

9th International Conference on Sri Lankan Studies

“Sri Lanka at Crossroads; Continuity and Change”

ABSTRACTS

28th-30th November 2003

University of Ruhuna
Matara - 81000
Sri Lanka

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Message from the Coordinator-9th ICSLS

Introduction to the Sri Lanka Studies Conference

The Conference on Sri Lanka Studies organized by Mike Moore Jock Stirret and James Manner at the University of Sussex, UK in 1987 was the initiation of the series of International Conference on Sri Lanka Studies. Since then it emerged as a biannual meeting of researchers studying various aspects of Sri Lankan society and its relation with other countries as shown below. Except the fourth and sixth conferences held in Colombo and Kandy respectively all the other venues were far from the Sri Lankan soil and many of them were coordinated by non Sri Lankans who were interested Sri Lankan issues.

Previous Sri Lanka Studies Conferences were a chain of intellectual forums addressed and blended with emerging issues in the contemporary Sri Lankan society. The themes of the 7th Conference “Asia Sri Lanka and the Diaspora” and the 8th Conference “Sri Lanka in the Twenty First Century: Legacy and Challenges” clearly prove this caliber. They have been platforms for scholars, professional and development practitioners etc. interested in Sri Lanka studies exchanging views, taking stock, rethinking and planning in the light of previous and present experiences. The contribution of such researchers has invariably granted a multidisciplinary outlook and unique identity into this conference.

9th ICSLS

The theme “Sri Lanka at Crossroads; Continuity and Change” was selected for the conference as the present social, economic and political conditions which are in a dilemma, needs a comprehensive review and analysis to direct the country in a correct path. The 9th ICSLS is aimed at addressing this current necessity in such a way both national and international researchers can present their views and perspectives productively.

Responding to the announcements appeared in international newsletters and web pages a significant number of responses were received of which 134 papers have been included in the programme schedule. Those papers represent various disciplines not only in social sciences but also various other areas such as Medicine, Science, Agriculture and Engineering. However, a common feature of these presentations is that they are to address the issues in the society, economy and politics in different point of views and angles. Accordingly this conference provides a broad multidisciplinary framework to rethink analyze and plan current socio-political necessities.

As in the previous conferences 9th ICSLS invited papers with a strong research outlook and at the same time encouraged the participation of young scholars whose accessibility to international conferences is limited. This is mainly to initiate and promote an interest among the younger generation to contribute more on Sri Lankan studies in future. This conference is an outcome of the enduring effort of the national advisory committee of the

9th ICSLS and the organizing committee of the University of Ruhuna. The 9th ICSLS will make a watershed as decisions have already taken to set up a Centre for Sri Lankan Studies at this juncture to provide an institutional set up to initiate more academic programmes on Sri Lanka studies in future. The refereed journal which will initiate shortly on Sri Lanka Studies will publish the papers submitted in this conference as an enduring academic forum.

The advisory committee is grateful to the NORAD and the Ministry of Samurdhi for their generous financial support without which this conference would not be realized. Also it is important to mention about contribution of University of Ruhuna which host this momentous event.

Prof. Sarath Amarasinghe
Coordinator 9th ICSLS

Message from the Vice Chancellor

We are very much pleased and honored to host the 9th International Conference on Sri Lankan Studies at the University of Ruhuna from 28-30, November, 2003. This conference, which will be attended by over 200 participants including around 50 foreign scientists, will be addressing issues in a wide range of disciplines including Sociology, Anthropology, Political Science, Economics, Geography and Religious Studies that are of great relevance and value to Sri Lanka in the present context.

On behalf of the University of Ruhuna, I wish to extend a most cordial and warm welcome to the distinguished participants of the 9th International Conference on Sri Lankan Studies and wish them every success in their intellectual deliberations during the course of the conference.

This conference being held at the university in its Silver Jubilee Year has given a special meaning and significance to us. The confluence of scientists, intellectuals and scholars from countries such as Australia, Austria, Germany, India, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States and at this conference besides enriching the academic climate and lifting the intellectual atmosphere of the university, will give a new dimension and momentum to the research agenda of the university. We are very much grateful to the Conference Organizing Committee for selecting the University of Ruhuna – the intellectual pulse of Ruhuna, as the venue of the conference.

Ruhuna, from time immemorial, has been a cradle of intellectuals, scholars and artistes with a rich cultural heritage. It is endowed with many places of tourist attraction. I hope during your stay in Sri Lanka, you will be able to visit some of those places and take home some pleasant memories along with you.

In organizing this conference, Prof. Sarath Amarasinghe, the Coordinator and other members of the organizing committee of the 9th ICSLS acted with great dedication and devotion and on behalf of the University of Ruhuna, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to them.

I wish the conference a great success!

Prof. Ranjith Senaratne
Vice Chancellor
Ruhuna University

Organizers of the 9th International Conference on Sri Lankan Studies

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Extending UMM with Speech Acts

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The United Nations Center for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) provides UN/CEFACT Modeling Methodology (UMM) for technology and protocol independent business process and business information modeling for e-Commerce Systems development. Systems design in e-Commerce is based on two fundamental types of models, business models and process models. A business model is concerned with value exchanges among business partners, while a process model focuses on operational and procedural aspects of business communication. Thus, a business model defines what in an e-Commerce System, while a process model defines the how. This means that the e-Commerce Systems development workflow consists of two main phases. First, a business requirement capture phase focusing on value exchanges, and secondly, a phase focused on operational and procedural realization of those requirements. Among the meta-models defined in UMM, Business Requirements Views (BRV) can be associated by designers for the business model development while Business Transaction (BTV) and Business Service Views (BSV) can be associated for business process models.

However it has been realized that still there is a gap between UMM's business models and process models as much explanation cannot be found on how one can move from coarse-grained views at initial phases to more fine-grained views at later stages.

This work is addressed to bridge the gap between UMM's coarse grained views at initial phases and fine-grained views at later stages of e-Commerce Systems development. For this purpose we are adopting well-established Speech Act theory for modeling business communication and also we are proposing a unified framework based on Speech Acts. This unified framework gives much clearer interpretations for UMM's modeling concepts, facilitates business modeling and process modeling and provides smoother integration between those models.

Key words: Independent business process; Business modeling; Process modeling; e-Commerce; Systems development; UMM

A neglected aspect of business: Human and social capital in the Sri Lankan tea plantation sector

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This paper examines idiosyncrasies of tea plantation culture and politics in relation to Sri Lankan national and popular cultural typologies, with special reference to female tea plantation workers. Tea production in Sri Lanka is heavily based on manual labour, and it is the largest industry that provides accommodation for employees and their families. In this paper, it is argued that politico-cultural production relations have dominated labour productivity in tea plantations. Ways in which female workers have been marginalized, through patriarchal politics, ethnicity, religion, education, elitism, and employment are explained. This culture of the plantation community operates negatively with respect to the management agenda. It is also argued that social capital development in tea plantations is important not only for productivity improvement, but also for reasons of political and social obligation for the nation, because migrant plantation workers have been working and living in plantations over 150 years.

Key words: Political economy; Underdevelopment; Strategic management; Tea plantations; Sri Lanka

Deconstructing “Management” and its implications for learning and teaching of management in Sri Lanka

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Taking the deconstructionists’ approach, this paper questions the promises of management by deconstructing the underlying dominant assumptions of management. After exploring the historical factors that led theorists to conceptualize management as a cause and effect relationship with their pre-occupation with the control of chaos, the writers argue that chaos theory rather than Newtonian theory qualifies as a way of conceptualizing management of organizations. Drawing the examples from Hawthorn experiments and various suggestions for job designing, the writers question the notion of controlling organizations towards the desired outcome and the modernists’ promise of continuous progress. After questioning the validity of epistemological and ontological assumptions of positivism – a dominant approach to study organizations, the writers emphasize the need of taking anti-positivistic approach as an alternative methodological paradigm to study organizations. The writers also draw the attention to the inability of management curricula in Sri Lankan universities to incorporate postmodernists’ explanations of the behavior of organizations and lack of recognition given by Sri Lankan researchers to anti-positivistic approach as an alternative methodological paradigm to study organizations. Finally, they call for Sri Lankan scholars to take a broader perspective in studying Sri Lankan organizations drawing methodological traditions which are largely found in other disciplines such as sociology and anthropology.

Key words: Learning; Organizational behavior; Positivism; Pedagogical issues; University curricula

Rethinking vulnerability to climate change in Sri Lanka

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Climate change has been heralded as a threat to the global society. It has become a subject of intense interest to public policy decision makers internationally. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has played a pivotal role in providing factual scientific information to policy makers. Its research findings have in fact created momentum for the foundation of the United Nations Framework for Climate Change (UNFCCC) and numerous reports identifying potential impacts from climate change and advising global actions against it.

Recently, a number of social scientists have pointed out the deficiencies in the way the climate change regime defines the problems and solutions, and transfers the same concepts uncritically onto different localities. Taking this critical approach, this paper will examine Sri Lanka as a case study. To the present, the Sri Lankan government has identified its vulnerability to climate change that agrees with the recommendation of the IPCC and the UNFCCC, and some numbers of countermeasures against vulnerability have been identified. By examining some of these measures, this paper will highlight the difficulties of formulating and implementing climate change policies. The proposed paper will discuss theoretical issues raised in my Ph.D. thesis related to the UNFCCC and IPCC's climate change discourse being interpreted and reproduced in the Sri Lankan government.

To date, there have been no significant studies conducted to understanding the issue especially in countries like Sri Lanka that fall under the IPCC category of 'vulnerable small island states'. This research therefore will make a significant contribution to 1) the ongoing debate on politics of environmental science and viability of global environmental institutions, and 2) reframing and rethinking the environmental issues in Sri Lanka.

Key words: IPCC; Vulnerability analysis; Climate change; Global society; Environmental policy

Defining security negotiating rights: The influence of environmental impact assessment legislation

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Environmental impact assessment (EIA) is used to determine a development project's environmental and social costs and benefits. In the 1980's, environmental groups in Sri Lanka lobbied for, and in many cases won, inclusion of environmental regulations into their legal systems. Simultaneously, many international financial institutions began to require the completion of an EIA for securing funds. The EIA process institutionalizes opportunities for groups in society to enforce public accountability through a provision for mandatory public hearings. In the case of energy-sector development, EIA has forced the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) to interact with citizens in very direct, and often unpredictable, ways. During public hearings and social protests, disagreements between state officials and local residents over a project's potential costs and benefits frequently arise. Litigations following from such disagreements have increased the influence of the public in development planning and as a result have influenced political culture. Exploring how the EIA process has been used in energy-sector development (i.e., Norachchulai and Ethul Kotte), this paper examines how different ideas of 'security' are constructed and become premised on a notion of citizen rights. Using written documents, participant observation at local protests and public hearings, and stakeholder interviews, I illustrate how the use of environmental legislation reshapes energy-sector planning from a technical exercise to a political process and re-orders relationships of power between state institutions and groups in society. An examination of the struggles over producing power in Sri Lanka has implications for other states in the process of redesigning energy security strategies and for citizen-action groups trying to protect their local environments and maintain access to their livelihood resources.

Key words: Public accountability; Negotiating rights; Environmental impact assessment; Livelihood security; Sri Lanka; Energy sector

Environmental economics: A review of Sri Lankan studies

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Environmental economics arose as a sub-discipline under economics as a response to the concerns expressed by the environmentalists against the negligence of the environmental values in making decisions. This paper reviews the development and the missing links of the environmental economic studies of Sri Lanka and suggests possible future directions in order to achieve truly sustainable development.

The present research agenda of the Sri Lankan environmental economics has been stagnated on the valuation of natural assets and pollution damages. Areas of application of valuation of natural assets vary ranging from ecosystems to individual species. The concept of total economic value has become popular in valuation contexts. However, the focus is mainly on use values and non-use values have rarely been considered in valuation exercises in Sri Lanka. In addition, economic aspects of pollution have been limited to estimation of pollution damage costs mainly.

Always a low priority has been given by the Sri Lankan policies for the values of the environment. Environmental impact studies have been the only area where there is a possibility for decisions to be based on the environmental values. Although it has been mandatory to have an extended version of cost benefit analysis in the EIA, the final decisions have never been based on environmental matters.

Beyond such micro level problems, the present research agenda lacks emerging ideas of integrating absolute scarcities such as entropy constraints into the economic analysis. In addition, analysis of unique natural environments which need special considerations in economic analysis have rarely been undertaken in the environmental economic studies of Sri Lanka.

Environmental economics claims that it corrects the mistakes of normal economic analysis. It is important therefore to correct the mistakes fully rather than halfway. Precision of the estimated values as well as the pitfalls inherent to the discipline are the key issues that determines the usefulness of environmental values in protecting the precious natural assets of Sri Lanka.

Key words: Environmental economics; Micro level problems; Sustainable development; Natural assets; Policies

Designing a visitors' eco-trail for nature conservation in Horton Plains National Park, Sri Lanka

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Horton Plains located in the Highlands of Sri Lanka at an altitude of 2000 m above sea level, accommodates a world-wide unique tropical savanna-cum-cloud forest vegetation representing a rare, but fragile ecosystem of a great and abundant biodiversity that offers a great tourist attraction as well. Nature conservation is mandatory for preserving the uniqueness of Horton Plains' tropical ecosystem as mass visitation of Horton Plains National Park is not conflict-free causing garbage and noise pollution to the biotic Park life. It is suggested to design a visitors' eco-trail for a half-day nature walk through Horton Plains National Park instructing the visitors on several illustrated charts at selected Park sites about the characteristics of the unique ecosystem, including its climatic, edaphic, botanical and faunistic components. Additionally, a comprehensive eco-trail folder to the park visitors shall strengthen the public consciousness for nature conservation in general and for Horton Plains National Park in particular.

Keywords: Nature conservation; Environmental management; Eco-tourism; Horton Plains National Park; Sri Lanka

Unhealthy practices of pesticide use by farmers in a village in Puttalam District

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The objectives of this study are to examine harmful farming practices in pesticide use and to find out the reasons for such practices. The area selected for the study was the farming village of Palasola in Madurankuli Division, Puttalam District. Twenty five out of a total of 128 families were randomly selected for the study. The methodology adopted included the collection of information through a questionnaire to members of the selected sample, discussions and interviews with officers in the Agrarian Services Centre at Madurankuli, private medical practitioners in the area, consumers and buyers of vegetables in the surrounding area, and through personal observation of farming practices in the field.

The information collected revealed that there are at least three important farming methods common to all farmers. They are watering crops twice daily, using application of artificial fertilizer and application of pesticides and herbicides. Farmers and agricultural officers believe that these methods are essential for effective vegetable farming.

The unhealthy practices noted among farmers are exceeding the recommended quantity of pesticides in preparing the mixture for application, repeated application of pesticides before expiry of recommended period, and pesticide application preceding the harvest contrary to recommended time lag. The reasons for the continued use of unhealthy practices were examined. Farmers were not entirely convinced about the accuracy of recommendations by manufacturers on the use of their pesticides and therefore farmers have developed their own methods of application. It was also noted that farmers were aware of the dangers of some of their incorrect practices in use of pesticides. Despite this awareness farmers persisted in these practices because of their desire to obtain maximum income from their farm products in the absence of any other possible sources of income.

Key words: Farming methods; Pesticides; Health aspects; Puttalam District

Pesticides: A growing health hazard in Sri Lanka

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The use of pesticides and other agrochemicals have become a virtually indispensable means of increasing crop productivity in most of our present day agricultural systems. Most pesticides are highly effective in their role of controlling pests even in trace amounts with ability to disrupt or irreversibly change essential metabolic functions of their target organisms as well as of other living organisms thus leading to unintended problems in human or animal populations as well as in the environments in which they live. Most of the present day pesticides still have high persistent times in the environment in spite of the growing tendency to manufacture easily degradable forms. Organo-chlorines and Organo-phosphates are two important groups of pesticides that have been detected in our waterways in significant concentrations through research carried out at Walawe and Nilwala rivers in the southern Sri Lanka. . Both groups of pesticides are highly toxic and are known to be carcinogenic even in very minute levels (in microgram range). River water, being the principal source of drinking in urban areas, could thus pose an imminent threat to the public, unless special precautions are adopted to prevent their wash off into the river systems.(de Silva et al, 1991, de Silva and Gunaratne,2001). A study on pesticide residues in some of our tea samples (de Silva and Thiemann, 1991) has also given positive results indicating the continuous monitoring of food and water essential to minimize health hazards effected through the presence of pesticide residues. A wide range of pesticides are applied profusely in the agricultural sector of Sri Lanka but unfortunately with little attention to rules and regulations that govern the use of pesticides thus threatening our population with imminent health hazards. Since the use of pesticides is rapidly increasing while precautionary measures are less adhered to, the people of Sri Lanka are being increasingly exposed to their adverse effects. Statistics reveal that over 1000 people are poisoned each year from poisonous chemicals in Sri Lanka. The majority of these poisonings are suicidal while some are through occupational exposure. Most occupational poisonings in Sri Lanka seem to affect cultivators and it is among the mass of poor farmers that pesticides take their toll.

Key words: Farming methods; Pesticides; Health aspects; Water pollution; Suicides

Characteristics of rice consumption in Sri Lanka: Prospects for sustainability of the domestic rice production

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Rice production in Sri Lanka has improved notably mainly due to investments in irrigation and the green revolution technology. The country has achieved the self-sufficiency in rice while liberalized imports are likely to threaten the domestic rice production posing a possible threat to long term food security of the nation, as neglected infrastructure cannot quickly be restored to the normal condition.

Rice types consumed in the country and their origin provide useful insights into the prospects of sustainability of the domestic rice production system. This study was conducted to understand the characteristics of rice consumption by different segments of the Sri Lankan society using data from the consumer finances and socioeconomic surveys. Source of origin of rice consumed and preference of rice by type (samba, parboiled rice and raw rice) by geographical zones and by income classes were compared.

Per-capita rice consumption increased with income till the monthly income of the spending unit reaches Rs. 6000.00, and begins to decline thereafter. Share of high quality rice in purchased rice increase consistently as income increases. Fifty-two per cent of the market in Colombo City is accounted for by samba. Raw rice accounts for a market share of 57% and 48% respectively in low country wet zone and low country dry zone indicating the access to rice produced in the same areas. Parboiled rice dominates in the market of upcountry districts accounting for 55 percent of the market. It can be inferred that producers of samba are more vulnerable as this type of rice can be readily substituted by imported rice. Prices of domestically produced rice should be kept comparable with the world market price by adopting appropriate technology regimes if Sri Lankan producers are to retain their market share.

Key words: Rice; Consumption patterns; Food security; Domestic production; Household income

Sri Lankan agriculture at crossroads: crisis or opportunity?

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The problems of the farm sector in Sri Lanka are not exceptional by conventional standards. This paper presents evidence of ‘crisis’ in the domestic farm sector, but argues that the core problem of the farm sector is not a simple ‘adjustment’ issue. The adjustment argument contends that with economic development, farming, being a low-skilled primary industry, has to make way for sectors that fit in better with more modern, high-tech economy. This may be quite right, if, economic considerations as popularly acknowledged, will prevail over all others. If the root causes of the ‘crisis’ are understood and managed properly, crisis can be turned in to opportunity. The paper identifies the limitations of the ‘industrial agriculture’ in the context of Sri Lanka. It demonstrates that inefficiency and resistance to change are definitely not causes for the present failure of domestic agriculture.

The paper argues that more enduring solutions to the ‘crisis’ in agriculture are derived from the concepts of sustainable agriculture, or more generically from sustainable approaches to development. This brings in a more holistic view to agriculture where attention is focused on environmental externalities emanating from agricultural production. Conventionally, attention has been focused more on addressing the negative impacts of the intensive, industrial agriculture but less on enhancing the positives. The paper reviews the environmental externalities associated with agriculture and ways of internalizing them in to the decision-making framework. Taking an example from the rice sector, it is shown how the disregard of multifunctionality contributes to the present crisis in the industry. It is shown that it is only through the maintenance of an integrated, functional ecosystem that the provision of each environmental good or services from agriculture can be assured and that such goods and services cannot be managed individually as independent commodities. The conversion of these integrated systems in to uni-functional systems due to the presence of market failures are shown to undermine the viability of the agricultural system. Incorporating these considerations in to economic reasoning can lead to policy prescriptions that have a higher likelihood of achieving results.

Key words: Agriculture sector; Sustainability; Policy prescriptions; Sri Lanka; Multi-functionality; Rice

A research agenda for strategic management research in developing countries

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This paper explores the extent to which it is possible to address issues pertaining to developing countries with significant socio-cultural and political interventions. Examples from the Sri Lankan tea plantations are used to illustrate the necessity to understand the context from actors' perspectives using rigorous case study research, before making prescriptive recommendations. Current problems faced by the Sri Lankan tea industry are identified as not merely micro-institutional or managerial. We argue that their roots lie in reproduction of social struggles at the level of production. We propose a research agenda, in the doctrine of critical theory, for exploring the formation and implementation of business strategies in developing countries, using the tea plantation sector as a case. Our primary attempt here is to conceptualize strategic management in the context of political economy and to identify central issues to be addressed. Accordingly, we argue that researching historical dynamics of strategic management facilitates understanding and interpreting the articulation of modes of production in a given social formation. We further argue that a highly context specific research agenda is required to fully comprehend idiosyncratic characteristics of Sri Lankan strategy structures and organizational forms. Then, it is proposed that explaining the role of social formation in shaping and reshaping strategy relations should be at the centre of the research due to the social significance attached to 'strategy'. Finally, methodological and epistemological necessities arising from the nature of strategy relationships are discussed.

Key words: Tea plantations; Economic reality; Strategic management; Human capital; Research methods

Monitoring temporal land use/land cover changes using Remote Sensing and Geographic Information System techniques in war ravaged northern Sri Lanka

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Monitoring the land use/land cover changes is the process of identifying differences on the surface of the earth by observing and recording its state on at least two different occasions. Information on existing land use/land cover pattern, its spatial distribution and changes in the land use pattern is a pre-requisite for planning and management activities. Knowledge of changes in land use/land cover is becoming far more important from both ecological and economical point of view. Monitoring of these changes and assessing the causes and consequences is very critical for micro and macro level development plan. The techniques of Remote Sensing and GIS are very useful for monitoring land use/land cover changes.

The distinctive results of war are becoming noticeable everywhere especially in northern Sri Lanka. As a consequence of the Memorandum of Understanding post-conflict reconstruction and rehabilitation plans are prepared at various levels to restore the normal life in northern Sri Lanka. Information on temporal land use/land cover pattern and land use/land cover changes is needed as baseline information for these plans. The aim of this study is to prepare temporal land use/land cover pattern, and to analyse changes of land use/land cover over the 20 years period in war ravaged region of Valikam of northern Sri Lanka.

Satellite data (IRS LISS III and Landsat TM), topographic maps, district land use map will be used as data sources in this research. Number of digital image processing and GIS operations will be made for preparing and enhancing the temporal land use/land cover maps. The changes of land use/land cover will detect and quantify using post-classification comparison techniques in GIS environment. This study will expect to give not only temporal and spatial pattern of land use/land cover and pattern and extent of land use/land cover changes and its causes and consequences but also the suggestion for post-conflict optimal land use plan on sustainable basis in northern Sri Lanka.

Key words: Temporal land use; Land cover changes; Remote Sensing; Geographic Information Systems; Sri Lanka; Northern Sri Lanka

Modernization of south Indian classical music concerts

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Development of the instruments and modernization of people have caused to evolve traditional music into different forms leading to a decline the interest of people in the classical music. Classical music belongs to a particular ethnic group and it should be preserved for the ethnic identity. People today are more inclined towards film music and other forms of light music and this can be observed in musical concerts and there is a trend to decline the number of people organizing and attending the classical music concerts. Therefore some remedial measures have to be taken to improve the interest of the public towards classical music.

This paper describes the proposals for some modifications that could be useful in improving the performance of classical music without changing the basic structure of South Indian classical music form, while enriching the performance techniques. In order to achieve these objectives, the following suggestions are proposed.

Persons with sweet and enriched voice should perform using modern musical instruments in the concerts with good sound system and reducing the time range for single song, while singing the performer may stand and attract the attention of the audience without sitting on the carpet. The performer should have a thorough practice with computerized instruments in relation to pitch and beat. More vocalists instead of a single performer; male and female vocalists performing alternatively or either singing together or introducing a group of singers will enrich the concerts. The songs should be in the language familiar to the audience, and songs in mother tongue of the audience will help to promote the understanding and appreciation of the concert. Background music, including introduction and interlude music, mixing dance forms and body language with songs and avoiding monotonous musical applications may attract the attention of the audience and improve the interest of audience towards the classical music. 'Raga' structure should be scientifically analysed by artists and avoid off notes. The above suggestions will not only help to popularise the south Indian classical music but also will help to attract the public towards the other forms of classical music.

Key words: Modernization; South Indian classical music; Computerized instruments; Music performance

Some computational aspects of natural language understanding: A case study on Spoken Sinhala

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Computational Linguistics (CL) is a relatively new area of research that incorporates knowledge from both computer science and linguistics. CL is mainly concerned with the computational aspects of the human language faculty. Applied CL focuses on the practical outcome of modeling human language use. Natural language understanding plays a major role in designing effective CL systems. This paper attempts to address some issues related to transferring Spoken Sinhala into electronic form in the context of CL. Though studies have been conducted in relation to European languages, a study of this nature has not been done involving Sinhala.

Diglossia in modern Sinhala with a vast difference between the spoken and the written variety has paved for two separate areas of research today. Linguists refer to the two varieties as Literary and Spoken Sinhala. Although much research has been conducted on Literary Sinhala, the area of Spoken Sinhala has been somewhat neglected. The present study is based on data available from Spoken Sinhala, thus attempting to contribute to filling this void.

This paper concentrates only on reference devices (mechanisms employed by native speakers to keep track of referents in discourse, i.e. pronouns, nouns, honorific and kinship terms) in Spoken Sinhala. Unlike major European languages used in applied CL, Sinhala belongs to the category of languages that employs many sociolinguistic variables that are not signaled directly by the grammatical devices. Identifying speaker (first person) and addressee (second person) generally causes no great difficulties in reference tracking. However, identifying third persons in discourse poses many difficulties in Spoken Sinhala, for instance, due to heavy use of zero anaphora, gender-neutral pronouns ('eyaa'), deictic terms ('araya', 'meyaa', 'oyaa', 'eyaa'). Thus, this paper also discusses the possible difficulties that would arise in using Spoken Sinhala in CL.

Key words: Computational linguistics; Human language; Sociolinguistic variables; Literary Sinhala; Spoken Sinhala

Perceived stress in a sample of G. C. E. (A/L) students in Sri Lankan schools

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The objective of this paper is to describe the nature of perceived stress, sources of stress and coping strategies used by GCE (A/L) students in Sri Lanka. The fact that this group of students is in the transitional stage of school to work or school to tertiary education makes them vulnerable to psychological stress. Some of them experience the additional burden of managing the family due to loss of one or both parents in the prolonged war in the North and East of the country. Another considerable number of them face extra burden due to economic hardships and resultant migration of parents seeking foreign employment. Studies done on the nature of stress experienced by the students at this level in Sri Lanka are limited in number. Therefore the present study measured the perceived stress using Perceived Stress Scale (PSS-10 item scale) and a representative sample of girls and boys in the GCE (A/ L) classes in two education zones in the Central Province of Sri Lanka. Difference in perceived stress, sources of stress and coping strategies were analyzed according to gender, socio-economic status and the subject stream of students using the data collected through interviews and questionnaires. It was revealed that prominent sources of stress were related to school, family, examination and interpersonal relationships. Support from peers, family and, teachers were reported to be useful in coping with stress. However, it was evident that mechanisms and services provided by the schools to help students to effectively cope with stressful incidents in daily life and major life events were inadequate and in some cases non-existent. Therefore, school-based intervention such as providing training on relaxation, problem solving and positive thinking are recommended as possible solution to the problem. Revision of curricula areas of physical and health education, aesthetic subjects, language arts, science and social studies to offer practical opportunities to promote stress management is also recommended.

Key words: Psychological stress; Migration; Stress management; General education;

Impact of English loan words on modern Sinhala

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One of the main causes of language change is linguistic borrowing. The influence of loan words could have an impact on the phonology, morphology, syntax and semantics of a language. Borrowing can be carried out in different ways, i.e. direct borrowing with very little or no change to the particular word, translating the loan word into words already available in the language, combining a loan word and an already existing word in the language, or an extension of the meaning of hitherto existing words in the language.

At different periods in the history of Sinhala, mainly Sanskrit, Tamil, Dutch, Portuguese and English have contributed as donor languages. When considering modern Sinhala, English can be identified as the major donor language. Linguists define Literary Sinhala (LS) and Spoken Sinhala (SS) as two different varieties of the language. The diglossia situation opens up two major areas of research on modern Sinhala.

This paper attempts to discuss structural changes occurred in modern Sinhala by English loan words analysing data from both Literary and Spoken Sinhala. It is a hitherto less researched area and needs extensive studying since English continues to be the main donor language in linguistic borrowing not only in Sinhala, but also in many major languages of the world. Based on available data it is evident that Literary Sinhala has been somewhat slow in adopting English loan words. Spoken Sinhala has made less or no restrictions in this regard. Further, Literary Sinhala tends to avoid using direct loan words by finding substitutes for them from another donor language, for instance Sanskrit: <computer> 'pariganakaya' (LS), 'kompiyutar eka' (SL). The phonetic, phonological, morphological, syntactic, semantic implications of the English loan words will be addressed in this study, and also how monolingual and bilingual native speakers of Sinhala adopt these loan words differently.

Key words: Loan words; Language change; Linguistic borrowing; Bilingual native speakers; Sinhala language

‘English Language at the Crossroads’

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This study investigates the hypothesis ‘English Language at the Crossroads’ in the socio-economic and political context in Sri Lanka. The study explores the present situation of the standard of English language focusing on education reforms and current practices of English Language Teaching (ELT) in state schools. It is a literature-oriented research based on secondary sources and academic articles published on recent newspapers by the authorities concerned in the field of education. The researcher clarifies their opinions, biases, presuppositions, and interpretations of the issues, concerns in regaining quality improvement of English education. The analysis of data reveals the significance of English as a global language, its negative and positive impacts, the greatest obstacle as the dearth of English experts and competent English teachers in education system. Furthermore, it unfolds recent proposals, accountabilities of state officers and issues of state and foreign funds on quality assurance of English education and its professionals at all levels. English as a universal language is much felt by all nationalities not only for lucrative local or foreign employment opportunities, but also for better social standing in Sri Lanka. It is revealed while the affluent parents clamor for international or foreign schooling to secure better prospects for their children, the government sector faces challenges in fulfilling the demands of the majority of low-income parents although some measurements are advocated. Thus, a conclusion can be drawn as the government contemplates to establish English as the medium of instruction and a compulsory subject the most vulnerable issue of dearth of qualified and competent professionals for English education should be readdressed and effective monitoring and evaluation system to be established. In addition, the issues, concerns and the quality assurance of English Teacher Education need to be urgently resolved to ensure the expected socio-economic, political and national goals of Sri Lanka.

Key words: English language teaching; Socio-economic disparities; Political and national goals; Sri Lanka; Pedagogical aspects

Teaching English in urban Sri Lanka: Some pedagogical issues

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The proposed paper will be based on an empirical research conducted in fulfillment of the researcher's Ph.D. thesis (due to be submitted in August 2003). The research discussed in the paper is a section of a larger project which dealt with social, psychological and pedagogical factors that affect second language acquisition. The proposed paper will place attention specifically on some problems identified in the English classrooms of Sri Lankan Government schools.

The sample of study has been from four 'prestigious' government schools in the city of Colombo. The research was carried out from May 2001 to December 2001. The sample consisted of eight English teachers and 366 14-year-old students. The method of data collection has been largely qualitative which comprised of non-participant observations and semi-structured interviews. Data was analysed in light of the principles of Communicative Language Teaching, the method supposedly used in Sri Lankan schools. The findings focus on the actual opportunities given to students in the classroom to independently produce language in its spoken form. In this paper, the word 'communicative' will be used to refer to this aspect of language learning.

The study revealed that certain characteristics of the education system, teachers and students hindered the successful carrying out of a communicative English language classroom in Sri Lanka. Such problems included course and examination requirements that place less emphasis on oral language practice, problems related to classroom activities (their nature and process of completion), teachers' lack of English proficiency and teachers' and students' tendency to revert to the mother tongue. These findings, firstly, show the inappropriateness of attempting to adopt Western teaching approaches to countries such as Sri Lanka without making culturally appropriate adaptations to the original approach. Secondly, the findings help to demystify the often made claims about the 'pedagogical superiority' of urban schools (specifically 1AB schools) in Sri Lanka. Based on these findings the researcher suggests that communicative language teaching needs to be adapted to suit the existing teaching and learning practices of Sri Lankan teachers and students.

Key words: English language teaching; General education; Urban schools; Pedagogical issues; Sociology of education

Student perceptions of a new course: a study in relation to the course unit system in the Faculty of Arts, University of Peradeniya

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The purpose of this study was to identify the perceptions of the students on the effectiveness of the course unit system in the Faculty of Arts of the University of Peradeniya. Nine courses conducted by eight academic departments were included in the study. Data was collected from 178 students using a structured questionnaire. The data were analysed using appropriate statistical methods and qualitative methods.

The predominant approach to learning used by the students was deep approach which was positively correlated with the perceptions of good teaching, clear goals, appropriate workload, appropriate assessment and emphasis on independence. On the other hand, the surface approach to studying was negatively correlated with the same aspects.

Analysis of qualitative data revealed nine attributes of good teaching perceived by the students. Further analysis of qualitative responses revealed that students with surface approaches were either unable to perceive the goals of the courses or only able to perceive vocationally oriented goals. Both categories of students perceived that the assessment procedure lacks timeliness and an adequate feedback system. Similarly they were of the view that they have limited academic freedom to select the courses that they like to follow because of the constraints in the timetable. Students with deep approach interpreted the term 'independence' as academic freedom to study what they like and said that their freedom is limited because they have to study the topics given by the lecturers. In contrast the surface students interpreted the term 'independence' as the freedom to engage in other activities and thought that their freedom is affected by the system of continuous assessment process.

Finally, it is recommended that to improve the courses further, the lecturers need to acquire an appropriate theory of teaching, improve the teaching and learning climate, improve teaching and assessment processes, conduct studies on student aspirations and relevance of the curricula and introduce and implement a course evaluation system.

Key words: Student perceptions; Course unit system; Assessment procedure; Pedagogical issues

Child work, attendance and school performance

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Sri Lanka ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child on 1990. The Children's Charter and the National Plan of Action for Children in Sri Lanka, were designed to identify areas of need and to set a framework for the protection, empowerment and delivery of services to children. The minimum age of employment, 12, was established by regulations made under the Employment Ordinance (Employment of Children Regulations 1957). These regulations also list a series of occupations in which a child over 12 but under 14 cannot be employed, making specific reference to physical or moral damage.

Engagement in work can affect children in different ways. Work may interfere with children's attendance at school and their performance in school. Work sometimes enables children to afford schooling. Engagement in work can have adverse effects on children's development or can contribute to their socialization for future adult roles.

The study carried out for the ILO used the survey method to collect information. The 32 schools in the sample were selected from eight divisions. The sample consisted of 935 working children and 1002 children who were only studying, in the 12-14 age group, 123 parents and 120 teachers. Four instruments of data collection - a record sheet with information on attendance and performance, and three questionnaires for children, parents and teachers were used.

The study found that the attendance of children engaged in economic activities within or outside the family was better than that of children who were either studying only or studying and doing household duties. Performance of all categories of children in all eight divisions with the exception of one, at all tests had been poor, scores mostly below 30. Average annual scores revealed that children studying only in all eight divisions had scored highest with children doing work outside families receiving lowest scores in seven of the eight divisions. This relationship between work-study status and performance suggest that work has exerted a negative impact on performance. A considerable number of children who do either household work or other economic – related activities responded that they feel sleepy or exhausted at school because they feel too tired after work previous day or not had enough sleep previous night.

Key words: Child Work; School attendance; School performance; Family economic activities; Sri Lanka

Deductive formal proof in geometry: Implications for instructional practices

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Reasoning and proof is an important aspect in the general education curriculum in most countries. Learning formal deductive proof is the highest achievement of that aspect and learning formal proof has been acknowledged as a privilege. This opportunity is offered to all students in Sri Lanka only once. That is in geometry curriculum at senior secondary level. Deductive formal proof at that level basically contributes to the development of deductive reasoning skills leading to higher order cognitive skills such as logical thinking, problem solving and decision-making. While the importance has been acknowledged by educators, students' achievement in this area has been less than satisfactory. This under achievement in geometry has become a global issue as highlighted by major mathematics curriculum reform documents.

Researchers from cognitive psychology and mathematics education have focused on reasons underlying difficulties experienced by students in problem-solving in formal deductive geometry. Research literature on geometry problem solving reveals two broader reasons for this situation. First, a majority of students do not possess the required content knowledge. Secondly the nature of deductive proof is different to most of other mathematical problems. As these problems are non-algorithmic, content knowledge is essential, but not sufficient. As a result of this, almost all problems are unfamiliar to a majority of student students and they need greater instructional support during the solving process.

In a study to investigate the predictive indicators of geometry deductive geometry problem solving, multiple linear regression analysis was employed to analyse responses of 166 grade 11 students in Sri Lanka. In this study we found that not only higher achievement in geometry and content knowledge in geometry, but skills in problem solving also can influence the success of the problem solving in deductive geometry. On this finding, we present a model to overcome instructional barriers presently embedded in conventional strategies

Key words: Geometry; Pedagogical issues; General education

Developing conceptual understanding of chemical equilibrium through the use of computer-based visualization software

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This paper details the development of teaching strategies arising from the use of visualization software based on three-fold representation macroscopic, molecular and symbolic, to develop a conceptual understanding of chemical equilibrium. Chemistry visualization software (SMV: CHEM –Synchronized Multiple Visualizations of Chemistry – particularly ‘chemical equilibrium’, and VisChem - Visualizing the Molecular World) was used as sources of visual materials to illustrate the molecular, macroscopic and symbolic levels of chemistry in a more integrated way.

Prior research revealed that many chemistry students have difficulties in seeing the connections among observable macroscopic changes, unobservable sub-microscopic changes (that is at the molecular level), and symbolic representations. The first level; the macro is concrete, tangible and accessible to the students. The other two are not; they are remote, abstract and complicated. The sub-microscopic representation often poses problems for students because they cannot directly see or touch atoms and molecules in the classroom environment. Hence, visualization of chemical reactions at three levels synchronously, using videos, verbal explanations (sound) and animated molecular models to see the changes at macro and molecular levels are effective in conceptual understanding of abstract chemistry concepts.

Pre-test and post-test was used to measure the effectiveness of the software. The extent of conceptual understanding developed by the software was identified through interviews. Strategies that teachers develop to improve students’ conceptual knowledge were identified through a workshop with a panel of Graduate Diploma Teachers, experienced teachers and lecturers of the University of Wollongong. Outcomes of this study are a set of appropriate software features that enhance student conceptual understanding and a set of strategies that teachers can employ to develop conceptual understanding of chemical equilibrium in a computer-based learning environment.

Key words: Chemical education; Computer-based teaching; Visualization software; Pedagogical issues

Sri Lankans playing with Mac's: Insights into the 'mind tools' needed for computer learning

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This paper details the findings of a 'responsive evaluation' (Patton 1996) which focused on how one cohort of Sri Lankan post graduate students approached the use of computers for the first time. Beginning with them simply playing with the keyboard through to their use of 'Powerpoint' as a means of presentation, their experience gives a great deal of insight into the forms of reflective activity that is required to successfully approach computer use. More importantly their experience also provides a platform of ideals that answer Bransford (1990) and Russel and Russel's (1997) claim that little is understood in regard to how technology should be used to develop critical thinking and problem solving.

Key words: Information technology; Mind tools; Critical thinking; Problem solving

Consistency and variability in learning strategies and conceptions of learning among a group of third year medical students in Sri Lanka

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Empirical studies have shown that the reported use of learning strategies, conceptions of learning and learning orientations of individual students differ in the degree of stability. The objective of the present investigation was to assess the degree of stability and variability of the learning strategies and the conceptions of learning among a group of undergraduate students at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.

The test instrument used was a self-reporting questionnaire in Sinhala, an adapted version of the Inventory of Learning Styles (ILS), called the Adyayana Rata Prakasha Malawa (ARPM). This 130-item inventory consisted of 18 scales, which assessed the processing strategies, regulation strategies, and conceptions of learning and learning orientations among higher education students. Items were scored on a five-point Likert scale. The ARPM was administered at a MBBS course specific level, to a group of third-year students, in the year 1999 (Time1), and to the same batch of students after the completions of 5 terms of work (Time 2) in the faculty. Only those who responded in both occasions (n= 92, 61% of the total) were selected for the analysis using the SPSS package. Pearson correlation coefficients (r) between Time 1 and Time 2 for each of the learning strategy scales and conceptions of learning scales were calculated as a measure of their stability.

The results suggest the possibility of existence of a context specific relationship between two time periods. There is a subject specific-component as well as a person-bound component in the use of learning strategies and the reporting of conceptions of learning among medical students. Among cognitive processing strategies and regulation of learning strategies, memorizing and rehearsing and lack of regulation were the most stable while analyzing and relating & structuring strategies appear to be most context dependant. Learning conceptions also showed a greater degree of variability suggesting that students are able to adapt and develop their ways of learning. These results argue for programs such as process-oriented instruction; that is aimed at teaching the learning strategies in coherence with domain specific knowledge.

Key words: Learning strategies; Conceptions of learning; Cognitive processing; Pedagogical issues

The Vocabulary of Sri Lankan English: Word & phrases that transform a foreign language into Sri Lankas' own

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This paper explores one of the devices through which English, which was brought as a foreign language to Sri Lanka, developed into a Sri Lankan language, Sri Lankan English. A brief description is given of the way in which English was taken beyond the boundaries of the British Isles and how it was adapted (or adequated) to its new geo-socio-cultural environments. In Sri Lanka, as in America, Australia, India etc., vocabulary was one of the devices by which English became adequated, transforming English into a language of Sri Lanka's own repertoire of languages. The following areas will be examined here:

- (1) words that are recorded in the Shorter Oxford English Dictionary (OED), but are marked as alien words, being of two types, words borrowed from Sri Lankan languages; and those borrowed from a number of Asian languages or Portuguese or Spanish.
- (2) Words that are not recorded in the OED, but are commonly used in Sri Lankan English, a great proportion of which appear in formal writing, but an even greater number in informal communication. Such words are borrowed from Sinhala, Tamil, Arabic, Pali, Sanskrit, Malay.
- (3) Compounds that are formed by two or more English stems; or alternately by hybrid formations of an English stem and a Sri Lankan stem; to express new meanings within the Sri Lankan context.
- (4) English words that are used with extended or changed meaning within the Sri Lankan context.
- (5) Words, phrases and longer stretches of speech that are not regularly borrowed into Sri Lankan English, but are randomly (code) mixed or used in (code) switching, from other Sri Lankan languages, to express a particularly Sri Lankan sensibility or ethos.

Key words: Vocabulary; Sri Lankan English; Words and phrases; Hybrid formations; Foreign languages

How should we reform the higher education system in Sri Lanka?

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Powerful forces of IT, telecommunication and globalisation are driving an increasing societal demand for higher education. Knowledge has become the currency of the new global market, determining the wealth of nations, individual standards of living and quality of life. Countries such as Australia, UK and USA have turned higher education into billion dollar industries. The 1983 American report '*A Nation at Risk*' accused its education system for the economic and social ills of the country demanding radical reforms in all states. Japan reformed its education system in building the Second Largest Economy. Asian Financial Crisis forced Thailand to undertake radical education reforms.

Archaeological, historical and scholarly records suggest that Sri Lanka had a well advanced education system during the Fifth Century and even in 1815 when she was becoming a British colony. But where are we now? Statistics reveal that in 2002, only 6.4% are seeking admission and that 13% of those qualified joined universities. Data suggests that since 1967 student numbers increased only marginally. Have we deviated from the colonial policy, and diversified the programs to face the modern era? How can we boast about the 90% literacy being the highest in South Asia when higher education placements are much lower than that of India and Pakistan? Current situation suggests problems faced by the system are serious, requiring radical steps to integrate the country with the global society. A dominant concept that emerged in the modern world is that leaders need not react to changing situations as they unfold, but can consciously direct the forces to suit predetermined objectives and goals on a well-articulated vision. This paper proposes to address these issues based on both empirical studies and documentary analyses conducted in Australia, UK, USA, Norway, Sweden, Japan, Thailand and Sri Lanka.

Key words: Education reforms; Higher education; Information technology;
Telecommunication ; Globalization

Education as a vehicle for professionalisation and social mobility: A comparative and critical review of the process and outcomes from a biographical perspective

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Education is a vehicle for professionalisation and social mobility available to youths in developed as well as developing societies. Some youth from rural- socio-economically less advantaged backgrounds, are motivated to follow this path, and cross not only class and identity boundaries, but also geographical and cultural ones. Material, professional, and migratory ambitions form key driving forces among some of the youths. Obviously, this sort of upward movement is a familiar theme to those from the rural, southern districts of Sri Lanka. Notwithstanding the obstacles and challenges faced, many youths succeed in their endeavours to achieve educational and professional success.

As they move through this process of acquiring new knowledge, skills and competencies, what do they gain? What do they lose? What challenges do they face when moving through time and space, and how do they overcome these? Are there any set solutions to the challenges posed? Using a transnational and biographical approach, this paper presents author's critical reflections on these topics. The paper will be of interest to those who have gone through the journey as well as those who are about to begin.

Key words: Education; Professionalisation ; Social mobility; Biographical perspective; Career ambitions

Employer needs and graduate skills: The gap between employer expectations and job expectations of Sri Lankan university graduates

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Graduate Unemployment is considered an important social problem in Sri Lanka. Attempts by many governments in the past to bring a sound solution to the problem have failed. Today, the private sector is becoming the dominant player in the economy. However, it is widely observed that the current education and training system does not produce graduates to meet the private sector needs.

This study was conducted with the objectives of identifying university graduates' job expectations, factors affecting their job expectations and identifying employers' needs from university graduates. The study attempts to find the nature of the gap between employers' expectations of skills and job expectations of graduates from Sri Lankan universities to make recommendations for stakeholders confronting the problem. Data for the study were gathered through structured interviews and surveys of selected sample of employers, unemployed graduates, employed graduates, current university students and university faculty members. Survey questions were designed to obtain information on perceptions and attitudes of sample respondents based on the determinants identified from the literature review. Findings reveal that in general, university graduates lack key skills sought by employers. Universities do not generate the required labor skills for the society and undergraduates lack knowledge about reality of the labour market. This skill mismatch leads to a larger number of unemployable graduates in the society. All stakeholders: the government, the university system administrators, employers and graduates themselves must all endeavor to find a solution to this gap. This research recommends the improvement of the relationship between university and private sector, on-campus recruitment, company presentation and organization of guest lecture series, leadership and professional development programs for the undergraduates, improving practicability in the course content, employment market analysis, preparation for company Guide Book for the undergraduate students, and some other recommendations for each stakeholder.

Key words: Employer needs; Graduate skills; Unemployment; University curricula; Sri Lanka; private sector

Returns to over-education in Sri Lanka

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Over-education is a situation in which workers are more qualified than the entry requirements of their current jobs. In this sense, this is very much similar to the under employment situation. Existence of high and prolonged unemployment, especially among educated young people or over investment in education by state or by individuals can cause this situation. From the social point of view this can be a waste of resources and it will also be a possible cause of social unrest. In Sri Lanka, unemployment rate, especially of young educated people remained at two-digit level for over two decades. Further, the free education system and political pressure on education policy reforms has always led the public sector to expand higher education facilities.

In this paper, we used the means-standard deviation method using four digit level ISI classifications as the reference group. All the workers whose reported length of schooling lies within one standard deviation from the group average are considered as exactly educated. Those who lie above one standard deviation range are over-educated and others are under educated.

Using quarterly labour force survey data from the Department of Census and Statistics we found that on an average nearly 10 % of Sri Lankan workers are over qualified for their present jobs and another 10 % of workers are under qualified. Our interpretation of this situation is that high and prolonged unemployment problem has encouraged the youth to accept job offers which require lower entry qualifications than their qualifications. Further, the same has motivated them to invest in many alternative education qualifications which presumably increase their competitive advantage in the labour market. A relatively high under education situation (10%) is interpreted in terms of changes in education market and data deficiencies. We also estimated the rate of return to education and found that average returns for over education is below the average return to exactly educated worker. However, marginal return for over education is higher than the marginal return for exact education. With regard to under education the opposite is true.

Key words: Over-education; Underemployment; Resource utilization; Social unrest; Economics of education

Education and employment in Sri Lanka: A look toward the future

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Since independence, Sri Lanka has made significant allocations of national resources to support and expand the educational system. In turn, there have been major improvements in literacy, community health, adoption of innovation, and general access to education. However, this investment in human capital has yielded mixed results in the effort to develop a labor force well suited for the needs of the Sri Lankan economy.

Youth unemployment and underemployment has long been an issue (Hettige, 2000; Dickens and Lang, 1995; ILO, 1971). Unemployment appears to cross gender and socio-economic lines and to affect both secondary leavers as well as university graduates (Malhotra and DeGraff, 1997; “Sri Lanka: Schools Out of Sync”, 2002). Hettige (2000) notes that urban males are disproportionately unemployed and Dickens and Lang (1995) calculate that the typical unemployment period lasts four years or more.

Although the problem of educated unemployment is complex, analysis suggests that, “The education system generates a mismatch between expectations and employment opportunities” (ILO, 1971, p. 22). This has resulted in efforts to reform the educational system (Wijemanne and Welikala, 1975; “Sri Lanka: Schools Out of Sync”, 2002) and, more recently, to improve the knowledge that youth and their families have about careers, employability, and training options to allow students to make informed and rational vocational choices.

This paper, after reviewing the literature on education and employment, surveying other factors which impinge upon the problem, and examining educational reform efforts, concludes with a series of observations and suggestions regarding future direction: How to improve the relationship between secondary/post-secondary outputs and labor market need; where to target scarce resources available for educational reform; and, how to incorporate lessons and innovations from other contexts globally.

Key words: Education; Employment; Unemployment; General education; Employability; Economics of education

Changing Faces: The Sri Lankan woman in stories of migration

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The Sri Lankan woman's identity in the context of recent unrest caused by migration, diaspora and multiculturalism, globalisation and internationalisation, terrorism and refugee problems has been subject to constant change and flux in creative writing, film and drama and in arts scholarship as for example in the areas of history, political and social inquiry, cultural studies etc. This paper will explore the ways in which the Sri Lankan woman is represented in recent fiction and poetry of two major diasporic writers: Michael Ondaatje, Romesh Gunasekera, and in one locally based writer, Punyakanta Wijenaikē. Among various relevant issues, it will consider historical and socio-cultural realities behind the changing face of the Sri Lankan woman's fictionalized image, specially the ways in which fact and fiction are intermingled by the authors in their creative projection of her identity as they record her response to the domestic and public sphere, to the home and the nation. The paper will also attempt to assess the ways in which the 'insider's' view of the woman (Wijenaikē's) and the 'outsider's' view (Ondaatje's and Gunasekera's) contradict or coincide.

Key words: Multiculturalism; Globalization; Migration; Terrorism; Refugee problems; Creative writing

Image of Otherness during the Conflict and Quest of Oneness Beyond– Jean Arasanayagam: The writer’s empathy and the reader’s agenda

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Jean Arasanayagam’s evocation of Burghers’ life is an attempt to overcome and dismiss any ‘guilt’ over a colonial ancestry she didn’t choose. The itinerary of her empathy is far from being limited to the Burgher heritage. Indeed her writings question the official identity-marking/making while claiming the writer’s right to assume a multi-faceted Sri Lankanness – a miscegenation of all cultural backgrounds in the island, that sort of cultural ‘Burgherisation’ of the society.

This process in her works has been triggered by the conflict. And the reading of her Identity, Ancestry, Gender, of her positioning in the definition of the Nation, too has been oriented among the readers, academics and critics, by the conflict. This thematic, but limited, scope of Jean’s readership, surely dictated by the urgency of r(e)thinking the nationhood, will be here evoked – but also two complementary aspects which have not yet been sufficiently, if at all, worked out.

That is, a contrastive literary perception of the Other in the conflict, and the questioning: Is the enemy always the (Other’s) Other, or isn’t it the ‘enemy within’? Comparative examples from Sri Lankan writers in English and Tamil: Punyakanthe Wijenaikē, Ayathurai Santhan, Sengai Aliyan, So. Rameshwaran, K. Govindaraj, Matale Somu, Muthur Mohideen.

Finally, the literary style Jean resorts to is not only what will make her work enduring, but it is inseparable from the dynamics of empathy: the stream of consciousness evolved over her books from a succession of cameos to the blurring of ethnic identities into the Oneness of a tragic experience of life, the writer’s Self melding with the Other’s, at the cost of boldly dismantling even the chronology in the narrative.

Her poetry and fiction books are complementing each other in the exploration of the virginal depth of a certain Garden Island’s identity in gestation – when the memory goes back far beyond History, giving a voice to human, animal, vegetal, and mineral realms.

Keywords: Ethnic conflict; Creative writing; Literary perception; Nationhood; Poetry

Because Pigs Can Fly: ‘Race’, sexuality and difference in Shyam Selvadurai’s “Funny Boy”

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Over the last forty or so years the contested politics of Sri Lankan nationhood and identity have overwhelmingly revolved around beliefs in the racialised, ethnic and cultural differences between Sinhalese and Tamils. Such well-documented pre-occupations mask the existence of other exclusions and discriminations that have also shaped the boundaries of the modern Sri Lankan nation-state, particularly Sri Lanka’s legislation on homosexuality.

This paper considers the ways in which Shyam Selvadurai’s popular novel *Funny Boy*, set in Sri Lanka but written from Canada by a Sri Lankan born Tamil, explores the marginalisation of both Tamils and gays in modern Sri Lankan society. Providing a geographical perspective on the novel, a close ‘spatial reading’ shows how space, on a number of different geographical scales, is central to the homophobic exclusion of gay people in Sri Lanka. The taken-for-granted meanings of the spatial and social structures of everyday life shape not only Sri Lanka’s racialised topographies, but also the homophobia and gender hierarchies that underscore such ‘race’ based identifications. Reading *Funny Boy* spatially demonstrates how the negotiation of familiar, taken-for-granted spaces and social structures – particularly the family, home and school – are necessary for a progressive and more inclusive cultural politics of difference in modern Sri Lanka. The novel’s textual negotiation of these spaces offers radical potential for the practice and performance of modes of Sri Lankan-ness that ‘civilised’ Sri Lankan society disavows. In showing this, the paper argues that a progressive Sri Lankan politics of difference is inseparable from a spatial politics. This close reading of one diasporic text also shows how movement away from homeland facilitates progressive political literary expression, however, the paper also argues the political and historical necessity of considering such diasporic Sri Lankan literature as credibly and ‘authentically’ Sri Lankan.

Key words: Sexuality; Nationhood; Cultural differences; Marginalisation; Creative writing

Peaceful Identities? cosmopolitanism and civic peace building in Sri Lanka

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Identity plays a key role in many contemporary wars, and it has been argued that the resolution of protracted ethnic conflicts requires support to groups nurturing inclusive, cosmopolitan identities, as opposed to the nationalist, exclusivist identities that are fostered in ethnic conflict and which contribute to the difficulties in solving such conflicts. Civil society actors are often pointed to as cross-ethnic bridge builders and facilitators of dialogue, or, in the words of Mary Kaldor, as 'islands of civility'. In Sri Lanka, a range of civic organizations are involved in peace building activities, ranging from awareness raising, cross-ethnic dialogue, and the organizing of peace demonstrations, to media campaigns and advocacy work. This paper takes a critical look at the 'island of civility' concept and the role of identity in conflict resolution. It studies how the Sri Lankan peace actors resist and provide alternatives to the polarised nationalist identities of the long war (conceptualized by Tamil nationalists as a 'liberation struggle', and by Sinhalese nationalists as a 'war against terrorism'). Do civic peace actors offer a space for interaction, inclusiveness, tolerance and alternative views of identities, or are they, themselves, trapped in the prevailing ethnic bi-polarity?

Key words: Cosmopolitanism; Ethnic conflict; Civic Peace Building;
Ethnic bi-polarity

Buddhist Sangha and Peace Process

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Religion is a viable political force in the world today. It is difficult to ignore the role of religion in public affairs. A highly organized religious organization is in a position to confront the state and to make demands upon it. In general, when the majority religion is organized, it can cause greater involvement of clerics in ethnic conflict and peace process.

In the case of Sri Lanka, it is the Buddhist Sangha, which plays an important role in preserving and promoting Buddhism in the country. Since independence the Buddhist Sangha has become a focal point of mobilization of people and the monks have shown greater interest in political development in the island, especially related to peace process. From time to time the Sangha has been one of the vital stumbling blocks for a successful peace process. The strategy of the Sangha is to prevent any peaceful resolution by keeping alive the communal question before the public.

The main objectives of the paper is to discuss the factors leading to the emergence of the Sangha as an obstacle to a successful peace process, to identify the tactics and strategies adopted by the Sangha to oppose successive peace processes, to critically examine the Sangha's nexus with various violent Sinhala-Buddhist organizations for opposing the peace initiatives of successive governments, to identify the difference of opinion among the various sects of the Sangha on the issues related to peace process, and to evaluate the role of Buddhist Sangha in peace process and its implications for the Sri Lankan Society.

Hence, the paper will begin with analytical framework on religious organization role in peace process. With a brief historical background of Sangha's role in peace process and will identify the options before the Sangha for successful completion of peace process. Finally, the paper will also draw some broad lessons for other societies.

Key words: Buddhist Sangha; Peace Process; Religion; Political forces; Sociology of religion

Transition from war to peace: A sociological study to facilitate social reconstruction process in the war-torn areas of north and east of Sri Lanka.

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The transition from a situation of armed conflict and war to a situation of stable peace is often a difficult and long-term one. As we have learnt from several cases in the recent history, the laying down of arms and the signing of a 'memorandum of understanding' (MoU) are important preconditions for a signing of a peace accord towards sustainable peace, but they alone do not make up a peaceful post-MoU situation. The real challenge of peace is well beyond signing of peace agreements. In fact, many of the most difficult tasks lie in the area of social reconstruction, which involves many issues at the grass-roots level in the communities. The aim of this study is to generate in-depth empirical knowledge and theoretical understanding on war-to-peace transitions from a point of view of social, cultural, economic, and development perspectives focusing on the communities in the war-affected areas.

The study concludes that it is extremely important to bring the peace process down to the level of common people. The success of the peace process will depend on how well the issues of social, cultural and economic peace and development are addressed and dealt with. It is important to anticipate and address, early on, the emerging challenges of a post-conflict situation such as repatriation, resettlement and reintegration of refugees and internally displaced, generating income and employment, dealing with land rights, rights to exploit natural resources, and civil rights. The issues and problems that require solutions need to be looked at from perspectives of human rights, gender balance, and political and ethnic neutrality.

Key words: Peace process; Social reconstruction; Post-conflict situation; Sri Lanka

Dutch Burgherdom in Sri Lanka and Australia: Cultural crossroads and changing identities incorporating migrant reminiscences of Sri Lanka.

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The immigration to Australia of Sri Lankan (Ceylonese) Dutch Burghers who had formed a 'colonial elite' within Sri Lanka is largely a post Second World War phenomenon. Almost this entire group of approximately 20,000 removed themselves from Sri Lankan society in just over two decades to settle in other Commonwealth countries principally England, Canada and Australia. However, the major part of the race came to Australia, particularly to Victoria and more specifically to Melbourne, where between 50 – 60% of Dutch Burgher migrants settled permanently. It is with this group in both 'home' and 'host' countries that the paper is concerned.

A brief historical background and the evolution of Dutch Burgherdom will be discussed in relation to emigration. The paper will also address the experiences of an ex-colonial elite now living in a multi-cultural Australian society without the protection or patronage of a colonial power. The question of a continuing 'distinct identity' and the contribution made by such a miniscule minority, within an environment of social, economic and cultural pressures will be considered. Some aspects of Dutch Burgherdom, the emergence of 'elites' and their contribution to many diversified areas of society will be highlighted.

Finally, the paper will explore some comparative migrant reflections of Sri Lanka from the view within the community. The key to the next phase lies in the second and third generations, most now mature adults and their attitudes towards their parents' identity, patterns of socialization, religion, language, marriage etc. This also raises questions of acculturation and retention of their ethnic identity by means of flexibility and adaptation or would the gradual discarding of traditional values, beliefs etc lead to the fragmentation of this ethnic group at some point in the future, as surely as the 'diaspora' via mass migration marked the demise of the community in Sri Lanka.

Key words: Dutch Burgherdom; Dutch Burghers; Migration; Australia; Sri Lanka; Ethnic identity

Citizenship, stateless persons and ethno-cultural identity consolidation in the post-colonial Sri Lanka

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The present day crisis in the Sri Lankan society has often been described in the frameworks of the discrimination theory and conspiracy theory. Those who subscribe the conspiracy theory explain the crisis situation in terms of the role played by major powers in the region whereas the discrimination theory explains that the minority communities (the term was never accepted by the minority groups. They stressed on the term major communities) have been discriminated against in the educational, employment, language and colonization policies. Such policies not only marginalized the minorities but also deprived them in the authoritative allocation of resources at the disposal of the State. However, the role of citizenship laws and thereby disenfranchisement of the persons of Indian origin who have been declared as stateless in 1948 could not attract adequate attention of the scholars in explaining the crisis situation. Enactment of citizenship law has generated a two-fold crisis. It has resulted into the bitterness in India-Sri Lanka relations and extremism in the domestic sphere by breeding ethnic tensions. The India-Sri Lanka relations became cordial over a period of time through the accommodative policies adopted by both the sides and bilateral negotiations have been culminated into the pacts between the two. However, the crisis generated by the Citizenship Act at the domestic sphere is still continuing and challenging the legitimacy of the state apparatus. Attempt has, therefore, been made in the paper to provide content analysis of the citizenship laws and their role in facilitation of the ethno-cultural consolidation, which has resulted into the extremist movements and deepen the crisis situation. An analysis of the intricacies involved in concluding the bilateral negotiations between India and Sri Lanka has also been provided. The paper draws certain conclusions that the fairness in the citizenship rules and state policies might create conducive conditions for peaceful and harmonious society. It also comes up with specific suggestions for rationalization of state policies and the improvement/modification of conventionally applied discrimination and conspiracy theories not only in the island-society but also in the context of other such societies.

Key words: Stateless persons; Ethnic identity; Citizenship laws; India-Sri Lanka relations

British colonialization: Origin of the racial conflict in Sri Lanka (1796-1947)

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Conflicts between different ethnic groups are severe political problems in the south Asian contemporary political scene. Sri Lanka's conflict between the Sinhalese dominated government and Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) is one of the examples. Though it may seem that the conflict will come to an end due to the ongoing cease fire agreement, it is still worthy of discussing how the conflict originated historically in order to find a proper solution of all disputes and to get a better understanding of both sides.

The conflict situation of Sri Lanka did not appear overnight. It has its own roots. Historians had mapped out different theories to identify the cause of the problem, but no theory correctly attempted to emphasize the role of British colonialization on the conflict. In the author's eye, the responsibility of British colonial rule, which promoted one side's dominance over the other, should not be underestimated. The colonial policies had largely misguided local people of different ethnicities to distrust each other, and eventually paved the way to separate them into permanent enemies.

This paper is therefore, by analyzing the process (pre-independent era) of the formation of the unitary structure, attempts to identify the roots of the ethnic conflict of Sri Lanka known to all today.

Key words: British colonialization; Ethnic conflicts; Political problems;
Unitary structure

The role of disinformation and misinformation in the Tamil Eelam Project

Daya Wijesekera

The campaign to establish a separate state for the Sri Lankan Tamils has been a long one. The roots of the campaign could be traced to the beginning of the nineteenth century although it was intensified only after the Independence. The dis-information and mis-information although seemingly unconnected is well orchestrated to achieve its purpose. This paper will briefly explain the terms “Information”, “Disinformation” and “Misinformation” and discuss how the particular group used these in their efforts.

First, the historically fact is that Sri Lanka had always been except for a few years in its 2500 years or more a nation state. To justify the Tamils were a separate nation from time immemorial, they quoted Hugh Cleghorn’s minute to claim the northern and eastern provinces as their “Traditional Homelands”. These were British administrative divisions used to consolidate their power. Once this concept was established the pro-Eelamists argued their right to self determination according to the UN Charter. Today the two provinces are claimed in the peace process between the government and Liberations Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), as their “Traditional Homelands” made possible by its separatist disinformation and misinformation campaign.

Secondly, Buddhism has been responsible for the “core” values of Sri Lanka. The separatists attacked this with its disinformation/misinformation. Thirdly, the Tamil politicians concealed the real intention of the separatists in their political agenda. Fourthly, the idea of the Tamils being discriminated of their rights and privileges –it is not so - for which the only solution was a separate state. Unfortunate events that took place in the island were portrayed as deliberate actions by the Sinhala majority community. They always claimed to be the innocent “holocaust” victims, a term well understood by the intentional community. In this environment the provocative acts by the Tamil leaders and Tamil terrorists were portrayed as reasonable and justifiable. Fifthly, is the fact that disinformation and misinformation has made the LTTE terrorist organization acceptable and their actions justifiable. The “Road Map” to Tamil Eelam has been based on misinformation and disinformation unhinging the very roots and demonizing the majority Sinhala community in Sri Lanka.

Key words: Disinformation; Misinformation; Tamil Eelam; Sinhala community

Knowledge of conflict and ethnicity; young people and reintegration of communities in the north of Sri Lanka

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A whole generation of youngsters from the northern Sri Lanka has lived in the regime of war and with the consciousness and consequences of violence and displacement. Their understanding and knowledge about the reasons for the conflict, of ethnicity, and of other groups differ according to where they have been during the conflict and under which conditions they have lived.

Analysing connections between ethnicity, place and gender, this paper explores the role of young people in Sri Lanka's conflict and peace process and particularly discusses the potential of involving young people more actively in the reintegration of different communities and in the development of the war affected areas. The paper is based on interviews with different groups of young people – from approximately 16 to 25 years old – affected by the war; IDPs, refugees in Tamil Nadu and people in the militant movements. Young people's knowledge about the war, their understandings of different solutions to the conflict, and their dreams and understandings of how they could contribute to a better country for their people to live in are discussed.

Key words: Ethnic conflict; Young people, Reintegration, Peace process; Sri Lanka

Forward process of conflict analysis: An application to the Sri Lankan conflict

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The Sri Lankan ethnic conflict has, over the past 20 years, imposed substantial costs on the people of Sri Lanka. All ethnic groups are either directly or indirectly affected by the conflict. The present form of the Sri Lankan ethnic conflict primarily developed under the difficult socio-economic condition of the 1970s to the point where violence has become an institutionalised part of the lives of the Sri Lankan people since 1983. Despite its violent history current negotiations have shown promising signs that a future resolution may exist. The two main parties, the LTTE and the Sri Lankan government, have been engaged in six rounds of peace talks. The LTTE has for the first time shown willingness to loosen up on its traditional demand of a separate independent state. In a similar manner, the Sri Lankan government has announced that the time is ripe to give the Tamils political autonomy in the North and East provinces of Sri Lanka.

The main objective of this paper is to offer strategic analysis of the Sri Lankan conflict by applying economic techniques. The study applies the forward process of conflict analysis to the Sri Lankan conflict. The primary purpose is to determine the type of political structure as the most likely to serve as a resolution to the conflict, given the present environment of the conflict, the power of the parties and their current objectives. More specifically, this paper will identify and provide a quantitative evaluation of future solutions to the Sri Lankan conflict. An attempt is made to obtain probability statements for a set of political solutions, and provide an interpretation of their numerical values. The analysis is targeted at a solution of the structure that can serve as resolution of the conflict.

Key words: Conflict Analysis; Ethnic conflict; Economic analysis; Political structure

Interplay between competition for scarce resources and identity issues in the May 2001 Riots of Mawanella

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There are two popular and, to some extent, mutually contradictory explanations of May 2001 riots in Mawanella. One is that it was an outcome of economic and political competition among various interests groups in this booming urban center in an emerging urban corridor in Sri Lanka. The other is that it is an ethnically motivated riot reflecting increasing ethnicization of political and social processes in the country. This paper argues that while there is an element of truth in each of these explanations, a synthesis of the two arguments is necessary in order to fully understand the nature and causes of these riots.

It is true that simmering economic competition and business rivalries within the Mawanella town has been an important underlying factor in the social history of the town since 1930s. Mawanella is an important urban centre where collection and bulking of important economic produce in the surrounding countryside, including spices, has been the primary economic activity. In more recent times certain service sector activities, including employment bureaus recruiting overseas migrant workers, have been added to the spectrum of urban economic enterprises. Most of these economic activities are controlled by Muslims, while the Sinhala peasants in the surrounding hinterland have encountered many difficulties due to landlessness, poverty, unemployment and lack of economic opportunities in general.

While analysis of this economic backdrop is necessary for understanding the wider context of the riots, equally important are politicization of ethnicity (emergence of ethnically-oriented political parties among both Sinhalese and Muslims), manipulation and mobilization of ethnic symbols by both groups, increased pattern of ethnic segregation in spatial terms and increased tendency to attribute one's own vulnerabilities to "the ethnic other". This in turn points to the need to understand the riots using a broader framework that takes into account the interplay between socio-economic and ethnic parameters.

Key words: Competition; Scarce resources; Identity issues; Ethnic conflicts; Socio-economic issues

Ethnic riots as an aspect of changing ethnic relations in Sri Lanka

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Ethnically motivated violent attacks on “the ethnic other” have been an important feature of volatile ethnic relations in Sri Lanka at least from July 1983. Following the nationwide outbreak of Sinhala-Tamil riots in July 1983, there was a gradual escalation of ethnic strife in the form of civil war in the north east. There was however relative peace for many years as far as ethnically motivated civilian clashes were concerned. This pattern was broken in more recent years, ethnic disturbances between Sinhalese and Muslims being reported in Mawanella in May 2001, Tamil-Muslim riots being evident in Muthur and several other locations in the East coast in 2003 and somewhat minor ethnic clashes taking place in several other locations. Drawing on available information and ongoing empirical research on various ethnic riots in Sri Lanka, this paper explores their broader implications for changing ethnic relations in Sri Lanka.

The issues addressed in this paper include, manipulation of ethnicity for political and economic advantage of specific interest groups, including electoral purposes and commercial benefits; perceived and actual role of the state in general and security forces in particular in mediating ethnic strife; the level of trust or mistrust among ethnic groups; the role of lumpen social elements in bringing about the riots; and the role played by rumor in collective mobilization of parties in violent conflict. In conclusion, the paper argues that ethnic riots are not merely events manipulated by specific interest groups for their own advantage or sudden outbursts triggered by specific circumstances as claimed by some analysts, but more importantly events signifying widespread mutual suspicion among ethnic communities and hidden tensions boiling beneath the surface for many years. Finally the paper examines the implications of these findings for management and prevention of ethnic riots.

Key words: Ethnic riots; Ethnic relations; Special interest groups; Collective mobilization; Conflict resolution

A study on the impact of war on the Portuguese Burghers of Batticaloa

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The Portuguese Burghers are part of the ethnic mosaic in Sri Lanka. In recent years the size of this ethnic community has dwindled due to assimilation with other groups and migration to other countries. There are tiny pockets of settlements scattered throughout the country made up of Portuguese Creole speakers. Puttlam, Batticaloa and Parangiteru in Jaffna are some examples. These existing Portuguese Burgher communities are in many ways caught up in the processes of ethnic polarization and consequent pressure for assimilation with politically significant larger ethnic groups in the country. In this context the present paper examines the impact of civil war on ethnic consciousness and identity formation among a group of Portuguese Burghers in Batticaloa.

The Burghers in Batticaloa are concentrated in the villages of Koolavaddy, Mamangam and Uppodai. They number roughly about 250 families. As a result being surrounded by Tamil- Hindu people, this group has acquired a distinct identity where they identify themselves as, 'Tamil Burghers'. Most of the members of this group speak the Tamil language as eloquently as native Tamil speakers, in addition to Portuguese Creole. While Portuguese Creole signifies their distinctive Portuguese Burgher identity and proud heritage from former colonial masters, their command over Tamil language and affiliations and interactions with local Tamils have made it possible for them to adapt themselves to the emerging ethno-political realities in the east coast.

In recent years the Portuguese Burghers in Batticaloa have also been caught up in the war and struggle for power among various armed groups in the East. Some members of the community have also been displaced along with other local communities having to forge common identities with them in the process. Based on ongoing ethnographic field research in the area the paper elaborates how their identity has been shaped by ethnic tensions and civil disturbances in this volatile area in recent years.

Key words: War; Portuguese Burghers; Ethnic communities; Cultural assimilation; Ethno-political realities; Ethnography

Graveyard of Peace? Spatial politics and political geographies in post-war Sri Lanka

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This paper explores the various forms of spatial conflicts in the northeast of Sri Lanka arising in the post-war transition phase. Competing claims over space and territory have been at the core of the political conflict in the northeast. Meanwhile, property rights to land have become an issue of utmost complexity, since several layers of disputes, claims and grievances superimpose each other and land conflicts have intensified in scale during the civil war due to structural changes in population displacement, migration and land seizure. Thus far, most studies on property rights have adopted an overly legalistic account and focused on IDP return. To grasp the complexity of local political geographies and to identify the various different forms of spatial conflicts, this paper outlines a framework of analysis that is based on an institutional perspective. Institutions are understood as the 'rules of the game' that shape interaction between social actors. The effective rules of the game might differ from the formal rules laid down in laws and constitutions. It is thus the practice of politics at various levels that determine property rights, or, the actual play of the game. The paper delineates the vertical and horizontal linkages of property rights and the related rules of the game on macro-, meso- and micro-level. The analysis is based upon community studies in the Trincomalee district and complemented by data collected from key informant sources covering all three levels of spatial politics in the northeast. The main findings of this study suggest that property rights to land and water are volatile and unclear, politicised (i.e. ethnicised with powerful actors supporting and enforcing claims of their particular ethnic community) and intertwined on various levels (i.e. mirror the wider political conflict on a local level). The paper concludes that reforms on constitutional level will not suffice to bring about democratic peace as long as these reforms do not affect the local practice of spatial politics.

Key words: Peace; Political geography; Spatial conflicts; Property rights; Constitutional reforms

Good governance is a salutary influence over world politics

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Good governance is the positive manner in which political power of the ruling government is exercised over social, cultural and financial resources of a given country. The phrase is being widely used today underlining its inherent characteristics by intellectuals handling the subject. Good governance is a broad-based term encompassing governments, public, industry, corporate bodies, non governmental organizations and similar entities which lawfully and in practice manage or administer resources of the country for the welfare of people. The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific has identified the main features of participation, consensus, accountability, transparency, response, effectiveness and efficiency, equitability, rule of Law in good governance. These and a host of other related factors determine whether the governance by any said Institution is in an acceptable degree.

Good governance is in relevance and conformity with the Universal Human Rights Declaration of the United Nations. It is development-oriented. Good governance does not practically succeed in poverty-ridden societies. Nor does it flourish under circumstances of violence and bloodshed. It is tenaciously linked to globalization and influenced by the best practices found in any part of the world in politics, economics, management etc.

Concept of good governance is a strong preventive influence on the rulers maintaining their superiority and domination inflexible, over the countrymen. The international influence on good governance has created over dictators, juntas, ruling aristocrats etc who are blind to the needs of people are also getting harder by the day than any time earlier. Good governance has become an effective tool for United Nations' agencies and international institutions to appraise the quality of state-craftsmanship in developing countries when their applications seeking financial aid and assistance come up before them for consideration.

Key words: Good governance; World politics; International influence; Developing countries

The Actor and the President: Assassination politics in Sri Lanka*

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In the context of globalisation analysis of political conflict often concentrates on the playing out of events at the national and international level, particularly when such conflict remains unresolved over an extended period of time. This is certainly the case in Sri Lanka. Yet such conflict is also played out in violence against individuals and manifests itself in very different ways at the local level.

In a society grown accustomed to, and worse still, grown ready to accommodate political violence, an environment is created in which the violent settling of old scores is condoned, political jealousies and caste rivalries condemn individuals, and local level factional disputes are inflamed and reinvented as part of broader political movements. The escalation of the ethnic conflict over the past two decades was marked by an increasing degree of violence and brutality. It is now a priority to increase understanding of the myriad repercussions of a culture of violence.

This paper details the genesis of a documentary film on Sri Lankan screen idol and political leader Vijaya Kumaratunga, who in 1988 at the age of 43, was viciously murdered outside his family home in Colombo. It also documents the learning process of the filmmaker(s).

Key words: Human rights; Globalization; Political violence; Sri Lanka

*The paper is dedicated to the memory of Charles Abeysekera (1926-1998), Vijaya's friend and mentor and pioneer of Sri Lanka's human rights movement.

A Critical reading of the Jathika Chinthanaya

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Sinhala nationalist politics have a quite a long history in Sri Lanka, beginning with the 19th century peasant rebellions. There have been a number of short-lived Sinhala nationalist political formations such as, *Bhasha Peremuna*, *Sinhala Mahajana Pakshaya* and *Jathika Vimukthi Peremuna* in the early part of the modern political history in Sri Lanka. There have been outspoken champions of the "Sinhala cause" like Anagarika Dharmapala and Cyril Mathew. But a well articulated Sinhala nationalist discourse was lacking throughout.

In this paper, I am concerned with the *Jathika Chinthanaya* school that came into being in the mid 1980s. A well-articulated Sinhala nationalist discourse emerges in the writings of the pioneers of this school such as, Gunadasa Ameresekere and Nalin de Silva. The new wave of extreme Sinhala nationalist formations such as, SVV, NMAT and *Sihala Urumaya* are the progeny of the ideological groundwork laid by this particular school. I make an attempt to trace the development of the *Jathika Chinthanya* ideology over time with reference to selected texts and newspaper articles of the *Jathika Chinthanaya* School. I will critically discuss the major features and themes of the *Jathika Chinthanya* ideology. Moreover, in the paper, I make an attempt to understand the emergence of a discourse like *Jathika Chinthanaya* in Sri Lanka. I do not accept the view that Sinhala-Buddhist hegemony is the way forward in Sri Lanka. The just alternative is the recognition of cultural pluralism and political accommodation of marginalized sections of the Sri Lankan society.

Key words: Sinhala nationalists; Sinhala-Buddhist hegemony; Cultural pluralism; Jathika Chinthanaya

Foreign funds and the assault on sovereignty and truth

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When the Sinhala Commission was established, one of its first acts was to request public participation through several channels on issues affecting Sri Lanka with special reference to the Sinhalese. The Commission was aware that a great deal of misinformation about Sri Lanka and the Sinhala people in particular had been spread by interested parties and foreign-funded NGOs

The Commission therefore wrote to those individuals who had made wild allegations and distortions to come and present their views and analyses to the Commission either in camera or in public. Among those to whom the Commission wrote were Messrs Charles Abeysekera and Sumanasiri Liyanage and Dr Jayadeva Uyangoda. The last two were university academics and the first, Charles Abeysekera, an ex-public servant. These distortions included propagation of the fictitious traditional Tamil homeland comprising the present boundaries of the Northern and Eastern Provinces, and justification of ethnic cleansing of the Sinhalese from these areas, and foreign intervention in the country. Their colonialist stands were designed to re-colonize the country. However, in spite of letters and various informal messages sent through intermediaries, none of these individuals gave evidence, written or oral, to the Commission. However, once the Commission's Report was published, they wrote a malicious tract full of distortions and fabrications. These fabrications were replied at length by concerned citizens including a book length monograph by C.Wijesekera. This phenomenon of hiding from public debate has characterized the academic politics of the foreign funded scholar community, which falsely parades itself as civil society. This paper will describe in depth further manifestations of this phenomenon and contrast them with similar situations in India, Malaysia and other examples where civil society operates with a high degree of transparency.

Key words: Foreign funds, Sovereignty; Civil society; Academic politics

Composite nationalism and contesting nationalities in the post-colonial Sri Lanka:
Dynamics and implications

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Nationalism in the modern sense in Sri Lanka evolved during the colonial days when it was easy to mobilize people against the alien rule during those days. It paved the way for the composite nationalism but contesting nationalities became manifest towards the final phase of the colonial rule due to crisis of identities and inequality in the society. The island-nation got independence with the legacies of composite nationalism and contesting nationalities and, thus, effort for nationalization of the State remained primary concern during the post-colonial period and State became an instrument for reinforcing composite nationalism but such an effort has been proved counter-productive in the course of time. Different nationalities started reasserting. Such a dynamics has often been explained in the frameworks of discrimination theory and conspiracy theory. Certain communities have been discriminated against in the policies of the government or some outside forces conspired to aggravate the situation of contesting nationalities. Both the explanations have certain level of validity but do not explain the crisis situation in its holistic manner.

This paper attempts to explain the dynamics of the nationalistic movements in the post-colonial Sri Lanka while comparing them with nationalistic movements in other democratic-parliamentary-systems around the world. The composite nationalism has virtually been shattered and the social capital has virtually been diminished. The Paper concludes that the prevalent theoretical perspectives and conceptual frameworks are highly insufficient in understanding the empirical situation in the island-society in which two different nationalities are highly polarized. These nationalities have discovered their own separate identities based on history, ethnicity, culture, language and even discovered separate myths for glorification of the separateness. It discovers the harmonized theory and invents that cultural parallelism and constitutional patriotism as a resort to the civil war like situation in the resplendent island-society. The Paper, therefore, suggests that cultural parallelism and constitutional patriotism must be reinforced for restoring peace and tranquility, which will pave the way to social capital formation and national solidarity in the new millennium.

Key words: Nationalism; Sri Lanka; Ethnic identity; Social capital formation;
Democratic-parliamentary-systems; Post-colonial movements

Designing state through democracy in Sri Lanka: Legacies and challenges

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The democracies evolved in the South Asian Region can best be described as national democracy in the theoretico-conceptual explanation. Whereas the State is evolved in such a way to represent the interest and well-being of the marginalized and deprived sections of the society and the welfare state has become main thrust of the post-colonial South Asia. Both have, thus, been defined more on the institutional terms for attaining the objectives of the national consolidation but the experience of last half-a-century often defy such an instrumental role of democracy in the South Asian Countries. However, it appears that Democracy and State have become religion of the age and, thus, so sacred that defying them has become a sin. Both of them may be called superstition of the modern age and being projected as highest ideals of the civilizational growth and cultural evolution but recent trends of globalization have raised controversies in respect of both democracy and State. The association of globalization with democracy and State is being calibrated which has vetting of the western civilization. Attempt has, therefore, been made in the Paper to elaborate and explain the democracy-state-globalization interface in the context of the island-nation.

It discovers that the ethnicization of the state has diminished the strength of the state itself. It paved the way to terrorism while the globalization has re-strengthened the state. The paper concludes that three legacies are coming up clearly. Diminishing social capital, lack of federalization and centric development, which combined to weaken the democracy and state? Such legacies have resulted into the serious challenges in the twenty-first century. The challenge of creating and accumulating social capital, federalization and decentralized development are most important aspects which are to be on the top of the political agenda, if the island-nation aims at climbing to the category of socio-economically developed and politically mature nations. Moreover, all three of these are precondition to the success of democracy and strength of the State.

Key words: Democracy; Ethnicization; Federalization; Globalization; Social capital

Role of national defense as a public good: The case of Sri Lanka

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National defense is the first priority of government. The purpose of this paper is to derive a theory in regard to the role of ND in an economy. If it is assumed that; 1. ND is efficiently functioning, 2. The society is democratic and protects human rights, 3. Defense service is free from politics, and 4. Economy has not reached full employment level we can come to a conclusion that ND of a country will lead to the following; 1. A product contribution (increase in productivity of inputs and production under smooth atmosphere). 2. An equality contribution (improvement in the welfare of the unprivileged population through the employment, education and training and modernization). 3. Social transformation contribution (facilitates the society to shift from one particular point of position to another in accordance with the public interest and so improve public welfare). 4. Self esteem contribution (the public's discipline and stability enhanced by identifying with the country).

In Sri Lanka, except for the equality contribution, no other contributions are observed. ND was not able to provide a smooth atmosphere for economic activities. Instead there has been only a loss of output due to war. ND was not able to provide the required atmosphere for social transformation through social contract approach. Instead it is observed that the extreme parties like the LTTE and similar racial elements have exploited the situation. Self esteem has been badly affected. Expansion of defense has however provided ample opportunities for the lower income strata of the society through funds transfer and modernization effect in the rural masses.

The failure of ND in Sri Lanka is mainly due to the unavailability of many of the assumed conditions earlier. In Sri Lanka ND has not functioned efficiently. ND is not free from politics. Top level appointments as well as crucial decisions have been made under party political influence. If not ND - in spite of inevitable loss of lives - would have contributed to the socio economic and political progress in Sri Lanka as in the case of Western countries in World War II and later, in Korea.

Key words: National defense; Public goods; Socio economic issues; Political progress; Defense economics

Simhala-Tamil reconciliation and the Indian connection

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The recent peace initiative in strife-torn Sri Lanka is a boon in disguise for the policy-makers in New Delhi. One can not ignore the fact that the Indian connection in the two-decade old conflict between the Sinhala majority and the Tamil minority has been by and large misunderstood by the ruling elites of Sri Lanka. The Rajiv- Jayawardene Peace Accord of 1987 which inducted the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) in the Jaffna peninsula widened the gulf between the peoples of the two countries. Besides, whenever there has been a large-scale persecution of Tamils in Sri Lanka its backlash has been felt in Tamilnadu and the central government in New Delhi could not afford to ignore that. The multi-ethnic character of the South Asian state system really demands that the respective governments should always pursue a policy of reconciliation and co-existence among different ethnic communities.

Key words: Conflict reconciliation; India- Sri Lanka relations; ;Foreign policy; Multi-ethnic societies

India-Sri Lanka relations: The Biography of a non-policy

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India's inability to play a role in the ongoing peace talks between Sri Lankan government and the Tamil Tigers remains an undefined grey area in the current situation. This is in sharp contrast to the key role India has played in the earlier phases of negotiations between the two sides. The ambiguity of this rather isolationist position needs to be examined and its causes should be identified. It is proposed that India's inability to play a role in current attempts to resolve the ethnic tangle derives from the absence of a long-term conceptual policy framework on its part. This paper sets out to examine the limitations of the India's Sri Lanka policy since Independence, and its bearing on the current situation.

India-Sri Lanka relations since Independence have been marked by the absence of the two cardinal principles that should characterise such a policy framework: Consistency and Flexibility. Two features of India's Sri Lankan policy have been its episodic character; and, its tendency to shift ground from one extreme to the other. How much of this has been a consequence of extraneous factors beyond New Delhi's control and how much is due to the absence of a well articulated policy framework is proposed to be analysed here.

New Delhi's bitter experience of its dealing with the LTTE in recent decades and its influence on current attitudes demonstrates the conceptual weaknesses of its 'policy' framework. LTTE's perceived role in the tragic assassination of Rajiv Gandhi has effectively made New Delhi's 'policy' a hostage to considerations of domestic politics. The case for a policy of positive engagement with a long term perspective is proposed to that end.

Key words: India-Sri Lanka Relations; Peace talks; Non-Policy; Domestic politics; Positive engagement

Sri Lanka's foreign policy since 1994

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After seventeen years of rule since 1977 the United National Party(UNP)was defeated in the general election held in 1994 by a coalition known as People's Alliance(PA) headed by Mrs. Chandrika Kumaratunge and formed a new government. Immediately after assuming power the new PA government took steps to negotiate with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Ealam (L.T.T.E) with a view of finding a solution to the ethnic conflict of Sri Lanka. The PA government also formulated a proposal to devolve power to the North and East of the country. The PA government attempted to change the foreign policy of Sri Lanka to suit its internal policy changes. No serious attempt has been made so far to examine the transformation in Sri Lanka's foreign policy since 1994.This study is an attempt to fill the gap. The purpose of the study is to examine the foreign policy of Sri Lanka since 1994.This study will try to find answers to the following questions (1) whether there were changes in the foreign policy of Sri Lanka since 1994? (2) If so; what are the major changes introduced by the PA government? (3) Were they different from UNP government's foreign policy? Hypothesis of the study is that a transformation took place in Sri Lanka's foreign policy since 1994.This study will be both descriptive and analytical. All available primary and secondary materials will be used. In addition to the information gathered through interviews with decision makers of foreign policy in Sri Lanka.

Key words: Foreign policy; Ethnic conflict; Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka as a key international centre of intellectual discourse: A historical perspective with special reference to Southeast Asia

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The purpose of the paper is to trace the role played by Sri Lanka as a major centre of intellectual discourse from the earliest period to colonial times with special reference to South-East Asia.

Sri Lanka due to its strategic position in the Indian Ocean had become in the first millennium, a centre of extensive commercial activity. By the first century, Sri Lanka trade links extended from Rome in the west to China in the east. By the 7th century, Sri Lankan ships were the largest ships known to the Chinese. These factors facilitated exchange of ideas.

Indian scholars Buddhaghosa, Buddhadatta and Dhammapala came to Anuradhapura in 5th century A. C. in search of the vast literature produced in Sinhala in the form of commentaries to the *Tripitaka*, and translated them into Pali. By the sixth century, Sri Lanka had thus become the major centre of Pali studies, the *lingua franca* of Theravada Buddhism.

While Chinese monks visited Sri Lanka to collect Buddhist texts, Sri Lanka monks and nuns from the university style monastic centers – Mahavihara and Abhayagiri went to China, Java and kingdoms of South-east Asia taking Theravada, Mahayana and Tantrayana texts.

Srikshetra in Myanmar, Dvaravati in present day Thailand, and Funan in present day Cambodia are the first South-east Asian kingdoms where Sri Lankan monks taught and spread Pali in the first millenium. In the 12th -14th centuries, Sri Lankan Buddhist scholarship spread widely in South-east Asian kingdoms with Sinhala monks becoming teachers and advisors of South-east Asian royalty. They became the key intellectuals for the region. This cultural impact extended to sculpture, art and architecture, and literature including the writing of history. The paper illustrates these impacts in detail.

Key words: Intellectual discourse; Monks; Historical perspective; Commercial activity; Buddhist texts

Maritime security of India and Sri Lanka

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India with a long coastline and a large number of island territories on either of its flanks of its southern parts in the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal has remained worried about its maritime security in the Indian Ocean. The threats to the contemporary maritime security has been, more prominently, from the external forces, of course, in connivance, willing or imposed, of the states within the region especially those abetted to the coastal areas of the Indian Ocean.

The location of Sri Lanka just at the southern tip of the Indian mainland tends to suggest and substantiate on the basis of historical evidence that their maritime security is mutually dependent and, therefore, can be ensured through mutually co-operative efforts, policies and programs, irrespective of their respective sizes, resources and maritime objectives.

With the changes at the international level the emphasis has shifted from military to economic power, no doubt, without reducing the role of the former. As a consequence, the scope for greater economic dependence between the states has increased not only at the international levels but also at the regional levels which is evident from the emergence of various regional and sub-regional level Groups, Associations and Alliances of multilateral nature in addition to the bilateral understandings.

So far as the Indian and Sri Lankan maritime activities of both the economic and military nature, their inter-dependence is deeper than that of the other states of the Indian Ocean Region. The similarities in terms of the socio-cultural and ethnic values and traditions continue to frustrate the politics of divisiveness despite the large-scale suffering of the people which tend further motivate the people of different shades, ethnic groups belonging to different political ideologies to work more seriously and vigorously to explore and exploit these values and traditions for their mutual growth and security particularly the maritime security. Though the success may not seem to be apparent but that does not seem to be completely absent. The need, therefore, is to continue rather enhance the efforts for greater participation of the people to people interaction at various levels as also the co-operation at the governmental levels.

Key words: Maritime security; Indian Ocean Region; Socio-cultural factors; External forces; India-Sri Lanka relations

Norway, a 25 year odyssey: From sympathiser to colonial intruder

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Norway's self image held across its political spectrum is that of a sensitive nation, sympathetic to developing countries which devotes over 1% of its oil generated GNP to aid. Yet Norway's image in Sri Lanka outside the government controlled press has declined to an unprecedented level. It is worse than the image India had after its brief incursion into the country in the late 1980s or the West had in the height of the Non-Aligned Movement. Norwegians are perceived as the new "Ugly American". Indicator: the Norwegian Prime Minister and the Sri Lankan President exchange public insults.

The present paper traces the shift of Norway to colonial intruder, partly through an exercise in participant observation. In late 1970s and early 1980s, the author interacted closely with Norwegian academics to attempt equal academic partnerships. The shift is traced through several events/factors, the period of initial mutual respect, indicating the ethos of the 1970s, reflected partly in academia and Regional Developmental plans of the 1980s; the growth of a large number of Tamil refugees in Norway and a perceived bias in Visa issuing (far more people died in the South due to government death squads than in the Northern conflict, yet the Sinhalese-Tamil population ratio in Norway remains at 200: 20,000); the use of Norwegian university structures as in Tromso University to legitimize Tamil Eelam; the built-in neo-colonial attitudes of Norwegian funded NGOs reflected in World View founder Fpijertof described in Norway as equal in Sri Lanka to Buddha and Marx; Norwegian funds directed to pro-separatist fronts such as International Alert which directly adopted the LTTE agenda, and the National Peace Council; the colonial role of Westborg as firstly head of Redd Barne in illegally changing the ethnic demographics of the country and later as intrusive ambassador.

These Norwegian intrusions in reshaping Sri Lankan polity are contrasted with Norway's own internal political arrangements such as requiring its leaders to be of the Lutheran Church and speak Norwegian, and white Supremist Eugenic past.

Key words: Political spectrum; Non- Aligned movement; Political arrangements; Ethnic demographics; Norway; Sri Lanka

Social dimension of domestic violence

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Domestic violence means physically and emotionally harmful acts between husbands and wives or between other individuals in intimate relationships. Sometimes referred to as intimate violence, domestic violence is highly influenced by incidents of domestic disputes, disagreements that involve men, women, children and people of all layers of the society. This can be broadly categorized into three as domestic violence against women, those against men and those against children. Though there are cases of violence against men, the main victims of domestic violence are women and children in a great majority of such cases throughout the world.

Sociological analysis of the causes of domestic violence reveals major factors, such as, economic (poverty, unemployment, inadequate income, low purchasing power, lack of housing, indebtedness, dowry, etc.) and social (illiteracy, drunkenness, etc.), cultural and sexual (low sexual needs of either husband or wife, suspicion by each other, extramarital affairs, etc) reasons. Economic deprivation compels women and children resorting to prostitution and/or casual sexual activities. Further, domestic violence also takes place based on power and property issues. Household violence is highly influenced by liquor and/or drug intoxication resulting in loss of sense, anger, hatred and impactions.

Abuse between intimate partners can take many forms. It may include emotional or verbal abuse, denial of access to resources or money, restraint of normal activity or freedom (including isolation from friend & family), sexual coercion or assault, threats to kill or to harm, and physical intimidation or attacks. In extreme cases, domestic violence may result in the death of family members. In most societies, economic and social processes operate directly and indirectly to support patriarchal social order and family structure. Patriarchy is strongly associated with the sub-ordination and oppression of women. Since domestic violence is deeply rooted in our societies, introduction of rules & regulations, parliamentary acts to raise status of women, etc. alone will not be enough to minimize such issues, it requires massive campaign from grassroots to national level & empowerment of women.

Key words: Domestic violence; Sociological analysis; Sub-ordination; oppression

The role of women in coconut-based income generation activities in Sri Lanka

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Coconut is one of the major plantation crops grown in Sri Lanka, which provides direct and indirect employment opportunities. More than 75 percent of the total coconut extent represents smallholdings of less than 8 ha and provides raw materials for a number of medium and cottage industries that generate incomes especially for rural poor people in the country. However, the gender involvement patterns in different coconut-based activities may have changed during the past decades due to various factors such as urbanization, changes in demography, social attitudes, etc. A study was conducted to assess the gender differentiation in various coconut-based cottage industries in Sri Lanka by conducting a base line survey in five specific coconut-based rural communities in Puttalam, Kurunegala and Galle districts. Women were found to be the dominant group engaged in most of the coconut-based income generation activities at cottage level and their contribution to raise the total household income is considerable. Cleaning of coconut ekels, making treacle and jaggery, coconut fiber extraction, yarn spinning, handicraft and fiber mat making, etc. are the major coconut-based activities carried out by women. Toddy tapping is the only gender specific activity carried out by male. However, nearly 50 percent of the households in the sample receive an income less than one US\$ per day, and therefore live below the poverty line. Hence the existing coconut-based income generation activities have not adequately contributed to reduce poverty among rural women. Lack of training opportunities on value addition, poor marketing facilities, lack of raw materials, inaccessibility to credit facilities, etc. are the major limitations encountered by women that preclude them to earn a higher income by these activities. Therefore, the appropriate assistance in eliminating these limitations may enhance these rural women's capacities in coconut-based income generation activities and eventually help in uplifting the living standards of the rural communities.

Key words: The role of women; Plantation crops; Coconuts; Income generation activities; Rural communities

Conflict and survival: Sinhala female -headship in eastern Sri Lanka

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Sri Lanka has generally been regarded an exemplar of human and social development in the developing world. Achievements at a general level, however, may not reflect the situation of marginal social groups, with conflict situations more likely to exacerbate their precarious position – which may be the case in Northern and Eastern Sri Lanka.

This paper focuses on Sinhala female-heads in eastern Sri Lanka. The rationale for making the Sinhala community the focal point of this analysis is for two reasons. Firstly, they help highlight the indirect costs of the conflict, which needs close scrutiny too – as all three communities have endured the social, economic, political, psychological and emotional cost of the conflict in diverse ways. Secondly, there is also a need to examine the numerous factors leading to the emergence of female-headship in the region – which helps show the alteration of household structures.

Using data and case study evidence gathered from fieldwork in eastern Sri Lanka during 1998-99, this paper flushes out particular situation of Sinhala female-heads. What factors lead to female-headship? Are they directly or indirectly linked to the conflict? There is support for the contention that the patriarchal households may be altering to factors beyond the ethnic conflict. Therefore, it is important to highlight the complex and dynamic relationships between conflict and non-conflict factors, as the latter may persist even under conditions of ‘normalcy’. And what are the coping strategies adopted by and inherent contradictions faced by Sinhala female-heads? The evidence shows that economic opportunities, where they prevail in the region, are exploited by female-heads to maintain the welfare of their households. And this is particularly the case where there are fewer social and cultural restrictions placed upon them. However, there is also a social cost to this. Female-heads entrance, participation and dependence on the labour market are critically linked to the support they receive from kin and community structures. They perceive that, ironically, while enabling them to exercise wide choices of employment, such reliance brings with them another set of limitations and constraints – such networks require certain gendered standards of behaviour, if assistance is to be forthcoming.

Key words: Ethnic conflict; Gender studies; Survival; Female headship; Social groups; Sri Lanka

Mundane heroines: Factoring gender and ethnicity into female-headship

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This paper is based on evidence collected in eastern Sri Lanka by one of the authors during 1998 and 1999. We also draw on parallel studies undertaken in other provinces of Sri Lanka and elsewhere in the world and national level data. 298 questionnaires were administered and more than 100 in depth interviews conducted. The questionnaires and interviews were designed to capture the economic situation of Tamil, Sinhala and Muslim women heads of households in the three principal districts of the Eastern Province - Ampara, Trincomalee and Batticaloa. The questionnaires and interviews provide both quantitative and qualitative accounts of the households and their circumstances.

An important contribution of feminist economists in recent years has been on the emphasis on difference within the female experience. By rejecting falsely homogenising accounts of women's lives, feminist economists have unlocked the multiplicity of ways in which gendered relations of dominance and subordination are maintained. A source of difference with perhaps increasing importance in the modern world is ethnicity. With its co-existing Muslim, Tamil, and Sinhala groups, eastern Sri Lanka provides a perfect context for the exploration of ethnicity as a source of variation in the origins of female-headship and response to being left alone to raise children, look after parents, and get a living. The households included in this study share a common structure and face the same economic problems. They struggle for a better life in the same geographical area. Yet ethnic differences divide them. The combination of gender, ethnicity and regional variables provides the basis for a study of female-headship in eastern Sri Lanka.

Through these our aim is to understand the structure and functioning of these households and their survival strategies, to try to look at the world from their point of view, and to explore how they became heads of households and survive as such. The objective is to help design policies, which can be maximally helpful to these mundane heroines.

Key words: Gender; Ethnicity; Female-headship; Survival strategies; Sri Lanka

Migrant female domestic labor: Answer to rural poverty in the context of globalization?

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Sri Lanka is increasingly becoming dependent on labor migration, especially of females, who have become second highest foreign exchange earners for the country replacing the importance of traditional exports such as tea, rubber and coconut. Government employment policy is pro labor migration as is the outlook for most other countries in the Asian and Pacific Region. The paper evaluates the extent to which labor migration is beneficial to migrants by looking at the net economic returns, and the type of investments they make as against instances of outright sexual and other forms of exploitation. The paper is based on a sample survey of about 500 labor migrants conducted in the districts of Gampaha, Kegalle and Kalutara carried out by the author on behalf of “Migrant Services Center”, an NGO based in Colombo during this year.

Key words: Labor migration; Female domestic labor; Rural poverty; Globalisation; Sri Lanka

Human resource management: A postmodern reading

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We locate this paper within a postmodern sensibility of exploration of gender stereotyping of texts; especially locally created texts in human resource management. Language: ‘signifier of the signifiers’ is not merely an innocent means of exchanging only ideas but is used as a means to buttress the power relationships in a society. As such, we argue here the language used in ‘text’ in human resource management is also a means of maintaining gender stereotyping in organizations.

We examine the [his]torical evolution of managing labour in organization and how it leads to develop t[he] language: masculine technical jargon in personnel management – human resource management – human resource development and so forth. We dissected that t[he] language evolved in male dominant organizational context with a view to managing male labour is still being used. As such, at a surface level the technical jargon in human resource management appears as gender-neutral language. However, there is a hidden deployment of upholding *phallic as the dominant symbol* especially in locally created texts in human resource management. The technical jargon and textuality, which appears as gender-neutral, however are evident of the longevity of gender stereotyping in organizations when re-reading within a postmodern sensibility of exploration of gender biasness of texts.

In this context, we argue the longevity of t[he] language in human resource management as evolved in male dominant organizational milieu, has created a dilemma of managing labour in present organizational context. This dilemma is due to the fact that managing, motivating, evaluating, planning etc of female labour through the masculine language, symbols, metaphors and the like. This dilemma further creates a puzzling paradox especially among female labour by compelling them to prepare themselves as the more assertive feminine symbols in the world of work by knowing about *female as a minority group in work organizations* since they have been dropped out of *the language of managing labour*: huMAN resource MANagement.

Key words: Human resources management; Organizational behavior; Managing labor; Gender studies

‘Round-pilgrimages’ and the spiritual landscape

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Making annual round-pilgrimages or ‘watavandana’ to historical-religious places around the country is still a popular tradition among the Sri Lankan Buddhists. This tradition is believed to have a long history. It is argued in this paper that this tradition of ‘round-pilgrimages’ is largely a construct of the late 19th century that developed parallel to the ‘rediscovery’ of Anuradhapura as the Buddhist heartland by the 19th century Sinhala-Buddhist and multi-caste merchants of southern Sri Lanka. These annual pilgrimages are usually made to sixteen important sacred places which are collectively called ‘sixteen great places’. A round pilgrimage will take a pilgrim around the country, through the four cardinal directions of the island and also to the central mountains. Thus a round pilgrimage to the ‘sixteen great places’, inevitably becomes a survey of the territory of Sri Lanka, and a way of claiming the island as a ‘Buddhist’ landscape as was narrated in the 6th century chronicle ‘Mahavamsa’. As such this tradition of round pilgrimages which was much popularized and supported by the 19th century southern merchants of Sri Lanka can be identified as an act of appropriation of an ancient idea and a cultural-religious practice by a new group of people in order to claim legitimacy to power within a capitalist-democratic and nation-building discourse since late 1800 to mid 1900.

Key words: Round-pilgrimages; Spiritual landscape; Historical-religious places; Sixteen great places; Sri Lankan Buddhists

Towards an alternative development paradigm based on Buddhism's Middle Path-to solve national and global problems

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The Buddha's teaching aims to guide individuals to end suffering. Its social application can be harnessed to save whole nations and peoples from decadence. It was Emperor Asoka's conversion to Buddhism after a gruesome war that inspired him to champion promotion of just and righteous governance in India and beyond with Sri Lanka being among countries benefiting from his Buddhist missions. Promotion of human rights alone without moral concerns is not adequate to ensure human weal.

The preservation of Buddhist values in Sri Lanka for over two millennia helped it to survive against overwhelming odds.

Failure to meet the needs and aspirations of youth led to rebellion in South Sri Lanka. India took advantage to train Tamil insurgents on their soil to dominate Sri Lanka. Worldwide support for Tamil dissidents in the North on the pretext of supporting minority rights was a far cry from the ethnic cleansing that the West has lately experienced. The LTTE at one stage was the world's worst terrorist organisation, but ignored by the West until they themselves became the worst victims of terrorism.

Today we find the Christian state of Norway championing the cause of the LTTE with other countries aligning themselves to it, helping the LTTE to destroy the territorial integrity of Sri Lanka supposedly to help restore a kind of questionable peace.

Whereas the Buddhist Commission by its report on the "Betrayal of Buddhism" helped to awaken among the people a sense of justice. Can the academic community in Sri Lanka today take upon itself the task of launching appropriate studies to increase national and global awareness of Buddhist values to save the nation and humankind with Buddhism's potential role to restore sanity to mankind?

It is well that the conference considers means for establishing Transparency and Accountability at all levels.

Key words: Alternative development paradigms; Buddhism's Middle Path; Global problems; Transparency; Accountability

Indian reformers in Sri Lanka: Guru Nanak's visit- A myth or reality?

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Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikh religion, like the Buddha earlier, sowed the seeds of spiritual democracy. The process of its germination and growth is still in progress and continues to flourish due to Guru's message for the world at large , conveyed through his writings and personal visits to the then known countries of the Asian sub-continent.

The paper seeks to examine the historicity of Guru Nanak's visit to Sri Lanka. The Guru, possessing neither territory, nor wealth, nor aided by the forces of arms, preached his doctrine of peace in the countries during the course of his travels including Sri Lanka.

The paper concludes that much evidence in written and oral tradition is available with regard to Guru Nanak's travels, beyond the limits of Hindustan, including Sri Lanka , then known as Simhal Dweepa , to spread his message of virtue and righteousness. The paper tries to put at rest the controversies relating to Guru Nanak's visit to Sri Lanka and establishes his visit as a fact and not poetical imagination, a reality and not a myth.

Key words: Religion; Guru Nanak; Historical perspective; India- Sri Lanka relations

Gross under-representation of Buddhists in the Lake House Group English Newspapers

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The Lake House newspaper group was commenced as a nationalist and Buddhist voice in the early 20th Century. The group was nationalized in the 1970s, one key reason/excuse being that it was anti-national. But over the last decade, there have been many complaints that it is anti-Buddhist and anti-national. Especially the Sunday Observer and the Daily News are perceived as often taking pro-Eelam, anti-national, anti-Buddhist stands. A study undertaken in 2001 through informants in the Lake House to examine and analyse the its social composition of its staff revealed the following.

The Chairman of Lake House was a Christian, so was also the previous Chairman. There are 10 editors, Assistant Editors and Sub Editors in the Sunday Observer. Of these, all are Christians. There are 22 Editors, Assistant Editors and Sub Editors in the Daily News. Of this 14 (i.e. 63%) are non Buddhists, only 8 (37%) are Buddhists. The key three senior-most posts in the Daily News are all held by Christians. So of the 34 important posts, only 8 (23%) are held by Buddhists who constitute 72% of the population. Eventy-seven per cent of the important posts are held by non-Buddhists, who are only 28% of the population, while the key posts are all held by Christians.

A notable fact was that several Buddhist articles had been written by non-Buddhists and almost all of them edited by non-Buddhist sub-Editors resulting in numerous wrong spellings and usages. There was also strong evidence that several key journalists obtain extra funds from the foreign funded NGO sector. Although the Sinhala language newspapers were not subjected to this study, the post of editor of Silumina the leading Lake House Sinhala paper had been filled by someone brought in from a Christian funded NGO newspaper, Yukthiya. The study also gives a content analysis showing a strong anti Buddhist bias. It is extremely unlikely that this gross under representation of Buddhists would have happened by chance. Like during colonial times, it appears, the system is being manipulated to prevent a genuine Buddhist public opinion being created in the country.

Key words: Ethnic representation; Nationalist perspectives; Buddhist voice; Sinhala language newspapers; Content analysis; Lake House

Imagining non western civilizations: Obeyesekera on Karma and Buddhism

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In the 19th century and up to the mid 20th century there were hardly any anthropological writings on Sri Lanka in Western scholarship. What there were, apart from Christian tracts and travelers' and administrators' tales was a considerable outpouring of Buddhist texts (e. g. Pali Text Society). Apart from the Christian tracts, these writings were largely sympathetic to the country. The Buddhist texts provided the West for the first time authoritative Buddhist material. Anthropological writings in Sri Lanka blossomed only since the 1970s at a time when the subject was emerging from a period of deep questioning about its colonial agenda and built-in Eurocentricism. Anthropologists on Sri Lanka like Obeyesekera who emerged in the 1970s did not participate in this questioning of the subject's colonial agenda. Obeyesekera has now written on Karma and related concerns in his *Imagining Karma: Ethical Transformation in Amerindian, Buddhist, and Greek Rebirth* (2002).

In this paper, this text is examined as to its social epistemology. Obeyesekera's presentation and understanding of Buddhism and associated contextual concepts like karma, anatta, nirvana, vanavasi, samsara, Buddhist ethics, philosophy, psychology and meditation are analysed. Obeyesekera's constructions are compared with the technical literature on these Buddhist concepts so easily available in the West today. The paper details the gross misunderstandings and misinterpretations of most of these categories.

Imagining Karma is found to be a strong contrast to 19th and early 20th century Western interpreters of Buddhism who attempted a sympathetic understanding of Buddhist theory and practice. Obeyesekera's superficiality in the use of concepts is reminiscent of similar usage in Western pop culture (Samsara a perfume, Nirvana a music group and Buddha Bar, music and a Parisian bar). The book is an encounter between two modes of knowing, in that both Buddhism and anthropology claim to provide an explanation of human behavior, presumably based on facts and verification. *Imagining Karma* is thus to be considered a direct follow up to Obeyesekera's colonial thesis of "Protestant Buddhism" (1970) and its alleged "transformation" (1988) in that both are constructs from blinkered Eurocentric eyes.

Key words: Western civilizations; Buddhist texts; Anthropologists; Human behavior;

Civil society's role in the process of rehabilitating the prisoners

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Rehabilitating prisoners refer to all the activities that influence in re-negotiating his/her identity. The main objective of the rehabilitative function is to make the prisoner realize his mistakes in life situations and to teach him/her how to lead a socially acceptable healthy life outside the bars. Through effective rehabilitation, prisons could contribute in reducing recidivism and deviant behaviour of prisoners by improving morality, spirituality and guiding the prisoners in socially accepted paths.

Rehabilitation process could become a success only if and when the ex-prisoners could successfully re-integrate to and gain acceptance by the society. It is necessary to develop a positive social attitude towards the prisoners such as, forgiveness, empathy and kindness in order to positively rehabilitate the prisoners. The most effective way of developing understanding about prisoners is through developing interaction between prisoners and civil society. At the moment, civil society's involvement in the rehabilitation process is limited to the activities conducted by the members of Prisoners' Welfare Association, as a result of prisons being closed institutions.

It is suggested that the authorities should consider several activities as methods of improving civil society's role in prison rehabilitation. These include, permitting the journalist to report on the current situation of the prisons to the public independently; involvement of school children in prison welfare activities; organizing cultural activities and sports activities for the prisoners; participating in the cultural shows conducted by the prisoners; volunteering in teaching literacy, English, meditation, music, drama, art, and sports etc; assisting prisoners to write letters to the family and helping prisoners' families; organizing fund raising projects to rehabilitate the prisoners; and developing an after care program for the prisoners.

The civil society's involvement in the rehabilitation process would improve the conditions in the prisons, will increase the number as well as the quality of programs, develop understanding between prisoners and civil society as well as promote and enhance the ex-prisoners social re-integration process.

Key words: Civil society; Rehabilitation of prisoners; Social re-integration process

The dynamics of social relations in Sri Lanka: An approach through an analysis of cricket

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The basic aim of the paper is to bring together the perspectives of two French thinkers. The first is Rene Girard. His basic thought is that a person “A” considers something good because someone else “B” considers it good. The result is that there is conflict between A and B. The conflict is resolved by finding a “scapegoat”.

The second is Michel de Certeau. The point that I take from him is that in the conflict between A and B, one is stronger than the other. Or at least, either of the parties perceives it so. So, how does the weaker get the better of the stronger? - by making a move that is proportional to the situation – but in the very territory of the stronger party.

I study this in the context of Sri Lanka winning the (Cricket) World Cup in 1996 and losing it in 1999. The article will analyze and point out how a solution was reached by finding a “scapegoat” – the captain at the time (Arjuna Ranatunga) was “sacrificed. In my view, this analysis is relevant to understanding even other issues that are presently taking place in Sri Lanka, including the present situation of cricket.

Key words: Social relations; Sri Lanka; Cricket

Strategies of maintaining social order in pre-modern Sri Lanka

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Humans do not have genetically inherited social instincts. They internalize it through social learning. The social existence needs a mechanism to restrain the impulses of human aggressiveness. History shows that humans have the ability to create it culturally. Thus the devices of keeping social order are invariably culturally constructed.

The beginning of the social evolution in Sri Lanka can be ascribed to the early centuries of the first millennium BCE. The emergence of the sedentary farming groups in the dry zone is a turning point in this regard. Divorced from the itinerant hunting, fishing and gathering cultural practice, from that point onwards, the society has been confronted with the problem of maintaining the reciprocity, the social predictability, the consistency and the social persistency. The past evidence shows the potentials of analyzing the pre-modern society to understand the strategies of maintaining social order in the historical society in Sri Lanka. This paper seeks to discuss the archaeological and historical evidence that pertains to the present theme.

Key words: Social order; Archaeology; Social learning; Historical society

Structure and agency in entrepreneurship research: An alternative research framework

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This paper critically examines the traditional and contemporary approaches towards conducting entrepreneurship research and emphasises the need for alternative research frameworks for future entrepreneurship research. The paper considers the implications of using different social theories to understand entrepreneurial issues at the rural community level. It particularly discusses on how to adopt 'Structuration theory' (Giddens, 1979, 1984) as an alternative framework for future entrepreneurship research. This proposed framework openly supports humanistic approaches to researching such entrepreneurial issues and in the clear recognition of the existence of multiple realities. It argues that proposed framework would expand the pluralist world of entrepreneurship research and particularly capable to see insights of 'power related issues' in establishing rural micro entrepreneurship, which is understandably difficult to research in positivist standpoint. The paper finally demands future entrepreneurship researchers to be more innovative and adopt alternative research frameworks within multiple reality ontology, instead of concentrating only the traditional positivist tradition of research within single ontology orientation.

Key words: Entrepreneurship research; Positivism; Humanistic approaches; Research methods

Cultural barriers against development of domestic industries: the case of small and medium food processing enterprises in Sri Lanka

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This study attempts to analyze how culture acts as a dominant factor in technological change and the development of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Sri Lanka. In the market reality, SMEs must innovate new products and services, and adopt state-of-the-art technology if they are to compete successfully in the present dynamic and chaotic world. In this sense, cultural endowments of any society have to play a vital role favoring change and innovation of industries.

The present study employed two main analyses to identify the availability of innovative-cultural-dimensions in Sri Lankan SMEs. Firstly, a macro-level analysis was carried out to ascertain the impact of 'national culture' on the formation of such cultural dimensions in Sri Lanka. In this respect, five predominant socio-cultural institutions, namely family, ethnicity, caste, class and status, and education systems were analyzed in detail. Secondly, the availability of innovative-cultural-dimensions and their impact were empirically determined using a micro-level analysis in food processing SMEs of the country.

In the macro-level survey, it was found that, in general, the five socio-cultural institutions do not contribute to create an innovation friendly culture in Sri Lanka. The results of the micro-level analysis revealed that most SMEs do not possess innovative-cultural-dimensions within their organizations. Further, although the number of employees has increased in most of the firms, the growth of annual sales has increased only marginally by 3.42 per cent, which is far below the corresponding figures of the other industrial sectors of the country. Most of the SMEs have been characterized with outdated and/or inappropriate technologies and a low rate of innovation.

Both the macro and micro-level analyses found that the Sri Lankan cultural endowments prevent technological change, innovation, and as a result, the development of the SMEs of the country. Therefore, SMEs must recognize the urgent need to orient their own cultures to more learning, adaptation, and innovation, if they wish to survive as an effective commercial institution in the competitive global market.

Key words: Cultural barriers; domestic industries; Food processing enterprises ; Sri Lanka; SMEs

Towards a knowledge-based economy: Enhancing technological and innovation capabilities of SMEs in Sri Lanka

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The role small and medium-sized enterprises can play in stimulating competitive environment and technologically based innovation is becoming a crucial factor in the knowledge-based economy. In the recent years, Sri Lanka has been making significant progress towards knowledge-economy although it lags behind some of its counterparts. The Sri Lanka government's new initiative 'Regaining Sri Lanka' emphasizes achieving economic growth through enhancing productivity in all sectors. In that, science and technology and their relevance in the private sector growth can be considered as important factors.

The focus of this paper is the level of technological progress and innovation in SMEs in Sri Lanka and the existing policies and support systems that foster technology and innovation. The analysis is set within the context of approaches to transform scientific and technological knowledge thus focusing on the institutional determinants that account for the performance of SMEs.

Research in areas of technology and innovation in Sri Lankan SMEs are deficient when compared to other developing countries in the Asian region. Technology development and innovations in the country have become prohibitively expensive in a volatile domestic economic environment. The entrepreneurs with innovative ideas are often constrained by a lack of facilities, guidance and state patronage.

This paper is based on the notion that application of science and technology knowledge for enterprise growth requires not only sound policy environment but also personal interaction, access to information and effective institutional framework. The experience of developed countries envisage that institutions with an adequate knowledge base and expertise, and a close interaction with the SMEs sector can enhance technological and innovation capabilities of SMEs. It is now largely recognised that knowledge creation and diffusion is a dynamic process that involves many social and economic factors, a wide range of individuals and institutions, and make a significant contribution for achieving knowledge-based economy.

Key words: Knowledge-based economy; Technological innovations; Business environment; SMEs; Sri Lanka

Labour productivity and openness of manufacturing industry of Guangdong, China

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This paper attempts to examine the labour productivity and openness of Manufacturing Industry of Guangdong, China. Applying, respectively, cross-sectional data for Year 1995, the period of 1995-1997 and the period of 1998-2001, labour productivity among the 3-digit manufacturing industry appears to be statistically attributed to (1) the classical production factors: capital and skilled-labour intensity; (2) incentive variable: bonus; (3) and economic opening variable: foreign direct investment. In addition, foreign direct investment and export appear to be statistically endogenous with each other. In the simultaneous equations, it is seems that the former strongly positively contributes to the later activity, yet, the export is not statistically significantly correlated with the former activity. Nevertheless, the endogeneity of foreign direct investment is not statistically significant in the labour productivity regression. As an Asian LDC Sri Lanka also perseveres for promotion of external trade as China does and hence there are for sure lessons that Sri Lanka may learn from the experiences of China.

Key words: Labor productivity; Manufacturing industry; Factors of production
Econometric modeling; Peoples' Republic of China

Industrialization of Hainan SEZ: Reality, countermeasures and the industrialization index

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Industrialization is an inevitable stage for a nation or an area in its economic development progress. The index measuring the degree of industrialization includes not only the standard of industrial value added but also the standard of non-agricultural labour. The precondition for realizing industrialization is the corresponding change of the productive relationship and the implementation of institutional innovation. Hainan SEZ lags far behind the national average level in industrialization, for this reason, Hainan should take strong and effective measures to promote its industrialization progress to reduce its distance from the national industrialization level, and to improve the economic welfares of the Hainan people.

Key words: Industrialization process; Economic welfare; Index construction; Regional development; Peoples' Republic of China

Colonial hotels - their contribution towards cultural heritage tourism in Sri Lanka

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Sri Lanka proudly boasts of a fine collection of colonial hotels and rest houses from the British-colonial era. Built in a solid colonial style, mostly of Victorian architecture and equipped with charming and nostalgic facilities of exclusive British life, all the hotels provide a vivid picture of colonial life that proves highly attractive to the present-day visitors. Due to their great historical value, the colonial hotels can impressively contribute to a greater awareness of the colonial heritage for a future sustainable development of tourism.

Key words: Colonial hotels; Cultural heritage tourism; Sri Lanka; Sustainable development

Three wheeler taxies as an urban poverty reducing instrument in Sri Lanka

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Although Sri Lanka entered into lower-middle income country group in 1998, still its absolute income poverty incidence level is considerable. According to the World Development Report 2000/2001, Income of the 45.4% of the population lie below 2 US \$ per day. However, after introduction of trade liberalization in Sri Lanka in 1978, urban poverty level declined drastically from 19.4% to 12.3% during the first ten years period. One of the important expanded business opportunities for urban poor people was three-wheeler taxies. The first three wheel taxi was imported to Sri Lanka in 1979 and today, there are about 200,000 of them in the country. Over 70% of these taxies are utilized by the urban community and are handled by low income groups in urban areas. As a driver, service man, repairer, producer of parts, retail seller of parts, and parking assistant, poor people had opportunities to earn money from the three-wheeler taxi industry. In addition, indirect income generating opportunities were also generated by that industry.

This research has been undertaken to understand the contribution made by three-wheeler taxi industry to reduce poverty in the urban sector in Sri Lanka. Both micro and macro level data were used to analyze urban poverty and issues in three wheel taxi industry. We have interviewed 1000 three-wheeler drivers and other employees in the industry in 2001/2002. There are special economic, social, and cultural impacts of three-wheeler taxi industry on Sri Lankan urban community. This paper presents these issues and some policy implications also have been suggested

Key words: Urban poverty; Cultural impacts; Public transport; Low-income segments; Sri Lanka

At the periphery of development: Poverty trends in Hambantota District

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Sri Lanka has often been praised for its positive social development trends, even if we can now see certain cracks in this picture. One issue for further analysis is the regional inequality in economic and social terms. From that perspective it would be valuable to give a closer illustration of some of the development trends in one of the districts that are lagging behind in the over-all Sri Lanka development.

This paper is written as a reflection to an empirical study done in Hambantota since some five years back, in a co-operation between the University of Kelaniya and Göteborg University, Sweden. The data given are collected from official sources and from in-depth interviews in Hambantota.

Some of the matters that will be discussed in the paper are; the accumulation of wealth by an emerging economic and political elite in the district; the status of being a post-conflict area after the JVP uprisings; the change of policies – from IRDP to REAP; the deteriorating social standards; development assistance if a peace solution is signed; and future trends in the district.

This analysis will be given with a background to recent trends in the poverty debate, initiated by the donors, but also from a more theoretical perspective. We will place the discussion in a form of alternative development thinking.

Key words: Social development; Change of policies; Economic and political elite;
Regional disparities

Grameen banks and empowerment of the women

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Grameen Banks (known also as Micro Credit Institutes) are new phenomena to gain currency in particular in the LDCs over the past two decades. Currently Grameen Banks are found in over 72 different countries and have been estimated to cater in total for over 70 million customers.

There are multitudes of reasons for the success and popularity of Grameen Banks. One of these has to do with the functions that it has performed in the empowerment of the rural people, particularly rural women of the LDCs.

The available literature shows amply well how the disenfranchised rural women of the LDCs without their own financial means have to grapple with the money lenders in the informal sector and ended up having to pay exorbitant fees on interest on their loans. In these circumstances the Grameen Banks have been a boon for the rural people and were able to raise funds for these women, however modicum they may be, thus facilitating them in their entrepreneurial and other remunerative activities.

At the same time there were a number of modern enterprises that came to be established in the rural sector and that extended the market for the goods that the rural women of the rural micro enterprises produced. The modern enterprises simply procured the goods that the rural women produced and shifted them to other markets. Thus it is hypothesised here that it is not only that Grameen Banks that provided the funds in benefit of the rural women but also the modern sector enterprises that procured the goods produced by these rural women were catalyst in promoting rural entrepreneurship and hence empowerment of rural women.

With reference to evidence obtained from a number of projects, this paper seeks to establish the importance of the role played by the modern enterprises in promoting the micro enterprises in the rural sector and hence empowerment of the rural women.

Key words: Empowerment; Rural women; Entrepreneurship; Micro enterprises; Remunerative activities.

Lesson learnt on an endemic problem in the Dry Zone Sri Lanka: With special focus on Monaragala District

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Dental and skeletal fluorosis is an endemic problem in certain parts of the world such as China, India, Ethiopia and Tanzania and in the dry zone of Sri Lanka as well. In recent studies it was identified that Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Monaragala and Hambantota are the mainly affected areas in the country. Monaragala is an isolated area, 90 percent of the community categorized as a low income group due to a lack of facilities and infrastructures. Majority of the rural community in the district depends on common dug wells or deep tube wells for their daily drinking water requirements.

In the Sri Lankan context, a fluoride content of more than 1mg/L is considered as fluoride rich water. This study was aimed to identify and assess the areas affected by high concentration of fluoride in water, to use a scientific approach to determine the major factors governing this natural hazard and give prior attention to avoid this sociological problem. Five hundred and thirty five hand pump fitted deep tube wells were selected for the study and water samples collected from each well were analyzed chemically using standard methods.

The analytical results indicate that 35 percent of the deep wells are not suitable for drinking and that water quality is not within the permissible levels of Sri Lankan standards. The quality distribution map of fluoride clearly indicates that there are no relationships between soil types and land use pattern with the deep ground water quality. The results of the study revealed that the geology of the area and rainfall pattern directly affected in the excessive fluoride concentrations of the deep ground water. Finally, it can be concluded that the all governing factors are naturally originated and that the geographic distribution (high fluoride) maps be used as a tool for identifying the priority areas.

Key words: Dry-zone; Rural communities ; Drinking water; Sociological problems; Dental fluorosis

Demand side factors of food security: Empirical evidences From Moneragala District: Sri Lanka

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Food security of a given household depends on the availability of food and access to food. Though the availability of food is necessary condition in achieving food security, it is not a sufficient to ensure food security among rural households. Theory of food security identifies low income or income poverty as a demand side factor of the food security problem.

This study employed the household income function to investigate the demand side factors of food security problem in Moneragala District. Primary data on related variables were collected during the period from August to December 2002 from 200 randomly selected households in two divisional secretary's areas in Moneragala District. Household income was estimated based on the sources of income such as farm income and non-farm income. Non-farm income figures were directly obtained from the household questionnaire survey. Farm income was estimated using farm production and agricultural commodity prices.

According to the field survey data most of the farming households in Moneragala District face chronic and transitory food insecurity due to the low level of income or income poverty. Results also show that the level of education, access to land, agricultural credit and access to capital stock make significant contributions to increase level of income and thereby the food security.

According to the empirical model developed using econometric techniques, diverting scare resources to improve rural education, provision of financial resources for the poor, increase in capital stock among farming community and creating opportunities for farm households to access to land are very important factors that lead to poverty reduction and thereby improve food security among farming households in Moneragala district. Therefore, policy planners should pay their attention to these factors at the micro-level economic development planning in Moneragala district.

Key words: Food Security; Rural households; Scare resources; Micro-level economic development; Econometric techniques

Understanding the Sri Lankan consumer preferences: A system-wide analysis

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This paper identifies the major determinants of the Sri Lankan consumption characteristics using the system-wide approach together with the most recent consumption data. Estimates are obtained for the income and price elasticities for eight commodity groups. The elasticities presented in this paper are essential inputs in applied equilibrium models and in the application of the theory of tax reform. The summary of findings of the paper are: (1) On average, Sri Lankan consumers allocate about 62 percent of their income on food and about three fourths of their income on food, clothing and housing combined; the remaining 26 percent is divided into 4 percent on durables, 2 percent on medical care, 13 percent on transport, 4 percent on recreation and education and 3 percent on all other goods; (2) Sri Lankan consumption data supports the 'law of demand' and the 'Engel's Law'; (3) Based on the estimated elasticities, food and housing are necessities while clothing, durables, transport and recreation are luxuries; (4) Demand for all commodities are price inelastic; (5) The demand hypotheses, demand homogeneity, Slutsky symmetry and preference independence are acceptable; and (6) Income flexibility is estimated to be about -.5, which is well in agreement with many previous findings.

Key words: Consumer preferences; Consumption patterns; Commodity groups; Income elasticities; Sri Lanka

Total factor productivity dynamics of manufacturing industries in Sri Lanka in the post-trade liberalization period

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Export competitiveness of Sri Lanka's Manufacturing Industries can no longer be dependent on low cost labour particularly in the presence of change in export market environment that include entrance of new competitors, expiration of Multi-Fibre Arrangement (MFA) by 2005, and new Free Trade Agreements. Hence, Sri Lanka's competitive edge of manufacturing exports is to be realised by improvements in productivity in the sector.

Total Factor Productivity (TFP) is the widely discussed measure of productivity, where as the growth accounting methodology or the Solow residual approach is the widely used technique to estimate TFP growth.

This paper uses a recently developed Stochastic Frontier (varying coefficient) Production Function approach to estimate TFP growth, based on a balanced panel data set covering 27 industries over 21 years.

The paper provides new policy insights to productivity debate in Sri Lanka by (i) pointing out the serious limitations of the current interpretation of the TFP measure and (ii) decomposing TFP into Technical Efficiency (TE) and Technological Progress (TP). The paper also finds that manufacturing industries in Sri Lanka have not gained sufficient productivity improvements in the post-trade liberalization period. In general what these industries lack most is TE is rather than TP. Further, the case of Sri Lanka's manufacturing industries does not provide sufficient evidence to negate the 'input driven growth' proposition conjectured by Krugman (1994).

Key words: Total factor productivity; Manufacturing industries; Trade liberalization; Export competitiveness; Export market environment

The economy-wide impact of total factor productivity growth of manufacturing industries in Sri Lanka: A computable general equilibrium approach

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As the conventional wisdom suggests, productivity growth should enhance the living standard of people through increased growth. Given that Sri Lanka's growth engine (the manufacturing sector) is losing its low cost labour based export competitiveness, productivity improvements in the sector has emerged as the way out and the spill-over effects of manufacturing productivity should be reflected in other sectors of the economy. Otherwise, the policy thrust on manufacturing-based export led growth may lead to inequalities and counter productive economic and social issues.

This paper, using the computable general equilibrium (CGE) approach, analyses the short-run and long-run economy wide impact of total factor productivity (TFP) growth of manufacturing industries in the post-trade liberalization period. It also reviews such impacts at both macro and micro levels while shedding light on export competitiveness of Sri Lanka's manufacturing achieved through TFP growth.

The empirical analysis in this paper is the first of its kind to conduct a CGE simulation using empirically estimated TFP growth of manufacturing industries in Sri Lanka. The paper finds that in the short-run, the impact of productivity growth resulted in an increase in GDP growth, increased competitiveness and increased exports, while reducing domestic price level at the macro level. However, the long-run simulation did not produce consistent results. This paper also makes suggestions to improve the assessment of economy-wide impact of TFP growth using CGE approach.

Keywords: Economy-wide Impacts; Total Factor productivity; Manufacturing Industries; Productivity improvements; Export competitiveness

Technical efficiency and the productivity imperative in the manufacturing industries in Sri Lanka

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The paper analyses technical efficiency and productivity of Sri Lanka's manufacturing industries using the stochastic production frontier methodology. A panel data set covering a cross-section of 27 industries over more than 2 decades is processed to highlight changes in technical efficiency in manufacturing sectors in Sri Lanka over the post-liberalization era. The empirics reveal the relative performance of labour intensive versus capital intensive industries during various phases of structural adjustment. The paper concludes by discussing the productivity imperative that faces Sri Lanka's manufacturing exports in an increasing competitive global environment in the new millennium.

Key words: Technical efficiency; Productivity; Manufacturing industries; Post-liberalization; Competitive global environment

Macroeconomic influence on the stock market: Evidence from an emerging market in South Asia

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This study examines the influence of macro-economic variables on stock market equity values in Sri Lanka. We use the Colombo all share price index to represent the stock market and (i) money supply, (ii) treasury bill rate (as a measure of interest rate), (iii) consumer price index (as a measure of inflation) and (iv) the exchange rate as macro-economic variables. We analyse monthly data for the above variables for the 12-year period from 1985:1 to 2001:12 employing a battery of tests, which include unit roots, co-integration, vector error correction models (VECM), impulse response functions (IRFs) and variance decompositions (VDCs). These tests examine both long-run and short-run relationships between the stock market index and the economic variables. The VECM analyses provide some support for the argument that the lagged values of macro-economic variables such as consumer price index, money supply and Treasury bill rate have a significant influence on the stock market. The Treasury bill rate demonstrates the strongest influence on price changes compared to other variables. However, the share price index does not have any influence on macro-economic variables except for the Treasury bill rate. Both VDC and IRF analyses revealed that shocks to economic variables explained only a minority of the forecast variance error of the market index; these effects did not persist for very long.

Key Words: Stock returns; Equity values; Econometric analysis; Sri Lanka

The demand for money in Sri Lanka: A structural vector error correction approach

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The demand for money is of crucial importance in the conduct of monetary policy in any country. Additionally, the interest elasticity of the demand for money is an important magnitude for consideration in effective anti-inflationary monetary policy. In this paper we will examine what the major determinants of money demand are and their effects on monetary policy in Sri Lanka. Allowing for dynamic adjustments towards long run steady states relations, we will also discuss some important questions related to the effectiveness of monetary policy. The period under consideration is 1970 to 2002, and due to lack of quarterly data on some variables, we will use annual data. We identify the relevant data generating process (DGP) as a structural vector error correction mechanism (VECM) in estimating the demand for money. The structural VECM has the attractive features that the estimated long run relationships embedded in the model are theory consistent, and have a clear economic interpretation and yet the short run dynamics are flexibly estimated within a VECM framework.

The paper also focuses on imposing and testing exact (theory consistent) and over identifying restrictions on the space of the co-integrating vectors so as to determine the long run behavioral parameters (i.e. interest elasticity) and to test the validity of the Monetarist arguments in the Sri Lankan context. We will use asymptotic critical values (based on Response Surface Regressions) for testing unit roots and co-integration since these critical values are more accurate than standard critical values. We also hope to measure the time profiles (with effects) for interest rate, real money balances, inflation, and real income variables to come back to their stable condition after giving one standard error shock to each variable in a co-integrated framework using orthogonalized and generalized impulse response functions. Finally, we hope to check the resultant model's statistical adequacy using various diagnostic tools of model evaluation. This study will not only shed new light on the demand for money in Sri Lanka, but also guide monetary policy making and its influence on other macroeconomic variables.

Key Words: Econometric analysis; Demand for money; Monetary policy; Sri Lanka; Interest rate

The Impact of foreign direct investment for economic growth (A case study of Sri Lanka)

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The integration of developing countries with the global economy increased sharply in the 1990s with changing in their economic policies and lowering of barriers to trade and investment. Sri Lanka offers attractive investment opportunities for foreign companies and the country seems to offer perhaps one of the most liberal FDI regimes in South Asia. As a result, during the last decade FDI inflows in Sri Lanka has increased considerably by 8.5 in 1990 to 15.0 in 2000 as a percentage of GDP while Indian experience was 0.5 to 4.1 in the same period

However, previous literature suggests that the FDI inflows have a positive impact on economic growth of host countries. Although a large volume of econometric literature comprises on the impacts of FDI on economic growth in developing countries, there is not enough studies on the question of causality linkage between them. This paper focuses on the FDI-led growth hypothesis in the case of Sri Lanka. The study is based on time series data from 1959 to 2002 and the response of civil society and foreign firms. The econometric framework of cointegration and error correction mechanism were used to capture two way linkages between variables interest. It is evident in the results that the regression analysis do not provide much support for the view of a robust link between FDI and growth in Sri Lanka. It does not imply that FDI is unimportant. Rather, its analysis reduces the confidence in the belief that FDI has exerted an independent growth effect in Sri Lanka. But net attitudes of the civil society on the impact of FDI on opportunities for domestic business and economic activities is positive and net attitudes of foreign firms toward FDI reveals that the investment climate has not improved in Sri Lanka as a result of lack of good governance, corruption, political instability and disturbance, bureaucratic inertia, and poor low and order situation.

Key words: Foreign Direct Investment; Economic growth; Domestic business; Quality of products; Sri Lanka

Community governance in rural development

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During the last few decades many attractive and scientific models on rural development have been developed. However, the percentage of the rural poor is rapidly increasing in developing countries. Political power has remained in the hands of mainstream political parties and the elites who handle power according to the whims and fancies of their higher authorities.

The principal reason for the continuation of in this state is the absence of a strong and well-organised community governing system. Community governance is not a new concept or model to the Sri Lankan society. Especially the Sri Lankan society has more than thousands of years of experiences on governing systems like “Gamsaba”, “Wel saba” and “Dayaka saba”. These community based governing systems were able to govern our society from the ancient time. However with the introduction of different political systems and developments made to the mechanisms by national and international elites have totally distrusted our governing system and the sustainable development system of the society.

This paper describes the concept of community governance in rural development with practical experiences that the researcher gained through the design and implementation of the approach. The approach and key methodology adopted rests on two key principles. Firstly, people have different needs, and consequently different types of methods and combinations of systems and methodologies are required to meet their needs in an effective manner. Secondly, that people have their own strengths and capacities to resolve their own problems, if opportunities and appropriate support systems, are able to harness them to previously unimagined levels.

In conclusion the communities are strong enough to understand the issues they face. Development interventions which need to overcome those issues are within the limits of their management. Communities have the capacity to plan, monitor and implement the development interventions if they are chosen through the consultation of communities. Community participation in development interventions can and should be obtained for the decision making process rather than implementation of the such.

Key words: Community governance; Rural development; Political power; Decision making process; Sustainable development

Outward orientation: Economic development policy for small economies

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For the small or developing economies in the world, their economic development rely mostly on foreign investment and international trade, and is known as the outward-orientation of economic development policy. This paper will explore the empirical examination study of the international integration degree of Sri Lanka comparing with similar economies, Taiwan, Singapore, and South Korea. It examines how their opening in terms of its financial market and international trade is related to the economic growth of each of the four small economies not only in time-series but also in cross-country data. The economic development of those economies could be provided as examples and the comparison with Sri Lanka could lead to a suitable and sound economic policy for most developing countries in the world. We use a random coefficients model, a seemingly unrelated regression model, and covariance structures for the time-series cross-sectional data. (William H. Greene, 2000) The results of this empirical study could examine the process of the economic development of not only the other three small economies but also Sri Lanka. The success of the other three economies could demonstrate the value of their economic development policy and its suitability for developing countries. However, the limitation is that we cannot include social and political factors into the economic model, although the wealth and sufficiency for the society resulted from the economic consistent development could lead the social change and political stability.

Key words: Outward-orientation; Economic development policy; Small Economies; Social change; Political stability

A comparative study of the development indicators of Sri Lanka, Singapore and Malaysia

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When it comes to development, Singapore, many of us say, must be a role model for Sri Lanka. In this study, the development indicators of Sri Lanka is critically analysed in comparison to those of Singapore. Since Singapore's population is only 4 million, which is much less than Sri Lanka's population of 19 millions, the development indicators of Sri Lanka is also compared with those of Malaysia which has a population of about 23 millions. To many, development of a country means just the economic development, measured mostly by the gross national product (GNP) per capita and the gross domestic product (GDP) per capita. By both of these indicators, Sri Lanka would be considered the least developed of the three, since Malaysia is two times more economically developed as Sri Lanka, and Singapore is seven times more developed than Sri Lanka.

Nevertheless, this comparative study shows that the histories of the indicators of human well being, such as adult literacy, life expectancy at birth, immunization of children under 12 months, primary and secondary school enrolments, have been much superior in the case of Sri Lanka, despite its low economical development indicators and the high rural population, than in the cases of Singapore and Malaysia. Further more, this study also shows that the indicators of environmental well being, such as carbon dioxide emissions per capita, and the indicators of consumption pattern, such as commercial energy use and electric power consumption, in Sri Lanka are very much lower than those of Singapore and Malaysia.

All these observations indicate that the well being of the people and the environment of a country may be achieved via a path that is very different from the consumer-oriented economic development at the cost of environmental degradation that is advocated world-wide. Certain characteristics of such a path are identified in this study considering the Sri Lankan history and its predominantly Buddhist culture.

Key words: Development indicators; Buddhist culture; Sri Lanka

Malnutrition in pre-School children of Jaffna Society- A post - exodus statistical perspective

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Nutrition concerns have recently assumed a greater importance as individuals are increasingly concerned with nutrition. The most vulnerable members of a family are preschool children because a child without adequate nourishment is highly vulnerable to viral, bacterial, and parasitic diseases.

The data used in this study were the anthropometric measures obtained from 372 pre-school children for “Jaffna Socio- Economic Health Study (JSEHS)” conducted in 1999 in the Valikamam sector of the Jaffna peninsula. The entire people of this region were displaced in 1995 due to the operation “Rivi- Resa’ and resettled till mid 1998.

Wasting and stunting were respectively used as an alternate measure for weight-for-height to review wasting and height-for-age was used to review stunting. Birth weights and weight-for-age from growth charts were used to review acute or chronic malnutrition. Descriptive statistical analysis and multivariate statistical methods were applied to obtain the results. It was not possible to record the weights of the preschool children due to non-availability of weighing apparatus and in some places it was not possible to move such apparatus from village to village.

The investigation on birth weights reveals that about 18% of the preschool children born in this region during this period show poor nutritional status of the mother and her family. We also found that about 26% of the growth charts show unsatisfactory growth rates and hence about 26% of them were suffering by acute or chronic malnutrition. We further found that about 61% of the preschool children have been admitted to the clinics and hospitals at least once due to medical and other pediatric problems related to malnutrition.

Analysis of MUAC revealed that “severe” and “moderate” acute malnutrition was associated with 5.1% and 19.1% of the preschool children respectively. Analysis of height-for-age revealed that the children of age above 2 years had severe growth impairment and hence we can conclude that the most devastating situation arose just after exodus 1995. We further found that “severe’ and “moderate” chronic malnutrition were associated with 2.2% and 52.3% of the preschool children respectively. Hence we can conclude that the long term war and frequent exodus have caused chronic malnutrition in the Jaffna Society and this aspect needs to be seriously considered by the health authorities for immediate rehabilitation.

Key words: Malnutrition; Pre-school children; Jaffna society; Statistical analysis; Anthropometric measures

Psychological operations, LTTE and Sri Lanka

Shantha Jayatilake and Daya Wijesekera

The armed conflict between the Sri Lanka Armed Forces with the LTTE has ended in a stale mate for the combatants. The LTTE is categorized as a terrorist outfit by the USA, UK, India and Malaysia. Terrorism has to be accepted as a means of warfare especially in instances when one combatant is weaker. The aim of terrorism is to terrorize and this the LTTE does with success. "Kill one and fright thousand" is a saying attributed to Chairman Mao TseTung. Terrorism is a psychological phenomenon which in military terms is psychological warfare. Terrorism could influence millions and with modern development of information technology its reach is long and inescapable.

Victory especially in war depends on many factors with the major role by the armed forces but not entirely so. There must be a post commitment by its citizens identified as the national will without which the objective of national security cannot be realized. Military equipment alone cannot achieve this. National will is determined by "psychological operations". It was evident in the psychological operations recently employed by the US/UK in the war against Iraq. Psychological operations (PSYOPS) "are a means the commander uses to implement both military and political objectives. PSYOPS are "planned activities of propaganda and psychological operations in peace and war directed toward foreign enemy, from and neutral audiences in order to influence attitudes and behavior in a manner favorable to the achievement of national objectives. In a democracy such as Sri Lanka, Commanders do not possess the power implement both military and political objectives as it is possible for the LTTE. Until an effective "PSYOPS" is undertaken at national level with commitment and consistency to pursue a national will as is the aim of the LTTE; troops and equipment alone cannot achieve total victory. This paper will explain the reason why.

Key words: Psychological operations; Terrorism; Military success; Sri Lanka; LTTE

Theory, surprise and reality: exploring the world of the Sri Lankan entrepreneur

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Although western theories in entrepreneurial activity are utilised in the Sri Lankan education system and entrepreneurship training programs, they have been challenged in the Sri Lankan context. The initially surprising criticism by the successful entrepreneurs in Sri Lanka of well-established popular theories led to insight that it is difficult to understand cultural factors in one society through the lenses of another. Successful theories of entrepreneurship in Sri Lanka need to be formed in the Sri Lankan context, shaped by local culture and values. This paper discloses that socio-cultural values are of particular relevance to understanding entrepreneurship as a social phenomenon. The selection of an appropriate subjective ontology is required to understand the context fully. A qualitative research methodology and inductive holistic case study approach including grounded theory analysis were selected to explore peoples' experiences and behaviour. This allowed context sensitive theoretical understanding of entrepreneurship reality in Sri Lanka to emerge.

Key words: Socio-cultural values; Sri Lanka; Entrepreneurship; Economic aspects; Qualitative research

Are Sri Lankans motivated by the need for achievement?

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The entrepreneurship models in existence in Sri Lanka are often based on the assumptions of n-Ach and personality trait theory. In this paper we describe empirical research into entrepreneurial motivations in Sri Lanka that addresses the neglect of socio-cultural factors. The research was exploratory, embracing the philosophy of subjectivism and an inductive qualitative methodology. Our findings suggest that entrepreneurial motivation in Sri Lanka is rooted not in a need for individual achievement, but in the conscious or unconscious need to satisfy a sense of social intimacy. The emphasis on social power, social relations and collectivism create a setting for entrepreneurial motivation in Sri Lanka that drives almost directly counter to western ideologies of entrepreneurial motivation.

Key words: Sri Lanka; Socio-cultural factors; Entrepreneurship; Motivation

Environmental movements in Sri Lanka

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Most of the environmental movements as well as grassroots environmental actions are being given wrong motives not only by natural scientists but also social scientists. This empirical Sociological study attempts to understand ecological struggles that emerged in Sri Lanka. This study chiefly examines the relation between livelihood vulnerability and collective environmental actions and religious significance of environmental movements in Sri Lanka.

This empirical study identifies the factors and forces that mobilize people at grassroots level for ecological movement on the basis of their livelihood conflicts. The economical vulnerable groups easily get themselves mobilized to protect their life supporting ecological system. As a result, it is possible to witness social integration among different ethnic and religious groups in order to safeguard their ecologically made livelihood.

It is indeed interesting to talk about the link between environmentalism and religion. Sometimes it is difficult to understand the grassroots environmentalism in the developing countries without the religious rituals and practices and their links with ecological set up. In the process of studying environmental movements in the Global South, it is extremely important to look at the ecological significance of the religion or ecological significance of religiously formed culture. I find it further important when it comes to Sri Lankan environmentalism. It is through the religion and religiously organized culture grassroots people are mobilized for most of the collective environmental actions. In this regard, the grassroots culture which is largely centered on peasants or their religious ritual and practices are significant to understand grassroots environmentalism in Sri Lanka. I do find the significance of both Buddhism and Christianity in the grassroots environmental actions of Eppawela (against the privatization of phosphate mine) and Nurochcholai respectively.

Key words: Livelihood vulnerability; Environmental movements; Sri Lanka; Collective action

Indo-Sri Lanka fishermen's conflict in the north sea of Sri Lanka

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There has been a long standing conflict between the fishermen of Tamil Nadu (South India) and fishermen in the northern part of the Sri Lanka. The situation has aggravated due to political crisis embedded in the entire Sri Lanka. The Government of Sri Lanka proscribed fishing activities in the northern part of Sri Lanka. As result of this, the Indian fishermen constantly exploit the marine resources of northern part of Sri Lanka by trespassing in to the north territorial sea water of Sri Lanka. After having signed a MOU by GOSL and LTTE, fishermen of northern Sri Lanka were permitted to fish in the northern territorial sea of Sri Lanka freely. They usually make use of drift-net for fishing and about 15000 active fishermen are engaged in fishing industry whereas about 200 trawlers from Tamil Nadu make use of trawler nets. Because of this, the drift nets get damaged by these trawling nets. Consequently, a bitter conflict has cropped up. There is an urgent necessity to find out a solution to bring this situation to an end.

This research was conducted using participant observations and interviews with fishermen in Pesalai, Delft Island, Point Pedro and Mathakal. In 1982, the share of north in fish production was 36%. It declined to 15% in 1990, and then to 3.5% in 1999. At the same time, in 1989, the number of active northern fishermen out of the entire Island fishermen was 35%, but in 1999, it was 11.43%. There was a drastic decline in the number of northern fishermen. Especially about 4436 fisherman families were expatriated from the places of Jaffna Peninsula declared as high security zones. Other than this 81.5 km coastal line has been under this high security zone.

Key words: India - Sri Lanka relations; Fishermen; Trans-boundary natural resources; User conflicts; Political crisis; War

Precepts and practice of bureaucracy

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Bureaucracy is considered as a structure through which people can achieve their goals within a rational context. Functioning bureaucracies in the western world show more closeness to Ideal Type when compared with those in the Third World. It is because the bureaucratic system existed in the western world was created for the fulfillment of its own requirements whereas it was imported to the Third World countries in their colonial period. So, the third world countries embraced the bureaucratic system within no rational context. That is why malpractices are seen in association with the third world bureaucracies.

This research focuses to find out the real function of the bureaucracy in Sri Lanka as a Third World country and was conducted in seven districts. Data were collected from randomly selected 80 employees and 80 customers of bureaucratic organizations. Selected employees consisted of executives, and middle and lower level employees. Every possible effort was made to choose a reasonable sample representing all the qualities.

Results suggest that private sector organizations function better than government organizations due to economic, social, cultural and psychological factors. A higher tendency towards the rapid advancement of career was evident in private sector. Most of government offices were politically influenced in number of ways. Majority of workers in government organizations had negative attitudes. They worked as they could not help working. They were always fed up with work and not interested in work. Clearly majority of them considered the work as a burden. So the work never generated happiness and mirth at all. Most of rules and regulations were found to be outdated. The informal norms associated with them were not in favor of work. In contrast majority of workers in private sector organizations considered the work as a honor. They were obsessed with and head over heels in work. Work generated pleasure to them. Modern technique seemed to be used whenever possible. Customers were treated well. But customers who came to government organizations were ill-treated.

Key words: Bureaucracy; Social requirement; Rationality; Sociology of organisations

The impact of socio-cultural background on management and business practices of selected small and medium scale business in Sri Lanka

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Unlike large scale organizations many small and medium scale organizations are owned and managed by the owner himself. Hence there is a probability that the socio-cultural background (personal factors) of the owner affects his management and business practices. Many westerners argue that due to the globalization, gaps that prevailed in management and business practice between the east and the west have been significantly reduced today, and some religious values in Buddhism and Hinduism are not positive for the development of business performance. Although there were several studies which focused only on the impact of economic and political aspects few studies have focused on the impact of socio-cultural aspects on management and business practices. Studies comparing business performance of different ethnic groups and the impact of socio-cultural factors on their business performance are rare. Hence there is a significant research gap on the area of this study.

The main objectives of this research were to examine whether there are differences between Sri Lankan businessmen and western management and business practices, whether Sri Lankan businessmen have developed their own business practices, and how social cultural factors have influenced their management and business practices. The analysis was based in the information collected from 150 businessmen in Textile and Jewelry industries located in urban areas. The questionnaire survey and case study methods were used to collect information. Multiple regression technique was used in data analysis.

The findings of the research revealed that still there is a significant gap between the management and business practices of Sri Lankan (the east) and west and that socio-cultural factors play an important role in determining management and business practices, and among all these factors religion and feminine traits are the most dominant and having a more positive effect rather than negative. There are many unique management and business practices developed and implemented by Sri Lankan entrepreneurs themselves.

Key words: Socio-cultural factors; Management; Business practices; SMEs; Sri Lanka

An assessment of the importance of National Water Resources Management Policy for Sri Lanka and its effectiveness

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The development of a comprehensive National Water Resources Management Policy (NWRMP) for Sri Lanka has been identified as a national priority. Policy development within the water sector must take account of the complex linkages between sub-sectors and help to achieve important national objectives. The NWRMP provide the guidelines for setting up working arrangements to coordinate water resources management at the River Basin level in Sri Lanka. The purpose of the study was to examine the importance of NWRMP for Sri Lanka and how to share the entire resources effectively and efficiently among competing users to achieve the national objectives. As long as water is available freely, there is no need for water to be rationed. But when the demand is increasing, the necessities of determining priorities emerge. These factors can lead to a reduction in water use efficiency in each type of use and reduction of additive economic benefits. The consequence is that the value of the marginal product of water is near zero or even negative due to open access type. Existing sectoral water policies are not addressing holistic approach and all water resources sub-sectors should come under the overall NWRMP will apply consistently to all inland water resources and all sub sectors in Sri Lanka. Therefore, the national water resources planning and management component will be closely linked with other national policies of Sri Lankan economy.

Key words: Water resources; Management policy; Sri Lanka; Economic factors

An economic analysis of private sector bulk water consumption in the Deduruoya River Basin in Sri Lanka

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The proposed water policy in Sri Lanka stresses the need to recognize the economic value of water and the use of economic instruments for efficient and equitable water resources management. Appropriate pricing for bulk water uses is a key component of the proposed new policy. This paper presents the results of economic instruments to manage the bulk water consumption of Deduruoya River Basin. Public water bodies provide bulk water services thus deals with resources management issues, where, water users are the beneficiaries from the activities concerned. Growing competition between bulk water users often results in adverse socio-economic and environmental impacts. From an economic perspective, the price of water and income are important determinants of individual bulk water consumption. The value of water to a user is the maximum amount, the user would be willing to pay for the use of resources. The Residual Imputation Method (RIM) is used to estimate the value of water as a primary or intermediate input in industrial production. This study is being used as a pilot effort to test the usefulness of economic techniques to provide realistic values for water and will also be used to determine the water sector policies in Sri Lanka.

Key words: Private sector; Bulk water consumption; Water policy; Socio-economic issues; Environmental impacts

Habermasian way of understanding information systems deployment in organizations in Sri Lanka

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In Sri Lanka, information systems are deployed in the context of organizations striving for efficiency, productivity, and competitiveness in the liberalized market economy. Information system is considered as one of the most significant forces of modernization that drives a “technology push” for socio-economic development in the country. However, a recent study reveals that there have been numerous failures in developing information systems for organizations in Sri Lanka. This is mainly due to the ignorance of the social context within which information systems are developed and implemented. Information systems practitioners in Sri Lanka usually evaluate success of information systems from the standpoint of technical and economic rationality only. A narrow technical focus amongst information technology professionals have prevented them from coming together to identify and implement more relevant information systems for their organizations. This limited framework often results from the positivist thinking and knowledge stemming from western experience of modernity. In this paper, using Habermas’s critical social theory, I argue for a shift from a universalistic and a need of an approach based on socio-cultural, economic and political contexts of a country to understand information systems development and implementation practices in organizations in Sri Lanka. This is illustrated using a case study.

Key words: Information Systems, Technical focus; Sri Lanka, Social theory

Growing up female in Sri Lanka: A feminist perspective of Punyakante Wijenaika's A Way of Life

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The girl child is universally at a disadvantage. When it comes to Sri Lankan culture, she was more so, especially if she were growing up in the earlier half of the previous century. In this paper, I shall consider the implications of being a girl child in Sri Lanka during the 1930s - 1950s, as depicted in Punyakante Wijenaika's *A Way of Life* (1987). Among the aspects I shall discuss are the mother-daughter relationship, the "elite" women versus the "non-elite" women, and love, marriage and female sexuality. Since I feel that an added depth will be given to the analysis by comparing the novel with another autobiography, written around the same time, based on the same period, I shall also refer, in some detail, to Goolbai Gunasekare's *It's the Escalator I Can't Manage* (1994). I shall also attempt at placing Wijenaika's book in the genres of feminist bildungsroman and feminist confessional writing.

Key words: Sri Lankan culture; Feminist perspectives; Feminist bildungsroman; Feminist confessional writing

Land readjustment as a land management technique for urban areas

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Land is the base for all the development activities. Land can be broadly classified as urban and rural land. The urban land is more valuable than rural land, because the concentration of activities is relatively higher than the rural areas. There is a competition between the activities for space and therefore the supply of land is relatively inelastic in urban areas.

In Sri Lanka a gradual reduction in the land-man ratio is evident and the importance of space of land is emphasized. The Wet Zone of the country accounts for 25% of the total land area and for 60% of the total population of the country. Another special feature in Sri Lanka is the gradual transformation of population to the suburban areas of the country. And subsequently this accompanies the irrational utilization of suburban land and restricts the supply of land.

Planning and management can play a significant role in the fulfillment of future land needs. Planning can directly influence the demand for land. Indeed planning potentially has the ability to orchestrate a number of tools so that the land supply and land demand can be brought into balance. But in most developing countries the land planning techniques are copied from western countries and are mostly inappropriate. However, land management approach responds to most of the problems in urban areas of those countries.

Hence, one of the objectives of this paper is to discuss the effectiveness and the potentiality of application land readjustment as a land – management technique in urban areas. In brief land readjustment is a process whereby a public authority assembles numerous small parcels of raw land without paying monetary compensation to the owners, services and subdivides and reserve some blocks for the original owners and sell the remain.

The analysis is based on the experience of foreign countries as well as from Sri Lanka. The results indicate that land readjustment act as an effective tool in increasing the urban space for development.

Key words: Land policy; Demand management; Land readjustment; Urban areas; Sri Lanka

Construction of Small Group Instructional Techniques (SGIT) in higher education teaching in Sri Lankan context: A requirement of the change

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Learning concerns knowledge, skills and changing attitudes. Rote learning serves facts and it has a limited value in management perspective. Participative and active learning is a must in management and small group instructional techniques (SGIT) play a crucial role in this regard. Higher education is the place where SGIT can be applied or practiced. Facilitators in higher education, especially in management discipline should therefore be aware of practicing SGIT in their teaching, as 'team working' is highly valued and emphasized with the changes of the business environment. SGITs also facilitate improving students' knowledge, skills and develop required attitudes as demanded by the new business arena and information society. Especially, the sense of management: getting things done through and with others.

This paper discusses the applicability of SGITs in higher education with special reference to management. It highlights the importance of SGITs, the principles of small group formulation, and the role of a facilitator in small group teaching. In broad sense the paper concludes that SGITs must be a 'rugby game rather than a relay race'.

Key words: Instructional techniques; Higher education; Teaching methods; Small groups; Business management

Factors determining the performance of rural micro-enterprises in Sri Lanka: the case of Matara District

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This paper examines the factors determining the performance of rural micro-enterprises (MIEs) in Sri Lanka based on primary data collected from a sample survey and the case studies conducted on nine industrial categories scattered in the rural sectors in Matara District. Definition of the MIEs varies from country to country. In Sri Lanka, it is defined as an enterprise consisting of 1-5 employees and Rs. 5000-5,00,000 in fixed assets. The MIEs are very important for Sri Lanka in term of their capability in employment generation, poverty alleviation, arresting rural brain drain, and creating forward and backward linkages. Specific indicators such as job creation rate, and work experience of producers used to measures the performance of MIEs. As in the most of the third world countries, results indicate that the performances of MIEs in Sri Lanka have been stagnating. The studies conducted in many south Asian countries have shown that the sluggish performance of MIEs is largely due to supply side factors such as low level of education of entrepreneurs and interior technology they used. On the contrary, this study shows that demand side factors such as market condition and level of business responsible for the poor performance of MIEs in Sri Lanka. For example, producers in these industries always attempt at adjusting to demand shocks those derived from the current market conditions. This passive nature of the producers discourages them in using of modern technology and innovations and encourage them to serve only to poor people, to supply low priced food with low quality and to employ more temporary workers in their production process.

Key words: Rural-micro-enterprises; Employment; Business performance; Matara District

The effects of financial liberalization on market structure, financial intermediate and savings mobilization – A case study in Sri Lanka

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Financial sector of Sri Lanka has been implementing as a component of liberalized policy package in the late 1977. The government embarked financial sector to address the problem of financial repression, which was evident through heavy rates controls in a highly oligopolistic market structure. Financial sector reforms led to the removal of credit ceiling and interest rates controls and opened the banking system to new competition. This study examines the effect of financial sector reforms on market structure, financial intermediation and saving mobilization in the formal banking system of Sri – Lanka. The results show that financial liberalization has significantly reduced financial system, reduction in monopoly power, increase in savings mobilization and reallocation of credit to the neglected sectors. However, if gain the fruitful advantages by the reforms, government should establish and improve the money and capital markets with incorporated banking system. Meanwhile, government should make an effort to establish macro economic stability and prudential banking sound by creating banking regulation favorably.

Key words: Financial liberalization; Market structure; Savings mobilization; Central banking; Money and capital markets

Financial institutions and Southern Province entrepreneurs in Sri Lanka

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Financial institutions and their services of Southern Province are very high second only to the Western Province. Though, such conducive atmosphere prevails at the province, there are many issues yet to be addressed such as perceptual gaps between entrepreneurs and financial organizations, failure to cater for all needs of entrepreneurs etc. The focus of this article is on identifying the reasons of such gaps and issues. To identify the entrepreneurs who are facing with funding problems were interviewed using a structured questionnaire and to identify the reasons affected in creating such gaps. Poor research capabilities, record keeping, financial discipline, and training of entrepreneurs; range of financial products considered being adequate to cater for the needs backed by a properly prepared business plan; only security based lending less cash flow based lending could be undertaken by the banks due to lack of good entrepreneur attracts the attention of banks, banks are willing to consider less stringent security in such cases; banks in the province have proper decision-making process but entrepreneurs do no maximum out of such systems.

Key words: Financial institutions; Entrepreneurs; Southern Province; Business decision-making

"With Your Milk, Mother, I Swallowed Ice": An analysis of the mother-daughter relationship in Punyakante Wijenaike's *The Waiting Earth*

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In Sri Lankan culture, the mother-daughter relationship is given a prominent place in the socialization process of the girl child. Thus added pressure is put on the mother to "protect" the daughter. Society is such that any blame for a daughter's "lack" in qualities prescribed by the establishment-incompetence in housework, the loss of virginity before marriage, or other general "misconduct", is easily put on the mother. A Sinhala proverb says that the earth and the mother are made to bare the burden of any blame. When it comes to the bringing up of a "daughter", this "burden" falls more heavily upon the mother. Even from the very little of the story, this concept is implied: Sellohamy, the protagonist of the novel, is the "Waiting earth". (The earth standing for women is a symbolism common to both East and West). The "burden" of Sellohamy's difficult relationship with her daughter can be read as an illustration of the not-too-uncommon relationship between mothers and daughters in our society, irrespective of the time gap between the 1930s of the story's setting, and 2003. Thus cultural values are at the core of the problems between Sellohamy and her daughter, among which are the preference for the male child, the stress on housework as opposed to education, and the sexual repression put on females. This paper will analyze the mother-daughter relationship in Punyakante wijenaike's *The Waiting Earth*, in an attempt to show that Sellohamy is more Simone de Beauvoir's 'mater dolorosa' than the 'diriya mava' of patriarchal tradition; that instead of the 'self-sacrificing mother' as presented by critics, she is the 'martyr mother' so condemned by those like de Beauvoir and Luce Irigaray.

Key words: Creative writing; Literally symbolism; Socialization process; Sri Lankan culture

War and ethnic identity in an ethnically mixed village community in Panama Village in the Ampara District of Sri Lanka

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There are number of studies which examine various impacts of ethnic wars in particular in relation to the present ethnic conflict among the different communities in Sri Lanka. It is assumed that war is a result of ethnic identity base struggled among different communities in Sri Lanka. However, it remains unexamined the impact of war on identity creation process especially. In ethnically and culturally mixed village communities. The present study aims at studying the impacts of war itself on ethnic identity creation and the dilemma faced by intelligentsia in forming such identities The methodology adapted for the present study is composed of ethnographic reading and examination of life history of the people.

War helps modernizing traditional societies by way of improving transport facilities and introducing modern sophisticated telecommunication methods. This process connects village communities with the rest of the war-ridden country, which was previously unknown to them. The intelligentsia , the first social groups to be benefited from the new opportunities created by modernization process tend to create and reinterpret myths of ethnic supremacy to identify them with and to become acceptable to the dominant ethnic group.

Panama is a mixed tradition-bound, culturally and ethnically mixed, remote rural village community in the administrative District of Ampara, Sri Lanka. It has a long history of communal harmony between Sinhalese and Tamils. Panama Sinhalese have adapted to Tamil cultural practices into their lifestyles Quite extraordinarily when compared with other such village communities in Sri Lanka. Before the war, the villagers do not concern about their separateness from each other very much. There is, however, a growing interest among educated youth in the village, to be identified them with the rest of the Sinhalese community. However, it is difficult for them because their parental lineage is linked them to Tamil people preventing a break down of harmony.

Key words: Ethnic identity; War; Modernization process; Ethnic harmony

Historical significance of the recent discovery of Tamils' Coins of the period before 2000 years in Sri Lanka

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Coins are one of the archeological remains in the ancient historical study of a race or a country. Though coins are not equal to inscriptions in providing extensive historical information, there is no doubt that the data obtainable from coins is reliable in the study of contemporary history. Since most of the researchers held the view that there were no densely populated Tamil settlements in Sri Lanka before the 13th century A.D. They concluded that all Tamil coins of this period were from South India.

Recently, however, many Brahmi inscribed coins which dated back to the period before the second century AD. was discovered in southern & northern Sri Lanka. As the personal names inscribed in most of these coins end with the termination 'an' which refers to a male, in Tamil it can be claimed that these coins were issued by Tamil chieftains, merchants or prestigious men in society. No such coins have been found in India, particularly in south India so far. Further, since the design, emblem carved scripts and personal names of the coins differ from the contemporary Indian coin tradition, it could be well ascertained that Sri Lankan Tamils issued these coins.

Thus the historical facts established through the study of these coins deserve prominence in the study of ancient script, language, religion, state formation, settlement, foreign link etc. of Sri Lankan Tamils. The theme of this research is to reach optimum accuracy in the study of these historical features.

Key words: Coins; Archeology; History; Tamils; Sri Lanka

Reflections on the Indian perspectives of the geo-strategic importance of Sri Lanka

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Britain as a colonial power laid great emphasis on the geo-strategic importance of Sri Lanka so much so that during the second world war the South East Asia Command Headquarters and the British Naval Base were located in Kandy and Trincomalee respectively. The position of Trincomalee Harbor, the 3rd largest natural harbor in the world, was a corner stone in their defense strategy. Consequent to the attainment of independence India too followed the British defense framework, with modifications, recognizing Sri Lanka as a vital point for her defense. Despite the advent of nuclear submarines, intercontinental missiles, and development of Diego Garcia as a logistics base for U.S. armed forces the strategic importance of Sri Lanka remains unchanged.

Since attaining independence Indian defense & foreign policies, to a great extent has been guided by the Nehru Doctrine, Indira Doctrine, and the Gujaral Doctrine enunciated from time to time to suit India's political & strategic requirements. Nehru Doctrine essentially a moral vision seeking to balance security with democracy was more concerned with world affairs and non alignment. Where as the Indira Doctrine which viewed the entire south Asian region as a single strategic unit was determined to keep foreign hands of the region Sri Lanka regarded. This is an attempt by India to transform its natural preeminence in to an imposed predominance. With the enunciation of the Gujaral Doctrine, the bilateral relations between Sri Lanka and India have improved tremendously. The recently concluded trade agreement, investments in the petroleum and plantation sectors augurs well for the future.

The purpose of this paper is to examine the relevance of Sri Lanka's geo-strategic importance to Asia in general and to India in particular in the context of the current global changes in military, political and trading systems.

Key words: Sri Lanka; India; Foreign policies; Geo-strategic factors; Defense studies

The “multi-ethnicisation and “multi-religionisation” of Sri Lanka: Unwrapping the sociological pretensions of minoritarian ideologies

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The literature on the all-encompassing and in many ways un-revealing (so to speak) or concealing “ethnic”, as evident in sociological interrogations in Sri Lanka, is heavy on the matter of identity construction and the politics thereof. Much work has been done to delineate the socio-political forces that construct, modify, sustain, destroy and undermine “identities”. The discourse is self-consciously driven by a desire to problematize the notions of purity embedded in identity assertion, a motivation whose sources can be found more in the realm of ideology rather than an academic pursuit. In this paper, I propose to investigate the ideological predilections that motivate the discourse on the “ethnic”. I shall demonstrate that calling to question purity has less to do with the intellectual quest to search for possible nuance than a political exercise in selective identity erasure, articulated through a framework that takes a “one-ethnicity: one vote” type of multi-ethnic, multi-religious identity as one which is endowed with some intrinsically superior worth in and of itself. If identities are essentially constructed, it cannot be that the erasure of identity occurs outside of a “constructing” social process. Extrapolating, it follows that secularisation, for instance, also implies social construction, a process that is not politically innocent. This paper, through such interrogation of the discourse, seeks to answer questions such as “Is Sri Lanka a multi-ethnic, multi-religious society?”, “If so, when did this happen and how?”, and “Who gave a higher value to the secular and why?”

Key words: Multi-ethnicisation ; Multi-religionisation; Sociology; Minoritarian ideologies

Social factors in English studies: persistence of colonial attitudes among Buddhists?

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English was the language of social dominance during the colonial era. Both staff and students in the then single Ceylon University immediately following Independence were from English-speaking families that are largely from those social groups created by the colonial presence. In the 1950s and 1960s those offering English language studies were broadly identified as “Kultur”, a derogatory term put on them by those students from other social strata, that is, those who had been denied privileges in the colonial era. A few years later with the dominance of English continuing, students from non English-speaking backgrounds derogatively labeled English as “Kaduwa”; that is literally a social sword, which hung over non-English speaking students. These derogatory labels were made by largely Sinhalese Buddhist students. With continuing social changes those in English studies themselves questioned this colonial role, in fact with one university based journal deliberately naming itself “Kaduwa”. The present paper is a participant observer attempt to identify the social situation of English studies today by studying the social composition of staff and students of English departments in the Sri Lankan universities today. An attempt is also made to correlate this with some of the content that is taught and learnt.

English studies are followed in the Peradeniya, Colombo, Kelaniya, Jayawardenepura and Sabragamuwa universities. Of these the first three are the most visible as to their impact and cognition. A study of the composition of academics and students in these different faculties as to socio economic background show that broadly there is a greater clustering of the earlier non-“Kulturs”, that is, greater Sinhala Buddhist representation in Kelaniya, Jayawardenepura and Sabragamuwa universities. There seems to be also a clustering of differences in content with the first two universities taking on a role of social critic in their subject matter and so encroaching on the disciplinary boundaries of sociology. The criticized in the 1950s, it appears has now become a criticizer through such subjects as feminist studies and ethnic studies. On the other hand, generally speaking, it appears that the bulk of Buddhists student and staff have not made the shift to these social concerns not only in the three universities of Kelaniya, Jayawardenepura and Sabragamuwa but also in the older established ones of Peradeniya and Colombo. It is concluded that greater examination of these social factors are essential for the true implantation of English studies as an integral part of Sri Lankan university life.

Key words: Social factors; English studies; Colonial attitudes; Social class

Ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka: Implications for India's security

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The rise of domestic violence on ethnic, religious, ideological and socio-political lines is posing a serious crisis of governance to the state almost everywhere in the world. Similarly, the ongoing ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka has affected the prosperity, development process, internal stability, peace and security of the country. Rising extremism, militancy and socio-economic crisis are the disturbing realities to make the situation worse. There is of course a particular political history behind the crisis in Sri Lanka, which reached a stage of chronic violence.

This paper attempts to investigate, the manner in which the problem in Sri Lanka would be solved has implications for India's internal and external security. Besides geographical proximity, geo-political, geo-strategic and geo-cultural perceptions have their role in determining the relationship between India and Sri Lanka. It will also assess the structural conditions under which the ethnic violence erupted in Sri Lanka, it is important in this regard to analyse the ethnic stratification and the geographical distribution of ethnic groups, as well as, external factors which provide the potential for secessionism. Finally, it will attempt to find the answer to the problem, there is a need to find ways to resolve the problem, as well as, to improve the socio-economic conditions of the people of Sri Lanka. At the same time, it is important for India and Sri Lanka to adapt their concepts of security in the light of changing national and international environment.

Key words: Ethnic conflict; Domestic violence; Socio-economic conditions ; Political history; Security

Conservation of historical residential buildings in urban settings

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Historical areas and built heritage are important elements which contribute to create an image and identity of a city. Its creativity and diversity are evidence of human progress and records of history. Residential properties constitute a considerable portion of the built heritage and it is the major land use in many cities. The characteristics such as architectural features, internal design, and materials used for construction enrich our knowledge and understanding of the way we used to live and many other socio-economic factors. Those historical structures give pleasure to people, form valuable economic, social and educational resources. They are legacies of our past.

Many residential properties of important historical value in urban setting are confronted with a situation where they are either neglected or demolished due various reasons. The urban land and property market functions against the principles of historic conservation. In the competitive market system, the functional or use value of properties is being considered for development decisions. As a result when the properties become functionally obsolete, there is a tendency to discard them as per the depreciation schedule based on the maximum economic gain. This situation is crucial where in the absence of integrating environmental valuation into the valuation of residential properties.

Even though the provisions made to integrate the environmental valuation into the normal market valuation process, the legal and social factors associated with the historic residential properties affect the neglect of this integration and appreciation of historic values of these properties. The empirical evidence shows that residential properties are generally under the private ownership which limits the intervention of the government in appreciation of values and providing measures to conservation (if required). The social factors such as the change of family structure, income levels, taste and attitudes of individuals considerably contribute to consider the environmental attributes such as historic values of residential properties as a motivation for conservation. Hence the main objective of this paper is to discuss the issues related to the conservation and management of residential properties in the context of environmental valuation.

Key words: Built heritage; Conservation; Historical buildings; Urban property market; Market valuation

Panadura Vaadaya: An anti-colonial struggle distorted by contemporary colonial scholars

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A major cultural event occurred, 130 years ago in Sri Lanka, which set off a chain of events that resulted in Sri Lanka's will to resist British colonialism and ultimately led to the country's Independence. This was the Panadura Vaadaya which was the culmination of a series of debates initiated by the Christians against the Buddhists and encouraged by the colonialists. But the debates reversed with a great upsurge in Buddhist feeling as the Christians lost the debates. The debates reported in the US came into the hands of the Theosophical Society which at the time was searching for its own hero figures in the East. This resulted in a relationship between the West and the East that had effects on both, these intellectual exchanges being preceded by a network of global contacts made by Buddhist scholar monks. Olcott from the Theosophical Society arrived in Sri Lanka and became a partner in the religious and cultural renaissance. The East-West contacts helped launch the international Buddhist movement and also had an impact on Western thought, through the process, the West having for the first time a reliable source of Buddhist thought.

Over the last twenty five years, these events associated with the Panadura Vaadaya and the Buddhist Renaissance have been deliberately distorted; this liberating experience has been represented to be its opposite. C.R. de Silva (1995) in a colonial tract has called it the rise of "Buddhist fundamentalism", associating it with the likes of Islamic fundamentalism. Obeysekera has called it "Protestant Buddhism", Tambiah "uncharitable propaganda", Jayadeva Uyangoda and Charles Abeysekera called it the "so-called Buddhist renaissance". Others through a series of deliberate misrepresentations have distorted it in similar manner. These contemporary distortions now occur parallel with an accelerated erosion of sovereignty and renewed activity of Christian missionaries echoing the colonial period and the unethical conversions of the colonial period. The paper compares these two periods of anti Buddhist propaganda and colonization attempts 130 years ago and now. It identifies direct parallels between the two sets of propagandists - then and now - attacking Buddhists and national independence.

Key words: Colonialism; Society; Cultural and religious freedom; Independence

The return to colonial policies and Christian dominance

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Christians constitute only 7% of the Sri Lankan population. The bulk of them are Catholics which is the result of Portuguese forced conversions of their ancestors under the Inquisition policy on pain of death and torture. During the Colonial period Christians reigned supreme in the country allying themselves directly with their creator, the occupying colonial powers. Later, after the turn to democracy in the 20th century there was a shift to less Christian domination especially after the Donoughmore reforms, which gave universal franchise in 1932. De-Christianization accelerated with several Christian families overnight turning themselves opportunistically to become Buddhists termed derisively as Donoughmore Buddhists – to farm the new votes. Prominent among such turncoats were the SWRD Bandaranaike and J.R. Jayawardene families, two of the many families created by colonial policies which deliberately rewarded local quislings with large tracts of lands. This turn towards democracy since 1932 resulted in more equitable representation in post war politics, that is, till the arrival of the UNF government. This has been a reversal to the pre-democratic era in that most of the key holders of power are from Christian families.

The Prime Minister's late father was an Anglican Christian and his father's elder brother, was the local head of the Anglican Church. Perhaps the next most important Minister in actual decision-making including in foreign policy and ethnic affairs, the Economics Reforms and Science Minister's father was a Christian. The Interior Minister who is also the Minister of Christian affairs is a Catholic, Sri Lanka being perhaps the only country where the Minister of Christian affairs and the sensitive post of Interior Minister are combined. The Foreign Minister is an Anglican. The Ethnic Affairs and Rehabilitation Minister, is a Catholic. The Youth Affairs and Sports Minister is a Catholic. The Speaker in Parliament is Catholic. All key Ministers are therefore non-Buddhists, (The Finance Minister Choksy, although a non Christian is not a Buddhist) in a predominantly Buddhist country. Christians, it appears, have today total control of the government while Buddhist Ministers are assigned to perform ceremonial functions without any real power. This paper discusses the rise of this undemocratic control, its connection to the colonization phase in the churches and the almost total surrender of decision making to Western powers.

Key words: Colonial policies; Christian dominance; Undemocratic control; Colonization; Power sharing patterns

Economic development and its effect on the behaviour of lagoon fishermen in southern Sri Lanka

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The dynamics of fishermen's behaviour is now regarded as a vital component within fisheries management along with the development of policies that can incorporate changes in fishing effort. Predicting the effects of increased development on fishing strategies can help managers to formulate sustainable fisheries policies. This study investigates the relationship between economic development and the status of lagoon fisheries in southern Sri Lanka. Development indices were derived from personal observations and government statistics. The study found a significant difference in the level of economic development in the areas surrounding coastal lagoons. The fisheries were characterised using semi-structured interview data taken from a large sub-section of each lagoon's fishing workforce. Comparison of the development and fisheries data suggests that increased market level and urbanisation can provide improved financial benefits for fishers of commercially viable species. However, detrimental effects may be imposed on fish stocks and individuals that have little economic pluralism. These findings have significant implications for coastal management in Sri Lanka.

Key words: Lagoon fishermen; Urbanization; Sustainable resource management; Development indicators

Targeting Samurdhi Group Credit: Who participates and why?

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This paper explores factors that explain credit group formation patterns among poor households. The paper is motivated by the fact that some members of the Samurdhi Poverty Alleviation Programme in Sri Lanka do not join credit groups despite being eligible to do so, and that out of those who do join, not all households form spontaneous credit groups as per programme rule but instead are put together into groups by loan officers. The paper uses the adverse selection framework of group lending theory to explain such group formation patterns. We argue that there is a continuum of signaling costs and households who do not join any group are located on the higher end of that continuum; those who join spontaneous groups are located on the lower end; and those who join officer groups face lie somewhere in between. Household level social connections and access to Samurdhi loan officers are used to measure signaling costs. The effects of these variables on group formation patterns are assessed in a multinomial logit model. The results of the model are consistent with the paper's hypothesis. Households are able to form spontaneous groups by virtue of their location, which allows for greater social integration and access to Samurdhi officers. Households who neither have access to officers nor are in a position to socially integrate with the community are unable to join any group. These households are also the poorest members of the Samurdhi program. Households who are not as socially integrated as households who form spontaneous groups but have access to loan officers are able to join groups formed by loan officers. The findings of the paper illustrate why micro-finance programs are not always able to target the poorest of the poor, and that intervention by loan officers may be required if one were to include this target group.

Key words: Micro finance; Household income; Social connections; Poverty alleviation; Econometric analysis; Social groups; Samurdhi Program

The impact of food stamps and micro-finance on household welfare: evidence from Sri Lanka

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This paper uses the propensity score matching method to assess the impact of participation in Samurdhi food stamp and micro-finance programs in Sri Lanka on household welfare measures. The estimation method the paper uses offers an alternative way to overcome the classic problem of selection bias faced in the program impact assessment literature. Specifically, the paper measures the expected improvements in per capita consumption and household consumption smoothing ability, and examines how these gains vary according to household per capita expenditure. We find significantly lower per capita consumption among the participants of these programs relative to a comparison group of households matched on the basis of their propensity scores. The impact of participation on household consumption levels and consumption smoothing ability varies significantly according to household poverty levels. The poorest 40 percent of the population experiences a negative impact on their welfare while the rest of the population experiences no significant change. The study points to certain “costs” of participation in welfare programs such as Samurdhi. Not addressing these costs penalizes the very group that the programs are expected to benefit.

Key words: Food stamps; Micro-finance; Household welfare; Consumption; Expenditure; Samurdhi Program

A Sri Lankan variety of English?. Exploding fallacy

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A certain fraction of Sri Lanka's academic populace maintains that there is a Sri Lankan variety of English. The substandard form of English produced by the average Sri Lankan speaker or writer is only a kind of learner language or interlanguage. Given the opportunity to pick up the standard form or expression (that is internationally recognized), the average speaker/writer gives up what has been practiced or used as a result of ignorance or lack of exposure and improves on the new element. Casting all the language errors into an imaginary bag and calling it Sri Lankan English does nothing other than blur the prospects of the Sri Lankan teachers of English in the international job market. Having studied this situation sociologically, this paper attempts to brief the requirement of developing a national policy for the usage of English in Sri Lanka.

Key words: English language teaching; Inter-language; Job market prospects; Sociology of language; Language learning; Sri Lankan English

The factors causing informal sector more attractive in rural financial markets as providers of credit

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The fundamental objective of this study is to identify the factors behind the rural people's attraction to the informal lending institutions operating in the financial market. Data were collected through a structured questionnaire and informal interviews from 500 selected households in Thanamalvila, Badalkumbura and Bibila Divisional Secretary areas in Monaragala district. According to the findings, the informal lending institutions have granted a large number of small denomination loans to a large number of borrowers even though the formal lending intuitions still dominate the rural credit market catering to the highest percentage of rural credit needs. Informal lending institutions operate as a network of highly integrated social relationships. Therefore rural people, depending on their production and consumption patterns, are used to obtain loans in small amounts too often repeatedly with short breaks. In contrast, borrowing from a formal institution is a legal contract where the borrower is bound by dual obligations: on one hand with the credit institution and on the other hand with the guarantor for which rural people show a little bit of hesitation. Furthermore, the level of education too was found to be less important or perhaps immaterial in presence of highly integrated social relationships well accepted by informal credit institutions. Unlikely in the formal sector, the purpose of borrowing is also not critically evaluated in the informal sector. A significant number of loans were found to have been obtained without mentioning any specific purpose. The operating procedures practiced by the informal sector are much familiar to the rural society. Determining of the loan amount, the rate of interest, terms and conditions for loan repayment and any extension to the repayment period solely depend on the joint decision making by the lender and the borrower. Accordingly, we see that social relationships are of the utmost importance in operating the informal financial sector and it enhances its attractiveness. As these relationships are seen in the form of a well-connected network, giving sufficient emphasize to strengthen such social relationships becomes a very vital factor to be considered in rural credit policy formulation

Key words: Informal sector, Micro finance, Rural financial markets; Credit policy; Social relationships

Transformational leadership in the Sri Lanka context: A theoretical and empirical investigation

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Transformational leadership model is considered to be the most widely discussed leadership model in neo-charismatic or new leadership discourses. Though Bass argues for the universality of transformational leadership, studies have failed to empirically validate the model across countries. Neither has the concept of transformational leadership been discussed nor has the MLQ been used in the Sri Lanka context, though there appear a few studies in the Indian sub-continent. Hence, the present study explores the possibility of replicating the concept of transformational leadership and the relevancy of MLQ as a tool to measure transformational leadership in the Sri Lanka context.

The present study employed items related to transformational leadership from the MLQ transformational leadership questionnaire and collected the data from 46 managers reading for MBA in one of the leading universities in Sri Lanka. The data was factor analyzed (with varimax rotation) imposing a four-factor solution into data as transformational leadership is operationalized with four variables. Only 29 items in contrast to the 39 items of the original measurement loaded on these four factors and it seems to indicate a different operationalization of transformational leadership. These factors explain 50 percent of total variance and were labeled as “Mission Promotion”, “Developing Followers”, “Intellectual Stimulation I”, and “Intellectual Stimulation II”. The first three factors significantly correlate between one another indicating a higher-level construct. Comparison of Alpha of these factors with the variables of the original model indicates that the former is reliable that the latter.

The researcher concludes that neither transformational leadership nor MLQ-5X can be replicated in the Sri Lankan context. The researcher suggests that the non-emergence of the idealized influence or charisma may be due to “closeness” between the leader and the followers and/or the paternalistic and hierarchical nature of the society which negates the need of charisma to gain influence over the followers.

Key words: Leadership model; Transformational leadership; Charisma; MLQ

Committing suicide: a Buddhist perspective

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Committing suicide is a real soul problem in the contemporary society. I have found two major causes that influence people to commit suicide: external and internal. External factors arise from the social, political and economic problems while external factors are emotional. In psychology emotions are two fold: primary and secondary.

I have discussed both sociological and psychological factors and attempted to show that the Buddhist emphasis of mental discipline that help to overcome all helplessness and emotions.

Keywords: Suicide; Buddhist perspective; Psychology; Emotions

Boundaries and identities: construction of identities through religious festivals

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The literature on globalization often point that increasing transnational flows of culture tend to produce homogeneity rather than heterogeneity among nations. Such an assertion perhaps may be true in a sense that societies are not any more closed structures but fluid entities stretched on all sides by migrations, border-crossing and capital flows. The same situation may be applied to culture as well in a sense that cultures are no longer bounded, discrete and localized, but de-territorialized and have subjected to multiple hybridizations. However, this assertion is not always true especially when looking at the socio-cultural processes that are operating at local level. A resistance to a global level homogenization of culture is seen among local communities for their growing concern about a discrete culture. This tendency is visible from many facets despite the fact that local communities are increasingly incorporated into the mass society. The assertion of a discrete culture provokes local communities for constructing distinct identities within imagined cultural boundaries. The article examines this process of constructing cultural identities by analyzing the way in which a local community attempts to represent in two different religious festivals that are conducted annually in the Southern Province of Sri Lanka.

Key words: Cultural identities; Religious festivals; Hybridization; Homogenization of culture; Local communities

Sustainability of informal small businesses associated with urban slums and shanties in Sri Lanka: The case of Wanathamulla

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Informal small businesses are widely associated with urban slums and shanties in all over the world. High population growth rate, significant migration ratio, landlessness, lack of capital, relatively low educational and professional qualifications, high unemployment and considerable amount of absolute poverty make them to start informal businesses. However, regarding these businesses, there are several important issues such as sustainability, improving productivity, income and living standards of employees, methods of financing and how to convert them into formally accepted businesses. As observed by many people, informal sector economic activities have been growing and urban population's share of urban sector absolute poverty rate has been declining during the same period. As a result there can be a macro level suspicion whether informal small businesses has caused the reduction of urban poverty in Sri Lanka. On the other hand, it is worthwhile to address the above-mentioned micro level issues for informal small businesses in Sri Lanka.

By using data collected from 200 informal small businesses associated with slums and shanties in Wanathamulla area, this paper analyzes the above-mentioned macro and micro level issues and suggest some implications. We have found that provision of informal education facilities, information on small businesses, technical assistance, continuous monitoring and advising are more useful low-cost tools to promote sustainability, rather than provision of macro level infrastructural facilities and funds for informal businesses associated with urban slums and shanties in Sri Lanka.

Key words: Informal small businesses; Urban slums; Infrastructure; Employee income

Effects of water level increase in Malala lagoon on bio-physical, socio-economic systems and use of local level natural resources

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Biophysical system and socio-economic system is interdependent and indivisible. Interaction among these two systems affects one another. Changes of land use pattern in upper stream area affect the Pallemalala lagoon system. The case study mainly focused on reviewing the effects of the changes of lagoon system on the socio-economic responses of the community and their impact on resources use. Increase of the water level in the Malala lagoon affects decreasing the salinity content in the lagoon and flood in the nearby areas. Changes of salinity content results in the changes of fish species composition which, leads to the decrease of shrimp fish production. Shrimp fishery is economically valuable and a good indication of ecological balance in the lagoon system. On the other hand an increase in water level tends to desalinate the paddy fields and grazing lands which gives less production in particular sectors.

Changed situation in the lagoon system causes changes of economic behaviour of the community. Especially full time fishermen in the lagoon become part time fishermen while some of them stop fishing in the lagoon. People who engaged in fishing used non-selective fishing methods, increased the use of family labour on fishing and resulted in an increased number of fishermen in the lagoon. Fishermen who stopped fishing and those who earn less income in the lagoon tend to use other resources in area such as shell mining, collecting fuel wood, bird hunting, etc. In order to manage the available resources in the area, the Department of Wild Life and the Department of Fisheries resort to legal action, which aggravates the situation of the less income group in the area.

The prevailing problems cannot be solved only by implementing the regulations of institutions, since people living in the area traditionally are fishermen. Alternative sources of income are one short-term solution to the problem but it is not a solution for the changes of the lagoon system. Diversion of discharge water to the sea before coming to the lagoon is the most appropriate solution, which can enhance both biophysical and socio-economic systems.

Key words: Land use; Water quality; Biophysical system; Socio-economic system; Lagoon Fishery

Managing investment incentives in tourism development: evidence from Sri Lanka

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In tourism, as in any other economic activity, the study of investment incentives in developing countries has attracted considerable interest. Many studies suggest that financing tourism projects is a major policy issue in tourism development. This research paper will examine impacts of tourism incentives giving evidence from Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka's national incentive policy is well defined. Investment incentives for tourism have encouraged private investors and contributed to the development of tourism facilities in the country. However, on the one hand, incentives were said to be over generous and not related to tourism development objectives such as product diversification, etc. On the other hand, over supply of investments has created distortions in the pattern of investment, expenditure and resource allocation and in the disbursement of credit in the country. The author believes that incentive measures should be reviewed regularly in the light of changing circumstances. As such, the study examines whether incentives have been carefully planned, managed, administered and evaluated in order to achieve development objectives.

Keywords: Investment incentives; Sri Lanka; Product diversification; Resource allocation; Tourism

Land ownership, caste and poverty in a changing Kandyan Village

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Land is the most important wealth and main source of income in rural Sri Lanka. Ownership of land is a symbol of prestige. The land can be classified according to the utility of the land in rural society. According to this perspective, there are four types of land. They are: paddy land, garden/highland land, Chena land, and forest land. In this sense, land ownership is one of the deciding factors in economic life and also in social and cultural life.

Caste is another important factor in the Kandyan society. It was fundamental in the early period (before the British colonial administration established in 1815 A.D) of Kandyan society. However, the importance of caste has been reduced gradually after abolishing the Rajakari System by the British in 1832. The low countrymen migrated to the Kandyan region under the colonial power and started several economic activities including land acquisition. The new economic and social life pursued by the villagers under these circumstances weakened the sense of caste in the Kandyan society. During the last stage of colonial administration several social welfare policies were introduced, especially the free education policy which made rapid social and cultural changes including eliminating caste barriers in the rural society of Sri Lanka. Under these changes, some members of low castes also made an effort to mobilise and acquire lands in the grass roots level. When caste stratification diminished, class stratification emerged gradually in the rural areas too.

This study focuses mainly on how the caste and land ownership link with the poverty in the existing village today, especially in a village of Kandyan society of Sri Lanka. The focus village is Teripahe, a remote village in Walapane Divisional Secretariat. This particular village (Terutenne) was studied by noted anthropologist Nur Yalman in 1954 (Under the Bo Tree: Studies in Caste, Kinship and Marriage in the Interior Ceylon, 1967, University of California Press, Berkeley and Los Angeles). Basing the present study on his study I would like to examine the nature of poverty among the villagers in relation to land ownership and caste during the last five decades.

Key words: Land ownership; Caste; Poverty; Kandyan society; Rural livelihoods; Social stratification

Economic aspects of Sri Lankan gem industry

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Our motherland Sri Lanka is very rich in mineral resources. Gems are a very important mineral resource among them. The Sri Lankan gem industry has a very long history and dates back even before the first arrival of Lord Buddha to Sri Lanka in the 5th century B.C. At that time Sri Lanka was known as "Ratnadeepa "(the island of gems). Lots of foreigners who visited the country in ancient times noted these earth treasures. Even now Sri Lanka is one of the five major gem producing countries in the world.

The objective of this study was to identify the economical importance of Sri Lankan gem industry for the present day. The study was carried out from during the year 2003. The methodologies consisted of personal interviews with the people engaged in the gem industry and survey of statistics obtained from National Gem and Jewellery Authority (NGJA), Sri Lanka Customs and Central Bank reports.

According to Central Bank reports of recent past years, annually gem exports earn more than Rs. 7000 millions of foreign exchange and it accounts for about 2% of the annual total exports revenue of the country. Gems are therefore a good source of revenue to Sri Lanka. In addition, gem industry created thousands of direct and indirect job opportunities in Sri Lanka, as Gem miners, Lapidarists, Gemmologists, Gem dealers, Gem brokers etc: Gem Industry directly reduces the unemployment pressure among youth in the gem mining areas especially in the Sabaragamuwa Province.

As a whole, Sri Lanka is not getting the maximum benefit from the gem industry. The areas identified by the study to which government needs to have more attention are, to discover new gem deposits, to upgrade the quality of exporting gems by value addition and to upgrade education and research in gemmology. The government also granted lot of concessions to the gem industry in the recent past. Thus it is the duty of both government and people engaged in the gem industry to get maximum use of this earth treasure for the development of the country.

Key words: Economic aspects; Mineral resources; Gem Industry; Job opportunities

"Kultur -haramanis" clash: A participant's perspective of social origins of Sri Lankan sociology

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This paper is a look back at the socio-cultural milieu of Peradeniya University, in the late fifties and early sixties, with a view to examining the extent of influence on the perceived anti-"native" outlook of Sri Lankan Sociology. The University of Ceylon was partially shifted to the new Peradeniya Campus in 1952. Jennings, its first Vice Chancellor attempted to model even its partial social behavior on Cambridge. Most of its faculty as well as a substantial portion of the students came from the colonially derived elite of the day. But within a few years, significant social changes taking place in the country were reflected within the university. The colonially derived elite were being overturned, resulting in the Sinhala educated, heir to free education, reaching the University.

The "mongrel-Westernised" students were now derogatively designated "Kultur". The "Kulturs" in turn, called the rurals "Haramanis", the latter being a common name for a domestic. The Kulturs generally moved about in homogeneous groups, spoke English, sang English songs, and engaged in Ballroom dancing. They played rugby, cricket and tennis. In the Arts Faculty, they generally offered Western Classics, Western History, English, Economics and significantly Sociology. The majority of the anti-Kultur Haramanises were bilingual, played soccer and volleyball and sang Sinhala songs. They mostly offered subjects such as Economics, Indian History, Geography, Sinhala/Tamil. The lowest among them were the OFACs, of the Faculty of Oriental Studies. They offered Sinhala, Pali, Sanskrit, Buddhist Civilization, Tamil and Arabic. They were generally ignored by the others, hardly played any games or sang any songs to be heard by others. Their English was looked down upon. (The writer was OFAC and specializing in Sanskrit, was of its lowest stratum.)

Significantly, newly founded discipline of Sociology was Kultur, but allowed, after adequate qualification, for a socially mobile Haramanis to enter the portals of sociology which was had fast become fashionably Kultur. Thereby some in the Haramanis strata could now brush shoulders with the Kulturs. The paper describes dynamics of this milieu and speculates whether the belief that Sri Lankan sociology and anthropology look down on its subject matter is related to its peculiar Kultur origins.

Key words: Social origins; Sociology; Anthropology; University life; Schools of thought

Massacre of surrendered 600 Policemen of Sri Lanka: A case for a war crime?

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When the L.T.T.E. abruptly and without notice terminated the peace discussions with President Premadasa, on the 1st of June 1990 they surrounded the Army camps and Police Stations particularly in the Eastern Province. They demanded that the Police and the Army in those establishments surrender. But these units held forth. Subsequently however, orders came presumably from the Commander in Chief, namely the President for them to surrender. The Army Field Commanders refused to surrender. The order to the Police Officers to surrender was channeled through the I.G.P. In compliance, the Police Officers in the some of the Police Stations in the Batticaloa Division, who were surrounded, surrendered. The understanding was apparently that these Police Officers would be handed over to the Batticaloa Headquarter Police Station and that the L.T.T.E. would take control of these areas. But once the Police Officers had surrendered, they were taken in batches to some remote places and 600 policeman executed. A few Officers however who managed to run away or pretended to be dead did survive to reveal the gruesome fate of the others, namely a mass execution. The Police Department has a list of Police Officers who were so killed and their pensions are still being paid to their next of kin.

The nearest parallel to the Eastern Province massacre is the well-known shooting of the Officer Corps of the Polish Army once they surrendered to the advancing Soviet Army during the tail end of World War Two. This is an internationally well-recognized atrocity and war crime. The Eastern Province massacre on the other is not documented either in the international or local legal literature. The paper describes the events that led to the massacre and the available evidence on it obtained from: police sources, some of those who escaped, and citizens from the neighborhood of the surrendered police stations.

The hypothesis is then posited that the great silence on the massacre is due to then involvement of politicians in requesting the surrender as well as of senior officialdom in refusing to stand up for the rights of their subordinates and taking the easy road of following illegitimate political orders. The silence here of the human rights organizations is also questioned especially in view of the perceptions that most foreign funded Sri Lankan NGOs act against Sri Lanka and are fronts for the separatist cause.

Key words: War crime; Sri Lanka; LTTE; Mass execution; Human rights

Mutual fulfillment (annamannam paripuri): educational goal of Buddhism

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Mutual development or mutual fulfillment is one of the most important Buddhist issues. This concept is frequently emphasized by the Buddha in his discourses. It is specially found in the teaching activities of learned monks. In other words, through teaching and instruction activity, one can develop and fulfill both self and others. The Buddha shows that 'teaching' is not a one-directed way of giving knowledge. It is a mutual development and fulfillment. That is to say, it is a mutual synergy.

According to the A.¶.95-6, there are four types of persons in the world. The first person is bent neither on his own welfare nor on the welfare of another. The second person is bent on another's welfare but not his own. The third person is bent on his own welfare but not another's. And the last one is bent on the welfare both of him and of another. Out of them the last person is considered the best and the highest.

In this context, the welfare of oneself (attahitaya) means 'undertaking the restraint of lust, hatred, and delusion' (ragavinaya, dosavinaya, mohavinaya). And the welfare of another (parahitaya) means 'urging another to undertake the restraint of lust, hatred, and delusion. Thus, one who knows how to help him and others and practices according to it is an ideal person in Buddhism. It clearly shows that Buddhism is concerned not only of the individual but also of the society. Both one's own welfare and the others' welfare are inseparable factors in the Buddhist Path. In this paper we have traced the term 'annamannam' found in the Buddhist discourses and found out its hidden educational significance in Buddhism.

Key words: Educational goals; Buddhism; Mutual development, Philosophy

Entrepreneurial characteristics of Jaffna investors

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With the ongoing cease-fire between the conflicting parties of the ethnic war in Sri Lanka, there is more focus on re-building the North-East economy. Jaffna forms obviously the prime target of this effort.

Although the Jaffna investor is not basically any different from others, yet, the socio-economic as well as the socio-cultural environment of peninsular Jaffna has made them rather a unique lot. It is in this context that this study proposes to examine the entrepreneurial characteristic of the Jaffna investor. A major objective of the paper is to test the hypothesis that the Jaffna investor is more enthusiastic, energetic, and eager in her/his approach. The analysis will first dwell on the initiative of the Jaffna investor in pre-war conditions and, then, move on to examine the influence of the war on her/his efforts. Particular attention will be paid to see whether the war has, contrary to usual expectations, brought in any positive effects on the entrepreneurial activity.

In terms of a regional focus, the study could prove to be a very useful contribution. It throws more light not only on the business acumen of Tamils, but also on its socio-cultural dimension.

Key words: Entrepreneurial characteristics; Investors; Socio- economic issues; Cultural dimension; Ethnic conflict

Women entrepreneurs in Jaffna: Origins and characteristics

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Jaffna district is obviously one of the worst affected by the ethnic war in Sri Lanka and among those affected, women form the principal component. They had, quite contrary to conventional social norms, suddenly been called upon to be breadwinners of not only their own families, but also the extended families.

The objective of this study is to trace the origin of women entrepreneurs in Jaffna and examine the respect in which they differ from others of their genre. The study will probe the conditions under which they were compelled to break away from socio-cultural constraints and experiment novel strategies. Then, the structure and nature of their operations will be analysed.

The women entrepreneurs could be divided into two categories: those working from their own homes and those working outside their homes. The latter manage industries of a larger scale and are open to more challenges. The paper concludes with a brief assessment of the contribution made by women entrepreneurs in socioeconomic terms.

Key words: Women entrepreneurs; Investors; Ethnic conflict; Social norms; Jaffna society

Greed and peace

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In the 1990s, a group of social scientists began to view internal wars in a different perspective; not as a 'breakdown' but as something functionally rational. The writings of David Keen, Paul Collier, Anke Hoeffler, Indra de Soysa may be cited as examples. According to this perspective, the emergence and perpetuation of conflicts, especially internal wars, may be analyzed and explained more rigorously by referring to 'atypical circumstances that generate profitable opportunities' rather than to 'atypical grievances'. One of the main deficiencies of greed-based conflict theory is that its analysis is confined to the conflict formation and perpetuation and it does not explain how conflict would be ended. Grievance theory would suggest that conflict may come to an end when the grievances of the social group are amicably addressed. The second weakness is that the greed theory focuses only on the rebel groups. How about the state actors? They may also engage in armed conflict with a motive of greed. It was evident that the government ministers, security chiefs and other government officials are highly involved in corrupt practices and extra-legal deals in a war situation. So a greed-based theory of conflict ending calls for an explanation of how greed-motive activities of both parties can continue in a period of peace. Or it should posit that there would be a greed-satisfying threshold point beyond which parties may not seek for greed-motive activities. Evidence does not suggest the existence of such a threshold point. This paper intends to develop an outline of greed-based theory of conflict-ending. It advances a hypothesis that greed-motivated peace would prevail if the net gains of peace for leaders of the conflicting parties exceed the net gains of conflict for them. Net gains of peace include all material and non-material gains minus loss of support and prestige as a result of giving up of the struggle. Similarly we can say net gains of conflict are equal to all material and non-material gains minus the cost of armed conflict. The hypothesis will be examined in the light of the experience of the on-going peace process in Sri Lanka.

Key words: Social scientists; Internal wars; Conflict theory; Peace process

A comparative analysis on the Cessation Attainment

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The cessation attainment plays a key role in the mainstream Buddhist meditation. The term “nirodha-samāpatti” interpreted as the Cessation Attainment known as the “sañjñā-vedita-nirodha (pāli, saññā-vedayita-nirodha) is the highest one among the eight liberations. According to the Sarvāstivāda, the cessation together with ideationless (asañjñi) are referred to as the cessation of mind and mental concomitants (nirodhaś cittacaittānām) pertaining to the fourteen conditionings disjoined from thought (vittaviprayukta-sañskāra) in the five-group-seventy-five-dharma classification which are associated neither with mind nor with matter (ime sañskārā na cittena asaṅghayuktā naca rūpasvabhāvā).

Among the Buddhist schools there are some different understandings on the cessation appeared in Abhidharma-mahāvibhāṣā-śāstra(=MVS), compiled in the middle of the 2nd century A.D., and in the later works, Visubhandu’s Abhidharmakośabhāṣya (AKB) and saṅghabhadra’s Nyāyānusāra (Ny). For instance, it is mentioned in MVS (T27, p774a), “Dārṣṭāntika- vibhajyavādins hold that there is subtle mind (citta) that is not extinguished in the cessation attainment... if in the attainment there were no citta, then his vital faculty (jīvitendriya) would be cut off, it is referred to as “death”, not attainment.” Generally most of Buddhist accept that the cessation is under the sphere of neither perception nor non-perception, but there are some schools like mahāsaṅghikas etc who claim that the cessation also belongs to the fourth dhyāna and is not subject to falling (AKB, p72& T41, p99c), while Sarvāstivādins whose theory on the cessation is very close to the Theravāda are not identical with those who say there is subtle mind and the cessation also belongs to the fourth dhyāna.

Moreover, among the modern scholars, some say that the cessation is a goal in the sense it is deliverance, the last and the highest of a series of eight deliverances (Journal of Buddhist studies vol. I, p207). The real Buddhist goal is to liberate from saṅsāra, or go beyond three dhātus (kāma, rūpa and ārūpya). Though the cessation being similar to nirvāṇa is obtained by non-returner or arahat according to the Theravāda view, the cessation still is not a goal in the highest sense because those having obtained it in the present life will be subject to falling. Further a non-returner having obtained it has retribution reborn in the ārūpyadhātu in the next life or later. On this topic I will compare some views, especially Theravāda’s and Sarvāstivāda’s existing not only in pāli and Sanskrit but also in Chinese texts.

Key words: Cessation attainment; Buddhist meditation; Eight liberations; Mental Concomitants; Buddhist goal

Unripe and ripe concepts in ayurveda and treatment behavior: A sociological review

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Daniel, C, Tabor has studied Ripe and Unripe concepts (Ama- pakva concept) of health and sickness in Ayurvedic medicine (1981). He has related it with its basic concept of gastric fire (Jatharagni). Ama means undigested and spoiled food juice which is unable to be metabolized properly. This condition creates unhealthy state of physical, mental and social well- being. Tabor has observed that almost all the Ayurvedic physicians in South Gujarat strictly adhere to this principle in diagnosis and treatment.

I suggest that the patients' behaviour in this regard can be understood in the light of classification of sickness career by Andrew, C. Twaddle (1981). He has used three terms to identify three stages of sickness career as illness, sickness and disease. Illness is subjective. Sickness is the social dimension of this phenomenon, and disease is a physical state, which is diagnosed by a physician. I understand that the illness and the sickness are the symptoms of Ama.

This notion can be compared with the findings of Marilyn, Bergner and Betty, S. Gilson in their study of "sickness impact profile – The relevance of social science to medicine" (1981). According to the data collected by them from the samples of patients, the answers received are as follows. Sitting during much time of the day, sleeping during the day, eating no food at all, nutrition is taken through tubes, not working at all, not doing the routine work, less entertainment, going away from home for a short period, not bathing, fewer social activities with group of people, getting isolated, having difficulty for reasoning and solving problems, laughing and crying suddenly, difficulty to speak clearly when under stress are some of them. These characteristics are directly related to the Ama concept in Ayurveda. It is understood that a number of diseases are caused by the concept of Ama (deficiency of digesting and metabolism). This unhealthy state can be observed mostly among female pre-adolescents and youths in the lower middle class in Sri Lanka and it is mostly diagnosed as "depression" where socio- cultural changes would have affected.

Key words: Ayurveda; Treatment behaviour; Socio- cultural changes

The people of Sri Lanka-and their origins

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Sri Lanka is a small lonely island situated at the Southern extremity of India. The Island is separated from India by the Palk Strait and Gulf of Manner. Being centrally located in the Indian Ocean, the strategic importance of Sri Lanka is greatly enhanced.

Sri Lanka is a plural society. The people of Sri Lanka are distinct from another on ethnic, religious and linguistic grounds. A study of the origin of the people would show how they were united during ancient period. Such a study of historical background would pave a way for the intended unity and peace in Sri Lanka at the present period and in future.

Majority of them are Sinhalese descended from Aryan stock originated from North India. Their language is Sinhala and they were Buddhists but some of them were converted to other religions. The Tamils are the largest minority group in Sri Lanka. They were considered either to be the civilized people of the aborigines of the Island or migrated from South India. The Sri Lankan Tamils are concentrated mainly in the Northern and Eastern parts of the island. They are predominantly Hindus, but there were converts too.

The Moors are the next ethnic group in Sri Lanka. They are called as Sri Lankan Moors. They could be traced to be the descendants of early Arab traders. They speak either Tamil or Sinhala with Arabic as the language of their religion. There is a group of Indian Tamils who were brought by the British from South India. The Veddha, Indigenous Sri Lankans, survive as in extensible forests. The ancestors of present Veddhas were the aborigines of the island.

The class of Burghers represents the descendants of European officials and soldiers of unmixed blood who has sprung from the intercourse of Europeans with the natives. Finally the Malays who had a link with the Moors by religion. They are the descendants of Javanese and Malay immigrants who arrived largely during the time of Western colonial rule. It is concluded that, although the origin is different, the Sinhalese and Tamils have lived in Sri Lanka for nearly 2400 years and the Muslims, Indian Tamils, Burghers and Malays were living together with Sinhalese and Tamils cordially. The colonialism bundled together all sections of people to live in unity, apart from their policy of "divide and rule". But once they left, the unity among the natives became questionable.

Key words: Sri Lanka; Pluralistic society; Ethnic groups

Are Sri Lankans with the Peace Process?

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Sri Lanka had been regarded in the west as a model amongst newly independent countries that had a smooth transition to a parliamentary democracy system. Though Sri Lanka was in much better shape at the transition from British colonialism to parliamentary democracy, its neighboring countries were afflicted by ugly ethnic and religious fanaticism, differences, issues that had not been addressed at the time of independence but continued to rear its ugly head from time to time. The issues that should have been resolved at this juncture politically turned to be the underlying cause for ethnic war between Tamil militants and the Sri Lankan Government since 1978. However, despite the complicated nature of the conflict it is very clear that no Government took the initiative to consult the citizen on their opinions in order to bring a fair deal for all communities in the country. All the attempts in order to address the issues related to ethnic minorities, both before the war and during the various peace talk sessions, were mainly on political agendas and people were generally shut out of the process.

In this context, the Social Indicator (SI), the polling unit of the Centre for Policy Alternatives (CPA) initiated a repetitive Island-wide household survey called Peace Confidence Index (PCI) in order to capture the changing people's perception on the peace process. Since July 2001, SI has been conducting the PCI with Canadian International Development Agency's (CIDA) financial support and it has been given wide publicity print and electronic media in all three languages.

This paper is based on the findings of the PCI data and attempt to study the trend of the public confidence since July 2001. Further, this will discuss the influential factors for the public support for the peace process i.e. ethnicity, gender, income, religion and district etc.

Key words: Peace process; Colonialism; Democratic system; Ethnic conflict

Factors affecting the success of micro level women entrepreneurs in southern province in Sri Lanka

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This study is an endeavor to identify the factors affecting the success of micro level women entrepreneurs in Southern Province. The objectives of the study are to create a dynamic sector, which can support to national economy through providing challenging opportunities for industries and youth seeking employment.

Four major criteria are applied for measuring the success of the enterprises. They are: 1) Age of the firm and its expansion; 2) Degree of product diversification, 3) Profit as a percentage to investment; and 4) Sales to total investment. Six hypotheses were tested in this study in order to identify the most powerful factors that promote or impede women's success as entrepreneurs. These factors include 1) The type of the industry; 2) Technical skills possessed by women; 3) Domestic role as mothers; 4) Discrimination against women; 5) Ambitions of women; and 6) vigorous personal attributes possess by them.

Findings revealed that those women who add the innovative approaches to their businesses that were based on inborn skills of them are most capable of achieving success than the women who involve in innovative ones. The limited range of technical skills of women limits the business opportunities for them and hence clustering within this limited range leads to a number of problems and impediments in the success. Even though the researchers identified the domestic role of women as directly affecting their success as entrepreneurs, it is not so with women who have children in age of school going or elder, they could find enough time to involve in business activities. The findings also reveal that there is no significant effect on women's success because of having men's discriminations in terms of providing business support services, since most of women find required funds for the expansion of the business through the savings of the business. The results also revealed that all women entrepreneurs had started their business on their own with an ambition to expand it. However, vigorous personal attributes highly affected in achieving the success of the enterprise.

Key words: Micro level enterprises; Women entrepreneurs; National economy ;
Enterprise success; Women's success

Measuring international competitiveness

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The measurement of international competitiveness using the real exchange rate based solely on the Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) theory and the law of one price is flawed. Productivity differentials as explained by the Harrod- Balassa -Samuelson productivity differential effect, terms-of -trade shocks, and net foreign assets or the sustainability of the current account of the balance payments can also cause significant long run deviations of the real exchange rate from the PPP benchmark. The paper will present a more comprehensive theoretical framework that overcomes the narrow confines of the real exchange rate based on the PPP bench-mark and empirically validate it using time series data and co integration techniques.

Keywords: International competitiveness; Purchasing power parity ; Real exchange rate; Productivity; Balance of payments

South Indian DMK and Sri Lankan Helahaula: Similar origin but different trajectories in the socio-political field

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The objectives of freeing the language from Brahminic influences and even of social; reform displacing the elitist in society and politics were common to both nationalist organizations which had their origin about the same time in the 1930s. Fifty years later the DMK was ensconced as the ruling party in Tamilnadu whereas the Helahaula was a spent force.

The purpose of the paper is to delineate the socio-cultural background that gave rise to both movements and to examine the reasons why one succeeded and other lost. The aim is to glean from these experiences some lessons that might illuminate the contemporary socio-cultural scene in Sri Lanka.

Key words: South India; Sri Lanka; Nationalism; Socio-cultural factors

The worst from of child labor: Commercial sex in Sri Lanka

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This study is one of several studies undertaken within the specific framework of the International Labour Organization's commitment to the elimination of the 'worst forms of child labour'. It entailed to find out reasons for and factors affecting the commercial sexual exploitation of children, to sensitize the respective authorities about the criminality of this issue and to test and evaluate the Rapid Assessment methodology in terms of its appropriateness when studying sexual exploitation as a hidden social phenomenon.

The study focused on children under 18 years of age who are victims of commercial sexual exploitation. The total sample was comprised of 120 children, 78 males and 42 females from eight districts. Social and economic poverty are the main factors for children to involve in commercial sex. However, children were subjected to sexual exploitation through the negligence and ignorance of parents of the involvement of their children in sex related activities. The impact of environmental factors on commercial sex is clearly evident in coastal location where children are lured in to sex related activities by tourism by those areas.

A factor that contributes towards pulling children into commercial sex is the existing demand in society for sex with children. Female children were victims of commercial sex at a younger age than male children, and they belonged to the "very poor" category of children, which suggests the influence of economic reasons as a strong push factor. Children in commercial sex hardly enter the rehabilitation process as a result of the hidden nature of the issue and the treatment they receive appears to be inadequate. Educating parents, vocational training for victimized children, improved counseling services and mobilizing the support of NGO's are some measures identified by this study to combat the problem of sexual exploitation of children.

Key words: Commercial sexual exploitation; Child labor; Criminality; Social and economic poverty

Panama: A historical study

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Panama is a place of historical importance located in the Ampara District of Sri Lanka. It was a part of the ancient kingdom of Rohana and was important as a sub administrative center and as a sea port. Naming this place as “Abarathas” by the Greek geographer Ptolemy in his “Geographia” written in the mid of 2nd century AD, confirms the importance of this place as a famous international seaport during that period. This present study focuses on this historical importance of Panama.

According to the Mahawansa, the prince of Rohana colonized the region known as Rohana Deshaya in the 5th century B.C. The cave-inscriptions found from “Bovaththegala mention that five generation of Gamini and his ten sons (Dasa Bathika) ruled this region. The region, within which Panama is located, received the influence of the Buddhist culture since the 3rd century B.C. Under the great kings like Kavanthissa and Dutugemunu (B.C. 205-137), Panama became more attractive with Buddhist monasteries and its culture. From the 14th century, the socio-economic significance of Panama greatly reduced with the decline of the Rohana Deshaya.

Panama regained the attention in the 17th century during the 1818 rebellion against the British colonial rulers. Some families from the Kandyan Region fled to Panama and recolonized the area. These people mixed up with the veddha people (Aboriginal) who lived in the surrounding jungle of panama and also with Tamils from the eastern part of Sri Lanka. In this process, inter-socio cultural exchanges between the Sinhalese and the Tamils took place. They formed a collective identity of their own and lived as a one community. During the last two decades, the ethnic conflict erupted in the north did not affect these social relationships. During this period of ethnic disorder, the LTTE controlled this area for a short period but it didn't disturb the social harmony of this community. In such situations they lived together in peace and harmony, ignoring the ethnic differences. The focus of this study is on the continuity of multi-ethnic social relations in Panama, which is a unique case of social harmony.

Key words: Historical places; Rohana Deshaya; 1818-Rebellion; Multi-ethnic social relations

Archaeological heritage management: Historical analysis of the concepts and forms of Buddhist monasteries

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The importance of preserving and maintaining the Buddhist monasteries was emphasized even by the Lord Buddha. According to the vinaya pitakaya the Buddhist monks had a responsibility to involve in protecting the heritage of the monastic units. It is clear that the concepts and the forms gradually got rooted in the Buddhist society and not paying attention to protect one's own dwelling was considered as negligence of a duty and a contravention of the monastic order. When such occasion arose these monks were blamed by the duty conscious monks. It is possible to suggest that the heritage management practices have been strictly followed as a mandatory and conventional phenomenon of the day to day life of the monks in the Buddhist monasteries.

It is evident from studies of the history of archeological heritage management in Sri Lanka that significant characteristics of ancient architecture are visible. It could also be observed that there were two organizations which operated within the heritage management of the Buddhist monasteries in ancient Sri Lanka as, the monastic institution and the state.

It can be identified that the monastery had maintained an independent administrative system in the monastic complex to carry out the preserving and maintaining functions of the heritage monastic characteristics. Apart from that, rulers patronized Buddhist monasteries and followed a political agenda to develop the country in various aspects including supervision on preserving and maintaining the heritage of the Buddhist monasteries which were constructed by their predecessors. This tradition prompted them to rebuild the cultural heritage throughout the history. It is possible to suggest that after destroying the Anuradhapura society, the successors might have focused on to appointing of an officer to protect the cultural heritage in ancient Sri Lanka.

This paper intends to discuss the concepts and forms of the Buddhist monasteries, pertaining to the archaeological heritage management. In this context, we focus our attention to discuss the mandatory service and the over-all patronage concerning the maintenance of the monasteries. In this paper, we intend to specify the different contributions of the heritage management technology which were associated with the Buddhist monasteries.

Key words: Archeology; Heritage management; Buddhist monasteries; Sri Lanka

Responses of the majority community to the ethnic conflict in a multi ethnic society: A study of the present conflict of Sri Lanka

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This paper is based on a study conducted to examine the responses of the majority Sinhalese in Sri Lanka to the current ethnic conflict in the country. The materials collected in the study were the published and unpublished documents in the form of books, booklets, pamphlets, journal and newspaper articles and undergraduate and postgraduate research studies. In collecting materials for the study, an attempt was not made to survey all relevant literature, but to the literature, which were easily accessible within the short time frame of the study.

The primary objective of this study was to identify, understand and explain various responses of the majority community to the present ethnic conflict in the country. Further this study intended to examine constraints in finding a lasting solution to the problem. The findings of the study reveal that a conflict based on ethnicity becomes more complex unless the conflict is resolved at the very beginning as this kind of conflict ramifies and stretches into several other issues. In such a situation, finding a solution to an ethnic conflict of this nature becomes more and more difficult because of other issues also has to be addressed simultaneously.

The study also reveals that the elite of majority community try to accommodate the minority groups of the same in order to strengthen its ethnic identity and its position by means of extending their discourse of community. Finally, the study hints addressing the grievances of certain groups of the majority community is also vital in managing a conflict between the majority and minority ethnic communities of a country.

Key words: Content analysis; Ethnic conflict; Sri Lanka; Majority community

The variability of rainfall in relation to land use in the Hambantota District

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The climatic factors are a very important component in determining the land use pattern and spatial distribution of population in an area. The objective of this study is to analyze the rainfall pattern in Hambantota District, one of the potential areas for further development in Sri Lanka. In the analysis special attention is paid to the rainfall variability and its inter-relationship with the land use pattern. Economy of the Hambantota District is basically agriculture. Data were collected using a structured questionnaire from 300 families selected using a Stratified random sampling method from five villages of three climatic regions.

Distribution of rainfall and the seasonal and regional rainfall variability were analyzed. The relationship between rainfall variation and land use pattern was clearly evident by the high coefficient of variability in the Maha season where the rainfall variability is low and the coefficient reliability in the Yala season is high.

Monthly rainfall variability values are characterized by marked differences. There was greater variation in the monthly rainfall in the dry months. The monthly coefficient of variability shows their highest values during this period. When the inter-annual rainfall variability in relative terms is measured by the coefficient of variability, the result is opposite as the the coefficient of variability decreases with an increasing amount of rainfall totals and vice versa.

Key Words: Rainfall variability analysis; Land use patterns; Hambantota District; Seasonal variation

Risking peace: Comparing mistrust-reducing strategies in the Sri Lankan peace processes

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Lack of trust between parties involved in negotiations to solve an armed conflict has been widely used as an explanation for why some negotiations fail to produce peace. However, we know less about how mistrust can be reduced between belligerents involved in negotiating peace, so that the process does not break down. In other words, why are some confidence-building strategies more successful than others? This paper explores strategies to reduce or manage mistrust in two attempts to negotiate peace in Sri Lanka: in 1994–95 and the current peace process. In this paper, we argue that the parties during the current peace process to a larger extent has been successful in reducing mistrust than in the 1994-95 process, because they have taken measures which has involved deliberately imposing costs on themselves. In this way they have been able to credibly convey their willingness to solve the conflict through negotiations. Using a theoretical framework built on the concept of trust, this communicative signaling process between the parties is analysed.

Key words: Sri Lanka; Peace process; Conflict management; Negotiations; Mistrust

Violence against migrant workers: The case of female migrants from Sri Lanka

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Feminization of Asian labor force has been discussed in a number of studies. This process has been quite evident in the international labor market, and it increases opportunities for female workers especially in manufacturing sector and domestic works. Another interesting fact is that female migration is mainly for South East Asia. It may be noted that the statistics on a cross-country basis reveal that Sri Lanka is ahead of all other countries in the Asian region in relation to the protection of proportion of female to male migration. According to the recent statistics on Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment there are about 850,000 Sri Lankan working mainly in the Middle East and most of them are females. 121,645 females had left the country for employment in the year 1999, and it has increased up to 181,370 in the year 2000. 81% of the total female workers continue their works as house maids especially in Kuwait, UAE, and Lebanon. This paper mainly focuses on Sri Lankan women who are employed in the West and East Asian countries as domestic and unskilled workers.

Unskilled female workers are forced to migrate as family survival strategy in the face of unemployment and lack of income earning opportunities. However, remittances of this segment play a remarkable role as a major source of foreign earnings for the country. Remittance by migrant workers accounted to approximately Rs.87 million in the year 2000 when compared to 74 million in 1999. As they are key source for foreign earnings and bringing millions of rupees to the country they continue more and more severe problems in physically, psychologically and socially. Therefore, I pay my attention to explain the grievances and violence faced by migrant workers in their respective of host and sending countries such as in humane working conditions, sexual abuses and harassments, and lack of protections.

Key words: Migrant labor; Sri Lanka; Foreign exchange; Violence; Female labor; Violence

Beyond Regaining Sri Lanka, PRSP RRR: Towards a Participatory Paradigm

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This paper outlines the development crisis facing Sri Lanka at the beginning of the new millennium. It also identifies the major causal factors, which have resulted in increasing poverty, youth alienation and unemployment, increasing cost of living and lack of absorptive capacity of foreign aid. Further contributing elements for sustainable development such as corruption, bureaucratic inertia and role of the private sector are analysed. A hard evaluation is made as to whether the strategic framework underlying Regaining Sri Lanka, PRSP and the RRR are sufficient to respond to the development crisis. The paper continues with lessons from the ground from social mobilisation and participatory processes as corrective elements.

The paper ends with recommendations for macro micro policy based on the lessons from the ground and the institutional changes that are necessary in the transition to move towards a Participatory Paradigm. The policy and recommendations for institutional changes are not based on a priori theorising, but on the lessons from the ground drawn through inter-disciplinary action research and praxis.

The macro policies recommended in the paper relate to: the paradigm shift to participatory development and democracy, integrating pro poor growth and decentralisation reforms and, building new partnerships and a new social contracts while building sustainable organisations of the poor following the core methodology of rigorous social mobilization, pro poor growth and a new accumulation process at the local level, not welfare, and strategising to meet the challenge of transforming the base from dependence to self-reliance are brought as micro level policies.

The paper concludes that these transitional policies, derived from unambiguous fundamentals founded in the creativity, efficiency and struggles of the poor provide the alternative framework for thinking and action. Several organisations of the poor, creatively supported by activist groups, have sustained themselves, gone to scale and become social movements, which provide further underpinnings for the new assertion. The task now is to boldly accept the challenge of re-visioning our politics as well as our political economies and acting on those fundamental premises.

Key words: Participatory development; Social mobilization; Regaining Sri Lanka; Institutional changes; Development crisis

Keeping the People's Surplus in the People's Hands: The Ranna Story

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Village society in Sri Lanka is not a homogenous or harmonious entity and basic contradictions are a fundamental fact of village life. On the one hand, there is a minority of dominant interests – the traders, money lenders and the bigger landowners, the elite in general and even the village level bureaucrat – who benefit from the status quo, and on the other, the majority consisting of the small and marginal farmers, landless workers, small fisher folk, rural artisan and others, who live in poverty. The relations between the two groups are often asymmetrical in form and take on an unequal dominant-dependent character, with the rich able to control the very survival of the poor.

As a result a considerable portion of the surplus produced by the small producer also ultimately ends up in the hands of the middlemen. In this context it is natural that the dependency attributes are intensified among the rural poor. Submissive mental attitudes and the existing social structures in the village are perpetuated. Moreover, the poor themselves are not a homogeneous category being divided on caste, religion and other issues and competing with each other for limited economic opportunities in the village. Under these circumstances a delivered 'neutral' or technocratic intervention controlled by the Government or even a non-government organisation working on the charity-giving or relief model can only adjust to the dynamics of the contradictions in the village society and often end up by benefiting the dominant interests, with only a marginal trickle-down, if at all, to the poor.

The paper analyses two categories of subsistence farmers, where empowerment through building their own organisations helped break this vicious cycle: as highland cultivators without irrigation facilities and, farmer cultivators with irrigation facilities. It concludes by spelling out in greater detail the impact of the participatory action research process on the poor as subjects, as: the catalytic intervention, initiating action, strengthening people's organizations and the continuing process of conscientisation and awareness-creation.

Key words: Subsistence farmers; Social mobilization; Dependency attributes; Farmer organizations; Catalytic intervention

Fundamentals for poverty eradication in Sri Lanka and the Three-Sector Growth Model

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South Asian Perspectives Network Association

This paper is in three parts. The first part sets out the results of SAPNA's action research on the ground on poverty eradication in South Asia, including Sri Lanka. Part two of the paper deals with five critical interrelated fundamentals for a coherent transitional strategy for poverty eradication in Sri Lanka.

These critical fundamentals do not appear to inform Governmental policies for poverty eradication in Sri Lanka in the past decade. Among these, the first premise shows that eradicating poverty of such a magnitude in Sri Lanka requires a major social transformation and structural changes, not marginal tinkering and ad hoc reformist damage limitation palliatives. It had to go beyond the past the simplistic growth and redistribution and human face models. This social transformation had to have greater self-reliance as a goal. Secondly, the structural changes at the macro and micro levels outlined above have to start with a clear perspective and be value-led. These values are made explicit. Another fundamental relates to the question of participatory democracy. In this regard, devolution of power and empowerment of the poor and vulnerable groups, as opposed to representative democracy and highly centralized elite power is clarified

As the multifaceted crisis deepened in Sri Lanka, the accumulation process set in motion private capitalism or of state capitalism, debt led growth and welfare for the poor, turned out to be insufficient and unsustainable, and the pressures mounted for an alternative accumulation process. It was not a matter of growth first and equity afterwards.

A more complex two-pronged development strategy that combines human development, growth, equity and technological change with a wiser and more creative use of local resources and knowledge is suggested. The also paper highlights two critical instrumentalities that are at the core of the new social science methodologies. And in concluding and knitting together, this paper makes two assertions for consideration by those committed to meeting the challenge of poverty.

Key words: Poverty eradication; Human development; Social transformation; Technological change; Capitalism

Federalism: An alternative or a gateway to separation

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Federal systems in the entire world are few in number, actually only around 20 among about 200 states. Besides, federal systems created from unitary states have been rare. Yet federalism is proposed now as a political contrivance for Sri Lanka. It is assumed that such a system providing a framework for power sharing between the centre and a sub-national level of government will bring about lasting peace. The present paper summarizes the basic facts on federalism deliberately kept under shroud by interested parties.

Examination of the strongest federal systems which are successful, reveal that they have come into being because of an urge to have greater cohesion of authority at the centre while allowing the units that were coalescing/uniting to retain part of the power and sovereignty they had enjoyed earlier as separate or a loosely knit autonomous units. In comparison where federalism has been imposed from above or instituted without adequate consultation and involvement of extensively representative opinion of communities and people or created without wide popular approval have failed. The trends in practically all federations also indicate that central governments' role, authority and significance had been on the rise at the expense of the powers and authority of the sub-national units, thereby defeating the idea of the system being a model for sharing of power.

In Sri Lanka, the Provincial Council system - bordering on a quasi-federal type - has shown clearly signs of failure, depending on heavy doses of Central Government subventions/grants (over 80%) to sustain themselves, unless of course extortion is permitted as means of supplementing tax revenues as is now permitted in LTTE controlled areas.

Successful federal models have all worked on the tenets of democracy, human rights and justice, all absent in the North and East today. The status of self-determination insisted by the LTTE is a preliminary position which coupled with their insistence for the recognition of Tamils as a separate nation will be the required mix to justify eventual separation using a loose federal model they are suggesting. This will be the quick launching pad for the separate state of *Thamil Eelam*.

Key words: Federalism; Self-determination; Provincial Council system; Sri Lanka; Power sharing

High prevalence of under-nutrition among pre-school children from low-income groups in Colombo, Sri Lanka: Impact of low quality and quantity of nutrient intakes

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Child malnutrition continues to be a problem in many developing countries including Sri Lanka and it is increasingly evident that the condition is multifaceted in nature. Food consumption behaviors of children in low income and high-income groups are different. The present study aimed to assess the nutritional status and nutrient intake of pre school children from different socioeconomic groups in Colombo.

The children were classified by socioeconomic status as low income and high income, depending on their living conditions and family income level. Seventy-pre school children were selected randomly, 35 from each group. The background information was collected using an interview schedule. Three days 24-hour dietary recall was used to assess the nutrient intake and the anthropometrics measurements were used to determine the nutritional status of the subjects.

All anthropometrics measurements considered for the study were significantly different between high income and low-income groups except the height. According to the Gomez's classification, in low-income group 25.7% of preschoolers were Grade I malnourished, 51.4 % of them were Grade II malnourished and only 22.9% of were normal. However in high-income group 20% were Grade I malnourished and 65.7% were normal.

The results revealed that the mean intake of energy, carbohydrates, protein, fat; calcium, and iron, of children in the high-income group were significantly higher than low-income group ($P>0.05$). Mean energy, calcium and vitamin C intake of the children in low-income group were significantly below the recommended level ($P<0.05$).

The poor nutritional status of the children of low-income group was the consequence of nutrient intake below the recommended level. The underlying causes for this situation were low-income level of the family, poor education level of mother, type of occupation of father, high number of family members, and poor sanitation in the household. In high-income group, the nutritional status of preschoolers was comparatively better, while all the socioeconomic factors were at a higher level.

Key words: Child malnutrition; Low-income groups; Sri Lanka; Anthropometrics measurements; Food consumption patterns; Urban areas

Impact of micro financing on empowerment of rural women through Samurdi bank associations

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Many Asian countries have implemented various programs to promote the growth of the rural sector economy realizing the important role this sector in poverty reduction. Many poverty-stricken countries have already identified the fact that women play a greater role than men in poverty reduction particularly in rural areas. Therefore, empowerment of women is the key to eliminating rural poverty.

Although the government of Sri Lanka has attempted to help the poor by implementing various poverty alleviation programmes, many of such has shown little success. These attempts have evidently indicated that banks and financial lending approaches cannot fulfill the credit requirements of the rural poor unlike in the organized sector. The “Samurdi” programme realizes this need for an informal credit supply through self-help groups.

This paper reviews the progress that has been made by self-help groups implemented by Samurdi programme giving special focus to women self-help groups and their small enterprises activities. It also addresses the key issues and actions that can be adopted by the government and particularly by NGOs to provide training facilities for the rural poor at the local level and assist in their gradual movement to formal financial institutions. Finally, key future actions that can be adopted by the government are identified.

Key Words: Samurdhi Program; Poverty reduction; Micro credit; Small enterprises; Self-help groups

A measure of urban livelihood vulnerability: The case of Colombo

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Urbanization process in Sri Lanka accelerated its pace largely in the Colombo Metropolitan area under the impact of globalisation and economic liberalization policies in the past two decades. This situation generated new opportunities as well as socio-economic problems for city dwellers. It is evident from recent data that nearly 20% of Colombo's population is poor. Most of them suffer from a range of deprivations. On the other hand, urban development to be truly sustainable, the livelihoods of urban poor must be secure although it is a difficult task for them owing to a high degree of exposure to short term and long term external risks. Many people do not have the capacity to protect themselves from these risks due to inadequate assets.

This presentation deals with the question as to how vulnerable people can be identified and targeted by focusing on their different household assets such as human, social, financial etc. this paper then explores various coping strategies adapted by the poor in an urban relocated settlement in Colombo, Sri Lanka, based on an extensive field study carried out from 2002 June to 2003 June. In the light of the fieldwork, empirically tested, a new methodological approach, namely an experimental quantitative asset vulnerability index is proposed to measure household vulnerability, or at least to rank them according to their assets vulnerability in order to identify the coping strategies of the most vulnerable households. Keeping line with the conceptual approach, the index is based on non income related dimensions of vulnerability which lay hidden in the complex social and spatial processes of every day life in the study community.

Key Words: Vulnerability analysis; Urban poverty; Urbanization; Sustainable development; Index construction

Slums, squatter areas and informal settlements: Do they block or help urban sustainability in developing contexts

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Mushrooming 'slums', 'squatter' areas and 'informal' settlements in Colombo, Sri Lanka's commercial capital, and its suburban areas are part of the recent past. The coastal line from Mount Lavinia to Panadura illustrates this. Although these settlements are not a big problem by many standards right now, they soon will constitute a severe crisis – it could rise against sustainable development of the country. If not treated carefully, this situation will cause compounded problems, which may lead to social unrest and uncontrollable levels of crime, insecurity, etc. Almost all developing countries and some parts of the developed world suffer from uncontrolled urban settlement development.

After the industrial revolution, up to the 1950s, substandard and unhealthy 'slums' were part of almost every city of the developed world. Even Sweden, a country that now has favourable living conditions, had its share. In Spain by the end of 1940s there were approximately 1.7 million unfit dwellings. Most of Western Europe's previous 'slum' settlements - predominantly inhabited by low-income earners – disappeared thanks to appropriate human settlement strategies, which were adopted by the respective governments. China is one country from the developing world that has addressed its urban settlement problem. The paper discusses concepts of 'slums', 'squatter' areas and 'informal' settlements from a global perspective including reasons for their occurrence, characteristics and associated problems.

Different researchers see these concepts from different points of view. Some have given rise to expressions like 'rising of misery', 'creeping cancers' and 'slums of despair' and to concepts such as 'the culture of poverty', 'rural-urban dichotomy' and 'marginality'. There are numerous arguments related to these expressions and concepts. The paper, therefore, also, takes cognizance of these, discussing the contributions of prominent researchers on the issues. The authors believe that the discussion will help towards a better understanding of the situation of Sri Lankan low-income settlements, and when later contextualized to Sri Lanka's case - towards finding out the most appropriate development strategies towards sustainable urban development in the country.

Key words: Living conditions; Urbanization; Sustainable development; Social malaises; Urban slums

The water regulation technology of ancient Sri Lankan reservoirs: The Bisokotuwa sluice

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The dry zone civilization of ancient Sri Lanka has been characterized as a hydraulic civilization. This hydraulic system, this paper focuses on the water regulation devices of the reservoirs - the sluices. A sluice is a device where by the water of the reservoir is released to the paddy fields or the flow of water is controlled or completely stopped. It was believed that the bunds of the smaller tanks were cut for releasing water to the fields. Sometimes balling devices or water wheels were used for this purpose. Cutting of the bunds of small tanks was noted in the fields by the author, he also records a simple but efficient water regulation practice hitherto unknown: taking the water through a hollow palm trunk laid under the bund.

In the Sri Lankan context, The Sinhala term Sorowwa/Horowwa may be taken as an equivalent to the sluice. Three types of sluices have been identified as, Ketasorowwa (Pie/Junction Box sluice), Rajamohol Sorowwa (Piston Sluice) and the Bisokotuwa Sluice (Cistern/Valve Tower Sluice). This paper focuses on the Bisokotuwa Sluice type. While different functions have been assigned to the Bisokotuwa, this study uses this term in the sense of the enclosure whereby the water levels lowers, it generally, functioned similar to valve pit, though not identical. The invention of the Bisokotuwa has been dated to a period between the 4th century B.C. to the 1st century AD, the author tends to place it to a time period of 1st B.C. century to the 1st century AD.

No specific information on the construction technology of Bisokotuwa Sluice is found in literature. This paper is based on the field studies conducted on irrigation remains particularly at the Buwewa in Plolonnaruwa, the only scientifically excavated Bisokotuwa sluice in the island and the ancient Pande wewa in Panduwasnuwara. On the basis of above studies this paper attempt to understand the technology and the materials used in the construction of Bisokotuwa sluice. The findings of other village tanks reject the popular misnomer that the Bisokotuwa sluices were built only in large reservoirs.

Key words: Sri Lanka: Hydraulic civilization; Archeology; Irrigation sluices; Bisokotuwa; Irrigation technology

Position of women in Hinduism and Buddhism: A comparative perspective

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India and Sri Lanka, close geographical neighbors have had cultural linkages since ancient times. Both old civilizations have age old customs and laws still prevalent, though in a modified form to suit modern times. It is not surprising, therefore, that there are commonalities and similarities in social norms in the two countries as well as some differences.

Hindu law is an ancient law still surviving. It originated from the ancient Holy Dharam-Shastras. In Vedic times women enjoyed a position of honour as is evident from the Rig Veda. Women were literate and participated in all religious ceremonies and headed the household. However, the position had changed when Manu wrote his laws none too favourable to women.

In ancient and medieval times, both in India and Sri Lanka, in fact the world over, the position of women was subservient to that of men. The society was patriarchal and male dominated as it still is. The position in Sri Lanka was no different then. Before the advent of Buddhism the religion prevalent had Aryan beliefs with aboriginal cults. Family laws were also the same as Manu's Hindu laws and social norms were similar. However, with the coming of Buddhism in the fifth Century BC the position of women changed.

Even though the Buddha did not openly advocate the emancipation of women his attitude towards them was such that the society learnt that a woman was not an inferior being. Gradually as women were admitted to the Buddhist Order as Bhikkhunis or Nuns they felt liberated. Buddhism's emphasis on morality and spirituality changed society's attitudes and women gained in stature. As such women in Sri Lanka have fared better than women in India. Today both in India and Sri Lanka constitutional and other codified laws grant equality to women though the ground situation still needs to be improved. This is fully brought out in the Paper.

Key words: Women's rights; Comparative perspectives; Buddhism; Hinduism; Social change

Social and Psychological factors associated to infertility and their consequences on quality of life of infertile couples in Sri Lanka

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Infertility has been relatively neglected as both a health problem and a subject for social science research in South Asia, as in the developing world more generally. The general thrust of both programmes and research has been on the correlates of high fertility and its regulation rather than on understanding the context of infertility, its causes and consequences. Yet, we know that infertility affects a relatively large number of couples in their reproductive lives. Recent studies carried out in the west have shown that the experience of infertility is linked with emotional responses such as depression, anxiety, guilt, social isolation, and decreased self-esteem in both men and women.

This study explored the impact of Socio-psychological factors associated with infertility its effects on the lives of infertile couples in Sri Lanka. Study sample comprised 109 couples referred to the Faculty of Medicine Professorial Unit Infertility Clinic, for assessment and treatment with advanced reproductive technologies. Required information were collected using a pre-tested self administered questionnaire followed by an interview. The questions asked were aimed at assessing the negative psycho-social factors such as sadness, anger, disappointment, loss of interest, self isolation, feeling of incompleteness & incompetence and also the frequency of negative social encounters. The results showed that infertility is associated with negative social and psychological consequences and these seem to have major effects on the quality of life of the affected. Females admit to be more affected by these than males. There is a great need to address the psychosocial implications related to infertility along with other available management options in order improve the quality of life of the infertile couples which is often overlooked in the management of couples suffering from infertility.

Key words: Socio-psychological factors; Infertility; Quality of life

Children in insurrection with special reference to the ethnic insurrection of Sri Lanka

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According to the Geneva Convention, of 1948 and its amendments, as well as Article 38 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in the decade ending 1999, participation in armed conflict, even on a voluntary basis, by children below the age of eighteen is an offence. It is estimated that nearly two million child soldiers were killed in the armed conflict throughout the world. According to estimates by the UNICEF, there are around 500,000 children fighting in various wars throughout the world.

Sri Lanka's political sphere is characterized by left-wing insurrection as well as ethnic insurrection since the early 1970s. The first is sphere headed by the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) led by the Sinhalese youth, while the second is waged by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) predominantly comprised of Tamil youth. The significant phenomenon in the armed conflict is the involvement of children in both forms of insurrection. However, participation of children in the LTTE's insurrection is protracted, organized and therefore significant. According to media reports nearly fifty percent of the pupils have left school to join the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

The main objective of the proposed study is to examine and analyze the causes, patterns and role of children in the armed conflicts in Sri Lanka. The study also focuses on the impact of being recruited, trained and participation in combat on the children. The study is based on secondary sources such as books, articles published in journals, the print and electronic media and government reports. Key informant interviews will be conducted with service personnel and those involved in the rehabilitation of children engaged in combat. The data collected through the above-mentioned will be analyzed using macro methods. The study will attempt to find out, the causes and patterns of child involvement, the procedure of child recruitment, the role of the children in the insurrection and the responsibility of the governments and the NGO's in finding solutions to the problem.

Key words: Child soldiers; Insurrection; JVP; LTTE; Child rights

Liberalized economic policies and occupational changes of Colombo City

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Economic liberalism, export led growth, and a greater role for the private sector to vitalize the economy were among the key features of the new policy of the government of Sri Lanka since 1977. Private sector investments were booming and as a result changes to the urban morphology in Colombo city are evident. It is very clear that the economy had beginning to assume some of the characteristics of a service economy.

This study assesses the changes of the occupational groups of the city of Colombo at micro level after 30 years from introduction the liberalized economic policies. The analysis was done based on the occupational data collected by the Department of Census and Statistics for the Colombo Municipal area by wards. Using Location Quotations, identified the specialized and concentrated areas of the occupational groups by municipal wards. Some wards are highly concentrated and specialized for some occupational groups. It has identified the specialization of each municipal ward by this study for both censuses; 1971 and 1981.

Changes were studied Using the facilities available in GIS (Geographical Information Systems) – ArcView –.1971 and 1981 Censuses were considered to represent the situation before and after introduction of the liberalized economic policies. Although, 1981 data is too early to examine the effectiveness of the liberalized economic policies there is no other alternatives as 2001 Census data also not available at the time being. But still it has been identified very significant changes of some occupational group, not only the structural wise but also in spatial wise.

The gender differentiation also a very significant factor in the analysis of occupation patterns hence, gender based spatial and periodic patterns were analysed. Trends that can be very significant in future identified Finally, the determine factors for specialization of occupational groups were analysed. It has been identified; that, there are very significant relationships between the socio-economic factors such as population density of un-served families, level of education and school attainment.

Key words: Economic liberalization; Occupational patterns; Spatial analysis; Colombo city; Gender differentiation

Preschool children and violence: Psychological profile

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20 years of ethnic conflict has left an indelible mark in the minds of Sri Lankan children as well as adults. Not only children who have been directly exposed to it but also a critical mass of children living in other parts of Sri Lanka have been severely affected by it. Hence, nonviolent ways have been somewhat alien to Sri Lankans, which is depicted by the increasing number of large-scale violent incidents occurring in the present society. Therefore, reaching out to very young children with effective ways of addressing nonviolent problem solving strategies has become an urgent need, which need to be researched in order to promote sustainable peace.

In order to identify the effective ways of preventing potential violence one has to accurately recognize the factors contributing to violence and its impact in the minds of young children. The researcher plans to take sample of preschool teachers, parents and preschool children in order to draw an accurate profile of violence and preschool children in Sri Lanka. The data is being collected through interviews of professionals in the field of preschool education, parents and teachers, survey of preschool teachers and direct observation of the children. Increasing number of violent acts to and from the young children cries out for a suitable solution urgently. However, no systematic research is so far been done in this country in order to identify the existing situation.

The research will open up an un-researched area in Sri Lanka, and make a very timely contribution at a critical juncture in the history of this country, ravaged by conflict and violence of every description, for almost 20 years. It would immensely contribute to the peace building 3R initiatives that the government of Sri Lanka is presently undertaking with collaboration of other peace friendly agents.

Key words: Social conflict; Violence; Pre-school children; Peace building

Government audit: A review of employees' attitudes on public sector enterprises in Sri Lanka

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Entire investments and annual maintenance cost of public sector enterprises are financed from the public properties. Thus, the public has right to know the actual performance of such organizations. The Auditor General of Sri Lanka acts as an independent auditor of the public enterprises for over 200 years.

Media has frequently reported that government audit officers who perform their duties with common objectives to protect the public interest and right were subjected to harassments, insults and life threats since some public sector officers oppose to the government audit activities. Therefore, this study has designed to examine the public sector employees' attitudes on government audit. Data was collected through a survey and interviews. Sample for survey consists of randomly selected fifty employees covering seven public sector organizations and additionally, two employees and one executive officer from each organization included in the survey sample, were interviewed. The study found that, officers who have personal objectives (selfish motives) dislike government audit where as officers who have social objectives (public motives) have understood that government audit as a compulsory activity to protect the public interest and public sector enterprises. However, majority of the public sector employees have negative attitudes about the quality of the government audits conducted.

Key words: Public sector; Auditing; Employees' attitudes; Personal objectives; Service quality

Harassment of Sri Lankan female employees in the Middle East and its reproductive health consequences

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Harassment at the place of work is an important phenomenon in the context of contemporary health policies and human rights. The issue carries human rights implications, with results pertinent to international labour agreements and health implications relevant to the national and international reproductive health care policies. Harassments affect women's reproductive health in many ways.

Sri Lanka is one of the major suppliers of overseas employees in the Middle East. Female labour migration from Sri Lanka to the Middle-East in recent years has been a national concern. Although not directly estimated, a large majority of these housemaids are married and migration for work leads to leave their families for extended periods. There are several indirect evidences to indicate that migrant women are involved in much work to earn more money. The methods popularly known to be prevalent are temporarily engagement with male migrant workers, and involvement in commercial sex.

While there is a dearth of information on the type of employment, the living conditions, and the magnitude of the vulnerability to harassment of migrant women, there are frequent news in the local press about their adverse and horror-struck experiences. Official statistics on such incidents do not necessarily and comprehensively reflect the real situation of this phenomenon. Nevertheless, the issue has been ignored for a long time by the society as well as by the policy makers, programme administrators and researchers partly because of the geographic and diplomatic constraints that may hinder the implementation of any preventive measures. More over, the government is unlikely to ban Sri Lankan women working in the Middle East, primarily due to the importance of their remittances as a source of foreign exchange.

The need, therefore, has arisen to look into the grievances of the female migrant workers in the Middle-East. Such an approach requires identifying the real status of the working environment of these women and consequently to develop an effective action plan to alleviate the adverse reproductive health consequences. Very clearly, this problem demands better information through an innovative research methodology in order to implement an accelerated program to meet the challenges.

Key words: Migrant labor; Sri Lanka; Violence; Female labor; Reproductive health; Commercial sex

Constitution-Making and conflict management: A comparative study on South Africa and Sri Lanka

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Constitution making and conflict management in multicultural societies is an issue of state restructuring. A constitution is traditionally seen as a documentary record of settlements of social conflict and upgrading social harmony. Constitution-making has been a wide-spread practice in many multi-ethnic and conflict-ridden societies of the late twentieth century. The issues of most contemporary conflicts concern with the recognition of identities as well as with provision for the legitimate exercise of power to all communities. Together with constitutionalism, multiculturalism calls for revision of the major liberal democratic principle, namely, that majority as such is the legitimate expression of the sovereign will of the people. This objective implies that constitution may hold additional role as an instrument that can mediate identity conflicts. Defining constitution-making plays an important role as a forum for negotiation or a continuing conversation. The interrelationship between constitution and conflict management is the topic where major policy recommendations have to flow necessarily from basic conceptual considerations about constitutive particularities of multi-ethnic societies.

It can be implied that two-fold structural challenge to constitution making as, multiculturalism questions the intrinsic premise behind the modern nation state, in which only a society homogenized in identity can lead to political consensus as democratic consensus, and the demand that ethnic, religious, cultural identities make an epochal departure from the constitutional principle of modern politics.

To ensure that the work sessions provide the link between the conceptual base and the empirical reality, the South African and Sri Lankan experience on constitution making and conflict management is analyzed. The constitutional makers of South Africa have formed a new dimension to think along with the constitution making for managing social conflict of other multi ethnic countries. In contrast, Sri Lankan experience shows the difficulty of this process to manage the ethnic conflict by following constitutional making approach. The methodology adopted for the present study consists of examining and analyzing the literature related to the disciplines of many verities.

Key words: Conflict management; Multiculturalism; Social harmony; Cultural identity; South Africa

Depiction of ethnic conflicts and riots in modern Sinhala fiction

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Political protests and agitations, youth unrest, ethnic conflicts and riots have become major and popular themes in every genre of modern Sinhala literature. Before the outbreak of ethnic violence in July 1983, Sinhala and Tamil relations were not as prominent themes in Sinhala literature as they are in the contemporary literature. There has, of course, been a solitary poet, namely Sagara Palansuriya popularly known as K.S., who, a long time before the emergence of the present crisis, raised an emotional cry for harmony and tolerance between the two major ethnic groups in the island. But the message he tried to express in his poem never reached the ears of those who were in power. However, since the 1980s, this situation has been changing and more and more Sinhala writers and poets have incorporated national and ethnic issues in their work. As tension, mistrust and fear were escalating with a rising incidence of violence and riots; novelists, poets and other artists realised that it was not possible for them to remain unperturbed and unmoved by the reality in their society. This paper proposes to examine how some novelists of this period have treated the theme of racial conflicts and riots.

Further, there are some novelists and poets writing in English, in Sri Lanka as well as abroad, who treat this theme from a variety of perspectives. Due to limitation of scope of the paper and time, we will not be dealing with these writers in detail, but discuss them only briefly for comparison with the relevant Sinhala novels. However, despite the fact that there are many short stories, poems and songs in modern Sinhala literature related to our subject, we shall select only a handful of novels for discussion and analysis, which will include works by writers such as Gunadasa Amarasekera, Sumithra Rahubaddha, Anula Wijeratne Menike, H.A. Seneviratne and Wimaladasa Samarasingha.

Key Words: Ethnic conflict; Ethnic harmony; Creative Writing; Sinhala Language; Sri Lankan culture

The anti-Buddhist crusade of the Lake House newspapers:

Senaka Weeraratna

Buddhist News and Commentary (BNC)

The Lake House Newspaper group was established by a well-known Buddhist, D.R. Wijewardena. But recently under government control, it has been hijacked by anti-Buddhist forces. The state owned flagship press Lake House acting as the spokesperson for the Government engages in a well-orchestrated campaign against the dominant religio-cultural base of the society. Buddhists are a clear minority on the editorial staff of the Daily News and Sunday Observer. Through a content analysis study, several ways through which the process takes place were identified and the following are the findings of the study.

Daily News and the Sunday Observer do not give any prominence on its main pages on anything highlighting the Buddhist revival movement or Sri Lanka nationalism. Features on Christianity are given full prominence and even trifling events such as school shows, birth/death anniversaries of saints, and wonder-workers are lavishly displayed with color pictures for emphasis; in contrast, Buddhist articles on Poya Days - are relegated to supplements. Astonishingly, some of these articles are written by non-Buddhists and are full of innuendo that 'true Buddhism' is non-existent in Sri Lanka. Indeed the last mentioned theme is monotonously interwoven into the regular political columns published in the center - page of the Sunday Observer. Revered leaders of the Buddhist revival in contemporary Sri Lanka are insulted and reviled as 'extremists' who are a disgrace to 'true Buddhism'; A strict censorship is in force that makes any patriotic statement by a Sinhala Buddhist unacceptable for publication. On the contrary, any inflammatory message promoting the claims and rights of non-Buddhists is given wide prominence; and the views of Christian leaders - representing a mere 7 % of the population - regularly make the headlines.

This unique situation is contrasted with the mainstream press in predominantly Islamic countries where the Government gains power through Muslim votes, would not consistently denigrate Islamic culture, and in the liberal West with a largely wide ranging free press there is no reported instance of the dominant Christian culture being treated with ridicule and contempt by newspapers.

Key words: Ethnic representation; Buddhist voice; Multiculturalism; Content analysis; Lake House

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