

### **Development effectiveness of dams - A case study of Sri Lanka.**

Some non-governmental organizations and a few individuals are protesting against the construction of reservoirs. This paper briefly explains the urgent need for reservoir construction, negative impacts, remedy and dangers associated with suspension of dam construction.

After justifying need for reservoirs all negative aspects of reservoir construction have been analyzed thoroughly to prove the hollowness of the anti dam supporters claims.

The most important basic needs are water and food. For food production water is an essential ingredient. Hence, to meet the needs of expanding population harnessing of water resources is a necessity. Sri Lanka experiences high seasonal and spatial variation in rainfall. Therefore dams and transbasin diversions are required to store, regulate and supply water to food crops. Negative impacts can be reduced to a minimum by selecting suitable site for the construction of dam.

It is reported that forest areas have shrunk due to major dams. If dams are not constructed the expanding population will destroy very much more forest for slash and burn cultivation. It is claimed that waterfalls inundated by major reservoirs would affect tourist industry. The argument is false because beautiful beaches, excellent climate, tasty food, ancient ruins etc attract tourists, while waterfalls are of minor importance.