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In Sri Lanka landslides have become major natural disasters in terms of loss of lives and properties. The area affected by landslides is spread out within seven administrative districts out of 25 Administrative districts. The above area covers approximately extent of 10,000 km². It is about one fifth of the total land area of the country and occupied by above one fourth of the total population of Sri Lanka. Further more the density of population in the city region is much higher than the average figure as a higher proportion of the land occupied by estates, forests, grass lands, other reserves and barren lands. Therefore, limited lands for human settlements. It has become crucial problem due to two factors.

Migrations of people into already congested areas increase the risk due to landslide.

The occupations of unstable land for settlements as a result of land pressure causes Increase landslides.

The study of socio-cultural aspect of the landslide area is important to assessment of risk at each hazardous area. Therefore human Settlements division of the National Building Research Organisation (NBRO) is carrying out research study to ascertain the risk within landslide prone area and give first priority for the urban centers of the landslide prone areas. Progress of this research studies last year (1998) under the NARASA research grant, multi disciplinary group of NBRO has been carried out research study “Risk Assessment and Environmental Protection in Landslide Prone Areas of Sri Lanka”. In this study selected area for the case study is Yatiyantota in Kegalle District. This paper highlights the physical and socio-economic problems in the Yatiyantota landslide area.