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A CRITICAL EVALUATION OF SETTLEMENT PLANNING

IN SRI LANKA - A CASE STUDY OF MEDIRIGIRIYA.



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A dissertation presented to the Department
of Town and Country Planning, University of
Moratuwa, in partial fulfilment of the Degree
of Master of Science in Town and Country
Planning.

N.P. Weerasinghe
20th November, 1980.

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SYNOPSIS

The study is concerned with Settlement Planning, in Sri Lanka and has confined its study to agricultural settlements in the Dry Zone, where most of the development potential lies.

The discussion in the study commences with an Introduction to the study and its methodology. It also introduces the study area in terms of its location and access.

A historical sketch of land settlement in Sri Lanka is given in Chapter II. Here the basic objectives behind the Government's original programme to settle people have been looked into upto more recent types of settlements. This periodical change gave rise to new concepts and approaches to Settlement Planning and they are discussed in the latter part of this same chapter.

In the next chapters III, IV and V, the major administration and planning methodology of Medirigiriya settlements, its existing situation, socio-economic and environmental position are studied. Further an analysis of the agronomic practices prevailing, as well as yield, cost and return data are presented for the settlement scheme.

Chapter VI comprises the analytical portion of the study where the objectives behind the formation


of Medirigiriya Settlements are taken up individually for evaluation as to its attainments in that field.

Chapter VII has discussed the conclusions arising from the study and the recommendations based there on. In this connection the generalisation of the recommendations for Medirigiriya has been provided to give guide lines for overall Settlement Planning in Sri Lanka.



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G L O S S A R Y

- Ando** - Cultivation by a person other than the owner by giving a share of the product to the owner
- Bethma** - Cultivation of only a section of an Irrigation Scheme by all the allottees together when there is a shortage of water, to cultivate the entire scheme.
- Liyadda** - A portion of a paddy land enclosed by ridges.
- Maha Season** - Period from September to March in which the paddy is grown and harvested. The Monsoon occurs during this period. Dry Zone gets more rain during this season.
- Tract** - A portion of an Irrigated scheme fed by one or more Distributory Channels.
- Yala Season** - Period between April and August when rice is grown. The South West Monsoon occurs during this period.



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