



EXPLORING FOOD INSECURITY IN SRI LANKA: A QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS



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RATIONALE

- Primary Objective: Comprehensive exploration of food insecurity prevalence in Sri Lanka, aligning with SDG 02

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 02
End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

- Determine the extent of moderate and severe food insecurity
- Contribution to evidence-based policy design and strategic interventions for addressing food insecurity in Sri Lanka

METHODOLOGY

- Cross-sectional research design employed to investigate food insecurity in Sri Lanka
- Data collection spanned from mid-2022 to mid-2023 through a household survey encompassing FIES questions
- Survey conducted across all nine provinces of Sri Lanka, ensuring comprehensive representation
- FIES, a statistical scale, used to gauge food insecurity severity across diverse regions and cultures
- Sample consisted of 689 households, covering both urban and rural areas
- Trained enumerators conducted face-to-face interviews, gathering data on demographics, socioeconomic status, food preparation routines, and food security levels
- Descriptive analysis applied to provide insight into the distribution of food insecurity severity levels across demographics
- Utilized the RM.weights package in R; a single-parameter logistic measurement model known as the Rasch Model for calculating food insecurity prevalence

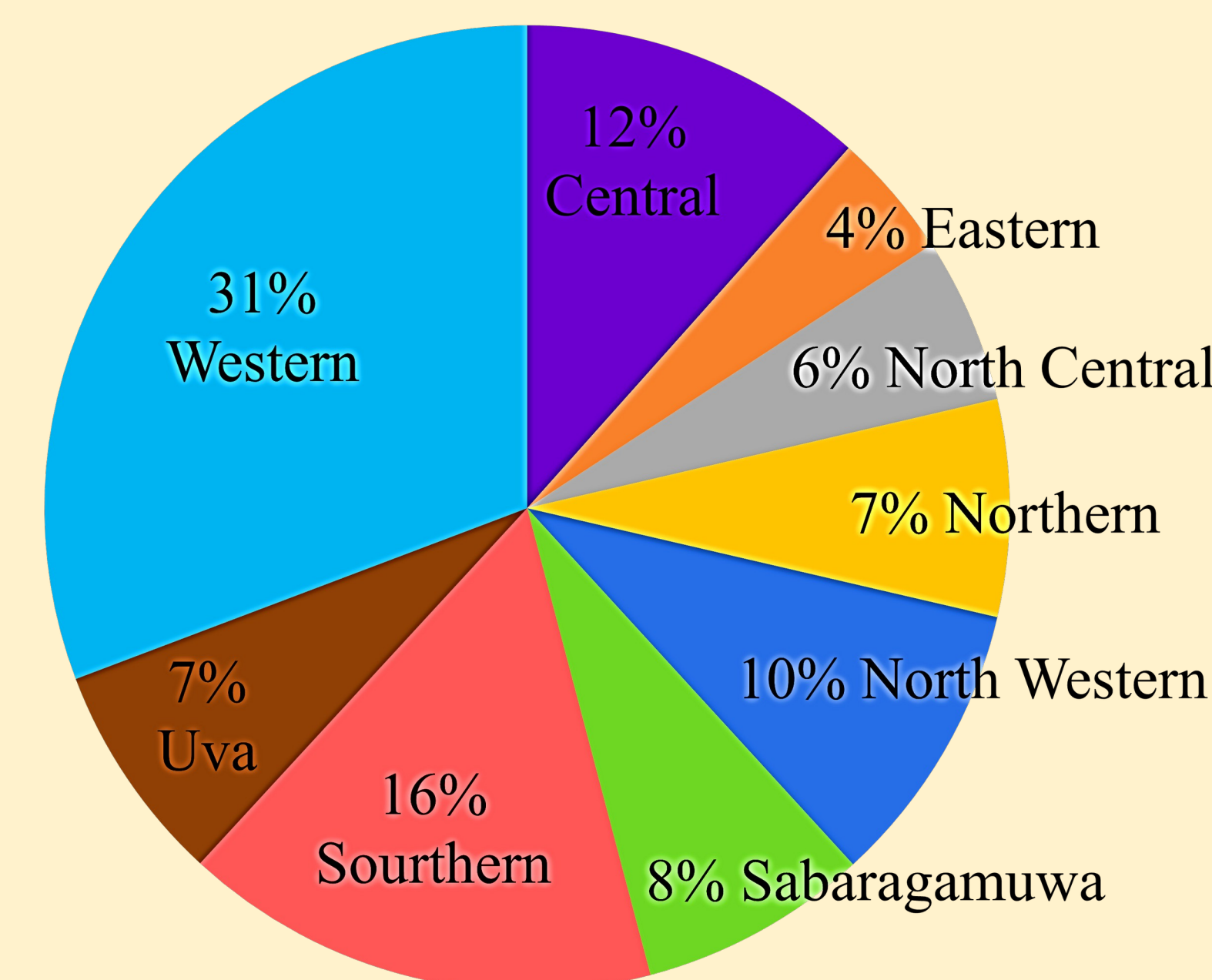


Figure 02: Distribution of sample population across nine provinces of Sri Lanka



Figure 03: Some respondents from the survey

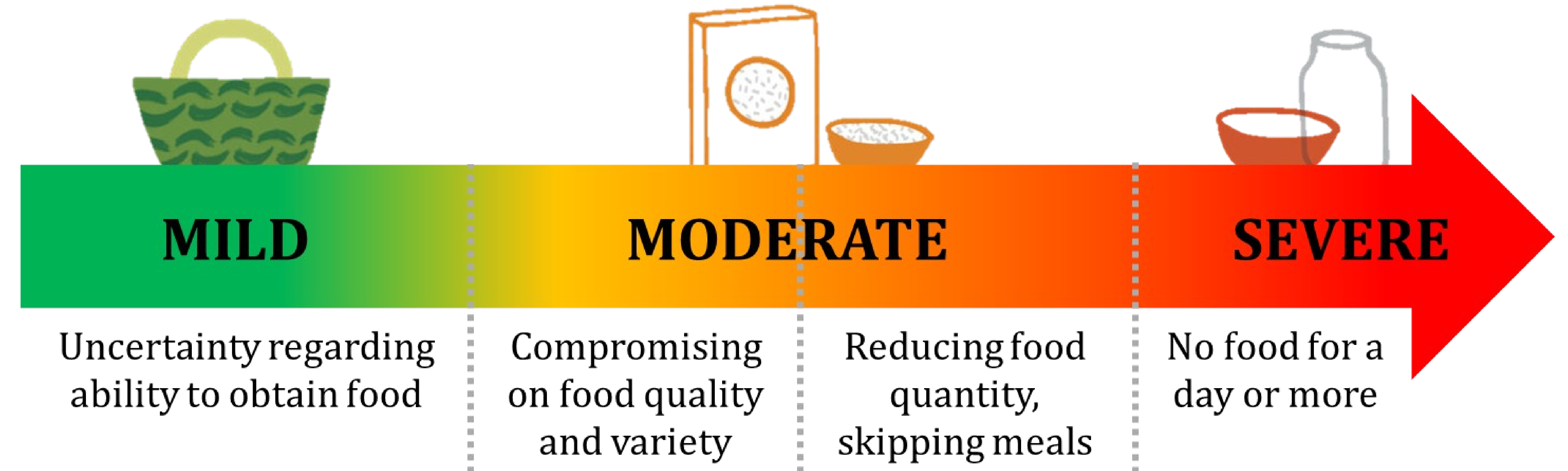


Figure 01: Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)

RESULTS

Demography of the sample:

- Rural population constituted the majority (65.17%)
- Mean household size was 4.07
- 2806 household members were included in this sample; 7.23% children below 5 years, 14.72% aged 6-18 years
- Most household heads are males (83.91%) aged 56-70 years (39.48%)
- 34.83% have studied up to G.C.E. A/L
- 47.61% employed in government or private sector
- Monthly income ranges from USD 62 to 154 [LKR 20,000 to 50,000] (32.66% of the sample)
- 51.67% prepare three meals daily

Prevalence rates of food insecurity:

Table 01: Food Insecurity Prevalence Rates

Prevalence Rate mid-2022 to mid-2023 (Source: Study Data)	
Moderate to severe food insecurity	Severe food insecurity
5.896%	0.139%

IMPLICATIONS

- Demonstrates a low value in food insecurity rates in Sri Lanka, in line with the study's findings
- Despite highlighting the vital significance of FIES in understanding progress towards SDG 02 goals, this study may not have been completely successful in delivering proper answers to FIES questions due to cultural and social attitudes among people in Sri Lanka
- Recommends future research to elucidate underlying factors and develop tailored strategies for diverse cultural and social contexts

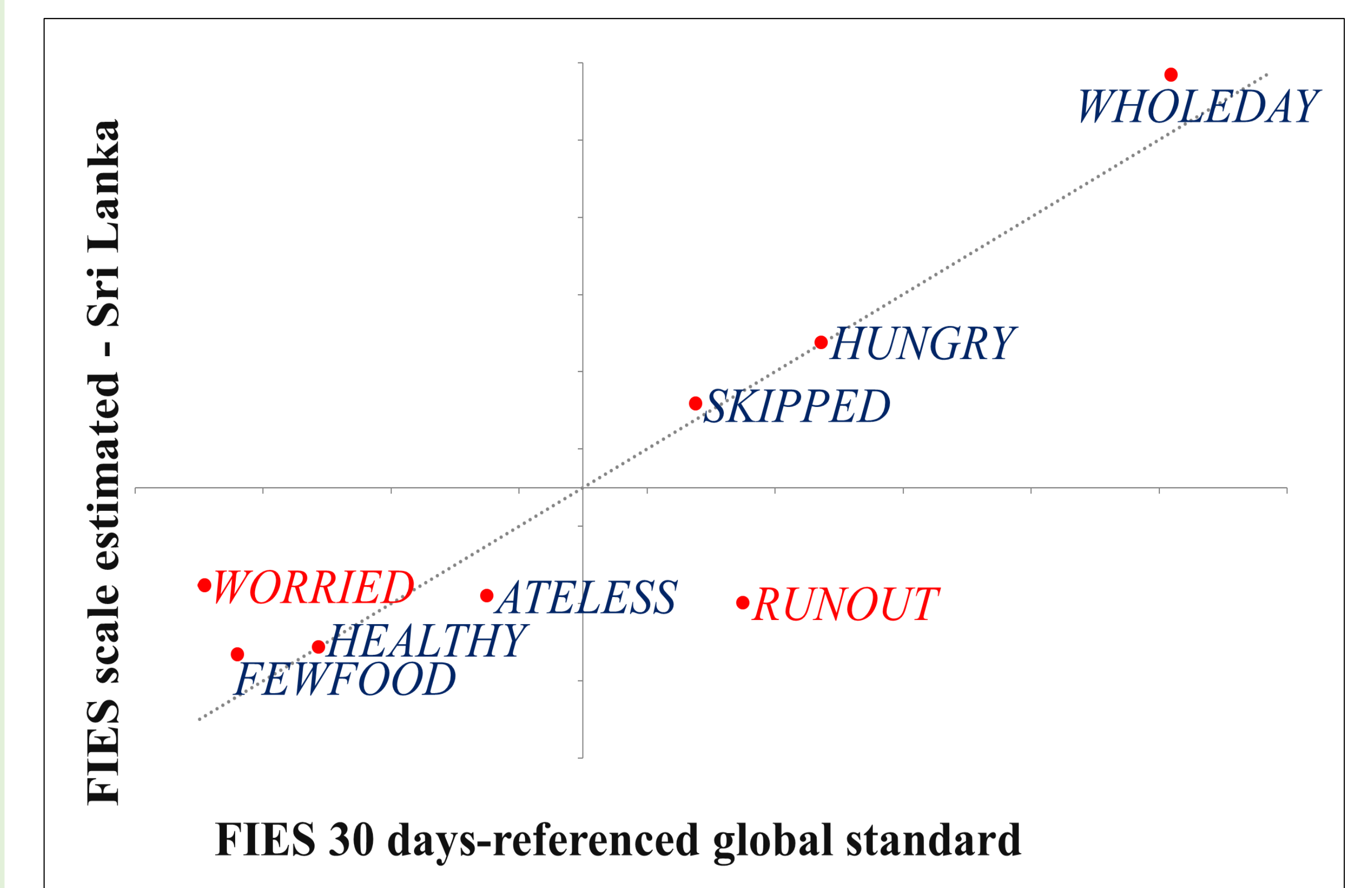


Figure 04: FIES scale estimated in Sri Lanka using survey data, against the FIES 30 days-referenced global standard

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