

ADAPTATION STRATEGIES FOR OVERCOMING DROUGHTL.M.A.P.Gunawardhana¹ and Lal Mervin Dharmasiri ²¹Department of Social Sciences, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, Mihintale.²Department of Geography, University of Kelaniya, Kelaniya¹Pradeeplmap85@gmail.com, ² sisilel@yahoo.com

Drought is one of the hazard of nature. It is referred to as a ‘creeping phenomenon’ and its impacts vary from region to region in the World. Drought can therefore be difficult for people to understand because of it’s an unpredictable phenomenon. Drought hazards create a vicious cycle of socio-economic impacts starting with crop failure, unemployment, and underemployment, deterioration of assets, loss or decrease in income, worsening of socio-economic conditions, poor nutrition and health. However, people in the different regions of the world use different drought adaptation strategies to minimize negative impacts of droughts and cope with drought hazard. Hence, this study aimed at to identify different drought adaptation strategies used in different regions of the world in particular South Asia and to investigate its differentiations. This study is wholly based on secondary sources. Literature survey is the methodology and qualitative data analysing method was used for analysing. Results cited that drought occurs all parts of the World but the situation in Africa is worse than other regions. Drought adaptation strategies used in different regions of the world are not similar. Indigenous knowledge and practices are being used to cope with drought in South Asian countries while technology and the management strategies applied in developed countries such as America, Australia and European countries. The study found that the application of drought adaptation strategies cope with indigenous and highly technological as well as management approaches would be able to mitigate drought to certain extent. Whether forecasting, vulnerability assessment, crops diversification, sustainable and efficient water management practices, cultivation of low water consuming crops and systematic cropping pattern etc are some of drought adaptation strategies which can mitigate the adverse situation.

Key words: *adaptation strategies, drought hazard, negative impacts.*
