





## Place: where is this and what is it like?

### Where is this case study located? (country, region, continent etc)

*Aruvi Estate. A tea estate owned by the Malwatte Valley Plantation in the Badulla District of southern Sri Lanka.*

### What is it like here? (physical, political, economic, social)

*There are hills. There is extreme rainfall so the ground can be muddy.  
Water supply is unreliable.  
There are vulnerable families who may struggle to access water supplies.  
People take matters into their own hands when they need to secure water.*

### What can you find out about this place?

*Sri Lanka is a densely populated island located at the southern tip of India in South Asia, in the Indian Ocean. The majority of people live in rural areas. Sri Lanka is a very scenic country with mountains, beaches, bays, forests and reefs, making it popular for tourism. It also has a rich cultural heritage. Aruvi Tea Estate was established in 1885 by a Scottish company during British colonial rule. There are tea plantations, mountains and valleys. The Aruvi Community makes up 2061 people. There are 619 families with 253 of these working as tea pickers or in the factory. People do not have legal ownership of their homes but they do have the right to live there. Estate managers and caretakers manage the estate (including any existing water supplies).*



### How might it feel to live in this place?

*Living with uncertainty about water supply might lead to worry on a day to day basis.  
A lack of security about home tenure can lead to anxiety on a longer term basis.  
Frustration might be caused by things happening outside of your control such as extreme weather or animals affecting water supply.  
Exhaustion can come from the physical demands of taking care of family needs.  
Relief, feelings of wellbeing can come from securing your own water supply. Empowerment can come from being able to supply water to friends and neighbours.*



## Issues: what is happening here and why?

### What are the issues here?

*There is unreliable water supply caused by nature (extreme rainfall), wildlife (animals cutting off the water supply) and people (taking water).  
Unclean water and drainage issues.  
Poverty meaning people can not afford to pay for water.  
Lack of housing tenure (ownership).  
Water supply is controlled by the Estate management and is not always managed well.*

### Why might these issues be important?

*Unreliable water supply affects people's ability to take care of their family's basic needs.  
When neighbours take water, this affects the supply of the whole community and bypasses any systems put in place by the Estate Management.  
Drinking unclean water causes health issues. Sanitation and drainage issues also cause ill health.  
Poverty affects people's ability to buy water when they need it or to secure their own access by getting their own wells.  
People are unwilling to improve their homes because they are owned by the Estate.*

### How might the issues create tensions?

*People start to try and manage situations themselves when they see a lack of action and support from the Estate owners. This can lead to bribery and theft which in turn leads to tension between neighbours and between the community and the Estate managers.*



### What if water were not available to you?

*Practical: thirsty, personal hygiene, diet (cooking), tired (having to find water somewhere else), headaches, concentration, energy.  
Feelings: worried, anxious, angry, frustrated, despairing, unfair.*



## People: who is involved?

### Who are the different stakeholders involved?

From the **Stakeholder Cards**, learners might identify some of the following:

*Local Government, Estate managers, Women, Children, Men, Families with additional needs, Local vendors, NGOs, Grassroots community organisations.*

### Who is affected?

*Krishna, his family, Kannamma and her family, including her disabled daughter.*

*Community relations as people compete for water.*

*Estate is affected because people want to leave and so this creates a labour shortage.*

### Who is responsible?

*Residents themselves, caretakers, estate management.*

*Some might argue that the British who established the estates and the hierarchy (power structures) during colonial times are responsible for patterns seen today.*

*Central and local government who have a duty to their citizens including ensuring their right to clean water.*

### How might people be differently impacted? Are some more vulnerable than others?

*Those with more stable incomes can buy water.*

*Those with access to water can sell it to others.*

*Single parents and women may be more vulnerable. Working at the same time as caring for young children and a child with a disability may be extremely challenging.*



**Who do you most connect with? What would you want to ask them?**



## Solutions: how is the situation being addressed?

### How do people respond?

*Stress can lead to a 'scarcity mindset' which then leads people to behave in ways that they might not otherwise. In this story, we see: bribery to secure water supply, self-management of water supplies (when Krishna connects his house to the main spring), people taking water from each other, people selling water, people securing their own supplies (Kannamma and her tube well).*

### Are there any solutions to the situation?

*Kannamma built a tube well in her backyard using some of her retirement money. (NB a tube well consists of an iron pipe with a solid steel point and lateral perforations near the end, which is driven into the earth until the water table is reached. A suction pump is then fitted to the upper end. There are pros and cons to tube wells.) Kannamma now sells water to earn extra money. Storing water in a tank to supply homes. Homes are fitted with a water meter looked after by a management group to stop corruption.*

### What is needed to make the solution possible?

*Co-operation between the community and the estate management.  
Monitoring and maintenance of water supplies by the estate.  
Government to make estates meet the needs of those living on their land and to support this process.  
People to only take what is rightfully theirs and to pay for what they use.*



### If you lived here what might a solution mean to you?

*Peace of mind, improved health, save time and money, happier.*



### Why might being involved in a solution be important?

*Empowerment, confidence, resilience, personal wellbeing, self-esteem, dignity.*