IMPACT OF TOURISM ON BUILTENVIRONMENT
WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO
HIKKADUWA AND BENTOTA

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INTRODUCTION:

The physical form character and shape of any human settlement or town is dependent on its economic activity, resources, the citizen's occupation, culture etc. (Human settlement and towns and their physical form are influenced by the activities and culture of its citizens).

those are the reasons for villages, towns and settlements to be described as fishing villages, agricultural settlements, industrial form etc. each with its own character of physical form and built environment. Hikkaduwa on the south west coast of Sri Lanka can perhaps be identified as the single largest town in Sri Lanka which has been influenced by tourism as an industry and Hikkaduwa may have been a coastal fishing village originally.

Arrival of tourism at Hikkaduwa is not limited to the so-called star class hotels along the beaches it has on one hand contributed to the changing physical form and urban character, while on the other hand, has involved the citizens to the extent of their becoming part and parcel of the industry itself.

This has resulted in development of many service industries, such as restaurants, handicrafts and jewelry, batiks and guest houses in addition to the arising of beach boys and girls.

The arrival of tourism at Bentota is not affected like at Hikkaduwa. It is mostly limited to star class hotels and developed as a planned tourist resort with its location in the south coast. Originally the Bentota was identified as a fishing village.

But with tourism, its physical form and character changed in a planned manner. If one studies the effect of the tourist industry on the physical form or built environment of a village or town there is no better example than Hikkaduwa and Bentota in Sri Lanka. Therefore I have chosen Hikkaduwa and Bentota as the base of my study.
INTENTION OF THE STUDY

This study therefore is an attempt to study the impact of tourism as an industry on the physical form of built environment at Hikkaduwa and Bentota and to analyze such implications for other tourist villages which has been the impact of tourism industry planned or otherwise.

NEED OF THE STUDY

The spread of tourism searched for the attractions, accommodation... etc all over the world and this spread of tourism make formation of different types of forms of built environments and due to its development haphazard or organized, it affects to the social system and rhythm of the human settlements. There is a need to identify the way of formation of form of built environment due to the impact of tourism to prevent the haphazard developments, specially at Hikkaduwa and to preserve its organized quality of the form of the built environment at Bentota as a planned resort.

OBJECTIVES

(1). To examine pre tourism situation at Hikkaduwa and Bentota as fishing towns

(2). To examine the various tourist related developments and the resultant physical forms.

(3). To relate the physical forms identified to the development process of the built environment in relation to the tourist industry.

METHODOLOGY

This study is to attempt to identify the spirit existent of Hikkaduwa and Bentota and form of Built environment formed due to the impact of tourism, inspiring the spirit identified, in the last few decades.
So first identify the pre tourism situation that means the spirit of place at Hikkaduwa and Bentota as human settlements using literature, photographic records, accounts of foreign visitors and city plans of Hikkaduwa and Bentota.

And then identify the change of built environment by field study and photographic recording so comparing the tourism situation and the change of the built environment due to tourism in both places we identified existing situation of the form of built environment.