

**EXPLORING THE IMPACT OF BUILT ENVIRONMENT
QUALITY ON OUT-MIGRATION PATTERNS IN
SRI LANKA**

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Degree of Master of Spatial Planning Management and Design

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Thesis submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Degree Master of
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DECLARATION

I declare that this is my own work and this dissertation 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.

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Name of the supervisor: Priyanwada Indeewari (Senior Lecturer, Department of Town and Country Planning, University of Moratuwa)

Signature of the supervisor:

Date :

Abstract

This study explores the relationship between the quality of the built environment and out-migration patterns in Sri Lanka, focusing on how urban infrastructure, housing conditions, and community amenities influence individuals' decisions to migrate. In recent years, Sri Lanka has witnessed significant demographic changes, including rural-to-urban migration and international migration, yet the factors driving these shifts remain underexplored. By combining both qualitative and quantitative methodologies, this research examines key components of the built environment, such as transportation networks, housing quality, access to healthcare, education, and public services, and how these elements affect migration decisions across different countries. Using data from national surveys, migration trends, and interviews with migrants, the study identifies patterns of migration in relation to the perceived quality of living spaces, socio-economic opportunities, and environmental conditions. The findings suggest that poor infrastructure, inadequate housing, and limited access to essential services significantly contribute to out-migration, particularly among young adults seeking better opportunities abroad. Additionally, the research highlights the role of government policies in shaping the built environment and their potential impact on migration trends. This study offers valuable insights for policymakers to design interventions aimed at improving the built environment, reducing regional inequalities, and managing migration flows in Sri Lanka.

Key Words: Migration, Built Environment, Urban

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Contents

CHAPTER ONE	1
Introduction	1
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 Problem Statement	3
Research Gap	5
1.3 Research Questions	6
1.4 Research Objective	6
Significance of the Research	7
Chapter Summary	7
CHAPTER TWO	9
Literature Review	9
2.1 Introduction	9
2.2 Theoretical Perspectives on Migration and the Built Environment	9
2.3 Structuralist and Neo-Marxist Approaches	11
2.4. Sustainable Livelihoods Approach	12
2.5. Human Capital and Network Theories	14
2.6. Empirical Evidence on Built Environment and Out-Migration	14
2.7. Regional Case Studies	16
2.8. Built Environment Failures in Urban Development	17
2.8.1. Inadequate Planning and Design	17
2.8.2. Socio-Economic Disparities	18
2.8.3. Governance and Institutional Failures	18
2.8.4. Environmental Neglect	18
Critical Perspectives and Emerging Approaches	19
2.9. Conclusion	19
CHAPTER THREE	21
Methodology	21
3.1. Introduction	21
3.2. Research Design	21
3.3. Study target population	22
3.4. Data Collection Methods	24
3.5. Data Analysis Methods	24
3.6. Ethical Considerations	25

3.7. Limitations of the Study.....	25
CHAPTER FOUR:.....	26
Results and Discussion.....	26
4.1 Introduction.....	26
4.2 Results.....	27
Conclusion	30
4.7. Qualitative Insights	31
CHAPTER 5	37
Study limitations, conclusions, policy recommendations	37
Limitations of the Study.....	37
End Users and the Implications of Research Findings.....	38
Conclusion	39
REFERENCES.....	42
Appendix A	48

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Feedback Rating.....	27
Table 2: Satisfaction Levels	29

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Mean Scores of Built Environment Factors	28
Figure 2: Satisfaction Cutoff Illustration	30

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

SLA	Sustainable Livelihoods Approach
DFID	Department for International Development
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
LKR	Lankan Rupees
GN	Grama Niladhari