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பொருளாதார மறுசீரமைப்பு மற்றும் பொது வழங்கல் அமைச்சு  
Ministry of Economic Reforms and Public Distribution

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# Measure What You Treasure: Child Poverty and Deprivations in Sri Lanka

National Conference  
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# Child Poverty in Sri Lanka

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# Background Information

- The presentation is based on the publication “ Child Poverty in Sri Lanka : Issues Related to their Education and Access to Safe Water and Sanitation”, authored by the presenter and published by the Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka (2018)
- Analysis is based on Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES)-2012/13. Similar analysis could be done based on the HIES-2016, conducted by the Department of Census and Statistics, Sri Lanka
- Children under 19 years of age are covered in the analysis
- Children who are “Income Poor” and/or “Multidimensionally Poor”, were considered “**Poor Children**” in this analysis
- Why is it important to look at children who are “Income Poor (IP)” and/or “Multidimensionally Poor (MDP)”? → *(SDG Targets 1.1 and 1.2 aims at eradicating extreme poverty for all people AND reducing at least by half, the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions (Not just Income dimension)*

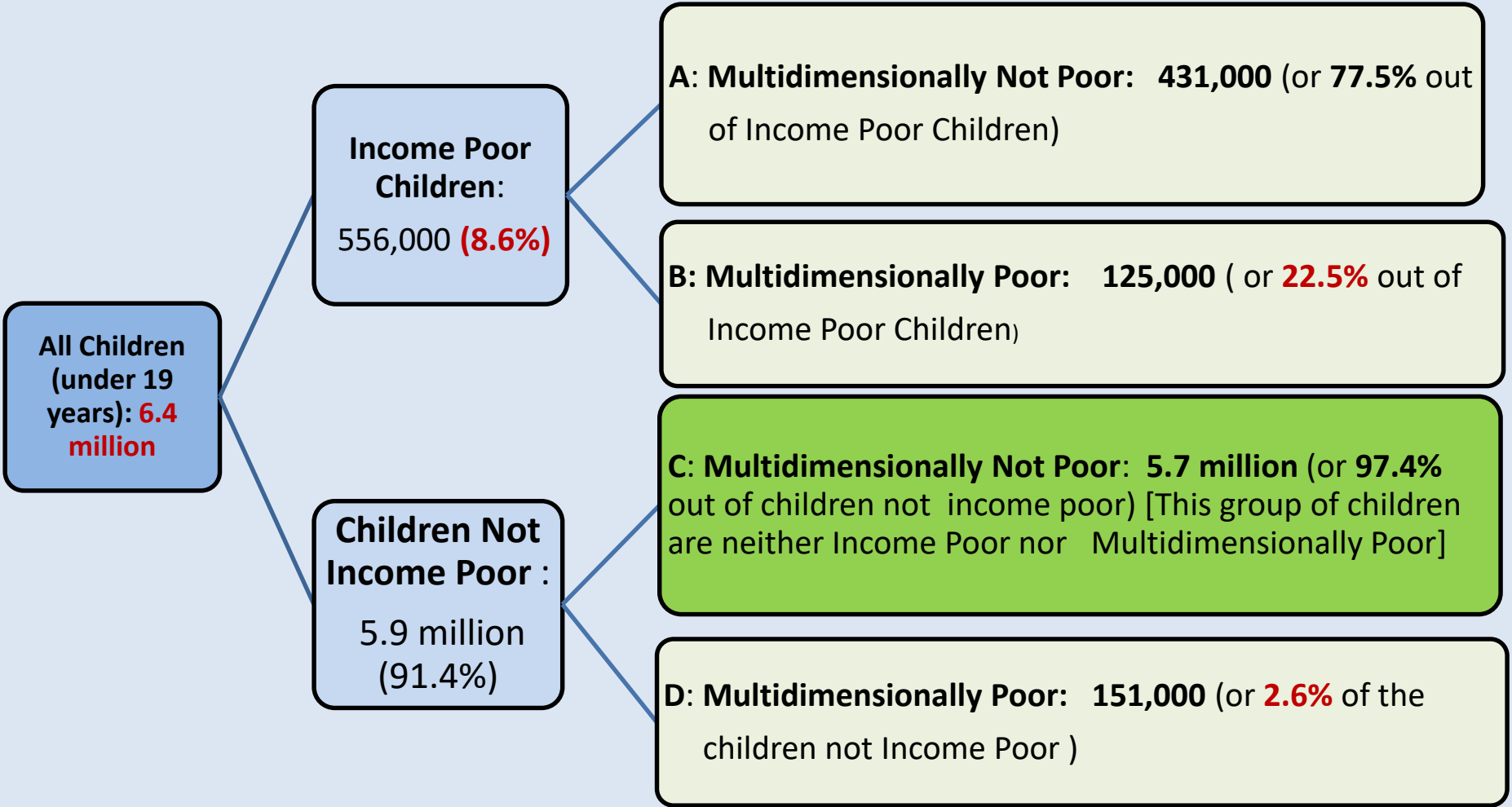
## Why is it necessary to look at Child Poverty?

- **Impact of poverty during childhood can have adverse effects on children which are irreversible → They are more likely to have: Nutrition & Health problems; low academic achievements; drop out of schools earlier than others, etc.**
- **Child poverty can pass on to the next generation of children**
- **Sustainable eradication of extreme poverty requires breaking this intergenerational poverty cycle, through priority attention to poor children**
- **Helping children to escape poverty and overcome its most damaging effects will make a huge difference to their lives, as well as those of their families and communities**

## Weights for “Dimensions” and “Indicators” of Multidimensional Poverty

Dimensions	Weight assigned to each Indicator	Indicator No.	<b>HIES-2012/13</b>  <b>10 Indicators (slightly modified based on the latest recommendations in technical note of HDR2014 (UN))</b>
<b>Health</b>	<b>1.67</b>	1	Calorie (energy) consumption of the household is less than 80% of the requirement & Food Ratio more than 60%
	<b>1.67</b>	2	Head of the Household chronically ill or disabled
<b>Education</b>	<b>1.67</b>	3	No one in household has completed six years of schooling (as recommendation in HDR2014; earlier considered only 5 years of schooling)
	<b>1.67</b>	4	At least one school-age child not enrolled in school
<b>Living Conditions</b>	<b>0.56</b>	5	Household has no Electricity
	<b>0.56</b>	6	Household has no access to clean drinking water
	<b>0.56</b>	7	Household has no access to improved sanitation or even if improved, it is shared
	<b>0.56</b>	8	Household has dirty (mud/dung) floor
	<b>0.56</b>	9	Household living in a shanty/line room
	<b>0.56</b>	10	Assets: not having at least one asset related to access to information (radio, TV, Telephone) and not having at least one asset related to mobility (bike, motorbike, three-wheeler, car, van, truck, animal cart, boat) or a refrigerator

# Figure 1-Children (under 19 years): Income Poor and/ or Multidimensionally Poor, and Non-poor



**A+B+D → 707,000 Poor Children**

## Figure 2-Poor Children (under 19 years): Income Poor and/or Multidimensional Poor Children

**Poor Children:** Income Poor and / or Multidimensionally Poor Children):

**707,000**

**(11.0%** of the total number of children (under 19 years)

### Income Poor only:

**431,000** (**6.7%** of the total number of children) are only Income Poor

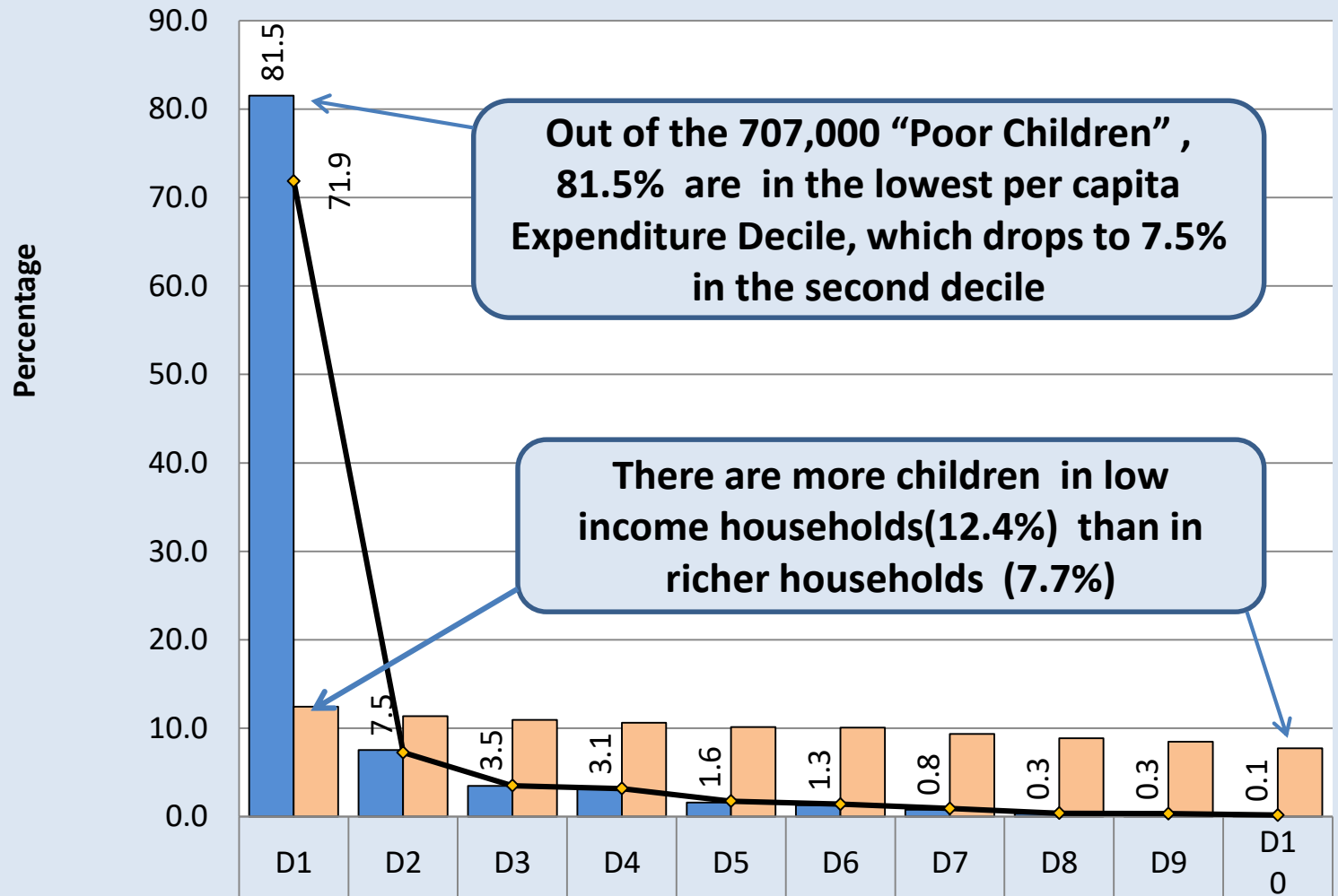
### Multidimensionally Poor only:

**151,000** (**2.3%** of the total number of children) are only Multidimensionally poor

### Both Income Poor & Multidimensionally Poor:

**126,000** (**1.9%** of the total number of children) are both Income poor and Multidimensionally poor)

**Figure 3-Children (under 19 years): Overall Share of Children, Share of Poor Children and Poverty Headcount by Per Capita Expenditure Deciles-2012/13**



	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	D7	D8	D9	D10
Share of poor Children* (0-18 years)	81.5	7.5	3.5	3.1	1.6	1.3	0.8	0.3	0.3	0.1
Share of children (0-18 years)	12.4	11.4	10.9	10.6	10.1	10.1	9.3	8.9	8.5	7.7
Poverty Headcount (%)	71.9	7.3	3.5	3.2	1.7	1.4	0.9	0.4	0.3	0.2

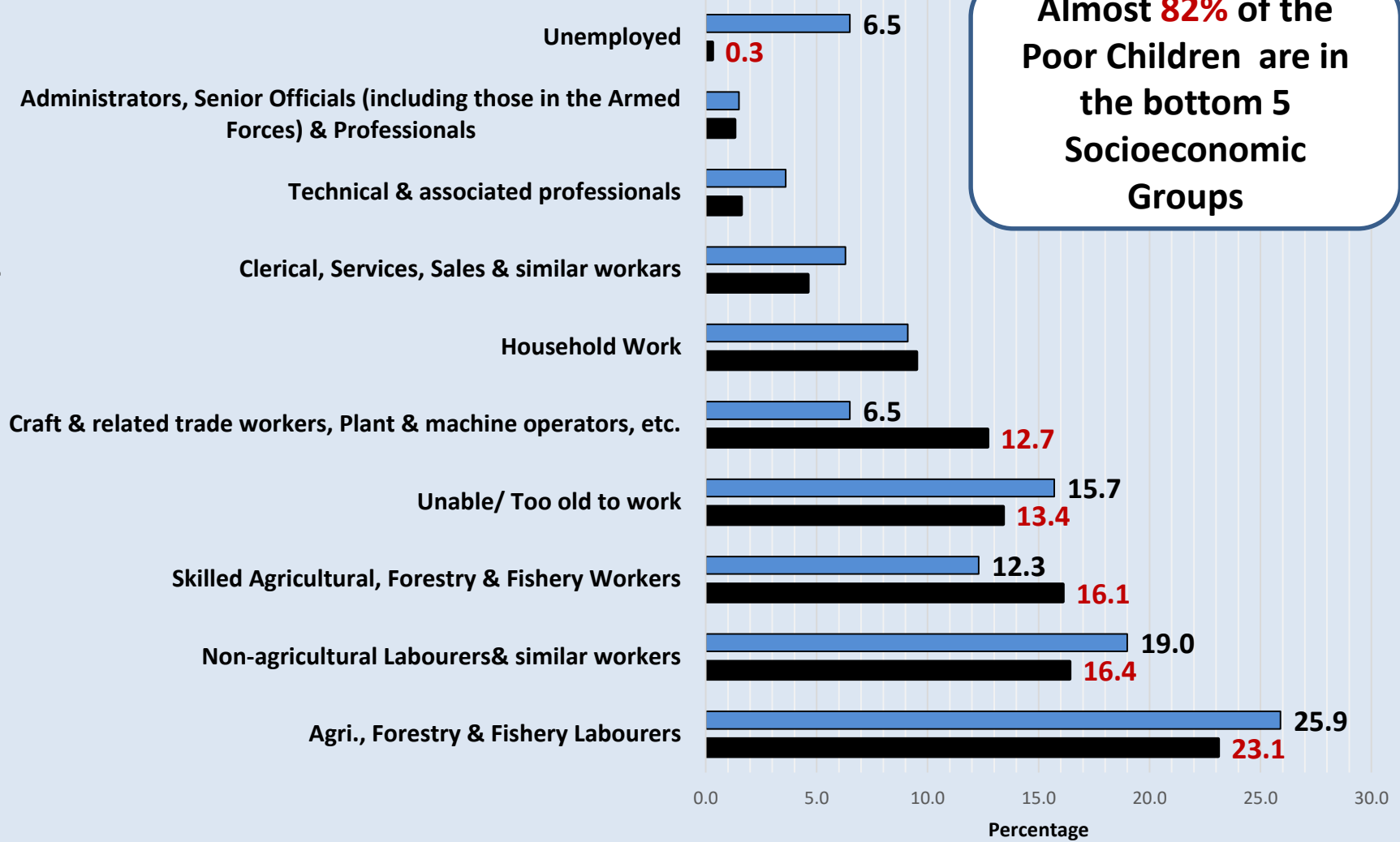


# Households Classified by Occupation/ Activity of Head of Household

- **HHs in HIES-2012/13 were divided into 10 Socioeconomic Groups, based on the Main Occupation Category/Activity of the Head of the HH →**
  - **1 - Administrators, Senior Officials & Professionals;**
  - **2 – Technical & Associated Professionals;**
  - **3 - Clerical, Services, Sales & Similar Workers;**
  - **4 – Skilled Agricultural, Forestry & Fishery Workers;**
  - **5 - Craft & related trade workers, plant & machine operators, etc. ;**
  - **6 – Non-Agricultural Labourers & similar workers and**
  - **7 - Agriculture, Forestry Labourers, were considered as Socio-economic Groups were considered, as SEGs with employed heads of HHs**
- **The Other HH Groups: HHs headed by either,**
  - **8 – “an unemployed person”,**
  - **9 – “a household workers”;**
  - **10 – “a person who is not able to or too old to work”**
- **[Any member living in households in the above 10 groups is considered to be in that particular Group ]**

**Figure 4-Who are the Poorest Children? :** Percentage of “Poor Children”(under 19 years) within each Group and Share of Poor Children by **Occupation or Activity** of the Head of Household – 2012/13

Socioeconomic Group (Based on Occupation/Activity of the Head of Household)



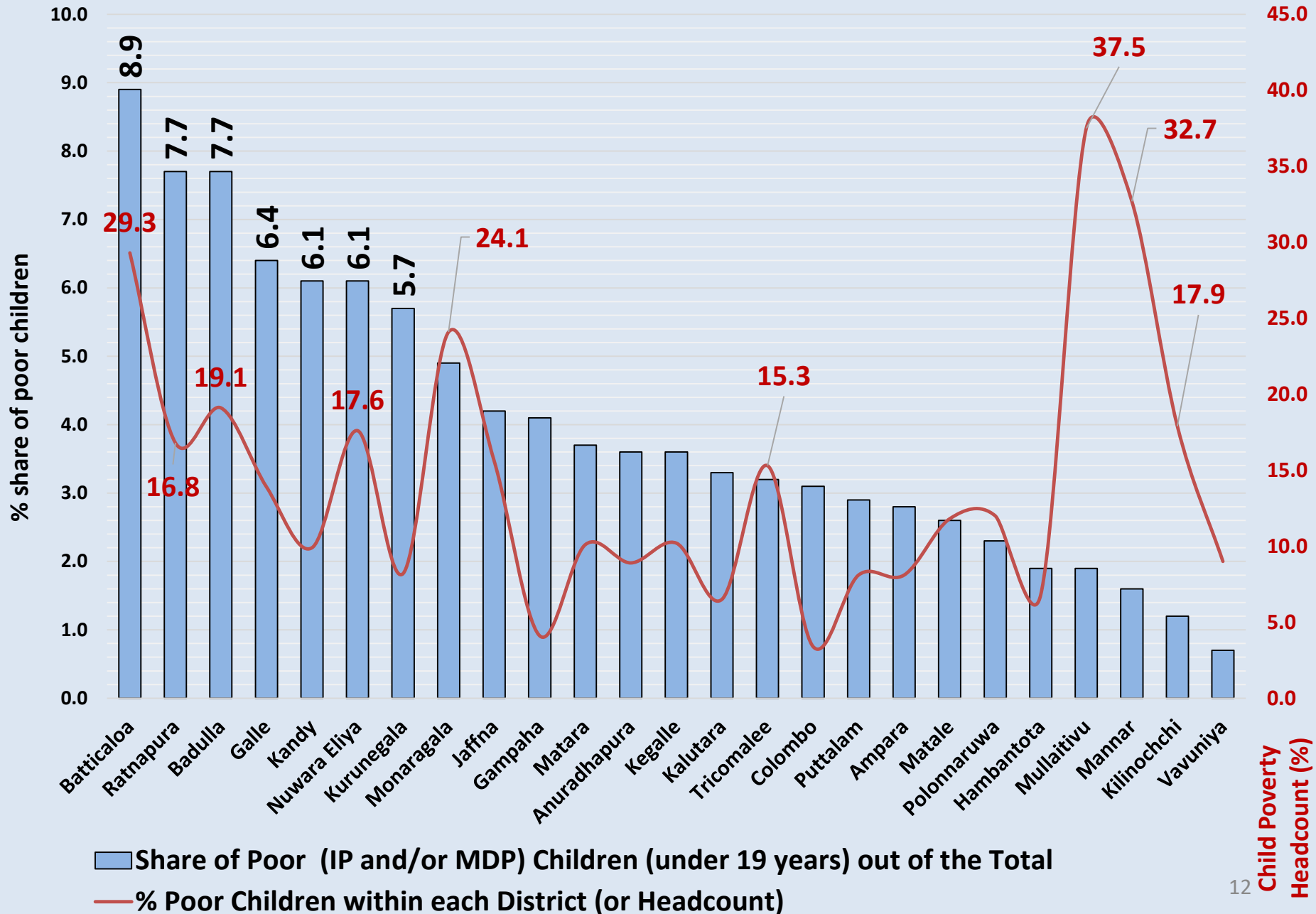
**Almost 82% of the Poor Children are in the bottom 5 Socioeconomic Groups**

■ Headcount: Income and/or Multidimensionally Poor Children (0-18 Years)  
 ■ Share of: Income and/or Multidimensionally Poor Children (0-18 Years)

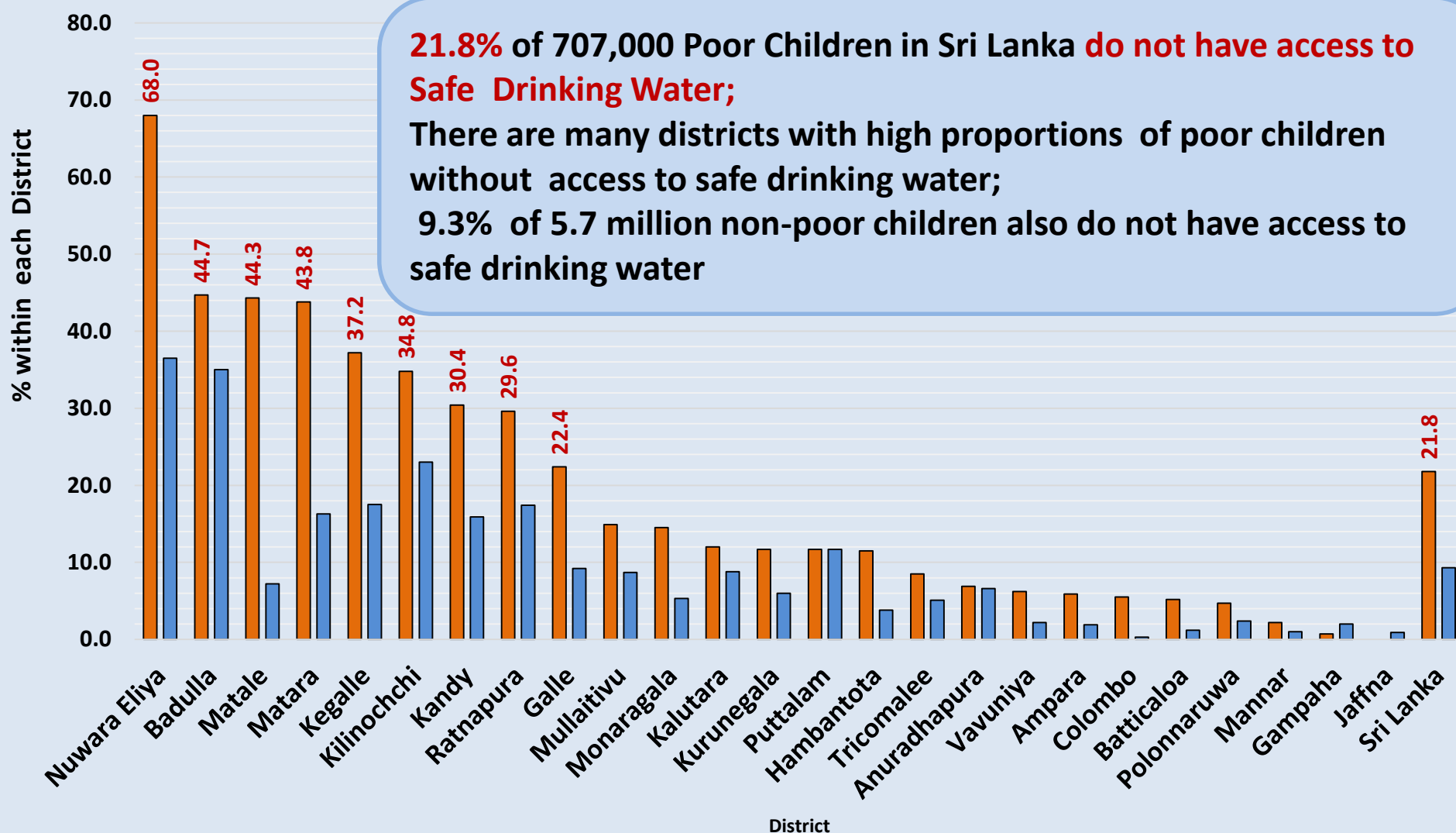
# Poorest Children (under 19 years) in Sri Lanka

- It is important to identify the poorest children who are most vulnerable
- **The Poorest Children are mainly from four Socio-economic Groups** (based on the employment / activity of the head of the household)
  1. **Agricultural, Forestry and Fishery Labourer (Headcount 25.9 & Share 23.1%)**
  2. **Non-agricultural Labourers and Similar Workers (Headcount 19.0% & Share 16.4%)**
  3. **Persons unable to or too old to work (Headcount 15.7% & Share 13.4%)**
  4. **Skilled Agricultural, Forestry and Fishery Workers (Headcount 12.3% & Share 16.1%)**
- Almost **69%** of the poor children (under 19 years) are from the above four Household Groups. If “**Craft & related trade workers, Plant & machinery operators**” Group is also included the total share of poor children increases to **81.7%**

**Figure 5-Where are the Poorest Children? : Share of Poor Children (under 19 years) by Districts and Percentage of Poor Children within each District (or Headcount)-2012/13**

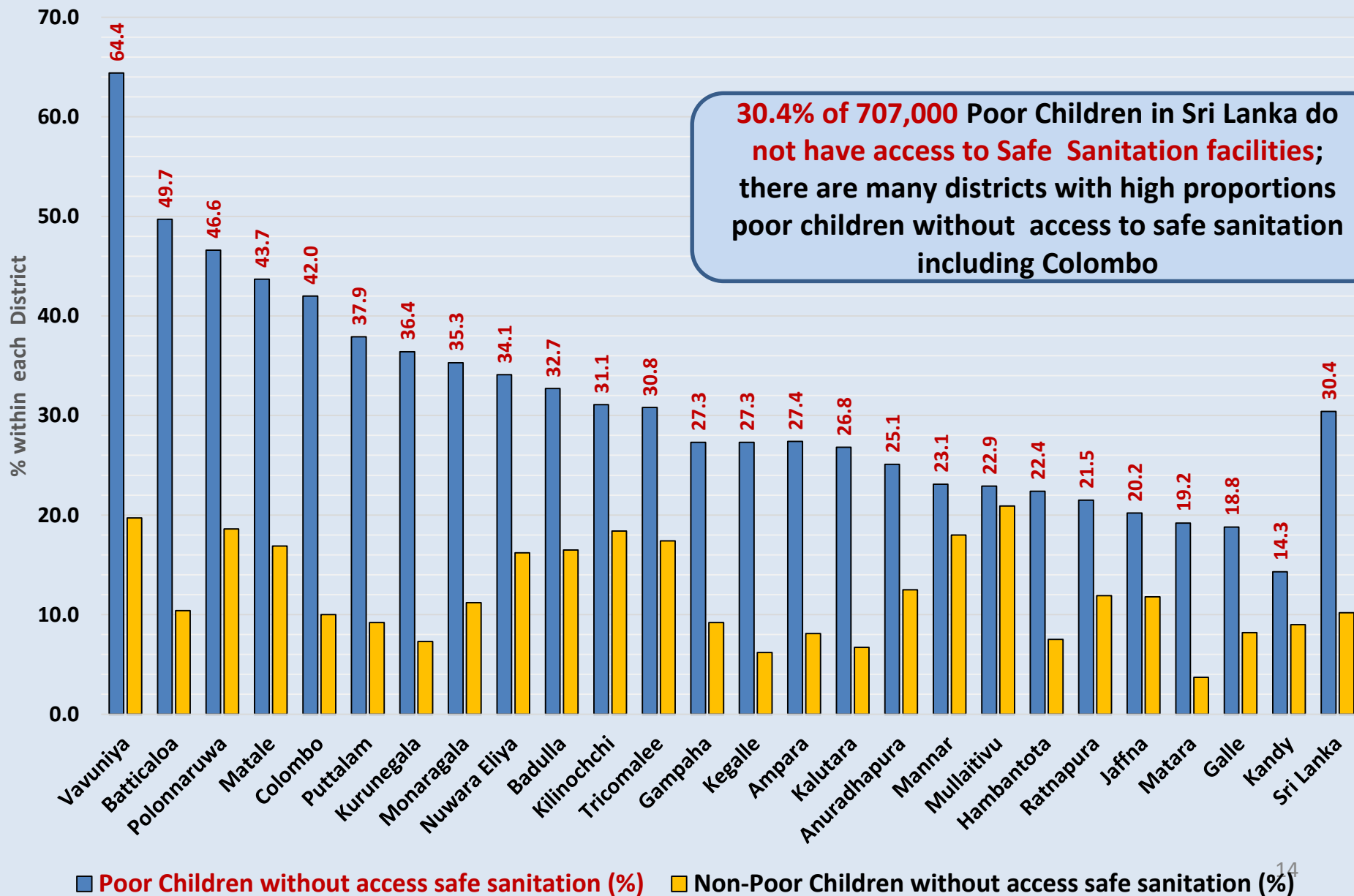


**Figure 6-Children (under 19 years): Poor / Non-Poor Children without Access to Safe Drinking Water -2012/13**

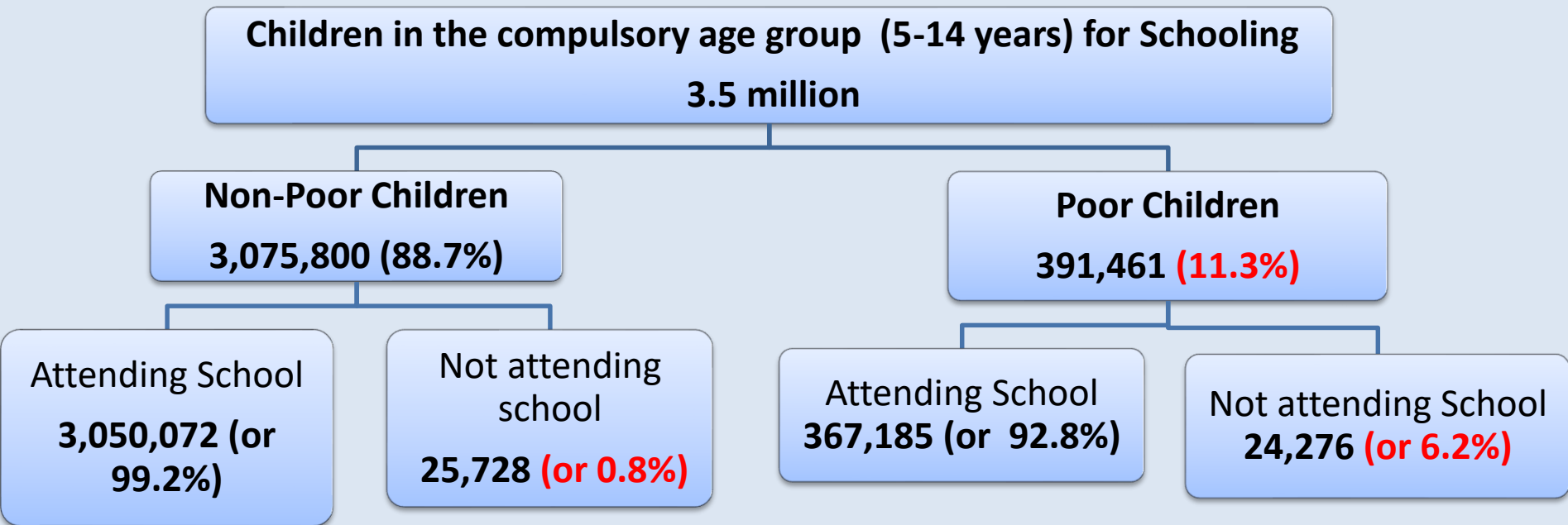


■ **Poor Children without access to safe drinking water (%)**  
■ **Non-Children without access to safe drinking water (%)**

# Figure 7-Children (under 19 years): Poor / Non-Poor Children without Access to Safe Sanitation by Districts - 2012/13



# Figure 8- School Attendance of Children in the Compulsory Age Group (5-14 years) for Schooling: Attending /Not Attending School – 2012/13



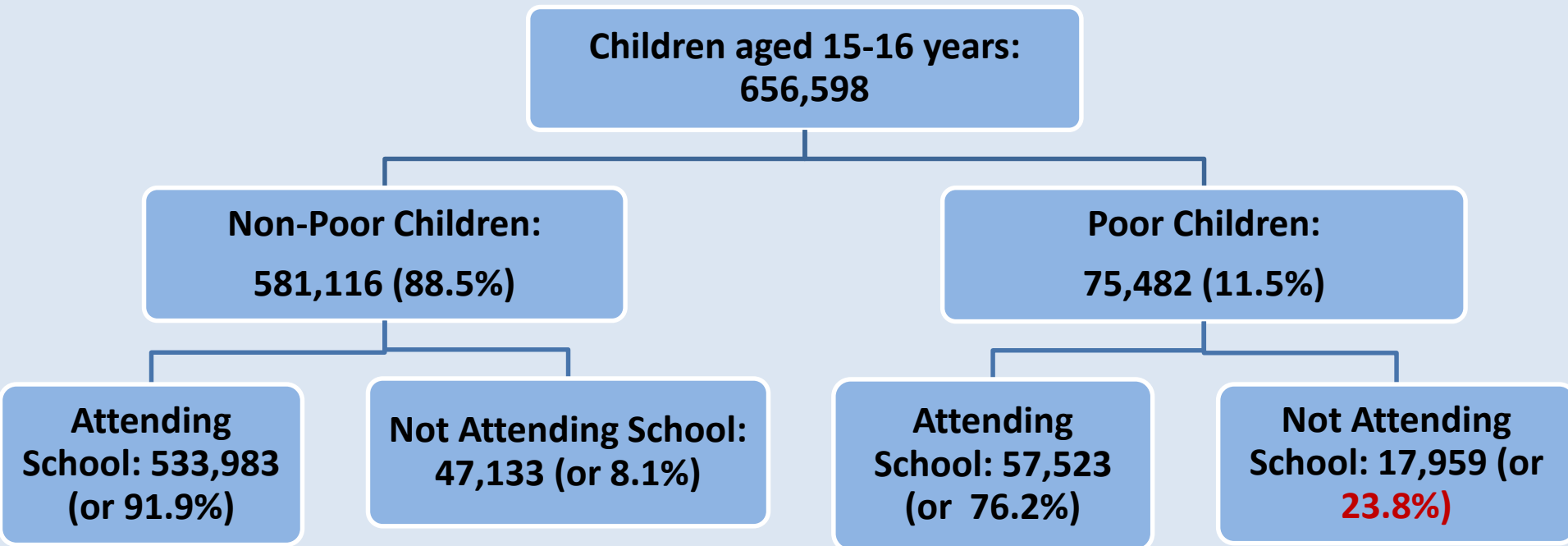
Poor Children in the compulsory age group for school education is **8 times more likely** to not attend school compared to non-poor children

## **Poor Children (5-14 years) Not Attending School (NAS) → Summary**

- **Out 3.5 million children (5-14 years) 11.3% are poor. Out of them 6.2% are NAS**
- **Nearly 70% of the poor children NAS are from → Households headed by “Agri. Forestry & Fishery Labourers” (34.7%); “Persons Unable / too old to work” (13.3%); Skilled Agricultural, Forestry and Fishery Workers” (10.8%); and “Persons engaged in household work” (10.9%)**
- **Urban sector has the highest incidence of poor children NAS (11.5%); Rural sector reports the lowest incidence (4.4%) and highest share (55.1%)**
- **Ratnapura District has the highest share of poor children NAS (12.8%), followed by Colombo (12.0%), Batticaloa (10.4%) and Nuwara Eliya (9.7%)**
- **Colombo District records the highest incidence of poor children NAS (22.0%); As the Child Poverty Headcount in Colombo is only 3.4%, there could be a possibility for poor children NAS to get low priority, for interventions**

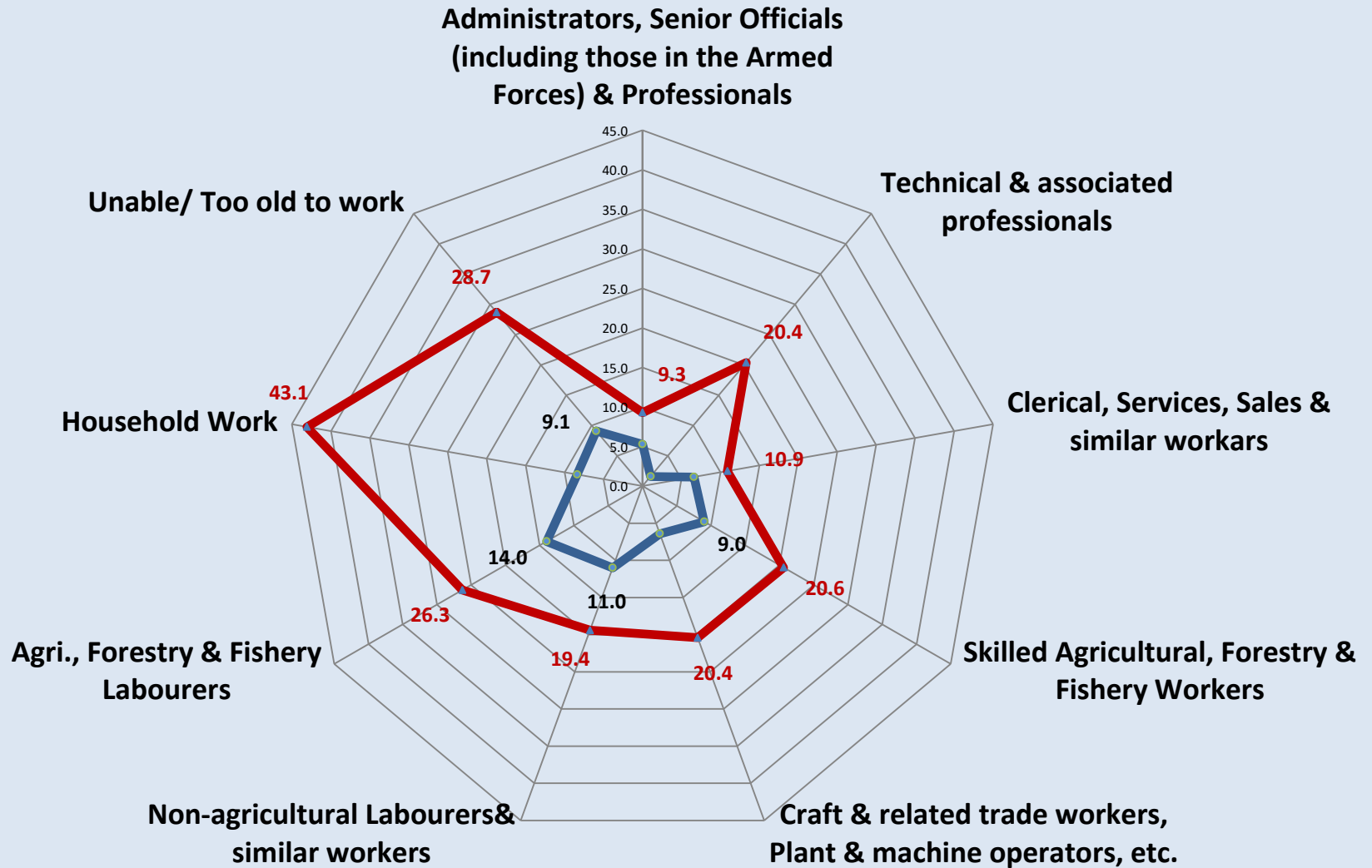


**Figure 9-School Attendance of Children in the Age Group (15-16 years):  
Attending /Not Attending School – 2012/13**



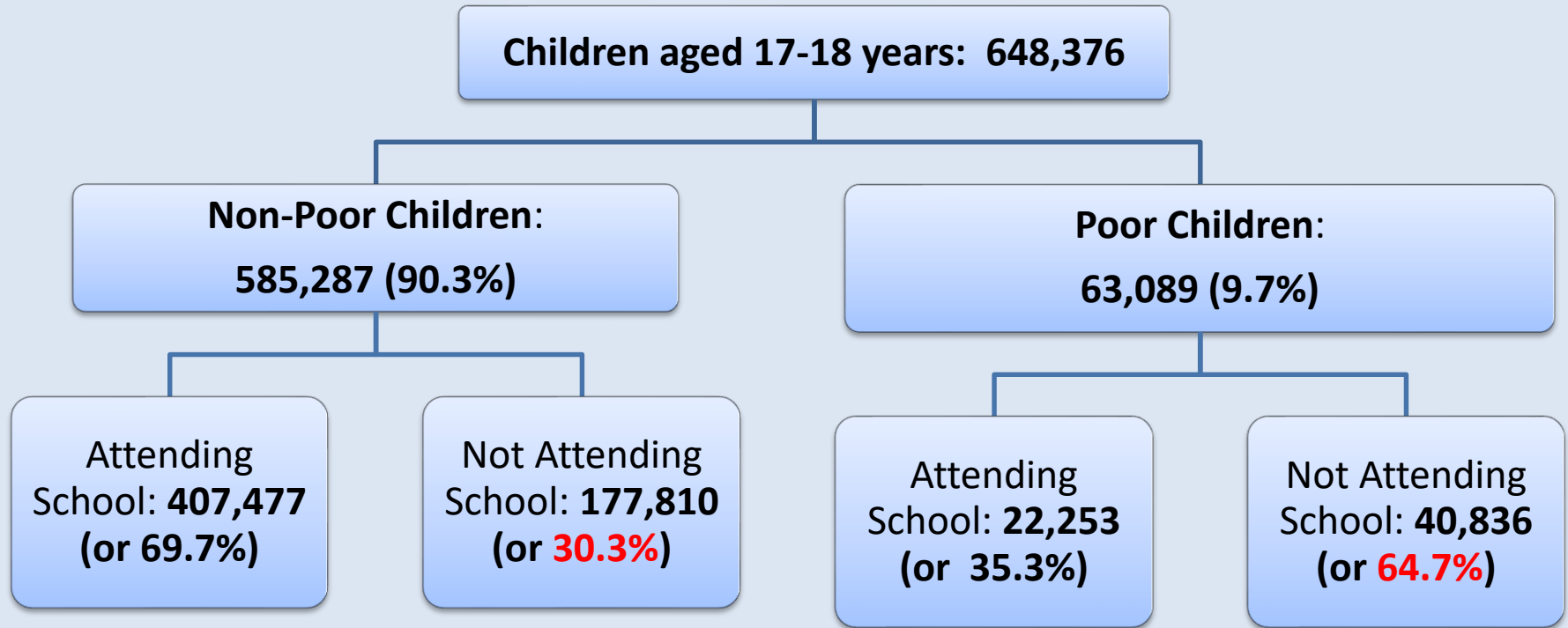
**“Poor Children” in the 15 to 16 age group are almost three times more likely to leave formal school education, compared to non-poor children in the same age**

**Figure 10- Percentages of Poor and Non-Poor Children (15-16 years) not attending school, within each Socio-economic Group – 2012/13**



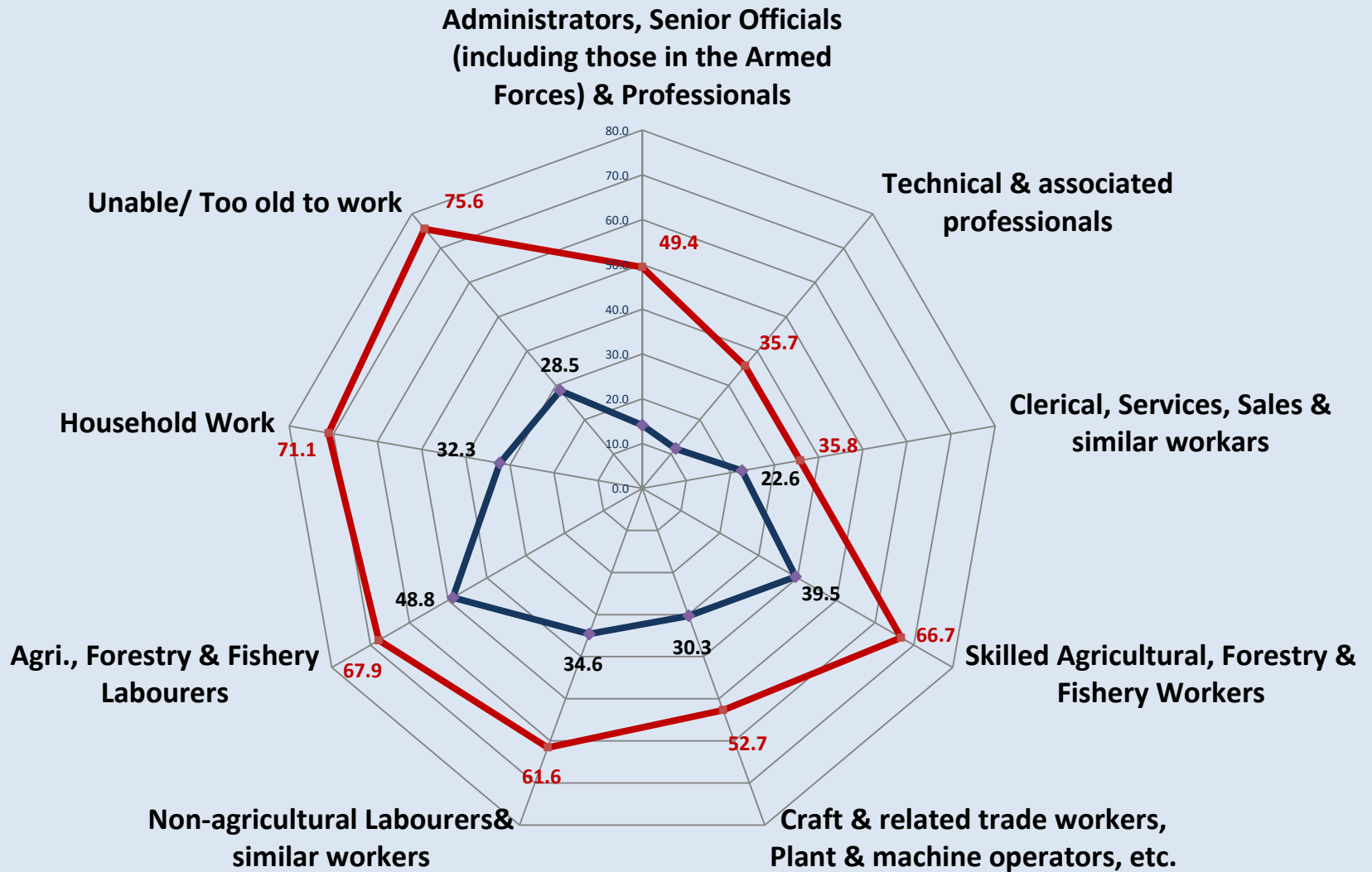
—▲— Percentage of Poor Children(15-16 years) Not Attending School  
—●— Percentage of Non-Poor Children(15-16 years) Not Attending School

**Figure 11-School Attendance of Children in the Age Group (17-18 years): Attending /Not Attending School – 2012/13**



**“Poor Children” in the 17 to 18 age group are twice more likely to leave formal school education, compared to non-poor children in the same age**

**Figure 12-Percentages of Poor and Non-Poor Children (17-18 years), within each Socio-economic Group – 2012/13**



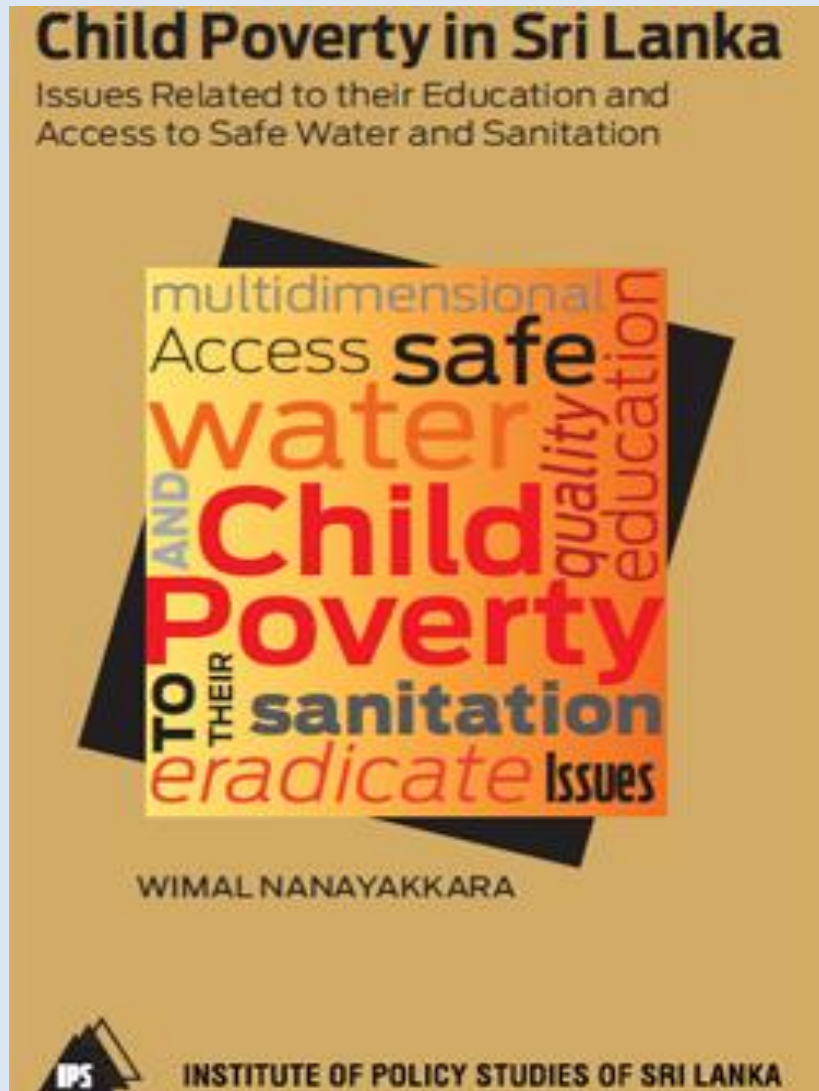
—◆— Percentage of Poor Children(17-18 years) Not Attending School  
—◆— Percentage of Non-Poor Children(17-18 years) Not Attending School



## Summary

1. Out of 6.4 million children under 19 years, 707,000 (or 11.0%) are either “Income Poor and / or Multi-dimensionally Poor”
2. **Disparities in Child Poverty among Socioeconomic Groups (Figure 4):** Around 82% of the poor children in the country are from **households headed** by “Agricultural Labourers”, “Non-agricultural Labourers”, “persons who are unable to or too old to work” , “skilled agricultural and related workers” and “Craft & related trade workers, Plant and Machinery workers” → Precisely targeted interventions needed
3. **Very high regional variations in Child Poverty (Figure 5):** Batticaloa District reports the highest share (**8.9%**) of poor children & Child Poverty Headcount is also high (29%); In Mullaitivu District Child Poverty Headcount is highest (**37.5%**), but the **share is only 1.9%** out of the total number of poor children
4. Out of the poor children → **22%** do not have access to safe drinking water & 30.4% do not have access to adequate sanitation facilities. More than **40%** of the poor children in **Colombo District** also do not have access to adequate sanitation
5. **Poor Children not attending School:** **6%** aged 5-14 years; **24%** aged 15-16 years & **65%** aged 17-18 years (**Figure 8, 9 & 11**)
6. **Ensuring quality education for all children, irrespective of their family background, where they live, their ethnicity, and whether they are disabled or not, is the key to breaking the intergenerational poverty trap.**

The aim of the publication was to provide details on poor and vulnerable children in Sri Lanka, who are faced with various deprivations, related to access to education, safe water and sanitation.



## Other articles on Poverty in Sri Lanka by the author

- Link to blog articles by the author, mostly related to poverty in Sri Lanka under “Talking Economics” of the Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka →
- <http://www.ips.lk/talkingeconomics/author/wimaln/>

*Thank You*