

Land use, the purpose for which an area of land is utilized by humans, encompasses diverse categories such as forests, urban settlements, and agricultural lands. Land use change refers to the process whereby land transitions from one use to another. In the aftermath of the post-war boom in 2009, the government initiated several development projects aimed at meeting the basic needs of those affected by the war and the entire nation. Consequently, urban planning and urbanization have witnessed a significant surge across various regions, particularly in Colombo and Kolonnawa DS Divisions, resulting in the conversion of extensive non-built-up areas into built-up ones. Simultaneously, the rapid urbanization, development projects, and industrial growth have substantially contributed to the substantial decline in forest cover over the past decade. The primary objective of this study is to identify and analyze the spatial and temporal patterns of land use changes in Colombo DS Division and Kolonnawa DS Division by comparing them with existing land use types. This investigation aims to discern which specific land use types have transformed into others and ascertain the underlying reasons behind these transformations. Moreover, the study seeks to identify the challenges and issues confronted by both DS Divisions as a consequence of these land use changes.



I am Nimesha Liyanage who is an author and researcher in the field of Geography, graduated from the renowned University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka with a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Geography. My deep passion for this subject led to pursue a Master of Philosophy degree in Geography from the same university. Currently, I am working at the Gampaha Wickramarachchi University of Indigenous Medicine, where I continue to expand the knowledge and share the expertise with others.

## Temporal Changes of Land Use

**Colombo and Kolonnawa Divisional Secretariat  
Divisions: 1992-2014**

