

PROTECTING CHILDREN ON THE MOVE

A STUDY BASED IN THE PROBATION DISTRICT OF
HAMBANTOTA, SRI LANKA



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ABBREVIATIONS

AIDS: Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
CBO: Community-Based Organisation
CRC: Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSE: Commercial Sexual Exploitation
DCDC: District Child Development Committee
DCPC: Divisional Child Protection Committees
ECPAT: End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and the Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes
ESCAPE: Eradicating Sexual Child Abuse, Prostitution and Exploitation
GCE: General Certificate of Examination
HIV: Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICCPR: International Convention on Civil and Political Rights
ICERC: International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
ICT: Information and Communication Technologies
IDP: Internally Displaced Persons
ILO: International Labour Organisation
ILO/IPEC: International Labour Organisation/International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour
INGO: International Non-Governmental Organisation
IOM: International Organisation for Migration
ISPCAN: International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect
IT: Information Technology
MoU: Memorandum of Understanding
NCCWD: National Commission for Child Welfare and Development
NCPA: National Child Protection Authority
NGO: Non-Governmental Organisation
NPA: National Plan of Action
PD: Probation District
SAARC: South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
STIs: Sexually Transmitted Infections
UN: United Nations
UNDP: United Nations Development Programme
UNESCAP: United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNFPA: United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF: United Nations Children's Fund

UNIFEM: United Nations Development Fund for Women
VCPC: Village Child Protection Committee
VCRMC: Village Child Rights Monitoring Committee
WHO: World Health Organisation
WTO: World Tourism Organisation

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Abbreviations.....	ii
Acknowledgement.....	iv
Table of Contents.....	vi
 Chapter 1. Introduction to the Study	 I
1.1 Why?.....	I
1.2 Who are Children on the Move?	I
1.3 Objective of the Study	2
1.4 Scope of the Study	2
 Chapter 2. Methodology	 4
2.1 The Strategy	4
2.2 Sample	4
2.2.1 Sample Area	4
2.2.2 Sample Population	5
2.3 Literature Review.....	6
2.4 Key Stakeholder Interviews.....	6
2.5 Case Studies	6
2.6 Survey.....	7
2.7 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with Children	8
2.7.1 Visioning	8
2.7.2 Obstacle Analysis	9
2.7.3 Problem Tree Analysis	9
2.8 Key Stakeholder Analysis.....	9
2.9 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with the Community	10
2.10 Workshops with Children.....	10
2.11 Workshop with Key Stakeholders	10
2.12 Ethical Issues	11

2.12.1 Ownership of the Research	11
2.12.2 Child Protection	8
2.12.3 Confidentiality and Anonymity.....	11
2.12.4 Informed Consent	12
2.12.5 Informing Respondents	12

Chapter 3. Overview of Hambantota Probation District

3.1 Introduction.....	13
3.2 General Overview	13
3.3 Population	14
3.4 Poverty Profile	15
3.5 Divisional Dimensions.....	16
3.5.1 Hambantota Probation Division.....	16
3.5.2 Tissamaharama Probation Division	16
3.5.3 Katharagama Probation Division.....	17
3.5.4 Lunugamvehera Probation Division	18
3.5.5 Suriyawewa Probation Division.....	19
3.5.6 Ambalantota Probation Division.....	19

Chapter 4. Children on the Move in Hambantota Probation District.....

4.1 Children Engaged in Economic Activities.....	21
4.1.1 Children Engaged in Primary Sector Economic Activities	22
4.1.1.1 Children Working in the Agriculture Sector	22
4.1.1.2 Children Engaged in Animal Husbandry	25
4.1.1.3 Children Employed in the Fisheries Sector	26
4.1.1.3.1 Inland Fishing	26
4.1.1.3.2 Deep Sea Fishing.....	28
4.1.2 Children Occupied in Secondary Sector Activities	31
4.1.2.1 Children Working in Garages	32
4.1.2.2 Children Working in Garment Factories	33

4.1.2.3 Children Working in Food Manufacturing and Processing Industries	34
4.1.3 Children Engaged in the Tertiary Sector (Sales and Services)	35
4.1.3.1 Children Working as Vendors	35
4.1.4 Children Engaged in Informal Trades	39
4.1.4.1 Domestic Workers	39
4.1.5 Children Involved in Dangerous Trades	42
4.1.5.1 Children Engaged in Trafficking of Illegal Drugs	42
4.1.5.2 Children Loading and Unloading Food Items, Cement Bags, Building Material etc from Trucks	45
4.1.5.3 Children Who Earn an Income by Committing Theft	47
4.2. Children on the Streets	48
4.2.1 Children Engaged in Begging	48
4.2.2 Children Who Carry Offerings and Shoes of the Devotees in Religious Places.	53
4.3. Children in Institutions	54
4.4 Child Trafficking	57
4.4.1 Children as Sex Workers	57
4.5 Children Who Leave Home for Educational Purposes	60
4.6 Conclusion	60

Chapter 5. Human Rights Issues

5.1 Survival and Development	61
5.1.1 Poverty and Economic Exploitation	61
5.1.2 Unequal Distribution of Resources	62
5.1.3 Lack of Proper Housing	63
5.1.4 Limited Access to Water	63
5.1.5 Poor Sanitation Facilities	63
5.1.6 Lack of Electricity	63
5.1.7 Lack of Access to Healthcare Facilities	64
5.1.8 Malnutrition	64
5.1.9 Non-Schooling and Dropping Out of School	64
5.1.10 Limited Access to Vocational Training Programmes	66
5.2 Best Interest	66

5.2.1 Religious Conversions	66
5.2.2 Non-Formal Marriages Leading to Family Separation	66
5.2.3 Domestic Violence	67
5.2.4 Child Abuse.....	68
5.2.4.1 Forms of Abuse.....	68
5.2.4.1.1 Neglect.....	68
5.2.4.1.2 Physical Abuse.....	69
5.2.4.1.3 Child Sexual Abuse	69
5.2.4.1.4 Psychological & Emotional Abuse	71
5.2.4.2 Abuse in Public Institutions.....	71
5.2.4.2.1 Abuse in Schools	71
5.2.4.2.2 Abuse in Institutions.....	72
5.2.5 Children Who Have been trafficked.....	73
5.2.6 Drugs and Alcohol Abuse.....	73
5.2.7 Institutionalisation of Children on the Move.....	74
5.2.8 Institutionalisation of Orphaned Children.....	76
5.2.9 Child Mothers.....	76
5.3 Non-Discrimination.....	77
5.3.1 Discrimination in Schools	77
5.3.2 Discrimination by Host Communities.....	77
5.3.3 Discrimination Due to Lack of Proper Documentation.....	78
5.3.4 Negative Stereotyping of Children on the Move.....	78
5.4 Participation.....	78
5.4.1 Limited Access to Information	79
5.5 Conclusion	80

Chapter 6. Instruments to Protect Children on the Move..... 81

6.1 Introduction.....	81
6.2 International Instruments.....	81
6.2.1 General Child Rights	81
6.2.3 Child Protection	82

6.2.4 Child Labour	83
6.2.5 Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	83
6.2.6 Non-Discrimination.....	84
6.3 National Law in Sri Lanka	85
6.3.1 General Child Rights	85
6.3.2 Civil and Political Rights	86
6.3.3 Child Protection.....	86
6.3.4 Education.....	88
6.3.5 Employment	88
6.4 Conclusion	90

Chapter 7. Prevailing Mechanisms to Support Children on the Move

7.1 Introduction	91
7.2 Government Institutions	91
7.2.1 Department of Probation & Childcare Services	91
7.2.1.1 Role of Probation Officers	92
7.2.1.2 Role of Child Rights Promotion Officer (CRPO)	93
7.2.2 National Child Protection Authority.....	94
7.2.3 Women's and Children's Desk of Police Stations.....	95
7.2.4 Non-Formal Education Division of Department of Education.....	96
7.2.4.1 Non-Formal Education Classes.....	96
7.2.5 Department of Social Services	98
7.2.6 Samudhri Authourity of Sri Lanka	98
7.3 Coordinating Bodies.....	99
7.3.1 District Child Development Committees (DCDC)	99
7.3.2 Divisional Child Protection Committees (DCPC).....	100
7.3.4 Village Child Rights Monitoring Committees (VCRMC)	100
7.4 Civil Society Initiatives	101
7.4.1 INGOs	102
7.4.2 NGOs	102
7.4.3 Private Children's Institutions	104

7.4.4 Community Initiatives.....	104
7.7 Conclusions	105

Chapter 8. Pilot Interventions Based on Research

Findings	105
8.1 Training Children as Protagonists.....	106
8.2 Stakeholder Workshop- A Platform for Children on the Move to Voice their Issues.....	106
8.3 Support Children to Continue Schooling	106
8.4 Setting up Rights Based Children's Organisations	106
8.5 Pilot Interventions for Seven Identified Cases.....	107

Chapter 9. Recommendations..... 108

9.1 Strengthen the Implementation Mechanism.....	108
9.2 Promote Child Activism	109
9.3 Conduct Awareness Raising Programmes.....	109
9.4 Address Poverty	110
9.5 Safe Employment.....	110
9.6 Enhance Access to Education	111
9.7 Develop Skills through Vocational Ttraining.....	112
9.8 Provide Psychosocial Support.....	112
9.9 Provide Documentation	112
9.10 Stop Religious Conversions	113
9.11 Adopt a Rehabilitative Juvenile Justice System	113
9.12 Maintain Better Standards in Institutions.....	113
9.13 Protect Child Mothers	114
9.14 Address Trafficking of Children	115
9.15 Adopt Best Practices in Interventions	116

References..... 117

Annexures

Annex I - Resource Database	117
1. Government.....	120
1.1 National Child Protection Authority (NCPA).....	120
1.2 Samurdi Authority.....	122
1.3 Social Service Department.....	123
2 Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs).....	77
2.1 Child Resource Centre.....	77
2.2 Hambantota District Early Childhood Development Foundation	78
2.3 Kantha Sanwardana Maha Sangamaya (WDF).....	80
2.4 Ruhunu Wellassa Area Federation (CF Sri Lanka)	82
2.5 Sahanoda Padanama.....	134
2.6 Sarvodaya District Office	86
2.7 Sewa Lanka Foundation – Hambantota	88
2.8 Shilpa Children’s Trust.....	90
2.9 Youth Enterprises Information Centre	92
3 Religious.....	95
3.1 Kotte NIPON Temple	95
3.2 Wellawatte International Buddhist Centre (Light a life Pre school)	96

Annex 2 : Key Stakeholders Interviewed	97
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List of Tables

Table I.1 Population Dimensions of Hambantota Probation District	14
Table I.2 Poverty Headcount Index	15

List of Figures

Figure I.1 Map of the probation jurisdiction of the Hambantota district	5
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CHAPTER 1-

INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY

1.1 WHY?

Children on the move in the Hambantota probation district were identified as a vulnerable group of children without adequate protection. According to the Department of Probation and Childcare Services there is an urgent need to address issues of these children with careful, consultative planning. The prevailing efforts to protect children are considered as ways of criminalising and victimising vulnerable children. As a result of not adopting child-friendly protection mechanisms, the persons who are assigned to protect children are seen as traitors. There is a constant tension between so-called protectors and vulnerable children. The multi-stakeholder action-oriented study on children on the move was carried out based on a request made to Save the Children in Sri Lanka by the Department of Probation and Childcare Services in order to develop an effective, child-friendly, sustainable protection mechanism to address issues of children on the move.

1.2 WHO ARE CHILDREN ON THE MOVE?

Children on the move are not a special or a new category of children. It is an umbrella category of children who have been trafficked, children who migrate (e.g. to pursue better life opportunities, look for work or education or to escape exploitative or abusive situations at home); children displaced by conflict and natural disasters; and children who live and work in the streets. All these children are considered as a vulnerable category in need of care and protection. These children find themselves at risk,

especially of being exposed to various forms of abuse and for being involved in worst forms of exploitation.¹

For the purpose of this study, children on the move are based on the International Save the Children Alliance definition:

“Those children moving for a variety of reasons, voluntarily or involuntarily, within or between countries, with or without their parents or other primary caregivers, and whose movement might place them at risk (or at an increased risk) of economic or sexual exploitation, abuse, neglect and violence”².

1.3 OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The main objective of the study is to develop effective recommendations to promote, protect and fulfil the rights of children on the move in the Hambantota district in order to advocate for the rights of children on the move.

Specific objectives are to understand the causes, conditions and issues of children on the move in the Hambantota district; and to develop a resource database of stakeholders that could work on protecting rights of children in the Hambantota district.

1.4 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This study explores the current situation of children on the move; highlights the common risks and challenges faced by these children and their differences in terms of gender, age and their agency; portrays the positive effect that mobility can have on improving children's life chances and identifies available resources to protect these children in order to develop an effective strategy. The

¹ Based on the explanatory note of SC Alliance definition of Children on the Move

² Children on the Move Definition discussed and agreed at SC Alliance Meeting on Children on the Move, London 2- 3 July 2009

significance of this study is that it gets children involved as key respondents and mobilises them to present their views and recommendations to all stakeholders. The views of all stakeholders, including parents, community members, government officials, NGO representatives, priests, etc., are also considered in order to develop a sustainable strategy.

CHAPTER 2-

METHODOLOGY

2.1 THE STRATEGY

The study on children on the move in the probation district of Hambantota adopted a multi-stakeholder, participatory action oriented strategy. The methodology includes a literature review, key stakeholder interviews, case studies, a survey, focus group discussions (FGDs) and workshops with stakeholders.

2.2 SAMPLE

2.2.1 SAMPLE AREA

Sample area for this study was the probation jurisdiction of the Hambantota district. It includes Ambalantota DS division, Suriyawewa DS division, Lunugamvehera DS division, Tissamaharama DS division, Katharagama DS division and Hambantota DS division.

MAP OF THE PROBATION JURISDICTION OF THE HAMBANTOTA DISTRICT



- 5

- Children displaced due to the human-elephant conflict
- Development-induced displacement
- Children who work and live in the streets;
 - Children working as vendors
 - Children engaged in begging
 - Children engaged in petty theft

2.3 LITERATURE REVIEW

A literature review was conducted to identify existing literature on children on the move in the Hambantota district. It included newspaper articles, newsletters, government and NGO reports and books.

2.4 KEY STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

Key stakeholder interviews were conducted to get the stakeholders involved in the research design, to identify the sample of the study, to obtain background information on the issue and to identify possible partnerships.

These interviews were conducted with senior probation officials, additional district secretaries, divisional secretaries, Women and Children's Desk in police stations, Human Rights Commission, National Child Protection Authority (NCPA), State Receiving Home, Child Rights protection officers, NGO officials, and heads of children's institutions, priests, and medical officers of health (MoH).

2.5 CASE STUDIES

Case studies were conducted to identify causes, children's experiences, issues faced by children and to determine children's recommendations. Case studies were conducted with 32 children in six DS divisions in the Hambantota district. Two children from each category identified below were selected for case studies.

1. Children who engage in begging- Katharagama/ Tissamaharama
2. Institutionalised children- Katharagama
3. Child sex workers- Katharagama
4. Children employed as vendors- Katharagama/ Hambantota
5. Children engaged in dancing - Tissamaharama
6. Children working in industries- Katharagama
7. Children involved in drug trafficking
8. Children working in garages
9. Pimps
10. Waged labourers
11. Children loading and unloading food items, cement bags, building material etc from trucks
12. Children engaged in agriculture- Lunugamvehera
13. Children engaged in fishing (inland)- Tissamaharama
14. Children engaged in fishing (deep sea)- Hambantota
15. Domestic workers- Hambantota
16. Children in informal employment- Hambantota

2.6 SURVEY

A survey was conducted to identify available resources on protecting child rights in the Hambantota district; past and current programmes with children on the move and the lessons learned; plans and recommendations for future interventions and possible future partnerships. A survey was conducted with potential resource organisations including the Government, UN agencies, INGOs, NGOs, CBOs and individuals in order to develop the resource database.

2.7 FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS (FGD) WITH CHILDREN

Focus group discussions (FGDs) were conducted with five groups of children on the move. This included children who engage in deep sea fishing in Hambantota; children working as vendors in Katharagama; children loading and unloading food items, cement bags, building material etc from trucks and children working as dancers at public festivals (Tissamaharama); and children engaged in agriculture in Lunugamvehera. During the FGD sessions with children, visioning, obstacle analysis, problem tree analysis and key stakeholder analysis was conducted.

2.7.1 VISIONING

The purpose of the exercise, which was explained to all children, was to create a shared vision for the next five years. Then the participants were requested to close their eyes and imagine that it is five years down the line. They have been away for that period of time on an extended vacation. They have just returned to their hometown and they find it changed in every possible way- all for the better. The community is everything they dreamed it could be. 'What do they see, hear, smell when they walk down the street in their community?' Thereafter, the participants were given cards, colour crayons, colour pens, pencils, and erasers and they were asked to draw exciting things they saw – one idea per card. Afterwards, each participant was asked to choose his/her best idea, to express it and post it on the wall to share with other participants. After every one has shared his/her dream, they were asked to choose their second important dream card which has not been displayed yet. All the participants were asked to look at the cards displayed and see if they still have any brand new dreams that are not displayed. If so, they were asked to post them on the wall. Then the cards were clustered and named based on the ideas of the cards in a particular cluster. Finally, a vision statement was written based on the clusters.

2.7.2 OBSTACLE ANALYSIS

Participants were divided into groups of five and were requested to identify all possible challenges in attaining each goal stated in the vision statement.

Challenges were divided into two categories-

- Internal issues- all problems originating from within the community
- External issues- all problems that originated from outside, which have a significant effect on the community's efforts towards achieving goals.

2.7.3 PROBLEM TREE ANALYSIS

Based on all the issues identified in the obstacle analysis, a cause and effect analysis was conducted using problem tree analysis.

A problem is never an isolated negative perceived situation, but relates to other problems. In the problem tree the relations and hierarchy among all identified problems is expressed. Each stated problem is preceded by the problem(s) which cause(s) it, and followed by the problem it causes itself. For example: a child is not going to school because he can't afford books, as there is no income for the family, etc.

2.8 KEY STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS

Discussion on the role of key stakeholders was conducted with children. Pictures of family, school, temple, *Grama Niladhari*, *Samurdhi officer*, Child Rights promotion officer (CRPO), police, etc. were shown to children and a discussion based on the person presented on the picture was conducted.

2.9 FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS (FGDs) WITH THE COMMUNITY

Community focus group discussions (FGDs) were conducted with parents and other community members in Hambantota, Katharagama, Lunugamvehera and Tissamaharama. The community FGDs focused on the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the community in relation to improving the situation of children on the move.

2.10 WORKSHOPS WITH CHILDREN

Four training workshops were held in Hambantota, Katharagama, Lunugamvehera and Tissamaharama in order to train the children nominated by their peers to represent them at the key stakeholder workshop. This training included developing leadership skills and presentation skills. As part of the workshop a mini drama elaborating a common issue of the community was developed by children. Children learnt and practiced on presenting child rights issues through case studies and group presentations.

2.11 WORKSHOP WITH KEY STAKEHOLDERS

A workshop was conducted in Hambantota for the key stakeholders in child protection from Suriyawewa, Ambalantota, Hambantota, Katharagama, Lunugamvehera and Tissamaharama. Participants at the workshop included 16 children on the move, representing four communities; relevant district and provincial administrators from Hambantota and Moneragala and child rights activists including CRPOs, probation officers, officials from Department of Education, police, NGO activists, community leaders, etc.

The workshop included presenting the objectives and methodology, presenting child rights issues by children, presenting research

findings, developing recommendations and taking responsibility to implement some of the recommendations.

2.12 ETHICAL ISSUES

2.12.1 OWNERSHIP OF THE RESEARCH

Ownership of the study and publication rights of this report is for Save the Children in Sri Lanka. All the stakeholders working on child protection issues are able to use the research findings for their advocacy work in improving conditions of street children.

The findings of the study was shared with the relevant and appropriate stakeholders protecting rights of the children on the move and the conclusions and recommendations were drawn in consultation with children and other key stakeholders.

2.12.2 CHILD PROTECTION

The research team was inducted to the Child Protection (safeguarding) Policy (CPP) of Save the Children. The team abided by the CPP. All research participants were protected from any harmful risks (i.e., physical and verbal abuse, or threatening by research subjects or exposing any illegal activity done by children to law enforcement officials) during the research.

Accesses to supportive structures were negotiated before the study in order to ensure children have access in case of any emotional or psychological disturbance during or after the research process.

2.12.3 CONFIDENTIALITY AND ANONYMITY

All researchers involved were held responsible to maintain confidentiality of the information provided and anonymity of the respondent. Disclosure of confidential information was to be made

only when it is appropriate, for example if a child needs any urgent counselling or psychosocial support.

2.12.4 INFORMED CONSENT

Informed consent was obtained from all the respondents after they were made to understand all the implications of participating in the research. The respondents were given the opportunity to open up for questions. The research participants have the right to refuse to fully participate in the research or refuse to respond to certain questions or divulge certain information.

In case of some street children, we did not obtain the informed consent of their parents or guardians as it was difficult to identify the guardians of street children. Even though they are under the age of 18, we only obtain the consent of the child to participate in the research, although they don't have a legal guardian to safeguard them, they have an inherent right to form and express their views and this right is enshrined in the UNCRC.

2.12.5 INFORMING RESPONDENTS

Immediately after the data was collected, the researcher clarified with the research participant about any misconceptions that may have arisen. We also recognised the duty to report general findings to the participants in terms they understand. Where scientific or humane values justify withholding information, every effort was made so that withholding the information has no damaging consequences for the participant.

Because the researcher's words may carry unintended weight with parents and children, caution was exercised in reporting results, when making evaluative statements, or when giving advice.

CHAPTER 3-

OVERVIEW OF THE

HAMBANTOTA THE

PROBATION DISTRICT

3.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter on the overview of the Hambantota probation district provides a brief background of the study location, including a general overview of the probation district, characteristics of the population, a poverty profile and a brief divisional dimension of children on the move.

3.2 GENERAL OVERVIEW

The Hambantota probation district is located 240 kilometres (150 miles) from the capital of Colombo. The probation district is made up of the divisions of Hambantota as well as Monaragala administrative districts. It includes Hambantota, Ambalantota, Suriyawewa, Tissamaharama, Lunugamvehera and Katharagama Divisional Secretariat divisions consisting 191 *Grama Niladhari* divisions³.

Major sources of livelihood in the district are subsistence agriculture, fisheries and tourism. Katharagama and Tissamaharama are known as sacred towns and are major attractions for pilgrims. These towns are popular tourist destinations which provide direct and indirect income avenues for a substantial proportion of the population. Most pilgrims tend to give alms to the poor communities, which has created a culture of dependency.

³ Ministry of Public Administration. 2009.

Historical records suggest that the Hamban- Thota, port was a familiar destination for international traders being situated in a strategically and economically important point for transshipment purposes and the island's international trade.

Satellite service townships such as Ambalantota, Tissamaharama, have evolved around the Hambantota district centre which caters to the service requirements of the semi-urban local population and the tourists.

There have been many development initiatives in the Hambantota district in recent times. These initiatives include development of the international harbour, the international airport, rail link extension programme, the Ranminithanna Tele Village project, the Open Range Zoological Garden project and the International Cricket Ground project. These development initiatives would lead to urbanisation and result in changes in lifestyles of the people, who are used to a predominantly rural setting, who would have to adapt to a faster, urbanised setting within the next few years.

3.3 POPULATION

Hambantota probation district consist of a multi-ethnic (Sinhala, Muslim, Tamil, Burghers), multi-religious (Buddhist, Christian, Islam and Hindu) population. Total population of the probation district is 253,351. A breakdown of the population according to divisions is given in the table below.

Table I.1.

Population Dimensions of Hambantota Probation District

Division	GN Divisions	Families	Population
Tissamaharama	44	15,381	60,941
Lunugamvehera	36	7,104	25,148
Hambantota	30	11,560	46,777
Suriyawewa	21	9,216	35,620
Ambalantota	55	15,960	63,930
Katharagama	5	5,068	20,935

Total	191	64,289	253,351
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Source: Ministry of Public Administration (2009)

3.4 POVERTY PROFILE

In terms of economic poverty, the Hambantota probation district can be considered as one of the most deprived and underserved communities in Sri Lanka. In comparison with the National Poverty Headcount Index of 23% the poverty levels are much higher in divisions of Hambantota probation district. Poverty Headcount Index of each division is given in the table below.

Table 1.2.

Poverty Headcount Index (percentage of population below poverty line 2002⁴)

Division	Percentage
Tissamaharama	32.2%
Lunugamvehera	33.5%
Hambantota	31.3%
Suriyawewa	34.8%
Ambalantota	33.3%
Katharagama	19.8%
Colombo	6.0%
Sri Lanka	23.0%

Source: Department of Census and Statistics (2002)

Apart from economic poverty, multiple facets of poverty such as social exclusion, lack of opportunity are also prevalent in the selected project area.

⁴ Headcount index and population below the poverty line is the proportion of the population of the given locality falling below the poverty line.

3.5 DIVISIONAL DIMENSIONS

3.5.1 HAMBANTOTA PROBATION DIVISION

Hambantota is a semi-urbanised area which serves as the central administrative town of the district. As the central administrative town, and as a transit town for devotees on pilgrimage to Katharagama, it caters to a huge flow of daily visitors. This has resulted in a diverse informal sector in Hambantota consisting of street vendors and beggars.

The biggest fisheries harbour in the Southern province is in Hambantota and it serves as the major means of livelihood for people in the area. Adults as well as children depend on fishing for their livelihood.

Semi-urbanised recent settlements including tsunami housing schemes (Siribopura) and poor slum-like settlements (Samagipura-Kovilwatta, Samodhagama) are areas where vulnerable communities are concentrated in.

Common types of children on the move in the area are: child labourers, domestic workers, beggars, vendors, fishermen, mechanics, and sex workers.

3.5.2 TISSAMAHARAMA PROBATION DIVISION

Tissamaharama is a major tourist destination with many hotels and guesthouses. It serves as transit point for pilgrims and tourists to Katharagama as well as to the National Parks at Yala and Bundala. The hospitality industry is one of the major sources of revenue in the Tissamaharama probation division.

Fishing is also a common means of livelihood for people in this area. While the Kirinda Harbour provides avenues for people engaged in the marine fisheries sector, Tissamaharama Tank provides avenues for fishermen in the inland fisheries sector.

Tissamaharama temple is a popular place for beggars. Over the past few years, the number of beggars has been reduced significantly in Tissamaharama as a result of the resettlement programmes.

Agape Children's Home, a private institution for vulnerable children in Tissamaharama, is run by a priest.

Common types of children on the move in Tissamaharama include; children who beg, children engaged in fishing (both inland and deep sea), children who load and unload food items from lorries to shops, dancers at the *perahera* (a cultural/religious procession) at Katharagama, children in institutions and domestic workers.

Most vulnerable communities are concentrated mainly between the 7th mile post to 9th mile post along Tissamaharama- Katharagama road.

3.5.3 KATHARAGAMA PROBATION DIVISION

Katharagama was identified as the most vulnerable location with the highest number of children on the move. This is mainly due to the dependency culture in Katharagama, as the major source of income of many families has become the alms they receive from devotees who come on pilgrimage. Children are extensively employed in small boutiques, stalls, and restaurants, in the area.

During the festive season, children migrating with their families from other parts of the country to beg or to perform as dancers at festivals are a common practice.

Common types of children on the move in the area are; children who work as vendors, children begging on the streets, children who

carry offerings to *Devala* (Shrine), children in institutions and child sex workers.

Most vulnerable locations in Katharagama are Nagahavidiya, Gothamigama, Gaminipura, Sella Katharagama, Walli Matha Gama, Pera Giri Gama and Kada Suridu Gama.

3.5.4 LUNUGAMVEHERA PROBATION DIVISION

Lunugamvehera, being a typical economically backward division in the Hambantota district, has a population that is predominantly engaged in the primary sector. Organised plantations and *chena* cultivations (also known as shifting cultivation) are popular sources of agricultural engagement for people in this division. The Lunugamvehera Tank which provides irrigated water to most parts of the division is a landmark in the area and it is the main source of fishing for the inland fisheries sector. Most livelihoods and lives of the people are dependent on the primary sector and on sustainable use of forest resources. There are national protected areas which are intruded by humans for plantations and settlements and sometimes for illicit cannabis plantations. Poaching of wildlife too is seen in the area. Children are drawn to work in the agriculture and fisheries sectors from an early age when they start helping their parents in the fields.

Children who migrate to other districts to attend school or for tuition are very common particularly among children studying for G.C.E. Ordinary Level and G.C.E. Advanced Level exams. This is mainly due the lack of adequate educational infrastructure and resources in the Lunugamvehera probation division.

Children on the move in the Lunugamvehera probation division are mainly those who are engaged in agriculture, fisheries, hunting wildlife, institutionalised children and children staying in boarding schools in other districts for educational purposes.

Fisheries village and Ranawaranawa were identified as two vulnerable locations in the Lunugamvehera probation division, which need interventions for children on the move.

3.5.5 SURIYAWEWA PROBATION DIVISION

The setting and the culture is quite similar to Lunugamvehera, with a vibrant agriculture sector which includes *chena* cultivation. As there are no large tanks or reservoirs in the Suriyawewa division, the inland fisheries sector operates seasonally and on a very small scale. Suriyawewa is one of the most marginalised and harsh areas in the Hambantota district with a low rainfall and a relatively low amount of marketable resources.

There are children engaged in agriculture and selling of agricultural produce at the local fairs. Similar to Lunugamvehera, there are many children who migrate to other areas for educational purposes.

3.5.6 AMBALANTOTA PROBATION DIVISION

Ambalantota as the business town of the Hambantota district centre has a diverse service sector and supplementary sectors including the informal sector. Furthermore, Ambalantota being a coastal division, and an area through which the Walawe River (one of the major rivers of the country) flows, is an area where people engage in the marine and estuarine fisheries sector. Interior areas are typically agriculture based with an insignificant inland fisheries sector.

As the division in the middle of Hambantota and Suriyawewa, there are characteristics of both divisions evident in the Ambalantota division.

There are a few children begging on the streets, children employed as vendors, children who engage in fishing and a fair number of children engaged in the agriculture sector in Ambalantota.

CHAPTER 4-

CHILDREN ON THE MOVE

IN THE HAMBANTOTA

PROBATION DISTRICT

This chapter analyses all existing types of children on the move in the probation district of Hambantota. The types of children on the move discussed in this chapter are; children who migrate to earn a living, children on the streets, children in institutions, children who have been trafficked, and children leaving home for educational purposes. The analysis of children on the move portrays significant trends in the Hambantota probation district in relation to children on the move, presents causes and issues of each category of children and elaborates the situation of each type of children on the move by presenting descriptive case studies.

4.1 CHILDREN ENGAGED IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

The most prevalent category of children on the move is children who migrate to engage in economic activities. A significant feature of most children who migrate to pursue economic activities is that they come back to their dwellings after working hours. This category of children is divided based on the type of economic activity children are involved in. Types of economic activities covered in this chapter include, children occupied in the primary sector (agriculture, animal husbandry and fishing); children occupied in the secondary sector, which is also known as industrial work, which include production lines, home-based industries and garages; children employed in the tertiary sector (children who work as vendors, children working in the hospitality industry); children working in the informal sector

(child domestic workers); and children involved in dangerous trades (child sex workers, children engaged in drug trafficking; children who earn an income through committing theft, and children engaged in loading and unloading food items, cement bags and other material from trucks).

4.1.1 CHILDREN ENGAGED IN PRIMARY SECTOR ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

4.1.1.1 Children Working in the Agriculture Sector

Sustainable agriculture has been practiced from ancient times throughout the district, even before formal education systems and government interventions have influenced their lives. Children engage in agricultural activities from an early age and they work with their parents. Children who are engaged in *chena* cultivation and farming skip school, mainly during the cultivation and harvesting seasons, but children from the agriculture sector rarely drop out prematurely. However, their overall development is greatly hindered due to the socioeconomic status of the families that are often struck by extreme poverty and are eternally in debt.

Most of the lands the people cultivate in are either state land or leased with an agreement which is typically unfavourable to the farmer. Market monopolies are held by the middlemen who collectively fabricate the actual value of the agricultural produce to further marginalise the farmer whereby leaving less resources to be invested on the education of children or for development.

Children and people working in the *chenas* are frequently attacked by wild elephants and wild boar placing the children who work in the *chena* at great risk. Furthermore, if the father dies the children become breadwinners while the mothers and girl children are at risk of being abused or becoming attracted to social evils.

However, in comparison to other groups of children on the move, children in the agriculture sector have better family ties and better education attainment levels despite the economic hardships they face.

Case Study I

Sulakshi

Sulakshi, 17, from Galwala Road, Ranawaranawa. Lunugamvehera is engaged in agriculture. She is the youngest in the family. She has three elder sisters who are also engaged in agriculture with their parents. As the earnings are not sufficient, she also goes to cook in hotels at the Thanamalwila town which is about two kilometres away.

She spends most of the day in the chena. She earns about 750 rupees a day by harvesting vegetables, watering plants, applying fertiliser and preparing the land for agriculture in lands belonging to other people. Vegetables are sold to shop owners for 40 to 45 rupees per kilogramme and she sells about 10 kilogrammes at a time. In the harvesting season, it is possible to earn 400 to 450 rupees per day. Though she does not consider anyone to be dependant on her earnings, she provides actively and substantially to the income of the family.

It is an eternal struggle with the threat from wild animals, scarcity of water, lack of marketing opportunities and high cost of production due to the use of synthetic fertiliser recommended for specific seeds. From late December till February, the season when vegetables ripen, the elephants are a real threat, destroying acres of crops and even human lives and houses at times. Another major problem for farmers is the peacock that causes significant economic damages to their crops.

It is a painstaking job to prepare the soil the whole day and it causes back strain which makes it almost impossible to concentrate on studies in the evening. Although most of her classmates go for tuition for Advanced Level subjects even during school hours, she cannot afford to pay for tuition. School teachers are reluctant to teach one or two children who go to school, thereby discouraging schooling. However, she hopes to sit for the GCE Advanced Level exam. She does not have any ambitions to continue with her higher studies and prefers to join the army or the police instead.

Case Study 2

Sagara

Sagara is a 16-year-old boy engaged in agriculture in Ranawaranawa, Lunugamvehera.

Sagara is the youngest in the family and he has two sisters and two brothers. His father owns a land which is one acre in extent. They engage in farming in their own land and also in lands belonging to other people. Since he was 10 years old, he has been doing chena cultivation while schooling. All his relatives are also engaged in chena cultivation.

He works from 8 to 12 am and 2.30 to 6.30 pm planting, cultivating, preparing land, watering, applying fertiliser, insecticide, and weedicide. A trader from the town buys vegetables from them. He earns 200 to 400 rupees a day by selling vegetables. When doing manual labour for others, he could earn about 600 rupees a day. For the same work, a woman would get 400 rupees and a man would get 600 rupees. They get backaches and shoulder-aches after a long day of work.

However, during certain periods of the year, there is no income at all. The best time of the year is the harvesting season where they can earn the most. Planting is mainly done in November and December and the harvesting season is from January to February. Elephants know when the crops mature and they break in and destroy their crops. If elephants break into the chena once in a whole season, the whole investment on agriculture goes waste. After the installation of the electric fence, the elephant intrusion has reduced but has not stopped.

In the dry season, spanning from late July till September they cultivate onion. Water for agriculture is motored from Kirindi oya and in the months of July, August and September water becomes an extremely scarce resource.

Huge investments have to be made to buy seeds, fertiliser, and insecticide. Things that they buy from boutiques are also expensive making it difficult for them to manage with the current income.

After failing the GCE O/L exam, Sagara stopped his education. He feels that it is not worth going back to school again as it would be a lost cause. He prefers to continue working as a farmer.

4.1.1.2 Children in Animal Husbandry

Animal husbandry and dairy production is a trade in which children engaged in rarely. Children engaged in this trade look after animals belonging to someone else after a verbal agreement between them. As the cattle need to be driven to feeding grounds during daytime and taken back to the shelter in the afternoon, this trade necessarily compromises on the education of the child caretakers.

Although a child engaged in this type of activity was found in Tissamaharama, there could be children engaged in similar activities from other parts of the district.

Case Study 3

Suranga

Suranga is a 15 year old boy engaged in cattle rearing in Kohombagaspelessa, Tissamaharama

The child rears cattle owned by someone else and he works as a manual labourer for a living while he also sings in buses to earn an income. He lives with the mother. He has four sisters and three brothers. One of which one is disabled. Suranga has studied up to Year 2 in Weerahela government school and has left school as he wanted to rear cattle at the age of 8.

He looks after 15 cattle which have to be taken to the fields for grazing; the health and wellbeing of the cattle are looked after by the consulting veterinary surgeon. Once a year, two new calves are born and the cow boy does not have to make any cash payment to the owner. The cowboy ensures his earnings through selling milk and cow-dung for fertilizer production whereas the herd owner depends on the two offspring produced per year to ensure his profits. He does not see a difference in night and day. He spends most of his time in the cow shed. Sometimes he stays there till 12.00 mid night. Most days, he leaves home at around 3.00 am and returns home at around 6.00 pm. It is dangerous to run behind cattle, especially on uneven and muddy terrain.

He sells about four litres of milk a day to a milk collection centre down the road. Earlier, he was exploited and no money was given when the owners sold the cows and went to another area. As he did not understand anything and he did not know what to do then. Now he owns one calf. He receives a payment of about 2,000 rupees from the milk collector once in ten days.

After treating illnesses of animals and spending for brothers and sisters, and cigarettes, it is difficult to save. If there is someone to take care of the cattle, he will consider going back to school. He has never thought of the importance of going to school. None of the siblings have studied beyond Grade 6. He also wants to learn driving.

4.1.1.3 Children Employed in the Fisheries Sector

The fisheries sector attracts children who look for ways to earn money and many boys who fall under the category of children on the move in Hambantota are employed in this sector. Children are engaged in inland fisheries as well as deep sea fisheries.

4.1.1.3.1 Inland Fishing

There are children on the move in the fisheries villages (Diyawara gammanaya) in Lunugamvehera, Tissamaharama and Ambalantota. With the interventions of the police and the Department of Probation and Childcare Services the number of children engaged in

inland fisheries has been reduced, but there are many children who are still engaged in inland fisheries.

According to the key informants in government departments, the educational attainment of children in Lunugamvehera and Ambalantota is significantly low. Children becoming economically independent have resulted in many problems including teenage marriages and drug abuse. Drug abuse has also given rise to a number of social issues. Most of the children are unguided by their parents leading to serious protection issues that may even be life-threatening. Most of these children are consumers of *ganja* (cannabis) and alcohol and are also engaged in illegal gambling, stealing fish and fishing nets.

Children become mature at a very early age and there are children who are sexually active and are known to have involvements with adult women who use those children for their economic advantage. Parents are undereducated themselves and are not particularly interested in educating the children. Fathers usually consume alcohol on a daily basis and neglect children.

Case Study 4

Charith

Charith, 17, is engaged in fishing in Tissamaharama. He spends most of his day in the Tissamaharama Tank fishing and selling fish to vendors. He has a 16 to 18 hour work day. From his own words "Life is extremely hard... I don't have anytime for myself. I work as a fisherman from dawn to dusk trying to earn a living..." Charith earns about 1000 rupees a day by fishing and saves about 500 rupees which he gives to cover household expenses and for the education of his siblings. He is trying his best to save some money to build a house.

Charith has four brothers and two sisters and is living with his parents. He has studied till year 10. Because of economic difficulties he had to give up his education. Charith has been engaged in fishing since he was seven years old. His friends have nick-named him as 'lula' (name of a fish) at school. Earlier, while he was schooling, he engaged in fishing part time but now he work fulltime.

He consumes alcohol with friends. He gets an epileptic attack when he is drunk. So he is trying to get over from alcohol addiction. He gets constant headaches as a result of being out in the hot sun and he also complains of body-aches. Charith doesn't know what he wants to be in the future, but he would like to train as a mechanic or a mason.

Case Study 5

Sajith

Sajith, 16, earns a living by engaging in inland fishing, part time in Tissamaharama. Sajith is schooling and is in Grade 11. He works part time from 3.00 pm to 7.00 pm fishing in the tank. After Sajith's father passed away he had to work to support the family. On weekdays he earns about 150 rupees per day and on weekends he earns 350 to 400 rupees. Sajith hasn't saved anything as he has to spend on his sister's and brother's education.

Sajith is the third in the family and has four siblings and lives with the mother as his father has passed away six years ago. Although his mother is employed as a waged labourer she doesn't work every day.

He wants to become a mechanic when he grows up.

4.1.1.3.2 Deep Sea Fishing

Like the agriculture sector, marine fisheries sector has prevailed for generations crafting a sub-culture of its own. Within the district, there are two major fisheries harbours of Kirinda in Tissamaharama and Hambantota. However, there are children who go for fishing from interior areas to these harbours as well as to Tangalle and Kudawella harbours that are situated in the Hambantota administrative district. Apart from the major fisheries harbours, small-scale fisheries sector is characteristic in all parts of the coastal belt of the district covering the division of Ambalantota.

Many children are encouraged by their parents and relatives to engage in the same trade that they engage in from a very young age. Populations in the deep sea fisheries sector are typically undereducated. There are children as young as nine who have been engaged in the fisheries sector for well over two years.

Financial resources are abundant within the fisheries sector but as communities they mismanage their finances. Fathers in the community go deep sea fishing and on their return they could even bring about 100,000 rupees or more if they are lucky. They go out with friends and waste all the money on drinking and gambling leaving hardly anything for the family.

Wives are not satisfied with their husbands, because there isn't enough money to manage the expenses at home and they also miss their husband's presence at home when they go out to sea. There are many occasions where such scenarios have led women to have extra-marital affairs leading to family separations. The adverse consequence of such a practice is when she elopes leaving the children. These children get marginalised and often end up mismanaging their own lives.

Even though there is no conclusive evidence, many informants believed that the children engaged in the fisheries sector, have not passed the age of puberty, and are in fact employed as sex workers and taken away by adults to the deep sea in fishing vessels for prolonged periods of time.

Case Study 6

Murugan

Murugan, 11, is not yet a teenager, but he is engaged in fishing fulltime. He has dropped out of school long time ago. The childhood experienced by other children of his age is only a dream for Murugan. He has started fishing since he turned 9. Murugan earns 200 to 500 rupees daily from fishing. He works for two traders. If an adult does the same work that Murugan does, the adult would receive 1000 rupees.

Murugan's mother has been abroad since he was small. His mother sends money occasionally. She comes to visit them once in two years. Murugan lives with his father, a salt loader, and the two elder brothers (18 and 13) and one younger brother (9). They live in houses that have been destroyed by the tsunami. He doesn't have a birth certificate or any form of identification.

His eldest brother collects firewood. Murugan and his second brother help fishermen with fishing nets. He sells fish and also begs from tourists who come to the beach. His youngest brother does not work but he accompanies them to the beach.

Murugan is scared of the adult males in the town as he has been beaten up by these adult males several times. It was evident that Murugan is worried that he will be caught by the Department of Probation and Childcare Services. He asked the interviewer several times whether she is from the Department as he feared we would catch him and put him in an institution.

Murugan who has studied only till Grade 2 had gone to a multiethnic school. One day, a Tamil child had allegedly stolen money from a teacher and the principal had asked all Tamil children not to attend school again. Murugan is just one of the children who got victimised due to discrimination. These children are called 'Koreyawe lamai' (Children belonging to a shanty community).

He has followed non-formal classes but has stopped in between. He would really like to go to school. But he doesn't have any option. Murugan wishes he could continue his education but he doesn't see how to work it out as he also want the economic security in order to go to school. They don't save a cent. At night father and all sons get together and consume alcohol.

Case Study 7

Raja

Raja 13, is engaged in fishing. He lives with his family. He has a brother (15) and two sisters (17 and 12). His mother works as a labourer at the Urban Council. His father works in the salt factory, as a loader. His elder sister works as a labourer at the hospital while his youngest sister is employed as a domestic worker.

From the age of 8 he has worked assisting in dragging fishing nets ashore. They are given fish to sell and earn. They get approximately 300 rupees per day and the amount they receive change depending on the catch. An adult gets about 800 to 1000 rupees per day.

In Grade 4, Raja was caught for theft in school, stealing money from a teacher. Raja says he didn't steal money. Because of this robbery the principal had asked all Tamil children not to come to school again. Later the teacher has found the money and her purse. But since that day he and his fellow Tamil children have not gone to school. His friends used to call him 'thief' for a while but now they don't use that nickname anymore.

He doesn't save at all. He spends on household expenses and food. Raja would like to go to school or to be trained as a mason. But the economic situation doesn't allow him to think of further education. Once he has started non-formal schooling but had to stop in between. Raja would really like to go back to school if he is given a chance.

4.1.2 CHILDREN OCCUPIED IN SECONDARY SECTOR ACTIVITIES

Children's engagement in industrial sector occupations varies from home-based industries, to garages, food processing industries, and factories. Home-based industries are the most common form of secondary sector activity children are engaged in. Yet, it is not discussed in this chapter as it does not come under the purview of the definition of children on the move.

Most children engaged in secondary sector activities work as untrained labourers at industries or as semi-skilled workers. Most often the wages paid for children are lower than the wages paid for adult counterparts.

It is alleged that children alters the birth certificates to get into the cadre of recognised industrial establishments. Although the number of factories that employ children is limited due to the enforcement of the law, the scenario still exists even though it is not very much evident on the surface.

4.1.2.1 Children Working in Garages

There are children working in garages and automobile servicing stations as helpers and as unskilled motor mechanics. This scenario was evident in the Hambantota division and in other parts of the district, mainly in the semi-urbanised settings.

Children being employed as mechanics place themselves at risk handling substantial loads, exposing them to electric current, and noise whilst working without the proper supervision and care.

Work hours of children who work as mechanics is generally not flexible, which results in them not being able to continue schooling.

Case Study 8

Sadath

Sadath, 16, works in an automobile repair shop in Hambantota. His aunt has taken his custodianship through the Department of Probation and Childcare Services immediately after his mother passed away three years ago, after consuming poison as she was unable to bear his father's alcoholism and violence.

Considering that his aunt cannot support the education of his siblings aged 14 and 8 on her own, he has started to work. He works six days a week and receives 400 rupees for a working day. He wants to get more training and experience in being a motor mechanic. He has already obtained a training for three months at the Vocational Training Centre in

Ambalantota and he has been employed since April 2008. Sadath has sat for his GCE O/Level exam but has failed.

He spends about 3,000 rupees per month for travelling by bus. Sadath saves 1,000 rupees a month in his savings book. The rest he spends on his family, his brothers' total expenses and for housekeeping expenses of his aunt.

Case Study 9

Asela

Asela, 17, works in a garage in Hambantota as a vehicle servicing labourer. Asela lives with his family. His father works at the salt factory. He has a brother (13) and a sister (9). Both of them are schooling.

He has started working part time long ago and has been working fulltime for the past two and a half years. He doesn't have any formal training and is paid 400 rupees for each day of work. He doesn't save because of his addiction to alcohol and tobacco which costs him over 200 rupees a day.

Asela wishes he could have continued schooling. He complains of a backache which he says he got as a result of the work he does. He is not sure of what he wants to do in the future. He doesn't mind selecting any other field as long as he gets a decent income.

4.1.2.2 Children Working in Garment Factories

There are occasions where children migrate to other parts of the country to be employed in the garment sector, placing them at risk of neglect and abuse. Children working in the garment sector are often exploited at the workplaces with long work hours and insufficient wages. Poor wages are justified by the employers as a trainee allowance. Unlike most of the other sectors that are discussed in this report, most of the children who are employed in this sector are girls. Although an in-depth analysis was not

conducted along these lines in this project, there could be many issues related to the girls who are employed in the garment sector.

4.1.2.3 Children Working in Food Manufacturing and Processing Industries

Common forms of food manufacturing and processing industries are sweetmeat manufacturing, processing and packetting of fish and agricultural products.

Case Study 10

Asanga

Asanga, 16, is in the food manufacturing industry and works in a sweet shop, preparing sweets (dodol). He doesn't have fixed dates for work. He works whenever there is work available. He works four to five hours per day and his daily income is between 300 to 400 rupees. When preparing dodol commercially, the mixture is stirred in large pots for three to four hours at a stretch, making the shoulders and the back hurt. He smokes but never consumes alcohol.

In addition to preparing sweets, Asanga gets to gather the fish from the nets, as a secondary source of income.

He has two elder brothers and a younger sister. His mother is a domestic worker and his father and elder brothers are engaged in the fisheries sector.

Asanga has studied till Grade 9 and has stopped schooling because he was bored with the education system. He has never thought about resorting to non-formal schooling. He doesn't like to study further as he doesn't see any purpose in getting a good education.

Still, Asanga is happy to be economically independent rather than being dependent on anyone. Although Asanga has worked for two years he

doesn't have any savings as he has to spend on household expenses and on his sister's and brother's education. Asanga wants to be a driver one day. He likes to get trained as a driver.

4.1.3 CHILDREN ENGAGED IN THE TERTIARY SECTOR (SALES AND SERVICES)

4.1.3.1 Children Working as Vendors

There are many children who work in many types of businesses. These children help in boutiques, sell food items, flowers and fruit baskets.

According to informants, most of these children earn more than an average government servant, but they are not equipped with skills to manage their daily earnings whereby making them start from zero the next day.

Katharagama, Sella Katharagama and Tissamaharama flower boutiques, soft toys, sweetmeats, souvenir boutiques and places where fruits and other offerings to temple and kovil are sold, are among the most popular destinations for children who work as vendors in Hambantota. Apart from these children who work in the locations mentioned above, there are children who work in other shops and bakeries scattered in the Hambantota and Tissamaharama towns. Children who sell agricultural produce can also be seen occasionally at the major weekly fairs at regional towns such as Pannegamuwa *pola* (fair), Hambantota *pola*, Suriyawewa *pola*, Barawakumbuka *pola*, Ambalantota *pola*, Lunugamvehera *pola*, Thanmalwila *pola* (a fair that is just outside the Lunugamvehera division), Angunakolapelessa and Hungama *pola*.

Most children who are working as vendors at fairs are accompanied by at least one parent or an elder sibling, which is seen as a barrier

for the police and the Department of Probation and Childcare Services to take action. However, most children who engage as vendors at fairs are not school dropouts. They get absent from school on particular days when the fairs are held and during the harvesting season.

Case Study I I

Sadali

Sadali is a four-year-old child who helps her mother to sell flowers in one of the flower kiosks near the Kiriwehera temple. They go to the temple by 4.30 am and the mother drops her at the Montessori around 8.30 a.m. After Montessori she goes home and returns to the temple with her mother around 3.00 p.m. and work till 10.00 to 11.00 p.m. She stays in the boutique and manages when her mother is not around.

“By the time a researcher went to talk to her, she was alone in the boutique. The researcher asked the prices of all the items, which she knew well. Then the researcher requested for an oil lamp which she quoted 30 rupees and offered her a 20 - rupee note. She at once said it is not 20 it is 30 rupees”.

It is Sadali's mother's (Kumari) commitment that keeps the family going. Kumari has got married when she was 16 years old. After they were married her husband has never been keen on ensuring their economic security.

His only contribution towards the family is plucking flowers. He spends most of his time with friends. Both of them have lived with Kumari's mother and depend on their parents. As a result of constant fights at home Kumari has decided to become independent, to start a business and rent a small room.

Kumari has rented out the small boutique for which she pays 25,000 rupees a month. She earns 20,000 to 30,000 rupees a month. She has been able to buy a plot of land in the neighbouring village and build their own house within past four years.

Kumari is very keen to give the best possible education for her daughter. She has been able to admit Sadali to the best school in Katharagama. For Sadali's safety Kumari says she doesn't have any other option than bringing her to the boutique daily. She doesn't want to risk Sadali's life by leaving her alone at home.

Case Study 12

Ruwani

Ruwani, 13, is a sweets-seller from Gothamigama, Katharagama. She has worked in shops for the last 8 years. She usually goes to work at 2.30 pm and returns home at 7.30 pm. On weekends and on holidays days she goes to work early in the morning. When she sells flowers in a shop she receives about 100 rupees a day. As she was not happy about the way she was treated or paid by the flower shop owners she has started selling sweet oil cakes in a shop from which she earns 8,000 rupees a month.

Ruwani lives under the custodianship of her grandmother as her mother has committed suicide seven years ago. The mother committed suicide as she could not bear the torture she was made to undergo by the husband who used to come home drunk and beat her. His father works as a manual labourer, but he has left home for another woman and does not provide for the child and the family. Ruwani has one sister aged 10 who lives with her father. Her grandmother is a beggar in Katharagama.

Ruwani goes to school irregularly as she has to cover expenses incurred by her grandmother and her cost of schooling by her salary. If they are found selling sweets on the streets, they get chased away by the Police.

"During the interview, Ruwani asked on numerous times whether the interviewer is from the Probation care department? She confirmed that she prefers to be with her grandmother rather than being in an institution".

She fears the police as they send children to the Probation care. She also fears other males as they take away girls to abuse. Her future ambition is to go abroad and earn so that she could live a better life with her grandmother.

Case Study 13

Rashmi

Rashmi, 17, sells flowers in Katharagama. She engages in this trade as it is difficult to manage with her father's salary. They grow flower trees and also buy flowers from people who harvest flowers from lakes. She goes to sell flowers in the afternoon unless she has extra tuition classes. On days that her mother is ill, she skips school to sell flowers.

She has engaged in this trade since she was 12. She earns 200 to 300 rupees a day and on a busy day she could even earn as much as 2,000 rupees a day. However, there are days where it is even difficult to earn even 200 rupees.

Rashmi has a brother of 13 and a sister of 9. Her mother is also selling flowers and the father is a peon at the Transport Board.

She is planning to sit for her GCE A/L exam in 2011. She likes to be a teacher or a beauty salon owner.

Case Study 14

Gihan

Gihan, 15, sells flowers in Katharagama. He is originally from Mawella in Tangalle. He has three brothers aged 5 and 19 and a 5-year-old who has started schooling. His sister, who is 20 years old, is married. His parents are from Godigamuwa and Trincomalee. Their father is a fisherman in Trincomalee. His mother has eloped with another man even though the mother and father have not legally separated. He has gone with the father to Trincomalee and has been with the father for a year and has returned to Katharagama determined not to return home.

He stays in the house owned by a sweet cake shop owner. Sometimes he stays the night in the Katharagama town. Even though his sister wants him to return home he dislikes the unsettled conditions at home. He does not feel that he could adapt to schooling again and dislikes schooling.

Gihan has stopped schooling since Grade 7 as his parents were unable to support his education. “People easily distrust us and accuse us of anything as we are children without parents”. He has engaged in employment since he was 13. He works from 6.00 am in the morning selling flowers and carrying flower baskets. During Perahera season he works as a Kavadi dancer.

Gihan was caught and detained for a petty theft a few years ago, which he says he did not commit.

He does not trust anyone including the other children and youth around him as he believes that they are not trustworthy. He spends over 100 rupees a day for alcohol and smoking with the other boys in town. When there is any problem, there is no one to talk with. He does not have an important person in his life.

He prefers to be on the street and be free even though he thinks that institutionalisation is beneficial. When he grows up, he wants to become a fisherman.

4.1.4 CHILDREN ENGAGED IN THE INFORMAL TRADES

4.1.4.1 DOMESTIC WORKERS

As a district which is under-resourced and underserved, Hambantota remains the destination of choice for the rich from the cities who come in search of cheap labour. There are many women who have been trafficked to Colombo as domestic workers in their childhood. Even with stringent rules and monitoring by the Government there are children who are employed as domestic workers.

Children trafficked to be employed as domestic workers are allegedly taken away with the blessings of persons who hold responsible posts and are respected by a majority.

Case Study 15

Rajumala

Rajumala, 12, works for a daily wage as a domestic during the day, in nearby houses in Hambantota. She started working as a domestic since she was 9 years old. She goes out of the house around 8.00 a.m. to neighbouring houses looking for work. She gets to work three or four days a week. Rajumala starts work at 8.30 a.m. and works till 4.30 p.m. She washes clothes, cleans pots and pans and cleans the houses. She earns around 100 to 300 rupees a day. An adult would earn 500 rupees a day for the same work.

Rajumala is the youngest in her family and lives with her parents, two elder brothers and one elder sister. Her mother works in the Urban Council and her father is employed at the Salt Factory, loading salt.

On Sunday morning she goes to the fair and collects leftover vegetables, fruits and fish. Sometimes the vendors shout at them using bad language. On Saturday, Sunday and other holidays Rajumala goes to the beach to beg from tourists.

Rajumala has studied till Grade 3. She has gone to a multiethnic school and a few years ago all the Tamil children were asked not to come back to school after a Tamil child was allegedly caught for stealing the wallet of a teacher.

At the beginning of 2009, she enrolled for Grade 5 classes at Hambantota Vidyalaya under a back-to-school programme after following non-formal-education classes for three months. As she was backward in her studies, the other children have started bullying and cornering her which forced her to stop schooling again. However, Rajumala still dreams of becoming a teacher someday.

She is scared of the police as they give children to the Department of Probation and Childcare Services to be institutionalised. Rajumala is also scared of adult males as there are few incidents where such men have taken young girls to lonely houses and raped them.

Case Study 16

Sathyakala

Sathyakala, 12, works as a domestic in nearby houses to earn a living. She lives with her mother, the two elder brothers (aged 18 and 13) and grandparents. Her father has left them three years ago. The two elder sisters (aged 15 and 22) are married and are living separately. Mother is an Urban Council (UC) labourer. Her brothers go fishing.

She has been working as a domestic since the age of nine. She works in the houses of the wealthy people in town. She starts work at around 8.00 a.m. and returns around 4.30 p.m. She works three to four days a week and earns a daily wage which fetches around 100 to 300 rupees a day. An adult would get 500 to 600 rupees for a day for the same work. Sathyakala saves about 50 rupees a day. She puts the money into the till. If she needs money for an emergency she takes this money she has saved. Her grandparents as well as her mother depend on her income for survival.

She had to drop out of school in Grade 3 when her father left them and she was compelled to work to support the family economically.

In 2009 January she has joined the non-formal classes in school for three months and she was enrolled into Grade 5 in April 2009. In class, teachers used to discriminate saying they don't understand what is taught.

The other children started bullying and cornering her forcing her to drop out of school again. Although she likes to go back to school her chances seem remote considering the level of acceptance by the system.

She is frightened of adult males. There are many incidents where young girls have been taken into lonely tsunami destroyed houses and raped. People in the town call her rude names. Sathyakala doesn't like the idea of institutionalisation. She wants to be with the family and support them economically.

The person she trusts the most is her best friend Rajumala. She has undergone similar experiences as Sathyakala.

Sathyakala wants to become a teacher when she grows up. She wants to go to school in order to fulfil her ambition but she cannot give up work as her family depends on her income. She would like her children to become doctors.

4.1.5 CHILDREN INVOLVED IN DANGEROUS TRADES

4.1.5.1 CHILDREN ENGAGED IN TRAFFICKING OF ILLEGAL DRUGS

Use of illegal drugs such as cannabis and heroin is common in Hambantota and the number of arrests made in Hambantota for drug related issues in 2007 was 958, which is the sixth highest number for a district in Sri Lanka⁵. According to the key informants and Police, drug abuse is prevalent in most parts of the district and according to the Dangerous Drugs Control Board of Sri Lanka, in 2008, 72.5% of the total persons admitted for treatment for drug abuse in Sri Lanka represent people who have educational attainment below year 10 in secondary schooling.. According to statistics 42.2% of the persons admitted for treatment for drug abuse have education attainment levels below Year 8.

Large quantities of cannabis is grown in Hambantota and Moneragala districts and trafficked to areas like Colombo⁶. Even though there

⁵ Dangerous Drugs Control Board of Sri Lanka. 2008.

⁶ Punchihewa, A. 2009.

are many people involved in the trade, the profit-makers represent the influential whilst the workers represent the most marginalised people from the periphery.

Therefore, people in the Hambantota district are susceptible to drug trafficking and cultivation of prohibited cannabis plantations. Key informants representing government departments and the community have identified that drug abuse is prevalent among the young generation and confirm that there are also children who consume drugs.

During the research there were children who were identified as addicted to cannabis, tobacco and alcohol. Furthermore, there are children who have become active links in the drug trafficking chains. However, no fulltime drug traffickers were identified during the research. All children who are engaged in drug abuse and drug trafficking also engage in another major form of livelihood as they are engaged in drug trafficking as a means of additional income. According to the key informants, a capsule of *ganja* is sold at 100 to 150 rupees in Hambantota with which about four cigarettes (soosthi in local colloquial language) could be rolled.

Case Study 17

Indunil

Indunil, 14, from Padaukema, Lunugamvehera is involved in drug trafficking which he carries out for villagers as a secondary source of income, according to his father and members of the civil defence committee of the village. Indunil was reluctant to disclose the amount he earns through drug trafficking, nor was he interested in answering in detail, the time he spends on drug trafficking.

According to Indunil, his primary source of income is fishing. Indunil was introduced to the fishing trade about seven months ago by his father. He spends the morning hours fishing. He earns a daily income of 300 to 400 rupees from fishing.

Indunil was arrested for a theft he committed. He was once caught stealing the aquarium fish of a neighbour. When he was taken to the police station, he was beaten and eventually sent home after a warning. His father was also arrested once for having ganja in his possession.

He lives with his mother, father, two elder sisters and an elder brother. The brother is still schooling. His mother sells fruits and father engages in fishing in the Lunugamvehera tank.

Indunil admits that he has smoked tobacco, cannabis and Kasippu (local illicit brew).

Indunil was discouraged from going to school for fear of frequent physical punishment by a particular teacher when he does something wrong or if he does not remember the subject matter. He has not gone to school for the last three months. The mother has gone to the police twice to complain and the child was re-engaged in schooling, but when he remembers getting beaten by the teacher he becomes scared to go back to school. Children at school bully him saying “fisherman”. He has never engaged in any back-to-school programmes, but he is willing to return to school if he is given a guarantee that he will not be beaten up in school.

This interview was interrupted by his father who came drunk and said “this boy can never become a valuable person, take him away somewhere”.

Case Study 18

Gang of Children Engaged in Drug Trafficking

A gang of five children under 16, from Padukema, Lunugamvehera are engaged in drug trafficking as a means of finding pocket money. One child brings ganja (cannabis) from 22nd Mile Post and Yadura area and the others participate in distributing it among villagers. The child who acts as the main distributor was once caught by the Police.

These children are disengaged from education. Only three of these children go to school but they don't go regularly.

They engage in fishing at night in a rented boat owned by an adult. On average each child earns 200 to 300 rupees a day. They do not have regular work, therefore the income is not regular. If an adult does the same thing, he could earn 1000 to 2000 rupees according to the child.

All these five children are addicted to ganja according to a village civil security committee member.

All the members of this gang do not see any future other than being fishermen.

4.1.5.2 Children Loading and Unloading Food Items, Cement Bags, Building Material etc from Trucks

Children load and unload goods from trucks at the weekly fairs to earn a living. This is evident in every fair in the area. However, children who engage in this activity as their main occupation could be seen at the larger fairs such as the Pannegamuwa Pola (fair) in Tissamaharama. Further, the children engage in loading and unloading of harvests during the harvesting seasons.

There are children as young as 11 engaged in loading and unloading of goods. This trade has serious consequences for the children, but they continue to engage in this trade to ensure the wellbeing of their family members whilst sacrificing their own health and safety.

Case Study 19

Dushantha

Dushantha, 16, is the breadwinner of the family. Dushantha is employed for loading and unloading goods at the Pannegamuwa Pola (fair) from Wednesday to Thursday and from Saturday to Sunday. He has been working since he was thirteen. First, he was chased away by the others when he was looking for employment. He earns about 4,000 rupees a

week. At the fair, he gets to lift weights of between 80 to 100 kilogrammes. They get sacks that weigh about 120 kilogrammes, although this is rare. For each sack, they are paid 10 to 20 rupees, and in a night they load and unload about 150 sacks. During the paddy harvesting seasons, they get additional income for loading and unloading. On such nights, they work from 6.00 pm till 7.30 am and earn about 1,500 rupees.

The skin on his back has become coarse and it has peeled due to constant friction. He wears two to three strap underwear, one over the other, to protect from getting hernia as most of the other loaders do. As a result of wearing two or three underwear, they get skin rashes from sweat accumulation. There is no protection for other organs or the back that is under continuous stress from carrying overwhelming amounts of weight, especially for a 16 year old.

Dushantha's father has left the family when he was small. His mother was employed at the Pradeshiya Sabha as a labourer and had to stop five years ago due to an illness, which made him the breadwinner of his family. His brothers are aged 13, 9 and 5 and his sister is 11 years old. Dushantha supports all his younger siblings to continue schooling. He lives with his mother and siblings in a small hut in Kohombagaspelessa, Tissamaharama.

Dushantha dropped out from school in Grade 3 and was re-enrolled in school under a non-formal-education programme. However, the programme was not successful in keeping him in school for long.

His aim is to educate his brothers and the sister and to build his house to a respectable state. All villagers respect him for his determined effort in bringing up his younger siblings.

Case Study 20

Pushpakumara

Pushpakumara, 17, has been loading and unloading goods from lorries at Pannegamuwa Pola (fair) since he was 12 years old. At 12 he has lifted loads weighing about 80 kilogrammes and now he can lift weights up to

150 kilogrammes. He is nicknamed 'cartoon' by his colleagues. When he goes to work at around 2.00 am on Wednesdays he returns home at around 10.00-1.00 pm the next day. Similarly, he goes to work on Fridays and returns on Sunday morning. He earns about 10,000 rupees a week. However, during rainy days, it is difficult to earn even 2,000 rupees a week. He saves at least 1,000 rupees in the bank every week. With his earnings he has to pay off the housing loan and other loans he has obtained from time to time. He used to consume alcohol till he turned 16. He still smokes a few cigarettes a day. When working at night he needs about four capsules of ganja a night.

These labourers walk over rotten vegetables which makes the floor slippery. There have been instances where loaders have slipped on rotten vegetables and have injured themselves. He says that they have got used to the backaches and chest pains.

Pushpakumara lives in his own house and although he is married the marriage is not registered as he and his wife are under-aged. His wife is a month older than he is. He lives with his wife and his mother. His mother is a Sinhalese and his father, a Tamil, had been a severe alcoholic and has passed away eight years ago. His mother is working at the Divisional Secretariat, Katharagama as a labourer.

He has seven older siblings and two younger sisters. The 15-year-old sister is married. Pushpakumara's youngest sister was only six months old when she was given away by his father to a couple who came from Colombo to adopt a child. He says she would be around 13 years now.

Pushpakumara had to drop out of school prematurely due to financial difficulties. He has studied up to Grade 5. Even though he wanted to go to school, financial difficulties have prevented him from continuing his education. He wants to learn driving so that he can buy a vehicle to sell fish.

4.1.5.3 Children Who Earn an Income by Committing Theft

Children who steal in order to earn an income are extremely rare. There were no records that directly prove that the children are

engaged in organised crime or organised theft. There are only a very few reported cases of children who have committed theft in the Hambantota probation division on a regular basis as a secondary source of income. Common items that are stolen for resale are mobile phones, fish, fishing gear, iron and brassware.

However, if the children who are caught stealing are not rehabilitated in a proper manner, there is the potential of some children becoming professional thieves when they grow up as they are from deprived backgrounds.

4.2. CHILDREN ON THE STREETS

Children who live and work on the streets are another significant category of children on the move in the Hambantota probation district. Children who make a living out of the streets by begging and carrying offerings and shoes of the devotees in religious places are the common types who live and work on the streets in this district.

4.2.1 CHILDREN ENGAGED IN BEGGING

Children who work as beggars are common in the towns in the Hambantota probation district. There are parents who encourage their children to take up the “begging trade” and also to engage as sex workers at times. Children begging on the streets are a common sight during *poya days* (full moon holiday), long weekends, and during the festive season. Apart from professional beggars, there are also beggar families that work as labourers in the Urban Council during the daytime and go begging with children in the evenings.

During the *perahera* (religious procession) season, many families from other districts migrate to Katharagama and Tissa and once the season is over, children return to their places of origin. Children are arrested for being on the streets, but these children are bailed out by their parents and the police are compelled to handover the children back to their parents. However, these children continue to

live on the streets. As parents are professional beggars, children are used to advertise more effectively. Usually, fathers do not come to beg with children. It is the mother that usually appears with one child or several children to the streets to beg complaining about a chronic ailment that could be cured with a surgery.

Major locations where there is a higher concentration of beggars are: Minipuragama in Ambalantota beggar village at Rajapakse Mawatha; Samagipura; Samodagama in Hambantota; Tissa Wewa; Kavantissapura; Akkarakalallgoda; Weerahela in Tissamaharama; Nagahaveediya in Katharagama.

Case Study 21

Gihan

Gihan, 11, goes to the Tissamaharama Temple with his mother for begging in the afternoons. While Gihan begs, her mother watches from afar. He goes to the temple with his mother on weekends, public holidays and long weekends and spends the entire day begging, while on weekdays, he goes to beg with her in the afternoons. They come with other members of the extended family. On average they earn about 200 to 300 rupees per day. He saves about 10 to 20 rupees, daily, in a till.

Gihan's father is a labourer at the Municipal Council and his mother is a beggar. Three of his older siblings have been institutionalised through the Department of Probation and Childcare Services.

Gihan who attends Tissa Vidyalaya goes to school regularly in the mornings and earns his living in the afternoons and weekends.

He is discriminated against by other school children because of his father's profession. They are constantly exposed to the sun and rain and have to brave bad weather at times to earn a few rupees.

Case Study 22

Dinusha

Dinusha, 11, has been a beggar since she was 7 years old. She engages in begging in Katharagama. After school she goes to Katharagama Temple – Kovil (shrine) area at 4.00 pm and returns home at 7.30 pm. She comes to the town with several of her sisters. On holidays she starts work at around 9.00 am. She earns money so that she could go to school. She earns 100 to 200 rupees a day. On busy days when her collection is good, she gives some of the earnings to her mother. She saves about 10 - 20 rupees a day in a till and the rest of her earnings she keeps for herself giving the remainder for domestic consumption.

Dinusha attends Grade 6 and she is the eighth in the family of 11 children. Her 14-year-old sister is pregnant.

She skips school very often when she cannot buy things that are needed for schooling. She receives breakfast from school which is a luxury considering the situation she is in. Extreme poverty has led to these problems.

Dinusha dislikes strangers from other areas as they take away girls and abuse them. People in the society scold them for begging. She says people ask why they don't get employed in a garment factory.

Once she was with her brother begging when two ladies from the Probation Department came and took them away. Their mother had to bail them out. She believes that institutionalisation is good as it provides children with food and sends them to school. Yet, she still prefers to be with the family as her food security, education and safety are guaranteed.

Case Study 23

Chithra's Children

Chitra, a 32-year-old woman who is pregnant with her fourth child, begs in front of the Tissamaharama Temple with two of her children. They live in Beralihela (7th mile post). Her husband was caught recently as a suspect of a murder case and was bailed out. However, there is always a risk of him getting into jail for murder. At the time of the interview, Chitra was bleeding from her nose because she was beaten by her husband as she tried to stop him from going for a drink.

She was born in 1978 at Mirijjawila, Hambantota, her mother had passed away when she and her younger brother were very small. Her father got married and the step mother ill-treated her and her brother and never sent them to school. Even though she has never gone to school, she is literate. Her brother was a fisherman and he was stabbed and killed during a brawl when he was 20 years old.

She got married at the age of 23 to a person permanently employed at the Salt Corporation. He passed away before having children. Later on she got legally wedded to her current husband; an informal manual labourer with whom she had three children aged 6, 4 and 2. All children are immunised and have clinic cards. The children have birth certificates making it possible for them to enter a school easily.

The child was taken away one and half years ago without the consent of the mother and the mother still wants him back. At the time of taking the child into the custody of the Department of Probation, the mother has been inquired about her consent to give the child to them and she has said that she dislikes the removal of the child from her care. The police have said that they are compelled to take the child forcibly if the mother is not prepared to give the child to the custody of the Department of Probation and Childcare Services.

She planned to send the 4-year-old child to the Montessori next January and amidst all difficulties, the mother was able to acquire equipment required for the child's education. She says that she would not allow her children to experience the same fate that she has undergone in her life.

Case Study 24

Dulakshi,

Dulakshi, 8, from 7th Mile Post, Kohombagaspelessa, Tissamaharama engages in begging. About a month ago, she has come with her mother and the brother to the temple to collect money. Now the mother brings Dulakshi and watches her beg. They come to the temple on Saturdays and Sundays at around 10.00 am and earn money and get donations. When they get a sufficient amount by around 4.00 pm, they go away to buy necessities and return home. The daily income is 200 to 300 rupees per day. She saves 10 to 20 rupees per day in her till and gives the rest to the mother to buy the necessities.

Dulakshi lives with the mother, father, younger brother and younger sister. Her mother is unemployed and her father is a temporary employee at the Urban Council. She has sisters (aged 14 and 10 at the AGAPE children's home 10th mile post), brothers (aged 13 at the AGAPE children's home 10th mile post) and a 2 ½ year old toddler. All the other children attend school. Their neighbours are engaged in agriculture.

Dulakshi goes to Tissamaharama School. In school, she is bullied and cornered by other children as her father is a UC labourer. Most children do not know that she is begging near the temple. She attends school in the morning and after-school classes some afternoons. On a regular day, they do not come for begging.

There is food security in terms of quantity, but in terms of quality their needs are not met. They do not consume protein rich food. They find it difficult to stand in the sun and bear the mid-day heat or get exposed to the rain on rainy days.

She believes that taking children to institutions is a good thing. However, the child believes being with the mother is better.

Case Study 25

Tharika

Tharika, 10, comes regularly to Tissamaharama temple to beg with her aunt. She has been engaged in begging since she was small. On weekends she comes to the temple at around 9.00 am and stays till dusk to beg and earn money. On average she earns about 100 rupees and gives the entire earnings to her mother. It is possible for some people to earn 300 to 400 rupees a day. She saves about 50 rupees per day to spend on education and to give her mother money to buy the necessary amenities. Her mother is shy to go begging and sends Tharika to collect the money instead.

Tharika has two sisters (aged 9 and 8) who are schooling and three brothers (aged 5 and 4) who are also schooling and a 1 year old toddler. The last few generations of her family has worked as UC labourers in Tissamaharama.

She attends Weerahela National School and as she has started schooling at 8 years she is in Year 3 although she is 10 years old. She has been cornered by the other children as she is about three years senior to her classmates. During the weekdays, she goes to school in the morning and in the afternoon she plays with other children.

4.2.2 CHILDREN WHO CARRY OFFERINGS AND SHOES OF THE DEVOTEES IN RELIGIOUS PLACES

Using children to carry fruit baskets, other offerings and shoes of pilgrims to Katharagama and Sella Katharagama is very common. Most of the children who offer these services work in the boutiques selling offerings to the kovil. They earn a tip varying from 50 to 1000 rupees for carrying the offerings. The tip normally depends on the client. These children usually work in the evenings from 3.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m., and full days on weekends and holidays.

Case Study 26

Nuwan

Nuwan, 15, carries offerings to Katharagama Kovil as a means of income. He lives in Samurdhi Mawatha, Nagahaveediya, Katharagama.

Nuwan, a non-schooling child has two school-going younger sisters aged 13 and 8. Nuwan has studied up to Grade 9 and dropped out from school. His elder sister had been raped by three people and a child was born as a result of this incident. The child is 5 years old and Nuwan has to look after the child as the elder sister had died. Even though he likes to go to school he cannot go because he had to give up schooling to look after his nephew. He has started working since he turned 13. He is the bread-winner of the family as the father is a severe asthmatic patient.

He wakes up everyday at 6.00 am and brings water to the house, chops firewood, helps his mother with all the work at home and looks after the child. After 3.00pm he goes to the town to engage in his trade and returns home at around 8.00 pm. He does not go to the temple in the mornings for fear of getting caught by the Police.

He receives 100 to 200 rupees for each basket he carries. On a busy day, he can earn about 1000 rupees. At times the earnings could be as low as 50 rupees. It is difficult to carry several basket loads of fruit on the head. He says it hurts sometimes, but now that he is used to it, it is okay. In order to guarantee the next days work, they have to please the shop owners by cleaning up the shops and removing the garbage. He gives the money to his mother as he could be deceived by the shop owners if he keeps money with them for safety.

He fears the police as they bully children when they are caught and they send them to the Probations department. He says children are asked to kneel down and sing prayers to their mother and gods. He also fears the other older males because they hit them if they do anything wrong or sometimes without any apparent reason.

4.3. CHILDREN IN INSTITUTIONS

Institutionalising children have been seen as a remedy by most child protection officials when the child's family cannot provide basic necessities for the child. Yet, according to the definition of children on the move, these children also could be considered as children on the move, as they had to be institutionalised mainly for better life opportunities.

There are many children in institutions. Namely, most of the institutionalised children from Hamabantota probation district are in Kithulampitiya Children's Home in Galle, Meth Mal Sevana in Hambantota, Weerawila Children's Home, Agape Children's Home in Tissamaharama, Nena Sarana in Katharagama. Apart from Nena Sarana, Katharagama which is implemented under the Department of Education, all the other institutions mentioned above function under the purview of the Department of Probation and Childcare Services.

Though most of these institutions function under the Government or are under the direct supervision of the Government, these homes are alleged to have many issues pertaining to child protection and child rights. When one considers the complexities of the lives most of the children in institutions have led, institutionalisation is seen as the sole option by the Government and the management of these private institutions.

Case Study 27

Ravi

Ravi, 13, lives in AGAPE children's Home, Kavantissapura, Tissamaharamaya.

Ravi has no contacts with the family, he remembers his two sisters and the two brothers. He says he remember hunting and killing iguana and rabbits with his uncles. He has attended Year 1 in school and dropped out after his father has come home drunk and burnt all his books.

"At the age of 8 Ravi's parents separated and Ravi has run away from home. A lady has found him at Mahiyangana and has given him to a children's home in Katharagama from which he has managed to escape. He has been with a beggar woman for about a year. He used to earn about 100 rupees a day and has given money to the beggar woman, who in turn looked after and fed Ravi.

He was caught by the police again and was sent to the children's home in Katharagama where he managed to escape again with three of his friends and they became beggars. While they were beggars, they used to eat fruits that were left over from the offerings and smoke leftover beedi (locally manufactured cigarette). Sometimes they stole packets of biscuits and toys from shops. At times they were beaten and chased away by the Police.

They were eventually caught by the police when they were singing as beggars at Lunugamvehera and were presented before court and subsequently sent to the Keppitipola Children's Home. From there, Ravi was sent to AGAPE Children's Home."

He attended a catch up class held at Tissamaharama school in the afternoons after he entered AGAPE Children's Home. He prefers to be in the institution as he believes that it provides them with a safer environment.

Case Study 28

Genova

Genova is a 12-year-old girl at AGAPE children's Home, Kavantissapura, Tissamaharamaya.

Genova was born in Kahawatta, Ratnapura. Genova's father has been a flower basket carrier and the mother was a beggar. Her grandmother is also a beggar in Kuruvita, Ratnapura. Her two sisters aged 6 months and two and a half years are still with the mother and the brother aged 8 was taken by a Buddhist priest to the temple in Katharagama. None of the children have ever gone to school and she is not certain about their ages.

They have continued to stay in Katharagama since July after they came from Kahawatta in the Perehera season. During the time they engaged as family mob- beggars in Katharagama, there have been instances where they had to starve.

She has been brought to AGAPE along with two of her younger sisters in late November 2009. After they were brought to AGAPE, they have been trained to work according to a timetable. Genova prefers to be in the institution rather than ending up on the streets begging.

She likes to go to school but their parents did not want to send them to school. They have attended an afternoon back-to-school programme while they were at Kahawatta and the literacy catch up class is also a requirement if they are to pick up schooling. She says she wants to go to school and become a teacher some day. She likes the attention and care they get at the institution.

4.4 CHILD TRAFFICKING

There are various forms of trafficking of children in the Hambantota probation district. The major forms of trafficking include, keeping children illegally in un-registered children's homes (institutions that are not registered under the Department of Probation and Childcare Services); commercial sexual exploitation of children by using them for sex work; using young boys as sex workers catering to fishermen in fisher trawls; trafficking of children, mainly girls, for domestic work in other parts of the country.

It was difficult to identify cases of children who have been trafficked. In the case where the interviewer came across such cases, the children were not willing to reveal most of their experiences. Nevertheless, the key informants revealed that trafficking is an issue that is not addressed in the Hambantota probation district and that it is severely underreported.

4.4.1 CHILDREN AS SEX WORKERS

Unlike most other trades in which children are engaged, disclosing information and extraction of relevant and valid information requires time and resources. However, it was possible to get information on child sex workers from government officials and key informants.

According to community members in Katharagama, there are many children in the 12-18 schooling age who have engaged in commercial sex work. Most of the sex workers are brought from elsewhere. There are many brothels that are disguised as guesthouses and motels.

“There are houses with display boards advertised as guesthouses. Many immoral practices take place in some of these guesthouses. During the festive season, women are trafficked to Katharagama even from Colombo to supply the demand. Interestingly”. - A local from Katharagama

However, the Katharagama police sources indicate that there are no brothels in Katharagama.

In Hambantota, the scenario takes place in a different form and dimension. There were cases of children who have been trafficked to other areas of the country including Colombo for employment; however it is allegedly for employment as sex workers.

The new post-tsunami housing scheme has resulted in many houses being unoccupied for prolonged periods. Such houses are either rented or illegally intruded by businessmen who use those houses for immoral purposes. People are given rooms on rent on an hourly basis and there are children who cut tuition classes and use those rooms for a few hours and leave.

During the research, while gathering information on a 16-year-old pimp, it was revealed by a key informant that the child sex worker is as young as 12 years. The pimp sells the child for 500 rupees and gets his commission of 200 rupees.

Within the fisheries communities, boys are taken in multi-day boats where they are allegedly exploited sexually by the adult fishermen. However, these children are commonly considered as fishermen and they actually engage in work in the fishing industry.

Children engaged in sex work are at great risk of acquiring sexually-transmitted infections including HIV/ AIDS. Considering that the children of concern are non-schooling it would not be logical to believe that these children understand the importance of using preventive methods.

Case Study 29

Fari

Fari, 17, is engaged in sex work as a means of survival. She was reluctant to disclose her earnings or details about her involvement in sex work.

The only information given in relation to her reproductive health was that she uses contraceptive injections and that she does not use condoms. This makes her vulnerable to becoming infected with STI's, HIV/AIDS and also becoming a carrier of venereal diseases because she does not use condoms.

Fari is a child-mother. She eloped with her boyfriend at 16 and has got pregnant. She was eventually chased off by her husband and the child is now seven months old. She is now living together with her new 19-year-old partner.

Fari's father is a Muslim and the mother is a Tamil. Her sisters and brothers are not schooling. Her younger sisters aged 15 and 10 are school dropouts who have engaged in back-to-school programmes but eventually dropped out again. Her sister of 15 has been sent to Colombo as a domestic worker. The brother aged 11 goes fishing and to help fishermen pull nets to shore, collect and store fish.

Although Fari dropped out of school she attended a back-to-school programme and studied in Year 10 at Hambantota Vidyalaya for some time. She was one of the best students out of the 33 children that were sent back to school through the Non-Formal Education Division of the Department of Education. However, Fari had to stop schooling in the end due to her pregnancy.

4.5 CHILDREN WHO LEAVE HOME FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES

There are children who could be considered as children who are on the move according to the definition of the term “children on the move” as they have to live away from home to study in a school or to go for tuition in another area. Most of these children from the district go to Matara or Tangalle to be boarded at private places to go for tuition classes and school. Even though most of the children in this category are better off in terms of their economic situation and future prospects, these children are left by themselves at a young age without parental care and are prone to neglect and abuse.

Most of these children are enrolled in GCE Advanced Level classes in schools in the Hambantota or Monaragala districts because they would stand a better chance in entering university due to the low cut-off marks offered for children sitting for the exams from Monaragala and Hambantota districts. Therefore, these children are encouraged by their parents to access education facilities available in Matara and Tangalle so that they will benefit from the low cut-off marks when applying to universities. Most of the children living away from home for educational purposes represent farmer communities.

4.6 CONCLUSION

This chapter provides an analysis of all types of children on the move in the Hambantota probation district. It is apparent that the root cause in most cases except in the case of children leaving home for educational purposes is extreme poverty. Lack of adequate care and protection is a major issue faced by all these children who are on the move.

CHAPTER 5-

HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES

Human rights are rights one has simply as a human being. They are 'the moral entitlements of all human beings to dignified living, full development of personality and social justice.'(Fernando, L: 2002) Human rights are based on human needs, which are the essentials we must have in order to lead a full life. (South Asia Human Rights Documentation Centre. 2000: 10) Human rights are supposed to be 'equal, inalienable and universal'. (Donnelly, J. 2003: 10) Yet the children on the move face many obstacles in enjoying the universally accepted human rights.

This chapter analyses issues faced by children on the move with respect to basic human rights. The chapter is divided into four main components, namely, survival and development, best interest, non-discrimination and participation.

5.1 SURVIVAL AND DEVELOPMENT

Survival and development include a cluster of rights that safeguards physical survival and holistic development which include, physical, cognitive, emotional, social, cultural and spiritual development. The issues related to fulfilling survival and development needs of children on the move are presented here.

5.1.1 Poverty and Economic Exploitation

When parents are not able to provide sufficiently for the daily survival of their children, they tend to get children involved in economic activities at a very early stage, to support the family. Children become vulnerable to economic exploitation especially, if the child is from a single-parent family, or when the father or

mother is an alcoholic, or when a parent is sick or if it is a large family with many dependents.

An extreme incident of economic exploitation reported in the area of study was when a mother sold an infant child in exchange for a gold chain. This infant has not yet been found.

If there were mechanisms to help parents develop their means of income through vocational training, loans and guidance to start self employment, families would not have to depend on their children that much.

In situations where there is no option for the child other than to be a breadwinner, it is necessary to come up with creative plans where the child could also develop and support the family at the same time. One good example was a 13-year-old child in Weerahela who was engaged in loading and unloading goods from lorries fulltime to support the family. Even though the law prohibits children from engaging in employment activities, authorities came to a compromise once when a child was allowed to work one weekday while attending school four days of the week, which was made compulsory so that he would not interrupt his education while the mode of income that the family depends on was also not disrupted.

5.1.2 UNEQUAL DISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES

The implementation of development programmes in the post-tsunami context resulted in more prominence being given to divisions located in the tsunami affected areas, thereby neglecting the interior divisions that have been underserved. Disparities in facilities available in education, health, housing, infrastructure in tsunami affected areas and the non-tsunami affected areas are apparent.

Market monopolies held by capable investors who exploit the labour of the farmers and fishermen also contribute to economic inequality by widening the gap between haves and the have-nots.

5.1.3 LACK OF PROPER HOUSING

Almost all the children had a place to go to in the night and most of them lived with their family. But, most of their families did not have ownership of the property. They lived in government owned land or on temporary permits. The conditions of their houses were appalling. Except for a few houses built from brick, the majority of the houses they lived were built using clay and wattle or polythene and banner covers. Most occupants of the houses didn't have title deeds. Brick houses were built through various project interventions by the Government, NGOs and priests.

5.1.4 LIMITED ACCESS TO WATER

Water is a scarce resource. Most of the ground water is brackish. Dry season spans for well over half the year. During the months of July and August, most of the water sources dry up; first the wells and then small rivers and streams go dry. People have to walk for miles to bring drinking water, that too is not suitable to be consumed by humans. There are areas where people have to go by bus to a tank for a bath. Bowser water is provided in the driest periods for some of the locations, but in small quantities. In areas where water pipe lines are installed, people can't get a connection because they cannot afford individual connections and monthly bills.

Water logging at the time of the monsoon is also a common occurrence. This leads to overflowing of drainage pits and latrines that contaminate the water sources during the rainy season.

5.1.5 POOR SANITATION FACILITIES

Toilets are not commonly available. Adults go out to the nearby jungle, while children go out in the vicinity of their house. This unhygienic practice has been the cause of many diseases.

5.1.6 LACK OF ELECTRICITY

Only a very few houses have electricity. An electricity line was available for most of the sample area but because of the high initial charge, most families are not able to afford electricity in their houses. As they don't have electricity, the day ends for them after sunset. Family members fear to go out to the toilet at night in the dark and they fear the threat from wild animals including elephants and snakes. Children find it difficult to study late in the evenings.

5.1.7 LACK OF ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE FACILITIES

In Sri Lanka free health services for all is a national policy. Children on the move and the communities of concern do have access to health services, but in reality people have to spend to obtain health services, especially in the rural areas. When they get sick they have to travel long distances to the government hospitals. Facilities available in rural hospitals are limited. In case of serious illness, patients are transferred to Karapitiya hospital in Galle, which is about four hours away from Katharagama.

5.1.8 MALNUTRITION

Most people are not able to afford three meals a day. The nutritional value of the food they consume is not sufficient to meet the daily nutritional requirements. The usual diet is rice and one curry which could be dhal, dry fish, a vegetable or coconut *sambol* (prepared with coconut and chillies).

5.1.9 NON-SCHOOLING AND DROPPING OUT OF SCHOOL

The constitution of Sri Lanka requires compulsory free education for all children between ages 5 and 14. However, there are many children in most parts of the country and mainly in the poverty-stricken Hambantota district who are deprived of enjoying this basic right. All these children are marginalised due to issues related to multiple facets of poverty⁷.

⁷ Gunawardena, D. 2004.

Many children in the community who are engaged in an economic activity do not go to school at all while some are school dropouts.

Most of the parents of these children are illiterate and are not in a position to guide their children. These parents have also had a similar childhood and are alien to the whole idea of schooling. Therefore, children are not encouraged by parents to obtain a formal education.

Many children do not have birth certificates as their parents are not married. Without a birth certificate they hinder their chances of entering a good school or entering the education system at all. There have been occasions where the *Grama Niladhari's* certificate of confirmation of name, age and address given to children have been accepted by principals, but many children on the move who have been to back-to-school programmes when interviewed revealed that they have not been able to sit for major exams, nor have they been able to get free text books or uniforms provided freely by the Government. Breakfast is given at the schools for children up to Grade 4. The free meal is a great incentive for most poor children to come to school.

Not being able to afford school equipment including books, bags and shoes was mentioned by most children and community members as a reason for children to not go to school. But when analysing the issue of non-schooling or dropping out of school, it is apparent that as the life they lead doesn't require that much of skills, parents encourage their children to be economically active rather than engage in formal education. There have been instances where fathers have sold the school equipment their children received to get money to spend on alcohol. Many organisations and individuals have tried to help out by giving school equipment but children drop out of school after few weeks/months. Dropout rates are high in the urban areas and mostly among the children from UC labourer families.

The reality is that the parents can afford to send their children to school as they are working as UC labourers drawing a monthly salary of nearly 20,000 rupees. Yet, they are not interested in sending children to school.

Not going to school and dropping out from school have become a way of life as has been the practice for generations.

5.1.10 LIMITED ACCESS TO VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMMES

There are several vocational training institutions in almost every division in the probation district of Hambantota. The basic requirements to enter most of these institutions are GCE Ordinary Level qualifications. A course fee should be paid to follow most of the programmes. As most of the children on the move are school dropouts and as they are not in a position to afford course fees, access to vocational training is limited.

5.2 BEST INTEREST

“Best interest” should be one of the most important aspects to be considered when decisions affecting children are made, with child’s participation related to the decision. In this section issues that clashes with the best interest of the child is discussed.

5.2.1 RELIGIOUS CONVERSIONS

Children on the move become vulnerable victims of religious conversions. There are institutions that host children on the move and children with special issues directed by the Department Probation and Childcare Services and the Police. Even though these institutions are under the constant monitoring of government officers, these institutions have continued to conduct the unconstitutional practice of religious conversion.

5.2.2 NON-FORMAL MARRIAGES LEADING TO FAMILY SEPARATION

Formal marriages are not customary. Some start living together at a very early age as early as 12 or 13. In order to become legally married a person should be 18 years of age. As a result most children who are living together don't possess marriage certificates. In the case of these children who become mothers, there is no possibility for their children to obtain birth certificates.

As these young couples are not legally married there are many separations. Random sex is a common practice. There are instances of adultery and multiple formal marriages. This has resulted in many single mothers. Community members expressing their way of life at a FGD says,

“People are just not bothered about tomorrow. They have sex randomly and even a heart break is for a day or two.”

“The micro culture is such, that mothers have four children from four fathers.”

Family separation due to various reasons such as death, migration, second marriage result in children becoming vulnerable to sexual abuse, disruption of school, lack of parental care and protection. There are instances where children have been raped by their fathers or stepfathers.

As there is very limited space in houses there is no private life. Parents and other married siblings share the same house and there are instances where children are exposed to scenes where they even see their parents and siblings engaging in sexual activity.

5.2.3 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence was highlighted as a key issue in all adult and child FGDs conducted. The main reason for domestic violence is the use of alcohol and drugs by males and sometimes by females. There are many single parents, and there are many couples that never marry. On many occasions formal and informal families break up.

There are many instances where mothers of children migrate for overseas employment.

5.2.4 CHILD ABUSE

Children on the move are vulnerable to all forms of abuse as a result of lack of care and protection, inadequate supervision and as a result of children becoming relatively independent. Because of the vulnerabilities of these children, in case of victimisation they have no or very little options for redress and healing. As a result, child abuse is seen as one of the most significant and serious issues faced by children on the move. Here we have discussed various forms of child abuse: namely, neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse and psychological abuse. The forms of abuse faced by children on the move in schools and in institutions are discussed separately, as it is essential for policymakers to look into various forms of abuse taking place mainly in public spheres and to provide a sustainable solution for these issues.

5.2.4.1 Forms of Abuse

5.2.4.1.1 Neglect

All the children on the move are neglected in a range of ways. While all types of children on the move have been neglected by the society, the education system, policymakers, most of these children are not cared for by their own parents who fail to look after the best interests of the child.

All groups of children considered under the project engage in activities with certain risks as they are unaccompanied by their parents or they are promoted by their parents to engage in risky activities for money.

There are many children who watch pornography at an immature age of 8. Most of the reasons for the neglect of these children are

due to mothers being employed overseas and the fathers' alcoholism.

5.2.4.1.2 Physical Abuse

Similarly, most of the children considered for the project are physically abused or exploited at their workplaces, in their community or at home. A child being used as a labourer is itself a form of physical abuse. However, the children that are frequently subjected to physical abuse are those engaged as domestic workers, sex workers, children engaged in loading and unloading and also children in notorious institutions who are allegedly abused physically in order to discipline them. Children interviewed believed that they were physically abused when they were arrested by the Police or by the Department of Probation and Childcare Services and during the process of being sent into an institution.

Consumption of alcohol by parents and even children has been observed in most of the communities, and there were many complaints made by children in particular areas stating that they are beaten up by adults in the area when under the influence of alcohol.

5.2.4.1.3 Child Sexual Abuse

There are children who have been sexually abused and raped by adults. On most cases, the perpetrator for sexual abuse is a close relative. Cases of sexual abuse are severely underreported. Parents rarely follow legal procedures or report incidents related to child abuse to the police as such a complaint may lead to the victim becoming even more victimised during health examinations and legal processes.

Alcoholic fathers encouraging their daughters to have sex with their drinking partners were an issue for some girls in Katharagama and Tissamaharama. There were instances where some children were given in marriage (not-formal) and instances where children have become pregnant without any kind of commitment from the perpetrator.

There have been about five reported cases of child abuse in the Suriyawewa police division this year. One of those was by a father, one by a school friend and the other one by a father's friend. Children, who are being abused sexually by fathers and close relatives, once identified and litigated, are made to look like villains and at times sent to institutions as they have no means of living, support or protection. Even if they are not institutionalised, social taboos put the victimised children at risk of becoming nomadic thus exposing them to potential dangers of smuggling.

Parents or the victims are not willing to take action against the culprits due to fear of being made outcasts. There is a serious issue of underreporting or of non-reporting of sexual abuse cases. There are instances where the male partner leaves the girl at 18 years, and the parents come with the daughter complaining of rape.

Some instances of sexual abuse cases reported to the police include,

“There is a family in Bandagiriya where a father donated a kidney to his elder daughter. He also has two sons, the 11-year-old is schooling and the 18-year-old is working as a manual labourer. The mother has gone for foreign employment and has sent a television. Neighbours come to their house to watch TV. The youngest child of the family, an 8-year-old, was raped by villagers and eventually it became a habit. The girl has told the elders about it but no one has cared or noticed it” (WPS - Hambantota Police)

“A 15-year-old girl was trafficked after she was sold by the mother. Her mother and father had persistent disagreements and the father has a mistress. The mother is a person of ill-repute. She has returned from abroad. In October 2008, when the child was 14, the mother has sold the child for sex and gone to the boutique”. (WPS - Hambantota Police)

There are also occasions where children become sexually active. It has become a common practice for children in their early teens to live together with a partner without registering marriages. Child marriages are common and accepted. There is also a story of a 27-year-old grandmother. In Kohombagaspelessa, Lunugamvehera,

there is a teenage couple where the wife is 16 and the husband is 17 living together with a two year old child.

There are post-tsunami houses in Siribopura, Hambantota which have been vacated by their owners and which have been rented to other people who use the property for adultery and immoral purposes.

5.2.4.1.4 Psychological and Emotional Abuse

Using bad language to abuse someone verbally is common. There were instances where toddlers habitually use bad language in almost all the communities.

In houses which lack space, children are exposed to scenes where they even see their parents and siblings engaging in sexual activity. Parents or older siblings are usually drunk in the evenings and are not concerned about the state they are in or the psychological impact it would have on the children in the house. As in the case of verbal abuse, children also become immune to nudity and sex.

Domestic violence induced by alcohol is common in the sample area. Children face emotional and psychological abuse as a result of domestic violence.

According to the Medical Officers of Health (MoH), it has been observed during the school medical checkups, that children are less prone to physical ailments whereas mental ailments are on the rise.

5.2.4.2 Abuse in Public Institutions

5.2.4.2.1 Abuse in Schools

Teachers verbally or physically abuse children sometimes in good faith without proper knowledge about child psychology, child development and alternative disciplinary measures. Teachers who

deliberately use abusive language, arrogant gestures and ask children to perform activities to denigrate or discriminate against a certain group of children are also seen in some schools. For example, children from Samagipura in Hambantota who were admitted to Hambantota Vidyalaya were discouraged from coming to school by a minority of teachers. It was observed that the children and parents from Nagahaveediya in Katharagama were unhappy about the principal of the school and some teachers who were setting a bad example by drinking during and after school, using abusive language and acting in an indecent manner.

5.2.4.2.2 Abuse in Institutions

There is an institution called “Meth Mal Sevana”. People say this institution has many reports which bring its credibility as a safe refuge for children into disrepute. There are reports of children being beaten with brooms, plow sticks etc. On most occasions children are directed to the institution through the recommendation of the Mayor and the Department of Probation and Childcare Services. Children are not allowed to come home even for a holiday to see and to be with the family. “When I went to see the child, the child appeared as if he has been looking after cattle, wearing dirty clothes”. The caretaker of the institution allegedly hands out inhumane punishments to children when they don’t behave in the way they are expected to at the institution.

A Children’s home hosts 96 children and they are compelled to follow the Christian faith on the demand of the caretakers whom the children under custodianship call mother and father. No other religion is allowed to be practiced and the version of the caretakers of the children’s home was that they handpick children from Christian backgrounds to be considered for custodianship. These children come from a range of backgrounds and have been directed to the children’s home through the police and the Department of Probation and Childcare Services after a court hearing. The family living by the public toilet by the Tissamaharama Tank has five children out of which three have been sent to the institution. Their father is a Buddhist and the mother is a Hindu.

Children face physical and emotional abuse during arrests made by the police jointly with the Department of Probation and Childcare Services and during the process of institutionalisation. Considering

the intensity of the harm that has been caused to some children who have undergone the experience of being arrested, calling it “abuse” is an understatement and could be better termed as “torture”.

5.2.5 CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN TRAFFICKED

Children who have been trafficked represent children engaged in sex work, children moving away from home for educational purposes and children moving away from home for institutionalisation.

While there are many registered institutions, there are also institutions that are not registered under the Department of Probation and Childcare Services. There are also institutions that are registered but they allegedly carry out activities that are harmful to children violating some of their basic rights.

Vijitha Home in Beruwela accommodates children from Hambantota, Suriyawewa, Methmal Seena, Gonnoruwa Children’s home accommodates children from Seeduwa, Halawatha, Puttlam, Mettha home, Weerawila (Earlier this was unauthorised, now it is registered). Navajeevana home in Galle was closed by Department of Probation and Childcare Services due to religious conversions, food issues, and for not being a registered institution.

Prostitution: First, girls are allowed to work as helpers in boutiques that sell flowers or in shops selling curd. Then they are promoted as sellers and marketers. Finally, they end up as prostitutes. There are many such child prostitutes.

5.2.6 DRUGS AND ALCOHOL ABUSE

In all the communities consulted, children and parents chew betel, smoke *beedi* (a locally manufactured cigarette containing tobacco), cigarettes, cannabis⁸ and also consume alcohol. Children on the move are at increased risk of becoming narcotic addicts as they have

⁸ Punchihewa. 2009.

enough pocket money to buy drugs and they lack proper parental supervision. They start consuming alcohol and betel as a pastime, with their friends, at a very early age, sometimes as early as 8 years.

Alcohol addiction is one of the major issues in all the communities and the cause of family issues, domestic violence, family break-ups and poverty. In almost all the areas, the local brew, *Kasippu*⁹ was available in close proximity.

Police records of the sample area also revealed that there were children engaged in drug trafficking (cannabis) for an additional income. Such a child was interviewed for the purpose of the study. Most of the people that are caught consuming *ganja* or transporting *ganja* are over 21 years of age. This statement is also justified by the data available at the Anti Narcotics Bureau¹⁰.

There are few interventions carried out by ‘*Mathata thitha*’ government programme and various local NGOs on controlling alcohol abuse. Yet, there is a need for stronger interventions on creating awareness, rehabilitating alcohol and drug addicts and supporting families that are victims.

5.2.7 INSTITUTIONALISATION OF CHILDREN ON THE MOVE

Institutionalisation is seen as the only option by most stakeholders working on child protection issues. However, in reality, institutionalisation can have a host of consequences. Children once caught by the police or the Department of Probation and Childcare

⁹ *Kasippu* is the commonly used term for illicit liquor brewed locally in Sri Lanka. To manufacture *Kasippu*, sugar is the main ingredient that is fermented. Due to unscientific methods used in *Kasippu* manufacture, some by products such as methyl alcohol remain in the *Kasippu* end-product, which when consumed leads to many persistent health issues such as; permanent brain damage, loss of memory and even blindness. – Tumpane, H. 2007.

¹⁰ Sri Lanka National Dangerous Drugs Control Board. 2009.

Services are held in police custody and are presented before the Court. Officers are not trained to handle sensitive cases.

There are institutions coming under the purview of the Government such as Kithulampitiya children's home in Galle, Meth Mal Sevana in Hambantota, Weerawila Children's home, Agape Children's Home in Tissamaharama, Nena Sarana in Katharagama. Even though these institutions have been set up to serve children who are in a desperate state, many people including the children who have been institutionalised, tell stories that tarnish the reputation of some of the institutions.

Accusations include poor caring, inadequate resources, improper management, lack of understanding of the caretakers about the needs of the children, poor infrastructure, religious conversions, use of extreme force and inhumane punishment to discipline children, torture and corruption.

“When I went to see the child, the child appeared as if he has been looking after cattle, wearing dirty clothes”- A mother of a child from Samagipura, Hambantota

There are reports of children being beaten with brooms, plow sticks etc. On most occasions children have been directed to institutions through the recommendation of the Department of Probation and Childcare Services.

There are children in institutions who are not allowed to come home even for a holiday to see and to be with the family. Some children are prevented from having any links with the family members.

The counter argument of officials is “if children are sent home for a vacation or if children are allowed to meet parents the whole purpose and investment of the rehabilitation would collapse” as children would be misled by parents to return to the old lifestyle that hinders the development of children.

5.2.8 INSTITUTIONALISATION OF ORPHANED CHILDREN

In cases where there are orphaned children custodianship is very poor. This is due to economic vulnerabilities of the extended family members. Most often institution becomes the sole option for orphaned children.

5.2.9 CHILD MOTHERS

There are many child mothers in the selected area of study. Child mothers are not permitted to continue their education in schools because of the ideology that they could spoil other children. It is not the law of the country that prevents child mothers from accessing education; it is the social taboos that leads to the marginalisation of child mothers.

Under the Penal Code of Sri Lanka, until 1995, the general age of consent for sexual relations was twelve years. In 1995, the Penal Code was amended and the age of statutory rape was raised to 16 years whereby allowing consensual sex for persons over 16 years of age¹¹ whereas marriage is allowed after 18, while a Muslim couple can get married earlier under the Muslim Marriage and Divorce Act of 1951 which even has provisions for girls under 12 to be legally wedded 12. However, there are many Muslim and non-Muslim couples living together in most areas which came under the purview of the study. When girls in their early teens have babies, there are issues with regard to obtaining birth certificates. Young girls face problems of becoming single parents.

Children who have been raped, children of alcoholic fathers, are at risk of being subjected to forced marriages. Parents of a child who has been married do not like to take legal action as it can have a negative impact on the girl child due to cultural attitudes.

¹¹ AVERT. 2010.

¹² Emory University School of Law. 2009

Child mothers are not allowed to stay with their children at the institutions which function under the purview of the Department of Probation and Childcare Services. The child is separated from the mother as soon as they are born and is given for adoption.

5.3 NON-DISCRIMINATION

Equal treatment of all human beings regardless of their caste, class, gender or any other differences is called non-discrimination. Children on the move face discrimination particularly because of the circumstances they find themselves in. In addition to the circumstances, legislation, institutionalised attitudes, media and Government action or inaction also contribute towards discrimination sometimes. This section presents few types of discrimination faced by children on the move.

5.3.1 DISCRIMINATION IN SCHOOLS

A grave issue faced by children on the move is the discrimination they are subjected to in schools, in children's organisations and when participating in community activities, due to their low social status. A low social status is ascribed to them due to the economic activity they or their parents are involved in, family disintegration, their backwardness, low educational achievements, etc.

As a result of discrimination in schools there are many children who have dropped out of school. Non-formal education programmes have also not been able to achieve the expected outcome due to teachers, parents and other children's attitude and treatment towards these children.

5.3.2 DISCRIMINATION BY HOST COMMUNITIES

Villagers do not like street people being accommodated in the village. The attempts of the Department of Probation and Childcare Services with the support of Sarvodaya to get rented houses for street families turned out to be a failure.

5.3.3 DISCRIMINATION DUE TO LACK OF PROPER DOCUMENTATION

Proof of identity is a non derivable right of all humans and is recognised by all major international treaties as well as the Constitution of Sri Lanka. Most children on the move do not have any form of identification including birth certificates. Parents are not married and are not concerned about obtaining birth certificates thereby further depriving their children a chance of improving their lives. This cycle has continued for generations now.

As most people do not have proof of identity they are not entered into the voter's lists by the *Grama Niladharis*. As a result they do not have voting power.

5.3.4 NEGATIVE STEREOTYPING OF CHILDREN ON THE MOVE

Most children on the move we interviewed tried to earn a living by morally acceptable means. Engaging in petty crimes was not a common scenario. There were very few reported incidents of robbery, selling alcohol and *ganja* and pimping. All children on the move are stereotyped as deviants by the community and government officials. Negative stereotyping has resulted in highlighting incidents of petty crime by children on the move and making children on the move suspects of all sorts of petty crimes.

5.4 PARTICIPATION

All children have the right to be involved in decisions affecting them. A child's right to participate in decision making in the family, school and other public spheres by expressing his/her views in ways in which the child is comfortable, is recognised as participatory rights.

As children on the move are an extremely vulnerable segment in society, their voices are hardly heard not only by the policymakers

but also by adults who influence their lives, including parents, teachers and employers.

Extreme poverty forces most children on the move to engage in economic activities without leaving them a choice to decide. They are powerless when it comes to negotiating their wages or conditions of work.

Not only is the participation in decision making related to school restricted to these children on the move, but decision making about going to school or the continuation of studies is also not a choice for most children on the move.

The family circumstances are such that children hardly get an option to voice their opinions related to decisions affecting their family life. Most children on the move are from disintegrated and/or extremely poor families. They do not have an option when shouldering the economic burdens of their families as it becomes essential for survival. They have little choice about household matters such as the food they consume or the way they arrange the house as the survival of these families, are based on bare minimum material consumption.

As most children belonging to the category of children on the move are busy fighting for daily existence, they are unaware or do not get a chance to participate in influencing decisions affecting them at any level. They are not aware of the available mechanisms to safeguard their rights and the necessary procedures to follow.

5.4.1 LIMITED ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Access to television and radio is also very limited. In order to watch television or to listen to the radio, most children have to go to a neighbour's house.

Not having access to computers in schools and social arenas is a barrier in today's world. There are no computers in the schools

they attend. Even in cases where there are computers, there are no tutors. Bridging the digital divide is important for progress.

5.5 CONCLUSION

The analysis of all human rights issues faced by children on the move portrays how vulnerable these children are. The extreme vulnerability of children on the move disengages them from the mainstream and marginalises them. The core reason for most of the human rights issues is extreme poverty that is entrenched within the whole system. This leads to consequential struggle for survival, lack of education and awareness, discrimination, exclusion, abuse and lack of care and protection.

CHAPTER 6-

INSTRUMENTS TO PROTECT CHILDREN ON THE MOVE

6.1 INTRODUCTION

The rights applicable to children on the move are derived mainly from Chapter 3 of the 1978 Constitution of Sri Lanka and UN Child Rights Convention. There are other national and international instruments that protect the rights of children on the move. This chapter introduces all applicable national and international instruments to safeguard rights of children on the move in Sri Lanka.

6.2 INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS

The international treaties and conventions that are directly applicable to children on the move are briefly discussed in this section. Although Sri Lanka has ratified the international instruments discussed below, it is important to note that, as Sri Lanka is a dual legislative country, the scope of application of such treaties in domestic situation is limited; until the country adopts corresponding national legislation. Regardless of the dualist nature of the country, customary international law is of course universally applicable and is binding on all states, including Sri Lanka, regardless of whether or not the country has expressly accepted such principles.

6.2.1 GENERAL CHILD RIGHTS

Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 20 November 1989 and ratified by Sri Lanka on 12th July 1991 is the major human rights instrument that provides a comprehensive list of child rights. The UNCRC deals with survival, protection, participation and non-discrimination rights of children. UNCRC is now considered as a customary international law, that binds Sri Lanka to oblige to the articles discussed in this convention.

6.2.3 CHILD PROTECTION

The Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography

The Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography was ratified in 2002. According to the protocol, Sri Lankan Government should prevent, detect, investigate, prosecute and punish those responsible for acts involving the sale of children, child prostitution, child pornographic performances and material.

Convention against Torture, and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) (1984)

Sri Lanka has an obligation to protect its citizens from 'torture,' which means "severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, which is intentionally inflicted on a person for such purposes as obtaining from him or a third person information or a confession, punishing him for an act he or third person has committed, or intimidating or coercing him or a third person, or for any reason based on discrimination of any kind, when such pain or suffering is inflicted by or at the instigation of or with the consent or acquiescence of a public official or other person acting in an official capacity," (Article 1 (1)) as Sri Lanka has ratified CAT. The CAT provides a guideline on how to safeguard children on the move against torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

6.2.4 CHILD LABOUR

ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (No. 182)

This Convention prohibits work which is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children. It also prohibits all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery and the use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, the production of pornography or pornographic performances.

ILO Minimum Age for Employment Convention (No. 138)

This Convention increases the minimum age of employment up to 15 years and to safeguard the rights of children in the age of compulsory education (5-14) to participate in education.

ILO Forced Labour Convention (No 29) of 1930

This convention safeguards individuals against forced labour, which is defined as All work or service that is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself voluntarily (Article 2.1.)

6.2.5 ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) (1966)

ICESCR was signed and ratified by Sri Lanka on 11th June 1980. It therefore binds the country by its terms. The rights in this Covenant are not rights that have immediate effect, but are subject to progressive realisation by the governments that are signatory to the Covenant. The State's commitment to the progressive realisation of

rights must be “to the maximum of its available resources”. According to General Comment No. 3 of the UN Committee on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), these available resources include the aid given to a country by the international community¹³. Under the ICESCR, violations will fall into two broad categories. 1. Failure to ‘progressively realise’ rights and 2. Discrimination in access to rights. Some of the important economic, social and cultural rights in this context, that is recognised in ICESCR are, *ICESCR Article 11 The Right to Food* guarantees the ability of people to feed themselves, and also obligates states to cooperate in the equitable distribution of world food supplies. This Article also recognises *the Right to Adequate Housing*. This right does not only consist of the right to have a roof over one’s head, nor should it be exclusively viewed as a commodity, but should be the right to live somewhere in security, peace and dignity¹⁴. *ICESCR Articles 7, 11 & 12 – The Right to Health*, guarantees access to adequate healthcare, nutrition, sanitation and to clean water and air. *ICESCR Articles 13 & 14 – The Right to Education* guarantees free and compulsory primary education and equal access to secondary and higher education.

6.2.6 NON-DISCRIMINATION

International Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) (1966)

On 18th February 1982, Sri Lanka ratified the ICERD and as a result has an obligation to protect the citizens from any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin which has the purpose or effect of nullifying or impairing the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, on an equal footing, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural or any other field of public life (Article 1 (I))

¹³ “The Committee notes that the phrase “to the maximum of its available resources” was intended by the drafters of the Covenant to refer to both the resources existing within a State and those available from the international community through international cooperation and assistance.” UN CESCR General Comment No. 3

¹⁴ UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) General Comment No. 4

CONVENTION FOR THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (CEDAW) (1979)

Sri Lanka ratified CEDAW on 5th October 1981. In 1993, Sri Lanka has adopted the Women's Charter, based on the CEDAW. The Women's Charter is a non-binding document but it is a guideline on protecting women's rights in Sri Lanka. Articles in CEDAW Convention could be used in safeguarding girl child's rights against any form of discrimination, when it comes to interventions for children on the move.

6.3 NATIONAL LAW IN SRI LANKA

National law in Sri Lanka has moved away from a position of exclusive faith in criminal processes to protect children to a more direct child- or victim-focused protective approach at the legislative and conceptual level (GOSL, 2008).

6.3.1 GENERAL CHILD RIGHTS

The Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka (1978)

The Fundamental Rights recognised by the State is presented in Chapter III and Directive Principles of State Policy and Fundamental duties are given in Chapter IV of the 1978 Constitution of the Socialist Democratic Republic of Sri Lanka. According to Article 27 (13) of the Directive Principles in the Constitution, the state shall 'promote with special care the interest of children and youth so as to ensure their full development, physical, mental, moral, religious, and social, and to protect them from exploitation and discrimination'.

Children's Charter

Children's Charter which was adopted by Sri Lanka is a copy of the CRC, but it is not a document which is legally binding. It is a guideline that sets standards to safeguard children's rights in the country.

Human Rights Commission Act (1996)

According to the Human Rights Commission Act No. 21 of 1996, the Commission is a powerful entity to investigate, intervene and monitor fundamental rights of Sri Lankans.

6.3.2 CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

The Citizenship (Amendment) Act No.16

According to this act children could acquire nationality from both parents, whereas under the previous law it was only the father who was able to pass on Sri Lankan nationality to children.

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) Act No.56 of 2007

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) Act No.56 of 2007 provided that the best interests of the child shall be of paramount importance in all matters concerning children whether undertaken by courts, administrative authorities, legislative bodies or public or private social welfare institutions, and strengthened protection for children in respect of birth registration, name and nationality and legal assistance.

6.3.3 CHILD PROTECTION

The National Child Protection Authority Act- 1998

The National Child Protection Authority Act (NCPA) Act focuses on protection of children, primarily from child abuse. It functions in four key areas; protection, advocacy, rehabilitation and legal reform.

The Children and Young Persons Ordinance No. 48 of 1939

This Ordinance deals with the protection of children and young persons, juvenile courts and supervision of juvenile offenders. This is

the principal legislation in Sri Lanka which addresses the rights and interests of a child or young person who is a victim of an offence or who is facing a charge for an alleged offence.

The Adoption of Children Ordinance No. 24 of 1941

The Adoption Ordinance provides procedures for the adoption of children and registration for persons who are not the natural parents of the child but have the care, custody or control of child, in the district courts. Types of adoption are categorised as local adoption (adopting a child from a receiving home or related or known child) and foreign adoption (adopting a child from a receiving home or a child who is related by blood). The Ordinance has general applications in Sri Lanka. Therefore, customary laws such as Muslim Law and Thesawalami Law do not apply except in the case of succession.

The Tsunami (Special Provisions) Act 2005

This act deals specifically on tsunami victims. It has special provisions for tsunami orphaned children regarding their guardianship, custody, foster care and adoption; monitoring and evaluation of custody, foster care and recommendations for adoption.

The Prevention of Domestic Violence Act No.34 of 2005

This act provides for protection orders to be urgently obtained to safeguard women and children who are suffering of and at risk of domestic violence.

The Penal Code (Amendment) Act No16 of 2006

This act strengthens the law against child trafficking. It also address trafficking issues related to electronic media. The new section 360C adopts the wide definition of trafficking in the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons. The new section 358A has criminalised outstanding worst forms of child labour as stipulated in the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention No.182: debt bondage and serfdom, forced or compulsory labour, slavery and

engagement or recruitment of children in armed conflict. (The former three apply to all persons, not only children)

The Establishment of District Child Protection Committees, Gazette No 1136 of 2000

District Child Protection Committees were set up under the Gazette No 1136 (Part I) of 09.06.2000 at the District Secretariat with the overseeing of the respective District Secretary. It has later developed as the District Child Development Committee Meeting that takes place once a month with stakeholders relevant to child protection such as probation and childcare workers and local law enforcement authorities, the Judiciary and health workers at local level.

6.3.4 EDUCATION

The Education Ordinance of 1940

Education and attendance at school were made compulsory for every Sri Lankan child aged between 5 and 14 years.

6.3.5 EMPLOYMENT

The Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children (Amendment) Act No. 8 of 2003

This act has strengthened child labour law by increasing the minimum age of employment from 12 to 14 years, and prohibiting the employment of children under 14 while enhancing the sentence for violation of this provision. This act has further classified the minimum age for employment at sea (on a vessel) as 15 years; for training to take part in performances of a dangerous nature as 16 years; for public performances endangering life or limb, prescribed hazardous occupation and night work as 18 years.

According to this Act, a child may work in light agricultural or horticultural work before the commencement of regular school hours or after the close of school hours, by his or her parent(s)/ guardian(s); or in any school or other institution supervised by a public authority

that imparts technical education or other training for the purpose of any trade occupation.

The Factories Ordinance No.45 of 1942

According to the Factories Ordinance, children between 16-18 years should not engage in work for more than 12 hours per day. They should not start work earlier than 6 a.m. and should not work after 6 p.m. Maximum hours of work for a young person are 60 hours per week, including overtime.

The Shop and Office Employees Act No.19 of 1954

Minimum age for employment in a shop or office is 14 years. A child between 14 -18, who is working in a shop or office, is not allowed to work before 6 a.m. after 6 p.m. Males who have attained the age of 16 years can work at night between 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. in or about the business of a hotel, restaurant or place of entertainment.

The Minimum Wages (Indian Labour) Ordinance No.27 of 1927

The minimum age of work according to this ordinance is 14.

The Mines and Minerals Act No. 57 of 1981

Minimum age to be employed in a mine according to the act is 16, as long as the young person provides a certificate of fitness to the manager of the mine.

The Trade Unions Ordinance No. 14 of 1935

A person should be at least 16 years to be a member of a trade union, according to this ordinance.

The Penal Code No.2 of 1883

Children engaged in worst forms of child labour in Sri Lanka are safeguarded from the Penal Code No. 2 of 1883. Actions considered as worst forms of labour according to this are, employing a child to

appear or perform in any obscene or indecent exhibition or show, photograph or film; causing or procuring a child to beg; hiring or employing children to traffic in restricted articles; sexual exploitation of children; debt bondage; serfdom; forced or compulsory labour; slavery; and engaging or recruiting a child for use in armed conflict. These forms of labour are prohibited in Sri Lanka.

6.4 CONCLUSION

There are many international instruments ratified by Sri Lanka that could be applied to protect children on the move. Yet the issue related to international instruments is the need to adopt into local law. Sri Lanka also has national instruments that could be utilised in the process of protecting children on the move, but it is necessary to closely analyse the related laws to see whether there are instances where the laws that are in place to protect, victimises children.

CHAPTER 7-

PREVAILING MECHANISMS TO SUPPORT CHILDREN ON THE MOVE

7.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses the prevailing mechanisms to protect children on the move in Hambantota and the positive and negative implications of the activities conducted through these mechanisms.

7.2 GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS

In 2005, all major government bodies working primarily on child protection were brought under the auspices of the Ministry of Child Development and Women's Empowerment. As a result, the Children's Secretariat, the National Child Protection Authority, and the Department Probation and Childcare Services are now under the purview of the Ministry of Child Development and Women's Empowerment. In addition to the departments mentioned above, the Women and Children's Desk of the Police Department, Department of Education, Social Services Department, Ministry of Health, and the *Samurdhi* Authority also contribute towards protecting child rights at the grass-roots level.

7.2.1 DEPARTMENT OF PROBATION AND CHILDCARE SERVICES

Probation Care was provided since 1919 under the Department of Prisons, and evolved into the Department of Probation and Childcare Services in 1956 under the Children and Young Persons Ordinance 42 of 1952. By 1960, the Department was active in all districts of the island. The mandate vested on the department envisages limiting imprisonment through rehabilitation to successfully reintegrate children to the society, taking lenient judicial actions against young offenders, providing facilities for needy children and young persons, providing opportunity for children to live with parents and provision of protection¹⁵.

The Department of Probation and Childcare Services is very keen on intervening in a manner that brings sustainable long-term results and to effectively protect and rehabilitate vulnerable and victimised children. This research was also conducted as a request made by the Department of Probation and Childcare Services.

According to the findings of the study, Department of Probation and Childcare Services has intervened in closing up institutions in the area that were not adhering to standards and regulations. Yet, children who have been in institutions including government institutions say, they have faced many forms of human rights violations and abuse, such as forceful religious conversions, harsh punishments including corporal punishment, solitary confinement in dark rooms, denying them meals, maintaining institutions in remote settings with inadequate security and adult supervision, denying wholesome meals, not maintaining hygienic standards, not providing access to water, or supplying clean clothes or linen for children, etc. According to the mandate of the Department of Probation and Childcare Services, it is necessary to oversee the activities that are conducted through the voluntary service organisations and institutions and take prompt action for such violations.

7.2.1.1 Role of Probation Officers

The community perception and the concerns related to the role of the probation officers are presented below.

¹⁵ Department of Probation & Childcare Services. 2010.

Children and other community members in the research locations tend to perceive the probation officer as an authority that criminalises and institutionalise children on the move. At first, when the researchers tried to approach children on the move, particularly in Katharagama and Hambantota, for the purpose of this study, they used to run away from us shouting, “officers from the Probation are coming.” The past of experiences of institutionalising have been unpleasant for these children, which, as a result, has created a bad image of the officials involved in the process. Research participants related their stories of how they were caught, detained, sent to Court and institutionalised. The concerns raised by children in relation to the role of the Department of Probation and Childcare Services are valid concerns that all stakeholders in the field of protection should critically think about-

- ‘Why are we being treated as criminals when we have done nothing wrong?’
- ‘Although we are poor, can’t we live with our family and friends?’
- ‘Is supporting family to make ends meet wrong?’
- ‘Do you think the experience in the process of institutionalising us, by deceiving and getting hold of us, forcing us into a vehicle, detaining us, physically and verbally abusing, taking us to courts, keeping us under strict authority in institutions and meting out harsh punishments for the slightest mistake, is an experience we look forward to? Is this a way of helping us or is to for punishing us?’

7.2.1.2 Role of Child Rights Promotion Officer (CRPO)

Child Rights promotion officers (CRPOs) are attached to the Department of Probation and Childcare Services. They are the divisional level officers who are responsible for creating awareness about child rights and informing about violations of child rights to relevant authorities to take collective and coordinated action.

The common complaint raised by the CRPOs is the problem of under-financing and low allocations for field work which hinders their capacity to work. Lack of field presence has led to underreporting of violations of child rights and concerns of children at the grassroots level.

7.2. 2 NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION AUTHORITY (NCPA)

National Child Protection Authority (NCPA) was established under the National Child Protection Authority Act No 50 of 1998. Its main functions are: policy formulation and taking action on child abuse and protection related issues while raising awareness of the public on child abuse and child protection¹⁶. NCPA functions as the focal body which coordinates with other organisations responsible for the enforcement of child protection such as the Police, defence services, health, education, *Samurdhi*, voluntary organisations and most importantly the Probation and Childcare Services.

NCPA office is located in Hambantota and the officials work to implement its mandate. There are only two officers in charge of Hambantota district and they are faced with serious budget constraints in implementing successful programmes at the ground level.

ROLE OF COUNSELLORS

Psychosocial counsellors are placed at the District Secretariats under the NCPA to work particularly on issues relating to children and to conduct face to face counselling sessions for children with problems.

When considering the size of the district, availability of transport, cost of transport and poverty prevalent in this area, only the children in close proximity get to know about the counsellors and have access to their services while children living in areas far away are not aware about such a service. Even if they were aware, accessibility is a key issue. It is necessary to increase the field presence of counsellors.

A major obstacle faced by counsellors is that they do not have a secluded area in the allocated office space to discuss issues with their clients in privacy. As a result, counselling sessions are conducted in an open space making it possible for other officers and public visitors to hear the problems discussed.

¹⁶ NCPA. 2010.

The quality of counselling service could be increased by providing training to counsellors. Counselling should not be a standalone service. It should always be linked to psychosocial interventions. When it comes to interventions, funding to address the cases becomes an obstacle.

7.2.3 WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S DESK OF POLICE STATIONS

The Women's and Children's Desks have been established in 1998 at police stations by Inspector General of Police Circular No. 1416/98¹⁷ and contribute to the efforts of other entities established for child protection mentioned above with the Police Department's mandate to enforce the law.

Whenever children, within the compulsory education age of 5-14 years, are found to be employed or begging on the streets, they are arrested by the police with the aid of the Department of Probation and Childcare Services and presented before court. The process of being arrested, remanded and questioned and being presented before court is a torturous experience and children say, they have faced many forms of abuse (including physical, emotional and verbal abuse) during this process. As a result of the bad experiences they faced in the past most children are afraid of the police. The children fear the police presuming they will be beaten up by them if they are caught on the move and it has resulted in negative consequences such as, making children with issues even more reluctant to access relevant services.

Although Women and Children's Desks are established at the police stations, there are no child-friendly spaces, or places of privacy where children feel comfortable to talk to the police officers. The children are afraid of being criminalised through the system, and they fear to go to the police for help with regard to protection issues. Most children on the move are not aware of the role of the Women and Children's Desk and how they could get their support whenever there is a protection issue without getting victimised in the process.

¹⁷ Sri Lanka Police Department. 2010.

7.2.4 NON-FORMAL EDUCATION DIVISION OF DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The Non-Formal Education division of the Department of Education is actively and directly involved in working on the issue of children on the move. There are a few non-formal education classes conducted for children on the move in the Hambantota probation district. These classes are coordinated and designed through the Non-Formal Education divisions of the Zonal Educational Department. Most children that take part in the non-formal education classes are directed to them by the Police Department. School dropouts and non-schooling children between the ages of 5-15 are offered tuition at the non-formal classes.

7.2.4.1 Non-Formal Education Classes

The Non-Formal Education division of the Department of Education is currently conducting non-formal education classes at the Samodagama Primary School in Hambantota, Tissamaharama School, Nagahaveediya in Katharagama and Nena Sarana, also at Katharagama. Most of these programmes are conducted in the afternoons at schools to train children who have dropped out from school to help them re-engage in formal schooling.

Earlier, there was a back-to-school programme conducted for children on the move in Samagipura in Hambantota town area where there were a total of 33 children who entered Hambantota Vidyalaya out of which only three have remained in school after a year. The major reason for below 10% retention levels of the children engaged in the back-to-school programme was the lack of long-term resource allocation. The other contributing factors were lack of investment on monitoring and evaluation, lack of qualified staff to conduct after school classes and the discontinuation of community mobilisation.

7.2.4.2 Nena Sarana

“Nena Sarana” is an institution in Katharagama built in a three-acre state land belonging to the Ministry of Fisheries which functions under the Non-Formal Education Unit of the Moneragala Zonal Education Office providing shelter to children who were on the streets. This centre was initiated eight years ago with funding from UNICEF to host 54 children.

It caters for boys between ages of 5-14. The main objective of the institution is to enforce the compulsory education regulation up to the age of 14. It is through the Police Department and not through the Probation Care Department that these children are brought to Nena Sarana. It was registered under the Department of Probation only at the end of 2009. Currently the institution provides shelter for 12 boys between the ages of 6-12.

The institution is in a very remote, interior location. The school is about four kilometres away. Earlier children were dropped and picked up from school by a tractor but due to the shortage of funding, children have to walk to school now.

There is only one residential caretaker at a time. There are three caretakers who take turns in being in the institution. A caretaker stays for a period of ten days per month for which they are paid 900 rupees a day. There are prolonged periods where the caretakers have to work voluntarily when they are not provided with their salaries on time. As the caretakers have to work on a rotational basis the children don't get the chance of build a long-term relationship with the carer. The institutions have only one carer and without means of communication and transport, it is a threat to the security of the children. These children in the institution look after one another's needs

“While conducting the research, during a visit to Nena Sarana, a child was severely ill and the child was taken to the hospital by us in our vehicle as there was no other means of hiring a vehicle”

Nena Sarana faces severe shortage of basic resources, water and funding. They have to depend on the tube well for water. Water shortage is a major problem. The water table is about 20 feet deep. There is a stream running close by, but resources are insufficient to pump water to a tank to sustain the place. The water in the stream flows from the Mailagama Wewa (tank) and the tank holds a sufficient amount of water to cultivate paddy fields in the two seasons.

They have to buy food packets for all three meals. The breakfast provided in schools is a luxury for these children. The budget allocation from the Ministry of Education is barely sufficient to sustain the place.

The non-formal education programmes conducted under the Department of Education seem to have the potential to deliver positive outcomes, but there are still shortcomings such as, the development of a curriculum for non-formal-education programmes, conducting research on children on the move and the implementation of a suitable back-to-school programme curriculum suited to the level of education of the children.

7.2.5 DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Department of Social Services set up in 1948, offers services for the socially marginalised groups such as, persons with disabilities and persons addicted to drug abuse. While rehabilitating persons in need of care, it also has programmes to create a background for vulnerable persons from falling into trouble. The department also serves as a focal body coordinating, directing and overseeing activities conducted by social service organisations and voluntary organisations¹⁸.

The Department of Social Services plays an important role in recommending and directing resource allocation by the NGOs for individuals and communities in need. Activities of the department are coordinated through the divisionally placed Social Service Officers.

However, the Department of Social Services does not conduct specific activities with regard to children on the move; however, the rehabilitation programmes that come under the purview of the department cover vulnerable families of children on the move.

7.2.6 SAMUDHRI AUTHORITY OF SRI LANKA

Samurdhi Authority was set up under the Ministry of *Samurdhi*, Youth Affairs and Sports in 1994 with alterations to the “*Janasaviya*” poverty alleviation programme which was inaugurated in 1989¹⁹ The Authority functions under the purview of the Ministry of Nation Building and

¹⁸ Department of Social Services. 2009.

¹⁹ Stokke. K. 1995.

Estate Infrastructure Development²⁰. Although the *Samurdhi* programme does not particularly address the issues of children, most of the children on the move are from poor backgrounds and fall into the domain of the *Samurdhi* officer.

One of the major concerns of parents of children on the move was that they are not particularly happy about the selection criteria of families that are entitled for benefits from the *Samurdhi* programme.

7.3 COORDINATING BODIES

Child protection coordination bodies are established at district, divisional and *Grama Niladhari* level under sec. 15(e) of the NCPA Act No.50 of 1998. These coordination bodies identify issues pertaining to child protection, collectively formulate recommendations and develop child-centred action plans.

The committee at the district level is called District Child Development Committee (DCDC); Divisional level committee is the Divisional Child Protection Committee (DCPC) and at the *Grama Niladhari* Division level it is called Village Child Rights Monitoring Committee (VCRMC).

7.3.1 DISTRICT CHILD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEES (DCDC)

District Child Development Committees (DCDC) are chaired by the District Secretary and the Provincial Probations Commissioner of the respective area with the participation of all stakeholders involved in child protection and child development such as the Divisional Secretaries, health authorities, the Department of Education, the Police, social workers, and voluntary organisations. It is at the DCDC that the issues pertaining to children are lobbied and discussed in order to devise sustainable solutions for these issues. Development initiatives for children are introduced for feedback at the DCDCs.

²⁰ Samurdhi. 2009.

Even though in theory the DCDCs are meant to take place once a month, government allocations for such meetings are limited and as a result it has been difficult to conduct meetings regularly.

Furthermore, as a result of stakeholders planning all interventions without any input from children or the communities at the grassroots level, there are questions about the validity of such interventions from a child friendly perspective.

7.3.2 DIVISIONAL CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEES (DCPC)

In addition to the DCDCs, Circular CHWE/D/HOME/8/2006 issued by the Secretary of the Ministry of Child Development and Women's Empowerment²¹ initiated the Divisional Child Protection Committees that draft divisional action plans on child-centred programme interventions which are devised with stakeholder participation.

Stakeholder participation lack inputs from the community or from the children and the sustenance of DCPCs are dependant on the funding of well wishers of voluntary service organisations.

7.3.4 VILLAGE CHILD RIGHTS MONITORING COMMITTEES (VCRMC)

Village Child Rights Monitoring Committees (VCRMCs) are not established in every village. The Child Rights promotion officers (CRPOs) have been advised to set up such village based child rights monitoring bodies through a circular. This could be identified as a mechanism which has potential as the representatives of the VCRMCs are villagers themselves who know ground realities and root causes of the issues through which sustainable remedies could be devised.

²¹ Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka. 2007.

However, capacity building of the members of the VCRMCs will be needed, especially with regard to raising awareness on child rights and on ways and means of addressing issues on child rights and child protection. Civil Security Committees that were established at the village level during the unsettled security situation of the country could be easily amalgamated with the VCRMC structure or could be re-structured to perform such activities.

Civil Society Initiatives

Considering the complexity and gravity of the problem of children on the move, various programmes have been conducted in the Hambantota probation division within the last few years.

If not for various interventions by the NGO sector in addition to the investments of the Government, the status of the tsunami-affected communities could have remained in an appalling state. After the tsunami, many NGOs have evolved from organisations which predominantly invest in donation of goods to organisations which enhances knowledge and foster behavioural change of communities they work with.

Through the establishment of children's clubs and youth clubs, the participation and skills development of children has been enhanced. Parents, mainly the mothers have been granted more authority and a stake in nurturing children due to NGO interventions. For example, in some areas, small groups of mothers are led by a lead mother who is trained on areas such as nutrition, hygiene, child rights, education and economic empowerment to make possible the cost effective trickling down of resources. These initiatives have contributed for reducing the number of mothers depending on their children for an income.

Many interventions have been carried out by the NGO sector on education. These interventions include back-to-school programmes,

construction and maintenance of library facilities, computer laboratory facilities and construction of play areas for pre-school children. There have also been interventions to introduce standards for the pre-schools. Progress review meetings take place at the district level.

7.4.1 INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS (INGOs)

World Vision, the only international non-governmental organisation (INGO) which conducted activities specifically on children on the move in the Hambantota probation district is now in the process of phasing out from the district although it still conducts activities in the Lunugamvehera and Tissamaharama areas. The activities include; providing school equipment for children and facilitating in obtaining marriage certificates and birth certificates for children.

The post-tsunami influx of resources has created a dependency mindset within the coastal communities. In comparison, the interior areas such as Lunugamvehera, Suriyawewa and Katharagama have not benefited from the post-tsunami development interventions.

Many INGOs that set up operations after the tsunami have phased out from Hambantota and these organisations have not invested particularly on the issues pertaining to children on the move. Even if there were interventions, they have been unsustainable and small in scale. Withdrawal from funding and the consequent phasing out has led to the disruption of progressively developing a system favourable for children in some areas.

7.4.2 NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS (NGOs)

Local non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that conduct activities particularly on aspects of children are abundant. There are organisations that function as implementing partners of INGOs. The post-tsunami context has enabled many local NGOs to build capacity through acquisition of resources. There are also projects of INGOs that are registered and function as independent organisations.

The organisations that conduct activities on children include Shilpa Children's Trust, Sahanoda Foundation, Kalabala Bindu Children's Centre, Hambantota district ECCD Foundation, Ruhunu Wellassa Area Federation, Children's Resource Centre, Smile Lanka, Sarvodaya District Centre, Sewa Lanka Foundation and Youth Enterprises Information Centre.

There are many activities and interventions by NGOs, but the scale of such projects are not sufficient to fulfil the demand for services granted for children on the move. Activities performed by NGO's identified in the Hambantota probation district are given in Annex 1. Resource database.

The NGOs have failed to holistically identify the issue of children on the move in the district and continue to conduct projects in an ad hoc and uncoordinated manner. The issues related to children are much complicated than evident on the surface and when one problem is on the verge of being addressed, another problem crops up.

Parents and community groups who provide inaccurate information at the project inception and at the evaluations are also responsible for project failure. This is usually done by the prospective beneficiaries to deceive benefactors to acquire undue resources as the members of the communities compete for available resources.

Biased reporting to donors using a few case studies and success stories has resulted in disastrous outcomes. Corruption is rampant in procurement processes at different levels of authority. On many occasions, a single shop produces the three quotations required to justify a standard purchasing which has resulted in the pilfering of substantial proportions of the investments.

There are organisations which carry out many projects on children but are not participants of the DCDC or the DCPC which result in poor information sharing between stakeholders and a possible duplication of activities resulting in waste

of resources. In addition to the above, there have been occasions where NGOs compete to work for the same community without coordination or understanding.

7.4.3 PRIVATE CHILDREN'S INSTITUTIONS

In the Hambantota probation district, the main private children's homes are Agape Children's Home and the Weerawila Children's Home. These homes function in coordination with the Department of Probation and Childcare Services.

These institutions provide services for marginalised children, but the institutionalised rehabilitation process has many discrepancies that have serious consequences on the development of a child and on the attempts to mould these children into worthy citizens.

The selection criteria of children to be sent to such institutions are riddled with issues. There are children who have been taken to institutions without the consent of the child and sometimes without their parents consent. These selections are based on the judgments made by individual officers and superficial research.

It is alleged that some children are physically and mentally abused at the children's homes. There were cases of unethical religious conversions at the children's homes and convents.

An analysis of issues faced by institutionalised children is provided under Chapter 5, Human Rights Issues.

7.4.4 COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

There have been some initiatives by the community. Most often, these initiatives are led by the religious leaders in the area concerned. One such case was the intervention of the Chief Monk of Kiri Vehera in Katharagama. The Chief Monk has organised books and school uniforms for children who are not schooling so that they could go back to school. Earlier, he has also intervened and mediated and negotiated with the

relevant government authorities to provide land permits for the community around Kiri Vehera Temple in Katharagama.

7.5 CONCLUSION

The structure for child protection is in place to reach into the grassroots level, yet their effectiveness needs to be analyzed from the point of view of the people, and children who are meant to benefit from the structure.

As a result of almost all interventions planned by stakeholders, without much critique or input from children or the communities at the grassroots level, there are questions about the validity of interventions made under the systems in place from a child friendly perspective.

CHAPTER 8- PILOT INTERVENTIONS BASED ON RESEARCH FINDINGS

The study 'children on the move' was an action oriented research. Based on the findings of the study, a few pilot interventions were carried out. The pilot interventions included, training children as protagonists, creating a platform for children on the move to voice their issues with key stakeholders, supporting children to continue schooling and intervening in seven identified individual cases.

8.1 TRAINING CHILDREN AS PROTAGONISTS

Four training workshops were conducted in Lunugamvehera, Tissamaharamaya, Katharagama and Hambantota for identified children to train them on leadership skills and advocacy skills. The children received a training in developing their basic advocacy skills which included; training in public speaking and training in presenting the issues they face in a creative and appealing way to get the attention of the stakeholders.

8.2 STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP- A PLATFORM FOR CHILDREN ON THE MOVE TO VOICE THEIR ISSUES

A one-day stakeholder workshop was held with the participation of all key stakeholders (Government and NGOs) involved in child protection issues in the Hambantota probation district. It was an interactive and effective workshop where the key findings of the study were shared and the children on the move were given an opportunity to raise their concerns and issues. Sixteen children on the move, a selection of four children from each division in the sample area, participated in this workshop. They presented their issues by performing a drama, presenting a case study and a presentation. The stakeholders agreed to take prompt action for some issues raised at the stakeholder workshop.

8.3 SUPPORT CHILDREN TO CONTINUE SCHOOLING

Provided school bags, books and stationery for 16 identified children on the move to continue schooling.

8.4 SETTING UP RIGHTS-BASED CHILDREN'S ORGANISATIONS

The two workshops for children from each district were conducted in order to give these children an induction to the rights-based child participation in decision making. After the preliminary introduction to this concept, the children on the move gave their consent to establish a Rights Based Children's Organisations in the four sample areas.

8.5 PILOT INTERVENTIONS FOR SEVEN IDENTIFIED CASES

Pilot interventions include; vocational training for children; financial grants to setup self-employment for the child or family; obtaining documentation; sending children back to school; and identifying safe homes for children at risk.

CHAPTER 9-

RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations given below are directly linked to the study and are developed with the input of all stakeholders including government authorities, NGO activists, children on the move and community members.

9.1 STRENGTHEN THE IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISM

- Strengthen coordination mechanisms (intra NGO/CBO coordination, intra governmental agency coordination and inter NGO and government sector coordination) to work on children on the move programmes.
- Establish volunteer alert groups in villages that network with voluntary civil society organisations and relevant government mechanisms on child protection issues.
- Strengthen Village Child Rights Monitoring Committees (VCRMCs) established at the village level to protect and to redirect children to schooling.
- Effective networking among organisations to avoid repetition in interventions.
- Women's and Children's Desk in police stations should be made child-friendly.
- Accessibility for children

- Separate child-friendly space at police stations
- CRPO and all other officers work in an open space. If there is a need to speak to a child confidentially, there is no place allocated for children to speak to the officers in private. All CRPOs should be provided with a space that gives them the privacy to hold confidential meetings.
- It is necessary to take possible steps to increase field presence of CRPOs, NCPA officers, probation officers (i.e., increase travel allowance, regular monitoring reports)

9.2 PROMOTE CHILD ACTIVISM

- Promote child protagonism by initiating rights-based children's groups
- Train children to collect information and to advocate for their rights with the stakeholders
- Leadership development programmes for children on the move

9.3 CONDUCT AWARENESS RAISING PROGRAMMES

- Awareness raising programmes for children on the move- legal instruments and mechanisms related to children on the move and how they could safeguard their rights; importance of education; social responsibility, hygiene, nutrition, financial management, prevention of substance abuse, family planning, sexually transmitted infections, avoiding and responding to child abuse, prevention and mitigation of trafficking
- Awareness raising programmes for community- importance of education; importance of pre-school education, parenting, positive

disciplining, social responsibility, hygiene, nutrition, financial management, prevention of substance abuse, family planning, sexually transmitted infections, preventing birth deformities, abuse, prevention and mitigation of trafficking

- Awareness raising programmes for host community (Teachers, parents and children of host schools)- acceptance of diversity, caring and sharing
- Awareness raising programmes for probation officers, police officers, CRPOs- child friendly, receptive, community based rehabilitation, practicing child rights

9.4 ADDRESS POVERTY

- Providing landless families with land to utilise for agricultural purposes
- Providing low-interest loan schemes for vulnerable communities
- Establishing community owned co-operative system that would manufacture and market products bypassing middlemen
- Creating employment opportunities for parents and guardians of children on the move
- Promote clever investment options

9.5 SAFE EMPLOYMENT

- Minimum age for employment should be revised to allow children younger than 14 to participate in economic activities without disrupting their education. Engaging in lawful employment for young children should not be a reason for detention and institutionalisation.

- Introduce easily accessible, low-interest, loan schemes for self-employment and community-based initiatives
- Develop a skill pool consisting of children on the move in working areas

9.6 ENHANCE ACCESS TO EDUCATION

- Provide school equipment (uniforms, textbooks) for children who do not possess documentation
- Expand free mid-day meal programme for all children
- Reduce information gap by providing IT facilities, training on IT for children in poor schools and establishing 'Nana Sala' programme implemented through the Information and Communication Technology Agency (ICTA) of Sri Lanka in rural areas to provide access to internet
- Back to school programmes
 - Standardisation of back-to-school programmes
 - Development of a curriculum
 - Multi-stakeholder involvement in the process of designing, implementing and monitoring (Civil Defence Committee, CBOs, NGOs, School Development Society, parents, principals, teachers, prefects)
 - Training teachers on special education

9.7 DEVELOP SKILLS THROUGH VOCATIONAL TRAINING

- Vocational training should be accessible, marketable and affordable.
- Increase the diversity of courses
- Improving quality of the courses offered at the vocational training institutes to nurture marketable skills
- Reduce the minimum age limit to enter vocational training to 14 + to accommodate children who have just passed the compulsory formal education and has dropped out of school
- Introduce bridge programmes for children who don't fulfil the minimum qualification criteria to enter vocational training.

9.8 PROVIDE PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

- Access to counselling and psychosocial support for children on the move
- Day-care centres for vulnerable children.
- Provide technical support, easily accessible low-interest loan schemes, land titles, to homeless, vulnerable families.

9.9 PROVIDE DOCUMENTATION

- Conduct mobile programmes in providing documentation - Birth certificates, marriage certificates and identity cards

9.10 STOP RELIGIOUS CONVERSIONS

- Enacting the unethical conversions bill and implementing the act

9.11 ADOPT REHABILITATIVE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Develop a rehabilitative framework for juvenile justice considering the following aspects-

- offenders under 18 are treated as children;
- Set up juvenile courts in all districts
- Institutionalisation should be the last resort for juvenile convicts
- Allocation of separate child-friendly spaces at police stations and detention centres
- Establish an interactive Child Ombudsman
- Reconsider the criminal offences charged against children
- Separate transport arrangements to travel to courts for children under the purview of the law

9.12 MAINTAIN BETTER STANDARDS IN INSTITUTIONS

- Standardise the facilities provided by the institution including food, accommodation facilities, hygiene, clothing, access to health, access to education, freedom to practice one's religion, and recreational facilities. Poverty should not be a reason for institutionalising children

- Maintain standards in care in the institutions through human resource development for the staff of institutions on training on child rights, nurturing, child psychology, role of the caretaker and positive disciplining
- Web-based multi-stakeholder monitoring mechanism on institutionalisation. Maintain a comprehensive portal to monitor the standards of institutions. MoH to visit institutions regularly to monitor health standards; CRPO to monitor and report child rights situation in institutions; NCPA officer to monitor child protection aspects; probation officers to work on possibilities of de-institutionalisation and social reintegration including children reaching 18 years; Zonal Education Department to monitor compulsory education and vocational training for children
- Capacity building of Department of Probation and Childcare Services on community based rehabilitation
- Provide counselling and psychosocial support to children and staff of institutions on regular basis
- Promote family interaction (allow regular family visits; allow children to go back to their parents during weekends and holidays)
- Conduct a census on existing institutions and institutionalised children
- Enforce the existing policy on compulsory registration of all childcare institutions under Department of Probation and Childcare Services

9.13 PROTECT CHILD MOTHERS

- Develop a National Policy on child mothers through an in-depth consultative approach.

The policy should cover the following issues pertaining to child mothers and children being born to child mothers

- Ownership of the child
- Documentation- Registration of child marriages, birth certificates
- Health and nutrition
- Community based nurturing (adoption as the last option)
- Promoting responsibilities of partner or perpetrator in fostering the child
- Enhancing the economic status of the family
- De-Institutionalisation
- Access to education
- Juvenile justice
- Addressing social stigmatisation

9.14 ADDRESS TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN

- Register all institutions
- Access to free legal aid programmes and counselling for victims of trafficking
- Establish information centres for victims and potential victims of trafficking
- Develop skills of law enforcement officers to counter trafficking
- Develop standardised reporting forms for use in police stations on crimes

9.15 ADOPT BEST PRACTICES IN INTERVENTIONS

- Holistic, rights-based programming for children on the move
- Multi-stakeholder involvement in programming
- Not paying an allowance for children to participate in meetings and child rights activities. Now NGOs have created a culture where children participate in activities looking for monetary gains. It has become difficult for the Government to promote children's participation in programmes.
- Multi-faceted approach should be used where interventions are made on matters regarding food, shelter, mentality change, livelihood, toilet facilities, manners, and family ethics.
- Every intervention should have basic legal aspects fulfilled in order to ensure accountability towards other parties involved in the programmes
- Avoid dependency of beneficiaries by helping families to help themselves rather than giving materials and cash grants.
- Ensure community ownership of all the interventions
- Develop community-based action plans for intervention with the participation of children on the move
- Develop family-based plans for sustainable individual case interventions
- Proper evaluation process for interventions on children on the move

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ANNEX 1-

RESOURCE DATABASE

1. GOVERNMENT

1.1 NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION AUTHORITY (NCPA)

I. Contact details of the organisation

- Contact person name : Mr Kumarasiri
- Designation : District Coordinator
- Address of organisation: NCPA, District Secretariat
- Telephone : 047-2220174 / 222
- Fax : 047-2220247
- E-mail : geethikathara@yahoo.com

2. Basic information

- Type of the organisation : Government
- Year Established : NCPA 1998 – 2005 in Hambantota district
- Geographical coverage : District of Hambantota
- Donors : Government funded
- Objective/s of the organisation : Prevent child abuse and protect children
- Activities of Organisation:
 - Conduct awareness programmes
 - Conduct street children programmes
 - Establish school child protection committee
 - Child protection awareness team (adult group)
 - Advocacy / legal / mediation / coordination
 - Organise activities at the District Secretariat

3. Current projects

- Project Name : Street children project

- Objectives : Prevent mothers coming into the street with children and also to prevent children coming themselves
- Location : Tangalle, Hambantota, Tissamaharamaya
- Beneficiaries : Children on the street and their parents
- Duration : 1 year – 2008-2009
- Activities
 - Identify children
 - Identify their problems
 - Provide identity cards
 - Send children to school
 - Vocational training for non-schooling children
- Total value of the project : Rs 100,000
- Sustainability of the project : Each year the NCPA will continue the same work depending on the needs

1.2 SAMURDHI AUTHORITY

I. Contact details of the organisation

- Contact person name : Mr. Rasika Chandana
- Designation : Social Development officer
- Address of organisation : Divisional Secretariat - Lunugamwehera
- Telephone : 047-2220253

2. Basic information

- Type of the organisation : Government
- Year Established : 2000
- Geographical coverage : DS divisions of Lunugamwehera
- Objective/s of the organisation:
 - Prevention of child abuse
 - Conduct literacy programmes
 - Conduct drug prevention programmes
 - Women's welfare
 - Conduct prison programmes
- Activities of Organisation:
 - Housing project
 - Provide awareness on the dangers of drug use and selling
 - Awareness on home management
 - Back-to-school programme
- Main on-going project titles:
 - Housing project
 - "Soduru" village programme

1.3 SOCIAL SERVICE DEPARTMENT

1. Contact details of the organisation

- Contact person name : W.A. Premadasa
- Designation : District Coordinator
- Address of organisation : District Secretariat , Hambantota
- Telephone : 047-2220174 / 219
- Fax : 047-2220247

2. Basic information

- Type of the organisation : Government
- Year Established : 2005
- Objective/s of the organisation:
 - Help marginalised people
 - Proper coordination among government and non governmental agencies
 - Address problems and issues of society
- Activities of Organisation:
 - Vocational training for disabled people
 - Rehabilitation and training for people addicted to drugs
 - CBR project coordination
 - Welfare of adults
 - Welfare of disabled people
 - Disaster Management coordination work
- Main ongoing project titles: CBR – Community Based Rehabilitation for disabled children

3. Current projects

- Project Name : CBR Programme
- Objectives:
 - Protect the rights of children with disabilities
 - Help children with disabilities to develop
- Location : Hambantota district
- Beneficiaries : Direct - People with disabilities
- Duration : Annually
- Activities:
 - Identify disabled people
 - Planning for rehabilitation

- Coordination among zonal, divisional, district and national
- Total value of the project : Rs 300,000 - 400,000
- Funding agent : Government – CAMID (for projects) / Nawajeewana
- Project partners and role in brief: Awareness + training volunteers, Funding + clinics, counselling

4. Past Projects of the organisation

- Project Name : Early childhood development project
- Objectives : Interventions to support pre-schools in fostering intelligent children
- Location : Hambantota district
- Beneficiaries : Direct - Preschool school children
- Duration : Two years
- Activities:
 - Awareness programme for preschool teachers
 - Parent awareness and discussion
 - Provide materials, play items and kitchen items
- Funding agent: Poor Relief Department
- Project partners and role in brief : Funding
- Sustainability of the project : the project will be handed over to the stakeholders
 - *Samurdhi*
 - Children and Women's Bureau and the Ministry
 - *Pradeshiya Sabha*
 - Provincial Council

5. Future Projects of the organisation

- Project Name : Child guide centre
- Objectives : Identify disabled children and rehabilitate in CBR
- Location : Hambantota DS division
- Beneficiaries : Direct - Disabled children
- Duration : Annually
- Activities:
 - Identify children with disabilities
 - Refer for clinics
 - Awareness and counselling for parent
 - Connect with school and pre school
 - Vocational training
- Funding agent : Poor Relief Department

- Project partners and role in brief : Funding
- Sustainability of the project: Will hand over to the stakeholders
 - *Samurdhi*
 - Children and Women's Bureau and the Ministry
 - *Pradeshiya Sabha*
 - Provincial council

2 NON- GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS (NGOs)

2.1 CHILD RESOURCE CENTRE

1. Contact details of the organisation

- Contact person : G.M. Nadeesha Dilani
- Designation : Principle
- Address of organisation : 108/3, Gonnoruwa Rd, Baddawala, Hambantota
- Telephone : 047-2222271
- Fax : 47-2223658
- E-mail : crcsrila@yahoo.com, Srilanka.children@gmail.com
- Type of organisation : NGO

2. Basic information

- Type of registration: Registrar of Companies
- Year Established – 2005
- Annual budget – Rs 2,400,000
- Geographical coverage - DS divisions of Ambalanthota and Hambantota
- Donors – Malalasekara Foundation
- Objective/s of the organisation: Build a prosperous future for vulnerable children
- Activities of the Organisation
 - Psychosocial programme
 - Awareness programme on child development and protection
 - Provide knowledge on computer and English
 - Transportation facility
 - Work on nutrition-related matters of children

2.2 HAMBANTOTA DISTRICT EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

1. Contact details of the organisation

- Contact person name : Kinchigune Dammina Himi
- Designation : Director
- Address of organisation : Mahanama Budist Centre, Sooriya Wewa,
NawamayuraPura, Hambantota
- Telephone : 047-3486701 / 0718-008855
- E-mail : kdaminda@yahoo.com
- Website : www.hadeflanka.org

2. Basic information

- Type of the organisation : NGO
- Type of registration : District Secretariat / Divisional Secretariat
- Year Established : 2005
- Annual budget : Rs 6,000,000
- Geographical coverage: Districts of Hambantota & Katharagama)
- Donors : Christian Fund, Well wishers (Individual Donors) and Tsunami Haven Project (Canada)
- Objective/s of the organisation: Qualitative and physical development during early childhood at the preschools in Hambantota and Monaragala Districts
- Activities of Organisation :
 - Construction and renovation of pre-schools
 - Promote pre-schools to government standards
 - Long-term and short-term courses for preschool teachers
 - Monthly payment for the teachers
 - Establish parents committee and strengthen them
- Main on-going project titles

Early Childhood Development Programme

3. Current projects

- Project Name : Scholarship programme for 50 children who lost their parent
due to tsunami
- Objectives : Uplift their education
- Location : Sooriyawewa DS division

- Beneficiaries : 59
- Duration : Since 2005
- Activities : Monthly payment

Establish a child's club

- Total value of the project : Rs 590,000 per year
- Funding agent : Reigin thanuji international co-operation
- Project partners and role in brief: Funding Partner

2.3 KANTHA SANWARDANA MAHA SANGAMAYA (WDF)

I. Contact details of the organisation

- Contact person name : Mrs. Shriyani
- Designation : Managing Director
- Address of organisation : Wiharamahadevi Centre, Old Tangalle Road,
Hambantota
- Telephone : 047-2220499 / 047-2221022

2. Basic information

- Type of the organisation : NGO
- Year Established : Registrar of Companies
- Annual budget : 1989
- Geographical coverage : Districts of Hambantota, DS divisions of
Thanamalwila – Monaragala district
- Donors : Revolving loan fund
Stromme Foundation
- Objective/s of the organisation : To uplift the poor families and to be the
biggest microfinance programme in South Asia.
- Activities of Organisation
 - Revolving loan fund
 - Social Savings
 - Community project (Child & Adult)
 - Programmes on child rights and violence against women
 - Social mobilisation
 - Vocational Training (Self Employment)
- Main on-going project titles
 - Establish children's club (one per village) awareness / education /
Savings
 - Day-care centre
 - Library programme
 - SIGITHI POLA / Camps
 - Scholarship programme

3. Current projects

- Project Name : Community Education project
- Objectives : Resend children who drop out of school
- Location : Hambantota DS division
- Beneficiaries : 1000 - 1500
- Duration: 2009-2012
- Activities
 - Collect information about non-schooling children
 - Send them to schools
 - Vocational training for those who can't go to school
- Total value of the project : Rs 10,000
- Funding agent : Stromme Foundation
- Project partners and role in brief: Funding Partner
- Sustainability of the project: When funding ends WDF will continue the project

2.4 RUHUNU WELLASSA AREA FEDERATION (CF SRI LANKA)

I. Contact details of the organisation

- Contact person name : Sunil Punchihewa
- Designation : Federation Manager
- Address of organisation: Ruhunu Wellassa Area Federation, No 77, New Road, Hambantota.
- Telephone : 047-2220193
- Fax : 047-2220193
- E-mail : info@ruhunuwellassa.com

2. Basic information

- Type of the organisation : NGO
- Type of registration : Registrar of Companies
- Geographical coverage : Districts of Hambantota and Monaragala
- Donors : Child Fund – Sri Lanka
- Objective/s of the organisation : To strength the “holistic development” of deprived, excluded and vulnerable children
- Activities of Organisation
 - Health improvement
 - Education status improvement
 - Capacity building of children and youth
- Main on-going project titles
 - Toilet construction programme – home based and at schools
 - Water and sanitation improvement in the communities and in schools
 - ECCD activities
 - Educational support. Curriculum development (Science, Maths, English and IT)
 - Youth development activities
 - Capacity building
 - Child protection

3. Current projects

- Project Name : To improve the quality of life of children and their families

living in RWAF zones

- Objectives
 - To improve access to water and sanitation facilities in selected schools and communities in project areas by 2010
 - To reduce incidences of water and vector borne diseases and respiratory infections through improved domestic and outdoor environmental cleanliness and hygiene in project areas by year 2010
 - To improve the nutritional status of pregnant mothers and children under five years by year 2010
 - To enhance the knowledge of adolescent boys and girls on reproductive health by year 2010
 - To reduce incidence of water and vector borne diseases and respiratory infections through improved domestic and outdoor environmental cleanliness and hygiene in project areas by the year 2010
 - To improve the nutritional status of pregnant mothers and children under 05 years by 30% in the project area by the year 2010
 - To enhance the knowledge of adolescent boys and girls on reproductive health in the project area by the year 2010
- Location : Hambantota District
- Duration: 3 years (2006 – 2009)
- Activities:
 - Build/Improve school toilet systems annually
 - Improve accessibility to safe and adequate water facilities at Schools/Communities
 - Create awareness on proper light and ventilation arrangements and adequate space in houses and the advantage of smoke free houses and kitchens.
 - Create awareness and implement a project on fuel efficient and less smoke stoves.
 - Create awareness for mothers on food hygiene
 - Create awareness on proper garbage disposal and maintenance of compost pits
 - Enhance hygiene and sanitation education in schools and homes through school health clubs in 33 schools in the project area
 - Progress Review Meeting for all stakeholders- Jan 2009
 - Regular monthly visits by P.H.I during the first school term in 2009 to all

selected schools

- Organise competitions – Best School (Essay competition/ Drawing Competition)
 - Grand finale and award ceremony
 - Select and train volunteer lead mothers in home based ECCD
 - Create awareness among pregnant, lactating mothers and mothers of children under five years
 - Improve knowledge among adolescent boys and girls on reproductive health
 - Awareness programmes for School Health Club Members
- Funding agent : CF Sri Lanka
 - Project partners and role in brief:
 - Hambantota District Early Childhood Development Foundation
 - Ministry of Education and Health
 - Sustainability of the project
 - Parents committee

2.5 SAHANODA PADANAMA

1. Contact details of the organisation

- Contact person name : Youth Enterprises Information Center
- Designation : District Coordinator
- Address of organisation : 28, Peris Kahawita Mawatha, Attidiya, Dehiwala
- Telephone : 0112-761823
- Fax : 0112-761833

2. Basic information

- Type of the organisation : INGO
- Type of registration : NGO Secretariat
- Year Established : 1995 – 2005(registered)
- Geographical coverage : Island wide
- Donors : The organisation functions under an executive body and the executive body provides funds which they find from various means.
- Objective/s of the organisation
 - To serve people at all the ages (child/ youth / adult / old)
 - Provide family security for the tsunami-affected children without letting them to be cared for under probation service
- Activities of Organisation
 - Pay education expenses each month
 - Observe educational activities
 - Extra classes
 - Skills development programmes
- Main on-going project titles
 - Rural water project
 - Elders home
 - Scholarship
 - Temples development programmes
 - SUWASARANA programme (Contact lenses/ wheel chair / beds)

2.6 SARVODAYA DISTRICT OFFICE

1. Contact details of the organisation

- Contact person name : M.K.Champika
- Designation : District coordinator
- Address of organisation: No. 200, Old Tangalle Rd, Hambantota
- Telephone : 047-2220329

2. Basic information

- Type of the organisation : NGO
- Type of registration : Incorporated by Act of parliament
- Year Established : 1972
- Geographical coverage: Sarvodaya has an island-wide coverage. District office of Sarvodaya is active only in Hambantota
- Objective/s of the organisation : To create a society pattern without poor and luxurious
- Activities of Organisation
 - Community health
 - Legal aid
 - KULAGANA Society
 - Economic programme
 - Social programme
 - Scholarship programme for children affected by the tsunami
 - Peace through sports – ethnic harmony programme
- Main on-going project titles
 - NCA Project – empower the community to prevent violence against women in ten selected villages
 - Nutrition programme – for children aged below five and breast feeding mothers
 - Legal aid and children circle programme

3. Current projects

- Project Name : Legal Aid service society
- Objectives : Provide for the legal needs of the rural community and support legal issues

- Location : Sooriyawewa DS division
- Beneficiaries : 2000-3000
- Duration: Since 2005
- Activities
 - Settle minor conflicts
 - Coordinate the institutes
 - Children's circle to develop the personality and attitude of children.
 - Awareness and advocacy/ counselling
 - Family and individual counselling
 - Mediate in court cases
 - Legal aid clinic / Advocacy
- Funding agent: Sarvodaya

4. Past Projects of the organisation

- Project Name: Project for the establishment of a social protection system for children
- Objectives: Protection for tsunami affected and orphaned children
- Location : Tissamaharamaya, Hambantota, Ambalanthota, Tangalle DS divisions
- Beneficiaries: 2800
- Duration: 2 years
- Activities:
 - Educational / Arts / Cultural / Sports, activities led by two trained teachers along with identified five youth in the village. (Providing clothes, educational material, sports items)
- Funding agent : UNICEF
- Project partners and role in brief: Funder
- Sustainability of the project: This will be handed over to Sarvodaya Village society

2.7 SEWA LANKA FOUNDATION – HAMBANTOTA

1. Contact details of the organisation

- Contact person name : Mr. Jayantha Wijesinhe
- Designation : District Director
- Address of organisation: 889/01,Ekkassa , Ambalantota
- Telephone : 047-2225512 / 047-5675614
- Fax : 047-2223658
- E-mail : hambanthota@sewalanka.org

2. Basic information

- Type of the organisation : NGO
- Type of registration : Registrar of Companies - NGO Secretariat
- Year Established : 1992 – National Office , 1998 – Hambantota
- Annual budget : Rs 6,000,000
- Geographical coverage : District of Hambantota
- Donors :
 - Norwegian embassy
 - Force of Nature
 - EU
- Objective/s of the organisation

To enhance the capacity of disadvantaged rural communities to identify and address their own development needs. Through our own professionals and our links with other service providers, we coordinate training and support services that contribute to the economically viable, socially just and ecologically sustainable development of Sri Lanka.
- Activities of Organisation
 - Organisational development
 - Economic / Social / welfare activities
 - Financial facilities / self employment
 - Facilitate for market
 - Gender / Child Development / Environmental protection
- Main on-going project titles
 - Develop the CBOs and develop home gardening programme
 - Psychosocial and child development programme (OUR HOME)
 - Microfinance

- Migrant Access project

3. Current projects

- Project Name : Psychosocial and child development project
- Objectives
 - At the beginning, development of women and children affected by tsunami
 - Counselling programme for family and social issues
- Location : Siribopura - Hambantota district
- Beneficiaries : 1000 - 1500
- Duration : 3 years (2007 February to 2010 March)
- Activities
 - Counselling
 - Collect information about those who need counselling
 - Directing and coordinating
 - Child friendly environment and extra classes
- Total value of the project : Rs 5,000,000
- Funding agent : Force of Nature
- Project partners and role in brief: Funding Partner
- Sustainability of the project: After the project, CBO's and trained officers will continue the activities with the support of established

2.8 SHILPA CHILDREN'S TRUST

1. Contact details of the organisation

- Contact person name : Mrs. Sarojanie Amarasinhe
- Designation : Project Manager
- Address of organisation: 111, New Road, Hambantota
- Telephone : 047-2222337
- E-mail : shilpa_children_trust@yahoo.com

2. Basic information

- Type of the organisation : NGO
- Type of registration : NGO Secretariat
- Year Established : 1988 (2005 in Hambantota)
- Geographical coverage : Colombo, Kalutara, Hambantota
- Donors :
 - International Child Fund
 - Individual Donors
- Objective/s of the organisation : Physical and mental development of children affected by tsunami and war
- Activities of Organisation
 - Scholarship (monthly Rs 3000 for three years)
 - Income generation activities
 - Family counselling
 - Awareness on family planning
 - Development of schools
 - Agricultural development
- Main on-going project titles
 - Agriculture project(Awareness for 17 farmer families)
 - Scholarship programme for school children (35 x 3000/=)
 - Psychosocial development of schools
 - Career guidance programme
 - Microfinance

3. Current projects

- Project Name : Sponsorship Programme

- Objectives : Sponsorship Programme
 - Location : Hambantota district
 - Beneficiaries : Children orphaned by the tsunami
 - Duration: 3 years
 - Activities:
 - Rs 3000 savings per month deposited in a bank
 - Medical camps
 - Workshop on Art / Dancing therapy
 - Training in sewing for guardian
 - Total value of the project
 - Funding agent: International Children trust / global fund and individual donors
 - Project partners and role in brief: Funding
 - Sustainability of the project
- Will hand over to the stakeholders
- *Samurdhi*
 - Children and Women's Bureau and Ministry
 - *Pradeshiya Sabha*
 - Provincial council

4. Future Projects of the organisation

- Project Name: Scholarship programme
- Objectives:
 - Educational development
 - Income generation for guardian
- Location : Hambantota and Kalutara districts
- Beneficiaries : Children age between 5 – 12
- Activities : Providing Scholarship

2.9 YOUTH ENTERPRISES INFORMATION CENTRE

1. Contact details of the organisation

Contact person name : Mr. Wijerathne

- Designation : Coordinator
- Address of organisation: Malpettawa, Ambalangoda
- Telephone: 0712673384

2. Basic information

- Type of the organisation : NGO
- Type of registration : NGO Secretariat, District Secretariat / Divisional Secretariat
- Year Established : 1989 – 1992 (Registered)
- Annual budget : Rs 5,000,000
- Geographical coverage : District of Hambantota
- Donors :
 - SLCDF
 - WUSC
 - IUCN
 - OXFAM GB
- Objective/s of the organisation
Vision : A Society with a minimum of underprivileged persons
Mission : To be a leading institution facilitating underprivileged communities to raise their standard of living in a sustainable manner
- Activities of Organisation
 - Vocational Training
 - Social Development and Empowering
 - Social work (counselling / Environments)
 - Child Development
 - Weekend movement – women empowerment. Work against discrimination/abuse
- Main on-going project titles
 - Programme to prevent violation against women and children
 - Environmental protection programme
 - Social mobilisation

- Vocational training

3. Current projects

- Project Name: Programme to prevent violation against women and children
- Objectives
 - Help the vulnerable children and women who has problems in their homes due to drug addiction and other problems
 - Work for the education and other development of those children
 - Direct vocational training for those who above 16 years of age.
- Location : Hambantota district
- Beneficiaries Direct- 700 - 800
 Indirect - 2000
- Duration: One year
- Activities
 - Awareness programme
 - Group work (Creative and presentation)
 - Exhibition (Banner / poster/ Painting)
 - Drama
 - Lectures / Seminars
 - Provide milk cows
- Total value of the project : Rs 1,000,000
- Funding agent: SLCDF / OXFAM GB
- Project partners and role in brief: Funding Partner
- Sustainability of the project
 - Establish small groups and give them the responsibilities
 - Train volunteer social mobilises and give them responsibilities
 -

4. Past Projects of the organisation

- Project Name : Psychosocial Programme
- Objectives : Mix the vulnerable and other children together and let them engage in creative activities
- Location : 5 GN divisions in Hambantota district
- Beneficiaries Direct- 150
 Indirect - 300
- Duration : 1 1/2years
- Activities :

- Children's Camps
- Clinic (Children and adults)
- Conduct research about vulnerabilities
- Income generation programmes (sewing classes / loans schemes)
- Total value of the project : Rs 700,000
- Funding agent : IWTHI Trust
- Project partners and role in brief: Funding agent
- Sustainability of the project : Establish a children's club and let the activities be conducted by the club

5. Future projects on the move

- Project Name : Psychosocial Programme
- Objectives:
 - Let children exchange their experiences, abilities and attitudes for making change for the better
 - develop a better relationship between children and their parents
- Location : Ambalanthota and Thangalla

3 RELIGIOUS

3.1 KOTTE NIPON TEMPLE

1. Contact details of the organisation

- Contact person name : Rev. Wibhawi Himi
- Designation : Chief Monk
- Address of organisation : Gunananda Pirivena, Hambantota
- Telephone : 047-2220313

2. Basic information

- Type of the organisation : Religious Institution
- Annual budget : 1000x20x12 = Rs 240,000
- Geographical coverage : DS division of Hambantota
- Donors : NIPON
- Objective/s of the organisation : Help orphaned children in their education
- Activities of Organisation
 - Monetary assistance (Rs 1000 per month)
 - Children's camp
 - Japan Tours

3.2 WELLAWATTE INTERNATIONAL BUDDHIST CENTRE (LIGHT A LIFE PRE-SCHOOL)

1. Contact details of the organisation

- Contact person name : Ven. Maharagama Mahinda thero
- Designation : Director – Chief monk
- Address of organisation : Kada Suridu Gama, Raja Mawatha
- Telephone : 011-4964650
- Fax : 011-4964650

2. Basic information

- Type of the organisation: NGO (a project by the temple)
- Type of registration Other : Provincial Council
- Year Established: 2007
- Geographical coverage : GN Division of Kadasuridu Gama.
- Objective/s of the organisation : Better Development of Children
- Activities of Organisation
 - Teach children aesthetic subjects : Music / Drama / Dancing / Painting (by using waste material)
 - Mud mount therapies
 - Community awareness through activities
 - Create free environment for children
 - Different messages to society through street drama (drug prevention / Health / child abuse / Peace etc)

ANNEX 2 :

KEY STAKEHOLDERS

INTERVIEWED

	Name	Designation
1	Ms. Purnima Abeysiriwardena	Commissioner of the Probation and Childcare Services, Southern province, Galle
2	Mr. A Weeraratne	Women's Development Federation, Hambantota
3	Ms. Sriyani Mangalika	General Manager, Women's Development Federation, Hambantota
4	Ms. Shanthilatha	Administrative/ Management staff member, Women's Development Federation, Hambantota
5	Ms. Manoja	Administrative/ Management staff member, Women's Development Federation, Hambantota
6	Ms. Priyangika	Administrative/ Management staff member, Women's Development Federation, Hambantota
7	Ms. Sumanaseeli	Principal, Samodagama Junior School, Hambantota
8	Mr. L Y Nelson Seneviratne	Additional Director, Non Formal Education, Zonal Education Office, Ambalantota
9	Mr. T H Nalin	Zonal Director of Education, Zonal Education Office, Ambalantota
10	Ms. W A B Damayanthi	CRPO Suriyawewa
11	Mr. N K R Pathirana	Divisional Secretary, Suriyawewa
12	Mr. Nandasiri Jayaweera	Assistant Director, Planning, District Secretariat, Hambantota
13	Mr. Rohan Kumarasiri	District Coordinator of NCPA, Hambantota

14	Ms. Geethika Ratnayake	District Psychosocial Coordinator, Hambantota
15	Mr. B N Ekanayake	OIC Police, Ambalantota
16	Mr. Gamage (45087)	Police Constable, Ambalantota Police
17	Mr. T H Somipala	Secretary, Civil Security Committee, Ridiyagama
18	R M V Shanthi Jayasekara	Divisional Secretary, Ambalantota
19	Ms. Malimbada	Woman Police Sergeant, Hambantota Police
20	Mr. N V G Pathmasiri	CRPO, Divisional Secretariat, Hambantota
21	Ms. W K Krishanthi Kokila	Advocacy Assistant, Ministry of Social Services, Divisional Secretariat, Hambantota
22	Mr. S Jinasiri	Public Health Inspector, Urban Council, Hambantota
23	Ms. S P Karunaratne (6081)	Woman Police Sergeant, Tissamaharama
24	Mr. H S N D Z Siriwardhane	Divisional Secretary, Tissamaharama
25	Ms. Chandani Srimathi	CRPO, Tissamaharama
26	Mr. Laksiri Chandima	OIC, Police, Katharagama
27	Mr. Bandara	CRPO, Katharagama
28	Mr. Lakshman Kumara	Coordinator, Nena Sarana Community Learning Centre, Katharagama
29	Ms. Pramila	Coordinator, Nena Sarana Community Learning Centre, Katharagama
30	Ms. S O M Vineetha	Woman Police Sergeant, Lunugamvehera
31	Ms. Chandani Srimanthi	CRPO, Lunugamvehera
32	Ms. E K E Suneetha	Divisional Secretary, Lunugamvehera
33	Mr. Wasantha Pushpakumara	Civil Security Committee, Fisheries village, Lunugamvehera
34	Ms. Pushpamali	Probation officer, Hambantota
35	Ven. Wibhavi	Chief Monk, NIPPON Kotte Mahindaramaya, Hambantota
36	Mr. G Ekanayake	Chairman, Youth Enterprises Information Centre, Ambalantota
37	Mr. Jayantha Wijesinghe	District Director, Sewa Lanka Foundation, Ambalantota

38	Ven. Kinchigune Daminda	Director, Hambantota District ECCD foundation
39	Ms. M Champika Sri Kumari	District Coordinator, Sarvodaya District Centre, Hambantota
40	Ms. H B Nalini	Administration Officer, Smile Lanka, Hambantota
41	Mr. Kanishka Rathnayake	Programme Coordinator, World Vision, Tissamaharama
42	Mr. G M Nadeesha Dilani	Principal, Children's Resource Centre, Hambantota
43	Mr. W A Premadasa	District Coordinator, Social Service Department, Hambantota
44	Mr. Sunil Punchihewa	Federation Manager, Ruhunu Wellassa Area federation, Hambantota
45	Ms. J A Surangi	Administrative Officer, Kalabala Bindu Children's Centre
46	Mrs. Diann Rodrigo	District Coordinator, <i>Sahanoda</i> Foundation, Dehiwala
47	Mrs. Sarijanie Amarasinghe	Project Manager, <i>Shilpa</i> Children's Trust
48	Mr. Somipala Rajapaksa	Principal, President's College, Katharagama
49		Principal, Detagamuwa Junior School
50	Ms. Nimala Nandani	Social Worker/ Community Leader, Samagipura Hambantota
51	Mr. Somapala	Social Worker/ Community Leader, Lunugamvehera
52	Mr. Siripala	Social Worker/ Community Leader, Katharagama
53	Ms. Yasawathie	Social Worker/ Community Leader, Kohombagaspelessa, Tissamaharama
54	Mr. Jayawardena	Non Formal Education Division, Department of Education, Zonal Education Office, Monaragala