

Youth Female Unemployment: A Case Study based on Sooriyawewa, Sri Lanka

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The rise in youth unemployment poses a substantial challenge to Sri Lanka's economic stability. The latest labour force survey (2021) by the Department of Census and Statistics has mentioned that youth female unemployment rate remains at the highest level when compared to its male unemployment rate. Therefore, the main aim of the study is to explore the factors such as educational, social, cultural and government that lead to youth female unemployment in Sri Lanka. Accordingly, this study has utilized 30 young women aged of 18-24 from Sooriyawewa Division of Sri Lanka as the study sample. The research has followed the deduction approach to the theory development and applied multi-method qualitative data gathered using semi-structured interviews and focus group interviews. Content analysis has been utilized to analyse the gathered data. Accordingly, the study findings outline that educational factors, social and cultural factors and some government factors of Sri Lanka have impacted to increase the youth female unemployment. Furthermore, the insufficient educational level of young women, inability to provide enough job opportunities related to the educational background of young women, poor participation in vocational training, family members' expectations, lack of skill training opportunities, and inadequate infrastructure facilities have been identified as important factors. Finally, the result of the study outlines several suggestions highlighting the need for new reforms and both short- and long-term solutions to address youth unemployment in Sri Lanka.

Keywords: *labour force survey, unemployment, youth female*