

The Post Tsunami Participatory Appraisal of Rekawa Village

Livelihoods development needs assessment

**Supported by
STREAM and FAO**



**Hambantota District
Sri Lanka
October 2005**

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Acronyms

CBO	Community Based Organization
DS	Divisional Secretary
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FRP	Fibreglass Reinforced Plastic
GMSL	Green Movement of Sri Lanka
GS	Grama Sevaka
IPID	Institute of Participatory Interaction in Development
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
UN	United Nations

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Executive Summary

This report was prepared by the Livelihoods Development Team working together with the villagers of Rekawa in Tangalle Divisional Secretary's Division, Hambantota District, Southern Province, Sri Lanka.

This study is based mainly on information generated by the villagers in the course of Participatory Appraisal sessions in which the villagers shared their experiences. The appraisal sessions were conducted from the 17th October to the 25th October 2005. The Team worked with 20-30 volunteers from the village, representing 536 families.

It was revealed that the villagers rely mainly on fishing and farming, but only a few villagers are land owners and other farmers are tenants or agricultural labourers. Even if there are eight tanks (wewa) in the village, all paddy land are rain fed because the annual rainfall is not enough to fill the tanks and these are not directly connected to a river flowing from the middle of the country with sufficient water. Because of this, during the dry season the farmers (without land ownership) shift to other activities, such as coral excavation, brick production, or work as fishing labourers.

The fishermen in Rekawa use mechanized traditional crafts, FRP boats and multi-day boats and the poorest fishermen are engaged in lagoon fishing using non mechanized traditional crafts. They are not used to do off shore fishing because the reef near the seacoast is a barrier to enter the sea and it is needed a good skill in sailing a craft between the two parts of the reef and through the rough waves.

During the fishing season, the housewives are engaged in coir industry, corals excavation and collection, and daily work in the house. During the off season, the housewives are the breadwinner of the family, because the families face many difficulties to live only with the small income coming from men's activities.

Though the tsunami has directly affected only 26 village houses, the village has fully changed. The Government of Sri Lanka, the members of the Parliament, local NGOs, International NGOs and Bilateral Agencies have provided relief to rebuild destroyed houses and to support affected people to restore their livelihoods.

In this regard, the Government Officers and the traditional religious authorities, have played non-traditional roles. The villagers living in temporary shelters and camps, seem to have now changed their attitudes towards such instable type of life, and have started to look at the reconstruction as an opportunity for the fulfilment of their expectations. Competition among households for prospective benefits has often caused the deterioration of relationships, even among blood-relatives. This situation has badly affected the village, leading to a breach of the cultural and social fabric.

The Livelihoods Development Team met members of about 400 households. Most of the villagers expressed dissatisfaction regarding the assistance received after the tsunami. Nevertheless it should be considered that it has been noticed that the villagers perceive themselves as poor even if they are not. This can be attributed to a diffuse sense of poverty, which is more mental than real.

The following are some proposals, which emerged in the course of the appraisal, as means capable of alleviating the state of poverty. Among them are: the development of lagoon fishing, eco-tourism, homestead gardening, establishment of rural banking facilities, distribution of fishing gears, equipment and iceboxes for the families who yet remain non-recipients of such assistance. The detailed proposals are contained in the report, which follows.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location

The village of Rekawa is situated close to Tangalle, within the Tangalle Divisional Secretary's Division in Hambantota District, in the Southern Province. It is 2 Km away from the Tangalle – Tissa main road, and it can be reached by turning right from Netolpitiya Junction.

Rekawa village comprises two Grama Sewaka divisions named Rekawa East and Rekawa West. The village borders are Netolpitiya East Grama Sewaka Division to the North, Rekawa lagoon to the West, Walodaya G.S. Division to the East and the Indian Ocean to the South.

1.2 Population

The number of households in Rekawa is 536 (with sub families). The total population of the village is 1762, with 536 household distributed among the two Grama Sewaka Divisions as follows:

G.S. Division	Households	Population
Rekawa (East)	233	802
Rekawa (West)	<u>303</u>	<u>960</u>
Total	<u>536</u>	<u>1762</u>

The population can be roughly categorized, according to the age, as follows:

	Rekawa (E)	Rekawa (W)	Total
Elders	182	479	661
Young	333	191	524
Children	221	210	431
Babies	<u>66</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>146</u>
Total	<u>802</u>	<u>960</u>	<u>1762</u>

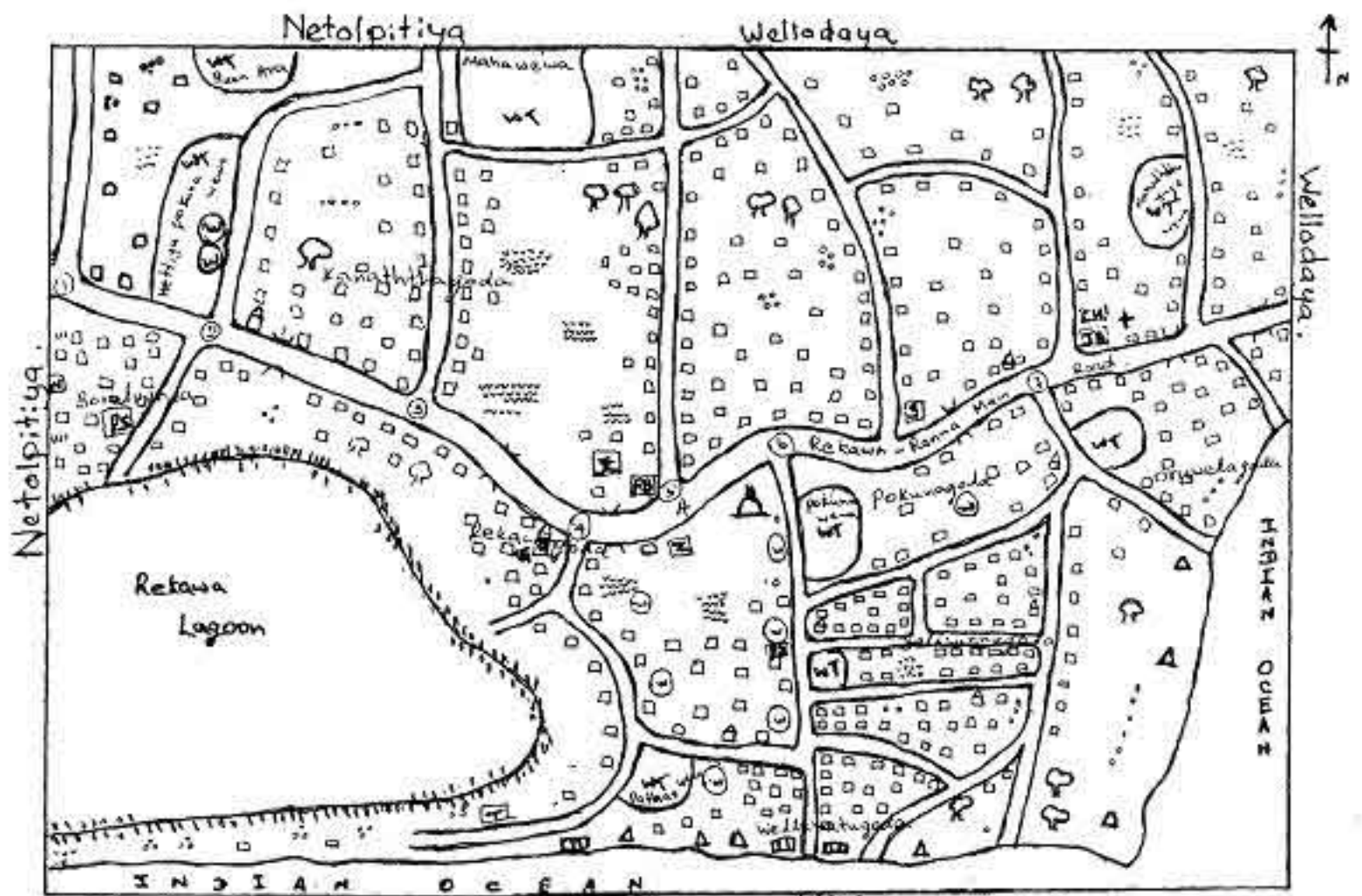
1.3 Economic activities

The economy of this village is mostly depending on agriculture and fisheries activities.

	Rekawa (E)	Rekawa (W)	Total
Fishing families	95	65	<u>160</u>
Farming families			
Full time	4	9	13
Part time	31	48	<u>79</u>
Total	35	57	<u>92</u>

Due to the natural environment of Rekawa village, its inhabitants face many difficulties in earning their basic livelihoods. The main nature related problems are: the rainfall, which is limited to three months during the year (about 1270 mm), the distance from natural water resources flowing from the middle of the country, and the reef barrier which is an obstacle to enter the sea.

During the off season, some fishermen temporarily migrate to other areas for fishing, some turn to farming and very few engage in lagoon fishing. The income earned from the last two avenues are not enough for their living. This is the reason why some of the villagers excavate corals, destroying the barrier in the sea. This activity is forbidden by the law and badly affects the environment of the village and of the country.



Pre-tsunami Rekawa village

The Key

1	Tsunami Junction	+	Health Center
2	Hettiya Pokuna Junction	Z	Old weaving
3	Kanaththagoda Junction	JC	Cemetery
4	Rekawa Junction	G	Cooperative Shop
5	Fisheries Bank Junction	N	NARA
6	Temple Junction	III	Tourist Hotel
7	Oruwellagoda Junction	△	Foreigners' owned land
T	Turtle Conservation Project		Paddy fields
	Temple	oooo	Coconut cultivation
W	Common Well		Mangroves
WT	Tank (wewa)		Culwert
FB	Fisheries Bank		Shrubs
S	School		Boutiques
PS	Pre School	□	House
JB	Jana Sakthi Bank	D	Half damaged house
CH	Community Hall		Full damaged house

1.4 History of Rekawa village

The main geographical characteristic of this village is a narrow land belt extending through the sea and the lagoon. Its length is about 1 Km. The name of the village derives from the usage of this land belt by ancient Singhalese, in fact the word “rekawa” stands for “block” or “guard”.

A 70 years old man from the village narrated the following story about the village name.

Box 1 – Story of the village name

During the ancient time Rekawa was a small lonely village in Ruhuna. Villagers lived from chena cultivation and wild elephants were normally seen at the village bordering forest. At that time, king’s main income source was exporting tamed elephants through the Muslim traders. To serve this purposes taming of wild elephant was a duty and an order of the king. The main function of Rekawa village was to put into practice this order. To fulfill this duty the villagers worked hard and strategically used the lagoon land belt for this purpose. When the wild elephants were coming close to them they were chasing them away to the near sea land belt, so that they had no chance to escape from this land. Then the villagers were guarding this land and some were shouting, drumming and making fence using heavy logs. For about three days no food nor water were available for the elephants. In this situation the villagers used to tame the wild elephants. They used to give coconut leaves as fodder to wild elephants through tamed elephants. Then, gradually, the villagers were reaching the wild elephants and put rope traps onto their legs, with the help of the tamed elephants.

1.4.1 Trend line of Rekawa village

Table 1

Year	Forest	Houses	Population	Farmers	Annual rainfall	Traditional canoes	Motor boats	Number of fish caught per one person
1900	*****	*	*	*****	****	*		*****
1930	****	**	**	*****	****	**		*****
1950	***	**	***	*****	****	**		*****
1970	**	***	*****	****	***	***	*	*****
1980	*	*****	*****	***	***	***	**	*****
1990		*****	*****	**	**	**	***	***
2000		*****	*****	**	**	**	*****	***

1.4.2 Historical timeline of Rekawa village Table 2

1850-1900	<p>Small population and households. Chena cultivation and paddy cultivation were the main economic activities. Exchange of the products with the other villages: Mamadala, Kattakaduwa, Wadigala.</p>
1900-1925	<p>Fisherman from Tangalle, Mawella and Kudawella started a small scale fisheries industries with traditional canoes and beach seines.</p>
1930-1950	<p>The main livelihoods activities were cultivation of coconut, paddy, vegetable, sweet potatoes, manioc, kurakkan (finger millet) and buffalos rearing in paddy fields. Some villagers engaged in fisheries industries with traditional fishing gears.</p>
1950-1970	<p>A huge flood destroyed cultivations and increased the salinity level in paddy fields. The population grew, the health facilities were developed and fishermen started using motor boats.</p>
1970-1977	<p>Women engaged in weaving industries. Farming developed and manioc, sweet potatoes, kurakkan, chillies and other basic vegetables were cultivated. Home gardening was improved and big citronella industries arose (at that time a controlled economy existed in the country).</p>
1977-1988	<p>Drought period and open economy in the country. Home gardens were abandoned and the crops destroyed. The public bus service to Tangalle started and a community water supply scheme was provided.</p>
1988-1998	<p>The Rekawa Development Foundation was established, so as the electricity transmission system. Development of fisheries industries. Coconut fields were sold to foreigners to build hotels.</p>
1998-2005	<p>Farmers sold buffaloes to the butchers because of the scarcity of pasture and water. Youth went to the city to engage in garment factories and hotels. Loss of some livelihoods activities and start of cadjans leaves preparation and curd production.</p>

1.5 Seasonality

Village's social and economic activities change according to the climatic conditions. The Livelihoods Development Team discussed about this with the Rekawa farmers, fishermen and their wives. Two seasons were identified, as "Season" and "Off Season" for fishermen and "Yala" and "Maha" for farmers. In Maha season and in the Season farmers and fishermen earn high and

constant income. In Yala season and in the Off Season farmers and fishermen earn low and fluctuating income. Because of this, they turn to other livelihoods activities during this period. Other activities practiced by Rekawa villagers are coral excavation, coir industry and lagoon fishing. Some fishermen, who do not own multi-day boats, temporarily migrate to other areas for fishing.

Seasonal calendar of farmers - Table 3

Activities	Yala Season					Maha Season						
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Preparing fields	■	■				■	■					
Sowing		■					■	■				
Water control			■	■					■	■	■	
Yielding				■	■						■	■
Coral excavating	■	■	■			■	■	■	■	■		

This calendar is valid and followed only under normal weather conditions.

Seasonal calendar of fishermen - Table 4

ACTIVITIES	OFF SEASON							SEASON				
	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Beach seines												
19 1/2 FRP boats				■	■	■				■		
Lobster catching (sea)				■		■			■			■
Lagoon fishing												
Prawns catching (lagoon)				■	■	■					■	■
Multi-day boats	■	■	■		■	■				■	■	■
Corals collection					■		■	■				

Daily activities of women in vegetable plot

05.00 a.m.	Wake up and prepare tea and breakfast for the family
06.00 a.m.	Clean garden and home
07.00 a.m.	Work in vegetable plot (planting, manuving, watering, weeding, plucking)
10.00 a.m.	Tea time
10.30 a.m.	Work in vegetable plot
12.00 a.m.	Go home and prepare lunch
01.00 - 1.30 p.m.	Have lunch with the family
02.00 p.m.	Work in vegetable plot
03.30 p.m.	Tea time
06.00 p.m.	Go home. Bathing and cleaning activities
07.30 p.m.	Prepare dinner
08.00 p.m.	Have dinner with the family and watch TV
09.30 p.m.	Go to bed

Daily activities of men in vegetable plot

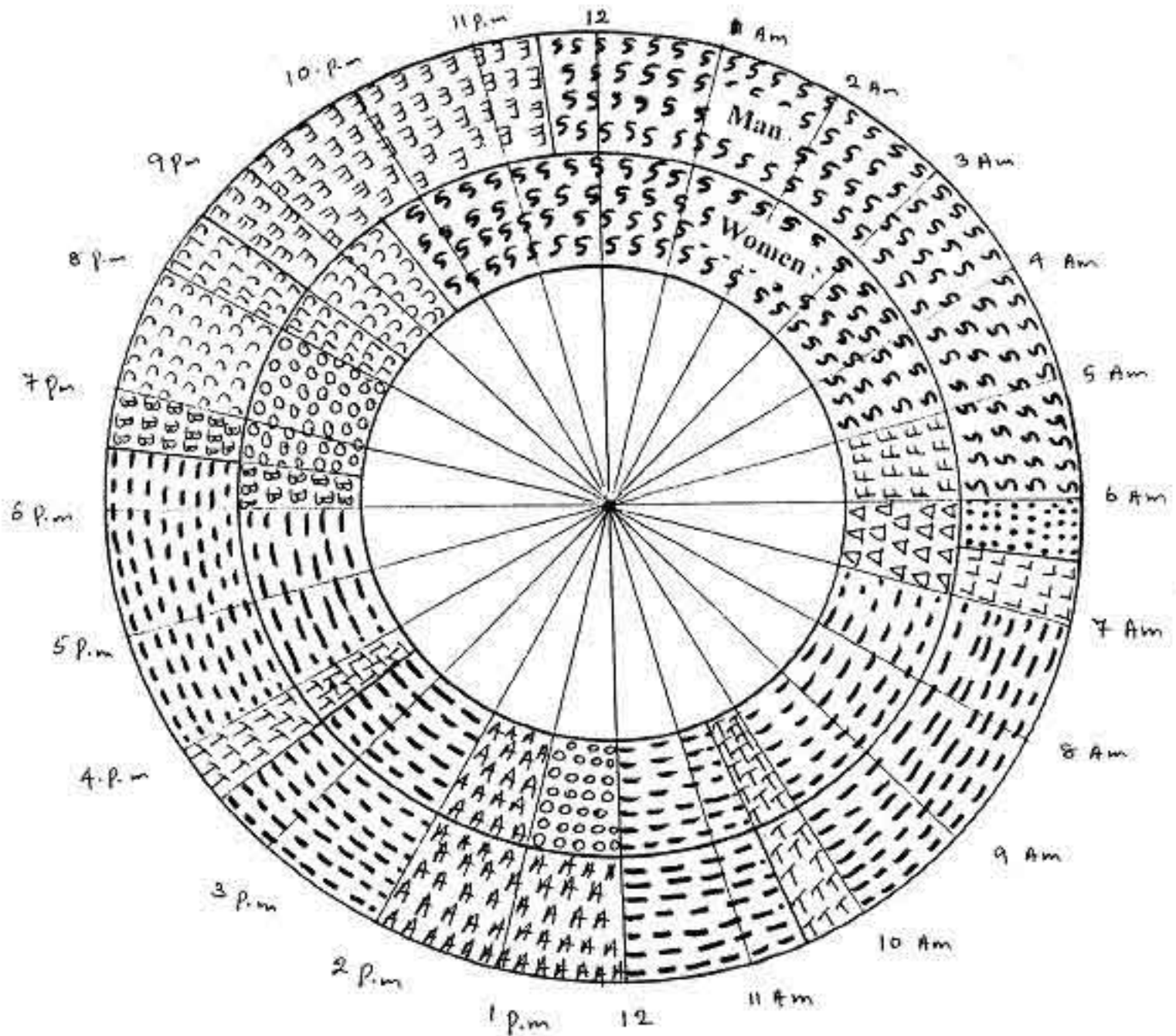
06.00 a.m.	Wake up
06.30 a.m.	Have breakfast
07.00 a.m.	Work in vegetable plot (planting, manuving, watering, weeding, plucking)
10.00 a.m.	Tea time
10.30 a.m.	Work in vegetable plot
12.00 - 02.00 p.m.	Go home, have lunch and listen to the radio
06.30 p.m.	Go home. Bathing and cleaning activities
07.00 - 08.00 p.m.	Watch TV
08.00 p.m.	Have dinner with the family and watch TV
08.30 p.m.	Listen to the radio
11.30 p.m.	Go to bed

Daily timetable of fishermen (18 ½ boats owners)

03.00 a.m.	Wake up
03.00 - 04.30 a.m.	Go to the sea
04.30 - 05.30 a.m.	Collect the cast nets
05.30 - 07.30 a.m.	Return to the sea cost
07.30 - 11.00 a.m.	Collect and sell the fish
11.00 - 12.00 a.m.	Go home and have lunch
12.30 - 02.30 p.m.	Go to the village and meet friends
02.30 - 05.30 p.m.	Go to the landing site, mend and loads nets
05.30 p.m.	Go home
05.30 - 09.00 p.m.	Have dinner with the family and watch TV
09.00 p.m.	Go to bed

This is only for the Season. Full moon “poya” days are holydays for fishermen.

**Daily activity of the men and women in vegetable plot
Rekawa**



KEY

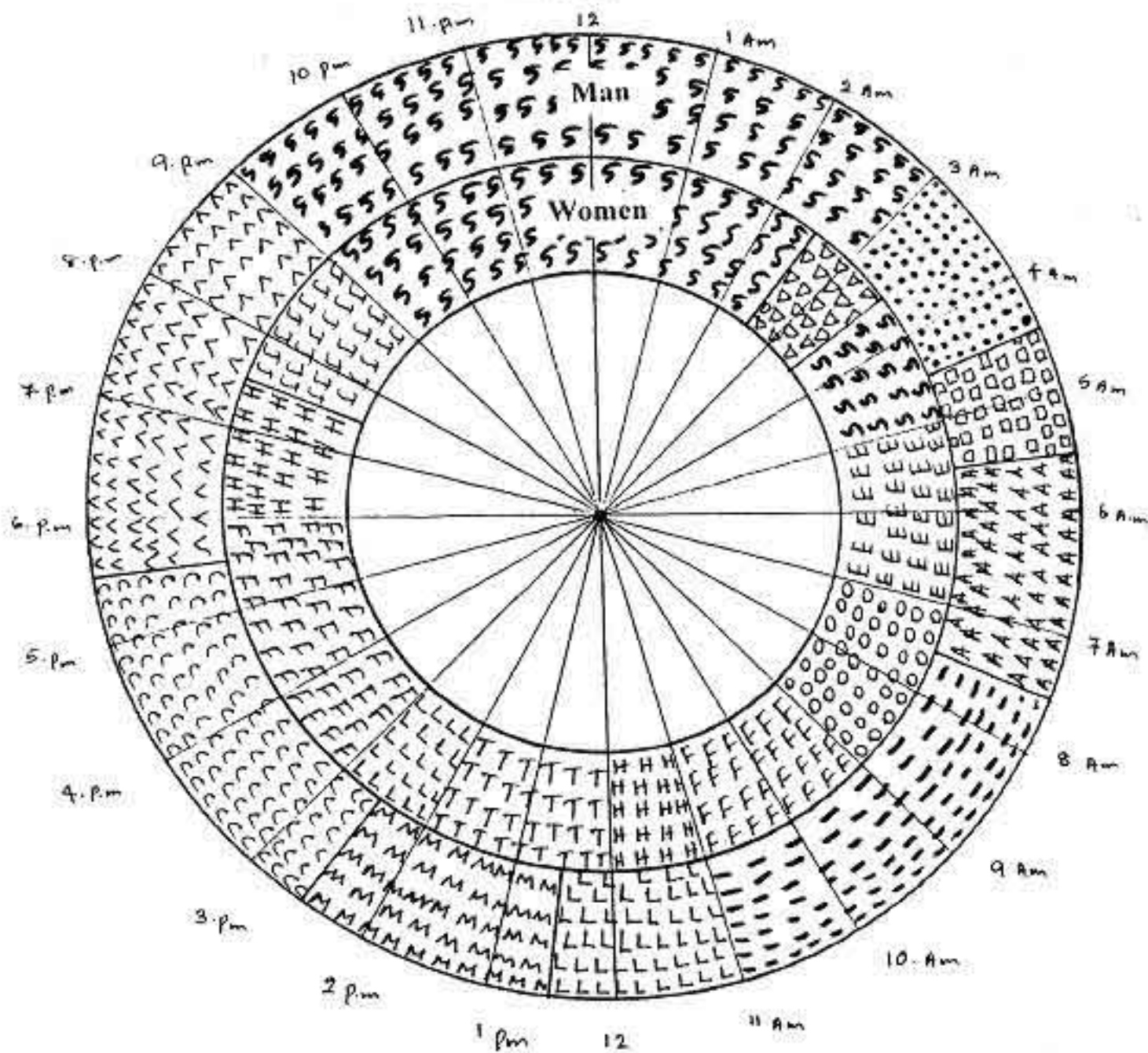
•••••	Awake and cleaning himself.
L L L L	Have breakfast.
≡ ≡ ≡	Work in vegetable plot.
T T T T	Tea time.
A A A A	Come back home, have lunch and listen to the radio.
B B B	Come back home. Bathing and cleaning activities.
C C C	Watching TV.
C L C L	With all the family members have their dinner and watching TV.
E E E	Listening to the radio.
S S S S	Sleeping.
F F F F	Awake and prepare tea, breakfast for the family.
A A A	Cleaning garden and home have breakfast.
O O O O	Come back home and prepare lunch or dinner.

Daily activities of the fishermen's wife (18 ½ boats owners' wife)

02.30 a.m.	Wake up and prepare meals for the family
03.30 - 05.00 a.m.	Sleep
05.00 a.m.	Wake up
05.00 - 07.00 a.m.	Have breakfast with children and help them to go to school
07.00 - 09.00 a.m.	Clean the garden, home and clothes
09.00 - 11.00 a.m.	Make rope
11.00 - 12.00 a.m.	Prepare lunch
12.00 - 02.00 p.m.	Watch TV, work in garden
02.00 - 03.00 p.m.	Have lunch with children
03.00 - 06.00 p.m.	Make rope
06.00 - 07.30 p.m.	Prepare dinner
07.30 - 09.00 p.m.	Help children with homework, mend nets with husband while watching TV
09.00 p.m.	Go to sleep

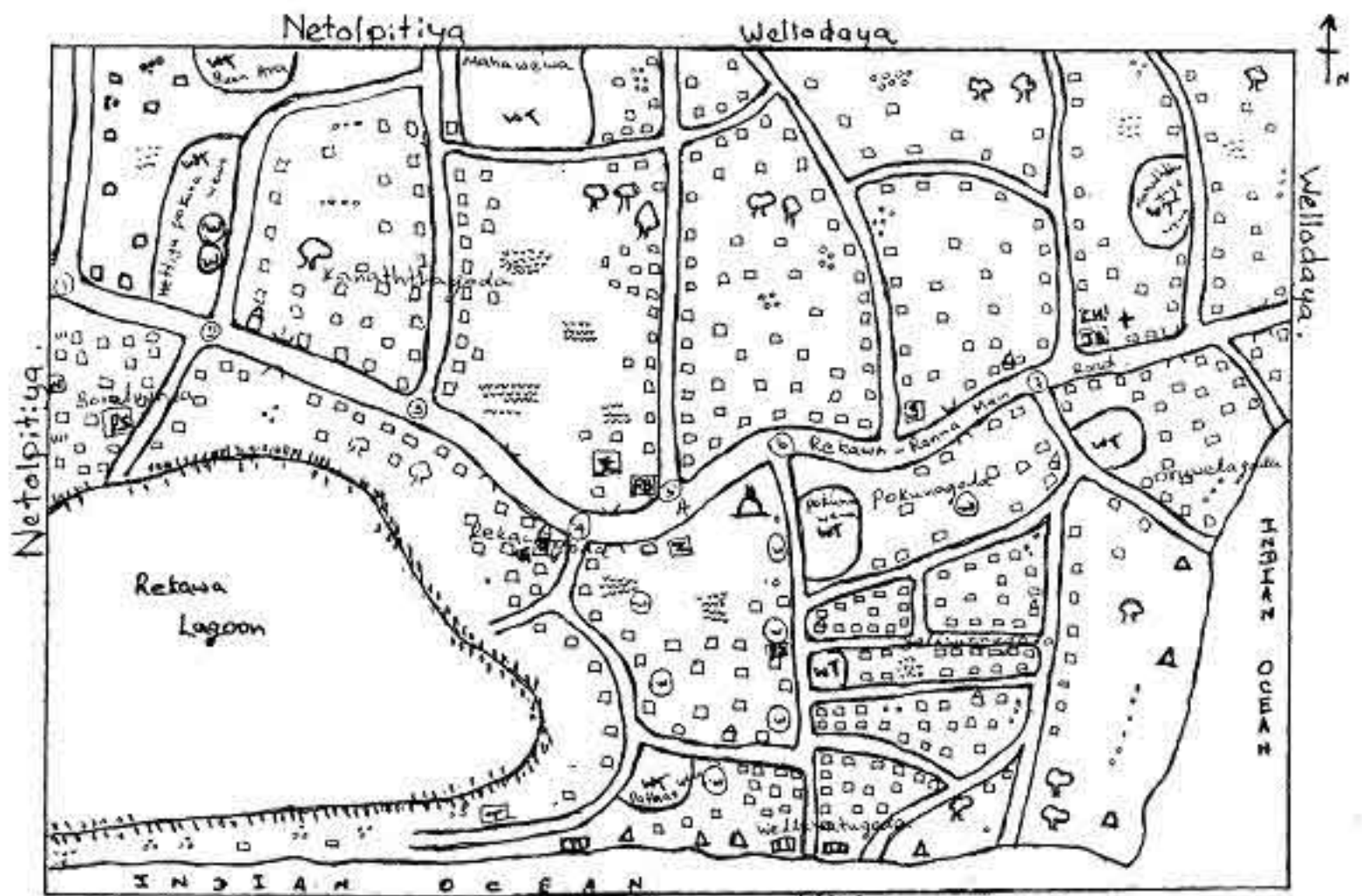
This is only for the Season. Full moon "poya" days are holydays for children.

**Daily time table of the fisherman and wives
Rekawa**



KEY

••••	Awake and go to the sea.
□□□□	Collecting the net.
AAAA	Return to the sea coast.
====	Collecting the fish and selling.
LLLL	Come home and have lunch.
MMMM	Go to the village and meet friends.
CCCC	Go to the sea coast mending and lording net.
VVVV	Spend the time with family, have dinner, watch TV.
SSSS	Sleeping.
△△△△	Awake and prepare bed tea
EEEE	Awake have breakfast with children and help them to go to school.
OOOO	Clean the garden, home and clothes.
FFFF	Go to a near home and make rope.
HHHH	Prepare lunch.
TTTT	Watch TV, work in garden.
JJJJ	Help children with homework and mend nets with husband while watching TV.



Pre-tsunami Rekawa village

The Key

1	Tsunami Junction	+	Health Center
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3	Kanaththagoda Junction	JC	Cemetery
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6	Temple Junction	III	Tourist Hotel
7	Oruwellagoda Junction	△	Foreigners' owned land
T	Turtle Conservation Project		Paddy fields
	Temple	oooo	Coconut cultivation
W	Common Well		Mangroves
WT	Tank (wewa)		Culwert
FB	Fisheries Bank		Shrubs
S	School		Boutiques
PS	Pre School	□	House
JB	Jana Sakthi Bank	D	Half damaged house
CH	Community Hall		Full damaged house

1.6 The impact of tsunami

192 families were directly affected by the tsunami, but many more families were indirectly damaged by this catastrophe. According to the social map and other sources, the following information were obtained:

➤ Deaths	
Male	03
Female	-
Total	03
➤ Affected house	
Destroyed houses	23
Damaged houses	03
Total	26
➤ Damages to health and sanitation infrastructures	
Destroyed well	04
Destroyed toilets	33
➤ Damaged road	
Rekawa Oruwella Road	
➤ Damages to fishing crafts and gears	
FRP boats	46
Traditional mechanized boats	03
Traditional non mechanized boats	17
Multi-day boats	01

2. RESULTS

2.1 Wealth ranking

Each family in Rekawa village has a different standard of living. Their resources, skills and abilities which they use to earn their individual livelihoods are useful indicators to rank households in different economic groups. The Study Team has invited 9 villagers from each of the two G.S. Divisions. Each G.S. Division was represented by three elderly, three women, and three young members. These villagers were divided into three groups and each group consisted of two elderly, two women and two young people.

The first group of villagers decided to wealth rank the households into 3 categories: poor, medium and rich. The second group decided to wealth rank the households into 4 categories: very poor, poor, medium and rich. The third group decided to wealth rank the households into 5 categories: very poor, poor, medium, rich and very rich.

The groups settled on six criteria for the wealth ranking. They are the following:

1. Quality of the house
2. Means of transport
3. Children's education (school attended)

4. Main income source and other income sources
5. Ownership of lands
6. Ownership of fishing gears or agriculture equipment

Table 5 **Wealth ranking - Group 1**

	Poor 26%	Medium 63%	Rich 12%
Quality of the house	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary or permanent roof • Well • Up to two rooms • Mud or cement floor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent roof • Community water supply or well • Up to four rooms • Cement floor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 or 6 rooms • Pipe water from own well or pipe born water from a project • Tiled floor • Land phone
Means of transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On foot • Bicycle • Public transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motor bicycle • Public transport • Three wheeler 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Car • Van • Lorry
Children's education (school attended)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No education • Village school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National school in Tangalle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National school in Galle, Matara or Colombo
Main income source and other income sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hiring labours • Traditional fishermen / farmers • Building labours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent farmers or fisherman • Traders • Government officers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole sellers • Contractors • Land owners • Tourism
Ownership of land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 perches or below 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than 20 perches and less than 80 perches highlands • Paddy fields 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than 80 perches highlands • Paddy fields
Ownership of fishing gears or agricultural equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand line • Share beach seines • Non mechanized traditional crafts • No buffaloes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional mechanized boats • FRP boats • Beach seine • 2 wheel tractors • 2 or 3 buffaloes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 or 3 traditional mechanized boats • Multi-day boats • Tractors • More than 3 buffaloes

Table 6 **Wealth ranking - Group 2**

	Very poor 12%	Poor 13%	Medium 64%	Rich 11%
Quality of the house	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary roof • Plank or mud walls • No rooms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent roof • Up to 2 rooms • Mud or cement floor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent roof • 4 rooms • Brick walls • Community water or own well or 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than 1 house • Pipe water from own well or pipe

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No electricity • No drinking water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brick walls • Community water supply or well 	pipe born water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • born water • Land phone and mobile • Tiled floor
Means of transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On foot • Public transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bicycle • Public transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motor bicycle • More than 1 bicycle • Public transport • Three wheeler 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Car • Van • Lorry
Children's education (school attended)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No education • Village school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Village school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National school in Tangalle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National school in Galle, Matara or Colombo
Main income source and other income sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hired fishing / farm labours • Not fishing / farming permanently 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hiring labour • Hired fishing • Fish vendors • Building labourers • Minor farmers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fishermen • Fish traders • Government officers • Retail traders • Farmers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole sellers • Contractors • Tourism • Land owners
Ownership of land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 < perches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 > 80 perches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than 80 perches
Ownership of fishing gears or agriculture equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand Line • No buffaloes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share beach seines • Non mechanized traditional crafts • 2 buffaloes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional mechanized • Canoes • FRP boats • More than 2 buffaloes • 2 wheel tractors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 or 3 traditional mechanized boats • Multi-day boats • Tractors

Table 7 **Wealth ranking - Group 3**

	Very poor 14%	Poor 15%	Medium 56%	Rich 9%	More Rich 6%
Quality of the house	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary roof • Plank or mud walls • No drinking water • No rooms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent roof • Mud walls • One room • Well • Drinking water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent roof • 4 rooms • Community water supply or well 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent roof • 4 rooms • Brick walls • Comm. water supply, own well or pipe born water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent roof • Wall • Tiled floor • Pipe born water • Well • Land phone
Means of transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On foot • Public transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bicycle • Public transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motor bicycle • Public transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Van • Three wheeler 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Car • Van • Lorry
Children's education (school attended)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No education • Village school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Village school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National school in Tangalle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National school in Galle, Matara or Colombo 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National school in Galle, Matara or Colombo

					• Int'l School
Main income source and other income sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hired labourers • Building labourers • Domestic labourers • Hand line • Agricultural labourers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hiring labourers • Hired fishing / agricultural labourers • Fishing vendors • Building labourers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non traditional fishermen • Fish traders • Government officers • Traders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole sellers • Contractors • Tourism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole sellers • Contractors • Tourism • Government high rank officers • Politicians • Land owners
Ownership of land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No land or 20 perches (living as sub house holders) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 perches or less 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than 20 perches less than 80 perches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than 80 perches less than 1 acre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than 1 acre
Ownership of fishing gears or agricultural equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand line • No buffaloes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share beach seines • Non mechanized traditional crafts • 2 buffaloes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional mechanize canoes • FRP boats • More than 2 buffaloes less than 5 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 or 2 traditional mechanized crafts • One-day boats • More than 5 buffaloes less than 10 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2or 3 traditional mechanized boats • Multi-day boats • More than 10 buffaloes

Rich group

This group is made of 51 households. It represents the 11% of the total number of households in the village. They have more than one house, pipe-born water from their own well or community water supply scheme. They also own a land phone. The floors of their houses are mostly tiled. Their means of transport are very expensive: cars, vans or lorries. These people's children mostly study in Matara, Galle or Colombo. They are engaged in whole sale deals, building constructions, tourism related activities. Land owners belong to this category. This group of villagers have more than 80 perches of highland and paddy fields. They mostly cultivate their paddy fields through tenants. When these villagers are fishermen they own traditional mechanized boats and multi-day boats. When they are farmers, they have tractors and more than 10 buffaloes with a hired labour. Beside fishing and farming activities, they earn additional income from lime clinkers and coir mills. Their credit sources are Commercial Banks and Leasing Companies.

Medium group

This group is made of 317 households. It represents the 64% of the total number of households in the village. They have a good house with more than 4 rooms. Pipe-born water from own well or community water supply scheme. The means of transport used by these villagers are not much expensive. They have their own motor bicycles or three wheelers. Their children study in Tangalle. In addition to their main income, coming from government jobs, fisheries and farming industry or retail trade, they have their own buffaloes or other individual small enterprises. They are owners of 20 perches up to 80 perches of highlands and paddy fields. Although they are Government officers or retail traders, they cultivate their paddy field through the tenants farmers. For their farming activities they have a two wheel tractor and more than 2 buffaloes. When they are fishermen they own traditional mechanized canoes or FRP boats.

Poor group

This group is made of 64 households, the 13% of the households of the village, and it is the largest group. Most of the people belonging to this group have no paddy lands and up to 20 perches of highlands and work as fishermen or agricultural labours. Most tenants farmers and fish vendors belong to this group. These villagers use cheap transports and their children study in the village school. They are the share holders of beach seines.

Very poor

This group is made of 61 families. It represents the 12% of the total number of households in the village. They have no ownership of land, agricultural equipment or fishing gears. The children of these families study at the village school and they stop their education at an early stage. Very poor families earn their income working as hired labours (paid daily) and excavating corals, even if this activity is prohibited. This group is the most vulnerable of the village.

2.2 Resources

2.2.1 Human resources

Like other traditional villages in Sri Lanka, Rekawa village's human resources are important for its development. According to the secondary information collected and the social map created by the villagers during the livelihoods assessment, the population of the village is 1762 and the outline of their education is the following:

University graduates	12
G.C.E. Advanced Level passed	42
G.C.E. O/L passed	627

The literate rate of this village is very high. More than 40 villagers have passed the GCE O/L exam in this village. The village school gives education to the children. It conducts classes up to O/L. After the O/L they go to Tangalle for secondary education. Rich villagers' children study in Matara, Galle or Colombo National Schools.

The villagers are employed in:

	West	East
Fisheries	65	95
Agriculture	74	38
Retail trade	16	17
Hired labour	43	28
Carpentry	3	2
Masonry	4	-
Government	25	21
<u>Private</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>32</u>
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>268</u>	<u>233</u>

This figure shows that most of the villagers are engaged in economic activities. In general, these villagers are skilled in fisheries industry, paddy cultivation, home garden activities, coir industry, collecting sea shells, brick making, garment production, lace weaving, lime production and sweet meat preparing. Besides this, tourism and retail trading are other services provided by these villagers.

The youth is the most important resource for a village. It can decide the development or the destruction of the village. The Livelihoods Development Team, aware of this consideration,

conducted a sample survey to identify their vocational training needs. The Team distributed a questionnaire (Annex 1) to the youths in order to collect all the information needed. According to the information gathered, the following graph was prepared.

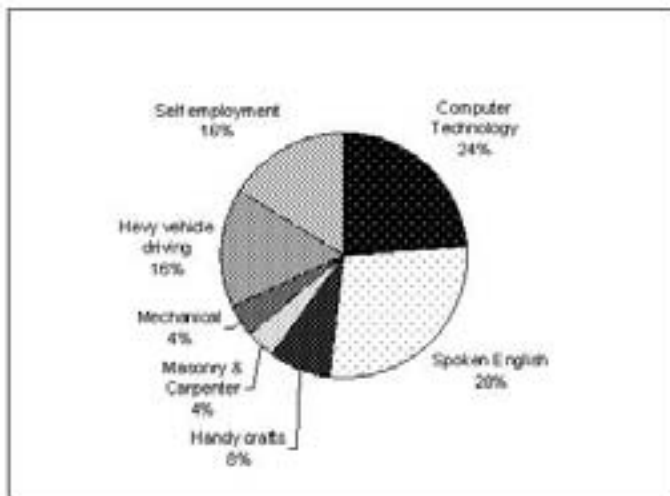
Figure 5 - Job expectations of 40 selected youths



Job expectation	%
Teaching	10
Clerical	13
Medical/ Engineering	10
Mechanical	13
Heavy vehicle driving	15
Self employment	15
Not selected	24

According to the above questions they have proposed the following vocational trainings.

Figure 6 - Expected vocational training of 40 selected youths



Training expected	%
Computer technology	24
Spoken English	28
Handy crafts	8
Masonry & Carpentry	4
Mechanics	4
Heavy vehicle driving	16
Self employment	16

2.2.2 Physical resources

The main physical resource of this village is the Netolpitiya – Ranna, Road. It is a grade 3 road maintained by the Southern Provincial Council. This road has been repaired recently and it is now in good condition, but the Gravel Road systems connected to this road are eroded. If not rebuilt quickly, the villagers will face transport inconvenience in rainy season.

There are eight old rain fed tanks (wewa) which belong to the ancient irrigation system of the village. These wewa are now abandoned, but villagers use them during rainy season for bathing, cleaning purpose and irrigation facilities. The reconstruction of this irrigation system and the connection of the tanks to the Heen Ara Wewa, a big tank fed from Pattiya Pola Mahawewa, are the dreams of Rekawa villagers.

There are six small boutiques in this village but these boutiques do not fulfil the villagers' needs. For this reason, women go weekly (every Wednesday) to the fair at the Netolpitiya junction. The community water supply scheme and the electric transmission system are the other physical resources of the village. Some soil type in this village is suitable for brick making, which is a valuable resource to make livelihoods for the villagers.

2.2.3 Natural resources

Natural resources play an important role in supporting the livelihoods of the villagers. A wide range of natural resources are present in Rekawa, such as the sea, the lagoon and agricultural lands. Coral excavation and sea shells collection are also additional opportunities that villagers practice to make their living.

The total agricultural land of this village is about 425 hectares. 340 of this is utilized as paddy fields fed by rain water. In the fertile soil of the highlands, grow coconut, wood apple, mango, lime and planton, but because of the poor knowledge of the villagers about agriculture and marketing, farmers earn very low income from these crops.

According to the Turtle Conservation Centre in Rekawa, there are seven varieties of endemic turtles existing in the world. From these varieties, five use to lay eggs on the Rekawa coast. The Conservation Centre works to conserve this valuable resources, but powerful electricity light-beams and noises from the hotels obstacle this natural, beautiful process. Therefore, an intervention of the Government authorities is needed.

It was noticed that the natural resources of the village are being degraded by exploitation, especially the coral reef, because of corals excavation, and the lagoon, because fishermen use small mesh nets which are illegal because they catch too small fishes. Despite the Sri Lankan Law prohibits these practices, Government Officers do not operate effectively in order to ensure the respect of these rules.

Place	Oruwella (sea)	Low land	Upland area	Shrub area	Paddy fields	Lagoon
Soil types	Sandy soil	Sandy loamy soil	Loamy soil	Fertile soil	Fertile soil	Boggy soil, Muddy soil
Destroyed plants	Coconut, Banana, Kohomba	NO	NO	NO	Grass	Mangroves
Crops	Coconut, Banana, Kohomba	Coconut, Mango, Banana, Kohomba, Wood apple	Coconut, Bread fruit, Wood apple, Banana	Coconut, Wood apple, Kohomba	NO	Coconut, no vegetation
Buildings	Totally destroyed mending hall and houses	Pre school Houses	School Temple	Mostly owned by foreigners	NO	Tourist hotels Houses
Problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Excavation of coral stone reef in the bay eroding the coast ▪ Fishermen can't pull the boats to coast 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No sufficient income from farming ▪ No irrigation water ▪ No initial capital 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No sufficient income from farming ▪ No irrigation water ▪ No initial capital 	Social problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No sufficient irrigation water ▪ No attention of Government 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No proper resource management system
Solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Build a stone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop income generation activities ▪ Organize micro finance institution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop income generation activities ▪ Organize micro finance institution 	No alternative solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Plan an irrigation project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Activate a resource management project with NARA
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bay ▪ Sea fish ▪ Fishing knowledge ▪ Beautiful beach ▪ Sea shells ▪ Glass sands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Soil suitable for brick making 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fertile soil ▪ Main road is not far 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fertile soil ▪ Tourist attraction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Farming knowledge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Brackish water ▪ Fish resources ▪ Beautiful natural environment

2.2.4 Social resources

Before the tsunami, the people in Rekawa used to live together with good relationships among themselves and with the temple and the foreigners owners of the hotels. They used to help each other on occasions like funerals, weddings, sicknesses, child births, repairing of roofs and construction of new houses. The head priest (Jhen) of the temple blessed all these occasions with ceremonies. The foreigners owners of the hotels helped the villagers to repair and maintain roads and to built a new meditation hall in the temple area. Government field officers and community based organizations used to do their daily activities.

This situation suddenly changed because of the tsunami. This disaster badly hit the economic activities, like fisheries and agriculture. It destroyed boats, houses, roads and the increased salinity of the paddy fields caused the destruction of the yield.

A new head priest came to the temple and villagers people do not have a good relationship with him. Foreign donors organizations came to help tsunami victims, but other villagers also competed for assistance and they made false reports to receive aid.

A little conflict arose among all the parties: villagers, temple, CBOs, foreigner owners of the hotels, NGOs. This was the situation at the time of the Livelihoods Study, therefore it was not easy for the Team to listen to everybody's needs and issues.

Figure 7 – Venn Diagram Men’s Group

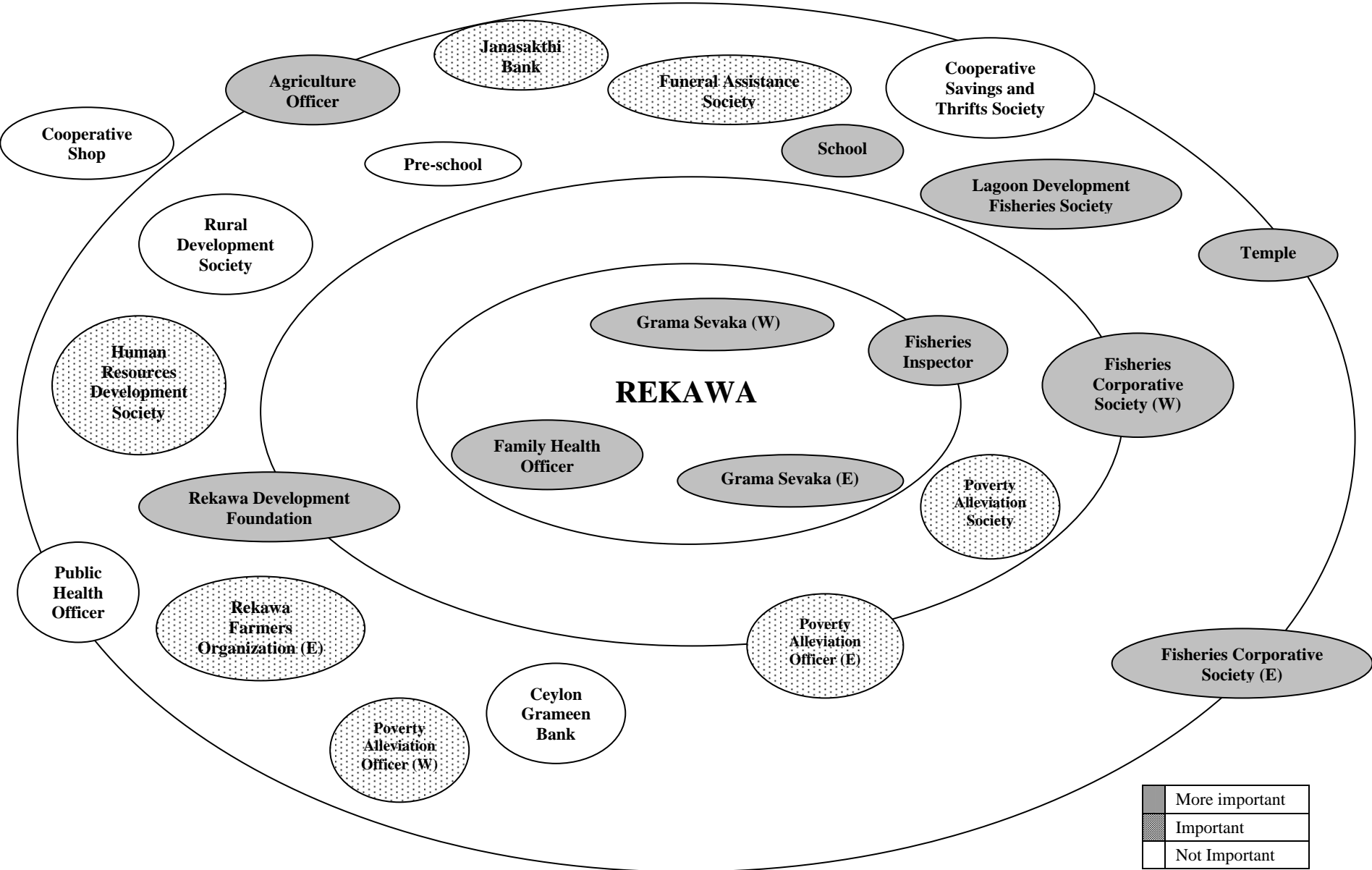
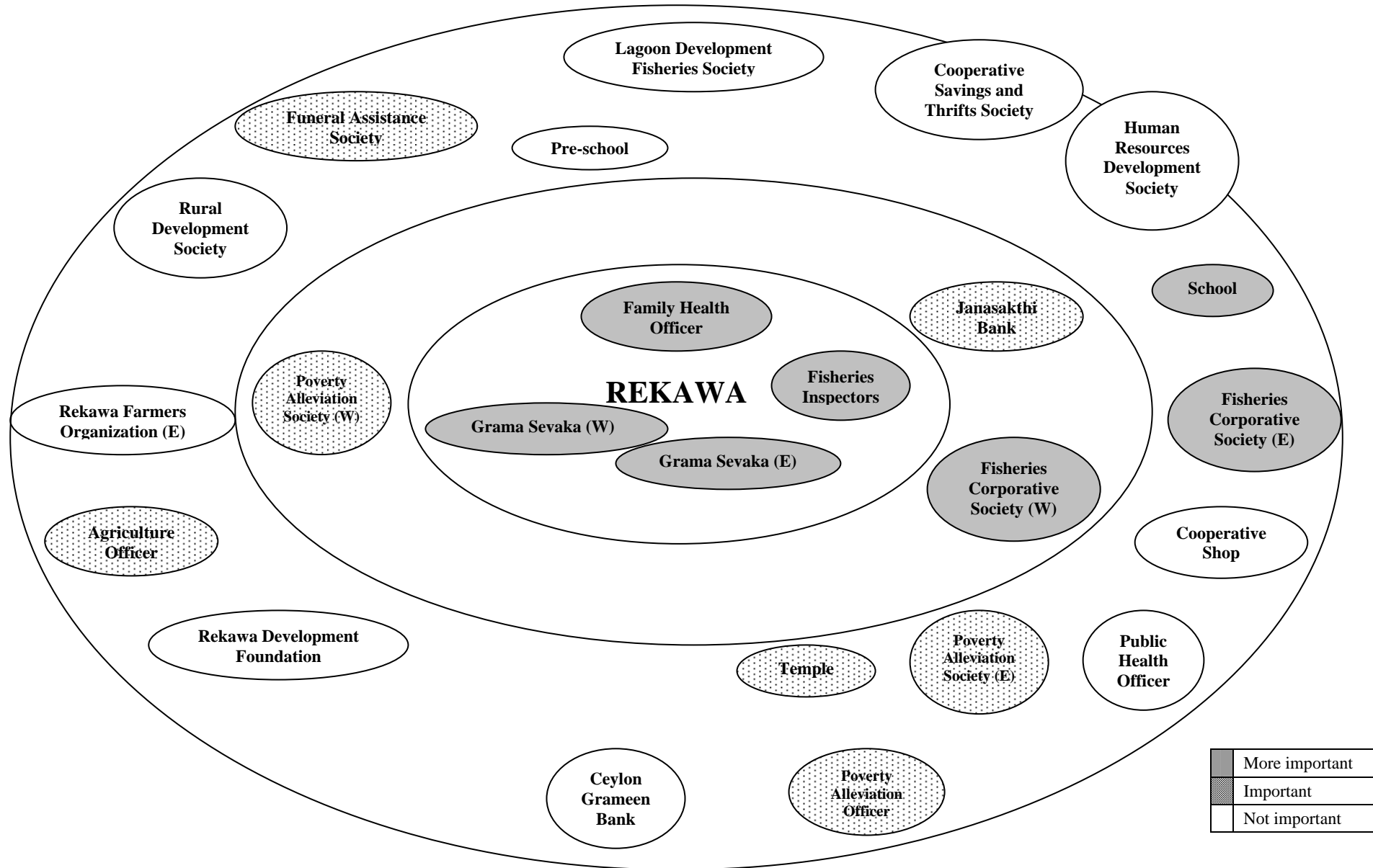


Figure 8 – Venn Diagram Women’s Group



2.2.5 Financial resources

Villagers in Rekawa earn their income from selling their fisheries products, agricultural products, coral stones, other products and labour. Their agricultural products are always seasonal. Service producers and multi-day boats owners are the only categories who can generate regular income.

During the off season coir making, corals excavation, sea shell collection, and lagoon fishing are the main livelihoods activities.

Some families have children working in hotels for tourists or in the garment factories in Ranna, Tangalle or Colombo so as to help their families with some extra money.

Janasakthi Kantha Sangamaya, Cooperative Savings and Thrifts Society, Ceylon Grameen Bank, Fisheries Bank are the institutions activated to fulfil the needs of the villagers through micro credit. Nevertheless, the Venn Diagrams show that these organizations are not fulfilling villagers' needs of micro finance. It was outlined that rich people of the village use to go to the commercial banks in Tangalle for their financial needs.

2.3 Vulnerabilities

Vulnerability can be defined as the extent to which a household may be adversely affected from livelihoods. According to the secondary information collected, 232 families are economically vulnerable in Rekawa. They are Samurdhi recipients and these beneficiaries were selected by the politically appointed Poverty Alleviation Officers, nevertheless nobody can rely on this figure. According to the wealth ranking made by the villagers, 61 families are very poor and economically vulnerable. Apart from the above mentioned economical vulnerabilities, there are some other social and political reasons which affects some people. For example, there are 30 disabled and 21 women headed families in the village: they can also be considered vulnerable.

2.4 Social structure of the village

In order to understand the current situation, the attitudes and the relationship in the community and with traditional leaders, government officers, CBOs and other organizations, the Livelihoods Team invited 5 fishermen and 5 farmers' wives. They were split into two groups, according to the gender and asked to construct two Venn Diagrams separately. The Team gave them paper circles in three different sizes, which represented three grades of importance. On each circle the groups had to write the name of the institution and then place it on the main paper. When a circle is placed close to the centre of the paper it means that the group feels a close relationship / familiarity between the institution and the village. The results of the institutional analysis are shown in the following table.

Rekawa Institutional Analysis - Table 9

Institutions	Farmers / Fishermen			Housewives farmers / fishermen		
	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Positive	Neutral	Negative
Grama Sevaka (W)	X			X		
Grama Sevaka (E)	X			X		
Fisheries Inspector		X		X		
Family Health Officer	X			X		
Poverty Alleviation Officer (E)		X				X
Poverty Alleviation Society (W)		X			X	
Poverty Alleviation Officer (W)		X				?
Poverty Alleviation Society (E)		X				X

Rekawa Development Foundation		X				X
Fisheries Cooperative Society (E)			X			X
Fisheries Cooperative Society (W)		X			X	
Lagoon Fisheries Society			X			X
School			X			X
Pre School			X			X
Temple			X			X
Agriculture Officer			X			X
Public Health Organization			X			X
Farmer Organization			X			X
Funeral Assistants			X		X	
Janasakthi Bank			X			X
Rural Development Society			X			X
Ceylon Grameen Bank			X			X
Human Resources Develop. Society			X			X
Cooperative T&S Society			X			X

2.5 Livelihoods strategies

2.5.1 Current livelihoods strategies

The livelihoods strategies of a village has to be decided considering the resources available, the abilities and skills of the population. Rekawa village's main resources are: lands, sea and lagoon. Most of the villagers make their living from the above resources. They have abilities and skills to use these resources and the Government has helped them to acquire new technologies, especially for the fisheries industry. Agriculture is also a major part of livelihoods, but water related problems make irrigation difficult and the villagers were complaining because the Government has not done enough to activate an irrigation scheme.

Excavating corals, coir industry, brick making, home gardening and tourism industry are additional activities which provide some extra income.

2.5.2 Problem ranking

According to the problem tree, the villagers have faced several problems concerning livelihoods. These problems have been categorized into seven types and have been "pair ranked" (Table 10) in order to find the most pressing, which has been analysed to understand its root causes and develop a strategy to face and solve it.

Pair ranking of problems – Table 10

	Low price	Anti social activities	Addiction to alcohol	Scarcity of fishing gears	Less production of fishing / agric. sectors	Lack of knowledge	Tsunami effects	Rank	
								Amount	
Low price	X	2	1	4	5	6	1	2	4
Anti social activities	X	X	2	4	2	6	2	3	3
Addiction to alcohol	X	X	X	3	5	6	3	2	4
Scarcity of fishing gears	X	X	X	X	5	6	4	3	3
Less production of fishing / agriculture sectors	X	X	X	X	X	6	5	4	2
Lack of knowledge	X	X	X	X	X	X	7	5	1
Tsunami effects	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	1	5

The results of “pair ranking” show the reasons for major problems according to their importance:

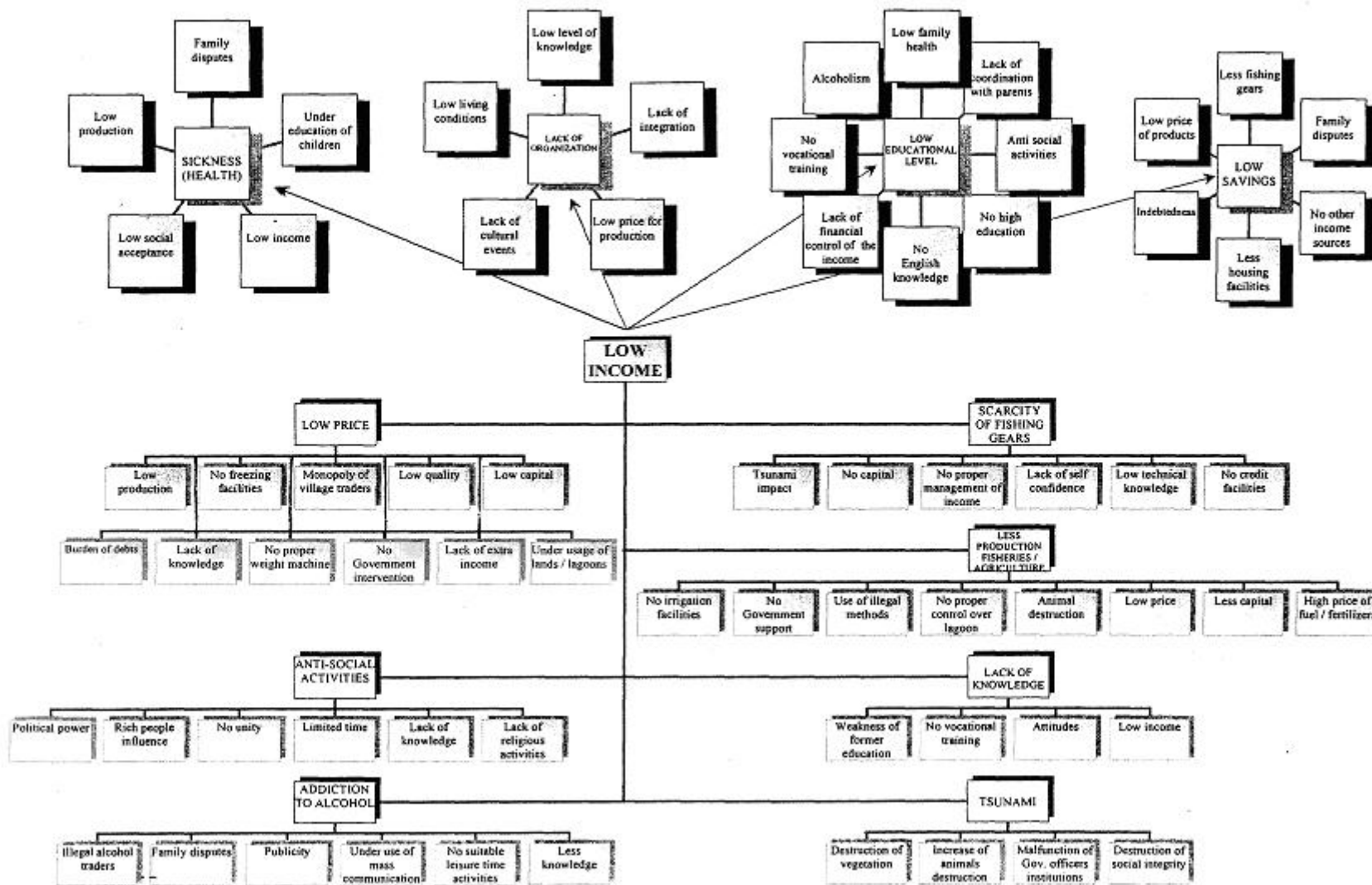
1. Lack of knowledge
2. Less production of fishing and agriculture sectors
3. Anti social activities and scarcity of fishing gears
4. Addiction to alcohol
5. Tsunami effects

2.5.3 Problem tree analysis

The problem tree analysis showed that one of the major problems in Rekawa village is the low income of the households. Twenty villagers participated to this exercise and outlined the reasons of such low income. They are as follows:

1. Low price of production
2. Scarcity of fishing gears
3. Less production of fisheries and agriculture sectors
4. Anti social activities
5. Lack of knowledge
6. Tsunami effects
7. Addiction to alcohol

Figure 9 – Problem tree of Rekawa village



3. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Conclusions

As a result of the issues and problems discovered during the field study in Rekawa, the Team was able to reach some conclusions about the current situation.

1. The village suffers of a great lack of social integration since the incidents occurred in 1989.
2. At the moment the temple of the village does not fulfil the social needs of the people.
3. The youths are not developing any leadership quality.
4. Rural organizations are limited and they have few members.
5. There is no coordination among the tsunami relief organizations and the Government Agencies.
6. Some tsunami affected fishermen and fish vendors have not yet received any assistance.
7. The 25% of village's households earn low income, which can be increased by social mobilization activities.
8. A sustainable irrigation water supply project is a major requirement of Rekawa farmers.
9. The Turtle Watch Centre can be developed as a tourist attraction.
10. Villagers and Government Extension Officers do not pay attention to home garden activities, which could be developed to provide secondary income to the households.
11. The villagers asked for a post office, which is an important feature in a modern village.
12. A "Dhamma School" is another useful institution requested by the villagers.

3.2 Recommendations

3.2.1 Infrastructure development

- To install and construct a Beacon light post for the fishermen to indicate the direction.
- To repair the temple area with the contribution of the people, so that it can be used as a centre for their religious and social activities.
- To rehabilitate the village's old irrigation system and connect it to the main tank, fed by the Uruboku Oya (Small River) in Ranna area.
- To construct a common well for bathing in Wellwattugoda.
- To construct a net mending centre close to the sea for the fishermen.
- To build a marketing information centre, a meeting centre and a resting centre.
- To encourage and introduce villagers to rain harvesting storage system.
- To construct a barrier made of concrete and stones in sea.
- To establish a natural barrier against tidal waves by coconut cultivation and mangroves, covering the buffer zone.
- To establish a "Dhamma School".
- To put up a post office.

3.2.2 Income generating activities

- To initiate a proper program to develop home gardens, providing free seeds, plants and equipment.
- To distribute motor bikes and bicycles to the fish vendors who lost their means of transport in order to promote the fish market.
- To control middlemen and all the fisheries market chain.
- To provide fishing gears to those villagers who have not yet received aid.
- To conduct vocational trainings and to create linkages with appropriate government organizations, NGOs and private enterprises, so as to create job opportunities for the youth.
- To develop traditional and new income generating activities.

- To attract tourists, providing assistance to the Turtle Conservation Centre and to start eco-tourism programs for local and foreigners with the help of the Government and of private tour operators.
- To start prawns breeding activities in the lagoon.

3.2.3 Institutional development

- To initiate institutional and leadership development training programmes to enhance the capacity of the leaders of the village.
- To design a lagoon development project and to establish a lagoon management committee, with the participation of Government Officers, so as to provide a formal and legal framework.
- To motivate the environmental protection authorities to take all the necessary legal actions against the coral collectors.
- To initiate a participatory monitoring and evaluation system for this project.