

**SOCIAL AND ECOLOGICAL CHALLENGES FACED BY UPCOUNTRY PEOPLE BY PLANTATION SETTLEMENTS – KOTAGALA DRAYTON AREA FOCOUSING STUDY**S.H CHRISTOPER¹Correspondence: Chrishhelan@gmail.com**Abstract**

Habitat is a place on the surface of the earth that man has set up to fulfill his needs and ensure security. In that sense the upcountry people were the people who were brought from South India centuries ago to protect the plantation crops of Sri Lanka. Initially their residence was seen as a mere hut but later they started living in a line house room where houses were built. Decades have passed but no major change has taken place in the settlement of these people to this day due to this they started living a life full of various problems in their daily life. Despite various efforts by government and NGOs to solve their housing problem, the problem of these people remains an unresolved question. This problem is likely to have a greater impact on future society than it does today. The reason they face so much stress is because their housing is weak and they face more social problems because of the social structure. In this context, the main reason why these people face greater social and geographical challenges is the housing of these people. Based on this, line housing is seen as one of the most important issues in current society. In order to identify the challenges faced by the plantation people by this residence entitled "Social and ecological challenges faced by Upcountry people due to plantation series housing", the study focused on the Kotagala - Drayton area. This study was conducted as a qualitative methodology. Primary and secondary data were used for this. As the main issues thus identified, infrastructure challenges, lack of space, chance of more disaster, lack of proper environment for education, and low level of social vision were found in this study. As a solution to this, the government and the voluntary organization are setting up more private residences in the area. carrying out infrastructure development activities, establishment of a library in a proper place to promote the educational environment of the students, Carrying out to increase education related awareness among the people and creating awareness among the people about how to handle the social situation. Such things are presented as solutions to this study.

Keywords: Upcountry, Plantation, Housing, Social Structure, Disaster.

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