

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS AND PLANNING CHALLENGES: THE CASE OF COLOMBO CITY

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Significance of cities in the world is unprecedented since the world urban population overlook rural population. Therefore, planners' role in accommodating of increasing population is ever a challenging task. This situation is usually higher in developing cities like Colombo since planners used to ignore demographic characteristics which provide an important set of guidelines in realizing issues and potentials for development. Therefore, this paper aims to discuss urban sector planning issues relating to demographic characteristics with especial reference to the city of Colombo. It is noteworthy to mention that Colombo city plans have been incorporated with demographic variables. However, it can be questioned about the degree of emphasis on some sensitive demographic characteristics such as elderly, differently able people, patients, children and pregnant mothers etc. in making Colombo a harmonious city.

Keywords: Demographic characteristics, planner's role, urban issues, urban population