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In this paper segregation is seen as an emerging aspect of ethnic relations in certain plantation districts in the central highlands of Sri Lanka. Using census and ethnographic data the paper points to an increased concentration of Indian Tamils in the Nuwara Eliya District since 1971, and examines its significance as a manifestation of worsening ethnic relations in Sri Lanka.

Kemp(1982) has pointed out that racial, ethnic and to some extent, caste segregation especially between managers and workers was an important feature of the plantation society in colonial Ceylon. These colonial forms of segregation were imposed from above and institutionalized within the production organization of the estates. In contrast, the emerging patterns of ethnic segregation in the plantation areas are a result of certain dynamic social processes emanating from an intense competition for scarce resources between a majority ethnic group and an ethnic minority. Against the background of a crisis in ethnic relations in the North and the East, the emerging patterns of ethnic segregation in the central highlands can have far reaching consequences for ethnic relations in future Sri Lanka. Measures to check any further progression of ethnic segregation must be introduced with immediate effect as a necessary step towards solution of the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka.

## References:

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