

The tsunami: Its social cost

A survey by the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) has revealed some alarming details of the social cost of the tsunami.

In a survey conducted in July this year, it was revealed that around 11% of households knew of someone committing suicide because of the tsunami.

It also revealed that 30% cent of households claimed to have children who are yet to restart schooling after the tsunami. The problem is slightly more pronounced in the conflict affected eastern province.

It was also found that child labour is one reason for reduced school attendance with income recovery

seemingly having a bearing on re-starting schooling after the tsunami.

In the survey it was also found that a few households reported experiencing more sleeping difficulties, and more children having nightmares compared to pre-tsunami levels. In addition, a large number of households have stated that some members of the household had experienced deterioration of physical health after the tsunami.

A third of the households have been offered or given counselling for distress with the percentage of households receiving counselling is comparably higher in the Eastern Province.