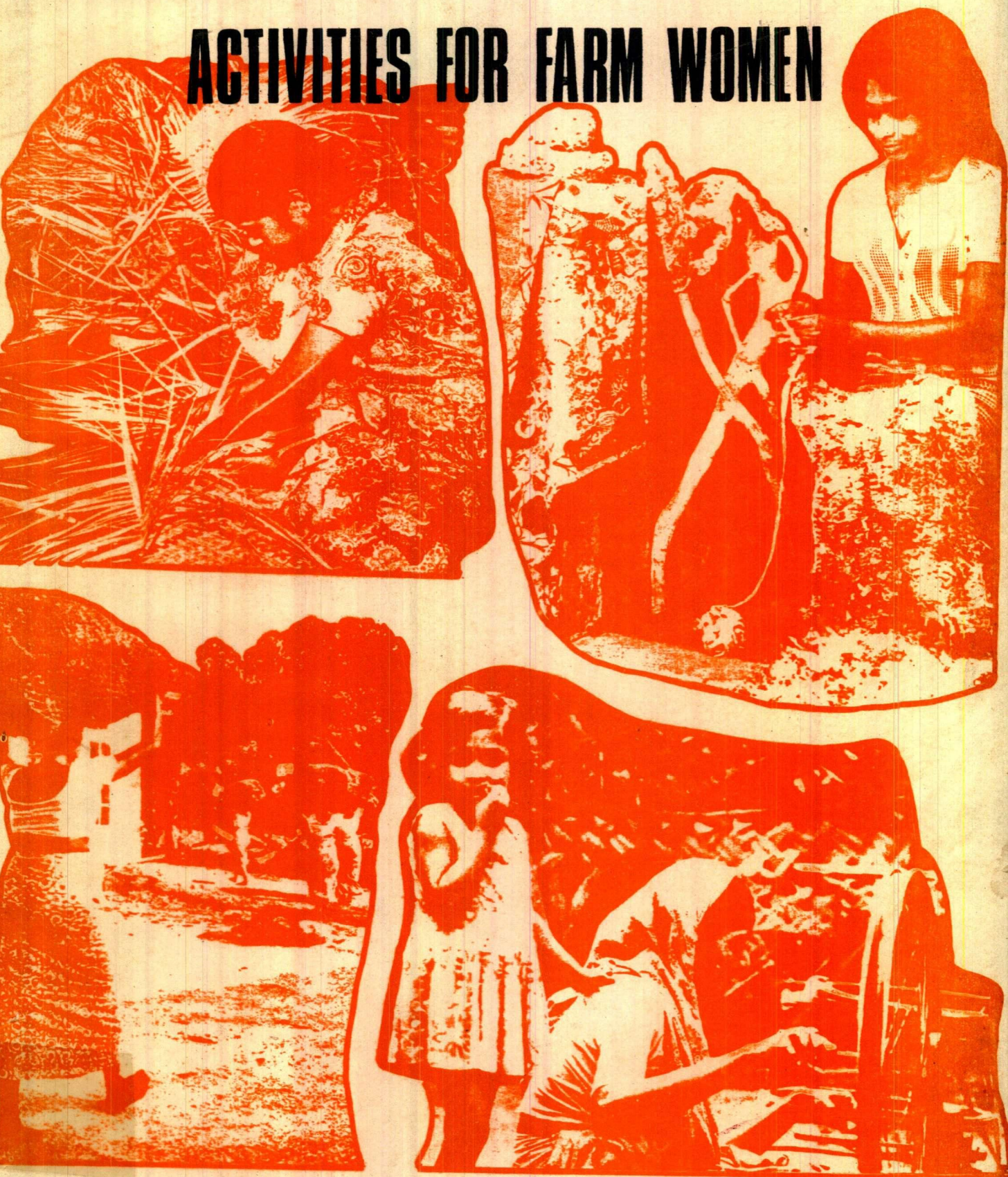


STUDY OF INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES FOR FARM WOMEN



AGRARIAN RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE

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C.M.Wijayaratne
A.M.T. Gunawardana
Samir Asmar

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(A study carried out by ARTI in collaboration with the
Farm Women's Agricultural Extension Project of the
Department of Agriculture)

C. M. Wijayaratne
A. M. T. Gunawardana
Samir Asmar



Agrarian Research & Training Institute
114 Wijerama Mawatha, Colombo 7.

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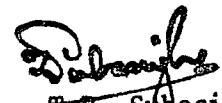
FOREWORD

The role of farm women has been traditionally accepted as attending to household work, preparing food for the family and assisting in farming operations. This picture is fast changing with more and more females taking up employment outside the farm. The earnings from their employment is an important source of income to most families.

The rural women in Sri Lanka have not received the attention that they rightfully deserve from researchers. Hence, there is a serious dearth of research information on this subject. It is hoped that this study, though in a limited way, will provide some insight into the activities of farm women in Sri Lanka.

The study attempts to examine the role of farm women in farming and household work, their employment in agricultural and non-agricultural activities, extent of unemployment and underemployment, the skills possessed by them and the extent of utilisation of those skills for employment purposes. The report consists of five separate village studies followed by a comparative analysis of the cases. The data collection for the study was done in the first half of 1976.

This study was undertaken by a team of researchers from ARTI with Mr. C.M. Wijayaratne as its co-ordinator. It was done in collaboration with the Farm Women Extension Service of the Department of Agriculture. Our thanks are due to them for their co-operation.


F.B. Subasinghe
Director

February 1978.

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STUDY OF INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES FOR FARM WOMEN

Introduction and Methodology

The majority of rural people in the country are engaged in agriculture. But several studies have indicated a high level of unemployment and under-employment among the rural adults. There is, however, difficulty in assessing the levels of unemployment and under-employment in the rural areas as there is often no sharp distinction between work and leisure. Even the people who do not have regular work may not actively seek extra work. Disguised employment also exists in rural areas since many of the jobs performed are carried out at home. This is indicative of many handicraft industries where the home is considered the work place.

The contribution of rural women to the household has been traditionally accepted as assistance in farming operations, home management and the preparation of food for the family. However, in the present operational structure of the family farm in this country, the women's contribution to the development of the farming enterprise will remain rather limited. Therefore, it is rather imperative that new opportunities for women's employment in and outside agriculture should be explored. At present, there is a dearth of information regarding the work and leisure patterns of the female rural population and this study is intended to achieve the following objectives.

Objectives

The general objective of this study is to identify opportunities for the employment of rural women both within and outside agriculture. The specific objectives of the study based on the above general objectives are :

- (1) To examine the division of labour in the farm households;
- (2) To ascertain the present skills and experiences of rural women which could be utilised in possible income generating activities.

- (3) To examine the opportunities for more intensive employment of rural women in agriculture;
- (4) To identify the infra-structure existing/ needed for the development of employment opportunities outside agriculture for rural women;
- (5) To ascertain the scope of activities of voluntary and non-voluntary organisations assisting rural women in gainful employment;
- (6) To identify specific income generating activities on or off the farm for rural women for further development by the Farm Women Extension Service of the Department of Agriculture.

The study was conducted in collaboration with the Farm Women Extension Service of the Department of Agriculture. It was carried out in five pre-selected areas where Farm Women Extension Officers were working.

Selection of Areas and Sample

Of the 16 areas where extension officers of the Farm Women Extension Service are operating the following 5 areas were purposively selected :

- | | | | |
|-----|--------------|---|---|
| (1) | Kuliyapitiya | - | Representing the coconut area |
| (2) | Rajangana | - | Representing a dry zone colonisation scheme |
| (3) | Jaffna | - | Representing the Jaffna peninsula |
| (4) | Beminiwatte | - | Representing the mid country wet zone |
| (5) | Kandupalatha | - | Representing the Kandyan areas. |

Lists of villages where the Farm Women Extension Officers of these areas had their extension programmes were obtained and two villages from each of the above areas were selected at random from the lists of villages provided. Except in Jaffna the villages selected from each area came under one Agricultural Productivity Committee area. A random sample of 30 households from each village was selected for the purpose of the study. The householders list was used as the frame.

The villages selected were¹ :

- | | | | |
|-----|--------------|---|--|
| (1) | Kuliyapitiya | - | Weerambuwa and Madakumburumulla |
| (2) | Rajangana | - | Left bank tract 3 and 2, Left bank tract 1 |
| (3) | Jaffna | - | Periyapalai and Sithankerny |
| (4) | Beminiwatte | - | Nankurugama and Kongamuwa |
| (5) | Kandupalatha | - | Ratmeewela and Mamudawela |

The collection of data was done by the Farm Women Extension Officers in the respective areas.

1

For convenience of discussion, the terms Kuliyapitiya, Rajangana, Jaffna, Beminiwatte and Kandupalatha will be used in the text to identify the respective study areas. These terms also denote the range areas of Farm Women Extension Officers.

1. STUDY AREA - KULIYAPITIYA

1.1 Personal Characteristics

Family Size, Age and Education

The study revealed that out of the 60 households, 57% had between 5-7 members and a little over a quarter had 2-4 members while the remainder (15%) had a family size of over 8. The total family members of the 60 households between the age of 14 and 65 was 216. Of these 117 were females and 99 were males. Thus on the average each household had two female members belonging to this age group. The proportion of female population in these villages was slightly higher when compared to the figure given in the 1971 census for the area.

As for the age groups of males and females, Table 1.1 shows a higher proportion of females in the age group 14-20 and a similar higher proportion of males in the age group of 46-65.

Table 1.1 Distribution of respondents of age group 14-65 by their age

Age Group	Females		Males		Total	
	N = 117		N = 99		N = 216	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
14 - 20	34	29	19	19	53	25
21 - 30	30	26	25	25	55	25
31 - 45	35	30	29	30	64	30
46 - 65	18	15	26	26	44	20
Total	117	100	99	100	216	100

As for the educational attainment of family members, Table 1.2 shows that 12% and 8% of females and males respectively have had no schooling. 80% of those with no schooling were above 35 years of age. None of them belong to the 14-20 age group. Although not significant, it is important to note that more female members have had a higher education ('O' Level and above) when compared to males.

Table 1.2 Distribution of family members of
the age group 14-65 by their education

	Females		Males	
	N = 117		N = 99	
	No.	%	No.	%
No schooling	14	12	8	8
Upto Grade 5	32	27	26	26
Grade 6 to 'O' level	42	36	44	45
Passed 'O' level and above	29	25	21	21
Total	117	100	99	100

1.2 Division of Labour

In determining the division of labour of members of the households, Table 1.3 reveals that 48% of the males are full-time farmers, while 32% are engaged full-time in off-farm non-agricultural activities. (This category also includes students). No males are employed in off-farm agricultural activities on a full-time basis, while only 10% are employed in off-farm agricultural activities on a part-time basis. It is seen that 80 of the 99 males (80%) are engaged on a full-time basis either in agricultural or non-agricultural activities.

With reference to female employment, only 3% are employed on their own farm on a full-time basis, while 26% and 40% reported their involvement on a full-time basis in off-farm non-agricultural activities and household and home aspects respectively. The Table shows that 47 females are engaged in household chores on a full-time basis and 22 on a part-time basis spending more than one-third of the time. Considering the number of households (60 in number) the above figures indicate the need for one full-time female member to attend to household matters in each household. Since there are two female members of the age group 14-65 years per household on the average, it could be assumed that one female is available for outside employment.

Another important factor with regard to female employment is that 37% of the female members are employed on a part-time basis in their own farms. The number of female members employed in this manner when expressed as a percentage of the number of farmers, both full-time and part-time, works out to 65%. Thus the contribution of female members to farming is substantial.

With regard to unemployment among the family members, although there is very little total unemployment (none of the females and only 2% of males), there is under-employment of both females and males. 35% and 22% of females and males have reported under-employment. When considering the magnitude

of under-employment it is seen that it is more acute in the case of females; 26% of females were unemployed more than one-third of the time, while the corresponding figure for males was 7%.

Table 1.3 Distribution of family members of the age group 14-65 by the allocation of time for various activities
Females N = 117 and Males N = 99

		Farm- ing (own farm)		Off-farm (agri- culture)		Off-farm (non-ag- riculture)		House- hold work		Leisure time (not employed)	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Full-time	Females	3	3	-	-	31	26	47	40	-	-
	Males	48	48	-	-	32	32	-	-	2	2
Part-time more than 1/3 of time	Females	33	28	-	-	5	4	22	19	30	26
	Males	20	20	7	7	12	12	-	-	7	7
Part-time less than 1/3 of time	Females	11	9	1	1	-	-	8	7	10	9
	Males	1	1	3	3	2	2	1	1	15	15

The following observations may be made when the employment of female members is examined in relation to the age groups (Table 1.4):

- (a) The contribution of female labour to farming comes from those above 20 years of age; to be more specific from the above 35 years age group;
- (b) Off-farm agricultural activities contribute very little by way of employment for female members;
- (c) The majority of the members engaged in off-farm non-agricultural activities belong to the 14-20 and 20-35 age groups; the former group being higher as students are also included in this group;
- (d) The contribution to household work comes mainly from the female members above 20 years of age. Their contribution was mostly on a full-time basis. The contribution of female members of the 14-20 age group was smaller and was mostly on a part-time basis.

Table 1.4 Distribution of female members according to age and employment

		Farm- ing (own farm)	Off- farm agri- cul- ture	Off-farm non-agri- culture (including students)	House- hold work	Leisure time (not em- ployed)	No. of respon- dents in each age group
14-20	Full-time	0	0	15 (44%)	4	0	34 (100%)
	Part-time	6 (18%)	1 (3%)	12 (35%)	13 (38%)	12 (35%)	
20-35	Full-time	0	0	10 (24%)	27 (64%)	0	42 (100%)
	Part-time	12 (29%)	1 (2%)	0	3 (7%)	12 (29%)	
Over 35	Full-time	2 (5%)	0	3 (7%)	31 (76%)	1 (2%)	41 (100%)
	Part-time	25 (61%)	1 (2%)	0	8 (20%)	16 (39%)	

1.3 Present Employment Pattern of Family Members

Of the 46 males who were involved in off-farm activities, the study revealed that about one-third were working as labourers, an equal proportion were in white-collar/salaries jobs e.g. as clerks, teachers and in other government jobs, about a quarter were self-employed and the balance were employed in such skilled jobs as mechanics and masons. Of the 21 females who were also involved in off-farm activities, 71% were in textile weaving, 20% in white-collar jobs and the balance were labourers or self-employed (Table 1.5).

Table 1.5 Employment of family members of age 14-65 years in off-farm activities

Activity	Females N = 21		Males N = 46	
	No.	%	No.	%
Textile weaving	15	71	-	-
Manual labour	1	5	14	30
Trade	-	-	5	11
Clerical work	-	-	4	9
Mechanical work	-	-	4	9
Teaching	3	14	3	7
Masonry	-	-	3	7
*Other kinds of self-employment	1	5	7	15
Other kinds of government employment	1	5	6	13
Total	21	100	46	100

Number employed in off-farm activities expressed as a percentage of the total

46%

18%

* Brick making, carpentry, sale of firewood, sewing etc.

1.4 Source of Income

The total annual cash income of the 60 households is shown in Table 1.6.

Table 1.6 Distribution of households by their annual cash income
N = 60

Annual income	Number of households	Percentage of households
Upto 1,000	4	7
1,001 - 2,000	20	33
2,001 - 3,000	16	27
3,001 - 5,000	13	22
5,001 - 8,000	5	8
Over 8,000	2	3
Total	60	100

It is seen from the above Table that 40% of the households received an annual cash income of less than Rs 2,000 a year.

In the case of all households included in the study, income from agricultural sources contributed substantially to the total cash income. 92% and 46% of the families respectively received cash incomes from the sale of highland produce and paddy. The income from paddy was less than the income from highland crops. However, it should be noted that the cash income does not include the value of the proportion of paddy that is used for home consumption. Further, the extent of paddy land operated by the respondents was smaller than that of the highland.

Table 1.7 Distribution of households by their annual income from the sale of agricultural produce
N = 60

Income group	Paddy		Highland		Total sales	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Upto 500	11	18	16	27	14	23
501 - 1,000	8	13	16	27	15	25
1,001 - 2,000	8	13	15	25	14	23
Over 2,000	1	2	8	13	17	28
Total	28	46	55	92	60	100

Looking at the income from sources outside agriculture, it is seen that those engaged in white-collar jobs - teachers and clerks had received cash incomes higher than those of persons engaged in other activities. Weaving, which was the most important single source of employment for female members, had

brought incomes even lower than from manual labour. The majority involved in weaving had received incomes less than Rs 500 a year, the income from labour ranged between Rs 500 and Rs 4,000 with the majority receiving Rs 1,000 to Rs 2,000 while the white-collar jobs yielded over Rs 2,000 and some even over Rs 4,000. The others indicated in Table 1.8 are skilled jobs performed only by men.

1.5 Skills Possessed by Family Members

Forty one per cent (41%) of the female members possessed some skills; the majority being in textile weaving. Although it is seen from Table 1.9 that 30 members possessed skills in textile weaving, only 15 were employed in it (Table 1.5). The skills possessed by the female members in sewing and mat weaving had not led to employment.

Table 1.9 Specific skills possessed by family members

Skills	Females		Males	
	No.	%	No.	%
Textile weaving	30	61	-	-
Mat weaving	13	27	-	-
Sewing	4	8	-	-
Typing and shorthand	1	2	-	-
Carpentry	-	-	5	24
Masonry	-	-	4	19
Mechanical skill	-	-	5	24
Driving	-	-	5	24
Brick-making	-	-	1	5
Toddy tapping	-	-	1	5
Trained teacher in textile weaving	1	2	-	-
Total	49	100	21	100

Of the 32 respondents who recalled the sources of learning of these skills, the majority (78%) said that they learnt through formal participation. These members could have referred to textile weaving which is usually learnt through formal participation while the rest would have referred to mat weaving and sewing which are usually learnt through informal means.

1.6 Skills Desired by Family Members

Table 1.10 shows the various skills which the family members expressed the desire to learn. Of the 37 members who expressed desire to learn skills, 26 were female members. Of them 35% expressed the wish to learn handicrafts, 23% showed interest in sewing, while 15% wished to learn textile weaving. The primary reason stated by the respondents for acquiring new skills was to meet family needs as well as to perform services for payment.

Table 1.8

Distribution of family members by their annual
cash income from non-agricultural sources
N = 67

Income Group	Weaving		Labour		Teaching		Clerical		Driving		Trade		Masonry		Mechanics		Others		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Less than Rs 500 per year	11	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	14	21
Rs 500-1,000 per year	4	6	3	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	2	3	1	1	12	18
Rs 1,000-2,000 per year	-	-	10	15	-	-	-	-	2	3	5	7	1	1	1	1	6	9	25	37
Rs 2,000-4,000 per year	-	-	2	3	3	5	4	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	5	12	18
Above Rs 4,000	-	-	-	-	3	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	4	6

Table 1.10 Specific skills that family members liked to learn

Skills	Females		Males	
	No.	%	No.	%
Batik printing	6	23	-	-
Sewing	6	23	-	-
Textile weaving	4	15	-	-
Other handicrafts	9	35	-	-
Mechanical skill	-	-	7	70
Agriculture	-	-	3	30
Others	1	4	-	-
Total	26	100	10	100

The study revealed that sewing was very popular among females. In addition to learning sewing as a skill, the desire to learn sewing was expressed by 90% of them. This probably is much weighted by the fact that 45% of the households pay for this service. It was also revealed that out of the 60 households, 27 possess their own sewing machines.

1.7 Home Gardening and Poultry

In spite of the fact that home gardening is desirable both economically and nutritionally, it was found that 46% of the respondents did not utilise their home gardens for cultivation. The study revealed that out of the 60 households, 59 had enough space to maintain home gardens. The reason why about half of the households did not grow their own vegetables was mainly the lack of time, while a very small percentage referred to non-availability of seeds and problems of supplying water. About one-fifth of the households that did not maintain home gardens expressed no interest in maintaining a home garden. Nevertheless, 98% of the households realised the profitability and benefits that could be derived from home gardening.

As for keeping poultry the study revealed that only 12 households raised poultry. The size of flocks ranged from 2 to 10 birds. All the birds were of indigenous breeds and were raised as scavengers. The reason given by nearly two-third of those who did not keep poultry was that they did not like poultry keeping. Other reasons were lack of capital, inability to obtain chicks and nets and the lack of space to maintain a poultry house. The above discussion shows that there is scope for development of home gardening and scientific poultry keeping in this area. Although a substantial number of respondents had stated that they were not willing to keep poultry, a good number of them may change their attitudes on seeing their neighbours maintaining successful poultry houses.

1.8 *Creation of Income Generating Activities for Farm Women*

The following observations may be made on the basis of respondents' views on the possibility of creating small scale income generating enterprises for rural women, using both locally available and transported raw materials.

With reference to the utilisation of locally available material a little over one-third of the respondents stated the possibility of starting a coir based industry, mat weaving using reeds and rush and making curios and handicrafts using 'wetake' which is also available in substantial quantities. As for the problems associated with these enterprises, it was stated that marketing difficulties were a major problem. A breakdown of various problems stated by the respondents with regard to these enterprises is given in Table 1.11.

Table 1.11 Problems associated with income
generating activities with locally
available raw materials
N = 25

Problems	No. of respondents	%
Marketing difficulties	16	64
Lack of organisations to provide necessary training	6	24
Lack of established working places	3	12
Lack of capital for individuals to engage in these activities	2	8
Others	3	12

As for the enterprises which could be created for female members using raw materials transported from outside, the majority of respondents (47%) favoured textile weaving. Handicrafts using cane and plastic cane, beedi industry (10%) and cosmetic industry (5%) were among the enterprises mentioned by the respondents. It could be observed that the suggested enterprises are in keeping with the skills expressed by the majority of respondents. The problems of the above mentioned enterprises as stated by the respondents, were not much different from those that were expressed in respect of enterprises utilising locally available raw materials, except that the difficulty of obtaining the raw materials was stated as an additional problem. Marketing of products particularly those based on locally available raw materials seems to be the major problem affecting these enterprises.

With regard to the possible enterprises that could be established and expanded in the area, for groups of females, the

majority of the respondents indicated textile weaving for which the needed raw materials could be easily supplied. Coir products, mat weaving, beedi industry, handicrafts using cane and plastic cane were also mentioned by the respondents as enterprises which could be created for groups of females. Of these, coir industry and mat weaving are of greater importance as the needed raw materials are readily available in the area.

As for the creation of the above mentioned small scale enterprises for female members, the majority (80%) of respondents stated that there was a need for organisations/institutions to make available such opportunities to them. This indicates the need for establishing State/private sector managed small scale industries which could employ rural women in rural areas. The problems referred to earlier (Table 1.11) also supports this view. Such organisations should be able to handle the marketing of products more effectively.

With regard to the availability of local organisations, out of the 60 households included in the study, little over 50% have indicated their knowledge of the presence of local organisations that could provide training and other services to rural women. These organisations are : (i) Rural Development Societies which provide training in textile weaving and handicrafts, and possible supply of raw materials. (ii) A private weaving centre which provides training as well as employment. In spite of the availability of training facilities, only 2% out of the 60 respondents have been trained in textile weaving and handicrafts. This is mainly due to the lack of initiative on the part of the members to make use of the services. This tendency may be due to the perceived usefulness of the training and could be corrected by extension activities.

As for the nature of organisations, desired by the respondents, 73% of them stated women's organisations like "*Mahila Samithi*" and "*Kulagana Samithi*", while 41% and 33% of the respondents named Rural Development Societies and Young Farmers' Clubs respectively. The assistance that these organisations could provide is mainly the provision of training and making available raw materials for small scale home based products. Provision of inputs should be coupled with the marketing of the product.

2. STUDY AREA - RAJANGANA

The study covered 64 households. An equal number of households was included from each of the 3 tracts selected, namely, Rajangana left bank tracts 2 and 3 and Rajangana left bank tract 1.

2.1 *Personal Characteristics*

Family Size, Age and Education

Family size in the selected sample averaged 4-5 members, a figure which is little below the average family size in the rural sector. Nearly half of the households had between 5-7 members, 28% of the households had 2-4 members, while only 19% had a family size of over 7. Total population of the 64 households between the age of 14 and 65 was 189. Of these 98 were males and 91 were females. Thus on the average each household had 3 members belonging to this age group. The Table below gives the breakdown of population between the ages of 14 and 65, agewise. Highest proportion of the female population (between the ages of 14 and 65) fell into the age group 21-30 years, while among the males this group accounted for 27% of its total. It is also seen from the same Table that 68% of the total female population (between the age of 14 and 65) are between 14-30 years of age.

On the whole, the younger age groups are predominant in the three selected tracts of the Rajangana scheme, and this is in keeping with the national demographic patterns.

Table 2.1 Distribution of family members of
the age group 14-65 by their age
N = 189

Age group (years)	Females N = 91		Males N = 98		Total N = 189	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
14-20	24	26	29	30	53	28
21-30	38	42	26	27	64	34
31-45	25	28	28	29	53	28
46-65	4	4	15	15	19	10
Total	91	100	98	100	189	100

With reference to the educational levels of family members, the present study revealed that 92% of the population between 14-65 years of age, have had some formal education. Twelve per cent (12%) of the females and 5% of the males have had no schooling, while only 45% of the total have had over 6 years of schooling. It is also seen from the same Table that only 7% of the population between 14-65 years of age had an education of '0' level and above. Further, there were only 10 students in the age group 14-20 years. These figures supports the view that in the selected area, there is a general tendency not to proceed beyond 8 or 9 years of schooling.

Table 2.2 Distribution of family members of
the age group 14-65 by their education
N = 189

Level of education	Females		Males		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
No schooling	11	12	5	5	16	9
Upto Grade 5	38	42	51	52	89	47
Grade 6 to '0' level	35	39	36	37	71	38
Passed '0' level and above	7	8	6	6	13	7
Total	91	100	98	100	189	100

2.2 Ownership of Livestock and Land

Land Ownership

Although the selected area is located in a colonisation scheme, neither the land ownership nor the extent operated shows uniformity among the households. The study revealed that 42% of the farmers operated holdings of 1.1-3.0 acres while 38% operated holdings between 3.1-5.0 acres. With regard to the lowland, the majority (67%) of the respondents operated holdings of 1.1-3.0 acres of land. In general

the extents of highlands operated by the respondents were small. The situation with regard to land operated and land owned by the respondents is given in Table 2.3.

Table 2.3 Distribution of households by operable land and land ownership
N = 64

	Upto 1 acre		1.1-3.0		3.1-5.0		Over 5 acres	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Lowland operated	3	5	43	67	1	2	0	0
Homestead operated	12	19	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other highland operated	37	58	24	38	1	2	0	0
Total operable land	7	11	27	42	24	38	6	9
Land owned	12	19	27	42	22	34	1	2

Ownership of Livestock

In spite of the fact that agriculture plays an important role in the economy of the selected area, the study revealed that the rearing of livestock was not done on a wide scale. As indicated later in the report, none of the households had obtained any cash income from livestock. Only 10 households (16%) reported the ownership of neat cattle, 4 households (6%) reported the ownership of buffaloes, while only 3 households (5%) reported the ownership of poultry. The breakdown of the ownership of livestock is given in Table 2.4.

Table 2.4 Distribution of households by the ownership of livestock
N = 64

	0		1-2		3-4		Over 5	
	No. of house- holds	%	No. of house- holds	%	No. of house- holds	%	No. of house- holds	%
Neat cattle	54	84	8	13	1	2	1	2
Buffaloes	60	94	2	3	1	2	1	2
Goats	64	100	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poultry	61	95	1	2	1	2	1	2
Pigs	64	100	-	-	-	-	-	-

2.3 Division of Labour

Table 2.5 gives the breakdown of the population on the basis of the division of labour. The predominance of agriculture in the economy of the Rajangana scheme is seen from the Table while the total volume of non-farm employment, both full-time and part-time is not significant.

Out of the male members, 68% are working on their own farms on full-time basis, while another 20% work in their own farms on part-time basis spending more than one-third of their time. On the other hand, in the case of female members only 6% are engaged in one's own farm activities on full time basis. However, 65% of female family members are engaged in one's own farm activities for more than one third of their time. An equal number of female members reported their involvement in household chores on full-time basis. If the number of households (64) is taken into account, the above figures indicate the need for at least one female member to attend to the household chores.

It could be concluded that the majority of female members in the area are mainly engaged in household work. In addition to those engaged full-time in household work, 24% of the female family members stated that they devote more than one-third of the time for household work while 1% stated that they devote less than one-third of the time on such work.

The study revealed that employment from off-farm agricultural activities is not significant in the selected area. This could be due to the fact that since this is a colonisation scheme, almost all the farmers have sufficient extents of holdings and the majority of farmers manage to cultivate their land using family labour only and as a consequence the demand for agricultural labour is less. It is also seen from the same Table that the number of female family members engaged in off-farm agricultural activities is higher when compared to male members.

As for the time spent on non-agricultural activities by the family members, the study revealed that 33 family members of the age group 14-65 years are engaged in non-agricultural activities (including schooling) either on full-time or part-time basis. Of these 10 are student. A further breakdown showing the distribution of family members of age 14-65 years, according to their employment in non-agricultural activities is given in Table 2.7.

Table 2.5 Distribution of family members of the age group 14-65 by the allocation of time for various activities
Females N = 91 Males N = 98

		Farm- ing (own farm)		Off-farm (agri- culture)		Off-farm Non-agri. culture (including students)		House- hold work		Leisure time (not employed)	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Full-time	Females	5	6	1	1	4	4	59	65	-	-
	Males	67	68	-	-	17	17	-	-	-	-
Part-time more than 1/3 of time	Females	59	65	6	7	3	3	22	24	84	92
	Males	20	20	1	1	8	8	4	4	90	92
Part-time less than 1/3 of time	Females	3	3	4	4	-	-	1	1	5	6
	Males	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	6

Table 2.6 Distribution of female members according to age and employment
N = 91

		Farm- ing (own farm)		Off- farm agri- cul- ture		Off-farm non-agri- culture (including students)		House- hold work		Leisure time (not em- ploy- ed)		No. of respon- dents in each age group	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
14-20	Full-time	1	4	-	-	4	17	14	58	-	-	24	100
	Part-time	11	46	2	8	-	-	5	21	23	96		
21-35	Full-time	2	4	1	2	-	-	34	68	-	-	50	100
	Part-time	37	74	6	12	2	4	13	26	50	100		
Over 35	Full-time	2	12	-	-	-	-	11	65	-	-	17	100
	Part-time	14	82	2	12	1	6	5	29	16	94		

Table 2.6 examines the employment of female members in relation to their age. Here too as in Kuliyaipitiya the contribution to farming came mainly from the older family members. However, with regard to household activities, the full-time contribution of younger members was substantial. This may be due to lack of avenues of employment as well as out of school educational facilities.

Table 2.7 Employment of family members of age 14-65 years in non-agricultural activities (excluding students).

	Females		Males		Total	
	N = 3		N = 20		N = 23	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Salaried or white-collar employment	-	-	1	5	1	4
Skilled workers excluding textile weavers*	-	-	6	30	6	26
Non-agricultural labourers	-	-	9	45	9	39
Business	-	-	3	15	3	13
Other kinds of self-employment**	3	100	1	5	4	17
Total	3	100	20	100		100

* Includes carpenters, tailors, barbers and blacksmiths.

** Includes jaggery making, sewing, mat-weaving.

The total number engaged in non-farm employment (both full-time and part-time) is not very significant being only 12% of the total population of the age group 14-65 years. Non-agricultural labour which accounts for 39% of the total is the most important among the various avenues of employment, while skilled workers (26%) constitute the next largest category. Only 3 female members reported engaged in non-agricultural employment.

As for unemployment among family members of the age group 14-65 years, the study reveals that considerable part-time employment exists in the selected area. As seen in Table 2.3 almost all the family members in this age group reported under-employment. This is mainly due to lack of off-farm employment activities in the area.

2.4 Sources of Income

Only the sources of cash income of the families were ascertained through the questionnaire survey. For this purpose - (a) Sale of paddy in the crop year; (b) Sale of highland produce; (c) Sale of livestock products; and (d) Income from off-farm employment and other sources, were enumerated. Table 2.8 classifies the 64 households according to their 'annual cash income'. The majority of the farm families (26) received an annual cash income of Rs 3,000 to Rs 5,000, while 14 families received an annual cash income of over Rs 5,000. It is also seen from the same Table that income from agri-

culture accounts for more than 85% of the total annual cash income of practically all households. This shows the predominance of agriculture in the economy of the selected area. The proportion of income from agricultural sources was higher among low income groups. In spite of the fact that this is a colonisation scheme, inequality in income distribution is seen although to a lesser degree.

Table 2.8 Distribution of households by their annual cash receipts
N = 64

Annual cash receipts	No. of households	Percentage of households	Proportion from agricultural sources
Upto 500	4	6	100
501 - 1,000	3	5	100
1,001 - 2,000	11	17	75
2,001 - 3,000	6	9	100
3,001 - 5,000	26	41	88
5,001 - 8,000	8	13	91
Over 8,000	6	9	85
Total	64	100	88

As for the income from different agricultural enterprises, the study revealed that income from paddy was very much higher when compared to that from highland, while none of the households reported any cash incomes from livestock. Table 2.9 shows the composition of agricultural income in which the figures refer to cash incomes only, leaving out the value of agricultural produce that is used for home consumption. Sixty three per cent (63%) of the households derived an annual cash income of above Rs 2,000 from paddy, while the annual cash receipts from highland was only (upto) Rs 500 for 41% of the households.

Table 2.9 Distribution of households by their annual cash income from the sale of agricultural produce
N = 64

Annual cash receipts	Paddy		Highland		Livestock		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Upto 500	0	-	26	41	0	-	4	6
500 - 1,000	8	13	6	9	0	-	3	5
1,001 - 2,000	7	11	13	20	0	-	11	17
2,001 - 4,000	28	44	4	6	0	-	24	38
Over 4,000	12	19	0	-	0	-	22	34

The study revealed that the cash income from sources outside agriculture is not so significant when compared to that from agricultural sources. Only 18 (28%) households derived any cash incomes from off-farm employment. Twenty three (23) family members in these 18 households were engaged in off-farm activities and their annual cash incomes are given in Table 2.10.

Looking at sources of income outside agriculture, it is seen that non-agricultural labour and skilled work are the main sources of income despite the fact that they yield low incomes. It is also seen from the same Table that none of the female family members receive any cash income from weaving, knitting etc., which are the main sources of employment for them. Though three female members reported their involvement in off-farm activities (Table 2.7), they do not derive any cash income out of it. It should also be noted that more than 90% of the female population of the age 14-65 years reported under-employment. The foregoing discussion indicates that a very large proportion of female members in the selected area is not adequately employed in fruitful income-generating activities.

As for the ability of the farm families to meet day-to-day expenses without obtaining loans, 42% of the respondents reported their inability to do so, while the remaining 58% stated that they could meet the family expenses without borrowing. However, those who obtained loans stated that they borrowed only upto Rs 500 per annum. Traders and neighbours were the main sources of credit, the former being the most important source.

As for expenditure on food and clothing, the study revealed that 83% of the households spend up to 25% of their total family income on clothing, while 66% of the households spend over 75% of their income on food.

2.5 *Skills Possessed by Family Members*

The specific skills possessed by the family members which could help in planning any form of income generating activities for them were ascertained. With reference to the male population, only 3 members reported possessing certain specific skills and they were - carpentry, motor mechanism and hair dressing. However, in the case of females, 29 members reported possessing specific skills. As seen in Table 2.11 the popular skills possessed by female family members are mat weaving (55%) and weaving of bags and other similar items (41%). Among the other skills possessed by female members were sewing and knitting, textile weaving and handicrafts.

Table 2.10

Distribution of households by their annual
cash income from non-agricultural sources
N = 18

Annual cash income	Non-agricultural labour		Salaried white- collar employment		Skilled work		Other types of self- employment		Trade and other sources		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Upto 500	2	11	-	-	2	11	2	11	1	6	4	22
501 - 1,000	1	6	-	-	1	6	-	-	-	-	2	11
1,001 - 2,000	2	11	-	-	2	11	-	-	1	6	4	22
2,001 - 4,000	3	17	1	6	1	6	-	-	1	6	7	39
Over 4,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	-	-	1	6
Total	8	44	1	6	6	33	3	17	3	17	18	100

Table 2.11 Specific skills possessed by
family members
N = 29

Skills	No.	%
Textile weaving	4	14
Mat weaving	16	55
Sewing and knitting	7	24
Handicraft	1	3
Weaving bags and other similar items	12	41

However, on comparing these potential skills with the off-farm employment situation of female family members, it is seen that the skills possessed by them have not been adequately utilised. Further, these skills make no contribution to the family income. Although there is scope for utilising the skills possessed by the female labour force, in income generating activities, large scale employment utilising such skills may create problems in the light of the low market potential for the end-products.

Contrary to the expectations, 66% stated that they learnt these skills through formal participation, while 19% reported learning through informal means.

As for the interest shown by the respondents to learn specific skills, the study revealed that 43 female members expressed the desire to learn skills. Of these, 88% liked to be trained in sewing, 26% in knitting, 19% in weaving, while 9% each wished to be trained in handicraft work and mat weaving.

However, when giving reasons for wanting to learn the above mentioned skills, the majority (66%) of the respondents stated that they would like to learn those skills only to meet family requirements; while only 29% reported sale or employment as additional reasons. This indicates that although a majority have learnt that skills by formal participation, the purpose of learning had been to satisfy family requirements mainly. Female members do not consider these skills (except probably textile weaving) as important for purposes of employment. They consider these skills more as something female members should be familiar with.

Further the study revealed that 70% of the respondents did not sew their own clothes. Of these, 72% paid for sewing of their clothes. Majority of the family members expressed their desire to be trained in sewing. Only 9 households had their own sewing machines.

2.6 Home Gardening and Poultry

Of the total respondents, 93% were aware of the advantages of home gardening. As for the availability of land for this purpose, 94% of the respondents reported the ownership of a plot of land for home gardening. Of these 48% were between 0.6-1.0 acres, 29% were between 0.25-0.5 acres, while another 12% were between .125-.25 acre in size. Further, the study revealed that the majority (92%) of the farm families in the area produced vegetables for consumption in their home gardens. Problems of providing water and poor quality of soil were the main reasons given by those who did not have home gardens, for not having a home garden.

Unlike home gardening, only 6% of the respondents were engaged in poultry keeping despite the fact that it is a profitable enterprise. This is in contrast to the situation found in Jaffna where poultry keeping was a popular activity. Lack of interest and difficulty in buying nets, chicks, etc., were the main reasons given by the respondents for not keeping poultry. Table 2.12 lists the reasons given by the respondents in detail.

Table 2.12 Reasons for not keeping poultry
N = 59

Reasons	No. of respondents	% of respondents
Lack of knowledge and experience	4	7
Lack of capital	8	14
Difficulty in buying nets, chicks etc.	20	34
Lack of interest	20	34
Crop damage caused by birds	12	20
Lack of time	2	3
Theft	2	3

Those who were engaged in poultry keeping adopt the free range system of rearing poultry, and 50% of their poultry are of indigenous breeds. Therefore, it should be noted that there is great scope, for introducing poultry keeping on scientific lines. Unlike in Kuliyaipitiya, none of the respondents expressed their unwillingness to adopt poultry keeping, although some expressed their disinterest.

2.7 Creation of Income Generating Activities for Farm Women

In obtaining the views of the possibility of small scale enterprises which could be set up for rural women for the purpose of creating income generating activities from locally available raw materials, as well as raw materials, which could be brought from outside, the study revealed that the majority of the respondents have shown their unawareness in this regard and did not respond.

With reference to the creation of income generating activities that could be created by using locally available raw materials, 62% of those who responded stated the possibility of bags and mat weaving using rush ('Pan') as the raw material. Paper industry, processing of manioc flour, handicrafts etc., were also stated by the respondents as shown in Table 2.13.

Table 2.13 Income generating activities that could be created using locally available raw materials
N = 18

Raw material	Activity	No. of respondents	%
Rush ('Pan') 'Kambu' and 'Indi' leaves	Bags and mat weaving	13	62
Straw	Bags and mat weaving	2	10
Manioc	Paper industry	2	10
Wood	Preparation of flour	2	10
'Kambu' (wood)	Carpentry	1	5
	Handicrafts	1	5

As for the respondents views on the problems associated with the enterprises mentioned above, it was stated that lack of knowledge and experience was a major problem. Lack of marketing facilities, and transport difficulties were also mentioned as problems associated with these enterprises. Most of the activities indicated were in accordance with the skills possessed by the family members. As the lack of knowledge and experience was identified as a major problem, it is likely that even the skills possessed (such as mat weaving) need further improvement or refinement if they are to be used in income generating activities.

With regard to the income generating activities using raw materials brought from outside, the majority of the respondents suggested textile weaving, while a few respondents mentioned the possibilities of making bags with cane and manufacturing paper with straw. As for the possible problems associated with the enterprises, the majority reported lack of knowledge and experience while a smaller number reported the non-availability of a supply channel for necessary raw materials.

From the above discussions we may arrive at the following conclusions :

- (a) Only a very small number of female family members interviewed consider the above enterprises as possible income generating activities for them.

- (b) Even those who consider the above enterprises important need assistance in the form of supply of raw materials and marketing of produce.
- (c) The scope for expansion of cottage type of enterprises mentioned above (such as bags and mat weaving, handicraft industries etc) is limited due to the limitation of markets.
- (d) The other industries mentioned, such as, paper and flour industry are usually large scale enterprises.
- (e) Some of the skills possessed by and desired to be learnt by family members such as, textile weaving, sewing and knitting have not been considered as important by the members for income generating activities. However, it appears that the greatest potential for income generation lies in tapping these skills and in generating employment with-
in agriculture and animal husbandry.

3. STUDY AREA - JAFFNA

3.1 Personal Characteristics

The study included 60 households; 30 each from the two selected villages.

Family Size, Age and Education

The average size of the households in the sample was 5-6 members. The study revealed that out of the 60 households, 52% had between 5-7 members and 38% had 2-4 members, while the remaining 10% had a family size of over 7. The younger age groups were predominant in the two selected villages, and this was in keeping with the national demographic patterns. The total population of the 60 households between the ages of 14 to 65 was 184. Of these, 93 were females and 91 were males. Thus on the average each household had 3 members of this age group.

A further breakdown of age groups is given in Table 3.1. It is seen from this Table that the highest proportion of females was in the age group of 14-20. On the other hand, in the case of males this age group had the lowest proportion while the highest proportion of males belonged to the 21-31 age group.

Table 3.1 Distribution of family members of the age group 14-65 by their age

Age group (years)	Females		Males		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
14-20	33	36	17	19	50	27
21-30	22	24	28	31	50	27
31-45	20	22	23	26	43	24
46-65	18	19	22	24	40	22
Total	93	100	90	100	183	100

In terms of educational attainment of the respondents, the study revealed that 7% of the females and 3% of the males have had no schooling and all of them were above 35 years of age. It is also seen from Table 3.2 that more male members have had an education of '0' level and above when compared to the females.

Table 3.2 Distribution of family members of
the age group 14-65 by their education

Level of education	Females		Males		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
No schooling	6	7	3	3	9	5
Upto Grade 5	37	41	30	35	67	38
Grade 5 to 'O' level	37	41	37	43	74	42
Passed 'O' level and above	10	11	16	19	26	15
Total	90	100	86	100	176	100

3.2 Division of Labour

With regard to the division of labour of the family members of the age group 14-65, Table 3.3 reveals that only 21% of the male population was engaged full-time in farming.

In addition, 16% of the male members are engaged in agricultural activities in their own farms for more than one-third of the time while 25% are engaged for less than one-third of the time. Only one male gained full-time employment from off-farm agricultural activities, while 4% of males were employed in off-farm agricultural activities on a part-time basis. On the other hand, almost half of the males were engaged full-time in off-farm non-agricultural activities, while another 17% spent part of their time on the same. The above information shows the importance of off-farm non-agricultural activities in providing employment to the males in the selected area, while farming remains as a secondary source in this regard.

In determining the division of labour of the female members, the same Table shows that none of the females were engaged in agricultural activities on a full-time basis, while only 12% of them gained part-time employment in agricultural activities in ones own farm.

As in the case of males, female members in this area also gained employment mainly from non-agricultural sources. While none of the female members gained full-time employment from agricultural activities, 27% of them were occupied in non-agricultural activities on a full-time basis (including students as well). Another 12% of females were occupied in non-agricultural activities on a part-time basis. (The number of female members engaged in non-agricultural employment, i.e. excluding students was 16). In determining the contribution of female labour to the family farm activities, it was evident that their participation in own farm activities was very low. Only 12% of the female population was engaged in own farm agricultural activities on a part-time basis and this figure when expressed as a percentage of the number of farmers, both full-time and part-time worked out to 22%.

In computing the time allocated for household work, 54% of the female family members were engaged in household chores on a full-time basis. Fifteen per cent (15%) of the female members devoted more than one-third of the time for household work while 16% devoted less than one-third of the time for such work. If the number of households (60) is taken into account, the above figures indicate that at least one full-time female member is required to attend to the household work.

As for the unemployment of family members of the age group 14-65 years, the study revealed that only under-employment existed in the two selected villages. Although 67% of the females and 65% of the males reported under-employment on the basis of the proportion of time, only one-third of the time was unutilised.

Table 3.3 Distribution of family members of the age group 14-65 by allocation of time for various activities
Females = 93 Males = 91

		Farm- ing (own farm)		Off-farm (agri- culture)		Off-farm non-agri- culture (including students)		House- hold work		Leisure time (not employed)	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Full-time	Females	-	-	-	-	25	27	50	54	-	-
	Males	19	21	1	1	45	50	-	-	-	-
Part-time more than 1/3 of time	Females	2	2	1	1	8	9	14	15	-	-
	Males	9	10	3	3	15	17	-	-	-	-
Part-time less than 1/3 of time	Females	9	10	-	-	3	3	15	16	62	67
	Males	23	25	1	1	-	-	17	19	59	65

Table 3.4 Distribution of female members
according to age and employment
N = 93

		Farm- ing (own farm)		Off- farm agri- cul- ture		Off-farm non-agri- culture (including students)		House- hold work		Leisure time (not em- ployed)		No. of respon- dents in each age group	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
14-20	Full-time	0	0	0	0	21	64	1	3	0	0	33	100
	Part-time	4	12	0	0	4	12	19	58	17	52		
21-35	Full-time	0	0	0	0	1	4	23	89	0	0	26	100
	Part-time	2	8	0	0	3	12	2	8	22	85		
Over 35	Full-time	0	0	0	0	3	9	26	77	0	0	34	100
	Part-time	5	15	1	3	4	12	8	24	23	68		

It is evident from Table 3.4 that the majority of female members involved full-time in household work and home aspects come from 21-35 and 36-65 age groups. The same Table also indicates a higher level of part-time unemployment among the female members in the age group of 21-35 years.

3.3 Present Employment Pattern of Family Members

It was seen from the above analysis that out of the 183 family members of ages between 14-65 years, 96 were engaged in non-agricultural activities, while 6 members worked as agricultural labourers either on full-time or part-time basis. The former category included students as well. The number of students was 34 of which 21 were females. With reference to full-time employment of male members, non-agricultural employment occupied a dominant position when compared to agricultural employment (both own-farm and outside farm) even after leaving out the students. The number of female members engaged in off-farm activities excluding the students was however small.

A breakdown of the employment pattern of family members is given in Table 3.5. Salaried or white-collar employment which accounted for 29% of the total was the most prominent employment source followed by non-agricultural labour (22%). However, only 16 female members (17%) reported engagement in non-agricultural employment.

Table 3.5 Employment of family members of the age group 14-65 in off-farm activities (excluding students and those engaged in household work)

Activity	Females		Males		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Salaried or white-collar employment	3	19	17	33	20	29
Skilled work excluding textile weaving*	-	-	6	12	6	9
Textile weaving	2	13	-	-	2	3
Agricultural labour	1	6	5	10	6	9
Non-agricultural labour	3	19	12	23	15	22
Business	2	13	6	12	8	12
Other kinds of self-employment**	5	31	6	12	11	16
Total	16	100	52	100	68	100

* Masons, goldsmiths, tailors etc.

** Sewing, cadjan weaving, fishing etc.

The above discussions indicate that a very large proportion of female members are not engaged in income generating activities. As shown in Table 3.5 only 17% of the females are engaged in employment outside agriculture. Even the contribution to farming both within the farm and outside the farm had been very small (Table 3.3). Only two female members were engaged in textile weaving, while none of them were employed in other skilled work. Further, only one of the two members engaged in textile weaving derived an income out of it. Hence, it is clear that female members in the area are not adequately employed. The skills possessed by them are not adequately utilised either.

3.4 Sources of Income

The survey was not designed to collect detailed information on family receipts. Only the cash incomes from (a) sale of paddy in the crop year; (b) sale of highland products; (c) sale of livestock products; (d) income from off-farm employment were enumerated. Farmers were classified according to their total "annual cash income" (Table 3.6). It is seen from the Table that 35% of the households received an annual cash income of less than Rs 3,000, while 38% of them received an annual cash income of Rs 3,000 - Rs 5,000, while another 27% received an annual cash income of Rs 5,000 and above. These figures suggest a high degree of inequality in income distribution.

Table 3.6 Distribution of households by their
annual cash receipts
N = 55

Annual income	No. of households	Percentage of households
Upto 1,000	5	-
1,001 - 2,000	7	13
2,001 - 3,000	12	22
3,001 - 5,000	21	38
5,001 - 8,000	14	25
Over 8,000	1	2
Total	55	100

Only 50% of the households received incomes from agricultural sources. With regard to the income from different agricultural enterprises it was seen that income from paddy and highland was smaller when compared to that of livestock. (This situation is different from that observed in Kuliyaipitiya and Rajangana). Further, only three families had obtained cash incomes from paddy. The figures refer to cash incomes only, leaving out the portion that is used for home consumption. The availability of land for agricultural purposes seems to be a limiting factor which determines the agricultural income of households. Thirty-eight per cent of the households reported unavailability of any land. With regard to lowland although 43% operated lowland, 36% of the operated holdings were upto one acre. Almost all the highlands operated were below one acre (refer Table 3.13).

Table 3.7 Distribution of households by their
annual cash income from agricultural produce
N = 32

Income group	Paddy		Highland		Livestock		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Upto 500	-	-	-	-	4	15	3	9
501 - 1,000	-	-	4	40	7	26	6	19
1,001 - 2,000	-	-	6	60	10	37	11	34
Over 2,000	3	100	-	-	6	22	12	38
Total	3	100	10	100	27	100	32	100

However, the study revealed that the cash income from sources outside agriculture is dominant when compared to that from agricultural sources. It is also seen that those who are engaged in government salaried employment received cash incomes higher than those engaged in other activities.

Table 3.8

Distribution of households by their annual income from
non-agricultural sources

N = 62

Income group	Non-agri- cultural labourer		Salaried or white collar employ- ment		Skilled work- ers excluding textile weavers*		Textile weavers		Other types of self- employment**		Trade and other sources		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Upto 500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
501 - 1,000	6	10	-	-	-	-	1	2	5	8	-	-	12	19
1,001 - 2,000	7	11	-	-	3	5	-	-	1	2	5	8	16	26
2,001 - 4,000	2	3	13	21	2	3	-	-	1	2	7	11	25	40
Over 4,000	-	-	7	11	1	2	-	-	-	-	1	2	9	15
Total	15	23	20	32	6	10	1	2	7	12	13	21	62	100

* Goldsmiths, masons, tailors etc.

** Sewing, cadjan weaving, fishing etc.

3.5 Skills Possessed by Family Members

Skills possessed by the female labour force are crucial for planning any form of income generating activities for them. The study reveals that the skills structure of female is dominated by mat weaving (57%) and sewing (52%). This is in contrast to the situation found in Kuliyaipitiya where textile weaving dominated but somewhat similar to Rajangana. Among the other skills possessed by female family members were weaving of cadjan, textile weaving and jaggery making.

Table 3.9 Specific skills possessed by
family members.
N = 60

Skills possessed	No.	%
Mat weaving	34	57
Sewing	31	52
Cadjan weaving	5	8
Textile weaving	3	5
Jaggery making	1	2

However, skills possessed by female members have not contributed to their employment. Hence, there is scope for utilising the skills possessed by the female labour force in income generating activities. However, the full potential of such activity will also depend on the market for goods produced under such schemes.

With regard to learning of these skills, of those who possessed skills, 12% reported learning through formal participation, 23% through informal participation, while 6% through both means. Sixty per cent (60%) of those who possessed skills did not respond. The skills that the female members learnt through formal participation were textile weaving and sewing.

As for the interest shown by the respondents to learn specific skills, of the 37 who responded, 28% were keen to have a training in sewing, while 38% liked to be trained in textile weaving.

The reasons reported by the majority of respondents for learning these skills were to meet family requirements, to obtain income through sale of products, and to seek employment. Although none of the members reported learning skills solely for employment/income earning purposes, these skills possess the greatest potential for income generation in the future.

3.6 *Creation of Income Generating Activities for Farm Women*

The income generating activities that could be created for female members with locally available material as reported by the respondents are given in Table 3.10.

Table 3.10 Income generating activities that could be created for female members by using locally available raw materials
N = 58

Raw material	Activity	No. of respondents	Percentage of respondents
Coconut leaves	Cadjan weaving	9	16
Coconut fibre	Making brooms	16	28
	Making brushes	14	24
	Making ropes	3	5
Palmyra leaves	Mat weaving	54	93
	Basket weaving	41	71

The activities indicated by the respondents were in keeping with the skills possessed by them. As mentioned, the demand for the finished product appears to be the limiting factor.

Table 3.11 Income generating activities which could be created by using raw materials brought from outside
N = 11

Raw material	Activity	No. of respondents	Percentage of respondents
Clothe	Sewing	10	91
Yarn	Textile weaving	6	55

It is seen from the Table that only a small proportion of respondents indicated various enterprises using raw materials brought from outside. These activities are in line with the skills desired more than those possessed by the respondents and usually learnt through formal participation. As was mentioned earlier, these skills possess the greatest potential for income generation in the future.

3.7 *Home Gardening and Poultry*

Fifty per cent (50%) of the households owned a plot of land suitable for home gardening purposes, while the rest did not own any. This presents a situation different from that of Kuliyaipitiya where almost all households possessed a plot of land suitable for home gardening. Of those who owned a plot of land suitable for home gardening, 83% reported utilising

it for production of vegetables for consumption. Almost all the respondents were aware of the advantages of home gardening.

Availability of land seems to be a limiting factor for home gardening and other forms of agriculture in the area. Thirty-eight per cent (38%) of the households reported non-availability of land for agricultural purposes, while most of the land operated by the households were below 1 acre. The picture with regard to the operation of land is given in Table 3.12.

Table 3.12 Distribution of households by the extent of land operated
N = 58

	Number and percentage of households operating land							
	Upto 1 acre		1.1-3.0 acres		3.1-5.0 acres		Over 5 acres	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Lowland	21	36	3	5	1	2	-	-
Household	6	10	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other highland	26	45	-	-	1	2	-	-
Total operable land	23	40	11	19	1	2	1	2
Land owned	23	40	10	17	1	2	1	2

Unlike in other areas, a very large proportion of households (93%) kept poultry. The birds were not kept under improved systems of management.

4. STUDY AREA - BEMINIWATTE

4.1 *Personal Characteristics*

The study included 60 households; 30 each from the selected villages.

Family Size, Age and Education

The average size of the households was between 6-7. Out of the 60 households, 17% had 2-4 members, 47% 5-7 members and the balance 37% had a membership of 8 and above. The average family size is larger compared to that of other areas included in the study. The total population of the age group 14-65 in the selected households was 281; of these 145 were females and 136 were males. Thus on the average each household had 4-5 members which was again higher compared to that of other areas where the number was 3 or less.

A classification of family members into different age groups is presented in Table 4.1. The proportion of males in the 46-65 years age group was higher compared to the proportion of females in that group. Alternatively the 31-45 years age group contained a higher proportion of females.

Table 4.1 Distribution of family members of the age group 14-65 by their age

Age group (years)	Females		Males		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
14-20	47	32	41	30	88	31
21-30	40	28	37	27	77	27
31-45	35	24	25	18	60	21
46-65	23	16	33	24	56	20
Total	145	100	136	100	281	100

As shown in Table 4.2, 12% of the female members and 7% of the male members have had no schooling. A very large proportion of both females and males had an education of Grade 6 to 'O' level. This could be partly due to the high proportion of members between 14-20 years of age. However, this situation presents a picture different from that of other areas where the group which had had an education of Grade 5 and below was fairly large. In other words, a higher educational attainment was found in this area.

Table 4.2 Distribution of family members of
the age group 14-65 by their education
N = 281

Level of education	Females		Males		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
No schooling	18	12	9	7	27	10
Upto Grade 5	24	17	26	19	50	18
Grade 6 to 'O' level	81	56	77	57	158	56
Passed 'O' level and above	22	15	24	18	46	16
Total	145	100	136	100	281	100

Land Ownership

The situation with regard to ownership and operation of land by the respondents is presented in Table 4.3. Although 56 of the households operated land, only 20 households reported ownership. Considering only the lowlands and highlands, leaving out the homesteads, it is seen that only 22 and 12 households operated lowland and highland respectively. The majority of holdings operated were less than one acre in extent.

Table 4.3 Distribution of households by land
operated and owned
N = 60

	Upto 1 acre		1.1-3.0 acres		3.1-5.0 acres		Over 5 acres	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Lowland operated	17	28	5	8	-	-	-	-
Homestead opera- ted	52	87	3	5	-	-	-	-
Other highland operated	7	12	1	2	3	5	1	2
Total operated land	41	68	11	18	2	3	3	5
Land owned	17	28	3	5	-	-	-	-

4.2 Division of Labour

With regard to division of labour, it is seen from the Table that only 13% of the male members are engaged in agriculture on a full-time basis, while 56% indicated involvement of agriculture on a part-time basis. It is seen that the contribution of female members was on a part-time basis. Fifty one per cent (51%) of the female members reported their engagement in farming. Off-farm agricultural activities were not an important avenue of employment for both male and female members.

Table 4.4 Distribution of family members of the age group 14-65 by allocation of time for various activities

Females - N = 145 Males - N = 136

		Farm- ing (own farm)		Off-farm (agri- culture)		Off-farm Non-agri- culture (including schooling)		House- hold work		Leisure time (not employed)	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Full-time	Females	1	1	-	-	15	10	35	24	-	-
	Males	17	13	2	2	45	33	-	-	1	1
Part-time more than 1/3 of time	Females	34	23	-	-	24	17	66	46	28	19
	Males	38	28	11	8	46	34	11	8	28	21
Part-time less than 1/3 of time	Females	43	30	2	2	5	3	25	17	78	54
	Males	38	28	2	2	7	5	22	16	67	49

With regard to the involvement of female members in household chores, unlike in other areas only a little more than 50% of the households had a full-time female member engaged in household matters. At the same time it is seen that each household had 1-2 part-time members engaged in household matters in addition to the full-time members. This may be due to the fact that each household has 2-3 female members who share the household work among themselves. As shown in Table 4.4, the proportion of female members engaged both in agriculture and non-agriculture on a full-time basis is small. Thus most female members are available at home and they share the household work.

Table 4.4 also shows a substantial allocation of time by male members for off-farm non-agricultural activities. When the time allocated to farming and non-agricultural activities are compared, it is seen that a larger proportion of members both male and female is engaged full-time in non-farm activities.

Table 4.5 examines the allocation of time by the female members of the households according to the different age groups. It is also seen that about 50% of the female labour force engage themselves in agricultural activities in their own farms on a part-time basis and this contribution comes from all age groups, not only from the older members. This may be due to their contribution in transplanting, weeding and harvesting of paddy irrespective of the age. However, with regard to the performance of household work by female members, it is seen that it was the older members who were engaged in such work full-time. Only one of the members in the above 35 years category was engaged in off-farm employment, while more of the younger members were employed in this manner. (However, this group

also includes students). About 70% of female members in all categories did only part-time work.

Table 4.5 Distribution of female members of different age groups according to their allocation of time for various activities

		Farm- ing (own farm)		Off- farm agri- cul- ture		Off-farm non-agri- culture (including students)		House- hold work		Leisure time (not em- ployed)		No. of respon- dents in each age group	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
14-20	Full-time	-	-	-	-	9	19	2	4	-	-	47	100
	Part-time	27	58	-	-	21	45	31	66	34	72		
21-35	Full-time	-	-	-	-	5	9	9	16	-	-	55	100
	Part-time	29	53	1	2	9	16	40	73	42	76		
Over 35	Full-time	1	2	-	-	-	-	24	56	-	-	34	100
	Part-time	21	49	1	2	1	2	20	47	30	70		

4.3 Present Employment Pattern of Family Members

As was seen from the earlier analysis (Table 4.3), of the 381 members between 14-65 years, 142 are engaged in off-farm non-agricultural activities, 171 in agricultural activities in their own farm and 17 in off-farm agricultural activities. The former category includes students as well. The number of students is 51 of which 25 are males and 26 are females. Even after leaving out the students it is seen that non-agricultural activities occupy an important position in the employment of family members.

A breakdown of the off-farm employment of family members is given in Table 4.6.

Table 4.6 Off-farm employment of family members of 14-65 years of age in off-farm activities (excluding students)

Activity	Females		Males		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Salaried or white-collar employment	4	18	20	23	24	22
Skilled workers excluding textile weaving*	-	-	10	11	10	9
Textile weaving	6	27	-	-	6	6
Agricultural labour	2	9	15	17	17	16
Non-agricultural labour	3	14	17	19	20	18
Business	-	-	19	22	19	17
Other kinds of self-employment**	7	32	7	8	14	13
Total	22	100	88	100	110	100

* Masonry, carpentry, driving, sewing.

** Beedi-wrapping, sewing, jaggery making.

It is seen from the Table that while 88 (65%) of the male members were employed in off-farm activities, only 22 female members were engaged in such work. When agricultural and non-agricultural labour are taken together they occupy a prominent position with regard to employment of male members employing close to 40% of the total employed. Salaried and white-collar employment and business were the other major avenues of employment for male members. With regard to employment of female members, textile weaving, white-collar jobs and agricultural and non-agricultural labour were the main avenues of employment.

4.4 Sources of Income

The survey was not designed to collect detailed information of family incomes. Only the cash incomes from (a) sale of paddy in the crop year; (b) sale of highland products; (c) sale of livestock products; (d) income from off-farm employment were enumerated. Households were classified according to their total annual cash income (Table 4.7).

Table 4.7 Distribution of households by their annual cash income
N = 60

Annual cash receipts	No. of households	Percentage of households	Proportion from agricultural sources %
Upto 500	-	-	-
500 - 1,000	4	7	28
1,001 - 2,000	10	17	16
2,001 - 3,000	9	15	49
3,001 - 5,000	25	42	32
5,001 - 8,000	10	17	19
Over 8,000	2	3	4
Total	60	100	26

It is seen from the Table that 39% of the households received an annual cash income of less than Rs 3,000 while 42% received an annual cash income of Rs 3,000 to Rs 5,000. Twenty per cent of the households received cash incomes of about Rs 5,000. A high degree of inequality in income distribution is seen.

It was revealed that the contribution of agriculture to the total cash earnings of the families was 26%. The contribution of agriculture was highest in the Rs 2,000 to Rs 5,000 income groups. Its contribution was lower in the lower income groups as well as in the high income groups. It was observed that those receiving higher incomes derived most of their income from white collar employment, while those receiving very low incomes were employed as labourers in agriculture and non-agricultural work.

Table 4.8 Distribution of households by their annual cash income from the sale of agricultural produce
N = 42

Annual cash income	Paddy		Highland		Livestock		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Upto 500	1	2	14	33	5	12	15	36
501 - 1,000	3	7	9	21	-	-	11	26
1,001 - 2,000	-	-	10	24	-	-	9	21
2,001 - 4,000	1	2	4	10	-	-	7	17
Over 4,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

When the annual cash incomes from agricultural products are examined, it is seen that highland crops are more important both from the point of view of the number of households as

well as from the point of view of the amount of money received. This is partly due to the subsistence nature of paddy farming in the area. Although five farmers have received cash incomes from livestock their incomes were below Rs 500, indicating the small scale and undeveloped nature of livestock enterprises.

A total of 42 households (70% of the total) had received cash incomes from agricultural sources. Of them, 36% had received cash incomes of less than Rs 500. However, the study revealed that 59 households (99%) received incomes from sources other than agriculture.

As seen in Table 4.9, the households in the over Rs 2,000 categories had received these incomes mainly from salaried or white collar employment and from trade and other similar sources. The cash income from non-agricultural labour was lower. A larger proportion of skilled workers had received higher incomes than non-agricultural labourers. The incomes received from textile weaving which is exclusively a female activity had been very low with the majority receiving less than Rs 500 per annum.

On comparing cash incomes received from non-agricultural sources with that from agricultural sources, it is seen that non-agricultural sources are more important both from the point of view of the number of farmers receiving cash incomes and the amount of money received.

4.5 Skills Possessed by Family Members

Table 4.10 summarises the various skills possessed by family members. Very few of the male members have reported the specific skills possessed by them, while 50% of the female members have reported the various skills possessed by them.

Table 4.10 Specific skills possessed by female family members
N = 73

Skills	No.	%
Textile weaving ..	21	29
Mat weaving ..	16	22
Sewing ..	30	41
Knitting ..	17	23
Cadjan weaving ..	1	1
Making curios and ornaments	8	11
Preparing sweet meats ..	6	8
Weaving hats ..	4	6
Poultry keeping ..	4	6
Flower making ..	2	3
Reed/rush work ..	4	6
Beedi wrapping ..	3	4
Batik printing ..	1	1

Table 4.9

Distribution of households by their annual cash income
from non-agricultural sources

N = 57

Annual cash income	Non-agri- cultural labour		Salaried or white collar employment		Skilled work- ers excluding textile weaving		Textile weaving		Trade and other simi- lar sources		Other types of self em- ployment		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Upto 500	2	4	-	-	1	4	4	7	3	5	6	11	4	7
500 - 1,000	9	16	-	-	3	5	1	2	2	4	1	2	5	9
1,001 - 2,000	3	5	3	5	5	9	1	2	4	7	5	9	16	28
2,001 - 4,000	3	5	9	16	1	2	-	-	10	18	1	2	20	35
Over 4,000	-	-	6	11	-	-	-	-	2	4	-	-	12	21

Of the 57 who responded, a very large majority (55%) reported learning these skills through formal participation. The availability of a wide range of skills, and the fact that large proportions of members reported learning these skills through formal participation suggests the high degree of exposure of female members to training activities.

Table 4.11 summarises the skills desired to be learnt by the female members.

Table 4.11 Specific skills desired to be learnt by female members
N = 71

Skills	No.	%
Making curios and ornaments	21	30
Batik printing ..	20	28
Textile weaving ..	18	25
Sewing ..	16	23
Preparing sweet meats	7	10
Beedi wrapping ..	5	7
Knitting ..	4	6
Bee keeping ..	3	4
Poultry keeping ..	2	3
Reed/rush work ..	2	3
Others*	5	7

* Montessori teaching, claywork, flower making, handicrafts.

4.6 Home Gardening and Poultry

Ninety two per cent (92%) of the households had enough land to maintain a home garden. The distribution of the households according to the size of the homestead is given in Table 4.12.

Table 4.12 Distribution of households by the size of the homestead
N = 55

Extent of homesteads (acres)	No.	%
Upto 1/8	5	9
Above 1/8 - 1/4	20	36
Above 1/4 - 1/2	17	31
Above 1/2 - 1	10	18
Above 1	3	5

Sixty per cent (60%) of the households produced vegetables for home consumption. The reason given by a majority of those who owned land, but did not engage in home gardening, for not maintaining a home garden was the lack of interest in home gardening. However, all the respondents were aware of the advantages of home gardening.

With regard to poultry keeping, the main reasons for not having poultry is summarised in Table 4.13. It is seen from this Table that the limiting factors were the non-availability of capital and material inputs and the lack of sufficient training facilities and not their dislike or lack of sufficient interest.

Table 4.13 Reasons for not maintaining poultry
N = 48

Reasons	No.	%
Lack of knowledge and experience	28	58
Lack of capital	27	56
Difficulty in buying nets, chicks etc.	30	63
Lack of interest and dislike	15	31
Unavailability of sufficient land	9	19

4.7 *Creation of Income Generating Activities for Farm Women*

The income generating activities that could be created for female members with locally available material as reported by respondents are given in Table 4.14.

The problems associated with the creation of income generating activities using locally available materials as reported by the respondents (Table 4.14) were the lack of knowledge and capital. It is seen from an earlier Table (Table 4.11), that a very large proportion of respondents expressed the desire to learn these skills. Lack of marketing sources which is a major factor limiting the development of cottage industries has not been cited as a major problem by the respondents.

Table 4.14 Distribution of respondents by the
indication of income generating
activities that could be created
for female members with locally
available material
N = 60

Raw material	Activity	No. of respondents	Percentage of respon- dents
Coir	Making items from coir	24	40
Bamboo	Making curios	20	33
Ekel	Making ekel brooms,	10	17
	Making curios	4	7
Sweet toddy	Making jaggery	22	37
Banana fibre	Making curios	8	13
	Fibre industries	2	3

Table 4.14 (contd.)

Raw material	Activity	No. of respondents	Percentage of respondents
Reed ("Bata")	Making curios	7	12
"Na" fibre	Making curios	5	8
	Weaving hats	4	7
Coconut leaves	Weaving boxes	2	3
Clay	Pottery	2	3
Coconut shells	Handicrafts	1	2
Reed/Rush	Weaving mats	1	2

The views on income generating activities that could be created with raw material brought from outside are presented in Table 4.16. The problems identified with regard to these enterprises were the same as mentioned earlier, except that lack of raw materials was cited as an additional problem.

Table 4.15 Income generating activities which could be created by using raw materials brought from outside
N = 60

Raw material	Activity	No.	%
Beedi tobacco	Beedi making ..	36	60
Yarn	Textile weaving ..	33	55
Wax and dyes	Batik industry ..	19	32
Reed	Making curios ..	13	22
Plastic cane	Making curios ..	9	15
Cane	Making curios ..	3	5
	Making furniture ..	2	3
Bamboo	Making curios ..	4	7
Coconut shells	Making curios ..	1	2

The views with regard to possible income generating activities for groups of females were also obtained and these are summarised in Table 4.16.

Table 4.16 Income generating activities for groups of females
N = 60

Activity	No. of respondents	Percentage of respondents
Textile weaving ..	44	73
Making curios ..	36	60
Beedi wrapping ..	20	33
Batik printing ..	16	27
Preparation of sweet meats	16	27
Dress-making ..	6	10
Preparing preserved food	4	7
Others ..	8	13

*coir industry, cane furniture, reed/rush work etc.

With reference to the role of rural organisations in promoting and assisting income generating activities for farm women the respondents have mentioned Young Farmers' Clubs, Women's Societies, *Praja Mandala* and Rural Development Societies as organisations that could assist in these activities. The specific functions desired from these organisations are to encourage members to engage themselves in these activities, provision of credit and provision of training.

5. STUDY AREA - KANDUPALATHA

5.1 Personal Characteristics

Family Size , Age and Education

The average family size of the two selected villages was between 6-8. This is a high figure when compared to the average family size in the rural sector of Sri Lanka. Forty one per cent (41%) of the households had more than 8 members in their families, 35% had between 5 and 7, while 24% of the households had 2-4 members. Of a total of 238 members in the age group of 14-65 years who reported in the 46 households, 117 were males and 121 were females. Hence, it was evident that each household had 2-3 female members in this age group. A further breakdown of the population between the age of 14-65 is given in Table 5.1. It is seen that a large proportion of the population (38%) is in the age group 21-30 years. Sixty five per cent (65%) of the female members fall into the 14-30 age group.

Table 5.1 Distribution of family members of the age group 14-65 by their age

Age group (years)	Females		Males		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
14-20	31	26	19	16	50	21
21-30	47	39	43	37	90	38
31-45	27	22	30	26	57	24
46-65	16	13	25	21	41	17
Total	121	100	117	100	238	100

As for the level of education of the family members, the study revealed that nearly 70% of the population of the age group 14-65 years have had more than 5 years of schooling. Of these, 29% had GCE 'O' level qualifications. Only 7% of the population of the age group 14-65 years have had no formal education, while 23% have had education upto Grade 5. The above figures show that the level of education of the family members in the selected area is high when compared to most of the other rural areas in Sri Lanka. With regard to the female family members, Table 5.2 shows that a little over one-third of females between the age of 14-65 years have had 'O' level qualifications.

Table 5.2 Distribution of family members of
the age group 14-65 by their education

Level of education	Females		Males		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
No schooling	11	9	6	5	17	7
Upto Grade 5	28	23	27	23	55	23
Grade 6 to 'O' level	41	34	55	47	96	40
Passed 'O' level and above	41	34	29	25	70	29
Total	121	100	117	100	238	100

5.2 Ownership of Land and Livestock

Land Ownership

The selected area is a densely populated region characterised by small land holdings. Nearly half of the respondents had holdings of less than one acre each. Another 30% of the respondents owned 1.1-3.0 acres of land, while 20% of the respondents had more than 3 acres of land. Distribution of households by land ownership and operable land is given in Table 5.3. It is shown from the same Table that only one respondent had more than 3 acres of cultivable paddy land. Thirty nine per cent (39%) of the respondents had up to one acre holdings of lowland, 24% had between 1.1-3.0 acres, while the rest did not operate any paddy land.

Table 5.3 Distribution of households by operable
land and land ownership
N = 46

	Upto 1 acre		1.1-3.0 acres		3.1-5.0 acres		Over 5 acres	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Lowland operated	18	39	11	24	0	0	1	2
Highland operated (including home -stead)	28	61	12	26	4	9	0	0
Total operable land	21	46	15	33	3	7	6	13
Land owned	22	48	14	30	3	7	6	13

Ownership of Livestock

Livestock industry except for cattle husbandry does not play an important role in the economy of the selected area. Twenty four per cent (24%) of the households reported the ownership of neat cattle. Two per cent (2%) of the households reported the ownership of goats, while only 13% were rearing poultry. None of the respondents reported the ownership of buffaloes or pigs. A breakdown of the ownership of livestock is given in Table 5.4.

Table 5.4 Ownership of livestock by households
N = 46

	Number of animals owned							
	0		1-2		3-4		5 and above	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Neat cattle	35	76	9	20	2	4	0	0
Buffaloes	46	100	0	0	0	0	0	0
Goats	45	98	1	2	0	0	0	0
Poultry	39	85	1	2	0	0	5	11
Pigs	46	100	0	0	0	0	0	0

5.3 Division of Labour

It was intended in this survey to collect information on the allocation of time by family members for various activities and Table 5.5 gives the breakdown of the population on the basis of the division of labour of the selected households. Agriculture was not so significant as a source of employment when compared to off-farm work. Only 18% of the males and 3% of the females were engaged in own-farm work on a full-time basis. However, 43% of the males and 46% of the females were engaged in farming on part-time basis. The important factor with regard to the own farm employment of female members was that 49% of them were engaged in own farm activities on either full-time or part-time basis. This number when expressed as a percentage of farmers, both full-time and part-time, works out to 80%. Thus it could be concluded that the contribution of female members to farming is substantial. Further, irrespective of sex, the same Table reveals the predominance of part-time farming in relation to full-time farming.

It is also seen from the same Table that 5% of the male population between the age group of 14-65 work full-time in off-farm agricultural activities. Table 5.5 further reveals that off-farm non-agricultural activities is the most important single source of employment engaging nearly one-third of the male population and nearly one fourth of the females on a full-time basis.¹ Another 20% of the total work force (i.e. both male and female family members between the age group of 14-65) are engaged in off-farm activities on a part-time basis.

It was seen that only 17% of the female members of the age group 14-65 were engaged full-time in household work. This is in contrast with the situation prevailing in some of the other areas included in this study, where more than 50% of the female members are engaged in household matters on a full-time basis. However, 45% and 18% of the female family members stated that they devote more than one third of their time and less than one

¹

The category "Off-farm non-agriculture" also includes students.

third of their time respectively for household activities. Here too, it appears that as in Beminiwatte the household work is shared by more than one member.

Table 5.5 Distribution of family members of the age group 14-65 by allocation of time for various activities

Females - N = 121 Males - N = 117

		Farm- ing (own farm)		Off-farm (agri- culture)		Off-farm non-agri- culture (including students)		House- hold work		Leisure time (not employed)	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Full-time	Females	4	3	4	3	28	23	20	17	0	0
	Males	21	18	6	5	39	33	0	0	2	2
Part-time more than 1/3 of time	Females	23	19	3	3	11	9	54	45	0	0
	Males	35	30	2	2	17	15	28	24	2	2
Part-time less than 1/3 of time	Females	33	27	1	1	12	10	22	18	9	7
	Males	15	13	1	1	6	5	31	27	8	7

Although the fulltime involvement of female family members in household matters is not so significant, if both full-time and part-time engagements are taken into account, these figures indicate the need for at least one female family member to attend to the household chores.

With regard to unemployment among family members, none of the females indicated total unemployment. However, 7% of the females indicated that they were under-employed. Extent of unemployment is very much less significant when compared to other areas.

Table 5.6 examines the allocation of time by the female family members of the selected households, according to the different age groups. As for the allocation of time on own-farm activities, the Table shows that none of the female members of the age group 14-20 was engaged full-time on own-farm activities, while only 5% and 3% of the female family members in the age groups 14-20 and 21-35 respectively reported their contribution to own farm work on a full-time basis. The contribution of female members was mainly on a part-time basis. This may be due to the fact that their contribution is mostly limited to transplanting, weeding and harvesting.

It is also seen from the same Table that nearly 23-24% of the females in each group were engaged in off-farm non-agricultural activities. The students who account for 4% of the total of female family members, are also included in this category.

However, all of them belong to the age group of 14-20, hence, the majority of females, who gain employment from off-farm activities come from the age groups of 21-35 and 36-65.

With regard to the contribution of female members to household work, it was evident that the majority who were involved full-time came from the older age groups. There was no marked variation among the groups with reference to off-farm agricultural activities.

Table 5-6 Distribution of female members
according to age and employment
N = 121

		Farm- ing (own farm)		Off- farm agri- cul- ture		Off-farm non-agri- culture (including students)		House- hold work		Leisure time (not em- ployed)		No. of respon- dents in each age group	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
14-20	Full-time	0	0	2	7	7	23	2	7	0	0	31	100
	Part-time	15	48	0	0	3	10	21	68	3	10		
21-35	Full-time	3	5	1	2	13	23	8	14	0	0	56	100
	Part-time	22	50	2	4	17	30	39	70	4	7		
Over 35	Full-time	1	3	2	6	8	24	10	29	0	0	34	100
	Part-time	13	38	2	6	6	18	21	62	2	6		

5.4 Present Employment Pattern of Family Members

It was seen that 109 family members of the age group of 14-65 years were engaged in non-agricultural activities. This category includes students as well. The total number of students in this age group is 12, of which 7 are males. A breakdown of the off-farm employment of family members (excluding students) is given in Table 5.7. It is seen that unlike in other areas a substantial proportion of both male and female work force is employed in non-farm activities.

Table 5.7 Employment of family members of age
14-65 in off-farm activities
(excluding students)

Activity	Females		Males		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Salaried or white-collar employment	11	28	7	12	18	19
Skilled workers excluding textile weaving*	0	0	16	28	16	17
Textile weaving	4	10	0	0	4	4

Table 5.7 (contd.)

Activity	Females		Males		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Agricultural labourer	9	23	9	16	18	19
Non-agricultural labourer	4	10	5	9	9	9
Business	5	13	18	32	23	24
Other kinds of self-employment**	7	18	2	4	9	9
Total	40	100	57	100	97	100

* Blacksmiths, masons, carpenters etc.

** Sewing, knitting etc.

Salaried or white-collar employment was the most important single source of employment for female family members. Twenty eight per cent (28%) of the total female family members between the age of 14-65 were engaged in white-collar employment, while the respective figure for males was only 12%. Twenty three per cent (23%) of the female family members and 16% of the males were employed as agricultural labourers. The Table also reveals that the majority of the males (32%) gained employment from various business activities, while 28% of them were skilled workers. Only 10% of the females were engaged in textile weaving, though it is generally accepted that textile weaving is a better source of employment for women. However, 18% of the female family members of the age group of 14-65 years, were self-employed and were engaged in sewing and knitting.

5.5 Source of Income

It was not intended to collect detailed information on family income and only the sources and the amounts of cash income of the selected families were ascertained through the questionnaire survey. For this purpose - (a) sale of paddy in the crop year; (b) sale of highland produce in the crop year; (c) sale of livestock produce; (d) income from off-farm employment and other sources were enumerated. A breakdown of farm families according to their total annual "cash income" is given in Table 5.8.

Table 5.8 Distribution of households by their annual cash income

N = 46

Annual cash income	No. of households	Percentage of households	Proportion from agricultural sources
Upto 500	2	4	0
500 - 1,000	0	0	0
1,001 - 2,000	5	11	66
2,001 - 3,000	6	13	23
3,001 - 5,000	10	22	43
5,001 - 8,000	13	28	50
Over 8,000	10	22	30
Total	46	100	38

Despite the fact that the disparity in income distribution is seen to a large extent, it is seen from the above Table that the majority of females were getting relatively high cash incomes. For instance, 50% of the families receive an annual cash income of over Rs 5,000. Further, 72% of the total families receive an average annual income of over Rs 3,000. On the other hand, only 15% of the families received less than Rs 2,000 per annum.

The Table does not show a relationship between the total income and its proportion from agricultural sources. However, it was revealed that the contribution of agriculture of the total cash income of the families was less than 50% in most cases. Its contribution was lower in the lower income groups as well as in high income groups. This may be due to the fact that those receiving higher incomes derived most of their income from salaried employment, while on the other hand those receiving very low incomes were landless and derived their incomes from other sources like agricultural labour.

When the annual cash incomes from agricultural products are examined, it was seen that the income from paddy was smaller when compared with the income from highland crops. This difference was much significant among the farmers receiving a total cash income of less than Rs 2,000 per annum which indicates the subsistent nature of paddy farming among low income groups. It is likely that in the case of low income groups, most of the production is consumed at home. Table 5.9 gives a breakdown of the cash incomes from various agricultural sources.

Table 5.9 Distribution of households by their annual cash income from the sale of agricultural produce
N = 26

Annual cash income	Paddy		Highland		Livestock		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Upto 500	1	4	1	4	0	0	2	8
501 - 1,000	0	0	5	19	0	0	3	12
1,001 - 2,000	4	15	8	31	0	0	5	19
2,001 - 4,000	6	23	7	27	0	0	7	27
Over 4,000	2	8	3	12	0	0	9	35

In spite of the fact that Kandupalatha area, being located in the mid-country wet zone, is ideal for profitable rearing of improved cattle breeds, the study revealed that none of the farmers received any cash income from dairying. Further, none of the households received any cash income by keeping poultry, pigs or goats.

A total of 26 households (56% of the total) had received cash incomes from agricultural sources. Of these, 61% had received cash incomes of more than Rs 2,000 per year. This is in contrast with the situation prevailing in other areas studied. Further, the study revealed that 85% of the households received incomes from sources other than agriculture.

Table 5.10 gives the annual cash incomes of the family members who were engaged in off-farm activities. Skilled workers (excluding textile weavers) and salaried or white-collar employees were receiving higher incomes. Sewing, knitting and other types of self-employment could also be considered as important sources of income despite the fact that some farm women received low incomes. Only 4 females were engaged in textile weaving and they too were drawing less than Rs 2,000 per annum. Significant contribution of trade and other sources to the off-farm cash incomes is also seen from the same Table.

With regard to the degree of indebtedness among the families selected, the study revealed that 83% of the households were able to meet day-to-day expenses without obtaining loans and this is a satisfactory situation compared to that of the other areas included in this study. As for the annual expenditure on food, 63% and 35% of the respondents stated that they spent between 50%-75% and over 75% of the total annual incomes respectively on food. The study also revealed that annual expenditure on clothing was less than 25% of the total cash income for all the households.

Table 5.10

Distribution of households by their annual cash receipts
from non-agricultural sources

N = 47

Annual cash income	Non-agri- cultural labour		Salaried or white-collar employment		Skilled work- ers excluding textile weaving		Textile weaving		Other types of self em- ployment		Trade and other sources		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Upto 500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	7	3	7	6	13
501 - 1,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	2	2	4	4	9
1,001 - 2,000	2	4	0	0	2	4	3	7	0	0	1	2	8	17
2,001 - 4,000	1	2	1	2	8	17	0	0	2	4	2	4	14	30
Over 4,000	0	0	6	13	3	7	0	0	1	2	5	11	15	33

5.6 Skills Possessed by the Family Members

Table 5.11 summarises the various skills possessed by family members. Of the 41 members who reported the specific skills possessed by them, 31 were females. The majority of them (52%) possessed skills in sewing. But the earlier analysis indicated that only a few of them were gainfully employed in sewing.

Table 5.11 also shows that some female family members possessed skills in knitting and textile weaving.

Table 5.11 Specific skills possessed by family members

Skills		Females		Males	
		N = 31		N = 10	
		No.	%	No.	%
Textile weaving	..	7	23	-	-
Mat weaving	..	2	7	-	-
Sewing	..	16	52	-	-
Knitting	..	8	26	-	-
Cadján Weaving	..	3	10	-	-
Cookery	..	2	7	-	-
Reed/Rush Work	..	4	13	1	10
Carpentry	..	-	-	6	60
Timber sawing	..	-	-	1	10
Industry with coconut fibre	..	-	-	1	10
Coconut leaf work	..	-	-	1	10
Art	...	1	3	-	-

Although 31 female family members of the selected two villages possessed specific skills, it should be noted that only 11 of them had (7 were engaged in sewing and knitting and 4 in textile weaving) made use of the skills in seeking employment.

With regard to the way of learning these skills, 21% stated that they learnt these skills through formal participation and 21% through informal participation, while the remaining 58% of the respondents reported they learned these skills through both means

As for the interest shown by the female family members to learn specific skills, the majority were keen to have training in animal husbandry. At present none of the households earns any cash income from animal husbandry. The other areas in which the female family members liked to be trained were batik printing, sewing, cottage industries and knitting.

Table 5.12 Specific skills that respondents
liked to learn
N = 26

Skills	No.	%
Animal husbandry	14	54
Batik printing	5	19
Sewing	3	12
Knitting	1	4
Cottage industries	3	12

When giving reasons for wanting to learn the above mentioned skills, all the respondents stated that they wished not only to meet family requirements but sell the produce as well.

Further the study revealed that 67% of the households had their own sewing machines and 76% of the respondents stated that they sew their own clothes. The remaining 24% pay for sewing their clothes.

5.7 Home Garden and Poultry

With reference to the awareness of the advantages of home gardening, the study revealed that 30% of the respondents were not convinced of the usefulness of home gardening. As for the availability of land for this purpose, almost all the households reported the ownership of a plot of land for home gardening. Of these 41% had between 0.126-0.25 acres and 22% up to 0.125 acres. Further, it was seen that 88% of the farm families in the area produce vegetables for home needs in their home gardens. The respondents who did not have home gardens could not mention any valid reasons for not having a home garden.

Only 10% of the households reported keeping poultry. Of these 60% had indigenous breeds. The balance who are engaged in poultry keeping adopted the "deep litter" system which is considered to be an improved system of management. The reasons for not keeping poultry is given in Table 5.13.

Table 5.13 Reasons for not keeping poultry
N = 41

Reasons	No.	%
Lack of space	12	29
Lack of capital	11	27
Difficulty in buying nets, chicks etc.	2	5
Lack of interest and unwillingness to keep poultry	19	46
Lack of time	2	5

Lack of interest and unwillingness to keep poultry were the main reasons given by the respondents for not keeping poultry. However, there is scope for expanding poultry keeping as an income generating activity for female members by providing capital, material and training requirements.

5.8 Respondents Views on the Creation of Income Generating Activities

In obtaining respondents' views on the possibility of small scale enterprises which could be created for rural women for the purpose of creating income generating activities from locally available raw materials, the study revealed that the majority of the respondents (61%) viewed the possibility of bags, hats and mat weaving, using of "Pan" (rush) coconut leaves and other such items. Coir products and beedi wrappings were also stated by the respondents as shown in Table 5.14.

Table 5.14 Income generating activities that could be created by using locally available raw materials
N = 46

Raw materials	Activity	No. of respondents	%
"Pan"	Weaving mats, bags, hats etc.	28	61
"Pan"	Handicrafts	2	4
Coir	Making brushes and other coir products	6	13
Clay	Brick making	1	2
Tobacco	Beedi wrapping	1	2
Coconut leaves	Boxes and handicrafts	2	4

Lack of knowledge and experience, lack of marketing facilities, were stated by the majority of the respondents as problems associated with the creation of income generating activities using locally available raw materials.

Respondents' views on income generating activities that could be created with raw materials brought from outside are given in Table 5.15.

Table 5.15 Income generating activities that
could be created by using raw materials
brought from outside
N = 46

Raw materials	Activity	No.	%
Cloth and batik dye	Batik industries	8	17
Yarn	Textile weaving	15	33
Cane	Making furniture and bags	11	24
Tobacco	Beedi wrapping	4	9
Plastic cane	Plastic bags	7	15
"Pan", leather, coir	Products based on these raw materials	5	11

The problems associated with these enterprises were similar to those associated with enterprises using locally available material except that difficulties of obtaining raw materials was mentioned as an additional problem. However, lack of knowledge and experience was given more weightage than difficulties in marketing in regard to the second category of enterprises.

5.9 *Role of Rural Organisations in Relation to the Income Generating Activities*

An attempt was made to obtain respondents' views on the role of rural organisations with regard to the creation of income generating activities for female family members. As for the presence of rural organisations which provide training and other services to female members, with regard to any form of income generating activities, 76% of the respondents indicated the awareness of such organisations. This is in contrast with the situation found in other areas surveyed.

Most of the services and training were provided by the "*Mahila Samithi*". The training imparted by such organisations was mainly on farming, cottage industries, sewing, knitting and cookery.

All the respondents reported the need of rural organisations in creating income generating activities for rural women. The majority of men recognised the need to establish women's organisations to facilitate farm women to engage in income generating activities.

6. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSIONS

It was felt that a comparative study would be relevant and useful in examining the inter-area similarities and dissimilarities and in identifying the salient features that would be useful in formulating income generating activities for rural farm women. In the survey some information with regard to male population was also collected in order to compare the employment activities of male and female members of farm families. However, this information was not utilised in the comparative analysis.

6.1 *Personal Characteristics*

6.1.1 *Family Size*

The family size in the samples selected from Jaffna and Kuliypitiya averaged 5-6 members, a figure which is comparable with the average family size in the rural sector. The average size of the households in Kandupalatha and Beminiwatte was 7, while in Rajangana it was 4-5 members. The number of female family members of the age group 14-65 in the selected households averaged to 2 in Kuliypitiya, 1-2 in Jaffna and Rajangana and 2-3 in Kandupalatha and Beminiwatte. **THUS THE NUMBER OF FEMALE MEMBERS OF THE AGE GROUP 14-65 WAS HIGHER IN BEMINIWATTE, KANDUPALATHA AND KULIYAPITIYA WHEN COMPARED TO THE OTHER TWO AREAS.**

The distribution of female family members by age, within the age group 14-65 is given in Table 6.1. In all areas, the 46-65 age group comprised the lowest proportion of the female population. It is seen from the Table that the largest proportion of the female population in Rajangana and Kandupalatha was in the age group of 21-30 years, while in the other areas the 14-20 age group comprised the highest proportion of female members. From the figures presented in the Table it could be generalised that around 60% of the female labour force in all areas are between 14-30 years of age.

Table 6.1 Percentage distribution of female family members of age 14-65 by their age

Age group	Kuliyapitiya	Jaffna	Rajangana	Kandupalatha	Beminiwatte
14-20	29	36	26	26	32
21-30	26	24	42	39	28
31-45	30	22	28	22	24
46-65	15	19	4	13	16
Total	100	100	100	100	100

6.1.2 Education

Educational level is an important consideration in formulating income generating activities for rural farm women in a particular area. The study revealed that the level of education of the female population between the ages of 14-65 in Rajangana is low when compared to the other four areas. IF THE AREAS ARE ARRANGED ACCORDING TO THE PERCENTAGE OF FEMALES OF THE AGE GROUP 14-65, WITH AT LEAST 5 YEARS OF SCHOOLING, BEMINIWATTE COMES FIRST (71%) FOLLOWED BY KANDUPALATHA (68%), KULIYAPITIYA (61%), JAFFNA (52%) AND RAJANGANA (47%). HOWEVER, KANDUPALATHA (34%) HAS THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF FEMALES WITH GCE ("O" LEVEL) QUALIFICATION AND IS FOLLOWED BY KULIYAPITIYA (25%).

Table 6.2 Percentage distribution of female family members of age group 14-65 by their level of education

Level of education	Kuliyapitiya	Jaffna	Rajangana	Kandupalatha	Beminiwatte
No schooling	12	7	12	9	12
Upto grade 5	27	41	42	23	17
Grade 6 to 'O' level	36	41	39	34	56
Passed 'O' level and above	25	11	8	34	15
Total	100	100	100	100	100

6.2 Division of Labour

The survey was intended to collect information on the allocation of time by female members for various activities. Table 6.3 gives the breakdown of the female population of the age group 14-65, in the 5 areas selected, on the basis of division of labour.

Most females were engaged in own farm work mainly on a part-time basis. THE TIME ALLOCATION FOR FARMING WAS HIGHEST IN RAJANGANA. OF THE SELECTED AREAS IN JAFFNA AGRICULTURE WAS NOT AN IMPORTANT SOURCE OF EMPLOYMENT FOR WOMEN. HERE ONLY 12% OF THE FEMALE POPULATION WERE ENGAGED IN OWN FARM ACTIVITIES on part-time basis (none of them were engaged in own farm activities on full-time basis) and this figure when expressed as a percentage of the number of farmers, both full-time and part-time accounts to 21%. PERCENTAGES OF FEMALE MEMBERS ENGAGED IN FAMILY FARM ACTIVITIES EITHER ON FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME BASIS IN THE OTHER AREAS NAMELY KULIYAPITIYA, RAJANGANA, KANDUPALATHA AND BEMINIWATTE WERE 40%, 74%, 49% AND 54% RESPECTIVELY. This when expressed as a percentage of the number of farmers, (both full-time and part-time) works out to 57%, 82%, 80% and 77% respectively. The high participation of female members in own farm activities is an important criterion to be considered when formulating income generating activities for rural women within the agricultural sector.

THE STUDY ALSO REVEALED THAT OFF FARM AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES WERE NOT AN IMPORTANT SOURCE OF EMPLOYMENT FOR FEMALE FAMILY MEMBERS IN ANY ONE OF THE FIVE SELECTED AREAS.

The proportion of female family members of the ages 14-65, employed in off-farm non-agricultural activities (excluding students) is given in Table 6.4. Rajangana recorded the lowest percentage of female family members engaged in such activities. This may be due to the lack of off-farm non-agricultural employment opportunities as it is mainly an agricultural area (a colonisation scheme) and is situated away from urban areas. Correspondingly the level of under-employment is also higher in this area. On the other hand off-farm non-agricultural activities which employ one third of female members of age group 14-65, is the most important single source of employment in the Kandupalatha area.

THE STUDY REVEALS THE NEED FOR AT LEAST ONE FEMALE FAMILY MEMBER TO ATTEND TO ALL THE HOUSEHOLD WORK ON A FULL-TIME BASIS. Considering the family size (5-7) and the time allocated to other activities, one could argue that the time spent on household work is generally more than what is required. For example, in Rajangana and Kuliypitiya, 65% and 40% female members respectively are engaged in household activities on a full-time basis along with others who are involved on a part-time basis. In Beminiwatte and Kandupalatha full-time engagement in household activities is low when compared to other areas where household activities are shared by more than one family member. ALTHOUGH FULL-TIME UNEMPLOYMENT WAS NOT REPORTED BY FEMALE MEMBERS, THERE IS

UNDER-EMPLOYMENT TO A LARGE EXTENT.¹ Under-employment was predominant in Rajangana where 92% of the female members were not gainfully employed for more than one third of their time. In Kandupalatha where both farm and off-farm employment were high, only 7% of the female family members of the age group 14-65 reported unemployment and that too on part-time basis. In the remaining three areas the situation was moderate.

Table 6.3 Percentage distribution of female members of the age group 14-65 by allocation of time for various activities

Code 1 - full-time
Code 2 - part of the time
Code 2a - more than one third of the time
Code 2b - less than one third of the time

	Farm- ing			Off-farm (agriculture)			Off-farm (non-agri- culture) including students			House- hold work			Leisure time (not employed)		
	1	2a	2b	1	2a	2b	1	2a	2b	1	2a	2b	1	2a	2b
Kuliyapitiya	3	28	9	0	0	1	26	4	0	40	19	7	0	26	9
Jaffna	0	2	10	0	1	0	27	9	3	54	15	16	0	0	67
Rajangana	6	65	3	1	7	4	4	3	0	65	24	1	0	92	6
Kandupalatha	3	19	27	3	3	1	23	9	10	17	45	18	0	0	7
Beminiwatte	1	23	30	0	0	1	10	17	3	24	46	17	0	19	54

Table 6.4 Employment of female members of age 14-65 years in off-farm non-agricultural activities

	Total no. of female members of age 14-65	No. employed in off-farm non-agricul- tural activi- ties (exclud- ing students)	No. employed in off-farm non-ag- ricultural acti- vities expressed as a percentage of total
Kuliyapitiya	117	21	18
Jaffna	93	16	17
Rajangana	91	3	3
Kandupalatha	121	40	33
Beminiwatte	145	22	15

1

Although full-time unemployment was not reported by female members, a large proportion of them were employed either in the farm or in the household on a part-time basis. These members can take up full-time employment if opportunities are available.

On examining the allocation of time by the female family members of the selected five areas, on the basis of the different age groups, it was observed that the majority of females involved full-time in household activities were above 20 years of age. The majority of the members involved in farming (either full-time or part-time basis) are also in the same age group. Most of the members employed in off-farm non-agricultural activities were from the age group of 14-20 and 20-35.

Table 6.5 gives the percentage distribution of female family members of the ages 14-65 according to off-farm employment. This shows great diversity according to the respective areas. For instance skilled work, which accounts for 71% was the most important source of off-farm employment in Kuliya-pitiya area while labour and self-employment were the major sources of off-farm employment in Jaffna. IT IS SEEN FROM TABLE 6.5 THAT IN RAJANGANA NONE OF THE FEMALE FAMILY MEMBERS WERE ENGAGED IN SALARIED EMPLOYMENT, SKILLED WORK, LABOUR OR TRADE. THUS IT COULD BE CONCLUDED THAT IN RAJANGANA AN URGENT NEED EXISTS FOR THE CREATION OF MORE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES OUTSIDE THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR.

Table 6.5 Type of employment of female family members of age 14-65 years

	Percentage of Respondents				
	Kuliya- pitiya N = 21	Jaffna N = 16	Rajan- gana N = 3	Kandupa- latha N = 40	Bemini- watte N = 22
Salaried or white-collar employment	19	19	0	28	18
Skilled work	71	13	0	10	27
Labour	5	25	0	33	23
Trade	0	13	0	13	0
Other kinds of self-employment	5	31	100	18	32

The foregoing discussion could be summarised as follows :

1. OFF-FARM NON-AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARE INADEQUATE IN ALL THE FIVE AREAS. THIS IS SEEN TO A GREATER DEGREE IN RAJANGANA WHERE ONLY 3 OUT OF 91 FEMALE FAMILY MEMBERS WERE GAINFULLY EMPLOYED IN OFF-FARM NON-AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES. KANDUPALATHA REPORTS THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF FEMALE FAMILY MEMBERS INVOLVED IN OFF-FARM WORK. HOWEVER, THERE TOO IT ACCOUNTS FOR ONE THIRD OF THE TOTAL FEMALE WORK FORCE.

2. SALARIED OR WHITE-COLLAR EMPLOYMENT AND LABOUR SEEM TO BE THE MAJOR AVENUES OF OFF-FARM EMPLOYMENT FOR FEMALE MEMBERS IN MOST AREAS WHILE OTHER AVENUES SUCH AS TEXTILE WEAVING, SEWING, KNITTING, HANDICRAFT INDUSTRY ARE OF LESSER IMPORTANCE.
3. THUS THERE IS A SCOPE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES MAKING USE OF SUCH SKILLS IN ALL THE AREAS COVERED BY THE PRESENT STUDY.

Information on the skills already possessed by the female family members as well as the skills they desired to learn also supports this view.

IT WAS ALSO SEEN THAT THERE IS A POSSIBILITY FOR THE CREATION OF ADDITIONAL EMPLOYMENT WITHIN AGRICULTURE, BOTH IN AND OUTSIDE THE FARM IN MOST OF THESE AREAS THROUGH INTRODUCING CHANGES IN CROPPING PATTERNS. Attempts could be made to introduce labour intensive cash crops. This would generate additional employment opportunities within agriculture in rural areas and consequently participation of female family members in agricultural activities could be enhanced. In addition, there may be possibilities of introducing cash crops which can be grown and marketed by farm women.

6.3 Skills Possessed by the Female Family Members

The specific skills possessed by the female family members which could help in planning any form of income generating activities are given in Table 6.6.

Table 6.6 Skills possessed by female family members

	Percentage of Respondents				
	Kuliya- pitiya N = 49	Jaffna N = 60	Rajan- gana N = 29	Kandupa- latha N = 31	Bemini- watte N = 73
Textile weaving	61	5	14	23	29
Mat weaving	27	57	55	7	22
Sewing	8	52	24	52	41
Knitting	-	-	-	26	23
Weaving bags etc.	-	-	41	13	11
Food preparation	-	-	-	7	8
Weaving cadjan	-	8	-	10	1
Making curios and ornaments	-	-	-	-	11
Typing and short- hand	2	-	-	-	-
Poultry keeping	-	-	-	-	6

Table 6.6

	Percentage of Respondents				
	Kuliya- pitiya N = 49	Jaffna N = 60	Rajan- gana N = 29	Kandupa- latha N = 31	Bemini- watte N = 73
Flower making	-	-	-	-	3
Batik printing	-	-	-	-	1
Beedi wrapping	-	-	-	-	1
Other handicrafts	-	-	3	-	4
'N' as % of total female members	42	65	32	26	50

In Jaffna, 65% of the female family members of the age group 14-65 reported possessing specific skills, while in Rajangana and Kandupalatha about one third and one fourth of the female work force respectively reported possessing skills. Skills possessed by the female family members in Beminiwatte were many - among which sewing, textile weaving, mat weaving and knitting were the major ones. The skills possessed by female members vary in accordance with particular areas. For instance the skills possessed by the females in Kuliypitiya were mainly textile weaving (61%) and mat weaving (27%) while in Rajangana the majority possessed skills in weaving mats and bags.

HOWEVER, ON COMPARING THESE SKILLS WITH THE LEVEL OF OFF-FARM EMPLOYMENT OF FEMALE FAMILY MEMBERS (TABLES 6.4 AND 6.5), IT IS SEEN THAT THE SKILLS POSSESSED BY THEM HAVE NOT BEEN ADEQUATELY UTILISED AND THIS SITUATION IS CLEARLY SHOWN IN TABLE 6.7.

Table 6.7 Utilisation of specific skills for income generating activities

	Kuliya- pitiya	Jaffna	Rajan- gana	Kandupa- latha	Bemini watte
No. of female family members possessing specific skills, expressed as a percentage of the total female work force	42	65	32	26	50
No. of female members who make use of these skills to gain employment expressed as a percentage of the total female work force	15	8	3	9	9

The Table above clearly indicates that there is scope for utilising these skills in income generating activities.

6.4 Skills Desired by Family Members

Specific skills which the female family members desired to learn, could be used as an important guideline in designing income generating activities for rural farm women. Hence in the present study it was intended to gather information on the interests shown by the respondents to learn specific skills. THE STUDY REVEALED THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE FEMALES IN JAFFNA AND RAJANGANA WERE KEEN TO HAVE A TRAINING IN SEWING, KNITTING AND TEXTILE WEAVING, WHILE IN KANDUPALATHA, MAJORITY OF THE RESPONDENTS EXPRESSED THEIR DESIRE TO BE TRAINED IN ANIMAL HUSBANDRY. IN BEMINIWATTE THE MAJORITY OF THE RESPONDENTS SHOWED INTEREST IN BATIK INDUSTRY, MAKING CURIOS AND ORNAMENTS, TEXTILE WEAVING AND SEWING, WHILE IN KULIYAPITIYA THE MAIN AREAS OF INTEREST SHOWN BY THE RESPONDENTS WERE HANDICRAFT WORK, BATIK INDUSTRY AND SEWING. Table 6.8 summarises the skills desired to be learnt by female members in the selected areas.

Table 6.8 Skills desired by female family members

Skills	Percentage of Respondents				
	Kuliya- pitiya N = 26	Jaffna N = 37	Rajan- gana N = 43	Kandupa- latha N = 26	Bemini- watte N = 71
Sewing	23	28	88	12	23
Knitting	-	-	26	4	6
Textile weaving	15	38	19	-	25
Mat weaving	-	-	9	-	-
Handicraft work	35	-	9	-	7
Batik printing	23	-	-	19	28
Animal husbandry	-	-	-	54	3
Cottage industry	-	-	-	12	-
Making curios and ornaments	-	-	-	-	29
Food preparation	-	-	-	-	10
Beedi wrapping	-	-	-	-	7
Bee-keeping	-	-	-	-	4

With reference to the reasons for learning these specific skills the majority of the respondents in all the areas except Rajangana stated that they wished to learn these skills in order to produce items for sale or for seeking employment and also to meet family requirements. However, the majority of the respondents (66%) in Rajangana stated that they would like to learn those skills only to meet domestic requirements. In this regard it should be noted that 88% of the respondents in this area desired to be trained in sewing and at present the majority of the households (70%) pay for sewing.

6.5 Home Gardening and Poultry

Home gardening of vegetables and poultry products are helpful in raising the nutritional standards of rural families. Home gardening and poultry keeping for home consumption will also reduce the expenditure on food items. Further, marketable surpluses could lead to an increase in the cash income of the family.

6.5.1 Home Gardening

Majority of the respondents were aware of the advantages of home gardening. The study revealed that more than 50% of the farm families had some land to produce vegetables for home needs. However, home production of vegetables, fruits etc., is relatively low in Beminiwatte and Kuliyaipitiya despite the fact that the climatic conditions are favourable and that there is sufficient female labour.

IT IS SEEN THAT IN MOST OF THE AREAS HOME GARDENING IS NOT CARRIED OUT SYSTEMATICALLY. HENCE THERE IS A NEED TO INTRODUCE PROFITABLE HOME GARDENING PROGRAMMES TO EACH OF THESE FIVE AREAS. THIS IS PARTICULARLY RELEVANT TO AREAS IN BEMINIWATTE AND KULIYAPITIYA.

6.5.2 Poultry Keeping

DESPITE THE FACT THAT POULTRY KEEPING IS A PROFITABLE ENTERPRISE, IT WAS OBSERVED THAT IN ALL AREAS, EXCEPT JAFFNA, ONLY A FEW HOUSEHOLDS WERE ENGAGED IN THIS ACTIVITY. Ninety three per cent (93%) of the households in Jaffna were engaged in poultry keeping, while only 6% of the total families in Rajangana had poultry. The respective figures for the other areas are - Kuliyaipitiya 20% Beminiwatte 20% and Kandupalatha 10%.

Most of those who were engaged in poultry keeping reared indigenous breeds under the free range system. Thus there is a greater potential for the organisation and improvement of this activity in the future.

IT IS EVIDENT FROM THE ABOVE FACTS, THAT THERE ARE POSSIBILITIES OF PROVIDING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR RURAL WOMEN THROUGH SMALL SCALE HOME BASED PROJECTS SUCH AS HOME GARDENING AND POULTRY KEEPING. HOWEVER, IT IS ESSENTIAL, ESPECIALLY AT THE INITIAL STAGES TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE SUCH AS THE PROVISION OF INPUTS (e.g. SEED MATERIAL, CHICKS ETC.), TECHNICAL KNOW-HOW AND MARKETING FACILITIES.

6.6 Small Scale Enterprises for Women

Data were collected in relation to small scale enterprises which could be created for rural farm women by using locally available raw materials as well as raw materials brought from outside.

Th obtaining respondents' views on the possibility of initiating small scale income generating enterprises for rural women using locally available raw materials it was revealed that types of enterprises varied according to the availability of raw materials in the respective areas.

Based on the views of the respondents, the following could be suggested as possible areas for creating income generating activities using locally available raw materials. These activities are in line with skills possessed as well as liked to be learnt by the family members.

Kuliyapitiya	-	Coir products ¹ Bags and mat weaving using reeds and rush ('Pan') Handicrafts using 'Wetake'.
Jaffna	-	Weaving mats and boxes using Palmyra leaves Coir products Weaving cadjan.
Rajangana	-	Weaving bags and mats using rush ('Pan'), "Kambu" and "Indi" leaves.
Kandupalatha	-	Coir products Handicrafts using rush ('Pan') and coconut leaves Weaving bags, mats, hats etc., using rush ('Pan') Brick making and pottery.
Beminiwatte	-	Handicrafts using bamboo, ekel, reed and 'Na' fibre. Coir products Making jaggery using sweet toddy.

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Brooms, brushes etc.

The possible income generating activities based on raw materials brought from outside as viewed by the respondents are given in the following section. A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS FROM ALL AREAS STATED THE POSSIBILITY OF TEXTILE WEAVING.

Kuliyapitiya	-	Textile weaving Handicrafts using cane and plastic cane Beedi-wrapping Cosmetic industries.
Jaffna	-	Sewing garments Textile weaving.
Rajangana	-	Textile weaving Products from cane and plastic cane.
Kandupalatha	-	Textile weaving Batik printing Furniture and bags from cane Beedi wrapping Products based on plastic cane and leather.
Beminiwatte	-	Textile weaving Beedi-wrapping Batik printing Handicrafts using cane, Reed and bamboo.

LACK OF KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE, UNAVAILABILITY OF MARKETING CHANNELS WERE STATED BY A MAJORITY OF RESPONDENTS AS PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES WITH LOCALLY AVAILABLE RAW MATERIALS. WITH REFERENCE TO ACTIVITIES USING RAW MATERIALS BROUGHT FROM OUTSIDE, LACK OF CAPITAL AND UNAVAILABILITY OF SOURCES TO SUPPLY THE NECESSARY RAW MATERIALS WERE IDENTIFIED AS PROBLEMS IN ADDITION TO THOSE MENTIONED ABOVE.

WHEN LOOKING AT THE ACTIVITIES MENTIONED, THE DEMAND FOR THE FINISHED PRODUCTS SEEMS TO BE THE MAJOR LIMITING FACTOR AFFECTING THESE ACTIVITIES. HENCE IT IS NECESSARY TO EXAMINE THE POSSIBILITIES OF MARKETING (OF PRODUCTS) VERY CAREFULLY BEFORE ENGAGING IN PROGRAMMES TO DEVELOP THESE ENTERPRISES. FURTHER, IT IS USEFUL TO CARRY OUT RESEARCH FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF PRODUCTS WITH A GREATER CONSUMER DEMAND LOCALLY.

6.7 *Role of Rural Organisations in Relation to Income Generating Activities for Rural Women*

The majority of the respondents in all the areas reported the need of voluntary organisations to promote income generating activities for rural women. Hence there is a crucial need for making use of the existing institutions as well as to help and encourage rural women to establish voluntary organisations to facilitate the farm women to engage in income generating activities. A majority of the respondents in most of the areas stated the following as the functions of women's voluntary organisations : Provision of training, organising group work, and encouraging the members to participate in income generating activities.

Most of the respondents felt that the role and functions of the formal organisations should be the provision of inputs, credit and marketing facilities and organisational aspects in relation to income generating activities.

6.8 *Training Facilities in Relation to Income Generating Activities*

The earlier analysis indicated the inadequacy of training facilities provided to rural farm women in relation to income generating activities. On the other hand, women's utilisation of training and other services provided at present appeared to be very low. On the basis of the information gathered from the present study, the following suggestions could be made in relation to the training aspects :

1. RURAL FARM WOMEN SHOULD BE MOTIVATED FOR TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE TRAINING AND OTHER SERVICES PROVIDED AT PRESENT.
2. FORMAL AND VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS WHICH CAN BE USED TO PROVIDE RELEVANT TRAINING FOR FARM WOMEN SHOULD BE IDENTIFIED.
3. RURAL FARM WOMEN SHOULD BE PROVIDED WITH EDUCATION TO DEVELOP LEADERSHIP, PARTICIPATE MORE ACTIVELY IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS. THIS WILL INCREASE THEIR REPRESENTATION IN FORMAL AND VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS.
4. RESPECTIVE ROLES OF RURAL FARM WOMEN IN A PARTICULAR AREA, ESPECIALLY IN RELATION TO A PARTICULAR ACTION PROGRAMME, SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION WHEN DESIGNING TRAINING PROGRAMMES. THIS WILL ENABLE THE FARM WOMEN TO MAKE FULL USE OF FACILITIES PROVIDED THROUGH THE ACTION PROGRAMMES.