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## **RURAL WATER RESOURCES UTILIZATION CHARACTERISTICS AND ISSUES IN THE DRY ZONE OF SRI LANKA**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Water is the essential commodity of the life on earth. While one part of the world has water surplus one part is being suffered from lack of water. Sri Lanka is a country where the total land is covered with 103 river basin but water resources are unequal distributed. Especially in the dry zone, due to the high seasonality of rainfall and salinity of water, water related issues and problems are much common. By focusing the objective of identifying the rural water resources utilization characteristics and issues in the dry zone of Sri Lanka, two research sites were selected by considering the severity of the water resource problems according to the judgement sampling technique. Altogether 25 families from Kudamadawachchiya Grama Niladari Division in Puttalam district and Thanthirimale Grama Niladari Division in Anuradhapura were taken as sample and collected data by using questionnaire and informal discussions were analysed descriptively. The research findings shows that there are different water resources utilized by the people such as wells, tanks, tap lines, tube wells and filtered water. As issues of rural water resources utilization, insufficiency of rain water tanks, salinity and the brackish condition of the available water, kidney problems and no proper water distributing mechanism were identified.

**Keywords:** Rural water resources, Utilization characteristics, Issues, Dry zone, Sri Lanka