

**IS THE CURE WORSE THAN
THE DISEASE?**

**REFLECTIONS ON COVID GOVERNANCE IN
SRI LANKA**

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Annexure 1

THE ‘SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDEX IN THE FACE OF COVID-19’ SURVEY: AN OVERVIEW

A national poll conducted during February to March 2021 by Social Indicator, the survey research arm of the Centre for Policy Alternatives, aimed to assess the impact of COVID-19 on livelihoods, social relations, access to healthcare, and education. This section consists of relevant details pertaining to the quantitative component, which is one of the core elements of the larger study.

Sampling procedure

The survey interviewed a total of 1000 individuals across all 25 Districts of the country. A systematic sample of respondents from the Tamil, Muslim, and Up-Country Tamil ethnic communities and also the Urban community was considered. Prior to analysis, data were weighted to reflect national demographics in order to allow meaningful subgroup analyses. The results are subject to a +/- 2.0% margin of error.

A maximum of 36 interviews per local government body (MC, UC, and PS) and a maximum of 6 interviews per Grama Niladari division were conducted. The Local Government Body was selected randomly. The Grama Niladari division and starting point was selected by the relevant field enumerators. Households were selected by the ‘right-hand rule’, and the head of household therein was selected as the respondent.

Questionnaire

Face to face interviews were conducted using a semi-structured questionnaire designed to capture public perception on levels of satisfaction towards various institutions involved in mitigating

the COVID crisis, fair treatment of persons and intercommunity relations, awareness, and sources of information about the COVID-19 pandemic, coping strategies used due to financial restraints, access to education, and healthcare.

The survey questionnaire was designed in English and translated into Sinhala and Tamil. In order to test the clarity of the language, sequence effect of the questions, and relevance of the answer categories, the survey questionnaire was pre-tested on field by a group of senior field researchers, among a diverse group of respondents from Sinhala and Tamil speaking communities. The survey questionnaire was fine-tuned following the pre-test.

Field work

A total of 71 field enumerators – both male and female – participated in this study. They were given a comprehensive training on the study, the survey questionnaire, and field techniques by the research team. Interviews were conducted in the first language of both the respondent and the field enumerator. To ensure the quality of the data collected, accompanied visits and back-checks were done during and after fieldwork. Data collection was carried out from February -March 2021.