Situational Study Report on Women with Disabilities Living in North Central and Eastern Provinces

2010 - 2011





Sponsorship
European Union

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Message from the founder/chairperson of Association of women with disabilities



Since the origin of human civilization, the state of disability involuntarily seen in our society has changed the human life sorrowfully and because of it a bunch of misconceptions have been created around them. We very proudly remind ourselves that the theoretical as well as technological knowledge required for comfortable living are developed very well at present. However, although the results of the development of modern science should contribute to the advancement of the whole society it has not become a practical concept so far. In addition, it is seen that an adequate and broad dialogue about the reasons for it has not been built up in the society.

Even today it can be seen that due to these regressive myths in the human minds, persons with human minds are subject to neglect and scorn. In order to save them from this scornful situation and to engage them in some social development programme, a national programme is needed but it should not simply have a welfare theme.

In that it is necessary to pay more attention to a scientific study of the state of disability and persons with disabilities. Therefore research opportunities and facilities in this field should be developed and my expectation is that this study report would make some contribution towards it.

For this survey, women with disabilities who suffer from the ravages of war in the lands they were born and in the areas they were born, were included and this would provide opportunities
to view their situation critically and to asses their true situation. By that, an understanding can be obtained of how this group who live at a very low social level could be socialized.

Then the officers of the state and non government sector who supported his research activity as well as all those who assisted in collecting data, word processing, analysis and printing are remembered gratefully. Similarly Dr Sriyani Wickramasingha of the Rajarata university and Mr Lalith Ranjan Gonsalkorala, Senior Lecturer of the Open University, Colombo and specially Mr Chaminda Kumara Premathilaka, the Programme Director of the AKASA Organization who analyzed the data and prepared this report and Ms S Kaladevi who translated the report to the Tamil Language are gratefully acknowledged. The secretary to the ministry of construction, engineering services, housing and common facilities who studied the content of this report and wrote the foreword is also respectfully remembered. Special thanks to the European Union for providing financial assistance to fulfill this task for the advancement of the community with disabilities.

N.G. Kamalawathie

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Ms N.G.Kamalawathie
Chairperson
Association of women with disabilities

Foreword

In giving priority to developing the populace of a country, a top priority has to be given to the human resource development. The reason is, it is only if a populace with values, good qualities and creativity lives in a country alone with the priority to human development that the criteria of development is seen at a high level. As a whole in providing equal opportunities to the total population in human development, it is the responsibility of advanced societies and states to formulate programmes for the communities with special abilities as well as disabilities to ensure their rights and fulfill their needs.

Therefore formulating programmes for the development of women with disabilities after conducting a specific study about their situation and also clearly highlighting information is a valuable task.

This special task of the Abada Sahitha Kanthawange Sangamaya led by its chairperson should be praised. This situational survey report, which shows the present situation of the women with disabilities in the areas subjected to the pressure of war in Eastern and North Central provinces is very timely. This situational study report would be a valuable asset in involving women with disabilities in the country's development by uplifting their situation in an environment where they are compelled to make a huge effort to obtain their rights in the society in the back drop of the 30 year long cruel war which affected their lives and socio economic situation.

Especially, the responsibilities of the state organizations should be clearly identified and given priority and a priority task of the state organizations should be the formulation of programmes for that. Even now the ministry of social services is engaged in a specific service. Specially in construction work and planning of them, a physical environment with easy access to buildings and facilities to function independently inside buildings are provided and in planning stages priority is given to those with a wide understanding of the life activities of persons with disabilities. All ministries contributing to this hospitality is a present development approach. I wish all energy, courage and also wisdom for such hospitality.

S.M Gotabaya Jayarathna
Secretary
The ministry of construction, engineering services, housing and common facilities
FormerAditional District secretary- Anuradapura
Former District secretary- Kandy

Dedication

This book is dedicated to

His Excellency President Mahinda Rajapaksha

for the great goal of providing an opportunity for the persons with disabilities

to have an independent, free and autonomous life

by giving a special place to their rights

and obtaining their contribution for the country's development within

Mahinda Chinthanaya.

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Sri Lanka and its background

Sri Lanka is a very small island situated in the Indian ocean between Northern Longitudes 5 – 10. The area of the island is 65610 square Km, while out of that there is a land area of 64740 square Km and an area of 870 square Km of rivers, lakes and other water reservoirs. It also claims a sea coast of 1340 Km. The population here is around 20 million and ethnic groups such as Sinhalese, Tamils, Muslims, Moors, Malays and Burgers have formed their habitats and live here. The majority is the Sinhalese Buddhists group while minorities like Tamil, Muslim, Moor, Malay and Burgers also live there. The main administrative boundaries are demarcated by 09 provinces and 25 districts and 'Sri Jayawardanapura Kotte' is considered as the capitol city.

As the main means of revenue of Sri Lanka which traditionally claims to an agricultural economy, export of tea production, export of garments and foreign overseas employment stand out. Sri Lanka which has a legacy of over 2550 years, is an island where a majority Buddhist population which is culturally family based and respectful of social bonds lives.



The need for the study

A proper census of the community with disabilities which has a notable representation in the population of Sri Lanka has not been conducted and because of that it is seen that an attention of the required level has not build up in Sri Lanka yet. In the census of 2001 also it was difficult to obtain information from the border villages of the eastern and north central provinces due to the war environment prevailing during that time. Due to this situation, there is a problem about authentic population statistics of those provinces. Meanwhile it is a very difficult task to collect information about the persons with disabilities. Especially there are several reasons which affect it.

- In the training given to surveyors in a census, a proper attention is not paid to the community with disabilities
- The surveyors should have a proper understanding about the state of disability.
- Parents/guardians hiding persons with disabilities from the society.

Due to these reasons it has become difficult to obtain authentic information about them.

This research was conducted as a survey and the secondary data which was expected to be used were not available even in some district secretary offices. In this situation this survey would enable to fulfill the need for authentic information at least to some extent.

Although the need for a study of the situation of persons with disabilities, specially of women is felt in the whole of Sri Lanka, it is very clear that in addition to the suffering from the disability, the suffering due to the three decades of war in areas which faced the war intensifies the need for a study of this nature.

In this study, matters about women with disabilities living in war ravaged areas as well as about women who were disabled due to the war are investigated while their personal, economical and social factors are reviewed. No such situational report has been presented so far and this report could be a base for involving women with disabilities in various development and rehabilitation programmes in the post war environment. Accordingly this study, while supplying an accumulation of information about women with disabilities, reveal various facts from different profiles about the present situation of women with disabilities. Additionally in preparing plans of all intuitions to raise the public life submerged in the post war environment, this could be used as an aggregate of information.

The legal review of the state of disability

As stated in the Act of protecting Rights of persons with disabilities, a person with a disability is a person who is unable to fulfill a life need completely or partially by himself or herself due to a deficiency in physical or mental abilities from birth or otherwise.

As stated by the ministry of social services and social welfare, in the classification of persons with disabilities, persons with more than one disability out of visual, audio, speech, kinetic disability intellectual , mental, epileptic fit are considered as multi-disabled.

While estimates of some volunteer organizations claim that around 1.6 -10% of the population of Sri Lanka are disabled the census data of 2001 give a figure of 274,771 except for the north- east province.

More authentic calculations are not available due to the existing social disrespect, unsuitable definitions and the existing security situation. The census data of 2001 reveals that compared with the 1.3% figure for women with disabilities, the men with disabilities has a figure a little higher than1.8%. Especially the disaster situations related to the war would have caused the male disability situation to escalate.

Laws existing in Sri Lanka for persons with disabilities

1.1 the constitution of Sri Lanka
According to the 12th statement of the part 1 of the 3rd chapter of the Fundamental Rights, giving judgments, enforcing and providing protection of law should be universal to all people. Relevant to the 2nd and 3rd statements for the prevention of differentiation or specialization, persons with disabilities are not considered as a different group. in the 4th section it is mentioned that from this constitution there is no obstacle to provide special provisions by law or sub laws or executive action for the advancement of women. Chidren and persons with disabilities.

1.2 The Act no 28 of 1996 of ensuring the Rights of persons with disabilities.

It shold be stated that this is the only Act for ensuring the Rights of persons with disabilities in Sri Lanka. By it provisions are made for building up the necessary environment for education and employment and for the persons with disabilities to have access to them without being marginalized. However there is no mention about the of social, economic, cultural and political rights. But this Act has proposed a national council for persons with disabilities. It is directed by the chairmanship of the minister of social services and the secretary ship of the secretary to the ministry and consists of 21 persons. This council has the power to take all kinds of decisions regarding persons with disabilities.

By this time the draft of the Act of Rights of disability and the state of disability for the protection of Rights of persons with disabilities has been publicized on 30th April 2004. it has not been submitted to the parliament so far.

1.3 The national policy on the state of disability

The national policy on persons with disabilities formulated by the balanced committee appointed by the minister of social services consisting of representatives of all disabilities, adequate age groups, experts of law and human rights in government and non government organizations and gender was publicized on the month of May 2003. the Republic of Sri Lanka has accepted the recommendations given there.

In part 2, the section on principles, policies and strategies a number of recommendations are made for the inclusion of the following fields.

1. Empoymenmt
2. Vocational training and skill development
3. Reducing poverty
4. School education
5. Non-formal education

6. Higher education
7. Health
8. Sports
9. Transport
10. Housing
11. Social security
12. Tourist industry with access to built up environment and facilities for access
13. Communication and access to information
14. Equipment and information technology
15. Children
16. Youth
17. Women
18. Elderly people
19. People affected by war conflicts
20. people with severe disabilities
21. Mass media

In order to implement and ensure the above policies, 5 policies and strategies are presented.

1. Community based rehabilitation
2. Non governmental organizations and the private sector
3. Research
4. Constitution forming
5. Implementation of policies, supervision and evaluation

Further information regarding policies could be obtained through the following website.
http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTSRILANKA/Resources/NatpolicyDisabilitySep2003srilanka1.pdf

1.4 The Ranaviru Sewa Act no 54 of 1999

The Ranaviru Sewa Authority was established to rehabilitate and provide care and protection for members of police and armed forces who become disabled in action, to care for and protect families of dead and missing and for welfare.

1.5 Visually Disabled Trust Fund Act no 09 of 1992

A trust fund was established by this Act. The functions of this trust fund is to provide vocational training opportunities to visually disabled persons, providing job opportunities to reduce poverty and to provide financial assistance for self-employment.

1.6 Social Protection Board Act no 17 of 1996

While a social insurance benefit scheme that can contribute to persons in self-employment, specially for persons with disabilities was introduced, they also have the opportunity to claim compensation in case of an injury while working and a pension in retirement.

The Ministry of Social Services and Social Welfare

The main body in systematically formulating policies, laws and programmes is the ministry. This ministry provides advocacy and assistance for the activities of both government and non-government sectors. The National Secretariat for persons with disabilities is also controlled by the ministry of Social Welfare.

The National Council for Persons with disabilities

This council consists of 21 members recommended by the minister of social welfare and appointed by the president, including representatives of organizations of persons with disabilities with a minimum of 51% representative ness and organizations related to the field of disability. The other representations are relevant volunteer organizations, professionals, departments and ministries. The functions of this are to protect, enhance and elevate the rights of disabled persons of Sri Lanka and to advise the government regarding problems of disabled persons. The minister of social welfare is the chairman and the secretary to the ministry is the secretary of this council. The national secretariat for persons with disabilities was established to implement it's decisions. At present the chairperson of the AKASA organization also holds the membership of this national council.

Objectives

From this survey it is expected to

- Study the socio economic circumstances of women with disabilities in war affected areas.
- Fulfill the need for a situational study in enlisting the contribution of the community of disabled for the national development.
  and
- Obtain information and cues in preparing programmes for the community with disabilities

Methodology

- Use of a structured questionnaire with open ended and close ended questions
- Pilot testing the questionnaire and revising accordingly
- Training field officers for the training
- Selection of the target group by using secondary data.

The magnitude of the full sample in this survey was 1000. All those who participated in it were women with disabilities. They were also women from birth to 60 years of age and with all kinds of disabilities.

Five districts of the Eastern and North Central provinces of Sri Lanka were selected for the survey. Here specially, areas affected by the last war and the border villages of the war were selected. Accordingly the survey was conducted in 04 divisional secretary areas.

The questionnaire used in the survey inquires about the personal, educational, economical and social environment and also about their disabilities and life conditions. More attention was paid to the life conditions and social life.

Nature of the sample

The survey was conducted between March and August 2010 and the surveyors themselves collected all information by the interview method. As women with disabilities from the ethnic groups of Sinhalese, Tamil and Muslims participated in the survey, surveyors fluent in both Sinhalese and Tamil were employed for this purpose. In addition, a random sample of the perfected questionnaires was obtained and the authenticity of the information was verified in the field.

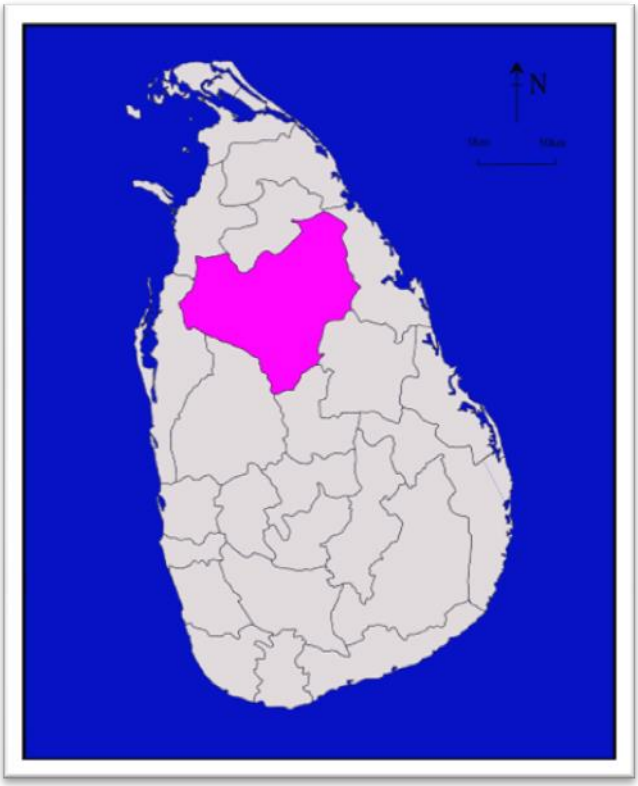
There were 1000 women with disabilities and they represented Sinhalese, Tamil, Muslims and other minorities. Women with disabilities who participated are from those areas which directly and indirectly faced the war bordering the north and east in Anuradapura district , areas in the Polonnaruwa district bordering the east and from the areas of Batticaloa, Ampara and Trincomalee districts which were severely battered by the war.

Therefore there is an opportunity to consider the condition of women with disabilities in areas directly affected by the war and also in areas indirectly affected by the war. At the same time according to the ethnicity, the representation in the Batticaloa district was 100% Tamil women and in the Anuradapura district it was 100% Sinhalese women. In the other 3 districts, 2 shows a majority representation of Muslim women. Therefore in this survey, a sample representing women with disabilities in 02 provinces, 05 districts, 03 ethnic groups, directly and indirectly affected by the war was used.

The Survey Results

Anuradapura District

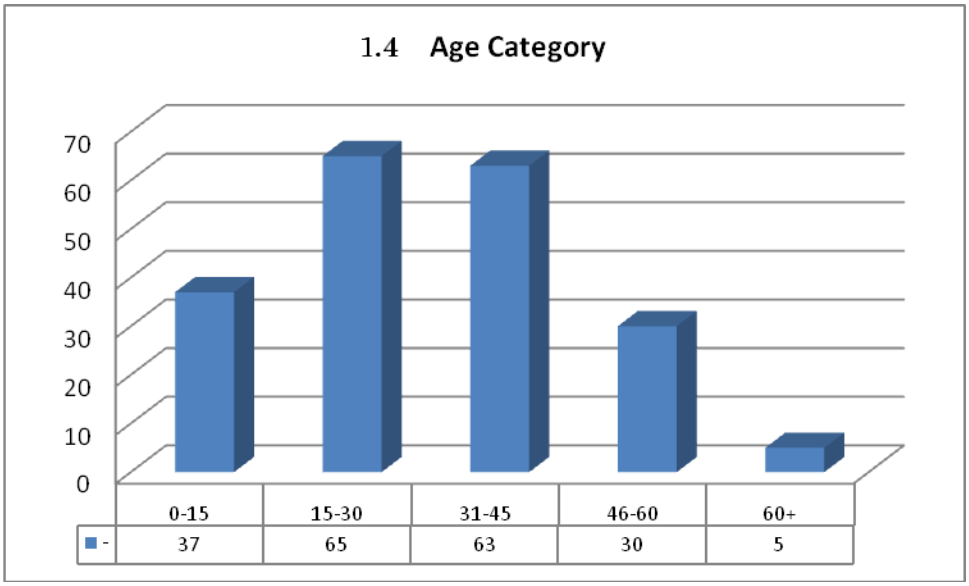
The chronicle of Sri Lanka commenced in the Anuradapura district in 6th century B.C. Accordingly during the regime of king Devanampiyathissa, with the arrival of Mihindu Thero, Sri Lanka became a country with a Buddhist and agricultural civilization. Anuradapura district is the largest district in Sri Lanka and it contains a land area of 717,900 Hectares. It is 11% of Sri Lanka's total land area. This district, which claims to a very developed ancient agriculture system and consisting of a large plain in the dry zone, is situated in the North Central province bordering Puttlam, Vavniya, Mulathive,Trincomalee, Polonnaruwa, Matale and Kurunegala districts.



This district is very famous for its historical city of Anuradapura which was the kingdom of nearly 100 kings during a period of around 1500 years.

According to the census of 2006, the population was 875,861 and the administration of the district is done through 23 divisional secretariats, a municipal council and 18 Pradeshiya Sabas.

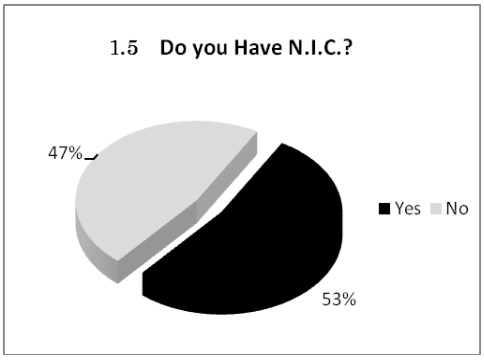
1.4 Age distribution

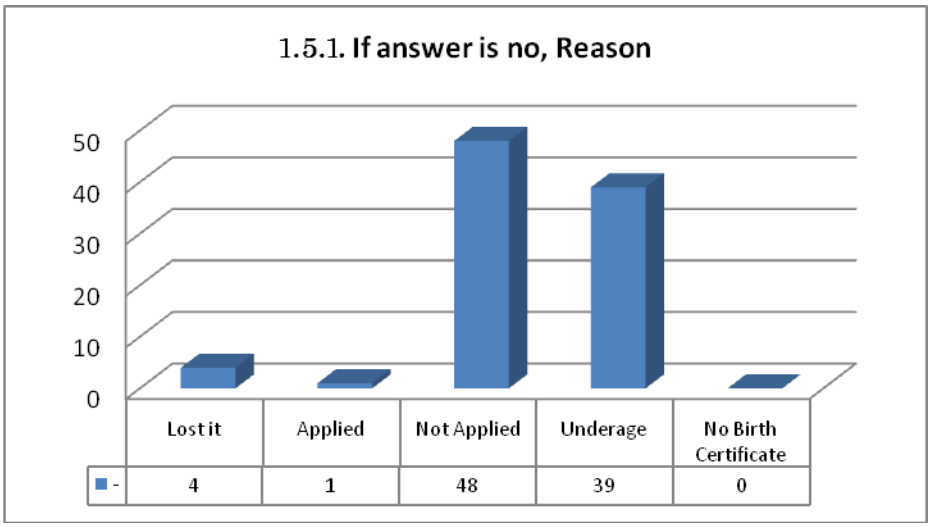


In this study where information of a number of women with disabilities are looked into, the youth representation between 15 – 45 years is seen to be 64%. Accordingly, that age representation would be important in clarifying the real situation in that community. Similarly, as the sample has a 37% representation of girls below 15 years with disabilities, it would enable an in-depth investigation of their situation.

1.5 National Identity Card

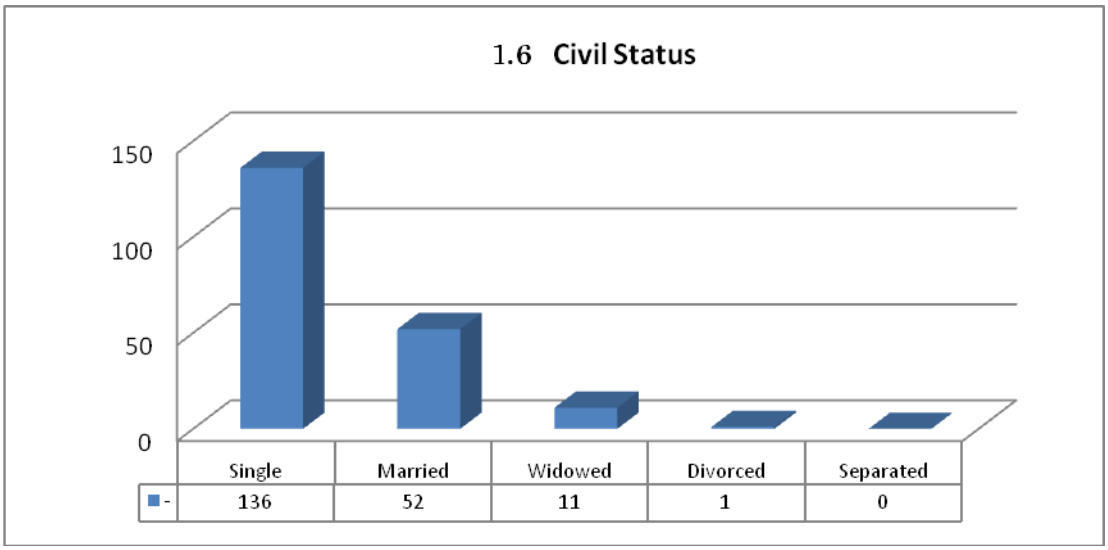
It was inquired whether the national identity card which all citizens should have in the civil right of establishing a personal identity was there or not and it was revealed that 48 did not have or not even applied for one. In a sample of 200 selected from 4 divisional secretariats 48 out of 161 have even not applied for a national identity card. This is not a situation that can be ignored as during the past period even going to a hospital without the N.I.C was illegal. Reasons for not having the N.I.C in border villages where members of the armed forces were seen frequently have to be looked into. It might be due to the narrow thinking that women with disabilities do not need a N.I C or else to the attitudes of their parents or guardians.



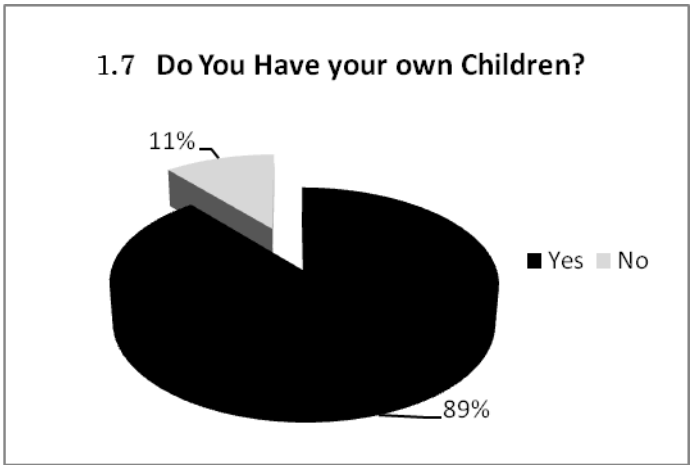


1.6 Civil states

A Sri Lankan woman has the right to marry at the age of 16 and in this sample there were 163 women of that age. However out of that only 64 were married. It is seen from the study that the opportunities for women with disabilities to marry have decreased.

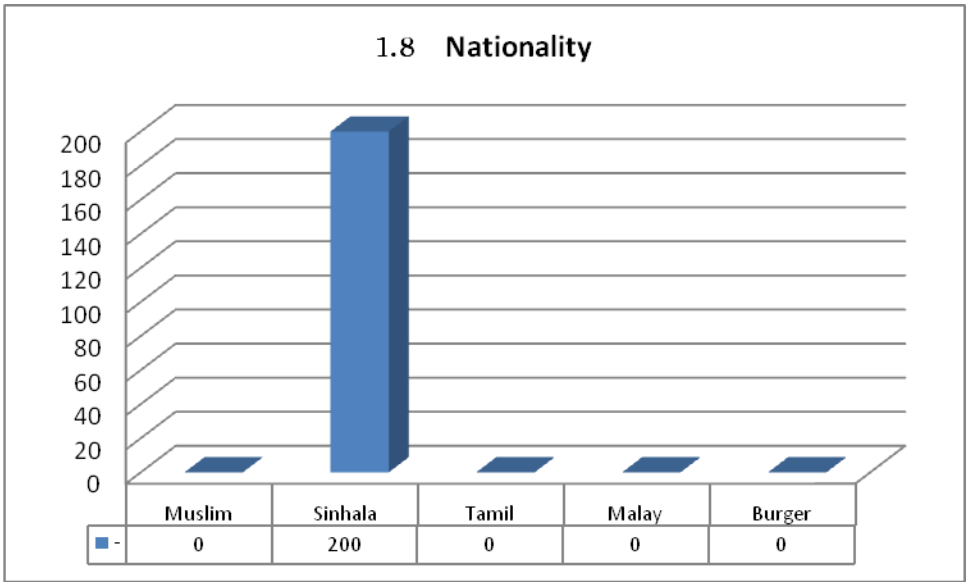


1.7 Children of women with disabilities



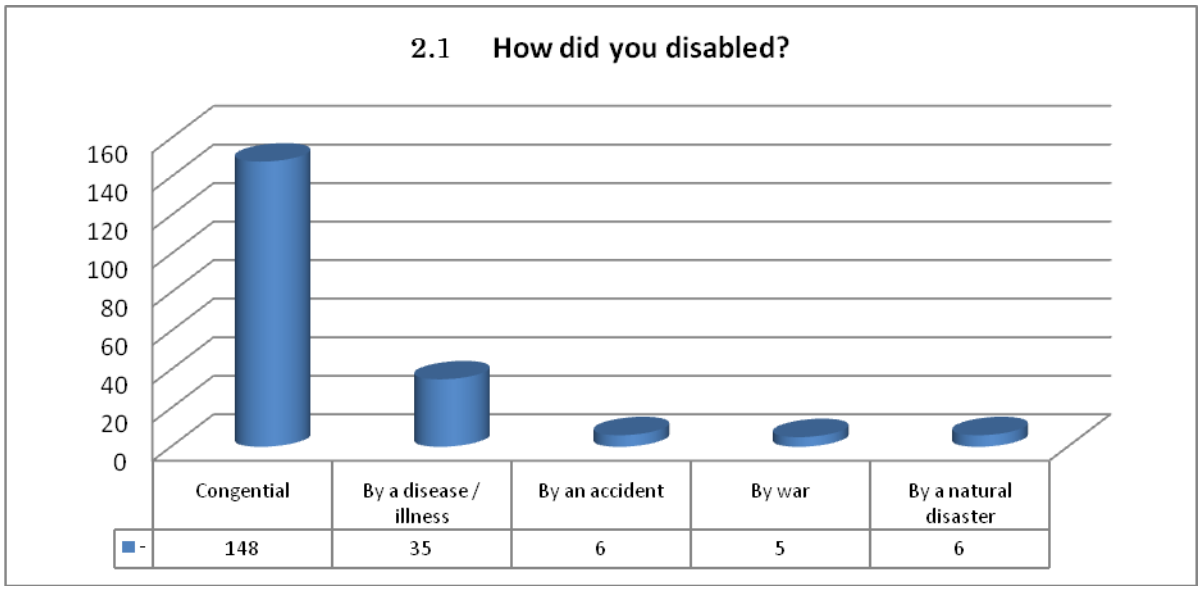
1.8 About the Nationality

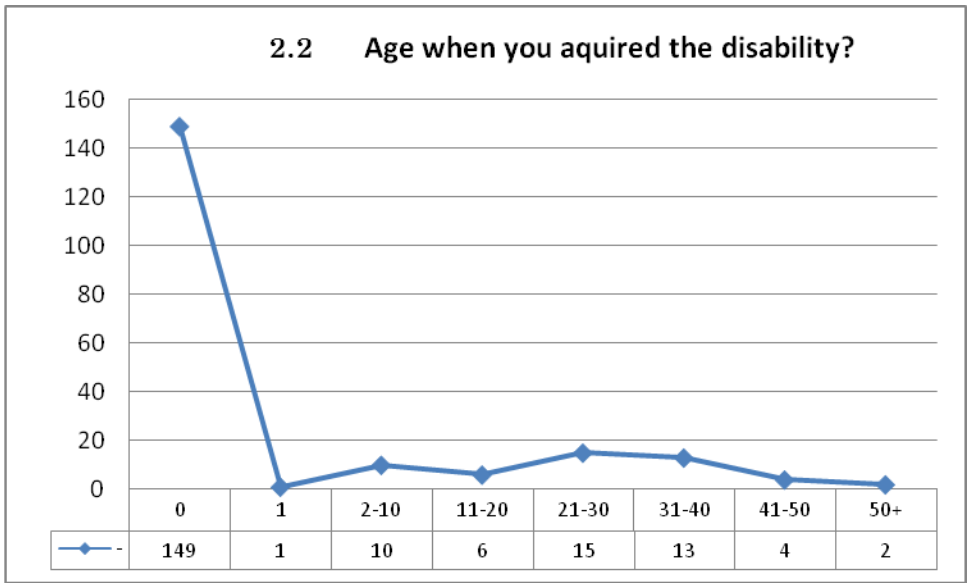
All those in the sample belonged to the Sinhalese ethnic group and the great majority in the selected areas was Sinhalese. Therefore district data could be utilized to examine the condition of Sinhalese women with disabilities.



2.1 How the disability occurred

In this survey conducted in border villages, it was revealed that the number who became disabled due to the war was 05. The number of women who became disabled from birth or other illnesses was 183. Therefore 74% were disabled at birth or due to heredity or environmental factors. When considering both these reasons it is seen that a health problem is related to this.

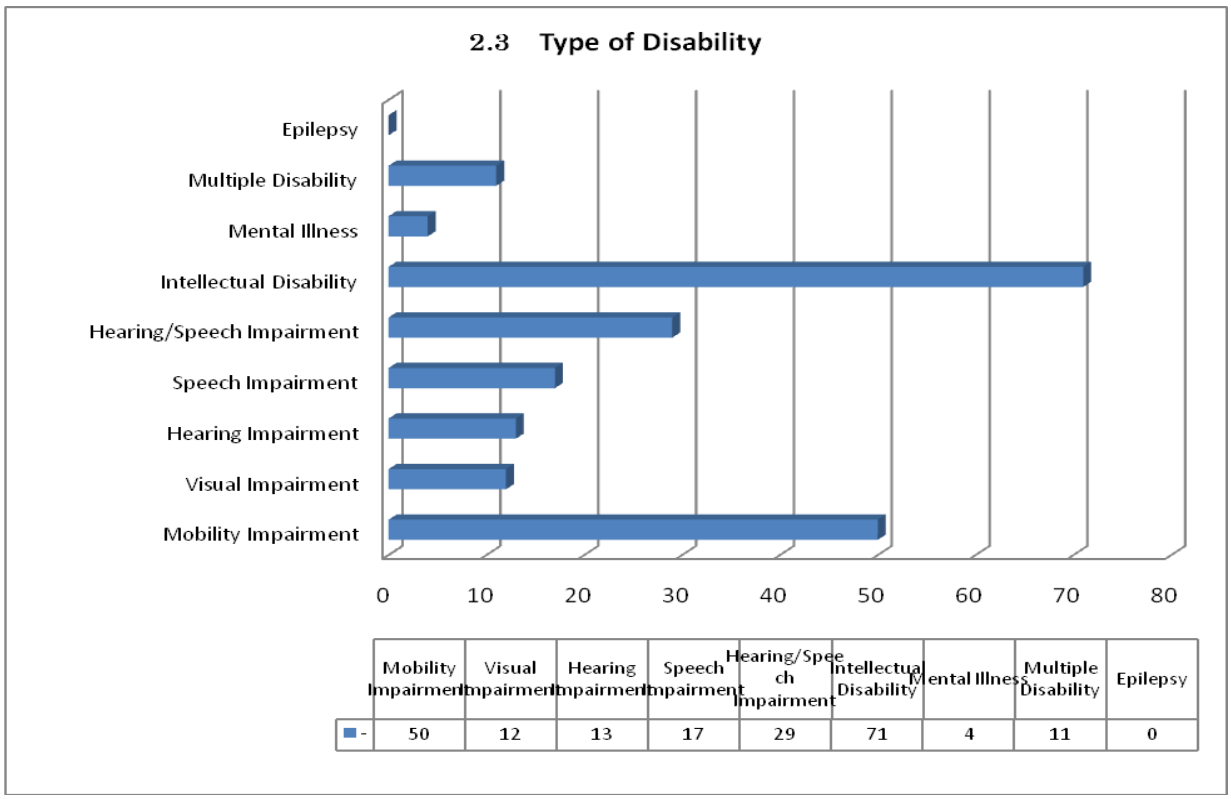




2.3 Classification according to the disability

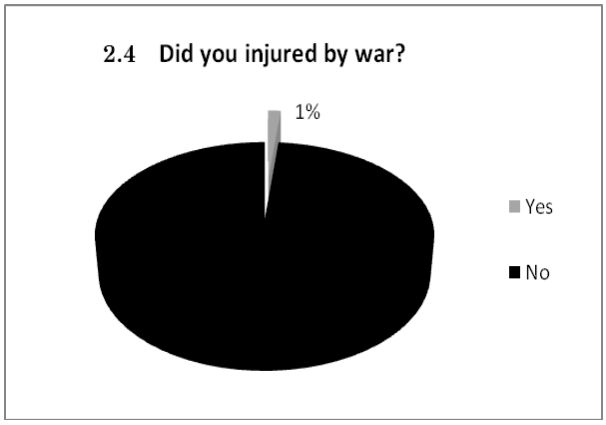
In the survey sample women with different kinds of disability could be seen. Here information was collected considering that there are 19 kinds of disabilities and within that further information was collected according to a further simple sub classification. According to the main classification, there was a large number of women with intellectual disabilities and kinetic disabilities and the least number was in mental disabilities. Anyway there was a considerable number of speech and hearing disabilities.

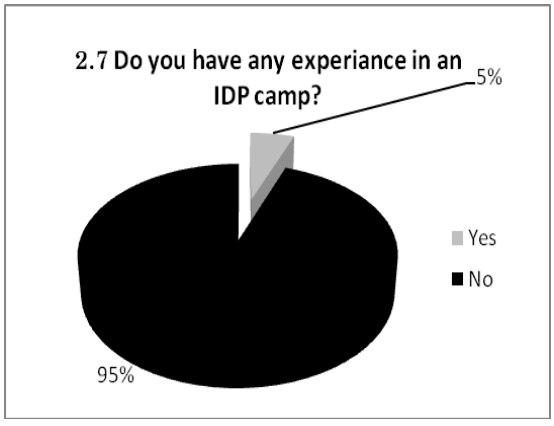
These statistics can be made use of in planning employment, education, treatment or other welfare or developmental activities. Accordingly it would facilitate the efficiency and effectiveness of the process of inclusion of the woman with disability.



2.4 Whether injuries occurred due to war

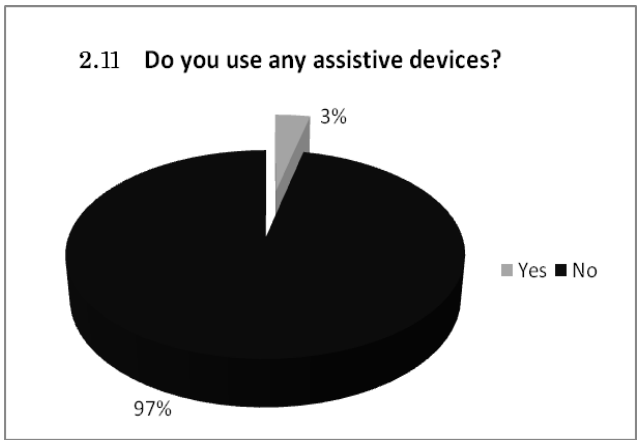
While the number of people injured due to the war was small, it is almost impossible to see diversities in information as seen in other areas connected with war. The number of people who lived in welfare centres was 11 but no deep analysis of information is seen here. As these areas were only bordering the war, they were not directly subjected to the devastation of the war.

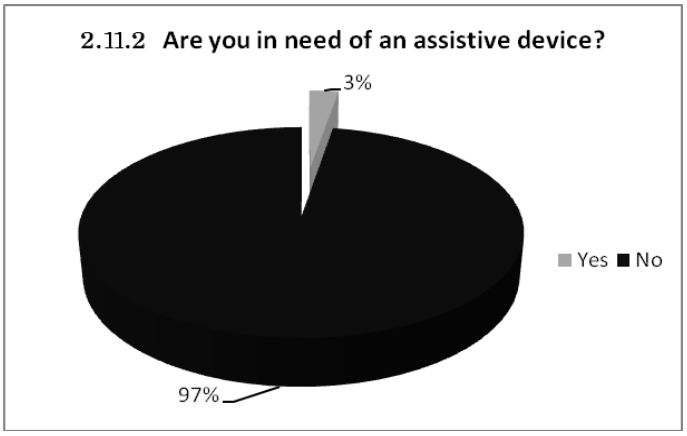




2.11 Use of aids and equipment

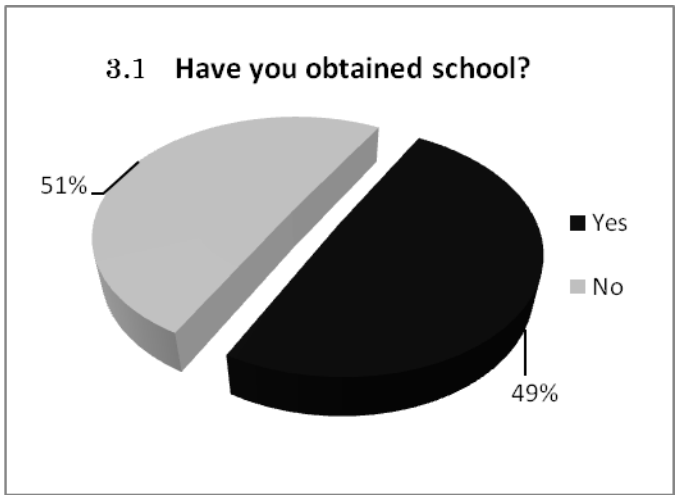
As only 07 persons were using aids and equipment out of 200, it is apparent that among the needs of persons with disabilities, the need for aids and equipment is at a minimum level. That means when compared to other people there is a clear similarity in needs.

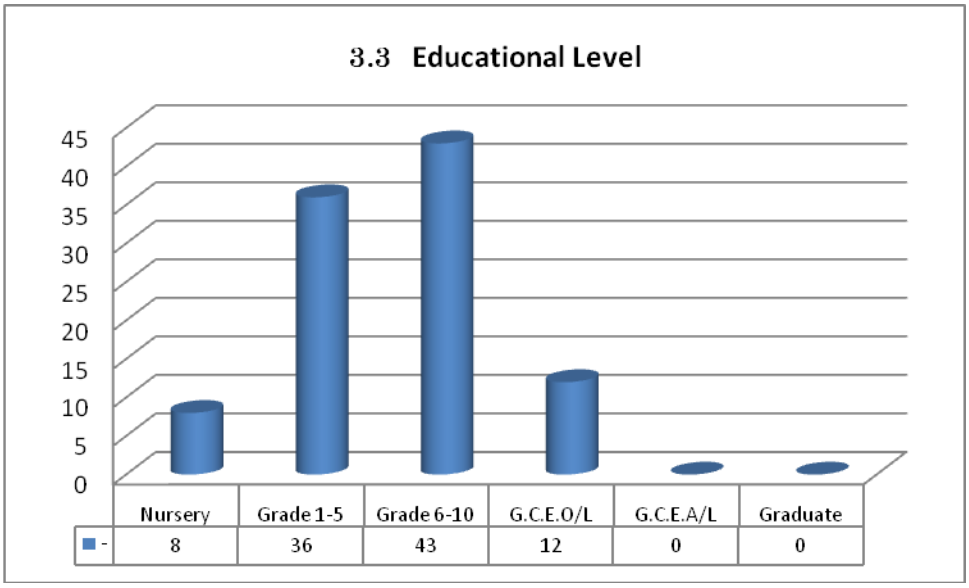




3. School Education

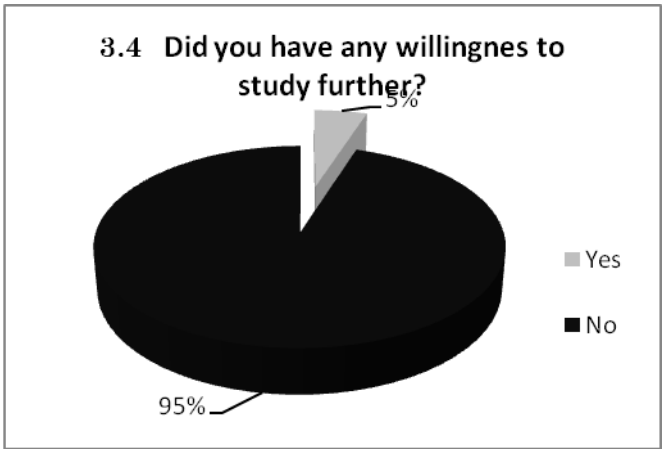
Among the educational problems of women with disabilities living in the war torn areas of Anuradapura district, one striking problem was that 101 of them had never gone to a school or even a pre school. The number of those who have studied up to grade 10 (O L) which is considered as a minimum requirement for a government job was 12. That is only 12 out of 200 have continued in schools until grade 10. we made inquiries to find reasons for this situation. To the question 'did you have a willingness for further education ?' only 10 gave relevant answers.





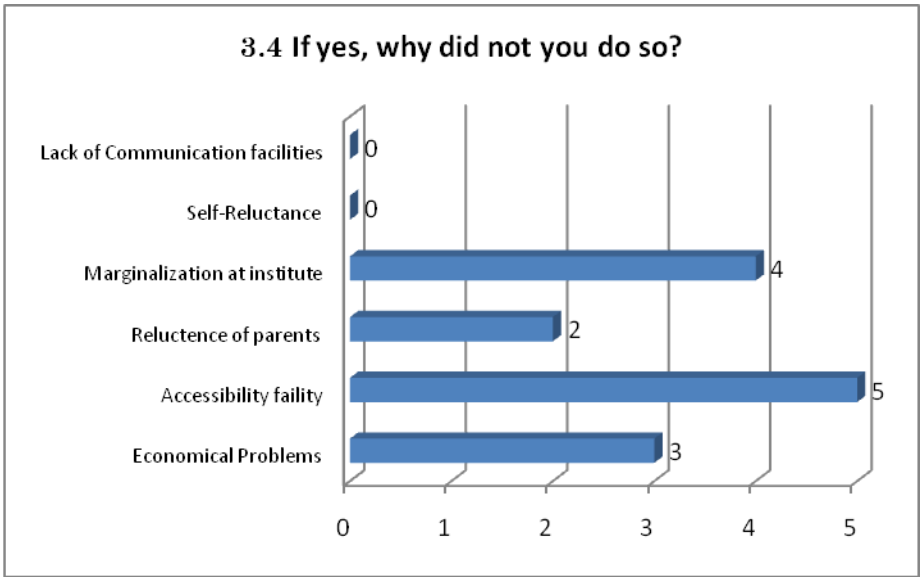
3.4 Regarding further education

To the question 'were you willing to have further education?' most of them answered in the negative.

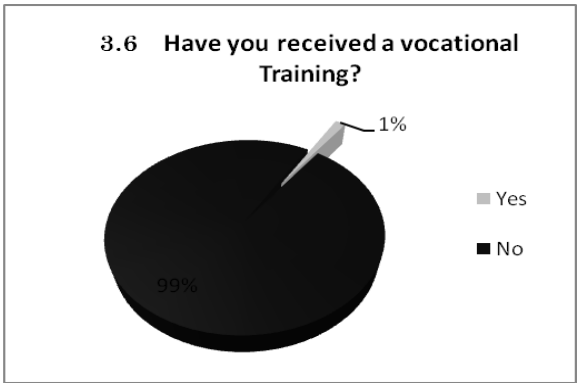


3.5 Reasons for the disruption of education

Accordingly when the economic factor which was stated as a reason for the disruption of education, all others seem to be connected to the state of disability. While the problem of access to facilities, which always affect students with physical disabilities, is clearly there, being subject to ridicule, marginalizing and special treatment in the school and the resulting increase of parental dislike could be other reasons.



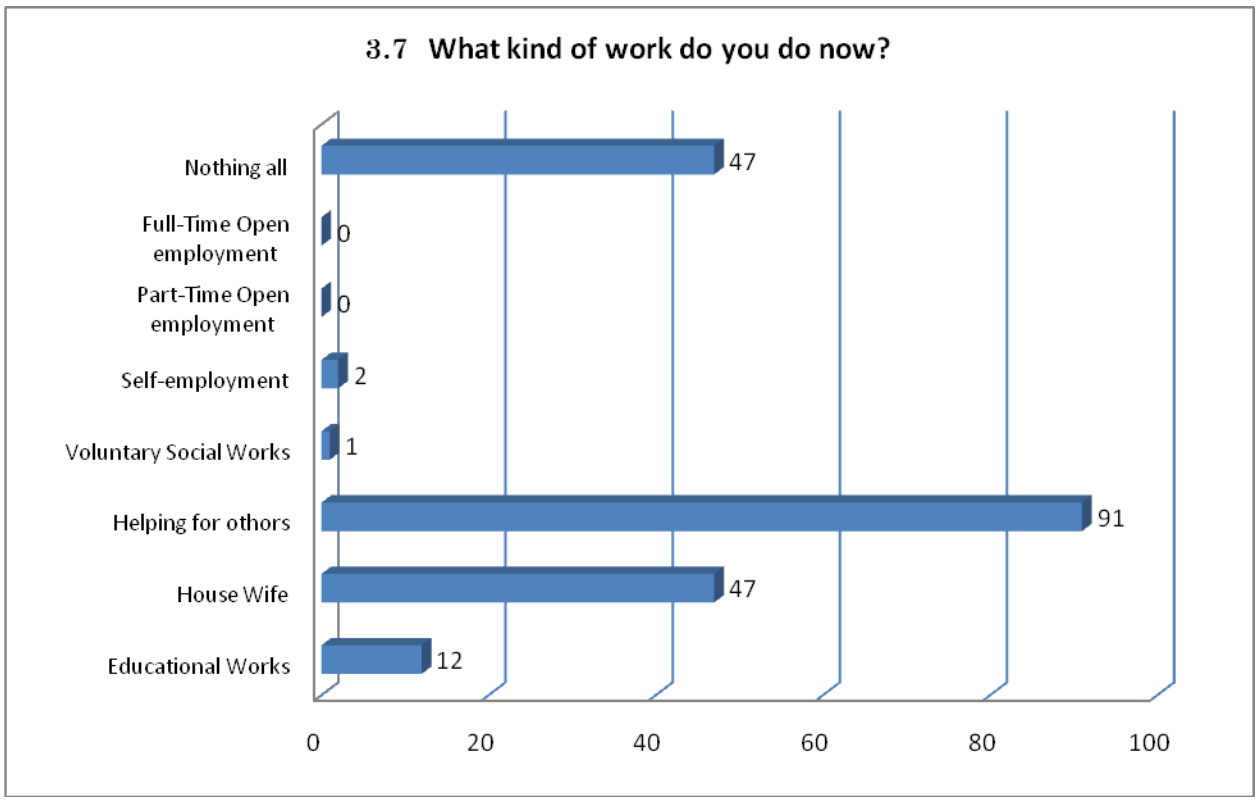
3.5 Vocational Training



Similarly to the school education, vocational training has also not reached the community with disabilities. The number which has received any vocational training is at a very low level. Therefore it directly affects their economic decline.

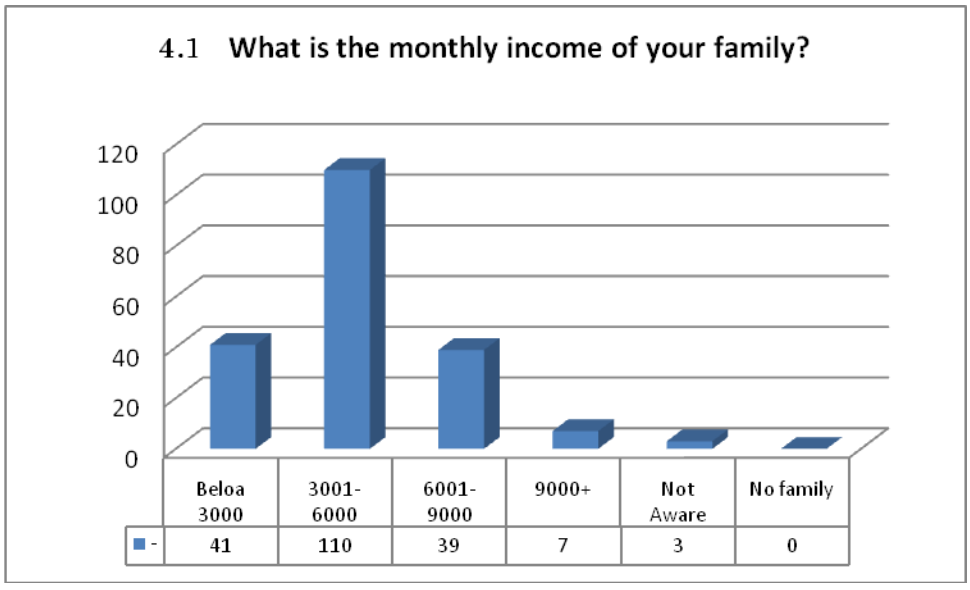
3.6 Daily activities (economical, social) of women with disabilities

When inquiring about the daily activities of this group which does not get suitable opportunities, it was revealed that the number doing nothing is 47. From the sample of 200, the number employed (self-employed) are only 02. Therefore it is clear that the representation of women with disabilities in the national development process of Sri Lanka is at a very low level. There were 20 women were earning a living and 63 women were identified as the group not doing anything or not able to do anything. When taken together with those who are helping at home the number in the group is 138 as this is a large group, their labour has to be utilized for some productive process.



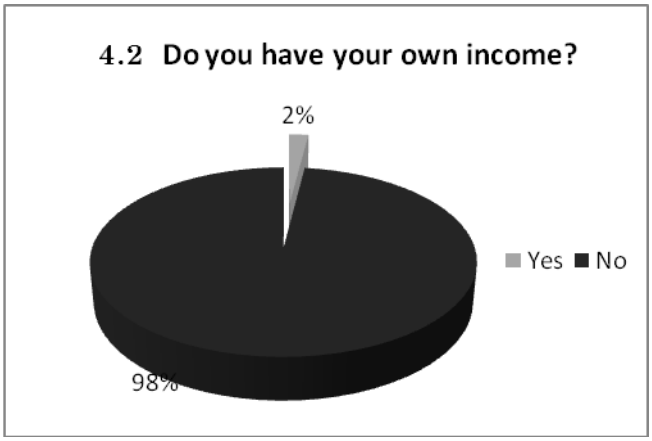
4.1 The economic states of the family

From inquiries conducted verbally, 190 are from families with income below Rs 9000. Therefore all those families live below the poverty line. Accordingly, a lot of work remains to be done in order to empower those families economically.



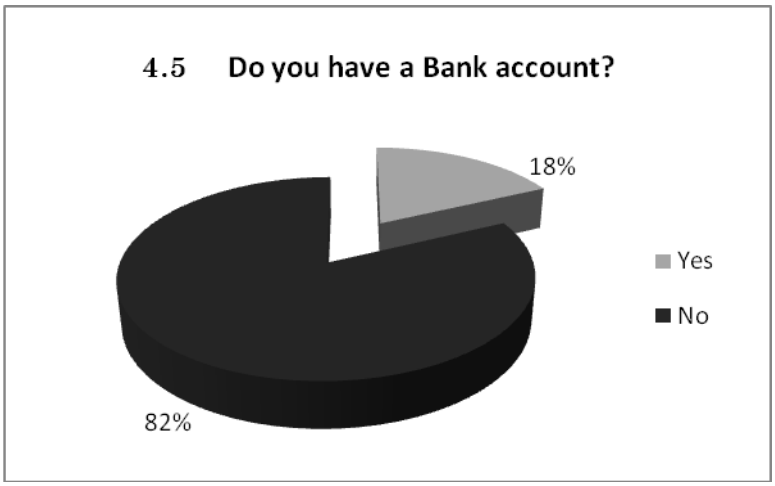
4.2 The Woman with disability and income

When inquiring about their personal income, the number of women with their own income is 04. Three of them said that their monthly income is below Rs 3000. That is an extreme poverty level.



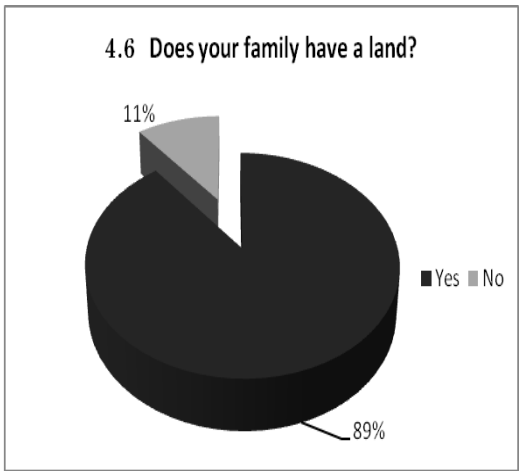
4.5 Banking services

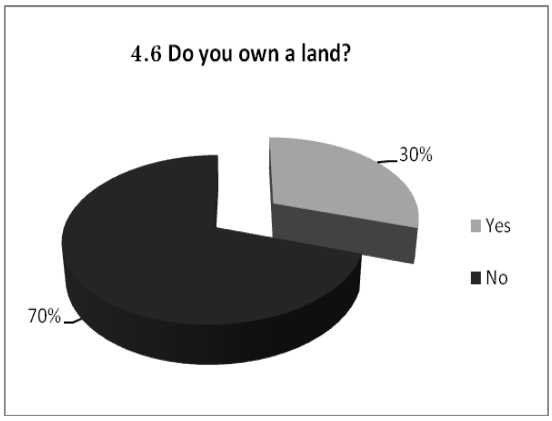
the number even without a bank account is 164. However there were 04 who receive an income. The number in this group who maintain bank accounts is 36.



4.6 Land ownership

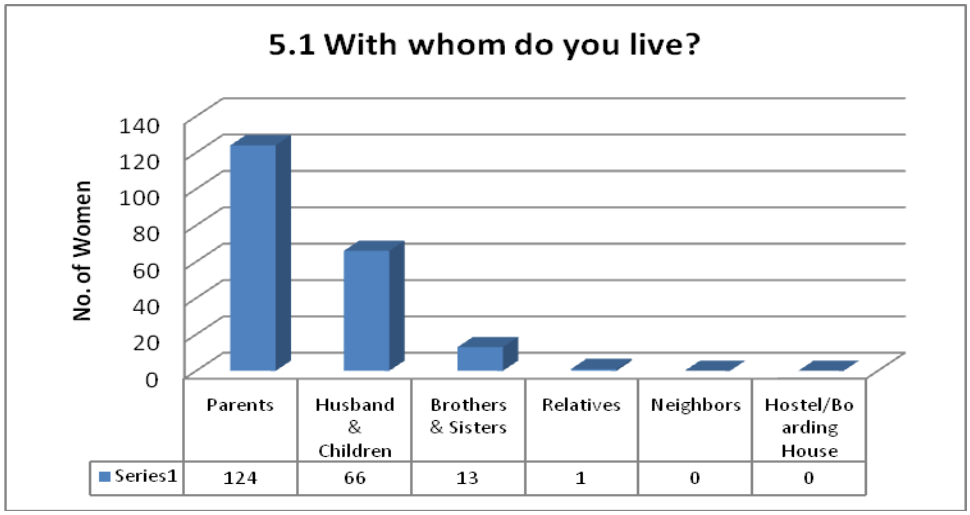
The number of persons with disabilities who own land is 60. This is something positive. Even if there is no other source of income, an easy means of livelihood might open for them if the lands could be developed.



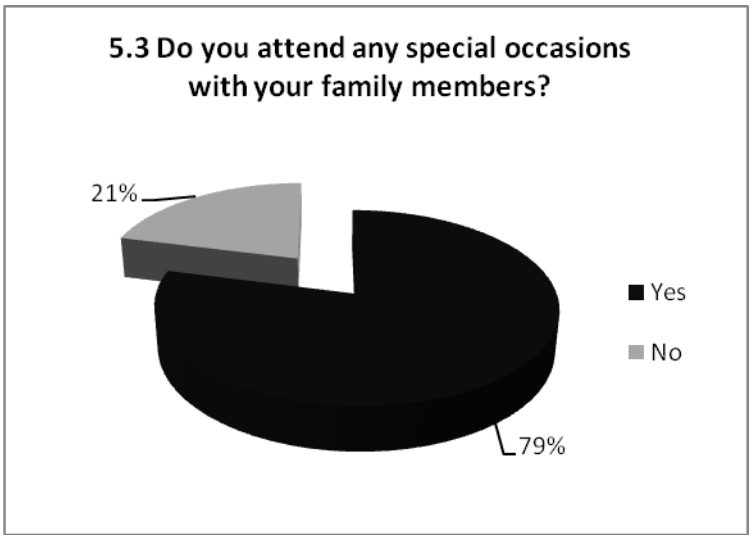


5.1 Family states/Life states/ Social states

In inquiring about the family and life states, a question was asked about with whom they are living. It was revealed that the majority is living with their family members.



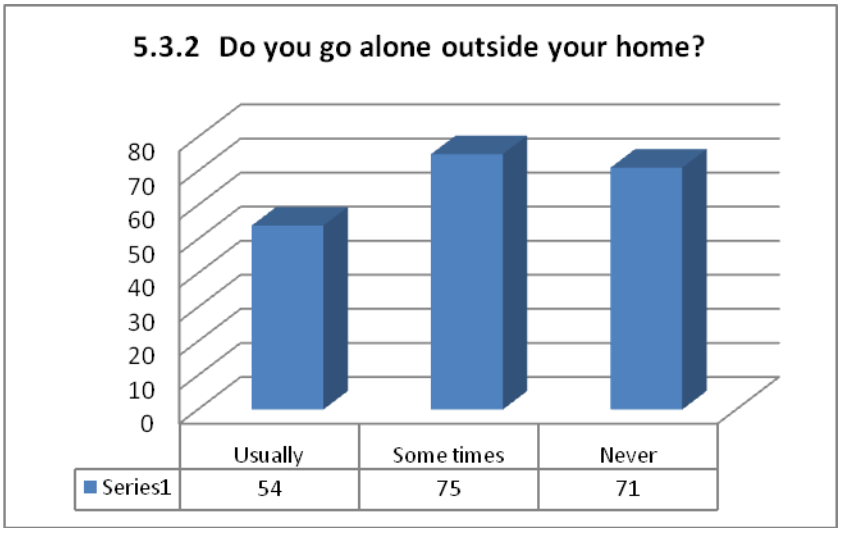
5.2 Sociable nature/ Social work

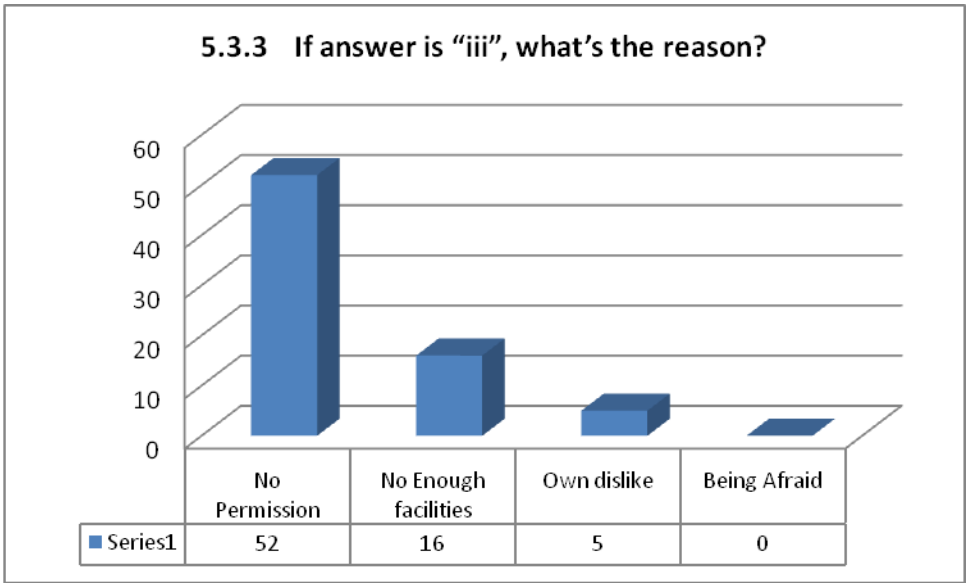


To the question whether they participate with other family members in special events of the family, 158 of them answered positively. Accordingly a good environment could be seen in their families.

5.3.2 Going out of the house

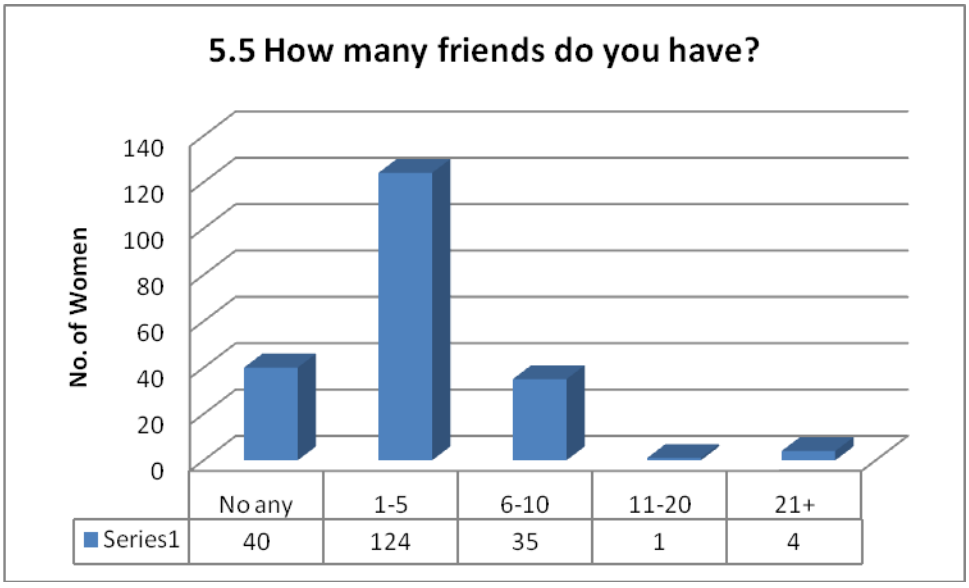
It was inquired whether women with disabilities go out on their own, and it was revealed that 71 of them never do so. There were 54 of them who generally did so and it gives an idea of their independence.





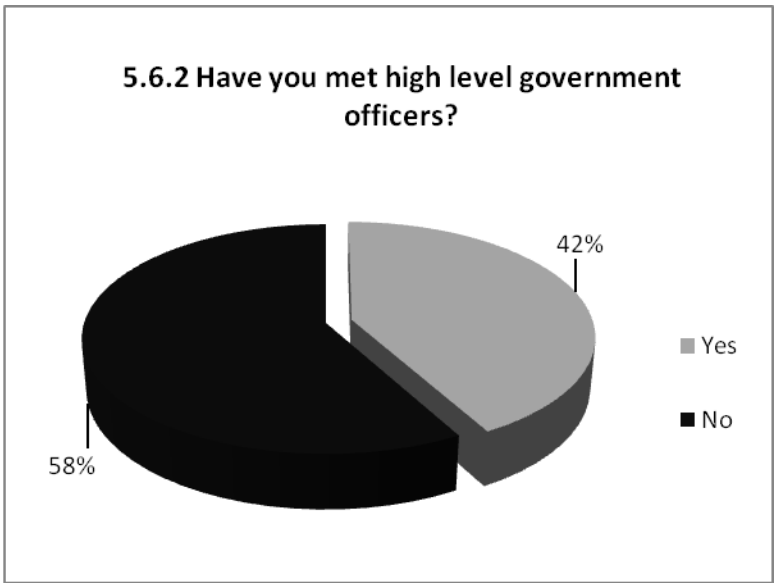
5.5 About friends

In inquiring about friends, a question was asked about the number of friends with whom company is kept. Accordingly there were 40 without a single friend. It is a difficult circumstance of social states of mankind. However there are some among them who have build up a good environment.



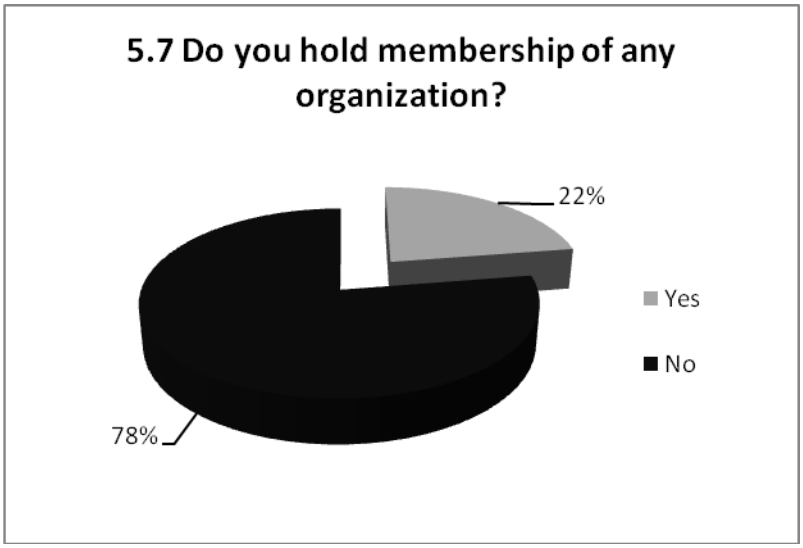
5.6 Obtaining social service facilities

In identifying the public services mainly used by women with disabilities, it has come to light that the services mostly used are health, transport and religion in that order. Education and financial services occupy the 5th and 6th places. Therefore the service closest to women with disability is health service and it is related to health reasons being the major factor for disability.



5.7 Membership in organizations

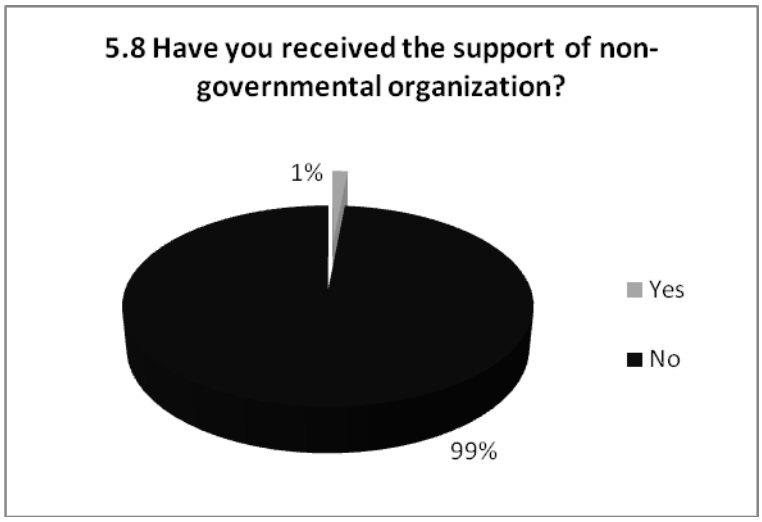
In order to find the inclusion of women with disabilities and community organizations, a question was asked about the membership and involvement in societies and organizations. As only 18 had membership in some organizations and the other 182 had no membership in any organization, it indicates that they are still marginalized in community based organizations in villages. As a result of this women with disabilities are not included in welfare and development programmes at village level and therefore they are deprived of many benefits and guardians who represent societies get the opportunity to claim those benefits.



5.8 Receiving assistance from Non Government Organizations (NGOs)

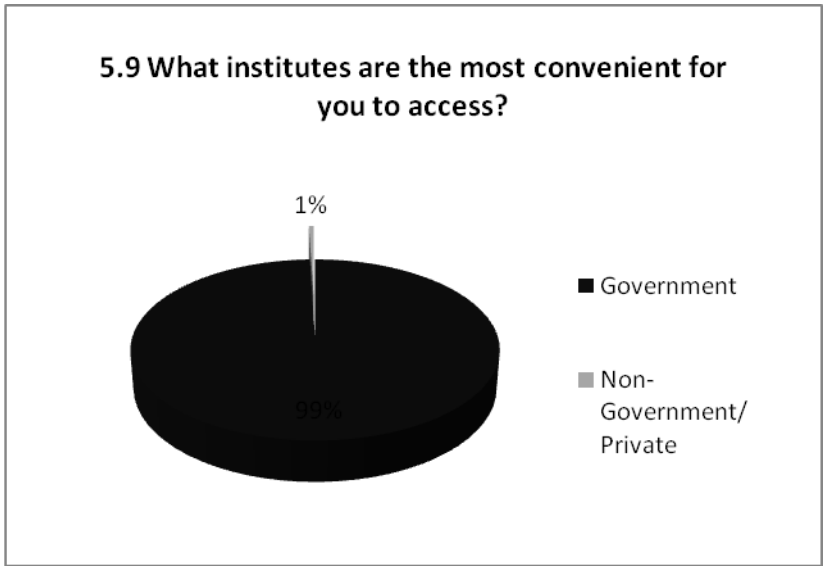
A large number of local and foreign non-government organizations are operating in the difficult regions of Sri Lanka and the Anuradapura district is also among them.

On inquiring whether women with disabilities have received benefits from programmes of non-government organizations only three answered positively. This is only 1% of the sample. Here the benefits considered were money, goods, raw materials, educational facilities, psychological counseling, training, religious services, housing and other. However according to the responses it is apparent that programmes of NGOs have still not properly reached the persons with disabilities.



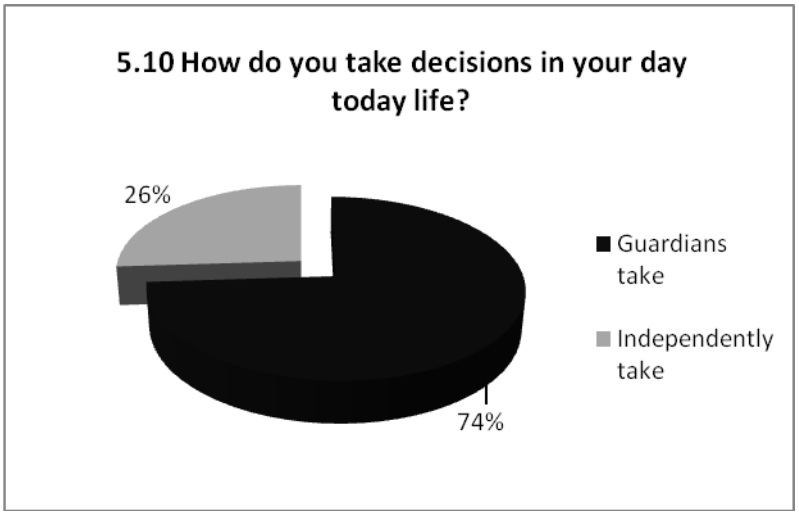
5.9 Whether it is easier to obtain services from the government sector or non government sector.

The perception of the majority was that it is easier to obtain services to fulfill needs from the state sector than from the non government or private sector.



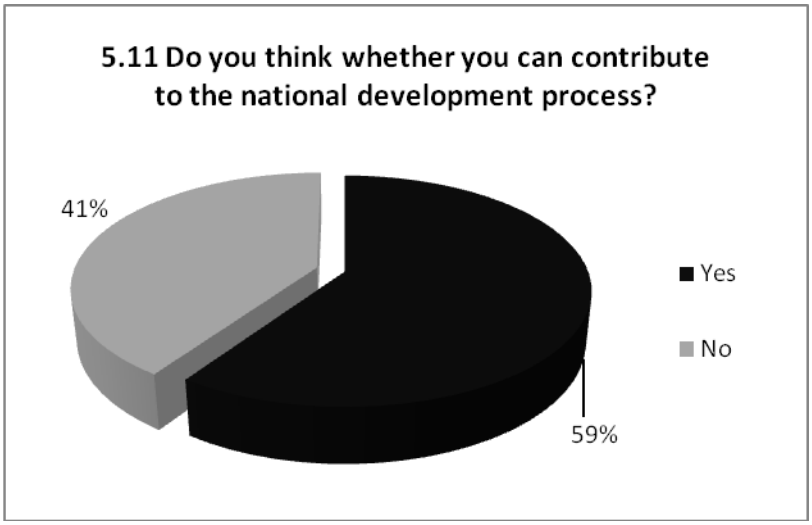
5.10 Right of taking decisions

While in day to day life decisions are taken independently or by adults, the responses of the women with disabilities revealed that most of their decisions are taken by adults.



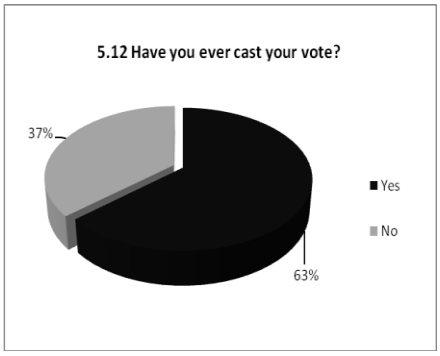
5.11 Contribution to national development

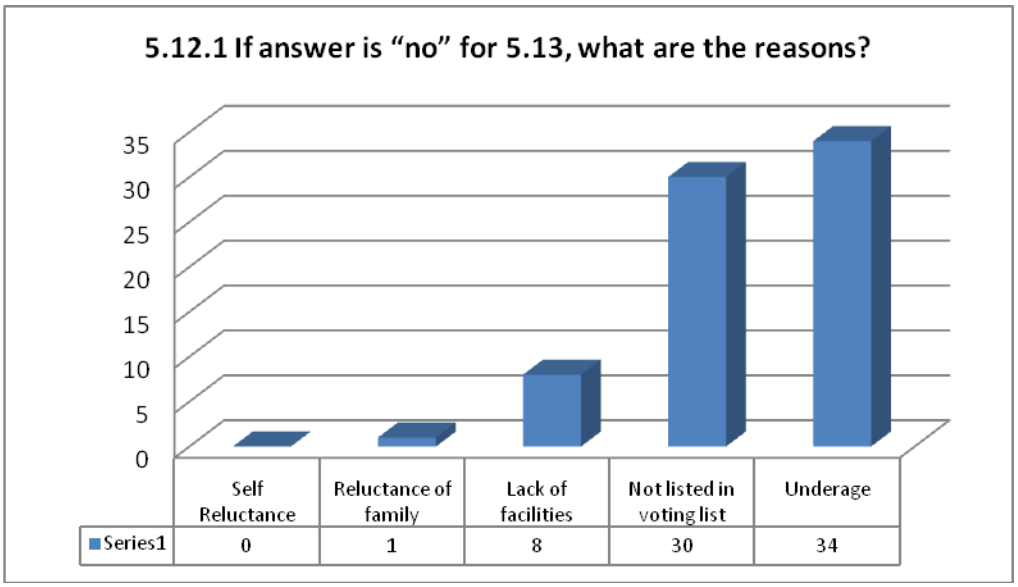
Views were asked about whether women with disabilities can contribute to national development. There 119 said 'yes'. As it shows a good attitudinal state it would be important to take steps to study it.



5.12 Right to vote

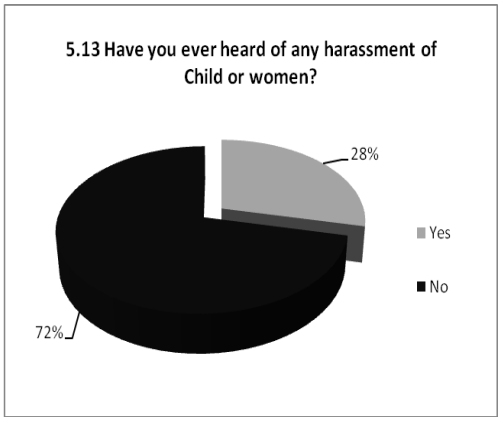
The majority has the franchise and 127 have used it. Only 64 were not included there due to not registering or being under age. Accordingly it is seen that the majority has obtained the democratic Right to vote.





5.13 Abuse of women

When asked whether subjected to some form of sexual molestation or domestic violence, all said that they did not face any such thing. When asked whether have heard about such incidents, 57 replied positively. Therefore the following information might be not very correct.

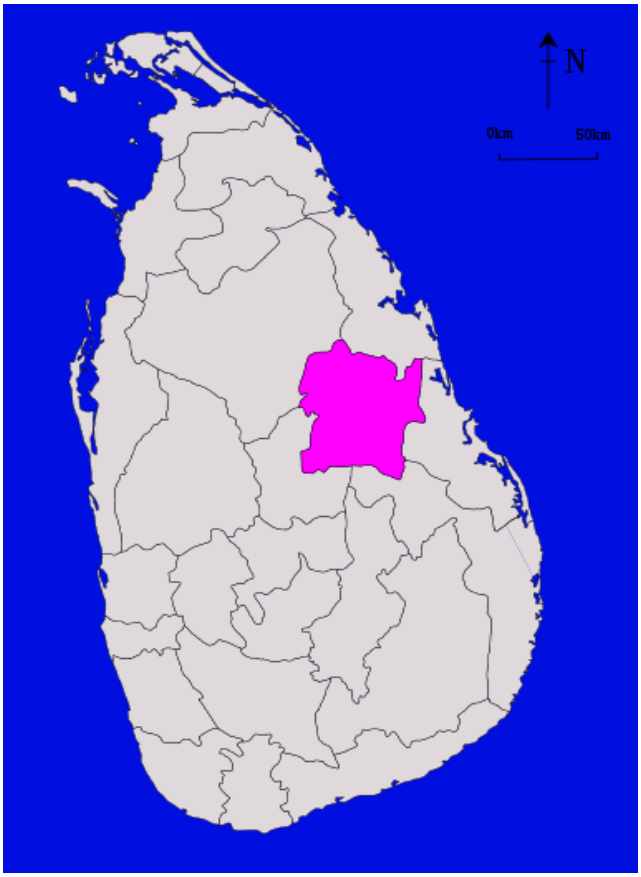


The Summery

- According to this survey, the women with disabilities of this district do not show much interest about the NIC and also do not consider obtaining it necessary.
- The intellectual disabilities from birth are the most frequent in this area and kinetic disabilities are in 2nd place.
- The highest educational level of the majority of women with disabilities in this area is grade 6-10. Those who reach this level is only 25% of the sample.
- The economic states of women with disabilities are at a very low level and only 02 are engaged in at least in self-employment. The rest do not engage in any economic activity.
- The closest services provided by the government in the priority order are health, transport and religious services respectively. Education is in the 05th place.
- The usage of the vote has a high value and many has got the opportunity to vote. Among those who had never voted, 30 had not registered as voters.

Survey Results
Polonnaruwa District

The Polonnaruwa district which is considered as an important district both historically as well as religiously is situated in the North Central province in the dry zone of Sri Lanka.

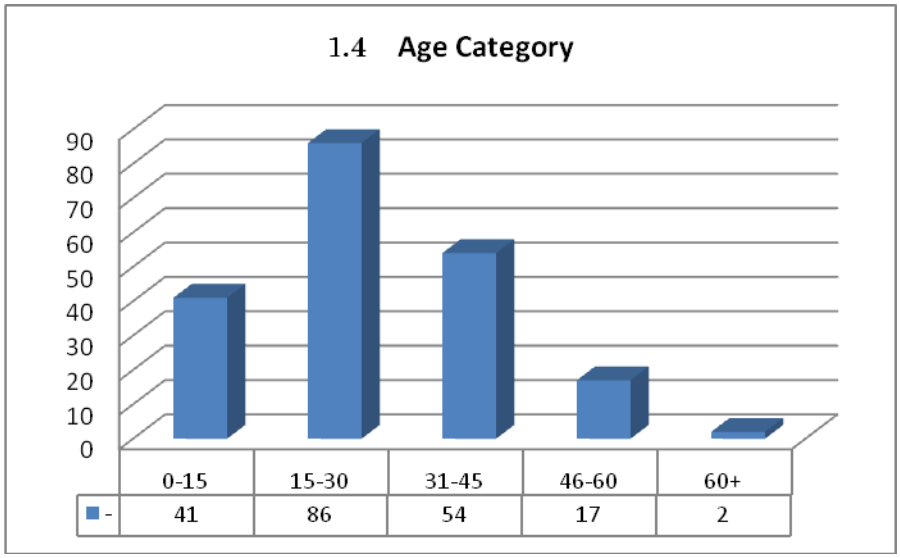


Archeological evidence has established that this area which was named as a city belonging to the world heritage by UNESCO in 1982 had been a very prosperous area as the second capital of Sri Lanka during the period 1070 to 1235 B.C.

This district which is situated in a land area of 3292 square Kilometers is divided into 07 local administrative areas governed by 07 Pradeshiya Sabas. Out of them expect for two, others could be considered as areas subjected to war.

According to the census of 2001, the whole population here is 359,000. Agriculture is the main means of their livelihood. This area which consists of 23 hospitals and 231 schools is considered as a difficult area in providing state services.

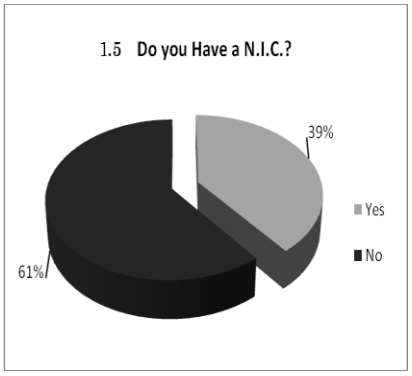
1.4 Age distribution



According to the above diagram, the majority of the women with disabilities seem to be young persons in the age group of 15 and 30 years of age. This does not mean that the majority of young women with disabilities represent youth. What is meant is that in this sample youth representation is more. The reason is that more attention was paid to young women having considered them as the most powerful group in the community in discovering the real circumstances of women with disabilities. Therefore 43% of the sample is from the age group of 15 – 30 years.
The highest representation in the sample is seen to be from the Sinhalese ethnic group. The reason is that other communities live very sparsely here.

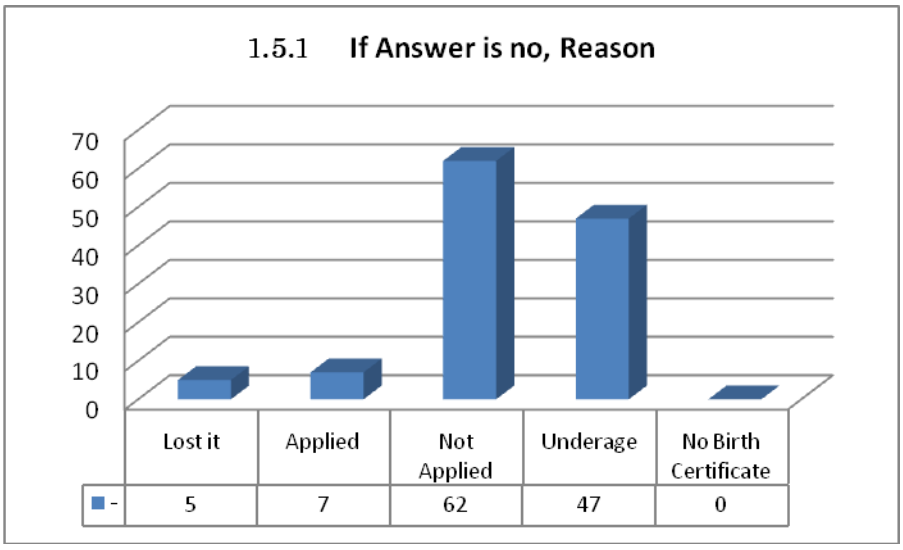
1.5.About the National Identity card

The N.I.C is the main document which every Sri Lankan citizen should have and which is needed to confirm the identity everybody who has completed 18 years.
However according to this investigation the number without the N.I.C or any such document were 67. Out of them 62 had not even applied for one.



Even if the reason cannot be concluded clearly, some predictions could be made. Firstly a need not arising, secondly difficulties in obtaining one and thirdly the negative attitudes of the person with disabilities about self and the negative attitudes of parents and guardians.

1.6.Civil status

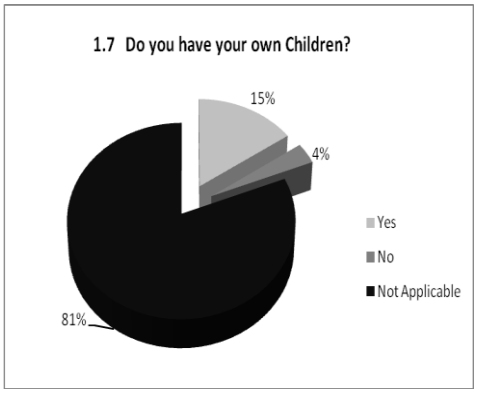


The number of women who should have a N.I.C is 153 and out of them only 35 were married women. Therefore 118 are single and as a percentage it was 77.12%. The percentage who got the opportunity to marry was 22.87%.

1.4 children of women with disabilities

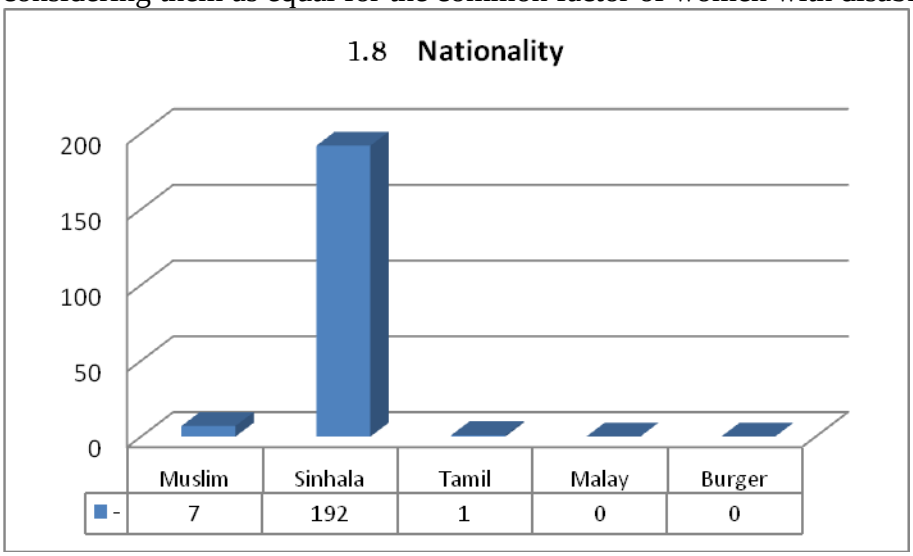
As per this survey, 35 women with disabilities had married and out of that 32% are widows, divorced or living separately.
However out of them 31 or 89% had the fortune of becoming mothers and as they are mothers with children they have the right for acceptance and also for protection.

Another fact that is realized by this is that the state of disability is not an obstacle for women with disabilities to marry and have children. Also their fertility seems to have a high value.



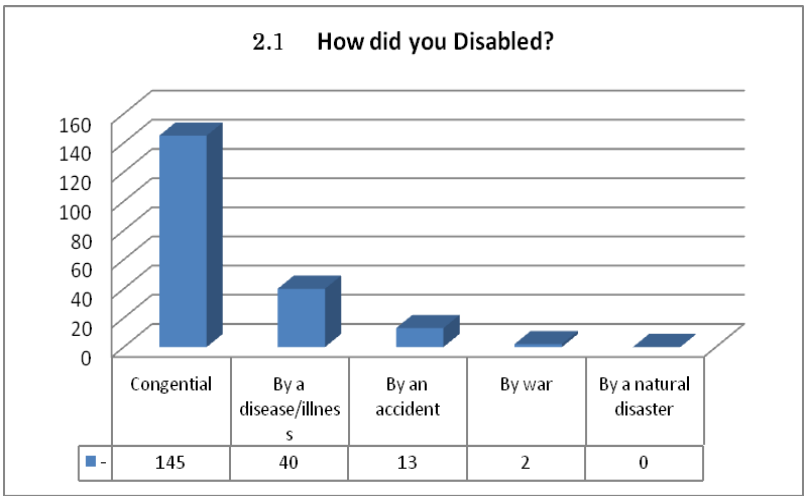
1.5 Ethnicity

The sample of the survey, had an asymmetrical, mixed nature represented by ethnic groups of Sinhalese 96%, Muslims 3% and Tamil 1%. However as per the ratio of ethnic groups in the district, some proportionate ness could be seen. Also the information available here could be reviewed considering them as equal for the common factor of women with disabilities



2.1 How the disability occurred

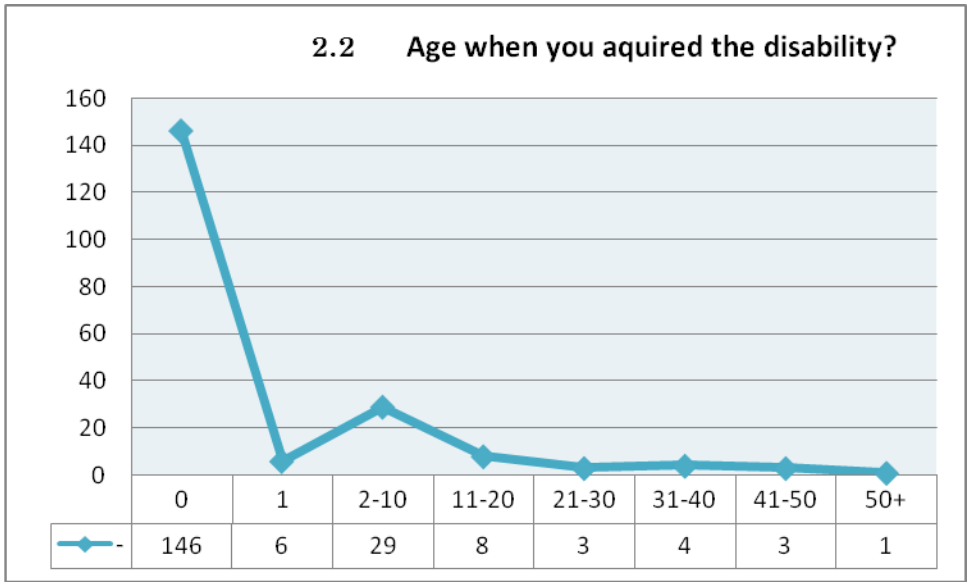
in this survey attention was paid to 05 ways by which the disability could occur. There were no persons in the sample who became disabled due to natural disasters and 185 had become disabled by birth or due to illnesses. It is 93% of the sample. This reveals several critical issues. the fact that health problems are the major cause of disability in this district during a period where health facilities and other public health and sanitary services of Sri Lanka are at a high level, is a matter that should receive special attention.



Here information was collected about the factors which caused the disability in the region. The number of those who were disabled from birth was high and the percentage recorded was 72. The factor second in importance was illnesses. Therefore it can be assumed that a number of health problems exist in the region.

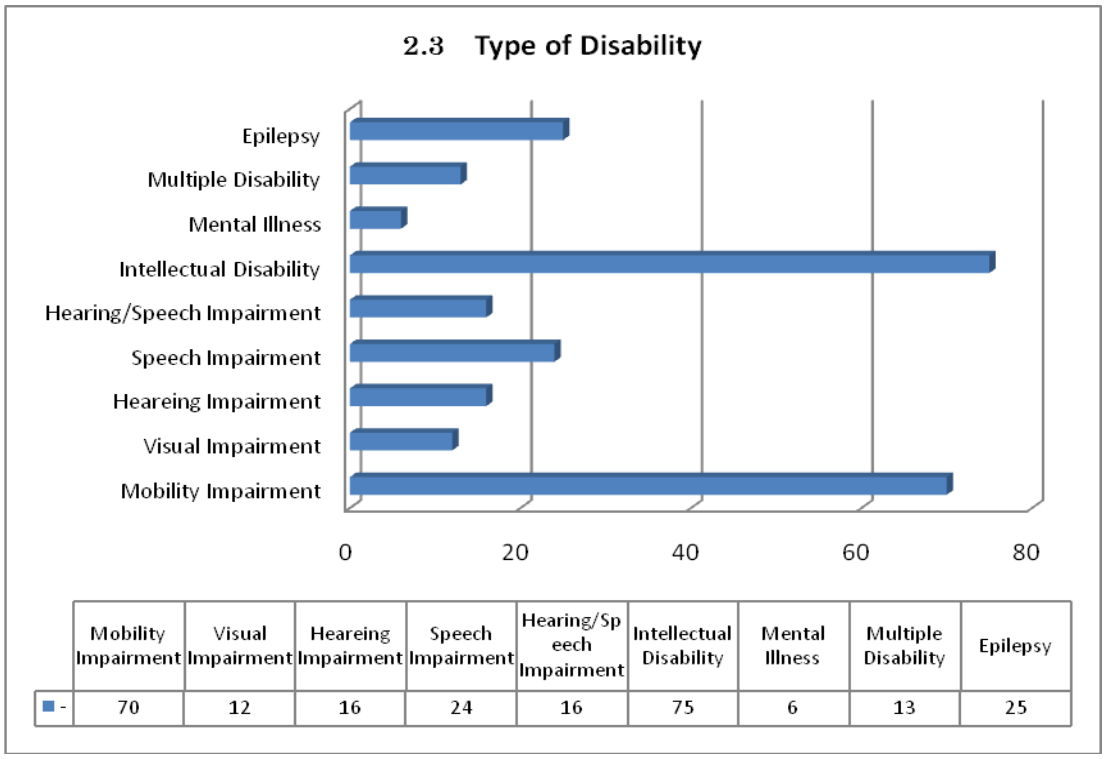
2.2 The state of disability and the age of occurring

This survey raises a question about the age at the time disability occurred. The aim was to find the stage in life when more care has to be taken about being disabled. The group where disability occurred at birth has the highest number. It may be mostly due to genetic factors or complications during pregnancy. Special attention has to be paid to this as it has a percentage of 72. After that the stage of life between year 01 and 30 is also a critical period of disability occurring. The percentage for this category is 23%.

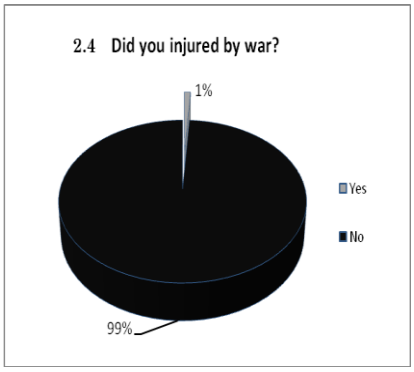


2.3 Classification as per the state of disability

In this sample intellectual disability, kinetic disability and epilepsy occupies the 1st, 2nd and 3rd places respectively and mental disability is the last one. When commonly taken mental disabilities has a higher value than physical disabilities.

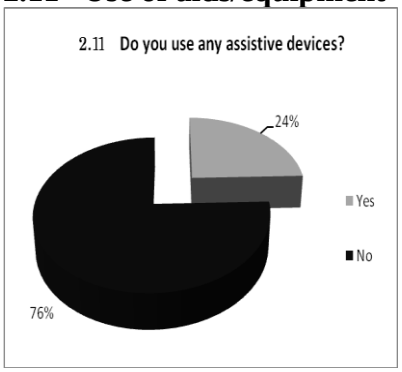


	Mobility Impairment	Visual Impairment	Heareing Impairment	Speech Impairment	Hearing/Speech Impairment	Intellectual Disability	Mental Illness	Multiple Disability	Epilepsy
-	70	12	16	24	16	75	6	13	25



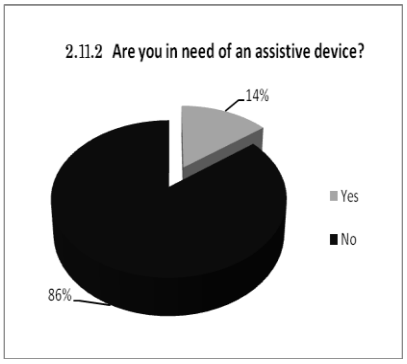
Six out of the 200 who participated in this survey had experienced life in welfare camps where persons displaced by war lives temporarily. Their percentage is only 3%.

2.11 Use of aids/equipment



As soon as we think of persons with disabilities, what comes to our mind are persons who use equipment such as wheel chairs and crutches. However this survey revealed that out of the 200 women with disabilities who participated in the survey, 76% did not use any aid/equipment. Therefore 24% of them could be instantly identified in the society as persons with disabilities while only a little attention is paid to the rest of them.

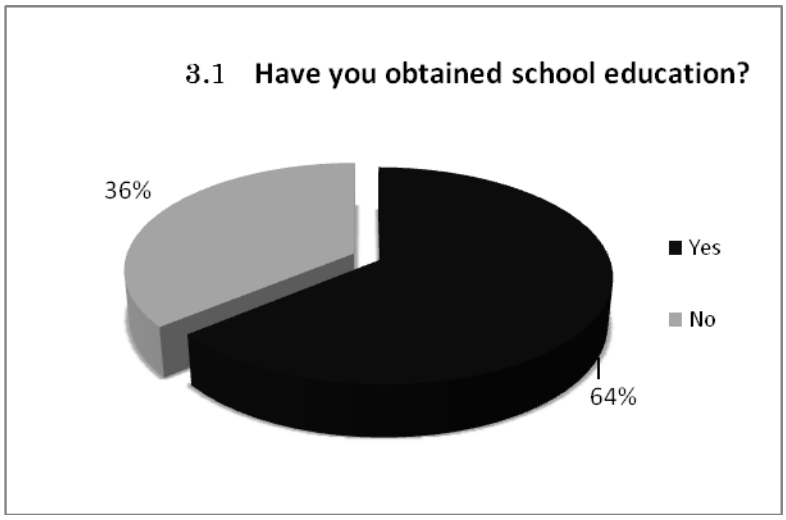
2.11.2 Needs for aids/equipment



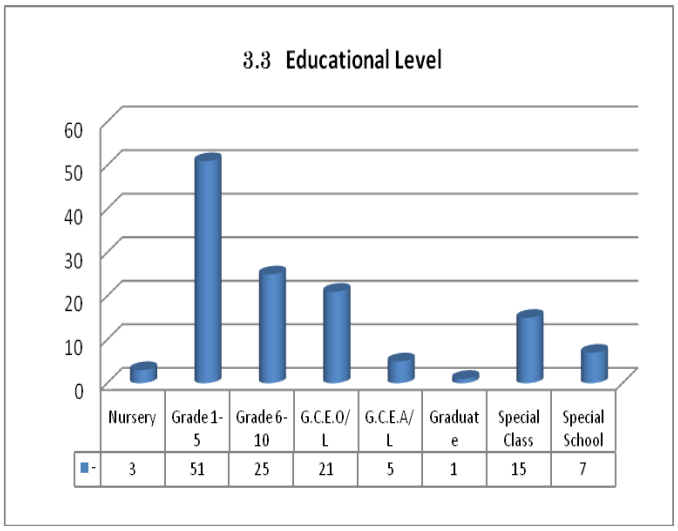
When inquiring about the need for aid/equipment, 31 said 'yes' and that number was 13 less than the number of those who were already using them. The need for aid/equipment could be rated as a very minor need among the needs of women with disabilities.

3. Education

As mentioned in the national literacy policy of Sri Lanka, 97% of women and 98% of male adults should be literate. Here literacy is defined as the ability to read a simple statement, to write and to understand it. According to the census of 2003 it was at the level of 92%.

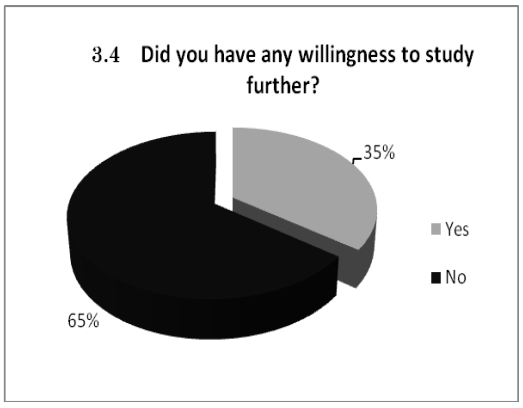


As per results of this survey, 72 out of the sample of 200 women with disabilities in the Polonnaruwa district had not gone to school.



The number which attended general school education was 128. out of 54 had not gone beyond grade 5. A special mention should be made about the fact that out of the 128 who attended school, only 22 had attended special schools or special classes for children with disabilities. As a percentage it was 17%. Therefore it is commendable that these children with dis abilities had attended normal schools.

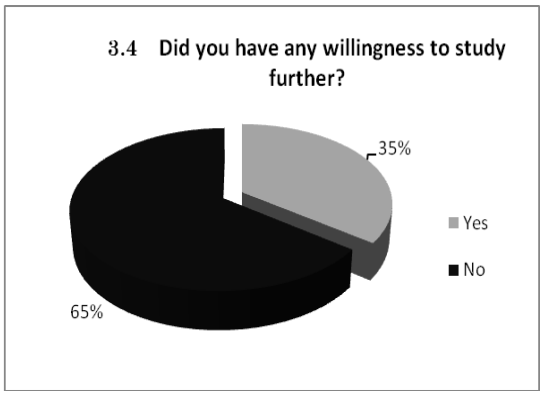
3.4 Inquiring about the willingness for further education.



To the question asked from the women who had education whether they are willing to have further education, 48 (37%) of them expressed willingness and they were also asked why they did not do so. Twenty four (50%) of them stated that due to economic problems they could not do so.

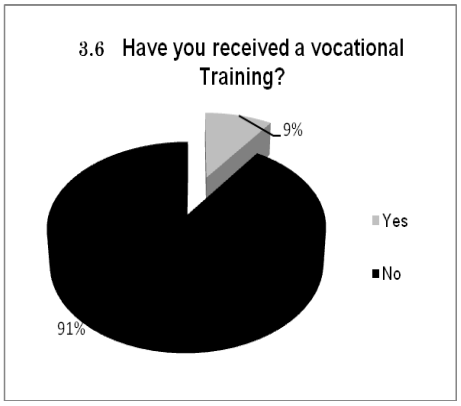
Due to problems related to parents and access facilities 14 of them have not done their studies continuously. Only one person had stopped education due to her dislike for education.

3.5 Reasons for disruption of education



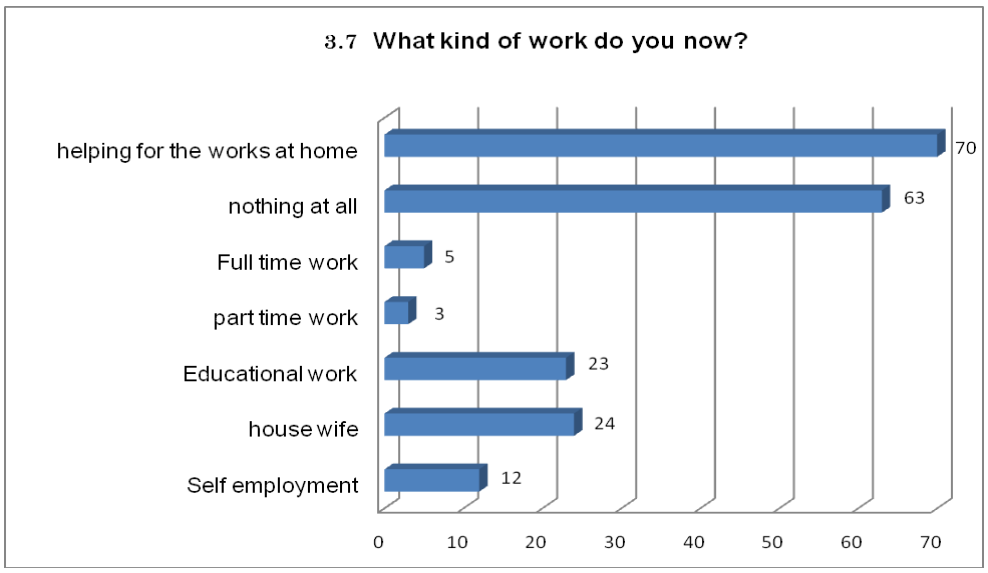
3.6 Vocational Training

To the question, whether received any vocational training, 181 persons answered ‘no’. out of them the number of those who had not completed 18 years of age was 47. Therefore, out of 153 only 19 have received vocational training. That is a percentage of 12%. The rest have not received vocational training. Accordingly a massive need for vocational training exists in this region.



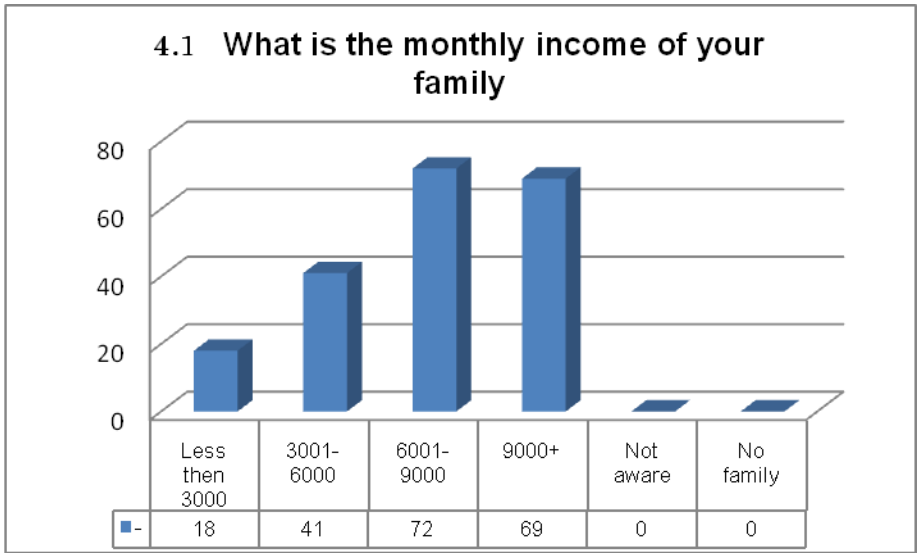
3.7 Functions engaged in at present

Twenty women who earn a living was found and there were 63 who were not doing anything or unable to do anything. The number of those who help in household activities and those who replied as not doing anything when taken together was 133. as this is a large group, it is required to utilize their labour for some fruitful process.



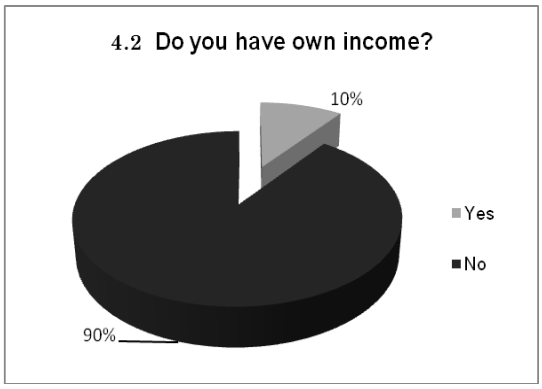
4.1 Economic states of the family

The number of families whose income is between Rs 6000 and 9000 was 141. There were 18 families whose income was less than Rs 3000.



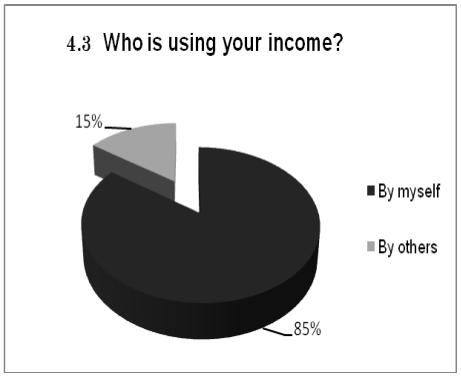
4.2 Personal economic states

Out of the 153 persons who have completed 18 years of age, 22 receive their own income. It is 14% of the group. Therefore the percentage of those who have no income themselves and depend on others was 90%.. As it is a very high value solutions are suggested.



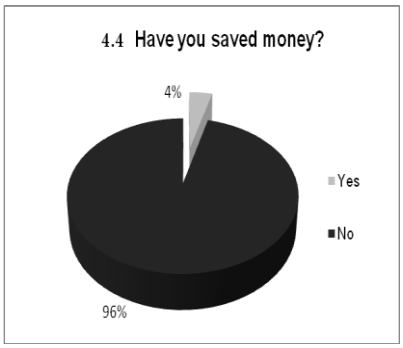
4.3 About utilizing the income

Seventeen out of the 20 who have their own incomes, utilize their incomes themselves and the incomes of the other 03 are utilized by their families.



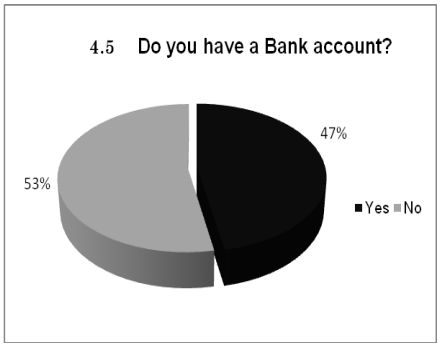
4.4 About saving money

According to the table above, so far 08 persons have saved money. Although the number who have their own income is 22 only those 08 persons save money.



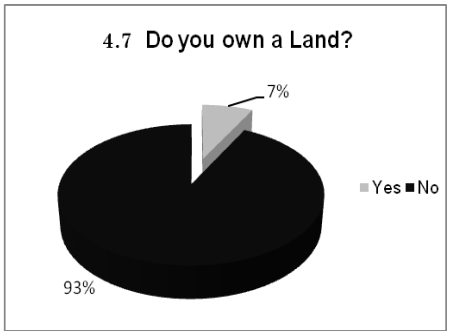
4.5 anking activities

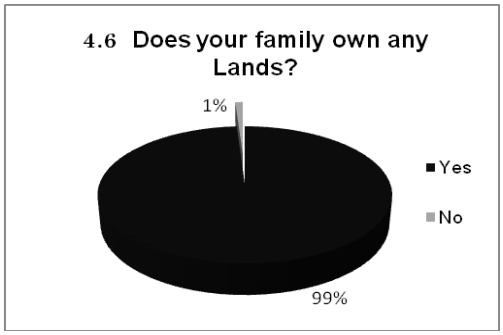
The response to the question about having a bank account was positive. The percentage of those with a bank account is 47%. The expectation or the attitude about saving money is well developed. However the other 106 (53%) have given negative responses.



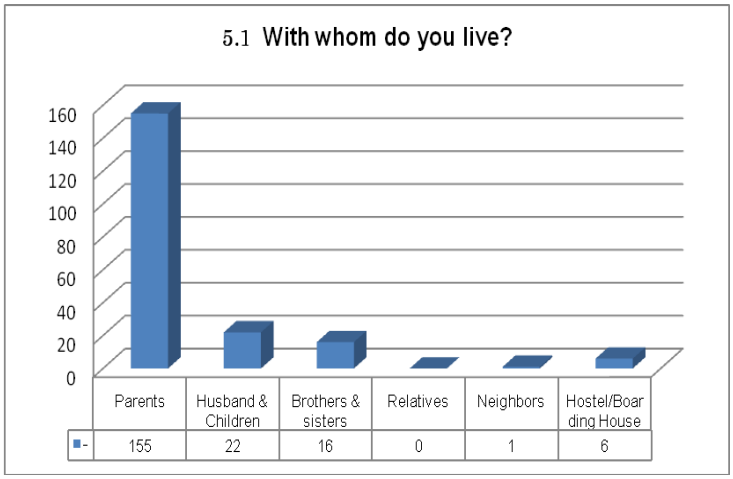
4.6 About owning land

The families' ownership of land was 99%. However the number with their own lands was 07 only. It can be assumed that the reason for this was the state of disability. According to a government circular, persons with disabilities have the right of owning lands. A sum of Rs one lakh is given for them for construction. However ownership of land has not been given to disabled persons in this region.

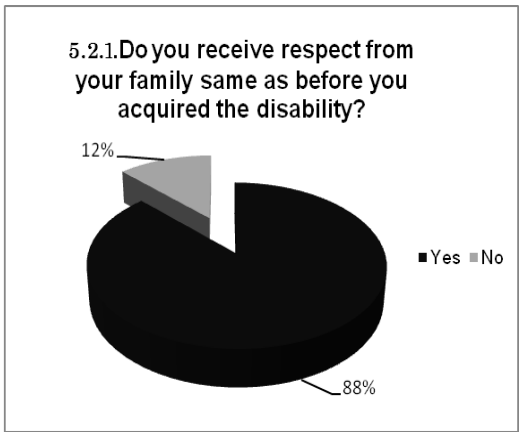




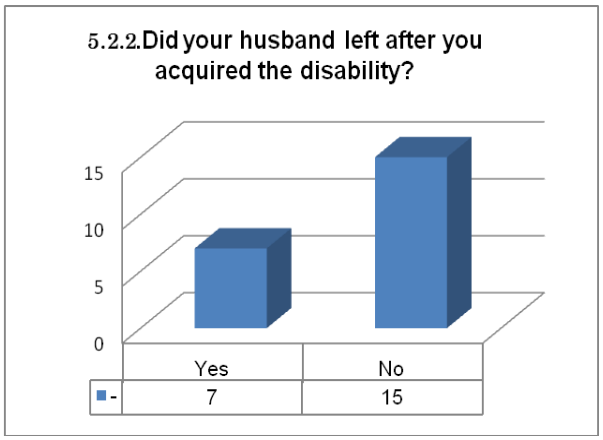
5.1 Family states/Living condition/Social states



The number of respondents in the sample who are living with parents was 155. Out of them there were 47 who are below 18 years of age. Therefore the number who belongs to the adult population of Sri Lanka was 108. In this sample 54% live with their parents. In this survey, the number of adults was 153. Only 22 out of them had their own means of income. Accordingly although there were persons who live with husband and children or neighbours or as boarders, a great majority of women with disabilities depend on their parents.

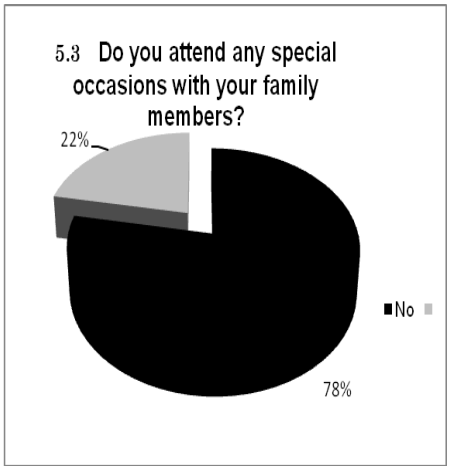


5.2.2 Acceptance after being disabled



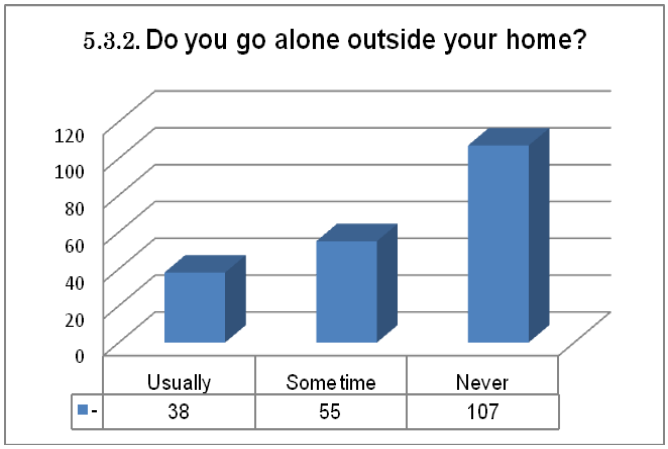
5.3 Sociability/social activities

Here we inquired about participation in family or other social activities. Accordingly we attempted to find the states of socialization. From the 200 who responded 44 (22%) stated that they do not participate with their family in social activities.



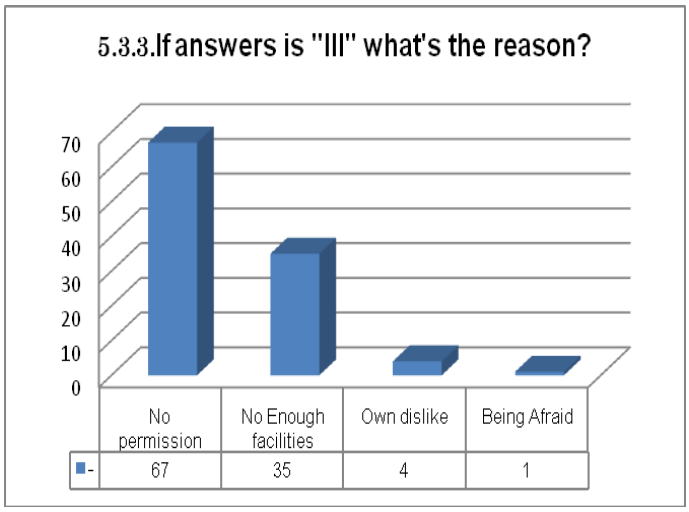
5.3.2 Going out of the house

In the attempt to better understand the social circumstance of women with disabilities, it **was** inquired whether women with disabilities make visits on their own. There 107 of them (54%) stated that they never do so. 19% make such visits freely.

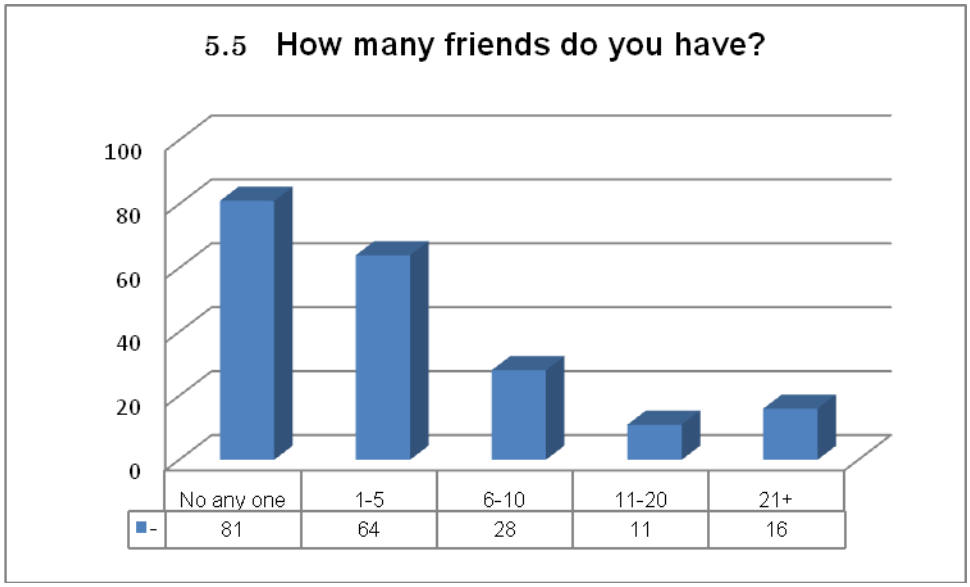


5.3.3 Reasons for not leaving the house

When asked for reasons from the 107 women who had never left their houses alone, 35 of them stated that it was due to the problems related to facilities available. However 67 said that they are not permitted to do so. When asked about not receiving permission, it was revealed that it was due to considerations of the state of disability and the living areas.

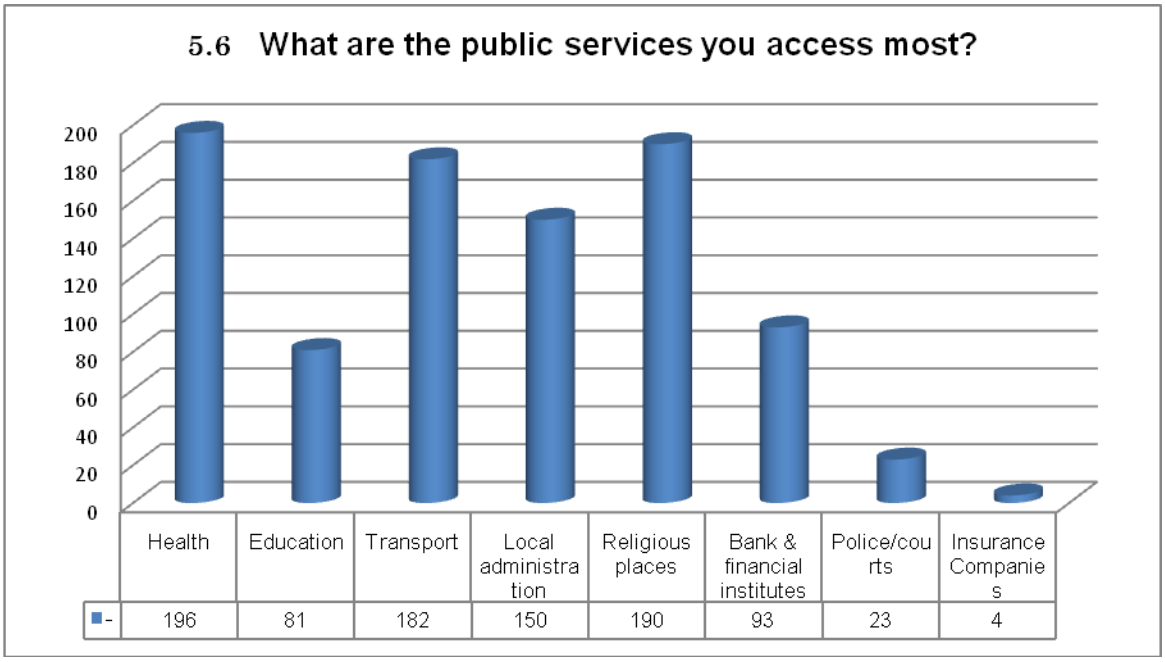


5.5 About friends



As information about friends is important when considering the social states, the simple question about how many friends are there was asked. As per responses, 81 did not have friends and 16 had more than 21 friends.

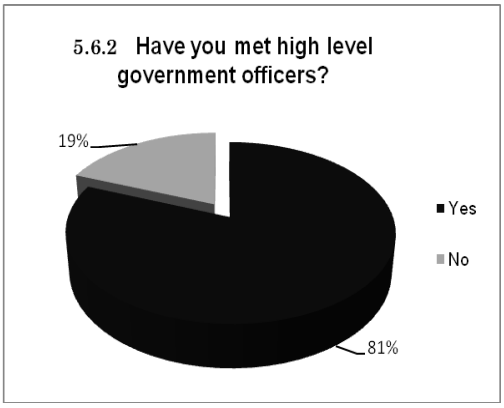
5.6 Obtaining social service facilities



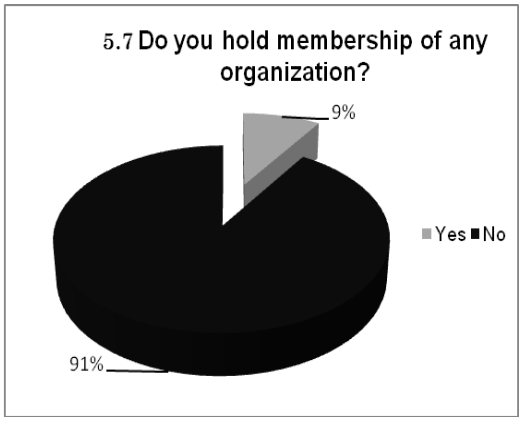
Among the public services the most frequent services used by women with disabilities were health, transport and religious sectors while 93 of them obtains banking services. Anyhow only 04 persons obtain services from insurance companies. It confirms that insurance services have not adequately reached women with disabilities.

5.6.2. Relations with high officials of the government

In collecting information about what sort of relations exists in obtaining services from high officials of the government, 162 women answered positively to the question whether they had met high officers of the government. It was 81% of the sample. It shows a very good circumstance and the next question was about the positions held by those officials.

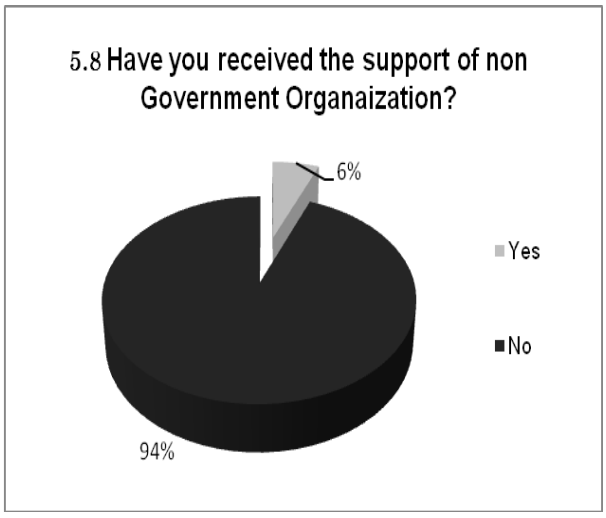


5,7 Membership in civil organizations



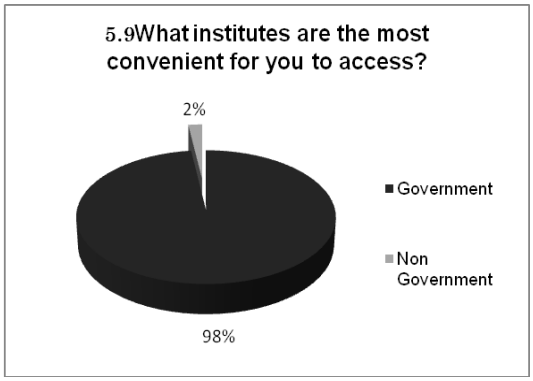
By asking whether they had obtained membership in societies and unions, the social states and acceptance of women with disabilities were probed. There were only 18 women who had membership in a union or an organization

5.8 Inquiring about the cooperation of Non Government Organizations (NGOs)



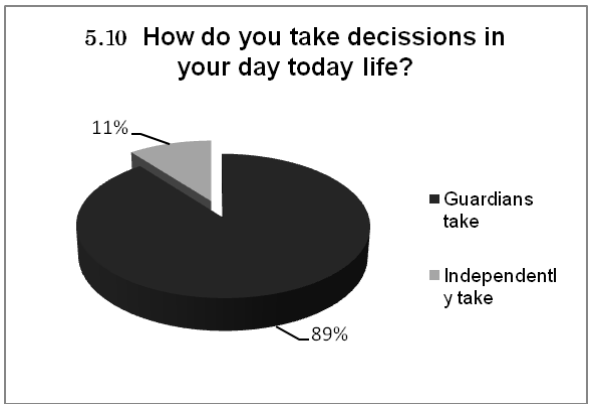
When inquired about the cooperation from NGOs only 12 responded positively. The rest had not received the cooperation of NGOs. In inquiring about this an attempt was made to obtain answers as finance, goods or raw materials, educational, health, psychological counseling, training, religious and cultural activities, housing and other.

5,9 Opportunities to obtain services more easily.



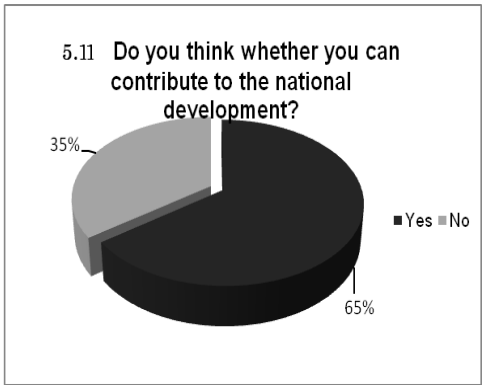
It inquiring whether it is the state sector or the non government sector which is more convenient for obtaining services, 98 said that the state sector is more convenient.

5.10 Right to take decisions



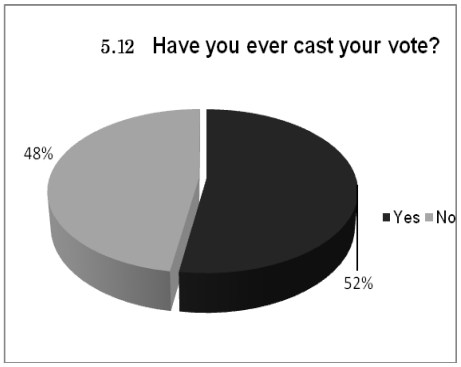
In inquiring about the extent of the right to take decisions in day to day life, 179 out of 200 (81%) stated that their guardians take decisions about them.

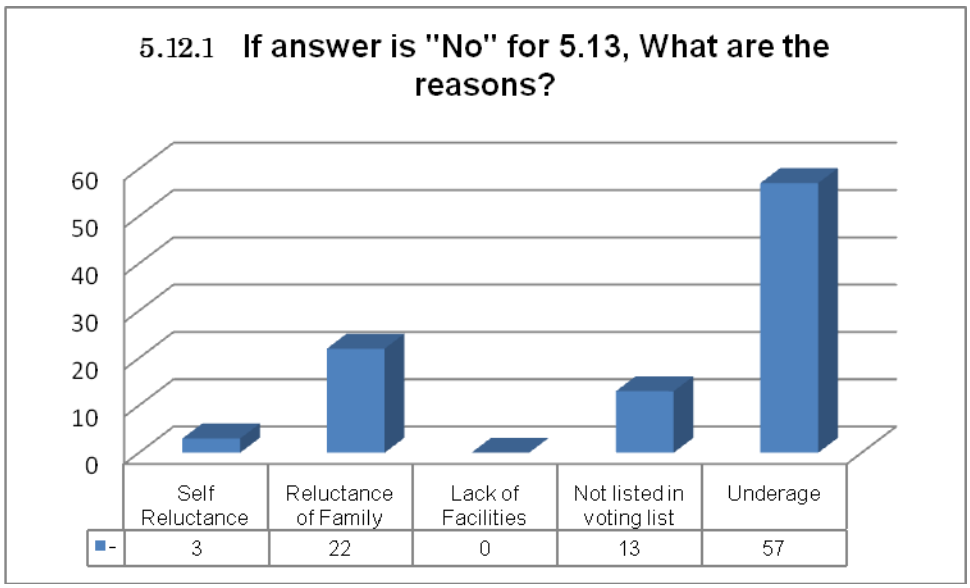
5.11Contribution to the national development to the question whether you think you can contribute to national development, 65% replied positively.

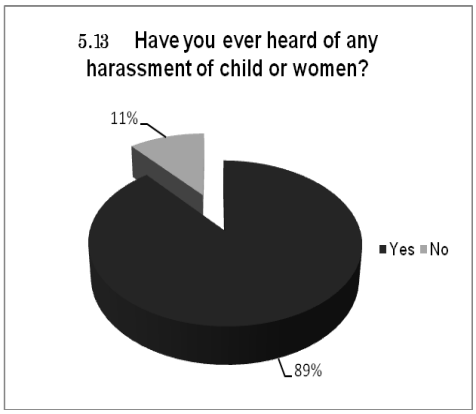


5.12 Right to vote

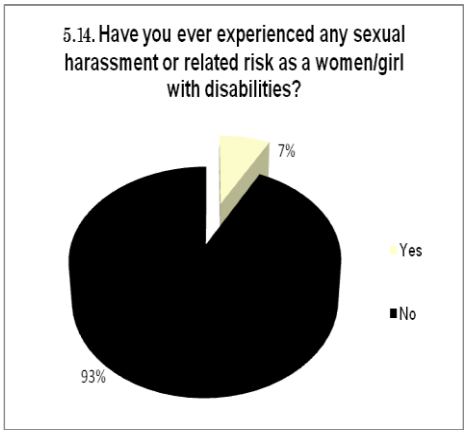
When inquired whether they have voted, 106 women (52%) replied positively. Reasons for not voting were asked from the 48%, who had not voted,







In inquiring whether subjected to sexual abuse or any other similar incident, 15 responded in the affirmative. Other than that there were 07 women who had faced domestic violence.

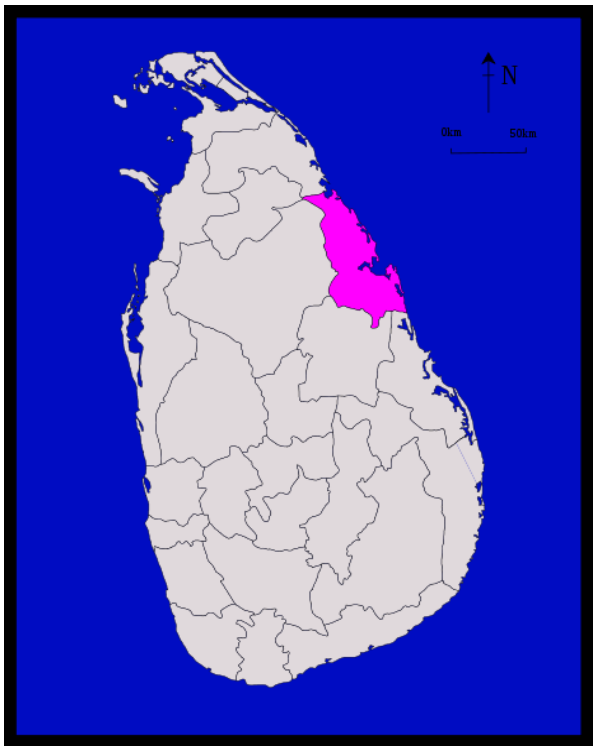


Summary

- In this survey it was discovered that there were a large number of women with disabilities without the NIC and that 48 had not even applied for one.
- There was a high number of women who became disabled by birth and it was three times the number who became disabled due to illnesses.
- In the sample, the number of those who completed school education up to grade 5 was the highest and there was one woman who was educated up to the degree.
- The main reason identified for the disruption of education was the economic problem
- While the number of women who earn a living was 20 all others were dependant on others.
- While the number who exercised their vote was high, 13 were not registered as voters.

Survey Results

Trincomalee District



This city which was named as Gokanna Tissa in Sri Lanka's most recognized chronicle the 'Mahawansa' is known as Trincomalee today. This area, which can be described as full of natural resources and scenic beauty, was an area subjected to the earliest colonization in Sri Lanka. The harbour situated here is one of the world's largest natural harbours which can be used for naval and fishing activities. Among the main economic activities of district, which has a population of over 334,363, agriculture and fishing are very important. the district is divided to 13 divisional secretary areas

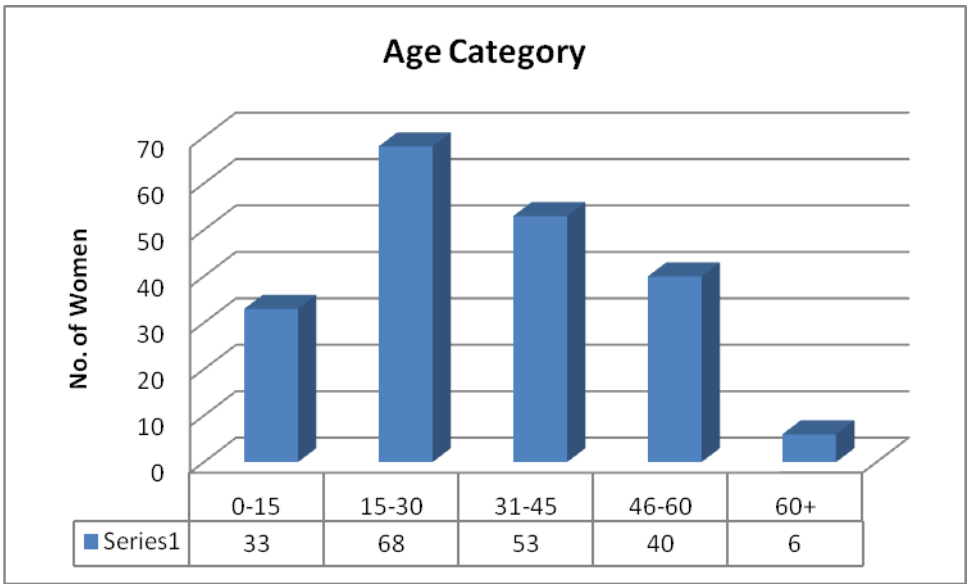
Administratively and to 10 pradeshiya saba divisions politically. This district which directly faced the war and also the tsunami in 2004 is presently gradually recovering and building up after the heavy damages suffered earlier.

In this survey on women with disabilities, information was collected from girls with disabilities to women over 60 with disabilities. In the sample the number between 15 and 60 was 161. it is around 80% of the sample. Therefore the survey would be able to find the actual states of women with disabilities who are in the group of persons that can contribute to the national development as adult citizens of the country.

In this district the survey on the states of women with disabilities was conducted in the divisional secretary areas of Kuchhaveli, Thambalagamuwa, verugal, Serunuwara, Kinniniya, and Muttur. The survey results are given below.

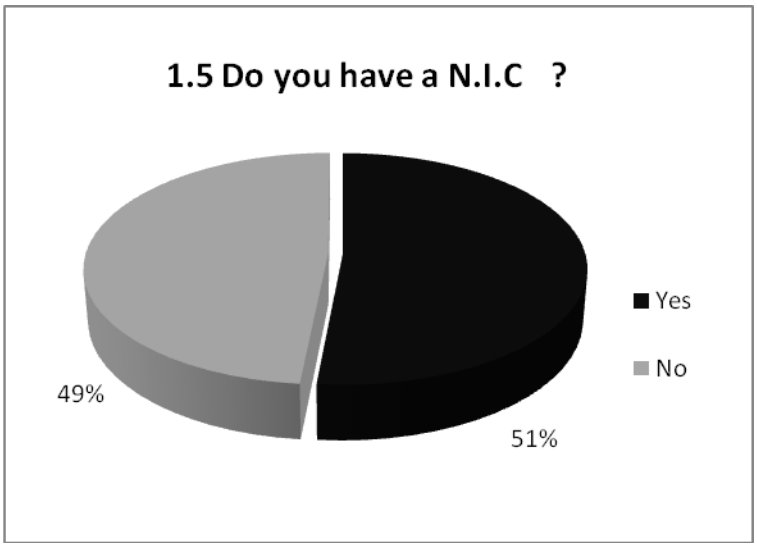
1.4 Age distribution

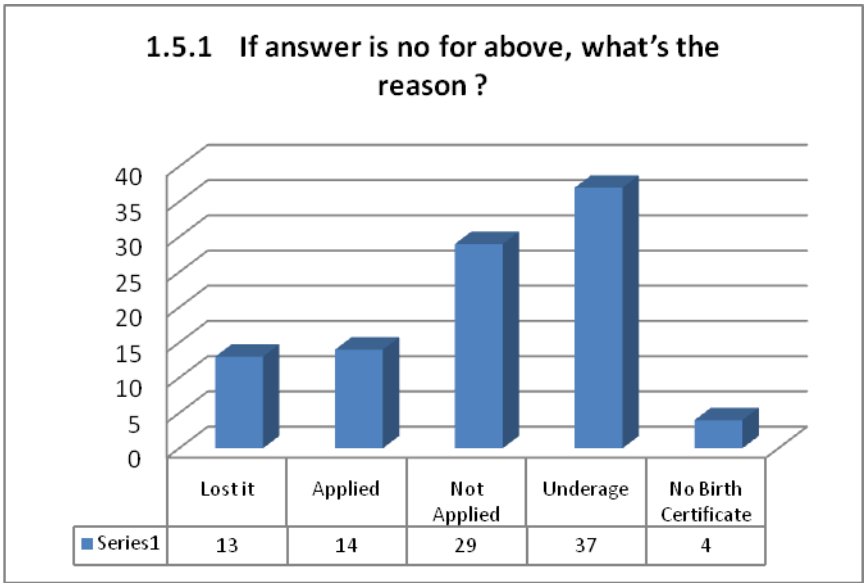
as out of the 161 out of the 200 who participated in this survey were between the productive age range of 15 to 60 years it would be possible to uncover the real situation of the women with disabilities who live in this district.



1.5 About the National Identity Card (NIC)

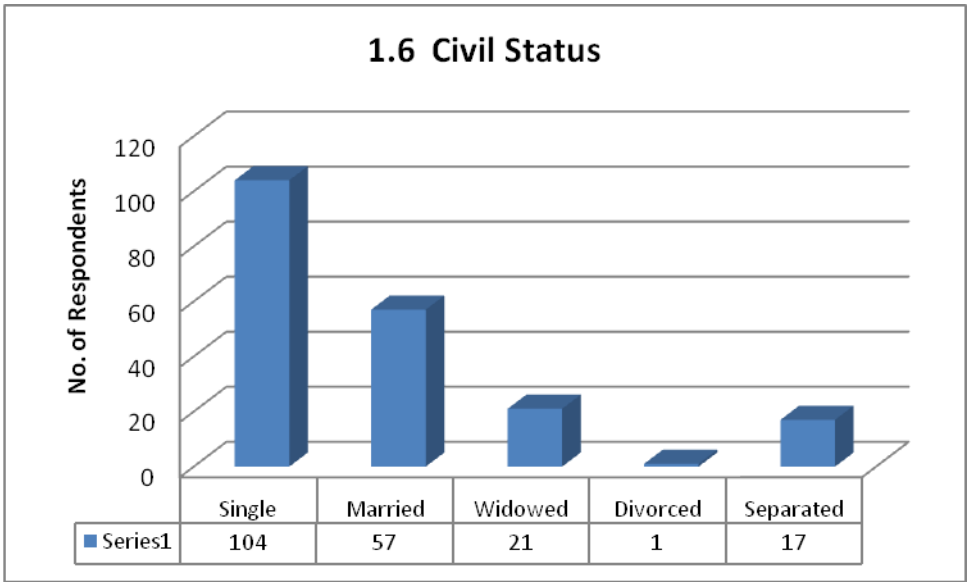
Here information about the number of women with disabilities who use the NIC which every citizen of Sri Lanka use to confirm the identity was collected. Out of the 163 adult women who responded 29 (17.7%) had not even applied for one. Four of them were without birth certificates as well. This is an indication of their social states as well as the attitudes of those families.





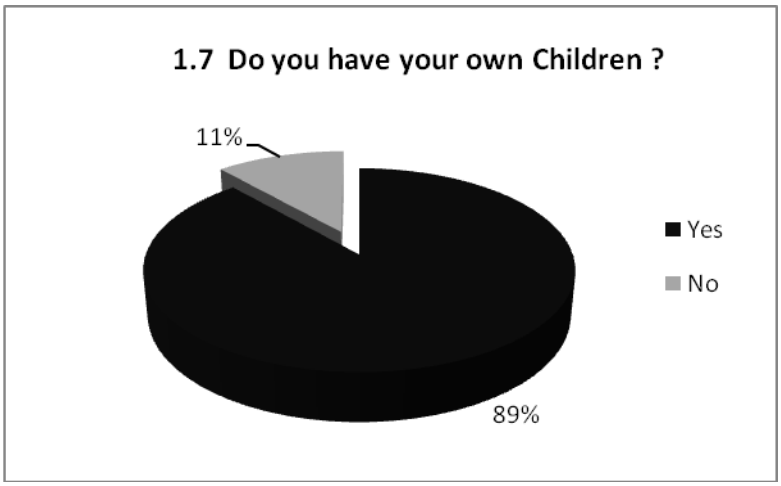
1.6 Civil states

in inquiring about the civil states of women with disabilities who live in the Trincomalee district, a great majority of women of marriageable age stay unmarried when compared to under age women. Out of the married women 57 were already divorced, widowed, separated etc. the disruption of marriage of women with disabilities shows a percentage of 68%. It is also seen that only one woman has applied for a divorce while the other 17 have not sought legal assistance to solve their problems. The reasons for it may be not thinking of another marriage and not having disputes about properties.



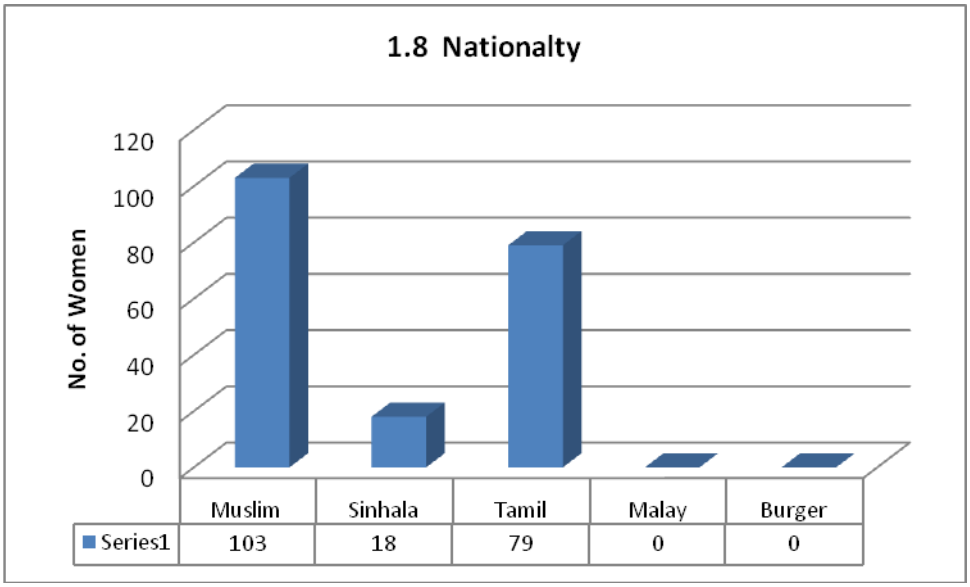
1.7 Children of women with disabilities

Out of the 96 married women 85 had given birth to children and it indicates the positive state of their fertility. Also when data collectors inquired whether those children are healthy the conception of all of them was that their children do not have such problems.



1.8 About ethnicity

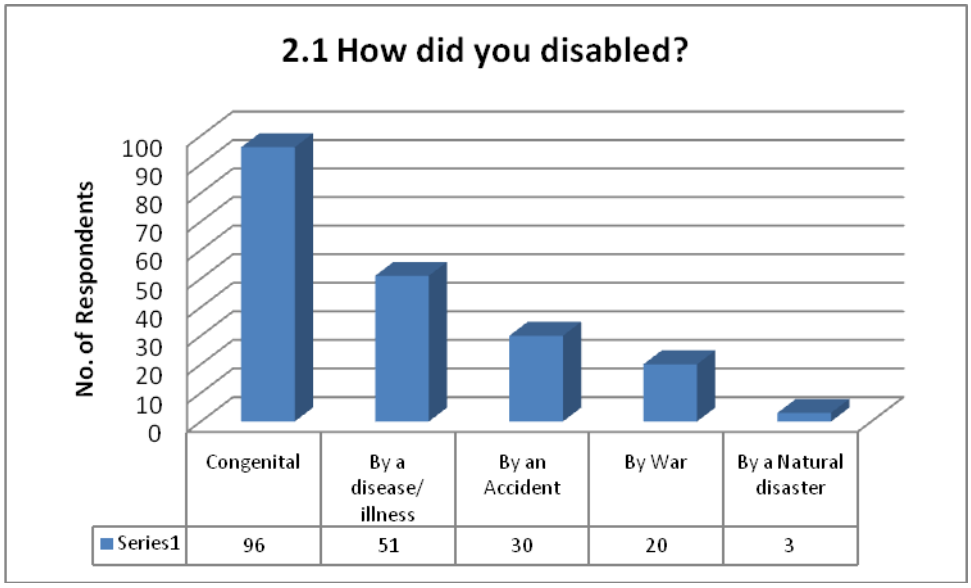
The Trincomalee district could be considered as a district where the three ethnic groups of Sinhalese, Tamil and Muslims are spread out almost equally. However when considering the women who participated in the survey, more than 58% were Muslims while Tamil and Sinhalese groups occupy 2nd and 3rd places respectively. Therefore minor ethnic groups of Sri Lanka have more representation in this district and also there is an opportunity to discover the situation of Muslim women.



2.1 How the disability occurred

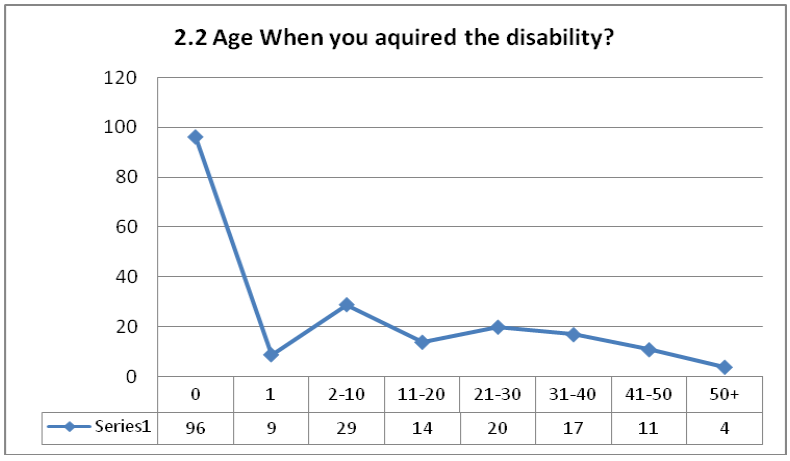
Disability by birth or due to health reasons was the highest category recording a value of 74%. The second reason was man made such as accidents or war related incidents. The number in this category was 50 and has a percentage of 25%.

The factors related to birth could be genetic or some other environmental reasons and 48% had faced that situation. In that case, this situation in Trincomalee district in the east of Sri Lanka with health services at a high level is a matter requiring more attention of the health sector.



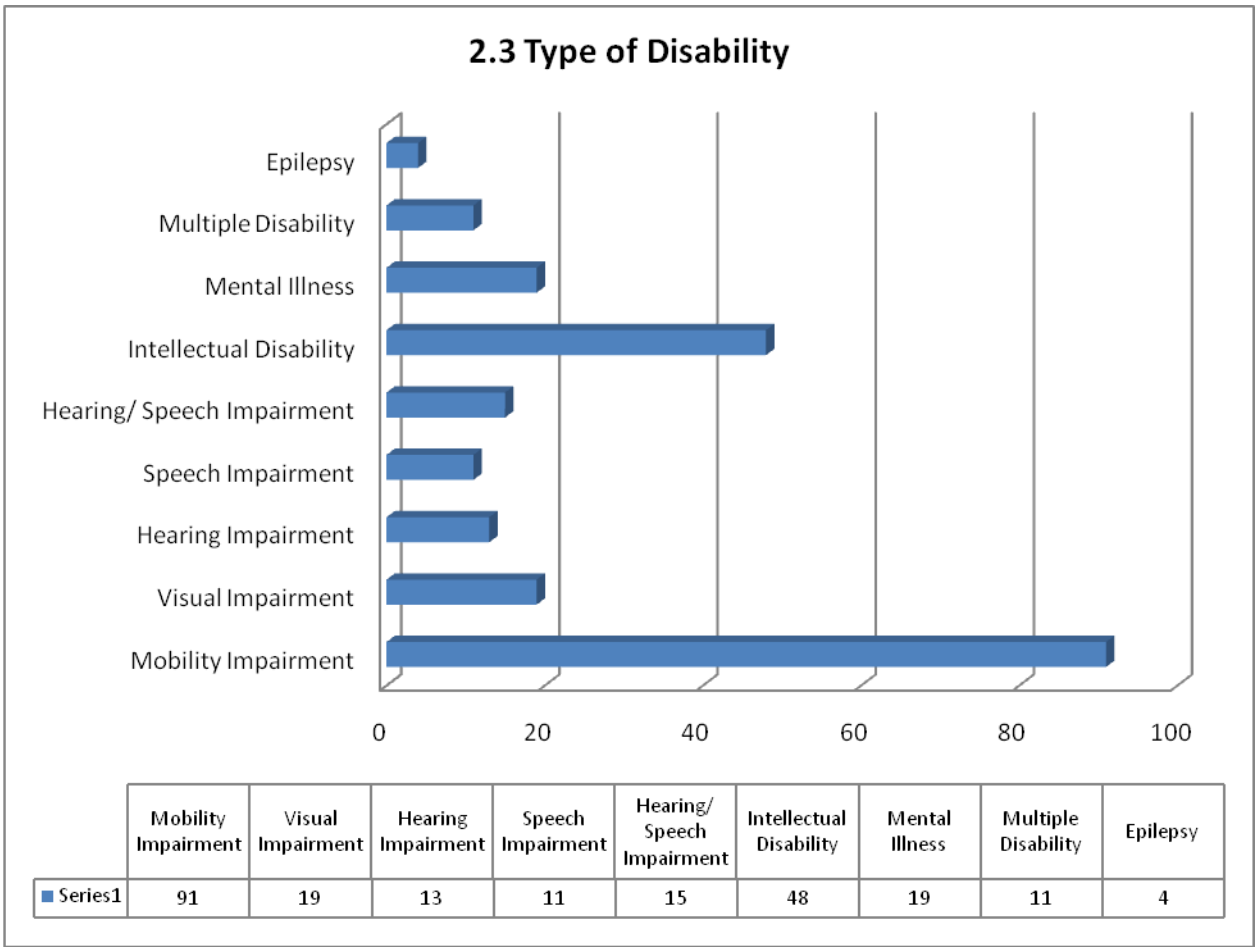
2.2 Disability and age

This has a similar pattern to other districts showing a high value at birth, and decreasing with age. If these data are compared with the community without disability, the disability states would record a high value during the last years of their lives. However the disability at birth was seen to be very high.



2.3 Classification of the kinds of disability

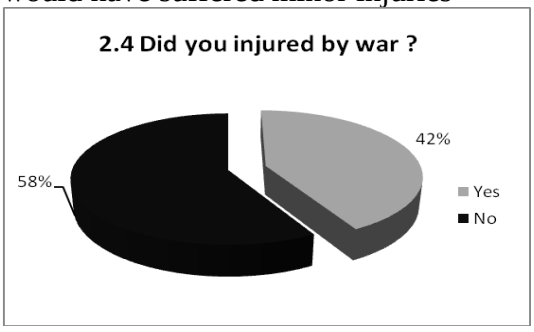
According to the classification of disabilities, investigations were conducted for 09 kinds of disabilities. The highest value was for those who were disabled physically –kinetic disability-. The lowest value was for epilepsy and the number of mental patients was 19. it had a percentage of 9.5%. in relation to the health service records of Sri Lanka this is a situation which cannot be ignored.



	Mobility Impairment	Visual Impairment	Hearing Impairment	Speech Impairment	Hearing/ Speech Impairment	Intellectual Disability	Mental Illness	Multiple Disability	Epilepsy
Series1	91	19	13	11	15	48	19	11	4

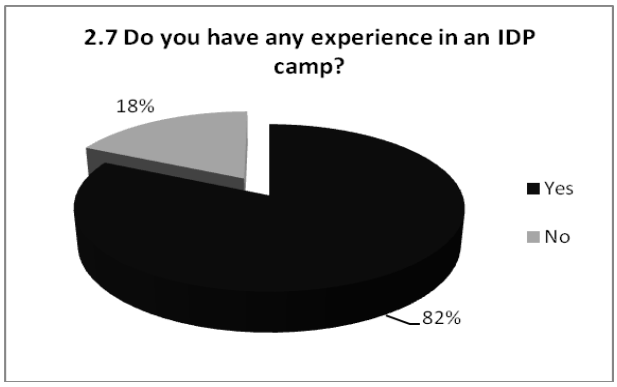
2.4 Whether injuries occurred due to war)

Eighty four women who participated in the survey had faced the war directly. As a result they would have suffered minor injuries



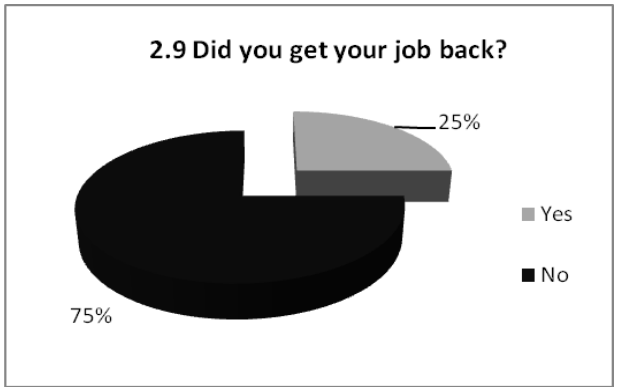
2.7 experience in a welfare centre

One hundred sixty four women of the sample had faced displacement even temporally. In comparison to other districts which faced the war, the number of women who had direct experience of the war shows a high percentage.



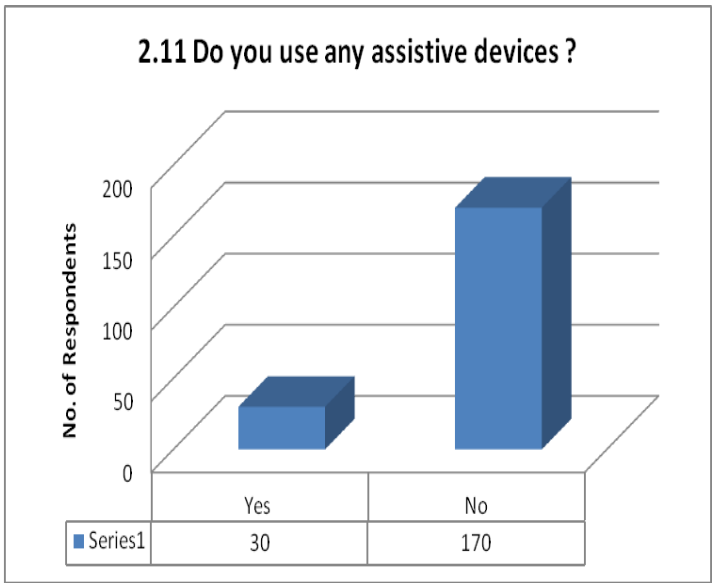
2.9 Being disabled and getting the job back

In inquiring about being disabled due to the war and loosing one's livelihood, it came to light that 6 persons lost their jobs. All of them were engaged in jobs in the private sector.



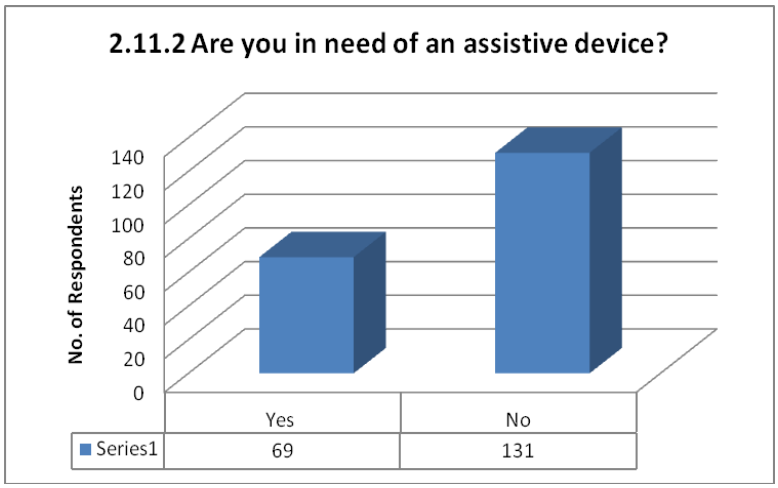
2.10 Use of aids/equipment

Normally disabled persons use aids/equipment and it facilitates the identification of them. However only 30 out of the 200 women who participated in the survey used aids/equipment.



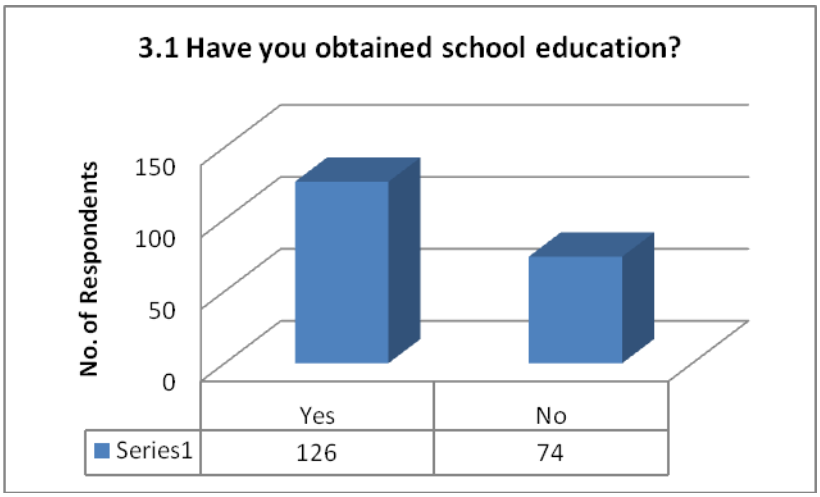
2.11 The need for aids/equipment

Information collected showed 69 persons with the need. This shows that although the need for aid/equipment was there it is not fulfilled.



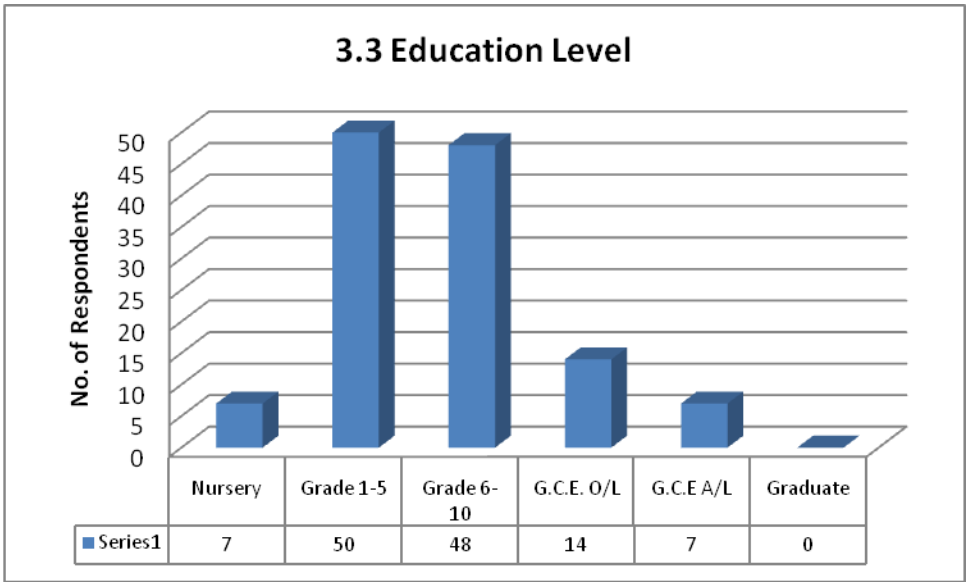
3. About school education

Although school education is given freely 74 of them that is 37% had never received school education. Out of those who went to school, the percentage of those who went up to grades 6 to 10 was only a low 24%.



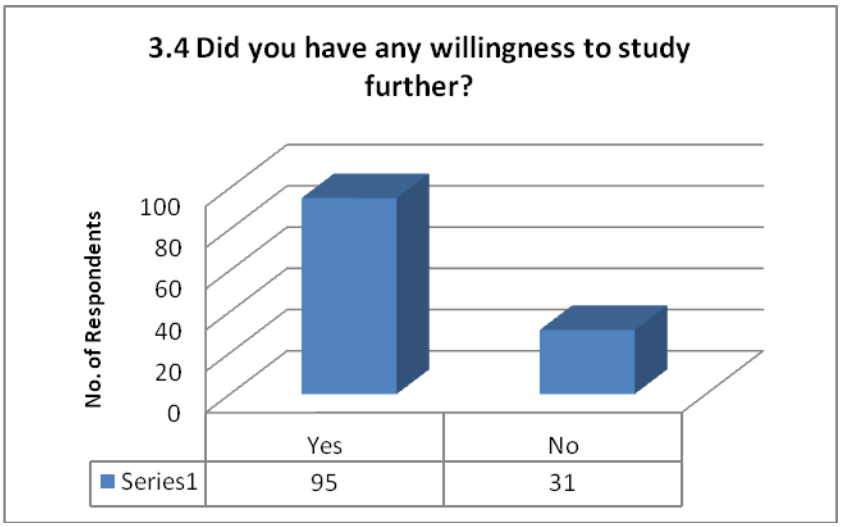
3.3 Educational level

When inquired about the level of school education received, it was revealed that only 07 out of 200 had received up to A.L. This information explains that the present competitive job market has easily pushed this community aside.



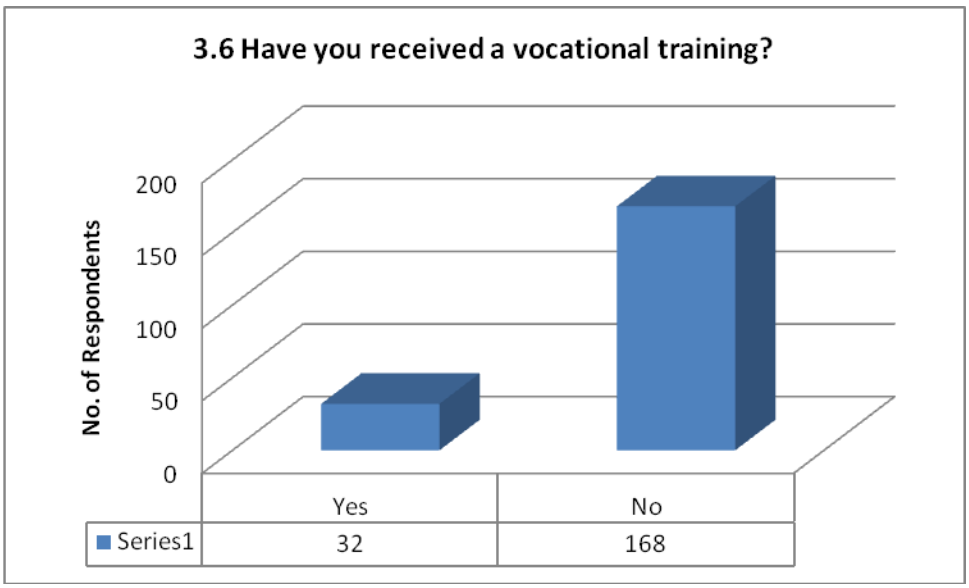
Reasons for the disruption of education

When asked about the reasons for the disruption of school education, 20% said that the reason was their economic difficulties. The second major reason was seen to be their personal dislike. The reasons for that should be studied in depth.



3.6.Vocational Training

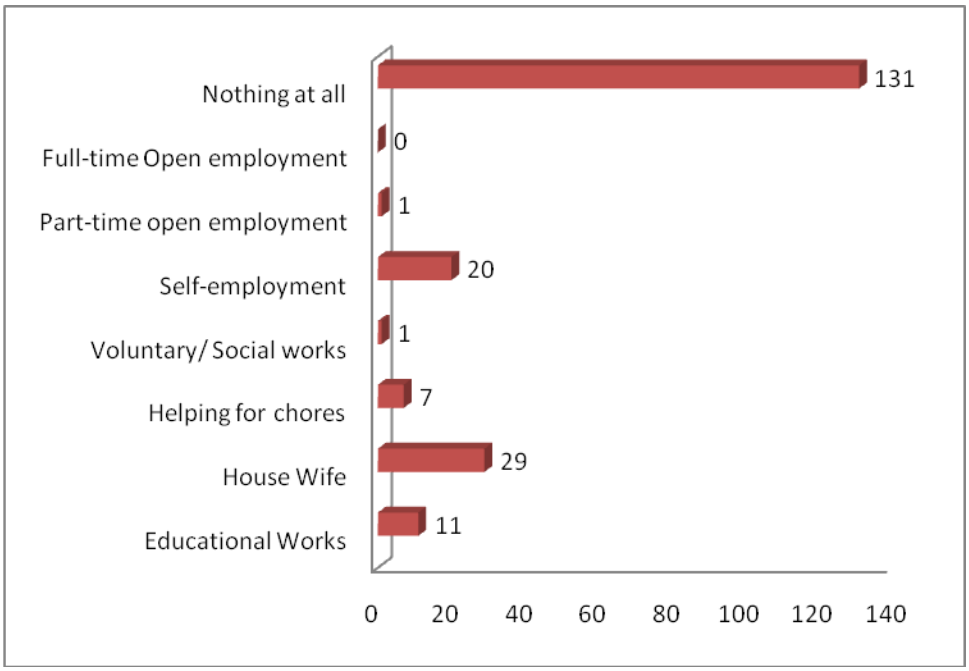
When inquired about the states of vocational education of women with disabilities, it was revealed that out of 200 only 22 have received some kind of vocational training. The participation of this community in programmes conducted by educational institutions for adults of over 18 years is small and the reasons for it should be investigated. As probably the states of rules and regulations of those institutions might be a reason it needs to be investigated in depth.



3.7. Work areas engaged in at present

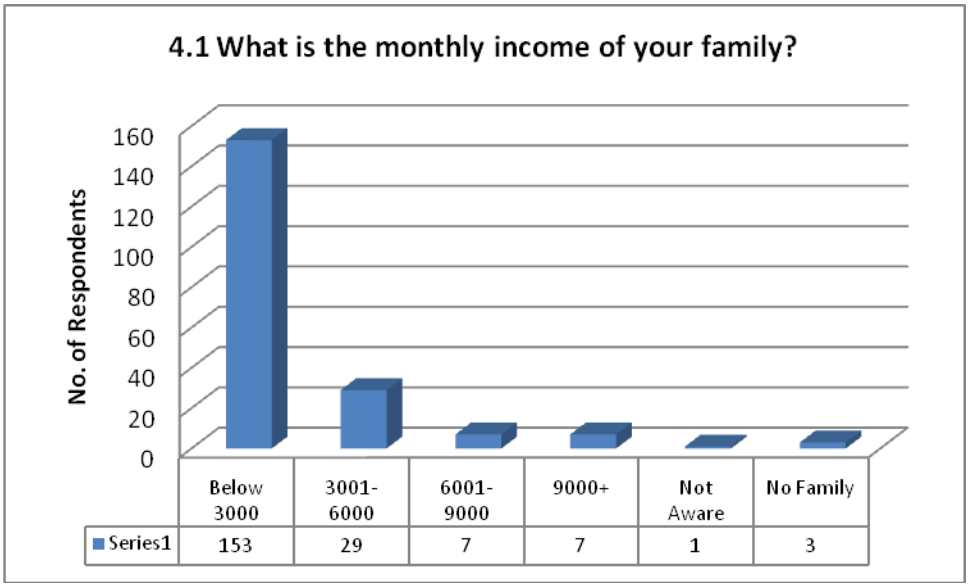
There are many responsible positions in which all citizens are engaged in after education and vocational training. Accordingly, the present activities of women with disabilities was questioned and the responses revealed that 131 of them are doing nothing. Nine responses were given for them to select and the 9th one was 'doing nothing'. It was selected by 131 women. The percentage was as high as 66%. In this sample, the number with multi disabilities was 11. But all others have started to live

doing nothing. It has to be stressed as a matter that should be specially considered in formulating plans for a country's development.



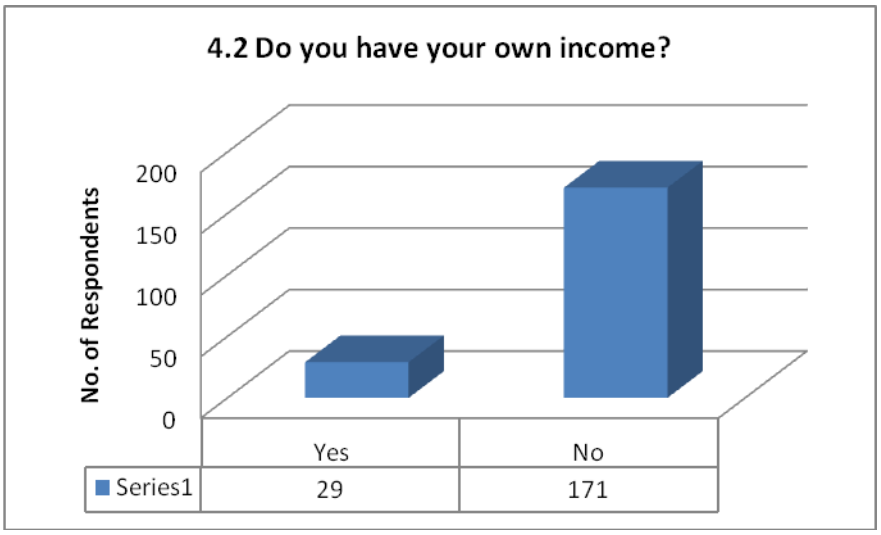
4.1. The states of the family income

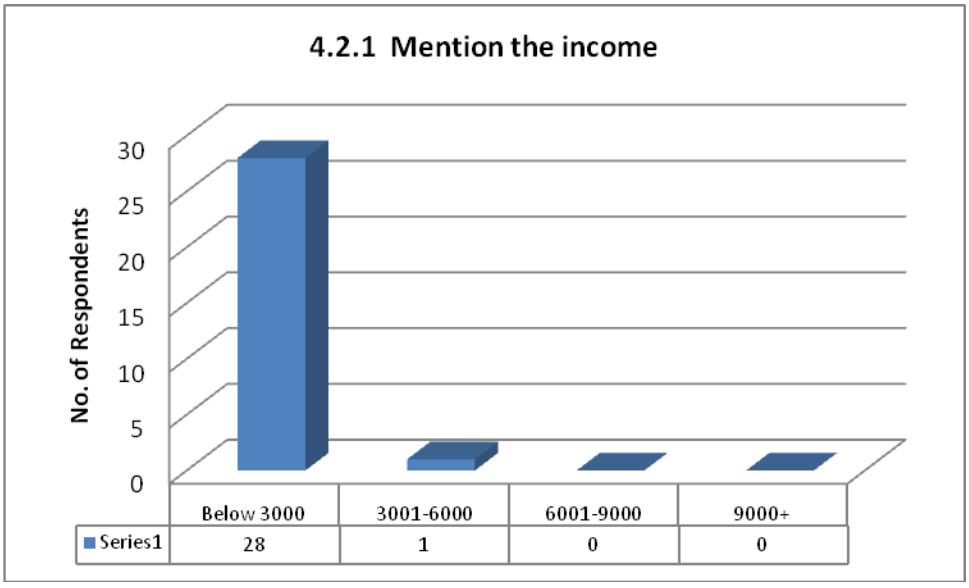
In collecting information about the economic states of women with disabilities, it was revealed that there were only 07 families with a monthly income of over Rs 9000. it helps in identifying the states of poverty. The number in the group with a monthly income of less than Rs 3000 was 153. it still more critically indicates the situation.

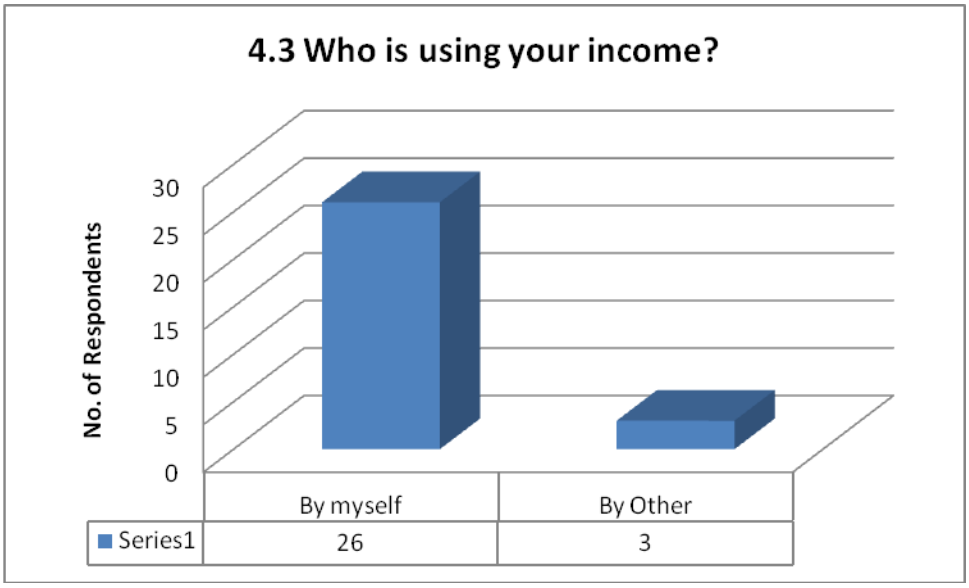


Personal economic states

The number with their own economic strength was seen to be 29. it confirms that the great majority of this community live in poverty or are dependant on others. Even out of those 29, 28 were earning less than Rs 3000 monthly.



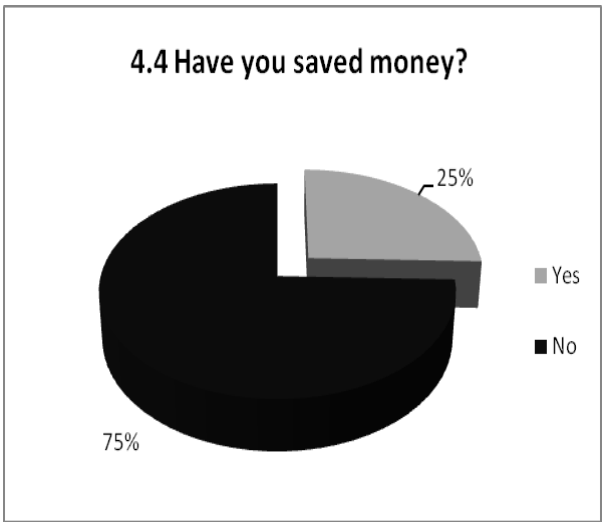


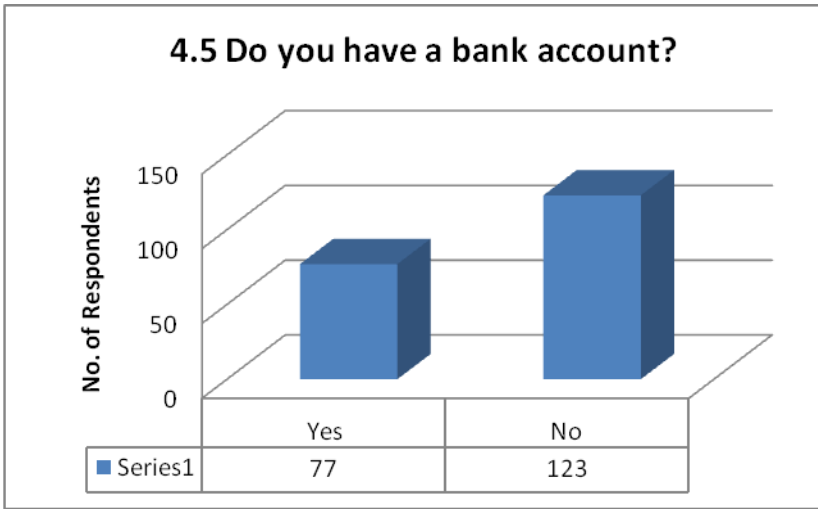


Similarly when inquired about whether they spend their income independently, from the 29 women who earn an income, 03 of them said that the income is spent by some other member of the family. Accordingly, their social states is made clear and it is seen that because of their weaknesses, they are compelled to be dependant.

4.4 Saving money

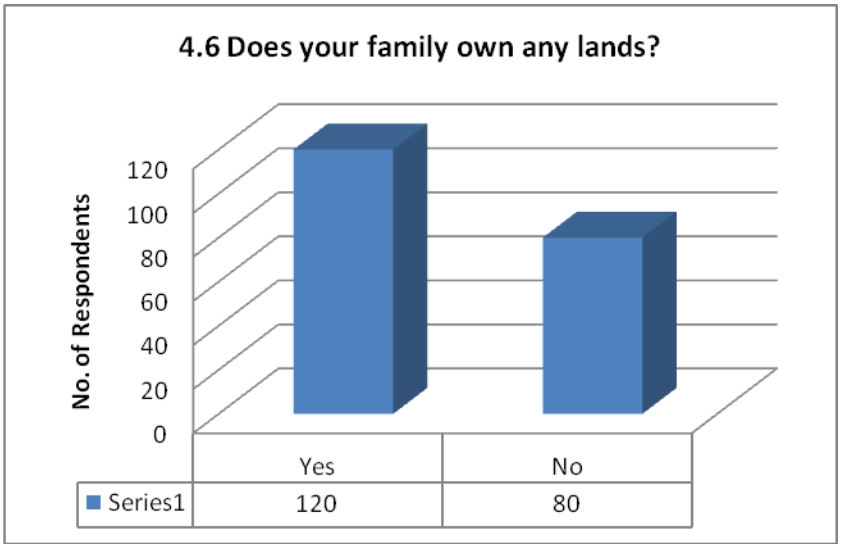
It is seen that there is a group who although they did not earn save some money that come to them. Similarly there is a considerable number with bank accounts. According to the data, although only 29 earned an income there were 51 who somehow save money. There are 77 women who opened bank accounts for some saving or financial purpose although they did not earn or save money.

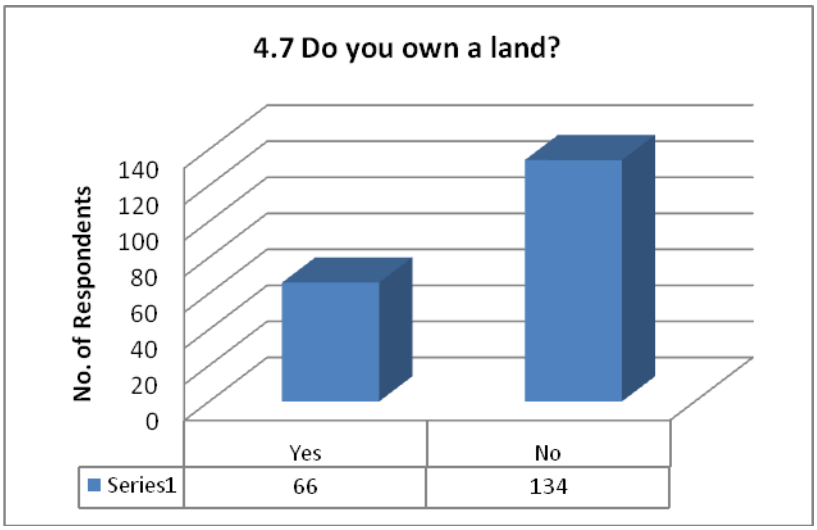




4.6.Land ownership

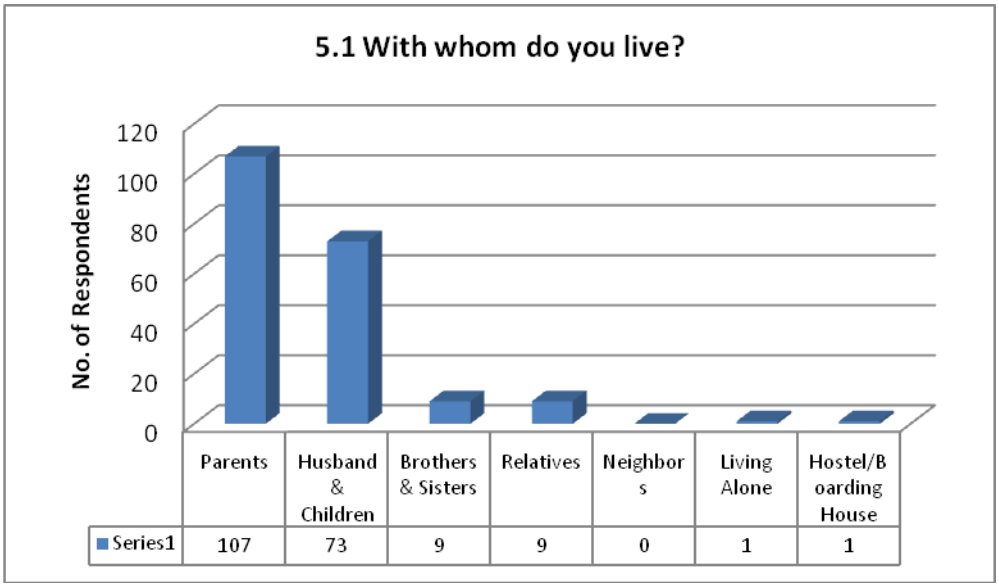
When asked about land ownership of families of women with disabilities, it was revealed that 80 families did not have land ownership. The response to the question asked about whether women in the sample have land ownership, 134 said no. This reveals the states of future protection of their lives to some extent.





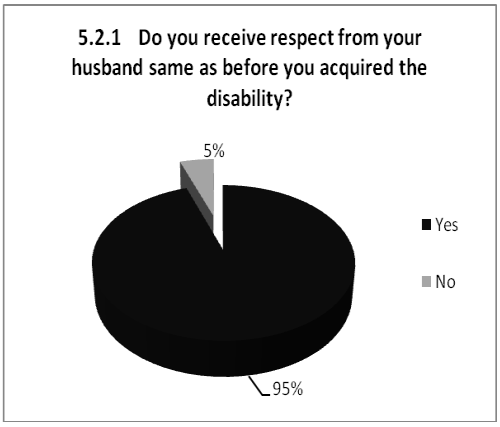
5.1 Family states/Life condition/Social states

in inquiring about with whom they are living, in order to asses their family environment, 107 of them (53%) said that they are living with their parents. This lead to thinking about their future after the demise of their parents. It can be clearly stated that their future is not safe.

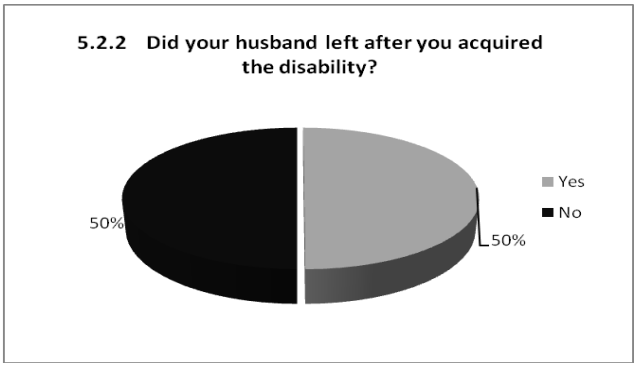


5.2.1 Disability and marriage

In the case of married women becoming disabled a question was asked whether the husband treat them with respect as before. Only 05 women said it is not so. It can be stated as a very good circumstance.

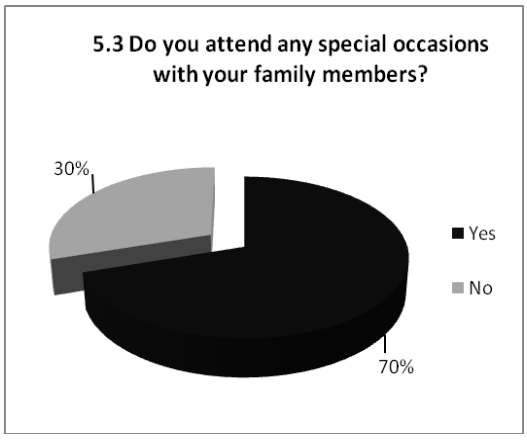


5.2.2 Did the husband left you after becoming disabled?



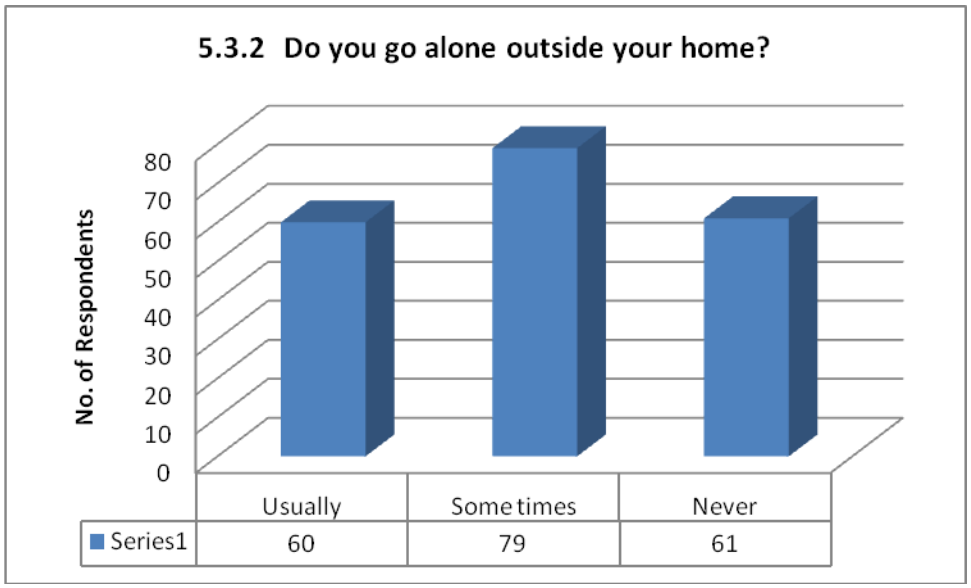
Socialized nature/ social activities

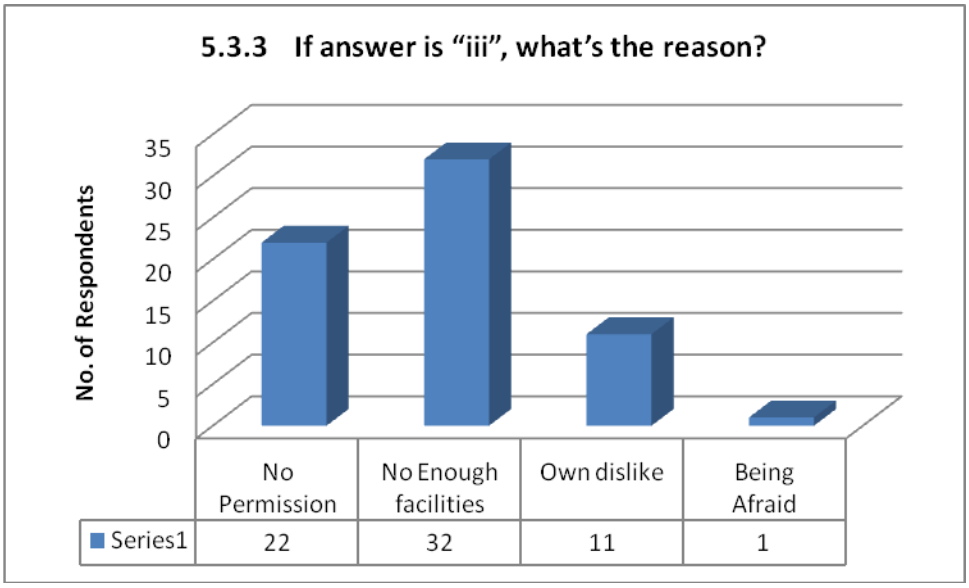
To find the acceptance of the family, it was asked whether they participate in special occasions with the family and 60 of them said no. Therefore it is seen that they marginalized and neglected in the family itself.



5.3.2 Going out of the house

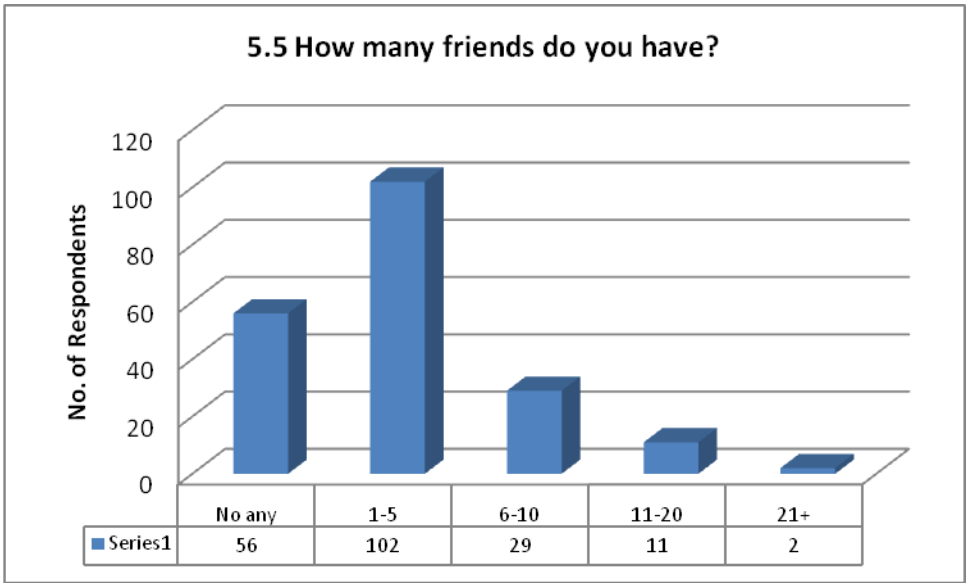
The number of women who are used to go out of the house in a normal manner was 60 out of 200. from the rest 61 women never go out alone. Therefore it was revealed that the number of persons who are in a state to go out independently is very small. Even normal school going small children go out alone but the situation of these women is totally different.
The main reasons they have given for this situation are not having permission from their guardians and lack of facilities.





5.5 About friends

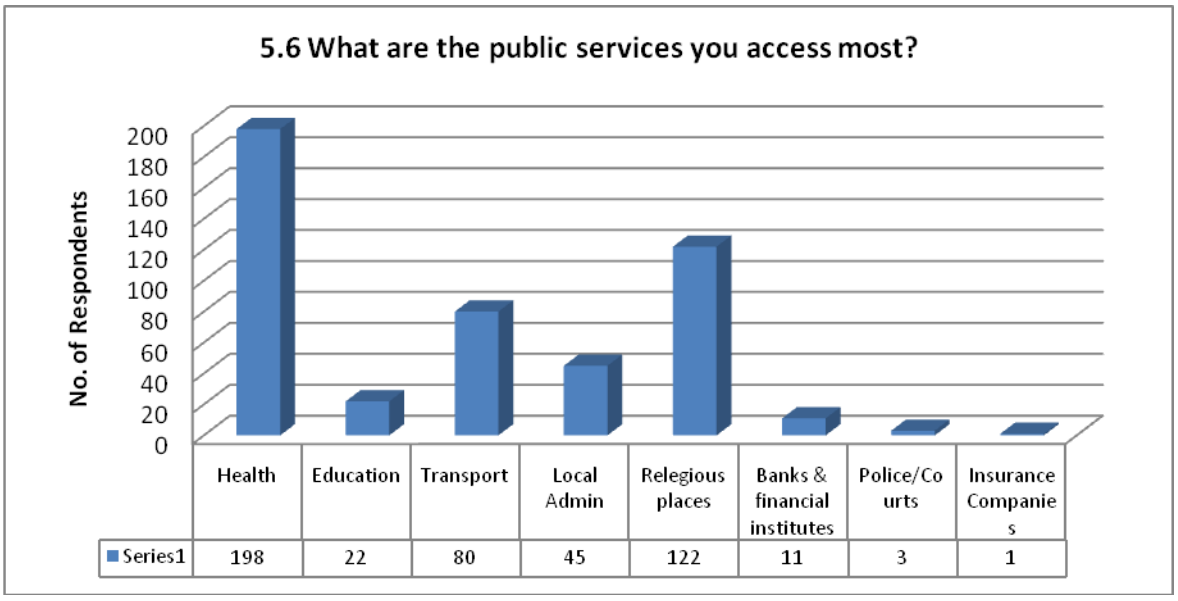
With the objective of finding the sociable nature and the social states of women with disabilities, they were questioned about the number of friends they have. There 5 of them said that they do not have any friends while 102 of them were having less than 05 friends. Although humans are considered as social animals, it was revealed here that there are humans living without any friends. As per this situation it can be seen as a major reason in further delaying their socialization.



5.6 Obtaining social service facilities

Information was asked about the services they use most out of the services the government generally provide to the public. From the responses health sector was the one used by all of them while education was in the 5th place. The financial services were in the 6th place. Additionally it was seen

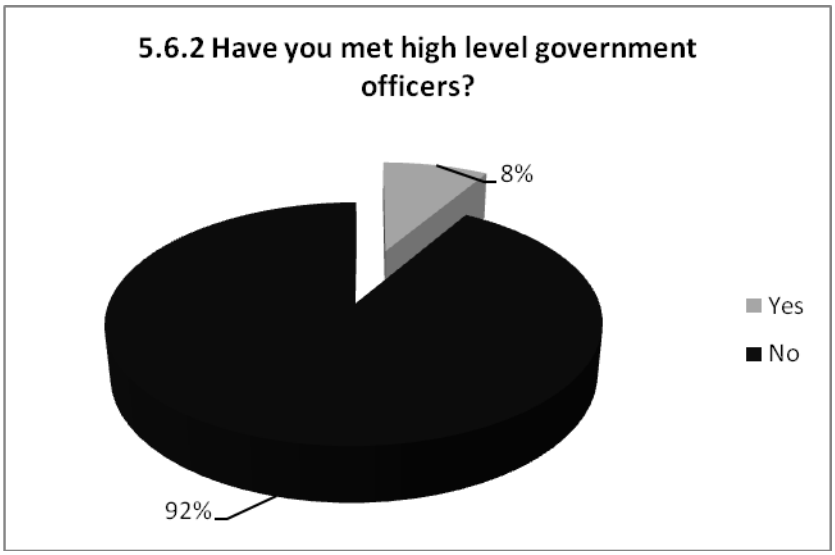
from the survey results that the community with disabilities do not have an inclusion in the public services with a correct equilibrium.



5.6.2 Relations with state officials

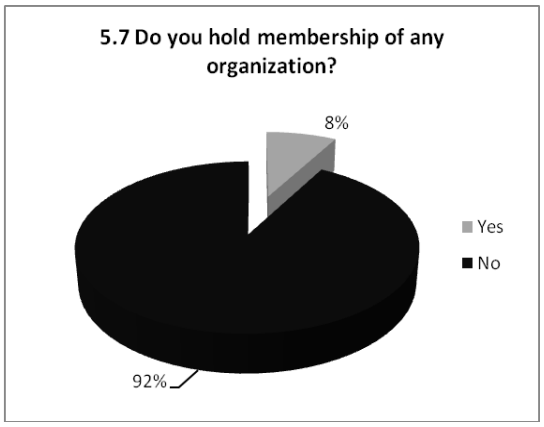
To the question whether they had met high officials of the government in their day to day activities, 183 of them said no and the majority of the other 17 of them who said yes, when inquired about the officials they had met, said they have met the Grama Niladaris.

Here an attempt was made to find the closeness of the officials of the state who provide services to the community with disabilities and whether the lack of relations has affected the inability to make the public services more suitable for them. It was seen that the relations are at a very low level.



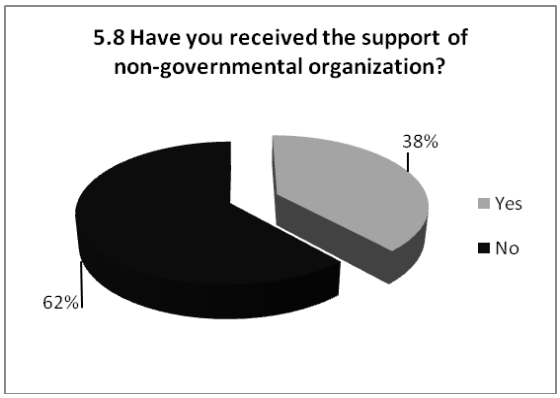
5.7 Organization membership

Inquiries were made regarding membership in community based organizations or other organizations at the rural level in order to find their social states, acceptance and the respect towards them. According to the responses the number of those who have membership in what ever organization was 16. Therefore 92% are those who live distanced from social organizations. This situation also is seen to be a barrier for their improvement.



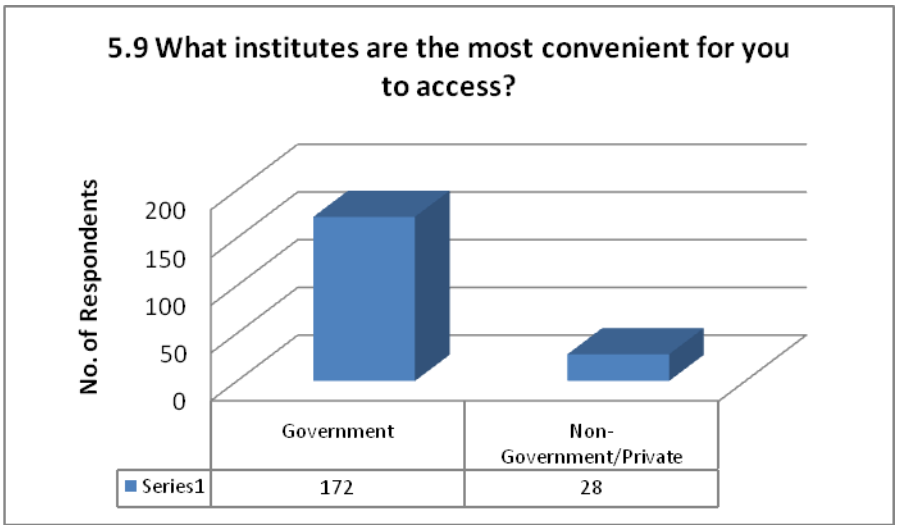
5.8 Obtaining assistance from Non Government Organizations (NGOs)

The question asked was to what extent the NGOs have come closer to this community. Here data was collected based on 09 aspects about the services provided. The responses showed that the relations or services have reached 77 persons. The remaining 123 seem to be left out.



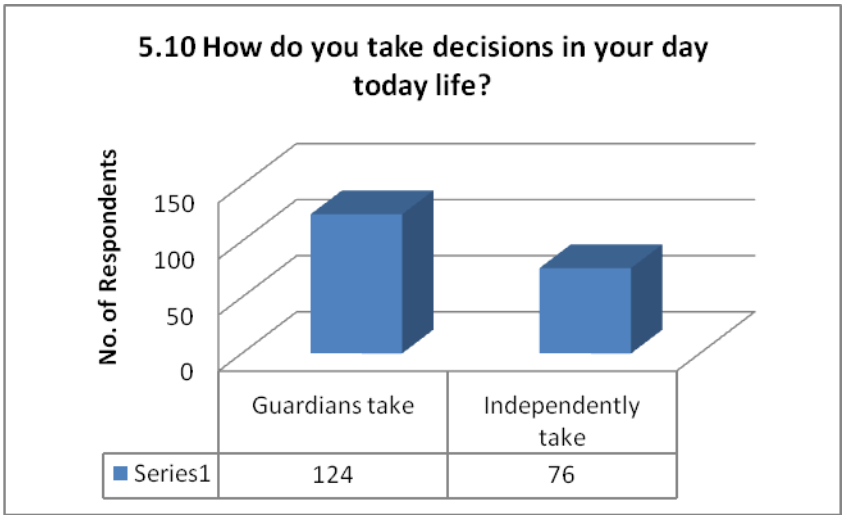
5.9 About the convenience in obtaining services (from GOs and NGOs

In providing services to the community of disabled persons it was asked whether it is more convenient to obtain services from the state sector or the non state sector. 172 named the state sector and it indicates that the non government sector has to advance further in providing services.



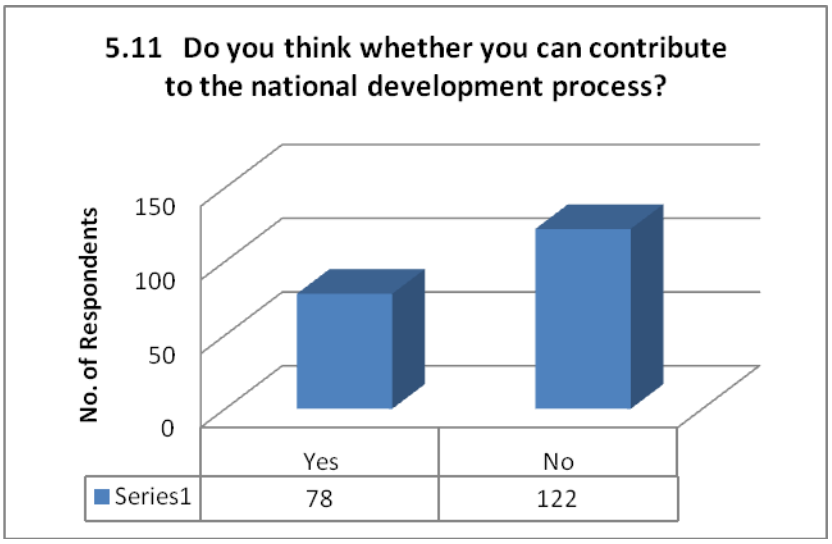
5.10 Right to take decisions

In inquiring whether they take decisions independently in day to day life, 124 of them (62% of the sample) said that others take decisions on their behalf. The main fact that is implied by this is that making the community with disabilities should begin in the families.



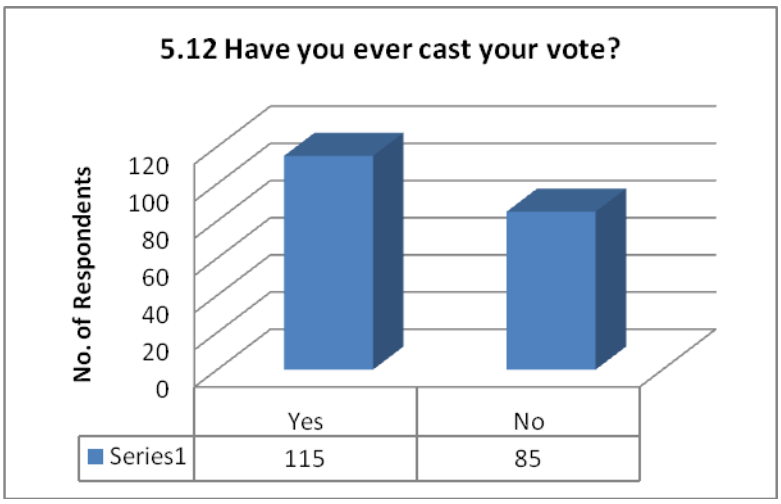
5.11 Contribution to national development

In response to this issue 78 of them accepted positively while the 122 did not show a good attitude. From this it is seen that a special procedure is needed in obtaining the contribution of the community with disabilities for national development.



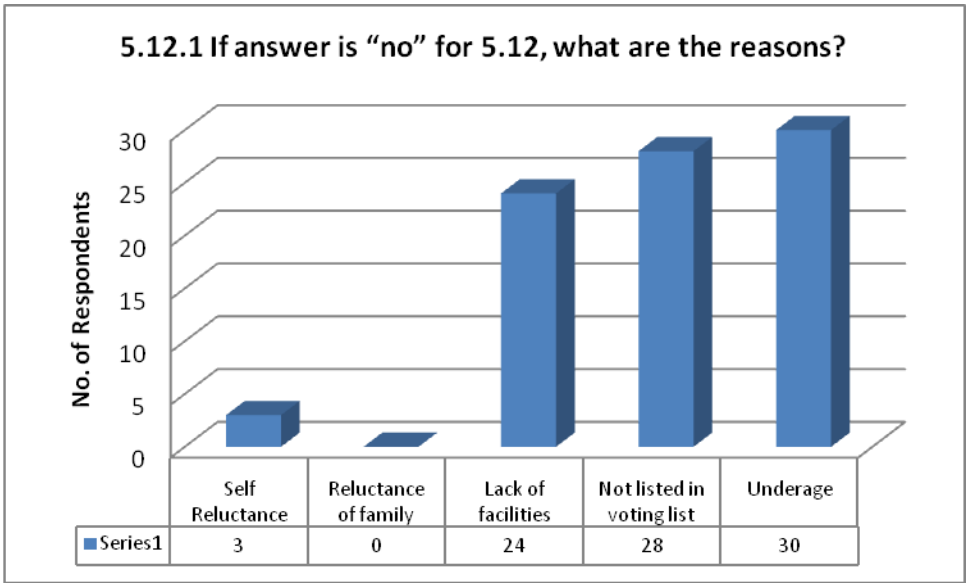
5.12 Right of voting

The main opportunity for all citizens to participate directly in national politics is the exercising of their vote. In this sample when the 30 underage persons are left out all others except 55 of them had done so. However the number who had never voted when compared to other citizens is not negligible.



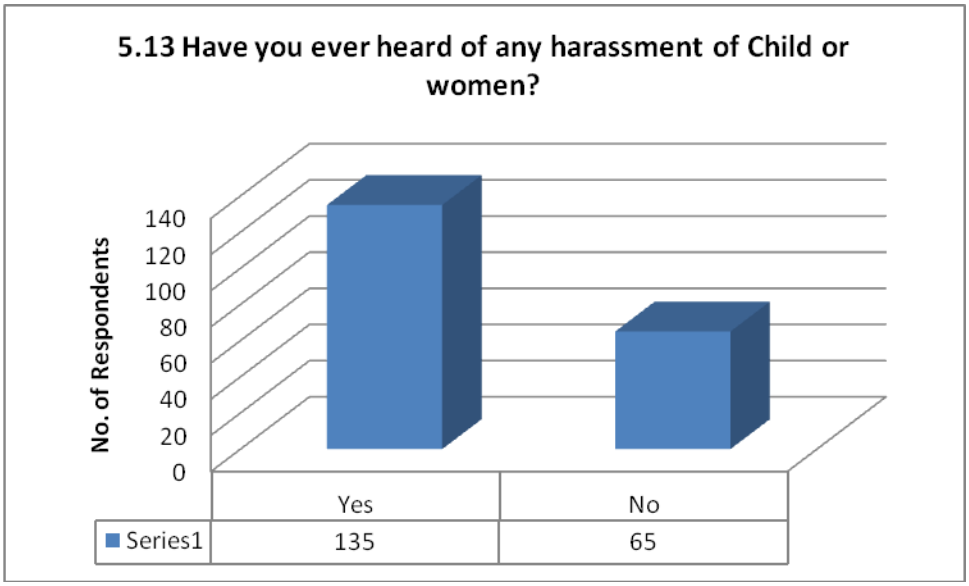
5.12.1 Reasons for not voting

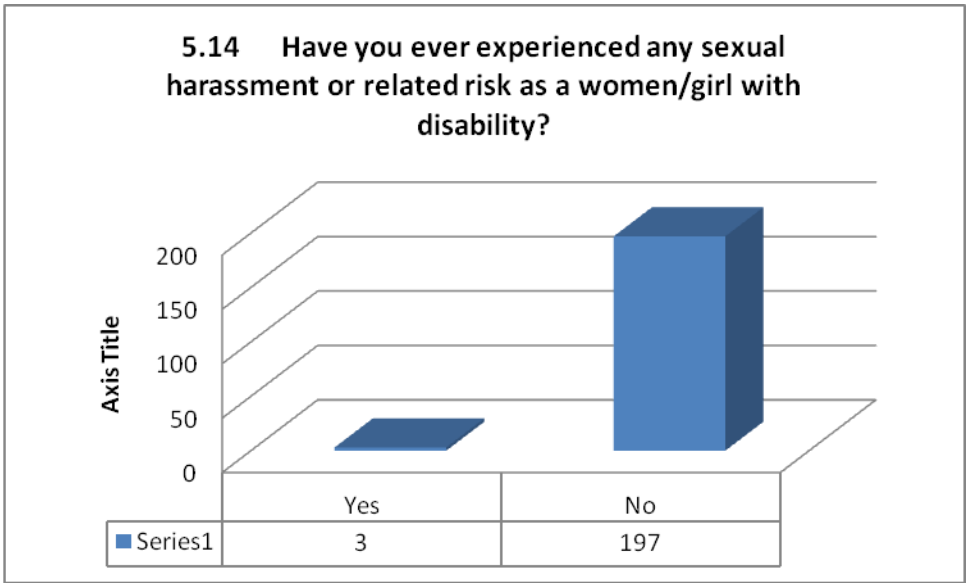
Reasons for not voting were asked from those who had never voted. Out of them 28 said that their names were not in electoral lists and the reason for 24 others was unavailability of transport facilities. If the relevant institutions had provided the necessary facilities we could have expected voting figures similar to other citizens.



5.13. Women and Child abuse

To the question whether subjected to domestic or sexual molestation those who said no was the majority but many showed dislike to talk about private matters.



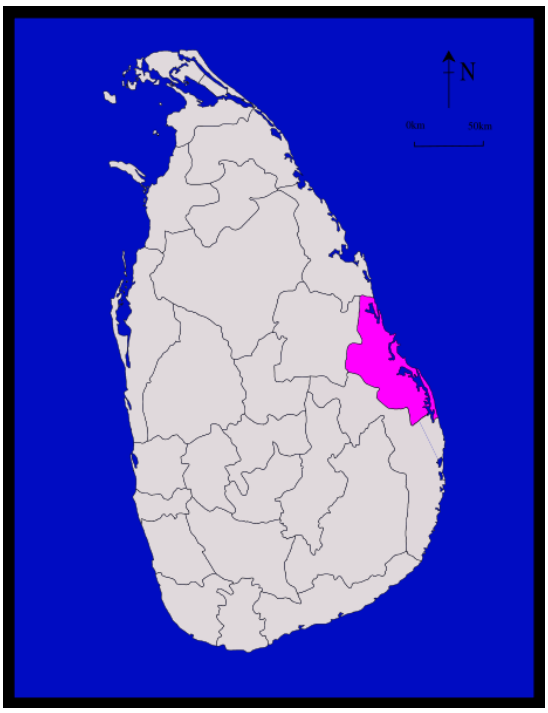


Summary

- In this survey 29 persons who did not have the NIC, 04 persons without the birth certificates and 14 persons who have lost birth certificates were encountered. This situation clearly indicates the need of a programme to socialize them.
- When considering the manner the disability has occurred 20 out of 200 women in this district were disabled due to the war. Percentage of those who were disabled by birth was close to 50% and around 25 % were disabled due to health problems. In this sample those who have kinetic disability shows a high value.
- The number of women who had school education up to grades 1 – 5 and 6 – 10 are similar and the number had attended pre-school but not attended school was 81 out of 200.
- The main reason for the disruption of school education was the economic factor.
- Out of the 200 women 21 are working even at minor positions and 131 are not doing any productive work. They are all dependant on others. Therefore it was revealed that their economic strength is at a very low level.
- The public service they use most and closest to them was the health service and the second one was the religious service. The educational services occupy the 05th place.
- Using the franchise is at a high level and 28 are not registered as voters. Although they have not obtained other facilities they have supported the process of appointing public representatives by voting.

Survey Rresults

Batticaloa District



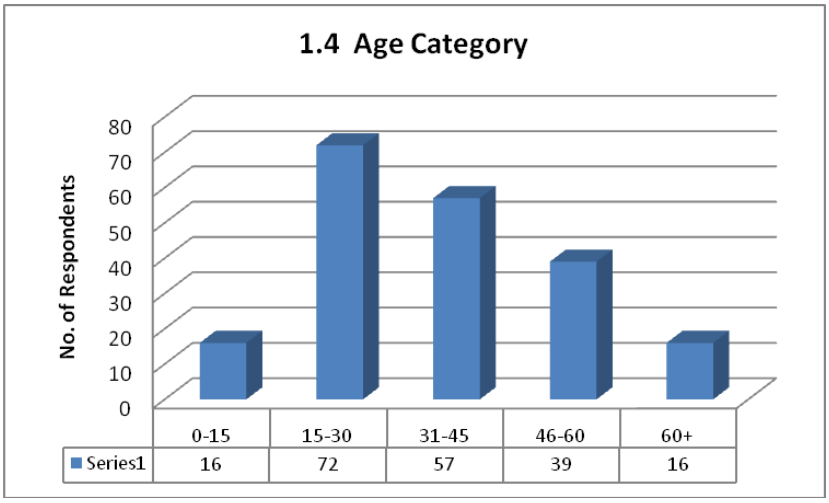
The Batticaloa district is situated bordering to the east by the sea and to the South East and North West by the districts of Ampara and Polonnaruwa respectively. The district consists of a sandy plain land area and a lot of lagoons, sea bays and outfalls could be seen. The whole land area is 2854 sq Km.

In this area which faced the war directly, the population is over **81223.** Due to the 2004 tsunami 7000 were displaced and **148454** were displaced due to the war.

In this district consisting of 14 regional administrative divisions, 07 divisional secretary areas were directly affected by the war. Among the economic activities rice and corn production has a major place. Around 30,000 families are involved in agriculture and 16.000 families in corn industries.

The study of women with disabilities in district was conducted based in the divisional secretary areas of Eravur Paththu, Koralepaththu, Kiran south, Paddipalei and Manmunaipaththu south. The survey results are given below.

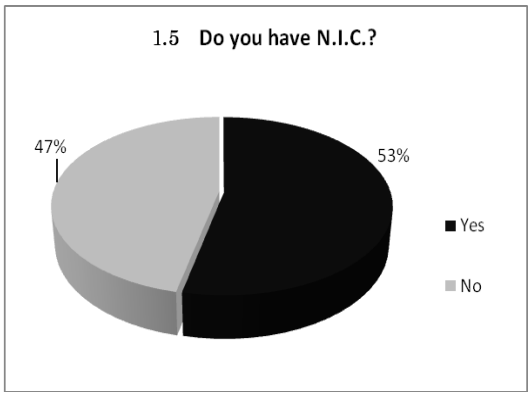
1.4 Age distribution

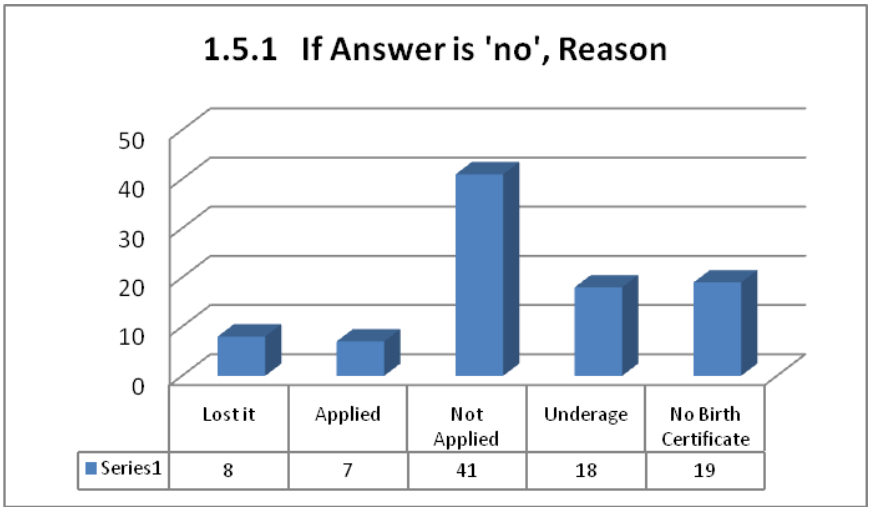


In this survey where 200 women with disabilities participated, when considering the spread of the sample according to age the majority group of 15 – 45 years consisted of 129 women (64.5%). Children and senior citizens were only a small number. Therefore the need to include this population in the work force of the country is acutely seen. Similarly as the outcomes of the survey relates to youth groups they would be valid for a long time to come.

1.5 About the National Identity card

The question whether they have the NIC was asked and the responses revealed that the number of those who did not apply for one was 41 (20.5%). The number without birth certificates was 19. Therefore those who did not have even the basic documents a citizen should have numbered 60 (30%). Although the main reasons for this situation can be thought as the attitudes, lack of knowledge or carelessness of them or their parents, when considering that this area was subjected to a 30 year war it could be considered as a normal situation.

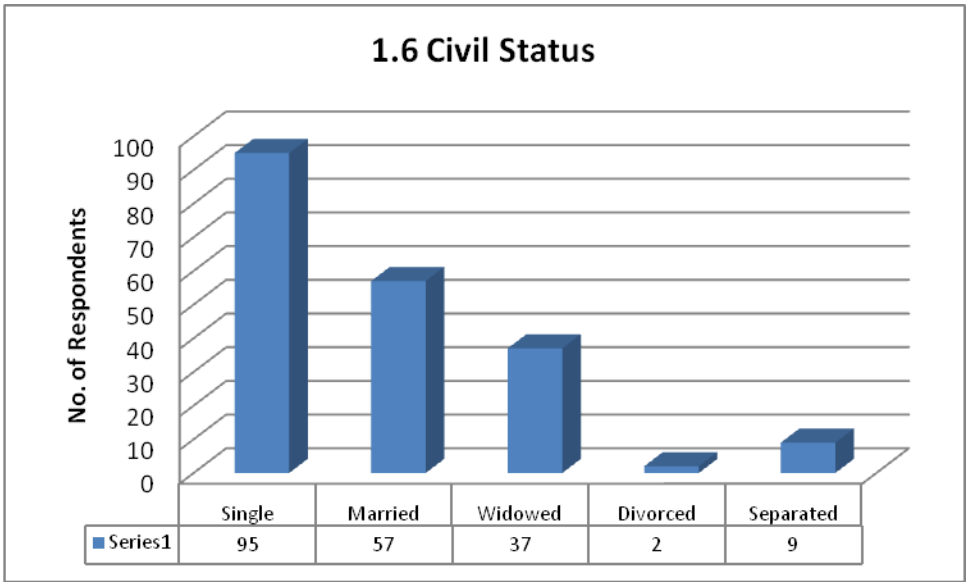




Even if the reason cannot be concluded clearly, some predictions could be made. Firstly a need not arising, secondly difficulties in obtaining one and thirdly the negative attitudes of the person with disabilities about self and the negative attitudes of parents and guardians.

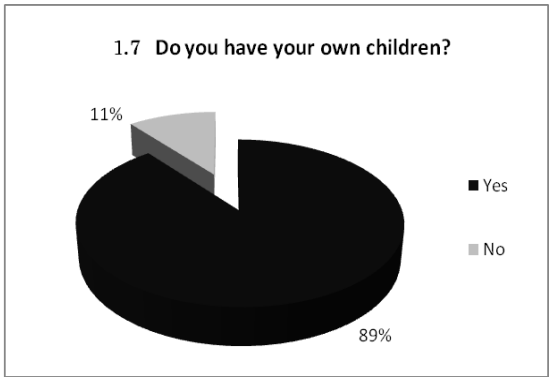
1.6 Civil status

The information received shows that 105 women (52.5%) in the sample are married and the number staying single other than those below 18 years is 77. That is there are at least 38.5% of unmarried women. This result when compared to the married percentages of the Sinhalese population is very high. It can be assumed that it is due to the Hindu cultural attitudes or the number of opportunities they receive. Another fact that call for attention is the number of widows. It has higher value than the other areas. The states of disability as well as widowhood are socially, physically and mentally disadvantageous. That percentage is 18.5%.



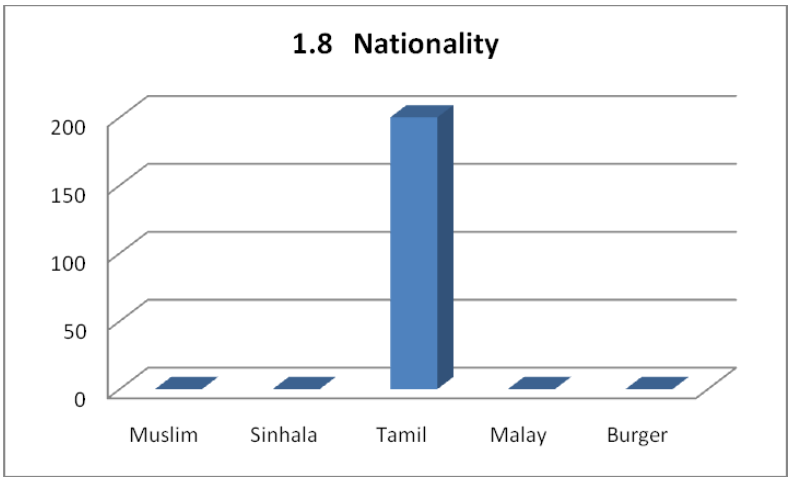
1.7 Children of women with disabilities

89% of the women with disabilities have had the opportunity to become mothers and it would be helpful for their future protection at least even indirectly.



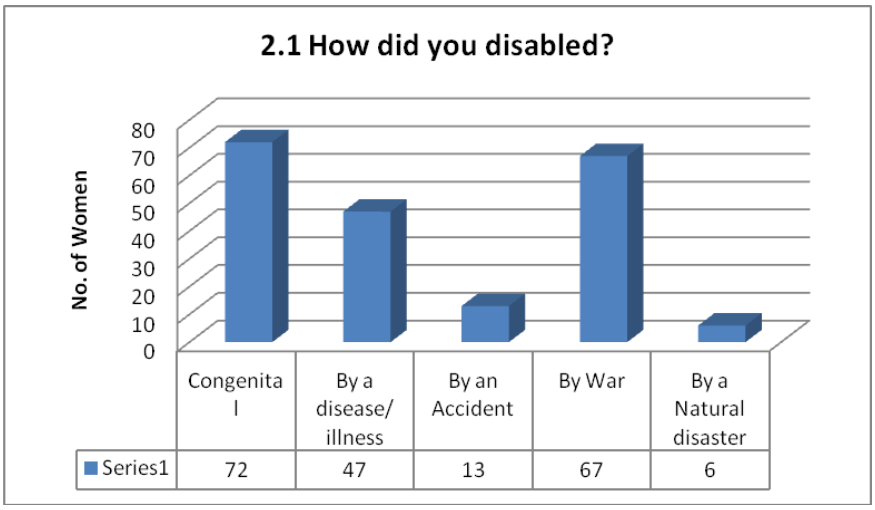
1.8 Ethnicity

The areas selected for this survey consisted 100% of Tamils and women of other ethnic groups with disabilities were not found. Therefore women of the same culture have responded to the survey. It helps to correctly identify the present situation of the Tamil women with disabilities. In the main survey conducted in five districts Batticaloa is the only district where the survey represented only one ethnic group and therefore these results would facilitate in making conclusions.

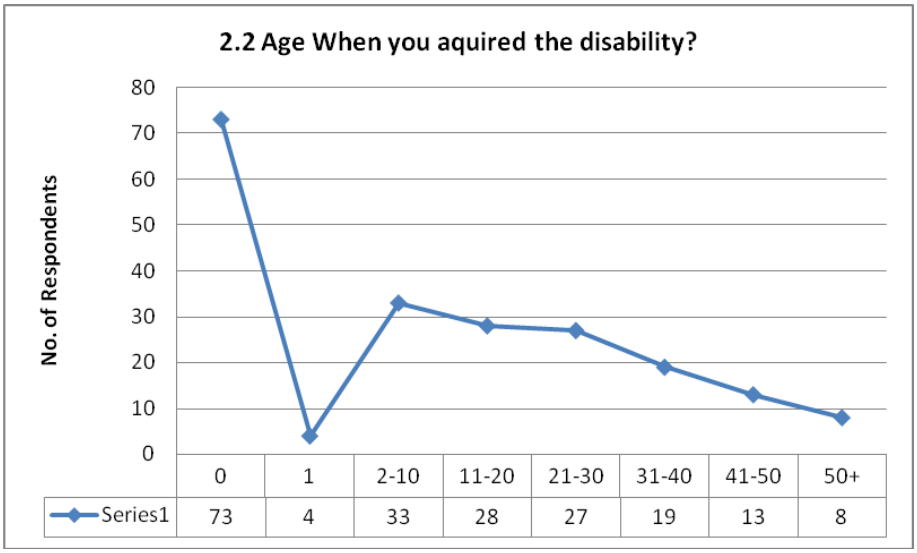


2.1 How the disability occurred

36% of this sample was disabled from birth. Other than that 23% were disabled due to health problems. Therefore the disabilities of 59% had occurred due to health or genetic factors while for another 30% (except for 6) the cause was human activities. Those who were disabled due to the direct effect of the war was 33.5% of the sample.

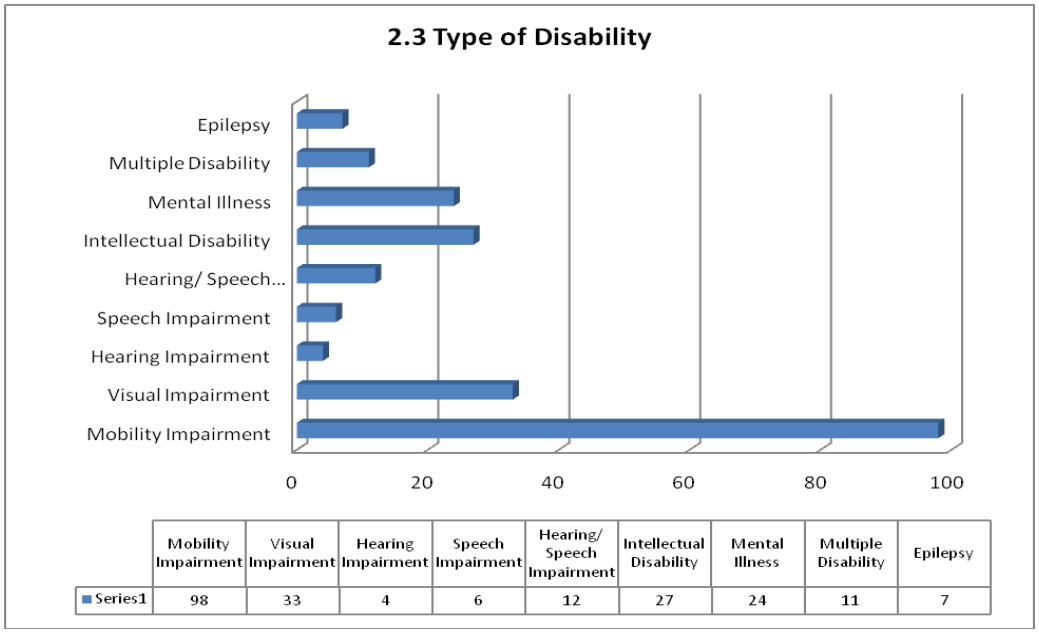


By the fact that 73 had become disabled at birth means 27 had become disabled due to disasters after birth. When considered this with age 111 instances of becoming disabled had occurred from age 01 year to the middle age of 40 years. It is a value of 55.5% and therefore is a very high value when compared to disability from birth or due to unseen reasons. It can be said that there is more risk of becoming disabled during the period of youth in life.



2.3 Classification as per the kind of disability

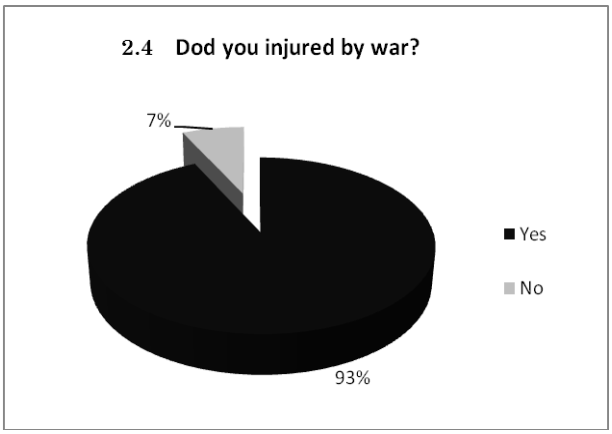
in this survey the Batticaloa district can be named as the district where the most number of women with kinetic disabilities were found. While definite reasons for that cannot be given an equal number of males with hearing disabilities are seen to be living in the area. 12 (6%) out of the 200 who participated in the survey suffered from both hearing and speech disabilities while there were 10 others with either hearing or speech disabilities. Therefore 22 out of the whole sample are suffering from



hearing disabilities. As a percentage it is 11%. Therefore it is essential in providing public services such as education and health to pay special attention to the areas where the number of persons with communication problems is high.

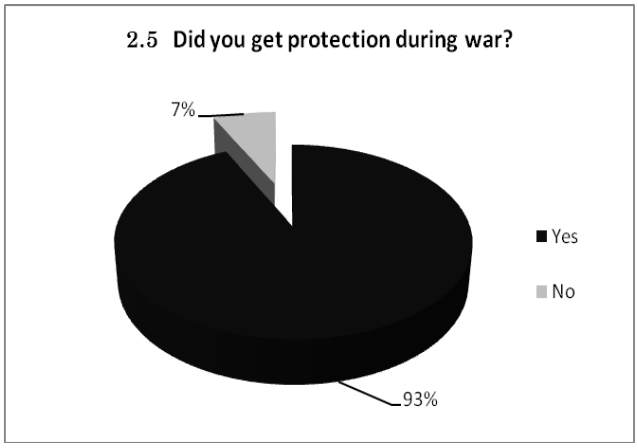
2.4 Whether harmed due to the war.

Disregarding those who were disabled due to the war the number who was at least wounded was 119 (59.5%). Persons who lived without any damage was only 7%. Accordingly it is seen that as an area where the war occurred, almost all people whether disabled or not had suffered.



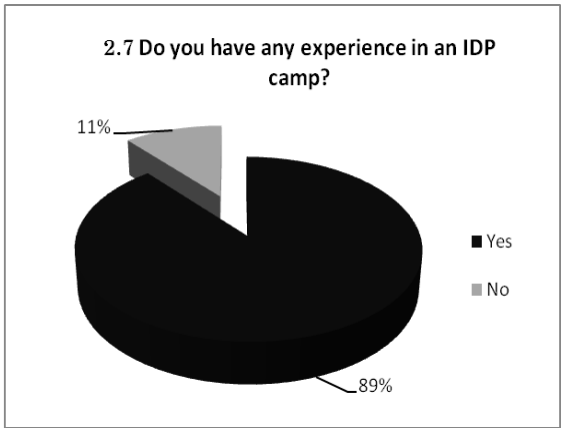
2.5 Disaster and protection

When asked about the support received to minimize the damages caused by the war only a minimum of positive answers were received. Although adequate treatments were received for physical damages life assistance was not received adequately.

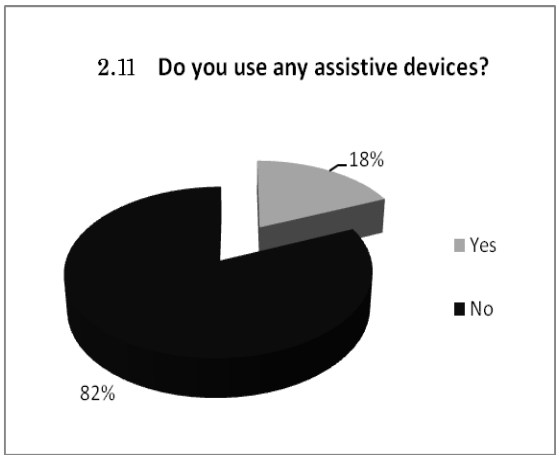


2.7 Experiences in a welfare centre.

The number in this sample who had received protection in a welfare centre was 178. Therefore in addition to the disability a period in life spent without the protection of their families is also seen in their lives. We did not ask about the duration of that period in writing but it was understood that there was a large number in the sample who had spent periods of 08 – 10 years in welfare centres.

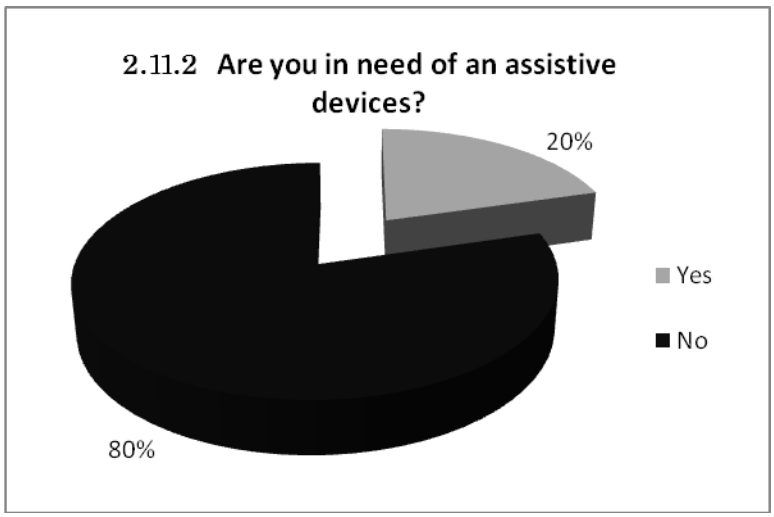


2.12 Use of aids/equipment



As soon as we think of persons with disabilities, what comes to our mind are persons who use equipment such as wheel chairs and crutches. However this survey revealed that out of the 200 women with disabilities who participated in the survey, 76% did not use any aid/equipment. Therefore 24% of them could be instantly identified in the society as persons with disabilities while only a little attention is paid to the rest of them.

2.11.3 Needs for aids/equipment



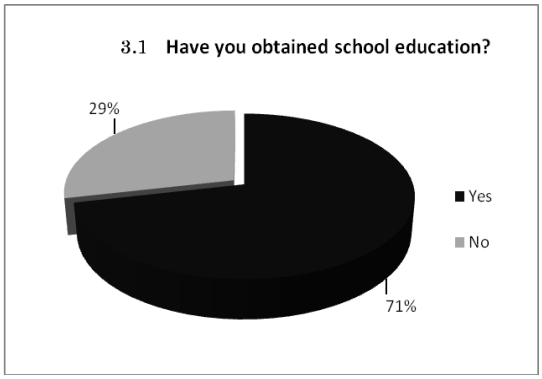
when inquiring about the need for aid/equipment, 31 said 'yes' and that number was 13 less than the number of those who were already using them. The need for aid/equipment could be rated as a very minor need among the needs of women with disabilities.

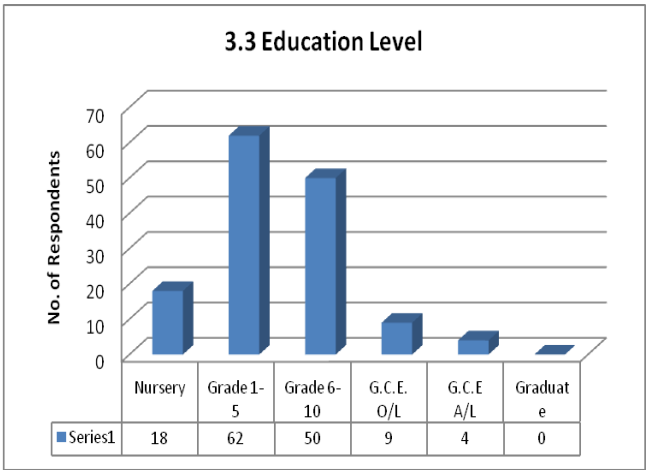
3. School Education

In Sri Lankan school education successfully completing the G.C.E O.L is considered in any level of job. Not passing that exam properly becomes a reason for social rejection as well as for not having job opportunities.

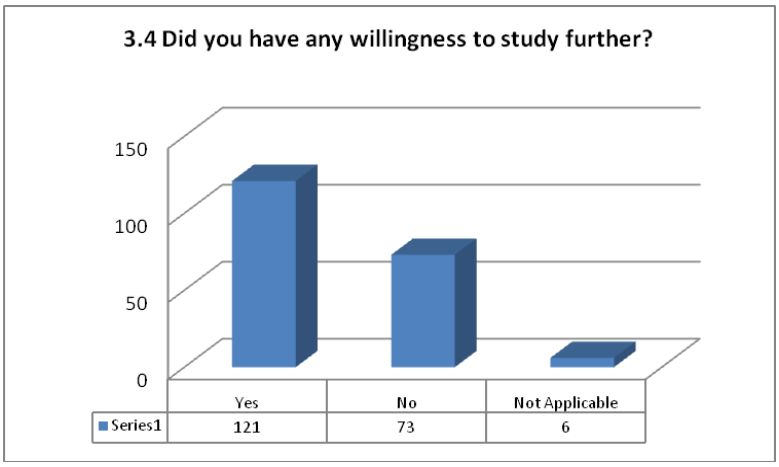
In investigating the educational level of the 200 women with disabilities the number of those who had not even received preschool education was found to be 57. Only 09 (4.5%) have studied up to G.C.E O.L. out of those who qualified to study G.C.E A.L was less than 50%.

According to the data presented above the number of those who has received an education with some sort of recognition was 02%. In identifying reasons for this we inquired about their willingness to receive further education, those who responded positively to it numbered 121. therefore more than 50% were willing to receive further education. The number of those who finished school education due to disability or some other related reason was 17. all the other 131 have terminated their education due to other reasons. Therefore it is essential to identify the other barriers to education which is the most important factor in socializing women with disabilities and to minimize them.





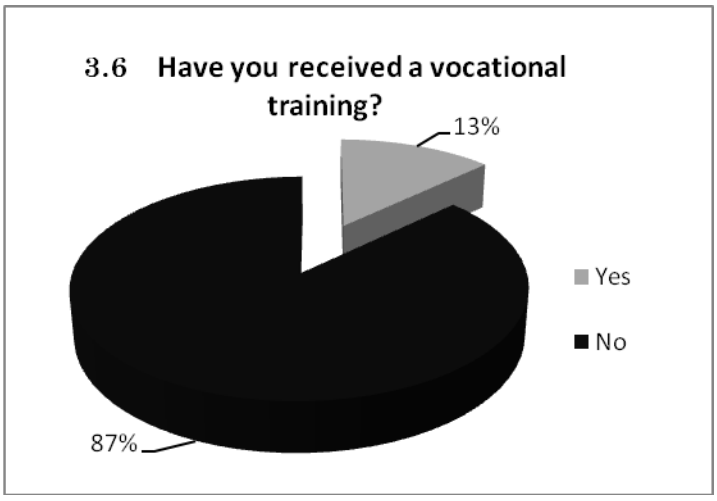
3.4 Reasons for the disruption of education



3.6 Vocational Training

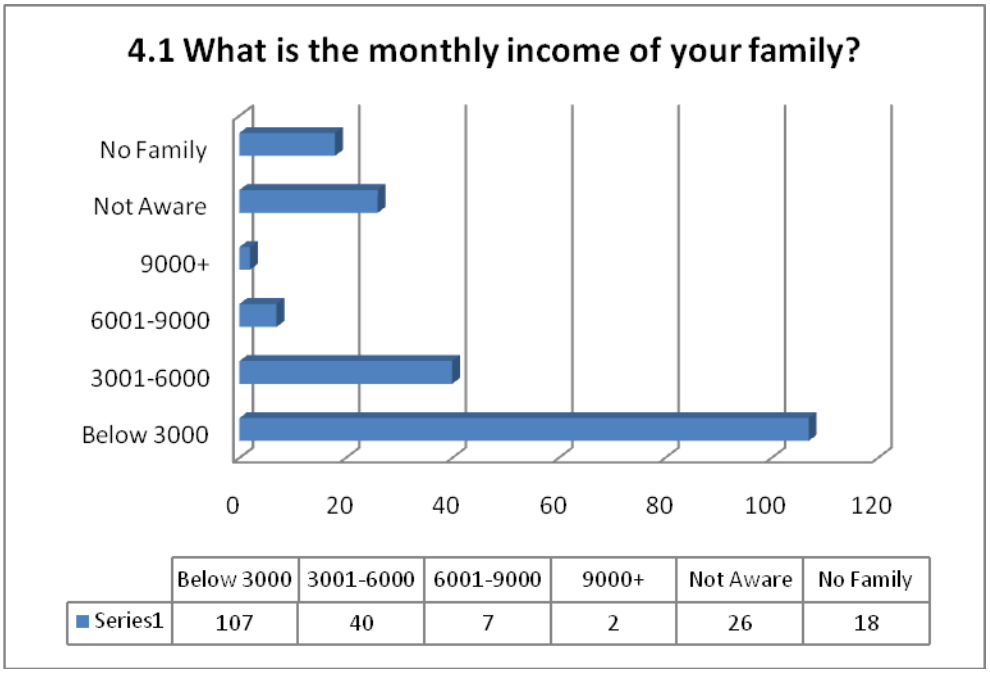
The Sri Lanka vocational training authority and other Lankan vocational training providers consider a pass in the G.C.E O.L examination as a compulsory requirement in enrolling students for their courses. Accordingly only a few in the sample have fulfilled the basic requirements. Therefore opportunities for them to receive vocational training are at a minimal level. The number who have received vocational training was 26

According to the data presented above the aspect of women with disabilities receiving vocational training is very insignificant.



.4.1 Income states of the family

According to the table given below the income states of the families are at a very low level. All the women who participated in this survey belonged to families of low income.

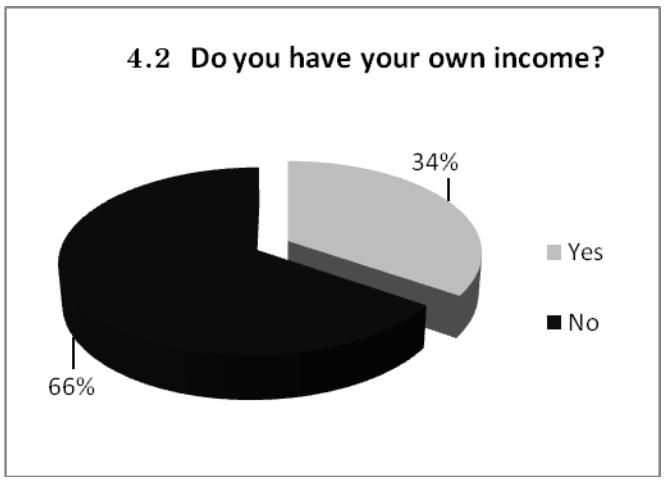


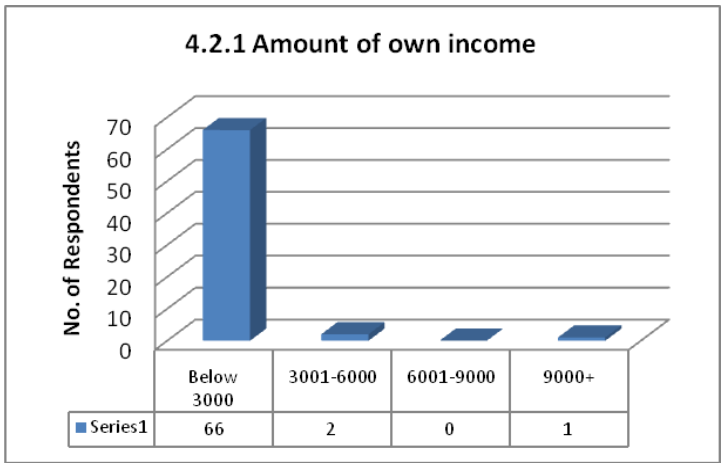
	Below 3000	3001-6000	6001-9000	9000+	Not Aware	No Family
Series1	107	40	7	2	26	18

4.2 Personal economic states

There were 69 women with disabilities who have an income of their own in the full sample.

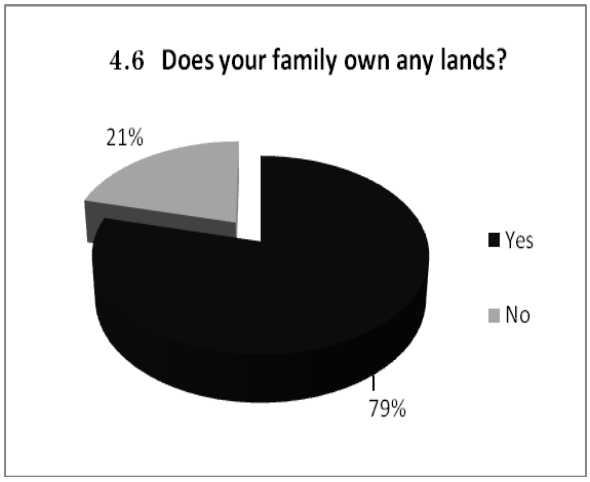
It was revealed that the montjly income 66 out of them is less than Rs 3000. Therefore the economic strength of women with disabilities seems to be at a very low level. 78 have bank accounts but only 21 save some money. It can be assumed that although there is a need for economic stability it cannot be achieved.

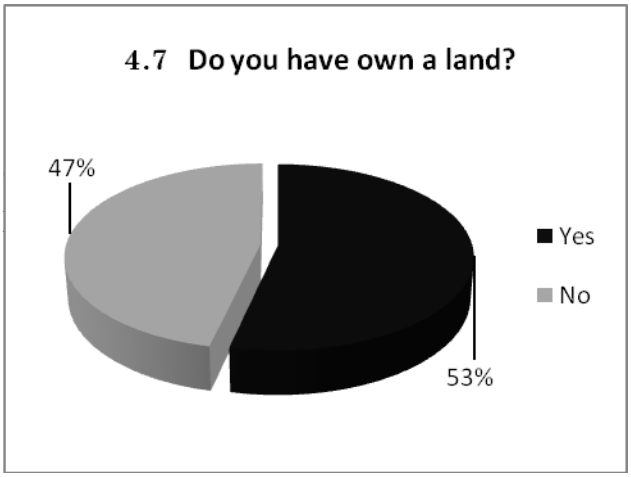




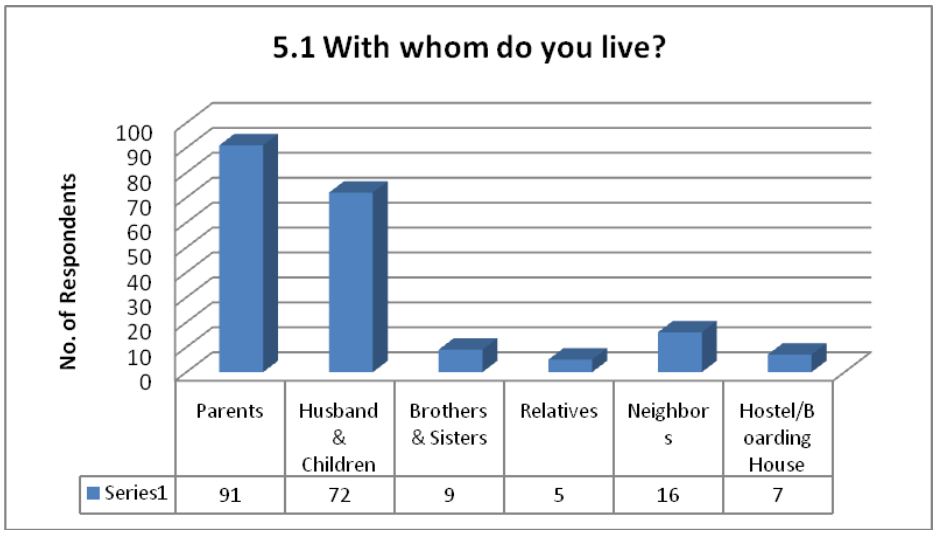
4.6 About land ownership

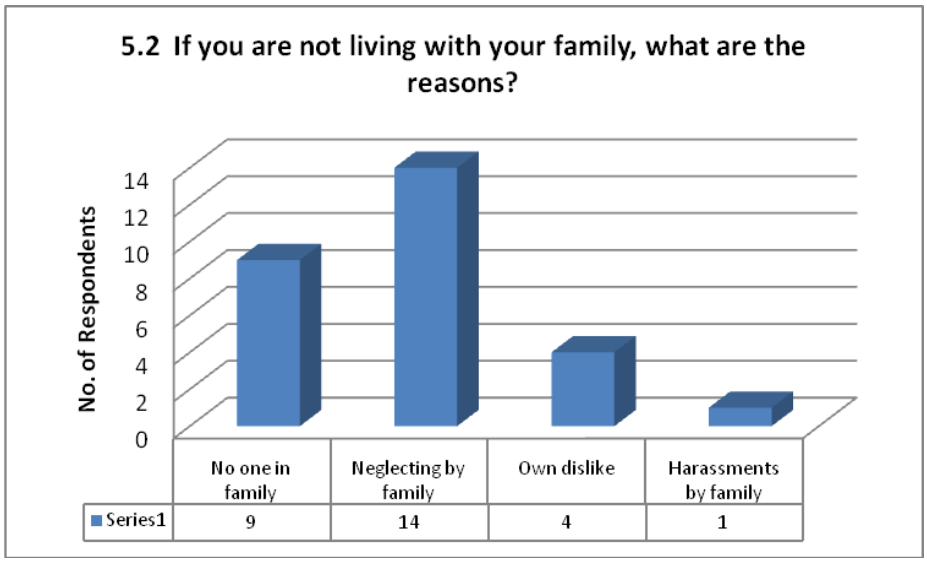
In this sample there are 42 families who did not own any land and when inquired whether they have their own land 107 responded positively. It seems to be a very good trend. More than 50% of the sample have their own land.

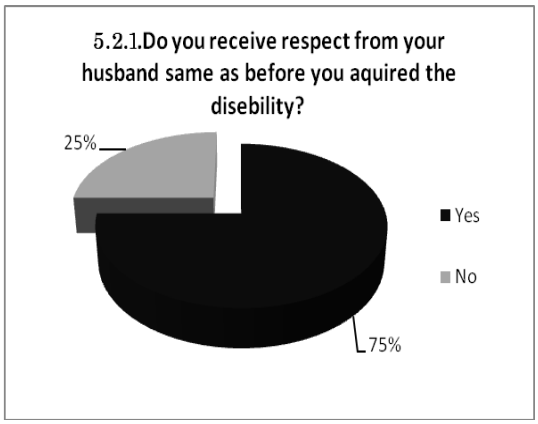


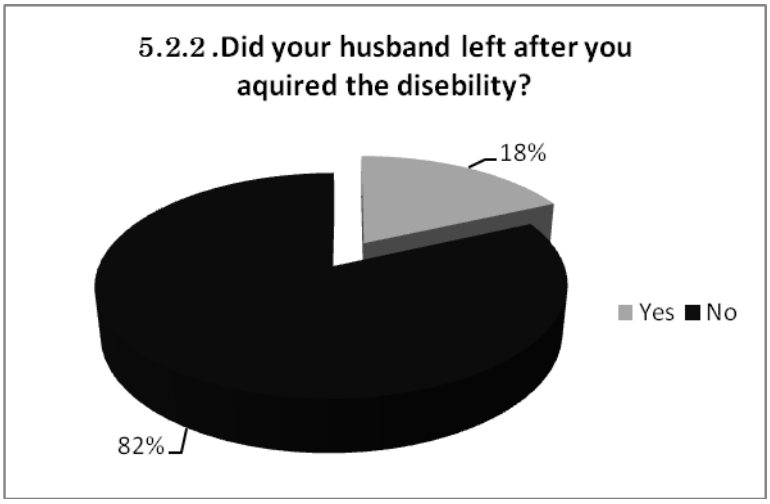


women with disabilities they were asked with whom they are living and it was found that the majority are living with their parents. There wer 14 who are living elsewhere due to the negligence of the family and o4 who dislike living with the family. In addition there were women who were subjected to domestic violence. There were 09 who did not have any family members in order to live with them.


5.1 With whom do you live?
No. of Respondents
100
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
Parents
Husband & Children
Brothers & Sisters
Relatives
Neighbors
Hostel/Boarding House
Series1
91
72
9
5
16
7

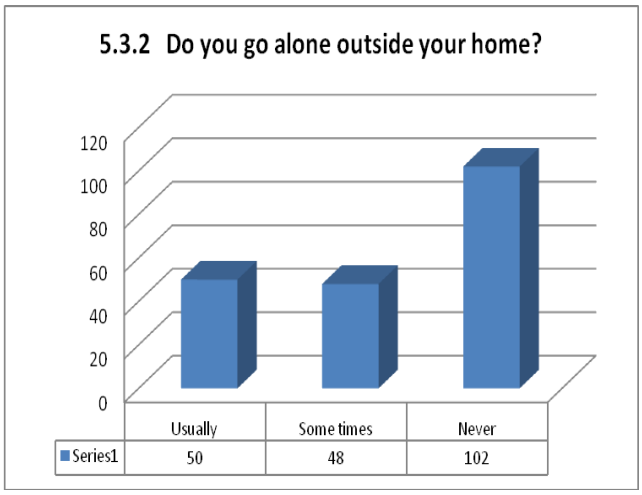

5.2 If you are not living with your family, what are the reasons?
No. of Respondents
14
12
10
8
6
4
2
0
No one in family
Neglecting by family
Own dislike
Harassments by family
Series1
9
14
4
1

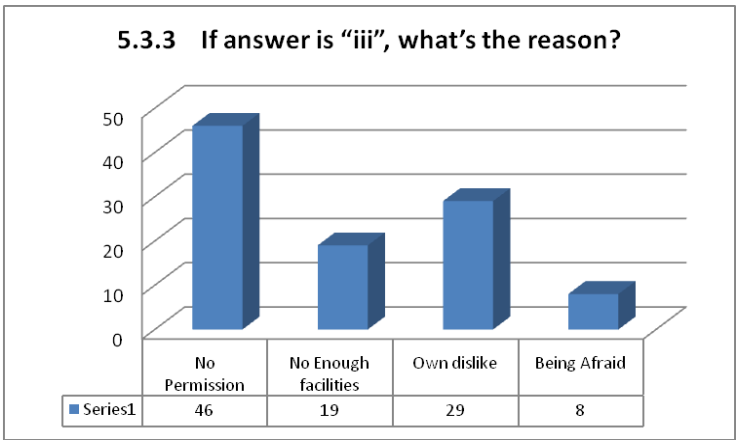

5.2.1.Do you receive respect from your husband same as before you aquired the disebility?
25%
75%
Yes
No



5.3.2 Going out of the house

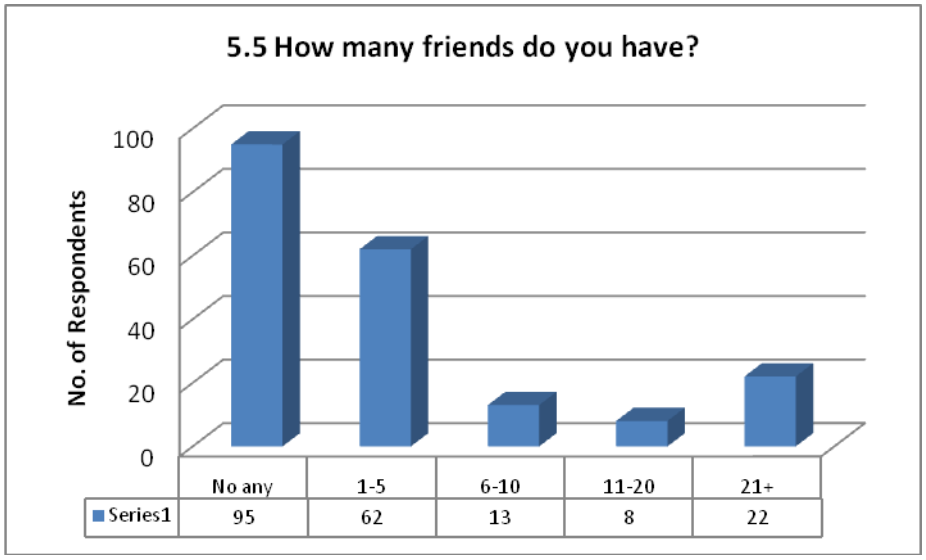
To find the independence of the women with disabilities they asked whether they go out alone. The percentage of women who had never gone out alone or never go out alone was 51%. Therefore half of the women with disabilities are not independent in their visits and only 1/4 do their visits alone. When inquired about the reasons the problem for 46 was not receiving permission from their parents or guardians. Therefore the attitude of their guardians is a considerable barrier to their free life. The problem of disability or the problem of environmental facilities has affected only 19of them. Therefore the main problem seems to be a psycho-social one.





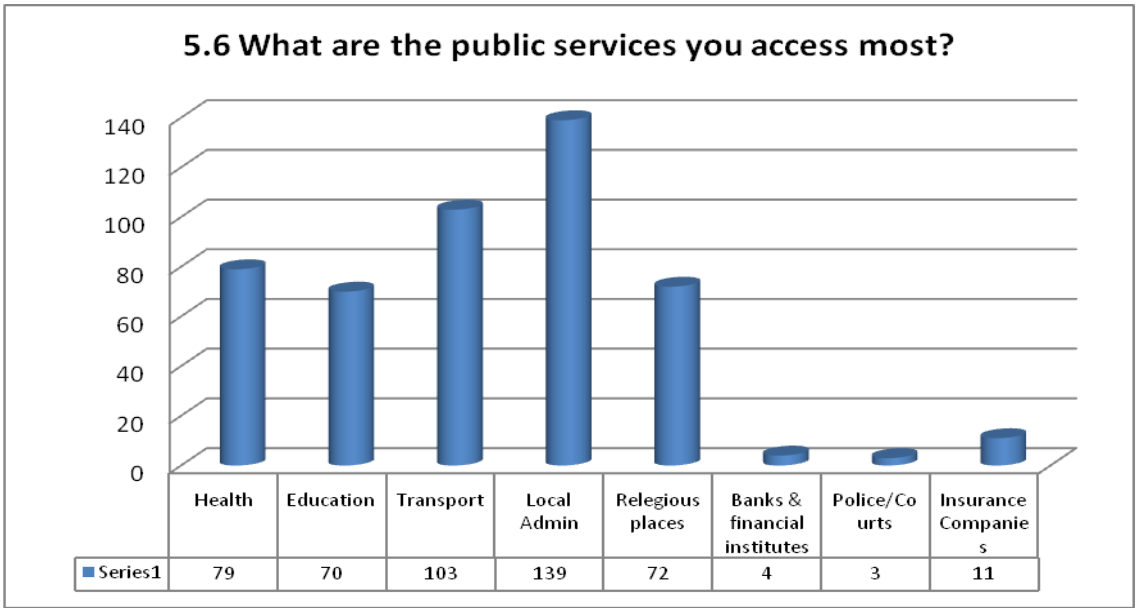
5.5 About friends

In order to assess the social states of women with disabilities information about their friends were asked and there were 95 women without a single friend. Therefore it would take a long time to socialize and direct these women to live independent lives.



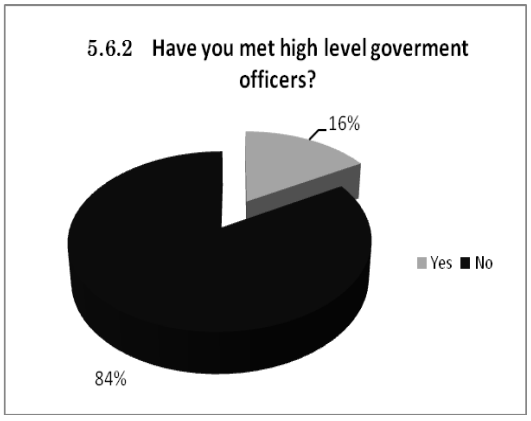
5.6 About the closest public services

In inquiring about the public services frequently used it was found that 69.5% of the sample has obtained services at least to a minimum extent from the grama niladari or the divisional secretary office. However, only 2% have obtained banking or other financial services. Therefore the essential factor for raising their life situation has reached them only minimally.



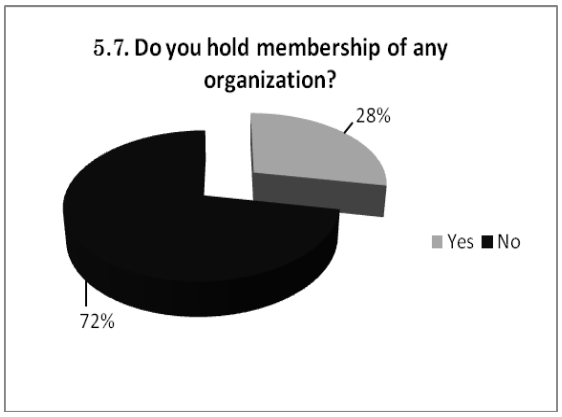
5.6.2 Relations with high officials

They were asked whether they have met high officials of the government for obtaining information about the relations between state officials and women with disabilities and also their understanding about the official structure of the government. From their responses it was found that all of them had met the grama niladari while only 03 had met the divisional secretary as the highest officer. The other 167 have not met any high government officer.



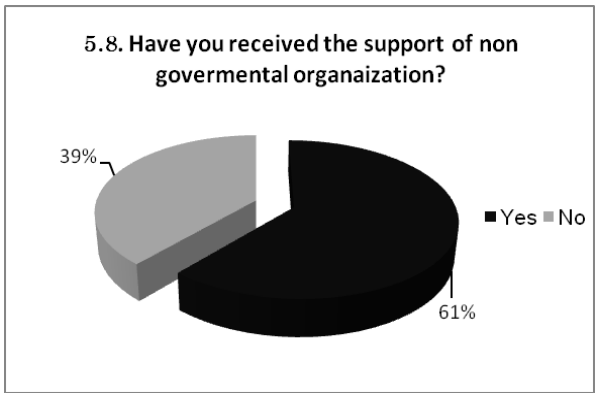
5,7 Membership in organizations

When assessing the relationship with voluntary organizations in the area it is found to be at a very low level while 144 have not obtained membership in any organization.



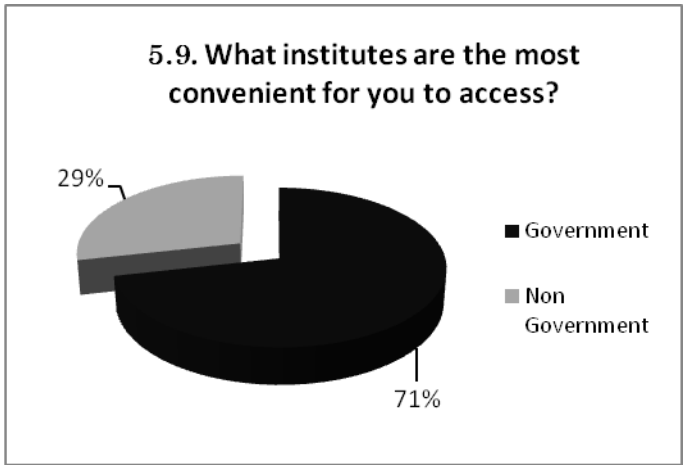
5.8.Receiving support of Non Government Organizations (NGOs)

To the question whether received any support from the NGOs 77 said no. Similarly in obtaining services from the state and non state sectors 143 selected state sector as more convenient in doing so. Therefore it seems that the policies of the non state sector have to be more inclusive to the community with disabilities.



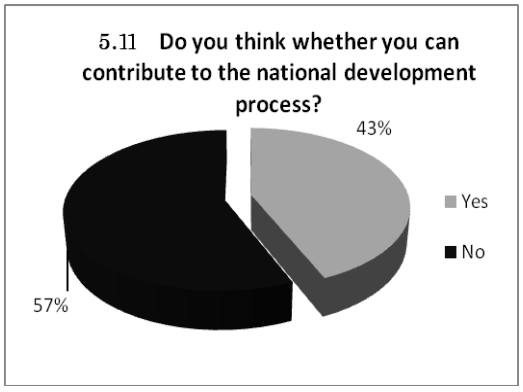
5.9 Right to take decisions

In finding out whether decisions can be taken in day to day activities, 76 said that decisions are taken with the parents' concurrence. It shows that they are still oriented to a dependant life. Most of the time a dominant reason for this over protection seems to be the high consideration of the guardians.



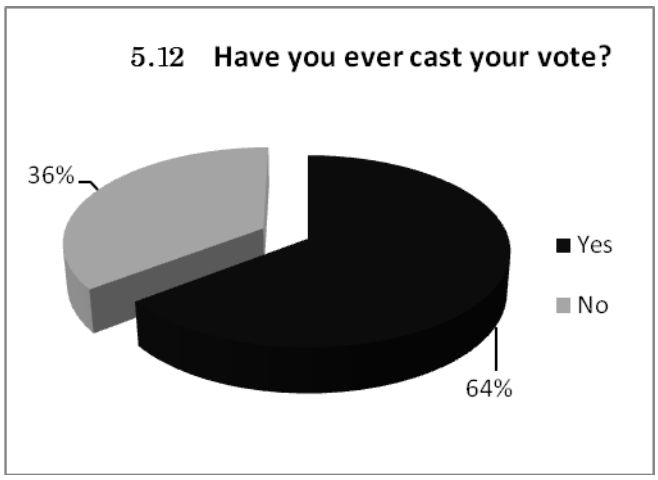
5.11.Contribution to the national development

To the question whether they can contribute to the national development, 87 (43%) said yes. The position of the other 57% implies that they are not attitudinally built up. Observations have confirmed that the state of disability has caused a big shock in them and has reduced their abilities.



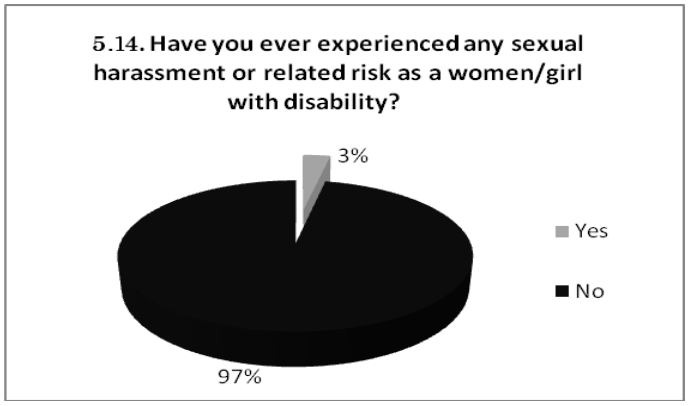
5.12.Right to vote

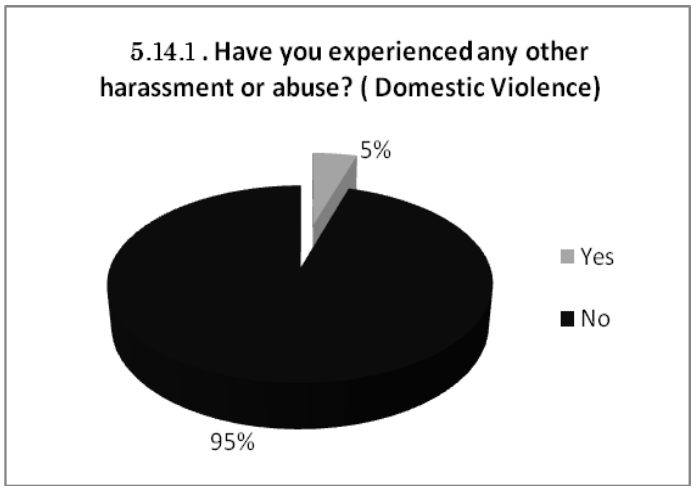
In this survey a positive response is seen with regard to whether they have voted. Out of the 71 who had never voted 21 were children. Another 22 did not vote as their names were not in the electoral register. When the above mentioned two groups are left out the number who did not vote were 28. as a percentage it is as small as 14%.



5.14 Abuse of women

When inquiring whether they are subjected to sexual abuse or any other similar incident, we did not expect direct and definite answers but 09 women responded bravely.





Note: The nature of the sample

As there were areas controlled by the LTTE organization, the sample included 19 of their activists and 12 displaced (altogether 31) persons. Therefore the information available should be critically viewed.

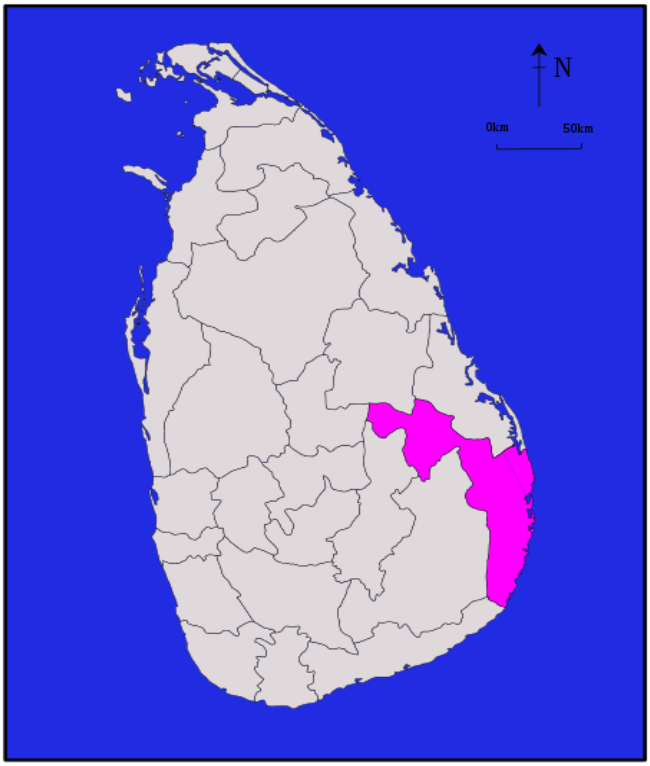
Summary

- When inquired about the use of NIC, 19 persons without birth certificates were identified and it was revealed that 41 had not applied for the NIC. It could be assumed that this situation is related to the war atmosphere that existed in the district.
- When compared to other districts the number of marriages of women was high. There were 37 widows with disabilities. The war has directly influenced these results.
- In this sample 33.5% were disabled due to the war. It really proves the damage done to the public life of this area.
- When considering the numbers of persons with different kinds of disabilities, persons with kinetic disabilities is the highest while the lowest are the hearing disabilities. Therefore in constructions in this area more attention has to be paid to access facilities etc. also in this sample those who became mental patients are higher than other areas.
- Although similar to other area there seem to be a link between educational level and disability, in inquiring about reasons for withdrawing from education, 131 women said that disability was not the only reason for doing so. Therefore in raising the educational states of women with disabilities, the reasons for the disruption of their education have to be investigated.
- Out of the 200 women who participated in the survey 95 did not have a single friend. It reveals their social states, recognition and the need for inclusion.
- It is seen that the relations between state institutions and these women are at a good level and when compared to other districts shows the highest value. Also these women seem to integrate well with the common public services. However the representation in finance, law and insurance establishments is at a very low level.
- The survey results reveal that the women community with disabilities is still not addressed adequately in programmes of NGOs.
- Although there was a war atmosphere, many have received the right to vote.

Survey Results

Ampara District

Ampara district is situated in the eastern province of Sri Lanka bordering the sea and the districts of Batticaloa, Monaragala, Badulla and Hambantota. This area known as Ambaragama in the past was a part of the kingdom of king Kavanthissa in the 2nd century B.C.

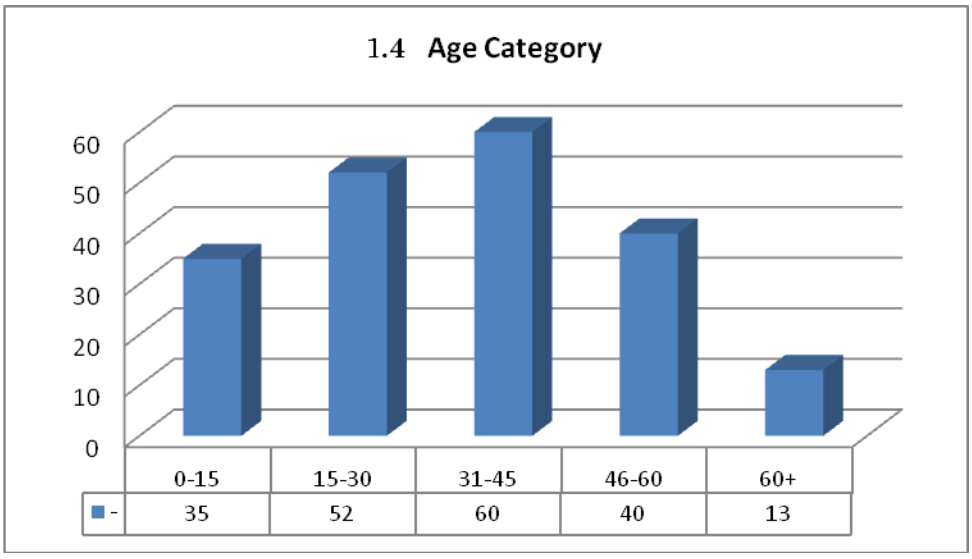


In 2007 the total population in this area spanning 445,443 sq Km was reported as 610,719. For administrative purposes there are 20 divisional secretary areas and in some such areas secretary offices according to ethnicity are established. The main mode of revenue in this area is paddy cultivation. This district produces 1/5 of the rice requirements of Sri Lanka. In addition 17,000 families earn their livelihood by engaging in fisheries industries along the 115 Km long beach.

The study of women with disabilities of this district was conducted based in the divisional secretary areas of Ampara, Uhana, Damana, and Pottuvil and the results of survey are given below.

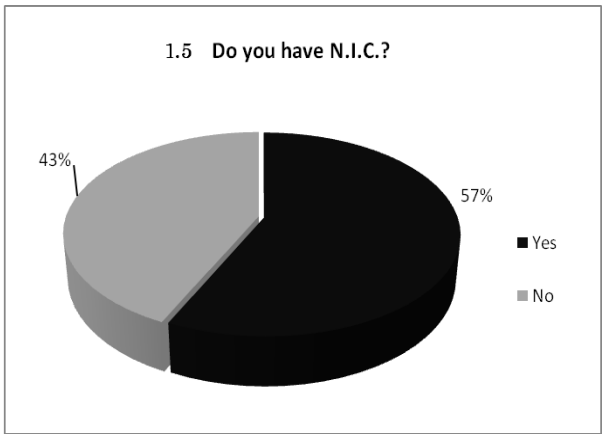
1.4 Age distribution

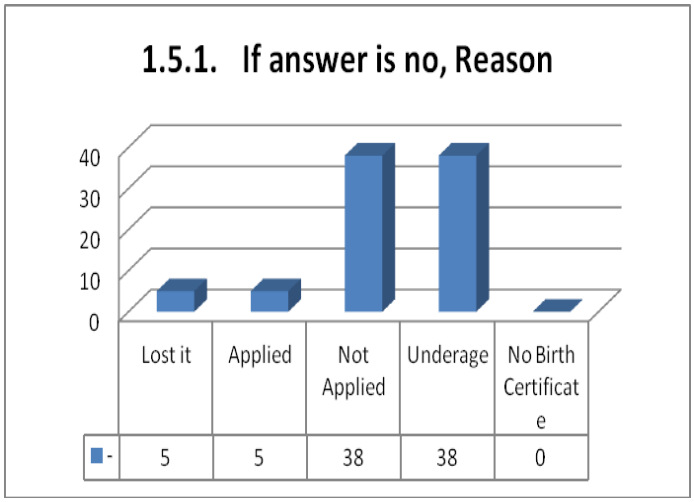
In this survey where information of 200 women with disabilities are collected, 152 of them (76%) are between 15 and 60 years of age. Therefore it would be possible to collect information about their actual situation. Also the validity of the information would remain for a long time to come.



1.5 About the National Identity Card (NIC)

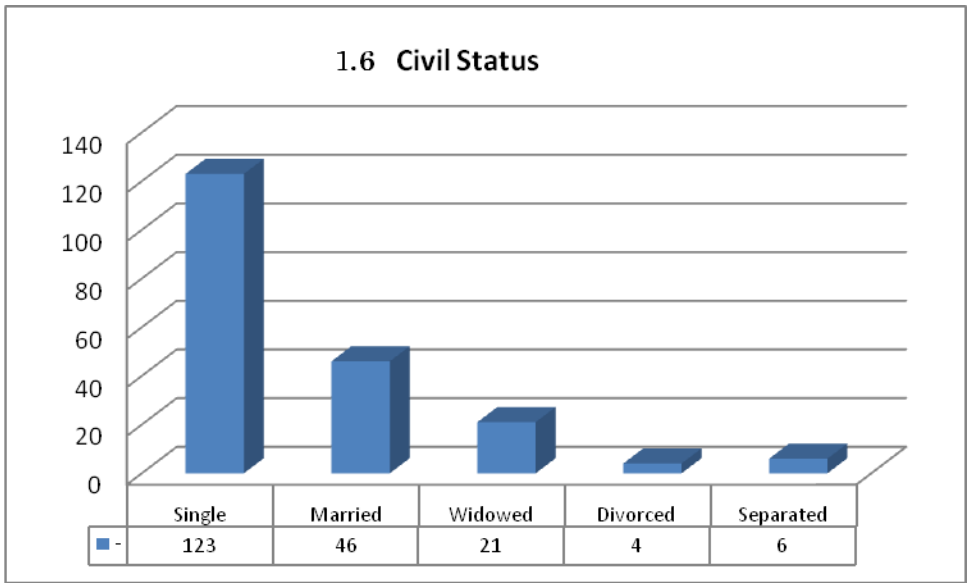
In inquiring whether the women with disabilities have the NIC which is needed to establish the identity of the adult Sri Lankan citizens, it was found that there were 38 who had not applied for it. It is like an indication of the states of their lives. The number without the NIC was 86 and if the minors are not considered the number was 48. The thinking of many of those without the NIC was that it is not a valuable document for them and not an important service for them.





1.7 Civil states

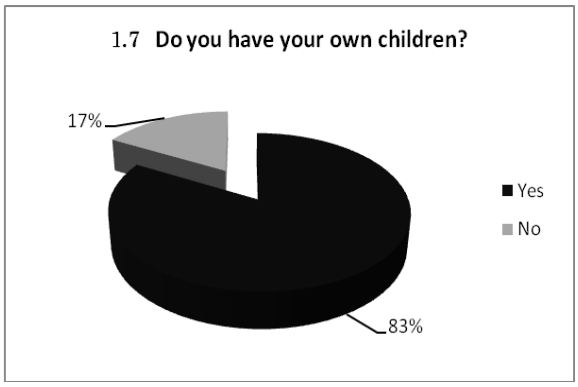
In this sample of 200 women with disabilities, 123 are not married and 113 of them had passed the 30 years of age which is the normal age for marriage for women in other areas of Sri Lanka. As a percentage it was 65%. It implies that the woman with disability is still spending a life which is not protected and not socialized.



1.8 Children of women with disabilities

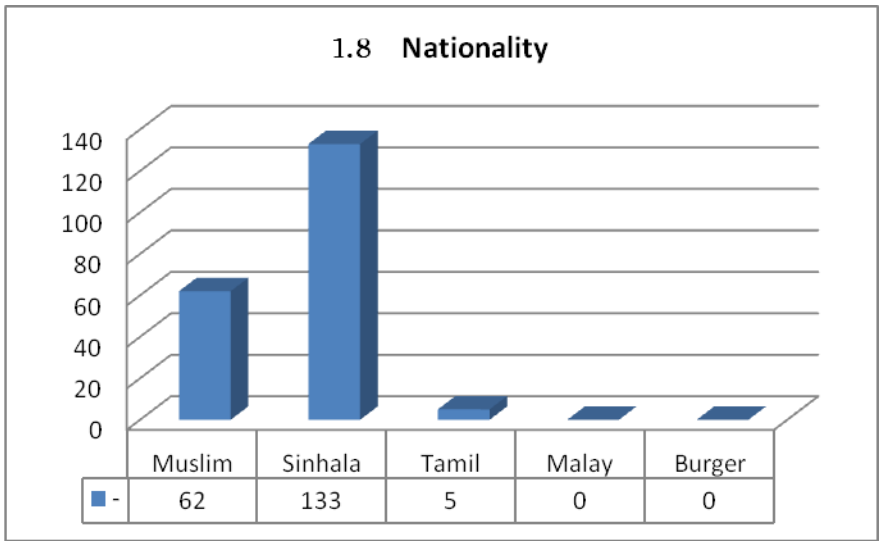
According to this survey 77 women with disabilities were married and more than 50% of them were widowed, divorced or separated. However 64 of them that is 83% of the married women were fortunate to be mothers and as they are women with children they claim some social acceptance as well as protection.

Another fact that is revealed is that disability is not a barrier for women with disabilities to marry and bear children. In addition their fertility also seems to be high.



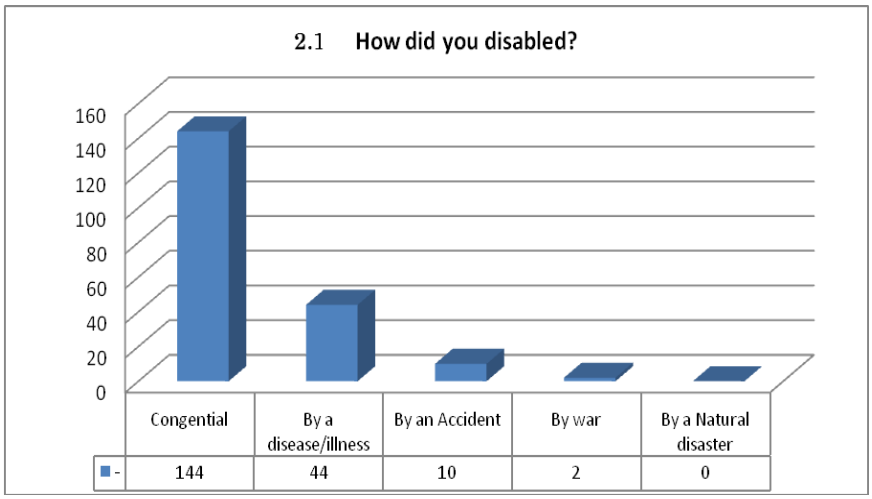
1.8.About the ethnicity

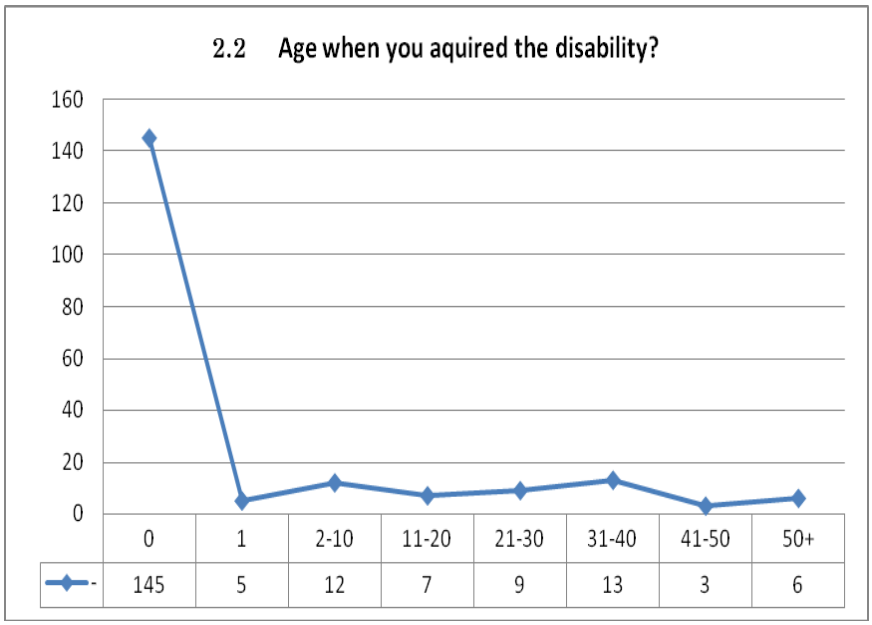
In this survey sample an imbalanced representation consisting of 66% Sinhalese, 31% Muslims and 3% Tamils could be seen. However according to the population ratio of the district a certain proportionality could be seen. Similarly this information could be reviewed considering the common factor of women with disabilities.



2.1 How the disability occurred

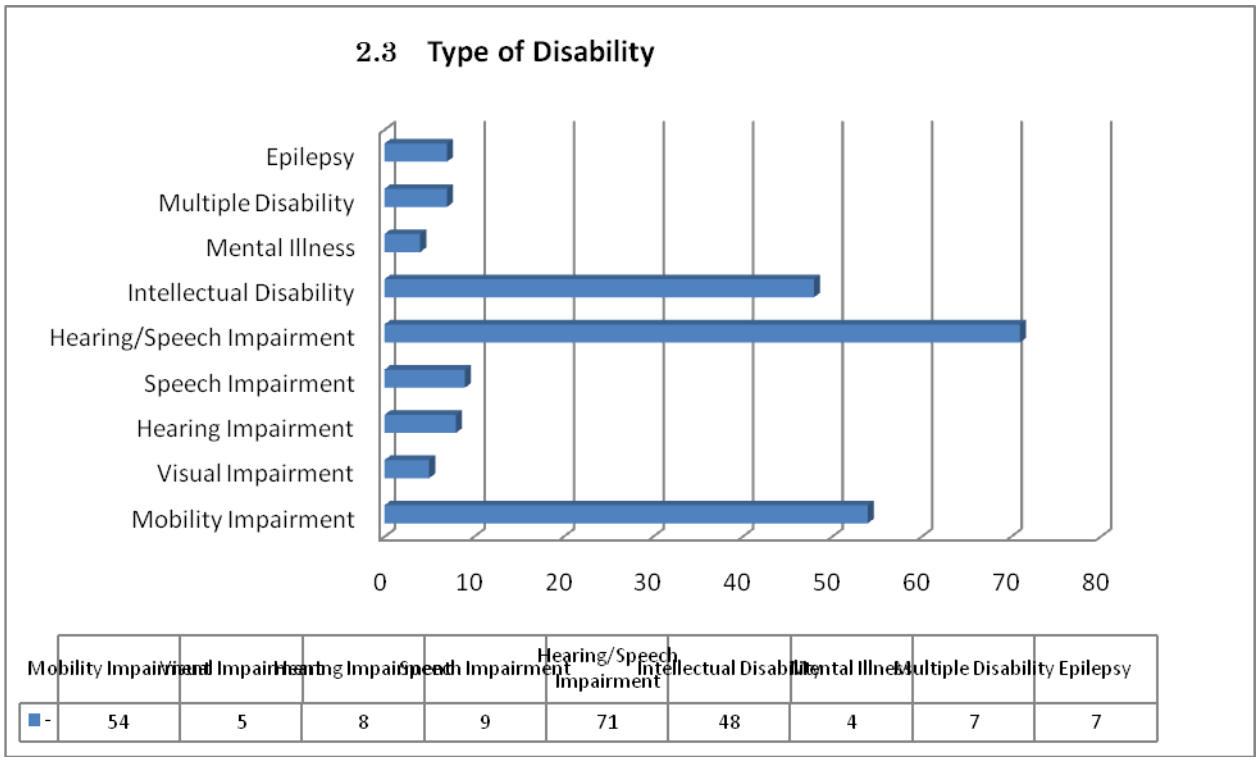
In this survey attention was paid to 05 ways by which disabilities could occur and there was no one who became disabled due to natural disasters. The number of those who were disabled by birth or illnesses was 188. It is 94% of the sample. This reveals a number of very critical aspects. In this district the major factor for disability is health problems and in an era where Sri Lanka has high records in health facilities and public health and sanitary services, the fact that disability and health problems are linked together in areas like this should receive special attention.





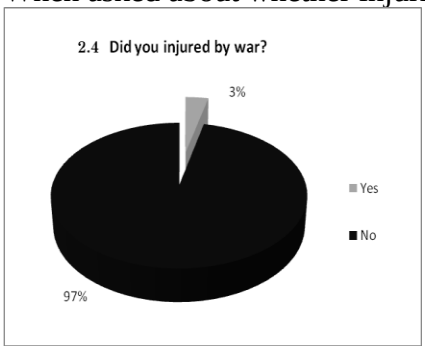
2.3 Classification as per kinds of disability

The Ampara district can be named as the district in this survey where the highest number of women with hearing disabilities was found. Although the reasons for it could not be said definitely, there seem to be an equal number of men with hearing disabilities. Out of the 200 who participated in this survey 71 (35%) were suffering from both hearing and speech disabilities while another 17 were suffering from either hearing or speech disabilities. Therefore 88 (44%) of the sample suffer from hearing, speech disabilities. Accordingly in public services such as education and health services it is essential to pay special attention to this community with communication problems.

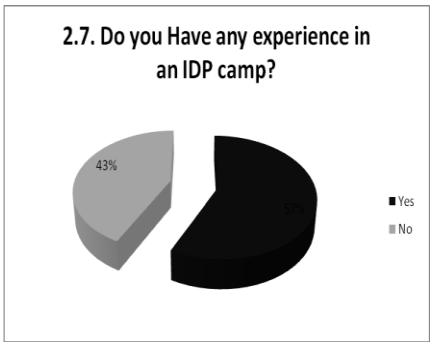


2.4 Whether injuries occurred due to war

When asked about whether injuries occurred due to war it was found to take a very low value.



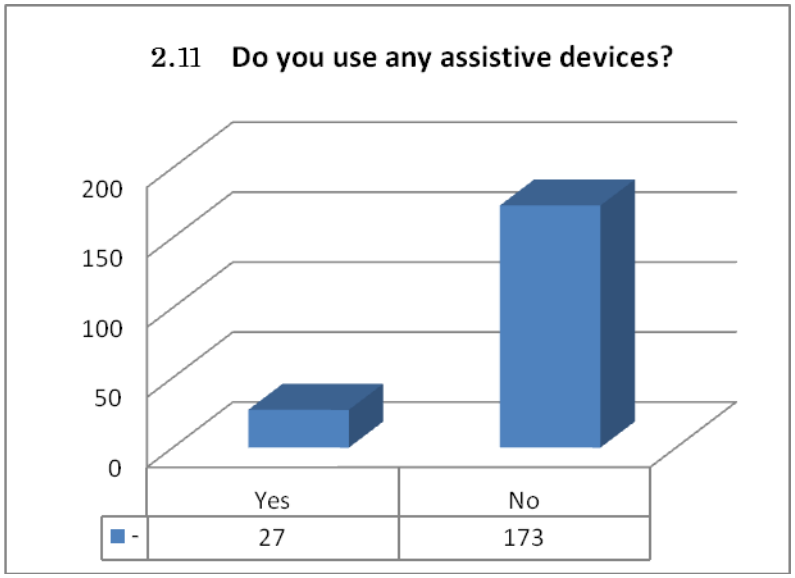
2.7 About having experience in welfare centre



According to this survey a large number of respondents were displaced at least once.

2.11 Use of aids/equipment

The number who uses aids/equipment was 27. The number of those who said they need aids/equipment was 62. Therefore there seem to be a shortage of aids/equipment. However there was a considerable number of persons with disabilities who do not need them.



2.12. Disability occurring and getting the job bank

In inquiring about being disabled due to the war and loosing one's livelihood, it came to light that 6 persons lost their jobs. All of them were engaged in jobs in the private sector.

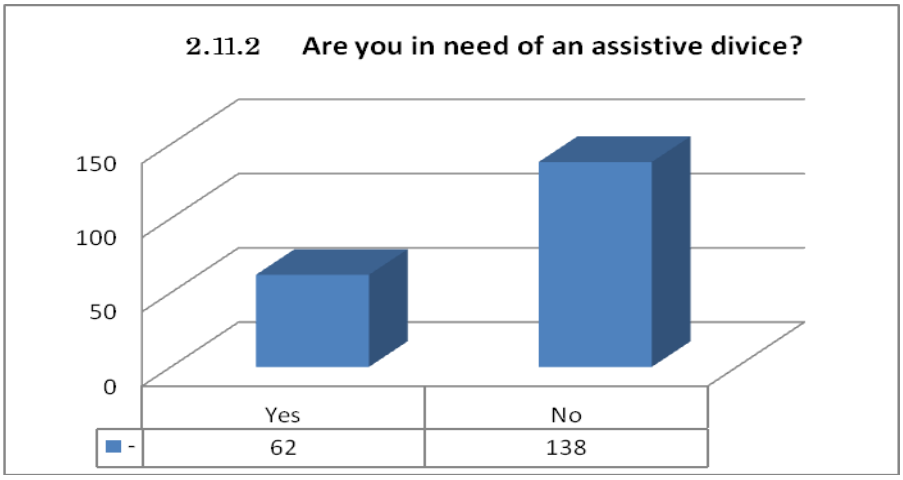
2.13. Use of aids/equipment

Normally disabled persons use aids/equipment and it facilitates the identification of them. However only 30 out of the 200 women who participated in the survey used aids/equipment.

(diagram 2.11 About the use of aids/equipment)

2.14. The need for aids/equipment

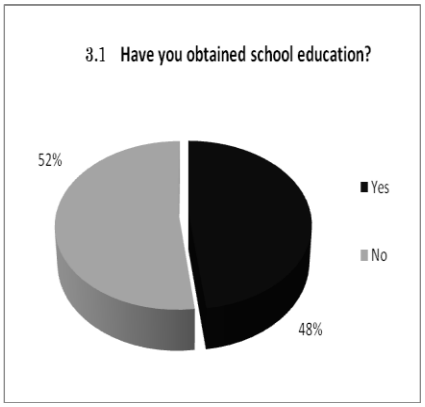
Information collected showed 69 persons with the need. This shows that although the need for aid/equipment was there it is not fulfilled.



3. School education

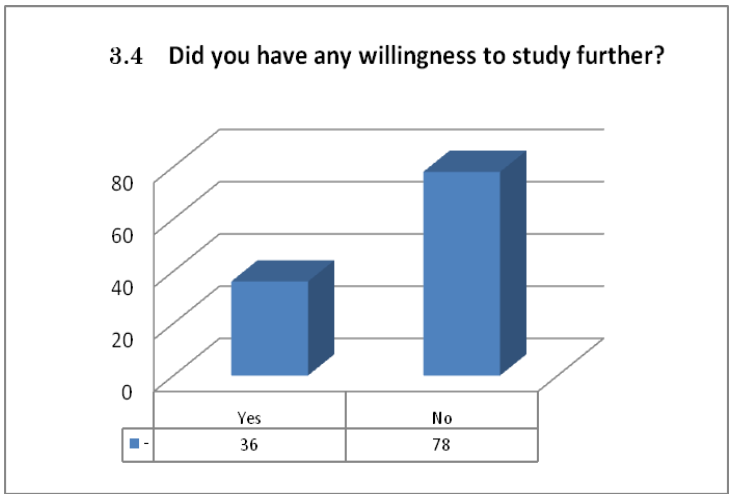
86 women who had never gone to school were identified and not a single in the sample had attended pre-school. An important fact was that out of the 86 who attended school 14 had studied up to G.C.E.O.L and 04 had studied up to G.C.E.A.L.

The fact that only 2% attended A.L. classes can be cited as a reason for the continuous attitudinal obstacles that exists in the society towards this community.



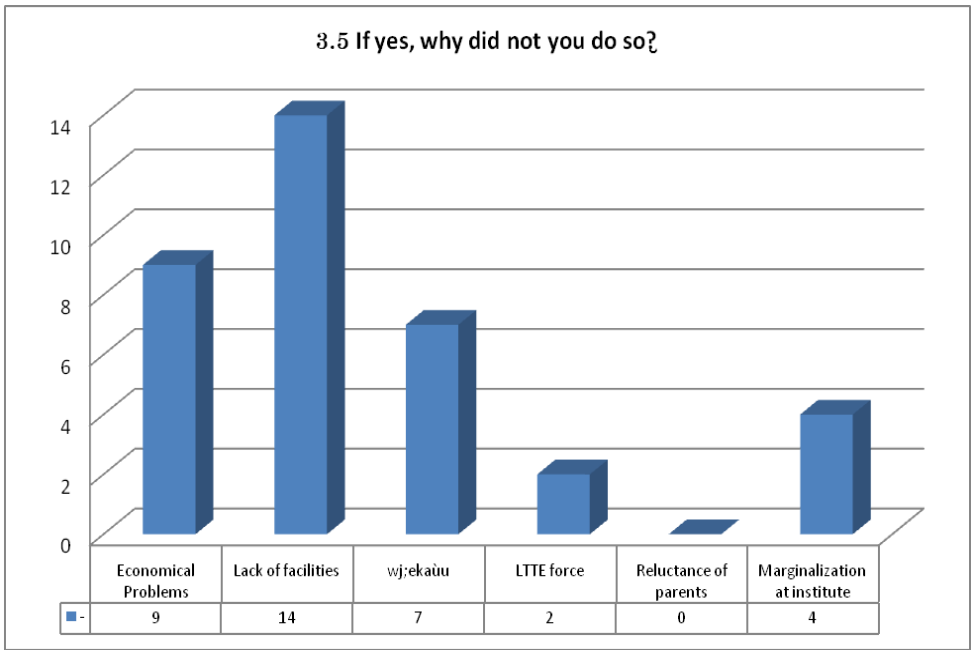
3.4 About further education

In order to find the reason for the above mentioned situation, we asked them whether they were willing to receive education further but the majority said they did not like to receive further education.



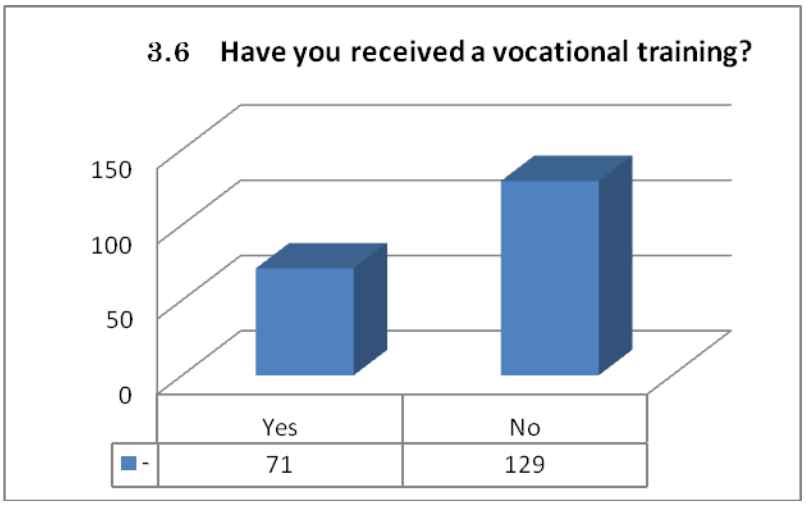
Reasons for the disruption of education

Among the reasons that caused the women with disabilities of this district to withdraw from school education, other than those related to the state of disability were LTTE threats, displacement due to the war and economic problems.



3.6 Vocational Training

The number who had received vocational training was 71 (35%). As the age a woman with a disability in Sri Lanka could enter vocational training is 16 to 35 years, and when those under 16 are removed the number who did not receive vocational training was 94. Therefore out of 163, 56% have joined vocational training. It is a relatively very positive state.



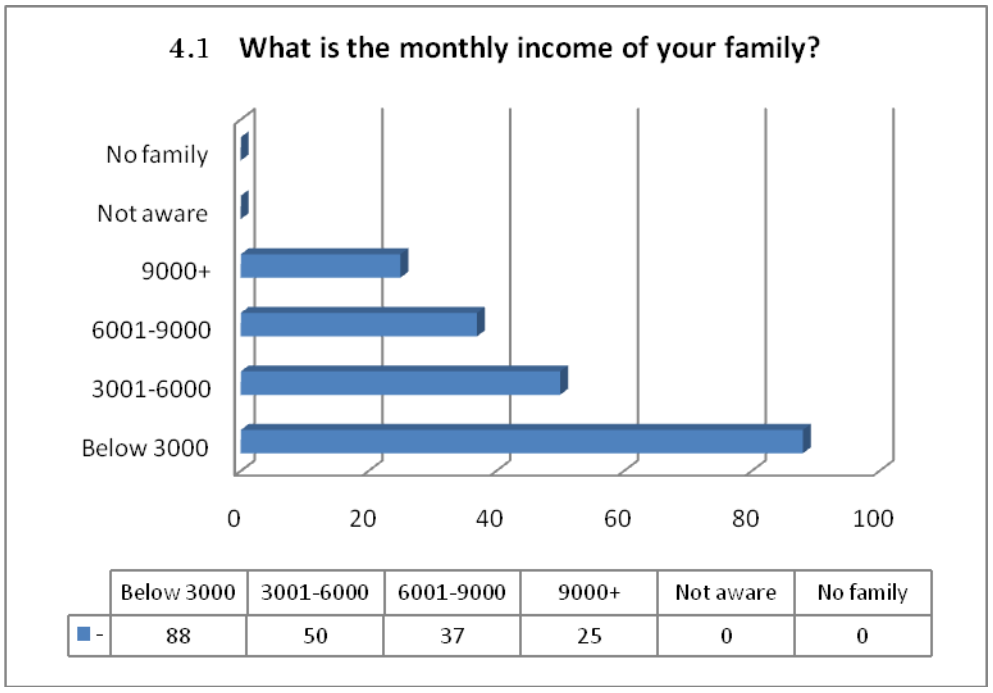
3.7.Work areas engaged in at present

There were 63 who did not even do household work and it raises critical issues in this sample. Therefore the need for a special programme to develop that area is seen.

(diagram 3.7 work areas engaged at present)

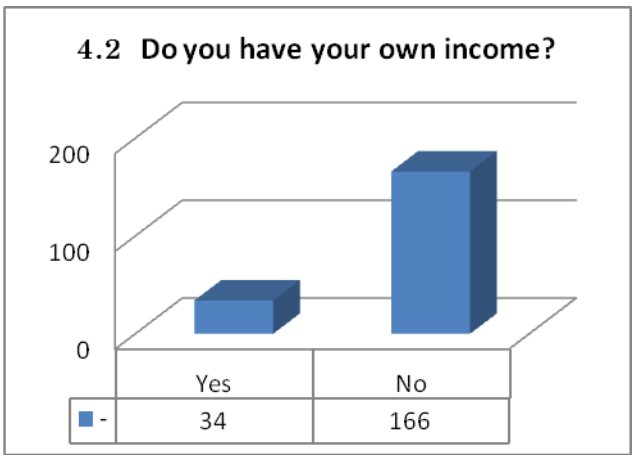
4.1 The states of the family income

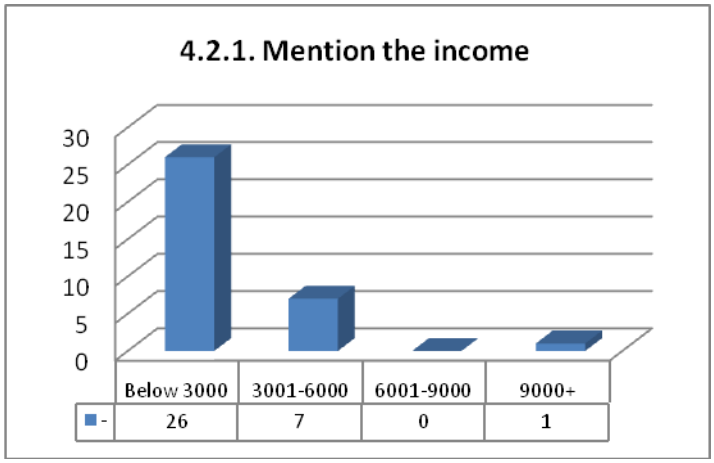
An inquiry was made about the income states of the families of women with disabilities. There were 88 families with a monthly income below Rs 9000 and it was 44% of the sample. Therefore it is seen that this community belongs to the very poor family group. Meanwhile 25 families stated that their monthly income was higher than Rs 9000. Accordingly the economic ability and the consumer pattern could be easily understood.



4.2 Personal economic states

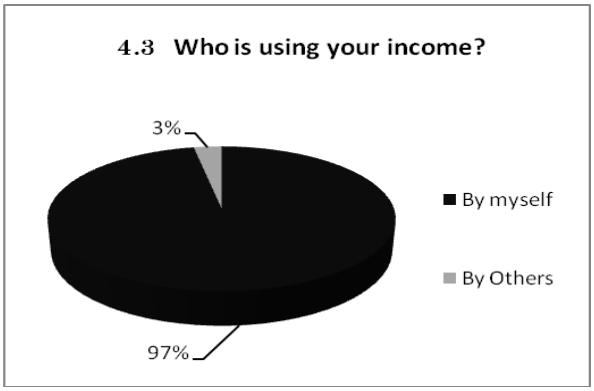
Information about their personal incomes were collected and 34 replied positively while the rest stated that they remain outside the income generating process. The fact that there were only 8 persons who earn more than Rs 3000 monthly is a matter for special attention.





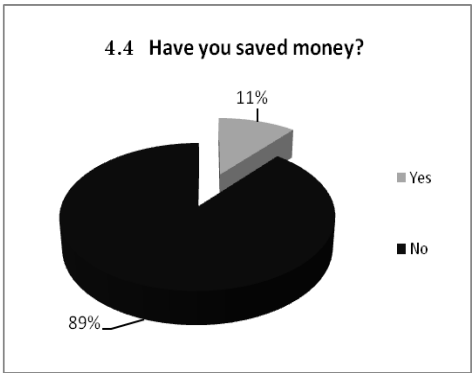
4.3 About using the income

Out of the 34 women who said that they have their own income, 33 said they use it themselves and only one said that it is used by other family members.



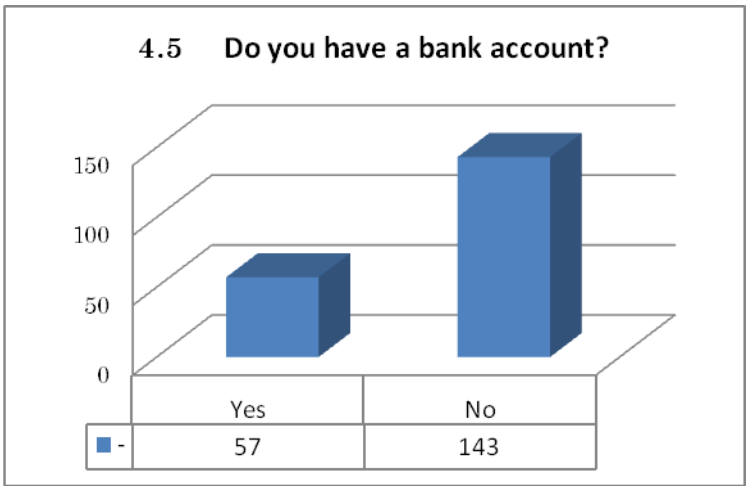
4.4 About saving money

By inquiring whether they save money at hand, their economic security or the skill of saving were investigated and only 22 stated that they save money.



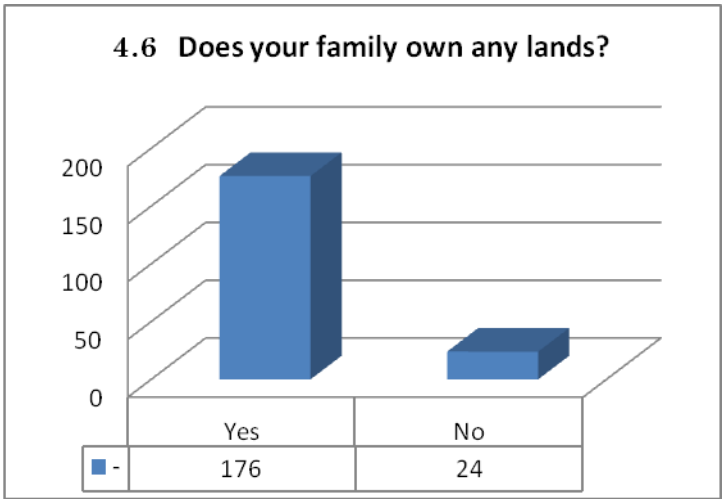
4.5 Banking activities

When inquired about having bank accounts it was found that 57 women have opened bank accounts but only 22 are saving.



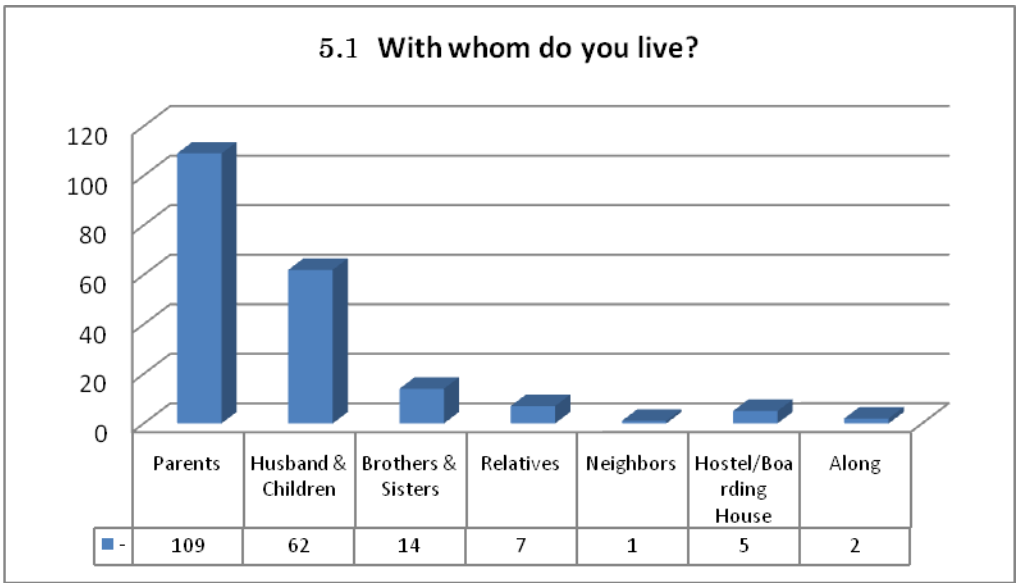
4.6. Land ownership

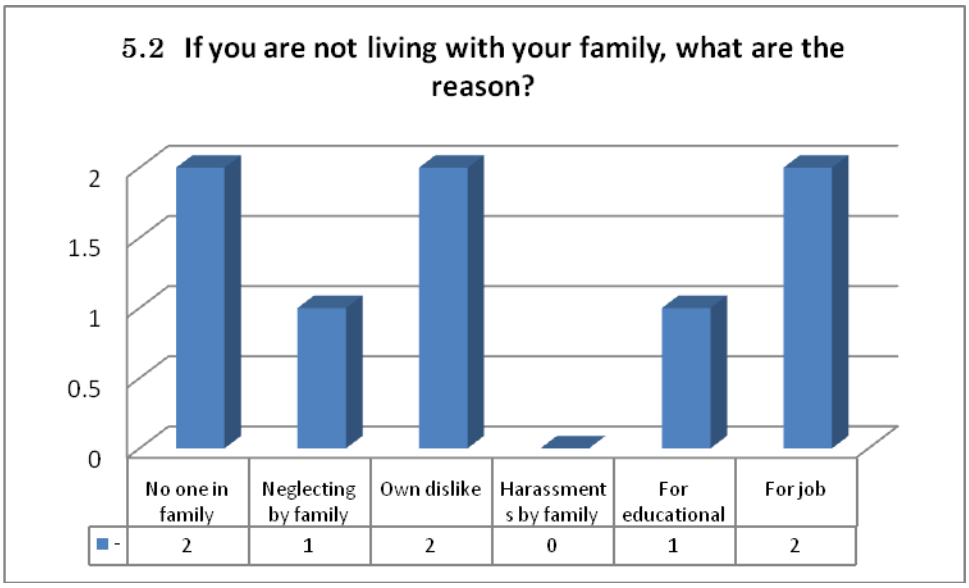
For 02 families there were no ownership of any land and 198 women did not have such ownership. However 56 (28%) have land ownership.



5.1 Family states/Life condition/Social states

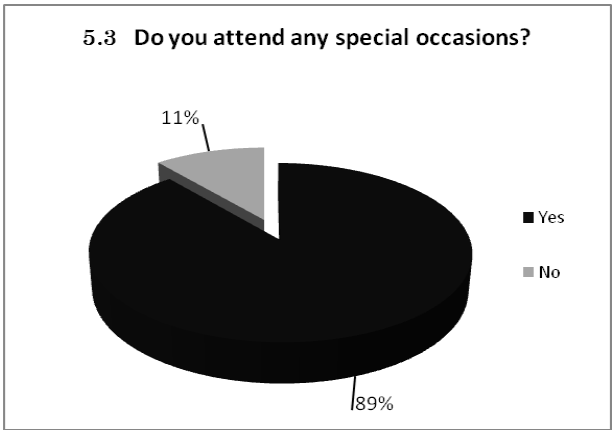
When inquired about with whom they are living it was seen that 109 of them live with their parents. A special mention should be made of the fact that 74 of them are senior citizens. According to the data obtained it is not difficult to understand the dependant nature of their lives.





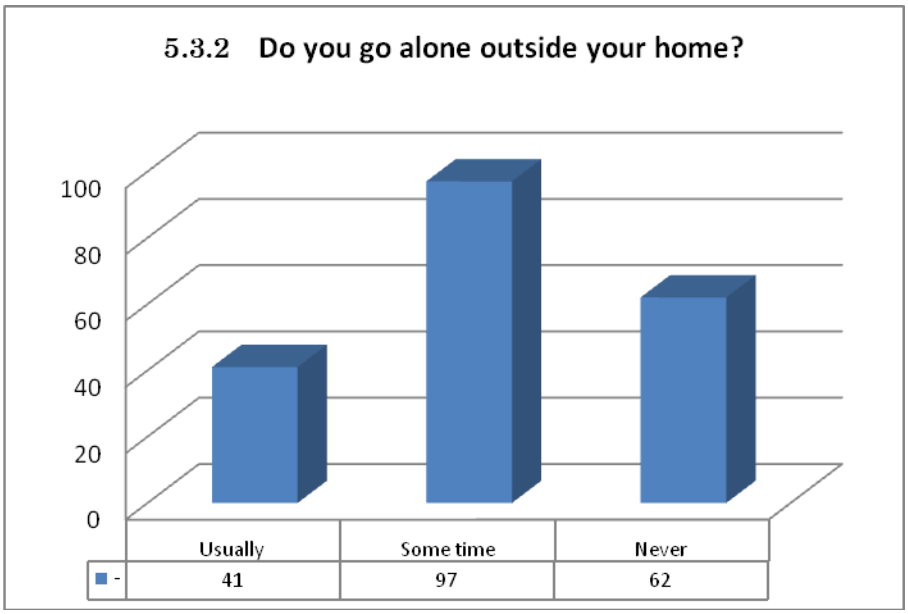
5.3 Socialized nature/ social activities

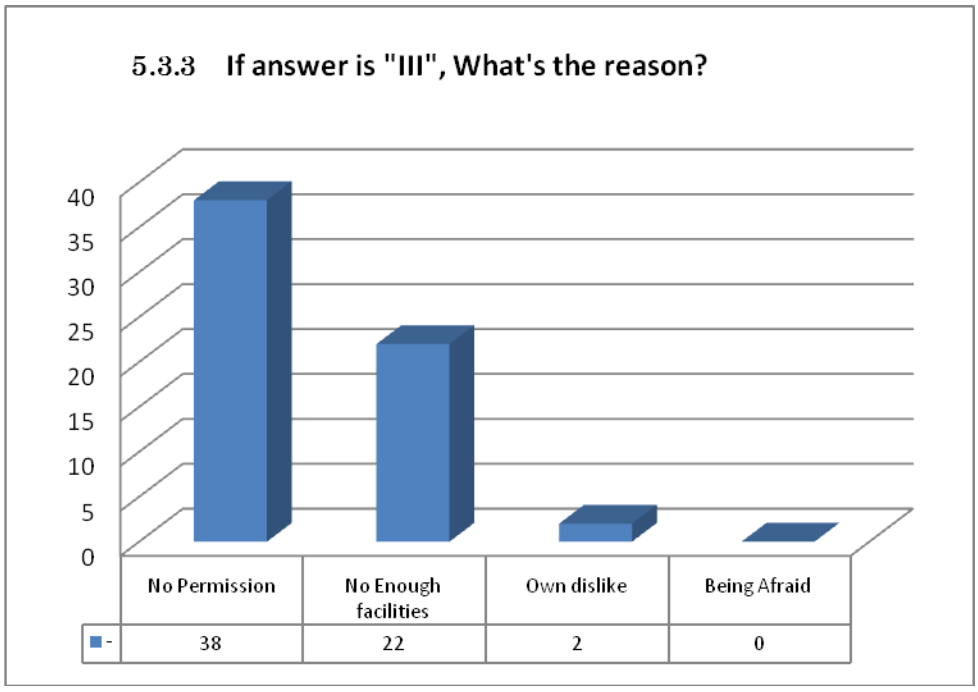
To find the acceptance of the family, it was asked whether they participate in special occasions with the family and 89% of them said yes. therefore it is seen that they are well accepted in the family. Only 11% said that they do not have such an opportunity.



5.3.2 Going out of the house

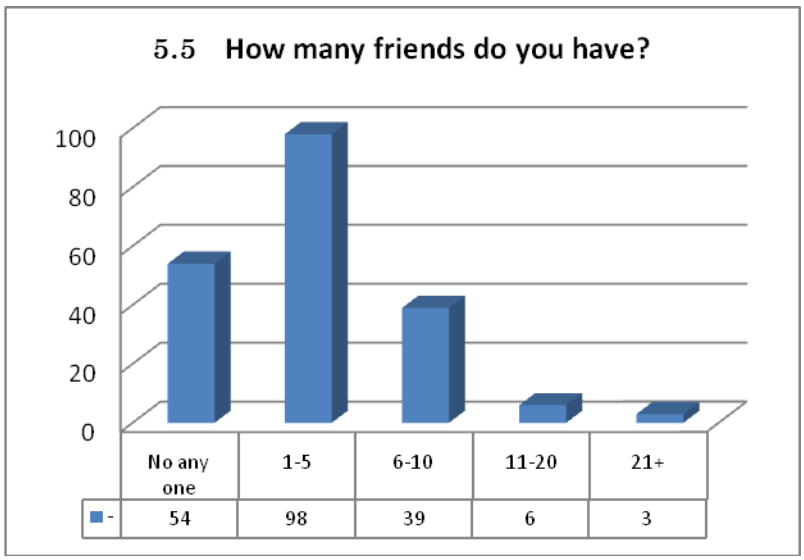
With the objective of finding the sociable nature and the opportunities for socialization they were asked whether they go out alone and if not reasons for it. The number of women who do so is 41. Out of the rest 62 (31%) said that they never do so. As reasons 22 of them said that they do not have suitable facilities to do so. The problem for another 38 was not receiving permission from their parents or guardians as they are women with disabilities.





5.5 About friends

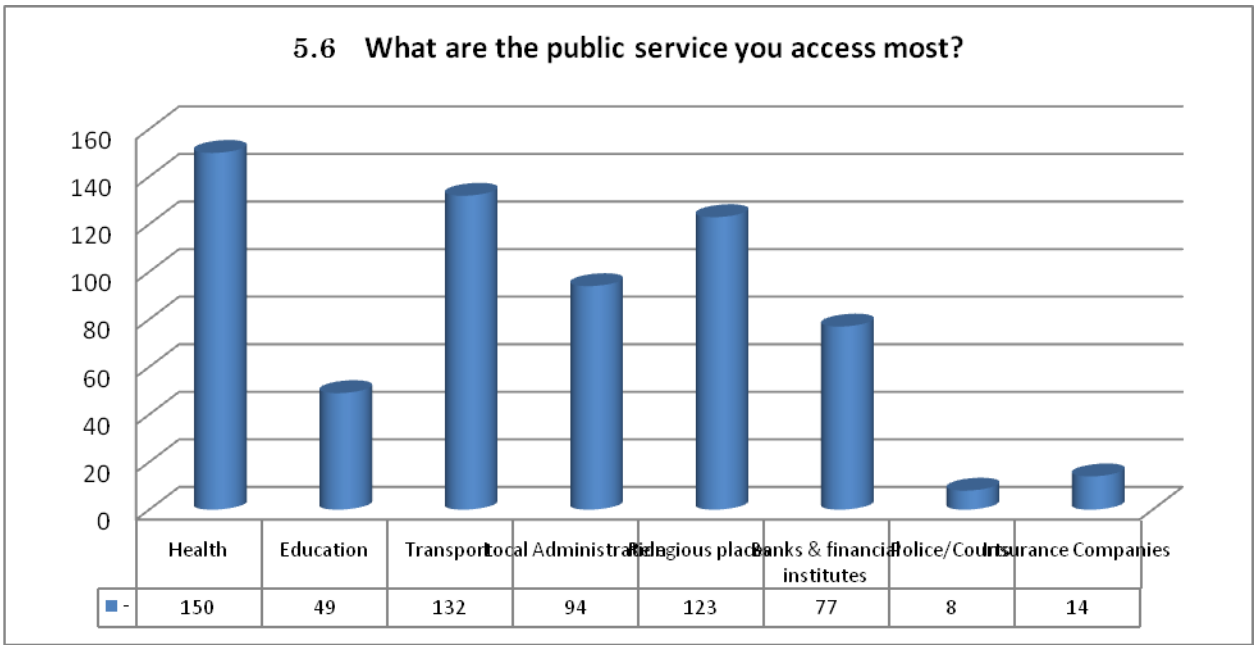
With the objective of understanding the sociable nature and the social states of women with disabilities, they were questioned about the number of friends they have. There, 54 of them said that they do not have any friends while 98 of them said they have around 1 – 5 friends. Three of them said they have more than 20 friends.



5.6.Obtaining social service facilities

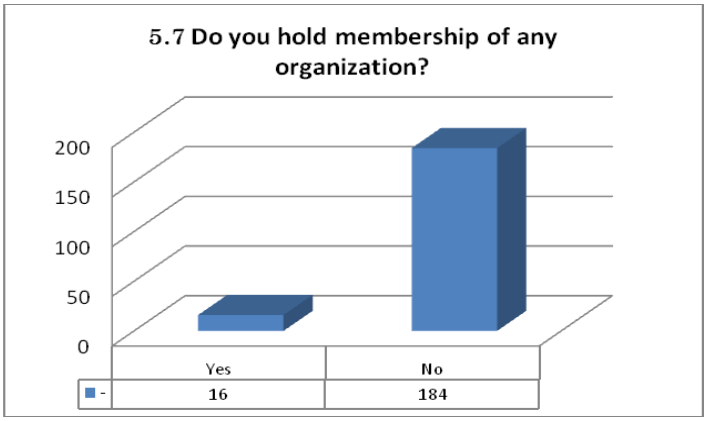
Information was asked about the services they use most, out of the services the government generally provide to the public. From the responses health sector came first while transport and religious

services were in 2nd and 3rd places respectively. Out of the sample 75% has mentioned health services and 132 have mentioned transport services. Also 123 had mentioned religious services.
We had asked about 8 services and it is clearly seen how they have obtained or related to those services. That way it is possible to identify the services that should be given priority in socializing and developing women with disabilities. For example in developing the community's educational level education services should be paid more attention.



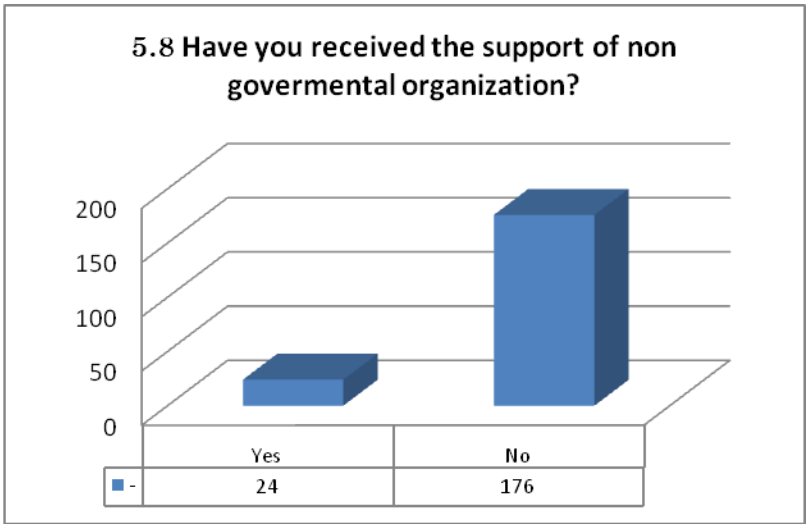
5.7.Organization membership

There were 184 women with disabilities who did not have membership even in a rural community organization. That is a percentage of 92%. The social marginalization that is indicated has to be investigated to understand its seriousness. This situation has to be discussed in depth at programmes for inclusion of persons with disabilities.



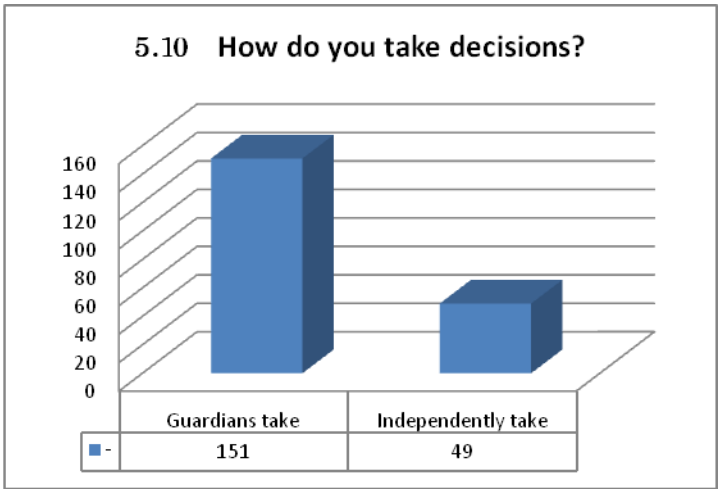
5.8.Obtaining assistance from Non Government Organizations (NGOs)

The question asked was whether you have received the services of the NGOs and if so in what way. It was revealed that 88% of the sample was not addressed by the NGOs. Meanwhile when asked about sector out of state and NGOs which provide services, more conveniently to them 99% said it is the state sector that is more convenient.



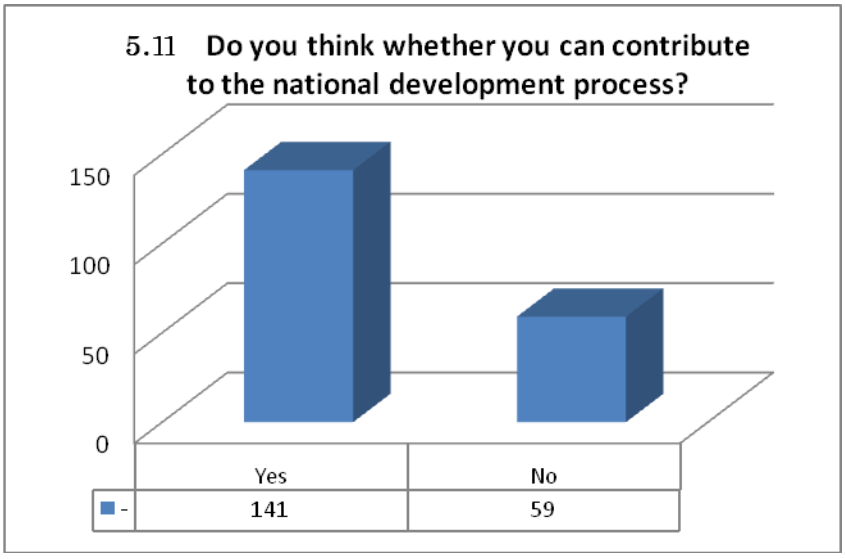
5.10.Right to take decisions

In inquiring whether they take decisions independently in day to day life, 151 of them said that their guardians take decisions on their behalf. Their state of independence could be understood by this.



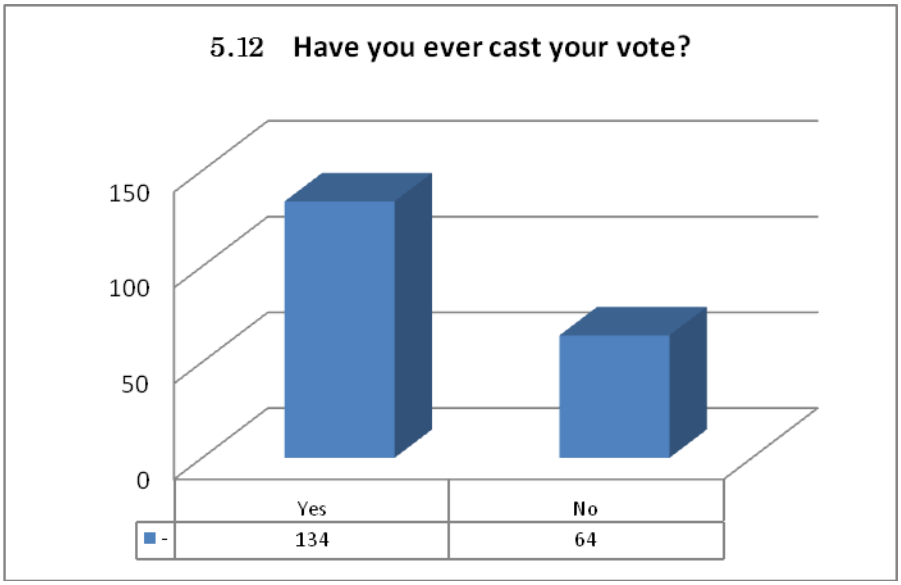
5.11.Contribution to national development

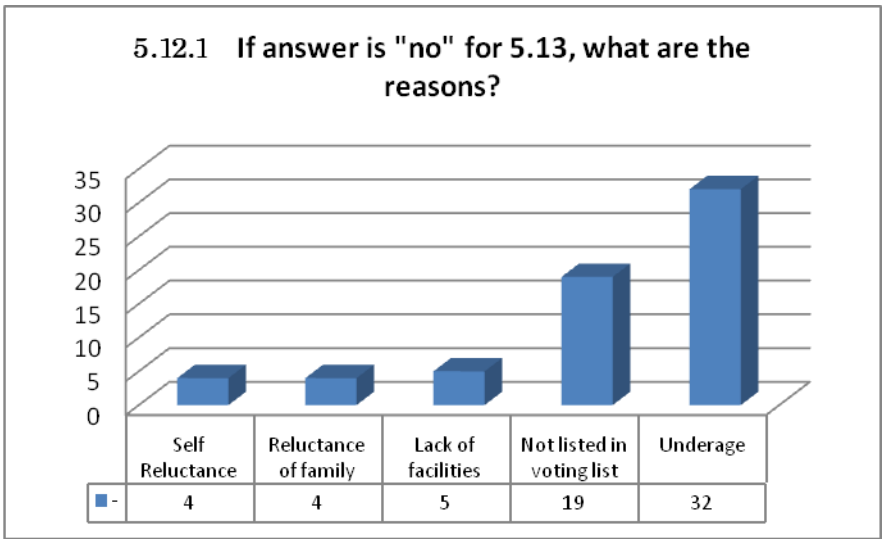
In response to this issue 110 of them accepted positively while 30% said it is not possible. It shows that even though disabled they would come forward if opportunities are provided.



5.12.Right of voting

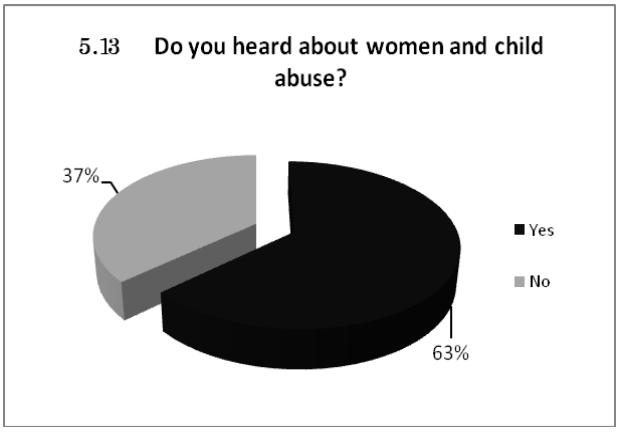
Although their many rights are violated they seem to have the right to vote. 134 of them had used their vote. Out of the rest when not considering the minors, only 26 had not voted. Although they have participated in democracy, they have not received the benefits to a satisfactory level.





5.13.Abuse of women

To the question whether subjected to any sexual abuse or molestation, the majority said no and only 3 said yes. The opinion of the data collectors was that many did not answer the question truly.





The opinion of the officers who conducted the survey was that they could not be satisfied with the answers although the question was asked tactfully.

The summary

- There were 38 who were not interested in using the NIC and it has not become an important document in their life pattern.
- The percentage who became disabled due to pre-natal or health problems was 94% and both reasons need more attention of the health sector.
- This area could be named as the area where the most number of women with hearing disabilities were found and the need for using sign language in that area or employing translators of sign language at public places is apparent.
- Out of the 200 women 96 had attended school but no one in the sample had attended Pre School.
- In inquiring the economic productivity of the women with disabilities living in this area, it was found that there were 63 of them not doing anything and only 20 were in self-employment and earning a small income. Generally there economic states is at a very low level.
- Among the public services obtained health comes first and education is at the 6th place. It shows that in order to make this community participate in development still many more programmes are necessary
- Out of the sample 99% said that while the services of the state sector reach this community easily they are not receiving services from the NGOs. Accordingly the need for policy changes of NGOs is highlighted.
- In this district also it is seen that the right to vote is well established. However it was revealed that there were women who did not vote due to the unwillingness of the family.

Final conclusions

- In this survey conducted with the representation of Sinhalese, Tamil and Muslim communities, it was seen that there were many rights not received as well as violation of those rights.
- In all 05 districts, similar features could be seen in social life, economic life and educational states. Furthermore the service activities of both state and non- state sectors should further reach the persons with disabilities and there families.
- It could be clearly seen that several facts such as not having friends, no education, suffering from poverty, lack of social recognition, dependency on others are entwined with this community group. It is also seen that various attitudinal barriers that exist individually as well as in the social context have caused this situation to continue indefinitely.