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# CONCLUSION

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## CONCLUSION

According to this study several important aspects come to light regarding the phenomena of urban floods and its resulting repercussions on households . In elucidation it can be said that this study which examines the issue of flooding in the Colombo city and its environs, clearly indicates the causes which gave rise to this situation and the measures that are required to be taken in order to mitigate it.

In conclusion it is apparent that several causal factors have contributed towards creating flood situations;

- Unsatisfactory methods of garbage disposal
- Unplanned land filling activities
- Obstructions to drainage paths
- Insufficient maintenance of drainage paths such as canals and drains
- Insufficient capacity of canals and drains

Many people are inconvenienced and put to much trouble as a result of floods in this area. This situation hampers with their normal lifestyles and many suffer economic losses as a consequence. Therefore, this study clearly indicates the requirement of adaptive methods to floods and the need for flood resistant housing.

Hence, it is the duty and responsibility of residents of the Colombo city and visitors alike to ensure that their actions do not aggravate this situation. Residents must take appropriate measures to facilitate the proper disposal of garbage so as not to block drainage paths and thus obstruct flow of stormwater. The people must be made to realise that they have a moral obligation to care for the environment and be made to understand that subsequently they themselves will be benefited by it.

However, the responsibility of ensuring reduction of the negative impacts of floods and the mitigation of flood disaster, rests heavily upon the professionals and the decision makers. Therefore, it is important that 'sustainable development' policies and programmes be adopted



which can be seen as an attempt to ensure development patterns that will allow for a mutual process of adaptation between environment and human communities. The basis for such sustainable development programmes is the broad assumption that the environment will not be a hazard for the community and that the community will not pose a hazard to the natural environment. Moreover, any development plan has to incorporate measures to reduce risk and vulnerability.

In respect of the issues outlined, architects have an important role to play in enabling people to adapt to floods and to allow them to live with minimum discomfort under such conditions. This can be achieved by the design of suitable flood resistant housing and proper site design. Elevated structures deemed suitable for areas susceptible to floods, even though somewhat alien in the context of Sri Lankan residential buildings may have to be proposed in this regard.

In summation one can say that mitigation of flood disasters is an inter-disciplinary affair, no sector being independent of another. It is an activity that needs the collaboration of individuals comprising of relief workers, field workers, professionals of specific disciplines - architects, planners, social scientists, geographers, engineers, and economists among others. Finally, it must be noted that even though natural disasters such as floods are an obstacle to development it also provides an opportunity for change, a challenge and a spearhead.



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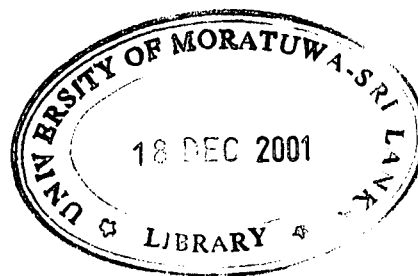
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# ANNEXES

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