

Women's Participation in the Labor Force as a Source of Income Generation in Valikaamam South, Jaffna District

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Jaffna is one of the largest Districts in the Northern Province which has good potential for farming activities. Valikaamam south area is one of the most dynamic divisional secretariats in terms of females seeking employment. The study was undertaken among women in the Valikaamam South. Women play a significant and crucial role in farming, non-farming, and household activities. Several economic and non-economic factors are responsible for women's participation in the labor force. However, the level of women's participation in farming and non-farming activities is often associated with relatively low participation rates. This study focuses on how women's participation rate varies with women's demographic and household characteristics, factors related to farming and non-farming, the role of women's society, and issues such as disturbances, gender gap, and less productivity. The study also focuses on what are the factors influencing the decision to engage in women's participation in farm and non-farm activities and investigates the issues faced by women in the vicinity of the Valikaamam South. A total of 87 households were selected through proportionate random sampling through the Vali-South *Grama Niladari* division by using pre-tested well-structured questionnaires. Heckman's two-sample model was employed to identify the factors that influence women in the labor force as well as factors that influence the decision to engage in income-generating activities. Results showed that education level with A/L, graduate, higher studies, the motive to work, and training significantly influence the wage earned per month. On the other hand, age significantly influences the decision to engage in the labor force. The results imply stronger policy interventions targeted at women to improve and increase their participation in the labor force.

Keywords: Farm and non-farm activities, Female labor force participation (LFP), Heckit model, Income generating activities

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