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The Effects of Noise on Man

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Sound intensity is the acoustical energy measured in Watts per square meter. Sound intensity level or simply the sound level, is the sound intensity measured in decibels (dB). The safe range for the unprotected ear is 0-85 dB. The threshold of discomfort occurs around 120 dB.

The unwanted sound or noise is a nuisance. There are permissible noise exposure limits. Long - exposure to noise is a health hazard and can give rise to undesirable effects such as temporary threshold shift, permanent threshold shift or noise - induced deafness.

Noise is a growing problem in the environment and in particular in some occupations. Related data is presented to investigate the situation in Sri Lanka in this regard. The local standards are presented and compared with those of some other countries.

Noise is transmitted from a source to a receiver. To control noise, therefore, we can reduce the source, interrupt the path of transmission or protect the receiver. The necessity is, to realize that noise control is important for good health and peaceful living of man.