

SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES: EVIDENCE FROM EASTERN PROVINCE.

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Abstract

Socio-demographic characteristics of individuals in Eastern province of Sri Lanka are an important area to study to formulate better policies for businessmen who are interested in recreational activities in the country. The study used annual sample of 21,756 households that covered all 25 districts in the country, based on data from the provincial and district level. This research suggests to investigate the determinantsof socio-demographic characteristics of households on spending on recreational activities. As such, itutilized the methods of descriptive statistics chi-squaredistribution to derive quantitative data and information in a meaningful way. The study adopted cross-sectional statistics to create distribution pyramids and diagrams to highlight the socio-demographic characteristics of people in the Eastern province. The results and finding revealed that most spending on recreation activities are done by the Male Headed households (MHHs) than the Female Headed households (FHHs) in the Eastern province. It is respectively 78.63 percent and 21.37 percent.

Keywords: Socio-demographic characteristics, recreational activities, Eastern province.

Introduction

The leisure and entertainment sector of the economy of countries with a high standard of living is rapidly expanding in business activities such as marketing, financing, research and developing, and manufacturing. The purpose of this study is to investigate the determinantsof socio-demographic characteristics of households on spending on recreational activities. Statistics report by the Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) indicates that the mean monthly income was Rs.62, 237, while the mean monthly household expenditure on recreational activities was only Rs.908 (2.5% of total non-food expenditure).

Past literature has much focused on how socio-demographic characteristics can affect the spending on recreational activities. AS stated by ^[1] which analyzed the relationship between income and leisure time physical activities (LAPA) indicate that there is a known relationship between lower socioeconomic status and lower leisure time physical activities. The study considered about a person's all non-leisure time physical activities and socio-demographic characteristics and the result. Furthermore, the research that is done by ^[2] to analyze the various demographic, socioeconomic and psychological characteristics on people's expenditures on recreation activities in Greece revealed that there is a strong relationship between demographic, socioeconomic and psychological factors and Greece household's expenditures patterns in recreation activities.However, no comprehensive study on this subject has been conducted to date in Sri Lanka. Although the DCS captures household expenditure on recreations, their expenditure patterns are not separately analyzed based on household income, socio-economic and demographic characteristics. As such, the study

addresses this research gap, by highlighting the significance of recreational activities with in-depth insights.

The importance of this study can be listed as,

1. The analysis is centered around spending on recreational activities by people from the Eastern province, and critical studies have not been conducted on the aforementioned subject in this particular area
2. Mean per capita income of Eastern province is less than the other provinces in Sri Lanka, thus the findings will be useful for other business ventures as well

Methodology

Data are gathered from the HIES and analyzed by descriptive statistics and chi square statistical techniques.

Results

Table 1. Distribution of ‘spent’ and ‘not spent’ on recreational activities by sector, province.

	Spent on Recreation %	Not spent on Recreation%	Mean per capita income. (Rs.)
Sri Lanka	56.19	43.81	16,377
Sector			
Urban	58.23	41.77	22,297
Rural	55.69	44.31	15,508
Estate	57.4	42.6	8,566
Province			
Western	62.9	37.1	21,665
Central	59.28	40.72	13,729
Southern	70.52	29.48	15,730
Northern	55.27	44.73	11,384
Eastern	21.68	78.32	11,259
North Western	58.29	41.71	16,671
North Central	41.99	58.01	16,567
Uva	63.48	36.52	13,867
Sabaragamuwa	49.02	50.98	13,157

Source: Calculated from HIES 2016 data^[3].

Based on the data of the DCS the study analyses how socio-demographic characteristics affect recreation, entertainment, cultural and religious activities of households. Table 1 clearly indicates that there is a Province-wise household variation in spending on recreation activities. As indicated, 56.19 per cent of the individuals spent on recreational activities from Sri Lanka while 43.81 per cent are not spending. The higher degree of spending on recreational activities was 70.52 per cent recorded in the Southern province. However, Eastern province recorded a lower extent for spend on recreation activities which is 21.68 per cent. The difference significant at $p < 0.01$ level and it investigate that the sector wise spend and not spend on recreational activities are differ from spend or not spend on recreational activities in the province wise.

Table 2. Distribution of ‘spent’ and ‘not spent’ on recreational activities by district in eastern province.

	Spent on Recreation %	Not spent on Recreation %	Total
Eastern	21.68	78.32	7490
Batticaloa	11.22	88.78	2593
Ampara	26.67	73.33	2981
Trincomalee	28.08	71.92	1916

Source: Calculated from HIES 2016 data^[3].

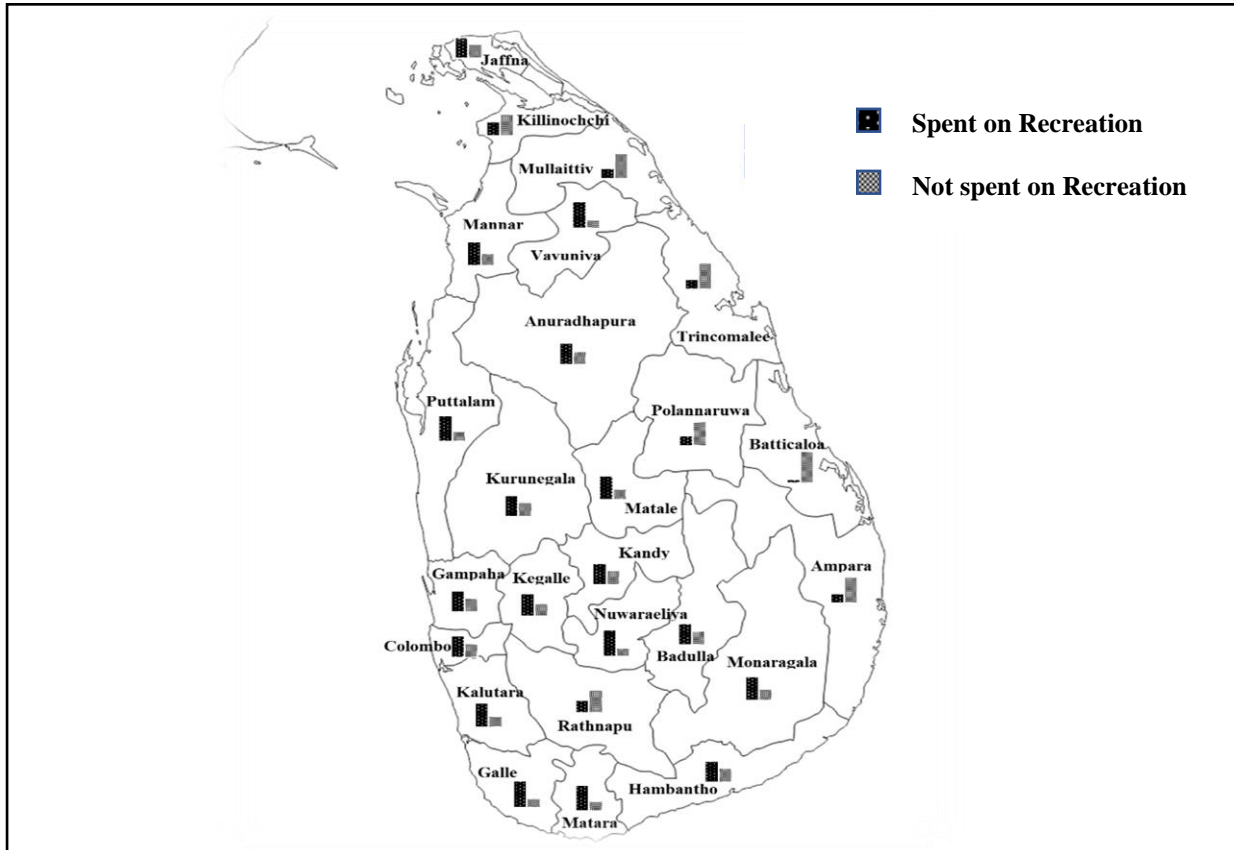


Figure 1. Distribution of ‘spent’ and ‘not spent’ on recreational activities by district

Source: Authors' compilation based on HIES 2016^[3]

Eastern province comprises of Batticaloa, Ampara and Trincomalee districts. . Trincomalee district recorded the most noteworthy extent spend for recreation activities (28.08 per cent). Relatively Batticaloa district shows the lowest proportion that spend on recreational activities (11.22 per cent). The total number of MHHs have spent 78.63 percent on recreational activities in the Eastern province while FHHs are only 21.37 per cent. (Table 2 and Figure 1)

Table 3. Distribution of recreational activities by gender in Eastern province.

	CDVF	BNM	LB	EP	AMD	Sports	PA	Toys	MRTV	SG	CSTVP	AE
Eastern												
Male %	7.9	19.1	12.6	9.5	-	0.7	1.9	5.6	5.6	22	12	3.3
Female %	18.8	13.4	11.6	8	0.9	0.9	0.9	8	6.3	19	8.9	3.6
Batticaloa												
Male %	26.2	3.1	4.6	4.6	-	-	6.2	3.1	26.2	11	11	4.6
Female %	50	-	-	3.3	-	-	3.3	3.3	23.3	6.7	3.3	6.7
Ampara												
Male %	2.9	23.1	13.9	11.3	-	0.4	0.4	5.9	0.8	29	10	2.1
Female %	4.9	22	12.2	12.2	-	-	-	-	-	29	17	2.4
Trincomalee												
Male %	7.9	19.7	14.2	8.7	-	1.6	2.4	6.3	3.9	16	15	4.7
Female %	10.8	16.2	21.6	8.1	2.7	2.7	-	21.6	-	8.1	5.4	2.7

Source: Calculated from HIES 2016 data^[3].

Table 3 displays 12 recreational exercises, a significant number of MHHs in Eastern province spent on the SG (22.3 per cent from the total recreational activities) while FHHs spent a higher number on both CDVF category and SG (18.8 per cent from the total recreation). It is evident that in Ampara both MHHs and FHHs spent the highest percentage on the same recreational activity (SG). However, both MHHs and FHHs are not spending on the same recreation activity in the other two districts. Furthermore, it was found that MHHs in Batticaloa district represent the highest rate on both MRTV and CDVF, and a significant percentage of the FHHs spent on CDVF. In Trincomalee district, both MHHs and FHHs are inclined to spend on different recreational activities than the other two districts. The study uncovers that the FHHs spend a lot on lotteries and betting (21.6 per cent), and the same rate is spent on toys. It indicates that there is a strategically significant at $p < 0.01$ level are differing in both Trincomalee and Ampara district for the spend and not spend on CDVF.

Age sex distribution

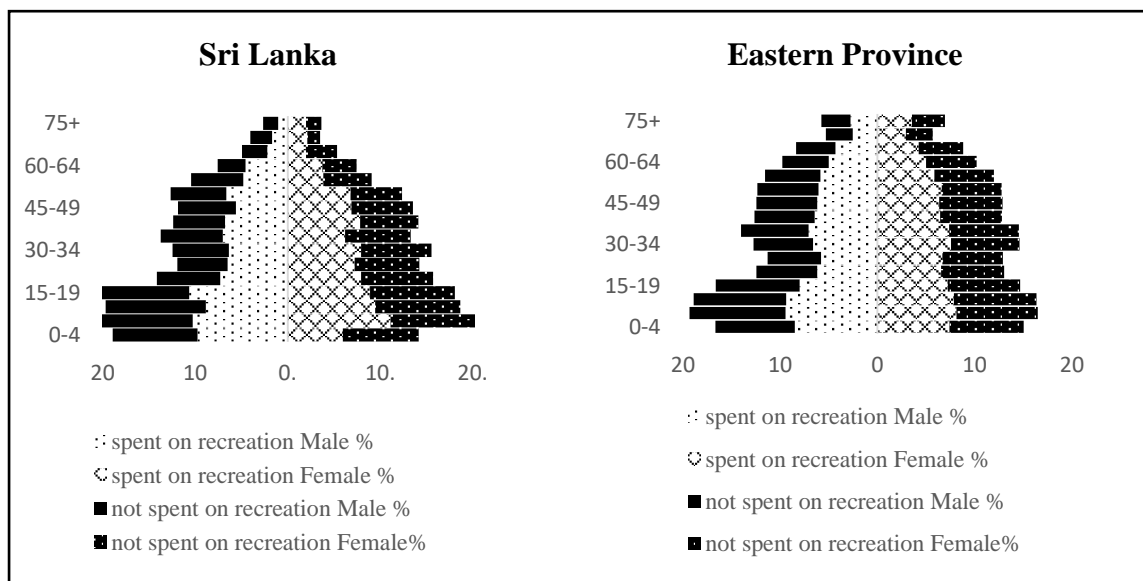


Figure 2. Age sex distribution of ‘spent’ and ‘not spent’ on Sri Lanka and Eastern province.

Source: Calculated from HIES 2016 data^[3].

The demographic characteristics of the individuals ‘spent’ and ‘non-spent’ on recreational activities could be understood by using a population pyramid. It graphically represents of the age and sex composition of a specific population.

As shown in the Figure 2, shape of the age-sex pyramids differs in both male and female individuals. In the Eastern province age-sex distribution is closer to the shape of a pyramid. However, the shape of the age-sex distribution of the Sri Lanka is slightly different. The pyramid clearly indicates that there is a higher proportion of ‘non-spending’ individuals than the individuals who spent on recreational activities. It is noticeable that the number of individuals who spent on recreational activities in the age groups of 15-19 and below are considerably higher (7.43 to 9.44 per cent) in both female and male individuals. Conversely, the number persons in the age groups of 60 and above are relatively lower. One significant aspect is that the number of FHHs who spent on recreation in the age group of 0-4 are considerably lower than the male headed households (5.96 and 9.75 per cent) and age groups of 5-9 and 15-19 are recorded the higher degree of spend on recreations among the other age groups. However, it decreases when the age groups are more mature. This difference is statistically significant at $p < 0.01$ level and thus it suggests that the age of spend and not spend of FHHs are relatively differ from the age of spend and non-spend MHHs. The highest proportion of age 30-34 population is in the spend on recreational FHHs and considerably higher proportion of age 40-44 population is also in the spend on recreational FHHs in Sri Lanka.

Ethnicity

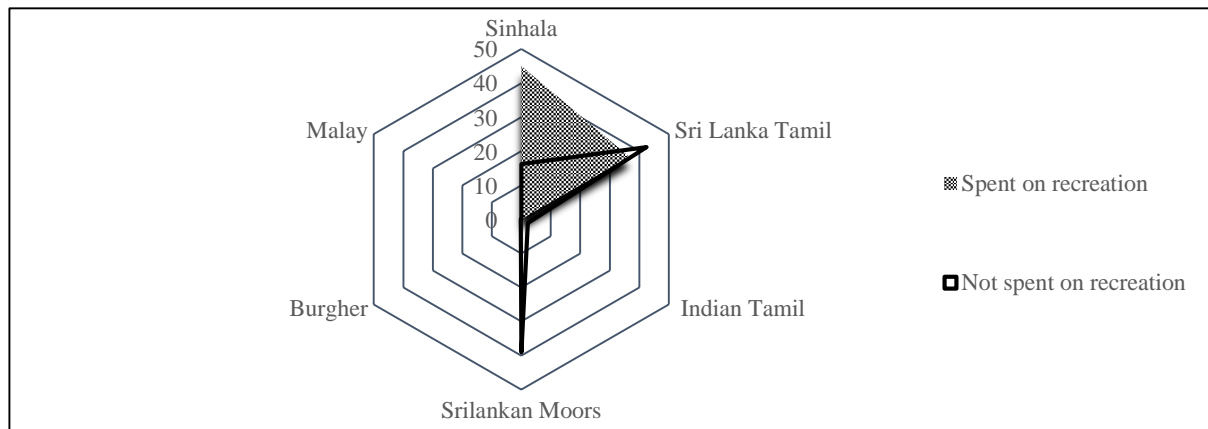


Figure 3. Ethnicity distribution of eastern province.

Source: Calculated data from HIES 2016⁽³⁾.

The ethnicity of the ‘spent’ and ‘non-spent’ on recreational activities are presented in figure 3. It confirms that a majority of the head of the households who spend on recreational activities are Sinhalese which is 45.04 per cent. While Burgher demonstrate the lowest proportion, which is 0.25 per cent. Malay and Indian Tamils are hardly spending on recreational activities.

Conclusion

The socio-demographic characteristics of the 'spent' and 'non-spent' on recreational activities indicate that Trincomalee district has the most noteworthy amount of spending on recreational activities (28.08 per cent) in the Eastern province. Moreover, this study clearly highlights that highest proportion spent on recreational activities are by children and it decreases in mature. One of the significant finding with regard to ethnic groups in Eastern province is that a higher number of the head of the households who are spent on recreational activities are Sinhalese, while Malay and Indian Tamils rarely spending.

The facts and figures presented in this paper uncovers that individuals' spending on recreational activities vary based on their demographic characteristics. Therefore, it is important to identify the socio-demographic characteristics of individuals in Eastern province to formulate better policies for the businessmen who are interested on recreational activities in Sri Lanka.

Reference

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