HIGHEST NUMBER OF PERSONS IN MDP OR NMMD IN THE KANDY DISTRICT

This is followed by the two health-related deprivations and the lack of access to improved sanitation. These four elements make up almost 37 percent of the deprivations contributing to MDP.

In the case of NMMD, the main contribution is related to inability to work, head of the household is not working due to chronic illness, disability or old age. This accounts for 33.9 percent. The other main deprivations are related to education, health and sanitation. These four accounts for 36.2 percent of deprivations contributing to NMMD.

Who are battered by multiple deprivations?

Although the incidence of MDP in Sri Lanka is only 1.9 percent (around 400,000 persons), nearly 10 percent of the population or around two million people are in NMMD, which means they can slip into the former easily. Altogether, 2.4 million people (or 11.5 percent of the population) in Sri Lanka are either in MDP or NMMD.

Figure 1: Percentage Contributions of Deprivations Faced by Persons in MDP/NMMD by Type of Deprivation

1. Education: No one in the household has completed 8 years of school education (19.7%)
2. Education: Child is in compulsory age to the household not attending school (23.1%)
3. Health: Household not receiving at least 50% of calorie energy requirements (12.7%)
4. Health: Household not receiving at least 50% of calorie energy requirements (12.7%)
5. Living conditions: Household not having access to safe drinking water (11.5%)
6. Living conditions: Household not having access to improved sanitation (10.2%)
7. Living conditions: Household not having access to improved sanitation (10.2%)
8. Living conditions: Household not having access to improved sanitation (10.2%)
9. Living conditions: Household not having access to improved sanitation (10.2%)
10. Living conditions: Household not having access to improved sanitation (10.2%)

Spatial distribution of persons in MDP or NMMD

The regions where a majority of the people in MDP or NMMD live should be identified to develop area-specific strategies. In Sri Lanka, the highest number of persons in MDP or NMMD is in the Kandy District (9 percent out of the total number in MDP or NMMD in the country).

Other districts with high shares of MDP or NMMD are Kalutara (20 percent), Ratnapura (15 percent), Gampaha (14 percent) and Matara (10 percent).

The other three SEGs with high shares of MDP or NMMD consist of households headed by agricultural laborers, non-agricultural laborers and skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers. These four groups account for nearly 80 percent of those in MDP or NMMD.

IN THE CASE OF NMMD, THE MAIN CONTRIBUTION IS RELATED TO INABILITY TO WORK; HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD IS NOT WORKING DUE TO A CHRONIC ILLNESS

Although the incidence of MDP in Sri Lanka is only 1.9 percent (around 400,000 persons), nearly 10 percent of the population or around two million people are in NMMD, which means they can slip into the former easily. Altogether, 2.4 million people (or 11.5 percent of the population) in Sri Lanka are either in MDP or NMMD.

Figure 3 shows that the number of persons in MDP in almost all districts is considerably higher compared to those in NMMD. This indicates that although the incidence of MDP is low in Sri Lanka, a large number of people are at risk of slipping into MDP.

Monitoring all dimensions of poverty

The strategies to minimize MDP and NMMD depend on the types of deprivations faced by the poor, their locations and their socioeconomic groups. Continuous monitoring of all dimensions of poverty and identifying the most threatened regions and groups is essential to eliminate all forms of poverty. Such information will be useful in developing region-specific strategies.

As shown in Figure 1, there are four major deprivations contributing to MDP and to NMMD. If these deprivations could be minimized or eliminated, it would be possible to eliminate MDP.

Ensuring at least eight years of quality education for all, additional attention to households headed by persons who are unable to work, targeted measures to combat undernutrition and the provision of sanitation facilities to deprived households are some of the interventions that can help in this regard.

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