



AGEING POPULATION OF SRI LANKA

EMERGING ISSUES, NEEDS AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Thematic Report based on Census of Population and Housing 2012



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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL - DEPARTMENT OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS



The Department of Census and Statistics (DCS), under the Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs, is the Central Government agency that collects, compiles and disseminates relevant, reliable and up-to-date statistical information required to plan and monitor progress of development and other socio-economic activities in the country. The DCS is entrusted with the duty of conducting all national censuses and surveys, and the facilitation of generating official statistics from administrative records. The Census of Population and Housing is one of the major censuses conducted decennially by the Department.

The DCS takes various steps to disseminate key findings of its censuses and surveys. This thematic publication on 'Ageing of Sri Lanka's Population' is one such effort to disseminate findings of the Census

on Population and Housing 2012. The report is the result of a collaboration between the DCS, UNFPA, and the expertise of an external consultant.

Sri Lanka's ageing population is a socio-economic issue that must be further analysed and understood by policymakers. This report discusses the emerging issues and needs, and provides policy implications and recommendations, which are important in the formulation of national strategies and plans in determining Sri Lanka's future.

I hope that this report will be used as a reference guide and tool by policy makers and decision makers to ensure that Sri Lanka is prepared to face the challenges of an ageing population.

Dr. A. J. Satarasinghe

Director General

Department of Census and Statistics

MESSAGE FROM UNFPA REPRESENTATIVE IN SRI LANKA



This thematic report on the ageing population of Sri Lanka is part of a series of reports that the United Nations Population Fund, UNFPA, has produced in partnership with the Department of Census and Statistics. These reports are based on the 2012 Census on Population and Housing and provide comprehensive analyses on important aspects of Sri Lanka's population dynamics.

Population projections show that the proportion of Sri Lankans above the age of 60 years will increase from 14% in 2017 to 22% by the year 2037. With such a rapidly ageing population in Sri Lanka, it is imperative for policy makers to ensure that social and economic institutions in the country are ready to face the challenges ahead. One of the recommendations of this report is to take a life-cycle approach. This requires investing in young people to maximize their wealth creation and prepare them for old age, while also extending the healthy period of their lives.

This report provides insights into national and sub-national level data on the elderly population, as well as health and disability among ageing men and women, and the implications of the ageing population on future policy action.

As the lead UN Agency for data, we hope that the findings and recommendations in this report will be further analyzed and discussed among decision-makers at all levels. It is particularly important to ensure that evidence-based policies on the elderly population are funded and effectively implemented in Sri Lanka.

UNFPA will continue to work closely with the Government of Sri Lanka and key stakeholders to provide data, information, and analyses on Sri Lanka's population trends, thereby linking data to national development planning and strategies. UNFPA will also continue to bring in international good practices and lessons learned related to population ageing, which can provide useful insights and ideas for future action for Sri Lanka.

Ms. Ritsu Nacken

UNFPA Representative in Sri Lanka

ACRONYMS

Activities of Daily Living	ADL
Crude Birth Rate	CBR
Crude Death Rate	CDR
Commission on Social Development	CSD
Instrumental Activities of Daily Living	IADL
International Conference on Population and Development	ICPD
Department of Census and Statistics	DCS
Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing	MIPA
Noncommunicable Diseases	NCDs
Sri Lanka Population and Housing Census	SLPHC
Sustainable Development Goals	SDGs
Total Fertility Rate	TFR
United Nations Commission on Social Development	UNCSD
United Nations Population Fund	UNFPA

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This thematic report analyses the situation of population ageing in Sri Lanka using data from the Sri Lanka Population and Housing Census of 2012 (SLPHC), conducted by the Department of Census and Statistics. It provides insightful results on ageing population dynamics that are useful for policy makers to provide a better understanding on older population and its demographic, social, geographic and economic dimensions.

I) KEY FINDINGS

Demographic Dimensions of Ageing

- In 2012 there were 2,524,570 people (12.4%) living above the age of 60 years. Population ageing in Sri Lanka is accelerating at a faster rate than other South Asian countries and has been increasing rapidly since 1980s. Between 1981 and 2012, the proportion of population aged 60 years and above, has increased from 6.6 % to 12.4 %.
- The median age of the Sri Lankan population has also increased from 21.4 years to 31.0 years for the 1981-2012 periods, which is much higher than other countries in the South Asian region. Rapid demographic transition with marked decline in death rates and birth rates, increases in life expectancy are leading to important changes in age-sex structure.
- The life expectancy at birth for male and female has reported as 72 and 79 years respectively and female often live six years longer than male counterparts in 2012.
- The ageing is observed in most ethnic groups except in Sri Lanka Moor population. The lowest proportion of aged population was observed in Sri Lanka Moor (7.8 %) while all others have experienced proportion of older persons, 11 % or more from their respective total populations.

Feminization of Ageing

- Women comprise the majority of both the total and older population and older population. There were 289,000 older women than men in 2012 which mark the feminization of ageing in Sri Lanka.
- In 2012, females accounted for about 56 % of total aged population in Sri Lanka but for the oldest-old group (80 or over), this proportion was 61 %. There were 94 males for every 100 females for the total population.

Increasing old-age Dependency

- In 2012, 25.2 % of the total population were children under 15 years and 62.4 % were working aged persons (15-59) while 12.4 % were older population (60 and over). There were 72 total dependents comprising 61 child dependents and 11 old-age dependents per 100 working-age people in Sri Lanka in 1981. However, the total and child dependency ratios have decreased as 60 and 40 dependents respectively while old-age dependency has increased to 20 per 100 working-age people in 2012. It is expected that old-age dependency ratio would increase faster than the child dependency ratio by the mid of this century.
- The change in age structure and an increasing number of old-age population would result in a significant shrinking of the support base for the ageing population in Sri Lanka. In 1981 there were on average seven persons (age 20-59 years) to provide support for one older person and in 2012 the number dropped to four persons.

- In 2012, the ageing index in Sri Lanka was 47, which means that there were 47 old-age persons per 100 children under age 15.

Geographical Distribution

- The older population in Sri Lanka is unevenly distributed among the nine provinces and twenty-five districts of Sri Lanka. Approximately one in every three older persons in Sri Lanka or 31 % of older persons resides in the Western Province. The second and third highest proportions of older persons live in the Central (3.8 %) and Southern Provinces (13.1 %) while the North Central, Northern, and Eastern provinces have reported about 5 % each.
- There were nine districts with more than 100,000 older persons which included: Colombo, Gampaha, Kurunagala, Kandy, Kalutara, Galle, Rathnapura, Kegalle and, Matara. In most of the districts more than two thirds of aged persons fall into young -old category (age 60-69).
- Internal migration is one of key factors of distribution older persons across districts. A majority of the elderly migrant population have observed from Colombo and Gampaha districts and the former settlement districts, such as Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, and Kurunagala.
- It is observed that districts such as Colombo, Galle, Matara and kegalle have a high ageing index (over 57) which reflects the rapidity of population ageing in these districts.
- In 2012, the distribution of old-age population by sector of residence evident that about 19 % of older persons reside in the Urban sector while 4 % of older persons reside in the Estate

sector. A large majority of older persons, about 77 % resides in the rural sector.

Marital Status

- In 2012, more than three fourth of older men were currently married (88 %) while only less than two thirds of women were currently married. Never married older persons comprised of 5 % and 6 % male and female respectively.
- One in every three older women were widowed in Sri Lanka. In the young old category, (age 60-69 years) one in every four females were widowed, while among middle-old category (age 70-79 years), about 42 % females were widowed. Among the oldest-old category, a half of the female population were widowed.
- There were 382,496 more widows than widowers. There were five districts namely, Colombo, Kalutara, Gampaha, Kandy and kurunegala, which have more than 30,000 older widowed females.

Educational Attainment and Literacy

- Older females have lower literacy rates than males in all residence sectors. It is evident that about 40-60 % of elderly females were illiterate in the Estate sector. About 10 % of older population has not attended school while the two third of older persons had lower secondary or below level of education. Only about a third of older persons had completed primary school.

Living Arrangements and Housing

- In 2012, there were 2,496,038 older persons (99 %) lived in households while 24,535 older persons (1 %) were institutionalized (elder

homes and other institutions) in Sri Lanka. Most of older persons live with the family. The number older persons who live with their children were 437,000 (17.5 %) while there were 13,081 older persons as domestic employees. More than half of older persons (55.6 %) function as the head of household.

- Living arrangement of older persons by family type and older age groups indicate that in 2012, more than half of the total older persons (59.2 %) lived in extended households which are households of more than one generation, while about 41 % of older persons live in nuclear families. Two-thirds of middle-old persons and three-fourths of the oldest-old persons live in extended families.
- In 2012, there were 378,429 housing units that older persons lived in and 70 % of them were permanent while about 28 % live in semi-permanent housing units. Older persons who live in the Estate sector are more disadvantaged with regard to quality of house that they live in. Three-fourths of older persons in the Estate sector had lived in semi-permanent housing structures while in Rural sector it is slightly greater than one fourth.

Employment Participation

- In 2012, one in every four older persons was employed while three fourths of older persons were economically inactive. About 43 % of older men were employed while only about 11 % of older women were employed. One in every three older persons belonging to the young-old category were employed while middle-old and oldest-old were less likely to be employed which were approximately 15 % and 8 % respectively.

- The two key occupation categories that over half of older persons were employed in skilled agricultural/ forestry and fishery workers (31.4 %), and elementary occupation (23.1 %). More than one third of females were employed in elementary occupations while over one thirds of males engaged in skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery related employments.

Older Persons with Difficulties

- In 2012, out of 2,520,573 older populations, 548,776 persons had experienced difficulty in seeing (21.8 %), 284,285 persons had experienced difficulty in hearing (11.3 %), 488,209 persons had experienced difficulty in walking (19.4 %) and 208,657 persons (or 8.3 %) had experienced difficulty related to cognition.
- Over half of older persons had physical or mental impairments and about one fifth had difficulty in seeing and walking.
- The highest female functional difficulties were observed from the Urban sector (62.1 %) while the highest male functional difficulties were reported from the Estate sector (43.6 %).
- More than one third of the oldest-old population had seeing, hearing and walking difficulty, while one fourth of them had difficulty in cognition.
- About 60 % of the oldest-old persons had experienced at least one disability while for the young-old and middle-old persons were 25 % and 43 % of respectively. About 30 % of oldest-old persons had experienced three or more number of difficulties.

II) ISSUES AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Population standard projections show that by the mid of the 21st century, one in every four persons (25 %) in the country will be aged 60 years and over (6.2 million).

The consequences of the population ageing process that Sri Lanka is currently experiencing will have several policy dimensions that the policy makers must address without further delay. Such policy dimensions are:

- (a) public awareness of accelerated ageing process in the country;
- (b) Inadequacy of service delivery of social welfare, economic security, health care, old-age disability and long term care, legal rights, living conditions, physical infrastructure and any other for the three older age groups:
 - young-old (60-69), 61 % of total old age population
 - middle-old (70-79), 28 % of total old age population
 - oldest-old (80 and over), 11%, of total old age population; and
- (c) Inadequacy of prevailing policies and programmes to address such issues.
 - Appropriate policy dimensions to address feminization of ageing, gender differences in life expectancy and sex ratios in Sri Lanka. The sex ratio for total older population was 79 males for every 100 females while 94 males for every 100 females for the total population. There were 289,000 older women than men in 2012 which mark the feminization of ageing in Sri Lanka. The life expectancy at birth for male and female was 72 and 79 years respectively and hence at age 60, females can expect to

live about 19 more years, compared to 12 more years for males at the same age.

- As most of the older population are in the young-old group policies and programmes need to address economic participation related issues. About 43 % of older men and 11 % of older women were employed in 2012. Over half of older persons employed as skilled agricultural/ forestry and fishery workers (31.4 %), and elementary occupation (23.1 %). More than one thirds of employed older females were engaged in elementary occupations while over one thirds of employed males engaged in skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery related employments.
- Therefore, policies need to focus on addressing the needs of older people and resource allocation, planning and developing physical and social infrastructure at provincial and district levels.

III) RECOMMENDATIONS

To address the consequences of demographic shift and population ageing, changes in the existing family structure, shrinking of the current family size and the disrupting tendency of available traditional support systems of older persons at household level and community level to reduce the negative impact of demographic transition and prepare the communities to face ageing issues; the following recommendations can be made with the hope that they are implemented in a timely manner.

- 1 Conduct public awareness programmes and inter-generational dialogue on demographic shift and consequences of population ageing in Sri Lanka to educate the general public and find applicable solutions.
- 2 Design and develop alternative care arrangements for socially isolated, economically disadvantaged, and widowed older men and women in Sri Lanka based on existing community development institutions while also strengthening other government and non-governmental administrative structures, and mechanisms including voluntary services and outreach programmes.
- 3 Strengthen the existing data collecting systems at Grama Niladhari level (lowest administrative level) and other levels (provincial and district levels) to collect more accurate data on older persons' needs with better coverage for effective planning, decision making and programmes interventions for older persons in Sri Lanka. Such systems are also important to recognize needs and ensure better access to economic security, welfare and other services for older persons especially the vulnerable older persons.
- 4 Strengthen the current service delivery of hospitals (Teaching Hospitals, National Provincial Hospitals, Base Hospitals, all types of District Hospitals and Primary Health Care Units) by establishing dedicated geriatric health care units with special geriatric medical and nursing care for elders to address physical and mental disability and long term care issues faced by the older men and women in Sri Lanka.
- 5 Ensure the provision of adequate skilled human resources in the geriatric care sector including medical officers, nurses, home and institutional care assistants, counsellors and legal officers for enhanced social protection and old-aged well-being.
- 6 Strengthen the physical infrastructure, and social institutions, including nursing homes, elder homes, affordable and quality elderly-day care centres, with appropriate elderly care support devices and equipment, and other inclusive physical infrastructure.
- 7 Encourage older population to continue the employment activities by raising the mandatory retirement age. Conduct programmes and encourage community level projects to facilitate older men and women in part-time or contract basis employments. Such interventions would help to maintain active engagement of older population in economic and social activities.
- 8 Establish a monitoring unit that can coordinate service needs and delivery mechanisms operating for elderly care at all levels (GN, DS, District, Provincial and National) and to ensure better quality of life for older persons in Sri Lanka.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.0 BACKGROUND

Population ageing, which involves an increasing share of older persons in the population, is a key global demographic challenge which will continue to experience in both developed and developing nations during the twenty-first century. Ageing results from rapid demographic transition, a process whereby decreasing mortality and fertility and increasing life expectancy which many countries experienced during the second half of the 20th century. Socio-economic issues and challenges related to population ageing and older persons have been given significant attention in the several global conferences during the past two decades. The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in 1994, recognized the economic and social impact of population ageing in all societies. In 2002, the Second World Assembly on Ageing, where the Political Declaration and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) were adopted focuses on older persons and development, advancing health and well-being into old age, and ensure enabling and supportive environments. In 2013, the United Nations Commission on Social Development (CSD) undertook review and appraisal of MIPAA during the 51st session and the Secretary-General's report emphasized the declaration which suggest to "ensure social integration of older persons and that the promotion and protection of their rights form an integral part of the development agenda at the national and global levels" (United Nations, 2013 pp.13). The post-2015 development agenda emphasized the need for a progressively and rapidly ageing world by promoting healthy ageing and economic well-being in old age, thus by providing enabling and supportive environments where older people are integrated into the development process as an asset rather than a burden (United Nations, 2015). Worldwide there were 901 million people aged 60 years or over in 2015 and it is expected to increase to 1.4 billion by 2030 and 2.1 billion by 2050 (United Nations, 2015).

United Nations (2015) reports that the global population share of aged persons (aged 60 years or over) increased from 9.2 per cent in 1990 to 12.5 per cent in 2015 and will continue to grow as a proportion of the world population, reaching 21.1 per cent by 2050. It is evident that the number of aged persons will be more than double, from 901 million in 2015 to more than 2.1 billion in 2050. The projected data shows that aged persons will exceed the number of children for the first time in 2047. It also estimates that about two thirds of the world's aged persons lives in developing countries and by 2050, nearly 8 in 10 of the world's aged persons will live in the less developed regions. The number of older persons in Asia is expected to increase by 66 percent in 2030. Sri Lanka is one of the rapid ageing societies in South Asia and the latest Sri Lanka Population and Housing Census (SLPHC) reports that the share of elderly population over 60 years old in 2012 was 12.4 percent. This figure will be doubled by the mid of the century (De Silva, 2015). Then one in every four persons will be aged 60 years or over. Therefore, it is vital to understand multi -faceted nature of ageing population and its socioeconomic implications in the context of Sri Lanka in order to address adequate policy implications.

1.1 ABOUT THIS REPORT

The purpose of this thematic report is to provide a comprehensive analysis of the ageing phenomenon in Sri Lanka. This analysis is based on the latest data obtained from the SLPHC which was conducted by the Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) in 2012. The latest SLPHC is the 14th census with a national coverage that was conducted in 2012, which was about 31 years after the 1981 SLPHC which covered entire country. It provides socio-demographic and economic data which are vital for country's socioeconomic planning and addresses three decades of data gaps experienced due to civil conflict in the Northern and Eastern Parts of the country. In addition, data from previous censuses, various reports and research studies are also used for comparison purposes. Furthermore, this report aims to discuss emerging issues of population ageing in Sri Lanka in order to bring them to the forefront of the nation's development agenda. It is also expected to provide policy directions for policy planners in enabling them to address ageing related problems in Sri Lanka. The persons aged 60 and over have generally been taken as the aged population or ageing population considering retirement age in both private and public sector in Sri Lanka. Thus ageing population in this report refer to the population aged 60 and over. Furthermore the ageing population is categorized in to three broad age groups such as aged 60-69 (young old persons), aged 70-79 (middle old persons) and aged 80 or over (oldest-old persons) to identify ageing related issues and to make policy suggestions more realistic.

This report consists of seven chapters. First chapter presents the background and the purpose of the report. Chapter-2 examines the trends, patterns and determinants of ageing population in Sri Lanka. It focuses on the population ageing situation of Sri Lanka in the context of South Asia. The analysis further draw attention to the trends, patterns and determinants of ageing in Sri Lanka. Chapter-3 describes the provincial and district level distribution of ageing population in Sri Lanka. In this chapter, several key features of older population that have been observed at provincial and district level are presented. Chapter-4 presents the analysis of a change in age-sex structure of the Sri Lankan population and its implications on ageing population giving special consideration to change in dependency ratio, median age, ageing index, potential and parental support ratios. The demographic and socio-economic characteristics of ageing population are examined in detail in Chapter 5. Statistics on demographic characteristics, ethnic differentials, educational attainment, urban rural differentials, living arrangements of older persons, and economic activity are presented in by different elderly age cohorts. Chapter 6 explores health and disability among ageing population in Sri Lanka. It presents how the disability among old-age persons varies according to their demographic and socioeconomic characteristics hence addresses the challenges faced by Sri Lanka towards a healthy and productive ageing. Chapter 7 presents the projected trends in ageing population in Sri Lanka in order to address potential issues, needs and policy implications. It further discusses the ageing situation in Sri Lanka in the context of sustainable development goals giving emphasis on national priorities and programmes.

CHAPTER 2

TRENDS, PATTERNS AND DETERMINANTS OF AGEING POPULATION IN SRI LANKA

2.1 INTRODUCTION

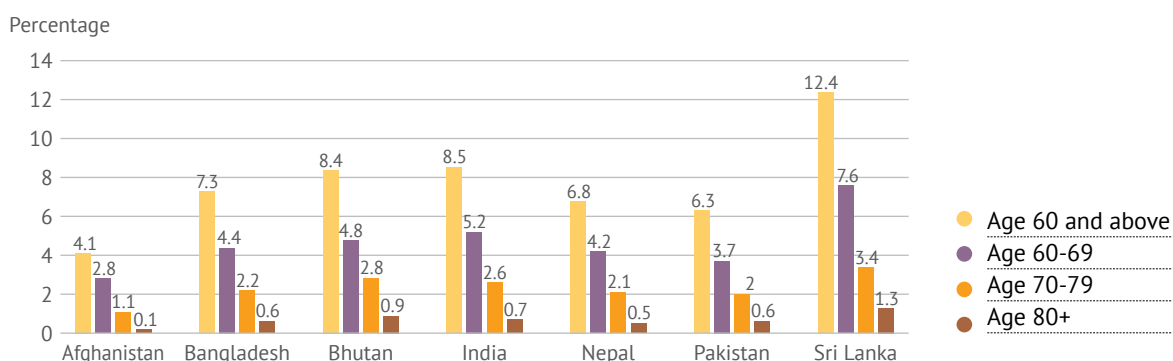
This chapter presents the trends, patterns and determinants of ageing population in Sri Lanka and compares with the ageing situation in the South Asian context. Population ageing is defined as an increasing share of older persons in the population, which is one of the key global demographic concerns in the twenty-first century. For demographic purposes, and unless otherwise specified, in this report ageing population is considered to be those aged 60 years or older. However, the definition of “elderly” varies from country to country. In many developed countries it is defined as those who are 65 years or more while most developing countries, including Sri Lanka elderly population is defined as those who are 60 years or more. The reason for taking 60 as a cut-off age is that, in both government as well as private institutions in Sri Lanka, the retirement age is between 55 and 60 years (De Silva, 2015; World Bank 2008; Siddhisena, 2004).

It is well established that ageing is a by product of demographic transition involving a dynamic process whereby reductions in mortality are followed by reductions in fertility thus determined by the relative size of the younger and older cohorts in the population at different periods of time. The initial size of each cohort depends on the population in childbearing ages at a given point in time, and the prevalent fertility rates. Mortality rates determine the number of people of each cohort that survives to old-age. Migration may also affect the age-sex and geographical distribution of ageing population to some extent. Population ageing is taking place in both developed and developing countries, but its magnitude and rate of growth varies respectively. In most developed countries, the population has been ageing for many decades, while in developing countries population ageing has taken place relatively in recent decades with their fall in mortality and fertility levels. Currently, two thirds of the world’s older persons reside in the developing countries. Therefore, the rate of growth of the older population in developing countries has been observed as significantly higher than in developed countries.

2.2 AGEING POPULATION IN SRI LANKA IN THE CONTEXT OF SOUTH ASIA

Sri Lanka is the first country which achieved demographic transition among the South Asian countries. Figure 2.1 presents the proportion of population those over the ages of 60-69, 70-79 and 80 years and over. It is evident that Sri Lanka has higher proportions of aged population than the other South Asian countries in 2012. Unlike other South Asian Countries, the process of ageing in Sri Lanka is somewhat rapid since 1980s and the percentage of age 60 years and above, doubled from 6.6 per cent in 1981 to 12.4 per cent in 2012 respectively. It is expected that the current figure to double again by reaching the level of 24.8 per cent in 2041 (UNFPA, 2014). Therefore, in 2041, one in every four persons in the Sri Lankan population will be an elderly person, while other countries of the region are expected to have lower rates.

Figure 2.1: Ageing population in South Asian countries - 2012



Source: Based on Table 2.1

Apart from the increase in the percentage of the population above 60 years, this striking difference in the ageing process in Sri Lanka among other South Asian countries is also witnessed where the median age is observed (Table 2.1).

The median age of the population is the age that divides the total population into two equal groups, one with that half the total population is younger than the median age and the other half older than median age. As the population ageing occurs, the median age also increases. In Sri Lanka, both the proportion of aged persons (12.4 per cent) and the median age (31 years) are much higher than other countries in the region. The data reflects that this pattern will continue to the next decade as well (Table 2.1 & Figure 2.2).

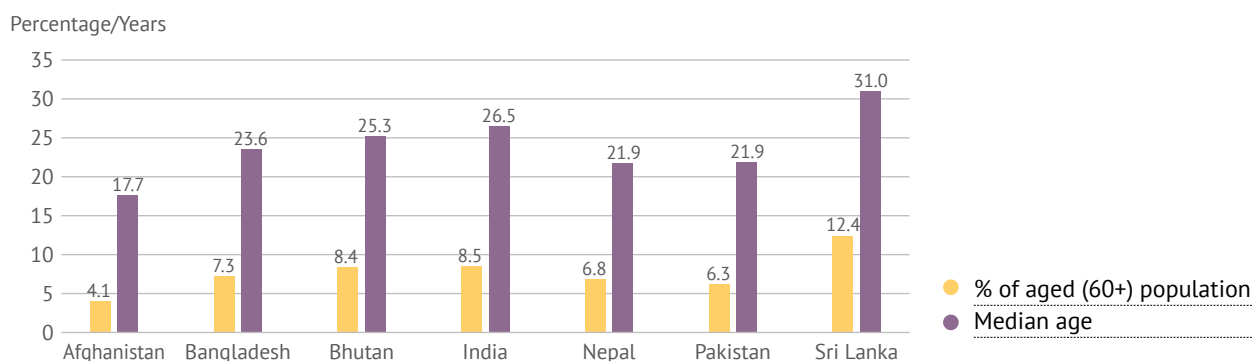
Table 2.1: Ageing population and median age in South-Asian countries 2012 and 2022

Country	Percentage age 60+		Percentage age 60-69		Percentage age 70-79		Percentage age 80+		Median age	
	2012	2022	2012	2022	2012	2022	2012	2022	2012	2022
Sri Lanka	12.4	16.3	7.6	9.3	3.4	5.3	1.3	1.6	31.0	33.4
Afghanistan	4.1	4.5	2.8	3.0	1.1	1.2	0.2	0.3	17.7	19.7
Bangladesh	7.3	9.5	4.4	5.8	2.2	2.8	0.6	0.9	23.6	27.5
Bhutan	8.4	9.8	4.8	5.3	2.8	3.1	0.9	1.4	25.3	30.0
India	8.5	10.7	5.2	6.5	2.6	3.3	0.7	1.0	26.5	29.3
Nepal	6.8	8.1	4.2	4.9	2.1	2.4	0.5	0.8	21.9	26.8
Pakistan	6.3	7.6	3.7	4.8	2.0	2.1	0.6	0.8	21.9	25.8

Source: Data for Sri Lanka obtained from Department of Census and Statistics, 2015 and for other countries U. S. Census Bureau, 2016 (<https://www.census.gov/population/international/data>)

TRENDS, PATTERNS AND DETERMINANTS OF AGEING POPULATION IN SRI LANKA CONTD.

Figure 2.2: Proportion of ageing population and median age in South Asian Countries- 2012

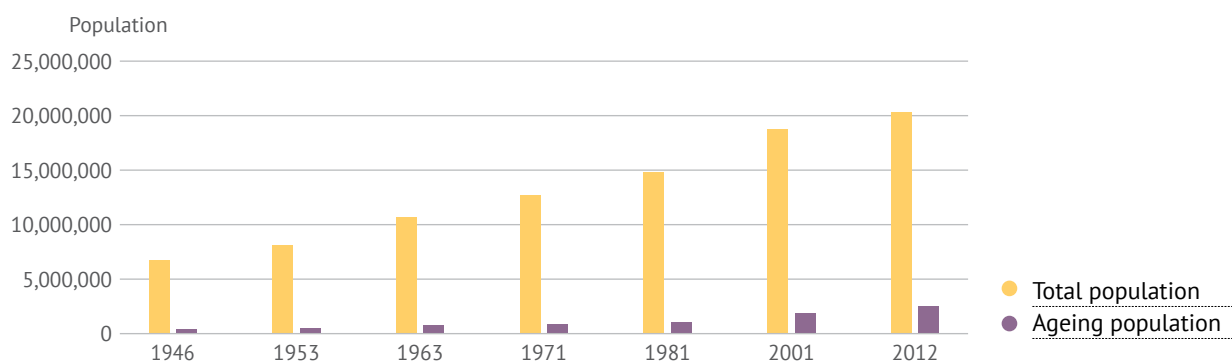


Source: Based on Table 2.1

2.3 TRENDS AND PATTERNS OF AGEING POPULATION IN SRI LANKA

Ageing is a by-product of demographic transition involving a dynamic process and it is determined by the relative size of the younger and older cohorts in the population at different periods of time. The initial size of each cohort depends on the population in childbearing ages at a given point in time, and the prevalent fertility rates. Mortality rates determine the number of people of each cohort that survives to old-age. Migration may also affect in determining both distribution and age –sex structure of aged population in some extent. Over the decades, Sri Lanka has been experiencing an increase in the aged population relative to its total population. Figure 2.3 and Table 2.2 presents the inter - censuses increase and growth patterns of the total population and the ageing population from 1946 to 2012. It is evident that the increase of population in 60 years and over during the census years 1946 to 1981 which comprise a period of three and a half decades shows only a gradual change. During 1946 to 1953 there was an increase of the size of older persons from 359,496 to 437,286 by 2.8 % with a annual growth of 2.8 % .

Figure 2.3: Total population and ageing population in Sri Lanka, 1946-2012



Source: Based on Table 2.2

Table 2.2: Trends in Total Population and Ageing Population in Sri Lanka, 1946-2012

Census Year	Total Population	Population over 60 Years	Population over 60 years (per cent)	Annual growth rate	
				Total population	Ageing population (60+ years)
1946	6,657,339	359,496	5.4	-	-
1953	8,097,895	437,286	5.4	2.8	2.8
1963	1,058,2064	634,923	6.0	2.6	3.7
1971	12,689,897	799,463	6.3	2.2	2.8
1981	14,846,750	979,885	6.6	1.7	2.2
2001	18,797,257	1,729,348	9.2	1.2	2.8
2012	20,359,439	2,524,570	12.4	0.7	3.5

Source: Department of Census and Statistics 2015

However, between 1963-1971, and 1971-1981 inter-Census periods, the size has further increased from 634,923 to 799,463 and 799,463 to 979,885 respectively. Nevertheless during the period 1981 to 2012 comprising of approximately three decades there had been an accelerated increase from 979,885 to 2,524,570 aged persons 6.6 percent in 1981 to 12.4 % in 2012 in the population age 60 years and over. Such increases in the aged population point to a sharp turn in the population transitional process occurring in Sri Lanka particularly since 1980's.

During a period of a quarter of century from 1946 to 1971 the total population had nearly doubled. During the same period the ageing population had more than doubled which indicates a rapid increase in the ageing population. In a matter of three decades, from 1971 to 2001, the ageing population had doubled again (Table 2.2). Simillar pattern of increase in the ageing population can be expected in the forthcoming years. Such an increasing trend in the ageing population highlights the need for proper planning mechanisms to be set in place to address the expected challenges related to ageing population including protecting rights and well-being of older persons in Sri Lanka.

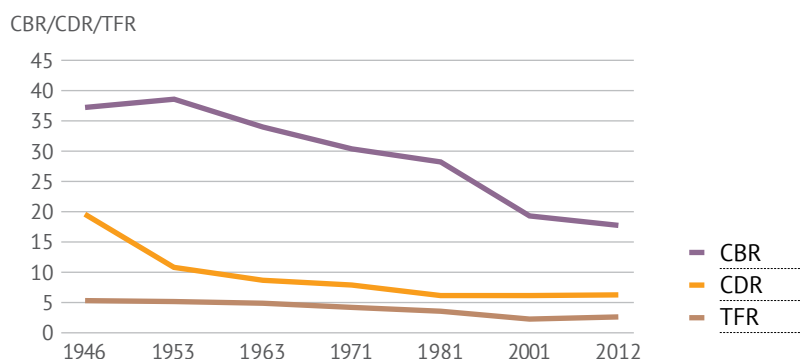
The growth rates of the total population during the inter-Census periods covering a total time span of six and half decades show a gradually declining trend in the initial three and half decades and a little faster decline in the latter part of the period. A population which had the capacity of adding more than 20 percent of the original population to the existing quantum in the beginning of the period declined to less than replacement level at the end of the period. The observed decline in the population growth rate is a path finder for the onset of more mature phases of demographic transition in Sri Lanka. The growth rates of ageing population relative to that of the total population is substantially higher for all the census years except in 1953. This indeed is an outcome of the ageing process that is inter connected to the demographic transition process.

TRENDS, PATTERNS AND DETERMINANTS OF AGEING POPULATION IN SRI LANKA CONTD.

2.4 DETERMINANTS OF AGEING POPULATION IN SRI LANKA

Population ageing is resulting a phenomenon of the mature stages of the demographic transitional process. The determining characteristics of the ageing process are evident in various indicators of population growth which depict the extent and the speed of the population change. The changing process of the population in Sri Lanka during the last six and a half decades can be determined mainly due to the fertility and mortality rates which is shown in figure 2.4. It is evident that the Crude Birth Rate (CBR) has declined by more than half and Crude Death Rate (CDR) has declined by two thirds during a period of six and a half decades between the period of 1946 to 2012. This demographic transition process and determinants of ageing population can also be depicted in Figure 2.4 and Table 2.3. They present several indicators which were calculated using SLPHC data to identify demographic determinants of ageing scenario. Although fertility decline is a key factor in determining the age structure and the ageing process in Sri Lanka, mortality have also key effect in determining the demography of ageing in Sri Lanka.

Figure 2.4: Demographic transition in Sri Lanka



Source: Based on Table 2.3

Table 2.3 presents a cross section of the demographic transition experience that is taking place in Sri Lankan ground covering a period of past six decades commencing from the year 1946. During the period considered as shown in the data presented, during the initial seven years of the first decade commencing from the year 1946, a continuation of the high and stable fertility regime of the previous years was observed. The CBR exceeding 37 live births per thousand mid-year population had fluctuated at the high level of more than CBR 34 during the period 1946 to 1963. During this period there was only a 0.2 per cent decline in the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) which indicated that, on average each woman was capable of producing a little more than five children during her life time. During the 1946-1953 periods a sharp decline in the CDR from approximately 20 per thousand mid-year population to 11 per thousand had occurred.

During the next decade commencing from 1963, a situational change in the fertility level of the country had

occurred, indicating a gradual decline in the fertility level. From approximately 39 live births in 1953 the CBR declined to a little more than 30 live births in 1971 showing that there were almost a decline of 10 births for every 1000 persons in the country. During the same period 1963-1971 the CDR had declined by only 0.8 %. A phase of gradual declining in fertility and mortality is observed. The average number of children per woman (age 15-49) dropped from five to four children by 1971.

Table 2.3: Determinants of ageing population in Sri Lanka

Census Year	CBR	CDR	TFR	Life expectancy at birth		Median Age	Sex Ratio
				Male	Female		
1946	37.4	19.8	5.5	43.3	41.6	21.3	113.0
1953	38.8	10.7	5.3	58.8	57.5	20.8	111.5
1963	34.1	8.5	5.0	61.9	61.4	19.4	108.2
1971	30.4	7.7	4.2	64.2	66.9	19.7	106.1
1981	28.2	5.9	3.5	67.7	72.1	21.4	104.0
2001	19.1	5.9	2.0	68.1	76.6	28.8	97.9
2012	17.5	6.0	2.4	72.0	78.6	31.0	93.8

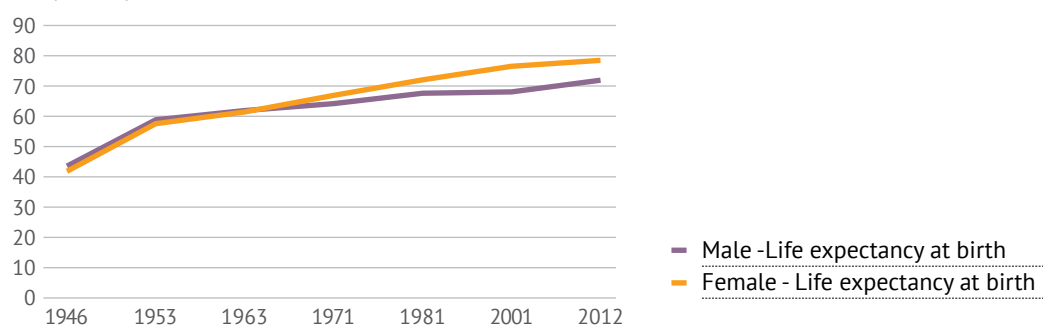
Note: Sex ratio is computed as the number of males per 100 females

Sources: Department of Census and Statistics, 2014 & 2016; De Silva, 2015 ; UNFPA & PASL Sri Lanka, 2004

Longevity of the population measured by life expectancy at birth of men and women show that both males and females were destined to live up to only middle ages while males lived up to only a little more than 43 years and females approximately 42 years in 1946. In this high and stable fertility and sharply declining mortality regime, half of the population or median age was less than 22 years indicating a very young population. The trends observed in life expectancy at birth by sex from 1946 to 2012 are presented in figure 2.5. For every 100 women there were 113 men in the population indicating that during this period there were more males than females in the population.

Figure 2.5: Life expectancy at birth in Sri Lanka, 1946-2012

Life expectancy at birth



Source: Based on Table 2.3

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Figure 2.5 presents that the longevity of the population during the 1946-2012 period and it shows that in 1963 the life expectancy at birth of the population for male and females had improved. By 1971 the life expectancy for both genders had increased, showing a dramatic increase of 5.5 years for females and a less impressive increase of 2.3 years for males. For the first time in the history of demography in Sri Lanka the life expectancy of females overtook that of males by 2.7 years in 1971.

The increase in life expectancy is largely associated with ageing population of Sri Lanka. The median age of the population remained at very early twenty's or even less than that age, during the period of 1946-1981 indicating that the age structure does not convey the obvious features of population ageing. Influx of a substantial volume of younger age persons from previous high fertility regimes creating a bulky base of the age structure would have had an effect on the median age to be slightly declining among early twenties or even less than that age.

Figure 2.6: Male life expectancy by district, 2012

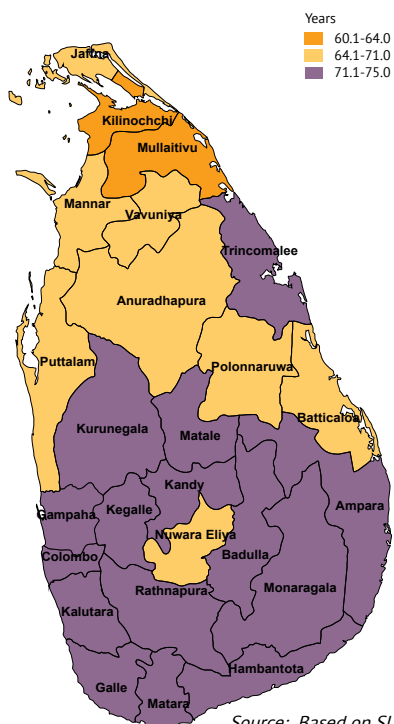
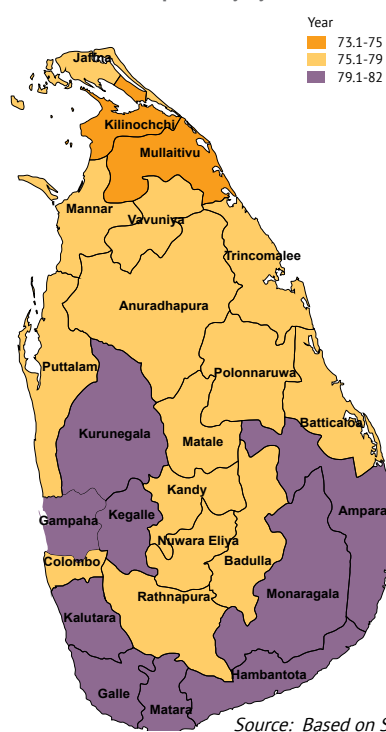


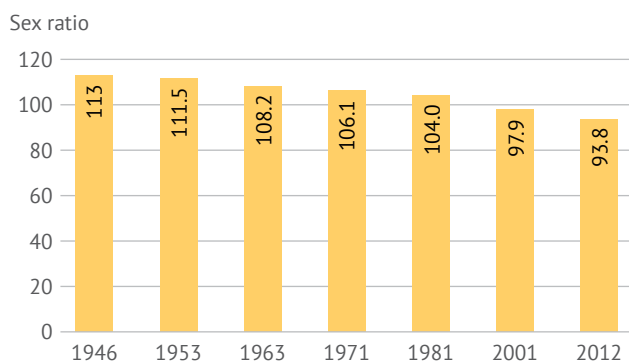
Figure 2.7: Female life expectancy by district, 2012



The regional distribution of life expectancy at birth for males and females in Sri Lanka as at 2012 is presented in figures 2.6 and 2.7 respectively. The figures clearly show that the life expectancy of females was at a higher level when compared to males in all districts. The life expectancy at birth for males in Kilinochchi and Mullativu was much lower (60-64 years) than for females (71-75 years). In all the districts gender imbalance favoured females.

The three decades commencing from 1981 and continued up to 2012, show vividly the onset of population ageing in Sri Lanka. During this period, particularly in the last two decades, the CBR had declined from 28 per thousand to 18 per thousand while the total fertility rate had declined and fluctuated at replacement level fertility of 2 children or a little more than that per woman. The crude death rate had declined to its lowest level in Sri Lanka so far, to six per thousand population and have stabilized at that level. During this period increases in the life expectancy of both males and females are observed, Nevertheless with a discrepancy between the two genders; the observed increases in the life expectancy for males is very gradual while dramatic increases are observed in female life expectancy. The gender disparity in the life expectancy favoured females by 4.4 years in 1981. Such increases in gender disparity is observed throughout the period so much so that in 2012 the life expectancy at birth, for males is estimated to be approximately 72 years and that of females to be approximately 78.6 years indicating a disparity of 6.6 years between the two genders. During the period 1981 to 2012 the sex ratio have also decreased showing that for every 100 females 94 males which is presented in figure 2.8.

Figure 2.8: Sex ratio of the Sri Lankan Population, 1946-2012



Source: Based on SLPHC, 2012

For the first time in the demographic history of Sri Lanka, in 2001, there were only 98 males for every hundred females. If data for all the districts of Northern and Eastern Provinces were included in this Population Census, 2001 the sex ratio for females would have been more adversely affected because of the civil disturbances that prevailed in these districts at that time. The observed gender disparity of the sex ratio adversely affecting males continued up to 2012.

TRENDS, PATTERNS AND DETERMINANTS OF AGEING POPULATION IN SRI LANKA CONTD.

2.5 SUMMARY

The analysis of trends, patterns and determinants of population ageing in Sri Lanka reveals that over the last five decades, there was a rapid increase in the absolute size and the proportion of the older population. In 1946 there were 359,496 persons aged 60 years and over which comprised 5.4 % of the total population. In 2012, this segment of aged persons has increased to 2,524,570 and it was 12.4 % of the total Sri Lankan population. In the South Asian context, Sri Lanka is the first country which achieved demographic transition and also having the highest proportion of elderly population in 2012. This situation is reflected in the increase in median age of 31 years for the Sri Lankan in 2012. With the increase in life expectancy at birth of Sri Lankan population, male and females are expected to live 12 years and 19 years respectively after reaching the retirement age of 60 years. The current trend and growth pattern of ageing population will continue to future. These scenarios bring out the need for further welfare policies that would enhance the quality of the life of the older population in Sri Lanka. Special attention should be given to address the gap of male –female life expectancies and sex ratios of older population.

CHAPTER 3

PROVINCIAL AND DISTRICT LEVELS DISTRIBUTION OF AGEING POPULATION IN SRI LANKA

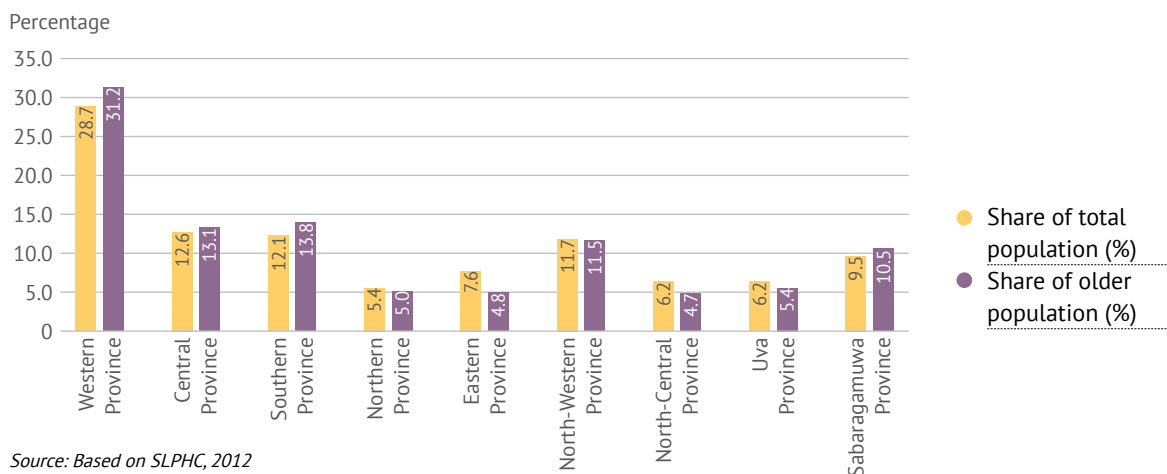
3.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter examines the ageing population of Sri Lanka giving attention to its provincial and district levels distribution drawing primarily data from the SLPHC, 2012. An analysis of ageing population characteristics across nine Provinces and twenty five Districts in the country is vital to bring out attention on the ageing issues for provincial and district levels policy planners.

3.2 PROVINCIAL LEVEL DISTRIBUTION OF AGEING POPULATION

Like the total population, the ageing population is also unevenly distributed among the provinces of Sri Lanka. The distribution of total population and ageing population by Province is shown in Figure 3.1 and Table 3.1. It is evident that the highest segment of both total and ageing population live in the Western Province (28.7 and 31.0 percent respectively). Approximately one in every three older persons in Sri Lanka (aged 60 and above) live in the Western Province. In addition, other two Provinces, the Central and Southern Provinces, have experienced high level of ageing (13.8 % and 13.1 % respectively) which are above the national average reported (12.4 %) in 2012.

Figure 3.1: Provincial distribution of total and ageing population of Sri Lanka



Source: Based on SLPHC, 2012

With regard to the distribution of total population, it is found that, two thirds of the population live in the four provinces in the country namely, the Western (28.7 %), Central (12.6 %), South (12.2 %) and North-western (11.7 %). These four provinces share about 70 % of the total older population in the country (Table 3.1). The observed distribution pattern clearly points to a prominent locational bias towards the Western Province. Such a pattern can be largely associated with the skewed distribution of the total population favouring the Western Province. Out of total aged 2,520,573 persons 785,251 older persons lived in the Western Province. The higher proportion of ageing population in the Western Province when compared to the national level would have occurred due to significantly low level of fertility and high level of migration that had been experienced over the years in this province.

It is also apparent that the more mature stages of the demographic transitional process that Sri Lanka is experiencing currently can largely be associated with the population ageing process observed in the Western Province. The lowest share of ageing population is observed in the Uva province (4.7 %). It is noted that the

PROVINCIAL AND DISTRICT LEVELS DISTRIBUTION OF AGEING POPULATION IN SRI LANKA CONTD.

Sabaragamuwa Province has also a high share of aged population (10.5 %). Provincial level policy planners need to take these population diversities into account when allocating resources and infrastructure development with regard to older population and making aged friendly societies.

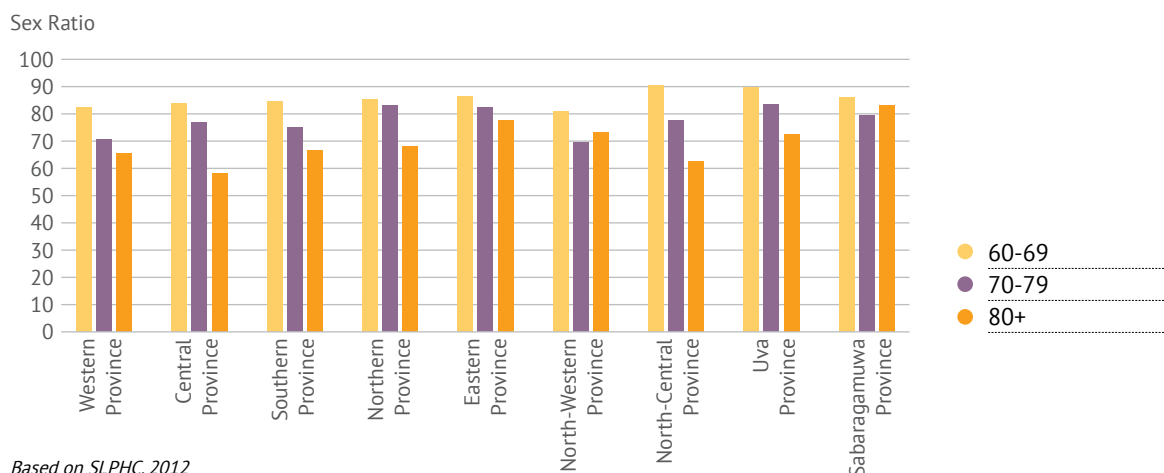
Table 3.1: Distribution of total and ageing population of Sri Lanka by Province, 2012

Province	Total Population (N)	Percentage	older population (60+) (N)	Percentage
Western Province	5,851,130	28.7	785,251	31.2
Central Province	2,571,557	12.6	329,126	13.1
Southern Province	2,477,285	12.1	347,004	13.8
Northern Province	1,061,315	5.4	125,500	5.0
Eastern Province	1,555,510	7.6	122,065	4.8
North-Western Province	2,380,861	11.7	290,153	11.5
North-Central Province	1,266,663	6.2	118,757	4.7
Uva Province	1,266,463	6.2	137,095	5.4
Sabaragamuwa Province	1,928,655	9.5	265,622	10.5
Sri Lanka	20,359,439	100.0	2,520,573	100.0

Source: Based on SLPHC, 2012

Figure 3.2 presents that almost all Provinces of Sri Lanka experience feminization of ageing. The female out number male of the aged persons is observed in all three older aged cohorts. Higher sex ratios can be observed from the North Central and Uva provinces while the lowest is from North Western Province. These female favoured sex ratio brings provincial level policy makers attention on challenges such as more health issues among females especially prevalence of non-communicable diseases.

Figure 3.2: Sex ratio of ageing population by Province and older age group



Based on SLPHC, 2012

3.3 DISTRICT LEVEL DISTRIBUTION OF AGEING POPULATION IN SRI LANKA

In Sri Lanka, district administration based on Divisional Secretaries plays a key role in planning and implementing programmes for elderly. Therefore, the ageing population analysis by district is also important for district administration for the decision making with regard to ageing population. The distribution of ageing population by district is shown in Table 3.2. It illustrates that closer to one-third (31 %) of the total ageing population in Sri Lanka, has lived in the three districts of Colombo (12.5%), Gampaha (11.7 %) and Kalutara (6.9 %) with approximately a quarter of the population above 60 years. One in every four aged persons has lived in two districts of Colombo and Gampaha.

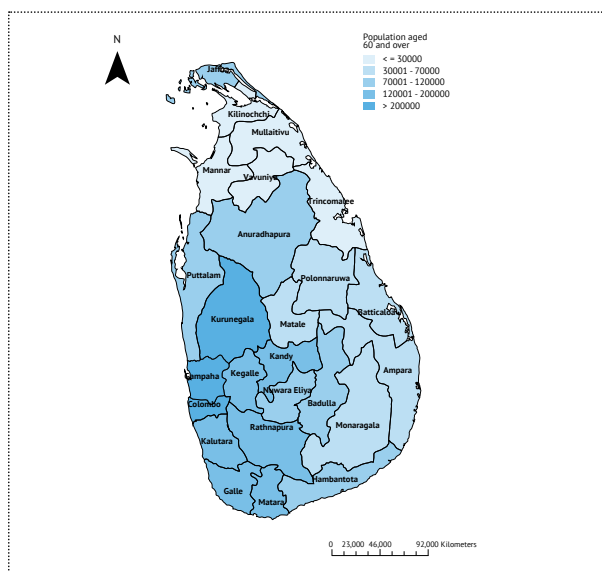
Table: 3.2 Distribution of total aged 60 and over population in Sri Lanka by district, 2012

District	Age 60 years and older population	Share of total ageing population (%)	District	Age 60 years and older population	Share of total ageing population (%)
Sri Lanka	2,520,573	100.0	Mullaitivu	7,860	0.3
Colombo	315,944	12.5	Kilinochchi	9,969	0.4
Gampaha	295,854	11.7	Batticaloa	40,139	1.6
Kalutara	173,453	6.9	Ampara	52,863	2.1
Kandy	186,033	7.4	Trincomalee	29,063	1.2
Matale	59,138	2.3	Kurunegala	210,551	8.4
NuwaraEliya	83,955	3.3	Puttalam	79,602	3.2
Galle	155,996	6.2	Anuradhapura	78,820	3.1
Matara	120,094	4.8	Polonnaruwa	39,937	1.6
Hambantota	70,914	2.8	Badulla	95,441	3.8
Jaffna	84,434	3.3	Moneragala	41,654	1.7
Mannar	8,252	0.3	Ratnapura	140,553	5.6
Vavuniya	14,985	0.6	Kegalle	125,069	5.0

Source: Based on SLPHC, 2012

PROVINCIAL AND DISTRICT LEVELS DISTRIBUTION OF AGEING POPULATION IN SRI LANKA CONTD.

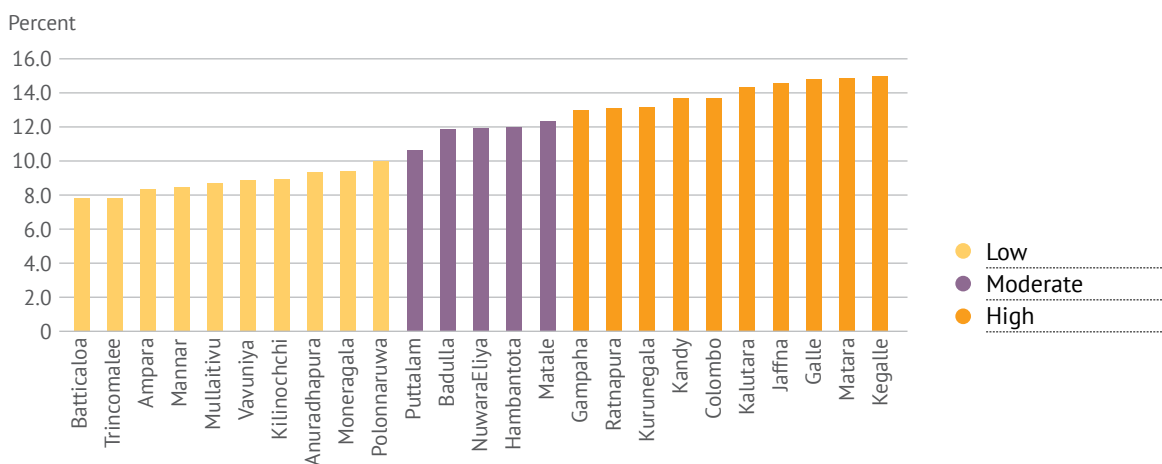
Figure 3.3: District level distribution of ageing population in Sri Lanka, 2012



Source: Based on SLPHC, 2012

The level of ageing in each district vary according to the behavior of demographic components such as fertility, mortality and migration experienced by the respective district. All districts were categorized into three levels based on the share of the aged population, such as high (above 12.4 %), moderate (10.0 to 12.4 %) and low (less than 10.0 percent) in order to examine the level of ageing experienced by each district. As illustrated in Figure 3.3, a high level of ageing has been experienced by ten districts namely, Kegalle, Matara, Galle, Jaffna, Kalutara, Colombo, Kandy, Kurunegala, Rathnapura and Gampaha. A moderate level of ageing has been experienced by five districts namely, Matale, Hambantota, Nuwara Eliya, Badulla and Puttalam, while all other districts have relatively low level (below 10.0 %). The majority of high and moderate ageing districts were net out-migrant districts in the country and thus a significant number of elders would have been left-behind due to the out-migration of their children especially, those who were in youth, marriageable age and working age cohorts.

Figure 3.4: Level of ageing by district, 2012



Source: Based on SLPHC, 2012

Figure 3.4 shows that compared to the respective district population, in Kegalle, Matara, Jaffna and Galle districts about 15 % of their total population were 60 years or over. It was noted that in the Census year 1981, there were only five districts ie. Galle, Matara, Kalutara, Gampaha and Jaffna with a proportion of elderly more than 8 % of their total population. However, in 2012 almost all districts (except Trincomalee and Batticaloa) had reported over 8 % of aged population. The increase in the share of aged population is a by-product of the demographic transitional process that had undergone an accelerated change in the regional level, during the last three and a half decades. The relationship between population ageing and fertility transition is further depicted in Table 3.3.

Table 3.3: Proportion of ageing population and Total Fertility Rate by district, 2012

District	Per cent aged (60 and over)	TFR	District	Per cent aged (60 and over)	TFR
Kegalle	14.88	2.49	Polonnaruwa	9.8	2.68
Matara	14.75	2.47	Moneragala	9.2	2.73
Galle	14.67	2.39	Anuradhapura	9.2	2.74
Jaffna	14.46	2.00	Kilinochchi	8.8	2.64
Kalutara	14.19	2.34	Vavuniya	8.7	2.51
Colombo	13.59	2.00	Mullaitivu	8.5	2.53
Kandy	13.53	2.47	Mannar	8.3	2.62
Kurunegala	13.01	2.43	Ampara	8.1	2.73
Ratnapura	12.92	2.39	Trincomalee	7.7	3.02
Gampaha	12.84	2.07	Batticaloa	7.6	2.52
Matale	12.2	2.63	Sri Lanka	12.4	2.40
Hambantota	11.8	2.71			
NuwaraEliya	11.8	2.83			
Badulla	11.7	2.60			
Puttalam	10.4	2.61			

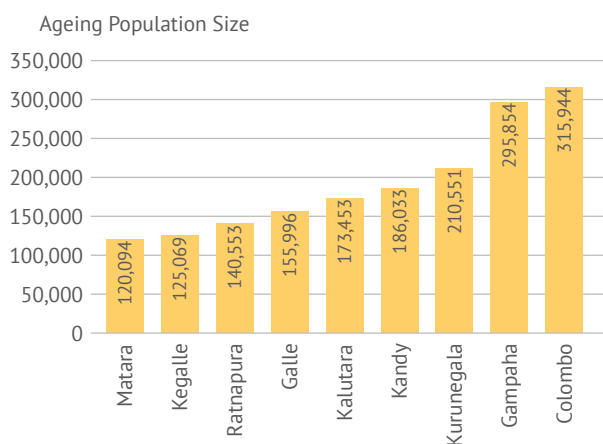
Based on SLPHC, 2012

Table 3.3 illustrates that districts which report below the replacement level of fertility (TFR below 2.1) have somewhat high proportion of aged population while the district which report high TFR values have relatively lower proportion of aged population. The size of the total number of aged persons in each district is also important for social welfare planning in ageing societies.

The distribution of total ageing population size by district in 2012 was explored and presented in Figure 3.5, 3.6 and 3.7. In each district, the size of the ageing population was categorized into three groups such as districts which have more than 100,000 older persons; those with 50,000 - 100,000 older persons and those with less than 50,000 older persons (Figures 3.4, 3.5 and 3.6 respectively). There were nine districts in the first category and highest number of age persons live in Colombo, Gampaha and Kurunagala districts (Figure 3.5).

PROVINCIAL AND DISTRICT LEVELS DISTRIBUTION OF AGEING POPULATION IN SRI LANKA CONTD.

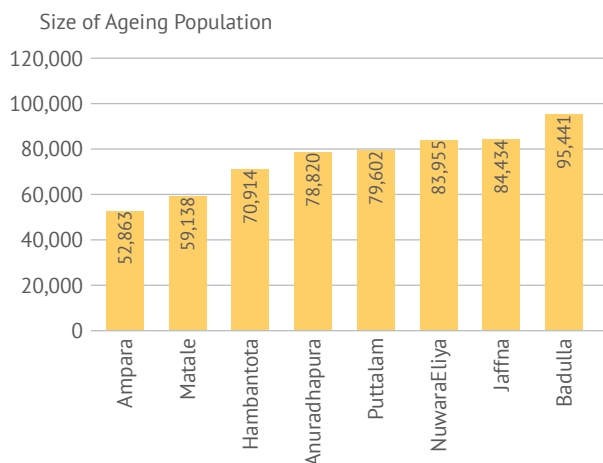
Figure 3.5: Districts with more than 100,000 older persons



Source: Based on SLPHC, 2012

The second category, represents the districts that experience moderate size of older persons. There were eight districts who reported between 50,000 to 100,000 older persons in each district (Figure 3.6). Among them Badulla, Jaffna, and Nuwara-Eliya districts report more than 80,000 older persons.

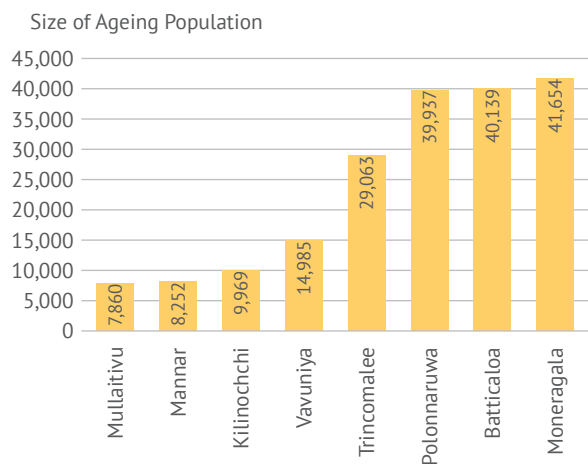
Figure 3.6: Districts with 50,000-100,000 older persons



Source: Based on SLPHC, 2012

The third category, represents the districts having and less than 50,000 older persons (Figure 3.6). Most of districts of the Northern and Eastern provinces show a lesser number of older persons compared to others. The reasons for lower level of ageing are associated with low population density, relatively high fertility and effect of three decades of civil war situation. The lowest number of aged persons report from the Mullaitive and Mannar districts in 2012 (Figure 3.7).

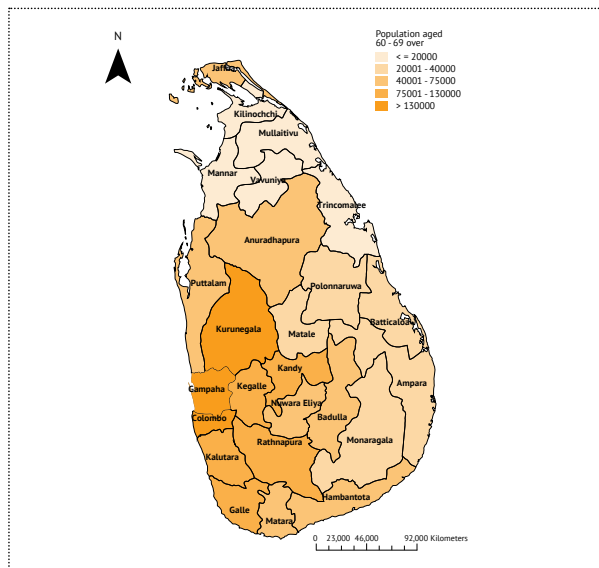
Figure 3.7: Districts with less than 50,000 older persons



Source: Based on SLPHC, 2012

In most of the districts more than two thirds of aged persons fall into young -old category (age 60-69). The district distribution of the ageing population, examined by age groups reveals that in 20 of the 25 districts the largest proportion of the ageing population was in the 60-69 ages or young -old group. At least 60 % and at most 70% of the elderly population in each district were in this group. The highest number of young- old population were located in the three districts of Colombo, Gampaha and Kurunegala (Figure 3.8). The majority of aged persons in this age category in Sri Lanka is physically active and emphasis should be given to prepare appropriate programmes in these districts in order to promote healthy and active ageing.

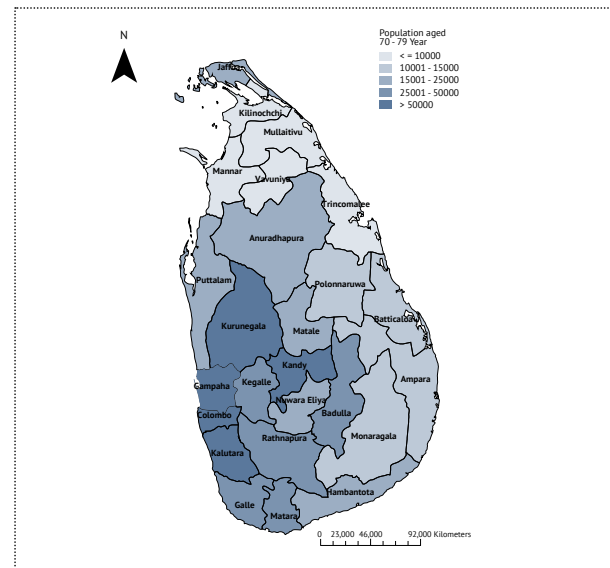
Figure 3.8: Distribution of young old (60-69 years) population by district, 2012



Source: Based on SLPHC, 2012

District level distribution of the ageing population who were in middle-old category, the age group 70 to 79 was closer to uniformity across districts. In all the districts except in Mullativu between 25 to 30 per cent of the respective district ageing population were in this middle- old age group. In Mullativu the percent of elders in this age group was only 23 %. Figure 3.8 presents the district level distribution of the number of middle-old persons in 2012. The highest number of middle- old population located in five districts of Colombo, Gampaha, Kalutara, Kandy and Kurunegala (Figure 3.8). These districts need to be given attention on the middle -old group of elderly when making policies and programmes.

Figure 3.9: Distribution of middle old (70-79 years) population by district, 2012

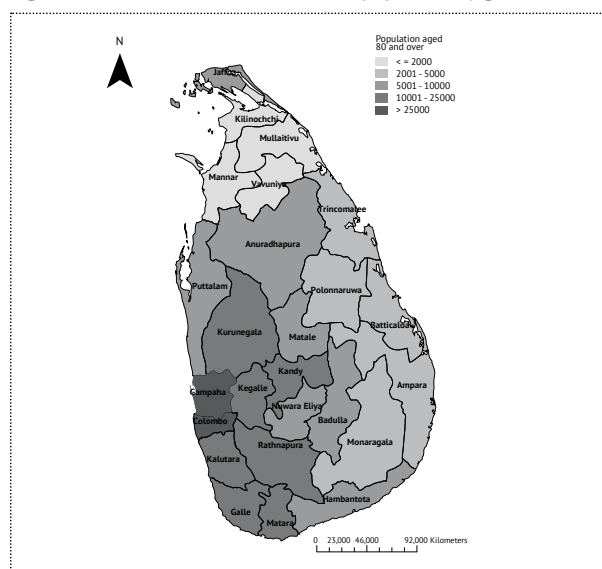


Source: Based on SLPHC, 2012

PROVINCIAL AND DISTRICT LEVELS DISTRIBUTION OF AGEING POPULATION IN SRI LANKA CONTD.

Figure 3.10 presents the district level distribution of the number of oldest-old persons (age 80 and over) in 2012. The highest proportion of older persons who lived for more than 80 years of age was located in Matara district. Closer to 15 % of the ageing population in this district lived up to that age. In 11 of the 25 districts in Sri Lanka at least 10 % of the ageing population in the respective district lived up to or more than 80 years of age. Killinochchi district where only 0.4% of the oldest-old population was located, had the least number of aged persons in this category. In all the districts where civil disturbances prevailed to a large scale the proportion of ageing population who opted to live in the district was comparatively low. Nevertheless the highest number of oldest- old population were located in the districts of Colombo and Gampaha (Figure 3.10). These districts need to be given attention on the oldest-old group of elderly when making policies and programmes for older people.

Figure 3.10: Distribution of oldest-old population (aged 80 and over) by district, 2012

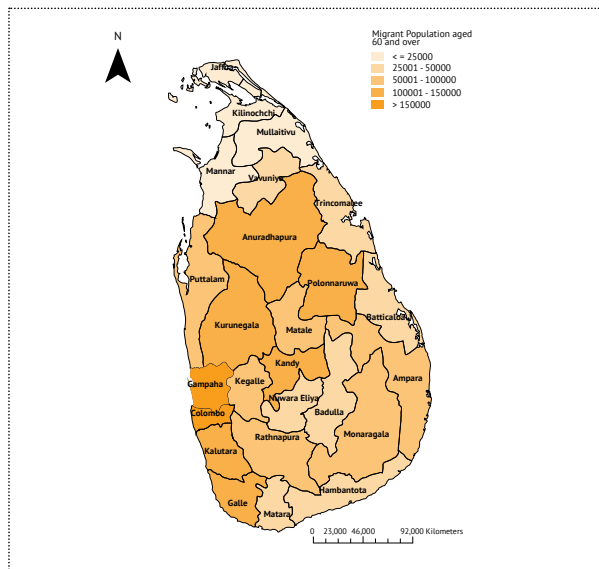


Source: Based on SLPHC, 2012

3.4 INTERNAL MIGRATION AS A DETERMINANT OF DISTRIBUTION OF AGEING POPULATION

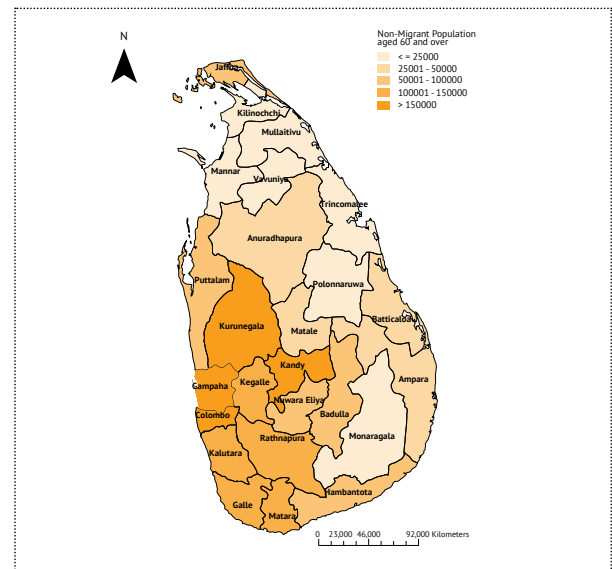
The unequal distribution of ageing population across the districts in Sri Lanka for 2012 have been presented from Figure 3.2 and Table 3.2. This was not only due to the demographic transition with the rapid decline in mortality and fertility, but also to the changing pattern of internal migration. In 2012, 42.5 % of the total migrants had resided in the Western Province (Department of Census and Statistics, 2014; De Silva 2015, Perera, 2015). The age selectivity of the migration process entails that the three districts of Colombo, Gampaha and Kalutara would have attracted young migrants of working ages due to availability of job opportunities, infrastructural and industrial development that experienced by these districts since late 1970s. These migrant cohorts would have reached ageing during last three decades and it can be observed from the SLPHC data in 2012. Distribution of age 60 or over migrant population and non-migrant population by district are presented in Figure 3.11 and 3.12. It is evident that most of the migrant aged persons lived in Colombo and Gampaha districts.

Figure 3.11: Non-migrant aged 60 & over population by district, 2012



Source: Based on SLPHC, 2012

Figure 3.12: Migrant aged 60 & over population by district, 2012



Source: Based on SLPHC, 2012

In-migrants to the Western province since 1970s who would have been 20 years or more of age at the time of migration would be more than 60 years of age in 2012. Similarly the out migration of persons from their district of birth due to civil disturbances in the districts largely in Northern, Eastern and North Western Provinces during the last 30 years would have added to the concentration of ageing population in the neighboring districts. Over the decades, the pattern of internal migration of population especially working age cohorts, between districts has been determined by demographic, socioeconomic, political and environmental factors. Mostly urban ward migration has been and effect on urban facilities and infrastructure development such as health services, education and employment opportunities. (DCS, 2014; Perera, 2005; UNFPA, 2015). Western province has become the popular migrant destination of the country. All three district of the western province reported a net in-migration in 2012. It can be noted from the Table 3.4 that a majority of elderly migrant persons have concentrated in Colombo and Gampaha districts of the Western Province. In addition, a significant volume of aged migrant persons can be observed from the former settlement and migrant districts such as Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Kurunagala, Kandy and Kalutara.

PROVINCIAL AND DISTRICT LEVELS DISTRIBUTION OF AGEING POPULATION IN SRI LANKA CONTD.

Table 3.4: Net-migration rates for total population and aged 60 or over population by district, 2012

District	2012 Net migration Rate (Total Pop)	2012 Net migration Rate (aged 60 or over)	District	2012 Net migration Rate (Total Pop)	2012 Net migration Rate (aged 60 or over)
Colombo	67.1	167.05	Mullaitivu	143.9	623.7
Gampaha	190.2	195.88	Batticaloa	(44.3)	(17.7)
Kalutara	56.6	(7.37)	Ampara	40.0	314.1
Kandy	(95.4)	(239.50)	Trincomalee	65.8	290.1
Matale	(48.8)	(36.47)	Kurunegala	(20.6)	(18.9)
Nuwara Eliya	(144.2)	(224.26)	Puttalam	52.2	157.8
Galle	(102.5)	(243.33)	Anuradhapura	54.7	341.1
Matara	(198.7)	(382.53)	Polonnaruwa	142.5	694.0
Hambantota	(50.0)	(26.43)	Badulla	(109.2)	(149.3)
Jaffna	24.0	(303.99)	Monaragala	58.2	381.2
Mannar	(36.1)	(144.21)	Ratnapura	(44.2)	(22.3)
Vavuniya	(697.7)	609.08	Kegalle	(100.1)	(243.1)

Net-migration rate = Number of net-migrants per 1000 of usual residence population. Net out migration rates are indicated in parentheses

Source: Based on SLPHC, 2012

The adverse outcomes of ageing of migrant population are loneliness, lack of association with relatives and lack of access to social networks, insufficient income and livelihood, lack of aged friendly living arrangements, and long term care related issues. Intervention need to be done by employing place based approach in order to mitigate the adverse impact on the migrant elderly population especially those live in cities and settlement schemes. Most of such settlements do not have sufficient space and two or more generations living in a very small size of houses. This situation had an adverse impact on elderly living and wellbeing. These findings suggest that elderly living in migrant communities should be given attention by promoting them to engage in social activities and participation in various elders societies.

SUMMARY

Analysis of provincial and district levels distribution of ageing population in Sri Lanka has discovered that fertility and migration are the key determinants of the population ageing process. The analysis further confirms that demographic transition occurring in the country and its regional variations highlight the characteristics and the depth of the ageing process happening in this country. Provincial and district levels administrations should take these dynamics into account when planning for aged friendly societies. The analysis found approximately one in every three older persons in Sri Lanka (aged 60 and above) live in the Western Province. In addition, other two Provinces, the Central and Southern Provinces, have experienced over 13 % share of aged persons in 2012. Therefore, these provinces need to develop proper mechanisms to address ageing related implications which will focus in the next chapters of the report. When analyzing the percentage of ageing in the district population, 8% or more was reported in each of these districts. Such a situation strongly affirms that almost all districts in the country are undergoing the advanced stages of the demographic transitional process. Such changes in the demographic transitional arena occurred in spite of the fact that the population in the Northern, Eastern, North Central and North Western Provinces have been largely affected by the thirty year war and the associated civil disturbances. When compared to the Western Province a lower level of economic development is observed in all other provinces. These socio-economic, environment, cultural and other diversities are also important in addressing ageing issues at provincial and district levels.

CHAPTER 4

CHANGE IN AGE-SEX STRUCTURE OF POPULATION AND ITS IMPLICATION ON AGEING POPULATION IN SRI LANKA

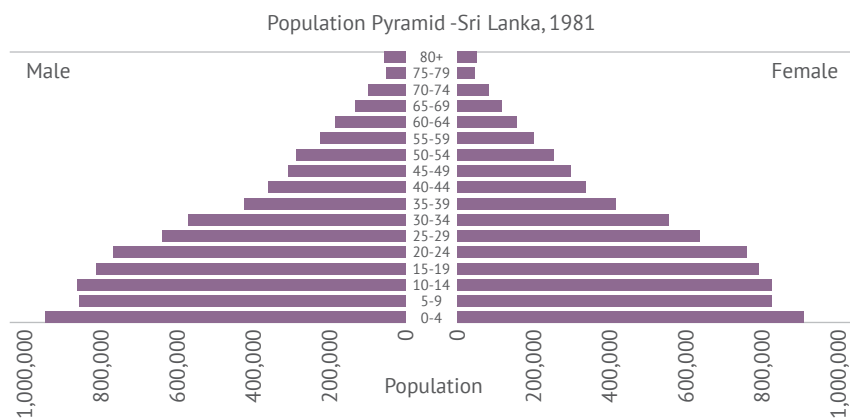
4.1 INTRODUCTION

Age structure of a population is an important source of knowledge to understand its composition, quality and the potential. The base of an age sex structure of a population is partly an outcome of past fertility levels as well as present fertility levels of different cohorts of women (age 15-49) in a population. Similarly the age sex structure is largely influenced by the mortality levels that determined the size of different age sex groups of the structure. Effect of the migration patterns of the population is equally important to understand the prevailing size of an age sex structure. Time series data enables one to understand the changing patterns. This chapter examines changes in age sex structure in Sri Lanka and its implications towards demographic indicators such as the dependency ratios, the median age, the ageing index and potential and parental support ratios. It is important to note that the time series data collected by the Department of Census and Statistics enables in-depth study of the stages of demographic transition in Sri Lanka and the associated age structure changes and characteristics of ageing population. The analysis of these implications of ageing would support policy makers in effective decision making with regard to ageing population related issues.

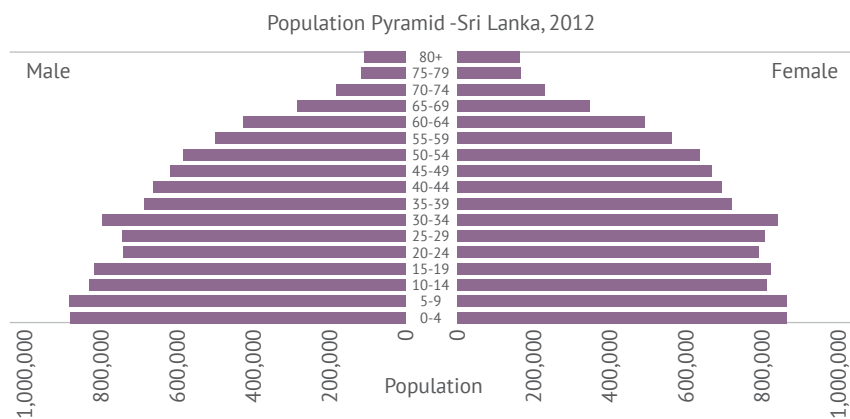
4.2 CHANGE IN AGE-SEX STRUCTURE

The impact of demographic transition, the declining mortality and fertility caused the increasing life expectancy in Sri Lanka which resulted in a shift in the age distribution to higher age groups. The improvement in life expectancy at birth as well as at different ages resulted in an increasing number of persons reaching the age of 60 years and surviving to older age cohorts. Presently, it is expected that Sri Lankan male and female would live in older age cohorts on an average of 12 years and 18 years respectively. The effect of declining fertility and improving longevity is therefore a decrease in the addition of the population of younger age cohorts and increase in the number of aged persons in older age cohorts. The changing size of young and aged persons in Sri Lanka is illustrated in the population pyramids in Figures 4.1. It contrasts the population pyramids for 1981 and 2012. The age distribution of the population in 1981 had already moved from a true pyramid shape to one with a youth bulge and working age cohorts in 2012.

Figure 4.1: Age distribution of the Sri Lankan population: 1981 and 2012



Source: Based on SLPHC, 1981

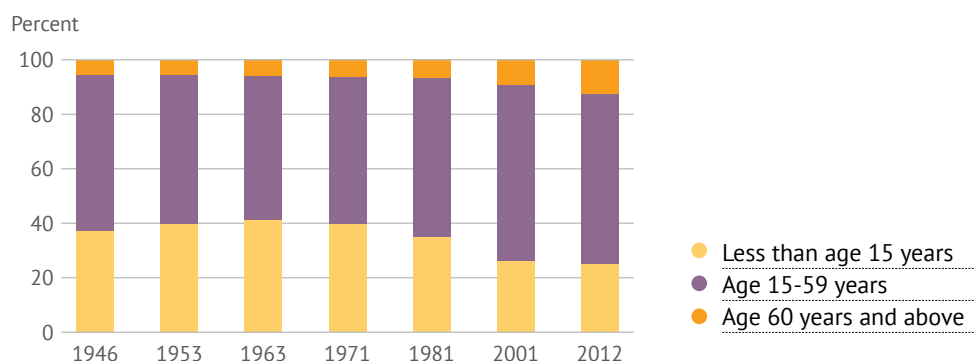


Source: Based on SLPHC, 2012

The distribution of the age – sex structure of Sri Lankan population for Census years 1946- 2012 is presented in Figure 4.2. It shows that the population momentum of high and stable fertility period up to mid 1980's is the main reason for influx of large numbers of young working age population (age 15-59) of the age structure.

CHANGING AGE-SEX STRUCTURE OF POPULATION AND ITS IMPLICATION ON AGEING POPULATION IN SRI LANKA CONTD.

Figure 4.2: Change in age structure of Sri Lanka, 1946-2012



Source: Department of Census and Statistics, 1986, 2015

Figure 4.2 presents the age- sex structure of the population in three broad age groups namely less than fifteen years of age, 15 – 59 age group and 60 and over age group which would enable comprehension of population components comprising those less than 15 years or the child population, the working age population and the ageing population. Time series data presented for the last six and half decades show that during the initial two and a half decades under consideration the base of the age structure had been very broad reflecting a high fertility and decline mortality regime. During the period 1946–1963 the base of the age structure of the population had been increasing from 37 % to 42 %. From 1971 the child population had started declining from 40 % to 25 % in 2012. The increasing patterns as well as the declining patterns of the proportion of child population are largely a result of the changing fertility levels as well as reduced infant and child mortality levels. The role of the family planning services, decline in infant and child mortality and the parallel changes in the desired family size of women, spread of education, modernization as well as increased urbanization would have been the main changing agents in the age structure of the population over the last decades. Planning implications of such changes are broad and varied.

The proportionate quantum of 15-59 segment of the age structure is largely determined by past fertility levels, current mortality levels, and levels and patterns of international migration. In case of migration, foreign employment and out migration for permanent settlement in foreign countries are the main determinants of the size of this portion of the age structure. The working age population represents the earning potential of the country. Data presented in Figure 4.2 shows that this segment comprised of the major proportion of the age structure, constituting more than half of the percentage distribution of the age structure. During the 1946-1963 period it is noticeable that the working age population show a declining trend. In comparison the child population showed an increasing trend during the same time span. During the subsequent decades from 1971 to 2012 the proportion of working age population had increased from 54.0 % of the population to 62.4 % bringing down the dependency ratio substantially in opening a window of opportunity for potential economic development of the country.

During the 1946 to 1981 period, the proportion of ageing population in the age structure was very small amounting to 5 % to 6 %. This is a result of high and stable fertility and declining mortality regimes of the

demographic transition that has been taking place in Sri Lanka. It is a period when the ageing phenomenon of the demographic transition is not evident in the age structure. In this period the proportionate distribution of young aged who were less than of age 15 years was relatively very high (Figure 4.2) indicating a broad based age structure and a young population rather than an ageing population.

During the period of 1981 to 2012, the ageing population size had almost doubled in Sri Lanka. It is also observable in the age structure in Figure 4.2. Issues, challenges and policy implications associated with such a change cannot be easily ignored. The major reason for this age structural change is a sharp decline in the fertility level in concurrence to an already declined mortality rate to a very low and stable level of 6 persons per 1000 mid-year population. The growth of older population is one of the most significant demographic trends in Sri Lanka in the first decade of the 21st century. Baby boomers, those born between 1946-1964 have started to contribute the ageing process of the country. Since Sri Lanka has been facing ageing population with a unsatisfactory level of economic development, it is clear that several challenges remain in adequately preparing to meet their anticipated needs in old age. With further maturity of the ageing process, further increases of this segment of population is expected. In an atmosphere of unplanned economic development where long term and short term planning implications of ageing are not addressed even to a minimal standard, the future for aged persons in Sri Lanka is not very prospective. The ageing population as a rapidly accelerating segment of the population demands serious attention of the policy makers.

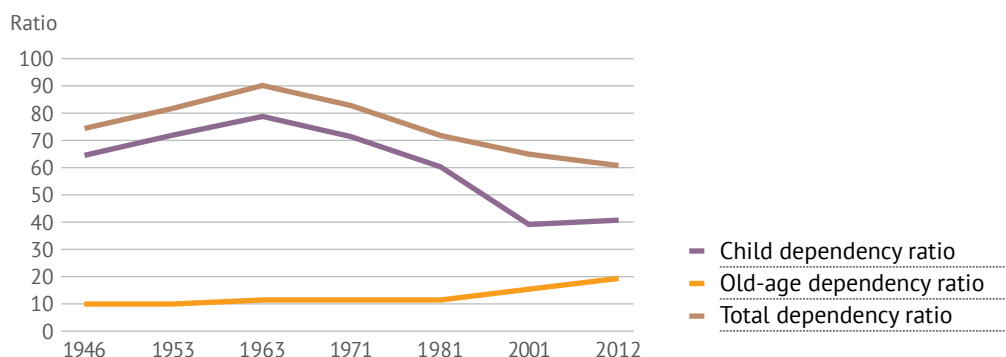
4.3 CHANGE IN DEPENDENCY RATIO

The phenomenon of ageing and the increasing old-age dependency burden of the working- age population (15-59) is another issue to be investigated. The dependency ratio is one of key indicators of the potential support needs of a country. In this analysis the total dependency ratio is calculated as the ratio of the number of children (those aged 0-14 years) and elderly persons (aged 60 years or over) to the number of working age population (15-59 years). In other words the total dependency is examined using a dependency ratio which is a summation of two dependency situations namely the child dependency and the old-age dependency. The ratio measures the dependency level of these two segments on the working age population. This measure is based on the assumption that childhood and old -age are periods of dependency and that they tend to depend on working- age population for financial support. This measure provides an approximation of the dependency burden of a country.

The trends and patterns of dependency ratios in Sri Lanka from 1946-2012, are presented in Figure 4.3. It shows the total, child and old-age dependency ratios observed for the period. It is observed that the change in age structure in Sri Lanka directly impact on the dependency status in the country. During the period 1946 to 1963, the child dependency as well as old-age dependency had increased. The child dependency increased substantially but at a decreasing rate. The old-age dependency ratio increased only minimally. This is largely a result of high and stable fertility and declining mortality .which resulted in a young population and a high child dependency burden on the working age population. In 1946, for every 100 working-age persons there were 74 total dependents and of them 65 child dependents and 9 old-age dependents. By 1963 the child dependency ratio increased to 79 and old-age ratio to 11 per 100 working- age persons. Substantial declines in the child dependency ratio is observed since 1963. Up to 1981 while the old-age dependency is observed stagnating at a little more than 11 per 100 working- age persons (Figure 4.3).

CHANGING AGE-SEX STRUCTURE OF POPULATION AND ITS IMPLICATION ON AGEING POPULATION IN SRI LANKA CONTD.

Figure 4.3: Trends in dependency ratios in Sri Lanka, 1946-2012



Source: Department of Census and Statistics, 1986, 2015

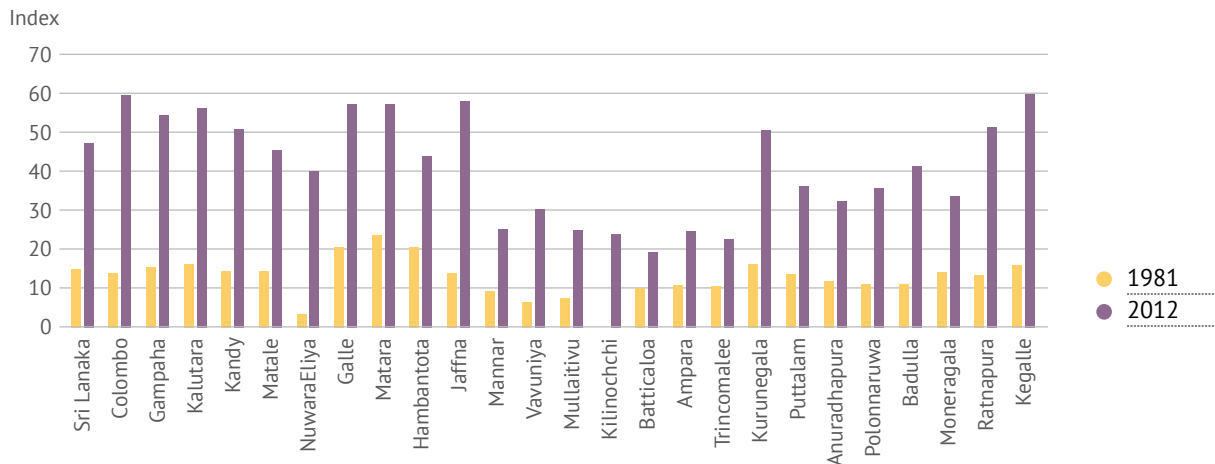
The observed dependency trend further indicates that prior to 1981 when the population was growing as a result of high CBR and CDR declining mortality, the old-age dependency ratio was less than 11 but total dependency ratio was more than 80 as a result of the increase in child dependency ratio. However, after 1981 both the total dependency ratio and the child dependency ratio have been declining while the old-age dependency ratio has been increasing. In 2012 there were 60 dependents comprising 40 child dependents and 20 old-age dependents

The dwindling of the dependency situation of the country have paved the way for several challenges for the policy makers. Even though the current dependency situation is manageable for the country, it is necessary for redistributing of current capital and recurrent expenditure resources to face the future old-age dependency situation. The maximum use of economic resources in terms of educational, health, and welfare services are essential to address the potential old-age dependency issues. Redirection of additional resources to the old-age dependent segments in rendering the required additional services especially in the health and social welfare sectors will be necessary. In addition establishing a proper mechanism to utilize demographic bonus of the country to enable maximum use of the surplus potential to lead the country to an accelerated period of growth is important.

4.4 AGEING INDEX

The ageing index refers to the ratio of the population aged 60 years or over to that of under age 15 population. It measures the shift in the balance between the child and older population. In 1981, the ageing index in Sri Lanka was 21, that is, there were 21 old-age persons per 100 children under age 15. The index has increased to 49 in 2012. The increase in ageing index can be observed in almost all districts in Sri Lanka. However, districts such as Colombo, Galle, Matara and Kegalle have reported relatively high ageing index that is over 57 which reflect the rapidity of population ageing in these districts (Figure 4.4).

Figure 4.4: Ageing index by district, 1981 & 2012



Source: Department of Census and Statistics, 1986, 2015

4.5 POTENTIAL SUPPORT RATIO AND PARENTAL SUPPORT RATIO

In this analysis the potential support ratio is calculated as the number of persons aged 20-59 years per every person aged 60 years or over considering the labour force participation and the formal retirement age of the country. The potential support ratio is used as the age structure indicator relevant to the population ageing. Under the present demographic trends, families have fewer children and older cohort is expected to live longer thus this would require alternative sources of support in old age. It is evident in the 1981 SLPHC data, there were on average seven adult persons to provide support for one older person and in 2012 the number has drop to four persons in Sri Lanka (Table 4.1). The results suggest that change in age structure and an increasing number of old-age population would result in a significant shrinking of the support base for the ageing population in Sri Lanka. Parental support ratio usually measures the demands on families to provide support for their oldest members. The parental support ratio is measured as the number of persons aged 80 years or over per 100 persons aged 50-64. In 1981 and 2012 SLPHC data, there were 109,638 and 273,774 persons aged 80 and over respectively. The parental support ratio between 1981 and 2012 have not been changed and there were about eight persons aged 80 or over per 100 persons aged young 50-64. This is due to the fact there is a large number of persons in the age 50-64 cohort, those who born during 1948-1962 or baby boom era (Table 4.1).

CHANGING AGE-SEX STRUCTURE OF POPULATION AND ITS IMPLICATION ON AGEING POPULATION IN SRI LANKA CONTD.

Table 4.1: Potential support ratio and Parental support ratio in Sri Lanka, 1981 and 2012

Population category	1981	2012
Population age 20-59 years (number)	7,035,157	11,062,951
Population age 60 years or over (number)	981,808	2,520,573
Population age 50-64 years (number)	1,302,250	3,201,599
Population age 80 years or over (number)	109,638	273,774
Potential support ratio (population 20-59 per person aged 60 years or over)	7.2	4.4
Parental support ratio (population 80+per 100 persons aged 50-64)	8.4	8.6

Note: Potential support ratio usually defines as the ratio of population aged 20-64 to that aged 65 and over while the parental support ratio defines as the population aged 85 or over to that 100 persons aged 50-64. However, based on Sri Lankan ageing situation these measures were computed as taking age categories given in Table 4.1.

Source: Based on SLPHC, 1981 & 2012

SUMMARY

The above observed changes in the age structure of the Sri Lankan population are important in understanding the age structure related policy implications. The declining fertility, advancing longevity and declining sex ratio that have been experienced in the country has a shift in the age-sex structure of Sri Lankan population. Declining fertility contributed to reducing the number of births and a relatively lesser number of persons at the bottom of the age-sex pyramid. On the other hand improvement of the life expectancy resulted surviving of people to the older age groups hence expanding the top of the pyramid. Thus the shape of the pyramid shifting from triangle to narrow based pyramid would increase the old-age dependency ratio. It is expected that old-age dependency ratio would increase than the child dependency ratio by the mid of this century. The increase in old-age dependency will require policies that can influence employment and retirement, health and long-term care, social networking and social services, and public-private partnerships for making aged friendly societies which would reduce the old-age dependency burden on the working-age population. The female labour force participation in Sri Lanka is about 36 % and a large number of female working aged population falling to the economically inactive category. Therefore, measures need to be taken to enhance the female labour force participation of the country to reduce the potential burden to the working age population.

CHAPTER 5

DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF AGEING POPULATION

5.1 INTRODUCTION

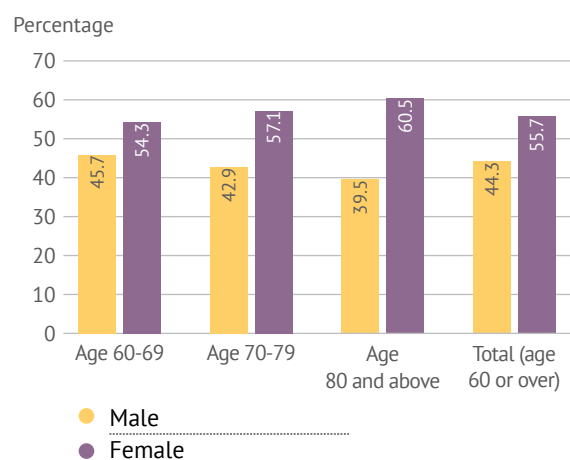
This chapter presents the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of ageing population in Sri Lanka in order to understand the needs of older population. The old-age population by their demographic characteristics, urban rural differentials, ethnic differentials, education, economic activity status, household type and living arrangements are important for policy planners to identify the targeted group of older persons for the respective programmes. Since the ageing population will differ from each other in these characteristics, identifying them would also be useful for effective planning on the types and modes of resources and care needed by each group of older persons.

5.2 DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Age-sex composition

Age –sex composition of ageing population in Sri Lanka is crucial to assess the current and future needs and to set policy priorities to enhance the well-being of the growing number and share of older persons in the population. Women comprise the majority of the aged population in Sri Lanka and there were 2,520,573 aged 60 or over and 289,000 more females than males. It is significant to note that there were approximately 10,729 centenarians (4,147 and 6,582 males and females respectively) in Sri Lanka. The key feature observed in Sri Lanka is that females tend to live for an average of seven years longer than males, and in almost all older age cohorts; females outnumber males. The distribution of aged population by age group and sex is presented in figure 5.1 and it depicts that females accounted for about 56 % of total aged population and for age group 80 or over, female were 61 %. Similar features have been observed in the global share of older population in 2015 (United Nations, 2016).

Figure 5.1: Distribution of ageing population by age group and sex



Source: Based on SLPHC, 2012

DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF AGEING POPULATION CONTD.

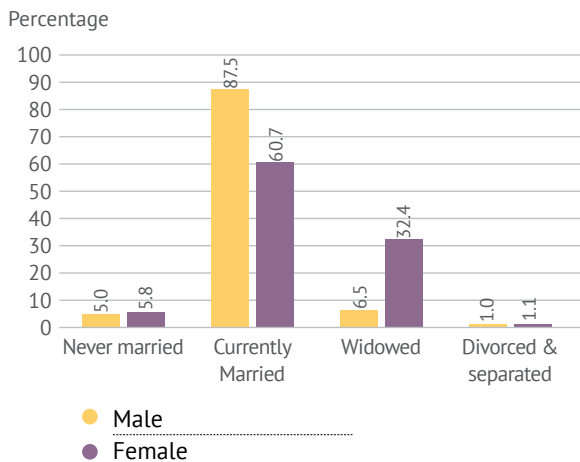
Sex Ratio

While the sex ratio at birth is generally 104-105 males per 100 females in Sri Lanka, it is reversed in the older age groups due to higher life expectancy of females. The sex ratio, expressed as the number of males per 100 females is useful in understanding the gender imbalance of the Sri Lankan population. At the national level in 2012, there were 94 males for every 100 females in the total population. In the age group 60 years and over there were 79 males for every 100 females for the older population and 65 males for every 100 females for aged 80 years and over. Figure 5.2 presents the sex ratio of ageing population and the total population in 2012.

Marital Status

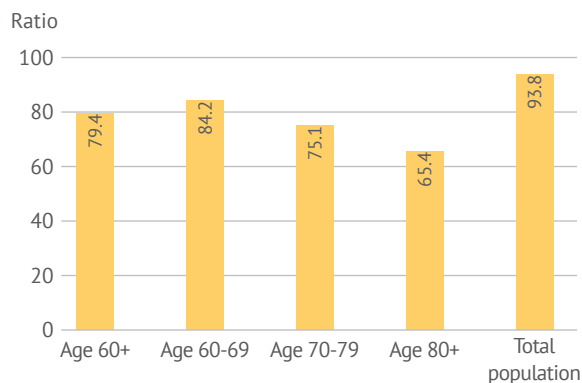
The distribution of ageing population by marital status and gender are given in Figures 5.3 and 5.4. It depicts that more than three fourth of males were currently married (88 %) while only less than two thirds of females were currently married. One in every three aged woman was widowed, and the never married elderly comprised of 5 percent and 6 percent male and female population respectively. Such a situation has serious implications for their well-being at older ages.

Figure 5.4: Ageing population by gender and marital status



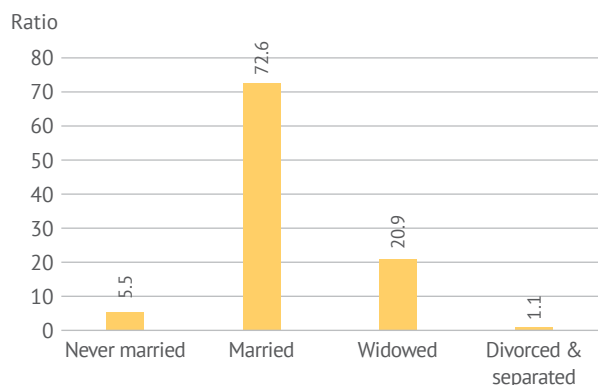
Source: Based on SLPHC, 2012

Figure 5.2: Sex ratio of the total population and ageing population, Sri Lanka -2012



Source: Based on SLPHC, 2012

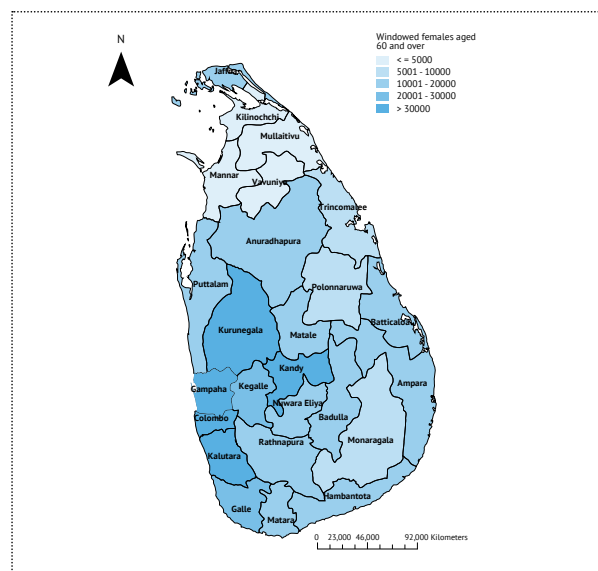
Figure 5.3: Ageing population by marital status



Source: Based on SLPHC, 2012

Since spouses and children are the primary source of economic, social and emotional support in old age, married aged persons have an advantage than the widowed. The distribution of widowed female population by district is given in Figure 5.5. There were five districts namely, Colombo, Kalutara, Gampaha, Kandy and Kurunegala that had more than 30,000 widowed elderly females.

Figure 5.5 Distribution of widowed female population by district



Source: Based on SLPHC, 2012

The Table 5.1 further presents the distribution of ageing population by marital status, age group and sex. It is noted that females comprise of not only the majority in older age groups, but also the majority of the widowed old. In the young old category, age group 60-69 one in every four females were widowed while among middle-old category, age 70-79, about 42 per cent females were widowed. Among the oldest-old category, age 80 or over, a half of female population or one in every two females were widowed. In the context of feminization of ageing in Sri Lanka, several implications can be discussed. Since the majority of Sri Lankan females are not economically active during their young working ages, they have less opportunity to save for the old-age living. Table 5.1 depicts that over three fourth of the males in all three older age cohorts were married. Conversely, in Sri Lanka men tend to marry women younger than themselves and that widowed males remarry more often than widowed females.

In 2012, there were 382,496 more widows in Sri Lanka. The majority of women become vulnerable at the time of the death of their spouses as they tend to be less economically active and also do not have access to formal social security systems when they are widowed. In Sri Lanka, female labour force participation is 36 % and many married females rely on their husbands for the provision of economic and social support to ensure the well-being of the older women in Sri Lanka. Old-age widows need to be given significant attention in providing economic and social support systems.

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Table 5.1: Percentage distribution of ageing population by marital status, age group and sex

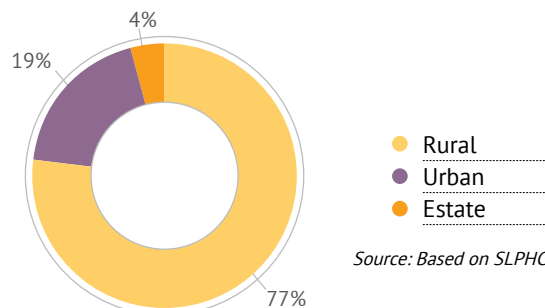
Marital Status	60-69 years			70-79 years			80 years and over		
	Total (%)	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Never married	5.8	4.9	6.6	5.0	5.0	5.0	4.8	6.0	4.0
Married	77.8	90.3	67.3	66.8	85.4	52.8	57.3	75.0	45.8
Widowed	15.1	3.7	24.6	27.4	8.7	41.5	37.3	18.3	49.7
Divorced & separated	1.3	1.1	1.4	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.5
Total (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total (Number)	1,551,199	709,192	842,007	695,600	298,235	397,365	273,774	108,224	165,550

Source: Based on SLPHC, 2012

5.3 RURAL URBAN DIFFERENTIALS

There are three sectors of residence in Sri Lanka such as the Urban, Rural and Estate. Urban sector is comprised of Municipal council and Urban council areas while Estate sector includes commercial lands in extent of 20 acres or above and also more than 10 labourers are employed. All other areas are treated as rural sector (Department of Census and Statistics, 2015). As in many South Asian countries, the rural sector of Sri Lanka dominates both total and ageing population. The distribution of old-age population by sectors of residence is shown in Figure 5.6. About 19% of aged persons or approximately one in every four aged persons (60 years and over) live in the Urban sector while 4 percent of aged persons live in the Estate sector. A large majority of aged persons, about 77% or three in every four aged persons live in the rural sector. Generally, rural areas are found to be characterized by higher incidence of fertility and mortality than the urban sector while majority of working aged persons engaged in agricultural activities. A significant number of older persons in the rural sector have been left-behind by their young and working age family members due to out-migration and international migration for education, employment and marriage related reasons. Thus they would experience a shortage in potential care. The urban elderly are largely located in the Western Province and the majority of them had migrated from rural areas.

Figure 5.6: Distribution of ageing population by sector of residence, 2012

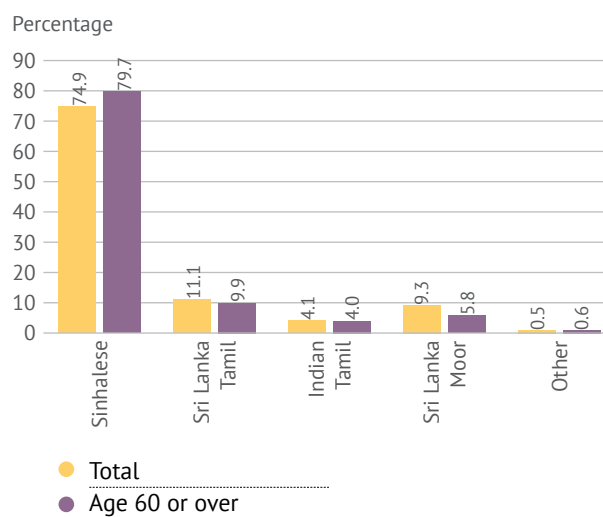


Source: Based on SLPHC, 2012

5.4 ETHNIC COMPOSITION OF OLDER PERSONS

It is revealed that the proportion of total population and old-age population varies by ethnic groups. In the total population, the majority are Sinhalese (74.9 %) while Sri Lankan Tamil, Moors and Indian Tamil comprised of 11.2 %, 9.3 % and 4.1 % respectively. It is observed that 80 percent of old-age population comprises of Sinhalese while other ethnic groups such as Sri Lankan Tamil, Indian Tamil and Moors have experienced relatively low proportion of aged persons. (Figure 5.7).

Figure 5.7: Distribution of total and ageing population by ethnicity, 2012



The population ageing has been observed in almost all ethnic groups except Sri Lanka Moor population (Table 5.2). The lowest proportion of aged population was observed from Sri Lanka Moor community (7.8 %) while all others experience 11 % or over from their respective total populations.

Table 5.2: Ethnic composition of ageing population, 2012

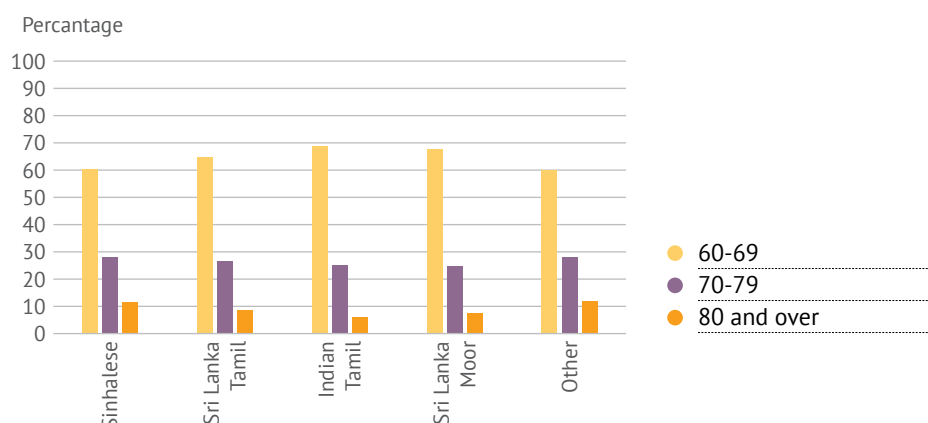
	Ethnic composition				
	Sinhalese	Sri Lanka Tamil	Indian Tamil	Sri Lanka Moor	Other
Total population (N)	15,250,081	2,269,266	839,504	1,892,638	107,950
Age 60 years or over (N)	2,007,842	250,190	99,853	146,847	15,841
Aged population as a % of total population in each ethnic group	13.2	11.0	11.9	7.8	14.7

Source: Based on SLPHC, 2012

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The proportion of aged population in each ethnic group by old-age groups is given in Figure 5.8 and showing similar pattern across all ethnic groups and age groups but slightly varying their proportions. In case of all ethnic groups the proportion of young old group was high. However, among Sinhalese ethnic group had experience relatively higher proportion of middle old and oldest-old population.

Figure 5.8: ageing population by ethnicity and age groups



Source: Based on SLPHC, 2012

5.5 EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AND LITERACY

Educational attainment and literacy level of older persons are important as they are linked to several dimensions of older persons' well-being and development. It is evident that higher level of education and literacy bring better health, social, economic and living standards for people (United Nations, 2015). The language literacy rate of the Sri Lankan population was 95.7 in 2012 while urban, rural and estate sectors reported 97.7%, 95.7 % and 86.1 % respectively (Department of Census and Statistics, 2015b). Nevertheless, it is observed that older age cohorts have relatively lower literacy rate. Tables 5.3 and 5.4 present that literacy rate for ageing population by sex and sector in 2012. Elderly females have lower literacy rates than males in all elderly age groups and in all sectors. It is noticed that about 40-60 % of elderly women are illiterate in the Estate sector and this data suggests that estate sector elderly females should be given significant attention when planning for welfare and development programmes.

Table 5.3: Literacy rate of ageing population by sex - 2012

Age group	Male	Female
60-64	95.0	89.3
65-69	94.2	86.0
70-74	93.2	82.3
75-79	90.9	76.8
80 or over	89.4	74.5

Source: Department of Census and Statistics, 2015

Table 5.4: Literacy rate of ageing population by sector and sex - 2012

Age group	Urban		Rural		Estate	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
60-64	97.6	94.6	94.9	89.9	86.4	59.0
65-69	97.5	93.4	93.9	86.2	85.8	52.1
70-74	97.1	91.3	92.8	81.9	83.0	45.7
75-79	96.3	89.8	90.2	75.2	79.6	37.7
80 or over	95.3	88.3	88.4	72.0	78.0	38.3

Source: Department of Census and Statistics, 2015

The older cohorts of population had relatively low level of literacy and educational attainment than that of young –old population. About 10 % of old age population has not attended school while the two third of aged persons had lower secondary or below level of education. Table 5.5 presents the educational attainment of the ageing population by older age groups. Only about a third of older people completed primary school. With the introduction of free education in 1947, Sri Lanka has achieved a tremendous progress in education and literacy indicators which were key driving forces to experience remarkable progress in demographic transition and social development compared to the other developing countries.

Table 5.5: Percentage distribution of aged population by level of education and age group

Educational attainment	Total (aged 60 or over)	60 years or over population by age group		
		60-69	70-79	80 and above
No schooling	10.4	7.5	4.0	10.5
Grade 1 -5	32.4	29.4	28.3	30.3
Grade 6-10	32.6	34.9	36.6	33.4
G.C.E. (O/L) or equivalent	15.6	17.9	18.9	17.1
G.C.E. (A/L) or equivalent	6.6	7.5	8.7	6.5
Degree and above	2.5	2.8	3.6	2.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total (Number)	2,520,573	1,551,199	695,600	273,774

Source: Based on SLPHC, 2012

5.5 LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

Like in many other South Asian countries, Sri Lanka have been placing the responsibility of caring for older persons within the family and it has been traditionally recognized as the responsibility of sons and other younger relatives. Mujahid and Siddhisena, (2009) stated that ‘intergenerational contract’ between younger cohorts whereby the younger generation who has been brought up and taken care of during their childhood and the older generation would be replayed by taking care of it during old age. In 2012, there were 2,496,038 (99 % of the total aged persons) aged persons who lived in household units while 24,535 were (1 %) institutionalized (elder homes and other Institutions). Most of older persons live with the family. Table 5.6 presents the total number and percentage of aged population who live in households by relationship to the

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head of the household. The number of older parents who live with their children were 437,000 (17.5 %) while there were 13,081 older persons as domestic employees. More than half of aged persons (55.6 %) function as head of household.

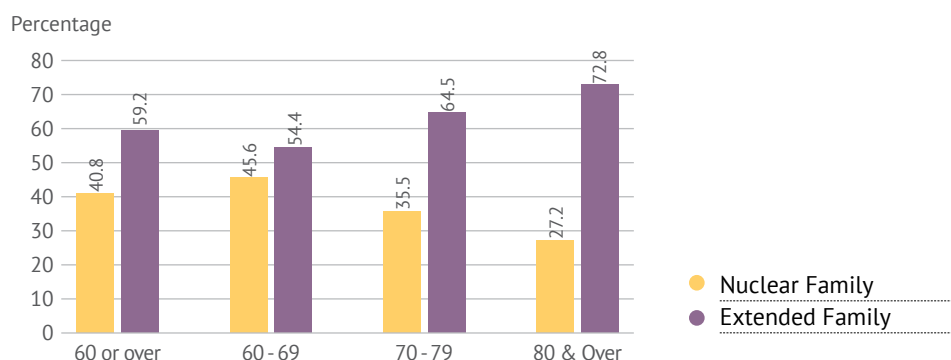
Table 5.6: Older persons in household by relationship to the head of the household, 2012

Relationship to the head of the household	Number	Per cent
Total number of aged persons in households (60 and over)	2,496,038	100.0
Head	1,386,872	55.6
Wife/husband	503,894	20.2
Mother/Father of head or spouse	437,000	17.5
Domestic employee	13,081	0.5
Others	155,191	6.2

Based on SLPHC, 2012

Living arrangement of aged persons by family type and older age groups is shown in Figure 5.9 and it can be observed that more than half of total older persons (59.2 %) in Sri Lanka live in extended households which are households of more than one generation while about 41 percent live in nuclear families.

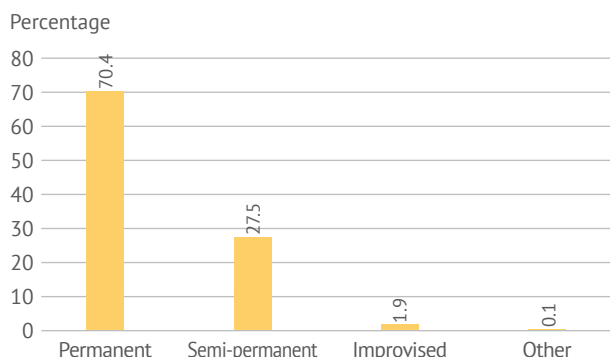
Figure 5.9: Living arrangement of aged population by family type and age group



Source: Based on SLPHC, 2012

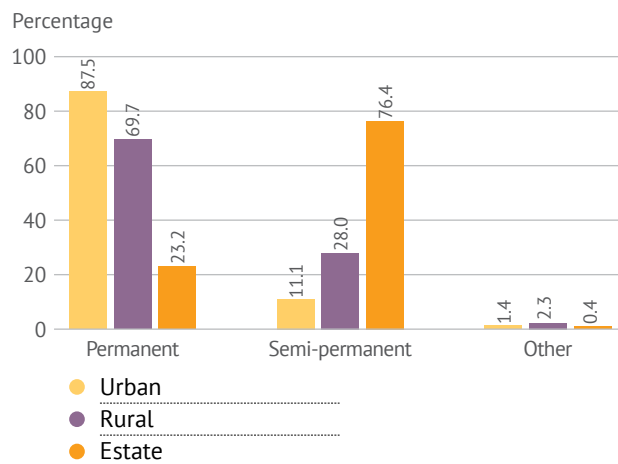
It is interesting to note that at higher ages majority of elders tend to live in extended families rather than nuclear units. Two-thirds of middle-old persons and approximately three-fourths of the oldest-old persons live in extended families. These findings suggest that intergenerational support, exchange of material and emotional support given through the extended families potentially benefit the wellbeing of older persons in Sri Lanka. When looking at older persons' well-being it is important to know the type of house that they live in. In 2012, there were 378,429 housing units that older persons had lived and 70 % of them were permanent. However, there were about one in every four persons live in semi-permanent houses (Figure 5.10). These housing conditions may affect negatively on their quality of living.

Figure 5.10: Types of housing structure where older persons live in - 2012



Source: Based on SLPHC, 2012

Figure 5.11: Type of housing structure where older persons live in by residence sector, 2012



Source: Based on SLPHC, 2012

When analyzing household type by sector it has been observed that older persons who live in the Estate sector were more disadvantaged with regard to type of house that they live in. Three-fourths of older persons in Estate sector had lived in semi-permanent housing structures while in rural areas it is slightly greater than one fourth (Figure 5.11)

5.6 ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

In the absence of comprehensive social protection mechanism for aged population, in Sri Lanka economic activity status of older persons is major component of old-age economic well-being. According to the census of population and housing 2012 the number of persons above 60 years and older who have been employed was 644,347. In other words one in every four older persons was employed while three fourth of older persons were economically inactive. The economic activity status of the ageing population in Sri Lanka presented in Table 5.7 illustrates that about 43 % of older men were employed while women were less likely to be employed than older men. Only about 11 % of older women were employed. It further showed that one in every three older persons who were in young-old category tend to be employed while middle -old and oldest -old were less likely to be employed which are approximately 15 and 8 % respectively. The distribution of employed older persons by major occupation category is presented in Figure 5.12. There were two key occupational categories such as skilled agricultural/ forestry and fishery workers (31.4 %), and elementary occupation (23.1 per cent) that the over half of the older people were employed in Sri Lanka. As shown in table 5.8, gender differences are observed in old-age employment participation and types of occupations that has significant influence on their economic and social wellbeing at their older ages. More than one thirds of females were employed in elementary occupations while over one thirds of males engaged in skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery related employments. A considerable proportion of female older persons are engaged in informal sector employments and self-employments. The proportion of employed older persons by Province is shown in Figure 5.13.

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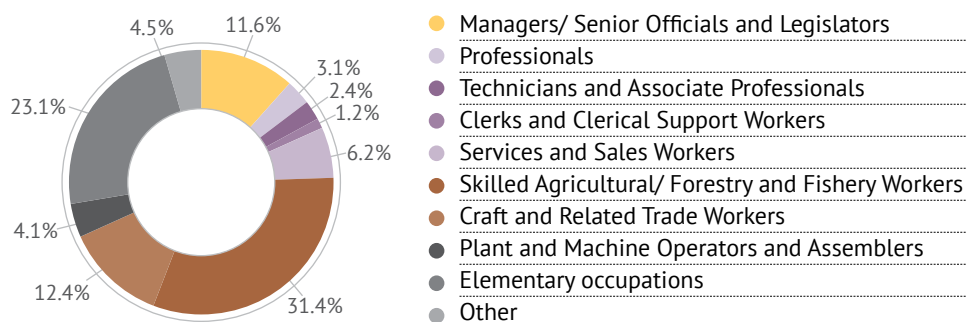
It is observed that the Western and Northern provinces have the lowest proportion of employed older population while it is close to 30 % in the North Central, Sabaragamuwa and Uva provinces. Most of older persons in these provinces are employed in agriculture based occupations.

Table 5.7: Ageing population by economic activity, sex and age group

Economic Activity	Total			Age 60 and over		
	Total	Male	Female	60-69	70-79	80 and over
Employed	25.3	42.9	11.3	33.1	14.8	7.6
Unemployed	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Economically not active	74.4	56.8	88.4	66.6	84.9	92.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total (Number)	2,520,573	1,115,651	1,404,922	1,551,199	695,600	273,774

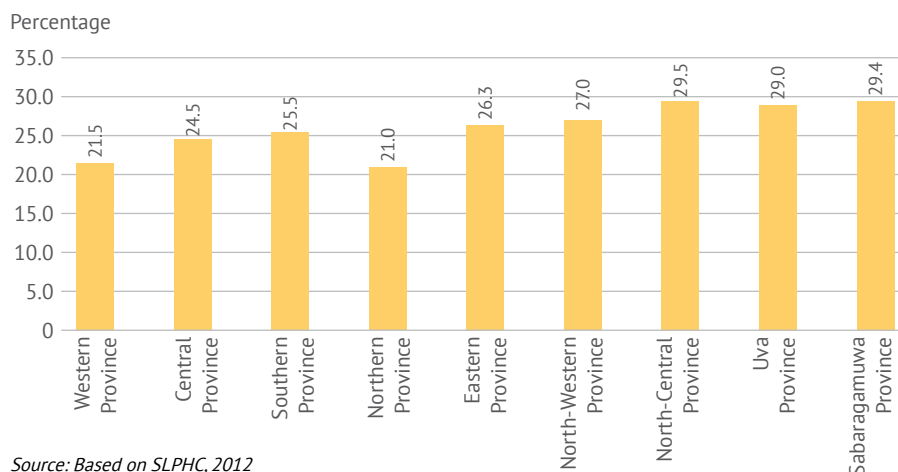
Source: Based on SLPHC, 2012

Figure 5.12: Distribution of employed older persons by occupation



Source: Based on SLPHC, 2012

Figure 5.13: Employed older population by province, 2012



Source: Based on SLPHC, 2012

Table 5.8: Percentage distribution of employed older population by occupation group and sex

Occupation group	Total	Male	Female
Managers/ Senior Officials and Legislators	11.6	12.3	9.6
Professionals	3.1	2.8	3.8
Technicians and Associate Professionals	2.4	2.7	1.3
Clerks and Clerical Support Workers	1.2	1.4	0.8
Services and Sales Workers	6.2	6.6	4.9
Skilled Agricultural/ Forestry and Fishery Workers	31.4	35.7	18.4
Craft and Related Trade Workers	12.4	11.8	14.0
Plant and Machine Operators and Assemblers	4.1	5.1	1.1
Elementary occupations	23.1	18.1	38.1
Other	4.5	3.3	8.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	627,725	470,999	156,726

Source: Based on SLPHC, 2012

SUMMARY

Women comprise the majority of the aged population in Sri Lanka and there were 289,000 more older females than older males. Females tend to live on average seven years longer than their male counterparts and in almost all older age groups females outnumber males. The proportion of widows is about five times that of widowers. The feminization of ageing would have greater impact on social and economic well-being of older women. About three fourths of aged persons live in the Rural sector while the one fifth of aged persons live in the Urban sector in Sri Lanka. Moor population is in the lower phase of population ageing while all other ethnic groups have been experiencing rapid ageing. With regards to the literacy and education attainment, old aged females have lower literacy and the Estate sector is more vulnerable and illiterate compared to the other sectors. Extended families play a vital role in taking care of oldest –old population in Sri Lanka and thus strengthening intergenerational supports, family and community based support in long –term care is essential. Since it has been observed that over one fourth of older population live in semi-permanent houses that need to be given attention. Three fourth of older persons are economically inactive and majority of them tend to depend on their families for financial and economic supports thus opportunities should be created to promote and engage them in productive ageing.

CHAPTER 6

HEALTH AND DISABILITY AMONG AGEING POPULATION IN SRI LANKA

6.1 INTRODUCTION

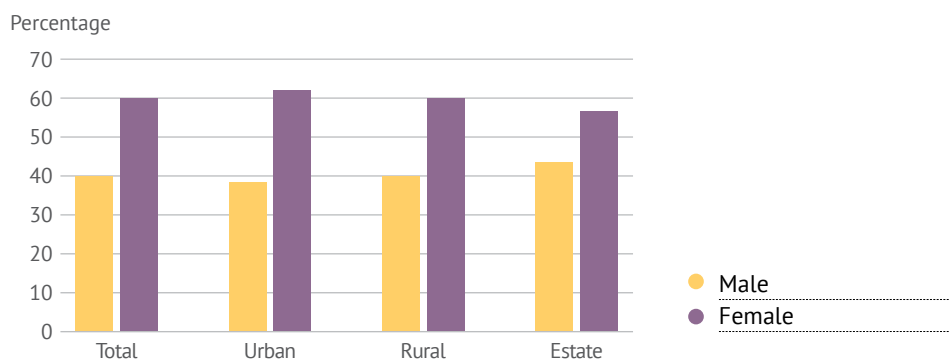
Ageing is associated with psychological, functional and pathological changes affecting physical, mental, emotional, and social well-being. The relationship between health and ageing have been investigated in ageing related research and literature, and it was discovered that with increasing age, several physiological and psychological changes occur, with a risk of rising chronic diseases. In many contexts it is observed that when reaching the older age groups (age 60 or over), the major burdens of disability and death arise from age related losses in hearing, seeing and moving, and non-communicable diseases, including heart disease, stroke, chronic respiratory disorders, cancer and dementia (WHO, 2015). Thus healthy ageing will enhance the quality of life, by reducing the risk of premature morbidity, disability and death (Ferraro, 2006; Perera and Sunpuwan, 2014 Seneviratne, 2004; WHO, 2015). Health status of older persons are determined by the level of dependence of the older persons in activities of daily living, the prevalence of physical and mental impairments, and the prevalence of illnesses and disabilities among old-age population which are crucial to ensure the well-being of life of older persons. The National Elderly Health Policy of Sri Lanka, 2017 also recognizes that the ageing population as a group needs special care. Thus an analysis of health, ageing and disability of older persons in Sri Lanka would contribute to a better understanding of the needs of older persons towards better health and the resources with which the aged persons are able to cope effectively when reaching the advance ages.

In 2012 SLPHC, inquired information on six domains of difficulties such as Seeing, Hearing, Walking, Cognition, Self-care, and Communication. The experience of physical or mental difficulty of the population in their day to day activities, such as activities of daily living (ADL) and instrumental activities of daily living (IADL), is important in managing day to day activities. In 2012 census data on impairments in vision, audibility, walking, climbing steps, cognition, dressing up, bathing and in communication ideas were obtained. Previous chapters discussed rapid ageing population and its socio-economic implications and this chapter examines the prevalence of disability among ageing population in Sri Lanka and their health implications which are vital for the implementation of appropriate policies and programmes.

6.2 DISABILITY PREVALANCE AMONG AGEING POPULATION

The proportion of older persons who have physical functional difficulties increases with the age. It is observed that about one fifth of elderly persons (age 60 or over) had difficulty in seeing and walking. However, when considering older age groups such as age 60-69, 70-79 and 80 and over, the disability status of old-age population varies according to age and gender. Out of total aged population in Sri Lanka, over half of older persons had physical or mental impairments in 2012. Figure 6.1 depicts the ageing population who had experienced functioning difficulty by sex and sector. It is revealed that females reported higher difficulties than males irrespective of the sector that they lived. However, the highest gap between male and female is observed in the urban sector while the lowest is from the estate sector. The highest female functional difficulties is observed from the urban sector (62.1 %) while the highest male functional difficulties is reported from the estate sector (43.6 %).

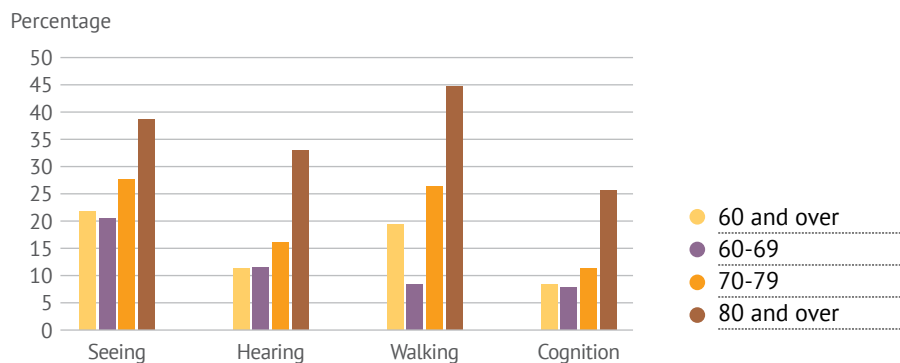
Figure 6.1: Ageing population with disability by sex and sector



Source: Based on SLPHC, 2012

When examining old-age difficulties by types of difficulty, it is found that a large number of older persons had difficulty in seeing and walking. Figure 6.2 presents difficulty in old-age by sex and types of difficulty. It is evident that almost all types of difficulty increases with the age and persons who are in the middle –old and the oldest-old age groups, have higher difficulties than young –old persons. Out of 2,520,573 aged 60 or over population, 548,776 persons had experienced difficulty in seeing (21.8 %), 284,285 persons had experienced difficulty in hearing (11.3 %), 488,209 persons had experienced difficulty in walking (19.4 %) and 208,657 persons (or 8.3 %) had experienced difficulty related to cognition (Figure 6.2). All type of difficulties are concerned, more than one third of the oldest- old population had seeing, hearing and walking difficulty, while one fourth of them had difficulty in cognition.

Figure 6.2: Percentage of older population with difficulties by age group and type of difficulty, 2012

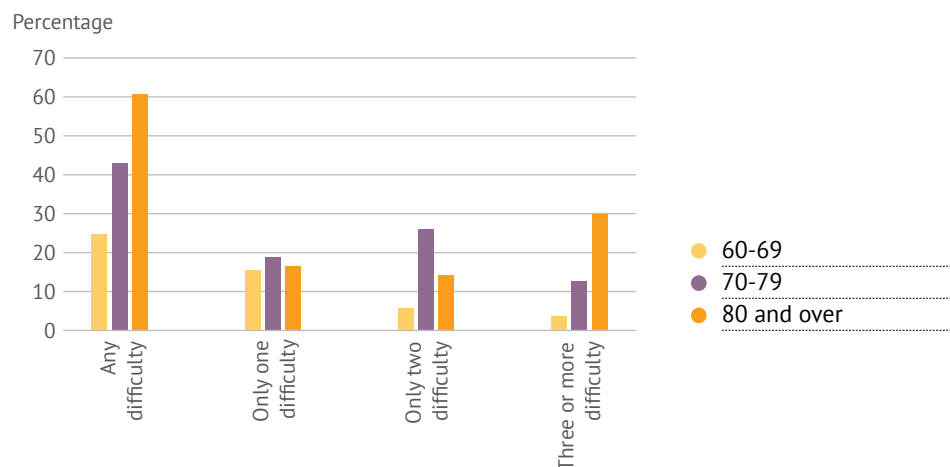


Source: Based on SLPHC, 2012

HEALTH AND DISABILITY AMONG AGEING POPULATION IN SRI LANKA CONTD.

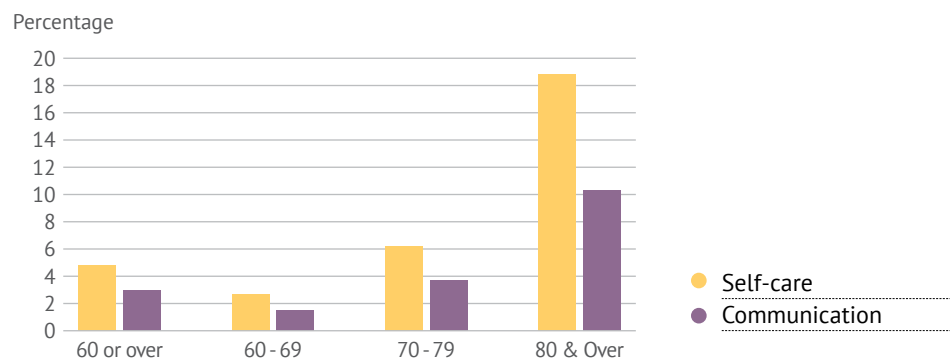
The percentage of aged persons in each age category by number of difficulties that they experienced is illustrated in Figure 6.3. Furthermore, self-care (19 %) and communication (10 %) related difficulties were mostly observed among oldest –old population (Figure 6.4). It is also found that about 60 % of the persons aged 80 years or over had experienced at least one disability while for age groups 60-69 and 70-79, it is reported as 25 % and 43 % respectively. However, it is important to note that 30 percent of aged persons who are in age 80 or over had experienced three or more number of difficulties (Figure 6.4). Having multiple difficulties effect on the health condition and long-term care needs of older persons,

Figure 6.3: Proportion of aged persons by number of difficulties



Source: Based on SLPHC, 2012

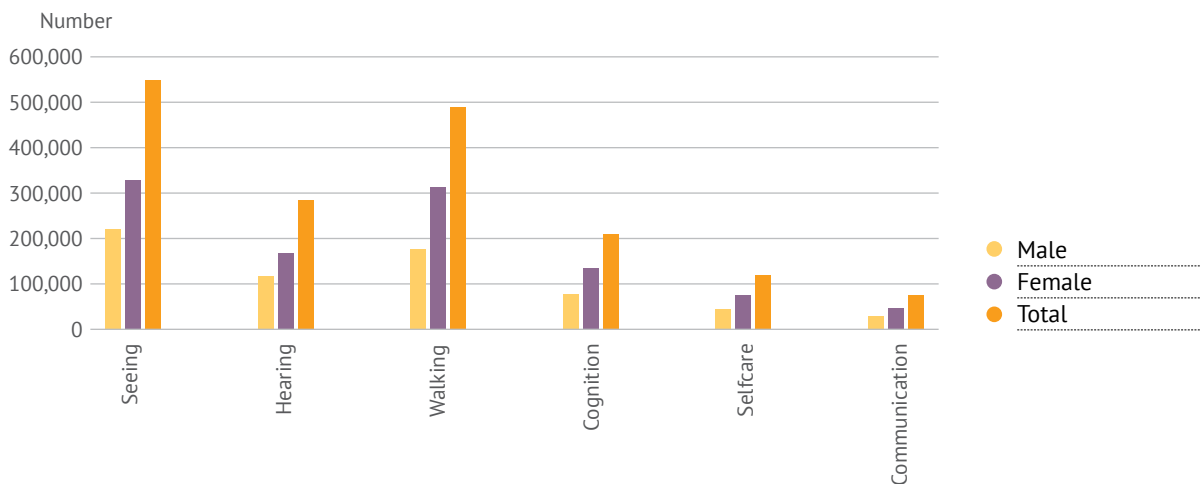
Figure 6.4: Difficulty in self-care and communication out of total ageing population, 2012



Source: Based on SLPHC, 2012

Ageing population by sex and type of difficulty is shown in Figure 6.5. It further shows that the female outnumber the male in almost all types of difficulty as females tend to live longer years than males in Sri Lanka.

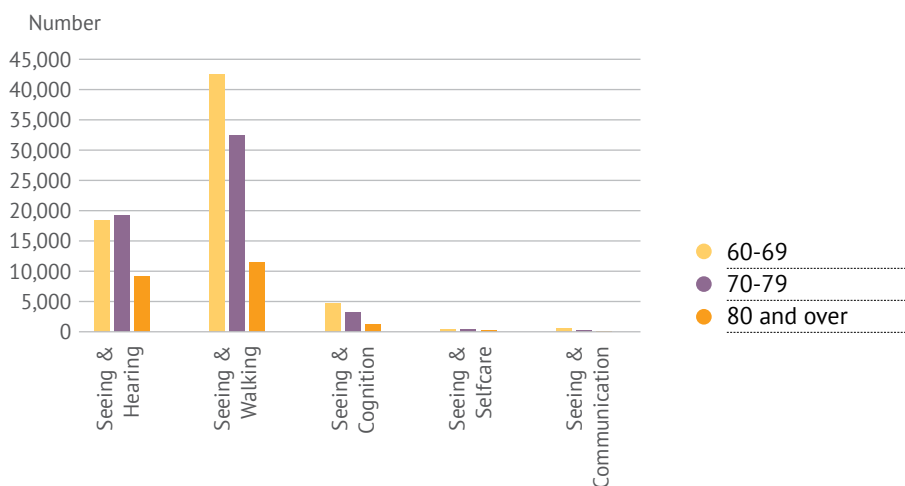
Figure 6.5: Functional difficulty in old-age by sex and types of difficulty



Source: Based on SLPHC, 2012

Both young-old and middle-old persons have experienced difficulties in seeing and walking, and also hearing and walking as shown in Figures 6.6 and 6.7.

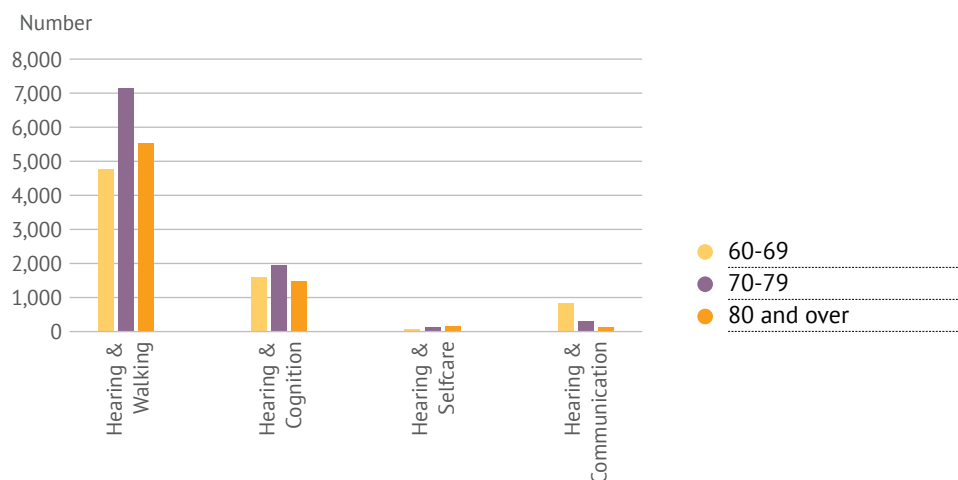
Figure 6.6: Number of aged population with seeing and other types of difficulty by age group



Source: Based on SLPHC, 2012

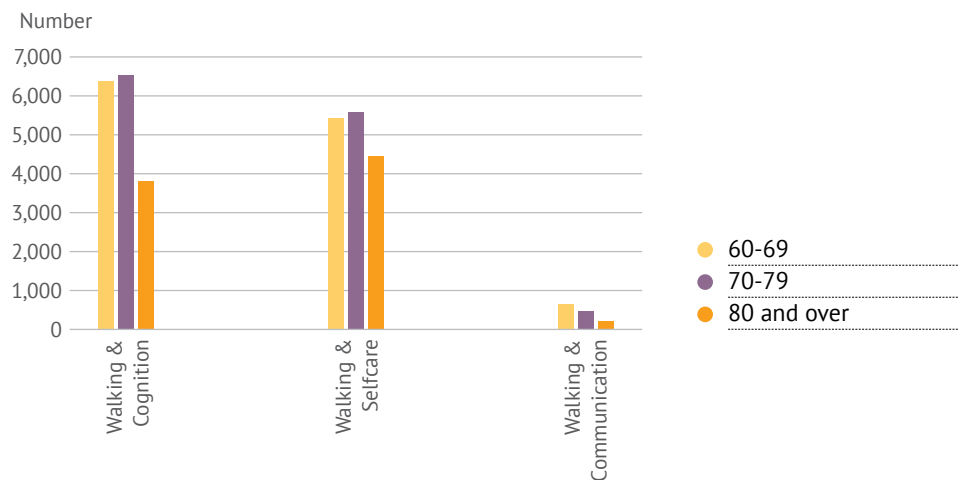
HEALTH AND DISABILITY AMONG AGEING POPULATION IN SRI LANKA CONTD.

Figure 6.7: Number of older persons with hearing and other type of difficulty by age group



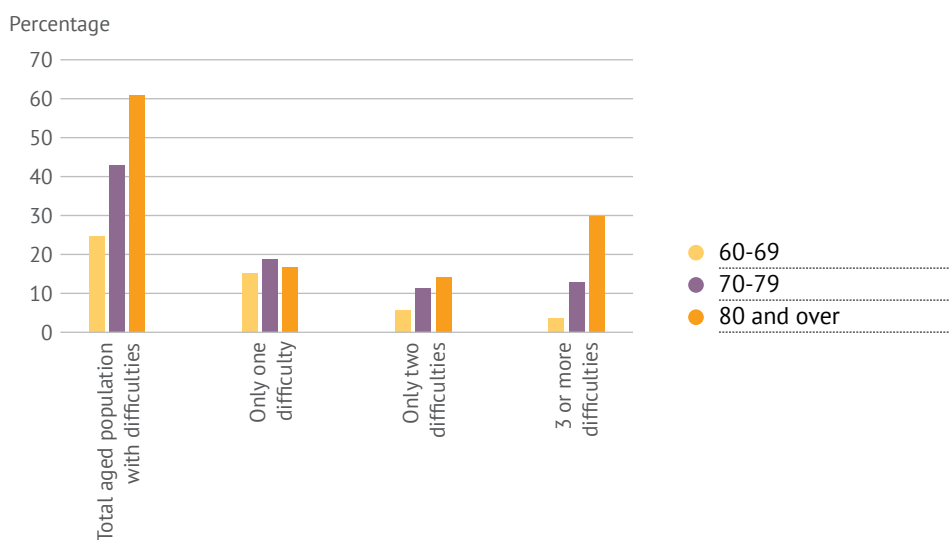
Source: Based on SLPHC, 2012

Figure 6.8: Number of older persons with walking and other type of difficulty by age group



Source: Based on SLPHC, 2012

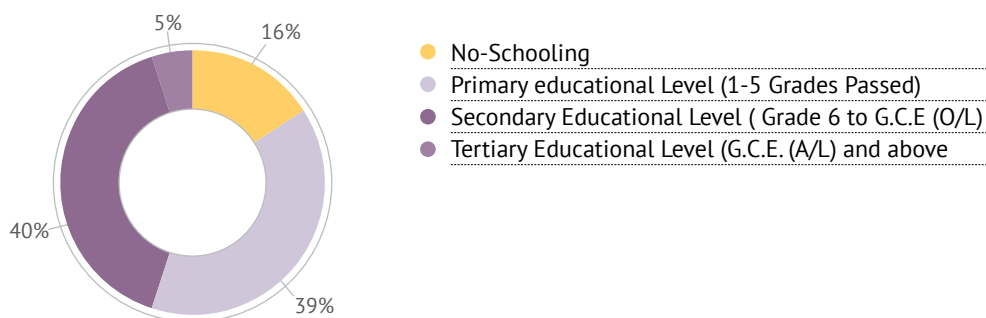
Figure 6.9: Older population by number of difficulties and age, 2012



Source: Based on SLPHC, 2012

Education has important social impact on health and disability status of older population. Figure 6.10 illustrate the older population with difficulties by their level of education, and it reveals that more than half of older population who had difficulties have only primary or lower level of education.

Figure 6.10: Older persons with difficulty by level of education, 2012



Source: Based on SLPHC, 2012

HEALTH AND DISABILITY AMONG AGEING POPULATION IN SRI LANKA CONTD.

6.3 CHALLENGES TOWARDS HEALTHY AND PRODUCTIVE AGEING

In Sri Lanka, apart from old-aged physical and mental impairments, about 45 percent of aged 60 years or over population have non-communicable diseases (Department of Census and Statistics, 2016). The NCDs mostly associated with old age include cardiovascular diseases, cancers, diabetes, arthritis, depression, dementia and Alzheimer's diseases. Preventing these diseases and functioning difficulties would contribute to delaying morbidity to latter part of the life. This would improve well-being and quality of life of the ageing population. In Sri Lanka, social welfare and health schemes are not adequate to address health care needs of older population of the country. The main challenges are how existing mechanism can effectively be responded to meet the rising health expenditure, disease burden and other services needs of the elderly. At the individual level ageing is associated with life course process and individuals experience changes in physical and psychological condition with advancing ages. Thus ensuring better level of living while minimizing individual's health risk and also access to quality health care and long-term care services for older population are challenging tasks for the country. As discussed in the previous chapters, population ageing is accelerating in Sri Lanka, these and challenges need to be addressed at national, community, family as well as individual levels. As the majority of older population is having NCDs and functioning difficulties, resources such as physical infrastructure, social security systems and social and community institutions need to develop to cope up with ageing related issues.

SUMMARY

The findings revealed that older persons have high risk of experiencing physical and mental problems in their older ages. Sixty percent of the oldest –old persons had experienced at least one disability while for the young-old and middle-old persons were 25 percent and 43 percent of respectively. Nearly one third of the oldest-old persons had experienced three or more number of difficulties, reflecting the severity of disability is prevalent among the oldest- old population. It is therefore, vital to address the implication of ageing for health and long-term care for older population health in Sri Lanka. Since majority of older population had experienced difficulties in seeing, hearing, walking and difficulty related to cognition, a considerable attention should be given to improve geriatric health care services. Effective implementation of National Elderly Health Policy which was launched in February 2017, is essential to ensure facilities and resource allocation to provide equitable, integrated, curative, preventive and rehabilitative geriatric health care services at every service delivery levels in the country to ensure health and well-being of older population in Sri Lanka.

CHAPTER 7

PROJECTED TRENDS IN AGEING POPULATION IN SRI LANKA

7.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the projected trends in aging population in Sri Lanka to address future challenges. The proportion of aging population has grown gradually over the last six decades. However, it is expected to rapidly increase over the next four decades. The projections indicate that this share of aged population will accelerate further to 16.3 % by 2022 and 23.0 % by 2042 and one in every four persons will be aged by 2052 (De Silva & De Silva, 2015). In this context, it is vital to discuss future scenario of the ageing dynamics to understand the magnitude and nature of the population age structure transition so that the emerging issues of ageing population and their implications for social and economic development in Sri Lanka can be addressed.

7.2 PROJECTED TRENDS IN AGEING POPULATION

Table 7.1 presents the projected trends and patterns of total and aged population in Sri Lanka which were done based on the SLPHC, 2012 for the period of 2012 -2052. The size of the total population in Sri Lanka is projected to increase from 20.4 million to 25.6 million for the period of 2012 -2052. The older population is also expected to increase from 2.5 million to 6.2 million by 2052. Therefore, adding close to 4 million of old-age persons in coming four decades signalling that Sri Lanka's potential ageing related issues. Sri Lanka still being a lower middle income country, entire systems including economic, social and health need to be reformed and restructured to ensure health and well-being of older population in Sri Lanka.

Table 7.1: Projected trends in ageing population in Sri Lanka, 2012-2052

Year	Total Population ('000)	Population age 60 or over ('000)	Population 60 or over (%)	Annual growth rate (%)	
				Total population	Population age 60 or over
2012	20,361	2,521	12.4	-	-
2022	22,232	3,625	16.3	0.9	3.6
2032	23,765	4,738	19.9	0.7	2.8
2042	24,918	5,746	23.2	0.5	1.9
2052	25,562	6,254	24.5	0.3	0.8

Source: De Silva and De Silva 2015

Note: standard population projections

PROJECTED TRENDS IN AGEING POPULATION IN SRI LANKA CONTD.

7.3 NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND PROGRAMMES FOR AGEING POPULATION

As presented by the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) during the Second World Assembly on Ageing in April 2002, it is recognized that population ageing as an important global trend. It is also linked with social and economic development and human rights, to ensure the well-being of older persons in an inclusive “society for all ages”. As the Sri Lanka’s population continues to age, ageing-related concerns should be incorporated into development planning with an aim to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Sri Lankan government has taken several measures to ensure all rights of older persons. A very significant action was the enactment of the Protection of the Rights of Senior Citizens Act (Act No.9 of 2000) which enabled to establish important institutions such as (a) National Council for Elders and Secretariat; (b) Maintenance Board for determination of claims from elders; and (c) A National Fund for Elders and (Protection of Rights of Elders (Mujahid and Siddhisena, 2009; World Bank, 2008). However, it is important to ensure that the ideas and representation of older women and men and their participation to achieve inclusive development which takes into account poverty eradication, environmental sustainability, inequality, human rights and global responsibility (United Nations 2015). Presently, these institutions play a key role in developing networking among NGOs, village level elders committees and providing welfare services for older population in Sri Lanka. However, comprehensive policies and programmes need to address inequalities experienced by the majority of older population in Sri Lanka with regard to gender, income, living condition, education, employment, health, and functional impairments. Hence it must be recognized that the older population are contributors to sustainable development.

SUMMARY

This monograph has described demographic, social, economic and health aspects of ageing population in Sri Lanka based on SLPHC, 2012. Population projections show that the current trends of aging population will continue and expected that about 25 % of the total population will be in the old age category by 2050. It is identified that as the population ageing accelerates, ageing population itself has begun to age. The feminization of ageing is prominent in Sri Lanka and the proportion of the older population that are female also increases. The majority of females have become vulnerable with regard to employment, marital status and physical and mental functional ability. Marital status plays a very important role in living conditions and well-being of older persons in Sri Lanka. The majority of female older persons are widows, while their male counterparts are mainly married. This pattern is significantly marked in all three older age groups, the young-old, the middle-old and the oldest-old categories.

Most of older persons live in extended families. Majority of old-age women are economically not active hence there is a need to ensure that older women receive adequate economic and social support to ensure their well-being in old age. It is also important to support current working-age women's employment participation, so that women can have a stable income during their working age thus can plan and be prepared for retirement, reducing their vulnerability in their old age. Therefore, effective policies, strategies and programmes should be integrated into development planning that operates at all levels such as Grama Niladhari (GN), Divisional Secretariat (DS), District, Provincial and National levels in order to provide better support services and programmes to meet the old-aged persons' needs and well-being in Sri Lanka.

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APPENDIX

Table 1: Population aged 60 years or over by single age

Age	Total	Male	Female	Age	Total	Male	Female
60	190,050	89,566	100,484	81	34,840	14,330	20,510
61	194,030	90,652	103,378	82	32,686	12,843	19,843
62	187,187	86,280	100,907	83	23,932	9,954	13,978
63	177,553	81,572	95,981	84	27,602	10,906	16,696
64	169,090	77,358	91,732	85	21,934	8,581	13,353
65	143,695	65,720	77,975	86	15,650	6,148	9,502
66	127,445	57,766	69,679	87	15,329	5,765	9,564
67	132,973	58,749	74,224	88	10,533	4,017	6,516
68	106,501	48,312	58,189	89	9,995	3,782	6,213
69	122,675	53,217	69,458	90	7,995	3,028	4,967
70	92,254	41,720	50,534	91	5,748	2,205	3,543
71	85,849	38,446	47,403	92	5,050	1,823	3,227
72	83,928	36,757	47,171	93	2,663	1,132	1,531
73	69,833	31,293	38,540	94	2,802	1,105	1,697
74	80,550	33,630	46,920	95	2,189	729	1,460
75	70,484	29,790	40,694	96	1,410	490	920
76	53,224	22,162	31,062	97	1,460	645	815
77	59,043	23,597	35,446	98	908	377	531
79	53,428	21,355	32,073	99 and over	10,729	4,147	6,582
80	40,319	16,217	24,102	Total (aged 60+)	2,520,573	1,115,651	1,404,922

Based on SLPHC, 2012

Table 2: Aged population by sex and type of difficulty

Sex	Seeing	Hearing	Walking	Cognition	Self-care	Communication
Male	221,390	117,794	175,964	76,027	44,780	29,781
Female	327,386	166,491	312,245	132,630	76,011	45,512
Total	548,776	284,285	488,209	208,657	120,791	75,293

Table 3: Number of persons 60 years or over experience physical functional difficulty, 2012

Age group	Population aged 60 or over (Number)	Type of physical functioning difficulty			
		Seeing	Hearing	Walking	Cognition
60 and over	2,520,573	548,776	284,285	488,209	208,657
60-69	1,551,199	318,697	177,759	129,664	120,928
70-79	695,600	191,808	112,088	183,407	78,629
80 and over	273,774	105,871	90,483	122,094	70,462

Based on SLPHC, 2012

Table 4: Ageing population by age and number of difficulties that they experienced, 2012

Age	Total aged population with difficulties	Only one difficulty	Only two difficulties	3 or more difficulties
60-69	383,135	238,214	88,316	56,605
70-79	299,389	131,425	78,786	89,178
80 and over	166,454	45,550	38,822	82,082

Based on SLPHC, 2012

Table 5: : Percentage of persons at older ages by physical functional difficulty, 2012

Age group	Type of physical functioning difficulty (percentage out of total older persons in each age group)			
	Seeing	Hearing	Walking	Cognition
60 and over	21.8	11.3	19.4	8.3
60-69	20.5	11.5	8.4	7.8
70-79	27.6	16.1	26.4	11.3
80 and over	38.7	33.1	44.6	25.7

Based on SLPHC, 2012

Table 6: Ageing population by difficulty in self-care and communication, 2012

Age group	Population (60 and over) Number	Difficulty in day-to-day self-care and communication			
		Self-care		Communication	
		Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
60 and over	2,520,573	120,791	4.8	75,293	3.0
60-69	1,551,199	42,244	2.7	22,520	1.5
70-79	695,600	42,947	6.2	25,809	3.7

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Age group	Population (60 and over) Number	Difficulty in day-to-day self-care and communication			
		Self-care		Communication	
		Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
80 and over	273,774	51,388	18.8	28,105	10.3

Based on SLPHC, 2012

Table7: Elderly and total population by ethnic group - 2012

Ethnic group	Population (All ages)	Population aged 60 and over
Sinhalese	15,250,081	2,007,842
Sri Lanka Tamil	2,269,266	250,190
Indian Tamil	839,504	99,853
Sri Lanka Moor	1,892,638	146,847
Burgher	38,293	6,676
Malay	44,130	6,214
Sri Lanka Chetty	5,595	867
Bharatha	1,717	276
Other	18,215	1,808
Total	20,359,439	2,520,573

Based on SLPHC, 2012

Table8: Elderly population by economic activity, sex and age group - 2012

Total	Sex			Age group		
	Total	Male	Female	60-69	70-79	80 and over
	2,520,573	1,115,651	1,404,922	1,551,199	695,600	273,774
Employed	636,779	478,258	158,521	513,099	102,969	20,711
Unemployed	7,568	3,417	4,151	4,872	1,883	813
Economically not active	1,876,226	633,976	1,242,250	1,033,228	590,748	252,250

Table 9: Elderly population by Age Group and district - 2012

District	60 and over Age Groups			
	Total	60-69	70-79	80 and over
Sri Lanka	2,520,573	1,551,199	695,600	273,774
Colombo	315,944	192,152	87,211	36,581

District	60 and over Age Groups			
	Total	60-69	70-79	80 and over
Gampaha	295,854	182,182	80,332	33,340
Kalutara	173,453	102,034	50,522	20,897
Kandy	186,033	113,372	52,330	20,331
Matale	59,138	36,750	16,460	5,928
Nuwara Eliya	83,955	55,905	21,835	6,215
Galle	155,996	88,025	47,003	20,968
Matara	120,094	67,489	34,694	17,911
Hambantota	70,914	41,964	19,134	9,816
Jaffna	84,434	52,549	23,825	8,060
Mannar	8,252	5,540	2,085	627
Vavuniya	14,985	9,863	3,796	1,326
Mullaitivu	7,860	5,514	1,816	530
Kilinochchi	9,969	6,855	2,527	587
Batticaloa	40,139	26,564	10,601	2,974
Ampara	52,863	35,205	13,680	3,978
Trincomalee	29,063	19,227	7,547	2,289
Kurunegala	210,551	130,534	57,524	22,493
Puttalam	79,602	52,309	20,021	7,272
Anuradhapura	78,820	51,271	20,195	7,354
Polonnaruwa	39,937	26,421	10,177	3,339
Badulla	95,441	58,784	27,360	9,297
Moneragala	41,654	26,808	10,936	3,910
Ratnapura	140,553	87,625	38,770	14,158
Kegalle	125,069	76,257	35,219	13,593

Table 10: Elderly population by Age Group and Province - 2012

Province	Total	60-69	70-79	80 and over
Western	785,251	476,368	218,065	90,818
Central	329,126	206,027	90,625	32,474
Southern	347,004	197,478	100,831	48,695

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Province	Total	60-69	70-79	80 and over
Northern	125,500	80,321	34,049	11,130
Eastern	122,065	80,996	31,828	9,241
North Western	290,153	182,843	77,545	29,765
North Central	118,757	77,692	30,372	10,693
Uva	137,095	85,592	38,296	13,207
Sabaragamuwa	265,622	163,882	73,989	27,751

Table 11: Elderly population by Age Group and Sector- 2012

	Total	60-69	70-79	80 and over
Urban	473,991	290,918	129,996	53,077
Rural	1,943,372	1,188,559	540,247	214,566
Estate	103,210	71,722	25,357	6,131

Table 12: Number of aged population by type of difficulty and age group

Age	Type of difficulty					
	Seeing	Hearing	Walking	Cognition	Self-care	Communication
60-69	136,575	20,054	71,761	6,824	879	2,121
70-79	59,226	18,253	48,138	4,329	666	813
80 and over	14,302	9,329	18,918	2,232	484	285

Table 13: Elderly population with difficulties by number of difficulties and age, 2012

Age	Total aged population with difficulties	Only one difficulty	Only two difficulties	3 or more difficulties
60-69	383,135	238,214	88,316	56,605
70-79	299,389	131,425	78,786	89,178
80 and over	166,454	45,550	38,822	82,082

Table 14: Age 60 and over Population by Age and Sector - 2012

Sector	Age Group	Both sexes	Male	Female
Total	Total	2,520,573	1,115,651	1,404,922
	60 – 69	1,551,199	709,192	842,007
	70 – 79	695,600	298,235	397,365
	80 & Over	273,774	108,224	165,550
Urban	Total	473,991	207,523	266,468

Sector	Age Group	Both sexes	Male	Female
	60 – 69	290,918	132,771	158,147
	70 – 79	129,996	54,843	75,153
	80 & Over	53,077	19,909	33,168
Rural	Total	1,943,372	862,636	1,080,736
	60 – 69	1,188,559	544,551	644,008
	70 – 79	540,247	232,276	307,971
	80 & Over	214,566	85,809	128,757
Estate	Total	103,210	45,492	57,718
	60 – 69	71,722	31,870	39,852
	70 – 79	25,357	11,116	14,241
	80 & Over	6,131	2,506	3,625

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