

**USING GIS-BASED MULTI CRITERIA DECISION
ANALYSIS FOR PRIORATIZING DRINKING WATER
SUPPLY NEEDS: AN APPLICATION TO SOUTHERN
REGION IN SRI LANKA**

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Thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree
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November 2021

I declare that this is my own work and this thesis does not incorporate without acknowledgement any material previously submitted for a Degree or Diploma in any other University or institute of higher learning and to the best of my knowledge and belief it does not contain any material previously published or written by another person except where the acknowledgement is made in the text. Also, I hereby grant to University of Moratuwa the non-exclusive right to reproduce and distribute my thesis/dissertation, in whole or in part in print, electronic or other medium. I retain the right to use this content in whole or part in future works (such as articles or books).

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Abstract

Using GIS-based Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis for Prioritizing Drinking Water Supply Needs: An Application to Southern Region in Sri Lanka

GIS-based Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA) was carried out to prioritize drinking water supply need in the Southern Region, Sri Lanka. The degree of water demand is attributed to population density, water resources availability (Relative Water Balance), water quality (Equivalent Water Quality Index) and new development (Population Pressure) of the region. Spatial distribution of density of Grama Niladhari Division-wise (GND) population was obtained from census data of 2,131 GNDs; assigned to the spatial distribution domestic units available with Survey Department. Water resources availability of each GND was figured out by plotting relative water balance with the aid of average annual rainfall data from the Meteorological Department, Mean evaporation rate and inflow of rivers into the designated research area. Water quality of relevant GNDs was calculated and represented as Water Quality Index (WQI) with the aid of geochemical atlas produced by Dissanayake et al. (1985) and NWSDB treated water quality data. Moreover, the new development of the research area was symbolized with the development corridor stipulated under National Physical Plan for 2050. Four raster files were prepared. To weight criteria, Analytic hierarchy process (AHP) was adopted. To identify the prioritized patches, the weighted linear combination of raster shapefiles was derived as a method of compensatory aggregation. It was understood that a combination of water quality and population density was dominant in the prioritization of water supply needs. The model identified the values as 0.47, 0.39, 0.07 and 0.07 for the main criteria, respectively for relative water balance, equivalent Water Quality Index, population density and population pressure owing to new development. The output of the research was the preparation of an automated GIS tool for prioritization of water supply needs through the GIS model builder facility.

Keywords: Analytic hierarchy process, compensatory aggregation, GIS, MCDA, Spatial distribution, model builder, prioritization, Water Quality Index, weighted linear combination

Table of Contents

Acknowledgements.....	iv
Abstract.....	vi
Table of Contents.....	vii
List of Tables.....	x
List of Abbreviation.....	xiii
CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1. General Description of Water Supply Sector.....	1
1.2. General Description of the study area.....	1
1.3. Requirement for prioritization of water supply need.....	2
1.3.1. Donor/Funding Agency’s perspective.....	2
1.3.2. Utility Provider (NWSDB)’s perspective.....	3
1.3.3. Public perspective.....	3
1.4. Research objectives.....	7
1.5. Justification of parameters.....	7
1.5.1. Population density.....	8
1.5.2. Equivalent Water quality index.....	9
1.5.3. Relative water Balance.....	10
1.5.4. New Development.....	11
1.6. Thesis Organization.....	11
CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW.....	13
2.1 Multi Criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA).....	13
2.1.1. Historical background of the use of GIS-MCDA.....	13
2.1.2. GIS components of GIS-MCDA.....	14
2.1.3. MCDA components of GIS-MCDA.....	15
2.1.4. Standardization.....	17
2.1.5. Weighting criteria.....	17
2.1.6. Aggregation methods.....	20
2.1.7. Examples for previously conducted research using GIS-MCDA in the water supply sector.....	20
2.1.7. Examples of previous research of the use of GIS-MCDA in sectors other than water supply.....	26
2.2. Demographic analysis.....	29
2.3. Water Quality Index methods.....	33
2.3.1. Evolution of Water Quality Index methods.....	33
2.3.2. Examples of previous research of the use of WQI in Sri Lankan Context.....	38
2.4. Water Scarcity and Water Stress.....	39
2.4.1. Falkenmark Indicator.....	39
2.4.2. Other water stress indicators used.....	40
CHAPTER 3 METHODOLOGY.....	44
3.1. Methodology Overview.....	44
3.2. Preparation of datasets.....	46
3.2.1. Population Density.....	46

3.2.2	Water Quality Index	48
3.2.3	Relative Water balance.....	52
3.2.4	New Development Index.....	55
3.3.	Standardization	57
3.4.	Assignment of Weights.....	57
3.5.	Compensatory aggregation	58
CHAPTER 4 CASE STUDY.....		60
4.1.	Defining Study area	60
4.2.	Data Collection and Preparation of Datasets	61
4.2.1	Population Density	61
4.2.2	Equivalent Water Quality Index.....	64
4.2.3	Relative Water Balance (RWB).....	74
4.2.4	New Development.....	83
4.3.	Standardized Index result visualization based on GIS.....	84
4.3.1	Population Density	84
4.3.2	Equivalent Water Quality Index.....	85
4.3.3	Relative Water Balance	86
4.3.4	New Development.....	87
4.4	Results of GIS-MCDA Prioritization model	88
4.5	Discussion.....	89
4.6	Summary.....	96
CHAPTER 5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS		97
5.1	Conclusions.....	97
5.2	Contributions	100
5.3	Limitation of the research and Recommendations for future works	100
References		102
Appendix A1. – Spatial Distribution of TDS.....		111
Appendix A2. – Spatial Distribution of Hardness		112
Appendix A3. – Spatial Distribution of Nitrate		113
Appendix A4. – Spatial Distribution of Nitrite.....		114
Appendix A5. – Spatial Distribution of Total Iron		115
Appendix A6. – Spatial Distribution of Fluoride.....		116
Appendix A7. – Spatial Distribution of Chloride		117
Appendix A8. – Spatial Distribution of Manganese.....		118
Appendix B. – NWSDB fed schemes in research area.....		119
Appendix C. – Covered Population of NWSDB fed schemes in research area.....		120
Appendix D. – Evaporation data.....		121
Appendix E. – Development Corridors		122
Appendix F1. – Forest Cover.....		123
Appendix F2. – Water Bodies.....		124
Appendix F3. – Habitable Area		125

Appendix G1. – Spatial Distribution of Buildings.....	126
Appendix G2. – Spatial Distribution of Population Density	127
Appendix H1. – Water quality of NWSDB fed WSS.....	128
Appendix H2. – WQI of NWSDB fed Zones	129
Appendix H3. – Hardness of Groundwater.....	130
Appendix H4. – Total Dissolved Solids of Groundwater.....	131
Appendix H5. – Nitrate in Groundwater.....	132
Appendix H6. – Nitrite in Groundwater	133
Appendix H7. – Total Iron in Groundwater.....	134
Appendix H8. – Flouride in Groundwater	135
Appendix H9. – Chloride in Groundwater.....	136
Appendix H10. – Manganee in Groundwater.....	137
Appendix H11. – WQI based on Groundwater quality.....	138
Appendix H13. – WQI based on Groundwater quality.....	139
Appendix I1. – Spatial Distribution of Precipitation	140
Appendix I2. – Spatial Distribution of Evapotranspiration	141
Appendix I3. – Spatial Distribution of Rainfall Surplus.....	142
Appendix I4. – Equivelant River inflow.....	143
Appendix I5. – Water Balance.....	144
Appendix I6. – Spatial Distribution of Crops	145
Appendix I7. – Agricultural Water Demand.....	146
Appendix I8. – Domestic and Industrial Water Demand.....	147
Appendix I9. – Total Water Withdrawal	148
Appendix I10. – Relative Water Balance	149
Appendix J1. – Population Pressure due to New Development	150
Appendix K1. – Standardized Score for Population Density	151
Appendix K2. – Standardized Equivelent Water Quality Index.....	152
Appendix K3. – Standardized Relative Water Balance	153
Appendix K4. – Standardized New Development Induced Population Pressure	154
Appendix L. – Aggregated Map for Prioratization.....	155
Appendix M. – Questionnare on weighting the criterions.....	156
Appendix N. – NWSDB prioratization guideline for implementation of Water Supply Projects	159

List of Tables

Table 1. 1	Fitness of parameters of NWSDB model with respect to the research objectives	5
Table 2. 1	Summary of structures of WQI models	36
Table 2. 2	Parameters considered	37
Table 3. 1	Unit Weight of n th parameter	50
Table 3. 2	Expected population growth rate of metro regions.....	56
Table 3. 3	Relative Importance of criterion	58
Table 4. 1	The Summary of Monitored Water Quality data	65
Table 4. 2	Water Quality rating (q) for Water Quality parameter	66
Table 4. 3	Water Quality Index of NWSDB fed Water	67
Table 4. 4	River inflow in to Study area	77
Table 4. 5	Weightages assigned to criteria.....	88
Table 4. 6	Covariance and Correlation Matrix of criteria.....	93

List of Figures

Figure 2. 1	GIS MCDA classification based on GIS component.....	14
Figure 2. 2	GIS MCDA classification based on MCDA component.....	15
Figure 3. 1	Overview of the proposed approach of prioritization Model.....	45
Figure 4. 1	Derivation of habitable area.....	60
Figure 4. 2	Final research area	61
Figure 4. 3	GN Division Wise Population	62
Figure 4. 4	Domestic Building Distribution.....	63
Figure 4. 5	Population Density Distribution	64
Figure 4. 6	WQI of NWSDB fed Zones.....	68
Figure 4. 7	Hardness of Groundwater	69
Figure 4. 8	Total Dissolved Solids of Groundwater.....	69
Figure 4. 9	Nitrate in Groundwater	70
Figure 4. 10	Nitrite in Groundwater.....	70
Figure 4. 11	Total iron in Groundwater	71
Figure 4. 12	Fluoride in Groundwater.....	71
Figure 4. 13	Chloride in Groundwater	72
Figure 4. 14	Manganeese in groundwater	72
Figure 4. 15	WQI based on Groundwater	73
Figure 4. 16	Equivalent WQI	74
Figure 4. 17	Spatial Distribution of Precipitation	75
Figure 4. 18	Evapotranspiration (ETact).....	76
Figure 4. 19	Rainfall Surplus	77
Figure 4. 20	River flow equivalent (Qin).....	78
Figure 4. 21	Water balance equivalent.....	79
Figure 4. 22	Spatial Distribution of Crops	80
Figure 4. 23	Domestic and Industrial Demand.....	80
Figure 4. 24	Domestic and Industrial Demand	81
Figure 4. 25	Total Withdrawals.....	82
Figure 4. 26	Relative water Balance	83
Figure 4. 27	Additional Population Pressure.....	84
Figure 4. 28	Standardized Population Density Distribution.....	85
Figure 4. 29	Standardized Equivalent Water Quality Index	86
Figure 4. 30	Standardized Relative Water balance (RWB).....	87
Figure 4. 31	Standardized new Development induced Population Density.....	87

Figure 4. 32	Raster calculator tool	88
Figure 4. 33	Weighted Score of Prioritization	89
Figure 4. 34	Prioritized rankings of 16,777 cells.	90
Figure 4. 35	Bottom and Top deciles of the distribution.....	91
Figure 4. 36	Prioritization Index Distribution of NWSDB fed areas.....	92

List of Abbreviation

AHP	Analytical Hierarchy Process
AWQI	American Water Quality Index
CCME	Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment
EC	Electrical Conductivity
EWR	Environmental Water Requirement
GIS	Geographic Information System
GND	Grama Niladhari Division
HDI	Human Development Index
JICA	Japan International Corporation Agency
MADM	Multi Attribute Decision Modeling
MAR	Mean Annual Runoff
MCDA	Multi Criteria Decision Analysis
MCM	Million Cubic Meters
MD	Meteorological Department
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NSF WQI	National Sanitation Foundation Water Quality Index
NWSDB	National Water Supply and Drainage Board
OWQI	Oregon Water Quality Index
RWB	Relative Water Balance
SD	Survey Department
SEBAL	Surface Energy Balance Algorithm
SLS	Sri Lanka Standards
SMCE	Spatial Multi-Criteria Evaluation
SWSI	Social Water Scarcity Index
TDS	Total Dissolved Solids
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
WLC	Weighted Linear Combination
WQI	Water Quality Index

WSI	Water Stress Indicator
WSS	Water Supply Scheme
WTP	Water Treatment Plant
WWAP	World Water Assessment Programme