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The Fourth Issue of the Poverty Portal Newsletter

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The Poverty Portal is an interactive resource platform for professionals, academics, students and all interested parties, which aims to encourage better policy-making practices and awareness on poverty in Sri Lanka through information collation and dissemination.

You can visit the site, upload resources and engage in a debate on poverty issues by clicking on www.povertyportal.lk

New Resources

The following resources are now available in the Poverty Portal Library:

- Youth, Peace and Sustainable Development by S.T. Hettige and Markus Mayer
- Improving Policy and Practice: Lessons learnt from resettlement experiences by| Mr. B.A Jayananda, and Ms. Farzana Haniffa
- Surprises in Poverty Indicators: New poverty statistics/indicators based on Household Income and Expenditure Survey by D. B. P. Suranjana Vidyaratne

Maps and Stats Library

- Head Count Index by District over time 1990/90, 1995/96, 2002, 2006/2007
- Unemployment rate for Sabaragamuwa Province 1999-2007
- Poverty headcount index trends 1990/91 - 2006/07 for Sabaragamuwa Province

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Poverty Portal Features: Resource Library

The Resource Library is one of the main components of the Poverty Portal. It contains a database of resources related to Poverty published by government and non-government organisations and universities in Sri Lanka.

There are currently 713 resources available in the Resource Library, which range from research papers, unpublished reports, student theses to statistical data. All resources contain abstracts in Sinhala, Tamil and English. They are searchable by title, author, publisher, and keyword. The advanced search function allows for a more comprehensive search of the database.

Members can download softcopies (pdf versions) of the resources, or, where unavailable, the bibliographic information will direct the member to the location of the hard copy of the resource. Members can also upload their own poverty-related resources onto the Portal for viewing by the other members, as well as comment on any of the existing resources for additional information or clarification.

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Introducing the Poverty Portal Partner Organisations

In the next issue...

- ➔ Introducing Poverty Portal Partner Organisations
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Have a question about the Portal and/or your involvement?

Get in touch with us...

Via email:
info@povertyportal.lk

or contact us on:
Tel: +94 112-676955-8,
266 7967-8
Fax: +94 11267 6959

University of Peradeniya, Department of Economics and Statistics was among the departments transferred from Colombo to Peradeniya in 1952 at the inception of the Faculty of Arts of what was then the University of Ceylon. This was set up as the first fully-fledged Department of Economics in the country. It became the Department of Economics, Commerce & Statistics with the launch of the country's first Bachelor of Commerce (BCom) degree programme in the early 1960s. The commerce section was moved out to the new Department of Management Studies, which came into existence during the past decade. During the fifty seven years of its existence the Department has produced a large number of graduates and academics, established both in Sri Lanka and overseas.

Currently, the Department of Economics and Statistics (DES) is one of the most popular departments in the Faculty of Arts. In any given academic year, courses offered by the Department are taken by over 600 undergraduate students. Around 60 students follow the postgraduate level programmes of the Department.

A number of DES staff are engaged in research on poverty and poverty related issues. Also, many undergraduate and graduate students carry out their research in the area of poverty. The CEPA Poverty Portal provides easy access to data and literature on poverty and also provides an opportunity for researchers to disseminate their findings to a wider audience. Being a core member of the portal we are happy to share the findings of the studies carried out by our staff and students.

Recent News and Upcoming Events

Recent News

- The Second Network Partners' Meeting was held on the 15th of October, 2009 at the Centre for Poverty Analysis. The objectives of the meeting were to discuss the progress of the Portal and to obtain member feedback on the various amendments to the existing features, as well update the members on the progress of the outreach activities, and discuss MoU issues. The proceeding discussion revealed a number of interesting and useful ideas and suggestions which are in the process of being incorporated into the Portal.
- The Portal team conducted introductory sessions at the Puttalam NGO Consortium on the 13th of October and the University of Ruhuna Department of Economics and the Department of Agro-Economics on the 28th of October 2009.

Upcoming Events

- The 10th Annual Symposium on Poverty Research in Sri Lanka, organised by CEPA, will be held on the 4th and 5th of December 2009 at Taj Samudra Hotel. The thematic focus of this year's Symposium is child poverty with a view to provide an alternative understanding to inform policy and practice.