



## A Study on the Lifestyle Changes of Tea Plantation Laborer with the Influence of Economic Crisis in Sri Lanka

J.M.S.S. Jayawardhana  
[sitharas252@gmail.com](mailto:sitharas252@gmail.com)

### Abstract

Poverty is the single largest social denominator, which is the state of being inferior in quality or insufficient in amount. Poverty is said to exist when people lack the means to satisfy their basic needs. In Sri Lanka, poverty has intolerably increased with the economic crisis. Sri Lanka is passing through an acute economic crisis since the mid of 2022 due to the depletion of foreign reserves, which has resulted in shortages of fuel, food, medicines, and other essential items in the country. The tea industry in Sri Lanka, which supports thousands of households, has also suffered from a controversial government decision that banned chemical fertilizers as a health measure. The specific objective of this study is to examine the impact of economic crisis of Sri Lanka to tea plantation laborers. In this study, the researcher has selected 10 households of plantation laborers, mainly depend on Tea plantation who hasn't receive any attention from Poojapitiya Divisional Secretariat Division, Watagalathenna Sectorial Division, Kandy District, Sri Lanka. Interviews and secondary sources have been used to get the necessary data. Simple random sampling method has been used to collect data while Microsoft excel has been used to analyze the data. The study has found that a considerable amount is not being paid to fulfil their basic living needs, which ranges from Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 35,000 per month. The paramount finding of the study is that the disruption to the education of children in these families and their mental problems. Accordingly, the study concludes that the poverty conditions that occur with the current economic crisis among the laborers are caused by the economic and social systems, which cause the laborers to be limited in their opportunities and resources to achieve income and prosperity. As a result, this study proposes improving these households' income sources by providing facilities for males to engage in animal husbandry, while females can engage in handicrafts to generate additional revenue, ultimately overcoming poverty and raising living standards.

**Keywords:** Poverty, Economic crisis, Plantation labours, Labour income, Additional source of income

