

**KNOWLEDE, ATTITUDE AND PRACTICES ON  
COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND ASSOCIATED FACTORS  
IN URBAN FLOOD AFFECTED COMMUNITY  
IN SRI LANKA**

**(SPECIAL REFERENCES TO KOLONNAWA WATER BASIN)**

by

**DMS ALOKA DISSANAYAKE  
KDU/503MSS18004**



*Dissertation submitted to*

**GENERAL SIR JOHN KOTELAWALA DEFENCE UNIVERSITY,  
SRI LANKA**

*In partial fulfilment of the requirement for the award of the degree*

*of*

**Master of Science in Disaster Risk Reduction and Development**

**30 July 2024**

## ABSTRACT

Natural disasters have been entangled with life of human directly or indirectly. Flood impact is one of the most significant disasters in the world. More than half of global flood damages occur in Asia. Causes of floods are due to natural factors such as heavy rainfall, high floods and high tides, etc., and human factors such as blocking of channels or aggravation of drainage channels, improper land use, deforestation in headwater regions, etc. Floods result in losses of life and damage properties. Population increases results in more urbanization, more impervious area and less infiltration and greater flood peak and runoff. Flood is the most common and frequent natural disaster in the Sri Lanka was adversely affected on last few decades. The Western Province of Sri Lanka, is comprised of the 03 most densely populated districts, and is home to the administrative and business capital of the country. The province contributes the highest share, around 41.2%, to the GDP. The mega scale development projects implemented in this province are often challenged by urban flooding, which is caused by heavy rainfall coupled up with urban expansion, deficiencies in the drainage systems, insufficient retention capacity. Several areas of Colombo-Sri Lanka are at risk of flooding due to the torrential rain that falls during the seasons of the year. The main problem that all people without any discrimination can face due to the risk of floods and landslides is to face severe health problems.

These health problems become more acute due to natural disasters like floods. The diseases are starting to develop and spread with the flood situation and affect people's lives until a period of time passes after the flood recedes. This is a serious threat to the people who have been impact from floods and affects many administrative sectors including the health sector of the Sri Lanka. Human habitations are impact due to the flooding disaster and as a result various health problems are occurring in the affected areas. Various infectious and non-infectious diseases are spreading due to the contamination of water sources, bacterial activity due to stale cooked food, non-draining of water in places full of water, lack of proper disposal of plastic and garbage.

Flood disasters in Sri Lanka can lead to various water-borne diseases and Vector borne diseases have recently emerged as a serious health problem in many parts of Sri Lanka. Bad health habits, less knowledge and attitudes would become as the major reasons which impact

to increase these problems. Most of the communicable diseases are caused by human's irregular behavior patterns. Apart from this, the lack of proper knowledge among the people and the behavior patterns of daily life also have a significant impact on this matter. The most serious issue facing this problem is people not ready to accept professionals' guideline and instructions. It confirms that the carelessness of the public has a direct effect on this matter. Hence, it's more important discuss about the Knowledge, Attitudes and practice on communicable diseases and associated factors in an urban flood affected community in Sri Lanka.

The present project assessed the need for an in-depth understanding of the communities in Kolonnawa flood prone water basin regarding their knowledge, attitudes, and practice on communicable diseases and identifies the factors affecting on this matter.