

**AN EVALUATION OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTED TO UPLIFT THE LIVING  
STANDARDS OF COMMUNITY AROUND  
DAMBULU-OYA RESERVOIR**

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**INTRODUCTION**

A Socio-economic Development Programme was conducted from October, 2002, around Dambulu-oya reservoir, in Matale District, Central Province of Sri Lanka, about 3 km west of Dambulla town. There are 403 farm families in this programme undertaken by Aquatic Resources Development Project (ADP) of University of Peradeniya, which is funded by Regional Economic Advancement Project in Matale. Of them 85% are farmers, involved with crop and livestock farming and fishing. The objective of the project had been to develop a holistic approach for sustainable management of this common pool resource.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

Three villages around Dambulu-oya reservoir, *viz.*, Thennakoonpura, Phohoranwewa and Ibbankatuwa were used as the project area. Primary data were collected using a structured questionnaire holding informal and formal discussions with 80 families living in these villages. Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) and EXCEL were used to analyze data. CHISQ of SPSS was performed to determine whether there is association between income and other related factors.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The holistic approach of the PRI Model developed by ADP has shown a success. Socio-Economic conditions are at a satisfactory level in this community at present. Monthly income (Fig.1) and motivation towards the education of children have improved. Alcoholism and monthly expenditure have significantly reduced during the period of the project and percentage integrated farmers have increased (Table 1). Living standard of people has improved. Majority of the households have electricity (78%), telephones (9%), water (91%), other assets; VCDs/DVDs (27.5%) and agricultural equipments; tractors, napsacs, water pumps (74%). More credit facilities have been received from fisheries co-operative society and government banks (Table 2). Integrated farming, non-alcoholism and cultivated land area, are the factors, which have contributed significantly ( $p < 0.1$ ) toward Socio-Economic upliftment of the community.