

## **An Investigation of the Multifaceted Poverty Faced by the Plantation Labour Community in the Suriyakandha Aigburth Estate in Sri Lanka**

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### **Abstract**

The plantation workers' community in Sri Lanka is a marginalized social group representing a high level of poverty deprived of basic rights. Accordingly, the purpose of the research is to study the forms of poverty faced by the plantation worker community from a sociological perspective by studying the "Laima" labor houses associated with one plantation in Suriyakanda area of Ratnapura. For the sample, 60 plantation workers were selected from Suriyakanda Aigburth plantation under random sampling method. For data collection, depth interviews and observations were used as primary data collection methods and estate society files, police reports, grama niladari reports, family health officer reports were used as secondary data collection methods. This plantation worker community can be identified as a marginalized community that reflects the culture of poverty for a long time. The community lives in rows of informal, sanitary and minimally secure "laima" rooms under the supervision of the estate management authority. They do not have permanent residence or land rights. There are more women and children than men and they are facing nutritional problems for a long time. Learning poverty can be identified in children and period poverty and violence victimization can be identified in women and young girls. Community health problems are commonly identified and male workers resort to illicit alcohol consumption on a daily basis. Period poverty can be identified as a special variant of multidimensional aspects of poverty. 7.753 billion peoples (Demographics) live in the world, of which 2.3 million (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) live without basic sanitation facilities. As a conclusion of the study, it can be pointed out that these working families suffer from extreme poverty and multidirectional poverty due to the increase in number of family members, a salary commensurate with the labor and the reduction of privileges. Finally, the plantation community is a privileged community suffering from multidimensional poverty facing social stigma, labeling and marginalization.

**Keywords:** Estate Community; Marginalization; Multidimensional Poverty, Labeling; Social Stigma

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