

TITLE 3.2The Reality of the Fisher Community in ~~SRI LANKA~~ IN YEAR 2000

The research conducted by women animators for a period of 6 months highlighted the following issues in the traditional fisher community in the area afore mentioned. The issues for which we resolute to eliviate given as follows:

1. Educational Issues

In accordance with the general findings of Fisher Community in Sri Lanka, the educational standard of fisher-folk is very low compared to other sectors. This illiteracy result in the negligence of health care which create malnutrition and sanitation which cost in increasing plagues and death rate specially in the fisher community. The statistics given below explains their educational positions.

2. Percentage of School Attendance:Percentage

Children never seen a school	6 %
„ from grade 1 to grade 5	22 %
„ „ 6 to „ 8	28 %
„ „ 9 to „ 11	16 %
„ study for G.C.E (O/L)	20 %
„ study for G.C.E. (A/L)	8 %

Above mentioned 6% who have not attended school cannot read or write. The findings of the research highlighted the low income rate, lack of school facilities and marginalization of community as the main impact of getting the general education.

2. IncomePercentage

Population earn between Rs. 500/- to Rs. 1000/-	27 %
„ „ Rs. 1000/- to Rs. 1500/-	03 %
„ „ Rs. 1500/- to Rs. 2000/-	11 %
„ „ Rs. 2000/- to Rs. 2500/-	07 %
„ „ Rs. 2500/- to Rs. 3000/-	22 %
„ „ Rs. 3000/- to Rs. 3500/-	22 %
„ earn above Rs. 3500/-	08 %

SIRIMAL PRINTO.  
FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT SOLIDARITY CENTRE  
PALAHEWA, NEGOMBO, SRI LANKA.

The above statistics explains that 70% - 75% of the fisher population is below poverty line. With the increase of cost of living they step into famine day by day as the family membership is 4-8 and the income is not sufficient even to provide one meal a day for the family.

3. Rate of Expenditure on Food:

20	-	50	%	of the income spend on food by	40	%
51	-	71	%	- do -	44	%
72	-	82	%	- do -	12	%
83	-	93	%	- do -	04	%

The 4 and 12 % who spend above 82% of their income are the bread winners who have exert morning till night to earn their living. In calculation with the statistics above show that 60% of the fisher community spend the maximum on food items. This result in their never ending property for which not even our sovereignty find a solution.

Normally in the third world counties those who comes under poverty level spend 80% of their income on food items. It is not due to their lavish expenditure, but their earnings not sufficient even to meet their daily bread. Government had taken steps like, JANASAVIYA, SAMURDI, to eliviate this poverty issue. But, with the coming trend in privatising on open marketing policy planning of Government this type of development steps become pipe dreams to community development.

In the short period of 1 ½ years that has taken steps on privatisation to avert poverty level increase in rapid succession. In the midst of this, all benefits of commerce, agro, and industrialisation goes to 20% of the elite multi national sector in the society. When the policy makers takes steps to facilitate necessaties for the hounds in the high society, it is pathetic to think why they do not attempt to improve the standard of 8% poor who had helped them to come into parliament.

4. Expenditure increase on Vices

It is identified the undermentioned habits for which they spend as much as they spend on home consumption which distribute among 4-6 members in the family.

		% of the Income		Spending Percentage
1.	Liquor	05	- 15%	48 %
2.	Smoking	16	- 26%	15 %
3.	Gambling	27	- 37%	11 %
4.	Entertaining (feasts & functions)	38	- 48%	12 %
5.	Films, Drama	49	- 59%	08 %
6.	Sex Abuses	60	- 70%	08 %

The above research analysis stressed that the maximum of their daily income they exhaust on their personal pleasures at the risk of sending their wives and children to poverty and destitution. Even with reluctance we have to highlight that the affected community never curtail or lesson their addiction even in the instances of low income. In such occasions they inflict further debit on the debt rate of the family.

5. Average Membership of a Family in the Fisher Communities

Family Membership		Percentage of the Community
01	- 03 members	18 %
04	- 06 „	49 %
07	- 10 „	29 %
11	- 14 „	04 %

The above statistics stressed that 04-06 membered family % is the average membership in the fisher community which could be overlooked. As normal if they did not felt the hardship to provide sufficient protenal diet to retain their health and vigor which is hereditary to fisher community during recent past (in late 1960) in which they provided abundant protein from fish consumption alone

But, as a result of low income they have to sell off maximum of their catch to earn a living at the risk of finding alternative to substitute the protein which they should get in order to retain their health.

6. Population rate who adopt meat , Fish , Eggs as substitution :

Variety of Food	Consumption Rate
Consumption of meat	24 %
Consumption of fish	99 %
Consumption of Eggs	74 %
Consumption of all 3 varieties	20 %

The above specimen highlight that 99% of Fisher Community lived on fish. But due to the scarcity of fish catch to get an income after separation on home consumption they have to adopt substitution as given above chart in order to retain their health. But, for the reason of not getting on sufficient income to provide above substitution the find solace on the promotion of serials which gives protein to moderate malnutrition which induce multiple ailments to mothers and children.

7. Serial Consumption Rate in Fisher Community:

Name of Serial	Consumption Percentage
Dhal	100 %
Greengram	16 %
Beans (Cowpea)	01 %
Gram	29 %

The above chart indicate that dhal is most popularized serial among fisher community. It is not because that the serial gives the maximum protein value to balance the protein they for not obtaining fish. But, it enrich taste of the meal minimising the loss of appreciation the children lost when they do not get a meal with fish they were used to.

8. Provision of Calories Rate in Fisher Community meals

In the consumption of starch and protein rate that the humanity obtain out of their daily consumption , the international measurement is calculated in calorie kilos. In that measure we undermention the amounts of calories they obtain out of their daily consumption.



Provision Rate of Calories in Fisher Community

Daily Calorie Consumption	Rate of Consumption
1000 - 1500 Fisherfolk	06 %
1500 - 2000 „	31 %
2000 - 2500 „	33 %
2500 - 3000 „	18 %
Above 3000 „	12 %

The above statement focus that majority of the community cannot obtain the necessary amount of nourishments in their daily bread while a majority percentage enjoy excessive amount which result in the acquisition of diseases which derives due to additional supply of vigor. At the same time, majority % of community suffer due to malnourishment. This itself explains in the injustice of distribution of fish resources in the name of Fisher Development oriented on export market.

9. Birth Weight of Babies:

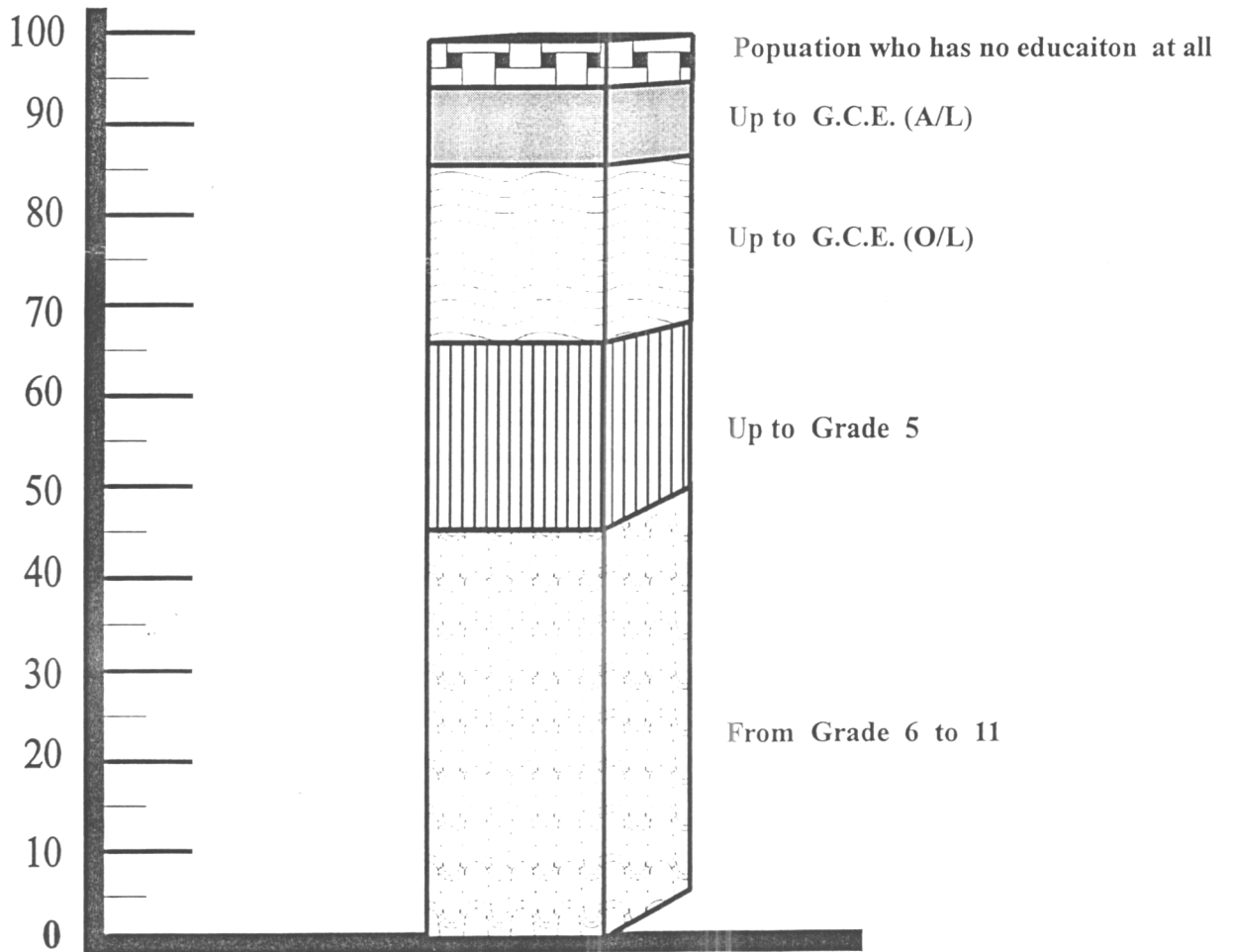
1 kg	to	1 ½ kg	01 %
1 ½ kg	to	2 kg	12 %
2 kg	to	2 ½ kg	30 %
2 ½ kg	to	3 kg	37 %
birth above		3 kg	20 %

Generally 2 ½ kg of weight at the birth of a child is accepted as healthy in Sri Lanka. Records show the malnutrition rate is nearly 43% in the community. But their health conditions deplete due to low income rate and low education to understand sanitary processes and child care. Eventhough there is a special child care programs run by the government sponsored by UNICEF, it do not appear to reach Coastal Fisher Community.

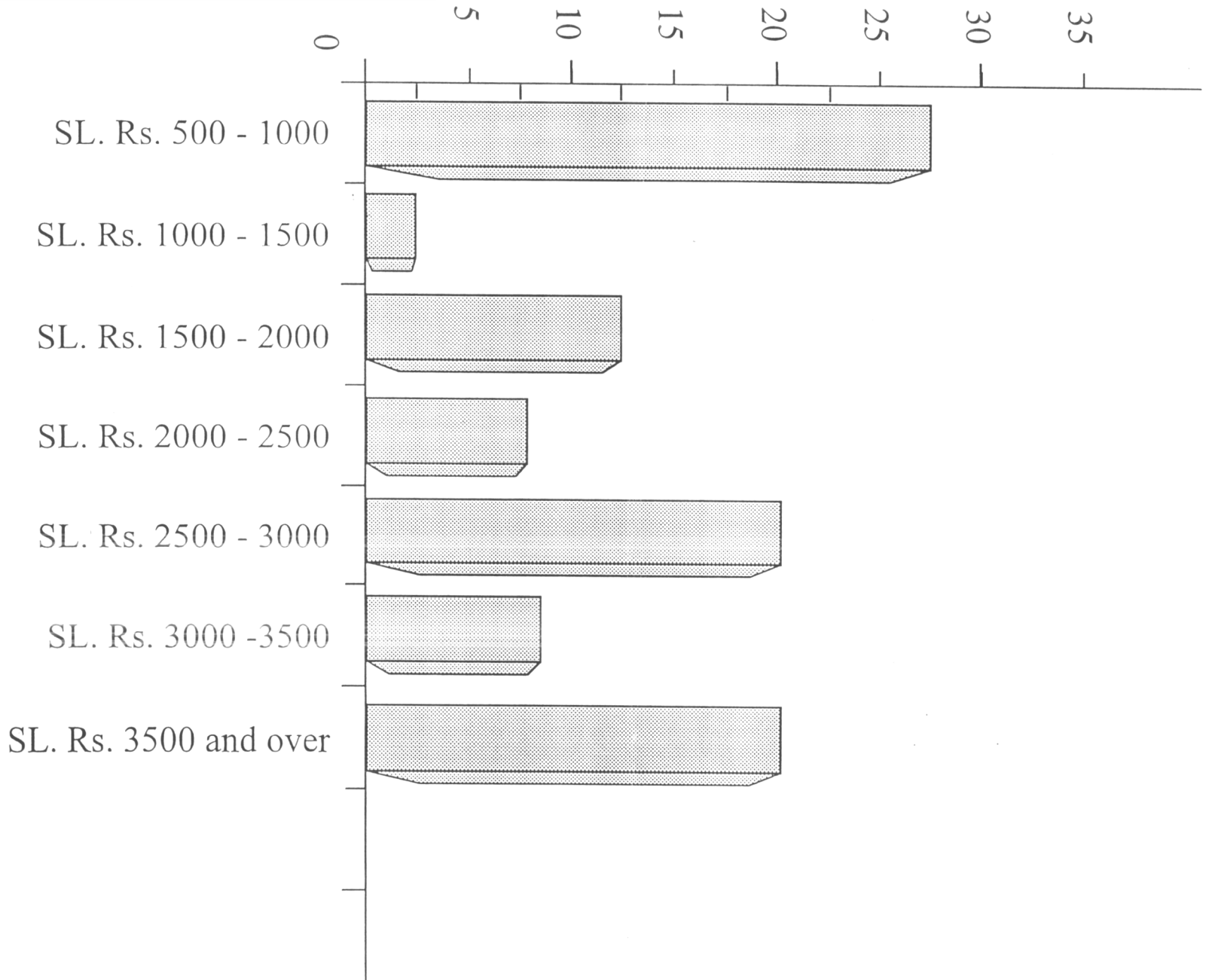
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*EDUCATIONAL STANDARD IN FISHERIES SECTOR*

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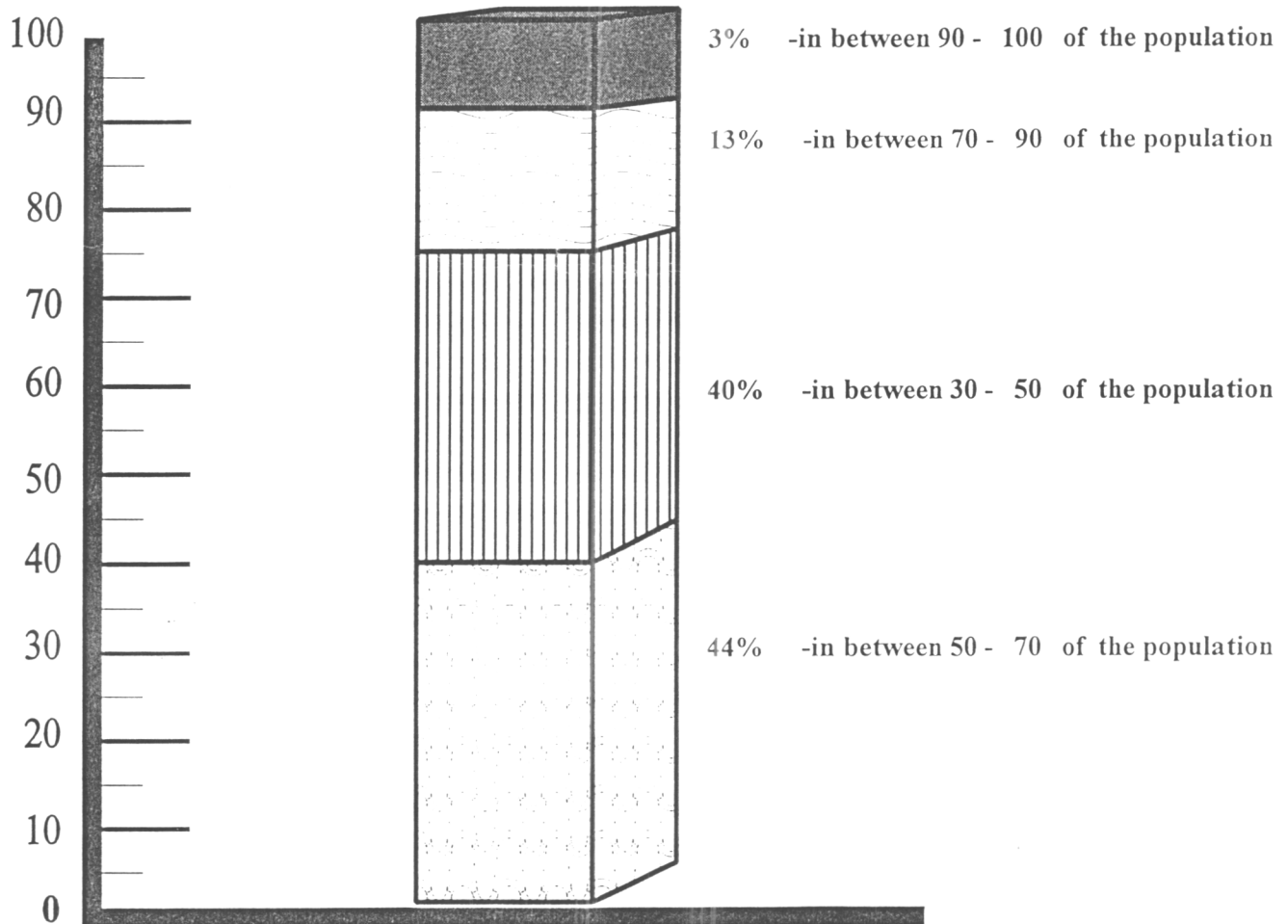
*INCOME LEVEL OF FISHER COMMUNITY*



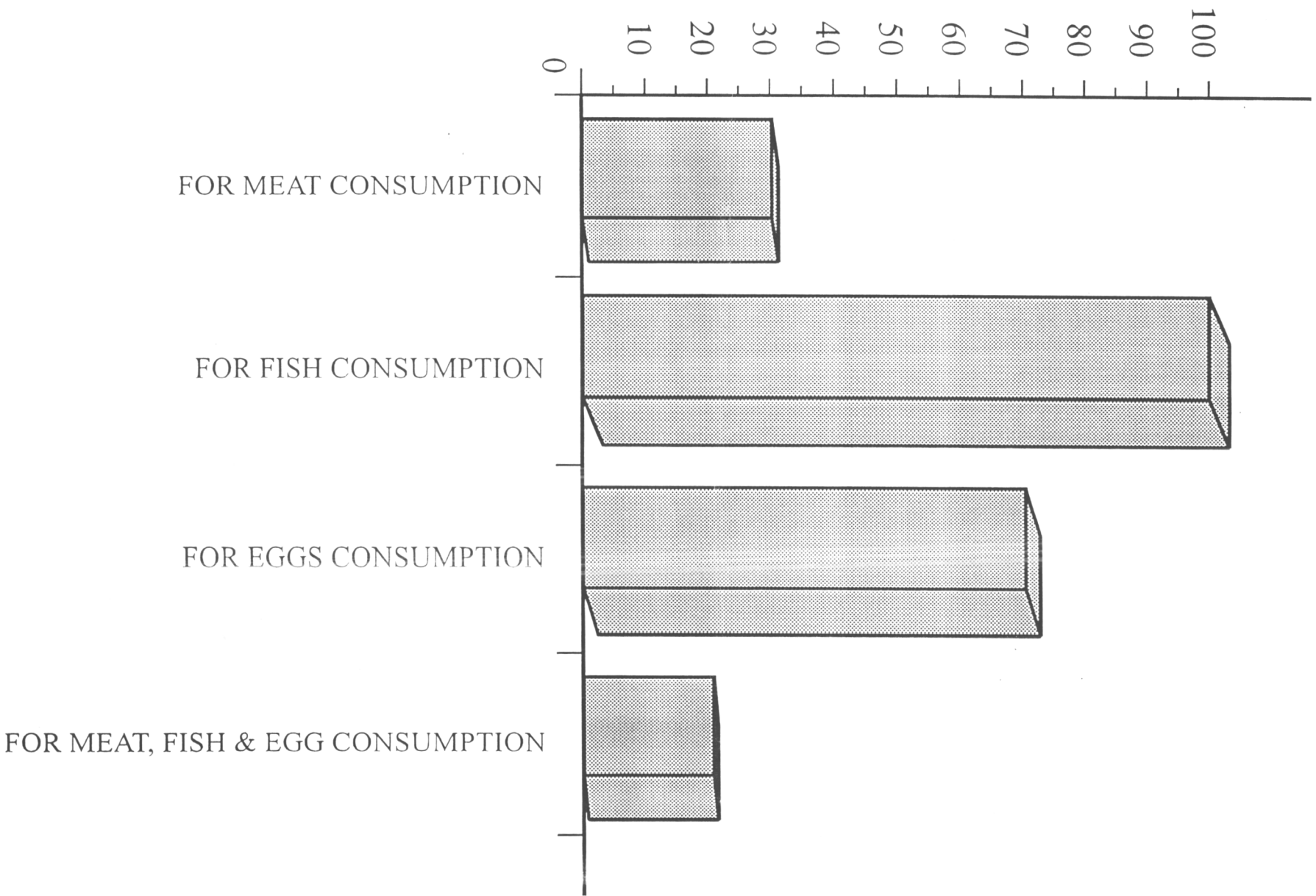
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*PERCENTAGE OF EXPENDITURE ON FOOD CONSUMPTION  
FROM  
THE TOTAL INCOME*

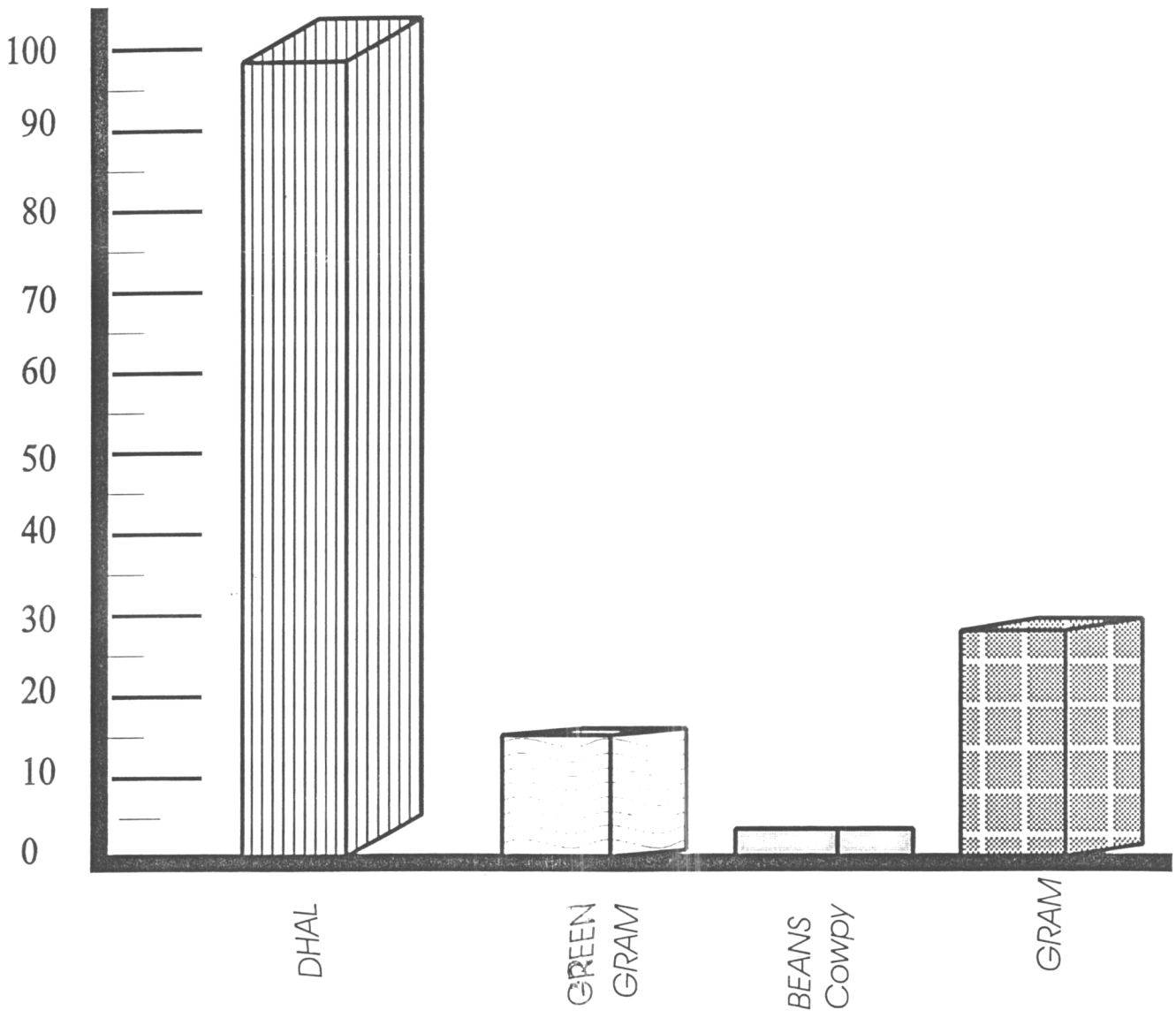
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FOR MEAT, FISH & EGGS CONSUMPTION NECESSITY



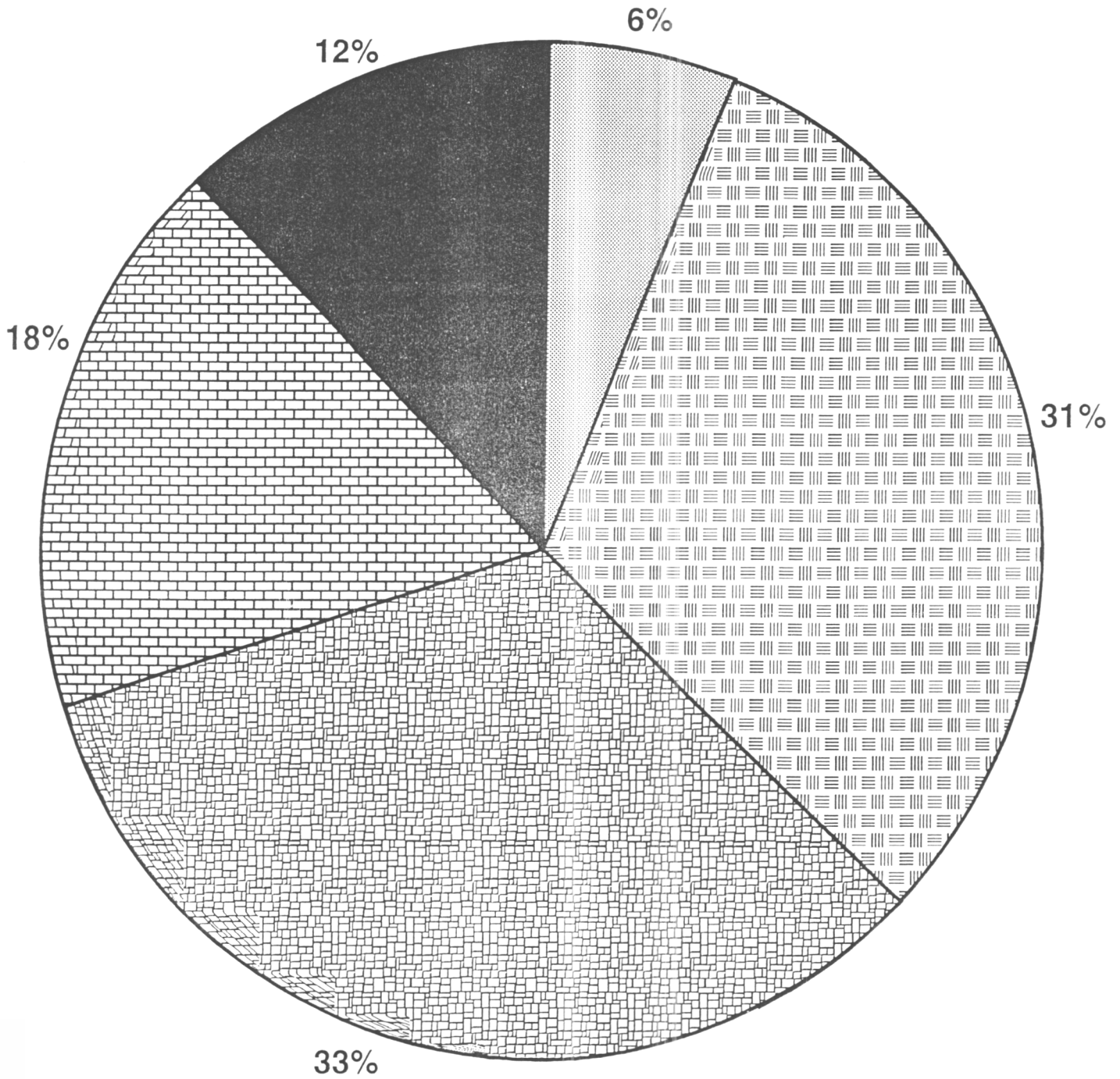
*RATE OF SERIAL CONSUMPTION*








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*RATE OF DAILY PROTEIN (CALLARY) CONSUMPTION*

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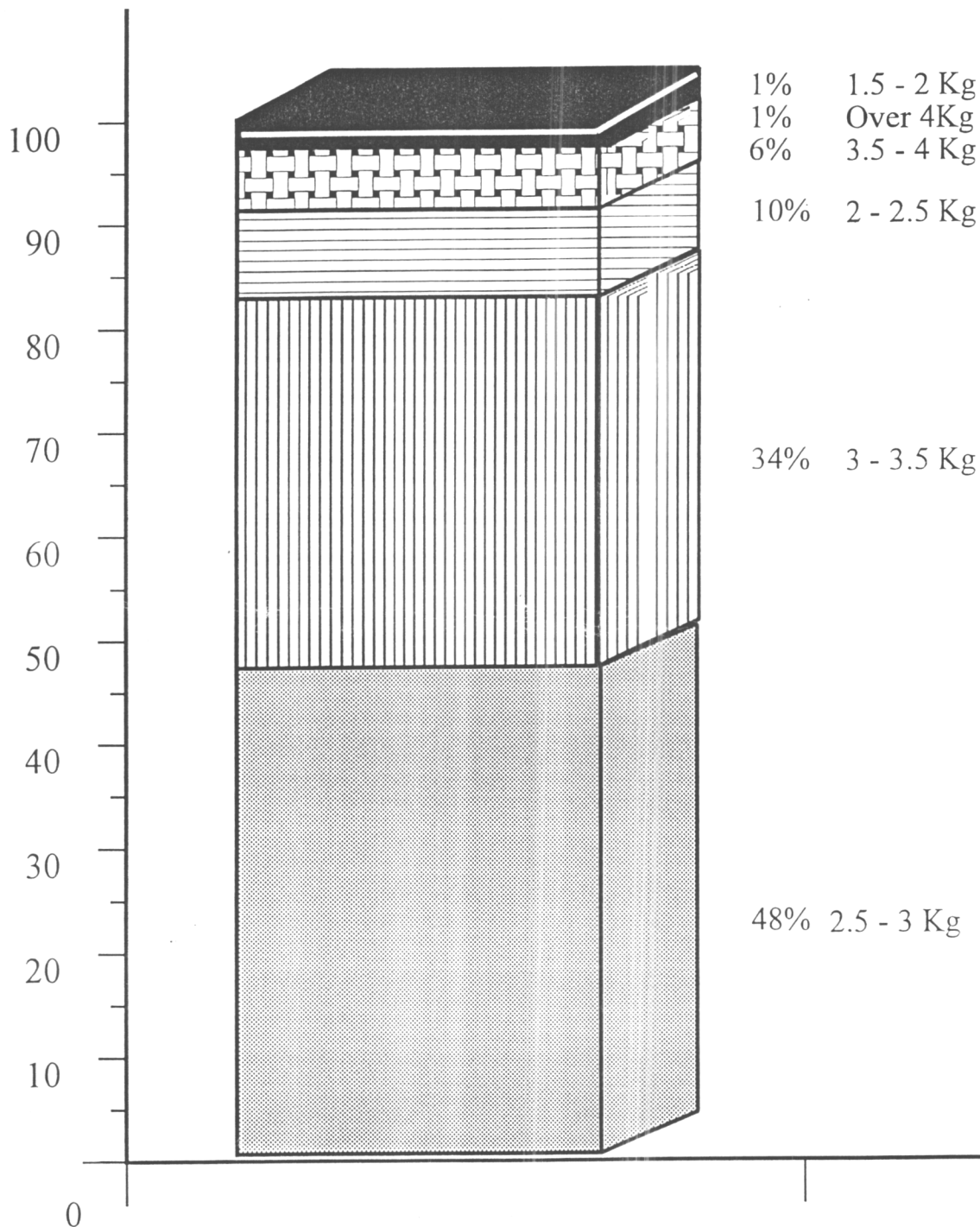
**BETWEEN**

-  1000 - 1500
-  1500 - 2000
-  2000 - 2500
-  2500 - 3000
-  3000 and over

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RATE OF WEIGHT AT BIRTH

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MAP SHOWING THE VILLAGES

WHERE WE (F.D.S.C.) WORK

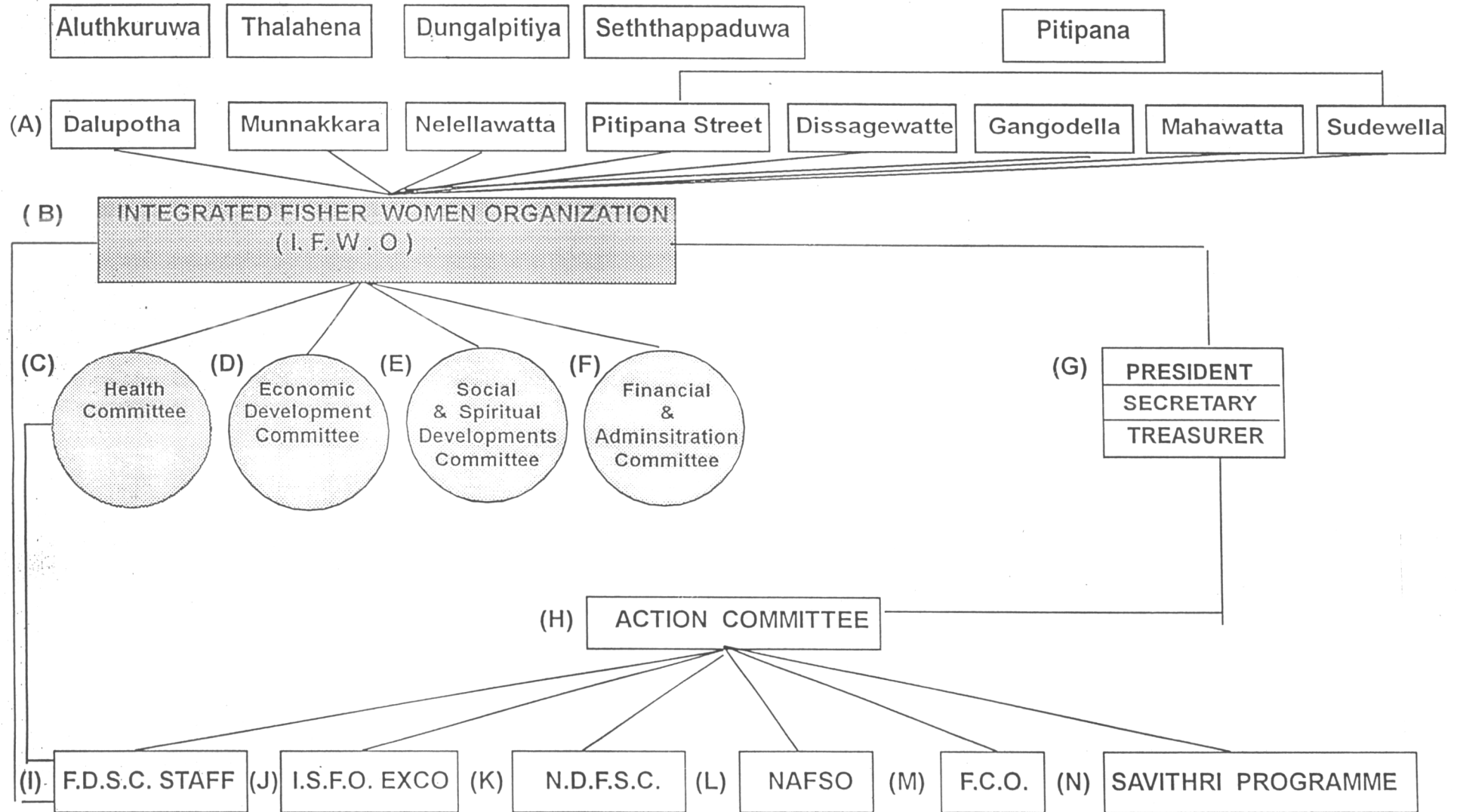


WORKING VILLAGES	
ADDITIONAL NEW VILLAGES	

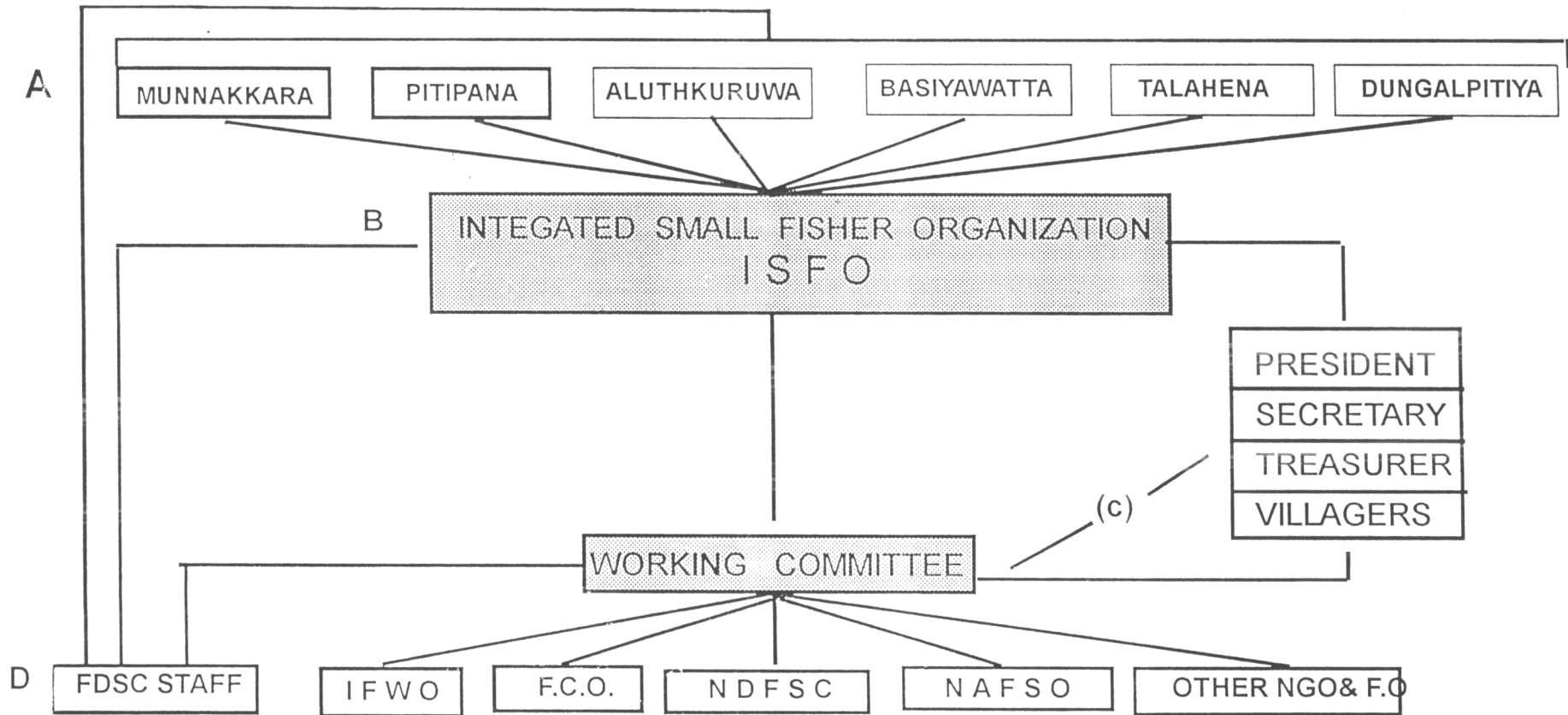
- |    |   |                  |                      |
|----|---|------------------|----------------------|
| 1  | - | <del>72</del>    | DALUPOTHA            |
| 2  | - | 72 A             | DALUPOTHA EAST       |
| 3  | - | 73               | ETTUKALA             |
| 4  | - | 73 A             | KUDAPADUWA           |
| 5  | - | 73 B             | KUDAPADUWA / NORTH   |
| 6  | - | 73 C             | KUDAPADUWA / SOUTH   |
| 7  | - | <del>74</del>    | DALUWAKOTUWA         |
| 8  | - | <del>74 A</del>  | DALUWAKOTUWA / EAST  |
| 9  | - | 75               | KUTTIDUWA            |
| 10 | - | 75 A             | PALANGATURA          |
| 11 | - | 76               | PALLANSENSA / SOUTH  |
| 12 | - | <del>77</del>    | PALLANSENSA / NORTH  |
| 13 | - | <del>77 A</del>  | KAMMALTURE           |
| 14 | - | <del>78</del>    | KOCHCHIKADE          |
| 15 | - | 156              | MUNNAKKARA           |
| 16 | - | 156 A            | MUNNAKKARA / NORTH   |
| 17 | - | 156 B            | MUNNAKKARA / EAST    |
| 18 | - | <del>156 C</del> | SIRIWARDENA PLACE    |
| 19 | - | <del>157</del>   | BOLAWALANA           |
| 20 | - | 157 A            | KURANA               |
| 21 | - | 157 B            | KURANA EAST          |
| 22 | - | 158              | SEA STREET           |
| 23 | - | 158 A            | SEA STREET / SOUTH   |
| 24 | - | 158 B            | SEA STREET / EAST    |
| 25 | - | 159              | PERIYAMULLA          |
| 26 | - | 159 A            | HUNUPITIYA           |
| 27 | - | 160              | UDAYARTHOPPU         |
| 28 | - | <del>160 A</del> | TALADUWA             |
| 29 | - | 160 B            | UDAYARTHOPPU / SOUTH |
| 30 | - | 161 A            | ANGURUKARAMULLA      |
| 31 | - | 162              | PITIPANA             |
| 32 | - | 162 A            | DUWA                 |
| 33 | - | 162 B            | PITIPANA / SOUTH     |
| 34 | - | 162 C            | PITIPANA / EAST      |
| 35 | - | 162 D            | PITIPANA / CENTRAL   |
| 36 | - | <del>163</del>   | TALAHENA             |
| 37 | - | <del>163 A</del> | KEPUNGODA            |
| 38 | - | <del>163 B</del> | SETHTHAPPADUWA       |
| 39 | - | <del>163 C</del> | DUNGALPITIYA         |

THE PRESENT STRUCTURE OF THE INTEGRATED FISHER WOMEN ORGNIZATION  
( I . F . W . O . )

STRUCTURE OF THE I.F.W.O. - 2000 - 2003



2.3 STRUCTURES  
 STRUCTURE OF I.S.F.O. FOR 2000 - 2003



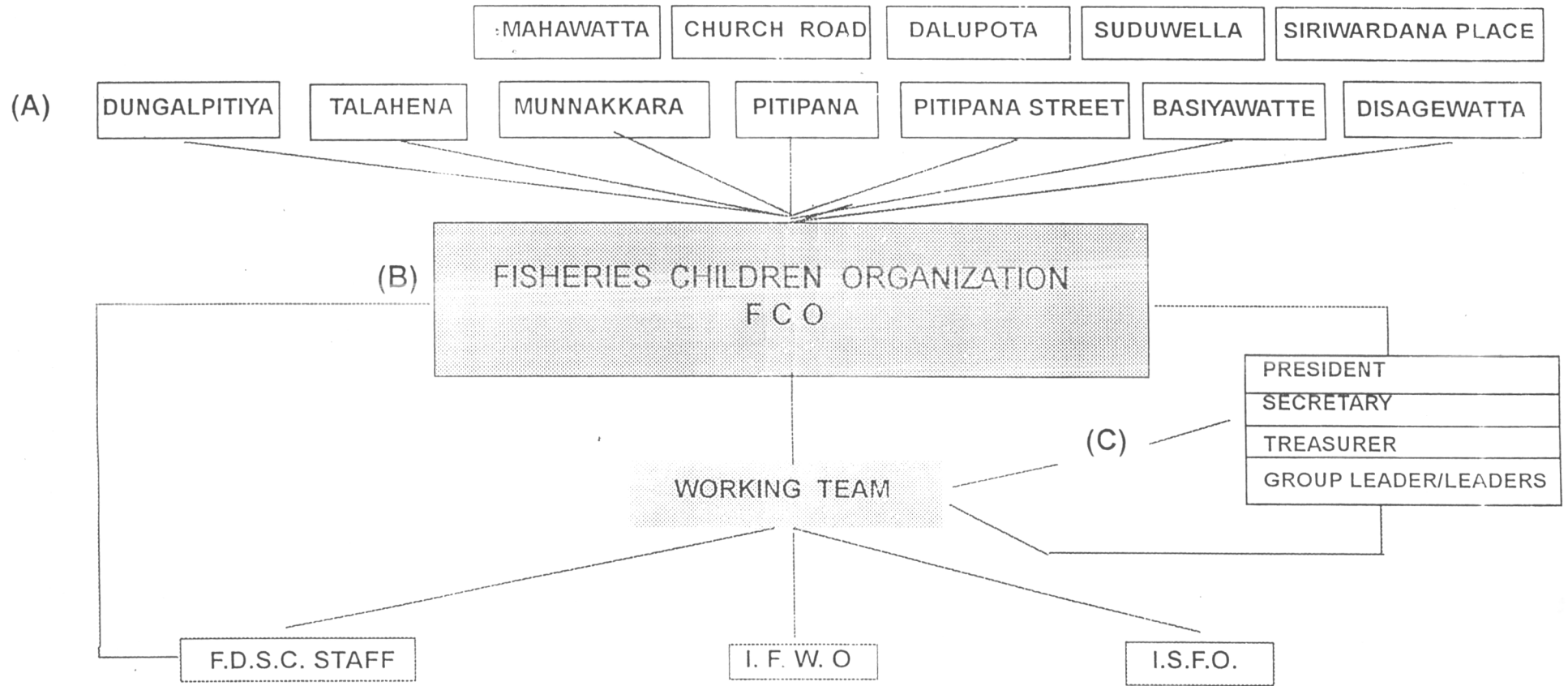
1. FDSC - Fisheries Development Solidarity Centre
2. IFWC - Integrated Fisher Women Organization
3. F.C.O. - Fisher's Children Organization
4. NDFSC - Negombo District Fishers Solidarity Committee
5. NAFSO - National Fisheries Solidarity

**Description of the I.S.F.O. Structure:**

- (A) The villagers where fishermen groups are formed - 12 villagers
- (B) General body of the Integrated Small Fisheries Organization (ISFO)  
 The general body meets every four months to review / assess its expansion, activities and to plan future programmes and also to lay down policy.
- (C) Working Committee- The working committee consists of the President, Secretary and Treasurer of the ISFO and a member from each village where groups exist.
- (D) The staff of the FDSC, the staff of the IFWO (Integrated Fisher Women Organization), Negombo Dist. Fishermen Solidarity Committee, (NDFC), National Fisheries Solidarity Organisation (NAFSO) and the FDSC Children Section supports the well functioning of the Integrated Small Fishermen Organization. (ISFO)

THE PRESENT STRUCTURE OF THE INTEGRATED FISHER CHILDREN ORGANIZATION (FCO)  
STRUCTURE OF THE FCO 2000 - 2003

Eg. :-



**Description of the F.C.O. Structure :**

- (A) The Villagers where children groups are formed - 12 villages
- (B) General Body of the Fisheries Children Organisations (FCO)
- (C) Working Team - The working team consists of the President, Secretary, Treasurer of the FCO and a leader from each children group.
- (D) Supporting Groups - The staff of the F.D.S.C. staff and I.W.F.O. and ISFO working team members.

**N.B.** *During the past 3 years we have enroled additional villages covering about 04 new villages.*