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**SOCIO ECONOMIC CHANGES OF TSUNAMI AFFECTED
FAMILIES IN TISSAMAHARAMA**

A PROJECT REPORT PRESENTED BY
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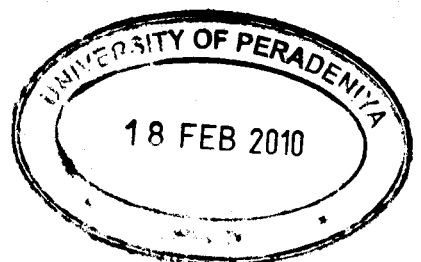
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SOCIO ECONOMIC CHANGES OF TSUNAMI AFFECTED FAMILIES IN TISSAMAHARAMA

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The impact of the tsunami, on Sri Lankan coastal belt was enormous. People lost their lives, belongings, living places, livelihoods and their social structures. It caused critical damage to houses, buildings, infrastructure and other human assets. Sri Lanka was ranked the second, after Indonesia in the number of fatalities caused by the tsunami.

After the tsunami the Government of Sri Lanka has been committed to face the challenges to carry out many activities such as tsunami response, relief, recovery and rehabilitation with the support of many national and international agencies. Since most of the houses in the coastal area were destroyed, primary concern was to resettle people elsewhere in order to bring back normalcy to their lives. The Government policy on 100m buffer zone caused enormous difficulties to the affected people in the process of rebuilding their houses.

When the communities split and relocate in separate places their physical and social environment may change. Therefore the resettlement or new-settlement process could affect most of their social and economic activities, compared to their original location.

This study aims at finding out what socio economic changes occur due to new-settlement in the Hambantota district.

The main objectives of the study were as follows,

1. To identify and assess the social and economic changes of affected families after the tsunami new-settlement.

2. To compare the economic and social status of newly-settled communities before and after the tsunami.
3. To compare the economic and social changes between newly-settled and resettled families.
4. To identify the socio economic problems associated with the tsunami resettlement process

The study includes a basic data collection survey in the area of Tissamaharama. In Tissamaharama division, the affected four GN (Grama Niladari) areas were selected for the survey. They were Andaragasyaya, Andagalawella, Kirinda and Nidangalawella. 103 families were selected randomly, out of 336 families from 4 GN divisions, for the study.

Data collection was done based on socio-economic variables by using a standard questionnaire. Data analysis and tabulation were done by using Minitab and excel computer software.

According to the results, there are changes in income earning activities such as crop cultivation, livestock and labour hiring. The expenditure of the sample families has a more significant difference after tsunami settlement than before. According to the respondents, they received more loans after they settled in new places than earlier. It is to be noted that most of these loans are for livelihood and marketing purposes.

The perceptions of the community were tested in the sample for different social and economic factors. Most of them perceived that there is not much of difference in most factors after new-settlement. Under the economic factors a higher percentage that demands for new household equipment is comparatively higher after new-settlement. Under social factors a higher percentage of the people of that female participation rate and educational opportunities are comparatively higher after new-settlement.

According to the T test performed there is no significant difference in the main income and total income in between before and after of newly-settled families. It is identified

that there is no significant difference in the main income and total income among the resettled families before and after scenario. There is no significant difference in average expenditure of none newly-settled families before and after the tsunami rehabilitation. However there is a significant difference in average expenditure of newly-settled families before and after the tsunami rehabilitation. According to the calculated means, average expenditure after tsunami rehabilitation is significantly higher than that of before tsunami.

There is no significant difference between newly-settled and resettled families in terms of total income.

According to the respondents the foremost drawback in the process of tsunami resettlement was the government's prolonged procedures and undue- delays, which constitute 27.3%. Other reasons are political involvement and corruption & financial issues being second and third which constitute 23.8% and 22.6% respectively.