Munroe Island is sinking, but what is the real reason. All reports and the public are divided in their opinion on the reasons for the current situation. While some attribute it to the tsunami in 2004, some others think it is largely man-made effects. Some Environmental activists attached to KSSP hold global warming responsible. Yet another anthropogenic reason, being cited is the delta destabilization. Construction of the Kallada dam three decades ago, destruction of mangroves, continuous vibrations caused by the trains that pass by the island are other reasons the activist attributes to the sinking of the island.

HELP Foundation has been associated with Munroe Island since the past several years due to our involvement with Mangrove Afforestation and thus with most of the islands of Ashtamudi. Much literature has been written on the possible reasons but the real reasons for Munroe going under are hidden for some reason or the other or rather it is just meekly submitted. Our studies and observation point to the “Damming of Kallada River” as the main reason for the sinking of Munroe and we believe cent % that is indeed the main reason.

The Kallada River is one of two major rivers that flow through the Kollam District of Kerala. It is formed by three Rivers, viz., Kulathupuzha, Chendurni and Kalthuruthy which join near Parappar in Thenmala by the side of the Trivandrum-Shencottah road. It travels for 121 km, flowing through Punalur, Pathanapuram, Kunnathur and Kallada before ending at Ashtamudi Lake.
Over 70 percent of Munroe Panchayat is the delta formed by the Kallada river and the people mostly depend on prawn farming. It is also called the prawn village of the state. Silt accumulation in Munroe Island had dropped to over 95 percent because of the construction of the dam at Thenmala, upstream of Kallada River.

Dams indeed alter aquatic ecology and river hydrology upstream and downstream, affecting water quality, quantity, breeding grounds and habitation as well. The other significant impact of the damming of Kallada river is the reduction of acreage of Ashtamudi Lake too. When the entire river used to flow into Ashtamudi Lake now half of it is diverted to the Dam reservoir at Thenmala. This has accentuated the encroachments into the lake bed as well over the past 2 decades and this has virtually shrunk Ashtamudi Lake to half of its original size.