

Problems of Coastal Habitats and Resources: A Case Study of Addalaichenai Coastal Area

Rafeeka Ameerdeen, S & Mohamed Rinos, MH*

Abstract

The research titled on “Problems of Coastal habitats and resources – A case study in Addalaichenai Coastal Area” is emphasized due to the recent Eastern Regional Developments (Eastern awakening) which put positive and negative impacts on Socio-Economic & Environmental sectors of the study area. Addalaichanai is a coastal village of Ampara District of Eastern Province in Sri Lanka. 43499 people are living in 10684 families, accommodated in 94.5 km² area in Addalaichenai DS Division. The Population density is 460. The area was affected severely during the ethnic conflict and subjected to natural disasters such as annual flood and cyclones during the northeast monsoon period. After ending the civil war in North and Eastern Provinces a rapid Eastern Regional Development was undertaken by the Government such as commercial and fishing harbour construction at Oluvil, high way Development, University Development at Oluvil and infrastructure Developments, which causes positive as well as negative impacts on socio-economic and environmental sectors of the region. The primary objective of the study is to identify the problems of Coastal Habitats and Resources in Addalaichenai Coastal Area, due to the Eastern Regional Development. The sub objectives of the research are; to identify the the causes for the problems of Coastal habitat and resources, to provide the solutions and to prepare a coastal conservation management plan to the Addalaichenai Coastal Region. The research has been done with the use of primary and secondary data. The direct observation, Focus Group Discussions (FGD), interviews, Questionnaire Survey (QS) and Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) tools were used to obtain primary data. The secondary data sources include books, magazines, published (listed in the bibliography) & unpublished reports, statistical reports, reports from government & NGOs and web articles. Quantitatively as well as qualitatively analysis were undertaken using SPSS, Excell and the Geo-informatics tools for preparing maps and spatial analysis. The study reveals that the Oluvil Harbour Development, Post War Eastern Regional Development, political interferences and natural disasters were the causes for the impacts on the coastal habitat and resources. Consequently numbers of issues were identified from the study.

Key words: Coastal Resource Management, Coastal Habitat, Resources

To whom correspondence should be addressed: rinosmhm@gmail.com

*Department of Geography, South Eastern University of Sri Lanka.