriculture Department	Local Funds /Treasury Funds	Jan. 2001-Dec. 2001	15,000	Women Focus Project
Farmer Women's Development Program Matara District	Ministry of Forestry Agrarian Development Agriculture Department	Local Funds / Treasury Funds	Jan.-Dec. 2001	Rs. 45,000	10% Women Farmer Focus Project
Upper Watershed Management Project	Ministry of Forestry Agrarian Development Agriculture Department	ADB	2000-2007 (Seven year Project)	-	Small Group Participation in Minor Irrigation Work & 50% Women's Participation

## 5. WID/Gender Information Sources

### 5-1 List of International Organizations and NGOs related to WID/Gender

	Name and Specialty	Past Records (Project, etc.)	Report and Writing	Contact Address
<b>Government Organization</b>	Ministry of Health	Health Planning	Performance Report 2000	Ministry of Health "Suwasiripaya" Colombo 12. 698471
	Ministry of Health	Health Planning	Annual Health Bulletin 2000	Ministry of Health
	Ministry of Health	Health Planning	Country Report 1999	Ministry of Health
	Population Information Centre	Population Statistics	Action Plan July 1999 Population Bulletin 2000	Ministry of Health De Saram Place, Colombo - 10 699149
	Medical Statistics	Medical Statistics	Medical Statistics 2000	Ministry of Health De Saram Place, Colombo - 10
	Dept. of Labour	Women's and Children's Right	Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey Sep. 1982 - 2000	Ministry of Labour, Narahenpita, Colombo - 05. 581991
	Women & Children Affairs Division	Women & Children	Labour Laws to Safeguard Women Workers (Sinhala)	Ministry of Labour, Narahenpita, Colombo - 05. 581991
			Labour Laws Volume I (Sinhala)	
	Ministry of Labour Statistics Division	Labour Statistics	Labour Statistics 1999 - 2000	Ministry of Labour, Narahenpita, Colombo - 05.
	Foreign Employment Bureau	Foreign Employment	Annual Report on Foreign Employment, 1999	Foreign Employment Bureau, Isipathana Mw, Colombo - 05. 501750 / 592353
	Foreign Employment Bureau	Training & Counselling	Annual Report on Foreign Employment, 1999	Foreign Employment Bureau, Isipathana Mw, Colombo - 05. 501750 / 592353
	Foreign Employment Bureau	Foreign Employment Statistics	Statistics on Foreign Employment, 1999	Foreign Employment Bureau Isipathana Mw, Colombo - 05. 501750 / 592353
	Ministry of Education	Education Planning	School Census Preliminary Report 1999	Ministry of Education "Isurupaya" Pelawatta, Battaramulla.
	Ministry of Education	In-charge of Statistics	School Census Preliminary Report 1999	Ministry of Education "Isurupaya" Pelawatta, Battaramulla.
	Vocational Training Authority of Sri Lanka	Vocational Training	Summary of Trainee Details 1 <sup>st</sup> Qtr. 2001 1999	Vocational Training Authority of Sri Lanka, Elvitigala Mw. Narahentpita. Colombo 05.
	Vocational Training Authority of Sri Lanka	Vocational Planning / Training	Trainee Statistics 2000  Annual Report Vocational Training 2000  Summary of Trainee Details 2001	Vocational Training Authority of Sri Lanka, Elvitigala Mw. Narahentpita. Colombo 05. 074-510911
	Ministry of Women's Affairs	Gender Expert	Reports, Publications Bulletin, on Women & Dev. 1998 - 2001	Ministry of Women's Affairs, 177, Nawala Rd, Narahenpita. 555072

	<b>Name and Specialty</b>	<b>Past Records (Project, etc.)</b>	<b>Report and Writing</b>	<b>Contact Address</b>
<b>Research Institute</b>	Rural Development Training and Research Institute			No.24/4, Castlr Street, Colombo
	Center for Women's Research (CENWOR)			No.225/4, Kirula Rd, Colombo 05, Sri Lanka Tel:502828
	Marga Institute			No.93/10, Dutugamunu Street, Colombo 6. Tel:828544/829013 Fax:82597
<b>NGOs</b>	CENWOR (Centre for Womens Research	Gender Research and Adequacy	Research Publications 1998 / 1999 / 2000	CENWOR, Kassapa Rd, Narahenpita.
<b>Consultants</b>	TEAMS Ltd.			No.14, Sunethra Lane, Colombo 05, Tel:92877/074-517610 Fax:592877/850528 E-mail:Chairman@TEA MS.lanka net
	Resource Development Consultants Ltd.			No.55-2/1, Galle Rd, Colombo03. Tel:448392-6 Fax:447972/449407
	Prof. Suwarna Jayaweera			No.410/127, Baudhaloka, Mawatha, Colombo 7. Tel:691654
	Ms.Pat Alailima			Ministry of Finance Galle Face Secretariat, Colombo

## 5-2 List of Reports and References related to WID/Gender

Title	Publisher	Year	Where to get
<b>Education and Training</b>			
Animal Report 2000 Central Bank of Sri Lanka	Central Bank	2001	C. B. Colombo
Education Statistics	Statistical Division	1999 / 2000	Ministry of Education
Seventh National Convention on Women's Studies	Ms. G. De. Mel	2000	CENWOR
National Authority on Teacher Education	Ms. G. De. Mel	2000	CENWOR
Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission	Vocational Training Authority	2000	Vocational Training Authority
<b>Health and Medicine</b>			
Action Plan to Implement Sri Lanka's Population and Reproductive Health Policy	Population Information Centre (UNFPA Project)	2000 - 2010	Ministry of Health
Annual Report	Central Bank of Sri Lanka	1999	C.B. Sri Lanka
Population Statistics of Sri Lanka	Population Information Centre (UNFPA Project)	2000	Ministry of Health
Annual Report	Central Bank of Sri Lanka	2000	C.B. Sri Lanka
Jana Puwath Volume - I (Sinhala)	Population Information Centre (UNFPA Project)	2000	Ministry of Health
Health Bulletin	Ministry of Health	1999	Ministry of Health
<b>Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries</b>			
Central Bank Report	Central Bank of Sri Lanka	1999	C.B. Sri Lanka
Agriculture Statistics	Ministry of Agriculture	2000	Ministry of Agriculture
Central Bank Report	Central Bank of Sri Lanka	2000	C.B. Sri Lanka
Dilemmas of Development	W. D. Lakshman	1997	Sri Lanka Association of Economics
Land & Forestry	Anoja Wickremasinghe	1997	Department of Geography
<b>Economic Activities</b>			
Women in the Economy. Trends and Policy Issues	Collection of Articles	1998	CENWOR
Structural Adjustment, Gender and Employment Sri Lanka Experience	Collection of Articles	2000	ILO - Geneus
Sri Lanka; A Frame for Poverty Reduction	Dept. of National Planning Sri Lanka	Nov. 2000	Dept. of National Planning Sri Lanka
Engendering the National Budget of Sri Lanka	Dept. of National Planning	May 2000	Dept. National Planning
Sri Lanka Socio-Economic Data	Central Bank of Sri Lanka	June 2000	C. B. Sri Lanka
Women in the Garment Industry Export Processing Zones	Prof. Swarna Jayaweera and Thana Sanmugam	2000	CENWOR
Impact of Micro-Economic Reforms in Women in Sri Lanka	Prof. Swarna Jayaweera and Thana Sanmugam	2000	CENWOR
Labour Market Information Bulletin Volume II	Ministry of Labour	Dec. 2000	Ministry of Labour

<b>Title</b>	<b>Publisher</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Where to get</b>
Labour Force Survey	Dept. of Census & Statistics	1999 - 2000	Dept. of Census & Statistics
Trainee Statistics	Vocational Training Authority of Sri Lanka	2000	Vocational Training Authority of Sri Lanka
Seventh National Convention on Women's Studies	CENWOR	2000	CENWOR
Gender Imbalance in Education Administration and Management	Ms. G. De. Mel	2000	CENWOR
Sri Lanka Third & Fourth Reports to the United Nations Commission on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women	CENWOR	2000	CENWOR
Post Beijing Reflections Women in Sri Lanka 1995 - 2000	Collection of Articles	2000	CENWOR
Breaking Trough the Glass Ceiling Women in Management	ILO - Sector Activities Programme	1999	International Labour Office - Geneva
<b>Social Development</b>			
State of World Population	UNICEF	1999	UNICEF
Annual Report of Sri Lanka	Central Bank of Sri Lanka	2000	C. B. Sri Lanka
Population Statistics of Sri Lanka	Population Information Centre	2000	Ministry of Health
Sri Lanka Socio-Economic Data	Central Bank of Sri Lanka	2000	C. B. Sri Lanka
National Committee on Social Development the Progress on Social Development	Ministry of Social Services	1999	Ministry of Social Services
Statistical Abstract of Sri Lanka	Census & Statistics	2000	Census & Statistics



## 6. References

JICA, 1998, Sri Lanka: Country WID Profile, JICA

UNDP, 2001, Human Development Report 2001, Oxford University Press

UNICEF, 2000, The State of the World Children 2001, UNICEF

World Bank, 2001, World Development Indicators2001, World Bank

### ◆Contracted consultants & interviewed people

#### Contracted consultants

Name	Position/Address
TEAMS (Pvt) Ltd.	Contracted Consultancy Firm, No.14, Sunathra Lane, Colombo – 05, Tel : 592877
Mrs. Swarna Sumanasekera	WID Specialist & Team Leader Ministry of Women Affairs, 177, Nawala Rd, Narahenpita. Tel : 555072 Res. 28/7, School Lane, Nugegoda. Tel : 823955
Mrs. Kamalika Peiris	Research Officer, No. 4, Pederis Road, Colombo - 03. Tel : 574890
Mrs. Mallikani Daluwatta	Researcher, 17 H, Walpola Road, Angoda. Tel : 569285

#### Interviewed people

##### Government

Name	Position/Address
Dr. K. C. S. Dalpadadu	Deputy Director - Health Ministry of Health "Suwasiripaya" 305, Rev. Baddegama Wimalawansa Thero. Mawatha, Colombo 10. 698471
Ms. Sumana Karunatilaka	Assistant Director - Planning Ministry of Health
Mrs. Jinasseli Gamage	Assistant Director Ministry of Health
Mr. Jayampathi Medis -	Deputy Director Ministry of Health, De Saram Place, Colombo - 10 699149
Ms. P. Jayaweera	Assistant Director Ministry of Health, De Saram Place, Colombo - 10 699149
Statistics Officer	Statistics Officer Ministry of Health, De Saram Place, Colombo - 10
Mrs. Pearl Weerasinghe	Deputy Commissioner Ministry of Labour, Narahenpita, Colombo - 05. 581991

Government (Continued)

Mrs. Laitha Perera	Labour Officer Ministry of Labour, Narahenpita, Colombo - 05. 581991
Mr. A. Kahanda	Deputy Director - Statistics Ministry of Labour, Narahenpita, Colombo - 05.
Mrs. Padminie Ratnayake	General Manager Foreign Employment Bureau, Isipathana Mw, Colombo - 05. Tel :501750 / 592353
Mrs. Kanthi Yapa	Deputy General Manager Foreign Employment Bureau,
Mrs. Karunawathi Menike	Librarian Foreign Employment Bureau,
Mrs. Hema Jayaweera	Additional Secretary Ministry of Education, "Isurupaya", Pelawatta, Battaramulla. Tel : 865141 – 50
Mrs. Radha Seneviratne	Statistician Ministry of Education, "Isurupaya", Pelawatta, Battaramulla.
Mr. S. Samaraweera	Assistant Director - Training Vocational Training Authority of Sri Lanka, Elvitigala Mw. Narahentpita. Colombo 05.
Mrs. Damayanthi Jayasooriya	Planning Officer - Planning Unit Vocational Training Authority of Sri Lanka, Elvitigala Mw. Narahentpita. Colombo 05. 074-510911
Ms. S. Sumanasekera	Secretary (Former) / Librarian Ministry of Women's Affairs, 177, Nawala Rd, Narahenpita. Tel :555072
Mrs. Swarna Niriheella	Department of Agriculture, Deputy Director, Agriculture (Statistics), Ministry of Agriculture, Battaramulla.
Mrs. Soma Jayatunga	Department of Agriculture, Deputy Director, Agriculture (Statistics), Ministry of Agriculture, Battaramulla.
Ms. Nalini Gunasekara	Women's Bureau, Director, Women' Bureau
Mrs. Manel Abeysekera	National Committee on Women, Chairperson, National Committee on Women, No. 177, Nawala Road, Narahenpita.

## **7. Definitions**

### **<Technical Terms>**

#### **Gender**

Analytical concept to clarify the social role of men and women and interrelation between them. Sex (biological) is basically impossible to change, while gender implying the role of men and women and their interrelationship is likely to change according to social notion and sense of values.

#### **Informal sector**

Part of economy consisting of small competitive individual or family firms listed in the labor indicators. According to the definition of ILO, those engaged in this sector have simple technology, insufficient amount of capital, unidentified business location, minimum number of employees (or none of them), lack of legality and registration, and no capability of bookkeeping.

#### **WID (Women in Development)**

Concept of development incorporating women's participation into development processes, taking it into account that women are active agents and beneficiaries of development.

#### **Reproductive health/rights**

Health/Rights concerning sex and reproduction. To be able to live safe and satisfied sex life, and to have freedom to decide whether, when and how many children to deliver.

#### **National machinery**

Administrative organization to promote equal participation between men and women, and to implement and strengthen policies related to women, and to supplement organization for women.

#### **Empowerment**

To empower individuals or groups in political, economical and social sense

#### **Affirmative action**

Prioritized positive measure to promptly correct the difference, in the case that discriminated groups are placed in extremely unequal conditions to other groups, due to the discrimination accumulated in the past

#### **Access and control**

Access is to be able to use resources and services for the economic activity, or to have a right to exercise them. Control is a right to decide how to manage resources and services or to own them.

#### **Reproductive activity**

Activity to "reproduce for the next generation" including to give a birth and raise the children, and to sustain the daily life, for instance, washing and cooking

### **<Indicators>**

#### **Inflation rate**

Instead, GDP deflator is used.

**Gini index**

Aggregate numerical measures of income inequality ranging from 0 to 100. A Gini index of zero represents perfect equality, while an index of 100 implies perfect inequality.

**Percentage of Women's Income**

There are no appropriate data comparable to each country. UNDP works out that the women's income is 75% of men's in non-agricultural sector.

**Total fertility rate**

Average number of children whom a woman delivers in all her life

**Under-one mortality rate**

Annual number of infants who die among 1,000 newborn babies within 1 year after the birth

**Under-five mortality rate**

Annual number of infants who die 1,000 newborn babies within 5 years after the birth

**Maternal mortality rate**

Annual number of mothers who die among 100,000 cases of delivery because of pregnancy

**Percentage of births attended by trained health personnel**

The rate of births with the help of doctors, nurses, midwives, trained health personnel, or trained traditional midwives

**Percentage of infants with low birth weight**

The rate of newborn children of which the birth weight is less than 2,500 grams

**Oral Rehydration Therapy (ORT) use rate**

The rate of using oral rehydrate salt or substitute solution for under-five infants having diarrhea

**Enrolment ratio of primary and secondary school**

Total enrolment ratio (or gross enrolment ratio) is the rate of pupils going to school with no respect to school age against population at the school age. Net enrolment ratio is the rate of pupils going to school at the school age against the people at the school age.