

RECENT TRENDS OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN THE CITY OF KURUNEGALA

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'Urban development' is an important phenomenon in modern society. It is essential to design proper urban plans that would develop the economic sector while enhancing the environment. In the recent past, the government of Sri Lanka has paid special attention to the rapid development of urban areas.

The objective of this research has been to investigate the progress that the city of Kurunegala has made since 1980s. The most notable finding of this research is that, in the city of Kurunegala, commercial and public transport, education and health sectors have rapidly developed, while production sector has lagged behind. It appears that the rapid development of commercial and public facilities is largely a result of the rapid expansion of the city area and of increasing population.

In the light of these developments, the following recommendations can be made to ensure sustainable urban development preventing potential problems in the city of Kurunegala. It is recommended that (a) Lands in the city area not be allocated for residential, industrial and institutional purposes to save the limited space available for the development of the commercial sector; (b) Investors of small industries be given land close to the city, (c) The main bus stand and its buildings be reorganized to suit current demands; (d) Railway station be shifted to a suitable place in the city, (e) Certain areas unsuitable for productive activities be developed into recreational areas; (f) New rules and regulations be prepared to make Kurunegala an eco-friendly city. It will be ideal, if this can be combined with public awareness and monitoring programmes.

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