

Can Kadawatha be Considered as an Urban Area in Sri Lanka? (A Comparative Study of Kadawatha Township and Kaduwela Municipal Council Area)

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This study focused on an analysis of the potentiality for considering Kadawatha as an emerging urban area in comparison to Kaduwela Municipal area that justifies Kadawatha as a township in Gampaha District. The study attempted to compare urban characteristics of Kadawatha with a similar situation of Kaduwela municipal area. Sri Lanka is slowly urbanizing country. However, according to some criteria, it is evident that Sri Lanka is urbanized more than it is revealed by statistics. With regard to non-conventional criteria of urbanization in Sri Lanka, it is obvious that most of the landscape in the Western Province is urbanized. It indicates by expanding built-up area beyond municipal and urban area boundaries. The sprawling effect is the major driver. Besides, there is rapid growth in urban functions within and as well as outside the urban limits and Kadawatha is not an exception. This study focused on configuring built up area around Kadawatha Township applying spatial analysis techniques and tabular data interpretation methods. Through and intensive field survey, the information about residences; business and other function were enumerated. The related studies revealed three major aspects relevant to this study namely; land use and land cover, population growth, and urban function. Based on these criteria a comparative analysis was done for Kaduwela Municipal area and Kadawatha Township. The study found out the potentiality of Kadawatha to be considered as an emerging urban area in Sri Lanka. This finding has given a recommendation as should have concerned this new situation of Kadawatha when preparing forthcoming urban planes of Sri Lanka.

Keywords: Kadawatha, Kaduwela, Land use, Potentiality, Urban