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A STUDY ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SELECTED POPULATION RELATED SOCIO - ECONOMIC VARIABLES AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF

SRI LANKA

A Comparative Study of Sri Lanka and Australia

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ABSTRACT

The growth of the world population is at an all-time high absolute numbers, with current increments approaching 90 million persons annually. Therefore, the study of the relationship between population and development has become one of the major preoccupations of those who are responsible for devising programmes to support economic activities and improve social conditions in developing countries.

Development is different from growth even though the two terms have been sometimes used interchangeably. Development is not only economic growth but also social welfare and as such development is social-economic in nature. Development should be for the people.

In recent decades sustainable development has acquired an important position in the concept of development. Simply, sustainable development means "meeting the basic needs of people continuously or extending to all, the opportunity to satisfy their aspirations for a better life". However, the achievement of sustainable development has become a challenge to third world countries in view of the high rate of population growth.

Sri Lanka is a country, which experiences rapid population growth. This rapid population growth has exacerbated various socio-economic problems of the country. Though Sri Lanka's population growth rate has declined during the recent past the negative impact of this population growth persists. It is evident that in order to attain sustainable development in a country there should be a long-term strategic plan regarding to population growth and socio-economic variables of the country

Australia is a country, which has achieved sustainable development with a similar population as Sri Lanka. Therefore, this study focussed on to inquire whether the Australian experience can be the based to prepare a long-term strategic plan to achieve sustainable development for Sri Lanka.