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**Women's role in rural development:
A study based on a set of selected villages**

Ruwangi Ruwanpaba Weeraratne, BSc.(Hon).

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Abstract

This study focuses on the women's contribution towards rural economy. Women's domestic work has not been recognized and not calculated and therefore not included in the national statistics. In this study an effort has been made to draw attention to give economic value to women's invisible contribution to the rural economy. The objective of this study is to examine, how far women's contribution important to the well being of the family and the level of children's education. The study focused on women who participate in informal sector of the economy. This sector is the least documented area of the national economy. The study was conducted in Galle , Hikkaduwa and Ambalangoda AGA divisions of Galle district in Southern province of Sri Lanka. This study highlights the impact of women's contribution on children's education and living standards of the family. The data presented in this study has been collected by using quantitative research techniques. The research identifies the women's contribution to the household economy and welfare and thereby to the rural economy. And the conclusion arrived at were that when women's contribution to the family is high children's education attainment is high and living standard of the family is high. Hence women are seen to perform a significant role in their family economy.

Key words: Rural economy, rural women, women's role, unpaid work, household activity.