

Book Review

E.L. Sunethra J. Perera, Ageing Population of Sri Lanka: Emerging Issues, Needs and Policy Implications, *Thematic Report based on Census of Population and Housing 2012*, United Nations Population Funds, Colombo, Sri Lanka. 2017, 69 pp.

Sri Lanka is continuously experiencing one of the fastest ageing populations in the developing world due to its speedy demographic transition. Therefore it confirms Sri Lanka is prominent as a rapid population ageing society. In the South Asian context, Sri Lanka is unique in the ageing scenario. The proportion of elderly persons over the ages of both 60 and 80 years in Sri Lanka is much higher -- almost double-- than any other country in South Asian region in 2000 and 2025. By 2025, Sri Lanka is expected to have about 20 per cent of population (19.7%) aged 60 and above or nearly one aged in 5 people. These facts are impressively explored and analytically explained by using 2012 Census data by Dr. Sunethra J Perera in the UNFPA Monograph on “Ageing Population of Sri Lanka: Emerging Issues, Needs and Policy Implications”.

In this Monograph, the author investigates the demographic trends, patterns and determinants of Ageing population and their socioeconomic characteristics, and conditions of older people as well as their socio-economic and health impacts in Sri Lanka. It also uses projected trends to investigate the future trends and patterns of ageing in Sri Lanka. The author provides a spatial analysis to understand the provincial and district level distribution of ageing population. It is also important that the author highlights the age-sex structural changes in Population and its effects on ageing population in Sri Lanka. The role of the family in supporting older people through living arrangements and risks faced by those who are frail are also mostly analysed.

The Monograph has seven chapters and most present the outcome of 2012 Census enumeration findings in Sri Lanka. Each chapter provides basic tables and illustrations with graphs and diagrams derived from the data in the 2012 Census and many literature to understand the ageing phenomenon. Chapter 1 provides a background of ageing process and how it placed as an important phenomena in general, and the purpose of the report. Chapter 2, which delves into the trends, patterns and determinants that cause population ageing, the author argues that population ageing is mainly due to changes in both fertility and mortality. In Chapter 3, the author brings a wide-ranging discussion on Provincial and District level distribution of ageing population in Sri Lanka. Chapter 4 and 5 deal with the demographic analysis of age-sex structural changes of Population and its effect on Ageing population in Sri Lanka, and the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of ageing population respectively. The status of health and frail older people with disability in Sri Lanka are investigated in Chapter 6. In the final chapter, the author explores the future scenarios of ageing population by providing the projected trends and national priorities and programmes which have to be developed for ageing population in Sri Lanka. The major findings and the importance of the study on ageing population in Sri Lanka are succinctly briefed in the executive summary.

This Monograph will be valuable for students and researchers in emography, social gerontology and allied fields, as well as for general readers who wish to understand the status and process of ageing in Sri Lanka. Although the Monograph covers many aspects of ageing in Sri Lanka, it neglects to touch the quality of reporting of aged data, the migration effects on ageing population, quality of housing and access to facilities, household composition where the older people reside, household size and wealth condition to understand the older peoples' vulnerability and more details about economic aspects of older population such as labour force participation, occupational engagements and unpaid work.

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