

## POPULATION AND SOME KEY ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES IN SRI LANKA.

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**Abstract:** Population growth rate and the unfavourable spatial distribution of population have contributed to the degradation of environment and depletion of natural resources in Sri Lanka. One of the most important tasks facing today is meeting the demands of an increasing population in the context of continuing depletion of resources, land degradation and environmental pollution. Widespread poverty in Sri Lanka has forced low income receiving families to over use and misuse the resource base for survival. The size of population, growth rates, spatial distribution and trends in urbanization have direct impact on environmental degradation and pollution. It is apparent that population dynamics, resource utilization and environmental issues should be viewed together, through a more meaningful perspective in the 21st century. The policy options for Sri Lanka have to be identified on local, national and international scales. Policy recommendations are essential for improving the quality of life and the management of the environment. Programmes based on these would contribute in a more effective way towards sustainable development in Sri Lanka.