

The Socio- economic impact of colonization movement in Sri Lanka: with special attention to the Padaviya colonies

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Colonization is usually defined as settlement of people in uninhabited areas. In modern Sri Lanka it began in dry zone in 1931. The Land Development Ordinance was enacted in 1935, with the main aims of helping the allocation of lands in dry zone to colonist and provide facilities for irrigation. But colonization was unable to fulfill the expected aims. As a whole many social problems have arisen in the colonies. The conflict situation increased among colonies with 2nd and 3rd generations. Distribution of lands became a problem with them. Therefore, minor agricultural activities had to be started.

This study aims to analyze the problems faced by people living in colonies and to evaluate the socio-economic states of them.

Survey method has been used in the research and questionnaires, interviews and observation were used to fulfill the research requirements. 125 families were selected as the sample at Padaviya colony, which is situated in the North Central Province.

Further lost of land ownership has been badly affected on social economics status of third generation people in these areas. Third generation people had not contributed to the agricultural sector in the areas, as well.

Key words: Socio-economic status, Colonization, Uninhabited areas, Minor agricultural activities, Land use

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