

THE ECONOMIC VALUE OF CARE ROLE OF WOMEN - A CASE IN KANDYAN HOME GARDENS, SRI LANKA

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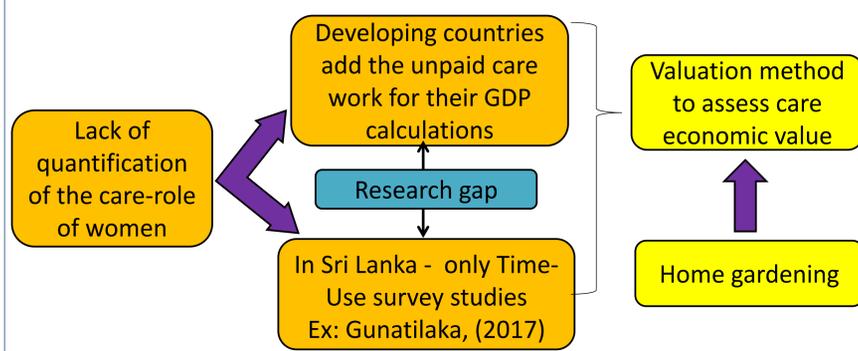
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Introduction

- Women are responsible for 75% of unpaid domestic and care work than men (Metinko, 2017).
- Women work primarily in non-market household production activities, whereas men are primarily engaged in paid market activities
- Hence, women's work remains outside the formal economy (Budlender, 2008).
- Though women contribute to the household by saving through food production and supply role, only men's share is visible.
- Women actively engage home gardening as a promising strategy to fulfil household food availability (FAO, 2011).
- The study focused on women's care role in Kandyan Home Gardens (KHGs) in Kandy district.



Problem Identification and Justification

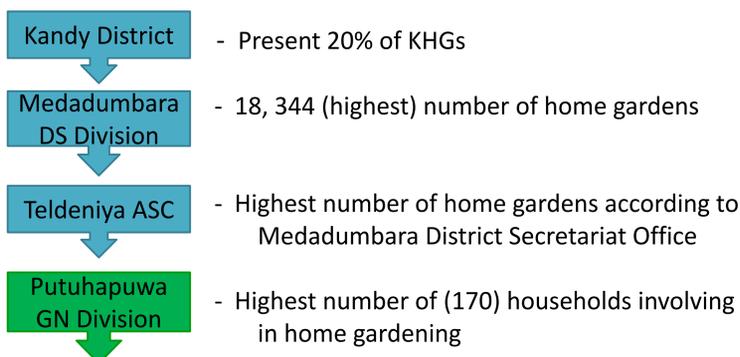


Objective

- To assess economical value of the care role of women in households in Kandyan Home Gardens in Sri Lanka.

Methods and Materials

- Study area: Putuhapuwa Grama Niladhari Division in Kandy district
- Sample size: 120 women in home gardening
- Sample selection: Multi-stage sampling technique



- Suggested model to measure women's economic role within a household by involving in home gardening is as following,

$$Y = \alpha_1 X_1 + \alpha_2 X_2 + \alpha_3 X_3 + \dots + \alpha_n X_n$$

Y	Value of series of common activities that done by a typical woman in Kandyan home gardens
X1	Land preparation
X2	Crop management
X3	Collecting planting materials
X4	Livestock rearing
X5	Watering
X6	Post harvest activities
α_1 to α_6	Weightage factor

Table 1. Indicate the description of selected most common home gardening activities of women in the study area

Methods and Materials cont.

- Value of each home gardening activity was calculated as following,

$$\text{Value of one home gardening activity} = \frac{\text{Number of days allocated by a woman for selected home gardening activity/ month}}{\text{Labour wage of woman per day in the study area}} \times$$
- To get the weightage of activities for each respondent, number of hours spent per month for each activity was multiplied by relevancy for consumption.
- It was the rough estimate given by the each respondent on what percentage they consumed at home out of the total production of the home garden.

Results and Discussion

Activity	Labour hours/month
Land preparation (X1)	3.05
Crop management (X2)	12.01
Collecting planting materials (X3)	1.91
Animal husbandry (X4)	0.82
Watering (X5)	3.64
Post-harvest activities (X6)	2.52
Total labour hours/ month	23.94
Total labour days/ month	2.99

Figure 1: Illustrates the mean values of respondents' labour contribution for home gardening activities including adjusted weightage factor

- Number of labour days was multiplied by 1500.00 SLR of average hired labour wage per day (8 hours/day) in the study area.
- It was resulted that, women's labour cost of involving in home gardening activities of the sample was approximately 4,500.00 SLR per month.
- As this study found out, women contribute a significant financial value from home gardening to the household by saving labour cost.
- If assume that she expands her time to involve in more home gardening by sacrificing the other domestic activities, she can contribute more for the household economy.

Conclusions and Recommendations

- Results of this study revealed that, the mean cost of women's personal labour incurred for selected major home gardening activities to produce for household consumption was approximately 4500.00 SLR per month.
- Reliable measuring tools and methods of valuing women's care economic role are important to create an inclusive and fair economy for the society.
- The policy must be developed to recognize women's role in care to keep her in deserving social status, which enable to develop stronger gender equality in the society.
- It must be included to the national accounts to provide an economic compensation/ reward to recognize her care economic role, such as a monthly basic remuneration.
- Policies should address specific needs of women in home gardening and offer ways to improve time productivity (labour productivity) of the home gardeners as her contribution for household economy through home gardening is significant especially in the rural context.

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