

Impacts of Muslim community on development process of Mawanalle

MM Samali Ayoma Marasinghe¹

Rapid Development of small towns is a recent trend in Sri Lanka. Accordingly Mawanalle town in Kegalle district shows a continues and rapid development. Mawanalle is famous as a collecting center of spices throughout the history. Majority of the population there comprises of Muslims who carry out most of commercial activities in the area. The basic objective of the study is to find out specific factors that contribute in developing Mawanalle as an urban center. Currently due to increasing number of Muslim people and the development of economic activities, the contribution of this community is significant. More then 70 %, all business firms in Mawanalle are owned by Muslims. They manly engaged in business, educational, health and banking and relative fields. Random Sample of venders and customers was selected for administering questionnaires. Apart from that non-structured interviews were conducted with key informants and office bearers of the local organizations. The study proved that Muslims have contributed to property development, growth of urban functions, as well as local leadership's development in the area. Within the community, transactions are very high in the area. These are salient factors of the growth and dynamics of Muslim community based towns in Sri Lanka.

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¹ Department of Geography, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka