

C.K.M. Deheragoda

Dept. of Geography, University of Sri Jayawardenepura, Nugegoda

Recently, the recreation industry through its most significant form tourism has developed in various parts of Sri Lanka. A peculiar feature of this industry is that the consumer always goes in search of the product (Geographical Resources). It is essential, therefore to study the special distribution of recreational resources before implementing a planning policy. Such a geographical study has not been undertaken so far on this important area.

This study attempts to evaluate geographical (Natural and anthropogenic) resource potential of Sri Lanka as a basis for its recreation industry. In the light of the above a new, constructive regionalization was introduced for a more comprehensive and rational use of the island's resource base for future development of the recreation industry.

In addition to the conventional methods, the 'Point Collection Technique' was used widely to evaluate quantitatively, the complex geographical resources on a district basis.

The following conclusions were reached: (a) a very large proportion of recreational resources in Sri Lanka is still almost untapped. (b) Presently, tourism in Sri Lanka is not developed in the areas where its resources are found in abundance (Eastern half). (c) In the process of localization of the recreation industry the most crucial role has been played by socio-economic and transport preconditions rather than the resource base (West and South West Coasts). (d) A new conception of recreation regions is introduced with a view to ensure optimum use of complex resources.