

**AN EXPLORATORY STUDY OF DEFORESTATION AND
ITS IMPACT ON HUMAN SECURITY: A CASE STUDY IN
DIYATALAWA**

By

Brig M S Amith



**The Dissertation submitted to
GENERAL SIR JOHN KOTELAWALA DEFENCE
UNIVERSITY,
SRI LANKA**

In partial fulfillment of the requirement for the award of the degree

Of

**Master of Science in Security and Strategic Studies
Program V**

24th July 2024

ABSTRACT

The evolution of the world still binds the environment and the people together due to their interdependence. The well-being of the human kind would reflect how he preserves the nature and environment. In that context, deforestation no doubt will pose consequences for human security. The Diyatalawa area was once a patana grassland and subsequently converted to pine and eucalyptus monoculture plantations in the late 1900s. A complete transformation of an environment in a geographical area is termed a deforestation. The initial object of planting these species of trees was to act as a windbreaker and bring more rain onto the hill country catchment areas. These trees are also considered a contributor to the economy. The public in this area are employed in all sectors, inclusive of the state and private segments like, in the rest of the country. Agriculture was and is the predominant involvement of many. Water is an essential element of all living beings. It has been a common perception that pine and eucalyptus cultivations have led to the scarcity of water in this area, contrary to the present findings of this research. This research was aimed to study the impact of deforestation on human security. Data was collected primarily focusing on a sample consisting of different categories of the community, using purposeful in-depth interviews and discussions. The present status of deforestation, factors that led to deforestation, its impact on human security and the need for a national action plan to enhance human security and minimize deforestation, are the objectives of the study.

Keywords: Deforestation, Diyatalawa, Human Security, Patana, Pines, Eucalyptus