

Abstract 135

D Rathnayake

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The Impact of the Mahaweli Project on the Kalawewa Agricultural Colonies

The development of irrigation schemes is a timely topic. The Mahaweli project can be identified as a multitasking project which contributes to the development. Thus, the investigator selected the topic as 'The impact of the Mahaweli project on the Kalawewa agricultural colonies'. The firsthand experience as a person who resided in the Mahaweli 'H' zone was of great use in the study. The information was gained from the Kalawewa irrigation office, the Colombo Mahaweli center, the Ministry of Land Development, the Irrigation Department and some interviews of Mahaweli officers in Tambuththegama. The first chapter describes the attempts in irrigation and early irrigation in Sri Lanka. The principles, rules and regulations implemented before the Mahaweli project to develop irrigation and agriculture are discussed. Moreover, how the agricultural colony concept emerged through them, the establishment of the Kalawewa agricultural colonies and the failures are discussed. The second chapter describes the concept and origin of the Mahaweli scheme, its spreading, and development, using maps and statistics. 'Kadinam Mahaweliya' was specially described, and as the main area in the Mahaweli scheme, the third chapter describes the plans and implementing of the Kalawewa 'H' zone. The development is analyzed using graphs, statistics and pictures. The fourth chapter summarizes the progress, revolution, and issues in the 'H' zone. I specially quoted the environmental and social issues caused due to the development of the zone. The data report on this zone before Mahaweli, was of great importance. I was capable of critically analyzing 'H' zone as 'now' and 'then'. In the fifth chapter, the development observed is depicted via a qualitative and quantitative analysis. The issues are revealed, and conclusions are provided.

Keywords: Agricultural Colonies, H zone, Kalawewa, Mahaweli Project