



Changes in Land Use in the Suburban Areas of Colombo
1956 - 1988

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By

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ABSTRACT

The study focusses attention on suburban land use changes around Colombo during 1956 - 1988, their causes and consequences.

Population increase in suburbs, stage-wise development of inner and outer crescents of suburbs, constraints to suburban development and the trends of suburbanization are dealt with in the introductory chapters. The sequence of suburbanization is presented in comparison with that of Britain.

In chapters 5,6 and 7, an attempt is made to provide a comprehensive account of the existing pattern of land uses and their changes since 1956. Factors that led to land use changes in suburbs, contemporary land use features and the functional aspect of land use changes in the area are presented in detail. Development of land uses along a selected transect is highlighted in a historical perspective.

Three suburbs viz. Kotte, Maharagama and Moratuwa that are undergoing rapid land use changes are selected for an in-depth study. Expansion of commercial areas of Maharagama and Nugegoda are studied separately along with the residential areas of the three service centres.