

Economic Problems Faced by Rural Farmers in Vavuniya North Ds Division: A Comparison between War and Post War Context

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Rural farmers are the ones who engage in farming in village level. They usually cultivate paddy, do gardening and livestock activities in such areas. They face many economic, social, cultural and psychological problems. This study mainly focusses on economic problems which are faced by the rural farmers in Vavuniya North DS Division rather compare between war and post war context.

The main objective of this study is to identify economic problems faced by farmers and the sub objective is to examine the differences and similarities of economic problems faced by the farmers during the war and post war contexts.

For this study, 40 Questionnaires and 10 interviews were used as primary data collection methods. When the secondary data collection was carried out, statistical books, magazines and newspapers were gathered for this research. The sustainable rural livelihood approach was used for this study.

This study found out economic problems faced by the farmers during and post war context. Farmers feel secure, free and high status during war in addition to that they feel sorry about poverty and low wages. Farmers educate their children, develop collective social bonds, and togetherness. They share everything such as man power, natural resources, culture and traditional values, love and affection in their job. Self- employment does not interrupt their faith in religion, respect for each other, collectiveness and gender equality when working in paddy field too were there during the war in the study area.

Farmers are backward after war context. Now they feel bad about themselves. They depend on another person, think about future, diseases (CKD), Lack of man power, modern technology, migration, low status, unemployment, next generation, disability and women headed families, loan and suicide, climate change and poverty are current happening after the war period. Therefore, comparatively, war period is better than post war period. Farmers struggle with every situation because they lost everything in the war.

As a result, farmers have a lot of economic problems in the community. Therefore, in order to protect agriculture in the region and to uplift the standard of living of the farmers, appropriate policies and plans should be implemented from home level. Socializing the children with the understanding on the importance of food and agriculture in this society is also important.

Key words: *War, Rural farmers, Economic, Sustainable, Socialize blue-green economy*