

## Opportunities and obstacles for the community development

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Very organized strong village societies can be seen in every part of Sri Lanka. Today these village societies involve in various community development activities such as shramadana campaigns, water and sanitation projects, enterprise developments, in urban and rural level. These centers also provide the opportunity for the village people to get organized themselves to reach a common goal and to provide facilities for pre school education, nutrition, health, legal aid, savings schemes. But there are various obstacles that they have to face because of certain administrative requirements, such as the requirement of a one year diploma to conduct a pre school. Some societies have the technical knowledge and strength to make quality roads.

The main objectives of this research was to identify the opportunities and the obstacles which affect the community development of the village societies when the villagers are involved in various community development activities. Secondly to make the society aware of the above facts and to make them understand the opportunities and obstacles as well as where their limits arise for this kind of remarkable work with special reference to the twelve Sarvodaya Shramadana Societies in the districts of Colombo and Kalutara. It is also expected that the results of this research would make the policy makers aware to be in touch with the grass root level in making decisions at national level, which would be an effective method of community Development.

The methodology which would be adopted is mainly based on quantitative data through a questionnaire and qualitative data collected by an interview method of focus group discussions with five to fifteen members in the Sarvodaya Shramadana Societies in the village.

**Key words:** Community development, Obstacles, Opportunities, Sarvodaya Shramadana Societies, Limits

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