

**Impact of Water Poverty on Rural Households: A
Study of the Village**

**Thammenna-Elawake in the North Central Province
of Sri Lanka**

by

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MSc in Human Security

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DEDICATION

**This thesis is dedicated to my loving father and
mother, who always inspire my higher education
and carrier advancement**

Declaration

The work described in this thesis was carried out by me under the supervision of Course Coordinator Dr.K.Deheragoda and Snr. Lecturer Mr. G.M. Bandaranayake. and a report on this has not been submitted in whole or in part to any University for another Degree /Diploma.



E. Upali Alwis

Declaration by the Supervisor

I certify that the above statement made by the candidate is true and that this Thesis is suitable for submission to the University, for the purpose of evaluation.

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**Thesis Submitted to the University of Sri Jayawardenapura
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LIST OF ACRONYMS

CBO	Community Based Organization
DSD	Divisional Secretariat
FGD	Focus Grouped Discussion
GN	Grama Niladari
HH	Households
ITCZ	Inter Tropical Convergence Zone
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
NWS&DB	National Water Supply and Drainage Board
PS	Pradeshiya Sabha
PSTO	Pradeshiya Sabha Technical Officer
RWHT	Rain Water Harvesting Tanks
RWT	Rain Water Tanks
SLS	Sri Lanka Standards
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
PRRA	Participatory Rapid Rural Appraisal

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Upali Alwis

ABSTRACT

Water is a limited resource, which depletes continuously due to human activities. It is becoming more and more difficult to protect water sources from contamination. Water pollution is a threat to community hygiene, which eventually negatively affect socio-economic situation of the society.

Lack of access to safe drinking and domestic water facilities has been identified as one of the major causes to deepen the water poverty and this is equally common to both dry and the wet zones.

The water poverty consists of water quality and quantity, time taken to fetch water, reliability of water services, community perception on water availability, distance to water sources and expenditure incurred for water.

To explore the causes of the water poverty in the study area, data was generated according to the criteria included in the working definition, which are mentioned in the above paragraph.

The study sample was selected to suit the purpose of the study. Through the stratified random sample, 60 households were selected as the main source of primary information.

To enrich the main survey method, the geological observations, focus group discussions, individual and group interviews, community meetings etc. also were used. The questionnaire, which was developed, was pre-tested and the in-depth data analysis was done in order to create the real picture regarding the subject concerned.

The results of the study explicitly prove that the water poverty adversely affects the lives of the rural communities. More over, it revealed the real courses of the water poverty and the effects of them on the lives of the poor and the findings are discussed in the study report.

According to the findings, of this study the writer has attempted to distinguish the relationships between the causes and the effects of the water poverty and also to make fruitful suggestions to address this issue.