



## Press Release

### **The Launching of Survey Report** **“Child Activity Survey 2016”**

**Department of Census and Statistics**  
**Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs**

**DCS/DG/PRESS Telephone No: 011-2147458 Fax: 011-2147447 21<sup>st</sup> of February 2017**

The Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) recently launched the report of the Child Activity Survey 2016. Launching the report, Dr. Amara Satharasinghe, Director General of the Department of Census and Statistics said that this survey was conducted at the request of the Ministry of Labour and Trade Union Relations. International Labour Organization (ILO) provided assistances to conduct this countrywide household survey in 2016. This is the third in the series of Child Activity Surveys (CAS) conducted by the DCS. The previous rounds were conducted in 1999 and 2008/09 with the assistance of the ILO.

The data collected in the CAS-2016 includes demographic characteristics, school attendance, economic activities, health and safety, housing, household characteristics and perception of parents/guardians on working children, and other characteristics pertaining to the children aged 5-17 years. This is a household survey and covered all children aged 5-17 years who are usually living in households, but some information was collected on children who are living away from the households as well. The fieldwork of the survey was carried out from January to May 2016.

The total number of children in the age group of 5-17 years in Sri Lanka in 2016 is estimated as 4.6 million. The survey estimates that 90.1 percent of the children were attending school during the survey period. Among the children not-attending school, majority (84.2%) are in the 15-17 year age group and about half of them are awaiting G.C.E (O/L) results. A small 6.8 percent have not yet enrolled due to being below the age of 5 years by January.

Only about 2.3 percent of children aged 5-17 years are engaged in some kind of economic activity (working). This is a decline of 10.6 percentage points from the 12.9% reported in 2008/09. Child labour and hazardous form of child labour are subsets of working children and are defined considering national legislations and guidelines of ILO. Child labour refers to the employment of children in any work that deprives children of their childhood, interferes with their ability to attend regular school, and that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful. The total child labour is only 1% of total child population and hazardous form of child labour is as low as 0.9%.

Many other related statistics on working children, child labour, hazardous form of child labour, health conditions of working children, parents' perception of child's working condition, living conditions of children are available in the report which will be of value to policy makers, researches and especially those who are working for the welfare of the children in Sri Lanka. The Report carrying all the findings of the survey has been published in the DCS website [www.statistics.gov.lk](http://www.statistics.gov.lk).

Mr. M. I. M. Rafeek, the Secretary to the Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs, Mr. Gotabaya Jayarathna, Secretary to the Ministry of Labour and Trade Union Relations, Officials from ILO including Mr. Azfar Khan, Head of Research & Evaluation, ILO Geneva, senior officials from other Government Ministries and Departments, some NGOs related to child welfare and Dr. A.J. Satharasinghe Director General and the staff of the Department of Census and Statistics attended the launching ceremony.

Dr. Amara Satharasinghe  
Director General  
Department of Census and Statistics  
2017.02.21