

**DETERMINANTS OF PARTICIPATION DECISION OF URBAN WOMEN
FOR URBAN AGRICULTURE IN GAMPAHA DISTRICT, SRI LANKA**

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Food insecurity is a major problem in urban areas due to urban poverty which occurs due to urbanization. Among all districts, *Gampaha* district has the second highest food insecure individuals (34.0%) with the most food insecurity problems. Urban agriculture is a good solution to eradicate urban poverty while ensuring food security. Women can play a major role in urban agriculture with their household activities. This attempt was made to find the determinants of participation decision of urban women for urban agriculture in *Gampaha* district. The study sampled 40 urban women who engage in urban agriculture and 40 urban women who do not engage in urban agriculture in *Gampaha* district based on snowball sampling method. Data were collected using a structured-questionnaire. Quantitative analysis was used in data analysis. Results revealed significant differences in different perceptions on urban agriculture between urban women who engage in urban agriculture and do not engage in urban agriculture. The factor analysis identified that the constraints in participation for urban agriculture among urban women as three factors; (factor 1) limited time to participate for urban agriculture, (factor 2) production constraints (lack of space for urban agriculture, occurrence of pest and diseases, high production costs and lack of good planting materials and (factor 3) inadequate supportive services (poor extension services and lack of information on high tech for urban agriculture). Logistic regression showed that urban women's participation decision for urban agriculture was significantly ($p < 0.05$) influenced by land size (OR=1.07), age (OR=0.03), training participation (OR=103.34) and access to market (OR=4.40), while household income (OR=1.00) and farming experience (OR=1.99) were significant at 10% significant level when compared with the non-farm women. Hence, the study recommends that giving knowledge on improved technologies on urban agriculture, holding training sessions and enhanced extension services may help to promote urban agriculture among urban women.

Keywords: Factor analysis, Logistic regression, Participation decision, Urban agriculture, Urban women