

A Study on the Up-Liftment of the Quality of Life of People in Muthur Division

Miss S. Sivaranjani

*Department of Business and Management Studies
Faculty of Communication and Business Studies,
Trincomalee Campus.*

Abstract

Quality of life of people is an important concern in economic and Political Science. Quality of Life defines a person's sense of well-being that stems from satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the areas of life. Even though many organizations took the developing activities to improve living standard of Muthur division on time to time there is no specific improvement of their living. Therefore the researcher derived and research problem question that in what way and how they suffer in their living standard, i.e.; inadequate housing, insufficient water & sanitation, poor health facilities, limited education and not enough gain income.

This research study was carried out with the objectives of evaluate the present condition of quality of life of people in Muthur division and to suggest the ways to uplift the quality of life of people who are living under the poverty level and to raise living standard of middle level income group. The conceptualization model includes Employment, Income, Housing, Health and Education factors.

To evaluate the quality of life, 200 respondents were taken as sample from 20 G.N divisions of Muthur division. The data were collected by issuing questionnaires and it was analyzed through SPSS package and spread sheet. The results are illustrated by table and pie chart.

Method of analysis specifically considered univariate analysis. According to mean value, the satisfactions of the most variables were disagreeing by the respondents.

According to this at the end of the study, the researcher has recommended that, should provide financial facilities and training to those in the field of agriculture and fishing. Should provide the well, toilet facilities, permanent housing facilities, enough medical facilities and also give attention to raise educational standard of students who suffer from poverty a lot.

Introduction

The well-being or quality of life of people is an important concern in economic and Political Science. The major indicators of these economic and social well-being factors such as per-capita GNP purchasing power. But economists recognize that are crude measures of citizen's quality of life. Because it measures consumption incompletely, ignoring the value of leisure and longer life spans and it also ignores the value of accumulation for future generations. Furthermore, since it is an average, GDP per capita gives no indication of the likelihood that an individual will share in prosperity or of the degree of anxiety with which individuals contemplate their futures.

So it indicates development should be achieved not only by economic growth but also by social progress. Therefore, to uplift the state of people, it is necessary to do a parallel development in all parts of the island with the maximum utilization of resources available in the regions. Parallel development refers development activities in various sectors. Such as, education, employment, energy, environment, health, human rights, income, infrastructure, national security, public safety, re-creation and shelter.

In Sri Lanka mostly the rural areas face low level of living it is one of the common characteristics under development. Because of the ethnic conflict and inequitable financial allocation to this rural areas. In Sri Lanka infant mortality 14.35 death/ 1000 live birth, life expectancy at birth 73.17 years, literacy 92.3%, GDP purchasing power parity \$ 80.58 billion and GDP-per capita-purchasing power parity \$ 4000. (Source: http://www.exxun.com/SriLanka/c_pp.html, 26 October 2005).

According to this, in the world wide Quality of life index score in Sri Lanka 6.417, rank 91 out of 111 countries and Human Development Index indicate 0.751.(source: http://www.economist.com/theworldin/international/displayStory.cfm?story_id=3372495&d=2005)

Particularly the North- East Provinces in Sri Lanka are in a backward position. From that have to take Trincomalee district for this research purpose. It consists of 11 D.S divisions. Muthur is one of the D.S divisions of Trincomalee. This is bounded in the North by the Sudakuda, in the East by the Nallur, in the South by Killiveddy and West by the Irrutkuli and the total extent of this D.S division 174.4 Sq.Km. The total population is 63,690 and total numbers of families are 16418. There are 42 G.N divisions and numbers of villages are 48. (Source: *Divisional Secretariat, Muthur*)

The people living in these areas are suffering in many ways such as insufficient basic needs, unemployment, under employment, lower income, lack of education and poor health services and so on. Therefore this research purpose has to indicate the developing activities in future as increase the quality of life of people in Muthur division.

Problem Statement

In this research area, most of the people are living under the low level of living rather than urban areas. These low level of living are manifested they have to face inadequate housing, insufficient water & sanitation, poor health facilities, limited education and not enough gain to satisfy their livelihood for the reasons of lack of financial facilities, infrastructure, raw material and technical knowledge. There is about 65% of total population of families get samurdhi benefit in Muthur division, this mention about they earn below 3000/= (Source:

Kachcheri, Trincomalee 2006) and they were fallen under poverty level. This poverty affects the education, health, housing and whole of quality of life of this division. This situation also tends to under development of the country.

Research Objectives

- To evaluate the present condition of quality of life of people in Muthur division through employment, income, water & sanitation, health & education factors.
- To suggest the ways to uplift the quality of life of people who are living under the poverty level and to raise living standard of middle level income groups, for which find the ways and means for raising their income.

Conceptualization & Research Methodology

Conceptualization

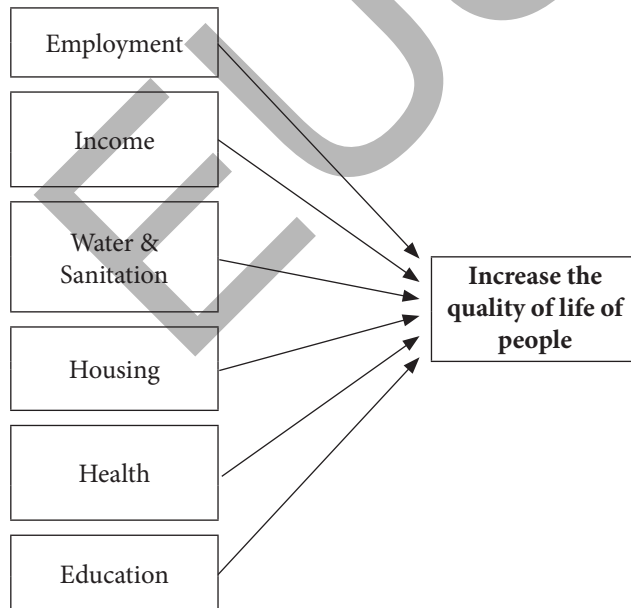


Figure 3.1 Conceptualization

(Source: Develop for the research purpose)

Sampling

Table 3.1

Sampling Process

G.N Divisions	No. Of families	Percentage	Sample size
Mallikaiththeevu	201	2.50	05
Kiliveddy	215	2.67	05
Paddiththidal	303	3.77	07
Kanguveli	323	4.02	08
Periyaveli	389	4.84	11
Iruthayapuram	348	4.33	09
Palaththadichchenai	306	3.80	08
Bharathipuram	470	5.84	12
Navaratnapuram	251	3.12	06
Pallikudiyiruppu	539	6.70	13
Nalloor	237	2.95	06
Paddalipuram	400	4.97	10
Sampoor East	338	4.20	08
Sampoor West	398	4.95	10
Kooniththeevu	192	2.39	05
Kadatkaraiichchenai	595	7.40	15
Muthur East	758	9.42	19
Anaichchenai	470	5.84	12
Thaqwa Nagar	697	8.66	17
Neithal Nagar	614	7.63	14
Total	8044	100	200

(Source: Divisional Secretariat, Muthur Division 2005)

Methods of Data Presentation and Data Analysis

Data Presentation

The obtained data were presented through SPSS package & tables and pie charts with the aid of Excel.

Data Analysis

The data were analyzed through SPSS package & Spread sheet. It was used to calculate and analyze univariable measures such as Mean, Standard Deviation, Average and Percentage.

Methods of Data Evaluation

Based on the value indicated in the questionnaire, mean value is lying in the range between 1-5, that is strongly disagree to strongly agree statements with five likert scale measure.

The mean value of respondent for a variable is compared with the median value 3 (where the minimum value respondent is 1 and the maximum is 5) and the decision rule can be formulated as follow.

Table3.2 Decision rule

<i>Attribute</i>	<i>Range</i>
Lower level of	$1 < X_i \leq 2.5$
Moderate level of	$2.5 < X_i \leq 3.5$
High level of	$3.5 < X_i \leq 5.0$

(Source: Develop for research purpose)

Data Presentation & Analysis

5.1 Discussion on Personal Information

It is observed from the personal information, that is 36% of them lying the age distribution between 31-40 years. And also 32 % of respondents were found to be lying under the age category between 21-30 years. It reveals most of the people are falls under the labor force. But here all were not do the job. Because of,

- Because of the poor educational qualifications they face much difficulty to join the job in government & private sector.

- Computer knowledge also poor.
- Most people have the interest in involve the self employment, but they have not enough financial facilities to run self employment.
- There are no opportunities provide by government & NGOs to involve the self-employment.
- Because of their lower income they are unable to earn more investment. This also tends to be poor production.

It is observed from the personal information 43% of them have studied up to grade 05, 40.5% of them studied grade 5-9 and few of them were completed G.C.E O/L i.e. 16.5%

It reveals in this area, most of the respondents were not continue their studies properly, due to the following reasons.

- Lack of aptitude of people towards education
- Economic, social and cultural backwardness are other major obstructions of educational development in the division.
- Most of the people in this area involve field of agriculture, fishing, business, government jobs and others. Therefore they think educational qualification is not necessary to do these types of jobs.

5.2 Discussion on Research Information

5.2.1 Employment

Department of census and statistics defined labor force as “the persons who are willing and able to work considered the age range is 15-64”. Labor force consists of employed and unemployed. According to this statement, 66% of the total population of the families falls into this range.

According to the details obtained from them related to the employment most of the respondents who do the work field of agriculture i.e. 51.5%, fishing 23.5%, business side 7% and government jobs 5.5% and 13% involve in other field. These people are substantially depending

on these fields as,

- Lack of financial facilities to involve other jobs.
- Lack of knowledge to initiate and to develop other employment activities.
- Lack of entrepreneurship.
- They have enough experience in already existing field.
- It is their heritage job.

Therefore those marginally agree on this statement.

5.2.2 Income

The distribution of income reveals that the large number of families 74.5% earn below Rs.3000 (Table 4.1.8). The income falls into the 3000 it reveals boarder line to provide Samurdhi subsidiary by the government.

According to that 63% of the total population of families fall into this range and get samurdhi benefit. This represent that most of them are suffering from poverty in this area.

From the data sample of the study most of the families were found to be laid under samurdhi benefit i.e. 56% and also 12% were found to be laid any other help. Any other help include payment for widows and food stamp.

These area people also mention their income is not enough to full their needs.

There are many reasons belong to this:

- The people source of income is mainly from the self employment venture especially in field of agriculture.

This reveals who work in the agriculture sector were able to get employment in the harvesting season & sawing season as well as who work in the fishing sector as able to get employment when more fishes are available to capture. So these clearly indicate those get income only that period.

- Other than government subsidiaries (Samurdhi payment), due to the increased cost of living they were unable to manage their family within their earning.
- Because of lack of financial facilities and limited lands they are cultivating in a small scale this result a few amount of income.
- The size of family is just large contain schooling children and younger unemployed therefore the income is not adequate to take over the life. Most of the respondents comprise of family members more than five therefore this poor income is not sufficient enough to maintain their family.
- Some of the respondents also gain additional income from home garden. It illustrate that most of the respondents remain in the backward position due to the lack of financial assistance as well as lack of own effort.

5.2.3 Water & Sanitation

According to the data the sample of the study, 41.5% of the respondents in the Muthur division are having own well, rest of the sample getting water from common well, tube well and neighbor's well. That is represent 36%, 18% & 4.5% respectively. There is also severe problem in the dry season that is water minimized in the dug well and most of the people have not financial facilities to construct dug well.

According to that sample data 68.5% of the respondents were fully disagreed with having toilet facilities in their houses. It represents that more than half of the responder's house is not attached with toilet facility.

Facilities	According to the total		According to the	
	Number of family		sample area *	
	No	%	No	%
Water supply facilities	6996	42.61	2810	34.93
Toilet facilities	6369	38.79	2761	34.32

(Source: Kachcheri, Trincomalee, (2005))

This represent that more than half of the respondent's house is not attached with toilet facility.

5.2.4 Housing

Most of the houses are tin sheet so it is very difficult to live in the summer season. And every family has more than four members and most of them are live in cottage.

There is major part of the people live in rural areas in the division, have temporary shelters or improvised type houses. Few of them have permanent houses. But those are not well facilitated houses. According to that 51% of the total population of the families fall into permanent house, 12% of fall into permanent shelter and 25% of temporary shelter. The rest of them pertain to home less i.e. 12%. Homeless people those who are living in home of friend, relatives and rented houses. Houses are roofed by tin sheet, cadjan, sheet and tile. Most of the houses are cadjan, those built by clay and roofed by coconut leaf.

House Details	According to the total Number of family		According to the sample area *	
	No	%	No	%
Permanent House	8434	51.37	2964	36.89
Permanent Shelter	1881	11.45	1228	15.28
Temporary shelter	4088	24.90	2572	32.01
No, of families without Houses	1932	11.76	923	11.49

(Source: Divisional Secretariat, Muthur, (2005))

The percentage of each type of houses in the sample area, from the total number of houses in each available in whole Muthur division are given below.

E.g.: Percentage of cadjan

houses in the sample area =

$\frac{\text{No. of Cadjan Houses in Sample Area}}{\text{Total Number of Cadjan Houses in whole}}$

$\frac{\text{Muthur Division}}{\text{Muthur Division}}$

- Cadjan 54.19%
- Tile 28.35%
- Sheet 46.90%
- Tin sheet 70.45%

(Source: Divisional Secretariat, Muthur, (2005))

After the tsunami most of the houses were fully damaged in the tsunami affected areas. Tsunami affected areas from the sample are;

Kunithevu, Nallur, Neithal Nagar, Kadakkarai chennai, Muthur-East, Sampour-East, Sampour-West, Thaqwar Nagar.

Facilities	According to the total		According to the	
	Number of family		sample data	
	No	%	No	%
Houses without electricity	7956	48.45	4091	50.85
Houses with Telephone	400	2.436	106	1.32

(Source: Divisional Secretariat, Muthur, (2005))

5.2.5 Health

There is only one government hospital in Muthur division. That only provides the services to 16418 families. There are not enough doctors, nurses, midwives and other servants as well as suffering from lack of ward facilities and medicines.

More than half of respondents in the sample represent they were not get any help from government/ NGOs. Recently most of the NGOs start their activities in the tsunami affected area after the tsunami. However, above details shows that community is suffering from a poor health services both in maintenance and in preventive services.

5 2.6 Education

Most of the parents are interest to educate their children and also students have interest to study. But financial problems and other reasons are interference their studies. So they were leaving/ dropping from school.

According to the data, 20%of the total population of the people

falls into this school going age. Here the school going age consider between 6-14 years.

From the sample data, 23.5% of school going age children were not attend school for the reason are;

- Few of them have lack of attitude toward education.
- Lack of financial facilities to continue their studies.

Most of them fall under the poverty line. So parents' dropout their school age students and send them to labor work for earning.

- Lack of infrastructure facilities like transport, water supply.
- Poor standard of school background & teachers compared with town schools.

When consider the schools in where their children are studies, out of the respondents 81% of them study in village school. This reveals the fact they have more interest in their children's education.

However according to the sample 36% of them are continuing their higher studies. Rest of them was not continuing their higher studies, reasons are;

- Financial problem.
- They were not willing to improve their knowledge and skills.
- They involve in the job hereditary. So they think education is not necessary for their future.
- Some of them think, it is enough to fulfill their study averagely.
- Some of the parents not show the interest in children education.
- Our country education system it take long period of time to complete the studies. It is also one of intervene the students follow their studies.
- Government/ NGOs should not encourage the children who are not continuing their studies.

Variables	Mean	Decision
Employment	2.397	Disagree
Income	2.543	Moderately agree
Water & Sanitation	2.643	Moderately agree
Housing	2.055	Disagree
Health	2.275	Disagree
Education	2.085	Disagree
Final Result	2.333	Disagree

(Source: Develop for research purpose)

Conclusion and Recommendations

Conclusion

In this research most of them involve in agriculture sector. According to this research study about 56 % of families get the Samurdhi benefit and 12 % of get any other benefit. This means they get income below Rs.3000 and lying in the poverty level.

So, they can not fulfill their basic needs such as housing, water & sanitation, health and education facilities. Because of their income is not in satisfactory level. In these area health, education also seen to be worse when compare with other divisional secretariat.

According to the sample, 68.5 % of houses has not attached with toilet facilities, about 50 % of houses have not electricity facilities and 99 % of have not telephone facilities in their houses. On the analysis 55 % of have not adequate water facility and most of the houses in this research area are tin sheet and cadjan. Because of they have not enough financial facilities to construct the comfortable houses with many other facilities.

This survey also show that they could not get better medicine, education and other necessary needs. There is one general hospital; it is not enough for 42 G.N divisions and this hospital face lack of doctors and staffs. According to this research most of the children also face financial problem to continue their studies and some of them have not interest to study.

These all are reveals quality of life of people in this division remain backward a lot. The researcher find, if there are all the facilities will give to that people living in these area, they will enjoy their life in future according to consume good health facilities, housing facilities, earn more income and the children also will show more interest to study without any interference these all also will enable part of the brightness of the country. So uplift the state of people, it is necessary to do a parallel development in this division.

Recommendations

The problem mentioned by quality of life of people in Muthur division should be solving by government and NGOs. Here analyzed how NGOs and government can improve quality of life of people living in Muthur division according to the every variable.

Employment

About 50% of them involve in the agriculture sector and the rest of them involve in fisheries, business, government jobs and other areas.

1. Field of Agriculture:

According to this research, there is excess of labor supply in agriculture sector. In case of the excess labor supply that can be utilized in the following ways.

- Adequate financial facilities should be provided to those in the field and new one who are willing to involve it.
- Should provide the quality seeds and fertilizer to the agriculture fields' employers.
- Should be undertaken desalinization of tsunami affected lands.
- Laying out demonstration on improved agricultural technology and conducting field days for appropriate technology (including value addition and post harvest technology) adoption.
- Should conduct exhibitions to create awareness of new and improved technologies.
- Should provide institutional training by import knowledge and skills in agriculture.

- Should maintain the agro foresting programmed for diversified eco system management.

2. Field of Fishing

- Government/NGOs should grant fishing boats, nets and other fishing instrument for fishermen who not these facilities and loss them during the tsunami.
- Government should provide the support to develop market opportunities for fishing products.
- Government/ NGOs must provide the skill related training program for the reasonable period.
- Financial assistance such as, loan facilities at low interest rate & installments and proper training should conduct to initiate.
- Organize seminars, workshops and demonstration for ornamental and fresh water fish culture practices.
- Fish landing and service centers be built and will consist of buildings and structures that will enable the fishers to store their engines, nets & other gears and materials in a safe place and also provide the basic facilities such as auction sites, community centers, net mending areas, etc. warranted by the number of craft at each of the minor landing points concerned.

3. Unemployment

- In the short term period government/ NGOs should provide the employment opportunities for men and women who are seeking the job according to their qualifications. For that
 - They should conduct the seminars and find out their interest job according that provide financial facilities, advices to them to involve in self-employment.
 - And also provide sewing machine, sewing training courses who are interested in this field.
 - Providing vocational and skills training for various job.
 - Government/ NGOs should provide the knowledge about

the self employment field as most of the people in this area have not completed the knowledge about this field. So they fear to involve/ interest this field, so providing knowledge it also reducing the people bad habit.

- Government/ NGOs should grant cash programme, it would be important to ensure that vulnerable groups are absorbed into regular safety nets such as Samurdhi.

Implemented these activities by government/NGOs should be useful to the employees in the various field in such a way increase their income and through that they will satisfy their basic needs.

Water & Sanitation

To improve the water & sanitation facilities in these area government /NGOs should take the following actions; under the government it responsible for Ministry of housing, construction & public utilities through communities, water supply program unit and National water supply and Drainage board.

- Government/ NGOs should provide the quality drinking water facility using water bowsers and pipelines in where these facilities not.
- Government/NGOs should construct the sanitary latrines per household.
- Purify the dug wells in the tsunami affected area and construct the dug well in where these facilities not.
- Construct and rehabilitation of dug/ tube wells.
- Government/ NGOs should provide employment opportunities those who have participated in cash for work environmental sanitations clean-up project.
- Improve awareness of hygiene and provide access to safe water for these area people.

Housing

It is necessary to provide the housing facilities by government/ NGOs to the homeless people in this division in the following ways.

- Government/ NGOs should introduce a comprehensive housing credit scheme to build up a house that is actually in middle income group. Loans will be repayable on easy installment at confessional rate of interest.
- A housing scheme will be implemented for very lower income group of people, therefore identify the very poor income group families and provided with a permanent housing unit for each.
- Implement a disaster housing programme under the rehabilitation and reconstruction scheme.

Government/ NGOs should reconstruct of destroyed housing stock to be spear headed by tsunami affected households.

- Government will undertake surveys on state lands to identify suitable sites and will introduce attractive compensation packages for private land acquisition.

According to this government provide the domestic land to the people who are without own land to build up a house.

- Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) must be provided the overall policy, guidelines and the frame work for house reconstruction/ construction with the support of international organizations, including major international non government organizations (INGOs), multilateral and bilateral donors and civil society organizations to construct transitional shelters and permanent hosing.

Health

- Government/ NGOs should establish of indigenous medical centers.
- Government/ NGOs should conducting mobile indigenous health care activities in this area.
- Provision of facilities for public health services, health education, nutrition, family health medical, child care food & food sanitation, environmental health, mental health and procurement of drugs.

Nutrition programs should be providing for infant, school level children, pregnant ladies and adult.

Public health services and health education are suitable for all people living in this area. These health practices and knowledge of the people contributed to reduce their health risks.

- Government must provide necessary infrastructure facilities for delivering of health care services.

Such as, water supply, electricity, communication facilities, furniture, essential equipment, supplies (medicine, consumables etc), vehicles and critical staff.

- Should provide Ambulances and other supportive facilities such as waste management and water supply system, marketing, kitchen, staff quarters.
- Government must organized special committees, teams and working groups to oversee the distribution of medical donations and supplies, treat the injured and deploy medical teams.
- Government should carry out malatheion spraying activities in whole area of the division at three months interval.
- NGOs should provide mosquito nets, malaria rapid diagnostic kits, emergency kits and first aid kits to the people who are actually in poverty.
- Government should recruit the shortages of specialist doctors, medical teachers, nursing and Para medical tutors and paramedics.
- Implement health educational programme at schools and rural institutional level.

Education

The research study has identified some deficiency in the education of the people concerned. So the following recommendations are the means to fill the gap between the people expectation relating to the education.

- It should give attention to the education level of student who suffers from poverty a lot due to the lack of income of their family.

For example providing school kits, financial facilities in monthly to those are severely affected by income level.

- Government/ NGOs should construct/ reconstruct the infrastructural facilities.
 - Most of the students following their studies far place from their temporary shelters. So it is necessary to construct the roads, bridge and providing the necessary transport facilities for them.
 - Should provide the water and sanitation facilities, in which schools are not these facilities.
- Increased enrolment of students, improvement in pupil participation, reduction in inequalities, reduction in drop-out rates and removal of disparities through free education policies.

To reduce drop out rate should provide scholarship scheme for the G.C.E O/L and G.C.E A/L students, those successfully complete these studies.

- Government should implement the compulsory education system. In order to all the students must be following at least ordinary level.
- Government / NGOs should reconstruct the schools affected by tsunami.
- Most of the school in these area have grade 1-9. So it is oblige to upgrade the school standard by each and every teachers, principal and students participant.

Students also think, these school were not standard, so some of them following their studies in Town school. This mind should be eliminated.

For that,

- Government / NGOs also should relocation and repairing vocational training, rebuilding modern lecture halls, well equipped work shops, administration buildings and provision of furniture and state of the art equipment such as tools kits, machinery, construct gymnasium, science lab, etc.
- Government should satisfactorily arrange pre-service teacher education for development of quality of teacher education.
- Government should provide the special allowances to teachers who are teaching in rural areas. Such as, transport, accommodation and other welfare facilities to motive them.
- Provision of library books, curriculum complementary packs and teaching materials.

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