

**SOCIAL EFFECTS OF SALT-WATER INTRUSION FOR KETHHENA WATER
INTAKE AT THE KALUGANGA RIVER**

by

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ABSTRACT

Saltwater intrusion is the movement of saline water into freshwater aquifers, which can lead to contamination of drinking water sources and other consequences. Salt water intrusion has become a significant issue in Kalutara area during 2016 due to many factors. This study was conducted to identify those factors and to suggest suitable solutions. Data collection was done using a questionnaire in a random manner and statistically analyzed. Rainfall in Kalutara area has been drastically reduced during 2016. As per the data, over 66% people in the area are using only pipe born water. Almost all the people in the area have issues while drinking, cooking, bathing and washing. For the salt water intrusion problem, climatic change, sand mining, high water consumption and political issues could be identified as major factors. As suggestions to prevent the issue, movement of water pumping points up in the stream about few kilometers, use of sand barriers at the mouth of the river, improvement of water cleaning techniques and conduct of awareness programs to minimize water wastage.