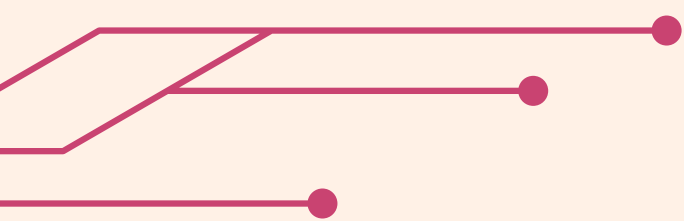
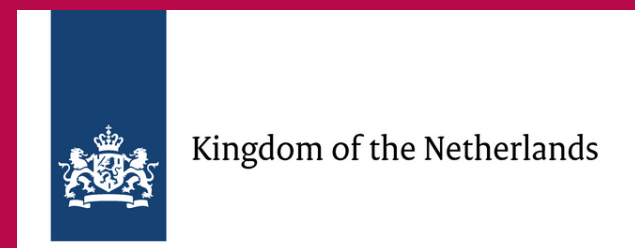




# SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWERMENT



Supported by



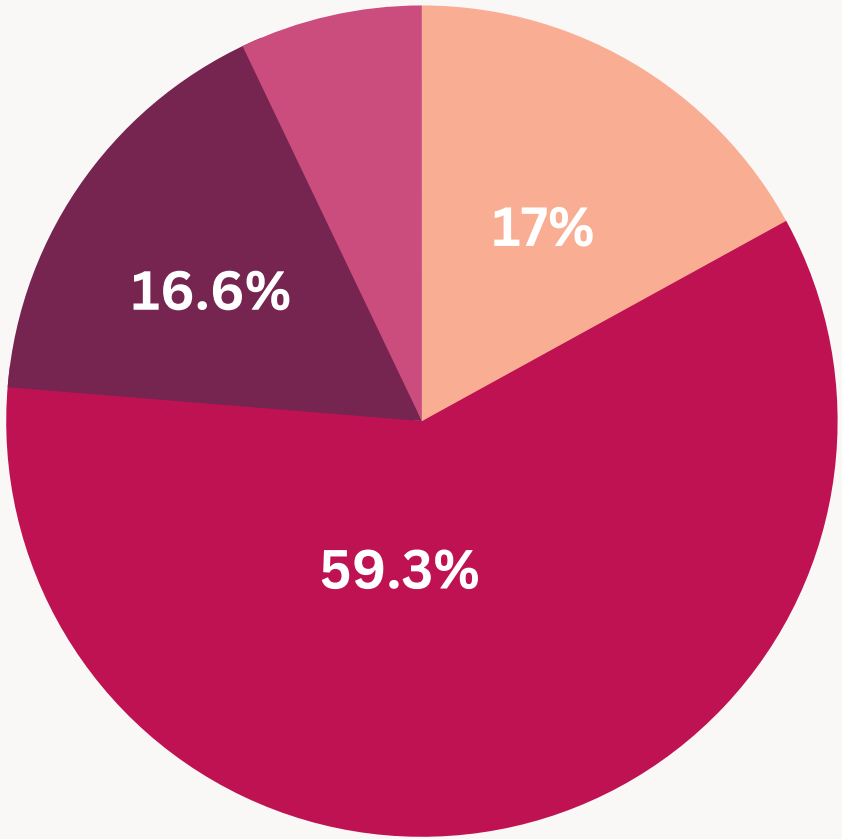
Facilitated by

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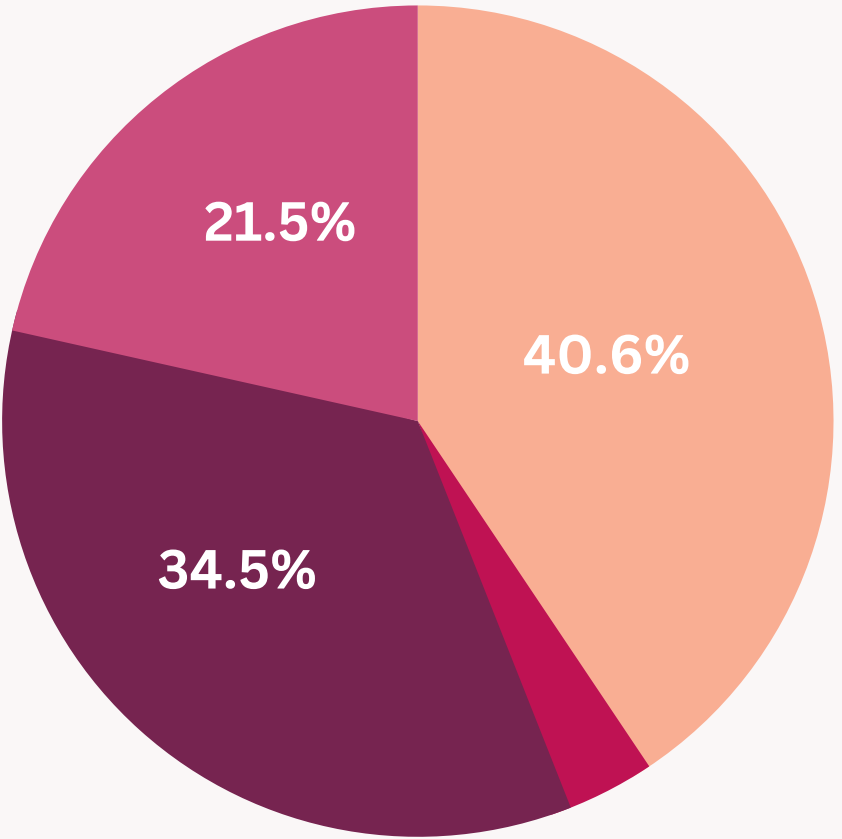
# BACKGROUND

### Reasons for Female Non Participation - 2021



● Engaged in studies ● Engaged in housework ● Retired/Old age  
● Physically ill/ disabled

### Reasons for Male Non Participation - 2021



● Engaged in studies ● Engaged in housework ● Retired/Old age  
● Physically ill/ disabled

Source: Labour Force Survey , 2021, DCS



# FOCUS AREAS



## Child Care

Lack of affordability and access to frequent and quality child care.

## Elderly Care

Aging population in Sri Lanka.  
Aged 65 or above expected to double by 2040

## Parental Leave

No mandated paternal leave and the employer bearing costs of maternity leave.

# CHILD CARE





# ISSUES

Accessibility

Regulation and  
monitoring



# CHILD CARE

**80% of centers are privately run.**

Children aged 0-5 in  
2021

1,902,000



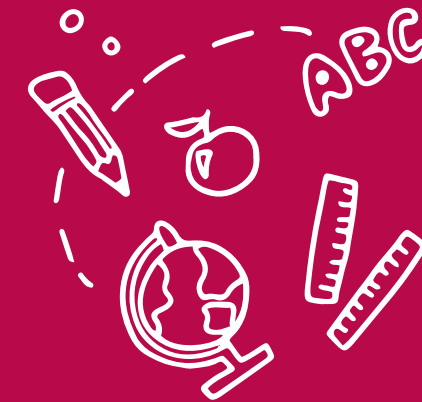
Total number of  
students registered

474,406



Privately Run  
Preschools

15,353



**Source: State Ministry of Women and Child Development , Preschools & Primary Education, School Infrastructure & Education Services (2021)**



# POLICY RECOMENDATIONS



## Regulate and Monitor child care centers

Utilize local government mandates via by-laws to enact local legislation to set up standardized and regularized day care centers.



## Incentivize the corporate sector to operate private daycares

Encourage Public-Private partnerships in providing care for children by utilizing existing infrastructure

# ELDERLY CARE



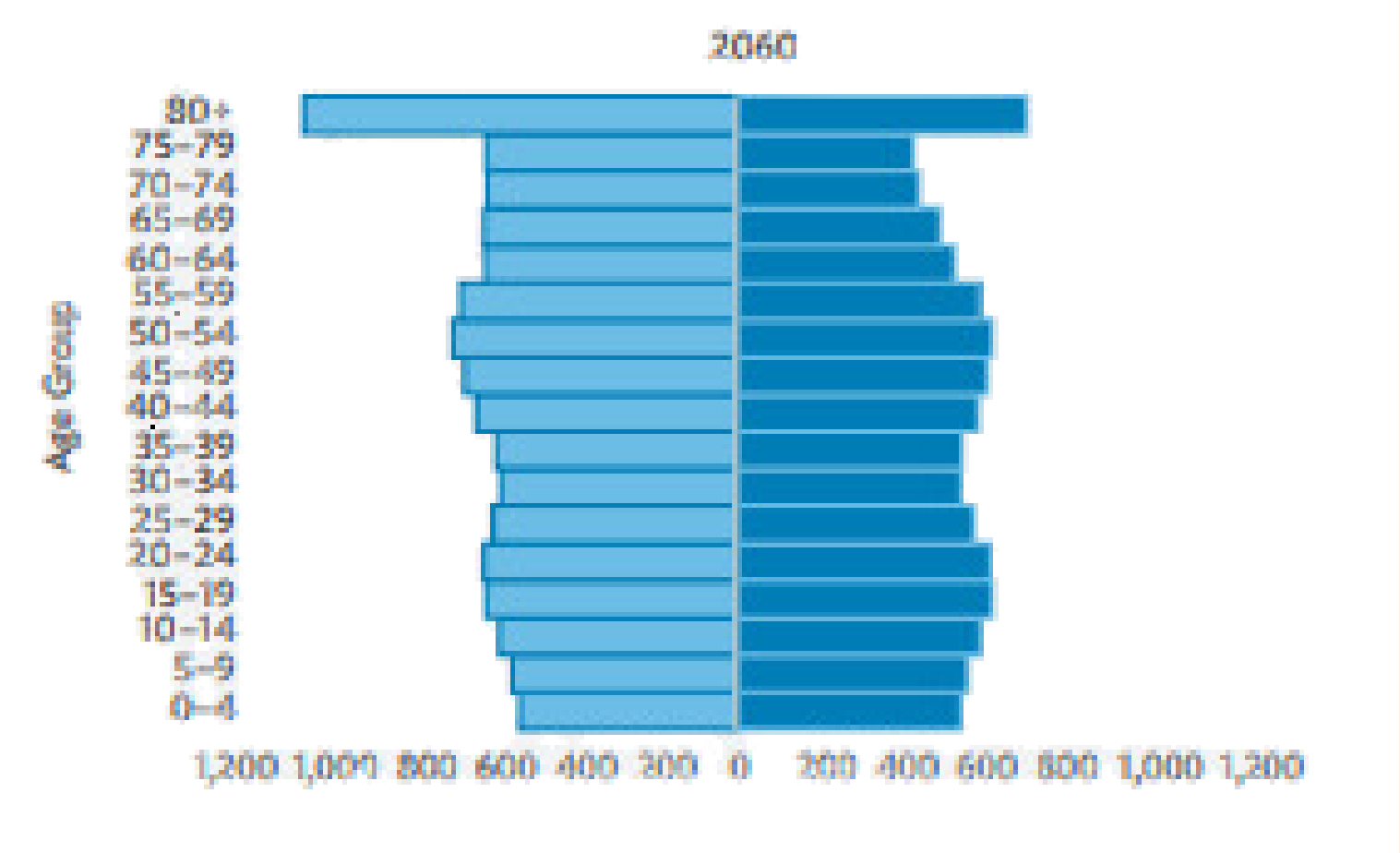
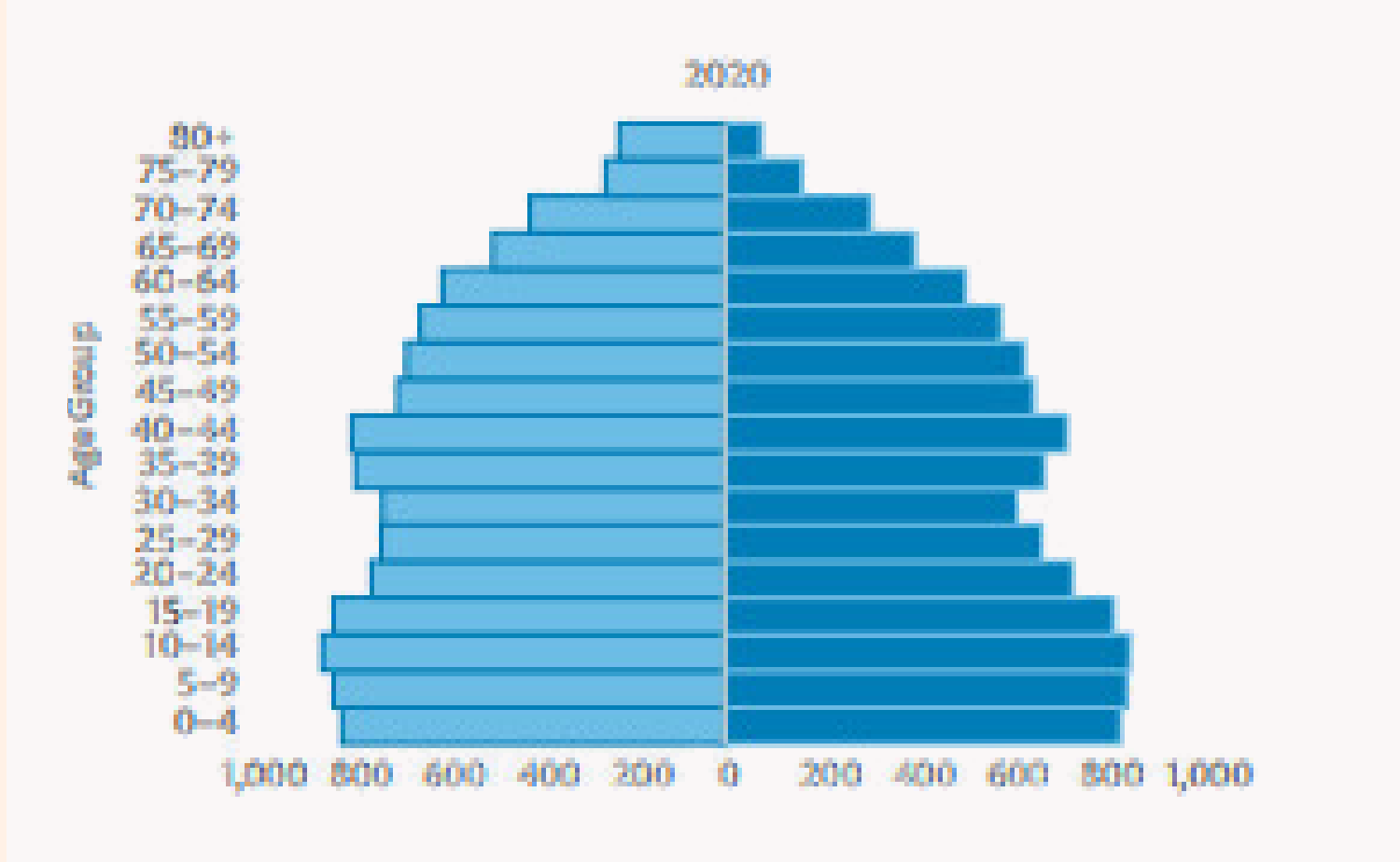




# BY 2050 SRI LANKA'S OLD AGE DEPENDENCY RATIO WILL NEARLY DOUBLE.

Sri Lanka is expected to face a nationally aging population

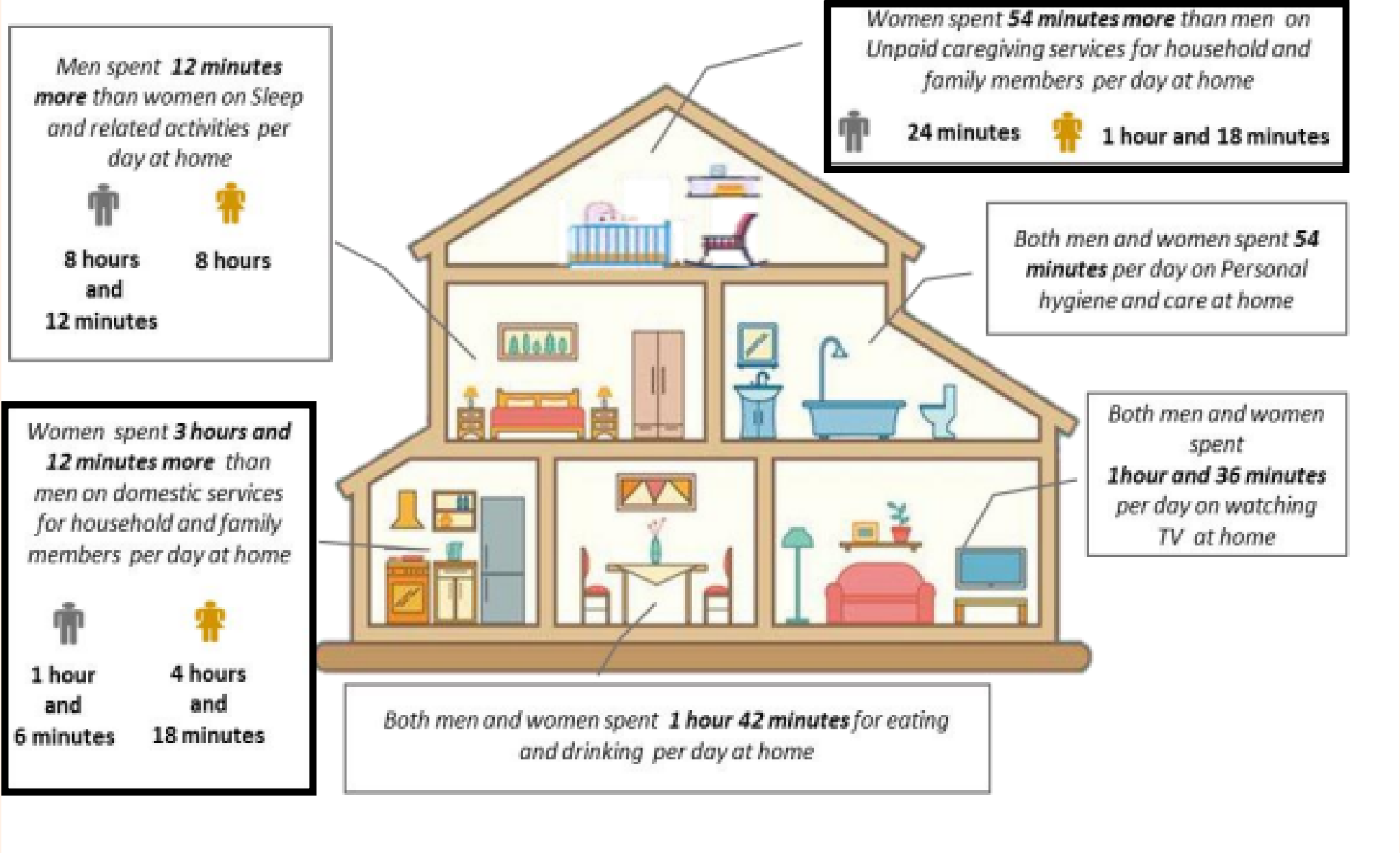
Currently there is little infrastructure in place to tackle this issue



Source : Asian Development Bank



# THE BURDEN OF TAKING CARE OF ELDERLY PEOPLE WILL HAVE TO BE BORNE BY WOMEN.



Source: Time Use Survey (2017)



# EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE

**2.5 million people were above the age of 60**

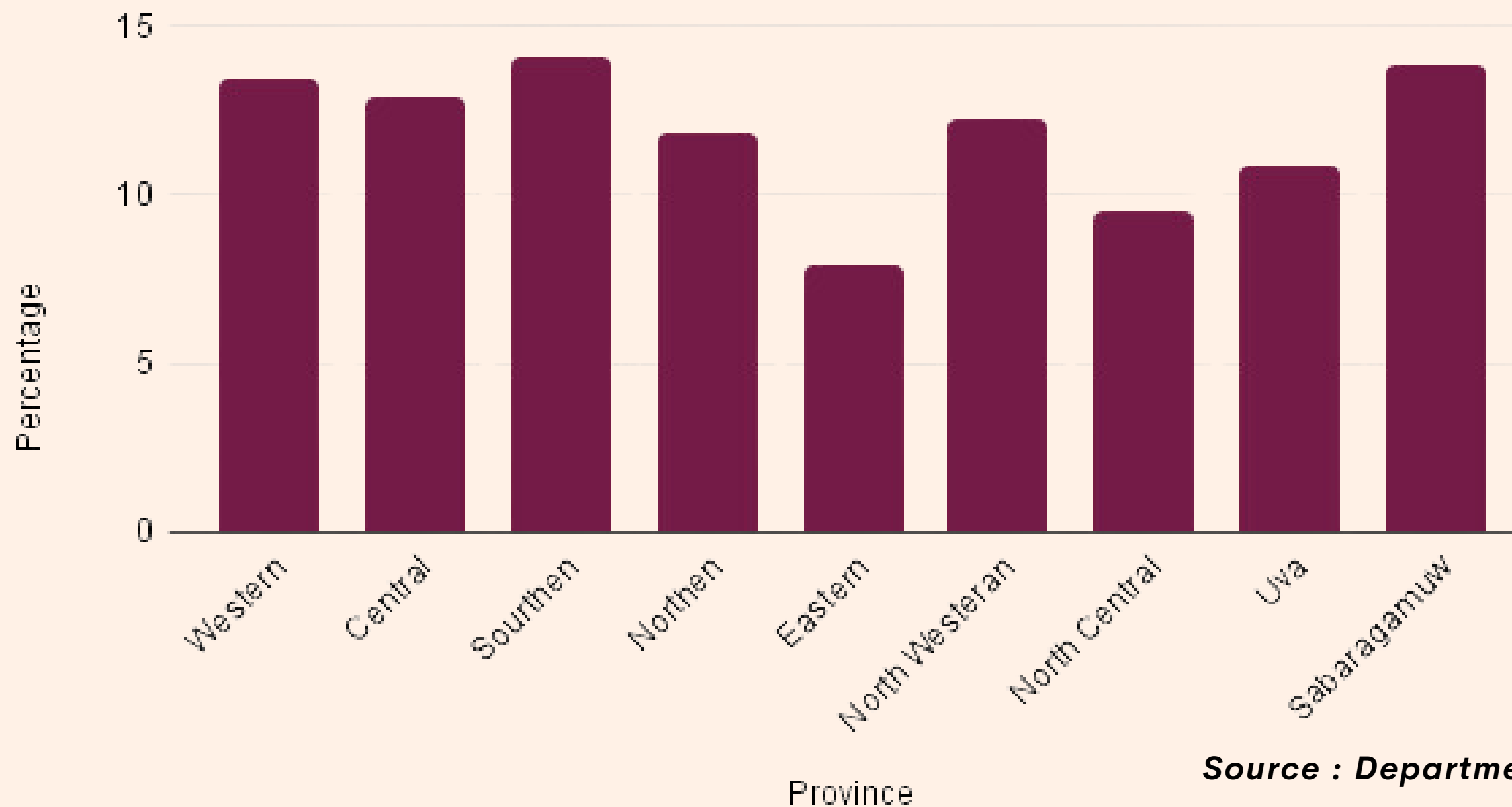


**Source : Institute for Health Policy. 2017. Survey of Elder Care Provider Institutions. Colombo**



# OVER 50% OF ELDERS IN CARE HOMES ARE LOCATED IN THE WESTERN PROVINCE

Geographical distribution of the elderly population



Source : Department of Census and Statistics



# THE EXISTING STATE REGULATIONS ARE NOT ADEQUATE

- Protection of the Rights of Elders Act (No. 9 of 2000)
- Protection of the Rights of Elders (Amendment) Act (No. 5 of 2011)

The National Elderly Health Policy of Sri Lanka was launched in February 2017

**Implementation and effectiveness of these laws are rather limited**



# POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS



Elderly care sector should be regulated by the state



State should increase their funding on elderly care centers



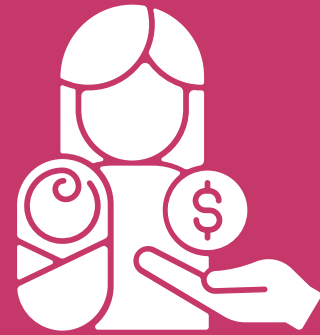
Elderly care centers should be more accessible and affordable while maintaining the quality

# PARENTAL LEAVE





# PARENTAL LEAVE



Discrepancies in legislation governing maternal benefits



Current maternity leave benefits are entirely borne by the employer



No legislation recognizing or mandating paternal leave








# PARENTAL LEAVE

**What would happen if the state were to bear this cost?**



**ESTIMATED MATERNITY  
LEAVE BENEFIT COST  
=  
RS5.9BN (APPROX  
0.5% OF 2021 TAX  
REVENUE)**



**SAMURDHI EXPENDITURE = 4.2%  
OF 2021 AX REVENUE (LKR RS 55  
BN)**



**FERTILIZER SUBSIDY = 1.6% OF  
2021 TAX REVENUE (LKR RS 21 BN)**



# PARENTAL LEAVE



## SHORT TERM

Bring all maternal leave benefits under one statutory instrument .

State funded maternal leave benefits.

## RECOMENDATIONS

## LONG TERM

Recognition of paternal leave to destigmatize and eliminate gender roles

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



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