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Acknowledgement

On behalf of the University of Peradeniya, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to The Capital Maharaja Organization Limited and the News 1st for inviting the University of Peradeniya to collaborate with them in initiating Gammadda Door to Door outreach program. It has been a great pleasure to work together with a leading media network in Sri Lanka for a cause that would benefit thousands of people in the rural areas of Sri Lanka in the long run.

Our deepest thanks go to all the people in the visited villages for giving us their precious time to gather data regarding the hardships they go through as a community. In fact, the main objective of this research is to attend issues of the rural communities in Sri Lanka in order to uplift their standard of living. We would also like to thank all the government officials who supported us throughout this process.

We are also grateful to the Dean, Faculty of Arts and the Dean, Faculty of Agriculture for extending their support on making this research a success.

The challenge of visiting hundreds of villages and collecting information regarding the issues of the public would not have been accomplished if it wasn't for the dedication of the News 1st team and the staff members and the students of the University of Peradeniya. Hence, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to the News 1st team and the staff members and the students of the University of Peradeniya for working day and night for this research.

Our special thanks go to Ms. Gayani Lakmali Pathirage for preparing the GIS maps related to the research, and to Ms. E.D.M.H.K. Pethiyagoda for her valuable support in making this research a success.

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1. Introduction

News 1st is one of the leading news networks in Sri Lanka that has contributed to the betterment of the country through numerous initiatives. One such major initiative of News 1st in serving the country is the commencement of a program named Gammadda Door to Door program through which the burning issues faced by the rural communities were identified. Recently, News 1st together with the University of Peradeniya took a giant step forward revolutionizing the television history of Sri Lanka by visiting 738 villages in the country covering all the districts to identify the pivotal issues confronted by the communities in the respective areas.

News 1st has always been a pioneer in disseminating information about all spheres of Sri Lanka and the world to the Sri Lankans not only efficiently but also accurately. With the valuable experience News 1st has gained by functioning for around two decades, it has become further innovative by incorporating a new set of values such as social responsibility and ethical responsibility into media; Specially, with the "Gammadda" component, News 1st set an example to all similar programs in other media organizations highlighting the significance of serving the society on a larger scale.

In fact, a special Gammadda program was organized marking the 25th episode of Gammadda where all villages in Sri Lanka were visited by Gammadda Team along with officials of University of Peradeniya within twenty five days starting from 23rd February, 2016 and continuing until 18th March, 2016. This outreach program was led by 03 main teams and 06 sub teams which worked under the main teams. The officials of the University of Peradeniya worked together with News 1st Gammadda team by providing assistance whenever required.

The final objective of this attempt was to identify issues that are hidden below the surface and thereby to bring the attention of the responsible authorities towards these issues faced by the citizens of Sri Lanka.

2. Methodology

This study was conducted with the aim of identifying the socio-economic and environmental issues affecting the rural areas of Sri Lanka. Thus, a total number of 738 villages were selected for the study based on the purposive sampling method. The data collection was done utilizing both primary and secondary data collection methods in order to gather both qualitative and quantitative data.

Primary data collection was done using open-ended questionnaires, interviews when necessary, field observations and group discussions. Particularly, the research team whenever visiting a new village ensured to gather community members at one place and conduct a group discussion to identify the most common issues they face. It is after these discussions, data were collected from individuals in each village by providing questionnaires and conducting interviews.

Secondary data were collected from the published reports of the Department of Census and Statistics, Sri Lanka, and other reports of international nongovernmental organizations and websites. Secondary data were mainly utilized to provide a background description on provinces and districts prior to analyzing primary data.

After collecting both quantitative and qualitative data using the above mentioned methods, qualitative data analysis was done using thematic data analysis and the quantitative data were analyzed using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). Spatial distribution patterns of socio-economic and environmental issues of rural areas were analyzed by using Geographical Information System (ArcGIS 10.3.1.).

The analyzed data are presented using graphs, maps and written descriptions. The selected villages for the study can be illustrated as follows. (Please refer to Figure 1).

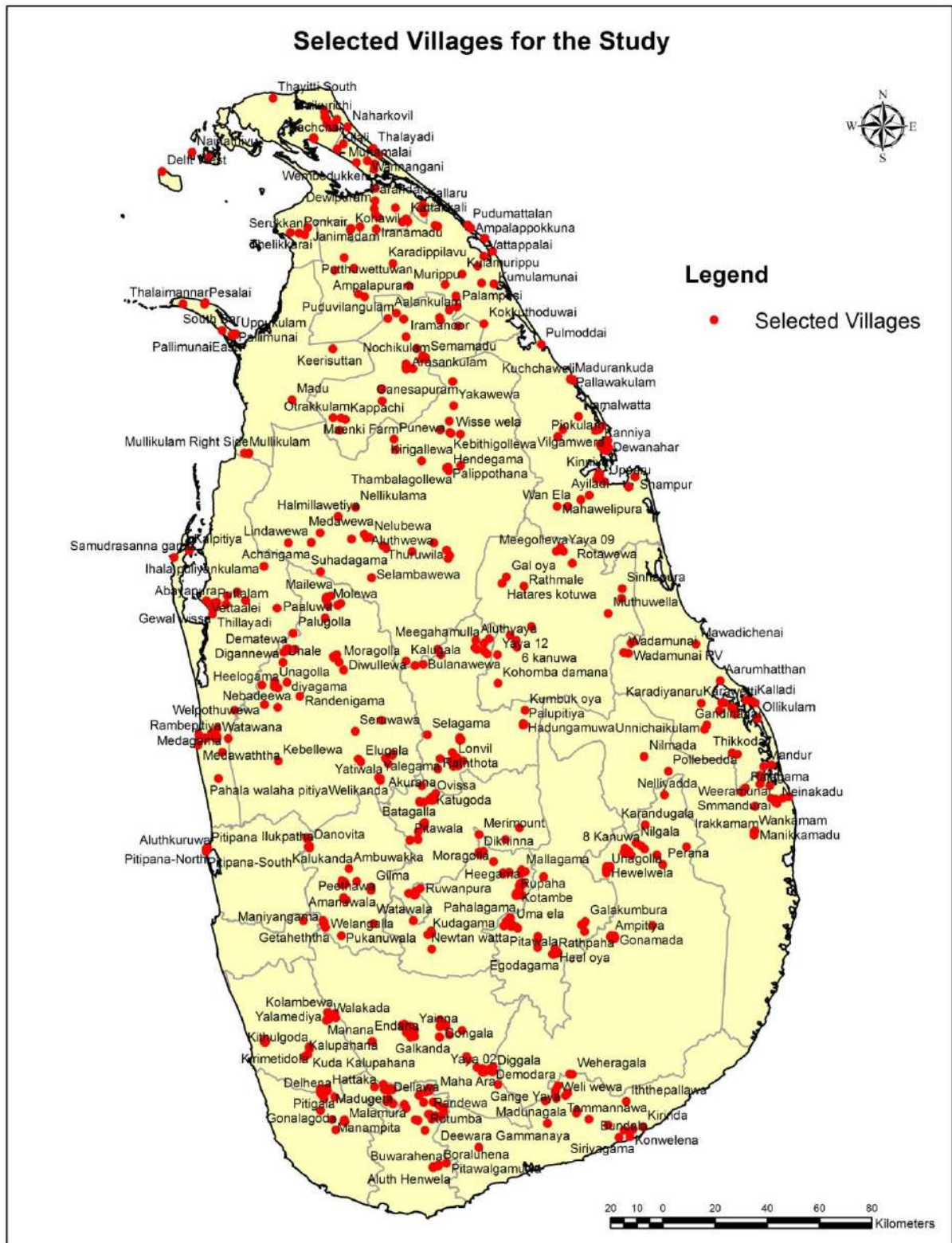


Figure 1 - Selected Villages for the Study

3. Sri Lanka: an Overview

Sri Lanka is an island located in the Indian Ocean with a total area of 65,610 sq. kms (Department of Census and Statistics, 2015). Due to its location in the Indian Ocean and its proximity to the Indian Subcontinent, Sri Lanka has been considered an important strategic location both in the past and the present. Sri Lanka is also rich in plenty of natural resources making Sri Lanka special among other South Asian countries. Due to the influence of soil and elevation, eight types of forests namely, montane forests, sub montane forests, lowland rain forests, moist monsoon forests, dry monsoon forests, riverine dry forests, sparse and open forests, and mangrove forests can be identified in Sri Lanka (Forest Department, 2012). In addition, the possession of limestone, graphite, mineral sands, gems, phosphates, clay and hydropower (CIA World Factbook, 2015) has given massive commercial significance to the country.

By 2014, Sri Lanka's midyear population was 20.67 million with an annual growth rate of 0.9% (Department of Census and Statistics, 2015). When compared to other countries in the South Asian region, the population of Sri Lanka is only higher than that of Bhutan and the Maldives (The World Bank, 2014). Sri Lanka is also blessed with a diverse population of multiple religions and ethnic groups making the social context of Sri Lanka even more colorful. The average life expectancy of the population of Sri Lanka is 75.1 in 2012 (Central Bank of Sri Lanka, 2014) and if the value Sri Lanka has obtained in the Human Development Index is considered (0.757), Sri Lanka falls into the category of countries with high human development (United Nations Development Program, 2015). Furthermore, Sri Lanka also ranks the first among other South Asian countries in terms of Human Development Index. Thus, such reports highlight the fact that Sri Lanka is at a better position than other South Asian countries in numerous aspects.

However, Sri Lanka's current socio-economic context has been shaped by numerous factors throughout the history. First of all, Sri Lanka was a colony under three Western powers, namely, the Portuguese, the Dutch and the British for more than 400 years starting from 1505 which ended in 1948. This was a turning point in the Sri Lankan history which marked major changes in all spheres of the Sri Lankan society. Even though Sri Lanka gained independence in 1948, unfortunately, Sri Lanka was not able to witness freedom for a long time due to the escalation of a civil war between the LTTE and the Sri Lankan government which lasted more than three decades. Even though the civil war ended in 2009, it created massive destruction in

the country by taking away many valuable lives of civilians while disrupting the development process of the country. In the year 2004, Sri Lanka was also hit by a tsunami: the largest natural disaster that has occurred in Sri Lanka so far, causing more than 35,000 deaths and damage to approximately 50% of the districts in Sri Lanka (UNICEF, 2009).

In addition, if the present situation is considered, it is evident that the number of people affected by natural disasters such as droughts, cyclones/high wind, and landslides had also increased by 2014 (Department of Census and Statistics, 2015). While this information highlights the increase of victims who are affected by natural disasters, many civilians have also faced negative consequences due to development projects, lack of proper infrastructure facilities and other administration issues. Sri Lanka still has a huge population that lives in slums and shanties and who are withdrawn from basic facilities.

If information from the Department of Census and Statistics (2015) is considered, it is evident that the percentage of poor household bases has decreased between 2002 and 2012/13, from 19.2% to 5.3%. Furthermore, it also indicates that the male unemployment rate has dropped significantly yet women still maintain a comparatively higher unemployment rate of 6.5%. Even though in terms of statistics, the overall socio-economic condition in Sri Lanka looks better than in the past, many areas in Sri Lanka are yet to achieve socio-economic development. In fact, even though the condition of the country may look good externally, there are social, economic and political issues that are particular to different areas/regions in the country.

It is under such a situation that News 1st initiated Gammadda Geyin Geta - A Door-to-Door Campaign to identify the issues faced by people in all villages of Sri Lanka. Hence, the findings of the Gammadda program at a national level can be presented as follows (Please refer to figure 2).

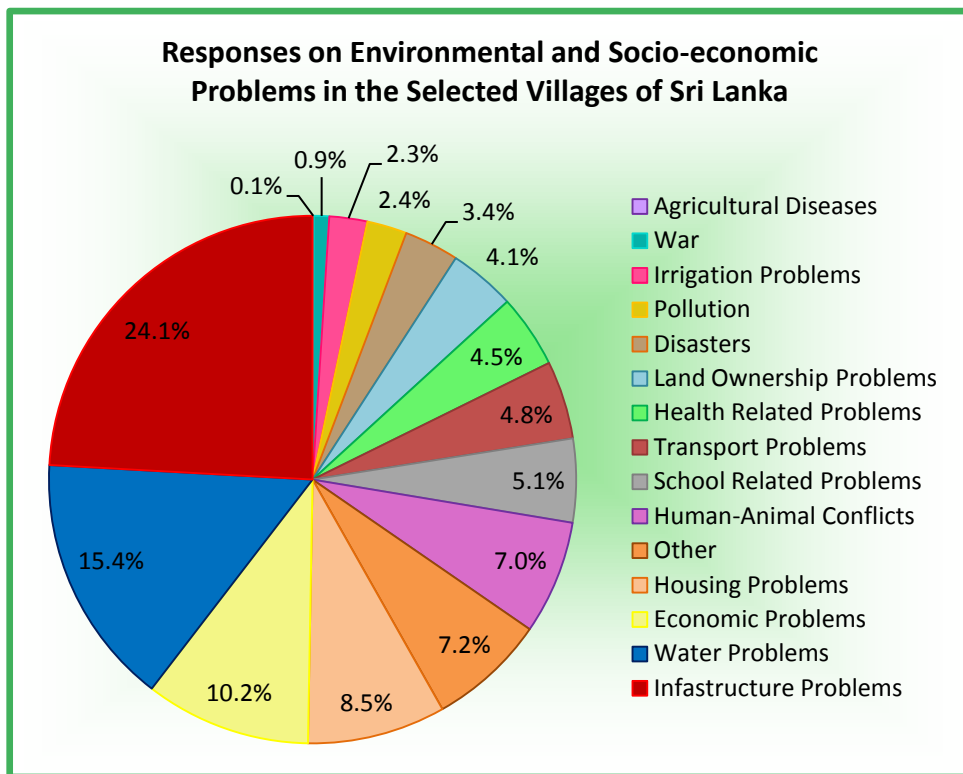


Figure 2 - Responses on Environmental and Socio-economic Problems in Selected Villages of Sri Lanka

According to the above graph, the main issue confronted by all villages in Sri Lanka is related to the infrastructure. If we consider the severity of the infrastructure related issues by province, it is evident that villagers in the North Central province have highlighted this issue more than other districts (Please refer to Figure 3).

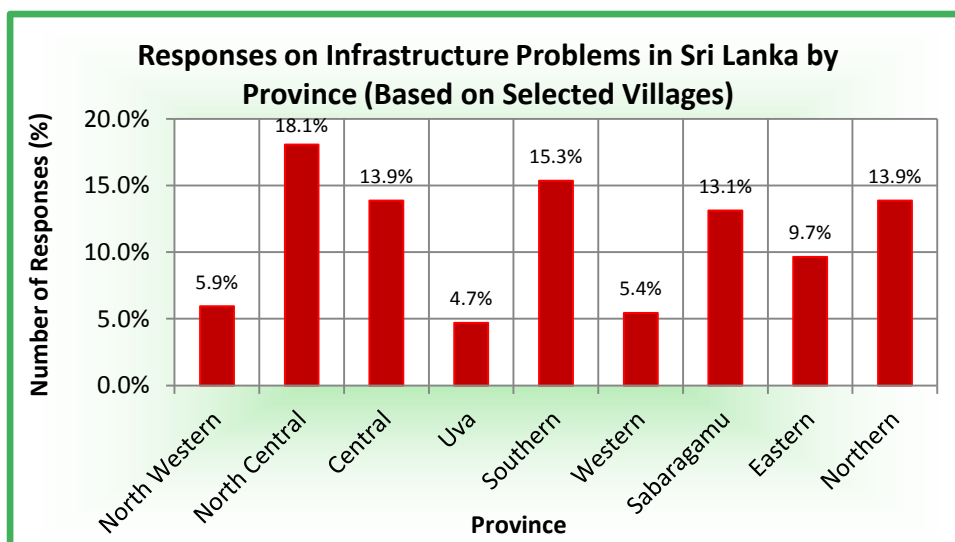


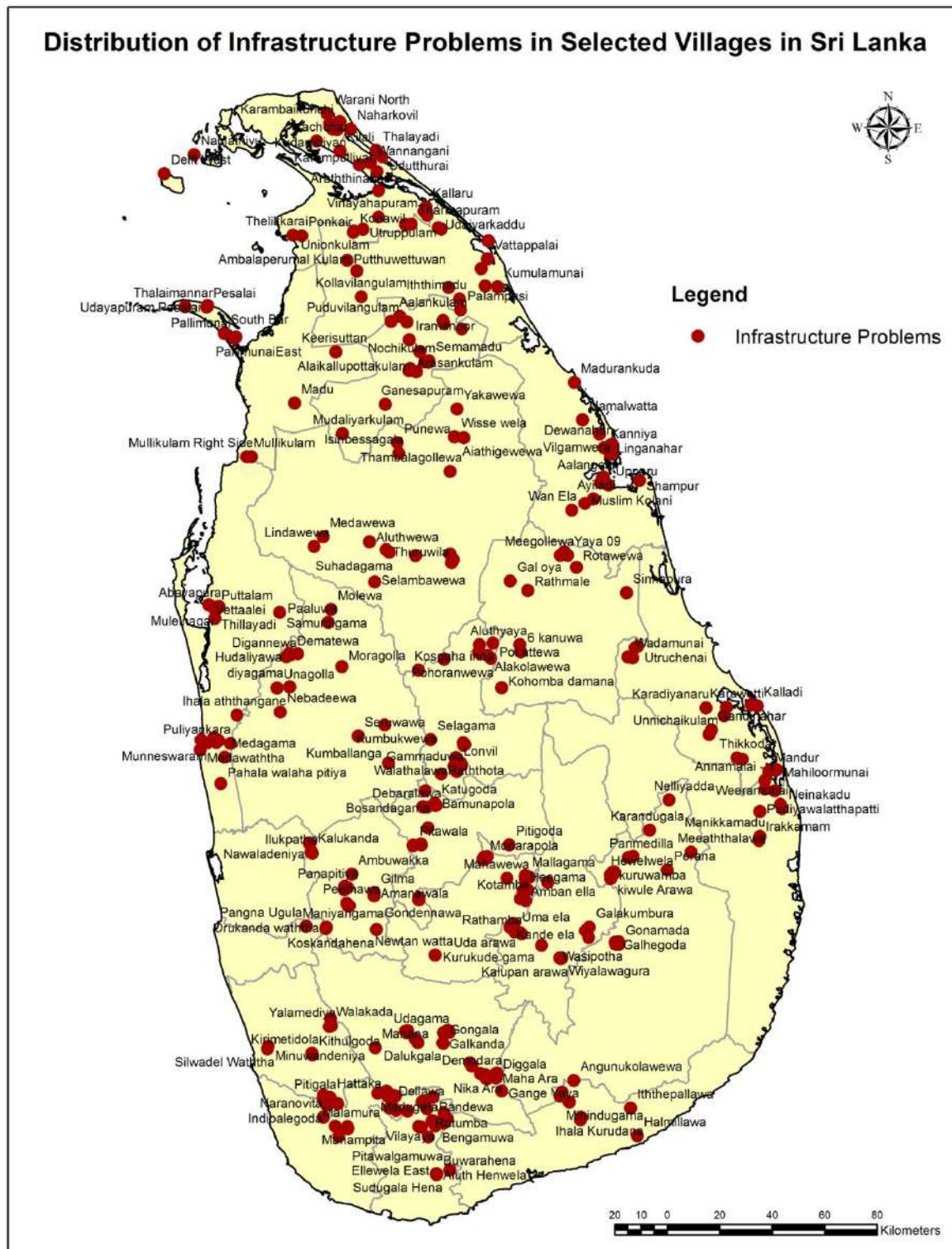
Figure 3 - Responses on Infrastructure Problems in Sri Lanka by Provinces

The infrastructure issues were least evident in the Central and Western provinces. This can be related to the uneven development that takes place within the country. Even though the highly urbanized areas do not face infrastructural issues to a greater extent, the fact that all villages in Sri Lanka have some sort of an infrastructure issue, cannot be ignored.



Figure 4 - Poor Quality of the Roads

However, it is also crucial to identify how infrastructure issues have been spatially distributed in the country (Please refer to Figure 5, page 08).



The second major issue that was identified through the research was the water problem. In fact, this issue was also evident in all the provinces and more than 5% of the respondents in every province have focused on water related issues (Please refer to Figure 6, page 09).

According to figure 6, out of all the provinces, the water problem was recorded as a prominent issue in the villages of the Central province. In the meantime, respondents from all villages in the three districts of the Central province, namely, Kandy, Mathale and Nuwaraeliya, have stated that lack of availability of clean drinking water has become their most concerned issue in terms of water related problems.

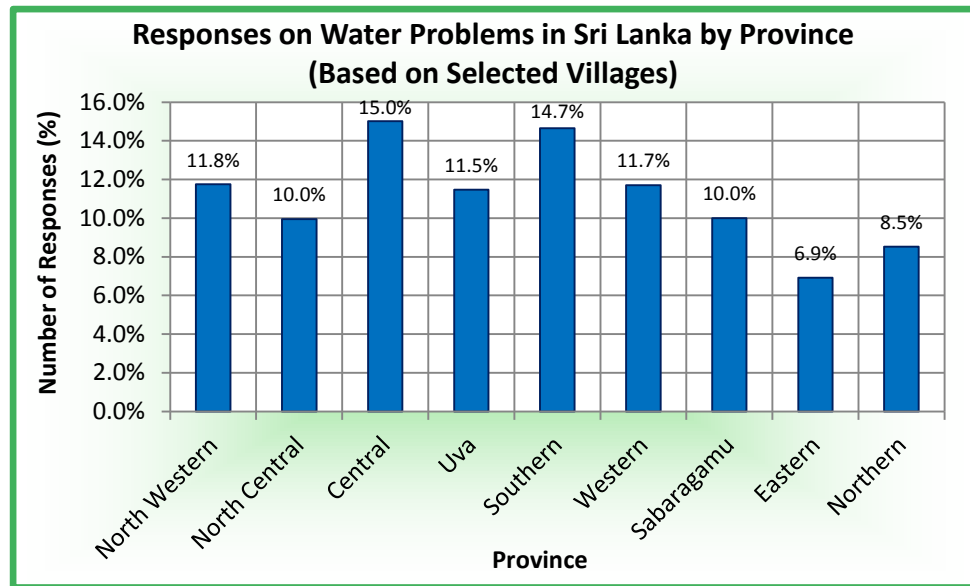
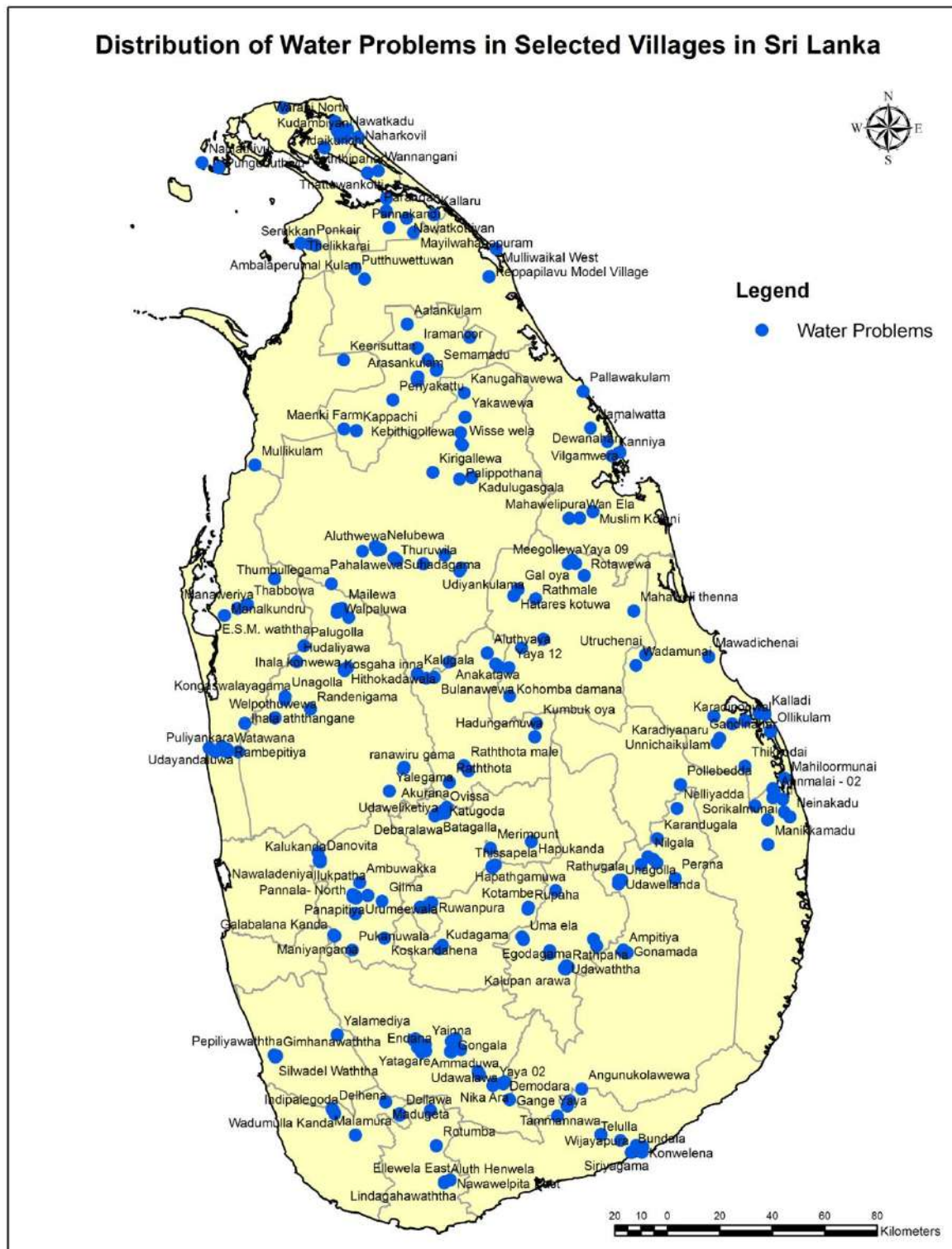


Figure 6-Responses on Water Problems in Sri Lanka by Province



Figure 7 - Unavailability of Drinking Water and Lack of Cleanliness

Water issues are also prevalent in many rural areas in Sri Lanka. Thus, the spatial distribution patterns of water problems can be illustrated as in figure 8.



Economic issues are yet another concern for most of the population in rural areas of Sri Lanka (Please refer to Figure 9). In fact, according to the Figure 9, respondents from the rural areas of the North Western Province have highlighted this issue more than the respondents from other provinces.

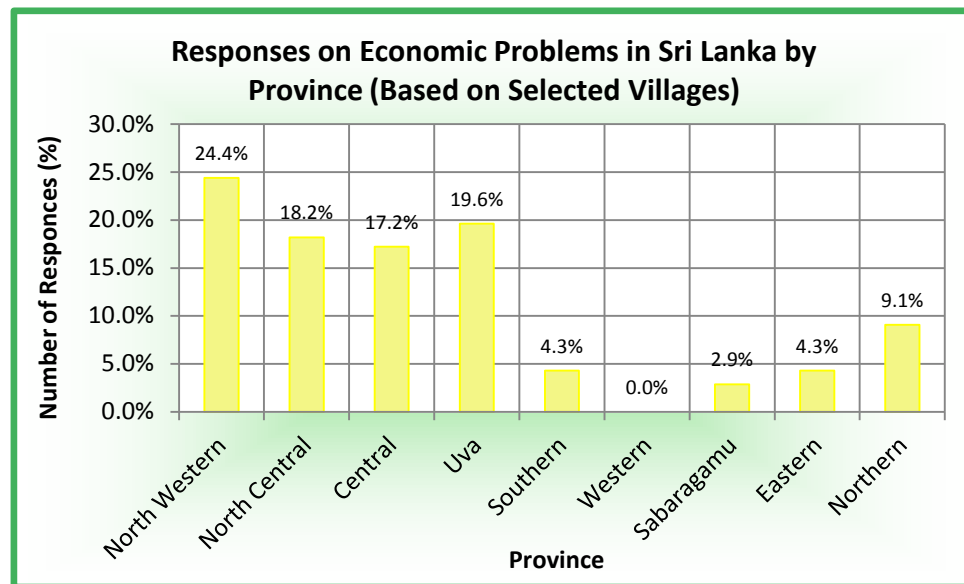


Figure 9 - Responses on Economic Problems in Sri Lanka by Province

If analyzed further, the most severe economic issue in selected rural areas of the Kurunegala district in the North Western Province is the inability to market their products whereas the most severe economic issue in selected villages of the Puttalam district is the insufficiency of subsidies provided to them. In fact, even within each province, the nature of the economic issues vary according to access to raw materials, livelihoods, income levels and marketing opportunities, etc. (Please refer to Figure 10 in page number 12).

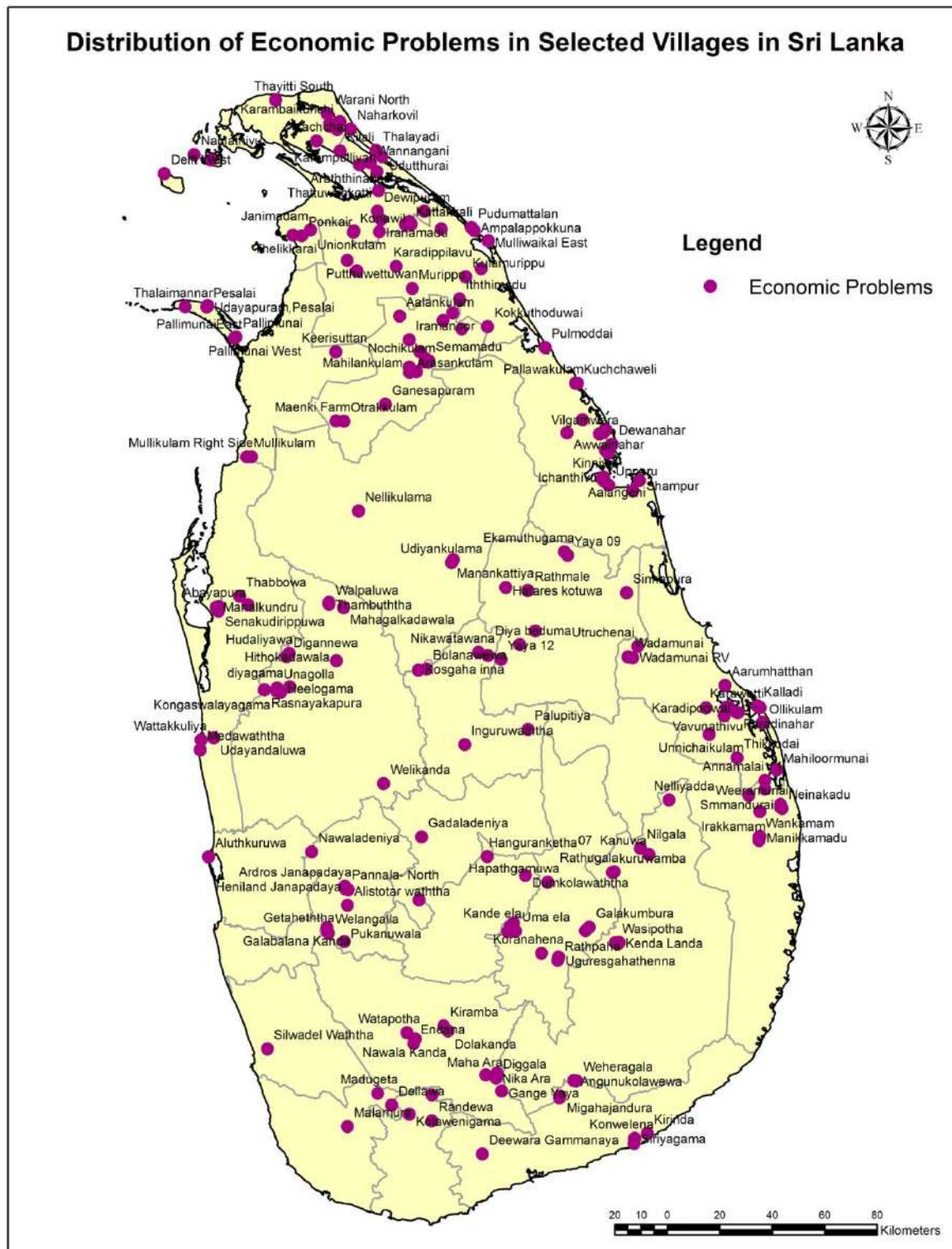


Figure 10 - Spatial Distribution Economic Issues in the Selected Sri Lanka

Apart from the three major issues that were analyzed earlier, housing issues, (refer to Figure 14) human-animal conflicts (refer to Figure 17), issues related to schools (refer to Figure 12), issues related to transport (refer to Figure 13), health related problems (refer to Figure 16), land ownership problems (refer to Figure 18), pollution related issues (refer to Figure 15), damage caused by natural disasters, irrigation problems and war related issues were identified by the respondents in the selected rural areas as the most critical issues they have to deal with¹. Figure 11 includes a few photographs which were captured during field observations that highlight the difficulties people in the visited rural areas face.



Figure 11 - Difficulties faced by the Rural Communities

¹ Further breakdown of socio-economic and environmental issues are provided at district level.

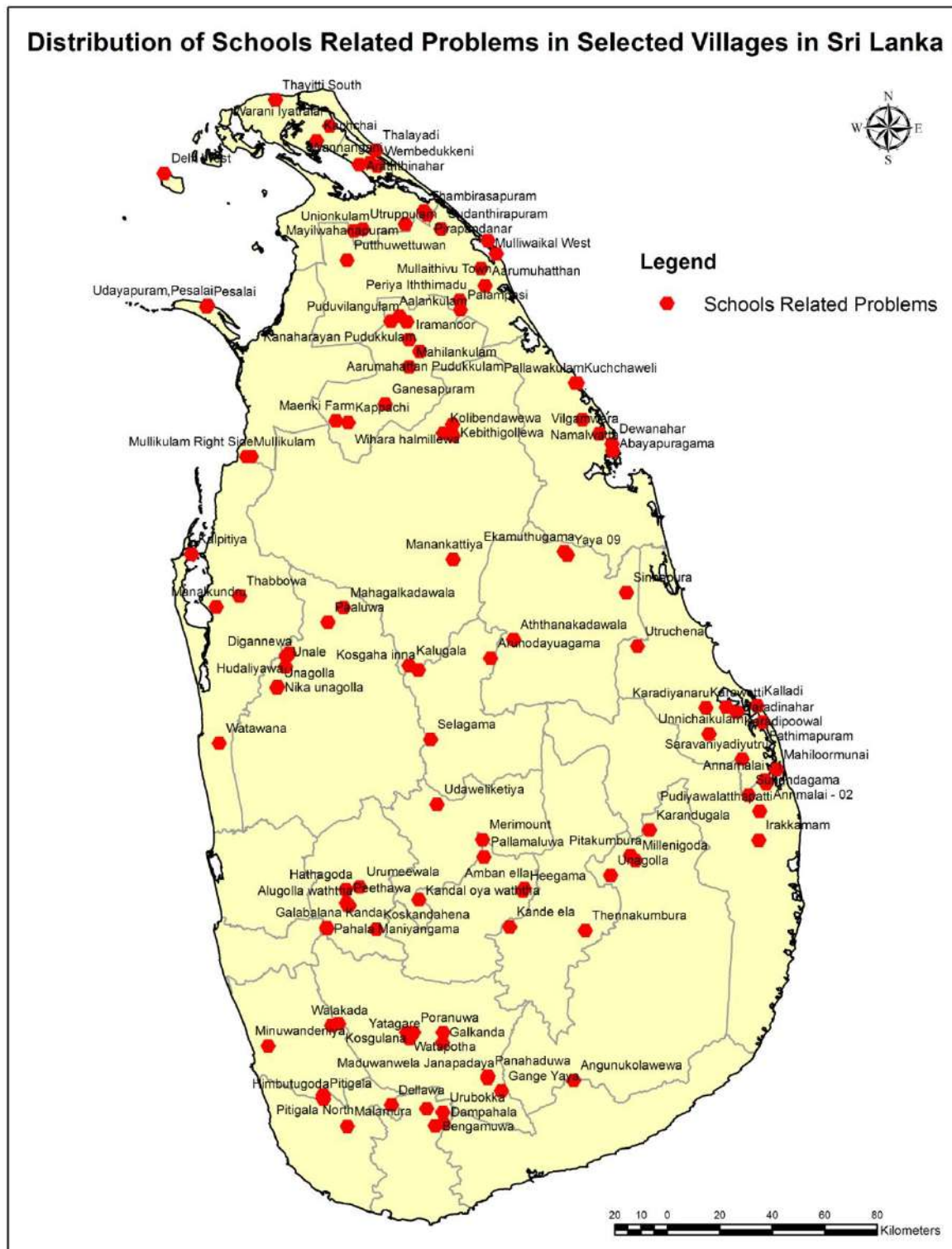
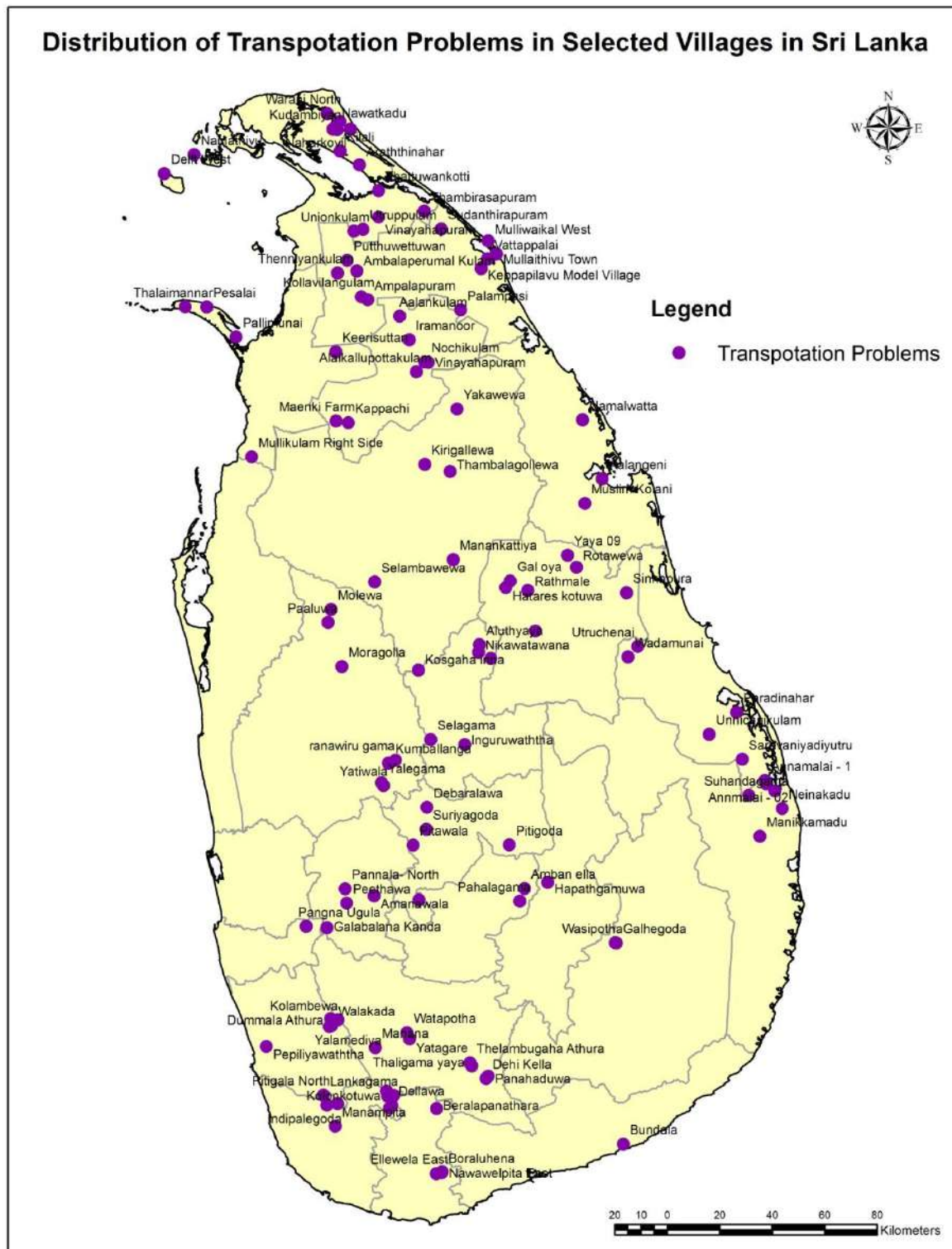


Figure 12 - Distribution of Issues related to Schools in Selected Villages of Sri Lanka





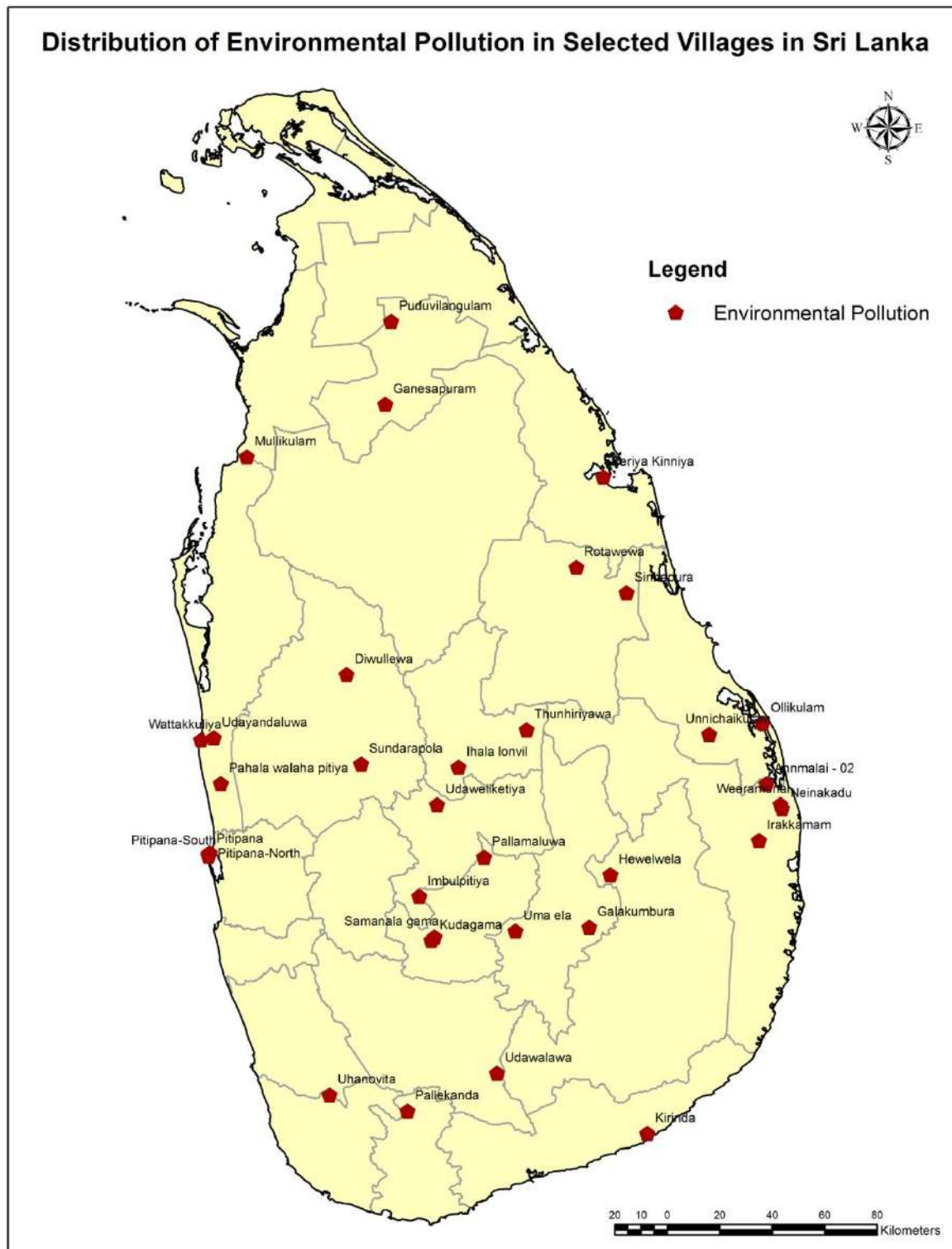
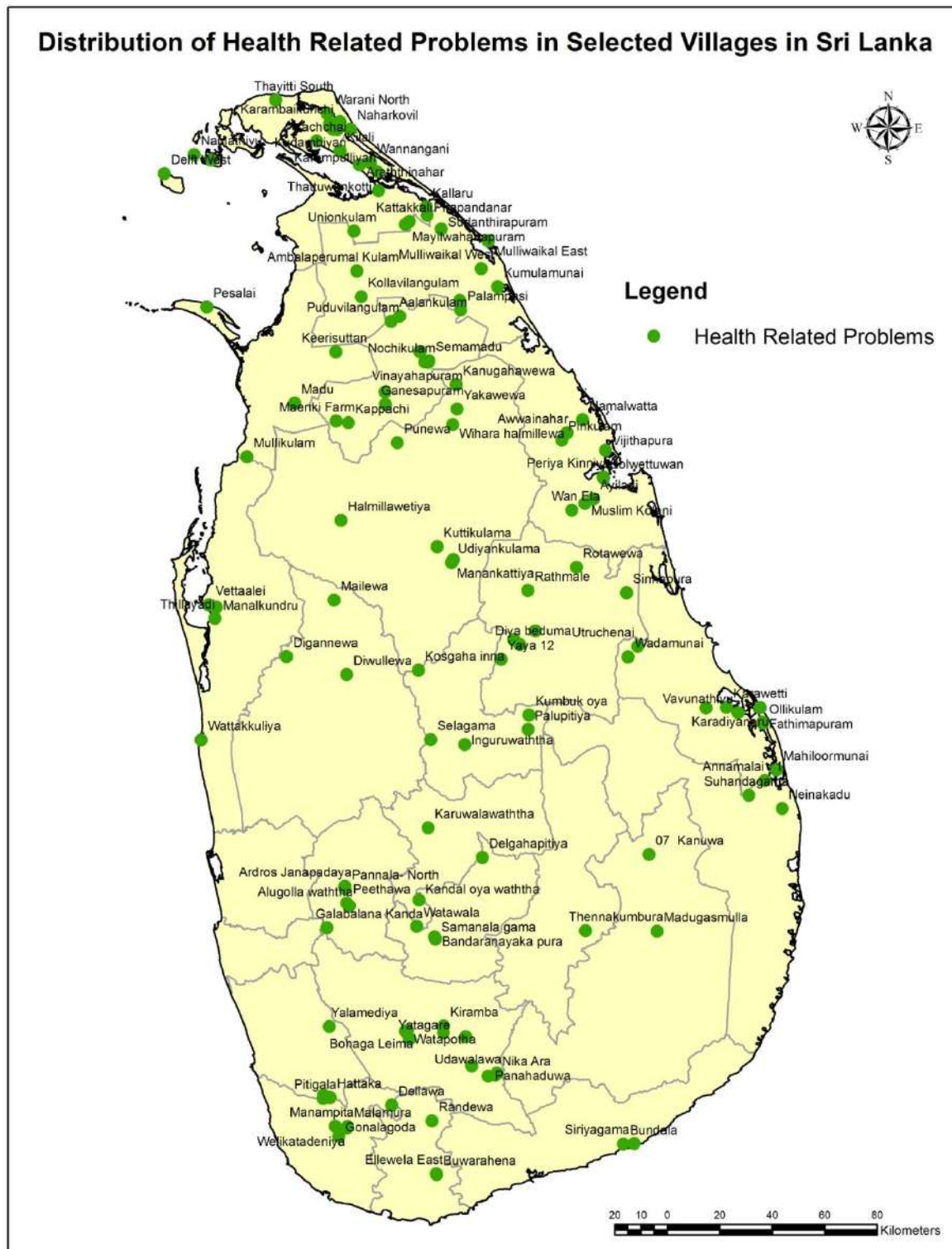


Figure 15 - Distribution of Issues related to Environmental Pollution in Selected Villages of Sri Lanka



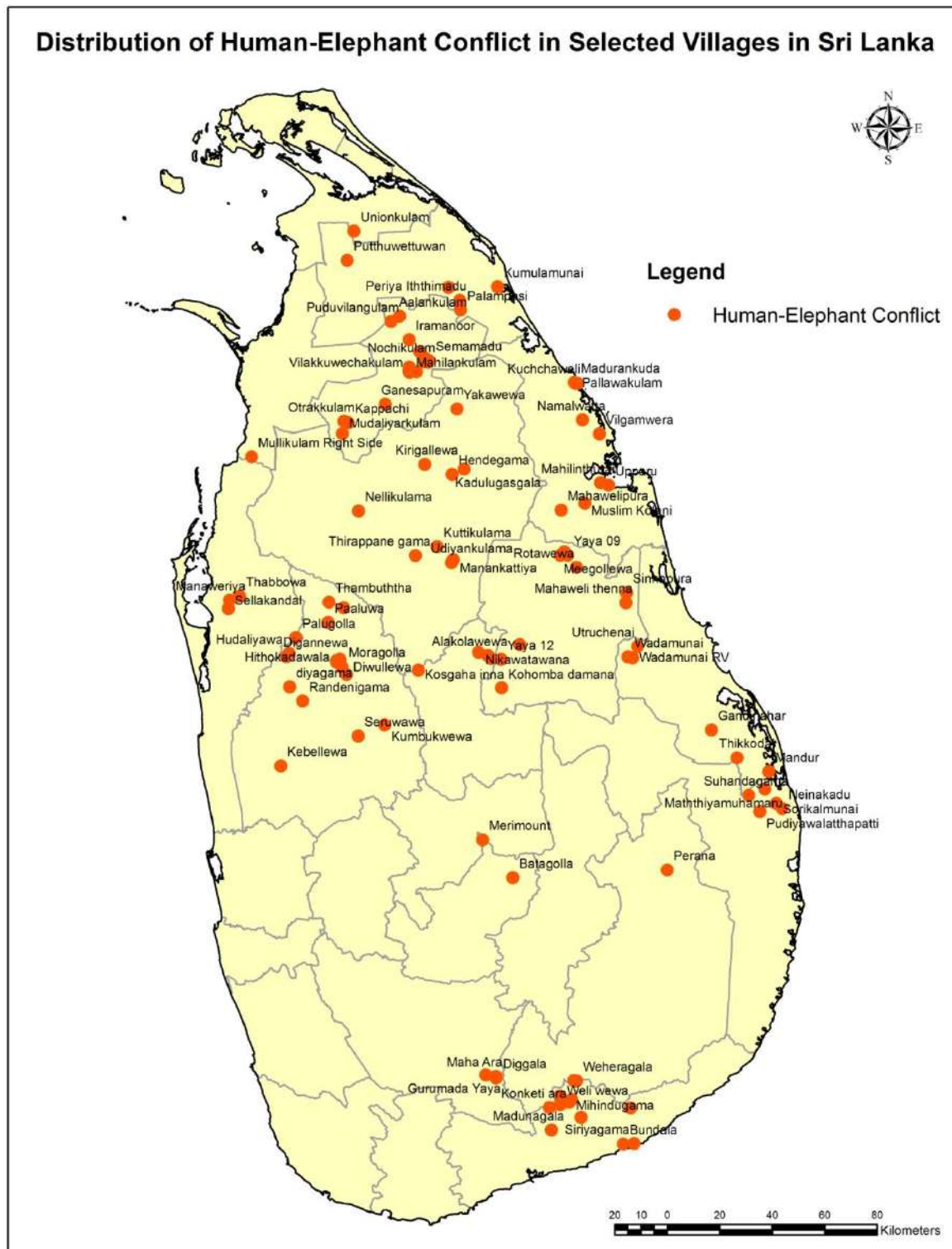


Figure 17 - Distribution of Issues related to Human-Elephant Conflict in Selected Villages of Sri Lanka



Figure 18 - Distribution of Issues related to Land Ownership in Selected Villages of Sri Lanka

4. Northern Province

The Northern province is divided into five districts, namely, Jaffna, Mannar, Vavuniya, Mullaitivu, and Kilinochchi with a total population of 1, 061, 315. (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). When the population distribution is considered, more than half of the population in the Northern province is concentrated in the Jaffna district. As per the 2012 population census, the majority of people in the Northern province live in rural areas while the major ethnic group living in the province is Tamils (93.8%).

If the education status of the Northern province is considered, 15.3% of the population has passed the G.C.E. Ordinary Level while 9.2% has passed the G.C.E. Advanced Level examination (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). Only a percentage of 2.5 has obtained a degree or a higher qualification in the Northern province. The literacy rate of the population is fairly high with a percentage of 97.8 while their computer literacy is 19.5%.

In terms of economic status, the economically active population aged 15 years and above in this province is low with a percentage of 45.1 and if the percentage distribution of the employed population by sector of employment is considered, 40.4% work as own account workers, 34.2% work as private sector employees, 15.5% work as government employees, 3.6% work as employers, 3.1% work as semi government employees, and 3.2% work as unpaid family workers (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012).

While the demographic nature of the Northern province can be analyzed as above, the Gammadda findings of the issues in selected rural areas in the Northern province can be illustrated using a graph (Please refer to Figure 19).

According to the graph below, the majority of the respondents in rural areas of the Northern province are suffering from economic problems. As it was discussed at national level, even at provincial level, the nature of the economic problems experienced in various rural areas differ. For instance, in the Jaffna, Vavuniya, and Mannar districts, the major economic problem is unemployment, whereas in the Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu districts the major economic problems are low income and the insufficiency of subsidies respectively.

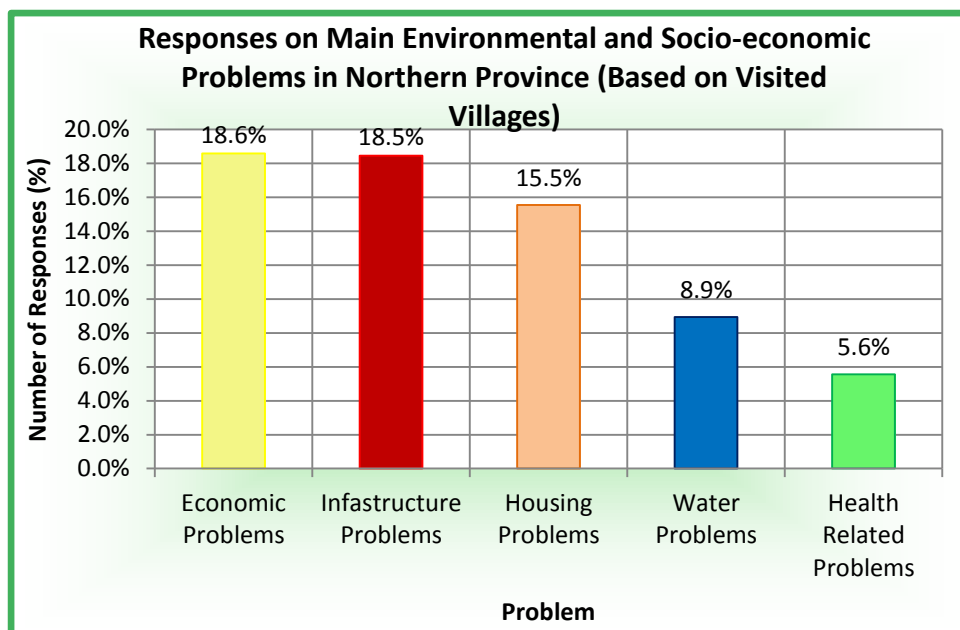


Figure 19 -Responses on Main Environmental and Socio-economic Problems in Northern Province

The following map clearly indicates how problems related to economy are spatially distributed in the selected villages of the Northern province (Please refer to figure 20).

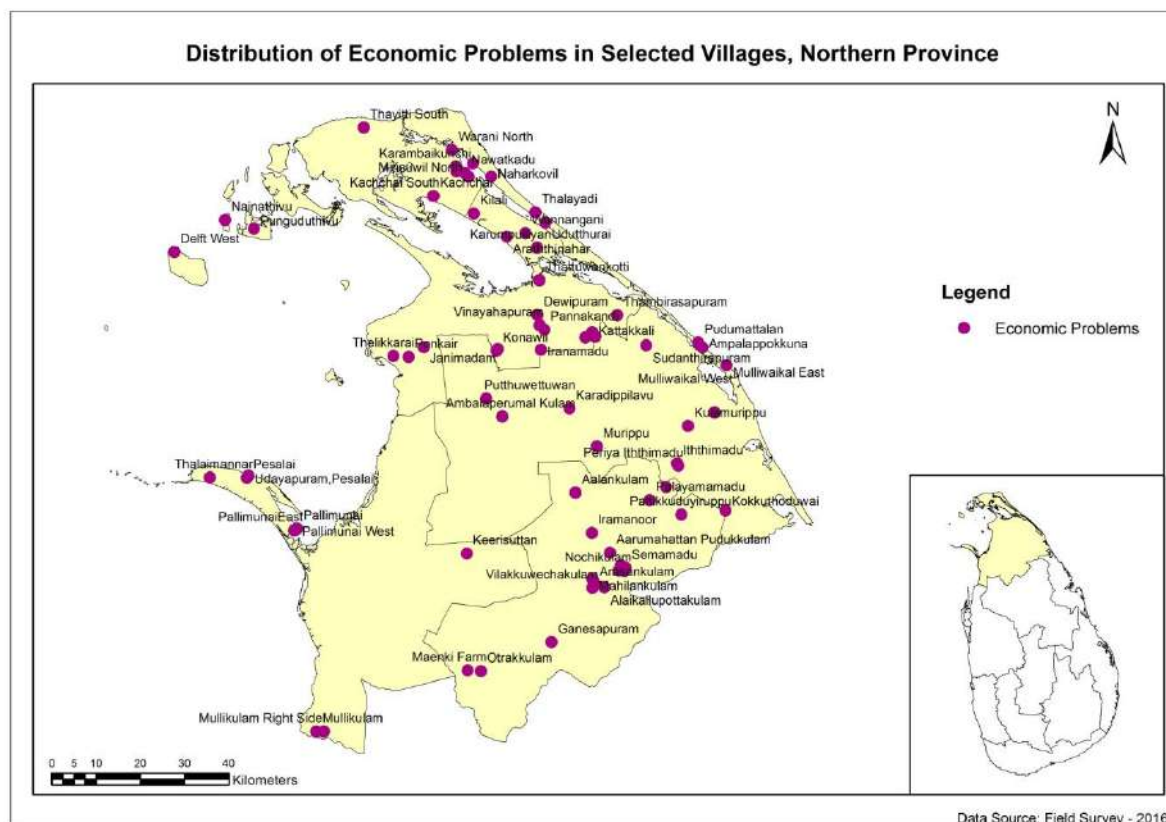


Figure 20 - Distribution of Economic Problems in Selected Villages, Northern Province

The second burning issue in the Northern province is the issues related to infrastructure. In fact, in all five districts of Northern province, the damaged roads have become the most serious issue. Even though other infrastructure related problems such as lack of accessibility to electricity are also evident in the selected villages of the Northern province, damaged roads which cause so much inconvenience to the villagers in every manner was identified by the respondents as the most critical problem. Please refer to figure 21 to find out the spatial distribution pattern of infrastructural issues across Northern province.

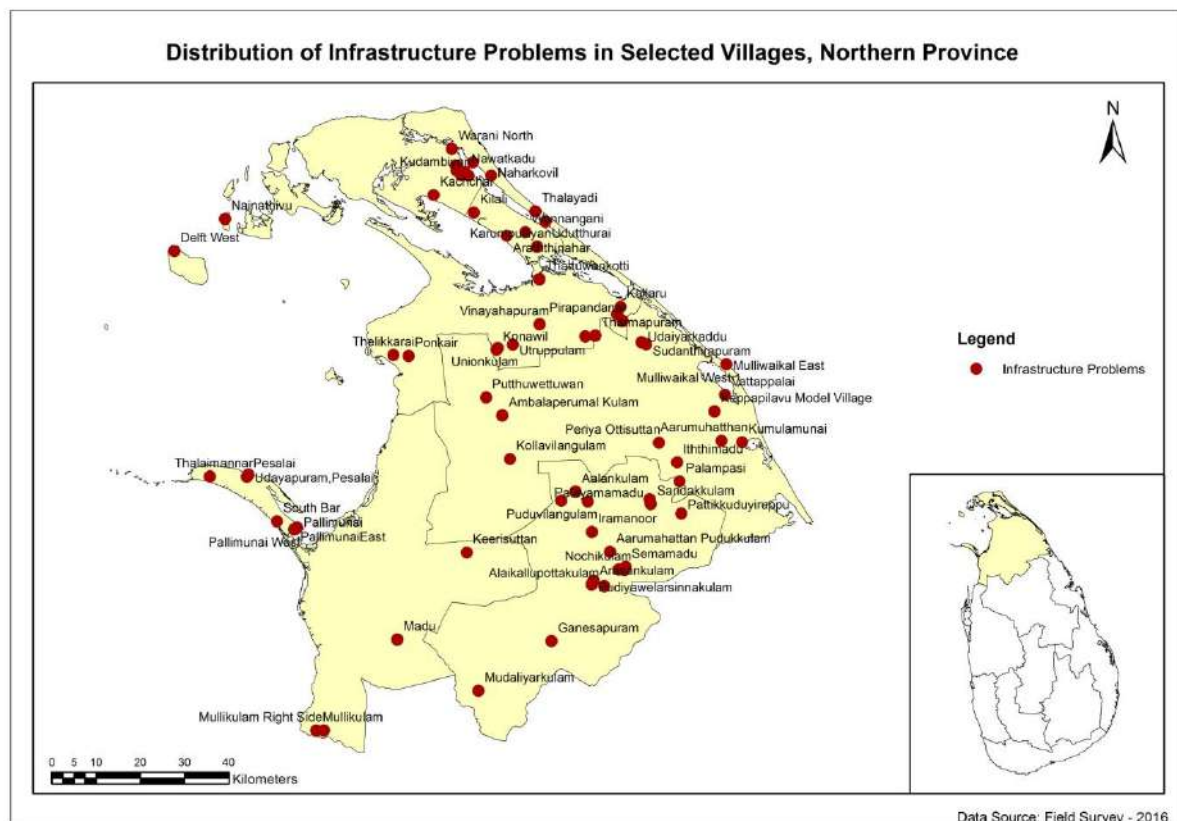


Figure 21 - Distribution of Infrastructure Problems in Selected Villages, Northern Province

The next major issue that people in the visited rural areas are facing is the issues related to housing. When considering this aspect, it was evident that due to the war that lasted for more than three decades, many villagers have lost their properties and when they returned to their original villages, they discovered that they were left with nothing. Thus, there are many people in the selected rural areas of the Northern province living in temporary houses, still hoping that one day they would get permanent houses. Those who live in temporary houses are also deprived of the basic housing facilities making the situation much worse. This problem has also

been mapped in order to identify how housing problems have been spatially distributed across Northern province (Please refer to figure 22).

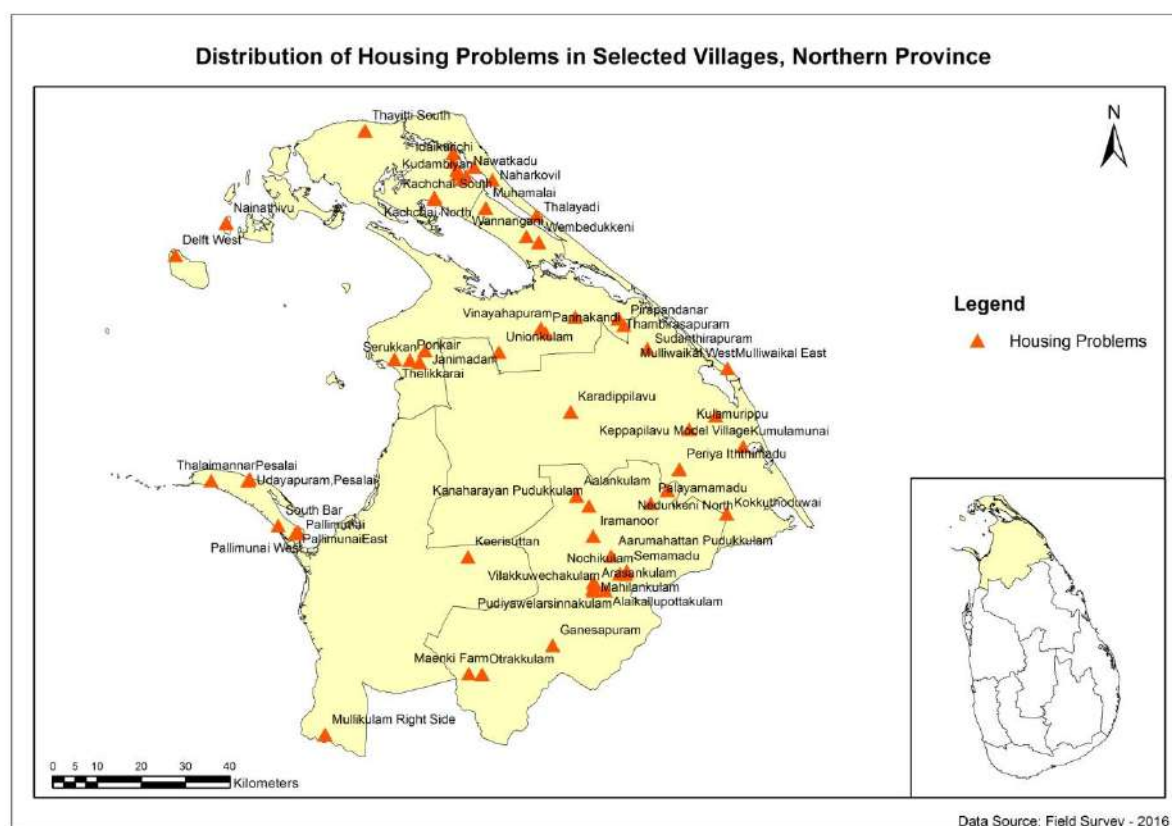


Figure 22 - Distribution of Housing Problems in Selected Villages, Northern Province

Apart from these issues, other main issues that have affected the rural populations in the Northern province as identified by the Gammadda team are, water related problems and health related problems. Due to high levels of salinity in the water, the respondents in the visited villages stated that they find it difficult to drink water, and in some areas, access to drinking water sources was difficult. This issue has also been mapped to identify the spatial distribution pattern of water issues in Northern province (Please refer to figure 23).

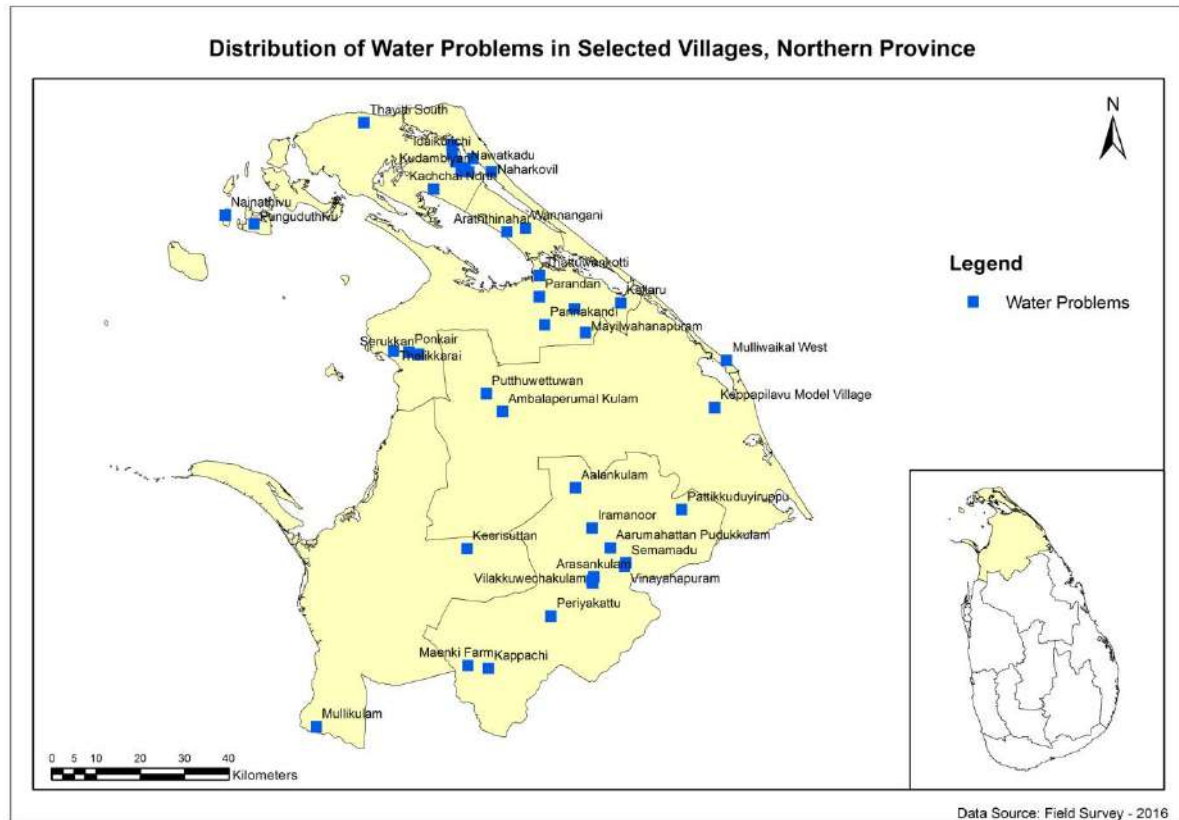


Figure 23 - Distribution of Water Problems in Selected Villages, Northern Province

When health related problems are considered, the major problem that population in the visited rural areas face is with regard to hospitals. Many rural areas did not have properly established hospitals and there were instances where even the existing hospitals did not have sufficient human and physical resources to operate. Hence, the health of the population of the visited rural areas were negatively affected.

However, when the spatial distribution patterns of socio-economic and environmental issues are taken into consideration, it was also evident that human-elephant conflict is prevalent in many areas in Northern province. (Please refer to figure 24).

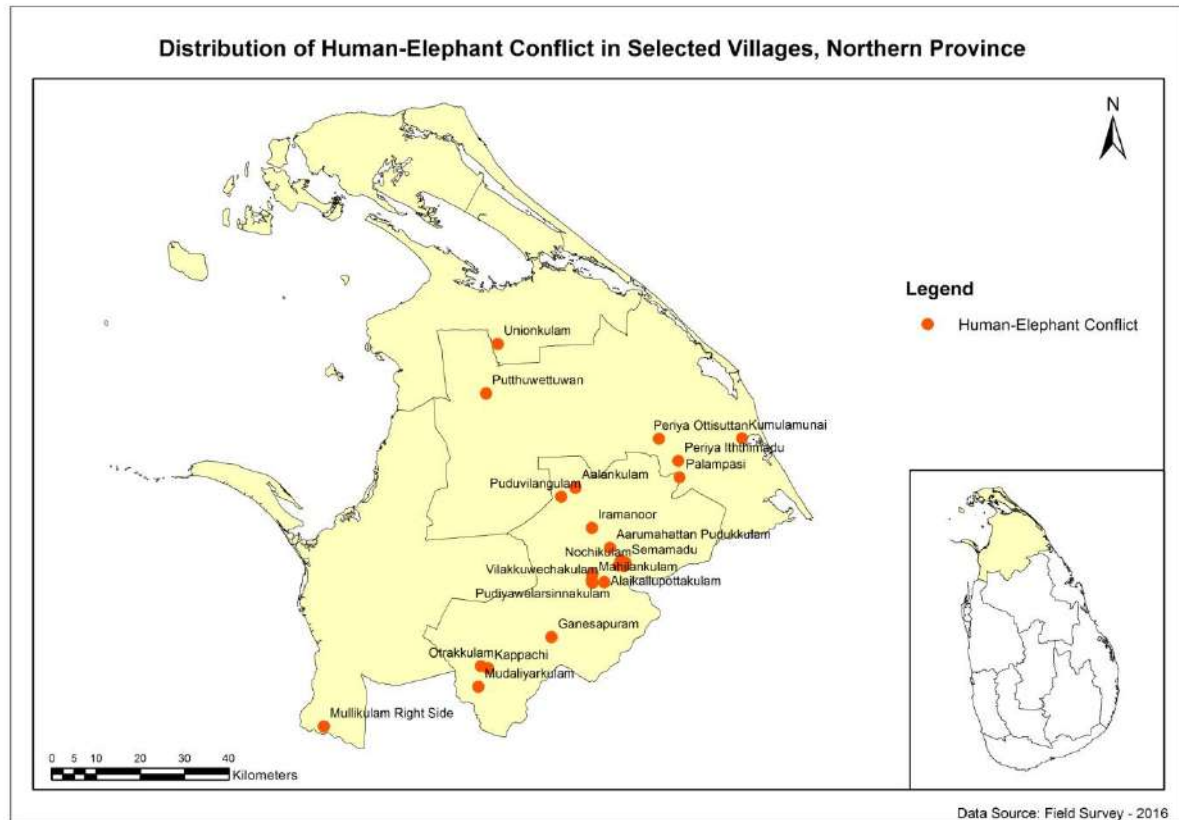


Figure 24 - Distribution of Human-Elephant conflict in Selected Villages, Northern Province

The above map indicates human-elephant conflict is prevalent in many areas of the Northern province. While these were issues which were highly prevalent in many parts of the Northern province, a district wise breakdown of the socio-economic and environmental issues is provided under each district.

4.1. Jaffna District

The Jaffna district is the largest out of the five districts in the Northern province containing a population of 583, 882 (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). If the population living in the Jaffna district is considered by the sector, it is evident that the majority of population (79.9%) live in rural areas. If the population distribution by ethnicity is considered, the Jaffna district consists of 99.2% Tamils and 0.4% Sinhalese and Sri Lankan Moors (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012).

Compared to other districts in the Northern province, namely, Mannar, Vauniya, Mullaitivu, and Kilinochchi, the Jaffna district has the highest percentage of people who have passed the G.C.E. Advanced Level Examination or an equivalent (10.5%), and also who have

followed undergraduate and/or postgraduate studies (3.2%). The overall literacy rate of the population in Jaffna is also at a high level with a rate of 98.2%. Computer literacy has also become one of the most significant indicators that highlights the openness to technology of a population and the computer literate population in Jaffna district is 22.8% taking the top position among other districts in the Northern province. Even though this rate may be comparatively low when compared with other districts in Sri Lanka, Jaffna is still in a better position in the Northern province. Thus it can be concluded that the standard of living of the people in Jaffna is better than that of in the other districts in the Northern province. However when the intercensal population growth of districts is considered, Jaffna has a negative growth rate (-0.7%) due to out-migration as a result of the conflict (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012).

In terms of the economic condition, the percentage of total active population aged 15 years and above is 42.5% and if the percentage distribution of employed population by sector of employment is considered, 37.1% work as own account workers, 37.8% work as private sector employees, 14.8% work as government employees, 4% work as employers, 3.2% work as semi government employees and 3.1% work as unpaid family workers (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012).

While the secondary data related to the Jaffna district creates an overall image about the basic demographics in the district, the research findings have identified many issues persistent among the population in selected villages in Jaffna (Please refer to Figure 25).

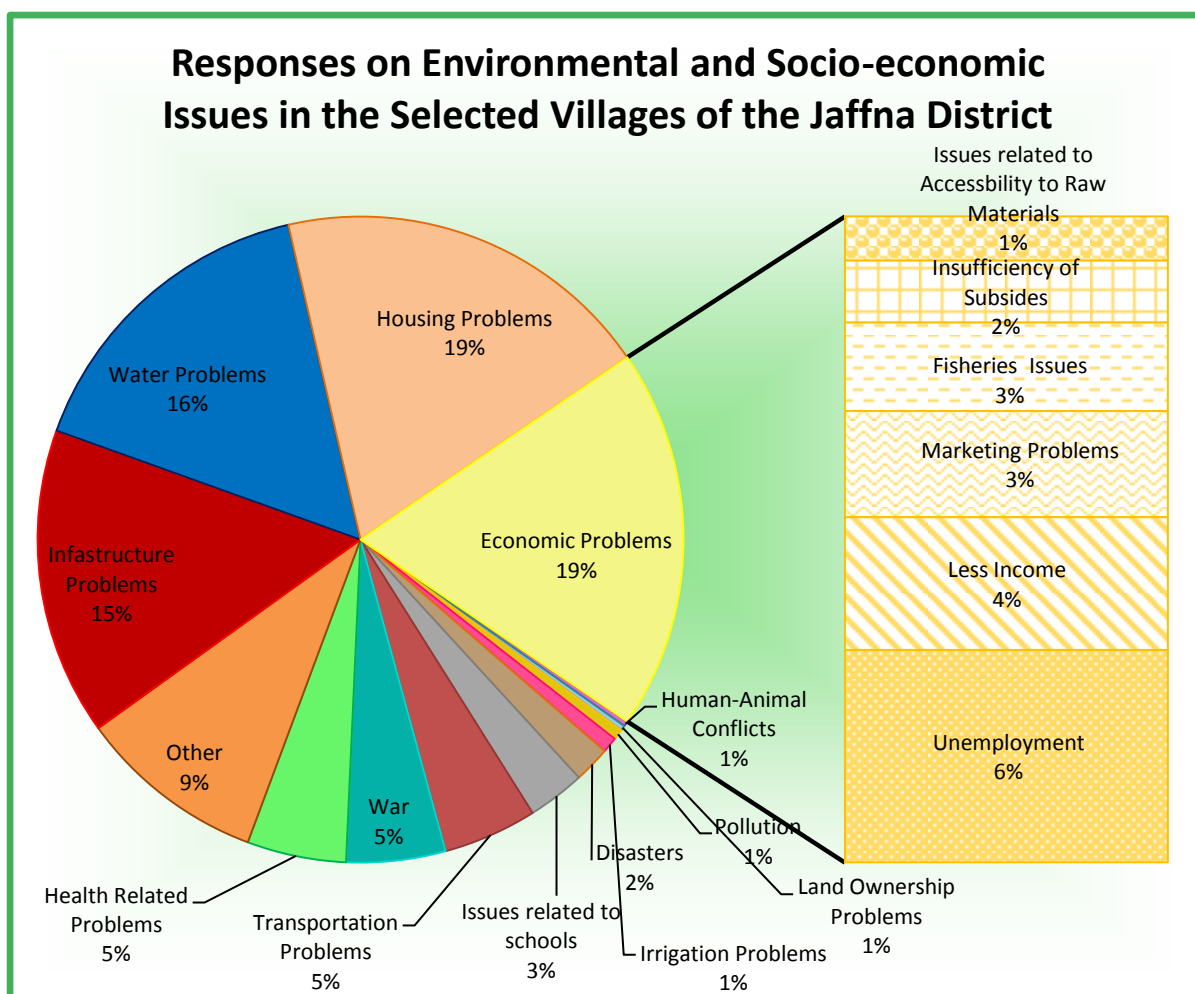


Figure 25 - Responses on Environment and Socio-Economic Issues in the Selected Villages of the Jaffna District

According to the respondents from the selected villages in the Jaffna district, the most burning issues they face are issues of housing and economy. As mentioned above, the majority of residents in Jaffna are living in temporary houses and this issue is even more severe in areas such as Sabapadippilai Muham. This can be considered as a direct impact of the war where the people who returned to their original lands in a post war context have been unable to settle due to the unavailability of proper housing facilities. Even though it has been almost seven years since the civil war has ended, the issues of the people living in the war affected areas have not come to an end. For instance, among the respondents who discussed the war, 52.6% stated that they are still facing negative experiences due to displacement which occurred as a result of the war.

The housing issue is also prominent in Kankansanthurai, Thayitti South where only one family has returned to the village since the houses were destroyed during the war. Of the respondents in the visited villages in Jaffna, 84.9% complained about homelessness or the unavailability of a permanent house to live whereas 15.1% mentioned that the facilities in the houses are insufficient. The spatial distribution of housing issues in Jaffna district can be mapped as follows (Please refer to Figure 26).

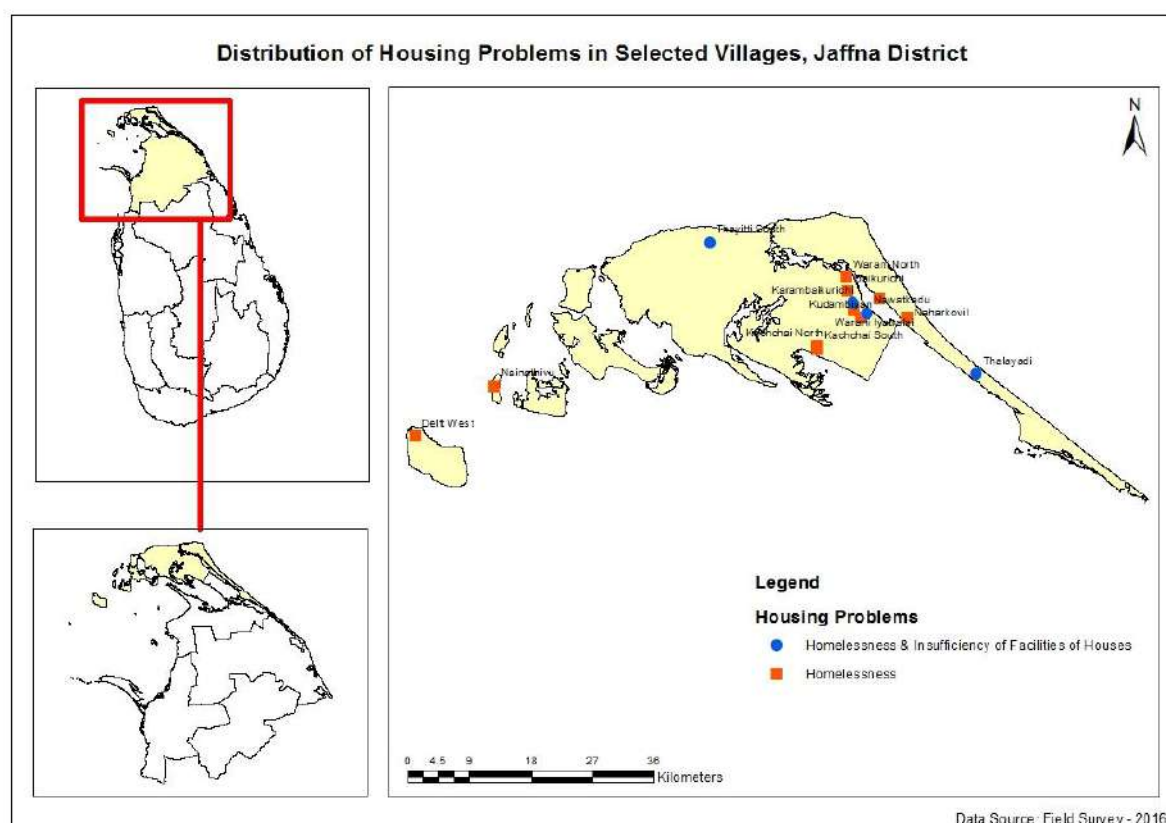


Figure 26 - Distribution of Housing Problems in the Selected Villages of the Jaffna District

When economic issues are considered, people who are engaged in fishery are facing great difficulties since Indian fishermen poach in the Sri Lankan fishing territories. In fact, due to this illegal activity of the Indian fishermen, the livelihoods of the fishing community in Jaffna are at risk. The Indian fishermen not only encroach the fishing territories but also utilize fishing equipment which cut through the fishing nets of the Sri Lankan fishermen. In addition, according to the views of the respondents on economic problems, 6.8% have stated about accessibility problems for raw materials, 9.6% have discussed about insufficiency of subsidies, 13.7% have pointed out fisheries related problems, 16.4% have mentioned about the difficulties in marketing their products, 20.5% have discussed the insufficiency of their earning for survival,

and 32.9% have mentioned that they are facing difficulties due to unemployment. The distribution of economic issues in selected villages of Jaffna district can be illustrated follows (Please refer to figure 27).

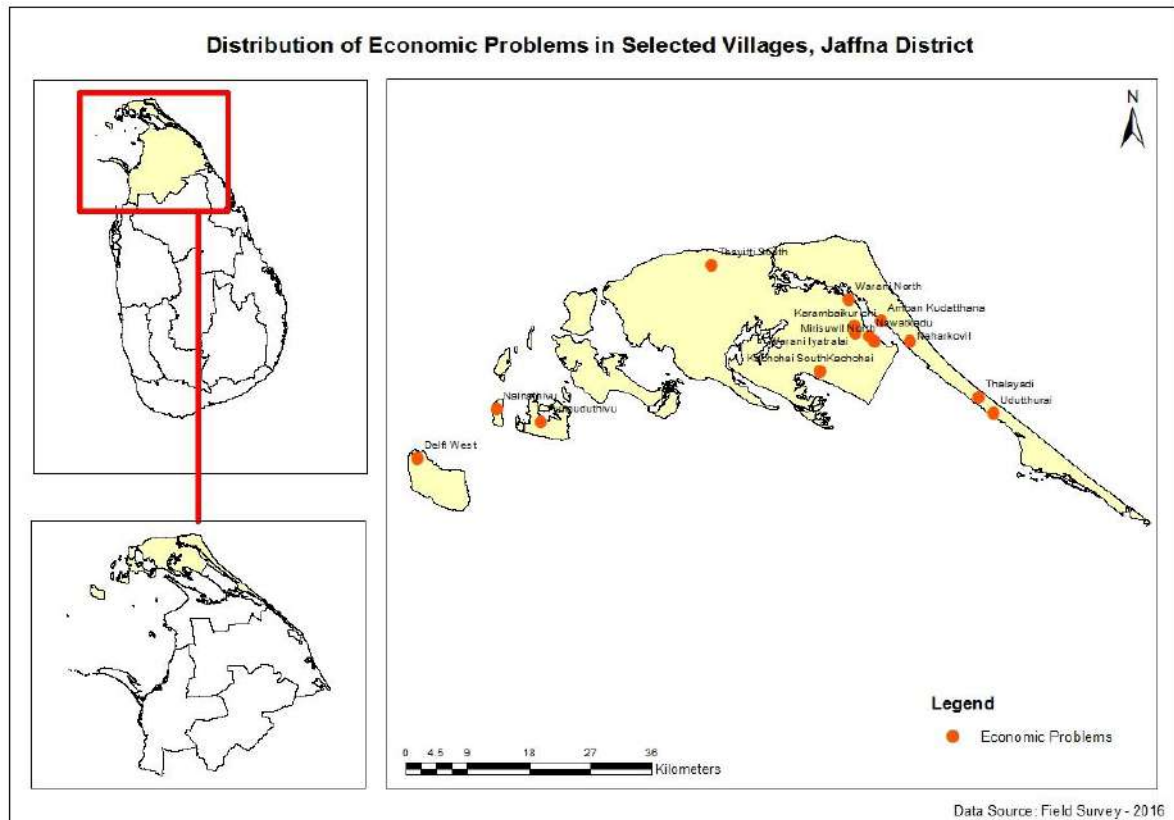
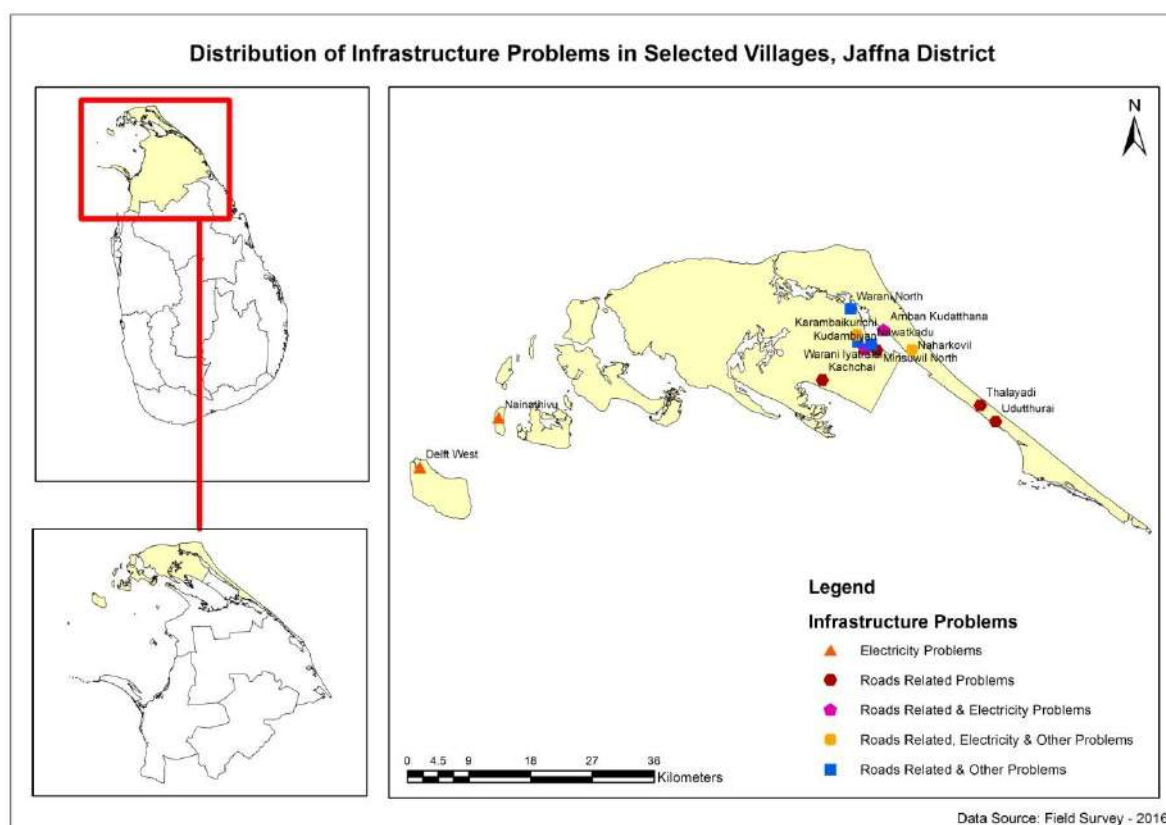


Figure 27 - Distribution of Economic Problems in the Selected Villages of the Jaffna District

When considering access to raw materials and even groceries, one of the main facts provided by the respondents was the high price of all the goods, Specially in Nagadeepa. In fact, due to transportation difficulties, the villagers mentioned that businessmen are charging too much even for daily requirements like grocery items. With livelihood issues they are facing, it has been a challenge for them even to survive on a daily basis as the little money they earn is not sufficient to lead a normal life.

Water is one of the basic needs for survival, may it be for human beings or any other living species. Yet, most of the people living in Jaffna are facing problems related to drinking water. For instance, for those who live in Nagadeepa, getting access to water is not an easy task. They have to go to Weilana by boats for 20 minutes time to get drinking water. In Punguduthivu, the people have to rely on water supplied via tankers which do not come every



In conclusion, it is evident that apart from the above information that was collected from field research, according to the graph which includes responses from respondents, visited villages in Jaffna face issues related to human-animal conflicts, land ownership issues, pollution related issues, natural disaster related issues, health related problems, irrigation problems and school related issues, etc. For instance, if health issues are considered, 42.1% of the respondents have stated about the unavailability of a proper hospital, 5.3% have stated about lack of facilities in the available hospitals, and 26.3% have complained that a sufficient number of medical officers are not present in the hospitals to treat patients properly and finally another 26.3% of the respondents have stated that the health of the population is threatened due to the presence of various diseases.

Similarly, if we consider schools related issues, 36.4% of the responded population have mentioned about the unavailability of proper schools, 36.4% have mentioned about the lack of availability of schools and the insufficiency of facilities in the existing schools, 9.1% have mentioned about the insufficiency of teachers for different subjects at schools whereas 18.2% of the respondents have mentioned that students leaving school education at an early age has

become problematic. When considering the issues caused by resources, it is evident that the unavailability of both physical and human resources have affected school education negatively in many areas of Jaffna.

4.2. Mannar District

The land area of Mannar is 1996 km² (Department of Census and Statistics, 2015). The population of the Mannar district is 99,570 while the majority of the population are represented by the Tamil ethnic group (81.2%) and similar to Jaffna, the majority of people in Mannar (75.5%) live in the rural sector while only 24.5% live in the urban sector (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). When the educational status of the residents of Mannar is considered, it is evident that the percentage of people who have passed the G.C.E. Advanced level is slightly lower than that of the Jaffna district (9.4%) and only 1.8% of the population have reached the level of undergraduate studies and/or postgraduate studies (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012).

The overall literacy of the population in Mannar is 97.6% while computer literacy of the population is fairly low (16.6%) and the percentage of economically active population in Mannar is 49%. If the percentage distribution of employed population by sector of employment is considered, 16.6% are engaged in the government sector (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). In addition, 48.8% of the population or the majority of the population in Mannar is working as own account workers, 24.9% as private sector employees, 4.2% as employers, 2.9% as unpaid family workers and 2.6% as semi government employees.

While secondary data give us some basic information regarding the population in Mannar, the Gammadda findings based on some selected villages in Mannar can be presented as follows (Please refer to Figure 30).

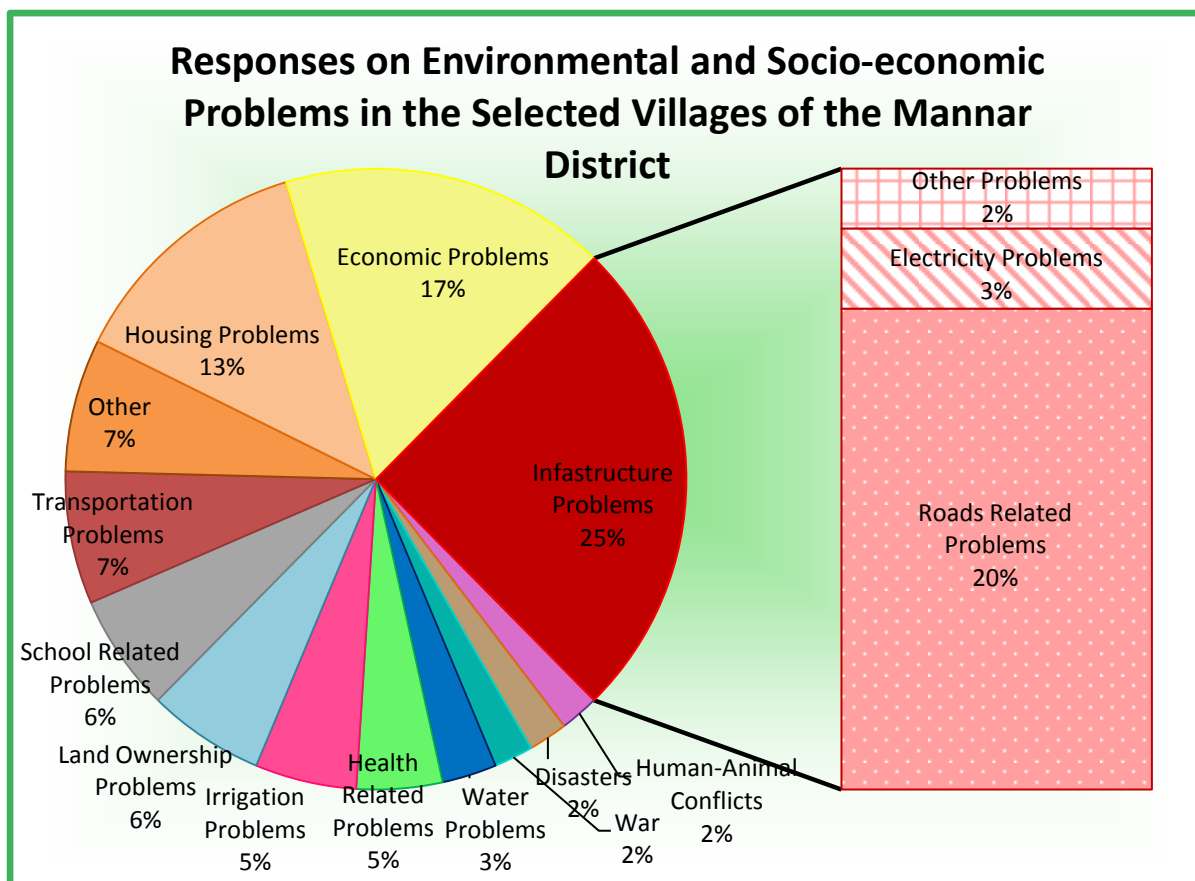


Figure 30 - Responses on Environmental and Socio-Economic Problems in the Selected Villages of the Mannar District

According to Figure 30, the most severe problem in Mannar is infrastructure related issues. In fact, 25% of respondents in the visited villages in Mannar have accepted the fact that they have infrastructure issues and 20% of respondents out of 25% have highlighted that problems are related to the condition of the roads. 3% of respondents out of the 25% have related infrastructure problems with no access to electricity. In terms of issues related to roads, for instance, Mullikulam - Vavuniya road was the one of the damaged roads, and most of the vehicles have to travel with great difficulty on the aforesaid road. However, the distribution of infrastructural issues in Mannar can be illustrated as follows (Please refer to figure 31).

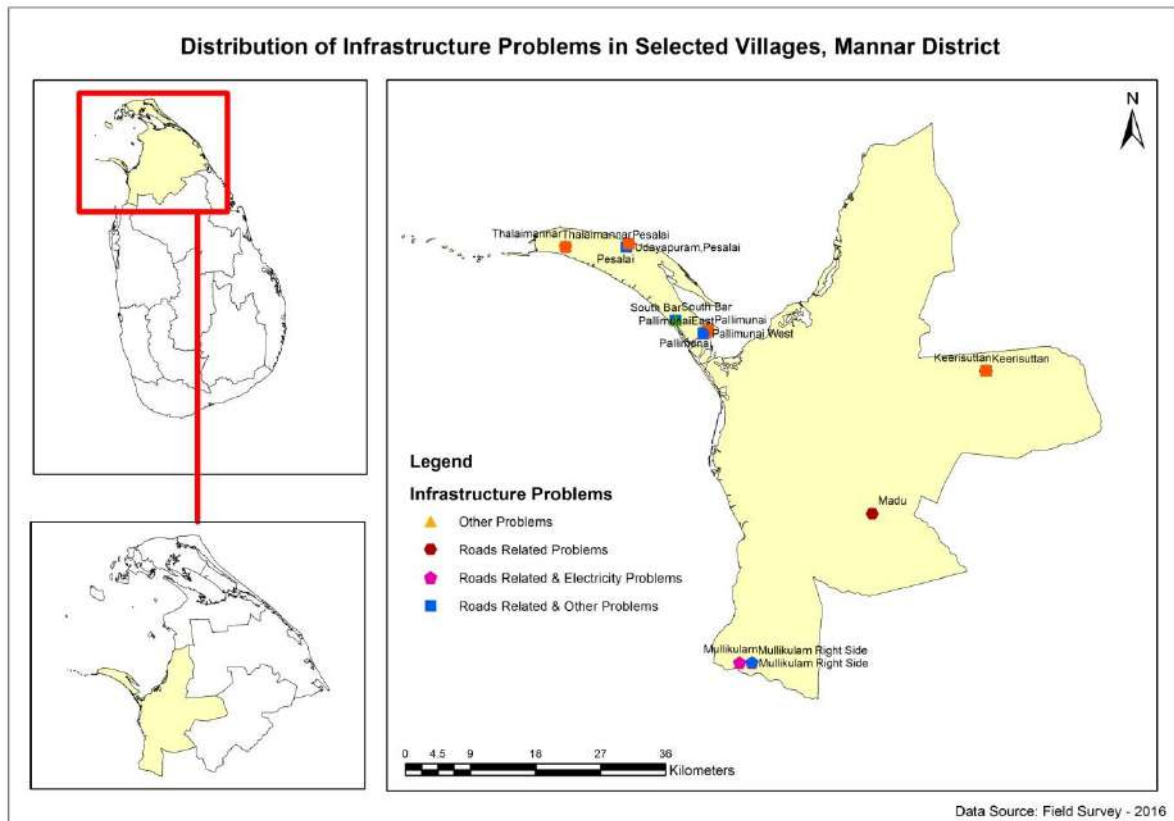


Figure 31 - Distribution of Infrastructure Problems in the Selected Villages of the Mannar District

If we consider the second severe problem according to the graph, i.e. economic problems, fishing communities Specially in Oormanai and Jimron Nahar face difficulties due to Indian fishermen poaching fish in Sri Lankan fishing zones. Similarly to Jaffna, the interviewees complained that their fishing nets get cut due the rollers utilized by the Indian fishermen, making it difficult for them to continue with their livelihood. Apart from these facts, 26.2% of respondents in the visited villages of Mannar stated that unemployment is a major problem in the respective areas and 23.8% mentioned that provision of the subsidies is not sufficient. Furthermore, around 14% of respondents identified low income as one of the major economic issues in several areas of Mannar. The spatial distribution of economic issues in Mannar district can be illustrated as follows (Please refer to Figure 32).

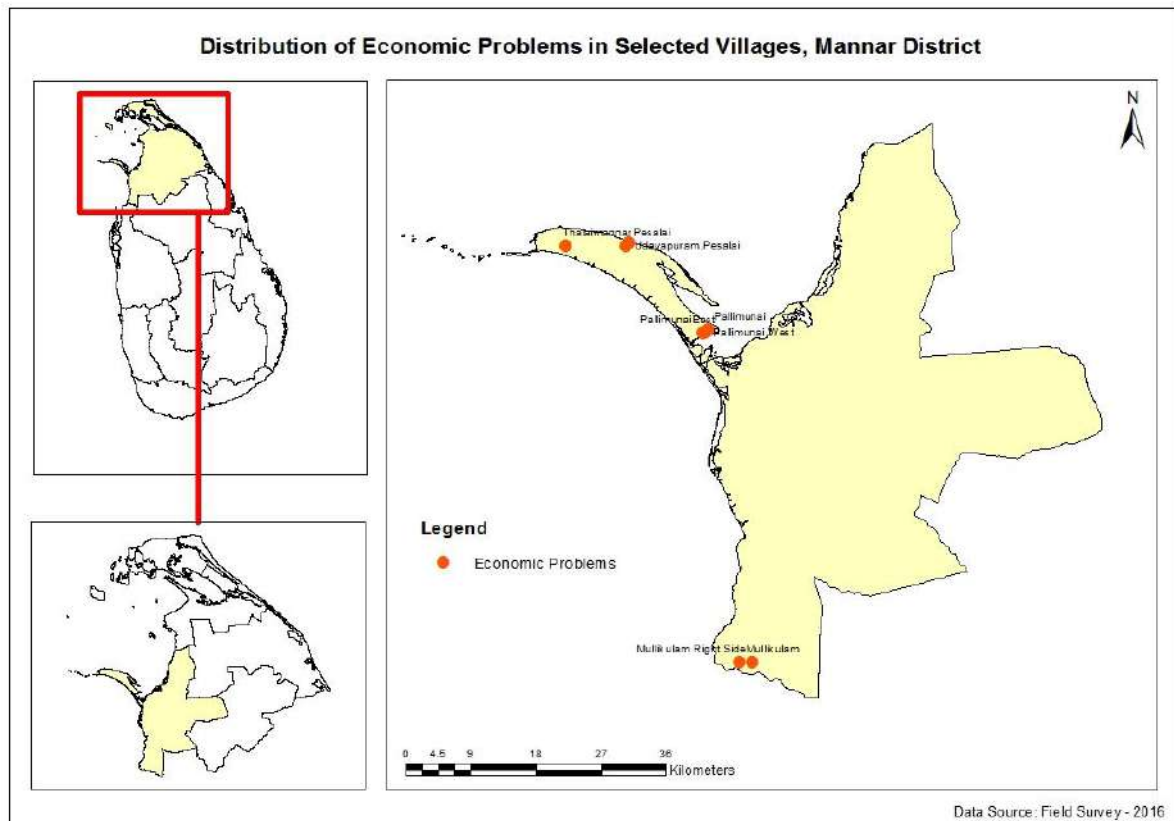


Figure 32 - Distribution of Economic Problems in the Selected Villages of the Mannar District

Housing issues are another major threat identified by the Gammadda team as threatening the wellbeing of some selected villages in Mannar. For instance, in areas such as Thalaimannar Piyar, Udayapuram and Pesalai, most of the people do not have permanent housing. In addition, according to the above graph, the relevant respondents have also issues related to land ownership. Furthermore, around 81% of respondents have stated that unavailability of permanent housing is a major problem they face whereas around 19% of respondents have stated that there are insufficient facilities for the existing houses. The distribution of housing issues in selected villages of Mannar district can be illustrated as follows (Please refer to Figure 33).

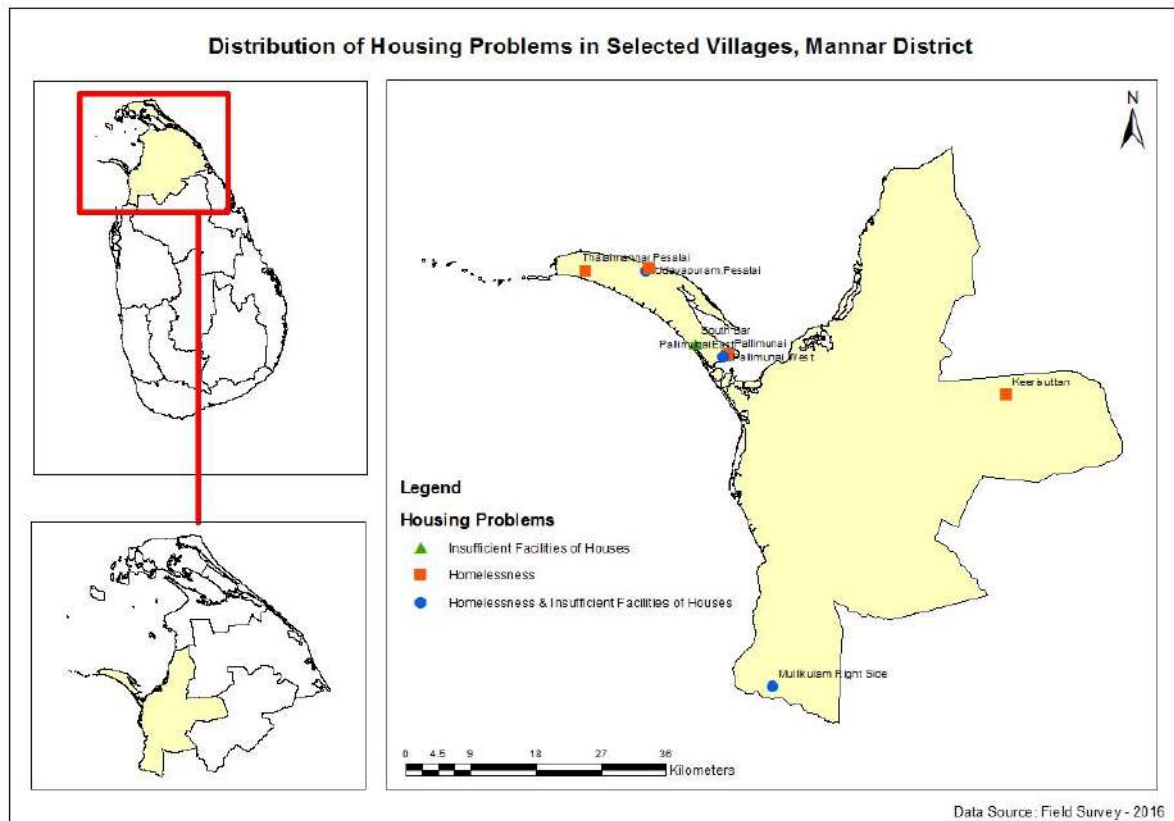


Figure 33 - Distribution of Housing Problems in the Selected Villages of the Mannar District

In addition, lack of access to clean drinking water has been identified as a common issue for most of the visited villages. 85.7% of respondents stated that drinking water is not sufficient in their areas whereas 14.3% stated that even for agricultural activities, water is not sufficient. Specially during the drought seasons, apart from lack of access to drinking water, people also face health issues due to the prevalence of various diseases.

Furthermore, people in Mullikulam area in Mannar have to confront various issues due to the human-elephant conflict and due to monkeys destroying the cultivations. In connection with this, 60% of the respondents stated that they experience human-elephant conflicts in their villages. In fact, while the human-elephant conflict brings risks to the lives of the human beings as well as elephants, the people have to face greater difficulties since their crops are being destroyed by the monkeys as well. Thus, on one hand people have to worry about saving their lives and on the other hand they have to protect their crops to fulfill their daily requirements.

Apart from the above mentioned problems, according to the graph, the respondents have also specified issues such as transportation problems, school related problems, land ownership problems, irrigation problems, disaster related problems as having a negative impact

on their lives. If further analyzed, in terms of transportation issues, 100% of respondents have agreed to the fact that public transportation, i.e. the bus service is problematic in the respective areas. If school related problems are analyzed, around 33% of respondents have stated that in terms of both physical and human resources, the condition of the existing schools is critical whereas around 27% of respondents have stated that lack of schools in areas such as Mullikum and Pesalai in Mannar have affected the education of the children. In terms of land ownership, around 67% of respondents have mentioned that there are problems in their title deeds whereas 20% of respondents have problems due to landlessness.

Furthermore, according to the respondents, the major natural disaster they face is floods. In terms of health, around 73% of respondents stated that unavailability of a proper hospital has negatively affected the health of the people in the respective areas whereas around 18% of respondents stated that even in the existing hospitals, the facilities are not sufficient. In fact, even in each problematic situation depicted in the graph, the way that each problem affects people is different.

4.3. Vavuniya District

The land area of the Vavuniya district is 1967 km² (Department of Census and Statistics, 2015) while the total population is 172,115 (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). Similarly to other districts in the Northern area, the majority of the population living in the Vavuniya district belongs to the Tamil ethnic group (83.1%) and when considering the population distribution in terms of sector, 79.8% of the population lives in the rural sector while 20.2% of the population lives in the urban sector (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012).

Literacy rate of residents of Mannar is 97.1% and the computer literacy rate is 18.9% (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). The percentage of residents who have passed the G.C. E. Advanced Level or an equivalent is 9.2% while the percentage of the population who has followed a degree course or obtained a higher qualification above is 2.4% (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012).

The same census data indicate that the total employed population in Vavuniya is 52,926 and if the percentage distribution of employed population by sector of employment is considered,

34.9% of the population work as private sector employees, 32.5% work as own account workers, 22.3% work as government employees, 3.4% work as semi government employees, 3.5% of the population work as employers and another 3.5% of the population work as unpaid family workers. When compared with the Mannar and Jaffna districts, Vavuniya has the highest percentage of population that works as government employees.

While above demographics help readers to understand the basic aspects of the population living in Vavuniya, the Gammadda research team was able to identify some major social and environmental issues confronted by the people in several villages in Vavuniya (Please refer to Figure 34 for further information).

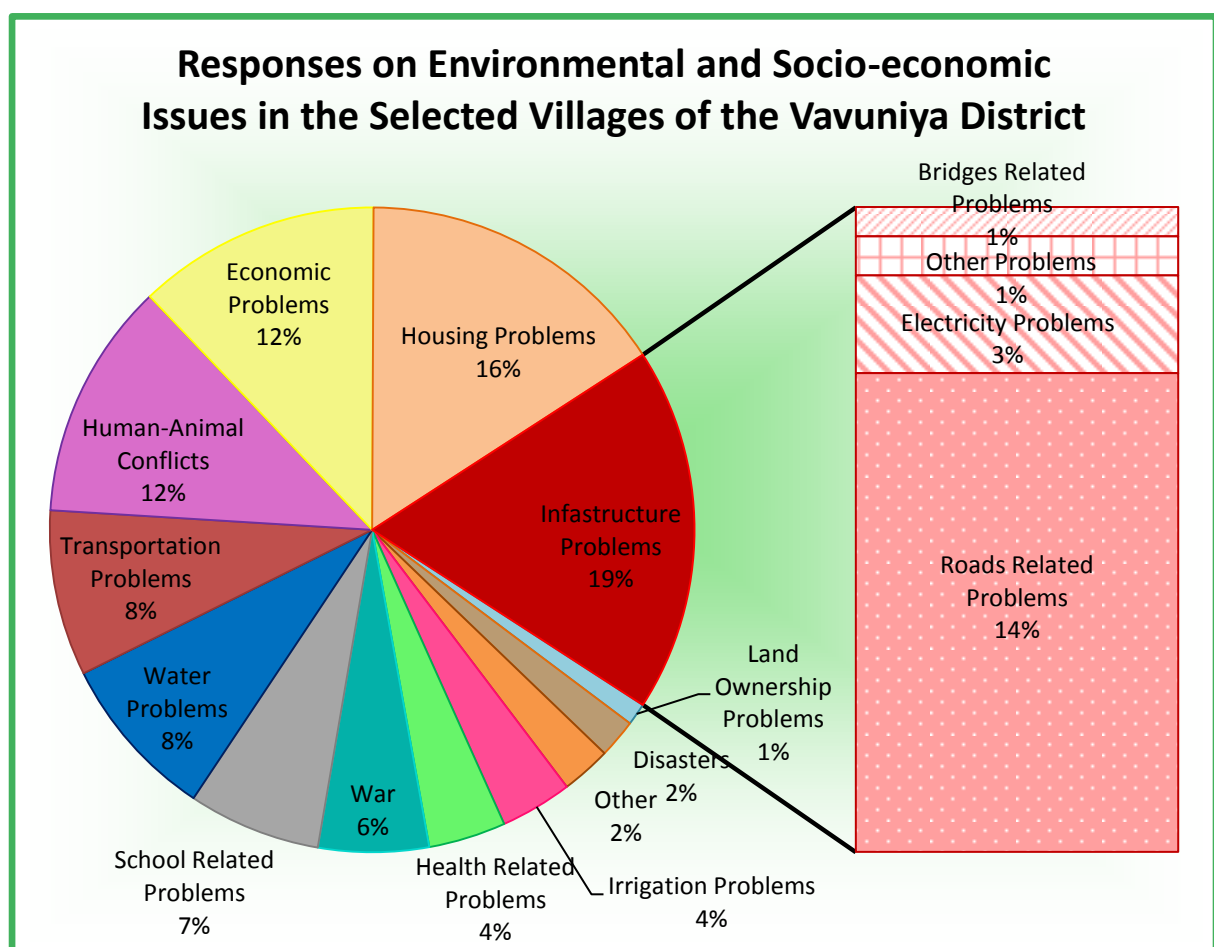


Figure 34 - Responses on Environmental and Socio-economic Issues in the Selected Villages of the Vavuniya District

According to the above graph, the major issue faced by respondents in the visited villages is infrastructure related issues. While the transportation service is also inefficient, the damaged roads have made the situation even worse. Out of the respondents who mentioned

about infrastructure problems, around 74% of the population stated that the main infrastructure related issue they face is the critical condition of the roads whereas around 15% of respondents indicated that unavailability of electricity is also a critical problem in several areas in Vavuniya. However, the distribution of infrastructural issues in selected villages of Vavuniya district can be illustrated as follows (Please refer to Figure 35).

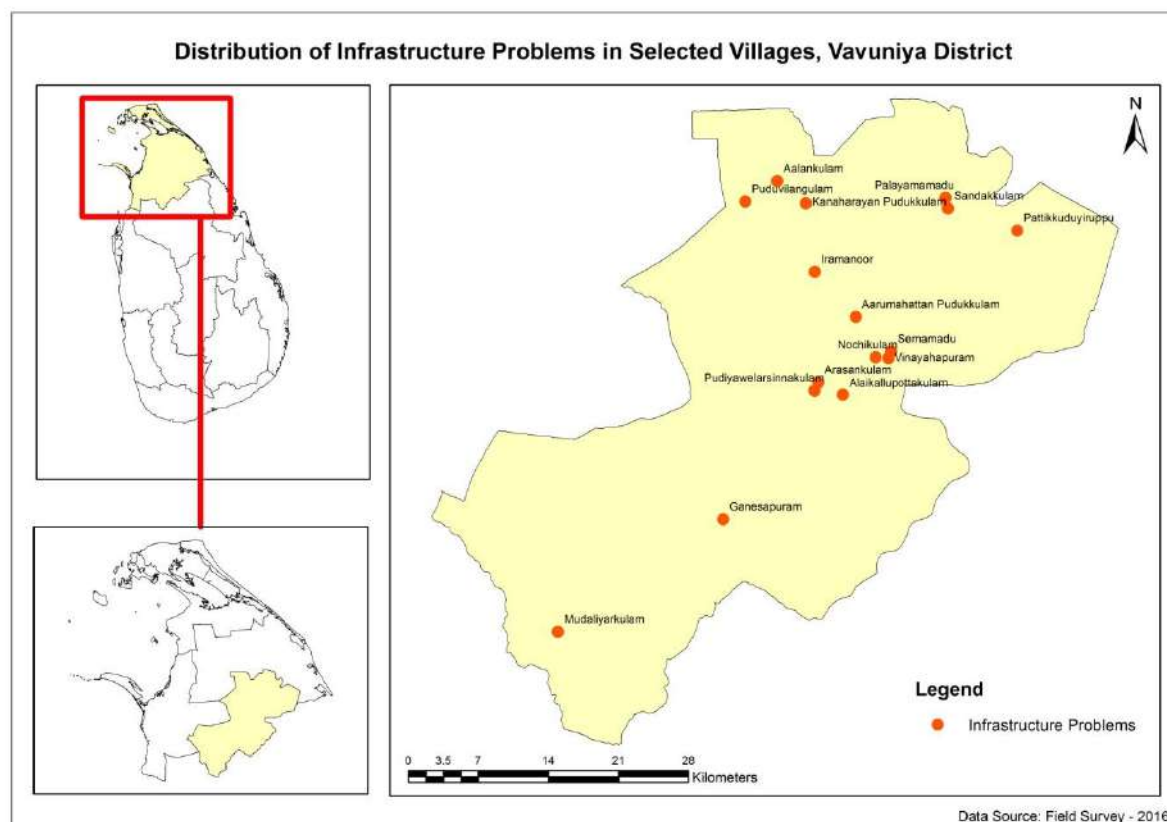


Figure 35 - Distribution of Infrastructure Problems in the Selected Villages of the Vavuniya District

If we consider the next major problem, the research officers have identified the absence of permanent housing as a common problem for most of the people in Vavuniya. Thus, 59.6% of respondents who discussed housing issues found homelessness as the main issue under housing related issues whereas 40.4% of respondents complained about the poor quality or lack of facilities in the existing houses. Specially after returning to their original lands in the post conflict period, people have been unable to reconstruct their permanent houses which were destroyed during the war. In areas like Aalankulam, Vinayahapuram, Semamadu, Vilakkuwechchakulam, etc. this issue is more prominent (Please refer to Figure 36).

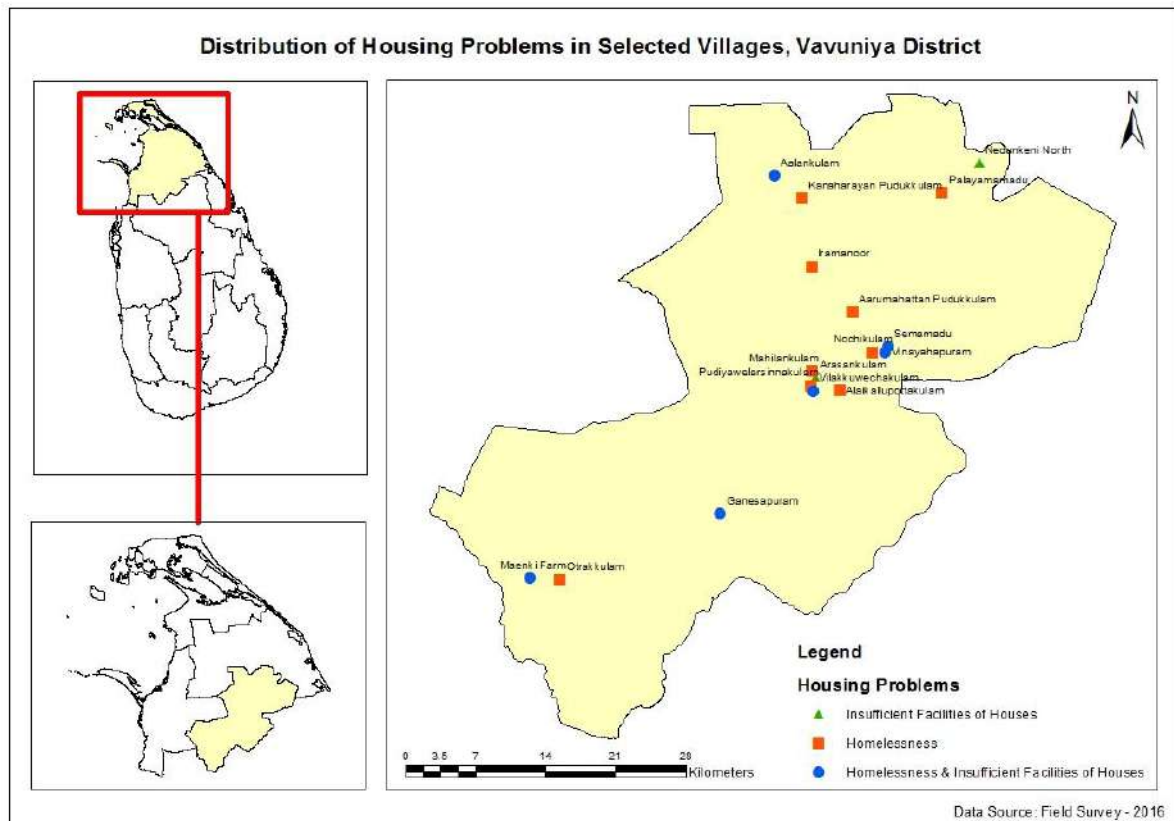


Figure 36 - Distribution of Issues related to Housing in the Selected Villages of the Vavuniya District

The respondents from the selected villages in Vavuniya have also faced difficulties due to the quality of drinking water. In fact, the research officers have come across people in several areas of Vavuniya who are suffering from kidney diseases due to unclean water. However, of the respondents who expressed views on water related problems, 80% agreed that there is an unavailability of clean drinking water whereas 20% of the respondents indicated that water is not sufficient for agricultural purposes (Please refer to Figure 37).

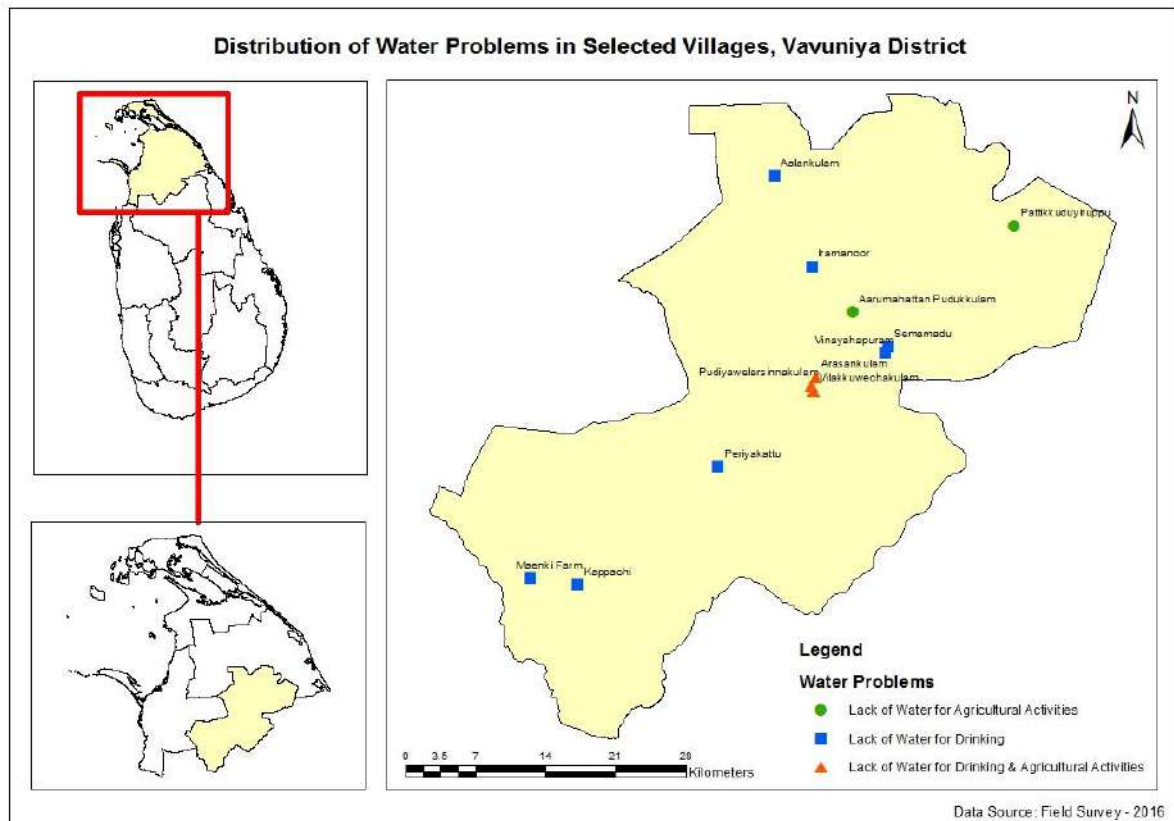


Figure 37 - Distribution of Issues related to Water in the Selected Villages of the Vavuniya District

Apart from that, health problems are also caused due to improper waste disposal in Periyakattu. Hence the people in Periyakattu are suffering not only due to the absence of clean drinking water but also due to waste disposal methods. Another health concern for several areas of Vavuniya is the unavailability of proper hospitals. In fact, around 36% of the respondents highlighted this issue whereas around 14% of the respondents have stated that even in the existing hospitals, the facilities are not up to the standard.

Furthermore, problems related to schooling are also prevalent in some villages in the Vavuniya district. For instance, in villages like Menik Farm, and Puduwilangulam the respondents have mentioned about the absence of a proper school for children while respondents from Aarumahatthan Pudukkulam and Ganesapuram have complained about lack of facilities in the existing schools. If we consider the information provided by the respondents, 41% of the respondents who discussed school related issues mentioned that in the existing schools there are very limited facilities. In addition, some respondents have also mentioned that only a limited number of teachers is present in certain schools. Students leaving school at an early age has also been identified as a major issue by some (12.5%) of the respondents.

Human-animal conflicts are another serious problem confronted by the people in several areas in Vavuniya, especially human-elephant conflict is present in many areas such as Puduwilangulam, Vinayahapuram, Alaikallupottakulam, Semamadu, Kaphpachchi, Pudiavelarsinnakkulam, Senappilavu, etc. and in areas like Nochchikulam apart from the human-elephant conflict, the villagers have faced a difficult situation due to the damages done to their crops by pigs and monkeys. Out of the respondents who mentioned about the existence of human-animal conflicts in their villages, around 91% of the respondents highlighted that they are getting affected by the human-elephant conflict the most (Please refer to Figure 38).

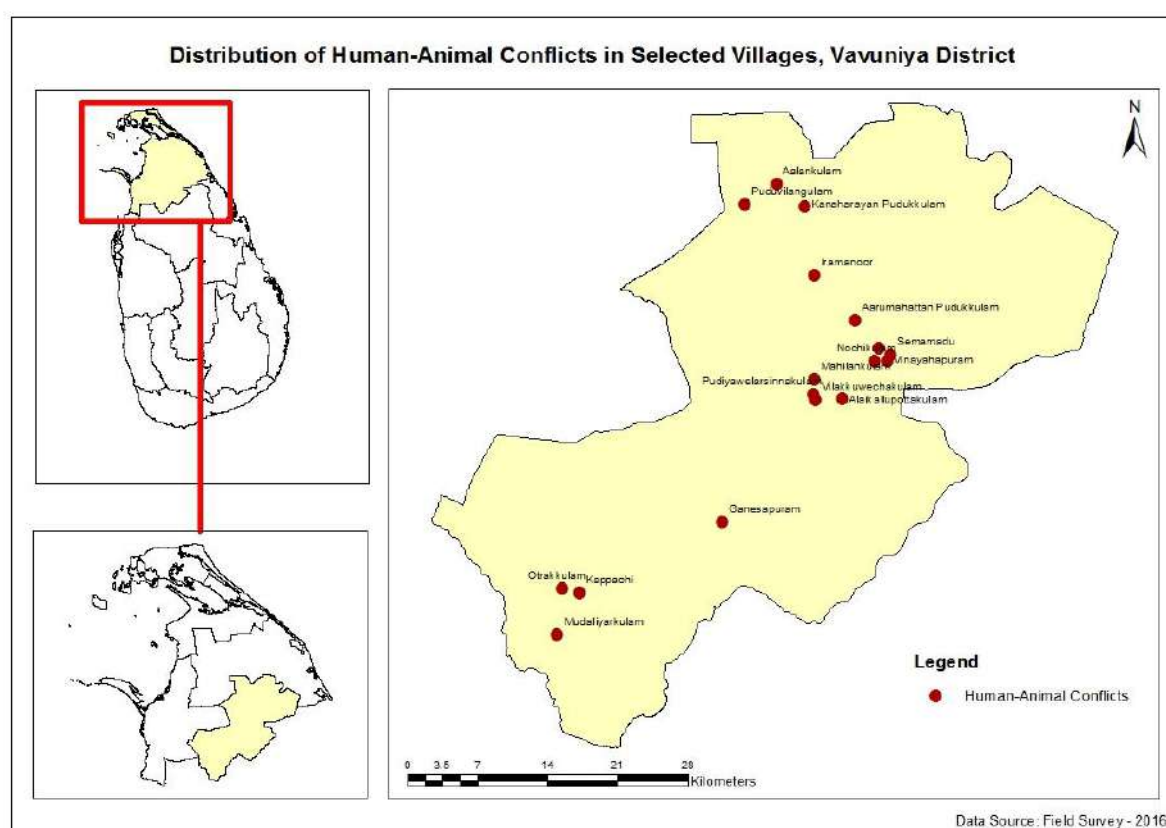


Figure 38 - Distribution of Issues related to Human-Animal Conflict in the Selected Villages of the Vavuniya District

A considerable percentage of respondents have mentioned about transportation issues and even the field officers have identified public transportation in the above mentioned areas as problematic. For instance, in areas such as Nochchikulam, Vinayahapuram, Semamadu and Alaikallupottakulam, the people are facing difficulties due to the absence of a proper public transportation service. In fact, only a single van is providing transportation facilities in those areas but that too does not provide this facility to the villagers regularly.

When considering the economic issues of the population in Vavuniya, around 23% of the respondents replied that their income is not sufficient to meet the living expenses. In addition, 52.3% of the respondents in the visited villages have stated unemployment as a main economic issue. Another 11.4% of the respondents mentioned that the subsidies provided for them are insufficient. In addition, a small percentage (6.8%) of the respondents who discussed economic related issues stated that they have problems in getting access to raw materials for economic purposes (Please refer to Figure 39).

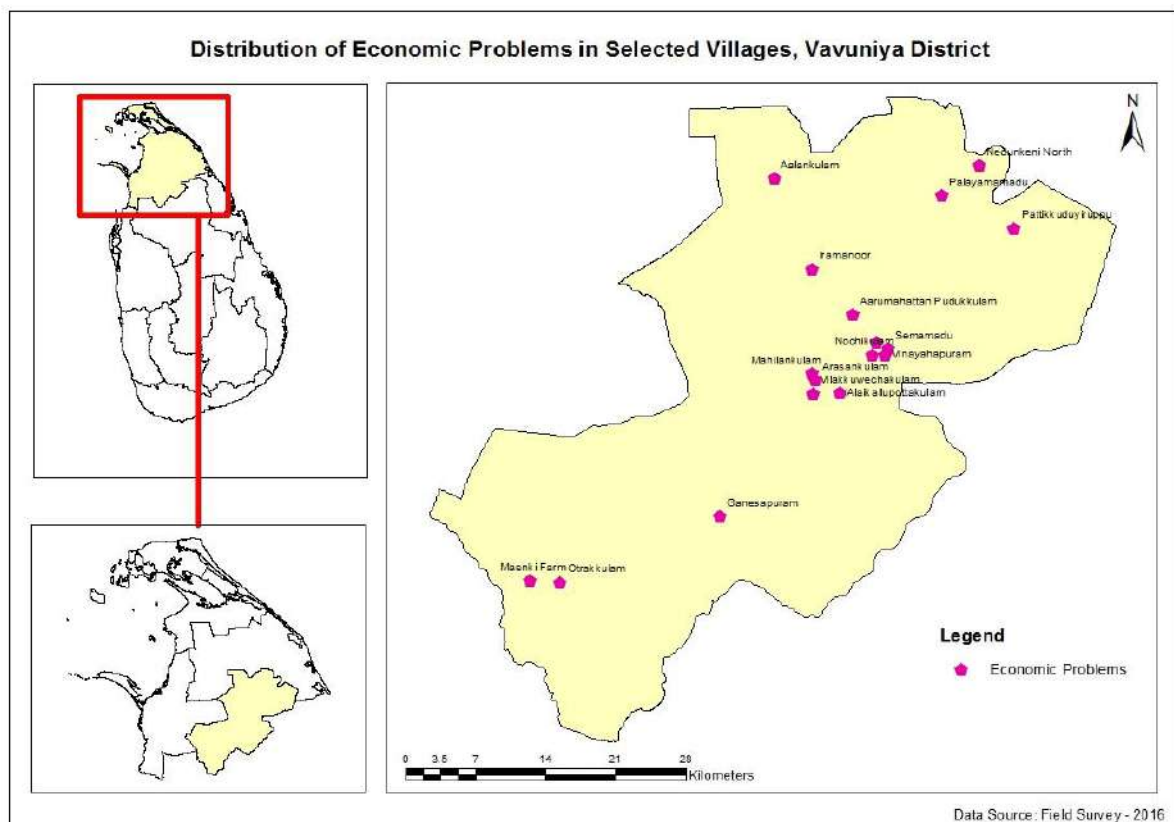


Figure 39 - Distribution of Economic Issues in the Selected Villages of the Vavuniya District

Apart from the above mentioned issues, the respondents have also provided information on other issues they have, such as irrigation related problems, problems created by natural disasters like droughts and floods, repercussions of the war, etc. Out of the respondents who discussed natural disaster related issues, 85.7% of the respondents stated that their villages face negative experiences due to floods whereas 14.3% of the respondents identified droughts too as causing damage to their areas.

4.4. Mullaitivu District

The land area of the Mullaitivu district is 2617 km² (Department of Census and Statistics, 2015) with a population of 92,238 (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). In fact, the Mullaitivu district has the lowest population in the Northern province. If the distribution of population is considered in terms of the sector they reside in, the entire population falls into the category of rural sector. In other words, unlike Jaffna, Mannar and Vavuniya, the population living in the rural sector in the Mullaitivu district is 100% and if the population distribution is considered in terms of ethnicity, 88.2% of the population belong to the Tamil ethnic group while Sinhalese and Sri Lankan Moors live in small numbers (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012).

If the condition of the population in the Mullaitivu district is taken into consideration in terms of their educational level, they show a literacy level of 97.3% which is fairly high while maintaining the lowest computer literacy rate in the province which is 8.4% (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). The census reports also depict that only 5.2% have passed the G.C.E. Advanced level or obtained an equivalent qualification in the district while only 1.2% of the population have acquired a degree and/or a higher qualification. Specially, when the percentage of population who have passed the G.C. E. Advanced Level is considered, the Mullaitivu district shows the lowest percentage in the Northern province.

The percentage of economically active population in the Mullaitivu district is 49% which is equal to both Mannar and Vavuniya, and if the percentage distribution of the employed population by the sector of employment is considered, a majority work as own account workers counting up to 54.5% while 24.5% work as private sector employees, 11.6% work as government employees, 2.8% work as semi government employees, 4.4% work as unpaid family workers, and 2.2% work as employers (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). When compared with Jaffna, Mannar and Vavuniya, the Mullaitivu district has a fairly low percentage of people who work as government employees.

While the basic demographic characteristics of Mullaitivu can be explained as above, the issues confronted by the people in certain villages in the Mullaitivu district can be identified by the following graph. (Please refer to Figure 40).

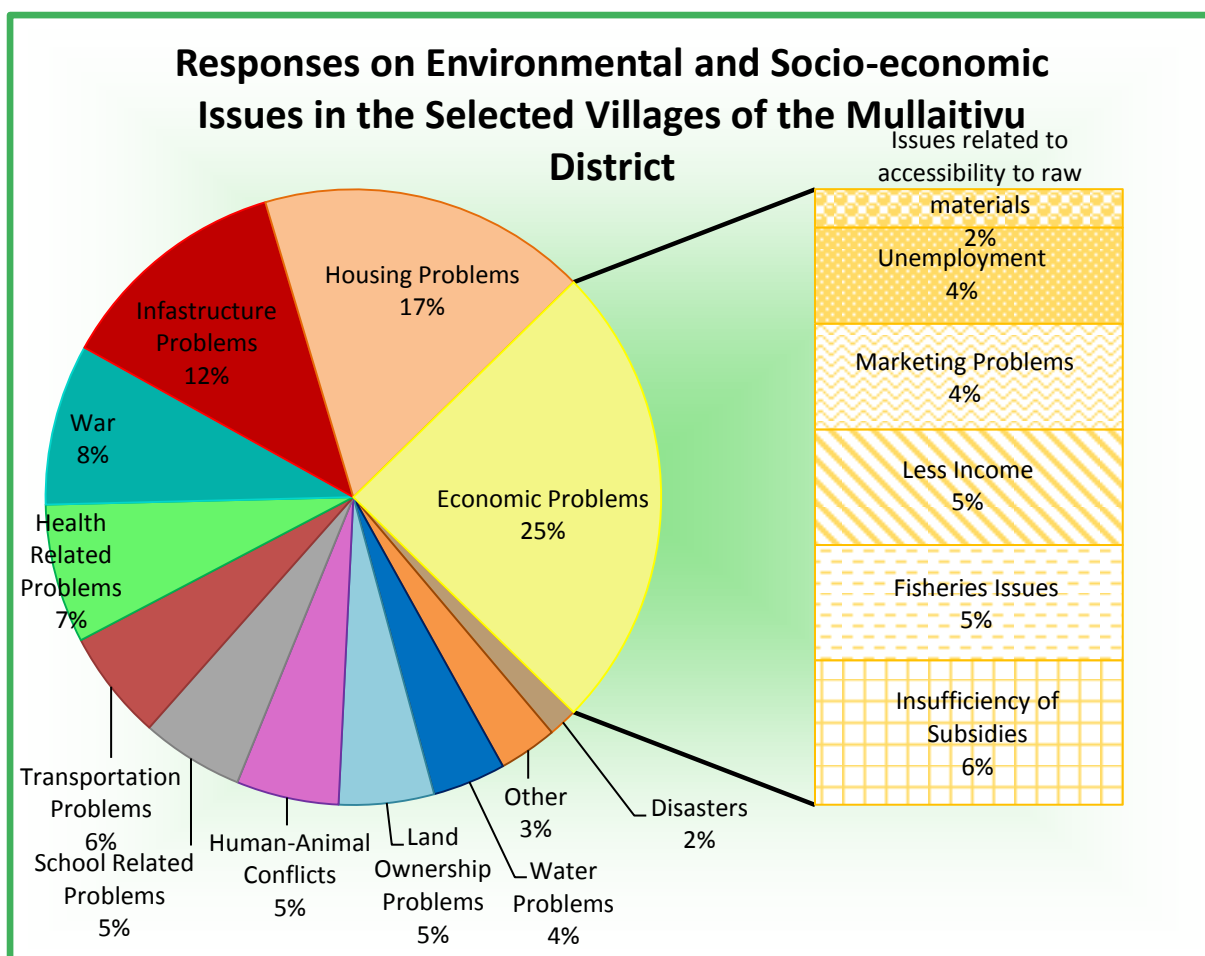


Figure 40 - Responses on Environmental and Socio-economic Issues in the Selected Villages of the Mullaitivu District

According to the above graph, the majority of the respondents in several areas of Mullaitivu have identified economic issues as detrimental. In fact, in areas such as Koolanmurippu and Iththimadu, the paddy farming community has faced difficulties since the government purchases paddy from them at a lower price (According to respondents, 1 kg of paddy is bought for Rs.22.00 by the government). In addition, the respondents also mentioned that sometimes the government delays the purchasing of paddy for a long time making the situation worse. Furthermore, the milk factory in Kumulamunai has faced difficulties as the grasslands are not sufficient to feed the 7000 cattle it rears. The fishing community in certain areas of Mullaitivu such as Pudumaththalan, Ambalapperumal Kulam and Mulliwaikkal also face economic difficulties since the Indian fishermen are poaching in their fishing zones (Please refer to Figure 41 for Distribution of Economic Issues in Mullaitivu).

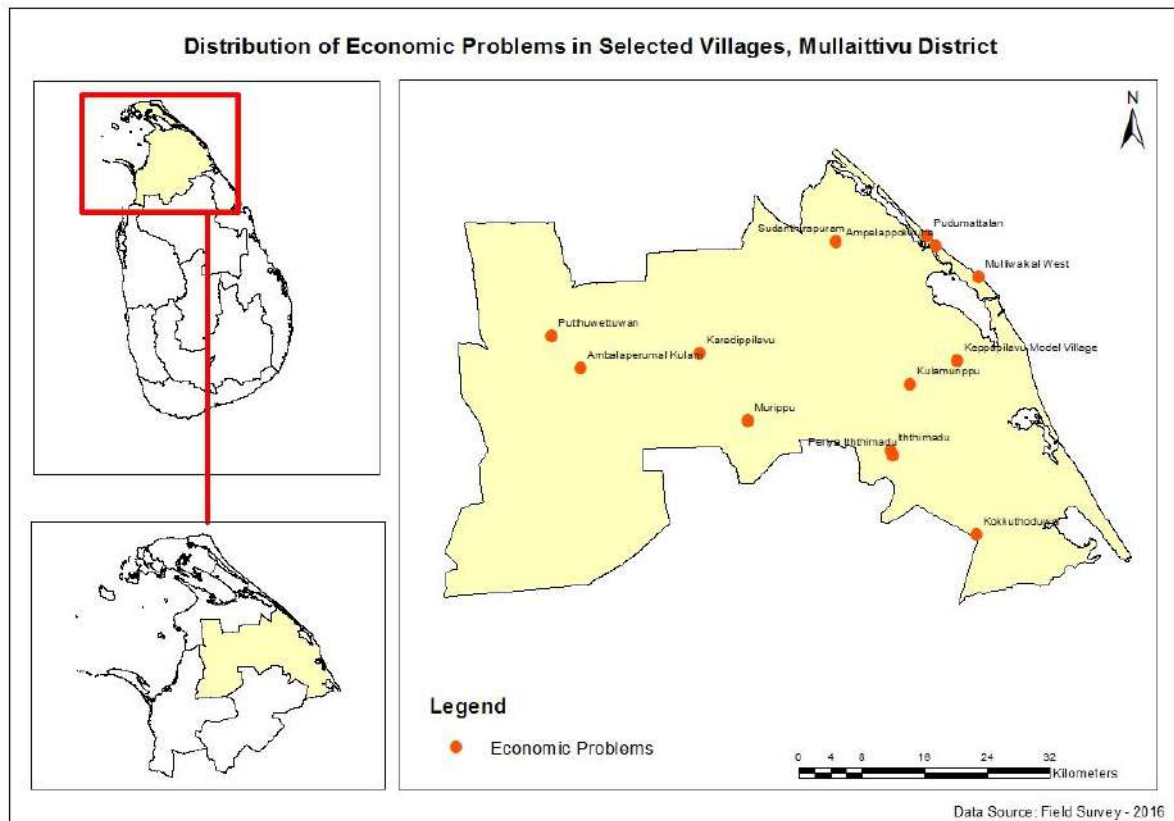


Figure 41 - Distribution of Issues related to Economy in the Selected Villages of the Mullaitivu District

The unavailability of permanent housing for people in Mullivaikkal West is another serious problem. Figure 40 also depicts this situation clearly where 17% of the respondents have identified the housing related problem as the second severe issue. In fact, out of the 17% of respondents who discussed housing related problems, around 93% of the respondents highlighted that they do not have permanent houses to live in whereas 7% of the respondents indicated that the facilities in the houses they live in are insufficient (Please refer to Figure 42).

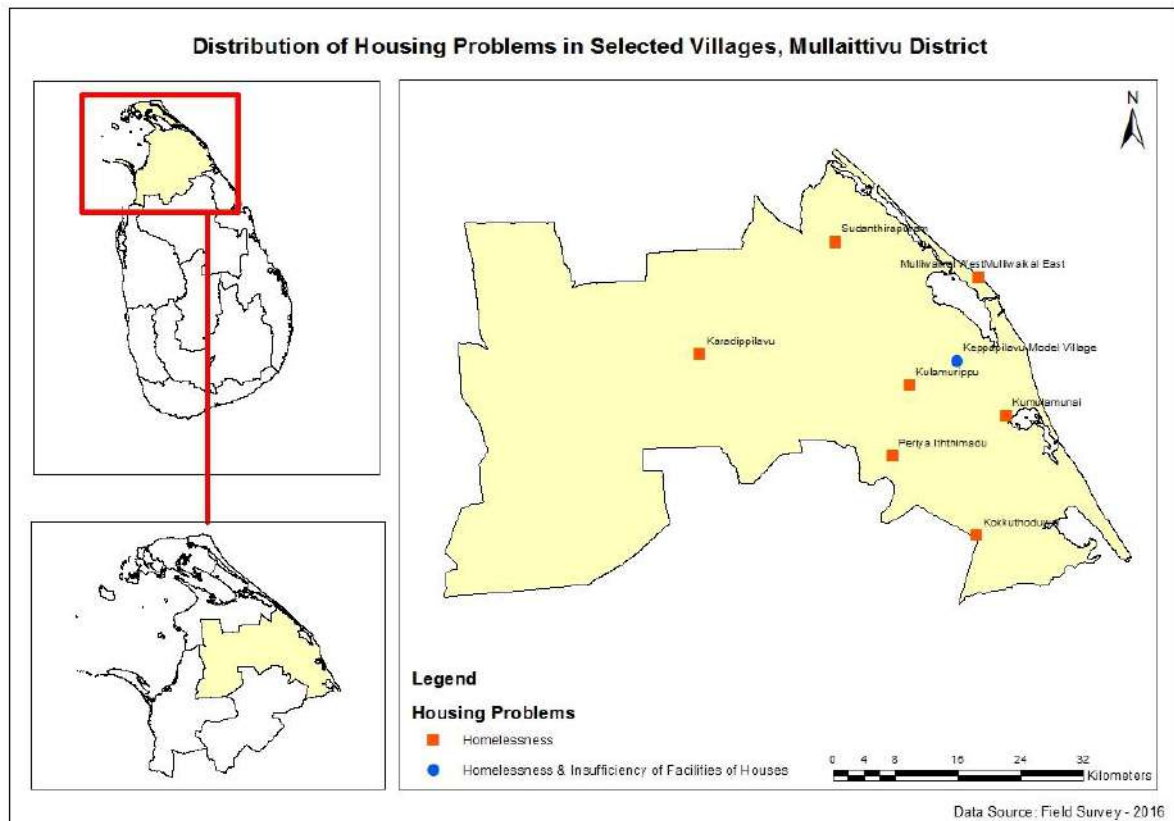


Figure 42 - Distribution of Issues related to Housing in the Selected Villages of the Mullaitivu District

Infrastructure problems too are a real concern for the villagers in many parts of the Mullaitivu district. In addition, the respondents indicated that the roads in Kumulamunai and Udayarkattu North have been severely damaged through which the transportation system has been interrupted. For instance, 75% of the respondents who discussed infrastructure problems indicated that road damages are high whereas another 12.5% of the respondents highlighted that in some areas, electricity related issues are present (Please refer to Figure 43).

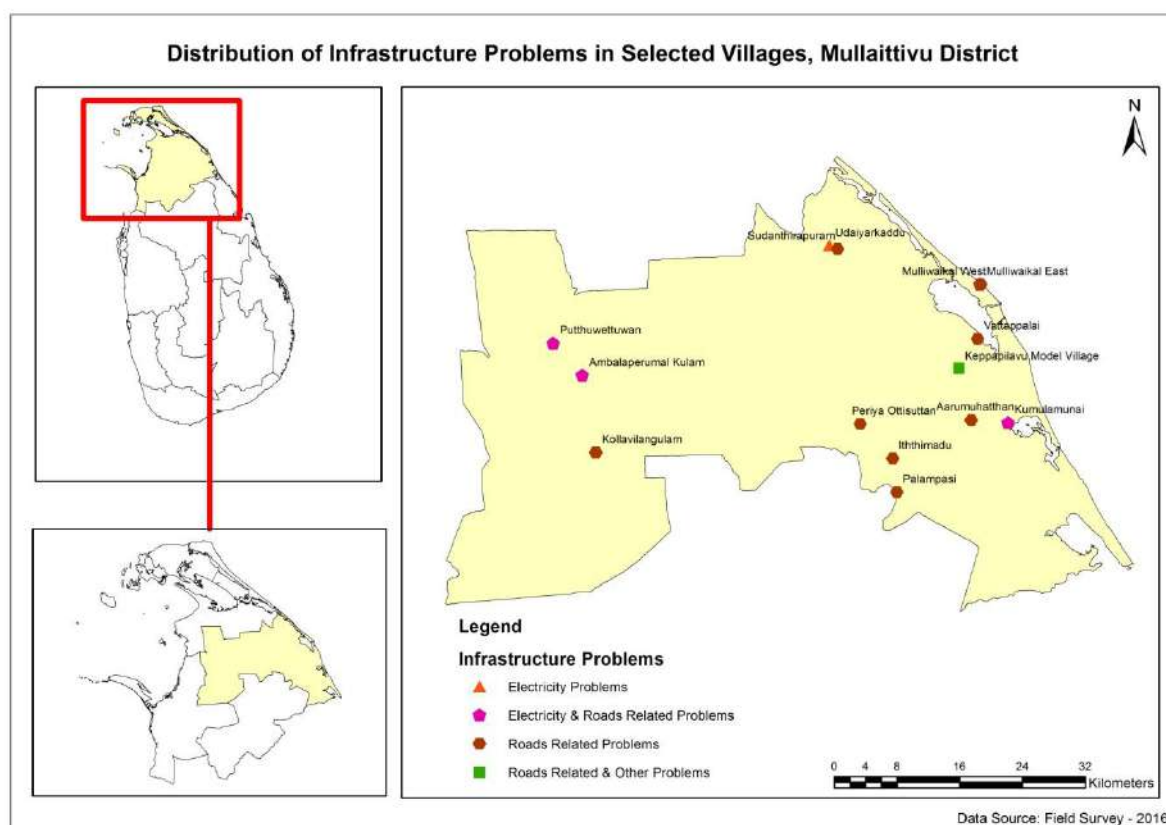


Figure 43 - Distribution of Infrastructure Issues in the Selected Villages of the Mullaitivu District

Another problem highlighted by the respondents is the bitter impacts of the war. In fact, in areas like Keppapilawu Model Village, Kokkilai East, the respondents pointed out that war has resulted in displacement and disability. For instance, 36.4% of the respondents who discussed war related matters indicated that the war has caused displacement of their communities whereas 18.2% stated that people have become disabled due to the war. Furthermore, 13.6% of the respondents who discussed war related problems highlighted that the war has caused widowhood in their communities. Thus, it is evident that even though the war has ended, it has left dark shadows behind that haunt the civilians in many parts of the Northern province even up to date.

The respondents also gave feedback on health related problems they face. Hence, it was evident that for people in many areas in Mullaitivu, the common issues were either the unavailability of a proper hospital due to the distance, or lack of facilities in the available hospitals when seeking treatment. In fact, 36.8% of the respondents who discussed health problems stated that they do not have a proper hospital in their villages whereas 31.6%

indicated that the facilities in the existing hospitals are not sufficient. Furthermore, 10.5% of the respondents also stated that the number of medical officers in the hospitals is not sufficient.

Even in terms of education, children in most of the areas face difficulties either due to the unavailability of a school or due to lack of facilities or teachers in schools. 35.7% of the respondents who highlighted schools related matters indicated that there are lack of facilities in the existing schools whereas another equal percentage of respondents indicated that the number of teachers in schools are not sufficient. In addition, around 21% of the respondents in certain areas of Mullaitivu stated that they do not have proper schools for the purpose of educating their children. A small percentage (7.1%) also identified students leaving schools at an early stage as a critical issue.

In areas such as Palampasi, Periya Ihthimadu and Puththuwettuwan human-elephant conflicts are also prominent. In fact, around 71% of the respondents who discussed human - animal conflicts stated that their villages are being affected due to human-elephant conflicts. In some areas of Mullaitivu, monkeys destroying the crops has also become a severe problem and 21.4% of the respondents highlighted this issue.

Apart from that, some people in the visited areas in Mullaitivu discussed land ownership issues where 23.1% of the respective respondents indicated that they have issues related to title deeds whereas another 23.1% pointed out that they are suffering due to landlessness. Issues due to the unavailability of clean drinking water were also discussed by the people who shared their common problems with the Gammadda team. Thus, 80% of the respondents who mentioned water related problems indicated that their main problem is the lack of clean drinking water.

In addition, some respondents mentioned that from time to time they are being affected by natural disasters such as droughts and floods. Public transport is yet another problem that they pointed out as affecting their lives negatively. Thus, people in many areas in the Mullaitivu district face multiple issues which should be addressed promptly to make their living conditions better.

4.5 Kilinochchi District

The land area of the Kilinochchi district is 1279km² (Department of Census and Statistics, 2015) and it possesses a population of 113,510 (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). When the distribution of population is considered in terms of sector, similar to the Mullaitivu district, 100% of the population in the Kilinochchi district belong to the rural sector and in terms of ethnicity, the majority of the population (98.2%) are Tamils while a very few Sinhalese and Sri Lankan Moor people are residing in the district (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012).

The literacy rate of the population in Kilinochchi is 97.7% and their computer literacy is 13.7% (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). According to the census data, 5.6% of the population have passed the G.C. E. Advanced Level or obtained an equivalent qualification while only 1% of the population has obtained a degree or a higher qualification. When compared with other districts in the Northern province, the Kilinochchi district thus has the lowest percentage of population who have completed graduate studies.

The percentage of economically active population in Kilinochchi is 46.1 while the percentage of economically inactive population is 53.9 (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). The census (2012) has also identified the employed population by the sector of employment and hence, 49.5% work as own account workers, 32.5% work as private sector employees, 10.2% work as government employees, 2.7% work as semi government employees, 2.5% work as employers and another 2.7% work as unpaid family workers. The Kilinochchi district also has the lowest percentage of population working as government employees in the Northern province.

While the demographic characteristics of the Kilinochchi district can be simply stated as above, the Gammadda research team was able to identify various issues that are experienced by the population in many areas in the Kilinochchi district. (Please refer to Figure 44.)

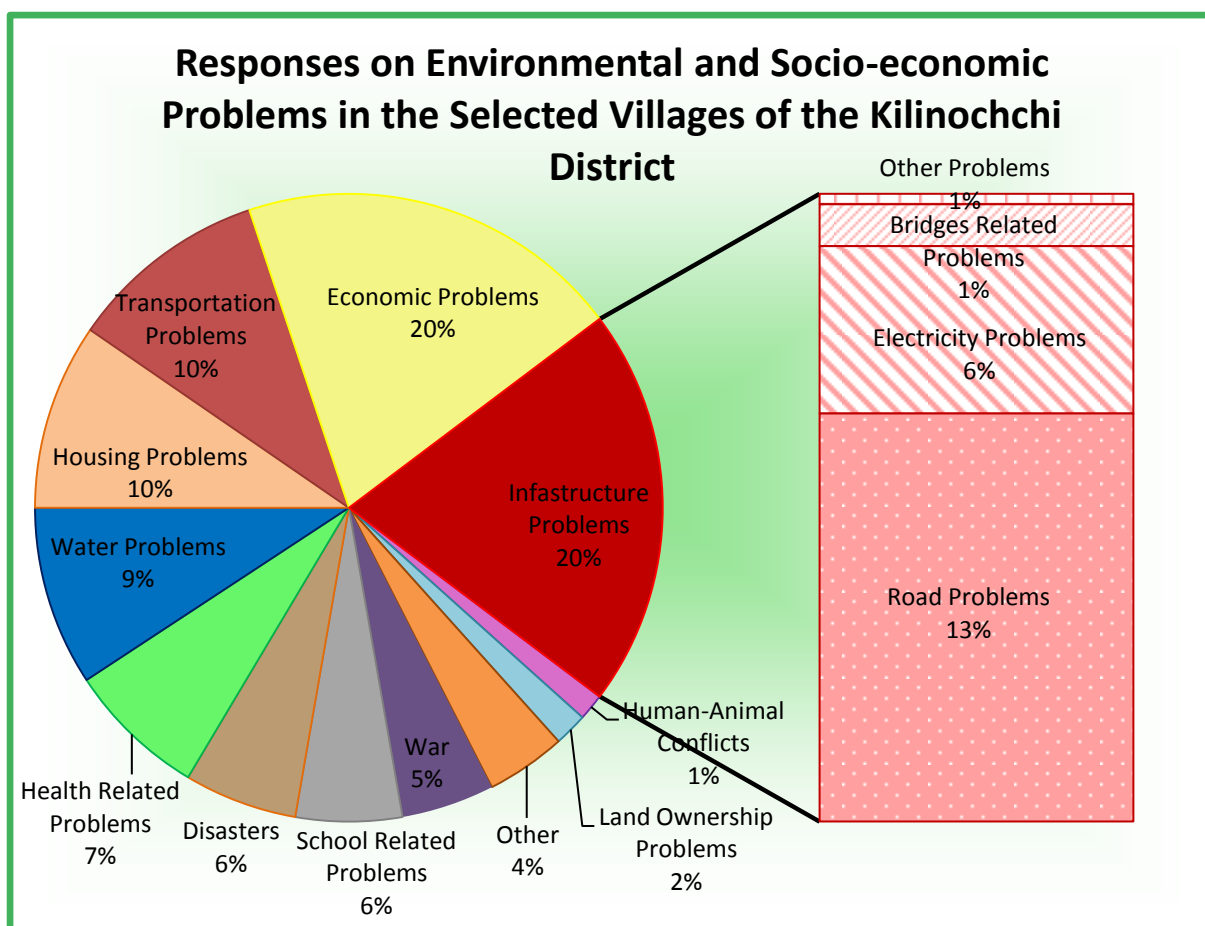


Figure 44 - Responses on Environmental and Socio-economic Problems in the Selected Villages of the Kilinochchi District

As per Figure 44, the majority of the respondents have stated infrastructure related issues as affecting them the most in a negative manner. For instance, people in Utruppulam have to travel to other areas by crossing a narrow and unstable bridge. This particular bridge cannot accommodate vehicles other than bicycles. Specially there is a high risk of small children falling off the bridge when crossing the it. Furthermore, 13% of the respondents as mentioned in the above graph have stated that the condition of the roads has become problematic. In areas like Pirapandanar, the roads are damaged to such an extent that transportation has become difficult (Please refer to Figure 45 for the distribution of infrastructure problems in selected villages of Kilinochchi). Public transportation is also lacking, especially in areas like Utruppulam, Vinayahapuram and Mayilwahanapuram.

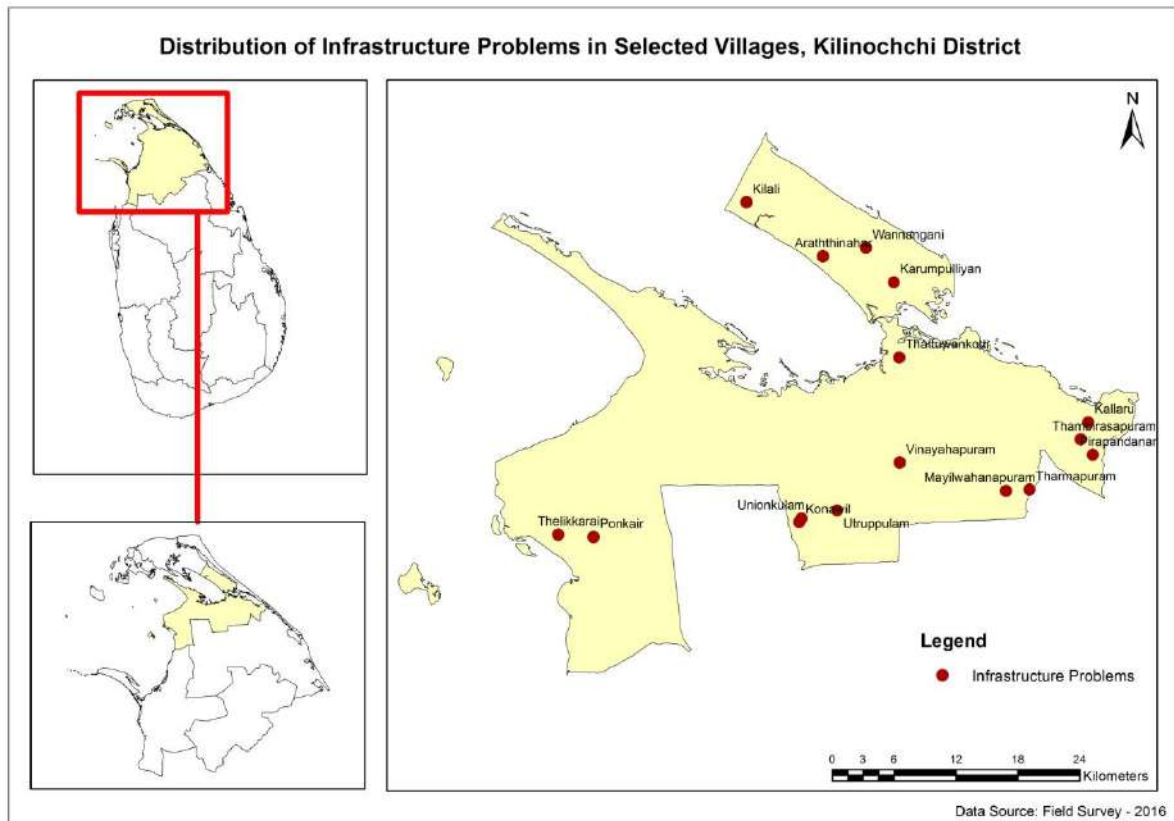


Figure 45 - Distribution of Infrastructure Problems in the Selected Villages of the Kilinochchi District

If economic problems are taken into consideration, the graph indicates that the respondents have identified economic issues too as a major concern. In fact, 50% of the respondents who presented their ideas on this regard stated that they do not have a sufficient income to fulfill their day to day needs whereas 20.7% of the respondents indicated that the subsidies provided for them are insufficient. A significant percentage (17.2%) also informed that they are facing difficulties due to unemployment whereas 8.6% of the respondents indicated that they face challenges when marketing their products. In Tharmapuram, the vendors in the village vegetable market are facing great difficulties due to lack of facilities. The respondents from the respective area even stated that this particular market gets flooded easily during the rainy seasons, affecting their business. In Pirapandamar, the major economic issue faced by the farmers is the low price paid by the government when purchasing paddy (Please refer to Figure 46).

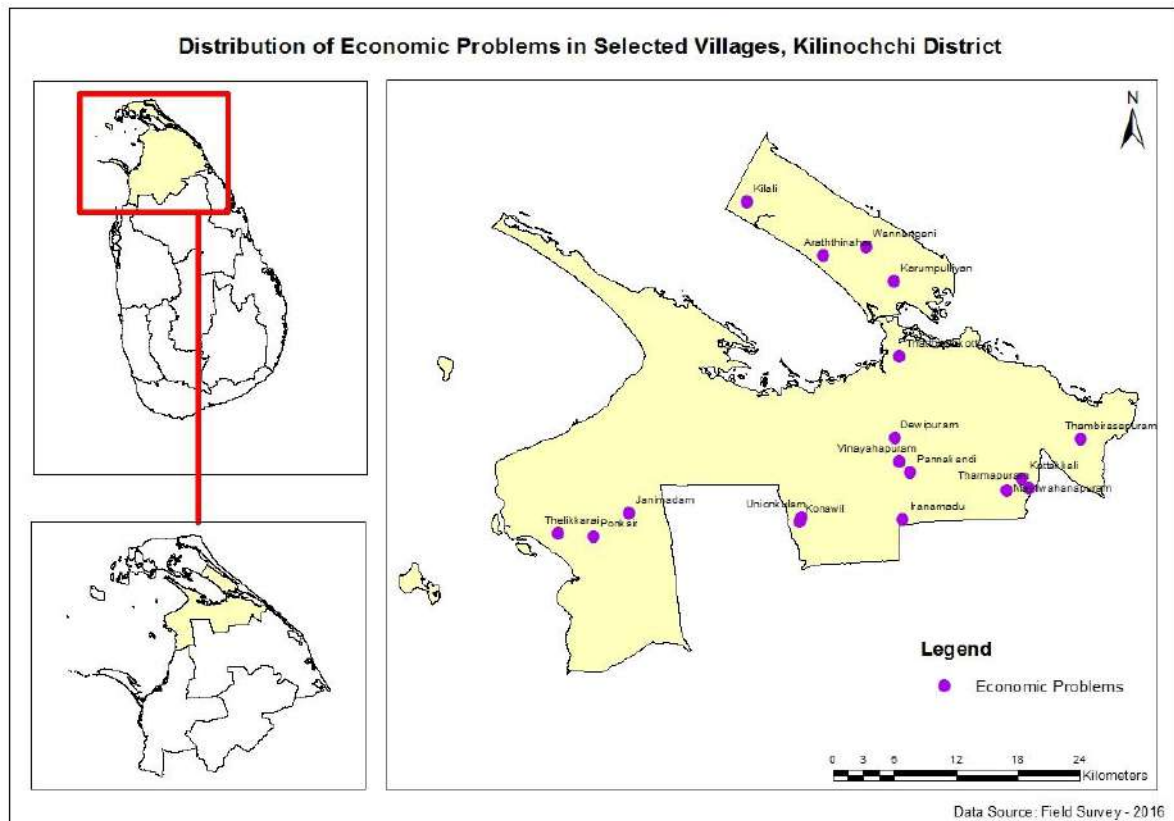


Figure 46 - Distribution of Economic Problems in the Selected Villages of the Kilinochchi District

If housing issues are considered, the people in the Thambirasapuram area are suffering since they have to live in temporary houses with very less facilities some areas are going through further negative experiences due to the absence of clean drinking water. For instance, in Kallaru and Nawatkottiyar, the water sources contain high salinity levels making it difficult for people to utilize water for drinking purposes. Thus, out of the respondents who discussed issues related to water, 85.2% stated that not having clean drinking water has become a major issue in their areas (Please refer to Figure 47 and Figure 48 for the Distribution of Housing Problems and Water Problems in Selected Villages of Kilinochchi district).

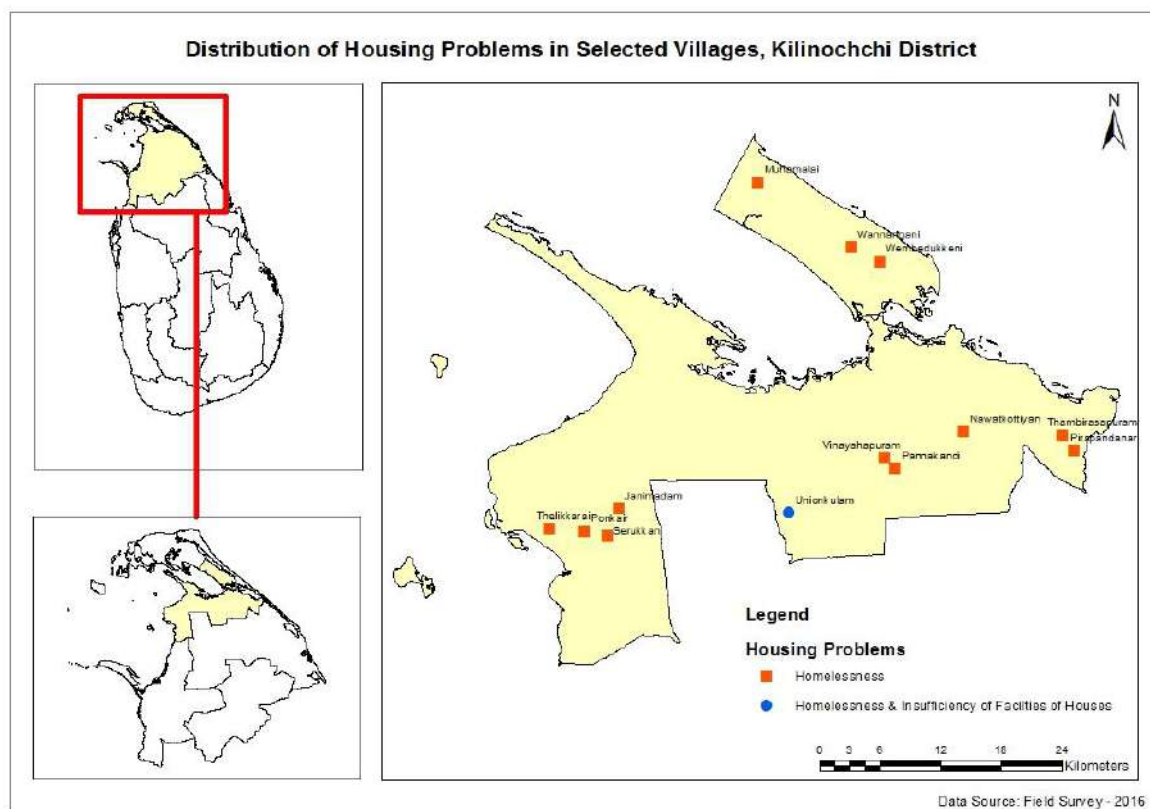


Figure 47 - Distribution of Housing Problems in the Selected Villages of the Kilinochchi District

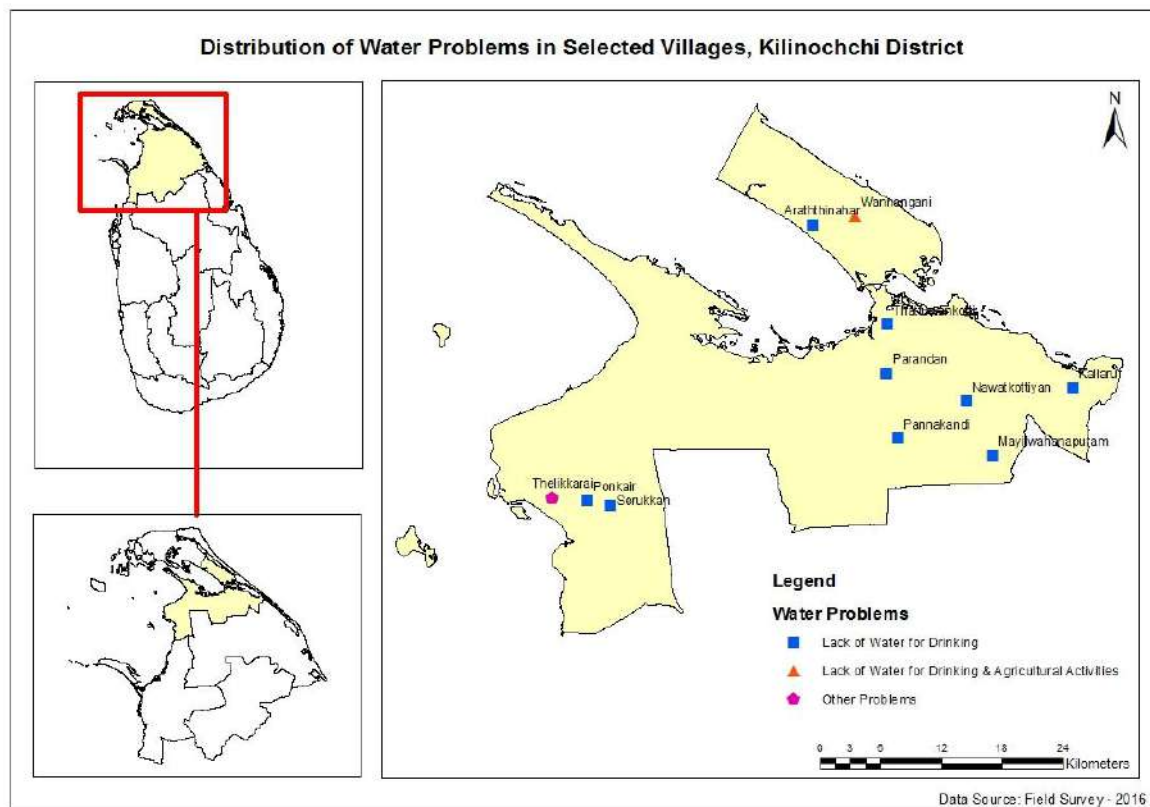


Figure 48 - Distribution of Issues related to Water in the Selected Villages of the Kilinochchi District

Respondents in the Unionkulam area have highlighted the impact of natural disasters such as floods and droughts. In other words, extreme weather conditions that are present in Mullaitivu make the people in the respective district suffer often. The inability of children to receive a proper education due to the absence of a properly functioning school is yet another problem. Thus, out of the respondents who discussed schools related problems, around 31% stated that their areas lack properly functioning schools whereas 25% of the respondents each stated that human resources and physical resources are lacking in the existing schools. Around 19% of the population indicated that there is a tendency for the school children to withdraw from school education at an early age.

In addition to these, a small percentage of the respondents have mentioned issues on land ownership and also regarding the negative impacts of the war which have not been eliminated in a post war context. Thus, even in Kilinochchi, 42.9% of the respondents who stated mentioned war related matters highlighted that disability has become a common issue after war.

5. Eastern Province

The Eastern province is divided into three districts; namely, Batticaloa, Ampara, and Trincomalee with a total population of 1,555, 510, and the majority of the population in the Eastern province comprising a percentage of 74.9 resides in the rural sector (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). When ethnic composition of the Eastern province is taken into consideration, the census data (2012) indicate that a fairly high number of Tamils (39.5%) and Muslims (36.9%) and comparatively a lesser number of Sinhalese (23.2%) and other ethnic groups (0.4%) live in this region.

When understanding the basic characteristics of a population, it is also vital to pay attention to their level of education. According to the Department of Census and Statistics (2012) the data related to education in the Eastern province are as follows.

In the Eastern province, the percentage of the population that has passed the G.C.E. Ordinary level or obtained an equivalent qualification, the G.C.E. Advanced Level or gained an equivalent qualification, and obtained a degree or a higher qualification are respectively, 13.2%, 8.9% and 2%. The literacy rate of the population in the Eastern province is 91.9% and the computer literacy rate is 18.6%. When compared with Northern province, the literacy rate of the population in the Eastern province is relatively low.

When the economic status of the people in the Eastern province is taken into consideration, 47.1% of the population aged 15 years and above are economically active in this province and among the employed population in the province, 44.3% or the majority work as own account workers, 27.2% of the employed population work as private sector employees, 18.9% work as government employees, 2.4% work as semi government workers, 2.8% work as employers and 4.4% work as unpaid family workers (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012).

While some selected demographic factors of the Eastern province can be stated as above, the information gathered by the Gammadda research team on the pivotal issues experienced by the people living in the selected villages of the Eastern province can be narrowed down as follows (Please refer to Figure 49.)

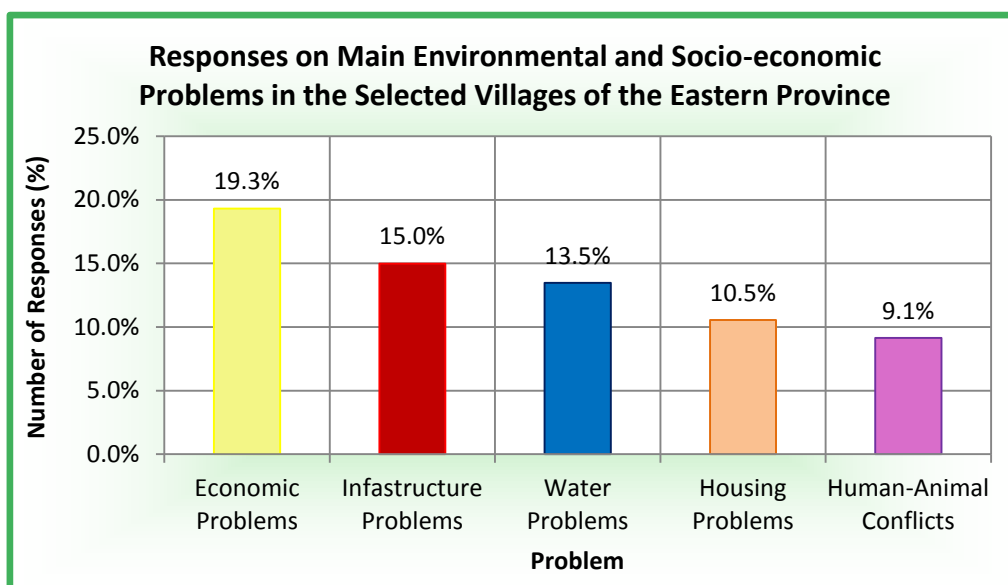


Figure 49 - Responses on Main Environmental and Socio-economic Issues in the Selected Villages of the Eastern Province

Similar to the Northern province, the majority of the population in the rural areas of the Eastern province also suffers from economic problems. If further analyzed, in Batticaloa and Trinomalee, the main issue related to economy in the rural areas is unemployment whereas in Ampara, the respondents were most concerned about was the inability to market their products. (Please refer to Figure 50).

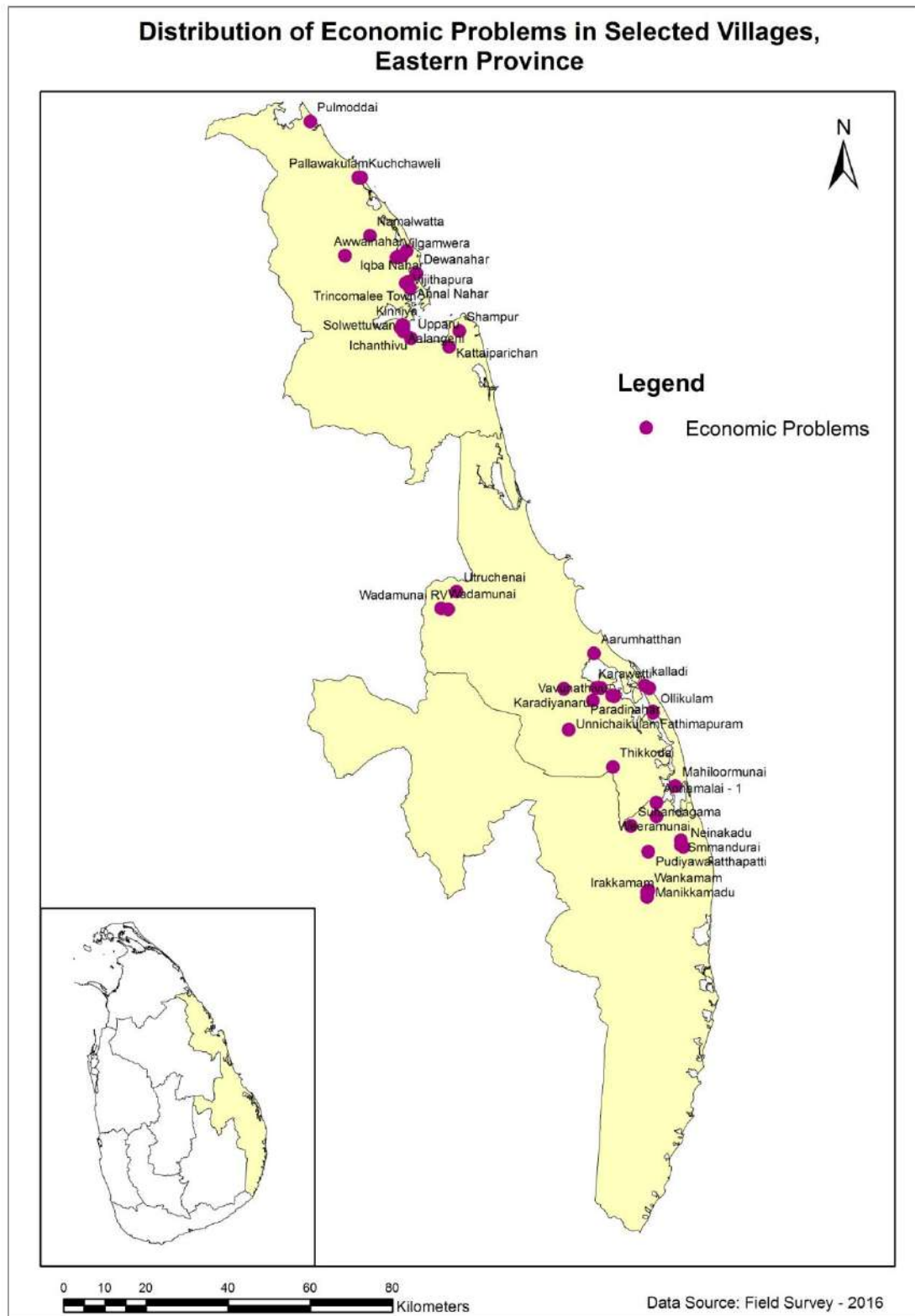


Figure 50 - Distribution of Issues related to Economy in the Selected Villages of the Eastern Province

The second major issue for the people in the rural areas according to the respondents was the infrastructure related. However, most of the respondents highlighted the requirement of repairing the roads that are severely damaged. In fact, in terms of infrastructure issues, the major problem they pointed out was that some roads in the rural areas are damaged to an extent where transportation has become a challenge. Apart from that, lack of access to electricity was also identified as an issue that is common to all three districts in the Eastern province, but to a different extent. Further analysis of this issue has been provided at district level discussion of the issues (Please refer to Figure 51).

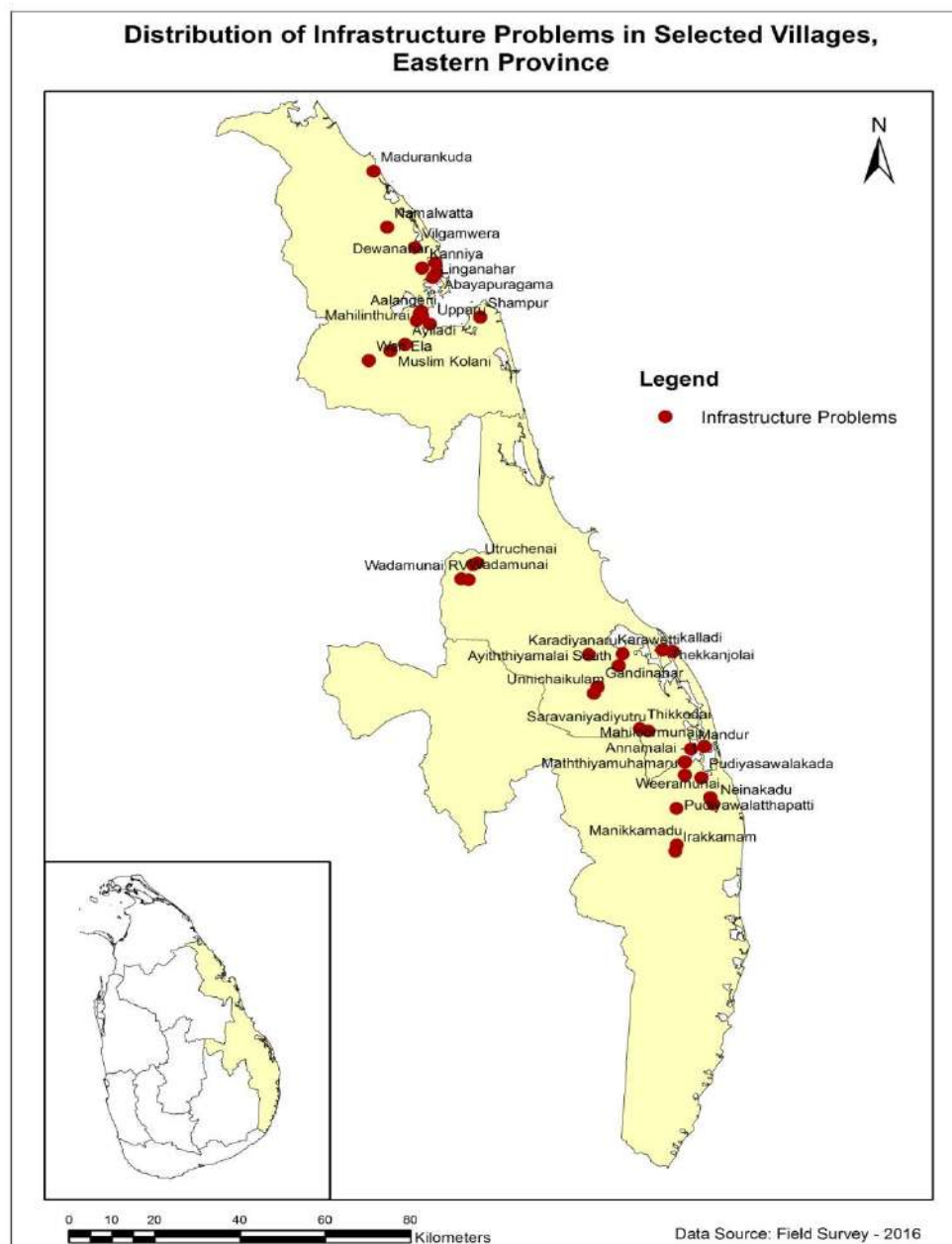


Figure 51 - Distribution of Issues related to Infrastructure in the Selected Villages of the Eastern Province

Thirdly, water related issues can also be considered as affecting the rural population in the visited areas in the Eastern province in a negative manner. In all three districts in the Eastern province, the major rural areas which were visited were facing drinking water issues due to the unavailability of clean drinking water sources (Please refer to Figure 52).

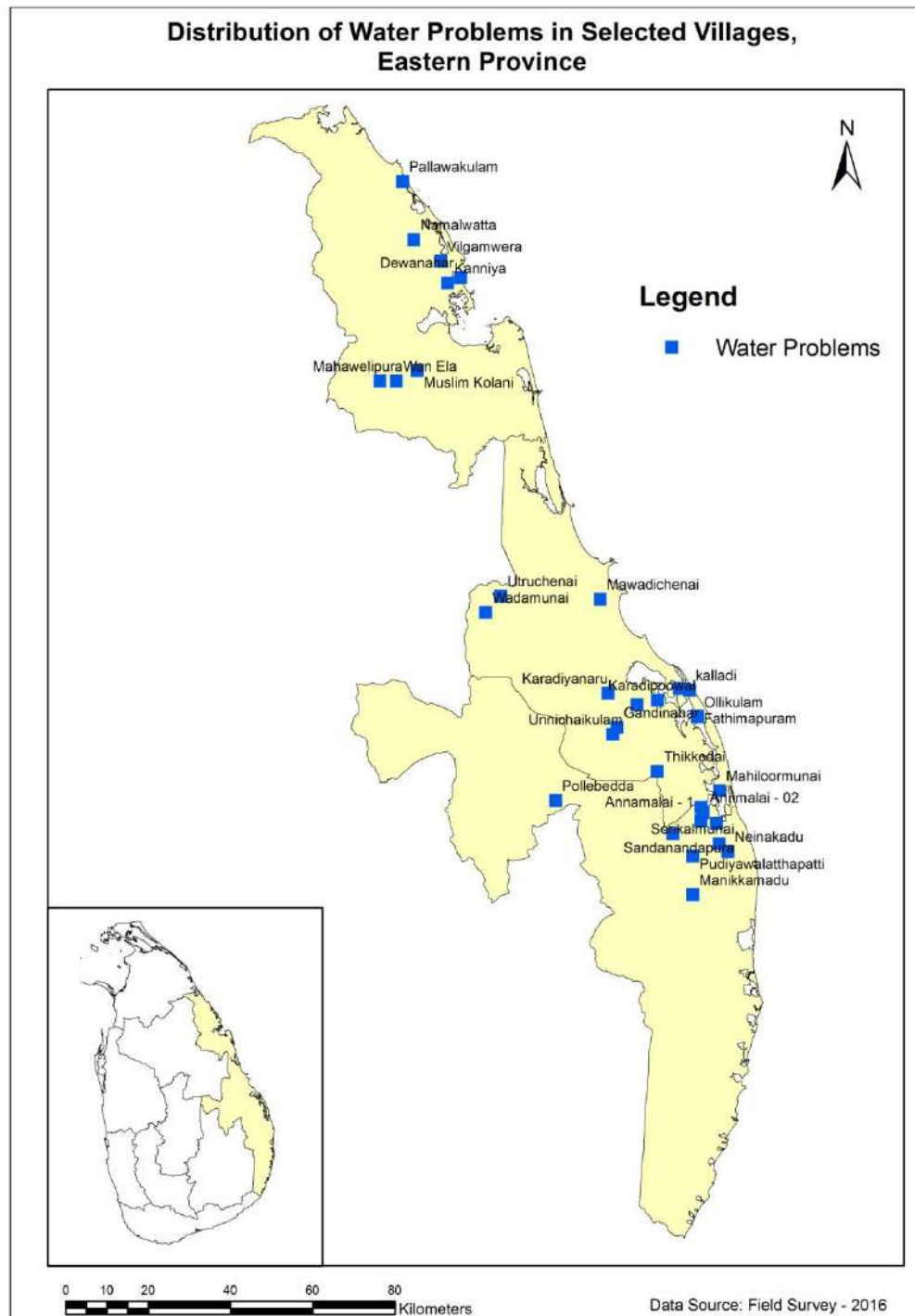


Figure 52 - Distribution of Issues related to Water in the Selected Villages in the Eastern Province

Apart from these main problems which are at provincial level, the other issues are issues related to housing (Refer to Figure 53) and human-elephant conflicts (Refer to Figure 54). When housing issues are considered, the unavailability of permanent housing was the most serious issue faced by the population in the visited rural areas and when human-animal conflicts are considered, elephants storming the villages was considered as the biggest issue which sometimes costs the lives of both human beings and elephants.

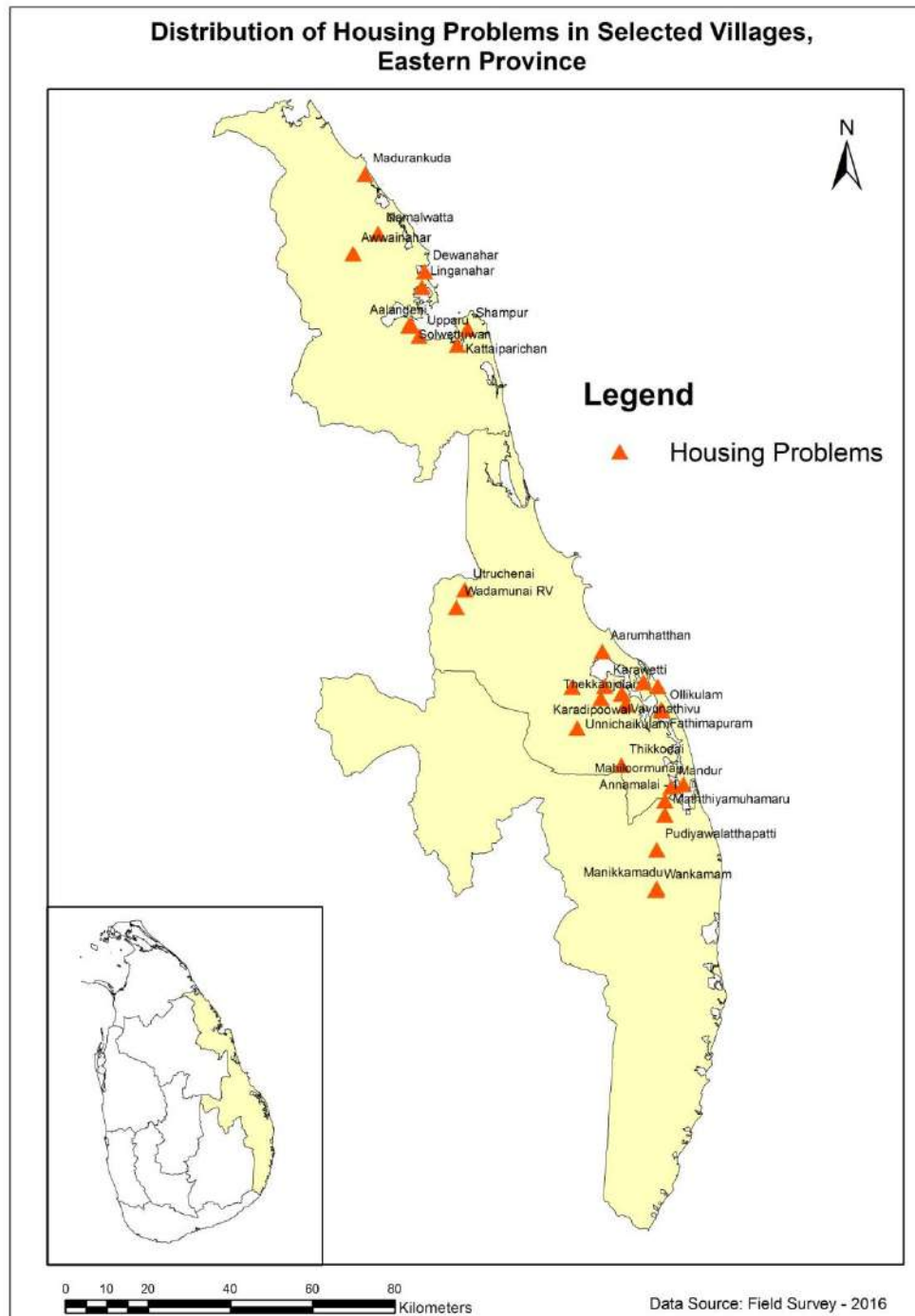


Figure 53 - Distribution of Issues related to Housing in the Selected Villages in the Eastern Province

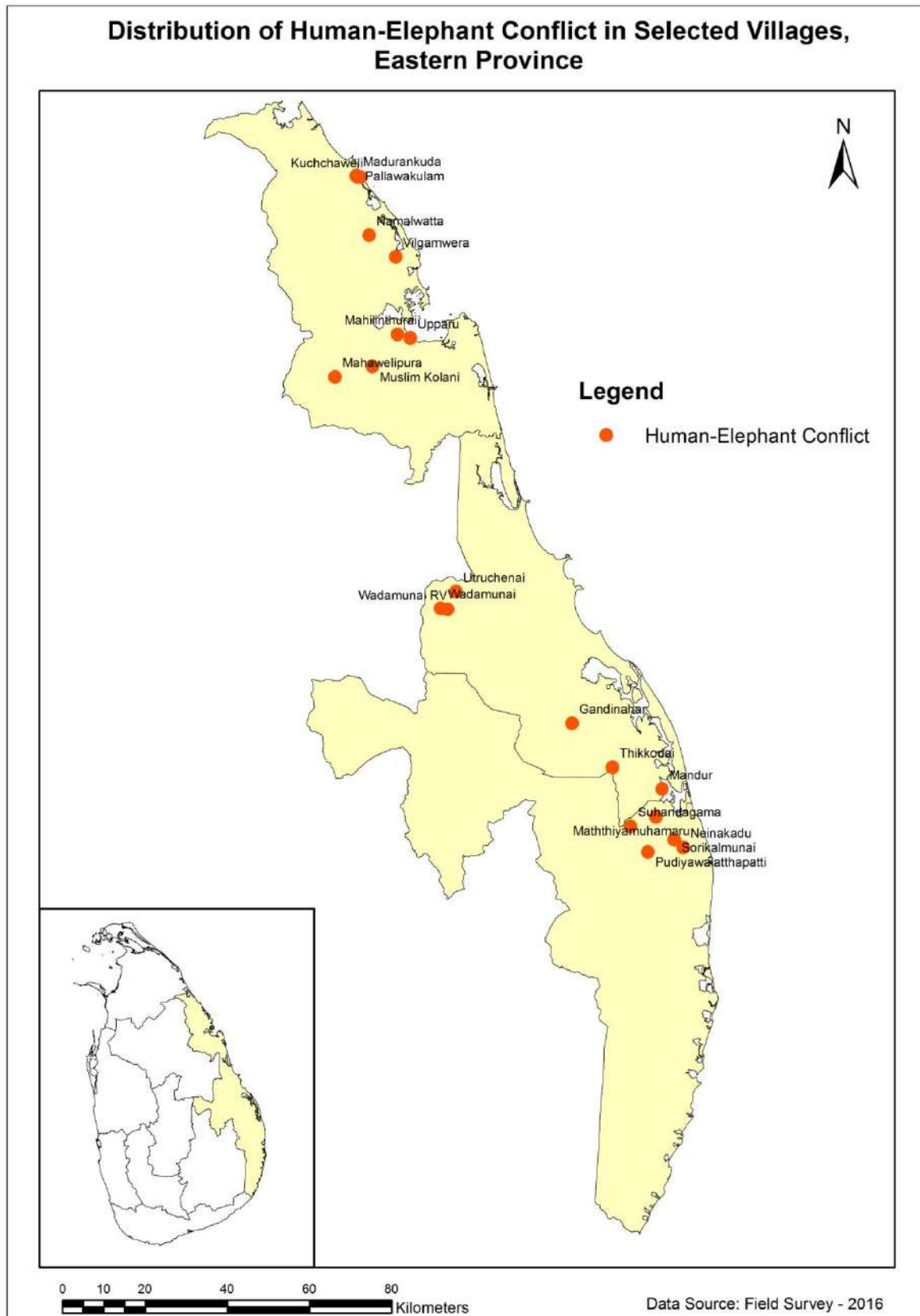


Figure 54 - Distribution of Issues related to Human-Elephant Conflicts in the Selected Villages in the Eastern Province

5.1. Batticaloa District

The land area of the Batticaloa district is 2854 km² (Department of Census and Statistics, 2015) with a total population of 526,567 and as in the Northern province, the majority of the population (72.7%) belongs to the Tamil ethnic group while Sri Lankan Moors (25.4) and Sinhalese (1.3%) also reside in the district (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). The census findings also indicate that 71.3% of the population also belongs to the rural sector while only a small percentage (28.7%) lives in the urban sector.

The literacy rate of the population of Batticaloa is 89.5% with a computer literacy rate of 18.6% and in terms of education status, 12.5% of the population have passed the G.C.E. Ordinary Level or an equivalent, 8.2% have passed the G.C. E. Advanced Level or an equivalent qualification and 2.2% have obtained a degree and/or a higher qualification (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). When the percentage of the population that has obtained a degree is considered, Batticaloa district records the highest percentage of population who have completed graduate studies in the Eastern province.

The economic status is also an important factor that contributes to identifying the standard of life of a given population. In Batticaloa, 46.1% of the population aged 15 years and above is economically active while 44.5% of the population works as own account workers, 33.9% work as private sector employees, 14% work as government employees, 3.5% work as employers, 2% work as semi government employees, and 2.1% work as unpaid family workers (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). When compared with the other districts in the Eastern province, the Batticaloa district has the highest percentage of workers in the private sector and the lowest percentage of workers in the government sector.

The above details have provided a brief background to the demographic characteristics of the Batticaloa district. However, the Gammadda research team was able to identify some burning issues in the visited areas in Batticaloa. (Please Refer to Figure 55).

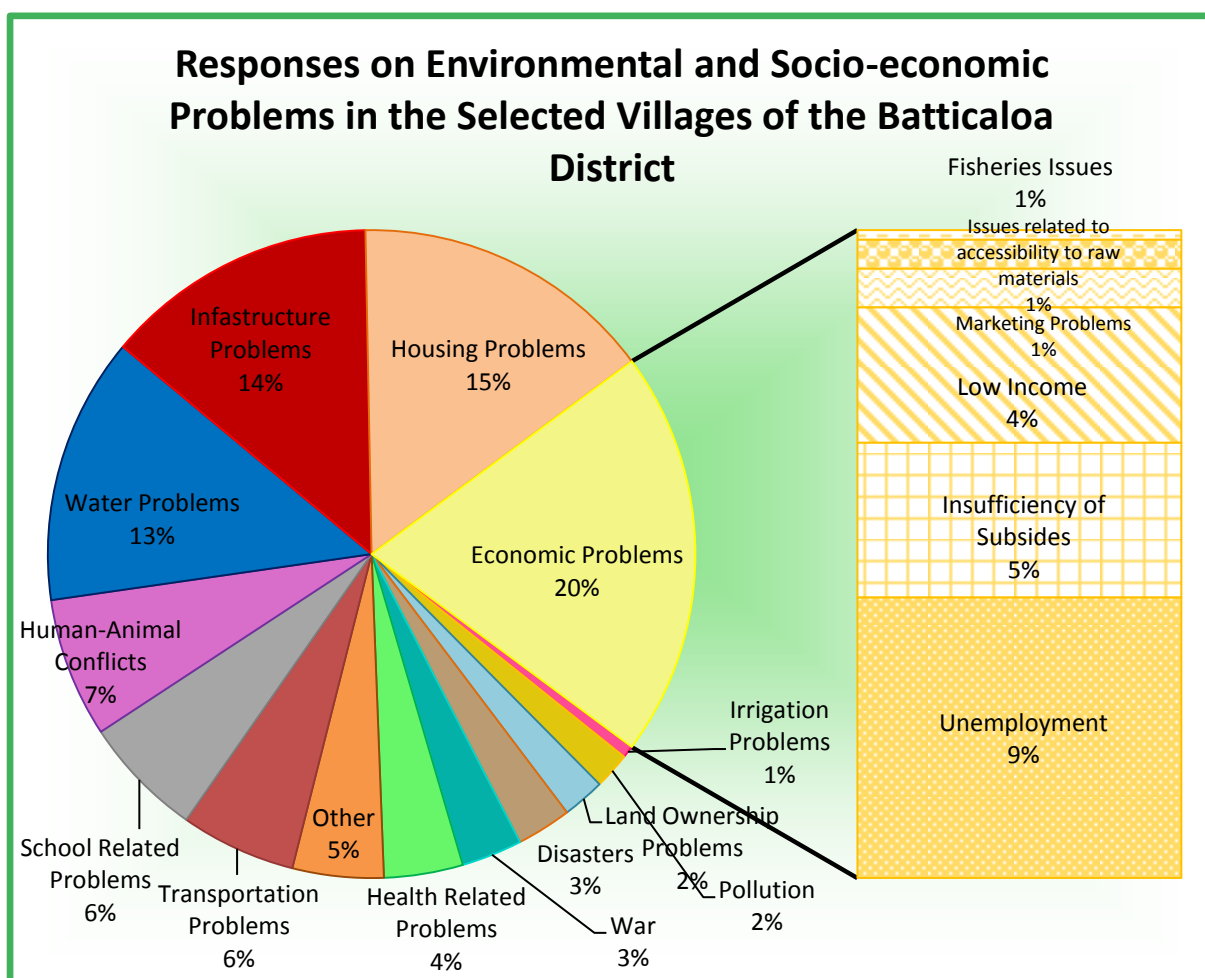


Figure 55 - Responses on Environmental and Socio-economic Problems in the Selected Villages of the Batticaloa District

As per Figure 55, the majority of the respondents in the visited villages in Batticaloa face economic problems. In particular, of the respondents who discussed economic problems, 43.3% stated that their main economic problem is unemployment, 23.9% stated that the main problem they face is the insufficiency of subsidies, 20.9% pointed out that they are suffering due to low income, 6% stated that they have difficulties in marketing their products, 4.5% indicated that they find it difficult to get access to raw materials whereas around 1% indicated that they have issues related to fisheries. (Please refer to Figure 56).

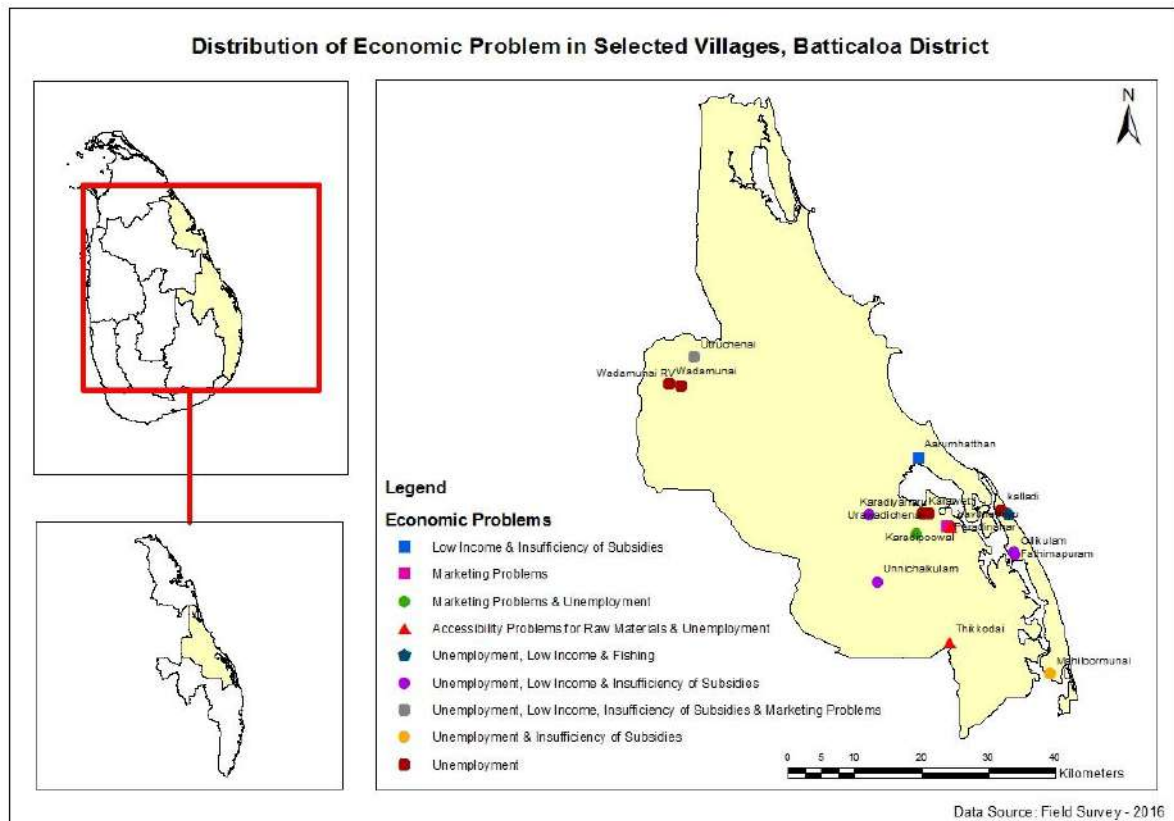


Figure 56 - Distribution of Issues related to Economy in the Selected Villages of the Batticaloa District

In addition, around 15% of the respondents stated that there are housing problems. Specially in areas such as Mahaloormunai, Unnichaikulam, Karadiyanaru, Thiruchchendoor and Ollikulam. In fact, in the respective areas, people are living in temporary houses. If this situation is further analyzed, of the respondents who stated regarding housing problems, 88% stated that the main issue is that they do not have a permanent house to live in whereas 12% of the respondents indicated that there are insufficient facilities in the houses (Please refer to Figure 57).

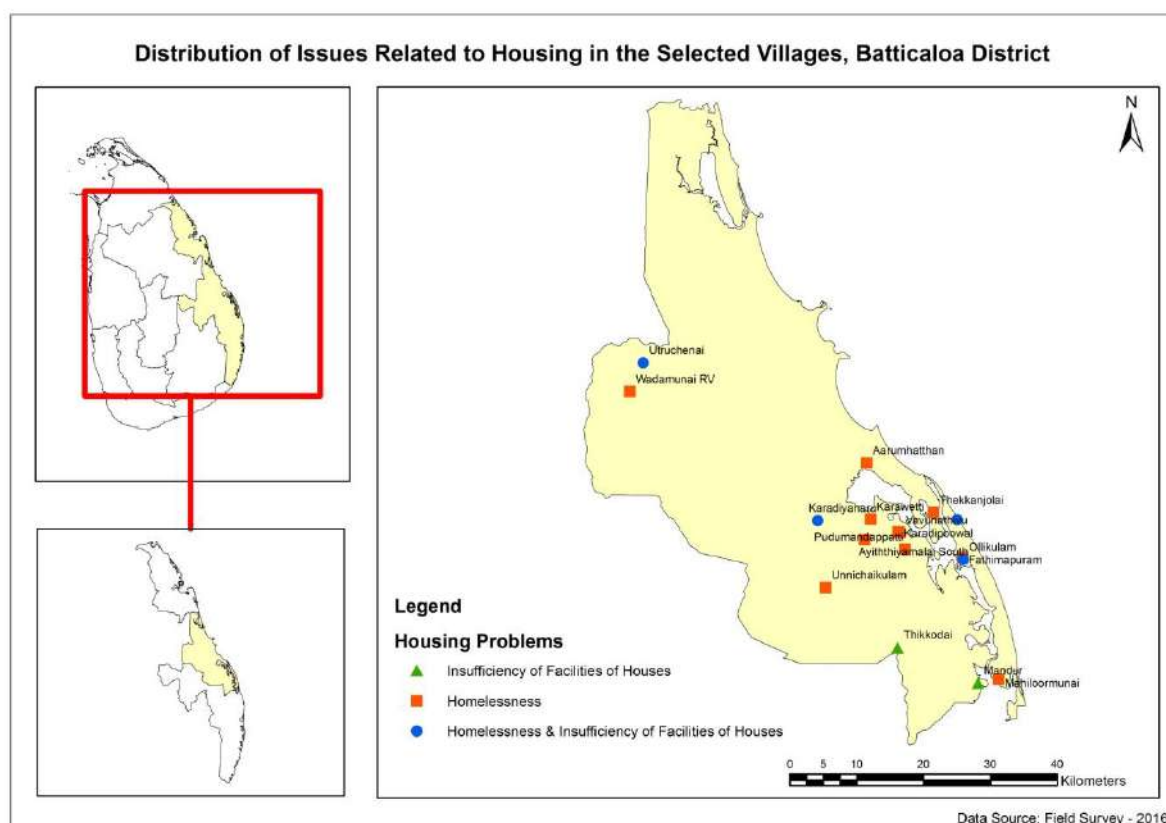


Figure 57 - Distribution of Issues related to Housing in the Selected Villages of the Batticaloa District

In areas such as Utruchchanai and Wadamunai, the road network is greatly damaged making it difficult to provide suitable transport. Of the respondents who discussed infrastructure related issues, around 82% stated that the major problem lies in the road network system where roads are damaged to a greater extent whereas around 11% of the respondents indicated that there are difficulties due to the unavailability of an electricity supply in certain areas (Please refer to Figure 58).

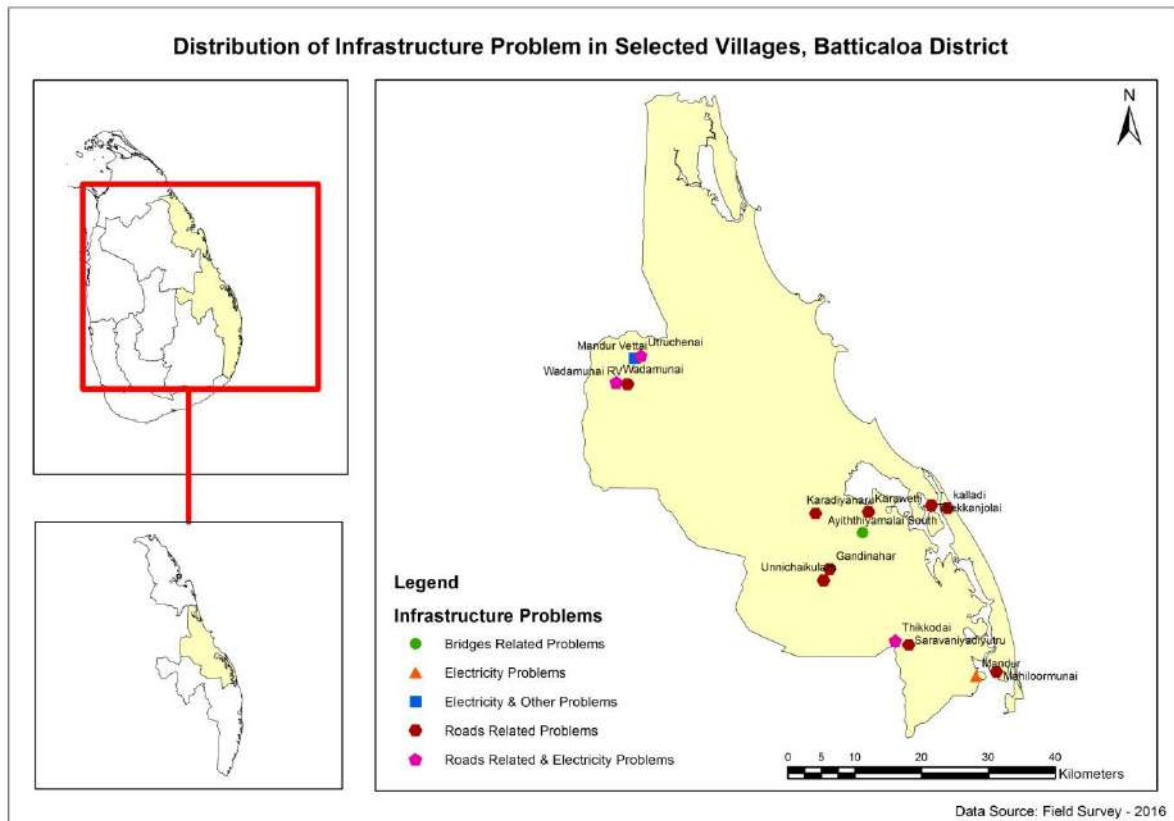


Figure 58 - Distribution of Issues related to Infrastructure in the Selected Villages of the Batticaloa District

Drinking water related problems are present in areas such as Ollikulam, Mahaloormunai, Unnichaikulam, Karadiyanaru, etc. Hence, 95.5% of the respondents who discussed water related issues agreed that the main issue related to water is the unavailability of clean drinking water. However, the nature of the issue as well as the gravity of the issue changes from area to area (Please refer to Figure 59).

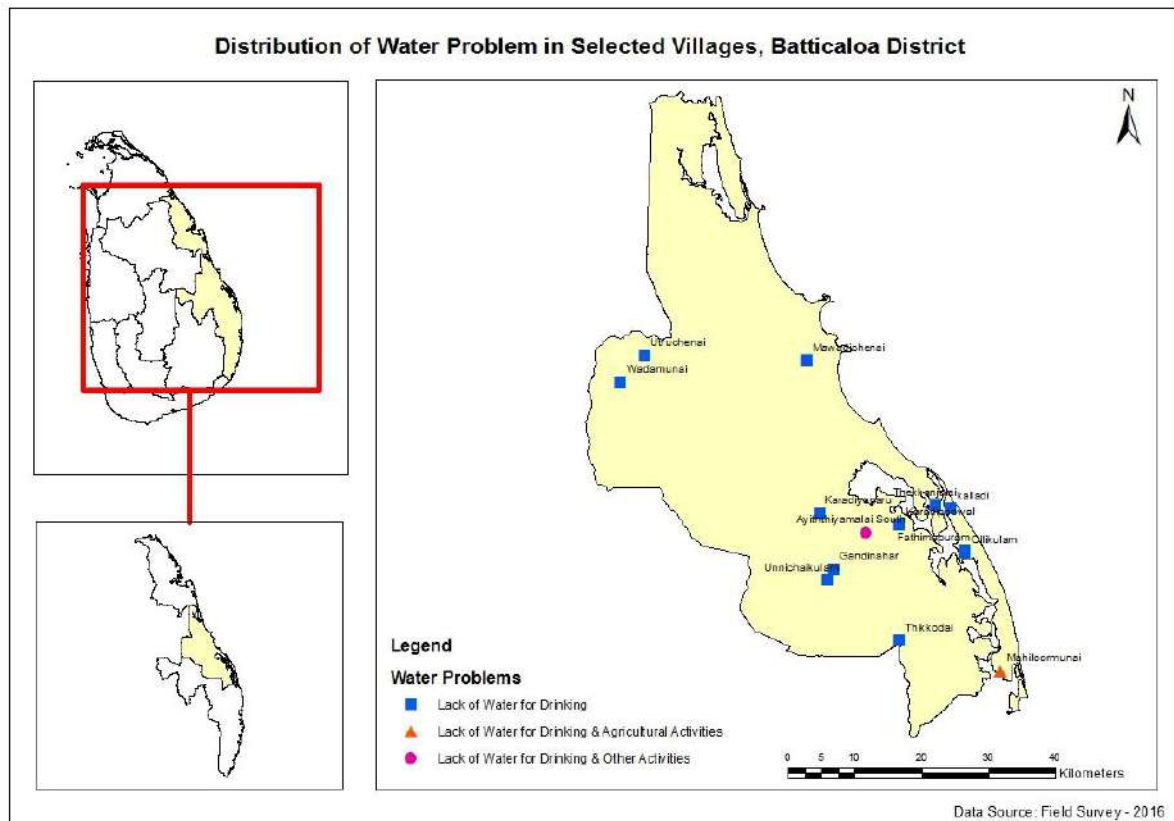


Figure 59 - Distribution of Issues related to Water in the Selected Villages of the Batticaloa District

The human-elephant conflict is also severely present in several areas in the Batticaloa district such as, Utruchchanai, Thikkodai, Mahaloormunai, Pudumandapatthadi and Wadamunai. In fact, of the respondents who highlighted human-animal conflicts, 91.3% of the respondents indicated that they have to face threats to their lives as well as threats to their crops due to elephants. Further, 8.7% of the respondents indicated that in some areas, their lives are threatened by the presence of crocodiles.

Issues related to schools are also critical for a community, specially since it is through education that most of the people can gain upward social mobility. However, the experiences of the people in several areas of Batticaloa of school education are not very pleasant. In fact, 40% of the respondents who talked about schools related issues highlighted that there aren't sufficient facilities in the existing schools, 20% stated that the number of school teachers are not sufficient to teach children properly, 15% stated that school dropouts have become an issue whereas another 15% indicated that lack of proper schools have become a problem.

Furthermore, the respondents of the respective villages have also provided information regarding the quality of public transport. Thus, 100% of the respondents who discussed transport related issues stated that public transportation is inadequate and that there isn't an adequate number of buses to cater to the requirements of the people.

When considering health related problems, the major issue that the population in the visited areas of Batticaloa face is lack of facilities in the existing hospitals. Hence, 38.5% of the respondents who discussed health related issues pointed out that due to insufficient facilities, they face greater difficulties when receiving treatment. The other problems they face related to health are the presence of various diseases, lack of medical officers in the existing hospitals and lack of hospitals in several areas. In addition, natural disasters that have affected the respective areas in Batticaloa according to the respondents are, floods and the tsunami. Further analysis of environmental issues also indicates that three types of pollution; namely, water pollution, land pollution and air pollution are prevalent in Batticaloa as per the information provided by the respondents. Some of the respondents also indicated that they have land ownership issues.

5.2. Ampara District

The land area of the Ampara district is 4,415 km² (Department of Census and Statistics, 2015) and the total population is 649, 402, marking the highest population in the Eastern province (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). According to census data (2012) unlike in Batticaloa and in Ampara, the majority of the population belongs to Sri Lankan Moors with a percentage of 43.4 and the Sinhalese comprises 38.9% of the total population. The census findings also indicate that in terms of sector wise population distribution, the majority of the population (76.4%) lives in the rural sector.

When the education status is considered, 13.5% of the population has passed the G.C.E. Ordinary level or gained an equivalent qualification, 10% have passed the G.C.E. Advanced level or gained an equivalent qualification and 2% have obtained degrees or a higher qualification (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). The census data also indicate that the literacy rate of the population is 92.8% while the computer literacy is 18.8%.

In terms of the economic status, 47.5% of the population aged 15 years and above are economically active in the Ampara district while 43.7% work as own account workers, 23.6%

work as private sector employees, 21.2% work as government employees, 2.5% work as employers, 2.3% work as semi government employees and 6.7% work as unpaid family workers (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). Of all the districts in the Eastern province, the Ampara district records the highest percentage of population working as unpaid family workers.

Even though the basic demographic characteristics of the Ampara district can be explained as above, the findings of the Gammadda research team based on the research carried out in the selected rural areas of Ampara can be summarized as follows using a graph (Please refer to Figure 60).

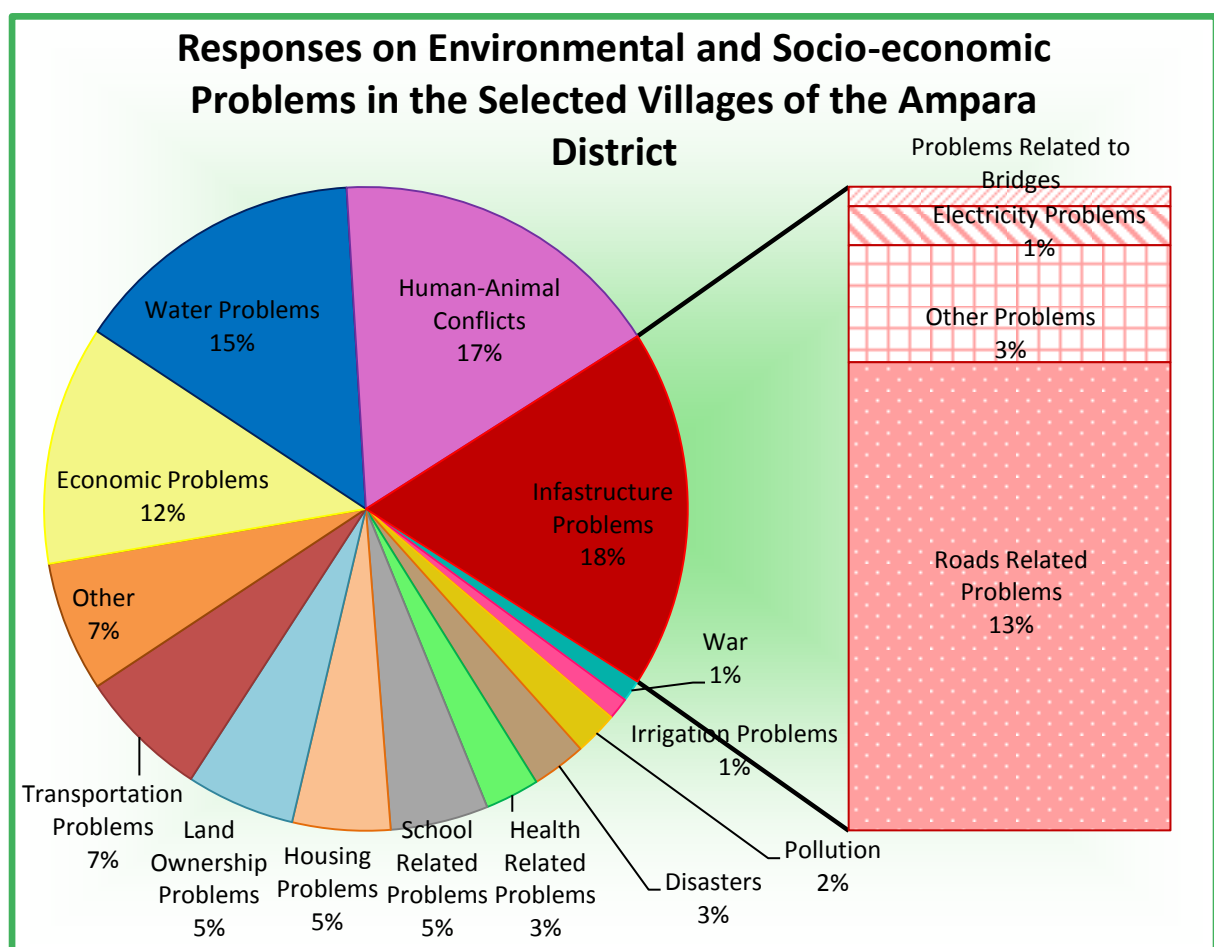


Figure 60 - Responses on Environmental and Socio-economic Problems in the Selected Villages of the Ampara District

According to the above graph, the major issue experienced by the people in rural areas in the Ampara district is infrastructure related issues. However, of the 18% of respondents who identified this as a main issue, 72.7% have indicated that the major problem lies in the road network system as the roads are severely damaged making transportation difficult and 6.1% have mentioned the unavailability of an electricity supply as an issue. Some of the examples for

villages that have damaged roads are, Weeramunai, Matthiyamuhamaru, Iranamadu, and Suhandagama (Please refer to Figure 61).

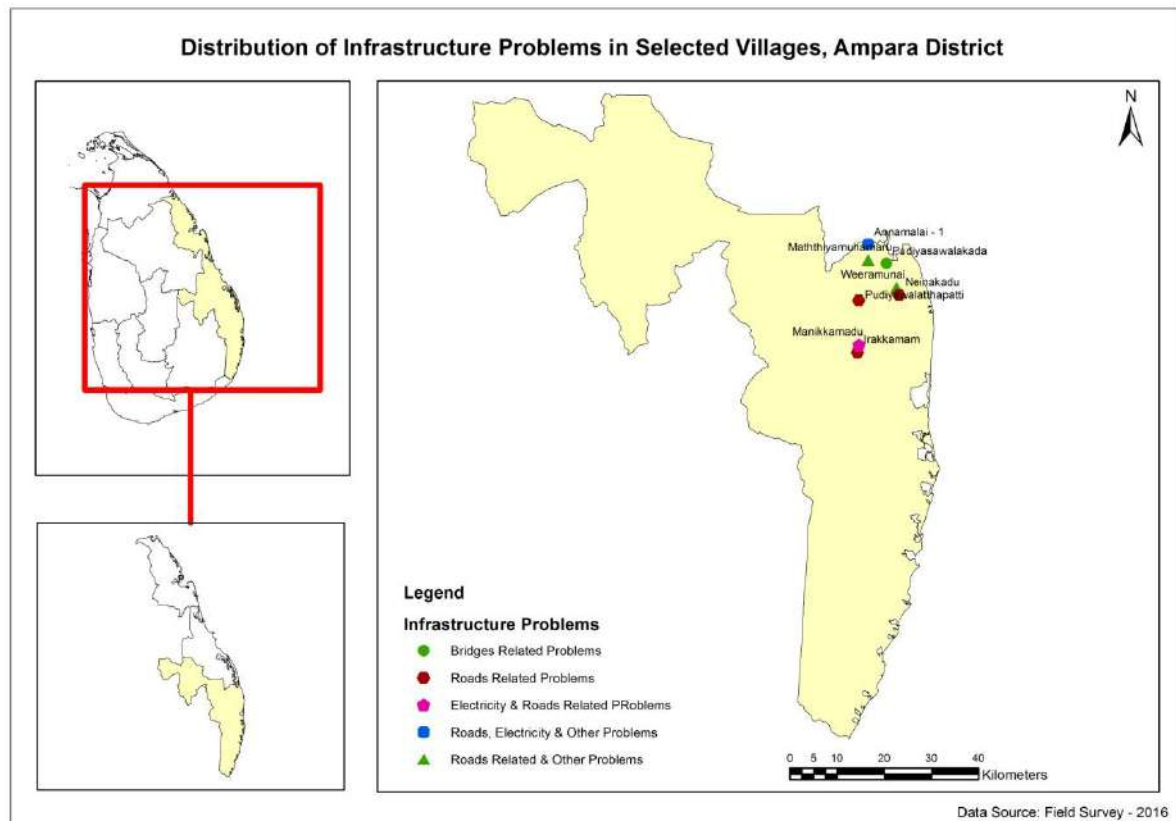


Figure 61 - Distribution of Issues related to Infrastructure in the Selected Villages of the Ampara District

The next crucial problem affecting the the people in the visited rural areas of Ampara is human-animal conflict. A majority of the respondents (83.9%) have experienced human-elephant conflicts, especially the ones in areas such as Suhandagama, Nainakadu, Pudiyaawalattapatti, Matthiyamuhamaru, Iranamadu. In addition, 16.1% have issues due to crocodiles. For instance, in Annamalai -1 area, the lake which is close to the school is occupied by a crocodile that comes to the school garden since there is no wall surrounding the school. Hence, the parents of the children are worried as the lives of their children are at risk.

When considering water related issues, 100% of the respondents agreed that the major issue they face regarding water is the unavailability of clean drinking water (Please refer to Figure 62).

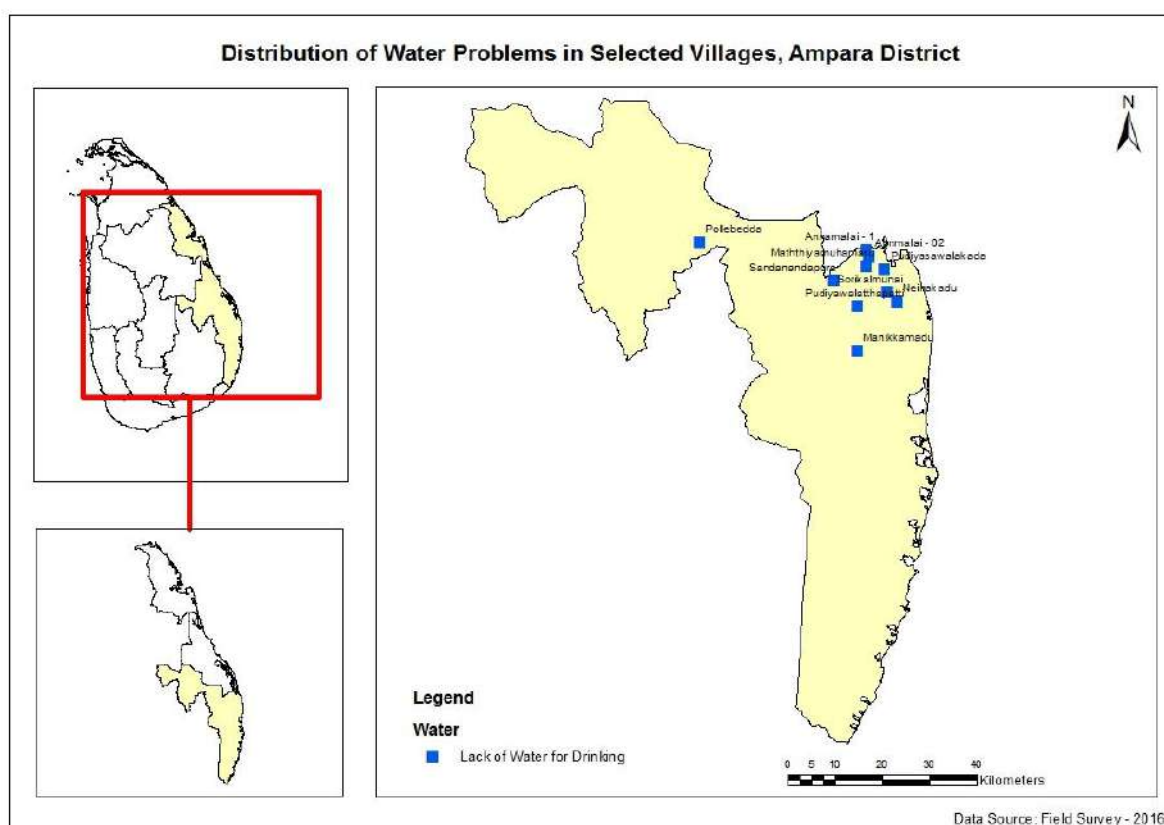


Figure 62 - Distribution of Issues related to Water in the Selected Villages of the Ampara District

In terms of issues related to economy, inability to market their products was identified by around 32% as the major problem. Even though people are engaged in different types of livelihoods, not having proper market space at village level has become a major threat to the success of their business activities. Low income was also highlighted by 27.3% of the respondents as an issue that affects them a lot. Around 22.7% also mentioned unemployment as a serious issue affecting them. In addition, the insufficiency of subsidies and obstacles to fishing were named by them as factors affecting the economy of the community (Please refer to Figure 63).

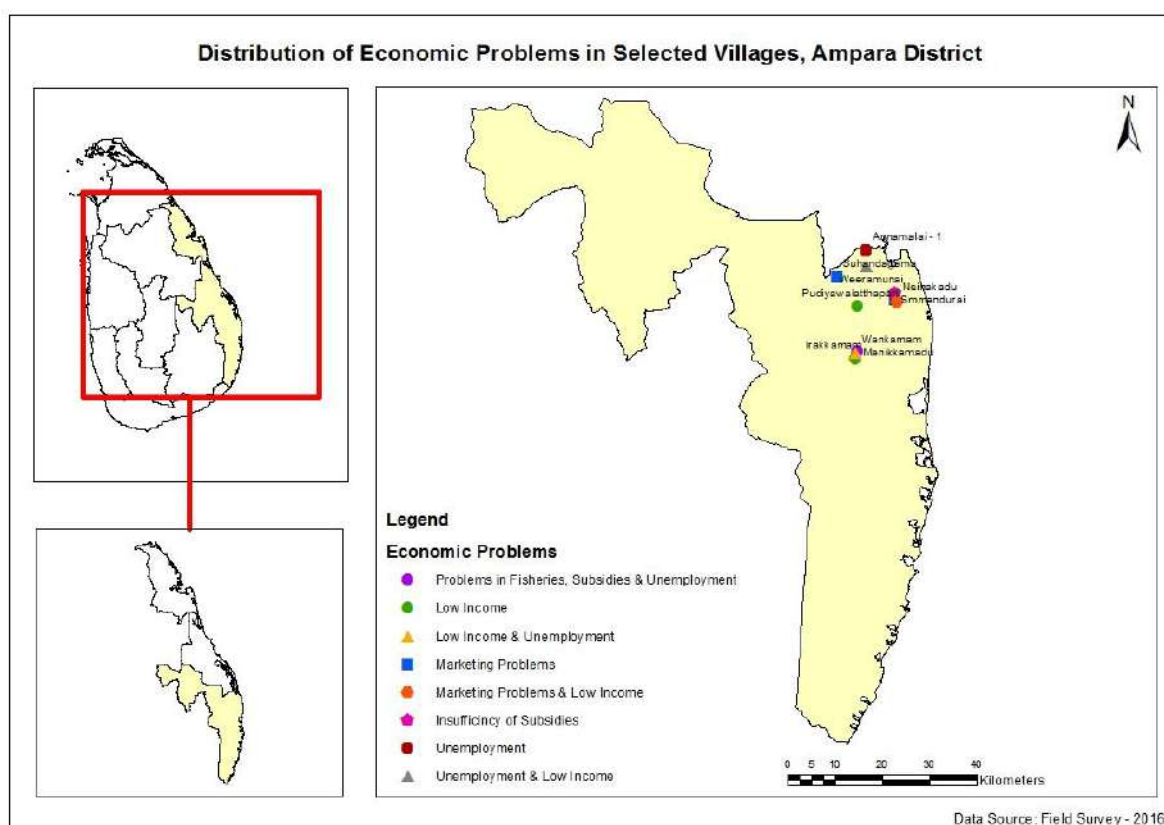


Figure 63 - Distribution of Issues related to Economy in the Selected Villages of the Ampara District

When considering transportation, malfunctioning of the public transportation system was the main issue faced by the respondents in the rural areas of Ampara. This factor may also have been influenced by the major issue of the area, i.e. infrastructure short comings as it is difficult to drive vehicles on some roads. In terms of land ownership, the majority or 90% of the respondents who pointed out this issue stated that problems in the title deeds are their major concern. When housing issues are considered, the majority (88.9%) of the respondents stated that homelessness or having to live in temporary houses is their greatest difficulty they face.

The respondents from the rural areas in the Ampara district also highlighted issues related to schools and of those respondents, the majority (55.6%) stated that facilities are limited facilities in schools and thereby the education of their children is being negatively affected. Around 33% of the respondents also pointed out that lack of school teachers is yet another issue affecting the education. In terms of health related issues, the major problem identified by the respondents was lack of hospitals in the rural areas. In addition, the presence

of diseases, lack of facilities in the existing hospitals and lack of medical officers in the hospitals were listed by them as factors affecting their health.

When considering environment related problems, the respondents stated that they are being affected by both droughts and floods from time to time. In addition, air and land pollution were recognized by them as a factor affecting the rural areas of Ampara.

5.3. Trincomalee District

The land area of the Trincomalee district is 2727 km² and the total population is 379,541 while a majority (41.8%) belonging to Sri Lankan Moors (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). The Tamil population in Trincomalee is 31.1% while the Sinhalese population is 26.7%. The census data also indicate that 77.6% of the population in the Trincomalee district live in the rural sector.

In terms of the education status, the Trincomalee district records the lowest percentage of population that has obtained a degree or a higher qualification, with a percentage of 1.9% It also records the highest percentage of those who have passed the G.C.E. Ordinary Level, with a percentage of 13.6 (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). The percentage of the population that has passed the G.C.E. Advanced Level in Trincomalee is 8.1%. According to census findings, the highest literacy rate is recorded in Trincomalee with a percentage of 93.5% and the computer literacy rate is 18.5%.

The percentage of economically active population in Trincomalee is 47.7, and 44.9% of the employed population work as own account workers records the highest percentage of own account workers in the Eastern province while 24.3% work as private sector employees, 21.7% work as government sector employees, 3.1% work as semi government employees, 2.5% work as employers and 3.5% work as unpaid family workers (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012).

While the demographic characteristics of the Trincomalee district can be mentioned as above, the following graph indicates the major issues that are present in the rural areas in the Trincomalee district (Please refer to Figure 64).

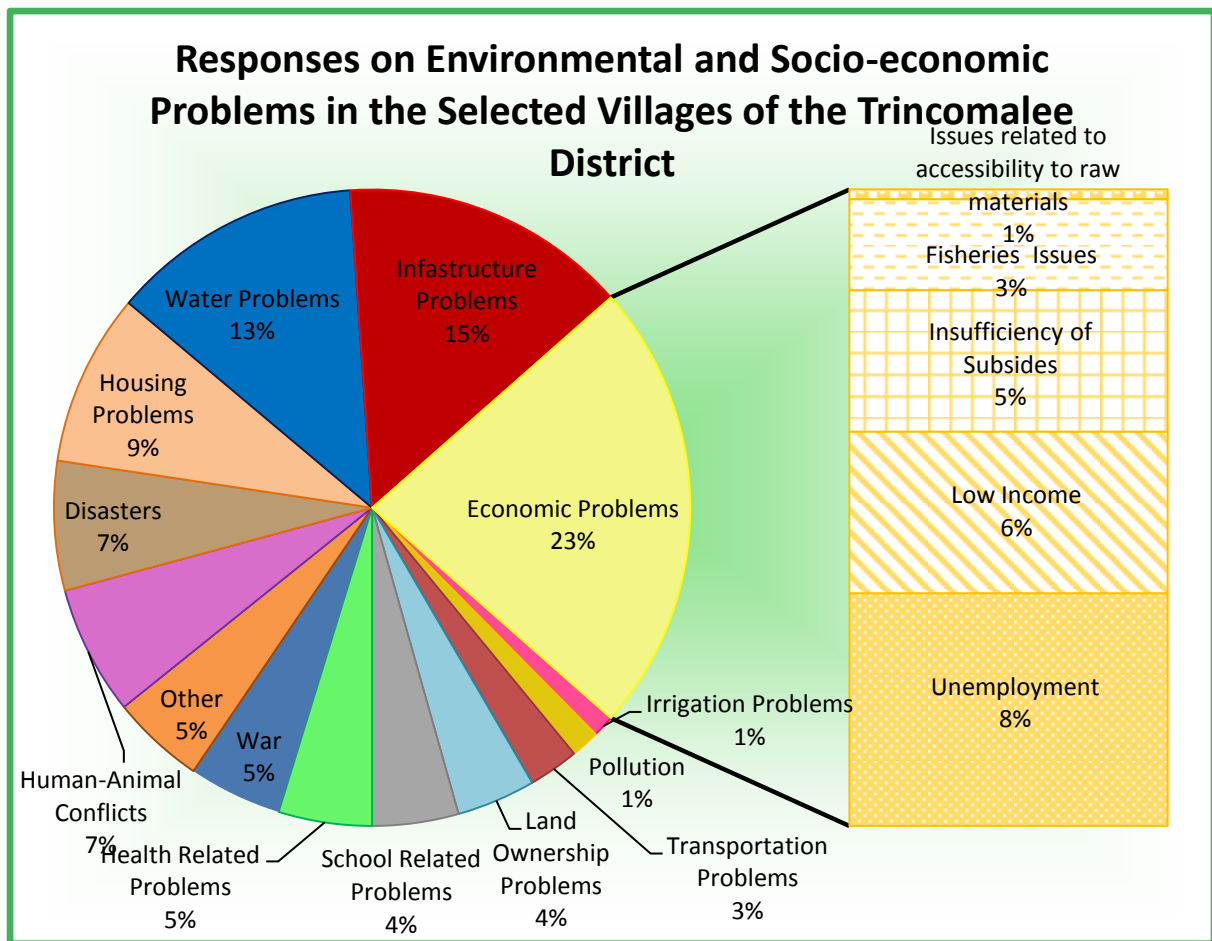


Figure 64 - Responses on Environmental and Socio-economic Problems in the Selected Villages of the Trincomalee District

Economic problems were identified by the Gammadda research team as the major issue affecting the people in the visited villages in the Trincomalee district. 36.5% of the respondents who discussed economic problems stated that unemployment is the biggest issue they face. 25.4% of the respondents pointed out they are suffering due to low income and 22.2% said they face difficulties since the subsidies provided for them are insufficient. The fishermen in Trincomalee also face difficulties since fishermen from the Southern area of Sri Lanka invade their fishing zones while using illegal fishing equipment. Thus, the economic concerns of the selected villages in Trincomalee take a diverse nature (Please refer to Figure 65).

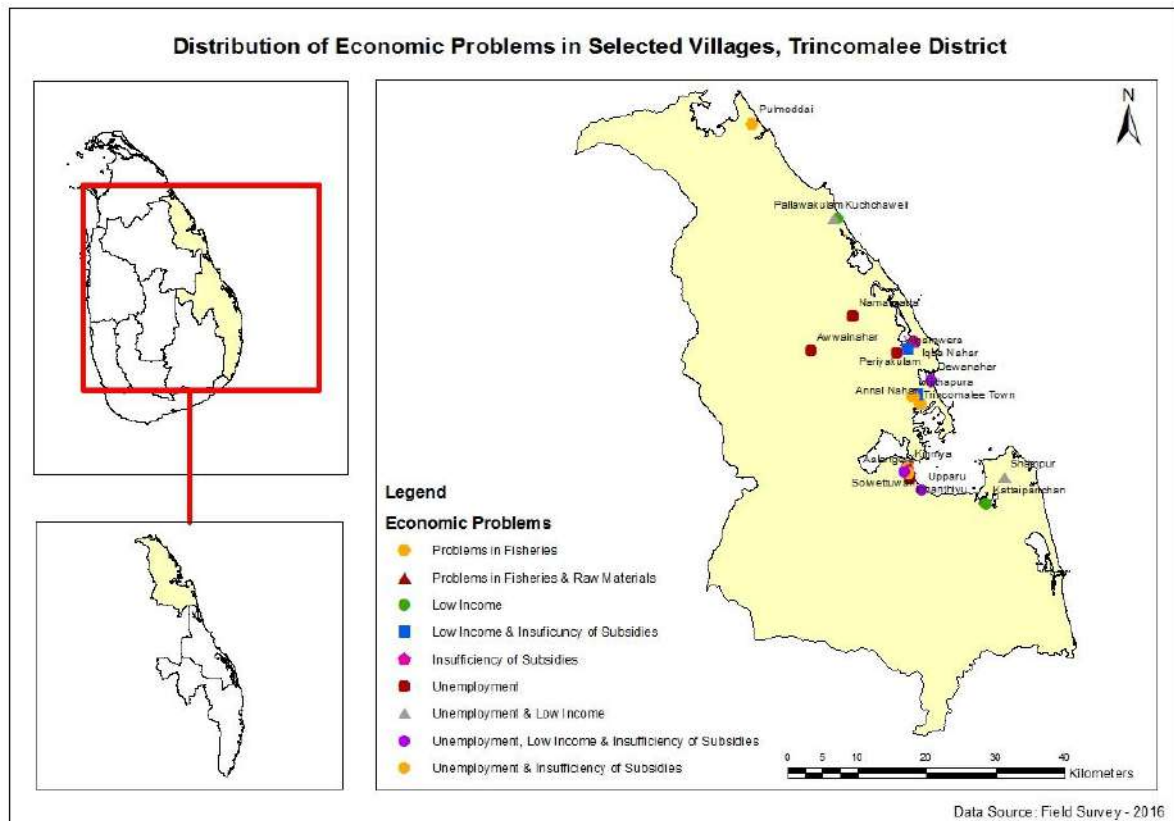


Figure 65 - Distribution of Issues related to Economy in the Selected Villages of the Trincomalee District

The second major issue that these villagers face is related to infrastructure facilities in the rural areas. In fact, 67.5% of the respondents who discussed infrastructure related issues highlighted the faced that many roads in the villages are damaged making transportation a difficult task. For instance, the Wan-Ela main road is damaged and respondents from several other areas such as Solawettuwan, Muslim Colony, Dewanhar, Namalwattha, etc. also mentioned that the roads in these areas are severely damaged (Please refer to Figure 66).

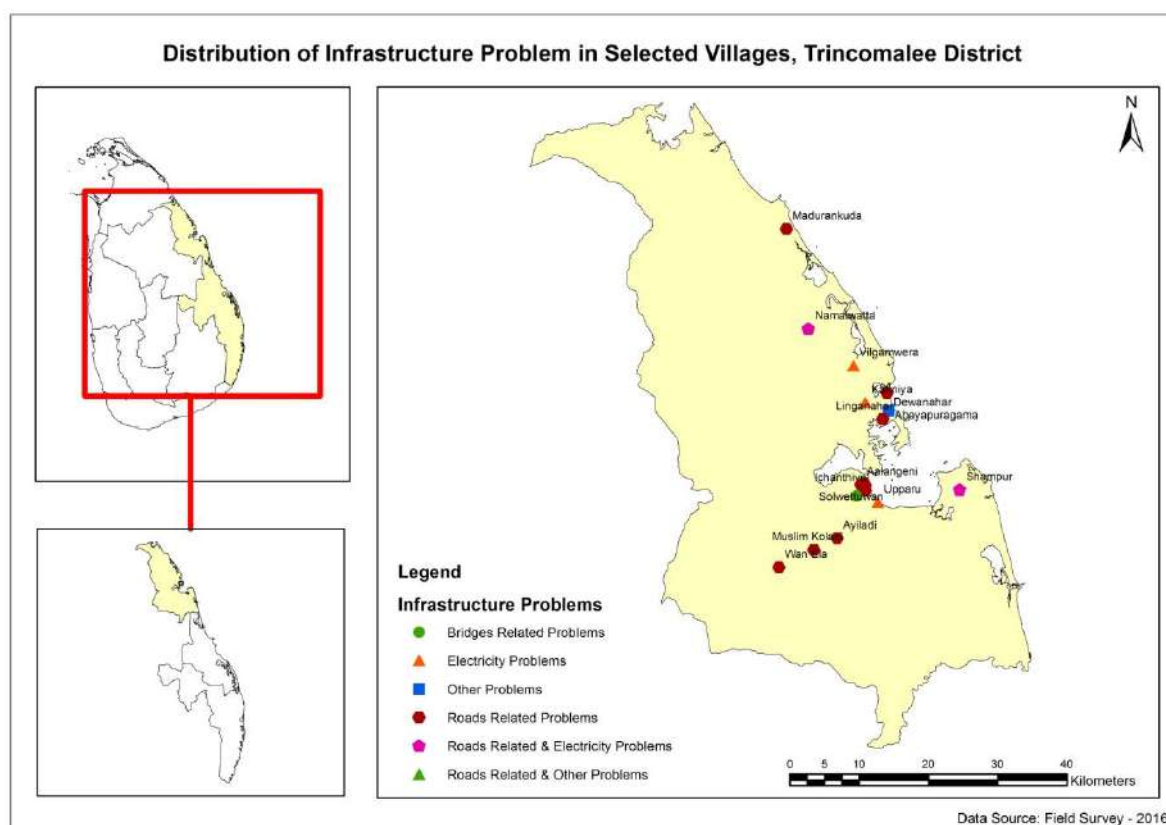


Figure 66 - Distribution of Issues related to Infrastructure in the Selected Villages of the Trincomalee District

Around 91% of the respondents who mentioned regarding water related problems highlighted in fact that unavailability of clean drinking water has affected their lives negatively. For instance, in Wan-Ela even though the temple has a system to purify water, the water has to be carried a long way. In Pallawakulam, no proper drinking water sources are available and since even the tap water line is broken, the villagers have to travel to the adjoining village to bring water. Even though a water purifying machine worth of 20 million has been donated to this village by the Kuwaiti government, it is not in use. Thus, it is evident that even though some villages have resources, there is no proper mechanism to make the maximum use of those resources. In Dewanahar, even though there is a tank that supplies water to the village, the water is not available all the time.

When considering housing issues of the people in the selected villages in Trincomalee, 87.5% of the respondents who discussed this issue indicated that they are still living in temporary houses even though it has been a long time since the war has come to an end. Specially this temporary housing issue is more prominent specially in areas like Upparu, Solawettuwan and Namalwattha (Please refer to Figure 67).

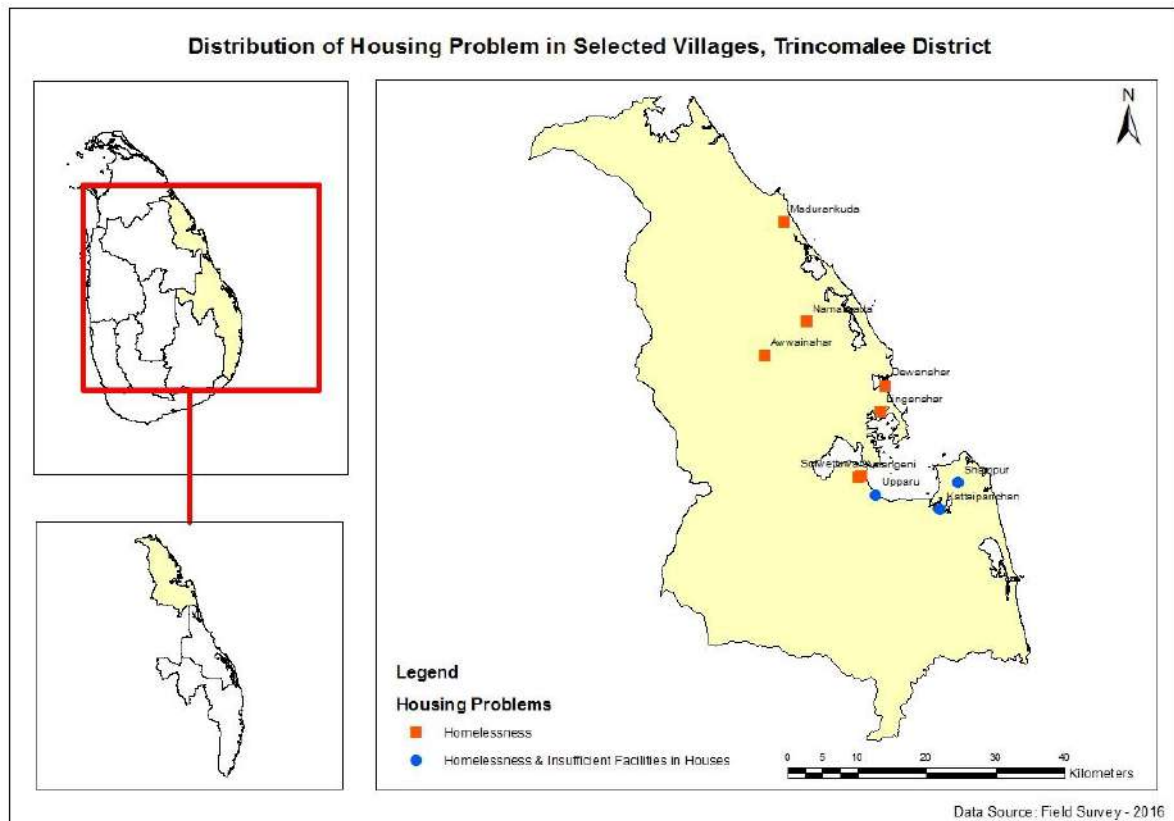


Figure 67 - Distribution of Issues related to Housing in the Selected Villages of the Trincomalee District

The Gammadda research team also found out that the people in certain areas of Trincomalee are also suffering due to natural disasters. For instance, it was reported that areas such as Solawettuwan, Aalangeni and Muslim Colony are affected by floods whereas in Thirukkadaloor, the main issue is sea erosion. According to the field observations, around 100m of the coast has already eroded.

Human-elephant conflicts are also common in many rural areas of Trincomalee; namely, Pallawakulam, Kuchchaweli, Madurankuda and Mahawelipura (Please refer to Figure 68).

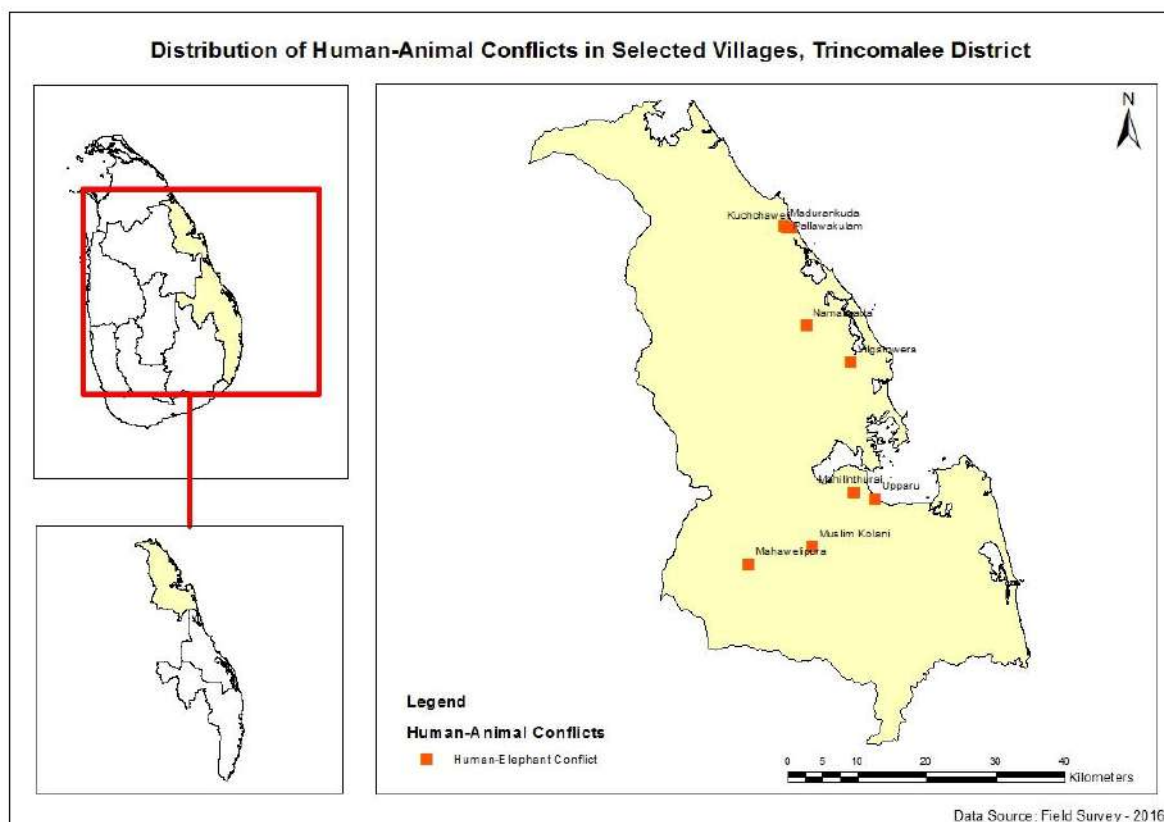


Figure 68 - Distribution of Issues related to Human-Animal Conflicts in the Selected Villages of the Trincomalee District

When health concerns of the selected villages in Trincomalee are considered, one of the most critical issues is the presence of Kidney diseases among the people. According to the research findings, in Wan-Ela and Muslim Colony, many people are suffering from kidney diseases. In fact, out of the respondents who discussed health related issues, 38.5% indicated that kidney disease has become a major health concern in their areas whereas 23.1% of the respondents indicated that the facilities in the existing hospitals are not sufficient.

In addition, war related issues such as displacements and widowhood were also mentioned by the respondents to a certain extent. Other problems that were identified by the respondents in the visited villages in Trincomalee are related to schools, land ownership, transportation and land pollution. Moreover, according to the field observations, there can also be negative impacts on the population living close to the Sampur coal power plant. However, further studies should be conducted in this area in order to identify the exact threats that this could pose to the people in the nearby settlement areas.

6. North Western Province

The North Western Province is divided into two districts; namely, the Kurunegala district and Puttalam district, with a population of 2, 380, 861 out of which, the majority belongs to the ethnic group of Sinhalese (85.7%) (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). In addition, the North Western Province is also occupied by Tamil, Sri Lankan Moor and other ethnic minorities with percentages of 3, 11 and 0.3 respectively. According to census data (2012), the majority of the people in the North Western Province (95.5%) live in the rural sector comprising a percentage of 95.5% whereas the population in the urban and estate sectors are 4.1% and 0.4% respectively.

In terms of education, the percentage of population that has passed the G.C.E. Ordinary Level in the North Western Province is 16% whereas the percentage of population that has passed the G.C.E. Advanced Level is 11.4%. In addition, 2.2% of the entire population has also obtained a degree or a higher qualification (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). The same data highlight that the literacy rate of the population in the North Western Province is 96.3% whereas their computer literacy rate is 20.5%.

If the economic aspect of the population is taken into consideration, it is evident that 51.5% of the population aged 15 years and above are economically active in this province and when the percentage distribution of the employed population by sector of employment is considered, 37.5% of the population work as own account workers, 36.8% work as private sector employees, 14.7% work as government employees and 5.8% work as unpaid family workers (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012).

If the social issues of the selected villages of the North Western province as identified by the Gammadda team are considered, those can be divided mainly into five types of major social issues; namely, infrastructure related issues, water related issues, human-animal conflicts, economic issues and land ownership related issues (Please refer to Figure 69).

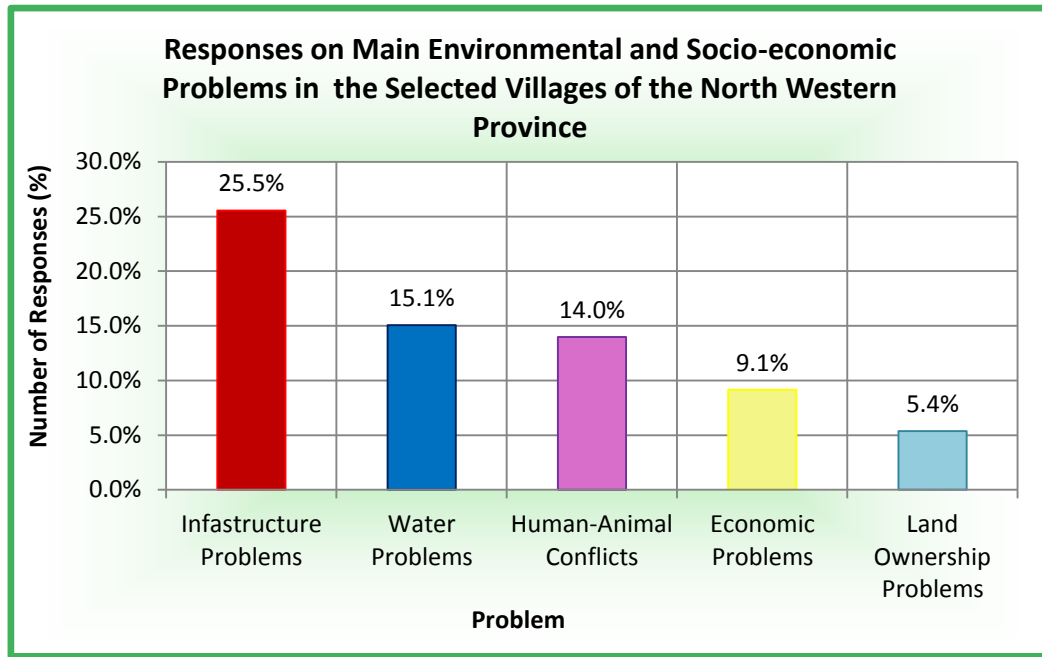


Figure 69 - Responses on Main Environmental and Socio-economic Problems in the Selected Villages of the North Western Province

If infrastructure issues experienced by the rural populations in the North Western province are considered, it is vital to note that in both the Kurunegala and Puttalam districts the major infrastructure issue is related to the condition of the roads. In fact the respondents in the selected villages of these two districts have clearly stated that the condition of the roads in their areas are not up to the standard. Apart from that, a few respondents have also pointed out that some areas even lack electricity facilities (Please refer to Figure 70).

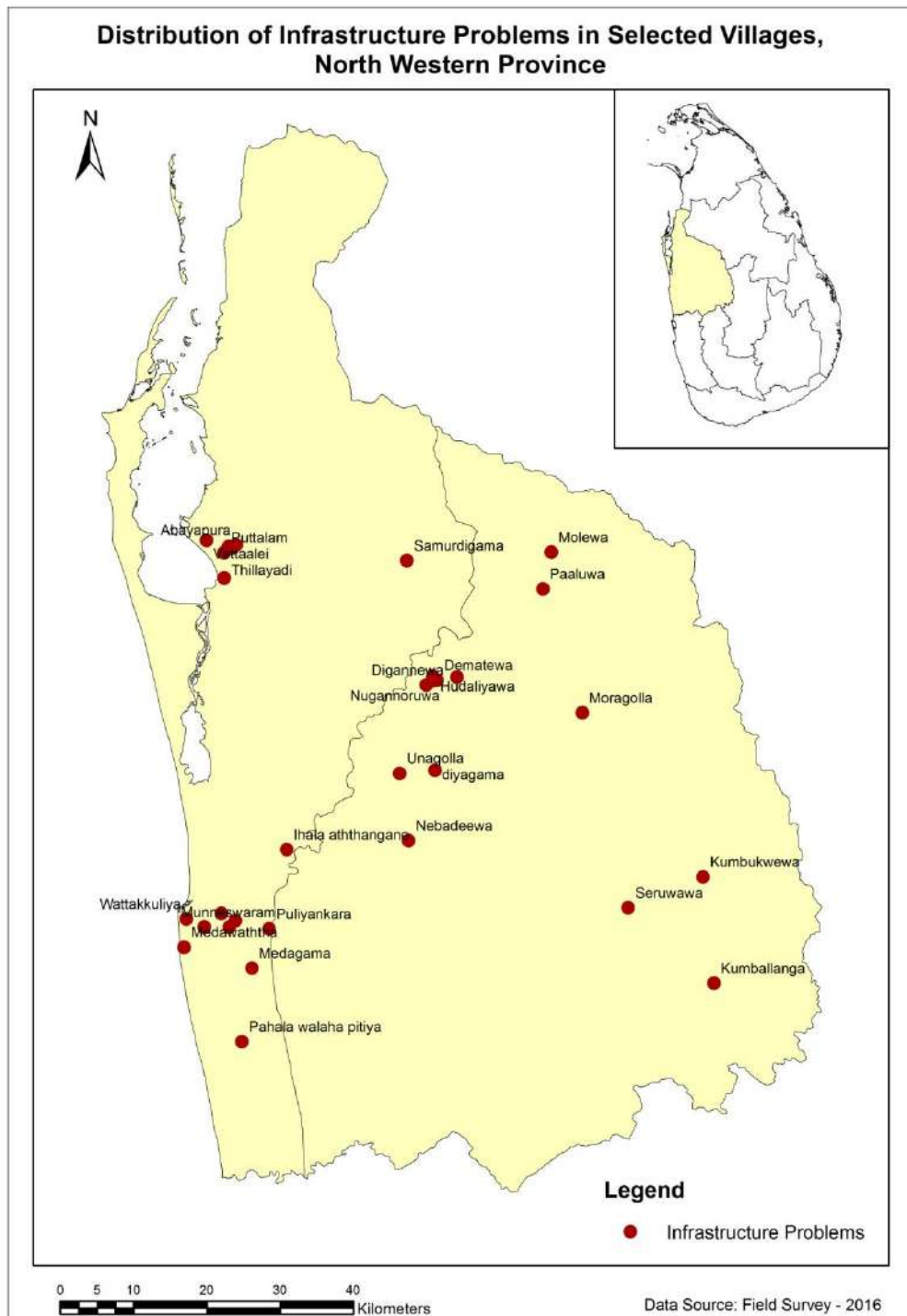


Figure 70 - Distribution of Issues related to Infrastructure in the Selected Villages of the North Western Province

Similarly, in terms of water related issues, the major problem experienced by the rural population in both areas is the unavailability of clean drinking water. Secondly, the insufficiency of water for agricultural purposes was also listed by the respondents in the visited rural areas as affecting them negatively (Please refer to Figure 71).

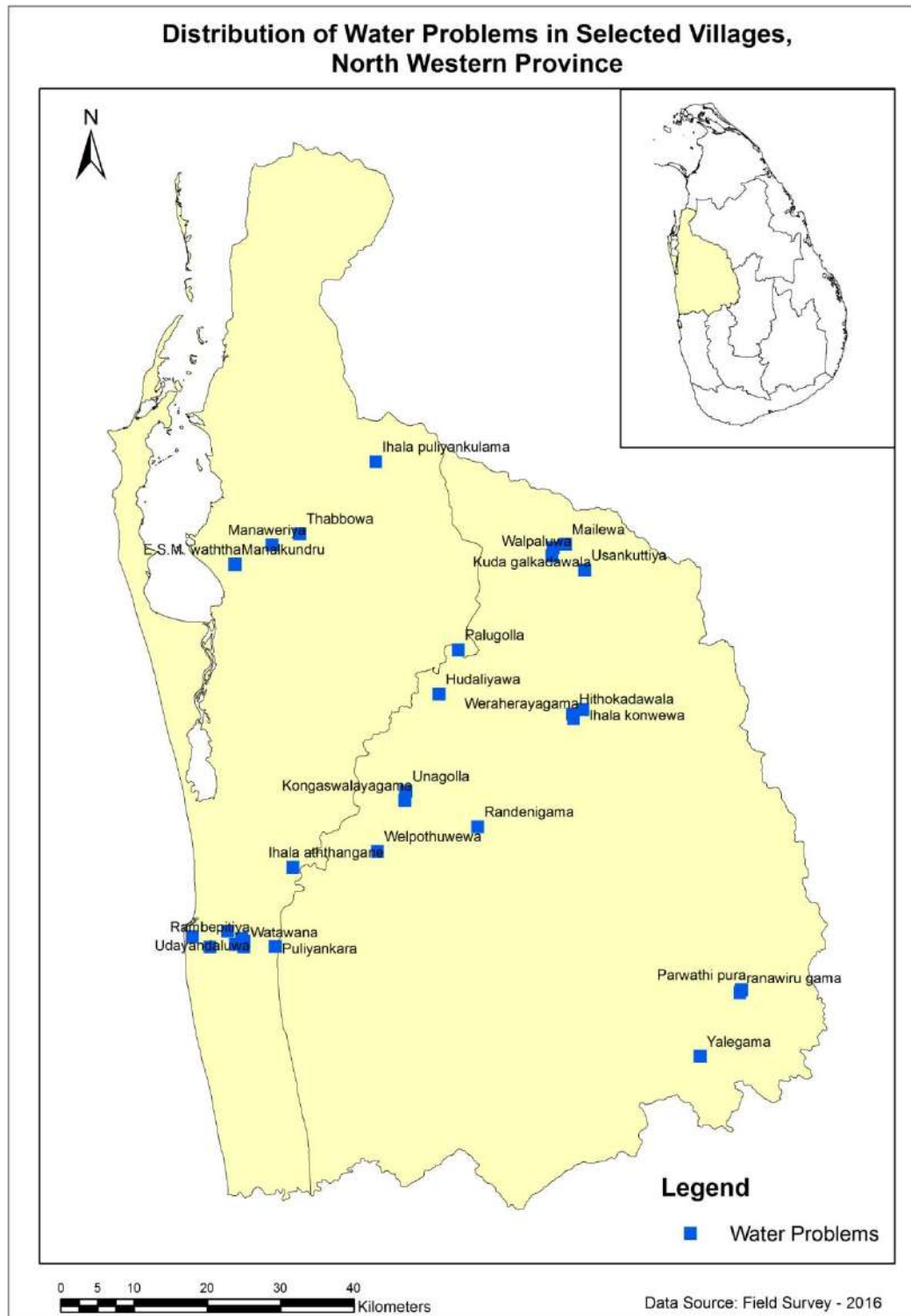


Figure 71 - Distribution of Issues related to Water in the Selected villages of the North Western Province

However, when human-elephant conflicts are considered, according to the responses gathered through the program, these are mostly visible in the rural areas in the Kurunegala district in the North Western province (Please refer to Figure 72).

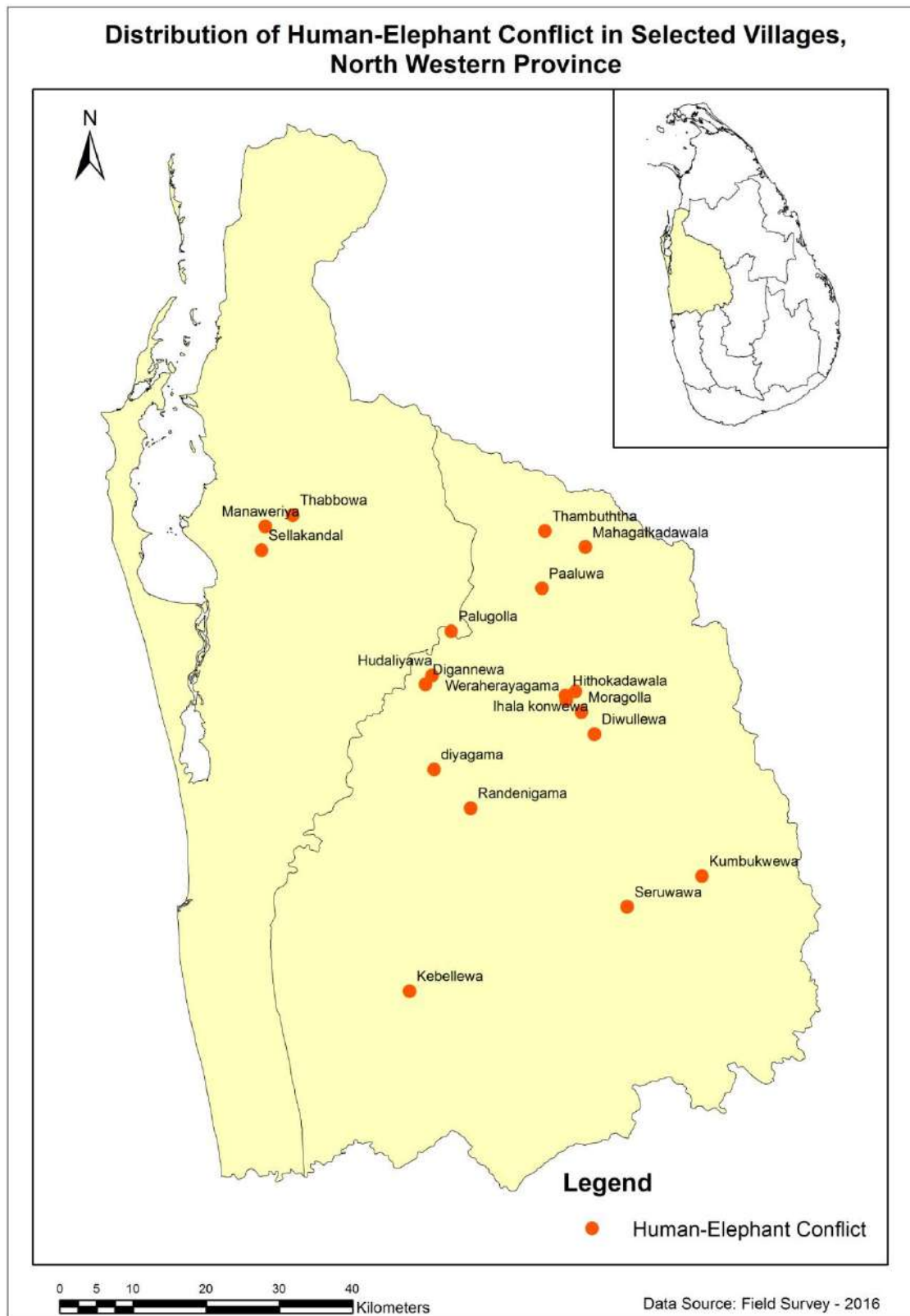


Figure 72 - Distribution of Issues related to Human-Elephant Conflicts in the Selected Villages of the North Western Province

Economic problems have also been regarded as a major issue by the respondents in the visited rural areas of the North Western province. However, the nature of the economic problems vary at district level. In fact, in the Kurunegala district, greater emphasis was placed on issues related to marketing. This indicates that people in the rural areas in Kurunegala are unable to sell their products due to the unavailability of marketing opportunities at the village level. In the Puttalam district, the insufficiency of subsidies provided for people in the rural areas was considered as the major economic issue. In addition, problems related to accessibility to raw materials was another common economy related problem affecting both districts in the North Western province (Please refer to Figure 73).

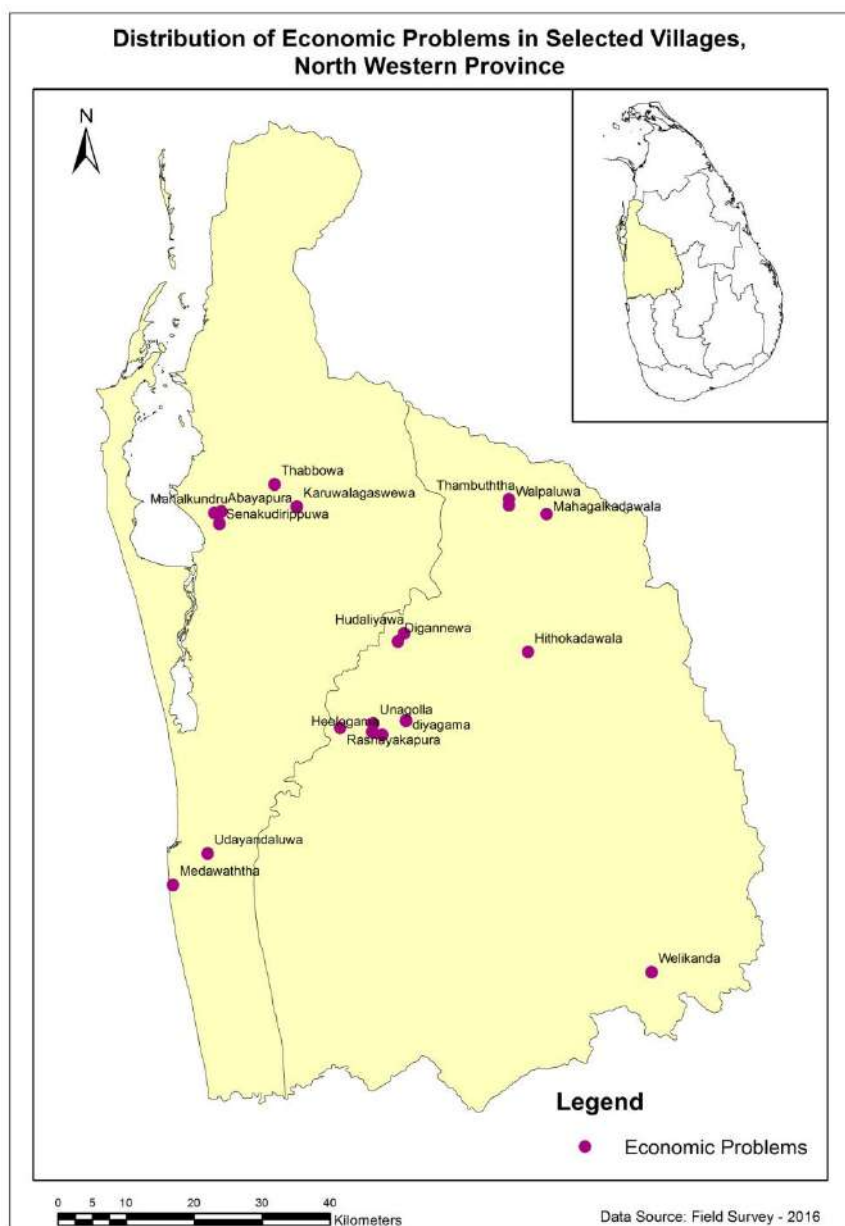


Figure 73 - Distribution of Issues related to Economy in the Selected Villages of the North Western Province

If issues related to land ownership are considered, the Puttalam district can be considered as the area where the highest number of responses were recorded in terms of problems in title deeds. Even though in the Kurunegala district, this issue was not so prominent, people in the selected villages the Puttalam district had many issues related to their title deeds. Thus, if the spatial distribution of this issue in the North Western province is considered, it is evident that this issue is highly concentrated in the rural areas in the Puttalam district, rather than in the Kurunegala district.

However, in order to gain a better analysis regarding the social, economic and environmental issues existing in the selected villages in the respective provinces, it is vital to analyze responses at the district level. Hence, the analysis of the issues at the district level can be presented as follows.

6.1. Kurunegala District

The land area of the Kurunegala district is 4816 km² (Department of Census and Statistics, 2015) and the total population is 1,618,465 which is the highest population in the North Western province (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). If the population in terms of ethnicity is considered, Kurunegala is occupied by a majority of Sinhalese comprising 91.4% of the total population, and the percentage of Tamils, Sri Lankan Moors and other ethnic groups of the total population is 1.3, 7.1 and 0.2 respectively (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). According to census data on the sector wise population distribution, 97.7% lives in the rural sector in the Kurunegala district whereas 1.9% and 0.5% of the population lives in the urban and estate sectors respectively.

When the education level of the population in Kurunegala is considered, 2012 census data indicate that the percentage of the population that has passed the G.C.E. Ordinary Level or gained an equivalent qualification is 17.1 whereas 12.8% have passed the G.C.E. Advanced Level. In addition, 2.6% of the total population has obtained a degree or a higher qualification. The literacy rate of the population in Kurunegala is 96.5% while they have a computer literacy rate of 21.1% (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012).

In terms of the economic status, 51.5% of the population aged 15 years and above are economically active in Kurunegala and according to the percentage distribution of the employed population by sector of employment, 39% work as own account workers, 33.1%

work as private sector employees, 17.1% works as government employees, and 6.2% work as unpaid family workers while small percentages of semi government employees and employers also exist (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012).

If the Gammadda findings of the issues in selected villages in the Kurunegala district are considered, the major problems can be illustrated in a graph as follows (Please refer to Figure 74).

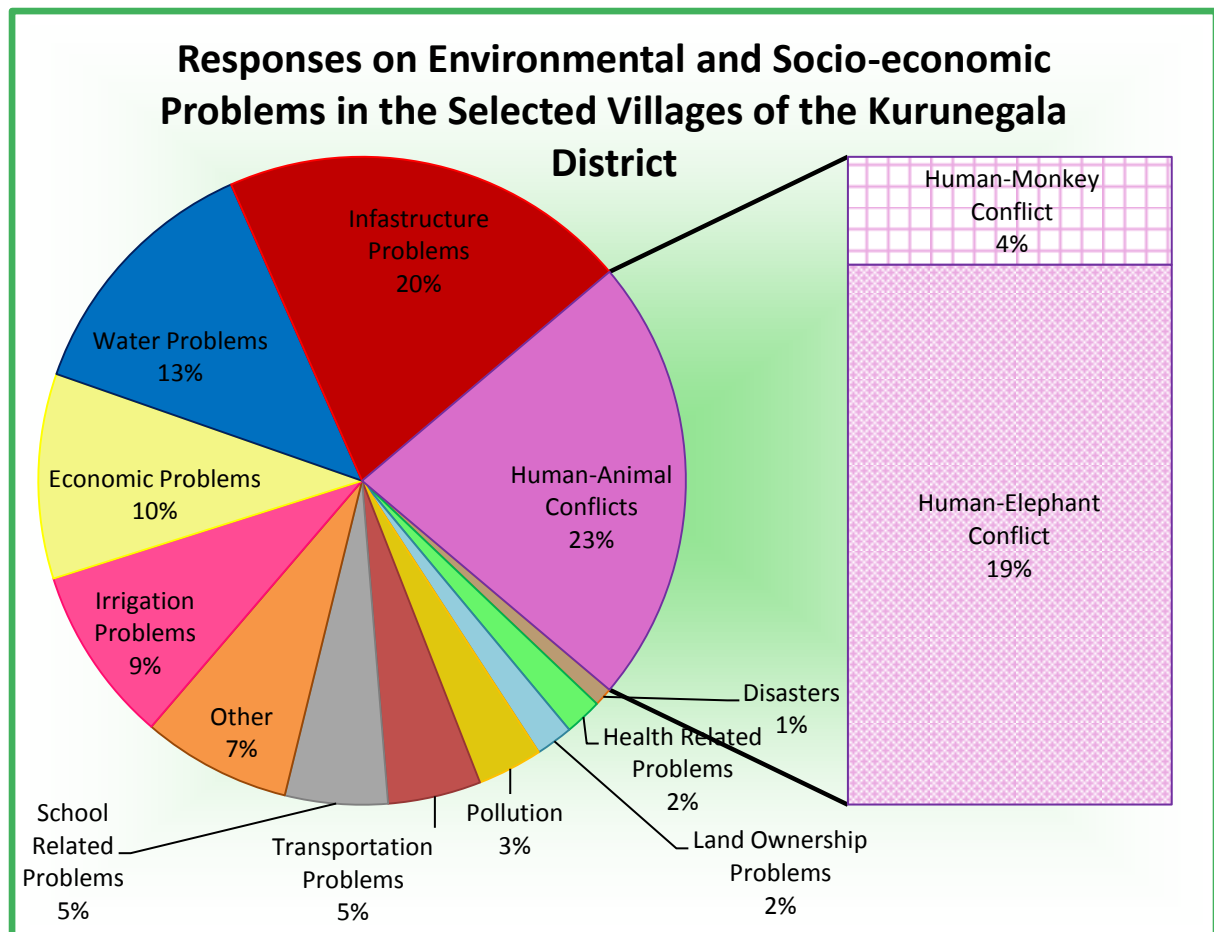


Figure 74 - Responses on Environmental and Socio-economic Problems in the Selected Villages of the Kurunegala District

According to the above graph, the burning issue in the visited villages in the Kurunegala district is human-animal conflicts. In fact, of the respondents who highlighted this issue, around 83% stated that their lives as well as the crops are threatened by elephants whereas around 17% indicated that their cultivations are destroyed by monkeys. While elephants storming the villages is a life threatening situation for the human beings, it should also be realized that it is a repercussion of the development activities where elephant corridors and natural habitats of the wild animals are destroyed (Please refer to Figure 75).

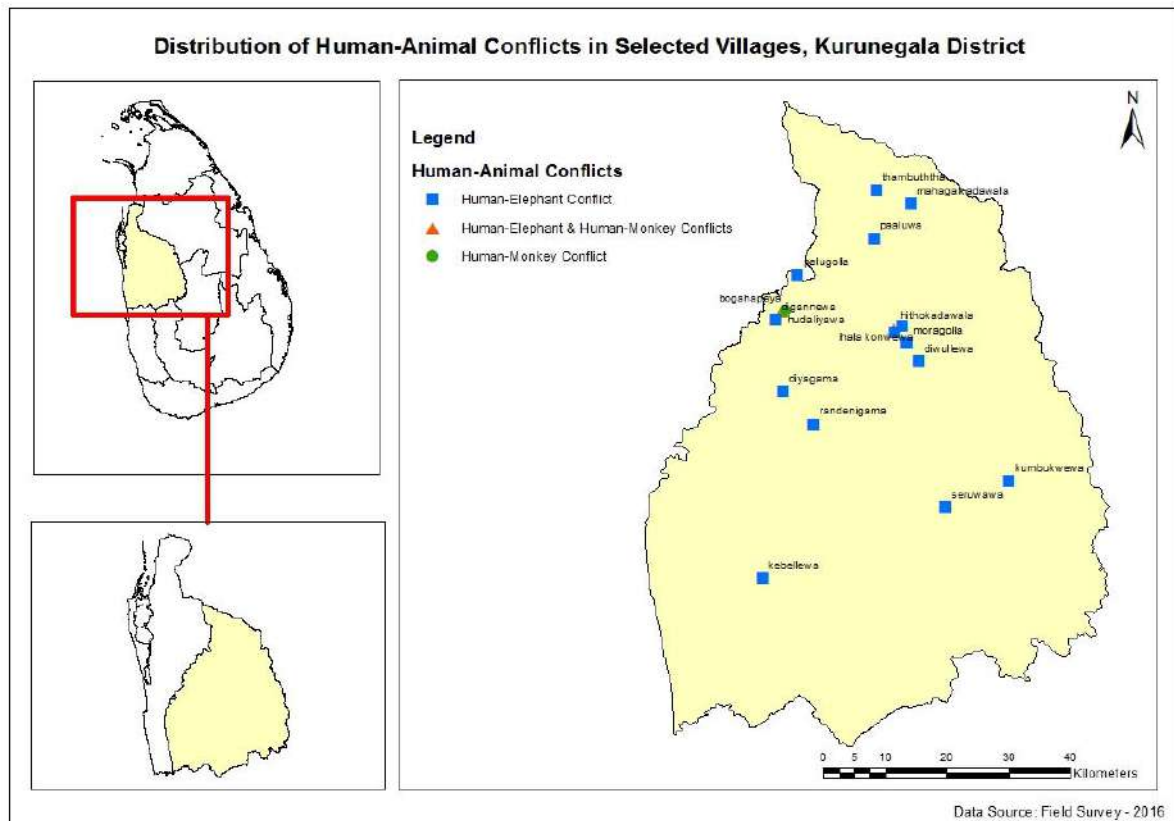


Figure 75 - Distribution of Issues related to Human-Animal Conflicts in the Selected Villages of the Kurunegala District

The second critical issue in the visited villages in the Kurunegala district is related to infrastructure. Of the respondents who highlighted infrastructure issues, around 98% mentioned that they are facing difficulties due to poor road conditions. For instance, in areas such as Kotawehera and Ambanpola-Mahawa, the road network system is severely damaged. The respondents, mentioned that even though funds were allocated to reconstruct the roads, they were not utilized properly. Even in areas like Ihala Konwewa, Nikawalayaya, and Madiyawa, the main issue is the damaged road network system (Please refer to Figure 76).

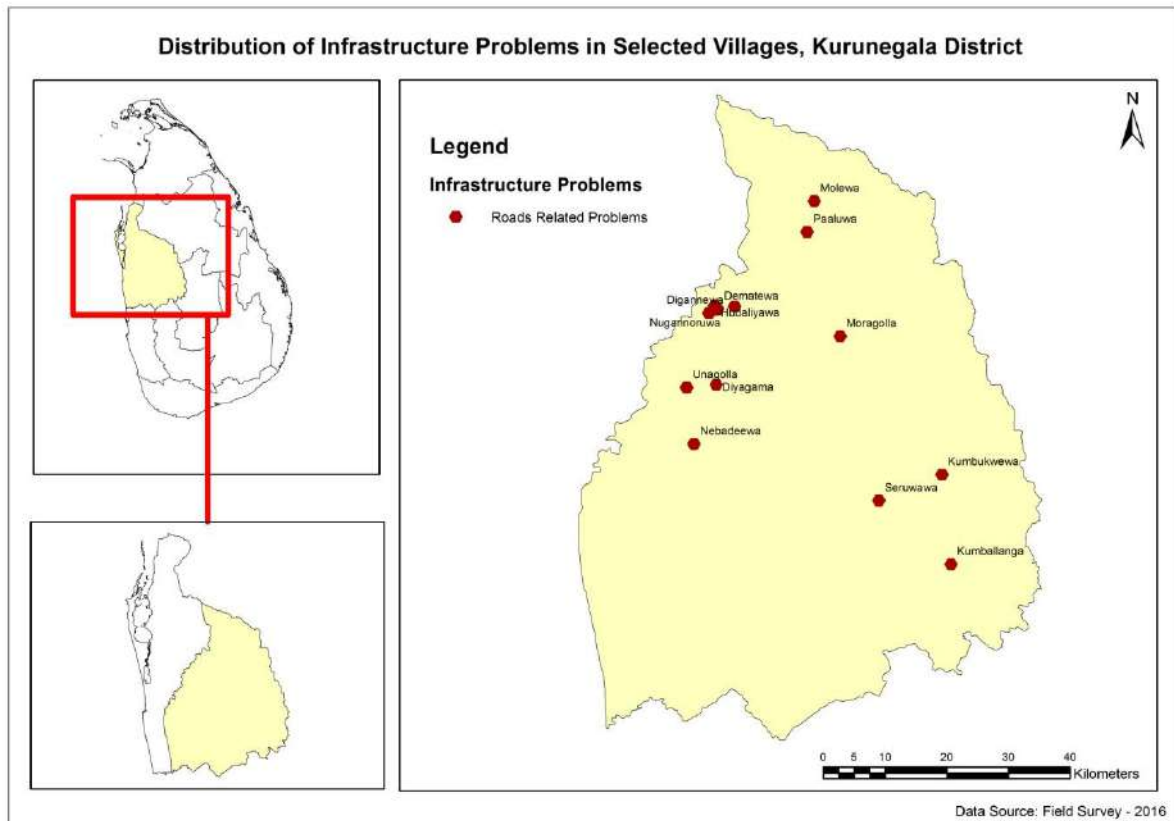


Figure 76 - Distribution of Issues related to Infrastructure in the Selected Villages of the Kurunegala District

When transportation is considered, the bus which was engaged in public transportation to Ibbagamuwa, Nebilikumbura and Ranawirugama has not been in use for 08 months and as Ranawirugama is also occupied by soldiers with disabilities, they are facing great difficulties.

Thirdly, the respondents have stated that they are also suffering from water related issues. When this aspect is taken into consideration, the major issue that the villagers in the visited areas pointed out was lack of water for drinking purposes. Of those respondents who specified water related issues, around 93% highlighted the difficulties they face due to the unavailability of clean drinking water. In addition, around 7% indicated that in some areas, water is not even sufficient for agricultural purposes. Few examples for villages that face water related issues are, Thumbullegama, Maileewa, Madige, and Mahagalkadawala (Please refer to Figure 77).

teachers per rural school has affected the education of the children negatively. Other issues the respondents indicated in this regard were the lack of facilities in Dhamma schools and the unavailability of proper schools in certain areas.

In terms of environmental concerns, the respondents highlighted that land, air and water pollution are present in certain areas in the Kurunegala district. For instance, according to the research findings, due to soil mining that takes place in the area above the lake in Digannawa, the water level of the tank is reduced. Furthermore, *Maha wewa* tank in the Hudaliyawa area has not been repaired for around 20 years and thus it has been invaded by salvinia. Even though this is not directly related to pollution, due to the ignorance of the people, the water sources that could be utilized for the betterment of the public have been wasted.

6.2. Puttalam District

The land area of the Puttalam district is 3072 km² (Department of Census and Statistics, 2015) while the population is 762, 396 (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). According to the same findings, 73.6% of the total population is represented by the Sinhalese ethnic group whereas 6.6%, 19.4% and 0.5% of the total population is represented by Tamil, Sri Lankan Moor and other ethnic groups respectively. Furthermore, 91% of the population lives in the rural sector whereas 8.8% lives in the urban sector and 0.2% lives in the estate sector. When compared with the Kurunegala district, the urban population in the Puttalam district is higher.

In terms of the educational status, the Puttalam district lags behind Kurunegala. For instance, the percentage of the population that has passed the G.C.E. Ordinary Level is 13.7% and the percentage of population that has passed the G.C.E. Advanced Level is 8.4% (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). The percentage of the population that has obtained a degree or a higher qualification is 1.5%. The same census data indicate that the literacy rate of the population in the Puttalam district is 95.8% and the computer literacy rate is 19% (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012) and both rates are lower than that of the Kurunegala district.

Similar to the Kurunegala district, 51.5% of the population aged 15 years and above is economically active in the Puttalam district (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). When

the percentage distribution of the employed population by sector of employment is considered, 44.9% or the majority of the employed population work as private sector employees unlike in Kurunegala, whereas 34% work as own account workers, 9.5% work as government employees and 5% work as unpaid family workers (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). This district also holds a small percentage of people working as employers and semi government workers.

While the demographic characteristics of the Puttalam district can be mentioned as above, the main issues confronted by the people in the selected villages in the Puttalam district can be illustrated as follows (Please refer to Figure 78).

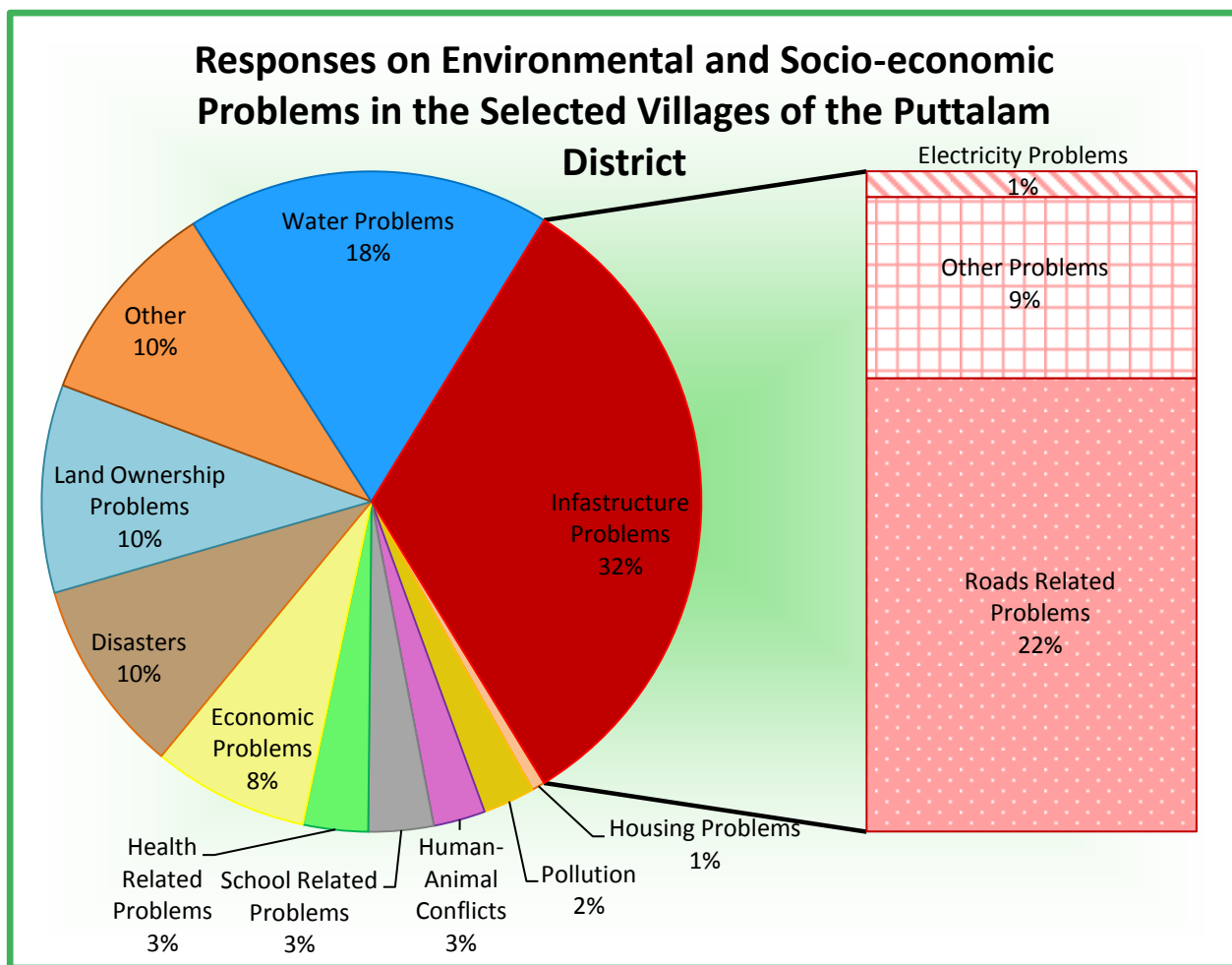


Figure 78 - Responses on Environmental and Socio-economic Problems in teh Selected Villages of the Puttalam District

The major issue affecting the people in the visited villages in the Puttalam district is related to infrastructure. As mentioned in the above graph, the majority of the population has stated that out of infrastructure related issues, damages to the road system affects them the most. For instance, a few examples for villages suffering due to road related matters are Thillayadi, Dewalawatte, Munneshwaram, and Medawatta. There is also a small percentage of the population that has highlighted the unavailability of electricity facilities in their areas (Please refer to Figure 79).

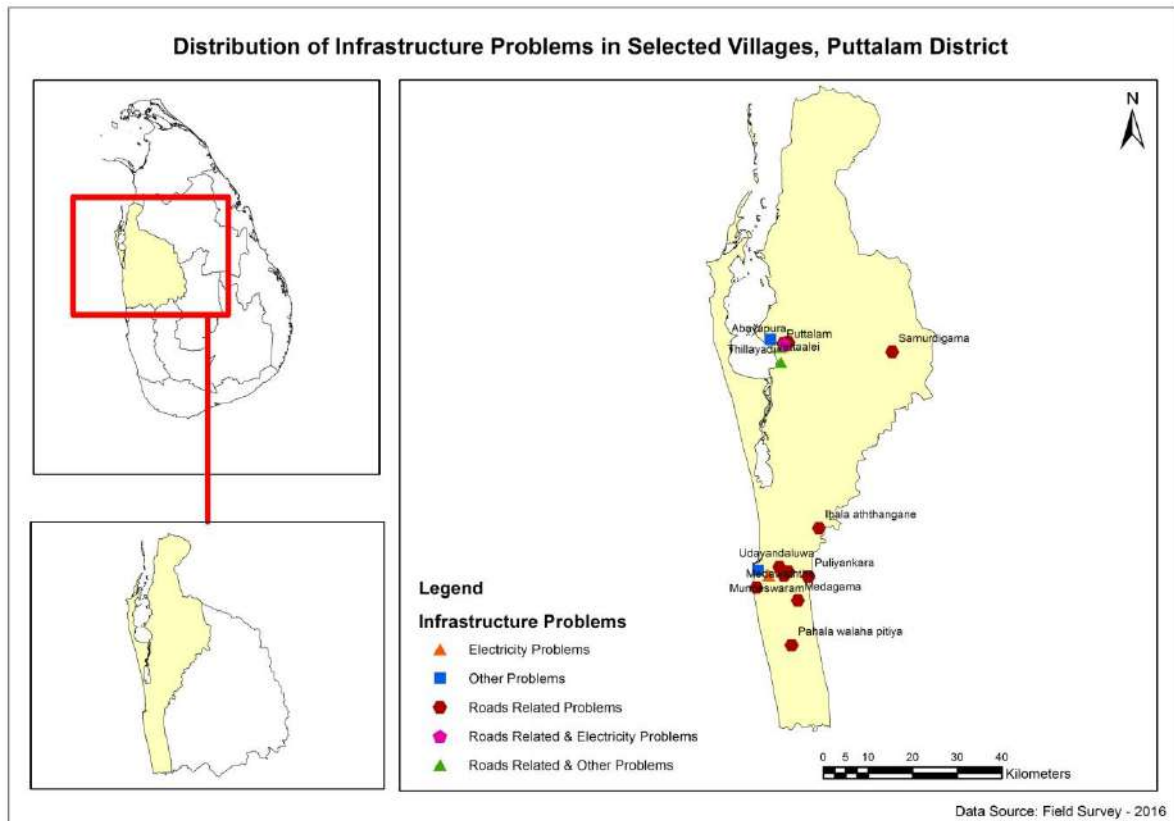


Figure 79 - Distribution of Issues related to Infrastructure in the Selected Villages of the Puttalam District

When the second major issue related to water is considered, around 82% of the population that pointed out water related issues has stated that what affects them the most is the unavailability of drinking water. Further, around 18% of the respondents have indicated that sometimes the water is not even sufficient for agricultural activities. Some examples for villages that face water related issues are, Kawatiyawatte, Thabbowa, and Puliyanikara. Incidentally, in the Thabbowa area drinking water is distributed among the people for money (Please refer to Figure 80).

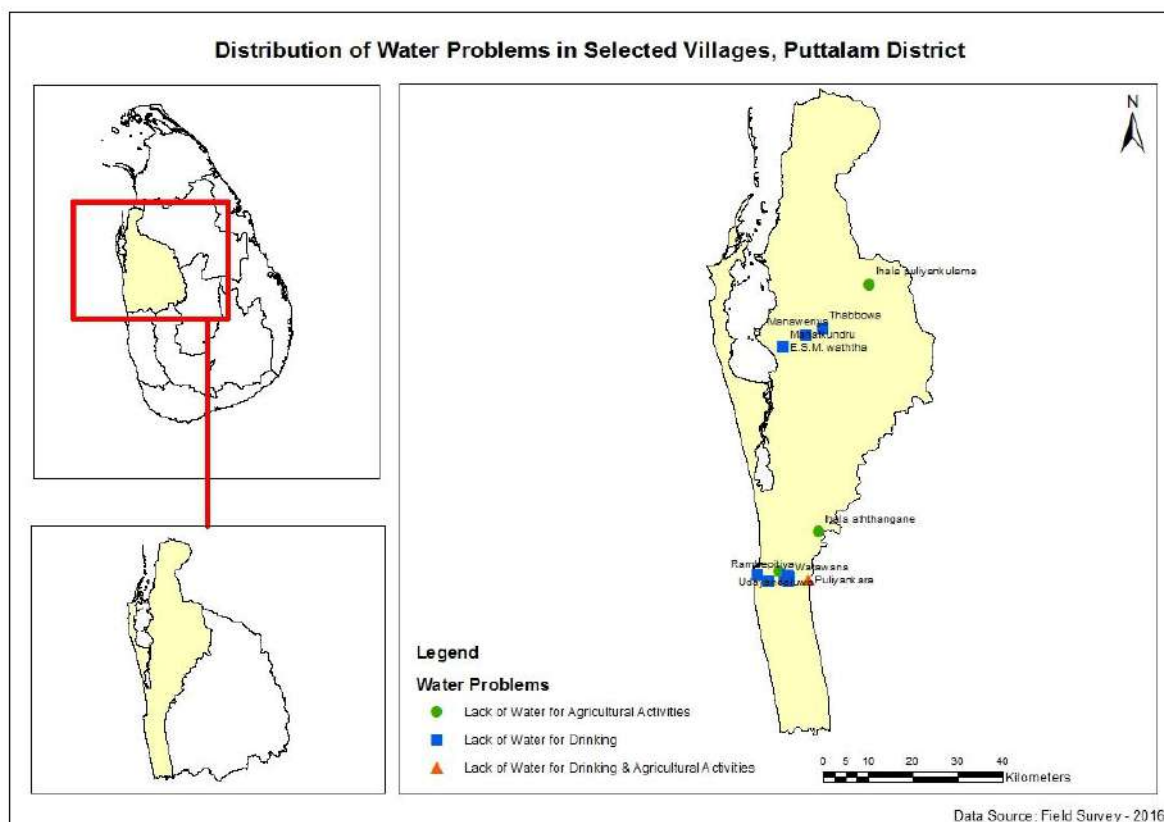


Figure 80 - Distribution of Issues related to Water in the Selected Villages of Puttalam District

The field officers were also able to identify administration related issue in one of the villages in the Puttalam district. In fact, Manalkundu is a GN Division which is relatively a bigger administration area with a population around 14, 200. However, this GN Division is administered by one *Grama Niladhari*, an Agricultural Research Assistant and a Development Officer. Hence, people in this area face great difficulties in terms of administration issues.

In the Puttalam district, people in the visited rural areas also face difficulties due to land ownership issues. In fact, 100% of the respondents who indicated land ownership issues stated that they have problems with their title deeds that raises uncertainties regarding the ownership of their lands. In terms of natural disasters, floods have affected them the most. Around 87% of the respondents who indicated about natural disasters mentioned that they suffer due to floods from time to time.

A significant percentage of the people in the visited rural areas also suffered due to economic problems. Of those who discussed this aspect, around 42% stated that they are facing hardship due for the insufficiency of the subsidies provided to them. Under this category, 25%

of the respondents who engage in fishing as their livelihood also pointed out that they have work related issues whereas another few respondents indicated that they have problems with accessibility to raw materials and marketing their products. One such barrier for the farmers in the Karuwalagaswewa area is not having a proper place (a threshing floor) to dry the paddy. As a result, farmers in this area are utilizing a part from the main road for this purpose.

Apart from these problems, the other problems that were identified during the field visits were, health related problems, education related problems, human-animal conflicts, pollution and housing related problems.

7.Southern Province

The Southern Province consists of three districts; namely, Galle, Matara and Hambantota. The total population of the Southern province is 2, 477, 285 and the urban and rural sector wise population is 10.6% and 87.7% respectively (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). Thus, similar to most of the districts in Sri Lanka, a majority of the population in the Southern province also lives in the rural sector. If the population in the Southern province is considered by ethnicity, 2012 census data depict that the majority of the population (95%) in the Southern province belongs to the Sinhalese ethnic group respectively whereas the percentages of Tamils, Sri Lankan Moors and other ethnic groups are 1.7, 2.9 and 0.4 respectively.

When the education status of the population of Southern province is taken into consideration, the majority of the population has only completed secondary education whereas 16.3% of the population has passed the G.C.E. Ordinary Level or obtained an equivalent qualification, 11.9% has passed the G.C.E. Advanced Level or obtained an equivalent qualification and 2.3% has obtained a degree or a higher qualification (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). According to the same statistical report, the literacy rate of the population in the Southern province is 95.3% and the computer literacy rate is 22.4%. The highest literacy rate as well as the higher computer literacy rate is reported from the Galle district.

Economic status is yet another significant indicator through which the social conditions of a population can be identified. The population aged 15 years and above that economically active in the Southern province is 50.9%. In terms of the percentage distribution of the employed population by sector of employment, 40.2% of the employed population works as private sector employees, 33.6% works as own account workers, 15.8% works as government employees, 5.4% works as unpaid family workers. In addition, a limited number of semi government employees and employers are also exist among the employed population in the Southern province.

The Gammadda findings of the major issues in the selected villages in the Southern province can be illustrated via a graph as follows (Please refer to Figure 81).

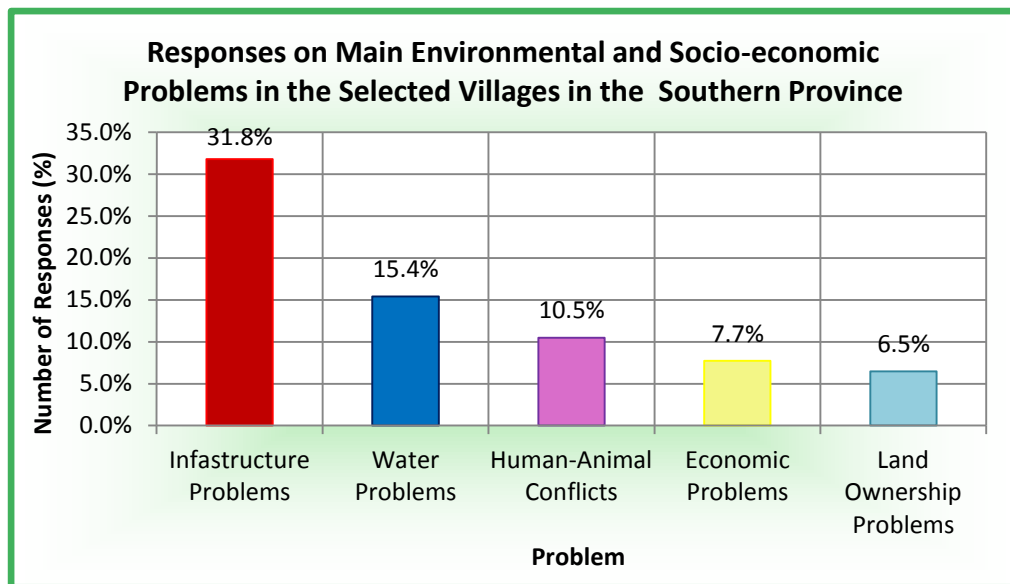


Figure 81 - Responses on Main Environmental and Socio-economic Problems in the Selected Villages of the Southern Province

As the above graph indicates, the most critical issue in the visited villages in the Southern province is related to infrastructure. Except for the Hambantota district, in Galle and Matara districts, the major infrastructure issue faced by the people is related to the quality of the road network system. However, people in the visited rural areas in Hambantota such as Agumukolawewa, Migahajandura, Kapukinissayaya, Ihala Kurudana and Pahala Kurudana were concerned about the poor condition of the bridges in the aforesaid areas (Please refer to Figure 82).

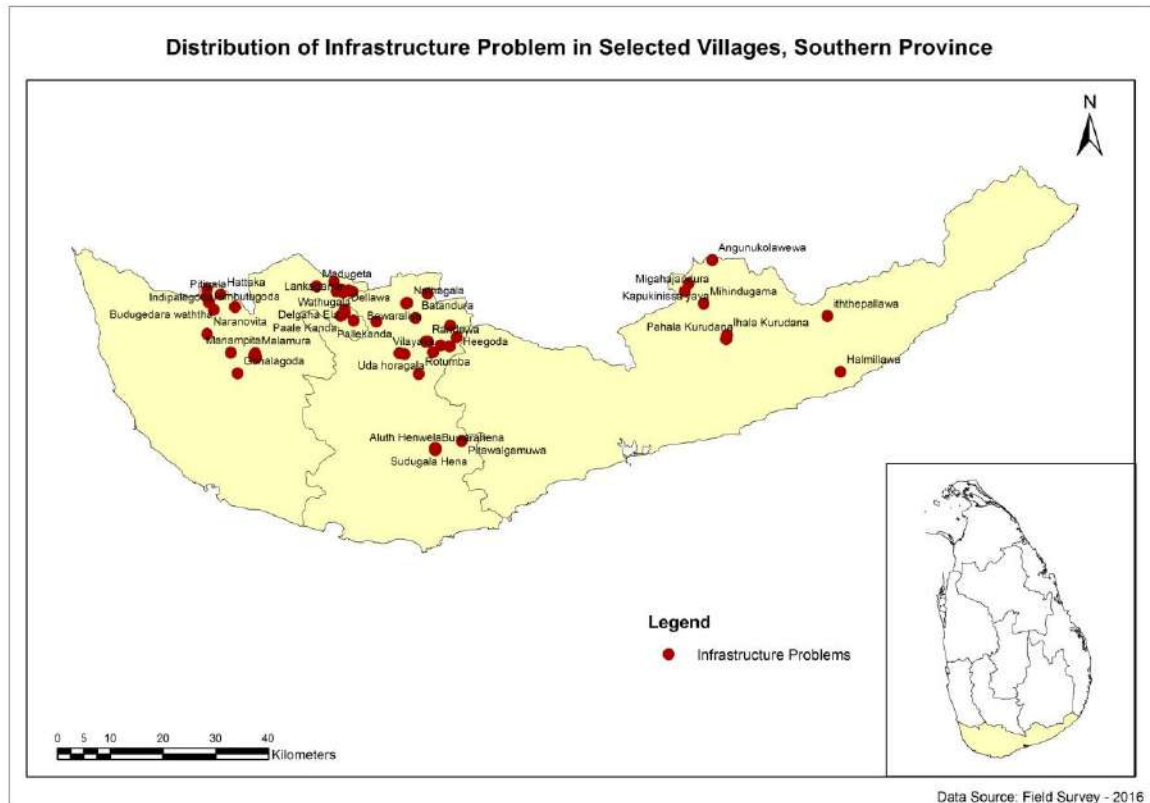


Figure 82 - Distribution of Issues related to Infrastructure in the Selected Villages of the Southern Province

The next major issue in the Southern province is related to the access to water. In all three districts in the Southern province, the main problem related to water was lack of access to drinking water. Apart from that, in the visited villages in the Hambanthota district, lack of water for agricultural purposes was also considered as a critical issue. (Please refer to Figure 83).

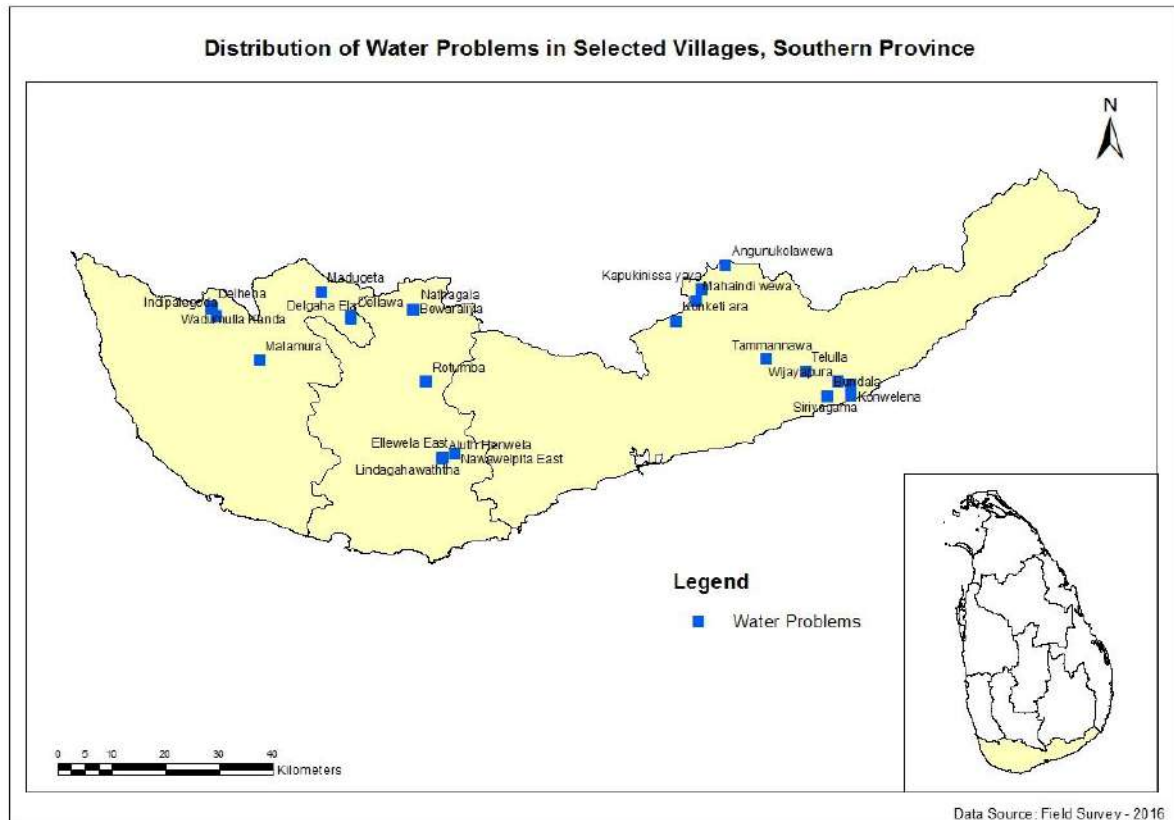


Figure 83 - Distribution of Issues related to Water in the Selected Villages of the Southern Province

When human-animal conflicts are considered, the people in the rural areas of the Hambanthota district are highly affected from this issue rather than the people in the rural areas of the other two districts. In fact, of the respondents who discussed human-animal conflicts in the Hambanthota district, around 91% stated that their lives are threatened due to elephants storming their villages (Please refer to Figure 84).

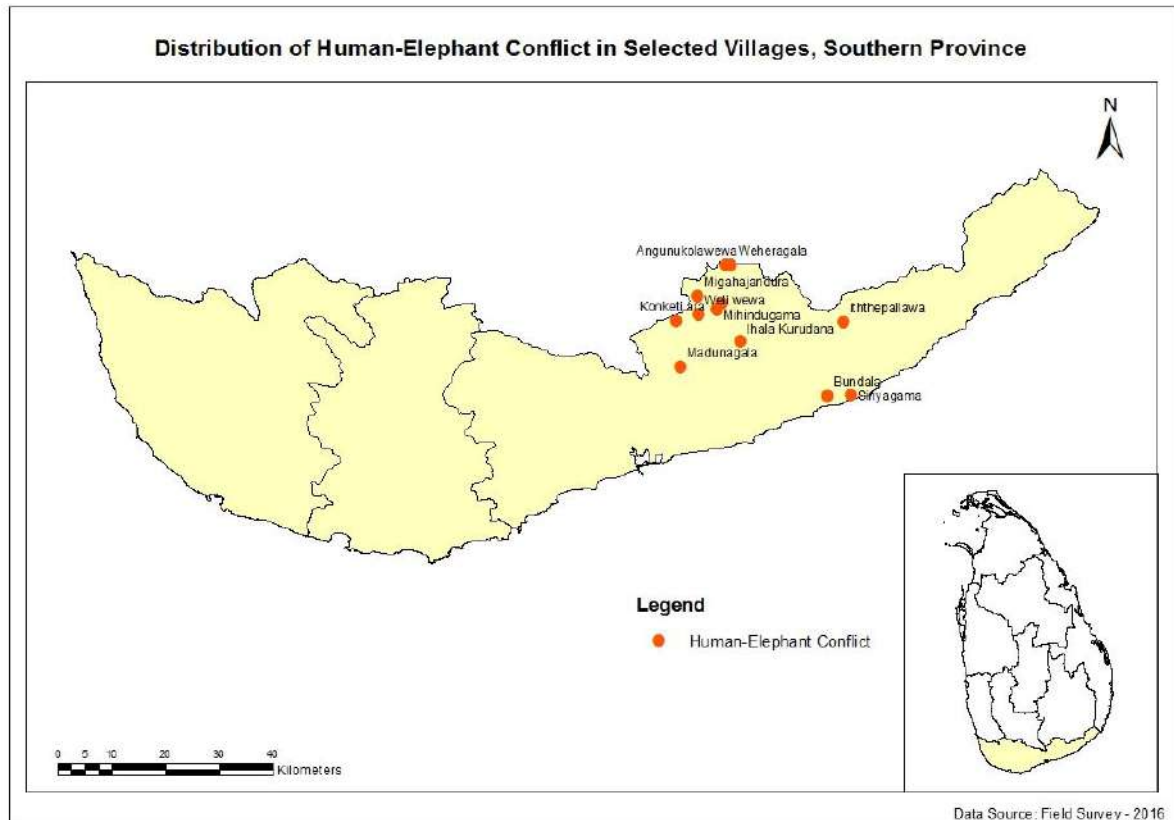


Figure 84 - Distribution of Issues related to Human-Elephant Conflicts in the Selected Villages of the Southern Province

Compared to the Galle district, economic issues are more evident among the people in the Hambanthota and Mathara districts. However, most of the people in the Hambanthota district who discussed this matter pointed out that they are facing related to fishing whereas in the Mathara district, the respondents indicated that they are suffering due to low income.

Land ownership related problems were also indicated by the people in the visited villages in the Southern province as affecting them negatively. However, people in the rural areas of Hambanthota pointed out they are facing difficulties due to landlessness and problems in the deeds whereas people in the visited rural areas in the Mathara district discussed only the issues related to their deeds. Compared to the Mathara and Hambanthota districts, in Galle, land ownership is not a prominent problem. Thus, in order to gain a better understanding regarding the distribution of problems in different districts in the Southern province, it is crucial go through the findings of the Gammadda program by each district.

7.1. Galle District

The land area of the Galle district is 1652 km² (Department of Census and Statistics, 2015) and the total population is 1, 063, 334 which is the highest population in the Southern province (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). If the population by ethnicity is considered, the majority of the population in the Galle district is Sinhalese (94.4%) and in terms of sector wise population, 12.5% of the population lives in the urban sector in the Galle district whereas 85.7% live in the rural sector. The estate sector population percentage is 1.8%. However, this is the highest percentage of population living in the urban sector when compared with other districts in the Southern province.

If the educational level of the population is considered, 16.5% of the population has passed the G.C.E. Ordinary Level or obtained an equivalent qualification whereas 13% of the population has passed the G.C.E. Advanced Level or obtained an equivalent qualification. The percentage of the population that has obtained a degree or a higher qualification is 2.3% (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). The same statistical data indicate that the Galle district has a literacy rate of 96.2% and a computer literacy rate of 24.3% which are once again the highest rates when compared with other districts in the Southern province.

The percentage of economically active population is 50.3% in Galle and of the employed population, 46.6% work as private sector employees, 27.5% work as own account workers, 16.3% work as government employees, 4.8% work as unpaid family workers and small percentages of the population work as employers and semi government employees (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012).

The issues that are prevalent in some selected villages in the Galle district can be illustrated as follows (Please refer to Figure 85).

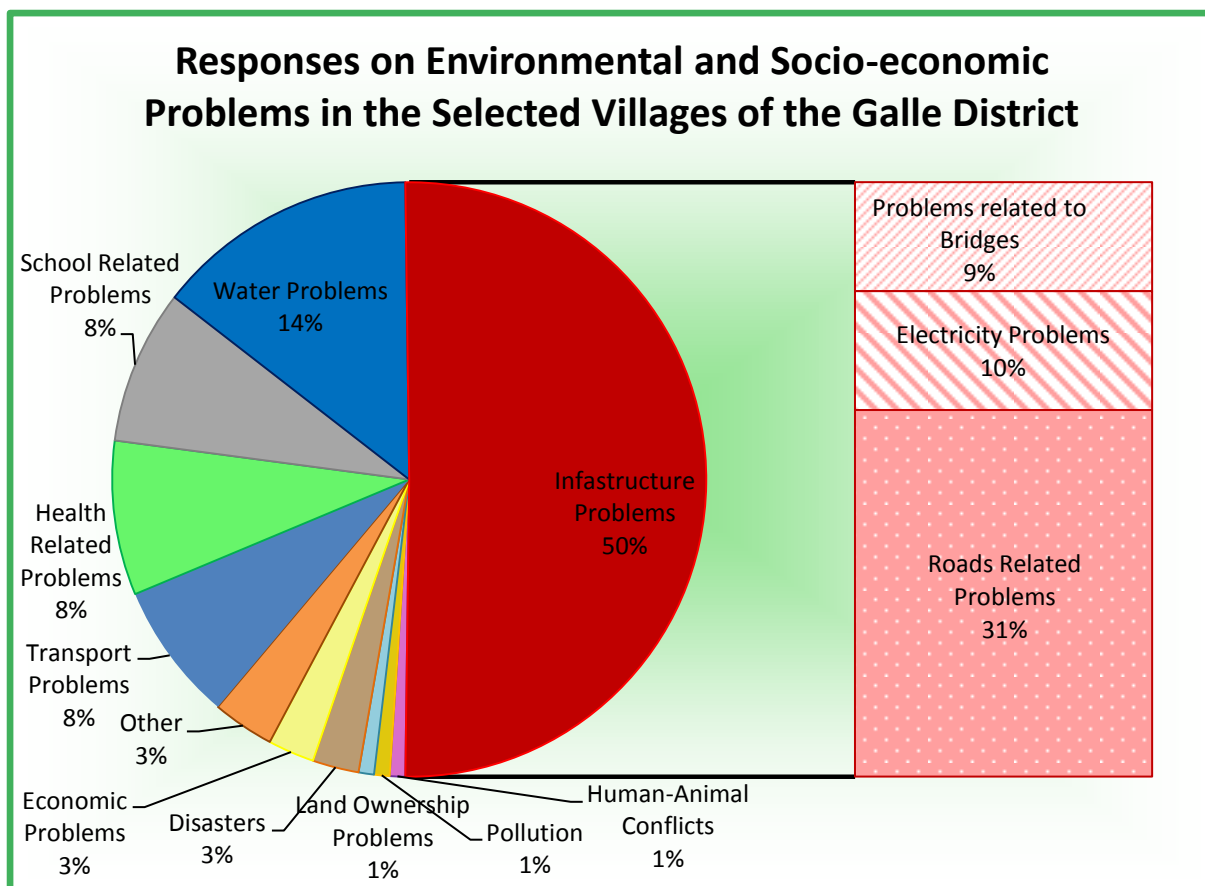


Figure 85 - Responses on Environmental and Socio-economic Issues in the Selected Villages of the Galle District

According to the above graph, the major problem in the visited villages in Galle is related to infrastructure. Specially, in the visited rural areas, in terms of infrastructure, the most critical issue is the damaged roads. For instance, the Nelluwa - Lankagama road has not gone through any renovation for around eight years and is in bad condition. Public transport is provided for this area only once a week on Saturdays when the market is held. On other days, people in this area use trishaws, bicycles or walk on foot. This issue is affecting areas such as Kolonkotuwa and Lankagama severely. Dellawa, Pitigala, Manampita and Malamura villages are also inconvenienced due to damaged roads as well as transportation problems. In addition, of the respondents who indicated infrastructure issues, 20% stated that they also have problems due to the unavailability of electricity, and some others also mentioned the bridges that are too damaged to be utilized without repairing. Specially Lankagama and Pitadeniya areas face the electricity problem since electricity is provided for these villages from small power plants which generate a small amount of electricity. In addition, in order to reach the Lankagama road from the Nilwella village people have to cross an unstable bridge. This village is connected to the city

only through the bridge and thus, people have to cross this to fulfill their day to day requirements (Please refer to Figure to 86).

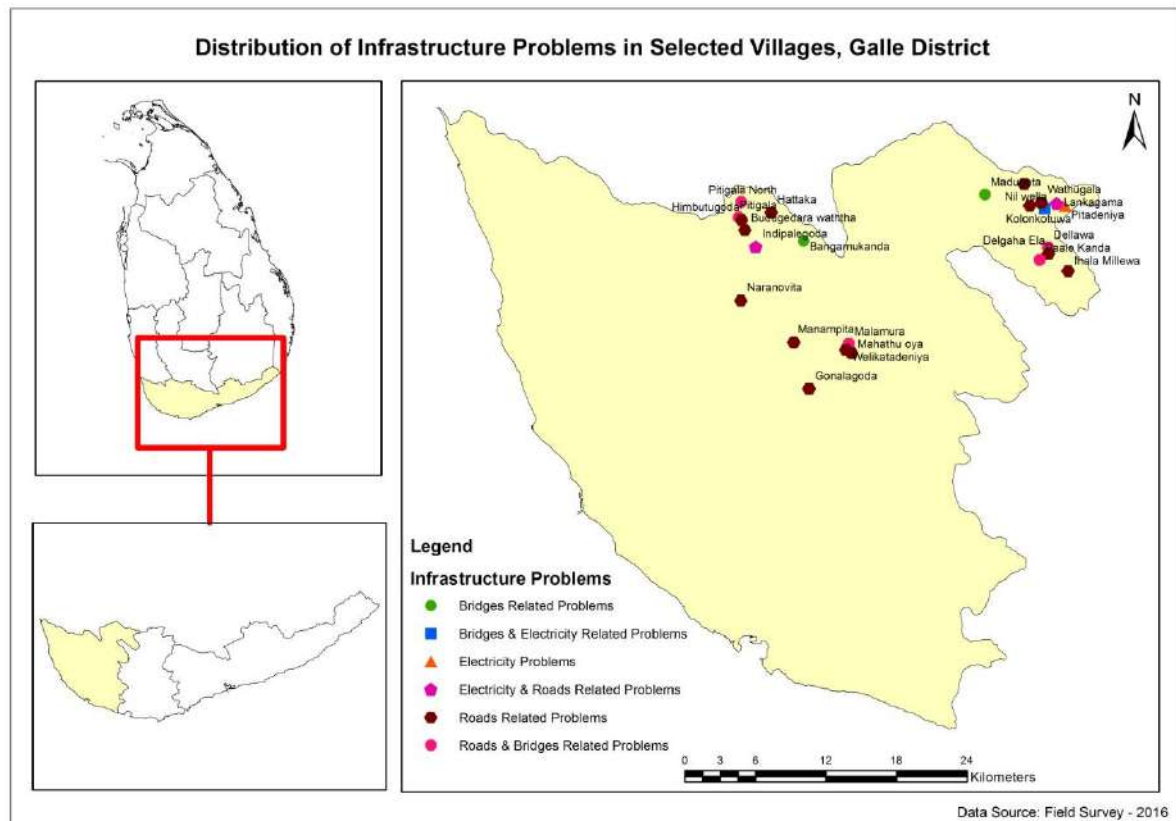


Figure 86 - Distribution of Issues related to Infrastructure in the Selected Villages of the Galle District

The next critical issue affecting the visited rural areas in Galle is the water issue. All the respondents who discussed this problem indicated that they face difficulties due to the unavailability of clean drinking water sources. Problems related to schools were another major issue in the selected villages in the Galle district. In fact, around 50% of the respondents who presented their ideas on this matter indicated that there aren't enough facilities in the schools in the rural areas. Furthermore, they reported that even the number of schools are less in the rural areas in Galle (Please refer to Figure 87).

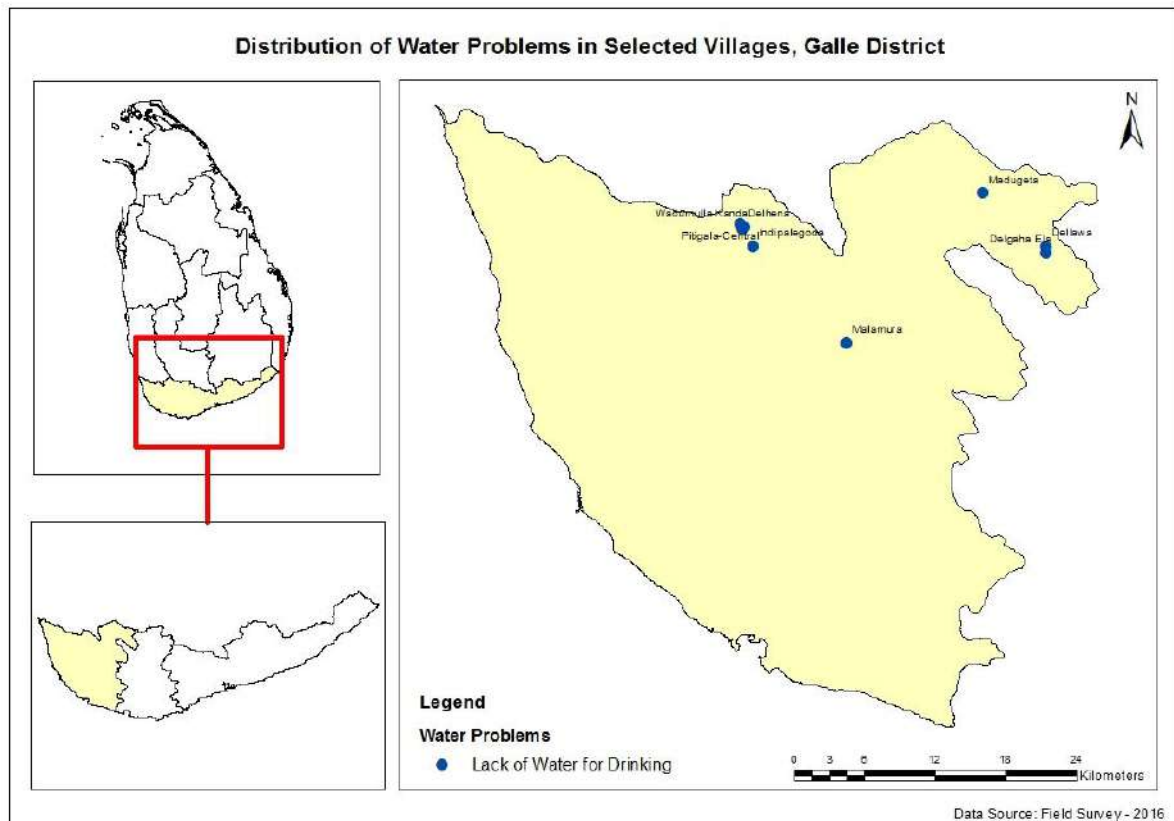


Figure 87 - Distribution of Issues related to Water in the Selected Villages of the Galle District

When considering health related problems, the major issue that the respective villagers face is with regard to the availability of hospitals. For instance, people in Dellawa have to travel up to around 14 km to obtain health facilities. Even in the areas where hospitals have been established, some respondents indicated that the number of doctors was not sufficient to treat patients efficiently (Please refer to Figure 88).

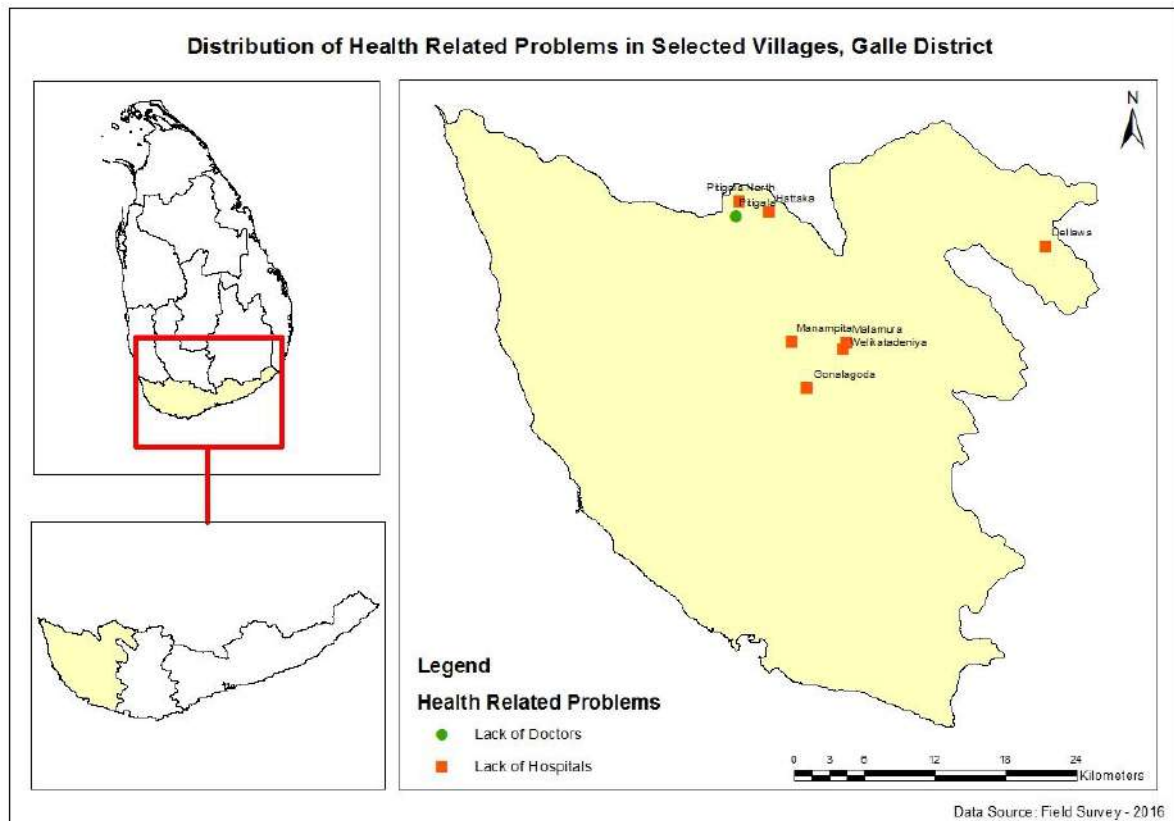


Figure 88 - Distribution of Issues related to Health in the Selected Villages of the Galle District

Transport problems are also evident in the visited villages in the Galle district. Specially, the respondents indicated that the public transport system is not functioning properly in the visited villages in Galle including Dellawa, Paalekanda, Bangamukanda, Pitigala-North, Manampita, Indipalengoda, etc. (Please refer to Figure 89).

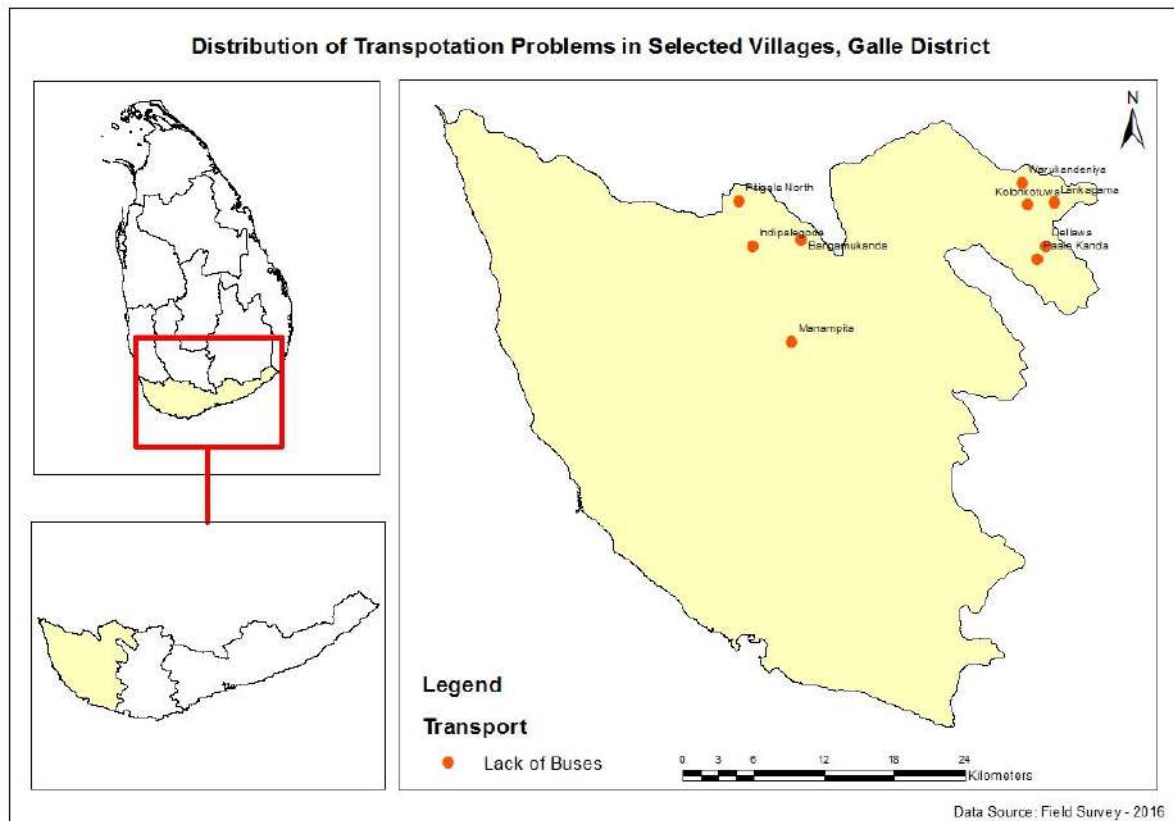


Figure 89 - Distribution of Issues related to Transport in the Selected Villages of the Galle District

Apart from these major problems, some other problems such as economic problems, natural disasters, land ownership problems, pollution related issues and human-animal conflicts are also present in the visited villages in the Galle district, but to a lesser extent.

7.2. Matara District

The land area of the Matara district is 1283 km² (Department of Census and Statistics, 2015) and the total population is 814, 048 (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). Similar to other two districts in the Southern province, the majority of the population in the Matara district is Sinhalese (94.3%) whereas the percentage of Tamils and Sri Lankan Moors are 2.6, 3.1 respectively. The percentage of population living in the rural sector in the Matara district is 85.3%, and 11.9% and 2.8% of the population in the respective district lives in the urban sector and estate sector respectively.

Similar to the Galle district, 16.5% of the population in Matara has passed the G.C.E. Ordinary Level or obtained an equivalent qualification whereas 12.1% has passed the G.C.E.

Advanced Level or obtained an equivalent qualification (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). The percentage of the population that has obtained a degree or a higher qualification is 2.5% and this is the highest percentage of population that has completed tertiary education in the Southern district. The literacy rate of the population in Matara is 94.8% whereas their computer literacy is 21.7%.

The economically active population in the Matara district is 308, 583 and of the employed population 41.4% work as private sector employees, 31.6% work as own account workers, 15.3% work as government employees, 5.8% work as unpaid family workers and small percentages of the population also work as semi government employees and employers (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012).

The social, economic and environmental issues identified in the Matara district can be summarized via a graph as follows (Please refer to Figure 90).

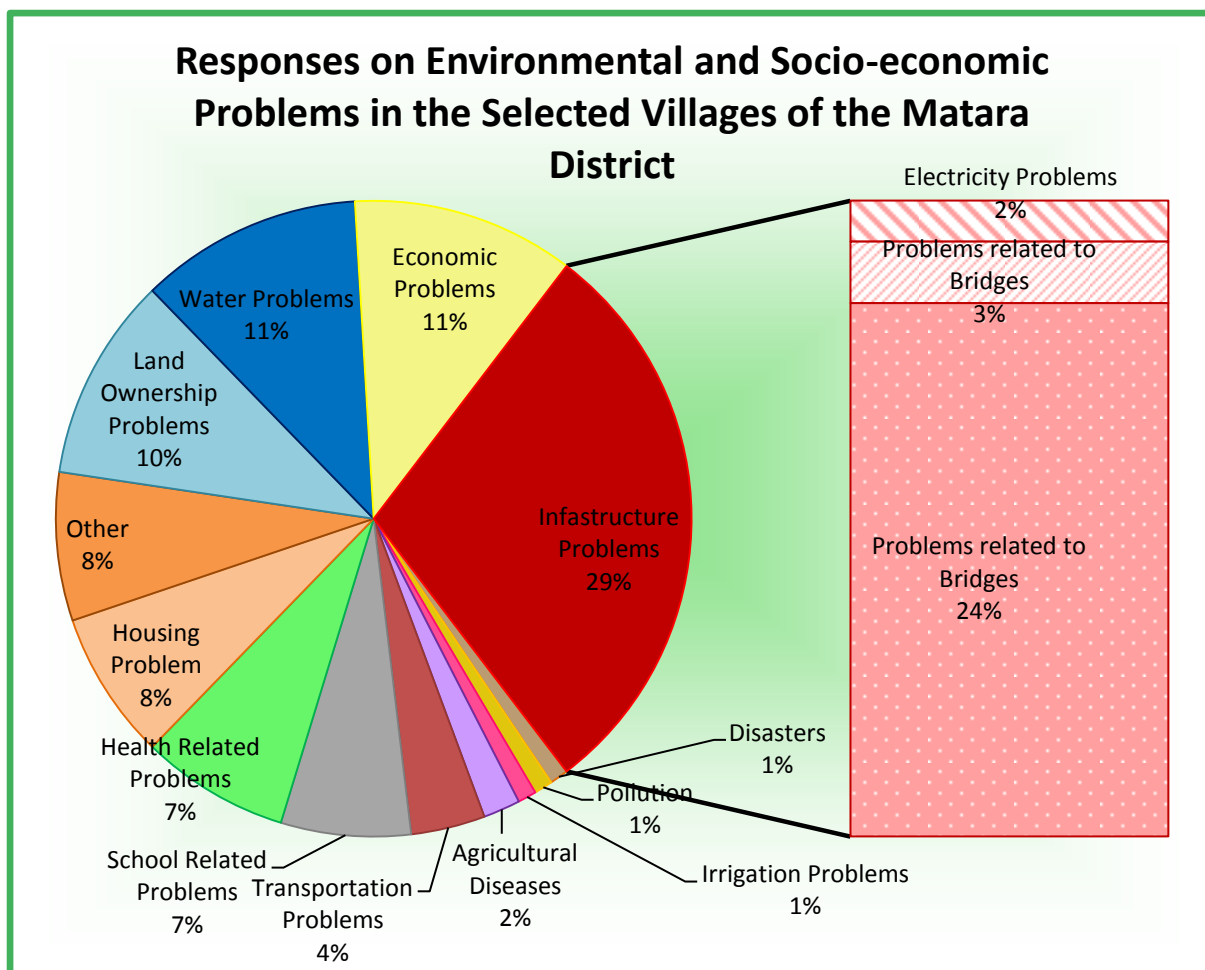


Figure 90 - Responses on the Environmental and Socio-economic Problems in the Selected Villages of the Matara District

Similar to the Galle district, the most critical issue in the visited villages in the Matara district is also related to infrastructure facilities. In fact, even in Matara, around 84% of the respondents who indicated infrastructure related issues highlighted that damaged roads are affecting different aspects of their lives negatively. In addition, the Pallekanda village has a highly damaged road which has not been repaired properly for around 30 years. Apart from that, some respondents reported about dilapidated bridges and also instances where electricity has not been provided for several areas (Please refer to Figure 91).

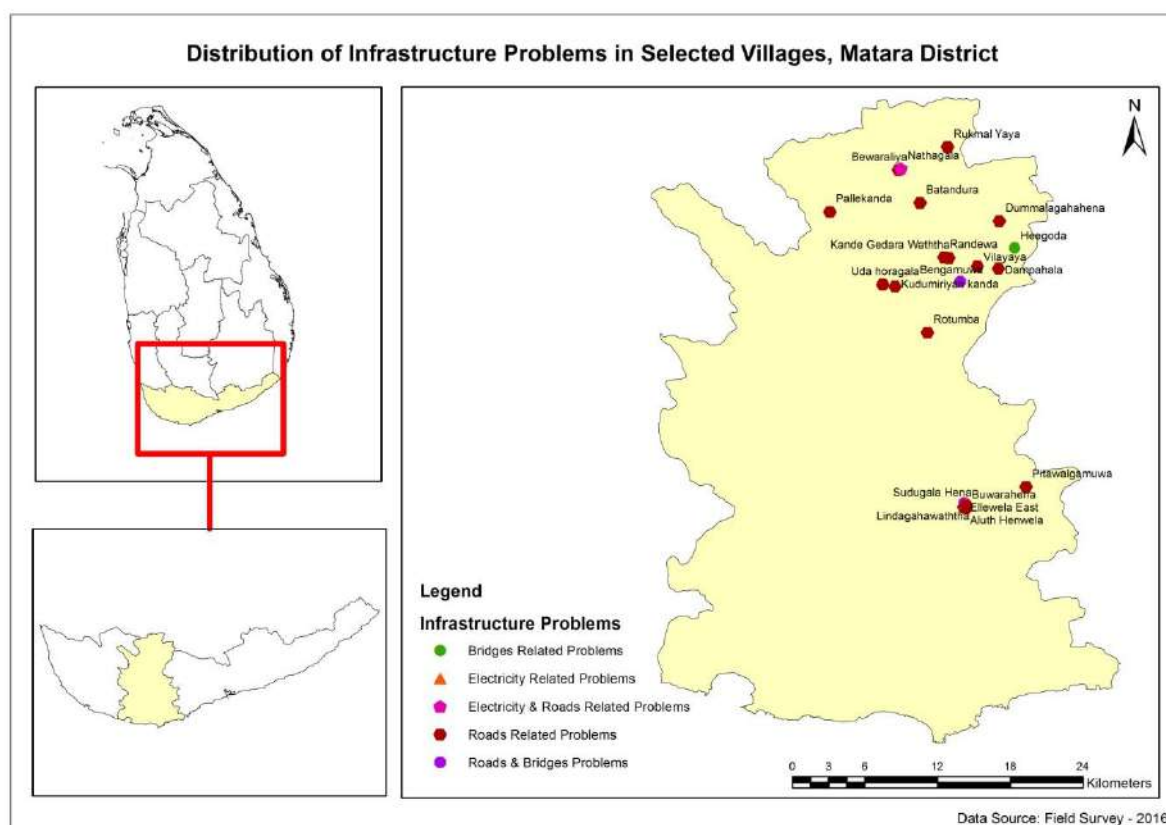


Figure 91 - Distribution of Issues related to Infrastructure in the Selected Villages of the Matara District

The next problem that many people in the visited areas face is related to the economy. Of those who discussed this issue, 41.7% have mentioned insufficient income which does not cover at least their day to day needs as the main issue under this. Furthermore, 25% each, have indicated marketing problems and unemployment problems as affecting them the most in terms of economy. For instance, if the tea industry in some areas in Matara such as Kolawenigama, Pallekanda, Babuldeniya is considered, it is evident that the villagers in these areas are suffering due to not receiving fertilizers and not having a good market for their tea. In addition, the tea plants in these areas are suffering from a certain disease which decreases the productivity. Until now, nobody has identified the cause of that disease. Therefore, the villagers have named it as "Deniyaya disease". This has in fact destroyed many plantations in the area.

People in the visited areas of Matara also face issues related to water. Of the respondents who discussed this issue, 100% of the respondents agreed to the fact that their main problem is the unavailability of clean drinking water (Please refer to Figure 92).

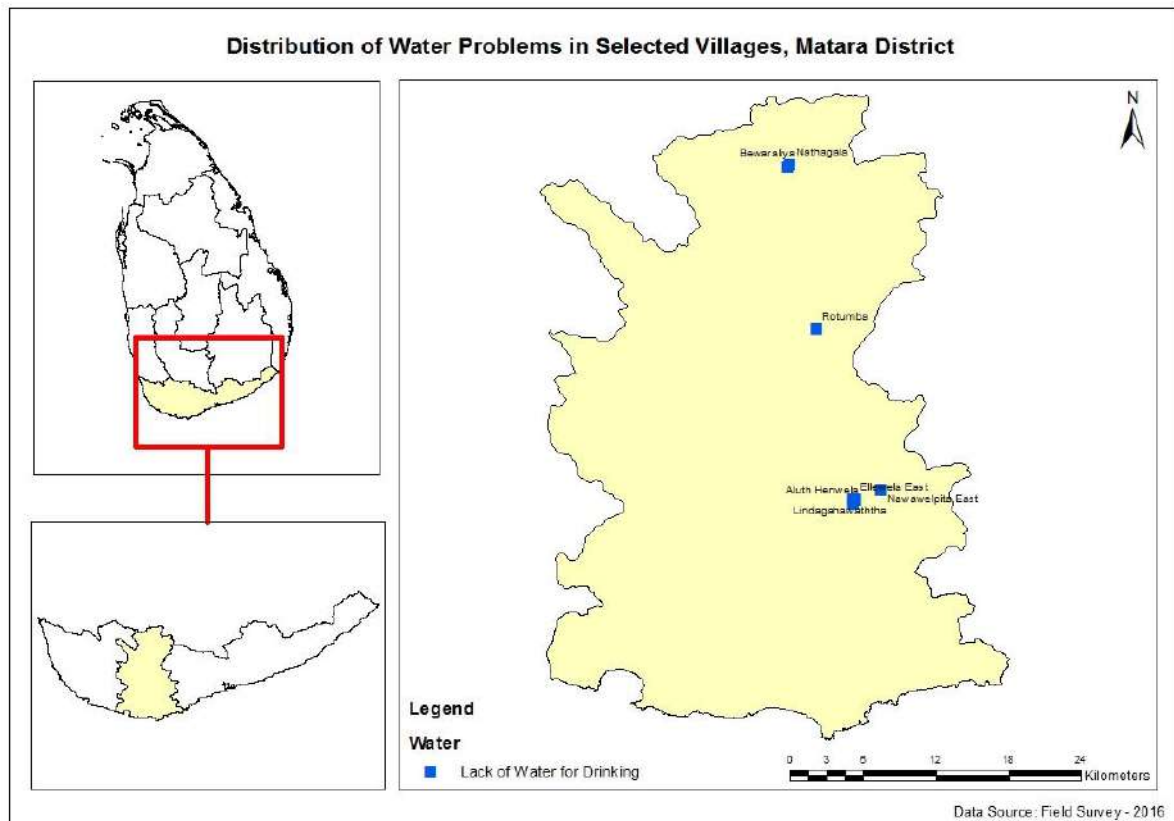


Figure 92 - Distribution of Issues related to Water in the Selected Villages of the Matara District

Another major problem that has affected the population in the visited villages is the land ownership problem. Thus, the respondents in areas such as Rukamalyaya, Ellewela East, Perches 10, Viharahena and Mawuldeniya indicated that they are burdened with land ownership related issues (Please refer to Figure 93).

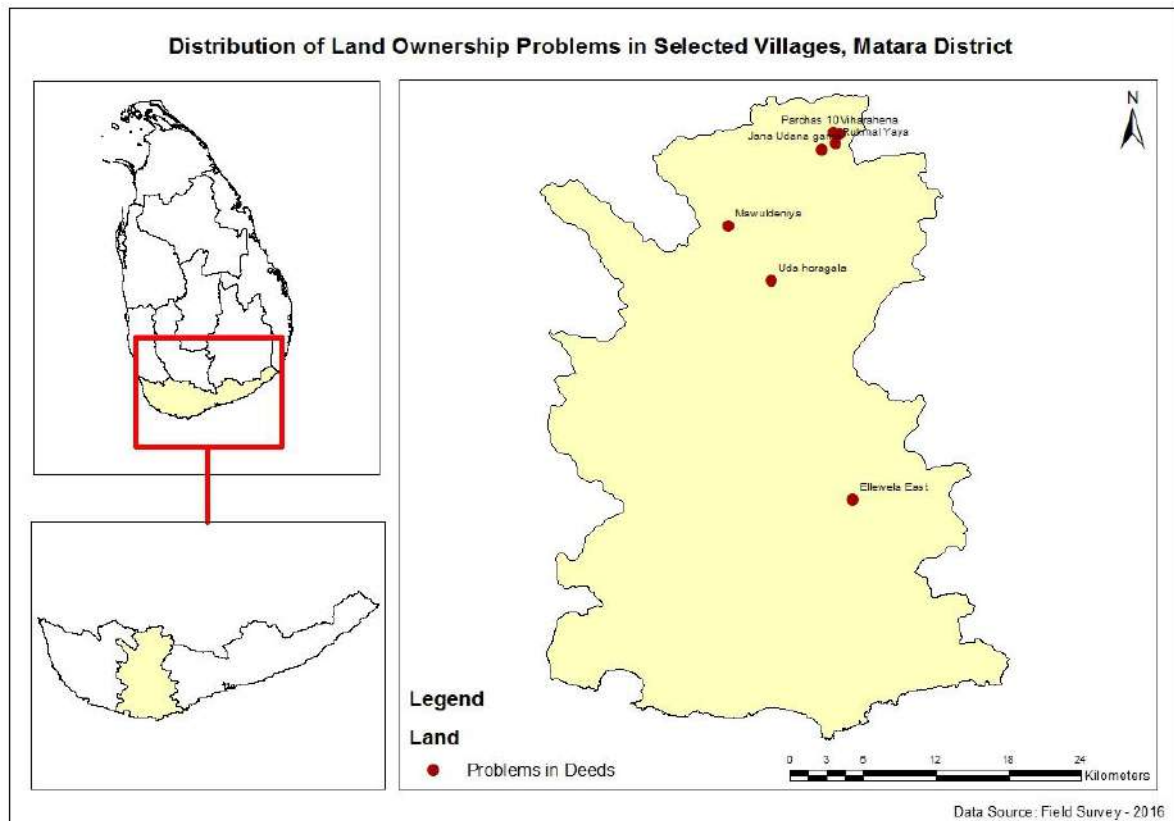


Figure 98 - Distribution of Issues related to Land in the Selected Villages of the Matara District

Furthermore, many people in Ellewela East and Buwarahena are suffering from cancers. During the visits to these villages, people indicated that many have passed away due to this while some others are still fighting for life with cancer. However, in order to confirm the reasons as to why people get cancers particularly in these areas, further research should be carried out.

Education related problems were also pointed out by the respondents as factors which affect their children's lives. The issues they pointed out are, lack of school teachers in schools in the rural areas and lack of facilities in schools and Dhamma schools. Apart from the inefficiency of public transportation, environmental pollution and negative impacts created by natural disasters were also highlighted by a few respondents as factors which affect them.

7.3. Hambantota District

The land area of the Hambantota district is 2609 km² (Department of Census and Statistics, 2015) and the total population is 599, 903 (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). The majority of the population in Hambantota are Sinhalese (97%) and the percentage of Tamils, Sri Lankan Moors and other ethnic groups are, 0.4, 1.1 and 1.5 respectively. According to sector wise population distribution, the majority of the population (94.7%) lives in the rural sector whereas 5.3% lives in the urban sector in Hambantota. Even though the other two districts in the Southern province contain a small percentage of people living in the estate sector, the population distribution in the Hambantota district is limited only to urban and rural sectors.

If the education status of the population is considered, 15.4% of the population has passed the G.C.E. Ordinary Level or obtained an equivalent qualification and 9.6% of the population has passed the G.C.E. Advanced Level or obtained an equivalent qualification (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). The percentage of the population that has obtained a degree or a higher qualification is 2% in the Hambantota district. When compared with the other two districts in the Southern province, the Hambantota province has the lowest percentages of population that has completed higher studies.

The percentage of economically active population in the Hambantota district is 52.6% which is comparatively higher than that in the Galle district (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). However, unlike in the other two districts in the Southern province, most of the employed people in Hambantota (46.7%) work as own account workers while 27.7% work as private sector employees, 15.5% work as government employees, 5.9% work as unpaid family workers and very limited percentages of the population work as employers and semi government workers.

The social, environmental and economical issues of some selected villages in the Hambantota district can be illustrated as follows (Please refer to Figure 94).

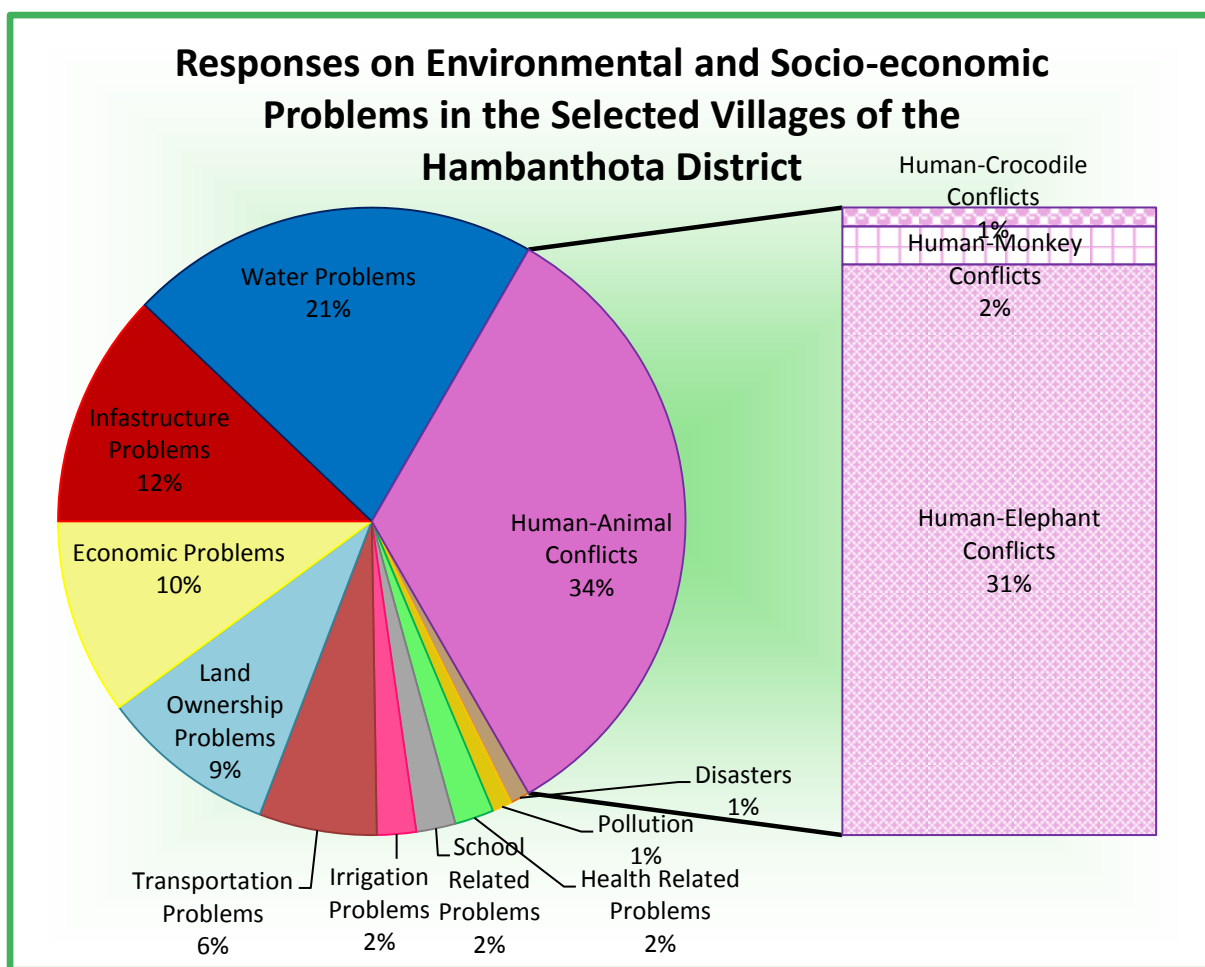


Figure 94 - Responses on the Environmental and Socio-economic Issues in the Selected Villages of the Hambantota District

The human-animal conflict is the most severe problem that affects the population in the visited rural areas in the Hambantota district. Due to development projects that have taken place in areas which have been previously occupied by animals, particularly, elephants, the lives of the people as well as animals have been threatened. Thus, of the respondents who mentioned human-animal conflicts, around 91% stated that they face difficulties due to the presence of elephants in search for food in their villages. Apart from threats to lives, people also have to suffer due to various losses caused by elephants such as the destruction to property and cultivations. This problem is highly prevalent in areas such as Agunakolawewa, Migahajandura, Ihala Kurudana, Bundala, Siriagama, Mihindugama, Ranmuduwwewa, Weliwewa, Konkettiaara, and Madunagala. The respondents further indicated that even though fences have been constructed in certain areas, some of those are not in an active condition while the other fences have already been destroyed by the elephants. The respondents in

Konketiaara and Kurudana further stated that elephants have started to storm to the villages after the construction of the Mattala airport (Please refer to Figure 95).

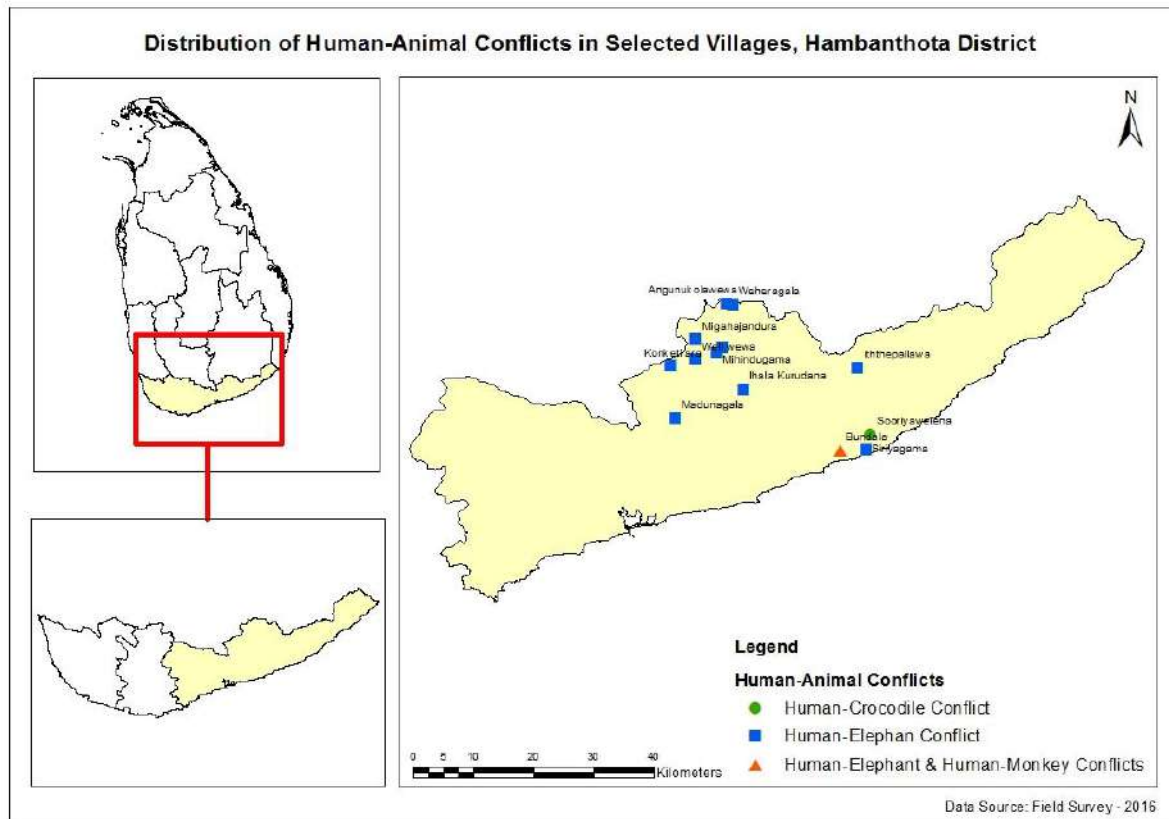


Figure 95 - Distribution of Issues related to Human-Animal Conflicts in the Selected Villages of the Hambantota District

The second major issue which was identified through the Gammadda visits to the Hambantota district is water related issues in certain villages. Of the respondents who discussed this issue, around 76% stated that the major issue related to water is the unavailability of clean drinking water. Around 24% also indicated that in some areas, water is not sufficient for agricultural purposes. A few examples for areas experiencing the water problem are, Agunukolawewa, Bundala, Konketiaara, Tammannawa, Konwalaena, and Vijayapura. Apart from that, the Agunukolawewa lake has not been repaired in many years and as a result, the dam of the lake faced the threat of being destroyed. The villagers further indicated that if this lake is properly repaired, it can be utilized to cultivate an area of around 200 acres (Please refer to Figure 96).

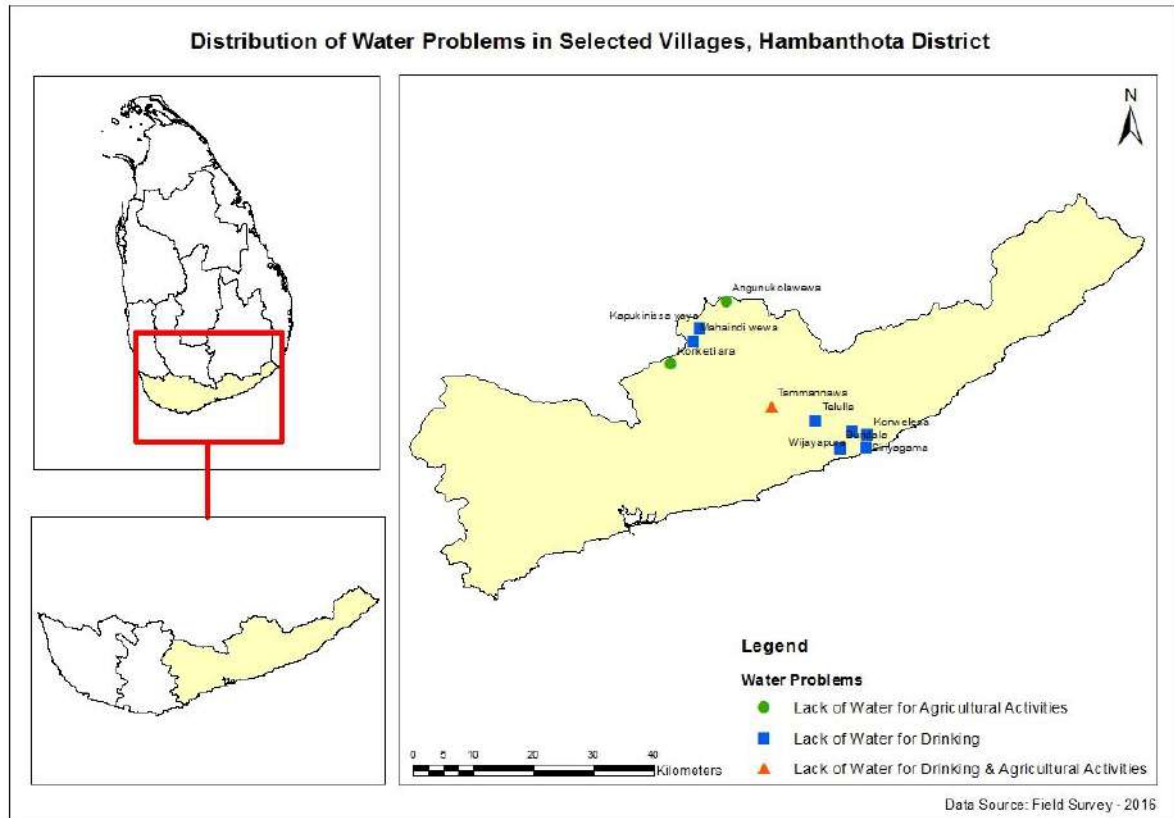


Figure 96 - Distribution of Issues related to Water in the Selected Villages of the Hambantota District

The third major issue affecting the villagers is related to infrastructure. The major problems that come under this are dilapidated bridges that make transportation difficult, damaged roads and the unavailability of electricity. For instance, in Bundala, the roads are severely damaged and even the public transportation system is very inefficient. This has affected not only the adults in the area but also the school children who are unable to go to schools on time due to the unavailability of buses (Please refer to Figure 97).

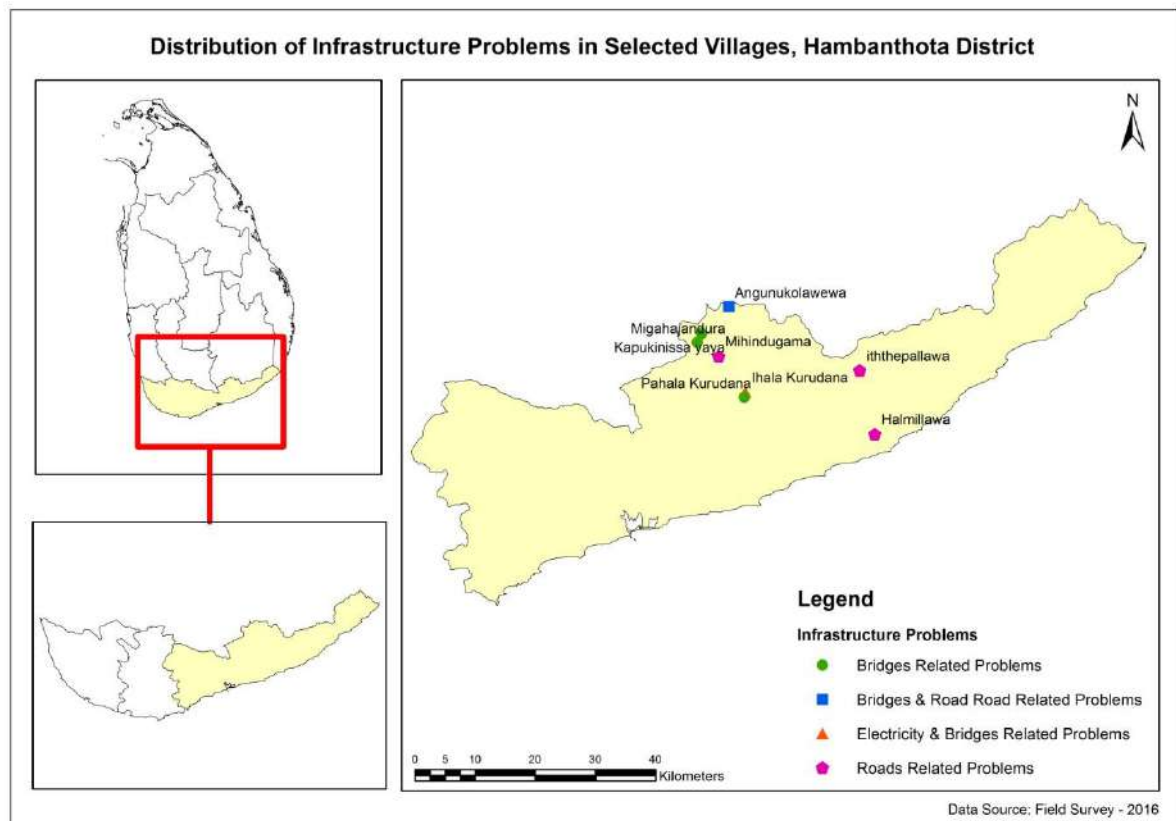


Figure 97 - Distribution of Issues related to Infrastructure in the Selected Villages of the Hambantota District

Economic problems in these villages also take a diverse nature. Thus, people who shared their ideas with the Gammadda research team highlighted that there are problems related to fisheries, marketing problems, unemployment issues, and problems caused by lack of accessibility to raw materials in the respective areas.

Land ownership related issues were also highlighted by the respondents as affecting them to a certain extent. Under this, the main problems pointed out by the respondents were landlessness and problems with their deeds. In addition, the respondents from Bundala also highlighted the necessity to have a hospital in that area. Since people from Bundala have to travel around 25km to either the Hambantota hospital or to the Debarawewa hospital to obtain treatment, the respondents indicated that pregnant women and critical patients face a lot of difficulties.

Thus, it is evident that even though many mega development projects which have taken place in the Hambantota district, people from the rural areas in Hambantota are suffering severely due to uneven development.

8. North Central Province

The North Central province is divided into two districts; namely, Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa and has a total population of 1,266,663 (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). The majority of the population in the North Central province (96%) lives in the rural sector while only a very small percentage (4%) lives in the urban sector. Particularly, if the Polonnaruwa district in the North Central province is considered, according to 2012 census data, 100% of the population has been identified as living in the rural sector. In terms of ethnicity, the majority of the population in the province belongs to the Sinhalese ethnic group (90.9%) whereas Tamils (1%) and Sri Lankan Moors (8%) also add to the total population.

If the education status of the province is considered, 14.1% of the population has passed the G.C.E. Ordinary Level or an obtained an equivalent qualification while only a comparatively low percentage of the population (8.6%) has passed G.C.E. Advanced Level examination or obtained an equivalent qualification. Only 1.5% of the total population has obtained a degree or an equivalent qualification. It is also evident that the Polonnaruwa district lags behind in education when compared with the Anuradhapura district (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). However, the literacy rate in the North Central province is 95.4% and the computer literacy rate is 17.7%.

According to 2012 census data 54.8% of the population aged 15 years and above is economically active in this province. 47.8% of the employed population work as own account workers while 20.6% work as government employees, 17.5% work as private sector employees and 10.5% or comparatively a high percentage work as unpaid family workers. In addition, there are small percentages of the employed population working as semi government workers and employers.

The social, environmental and economic issues that were identified through the Gammadda research team in the visited villages in the North Central province can be illustrated as follows (Please refer to Figure 98).

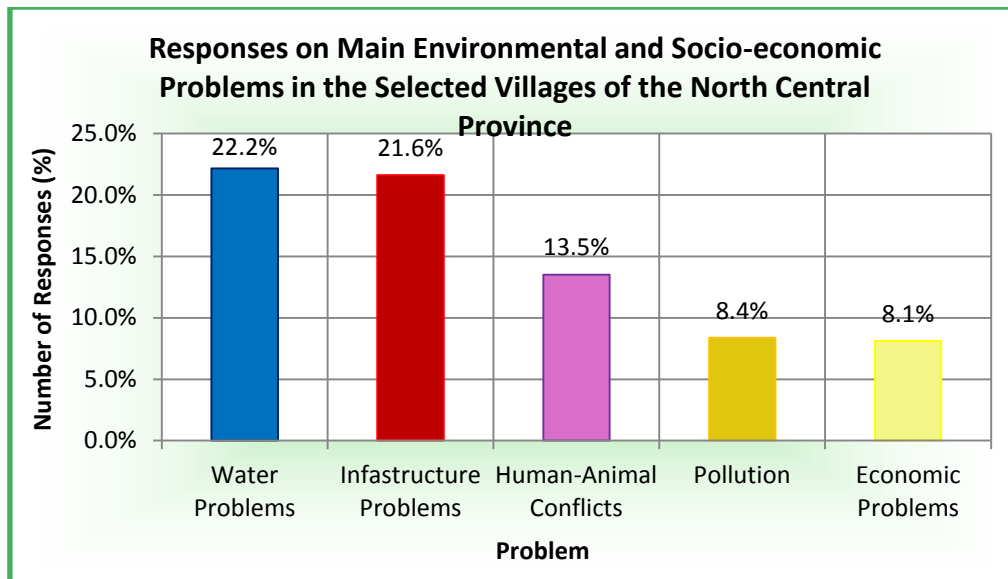


Figure 98 - Responses on Main Environmental and Socio-Economic Problems in the Selected Villages of the North Central Province

As indicated in the above graph, the most critical problem in the visited areas in the North Central province is the water issue. In fact, both in the Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa districts, people in the visited villages indicated that they are suffering due to the unavailability of clean drinking water. Furthermore, some have pointed out that there is lack of water even for agricultural activities (Please refer to Figure 99).

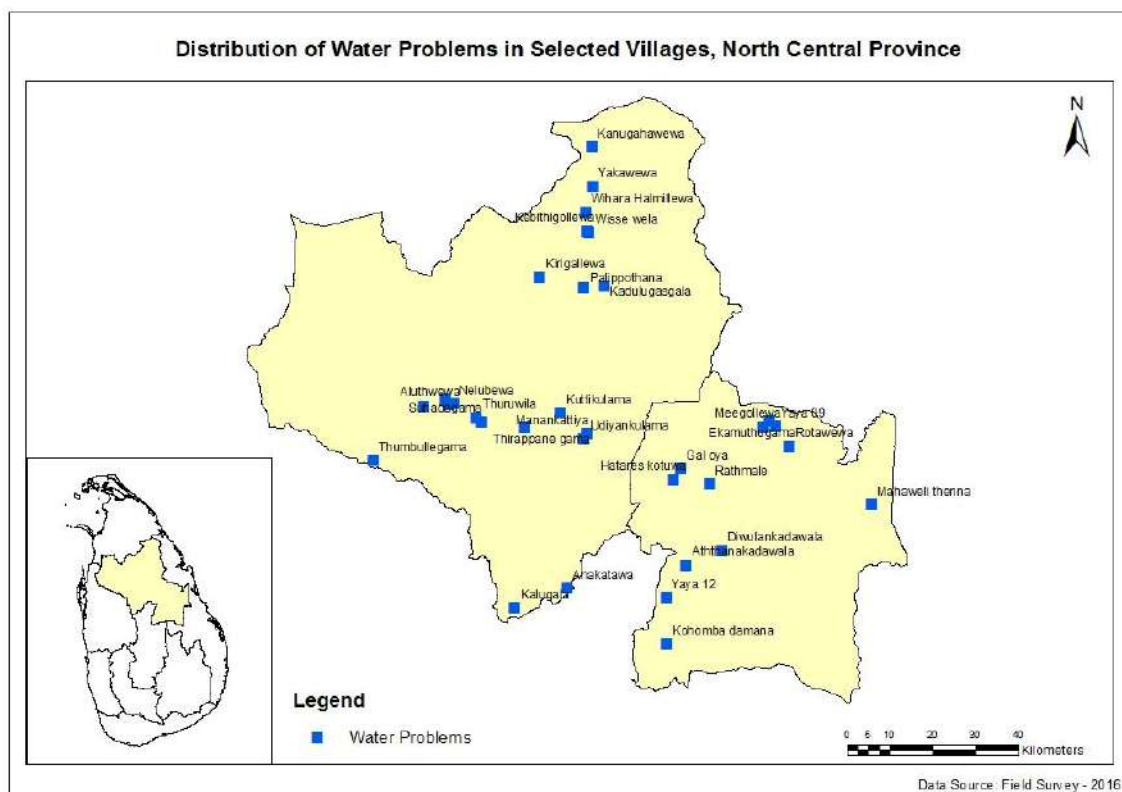


Figure 99 - Distribution of Issues related to Water in the Selected Villages of the North Central Province

When discussing infrastructure issues, the majority of the population in the respective villages stated that the poor condition of the roads have affected their lives negatively (Please refer to Figure 100). In addition, the other infrastructure issues are related to the poor condition of the bridges in certain rural areas and the unavailability of electricity in a few parts of the villages.

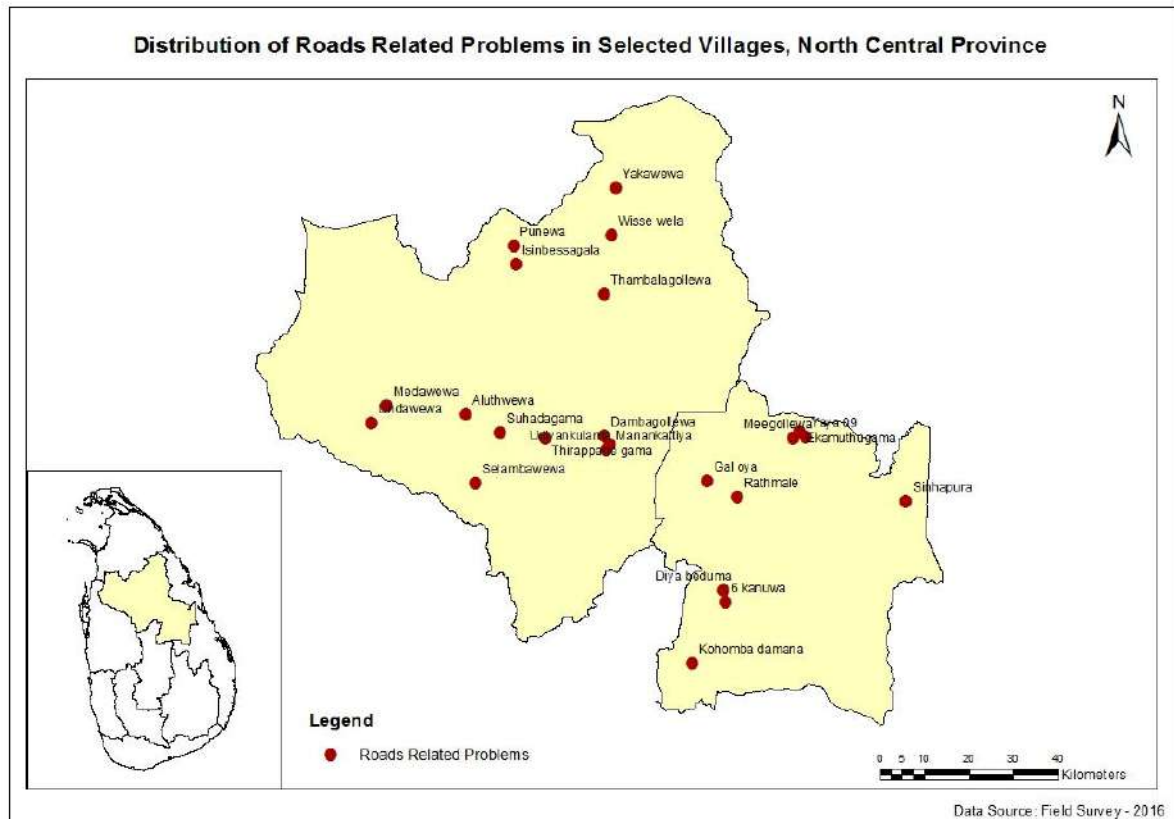


Figure 100 - Distribution of Issues related to roads in the Selected Villages of the North Central Province

Human-elephant conflicts are yet another issue that is prominent in the North Central province. In fact, due to elephants storming the villages, sometimes people have lost their cultivations as well as their lives. On the other hand, elephants are also getting killed during these conflicts. Hence, it is not a problem that affects human beings in a negative manner but also the whole environment (Please refer to Figure 101).

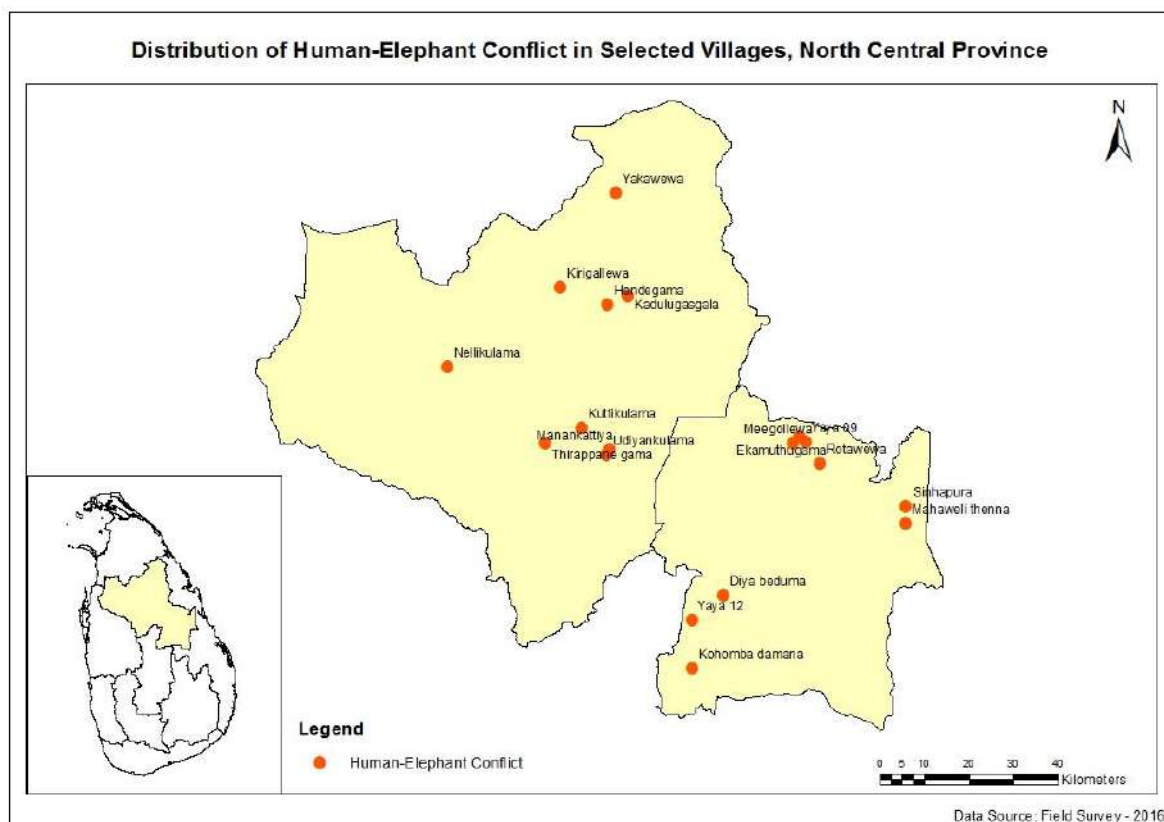


Figure 101 - Distribution of Human-Elephant Conflict in the Selected Villages of the North Central Province

Particularly in the Polonnaruwa district, the respondents from the visited villages stated that land pollution, air pollution as well as water pollution can be seen in certain areas of the district. Thus, when considering the North Central province, pollution has also become an issue to which attention has to be paid. Specially with the utilization of agrochemicals, on the other hand the tanks in the North Central province are being polluted. This process has affected the health of the people too. Furthermore, economic problems are another issue highlighted by the respondents in the North Central province. The respondents in both districts have indicated that insufficiency of the subsidies provided has affected their economy. In addition, lack of accessibility to raw materials, issues with finding a market for their products, low income and unemployment were also highlighted as several economic issues prevailing in the visited areas.

In addition, according to the responses received by the Gammadda team, the areas in which health issues are present can be illustrated as follows. (Please refer to Figure 102).

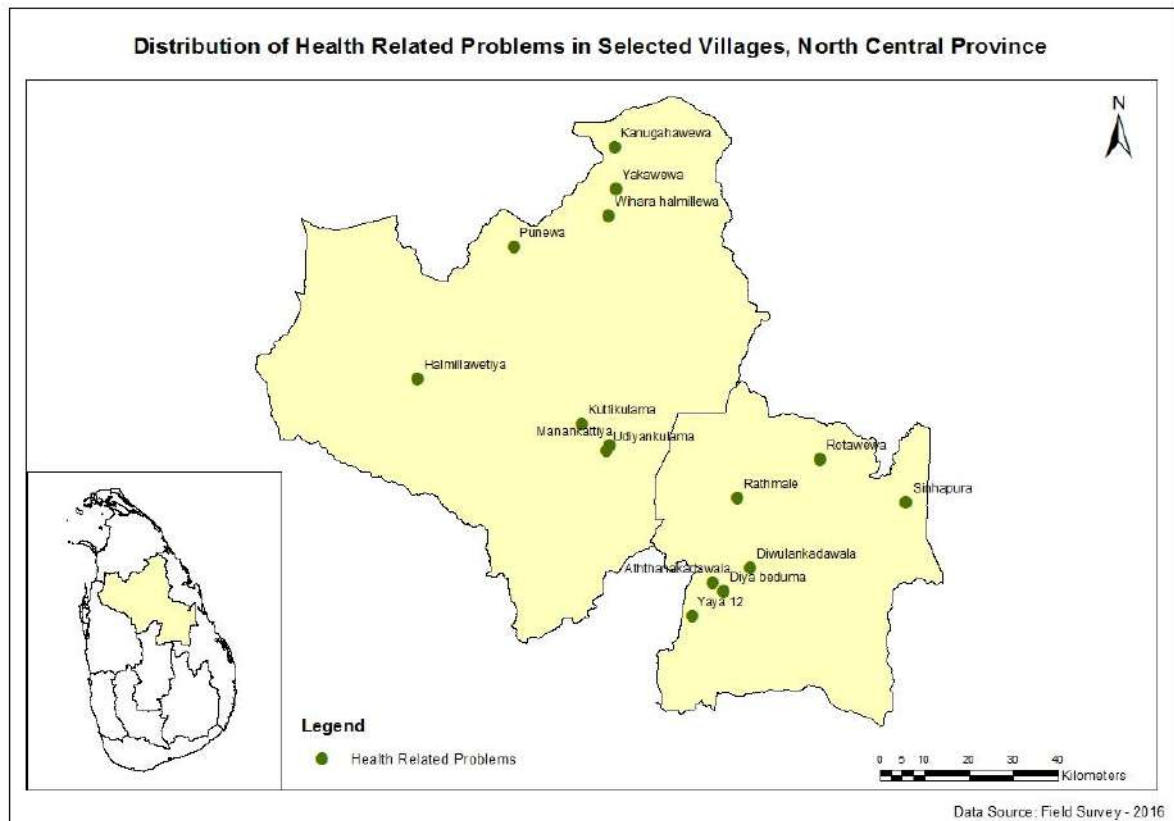


Figure 102 - Distribution of Issues related to Health in the Selected Villages of the North Central Province

According to the above map, it is evident that health related issues are prevalent in many parts of the province.

8.1. Anuradhapura district

The land area of the Anuradhapura district is 7179 km² (Department of Census and Statistics, 2015) and its total population is 860, 575 (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). If the population distribution of Anuradhapura is identified by ethnicity, the majority or 91% of the population is Sinhalese whereas 8.2% of the population is Sri Lankan Moors and 0.2% of the population is Tamils. In addition, 94.1% of the total population lives in the rural sector whereas 5.9% of the population lives in the urban sector.

The education level of the population of the Anuradhapura district is in a better state when compared with that of Polonnaruwa. For instance, 14.5% of the population have passed the G.C.E. Ordinary Level or obtained an equivalent qualification whereas 9.1% of the

population has passed the G.C.E. Advanced Level or obtained an equivalent qualification (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). Furthermore, 1.7% of the population has obtained a degree or a higher qualification. The literacy rate of the population in the Anuradhapura district is 95.7% while their computer literacy rate is 18.3%.

The majority of the population aged 15 years and above is economically active in the Anuradhapura district and registers a percentage of 56.1% (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). Once again, this rate is higher than that of the Polonnaruwa district. Of the employed population in the Anuradhapura district, 47.2% work as own account workers, 21.5% work as government employees, 15.8% work as private sector employees, 12.2% work as unpaid family workers and a small percentage of the population works as semi government employees and employers. Even though in terms of economically active population, the Anuradhapura district is ahead in the North Central province, the percentage of unpaid family workers is higher in Anuradhapura than in Polonnaruwa.

The social, economic, and environmental issues in the visited villages in the Anuradhapura district can be summarized as follows (Please refer to Figure 103).

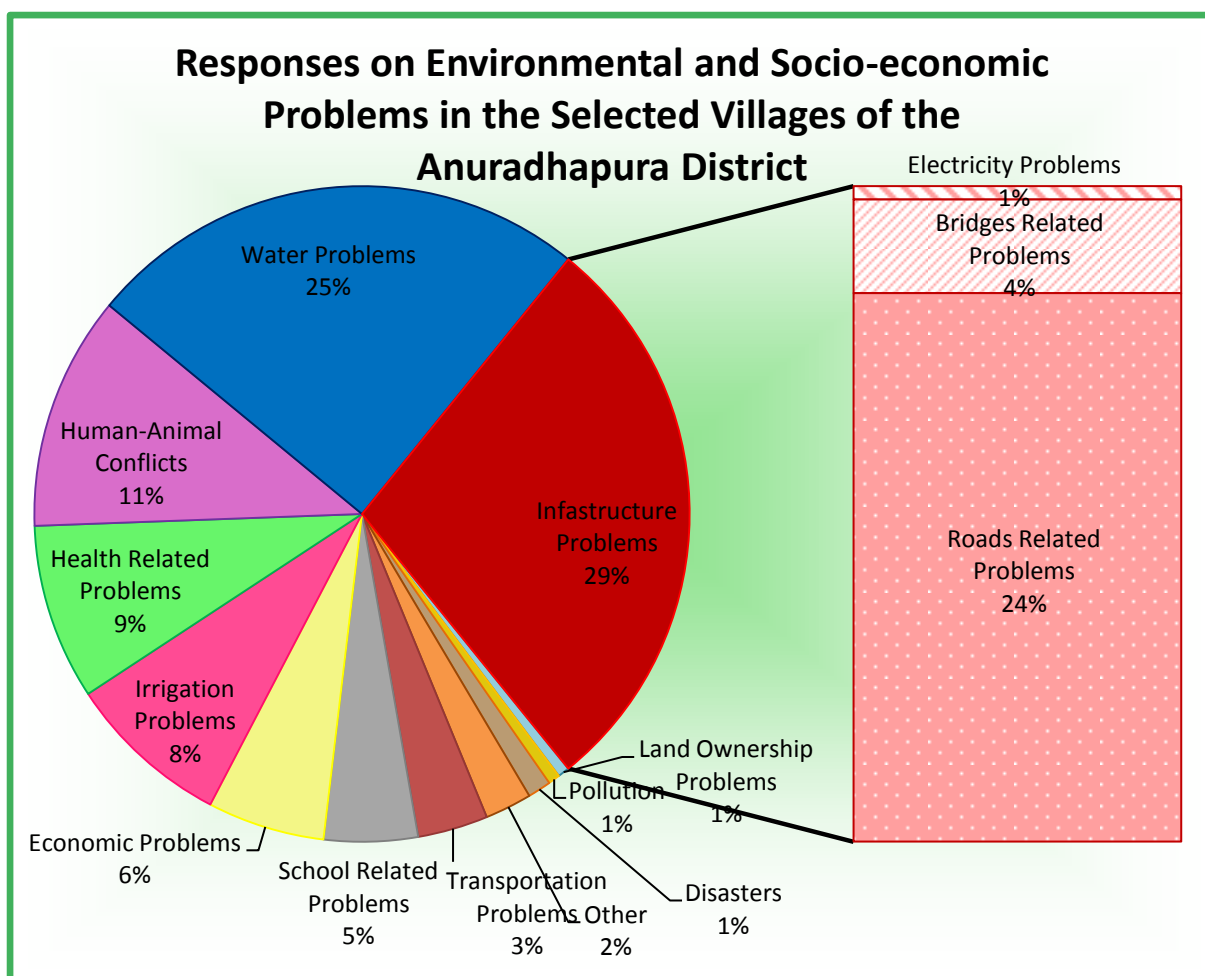


Figure 103 - Responses on Environmental and Socio-Economic Problems in the Selected Villages of the Anuradhapura District

According to the above graph, the major issue affecting the visited villages in Anuradhapura is related to infrastructure. Thus, of the respondents who discussed this issue, 83.7% stated that the condition of the roads in their areas is very poor. This issue is coupled with the public transportation issue where the respondents highlighted that their day to day activities are interrupted due to the unavailability of a proper public transportation system in their areas. A few examples for villages that suffer due to road problems are, Maanankattiya, Udiyankulama, Wissewela, Suhadagama, and Seruwewa. Another, 14.3% indicated that the bridges in their areas are damaged to an extent that travelling has become too risky. In fact, in Suhadagama, students face difficulties since crossing an unstable bridge is the only way to reach to their schools (Please refer to Figure 104).

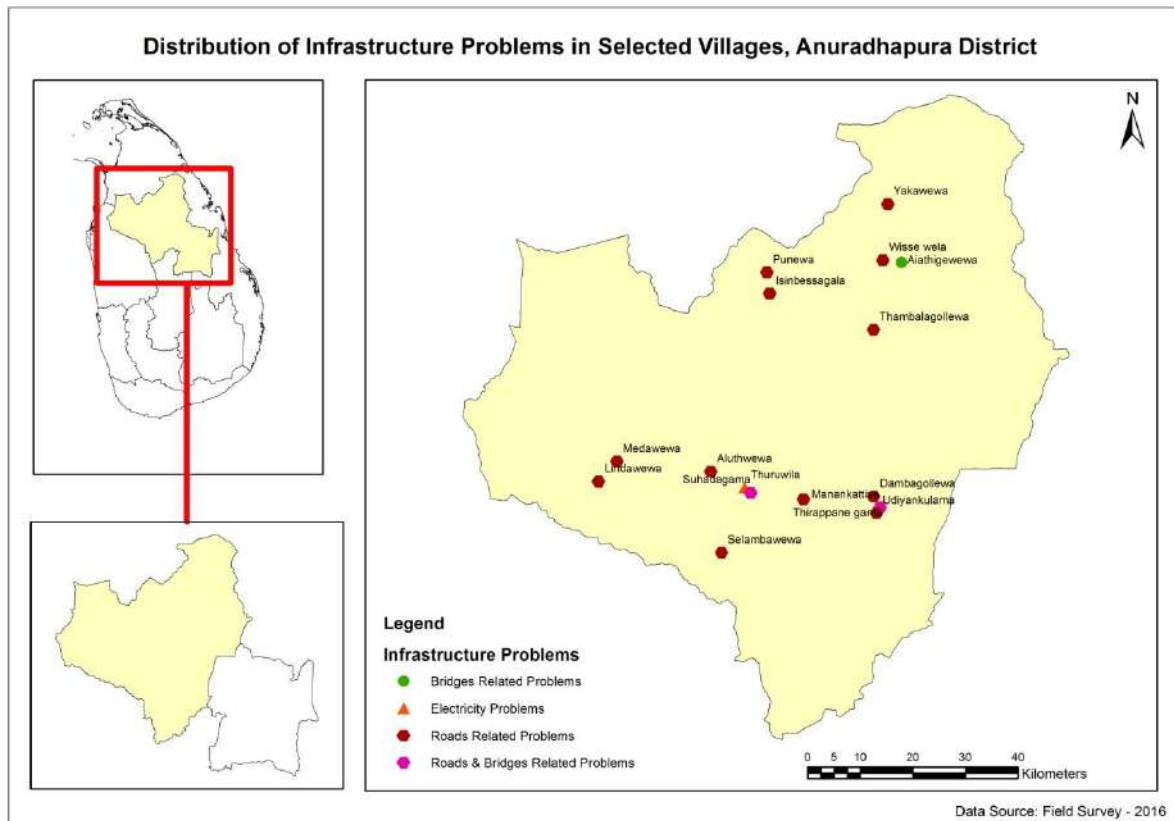


Figure 104 - Distribution of Issues related to Infrastructure in the Selected Villages of Anuradhapura District

When water related issues are considered, the majority of the respondents (97.7%) indicated that they are facing hardships due to the unavailability of clean drinking water. For instance, some people in the visited villages have to travel around one and a half kilometers to reach the Handagala water spring. People in Thimbiriwewa have to travel 4km to collect water from the Kemitigollawa town (Please refer to Figure 105).

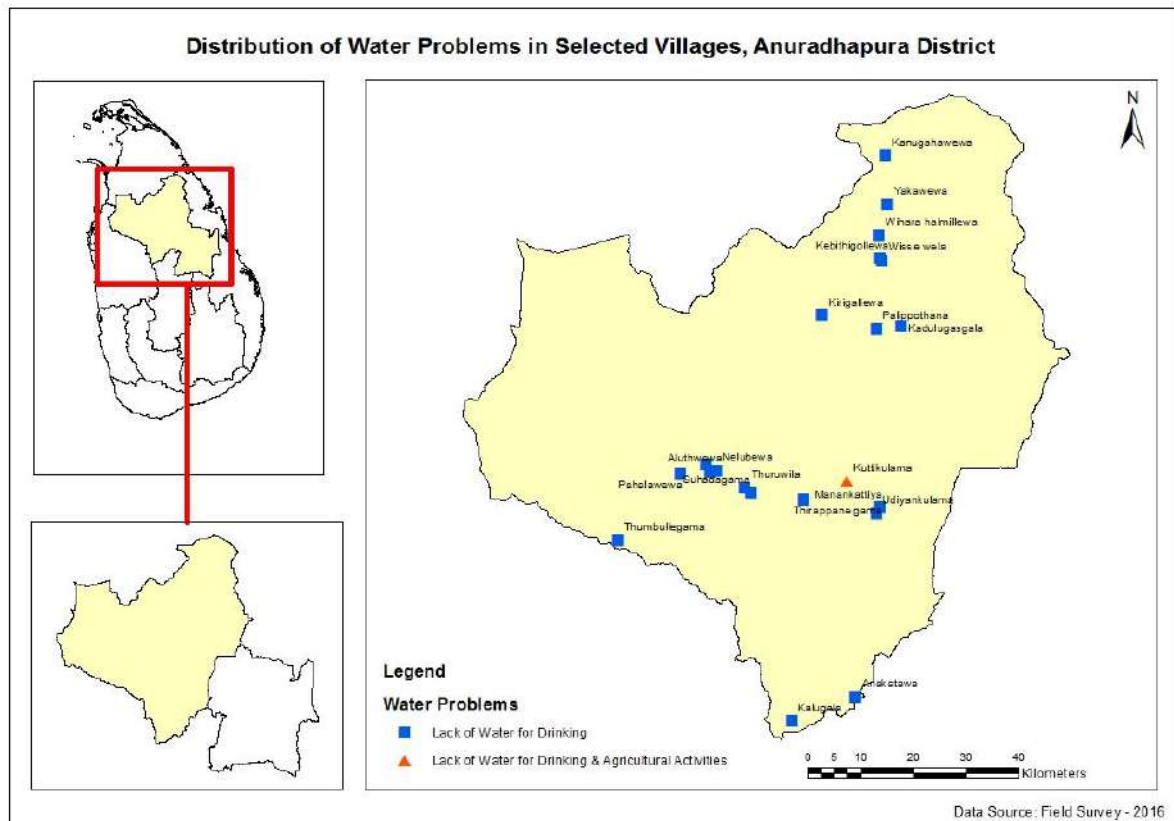


Figure 105 - Distribution of Issues related to Water in the Selected Villages of the Anuradhapura District

Human-elephant conflicts were also prominent in the visited villages and that has put the lives of both the human beings and elephants in danger. Furthermore, this has also affected the economy of the people in the respective areas since in search of food, elephants tend to destroy the cultivations of the people. (Please refer to Figure 106).

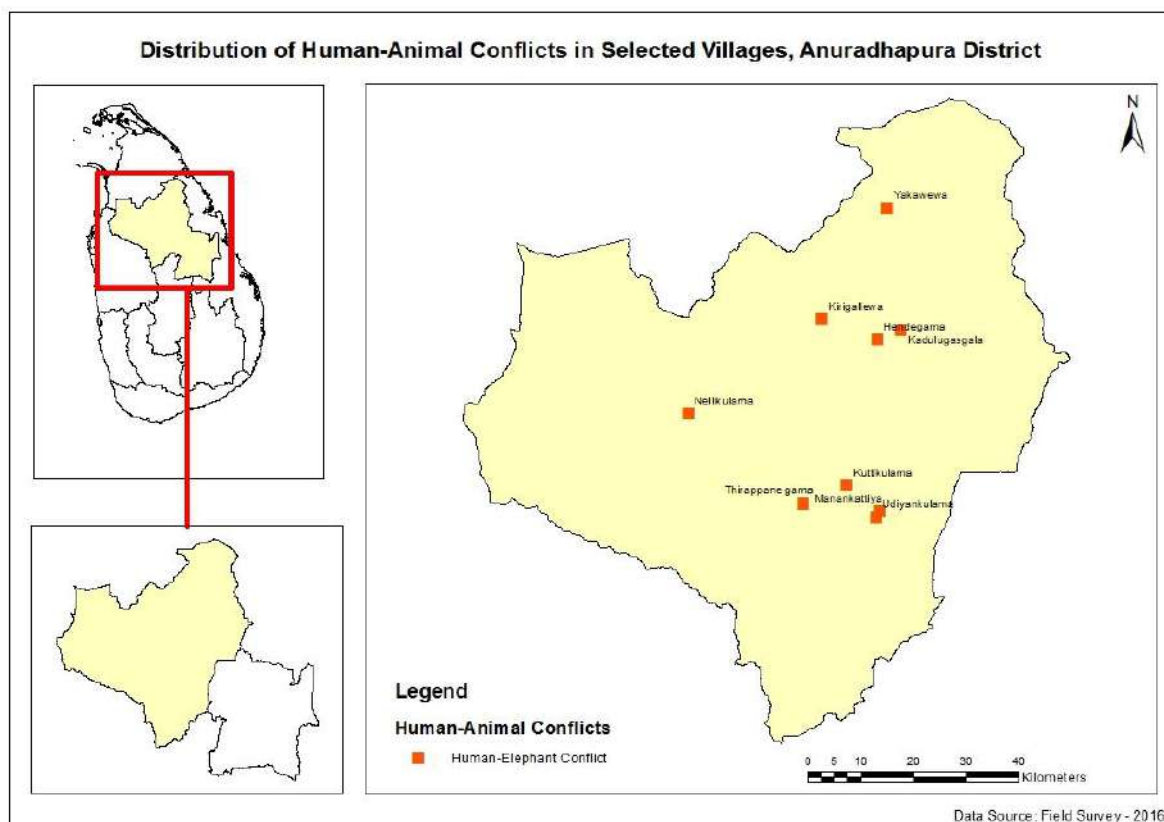


Figure 106 - Distribution of Issues related to Human-Animal Conflict in the Selected Villages of the Anuradhapura District

Health related issues are also prominent in the visited villages in the Anuradhapura district. For instance, of the respondents who discussed this issue, around 53% stated that kidney disease has become a major health concern in their areas. In addition, lack of physical and human resources in the existing hospitals were also regarded as a critical issue affecting the health of the population.

Of the respondents who mentioned economic problems, 50% stated that they are facing financial difficulties due to lack of accessibility to raw materials. Apart from that, the respondents also highlighted lack of marketing opportunities for their products at village level and insufficiency of subsidies provided for them. The respondents also added feedbacks on school related issues in their villages. Hence, the main problems related to schools in the visited areas are the limited number of school teachers and lack of facilities in the schools.

8.2. Polonnaruwa District

The land area of the Polonnaruwa district is 3296 km² (Department of Census and Statistics, 2015) and the total population is 406, 088 (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). Similar to Anuradhapura, the majority of the population in Polonnaruwa are Sinhalese (90.7%) while the percentage of Tamils and Sri Lankan Moors in the population is 1.8 and 7.4 respectively. Significantly, the entire population in the Polonnaruwa district has been identified by the 2012 census as belonging to the rural sector.

The percentage of the population that has passed the G.C.E. Ordinary Level or obtained an equivalent qualification and the G.C.E. Advanced level or obtained an equivalent qualification in Polonnaruwa is 3.1 and 7.7 respectively. In addition, 1.2% of the population in the Polonnaruwa district has obtained a degree or a higher qualification. All these rates are lower than the statistics available on the Anuradhapura district within the given year. The literacy rate of the population in Polonnaruwa is 94.8% and their computer literacy rate is 16.4%.

The economic status of a community is yet another significant indicator through which the standard of living of a given population can be identified. The percentage of economically active population aged 15 years and above in Polonnaruwa is 52.3% and, 49.3% of the employed population works as own account workers. Even though in the Anuradhapura district, the percentage of government employees is higher than private sector employees, in Polonnaruwa, 21.5% of the employed population are own account workers whereas 18.6% of the employed population is government employees. In addition, 6.7% of the employed population is unpaid family workers. Small percentages of semi government employees and employers have also been identified by the 2012 census data.

While certain demographic characteristics of the Polonnaruwa district can be analyzed as above, the main issues experienced by people in some selected villages in the Polonnaruwa district can be illustrated as follows (Please refer to Figure 107).

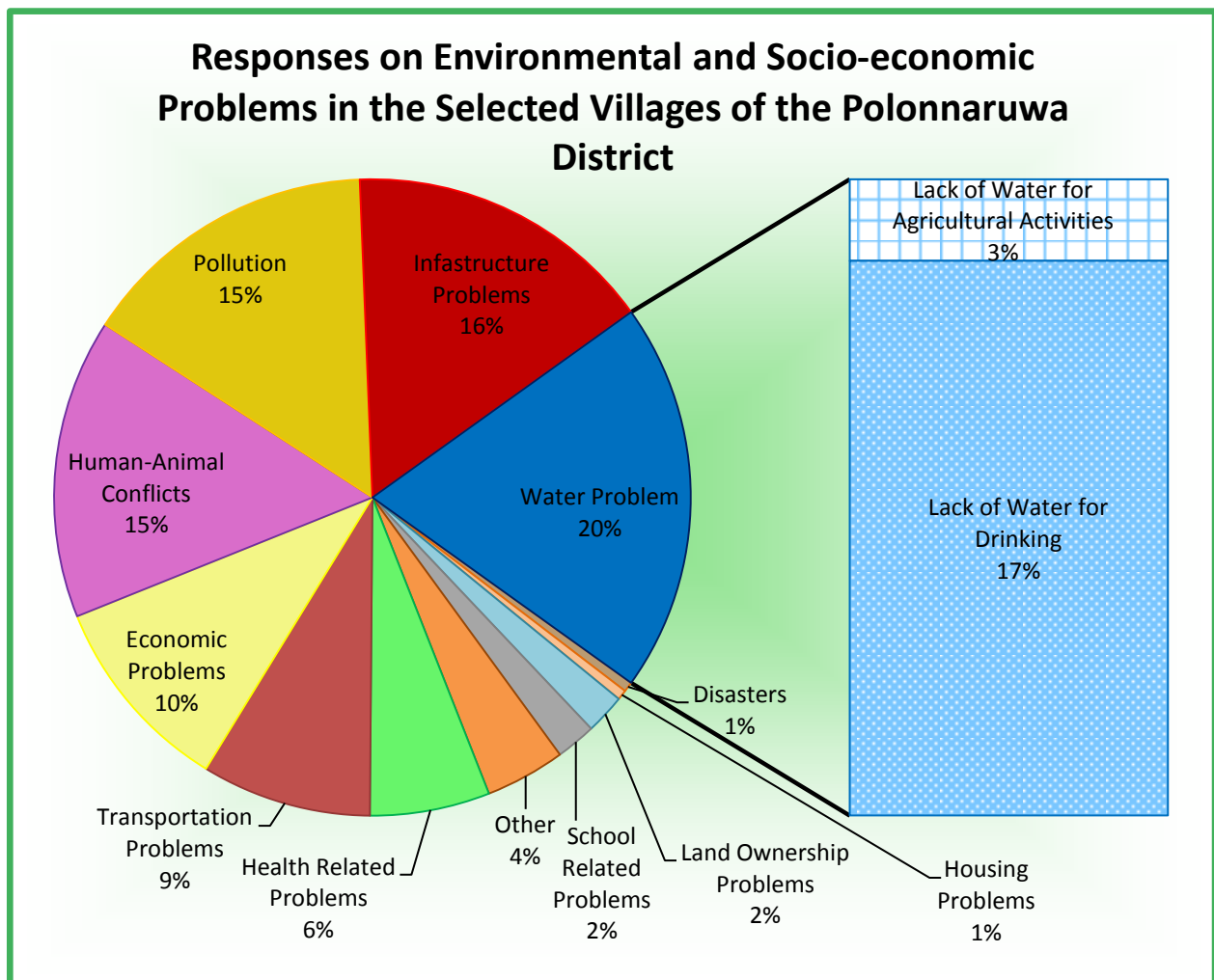


Figure 107 - Responses on Environmental and Socio-economic Problems in the Selected Villages of the Polonnaruwa District

According to the above graph, the major problem in the visited villages in the Polonnaruwa district is the water issue. Of the respondents who discussed this issue, around 87% stated that they have difficulties in obtaining clean drinking water whereas around 13% indicated that they do not have sufficient water even for agricultural activities. A few examples for the areas suffering due to water issues are, Yaya 25, Yaya 12, Yaya 09, Diwulankadawala and Rathmale (Please refer to Figure 108).

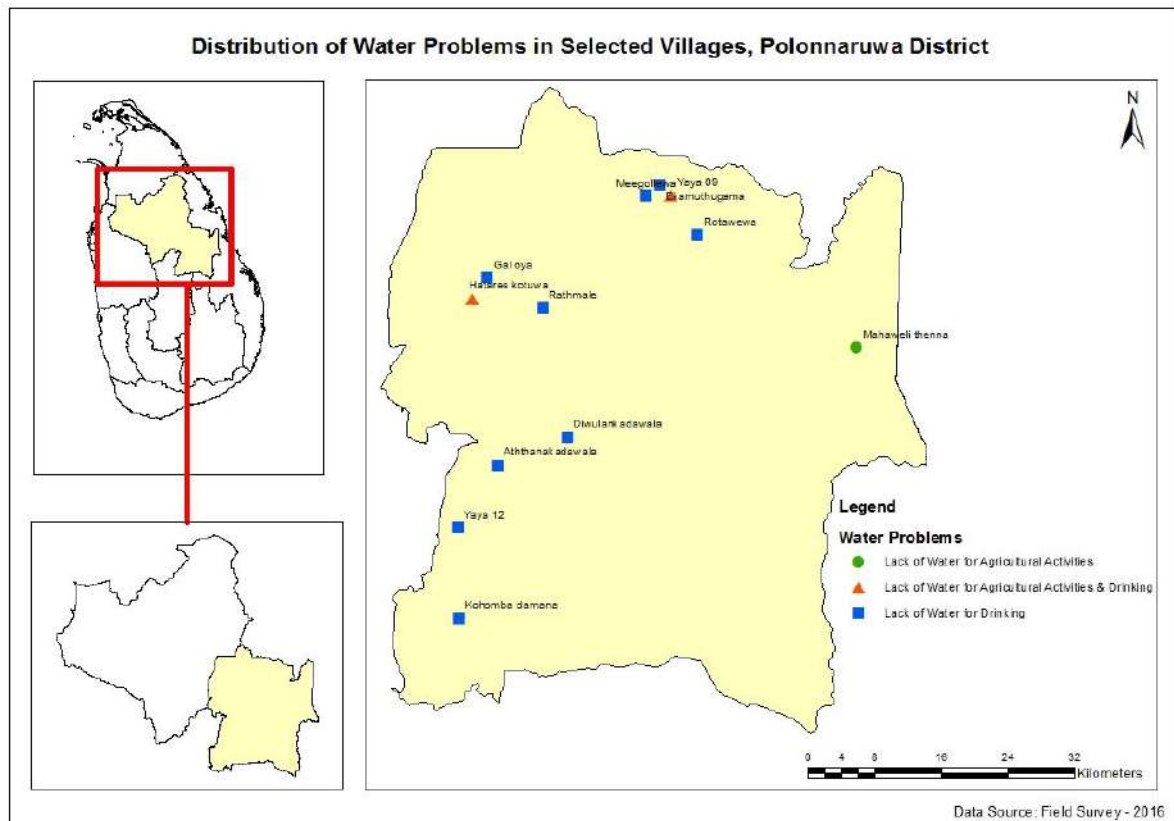


Figure 108 - Distribution of Issues related to Water in the Selected Villages of the Polonnaruwa District

Then they highlighted infrastructure issues as affecting their lives in a negative manner. Under this, 90.3% of the respondents highlighted that the road networks systems are in a poor condition. Apart from that, some respondents pointed out that they face hardships due to damaged bridges and electricity problems (Please refer to Figure 109).

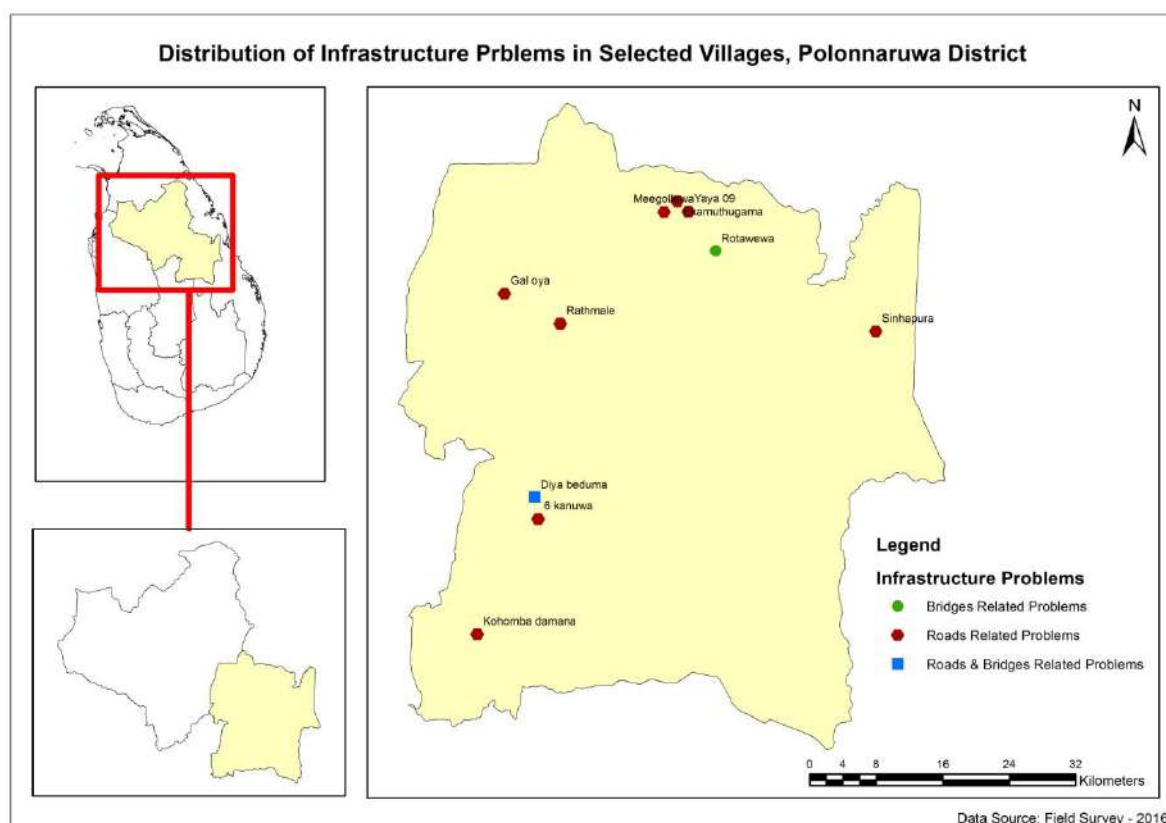


Figure 109 - Distribution of Issues related to Infrastructure in the Selected Villages of the Polonnaruwa District

The next issue highlighted by the villagers from the visited rural areas is pollution. In fact, of the respondents who highlighted this matter, 40% stated that water pollution is prevalent in their areas whereas 30% each indicated that land pollution and air pollution are also taking place. For instance, due to improper waste disposal by a pigsty in the Jayawickrama village, the water canals have been corrupted and a bad odor has spread in the entire area. Due to this people have also fallen sick and all types of pollutions are also taking place. Furthermore, the Municipal Council is disposing waste into an area near the Rotawewa village and during the rainy season, this waste gets mixed with the water in the Kawdulla tank. This has become a major concern since people in the Madirigiriya area take water from the Kawdulla tank for drinking purposes after being purified.

When human-animal conflicts are taken into consideration, the main issue the people in the visited villages face is the human-elephant conflict. In fact this is a common issue to both the Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa districts. Ekamutugama, Yaya 09, Yaya 12 and Rotawewa are some of the areas in which human-elephant conflict is highly prevalent (Please refer to Figure 110).

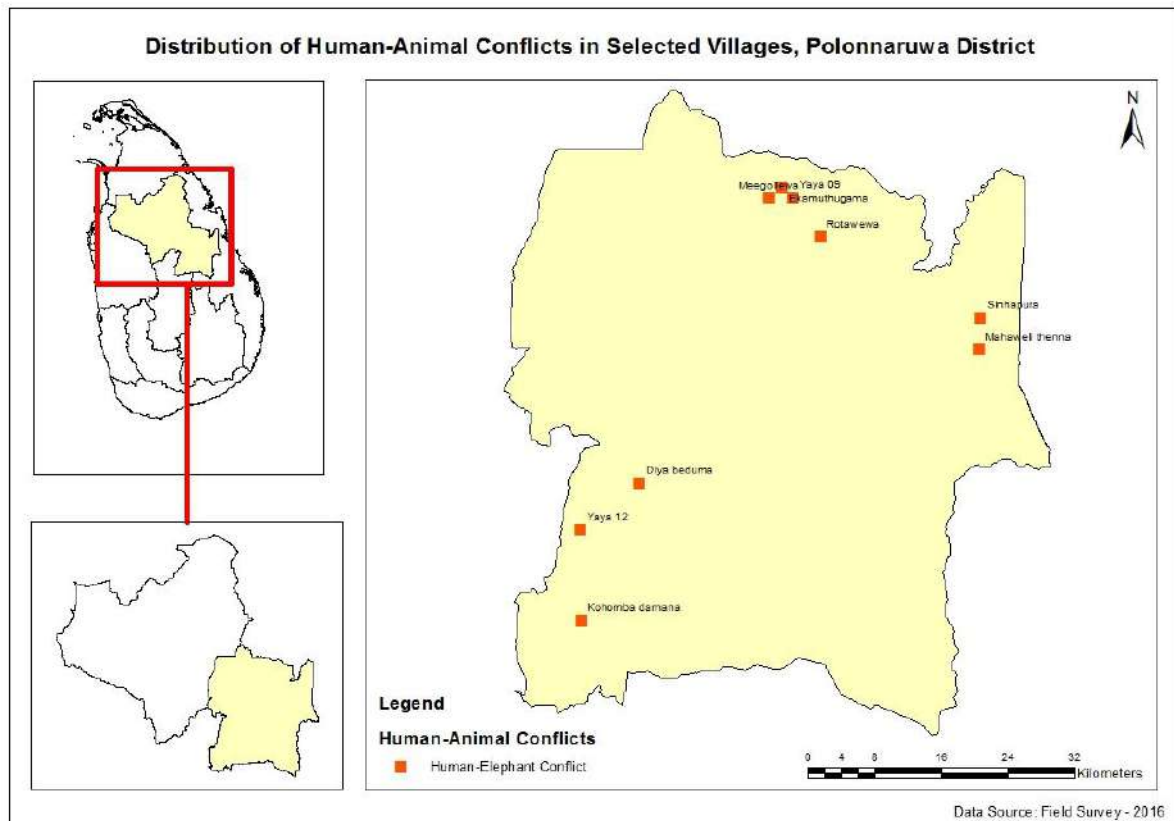


Figure 110 - Distribution of the Issues related to Human-Animal Conflicts in the Selected Villages of the Polonnaruwa District

Of the respondents who discussed economic issues, 40% indicated that they do not have a proper market at village level to sell their products, 30% indicated that the subsidies provided for them are insufficient, 15% stated that unemployment has become an issue and a few respondents stated that low income and lack of accessibility to raw materials also have a negative impact on their economy. However, when transport is considered, all the respondents who discussed that issue pointed out that unavailability and the inefficiency of the public transportation system have affected their lives negatively.

Similar to Anuradhapura, health issues were also evident in the Polonnaruwa district and of the respondents who discussed this issue, around 42% highlighted that many people in the respective areas are suffering from kidney diseases. In addition, they pointed out that their health condition is at a risk due to lack of hospitals in the rural areas and lack of facilities in the existing hospitals.

9. Western Province

The Western province is divided into three districts; namely, Colombo, Gampaha, and Kalutara and the total population is 5, 851, 130 (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). When the sector wise population distribution is taken into consideration, 38.8% of the population lives in the urban sector whereas 60.4% of the population lives in the rural sector. In addition, a small percentage of the population (0.8%) lives in the estate sector as well. The majority of the population in the Western province (84.2%) is Sinhalese whereas the percentage of Tamils, Sri Lankan Moors and other ethnic groups in the Western province are 6.8, 7.9 and 1.2 respectively.

If the education status of the population is considered, 21.5% of the population has passed the G.C.E. Ordinary level or obtained an equivalent qualification whereas 16.6% has passed the G.C.E. Advanced Level or obtained an equivalent qualification (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). Furthermore, the percentage of the population that has obtained a degree or a higher qualification is 4% which is relatively high when compared with that of other provinces in Sri Lanka. The literacy rate (98%) is also comparatively high in the Western province. The computer literacy rate of the Western province is 32.9% and once again it is comparatively higher than that of the other provinces in Sri Lanka.

In terms of the economic status of the Western province, 51.7% of the population aged 15 years and above is economically active in the Western province. When the percentage distribution of the employed population by sector of employment is considered, 53.4% work as private sector employees in the Western province while 23.6% work as own account workers, 13.9% work as government employees, and 2.7% work as unpaid family workers (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). Further, a small percentage of the population also works as employers and semi government employees in the Western province.

The issues affecting some selected rural areas in the Western province which were identified by the Gammadda team can be illustrated through a graph as follows (Please refer to Figure 111).

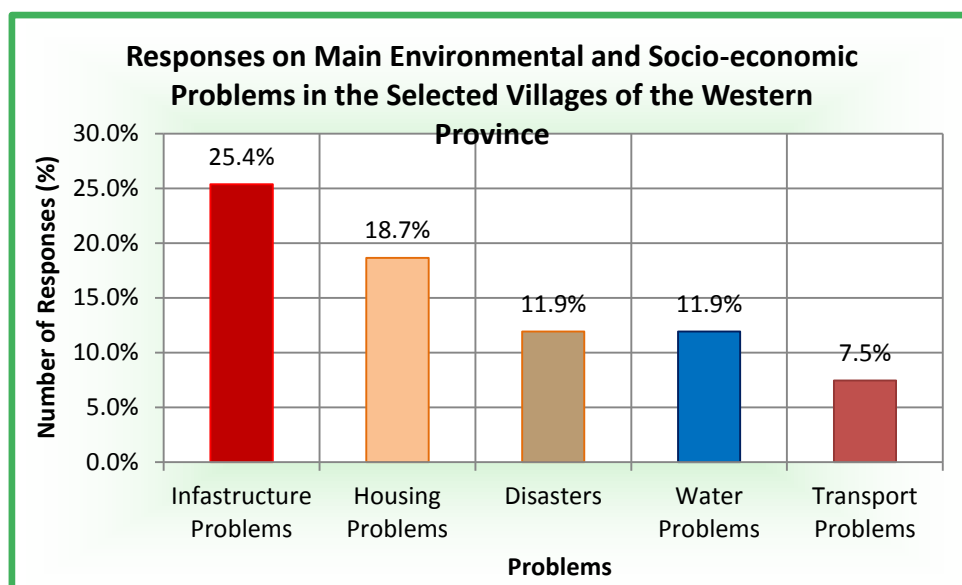


Figure 111 - Responses on Main Environmental and Socio-economic Problems in the Selected Villages of the Western Province

The major issues experienced by the visited rural areas of Western province can be indicated as above. The major issue which was identified through the Gammadda program was that the population in the rural areas are suffering due to infrastructure issues. However, in Colombo, Gampaha and Kalutara, the main infrastructural problem evident was related to the poor condition of the roads (Please refer to Figure 112).

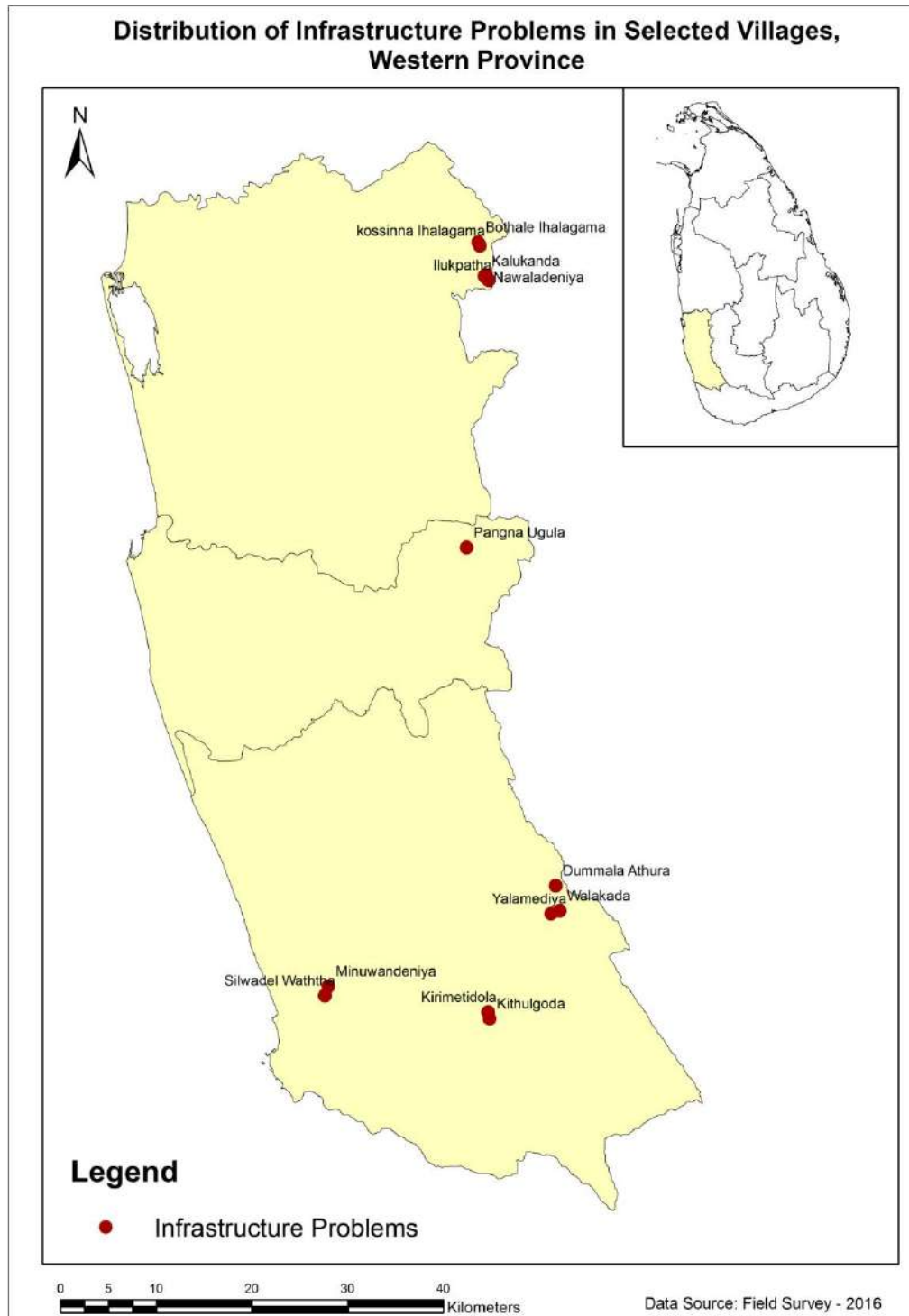


Figure 112 - Distribution of Issues related to Infrastructure in the Selected Villages of the Western Province

The second major issue in the province is housing related issues. However, this issue is mostly prevalent in the Kalutara district where the respondents have indicated that they do not have permanent houses. In addition, several respondents from the visited villages in the Kalutara district have also mentioned about lack of facilities in their houses. When discussing natural disasters, many respondents from the visited areas in the Kaluthara district indicated

that they are having negative experiences due to landslides. In Gampaha, a few cases were reported where lightning has affected several people.

Water related issues were also pointed out by people as creating hardships for them. This has mostly affected the Gampaha and Kalutara districts. In both these districts, the major water related issue is the unavailability of clean water for drinking purposes. However, in the Kalutara district, another consideration was the insufficiency of water for agricultural purposes (Please refer to Figure 113).

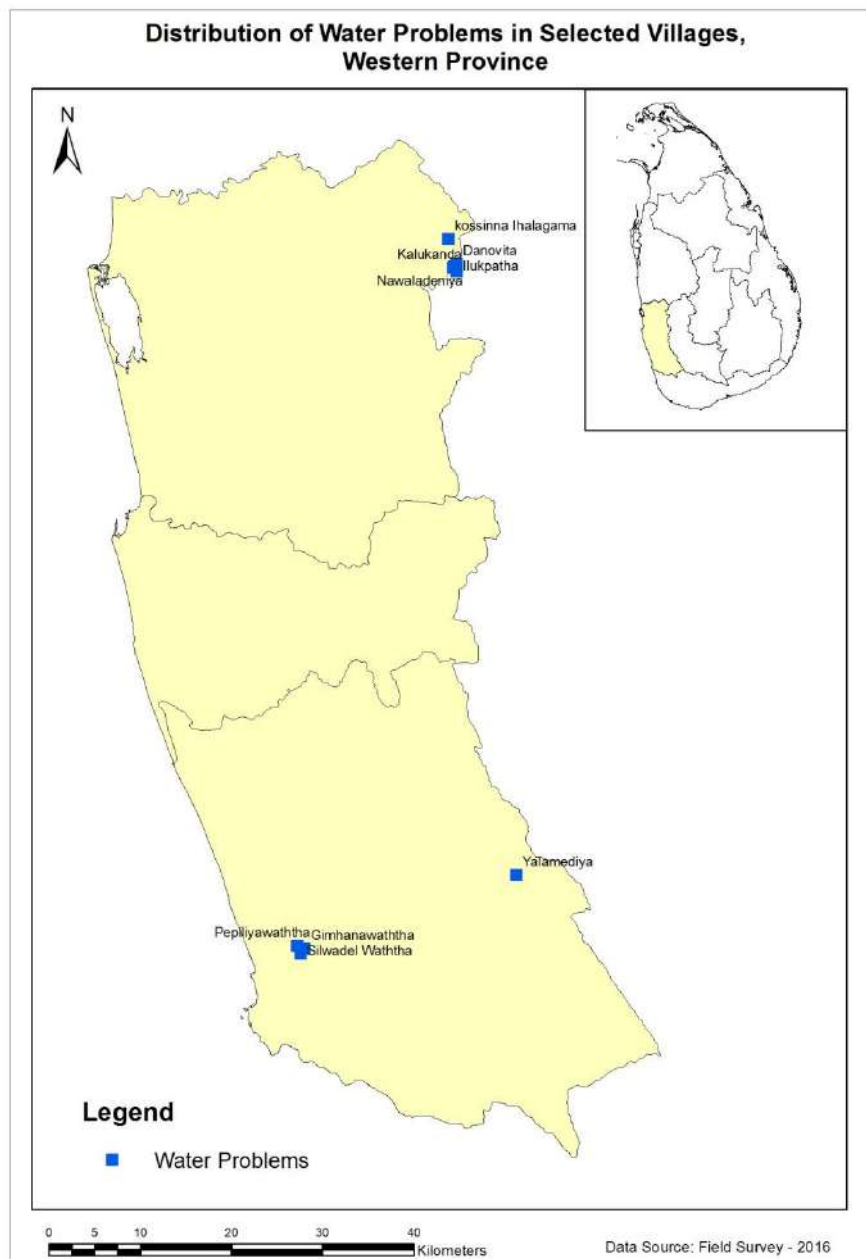


Figure 113 - Distribution of Issues related to Water in the Selected Villages of the Western Province

In terms of transportation issues, the Kalutara district can be considered as the most affected district depending on the responses of the population in the visited villages in the Western province. Thus, the major issue in Kalutara is the lack of buses for transportation purposes.

In order to identify the social, environmental and economic issues of the Western province, a district wise primary/secondary data analysis has been provided below.

9.1. Colombo District

The land area of the Colombo district is 699 km² (Department of Census and Statistics, 2015) with a total population of 2, 324, 349 (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). When compared with other districts in Sri Lanka, the Colombo district contains a limited land area and has a high percentage of population (77.6%) living in the urban sector. In addition, 22.1% of the population lives in the rural sector and 0.3% of the population lives in the estate sector. If the population distribution in Colombo is considered by ethnicity, the majority of the population belongs to the Sinhalese ethnic group (76.5%). Further, Tamils (11.2%), Sri Lankan Moors (10.7%) and other ethnic groups (1.6%) also live in this district.

In terms of education, Colombo district shows a better condition than the other districts in the Western province. For instance, 22.2% of the population has passed the G.C.E. Ordinary Level or obtained an equivalent qualification, 18.9% has passed the G.C.E. Advanced Level or obtained an equivalent qualification, and most significantly 5.7% of the population has obtained a degree or a higher qualification. The percentage of degree holders is higher in the Colombo district than that of all other districts in Sri Lanka. The literacy rate of the population in Colombo district is 98% and their computer literacy rate is 38% (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012).

The percentage of economically active population in Colombo is 52.1% and of the employed population, the majority (54.7%) works as private sector employees. Further, 21.8% work as own account workers, 14.2% work as government employees, and 2.5% work as unpaid family workers (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). There are small percentages of population that work as semi government workers and employers.

9.2. Gampaha district

The land area of the Gampaha district is 1387 km² (Department of Census and Statistics, 2015) with a total population of 2, 304, 833 (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). The percentage of the population living in the urban sector in the Gampaha district is 15.6 whereas the percentage of the population living in the rural sector is 84.3. In addition, 0.1% of the population is living in the estate sector. If the population is considered by ethnic group, 90.5% are Sinhalese, 2.9% are Tamils, 4.2% are Sri Lankan Moors and 1.3% are from other ethnic group. When compared with Colombo, the percentage of Sinhalese is higher in the Gampaha district.

If the education level of the population in Gampaha is considered, 21.8% has passed the G.C.E. Ordinary Level or obtained an equivalent qualification, 15.7% has passed the G.C.E. Advanced Level or obtained an equivalent qualification and 3.1% has obtained a degree or a higher qualification. However, all these rates are lower than that of the Colombo district. The literacy rate of the Gampaha district is 98.5% and is higher than the literacy rate of Colombo. The computer literacy rate of the population in the Gampaha district is 31.1%.

The percentage of economically active population aged 15 years and above in the Gampaha district is 51.7% and when the employed population is considered, 53.7% work as own private sector employees, 24.1% work as own account workers, 13.1% work as government employees, 2.6% work as unpaid family workers and a few percentages of the employed population also work as semi government employees and employers (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012).

The social, environmental and economic issues of the Gampaha district can be illustrated via a graph as follows (Please refer to Figure 114).

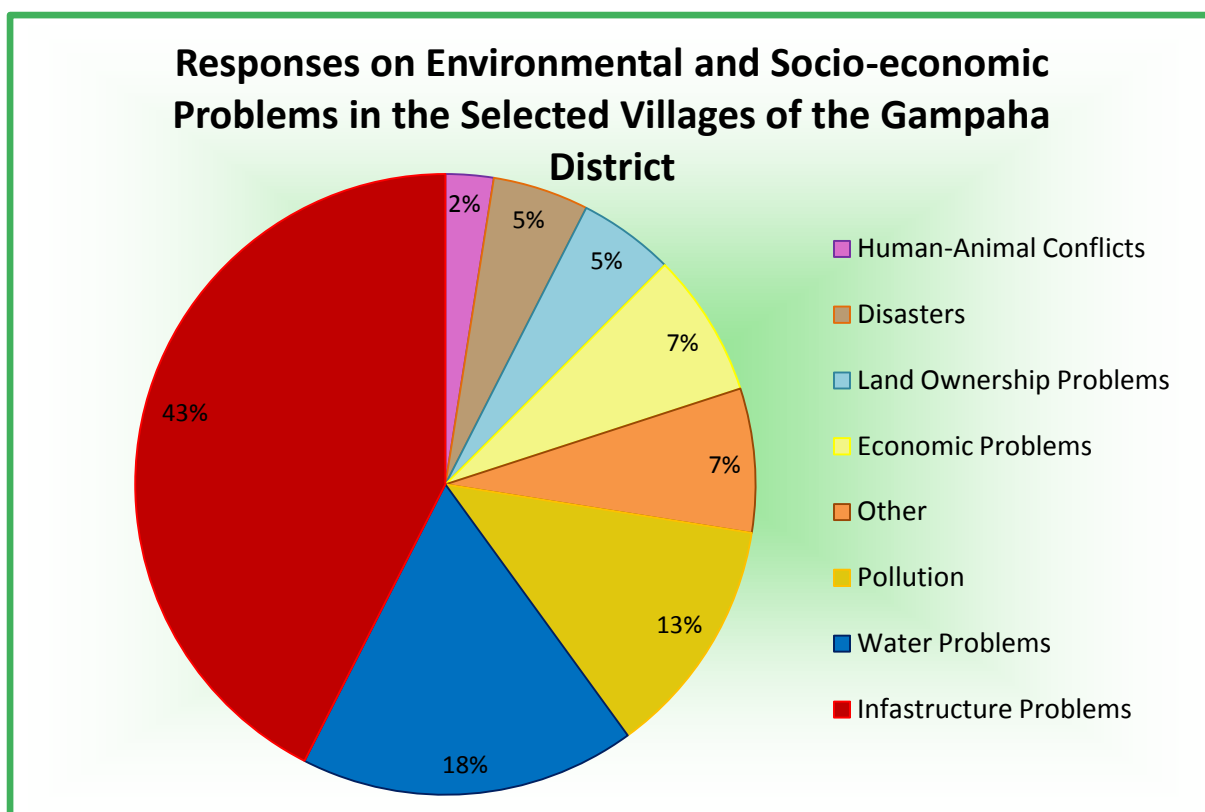


Figure 114 - Responses on the Environmental and Socio-economic Problems in the Selected Villages of the Gampaha District

According to the above graph, the major issue in the visited villages of the Gampaha district is infrastructure related issues. However, when considering the nature of the infrastructure problem, the poor condition of the roads was highlighted by all the respondents as the infrastructure issue that affects them the most. A few villages that experience problems due to the poor condition of the roads are, Kossinna, Ilukpatha, Nawaldeniya, Kalukanda, and Bothale.

When water related problems are considered, the respondents from the visited areas highlighted the unavailability of clean drinking water as their main issue. Specially, people from Nawaldeniya highlighted the fact that during the dry season, water problems even get worse due to the drying out of water springs and wells. The water related issue has also severely affected Bothale and Kossinna. Even though it was planned to pump water from a well into a tank and then distribute water to the villages, due to the malfunctioning of the motors, the plan has not succeeded.

Thirdly, pollution was also listed by them as a main problem that affects them. Under this, the respondents indicated three types of pollution; namely, water pollution, land pollution

and air pollution as occurring in the different parts of Gampaha district. Specially, in the Aluthkuruwa area, people have constructed houses on the beach. While constructing houses on the beach is too risky, due to such practices of the residents of these houses, the environment is also being polluted. For instance, people in these houses directly dump their house waste on the beach making it unclean. Even though some villagers have informed this to the Coast Conservation Authority, they complained that the responsible officers are not taking any action against this.

Apart from that the other issues which were pointed out by a few number of the respondents are, economic issues, land ownership issues, natural disaster related issues and human-animal conflicts.

9.3. Kalutara District

The land area of the Kalutara district is 1598 km² (Department of Census and Statistics, 2015) with a total population of 1, 221, 948 (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). The majority of population in the Kalutara district (88%) lives in the rural sector while 8.9% live in the urban sector. The percentage of population living in the estate sector (3.1%) in the Kalutara district is higher than that of Colombo and Gampaha districts. In terms of ethnic wise population distribution, 86.8% of the population is Sinhalese whereas 9.3% of the population is Sri Lankan Moors. In addition, the percentage of Tamils in the Kalutara district is 3.8, and 0.2% of the population is represented by other ethnic groups.

If the education level of the population is taken into consideration, 19.4% has passed the G.C.E. Ordinary Level or obtained an equivalent qualification, 14% has passed the G.C.E. Advanced Level or obtained an equivalent qualification and 2.6% has obtained a degree or a higher qualification. The literacy rate of the population in the Kalutara district is 97.2% and is lower than that of the other districts in the Western province. The computer literacy rate of Kalutara is 26.4%.

The percentage of economically active population aged 15 years and above in Kalutara is 51% and this rate is lower than that of both Colombo and Gampaha districts (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). Furthermore, 50.2% of the employed population works as private sector employees, 26.3% work as own account workers, 14.7% work as government employees

and 3% work as unpaid family workers. In fact, the percentage of unpaid family workers in Kalutara is higher than that of Colombo and Gampaha.

While the demographic characteristics of the Kalutara district can be mentioned as above, the social, environmental and economic problems identified in some selected villages in the Kalutara district can be illustrated as follows (Please refer to Figure 11.5).

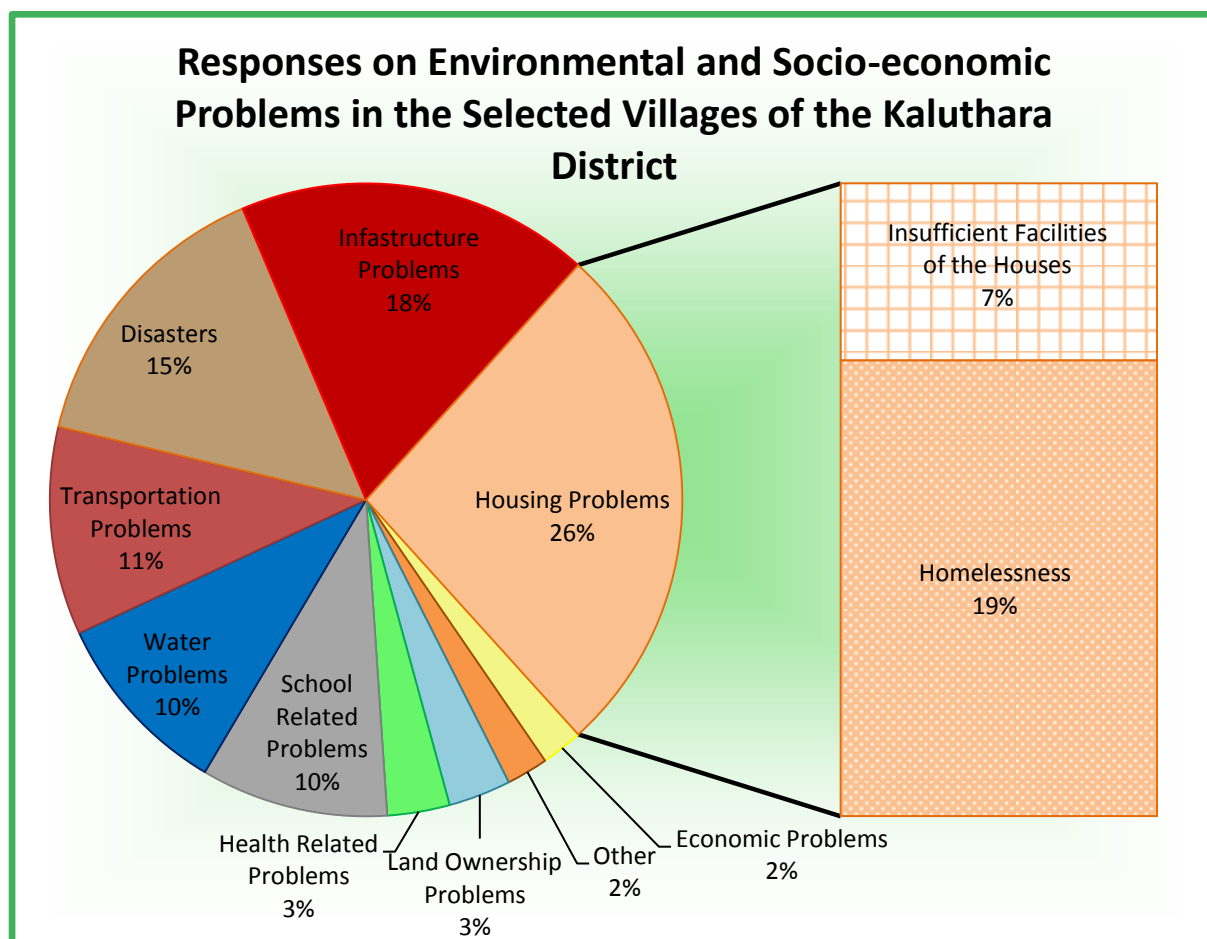


Figure 11.5 - Responses on Environmental and Socio-economic Problems in the Selected Villages of the Kalutara District

According to the above graph, the major issue in the visited villages in the Kalutara district is the housing problem. Of the respondents who discussed this issue, 72% mentioned that they are living in temporary houses whereas 28% indicated that they have limited facilities in their houses. In fact, due to the landslides that have occurred in the Agalawatte, Kalpahana, Kuda Kalpahana, Kitulgoda and Kirimatidola areas on the 01st of June 2014, the residents have lost their permanent houses. Even though the affected population was promised of houses from Bellana and Viharagama, the people have rejected this offer due to lack of facilities in the

respective areas. As a result, those who were affected by the landslides are now living in rented houses or in their relatives' houses (Please refer to Figure 116).

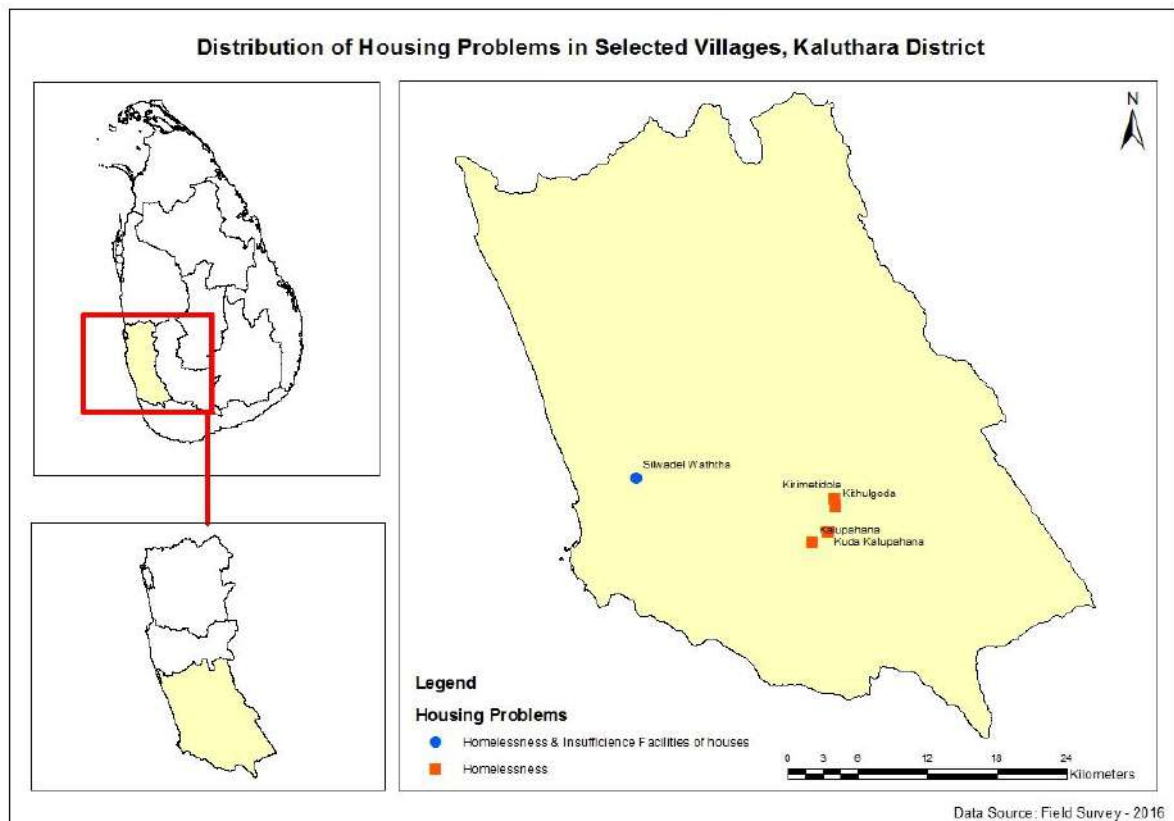


Figure 116 - Distribution of Issues related to Housing in the Selected Villages of Kalutara District

The next issue highlighted by them is issues related to infrastructure. Under this, around 94% indicated that the condition of the roads in their villages is poor. Some villages that have damaged roads are Silverdale watte, Walakada, Yalamediya, Kithulgoda, Kirimatidola, and Minuwandeniya (Please refer to Figure 117).

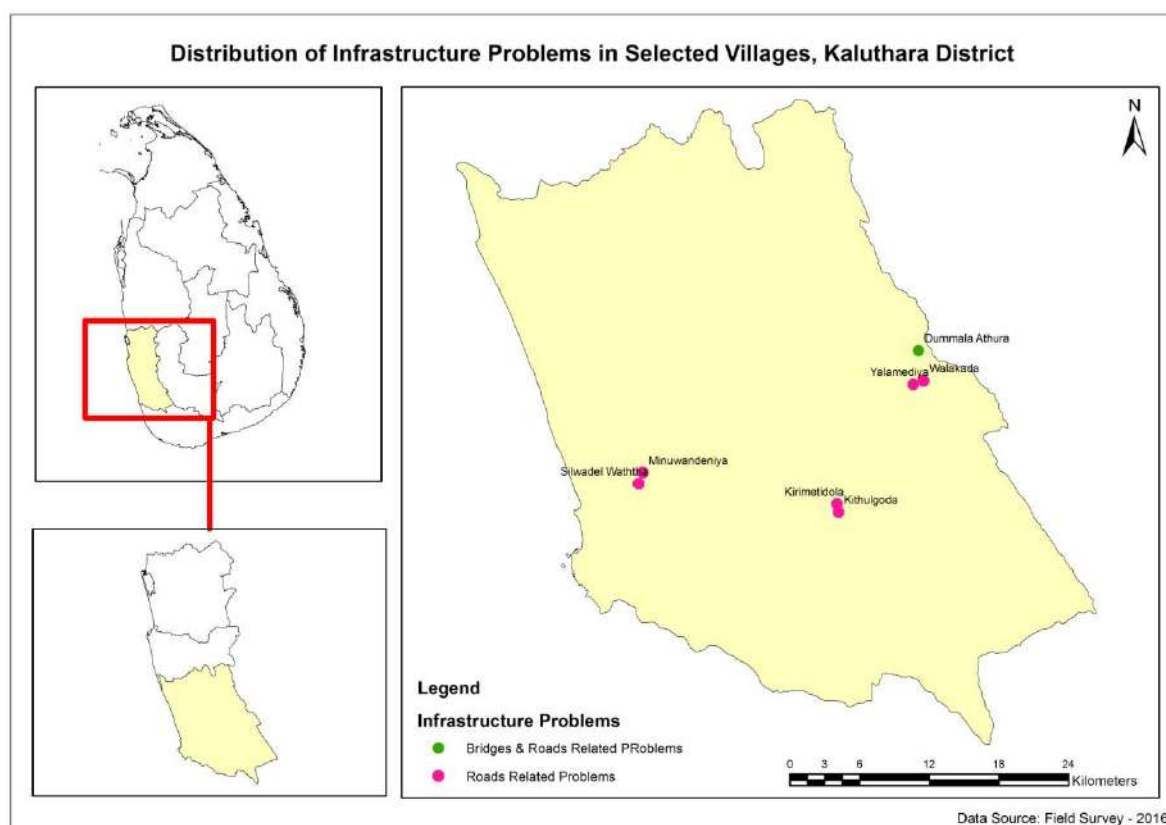


Figure 117 - Distribution of Issues related to Infrastructure in the Selected Villages of the Kalutara District

When transportation issues are considered, the limited number of buses running in the rural areas was perceived as the biggest transportation issue by the public in the visited areas. In the meantime, water related issues also seem to affect the rural community in the Kalutara district. In the visited villages, of the respondents who mentioned water related issues, around 90% stated that they are suffering due to the unavailability of clean drinking water. Some respondents from the visited villages also highlighted issues related to schools as affecting the education of their children. In fact, of the respondents who discussed this issue, 77.8% indicated that the education of the children in their areas is interrupted due to the unavailability of a sufficient number of school teachers whereas around 22% highlighted that in the insufficiency of facilities have affected the education of the children in the visited rural areas. For instance, the primary school at Walakada lacks teachers as well as other facilities.

Apart from these major issues, the respondents also indicated that health related problems, land ownership problems and economic problems are affecting their lives.

When land ownership problems are taken into consideration through field observations, it was identified that people in Siverdale wattle do not have deeds for the lands they occupy. Even though the Land Reforms Commission (LRC) was willing to provide five perches for each family, the people have not agreed to move from the line houses they reside in at present. Furthermore, on the other hand the sanitary facilities in this village are very poor and the people are also suffering due to lack of water facilities. On the other hand, the road to this village is also in a poor condition.

10. Central Province

The Central province is divided into three districts; namely, Kandy, Matale and Nuwaraeliya along with a total population of 2, 571, 557 (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). The percentage of population living in the urban sector in the Central province is 10.5% whereas the population percentage living in the rural sector is 70.6%. When compared with other districts, the highest population living in the estate sector (18.9%) can be identified in this province due to the presence of plantations in the Nuwaraeliya district. If the population is considered in terms of ethnicity, 66% of the population is Sinhalese, 23.8% are Tamils, 9.9% are Sri Lankan Moors and 0.3% of the population are from other ethnic groups.

When the education level of the population in the Central province is taken into consideration, 15.5% of the population has passed the G.C.E. Ordinary Level or obtained an equivalent qualification, 11.4% has passed the G.C.E. Advanced Level or obtained an equivalent qualification and 2.4% of the population has obtained a degree or a higher qualification (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). When the districts in the Central province are compared in terms of education, census statistics indicate that the Kandy district has performed better than all other districts in the Central province. The literacy rate of the population in the Central province is 93.9% whereas the computer literacy rate is 24.1%.

In the Central Province, 51.9% of the population aged 15 years and above are economically active. However, of the employed population, 40.3% work as private sector employees, 29.1% work as own account workers, 15.4% work as government employees, 7.3% work as semi government workers, 5.5% work as unpaid family workers and a small percentage of the population works as employers (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012).

The social, environmental and economic issues identified by the Gammadda team as affecting the Central province can be illustrated as follows (Please refer to Figure 118).

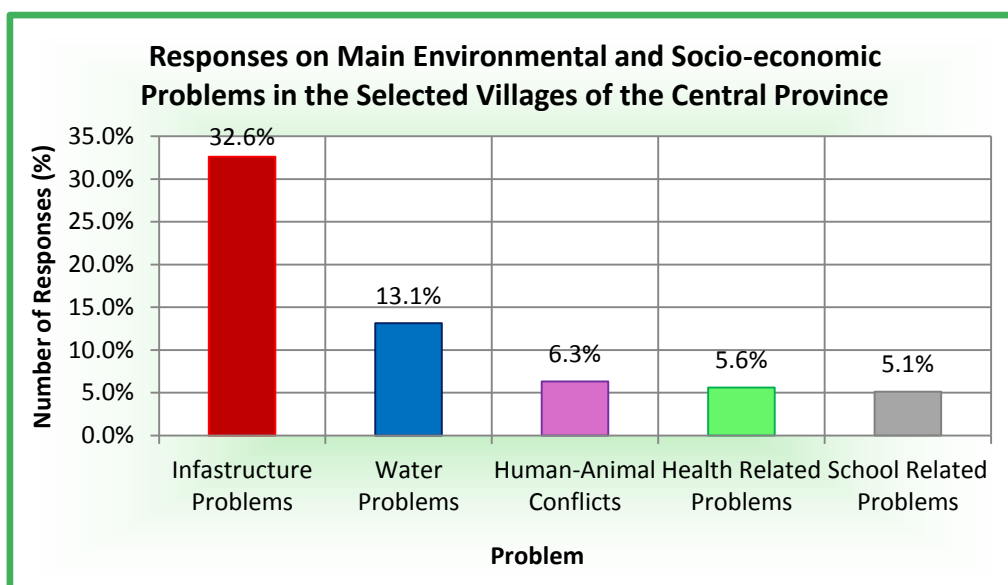


Figure 118 - Responses on Main Environmental and Socio-economic Problems in the Selected Villages of the Central Province

The above graph clearly indicates that the most critical problem in the visited villages in the Central province is related to infrastructure. The respondents of the visited villages in all three districts of the Central province, have mentioned that in terms of infrastructure issues, what affects them the most is road related problems. In fact, the poor condition of the roads in the visited areas have affected their lives negatively (Please refer to Figure 119).

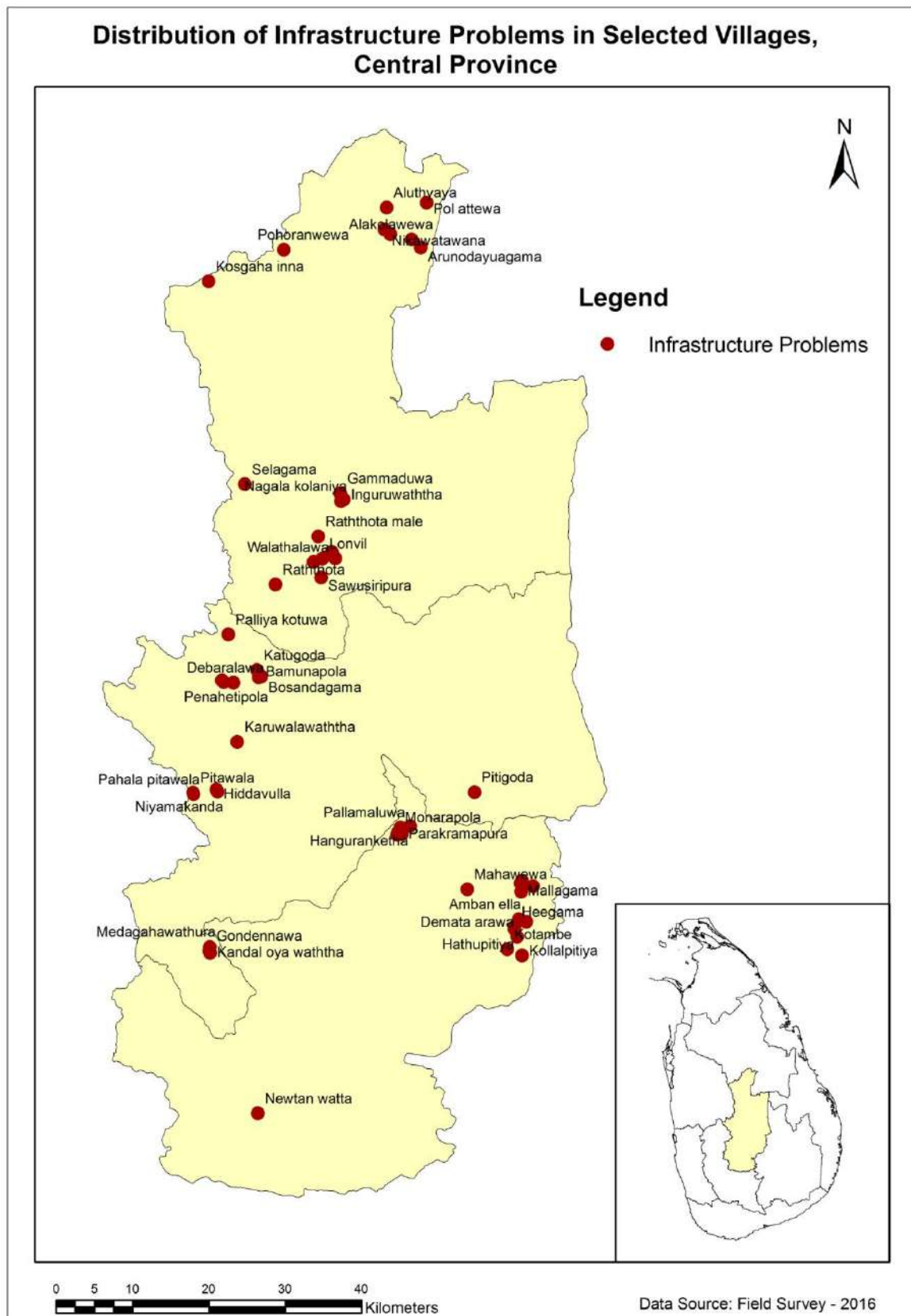


Figure 119 - Distribution of Issues related to Infrastructure in the Selected Villages of the Central Province

Water related problems are also highly prevalent in the Central province. Under this issue, the respondents reported that unavailability of clean drinking water has become the greatest hardship for them (Please refer to Figure 120).

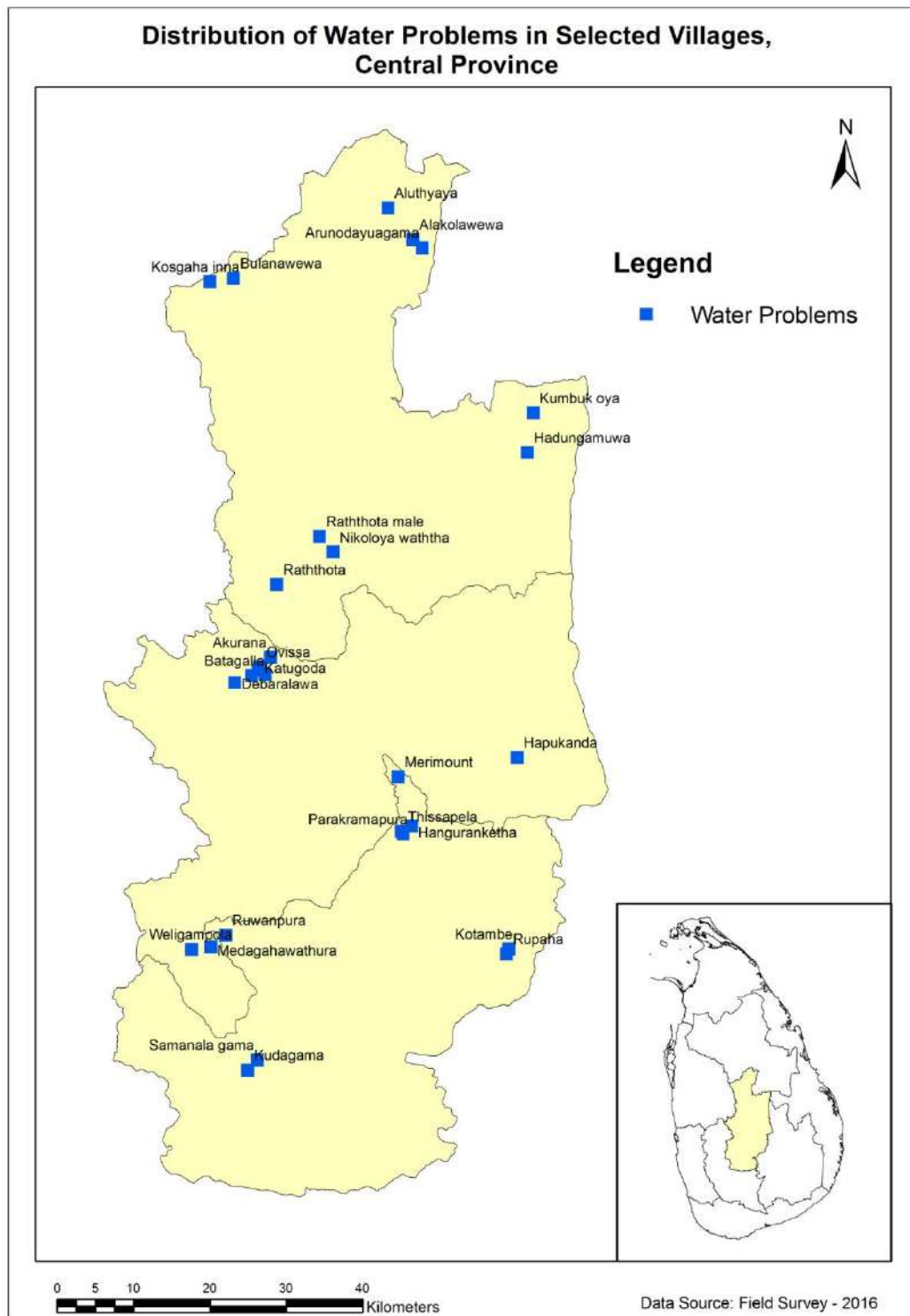


Figure 120 - Distribution of Issues related to Water in the Selected Villages of the Central Province

When human-animal conflicts are considered, human-elephant conflicts are highly prevalent in the visited villages in the Matale district whereas human-monkey conflicts are more evident in the Nuwaraeliya district. The respondents from the selected villages in the Kandy district did not consider human-animal conflicts as affecting them a lot especially when compared with the other two districts in the Central province.

Health related problems are another problem mentioned by the population in the visited villages as affecting them. In the Nuwaraeliya district, the major concern the lack of facilities in the existing hospitals whereas in Kandy, the population in the visited areas have emphasized the unavailability of proper hospitals in certain areas as well as the insufficiency of facilities in the existing hospitals. However, in the Matale district, the respondents have highlighted kidney diseases as affecting their health conditions and they have also pointed out the insufficiency of both human resources and physical resources in the hospitals as additional issues. Further, some have highlighted the unavailability of hospitals in certain areas in the Matale district also as a critical issue.

Finally, issues related to school education were also highlighted by the respondents in the Central province as affecting the education of their children negatively. The common issues related school education in the visited villages in the Central province are lack of human and physical resources in the schools, and the unavailability of proper schools in the rural areas. In addition, in the visited villages in the Nuwaraeliya district, lack of facilities in Dhamma schools were also considered as a major issue.

Even though the above information provides a brief description of the major issues in some of the selected villages in the Central province, in order to gain a better understanding, a district wise data analysis has been provided below.

10.1. Kandy District

The land area of the Kandy district is 1940 km² (Department of Census and Statistics, 2015) with a total population of 1, 375, 382 (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). In the Kandy district, 12.4% live in the urban sector whereas 81.4% lives in the rural sector. The percentage of population living in the estate sector is 6.2. The majority of population living in

the Kandy district is Sinhalese (74.4%) and the percentage of Tamils, Sri Lankan Moors and other ethnic groups in the district is 11.2, 13.9 and 0.4 respectively.

In terms of the education level, 17.4% have passed the G.C.E. Ordinary Level or obtained an equivalent qualification, 14.3% has passed the G.C.E. Advanced level or obtained an equivalent qualification and 3.2% has obtained a degree or a higher qualification (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). When compared with other districts in the Central province, the Kandy district has the highest percentage of population that has passed the above mentioned examinations. The literacy level in the Kandy district is 95.4% and is higher than that of the other districts in the Central province and the computer literacy rate of the population in Kandy is 28.9%. Thus, in terms of education, according to 2012 census data, Kandy district is ahead of other districts in the Central province.

The economically active population in the Kandy district is 48.7% and this rate is lower than that of Matale (51.8%) and Nuwaraeliya (58.4%). Of the employed population in the Kandy district, 41.3% work as private sector employees, 28.7% work as own account workers, 18.4% work as government employees, 4.5% work as unpaid family workers, 4.3% work as semi government employees and a small percentage works as employers (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). Of all districts in the Central province, the lowest percentage of unpaid family workers is visible in the Kandy district.

The social, economic and environmental issues existing in some villages in the Kandy district can be illustrated as follows (Please refer to Figure 121).

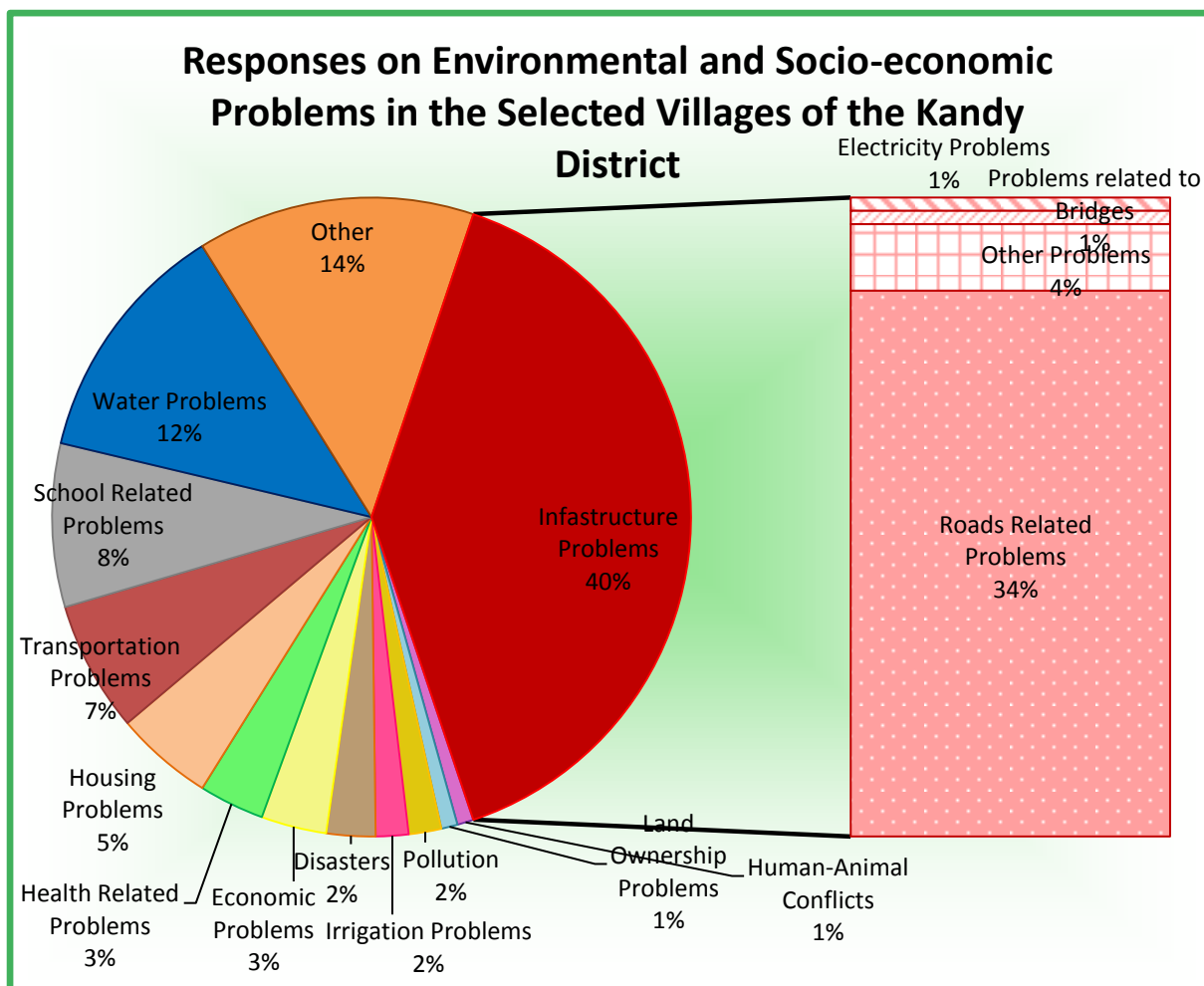


Figure 121 - Responses on Environmental and Socio-economic Problems in the Selected Villages of the Kandy District

According to the above graph, the infrastructure related issue is one of the major problems in the visited villages in the Kandy district. Of the respondents who discussed this aspect, around 85% mentioned the poor condition of the roads, and the other respondents mentioned issues such as the unavailability of electricity in certain areas and the bad condition of some bridges that make transportation difficult. Some of the areas in which the infrastructure issue is prominent are, Kandal Oya Watte, Karuwalawatte, Medagahawatura, Debaralewa, Pahala Pitawala and Kasa Watte (Please refer to Figure 122).

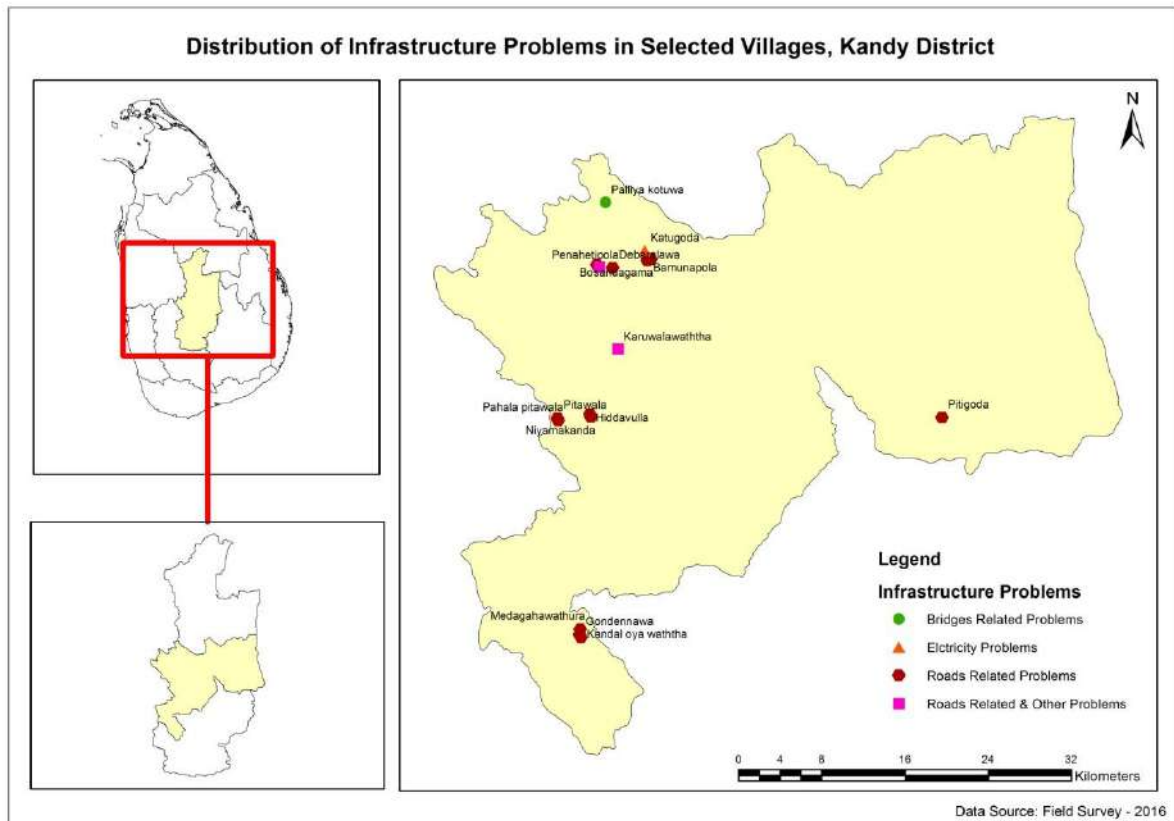


Figure 122 - Distribution of Issues related to Infrastructure in the Selected Villages of the Kandy District

The respondents also highlighted that they are facing difficulties due to issues related to water. Under this, the major concern of the villagers was lack of water for drinking purposes. Particularly, people in Akurana, Udaweliketiya, Medagahawatura, Weligampola, Peragolla, Debaralewa, Hapukanda, Batagalla, Kasa Watte, and Owissa are facing water related issues (Please refer to Figure 123).

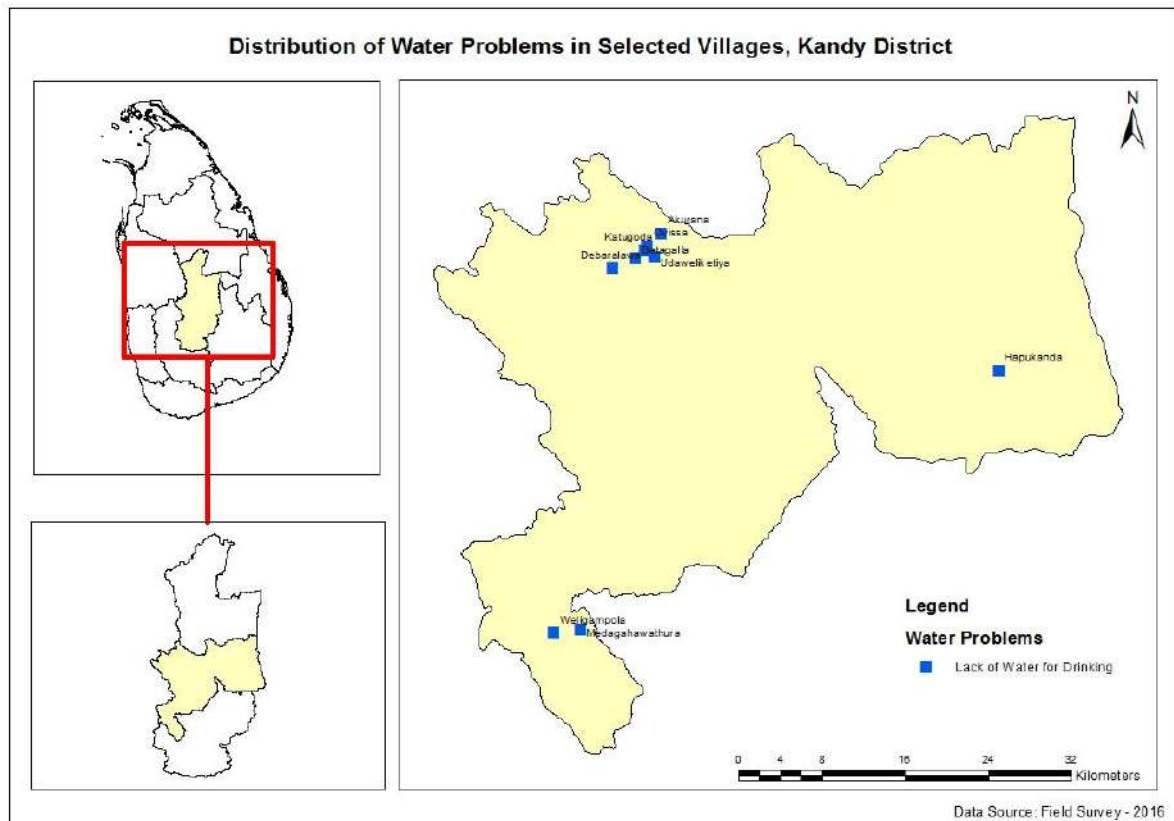


Figure 123 - Distribution of Issues related to Water in the Selected Villages of the Kandy District

Problems related to schools in the visited villages were of two types. First, of the respondents who discussed this issue, 50% stated that there is a lack of facilities in the existing schools whereas the other respondents indicated that the number of teachers in the schools are insufficient to provide a better education for their children. These problems are prevalent in areas such as Udaweliketiya, Kandal Oya Watte and Kasa Watte.

The major transportation issue is the inefficiency of the public transport service in certain areas. In fact, even though in the urban areas in the Kandy district, the public transport service functions comparatively well, in the rural areas, people face great difficulties due to the unavailability of buses. The public transport issue is highly prevalent in areas such as Kandal OyaWatte, Suriyagoda, Debaralewa, Pitawala, Pitigoda, Bulugahawatte, and Kasawatte.

Those who mentioned about housing problems in the visited villages in the Kandy district emphasized that homelessness or living in temporary houses and insufficient facilities in the existing houses are the most serious housing problems that affect them. In addition,

through field observations, it was identified that some people have problems due to the unavailability of title deeds.

When health related problems are considered, of the respondents who discussed this issue, 75% indicated that the main issue is lack of hospitals in the rural areas in the Kandy district. Another 25% stated that even in the existing hospitals, the facilities are not sufficient to fulfill the needs of the patients. The villages in which this problem is prominent are, Karuwalawatte and Kandal Oya Watte.

The economic problems are yet another problem that respondents from the Kandy district discussed. In fact, under this aspect, 50% of the respondents highlighted that their major issue is lack of accessibility to raw materials, whereas 25% each mentioned that unemployment and marketing problems have also affected their economic condition negatively. A few examples for the villages suffering from economic issues are, Kandal Oya Watte, Gadaladeniya, and Maussagolla.

Through field observations, it was identified that in Soysa Kale Watte where 117 families live, sanitary issues have arisen due to the availability of only 08 toilets. In addition, as reported by the respondents, the waste from these toilets are directed into a canal turning this into an environmental issue as well.

10.2. Matale District

The Land area of the Matale district is 1993 km² (Department of Census and Statistics, 2015) with a total population of 484, 531 (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). When compared with other districts in the Central province, the Matale district has the lowest population. The percentage of the population living in the rural sector in Matale is 89.6%, the population living in the urban sector is 12.4% and the percentage of population living in the estate sector is 3.9%. The population living in the urban sector in Matale is equal to that of Kandy, yet the percentage of estate sector population in Matale registers as the lowest in the Central province. The majority of the population in Matale is Sinhalese (80.8%). The Tamil population in Matale is 9.8% and the Sri Lankan Moor population is 9.2%. In addition, the percentage of the population that represents other ethnic groups in Matale is 0.2.

When the education of the population is considered, 14.4% of the population has passed the G.C.E. Ordinary Level or obtained an equivalent qualification, 10.2% of the population has passed the G.C.E. Advanced Level or obtained an equivalent qualification and 1.9% of the population has obtained a degree or a higher qualification. The literacy rate of the population in the Matale district is 94.2% and the computer literacy rate is 21.2%.

The percentage of economically active population in the Matale district is 51.8% (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). Of the employed population, 39.4% work as own account workers, 31.1% work as private sector employees, 16% work as government employees, 7.5% work as unpaid family workers, 3.8% work as semi government employees and a limited percentage works as employers. When compared with other districts, the Matale district has the highest percentage of unpaid family workers.

The social, economic and environmental issues identified in some of the selected villages in the Matale district can be illustrated as follows (Please refer to Figure 124).

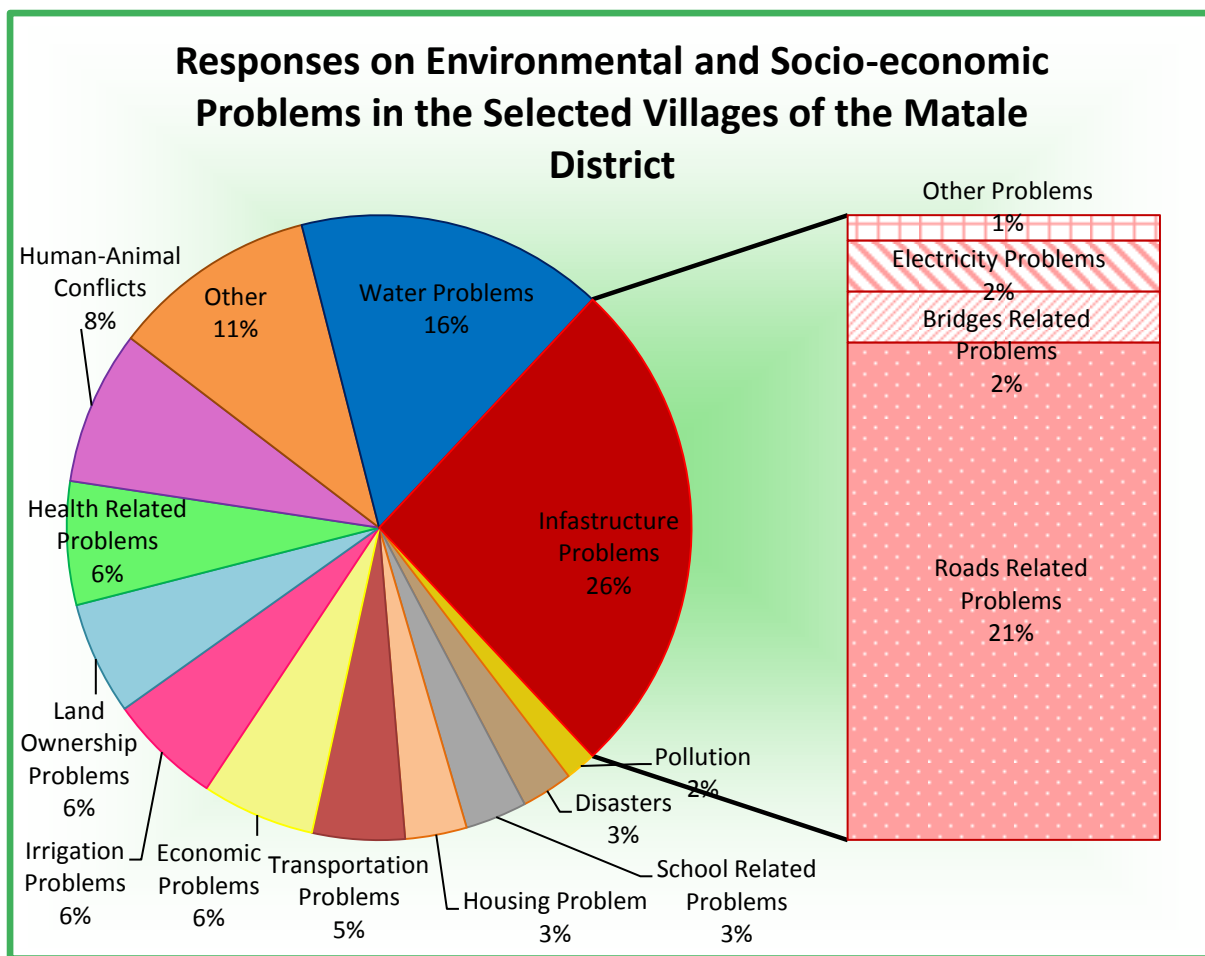


Figure 124 - Responses on Environmental, Socio-economic Problems in the Selected Villages of the Matale District

According to the above graph, similar to the Kandy district, the major problem in the visited villages in the Matale district is also the infrastructure issue. Of the respondents who pointed out this issue, around 80% stated that the main issue under infrastructure is poor condition of the roads. In addition, some other respondents indicated the difficulties in crossing damaged bridges daily and also the unavailability of electricity in certain areas in the villages. Some areas which have road related problems are, Kosgahainna, Wewala Wewa, Nikawatawana, and Arunodayagama. Electricity related issues were visible in areas such as, Wewala Wewa, Sawusiripura and Inguruwatte. When considering about bridges in a poor condition, those could be seen in areas such as Pollaththewa, Meeghamulla, Wadakhamada, etc. (Please refer to Figure 125).

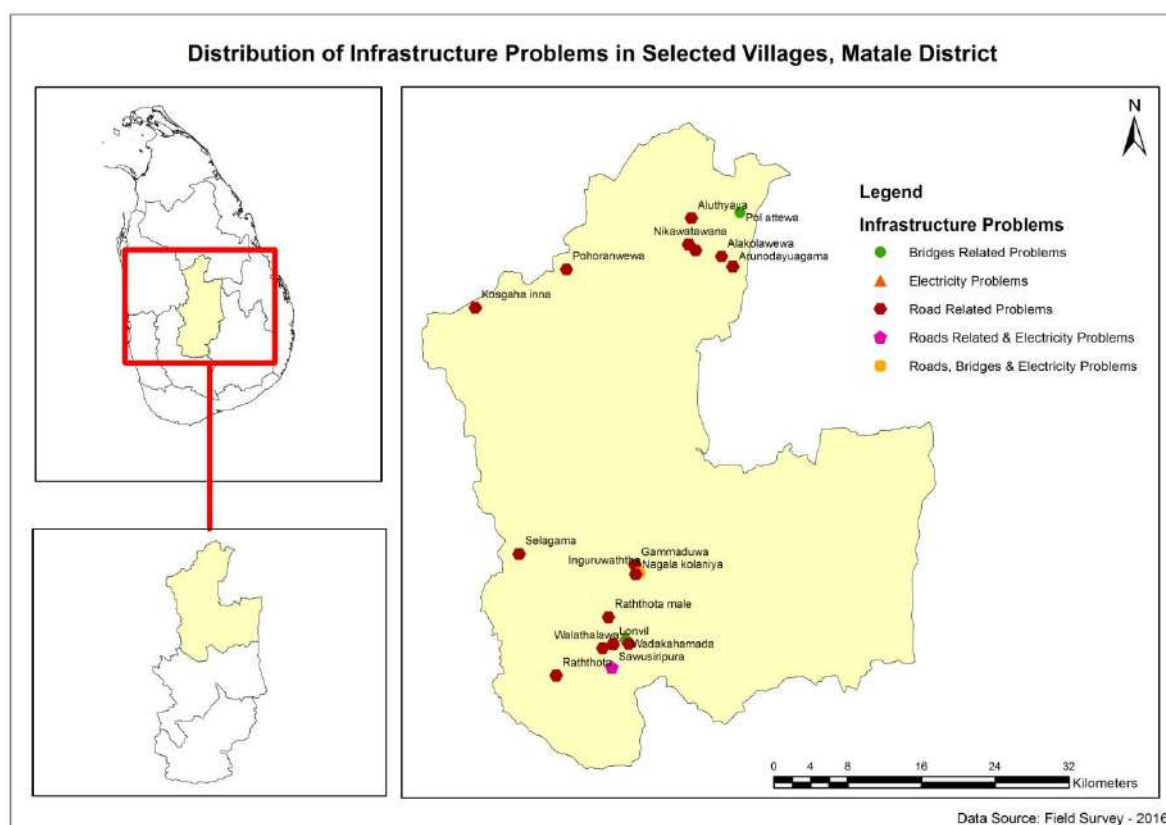


Figure 125 - Distribution of Issues related to Infrastructure in the Selected Villages of Matale District

Next, the respondents highlighted how water related issues affect their lives. In fact, 83.3% of the respondents mentioned that they have difficulties due to the unavailability of clean drinking water whereas 16.7% indicated the unavailability of water even for agricultural purposes. (Please refer to Figure 126).

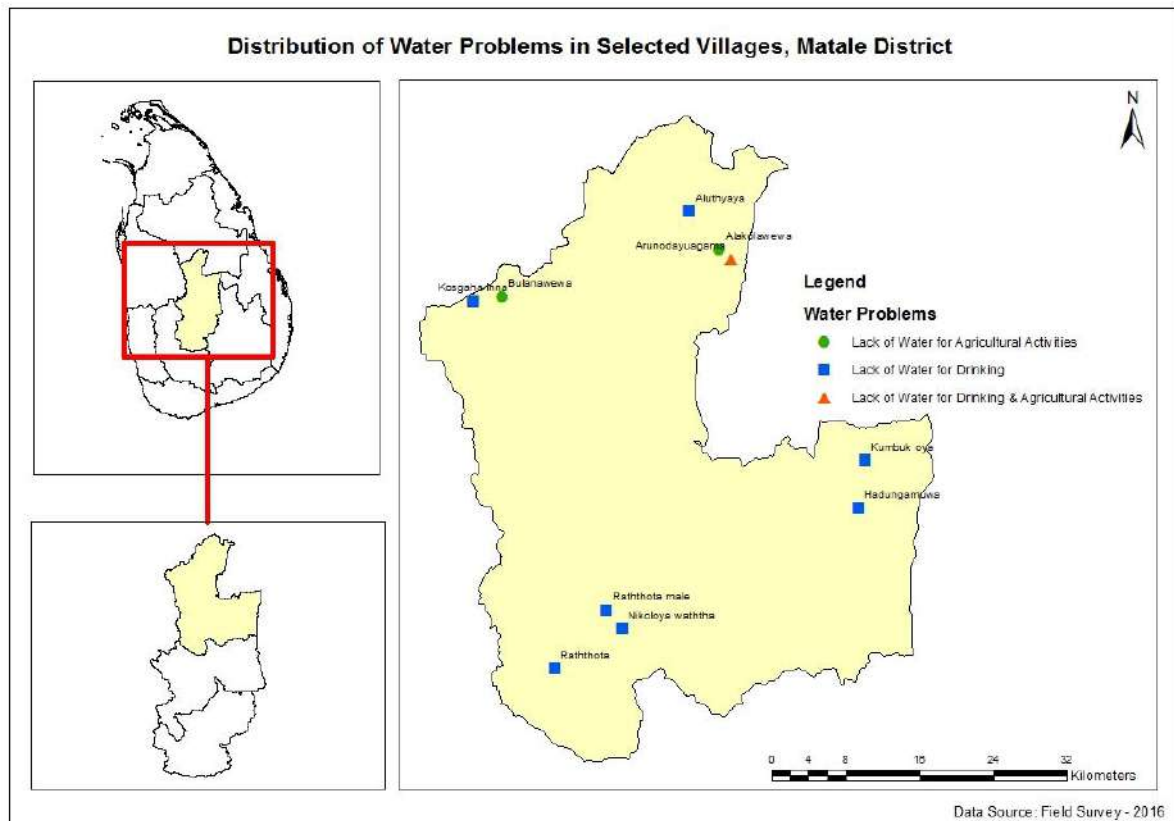


Figure 126 - Distribution of Issues related to Water in the Selected Villages of the Matale District

When compared with other two districts, some villages in the Matale district also go through the human-elephant conflict. This has become a life threatening situation for some villages such as Alakolawewa, Arunodayagama, Nikawatawana, Wewala Wewa, Akkara Kaala Gama, and Kosgahainna in Matale.

Health related issues are also reported from Matale, and of the respondents who discussed this issue, 50% indicated that kidney disease has become a problem in their villages. Other respondents also indicated health related issues such as lack of health facilities and doctors in the hospitals which make the condition of the patients worse and the unavailability of proper hospitals in certain areas.

In terms of economic problems, the respondents mentioned that insufficiency of subsidies and accessibility to raw materials are the most critical concerns. In addition, inability to find a market for their products and unemployment were also listed by some as affecting their economic status negatively.

When transportation problems are considered, the respondents in areas such as Arunodayagama, Nikawatawana, Aluthyaya, Wewala Wewa, Seelagama, Kosgahainna and Inguruwatte stated that their time is wasted due to the malfunctioning of the public transportation system.

Some respondents also pointed out that housing issues are a major concern. Of the respondents who discussed this issue, around 83% highlighted that homelessness has become a serious problem. Especially in areas such as Nikolaoya watte, Raththota, and Katarantenna Watte, people mentioned that some do not have permanent houses. The respondents also indicated land ownership issues as affecting them. Thus, around 91% of the respondents who discussed this issue mentioned that there are problems in their title deeds.

The respondents further gave their views on the existing issues related to schools in the visited areas. Hence, 50% of the respondents mentioned that there is a lack of facilities in the schools in the rural areas whereas around 33% highlighted that some areas lack proper schools. Some respondents also mentioned that lack of teachers in rural schools has also affected the education of the children. Arunodayagama, Seelagama and Kosgahainna are some areas in which issues related to schools were prominent.

Landslides and floods were considered by the respondents as natural disasters which affect them the most. 80% of the respondents who mentioned about the prevalence of natural disasters in the Matale district stated that the occurrence of landslides in certain areas is very high. Ihala Lonwil, Raththota, Welangahawatte, and Madakumburuwa are some areas in which landslides occur.

10.3. Nuwaraeliya District

The land area of the Nuwaraeliya district is 1741 km² (Department of Census and Statistics, 2015) with a total population of 711, 644 (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). The majority in the Nuwaraeliya district lives in the estate sector (53.5%). This is the highest percentage of population living in the estate sector when compared with all other districts. In addition, the rural population in Nuwaraeliya is 40.9% whereas the population living in the urban sector is 5.6%. If the population distribution is considered in terms of ethnicity, the majority living in Nuwaraeliya (57.6%) is Tamils while 39.6% are Sinhalese and

2.5% are Sri Lankan Moors. In addition, 0.2% of people from other ethnic groups also live in Nuwaraeliya.

The percentage of population who has passed the G.C.E. Ordinary Level examination and the G.C.E. Advanced Level examination are comparatively low in Nuwaraeliya when compared with other districts in the Central province and those rates are 12.7% and 6.6% respectively (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). Furthermore, only 1.1% of the population has obtained a degree or a higher qualification. The literacy rate and the computer literacy are also lower in the Nuwaraeliya district than that of Kandy and Matale and the rates are 90.9% and 16.5% respectively. This may be due to the large number of people living in the estate sector with low access to education and other services.

The percentage of economically active population aged 15 years and above is 58.4% in Nuwaraeliya and it is the highest percentage of an economically active population reported from the Central province. When the percentage distribution of the employed population by sector of employment is considered, 44.6% work as private sector employees, 23.2% work as own account workers, 14.5% work as semi government employees, 10.1% work as government employees and 5.9% work as unpaid family workers. In addition, a small percentage of people working as employers are also present in Nuwaraeliya district.

The social, economic and environmental issues in some selected villages of the Nuwaraeliya district can be illustrated as follows. (Please refer to Figure 127).

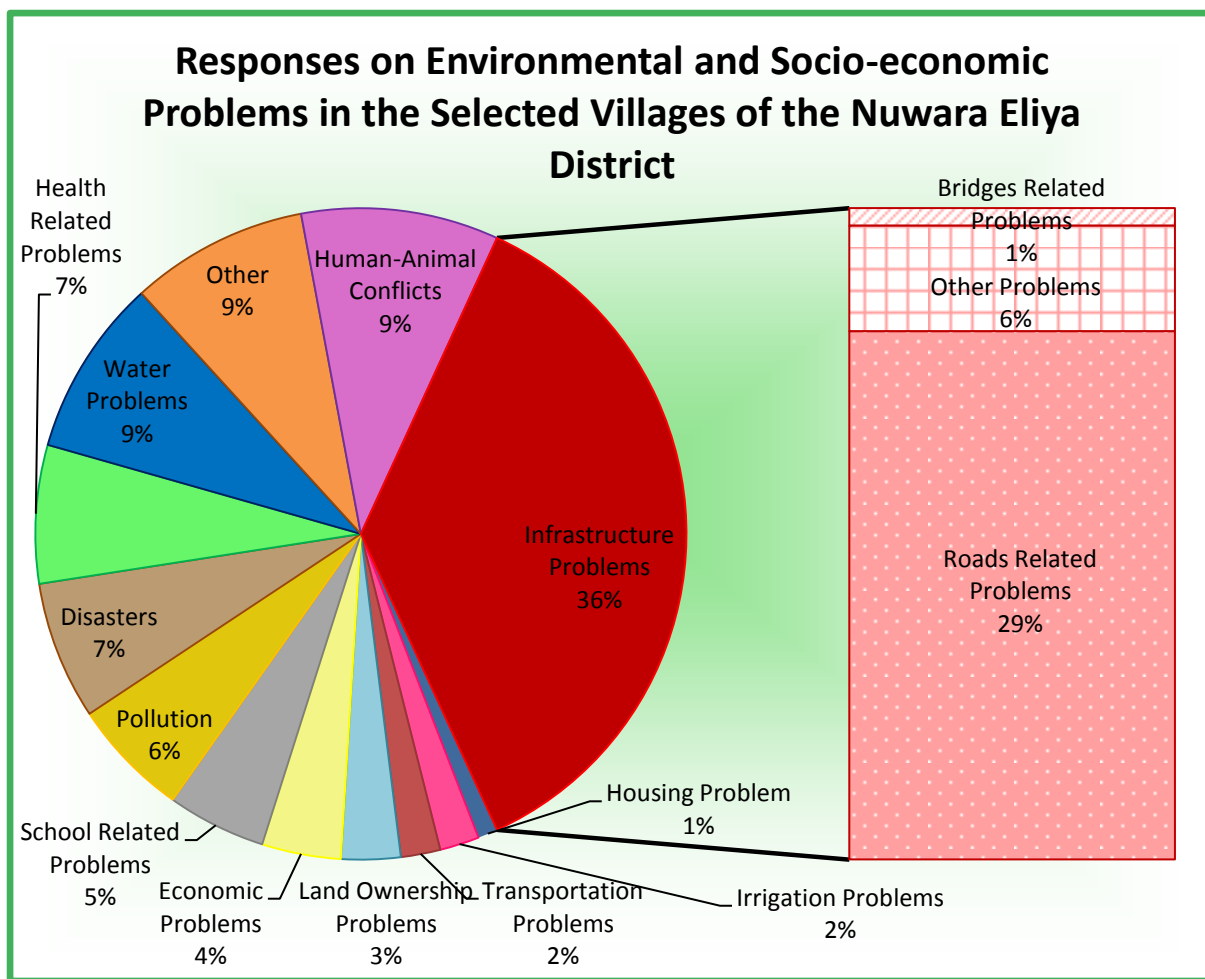


Figure 127 - Responses on Environmental and Socio-economic Problems of the Selected Villages of Nuwaraeliya District

As indicated in the above graph, the major issue of the visited villages in the Nuwaraeliya district is infrastructure related problems. Of the respondents who highlighted this matter, the majority (around 81%) mentioned that they are having issues due to the poor condition of the roads. Particularly, Kotambe, Heegama, Hathupitiya, Ambagathenna, Dumkolawatte, Moragolla, and Dematarawa are some areas where the poor road condition have highly affected the lives of the people (Please refer to Figure 128).

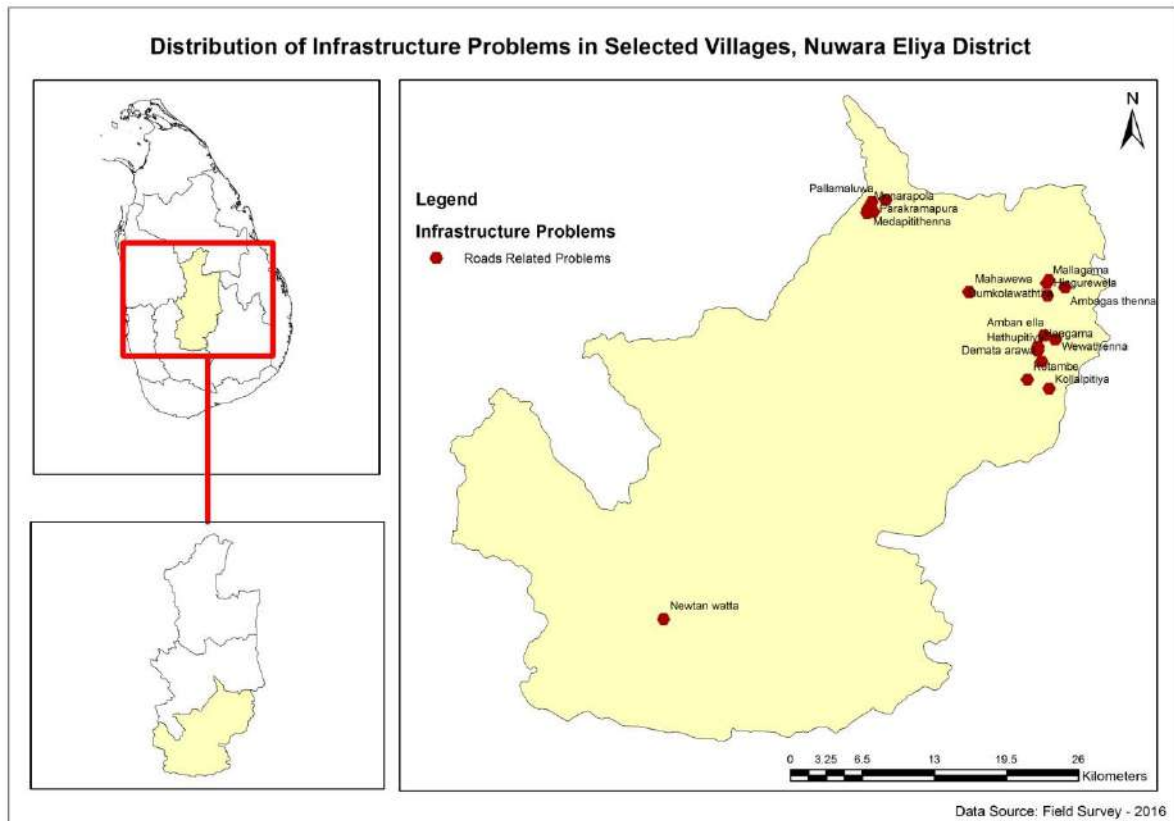


Figure 128 - Distribution of Issues related to Infrastructure in the Selected Villages of the Nuwaraeliya District

Human-animal conflicts that take place in the Nuwaraeliya district are of a different kind. Of the respondents who discussed this issue, 60% highlighted that their crops are destroyed by monkeys, and 20% each mentioned that elephants and wild boars also damage their crops. Particularly, issues created by monkeys are prominent in areas such as Hathupitiya, Heegama and Dikhinna, whereas damage by elephants are seen in areas such as Batagollagama and Hingurukaduwa. In addition, wild boars are damaging crops in areas such as Heegama.

The water problem is also a major issue in the Nuwaraeliya district. Similar to most of the districts in Sri Lanka, the majority of the people (around 89%) in the visited villages in the Nuwaraeliya district are also affected due to the unavailability of clean drinking water. In fact, people in many areas such as Kotambe, Rupaha, Hingurukaduwa, Parakramapura, Kudagama, Ruwanpura, Galkadapathana and Kandepola highlighted this issue as affecting them. (Please refer to Figure 129).

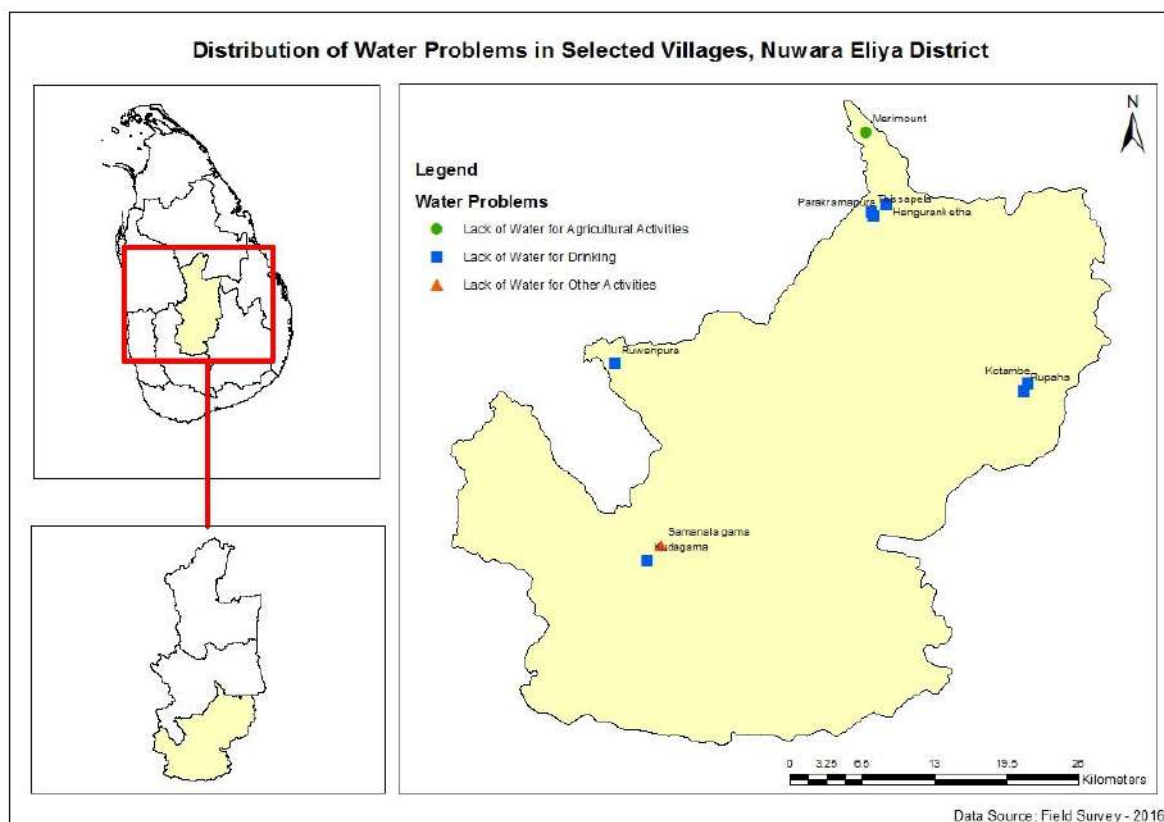


Figure 129 - Distribution of Issues related to Water in the Selected Villages of the Nuwaraeliya District

According to the research findings, health related issues have also affected the population in the visited villages in the Nuwaraeliya district. However, for all the respondents who highlighted this matter, the major concern was the lack of health facilities in the existing hospitals which has created a difficult situation for the patients specially in areas such as, Delgahapitiya, Bandaranayakepura, Samanalagama and Watawala.

The respondents also highlighted that three types of pollution, namely, water pollution, air pollution and land pollution take place in some areas of the district. According to them, even out of these three types of pollution, water pollution is highly prevalent particularly in the Kudagama village. Apart from that for Samanalagama and Parakrama pura, pollution has become a major concern. Particularly, due to the dumping of garbage in a well near Walli Kovil, Bandaranayakapura, around 100 families face water problems as the well is utilized to obtain water during the dry season.

In terms of problems related to schools, the respondents pointed out two types of major problems and those were lack of facilities in the schools and lack of facilities in Dhamma

schools. Some of the areas where schools lack the above facilities are, Amban Ella, Heegama and Pallamaluwa. In addition, people in Marymount highlighted that their children do not have a proper school to attend in their area.

When economic issues of the visited areas in the Nuwaraeliya are taken into consideration, the insufficiency of subsidies provided for them, lack of accessibility to raw materials, and problems related to fishing were pointed out as issues that affect the people the most. Some of the villages that face economic issues are Dunkolawatte, Monarapola, Hingurukaduwa, and Kandepola.

Apart from these issues, land ownership issues, transport issues, irrigation problems and housing problems were also listed by the respondents as other problems that affect their standard of living in a negative sense.

In addition, people in the Kumbalgamuwa area of Walapane are facing the risk of landslides. People living in this area were resettled here due to a landslide in another area but now they are experiencing the same fate once again. Apart from this, people living in the estate sector in Nuwaraeliya also have sanitary problems.

11. Uva Province

The Uva province is divided into two districts; namely, Badulla and Monaragala, with a total population of 1, 266, 463 (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). The majority of the population in the Uva province (81.7%) lives in the rural sector whereas 5.5% lives in the urban sector and 12.8% lives in the estate sector. The percentage of Sinhalese in the Uva province is 80.8%. In addition, Tamils (14.7%), Sri Lankan Moors (4.3%) and people from other ethnic groups (0.3%) also live in this province.

If the education status of the population is considered, 12.9% has passed the G.C.E. Ordinary Level or obtained an equivalent qualification, 8.8% has passed the G.C.E. Advanced Level or obtained an equivalent qualification and 1.8% of the population has obtained a degree or a higher qualification. The literacy rate of the Uva province is 92.2% and the computer literacy is 17.6%.

The percentage of economically active population in the Uva province is 55.7. Of the employed population, 42.1% work as own account workers, 25.3% work as private sector employees, 16.9% work as government employees, 11.7% work as unpaid family workers and small percentages of the population work as semi government employees and employers.

Apart from the above demographic characteristics, the issues experienced by people in some of the selected villages in the Uva province can be illustrated as follows. (Please refer to Figure 130).

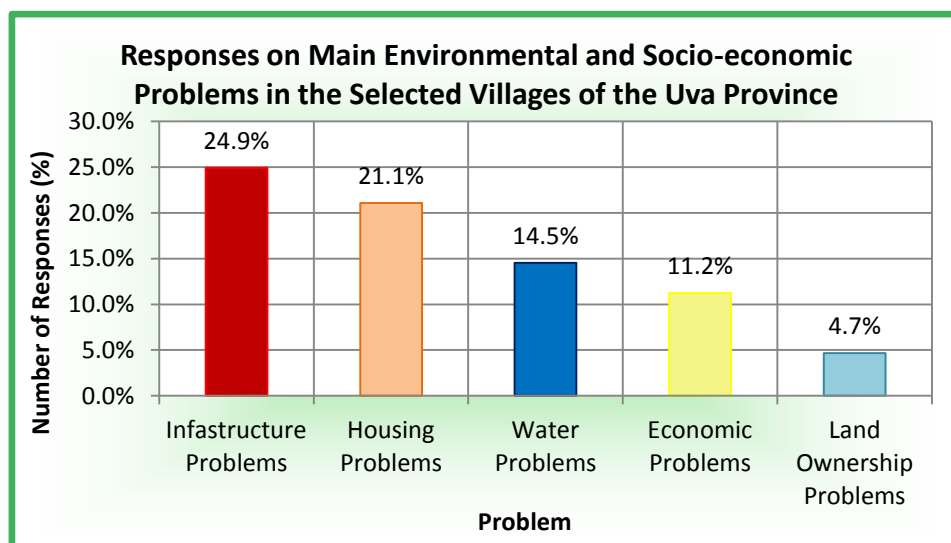


Figure 130 - Responses on Main Environmental and Socio-economic Problems in the Selected Villages of the Uva Province

As indicated in the above graph, the major issue affecting the visited villages in the Uva province is related to infrastructure. In fact, in both the Badulla and Monaragala districts, the respondents have indicated that road related problems have highly affected their lives in a negative manner. (Please refer to Figure 131).

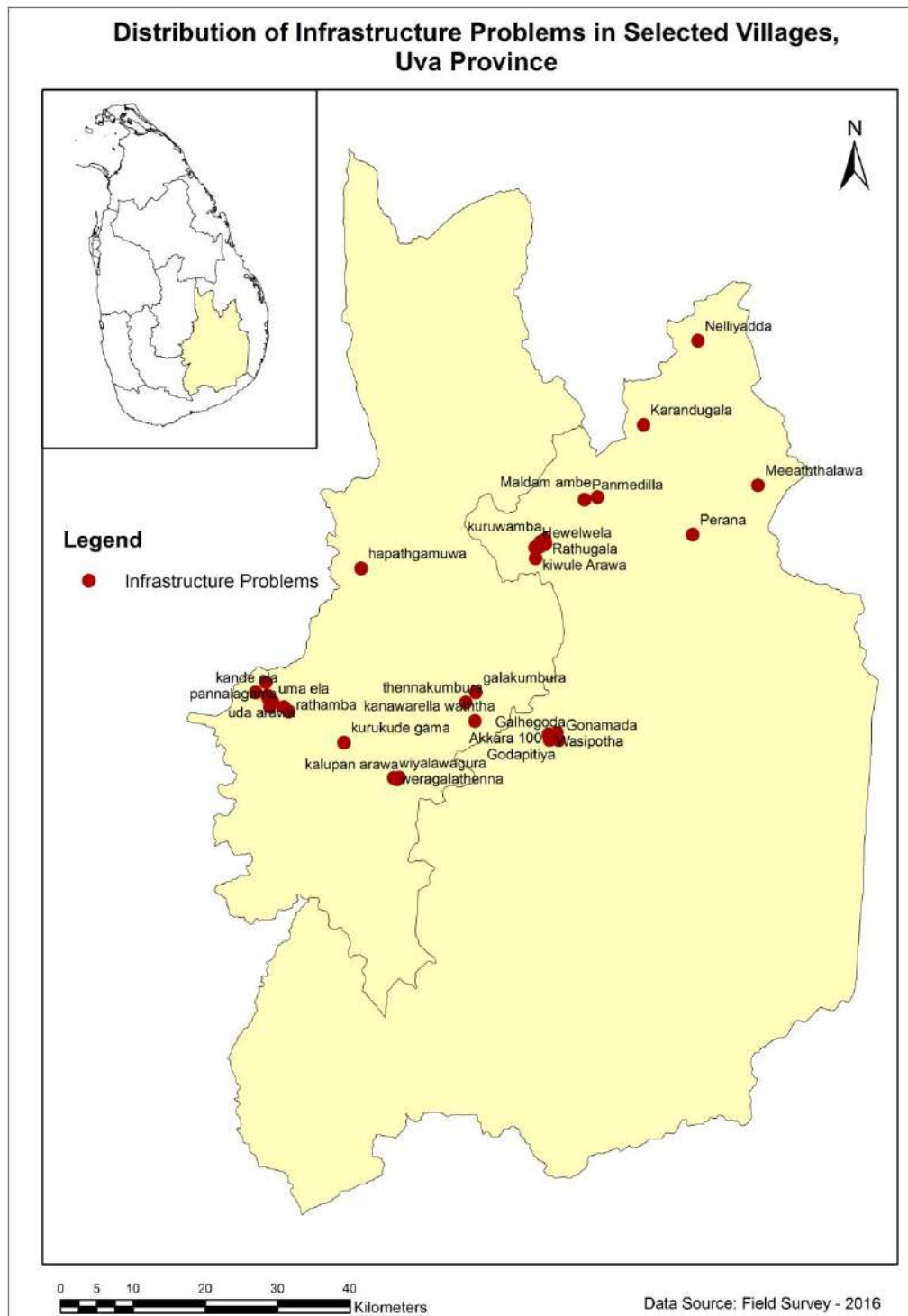


Figure 131 - Distribution of Issues related to Infrastructure on the Selected Villages of the Uva Province

The second major issue of the people in the visited villages in the Uva province is, housing related issues. However, in the Monaragala district the main housing related issue is homelessness whereas in Badulla, people stated three types of housing related issues; namely damaged houses, insufficient facilities in houses and homelessness. Of these, they were most concerned about their damaged houses.

In terms of water issues, the visited villages in both the districts in the Uva province have had negative experiences due to the unavailability of clean drinking water. In addition, another issue under this was the insufficiency of water for agricultural purposes. (Please refer to Figure 132).

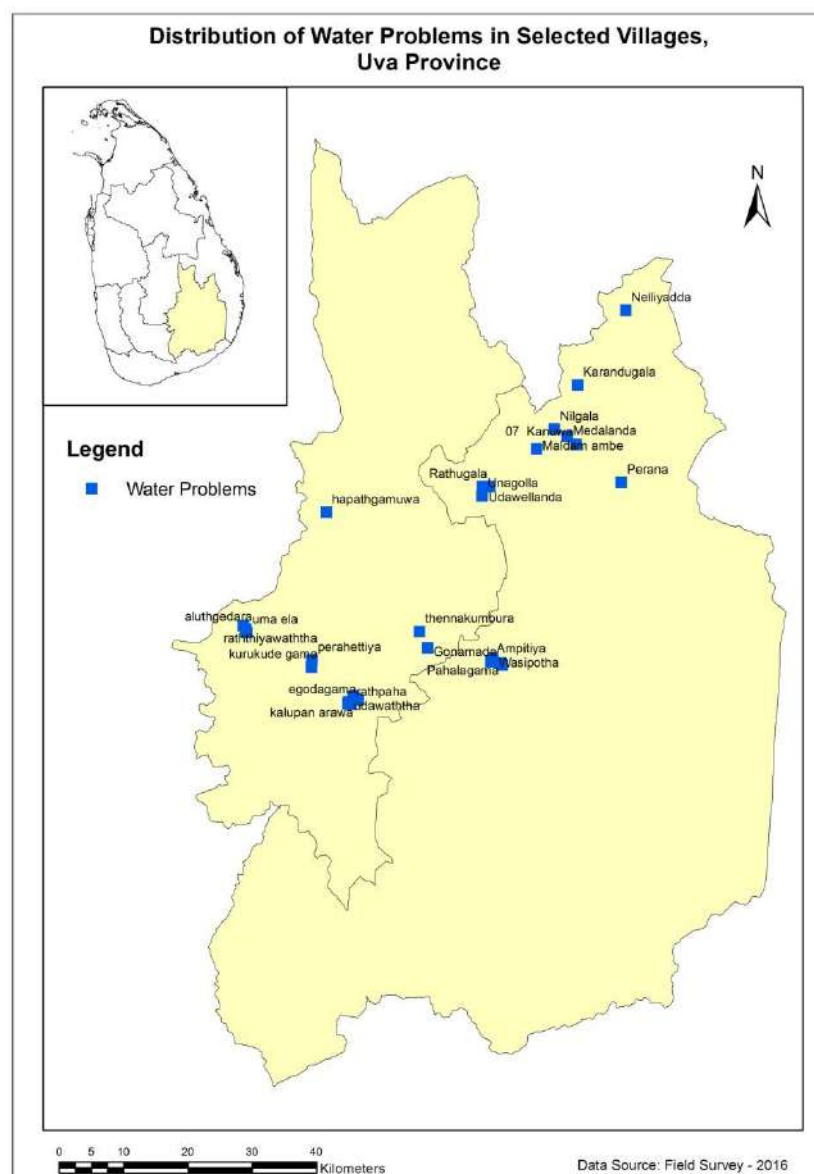


Figure 132 - Distribution of Issues related Water in the Selected Villages of Uva Province

Respondents in the visited villages also indicated economic issues as affecting their standard of living. However, the respondents in the Monaragala district named low income as the most critical issue they experience under economic problems whereas respondents in the Badulla district highlighted lack of accessibility to raw materials as their biggest problem. Apart from that, insufficiency of subsidies, marketing problems and unemployment were some other common issues highlighted by the respondents in the visited villages in both districts in the Uva province. (Please refer to Figure 133).

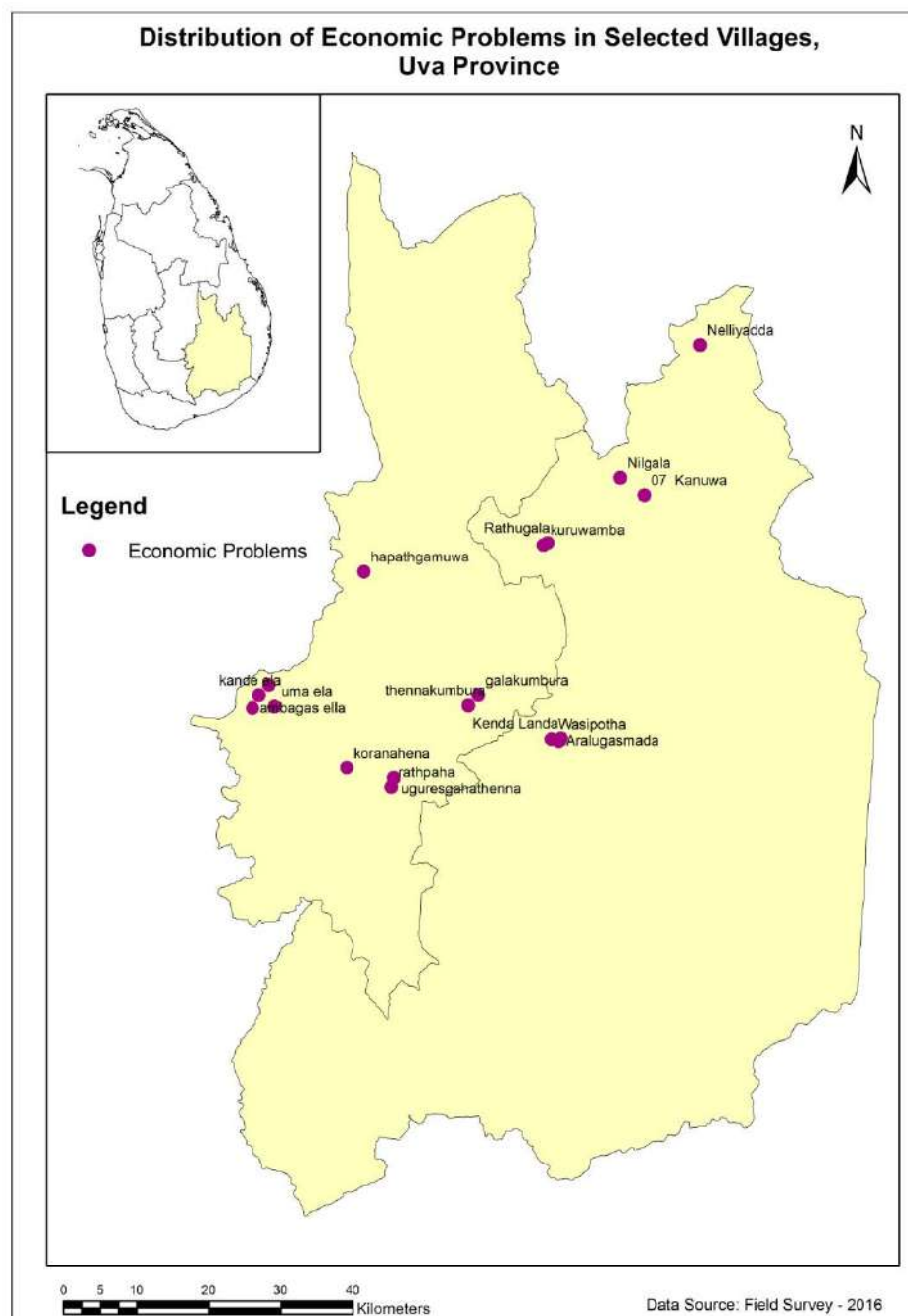


Figure 133 - Distribution of Issues related to Economy in the Selected Villages of the Uva Province

11.1. Badulla District

The land area of the Badulla district is 2861 km² (Department of Census and Statistics, 2015) with a total population of 815, 405 (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). The majority or 73% of the population in Badulla lives in the rural sector whereas 18.6% lives in the estate sector. The urban population in Badulla district (8.4%) is lower than the population living in the rural and estate sectors. The majority of the population in Badulla are Sinhalese (73%), while Tamils (21.1%), Sri Lankan Moors (5.5%) and people from other ethnic groups (0.4%) also live in this district.

The overall education status is comparatively better in the Badulla district than in Monaragala. In fact, 13.4% have passed the G.C.E. Ordinary Level or obtained an equivalent qualification, 9.4% have passed the G.C.E. Advanced Level or obtained an equivalent qualification and 1.9% have obtained a degree or a higher qualification (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). The literacy rate of the population in the Badulla district is 91.8% and the computer literacy rate is 19.5%.

The percentage of economically active population in the Badulla district is 55.6% (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). Of the employed population, 37% work as own account workers, 30.9% work as private sector workers, 16.7% work as government employees, 11.2% work as unpaid family workers and small percentages of the population work as semi government employees and employers.

The social, economic and environmental issues in the Badulla district can be illustrated as follows. (Please refer to Figure 134).

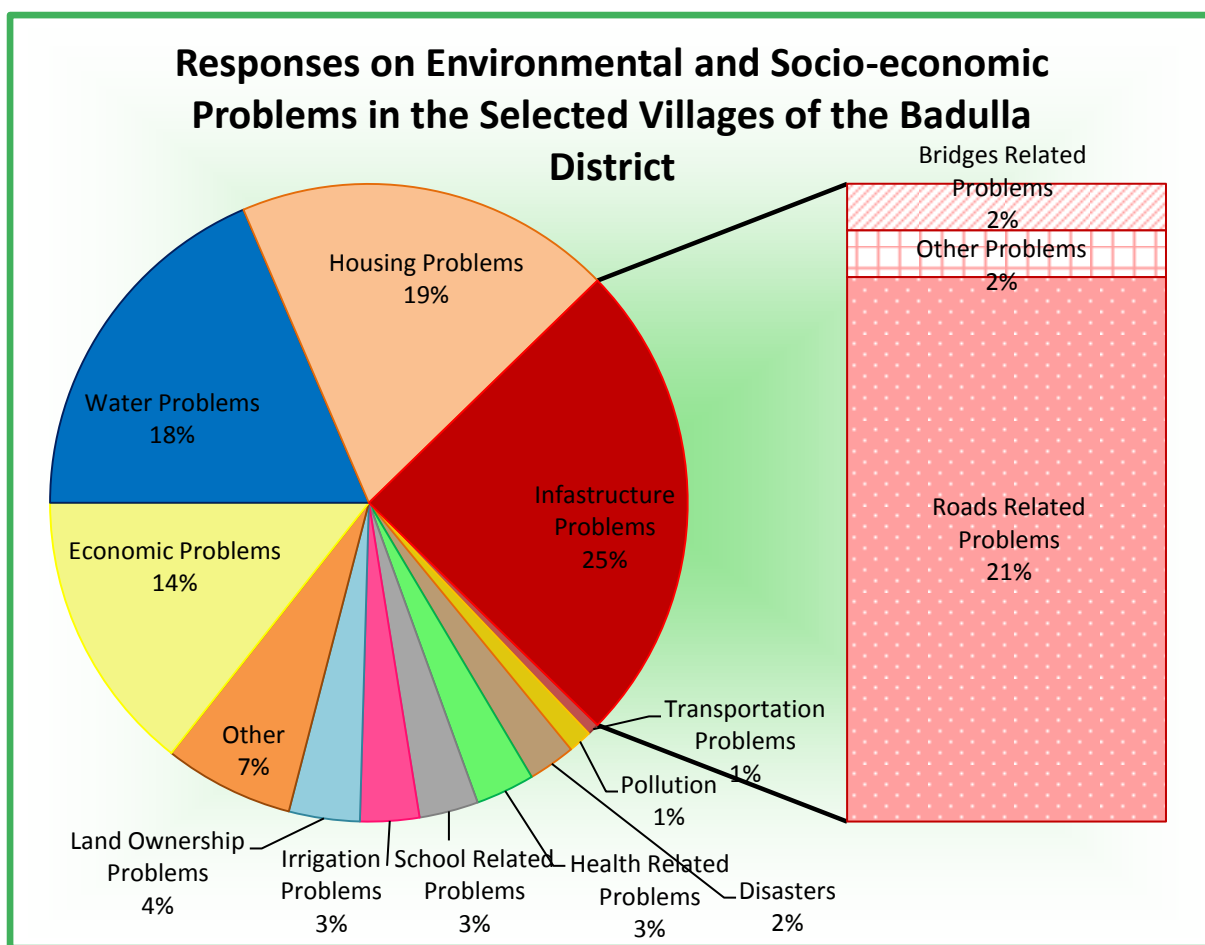


Figure 134 - Responses on the Main Environmental and Socio-economic Problems in the Selected Villages of the Badulla District

In the visited areas in the Badulla district, the major issue is infrastructure issues. Of the respondents who pointed out this issue, around 85% in areas such as Weragala Thenna, Thennekumbura, Kaluwan arawa, Uma Ela, Hapanthara Kumbura Watte, Uda Arawa, etc. indicated that the major infrastructure issue for them is the poor condition of the roads whereas around 7% indicated that they are facing difficulties due to damaged bridges particularly in the Hapathgamuwa and Kande Ela areas. (Please refer to Figure 135).

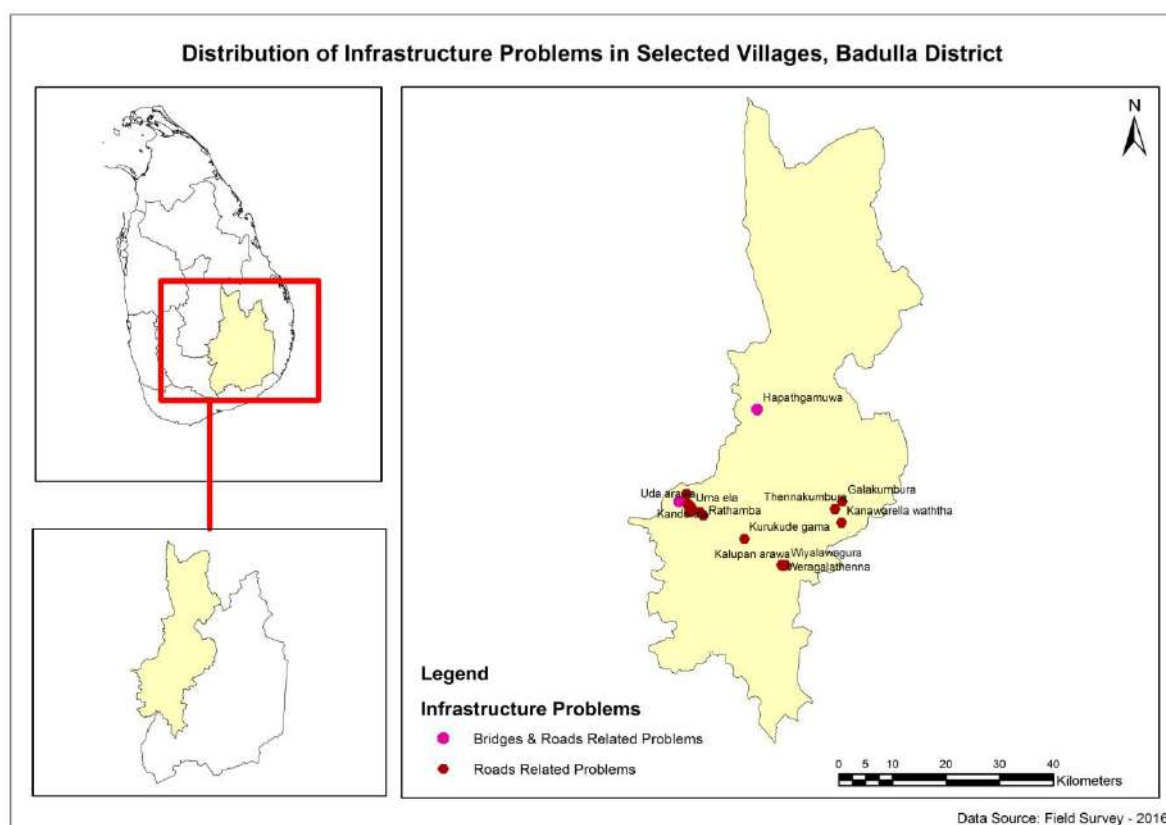


Figure 135 - Distribution of Issues related to Infrastructure in the Selected Villages of the Badulla District

The next issue affecting them is related to housing. In fact, under housing, the people in the visited areas in Badulla were experiencing different types of issues such as damaged houses, lack of facilities in the houses and homelessness. Particularly, of the respondents who mentioned about these issues, 43.8% in areas such as Weragala Thenna, Heel Oya and Pinarawatte, indicated that their houses are damaged, whereas 28.1% in Weragala Thenna, Thenne Kumbura, Kanawarella Watte and Kande Ela stated that they are suffering due to homelessness. Another 28.1% in Thenne Kumbura, Kanawarella Watte, Kande Ela, Pitawala and Thawalantenna Ihala stated that they do not have adequate facilities in their houses. Through the interviews conducted with the respondents, it was identified that one major issue for the damages in the houses is the repercussions of Uma Oya project. The respondents criticized that after the commencement of the project, they experience settling and cracks in many houses. (Please refer to Figure 136).

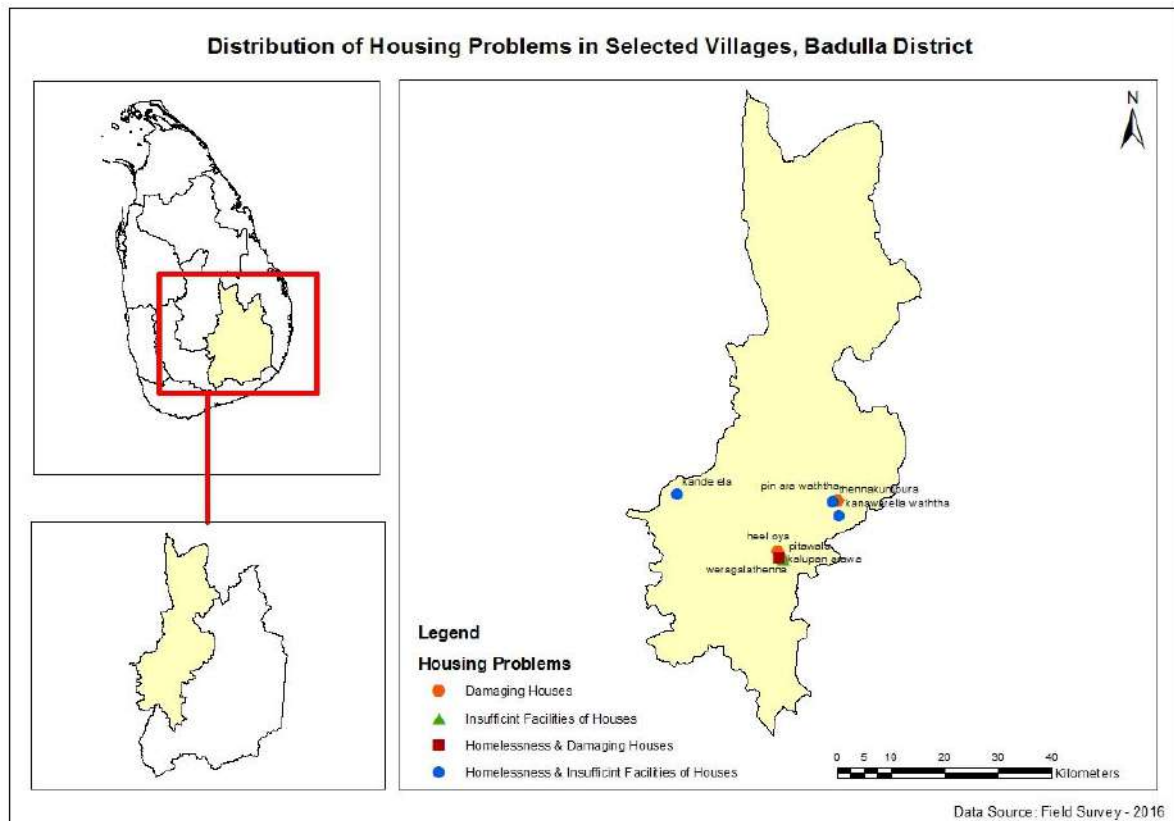


Figure 136 - Distribution of Issues related to Housing in the Selected Villages of the Badulla District

The third issue which affects the population in the visited villages in the Badulla district is the water issue. Of the respondents who discussed this matter, 80.6% highlighted that they are affected due to the unavailability of clean drinking water. Specially in areas such as Weragala Thenna, Thenne Kumbura, Egodagama, Uma Ela, Kanawarella Watte, etc.; whereas 19.4% of respondents indicated that they do not have sufficient water even for agricultural purposes, in areas such as Hapathgamuwa, Kaluwanarawa, Thaparagama, etc. Furthermore, in the Uma Ela area since the water canal is damaged, farmers find it hard to obtain water for their cultivations (Please refer to Figure 137).

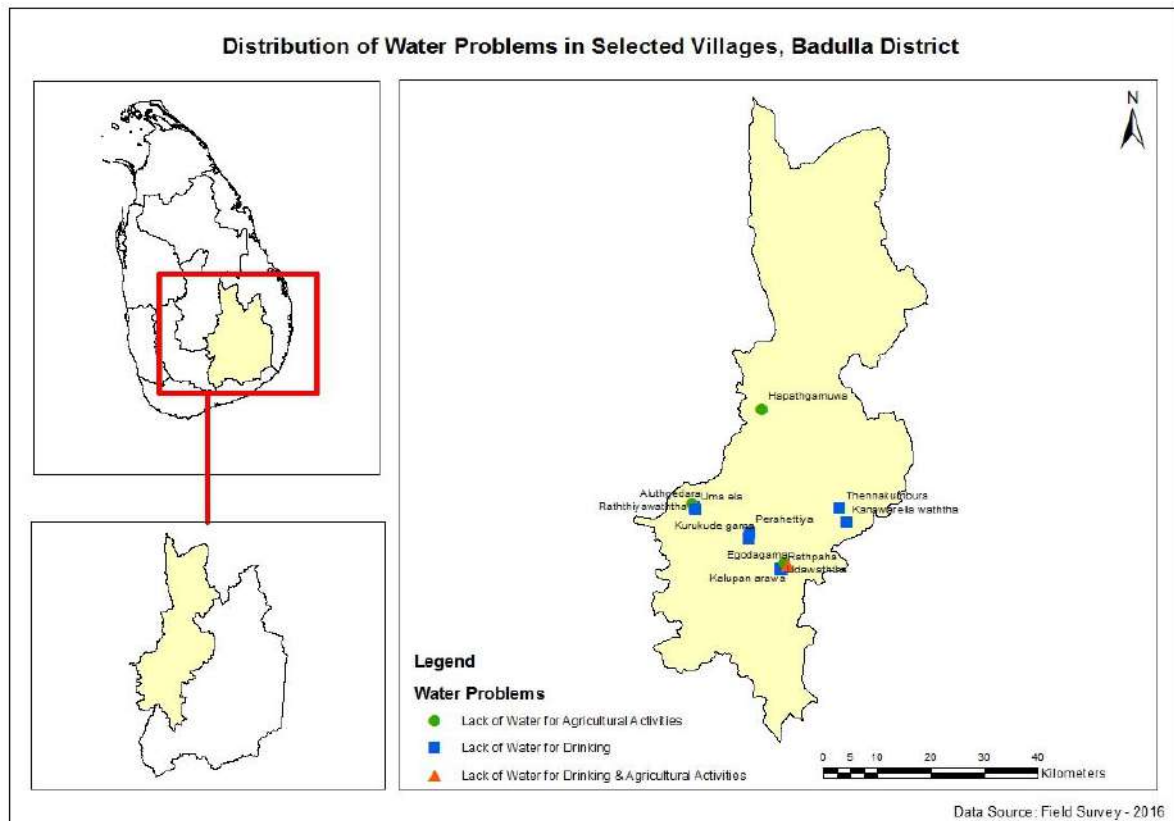


Figure 137 - Distribution of Issues related to Water in the Selected Villages of the Badulla District

Economic issues were another concern of the population in the selected areas in the Badulla district. In fact, the majority of the population (70.8%) in the visited areas such as Galakumbura, Hapathgamuwa, Korana Hena, Ugurasgaha Thenna, Kande Ela, Meeriya Kamatha, Uma Ela, etc. who highlighted this matter stated that their economic condition is worse due to lack of accessibility to raw materials whereas 12.5% mentioned that there is no market for their products at village level. Such marketing related problems are evident in areas namely, Galakumbura, Ugurasgaha Thenna and Ambagas Thenna. Apart from these issues, the respondents also mentioned that insufficiency of subsidies provided, unemployment and low income are other burning issues that have a negative impact on their economy. (Please refer to Figure 138).

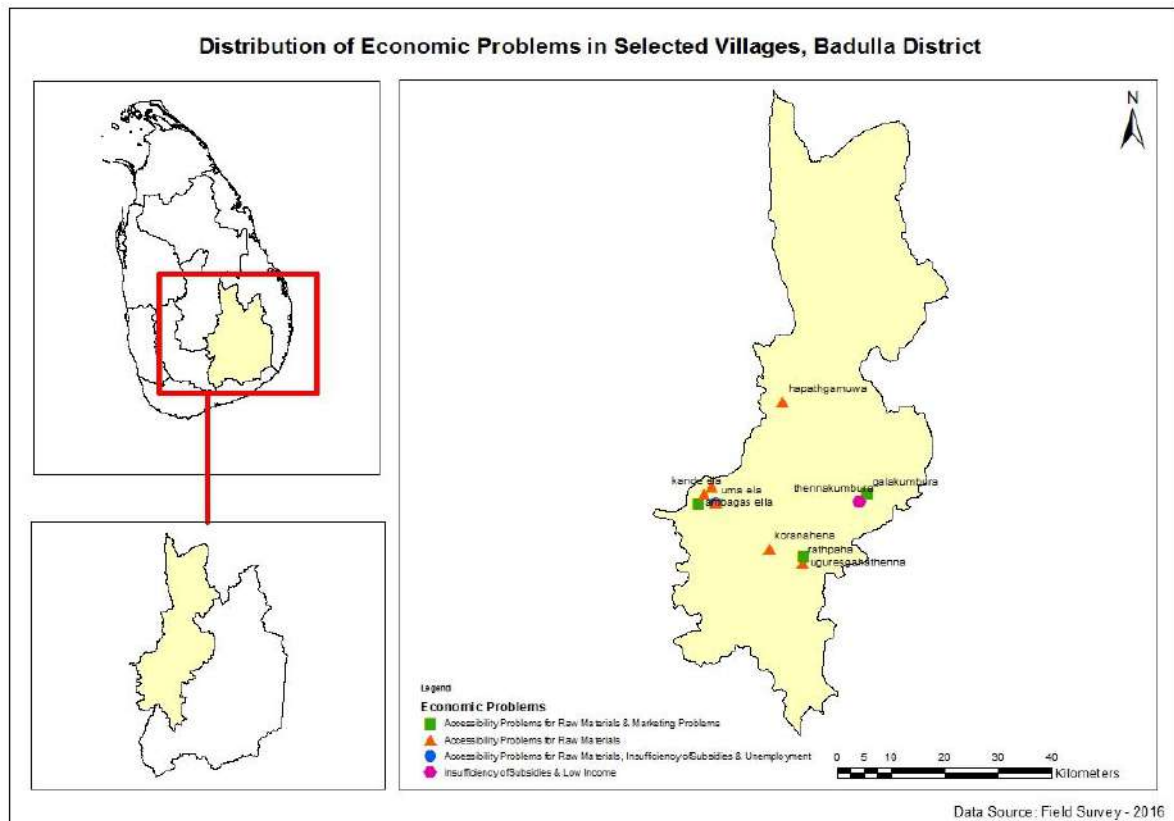


Figure 138 - Distribution of Issues related to Economy in the Selected Villages of the Badulla District

When considering land ownership issues, the majority (83.3%) of the respondents who discussed this matter mentioned that they have problems in their title deeds. This is a prominent problem in areas such as Kande Ela and Thenne Kumbura.

The population in the visited areas in the Badulla district also indicated issues related to schools as affecting the education of their children negatively. Under this, the major issue is lack of facilities in schools, especially in areas such as Kande Ela and Uma Ela, whereas some respondents also pointed out the limited number of school teachers in areas like Thenne Kumbura and lack of facilities in Dhamma schools in areas like Kande Ela as having a negative impact on the children's education.

In terms of health related problems, the respondents highlighted that lack of health facilities and doctors in hospitals is the most serious issue. Specially, in Thennekumbura, lack of doctors as well facilities have become a major issue whereas in Kanawarella Watte and Thawalantenna Ihala, lack of facilities in hospitals is the biggest issue.

11.2. Monaragala District

The land area of the Monaragala district is 5639 km² (Department of Census and Statistics, 2015) with a total population of 451, 058 (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). According to 2012 census data, the majority of the population in the Monaragala district (98.1%) belongs to the rural sector whereas 1.9% of the population belongs to the estate sector. Hence the census data indicates that the population living in the urban sector in Monaragala is nil. In terms of ethnicity, the majority of the population (94.9%) is Sinhalese, 2.9% is Tamils, 2.1% is Sri Lankan Moors and 0.1% belongs to other ethnic groups.

The education level of the population in Monaragala is comparatively lower than that of Badulla (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). For instance, 12.1% of the population have passed the G.C.E. Ordinary Level or obtained an equivalent qualification, 7.6% have passed the G.C.E. Advanced Level or obtained an equivalent qualification and 1.6% have obtained a degree or a higher qualification. Both the literacy rate and the computer literacy rate of the population in Monaragala are also lower than that of Badulla and those rates are 92.8% and 14.2% respectively.

The percentage of economically active population aged 15 years and above in the Monaragala district is 55.9% and is slightly higher than that of Badulla (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). Of the employed population, the majority (51.3%) work as own account workers, 17.2% work as government employees, 15.2% work as private sector employees, 12.7% work as unpaid family workers and a small percentage of the population works as semi government employees and employers.

The social, economic and environmental issues affecting the Monaragala district can be illustrated as follows. (Please refer to Figure 139).

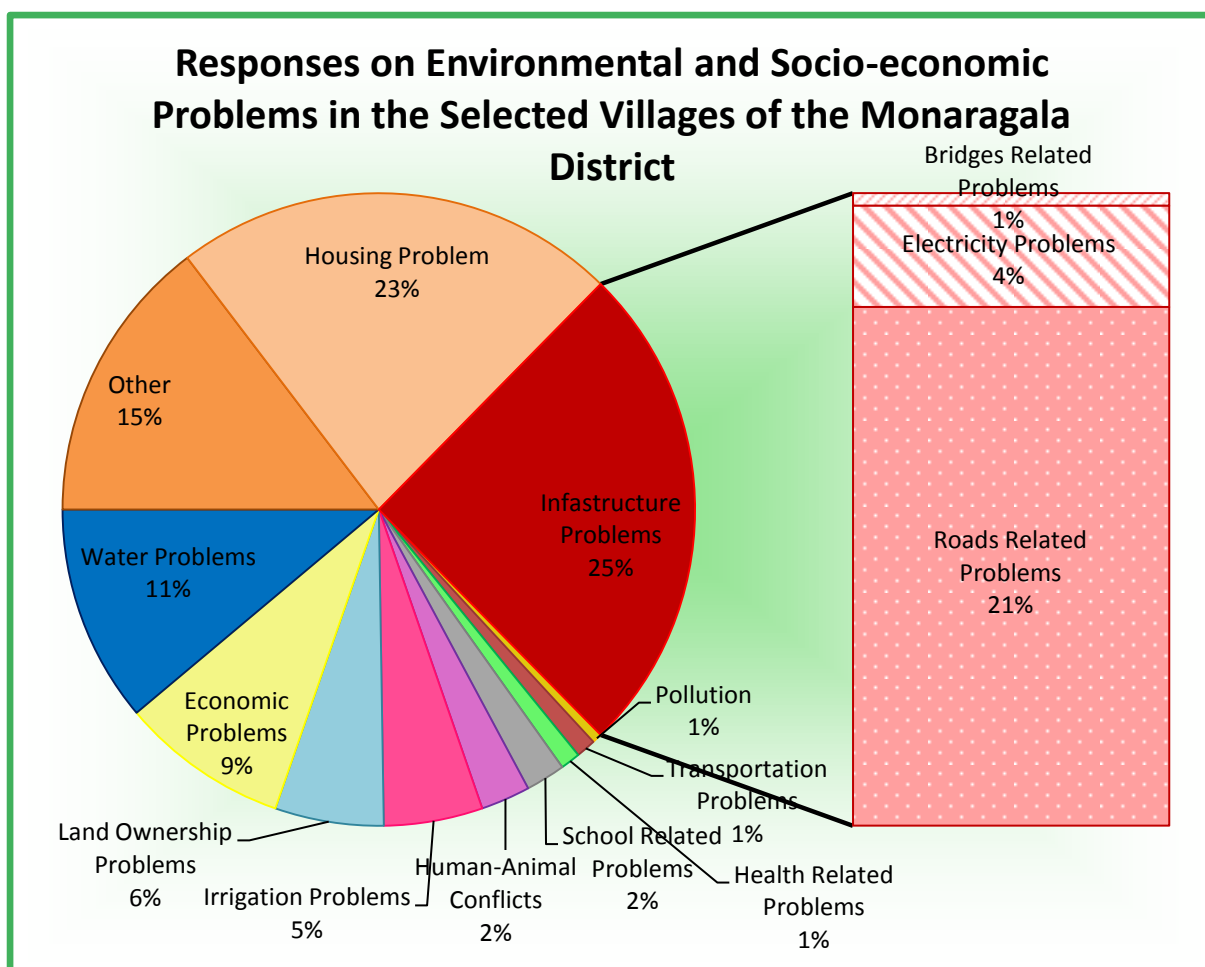


Figure 139 - Responses on Environmental and Socio-economic Problems in the Selected Villages of the Monaragala District

According to the above graph, the major problem affecting the population in the selected villages in the Monaragala district is infrastructure related issues. Of the respondents who highlighted this issue, 82% in areas such as Wasipotha, Aralugasmada, Badalkumbura, Gonamada, Rathugala, Karandugala, Perana, Kuruwamba, Nellyyadda, and Ambawatte mentioned that the main infrastructure related issue is the poor condition of the roads whereas 16% of the respondents in areas such as Wasipotha, Akkara 100 and Rathugala indicated that they are affected due to the unavailability of electricity as well. (Please refer to Figure 140).

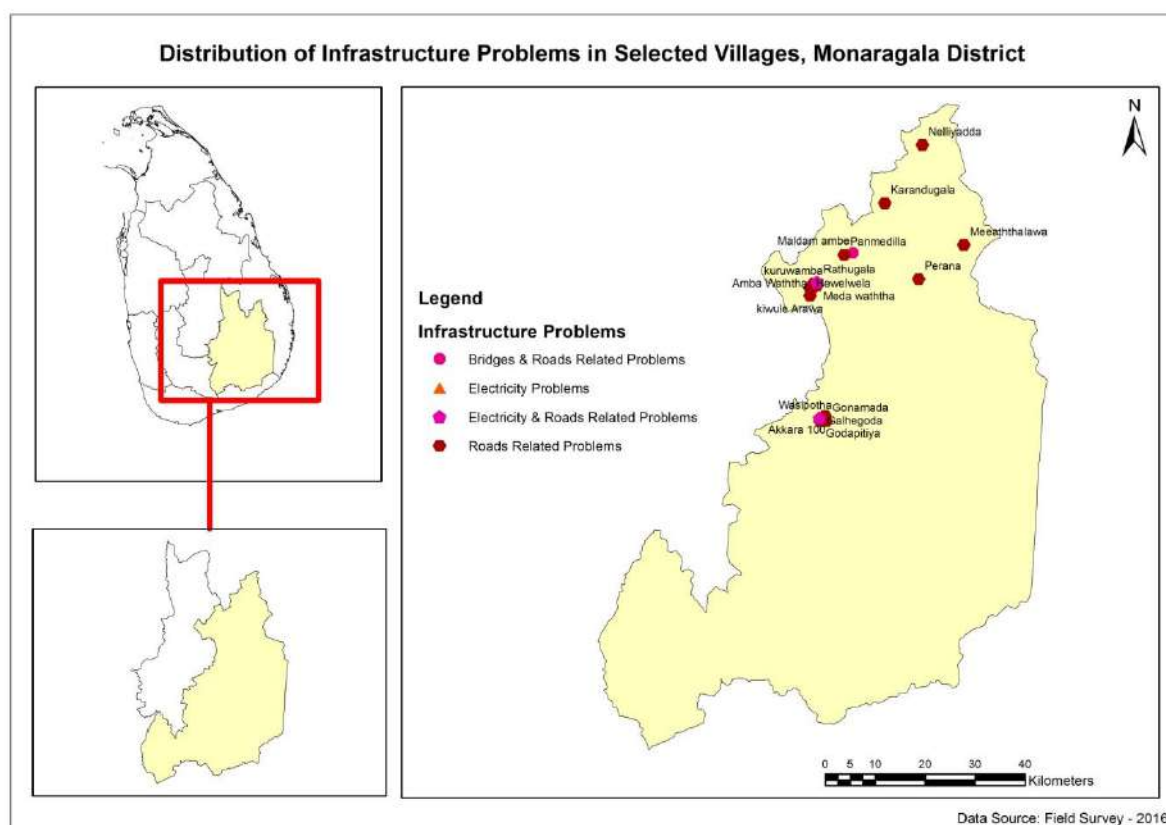


Figure 140 - Distribution of Issues related to Infrastructure in the Selected Villages of the Monaragala District

When water issues are concerned, around 68% indicated that they are suffering due to the unavailability of clean drinking water whereas around 27% mentioned that water is not sufficient for agricultural activities. For instance, people in Karandugala, 7 Kanuwa, have to travel about one and a half kilometers during the dry season to collect water and people in Unagolla find it difficult to obtain water for agricultural activities. In addition, people in Rathugala, Nellyyadda, Aralugasmada, Perana, etc. also face water related issues. (Please refer to Figure 141).

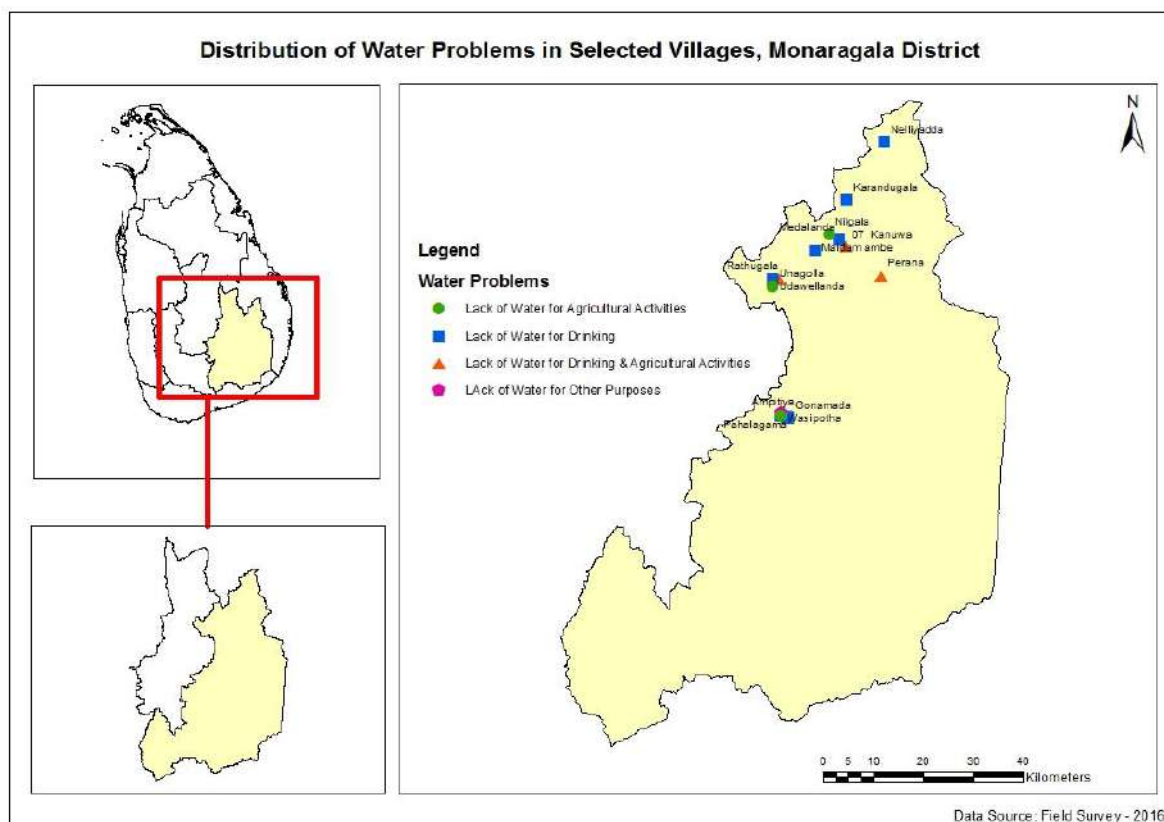


Figure 141 - Distribution of Issues related to Water in the Selected Villages of the Monaragala District

In terms of housing problems, respondents indicated that homelessness or having to live in temporary houses is the main issue. This is critical in Rathugala, Wasipotha and Perana villages. For instance, in Wasipotha, most of the houses are clay houses only with one small room. Furthermore, in Rathugala where Veddah people (Sri Lankan aboriginals) live, people are experiencing housing issues due to the poor condition of the existing houses. In addition, people in this village do not have toilet facilities and electricity facilities.

Economic problems are yet another concern for the population in the visited areas in the Monaragala district. Of the respondents who highlighted this issue, around 47% who live in Rathugala mentioned that their lives are affected due to low income as they are not even allowed to go to forests for their requirements, whereas around 18% in areas such as Wasipotha, Aralugasmada, and Kuruwamba stated that unemployment has also become a serious issue. In addition, respondents also stated that lack of accessibility to raw materials, insufficiency of the subsidies provided, and lack of marketing opportunities for their products at village level are other concerns in terms of economic issues. (Please refer to Figure 142).

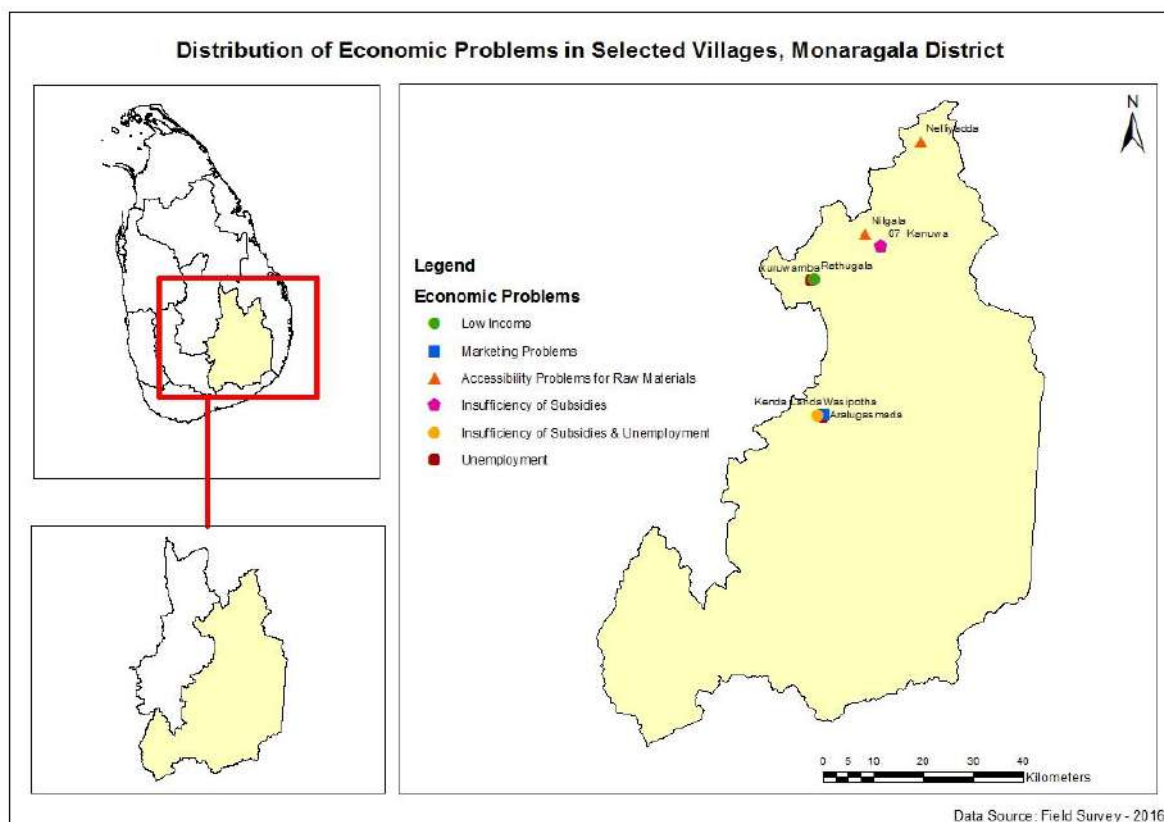


Figure 142 - Distribution of Issues related to Economy in the Selected Villages of the Monaragala District

In terms of land ownership, around 73% of the respondents highlighted that landlessness has become a severe problem in areas namely, Wasipotha, Karandugala, Medalandu, and Rathugala whereas around 27% of the respondents from areas such as Perana, Bulupitiya and 8 Kanuwa, indicated that they have problems in their title deeds.

When human-animal conflicts are considered, the majority of the respondents stated that in areas such as Wasipotha, Aralugasmada, Kendalanda and Galhegoda, cultivations are destroyed by the monkeys. In addition, in the Perana area human-elephant conflicts have been reported.

Respondents also highlighted that issues related to schools have affected the education of their children negatively. Of the respondents who discussed this issue, 50% of the respondents mentioned that due to the unavailability of pre-schools in Karandugala and Unagolla, children are facing greater difficulties whereas lack of facilities and teachers in schools were also considered as issues affecting the education in several areas such as Pitakumbura and Milenigoda.

12. Sabaragamuwa Province

The Sabaragamuwa province is divided into two districts namely, Ratnapura and Kegalle with a total population of 1, 928, 655 (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). The majority of the population in Sabaragamuwa lives in the rural sector (85.9%). The urban population in the Sabaragamuwa province is 6% and the population living in the estate sector is 8.1%. In terms of ethnicity, the majority or 86.4% of the population in Sabaragamuwa province or the majority is Sinhalese. There are also Tamils (9.2%), Sri Lankan Moors (4.3%) and other ethnic groups (0.1%) living in this province.

If the education level is considered, 15.7% has passed the G.C.E. Ordinary Level or obtained an equivalent qualification, 11.3% has passed the G.C.E. Advanced Level or obtained an equivalent qualification, and 1.9% have obtained a degree or a higher qualification (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). The literacy rate of the population in the Sabaragamuwa province is 94.8% and their computer literacy rate is 19.9%.

The percentage of economically active population aged 15 years and above in the Sabaragamuwa province is 54% (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). Of the employed population, 44.1% work as private sector employees, 33.3% work as own account workers, 12.7% work as government employees, 5.2% work as unpaid family workers and a small percentage of the employed population works as semi government employees and employers.

Apart from the above demographic characteristics, the social, economic and environmental issues in the Sabaragamuwa province can be illustrated as follows. (Please refer to Figure 143).

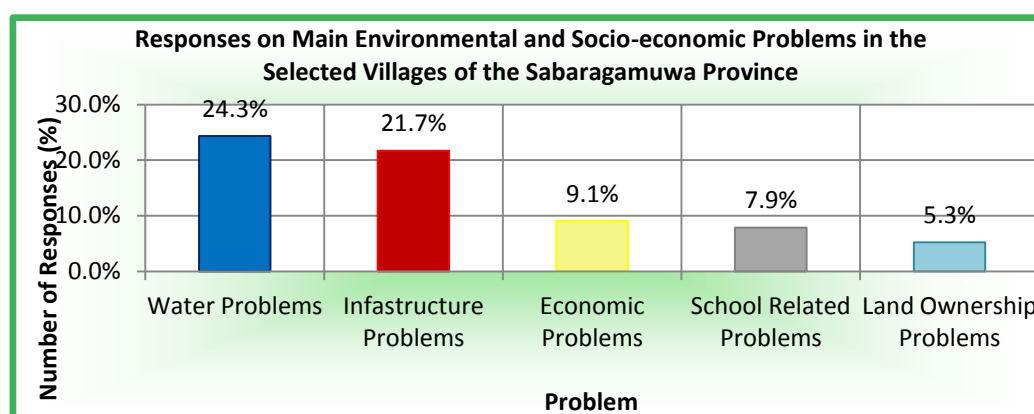


Figure 143 - Responses on Main Environmental and Socio-economic Problems in the Selected Villages of the Sabaragamuwa Province

The major issue which was evident in the visited villages in the Sabaragamuwa province is the water problem. Specially in both the Rathnapura and Kegalle districts, the respondents from the visited villages indicated that they are suffering due to unavailability of drinking water. (Please refer to Figure 144).

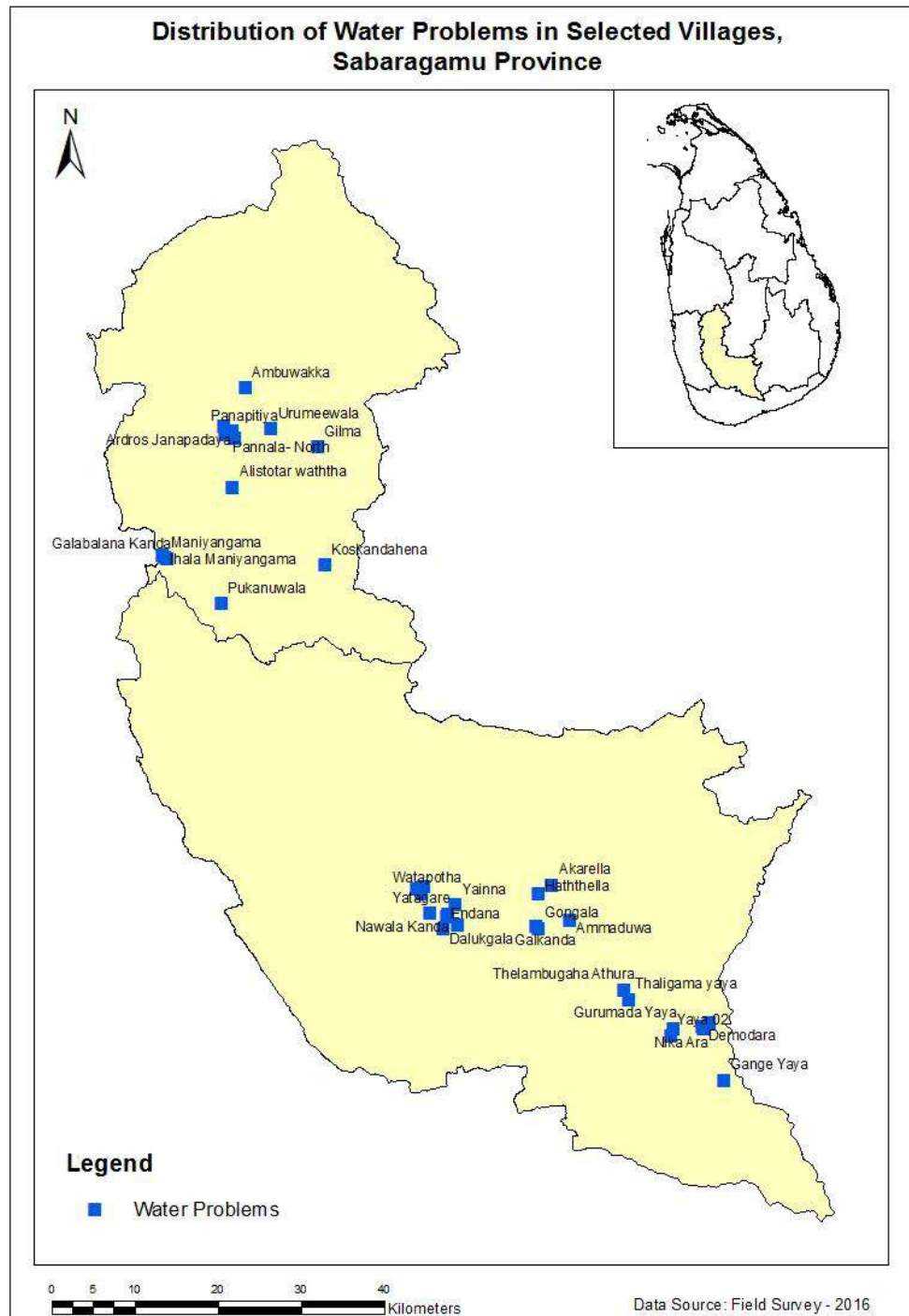


Figure 144 - Distribution of Issues related to Water in the Selected Villages of the Sabaragamuwa Province

The second major problem evident in the Sabaragamuwa province is infrastructure related issues. Under this aspect, the majority of the respondents in both the districts highlighted the fact that the condition of the road network system in the visited areas is very poor. The other common infrastructure issues identified in the visited villages are electricity related issues and problems that occur due to the poor conditions of the bridges in several villages namely Kithulketiya, Peethawa and Koskadahena. (Please refer to Figure 145).

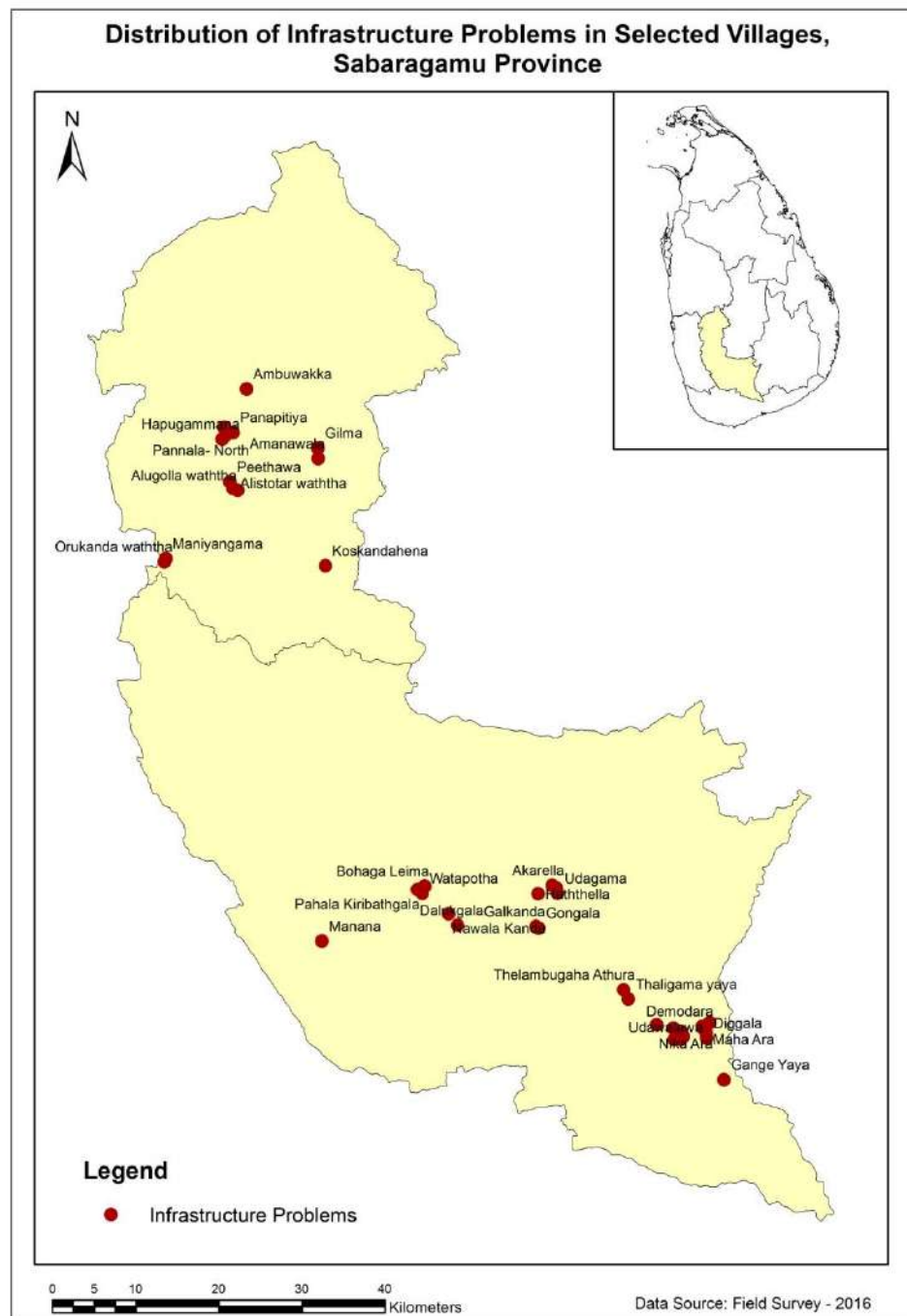


Figure 145 - Distribution of Issues related to Infrastructure in the Selected Villages of the Sabaragamuwa Province

Thirdly, economic problems can be considered as negatively affecting the population in the visited villages in the Sabaragamuwa province. However, in the visited villages in the Rathnapura district, the most concerned issue of the people is unemployment whereas in Badulla, the most concerned issue of the people is low income. Apart from the above, other common economic issues prevalent in the visited areas in the Sabaragamuwa province are, insufficiency of subsidies provided, lack of marketing opportunities at village levels to sell products and lack of accessibility to raw materials. (Please refer to Figure 146).

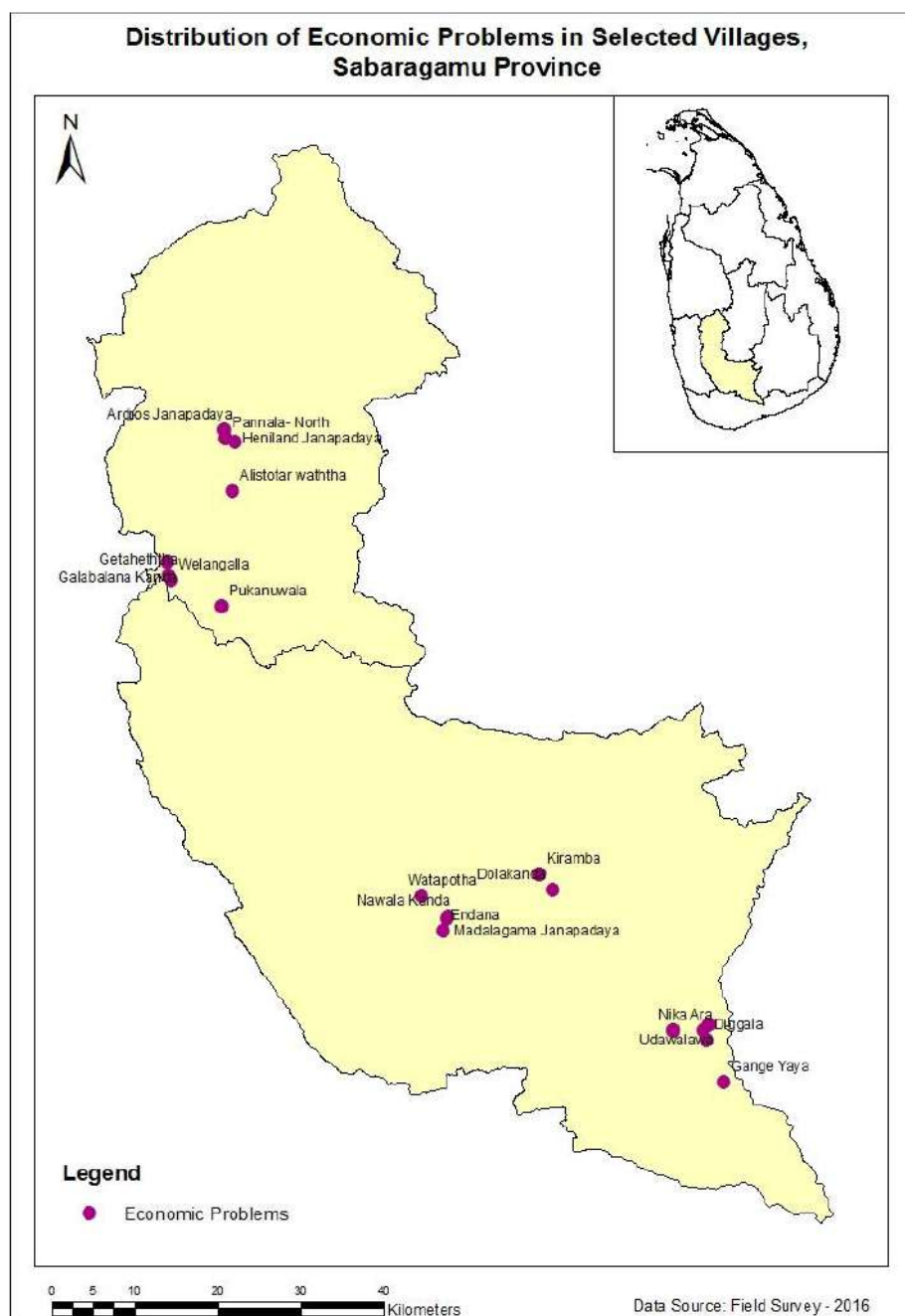


Figure 146 - Distribution of Issues related to Economy in the Selected Villages of the Sabaragamuwa Province

Another prominent issue in the Sabaragamuwa province is the issue related to schools. Under this aspect, the main issues in the visited villages in the Kegalle district are, lack of pre-schools and lack of facilities and school teachers at schools. In the Rathnapura district, the major concerns of the visited areas under this are, lack of facilities and school teachers, lack of facilities in Dhamma schools and the unavailability of schools in certain areas.

In terms of land ownership problems, it was identified that the visited villages in the Rathnapura district face more land ownership issues than the visited villages in the Kegalle district. In fact, it is evident that people in the visited areas of Rathnapura are suffering due to both issues in title deeds and homelessness.

12.1. Ratnapura District

The land area of the Ratnapura district is 3275 km² (Department of Census and Statistics, 2015) with a total population of 1, 088, 007 (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). If the population distribution of Ratnapura is considered by sector, 81.7% or the majority lives in the rural sector, 9.1% lives in the urban sector and 9.2% lives in the estate sector. In terms of ethnicity, the majority of the population are Sinhalese (87.1%) whereas Tamils (10.7%), Sri Lankan Moors (2.1%) and people from other ethnic groups (0.1%) also live in this district.

If the education level of the population in Ratnapura is considered, its education status is lower than that of Kegalle. For instance, the percentage of population who have passed the G.C.E. Ordinary Level or obtained an equivalent qualification is 14.3, the percentage of population that has passed the G.C.E. Advanced Level or obtained an equivalent qualification is 10.1 and the percentage of the population who has obtained a degree or a higher qualification is 1.7 The literacy rate of the population is 93.9% and the computer literacy is 18.4%. (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012).

The percentage of the economically active population in the Ratnapura district is 55.8% (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). Of the employed population, 42.1% work as private sector employees, 36.5% work as own account workers, 10.5% work as government employees, 6.4% work as unpaid family workers, and a small percentage of the population works as semi government workers and employers.

The social, environmental and economic issues in the Ratnapura district can be illustrated as follows. (Please refer to Figure 147).

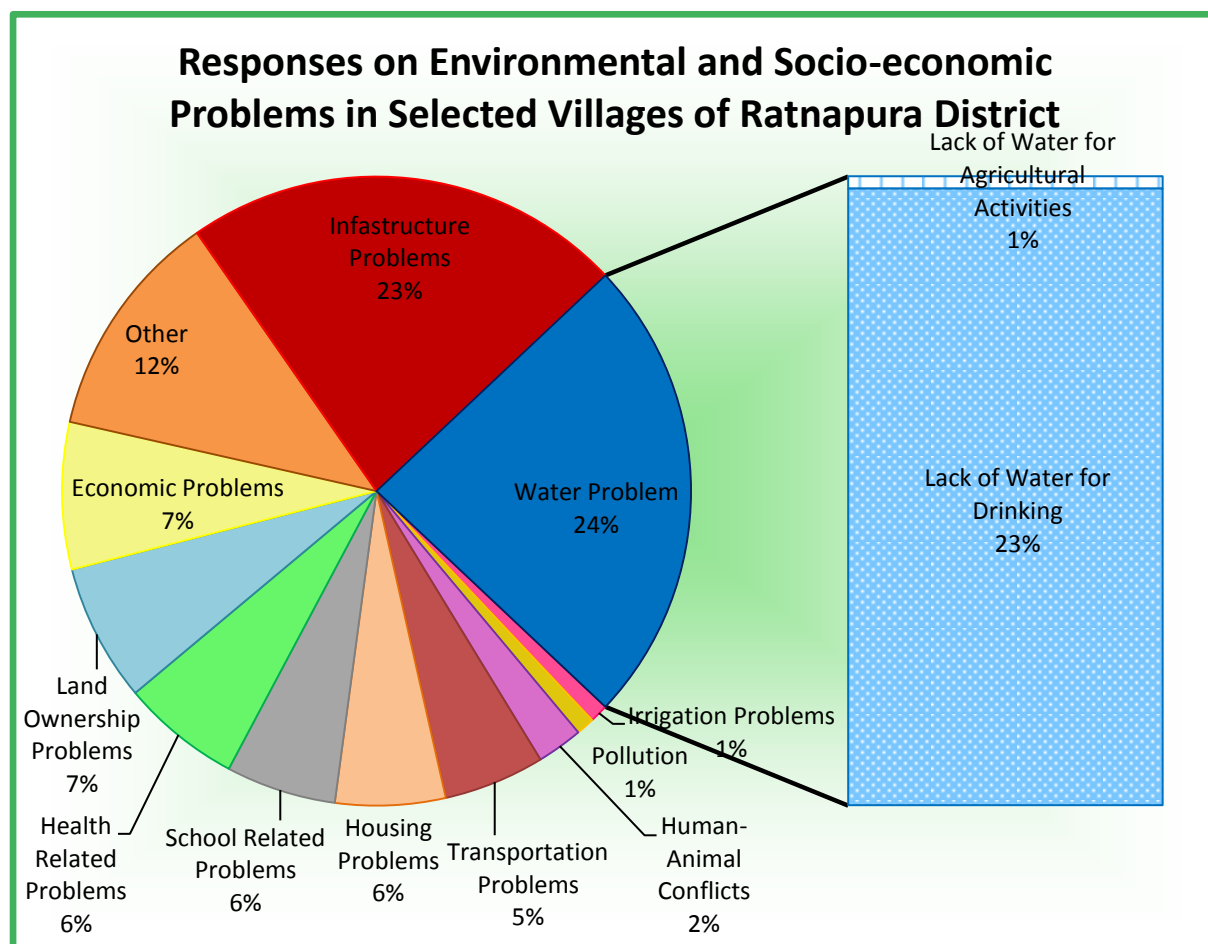


Figure 147 - Responses on Environmental and Socio-economic Problems in the Selected Villages of the Ratnapura District

As the above graph indicates, the main issue in the visited villages in the Ratnapura district is the water issue. Of the respondents who discussed this issue, 98% stated that they face difficulties in obtaining drinking water, especially in areas such as, Watapotha, Endana, Gurumadayaya, Udawalawa, Nika Aara, Galkanda, Gongala, Akarella, etc. Apart from that, lack of water for agricultural activities was also considered as affecting the cultivations. (Please refer to 148).

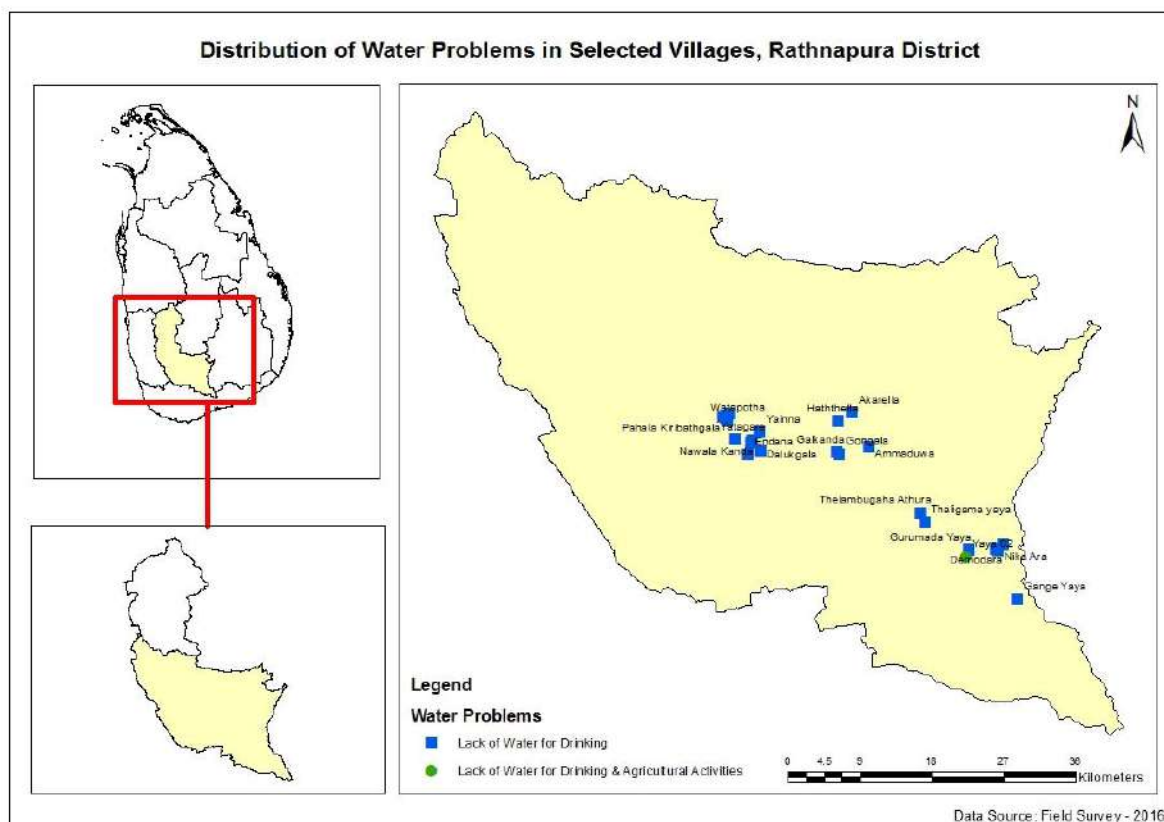


Figure 148 - Distribution of Issues related to Water in the Selected Villages of the Rathnapura District

The second burning issue in the visited areas is infrastructure issues. Of the respondents who highlighted this aspect, 89.6% mentioned that poor condition of the roads has affected the lives of the people living in villages such as Gurumadayaya, Panahaduwa, Thalakella, Galkanda, Gange Yaya, Pahala Kiribathgala, etc. Around 8.3% also mentioned that unavailability of electricity has made their lives difficult particularly in areas such as Demodara and Gange Yaya. Furthermore, people in Ayagama face difficulties as they are unable to go to Kalutara in order to purchase their requirements due to the presence of a risky suspension bridge. The villagers mention that if this bridge can be replaced with a concrete bridge on which vehicles can travel, many of their problems would be solved. (Please refer to Figure 149).

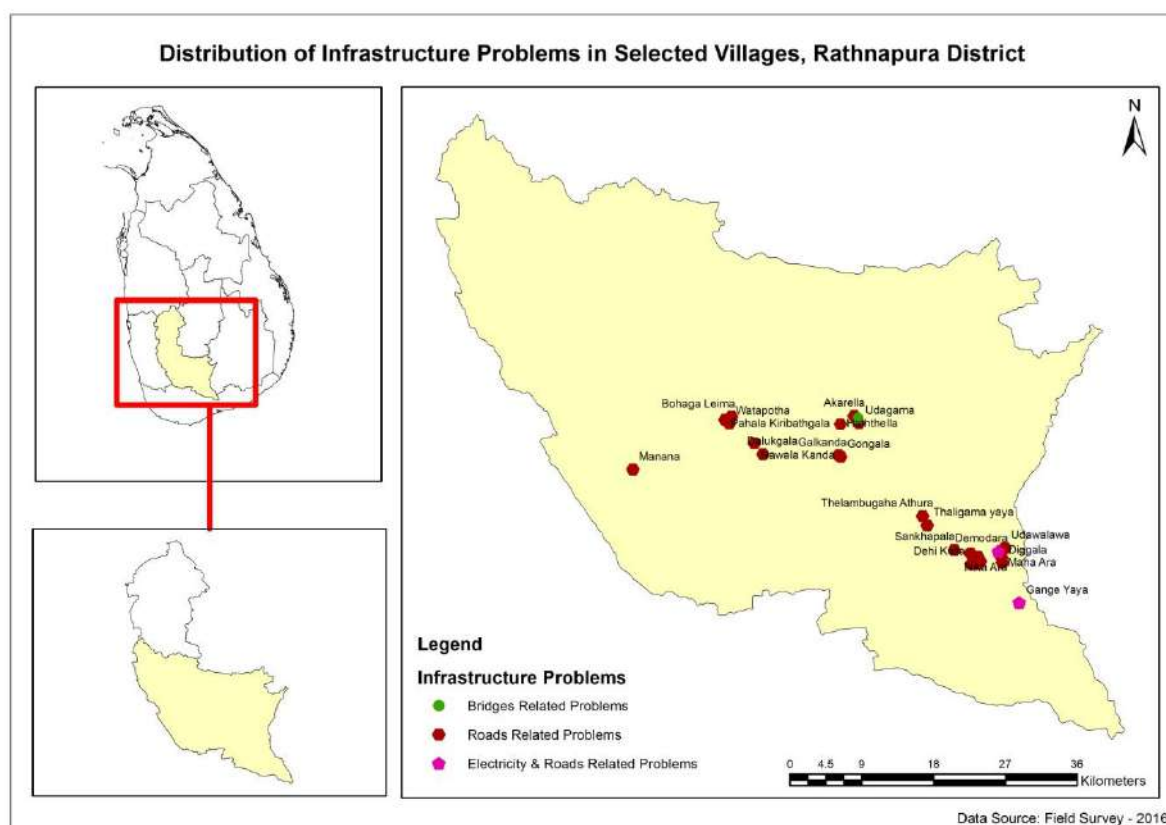


Figure 149 - Distribution of Issues related to Infrastructure in the Selected Villages of the Rathnapura District

In terms of economic problems, most of the respondents (37.5%) in the visited villages namely, Watapotha, Endana, Madalagama Janapadaya, Gurumadayaya, Maha Aara, and Diggala have mentioned that unemployment has become a serious issue whereas 31.3% in Nawala Kanda, Madalagama Janapadaya, Gurumadayaya, Udawalawa, and Gange Yaya have indicated that their livelihoods are affected due to lack of accessibility to raw materials. Furthermore, another 25% in Nawala Kanda, Madalagama Janapadaya, Kiramba and Dolakanda have pointed out that the unavailability of a proper market at village level has affected their livelihoods. (Please refer to Figure 150).

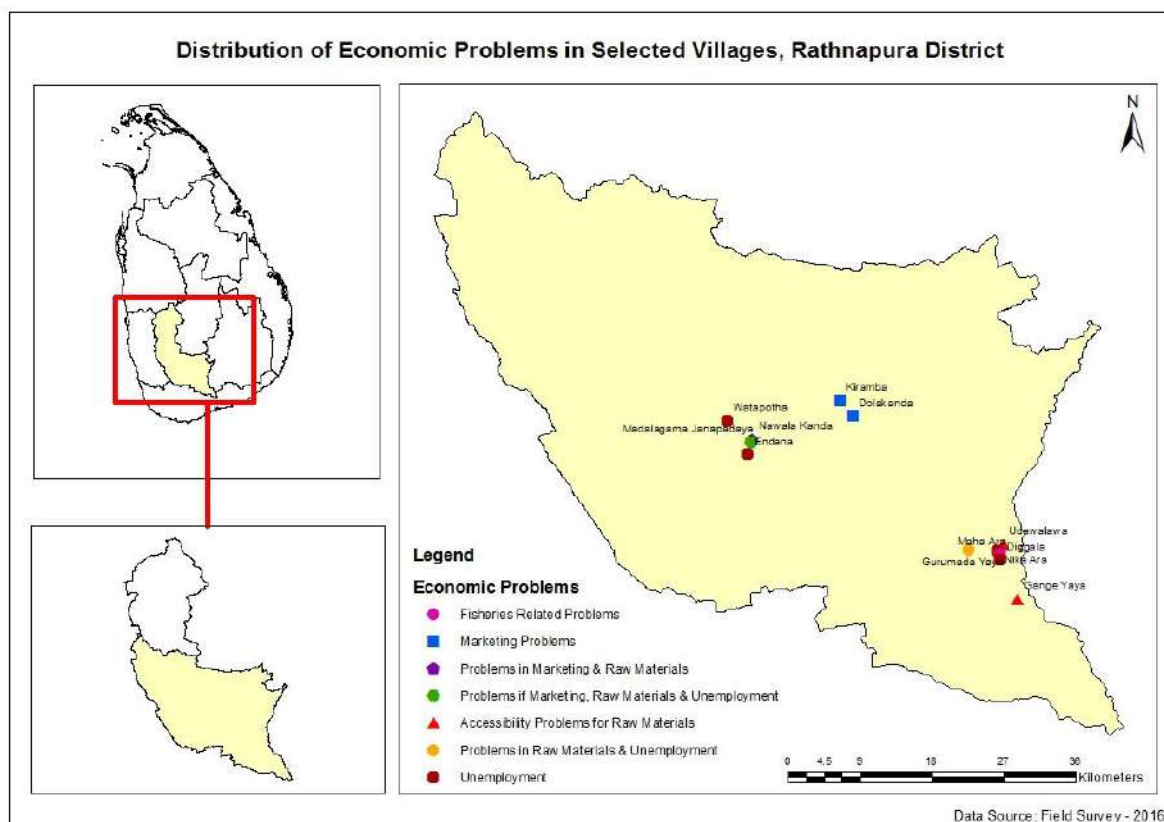


Figure 150 - Distribution of Issues related to Economy in the Selected Villages of the Rathnapura District

Land ownership issues are yet another common issue affecting several villages in the Rathnapura district. In fact, of the respondents who highlighted this matter, around 93% in Udawalawa and Diggala stated that they have problems regarding their title deeds which create issues regarding the ownership.

When health related issues are taken into consideration, of the respondents who discussed this matter, 46.2% highlighted that the unavailability in hospitals at several villages such as Yatagara, Nika Aara, Weligepola, Kiramba and Pahala Kiribathgala, has created great difficulties for the patients. The other issue that was discussed under this aspect is lack of facilities and doctors in the existing hospitals in Watapotha, Panahaduwa, Udawalawa, Haththella, Thaligamayaya, and Bogaha Leima to treat patients properly.

Under issues related to schools, lack of schools in the visited villages in Rathnapura was considered as one of the main issues by 50% of the respondents who presented ideas in this regard. The villages in which this problem is prominent are Watapotha, Galkanda, Poranuwa and Maduwanwela Janapadaya. In addition, in some schools in Panahaduwa, Haththella and

Gange Yaya, there is a lack of facilities as well as a lack of teachers, hindering the education of children.

In terms of housing related issues, 83.3% of the respondents highlighted that lack of facilities in their houses are the main issue whereas 16.7% particularly from the Endana area mentioned homelessness as another issue that affects them. Those who mentioned lack of housing facilities are from areas such as Watapotha, Yatagara, Endana, Udawalawa, Poranuwa, and Bogama Leima.

Malfunctioning of the public transportation system is another issue pointed out by the people from several villages in Ratnapura district. A few examples for the villages suffering due to this issue are, Kolambewa, Watapatha, Manana, Panahaduwa and Yatagara.

Human-animal conflicts have also affected the lives of the people in several areas of Ratnapura district such as Gurumadayaya, Maha Aara and Diggala . Under this, the respondents indicated that due to elephants storming the villages, their cultivations as well as their lives are in danger.

12.2. Kegalle District

The land area of the Kegalle district is 1693 km² (Department of Census and Statistics, 2015) with a total population of 840, 648 (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). The majority of the population in Kegalle lives in the rural sector (91.3%) and the population living in the estate sector (6.8%) in Kegalle is higher than that of the population living in the urban sector (1.9%). The majority of the population in Kegalle are Sinhalese (85.5%) while Tamils (7.3%), Sri Lankan Moors (7.1%), people from other ethnic groups (0.1%) also live in this district.

The education status of the population in the Kegalle district is better than that of Ratnapura. For example, 17.3% of the population has passed the G.C.E. Ordinary Level or obtained an equivalent qualification, 12.8% have passed the G.C.E. Advanced Level or obtained an equivalent qualification and 2.3% has obtained a degree or a higher qualification (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). The literacy rate of the population in the Kegalle district is 96% while the computer literacy rate is 21.9%.

The percentage of economically active population in Kegalle is 51.6% and it is lower than that of Ratnapura (Department of Census and Statistics, 2012). Of the employed population in Kegalle, 46.9% work as private sector employees, 28.9% work as own account workers, 15.9% work as government employees, 3.4% work as unpaid family workers and a small percentage of the population works as semi government employees and employers.

While the demographic characteristics of Kegalle can be mentioned as above, the social, economic and environmental issues of the visited villages in Kegalle can be illustrated as follows. (Please refer to Figure 151).

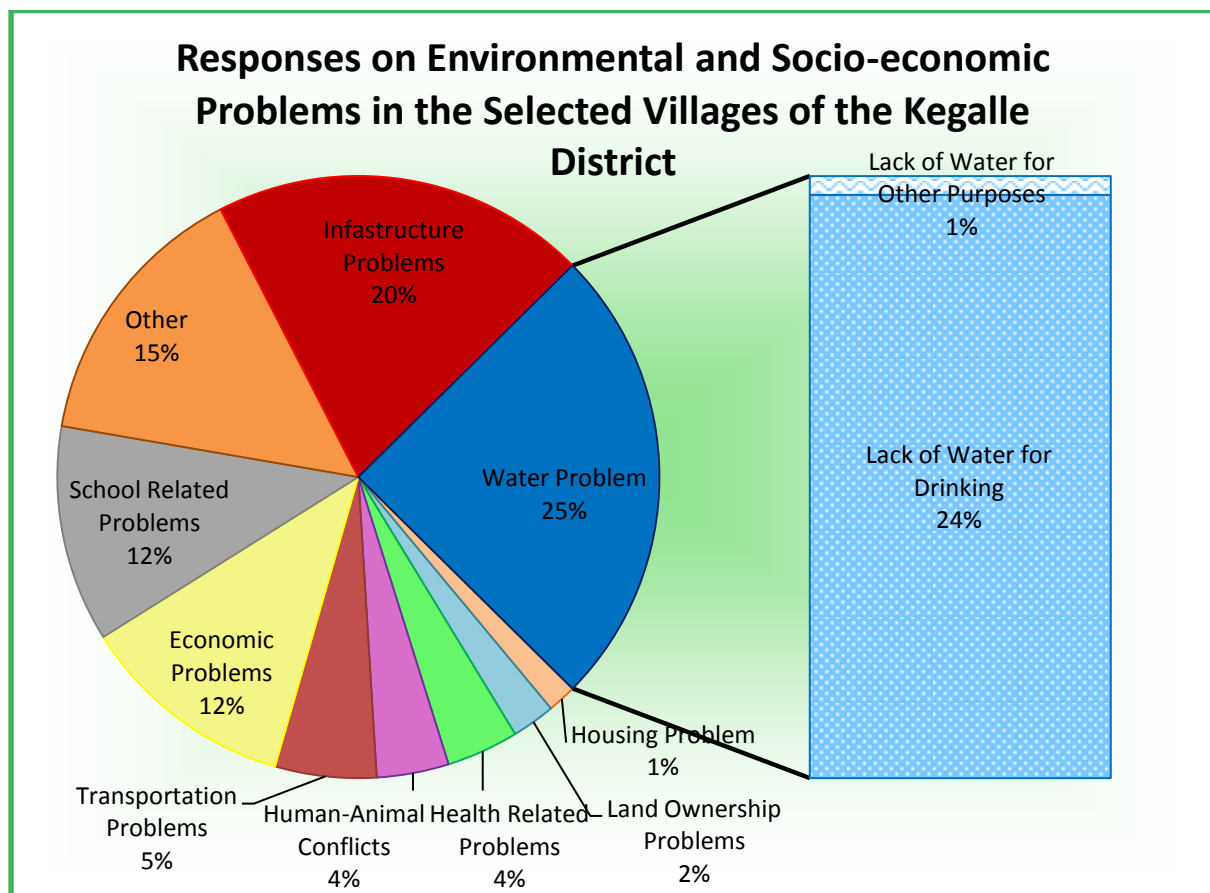


Figure 151 - Responses on Environmental and Socio-economic Problems in the Selected Villages of the Kegalle District

According to the above graph, the major issue in the visited villages in the Kegalle district is water related problems. Of the respondents who mentioned this issue, around 97% indicated that they are facing hardship due to the unavailability of clean drinking water. This issue is prominent in areas such as, Maniyangama, Ardros Janapadaya, Alistotar Watte,

Heniland Janapadaya, Pannala-North, Ambuwakka, Urumiwala, etc. (Please refer to Figure 152).

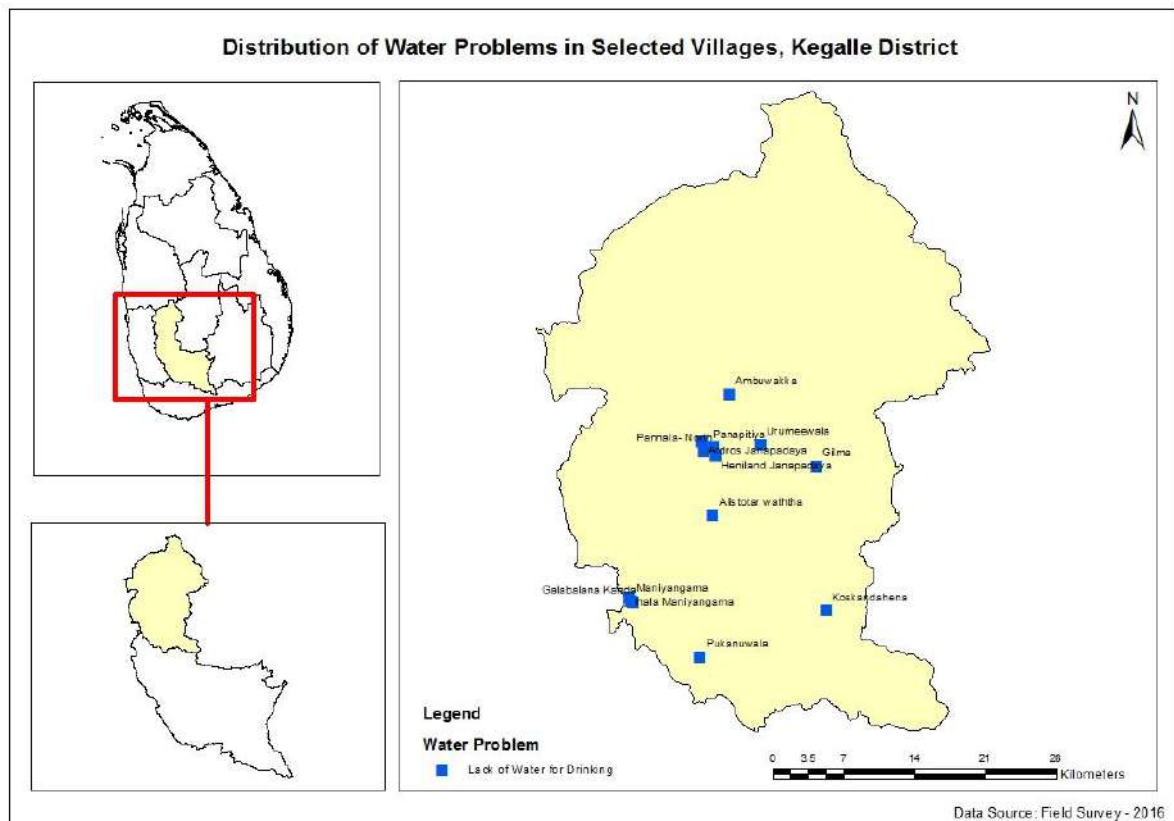


Figure 152 - Distribution of Issues related to Water in the Selected Villages of the Kegalle District

The second major issue in the visited villages in Kegalle is the infrastructure related issues. In fact, of the respondents who highlighted this matter, around 85% have had negative experiences due to the poor condition of the roads, particularly in areas such as Maniyagama, Peethawa, Ardros Janapadaya, Ambuwakka, Kosakadahena, Hapugammana, etc. Around 15% of respondents also indicated that they have difficulties in travelling due to damaged bridges in the areas namely, Koskadahena and Peethawa. (Please refer to Figure 153).

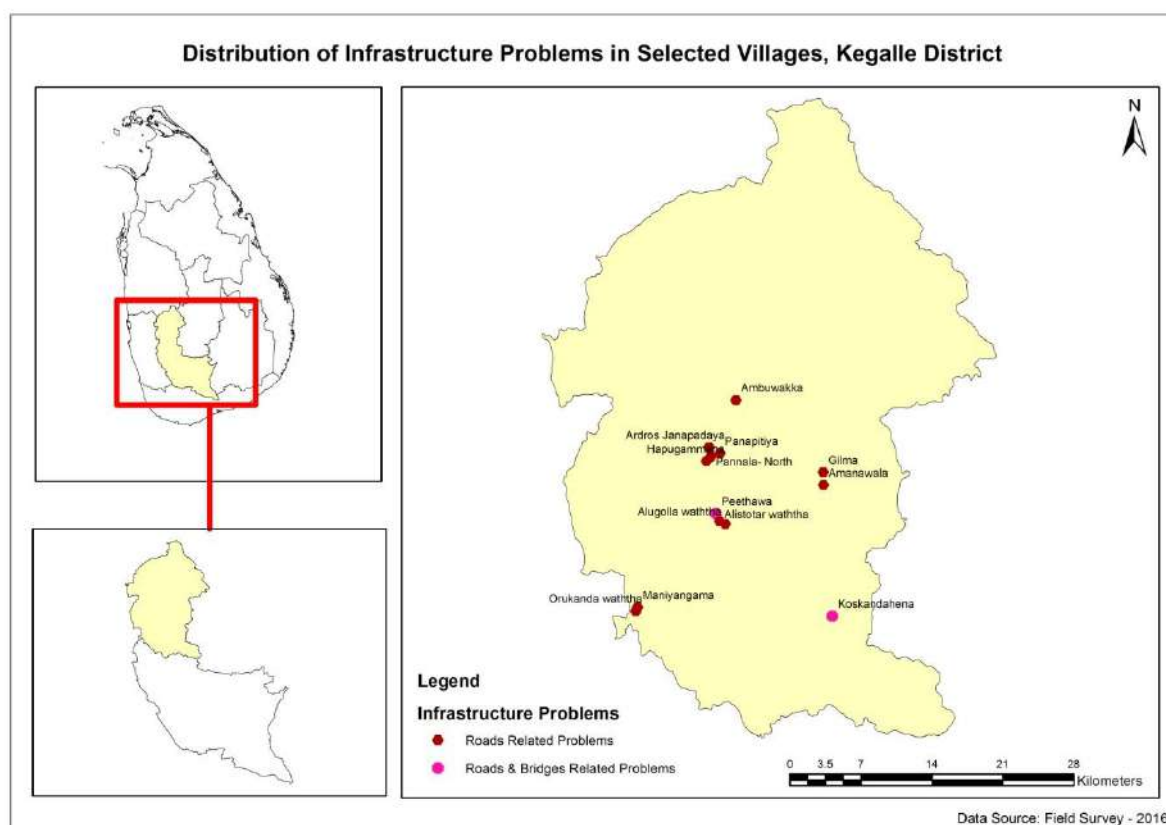


Figure 153 - Distribution of Issues related to Infrastructure in the Selected Villages of the Kegalle District

The respondents also pointed out issues related to schools as affecting the education of their children negatively. In fact, around 67% of respondents highlighted that facilities available in village level schools in areas such as Pahala Maniyangama, Galabalana Kanda, Urumiwala, Koskadahena, and Hathagala are limited, while 20% indicated that the number of teachers in the schools in areas such as Pahala Maniyangama, Alugolla Watte, and Hathagala are not sufficient. Lack of pre-schools were also highlighted as an issue affecting several areas like Peethawa and Alistotar Watte.

When economic issues are taken into consideration, 40% of respondents in areas such as Ardros Janapadaya, Alistotar Watte and Heniland Janapadaya, indicated that they are suffering due to low income whereas around 33% of respondents in Pannala-North mentioned that due to the insufficiency of subsidies, their economic conditions are affected. Lack of marketing opportunities for products at village level was also perceived by the respondents as affecting the economy. In some areas like Getaheththa, lack of accessibility to raw materials was also considered as an issue which negatively affects the economy. (Please refer to Figure 154).

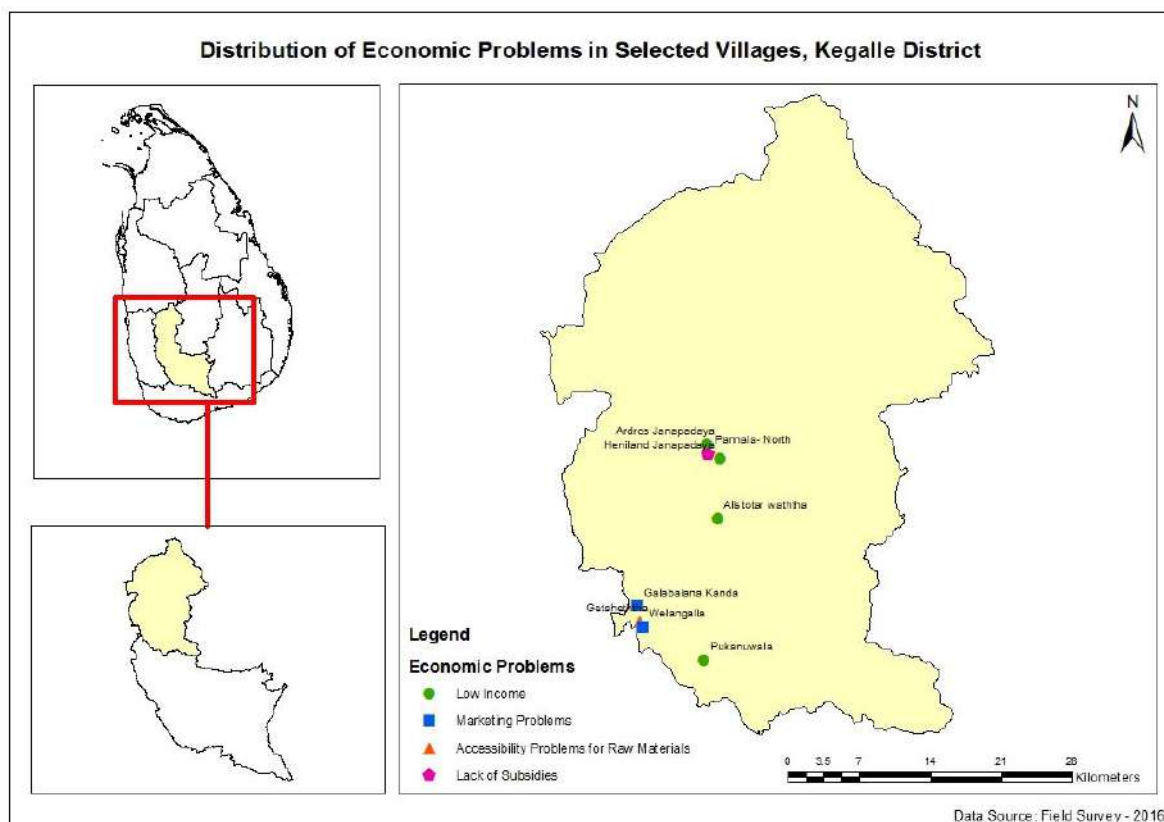


Figure 154 - Distribution of Issues related to Economy in the Selected Villages of the Kegalle District

The major transportation issue experienced by respondents from the visited villages was the unavailability of a public transport system. In fact, this issue is prominent in areas such as Amanawala, Peethawa, Pannala-North and Galabalana Kanda.

When considering human-animal conflicts, the respondents reported that their crops are destroyed severely by monkeys, especially in areas such as Amanawala, Ardro Janapadaya and Heniland Janapadaya. Some incidents have been reported where wild boars also have destroyed cultivations in Amanawala.

Health related issues were another concern of the population living in the visited areas in the Kegalle district. However, the major consideration of the respondents was the unavailability of hospitals in certain rural areas such as Peethawa, Pannala North, Ardro Janapadaya and Galabalana Kanda. In addition, a limited number of doctors working in the hospitals was also considered as a negative aspect that affects the health of patients by the respondents from Alugolla Watte.

13. Conclusion and Recommendations

13.1. Conclusion

This research was initiated by News 1st in collaboration with the University of Peradeniya to identify the common issues in remote areas in Sri Lanka. In order to gather information regarding the common socio-economic and environmental issues experienced by the rural communities, different data collection methods such as questionnaires, interviews and group discussions were utilized. One of the main issues identified through the research is the prevalence of problems related to infrastructure in many parts of the country. Even in terms of the infrastructure issues, the most common problems are the poor condition of the roads and bridges, and the unavailability of electricity.

When the water issue is considered, the majority of the villages are suffering due to the unavailability of drinking water, water pollution, the unavailability of water for agricultural purposes and the unavailability of water for day to day activities and other critical issues related to water.

In terms of health problems, it was identified that kidney diseases are prevalent in areas such as Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Vavuniya, Mannar, Puttalam, Ampara, Kurunegala and Trincomalee. Hence, it is evident that kidney diseases have become a major issue in the North Central province, Northern province, Eastern province, and North Western province.

Economic issues are also prevalent in many parts of Sri Lanka such as the North Central province, Central province, North Western province, Uva province and Northern province. The most common economic issues are low income, unemployment, insufficiency of subsidies, lack of accessibility to raw materials and marketing problems.

Issues related to schools are visible in many parts of the country including the Northern province, Eastern province, Sabaragamuwa province, North Western province, Uva province and Central province. Lack of schools in remote areas and lack of facilities and teachers in the existing schools are the most common concerns regarding education among the rural communities.

Transport issues are common in rural areas and especially due to the unavailability of public transport in the rural areas, children as well as adults face greater difficulties. This issue

is more prevalent in the villages of districts such as Jaffna, Mullaitivu, Vavuniya, Polonnaruwa, Kegalle, Batticaloa, Galle, Rathnapura and Kalutara.

The human-elephant conflict is yet another issue which is distributed in 16 districts of Sri Lanka. However, this issue is severe in districts such as Hambantota, Vavuniya, Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Trincomalee, Kurunegala, and Ampara.

Housing issues are highly prevalent in the Northern and the Eastern provinces. Under this, the most common issues are homelessness and lack of facilities in the existing houses. Similarly, problems in the land ownership affect the condition of the house people live in. In fact, when people are uncertain about the ownership of the land they live in, they tend to live with minimum housing facilities so that they would not lose much if they are to leave the houses. Such Land related issues are prevalent in areas such as Jaffna, Mannar, Ampara, Batticaloa, and Monaragala.

Environmental pollution is another issue which was identified as existing in the visited rural areas. Thus, water pollution and problems related to solid waste management can be considered as issues to which special attention should be paid under this aspect. Especially, due to the unawareness and lack of concern of the communities, people themselves have created an environment which is hazardous not only to human beings but also to other living species.

In addition, when considering the impacts of the civil war which came to an end in 2009, it was evident that people in the past war affected areas are still suffering due to housing issues, infrastructure issues and economic issues.

In conclusion, it is vital to note that even though many rural development projects were implemented by various governments throughout the history, none of those programs have been successful in identifying the real needs of the rural community. Furthermore, the active participation of people in attending to the matters related to their community is also significant for the smooth functioning of any development project. Therefore, an attitudinal change among people should also be fostered to address the gaps in development. It is only then, Sri Lanka would be able to achieve balanced as well as sustainable development.

13.2. Recommendations

After carefully analyzing the issues confronted by the people in the selected villages of Sri Lanka, the following recommendations can be made to enhance the overall well-being of the rural communities in Sri Lanka.

- Establishing village level counseling centers to provide guidance to villagers in all types of matters including livelihood development, financial management, self sufficiency, prioritizing the needs, etc. Steps can even be taken to train unemployed youth in the rural areas to work at the counseling centers as they have better awareness about the issues of the villagers.
- Developing a mechanism to improve the efficiency and the working capacities of government officials who have been appointed to solve the issues of the community such as Grama Niladhari, Samurdhi Officer, Agricultural Research Assistant, Economic Development Officer, Agriculture Inspector, etc.
- Developing a mechanism to utilize the resources in Sri Lanka to address the issues of people in a sustainable manner.
- Developing watershed management strategies and water management strategies to minimize the issues related to water.
- Developing a mechanism to obtain purified water from the existing water sources in order to address the drinking water issue.
- Strictly implementing the soil conservation act across the country in order to minimize the damages done to the soil through human activities.
- Renovating canals, anicuts, reservoirs, and tanks to get rid of sediments and reallocating water sources for agricultural purposes of the rural community.

- Developing the agricultural sector at all levels, starting from production to the market. Since the agricultural sector is exploited due to the interference of middlemen, a mechanism should be developed to provide maximum benefits to the producers.
- Developing a proper strategy to protect cultivations and the lives of the animals and human beings by conserving the natural habitats of the animals and building live fences to prevent elephants coming into the villages.
- Encouraging farmers to use organic fertilizers as much as possible.
- Encouraging people's participation in the rural development activities.
- Initiating a project to develop all the damaged roads and bridges in the rural areas.
- Developing a proper mechanism to hand over land ownership to people living in temporary houses.
- Initiating solid waste management strategies at the village level to minimize harmful environmental impacts, and to establish collection centers for recyclable items.
- Developing disaster mitigation and prevention plans, and evacuating people from high risk areas and relocating them to safe areas utilizing the information gathered through previous research on natural disasters in Sri Lanka.
- Establishing a mechanism to improve coordination between the Government and the Non Government Organizations to find out the gaps in development.
- Establishing rural level hospitals and clinics depending on the requirements of the communities.
- Improving public transport facilities at the village level in collaboration with both the public and private transport sectors.
- Establishing schools where necessary so that children can at least obtain primary education in schools which are located closer to their homes.

- Developing small power plants using renewable energy sources available at the village level to address electricity related issues.
- Establishing a proper mechanism to provide housing facilities for low income families.
- Identifying the resources of each village and initiating economic activities through which those resources can be sustainably utilized.

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