
Economy, Culture, and Politics in Sri Lanka

Social Factors

The factors dealing with health have a negative impact on the livability of Sri Lanka to a significant extent. The physician density of Sri Lanka is 0.73 physicians/1,000 population. This is significant because that means that for every 1,000 people, there are only approximately 0.73 physicians, or doctors. This is reflected in the death rate of Sri Lanka, which is about 6.2 deaths/1,000 population, and the infant mortality rate of 8.6 deaths/1,000 live birth. This is significant because it shows where people are having their babies and more about access to health care. Sri Lanka has a comparatively high infant mortality rate, meaning many babies die at birth. This shows that mothers probably have their children away from any doctors that can help with the birth. Thus, the livability of Sri Lanka is negatively impacted by factors about health care to a significant extent.

The educational and social factors have a negative impact on the livability of Sri Lanka to a moderate extent. The population density of Sri Lanka is 334 square kilometers in 2015. This is significant because it tells you that each person in Sri Lanka would each get their own 334 square kilometers. This affects livability because if a place is over populated, it changes factors such as access to resources, sanitation, and traffic. Sri Lanka imports \$19.01 billion (2016 est.) and exports \$10.53 billion (2016 est.) This has a negative impact on the economy and livability of Sri Lanka, because Sri Lanka imports more goods than they export, and this can affect the debt of their country. The education expenditure of Sri Lanka is 4.9% of GDP (2013). That tells you how much of the money the government has is used on education. School life expectancy in Sri Lanka is 14 years, and literacy is about 92.6%, meaning that people usually drop out of school once they are 14 years old, but most of them learn to read and write first. Therefore, the social factors of Sri Lanka have a negative impact on its liveability to a moderate extent.

Cultural Factors

The cultural factors of Sri Lanka positively impact the livability of it to a significant extent. Sri Lanka has an abundance of festivals and cultural holidays, and it is sometimes said they have more festivals than any other country in the world. Most of the festivals are about religion, as there are four major religions in Sri Lanka, including Buddhism, Hinduism, Christianity, and Islam. This impacts the livability of Sri Lanka because it gives people who live there something to do, and helps to build a sense of community. Community is an important factor when determining livability, because people want to live somewhere they will be accepted. Sri Lanka also has over 25 public holidays. During these public holidays, people can get together and celebrate, or you get a day off just to do talk with your friends, or make new ones. The downside to having that many public holidays could be that trying to get things done, such as an office report could be frustrating with so many days off, Because of these factors, Sri Lanka is positively impacted by its cultural factors when determining livability to a significant extent.

Economic Factors

The economic factors of Sri Lanka impact its livability negatively to a significant extent. The

GDP per capita of Sri Lanka is \$11,200 (2016 est.). That means if all of Sri Lanka's wealth was added together and divided by the number of people, you would get \$11,200. That is significant because it means the average pay of a person would be \$11,200. This statistic is very low comparatively, and reflects on the country's wealth. Sri Lanka imports \$19.01 billion (2016 est.) worth of goods, including mineral products, petroleum, and transportation equipment, but they only export \$10.53 billion (2016 est.) of tea and spices, diamonds, emeralds, and rubies. This shows that Sri Lanka is losing more on imports than they are making on exports. That is important because it means the government is in debt, and has less money to spend on services the population of Sri Lanka could use. Factors based on the economy of Sri Lanka significantly impact its liveability negatively.

Political Factors

The government of Sri Lanka has a positive impact on the livability of it to a moderate extent. Sri Lanka is a Presidential Republic. In a presidential system, a president is head of state and head of government, whereas in some countries the president has little to no power. They do not have a queen or a king, instead they elect their own head of state, who is actively involved in the government. This means that the country is a non-monarchic system. One good thing about this kind of government is that it is a democratic republic, and people get the right to vote for who they want to have as a president. The elections are held every six years, and there is no limit to the number of terms a president can stay. This shows that people only get to voice their opinion on who should be their leader every six years. The fact that there is no limit to the number of terms a president can serve would bring down the liveability of Sri Lanka because if many people were unhappy with the way the president was governing, but not a majority, then that president could just keep ruling. Another point that needs to be made is that presidential republics are not a true democracy, needing only 51% of the population to vote for anything or to change any laws. This could be classified as a good thing, though, because most true democracies fail, because the people vote for what they want now rather than what can help their country long term. Sri Lanka's government has a positive impact on the liveability of the country to a moderate extent.

The government of Sri Lanka has a negative impact on the livability to a significant extent. There is no limit to the amount of terms that can be served by the president. That fact would bring down the liveability of Sri Lanka because if many people were unhappy with the way the president was governing, but not a majority, then that president could just keep ruling. Sri Lanka has three branches of government, which helps balance the power out. The executive, judicial, and administrative branches are the three branches. A problem with Sri Lanka's government is after one year, the president can decide not to have certain members of the legislative branch still be in that job. Sri Lanka's government has a negative impact on the livability to a significant extent.

Environmental Factors

The environmental factors of Sri Lanka have a positive impact on the liveability of it. Sri Lanka's climate could be best described as tropical. The average annual rainfall can be up to 5000 millimetres in some places and generally the lowest is only about 900 millimetres in some places. That is an above average amount which makes sense for a place of tropical climate, as does the 27.5 °C annual average temperature. This is significant because most people prefer to be in a warmer climate rather than a very hot or very cold one, having a positive impact on the

liveability of Sri Lanka. On the other hand, it would probably bother most people that Sri Lanka gets a large amount of rainfall each year. Floods are the most common natural disaster in Sri Lanka, and often because of that cause the most overall damage to Sri Lanka, but even they do not occur very often. Despite that fact, the most dangerous natural disaster that occurs in Sri Lanka are droughts, because the most people are affected by them. Droughts cause a lot of adversities and financial loss to many people, but farmers are especially affected by droughts. This shows which natural disasters are most common in Sri Lanka, and that has an impact because people would rather live in a place with no natural disasters than one with many. These factors give Sri Lanka a positive impact on the liveability of the country, but only to a moderate extent.

Synthesis

The social, economic, and cultural factors of Sri Lanka can help determine the liveability of Sri Lanka as a whole. The social factors overall had a negative impact on the livability of Sri Lanka, because the some of the statistics were very low in comparison to other countries around the world. The physician density especially was very low, and that reflected on the death rate of Sri Lanka. The cultural and environmental factors of Sri Lanka brought up the livability of the country. Sri Lanka has many activities where people can go around and talk to one another, and they have many religions for people to learn about. There is also desirable weather to go to these festivals at.

Reflection

I found this report difficult. The hardest part for me was time management, not doing everything last minute, and not stressing myself out too much. I could do the research with little problems, but it was very difficult to explain why that information was relevant and how it affected the liveability of Sri Lanka. This became a little easier after you explained it in class, but it was still difficult to think of reasons why that would be important and how to explain it in a way that makes sense. Another thing I found difficult was deciding whether a factor was considered good or not. I tried to find Sri Lanka's world ranking for things, but certain factors I couldn't find. Then I tried to find the average of the world for that factor to see if Sri Lanka was above or below that.