

Abstract:

The main aim of the study is to analyse households' adaptation measures to the climate change and its impacts in Sri Lanka such as extreme weather events - especially floods, landslides, heavy rains, droughts or water deficiency. Another objective of this study is to identify how locals perceive climate change impacts, what they think the specific causes are, what the implications and consequences are and what are their impacts on their households in selected regions in Sri Lanka. I also tried to identify which changes of climate they personally observe (if any) and what they think about it.

The case study is based on my research, which I realized in July – September 2016 in Sri Lanka. I focused on two neighbour districts: one of them is Anuradhapura district, which is on the northwest of the island and it is in the dry climatic zone of the island. The second district is Matale, which is located in highlands and there is more humidity.

I examined the perception of local residents to changes in the climate, which is, whether they realize that changes are caused by the global climate change and that the situation will deteriorate further, or whether they have another explanation. In connection with this, I also examined whether they have any plans or predictions of the future and how they adapt for the changes. The survey captured views of a sample of 280 persons (males and females) of age above 18 and residing in two districts mentioned above. Those persons were addressed within the framework of the questionnaire survey.

Based on my findings, in both districts people noticed a significant temperature raise. Although I discovered that the changes of precipitation and monsoon patterns have bigger impact on the agricultural production than the temperature rise. There is also evidence that people in both districts experience weather anomalies more often.

The vast majority of the population measured by selected districts has not yet expected migration. The explanation could be that the situation in Sri Lanka is not so critical so far compared to other more affected regions (for example some low-lying islands). However, it is important to work on the country's development and try to mitigate the impact of climate changes and to create precautionary measures. In other words, it is necessary to develop the adaptation strategy of the island's population and use it.

Keywords:

Sri Lanka; climate change; adaptation; environmental migration