

## **INTER – REGIONAL DISPARITIES IN PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN PRESENT DEVELOPMENT OF SRI LANKA**

**V. Mathivathany\* and P. Vipulan**

*Department of Geography, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka  
\*newvathana@gmail.com*

The physical infrastructure is an important element in regional development. The basic physical systems like transportation, communication, sewage, water and electric systems are examples of physical infrastructure. These systems tend to be high-cost investments; however, they are vital to a country's economic development and prosperity. The pattern of major investment, industries, commerce and economic activities are highly influenced by the availability of physical infrastructure. Especially, the road network can play an important role in linking regions in terms of movement of people and the products. Therefore, every regional plan should pay attention to expand physical infrastructure to promote the economic growth. Regional disparities are vital problems for most countries, but in developing countries such as Sri Lanka, these present a greater problem. The absence of adequate infrastructure facilities also is one of the major barriers for regional development in Sri Lanka. The coverage and quality of the physical infrastructure are the major constrain on the economic production in many regions in Sri Lanka. Therefore, in this study infrastructure facilities are analyzed. This study is conducted the present situation of physical Infrastructure of Sri Lanka and the identification of the regional disparities in terms of physical infrastructure by applying a Spatial Multivariate Technique. Information was gathered through relevant documents for the study. Further, this paper would also propose an appropriate spatial strategy to minimize the spatial disparities in order to achieve equitable physical development. In this respect, this study was carried out by using several indicators of regional development. It can be clearly observed that, development strategies implemented by Sri Lanka have not successfully contributed to reduce the disparities of physical infrastructure facilities. These have distributed unevenly among nine provinces. The finding of research reveals that all physical infrastructure facilities are highly concentrated in the Western Province while other provinces have less concentration. So the most functionally dynamic core region in the country lies in Western Province and most of the economic activities take place within this region. Most of the other areas have become economically backward. If Sri Lanka has equally concentrated more on physical infrastructure in all provinces, it can minimize unequal development or disparities of regions and achieve equitable development or sustainability physical development.