

SOCIAL STRATIFICATION AND RESIDENTIAL DISTRIBUTION IN THE CITY OF COLOMAO

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The study attempts to recognise specific aspects of the housing problem that needs attention and to demarcate problem areas within the city of Colombo on the basis of seventy socio-economic, housing and demographic variables. A cluster analysis based on data from the 1971 Census of Housing and Statistics, for wards, is used to recognise homogeneous areas. Discriminant analysis is employed to discriminate between the groups of clusters of wards derived earlier on the basis of the cluster analysis.

The study resulted in the acceptance of a five group cluster and showed that eleven of the seventy variables significantly discriminated among the groups. The results clearly displayed that there is a basic spatial foundation to the housing problem in the city and that any solutions to the problems need take into consideration the spatial aspects if the anticipated solutions are to bring the best results.