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A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
PROGRAMME FOR SHANTY  
SETTLEMENTS IN THE CITY  
OF COLOMBO

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UNIVERSITY OF SRI JAYWARDENEPURA, SRI LANKA  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY

A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME  
FOR SHANTY SETTLEMENTS IN THE  
CITY OF COLOMBO  
AN ACTION CUM RESEARCH PROGRAMME

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A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME  
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by

W. CHANDRASIRI

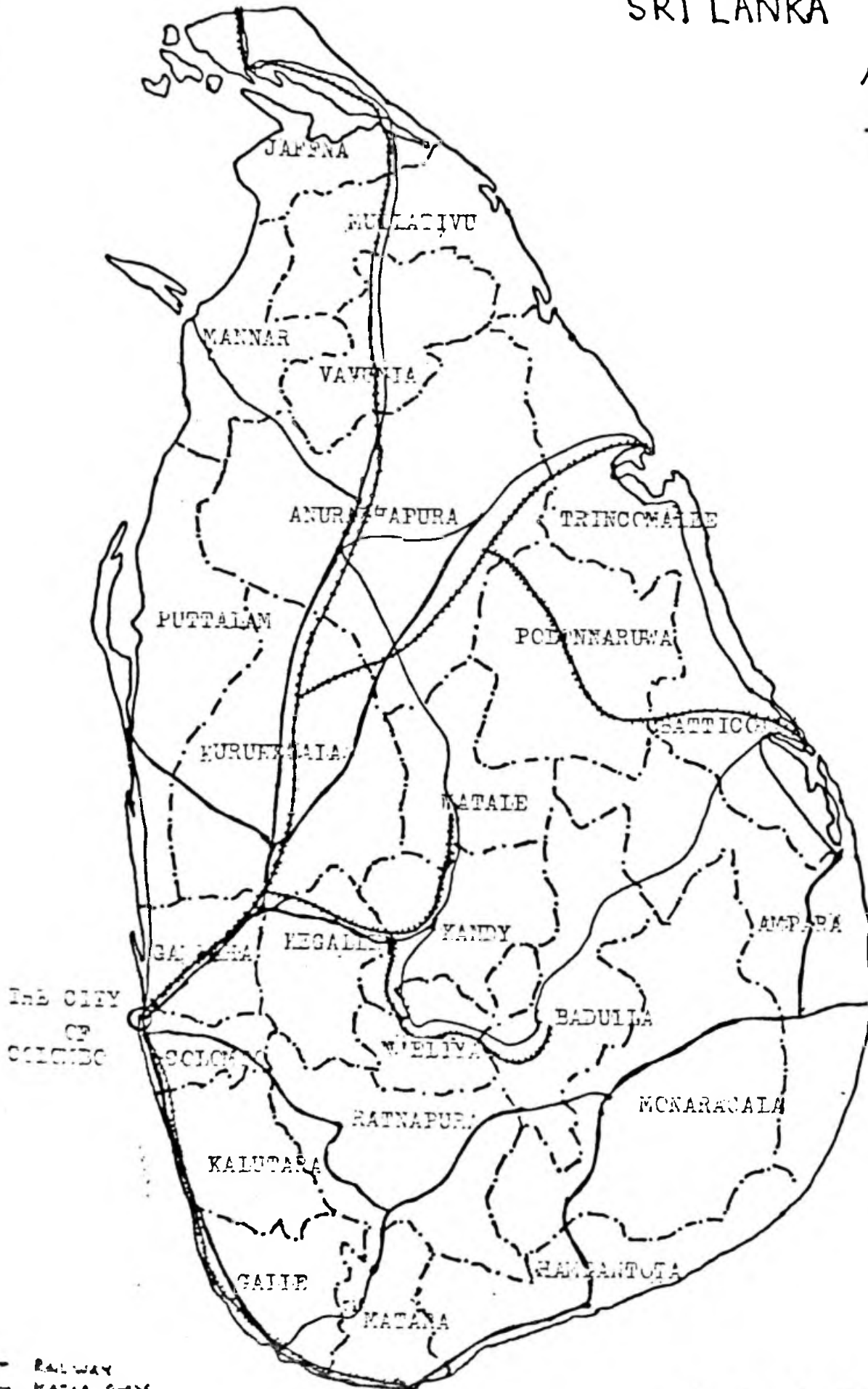
UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF  
PROFESSOR NANDASENA<sup>1</sup> RATHNAPALA  
AND  
DR. S. T. HETTIGE

AN ADVANCED STUDY REPORT SUBMITTED IN  
PARTIAL FULFILMENT FOR THE  
DEGREE OF MASTER OF SOCIOLOGY

UNIVERSITY OF SRI JAYWARDENEPURA, SRI LANKA

1985

# SRI LANKA



— RAILWAY  
- - - MAJOR ROADS  
... DISTRICT BOUNDARY

0 10 20 Miles

## A C K N O W L E D G E M E N T

I acknowledge with sincere thanks the assistance and co-operation I received during the course of my study, from various sources and the encouragement given by my supervisor Dr. S.T. Hettige, Senior Lecturer, Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology, University of Sri Jayewardenapura, Sri Lanka. He has been a consistent source of inspiration throughout my research works with his guidance, patient hearing and valuable criticism and his inspiration.

I will be failing in my duties if I do not mention, the advice and help given by the Head, Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka and my supervisor, Professor Nandasena Ratnapala, as much as thanks to him.

I am all most indebted to the Dehiwala Canal Bank dwellers and the people in that neighbourhood who co-operated with me in most human way and tolerated my questions which would have often bored them with their personal and private affairs.

I owe a great debt to dozens of people whose names cannot be given. A special word of thanks is also due to Mrs Patricia Buultjens, who is attached to CARE, who did the typing of this Script.

## A B S T R A C T

The objects of this study are:-

1. To identify the Dehiwala Canal Bank, where the needs of shanty settlers, because of their magnitude and implications on physical and socio-economic conditions of life call for expeditious action.
2. To make an in-depth study of the shanty settlers living in that area, examining their relationships to the urban life and recording the physical and socio-economic conditions of life in the area.
3. To meet and discuss with shanty settlers, their problems, and their potential in overcoming the constraints that prevent them from obtaining their needs, and record the information as objectively as possible.
4. To explore the possible ways of mobilising necessary resources and overcome or modify constraints to enable shanty settlers to meet their needs.
5. To draw lessons from a study of development programmes formulated in other agencies to meet the needs of the poor urban communities and to enable the formulation of an alternative for the currently practised inappropriate attitudes in the city of Colombo that aggravate the conditions of urban poor.

6. To objectively describe the conditions of life and needs of people in the problem areas and advocate an appropriate course of action.
7. To formulate a programme of development that asserts the resourcefulness of the community by organising them for cooperative action to take them away from a life of deprivation through a phase of incremental changes and to bring them to levels of continued development.

Major problems of the City of Colombo in general and a detail analysis of such problems in the Dehiwala Canal Bank, relating to the socio-economic and physical functions and problems of the areas in the overall urban context. The document describes the methodology of identifying the problem areas of poor urban shanty community and at the end locates the action areas for further study.

Action areas, are then studied in detail. The survey and the outcome are presented in quantitative terms disclosing, the acuteness of the major problems of the area and also records their aspirations and the abilities of the members of the community. Needs, resources and constraints, as observed during the survey and expressed by the people, are brought to a common format and the significance of such a format are discussed. Further investigation and research which are necessary to maximise the efficacy of the system and the necessary data

basis to strengthen the resource - constraint data of the survey. The document states the goals and objectives of the envisaged community development programme. This comprises of long range goals statements, programme objectives and the projects to meet the community's needs. Projects are presented with reference to proceeding resource - constraint analysis. The projects are seen as work plans and as documents of public discussion with the community.



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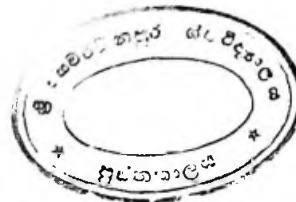
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