

**POLICIES AND PRACTICES OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT  
IN SRI LANKA:  
A CASE STUDY OF THE SHORELINE EROSION  
IN THE SOUTH-WESTERN COASTAL SECTOR IN SRI LANKA**

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## Abstract

### POLICIES AND PRACTICES OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT IN SRI LANKA: A CASE STUDY OF THE SHORELINE EROSION IN THE SOUTH WESTERN COASTAL SECTOR

Proper policies and effectiveness of their application are the basic requirements for achieving satisfactory results particularly from any government program. This fact has become a subject of common discussion in the field of disaster management in Sri Lanka. It has been identified that disaster management is one of the main responsibilities of a government.

Main objectives of the current study are the identification of the gaps between policies of shoreline erosion and their practices and to find ways to bridge the identified gaps.

Coastal Zones of Colombo, Kalutara and Galle Districts fall in as the study area. Primary, secondary and tertiary data were collected to identify the impacts of public policy.

The current study could reveal that 45% out of total business activities existed in the coastal zone started after the introduction of Coast Conservation regulation had not obtained permission from the CCD. Among illegal construction, 55% are small scale temporary huts made out of ragged planks and soft railings. Such huts can be seen in Ahangama, Koggala, Unawatuna, Induruwa, Egodaunya and Dehiwala areas.

Removal patterns of coral, sand and mangroves were observed in this study. Sand is still being removed. Incidents of harvesting corals and vegetation are not reported.

It seems, the knowledge of the general public about the relevant policies concerned is poor. Only 9 percent of the coastal users know about the Coast Conservation Act while three percent is aware about the Disaster Management Act. However, the number of people who came to know about the CCD and its responsibilities is 88% of the total population. Only 2% of the people have the idea about Disaster Management Act. 13% have known about Disaster Management Center.

The findings of this study would help in many ways to implement the existing policies effectively and identify new ways to reduce gaps and apply the policies concerned effectively.

**Key words: Policies and Practices, Disaster Management, Coastal Erosion**