

X PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS OF
THE PROVISION OF PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE TO
LOW - INCOME HOUSEHOLDS.

- A Study of Wanathamulla.



A Dissertation Presented to the Department of
Town & Country Planning,

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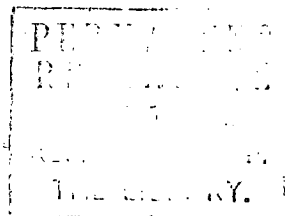
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25 th November, 1982.

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ABBREVIATIONS USED

1. C A B - Common Amenities Board
2. C E B - Ceylon Electricity Board
3. C M C - Colombo Municipal Council
4. cu. ft. - Cubic Feet
5. D F E E C - Development Fund of the European
Economic Community
6. E S C A P - United Nations, Economic and Social
Commission for Asia and the Pacific
7. gal/c/d - Gallons per capita per day.
8. h/h - household
9. IBRD - International Bank for Reconstruction
& Development
10. IDA - International Development Association
11. IFC - International Finance Corporation
12. kg. - kilogram
13. kg/c/d - Kilograms per capita per day
14. kg/cu./m - Kilogram per cubic metre
15. l. ft. - linear foot
16. lpcd - litres per capita per day
17. m. - Metres
18. NHDA - National Housing Development Authority
19. NWSDB - National Water Supply and Drainage
Board.
20. Sqrs. - 100 square feet
21. UDA - Urban Development Authority
22. UNICEF - United Nations International Children's
Emergency Fund
23. WHO - World Health Organization

SYNOPSIS

Of the 585,776 inhabitants in the city of Colombo, almost 57.4% live in settlements characterised by poor quality housing and low income earning capacity. The quality of life of these people is critically affected by poor physical infrastructure. The problems related to the provision of physical infrastructure to these settlements are investigated in this paper. The physical infrastructure components are viewed as basic human needs for the survival of the individual and as essential elements for the functioning of the settlements. A case study of Wanathamulla supported by sample observations is undertaken to assess

these problems in depth, and to provide a basis for the formulation of norms and standards.



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In the first chapter, low income settlements (slums and squatter settlements) are shown to have originated with the incapacity of the city to absorb the rural-urban migrant workforce specially since independence and its inability to afford adequate housing.

The second chapter tries to show that the fulfilment of basic needs is related to development strategy. Prevailing standards in Sri Lanka and in some countries of the developing world are looked at.

In the third chapter the reasons for and mode of selection, of the study area is dealt with. Here the attempt has been made to identify the stress areas in the Colombo city limits by the application of the stress map technique.

A detailed survey is carried out in the Wanathamulla squatter area and findings are reported in chapter 4. The population of this area is 5744. The median income of a household is Rs.536/- per month and 32% of them are unable to pay a single cent either for rent or services. Sanitary toilets are non-existent in the area and improvised toilets that are opened to the canal critically affect the health and sanitation of the area, by causing pollution. Some of the more important hazards faced by the residents of Wanathamulla are categorized thus:

- a. Use of contaminated water for drinking and cooking.
- b. Insanitary means of solid waste disposal
- c. Absence of drainage

The people of Wanathamulla are aware of their felt needs.

The study carried out revealed that 40.1% of them need toilets, 36.3% of them need water supply and another 15.2% of them need housing facilities.

The functions of the institutions involved in the provision of infrastructure are dealt with in the chapter five. An attempt is made to find out what planning elements are lacking in the prevailing provisions. Here the possible methods of financing and functions of financing agencies are also discussed.

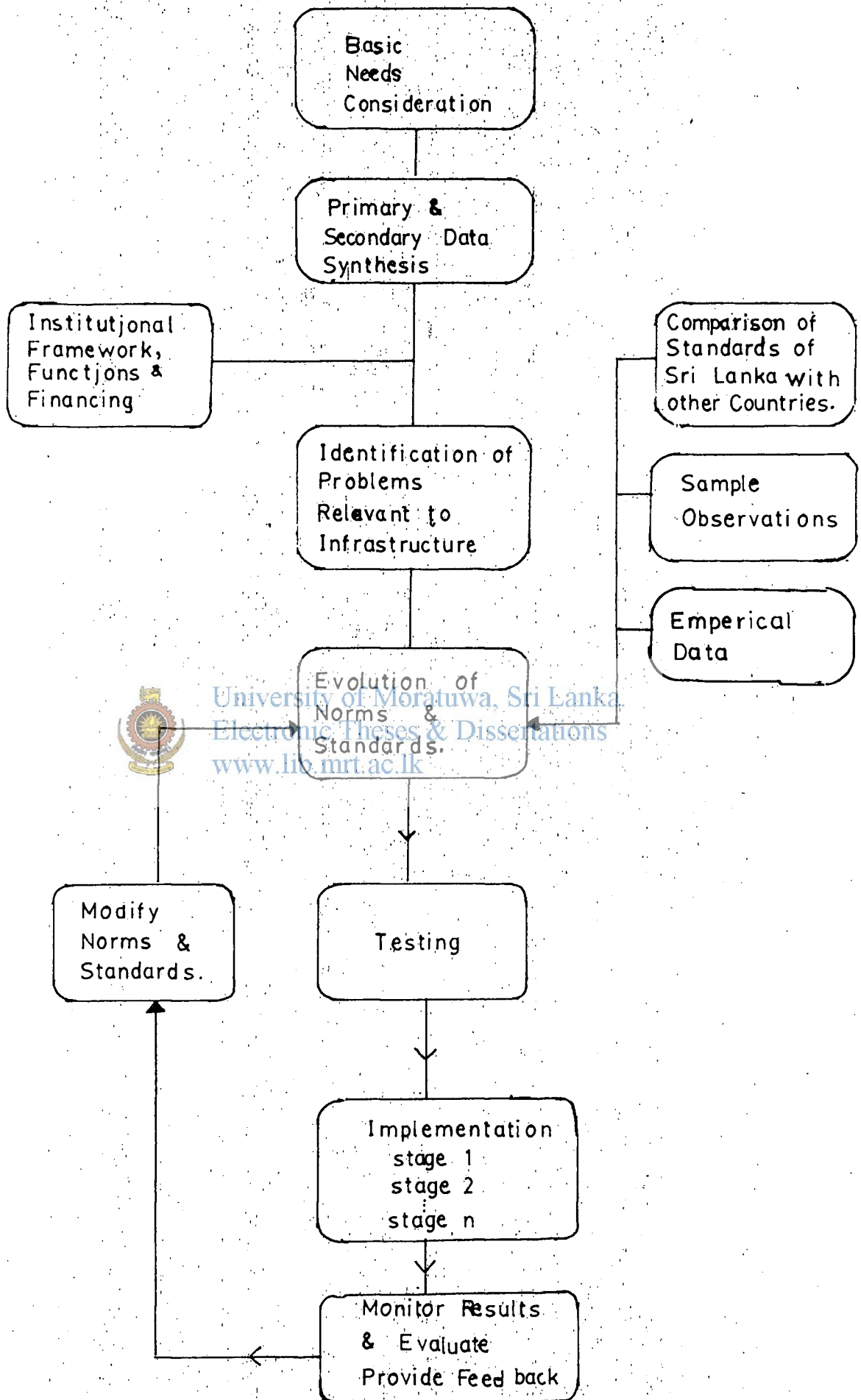
Finally, norms and standards appropriate to Sri Lanka are evolved in chapter 6. In formulating norms and standards basic considerations such as health, customs, climate, function, density and cost are also taken into consideration. The standards arrived at are then tested in part of the study area.

Chapter 7 presents conclusions, and on the basis of these findings recommendations are made.

Basic human needs are to be provided not for reasons of economic justification, but as an essential for the survival and the preservation of human dignity.



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