



DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM IN KANDY DISTRICT THROUGH IMPLEMENTING A GEO- SPATIAL INFORMATION SYSTEM

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ABSTRACT

Travel to countries or places outside the usual surroundings for personal or business purpose is tourism. Tourism is generally considered to be a positive agent in the economic and regional development process. The tourism industry is one of the world's largest industries with a global economic contribution direct and indirect. Tourism is a rapidly growing investment point in Sri Lanka, where huge investment has taken place. Even though the investment is very massive, the planning, development and marketing are key components of success in tourism zone enhancement. The main objective of this study was to implement a geo- spatial information system for development of tourism in Kandy district. Information technologies and Geographic information Systems (GIS) facilitate huge promotion opportunity for tourism. Since tourism is based on locations and geographical features, use of GIS is more advantageous. System requirements were identified by interviewing tourists and observations made on tourist sites. GIS techniques such as proximity analysis, spatial joint, and network analysis with Google direction application program interface (API) and Google place API were used to analyze data. The study highlights the potential tourist attractions and the accessibility and other required details through a web output. Highest numbers of the potential tourist attractions are situated in the middle of the Kandy district. Issues and challenges faced by travelers are mainly lack of specific location information, public transport schedules and reliable tourist attraction information. Online geo-spatial information system created by researchers in this study provides a guide for tourists to find the destination routes, the service areas and all necessary details on particular destinations. Information system presents a backend Geo-database and web where tourists will be able to access by web Uniform Resource Locator (URL) and acquire the required location information and service areas.

Keywords: Tourism, Geo-database, API, GIS, Geo- spatial