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**PARKING CHARACTERISTICS AND TRAFFIC WARDEN ACTIVITIES
- A TALE OF TWO CITIES**

I.M.S. SATHYAPRASAD

*Department of Civil Engineering, Faculty of Engineering,
University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka*

This paper discusses the on-street parking characteristics and traffic warden activities in two Sri Lankan cities, namely, Colombo and Kandy.

On-street parking capacities at some selected road links in the two cities are determined through a parking inventory survey. Demand characteristics such as location, time and duration of parking with vehicle classifications are obtained through a user interview survey. Operational characteristics such as accumulation, utilization, duration etc. are observed through a parking patrol survey.

The results of these surveys conducted at the two cities are compared to identify parking problems specific to each city. There are marked differences in the parking behaviour of the two cities. In Kandy, around 10% of the parkers, mainly the shop owners, park for durations longer than four hours, whereas in Colombo, long duration parking is almost negligible. On the other hand, the Parking Indices at on-street parks in Kandy exceed 120% most of the time, in contrast to 85% in Colombo. The results show that Kandy needs good off-street parking facilities urgently.

Traffic warden systems are in operation in both cities as a means of parking fare collection for a considerable time. The systems had been performing satisfactorily when the traffic wardens were paid a commission of the fare collection as their salary. However, the financial performances of these systems started to deteriorate, despite several fare increases, after the traffic wardens started receiving a fixed monthly salary.

Issues of the present systems are investigated and some technical and administrative solutions are suggested in the light of the findings.