

Impacts of Population Growth on Agricultural Resources: With Special Reference to Coastal Areas of Ampara District

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Abstract

The growth of population has become a key issue in the contemporary world. It led to environmental hazards and socio-economic problems such as poverty, unemployment and social diseases and it has also negatively impacted on development process. Against this backdrop, this study attempts to examine socio-economic and environmental impacts of population growth on land and land productivity with reference to coastal area of Ampara District. For that purpose, the study tried to identify trends of population growth, structure, spread and density in the study area and surveyed the destruction of agricultural lands through population growth and changes occurred in agricultural productivity. It further attempted to suggest significant strategies to ensure sustainable development and better utilization of agricultural land in the particular area. Qualitative and quantitative data were utilized in this study. The relevant data were collected through primary and secondary sources. The collected data were analyzed through the method of descriptive statistical analysis. The findings of the study show that the growth of population in the study area has negatively impacted on socio-economic and environmental development. The main impacts of population growth are increased population density, lack of settlement land, decreased fertility of lands, increased dependency between land and human beings, destruction of land, increased land prize.

Key words: Agriculture, Environment, Population, Resources, Socio-economic Problems

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