

## **C – 04**

As water is a limited resource and generally supplied at a uniform rate, in districts where water is in short supply variable consumption results in water shortages. This study makes an attempt to identify water consumption patterns and its characteristics in schools and thereby suggest methods for an appropriate and adequate water supply. A representative district of Sir Lanka namely, Trincomalee district has been selected for the study. The monthly water consumption and relevant other data such as number of students, staff etc., in all the schools in this district have been collected. The schools have been classified as urban, town and village schools relating to the location of the school and also as big, medium and small schools relating to the number of students in each school.

It has been found that the per capita water consumption of big schools is much higher than in medium schools and the per capita water consumption in medium schools is higher than in small schools. Similarly the per capita consumption in urban schools is greater than town and village schools. The variation of per capita water consumption being appreciable (more than double) signifies inequitable and disproportionate consumption of water. Therefore due consideration must be given in order to ensure a more equitable supply and usage of water.

The per capita water consumption in the months of May, June and July is much more than all other months due mainly to increase in school activities and increase in temperature. The temporal variation in water consumption could be smoothed by planning of school activities ( the timing of sports meet ect.) giving due consideration to climatic considerations such as temperature, water usage and consumption patterns. This would reduce the peak consumption and thereby reduce water shortages specially in the hot season.