

GIS MODEL FOR SAFE RESIDENTIAL LOCATION CASE STUDY OF RATNAPURA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

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Dissertation

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements of the
Master of Science Degree in Town & Country Planning

Universith of Moratuwa



96405

DEPARTMENT OF TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING
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NOVEMBER 2009

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CERTIFICATION

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It is with pleasure that I thank the people who have made this dissertation possible and have given their encouragement, assistance and support throughout the whole process of my studies in the Department of Town & Country Planning, University of Moratuwa.

I would like to express my profound gratitude to my supervisor, Prof. PKS Mahanama, for his excellent guidance and unreserved support. Also, I highly appreciate his thoughtful and invaluable comments and constructive suggestions which helped me to take this dissertation in the right direction and made me capable of completing this, contentedly.

I would like to extend my thanks to our course coordinator, Dr. JN Munasinghe, for his invaluable guidance and encouragement throughout my study period and especially during my dissertation work.

Special thanks to my dear friends Nishamanie and Ranmali who not only helped me in chapter review and content, but also encouraged me throughout this research study, without which this dissertation would not have been completed in time.

I am extremely grateful to my employer, the Department of Surveying & Geodesy, Faculty of Geomatics, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, for providing me the opportunity to pursue higher studies.

Sincere gratitude goes to the dedicated staff members of the Department of Town & Country Planning for imparting their valuable knowledge during the past two years.

Finally, my deepest gratitude and appreciation go to my family members for their unwavering support and patience throughout my life.

ABSTRACT

Urbanization is a continuous process and it is important to identify suitable safe residential areas for future developments. Selecting the location for residential sites is a complex process involving not only technical expertise, but also social, physical, economical and environmental issues that may result in conflicting factors. The said complexities necessitate the use of some advance decision support tools as Geographical Information System (GIS) combining with the use of Analytical Hierarchy Process (AHP) as a weighting technique.

The purpose of this study is to develop an approach of GIS based suitability analysis to identify appropriate sites for residential developments. This research utilize five major steps for suitability analysis, which include the selection, scorings, weighting criteria using AHP, creation of a suitability map and GIS based model. This map is representing the selected area and the model is applicable for any area. Further the research has extended to evaluate the accuracy of the outcome.

For the suitability analysis criteria selection is very important. Based on the available literature existing data several criteria have identified. Out of which five criteria were selected as highly relevant for the study area. For example land slide and flooding which are only relevant for this special study area. The selected five criteria are the characteristic of the land, social infrastructure facilities, physical infrastructure facilities and economic and environmental activities. These five major criteria are again subdivided as sub criteria. Combining the expert opinions conducted by questionnaire survey with AHP weighting method the weight of major and sub criteria have identified. GIS based spatial analysis is then performed base an above criteria and weight selection to accomplish objective of the study. Further the result is then evaluated by a compiling the existing field reality and the Urban Development Authority zoning map for Rathnapura Municipality.

The integration of the said tools (GIS and AHP) has been found to be effective in selecting the residential sites within the Rathnapura Municipal council. Moreover the proposed method has highly possibility for the adoption in other areas as well. This methodology could benefit urban planners, architects and decision makers for future planning. Finally this paper highlights the benefit of utilizing advance decision supportive tools in city planning in proper systematic way.

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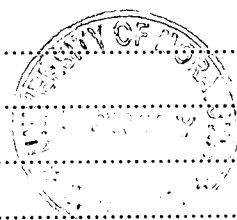
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List of Abbreviations

AHP – Analytical Hierarchy Process

CBD - Central Business District

DDA - Dianchi Drainage Area

FAR - Floor to Area Ratio

GIS – Geographic Information System

MOU - Memoranda of Understanding

MC - Municipal Council

NGO – Non Governmental Organization

NBRO - National Building Research Organization

THRU - Tsunami Housing Reconstruction Unit

TOD - Transit Oriented Development



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