

Assessment of Indigenous knowledge on Environmental change in the North Central Province of Sri Lanka

Extended Abstract

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Background

“Climate change is the change in climate attributed directly or indirectly to human activity which, in addition to natural climate variability, is observed over comparable time periods” (IPCC, 2007).

The term “climate change” is used with different meanings and perspectives. In some cases, it may refer to all environmental change include natural variability. It is most useful to think of climate change as one of several symptoms of human-produced environmental change with both global and local perspectives. A global perspective is appropriate in recognition of the global interactions involving the component physical systems fundamental to climate change.

Indigenous knowledge can be defined as “A body of knowledge built up by a group of people through generations of living in close contact with nature” (Johnson, 1992).

Indigenous people have a broad knowledge of how to live sustainably. However, formal education systems have disrupted the practical everyday life aspects of indigenous knowledge and ways of learning, replacing them with abstract knowledge and academic ways of learning. Today, there is a grave risk that indigenous knowledge is being lost and, along with it, valuable knowledge about ways of living sustainably.

By the way, the research also depends on the problem statement. According to that, the researcher was selected this topic area to get understand about the environmental change through indigenous knowledge to manage the environment properly. And also to evaluate the past and present environmental change through the people’s knowledge.

Due to the literature review can be obtained global perception about the environmental change and indigenous knowledge. When using the literature

review researcher can be assessed the indigenous knowledge on environmental change in the North Central Province.

Objectives

The overall aim of the study is to assess of indigenous knowledge on environmental change in the North Central Province of Sri Lanka. Specific objectives of this research are to identify the causes, effects and the nature of climate change, to identify the importance of indigenous knowledge in environmental change studies and to identify the important elements of indigenous knowledge which would be valuable for climate change management.

Methodology

This study was based on literature relevant to the objective. Both of primary and secondary data also used for this study. Primary data was collected by field observation using questionnaire and interview. The researcher collects information from the people who aged more than 60 years old. As secondary data magazines, newspapers and research reports were used. MS Excell and SPSS were used to analysis the data.

Results

Human’s activities are mainly caused to environmental change. “Climate change is the change in climate attributed directly or indirectly to human activity which, in addition to natural climate variability, is observed over comparable time periods” (IPCC, 2007). Indigenous knowledge can be defined as “A body of knowledge built up by a group of people through generations of living in close contact with nature” (Johnson, 1992). According to above definition it is able to recognise that the indigenous people have broad knowledge of how to live sustainably.

The study basically consider with assess of indigenous knowledge on environmental change in the north central province of Sri Lanka. The forefathers in North Central Province paid serious attention on the using technologies of cascade system and tank ecosystem in formulation of policies to adapt to climate change in the North Central of Sri Lanka (Jayasundara, 2009).

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Conclusion

According to this survey the researcher could realize that the environmental problem is a worldwide problem. It was not a natural phenomenon. People are creating this problem in day by day. Therefore, the indigenous knowledge is specific study area of environmental change. When using the indigenous knowledge researcher can obtain most appropriate adaptation methods for environmental change. By the way, the researcher basically consider with assess of indigenous knowledge on environmental change in North Central Province of Sri Lanka.

Recommendation

This literature review shows that the Indigenous knowledge is a specific study area about environmental change. It can be introduced most appropriate adaptation methods to the people rather than scientific study.

Key word- Indigenous knowledge, effects, climate change

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