

A Sociological Study of Factors that have caused Suicide in a Rural Area (Based on 'Dellawa' Village in Galle District)

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Committing suicide can be considered a response to one's perception's such as inability to fulfil needs, loss of hope, change of unexpected conditions encountered in life, disputes, challenges and threats. When one faces such disappointment, he or she loses his or her self confidence and as a result of this helplessness, tries to escape from life. This study attempts to understand the sociological reasons for committing suicide in Sri Lanka through a case study of a village "Dellawa" in the Neluwa Divisional Secretariat in Galle District. In 2005/2006, Dellawa showed the highest rate of suicide in Sri Lanka.

The case study method and statistical method were used and interviews were primarily used to collect data. Data was also collected through key informant discussions and focused group discussions.

Factors for suicide were low-level of education, environmental factors, solitude and modernization of society. It was evident that, although mental conditions like loss of hope and disappointment contributed to committing suicide, many other social factors were also involved. It appears that it is essential to strengthen the network of social relationships.

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