

Sri Lanka is an island blessed with beautiful gifts of nature. Its fertile land, valuable natural resources, conducive climate, decent people and its proud history generate immense pride in us. When thinking of the region you live in, you may have the good fortune to claim that it is gifted with one or more of the assets mentioned above.

This chapter will guide you to study about where your area is situated and the institutions and the people that/who help you.

The location of the region we live in and its administrative system.

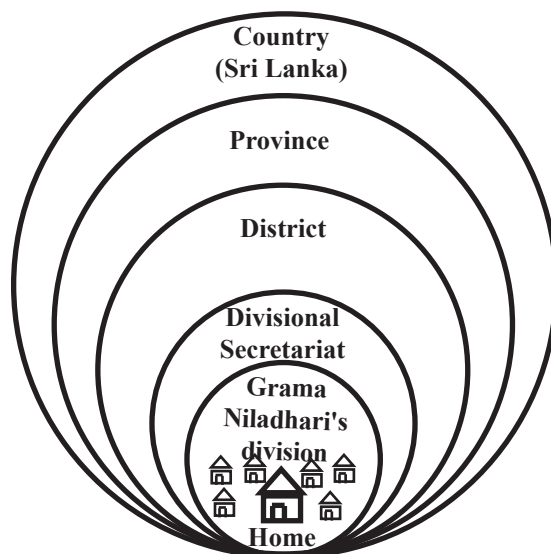


Fig.2.1 Administrative Units of Sri Lanka

Let us get to know the Grama Niladhari's Division

According to the administrative divisions of our country, the smallest administrative unit is the Grama Niladhari's division. By joining one or more villages the Grama Niladhari's division is made. The officer in charge of this is the Grama Niladhari. He functions as the officer maintaining liaison between the people of village and information.



Activity 01

★ Complete the table below.

1. Grama Niladhari's Division your house belongs to	Name:	
	No:	
2. Grama Niladhari's Division your school belongs to	Name:	
	No:	

Divisional Secretariat our region belongs to

The administrative unit developed by joining several Grama Niladharis' divisions is the Divisional Secretariat. Its head is the Divisional Secretary. He/She is the authority responsible for all the official activities of all the Grama Niladharis' Divisions in his region of authority, with the government.



Activity 02

★ What is the name of the Divisional Secretary's Division your region belongs to?

District to which our region belongs

The administrative unit developed by combining several Divisional Secretariats is called a District. Its head is the District Secretary. There are twenty five Administrative Districts in our country and the region you live in belongs to one such Administrative District. Figure 6.2 gives a map of Sri Lanka showing its Administrative Districts.

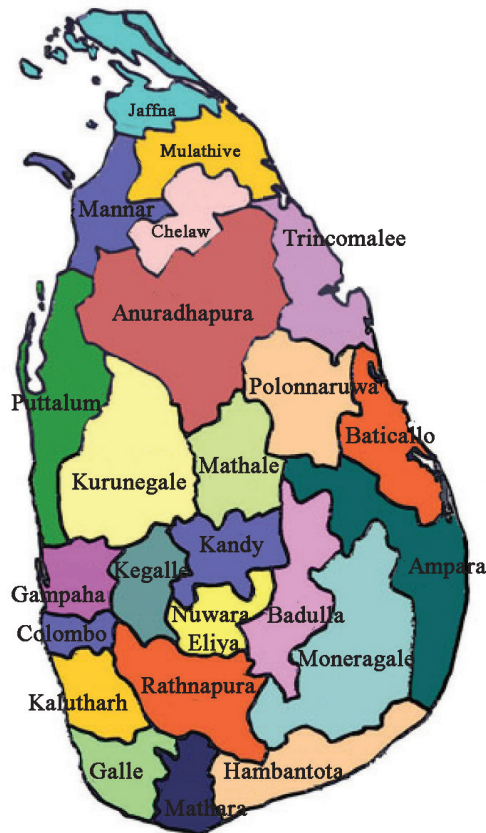


Fig: 2.2 Administrative Districts of Sri Lanka



Activity 03

- ★ Based on the map above, mark on a map of Sri Lanka the district to which the region you live in belongs.

Province to which we belong

Sri Lanka comprises nine main provinces and each province is made up of several Districts. Map No. 6.2 shows the province – wise division of Sri Lanka. Using it, identify correctly the province in which the region you live in, is located.

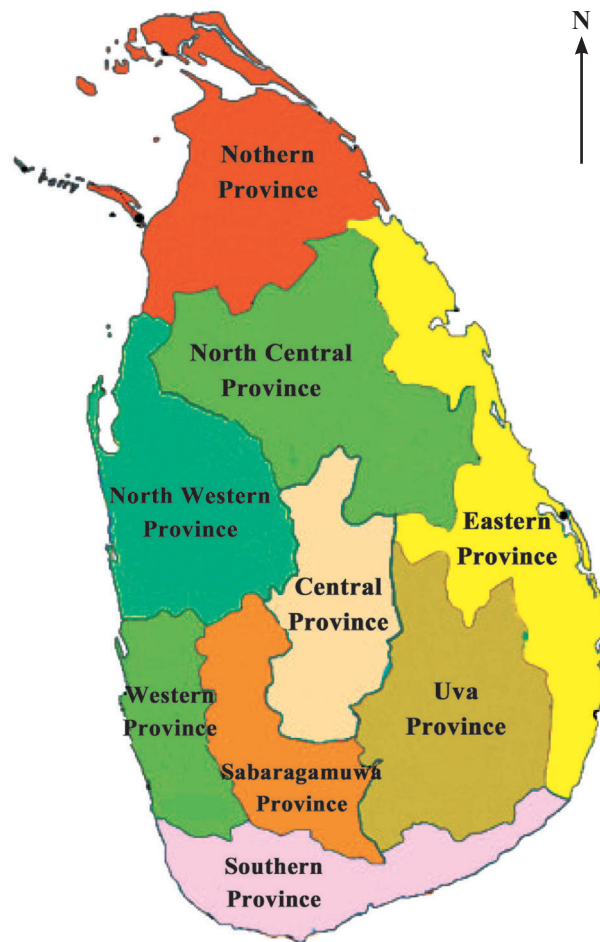


Fig: 2.3 Provinces of Sri Lanka



Activity 04

- Based on the administrative units you learned about, describe correctly the location of your Province.

The physical resources in our province

Physical resources are made up of two main parts. That is, as natural resources and resources that are not natural. The sunlight we receive, fresh air, clean water, soil, hills, valleys, plains, jungles, beaches, rivers, waterfalls, lagoons etc are among the natural resources.

Resources created by man are resources that are not natural. Buildings, vehicles, equipment etc are examples of these. Figure No. 6.4

shows a few of our physical resources. Since these are essential for man's existence, it is your greatest responsibility that they are safeguarded as life itself.

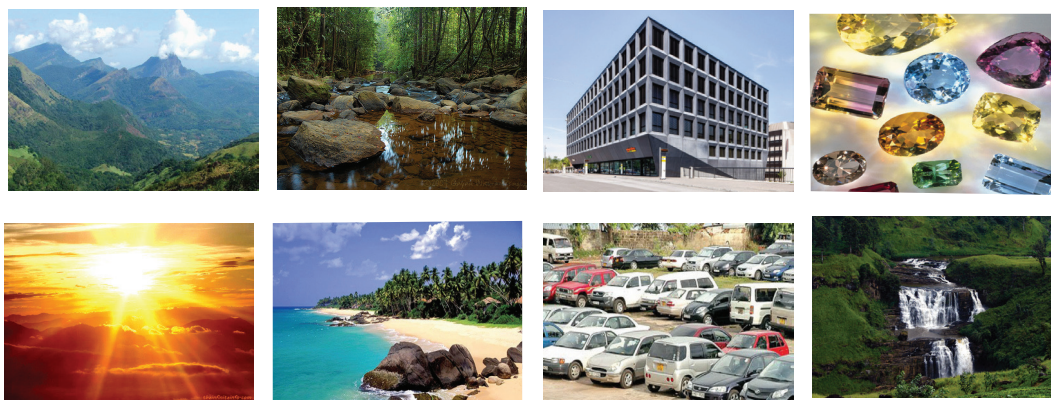


Fig: 2.4

A large number of resources can be seen in the region we live in. Sunlight, air, water, the earth, buildings are some of the resources common to the all areas. However, there are some resources which become unique to a particular area. For example, rivers, streams, forests, waterfalls, mountains, plains and minerals etc.



Activity 05

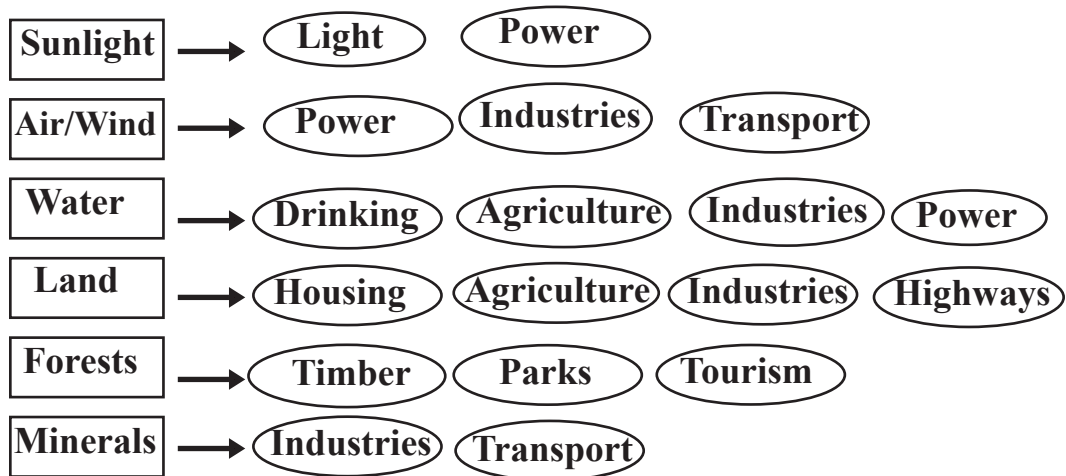
- Prepare a document on the main physical resources to be seen in your region.
- Prepare a creative hand-out containing information on the resources identified by you.
- Observe well the flora to be seen in your region and complete the table below.

Names of the types of trees	Special characteristics
1.
2.
3.
4.

- Observe the animals always seen in your region and prepare a document about them.

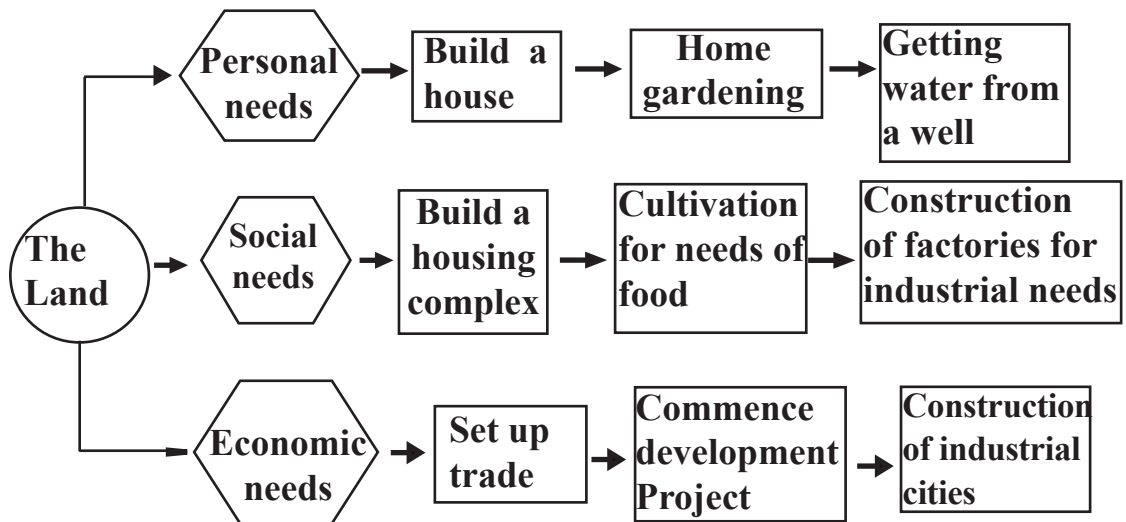
- **Let us use the resources in our region effectively.**

Several of the uses of physical resources are given below.



2.1 Diagram

Diagram 2.2 shows how physical resources are utilized for personal, social, socio-economic needs of the neighbouring region.



2.2 - Diagram

Photographs under fig (6.5) shows that several of the physical resources in the region around us are employed for human needs.



Fig: 2.5

Recall instances where various physical resources are made use of in your region. Recall that they have to be made use of most effectively and frugally as a matter of extreme importance. Just as bees collect honey from the flower without harming it, it is the duty of man that he uses the resources gifted by nature so as to cause them no damage. In order to ensure the existence of a conducive environment, this is essential.



Activity 06

- ★ Complete the table below based on the physical resources in your region that you make use of

Resource	Purpose for which it is made use of
• The Land
• Water
• Minerals
• Other

Let us conserve resources

The physical resources in our region perform an immense service for the existence of man and to satisfy his needs. Therefore, it is our duty to safeguard them for the well-being of the environment and to hand it over to future generations. A number of problems have arisen due to the improper use of the land, air, water, rivers, streams, forests, wild life etc by man. These problems pose a threat not only to the existence of man as well as to the existence of the environment. Therefore, it is important that we think of the service physical resources render to man and inculcate positive attitudes to their conservation.

Procedures that can be followed to conserve physical resources

- Conservation of forests
eg. Planting of trees
- Making maximum use of resources
eg. Reuse, recycling
- Minimizing wastage of resources
eg. Water, electricity, fuel
- Soil conservation
eg. Building of bunds, drains for water to flow down
- Refraining from adding non – bio degradable material to the soil.
eg. Polythene
- Avoiding burning of waste
eg. Straw, plastic

- Filling up of location where minerals have been mined.
eg. Filling in of earth quarries, filling of gem mines.
- Use of alternate materials
eg. Concrete in place of timber, plastic



Activity 07

- Select one physical resource in your region and suggest actions that can be taken to conserve it.
- Present in the form of a poster or drawing the above activity implemented according to your suggestion.

Our human resources

People living in the area are a resource to us. Man becomes a human resource by developing his intellectual as well as his physical abilities. In our area a number of such resources can be identified.

A multitude of resources like farmers, teachers, doctors, nurses, masons, carpenters, engineers including technicians and mechanics, government workers, researchers and scientists, aesthetes, media people, athletes etc help us.



Activity 08

- Identify the human resources seen in these photographs and name them.





- Identify the human resources living in your area and prepare a document.
- Prepare and present a table containing the human resources in your area and their uses.

How the value of the human resources can be increased

Man is from birth endowed with certain abilities. They can be identified as intellectual abilities, physical abilities, social abilities etc. It is important that man's inborn abilities are improved and that they are formally practised. For this purpose various courses and training programs are implemented in the society around the area. Through these the individual can improve one's abilities and develop the ability to build up the vocational world around him.

The note below shows the uses got by training human resources systematically.



2.3 Diagram
for free distribution

Regional economical affairs

The people in your area have different kinds of occupations. Most of them are based on the resources of your area. There are people who engage in agriculture basing it on the land. At the same time you may find some people who engage in many other industries based on the various resources in your area. These industries provide different types of products to the market.

You may find the persons who engage in poultry, business and other occupations in your area. Think about the economic affairs in your area.



Activity 09

- Get to know about the institutes that conducts professional development courses in your area.
- Prepare a document containing the training courses conducted by these institutes.
- Prepare a poster containing the information above and exhibit it in the classroom.
- Complete the following table.

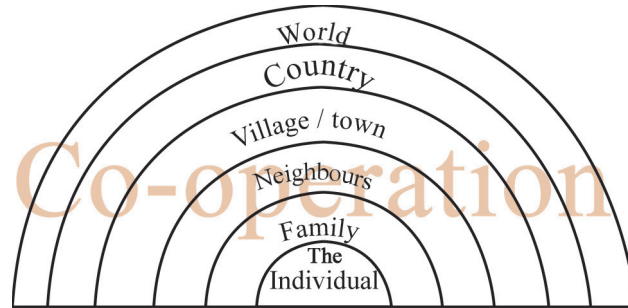
Resources in the area.	Products related to resources	Professions related to products
Eg: mud	bricks	Brick Making.
1		
2		

2.2 Living co-operatively with the People of the area

From the origin of human society, man did not have enough courage to face various challenges such as hunting animals. He did not have sharp vision, sense of scent, strong arms and jaws that are needed for hunting animals, nor sharp canine teeth or nails. He was not extremely capable of running, swimming, flying and climbing trees. Therefore, he needed the others assistance in search of food and find protection.

When people started living co-operatively, human society was born, and their co-operative existence caused building up of a developed human civilization.

You also have worked co-operatively with your neighbours and villagers. For instance, co-operativity can be seen at sramadana campaigns, religious festivals, funerals and at sudden disasters. The support of others eases the work at the work place and the school.



2.4 Diagram

According to the diagram above, you would have understood that co-operation spreads across a wide range.



Fig: 2.6 Situations where people work in co-operation in the area.



Activity 10

- Write about three situations where people in your area work in co-operation.
- Out of them, select one and write a short play and produce it along with your friends.
- All of you in the class get together and carry out a co-operative activity for the benefit of your school. Discuss your experience with the other students in the class.

Uses of working in co-operation



2.5 Diagram



Activity 11

- Discuss in your class the qualities developed through working co-operatively, based on an experience of yours.

2.3 Those who help us

When living in society we need the assistance of outside individuals and institutions in order to fulfill our needs. Several institutions and service providers are active in society for these purpose.



Activity 12

- ★ Prepare a document on the government officers who provide various services for the people of the area you live in.
- ★ Create a poster on the services provided by a selected few of these officers.

Given below is a description and services of six government officers who help you. Understand it and name the relevant officer.

The officer who performs a number of services like confirming the residence of villages, distribution of state relief, takes action against illegal activities, collects necessary information regarding residents is

The officer responsible for the control of infectious diseases, health inspection of students, inform people regarding health / medical clinics, implements inoculation programs etc. is

The officer who makes arrangements to provide relief funds, conducting programmes to uplift the status of life of poor people, conducting projects to develop villages is

The officer who gives advice on protecting maternal and child health, conducts nutrition programmes for children, gives inoculation at maternal and children's clinics, is

The officer who assists you by protecting the rules and regulations enacted by the government, protecting peace, arranges assistance in sudden disasters, is

The officer who helps you by delivering letters and parcels sent to you, delivers election cards etc is

Institutions that help us

There are a number of Government and non-Government institutions that assist in the satisfaction of public and official needs of the people, to be seen in the area you live in. Let us study the services of a selected few of them.

Divisional Secretariat

All services due to the public living in the region by the government are rendered by this institution. Several examples of these are given below.

- Issue of Birth Certificates
- Approval of Grama Seva Certificates
- Issue of licenses. eg : Felling of trees, Transport, Income licenses, State Land licenses, Environment permits.
- Provision of relief.
- Implementation of relevant activities regarding payments of pensions.
- Issue of identity cards.



Activity 13

- Inquire from members of your family about the services they got from the Divisional Secretariat and note them.

Local Government Institutions

Municipal Councils

An extremely complex urban region is known as the municipality. There are several such regions in our country. Examples of these are Colombo, Kandy, Jaffna, Kurunegala, Nuwara Eliya, Dehiwala Mt. Lavinia. The head of these is the Mayor. Given below are a few services rendered by the Municipal Council.

- Cleaning and maintenance of streets.
- Reconstruction of water-ways and removal of garbage.
- Maintenance of the market and public health.
- Maintenance of playgrounds, libraries and parks.
- Construction and maintenance of public amenities.
- Maintenance of street lights.



Activity 14

- ★ Write down the name of the Municipal Council close to you.
 - ★ Out of the services below select the services provided by the Municipal Council and mark (☑) in the box against it
- Provision of transport facilities ☐
 - Cleaning and maintenance of the streets of the city ☐
 - Removal of garbage, protection of public health ☐
 - Construction of buildings ☐
 - Maintenance of public markets, city parks, libraries ☐
 - Provision of lighting and water service to public places ☐

Urban Councils

Region though less in population and complexity but are urbanized, are called Urban Councils. Its head is the Chairman. Given below are a few of the services provided by the Urban Council in your neighbourhood.

- Provision of public health services
- Maintenance of libraries, sports grounds, parks, public toilets etc.
- Systematization of water supply and drainage.
- Control and maintenance streets and public buildings.
- Disposal of garbage, cleaning of the city.

Provincial Councils

Rural areas that do not belong to Urban Councils and semi-urban areas belong to Provincial Councils.

- Construction and maintenance of roadways in one's region of operations.
- Improvement and implementation of bathing ferries, trade centers.
- Disposal of garbage and cleaning of streets and roads in the area.
- Approval of building construction.
- Maintenance of social welfare activities, are a few of the numerous services rendered by these bodies.



Activity 15

- ★ Inquire about the services rendered by the Provincial Council situated close to your home or school and complete the information below.
- Name of the Provincial Council :
- If the services below are provided by the Provincial Council to the public mark (☑) if not mark (☒) in the box provided.

Cleaning and maintenance of roadways	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proper disposal of garbage	<input type="checkbox"/>
Collection of taxes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lighting of streets and public places	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintain libraries and pre-schools	<input type="checkbox"/>
Charge trade taxes	<input type="checkbox"/>

Hospitals



Fig: 2.7

The hospital is the main institution that provides its services twenty four hours of the day for the protection of the health of the public. Doctors, nurses, as well as the entire staff of the hospital provides a most efficient service in order to provide relief when one is struck by disease or has been the

victim of an accident. Government Hospitals provide all these services to the public free of charge. Government allocates a large amount of money for providing these services.

Services rendered by places of religious worship



Fig: 2.8

People of various ethnic groupings live in Sri Lanka. As such there are different places of religious worship in our neighbourhood.

It is a pleasure to hear the pirith chanting from one side of the country while hearing the echoing sound of

Holy Koran from another side. Same as we hear the choirs from the church and the jingling bells from the kovil nearby. This is the religious co-existence and the identity of our country; Sri Lanka.

Services provided by places of religious worship

- ★ Provide knowledge of the Dhamma.
- ★ Disciplining by teaching ethics.
- ★ Conduct religious rituals, services, offerings.
- ★ Blessing in order to make personal life effective.
- ★ Help cultivate spiritual values.
- ★ Provide leadership at weddings and bereavements
- ★ Provide leadership in public activities.
- ★ Take the lead regarding national needs.
- ★ Provide advice and blessings
- ★ Ensure inter-racial unity.



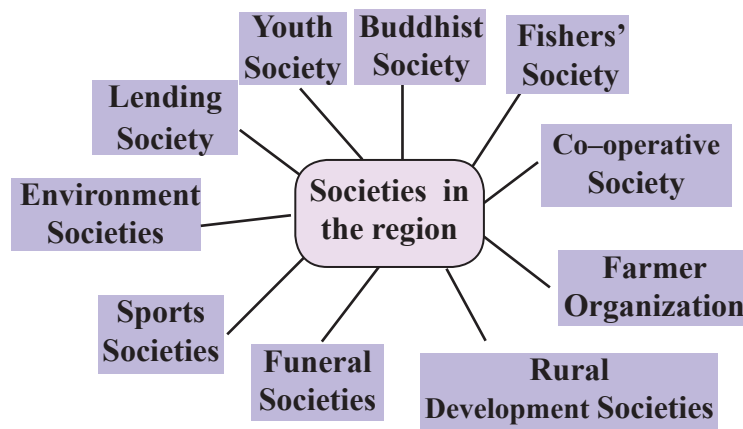
Activity 16

- ★ Prepare a register of the various places of religious worship in your area.

- ★ Give several examples of services provided by the places of religious worship in your area.
- ★ Get together with the other students in your class and organize a cleaning campaign or shramadhana to cater to the needs of a place of religious worship in your area.

★ **Societies and associations in our area**

Societies and associations in society take action to cater to the social, economic, cultural and environmental needs of the people. These can be classified as Government, Non – Government, voluntary societies. Examples of a few such societies are given below.



2.6 Diagram

The office bearers and members of all these societies work in order to satisfy the common needs of the people of their area. Through these societies a great number of services like the development of the mutual goodwill between the people, working in co-operation and understanding, solving common problems etc. are provided.

Activity 17

- ★ Name several societies that the people of your area have got together and set up
- ★ Select one of these and explain the services provided by it to the public.

Services Provided by the Societies in Region

Society	Services Provided
Co – operative society	Subsidized trade/ Purchase of agricultural material
Farmer societies	Provide advice/ Provide subsidies/ Provision welfare services
Fishery societies	Purchase/ Provide welfare services
Rural Development societies	Development work in the area
Funeral societies	Funeral services/ Provision of welfare services



Activity 18

- ★ All the students of your class get together and set up, a Children's Society.
- ★ Through the Children's Society you set up, implement a program for the improvement of the abilities and talents of students in your class.

Duties of the institutions that provide us with services

- Proper provision of one's services
- Functioning efficiently
- Provision of correct advice and guidance
- Acting without a bias
- Functions so as to be fair by everybody
- Being friendly when working with the people
- Avoiding wrong doing in what one does

Duties of us who receive services

- Payment of taxes correctly
- Providing necessary participation, when rendering service
- Following advice and guidance, correctly
- Protecting institutions and the property of institutions providing service
- Avoiding obtaining services by improper means
- Maintaining friendly relations with service providers
- Appreciating services provided by them and thanking them for the service



Activity 19

- Select an institution that provides services to your area and discuss the duties due from you for such service.

Summary

When contributing to the development of the country, it is very important to have good awareness of the area we live in, we identified the Grama Niladhri's division, divisional secretariat, district and the province we belong to. We were able to identify the physical resources and how they can be used in the social and economic needs and how to economize them. Human resource is the most precious resource and it can be divided as intellectual and physical abilities. We can develop its quality through training.

The economic affairs in the region can be divided into agricultural affairs, industrial affairs and services. Most of the time, these affairs are base on the human and physical resources of the region.

The co-operative living of the people in a particular area contribute to the advancement of both region and the family. There are many examples of such occasions, where the work becomes easy resulting in many advantages.

There are many individual and group organizations which support the people. Religious institutions, public institutions and provincial councils are very important. Government officers and many others have been connected to that network. Many needs of the area are fulfilled by this. These institutions and people help the general public in the social and economic affairs and spiritual development. Apart from these institutions various associations and committees also help the people in their needs. The institutions and the individuals who receive the services should perform their duties. By studying this chapter you can understand that through inter relationship we can expect the development of individuals as well as society.