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**Poverty and Coastal Resource Management of Sri Lanka (with reference to North Western Coastal Belt)**

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## **Abstract**

Combating and eradicating poverty is one of the principal priorities of the international community. The world development report enlarges the traditional conception of poverty encompassing both low levels of income and consumption and low levels of achievement in education, health and nutrition status with two other dimensions, namely vulnerability and powerlessness.

The poor are most affected by environmental damage, miss-management of human resources and live in most degraded areas. The poor affect the marginal natural resource base on which they depend, and may cause further harm by overuse. Failures of government Policy lack of education opportunities markets and institutions are the underlying causes. Poor people are often impoverished by a declining resource base, and thus forced to degrade the environment further by the circumstances eg:, through coastal habitat destruction , sand mining , coral reef harvesting and over-fishing.

Sri Lanka is an island with a coastline of 1585 kilometers. There are four sectors of poverty in Sri Lanka. These are Rural, Coastal, Urban and Plantation sector. Poverty is a major economic problem in Sri Lanka. About 7% of population in Sri Lanka is poor. Poverty in Rural area is 31%, and Urban areas 8.6%. Over 90% of poor live in rural areas. So poverty in Sri Lanka is overwhelmingly a rural issue. The objectives of this study are identifying the various sectors of poverty, identify the reasons for coastal poverty, identify the impact of Human Resource Management on coastal poverty and identify the solutions for coastal poverty.

It has been selected nine hundred and fifty families from Puttalam District coastal belt for this study. It has been used both primary and secondary data. Primary data was collected the coastal belt and secondary data was collected from relevant sources. According to the collected data and observation there is serious poverty in due to miss-management of Human and Natural Resources in coastal belt in Sri Lanka. The poverty and Resource Management in the coastal zone of Sri Lanka, has been further exacerbated because of lack of opportunities for education and weaknesses of government policies.