

Health condition and status of employment of the elderly people in Sri Lanka

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Ageing of population will affect the size and the composition of the labour force as the age structure undergoes changes with ageing process. In the developed world, “Healthy Ageing” and “Active Ageing” are very common terms used when speaking about ageing of individuals. The invaluable life experience and the accumulated knowledge of the elderly people can be utilized by the communities and the country by creating appropriate working environments for the elderly. The elderly people who are willing to engage in income generating activities need to be supported. Therefore this paper attempts to identify the economically active elderly people by their health status by district which will be an important measure in the process of evidence based policy making in connection with ageing issues. The data for this study was obtained from the Household Income and Expenditure Survey 2009/2010 conducted by the Department of Census and Statistics. Bi-variate descriptive analysis was used to describe the economic and health status of the elderly by district. This study reveals that Jaffna district has the highest percentage of healthy elderly in the country; the second and third respectively is Nuwara-Eliya and Kegalle Districts. The data reveals that Monoragala, Anuradhapura, Batticaloa and Matale Districts have comparatively more percentages of economically active elderly people than the other districts.

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