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DETERMINANTS OF FEMALE LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION IN RURAL SRI LANKA

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ABSTRACT

The success story of Sri Lankan economy is recently highlighted with the graduation as an upper middle-income country. A large working population is allowing it to pursue development projects but majority of the women are not included in the working population. Since this paper aims to identify the major determinants of the Female Labor Force Participation (FLFP) in rural sector of Sri Lanka. Hence, the research seeks to examine the impacts of demographic and other household factors on the FLFP of rural Sri Lanka. The study used secondary data from the Labor Force Survey Report (LFS) – 2016 which is conducted by the Department of Census and Statistics (DCS). The study is employed Probit model to accomplish the objectives of the research. The results suggest that age of the women and being married have positive and statistically significant relationship between FLFP in rural sector. However, having children, larger household size and having no or less education show a negative and significant relationship with FLFP in rural Sri Lanka. This study accomplishes valuable information for the economists and government to encourage women to participate more vigorously in the national economy through increasing the rate of female labor force participation in rural Sri Lanka.

Key words – *Female Labor Force Participation, Probit Model, Demographic Factors, Labor Force Survey*