AN ANALYSIS OF THE IMPACT OF FLOOD MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS ON PEOPLE'S LIVES (A case study at Neluwa Grama Sewa Division in Galle District)

Ranaweera, S.M.M.K.[1]

Flooding is a devastating problem worldwide, affecting all aspects of social, economic and environmental life. Due to the increase in rainfall intensity and human activities, Sri Lanka is constantly under the threat of floods. According to secondary sources, structural and non-structural measures have been implemented for flood management, but these measures are not providing the necessary performance for the people. Therefore, through this study, it is hoped to investigate the flood management problems and find out the measures to be taken to avoid the impact of floods on people's lives. Firstly, a literature review was conducted to gain a basic understanding of the research area. The research approach was qualitative and an in-depth case study was followed. Fifteen respondents from the affected area were used to collect the primary data through a structured questionnaire to collect data about the research area. The analysis of the collected data was done through thematic data analysis. Through the analysis of the data, it is clear that the people around the Ging Ganga are threatened by floods due to the increase in rainfall intensity and human activities. The reason for this is the overflowing of the river due to the rise in the water level of the Ging Ganga and the problems of flood management measures. Therefore, the resident of the area should act to properly dispose of the waste in the drains and repair the small canals that are blocked due to waste. Further measures should be taken by the local waste management department to dispose of the waste generated locally. Also, measures should be taken to avoid construction in low-lying areas when construction is carried out in the area. Actions can be taken such as using irrigation expertise to create a reservoir project to prevent the Ging Ganga from overflowing due to the intensity of rainfall and thereby safely retain the waste water. For that, further study should be done regarding reservoir construction. This will prevent the flood problem in the Divisional Secretariat.

Keywords - *devastating problem, rainfall intensity, irrigation expertise, reservoir project, management measures*

[1] Department of Social Science, Faculty of Social Science and Humanities, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. Malshikavindaya13@gmail.com