

**FACTORS INFLUENCE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
(SPECIAL REFERENCE WITH DAMBAKOTE AREA IN BADULLA DISTRICT)**

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**Abstract**

Rural development is essentially a part of structural transformation characterized by diversification of the economy away from agriculture. This process is facilitated by rapid agricultural growth, at least initially, but leads ultimately to a significant decline in the share of agriculture to total employment and output and in the proportion of rural population to total population. According to the problem statement indicators that Dambakote area is not develop area; there is lack rural market development, accessibility, community development and other infrastructure facilities. Those facilities have to increase rural development in this area. Objective of the research are to identify the factors contribute to the rural development, to find out which factor is highly impact on rural development and to explore the suggestions to improve the rural development. Four independent variables such as rural market development, accessibility, community development and land resources as factors influencing on rural development. Hundred samples were selected from convenience sampling method. Structured questionnaire was used to gather the data from the individuals. Analysis of the data is done using the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) and used the univariate analysis for evaluation, based on the analysis all the variables are low level expect land resources. Reasons are Dambakote area haven't fast improvement socio economic environment and infrastructure facilities such as education, health, road transport .Suggestions to improve the rural development, such as an appropriate strategy for rural development is needed to keep the rural population in the villages, Grama Niladhari have to create more stable predictable policy framework for the improvement of village.

**Key words: Rural development, Infrastructure, Road Facilities**

**INTRODUCTION**

Rural development has to do with the improvement of the standards of living of the low-income population living in rural areas on a self-sustaining basis through transforming the socio-spatial structures of the productive activities. According to the problem statement, some problem had identified on rural development in Dambakote Area. The most influential problems are inadequate rural market development, Accessibility, Community development and Land resources. Most of villages have insufficient Accessible ways, poor market activities, poor relationship with government and insufficient land resources which adversely affects the agriculture and rural economy of the villagers. And also the impact of unexpected climate and the environmental changes leads to difficulty in traveling and find alternative roads. As well as this area is seemed that no proper maintenance, especially roads surface is not in standard level and those are foot paths. Hence pregnant women, Sick People, Infants cannot comfortably travel on those paths by using caravan in Dambakote area as the information given by Grama Niladhari and Divineguma Development Officer. Therefore the research problem of this study is to investigate the factors contribute to the rural development in Dambakote area.

## **Literature Review**

Describes rural development as a means of helping rural people set the priorities in their own communities through effective and democratic bodies. These bodies provide local capacity, invest in basic infrastructure and social services and ensure the safety and security of the rural people. United Nations defines Rural Development is a process of change, by which the efforts of the people themselves are united, those of government authorities to improve their economic, social and cultural conditions of communities in to the life of the nation and to enable them to contribute fully to national programme. According to the author Nwanze K. F.,( 2016) stated that rural development is the process of improving the opportunities and well-being of rural people. It is a process of change in the characteristics of rural societies. In addition to agricultural development, it involves human development and social and environment objectives. Therefore, rural development encompasses health, education and other social services. It also uses a multi sector approach for promoting agriculture, extracting minerals, tourism, recreation and niche manufacturing.

Rural development is a strategy to enable a specific group of people, poor rural women and men, to gain for themselves and their children more of what they want and need (Robert Chambers, 2005). According to Agarwal (1989), rural development is a strategy designed to improve the economic and social life of rural poor. Rural development in general is used to denote the actions and initiatives taken to improve the standard of living in non-urban neighbourhoods, countryside and remote villages (Robert Chambers, Rural Development in India, Oxford University Press, 1987). Rural development is essentially a part of structural transformation characterized by diversification of the economy away from agriculture. This process is facilitated by rapid agricultural growth, at least initially, but leads ultimately to a significant decline in the share of agriculture to total employment and output and in the proportion of rural population to total population (Johnston, 1970). According to the annual Report of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka , 2016 well accepted that the rural development can make a major contribution to the economic development of the Less Developed Countries. Agriculture generally remains the backbone of any rural economy. The growth of the non-rural economy is crucially dependent on the rural economy. Especially the rural development significantly contributes to the food supply of the entire country. The cheap price of food supplied from the rural farms helps to control inflation and keeps wage costs down in the urban sector. It is also well accepted that the rural population provides labour for the non-agricultural sector in the country.

Another favourable factor is the contribution made by the rural savings to the national savings. This helps capital accumulation and augments funds in financial institutions thus enabling them to carry out lending in order to create capital in the non-agricultural sector. However, there is an allegation that rural

savings are not invested in the rural economy as most major financial institutions do not lend much too rural sector, compared to the deposits mobilised from rural economy.

Rural market development and rural development:

According to (S. Jaideep, 2005) defined rural market is growing faster than urban, rural marketing results into overall balanced economic and social development. Rural marketing turns beneficial to business units, people residing in rural areas, people residing in urban areas, and to the entire nation. Furthermore this researcher emphasized as rural market development is positively impact on rural development under following criteria.

Reduced Burden on Urban Population:

Rural marketing can contribute to rural infrastructure and prosperity. People can also live comfortably in villages due to availability of all goods and services in villages, even comparatively at low price. People, due to growth of marketing activities, can earn their livelihood in rural places. Population pressure on urban can be reduced.

Rapid Economic Growth:

Naturally, marketing acts as catalyst agent for economic growth. There exists more attractive business opportunities in rural than urban. Rural market is more potential for consumer durables and services. Rural population largely depends on agriculture and it can contribute nearly 50% to total national income. Agriculture enjoys significant portion in export business, too. Rural marketing improves agricultural sector and improved agricultural sector can boost whole economy of the country.

Employment Generation:

Rural marketing can generate more attractive employment opportunities to rural and urban people. Growth of rural marketing leads to increased business operations, professional activities and services that can generate a lot of employment opportunities.

Improved Living Standard:

Due to rural marketing system, rural buyers can easily access needed standard goods and services at fair prices. In the same way, rural marketing improves rural infrastructure. Additionally, rural marketing can also improve their income. These all aspects can directly improve living standard.

Development of Agro-based Industries:

Rural marketing leads to set up agro-based processing industries. Fruits, vegetables, cereals, pulses, etc., are used as raw-materials. Such industries can improve farmers' profit margin and employment opportunities.

Improved Rural Infrastructures:

Rural marketing and basic infrastructures go hand to hand. Growth of rural marketing leads to improved transportation, insurance, banking, communication, entertainment, and other facilities. Due to availability of basic infrastructural facilities, business units can easily reach the target rural buyers.

**Price Stability:**

Marketing results into better transportation, warehouses, and communication facilities. Agricultural products can be systematically marketed throughout the year. Huge gap between demand and supply can be avoided and, as a result, prices of most of commodities remain more or less stable.

**Quality of Life and Reduced Crime:**

Marketing can refine entire living style and system. Better quality products at reasonable price, improved income level, availability of facilities, etc., have direct positive impacts on quality of life. Quality of life improves and level crime reduces.

**Accessibility and rural development:**

According to (Ahmed and Ypanaque, 2011) defined Poor accessibility is a major developmental challenge in many parts of the world. Rural accessibility can positively influence the development of local small and medium-scaled entrepreneurial efforts, improve food security and, moreover, improve possibilities for land ownership among the population.

Furthermore this researcher emphasized as an improved rural infrastructure has the potential to exert influence beyond that economic sphere. The project has proved its substantial implications for people's access to health facilities, which is traditionally a big challenge for the rural poor. It also created avenues for locally available skill development and education opportunities, which have tremendous impacts not just for the direct beneficiaries of the project, but also for future generations.

**Community development and rural development:**

According to the (Okpala,2003) defined Community development should not be based on policies that deter rural-to-urban migration but rather on the need to improve economic and social conditions of rural population and the need for the rural areas to effectively contribute to the national economic growth through increased agricultural and non-agricultural productivity.

Furthermore this researcher emphasized, an improved community development is a necessary condition for improving productivity in rural areas as well as for enhancing access of agricultural produce to both urban areas and the export market.

**Land Resources and Rural Development:**

According to (Okpala, 2003) defined sustainable and equitable use of natural resources to improve livelihoods and conserve agro-diversity and biodiversity. Furthermore researcher suggest land resources is positively impact on rural development under following criteria.

Reduce rural poverty by combining livelihood development with natural resources management and biodiversity conservation

Promote integrated watershed management and desertification control by means of participatory forest, land and water management planning based on sustainable land use principles

### **Research Objectives**

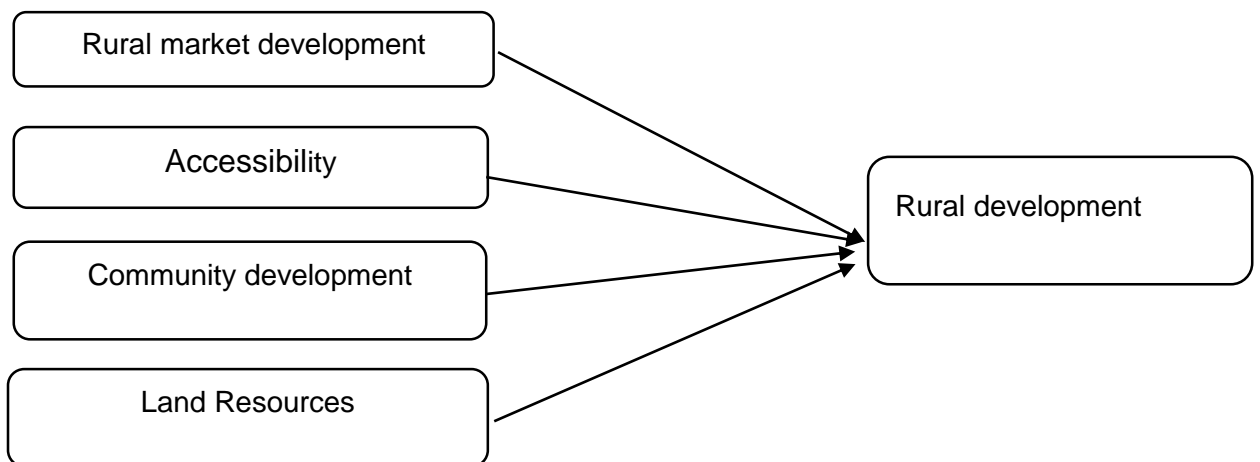
- To identify the factors contribute to the rural development
- To find out which factor is highly impact on rural development
- To explore the Suggestions to improve the rural development

### **Research Questions**

- What are the factors contribute to the rural development?
- Which factor is highly impact on rural development?
- What are the Suggestions to improve the rural development?

### **METHODOLOGY**

Conceptual Framework of the Study



(Sources: Hossain /2015)

Operationalization of Variables.

Operationalization

| Variable                 | Indicators  | Measurement   |
|--------------------------|---|---------------|
| Rural market development | Household income  | Questionnaire |
|                          | Trade links the surrounding communities have with a community | Questionnaire |
|                          | Aggregate market inter linkages involving a community         | Questionnaire |
| Accessibility            | Total lengths of road   | Questionnaire |
|                          | Land area   | Questionnaire |
|                          | Number of social and economic organizations                   | Questionnaire |
| Community Development    | Distance to Local Government Headquarters                     | Questionnaire |
|                          | Distance to the nearest urban centre                          | Questionnaire |
|                          | Level of education of household head                          | Questionnaire |
| Land Resources           | Road density  | Questionnaire |
|                          | Size of farmland  | Questionnaire |
|                          | Sources of water  | Questionnaire |
| Rural Development        | Economic Development  | Questionnaire |
|                          | Reducing Poverty  | Questionnaire |

Source- Literature Review

**Sample Size of the Study**

Sample is totally based on one of Grama Sewa Area Dambakote. The total population 382 from that population 100 sample was selected by using Convenience Sampling Method.

| Name of the village | Number of Households | Percentage  | Sample     |
|---------------------|----------------------|-------------|------------|
| Dambakote           | 142                  | 37%         | 37         |
| Udamadiththagolla   | 94                   | 25%         | 25         |
| Urumeethanna        | 134                  | 35%         | 35         |
| Pallemadiththagolla | 12                   | 3%          | 3          |
| <b>Total</b>        | <b>382</b>           | <b>100%</b> | <b>100</b> |

(Source: Grama Niladhari /2016, Passara division)

The five point liket scale used to prepare the questionnaire; types of response were grouped into three decision rules. The decision can be made as follows.

- $1 \leq x_i \leq 2.5$       low level impact on rural development
- $2.5 < x_i \leq 3.5$     moderate level impact on rural development
- $3.5 < x_i \leq 5$         High level impact on rural development

## DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

### Descriptive analysis

| Variables                | Mean   | Std. Deviation |
|--------------------------|--------|----------------|
| Rural Market Development | 2.3633 | .38299         |
| Accessibility            | 2.2933 | .39149         |
| Community Development    | 2.3567 | .48201         |
| Land resources           | 3.6000 | .46178         |

Source-Survey data

Most of people in Dambakote area haven't fixed monthly income; they are doing agricultural activities on daily basis. These people doing paddy field agricultural activities and chena agricultural activities (vegetable plantation) in annually. Under sediment agricultural activities people are doing jobs regarding paddy fields as a handicraft, labour, caravan activities and etc. caravan activity means one kind of transportation method which are used to carry out bulk of goods by using bulls. Mostly this method had used by the ancients. In caravan, some people use it as a self-business. Lot of people in this area faced problem in access to the market. People in this area haven't adequate road facilities available to access daily work on time and existing length of road in the village is not adequate to exchange goods. In this village available road is not proper maintained. Most of villages are without roads in this area and it is adversely affects their rural economy. Since lack of accessible facilities school children face lot of problems in traveling to school in distance places. In Dambakote area have only one school and it can be called as a B/Kahataruppa Maha Vidyalaya. Without transport services as a bus services students faced problems traveling to other province schools. The role of transport is to facilitate the access people have to goods, services and facilities. Improving transport reduces isolation in dambakote area. This area people need to have access to a wide variety of goods, services and facilities in order to economic and social productive life. Existing land resources helps to increase agricultural income in the people. Therefore land resources highly impacts to rural development in Dambakote area. Because of this area have adequate size of farmland and Sources of water. As well as this area have attractive water for doing their activities. This people take water from the spout water, river and well. Most of people in this area doing their plantation activities near the river side. Therefore they can easily take water from the river.

## **CONCLUSION**

Rural development is not limited to agricultural production. It is also concerned with value added based on agricultural and the provision of basic social and economic services. Rural development requires investment in many areas. Close coordination of financial and technical cooperation boosts the effectiveness and impact of aid enormously, especially in the case of projects involving infrastructure improvements (Olawole, 2010). Road transport is very important for rural development. After the independence, successive government has paid attention on improving road transport then other transport sectors (Liyanage, Bandara, 2011). Based on the overall mean and standard deviation suggest that Rural development in Dambakote area is extremely low level. Dambakote area haven't fast improvement socio economic environment appear in the village. Furthermore Dambakote area hasn't improvement in infrastructure facilities such as education, health, road transport appear in the village. Most of people in this area haven't monthly income; because of they are doing agricultural activities on daily basis. They are doing paddy field jobs, carpentry, animal husbandry and etc. furthermore most of people leave to Katunayake, Colombo and other areas for doing jobs as a machine operator, labour, and etc. because of this area have small number of peoples working at public services. Therefore they can't help to their children's to take good education. Therefore most of people in this area haven't ability to quickly achieve their high educational goals. As well as this area have only one school and hospital (Kahataruppa Rural Hospital) for getting services. This hospital has only one ambulance and two doctors for providing services to the people. As well as this hospital haven't any scan machine, surgery machine, blood or sugar testing laboratory. Furthermore any health care centre and High education institute is not this area. Therefore most of people faced problems from getting services. Most of people in this area haven't money to participate high education centre in another area. Therefore Dambakote area should develop their village to enhance economic development and reduce poverty among Dambakote area Community. Suggestion for improve the rural development private sector can improve micro finance loan (Lolc finance), rural development bank loan, to develop existing only one of the rural market in Dambakote area. Important partners of both the government and farmers are producers, associations, cooperatives. These institutions should take on the role of transfer of knowledge and information, and lobbying for the interests of farmers and rural communities. Economic development officer, Divineguma development officer and other responsible parties should provide education, health, electricity, road and other infrastructure facilities to develop Dambakote area.





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