

MAJOR FACTORS AFFECTING TO LANDSLIDES IN BULATHSINHALA DIVISIONAL SECRETARY DIVISION OF KALUTARA DISTRICT

Karunathilaka T.D.A.¹

Among the natural disasters occurring in Sri Lanka, Landslide is a major disaster. In recent times the number of landslides that have occurred in Kalutara district is high. Specially, in the year 2017, several landslides have been reported in Bulathsinhala divisional secretary division. The research problem of this study is to find out the main factors that affected the occurrence of landslides in Bulathsinhala divisional secretary division. It is indistinct whether a formal study has ever been done on this issue. Therefore, the purpose of this research is to identify the basic factors that affected occurrence of landslides in Bulathsinhala divisional secretary division and to find measures to minimize the number of landslides by controlling those factors. Under the method of data collection field research, observation, questionnaires and interviews were conducted and the use of secondary sources under the qualitative research method was also done. In the analysis of the data, it was able to identify several main factors that have influenced the occurrence of landslides in the Bulathsinhala divisional secretary division. Heavy rainfall is a major factor of recorded landslides. In the month of May 2017, more than 300mm of rainfall has been received in Bulathsinhala area per night. As a result, several severe landslides occurred on 26th of May. 61 deaths were reported. Most of them were shallow landslides. Massive deforestation and improper land management is another factor. Tea plantation has also been done mainly in the areas affected by landslides. Tea plantation is done in most of the hilly slopes of this divisional secretary division. Tea plantation has been identified as a major factor affecting the occurrence of landslides. And the construction of houses and buildings in sloping areas was also identified as another factor. By controlling these identified factors, the risk of landslides in Bulathsinhala area can be reduced.

Keywords - *Factors, Heavy rainfall, Landslide, Sloping areas, Tea Plantation*

¹ Department of Environmental Management, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. dulakshianuradha2@gmail.com