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**AGRARIAN CHANGE IN A PEASANT COLONY OF SRI LANKA**

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The capitalist form the agrarian transformation and differentiation is seen as a progress in social and economic terms. This thinking, based on the experience of now developed western world, compelled the development thinkers to advocate the need for the dissolution of peasant form of production in rice growing societies in the Asian region. However several researcher studies on wet rice agriculture in Asian region sow that rice growing societies in this part of the world experience a different type of agrarian change which is not a hindrance to the social and economic progress. In this context, present study examine and explain the agrarian change taking place in peasant colonies in Sri Lanka in order to see whether we need a capitalist mode of agricultural development in Sri Lanka.

The qualitative research craft provided the basic guidelines for the present study which is mainly based on the field study carried out in two selected villages in the Minipe Peasant Colonization scheme in Sri Lanka. This study localities were selected to represent to older phases of settlement development in Minipe Scheme. Two non random samples each for one village to comprise thirty respondent from one village were used to generate empirical data. Indepth interviewing constituted the main method used in collecting information. Temporal scope of study covered two decades period from 1977 to 1997. In addition to this, secondary sources were consulted to obtain the background information relating to the Minipe Colonization Scheme.