

## **Livelihood Issues of The Populace of Eildon Hall Estate, Lindula Area During Covid-19 Pandemic**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*Livelihood is an integral part of human existence. The COVID-19 pandemic hits the whole world and its economy is already fragile. Furthermore, the economy has declined, and became vulnerable during the COVID-19 outbreak. So that the middle and lower economy populace have been on the front line in the severely affected list. Lives, livelihood, and health have been unprecedented due to the impact due to pandemic. Individuals, small retail businesses, and other industries also have undergone various decline in its scale, income, wage, and sales in multiple fields. Accordingly, this study is based on a village called Eildon Hall where the livelihood of most of the people is tea plucking (estate workers), and the pandemic has decadently dominated their livelihood. The contribution of the study is to explore the difficulties of lower and middle economy people during the pandemic. This paper attempts to reveal the defects via primary and secondary data collection methods such as, observation, interview, and focus group discussion were the primary data collection method, on the other hand, journals, reports, research articles, and also published and unpublished sources, as well as internet also used to gather the secondary data. The results explore some prominent issues of populace such as economic issues, health and medical defects, shortcoming of wage, employment, and poverty are the ardent livelihood issues of Eildon Hall during the COVID pandemic. Above 94% of the people in the study area are hustling against the hidden war of poverty here. Albeit, the proposed recommendations could be able to reduce the affront of the defects and problems of the people in the village Eildon Hall. Moreover, the lifestyle of the people should be converted to fulfill the need of domestic and infrastructure. Otherwise, those people will be pushed to a worse position than they are now. And there is no doubt that the future of the children there is in question.*

**Keywords:** Covid, Eildon Hall, livelihood, pandemic and populace

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### **1. Introduction**

A disease is endemic when its presence in the populations is constant, and if the epidemic has been recorded in several countries and areas, it's called a pandemic (Tabish, 2020). Livelihood

refers not only to an individual human activity, but also to the complexity that families create in order to meet their needs, and to adapt and diversify the operating system's tactics. Specific livelihoods depend on the lead, community, public, human and financial capital on which each individual builds their livelihood. The same work that can be seen in the world being subjected to various threats in today's COVID -19 period has created a massive decline in the livelihoods of working people. Tabish, (2020) reported that the pandemic is moving like a wave. Countries are racing in to slow the spread of the virus by testing and treating patients, carrying out contact tracing, limiting travel, quarantining citizens, and counseling large gatherings. Tustetal, (2021) mentioned that indisputably, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a strong impact on many aspects of our lives and will continue to do so for months and years to come. There is no doubt that every country affected by the outbreak of COVID -19 in particular is lagging behind in various fields. Examples include India, the United States, Japan, Italy, and the United Kingdom.

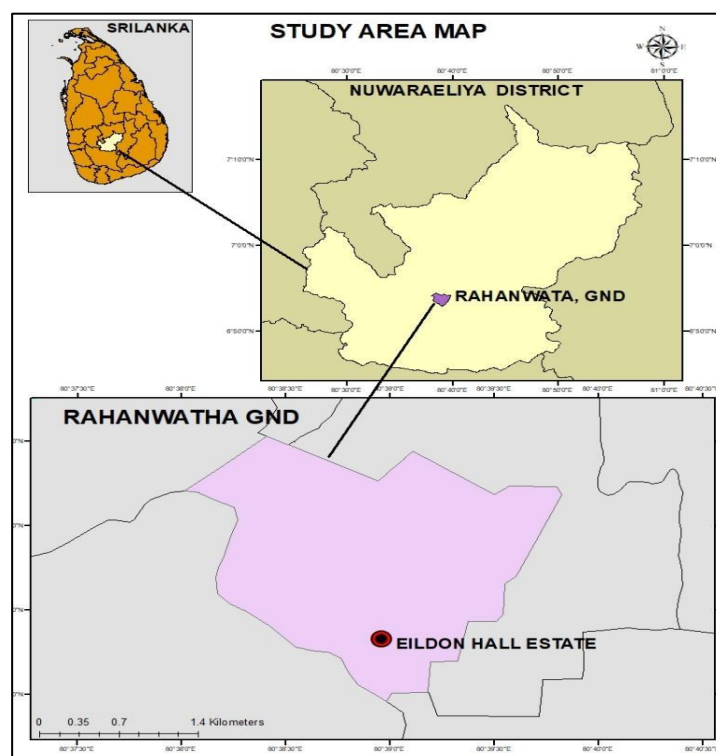
UNICEF, (2020) reported that as families lose their sources of income due to COVID-19 and the global economy has been plunged into recession, more households are falling into monetary poverty. WHO mentioned that (2020) the COVID-19 pandemic has led to a dramatic loss of human life worldwide and presents an unprecedented challenge to public health, food system and the world of work. The economic and social distribution caused by the pandemic is devastating. 10 million people are at risk of falling into extreme poverty, while the number of undernourished people, currently estimated at nearly 690 million, could increase by up to 132 million by the end of the year. Further, WHO, (2020) stated that millions of enterprises face an essential threat. Nearly half of the world's 3.3 billion global workforce are at risk of losing jobs and placing millions of livelihoods at risk, and COVID deals with societies and economies, namely, direct impact on peoples' capacity to satisfy daily needs, food, health and continue their livelihoods activities. Chaturvedi, (2020) said that the emergence of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) has led the world to an unprecedented public health crisis. Kok & woo, (2009) reported that the virus has unleashed socio-economic effects that have devastated lives in livelihoods just health, undoing decades of global progress in fighting poverty, diseases, and violence one year.

As well, WHO, (2020) reported on the other hand that the corona virus crisis has dealt a significant shock to Sri Lanka's economy and people. In Sri Lanka, as in other countries the loss of jobs and incomes incurred by the pandemic has been severe. While workers in every sector have been affected, informal workers who make up about 70% of the workforce. Shuhrat and Nezhat, (2020) stated that the economic crisis triggered by COVID-19 makes it difficult for MSMEs to survive and maintain operations because of cash flow issues, labor constraints,

supply or demand disruptions, and their limited capacity to respond to shocks of this magnitude due to fragility of support structures and lingering financial constraints.

Dorien et al., (2021) mentioned due to a lack of access, including through COVID-19 related movement restrictions and the ongoing complex humanitarian emergency, there has been little evidence on the actual status of the pandemic in Somalia. Catherine et al., (2021) that the persistent effects of the COVID-19 crisis on rural household incomes are alarming. Alak et al., (2020) indicated that in rural areas, poor people are at risk of losing their prime income source as they cannot sell their agricultural products or are incapable of storing their produce or have difficulties in the process of producing new products, on the other hand, in the urban context, poor people are completely dependent on incomes from labor or self-employment. Eventually, Hossain, (2021); Islam and Jahangir, (2020) have noted that it is estimated that COVID-19 has pushed 16.5 million people mainly rickshaw - pullers, transport workers, day laborers, street vendors, hawkers, constructions laborers and the employees of hostel, motel and restaurants back in to poverty. Further, the shocks and stresses of the COVID-19 crisis worldwide are leading to devastating socio-economic disruptions of people and both lives and livelihoods are at risk due to this pandemic, (Alak et al., 2020).

## 2. Study area



*Figure 1: Retrieved using ArcGIS 10.3 by Author*

The figure 1 exposes the study area. This study area is a plantation area under the Lindula Urban Council of the Nuwara Eliya District of Sri Lanka. The people of the area are facing various livelihood challenges due to the recent outbreak of COVID -19. Most of the people in the area are engaged in tea plantation, vegetable plantation, and self-employment of sheep, poultry and cattle farming. Furthermore, it is noteworthy that the business conditions of the people of the area are slightly better than before the COVID -19 period but they have suffered huge losses during the COVID -19 period.

In addition, the study area education process is undergoing a major transformation during the COVID -19 era. This situation is seen as a huge challenge for the students as the school education system has been affected and other education systems have been implemented. Moreover, the health of these people is one of the worst in the region. Thus, this study covers the vital economic aspects of the people of Lindula area such as education, health and other vital livelihood aspects and problems, and the impact on the living conditions of these people during the COVID -19 period. The main objective of the study is to identify the livelihood issues of the Eildon Hall people during the pandemic crisis COVID-19, and to propose suitable suggestions to mitigate the issues.

### **3. Material and Methods**

#### **Data collection**

##### **Primary Data:**

Direct observation, interview, and Focus Group Discussion were made use to gather real information of the study area of Eildon Hall, Lindula. Under direct observation, the faithful photographs of the area and issues can be captured. Interview was undertaken by snowball sampling method, and 40 householders were identified and interviewed. Furtherly, Focus Group Discussion was held among GS Officers, estate workers, householders, retail shop keepers, teachers as well students in the study area.

##### **Secondary Data:**

Secondary data were gathered through journals, reports, research articles, and also published and unpublished sources, as well as the internet also used to improvise the study.

## Results and Discussion

### Education

Education is an important thing in life to succeed in a sustainable life. Getting an interminable enlightenment is a question for all the pupils in the Eildon Hall area not during the COVID - 19 but all the time. People suffer for their day-to-day life and livelihood and in this pandemic period people in Eildon Hall area straighten a lot in fact. In the education sector, there are some common issues in the study area particularly, there is no standard school, no proper education, no qualified teachers, and poor literacy rate. Due to low income, parents are afraid to engage their children in education because of online



Figure 2 & figure 3: Education status of the pupil

education. Figures 2 and 3 depict the difficulties of the students' gaining knowledge, namely, the cost of digital accessories is too high (such as mobile phones, laptops, computers and so on...), poor internet connection, difficulty buying educational accessories, and so on.... The above images speak without any words. Namely, it is noteworthy that the students prostrate to receive proper internet connection for the online education in the study area.

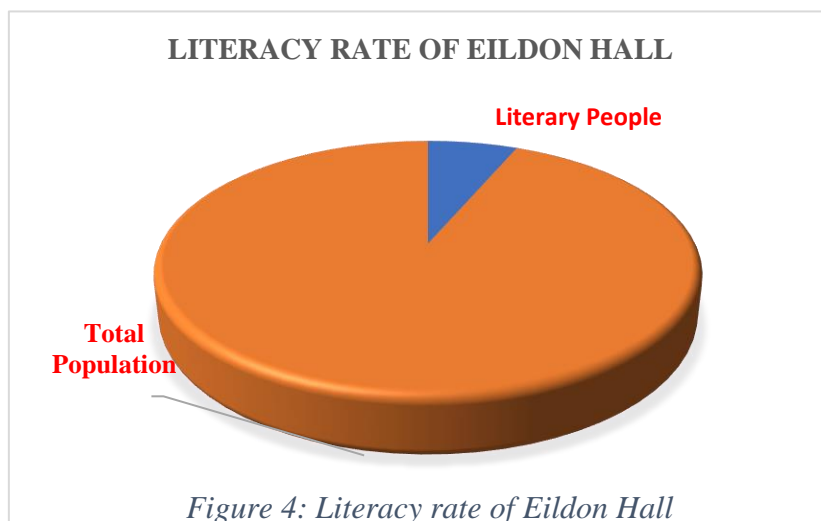


Figure 4: Literacy rate of Eildon Hall

The above pie chart explores the clear details of literacy rate of Eildon Hall, Lindula. Here, the total population of the area is 1165 but the literacy rate of the area is just ~6% of the total

population, namely, there are 80 people in the Eildon Hall area illiterate. Thus, people have no interest in education and, during the pandemic it is very arduous.

### Health and medical facilities

The Foremost need of people is health or medical consideration. As the study area Eildon Hall is a laggardly rural area of Lindula, Nuwara Eliya. Health consideration is backward here during COVID pandemic considerably. There are no hospitals in the village Eildon Hall though people manage their medical needs with only one dispensary that has no infrastructure and Assurant accessories which is known as Eildon Hall Dispensary. This dispensary has been closed for 10 years as there are no consultants or doctors to treat the poor people here. As well during the pandemic period, people suffer/ grieve to draw underlying medical facilities in the study area. People in the study area are at greater risk to combat corona disease and other health issues and diseases. Hence, if these people want medical suggestions or they want any treatments for their diseases they have to walk or travel for 2 hours (32 km) to reach Nuwara Eliya Base Hospital.



*Figure 5: Eildon Hall Dispensary*

The image 5 shows the Eildon Hall Dispensary. It is a crystal-clear image of the allowance of the medical facility of the poor people of this area. Accordingly, ~9 % of those who have had chronic diseases, and people with common symptoms of diseases are unable to get proper medical treatment during the pandemic situation. In other cases, there is a tightfisted situation due to patient congestion, and this makes the consultant deliver improper

treatment, as well the affected people need/ require regular treatment.

Number of household members suffering from chronic illness who have been unable to receive medical treatment as a result of COVID- 19 outbreak in Eildon Hall. For better understanding refer to the below chart 6 which depicts the chronic patient details of Eildon Hall. This pie chart is characterized by the age limit as below age 18, age limit between 18 – 25, age limit between 25-40, and above age 40 (elderly). Below age 18 group of people serves 7%, 8% is younger group of people 18-25, 14% of people are in the category of 25-40 age limit as well the highest percentage of (adult) elderly people (above 40) play the part of 71% and those people are suffering from chronic disease in the study area. Moreover, most of the people have other types

of psychological problems particularly stress, anxiety, headache and so on. Thus, during the pandemic people were not able to get proper treatment.

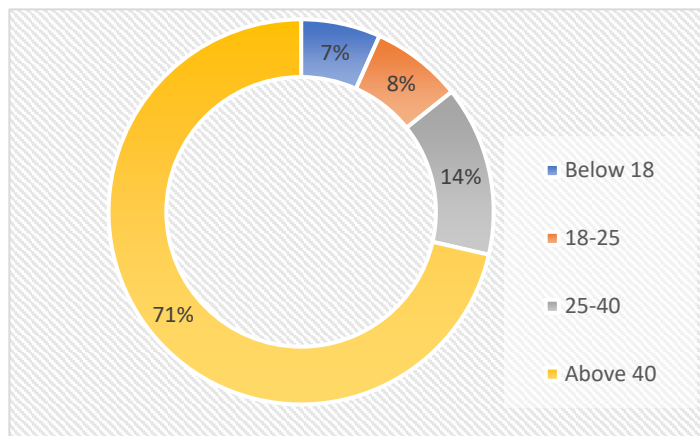


Figure 6: Chronic patient details with age limit

### Job and employment

Workforce of the Eildon Hall area is generally resilient to the economy. People prostrate and fight for a good job. The sad truth is, they dropout their education at primary level. The occupation of the people of Eildon Hall is listed below.

Table 1: Occupation and figure of Eildon Hall area, Lindula, Nuwara Eliya.

Occupation	Figurer
Estate workers	233
Shops in residential area (Eildon Hall)	15
Shops in town area	70
Vegetable cultivation	86
Non workers	118

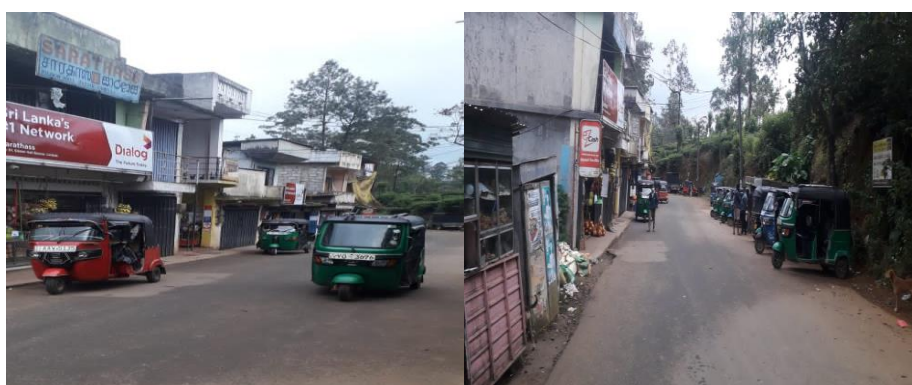


Figure 7 & 8: Retail small shops in the study area

Tea cultivation is the prominent source of income but unfortunately people have no estates or pieces of land for tea cultivation. They work as workers. Due to the pandemic, travel restriction and curfew situation these estate workers were not able to get a salary or there was an income issue among these people. Retail shops in the village and their hometown should be closed in order to respect the government law, on the other hand, people combat in order to fulfill their daily needs. Harvested vegetables putrefied without reaching the market and sellers. Figure 7 & 8 demonstrate the retail small shops of the study area, and these shops have been closed due to curfew and COVID emergency in the particular area.

### Poor income, and Economic problems

COVID-19 contributes to prolonged and disruptive adverse impact on people' livelihood and economy. Average daily income of Eildon Hall people is tabled below.

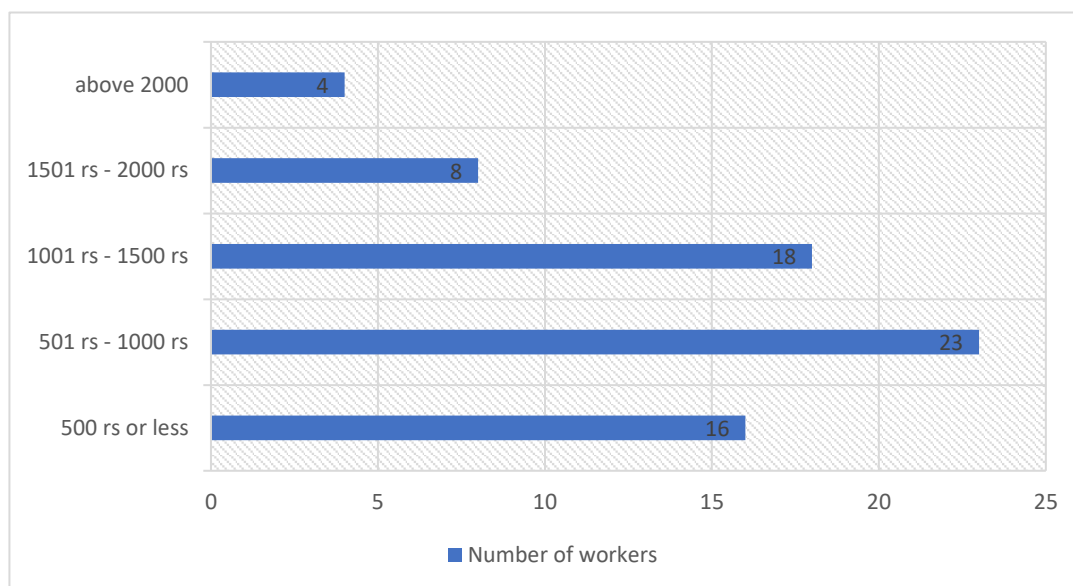
*Table 2: Occupation and amount of income per day of Eildon Hall area, Lindula, Nuwara Eliya*

<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Amount of income (per day)</b>
Estate workers	Rs 900
Shops in residential area (Eildon Hall)	Rs 500-1000
Shops in town area	Rs 1500- 2500
Factory workers	Rs ~1500
Disinfectant sprayer for crops	Rs ~ 1000
Vegetable cultivation	~ Rs 800
Others	Rs ~800-1000

Here, the estate workers gain Rs 900 per day, retail sellers in the residential area earn ~ Rs 500-1000 as well wage of retail sellers in town area Rs ~ 1500 - 2500, factory workers Rs ~1500, disinfectant sprayer for crops- Rs ~ 1000 and vegetable cultivators receive Rs ~800 (vegetable sellers only). Then the non-workers situation during the COVID pandemic is adverse and devilish. Some children who are above the age of 12, work as migrant workers in cities such as Colombo, Negombo, Jaffna, and so on. This bar chart depicts the average daily income from the current private sector of migrant workers of Eildon Hall, Lindula, and Nuwara-Eliya. Here, people with the least amount of wage are 16, as well the highest number of workers have their earning as 501- 1000 Rs, 18 workers earn 1001 Rs 1500 Rs as their daily income, 8 people work for 1501-2000 Rs daily salary, and the number of workers (04) only earn above 2000 Rs. Thus, this income was restricted and set back during the COVID pandemic due to travel



restrictions, quarantine and curfew. Thereby, people suffocate for their daily need and essentials in the study area.



*Figure 9: Occupation and amount of income per day of Eildon Hall area, Lindula, Nuwara Eliya*

### Poverty

The above conditions made people unemployed, jobless, lack of income/ lack of economic, and lack of facilities thus it leads to poverty. 94% of the Eildon Hall populace hustle against poverty during the COVID pandemic. The residents of the Eildon Hall comprise their income/ wage for their daily purposes. The livelihood also depends on the income. Once it has no way to enter in the life of residents it causes poverty and starvation unless rich people.

### Household issues

Household problems occur due to unstructured infrastructure of the residential place. As the study area is an unstructured poor infrastructural place, people always have a problem with household issues. Those are listed below,

This image expresses the improper drainage system of Eildon Hall, Lindula. As the country receives more rainfall than coastal places, it is necessary to have a



*Figure 10: Improper maintenance of drainage*

proper drainage system with proper maintenance. However, this residential area owns improper unstructured drainage canals over the village Eildon Hall and it causes Dengue, Malaria, and

water penetration of the basement. During the pandemic it becomes unbearable household maladies.

Moreover, Roof damage, poor overall maintenance, and improper electrical wiring also create huge household problems due to COVID situation. Namely, most of the houses have literally damaged roofs here viz, as it is a common home defect, it includes inadequate overall protection.



*Figure 11: Roofing*

Improper flashing is a considerable thing in roof damage. Refer the image 11 relation to roof damage of Eildon Hall residential area. A significant number of families (85%) in total populace of Eildon Hall hustle to improper electronic wiring. It often causes inadequate amateur overall protection to the residence. Poor overall maintenance demonstrates and includes cracked, dirty, painted surfaces, plumbing issues, broken fixtures, and appliances, and so on...

#### **4. Conclusion**

Livelihood is seen as a moderately essential in human life. The estate people of the hills are found to be moderately backward in this livelihood. In particular, the COVID-19 period has grown into a massive force in the lives of the people. It is possible that the state salary has made the lives of ordinary day laborers worse than those of the masses. The study area is considered to be a village with a large number of plantation, and estate workers who are lagging behind in development. Although the standard of living of these people has not changed over time, it can be seen that it has become moderately unimaginable during the COVID period. The role of COVID -19 in the issue of livelihood is moderately high. There is no doubt that events such as travel restrictions, travel restrictions, and isolation have pushed us to the point where we are no longer able to engage in everyday activities and have committed atrocities that do not meet our daily needs. It is a matter of concern that, in this deplorable environment, it has been pushed into poverty without being able to eliminate or address or improve the deficiencies in education, medicine, health, employment, income, and infrastructure. In that regard, the study presents the livelihood issues of the people of Elton Hall as well as the relevant statistics.

#### **5. Recommendations**

- Apartments should be set up in a safe manner.

- The towers must be properly installed. There is no doubt that these will definitely help pupils to get online education accurately and accurately.
- Educational facilities need to be properly upgraded.
- Hospital and health facilities should be properly established.
- The government should help the plantation, estate workers and the vegetable industry by providing them with life-saving and welfare facilities.
- Achieving public awareness of the cost of living.
- Providing benefits to the self-employed.
- Prioritize food security.
- Providing knowledge about storage.
- Rehabilitation of infrastructure facilities such as drainage repairs, roof repairs, electronic defects and home repairs.

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