

SIGNIFICANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS IN CRIMES: WITH REFERENCE TO AKMEEMANA DIVISION, GALLE DISTRICT

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Environmental criminology is a popular criminological subfield that focuses on identifying the impact of environmental factors on various criminal acts. The paper aims to identify similar relationship with reference to Tsunami disaster related crimes. Based on simple random sampling method, 50 villagers were selected as data providers and the Akmeemana Police Division records have been utilized as secondary data sources. The findings reveal that more than 85% of crimes have occurred due to natural as well as built environmental factors. The main recommendation is to base the crime preventive and controlling measures on CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design).

Keywords: *CPTED, Crimes, environmental criminology, natural and built environment*