

**POST-WAR LAND USE CHANGE AND THE CONSEQUENCES IN THOPPUR AREA**Mohamed Rinos M.H<sup>1</sup>, Mohamed Rifath R<sup>2</sup>

Correspondence: rinosmhm@gmail.com

**Abstract**

Land use involves the management and modification of natural environment or wildness into built environment such as buildings, settlements and semi natural habitats such as arable fields, pasture and managed woods. It has also been defined as “The arrangements, activities and inputs people under take in a certain land cover type to produce, change or maintain it” (FAO 1997, FAO/UNEP 1999). It is indeed a necessity to examine the land use of the Thoppur Area in the context of physical and anthropogenic aspects. The study area is a Sub-Divisional Secretariat that is located in the Trincomalee District of Eastern Province of Sri Lanka in Asian Region. The study is done with the objective of identifying post-war land use change in Thoppur Sub-Divisional Secretariat area, to identify the causes for the land use change and to identify the socio-environmental & economic consequences. The research has been undertaken with the primary and secondary data sources to focus on both qualitative and quantitative data analysis. The primary data were collected through questionnaires as well as personal observations and by interviewing stakeholders. The primary data used in the study was thus taken from a social survey of households using questionnaires. Secondary data were collected from the published and unpublished sources. Moreover Paddy cultivation, Chena cultivation, water resources, forest resources, human-elephant conflict, livestock farming, settlements and road network were analyzed comprehensively in order to find out the objectives of the research.

**Keywords:** Land use change, Thoppur, human-elephant conflict, environmental impact

---

<sup>1</sup> Department of Geography, South Eastern University of Sri Lanka

<sup>2</sup> Department of Geography, South Eastern University of Sri Lanka