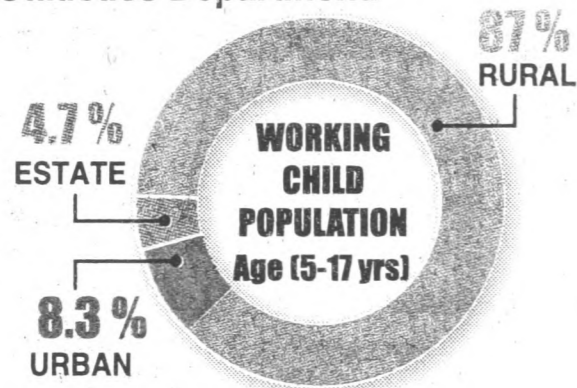


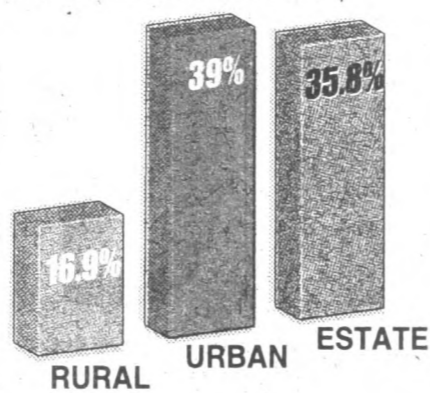
FOCUS ON WORKING CHILDREN

Children in the age group of 5-17 years in Sri Lanka 12.9% (estimated as 557,599) were reported to be engaged in some form of economic activities either while attending school /other educational institution or not attending school, as revealed by the Census and Statistics Department.



⊙ The highest economic activity rate among children has been reported by the Rural sector, followed by the Estate sector and then the Urban sector.

In the Rural sector, out of total child workers, 16.9% work without attending school. The corresponding percentage in the Urban sector is 39% while in the Estate sector it is 35.8%.



This could be interpreted as, out of the children engaged in economic activities, most of the Rural children are engaged in it while still attending school while urban and estate children have a tendency to give up schooling and engage themselves in economic activities.

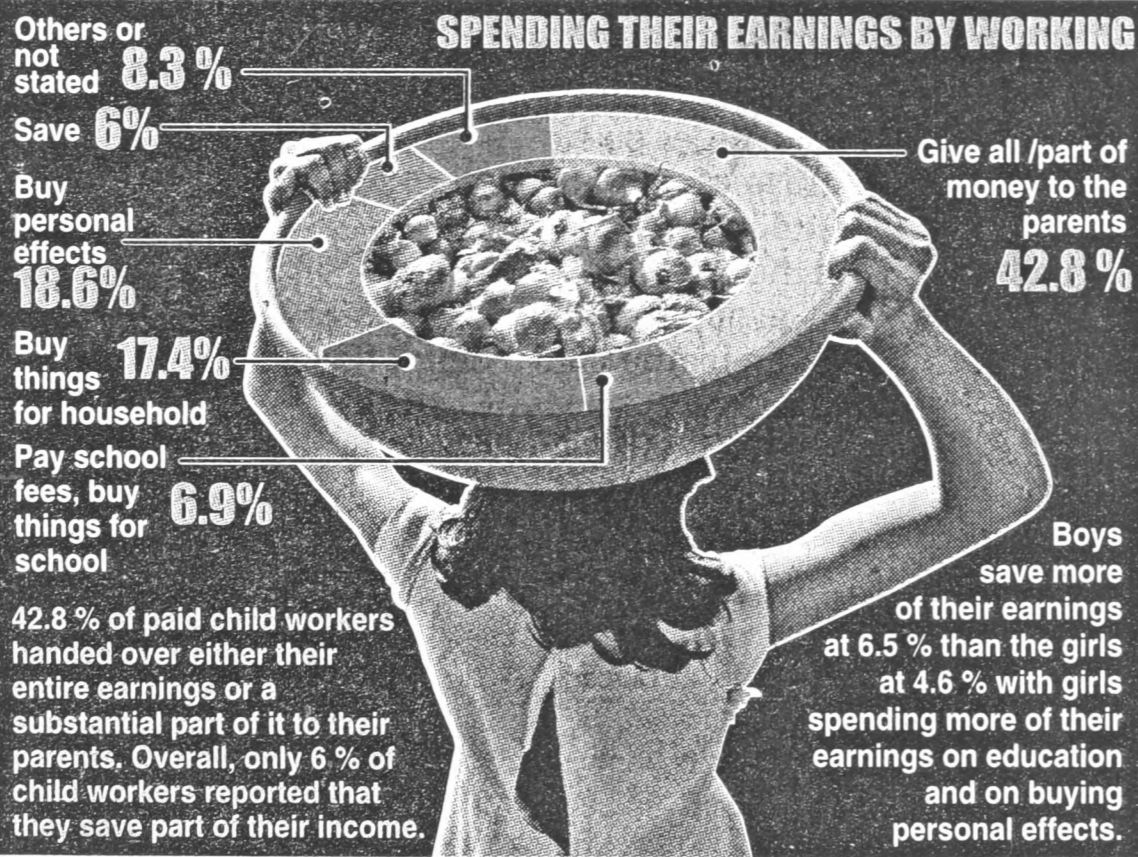
The Rural sector has the highest proportion of children (11.5%), engaged in economic activities while attending school compared to the other two sectors.



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SPENDING THEIR EARNINGS BY WORKING CHILDREN



⊙ The savings habit appears to be non-existent among children in the Urban sector while the Estate sector with 8% records the highest proportion followed by the Rural sector at 7%.

⊙ The average monthly income of child labour, is Rs. 3,820. The average monthly income of male child workers is Rs. 4,038, which is above the average rate of female child workers at Rs. 3,222.