

2.3 A study of the impact of flooding (With reference to Kalawana Secretariat Division)

W.Thilini Hayasinth Dayananda¹
Department of Sociology, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka

ABSTRACT

Kalawana in Rathnapura District is confronting constant situations of floods. This is motivated by the geographical location of the area including heavy annual rainfall of over 1500 mm. The present study seeks to identify sociological and economical issues of this natural calamity.

The research encompasses historical and comparative methods. In addition, primary data collection methods including interviews and observations were utilized. Reports of Secretariat Divisions and Gramasewakas and folklores were used in addition to the secondary data collection methods.

The research finds out that the unorganized and illegal constructions, various types of development projects, plantation of commercial crops and mining industry contribute in resulting flood in the specified area. The main cause for the instant flood in Kalawana has been identified as the Kukule ganga project. Furthermore, the floods impose a threat to the livelihood of the people in the area as well as hinder the economic wellbeing of the people. It's recognized that the development projects should be implemented on the basis of sustainable development and at the same time, individual behaviours should be organized in an environmental friendly manner.

Key words: Flood, Sustainable development