IDENTIFICATION OF A METHODOLOGY FOR REDUCTION OF NON REVNUE WATER & IMPROVEMENT OF PIPE BORNE WATER SERVICE IN COLOMBO CITY

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Abstract

Colombo City being located in the wet zone of Sri Lanka cannot be considered a water-stressed area. However there is an ever-increasing demand for drinking water supply, due to the increase in population and the rapid development of the area. Colombo City receives 66mgd of treated water but the records could account for revenue only 30.48mgd and 8mgd as free thus showing a gross Unaccounted For Water (UFW) percentage of 42. Colombo City also recorded one of the highest percentages of Non Revenue Water (54%) in the region mainly due to the deteriorated distribution system and associated problems. Most of the pipelines in the distribution system are encrusted and experience frequent leakages which resulted in low pressure zones. This situation created consumer dissatisfaction and development restriction in the city. In this thesis the author discusses the benefits of NRW reduction the selection of appropriate methodology for water loss management and shows how such benefits can be achieved by applying the developed methodologies to a pilot area of the city.

The Author obtained knowledge of various methods by reviewing of case studies and research papers from various countries seminars and donor agencies. An analysis of the Colombo City Water Distribution System showed that 67.6% of pipes comprised with more than 60 years old, encrusted CI pipes and the major factors contributing to NRW are leakages, illegal consumption free water supply and administration losses such as estimated bills water meter errors, human errors etc.

Under the pilot scale study, initially the main causes of NRW were identified and more attention was paid to the most significant causes. After studying various strategies "part to whole method" was selected as more appropriate to reduce NRW in the pilot area. Accordingly small areas or road stretches were isolated and causes that create NRW were reduced. Implementation of this exercise to cover the entire pilot area helped to reduce NRW by a considerable quantity.

In addition to the above pilot scale study further studies were made via IWA water loss management concepts distribution management decentralization and integrated water loss management concepts, economical water loss management with or without smaller diameter deteriorated pipe replacement and improved hydraulics in large pipes preventive maintenance of distribution system and finally target setting for achievement of millennium development goals etc.

After implementation of this exercise on water loss management, it shows that fixing of responsibility with proper directions and commitment interest with awareness of all staff members top to bottom is important to ensure positive results and to provide reliable and customer satisfactory service.

The aim of the research was to develop appropriate method with strategic framework for water loss management. The method adopted for water loss management is different from country to country city to city and place to place depending on factors such as the condition of infrastructure maintenance practices resource availability and institutional frame work etc. The shore and long term strategies developed for water loss management for Colombo City could be applied a similar cities in developing countries.

Declaration

I certify that this dissertation does not incorporate without acknowledgement any material previously submitted for Degree or Diploma in any university and to the best of my knowledge and belief it does not contain any material previously published or written or orally communicated by another person except where due reference is made in the text.

Signature of the candidate

To the best of my knowledge the above particulars are correct





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Contents

De	clarati	on		i
Αc	knowle	edgeme	nt	ii
Αb	stract.			.iii
1	Chap	oter On	e: Introduction	. 1
	1.1.	Backgr	ound	. 1
	1.2.	Previou	us Studies Done by the University of Moratuwa	. 4
	1.3.	Proble	m Identification	. 5
	1.4.	Object	ives of Study	. 5
	1.5.	Descrip	otion of Study Area	. 6
	1.5.2	l.	Background of Colombo City Water Supply :	. 6
	1.5.2	2.	Water Sources	. 6
	1.5.3	3.	Water Distribution in Colombo City	. 7
	1.5.4	1.	Present Service Status	. 7
2	Chap	oter Tw	o: Theoretical Framework and Literature Review	. 8
	2.1.	Water	Loss Management	. 8
	2.1.3	1.	Definition of NRW & UFWMoratuwa. Sri Lanka.	
	2.1.2	2.	NRW in Developed Countries & Dissertations	10
	2.1.3	3.	www.lib.mrt.ac.lk NRW in Developing Countries	10
	2.2.	Causes	for Water Losses	12
	2.2.2	1.	Apparent Losses (Non Physical Losses)	13
	2.2.2	2.	Real Losses (Physical Losses)	13
	2.3.	Water	Loss Reduction Techniques	16
	2.3.1	١.	Water Audit	16
	2.3.2	2.	Meter Management	17
	2.3.2	2.1.	Meter Selection	17
	2.3.2	2.2.	Meter Installation	17
	2.3.2	2.3.	Meter Testing and Maintenance	17
	2.3.2	2.4.	Meter Replacement	17
	2.3.2	2.5.	Type of Meter Usage in Water Distribution	18
	2.3.2	2.5.1.	Production or Bulk Meter	18
	2.3.3	3.	District Meter Areas (DMAs) (Zonal Metering)	19
	2.3.4	1.	Pressure Management	20
	2.3.5	5.	Leakage Monitoring and Control Methods	20

ve Leakage Control	
bilitation of Distribution Network to Whole System	
bilitation of Distribution Network	
to Whole System	
t Management and Ownership Concept	
e measures for water loss and leakage	
e measures for water loss and leakage	
suring and Evaluating the Water Loss and Leakages ent Annual Real Losses (CARL)	
ent Annual Real Losses (CARL)	
roidable Annual Real Losses (UARL)	
structure Leakage Index (ILI) retical Analysis of Water Leaks in Distribution System rtification of Leakage rfits of Reduction of Leakage omical Analysis of Leak Repairs	
eretical Analysis of Water Leaks in Distribution System Intification of Leakage	
elopment in NRW Management in the World	
efits of Reduction of Leakageomical Analysis of Leak Repairselopment in NRW Management in the Worldan.ka	29 29
omical Analysis of Leak Repairselopment in NRW Management in the World	29 30
elopment in NRW Management in the World	30
Flectronic Theses & Dissertations	
er Loss Strategy Development	30
er Loss Interventions	31
s	33
Studies in Developed Countries	34
Study in Geneva Water	34
h Africa Experience	35
er Supply System Budapest	36
er Supply System Vienna	36
Study in Singapore	37
Studies in Developing Countries	38
Study in Sandakan, Sabah, Malaysia	38
ucing leakage in Jakarta, Indonesia	40
	A /
	th Africa Experience

3	Chapter Thi	ree: Research Methodology	45
	3.1. Study	approach	45
	3.1.1	Literature Review	45
	3.1.2	Estimation of Water Loss Using the Standard IWA Water Audit	45
	3.1.3	Calculation of Performance Indicators	45
	3.1.4	Determination of the ELI	45
	3.1.5	Review of Existing Network	45
	3.1.6	UFW Reduction Management	46
	3.1.7	Development of Short and Long Term Strategies for Colombo City	46
	3.1.8	Development of the Strategic Approach for Water Loss Management	46
	3.2. Metho	od for Data Assembly	48
	3.2.1.	Type and Method of Data Collation	48
	3.2.2.	Desktop Studies	48
	3.2.3.	Role of Operational Staff	49
	3.2.4.	Pilot Scale Studies	49
	3.2.5.	Field Observations	49
		ods of Data Analysis mixersity. of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka	
4		ur: Observation and Data Analysis	
	4.1 Analys	sis of Colombo City Water Distribution System	51
	4.1.1	Water Pipes and Accessories	51
	4.1.2	System Pressures	54
	4.1.3	Bulk and Domestic Water Management	54
	4.1.4	Statistics and Status of Domestic Meters	56
	4.1.4.1.	The Main Problems Identified in Domestic Metering in Colombo City,	58
	4.1.4.2.	Impact of Domestic Water Meters on NRW	59
	4.2. Review	w of Activities for Sections Dealing with Water Loss Management	59
	4.2.1.	Management Structure & Effectiveness	60
	4.2.2.	Inputs of Information Technology	60
	4.3. Perfor	mance Indicators for Colombo City Water Supply	61
	4.3.1.	Water Demand and Supply	61
	4.3.2.	NRW in Colombo City and Water Balance	64
	4.3.3.	Unavoidable Real Losses	67
	4.3.4.	Economic Level of Leakage (ELL)	70
	4.3.5.	Colombo City Revenue Analysis	71

	4.3.6.	Activities to Maintain Leakage at Different Levels in Colombo City	73
4.4	4. Major	Factors Contributing to NRW in Colombo City	78
	4.4.1.	High Amount of Leakage	79
	4.4.1.1.	Age of the Distribution System	79
	4.4.1.2.	Scraping Without Lining	79
	4.4.1.3.	Unnecessary Pipelines	80
	4.4.1.4.	Bundle Service Pipes	80
	4.4.1.5.	Active Leak Detection Programme	80
	4.4.1.6.	Absence of Preventive Maintenance Programme	80
	4.4.2.	Illegal Connections and Water Theft	80
	4.4.3.	Free Water Supply	82
	4.4.3.1.	Tenement Garden Consumption	82
	4.4.3.2.	Fire Demand	84
	4.4.3.3.	Bowser Supply	84
	4.4.4.	Administrative Errors	85
	4.4.4.1.	Estimated Bills	85
	4.4.4.2.	Meter Errors Liniversity of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka	85
	4.4.4.3.	Meter Readers' Malpractices and Data Entry Errors	
1.5	5. Pilot S	cale Studies	85
	4.5.1.	Analysis of Distribution System	86
	4.5.2.	NRW in Pilot Zone and Water Balance	87
	4.5.3.	Unavoidable Real Losses	88
	4.5.4.	Leakage Control	89
	4.5.5.	Reduce Free Water Supply	92
	4.5.6.	Reduce Illegal Consumptions	92
	4.5.7.	Reduce Administration Losses	93
	4.5.8.	Results of Pilot Studies	94
	4.5.8.1.	Result of House to House Survey	94
	4.5.8.2.	Impact of Pilot Scale Study	94
	4.5.8.3.	Analysis of Billed Quantity	95
	4.5.8.4.	Analysis of Consumer Complaints	96
	4.5.8.4.	Pressure Distribution Over Pilot Area	100
4.6	5. Strate	gy Formulation for Water Loss Management	100
	4.6.1.	Short Term Strategy	100

	4.6.1.1.	Wanagement Rearranges	. 101
	4.6.1.2.	Water Audit	. 104
	4.6.1.3.	Continue and Intensify House to House Survey and Leak Detection	
	Programme	2S	. 104
	4.6.1.4.	Meter Reader Rotation	. 105
	4.6.1.5.	Improve Repair Techniques, Materials and Workmanship	. 105
	4.6.1.6.	Re-train Staff in Improved and Latest Methods of Water Loss Managemen	nt106
	4.6.1.7.	Assess and Manage Apparent Losses	. 106
	4.6.2.	Long Term Strategy for Colombo City	. 107
	4.6.2.1.	Smaller diameter Pipe replacement	. 108
	4.6.2.2.	Hydraulic Characteristic Improvements in Large Diameter Pipes	. 108
	4.6.2.3.	Water Meter Management	. 108
	4.6.2.4.	Establishment of DMAs	. 109
	4.6.2.5.	Leakage Management and Control	. 109
4	.7. Challe	nges Faced During Implementing of New Strategy	. 110
4	.8. Achiev	vement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)	112
5.	Chapter Fiv	ve: Conclusion and recommendations	113
5		usionsElectronic-Theses-&-Dissertations	
5	.2. Recon	nmendations www.lib.mrt.ac.lk	114
6.	Chapter Six	c: References	116
r :.	st of Figure		
	st of Figur		
_		tal Global Saltwater & Freshwater Estimates	
		ater Stress Indicator	
_		ife drinking Water Coverage 2006	
Fig	ure 1-4: Pr	oblems with Conventional Water Distribution Management	3
_		naracteristics of Sustainable Active Water Distribution Management	
		1ap of Colombo City	
Fig	gure 1-7: Ko	ey Map of Water Intake and Storage Reservoirs	6
Fig	gure 1-8: W	ater Treatment Plants feed to Colombo City	7
Fig	gure 1-9: St	atus of smaller diameter pipes in Colombo distribution system	7
Fig	gure 2-1: M	eans of Water Losses in Water Distribution Processes	8
Fig	gure 2-2: Fe	eatures of Poor Water Loss Management Scheme	9
Fig	gure 2-3: M	ean NRW in Some Cities in Asia	11

Figure 2-4: Mean UFW in Large Cities in Developing Countries	12
Figure 2-5: IWA Standard International Water Audit	16
Figure 2-6: Economics of Meter Exchanges	18
Figure 2-7: Water Saving due to Pressure Management	20
Figure 2-8: Relationship between pressure and leakage rate for different "N" values.	28
Figure 2-9: Relationship between UARL and ELL	29
Figure 2-10: Water loss management process	31
Figure 2-11: Four basic methods of managing real losses	32
Figure 0-1: Four basic methods of managing apparent losses	33
Figure 2-13 IWA's water balance results for Geneva – Year 2004	34
Figure 2-14: Evaluation of the Non Revenue Water (% of Production)	35
Figure 2-15: Deteriorated Pipe Rehabilitation with Inner Liner	36
Figure 2-16: NRW reduction in Sandakan	39
Figure 2-17: Variation in leakage level over time	41
Figure 3-1 : Flow Chart of Research Methodology	47
Figure 4-1 : Pipe Material Composition by Percentage	
Figure 4-2: Leaking Cast Iron pipe and Scaled Cast Iron pipe Lanka	53
Figure 4-3: % of Revenue in Colombo City in Each Category of Consumption	55
Figure 4-4: % of Connections in Colombo City in Each Category	56
Figure 4-5: % No of Connections Vs % of Income in Each Category	56
Figure 4-6: Reducing of Estimated Bill and Defective Meter Percentages	57
Figure 4-7: Meter to Withstand Air	57
Figure 4-8: Water Meter Blocked Incidents due to Sand and Solvent Cement	58
Figure 4-9: Non Revenue Water in Colombo City from 2000 to 2008	65
Figure 4-10 : Composition of Non Revenue Water in Colombo City	65
Figure 4-11: Water Balance Colombo City in Year 2008	66
Figure 4-12 : Relationship between ILI Vs Distribution Pressure Variation	68
Figure 4-13: ILI result for 22 systems from England and Wales	69
Figure 4-14: ILI results for 20 systems from the USA and Canada	70
Figure 4-15 : ILI results for 27 Systems from South Africa	70
Figure 4-16: Ecumenical Analysis of Leakage Control in Colombo City without Pipe	e
Replacement	75
Figure 4-17: Economical Analysis of Leakage Control in Colombo City with Pipe	
Replacement	78

Figure 4-18 : Scaled Pipe in Colombo city	79
Figure 4-19 : Bundle pipes in Colombo City	
Figure 4-20 : Economical analysis of illegal detection in Colombo City	
Figure 4-21: Tenement Garden demarcated Colombo city map	
Figure 4-22 : Illustrates Low living standards and Water wastage Hygienic Problem	
Colombo City Tenement gardens	
Figure 4-23: Temporary Collecting pits in Tenement Garden due to low pressure	
Figure 4-24 : Pipe material type by percentage	
Figure 4-25 : Progress of NRW reduction in Colombo City pilot zone	
Figure 4-26 Culvert Crossing Leak Investigation in two roads	
Figure 4-27: Results of Step Testing	
Figure 4-28 : Illegal Water Meter Tampering	
Figure 4-29: Behaviors of Billed quantity in four areas in Colombo city	
Figure 4-30 : Water Leak Complaints in Colombo City	
Figure 4-31: Comparison of Area that Failed in Colombo city	97
Figure 4-32 : Analysis of Reported Low Pressure in Colombo City	
Figure 4-33: Reported No Water Complaints Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.	99
Figure 0-2 : Early Management System in Colombo City Water Distribution	101
Figure 4-35 : Proposed Colombo City Distribution Management System	103
Figure 0-3: Propose Meter Reader Rotation in Colombo City Water Distribution	105
List of Tables	
Table 2-1: Relationship Between Leakages and Average System Pressures & ILLi	in
Developed and Developing Countries	26
Table 2-2: Improvement in 2006 Compared with 1993 in Cambodia	43
Table 4-1: Pipe Ages of Transmission and Distribution Mains in Colombo City	52
Table 4-2 : Pipe Line Composition of Colombo City Distribution System	52
Table 4-3: System Pressures in Four Areas of Colombo City	54
Table 4-4: Impact of Average Monthly Consumption with Income Generation in	
Different Categories of Consumers	55
Table 4-5: % of Estimated Bills and Defective Meters in Colombo City	57
Table 4-6: Analysis of Water Meter Performance in Pilot Studies in Wellawatta	59
Table 4-7: Collection Ratios 2004 to 2008	60

Table 4-8: Performance Indicators for the Colombo City Water Distribution System	61
Table 4-9: Summary of Tenement Garden Details in Colombo City	62
Table 4-10: Summary of Pilot Scale Study to Analysis Common Outlet Consumption	on
in Colombo 1 to 15	63
Table 0-1 : Summary of Pilot Scale Study for Analysis of Common Outlet Consump in Colombo City	
Table 4-12: Non Revenue Water in Colombo City from 2000 to 2008	64
Table 4-13: Presents Summarizes of System Data and Presents the UARL, CARL a	nd
ILI in Colombo City	67
Table 4-14: Analysis of Western Central Region, Revenue Vs consumption	72
Table 4-15: Activities to Maintain Leakage at Different Levels in Colombo City with	th
Active Leak Reduction Programme	74
Table 4-16: Capital Investment Needs for the Different Levels of Leakage Control	74
Table 4-17: Loan Installment for Capital Investment for the Different Levels of	
i.eakage Control	75
Table 4-18 : Active Leak Detection with Pipe Replacement	76
Table 4-19 : Capital Investment Needs for the Different Levels of Leakage Control	77
Table 4-20 : Leakages and Frequency of Pipe Bursts per Kilometer	7 ^ç
Table 4-21 : Economical Analysis of Last Five Years Illegal Detection	81
Table 4-22 : Present Status of Common Outlets	83
Table 4-23: Progress of Connections Provided to Tenement Gardens	84
Table 4-24: Length and % of Pipe Composition in Pilot Project	86
Table 4-25 : NRW Variation in Pilot Area	87
Table 4-26: Illustrated in the Components of the Water balance in pilot zone	88
Table 4-26 b : Presents Summary of System Data	89
Table 4-27 : Sequence of Valve Closed in Step testing in Pamankada Road	9]
Table 4-28 : Result of House to House Survey	94
Table 4-29 : Analysis of Quantity of Billed in 4 Areas in Colombo City	95
Table 4-30 : Water Leaks Complaints	96
Table 4-31: No of Area Failed Reported	97
Table 4-32: No of Reported Low Pressures in Colombo City during year 2009	98
Table 4-33: Reported No Water Complaints	99

List of Annexes

Annex I : Proposed Restructure for Management of Colombo City

Annex II : New Tariff Structure of NWS&DB

Annex III : Format of House to House Survey

Annex IV : Pilot Area Key Map

Annex V : Pressure Measurement on 03.02.2010 at Havelock Bridge

Annex VI : Pressure Measurement on 03.02.2010 at Pamankada Bridge

Annex VII : Pressure Measurement on 03.02.2010 at Kirulapana Bridge

Annex VIII : Pressure Measurement on 10.12.2009 at Anula Road

Annex IX : Pressure Measurement on 10.12..2009 at 191/4 Galle Road

Annex X : Pressure Measurement on 10.12.2009 at Gregory Place

Annex XI : Pressure Measurement on 20.11.2009 at Hames Avenue

Annex XII : Pressure Measurement on 20.11.2009 at 506, Galle Road

Annex XIII: Pressure Measurement on 20.11.2009 at W.A. Silwa Road

Annex XIV: Pressure Measurement on 20.11.2009 at Hamdan Lane

Annex XV : Pressure Measurement on 20.11.2009 at Arthusa Road

Annex XVI: Pressure Measurement on 06.11.2009 - 09.11.2009 at Pamankada Bridge

Annex XVII: Pressure Measurement on 29.10.2009 at Kirulapana Bridge

Annex XVIII: Pressure Measurement on 04.04.2009 at Mayura Place

Annex XIX : Pressure Measurement on 26.03.2008 at 191/4, Galle Road

Annex XX : Pressure Measurement on 26.03.2008 at Havelock Bridge

Annex XXI: Pressure Measurement on 26.03.2008 at Pamankada Bridge

Annex XXII: Pressure Measurement on 26.03.2008 at W. A. Silva Mawatha

Annex XXIII: Pressure Measurement on 26.03.2008 at Gregory Place

Annex XXIV: Pressure Measurement on 26.03.2008 at Anula Road

Abbreviations

AE - Area Engineer

AWWA - American Water Works Association

BS - British Standards

CARL - Current Annual Real Losses

CC - Colombo City

CI - Cast Iron

CMC - Colombo Municipal Council

CV - Circulation Valve

DMA - District Metering Area

EAA - Engineering Assistants

ELI - Economical Leak Index

GIS - Global Information System

HDPE - High Density Poly Ethylene

IBNET -International Benchmarking Network

ILI - Infrastructure Leak Index

IWA - International Water Association

JICA - Japan International Cooperation Agency

km - Kilo meters

l/sec - Liters / second

m³ - Cubic Meter

MDGs - Millennium Development Goals

mgd - Million Gallon per Day

MIS - Management Information System oratuwa, Sri Lanka.

Mm³ - Million Meter Cubes

MNF - Minimum Night Flow

NNF - Net Night Flow

NRW - Non Revenue Water

NWS&DB - National Water Supply & Drainage Board

OIC - Officer In Charge

OPD - Operation and Development

PVC - Poly Vinyl chloride

SLS - Sri Lankan Standards

SV - Sluice Valve

TG - Tenement Garden

UARL - Unavoidable Annual Real Losses

UFW - Unaccounted For Water

UN - United Nation

UNESCO - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNICEF - United Nations Children's Fund

WHO - World Health Organization