

# **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN COASTAL AREA IN SRI LANKA WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO HOTEL INDUSTRY; AN ANALYSIS OF EXISTING LEGAL REGIME**

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Environment is the basis of our survival and prosperity. But every time the environment is degraded or polluted by the people. The coastal pollution is a major crisis in present. In Sri Lanka the coastal area is defined under the Coast Conservation Act No. 57 of 1981 for coastal resources management purposes.

Sri Lanka has 1,585 kilometers of beautiful coastal zone. During the last two decades increased human induced activities have caused severe threats to the coastal regions. Unsustainable coastal resource utilization such as coral mining, sand mining, cutting mangroves and hotel industry has increased around the island. The development of the country has been closely related Over 80% of tourist hotels in Sri Lanka. As a result the development of physical, economic and social infrastructure as well as the resource use in the coastal zone has been rapidly increased causing severe environmental degradation especially during the last 25 years. The worst affected is the southwest coastal zone.

The worst affected areas are southwest and south coastal zones. The pollution in coastal areas is the direct result of misuse land and water resources. Most of the hotel industries are settled in coastal belts of the country, especially around scenic sandy beaches and coastal lagoons which has focused to the tourism, are severely contributed to the pollution. The major issue of the pollution is improper discharging of sewage of the hotels. Collecting and effectively disposing of sewage waste is an increasing problem in coastal region. The existing law of Sri Lanka is not considerable to obstruct the arbitrary practices of the fixed and not fixed hotels and restaurants.

The objectives of this study are to critically evaluate the impacts and the resistance to the coastal area by the hotel industry through the analysis of the existing environmental laws and institutions, identify the practical difficulties in the existing system and finally to provide recommendations.

This research is basically a qualitative one but for the purpose of assessing the impact of pollution of hotel industry, mixed approach is used by analyzing case studies. The study reveals that the advantages of minimizing the coastal pollution made by the anomalous hotel industry through the sustainable development, identifying the loopholes of the existing legal regime. Therefore the study concludes that there will not be aroused a vulnerable existence and this resolution may be operated smoothly without pollution and increased the environmental protection in coastal zones.

**Key words:** coastal zone, pollution, hotel industry, legal regime, environment