

## **A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY ON SOCIAL ADAPTATION OF STREET TRADING WOMEN - STUDY CONDUCTED IN PERADENIYA CITY**

*SIR. Liyanage<sup>1</sup>*

Social Adaptation of woman is women's capacity to participate as equal partners as men in all work of life in the society. Many women have joined and selected street trading as an occupation due to high living costs, economic crisis and the lack of employment opportunities. Currently, around 50 women can be identified who are engaged in street trading around the city of Peradeniya. Accordingly, what are the socio-institutional factors that affect women's adaptation to street trading? was the main problem of this research. The main objective of this study is to identify the economic, social, educational and cultural factors that influence women to resort to street trading. Moreover, the sub objective is to identify the main challenges faced by women in street trading. Accordingly, this study was carried out under both qualitative and quantitative methods. Data was collected through 30 (N=30) randomly selected street trading women in Peradeniya City using a questionnaire. Among the identified data contributors, 30% are young, 50% are middle aged, and 20% are old. Quantitative data were analyzed using Microsoft Excel. In addition, secondary data was collected through various academic books, journals, newspapers, internet and other published documents. The major outcome of the study, a classification of street trading women was identified based on their behavior, intention, attitude, demographic variables and Interpersonal functioning. The main factors affecting women's recourse to street trading are the instability in their family background, social status, education level, cultural influences and economic difficulties. Street trading women are often influenced by financial exploitation and also susceptible to physical and mental abuse. Moreover, they are involved in various deviant activities in addition to street trading. Furthermore, street trading women can be identified as a segment of society that constantly faces social injustices due to illiteracy and poverty.

**Keywords:** Street Trading Women, Peradeniya City, Social Adaptation, Informal Economy, Social Injustice

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<sup>1</sup> *Department of Social Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. [saubhagya92jds@gmail.com](mailto:saubhagya92jds@gmail.com)*