

**ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIO -ECONOMIC
IMPACTS OF THE REVETMENT IN
WENNAPPUWA COASTAL AREA**

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Dissertation Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the

Requirements for the

Master Degree in

Environmental Sciences

of the

OPEN UNIVERSITY

OF

SRI LANKA

NAWALA, NUGEGODA

October, 2014

ABSTRACT

As an island, Sri Lanka is endowed with a rich variety of coastal and marine environs which are intrinsically with the country's history and its economy. The coastal environment of Sri Lanka is bounded to have the highest rate of economic growth in the country in the past decades. The area of the Wannapuwa Divisional secretariat division in Puttalam district is 15 square miles or 872.05 hectare and there is a coastal belt of 18 miles, After the 1980 in consequence to the human activities such as removal of sand and illegal building of houses and dwelling places, the sea erosion has taken place immensely, causing invaluable damage to the properties of fishing community. In 1998, coast conservation Department laid a revetment along the Wennapuwa coastal area. This study focus on the identification of the impacts of revetment. This study covered 5 Grama Niladhari divisions on the coastal area of the Wennappuwa Divisional secretarial division. Eighty households were randomly selected for the study. Primary data was collected using a pre-structured questionnaire. After laying of the revetment, many obstacles had taken place with regard to the activities of the fisherman and their income has reduced. In consequence of these setbacks they had to migrate to distant places to take out their existence. Therefore the income of these fishermen have decreased compared to the income of non – migrators. Sea erosion has ceased at places where the revetment has been laid. The erosion at other places where the revetment has not been laid has taken place. A considerable number of fishermen stated that the revetment has mainly paved way for the reduction of their income. The savings of the fishermen after laying the revetment has come down. Migrating fishermen had to spend extra time and money to migrate to other stations, and as a result they had limited time to live with their family members at home. The fishermen who were forced to migrate to some other places also have to face various challenges. Due to laying of the revetment, direct and indirect influences has affected the fishermen and such as social, environmental, cultural and health challenges.