

3

Spatial Changes of Development in Sri Lanka



Development is a continuous process. It differs from country to country and from region to region. Different indicators are used to measure development. The main objectives of this chapter are, identifying the indicators and examining the spatial changes of the development in Sri Lanka, based on these indicators.

Development

Development is the improvement of the quality of life of people in economic, social and cultural aspects. There are many different definitions of Development. The UNESCO declaration on development is,

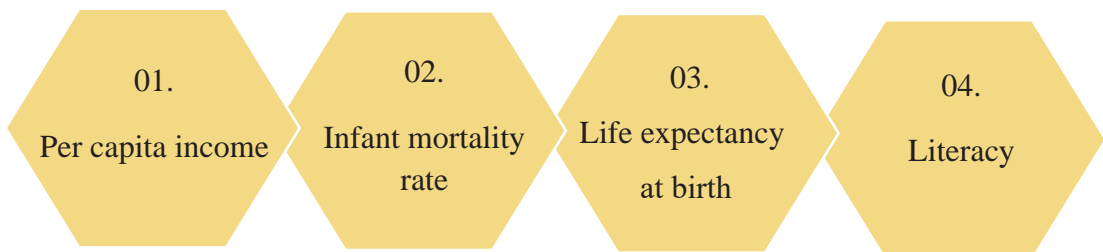
1978 - UNESCO Declaration

In a country social development should take place along with economic development. Social development should take place within sectors encompassing food and nutrients, health, education, housing, social security, clothing, leisure and human freedom.

According to this definition, development means, giving a better standard of living to the people of a country with improved economic, social and cultural standards. The definition of Development changes from time to time. Development changes from region to region and from country to country. There are several indicators to reflect these changes.

Indicators used to measure Development

Different countries utilise different indicators to measure Development in the world. The following indicators are important among them,



Living conditions of people and how it differs from region to region can be made clear using these indicators. Such regional changes can be identified as spatial changes.

Per capita income

The amount of money that is being earned per person in a country in a given period is called per capita income.

It is calculated as given below;

$$\text{Per Capita Income} = \frac{\text{Total income of the country}}{\text{Midyear population}}$$

Income of the population of the country can be calculated by this indicator. If the per capita income rises in a country, people can have the benefit of good living conditions.

Infant mortality rate

Infant mortality rate is the number of deaths of infants under the age one year per 1000 live births. Infant mortality rate of a country reflects the health and medical facilities and level of nutrition level in a country.

Life expectancy at birth

Life expectancy is the average time a new born is expected to live. The condition of health facilities and their distribution in a country, food and level of nutrition, good health practices, distribution of facilities for sports and leisure of the country can be identified by these indicators.

Literacy

Literacy is the ability of reading and writing of individuals above 15 years of age. This is calculated as a percentage of the whole population over 15 years old.

$$\text{Literacy} = \frac{\text{Number of people above 15 years of age who has ability to read and write}}{\text{The total population over 15 years old}} \times 100$$

Literacy indicators reflect the distribution of facilities of schools, education and poverty.

Spatial variations in Development in Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka is a developing country but regional differences also can be seen. Let us examine these differences according to each indicator.

Per capita income can be used to understand the uneven distribution of the income of people within Sri Lanka regionally. Monthly per capita income in 2009 in Sri Lanka is about Rs. 36,451. Table 3.1 depicts the regional differences in the country.

Table 3.1 – Per capita income by districts of Sri Lanka - 2009

District	Monthly per capita income in Rs.	District	Monthly per capita income in Rs.
Colombo	51,070	Kilinochchi	No details received
Gampaha	48,870	Batticaloa	22,844
Kalutara	35,780	Ampara	24,721
Kandy	33,063	Tricomalee	24,291
Matale	30,013	Kurunegala	36,922
Nuwara Eliya	31,029	Puttalam	32,918
Galle	31,376	Anuradhapura	37,586
Matara	30,980	Polonnaruwa	31,526
Hambantota	36,879	Badulla	32,313
Jaffna	18,917	Monaragala	22,161
Mannar	No details received	Ratnapura	41,312
Vavuniya	39,640	Kegalle	29,342
Mulatiu	No details received	Sri Lanka	36,451

Source : *Sri Lanka Human Development Report 2012*

It is clear that per capita income differs according to Districts.

According to World Bank Reports, infant mortality rate was 8.4 in the year 2015. Still there are regional differences in infant mortality rate. The table 3.2 shows the distribution of infant mortality rate according to the districts of Sri Lanka in 2010.

Table 3.2 - Infant Mortality Rate in the Districts of Sri Lanka - 2010

District	Infant Mortality Rate - 2010	District	Infant Mortality Rate - 2010
Colombo	14.1	Mulative	No details received
Gampaha	02.7	Batticaloa	25.1
Kalutara	03.3	Ampara	04.5
Kandy	11.1	Tricomalee	02.5
Matale	07.2	Kurunegala	09.7
Nuwara Eliya	14.8	Puttalam	07.0
Galle	09.9	Anuradhapura	10.3
Matara	09.4	Polonnaruwa	04.6
Hambantota	04.3	Badulla	06.2
Jaffna	03.0	Monaragala	03.6
Kilinochchi	00.9	Ratnapura	05.7
Mannar	03.5	Kegalle	05.7
Vavuniya	08.6		

Source : Sri Lanka Human Development Report 2012

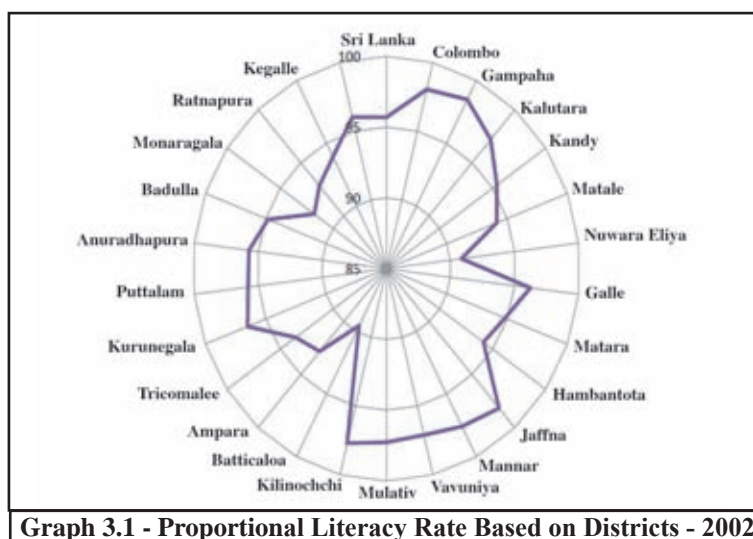
There are regional differences even in life expectancy. The life expectancy of the whole population of Sri Lanka is about 74.2. This differs according to the gender. Life expectancy of women is 78.6 while it is 72 of males. When considering the life expectance rate of different districts, these changes can be clearly understood.

Table 3.3 - Life Expectancy at birth according to the districts of Sri Lanka - 2002

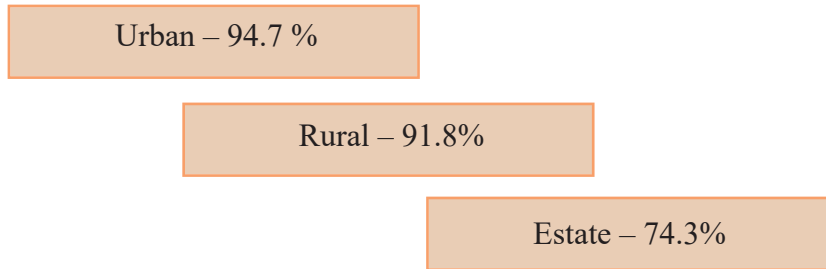
District	Male	Female	District	Male	Female
Colombo	61.9	71.9	Badulla	68.9	75.4
Gampaha	71.5	80.4	Kegalle	72.5	80
Kalutara	72.7	80.2	Kilinochchi	No details received	No details received
Kandy	67.3	75	Batticaloa	66.8	73.8
Matale	70.7	77.5	Ampara	70.3	75.9
Nuwara Eliya	70.8	74.7	Tricomalee	68.5	74.2
Galle	70.5	78.4	Kurunegala	68.9	78
Matara	73.5	80.4	Puttalam	69.1	78.9
Hambantota	76.9	82.3	Anuradhapura	66.5	76.1
Jaffna	No details received	No details received	Polonnaruwa	68.9	77.6
Mannar	No details received	No details received	Badulla	75.2	80.5
Vavuniya	No details received	No details received	Monaragala	72	78.4
Mulatiu	No details received	No details received	Ratnapura	73.7	78.7

Source : *Sri Lanka Human Development Report 2012*

It is clear that there are differences regionally according to the indicators of literary rate. Although Sri Lanka has a higher literacy rate among South Asian countries, there are changes in according to various districts. (Graph 3.1)



Literacy rate differs according to the urban, rural and estate sectors in Sri Lanka.



By this, It is clear that the proportional literacy rate is high in urban areas where there are more facilities.

Activities

1. Explain what Development is.
2. Name four indicators that are used to measure the level of development.
3. Explain briefly how per capita income, infant mortality rate and literacy affect the position of development of a country.

References

- Human Geography I - II Educational Publications Department
- Annual Report of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka - 2015
- Protection of water Recourse - 2015 Sarath Amarasiri
- Household Income and Expenditure Survey 2012/2013 - Final Report, Department of Census and Statistics
- Sri Lanka Human Development Report - 2012

Glossary

• Development indices	- සංවර්ධන දර්ශක	- அபிவிருத்திக் குறிகாட்டிகள்
• Per capita income	- லீக றீர்஑ ஁஁஁஁஁஁	- தலா வருமானம்
• Infant mortality rate	- ஁஁஁஁ ஁஁஁஁ ஁஁஁஁஁஁	- சிசுமரண வீதம்
• Life expectancy at birth	- ஁஁஁஁ ஁஁஁஁ ஁஁஁஁஁஁	- பிறப்பில் ஆயுள் எதிர்பார்ப்பு
• Literacy	- ஁஁஁஁஁஁஁஁	- எழுத்தறிவு அபிவிருத் தியில் இடம்சார்
• Spatial variations in development	- ஁஁஁஁஁஁஁஁ ஁஁஁஁஁஁஁஁஁஁஁஁஁஁	- மாற்றம்