APPLICATION OF GIS IN DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIO- ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF BATTICALOA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

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A perusal of the demographic and socio-economic structure of population reflects this quality. The pressure of population in Batticaloa Municipal council expressed both in terms of absolute number of additional people every year, their distributional pattern and the decadal growth rate of population have resulted in several constraints in the development process. The process of urbanization in Batticaloa in terms of net accretion of population has been faster in recent decades, and coupled with changes in economic activities, have resulted in certain changes in the socio-economic structure of the population especially after the post war development. Migration from the suburban and rural areas to the municipal council in search of jobs has also been an important factor in shaping the socioeconomic profile of the municipal council's population. This study is to explore the mapping techniques of social indicators using GIS. The socio economic characters such as population density, family size, unemployment, dependency ratio, sex ratio, literacy level, poverty level, school dropouts and women headed households were discussed and highlighted the vulnerable Grama Niladhari Divisions (GNs) Moreover, the paper also provides status of some infrastructure facilities in spatially, which would help in the analysis of spatial distribution, density and growth of population in Batticaloa municipal council. The application of GIS technologies has enabled the conventional cartographer to work with vast quantities of spatial and non-spatial data which was previously impossible. This paper tries to demonstrate the many ways of mapping socio-economic data and also the possible lines of deriving additional inferences by using GIS.

Key words: GIS, Socio-economy, Spatial, Population, Municipal Council

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