

Patterns of intra-household food distribution in a selected semi urban village in Sri Lanka

B.H. Angammana¹ and L.V. Madiwake²

Abstract

In the biological approach though food is considered as the cause variable for hunger, many anthropologists and sociologists pointed out that there are many cultural dimensions of the food, especially when we discuss about food behaviour. Intra – household food distribution is an important aspect which can be identified as affected by gender, axiom of amity and many other social aspects. Therefore, the topic of this research was selected as Patterns of intra-household food distribution in semi urban village in Sri Lanka. There are three objectives of the present research and the first one was to identify the food server and the order in which individuals are served. The second one was to identify what is served to whom while the last one is to identify whom the quantity is served to. As a qualitative research method, ethnographic research methodology had been applied as a sensitive topic with the aim of overcoming the ethical issues of collecting data seeing that food behavior is a latent day routing to some extent in every household in Sri Lanka. As data collection techniques, ten case studies were done and those ten households were randomly selected from the research area. As well as both observations and twenty-four hour recalling data collection techniques were used by the researcher to overcome the shortcomings of analysis. Analysis was done in qualitatively and basically under Cultural, Ecological and Economical factors were identified as independent variables and accordingly gender was identified as a major cause for shape the patterns of intra-household food distribution in the selected semi urban area. Specially educational level of each house wife, professions of the married couple, income of the family and the number of family members have affected the patterns of intra-household food distribution in the selected semi urban area. Caste had also affected the flexibility of food patterns and axiom of amity caused based on humanitarian approach. Existing patterns of intra-household food distribution in selected semi urban areas had been affected to maintain solidarity of the family of each household.

Keywords: *Axiom of amity, Food behavior, Gender, Intra-household*

¹ Dept. of Sociology, The Open University of Sri Lanka. Corresponding author's email: binara.angammana@yahoo.com

² Development Officer, Dept. Agrarian Services, Kurunegala.