

LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION AND REPRODUCTIVE BEHAVIOUR OF  
WOMEN IN AN AGRARIAN COMMUNITY OF SRI LANKA

BY

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Thesis

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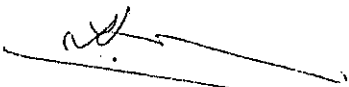
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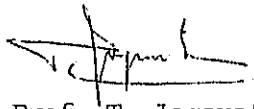
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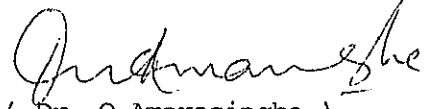
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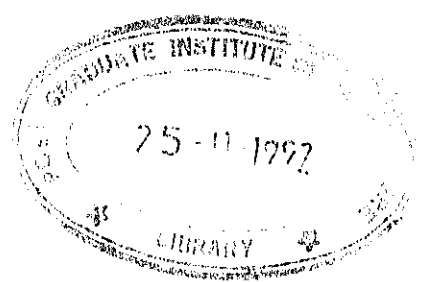


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**ABSTRACT**



This study attempts to identify and examine the relationship between female labour force participation and reproductive behaviour of women in an agrarian community. In addition, it also attempts to evaluate the role of women in agriculture production and socio-economic and demographic factors that are most significant in determining the level of fertility of the selected community.

A field survey was conducted with a sample of 217 households in Mahadana (227 families) and Ihala Ellewewa (249 families) of Polonnaruwa District.

The findings suggest an inverse association between women labour force participation and fertility. Fertility is higher among those who do not participate in the labour force than among the labour force participants. Among working women, those who are regularly employed appear to have lower fertility than the non-regular workers.

Among the socio-economic and demographic factors that are significant in determining the level of fertility, education is found to be the one most strongly correlated with fertility. The regression results suggest that among the selected independent variables, mother's age at marriage, her education level, monthly family income and use of contraceptives are

significant in determining the level of fertility.

It has been found that, although, the contribution of labour by grown up children to their household production activities is considerable, it has not induced higher fertility. The economic value of children as an old age security has been declining in these societies.