

A STUDY ON LANDSLIDE RISK AND ITS CURRENT SITUATION IN KEGALLE DISTRICT IN SRI LANKA

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Sri Lanka is a country with a predominantly tropical monsoon climate. However, the disasters that occur are constantly reported. Landslide conditions caused by heavy rainfall can be identified in Kegalle district which is located in a wet zone. It can be recognized that not only natural causes, but human activities also cause the risk of landslides. Under this situation, an oppressive environment is created for the people of the respective areas. The aim of this research is to study the current landslide situation in Kegalle district, which can be identified as the main landslide prone district in Sri Lanka and to study the measures that can be taken to reduce the risk of landslides. As the primary data for data acquisition, information was obtained from the villagers of the respective areas to collect data for the study of the areas where the disaster occurred. As the secondary data for data acquisition, information obtained from the Disaster Management Center and Sri Lanka- floods and landslide- Agu 2022 was used for the study. Kegalle District is one of the most prone to landslides in Sri Lanka. It can be identified that the areas of Bulathkohupitiya, Mawanella, Bossella, Ilwana, Ganthuna, Dedugala in Kegalle district are threatened and affected by landslides. The natural location of these areas and heavy rainfall cause landslides. In addition to natural causes, human activities can be identified as the causes of landslides. Human activities that encourage landslides include not carrying out cultivation activities according to the slope of the area, building houses down high mountain areas, accelerating soil erosion by cutting trees, building roads on slopes, and using unauthorized land for human activities. After a landslide, human activities are disrupted and the environment is damaged. Formal human economic activities are disrupted. It can be seen that the villagers are reluctant to move out of such hazardous areas even if they are declared as dangerous. Also, the community should be made aware of the seriousness of carrying out humanitarian activities in such a way that the risk increases.

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