

## **THE IMPACT OF SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION ON AIR POLLUTION IN THE CITY OF COLOMBO.**

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*This paper investigates the impact of spatial distribution of population on air pollution. Atmospheric pollution within the country is caused mainly by transport, industries and fossil burning and contributions by minor industries where large particulate emissions are observed. However, air pollution was heavily felt in the major cities. Vehicles emit gases by burning of diesel and petrol. These include suspended particulate matter, carbon monoxide, oxides of Sulfur, nitrogen and benzene at higher rate than industrialized countries. But nowadays most developing countries have been affected by air pollution. Lack of awareness, using low quality fuel and poor conditions of vehicles are the main reasons for air pollution in those areas. Air pollution was not considered a current serious problem, even though in the Colombo municipal Council area, where two third of the urban pollution as well as over 65 percent of industries and registered vehicles are concentrated. Nevertheless, there is a definite increase in respiratory illnesses during the past decades where hospital admission due to bronchial asthma has increased 280 percent from the year 1985 to 2007. When considering air pollution in the city of Colombo population density and other human factors such as land use, transport, industries highly responsible. The result from the analysis found that there is a very clear relationship between spatial distribution of population and land use pattern on air pollution in the city of Colombo.*