

## **Analyzing the Impact of Tourism Development on Local Communities in the Blue Field Division, Ramboda, Nuwara Eliya**

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### **Abstract**

This study analyzes the impact of tourism development on local communities in the Blue Field Division, Ramboda, with a particular focus on estate workers in the area. The rapid growth of tourism, centered around attractions such as the Blue Field Tea Factory, Ramboda Waterfall, and traditional tea tourism, has created socio-economic challenges and opportunities for local communities. However, there is a mismatch between the economic benefits generated and the level of local community participation of tourism and the local population's involvement in it, as the tourism sector is primarily controlled by private investors. This research employs a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative interviews with local residents and quantitative data from surveys to assess the socio-economic impacts of tourism on local workers. The findings highlight the limited participation of estate workers in tourism-related activities, despite the significant influx of tourists. Positive impacts include new income sources for some families through small businesses, while negative effects include limited wage growth and poor working conditions for estate workers. The study suggests that increasing local involvement in tourism, through training and community-based initiatives, could provide sustainable benefits for the local population. By promoting eco-tourism and leveraging local culture and traditions, tourism development in the Blue Field Division could be made more inclusive and sustainable. The research underscores the need for greater community engagement in tourism planning and decision-making to ensure that tourism benefits are equitably distributed.

**Keywords:** Tourism development, local communities, socio-economic impact, Blue Field Division.